

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Elliott School
London Borough of Wandsworth**

NGR: TQ 23340 74350

Planning Ref: 2012/1622

**ASE Project No: 5672
Site Code: PLM 12**

**ASE Report No: 2012203
OASIS id: archaeol6-134527**

By Philippa Stephenson



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Abstract

Archaeology South East was commissioned by RSK Environment Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Elliot School, London Borough of Wandsworth, in advance of the development of the site.

Post-medieval and modern features of negligible importance were identified in the fieldwork.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), has been commissioned by RSK Environment Ltd (RSK) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Elliott School, Pullman Gardens, London Borough of Wandsworth, SW15 3DG, (Figure 1, NGR TQ 2339 7436).
- 1.1.2 The site lies within the Ward of Putney and is bound by Manor Field residential estate to the east, Westleigh Avenue to the north, Pullman Gardens to the west and Hayward Gardens to the south. The location of the application area currently sits within grassed areas on the west side of the school.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development comprises the erection of two temporary teaching blocks (two and three storey) on the southwest corner of the school at the junction of Hayward Gardens and Pullman Gardens, together with associated works in connection with the refurbishment and restoration of the existing school building.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology at the site is London Clay. It is sealed by approximately 2.5m of sand and gravel drift geology of Quaternary date, in turn overlain by made ground approximately 0.5m thick.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 As part of the application process a Heritage Statement was prepared by RSK (RSK 2012a) which showed that although very little archaeology has been found in the vicinity of the site, its location adjacent to an Archaeology Priority Area demonstrates there may be archaeological remains present. Having considered the Heritage Statement the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) recommended that a condition be attached to any planning consent for a programme of archaeological observation and recording. Accordingly Condition 5 states:

“No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.”

REASON: The development of this site is likely to damage archaeological remains. The applicant should therefore submit detailed proposals in the form of an archaeological project statement. The design should be in accordance with appropriate English Heritage guidelines.

1.3.2 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) outlining the requirements and scope of this archaeological work was duly prepared (RSK 2012b) and approved by GLAAS. All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the relevant Standards and Guidance papers issued by GLAAS and the Institute for Archaeologists (GLAAS 2009; IfA 2009). Any variations to the scope of the work were to be agreed with Mark Stevenson prior to implementation.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work, as specified by the WSI (RSK 2012b), was:

- to monitor all excavations associated with the development including the excavation of any new foundations and service trenches in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards
- to inform GLAAS archaeology advisor and the client in the event that significant archaeological remains were encountered
- to make public the results of the archaeological watching brief subject to any confidentiality restrictions

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work on the site. The work was undertaken on the 31st August, the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 9th September 2012 by Paolo Guarino and the 19th and 20th September by Philippa Stephenson. Project Management was undertaken by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation management). The illustrations were prepared by Justin Russell.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following background section is produced from the information in the Heritage Statement (RSK 2012a).

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 Examination of historic OS mapping shows a straightforward transformation of the area and its immediate surrounding from an essentially rural area with high status country house residences into an affluent Greater London suburb within the first half of the 20th century. Since then, with the exception of the construction of the A3 and associated expansion of the transport network, few significant changes have occurred.
- 2.1.2 The site itself has only experienced one major change in land-use, from forming part of the periphery of the Grantham estate to becoming a school. In the 1868 map the site is shown situated in the northern extent of the Grantham country estate and is occupied by an L-shaped outbuilding of uncertain purpose. This is associated with a glasshouse or conservatory; an orchard is present directly north of this building. Otherwise grass parkland with mature trees and crossed by footpaths covers the grounds. The central area of the site has experienced the main impact, first, (to an uncertain extent) by the estate's former outbuildings, and later, by the construction of the school's main complex.
- 2.1.3 The location for the temporary classrooms is located in the south-eastern corner of the site. Map observation shows this to be grass parkland during the days of the Grantham estate, and formed part of the school's playing fields. Consequently, the area was considered not to have experienced any impact other than from levelling and landscaping in post-medieval and modern times, and archaeological preservation conditions were thought likely to be good for any remains present.
- 2.1.4 Searches of public databases revealed an extreme dearth of known sites in the area. Those known are exclusively of an early prehistoric date. Although this absence of known sites no doubt partly reflects the rural nature of the site for long periods of its past, it is also likely the result of an absence of systematic investigations in modern times. Under the policies of the 2003 Wandsworth Borough Council UPD (now superceded by the LDF), the site was considered on the periphery of an Archaeological Priority Area (APA), reflecting a general archaeological potential and the historic significance of the area.

2.2 Prehistoric (500,000BC – 43AD)

- 2.2.1 Although there is extensive evidence for Palaeolithic activity across London, the following periods of the Mesolithic and Neolithic are much less well represented. The Bronze Age and Iron Age are also poorly represented in the immediate vicinity of the site although in the wider London context activity from both periods has been found in the form of settlement and agricultural features.

2.2.2 Three assets – findspots of handaxes from the Palaeolithic period were identified within the area. One site on Putney Heath describes a flint scatter from the Mesolithic period. Two handaxes from the Neolithic period were also found in the study area.

2.3 Roman (47AD – 410)

2.3.1 The centre of Roman London was focussed on the modern-day Square Mile. Its hinterland extended and was progressively settled with villa estates in places such as Beddington and Keston.

2.3.2 No sites dating to the Roman period were identified within the area.

2.4 Early medieval/Saxon period (AD 410-1066)

2.4.1 The Saxon period saw the decline of *Londinium* and the new settlement of *Lundenwic*, centred on modern-day Covent Garden. Settlements sprung up in places such as Hammersmith and Kingston, characterised by timber structures, including large halls and partly built ancillary structures (sunken featured buildings).

2.4.2 In the second half of the 9th century *Lundenwic* was abandoned due to invasions by Scandinavian raiders and *Lundenburgh* was formed around Queenhithe.

2.4.3 No sites dating to the early medieval/Saxon period were identified.

2.5 Medieval period

2.4.4 Westminster became the royal and political centre during this period, and the town expanded accordingly, and included many religious houses, churches, and palaces, such as the Bishop of Winchester's palace in Southwark, and Edward III's palace in Rotherhithe. Manorial estates and a network of villages and small towns developed in the hinterland.

2.5 No sites dating to the medieval period were identified.

2.6 Post-medieval and modern period

2.6.1 Putney Heath was a primarily a rural area throughout the post-medieval period. A telegraph shutter station was operational here during the Napoleonic Wars of the 18th and 19th centuries, connecting Portsmouth with Whitehall. It was also a popular spot for duels between high-ranking combatants.

2.6.2 Tibbet's Corner is thought to be a corruption of the word 'gibbet', reflecting the location of a former gallows used to hang highwaymen who were also drawn to the heath.

2.6.3 During the later post-medieval period the area became increasingly affluent with the construction of an increasing number of country houses. Many of these were destroyed during World War II and the landscape of the area was

heavily altered by major infrastructural works such as the construction of the A3 arterial road.

2.6.4 There are five Listed Buildings (Grade II) in the area. With the exception of the main Elliott School complex itself, which is modern, these are all of a post-medieval date.

2.6.5 A single undesignated site was identified comprising 16-18th century drainage and garden features at no.740 Putney Hill.

2.7 Previous Investigations

2.7.1 No previous archaeological investigation has been undertaken on the site. The immediate vicinity constituted an affluent suburb in the early 20th century, the housing stock soon obtaining heritage status, which is expressed in designations, such as e.g. the 1930s mansion blocks Manor Fields as a conservation area, or of the 1950s-built Elliott School complex itself as a Listed Building. Through this, local development has been curbed, limiting opportunities for archaeological investigation.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

- 3.1 Liaison between ASE, RSK and GLAAS led to the adoption of a proposal to evaluate the southern part of the site by observation of four trial pits, and two trenches, one transversal and one to the NE of the area. In the northern part of the site, a portion of the haul road was monitored and a pipe trench to the south of this.
- 3.2 A site code of PLM 12 was obtained from the London Archaeology Archive Research Centre (LAARC) for the archaeological watching brief. This has been used for the duration of the works and is the unique site identifier for all records.
- 3.3 All structures, features and deposits exposed or excavated were hand-planned onto permatrace plans at 1:20 scale using taped offset measurements and then transferred onto a developer plan (ES-PLI-90-101) and then located on a digital OS tile using AutoCAD software and levelled with respect to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.4 All excavated features; layers and/or deposits were planned, photographed and recorded and labelled with the assigned Museum of London site code.
- 3.5 Sections of all excavated archaeological contexts were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A single section at a scale of 1:50 was drawn of natural deposits. All site drawings have been digitised.
- 3.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by the UCL Field Archaeology Unit. Soil colours were recorded using visual inspection and not by reference to the Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.7 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by RSK (RSK 2012b) and approved by GLAAS. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standards and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009) and GLAAS (GLAAS 2009).

3.8 Archive

- 3.8.1 ASE informed the LAARC, who will be the collecting repository, prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated and a LAARC site code was issued. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course.

Number of Contexts	15
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	5

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Preparation of Haul Road monitored on 03/09/12

(Figure 3)

- 4.1.1 A haul road was constructed leading from the NW corner of the site to the area intended for the installation of temporary school buildings at the south, traversing the southern and eastern parts of the site.
- 4.1.2 The works were observed over an area extending c. 60m south from the northern limit of the site. The area investigated measured c. 15m across. Three test pits were also monitored in the southern part of the haul road which revealed the same stratigraphy and on this basis the remaining haul road strip was not observed.
- 4.1.3 The topsoil [01] was stripped to 0.30 – 0.40m below the existing ground surface exposing an underlying made ground [02], a compacted dark-brown sandy-soil with occasional medium stones. The upper horizon of this layer contained frequent fragments of modern brick and plastic. This overlay natural gravel [03] and London Clay [04].
- 4.1.4 Only modern features were viewed, there were no archaeological features or finds.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	m AOD
01	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.30 - 0.95	38.20
02	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.30	37.90
03	Layer	Natural Gravels	Trench	Trench	0.30 - 0.60	37.60
04	Layer	London Clay	Trench	trench	>0.20	37.00

Table 2: Contexts recorded during the construction of the haul road

4.2 Drainage trench

(Figure 4)

- 4.2.1 A N-S drainage trench was excavated at the western limit of the site serving the temporary school buildings to be installed to the south of the site.
- 4.2.2 A segment c. 55m long situated towards the mid-part of the site was observed.
- 4.2.3 The topsoil [01] had been stripped prior to observation.
- 4.2.4 Natural sand and gravel [06] and [08] was directly below the topsoil. A substantial anomaly [05] within the natural substrate containing gravel and grey-brown clay [07] represents geological activity. A sample section of the northern baulk illustrating the geological deposits was recorded (Section 2).
- 4.2.5 A NE-SW linear cut [09] 3.0m wide and 0.40m deep was observed below the concrete slab of the school entrance-road. It contained a fill [10] of modern rubble (brick fragments, mortar and concrete) in a dark ashy deposit.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth m	Deposit Thickness m	m AOD
5	Cut	Linear geological anomaly	Tr.	10.0	>1.5		39.40-39.20
6	Deposit	Natural gravels	Tr.	9.75		>1.5	39.40-39.20
7	Deposit	Grey-brown clay	Tr.	1.0		>1.5	39.40-39.20
8	Deposit	Light brown sand	Tr.	-	-	-	39.40-39.20
9	Cut	Linear Trench	Tr.	3.0m	0.40m		-
10	Fill	Rubble	Tr.	3.0m		0.40m	-

Table 3: Contexts recorded during the construction of the drainage trench

4.3 Temporary Schools buildings area

(Figure 5)

- 4.3.1 Two areas to the south of the site were to be reduced in preparation for the installation of temporary school buildings for the duration of the refurbishment of Elliot School.
- 4.3.2 Observation of the sections in the area revealed that topsoil [01] had been stripped down to natural gravel [06].
- 4.3.3 A N-S post-medieval brick culvert [11] was recorded in the central-eastern part of the main area.
- 4.3.4 A 0.60m segment was excavated by hand exposing the semi-circular lower half of a brickwork in section. The upper half of the structure had been truncated.
- 4.3.5 The structure was 0.63m in external diameter with a 0.38m internal diameter. Built of un-frogged red brick 0.20 x 0.11 x 0.07m laid lengthways, the upper courses were jointed with limestone mortar, the lower courses being without bonding material. The lower courses are tiered to the west side of the drain, a supplementary course on the eastern side being apparently absent.
- 4.3.6 Several modern drains crossed the trench on a predominantly SW-NE orientation.
- 4.3.7 An undated N-S field drain [13] with vertical sides and a loose, light brown silty, gravelly fill was identified towards the eastern limit of the area.
- 4.3.8 A NE-SW linear brick footing [14] was also recorded. This was one brick thick and of a similar construction materials to the culvert [11].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth m
11	Construction	Brick culvert	>20	0.63	0.63
12	Fill	Fill of [11]	>20	0.38	0.20
13	Field drain	Narrow trench	>15	0.20	0.15
14	Construction	Brick-footing	Tr.	0.11	-

Table 4: Contexts recorded in the temporary schools buildings area

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features or finds were uncovered in the fieldwork.
- 5.2 Natural gravels were revealed directly below topsoil in the southern part of the site and beneath modern made ground to the north, at a minimum height of 37.60m AOD to the north and a maximum recorded value of 39.40m AOD to the west of the site.
- 5.3 In the northern part of the site, no archaeology was observed.
- 5.4 In the south, a field drain, a post-medieval brick-drain running S-N and a single-brick-width linear brick-construction of unknown function were recorded. Landscaping presumably associated with the installation of Elliot School had truncated the land-surface in this part of the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GLAAS 2009 *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work*. London Region, English Heritage External Consultation Draft July 2009

IfA, 2009 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

RSK 2012a: Elliot School, Wandsworth, Heritage Statement

RSK 2012b: Elliot School, London Borough of Wandsworth, Archaeological Watching brief Written scheme of Investigation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Joe Somerville of RSK for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Mark Stevenson of GLAAS guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	PML 12					
Identification Name and Address	Elliot School, Pullman Gardens, London Borough of Wandsworth, SW15 3DG					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Wandsworth					
OS Grid Refs.	523340 174350					
Geology	Quaternary sand and gravel drift geology over London Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5672					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 31/08/2012 3-5/09/2012 7/09/2012 19-20/09/12	Other		
Sponsor/Client	RSK					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Paolo Guarino/Philippa Stephenson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South East was commissioned by RSK to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Elliot School, London Borough of Wandsworth, in advance of the development of the site.</p> <p>Post-medieval and modern features of negligible importance were identified in the fieldwork.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-134527

Project details

Project name	Elliot School,Wandsworth
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East was commissioned by RSK to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief at Elliot School, London Borough of Wandsworth, in advance of the development of the site. Post-medieval and modern features of negligible importance were identified in the fieldwork.
Project dates	Start: 31-08-2012 End: 20-09-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Site status	None
Site status (other)	Proximity to Archaeology Priority Area and Conservation Area, in grounds of Grade II listed building
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL Modern
Monument type	DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TRENCH Uncertain

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH PUTNEY Elliot School, Wandsworth
Postcode	SW15 3DG
Study area	6750.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 23340 74350 51 0 51 27 15 N 000 13 28 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 37.60m Max: 37.60m

Entered by	ANDY LEONARD (andy.leonard@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	28 September 2012



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Project Ref: 5672	Oct 2012	Site location		
Report Ref: 2012203	Drawn by: AR			



© Archaeology South-East		Elliot School, Wandsworth	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5672	Oct. 2012	Plan of monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2012203	Drawn by: AR		

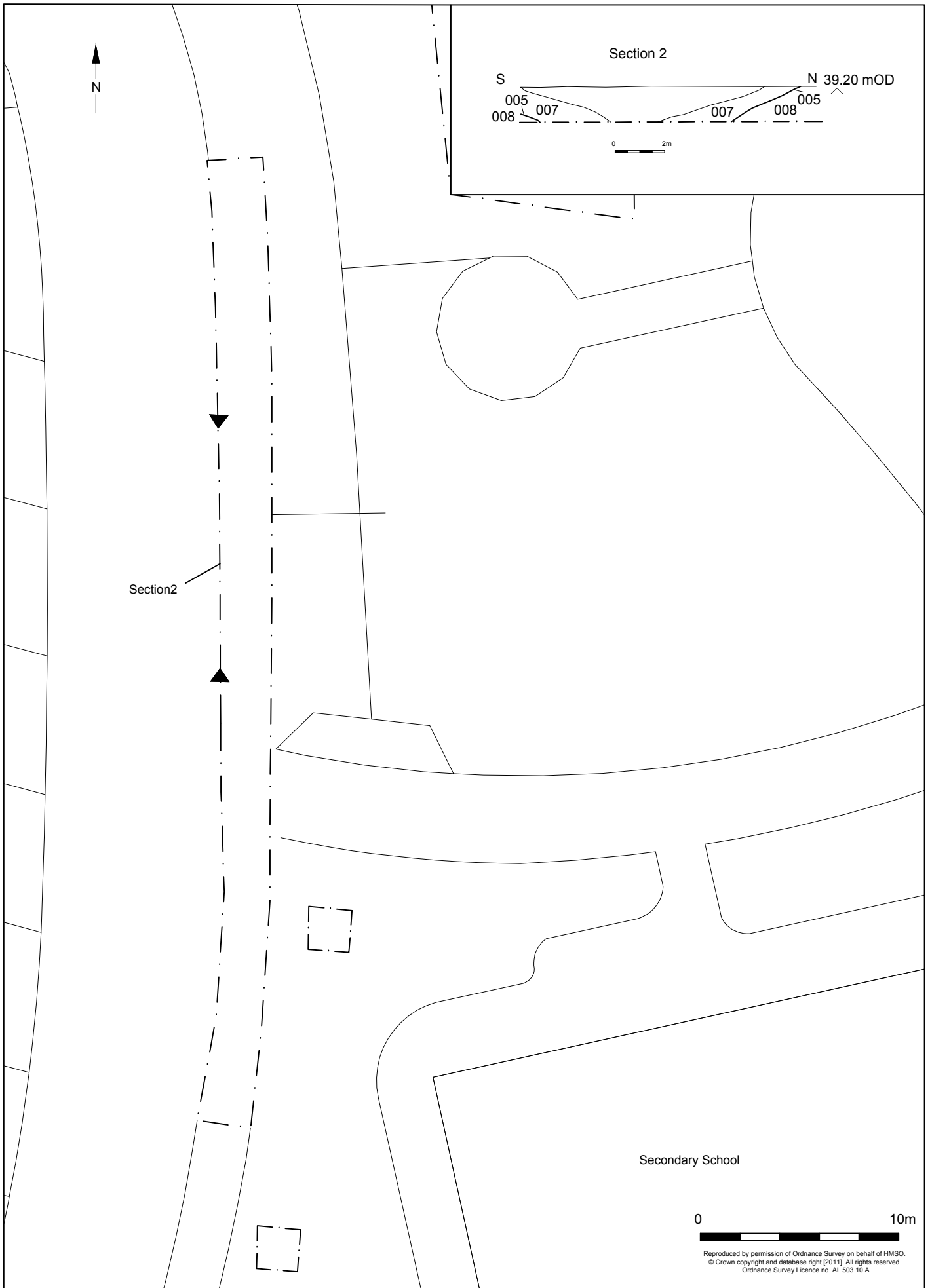


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Monitored areas

© Archaeology South-East		Elliot School, Wandsworth	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5672	October 2012	The Haul Road	
Report Ref: 2012203	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Elliot School, Wandsworth	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5672	October 2012	The drainage trench	
Report Ref: 2012203	Drawn by: AR		



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© Archaeology South-East		Elliot School, Wandsworth	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5672	Oct 2012	The temporary school buildings area	
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