

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at 9 Pembroke Villas,  
London Borough of Richmond,  
TW9 1QF**

**NGR: TQ 1762, 7522**

**Planning Ref: 12\2400\HOT**

**ASE Project No: 5859  
Site Code: PMB13**

**ASE Report No: 2013111  
OASIS id: archaeol6-150180  
Museum of London**

**Catherine Douglas  
With contributions by  
Luke Barber  
Illustrations by Justin Russell**

**May 2013**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Sebba to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 9 Pembroke Villas, Richmond, TW9 1QF (Fig. 1, NGR TQ 1762, 7522).*

*Planning permission for the demolition of a garage, toilet and study and the construction of a new garage and garden store with a library above was granted by Richmond Borough Council (Ref: 12\2400\HOT) with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during ground works.*

*Natural brickearth geology (07) was encountered at 1.30m below ground level at 7.32m OD.*

*No archaeological remains were recorded within the development area. This may suggest a lack of earlier archaeological activity within the area. However the nature of most of the deposits encountered suggest that any archaeological remains may have been destroyed either when the Victorian buildings were first built, or at a later date when extensions were added or demolished.*

## CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Archaeological Background
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology
- 4.0 Results
- 5.0 The Finds
- 6.0 The Environmental Samples
- 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Bibliography  
Acknowledgements

Appendix 1:  
Appendix 2:

HER Summary Sheet  
OASIS Form

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location  
Figure 2: Plan of monitored area  
Figure 3: Photographs

## TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site archive  
Table 2: List of recorded contexts  
Table 3: Finds quantification

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Sebba to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 9 Pembroke Villas, Richmond, TW9 1QF (Figure. 1, NGR TQ 1762, 7522).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is located on the north side of Portland Terrace and is bounded by a former deer park to the north and Richmond Green to the south.

1.2.2 The site is located on the Kempton Park Gravel (Devensian) formation which overlies the London clay formation (Palaeogene).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission for demolition of a garage, toilet and study and the construction of a new garage and garden store with a library above was granted (Ref: 12\2400\HOT) with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during ground works.

1.3.2 A comprehensive *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* for a watching brief was prepared by Archaeology South East (ASE 2013) and submitted to the local planning authority for approval prior to the commencement of the ground works.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The main aims of the watching brief were to:

- *Monitor all excavations associated with the development 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 the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (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 document presents the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out at 9 Pembroke Villas on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013.

1.5.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Catherine Douglas (28<sup>th</sup> April) and Kathy Grant (1<sup>st</sup> May). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

- 2.1.1 The following information is taken from the WSI with due acknowledgement. This includes information based upon a search of a the Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 500m radius of the site.

### **2.2 Prehistory**

- 2.2.1 There is no known evidence of prehistoric finds within 500m of the site but the location on the river terrace gravels provides a classic setting for prehistoric activity and such finds should be expected. Lithics dated to the Palaeolithic period are recorded 650m to the east of the site (MLO10647) as well as two Bronze Age spearheads (MLO18988/18970). Bronze Age activity is also suggested further to the south at Richmond Bridge in the form of a barbed flint arrowhead and a socketed gouge from the Surrey Bank of the Thames. Also to the south near George Street two excavations recovered worked flint and a small amount of Iron Age pottery (Compass Archaeology 2009). The regional resource assessment places emphasis on understanding the significance of river systems as barriers, links and resources (London Research Framework 2002:75).

### **2.3 Roman**

- 2.3.1 There is no evidence of Roman activity in close proximity to the site.

### **2.4 Anglo-Saxon**

- 2.4.1 Richmond was part of the neighbouring manor of Kingston at the time of the Domesday survey and the exact date it became a manor in its own right is unclear. Formerly known as Sheen/Shene it is thought to have Anglo-Saxon origins and is referred to in the will of Bishop Theodred AD950 (AOC 2008). This may indicate the presence of a manor house but this is purely speculative as no finds of Anglo-Saxon date can be ascribed to the area.

### **2.5 Medieval**

- 2.5.1 As part of the manor of Kingston the area was held by the king, and the first record of a manor house at Shene was in the 12<sup>th</sup> century being held by Henry I. He gifted the manor to the Norman Belet family and it remained in their possession until it returned to Royal ownership in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Edward III spent thousands on improving the manor and died there in 1377. The earliest royal residence was partially destroyed around 1394 on the orders of Richard II following the death of his wife at the palace.
- 2.5.2 Henry V began the rebuilding of the manor in 1414 around the same time he established a Carthusian Monastery at west Shene, although the exact location for this is unknown. The royal residence again was partly destroyed, this time by fire in 1497 and was lavishly restored by Henry VII. It was he who renamed the palace Richmond after his title Earl of Richmond and he too

died at the palace. The site of this palace is between Old Place Lane and Friars Lane, to the south west of the development site (MLO19133).

## **2.6 Post-medieval**

2.6.1 The palace remained in royal hands until after the Civil War when the Commonwealth parliament sold the property, dividing it up between the purchasers. The surviving portions of the palace were mainly used for the accommodation of royal children after the restoration of Charles II. The structures that still survive include the gatehouse, wardrobe and Trumpeters' House.

2.6.2 Richmond Green (MLO103233) to the south of the site, has played host to sporting events including jousting and cricket. The houses that border the green may occupy the sites of former buildings that were used historically to house people working for and visiting the palace. The construction of the railway in the 1840's divided the Green from the deer park and the houses that currently occupy the site were constructed shortly after.

2.6.3 The site is part of Pembroke Villas, a series of Grade II listed mid Victorian domestic properties overlooking the Green.

## **2.7 Recent Archaeological Investigation**

2.7.1 An excavation carried out by Sutton Archaeological Services (ELO11267, SAS 2009) at Old Palace Place revealed remains dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries as well as activity into the 19<sup>th</sup> century (unpublished report). Pre-Construct archaeology carried out an evaluation at Retreat Road (ELO11602) which recorded an infilled palaeochannel which was possibly early 17<sup>th</sup> century in date (PCA 2010). Another channel was identified by PCA at Little Green and Quadrant Road (ELO6085, PCA 2005) although this was undated. Palaeochannels are recognised repositories of environmental and archaeological material and such features may pass through the site.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 All intrusive ground works were monitored by an archaeologist unless otherwise agreed by the GLAAS archaeology advisor. Machine excavation was monitored by an experienced archaeologist until the natural geology was reached, or until the required development depth was reached.
- 3.1.2 Ground reduction was undertaken across an 'L' shaped area around the north west corner of the property. (Figure 2). This area (measuring approximately 6.50m by 1.0m south-east to north-west opening out to a square 3.0m by 3.5m at the northern end) was reduced to 1.30m below ground surface level or 7.32m OD.
- 3.1.3 A site code (PMB 13) was obtained from the London Archaeology Archive Research Centre (LAARC) and used as the unique site identifier for all records.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context sheets used by ASE.
- 3.1.5 A full digital photographic record was maintained throughout the duration of the watching brief.
- 3.1.6 The GLAAS archaeology advisor was kept informed of progress so that they could monitor the work as necessary.
- 3.1.7 As the monitored ground reduction reached natural brickearth geology where it was established that no archaeological deposits were present, it was unnecessary to monitor the excavation of foundation or service trenches within the brickearth geology.

#### 3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Museum of London in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	28
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The recorded contexts have been tabulated and are summarised below (Table 2).

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
02	Layer	Made Ground	Tr	Tr	1.17
03	Layer	Topsoil		3.50	0.13
04	Layer	Natural Brickearth	-	-	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

- 4.2 The natural brickearth geology [04]) was encountered at 1.30m below ground level at 7.32m OD.
- 4.3 Overlying the natural was a thick layer of reddish brown sand [02] with frequent brick and general demolition rubble inclusions. It had a maximum thickness of 1.17m. This deposit was present beneath the newly demolished buildings, but in the garden at the northern end of the reduced area, the sand was immediately overlain by 0.13m of topsoil [03] forming the garden lawn.
- 4.5 No archaeological features or finds were uncovered or recorded during the works (figure 3).

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief can be seen to have fulfilled the aims and objectives set-out in the *WSI* in that the nature and extent of existing archaeology at the redevelopment site has been characterized and all archaeological features have been recorded and interpreted.
- 5.2 Natural brickearth geology was encountered at 1.30m below ground level at 7.32m OD. This was overlain by a thick layer of reddish brown sand with frequent brick and general demolition rubble inclusions. This sand and rubble layer was immediately overlain by 0.13m of topsoil in the area of the garden.
- 5.3 No evidence of archaeological activity was encountered within the development area but the discovery of a Victorian pit nearby in the garden of the adjacent property provides evidence of previous domestic activity at Pembroke Villas.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief can be seen to have fulfilled the aims and objectives set-out in the *WSI* in that an absence of archaeological remains within the development area was established, indicating a lack of earlier archaeological activity within the area.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Mr and Mrs Sebba for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Diane Abrams of GLAAS for her guidance and monitoring.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	PMB13					
Identification Name and Address	9 Pembroke Villas, London Borough of Richmond, TW9 1QF					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Richmond					
OS Grid Refs.	1762, 7522					
Geology	London clay formation (Palaeogene)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5859					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	<b>Shallow Urban</b>	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>WB.</b> 29/04/13 01/05/13	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr and Mrs Sebba					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Sebba to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 9 Pembroke Villas, Richmond, TW9 1QF (Fig. 1, NGR TQ 1762, 7522).</i></p> <p><i>Planning permission for the demolition of a garage, toilet and study and the construction of a new garage and garden store with a library above was granted by Richmond Borough Council (Ref: 12V2400HOT) with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during ground works.</i></p> <p><i>Natural brickearth geology (07) was encountered at 1.30m below ground level at 7.32m OD.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological remains were recorded within the development area. This may suggest a lack of earlier archaeological activity within the area. However the nature of most of the deposits encountered suggest that any archaeological remains may have been destroyed either when the Victorian buildings were first built, or at a later date when extensions were added or demolished.</i></p>						

## Oasis Report

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-150180

#### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 9 Pembroke Villas
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Sebba to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 9 Pembroke Villas, Richmond, TW9 1QF (Fig. 1, NGR TQ 1762, 7522). Planning permission for the part demolition of side extension, replacement of a conservatory and conversion of garage to create living space was granted by Richmond Borough Council (Ref: 12\2400\HOT) with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during ground works. Natural brickearth geology (07) was encountered at 1.30m below ground level at 7.32m OD. A Victorian refuse pit [05] was cut into the natural geology, and contained one fill containing Victorian pottery, bone, ceramic building material, glass and clay tobacco pipe. With the exception of the Victorian refuse pit, an absence of archaeological remains within the development area has been established suggesting a lack of earlier archaeological activity within the area.
Project dates	Start: 28-04-2013 End: 01-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Research project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Significant Finds	None
Significant Finds	None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Research

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND UPON THAMES 9 Pembroke Villas, London Borough of Richmond
Postcode	TW9 1QF
Study area	15.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1762 7522 51 0 51 27 47 N 000 18 23 W Point

Height OD / Depth    Min: 7.00m Max: 7.00m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs Sebba

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**Project archives**

Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Map", "Photograph", "Report"

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 9 Pembroke Villas: Written Scheme of Investigation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Leonard, A.
Other bibliographic details	5859
Date	2013
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Place of issue or	Archaeology South-East

publication

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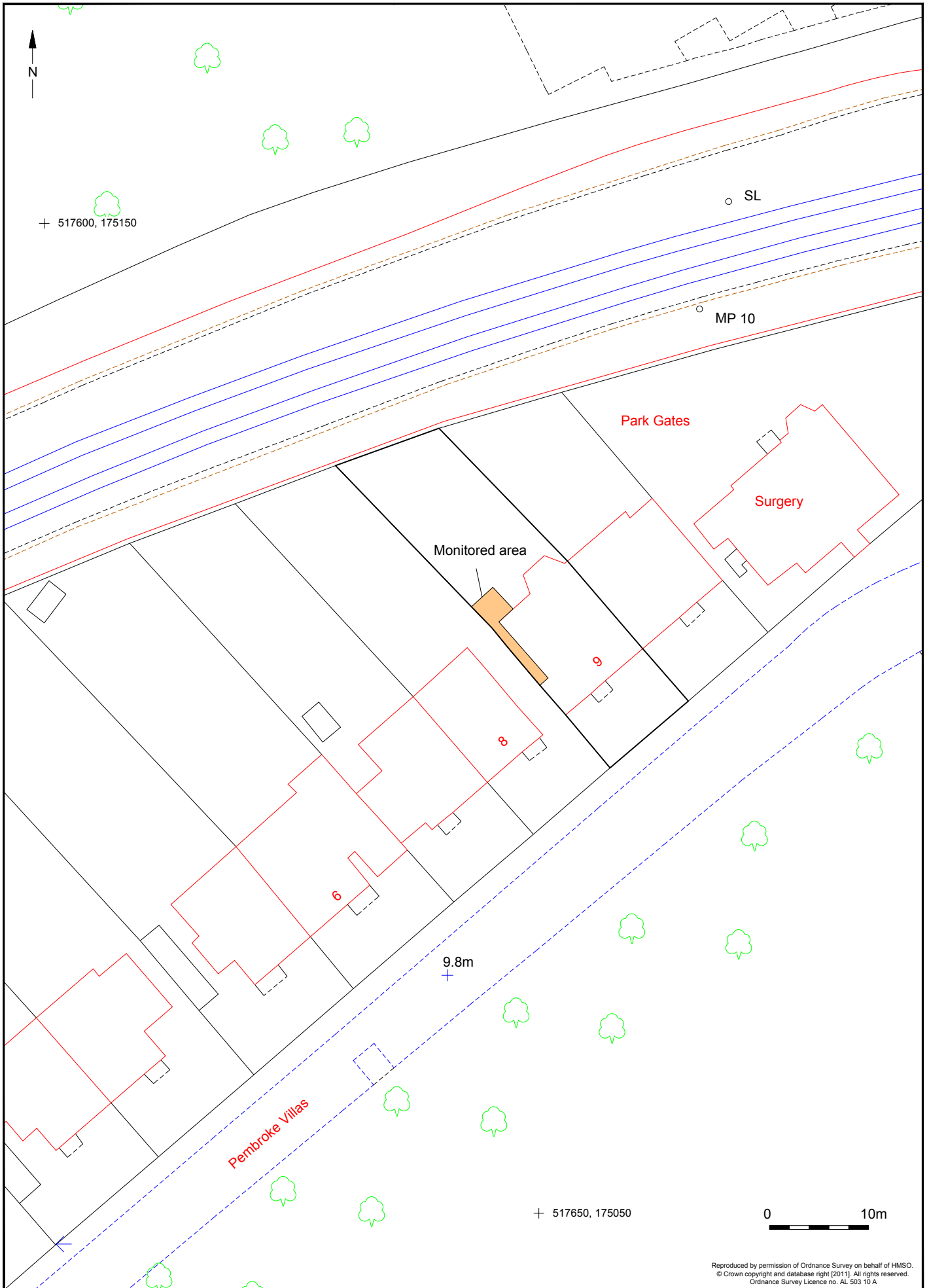
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© Archaeology South-East		9 Pembroke Villas, Richmond		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5859	May 2013	Site location		
Report Ref: 2013111	Drawn by: JLR			





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© Archaeology South-East		9 Pembroke Villas, Richmond	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5859	May 2013	Plan of monitored area	
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Working shot facing south-west



Monitored area facing north-east

© Archaeology South-East		9 Pembroke Villas, Richmond	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5859	May 2013	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2013111	Drawn by: JLR		

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