

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Holy Cross School, Basuto Road
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham**

NGR: TQ 2519 7673

Planning Ref: 2015/03209/FUL

ASE Project No: 8553

Site Code: HYC16

ASE Report No: 2016227

OASIS id: archaeol6-254503



By Steve White

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East undertook an archaeological watching brief at Holy Cross School in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham between the 12th and 18th of May, 2016. The excavations of foundation trenches for building extensions were monitored in two discreet areas to the north-east and south-east of the existing building.

Extensive modern truncation was observed in both areas. Natural clays were observed between 0.85m and 1.30m below ground level. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Mott MacDonald to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Holy Cross School, Basuto Road, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (NGR: TQ 2519 7673; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The site was bound by: Novello Street to the north; residences to east and west; and Ackmar Road and Basuto Road to the south. It covered an area of c. 0.35ha.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online, the Site was situated atop the Kempton Park Gravel formation – formed of sand and gravel, with localised lenses of silt, clay or peat. The underlying geology consisted of London Clay formation.

1.2.2 The closest geological borehole data available from the BGS mapping was from c. 200m to the west. The data, collected in 2006, showed London Clay deposits overlain by river terrace deposits to a depth of 7.30m, overlain in turn by a thin layer of alluvium, and finally made ground with a depth of 1.50m.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning consent (Reference 2015/03209/FUL) was given for the demolition of existing extensions, outbuildings and part of the administration building. As the site lay in an archaeological priority area, a condition of this consent a programme of archaeological work was required to preserve, by record, any archaeological remains surviving on the site.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015a) outlined the scope of an archaeological watching brief, was prepared and approved by GLAAS. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of GLAAS and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (GLAAS 2015; CIfA 2014c).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The specific aims of the watching brief are to define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.

1.4.2 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains.

1.4.3 To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.

- 1.4.4 To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- 1.4.5 Site specific: Is there any evidence relating to post-medieval development of the area?

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the site in the May of 2015. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2014).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following information is principally drawn from the desk-based assessment undertaken for the site (ASE 2015b).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The foreshore of Fulham Palace c. 1.3km west of the site, and subject to periodic community archaeological fieldwork since the first works of the Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group (FARG) in 1972-73 has yielded a variety of archaeological artefacts from the Lower Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods (including flakes, scrapers, bores and cores as well as Neolithic pottery), the Bronze Age and the Iron Age (for discussion of which see the next period section below on the Romano-British period). Some of the flints may date to the even earlier Mesolithic period, with over a dozen likely Mesolithic flints from the Fulham foreshore near Putney Bridge, and a similar quantity of Neolithic flint material from this area. The Bronze Age is similarly well represented, with numerous finds of materials, including weapons and an array of metal deposits (some potentially deliberately 'placed' ritual materials rather than accidental losses) from the Fulham foreshore around the Fulham Palace/Putney Bridge area.

2.2.2 Prehistoric residual worked flint and ceramics have been recovered during formal excavations at Fulham Palace and the surrounding area, including Mesolithic and Neolithic stone implements and axes.

2.2.3 The Thames Discovery Programme (as part of a Festival of British Archaeology event with Fulham Palace and Gifford, in July 2009) recorded three timber piles of Iron Age date immediately upstream of Putney Bridge. Additional Iron Age finds have been found at Beverly Brook, Barnes, Eternit Wharf, and Barn Elms. Barn Elms was a significant Iron Age settlement on the south bank of the river, west of the site.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Roman coins and other settlement debris have been discovered during excavations at Fulham Palace over the years, including 3rd and 4th century AD Romano-British pottery and building material. A Roman ditch was also excavated immediately north of the palace itself, discovered in association with the later medieval moat. It has been suggested that the area of the palace is a possible site for a Roman settlement controlling the crossing point to Putney, later medieval settlement and ferry/bridging activities building on this Roman foundation. Finds from the foreshore of Fulham support this hypothesis, including the discovery of a 1st-century sword displayed in the British Museum.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

- 2.4.1 There is limited early medieval evidence from the area, and none known from the Site itself. The nearest known materials come from Fulham Palace, where a small number of finds have indicated a small settlement within earthworks. These may have built upon earlier Romano-British settlement. Historical records show that in c. 704 AD the Manor was purchased by Waldhere, Bishop of London to form part of his estates – the origins of the ecclesiastical control of the site that continued to 1974. Fulham Palace later comprised a part of the earlier Manor.
- 2.4.2 Approximately 2km northwest of the Site is the Chancellors Wharf /Fulham Reach site at the junction of Winslow Road / Distillery Road /Chancellor's Road. MOLAS excavations here in 1990, 1999 and 2005 identified an Anglo-Saxon settlement in this same location at the post-medieval glassworks. A number of ditches, pits, post holes, pot sherds, and approximately five *grubenhausa* date the site to around the 5th or 6th century AD.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 Medieval archaeology in the wider area around the site is primarily focused at Fulham Palace. By the 12th century, a Bishop's manor house had been established at the palace within an irregular, double ditched moated enclosure enclosing an area of 400m x 370m. The moat is c. 1 mile long in total, and may represent an earlier Romano-British or early medieval land boundary. Work at Fulham Palace by the Thames Archaeological Survey in the 1990s recorded a limited number of features on the foreshore; these included peat deposits and timber.
- 2.5.2 On the south bank of the river, at Barn Elms, the Thames Archaeological Survey also recorded a timber structure in 1995, thought to be of medieval date, and interpreted as a fish trap. In 2009 a Portable Antiquities Scheme find of medieval pottery was also made close to this location.

2.6 Post-medieval and Modern

- 2.6.1 During the earlier half of the period the area surrounding the site was located within the extensive grounds of the Manor of Fulham. The area saw rapid development from the early 19th century, developing into a residential area through the latter 19th century and into the 20th century. The area was a largely working class area in the late 19th century.
- 2.6.2 The first school in the area of the Holy Cross Church had been constructed by 1884, later expanding into the location of the present site. The original, larger, school was known as St Mark's Church of England Secondary School, and incorporated a church and educational buildings (Penoyre and Prasad 2015).
- 2.6.3 During the Second World War the south of the Site may have been bombed, resulting in the destruction of several residences alongside Basuto Road (Bomb Sight 2015). In 1998 the original Victorian buildings were demolished to the west of the site to accommodate the new residential estate at St Mark's Close. The surviving Victorian structures within the Site were constructed around the turn of the century as an annexe for the former St Mark's School, later becoming Ackmar Primary School, and finally Holy Cross Primary School. The additional classrooms and offices associated with the current school were constructed at the end of the 20th century / early 21st century.
- 2.6.4 The earliest map evidence reviewed was Stanford's Library Map of London, 1862. The Site falls within the former Fulham Park – a landscaped public park to the west of Eel Brook Common, and east of a ribbon of development around Parsons Green. To the north of the site was a strip of development along the north side of Crown Street (Novello Street).
- 2.6.5 By 1869 the Site had been significantly altered, with Fulham Park appearing to dissolve into a number of smaller lots. Within the south of the site two buildings are illustrated, labelled as a pump. The north of the site appears to fall within landscaped gardens associated with 'Elyeitan Cottage'.
- 2.6.6 Between 1869 and 1896 the site and surrounding area underwent a rapid transformation, being infilled with a grid-system of residential terraces. The south of the Site was fully developed alongside Basuto Road in such a manner. The north of the Site remained open however, being a part of the grounds to St. Mark's School.
- 2.6.7 By 1916 the north of the site had been developed, with the extant late-Victorian annexe building.
- 2.6.8 Between 1938 and 1950 the residences within the south of the site were demolished, likely due to bombing – a bomb drop is recorded on the Bomb Census at Basuto Road, 1941: 'Aggregate Night Time Bomb Census 7th October 1940 to 6 June 1941' (Bomb Sight 2015). The Holy Cross School, south of the site remained undeveloped, being incorporated into the school grounds by 1970.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored machine dug foundation trenches for the building extension. The foundation trenches were located to the north-east and south-east of the current building in the only areas to be developed that did not already have previous buildings/impacts.
- 3.1.2 All deposits and events were recorded and planned in line with the WSI (ASE 2015a).
- 3.1.3 Due to significant truncation uncovered in the foundation trenches and the fact that the rest of the site is considered to have suffered even greater truncation it was agreed between Gill King (GLAAS) and Andy Leonard (ASE fieldwork project manager) that the watching brief be terminated leaving the rest of the groundworks unmonitored.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 Owing to the vagaries of the construction timetable, archaeological monitoring was split over two weeks, from the 12th May to the 18th of May, 2016.
- 3.2.2 The trench layout in the north-east had to be altered with the discovery that one of the adjoining building's walls had a very shallow foundation. Excavating a foundation trench below the level of this foundation would have been ill-advised.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) before the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	12
No. of files/paper record	8
Digital photos	40

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Foundation trenches monitored to the north-east of the main building

4.1.1 Originally these foundation trenches were supposed to form a rough 'figure of 8' on a north-east to south-west alignment. As mentioned in 3.2.2 above, the building adjacent to the south-eastern perimeter of the trenches was revealed to have a very shallow foundation and this part of the trenching was abandoned. The total area observed was 8m north-east to south-west by 8 m north-west to south-east.

4.1.2 The sequence across this area consisted of: natural deposit [1007] overlain by buried subsoil [1006]; this was in turn overlain by subsoil layer [1005]. In the north-western part of the area, this was in turn sealed by an earlier tarmac layer ([1004]), a sand make up layer ([1003]) and a crushed brick and & tile make up deposit ([1002]). All of this was then overlain by a modern make up deposit ([1001]) and sealed by the most recent tarmac layer ([100])

4.1.3 In the central and south-eastern band of the layer, the natural deposit ([1007]) was directly overlain by subsoil [1005]. This was then sealed by modern make up [1001] and the modern tarmac [1000].

4.1.4 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1000	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.06 – 0.10
1001	Layer	Make up layer	Trench	Trench	0.11 – 0.15
1002	Layer	Crushed brick & tile make up	8m	1m	0.10
1003	Layer	Sand makeup	8m	1m	0.05
1004	Layer	Buried tarmac layer	8m	1m	0.10
1005	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.50-0.95
1006	Layer	Buried subsoil	8m	1m	0.10
1007	Layer	Natural deposit	Trench	Trench	0.10-0.40

Table 2: List of recorded contexts in north-eastern area

4.2 Foundation trenches monitored to the south-east of the main building

- 4.2.1 The foundation trenches to the south-east of the main building consisted of one trench on a north-east to south-west orientation that joined with two others that were on a north-west to south-east orientation. The total area observed was 8m north-east to south-west by 6m north-west to south-east.
- 4.2.1 The sequence across the area consisted of natural deposit [1011] overlain by modern made ground [1010]. This was in turn sealed by makeup layer [1009] that was then sealed by the current tarmac.
- 4.2.3 It should be noted that natural deposit [1011] was only observed in south-western most part of this area. 0.70m north-east along the trench from its south-western terminus the modern made ground graded down to the base of the trench. The natural deposit was not observed elsewhere in the area. It seems plausible to suggest that this truncation was associated with some of the earlier phases of building works that had taken place at Holy Cross School.
- 4.2.4 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1008	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.05 – 0.10
1009	Layer	Make up layer	Trench	Trench	0.10 – 0.15
1010	Layer	Modern make up deposit	Trench	Trench	1.00
1011	Layer	Natural	0.70	0.70	0.10

Table 3: List of recorded contexts in south-eastern area

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 5.1.1 Natural deposits were observed in all of the foundation trenches in the north-eastern area at between 0.85m and 1.25m below ground level and partially in the south-eastern area at 1.30m below ground level.

5.2 Conclusions and considerations of research aims

- 5.2.1 The specific aims of the watching brief are to define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.

No archaeological features were observed on site.

- 5.2.2 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains.

No archaeological features were observed on site.

- 5.2.3 To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.

No archaeological features were observed on site. Natural deposits were observed between 0.85m and 1.30m below ground level.

- 5.2.4 To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.

No archaeological features were observed on site.

- 5.2.5 Site specific: Is there any evidence relating to post-medieval development of the area?

No archaeological features were observed on site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2015a *Holy Cross School, Basuto Road, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham: Archaeological Watching Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Mott MacDonald for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and GLAAS for their guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was undertaken by Steve White. Andy Leonard managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	HYC16				
Identification Name and Address	Holy Cross School, Fulham				
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham				
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 2519 7673				
Geology	Kempton Park Gravels & Underlying London Clay				
Arch. South-East Project Number	8553				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site		Shallow Urban			
Dates of Fieldwork			12/5/16-18/5/16		
Sponsor/Client	Mott Mcdonald				
Project Manager	Andy Leonard				
Project Supervisor	Steve White				
Period Summary					
					Modern
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East undertook an archaeological watching brief at Holy Cross School in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham between the 12th and 18th of May, 2016. The excavations of foundation trenches for building extensions were monitored in two discreet areas to the north-east and south-east of the existing building. Extensive modern truncation was observed in both areas. Natural clays were observed between 0.85m and 1.30m below ground level. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-254503

Project details

Project name	Holy Cross School, Basuto Road, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East undertook an archaeological watching brief at Holy Cross School in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham between the 12th and 18th of May, 2016. The excavations of foundation trenches for building extensions were monitored in two discreet areas to the north-east and south-east of the existing building. Extensive modern truncation was observed in both areas. Natural clays were observed between 0.85m and 1.30m below ground level. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.
Project dates	Start: 12-05-2016 End: 18-05-2016
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HYC16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM FULHAM Holy Cross School
Postcode	SW6 4BJ
Study area	112 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2519 7673 51.475162625008 -0.197179819907 51 28 30 N 000 11 49 W Polygon

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Mott MacDonald

Project design originator ASE

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

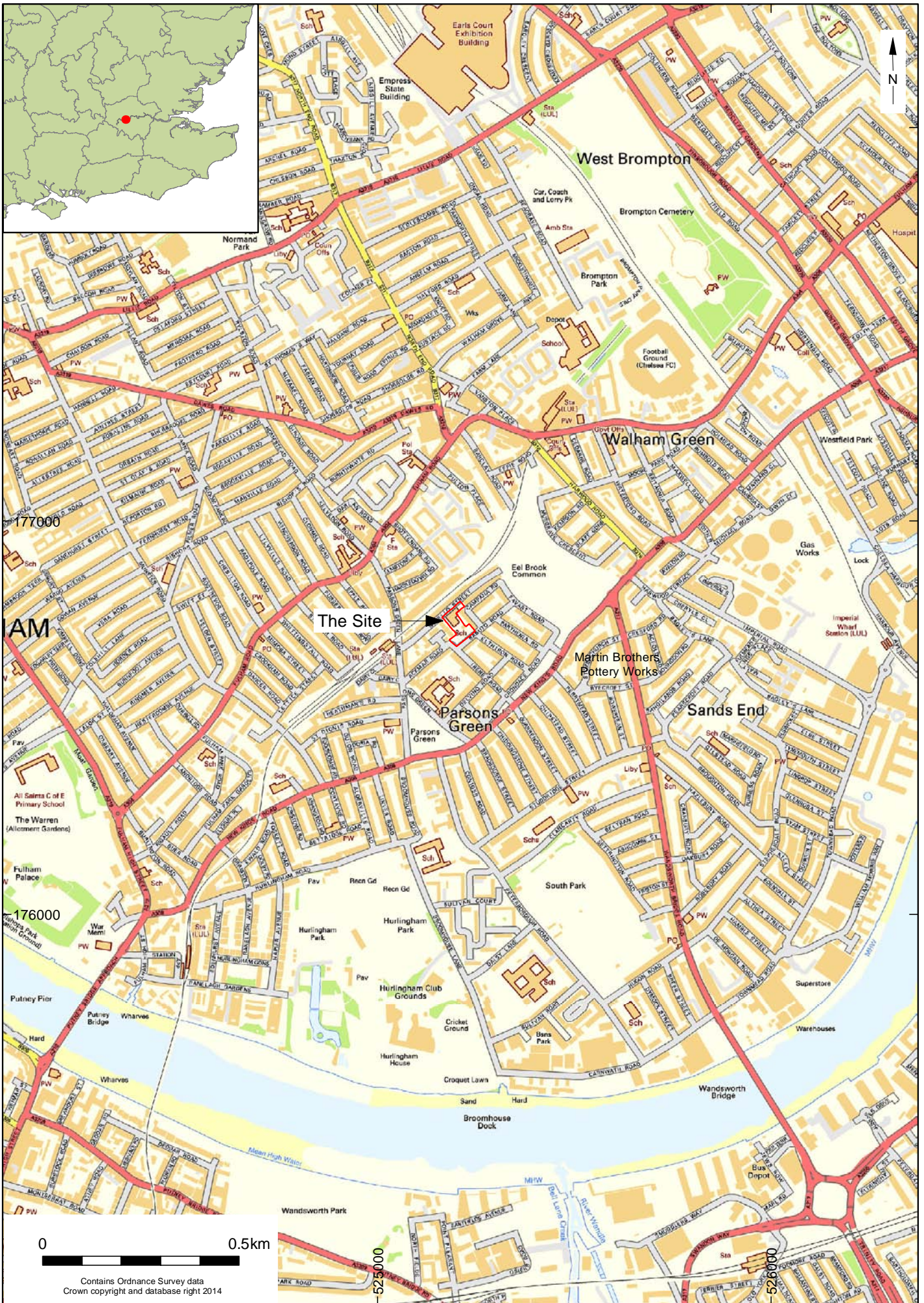
Project supervisor Steve White

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

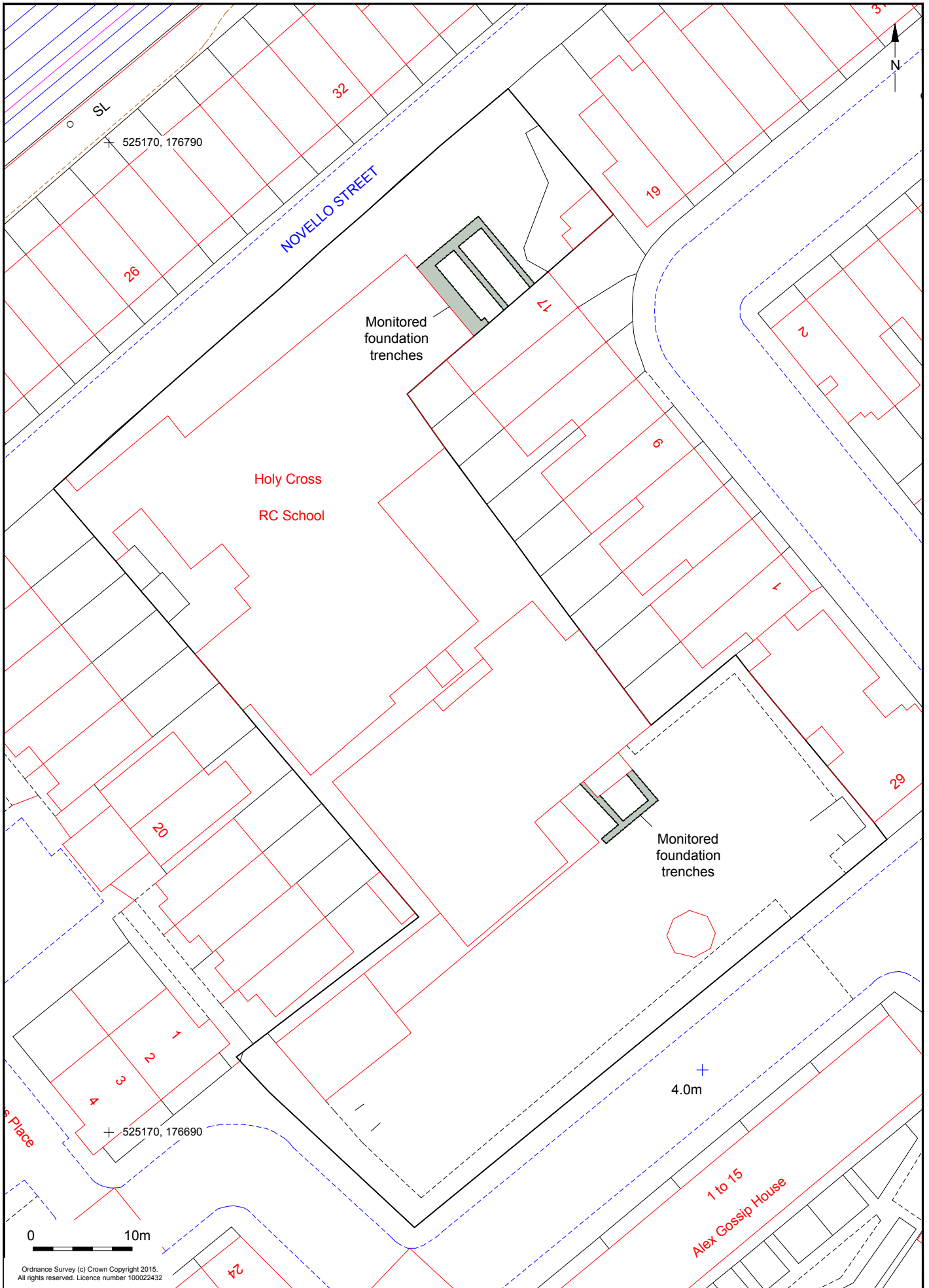
Name of sponsor/funding body Mott MacDonald

Entered by Steve White (tcnsjw@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 10 June 2016



© Archaeology South-East		Holy Cross School, Fulham		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8553	June 2016	Site Location		
Report Ref: 2016227	Drawn by: SP			



© Archaeology South-East		Holy Cross School, Fulham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8553	June 2016	Location of monitored foundation trenches	
Report Ref: 2016227	Drawn by: JC		



Northern area looking east



Southern area looking south-west

© Archaeology South-East		Holy Cross School, Fulham	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 8553	June 2016	Site photographs	
Report Ref: 2016227	Drawn by: JC		

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