Archaeology South-East

ASE

Final Report for an Archaeological Excavation at Nishkam School site, Syon Lane, Hounslow, London Borough of Isleworth

NGR: 515580 177570

Planning Ref: 01106/152/P3

ASE Project No: 7834
Site Code: NHK15

ASE Report No: 2016361
OASIS id: archaeol6-263771

Stephen White
With contributions by
Anna Doherty, Mariangela Vitolo
Illustrations by Justin Russell and Lauren Gibson

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological work on land at Nishkam School, Syon Lane, Hounslow, London Borough of Isleworth in advance of redevelopment of the site. This phase consisted of the excavation of a 25m x 25m area within the south-west of the site as well as a watching brief maintained during ground demolition of the former White Lodge Club. Work took place on the 5th and 7th August 2016 (watching brief) and between the 22nd and 30th of August, 2016 (excavation).

A single Middle Bronze Age feature was revealed comprising a small pit with a deliberately deposited pottery vessel. While this feature was not a cremation burial, it does hint at a 'ritualised' and/or a funerary element to the Middle Bronze Age landscape. Two modern features, believed to be goal posts relating to the sites use as a sports field, were also observed these join field boundary ditches, modern and natural features encountered during the previous evaluation.

Natural Brick Earth was recorded between 25.15m and 25.20m AOD

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological excavation and watching brief on land at the proposed Nishkam West London Free School site: White Lodge Club, Syon Lane, Wyke Green, London Borough of Hounslow, TW7 5PN (NGR: TQ 1558 7757; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The site was an irregular parcel of land occupied by a sports field. It was bound by Syon Lane to the north, Braybourne Drive to the south and Wood Lane to the west.

1.1.3 Geo-archaeological fieldwork (comprising 5 trial-pits; Figure 2) was carried out by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in collaboration with Archaeology South-East (QUEST 2016) during archaeological fieldwork. The report for this work is included as an appendix (Appendix 2) but is also referred to below where relevant.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey recorded the solid geology on this site to be London Clay formation, capped by Langley Silt formation 'brickearths' of clay and silt.

1.2.2 The natural topography of the area rose up from Clerkenwell Green to the south. The site was located on gently sloping ground between 24m and 25m AOD. To the east, the ground level falls toward the River Brent. In general the site has been levelled at around 24m AOD to allow its use as a sports field. Ground height around the area of excavation was recorded as 25.68m AOD.

1.2.3 Geo-archaeological work by QUEST (2016; Appendix 2) showed the Langley Silt at the site to comprise reworked London Clay, brecciated and slickensided, indicating weathering and compatible with solifluction, Calcium carbonate nodules were frequent, precipitated from the groundwater. Occasional flints within the deposit would have been picked up during the solifluction process as the London Clay moved off the higher ground to the west to overlie the Taplow Terrace gravel. These terrace gravels comprised mostly sandy gravel with a maximum clast size 10+ cm, a size that might contain worked flakes, small or broken handaxes. A number of small flakes and a possible core were found, but none were considered to be of significance.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (01106/152/P3) was submitted for the erection of a new four form school for 1,400 pupils, with sports hall, football fields, school play areas, car parking, new and improved access, landscaping, and retained/improved public playing areas.

1.4 Aims & Objectives

1.4.1 Broadly, the Excavation was seeking to achieve the following aims:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeo-environmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
- Enable the GLAAS archaeology advisor to comment on the status of the archaeology condition and advise whether further archaeological work is required.
- Make public the results of the work

1.4.2 More specifically, and with reference to the research framework for London (MoLA, 2002), the excavation was seeking to address the following:

- Are there further features present on site relating to those already identified in the evaluation?
- Are there any other prehistoric features on site potentially upping the density of features of these periods?

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief and an excavation undertaken to enhance the results of the 2015 Evaluation. The fieldwork was carried at intermittent periods between the 5th and the 30th of August, 2016. This report has been prepared in accordance with the *Written Schemes of Investigation* (ASE 2016).

1.5.2 The site work was supervised by Steve White, with assistance from Tom Rugg and survey by Nathalie Gonzalez. It was project managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork), Jim Stevenson and Andy Margetts (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological and historical information is drawn from the evaluation report (ASE 2015a). A more complete background is included in the Desk Based Assessment (CgMs, 2015).

2.2 Early Prehistoric

2.2.1 Numerous Prehistoric flint tools, some showing levallois techniques, have been recorded from 'Macklins Pit' in the area now occupied by Wyke Green Golf Course (GLSMR Ref: ML0 2184, TQ 1560 7820). A Palaeolithic chipped axe has been recorded from 'Osterley Park' (GLSMR Ref: MLO 68784; TQ 1510 7830), and a further handaxe from the line of the London Underground railway (GLSMR Ref: MLO 02146; TQ 1500 7730).

2.3 Later Prehistoric

2.3.1 A small 'ring-ditch' crop mark to the east of the site may represent a Bronze Age burial mound (GLSM Ref: MLO1950; TQ 1560 7800), while fragments of a Bronze Age Deverel Rimbury Urn and some struck flints are recorded from 160-162 Wood Lane North, close to the site (GLSMR Ref: MLO2189; TQ 1540 7750).

2.3.2 'Prehistoric pottery' and struck flint are recorded from the former United Biscuits site in Syon Lane (GLSMR Ref: MLO59689; TQ 1600 7760) and a heavy concentration of burnt flint is recorded from Wyke Green Golf Course (GLSMR Ref: MLO2211; TQ 1610 7810).

2.4 Roman

2.4.1 Although Roman settlements are attested at Brentford and Syon Park, in association with the Roman Road from London to Staines, within a 1km radius of the site only a single Roman coin (from the reign of Constantine) has been recorded (GLMSR Ref: MLO2615; TQ 1580 7740).

2.5 Medieval

2.5.1 A late medieval moated site stood c.270m to the north of the study site (GLSMR Ref: MLO10578; TQ 1540 7780). The Manor and House both known as 'Wyke' are first recorded in 1210 and continued in occupation until c.1723.

2.6 Post-medieval

2.6.1 In 1723, Wyke Manor was purchased by John Way who constructed a new house to the south of the old, in the area now occupied by Crown Tree Close and Stags Way. Following construction of the new House, the old moated enclosure was abandoned and the buildings within it demolished. This had certainly taken place by 1766.

2.6.2 John Rocque's map of 1766 shows the abandoned moated site to the north of the proposed Nishkam School site, and to the south of the site boundary the new 'Wyke House' (GLSMR Ref: MLO 3286; TQ 1572 7757). This is also how the site is shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1807. By this date, the new 'Wyke House' had been substantially extended into a large mansion. This is believed to have taken place in c.1780-1800.

2.6.3 The first detailed map of the site is the 1813 Isleworth Enclosure map which shows the bulk of the study site comprised of '120' a field, including some plantation woodland in the ownership of the Earl of Jersey. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868 shows the site as largely unchanged.

2.7 20th Century

2.7.1 By 1945 the study site was in use as a sports ground. An aerial photograph of that year shows several grassed tennis courts and a cricket pitch

2.8 Previous archaeological work

2.8.1 An archaeological evaluation (ASE 2015a) previously undertaken at the site comprised the excavation of twenty-two trenches across the area. The trenching work identified struck flint and several sherds of prehistoric pottery although the majority of the artefactual evidence was residual. Two post-medieval ditches that probably represented field boundaries were identified that followed a similar alignment to the extant boundaries of site.

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

2.7.1 The Excavation sought to achieve the following aims:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeo-environmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
- Enable the GLAAS archaeology advisor to comment on the status of the archaeology condition and advise whether further archaeological work is required
- Make public the results of the work

2.7.2 More specifically, and with reference to the research framework for London (MoLA, 2002), the excavation will seek to address the following:

- Are there further features present on site relating to those already identified in the evaluation?

- Are there any other prehistoric features on site potentially upping the density of features of these periods?

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Excavation

3.1.1 The archaeological excavation consisted of a 25m x 25m area. This was centred around Trench 2 from the 2015 evaluation exercise. The work was undertaken between the 22nd and 30th of August, 2016. Five geo-archaeological test pits were also excavated and recorded by QUEST (2016; Appendix 2).

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 ASE informed LAARC prior to 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	13
No. of files/paper record	13
Digital photos	20
Permatrace sheets	4

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Watching Brief

4.1.1 A watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the ground demolition of the former White Lodge Clubhouse (identified by previous Historic Building Recording as being built during the late 1930's; ASE 2015b). The natural comprising mid brown orange Taplow Gravels [004] was only seen in a small part of the monitored area. This was sealed by a thin (0.20m) deposit of mid brown silty clay subsoil. Above this was a c.1.8m thick deposit of modern made ground/construction deposit [002]. This incorporated frequent modern debris associated with the construction of the former White Lodge Clubhouse and comprised a dark grey brown silty clay matrix. This was overlain by a concrete slab [001]. No archaeological features or finds were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

4.2 Excavation

Introduction

4.2.1 In the excavation area natural brick earth [1003] was overlain by subsoil [1002], which was in turn sealed by modern topsoil [1001].

4.2.2 Ground height at the excavation area was observed as being 25.68m AOD.

4.2.3 Natural deposit [1003] was observed between 25.15m and 25.20m AOD.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Parent
1001	Layer	Topsoil	1001
1002	Layer	Subsoil	1002
1003	Layer	Natural	1003
1004	Fill	Backfill	1005
1005	Cut	Pit	1005
1006	Fill	Concrete	1007
1007	Cut	Goal post	1007
1008	Fill	Concrete	1009
1009	Cut	Goal post	1009
1010	Fill	Backfill	1011
1011	Cut	Geotech pit?	1011
1012	Fill	Backfill	1013
1013	Cut	Rooting	1013

Table 2: Context Table

Results

4.2.4 The earliest deposit observed was the natural 'brickearth' deposit [1003], which was situated between 25.15m and 25.20m AOD.

4.2.5 One archaeological feature was observed cutting the natural deposit, [1005], a circular cut measuring 0.28m north-south by 0.32m east-west, to a depth of 0.08m (that sat at a height of 25.03m AOD). A singular pottery vessel, dated to the Early Bronze Age, had been placed within the cut, and appeared to conform to the cuts dimensions. The pottery was not completely intact, with only the base surviving. This was then backfilled by redeposited brick earth [1004].

4.2.6 This feature was then sealed by subsoil [1002], which was truncated by two modern features in the south-eastern quadrant site ([1007] & [1009]) that appear to be the bases for goalposts.

4.2.7 The goal post features where then overlain by topsoil [1001]. The topsoil was truncated by what appeared to be a geo-technical pit [1011] in the south-eastern quarter of site.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A single prehistoric pottery vessel was recovered during the archaeological mitigation work at Nishkam School, Syon Lane, London Borough of Hounslow. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

5.2 **The Prehistoric Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 The fragmented but partially-complete base and lower wall of a single Middle Bronze Age vessel was recovered from fill [1004] of pit [1005]. The fabric of the vessel is very coarsely flint-tempered, with common calcined flint inclusions, mostly of *c.*3-6mm (but ranging from 0.5-8mm). The underside of the base was also densely gritted with very fine flint of *c.*0.5-1mm. Although no diagnostic form elements from the upper body are present the thick-walled profile and coarseness of the fabric are indicative that the vessel is a Deverel-Rimbury urn.

5.2.2 It seems likely that the vessel was deposited upright and intact in the pit and subsequently horizontally truncated, strongly suggesting that it represents a placed deposit of some kind. There was no evidence of human bone or other pyre-like material but deposits of Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery vessels have often been found in the general vicinity of earlier funerary monuments or contemporary cemeteries so it is perhaps of some significance that a ring-ditch crop mark, possibly representing an Early Bronze Age barrow has been recorded to the east of the site (GLSM Ref: MLO1950; TQ 1560 7800). Elsewhere, it has been suggested that vessels deposited on the fringes of funerary landscapes may have acted as cenotaphs or token cremations in instances where the body itself was unavailable for burial (e.g. Egging Dinwiddy & Mckinley 2009; Dawkes & Swift in prep).

6.0 The Environmental Samples by Mariangela Vitolo

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 One bulk soil sample was taken from the fill of a possible cremation pot to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal,as well as to ascertain whether it was a cremation. The following report assesses the contents of the sample and the potential of the environmental remains to provide information regarding the local vegetation environment, fuel use and selection and the agricultural economy or other plant use.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The small sample was processed by flotation in its entirety. The flot and residue were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The residue was passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 2). Artefacts recovered from the sample were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and its contents recorded (Table 1).

6.3 Resuts

6.3.1 *Sample <1> [1004].*
The sample produced a small flot, dominated by uncharred rootlets. No charred plant macrofossils and charcoal were recovered. Finds from the residue included fragments of pottery and fire cracked flint. The sample was taken from a vessel that was thought to contain a cremation; however no bones were recovered.

6.4 Significance

6.4.1 The sample has low significance.

6.5 Potential

6.5.1 Given the absence of plant macrofossils and charcoal the bulk soil sample from Nishkam School has no potential for full analysis.

6.6 Further Work

6.6.1 No further work is recommended.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The findings of the excavation are discussed here, with consideration given to the previous phase of evaluation and the geo-archaeological fieldwork (QUEST 2016).

7.2 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.2.1 The layering of topsoil and subsoil was reasonably constant within the excavation area. The natural across site was consistently of Brick Earth (Langley Silt), and varied between 25.15m and 25.20m AOD.

7.2.2 A total of one archaeological features of interest was encountered across the excavation area. This joins features and finds encountered during the preceding evaluation and possible poorly preserved lithics encountered during the geo-archaeological fieldwork.

Middle Bronze Age

7.2.3 One Middle Bronze Age feature was identified on site. This consisted of a single pit ([1005]) in the north-west corner of site that appears to have been dug for the placement of a single pottery vessel.

Modern

7.2.4 Several modern features were observed in the excavation area. Two round features, back filled with concrete, [1007] and [1009] are interpreted as being the bases for old goal post. Geotechnical investigation pit [1011] was observed in the eastern L.O.E.

7.3 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.3.1 The archaeology observed on site survived despite the, presumably, substantial levelling to turn the area into a sports pitch.

7.4 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Palaeolithic?

7.4.1 Following excavation of 5 trial-pits across the site (Trial Pit 1 had to be abandoned at the outset for safety reasons; QUEST 2016; Appendix 2) material derived from the Taplow Gravels was sieved for artefact recovery. One dubious core was recovered and possibly rare debitage, but none of an acceptable standard. No significant artefacts were recovered. The potential Palaeolithic artefacts were recorded, but if genuine, are present in low quantity, poor condition, and are likely derived from soliflucted secondary deposits and are

not in-situ. The artefacts are currently being checked by a specialist, but further work is not recommended beyond this.

Middle Bronze Age

7.4.2 The Middle Bronze Age pottery recovered from feature [1005] indicated a tantalising possibility. While the feature itself was not a cremation, the deposition of empty vessels is not unknown around the periphery of Middle and Late Bronze Age funerary monuments and cemeteries. A small 'ring-ditch' crop mark is known to the east of the site and may represent a Bronze Age burial mound (GLSM Ref: MLO1950; TQ 1560 7800) providing a focal point for such postulated activity.

7.4.3 Features and finds of Bronze Age date are not unknown in the area. Other (probably) contemporary activity has been encountered at the former United Biscuits site in Syon Lane (GLSMR Ref: MLO59689; TQ 1600 7760), Wyke Green Golf Course (GLSMR Ref: MLO2211; TQ 1610 7810) and 160-162 Wood Lane North (GLSMR Ref: MLO2189; TQ 1540 7750). The latter included a similar Deverel Rimbury Urn whilst the heavy concentration of burnt flint recorded from Wyke Green Golf Course probably relates to 'burnt mound' activity associated with the nearby River Brent. These features and find-spots, along with the vessel from the Nishkam School site, probably relate to fragmentary survivals of a once more extensive Bronze Age agricultural and funerary landscape. Though the ditches encountered at the site (ASE 2015a) were interpreted as post-medieval in origin it is possible that a minority (particularly [5/006] which only produced finds of prehistoric flintwork) may relate to former fields associated with this landscape.

7.4.4 The site is located in a favourable situation for later prehistoric and particularly Bronze Age activity. It lies close to the confluence of the Rivers Brent and Thames, a location which may have encouraged prehistoric activity.

7.4.5 Residual Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the evaluation (ASE 2015a) and adds to the picture of low intensity survival of a previously more extensive Bronze Age landscape postulated above.

Post-medieval

7.4.6 A number of ditches interpreted as field boundaries were encountered during the evaluation stage at the site (ASE 2015a). These were strongly orientated with the current site boundaries and incorporated post-medieval finds, such as tile, within their associated fills.

Modern

7.4.7 The modern features observed on site are completely within keeping with the recent history as a series of sports fields.

7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 The possible Palaeolithic artefacts were of low significance and confirm the known potential of the Taplow Gravels to incorporate material belonging to this period. The single feature of certain Middle Bronze Age date hints at a tantalising funerary or 'ritualised' element to the landscape around the development area. Along with residual prehistoric finds encountered during the evaluation (ASE 2015a) it illustrates that remains may have once been more extensive. Ploughing and levelling of the site may have truncated other similar activity, and it is probable that the heavily developed nature of the surrounding area has had a negative impact on the survival of a once more extensive Bronze Age landscape.

7.6 Publication

7.6.1 The publication for this site, owing to the limited amount of archaeology encountered, will form a short note in London Archaeologist. Later prehistoric activity known from the surrounding area will be considered alongside the results from Nishkam School. A revised research aim (RRA) for the project was developed with reference to the *Research Framework for London* (MoLA, 2002).

RRA1: Can the evidence from the site and its surroundings help with re-evaluating the core/periphery model proposed for the Thames Valley in the Bronze Age (Barrett and Bradley 1980), which identified relationships between the Upper and Lower Thames and between the river valley and its hinterland?

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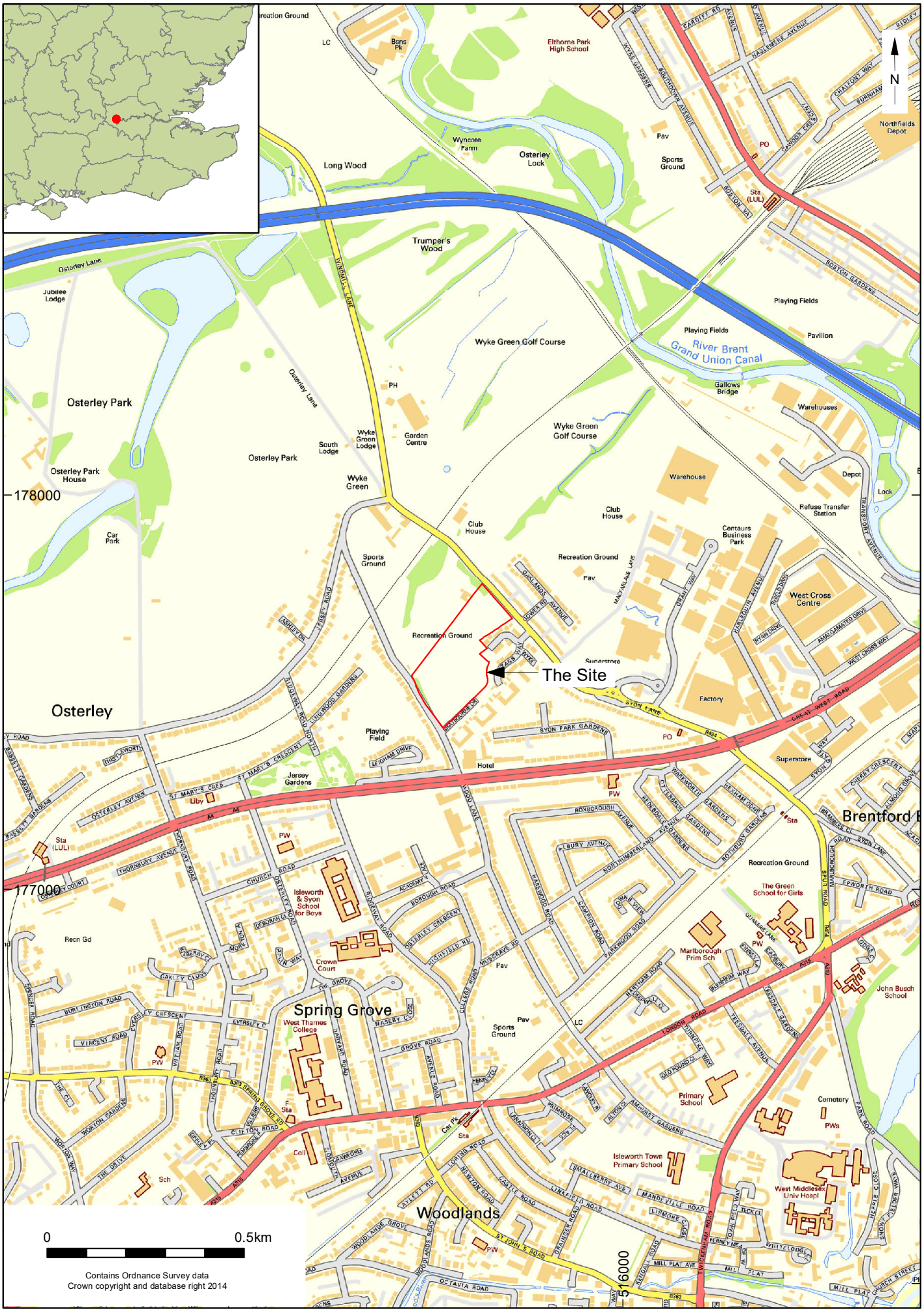
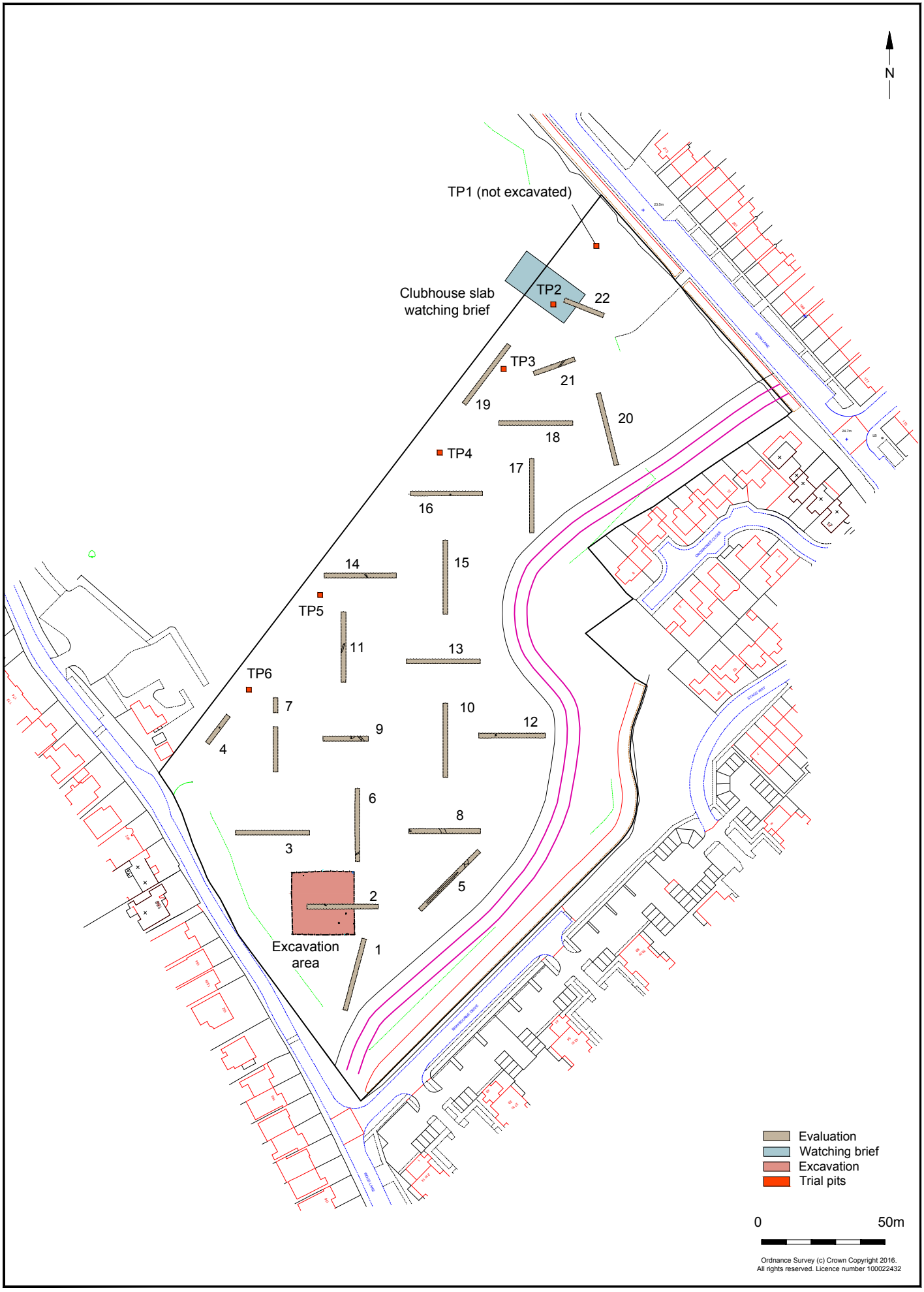
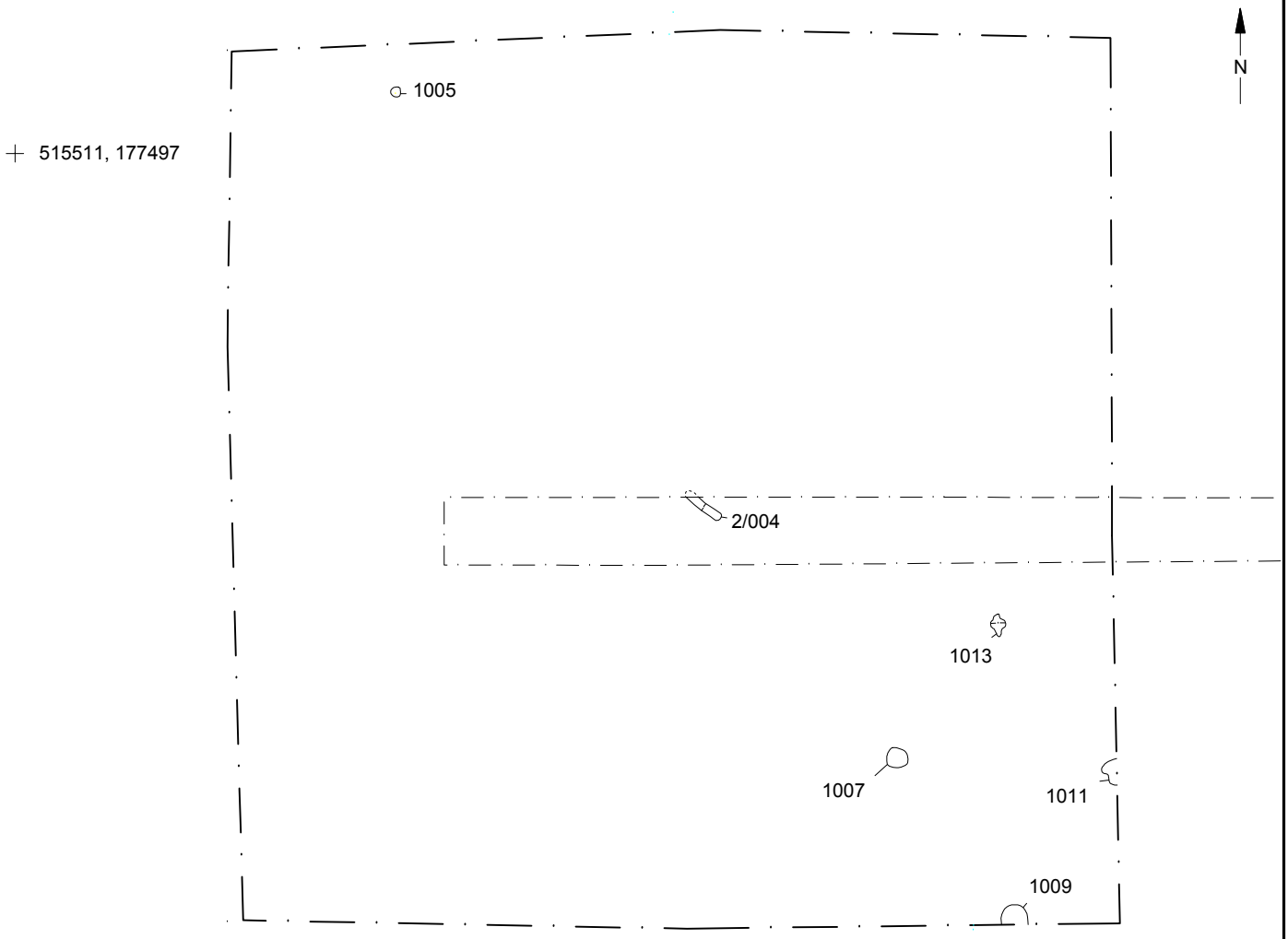


© Archaeology South-East		Niksham School, Syon Lane, Hounslow	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7834	Sept 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016361	Drawn by: LG		



© Archaeology South-East		Nishkam School, Syon Lane, Hounslow	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7834	Sept 2016	Excavation area and QUEST trial pit locations	
Report Ref: 2016361	Drawn by: JLR		



View east across pit 1005

View north across 1007

View north-east across site

View south across 1009

© Archaeology South-East		Nishkam School, Syon Lane, Hounslow	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7834	Sept 2016	Plan and photographs of excavation area	
Report Ref: 2016361	Drawn by: JLR		

Appendix 1

ASE 2015 Evaluation Report (Archaeological Evaluation Report Nishkam School site, Syon Lane Hounslow, West London)

Archaeology South-East

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Archaeological Evaluation Report
Nishkam School site, Syon Lane
Hounslow, West London

NGR: 515580 177570
(TQ 1558 7757)

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By Suzanne Westall MA MSc ACIfA

Archaeological Evaluation Report
Nishkam School Site, Syon Lane
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Planning Ref: 01106/152/P3

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ASE Report No: 2015329
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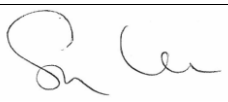
Prepared by:	Suzanne Westall	Archaeologist	
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Syon Lane, Hounslow, West London (NGR 515580 177570), between 1st and 9th September 2015. Twenty-two trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated.

The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs in advance of development of the land for a new school and associated recreational areas.

A few struck flints were recovered from the site, along with several sherds of prehistoric pottery. The majority of finds did not appear to be within archaeological features, however, and the evaluation was largely negative, with just two post-medieval ditches and three possible prehistoric features recorded.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at the proposed Nishkam West London Free School site: White Lodge Club, Syon Lane, Wyke Green, London Borough of Hounslow, TW7 5PN (NGR: TQ 1558 7757; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is an irregular parcel of land currently occupied by a sports field. It is bounded by Syon Lane to the north, Braybourne Drive to the south and Wood Lane to the west.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey records the solid geology on this site to be London Clay formation, capped by Langley Silt formation 'brickearths' of clay and silt.

1.2.3 The site is located on gently sloping ground between 24m and 25m AOD. To the east, ground level falls toward the River Brent. In general the site has been levelled at around 24m AOD to allow its use as a sports field.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (01106/152/P3) was submitted for the erection of a new four form school for 1,400 pupils, with sports hall, football fields, school play areas, car parking, new and improved access, landscaping, and retained/improved public playing areas.

1.3.2 A desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015) concluded that archaeological remains of local importance may exist on the site.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by ASE between the 1st and the 9th of September, 2015. The work was carried out in accordance with CIfA standards and guidance (CIfA 2014) and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service's Archaeological Guidance Papers No's. 3-5 (GLAAS 2014).

1.5 Project Aims and Objectives

1.5.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeo-environmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains

- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
- To enable the archaeological advisor at GLAAS to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following background is paraphrased from the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015).

2.2 Early Prehistoric

2.2.1 Numerous Prehistoric flint tools, some showing levallois techniques, have been recorded from 'Macklins Pit' in the area now occupied by Wyke Green Golf Course (GLSMR Ref: ML0 2184, TQ 1560 7820). A Palaeolithic chipped axe has been recorded from 'Osterley Park' (GLSMR Ref: MLO 68784; TQ 1510 7830), and a further handaxe from the line of the London Underground railway (GLSMR Ref: MLO 02146; TQ 1500 7730).

2.3 Later Prehistoric

2.3.1 A small 'ring-ditch' crop mark to the east of the site may represent a Bronze Age burial mound (GLSM Ref: MLO1950; TQ 1560 7800), while fragments of a Bronze Age Deverel Rimbury Urn and some struck flints are recorded from 160-162 Wood Lane North, close to the site (GLSMR Ref: MLO2189; TQ 1540 7750).

2.3.2 'Prehistoric pottery' and struck flint are recorded from the former United Biscuits site in Syon Lane (GLSMR Ref: MLO59689; TQ 1600 7760) and a heavy concentration of burnt flint is recorded from Wyke Green Golf Course (GLSMR Ref: MLO2211; TQ 1610 7810).

2.4 Roman

2.4.1 Although Roman settlements are attested at Brentford and Syon Park, in association with the Roman Road from London to Staines, within a 1km radius of the site only a single Roman coin (from the reign of Constantine) has been recorded (GLMSR Ref: MLO2615; TQ 1580 7740).

2.5 Medieval

2.5.1 A late medieval moated site stood c.270m to the north of the study site (GLSMR Ref: MLO10578; TQ 1540 7780). The Manor and House both known as 'Wyke' are first recorded in 1210 and continued in occupation until c.1723.

2.6 Post-Medieval

2.6.1 In 1723, Wyke Manor was purchased by John Way who constructed a new house to the south of the old, in the area now occupied by Crown Tree Close and Stags Way. Following construction of the new House, the old moated enclosure was abandoned and the buildings within it demolished. This had certainly taken place by 1766.

2.6.2 John Rocque's map of 1766 shows the abandoned moated site to the north of the proposed Nishkam School site, and to the south of the site boundary the

new 'Wyke House' (GLSMR Ref: MLO 3286; TQ 1572 7757). This is also how the site is shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1807. By this date, the new 'Wyke House' had been substantially extended into a large mansion. This is believed to have taken place in c.1780-1800.

2.6.3 The first detailed map of the site is the 1813 Isleworth Enclosure map which shows the bulk of the study site comprised of '120' a field, including some plantation woodland in the ownership of the Earl of Jersey. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868 shows the site as largely unchanged.

2.7 20th Century

2.7.1 By 1945 the study site appears to have been in use as a sports ground. An aerial photograph of that year shows several grassed tennis courts and a cricket pitch.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 A total of twenty-two trenches were excavated (Figure 2). The proposed length of all trenches was 30m but several had to be reduced due to unforeseen obstructions. Details of these deviations where they occur are given in the results section. The trenches were distributed across the site, taking into account a Tree Preservation Order covering a tree belt along the southern periphery of the site and the alignment of a newly-lain service trench.

3.1.2 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 14 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.25m. Machining stopped at the level of archaeological deposits or when clean 'natural' sediments were exposed. Spoil heaps and trench bases were investigated for metal and other finds.

3.1.3 Any exposed archaeological features or deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan and section with contexts recorded on ASE *pro forma* context sheets. A sufficient sampling of archaeological features was undertaken in order to determine their nature, date, condition, character and extent.

3.1.4 No soil samples were collected from the site due to a lack of suitable deposits.

3.1.5 A digital photographic record was made of all archaeological features and evaluation trenches.

3.1.6 Due to an unexpected problem with ASE's DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) technology, the trenches were laid out using DGPS but archaeological features and deposits were planned by hand.

3.1.7 Provision was made at all stages of the project for CgMs and the GLAAS to monitor progress and standards. The GLAAS Archaeological Advisor attended site once all of the trenches had been opened.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 ASE informed London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated and this will be deposited with LAARC in due course.

Number of Contexts	94
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	6
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	135
Permatrace sheets	6
Trench Record Forms	22

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 2

4.1.1 Several features were investigated in Trench 2 but all of them proved to be the result of root disturbance or animal intervention. One of these [2/004] contained prehistoric pottery. This was a curvilinear feature, running into the baulk on the north side of the trench (Figure 3). It contained several large chunks of prehistoric pottery, probably of Middle Bronze Age date and from more than one vessel. It is possible that [2/004] represents a prehistoric deposit disturbed by later rooting, burrowing or ploughing.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
2/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.20-0.28	25.68
2/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.24-0.34	25.43
2/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		25.14
2/004	cut	root disturbance	0.49	0.18	0.08	24.95
2/005	fill	fill	0.49	0.18	0.08	24.95

Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2 Trench 4

4.2.1 Trench 4 was oriented north-east to south-west. Due to its location close to some old sheds and heavy overgrowth, the trench was shortened to 14m. A possible post hole [4/004] was identified in the centre of the trench. This was 0.4m by 0.36m in size by 0.12m deep. The fill, [4/005], was a firm, reddish-brown, fine sandy clay containing occasional stones. While in half-section it looked like a convincing post-hole, however, when fully excavated it looked much more like root disturbance. No other similar features were identified within the trench.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
4/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.20-0.28	24.97
4/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.30-0.32	24.73
4/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		24.42
4/004	cut	root disturbance	0.4	0.36	0.12	24.43
4/005	fill	fill	0.4	0.36	0.12	24.43

Table 3: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.3 Trench 5

4.3.1 Two features were identified in Trench 5 (Figure 5). The first of these, [5/004], was a relatively substantial north-north-west to south-south-east oriented ditch which lay beneath and followed the line of a modern concrete path associated with the sports pitches. This ditch also appeared in Trench 8 and is likely to be an old field boundary of relatively recent date: perhaps post-medieval. The ditch was 1.6m wide by 0.46m deep, with gently sloping sides and a bowl-shaped profile. The fill, [5/005], was a compact mid-brown silty clay containing flecks of charcoal and evidence of root disturbance along with tiny smears of CBM or fired clay (not retained). A small fragment of slag or clinker was recovered from the fill.

4.3.2 The second feature was a linear ditch or shallow gully running north-east to south-west along the line of the trench [5/006]. This linear feature was exposed to a length of around 17m, petering out at either end, suggesting that only the deepest part of it remained. It was a very subtle feature but the trenches were, for the most part, reduced in spits of only 0.05m, so it was perhaps truncated by past agricultural activity on the site. The ditch was 0.61m wide by 0.13m deep with a wide u-shaped profile and a hard, light grey-brown silt fill [5/007]. The fill contained occasional flint and very occasional flecks of charcoal. It also contained fire-cracked flint and a struck flint of Early to Middle Neolithic (or possible Mesolithic) date. There were no later finds.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
5/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.23-0.30	25.71
5/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.33-0.42	25.45
5/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		25.08
5/004	cut	ditch	2.15	1.6	0.46	25.12
5/005	fill	fill	2.15	1.6	0.46	25.12
5/006	cut	gully	17.5	0.6	0.13	24.96
5/007	fill	fill	17.5	0.6	0.13	24.96

Table 4: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.4 Trench 6

4.4.1 A narrow gully [6/004] crossed the north end of Trench 6 in a north-east to south-westerly direction (Figure 6). This gully was 0.46m wide by 0.22m deep with steep, very straight, parallel sides and a compact mid-greyish-brown silty clay fill [6/005].

4.4.2 No finds were recovered from the fill of [6/004]. It is possible that this feature is a field drain but it did not contain a ceramic pipe or stone fill so its nature is not certain.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
6/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.23-0.27	25.48
6/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.34-0.45	25.23
6/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		24.84
6/004	cut	gully	2	0.46	0.22	24.82
6/005	fill	fill	2	0.46	0.22	24.82

Table 5: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.5 Trench 8

4.5.1 Two features were recorded in Trench 8. The first of these was a large animal burrow [8/004], at least 0.7m by 0.6m, sloping downwards from the subsoil into the natural and containing a firm, mid-yellowish-brown silt fill [8/005]. The burrow was given numbers and recorded because the fill contained several fragments of prehistoric pottery. It was situated at the east end of the trench (Figure 7).

4.5.2 The second feature in Trench 8 was a large ditch which crossed the middle of the trench from north-west to south-east [8/006] (Figure 7). This ditch was excavated and recorded in Trench 5 (see [5/004]) so was not excavated here.

4.5.3 A fragment of Roman tile was recovered from the subsoil.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
8/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.18-0.33	25.61
8/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.23-0.35	25.36
8/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		25.07
8/004	cut	animal burrow	0.7	0.6	0.2	25.22
8/005	fill	fill	0.7	0.6	0.2	25.22
8/006	cut	ditch	2.1	1.6		25.07
8/007	fill	fill	2.1	1.6		25.07

Table 6: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 9

4.6.1 Trench 9 was shortened to a length of 19m due to the presence of a concrete footpath with intact scaffolding handrail running right across it. A ditch [9/004] was recorded running north-west to south-east across the east end of the trench (Figure 8). This was 0.6m wide by 0.23m deep with steep sides and a wide, roughly flat base. No finds were recorded from the fill of the ditch [9/005], which was a fine and fairly soft mottled light yellow-brown silt. Thin patches of black towards the base may have been derived from charcoal but could easily have been root decay. Small roots were present in the fill. The feature is thought likely to be a former field boundary and it aligns well with the (probable post-medieval) ditch identified in trenches 5 and 8 so, although it is much narrower and less deep in Trench 9, it could be the same feature. This boundary would thus follow the same alignment as the extant field boundaries to the south-west and north-east.

4.6.2 A second irregularly-shaped feature in Trench 9, [9/006] had uneven edges and an uneven base. Evidence of burning was present in the form of ashes within the fill [9/007], but this was thought to be a root feature – perhaps a tree stump that had been burnt. Sherds of post-medieval pottery and CBM were recovered from the fill.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
9/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.25-0.34	25.25
9/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.45-0.60	24.96
9/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		24.5
9/004	cut	ditch	2.6	0.6	0.23	24.59
9/005	fill	fill	2.6	0.6	0.23	24.59
9/006	cut	root disturbance	1.8	0.9	0.3	24.5
9/007	fill	fill	1.8	0.9	0.3	24.5

Table 7: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.7 Trench 11

4.7.1 Trench 11 contained one feature: a possible gully terminus oriented north-east–south-west [11/004] and containing a firm, yellowish-brown silty clay fill. The exposed extent of this feature was 3.9m and it was 0.2m wide by 0.16m deep with relatively gently sloping sides. A struck flint flake and two fragments of fire-cracked flint were recovered from the fill.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
11/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.25-0.30	24.86
11/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.35-0.60	24.59
11/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		24.19
11/004	cut	gully	3.8	0.46	0.16	24.2
11/005	fill	fill	3.8	0.46	0.16	24.2

Table 8: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.8 Trench 12

4.8.1 Several potential features were identified in Trench 12 but almost all proved to be root or animal disturbance. One small feature was identified as a possible pit and recorded (Figure 10) but no finds were recovered from it and it seems likely that this was also a root feature. The feature [12/004] was roughly circular and 0.65m by 0.7m in size by 0.3m in depth. It was filled with a dark brown clay silt [12/005].

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
12/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.25-0.35	25.47
12/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.30-0.50	25.16
12/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		25.73
12/004	cut	rooting	0.7	0.65	0.3	24.69
12/005	fill	fill	0.7	0.65	0.3	24.69

Table 9: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

4.9 Trench 14

4.9.1 One feature was recorded in Trench 14 (Figure 11), however, investigation revealed that this was an animal burrow, with a soft, curvilinear shape and upward tapering end [14/004]. The fill [14/005] contained a struck flint of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
14/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.23-0.33	24.5
14/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.38-0.41	24.25
14/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		23.87
14/004	cut	animal burrow	1.68	0.36	0.15	23.91
14/005	fill	fill	1.68	0.36	0.15	23.91

Table 10: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.10 Trench 16

4.10.1 A small pit or post hole [16/004] containing one fragment of fire-cracked-flint was recorded in Trench 16 (Figure 12). The feature was 0.47m by 0.41m in size and 0.29m deep, narrowing slightly towards the base. The fill, [16/005], was a compact mid-grey clay silt containing flecks of charcoal.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
16/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.25-0.27	24.1
16/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.33-0.35	23.84
16/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		23.49
16/004	cut	posthole	0.47	0.41	0.29	23.46
16/005	fill	fill	0.47	0.41	0.29	23.46

Table 11: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

4.11 Trench 21

4.11.1 A single ditch [21/004] was recorded crossing Trench 21 (Figure 13). This ran north-east to south-west and was 0.39m wide by 0.08m deep with a flat base. Its fill was markedly different to the surrounding soil and was a mid-grey compacted silt [21/005]. Although the ditch was only shallow it produced a struck flint flake, small fragments of slag or clinker, and ceramic building material (CBM). The latter finds indicate a post-medieval date for the feature.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
21/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.24-0.41	23.55
21/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.26-0.29	23.28
21/003	layer	natural	trench	trench		23.02
21/004	cut	ditch	3.4	0.4	0.08	23.02
21/005	fill	fill	3.4	0.4	0.08	23.02

Table 12: Trench 21 list of recorded contexts

4.12 Archaeologically negative trenches

4.12.1 Trenches 1, 3, 7, 10, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 22 produced no features of archaeological interest.

4.12.2 The ground in Trench 19 was different to that in all other trenches. The deposits comprised wet clay with some amount of modern disturbance. A post-medieval or modern truncation or ditch appeared to take up much of the northern half end of the trench. This was oriented north-east to south-west and contained modern or late post-medieval CBM, but was quickly obscured as the trench filled with water. No further investigation of this feature therefore took place.

4.2.3 Trench 22 was also different to the rest in that it was located adjacent to the concrete access path, at the northern extent of the site, in the vicinity of the old sports ground clubhouse (now derelict). This area comprised several layers of made ground and although gravels were exposed at a depth of 1.2m below the current ground surface, there were variations in these deposits suggesting that at least some of it was still modern made ground. For health and safety reasons and because it seemed unlikely that any archaeological remains would have survived such deep levels of disturbance, excavation did not exceed 1.2m.

4.2.4 In all other trenches, the deposits comprised a layer of topsoil 0.2m-0.37m deep over a layer of compacted yellow-brown silt mottled with topsoil in a pattern of frequent root and animal disturbance. This layer was generally between 0.25m and 0.5m deep and overlay a very similar but slightly more dense and clayeyer pinkish-orange-brown brickearth. In places, it was necessary to machine away the upper layer of brickearth due to the amount of root and burrow disturbance, the pattern of which made identification of any archaeological features impossible.

4.2.5 Trench 7 was split into two parts due to the presence of a concrete footpath with intact railings running across the middle of it (this footpath also interrupted Trench 9 (which was shortened) and trenches 5 and 8, where the railing was no longer intact and the footpath and broken railings were removed).

4.2.6 For tabulated data on the deposits in each negative trench see Appendix 1.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on Syon Lane, Hounslow. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Appendix 2). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

5.2 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The evaluation produced just five pieces of struck flint weighing 27g. A further 35 fragments of unworked burnt flint (220g) were also recovered. No concentrations were found, with the pieces of struck flint deriving from five trenches, and the burnt fragments coming from ten contexts in seven trenches.

5.2.2 The assemblage comprises two small flakes, a bladelet, a piece of irregular waste and a serrated piece. All of the artefacts are manufactured from a mid to dark grey flint. They display slight to moderate edge damage, implying that the material has undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance. The bladelet from context [14/005] displays parallel edges. It is likely to be Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date. The serrated piece from context [5/007] is made on a blade-like flake, the proximal end of which is absent. The implement exhibits a series of denticulations along both lateral edges, although these are more regular on the left lateral edge. No gloss was observed. Serrated pieces are principally found in Early to Middle Neolithic assemblages. They have also been recovered from Mesolithic sites. Their function remains unclear. While Curwen concluded from experimental work that these artefacts were used for cutting wood and corn (Curwen 1930) various other substances, such as silicious plants and even meat, have been proposed since (Saville 2002, Fullagar 2006).

5.2.3 The evaluation reveals limited presence during the prehistoric period. Although very small, the assemblage provides evidence for the use of tools during the Mesolithic or Early/Mid Neolithic period.

5.3 **The Prehistoric Pottery** by Louise Rayner

Introduction and overview

5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered, totalling 24 sherds from three contexts. All of the pottery is flint-tempered and typical of prehistoric pottery from the West London area. The pottery has been examined with a x20 microscope.

5.3.2 The largest collection of sherds and fragments came from context [2/005]. Nineteen fragments, representing 2 or 3 vessels are present, all manufactured in a fairly coarse flint-tempered fabric. This group includes the most diagnostic pieces comprising three large body sherds with fingertip impressed applied cordons. These sherds derive from a Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury jar of which impressed applied cordons are typical features in the Lower Thames

Valley (Ellison 1975); the coarsely flint-tempered fabric and thick walled sherds are also typical features of these bucket-shaped vessels. Dates ranges currently ascribed to Deverel-Rimbury ceramics places the floruit between the 16th and 12th centuries BC (Needham 1996).

5.3.3 The sherds from [8/005] are also flint-tempered, although using a much finer temper and are probably slightly later in the date, although nothing diagnostic is present; a Later Bronze Age is best attributed to this material.

5.3.4 The tiny fragments from [5/002] are also flint-tempered but too small to define further beyond assigning a general prehistoric date.

Significance and potential

5.3.5 The small collection of prehistoric pottery suggests activity in the Middle Bronze Age and potentially into the Later Bronze Age. The groups are small and not thought to be associated with cut features related to contemporary activity so beyond indicating general activity in the vicinity they do not elucidate the character or nature of this activity any further. Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury jars are found associated with domestic settlement and funerary use and both uses are evidenced across the West London area such as at Heathrow Terminal 5 (Leviers 2010), Prospect Park, Harmondsworth (Laidlaw and Mepham 1996), Western International Market, Hillingdon (Rayner in prep; PCA unpublished) Bankside Close, Isleworth (Hull 1998), and several others in Middlesex (Barrett 1973).

5.3.6 The small collection of pottery has little potential for further work and requires no further work at this stage.

5.4 The Post-Medieval Pottery by Lucy Whittingham

Introduction

5.4.1 An assemblage of 38 sherds (465g) from 31 vessels has been examined for this report, all of which are post-medieval in date. The pottery has been quantified using sherd count, weight (g) and estimated number of vessels (ENV), and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, conforming to London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) deposition standards. This will form part of the site archive.

5.4.2 All of the pottery is poorly preserved in small abraded sherds. It is all of a domestic nature and would seem to be from household rubbish which has been moved around considerably since first disposal.

Post-medieval Assemblage

5.4.3 Two phases of post-medieval pottery are represented in this assemblage. A small quantity (11%) of the assemblage is of an early post-medieval date but is probably residual in an assemblage where the majority of the material is late post-medieval, dating from the late 18th to 19th centuries.

5.4.4 The early post-medieval assemblage is comprised of 4 sherds (82g, 4 ENV), represented by the rim of a Surrey/Hampshire borderware (BORDG) pipkin, a

fragment of London-area post-medieval slipped redware (PMSRY) and part the body of a Frechen stoneware (FREC) Bartman jug. These wares are indicative of activity on or near the site from the mid-16th to late 17th centuries. A larger fragment from a tin-glazed earthenware plate with plain white glaze (TGWC) could also be 17th century in date but these wares continued to be used into the 18th century. Similarly, the finer red earthenware (PMFR) fragments from the base of either deep bowls or dishes could be late 17th century products but were also common in the 18th century.

5.4.5 Later post-medieval pottery dating from the late 18th and 19th centuries forms the larger part of this assemblage (34 sherds, 383g, 27 ENV). The only imported ware is a fragment from the rim of a Chinese Porcelain teabowl (CHPO), probably of 18th century date. A number of sherds of London-area red earthenware (PMR) are undiagnostic sherds with the exception of those that might be from a flowerpot. These coarse utilitarian redwares were produced from the late 16th century through to the 19th and are probably contemporary here with the late 18th and 19th century industrial finewares. English tin-glazed earthenware is represented by two fragments, both with a pale blue glaze (TGW H) which is most commonly found throughout the 18th century in London. One example of a white-slipped earthenware vessel with lead glaze is a Sunderland coarseware-type (SUND) vessel of probable 19th to early 20th century date.

5.4.6 A number of late 18th and 19th century industrial finewares are present in transfer-printed dinner wares, such as plates with a blue transfer decoration (TPW2), with a green transfer (TPW4), and in a transfer-printed flow blue pattern made particularly for export to the American market from the 1840s onwards. Refined white earthenware (REFW), produced from 1800 and throughout the 19th century, is found in several vessels including an ointment or paste pot with lid seating for a lid, part of a soup plate with flanged rim, a bowl, and the base of a saucer.

Significance of the assemblage and Potential for Analysis

5.4.7 This is a small assemblage of typical post-medieval pottery from London and of little significance beyond providing a chronological framework for the stratigraphy. A small number of early post-medieval wares occur residually in the same contexts as 18th and 19th century wares and are all typical of imported or locally produced wares found in London at this time. The majority of this assemblage dates from the late post-medieval period and appears to be household clearance of utilitarian vessels, dinner plates, soup bowls and teawares.

5.4.8 No further research is recommended for this assemblage, nor are any sherds recommended for illustration, and there are no special conservation requirements.

5.5 **The Ceramic Building Materials** by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 A moderate assemblage of 105 fragments of brick and roofing tile was recovered, weighing a total of 2865g. The assemblage predominantly consists of roof tile with a small amount of very abraded brick.

5.5.2 All the ceramic building material has been recorded on a standard recording form, quantified by fabric, form, weight and fragment count using the Museum of London (MoL) type series for fabrics. Six additional fabrics were also recorded (Table 13). The information on the recording sheets has been entered onto an Excel database. Samples of the fabrics and items of interest have been retained; the remainder of the material has been discarded.

Fabric	Description
B1	Abundant well sorted medium/coarse quartz
T1	Abundant medium to coarse sub-rounded milky quartz
T2	Sparse medium rose quartz, underfired, silty fabric
T3	Fine calcareous speckle, sparse coarse red iron oxide, very sparse fine to medium quartz
T4	Abundant fine medium and coarse quartz, well sorted with sparse to moderate calcareous speckle
T5	Fine background quartz, common coarse milky quartz, sparse very coarse red iron oxides, calcareous and clay pellet inclusions

Table 13: NHK15 Fabric descriptions

5.5.3 In fabric descriptions the following conventions are used: the frequency of inclusions is described as being sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size categories for inclusions are fine (up to 0.25 mm), medium (between 0.25 and 0.5 mm), coarse (between 0.5 and 1 mm), and very coarse (greater than 1 mm).

Roman

5.5.4 A single probable Roman tegula fragment weighing 20g was residual in context [8/002].

Medieval and post medieval tile

5.5.5 The majority of the assemblage (64 fragments weighing 2113g) consists of roofing or peg tile. Medieval fabrics MoL2273 and 2587 are present alongside more loosely dated fabric types MoL3094, 2271 and 2586. Roofing tile in fabric 2275 was recovered, a fabric usually associated with pantile of 17th-19th century date; none of these pieces appear to derive from pantile however, and one from [12/002] exhibited circular peg holes of 12mm and 13mm diameter. A further three fragments also exhibited partial peg holes ranging from 10-13mm in diameter.

Post medieval bricks

5.5.6 Only a very small amount of brick was recovered, without exception in poor abraded condition. Fabrics present include MoL3033 and 3039, both post- fire fabric types. A single local fabric, B1, was also noted in small quantities and is probably of similar date.

5.6 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

5.6.1 A small group of 15 fired clay fragments weighing 116g was recovered from context [8/001]. The fabric is reduced with sparse fine quartz and no other visible inclusions. The fragments are amorphous in nature and as such not possible to date.

5.7 The Metallurgical Remains by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 A small assemblage of 6 pieces weighing 40g was recovered from four separate contexts. Contexts [5/001], [5/005] and [21/004] contained small fragments too small to diagnostic, which could be clinker rather than metallurgical remains. Context [17/002] contained an undiagnostic iron slag fragment weighing 36g. All are of post-medieval date.

5.8 The Geological Material by Trista Clifford

5.8.1 A single fragment of burnt roofing slate was recovered from context [10/001].

5.9 The Glass by Elke Raemen

5.9.1 A single green glass wine bottle neck (weight 109g) was recovered during the archaeological work. The piece, with applied rim, is of 18th century date.

5.10 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.10.1 A small assemblage comprising five clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments was found in five different contexts. Included are four plain stem fragments. The earliest two, both abraded, date to c. 1660-80 ([4/002]) and c. 1660-1710 ([21/002]). The remaining two stem fragments ([1/001] and [13/002]) are only broadly dateable to between c. 1750 and 1910. Context [17/002] contained a small, fairly undiagnostic bowl fragment with a possible date of c. 1680-1710.

5.11 **Animal bone** by Hayley Forsyth

5.11.1 The excavations at the Nishkam School site produced a small assemblage of animal bone containing 5 fragments weighing 74g from context [12/002]. Identified as large mammal long bone fragments, the remains have been hand-collected and are in good condition with minimal signs of surface erosion observable. No evidence of burning, butchery, gnawing or pathology has been noted. Due to the size of this assemblage, it holds no potential for further analysis and no further work is required.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

6.1.1 Natural brickearth was exposed at a height of 23.5m AOD in the north of the site to 24m AOD in the south-west and 25m AOD in the south-east. In all areas it was overlain by a patchy clay silt subsoil 0.25m to 0.5m deep and capped by topsoil that was, on average, 0.25m to 0.35m deep. The interfaces between all three layers were gradual with much evidence of root interference.

6.1.2 In several trenches, sondages were dug to test the depth of the underlying gravel. In most, this was not far (0.2m – 0.3m) below the surface of the brickearth and, in a few trenches towards the north-east of the site, patches of gravel were exposed at the same level as the brickearth.

6.1.3 Very few archaeological features were identified. A concrete path across the sports fields appears – for most of its length – to follow an old field boundary of post-medieval date marked by a ditch. This ran north-west to south-east and was apparent in trenches 5 and 8. It was probably also the ditch excavated in Trench 9. A second post-medieval ditch was identified running north-east to south-west across Trench 21, to the far north of the site. Again, this is likely to have been an old field boundary.

6.1.4 In Trench 11, a possibly gully terminus was identified which again followed a north-east to south-west alignment but contained only prehistoric finds. A narrow gully running north-east to south-west across Trench 6 produced no dating evidence. In Trench 16, a possible post-hole produced fire cracked flint. Its date is again therefore uncertain but this may be a prehistoric feature. Other features which produced prehistoric material were not thought to be genuinely archaeological.

6.1.5 Four test pits dug for geotechnical purposes into the field boundary and bank and ditch surrounding the site were inspected by the ASE archaeologist but no archaeological deposits or remains were identified. The ditch was filled with modern topsoil and debris and excavations through the bank and footpath on the roadside revealed only modern truncations for the road and services.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.1 Several of the recorded discrete features are of dubious archaeological origin and more likely to have been created by tree roots or burrowing animals. The subsoil was heavily mottled with patches of topsoil and while this appeared to indicate long-term disturbance by roots and burrows, it may be that this was an imported soil – a mix of topsoil and subsoil. In many cases, the disturbance appeared continuous from the subsoil into the surface of the underlying brickearth, however, so if the subsoil was an imported deposit it has have been in situ for a relatively long period of time. The field is believed to have been used as a sports ground since at least 1945, so is likely to have been landscaped then, or earlier. Much of the landscape around this area is very flat, however, so any landscaping was probably minimal. In either case, it seems that any potential prehistoric evidence has been heavily truncated, whether by

landscaping or by ploughing and rooting prior to use of the field for recreation, and by subsequent animal activity.

6.3 Prehistoric evidence

6.3.1 The evaluation revealed very limited evidence of activity during the prehistoric period. A few struck flints of Mesolithic or Early/Mid Neolithic date were recovered, as were a few fragments of prehistoric pottery of a later Middle Bronze Age and potentially Late Bronze Age date. The pottery is not thought to be associated with archaeological features, so beyond indicating general activity in the vicinity it does not elucidate the character or nature of any potential prehistoric activity.

6.4 Roman evidence

6.4.1 One fragment of possible Roman tile was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 8.

6.5 Post-medieval evidence

6.5.1 Two ditches were identified which appear to be of post-medieval date and probably represent old field boundaries. These follow a very similar alignment to the extant boundaries of the site.

6.5.1 All of the post-medieval pottery recovered was of a domestic nature and would seem to be from household rubbish which has been moved around considerably since first disposal. A small number of early post-medieval wares occurred residually in the same contexts as 18th and 19th century potsherds all were typical of imported or locally produced wares found in London at that time. A few fragments of clay pipe dating from the 17th to 18th centuries were recovered from the subsoil in various trenches.

6.6 Consideration of research aims

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeo-environmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development:

  A few scattered finds were recovered, however, the majority of these did not occur in archaeological features. A few features of possible prehistoric date were identified. Other features are interpreted as post-medieval, of 18th-19th century, or later, date. No features or deposits considered to have palaeo-environmental potential were recorded.

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

  The features were recorded at depths of 0.4m-0.7m below the current ground surface.

- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits:

There site does seem to have some antiquity, with small quantities of later Mesolithic-Early Neolithic flints and fire-cracked flint and Middle and/or Late Bronze Age pottery recovered. However, very little of this appears to be in situ within archaeological features, but rather occurs in root and/or burrowing disturbance. A few potential prehistoric features with in situ finds may exist, but it is not possible to characterise the nature and/or significance of these from the minimal findings of the evaluation. Other activity is of an 18th, 19th century or later date.

6.7 Conclusions

6.7.1 Prehistoric material, though sparse, was identified and appears to be focussed in two areas of the site: in the region of trenches 2, 5 and 8 (to the south-east), and trenches 11 and 14. Two potentially prehistoric features and those of post-medieval date followed the same approximate north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east alignment.

6.7.2 While there is the possibility that further prehistoric remains exist on the site, the evaluation is not considered to have produced enough evidence to support a model that this represents intensive activity. Other activity is of an 18th, 19th century or later date. The majority of trenches produced nothing of archaeological interest.

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HER Summary

HER enquiry no.						
Site code	NHK 15					
Project code	7693					
Planning reference	01106/152/P3					
Site address	White Lodge Club, Syon Lane, Wyke Green, London Borough of Hounslow					
District/Borough	Hounslow					
NGR (12 figures)	515580 177570					
Geology	London Clay Formation capped by Langley Silt formation 'brickearth'					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	1/9/2015 – 10/9/2015					
Sponsor/client	CgMs Consulting					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Suzie Westall					
Period summary		Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age		
	Roman			Post-Medieval		
Project summary **(100 word max)**	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Syon Lane, Hounslow, West London (NGR 515580 177570), between 1st and 9th September 2015. Twenty-two trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated. A few struck flints were recovered from the site, along with several sherds of prehistoric pottery. The majority of finds did not appear to be within archaeological features, however, and the evaluation was largely negative, with just a few post-medieval ditches and three possible prehistoric features recorded.					
Museum/Accession No.						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-223828

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation of the Nishkam School Site, Syon Lane, Hounslow, London
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Syon Lane, Hounslow, West London (NGR 515580 177570), between 1st and 9th September 2015. Twenty-two trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated. A few struck flints were recovered from the site, along with several sherds of prehistoric pottery. The majority of finds did not appear to be within archaeological features, however, and the evaluation was largely negative, with just a few post-medieval ditches and three possible prehistoric features recorded.
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2015 End: 09-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Middle Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POT Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic
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	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HOUNSLOW HOUNSLOW Nishkam School, Syon Lane, Hounslow
Postcode	TW7 5PN
Site coordinates	TQ 15580 77570 51.484762014805 -0.335229982678 51 29 05 N 000 20 06 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Suzie Westall
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Industrial","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC

Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation of the Nishkam School Site, Syon Lane, Hounslow, West London
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Westall, S.
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex

Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	17 September 2015

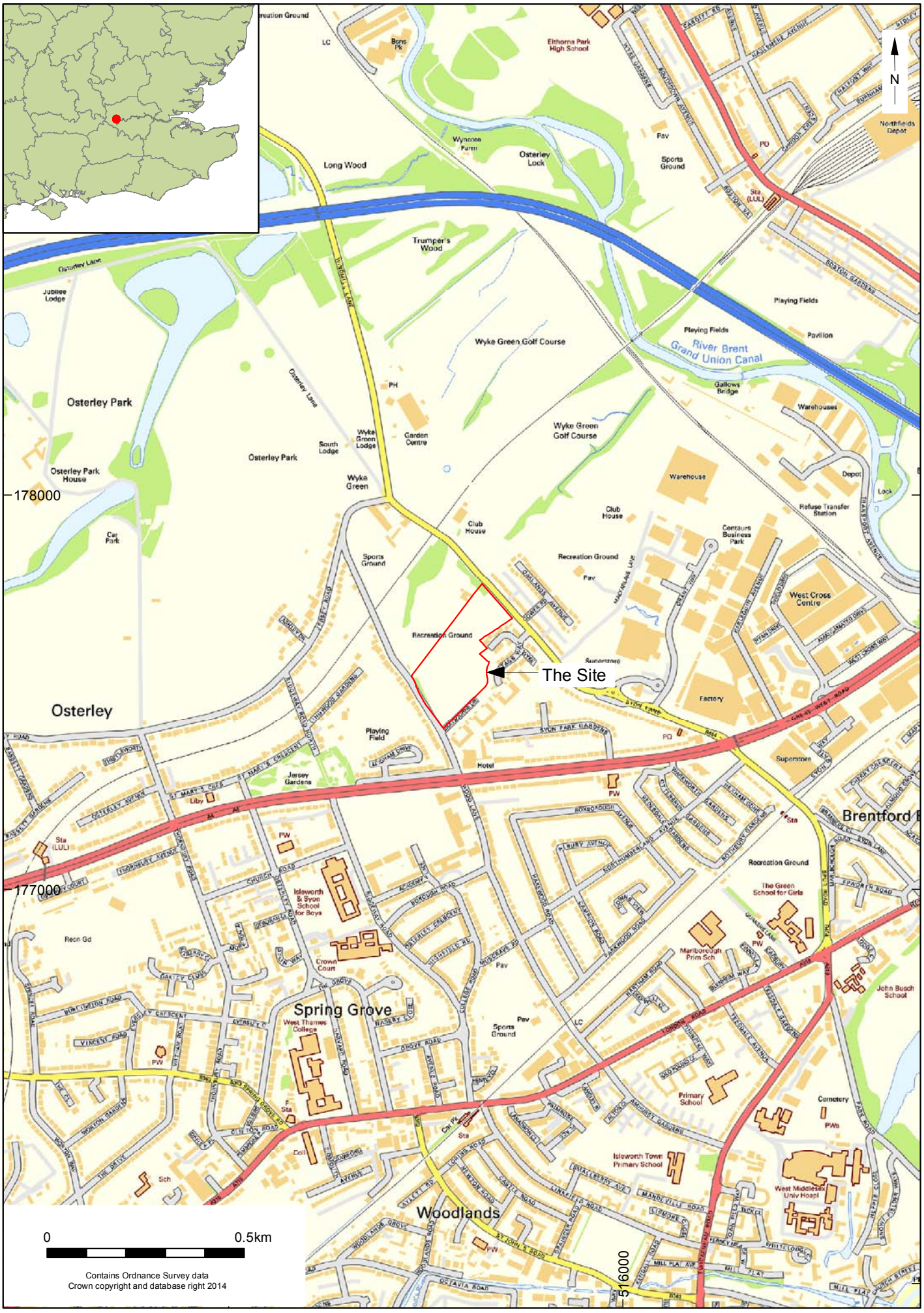
Appendix 1: Context register, negative trenches

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m
1	1/001	layer	topsoil	0.30-0.35
	1/002	layer	subsoil	0.16-0.32
	1/003	layer	natural	
3	3/001	layer	topsoil	0.30-0.37
	3/002	layer	subsoil	0.35-0.46
	3/003	layer	natural	
7	7/001	layer	topsoil	0.20-0.30
	7/002	layer	subsoil	0.23-0.35
	7/003	layer	natural	
10	10/001	layer	topsoil	0.25-0.30
	10/002	layer	subsoil	0.26-0.28
	10/003	layer	natural	
13	13/001	layer	topsoil	0.26-0.30
	13/002	layer	subsoil	0.32-0.50
	13/003	layer	natural	
15	15/001	layer	topsoil	0.25-0.30
	15/002	layer	subsoil	0.22-0.40
	15/003	layer	natural	
17	17/001	layer	topsoil	0.12-0.22
	17/002	layer	subsoil	0.30-0.50
	17/003	layer	natural	
18	18/001	layer	topsoil	0.30-0.36
	18/002	layer	subsoil	0.36-0.46
	18/003	layer	natural	
19	19/001	layer	topsoil	0.16-0.24
	19/002	layer	subsoil	0.28-0.36
	19/003	layer	made ground	0.26-0.37
20	20/001	layer	topsoil	0.23-0.26
	20/002	layer	subsoil	0.32-0.55
	20/003	layer	natural	
22	22/001	layer	made ground	0.30-0.50
	22/002	layer	made ground	0.45-0.73
	22/003	layer	made ground?	

Appendix 2: Overview of the finds assemblage

Context	Pottery	Wt(g)	CBM	Wt(g)	Bone	Wt(g)	Flint	Wt(g)	FCF	Wt(g)	Stone	Wt(g)	CTP	Wt(g)	Slag	Wt(g)	Fired Clay	Wt(g)	Glass	Wt(g)
1/001	1	2	7	118					4	34			1	2						
2/005	35	432																		
4/001	1	20	1	22																
4/002			8	82									1	6						
4/005			1	100																
5/001			10	252											2	4				
5/002	2	<2	7	272															1	108
5/005															1	<2				
5/007							1	3	4	4										
7/001	8	166	8	108																
7/002			2	34			1	10												
8/001			1	70					1	12							15	116		
8/002	3	4	6	95																
8/005	3	54																		
9/001	1	<2	5	106																
9/002	1	32	14	612																
9/007	5	6	1	50																
10/001	4	30	2	50							1	12								
10/002			1	64																
11/002									1	10										
11/005							1	14	2	6										

Context	Pottery	Wt(g)	CBM	Wt(g)	Bone	Wt(g)	Flint	Wt(g)	FCF	Wt(g)	Stone	Wt(g)	CTP	Wt(g)	Slag	Wt(g)	Fired Clay	Wt(g)	Glass	Wt(g)
12/002	1	6	1	98	5	74			7	26										
13/001	1	38	9	120																
13/002	1	22											1	<2						
14/005							1	<1												
15/001			1	42																
15/002	1	<2	3	140					8	38										
16/002	2	2							3	12										
16/005									1	20										
17/002	8	84	10	288									1	<2	1	36				
20/001			3	170																
21/002									2	12			1	4						
21/005			2	22			1	<1							2	<2				
TR08									2	46										
U/S	1	44																		
Total	**79**	**942**	**103**	**2915**	**5**	**74**	**5**	**27**	**35**	**220**	**1**	**12**	**5**	**12**	**6**	**40**	**15**	**116**	**1**	**108**



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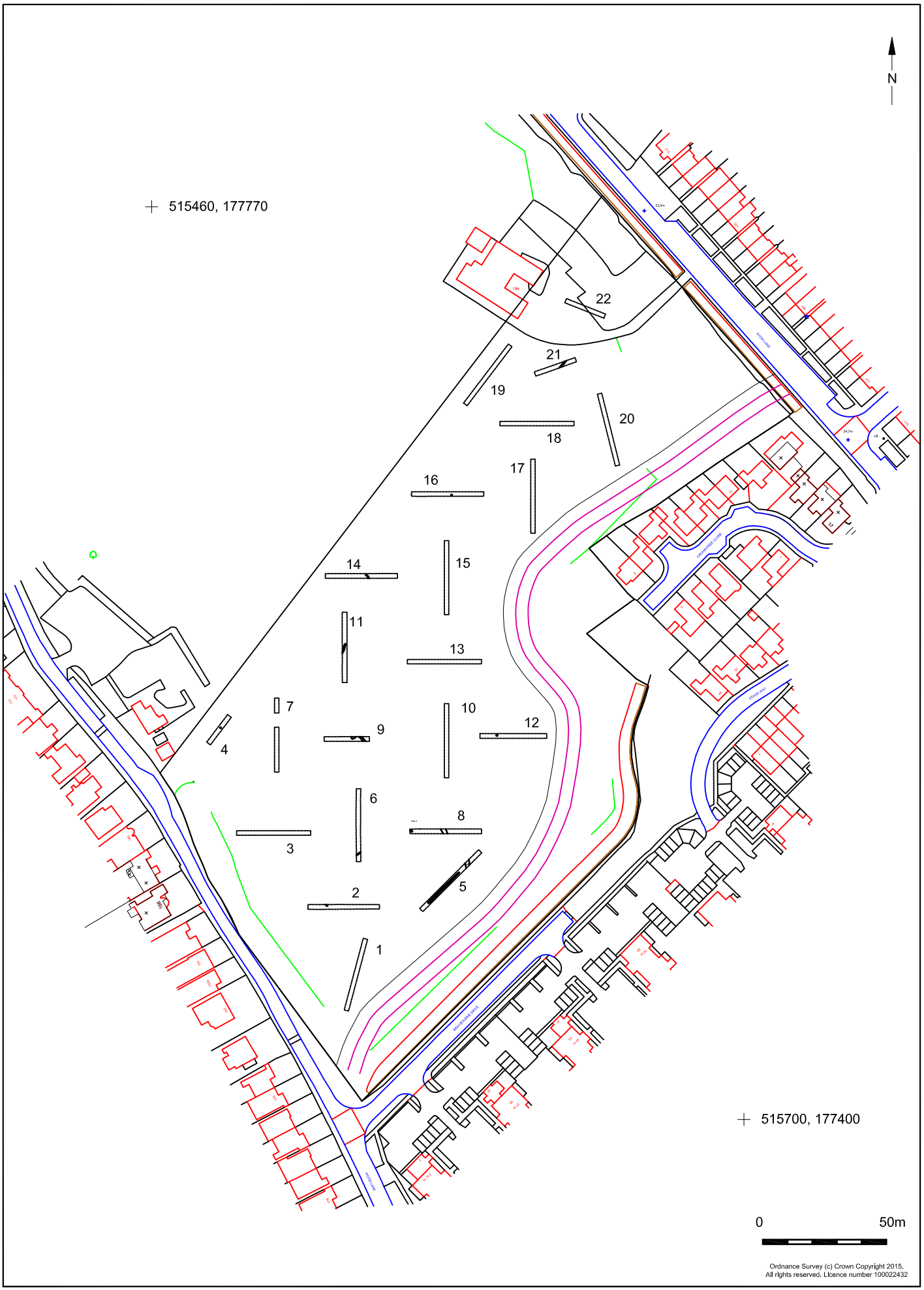
Report Ref:	Drawn by: LG		



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N

515525, 177490

Section 1

2/004

515535, 177480

Section 1

SW NE 24.95mOD

2/005 2/004

0 0.5m

2/004 looking north-west

0 2m

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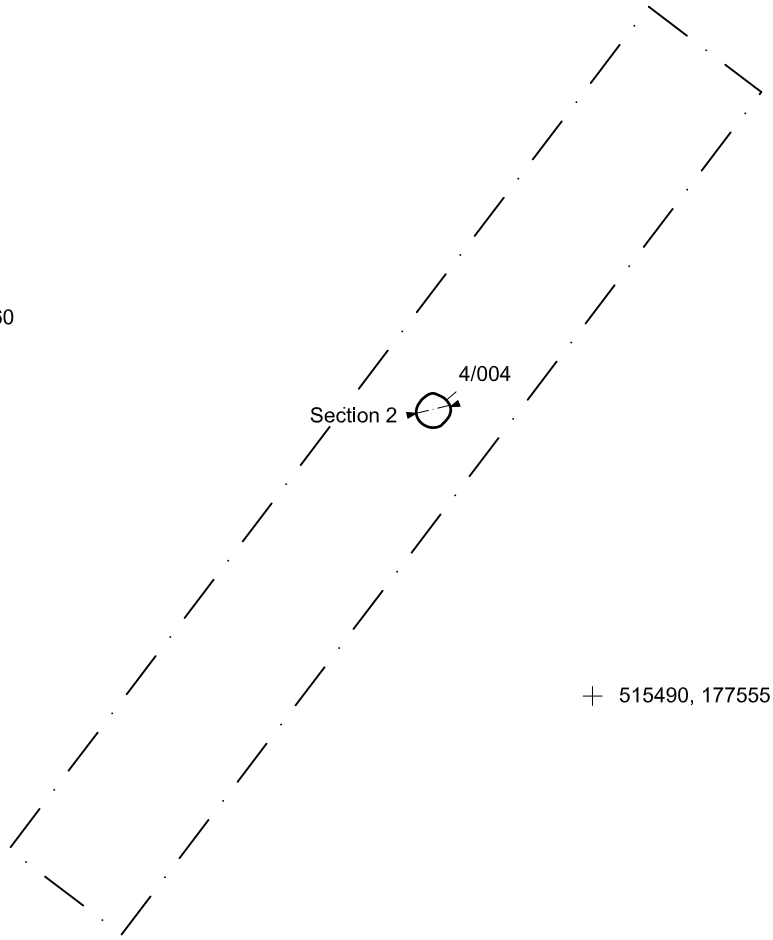

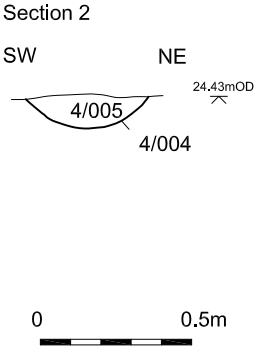

4/004 looking north-west

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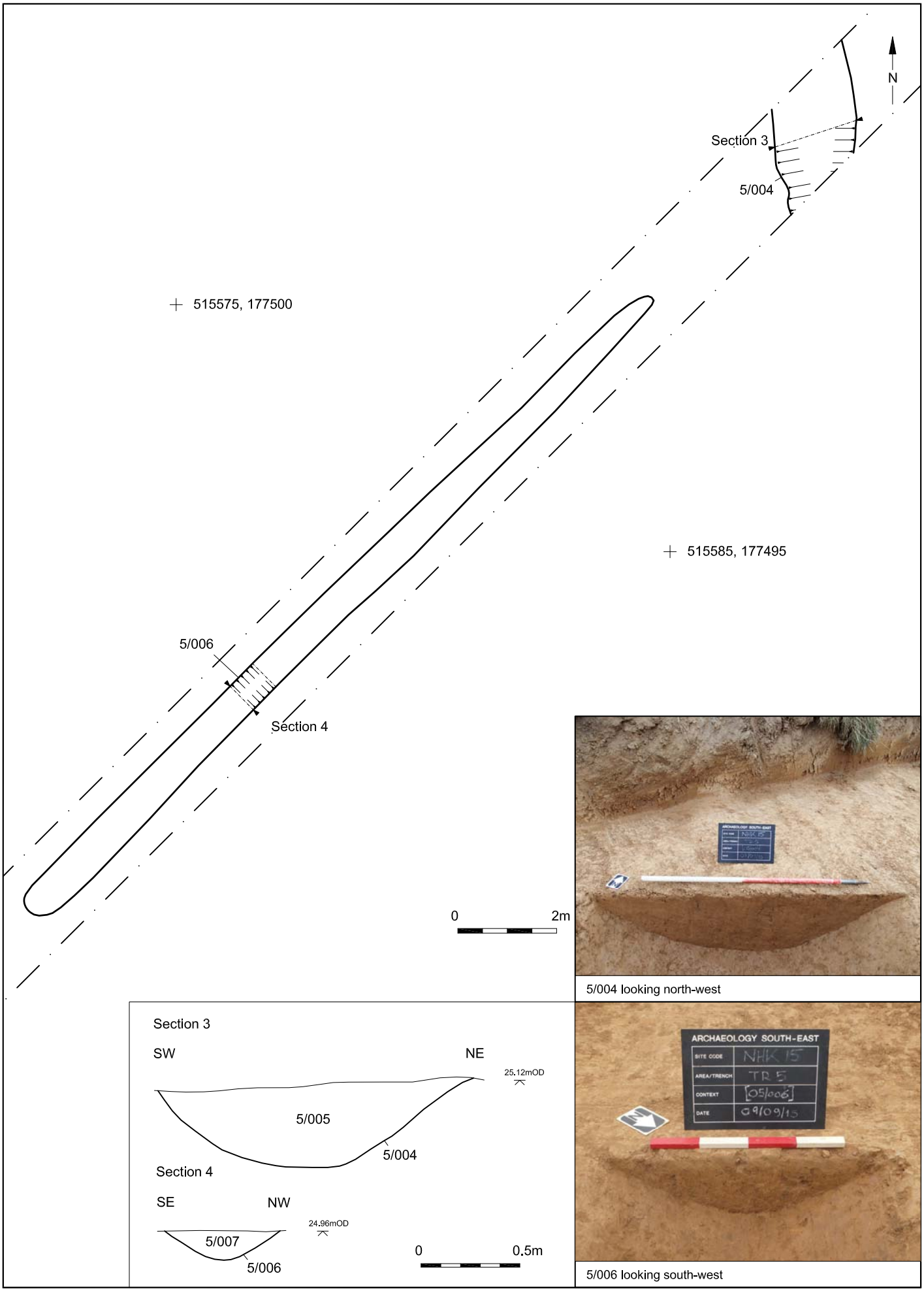

5/004 looking north-west

5/006 looking south-west

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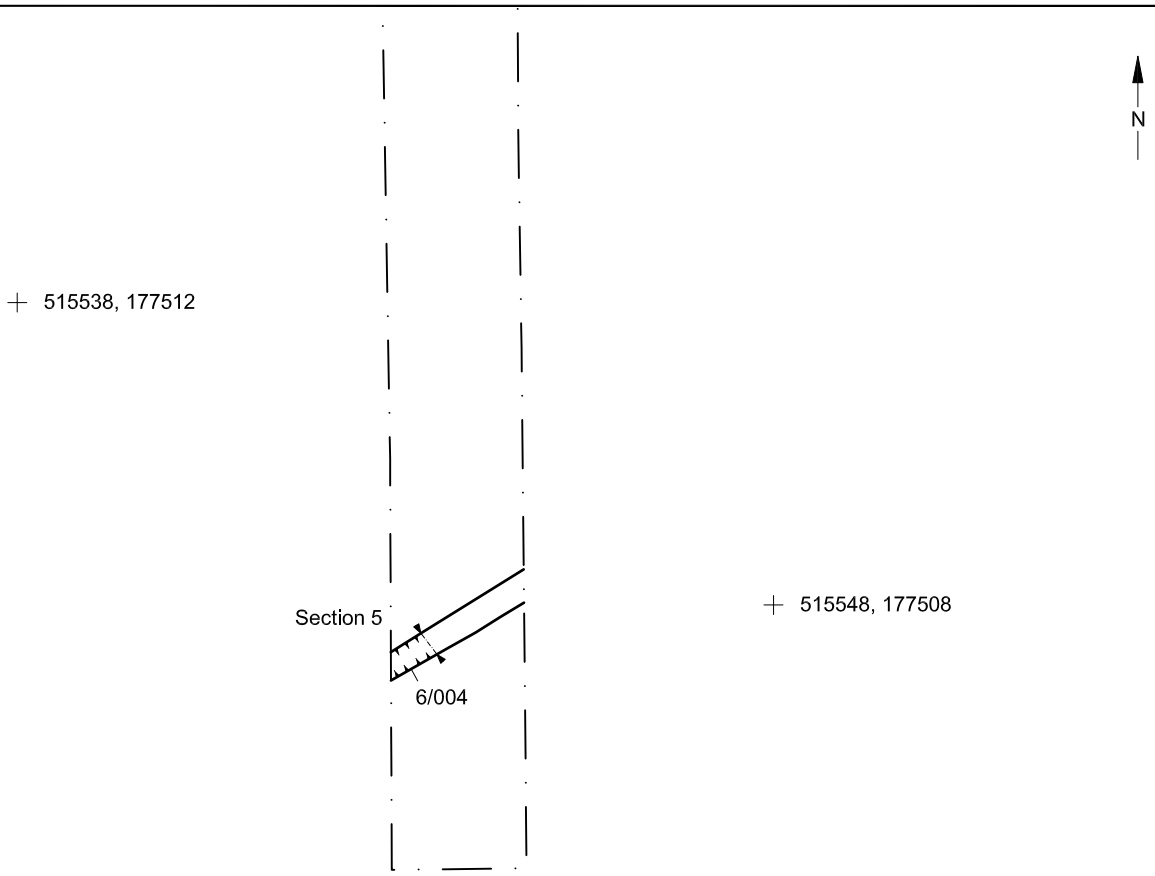

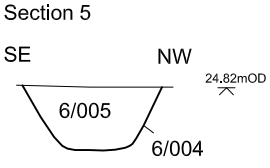

6/004 looking west

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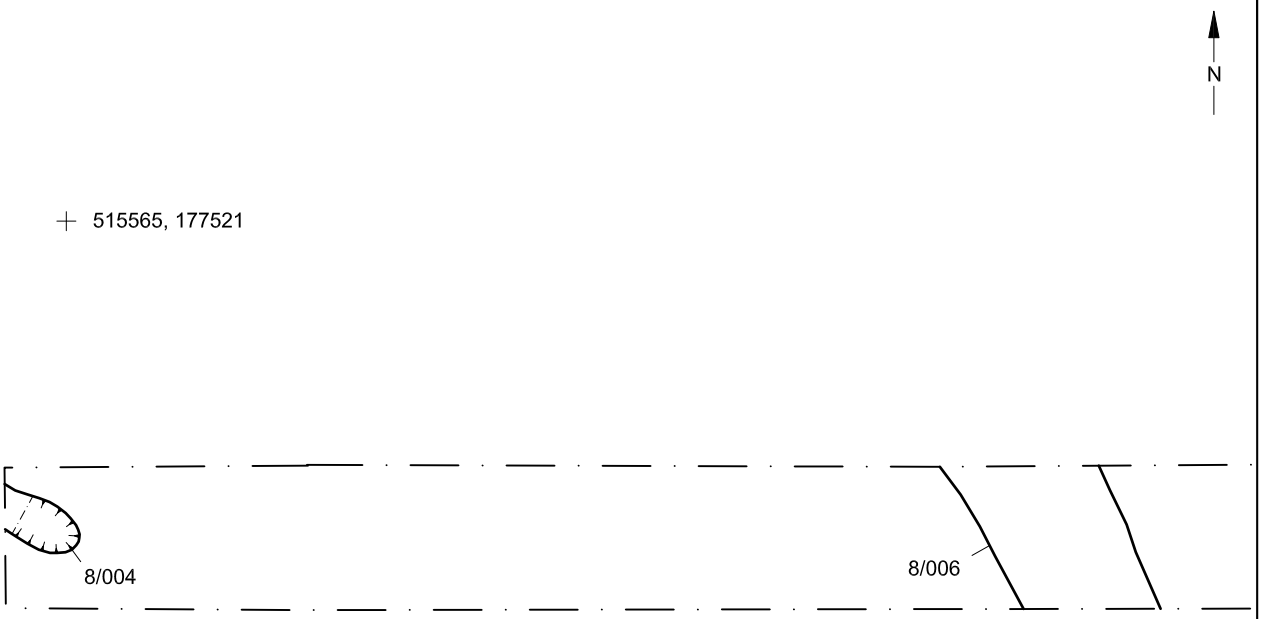

8/004 looking south-east

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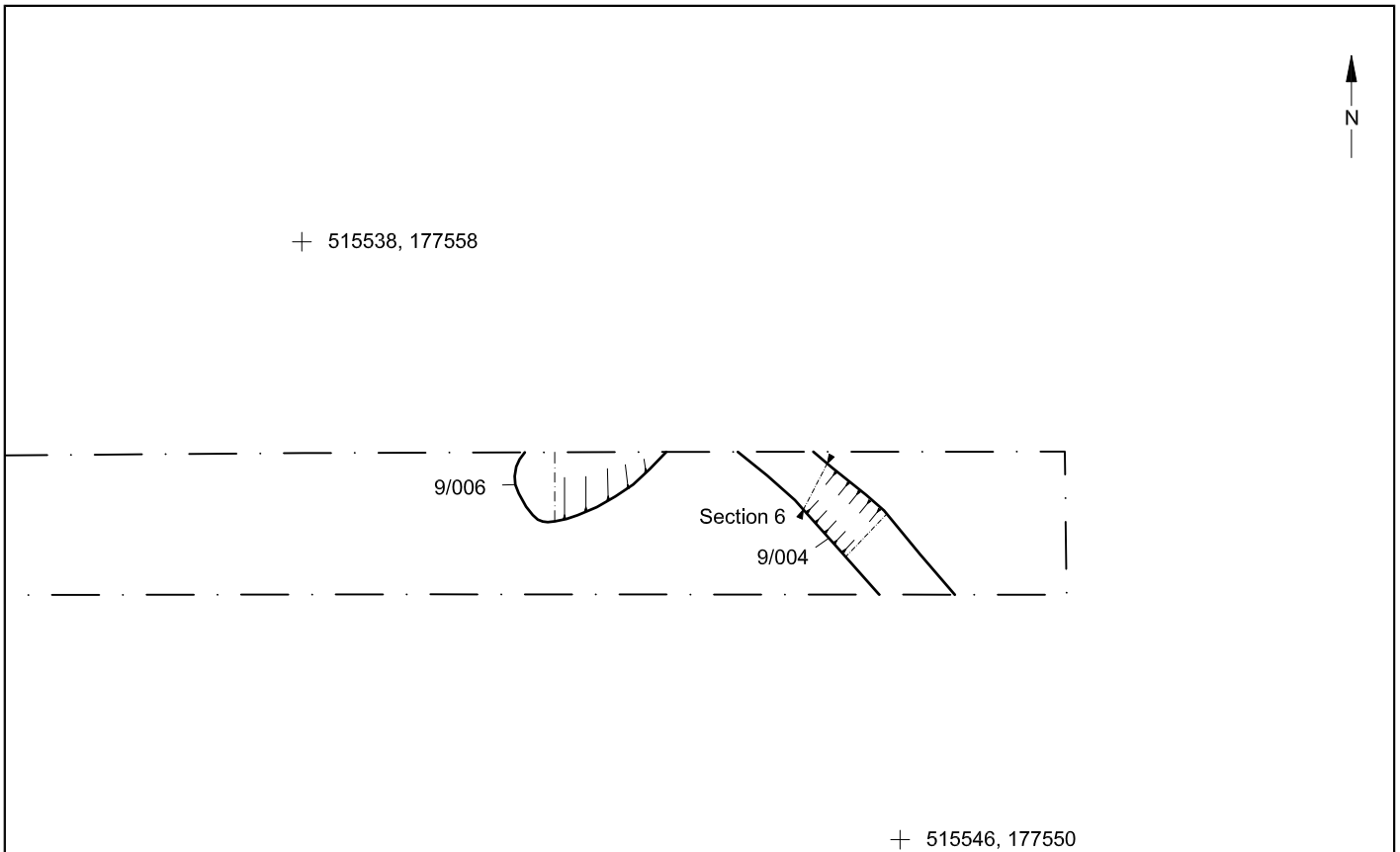

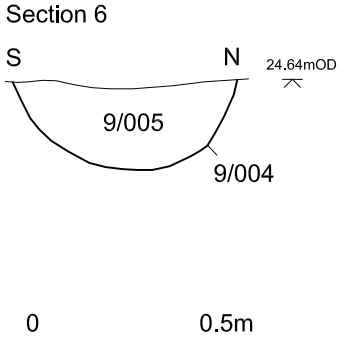

9/004 looking north-west

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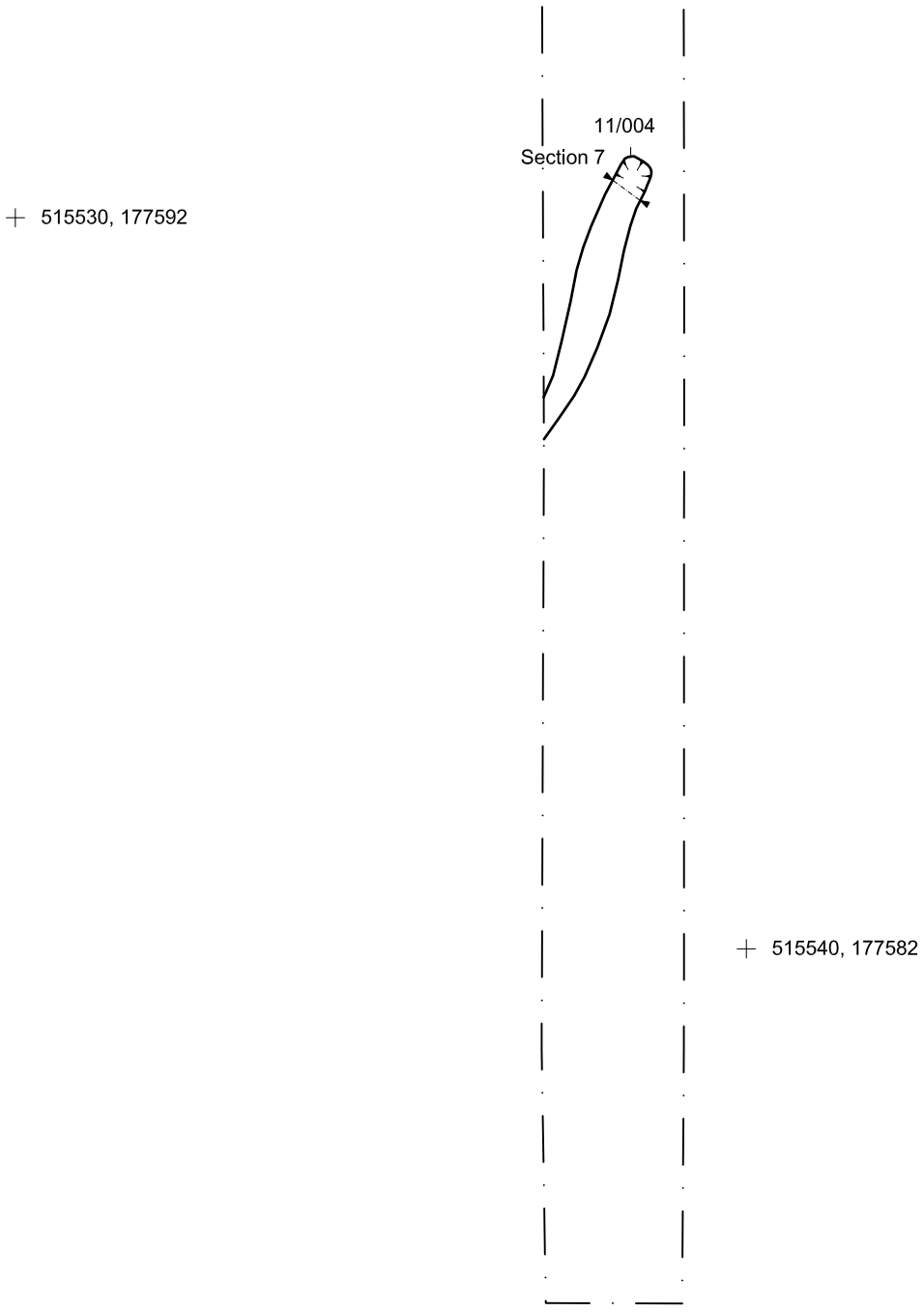

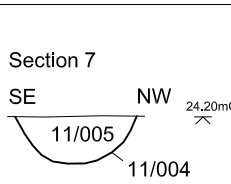

11/004 looking south-west

0 2m

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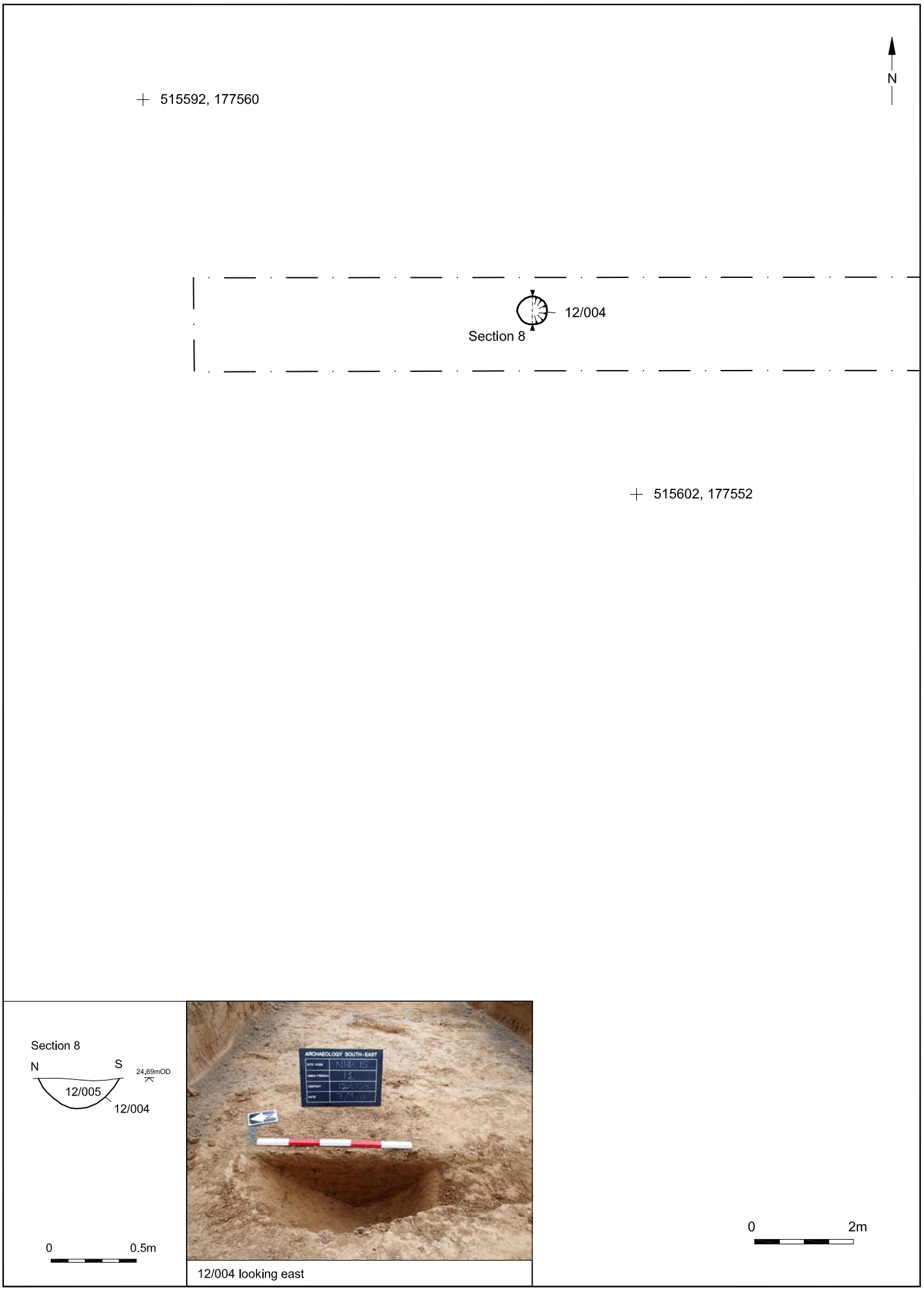

12/004 looking east

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N

515544, 177623

14/005

Section 9

515554, 177617

Section 9

NE SW

23.91mOD

14/005 14/004

0 0.5m

14/004 looking south-east

0 2m

© Archaeology South-East		Nishkam School, Wyke Green, Hounslow	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 7693	Sept 2015	Trench 14	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: LG		

N

515579, 177658

Section 10

16/004

515589, 177651

Section 10

S N

23.46mOD

16/005

16/004

0 0.5m

16/004 looking west

0 2m

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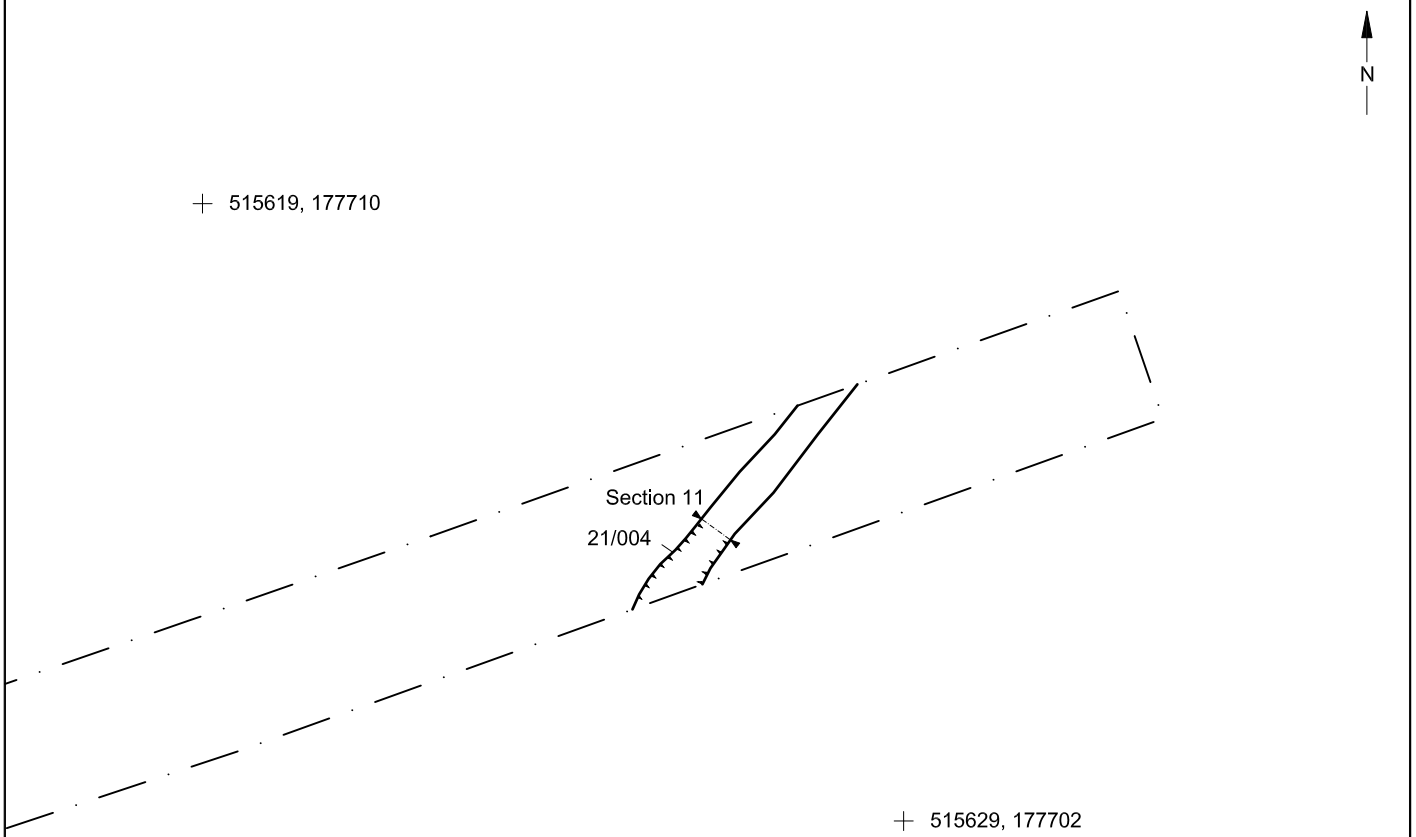
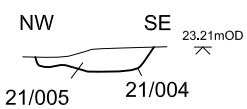
Project Ref: 7693	Sept 2015	Trench 16	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: LG		



Section 11



0 0.5m

21/004 looking north-east

0 2m

© Archaeology South-East		Nishkam School, Wyke Green, Hounslow	Fig. 13
Project Ref: 7693	Sept 2015	Trench 21	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: LG		

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Appendix 2
QUEST Report

University of Reading

NISHKAM SCHOOL SYON LANE LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW

Geoarchaeological Fieldwork Report

NGR: TQ 1558 7757

Site Code: NHK15

Date: 23rd September 2016

Written by: P. Allen

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v1	23/09/16	P. Allen		C.R. Batchelor		First edition

CONTENTS

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A program of geoarchaeological fieldwork was carried out by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development of land at Nishkam School, Syon Lane, London Borough of Hounslow. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, and carried out in collaboration with Archaeology South East. The main aims of the investigation were to: (1) observe and record the sediments excavated; (2) interpret the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site and (3) highlight sediments of potential Pleistocene and Palaeolithic significance.

The results of the investigation revealed a sequence of silty clay (interpreted as the Langley Silt) resting on sands and gravels (interpreted as the Taplow Gravel). Potential Palaeolithic artefacts were recorded, but if genuine, are present in low quantity, poor condition, and are likely derived. The artefacts are currently being checked by a specialist, but further work is not recommended beyond this.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site context

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological investigations undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development at Nishkam School, Syon Lane, London Borough of Hounslow (NGR: TQ 1558 7757; site code: NHK15; Figures 1-4). The work was carried out on behalf of CgMs Consulting, in collaboration with Archaeology South East.

2.2 Local Topography and Geology

The site lies ca. 2.5 km north of the Thames on the west side of the tributary Brent valley (Figure 1), immediately south of Osterley Park in the London Borough of Hounslow at an elevation of approximately 24m OD. For much of both west and east London, the built-up area is on a sequence of terraces left as the Thames successively cut down to lower levels (Figure 2). Geological mapping (BGS 1:50,000, Sheet 270, South London) (Figure 3) shows the site to lie in an area where Langley Silt overlies sands and gravels of the Taplow Terrace, in turn resting on London Clay.

Table 1: Stratigraphy of the Nishkam School Locale

Era	Period	Stage	Unit	Age (yrs BP)
Quaternary	Pleistocene	Devensian	Langley Silt	c.120,000 – 11,500
		Un-named MIS 8-7-6	Taplow Terrace sand and gravel	c.300,000 – 130,000
Tertiary	Palaeocene	Eocene	London Clay	c.55,000,000

MIS – Marine Oxygen Isotope Stage

Taplow Gravel

The Taplow Terrace gravel was laid down during the cold (gravel) – warm (interglacial deposits) – cold (gravel) climatic cycle MIS 8 – 7 – 6 (see Bridgland *et al.*, 2014, for a recent summary of the process).

West of London, the interglacial element (MIS 7) of the cycle is poorly represented, possibly because the gravels mostly belong to the MIS 6 aggradational phase of the climatic cycle (Morigi et al., 2011). The best material has been recovered from the Lower Thames, as at Ilford, Aveley, West Thurrock (Lion Pit Tramway Cutting) and Crayford.

At the site, the Taplow Gravel comprises flint with very minor amounts of quartzite and vein quartz. Lower Greensand chert is probably present in very small quantities but was not seen. The flint was a mixture with the larger clasts, up to 12cm in diameter, sub-angular, and smaller clasts at 3 to 4cm, the whole being mostly clast-supported. The matrix was a medium to coarse clayey sand, strong brown (typically 7.5YR4/6) with some grey mottles (2.5Y5/2). No bedding was discerned and the fabric (attitude) of the long-axes of the clasts was variable. The muddy (clayey) matrix and the poorly organized fabric suggest that this was not a mid-channel deposit, but was from disorganised flow, perhaps from the channel side where London Clay was being eroded and mixed with the matrix.

Langley Silt

The Langley Silt is of variable character, ranging from sandy silt to reworked London or Reading Clay (Bromehead, 1925; Gibbard, 1985). Its origin is not fully understood, but the areas dominated by reworked London Clay are most likely to the product of solifluction or colluvial activity and the silty and sandy deposits are probably of aeolian origin, but reworked by colluvial and sheetwash processes. The Langley Silt is found overlying the Lynch Hill (MIS 9), Taplow (MIS 7) and Kempton Park Terrace (MIS 5e) gravels, so it must post-date the Ipswichian Interglacial (MIS 5e) and may have been deposited in more than one cold periglacial stage, from MIS 5d to MIS 2 or1 (*ca.* 123 to 11.5 ka BP) with reworking during the intervening warm stages (Rose *et al.*, 2000).

.

At the site, the Langley Silt comprised reworked London Clay, brecciated and slickensided, indicating weathering and compatible with solifluction, typically brown or dark brown (7.5YR4/2 to 7.5YR5/8) but with grey mottles (2.5Y6/0), due to wetting and drying and again indicating weathering. Calcium carbonate nodules were frequent, precipitated from the groundwater. Occasional flints within the deposit would have been picked up during the solifluction process as the London Clay moved off the higher ground to the west to overlie the Taplow Terrace gravel.

2.3 Pleistocene and Palaeolithic potential

The site has the potential to contain both Pleistocene and Palaeolithic remains. Pleistocene remains are the geological and biological deposits laid down by various agents – water, wind and ice between 2.6 million and 11,500 years ago; the Taplow Gravel and Langley Silts recorded at Nishkam School represent such sediments. In some places, artefacts, plant and animal remains are contained within Pleistocene deposits. Palaeolithic remains therefore form part of the Pleistocene record and can include stone tools and the flakes produced when making them, and, much more rarely, tools of wood and bone, bones bearing marks of butchery, rudimentary structures and the remains of early humans (hominins). Such remains are important as they are the evidence that enables us to understand our earliest prehistory – how the landscape of Britain was shaped and where and how our earliest ancestors fit into it.

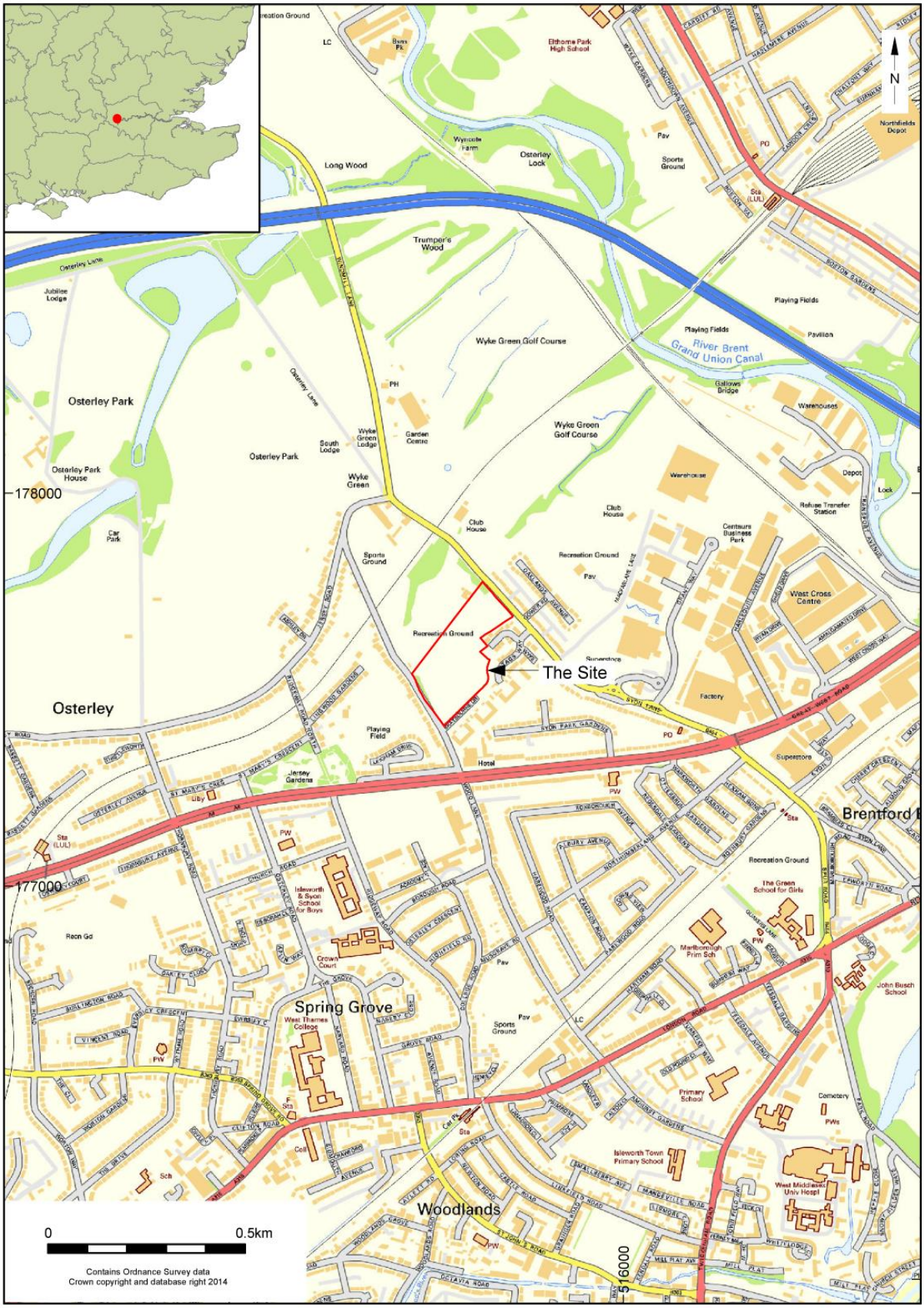
The Taplow Terrace gravels, are associated with reasonably frequent finds west of the Crane and east of the Brent, but with poorer records from the interfluve between the two rivers, wherein the site lies (Wymer, 1999). Locally minor finds have been recorded from Southall (TQ 119797, 122794), Norwood Green (TQ 135785), Windmill Lane and Bridge (TQ 146792, 146796), Osterley and Osterley Station ((TQ 145771). Cockburn *et al.* (1969) comment that very little archaeological material has come out of the gravels of this terrace. Finds, particularly from the Taplow district, consist of hand-axes and flakes which have been derived from the older gravels where these lie above the terrace.

Archaeological data relevant to the Langley Silt overlying the Taplow Gravels is scarce. From the next higher terrace, the Lynch Hill Terrace, Marsden (1927) recorded flints from Creffield Road, Acton, including some Levallois flakes, 'thrown up' from a depth of 4 to 6.5 ft in the brickearth. The occurrence of the Levallois industry in important as it indicates a MIS 8, at oldest, and follows on from the MIS 9 age ascribed to the Lynch Hill Gravel. Bazely et al. (1991) recovered 21 artefacts from Creffield Road, but only from the Langley Silt.

Even in the absence of artefact remains, the Pleistocene sediments and their contained biological remains can be significant as they enable the reconstruction of landforms, climatic conditions and environments occupied by Palaeolithic communities. In many cases we already have, in museum collections, artefacts from geological units equivalent to those being investigated (often river terrace gravels), but because of the way in which Palaeolithic artefacts were collected in the 19th and early 20th centuries, we often lack the environmental record that modern investigations of the deposits can supply. In addition, it is important to build up an understanding of the way in which the character and preservation of Pleistocene remains varies from place to place, even in the same geological unit. Recent advances in direct dating techniques, including OSL (optically stimulated luminescence), ESR (electron spin resonance), and AAR (amino acid racemization), have added further significance to Pleistocene remains, enabling us to achieve more reliable dating, relevant both to artefacts and to an understanding of landscape evolution.

2.2 Aims and objectives

During recent investigations on the site, five trial-pits were excavated for geoarchaeological purposes. The main aims of the investigation were to: (1) observe and record the sediments excavated; (2) interpret the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site and (3) highlight sediments of potential Pleistocene and Palaeolithic significance.



© Archaeology South-East		Niksham School, Wyke Green, Hounslow	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7834	Oct 2015	Site location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: LG		

Figure 1: Site location (reproduced from Archaeology South East, 2015)

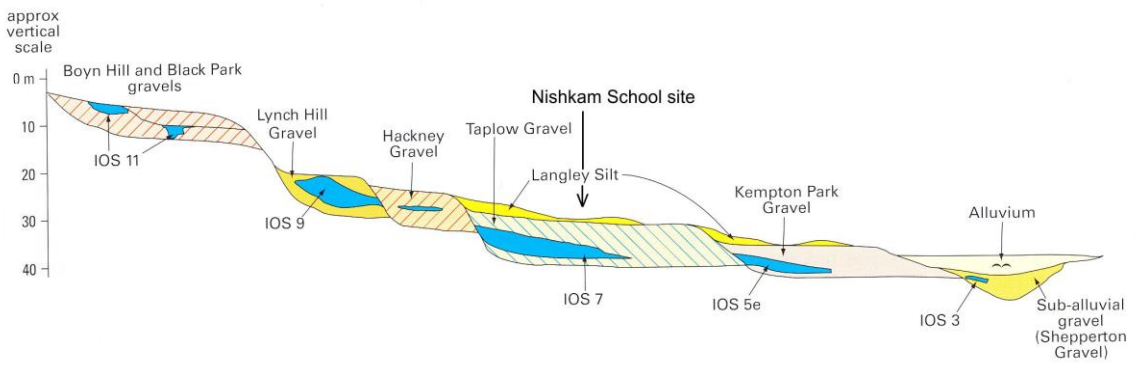


Figure 2: The Thames terrace sequence

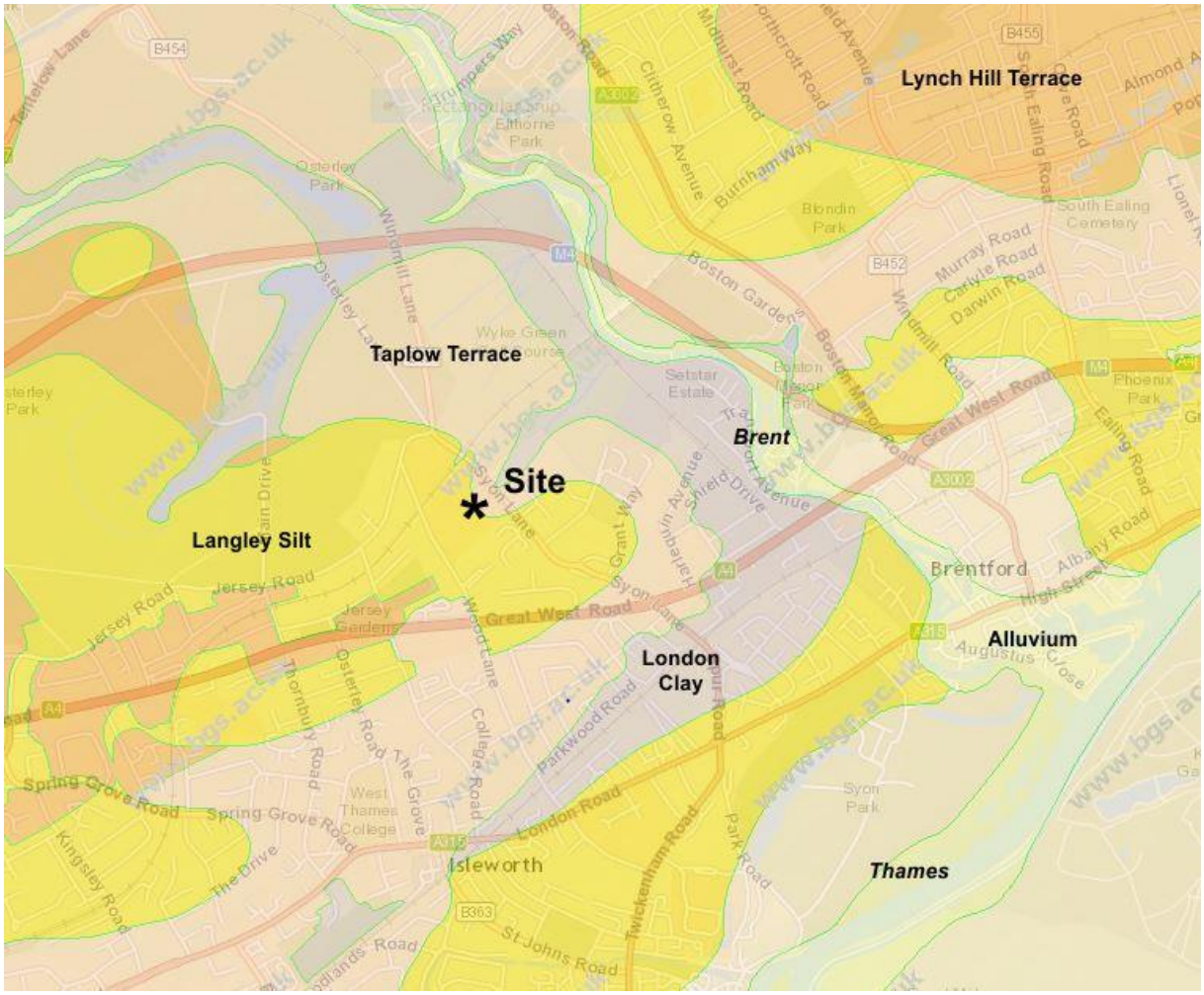
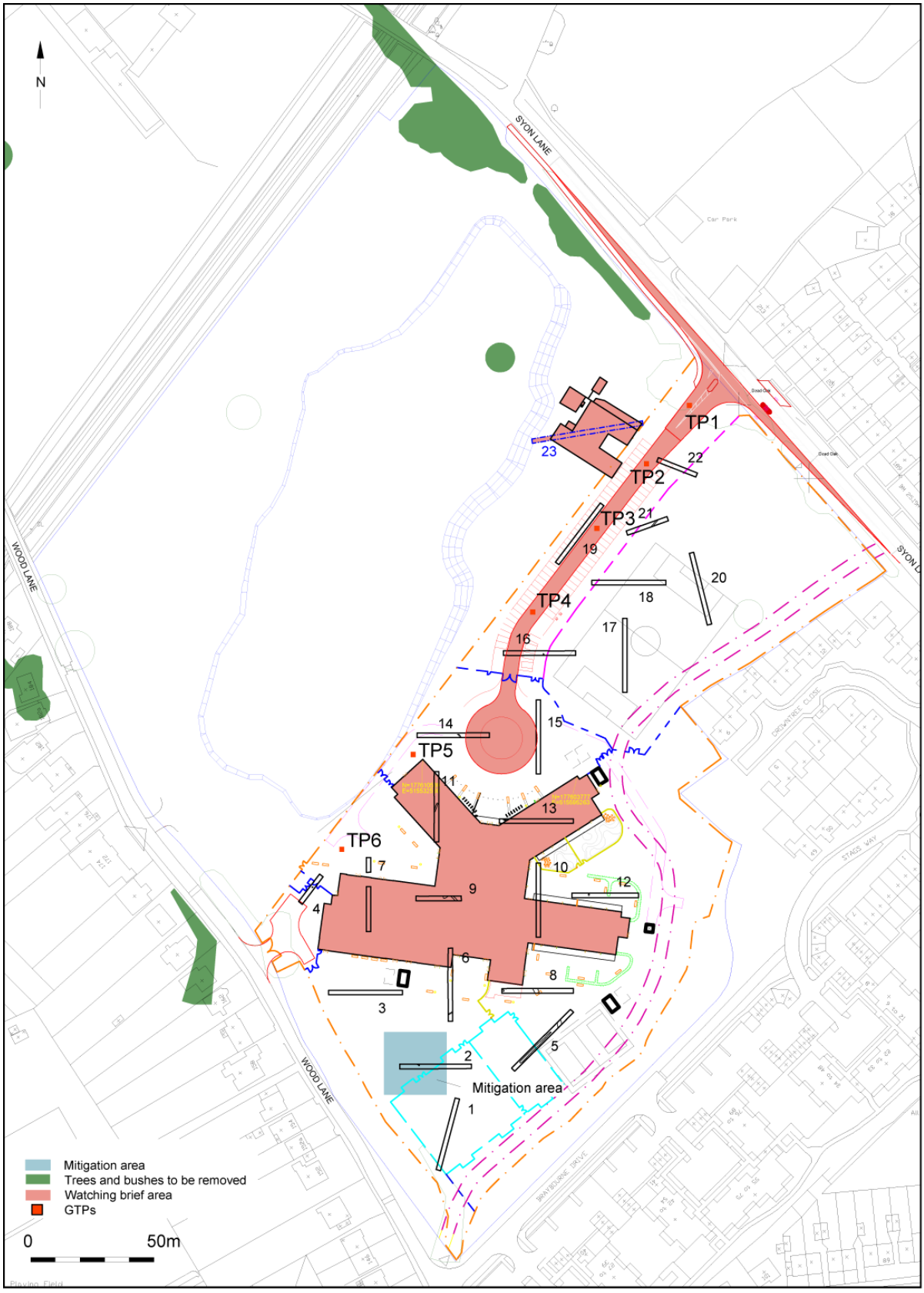


Figure 3: Geological setting



© Archaeology South-East		Niksham School, Wyke Green, Hounslow	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7834	05 - 2016	Proposed mitigation area	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: NG		

Figure 4: Trial pit locations

3. METHODS

Five trial pits were sunk to a maximum depth of 3.5m below ground surface (bgs) (Figure 4). Trial Pit 1 had to be abandoned at the outset for safety reasons. The trial pits had a footprint of ca. 0.75 x 1.5m. No pit was entered beyond a depth of 1.0m. Observations of the deeper parts of the pits were made from the ground surface and strata thicknesses estimated from staff measurements. The geology was recorded by a field log at 1m to 4 cm (1:25) and photographically. The surface exposed by the machine blade was examined visually, where possible, for changes in the sedimentology of the deposits and for fossil material and the contents of the machine bucket for worked flint, bone and other fossil material.

4. RESULTS OF THE GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Tabulated descriptions, logs and annotated photographs are provided for trial pits 2 to 6; trial pit 1 was abandoned for safety reasons (Tables 2-6; Figures 5-14). An arbitrary level of 24m OD was assumed in the absence of confirmed elevations. From each of TP4, 5 & 6, 100 litres of material was sieved through a 10 mm mesh sieve. One dubious core was recovered and possibly rare debitage, but none of an acceptable standard. No significant artefacts were recovered

Table 2: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit 2, Nishkam School, Syon Lane, London Borough of Hounslow

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit
0.0-1.0	24.0-23.0	1.0	Made ground, including bricks and tiles	2.1
1.0-1.95	23.0-22.05	0.95	Stiff, brecciated, grey (7.5YR4/2) clay with occasional pebbles (c. 3 cm). Reworked London Clay (Langley Silt).	2.2
1.95-2.5	22.05–21.5	0.55	Gravel with clayey sandy matrix, strong brown (7.5YR4/6) with minor areas of grey (2.5Y5/2). Flints; rounded and sub-angular, modal size 3-4 cm long, but several in 8-12 cm range. (Taplow Gravel)	2.3
2.5-3.6	21.5-20.4	1.1	Clay, stiff, grey-brown (7.5YR4/2 + 2.5Y6/0), slickensided, brecciated. (Weathered London Clay) Not bottomed.	2.4

Table 3: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit 3, Nishkam School, Syon Lane, London Borough of Hounslow

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit
0.0-1.3	24.0-22.7	1.3	Made ground	3.1
1.3-3.2	22.7-20.8	1.9	Stiff, brecciated, brown/strong brown clay with minor amount of grey mottling (7.5YR4/4 + 2.5Y6/0) with CaCO3 nodules, becoming fewer with depth. Occasional flint pebbles (c.3 cm). (Langley Silt [reworked London Clay]) Not bottomed.	3.2

Table 4: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit 4, Nishkam School, Syon Lane, London Borough of Hounslow

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit
0.0-0.25	24.00-23.75	0.25	Soil	4.1
0.25-1.35	23.75-22.65	1.1	Silt, brecciated, yellowish red (7.5YR5/6) (Langley Silt).	4.2
1.35-2.75	22.65-21.25	1.4	Gravel with clayey sandy matrix, strong brown (7.5YR4/6) with minor areas of grey (2.5Y5/2). Flints; rounded and sub-angular, modal size 3-4 cm long, but several in 8-12 cm range. (Taplow Gravel)	4.3*
2.75-3.0	21.25-21.0	0.25	Clay, brecciated, with micro-lenses of pale fine sand/silt. Grey (10YR5/1) with brown mottles (10YR4/3) (London Clay, weathered) Not bottomed).	4.4

**100 litres sieved; ca. 2.0m bgs*

Table 5: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit 5, Nishkam School, Syon Lane, London Borough of Hounslow

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit
0.0-0.3	24.00-23.7	0.3	Soil	5.1
0.3-1.7	23.7-22.3	1.4	Silt, brecciated, strong brown (7.5YR5/8) (Langley Silt).	5.2
1.7-3.5	22.3-20.5	1.8	Gravel with clayey sandy matrix , strong brown (7.5YR5/8). Flints; rounded and sub-angular, modal size 3-4 cm long, maximum 12 cm. (Taplow Gravel)	5.3*
3.5+	20.5+	0.25	Sandy silt (?basal Taplow Gravel) Not bottomed	5.4

**100 litres sieved; ca.2.0m bgs*

Table 6: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit 6, Nishkam School, Syon Lane, London Borough of Hounslow

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit
0.0-0.3	24.00-23.7	0.3	Soil	6.1
0.3-1.0	23.7-23.0	0.7	Silt, brecciated, strong brown (7.5YR5/6) (Langley Silt).	6.2
1.0-2.8	23.0-21.2	1.8	Gravel with clayey medium sandy matrix, dark brown (7.5YR4/4). Flints; rounded and sub-angular, modal size 3-4 cm long, maximum 10 cm range. (Taplow Gravel)	6.3*
2.8-3.2	21.2-20.8	0.4	Clay, brecciated, with micro-lenses of pale fine sand/silt. Grey (10YR5/1) with brown mottles (10YR4/3) (London Clay, weathered) Not bottomed.	6.4

100 litres sieved; ca.1.5m bgs

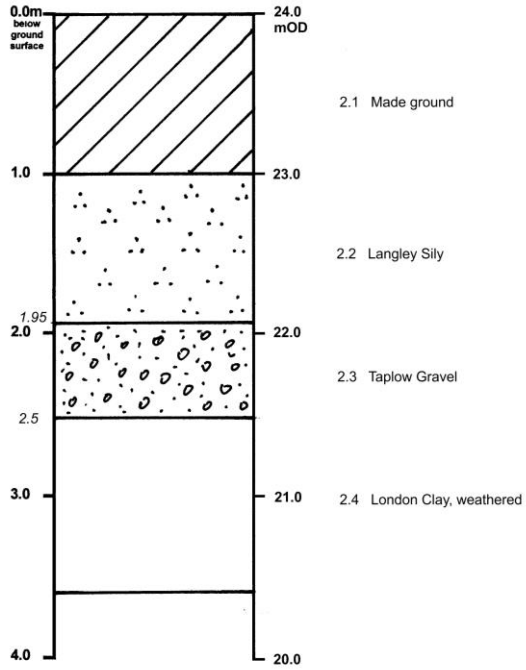


Figure 5: Trial Pit 2, graphic log

Figure 6: Trial Pit 2, photograph

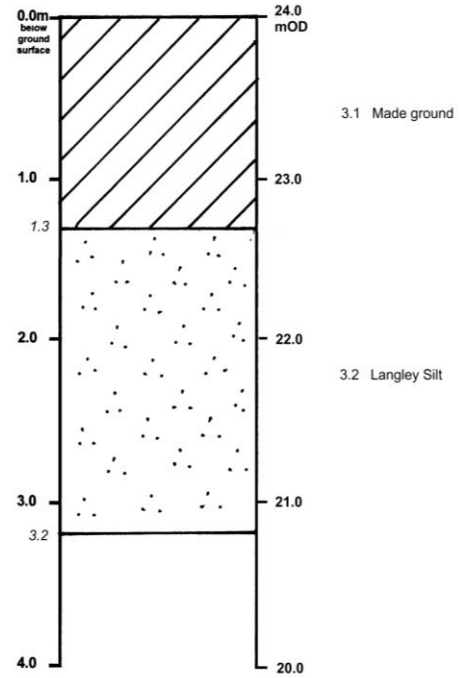


Figure 7: Trial Pit 3, graphic log

Figure 8: Trial Pit 3, photograph

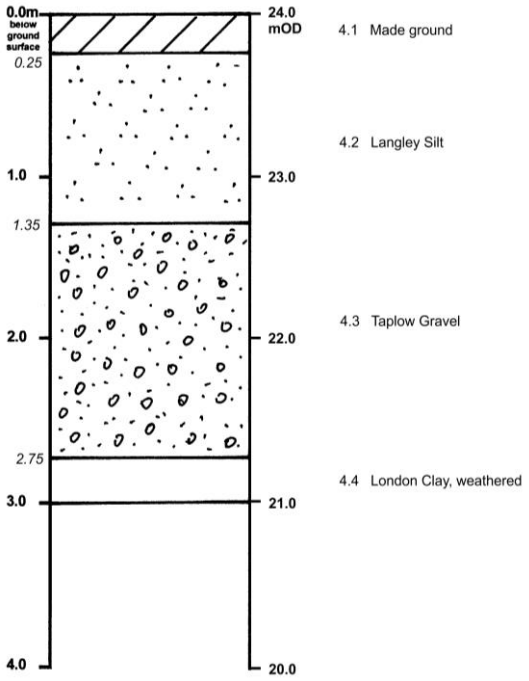


Figure 9: Trial Pit 4, graphic log

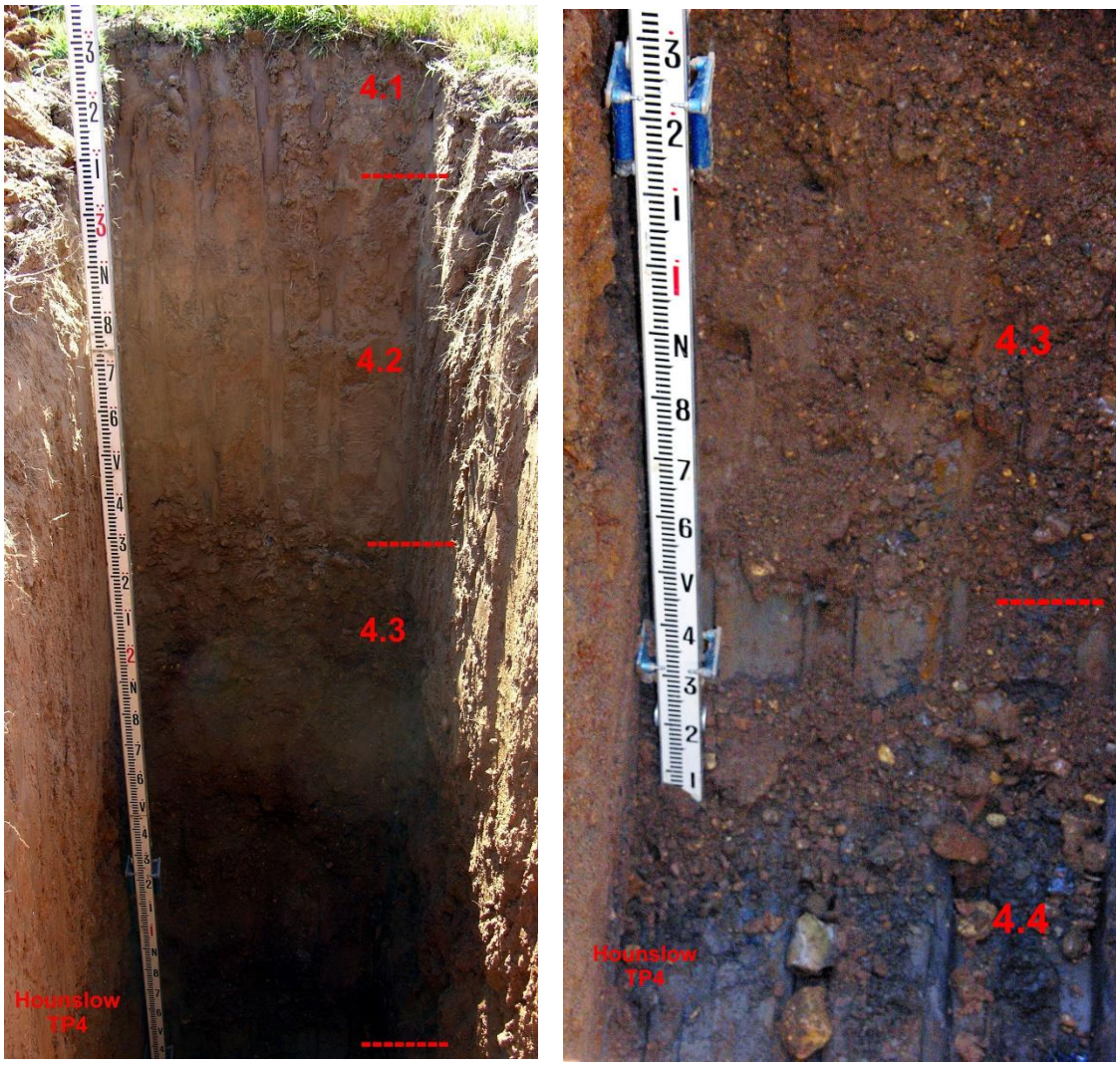


Figure 10a, b: Trial Pit 4, photographs

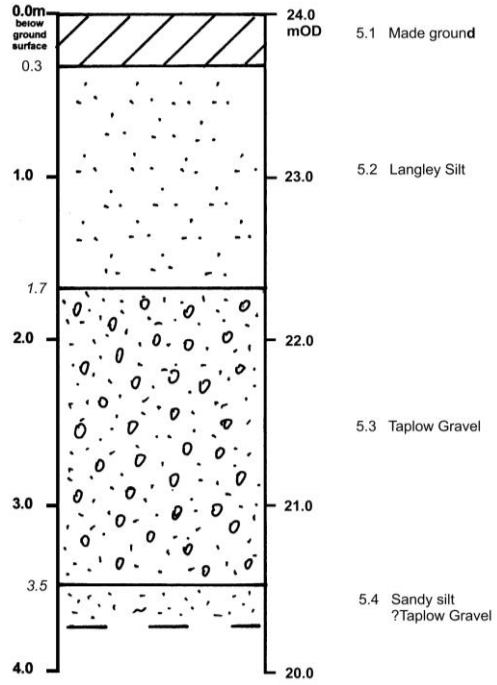


Figure 11: Trial Pit 5, graphic log

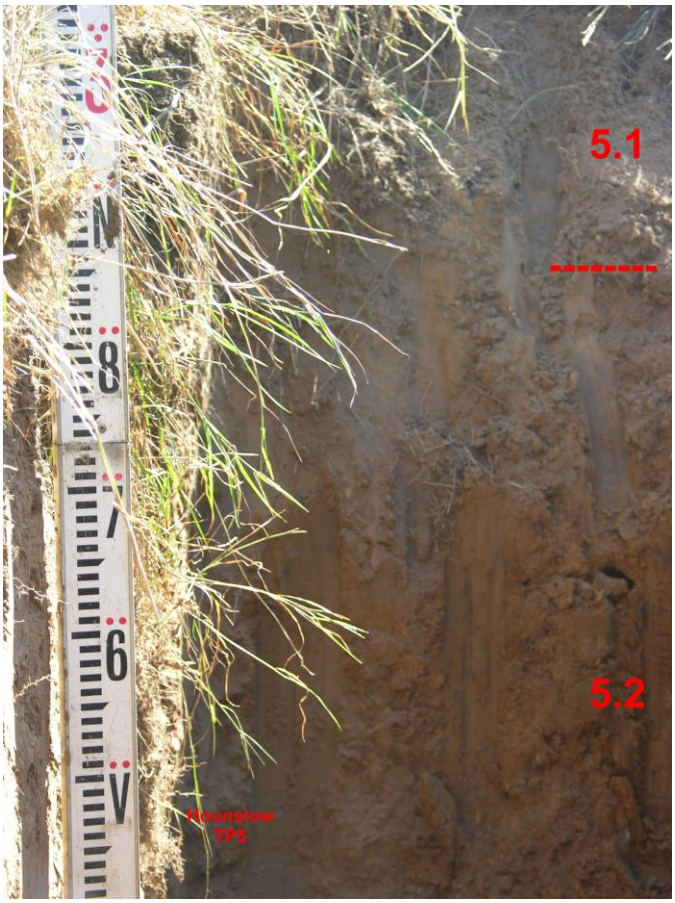


Figure 12a, b: Trial Pit 5, photographs

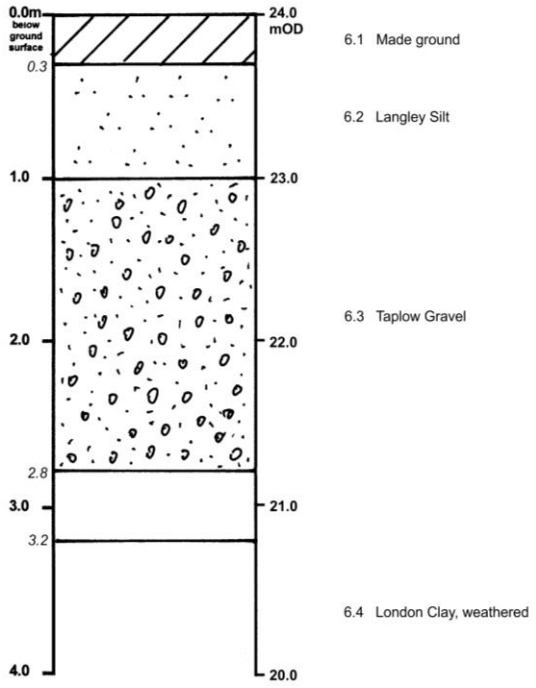


Figure 13: Trial Pit 6, graphic log

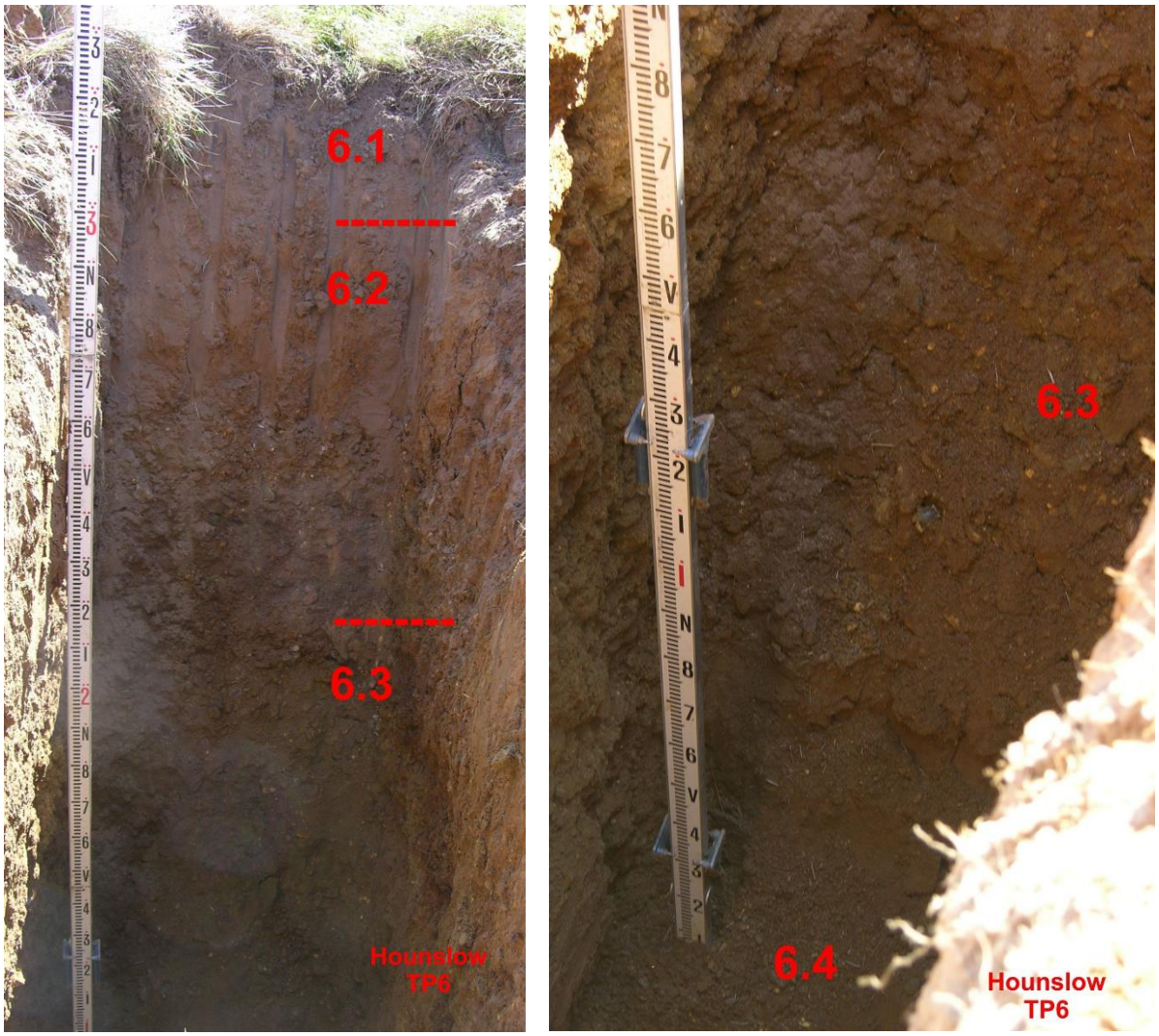


Figure 14a, b: Trial Pit 6, photographs

5. INTERPRETATION OF THE GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Taplow Terrace gravel was mostly sandy gravel with a maximum clast size 10+ cm, a size that might contain worked flakes, small or broken handaxes. A number of small flakes and a possible core were found, but none were considered to be of significance. The Langley Silt had very few pebbles and they were small (*ca.* 3cm), not large enough for elaborate lithics such as struck flakes or handaxes.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

No stained horizons were noted in the Taplow Gravel and no lithics of consequence were found within the samples. It is not recommended that further work is needed. The stiff reworked Langley Silt is not a promising host material for lithics, reinforced by the small size and paucity of the pebbles. Again, no further work is recommended.

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Appendix 3

Table 3 Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	1004	<10	<10	Pot **/24g, FCF */1g

Appendix 4

Table 4: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %
1	1004	1	50	50	90	10

Appendix 5: HER & OASIS summary forms

HER Summary

Site Code	NHK15					
Identification Name and Address	Nishkam School site, Syon Lane, Hounslow					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Isleworth					
OS Grid Refs.	515580 177570					
Geology	Brick Earth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7834					
Type of Fieldwork		Excavation				
Type of Site		Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork		Excavation				
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Steve White					
Period Summary			Palaeolithic ?	BA		
				Modern		

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs to undertake a programme of archaeological work on land at Nishkam School site, Syon Lane, Hounslow, London Borough of Isleworth in advance of redevelopment of the site. This phase of site work consisted of the excavation of a 25m x 25m area to the south-west of the site as well as a watching brief maintained during ground demolition. The fieldwork took place intermittently between the 5th and the 30th of August, 2016.

The excavation revealed a single Middle Bronze Age feature, a small pit with a deposited pottery vessel. While this feature was not a cremation burial, it does hint at a ritual/funerary element to the Middle Bronze Age landscape. Two modern features, believed to be goal posts relating to the sites use as a sports field, were also observed these join field boundaries encountered during the preceding evaluation and possible Palaeolithic artefacts recovered during geo-archaeological fieldwork (QUEST 2016).

Natural Brick Earth was recorded between 25.15m and 25.20m AOD

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-263771

Project details	
Project name	Final Report for an Archaeological Excavation at Nishkam School site, Syon Lane, Hounslow, London Borough of Isleworth
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological work on land at Nishkam School, Syon Lane, Hounslow, London Borough of Isleworth in advance of redevelopment of the site. This phase consisted of the excavation of a 25m x 25m area within the south-west of the site as well as a watching brief maintained during ground demolition of the former White Lodge Club. Work took place on the 5th and 7th August 2016 (watching brief) and between the 22nd and 30th of August, 2016 (excavation). A single Middle Bronze Age feature was revealed comprising a small pit with a deliberately deposited pottery vessel. While this feature was not a cremation burial, it does hint at a 'ritualised' and/or a funerary element to the Middle Bronze Age landscape. Two modern features, believed to be goal posts relating to the sites use as a sports field, were also observed these join field boundary ditches, modern and natural features encountered during the previous evaluation. Natural Brick Earth was recorded between 25.15m and 25.20m AOD
Project dates	Start: 05-08-2016 End: 30-08-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NHK15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	FIELD-BOUNDARY Post Medieval
Monument type	DEPOSITIONAL PIT Middle Bronze Age

Significant Finds	LITHICS? Palaeolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Bronze Age
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation","Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HOUNSLOW HOUNSLOW Nishkam School
Postcode	TW7 5AJ
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 1558 7757 51.484762014805 -0.335229982678 51 29 05 N 000 20 06 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25m Max: 26m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Steve White
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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