

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
28 Church Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 5DH**

Planning Ref: 09/P0002

NGR: TQ 24149 71205

**Project No: 3798
Site Code: CUJ 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009078
OASIS id: archaeo16-59433**



**By Greg Priestley-Bell
with contributions from Luke Barber, Gemma Driver,
Sarah Porteus, Elke Raemen and Michelle Statton**

May 2009

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
28 Church Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 5DH**

Planning Ref: 09/P0002

NGR: TQ 24149 71205

**Project No: 3798
Site Code: CUJ 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009078
OASIS id: archaeol6-59433**

**By Greg Priestley-Bell
with contributions from Luke Barber, Gemma Driver,
Sarah Porteus, Elke Raemen and Michelle Statton**

May 2009

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), was commissioned by J. M. Scully Ltd, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of redevelopment and as a condition of planning permission, on land at 28 Church Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 (NGR 524149, 171205).

Three test trenches were mechanically excavated and recorded over two days on 30th April and 1st May 2009. The work identified remains of post-medieval date, together with a very small quantity of residual medieval and perhaps prehistoric material. The post-medieval remains comprised a gravel pathway and planting bed probably related to the 18th-century Belvedere Estate. There was also evidence that the site had been significantly truncated by quarrying for sands and gravels, probably between mid 17th and mid 18th century.

In view of the significant truncation of the proposed footprint of the new build, firstly by the suggested post-medieval quarrying and subsequently by disturbance relating to the recently demolished building, the construction of the new house itself is likely to have a minimal detrimental effect on the archaeological record. However, associated landscaping on the eastern side of the site to depths in excess of 400mm below the existing ground level would be likely to encounter buried post-medieval features probably relating to the Belvedere Estate.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Finds**
- 6.0 Discussion**
- 7.0 Conclusions**

Bibliography
Internet Resources
Cartographic Sources

SMR Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location plan and GLSMR data
- Figure 2: Trench location plan
- Figure 3: Trench 1: Plan and sections
- Figure 4: Trench 3: Plan and sections
- Figure 5: Belvedere Estate map 1793
- Figure 6: Parish plan 1838
- Figure 7: Tithe map 1851
- Figure 8: Belvedere Estate plan 1873
- Figure 9: OS map Surrey sheet VI: 10/11 1869/79
- Figure 10: OS map Surrey sheet VI: 10/11 1913
- Figure 11: OS map Surrey sheet VI: 10/11 1933

TABLES

- Table 1: Gazetteer of archaeological sites and listed buildings
- Table 2: Quantification of site archive
- Table 3: Recorded contexts
- Table 4: Quantification of finds
- Table 5: Summary of Registered Finds

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), was commissioned by J. M. Scully Ltd, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of redevelopment on land at 28 Church Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 henceforth referred to as 'the site' (NGR 524149, 171205; Figures 1&2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located on an area of Thames Black Park Gravel. The Black Park Gravels were deposited during the Anglian cold stage and comprise gravel, sand and clay; the deposit overlies London Clay, which is extant on lower ground.

1.2.2 Although located on higher ground, most of which is above 50m OD, the site lies in an area that is predominantly flat.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by the London Borough of Merton for the erection of a two storey dwelling involving the formation of accommodation at basement level (Application Number 09/P0002). A condition was attached to the permission requiring that:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or any successors in title, has secured the implementation of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant or any successors in title in writing and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme approved pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason for condition: Important archaeological remains may exist on the site. Accordingly, the Local Planning Authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and a subsequent recording of the remains prior to the development, in accordance with the guidance and model conditions set out in Planning Policy Guidance 16.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological work was produced (ASE 2009) and approved, prior to the commencement of work, by Diane Walls, Archaeological Advisor, Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), London Region. This document outlined the methods to be used during the archaeological evaluation of the site, namely the excavation and recording of an L-shaped trench, measuring c. 30m by 1.8m to be located in the footprint of the new build; this trench was designed to provide a representative sample of the redevelopment area. A second trench, measuring 5m by 1.8m, was to be located in the south-west corner of the site in order to investigate whether remains of the tool house structure identified from historic maps survives below ground level.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation as listed in the WSI (ASE 2009) were:

- To establish whether any archaeological remains exist in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to require preservation *in situ*.
- The evaluation should seek to ascertain whether evidence for structures and features associated with the Belvedere Estate which have been identified in historic sources are present.
- The evaluation should also seek to identify any remains that may be associated with recent archaeological work in the immediate vicinity with particular regard for remains predating the creation of the Belvedere Estate.
- The evaluation should aim to determine, as far is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied, and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).
- The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions, and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist) and Liane Peyre (Archaeologist) over two days on 30th April and 1st May 2009. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Project Managers, Post-Excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

by Michelle Statton

2.1 Designated Areas

- 2.1.1 The development site is situated within the Wimbledon North Conservation Area, a region of special architectural and historic interest, the character or appearance of which should be preserved or enhanced.
- 2.1.2 Most of the land within the North Wimbledon Conservation Area lies within three Archaeological Priority Zones, identified by GLAAS in consultation with local groups.
- 2.1.3 To the northwest of the development site is Zone 3, which covers the area of Wimbledon Common important for its prehistoric landscape. To the northeast of the development site is Zone 19, which includes Wimbledon Park where 3 of the 4 Wimbledon Manor Houses were built, from the late 16th to late 18th centuries.
- 2.1.4 The development site is located within Zone 7, which covers Wimbledon Village, where information relating to the historic settlement may be recovered. The recovery of archaeological information relating to the historic settlement of Wimbledon will contribute to the Borough's history and assist the study of the region's development.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The earliest evidence for human activity in the region is artefacts found within the Black Park Gravels. Neolithic scrapers, flakes and implements are relatively common finds, and are indicative of occupation during the Late Glacial Phase, or an earlier interstadial episode of the Late Anglian Glaciation (Rackham and Sidell, 14: 2000).
- 2.2.2 During the later prehistoric period a hill fort, known as Caesar's Camp, was constructed on Wimbledon common where a number of other prehistoric earthworks are also known including round barrows, and traces of hut-circles.
- 2.2.3 There is no mention of Wimbledon in the Domesday Book, and it is assumed that it was assessed as part of the Manor of Mortlake. There is some uncertainty as to when Wimbledon became a separate manor, but from 1328 onwards historical sources regularly refer to the Manor of Wimbledon as a separate entity (Maldon, 1912).
- 2.2.4 The manor of Wimbledon was owned by the church until 1398 when Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, fell out of favour with Richard II and was exiled (Maldon, 1912). The manor was thence confiscated and became crown property. The Manor remained crown property until the reign of Henry VIII, although throughout the 16th and 17th century it was to pass back and forth between royal and private ownership.

- 2.2.5 Up until the 17th century it is likely that the area surrounding the development site was predominantly open fields, with occasional houses lining Church Road, such as The Old House mansion. Built in 1690 by John Breholt, on the site of the Old House Close development, this building was located immediately to the north of the development site. Parts of its boundary walls are still extant, enclosing part of the perimeter of the Old House Close development, and the potential of them becoming listed is currently being investigated by Merton Council.
- 2.2.6 In 1717 Wimbledon Manor was bought by Sir Theodore Janssen who built a second manor in 1720 that was to become known as Belvedere House. This Manor House, located to the west of St. Mary's Church, on the rear gardens of what is now Nos. 6 - 12 Alan Road, was a typical early Georgian mansion in the Palladian style.
- 2.2.7 The new estate occupied most of the land along the south side of Church Road and south of St. Mary's Road. The grounds included a meadow with large trees at the back, and a kitchen garden, which was partly enclosed by high brick walls. Part of the kitchen garden wall still stands along part of Belvedere Avenue and Church Road.
- 2.2.8 Following Janssen's involvement in a high profile financial scandal, the estate was sold to Mrs Martha Rush in 1749. The estate stayed in the Rush family for some years, and was surveyed by C. T. Cracklow in 1793 when the premises were owned by William Beaumaurice Rush, Esq. Figure 5 depicts the development site in use as the 'Melon Ground' at this time, one zone within a much larger area of Kitchen Gardens.
- 2.2.9 The 'Melon Ground' is walled, with an entrance onto Church Road and another at the rear of the site that leads into a further walled garden. To the west of the development site is a area of mixed use including gardens, houses and workshops, which eventually becomes Belvedere Square. To the north of the site the Old House still remains, now let to a Mr Hudson.
- 2.2.10 A wide path runs centrally down the entire length of the development site between the two entrances; although to the rear of the site it also leads to a large rectangular tool shed that adjoins the rear wall. Two additional structures are delineated along the boundary with the Old House. These structures are extremely small and although there is no description given of their use, they may be assumed to be glasshouses or sheds.
- 2.2.11 The 1851 Tithe Map (Figure 7) by Charles Lee and John Pickering is an updated version of Pickering's Parish Map of 1838 (Figure 6). The major difference between the two is that the colour differentiation given to buildings on the earlier map is not maintained. In addition, the later map also lacks the detail given to urban areas and cottage developments.
- 2.2.12 Both maps portray the development area in the same manner, save that the earlier map assigns it plot number 379. Unfortunately, there is no apportionment for the map and so no further details could be ascertained from this assignment.
- 2.2.13 Figure 6 shows three structures on plot 379, the earlier tool shed to the rear of the site is no longer visible, but the small square structure situated on the northeast wall remains. Of the two new rectangular structures of similar size ;

one is inline with an extant structure orientated northeast-southwest, the second structure is similarly aligned but located along the wall which abuts Church Road.

- 2.2.14 Following Beaumaurice Rush's death in 1833 the house was bought by James Courthope Peache, a retired timber merchant, who named it Belvedere House. A later lease of Belvedere House, which includes a plan of the estate dated 1873 (Figure 8), omits the development area and the other plots that formed the Kitchen Garden region on the 18th century Estate Map suggesting that the land was no longer part of the estate and had passed into new ownership.
- 2.2.15 The First Edition OS map (Surrey Sheet VI. 10/11; Figure 9) of 1869/79 shows St. Mary's Road laid out in full, but named 'Hothouse Lane'. Church Road is named Church Street, and the first eight of the artisan's cottages which today form the Church Road frontage to Belvedere Square are shown. This development of thirty artisan's dwellings in Victorian Gothic style was originally for workers on the Belvedere House Estate.
- 2.2.16 Other buildings on the south east side of Church Road include the 17th century Old House, with a large garden, summer house and a yard surrounded by a coach house and stables, all now gone. Adjacent to the north east of this is another large house, which remains today as Nos. 44, 48 and 50 Church Road.
- 2.2.17 Belvedere House and its extensive grounds are also shown. On the development site all three of the structures visible on the Tithe Map have been demolished. Instead, three very small square structures are visible in the western corner of the site, fronting onto Church Road.
- 2.2.18 Another small square structure is set back slightly from the Church Road in the centre of the plot and a rectangular structure is positioned to the northeast of it on the boundary with the adjoining plot of land to the northeast. The only other feature depicted on the development site at this time is a row of trees.
- 2.2.19 In 1900 Belvedere House was demolished, and the grounds sold to the Belvedere Estate Company for house building. The first area to be developed was the rear meadow in which Belvedere Drive, Belvedere Avenue and Belvedere Grove were laid out, and the land sold on as building plots.
- 2.2.20 The building developments are clearly visible on the OS map of 1913 (Figure 10). Belvedere Drive, Belvedere Grove, Belvedere Avenue, Alan Road, Highbury Road, Clement Road and Courthope Road are all set out and lined for the most part with houses.
- 2.2.21 On the development site a number of structures are again visible, clustered towards the northern end of the site and Church Road. Three of these structures are glasshouses, two of which form an 'L' shaped structure in the northeast corner of the plot. The third structure, which is the smallest, is situated towards the centre of the plot and is aligned northeast - southwest across it. Another 'L' shaped structure is located in the corner directly opposite the Glass houses; it is very small and is unlikely to represent a dwelling.

2.2.22 There is no change to the development site over the next twenty years, and it is depicted in an identical fashion on the 1933 edition OS Map (Figure 11). Further development of the surrounding area is also minimal with small numbers of infill developments of one or more houses. The building to be replaced at No. 28 Church Road is a modern contemporary detached bungalow designed by the renowned modernist architect Sir Basil Spence. This property will shortly be demolished to enable the proposed development to go ahead.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

2.3.1 A series of investigations have taken place along Wimbledon High Street to the south of the development site. These have discovered a range of finds and features dating from the 10th century onwards as well as modern features uncovered during an evaluation at No 9 Highbury Road.

2.4 Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR)

2.4.1 The GLSMR was consulted and the results summarised below. Details were taken of all archaeological sites and listed buildings within a 250m radius of the centre of the subject site. The identified sites (numbered 1 – 25) are listed below on Table 1 and plotted on Figure 1.

Site Number	NGR	Name	Description
1	TQ2428471289	No 8 Belvedere Avenue (LB204992)	Early 20 th century detached house – Grade II.
2	TQ2435271079	No 7 Belvedere Avenue (LB204993)	Early 20 th century detached house - Grade II.
3	TQ2428671037	No 1 Belvedere Avenue (LB204994)	Early 20 th century detached house - Grade II.
4	TQ 2407071183	Nos 16-20 No 4 Belvedere Square (LB204997)	Row of cottages of mid-late 19 th century date - Grade II.
5	TQ2409171213	Nos 22-26 Belvedere Square (LB204998)	Row of cottages of mid-late 19 th century date – Grade II.
6	TQ2408671172	Nos 5-8 Belvedere Square (LB204999)	Row of cottages of mid-late 19 th century date - Grade II.
7	TQ2411371194	Nos 9-12 Belvedere Square (LB205000)	Row of cottages of mid-late 19 th century date - Grade II.
8	TQ2409971151	Nos 17-20 Belvedere Square (LB205001)	Row of cottages of mid-late 19 th century date - Grade II.
9	TQ2412571166	Nos 21-26 Belvedere Square (LB205002)	Row of cottages of mid-late 19 th century date - Grade II.
10	TQ2413271198	Nos 27-31 Belvedere Square (LB205002)	Row of cottages of mid-late 19 th century date - Grade II.
11	TQ2406671255	No 55 Church Road (LB205027)	Detached Villa of early to mid 19 th century date - Grade II.
12	TQ2390471092	Nos 32, 33, 33a and 34 High Street (LB205066)	Row of houses with ground floor shops of mid to late 18 th century date -Grade II.
13	TQ 2391071132	Nos 1, 3 and 5 High Street (LB205075)	Row of houses of late 18 th century date – Grade II.
14	TQ2399371109	Nos 70, 70a and 70b High Street (LB205076)	Former fire station, now shops. Dated 1890. Grade II
15	TQ2414971009	No 98 High Street (LB205077)	Bank. 1895. Grade II.
16	TQ2398471252	No 27 Lancaster Road (LB205083)	Detached house. 1899. Grade II.
17	TQ2416370981	Drinking Fountain (LB205196)	Drinking fountain at junction with Belvedere Grove. Mid 19 th century date. Grade II.
18	TQ2390171058	Nos 32-33 High Street	Evaluation (2004) uncovered 18 th and 19 th century finds and features.
19	TQ2398571030	No 25A High Street	Evaluation (2001) uncovered a Medieval pit.
20	TQ24417090	No's 96-98 Wimbledon Hill Road	Evaluation (2001) uncovered modern ground levelling and sunken garden.
21	TQ2438571340	No 9 Highbury Road	Evaluation (1997) uncovered 19 th and 20 th century features.
22	TQ238710	No 44 High Street	Evaluation (1992) uncovered finds and features dating from the 10 th century onwards.
23	TQ23807120	Eagle House, Nos 6-10 Marrayat Road, High Street	A watching brief (1991) produced evidence of early medieval activity.
24	TQ23907100	Nos 28 – 31 High Street	Trial excavation (1979) produced finds from 16 th century to modern and only modern features.
25	TQ24477087	Nos 84 86 Wimbledon Hill Road	Evaluation (1992) producing 16 th – 19 th century pottery.

Table 1: Gazetteer of archaeological sites and listed buildings

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** The evaluation followed the principles laid out in the methodology (WSI; ASE 2009), what follows here is a précis of the complete methodology listed within that document and details of any significant variations made.
- 3.2** Two L-shaped trenches measuring c. 30m long (trenches 2 and 3) and c. 10.5m long (trench 1) were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m flat ditching bucket. Trenches 2 and 3 were designed to provide a representative sample within the development area whilst trench 1 was excavated in the south-west corner of the site to investigate whether any remains of the tool house structure as identified on historic mapping (Figure 5) survived.
- 3.3** Trench 1 was originally specified to be 5m long but was extended at right angles after no remains of the tool house were identified. The specified layout of Trenches 2 and 3 was altered to avoid the canopy of a retained tree and to give sufficient stand off to the retained swimming pool pump house.
- 3.4** The trial trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision, using a 8 ton 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned as necessary in order to identify any archaeological deposits or features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. All spoil removed from the trenches was scanned visually and with a metal detector for the presence of unstratified artefacts.
- 3.5** Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine and kept separately. The excavation was taken, in spits of no more than 0.25m for the top and sub soil, down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying 'natural'.
- 3.6** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2009) using pro-forma context record sheets. Sections through archaeological features and deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell colour chart.
- 3.7** A full photographic record of the trenches and associated deposits and features was kept (including monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and forms part of the site archive.
- 3.8** The complete site archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, but will in due course be offered to the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

Number of Contexts	21 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	2 sheets
Photographs	40 photographs

Table 2: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 List of recorded contexts

Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth
1/001	T1	Deposit	Topsoil/garden soil			0.50m
1/002	T1	Deposit	Dump deposit			0.35m
2/002	T2	Deposit	Dump deposit			0.20m
1/003	T1	Deposit	Dump deposit			0.35m
2/003	T2	Deposit	Dump deposit			0.60m
1/004	T1	Fill	Fill of pit [005]	min. 1.60m	min. 0.40m	0.40m
1/005	T1	Cut	Pit	min. 1.60m	min. 0.40m	0.40m
1/006	T1	Fill	Path [007] metalling	min. 5m	min. 1.5m	0.40m
1/007	T1	Cut	Path	min. 5m	min. 1.5m	0.40m
1/008	T1	Fill	Fill of planting bed [009]	3m	2m	0.15m
1/009	T1	Cut	Planting bed	3m	2m	0.15m
1,2,3/010	T1,T2, T3	Deposit	Natural sands and gravels			N/A
3/011	T3	Cut	Strip quarrying?	min. 3.30m	min. 1.30m	0.20m
3/012	T3	Fill	Quarry? [011] backfill	min. 3.30m	min. 1.30m	0.07m
3/013	T3	Cut	Strip quarrying?	min. 3.20m	min. 0.30m	0.10m
3/014	T3	Fill	Quarry? [013] backfill	min. 3.20m	min. 0.30m	
3/015	T3	Fill	Lower fill of [011]		min. 0.95m	0.13m
2/016	T2	Deposit	Made ground	Extensive		0.60m
3/016	T3	Deposit	Made ground	Extensive		0.70m

Table 3: Recorded contexts

4.2 Summary

Trench 1

- 4.2.1 Topsoil [1/001] consisting of very dark blackish brown silt with occasional pebbles overlay a deposit [1/002] consisting of mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles and flints. Deposit [1/002] overlay deposit [1/003] consisting of light greyish brown very sandy silt/silty sand. Deposit [1/003] overlay natural [1/010] consisting of light reddish brown slightly silty sand with up to 10% gravel. Natural [1/010] was seen at the base of a mechanically excavated sondage, at c. 1.4m below ground level, after the trench had been taken to the limit of safe working depth.
- 4.2.2 A sub-circular feature [1/005], measuring at least 1.6m long, 400mm wide and 400mm deep, cut deposit [1/006] of light brownish yellow; the fill of a linear cut [1/007]. Cut [1/007] measured at least 5m long and 1.5m wide, and was 400mm deep. A curving linear feature [1/009], measuring c. 3m by 2m and 150mm deep, contained fill [1/008] a very dark blackish brown silt with occasional pebbles and flints.

Trench 2

- 4.2.3 No topsoil was present. A mixed deposit [2/016] of mid greyish brown sandy silt with many modern bricks, concrete fragments, iron and plastic extended to at least 600mm below ground surface with some areas of disturbance down to 900mm. Deposit [2/016] overlay a c. 500mm thick deposit [2/003] of light greyish brown very sandy silt/silty sand. Deposit [2/003] overlay natural [2/010] consisting of light reddish brown slightly silty sand with up to 10% gravel. No significant archaeological features were identified.

Trench 3

- 4.2.4 No topsoil was present. A mixed deposit [3/016], identical in character to deposit [2/016] recorded in trench 2, extended to c. 700mm below ground surface. Deposit [3/016] overlay a discontinuous deposit [3/002] up to 200mm thick that consisted of mid greyish brown sandy silt. Deposit [3/002] was of very similar character to deposit [1/002] recorded in trench 1. Deposits [3/016] and [3/002] overlay an extensive deposit [3/003] of light greyish brown very sandy silt/silty sand with occasional pebbles and flints that was of very similar character to deposits [1/003] and [2/003] recorded in trenches 1 and 2. Deposit [3/003] overlay natural [3/010] consisting of light reddish brown slightly silty sand with up to 10% gravel.
- 4.2.5 A rectangular cut [3/011], measuring at least 3.3m long, 1.3m wide and 200mm deep, contained a 70mm deep upper fill [3/012] of mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles. Fill [3/012] lay above a 130mm deep lower fill [3/015], consisting of mid yellowish brown silty sand. Fill [3/012] produced a piece of mid 17th-century clay pipe. A second cut [3/013] was at least 3.2m long and 300mm wide. Cut [3/013] contained fill [3/014] that was identical in character to fill [3/015]. Features [3/011] and [3/013] were cut into natural [3/010].

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Excavations produced a small assemblage of finds (Tables 4 and 5).

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Fe/Cu.Al.	Wt (g)	White Metal Alloy	Wt (g)
1/001	8	96	2	84	1	<2	1	4			1	24	1	4	1	14			1	22
1/002	5	64	5	1370	1	22	1	8	2	24			1	6	1	16				
1/003	3	8	3	92	7	60														
1/004	2	324	2	512	2	172							4	12			3	24		
2/003	2	14	1	72	12	36							3	28						
3/012			1	2									1	4						

Table 4: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of pottery from five individually numbered contexts (Table 4). On the whole the material consists of small to medium sized sherds (to 50mm across) which exhibit little signs of extensive abrasion. By far the earliest material from the site consists of two medium sand tempered grey cooking pot body sherds residual in [1/002]. These sherds, of South Hertfordshire greyware type (SHER), are likely to be of 13th- to mid 14th- century date and exhibit low to moderate abrasion.
- 5.2.2 A small assemblage of early post-medieval pottery is present. Context [1/003] produced a body sherd of post-medieval redware (PMR) and two small sherds from a tin-glazed earthenware (TGW) dish with blue painted decoration. All could be placed in the 17th century. Context [2/003] also produced a sherd of post-medieval redware and a sherd from a tin-glazed earthenware plate with blue-tinged glaze and blue decoration. Together the sherds suggest a likely deposition date between the mid 17th and mid 18th centuries.
- 5.2.3 The remainder of the pottery from the site is of the late post-medieval period. The earliest pieces of this period consist of a small rim fragment from a later 18th- century creamware (CREA) dinner plate in context [1/001] and part of the base of a Chinese porcelain (CHPO) tea bowl of 18th- to early 19th- century date from context [1/002]. There is a scatter of pearlware sherds, both plain (PEAR) and with blue transfer-printed decoration (PEAR TR), in contexts [1/001] and [1/002]. The same deposits also yielded sherds of late post-medieval redware jars and unglazed flower pots. Context [1/004], as well as producing a sherd of buff non-London redware, contained a large sherd from a Sunderland-type (SUND) slipware divided baking dish.
- 5.2.4 The assemblage demonstrates activity over a notable period of time but does not warrant any further work though it should be retained for long-term curation.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 Twelve fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from five contexts.
- 5.3.2 The earliest was recovered from context [1/002] which contained four fragments of brick in Museum of London (MoL) fabric 3033, the bricks are of 33mm thickness and 108mm breadth. The bricks are of probable 15th to 17th century in date though the heavily abraded upper surface of one brick suggests possible re-use as flooring.
- 5.3.3 Also recovered from context [1/002] was a single fragment of roofing tile, possibly pantile, in provisional fabric type T1: a fine orange fabric with sparse mica speckles, white feldspar and coarse pale orange silt inclusions. Pantile came into use in London following the 1666 fire and used through to modern times. Pantile fragments were recovered from two other contexts. Context [1/004] contained two conjoining fragments of pantile with concave corner cut away in provisional fabric T2: a very fine orange fabric with sparse mica speckles. A third pantile fragment was recovered from context [2/003] in fabric T1.
- 5.3.4 Context [1/001] contained a single fragment of peg tile of 17th to 19th century date in fabric T1. Context [1/003] contained two abraded fragments of brick in fabric MoL3032 of mid 17th to 19th century date and a single peg tile fragment of 17th to 19th century in provisional fabric T1.

5.4 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Only two glass fragments were recorded. A green glass wine bottle body sherd of 19th-century date was recovered from [1/001]. Context [1/002] contained a clear glass wine or liquor glass base fragment dating to the 19th to early 20th century.

5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A total of 13 clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered from five individually numbered contexts. Of these, eight consist of plain stem fragments. A further five pieces consist of bowl fragments, three of which exhibit maker's marks or decoration and have therefore been assigned unique registered finds numbers (Table 5).
- 5.5.2 The earliest stem fragment dates to the mid 17th century and was located in [3/012]. Other pieces are of late 17th- to early 18th- century date (i.e. [1/001], [2/003]. Context [2/003] contained a piece dating to the first half of the 18th century. Four stem fragments of mid 18th- to 19th-century date were recovered from [1/004].
- 5.5.3 Both bowl types AO20 and AO21, dating to c1680-1710, are represented ([1/002] and [2/003]). One of the type AO21 bowls exhibits abraded and illegible maker's marks on the oval heel (RF <4>). Context [1/002] contained a type AO27 dating to c1780-1920 (RF <2>). The piece exhibits the maker's initials "BP", of which there is no known maker in the area. In addition, RF <1> consists of a decorated bowl fragment with leaf decoration on the seams and sides of bowl. The piece is of 19th-century date.

5.6 The Metalwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 The archaeological work produced four pieces of metalwork. Included are pieces of copper alloy wire corroded onto iron tin fragments (i.e. food, paint) from [1/004]. A white metal alloy cast label was recovered from topsoil [1/001] and dates to the late 19th to early 20th century. The piece shows the letters “WYKEN PIPPIN. LAXTON BROTHERS. BEDFORD”, which refers to an apple species. The back of the label contains the words “ACME CAST LABEL”.
- 5.6.2 In addition, an amorphous lump of iron was recovered from post-medieval context [1/003]. The piece is unidentifiable at this stage, although a possible protruding tang may indicate a tool fragment (RF <3>; Table 5).

CONTEXT	RF No	OBJECT	MATERIAL	WT (g)	DATE	PERIOD
1/004	1	PIPE	CERA	<2	C19th	PMED
1/002	2	PIPE	CERA	4	c1780-1820	PMED
1/003	3	TOOL	IRON	86		PMED
2/003	4	PIPE	CERA	6	c1680-1710	PMED

Table 5: Summary of Registered Finds

5.7 The Stone by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 A single piece of slate was recovered during the excavations. The piece is of Welsh origin and was located in topsoil [1/001].

5.8 The Animal Bone by Gemma Driver

- 5.8.1 The assemblage contains 23 fragments of animal bone from 5 contexts. Context [1/001] contains an unfused, neo-natal pig radius. Context [2/003] contains the distal end of a sheep radius. The remaining assemblage is made up of cattle-sized fragments including vertebrae, pelvis, rib and long bone. Evidence of knife marks on the rib and chop marks on the vertebra and ilium fragments suggests that this assemblage represents primary butchery waste. There is no evidence of gnawing, weathering or pathology on the bone.
- 5.8.2 The assemblage is too small to carry out any statistical analysis and no further work is required.

5.9 The Shell by Elke Raemen

- 5.9.1 Two immature upper valves from oyster shells were recovered. Valves are from both topsoil [1/001] and subsoil [1/002].

5.9 Finds Potential

- 5.10.1 The finds assemblage as it stands is too small to hold any potential for further analysis. However, if any future stages of work take place, the current assemblage should be studied in conjunction with any further finds. In the latter case, it is recommended to X-radiograph unidentified object RF <3>. Currently, no further work is required.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.1 The depth and organic character of topsoil [1/001] was consistent with the mature and improved garden soil expected at this location. Deposit [1/002] was a dump deposit that produced pottery dating to 1780-1820; this deposit was probably associated with the landscaping of the area, perhaps prior to the establishment of the formal gardens shown on the 1793 Belvedere Estate Map (Figure 5). Deposit [1/003] was also a dump deposit that produced 17th-century pottery and 17th- to 19th-century CBM; this deposit also probably related to landscaping but may have originally derived from 17th- to early 18th-century quarrying. This proposition is discussed more fully below in 6.2.
- 6.1.2 Deposit [1/003] was very similar in character to deposits [2/003] and [3/003] recorded in trenches 2 and 3, and it is very likely that the entire site had been covered by a single dump deposit that had probably been created by the same processes. Evidence from trench 3 suggests that the primary process was the strip quarrying of the underlying natural sands and gravels.
- 6.1.3 Cut [1/005] was a small pit, the fill [1/004] of which produced 19th-century pottery and clay pipe, together with pantile. Feature [1/005] probably related to the 19th-century use of the site as gardens.
- 6.1.4 Cut [1/007] was probably a road or path box containing paving gravel [1/006]. The suggested path was likely to have been a garden feature; the relatively brightly coloured yellow gravel would have been ornamental as well as functional. Excavations at East Court, Cobham Hall, Kent identified layers of light yellow sand and gravel that had been successively renewed when the 17th-century courtyard surface became darkened by soot and grime (Priestley-Bell, 2006).
- 6.1.5 The position of the suggested path broadly corresponds with the eastern edge of a bell-mouth hard standing shown on the 1793 Belvedere Estate Map that apparently served the 'Tool House'. Path material [1/006] was almost certainly redeposited natural sands and gravels of a very similar type as seen underlying the site [1,2,3/010]. The 1793 map shows a considerable number of driveways, yards and paths and it seems likely that for aesthetic reasons all these areas would have been surfaced with a similar material. If this were the case, the probable quarrying identified on the site may have produced some or all of the very large quantity of surfacing material required.
- 6.1.6 Cut [1/009] probably contained a planting/flower bed [1/008]. The position of the suggested planting bed broadly corresponds with a roughly triangular 'island' of cultivated ground shown adjacent to the southern end of the tool house shown on the 1793 map.
- 6.1.7 No trace of the tool house shown on the 1793 map was found. The eastern garden wall into which the tool house structure might have been keyed was examined but no clear indication of this was found.

6.2 Trenches 2 & 3

- 6.2.1 The extensive mixed deposit [2/016]/[3/016] was associated with the recently demolished modern building. Deposit [3/002] was very similar in character to deposit [1/002] recorded in trench T1 and was probably related to landscaping associated with the use of the area as gardens. Deposits [2/003] and [3/003] were the same, and very similar to [1/003] in trench 1. This extensive deposit was dated by ceramics to mid 17th - mid 18th century and probably represents mixed overburden and rejects produced by the quarrying of sands and gravels on the site. This material may have been required for nearby building projects or may have been specifically required for paving the drives, paths and yards of the Belvedere Estate.
- 6.2.2 Direct evidence for strip quarrying was found at the southern end of trench 3. Cuts [3/011] and [3/013] defined the bases of two discrete extraction pits divided by a narrow baulk of natural. This method of extraction involves the disposal of unwanted material into the immediately adjacent worked out, open extraction pit. A narrow baulk is left between the previous excavation and the current one, ensuring that the overburden and rejects can be effectively kept apart from the desired clean material. Evidence for 18th-century strip quarrying has been at found at Deal, Kent where brickearth was dug from rectangular pits measuring at least 2m long and at least 1m wide, separated by c. 300mm wide baulks of natural (Bashford, 1997).

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Modern disturbance down to depths between 600mm-900mm within the footprint of the recently demolished building has removed all trace of features relating to the Belvedere Estate in that area. However some of these features do survive on the eastern side of the site: a well-preserved probable path and planting bed were identified with reasonable confidence, and it is likely that further features relating to the Belvedere Estate survive in that area, perhaps in a similarly good state of preservation. No trace of the 'Tool House' was found however.
- 7.2 Suggested post-medieval (perhaps mid 17th – mid 18th century) quarrying for sands and gravels to depths between 1m-1.2m below the existing ground surface was identified in trench 2. Similar levels of truncation were identified in trenches 1 and 3 and it is possible that quarrying extended across the entire area of the site. If this were the case, the site has suffered significant truncation which would almost certainly have removed any earlier remains. However, had there been a high level of activity on the site in the prehistoric or early historic periods a much higher incidence of residual material might have been expected: the only finds dating to before the post-medieval period were two sherds of 13th- to 14th-century pottery and two fragments of perhaps prehistoric fire-cracked flint. Given the paucity of residual material therefore, it is likely that there was only a low level of activity on the site during the prehistoric or early historic periods.
- 7.3 In view of the significant truncation of the proposed footprint of the new build, firstly by the suggested post-medieval quarrying and subsequently by disturbance relating to the recently demolished building, the construction of the new house itself is likely to have a minimal detrimental effect on the archaeological record. However, associated landscaping on the eastern side of the site to depths in excess of 400mm below the existing ground level would be likely to encounter buried post-medieval features probably relating to the Belvedere Estate.

Bibliography

Archaeology South-East, 2009, *Written Scheme of Investigation for and Archaeological Evaluation at 28 Church Road, Wimbledon, London SW19*. Unpub. ASE report

Atkinson, D, and Oswald, A, 1969 London Clay Tobacco Pipes in: *The Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **32**, 171-227.

Bashford, L, 1997 *Archaeological investigations at the proposed Sainsburys site, West Stgreet, Deal, Kent*. Unpub. ASE rep. no. 740.

Malden, H.E. (ed.), 1912. A History of the County of Surrey vol. 4 (Victoria County History).

MOLAS 2000. *The archaeology of Greater London*. Museum of London Archaeology Service/English Heritage.

Priestley-Bell, G, 2006 *Archaeological investigations at East Court, Cobham Hall, Kent: Post-excavation assessment and project design for publication*. Unpub. ASE rep. no. 2451.

Rackham, J. and Sidell, J. London's Landscapes: The changing environment, in MOLAS 2000.

Internet Resources

http://www.merton.gov.uk/living/designandconservation/conservation_areas/conservation_areas_listed_from_wi-z/wn_ca_sub_area_4_final_draft_may_07-2.pdf

http://www.merton.gov.uk/living/designandconservation/conservation_areas/conservation_areas_listed_from_wi-z/wn_ca_intro_part_1_revised_draft_may_07-3.pdf

www.museumoflondon.org.uk/larc/catalogue/siteinfo

www.magic.gov.uk

Cartographic Sources

The Geological Survey of England and Wales (sheet 269: Windsor 1:50000 ed.)

Belvedere Estate Map 1793 (C T Cracklow)

Parish Plan 1838 (John Pickering)

Tithe Map 1851 (J. Pickering and C. Lee)

Belvedere Estate Plan 1873 (Unknown surveyor)

OS Map Surrey Sheet VI: 10/11 1869/79

OS Map Surrey Sheet VI: 10/11 1913

OS Map Surrey Sheet VI: 10/11 1933

SMR Summary Form

Site Name: 28 Church Road, Wimbledon, SW19 5DH	
Site Address: 28 Church Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 5DH	
Summary: Archaeology South-East undertook an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed residential development at 28 Church Road, Wimbledon, SW19 5DH. Three test trenches were mechanically excavated and recorded over two days on 30 th April and 1 st May 2009. The work identified remains from the post-medieval period, together with a very small quantity of residual medieval and perhaps prehistoric material. The post-medieval remains comprised a gravel pathway and planting bed probably related to the 18 th -century Belvedere Estate. There was also evidence that the site had been significantly truncated by quarrying for sands and gravels, probably between mid 17 th and mid 18 th century.	
District/Unitary: London Borough of Merton	Parish: Merton and Wimbledon
Nature of Development: Construction of two storey dwelling with accommodation at basement level	
Period(s): Post-Medieval	
NGR (centre of site : 8 Figures): NGR 524149, 171205	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Evaluation	
Date of Recording: 30 th April and 1 st May 2009	
Unit undertaking recording: Archaeology South-East	
Geology: Black Park Gravels	
Title and author of accompanying report: An Archaeological evaluation at at 28 Church Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 5DH, by Greg Priestley-Bell	
Summary of fieldwork results Post-Medieval: a gravel pathway and planting bed probably related to the 18 th -century Belvedere Estate. There was evidence that the site had been significantly truncated by quarrying for sands and gravels, probably between mid 17 th and mid 18 th century.	
Likelihood of surviving archaeological remains on-site: Low: in the footprint of the proposed building High: in the area between the footprint and the garden wall	
Location of archive/finds: Currently held at the offices of ASE	
Contact at Unit: Neil Griffin	Date: May 2009

OASIS ID: archaeol6-59433

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation at 28 Church Road Wimbledon

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East undertook an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed residential development at 28 Church Road, Wimbledon, SW19 5DH. Three test trenches were mechanically excavated and recorded over two days on 30th April and 1st May 2009. The work identified remains from the post-medieval period, together with a very small quantity of residual medieval and perhaps prehistoric material. The post-medieval remains comprised a gravel pathway and planting bed probably related to the 18th-century Belvedere Estate. There was also evidence that the site had been significantly truncated by quarrying for sands and gravels, probably between mid 17th and mid 18th century.

Project dates Start: 30-04-2009 End: 01-05-2009

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CUJ 09 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

Monument type GARDEN Post Medieval

Monument type QUARRY Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY PIPE Post Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Methods & techniques 'Targeted Trenches'

Development type Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON 28 Church Road Wimbledon

Postcode SW19 5DH

Study area 1140.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 24149 71205 51.4257327112 -0.214102196124 51 25 32 N 000 12 50 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 53.47m Max: 54.99m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator EH GLAAS

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Greg Priestley-Bell

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report'

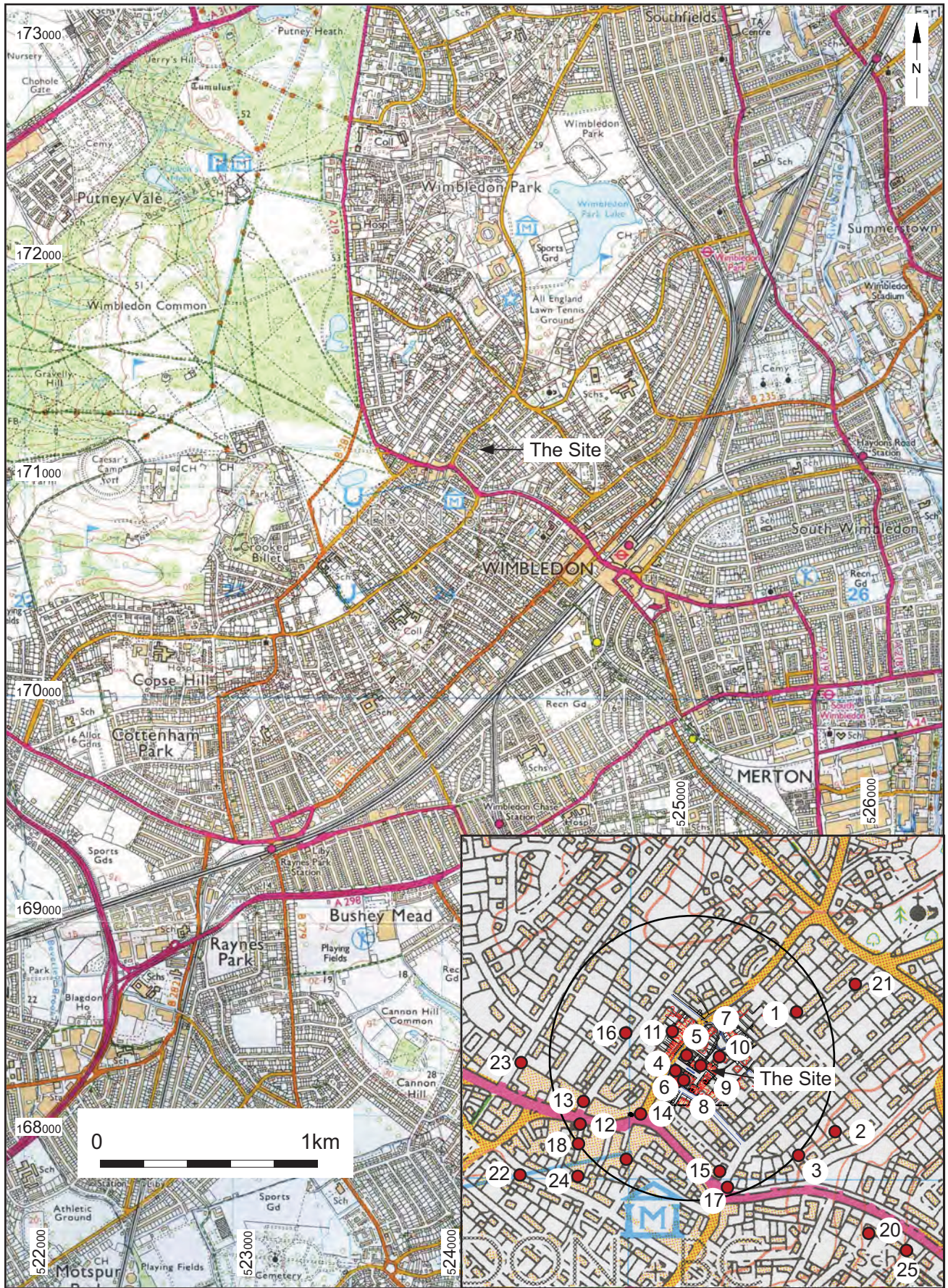
Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at 28 Church Road

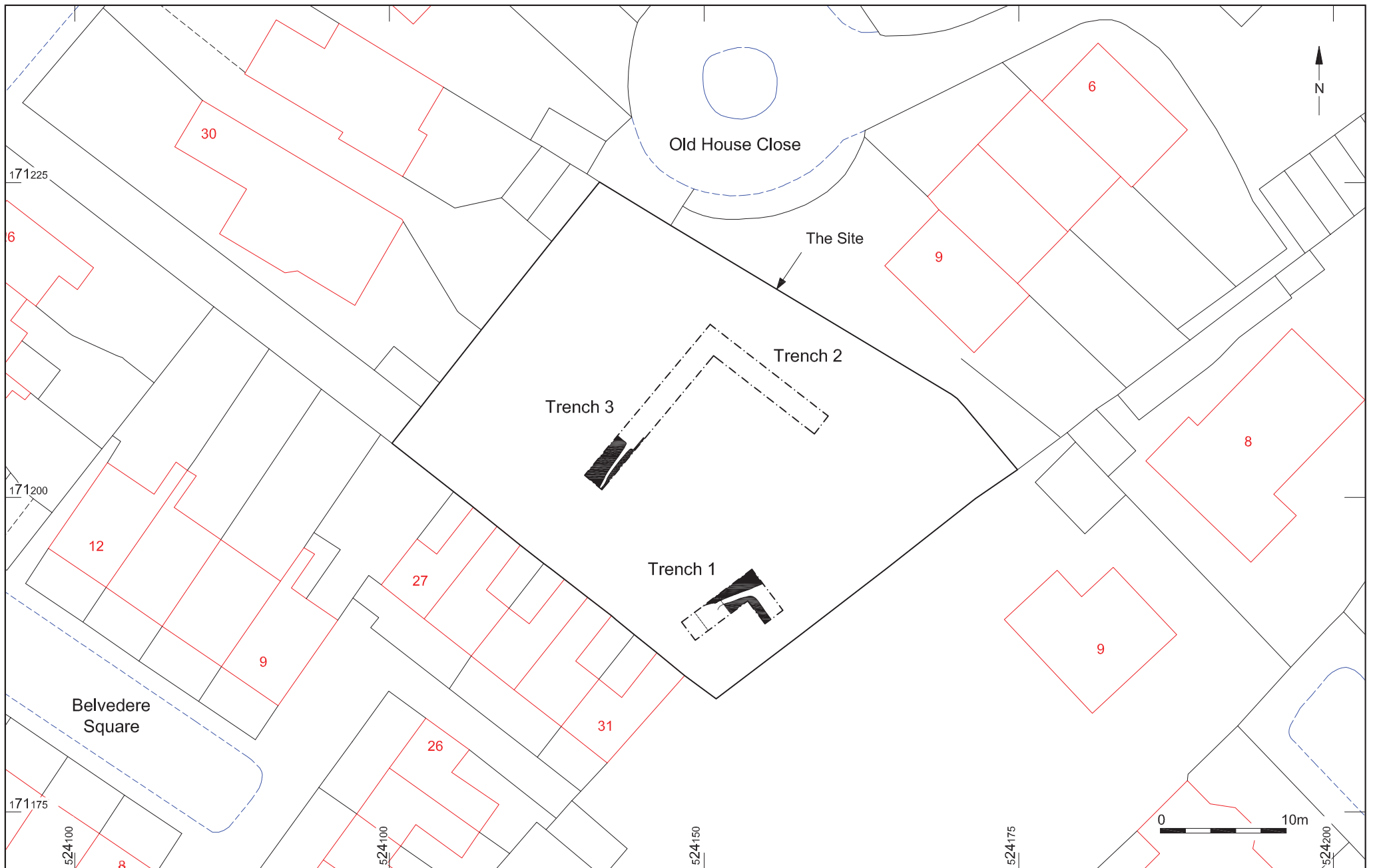
Author(s)/Editor(s) Priestley-Bell, G

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Statton, M
Other bibliographic details	2009078
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Booklet
Entered by	Greg Priestley-Bell (gregpbell@btinternet.com)
Entered on	13 May 2009

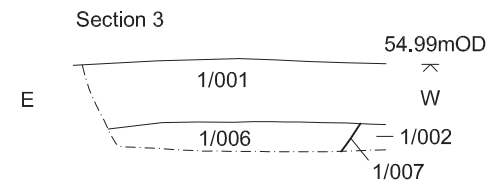
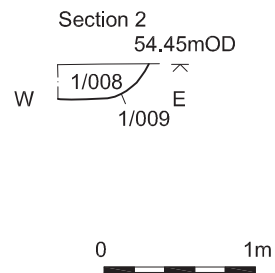
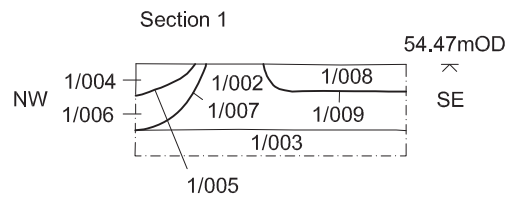
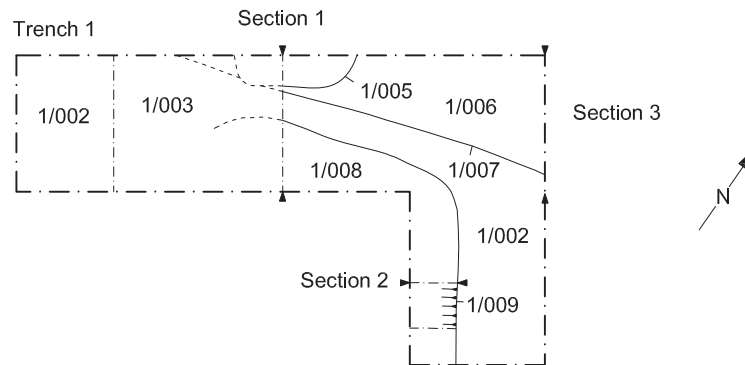


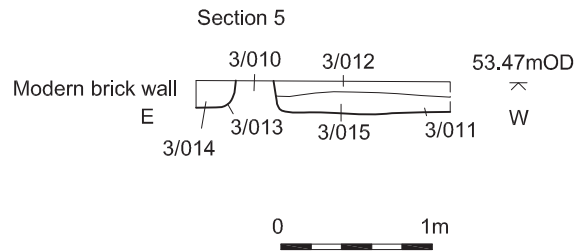
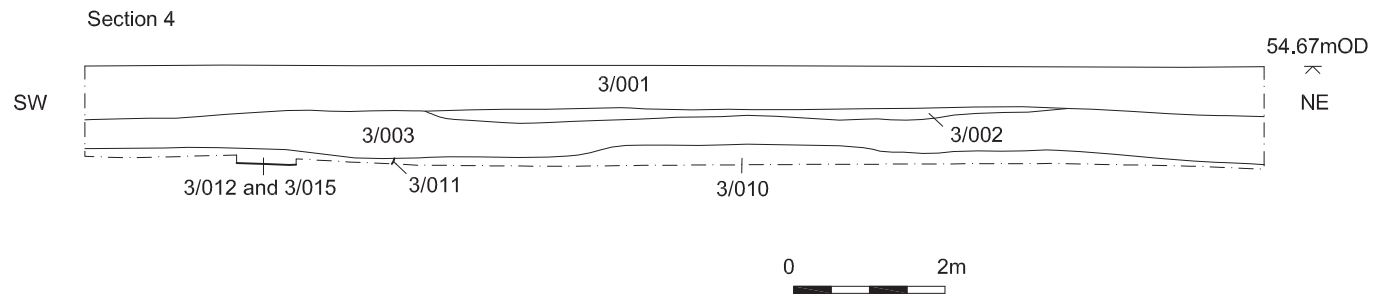
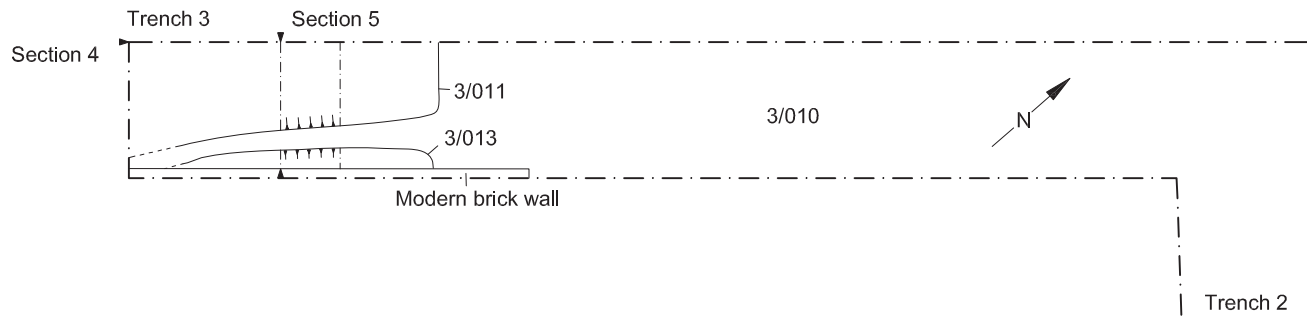
© Archaeology South-East		28 Church Road, Wimbledon	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3798	May 2009	Site location plan and GLSMR data	
Report Ref: 2009078	Drawn by: HLF		

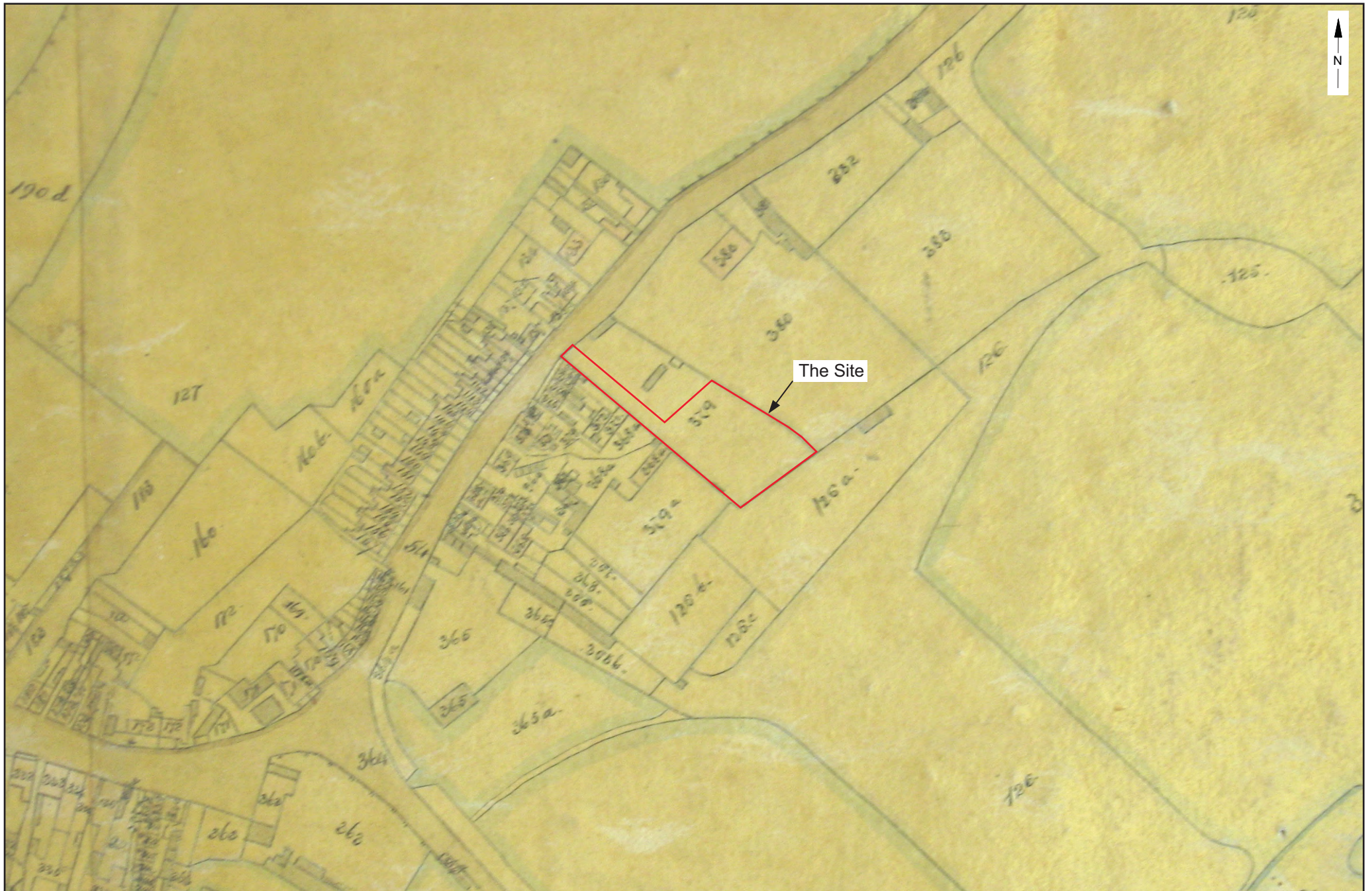
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A



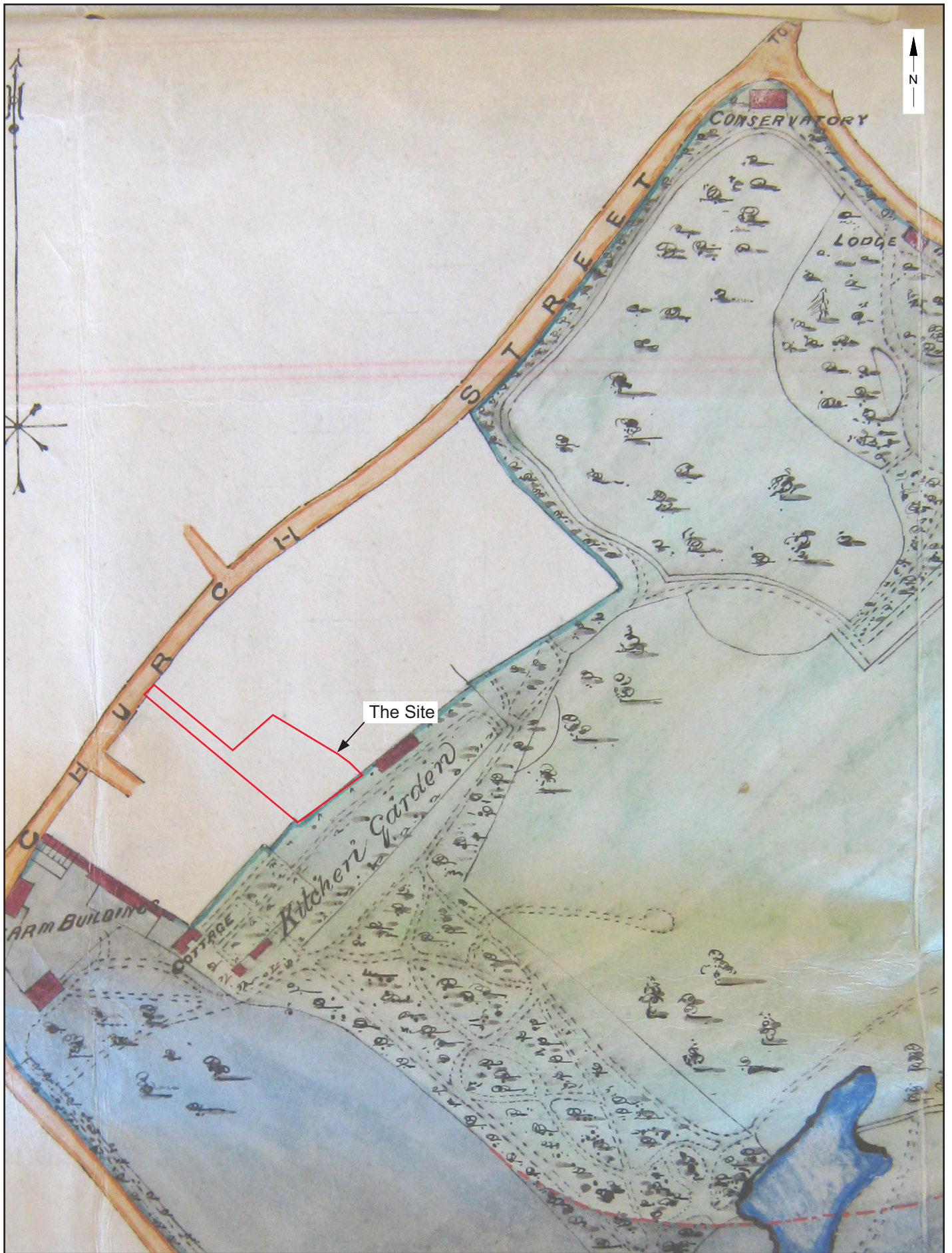
© Archaeology South-East		28 Church Road, Wimbledon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3798	May 2009	Trench location plan	
Report Ref: 2009078	Drawn by: JLR		







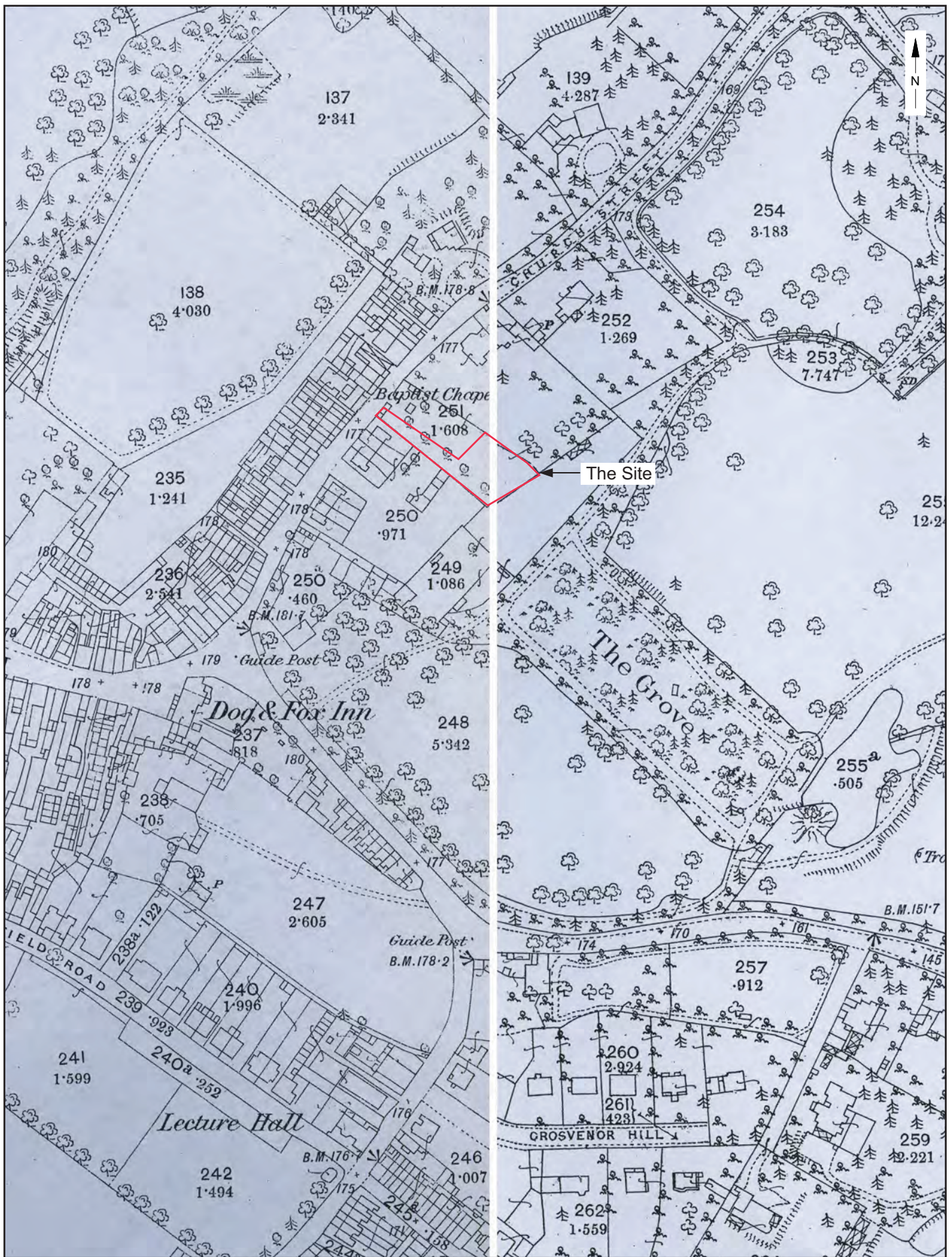
© Archaeology South-East		28 Church Road, Wimbledon	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 3798	May 2009	Parish plan 1838 (SHC accession No.3112/1)	
Report Ref: 2009078	Drawn by: HLF		



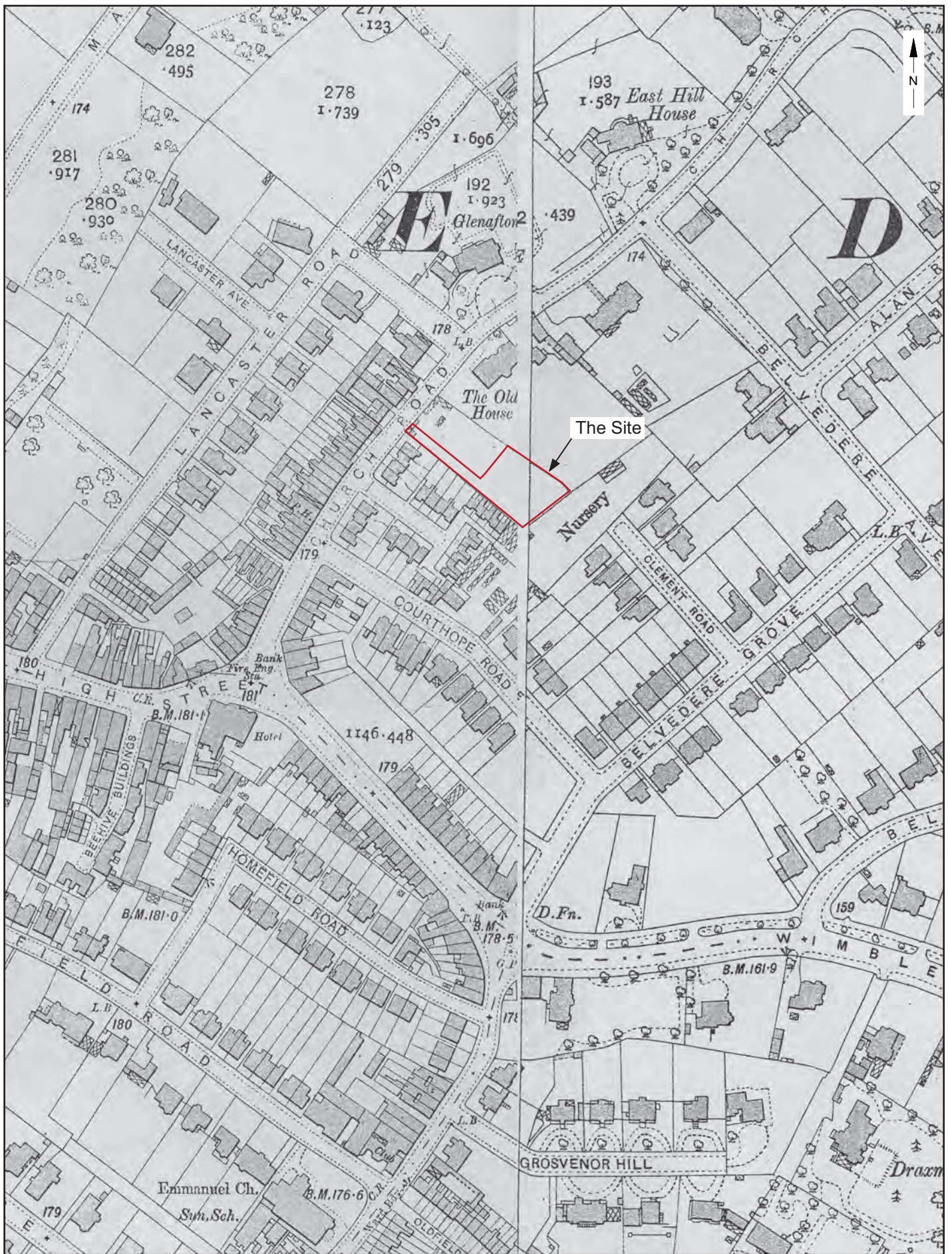
© Archaeology South-East		28 Church Road, Wimbledon	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 3798	May 2009	Tithe map 1851	
Report Ref: 2009078	Drawn by: HLF		



© Archaeology South-East		28 Church Road, Wimbledon	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 3798	May 2009	Belvedere Estate plan 1873 (SHC accession No.2354/51/17/84)	
Report Ref: 2009078	Drawn by: HLF		



© Archaeology South-East		28 Church Road, Wimbledon	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 3798	May 2009	OS map Surrey sheet VI: 10/11 1869/79	
Report Ref: 2009078	Drawn by: HLF		



© Archaeology South-East		28 Church Road, Wimbledon	Fig. 10
Project Ref: 3798	May 2009	OS map Surrey sheet VI: 10/11 1913	
Report Ref: 2009078	Drawn by: HLF		



© Archaeology South-East		28 Church Road, Wimbledon	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 3798	May 2009	OS map Surrey sheet VI: 10/11 1933	
Report Ref: 2009078	Drawn by: HLF		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East