border archaeology

Archaeological Field Evaluation

181 Talgarth Road
Hammersmith
London
W6 8DN

On behalf of

HG Construction

February 2022

border archaeology

archaeology & built heritage
working throughout the UK

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

e: info@borderarchaeology.com t: 01568 610101 w: borderarchaeology.com

Administration

The Plaza, Owen Way, Leominster Enterprise Park, Leominster, HR6 0LA

Post-Ex Facility – Leominster

t: 01568 610101
e: postex@borderarchaeology.com

Post-Ex Facility – Milton Keynes

t: 01908 533233
e postexmk@borderarchaeology.com

REGIONAL OFFICES

Milton Keynes

Common Farm
Calverton Lane
Milton Keynes
MK19 6EU
t: 01908 533233

Leeds

No 1 Leeds
26 Whitehall Road
Leeds
LS12 1BE
t: 0113 8187959

London

4-4a Bloomsbury Square
London
WC1A 2RP
t: 02033 015670

Newport

Merlin House
No1 Langstone Business Park
Newport
NP18 2HJ
t: 01633 415339

Bristol

First Floor,
Citibase Bristol Aztec West
Aztec Centre, Aztec West
Almondsbury
Bristol
BS32 4TD
t: 0117 9110767

Winchester

Basepoint Business Centre
Winnall Valley Road
Winchester
SO23 0LD
t: 01962 832777

COMPILATION
Ross Shurety MA (Cantab.)

ARTWORK
Holly Litherland BA (Hons.)

EDITING
Amy Bunce BSc MA MCI*f*A

FINAL EDIT & APPROVAL
Lyndsey Clark BSc (Hons.) ACI*f*A

REPORT REFERENCE
BA21106TAL/REPORT

LONDON SITE CODE
TGT21

GRID REFERENCE
NGR: TQ 23715 78365

OS LICENCE NUMBER
100055758

DATE
February 2022

Cover: General pre-excavation view of Site, looking SSE

ISO 9001 | ISO 14001 | OHSAS 18001

Contents:

1 Non-Technical Summary

Border Archaeology undertook a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) between 30th November and 2nd December 2021 on behalf of HG Construction in connection with the redevelopment of the former Hammersmith Magistrates' Court and its replacement by two buildings to comprise a hotel and associated landscaping at 181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8DN.

A former boundary ditch was found within two of the Evaluation trenches, extending NE-SW across the Site and broadly aligning with that suggested by historic mapping. No other features were revealed and the AFE demonstrated that the parts of the Site previously occupied by the Magistrates' Court had been truncated to significant depths.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by HG Construction to undertake a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) at 181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8DN (NGR: TQ 23715 78365). The Site was formerly occupied by Hammersmith Magistrates' Court, with the works carried out as part of the comprehensive redevelopment of the Site, including the construction of two buildings to comprise hotel use (Use Class C1) with ancillary facilities and associated landscaping (Planning Ref. 2020/00915/FUL; *fig. 1*).

The work was carried out between 30th November and 2nd December 2021.

Six trenches of 30m length and 1.8m width (*fig. 2*) were located to evaluate the Site by means of 5% investigation, as detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI; BA 2021a). However, following discovery that the parts of Site occupied by the former Magistrates' Court were severely truncated – in addition to the successful location of the former boundary ditch within Trenches 005 and 006 and as a result of construction/demolition material stockpiling on Site – it was agreed with Louise Davies MCI*f*A Archaeological Advisor, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) that Trench 004 would not be excavated.

3 Site Description

The Site comprised an irregular, rectangular area of approx. 6783m^2 at a height of between 3.8m and 4.9m AOD. The N boundary fronted on to Talgarth Road and the S was bounded by railway tracks; the W of the Site was occupied by The Ark and the E by a BP service station.

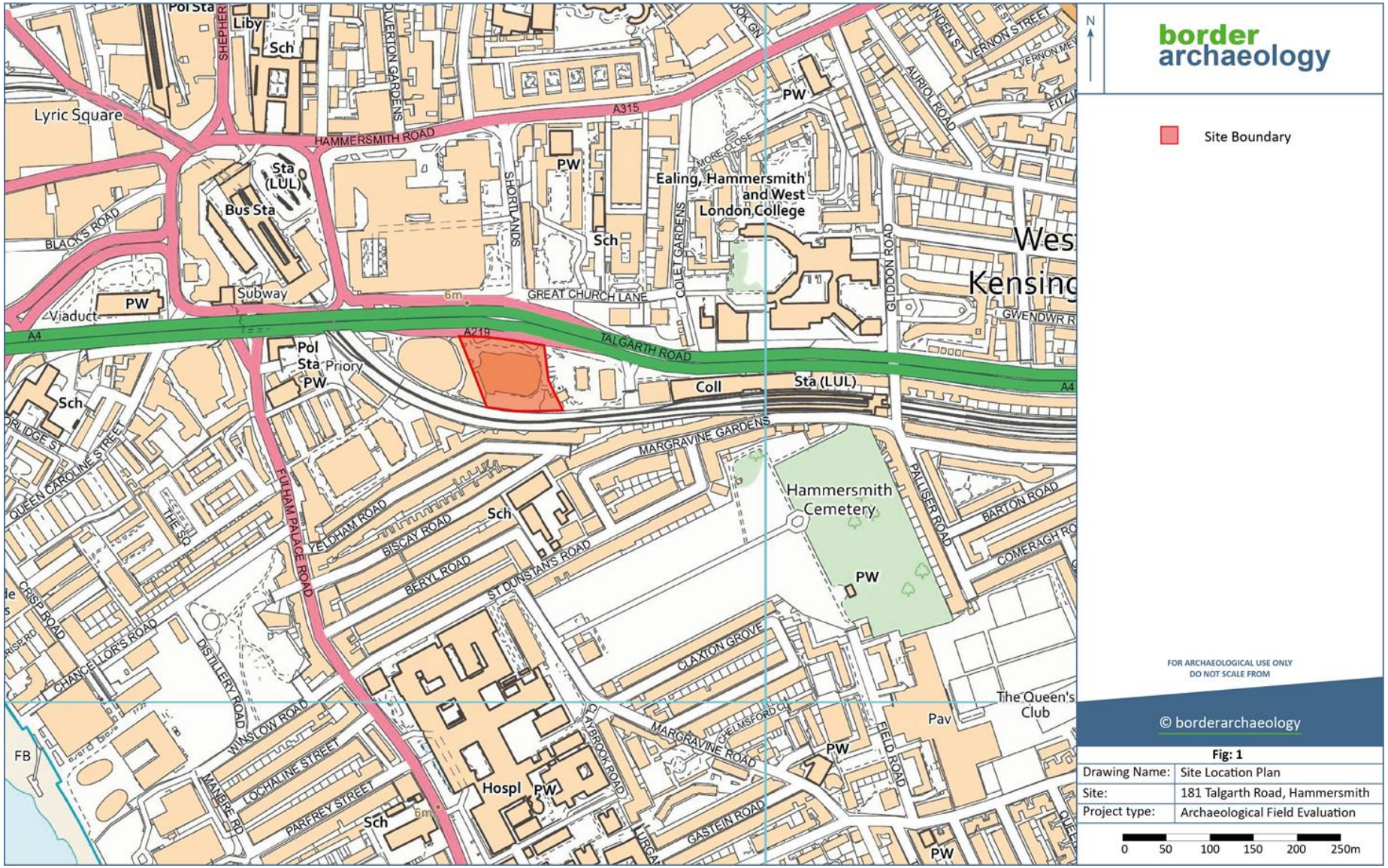
Up until the construction of the Hammersmith Magistrates' Court in the 1980s the Site had been largely open ground or recreational land, with Historic mapping and aerial photographs showing the former boundary ditch, as well as tanks and marks that may have related to flood controls, within the Site.

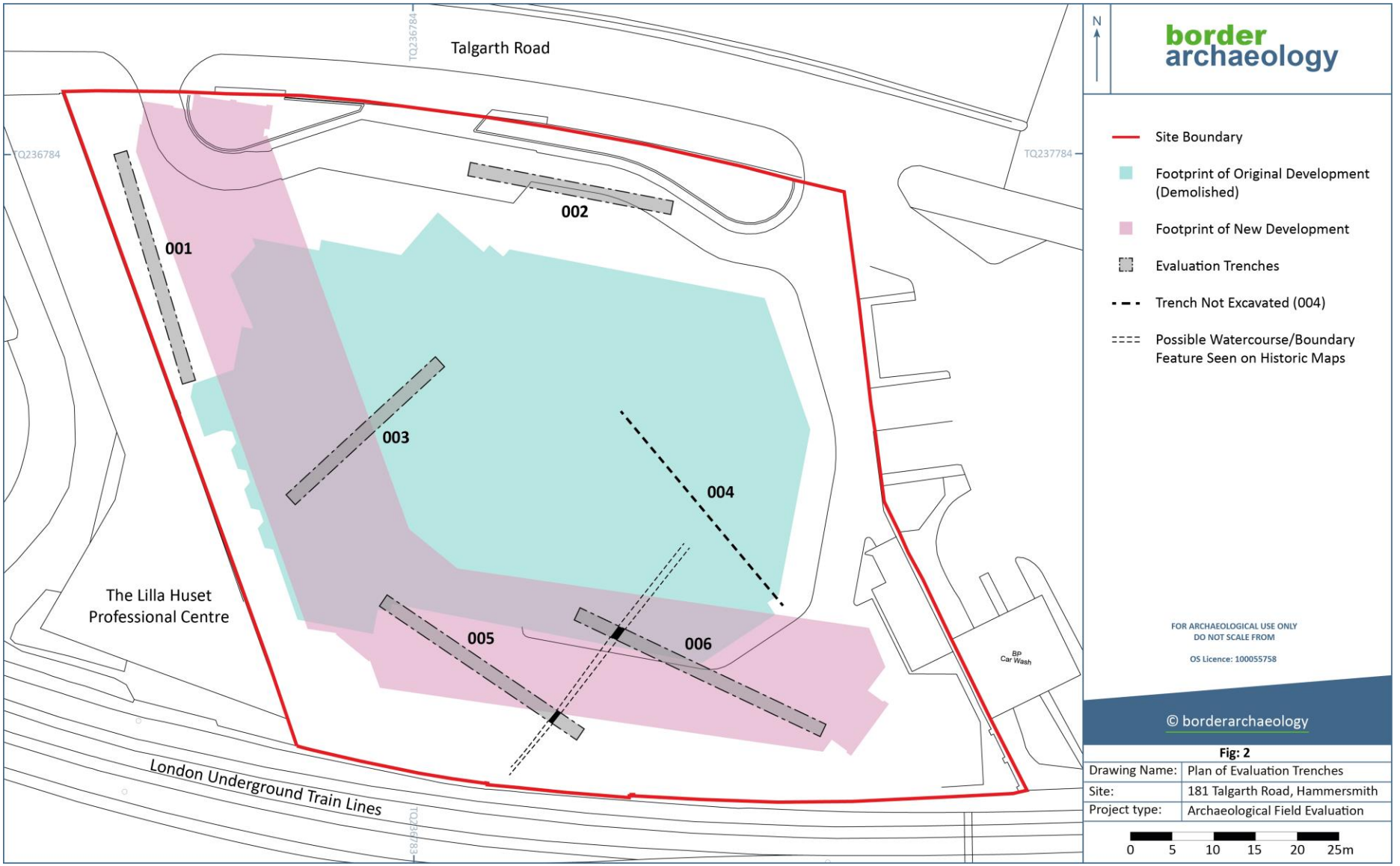
3.1 Soils & Geology

The British Geological Survey (BGS) records the local geology as sedimentary bedrock of the London Clay Formation with clay and silt, which formed *c.* 48-56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period in a local environment previously dominated by deep seas. The overlying superficial deposit comprises the Kempton Park Gravel Member, a sand and gravel deposit formed by the Thames up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2021).

Borehole data taken in 2016 at the Site indicated the presence of made ground, with a thickness of between 1.5m and 2.4m, overlying the natural geology (BGS 2021).

Orange gravelly sands were observed as natural during the AFE and these are likely to be part of the Kempton Park Gravel Member.


Lyric Square
HAMMERSMITH ROAD
A315
Sta (LUL)
Bus Sta
BLACK'S ROAD
Subway
Viaduct
PW
A4
A219
TALGARTH ROAD
Pol Sta
Priory
Sch
Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College
GREAT CHURCH LANE
COLET GARDENS
GLIDDON ROAD
SHORTLANDS
Coll
Sta (LUL)
MARGRAVINE GARDENS
Hammersmith Cemetery
PALLISER ROAD
BARTON ROAD
FULHAM PALACE ROAD
YELDHAM ROAD
BISCAY ROAD
BERYL ROAD
ST DUNSTANS ROAD
CLAXTON GROVE
MARGRAVINE ROAD
FIELD ROAD
The Queen's Club
Pav
Hospl
GASTEIN ROAD
PARFREY STREET
LOCHALINE STREET
WINSLOW ROAD
DISTILLERY ROAD
CHANCELLOR'S ROAD
CRISP ROAD
QUEEN CAROLINE STREET
FB
Site Boundary
FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL USE ONLY
DO NOT SCALE FROM
© borderarchaeology
Fig: 1
Drawing Name: Site Location Plan
Site: 181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith
Project type: Archaeological Field Evaluation
0 50 100 150 200 250m


Talgarth Road
TQ236784
TQ237784
001
002
003
004
005
006
The Lilla Huset
Professional Centre
BP
Car Wash
London Underground Train Lines
N
border archaeology
Site Boundary
Footprint of Original Development (Demolished)
Footprint of New Development
Evaluation Trenches
Trench Not Excavated (004)
Possible Watercourse/Boundary Feature Seen on Historic Maps
FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL USE ONLY
DO NOT SCALE FROM
OS Licence: 100055758
© borderarchaeology
Fig: 2
Drawing Name: Plan of Evaluation Trenches
Site: 181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith
Project type: Archaeological Field Evaluation
0 5 10 15 20 25m

4 Archaeological Background

The previously submitted Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2020) and WSI (BA 2021a) outlined the historical and archaeological background within 250m of the Site and the following summarises the information contained therein.

4.1 Prehistoric & Romano-British

No evidence of Prehistoric or Romano-British activity was recorded within the study area, although settlement evidence and artefacts have been found in the wider vicinity.

4.2 Anglo-Saxon

While no Anglo-Saxon evidence is recorded within the study area it has been suggested that the name 'Hammersmith' originates from the Saxon words 'Ham', meaning town or dwelling, and 'Hyde' or hythe, meaning a haven or harbour (Faulkner 1839, p. 8); although, according to Mills (Mills 1998, p. 162) the name derives from the Old English 'hamor' and 'smiththe', meaning a place with a hammer smithy or forge.

4.3 Medieval

References are made to the settlement of 'Hamersmyth' in 1294 and 'Hameresmithe' in 1312 (Mills 2010, p. 111), so it can reasonably be assumed that the settlement existed by this time. It was part of the Bishop of London's manor of Fulham, situated *c.* 2.25km to the SE, up until 1834 (Mills 2010) and the location of the Site may have been within the ploughlands assigned to Fulham at this time.

Archaeological and historical evidence relating to the Site and surrounding area indicates that during this period it was most likely agricultural land beyond the limits of the main settlement of Hammersmith.

4.4 Post-Medieval & Modern

'Hammersmith' is clearly depicted on Saxton's map of 1583, suggesting that it was a noteworthy settlement at this time, with Blaeu's 1646 map depicting 'Hamersmith' to the immediate N of the Site. Rocque's map from 1746 depicts the development area as crossing over three narrow ploughfields, aligned N-S, to the S of the main road leading E from the centre of 'Hamersmith'; an E-W aligned subsidiary road bounds the Site to the S, while several small buildings are depicted within the surrounding fields. The Hammersmith tithe map of 1845 shows the development area on the edge of the parish boundary, with a road to the N of the Site annotated as Church Lane (later replaced by Hammersmith Flyover).

The Ordnance Survey (OS) map surveyed from 1865 to 1866 shows the Site as several agricultural fields to the S of the retitled Great Church Lane. A more substantial field boundary is shown aligned NE-SW in the southern portion of the Site, while a circular tank is depicted in the SW corner of the eastern field. No changes are depicted on the 1873 OS map; however, the 1896 map shows that the tank has been removed and the Site is now within an area of Recreation Ground surrounded by extensive residential development, particularly to the S.

The OS map of 1920 again shows minimal changes to the Site, with the Recreation Ground surrounded by residential development, some of which is depicted in the E and SE portions of the development area. Historic imagery from 1947 also shows a series of rectilinear marks across the Site; these possibly relate to flood alleviation in the area and may have impacted any sub-surface archaeology present.

By 1962 the Site and immediate surroundings have undergone several changes, with the Hammersmith Flyover (A4) now depicted to the immediate N and Talgarth Road recorded as an extension of the flyover to the E; the Site continues to be shown within the Recreation Ground, with some buildings still remaining to the E, S and W. By 1967 all of the buildings situated between Hammersmith Flyover and the train tracks had been demolished and the entire area is depicted as parkland with some trees. This was redeveloped during the 1980s when Hammersmith Magistrates' Court was constructed.

5 Aims & Objectives

The evaluation sought to:

- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site;
- establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site;
- establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development; and
- inform a further programme of mitigation, should such be required.

Additionally, the work aimed to address specific areas of interest as set out in *The archaeology of Greater London* (MoLA 2000), *A research framework for London's archaeology* (MoLA 2002), *A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London* (MoL 2015), *The Greater Thames Estuary Historic Environment Research Framework* (Essex County Council 2010) and any relevant national research strategies.

6 Methodology

All archaeological site works were undertaken in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (BA 2021b) and accepted professional standards, including *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2020a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,*

conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020b). BA recognised the requirements of the CIfA *Code of conduct* (CIfA 2021) and the programme of archaeological works was carried out in a manner consistent with the approved WSI (BA 2021a).

As outlined in the WSI (BA 2021a), six trenches of 1.8m × 30m length, equating to *c*. 5% of the Site area, were marked out; however, following agreement with GLAAS, Trench 004 was not investigated due to the presence of a large quantity of demolition rubble/construction material stockpiled on Site.

Trenching was opened by machine using a wide-bladed toothless ditching bucket operating under archaeological supervision. Overburden of recent origin was removed in level spits by machine, with machining ceasing at the first significant archaeological horizon, where features were cleaned and investigated by hand.

6.1 Recording

The following numbers have been assigned to this fieldwork project:

- Site Code: TGT21;
- OASIS ID: borderar1-502648.

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made, where possible, in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2021b) and paragraph 3.3.8 of *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2020a, 10).

Records included:

- A full graphic record of all excavated areas made with the primary record consisting of hand-drawn plans and sections (produced on gridded, archive-stable polyester film);
- A detailed photographic record of all stratigraphic units and representative photographs showing the progress of archaeological work. The record was made using a high-resolution digital camera (>20 MPX). The initial photograph of each recorded feature included a board showing context information, N arrows and scales. All photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

6.2 Recovery, Processing & Curation of Artefactual Data

Varying quantities of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), clay tobacco pipe (CTP), glass, iron (Fe) objects, animal bone and oyster shell were noted within several of the boundary ditch's fills; however, due to the late Post-medieval date of this material and the likely backfilled nature of its fills, this was not retained (nr).

6.3 Recovery & Assessment of Palaeoenvironmental/Palaeoeconomic Data

Sampling methodology followed the *Palaeoenvironmental Department Manual* (BA 2017) for environmental sampling and processing, with reference to Historic England guidance (Campbell *et al*. 2011), and was consistent with procedures set out in the WSI (BA 2021a). One palaeoenvironmental sample was recovered on Site; this was collected in sample buckets and identified by context and sample number. Following receipt into the Palaeoenvironmental Department, they were assigned a bucket number for tracking purposes. The sample was not subject to sub-sampling and its entirety was processed by means of flotation (Appendix 2).

7 Results

See Appendix 1 for detailed contextual descriptions.

7.1 Trench 001

Located in the NW corner of the Site and running parallel to the Site boundary, NNW-SSE orientated Trench 001 was excavated down to clean sands, revealing no archaeological features or material (*plate 1*).

The uppermost context was (001001), a *c.* 0.9m thick pile-mat material directly placed upon a geogrid; this overlay (001002), a *c.* 0.55m thick subsoil consisting of a loosely compacted, orange brown silty sand with no visible inclusions; this was situated above natural (001003), a loosely compacted, orange brown clayey sand.

Plate 1: View SSE of Trench 001

7.2 Trench 002

Located to the N of Site, Trench 002 was orientated WNW-ESE, running parallel to the Site boundary formed by Talgarth Road; no archaeological features were encountered, with clean natural sands revealed (*plate 2*).

Pile-mat material (002001), measuring *c.* 0.8m thick and directly overlying a geogrid, overlay (002002), a *c.* 0.4m thick redeposited natural comprising a loosely compacted, orange brown clayey sand with occasional modern waste and CBM; this in turn overlay natural (002003), a loosely compacted orange brown clayey sand.

Plate 2: View WNW of Trench 002

7.3 Trench 003

Located towards the central western part of Site (within the footprint of the former Magistrates' Court) and orientated NE-SW, Trench 003 revealed significant disturbance and construction backfill (in excess of 3m); consequently, it can be concluded that the Magistrates' Court and its demolition has truncated the horizon at which archaeology may have been present. A number of piles relating to the Magistrates' Court were encountered, rendering excavation problematic (*plate 3*). No features of archaeological interest were identified.

The uppermost deposit was (003001), a *c.* 0.6m thick pile-mat material overlying a geogrid; this was situated above a demolition/made-ground deposit (003002), measuring >3m and comprising a mix of blue clays, orange brown sands and demolition rubble/CBM, the last of which directly derived from the demolition of the Magistrate's Court.

Plate 3: View NE of Trench 003

7.4 Trench 005

Located towards the SW of Site, Trench 005 was orientated roughly NW-SE and contained a NE-SW aligned ditch at its SE end; no other features of archaeological interest were revealed.

The uppermost deposit was (005001), a modern tarmac surface with associated sub-base, measuring *c.* 0.2m to *c.* 0.3m in thickness; this overlay possible surface (005007), which comprised a *c.* 0.1m thick layer of concrete (possibly slabs), measuring *c.* 2.5m long × *c.* 0.5m wide at the SE end of the Trench. Heavily truncated by modern disturbance associated with the redevelopment, it was not possible to fully determine whether (005007) was an *in-situ* surface or a layer of redeposited concrete demolition rubble.

Also located in the SE end of the Trench was linear feature [005003], a NE-SW orientated ditch measuring *c.* 5.5m wide × *c.* 0.65m deep (average dimensions); it was characterised within the Trench as having moderately sloping sides leading to a generally flat base (*plate 4; fig. 3*). It appeared to cut natural (005002), a loose to moderately compacted dark yellow clayey silty sand, and its dimensions suggest that it was used as a boundary ditch, likely the same as ditch [006003] within Trench 006.

Plate 4: NE-facing Section of ditch [005003]

Three fills were recorded; the uppermost was (005006), a *c.* 0.35m thick, moderately compacted, mid-grey brown sandy clayey silt containing frequent inclusions of CBM and occasional Post-medieval pottery; this was likely a deliberate backfill of the ditch, marking its 'decommissioning' and disappearance from the landscape.

Fill (005006) overlay middle fill (005005), a firm to moderately compacted, light yellow brown sandy clayey silt containing moderate Post-medieval pottery and CBM and measuring *c.* 0.1m thick; this was situated above (005004), a *c.* 0.2m thick firm to moderately compacted, dark to mid-brown sandy clayey silt containing moderate Post-medieval pottery, CBM and glass and very occasional animal bone.

While lowermost fill (005004) most closely resembled a redeposited topsoil, its compaction and the relatively high quantities of finds contained within mean it was likely the result of deliberate backfilling; although not retained, the finds were indicative of a later Post-medieval date for its final use.

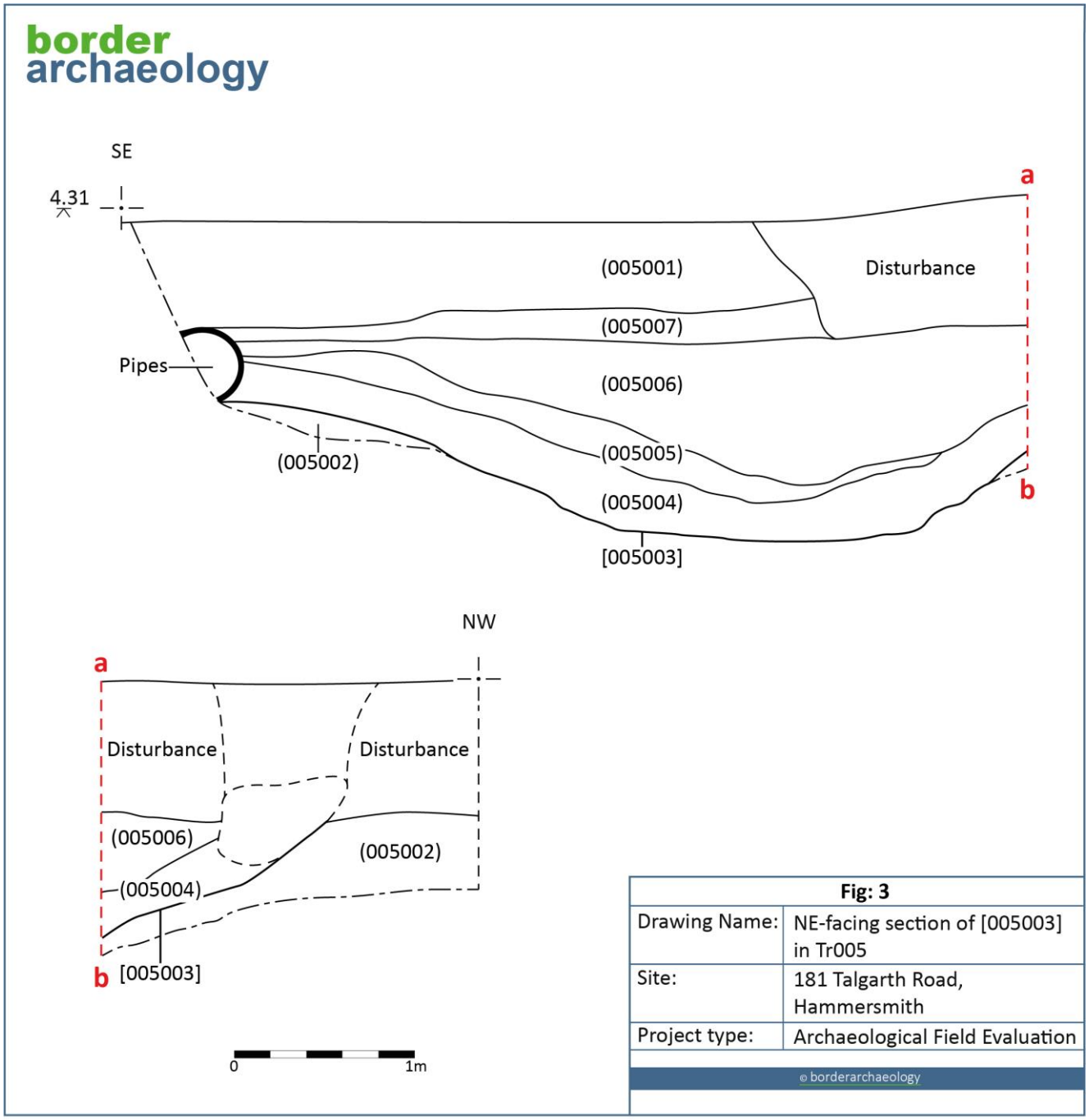


Fig: 3	
Drawing Name:	NE-facing section of [005003] in Tr005
Site:	181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith
Project type:	Archaeological Field Evaluation

7.5 Trench 006

Located to the NE of Trench 005 and running roughly parallel to it, Trench 006 also showed evidence of a boundary feature, interpreted as being the same as ditch [005003] within Trench 005. No other features of archaeological interest were revealed.

The uppermost context was (006001), a *c.* 0.3m thick deposit comprising multiple layers of modern demolition-rubble/made-ground, which was heavily disturbed and truncated by construction/demolition activity relating to the development; physically, (006001) overlay natural (006002), a loosely compacted dark yellow clayey silty sand.

Ditch [006003] was cut from natural (006002) and sealed by modern made-ground (006001); it was characterised by a profile showing steeply sloping, regular sides leading to a flat base, measuring *c.* 3m wide × *c.* 0.6m deep (*plate 5; fig. 4*).

Plate 5: NE-facing Section of [006003] (slightly oblique)

Ditch [006003] contained a more complex sequence of fills than in Trench 005, the earliest of which were slumping fills (006005) and (006006); these comprised a dark grey clayey sandy silt and an orange grey clayey sandy silt respectively and derived from the surrounding natural soils. Fill (006006) was larger in size and appeared more similar to the natural (006002), suggesting it may have originated from the weathering of a bank situated on the NW side of the ditch (although this remains speculative).

The next fill in the sequence was (006004), a *c.* 0.15m thick loose to moderately compacted, dark orange silty clayey sand containing frequent small-sized angular stones; overlying this was (006007), which comprised a *c.* 0.1m

thick, loose to moderately compacted dark grey clayey sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small-sized angular stones. This was interpreted as being the likely only naturally sedimented fill identified during the AFE and, as a consequence, was subject to palaeoenvironmental sampling, which confirmed the later Post-medieval date for the ditch; an additional conclusion was that the surrounding area was occupied by ruderal vegetation, which indicates that ditch [006003] was located some distance from settlement (Appendix 2).

Overlying fill (006007) was fill (006008), which was thought to be contemporary with the overlying deposit (006009), possibly entering the ditch as part of its deliberate backfill and 'decommissioning'. Fill (006008) comprised a sterile moderately compacted, dark orange silty clayey sand with frequent small-sized angular stones, measuring *c.* 0.1m thick; by contrast, (006009) consisted of a *c.* 0.2m thick, loosely compacted, dark grey sandy clayey silt with occasional to moderate small-sized angular stones and similar quantities of CBM and 19th Century pottery; in addition, CTP, glass, oyster shell, animal bone and iron were observed in smaller numbers.

Of potential note is that uppermost fill (006001) was deepest within Trench 006 directly above ditch [006003] (*fig. 4*); this may indicate that, at the time of its deposition, ditch [006003] may have been still visible within the landscape as a shallow linear depression.

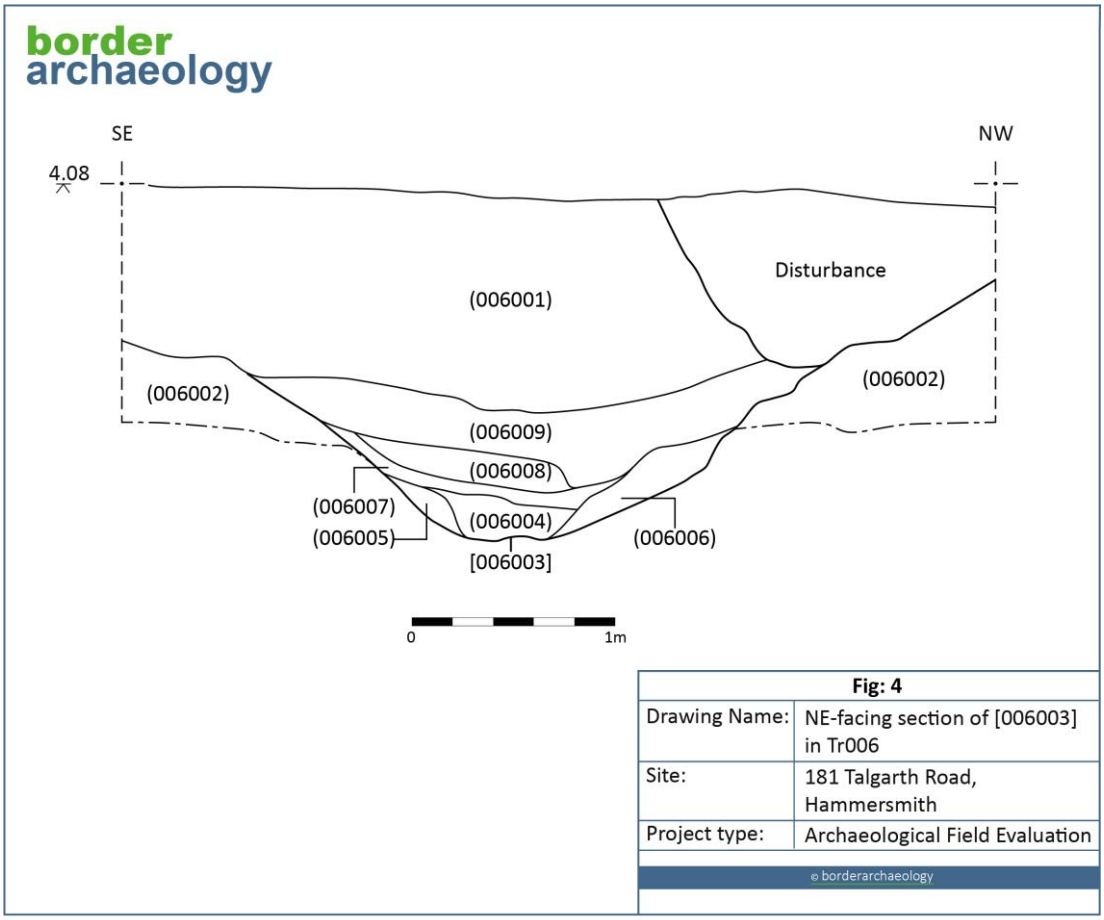


Fig: 4	
Drawing Name:	NE-facing section of [006003] in Tr006
Site:	181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith
Project type:	Archaeological Field Evaluation

8 Conclusions

Of the five Trenches opened during the programme of AFE, Trenches 001-003 contained no archaeological features; this may, at least in part, be the result of heavy truncation/disturbance by the construction and subsequent demolition/removal of the Magistrates' Court that formerly occupied the Site.

By contrast, Trenches 005 and 006 contained NE-SW orientated ditch [005003]=[006003], which appears to correspond to a boundary ditch depicted on the 1846 Tithe Map of Hammersmith. The Ordnance Survey of 1848-50 does not depict any such boundary, showing instead a series of agricultural fields; consequently, it is possible that this period indicates the point at which ditch [005003]=[006003] was 'decommissioned' and steps made to backfill it.

No other archaeological features were identified during the course of the AFE.

9 Copyright

10 References

AOC Archaeology Group, 2020, *Hammersmith Magistrates' Court: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.*

Border Archaeology, 2017, *Palaeoenvironmental Department Manual*.

Border Archaeology, 2021a, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Field Evaluation at 181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8DN.*

Border Archaeology, 2021b, *Archaeological Field Recording Manual.*

British Geological Survey, 'Geology of Britain Viewer', http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home [accessed 29-10-21].

Campbell, G., Moffett, L. & Straker, V., 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd Edition). Historic England.

CIfA, 2020a, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*

CIfA, 2020b, *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

CIfA, 2021, *Code of conduct.*

Essex County Council, 2010, *The Greater Thames Estuary Historic Environment Research Framework*, https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/greater-thames-estuary-res-framework-2010/ [accessed 29-10-2021].

Faulkner, T., 1839, *The History and Antiquities of the Parish of Hammersmith.*

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide.*

Mills, A. D., 1998, *Dictionary of British Place Names*, Oxford.

Mills, A. D., 2010, *A Dictionary of London Place Names* (2nd ed.), Oxford.

MoLA, 2000, *The archaeology of Greater London: an assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London*, Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph.

MoLA, 2002, *A research framework for London archaeology*, Museum of London Archaeology publication.

MoL, 2015, *A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London*, Museum of London Archaeology publication.

11 Appendix 1: Context Tabulation

Trench No.	Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
001	(001001)	Deposit	-	-	Imported pile-mat material; geogrid forms interface; *c.* 0.9m thick; overlies (001002).	Pile-mat	✓ (nr)	-	Modern
	(001002)	Deposit	-	-	Loosely compacted orange brown very silty sand; no inclusions; *c.* 0.55m thick; underlies (001001); overlies (001003).	Subsoil	-	-	Post-medieval
	(001003)	Deposit	-	-	Loosely compacted orange brown clayey sand; no inclusions; underlies (001002).	Natural geology	-	-	Geological
002	(002001)	Deposit	-	-	Imported pile-mat material; geogrid forms interface; *c.* 0.8m thick; overlies (002002).	Pile-mat	✓ (nr)	-	Modern
	(002002)	Deposit	-	-	Loosely compacted orange-brown clayey sand; occasional modern waste & CBM; *c.* 0.4m thick; underlies (002001); overlies (002003).	Redeposited natural	✓ (nr)	-	Modern
	(002003)	Deposit	-	-	Loosely compacted orange brown clayey sand; no inclusions; underlies (002002).	Natural geology	-	-	Geological
003	(003001)	Deposit	-	-	Imported pile-mat material; geogrid forms interface; *c.* 0.6m thick; overlies (003002).	Pile-mat	✓ (nr)	-	Modern
	(003002)	Deposit	-	-	Mixed blue clays, orange brown sands & demolition rubble; >3m deep.	Demolition backfill from demolition/ removal of Courthouse footings	✓ (nr)	-	Modern
004	Not Excavated								

Trench No.	Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
005	(005001)	Deposit	-	-	Tarmac surface & sub-base; occasional modern waste within sub-base; *c.* 0.2m-0.3m thick; overlies (005007).	Tarmac surface & sub-base - heavily truncated by modern disturbance & services	✓ (nr)	-	Modern
	(005002)	Deposit	-	-	Loosely/moderately compacted dark yellow slightly clayey silty sand; no inclusions; cut by [005003].	Natural geology	-	-	Geological
	[005003]	Cut	(005004) - (005006)	-	Linear feature orientated NE-SW; moderately sloping sides (40°) leading to a generally flat base; *c.* 5.5m wide × *c.* 0.65m deep; same as [006003].	Cut of a boundary ditch	-	-	Post-medieval
	(005004)	Fill	-	[005003]	Moderately/firmly compacted dark to mid-brown sandy clayey silt; moderate Post-medieval pottery, CBM & glass; occasional angular stones; very occasional animal bone inclusions; *c.* 0.2m thick; underlies (005005).	Lowermost fill of boundary ditch [005003]	✓ (nr)	-	Post-medieval
	(005005)	Fill	-	[005003]	Moderately compacted/firm light yellow brown slightly sandy clayey silt; moderate Post-medieval pottery & CBM; occasional angular stone inclusions; *c.* 0.1m thick; underlies (005006); overlies (005004).	Middle fill of boundary ditch [005003]	✓ (nr)	-	Post-medieval

Trench No.	Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
005	(005006)	Fill	-	[005003]	Moderately compacted mid-grey brown clayey silt; frequent CBM; occasional Post-medieval pottery & angular stone inclusions; *c.* 0.35m thick; underlies (005007); overlies (005005).	Uppermost fill of boundary ditch [005003]	✓ (nr)	-	Post-medieval
	(005007)	Deposit	-	-	Modern concrete; visible extent: *c.* 2.5m long × *c.* 0.5m wide × *c.* 0.1m thick; underlies (005001); overlies (005006); truncated by modern disturbance.	Concrete layer/possible former surface - unclear whether *in situ*	-	-	Modern
006	(006001)	Deposit	-	-	Multiple layers of made-ground; *c.* 0.3m thick; overlies (006009).	Made-ground	✓ (nr)	-	Modern
	(006002)	Deposit	-	-	Loosely compacted dark yellow slightly clayey silty sand; no inclusions; cut by [006003].	Natural geology	-	-	Geological
	[006003]	Cut	(006004) - (006009)	-	Linear feature orientated NE-SW; steeply sloping sides (*c.* 50°) leading to a generally flat base; *c.* 3m wide × *c.* 0.6m deep; cuts (006002); same as [005003].	Cut of a boundary ditch	-	-	Post-medieval
	(006004)	Fill	-	[006003]	Loosely/moderately compacted dark orange slightly silty clayey sand; coarse sediments with frequent small-sized angular stone inclusions; *c.* 0.15m thick; underlies (006007); overlies (006005) & (006006).	Central lowermost fill of boundary ditch [006003]	-	-	Post-medieval

Trench No.	Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
006	(006005)	Fill	-	[006003]	Moderately compacted dark grey slightly clayey sandy silt; moderate small-sized angular stone inclusions; *c.* 0.15m thick; underlies (006004); similar to (006006).	Slumping fill on E side of boundary ditch [006003]	-	-	Post-medieval
	(006006)	Fill	-	[006003]	Moderately compacted orange-grey very slightly clayey sandy silt; moderate small-sized angular stone inclusions; *c.* 0.2m thick; underlies (006004); similar to (006005).	Slumping fill on W side of boundary ditch [006003]	-	-	Post-medieval
	(006007)	Fill	-	[006003]	Loosely/moderately compacted dark grey clayey sandy silt; occasional/moderate small-sized angular stone inclusions; *c.* 0.1m thick underlies (006008); overlies (006004).	Naturally silted fill of boundary ditch [006003]	-	001	Post-medieval
	(006008)	Fill	-	[006003]	Moderately compacted dark orange silty clayey sand; frequent small-sized angular stone inclusions; *c.* 0.1m thick; contemporary with/part of (006009); overlies (006007).	Sandy component of fill (006009) of boundary ditch [006003] - probable deliberate dump of material	-	-	Post-medieval
006	(006009)	Fill	-	[006003]	Loosely compacted dark grey sandy clayey silt; occasional/moderate small-sized angular stones, CBM & C19th pottery; very occasional CTP, glass, oyster shell, bone & Fe objects; visible streaks of charcoal; *c.* 0.2m thick; underlies (006001); contemporary with (006008).	'Decommissioning' fill of boundary ditch [006003] - probably infilled or deliberately backfilled layer of residual material	✓ (nr)	-	Post-medieval

12 Appendix 2: Palaeoenvironmental Report

Thomas Bowers MA, Border Archaeology

12.1 Non-Technical Summary

This report has been prepared by the Palaeoenvironmental Department at Border Archaeology Ltd to facilitate and elucidate the palaeoenvironmental, palaeoeconomic and palaeodietary interpretations of a feature discovered during Archaeological Field Evaluation at 181 Talgarth, Road Hammersmith, London, W6 8DN.

A total of one sample originating from a fill of a probable boundary ditch was processed by flotation.

Significant quantities of archaeobotanical evidence were recovered, the material being largely uncarbonised and likely of modern origin, which confirms the interpretation of the fill as modern infilling of the boundary ditch.

12.2 Introduction

This report details the results derived from a fill of a probable boundary ditch investigated during Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) at 181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith, London, W6 8DN.

In accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (BA 2021), 100% of the deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential were sampled. This resulted in one sample comprising 20ℓ of material being received by the *Palaeoenvironmental Department*.

The sample was processed by means of flotation with the resultant archaeological and archaeobotanical material, from both the floating element and the heavier residue/retent, sorted and visually identified. The nature and interpretative significance of the recovered remains is detailed in Section 12.4 below.

The sample was retrieved from the fill of the boundary ditch, which demonstrated most potential for palaeoenvironmental recovery. The results are presented in Section 12.5 below.

12.2.1 Site Description

The land comprised the former Hammersmith Magistrates' Court and was under development post-demolition at the time of the AFE.

12.2.2 Soils & Geology

The local geology was sedimentary bedrock of the London Clay Formation with an overlying superficial deposit comprising the Kempton Park Gravel Member (BGS 2021); this is likely to be the natural recognised during the AFE.

Borehole data taken in 2016 at the Site indicated the presence of made-ground overlying the natural geology (BGS 2021) and this was identified in the Evaluation. The free draining soils overlying clay would limit palaeoenvironmental recovery.

12.3 Methodology

12.3.1 Objectives

The purpose of the palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy implemented during archaeological evaluations is the retrieval of non-specific palaeoenvironmental remains and the further characterisation of features that cannot be fully investigated due to the confines of the evaluation parameters. An additional purpose to palaeoenvironmental reporting in the case of archaeological evaluations is the recommendation of further, potentially specific, palaeoenvironmental sampling in further archaeological mitigation.

12.3.2 Methodology

Sampling methodology followed the *Palaeoenvironmental Department Manual* (BA 2017) with reference to Historic England guidance (Campbell *et al.* 2011). On site, the sample was collected in 10ℓ sample buckets and identified by context and sample number.

The sample was not subject to sub-sampling and the entirety was processed by means of flotation. Flotation was undertaken in Siraf-style tanks (Williams 1973) with a 500µm retent mesh and 250µm flot sieve. No refloating was required for this sample. Retents were initially scanned by magnet to retrieve any archaeometallurgical debris and a sieve bank was used to facilitate visual sorting, with the smaller fractions sorted by means of magnifying lamp and/or illuminated stereo zoom microscopy (≤×10). The flot was sorted entirely by means of illuminated stereo zoom microscopy (≤×10). The results of this analysis are reported with the flot and retent data recombined due to limited to no variance in the species being reported.

12.3.3 Personnel

Flotation and analysis were undertaken within the Palaeoenvironmental Department under the guidance of Craig Lathwell BSc and Amy Bunce BSc MA MCI*f*A. External and internal specialists were consulted for archaeological finds, archaeometallurgical material and archaeozoological assemblages.

12.4 Description & Methodology of Materials

Detailed below are the general implications of the discovery of certain materials within the palaeoenvironmental samples and their specialised methodological considerations. Section 12.5 details such information by context.

12.4.1 Finds

Archaeological finds within palaeoenvironmental samples are fairly common and help confirm that the sampling of the material was not biased in any manner.

In this case, artefactual material present in the sample comprised an occasional abundance of coal and CBM alongside a poor abundance of pottery, worked stone, glass and wall plaster.

12.4.2 Bone

Both burnt and unburnt bone may be present within palaeoenvironmental samples, with taphonomic conditions occasionally proportionately affecting their preservation. Burnt bone is reasonably conclusive of anthropogenic origin, deriving from domestic activities as well as some industrial and funerial practices, while unburnt bone may have become incorporated due to animal death in the vicinity of the context. Incidences of the inadvertent inclusion of unburnt bone from decomposed individuals, especially of small mammals and reptiles, can highlight specific ecological niches, but unburnt bone from large mammals is a good indicator of nearby settlement and potential butchery.

Unburnt bone, both mammal and small animal, was present in the sample in the form of fragments of poor abundance in the 1-2mm fraction.

12.4.3 Charcoal

Charcoal is ubiquitous in palaeoenvironmental samples as it is used in domestic, funerary and industrial settings or may be present as a result of accidental firings. Identification of the wood species making up the charcoal assemblage can add valuable data as to wood selection and anthracological analysis can indicate the ecology.

While often relied upon for dating, in particular ^{14}C, charcoal is not the best material to use. Charcoal is subject to the 'Old Wood problem', whereby wood is known to be frequently reused and charcoal redeposited. In addition, wood grows over many years and it is not possible to know precisely where within the tree a charcoal fragment has derived.

Anthracological analysis is undertaken in-house, utilising reference keys (Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990a; Schweingruber 1990b), at ×100 magnification with higher magnifications to ×400 used where necessary. Lighting

is by incident lighting with transmitted lighting where necessary. Charcoal is transversally sectioned with tangential or radial sectioning undertaken where required.

Growth ring curvature and diameter size classification is by reference to Ludemann-Nelle (L-N) templates (Ludemann 2002; Nelle 2002) whereby classes I, II, III, IV & V represent diameters <20mm, 20-30mm, 30-50mm, 50-100mm and >100mm respectively. Growth ring curvature is additionally classified by reference to Marguerie-Hunot (M-H) test cards (Marguerie & Hunot 2007) whereby weak, moderate and strong curvature are categorised 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

The charcoal from this sample was in the form of indeterminate fragments of poor abundance in the >4mm, 2-4mm and <2mm fractions.

12.4.4 Uncharred Archaeobotanical Material

The uncarbonised wild taxa included 1428 Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds; this large number suggests the presence of an elder tree in proximity to the Site in the modern day. In the sample were also 994 Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) seeds and 84 Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) seeds, alongside a number of other common weed species present in small quantities that indicate opportunistic plant growth. Since this feature was not waterlogged, the seeds present in the sample are considered modern.

12.5 Description of Results

Tabulated results can be observed in the tables in Section 12.6 below.

12.5.1 [006003]: (006007)

(006007) was a fill of boundary ditch [006003]; the lower fills appeared to comprise redeposited natural material and (006007) was the earliest fill with palaeoenvironmental potential.

(006007) contained uncarbonised archaeobotanical material and charcoal. The uncarbonised wild taxa were 1428 *Sambucus Nigra*, 994 *Urtica dioica*, 84 *Rubus* sp., one *Aethusa cynapium* (Fool's Parsley), two Poaceae family (Wild Grass), 28 *Chenopodium*/*Atriplex* sp. (Goosefoots/Oraches), one *Picris echiodies* (Bristly Oxtongue), one Lamiaceae family (Deadnettle), nine Polygonaceae family (Buckwheat), six cf. *Rumex* sp. (Knotweed), one *Ranunculus* sp. (Buttercup) and one *Silene* sp. (Campion). Since this feature was not waterlogged, the seeds present in the sample are considered modern.

Artefactual material included an occasional abundance of coal and CBM, as well as a poor abundance of pottery, worked stone, glass and plaster.

Archaeometallurgical material included a poor abundance of undiagnostic slag.

Faunal material included a poor abundance of mammal and small animal bone in the 1-2mm fractions.

Charcoal was present in indeterminate fragments of poor abundance in the >4mm, 2-4mm and <2mm fractions.

The palaeoenvironmental analysis confirms the later Post-medieval origin of fill (006007) and indicates the presence of opportunistic, ruderal early-colonising plants.

12.6 Table of Results

The following table details the abundance results from both the archaeobotanical material and the archaeological finds. Weight and quantity records have been recorded but are not presented here due to the variation between materials.

Abundance key: + = rare/poor; ++ = occasional; +++ = common; ++++ = abundant.

		Context no.	006007
		Cut no.	006003
		Sample no.	001
		Sample part	1/2-2/2
		Bucket no.	27672-73
		Sample vol. (mℓ)	2925
		% sample analysed	100
		Waterlogged?	N
		Refloated?	N
Latin name	Common name	Plant part	
Uncarbonised wild taxa			
Aethusa cynapium	Fool's Parsley	seed fragment	1
Chemopodium / Atriplex sp.	Goosefoots / Oraches	seed	28
Lamiaceae	Dead Nettle	seed	6
Picris Echiodies	Bristly Oxtongue	seed	1
Poaceae (wild)	Wild Grass	seed coat	2
Polygonaceae	BuckWheat	seed	7
Polygonaceae	BuckWheat	seed fragment	2
Rubus sp.	Black Berry	seed	84
cf *Rumex* sp.	Knotweed	seed	6
Ranunculun	Buttercup	seed	1
Sambucus nigra	Elderberry	seed	1428
Silene sp.	Campion	seed	1
Urtica Divica	Common nettle	seed	884
Indet		seed	10
Charcoal			
Indeterminate <2mm	Indeterminate	fragments	++
Indeterminate 2-4mm	Indeterminate	fragments	+
Archaeometallurgical			
Slag	-	-	+
Artefactual			
Ceramic/pottery	-	-	+
CBM	-	-	++
Glass	-	-	+
Worked stone	-	-	+
Coal/coke	-	-	++
Plaster	-	-	+
Faunal			
Mammal (unburnt)	Indeterminate	-	+
Small Animal (unburnt)	Indeterminate	-	+

12.7 Conclusions & Recommendations

The aims of the non-specific palaeoenvironmental sampling was successful in confirming the presence of later Post-medieval materials within the infilling of the boundary ditch. The results also indicate that, at the time of infilling, the land was occupied by ruderal vegetation.

12.7.1 Recommendations

Due to the nature of the materials recovered and the full analysis undertaken, no further work is recommended.

Retention of the materials detailed in this report, as an incorporation of the Site archive for deposition with the museum, is not recommended.

12.8 Copyright

12.9 References

Anderburg, A.-L., 1994, *Atlas of seeds and small fruits of Northwest European plant species: Resedaceae - Umbelliferae (part 4),* Stockholm: Swedish Museum of Natural History.

Border Archaeology, 2017, *Palaeoenvironmental Manual* (2nd ed.).

Border Archaeology, 2021, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Field Evaluation at 181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8DN.*

Berggren, G., 1969, *Atlas of seeds and small fruits of Northwest European plant species: Cyperaceae (part 2),* Stockholm: Swedish Museum of Natural History.

Berggren, G., 1981, *Atlas of seeds and small fruits of Northwest European plant species: Salicaceae - Cruciferae (part 3),* Stockholm: Swedish Museum of Natural History.

British Geological Survey, 2021, *Geology of Britain viewer,* British Geological Society.

Bush, M., 1988, 'The use of multivariate analysis and modern analogue sites as an aid to the interpretation of data from fossil mollusc assemblages' in *Journal of Biogeography,* Volume 15, pp. 849-861.

Cameron, R., 2008, *Land Snails in the British Isles,* FSC Publications Occasional Publication 79.

Campbell, G., Moffett, L., & Straker, V., 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2nd ed.).

Davies, P., 2008, *Snails: Archaeology and Landscape Change.*

Evans, J., 1972, *Land Snails in Archaeology.*

Groningen Institute of Archaeology, 2006-present, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands.* https://dzn.eldoc.ub.rug.nl: online.

Hather, J., 2000, *The Identification of Northern European Woods: a guide for archaeologists and conservators.*

Jacomet, S., 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2nd ed.).

Kerney, M., & Cameron, R., 1979, *A Field Guide to the Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe.*

Lowe, J., & Walker, M., 1997, *Reconstructing Quaternary Environments* (2nd ed.).

Ludemann, T., 2002, 'Anthracology and forest sites - the contribution of charcoal analysis to our knowledge of natural forest vegetation in South-West Germany' in S. Thiebault (ed.), *Charcoal Analysis: Methodological Approaches, Palaeoecological Results and Wood Uses: Proceedings of the Second International Meeting of Anthracology, Paris, September 2000,* Oxford: BAR International Series 1063, Archaeopress, pp. 209-217.

Marguerie, D., & Hunot, J., 2007, 'Charcoal analysis and dendrology: data from archaeological sites in North-Western France' in *Journal of Archaeological Science,* 34(9), pp. 1417-1433.

Martin, A., & Barkley, W., 2000, *Seed Identification Manual.*

Nelle, O., 2002, 'Charcoal burning remains and forest stand structure - Examples from the Black Forest (South-West Germany) and the Bavarian Forest (South-East Germany)' in S. Thiebault (ed, *Charcoal Analysis: Methodological Approaches, Palaeoecological Results and Wood Uses. Proceedings of the Second International Meeting of Anthracology, Paris, September 2000,* Oxford: BAR International Series 1063, Archaeopress, pp. 201-207.

Renfrew, J., 1973, *Palaeoethnobotany: the Prehistoric Food Plants of the Near-East and Europe.*

Schoch, W., Pawlik, B., & Schweingruber, F., 1988, *Botanical Macro-Remains; an atlas for the determination of frequently encountered and ecologically important plant seeds.*

Schweingruber, F., 1990a, *Anatomy of European Woods: an atlas for the identification of European trees, shrubs and dwarf shrubs.*

Schweingruber, F., 1990b, *Microscopic Wood Anatomy: structural variability of stems and twigs in recent and subfossil woods from Central Europe* (3rd ed.), Swiss Federal Institute for Snow & Landscape Research.

Sparks, B., 1961, 'The ecological interpretation of Quaternary non-marine Mollusca' in *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London,* 172(1), pp. 71-80.

SSEW, 1983, *Soil Survey of England and Wales* (3rd ed.).

Stace, C., 2010, *New Flora of the British Isles* (3rd ed.).

Welter-Schultes, F., 2012, *European non-marine molluscs, a guide for species identification.*

Williams, D., 1973, 'Flotation at Siraf' in *Antiquity,* 47(188), pp. 288-292.

Document Title		Document Reference	
Archaeological Field Evaluation on behalf of HG Construction: 181 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8DN		BA21106TAL/REPORT	
Compilation	Ross Shurety MA (Cantab.)		
Editing	Amy Bunce BSc MA MCI*f*A		
Artwork	Holly Litherland BA (Hons.)		
Issue No.	**Status**	**Date**	**Approved for issue**
1	Final	February 2022	Lyndsey Clark BSc (Hons.) ACI*f*A