



LILLIE SQUARE (PHASE 2 AND 4) Seagrave Road London SW6

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Report on an archaeological watching brief

July 2017



**Lillie Square (Phases 2 and 4)
Seagrave Road
London
SW6**

Site Code SGR13

NGR 525450 177800

OASIS reference molas1-274762

Planning reference 2013/01213/VAR
(Condition 26)

Report on an archaeological watching brief

Sign-off history:

Issue No.	Date:	Prepared by:	Checked/ Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	08.06.17	Tony Mackinder	Simon Davis	Draft for comment
2	19.07.17	Pat Miller	Simon Davis	Revised draft for issue

Graphics: Hannah Faux

Summary

This report presents and updates the results of a phased programme of archaeological watching brief that has been carried out by MOLA on the former car park site at Seagrave Road, now known as Lillie Square, Earls Court, London SW6. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Capital and Counties Properties PLC on behalf of the Client, Lillie Square GP Limited.

The site was initially archaeologically evaluated in April 2013 and in response to the recommendations of the evaluation report (MOLA 2013b), a borehole transect was drilled within the Phase 2 area in May 2014. Following on from this exercise a programme of phased watching brief was undertaken in September to October 2014. The Phase 1 and 1a areas of the site were monitored and subsequently reported on (MOLA 2014b).

The archaeological evaluation investigated nine trenches across the site. This phase of works recorded evidence of the Brompton Railway Goods Yard, established on the site in 1892, and a previously unknown river channel in the central and eastern part of site. Substantial ground reduction for the construction of the railway goods yard in the late 19th century was also evident. The previous Phase 1 and 1a watching brief revealed natural terrace gravels at c1.9m OD, sloping gently to the east. The gravels were overlain by a clay-silt deposit (brickearth) recorded within the central part of the investigation area. The natural gravel and silt deposits were cut by several very large 19th-century pits that pre-date the Brompton Railway Goods Yard. The pit fills comprised large mixed dump deposits suggesting they were backfilled in preparation for the new rail yard. Just below the existing ground levels (c 3.5m OD) evidence for the late 19th and 20th century layout of the rail yard was observed in the form of railway tracks and fragmentary survival of contemporary brick structures.

No evidence of the Kensington Canal, Counter's Creek or any earlier river channels was observed during this phase of works.

In accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014a) further watching brief phases were subsequently carried out within the Phase 2 and Phase 4 areas (also covered by planning application reference 2013/01213/VAR, dated 29th August 2013). The fieldwork was undertaken in stages aligned with the groundworks excavation programme from May through to December 2016. This report presents the results of the Phase 2 and Phase 4 watching brief exercise.

The most recent watching brief undertaken on ground reduction in the Phase 2 and Phase 4 areas of the development recorded natural gravels at 2.70m OD overlying London Clay. Features observed in this phase of works included a brick chimney and part of a brick and stone surface. Both are probably related to the 19th/20th-century Brompton and Fulham Goods and Coal Station that occupied the site. In addition there were several large 20th-century pits that were generally filled with industrial debris.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA at Lillie Square, Seagrave Road, SW6 ('the site'), Fig 1, between 23/05/16 and 13/12/16. This document is the report on that work.
- 1.1.2 A Historic Environment Assessment (HEA) was previously prepared which covers the whole area of the site (MOLA 2011). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site (and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential).
- 1.1.3 Field evaluation was carried out by MOLA from February to March 2013 and evidence of the railway goods yard and a previously unknown river channel in the central eastern part of site, were recorded. An evaluation report was prepared (MOLA 2013b) and recommended further archaeological mitigation in the form of a watching brief.
- 1.1.4 Further to the condition on Planning Consent, a subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared (MOLA 2014a) for a geoarchaeological borehole investigation and watching brief that resulted in an initial geoarchaeological investigation on the site in May 2014 (MOLA 2014c). Subsequently the first phase of a watching brief was carried out on the Phase 1 area of site in September to October 2014 and a series of large 20th-century pits were recorded (MOLA 2014b, Fig 3).
- 1.1.5 The most recent watching brief was undertaken on ground reduction in the Phase 2 and Phase 4 areas of the site from May to December 2016.
- 1.1.6 All archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation. The phases of the watching brief area are shown on Fig 2.

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the watching brief took place was fully set out in the HEA which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MOLA 2011).
- 1.2.2 The watching brief was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by the local authority (Consent reference 2011/02000/FUL, Condition number 26).

1.3 Scope of the watching brief

- 1.3.1 An archaeological watching brief is normally a limited fieldwork exercise. It is not the same as full excavation, though individual features may be fully excavated.
- 1.3.2 The watching brief was of the Phase 2 and Phase 4 areas of the site (Fig 2). The watching brief was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).
- 1.3.3 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002 and the research aims and objectives established in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the watching brief (Sections 3 and 4 MOLA 2014a).

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1.1 A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier Historic Environment Assessment (MOLA 2011). A brief resume is provided here:

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is located on the Kempton Park gravel terrace (British Geological Survey sheet 257), formed by the Thames during the glacial period. In places, this is capped by Brickearth (also named Langley Silt complex), a fine-grained deposit believed to have been deposited by a mixture of wind and colluvial processes at c 26,000 –13,000 BC. Although it may once have covered the gravel terrace, much has been removed by quarrying and modern development.

2.2.2 Counters Creek, now not obvious due to the present West London Railway Extension cutting, lies directly to the east of the site. The source of the watercourse lies in the area of Kensal Green cemetery. It follows a course similar to that of the present railway line on the east side of the site. The floodplains of such tributaries tend to create their own geological conditions, involving the reworking of the terrace gravels and the deposition of alluvial silts both in the beds of the streams and as over-bank deposits. The creek was canalised in the 19th century and later bought by the West London Railway Company who later drained it and built an extension of their line in it (Barton 1992, 92).

2.3 Archaeology

2.3.1 The site's position adjacent to Counters Creek suggests has the potential for alluvial deposits (MOLA 2014b), and it is in an area known as a marsh in later medieval times. Alluvial remains could potentially contain palaeoenvironmental material and well preserved organic remains due to waterlogged conditions. These could provide information on the environment of the valley at a given point in time, via archaeo-environmental analysis of the floral and faunal remains present and techniques are also available for dating organic remains.

2.3.2 Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds in Greater London are rare, with a higher occurrence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age remains on the west London gravels due to their suitability for farming. The site is located on a well-drained and fertile gravel terrace close to predictable resources of the River Thames and a minor tributary, Counters Creek, but the survival of any prehistoric remains is unknown, owing both to their ephemeral nature and to subsequent activity on site. No prehistoric material has been recovered from the immediate vicinity of the site and only minimal finds from the early prehistoric periods have been recovered from the area in general.

2.3.3 Although there is evidence for Roman occupation in the borough in areas closer to the river Thames, there are no known sites for the Roman period in the vicinity. The site probably lay in fields or open land, some distance from the nearest major Roman roads, during the Roman period.

2.3.4 Saxon activity in the borough is well documented, but is some distance from the site, the early Saxon settlement of Fulham Reach c 2km west of the site. It is possible that the later medieval village of Walham Green, c 500m to the south of the site, had late Saxon origins, but even if this is correct the village is unlikely to have extended as far as the site. The site is therefore likely to have been in open fields or woodland during the early medieval period.

- 2.3.5 The site probably also lay in marsh or pasture some distance from the known settlements during the later medieval period. Features associated with agriculture such as ditches, associated with boundaries and field systems, may possibly survive. Additionally, a possible later medieval bridge may have been located in or near to the eastern edge of the site (Historic Environment Record 050670). The location of this crossing would be dependent on the medieval course of Counter's Creek and Lillie Road. The course of the river may have altered over time and the bridge might therefore be located outside the site to the east. Alternatively the bridge might be on Lillie Road outside the site to the north.
- 2.3.6 Possible post-medieval archaeological remains that may be present on the site would include agricultural features such as field boundaries, water management features associated with the Kensington Canal to the east of the site, also railway lines and footings of the late 19th-century and early 20th-century structures associated with the Brompton and Fulham Goods and Coal Station as seen on the Ordnance Survey map of 1894 (see front cover).
- 2.3.7 The extent to which the construction of the railway immediately east of the site in the late 19th century disturbed ground within the site itself is not known. The subsequent construction of sidings may have entailed levelling in the form of ground reduction in the northern part of the site and ground raising in the southern part of the site.
- 2.3.8 The construction of several large buildings on parts of the site from the late 19th century and into the mid-20th century will have had a localised impact upon archaeological remains. The severity of the impact would depend on the foundation type and whether buildings had basements. It is probable that all these structures will have disturbed upper deposits in some way, although the bases of deeper cut features, such as pits, ditches and footings of earlier structures could survive intact.
- 2.3.9 The site was subject to bomb damage during the Second World War and the London County Council's collection of bomb damage maps reproduced by the London Topographical Society shows buildings at the north of the site as sustaining serious damage (Woolven and Saunders 2005, maps 86 and 87).
- 2.3.10 In 2001, an engineering (non-archaeological) geotechnical investigation of the site (WSP Environmental Ltd 2001) revealed undated made ground above terrace gravels. A silty clay, most possibly brickearth, was identified in the centre of the site. London Clay was identified in the south-east corner of the site. Made ground, generally overlay the terrace gravels at a depth of 1.4m–1.7m below the surface. Towards the eastern limits of the site the made ground increased to up to 2.9m in depth. On this eastern edge of the site made ground overlay either terrace gravels or at the south-east corner London Clay, suggesting possible truncation on this edge of the site or possibly a fall in the gravels towards the river valley originally established by Counters Creek. It possibly represents late 19th/20th century land raising and/or demolition layers, but could potentially contain remains of archaeological interest. More recent investigation on the site in 2012 (Card Geotechnics Ltd 2012), where a series of boreholes and window samples were dug across the site, also recorded between 1.1m and 2.5m of made ground across the site. The stratigraphy of the material in the window samples etc was not recorded archaeologically so the nature of deposits are not known and it is likely that the lower strata of made ground might, under further more detailed field investigation, comprise archaeological horizons representing cut features (such as pits) or buried soils.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 As described within Section 1 of this report, archaeological monitoring by a Senior Archaeologist (site supervisor) was undertaken by MOLA during works in the Phase 2 and Phase 4 areas of the site (refer to Fig 2 for areas of investigation).
- 3.1.2 During a series of visits to the site, MOLA observed ground reduction by machine in certain areas and recorded any archaeological features revealed. The area investigated was excavated and cleared by the demolition contractors at the site using tracked excavators and dumpers. Following removal of the modern ground surfaces and associated made ground, the area was reduced in spits and monitored by MOLA staff and a record of any exposed archaeological deposits and features and the exposed natural topography.
- 3.1.3 The area location and archaeological features were plotted on plans provided by the client's agents using an 'offset measuring methodology' and subsequently this data has been digitised and tied to the OS grid by MOLA Geomatics.
- 3.1.4 Where necessary levels relating to OS Ordnance Datum were calculated in relation to on-site TBMs provided by the site surveyors. However, because of the nature of the fieldwork, it was not always possible to accurately measure/calculate OD levels for features recorded.

3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014a).

3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	0
Number of overall location plans	2
Number of Context (SU) sheets	4
Number of photographs	24 digital
Number of Plan sheets	18 (used for notes)
Number of Sections	11 (sketches only)

4 Results of the watching brief

- 4.1.1 For Phase (area) locations see Fig 2, for feature plans see Fig 3.
- 4.1.2 The results of the Phase 1 and 1a watching brief were fully reported in the previous watching brief report on this phase of works (MOLA 2014b). In summary this previous phase of works revealed natural terrace gravels at c1.90m OD, sloping gently to the east. The gravels were overlain by a clay-silt deposit (brickearth) recorded within the central part of the investigation area. The natural gravel and silt deposits were cut by several very large 19th-century pits and pre-date the Brompton Railway Goods Yard. The pit fills comprised large mixed dump deposits suggesting they were backfilled in preparation for the new rail yard. Just below the existing ground levels (c 3.5m OD) evidence for the late 19th and 20th century layout of the rail yard was observed in the form of railway tracks and fragmentary survival of contemporary brick structures. No evidence of the Kensington Canal, Counter's Creek or any earlier river channels was observed during this phase of works.
- 4.1.3 Results of the Phase 2 and Phase 4 watching brief are discussed below:-

4.2 Phase 2

- 4.2.1 The Phase 2 area measured approximately 110m north/south by 80m east/west.
- 4.2.2 No modern ground slab remained in this area; the highest remaining ground surface lay at c 3.19m OD along the western side of the area. A modern haul road along the east side, parallel to the railway lines, had been built up to c 2.72m OD.
- 4.2.3 Natural deposits recorded in the Phase 2 area comprised 1.5 to 2m of gravels at their highest at 2.70m OD; this deposit overlay London Clay (Fig 4).
- 4.2.4 Two features of note were recorded in the Phase 2 area; a red brick structure [216] which measured 2m² and is thought to be the remnant remains of a chimney. The bricks were 19th/20th century in date and this feature is thought to be the square structure shown on the 1968 Ordnance Survey identified by the letter 'c' (see Fig 5).
- 4.2.5 Part of a brick and stone surface [217] was also observed. This was 0.90m wide and continued for a length of c 4.5m. The stones included large granite setts and the bricks were 19th/20th century in date (Fig 6).
- 4.2.6 Both the surface and the chimney are thought to be associated with the Brompton and Fulham goods and coal station (part of the London and North West railway) that occupied the site from the late 19th century.
- 4.2.7 Located in the western part of this area there were several large pits cutting through the natural gravels. Three were recorded as being between c 8m and 11m in diameter and over 1.0m deep. These contained corroded metal work, concrete fragments and oily substances and were considered to be modern and therefore not fully investigated.

4.3 Phase 4

- 4.3.1 The Phase 4 area measured c 140m north/south by 55m east/west. An area c 50m north/south by 55m east/west at its eastern end (the Phase 4B area) had already been built up with a new substation so was not monitored.
- 4.3.2 No modern ground slab remained in this area; the highest remaining ground surface lay at c 2.70m OD. A lorry access ramp (later removed) occupied part of this area. Ground reduction and excavation for raking props were monitored in this area.
- 4.3.3 Natural deposits comprised 1.5m to 2.0m of gravels which overlain London Clay

towards the east (in the area of the new substation) and suggested higher ground to the south and west.

- 4.3.4 To the north of the substation the gravels were overlain by 0.50m thick deposit of blue clay interpreted as redeposited alluvium. This may be related to the cut feature found in Trench 2 of the evaluation (MOLA 2014b) and investigated in the geoarchaeological investigation (MOLA 2014c). This feature was thought to be either a drainage ditch or a tributary of Counter's Creek located to the west of the site. This feature was canalised in the 19th century and subsequently drained and replaced by the modern railway cutting.
- 4.3.5 Two pits were exposed in the Phase 4 area; pit [218] was approximately 4m in diameter and over 0.50m deep with a fill of loose clinker suggesting a later date. Pit [219] was circular, 3.0m in diameter and contained a loose soft silty fill. The presence of bricks suggest this was a 19th-century brick well or soakaway.
- 4.3.6 Located in the western part of this area there were several pits cutting through the natural gravels. These were modern and as some were contaminated with oily substances were not fully investigated (Fig 7).

4.4 The finds

- 4.4.1 No finds were considered to be a specific significance to be retained during this phase of the watching brief.

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering original research aims

5.1.1 A series of research aims were outlined in the WSI (Section 4, MOLA 2014a);

- *What is the nature and level of natural topography?*

5.1.2 Natural deposits encountered on the site were terrace gravels. The highest level recorded for this deposit in this Phase of works was at 2.70m OD in the south of the site. This deposit overlay London Clay in the eastern part of the Phase 2 area.

- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

5.1.3 No deposits earlier than the 19th/20th century were identified in this phase of the watching brief.

- *Do intact early in situ fills survive at depth in the area of the channel identified in Trench 6 during the evaluation? What are its origins?*

5.1.4 The channel identified in evaluation Trench 6 was not evident in this phase of watching brief.

- *What is the extent of disturbance to any early palaeochannel caused by later river management?*

5.1.5 No evidence of disturbance to any early palaeochannel caused by later river management was encountered during this phase of the watching brief.

- *Do any surviving alluvial deposits contain palaeoenvironmental material that could provide information on previous environments of the site within the river valley?*

5.1.6 No in situ evidence of surviving alluvial deposits contain palaeoenvironmental material was encountered during this phase of the watching brief.

- *What information do these boreholes contribute to the deposit model for the site?*

5.1.7 See results of the geoarchaeological evaluation report (MOLA 2014c).

- *Does any evidence of the medieval bridge or activity associated with it survive?*

5.1.8 No evidence for a medieval bridge was encountered during the watching brief.

- *Does any evidence of the early canalisation of Counters Creek and use prior to draining still exist at the east of the site?*

5.1.9 No direct evidence of the early canalisation of Counters Creek was evident in this phase of the watching brief.

- *Do any industrial structures associated with the Brompton and Fulham Goods and Coal Station survive?*

5.1.10 Structures that could relate to the 19th/20th century railway usage of the site are the remains of a probable brick chimney and a hard standing/surface found in the Phase 2 area.

- *What are the latest deposits identified?*

5.1.11 The latest deposits appear to be 20th-century pits with industrial/hazardous origins and probably relate a late period when the area was a vehicle breakers yard.

5.2 Answering new research aims

5.2.1 The limited results of this watching brief have not raised any new research questions.

5.3 Significance of the data

5.3.1 Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

6 Publication and archiving

- 6.1.1 The results of the watching brief will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of the area.
- 6.1.2 The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2014a) with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive within twelve months of the end of the watching brief.
- 6.1.3 In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 5) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 5.3), it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of *The London Archaeologist* journal

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: Raoul Bull (Geomatics).
- 7.1.2 Also to Andrew Dawson, Paul Ferguson and Steve Butcher of Keltbray Ltd for their assistance with the fieldwork.

8 Bibliography

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9 OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-274762

Project details

Project name	Lillie Square (Phase 2 and 4)
Short description of the project	Watching brief of ground reduction. The only features found were a possible brick chimney and part of a brick and stone surface. Both are probably related to the 19th/20th century Brompton and Fulham Goods and Coal Station that occupied the site. In addition there were several large 20th century pits that were usually filled with industrial/hazardous debris.
Project dates	Start: 23-05-2016 End: 13-12-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SGR13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	molas1-146373 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Monument type	BRICK CHIMNEY Post Medieval
Monument type	PITS Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM Lillie Square, Seagrave Road
Postcode	SW6
Study area	27560 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 25450 77800 51.484722129347 -0.193057520156 51 29 05 N 000 11 35 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 2.7m

Project creators

Name of Organisation MOLA

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator MOLA

Project director/manager Simon Davis

Project supervisor Tony Mackinder

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Capital and Counties Properties PLC

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Physical Archive ID SGR13

Physical Archive notes nothing kept in this watching brief (Phase 2 and 4)

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Digital Archive ID SGR13

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

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Paper Archive ID SGR13

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes", "Plan", "Section"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Lillie Square (Phases 2 and 4), Seagrave Road, London SW6
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mackinder, T
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 client report
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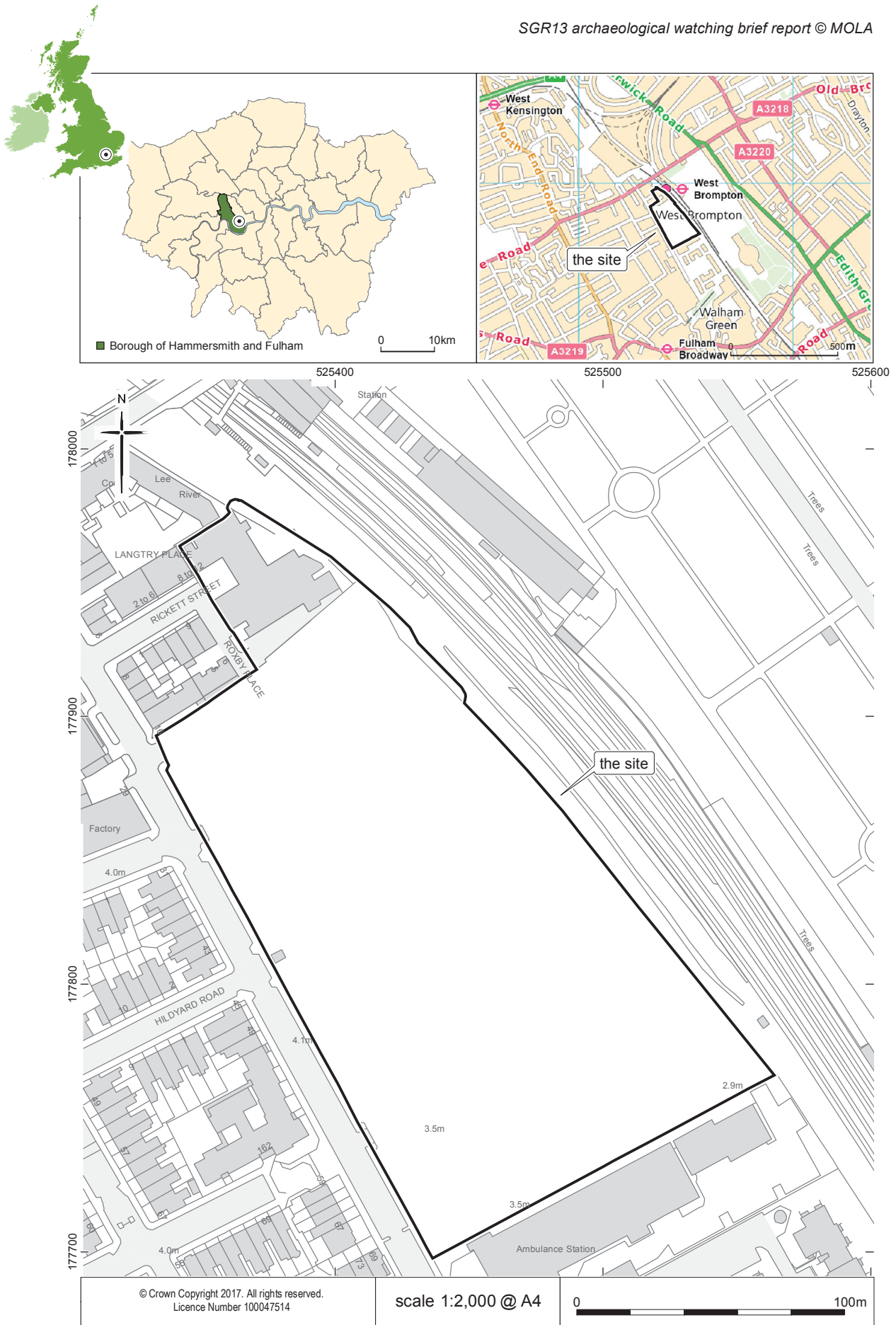


Fig 1 Site location

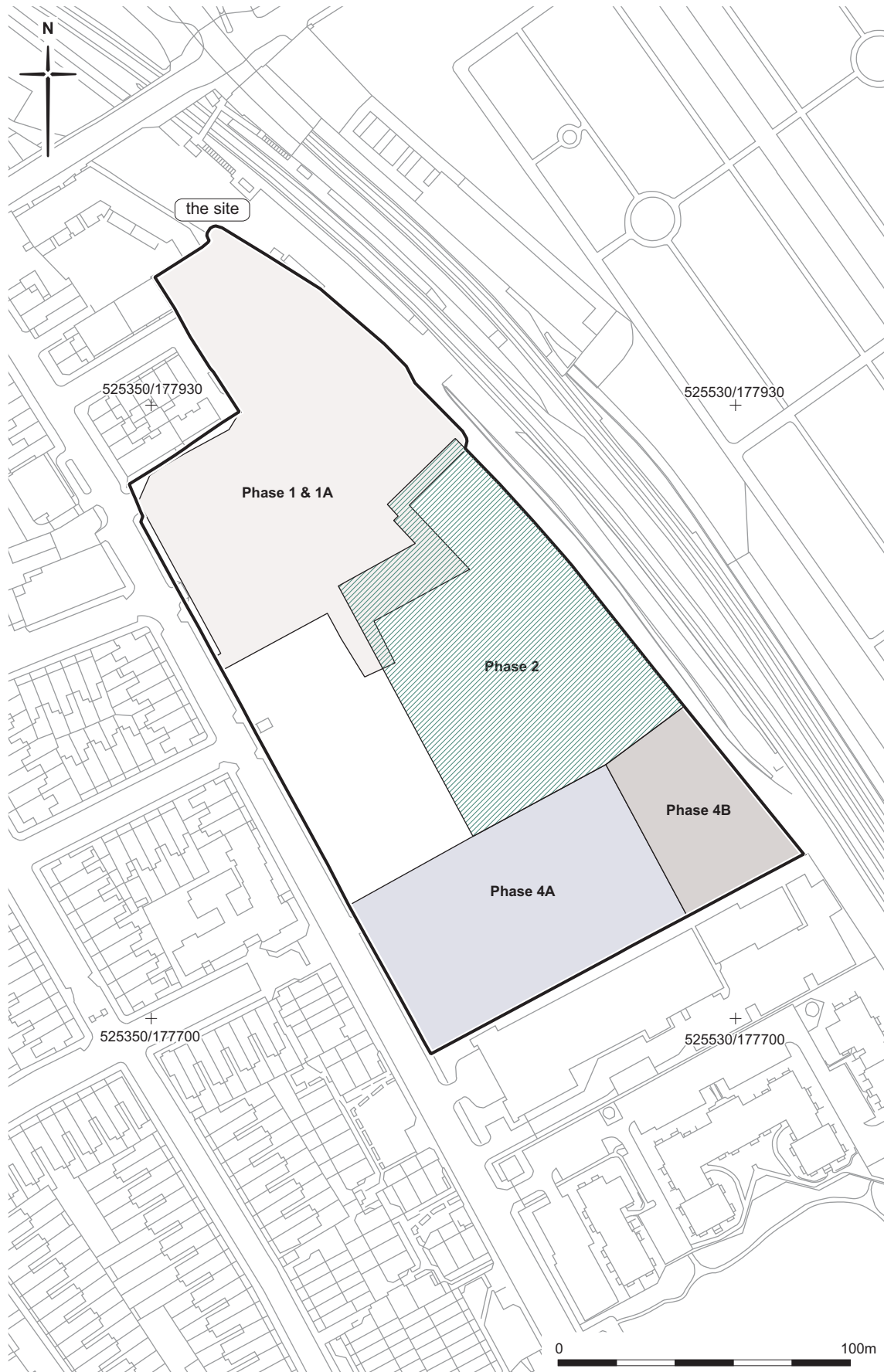


Fig 2 Areas of investigation (watching brief phases)



Fig 4 London Clay exposed below natural gravels at the east of the Phase 2 area, looking north



Fig 5 Archaeological features overlain on the 1968 Ordnance Survey map



Fig 6 Nineteenth to twentieth century surface in Phase 2 area, looking west, 0.5m scale



Fig 7 Modern pits in Phase 4 area, looking north-east