



**RAMBERT SCHOOL OF BALLET
AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE**
Clifton Lodge
St Margarets Drive
Twickenham
TWI 1QN

London Borough of Richmond

An archaeological watching brief report

April 2006



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

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AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE
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Twickenham
TW1 1QN

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An archaeological watching brief report

Site Code: RDS05

Project Manager	Stuart Hoad
Authors	Sylvia Kennedy Mark Wiggins
Graphics	Neville Constantine

Museum of London Archaeology Service

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Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED

tel 020 7410 2200 fax 020 7410 2201

email molas@molas.org.uk

Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at Clifton Lodge, St. Margaret's Drive, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 1QN.

Work on new Dance Studios was monitored between 25th August 2005 and 28th January 2006 during redevelopment and conversion of the site for use by the Ballet School.

A total of four interventions were made, archaeological deposits and features were recorded in section in Trenches 1 and 2 only; the highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at 6.0m OD

Brickearth was observed in the northern area of site only, at a maximum height of 5.7mOD and sloping gradually eastwards. Natural ground in the southern area of site consisted of banded sands and gravels at a maximum height of 4.3m OD. There was a notable absence of brickearth in the southern area of the site, possibly due to the slope towards the Thames.

In summary the area investigated consisted of topsoil at 6m OD (present ground level) associated with the gardens, in some areas this overlay a levelling or drainage deposit, but otherwise it was directly above natural deposits. The bedding trenches, trees bowls and well, observed under the topsoil in Trench 1 at 6– 5.7m OD, are likely to be associated with the gardens of St Margarets House to the north.

Table Of Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Site background	1
1.2	The planning and legislative framework	1
1.3	Planning background	1
1.4	Origin and scope of the report	1
1.5	Aims and objectives	1
2	Topographical and historical background	4
2.1	Topography	4
2.2	Archaeological background	4
3	The watching brief	6
3.1	Methodology	6
3.2	Results of the watching brief	6
4	Potential of archaeology	11
4.1	Realisation of original research aims	11
4.2	New research aims	12
4.3	Significance of the data	12
5	Publication and archiving	13
6	Acknowledgements	14
7	Bibliography	14
8	NMR OASIS archaeological report form	17
8.1	OASIS ID: molas1-13702	17

List Of Illustrations

Front cover: Clifton Lodge, formerly The Orangery

Fig 1 Site location plan

Fig 2 Trench locations

Fig 3 Trench 1: location of well and sections A and B

Fig 4 Sections A and B in Trench 1

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at Clifton Lodge, Twickenham, Middlesex, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is located in St. Margaret's Drive, bounded by St. Margaret's Drive and Kilmorey Road (see Fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 516704 174998. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is at *c* 6.25m OD. The site code is RSD 05.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 1.2, MoLAS, 2005)

1.3 Planning background

The watching brief was undertaken as required under the archaeological planning condition placed on the development. The watching brief was undertaken on the recommendation of English Heritage, the archaeological advisor to the borough.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by The Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2005), and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the watching brief against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

1.5 Aims and objectives

The limited nature of the proposed works and the watching brief upon them makes it unreasonable to establish any specific archaeological research objectives. The archaeological brief is essentially limited to establishing where, if at all, archaeological deposits may survive (presence/absence), recording where necessary, and to ensuring that the proposed groundwork's do not involve the destruction of any

archaeological deposits of national significance. Nevertheless, a few research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* (Section 2.2) for the watching brief:

What was the level of natural topography?

Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity? Can the nature of this be defined, and what is the stratigraphic context and date range?

Is there any evidence for Roman activity on the site?

What is the nature of, and evidence for, any Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval activity or landuse?

Is there any evidence for earlier buildings on the site relating to the present structures?

What evidence, if any, is there for the formal gardens / park associated with St Margaret's House?

Is there any evidence for ploughed soils to imply agricultural functions and field boundaries in the medieval period?



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Fig 1 Site location

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

The Natural consists of a mid orange brown sandy brickearth which overlays mid orange coarse sandy gravel banded with horizons of coarse orange brown and light grey coarse sands (River Terrace Gravels). The brickearth has a maximum thickness of 1.30m. The height of the top of this deposit is 5.7m OD, the height of the top of the gravel is 4.5m OD.

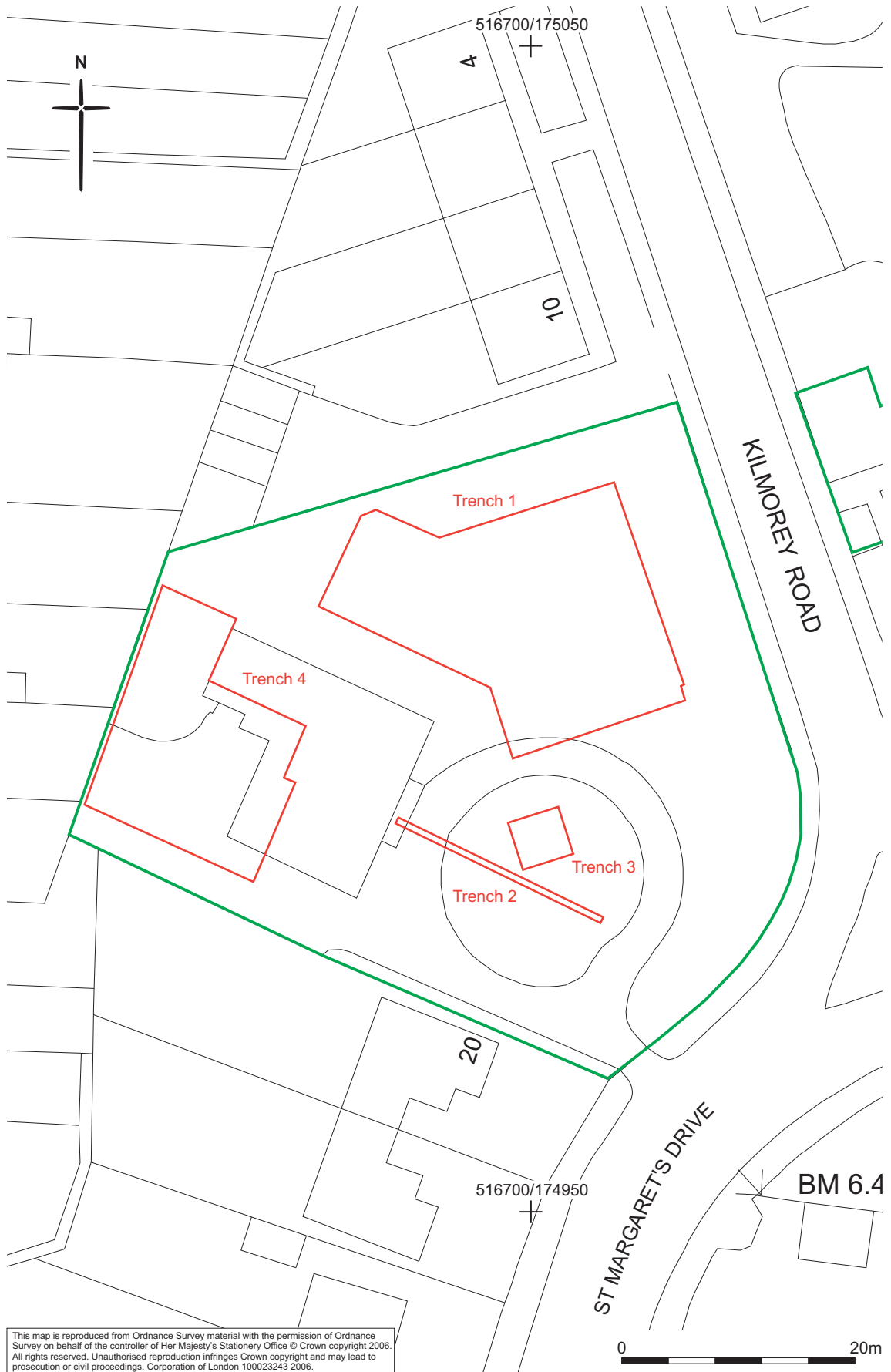
2.2 Archaeological background

The site lies in an area of low to moderate archaeological potential for most periods. The highest potential is for post-medieval remains, particularly from the 17th to 19th centuries. Surviving archaeological deposits and structures may relate to medieval agricultural activity, late medieval buildings, buildings associated with St Margaret's House and formal gardens and parkland. It is less likely, but not impossible, that remains from prehistory and the Roman or Saxon periods will be present.

Archaeological investigations have been carried out on the site immediately to the north of Violet Needham Chapel. Work consisted of an archaeological evaluation and watching brief in the area of a new residential redevelopment. Rubble deposits and brick filled pits associated with demolition of the former St Margaret's and Lacy Houses were uncovered. Brick foundations of St Margaret's House were exposed and brick footings relating to a previous summerhouse or garden building associated with either Lacy or St Margaret's House were also revealed. Archaeological features comprised an undated east-west ditch, truncated by later pits, which were thought to be the result of gardening and tree planting.

The watching brief in this area uncovered numerous features dated to the 18th and 19th centuries cutting into the natural. Most were pits, some of which were filled with brick and mortar rubble. Other cut features included rows of 19th-century bedding trenches, and a ditch. The bedding trenches were probably associated with the second St Margaret's House (built 1823) or the third (built 1851).

An E-W terrace wall was also uncovered, which probably dated to the second half of the 19th century. This marked the southern limit of a rectangular garden on the south side of the third St Margaret's house known from 19th- and early 20th-century Ordnance Survey maps and an aerial photograph of the site taken in 1930-36.



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Fig 2 Trench locations

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2005) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS, 1994).

The ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The locations and OD heights of the areas of excavation were recorded on plans provided by the Contractors.

Where relevant, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20; numbered contexts were allocated where appropriate.

The site has produced: one trench location plan; 13 context records; two 1:20 section drawings and two sketch sections. No finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code RSD05 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, four separate excavations for the purposes of building the new Ballet School were monitored (see Fig 2). The first area consisted of footings and 'drain runs' for a new Dance Studio to the northeast of the existing building. The second area monitored was for a north-west/south-east cable trench running between the standing building and the contractor's huts. A 'soak-away' to the south-east of the building comprised the third intervention. The last area examined was for the proposed basement and new Dance Studio building to the rear (west) of the standing building. These interventions have been numbered Trenches 1 to 4 consecutively. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

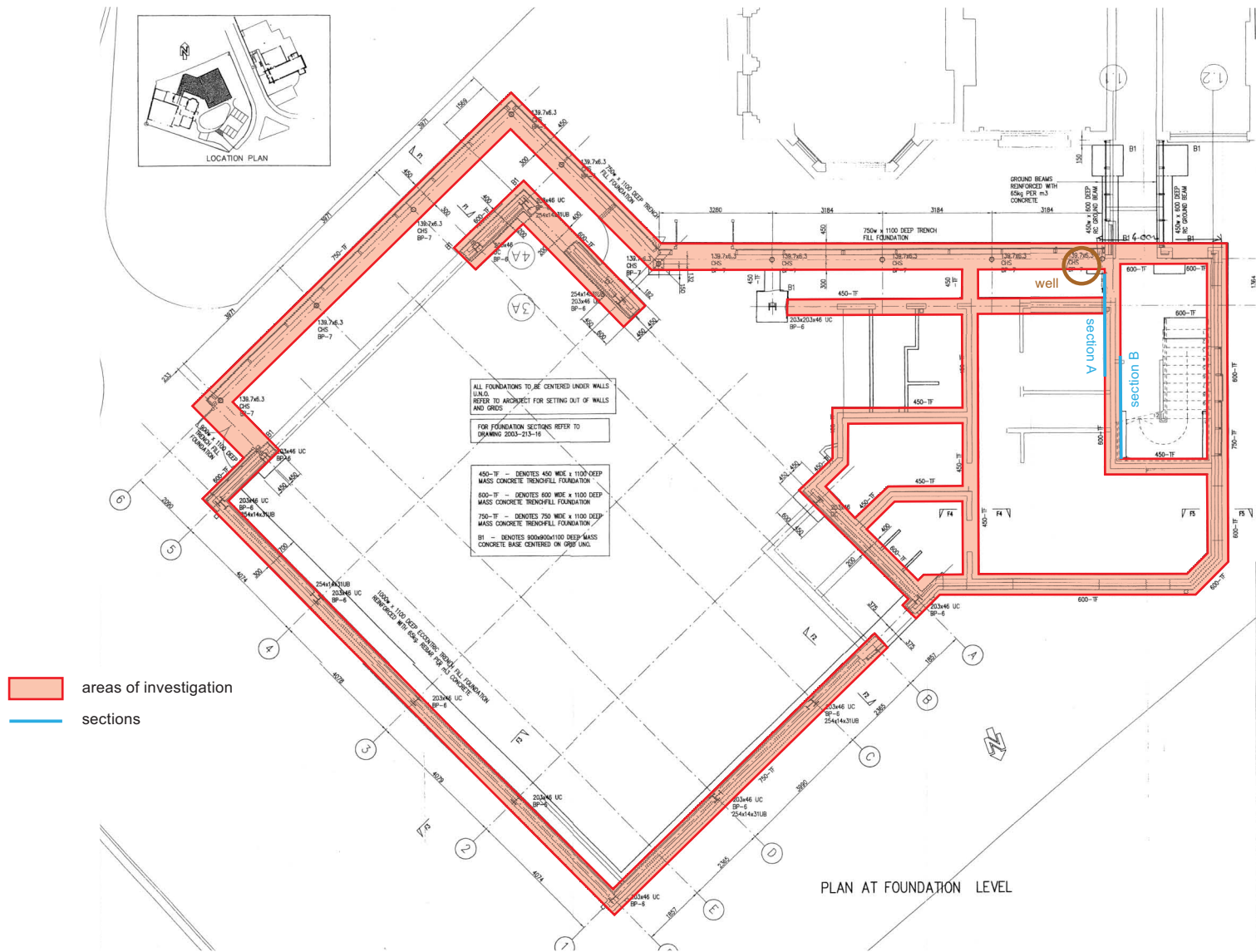


Fig 3 Trench 1: location of well and sections A and B

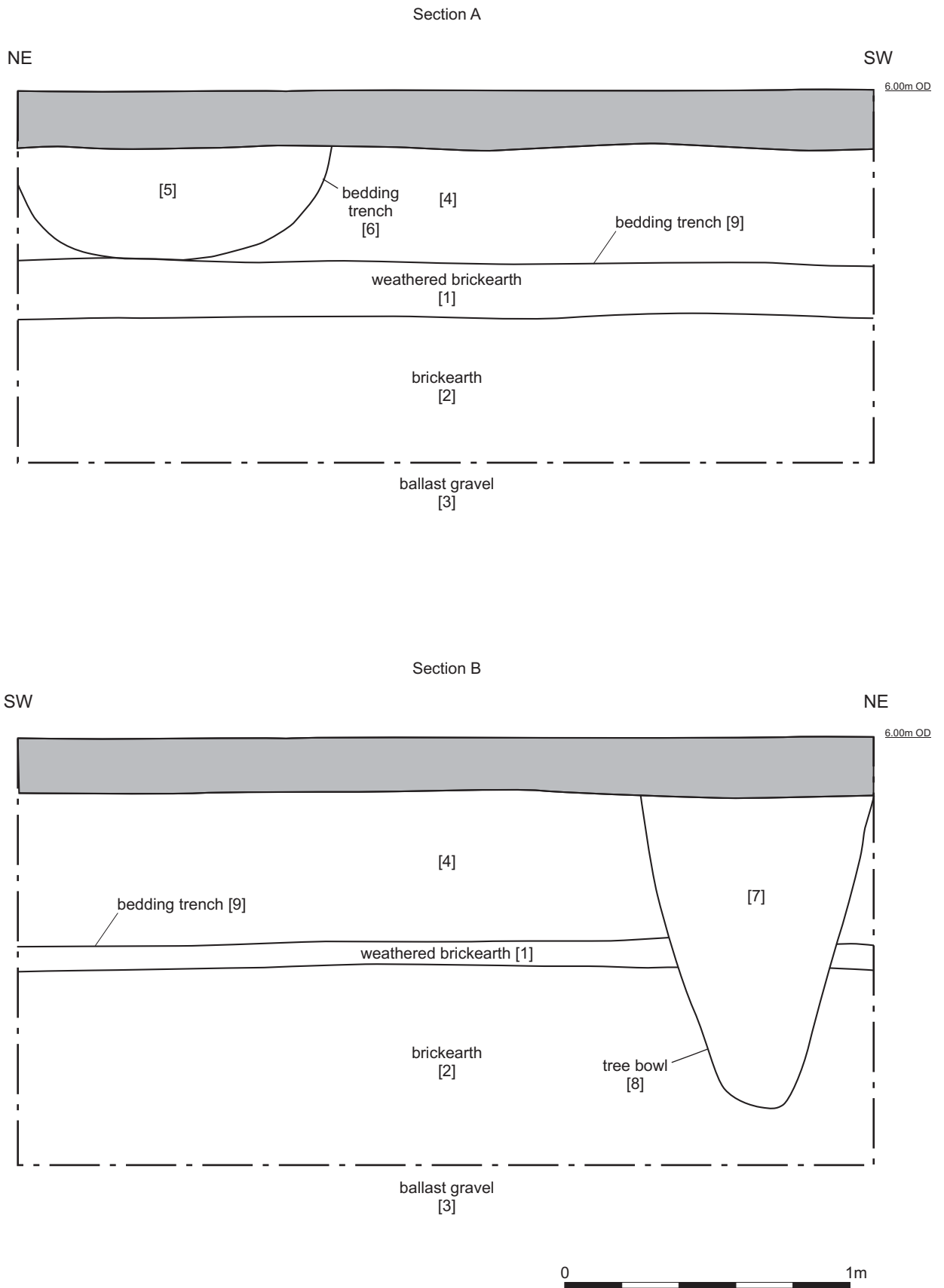


Fig 4 Sections A and B in Trench 1

<i>Watching Brief Trench 1</i>	
Location	Trenches for footings and drain runs to the east of the standing building and a soak-away to the south-east.
Dimensions	1m wide (see Fig 3)
Modern ground level/topsoil	6m OD
Base of topsoil	5.5m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.6m
Level of base of deposits observed	4.5 m OD
Natural observed	5m OD

For the most part, the area excavated revealed natural brickearth sealed by topsoil, which varied in thickness from 0.50m and 0.20m. The surface of the natural showed signs of weathering and disturbance caused by root action. (Many of the roots evident in the upper part of the natural deposits relate to the former garden in this part of the site). In places a 'levelling dump' consisting of clayey silt with occasional brick and chalk fragments was observed between the natural and the topsoil at c 5.4m OD. The purpose of this deposit was presumably a make up layer for the use of the area as a garden.

A circular well was observed to the east of the existing building at 5.9m OD. It had a vaulted roof and was backfilled with similar make up material as that used for the levelling of the garden (see Trench 1 above). The well measured 1m in diameter and extended to a depth of 2m. It was constructed of red brick (100mm x 60mm x 180mm), bonded with an off-white, creamy coarse sandy lime mortar with frequent lime flecks. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the well, the brick and the mortar construction implied an 18th century date for the well.

In the northern area, underlying the topsoil, two bedding trenches and two possible tree bowls were observed at 5.7m OD. Due to the nature of the excavation it was not possible to determine their exact extents: a linear feature [9], assumed to be a bedding trench, was observed running north–south (see Fig 4); it measured 0.4m deep, but its east–west extents extended beyond the limit of the excavation. This feature was cut by bedding trench [6], which was aligned east–west. Trench [6] was 1.1m wide and, like [9], was also 0.4m deep. The tree bowls both measured 1.3m deep by 0.8m wide. All features were filled by the same loose sandy silt, the lack of compaction indicating a fairly late origin.

<i>Watching Brief Trench 2</i>	
Location	South-east of main entrance to Clifton Lodge
Dimensions	0.5m wide by 17.1m long
Modern ground level/topsoil	6m OD
Base of topsoil	5.55m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	5cm
Level of base of deposits observed	5.3 m OD
Natural observed	5.5m OD

A cable trench excavated to the southeast of the existing building (see Fig. 2) contained topsoil over a 5cm thick deposit of chalk fragments, presumably for garden drainage. Underlying this deposit was natural brickearth with some root disturbance at the top.

<i>Watching Brief Trench 3</i>	
Location	South of Clifton Lodge
Dimensions	4.5m x 4.5m
Modern ground level/topsoil	6m OD
Base of topsoil	5.7m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	4 m OD
Natural observed	5.7m OD

This trench contained a straightforward sequence of deposits. Banded sands and gravels were present at 4.5m OD, underlying a 1.5m thick deposit of natural brickearth. Topsoil in this area was 0.3m thick and directly over the brickearth. No archaeological deposits were evident.

<i>Watching Brief Trench 4</i>	
Location	West of Clifton Lodge
Dimensions	18m x 20.5m max
Modern ground level/top of tarmac	6m OD
Base of modern deposits	5.2m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	1 m OD
Natural observed	4.3m OD

Truncated sands and gravels were evident between 4.3m and 3.7m OD throughout the area. Immediately above these was 0.7m of topsoil to a height of *c* 5.4m OD. The topsoil was sealed by modern made ground associated with the construction of a car park. No archaeology deposits were observed.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

What was the level of natural topography?

The natural brickearth seen to the north, sloped from west to east, the highest level being 5.8m OD (truncated) at the west end to 5.1m OD at the east end. Underlying the brickearth were bands of sand and gravel at c 4.5m OD.

The absence of brickearth in the southern area, i.e. Trench 4 may be due to the underlying topographic southward slope towards the Thames. Truncated natural gravels in this area were at a maximum height of 4.3m OD

Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity? Can the nature of this be defined, and what is the stratigraphic context and date range?

No evidence for prehistoric activity was seen on site.

Is there any evidence for Roman activity on the site?

No evidence for Roman activity was seen on site.

What is the nature of, and evidence for, any Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval activity or landuse?

There is no evidence for Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval activity.

What, if any, evidence is there for the formal gardens / park associated with St Margaret's House?

The bedding trenches, tree bowls and well recorded in Trench 1 are probably associated with the gardens of St Margarets House to the north of Clifton Lodge. The truncation at the western end and the levelling dump at the eastern end indicate that the area was levelled to create these gardens. The soil matrix of the levelling dump could suggest that its origin was from the brickearth removed by horizontal truncation in the west (truncation is implied by the fact that the topsoil is directly above clean brickearth).

Is there any evidence for ploughed soils to imply agricultural functions and field boundaries in the medieval period?

There is no evidence for ploughed soils from the medieval period.

4.2 New research aims

The nature of the archaeological results from this watching brief implies that no new research aims can be identified.

4.3 Significance of the data

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

5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation 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 London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2005) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 4.3) 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*.

6 Acknowledgements

The archaeological watching brief and this report were commissioned by Chris Watson of Gardiner & Theobald LLP, on behalf of the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance.

Thanks are also due to Barry Landrum and Mark Gotham of Weightman & Bullen Ltd. for setting up this project.

The Museum of London Archaeology Service is also grateful to Mark Stevenson (English Heritage) for advising on the scope of the survey.

The figures in this report were produced by Neville Constantine.

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-13702

Project details

Project name Rambert School of Ballet, Clifton Lodge, St Margarets Drive TW1 1QN

Short description of the project Work on new Dance Studios was monitored between 25th August 2005 and 28th January 2006 during redevelopment and conversion of the site for use by the Ballet School. A total of four interventions were made, archaeological deposits and features were recorded in section in Trenches 1 and 2 only; the highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at 6.0m OD. Brickearth was observed in the northern area of site only, at a maximum height of 5.7mOD and sloping gradually eastwards. Natural ground in the southern area of site consisted of banded sands and gravels at a maximum height of 4.3m OD. The absence of brickearth in the southern area is due to the slope towards the Thames. In summary the area investigated consisted of topsoil at 6m OD (present ground level) associated with the gardens, in some areas this overlay a levelling or drainage deposit but otherwise it was directly above natural ground. Bedding trenches and tree bowls observed under the topsoil in Trench 1 at 5.7m OD are likely to be associated with the gardens of St Margarets House to the north. The well observed in this area at 6.0m OD was also probably associated with these gardens.

Project dates Start: 25-08-2005 End: 28-01-2006

Previous/future work No / No

Type of project Recording project

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type WELL Post Medieval
Bedding trenches

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM
Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, Clifton Lodge,
St Margarets Drive, Twickenham TW1 1QN
Postcode TW1 1QN
Study area 7000.00 Square metres
National reference grid TQ 16704 74998 Point
Height OD Min: 4.30m Max: 5.70m

Project creators

Name of MoLAS
Organisation
Project originator brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory
body
Project originator design MoLAS
Project director/manager Stewart Hoad
Project supervisor Mark Wiggins
Sponsor or funding body Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance
body

Project archives

Physical recipient Archive LAARC
Digital recipient Archive LAARC

Paper recipient Archive LAARC

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, Clifton Lodge, St Margarets Drive, Twickenham TW1 1QN

Author(s)/Editor(s) Kennedy, S

Author(s)/Editor(s) Wiggins, M

Date 2006

Issuer or publisher MoLAS

Place of issue or publication MoLAS

Entered by skennedy (skennedy@molas.org.uk)

Entered on 29 March 2006