

EALING SQUASH CLUB
41 Haven Green
London
W5

London Borough of Ealing

An archaeological watching brief report

July 2006



MUSEUM OF LONDON
Archaeology Service

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London
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Site Code: SQH06
National Grid Reference: 517985 180987

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by Ealing Squash and Fitness Club in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at Ealing Squash and Fitness Club, 41 Haven Green, W5.

An evaluation trench was opened between June 20th 2006 and June 21st during redevelopment immediately to the east of the existing squash courts.

Archaeological deposits were recorded in section in the trench. Natural ground was observed at 29.96m OD, and the highest survival of deposits occurred at 33.76m OD.

No archaeological features or finds were noted.

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1

Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at the Ealing Squash Club, 41 Haven Green, hereafter called 'the site'. The site comprises existing buildings at 41 Haven Green and land to the rear of nos 4-6 Madeley Road, and is bounded by Ealing Broadway Station to the south and properties fronting onto Haven Green to the west. (see Fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 517985 180987. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is 33.76m OD. The site code is SQH06.

A desk top *Archaeological Method Statement* was previously prepared by MoLAS, which covers the whole area of the site (MoLAS, 2006). 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.

1.2 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, 2006)

1.3 Planning background

The investigation was carried in response to a condition placed on planning permission ref 2004/2904.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by the Ealing Squash and Fitness Club 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 2006), and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation 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 following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

- What is the nature and level of the natural topography ?
- What are the earliest deposits identified ?
- What are the latest deposits identified ?
- Are there any Palaeolithic or later prehistoric remains on the site ?
- Is there in evidence present on the site of the Saxon origins of Ealing ?
- Does any evidence survive of the post-mediaeval growth of Ealing ?

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Geology and Prehistory

The underlying geology of the site is London Clay. This is sealed by Lynch Hill gravels 5m thick which are in turn sealed by Langley Silts commonly known as brickearth.

The Lynch Hill gravel terrace is laid down during the Wolstonian age (339,000 - 260,000 BP) and is a vestige of a former floodplain of the Thames. Above this a sandy deposit forms in some areas during the late Wolstonian / early Devensian age (c. 140,000 BP) becoming part of the basal weak stratigraphy of the brickearth. It is this deposit which may hold Levalloisian flintwork. Above this the brickearth forms which has been dated by Thermoluminescence measurements to 13,000 +/- 1,100 yrs BP, which places them in the late Devensian period.

The site is located less than 2 kilometres to the east of the important Creffield Road Palaeolithic (c.450,000 - 10,000 BP) site, where four pits were dug in 1885 by J.A. Brown. From here over 450 Levalloisian industry (220,000 - c.50,000 BC) flint artefacts were recovered from immediately below the brickearth on top of sandy gravel. He also identified three to four black seams in the gravel which he interpreted as floors. The uppermost of these, around 1m below the brickearth appears to have produced more Levalloisian material.

Closer to the site Brown made a number of other discoveries including following the black seams from Creffield Road through to Longfield Avenue and further discoveries of flint artifacts have been made in the area.

The characteristic feature of Levalloisian industry is a specialised technique used for obtaining flint flakes of a particular desired size and shape using prepared cores. These cores come in two main types: those with the face prepared by the removal of flakes radially around it, known as tortoise cores, and those with a face prepared by the removal of flakes in a parallel direction from one or two opposing ends. These are known as prismatic cores and are less common than the tortoise core type. True Levalloisian industry is when these techniques are practised to the almost total exclusion of hand-axes.

Although few Mesolithic finds (8,000 to 4,000 BC) have been recovered from the vicinity of the site discoveries were made at Creffield Road. It is possible that some of the stray finds have been mis-assigned to the upper palaeolithic as it had been assumed that the brickearth was too old to contain Mesolithic flints.

2.2 Later Archaeological Potential

Although Ealing is a Saxon settlement no finds from this period have been found close to the site. It also does not appear in Domesday Book, probably as it was part of the Bishop of London's large manor of Fulham. Ealing is mentioned among these estates during the 12th century and the church was founded around 1130. The village grew up around what is now St Mary's Road, south east of the site. It therefore seems unlikely that the village extends as far as the site, no finds having been recorded from the immediate area.

The earliest available detailed map which covers the site area is John Rocque's of 1754 which shows a scatter of buildings around Haven Green, some of which may lie on the site. This arrangement is confirmed by Basset's Parish Map of 1777. However the substantial growth of the area started with the expansion of the railway system and the opening of the Ealing extension of the Metropolitan District Line in 1879.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2006) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS, 1994).

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

The location of the area of excavation was recorded by offsetting from the north east and south west corners of the squash courts. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

The heights of observations were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum via a traverse to the OS benchmark by Haven Green Court.

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

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan, 6 context records, 1 1:10 section drawing and 5 photographs.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code SQH 06 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, 1 separate intervention (trench) was made. This has been numbered Trench 1. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For the trench location see **Error! Reference source not found.**

<i>Watching Brief Trench 1</i>	
Location	Open area east of squash courts
Dimensions	3.0m in length x 0.30m wide
Modern ground level	33.76m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	N/A
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	3.80m
Level of base of deposits observed	29.96m OD
Natural observed	29.96m OD

The trench originally measured 12m x 2m and excavated to a depth of 0.80m . It was then decided to excavate a narrower trench 0.30m wide down the middle of the larger trench starting at the eastern limit of excavation for a length of 3.0m. and a total depth of 3.80m. Numbers in brackets are the context numbers given to each deposit.

The top 0.30m (topsoil) consisted of mid/dark grey silt [1]. This topsoil sat on 0.50m of mid brown compact fluvial brickearth [2], which overlay a band of slightly sandy orangey – brown angular pebbles interspersed with frequent lenses and flecks of mid brown brickearth [3]. This in turn overlay more mid brown very compact fluvial brickearth [4], until at 30.56m OD fine pale yellow sand [5] appeared. This sand varied between 0.30m and 0.60m in depth, and became gradually coarser and more gravely as it got deeper. At 29.96m OD mid orange sandy gravel [6], which was identified as the top of the Lynch Hill Gravel horizon. No Paleolithic artefacts were observed. No archaeological features were noted.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

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

The nature and level of the natural topography consists of fluvial brickearth beginning at 33.46m OD, overlying fine sand at 30.56m OD

- What are the earliest deposits identified ?

The earliest deposit identified was the Lynch Hill Gravels at 29.96m OD

- What are the latest deposits identified ?

The latest deposit identified was a layer [1] of topsoil at 33.76m OD

- Are there any Palaeolithic or later prehistoric remains on the site ?

There were no Palaeolithic or later prehistoric remains observed on site

- Is there in evidence present on the site of the Saxon origins of Ealing ?

There was no evidence of Saon occupation on the site.

- Does any evidence survive of the post-mediaeval growth of Ealing ?

There was no evidence of the post-mediaeval growth of Ealing on the site.

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, 2006) with the Museum of London.

In view of the absence of archaeological features it is suggested that no further works be undertaken.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: Mark Slaughter of the Ealing Squash Club.

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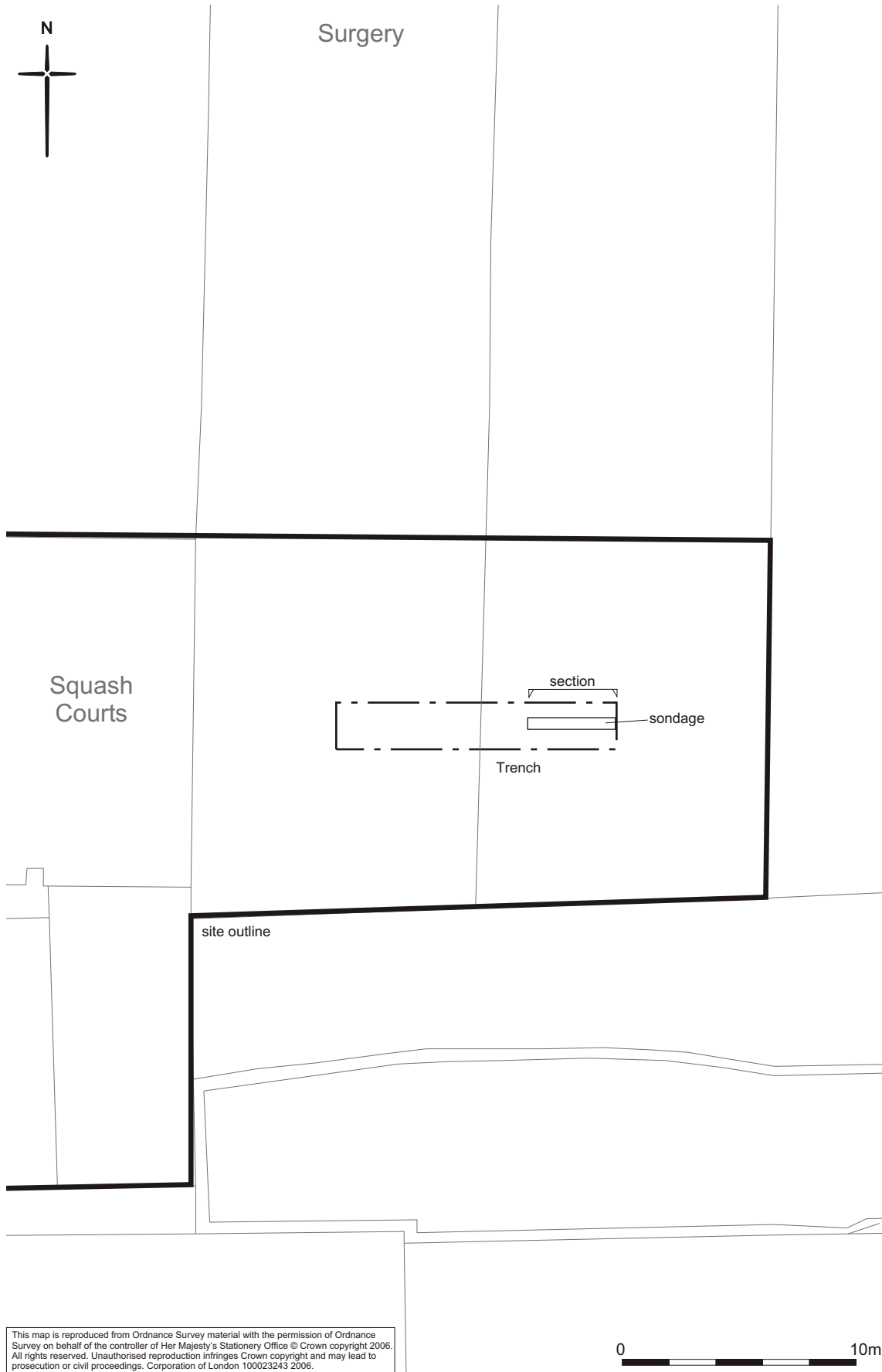
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Fig 1 Site location



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Fig 2 Trench location

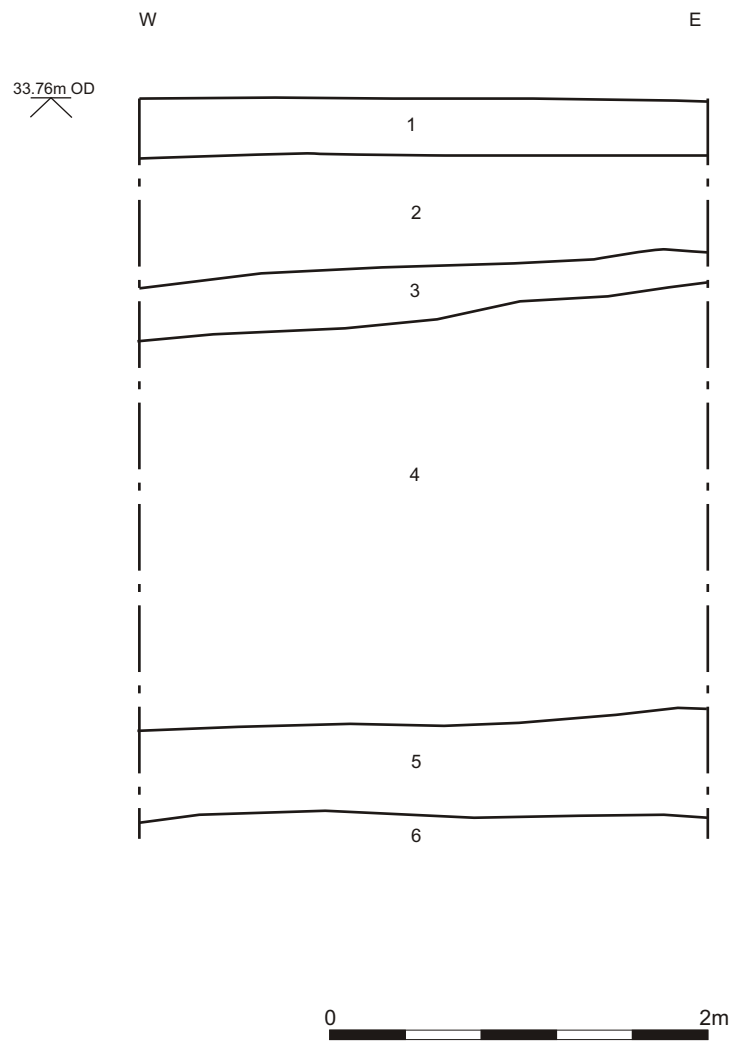


Fig 3 Section

8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-16052

Project details

Project name	Ealing Suash Club
Short description of the project	Watching brief of trench
Project dates	Start: 20-06-2006 End: 21-06-2006
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SQH06 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SQH06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	OPEN AREA Palaeolithic
Monument type	OPEN AREA Palaeolithic
Significant Finds	NONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE Uncertain

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON EALING EALING Ealing Squash Club
Postcode	W5
Study area	20.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 17985 80987 Point
National grid reference	TQ 17985 80987 Point
Height OD	Min: 33.76m Max: 29.96m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	London Borough of Ealing
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	David Lakin
Project supervisor	P. Cardiff
Sponsor or funding body	London Borough of Ealing

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Kent County Council
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC

Entered by Cardiff, P (pcardiff@museumoflondon.org.uk)

Entered on

27 June 2006

