



HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL SOUTHERN SIDE
Campden Hill Road
London W8

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Watching brief report

October 2013

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**Holland Park School Southern Side
Campden Hill Road
London
W8 7AF**

Site Code HLD13

A report on the archaeological watching brief

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on the site of Holland Park School, Southern Side, Campden Hill Road, London, W8 7AF. The report has been commissioned by Harrison Group Environmental Limited.

Work on the excavation of trial pits, window samples and cable percussion boreholes was monitored between 7th October and 17th October 2013, prior to redevelopment of the former of a school buildings and sports ground to residential use. The site code for the site is HLD13.

Localised archaeological deposits were recorded in window samples and boreholes on the site. Natural ground (sand and gravel) was observed at 31m OD at the north-east of the site and at 29m OD (colluvium) at the south of the site. The highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at c 30.20m OD in the area of Window Sample 6 at the east of the site. This deposit was notably less disturbed than other deposits on the site and contained pottery dated to the Saxon or Iron Age and its depth suggests that may be a feature rather than general subsoil encountered in other areas of the site.

Limited evidence of post-medieval agricultural activity was suggested by the deposit recorded at the south-east corner of the site which appeared to be a reworked ploughsoil or subsoil that contained sherds of post-medieval pottery with a residual sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery. An earlier foundation recorded at lower levels in Trial Pit 3 at the north-west corner of the site may be the remains of the boundary wall associated with Argyll Lodge, an early 19th-century property know to have been located on the site.

Although the site has been truncated by modern development and terracing, particularly at the north of the site, there are localised areas where deposits survive and the restricted size of the investigations should not dismiss potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site particularly in the area around Window Sample 6 and at the south of the site where areas of subsoil remain in situ over natural deposits.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at Holland Park School, Southern Side, Campden Hill Road, London, W8 7AF, located in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, hereafter called 'the site'. The site comprises the southern side of Holland Park School (including playing fields) and is bounded by Campden Hill Road to the North and East, Sheldrake Place to the South and Holland Walk to the West. The centre of the site is at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 524970 179845 (Fig 1). Modern ground level on the site ranges from 32m OD at the north of the site to 29.5m at the south of the site. The site code for the project is HLD13.

Archaeological investigations on the adjacent site to the north, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2009 and 2010, have revealed significant archaeological remains of Iron Age and Romano-British date relating to possible settlement activity in the surrounding area. A planning condition in relation to archaeological investigation was placed on the site and a '*written scheme of investigation*' was submitted for the site and approved for the watching brief (MOLA 2013) and all work was carried out in accordance with this.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Written scheme of investigation* which formed the project design for the watching brief (MOLA 2013, Section 1.2).

1.3 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Harrison Group Environmental Limited and produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for 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 *Written scheme of investigation*, 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.

1.4 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the watching brief (MOLA 2013, Section 2.2.4):

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?

- What evidence is there of Bronze or Iron Age settlement activity?
- Are there any archaeological remains relating to Roman land or water management?
- Are there any features or finds which relate to medieval agricultural activity?
- Is there any evidence of post-medieval agricultural and industrial activity?
- What are the latest deposits identified?
- What is the extent of modern disturbance?

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 Topography

The site is situated towards the top of a hill and is located on Lynch Hill Gravel, part of the River Thames fluvial deposits. The north-western end of the site is situated close to the boundary between the gravel and London Clay. There is approximately 2.5m of gravel capping the London Clay. The surface of the natural gravel has been recorded in the vicinity at between c 0.5m to 1m below ground level.

The site lies on a slope with higher ground at the north dropping down to the south. Modern ground level on the site ranges from 32m OD at the north of the site to 29.5m at the south of the site. It is apparent the site has been terraced at the north of the site.

2.2 Archaeology

2.2.1 Prehistoric period (700,000 BC–AD 43)

Archaeological evidence of medium importance dating to the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age occupation was recorded adjacent to the site on the south side of Campden Hill Road. Previous archaeological work on the adjacent site to the south-east and on other sites in the vicinity suggested that the site has potential for the discovery of in situ later prehistoric remains including evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation and agricultural activity such as gulleys, ditches and pits cut into the natural gravel.

Archaeological investigations on the adjacent site to the north, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2009 and 2010 (site code HDK09) have revealed significant archaeological remains of Iron Age and Romano-British date relating to possible settlement activity in the surrounding area. In 2009 Wessex Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation on the site immediately to the north. The evaluation uncovered a number of features, several of which were of Middle-Late Iron Age and Romano-British date, and were recorded cutting into the natural sand and gravel. These features comprised two sub-circular pits, a sub-rectangular pit and two ditches. Intrusive Saxon pottery was also recovered from the ditches. Subsequently in 2010 Wessex Archaeology conducted two phases of excavation of the site to reveal extensive settlement activity relating to the Middle-Late Iron Age and Romano-British period. The evidence indicates that the size of the settlement increased during this period with structures, a possible drove way, and an indication of more extensive land organisation within the hinterland of Roman London. Evidence from both phases of the HDK09 investigations revealed human occupation, including settlement evidence, from the Middle/Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British activity. Several pits of Middle Iron Age date, postholes and a possible trackway of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period were recorded. The alignment of the trackway, formed by two parallel ditches, suggests further contemporary evidence to the north of the excavation area

2.2.2 Roman period (AD 43–410)

Archaeological remains from the Roman period have also been recorded in the vicinity of the Roman road to the north and as this site is 350m to the south of the road, there is therefore low potential for road side activity, including burials, on this site. Evidence of Roman occupation and agricultural activity, including ditches and pits, has been recorded on adjacent sites to the north and to the southeast. A large, deep 'V'-shaped Roman ditch was also found on the HDK09 excavations to the north of the site suggesting this southern area could have potential for similar remains as the north–south-aligned ditches could be part of a larger field system.

2.2.3 Early medieval (Saxon) and later medieval periods (AD 410–1485)

This site is situated to the west of the known Saxon settlement and this area is likely to have been agricultural land at this time. Later cartographic sources indicate that the site was in open pastureland and was most probably subject to agricultural activity during the later medieval period.

2.2.4 Post-medieval period (AD 1485–present)

Cartographic sources from the 18th century indicate that the site remained open pastureland during the post-medieval period. The rural nature of the area is evident on Rocque's map of 1746 (see Fig 3). The site is shown as open fields crossed by a footpath at the north. The footpath appears to have later become Campden Hill. Milne's land use map of 1800 indicates the site was a market garden at the end of the 18th century (map shown on front cover). The area was also used for gravel quarrying.

Stanford's Library map of 1862 (Fig 4) shows the school site to the north occupied by various early 19th-century residences with large gardens. These include Argyll Lodge, built by John Tasker in 1808–1817 at the north-east of the site. These houses were accessed via Campden Hill. The 1893 Ordnance Survey map (not shown) shows the site with Argyll Lodge and gardens with isolated outbuildings on the site, possibly servant's accommodation and greenhouses. Holland Park School was built on the site between 1956 and 1958. The school was designed by London County Council's architects Department. Argyll Lodge were demolished prior to the construction of the school.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2013).

Eight trial pits were opened across the site. These were of varying sizes and were excavated up to depth of 3m. A number were initially hand dug and where necessary further machine dug. The purpose of the test pits was to primarily expose modern foundations on the site. Excavation of the trial pits, window samples and boreholes was monitored by a MOLA Senior archaeologist.

Six window samples were opened across the site. These measured c 0.30m to 0.40m in diameter and were generally hand dug for the first metre before boring commenced to a depth of c 3m. The upper metre of each hand dug starter pit for the window samples was observed. The depths of the natural deposits encountered were also noted.

Five cable percussion boreholes were opened across the site. The upper metre of each borehole was opened by a hand dug starter pit c 0.30m to 0.40m in diameter and was observed. The depths of the natural deposits encountered were also noted.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded from predefined locations as shown on Waterman drawing ESA800001 Rev A01 dated November 2012. This information will subsequently be tied into the Ordnance Survey grid.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum from a previous site survey undertaken on the site and all approximate OD heights referred to in relation to the ground works were estimated from Holland Park School Existing Site Survey plan 200501921SU1.

Where relevant, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10; numbered contexts were allocated where appropriate and each trial pit was recorded on a trial pit sheet.

The site has produced: a trial pit location plan; eight trial pit sheets, five context records; 1:10 section drawings; fifteen digital photographs. In addition two small bags of finds (pottery only) were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code HLD13 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, eight separate interventions (trial pits) were excavated by the contractors (Harrison Group Environmental) for the purpose of primarily expose the modern foundations on the site. These have been numbered Trial Pit 1 to 8 consecutively and are shown on Fig 2. Additionally six window samples and five cable percussion boreholes were opened across the site, the locations of which are also shown on Fig 2. A brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded in these investigations follows.

3.2.1 Trial pits

Trial pit 1	
Location	North-east of site, against east boundary wall
Dimensions	0.30m by 1.50m by 2m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	31.60m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	Not seen
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	c 29.60m OD (modern only)
Natural observed	N/A

Trial pit 1 was located at the north-east of the site against the modern eastern boundary wall. This trial pit was machine dug and was to determine foundation depths of the existing modern boundary walls. Deposits were essentially modern backfill next to wall to base of trial pit. Natural deposits were not encountered

Trial pit 2	
Location	North of site
Dimensions	c 0.50m by 0.50m by 1.1m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	c 32m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	Not seen
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	c 30.90m OD (modern only)
Natural observed	N/A

Trial pit 2 was located at the north of the site within the interior of demolished school block. This trial pit was hand dug and was to determine foundation depths of the existing wall. Under the slab was 0.50m backfill/crushed modern building material which overlay a clayey silt with numerous gravel inclusions and modern building material. Natural deposits not observed. Deposits within trial pits were essentially modern backfill next to wall.

Trial pit 3	
Location	North-west corner of site at boundary wall
Dimensions	0.50 by 1.50m by 1.80m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	c 31.75m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	Not seen
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	c 30m OD (modern only)
Natural observed	N/A

Trial pit 3 was located at the north-west corner of the site against an area of extant boundary wall next to Holland Park Walk. This trial pit was initially hand dug at top and then subsequently machine dug to determine foundation depths of the modern boundary wall. Under the slab a dark brown clayey silt with occasional modern inclusions was a lighter brown silty sand with modern and post-medieval building material inclusions. The modern wall foundations were c 1.20m deep and overlay earlier post-medieval wall foundations constructed out of reddish/crimson bricks bonded together with a greyish white ?lime mortar that appeared to be possibly late

18th century or 19th century in date [5]. The base of these earlier foundations was not seen. They are most probably foundations associated with an earlier boundary wall for the site. Natural deposits were not observed.

Trial pit 4	
Location	West boundary of site, adjacent to Holland Park Walk
Dimensions	c 0.50m by 1m by c 1.5m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	c 30.10m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	Not seen
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	c 28.60m OD (modern only)
Natural observed	N/A

Trial pit 4 was located at the west of the site against the western boundary access. This trial pit was initially hand dug then machine dug and was to determine foundation depths of the removed boundary wall in the area. Under the slab was a mid-brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions with inclusions of brick fragments, glass and ceramic building material. Concrete footings were seen in south-west corner. Natural deposits not observed.

Trial pit 5	
Location	South boundary of site
Dimensions	c 0.80m by 0.80m by c 1.2m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	c 28.80m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	Not seen
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	27.60m OD (modern only)
Natural observed	N/A

Trial pit 5 was located at the south of the site against the modern southern boundary wall. This trial pit was hand dug and was to determine foundation depths of the existing modern boundary walls. Under the vegetation was brown sandy silt with numerous modern brick inclusions and roots. This overlay a light brown silt with gravel inclusions and occasional modern building material. Natural deposits not observed.

Trial pit 6	
Location	East boundary of site
Dimensions	c 0.50m by 1.50m by c 3m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	c 31.20m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	Not seen
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	28.20 m OD
Natural observed	29.20m OD - truncated sand and gravel

Trial pit 6 was located at the east of the site against the modern eastern boundary wall on higher ground level. This trial pit was machine dug and was to determine foundation depths of the existing boundary walls and was. Under the vegetation was brown sandy silt with numerous modern building material fragment inclusions. This overlay a light brown silts with gravel inclusions and brick and small concrete pieces.

Deposits were essentially modern backfill next to wall. Truncated natural sand and gravel seen at c 2m below ground level (bgl) at c 29.20m OD at west edge of trial pit.

Trial pit 7	
Location	North-west corner of site
Dimensions	c 0.80m by 1.50m by c 1.8m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	c 31.50m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	Not seen
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	29.70m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Trial pit 7 was located at the north-west corner of the site against an area of building foundation. This trial pit was initially hand dug and then machine dug and was to determine foundation depths of the foundation. Under the slab a dark brown clayey silt with occasional modern inclusions and many roots this overlay a lighter brown clayey silt with probable 19th-century building material and ceramic building material inclusions this deposit overlay a possible cemented pipe or possibly drainage feature. Natural deposits not observed.

Trial pit 8	
Location	North-east of site
Dimensions	c 0.50m by 1m by c 1.5m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	32.50m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	31.50m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	31m OD
Natural observed	c 31.50m OD - truncated sand and gravel

Trial pit 8 was located at the north-east of the site against the modern eastern boundary wall on higher ground level next to the back-filled swimming pool. This trial pit was machine dug and was to determine foundation depths of the existing boundary walls. Under the paving slabs was redeposited gravel c 1m deep which overlay truncated natural sand and gravel [3] seen at c 31.50m OD.

3.2.2 Window Samples

Window Sample 1

Window sample 1 was located at the west of the site and dug from a level of c 30.60m OD. Under the tarmac was c 0.50m levelling or fill for the playing field comprised of dirty gravel and crushed modern building material. This overlay natural sand and gravel [3] at a height of c 30.10m OD.

Window Sample 2

Window sample 2 was located at the centre of the site and dug from a level of c 30.90m OD. Under the tarmac was 0.30m levelling or fill for the playing field comprised of crushed modern building material/gravel. This overlay natural sand and gravel [3] at a height of c 30.60m OD.

Window Sample 3

Window sample 3 was located at the east of the site and dug from a level of c 30.86m OD. Below the tarmac was c 0.90m levelling or fill for the playing field comprised of crushed modern building material/gravel and large brick fragments. This overlay natural sand and gravel [3] at a height of c 30m OD.

Window Sample 4

Window sample 4 was located at the west of the site and dug from a level of c 30.30m OD. Below the tarmac was 0.70m levelling or fill for the playing field comprised of crushed modern building material and brick fragments. This overlay a sandy silt with numerous gravel inclusions c 0.70m deep. This deposit overlay a natural deposit of yellow clayey sandy silt [2] similar to that seen in Borehole 2. Is probably some sort of natural hillwash/colluvium and was recorded at a height of c 28.90m OD. This deposit was 1m in depth and became progressively more gravelly and directly overlay the London Clay.

Window Sample 5

Window sample 5 was located at the south of the site and dug from a level of c 30.30m OD. Below the tarmac was c 0.70m levelling or fill for the playing field comprised of crushed modern building material/gravel and large brick fragments. This overlay a sandy silt with gravel inclusions c 0.60m in depth. This overlay natural deposit of yellow clayey sandy silt similar to that seen in Borehole 2, a natural hillwash/colluvium [2] and was recorded at a depth of c 29m OD (c 0.30m deep) that overlay London Clay.

Window Sample 6

Window sample 6 was located at the east of the site and dug from a level of c 30.65m OD. Below the tarmac was 0.30m levelling or fill for the playing field comprised of crushed modern building material/gravel which overlay a thin concrete surface. The surface overlay a mid-brown sandy silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions at c 30.20m OD that became lighter with depth [4], which appeared to be subsoil/plough soil similar to Borehole 2. This deposit was notably less disturbed than other deposits on the site and contained a few sherds of black and grey pottery, possibly either Saxon or Iron Age in date (Lynne Blackmore, MOLA Senior pottery and Finds Specialist pers comm., and Jon Cotton, prehistoric pottery specialist pers comm.). The deposit was c 0.90m to 1m in depth and bottomed out at c 1.40m bgl (c 29.25m OD). Its depth may suggest that may be a feature rather than general subsoil as deeper than that encountered in other areas of the site. This overlay natural deposit of yellow clayey sandy silt [2], a possible colluvial deposit at 1.40m bgl (29.25m OD) that subsequently overlay a sandy natural sand and gravel [3] at c 28.85m OD. A schematic section through this window sample is shown on Fig 5.

3.2.3 Cable Percussion Boreholes

Borehole 1

Borehole 1 was located in the north-east corner of the site and dug from a level of c 31.40m OD. Under the paving was a thin mixed deposit of dirty gravel that overlay natural sand and gravels [3]. This deposits was c 2.50m in depth and overlay London Clay. This area of the site has been terraced and is on a lower level reached by steps and appears all subsoil deposits were removed in this localised area of the site.

Borehole 2

Borehole 2 was located at the south-east corner of the site and dug from a level of c 30.25m OD. The upper 0.60m to 0.70m was comprised of levelling, mainly crushed building material. This overlay c 0.40m to 0.50m of brown sandy silt [1] that appeared to be a probable plough soil or disturbed subsoil encountered at a height of c 29.53m OD which contained a few sherds of 19th-century pottery and a very abraded sherd of what has provisionally been dated as late Bronze Age pottery (Jon Cotton, prehistoric pottery specialist pers comm.). This overlay natural deposits of weathered sandy clay, probable natural hillwash/colluvium [2], at c 1.20m bgl (c 29m OD). At c 1.50m to 1.60m bgl a sandy, clayey gravel was exposed, this became more general sand and gravel [3] with depth.

Borehole 3

Borehole 3 was located in the south-west corner of the site and dug from a level of c 30m OD. Below the tarmac was c 1m of fill for the playing field comprised of crushed modern building material/gravel and brick fragments. This overlay clayey silt with modern inclusions that became cleaner with depth. This overlay natural deposit of yellow clayey sandy silt at 1.4m bgl (c 28.60m OD) similar to that seen in Borehole 2, probable natural hillwash/colluvium [2].

Borehole 4

Borehole 4 was located in the north-west corner of the site and dug from a level of c 31.40m OD. Below the concrete, a brown silty-clay layer with gravel inclusions had been disturbed by modern activity and concrete and brick fragments were present throughout the layer to depth of c 2m bgl. This sealed a cleaner gravelly silty-sand layer, which contained occasional brick fragments, charcoal and ceramic building material flecks. The deposit was recorded to a depth of c 2.70m bgl. Natural sand and gravels [3] were encountered below this layer at a height of c 28.70m OD.

Borehole 5

Borehole 5 was located in the centre of the site and dug from a level of c 30.50m, beneath the tarmac was a mixed infill layer of yellow stock and red bricks, recorded to a depth of c 0.52m bgl. This sealed by the modern brick layer was a mid-brown clayey sandy-silt layer, around 0.33m thick, which contained occasional-moderate gravel. The layer was recorded at a depth of 0.85m bgl (c 29.65m OD). Beneath the clayey sandy-silt was a light brown gravel and sand layer, around 0.44m thick. Natural sand and gravel [3] was recorded below the mixed gravel and sand deposit, at a height of c 29.20m OD. The natural gravel was some 1.7m thick and the top of London clay.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

What is the nature and level of natural topography?

Natural sand and gravels were encountered across the site but more typically at the north of the site with a mixed colluvial deposit more frequently present at the south of the site. It would appear the northern area of the site was terraced for the construction of the school buildings on the northern site boundary and the levelling for the playing field to the south resulting in truncated in areas of the northern part of the site. The north-east corner of the site in BH1 natural sand and gravel was encountered directly under the modern surface at c 31mOD and in centre of the site what appeared to be untruncated sand and gravel was recorded at c 29.20m OD. At the south of the site a colluvial hillwash deposit overlying either sand and gravel or London Clay was more prevalent and was encountered between c 28.60m OD and c 29m OD.

What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest deposit identified were the deposits directly above the natural deposits in WS6. Deposit [4] was a relatively clean silty sand deposit c 0.90 to 1m in depth that directly overlay the natural colluvial hillwash. The deposit contained pottery dated to either the Iron Age or Saxon period. The depth of the deposit suggests that if this is not a general deep subsoil it may possibly be the remains of a feature in this area of the site.

What evidence is there of Bronze or Iron Age settlement activity?

No evidence of features dated to the Bronze or Iron Age were recorded. However a piece of residual Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a later deposit [1] in Borehole 2 at the south-east of the site, and pottery recovered from deposit [4] in Window sample 6 is possibly Iron Age in date.

Are there any archaeological remains relating to Roman land or water management?

No evidence of activity dated to the Roman period was recorded. The restricted size and localised areas of the investigations should not dismiss potential activity dating to this period however.

Are there any features or finds which relate to medieval agricultural activity?

No specific evidence of medieval features was recorded. The pottery recovered from Window Sample 6 may possibly be Saxon in date and may suggest some localised activity in the area.

Is there any evidence of post-medieval agricultural and industrial activity?

Limited evidence of post-medieval agricultural activity was suggested by the deposit recorded in Borehole 2 which appeared to be a reworked ploughsoil or subsoil that contained sherds of post-medieval pottery (19th century in date) mixed with residual Late Bronze Age pottery.

An earlier foundation recoded at lower levels in Trial Pit 3 may be the remains of the boundary wall associated with Argyll Lodge an early 19th-century property know to have been located on the site.

What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposits identified across the site were generally levelling deposits located directly under the playing field surface associated with its formation. Additionally the majority of deposits recorded in the trial pits appeared to be modern deposits backfilled after the construction of the modern boundary walls.

What is the extent of modern disturbance?

It would appear the northern area of the site was terraced for the construction of the school buildings on the northern site boundary and the levelling for the playing field to the south. This has resulted surfaces in areas of the northern part of the site directly overlaying natural sand and gravel. Around the site perimeter where substantial modern boundary walls have been constructed there is also considerable deep truncation. Additionally, at the north of the site where the modern school buildings and swimming pool were located there are areas of localised truncation.

4.2 New research aims

The watching brief has not raised any additional research aims.

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.

Although limited in the size and positioning of the boreholes, window samples and trial pits, pottery was retrieved from one window sample and one borehole and an earlier boundary wall recorded in one trial pit suggesting further archaeological material may be present in other areas of 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 *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2013) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the 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 Conclusions

Work on the excavation of trial pits, window samples and cable percussion boreholes was monitored prior to redevelopment of the former of a school buildings and sports ground to residential use. Localised archaeological deposits were recorded in window samples and boreholes at the east and south-east of the site.

Natural ground (sand and gravel) was observed at 31m OD at the north-east of the site and at 29m OD (colluvium) at the south of the site, and the highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at c 30.20m OD in the area of Window Sample 6 at the east of the site. This deposit was notably less disturbed than other deposits on the site and contained pottery dated to the Saxon or Iron Age and its depth suggests that may be a feature rather than general subsoil encountered in other areas of the site. Limited evidence of post-medieval agricultural activity was suggested by the deposit recorded in Borehole 2 which appeared to be a reworked ploughsoil or subsoil that contained sherds of post-medieval pottery with residual Late Bronze Age pottery. An earlier foundation recorded at lower levels of the existing boundary wall in Trial Pit 3 may be the remains of the earlier boundary wall associated with Argyll Lodge, an early 19th-century property know to have been located on the site.

The northern area of the site was terraced for construction of the school buildings on the northern site boundary and the levelling for the playing field to the south has resulted in probable truncation of deposits at the north of the site. The substantial modern boundary walls along areas of the site perimeter have also created localised deep truncation. Additionally on areas of the northern part of the site where the modern school buildings and swimming pool were located there are areas of localised truncation. It is possible however there are localised areas where potential archaeological deposit may survive.

Archaeological investigations on the adjacent site to the north have revealed significant archaeological remains of Iron Age and Romano-British date relating to possible settlement activity in the surrounding area. Therefore, there is potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site, particularly in the area around Window Sample 6 and at the south of the site where a ploughsoil or subsoil remains *in situ* over natural deposits. It is likely that further more extensive archaeological evaluation of the site will be required.

7 Acknowledgements

MOLA would like to thank Harrison Group Environmental Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance on site.

8 Bibliography

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-162216

Project details

Project name	Holland Park School,Southern Side, Campden Hill Road, London, W8
Short description of the project	Work on the excavation of trial pits, window samples and cable percussion boreholes were monitored prior to redevelopment of the former of a school buildings and sports ground to residential use. Localised archaeological deposits were recorded in window samples and boreholes on the site. Natural ground (sand and gravel) was observed at 31m OD at the north-east of the site and at 29m OD (colluvium) at the south of the site, and the highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at c 30.20m OD in the area of window sample 6 at the east of the site. This deposit was notably less disturbed than other deposits on the site and contained pottery dated to the Saxon or Iron Age and its depth suggests that may be a feature rather than general subsoil encountered in other areas of the site. Limited evidence of post-medieval agricultural activity was suggested by the deposit recorded at the south-east of the site which appeared to be a reworked ploughsoil or subsoil that contained sherds of post-medieval pottery and residual Late Bronze Age pottery.
Project dates	Start: 07-10-2013 End: 17-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HLD13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Site status (other)	Planning condition attached
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DEPOSIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DEPOSIT Early Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA KENSINGTON Holland Park School, Southern Side, Campden Hill Road, Holland Park
Postcode	WB 7AF
Study area	7650.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 24970 79845 51 0 51 30 11 N 000 11 57 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 29.00m Max: 31.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	MOLA project manager
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Clair Cogar
Project director/manager	Stewart Hoad
Project supervisor	Pat Miller
Project supervisor	Hana Lewis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Harrison Group Environmental Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Title	Holland Park School, Southern Side, Campden Hill Road, W8 , Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Miller P
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 client report issued by MOLA detailing the results of the archaeological monitoring of trial pits, window samples and boreholes on the site.

Entered by	Pat Miller (pmiller@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	22 October 2013

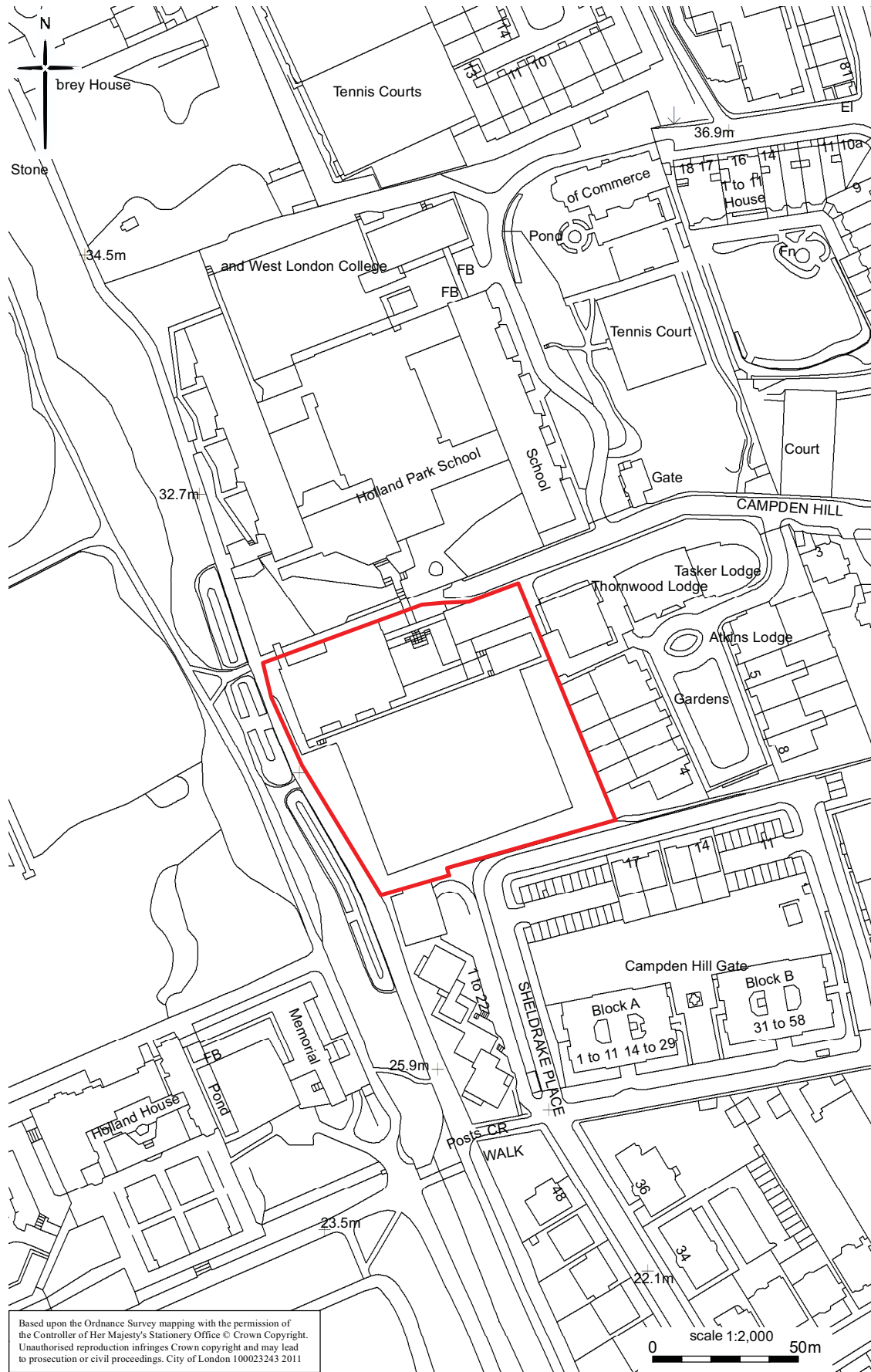


Fig 1 Site location

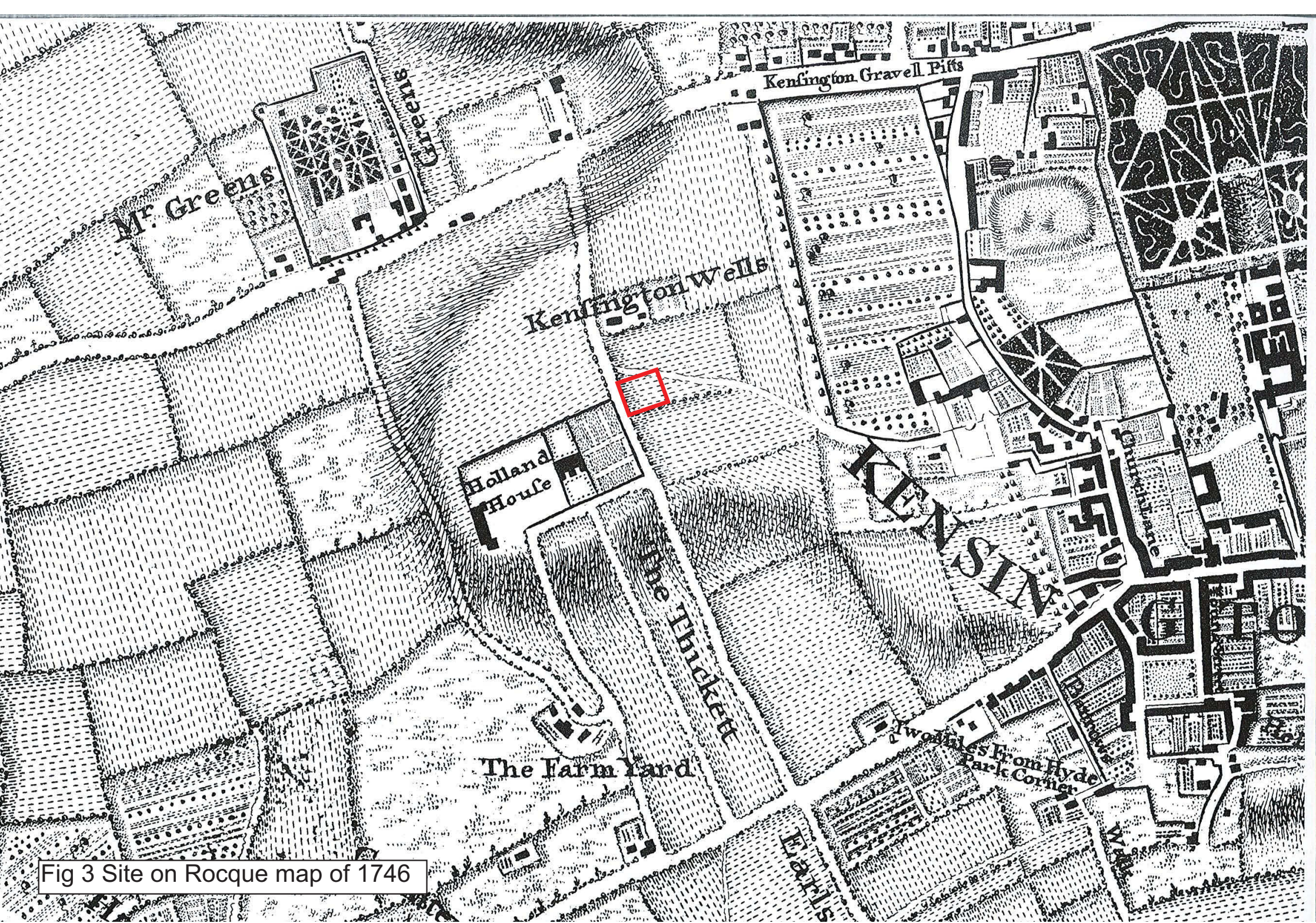


Fig 3 Site on Rocque map of 1746

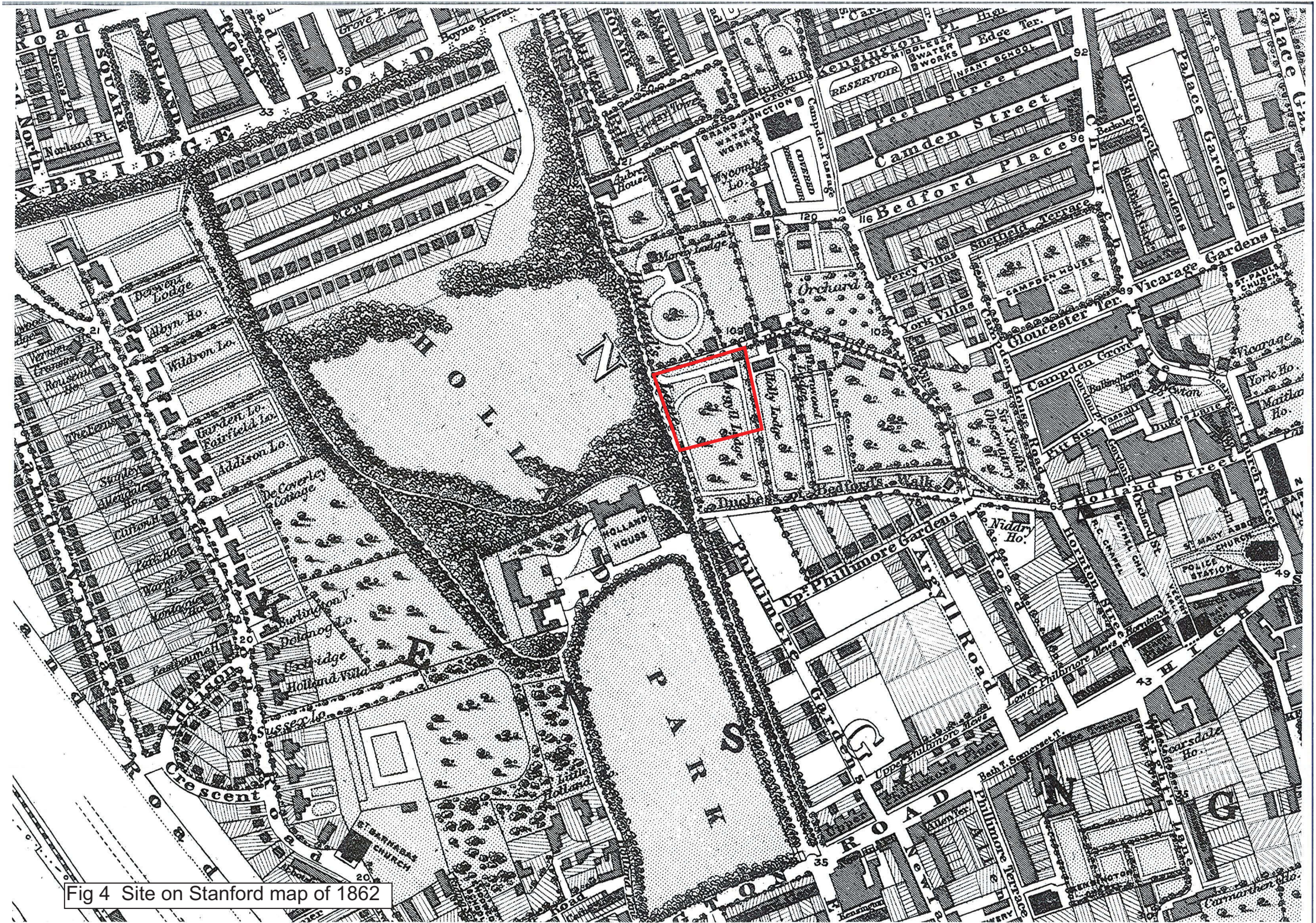


Fig 4 Site on Stanford map of 1862

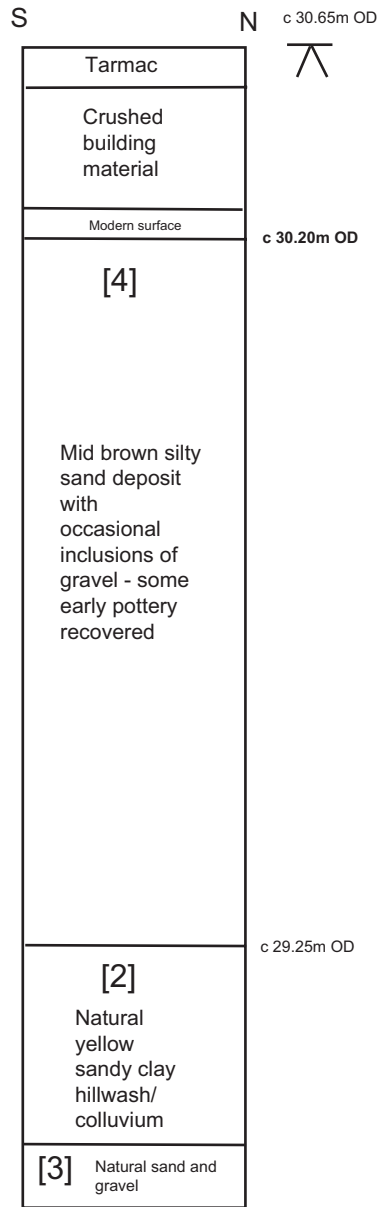


Fig 5 Schematic section through deposits in Window Sample 6