

**64 MURRAY ROAD  
London SW19**

London Borough of Merton

**MUR14**  
Archaeological watching brief report

May 2014



**64 Murray Road  
Wimbledon  
London SW19 4PE**

Site Code MUR 14  
NGR 523789 170847  
OASIS reference molas1-179605

Planning reference 13/P0618  
Condition Number 22

Report on an archaeological watching brief

**Sign-off History:**

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Checked/ Approved by:</b>	<b>Reason for Issue:</b>
1	[23.05.14]	[Sam Pfizenmaier]	[Michael Smith]	[Draft for client review]
2	27.05.14	[Sam Pfizenmaier]	[Michael Smith]	Incorporate client comment

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## Summary

*This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by MOLA at 64 Murray Road. The site lies approximately a kilometre east of the centre of Wimbledon Village, and 300m south-east of Rushmore Pond. The report was commissioned from MOLA by C Aitken (Builders) Ltd on behalf of the client Jon Steer and his agent Holden Harper.*

*In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2013) a watching brief was carried out on the site between 19th and 21st May 2014.*

*Natural strata in the form of banded gravels and sands was recorded in the east of the site at 53.77 mOD. This was overlaid by a 20th-century deposit, probably associated with the most recent buildings construction. This in turn was overlaid by a garden soil from the latter half of the 20th-century.*

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA at 64 Murray Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4PE ('the site') between 19th and 21st May 2014 (see Fig 1). This document is the Report on that work.
- 1.1.2 Further to the condition on Planning Consent a *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2013).

### 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 *Written Scheme of Investigation* which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 1.2, MOLA 2013). To summarise here:
- 1.2.2 The watching brief was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by Merton Local Authority (Consent reference 13/P0618; Condition Number 22).

### 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 limited to the footprint of the proposed new basement (See Fig 2).
- 1.3.3 The watching brief was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2008).
- 1.3.4 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002.
- 1.3.5 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the watching brief (Section 2)

## 2 Topographical and historical background

### 2.1 Topography

- 2.1.1 The topography drops off significantly to the south and east of the site, into the valley created by the River Wandle, near the centre of Wimbledon Village. The site is located near the top of the northern side

of this valley. Natural strata in the immediate area consists of banded coarse gravels and sands.

## 2.2 Archaeology

- 2.2.1 The potential archaeological interest on the site is for prehistoric activity, and the proximity of the site to the medieval village at Wimbledon Common. Wimbledon Lodge or Murray House of 1797 was located to the south on The Ridgeway.

## 3 The watching brief

### 3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 The /turf and basement slab was broken out and cleared by contractors prior to MOLA supervision. The basement area was entirely excavated by machine (initially by 20 tonner, then 2) by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA. Due to restrictions caused by the steel supports, the northern most end was excavated first, down to 2.5m below ground level, with clearance continuing south. The lowest deposits were then removed by the smaller 2 tonne machine.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological excavation of features was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2013).
- 3.1.3 The building's outline and archaeological features were plotted on plans provided by the client using an 'offset methodology' and subsequently tied to the OS grid by MOLA Geomatics.

### 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 2013).

### 3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	0
Number of overall location plans	1
Number of Context (SU) sheets	0
Number of photographs	4
Number of Plan sheets	1
Number of Sections	1

## 4 Results of the watching brief

For location of section 1 see Fig 2

## 4.1 Basement footprint

Location	64 Murray Road
Dimensions	11 by 15 by 3.0m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	54.57 mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	54.17 mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	No significant deposits observed
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	51.50 mOD (approx.)
Top of surviving natural observed at	53.82 mOD
Level of base of trench	51.00 mOD (approx.)

4.1.1 Fine grey orange gravelly sand was recorded at 53.15m OD, overlaid by sandy gravels at a maximum height of 53.82m OD in the western corner of the site (Fig 3). This natural strata sloped significantly down from the west to east. A dark grey brown sandy silt 0.3m thick at 54.07m OD sealed these deposits with inclusions of ceramic building material and charcoal. This deposit is likely mid-20th-century in date as a single piece of tin foil was retrieved from the section. This was overlain at 54.07 mOD by a mid brown silty sand, probably a reasonably recent garden soil horizon (perhaps contemporary with the most recent buildings construction ie c1970). Made ground sealed these deposits to 54.57m OD.

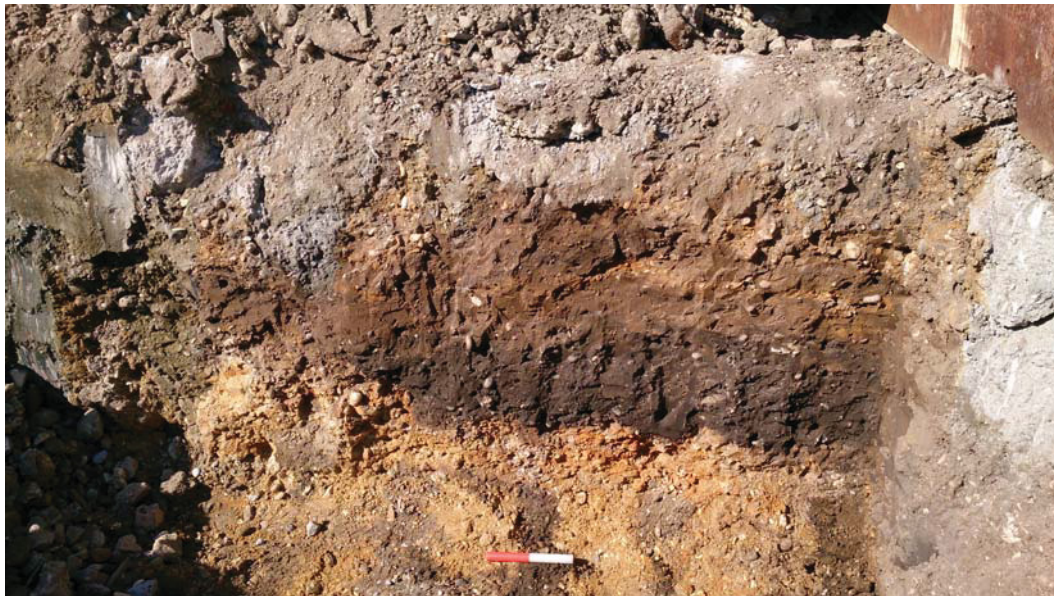


Photo 1 Section 1, in western corner of the site (see Fig 2 for location), looking south-west.

## **5 Archaeological potential**

### **5.1 Significance of the data**

- 5.1.1 No significant archaeological remains survived in the location of 64 Murray Road

## **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.
- 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 2013) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.
- 6.1.3 In view of the very limited potential of the material (Sections 5) and the limited significance of the data (Section 5.1) it is suggested that no further publication is required.



## 7 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

### 7.1 OASIS ID: molas1-179605

#### Project details

Project name 64 Murray Road

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA at 64 Murray Road. The site lies approximately a kilometre east of the centre of Wimbledon Village, and 300m south-east of Rushmore Pond. Natural strata in the form of banded gravels and sands was recorded in the east of the site at 53.77 mOD. This was overlaid by a 20th-century deposit, probably associated with the most recent buildings construction. This in turn was overlaid by a garden soil from the latter half of the 20th-century.

Project dates Start: 19-05-2014 End: 21-05-2014

Previous/future work No / No

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Methods & techniques ""Sample Trenches""

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON 64 Murray Road

Postcode SW19 4PE

Study area 165.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 2373 7086 51.422741 -0.22030623 51 25 21 N 000  
13 13 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 51.00m Max: 53.77m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation MOLA

Project brief originator	Holden Harper
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Michael Smith
Project supervisor	Sam Pfizenmaier
Type of sponsor/funding body	Merton Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Holden Harper
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	64 Murray Road archaeological watching brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pfizenmaier, S.
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 ring bound
Entered by	Sam Pfizenmaier (spfizenmaier@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	22 May 2014

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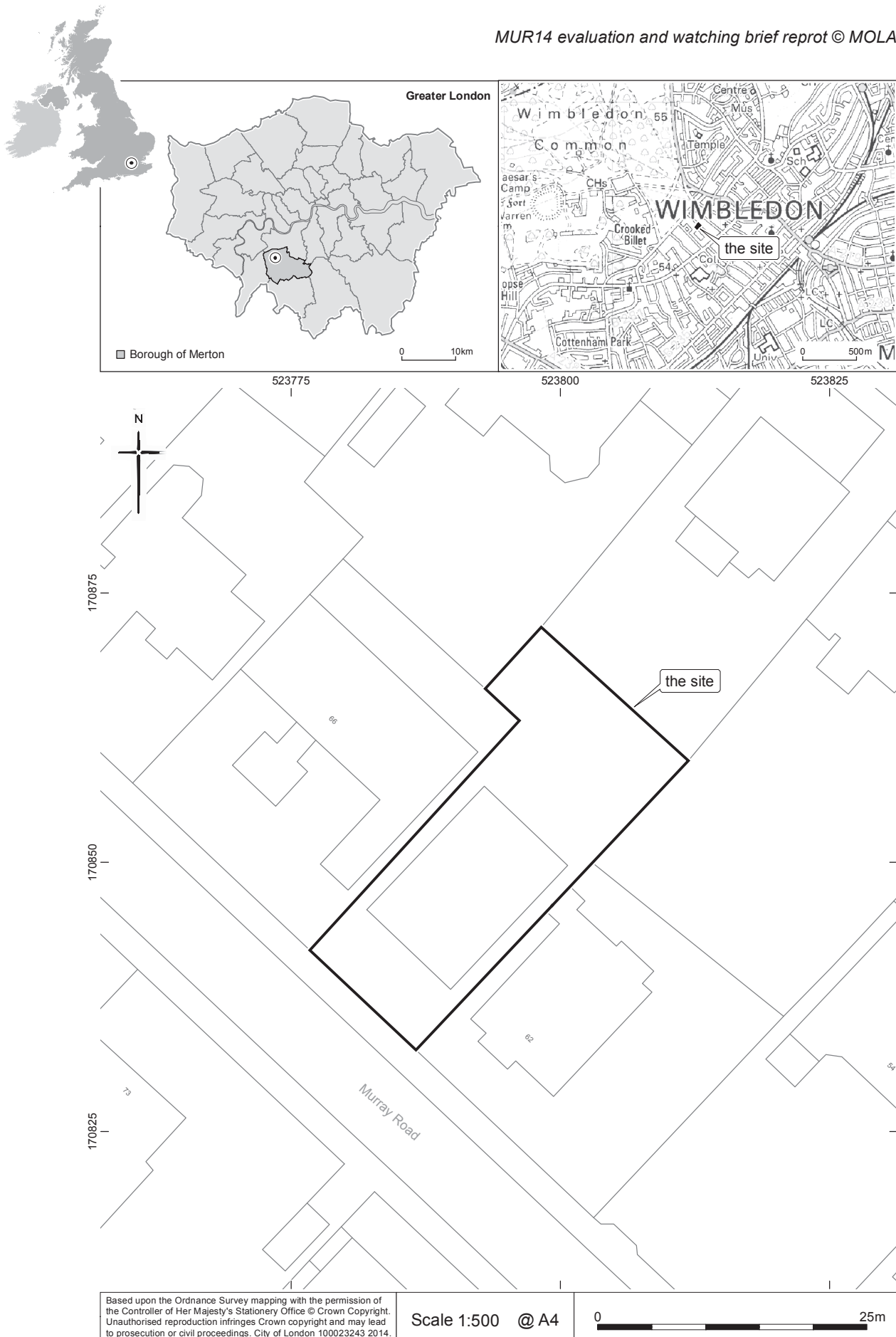


Fig 1 Site location



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Fig 2 64 Murray Road basement footprint

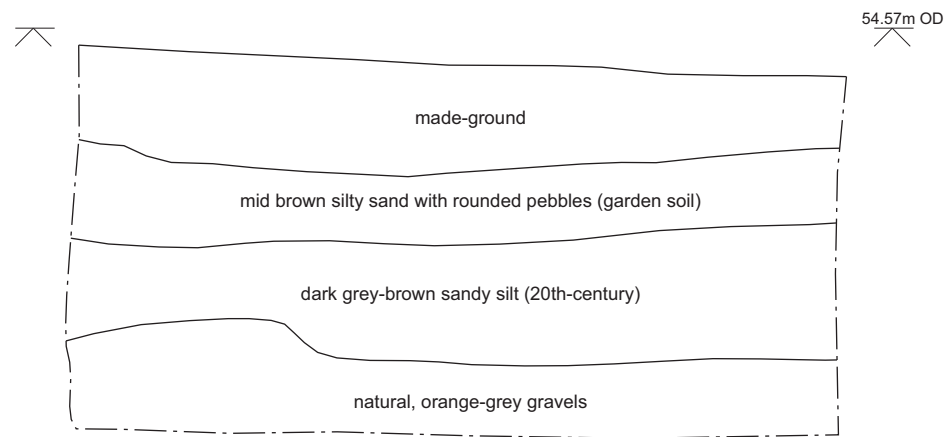


Fig 3 North-east facing section (see fig 2 for location)