



WEST LONDON SHOOTING SCHOOL London UB5

London Borough of Ealing

Report on archaeological evaluation

August 2014



**West London Shooting School
Sharvel Lane
West End Road
Northolt
UB5 6RA**

Site Code SHA 14
NGR 510638 183520
OASIS reference molas1-187891

Planning reference and Condition Number P/2013/0573

PHASE 1

Report on archaeological evaluation

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MOLA at the West London Shooting School Ealing. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Mr Richmond-Watson on behalf of the West London Shooting School.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014) three evaluation trenches were excavated on the site on 19/08/14.

Natural London clay was found under c.0.2m of topsoil, but no archaeological features or deposits were discovered. As such the report concludes that it is unlikely archaeological remains will be impacted by the redevelopment on this area of the site.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by MOLA at the West London Shooting School ('the site') on 19/08/14 (see *Fig 1*). This document is the report on Phase 1 of the investigation. Phase 2 will cover the area in the vicinity of the car park and main building.
- 1.1.2 A written Archaeological Assessment was previously prepared, which covered the whole area of the site (MOLA 2008). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and Planning framework in which the evaluation took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MOLA 2014). To summarise here:
- 1.2.2 The evaluation was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by Ealing Local Authority (Consent reference P/2013/0573).

1.3 Scope of the evaluation

- 1.3.1 Evaluation is defined by English Heritage as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:
- *formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or*
 - *formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research*
- 1.3.2 An archaeological evaluation is a limited fieldwork exercise designed to test the conclusions of preliminary desk based work. It is not the same as full excavation.
- 1.3.3 The evaluation was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for evaluation 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 evaluation (Section 2)

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

- 2.1.1 The British Geological Survey (sheet 256) indicates that the site is located on London clay beneath 0.2-0.3m of topsoil. The north-east corner of site was subject to a topographical survey, which indicates that the level of the carpark and service areas around the main buildings is c 46mOD. The site then slopes down to 39.9m OD at the northwest corner and 30.8m OD in Bournemead Avenue to the south.

2.2 Archaeology

- 2.2.1 A full background of potential archaeology in the area can be found in the *Archaeological Assessment* (MOLA 2008), what follows is a brief summary.
- 2.2.2 Excavations along the Colne Valley 5.6km west of the site have found evidence of Palaeolithic remains including an *in situ* assemblage of late Upper Palaeolithic flint tools at Three Ways Wharf in Uxbridge 5.4km west of the site (Lewis 1991). The evidence from these sites indicates that nomadic hunters were active within river valleys (AGL 2000, 49) potentially including the Yeading Brook. To date no Palaeolithic remains have been recorded on the site or in the study area. No Mesolithic remains have been recorded within the site or in the study area.
- 2.2.3 A number of residual prehistoric pottery sherds have been found in investigations close to the north and east of the site. Initially pottery sherds from the moat to the east were identified as early medieval, but the SMR indicates that they have since been identified as prehistoric. The presence of these pottery sherds indicates that a prehistoric settlement is likely to have been nearby. A Bronze Age palstave axe found by chance close to the Yeading Brook at 161 Woodrow Avenue, 1km south-west of the site, may also indicate the presence of settlement as elsewhere similar objects have been found in the vicinity of settlement sites (AGL 2000, 87).
- 2.2.4 Following the Roman invasion and conquest of AD 43, an important Roman town developed at London (*Londinium*) c 21km east of the site. Londinium formed the centre of a road network extending across the province of Britain. The site is c 8km north-west of the main Roman road from London to Silchester and the west of England (Margary 1967, 84). Subsidiary roads and driveways are likely to have extended out from the main roads. A local road or driveway has been found c 5.6km south of the site running between Imperial College Sportsground in Harmondsworth and the main London to Silchester road (Eldsen pers comm). It is likely that similar roads were located nearer to the site, and may have included the earlier prehistoric trackway which may pass within or close to the site.
- 2.2.5 The hinterland of Londinium, including the site, produced much of the agricultural resources required by the capital. Much of the hinterland comprised an agricultural landscape of settlement and scattered farms supplying produce to London (AGL 2000, 150). Evidence of the field systems required for this type of production has been recorded in the Heathrow Airport area 7.6km south-west of the site (Lewis *et al.* 2006, 14) and it is possible that the site was located in an area of similarly scattered agricultural usage and disparate settlement.
- 2.2.6 During the early medieval period (AD 410-1066), the site was located in fields or open land to the west of the settlement. A trackway had been possibly continued in existence between Uxbridge and Harrow since the prehistoric period and was located along the high ground, including the Down Barns ridge forming the north-eastern part of the site. The settlement of *Nord haelum* was sited to the south-east of this trackway (VCH *Middlesex iv*, 110), which potentially passed within or close to

the site.

- 2.2.7 In the later medieval period (AD 1066-1485), the trackway from Uxbridge to Harrow probably became fixed close to its present location as Sharvel lane, which forms the northern boundary of the site (VCH *Middlesex iv*, 110). The Golden Bridge or Golding Bridge was constructed across the Yeading Brook, 430m west of the site. West End Lane, 310m east of the site, was another important later medieval road leading from West End to Ruislip and on to Greenford (Hounsell 1999, 9).

3 Evaluation methodology

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 Two evaluation trenches 25m by 1.6m and one trench 5m by 1.6m were excavated.
- 3.1.2 The turf was carefully removed and cleared by machine by contractors under MOLA supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a MOLA supervisor.
- 3.1.3 Archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014).
- 3.1.4 Trench locations 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 2014).

3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	3
Number of overall location plans	0
Number of Context (SU) sheets	0
Number of photographs	10
Number of Plan sheets	0
Number of Sections	0

4 Results of the evaluation

4.1.1 For trench locations see [Placeholder *page*]

4.1.2 Fig 2.

4.2 Trench 1

Location	Northernmost trench
Dimensions	25m by 1.6m by 0.4m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	41.56mOD to 40.45mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	41.31mOD to 40.21mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	N/A
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	41.23mOD
Level of base of trench	41.13mOD to 40.21mOD

4.2.1 Natural consisted of mid yellow brown London Clay under approximately 0.25m of sandy silt topsoil and turf. No archaeological features were discovered.

4.3 Trench 2

Location	South of trench 1
Dimensions	25m by 1.6m by 0.25m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	38.89mOD
Base of modern fill/slab	38.69mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	N/A
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	38.69mOD
Level of base of trench	38.66mOD

4.3.1 Slightly sandier London clay was noted in this trench. Truncating this was a modern feature approximately 1m wide which was dated by the presence of post medieval bricks and shotgun cartridges. This was identified as a 'French Drain' which had been backfilled in the 1970s (Richmond-Watson *pers comm*). Sealing this was 0.2m of topsoil and turf.

4.4 Trench 3

Location	Southwest of trench 1
Dimensions	5m by 1.6m by 0.3m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	38.08mOD
Base of modern fill/slab	37.88mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	N/A
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	37.88mOD
Level of base of trench	37.78mOD

4.4.1 Natural consisted of mid yellow brown London Clay under approximately 0.20m of sandy silt topsoil and turf. No archaeological features were discovered.

4.5 The finds

4.5.1 No finds were uncovered.

4.6 The site as a whole

4.6.1 Assessing the results from all the trenches it appears that no features of archaeological significance survive in this area of the site. However, there is still potential for archaeology to be found in the future trenches to be excavated during phase 2.

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering original research aims

- 5.1.1 What evidence is there for prehistoric remains on the site, with particular reference to the known prehistoric route from Uxbridge to Harrow?

There is no evidence for prehistoric remains on site

- 5.1.2 What evidence survives, if any, for Roman remains related to the continuation of use of the prehistoric route?

There is no evidence for Roman remains on site

- 5.1.3 What evidence survives for activity associated with the medieval road (Sharvel Lane) and the 13th century moated manor house at Down Barns?

There is no evidence for activity associated with the medieval road or the moated manor house

- 5.1.4 Is there any evidence for the 1930s granary and barn associated with Down Barns Farm?

There is no evidence for the 1930's granary and barn

5.2 General discussion of potential

- 5.2.1 The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification above natural ground) on the site is limited.
- 5.2.2 There is also limited potential for survival of cut features.

5.3 Assessment of the evaluation

- 5.3.1 In this phase of site, the number and spatial distribution of trenches provides a high level of confidence that the ground works to be carried out in this area will not disturb any archaeology.

6 Proposed development impact and conclusions

- 6.1.1 The proposed redevelopment on the phase 1 part of the site involves the construction of internal bunds. This is unlikely to have any impact on potential surviving archaeological deposits.
- 6.1.2 The decision on the appropriate archaeological mitigation to the deposits revealed rests with the Local Planning Authority.

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 The author would like to thank Mr Richmond-Watson for commissioning the work and for all of his assistance before and during excavation on site.
- 7.1.2 MOLA also wishes to thank Sandy Kidd of English Heritages Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, for this comments and guidance over the course of the project.

8 Bibliography

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VCH *Middlesex iv*. Victoria County History. 1972. *Middlesex iv*

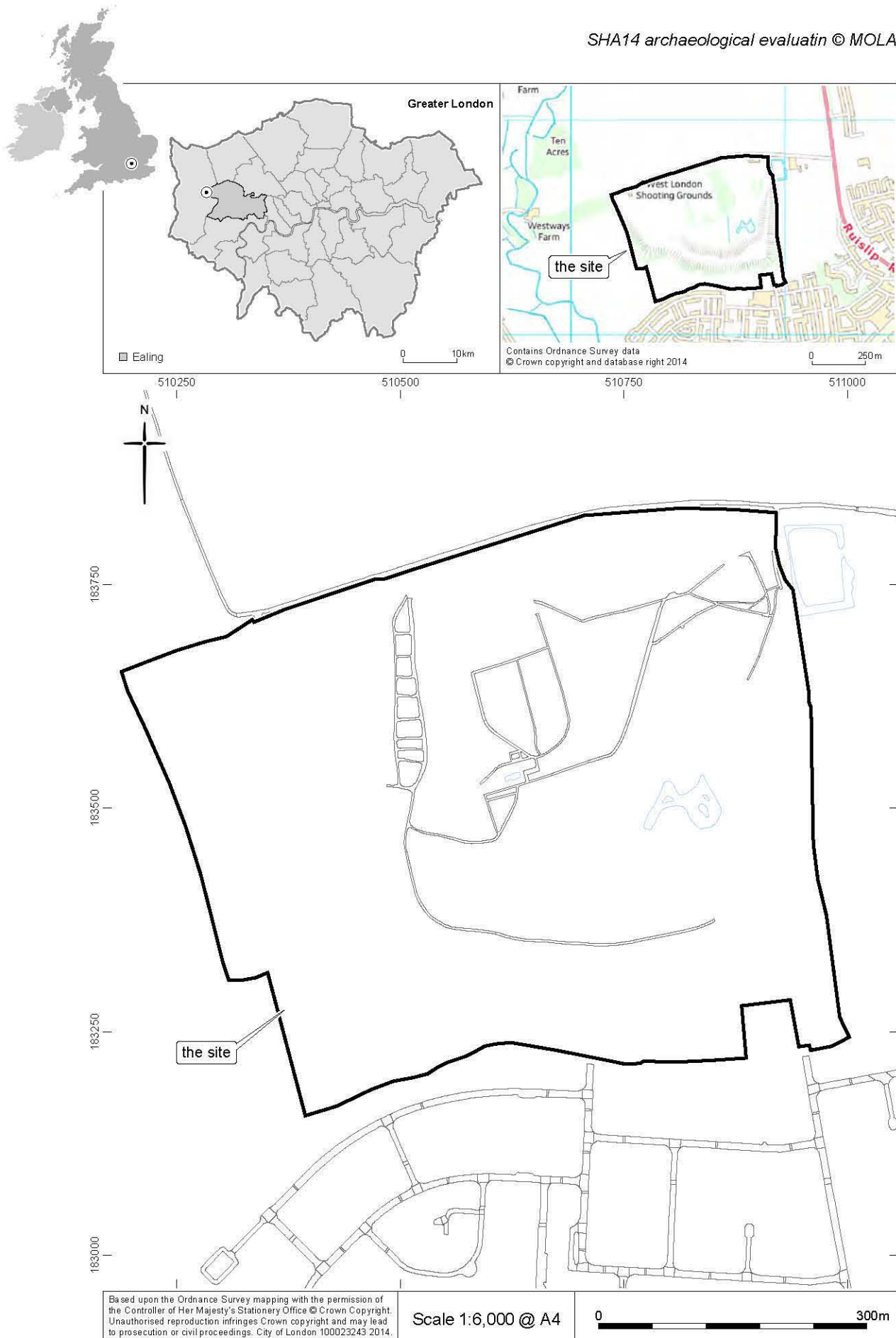


Fig 1 Site location

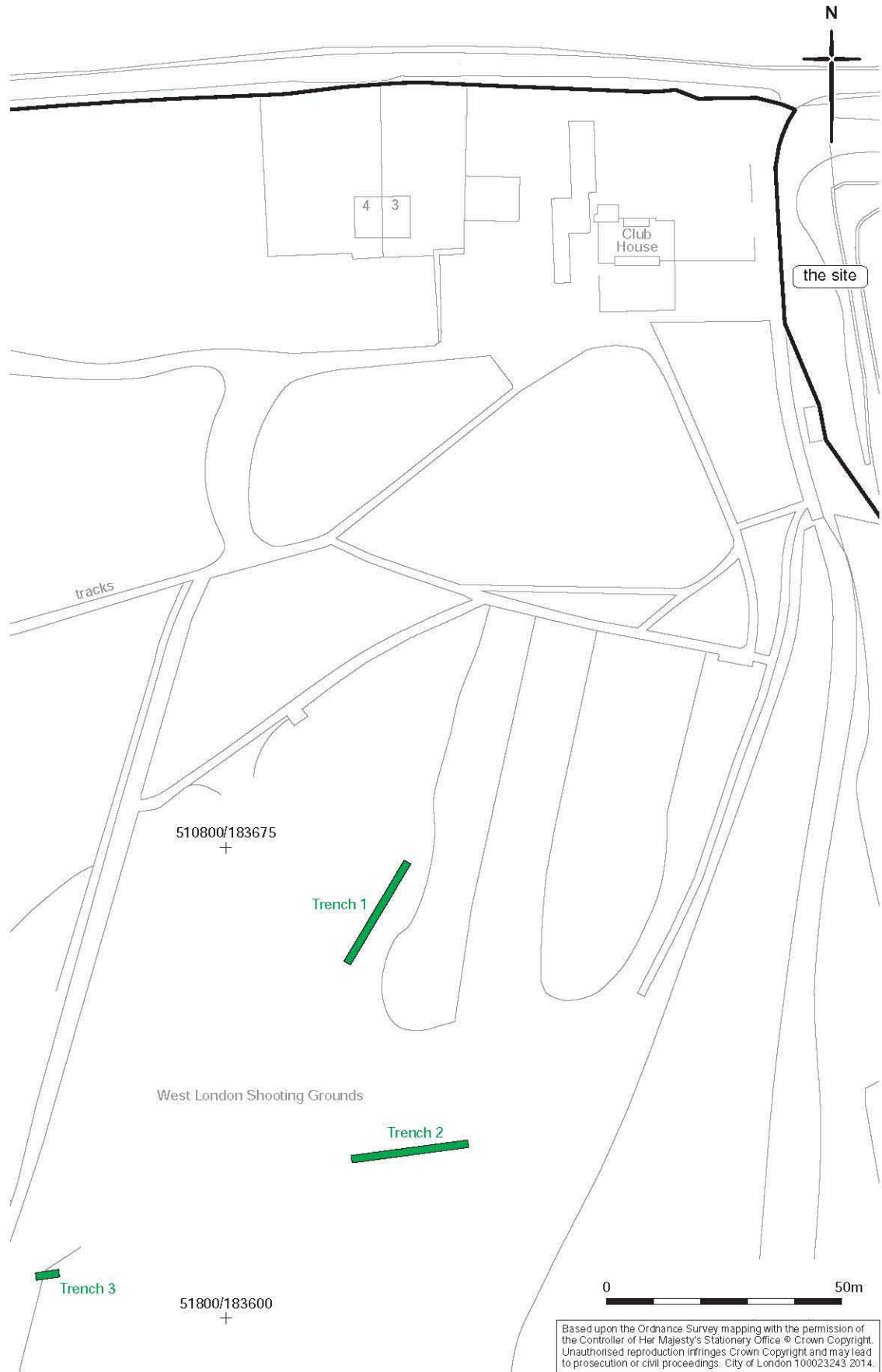


Fig 2 Areas of evaluation

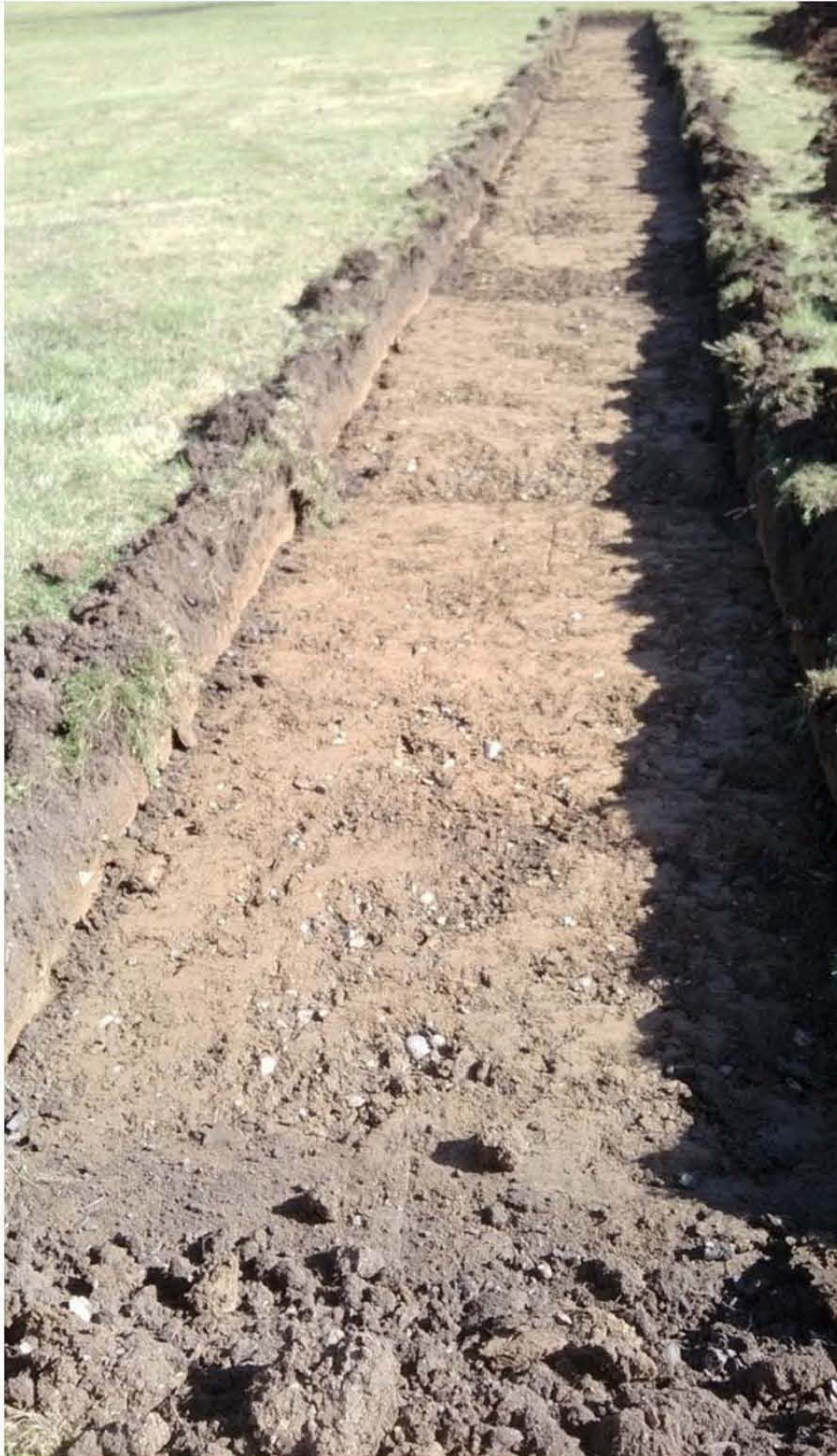


Fig 3 Trench 1 Facing north



Fig 4 Trench 2 Facing west



Fig 5 Trench 3 Facing south-west

9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

9.1 OASIS ID: molas1-187891

Project details

Project name	West London Shooting School
Short description of the project	Three evaluation trenches were excavated on the site. Natural London clay was found under c.0.2m of topsoil, but no archaeological features or deposits were discovered. The site sloped from north to south with natural being found at the highest point of 41.23mOD and lowest point 37.88mOD.
Project dates	Start: 19-08-2014 End: 19-08-2014
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SHA14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON EALING NORTHOLT West London Shooting School
Postcode	UB5 6RA
Study area	390900.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 10638 83520 51.539236627 -0.404514666576 51 32 21 N 000 24 16 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 37.88m Max: 41.23m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Stewart Hoad

Project design originator	Stewart Hoad
Project director/manager	Stewart Hoad
Project supervisor	Helen Vowles
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	West London Shooting School
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	West London Shooting School, Sharvel Lane, West End Road, Northolt, UB5 6RA: Report on archaeological evaluation
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