



**3 WILBERFORCE WAY  
Wimbledon  
London SW19**

London Borough of Merton

Watching brief report

March 2016



**3 WILBERFORCE WAY  
Wimbledon  
London SW19 4TH**

Site Code WBW15  
NGR 523725 170788  
OASIS reference molas1-244114

Planning reference 14/P1719  
Condition Number 22

Report on an archaeological watching brief

**Sign-off History:**

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1	26.02.2016	Portia Askew	Michael Smith	Draft for client
2	08.03.2016	Michael Smith	Michael smith	Client comment
3	10.03.2016	Michael Smith	Michael Smith	Historic England comment
4	10.03.2016	Michael Smith	Michael Smith	Additional ammendment

Graphics: Juan Fuldain

## Summary

*This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by MOLA at 3 Wilberforce Way, Wimbledon SW19 4TH. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Holden Harper on behalf of the client Mr and Mrs Patullo.*

*In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation a watching brief was carried out on the site on 21st December 2015.*

A trench measuring 13m long by 9.40m wide and 3.50m deep, forming the footprint of the proposed new basement was monitored, in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Natural sandy gravel was recorded at a height of 48.04m OD, immediately below the modern concrete slab level. No archaeological deposits were found to survive within the area of the trench.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA at 3 Wilberforce Way, Wimbledon, London SW19 ('the site') on 21st December 2015 (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 2014). All archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with that WSI.

## 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* (see Section 1.2, MOLA 2014) and should be referred to. In brief

### 1.2.2 Local Planning Policy

- 1.2.3 Merton Borough Council's local development framework (LDF) Core Planning Strategy<sup>2</sup> was adopted in July 2011. The Core Planning Strategy retains policies from the earlier Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Policies BE.1, 5BE.8, BE.13 and BE.14 are relevant: **Listed buildings**

Policy BE.8: Setting of listed buildings, ancient monuments, historic parks and gardens and the wider historic landscape

In considering the design and siting of extensions or development special regard will be had to the desirability of protecting the settings of listed buildings, ancient monuments and the wider historic landscape, including views to and from historic parks and gardens (see also policies I.5 and I.6).

#### **Conservation areas**

Policy BE.1: Conservation areas, new development, change of use, alterations and extensions.

Within a conservation area a proposal for new development, alteration or extension to a building or for the change of use of land or buildings will be required to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of that conservation area.

Proposals will be expected to:

- (i) respect or complement the design, scale, form and materials of existing buildings and spaces
- (ii) respect street patterns or other features contributing to the character, historic value of the area or the pattern of development in the area
- (iii) maintain important views within and out of the area
- (iv) ensure that the level of activity, traffic, parking services or noise generated by the proposal would not detract from the character or appearance of the area

#### **Archaeology**

Policy BE.13: Archaeological protection and preservation

The council will encourage early consultation on development proposals affecting sites of archaeological importance and their settings.

- (i) there will be a general presumption in favour of the permanent physical preservation of all scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites and their settings.

Planning permission will not be granted for development that would adversely affect such monuments and sites, involve significant alteration to them or would have a harmful impact on their settings.

Policy BE.14: Archaeological evaluation

Before development commences on site, reference should be made to the council's supplementary planning guidance note on archaeology.

Where development is proposed within an archaeological priority zone, as shown on the proposals map, the council may require a preliminary archaeological assessment before proposals are considered. This requirement may also be applied to sites outside the archaeological priority zones especially where they are over 0.6 ha or where there is proven or known archaeological potential.

#### 1.2.4 Planning background

- The site lies in the Wimbledon West Conservation Area.
- The site lies in the Wimbledon Common Archaeological Priority Zone.
- The development is covered by planning application 14/P1719. Condition 20 of the consent requires a programme of archaeological work

### 1.3 Archaeological background

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1.3.1 The geological survey shows the site to lie on the Black Park Gravels (sand and gravel).

1.3.2 The potential archaeological interest on the site is potential 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.

### 1.4 Scope of the watching brief

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1.4.1 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. The archaeological brief is essentially limited to establishing where, if at all, archaeological deposits survive (presence/absence), recording where necessary, and to ensuring that the proposed groundworks do not involve the destruction of any archaeological deposits of national significance.

1.4.2 The watching brief will involve a MOLA Site Supervisor in attendance on the Principal Contractor's (or any other contractor employed by them or the client) activities and able to make such records as may be possible *without interrupting the progress of the contractors' activities*.. This may typically include taking photographs, making quick sketches or written records, retrieval of finds and taking levels on observations. The primary purpose of watching briefs will normally be the identification of the limits of features size, depth, and alignment.

1.4.3 Bulk finds will not normally be recovered in the watching brief areas, though finds of specific and unique intrinsic interest may be retained.

1.4.4 The limited nature of the proposed works and the watching brief upon them makes it unreasonable to establish many specific archaeological research objectives. Nevertheless a few research questions can be outlined:

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- What are the latest deposits identified?
- What is the extent of modern disturbance?
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity?
- Are there any remains associated with the medieval village?

- Are there any remains associated with Wimbledon Lodge/Murray House?
- 1.4.5 The area of the watching brief was confined to the area within the footprint of the proposed new building, which was located along the boundary line with number 4 Wilberforce Way (to the northwest), c 1.3m from the boundary with number 2 (to the southeast, approximately 8m from the boundary with the Wilberforce Way and 14m from the rear site boundary (See Fig 2).
  - 1.4.6 The watching brief was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA, 2014).
  - 1.4.7 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002.
  - 1.4.8 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

## 2 Topographical and historical background

### 2.1 Topography

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- 2.1.1 The geological survey shows the site to lie on the Black Park Gravels (sand and gravel).

### 2.2 Archaeology

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- 2.2.1 The potential archaeological interest on the site is potential 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. Any evidence, redeposited or not, for prehistoric activity from adjacent sites



## 3 The watching brief

### 3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 The slab was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. The area was excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.
- 3.1.2 The area of the excavation was plotted onto a plan of the site provided by the client using an 'offset methodology' and subsequently tied to the OS grid by MOLA Geomatics. Levels were calculated from known OD heights on the site, supplied by the engineering team on site.

### 3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all deposits was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014).

### 3.3 Site archive

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

## 4 Results of the watching brief

For trench location see Fig 2

### 4.1 Trench 1

Location	Central area of the site
Dimensions	13m by 9.40m by 3.70 depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	50.14m OD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	48.04m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	48.04OD or N/A
Level of base of trench	45.44m OD

- 4.1.1 Truncated banded natural sand and gravel was located immediately below the slab (Fig 3). At the base of the trench, light greyish/brown sand was observed and recorded at a height of 46.24m OD. This was overlain by a creamy brown gravelly sand, 1.10m thick, surviving to a height of 47.34m OD. The sequence was sealed by dark orangey brown sandy gravel, 0.70m thick, the top of which was at a height of 48.04m OD.

### 4.2 The finds

- 4.2.1 No finds were recovered from the site.

## 5 Archaeological potential

### 5.1 Answering original research aims

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- What is the nature and level of natural topography?

Truncated banded sands and gravels were recorded below the slab, the uppermost level surviving to a height of 49.14m OD.

- What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest deposits on the site are geological in age and not anthropogenic in origin.

- What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposits identified were naturally formed geological ones.

- What is the extent of modern disturbance?

Modern disturbance was found to be extensive within the footprint of the proposed development, caused by the construction of the previous building.

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity?

No evidence for prehistoric activity was found on the site.

- Are there any remains associated with the medieval village?

No evidence associated with the medieval village was found on the site.

- Are there any remains associated with Wimbledon Lodge/Murray House?

No remains associated with Wimbledon Lodge/Murray House were found on the site.

### 5.2 Answering new research aims

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5.2.1 No new research aims have been raised.

### 5.3 Significance of the data

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5.3.1 Whilst no archaeological remains were found on the site, information has been gleaned regarding the natural sequence of the site and is of local interest with respect to the changes in the topography of the area over time.

## 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, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.
- 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 2014) with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.
- 6.1.3 In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 5) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 5.3) 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*.

## 7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: Holden Harper for commissioning and Mr and Mrs Pattullo for funding the watching brief; Claudia Tommasino (MOLA Senior Archaeologist) for attendance on site during the watching brief; Juan Fuldain for the graphics in this report.

## 8 Bibliography

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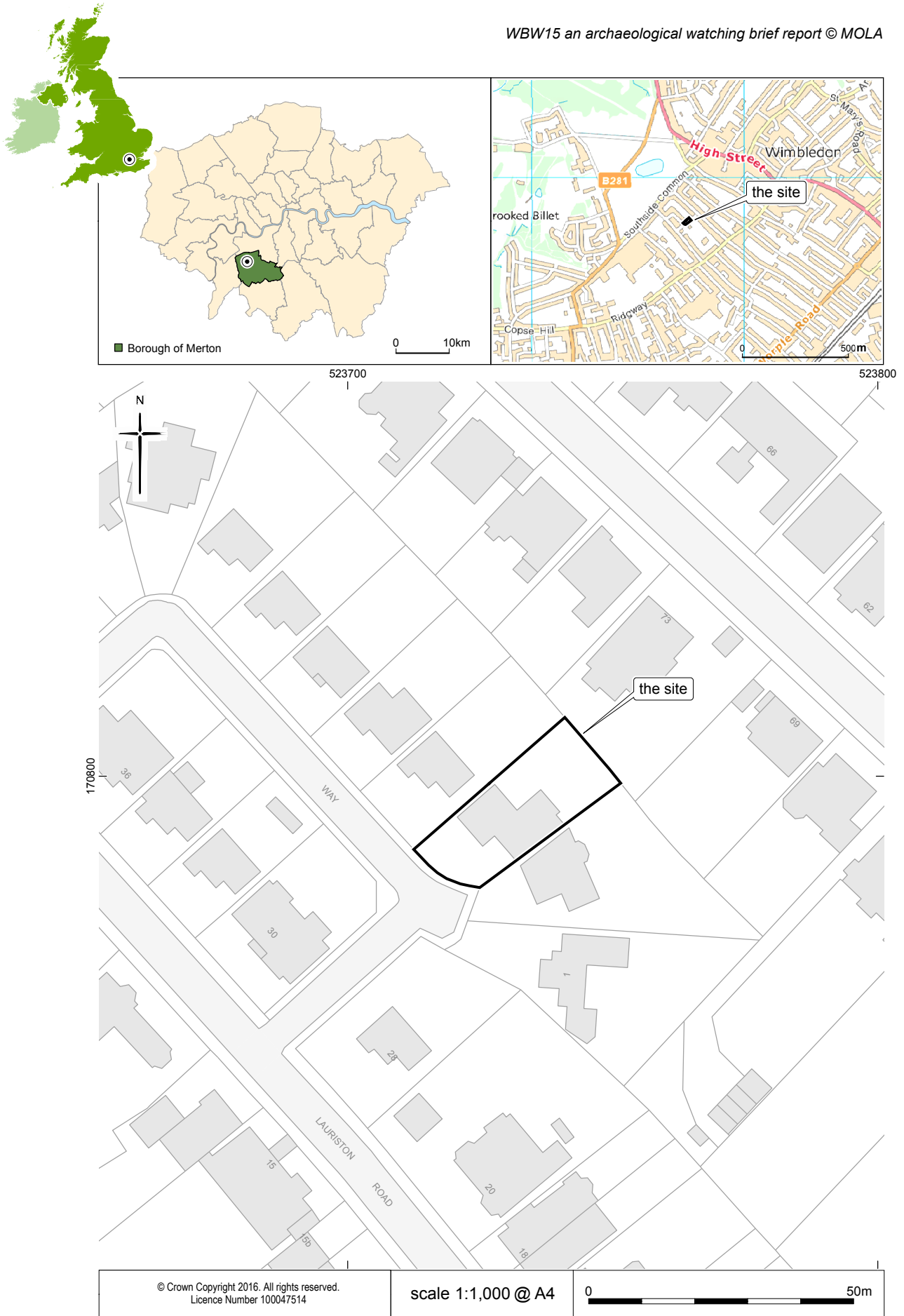


Fig 1 Site location

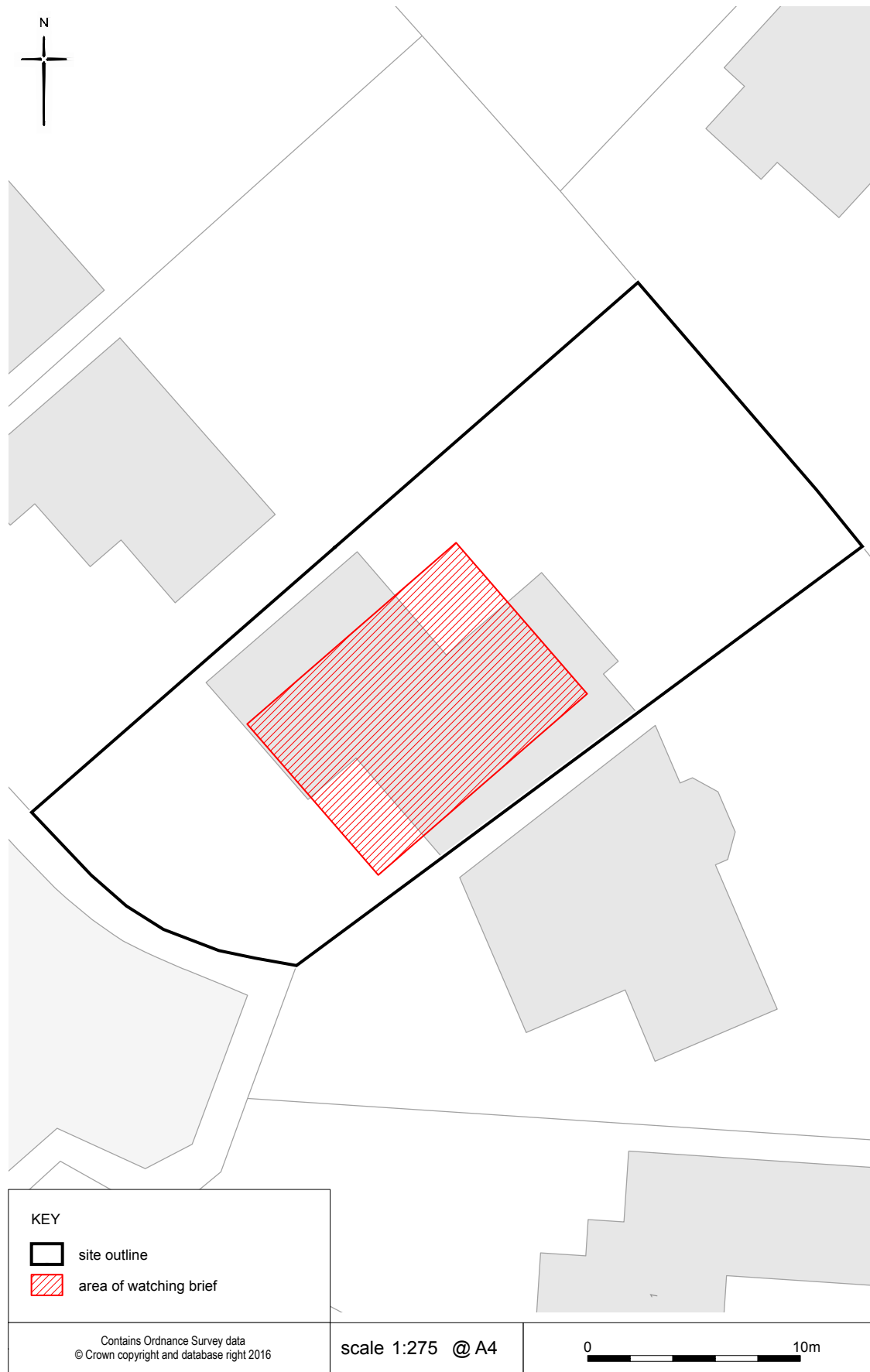


Fig 2 Trench location plan





*Fig 3 Photograph showing the natural banded sands and gravels on the site (looking east)*

## 9 OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS: molas1-244114

### Project details

Project name	3 Wilberforce Way, Merton, SW19 4TH
Short description of the project	A trench measuring 13m long by 9.40m wide and 3.50m deep, forming the footprint of the proposed new building was monitored, in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Natural sandy gravel was recorded at a height of 48.04m OD, immediately below the modern concrete slab level. No archaeological deposits were found to survive within the area of the trench.
Project dates	Start: 21-12-2015 End: 21-12-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WBW15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON 3 Wilberforce Way, Merton
Postcode	SW19 4TH
Study area	550 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 23725 70788 51.42207750794 -0.22034395483 51 25 19 N 000 13 13 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 48.04m Max: 48.04m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Michael Smith
Project supervisor	Claudia Tommasino
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs Patullo

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	WBW15
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	WBW15
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Microfilm","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Report","Survey "

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	3 Willberforce Way, Wimbledon, London SW19 4TH: Watching brief report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Askew, P.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	MOLA

Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 unpublished client report
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