



HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
Peppard Road
Reading

County of Berkshire

Watching brief report

May 2013



**Hill Primary School
Peppard Road, Emmer Green
Reading, RG4 8TU**

Site Code BR – HPS 13
Accession number – REDMG:2013.339

A report on the archaeological watching brief

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of a monitoring exercise carried out by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on 28 pad holes at the site of Hill Primary School, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Reading. Work was monitored between 30.04.2013 and 03.05.2013.

The site is situated in the vicinity of previously known archaeological sites, which showed evidence of human activity stretching from the Lower Paleolithic to the Late Roman period. However, no deposits or structures of archaeological nature have been identified on the site in the course of the watching brief. The recorded deposits comprised layers of natural gravel and sand, which in the larger area of the site were situated below a sequence of layers of the modern make up for the school's playground and below naturally formed soil, along the eastern edge of the excavation. The modern surface was predominantly tarmac, apart from the grass area in the narrow strip along the eastern limit of the site.

This report has been commissioned by the Hampshire County Council Property Services.

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Fig 1 Site location plan

Fig 2 Pad hole locations

Fig 3 General view of the site post excavation; facing SE

Fig 4 North-facing section in PH 2; facing S

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at Hill Primary School playground, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is situated on the east side of Peppard Road (see fig 1). It is bounded to the south by the access road to the Harveys Nurseries Mobile Home Park, the east by Caversham Park, and the north by an activities centre. The centre of the site lies at National Grid reference 472194 176131. The site was previously occupied by a school playground. Modern pavement level near to the site lies at c 82.5m OD. The site code is BR – HPS 13, and the Reading Museum accession number is REDMG:2013.339.

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, MOLA, 2013).

1.3 Planning background

The watching brief took place as a condition recommended by Berkshire Archaeology to a planning application, ref. no 13/00241/REG3.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Hampshire County Council Property Services, funded by the Reading Borough Council, 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).

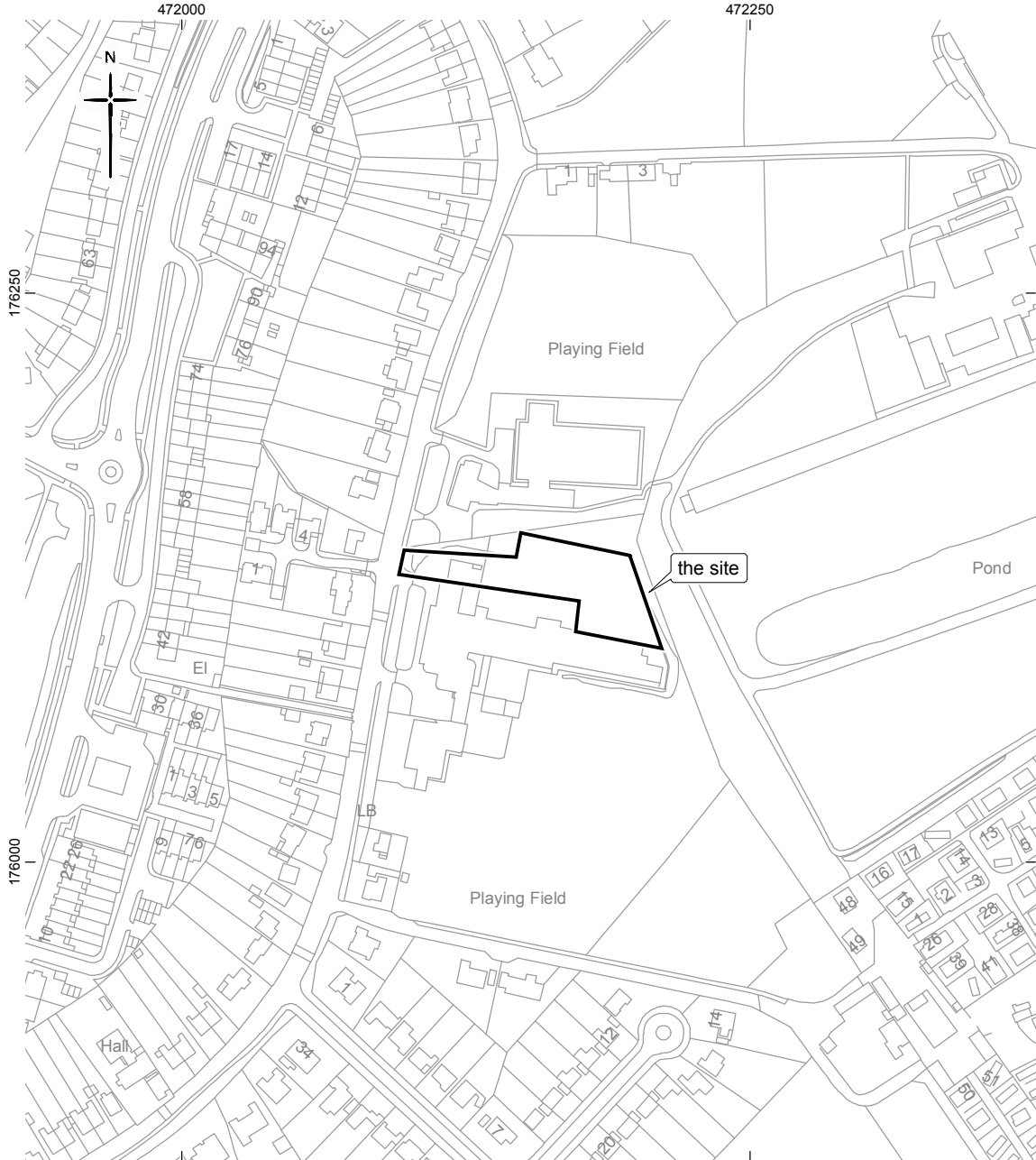
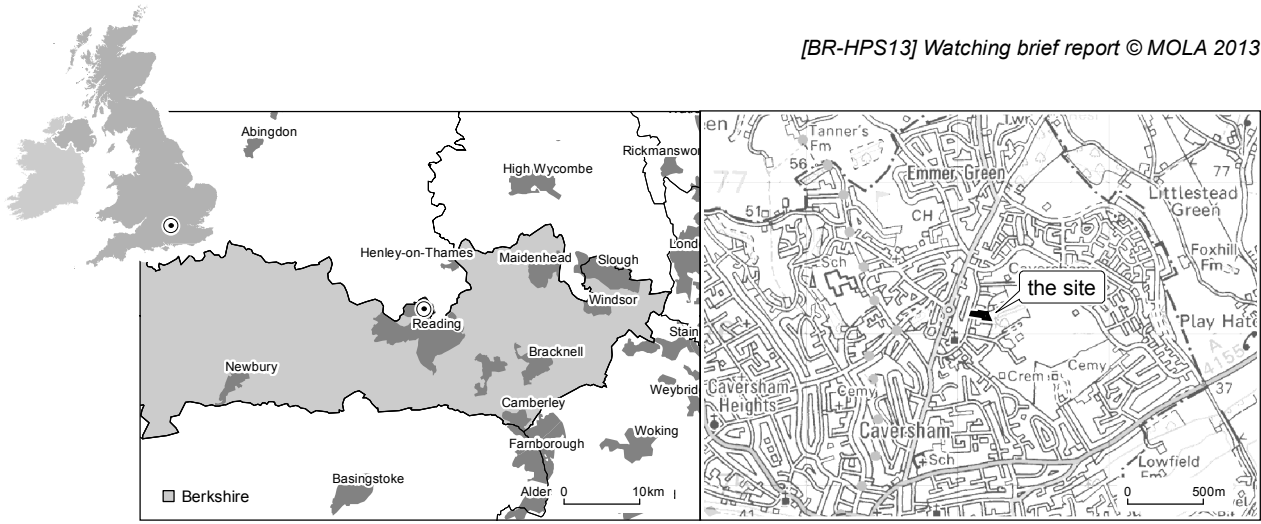
The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2013), 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 was the level of natural topography?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- What are the latest deposits identified?
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric human activity?



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Scale 1:3,000 @ A4

0 100m

Fig 1 Site location

2 Topographical and historical background

A description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the *Method Statement* for the site (MOLA 2013). A brief resume is provided here:

2.1 Topography

The site is located in Caversham to the north of Reading. Here the ground is relatively flat and lies at a height of 82.5m AOD. The underlying geology comprises of River Gravels (BGS1946; MOLA, 2013).

2.2 Prehistoric (c 700,000 BC–AD 43)

Twenty-three flint handaxes, three choppers, one borer, one scraper and one flake have been recovered from a gravel pit located to the south east of the site on Caversham Hill, SMR00793 (Gaz. No.11; MOLA, 2013). These were recovered from the gravels and were dated to the Lower Palaeolithic.

At Emmer Green Primary School three socketed axes of late Bronze Age date were recovered during construction of the school SMR00785- MRD862. Later archaeological investigation on the site failed to recover any further archaeological remains. (Gaz. No.46; MOLA, 2013).

A gold stater of Iron Age date with the head of Tincommius (c.35-10BC) was recovered from St Barnabas Road SMR00786 – MRD863. (Gaz. No.20; MOLA, 2013).

At Cedarcot, Lyefield Court (ERM657) an archaeological evaluation recovered sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, three flint flakes and fragments of burnt flint. A small terminal gully, which may have formed part of a ring gully for a house/hut was also uncovered (Gaz. No.50; MOLA, 2013).

An evaluation at 41-49 Grove Road (ERM776) revealed an undated struck flint scraper and possible flint flake. (Gaz. No.52; MOLA, 2013).

A watching brief at Shipnell's Farm (ERM964) to the west of the site revealed a flint flake on the natural gravels, but no features. (Gaz. No.53; MOLA, 2013).

2.3 Roman (AD 43– 410)

An iron brooch and Roman pottery of possible Belgic origin were recovered during excavation at 7 Highdown Hill Road (ERM260) SMR00819-MRD123. An irregular pit with coarse pottery, fourteen bronze coins of 4th century date and metal objects were found on the site. Two post hole and fragments of burnt wattle daub were also recorded. (Gaz. No.44; MOLA, 2013). Fifteen pot-boilers and a fragment of hand thrown pottery of possible pre-Roman date were also noted.

Evidence of late Roman occupation by the Old Tythe Barn at Grove House was found during building of new houses in 1966 SMR00819 – MRD868. A shallow pit or part of a ditch was found and produced a large amount of Roman pottery and sixteen coins (some of which were forgeries). (Gaz. No.21; MOLA, 2013).

2.4 Undated

Three cropmark ring features at The Common Recreation Ground at Emmer Green have been identified from aerial photographs MRM16170. They are located to the north of the recreation ground. (Gaz. No.27; MOLA, 2013).

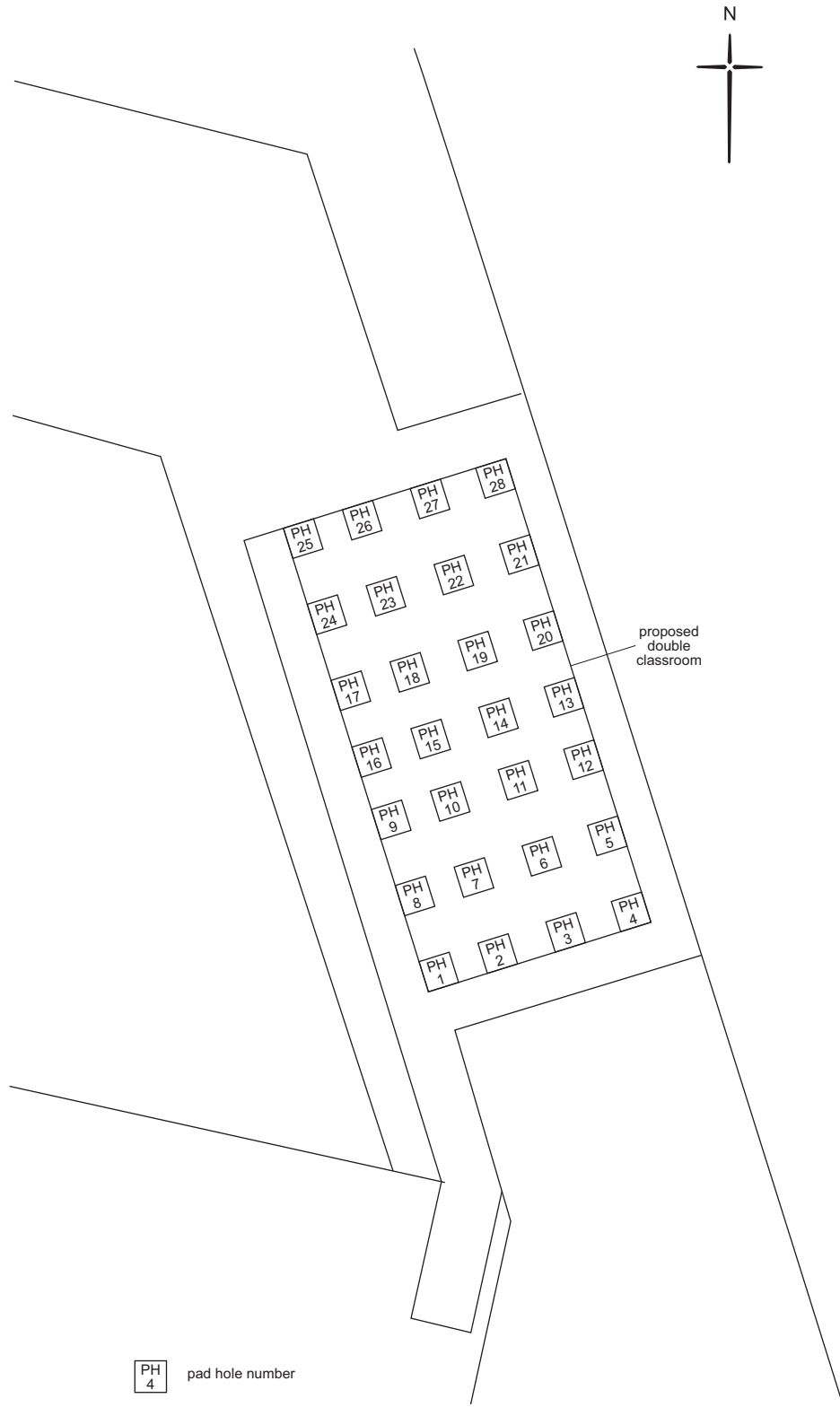


Fig 2 Pad hole locations

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MOLA, Smith, 2013) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (Museum of London, 1994).

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Pad holes were excavated by machine by the subcontracted team, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to an OD height of 82.5 m located c 50 metres to the north-east of the site on the modern pavement on Peppard Road.

The site has produced: 28 trench sheets and 33 photographs. No finds were recovered.

The site records can be found under the site code BR – HPS 13.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, 28 separate interventions (pad holes) were made (Fig 3) for the purposes of the proposed double classroom. These have been numbered 1 to 28 consecutively. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For all pad hole locations see (Fig 2).

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 1</i>	
Location	SW corner of the planned building
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.05 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.75 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.75 m AOD

The earliest deposit revealed in Pad Hole 1 (PH 1) was a natural, loose, mid grey brown gravel and sand observed at 81.75 m AOD (continuing to the base of the hole at 81.45 m AOD). It was overlaid by the modern sequence of make-up layers for the playground surface (from 81.75m AOD to 82.30 m AOD). This consisted of a layer of mid brownish silty clay with gravel overlaid by mid orangey brown sand and gravel, which rested below a thin tar coat for three subsequent layers of tarmac. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 2</i>	
Location	East of PH 1, along the southern limit of the area
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.30 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.40 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.40 m AOD

The earliest deposit revealed in PH 2 (Fig 4) was the same natural gravel and sand observed in PH 1, though here it rested at a slightly lower level of 81.40 m AOD (continued into the base at 81.20 m AOD). It was overlaid by several layers of the modern make up sequence, (from 81.40 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD): mid grey brown sandy silt with gravel, CBM fragments and charcoal, overlaid by a band of orangey brown gravel and sand, which rested below a layer of mid grey brown loose gravel and sand with CBM and concrete fragments. The top most deposit was the same tarmac as in the case of PH 1. No archaeological deposits or structures were recorded.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 3</i>	
Location	East of PH 2, along the southern limit of the area
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.15 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.65 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.65 m AOD

The earliest deposit observed in PH 3 was the same natural gravel and sand as in the above described locations. It was recorded at 81.65 m AOD and continued into the base of the hole at 81.35 m AOD. It was overlaid by two layers of the modern make-up (from 81.65 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD): mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional gravel, root action, CBM fragments and charcoal flecks and above it orangey brown gravel and sand. As before, the final layer was tarmac of the playground. It is worth mentioning that the lowest layer of the make-up sequence (sandy silt) appears to have characteristics of a garden soil and it may be that it was not deposited as a make-up for the modern surface. The CBM fragments observed within this layer appear of a modern, most likely 20th century, date. No archaeological deposits or structures could be observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 4</i>	
Location	SE corner of the planned building
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.05 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.10 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.10 m AOD

The earliest deposit observed in PH 4 was mid to light yellow brown, loose, natural fine gravel and sand, recorded at 81.50 m AOD (continues into the base at 81.45 m AOD). It was overlaid by another layer of natural mid grey brown gravel and sand (at 82.10 m AOD), observed in all locations on site. Immediately above was a thin layer of naturally accumulated soil in form of dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and occasional root action (at 82.20 m AOD). It was disturbed to the east by modern intrusion (0.10 m thick concrete slab observed in section). The final layer was the top soil of the grass area between the school's eastern boundary wall and the SE edge of the tarmac playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 5</i>	
Location	North of PH 4, along the eastern side of the planned building
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.10 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.95 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.95 m AOD

The earliest deposits revealed in PH 5 are the same sequence of two natural layers (finer gravel and sand overlaid by more coarse and darker coloured gravel and sand) as observed in PH 4, though here the natural was situated slightly lower, at 81.95 m AOD. The upper layer of natural was overlaid by naturally accumulated soil with the same characteristics as that observed in PH 4. The final layer was the top soil of the grass area. No archaeological deposits or structures were recorded.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 6</i>	
Location	West of PH 5
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.10 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.75 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.75 m AOD

The earliest deposit is the natural mid grey brown gravel and sand, observed in all locations (for description see PH 1). Here it was situated at 81.75 m AOD. It was overlaid by a layer of naturally accumulated soil (dark grey brown, sandy silt with frequent root action) at 81.95 m AOD. It was overlaid by a make-up layer of the modern surface in form of mid orangey brown gravel and sand with occasional CBM and concrete fragments (at 82.30 m AOD). The final layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 7</i>	
Location	West of PH 6
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.20 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.75 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.75 m AOD

The earliest deposit revealed in PH 7 was the natural mid grey brown gravel and sand (for description, see PH 1) at 81.75 m AOD. It was overlaid by make-up for the modern surface in form of two layers (from 81.75 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD): loose, mid orangey brown gravel and sand and above it, mid yellowish brown gravel and sand with occasional CBM and concrete fragments. The final layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were recorded.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 8</i>	
Location	North of PH 1, west of PH 7
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.10 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.70 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.70 m AOD

The earliest deposit recorded in PH 8 is the natural gravel and sand (see PH 1) at 81.70 m AOD. It was overlaid by a 3-layer sequence of make-up deposits for the modern surface (from 81.70 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD): a thick band of compacted, mid grey sandy silt with gravel, overlaid by mid orange brown, loose, gravel and sand, situated below a layer of loose, dark grey brown gravel and sand with CBM and concrete fragments. The final, topmost, layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were recorded.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 9</i>	
Location	North of PH 8
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.15 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.75 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.75 m AOD

The earliest deposits recorded in PH 9 were fine gravel and sand overlaid by darker coloured and coarser gravel and sand at 81.75 m AOD, also observed in PH 4 (see above). These were overlaid by a sequence of 3 layers of the modern make up (from 81.75 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD), identical to that observed in PH 8 (see above). The final layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 10</i>	
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Location	East of PH 9
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.20 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.80 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.80 m AOD

The earliest deposit revealed in PH 10 was the natural gravel and sand (for description, see PH 1) at 81.80 m AOD. It was overlaid by two layers of make-up for the modern surface (from 81.80 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD): mid orange brown loose gravel and sand with occasional CBM fragments below mid to dark, brown grey gravel and sand with CBM and concrete fragments. The topmost layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 11</i>	
Location	East of PH 10
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.20 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.75 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.75 m AOD

The earliest deposit revealed in PH 11 was the natural gravel and sand (for description, see PH 1) at 81.75 m AOD. The natural rested below mid brownish grey sandy silt of mid compaction, naturally accumulated (at 81.95 m AOD). It was overlaid by a thin layer of ashy dump (at 81.95 m AOD), situated below make-up of gravel and sand with CBM fragments, at 82.30 m AOD immediately below the tarmac. No archaeological deposits or structures were recorded.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 12</i>	
Location	East of PH 11
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.00 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.05 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.05 m AOD

The earliest deposit observed in PH 12 was the natural gravel and sand (for description, see PH 1), at 82.05 m AOD. It was overlaid by naturally accumulated soil (at 82.30 m AOD), identical to that observed in PH 4 (for description, see PH 4). The topmost layer was the top soil of the grass area. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 13</i>	
Location	North of PH 12
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.00 m

Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.10 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.10 m AOD

The stratigraphic sequence observed in PH 13 is identical to that observed in PH 12 (see above), apart from the slightly higher level of the natural gravel and sand (82.10 m AOD). No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 14</i>	
Location	North of PH 11 and west of PH 13
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.05 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.00 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.00 m AOD

The earliest deposits recorded in PH 14 were two layers of natural gravel and sand (at 82 m AOD), similar to those observed in PH 4 (for description, see PH 4). The top most natural deposit was overlaid by a thin ashy dump at 82.10 m AOD, identical to that observed in PH 11. It rested below a make-up layer of loose orange brown gravel and sand with frequent CBM fragments, situated immediately below the topmost layer – tarmac of the modern surface. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 15</i>	
Location	West of PH 14, north of PH 10
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.15 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.05 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.05 m AOD

The earliest deposits observed in PH 15 were two layers of natural gravel and sand, darker and coarser above, lighter-coloured and finer, similar to those observed in PH 4 (at 82.05 m AOD). These rested below a layer of make-up, which consisted of loose mid orangey brown gravel and sand with frequent debris material (mostly brick fragments), at 82.30 m AOD. The final layer was the tarmac surface of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 16</i>	
Location	West of PH 15, north of PH 9
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.10 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD

Base of modern fill/slab	81.85 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.85 m AOD

The earliest deposits observed in PH 16 were two layers of natural gravel, similar to those observed in PH 4 (for description, see PH 4), at 81.85 m AOD. They rested below a sequence of three modern make-up layers, similar to that in PH 8 (from 81.85 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD; for description, see PH 8). The final layer was the tarmac surface of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were identified.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 17</i>	
Location	North of PH 16
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.00 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.88 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.88 m AOD

The earliest deposit identified in PH 17 was the natural gravel and sand (for description, see PH 1), at 81.88 m AOD. It was overlaid by three layers of modern make-ups, identical to that recorded in PH 16 (see above; from 81.88 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD), except from the lowest layer, sandy silt with gravel, which was slightly darker grey and contained ash. The topmost layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological structures or deposits were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 18</i>	
Location	East of PH 17, north of PH 15
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.10 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.85 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.85 m AOD

The earliest deposits recorded in PH 18 were two layers of natural gravel and sand, identical to the sequence observed in PH 4 (for description, see PH 4), at 81.55 m AOD. These rested below three layers of modern make-up, similar to those recorded in PH 8 (from 81.85 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD; for description, see PH 8). The final layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were identified.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 19</i>	
Location	East of PH 18, north of PH 14
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.20 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.95 m AOD

Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.95 m AOD

The earliest deposits observed in PH 19 were two layers of natural gravel and sand (for description, see PH 4), at 81.95 m AOD. The remaining sequence is identical to that observed in PH 15 (see above): a modern make-up of loose mid orangey brown gravel and sand with frequent debris material, at 81.95 m AOD, overlaid by the tarmac surface of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 20</i>	
Location	East of PH 19
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.00 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.14 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.14 m AOD

The earliest deposits observed in PH 20 were two layers of natural gravel and sand (for description, see PH 4), at 82.14 m AOD. They rested below a layer of naturally formed soil at c 82.30 m AOD, also observed in PH 4 (see above). It was overlaid by a thin (0.06 m thick) band of loose, dark grey ashy material, situated immediately below the topsoil of the grass area. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 21</i>	
Location	North of PH 20
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 0.85 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.15 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.15 m AOD

The earliest deposits recorded in PH 21 were two layers of natural gravel and sand at 82.15 m AOD (for description, see PH 4). They rested below a layer of loose, mid to light yellowish, medium coarse sand at 82.40 m AOD. This is the only location where this deposit could be observed. It had a character of modern bedding and was situated below a loose, dark grey ashy make-up, which in this area was the topmost layer. No archaeological deposits or structures were identified.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 22</i>	
Location	West of PH 21
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.10 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.15 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed

Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.15 m AOD

The earliest deposit observed in PH 22 was natural yellow/orange soft medium to fine sand with lenses of pale greyish fine sand, at 81.55 m AOD. This is the only location on site where this deposit could be observed. It rested below two layers of natural gravel and sand at 82.15 m AOD, already recorded in PH 4 (see above). These were overlaid by a layer which had the characteristics of topsoil (at 83.30 m AOD). In this area, the tarmac surface appears to have been laid directly on top of the topsoil, most likely in the course of extending the playground over the grass area. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 23</i>	
Location	West of PH 22
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.10 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.90 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.90 m AOD

The earliest deposits identified in PH 23 were two layers of natural gravel and sand, at 81.90 m AOD (for description, see PH 4). They rested below a two-layer sequence of modern-make up (from 81.90 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD): mid grey compacted sandy silt with gravel (similar to that in PH 8, though here it contained occasional CBM flecks), overlaid by a layer of mid to dark greyish brown, loose gravel and sand with occasional CBM fragments and bands of orange brown coloured gravel and sand. The topmost layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were recorded.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 24</i>	
Location	West of PH 23, western edge of the planned building
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.15 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.93 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.93 m AOD

The stratigraphic sequence observed in PH 24 is identical to that in PH 23: two layers of natural gravel and sand at 81.93 m AOD, overlaid by two layers of modern make-up from 81.93 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD (for description, see PH 23), which rested below the top most layer - the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 25</i>	
Location	NW corner of the planned building
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.15 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.85 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a

Natural observed	81.85 m AOD
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The earliest deposits recorded in PH 25 were two layers of natural gravel and sand at 81.85 m AOD (for description, see PH 4). Similarly with PH 24, they were overlaid by two-layer modern make-up (from 81.85 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD), with the same characteristics as that observed in PH 23 (see above). The final layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 26</i>	
Location	East of PH 25
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.05 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	81.95 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	81.95 m AOD

The earliest deposits observed in PH 26 were two layers of natural gravel and sand, at 81.95 m AOD (for description, see PH 4). They rested below two layers of modern make-up (from 81.95 m AOD to 82.30 m AOD): mid greyish brown with orange brown bands, loose gravel and sand with moderate CBM fragments, overlaid by a layer of mid yellowish brown loose gravel and sand with frequent CBM fragments. The final layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures could be observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 27</i>	
Location	East of PH 26
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.05 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.00 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.00 m AOD

The earliest deposits recorded in PH 27 were two layers of natural gravel and sand at 82 m AOD (for description, see PH 4). They were overlaid by a thin layer of naturally accumulated soil at 82.10 m AOD, similar to that observed in PH 4 (see above). It rested below modern make-up of loose mid orange brown gravel and sand with frequent CBM and a band of dark grey ashy material, at 82.30 m AOD. The topmost layer was the tarmac of the playground. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

<i>Watching Brief Pad Hole 28</i>	
Location	NE corner of the planned building
Dimensions	0.80 m x 0.80 m x 1.00 m
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.5 m AOD
Base of modern fill/slab	82.15 m AOD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	N/a
Natural observed	82.15 m AOD

The earliest deposits recorded in PH 28 were: mid yellow brown, loose, natural gravely sand at 81.70 m AOD, overlaid by a layer of soft orangey natural sand with fine gravel at 81.80 m AOD, which rested below a layer of natural gravel and sand at 82.15 m AOD (for description, see PH 1). The final of the natural deposits was overlaid by a thin layer of naturally accumulated soil at 82.30 m AOD (for description, see PH 4), which rested below the topsoil of the grass area. The last two deposits had been truncated by modern services to the east. No archaeological deposits or structures were observed.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

- What was the level of natural topography?

It varied from 81.40 m AOD in the south-western corner of the site to 82.15 m AOD in the opposite, north-eastern, corner of the site.

- What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest deposits identified are represented by a sequence of layers of natural gravel and sand. No archaeological deposits or structures were identified on site.

- What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposits recorded on site are the tarmac surface of the playground (pad holes nos.: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27) and grass area along the eastern limit of the site (pad holes nos.: 4, 5, 12, 13, 20, 21, and 28).

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric human activity?

No evidence for prehistoric human activity was found.

4.2 New research aims

Based on the collected data, there is no necessity to form any new research aims.

4.3 Significance of data

The significance of collected data is low in respect to the investigated site as no archaeologically significant remains were found.

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 Berkshire.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2013) with Reading Museum within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

A short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*.

6 Conclusions

Despite the location in the vicinity of the previously identified archaeological sites (see Section 2.2) and the high density of interventions (pad holes) throughout the area of the planned building, no deposits or structures of archaeological character have been identified on the investigated site. However, given the relatively small size of the site it is not entirely impossible that archaeological deposits/ structures could be situated outside the limits of excavation.

If there was any archaeology, it appears to have been removed in the course of raising the ground for the playground of the school. Throughout the site, deposits of the modern make-up have been recorded resting on top of layers of natural gravel and sand, apart from a few locations (pad holes nos.: 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 20, 27, and 28), where soil naturally accumulated on top of the natural could be observed. It should be noted that the natural is preserved at a slightly higher level along the eastern limit of the site covered by the grass area, which apart from presence of the modern service cable, remains relatively undisturbed.

7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report:

To the Hampshire County Council Property Services for commissioning this report and to the Reading Borough Council for funding the project.

8 Bibliography

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English Heritage, 1991 *Exploring Our Past, Strategies for the Archaeology of England*

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*

Institute for Archaeologists (IFA), 2001 *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2001), Standard and guidance: watching brief*

Institute for Archaeologists (IFA), supplement 2001, *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute for Archaeologists: Standards and guidance – the collection, documentation conservation and research of archaeological materials*

MOLA, March 2013, *Hill Primary School, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Reading*
Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief

Museum of London, 1994 *Archaeological Site Manual 3rd edition*

9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-150313

Project details

Project name	Hill Primary Shcool, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Reading
Short description of the project	The site is situated in the vicinity of previously known archaeological sites, which showed evidence of human activity stretching from the Lower Paleolithic to the Late Roman period. However, no deposits or structures of archaeological nature have been identified on the site in the course of the watching brief. The recorded deposits comprised layers of natural gravel and sand, which in the larger area of the site were situated below a sequence of layers of the modern make up for the school's playground and below naturally formed soil, along the eastern edge of the excavation. The modern surface was predominantly tarmac, apart from the grass area in the narrow strip along the eastern limit of the site.
Project dates	Start: 30-04-2013 End: 03-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	REDMG: 2013.339 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	BR - PHS 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE READING READING Hill Primary School, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Reading

Postcode	RG4 8TU
Study area	153.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 72194 76131 51 0 51 28 44 N 000 57 37 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 81.00m Max: 82.00m

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	Kasia Olchowska
Type of sponsor/funding body	Local authority
Name of sponsor/funding body	Reading Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Digital Archive ID	REDMG: 2013.339
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Paper Archive ID	REDMG: 2013.339
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type	
Title	Hill Primary School, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Reading, Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Olchowska, K
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 report
<hr/>	
Entered by	Kasia Olchowska (kolchowska@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	13 May 2013



Fig 3 General view of the site post excavation; facing SE



Fig 4 North-facing section in PH 2; facing S

OASIS ID: molas1-279166

Project details

Project name	Hill Primary School
Short description of the project	A watching brief on 28 pad holes was carried out on this site, situated in the vicinity of several archaeological sites showing evidence of human activity stretching from the Lower Paleolithic to the Late Roman period, but no deposits or structures of an archaeological nature were identified here. The recorded deposits comprised layers of natural gravel and sand, which in the larger area of the site were situated below a sequence of layers of the modern make up for the school's playground, and below naturally formed soil along the eastern edge of the excavation.
Project dates	Start: 30-04-2013 End: 03-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	REDMG:2013.339 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	BR-HPS13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	192850 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	204393 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE READING READING Hill Primary School
Postcode	RG4 8TU
Study area	153 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 72194 76131 51.479036884414 -0.96029577397 51 28 44 N 000 57 37 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 81.4m Max: 82.15m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	MOLA
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Michael Smith
Project supervisor	Kasia Olchowska
Type of sponsor/funding body	Reading Borough Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Reading Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Digital Archive ID	REDMG:2013.339
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Paper Archive ID	REDMG:2013.339
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Map", "Microfilm", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Hill Primary School, Peppard Road, Reading, Report on a Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Olchowska, K.
Date	2013

Issuer or publisher MOLA

Place of issue or
publication London

Entered by Paige Cunningham (pcunningham@mola.org.uk)

Entered on 14 March 2017