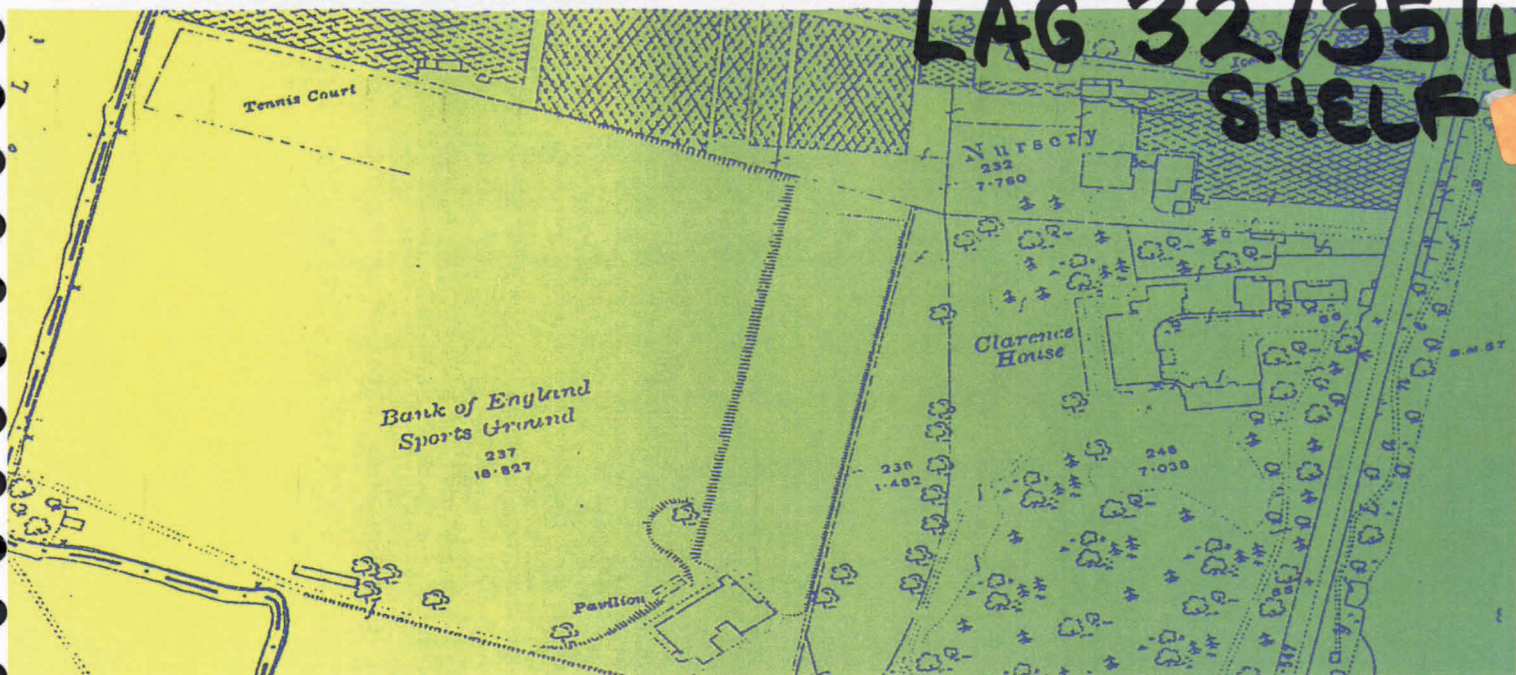


LAG 32/354
SHELF



BANK OF ENGLAND SPORTS GROUND
Roehampton
SW15

London Borough of Wandsworth

An archaeological watching brief report

August 2004

EV: 605019
SO: 6077336



MUSEUM OF LONDON
Archaeology Service

OE

BANK OF ENGLAND SPORTS GROUND
Roehampton
SW15

London Borough of Wandsworth

An archaeological watching brief report

Site Code: PIY04

National Grid Reference: 521450 174950

Project Manager
Author
Graphics

Stewart Hoad
Isca Howell
Kenneth Lymer

Museum of London Archaeology Service

© **Museum of London 2004**

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED

tel 020 7410 2200 fax 020 7410 2201

email molas@molas.org.uk

web www.molas.org.uk

Summary (Non-Technical)

This report has been commissioned by the Bank of England in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out during the installation of a drainage system at Bank of England Sports Ground, Roehampton.

The work was monitored between Wednesday 21st July 2004 and Tuesday 2nd August 2004.

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were noted during the watching brief. Layers recorded in the trench comprised of recent made ground over natural deposits.

Table Of Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Site background	1
1.2	The planning and legislative framework	1
1.3	Planning background	1
1.4	Origin & scope of the report	1
1.5	Aims and objectives	2
2	Topographical & Historical Background	4
2.1	Topography	4
2.2	Prehistoric	4
2.3	Roman	5
2.4	Saxon and medieval	5
2.5	Post-medieval	5
3	The Watching Brief	6
3.1	Methodology	6
3.2	Results of the watching brief	6
4	Potential Of Archaeology	8
4.1	Original research aims	8
4.2	New research aims	8
5	Publication & Archiving	9
6	Acknowledgements	10
7	Bibliography	11
8	OASIS form	12

List Of Illustrations

Front cover: Detail from the OS map of 1916

Fig 1 Site location	3
Fig 2 Area of watching brief	7

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief was carried out on a pipe trench at the northwest end of the Bank of England Sports Ground, Roehampton, hereafter called 'the site'. The site lies on the west side of Priory Lane, and is bounded to the north by Dowdeswell Close and the Roehampton Priory Hospital, to the south by Bank Lane and to the west by the Beverley Brook (Fig 1). The pipe trench was excavated in a line from National Grid Reference 521200 175130 to 521400 175025. The site slopes from east to west, into the valley of the Beverley Brook, and has been terraced for the construction of the previous sports facilities. The site code is PIY04.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The site lies within a designated Area of Archaeological Priority.

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the Archaeological Impact Assessment (Jamieson 2001, Section 2.1).

1.3 Planning background

The watching brief was undertaken as a condition placed on the planning consent. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken recently to the east of the area of the watching brief (Cowan 2004).

1.4 Origin & scope of the report

This report was commissioned by the Bank of England and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999).

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* (Hoad 2004), and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the watching brief 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):

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric remains on the site, particularly of Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age date?
- Is there any evidence for later activity on the site?
- What is the nature and extent of the truncation caused by the terracing and in light of this where if anywhere can potential archaeological remains be expected on the site?

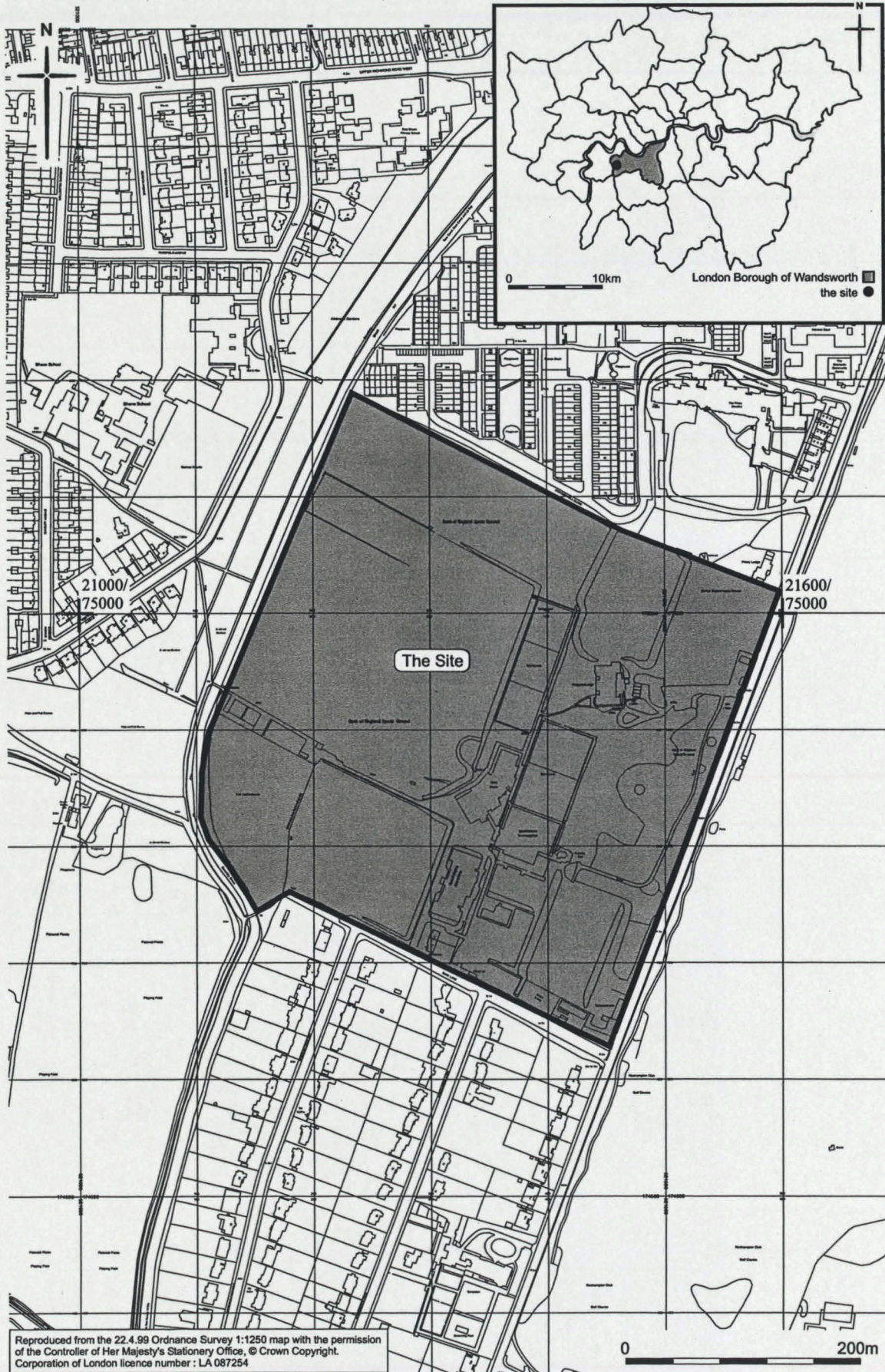


Fig 1 Site location

2 Topographical & Historical Background

The time-scales used in this report are as follows.

Palaeolithic	c 450,000–12,000 BC
Mesolithic	c 12,000–4000 BC
Neolithic	c 4000–2000 BC
Bronze Age	c 2000–600 BC
Iron Age	c 600 BC–AD 43
Roman	AD 43–410
Saxon	AD 410–c 1000
Medieval	c AD 1000–1500
Post-medieval–modern (including industrial)	c 1500–present

A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier *Archaeological impact assessment* (Jamieson 2001, Section 3). A brief resume is provided here:

2.1 Topography

The underlying geology is mapped as gravels of the Thames Terrace Gravel no. 3 [BGS Sheet 270,1981] and Head deposits. The site slopes from east to west from height of c 16.10m OD in the east to c 7.40m OD in the west, into the valley of the Beverley Brook.

2.2 Prehistoric

The setting of the site is one that might be considered advantageous to early settlers. The locality is high and relatively level, and would have commanded wide views across its immediate approaches to the north and west. It would also have been within easy reach of the wetland resources of the Beverley Brook (c. 1km to the west) and the Thames (within 2km). It also seems that water was readily available on the site itself. Furthermore, much of the site lies on well-drained terrace gravel.

A number of prehistoric artefacts have been found in the surrounding area including Palaeolithic and Neolithic flint axes. Bronze Age finds have been made, during fieldwork by MoLAS immediately north of the Lulham Building of the Froebel Institute (Site code FEI93) where postholes, a pit and a ditch were dated to the Late Iron Age / Bronze Age by the presence of pottery.

The late prehistoric settlement on the north facing slopes of Roehampton forms part of a wider landscape embracing enclosed settlements at Caesar's Camp, on Royal Wimbledon Golf Course, and Old Malden and possible undefended settlements at Kingston and Putney.

2.3 Roman

There is little evidence for occupation of the area during the Roman period but scattered finds have been recovered from the area such as the Roman coin found along Roehampton Close, east of Roehampton Lane.

It has also been suggested that the Upper Richmond Road at Putney might be roughly on the route taken by a Roman Road and it is likely that a network of ditched fields and farmsteads would have stretched along and back from the road and it is probable that the site lay in open fields at this time.

2.4 Saxon and medieval

There are no medieval finds from Roehampton, although the village is known from the 14th century and was first recorded as Hampton or East Hampton. For many centuries, Roehampton was just a small village, a medieval offshoot of Putney. The site at this time was probably agricultural land.

2.5 Post-medieval

The early 16th century saw the formation of Putney Park, a royal hunting preserve, and it is likely that Roehampton village was moved at that time to its present site on the edge of the common. By 1617 it boasted 33 houses and two inns, the Kings Head and the Angel, giving a population of about 200.

In the 18th century there were a number of grand residences, surrounded by their park-like grounds. Four of these still survive today, all now occupied by various institutions. Roehampton High Street too has a number of buildings still from this period; a mixture of styles built either of brick or with clapperboard facings. Some of the old buildings have been rebuilt or replaced, while others have just had new shop fronts added.

The first expansion in the village took place at the turn of this century, when new streets were put in just north of the High Street. The major change came in the 1950s and 1960s, when the London County Council acquired much of the land to the south-west of the village. They built the huge Alton Estate, stretching from Clarence Lane to the Portsmouth Road and from Roehampton Lane to Priory Lane. Roehampton Lane was widened into a dual carriageway through the village, changing the local atmosphere considerably.

Rocque's map of 1746 would appear to place the site in open fields, probably orchards and gardens. By 1894 the site was occupied by buildings known as the nurseries and Clarence House (Cover). Clarence House was demolished in 1934 and a Women's Pavilion was subsequently built on the site some time after 1938 but was bombed during the Second World War. During the 1950s the site underwent substantial remodelling and reprofiling with the formation of terraces for football pitches.

3 The Watching Brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (Hoad 2004) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS 1994).

The installation of the drainage system involved the mechanical excavation of *c* 200m of trench, *c* 0.8m wide and *c* 1.4m deep, by contractors under MoLAS supervision. (Fig 2). In addition there was an outlet by the Beverley Brook and 5 inspection chambers.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by the developer survey (Drg. No. 2535/117, GTA construction engineers).

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan.

The site archive can be found under the site code PIY 04, together with the archive for the previous evaluation, which will be presented to the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) within 12 months of the completion of fieldwork.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

The trench is aligned approximately east-west to the north of the existing lawn tennis courts. The present ground level along the line of the trench slopes from *c* 9.2m OD at the east to 6.4m OD above the Beverley Brook, where a *c* 2m drop-off was observed.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found during the watching brief. Recent made ground was observed adjacent to the Beverley Brook and the terracing of the surrounding ground level had truncated the underlying such that modern topsoil lay directly over sandy clay to the west and coarse gravels to the east, at a depth of *c* 0.45m.



Fig 2 Area of watching brief

4 Potential Of Archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

- *Is there any evidence of prehistoric remains on the site, particularly of Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age date?*

There was no conclusive evidence for prehistoric remains on the site.

- *Is there any evidence for later activity on the site?*

There was no conclusive evidence for later activity on the site.

- *What is the nature and extent of the truncation caused by the terracing and in light of this where if anywhere can potential archaeological remains be expected on the site?*

The terracing has truncated the site to the present level of the underlying natural across the entire area observed. This indicates there is low potential for archaeological remains on the site.

4.2 New research aims

The results of the watching brief do not formulate any new research aims.

5 Publication & 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 *Method Statement* (Hoad 2004).

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the relatively limited significance of the data 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 Acknowledgements

MoLAS wishes to thank Jeff Horwood of GTA, Harry Spawton of Rolfe Judd, and Garry Blyth of the Bank of England.

7 Bibliography

Cowan, C, 2004 Bank of England Sports Ground, Roehampton, SW15: An Archaeological Evaluation, Unpub MoLAS rep

Hoad, S, 2004 Bank of England Sports Ground, Roehampton, SW15: method statement for an archaeological watching brief, Unpub MoLAS rep

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1999 By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (rev. 1999), Standard and guidance: watching brief

Jamieson, D, 2001 Bank of England Sports Ground, Roehampton SW15: An Archaeological Impact Assessment, Unpub MoLAS rep

Museum of London, 1994 Archaeological Site Manual 3rd edition

8 OASIS form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-3499

Project details

Project name Bank of England Sports Ground, Roehampton

Short description of the project A watching brief carried out during the installation of a drainage system. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recorded as the trench only exposed natural deposits overlain by recent made ground.

Project dates Start: 21-07-2004 End: 02-08-2004

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings

Monument type MADE GROUND Modern

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH Bank of England Sports Ground

Postcode SW15

Study area 200 Square metres .

National reference grid TQ 21200 75130 Line

National reference grid TQ 21400 75025 Line

Height OD Min: 6m Max: 9m

Project creators

Name of MoLAS
Organisation

Project originator brief English Heritage/Department of Environment

Project originator design MoLAS

Project director/manager MoLAS

Project supervisor MoLAS

Project archives

Physical Exists? Archive No

Digital recipient Archive LAARC

Digital Archive ID PIY04

Digital Contents 'Survey','other'

Digital available Media 'Text'

Digital Exists? Archive Yes

Paper recipient Archive LAARC

Paper Archive ID PIY04

Paper Contents 'Survey','other'

Paper Media 'Report','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

available

Paper Archive notes Survey data from plan supplied by developer

Paper Archive
Exists? Yes

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type An unpublished document/manuscript
Title Bank of England Sports Ground, Roehampton

Author(s)/Editor(s) Howell, I

Date 2004

Issuer or publisher MoLAS

Place of issue or
publication London

Description unpublished client report

Entered by Isca Howell (ihowell@molass.org.uk)

Entered on 6 August 2004