

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING REPORT:  
GROUND CLEARANCE WORKS, NUNHEAD CEMETERY LIMESFORD ROAD, NUNHEAD, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK**

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Report prepared for London Borough of Southwark

By  
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*Cover image: 19<sup>th</sup> century graves in southwest area with boundary wall behind, looking southeast*

## Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by the London Borough of Southwark to conduct documentary research and undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during ground clearance works along the internal strip of ground next to the southeast boundary wall of Nunhead Cemetery, on the Limesford Road frontage.
- Nunhead Cemetery is located within the Camberwell and Peckham area of Southwark. It was established in 1840, one of the 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian cemeteries created around what was then the outskirts of London.
- An experienced archaeologist monitored the removal of vegetation and carried out recording of all uncovered gravestones. Clearance work was carried out with hand tools only and the groundwork team was briefed on how to clear vegetation without damaging gravestones and disturbing burials.
- Work carried out during the five-day period allowed an assessment of the condition of gravestones and their spatial distribution.
- The results add to existing knowledge of the development of the cemetery over time and enable a better understanding of the condition of the graves that will allow more effective planning of any further vegetation clearance and conservation work within the cemetery.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) was commissioned by London Borough of Southwark to complete an archaeological assessment in advance of remedial works to the southern boundary wall of Nunhead Cemetery along Limesford Road and undertake an archaeological watching brief during the ground clearance work along the southeast section of the wall.
- 1.2 The archaeological scheme of works was undertaken in strict accordance with national guidance as detailed in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment' (ClfA 2014a) and 'Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief' (ClfA 2014b) and the Historic England document 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (Historic England 2015) and a risk assessment and method statement prepared by this company (AAL 2019).
- 1.3 The documentary and physical archive will be submitted to the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAARC) within six months of the completion of the project where it will be stored under the museum accession code LIM19.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Nunhead Cemetery is located within the Camberwell and Peckham area of Southwark. It was established in 1840 and is one of the 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian cemeteries created around what was then the outskirts of London.
- 2.2 The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 35422 75565 and the Limesford Road entrance is centred on NGR TQ 3564 7529. The northern part of the cemetery is c.29m above Ordnance Datum, rising to c.60m above Ordnance Datum in the western part of the site towards Nunhead Hill. The eastern and southern areas are relatively flat and are c.36m above Ordnance Datum (Figure 1).
- 2.3 The bedrock geology comprises London Clay Formation – Clay and Silt, with no superficial deposits recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The London Borough of Southwark has its own archaeological planning advisors and is therefore not included within the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service Framework.
- 3.2 The New Southwark Plan (NSP) will be a new borough-wide planning and regeneration strategy up to 2033. Once finalised and adopted, it will replace the saved Southwark Plan policies and the Core Strategy. The New Southwark Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
- 3.3 The relevant policies of the New Southwark Plan (Southwark Council 2020) concerning archaeological and cultural heritage assets are P20, P22 and AV.11:

Policy P20: Conservation of the historic environment and natural heritage

*Development must:*

*1.1 Conserve and enhance the significance of the following heritage assets and their settings:*

*i. Scheduled monuments; and*

- ii. Sites of archaeological interest; and*
- iii. Protected London squares; and*
- iv. Registered parks and gardens; and*
- v. Trees within the curtilage of a listed building; and*
- vi. Trees that contribute to the historic character or appearance of conservation areas; and*
- vii. Trees that are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO); and*
- viii. Ancient hedgerows; and*
- ix. Buildings and land with Article 4 (1) directions inside and outside conservation areas; and*
- x. Unlisted buildings of townscape merit; and*
- xi. Undesignated heritage assets including Second World War Stretcher Fences; and*
- xii. Foreshore and river structures; and*

*1.2 Enable the viable use of the heritage asset that is consistent with its on-going and long-term conservation; and*

*1.3 Provide robust justification for any harm to the significance of the heritage asset that result from the development.*

#### **P22: Archaeology**

*1 Development must conserve the archaeological resource commensurate to its significance. Planning applications affecting sites within Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs) shall be accompanied by an archaeological assessment and a report on the results of a field evaluation of the site, including an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. The assessment should identify and describe the significance of the archaeological interest of the site, including any contribution made by the archaeological setting of the site. Any harm or loss of archaeological resource resulting from development will require justification; and*

*2 Development must preserve archaeological remains of national importance in situ and preserve archaeological remains of local importance in situ unless the public benefits of the development outweigh the loss of archaeological remains. Where archaeological remains cannot be preserved in situ the remains must be excavated, recorded, archived, published, interpreted and displayed through a detailed planned programme of works. There may also be a requirement for a programme of public engagement, in order that the results of significant archaeological discoveries are disseminated. The scale of this public engagement will be based upon on the significance and interest of the findings, but may involve site visits for the public or other means of on- and off-site viewing; and*

*3 Development must consider the archaeological interest and significance of sites that lie outside of an APA. Sites outside APAs will be assessed against the historic environment record for Southwark. Requirements will be secured by condition where necessary.*

#### **Policy AV.12: Nunhead Area Vision**

*A historic residential area with many pubs, a library and a local community centre.*

- A visitor destination for Nunhead Cemetery, with a view of St Paul's Cathedral and Aquarius Golf Course.*
- Accessible by rail from central London at Nunhead Station and by many local walking, cycling and bus routes.*

- *Home to a thriving shopping centre at Evelina Road with a wide range of independent shops around Nunhead Green that create a village environment. Local shopping parades meet local shopping needs at Forest Hill Road and Cheltenham Road.*
- *A place for sports and activities with good access to parks such as Peckham Rye.*

*AV.11.2 Development in Nunhead should:*

- *Provide as many homes as possible while respecting the local character of the area.*
- *Improve walking and cycling routes and public transport.*
- *Complement and improve the town centre offer at Evelina Road, Forest Hill Road and Cheltenham Road, including the retention of small shops.*

*AV.11.3 Growth opportunities in Nunhead:*

*Whilst development opportunities in Nunhead are relatively limited, Nunhead has the potential to contribute towards meeting Southwark's housing need. Most new homes will be built on infill sites.*

*Detailed development opportunities in Nunhead are set out in the Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan (2014). This includes adopted Site Allocations. There are no new development opportunity sites in Nunhead.*

## **4.0 Constraints**

- 4.1 Nunhead Cemetery is a Grade II\* Listed Designated Park and Garden and has been awarded this designation due to it being an example of an early Victorian cemetery, designed by James Bunning. Some elements of the cemetery layout are extant along with elements of the original planting (Historic England Listing Number: 1000824).
- 4.2 One Archaeological Priority Area (APA) lies within the search area to the immediate east. The 'North Southwark and Roman Roads' APA is the largest APA in Southwark, covering the entire river frontage from Lambeth to Lewisham and south to Bermondsey. This APA has been classified as a Tier 1 APA due to the area being the most archaeologically significant area of Southwark which contains deeply stratified multi-phase archaeology dating from the prehistoric era to the modern day. The APA contains nine scheduled monuments as well as a complex of inter-linked Roman road. The London to Lewes Road which runs to the east of the site (Site 2), was part of the Roman arterial system connecting London with the South Coast. Some parts of the orientation of this road survive in public rights of way and street alignments (Figure 2). Given the proximity of the line of the former Roman road, there is high potential for encountering archaeological activity of this date within this area of the site.
- 4.3 There are 15 Listed Buildings within the search area, 13 of which are within the cemetery itself and comprise a combination of funerary monuments, mausolea, chapels, and an obelisk, as well as the entrance lodges and associated gates (Sites 3–14 and 18). These have all been designated with Grade II Listed Building status. Two listed buildings lie to the south and southwest of the site, the closet being Ivydale Road School, located c.200m south of the cemetery boundary along Limesford Road (Site 15). Due to intervening modern development there is no intervisibility between the school and Nunhead Cemetery, and it is not anticipated that the proposed works will have a negative impact upon the setting of this listed building.

- 4.4 The southern boundary of the cemetery is also a considerable distance (at least 215m) from any of the listed funerary monuments. The current vegetation and topography limits intervisibility the remedial works will have limited impact as they are to an already existing wall.

## 5.0 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 A number of research questions and aims were identified to provide detailed information regarding the character, history and heritage of Nunhead Cemetery (AAL 2019).

- What landscaping took place when the entrance was inserted in 1909?
- Were graves moved at this time?
- How many plots were set aside?
- How many individuals are buried there?
- When did the area of 'common' graves become overgrown?
- Does the current overgrowth mask any hidden features of earlier date which may contribute to the significance of the cemetery?

- 5.2 The following objectives were set out for the Cemetery wall:

- When were the current railings added?
- Where the iron railings removed from around perimeter of cemetery in WWII?
- What landscaping took place when the entrance was inserted in 1909?
- Were graves moved at this time?
- Are the apparently clear areas either side of the gate genuinely free of graves?
- Have any further entrances been added/removed?
- Are rebuilds or maintenance visible?
- Do the walls, method of construction, later than the other walls bounding the cemetery, contribute to the current instability?

- 5.3 The aims and objectives of the archaeological monitoring were:

- To record the location, appearance and date in-situ and disturbed memorial within the clearance works area
- To ensure no damage occurs during the works
- To produce a plan of the site showing the distribution of burials over time and the locations of memorials to allow for future management

## 6.0 Methodology

### *Desk-based assessment*

- 6.1 A full range of primary and secondary archaeological and historical sources were consulted, as follows:

- Greater London HER – a database of archaeological sites and artefacts, listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments. A search of this resource was undertaken for a study area extending 250m from the centre of the site.



- London Metropolitan Archives and Southwark Local History Library and Archive – holds a range of historic maps, for example enclosure maps, Tithe maps, estate plans, and former editions of Ordnance Survey maps of the development area.
- National Monuments Record – A search was undertaken of the collection of aerial photographs (vertical and oblique) held by the NMR in Swindon. Aerial photographs can be used to identify buried features, such as ditches, pits or walls, which appear as cropmarks or soilmarks.
- Allen Archaeology’s own reference library – secondary sources pertaining to the archaeology and history of the region.
- A site walkover survey was carried out on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in order to assess the present situation of the development area, to identify any areas where the potential archaeological resource may be particularly well preserved or damaged by recent development, and to observe the site in its landscape context. The results of this walkover survey are recorded in a separate report (AAL 2019).

6.2 Each archaeological and historic site and Listed Building identified in the study area has been allocated a one or two digit ‘Site’ number and assigned to a specific period according to the definitions outlined on the English Heritage Periods List (formerly the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) Archaeological Periods List). These sites are described below. Further details are provided for each site in Appendix 1, and where applicable the sites are depicted on Figure 2.

### ***Archaeological Monitoring***

- 6.3 Ground clearance works were carried out undertaken in a 6 to 8m wide strip along the southeast cemetery wall on Limesford Road. The clearance works included removal of overgrowth, saplings, young self-set trees, bushes and fallen branches. The work was carried out between 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2019.
- 6.4 Prior to commencement of the ground clearance works an experienced archaeologist provided the groundworkers with a toolbox talk on the expected findings and the methods to be used.
- 6.5 During the clearance works only hand tools such as loppers, shears, secateurs, petrol hedge trimmer and a rake were used. No tree roots were removed to avoid disturbing the graves (Plate 1).



*Plate 1: Ground clearance work*

- 6.6 Grave markers found during the clearance work were left in-situ, cleaned with a brush and photographed with a board and 0.3 or 1m scale. Information about the condition, position and inscriptions found on the gravestones were recorded on standard AAL gravestone recording sheet. Each gravestone and any associated funerary objects were allocated a unique identifier (context number) and accorded a written description. A summary of these are included in Appendix 2.

## **7.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 7.1 During the prehistoric period, Southwark mainly consisted of low-lying marshes and braided river channels with large sand and gravels islands. Early settlement in this area during the prehistoric era was on higher and drier land (Southwark Council 2018). Well-preserved waterlogged structures have been found in lower lying inter-tidal areas and as a result previous archaeological work in Southwark has revealed a wealth of prehistoric sites.
- 7.2 Only one prehistoric find has been identified within the search area: a Palaeolithic marbled Levalloisian type flint flake found c.155m east of Nunhead Cemetery (Site 1). It is likely that this occurred as a result of accidental loss or is a residual find.
- 7.3 By 70AD, the Roman population began to reclaim the marshy land close to the River Thames and there is archaeological service of a significant Roman presence in Southwark. The London to Lewes Road is believed to have been located immediately to the east of Nunhead Cemetery. It originated in Peckham, where it branched off and headed south from Watling Street, which ran from London to Canterbury. Archaeological investigations during the 1930s revealed a flint and gravel road surface which was just over 6m wide, at Asylum Road c.1km north of the site, and Nash Road, c.525m southeast of the site. The projected line of this road runs along Ivydale Road (James 2013). This road is believed to have been constructed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (Margary 1973). No further evidence of Roman occupation has been found near to the site suggesting that Nunhead was likely located within the hinterland of the Roman settlement within Southwark.

- 7.4 Little is known about the Anglo-Saxon history of Southwark and no evidence of any Anglo-Saxon activity has been found within the search area.
- 7.5 Nunhead is not listed in the Domesday Book which suggests that a settlement at this site was not established by this time. However, by the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Nunhead area was associated with medieval manorial estates and the estates of the Bretinghurst family who owned land both to the north and south of Peckham village (Beasley 1999). No evidence of medieval activity has been identified within the search area.
- 7.6 The origin of the name Nunhead is currently unknown although the earliest mention is from a deed from 1583 and includes a description of estates “lying at Nunn-head” (Beasley 1999). It has also been suggested that the name may derive from the nunnery of St. John the Baptist at Halliwell, Shoreditch, which acquired lands in Camberwell Fiern (*ibid*).
- 7.7 Historically the area of Nunhead was located on the outskirts of London, in Surrey. The earliest cartographic source available for the area is John Roque’s map of Surrey, published in 1762. The village of Peckham is clearly marked with the smaller hamlet of None Head located to the south of this. At this time, Nunhead comprised several cottages and large open fields defined by rectangular field boundaries.
- 7.8 By 1839 Nunhead Hill was a popular area due to its extensive views over London. It was purchased by the London Cemetery Company (LCC) and is marked on a Plan of the Southern Station, Nunhead in 1841 with individual burial plots marked (Figure 5) (Site 2). The cemetery was designed by James Burnstone Bunning who had formerly worked on the design of Highgate Cemetery (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000824>). West Lodge, East Lodge and associated gates, railings and gate piers were built in 1840 and are located at the northern entrance to the cemetery off Linden Grove (Sites 3, 4 and 5).
- 7.9 The larger part of the cemetery to the south was consecrated by Lord Bishop of Winchester on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 1840 (Woollacott 2001).
- 7.10 The cemetery is clearly marked on the map of the Parish of St. Giles published in 1842 with both the east and west entrance lodges clearly marked (Figure 6). The area surrounding the cemetery is mainly undeveloped fields although some early urban expansion is evident to the southwest towards Peckham Rye Common. Nunhead village is clearly marked surrounding ‘Nun Green’ to the north of the cemetery.
- 7.11 James Wyld’s plan of the area, published in 1848, illustrates the internal detail of the cemetery, based on a design by Bunning to exploit the hilly nature of the site (Figure 7). The wider area surrounding the cemetery remains open land.
- 7.12 By 1850, Nunhead Cemetery was a fashionable place for the wealthy of neighbouring Bermondsey, Blackheath, Camberwell and Lewisham to be buried. This led to the construction of a number of funerary monuments during the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, several of which have been designated as Grade II Listed (Sites 6–14).
- 7.13 An Anglican cemetery chapel constructed in 1844 by Thomas Little (Site 7) and designed in the gothic style, is also a Grade II Listed building, with a crypt containing catacombs that were in use between 1848 and 1906 (Woollacott 2001). This chapel was used for funeral services until 1969.
- 7.14 By 1867, the cemetery was being improved by the addition of drainage and with continuous vegetation around the perimeter and an interior characterised by scattered trees and shrubs

(<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000824>). During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, competition from other major London cemeteries increased. As a result of attempts to make the grounds more attractive, flower production became an important part of the LCC business, and greenhouses were built to the southeast of the Anglican Mortuary Chapel in 1872 and 1876.

- 7.15 Increasing urban development surrounding the cemetery is evident on the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 with terraced housing along Ivydale Road, Limesford Road and Linden Grove. Ivydale Road School, a caretaker's cottage and related school buildings were constructed c.195m southeast of the cemetery in 1891 and are marked on the OS map (Site 15). Within the cemetery, the Anglican Mortuary Chapel is marked and a nonconformist Chapel has been added to the northern part of the cemetery (Figure 8). The greenhouses built during the 1870s are clearly marked to the southeast of the Anglican Mortuary Chapel.
- 7.16 The Nonconformists or Dissenters Chapel was erected in 1845 and was also designed in the gothic style by Thomas Little. This was a much smaller chapel compared to that of the Anglican chapel and had a small burial vault beneath. The Nonconformists Chapel was destroyed during the Second World War and is now longer extant (Woollacot 2001).
- 7.17 During an archaeological evaluation in 1993, evidence of a late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century coal yard was identified c.100m north of the cemetery (Site 17) (Askew 1993).
- 7.18 A Mausoleum to Laura Stearns was erected in the western part of the cemetery in 1900 (Site 18). By 1920, the area surrounding the cemetery has become densely populated as a result of the growing urban expansion. The layout of the cemetery remained largely unchanged (Figure 9). The Ivy Public House was constructed c.250m south of the cemetery during the 1930s to replace the Newland's Tavern, the original public house on this site which was built during the 1870s or 1880s (Site 19).
- 7.19 After the First World War, the decline in the popularity of lavish funerals along with the rising costs of maintenance and repairs meant that Nunhead Cemetery started to fall into disrepair (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000824>). During the Second World War, Nunhead was heavily bombed (Woolacott 2008). The London County Council Bomb Damage Maps record a direct hit of a V1 flying bomb immediately to the east of the cemetery along Ivydale Road (Ward 2015). A number of houses were damaged and those nearer to the impact were totally destroyed.
- 7.20 By 1960 Nunhead cemetery had been incorporated into United Cemeteries Limited and the condition of the cemetery began to decline until the site was purchased by the London Borough of Southwark in 1975 (Curl 1977). The Friends of Nunhead Cemetery carried out maintenance works in 1986 and the cemetery also became a London Site of Nature Conservation Importance. Further works were carried out between 1998 and 2001. A recent survey of the wall revealed structural issues and indicated an urgent need for remedial work. Allen Archaeology Ltd undertook a walkover survey on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (AAL 2019).
- 7.21 There is a small amount of archival material relating to the walls and entrance on Limesford Road. Originally the cemetery was surrounded by a brick wall with iron railing. This was removed during the Second World War and later replaced with inferior welded mesh panels (Mid South Southwark Local Plan, FONC 1985). Photographs demonstrate the original iron railing in place in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Plate 2). Interestingly this image also shows some irregularity in the brick piers, suggesting that the current structural issues may be of longstanding. The south wall along Limesford Road, was altered in 1909 to install a new entrance, and the original entrance

gates remain today (Plate 3). The entrance on Limesford Road is faithful to the original design of the main entrance on Linden Grove with a smaller gate, built in keeping with the original (Southwark Council CAA). Photographs from the 1980s show the piers leaning considerably (Plate 4).



*Plate 2: Boundary wall on Cemetery Road, circa 1899, showing tilting brick pillars*



*Plate 3: South entrance to Nunhead Cemetery, taken in 1982*



*Plate 4: Limesford Road, looking west from the corner of Ivydale Road c.1982, note tilting pillars*

- 7.22 There is no evidence of significant landscaping for the creation of the southern Limesford Road entrance. The network of paths shown on a plan from 1880 was broadly the same as it is today, with a curving arc running close to where the new entrance was inserted in 1909 (Plate 5). However, it is not clear whether any burials required translocation at this time, as the original entrance had numbered plots immediately next it. It is possible that this numbering may have been for future management and burials had not extended into these plots by 1909, but it is likely that the area was in use and some burials were either moved or landscaped over. The monitored graves closest to the 1909 entrance dated to the early 1940s, however, there were two graves dating to 1901 and 1902.
- 7.23 The site visit identified that there was a gap of around 3m between the rear of the back row of graves and the boundary wall.

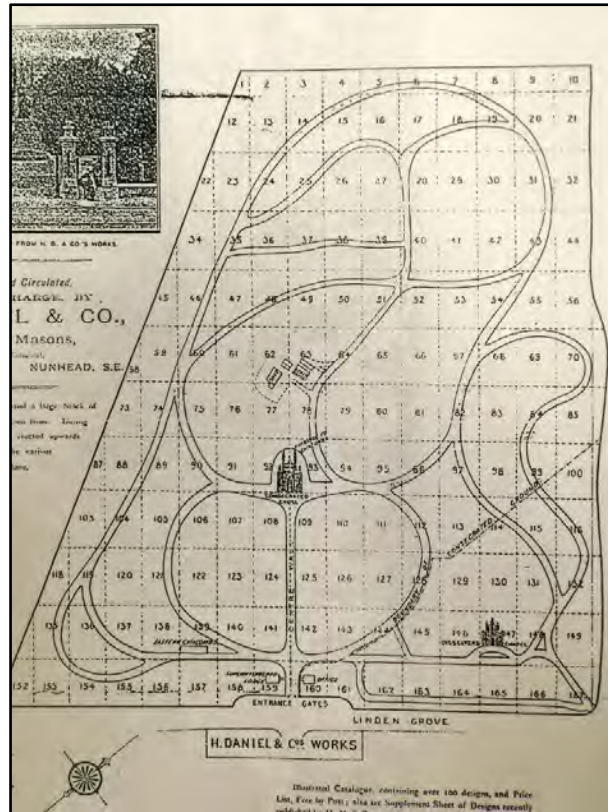


Plate 5: Plan of the cemetery by H Daniel & Co, circa 1880

7.24 There is a clear zonation within the cemetery, with different plots containing graves of similar date (Plate 6). It is presumed that there was also a social dimension to this zonation, with those less ornate grave markers seen towards the Limesford Road frontage.

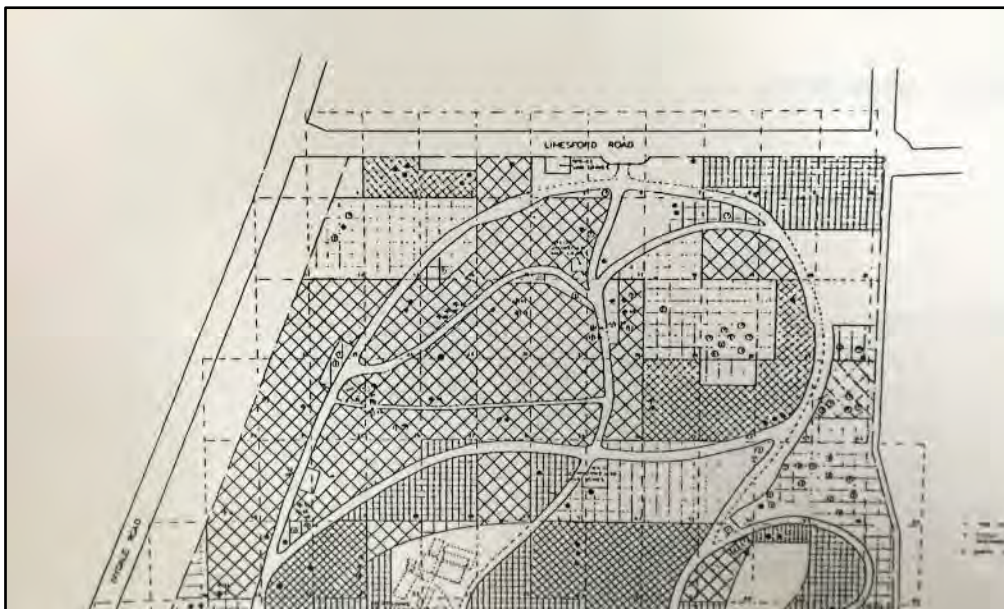


Plate 6: Survey plan of grave date zones (from Woollacott 2010)

7.25 A number of aerial photographs have been taken of Nunhead Cemetery show the gradual encroachment of overgrowth, particularly the southeast portion in proximity to Limesford Road.

- 7.26 The earliest detailed aerial photograph dates to 1944 (Plate 7). This shows the Limesford Road frontage covered with trees, with increasing numbers to the northeast towards Ivydale Road. The trees do not appear to have been part of a landscaping scheme, unlike those that are neatly lining the pathway running northwest towards the centre of the Cemetery from the entrance. A multitude of burial plots are also visible.



*Plate 7: Aerial Photo dating to September 1945 (AP Ref 106/G/UK/802/PART I13/F12/PRDU 6086)*

- 7.27 An image from after the war shows little difference, with the exception of the War Graves and Memorial, which has been newly constructed to the northeast of the Limesford Road entrance (Plate 8).



*Plate 8: Aerial photograph from June 1955 (AP Ref F21/54Q/1635/6\_JUN\_55/16307/20/6100/0130)*

- 7.28 In an image from 1967, the Cemetery looks well-tended, at least in some areas (Plate 9). However, from this point the maintenance of the Cemetery decreased, with final closure of the gates in 1969 (Woollacott 2010).





*Plate 9: Aerial photograph from April 1967 (AP Ref 34/69/147)*

- 7.29 Less than 10 years later the burial plots are no longer clearly discernible, although it is broadly possible to make out the former paths within the encroaching vegetation and self-set trees. It is this year that the Cemetery was purchased by Southwark Council for £1 (Woollacott 2010) (Plate 10).



*Plate 10: Aerial photograph dating from 1976 (Southwark Local Archives)*

- 7.30 Improvements to the pathways and some areas are noticeable from aerial images in 1981 (Plate 11). This is likely a result of the MSC scheme which operated from 1977 to 1978 and FONC formed in 1981.



*Plate 11: Aerial photograph from August 1981 (AP Ref HSL/GLC/81/17)*

- 7.31 An aerial photo from 2000 shows widespread tree coverage, particularly to the northeast of the Limesford Road entrance, although some maintenance of paths is apparent (Plate 12).



*Plate 12: Aerial photograph from June 2000 (AP Ref OS/00187/08/06/2000\_263)*

## **8.0 Archaeological Monitoring**

- 8.1 Condition of the gravestones was assessed during the archaeological monitoring. Their spatial distribution was also recorded on hand-drawn plan. Eighty-five gravestones were identified during the ground clearance work and a further seven memorial vases were also found (Plate 13), with 83 names completely or partially visible. Clearing of the vegetation was monitored by an experienced archaeologist and during the monitoring gravestones were uncovered. Prior to the clearance work the area was inaccessible due to dense vegetation.



*Plate 13: Flower vase and stand (15, 16), scale 0.3m*

8.2 A number of gravestones were found to be located in groups and there were areas of high concentration within the area cleared of vegetation (Plate 14).



*Plate 14: Group of gravestones (8-13), looking east, scale 1m*

8.3 Most of the gravestones appear to be still in-situ and in a good condition, however a large number of gravestones have collapsed (Plate 15).



*Plate 15: Collapsed gravestones (34, 35), looking east, scale 0.3m*

- 8.4 Due to the condition, it was impossible to record inscriptions on seventeen gravestones. A small number of gravestones were buried under soil and despite the clearance work there remained a lot of vegetation and debris on the ground. It was clear that the ground level changes significantly near the wall of the cemetery, which could indicate a deliberate built-up of soil and that in turn suggests that more gravestones may be buried under the current ground level (Plate 16). Occasionally inscriptions on the gravestones were illegible as they were very worn.



*Plate 16: Buried gravestone (86), looking east, scale 0.3m*

- 8.5 Felling work had been carried out in the past, but unfortunately the trees were not removed, and the ground clearance team was not able to clear these areas. Several trees had collapsed on their own and obstructed the gravestones (Plate 17).



*Plate 17: Gravestone (73) buried under a fallen tree, looking southeast, scale 0.3m*

- 8.6 One of the gravestones was broken in half (Plate 7). The group of graves including this gravestone was surrounded by a wooden enclosure which suggests recent interest in the burial.



*Plate 18: Broken gravestone (24), looking southeast, scale 0.3m*

- 8.7 Forty-six of the gravestones uncovered during the clearance work dated from the period of the Second World War. Twenty-nine women and nineteen men were buried in this area of the cemetery. A number of people were buried in Nunhead Cemetery were victims of the air raids on London. Some of the gravestones bear inscription 'killed in enemy action' and there are also groups of unrelated people buried in close proximity and with the same date of death, which in some cases can be matched with a known raid. For example, a record of the grave of Amy Amelia Tarling and Rosina Margaret Tarling can be found on Lewisham War Memorial website, which allows for identification of their death with the London raids in September 1940. The larger number of women buried during this time period could reflect on the population of

London at the time. As men were drafted into the armed forces and children were sent to safer locations away from London, the remaining women became victims of the air raids.

- 8.8 Gravestones located close to the southeast wall of the cemetery usually dated from an earlier period. Sixteen gravestones dated to the 1920s and six gravestones dated to early 1900s. The earliest recorded gravestone dated to 1900. Proportion of men and women buried in this area is more equal than during World War Two. Between 1900 and 1902 four women and five men were buried. Also, in 1922 and 1923 six women and nine men were buried, which indicates a similar pattern to earlier burials. One of the gravestones (69) is that of a serving soldier and therefore is covered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). The gravestone commemorates two individuals one of whom is John R. Smith (Royal Sussex Regiment) who died in Palestine in 1917.
- 8.9 The concentration of the gravestones from this time period carries on towards the north of the cemetery. The area beyond contains a maintained grave from 1922 which is still apparently visited and this was not cleared extensively and therefore recording of the gravestones finished there. During a walkover undertaken later in the week more graves located under dense vegetation were found but were inaccessible for recording.

## 9.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 9.1 The desk-based research and site visit has shown the cemetery to have been one of the more impressive of the 19<sup>th</sup> century burial grounds across Greater London, as recognised by its Grade II\* Registered Park and Garden status.
- 9.2 The research, particularly the aerial photographs, document the changing fortunes of the cemetery over the decades, with the replacement of ironwork, construction of the new entrance in 1909 on Limesford and the building of the War Memorial being the most significant changes to the boundary in question. The numbered plots visible in early plans show that it is likely that the insertion of the 1909 entrance may have impacted upon pre-existing burials, whilst historic photographs show that the walls had been failing for some time.
- 9.3 During the archaeological monitoring of the ground clearance works to the east of the Limesford Road entrance, many of the gravestones in overgrown areas appeared to be *in-situ* and in good condition, however a high number had collapsed or were leaning on other gravestones. Some remain partially obscured by other undergrowth or beneath what appears to be deliberately imported soil. Many of the burials were marked by small headstones of several, apparently standardised, forms, thought to indicate 'common' graves.
- 9.4 Burials in the cleared area can be divided into two chronological phases. Gravestones located nearer to the path and in the south part of the clearance area mostly date to the Second World War and some of the dates of death can be matched with air raids on London. The rest of the burials date to between 1900 and 1923.
- 9.5 Based on the results of the archaeological monitoring, further work on management of this area can be carried out in future. Creation of written record and spatial distribution map of the gravestones will allow location of graves. The decay of the cemetery over time can also be assessed from the produced record.

## 10.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 10.1 The methodology for the research and documentation of the Limesford Road area of Nunhead Cemetery was reduced following discussion with Southwark Council following the decision to limit the area of disturbance at this stage and focus on clearance of the vegetation instead. This was appropriate for the scope of the project and the monitoring of the vegetation removal ensured no gravestones were disturbed or damaged during the vegetation clearance, however there were problems in recording some graves due to limited access resulting from prior felling of trees and the presence of well-established but decayed trees which pose threat of disturbance of burials.

## 11.0 Acknowledgements

- 11.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank London Borough of Southwark for this commission.

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## Appendix 1: Greater London Historic Environment Record

Site No	GLHER Reference	Grade and Listing No	Name	Date
1	MLO8715		Palaeolithic flake	Prehistoric
2	MLO19469		The London-Lewes Roman Road from Lewisham cuts across Bromley and forms the border with Croydon. It was probably constructed in the early 2nd century.	Roman
3	DLO27080; MLO9134	Grade II, 1385659	West Lodge, Nunhead Cemetery. Entrance lodge, c.1840	Post-medieval
4	MLO92123; DLO 27069	Grade II, 1385647	Cemetery lodge built in 1840 by James Bunning (east lodge)	Post-medieval
5	MLO92124; DLO27070	Grade II, 1385648	Entrance gates, gate piers and railings built in 1840 by James Bunning.	Post-medieval
6	MLO92131; DLO27077	Grade II, 1385655	Funerary monument to Vincent Figgins, erected in 1844.	Post-medieval
7	DLO27068; MLO9122	Grade II, 1385646	Chapel of Nunhead Cemetery. Anglican cemetery chapel, now deconsecrated. Built in 1844, by Thomas Little.	Post-medieval
8	MLO92129; DLO27075	Grade II, 1385653	Funerary monument to Sophia Kempton, erected in 1849.	Post-medieval
9	DLO27079; MLO92133	Grade II, 1385658	The Scottish Martyrs Memorial, Nunhead Cemetery. Granite Obelisk, c. 1851. erected through funds raised from public by Radical MP Joseph Hume, following a public meeting in 1837, to commemorate 5 men sentenced to be transported for sedition in 1793-94	Post-medieval
10	MLO92126; DLO27172	Grade II, 1385650	Funerary monument to John Allan, erected after 1865.	Post-medieval
11	MLO92125; DLO27071	Grade II, 1385649	Monument erected in 1867 to Henry Daniel.	Post-medieval
12	MLO92130; DLO27076	Grade II, 1385654	Funerary monument to Thomas Humphreys erected in 1868.	Post-medieval

Site No	GLHER Reference	Grade and Listing No	Name	Date
13	MLO92127; DLO27073	Grade II, 1385651	Funerary monument to Maria Proom erected in 1872.	Post-medieval
14	MLO92128; DLO27074	Grade II, 1385653	Funerary monument to John Moritz Oppenheim and Frederick Schroeter dating to 1876.	Post-medieval
15	DLO27047	Grade II, 1385625	Ivydale Road School, Caretakers Cottage, Related Buildings and Wall c. 1891	Post-medieval
16	DLO32878	Grade II*, 1000824	Nunhead Cemetery, All Saints. Mid 19th century public cemetery.	Post-medieval
17	MLO59003		The late 19 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> century coal yard at Kitto Road, Nunhead was located during an evaluation at the Ffyfes Banana Warehouse in 1993 by the Museum of London Archaeology Service.	Post-medieval
18	MLO92132; 27078	Grade II, 1385657	Mausoleum to Laura Stearns erected in 1900.	Post-medieval
19	DLO35410	Grade II, 1408530	The Ivy House public house. The Ivy House, formerly the Newlands Tavern, 40 Stuart Road, Nunhead, a 1930s public house designed by AE Sewell	Modern

## Appendix 2: Gravestone Gazetteer

No	Name	Date of Death	Condition	Cemetery serial number	Comments
1	Frederick Thomas Linton	24th June 1940	Leaning	Not visible	Original location
2	Martha Bland	17th June 1940	Leaning	Not visible	Original location
3	Emily Hall	2nd July 1940	Leaning	No. 40220	Original location with recent wooden frame around it
4	James Dawes	4th July 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original location with recent wooden frame around it
5	Emma Mary Ann	26th June 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original location with recent wooden frame around it
6	Gertrude E. Stevens	1st July 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original location
7	Lilian Heaver Bryant	26th June 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original location
8	William Stanley Childs	6th August 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
9	Henry Charles Prong	3rd August 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
10	Emma Jane	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
11	Ellen Thompson	3rd August 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
12	Ellen Elizabeth Lovell	6th August 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
13	Clara Annie Philips	18th August 1940	Collapsed	No. 40327	Original position
14	Albert William Hutchings	7th September 1940	Collapsed	No. 40365	Original position
15	VASE	VOID	VOID	VOID	
16	VASE	VOID	VOID	VOID	
17	Thomas John Goulden and Nellie Goulden	15th October 1940	Collapsed	No. 40449.4	Original position
18	Phyllis Elizabeth Denny	7th December 1940	Collapsed	No. 40515	Original position
19	John W. Morgan	8th December 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
20	Hilda Constance Dixon	26th January 1941	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
21	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	
22	Roselind	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
23	George Thompson	17th April 1941	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
24	Florence Selina Tanner	Not visible	Leaning	Not visible	Original position
25	Edith Harknett	19th April 1941	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
26	Ernest Arthur Austin and Hilda Mary Austin	17th April 1941	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
27	Frances Florence Smith	4th November 1941	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
28	Edith A. Tohill	1st February 1942	Collapsed	No. 0832	Original position
29	Not visible	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
30	Not visible	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
31	Henrietta Sarah Jane Buckett	16th January 1942	In place	Not visible	Original position
32	Charles John Carden	14th January 1942	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position

No	Name	Date of Death	Condition	Cemetery serial number	Comments
33	Walter Scott Wilson	25th October 1942	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
34	Not visible	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
35	Not visible	23rd October 1942	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
36	VASE	VOID	VOID	VOID	
37	VASE	VOID	VOID	VOID	
38	Louise Barnes and Charles Barnes	13th January 1902 and 25th March 1902	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
39	Thomas Booth	22nd March 1902	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
40	William Greenfield	31st October 1901	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
41	Rosina Margaret Tarling and Amy Amelia Tarling	7th September 1940	Leaning	Not visible	Original position
42	Alice Grace Stock	28th August 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
43	Henry Richard Oxlade	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
44	Elizabeth Victoria Rolfe	19th August 1940	Collapsed	No. 40326	Original position
45	David Beaven	23rd August 1940	Leaning	Not visible	Original position
46	Alfred Arthur Vaughan	14th June 1940	Collapsed	No. 40318.14	Original position
47	Charles Samuel Farris	17th June 1940	Leaning	No. 40318	Original position
48	VASE	VOID	VOID	VOID	
49	Mary Ann Compton	1st August 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
50	Cissy	21st June 1901	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
51	Rowland Dunkley and Harold Dunkley	17th January 1901 and 26th January 1901	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
52	Alice Louise A. Reader and Alice Maud	Not visible and 2nd April 1900	Leaning	Not visible	Original position
53	Charles Vincent Murphy	10th June 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
54	Not visible	Not visible	Buried	No. 40317	Original position
55	Walter James Spencer	8th June 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
56	Thomas	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
57	Alma Maud Hawkins	9th June 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
58	Caroline Shorter	26th May 1940	Leaning	Not visible	Original position
59	Saul G. Males	Not visible	Leaning	Not visible	Original position
60	Evelin Mason	Not visible	Leaning	Not visible	Original position
61	Alice	Not visible	Leaning	Not visible	Original position
62	Elizabeth Adams	25th May 1940	Leaning	No. 40292	Original position
63	VASE	VOID	VOID	VOID	
64	William Henry Jones	22nd May 1940	Collapsed	No. 40291	Original position
65	Rose Ludlow	22nd May 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
66	Frederick Day	9th June 1940	In place	Not visible	Original position
67	Claude Adolphus Adams	7th February 1923	Collapsed	No. 34778S.3	Original position
68	Terence Keenan	16th February 1922	Collapsed	No. 34778	Original position

No	Name	Date of Death	Condition	Cemetery serial number	Comments
69	John Smith and John R. Smith	17th December 1922 and 17th December 1917	In place	Not visible	Original position
70	Alice Dodkins	12th October 1922	Collapsed	No. 34664	Original position
71	Mary Ann Tate	2nd December 1922	Collapsed	No. 34705	Original position
72	Elizabeth Margaret Cumbers	2nd December 1922	In place	No. 347033	Original position
73	Albert Edward Witham	12th November 1922	Collapsed	No. 24662	Original position
74	Alec F. Allder	24th November 1922	Collapsed	No. 34662	Original position
75	Caroline Emma Vincer	7th November 1922	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
76	John Nash	25th October 1922	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
77	Caroline Ema Homes	12th November 1922	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
78	Not visible	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
79	William Moon	21st October 1922	Displaced	No. 34662	Moved to a new location and has a modern memorial
80	Victor Leonard Stone	20th September 1922	Collapsed	No. 34633	Original position
81	Not visible	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
82	Irene Kell	24th July 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
83	Hannah Lock	25th July 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
84	Horace Alfred Codman	21st July 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
85	Not visible	Not visible	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
86	Not visible	Not visible	Buried	Not visible	Original position
87	William Charles Barnard Simpson	6th March 1940	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
88	Not visible	Not visible	Buried	Not visible	Original position
89	Samuel Blake	22nd May 1940	Collapsed	No. 40292	Original position
90	John L. White	6th August 1922	Collapsed	Not visible	Displaced
91	Winifred Alice Shonk	23rd December 1922	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position
92	Letitia Alice Plummer	1st December 1922	Collapsed	Not visible	Original position

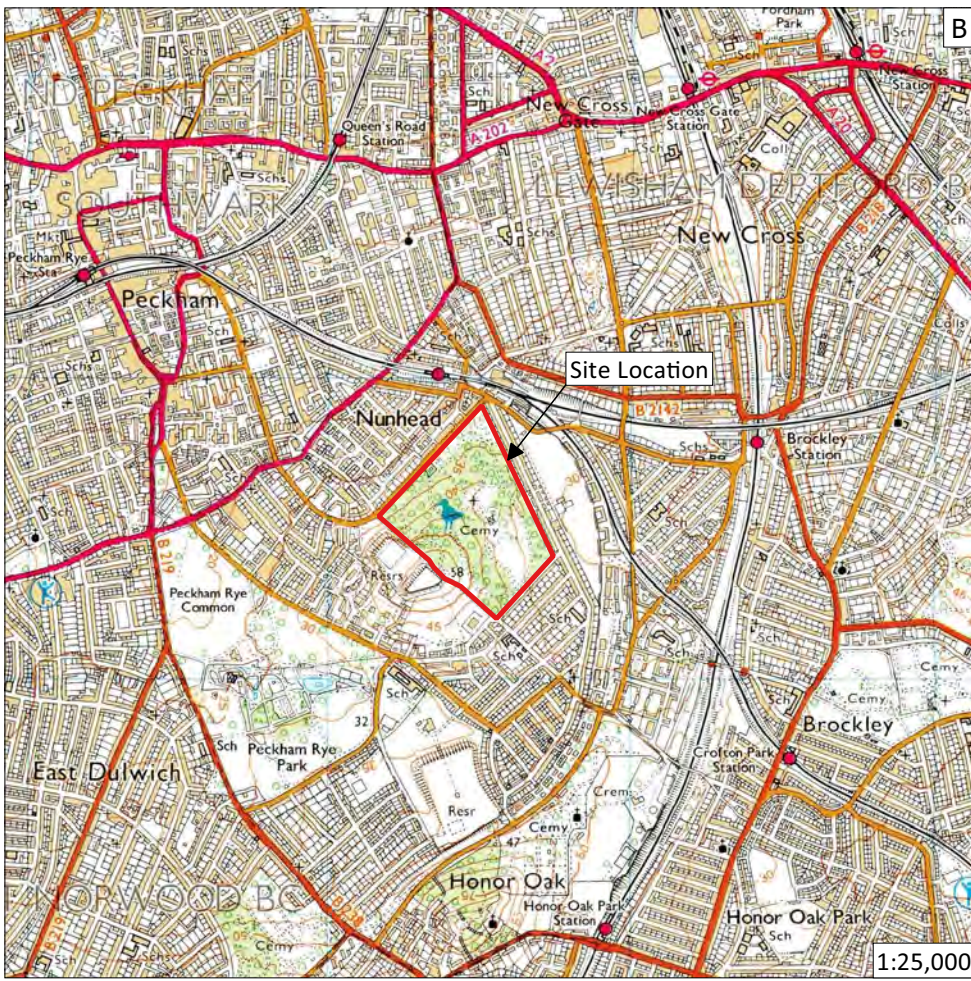
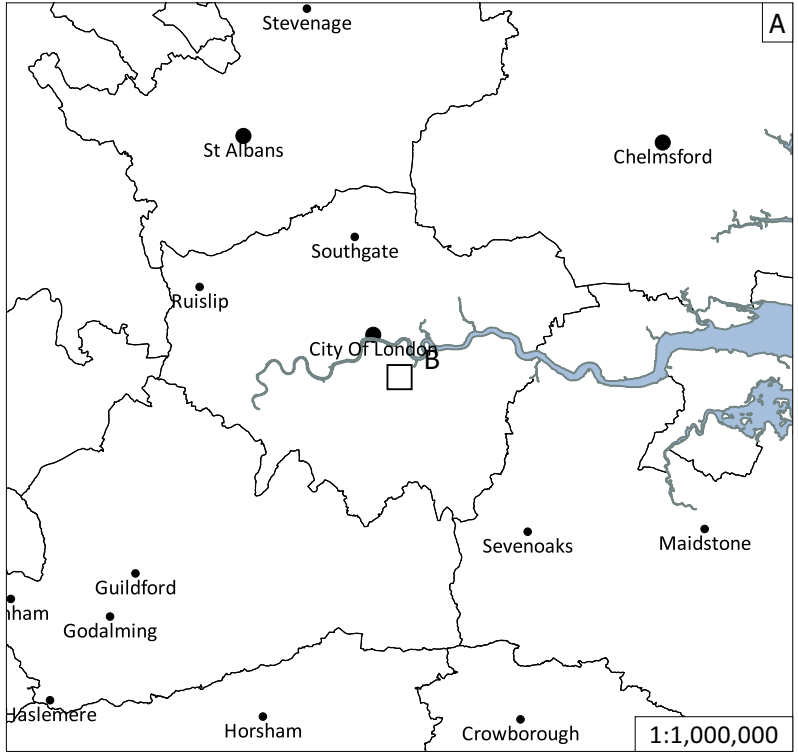


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Date	30/03/2020



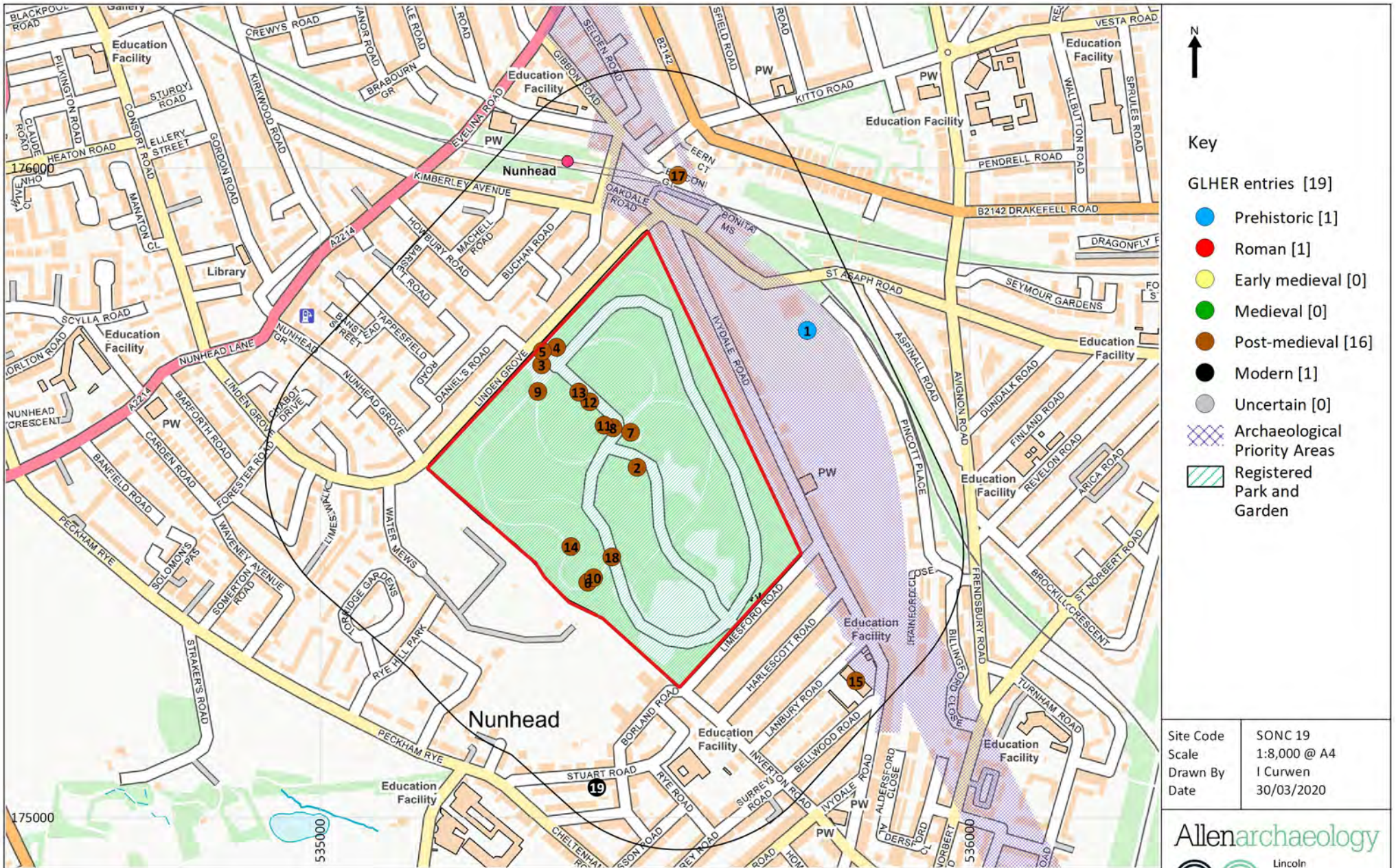
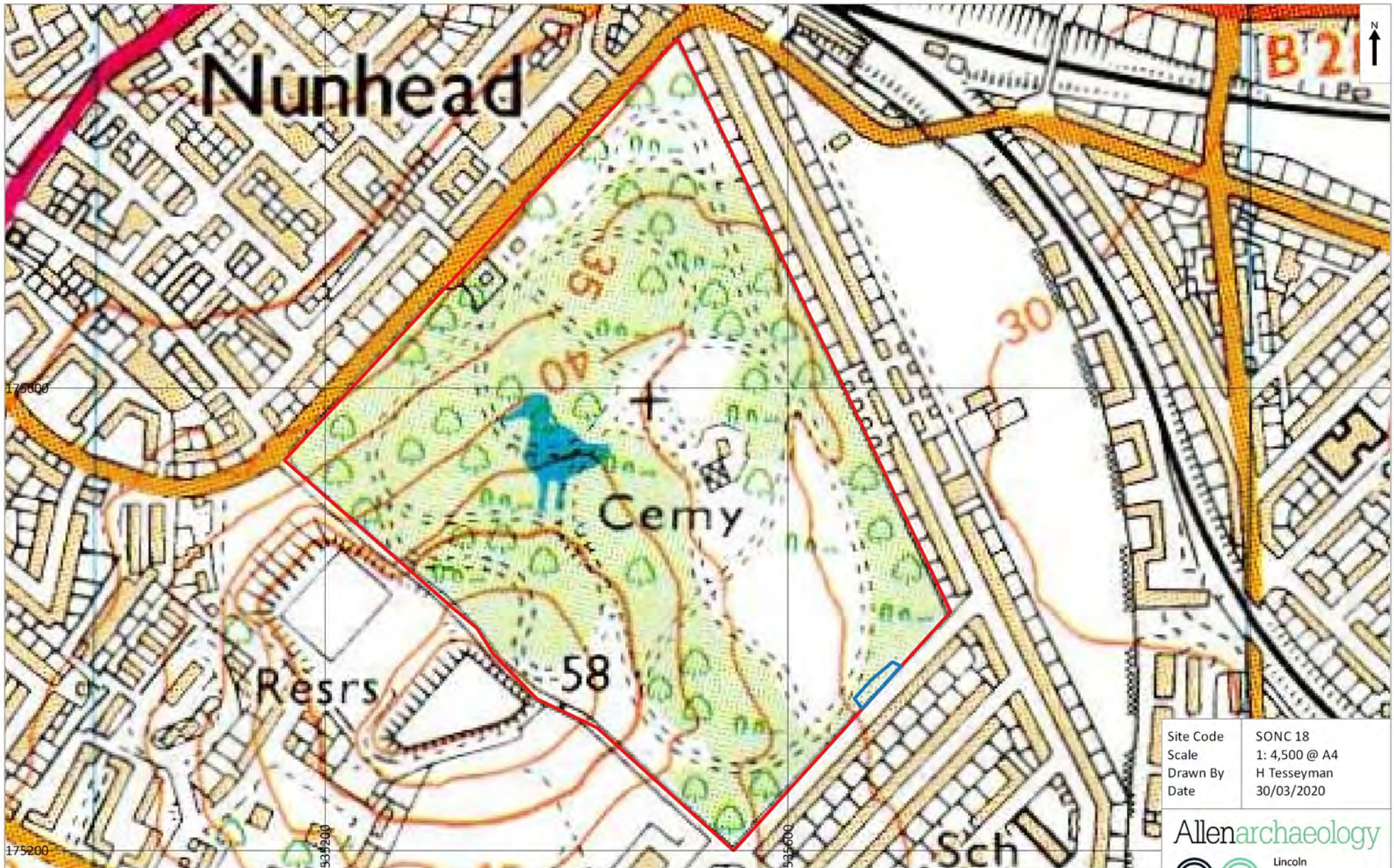


Figure 2: GLHER entries, APA's and Registered Parks and Gardens within a 250m radius of the site with the site outlined in red



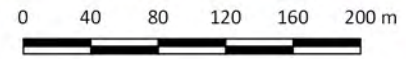
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Figure 3: Clearance work area outlined in blue





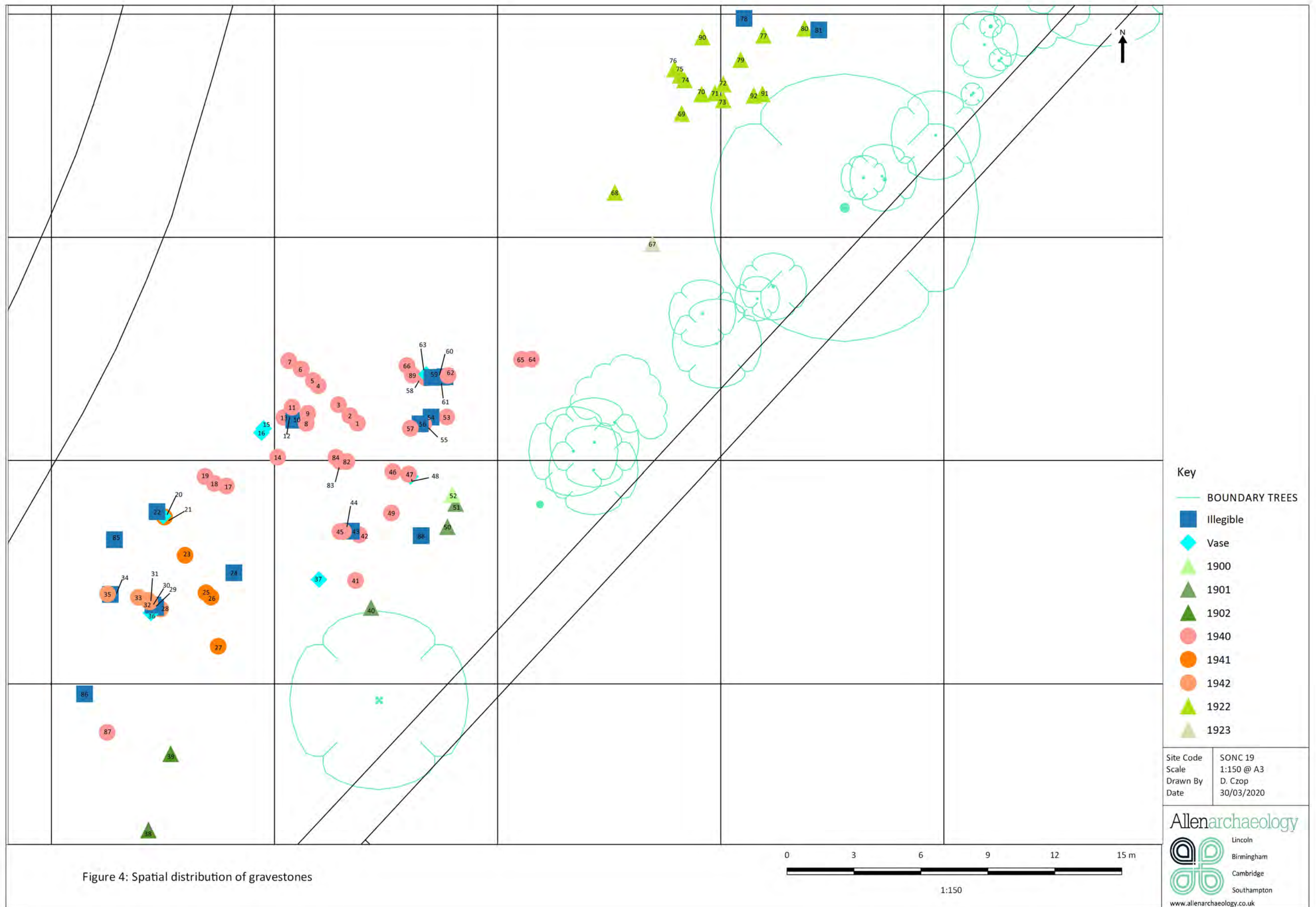
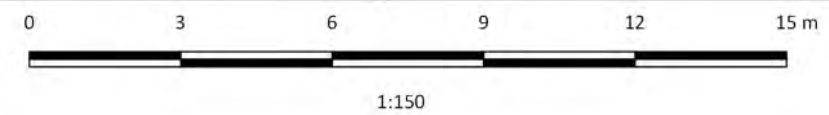


Figure 4: Spatial distribution of gravestones



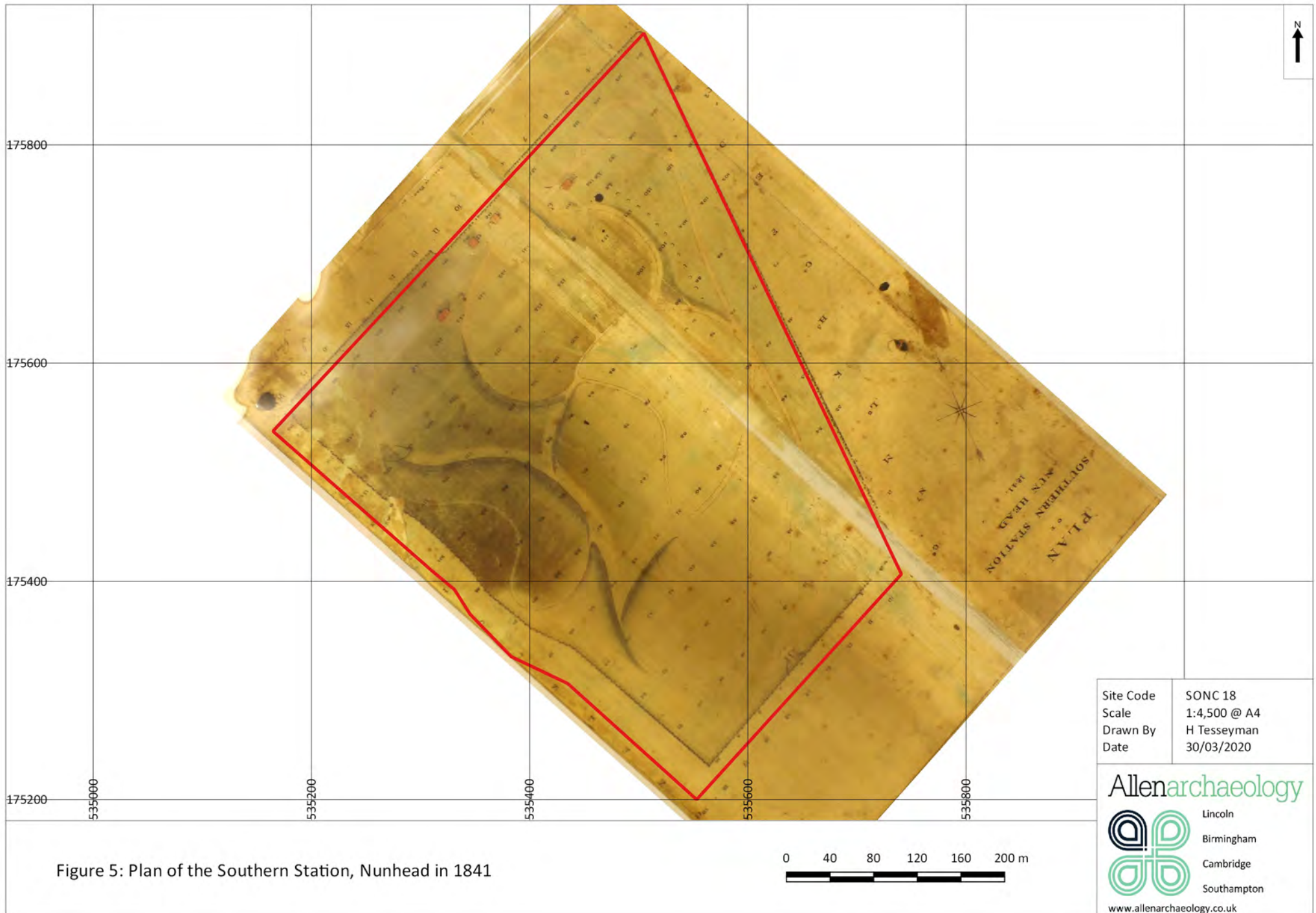


Figure 5: Plan of the Southern Station, Nunhead in 1841



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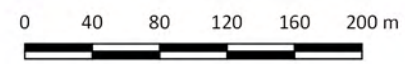
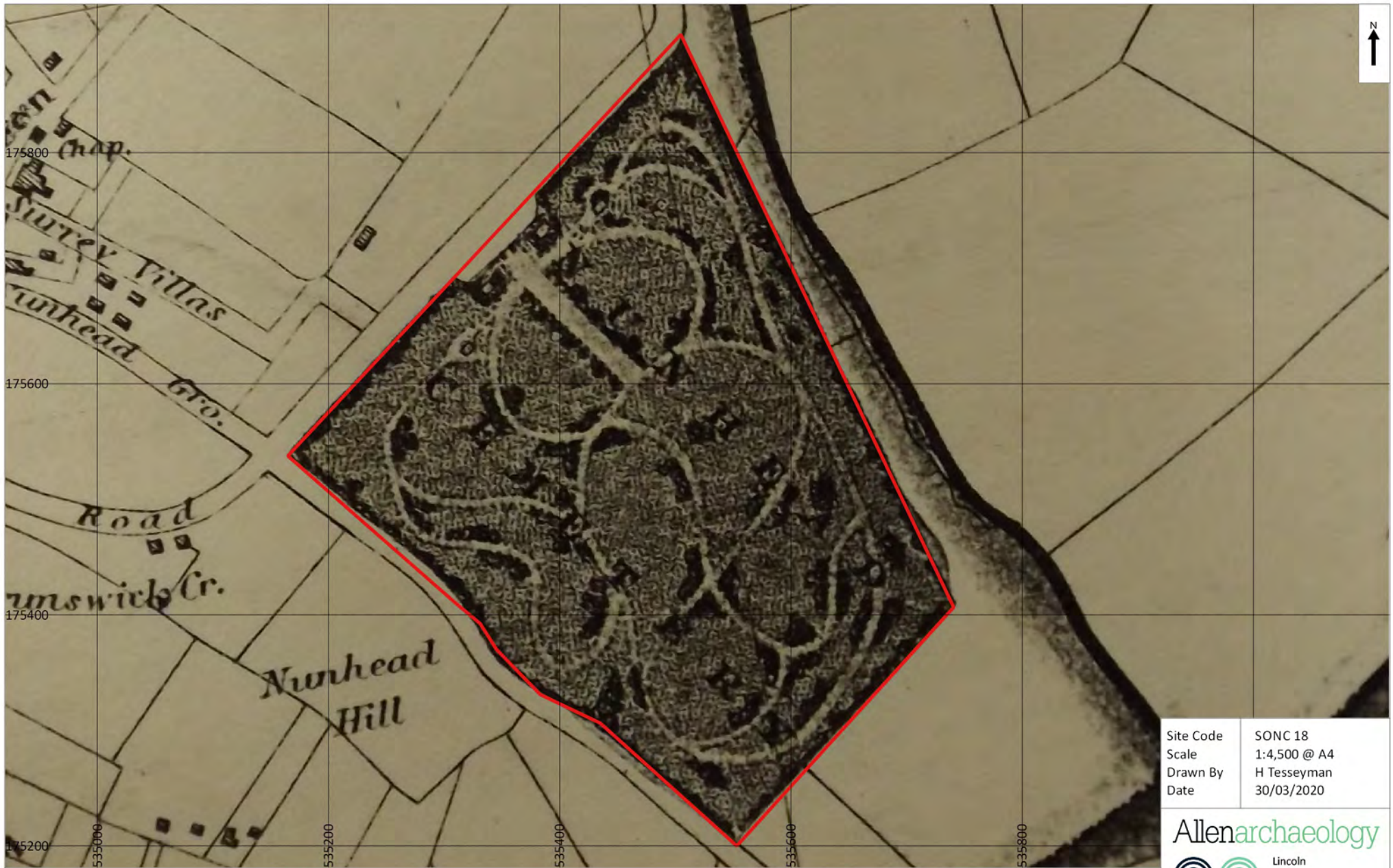


Figure 6: Map of the Parish of St Giles published in 1842



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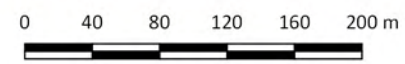
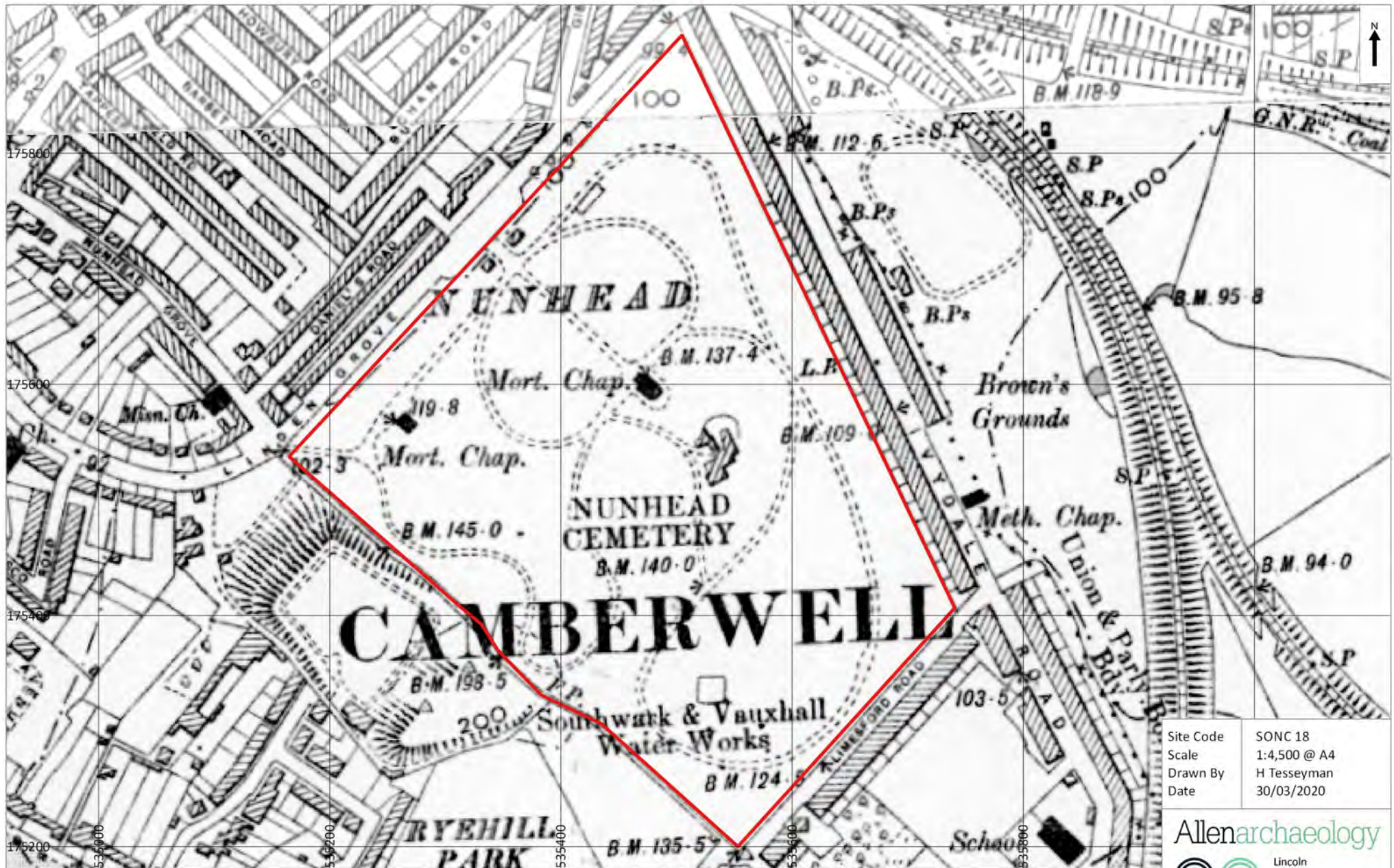


Figure 7: James Wyld's plan, published in 1848



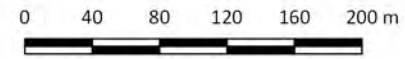
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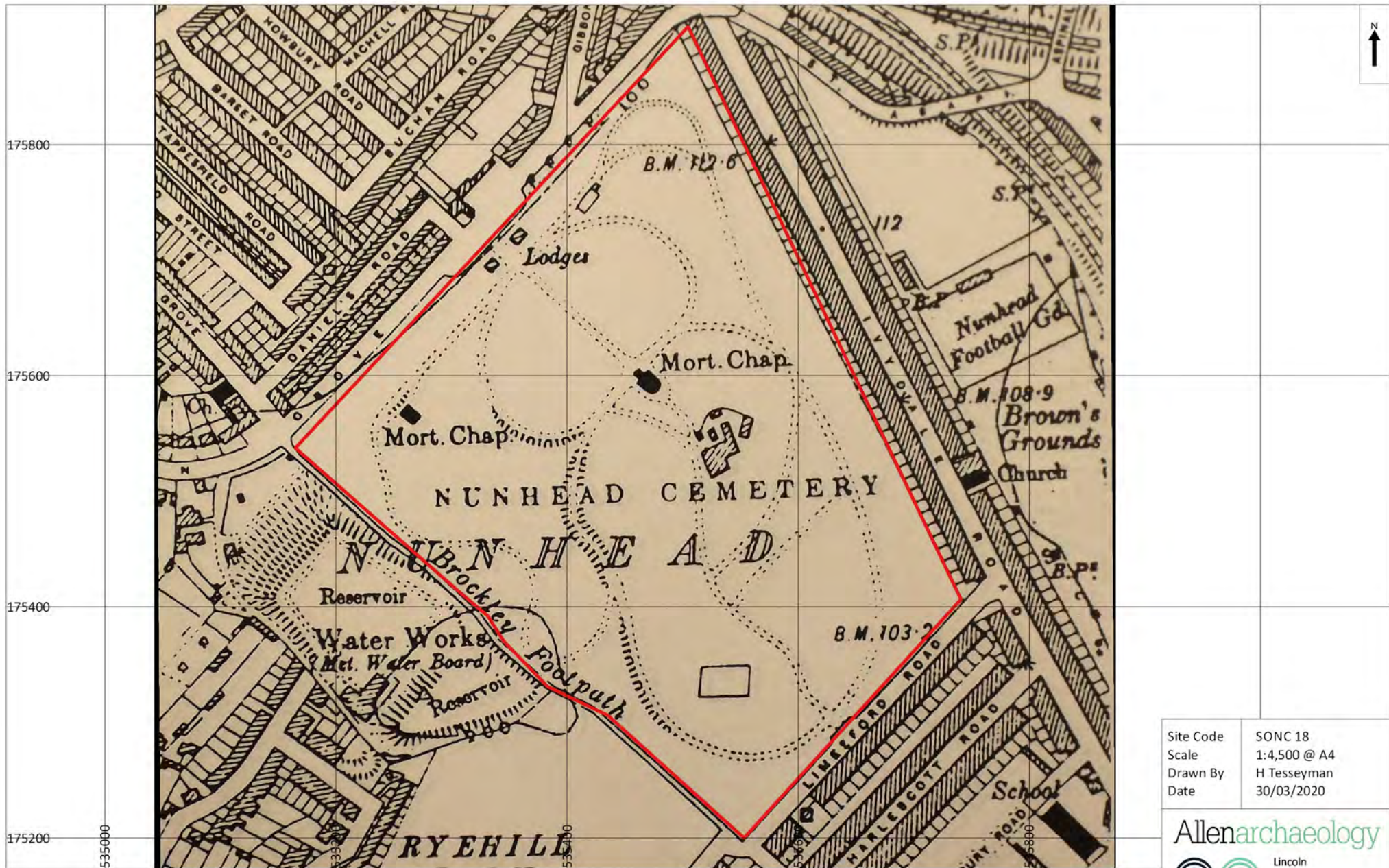
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Figure 8: 1898 Ordnance Survey Map





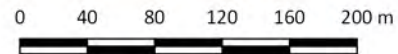
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Figure 9: 1920 Ordnance Survey Map



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**OASIS ID: allenarc1-384618**

### Project details

Project name	NUNHEAD CEMETERY LIMESFORD ROAD, NUNHEAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK
Short description of the project	Allen Archaeology Ltd (AAL) have been commissioned by the London Borough of Southwark to carry out an archaeological monitoring and recording during ground clearance works along the internal strip of ground along the southeast boundary wall of Nunhead Cemetery on the Limesford Road frontage. Experienced archaeologist monitored the removal of vegetation and carried out recording of all uncovered gravestones. Clearance work was carried out with hand tools only and Idverde team was briefed on how to clear vegetation without damaging gravestones and disturbing burials. Work carried out during the 5 day period allowed to assess the condition of gravestones and their spatial distribution. This in turn will allow to plan any further vegetation clearance and conservation work on the gravestones.
Project dates	Start: 09-12-2019 End: 13-12-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SONC 19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LIM19 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	CEMETERY Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK NUNHEAD CEMETERY LIMESFORD ROAD, NUNHEAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK
Study area	200 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3564 7529 51.459806860027 -0.047335783999 51 27 35 N 000 02 50 W Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Allen Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Matt Parker Wooding
Project director/manager	Matt Parker Wooding
Project supervisor	Dominika Czop

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	LIM19
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	LIM19
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING DURING GROUND CLEARANCE WORKS: NUNHEAD CEMETERY LIMESFORD ROAD, NUNHEAD,



## LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

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