## Canons Park Harrow



**Archaeological Investigation Report** 



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## CANONS PARK, HARROW

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

#### **Summary**

A programme of archaeological investigation, comprising desk-based assessment, field evaluation, topographical survey and building survey, was carried out by Oxford Archaeology (OA) on behalf of the London Borough of Harrow within Canons Park, Harrow. The purpose of the archaeological works was to provide further detail regarding the Parks archaeological potential and to record, where possible, surviving elements of the eighteenth century gardens and later nineteenth and twentieth century adaptations. The overall objective was to provide information regarding construction and state of preservation, in order to inform a proposed programme of reinstatement.

The desk-based investigations have identified that the area currently enclosed by the park has the potential to retain archaeological sites dating from the prehistoric period onwards. It has also provided a detailed assessment of the historic character and development of the parkland landscape and its current state of preservation.

Detailed field survey, buildings survey and invasive evaluation, targeted on known surviving historic features and structures within the Park, has further provided detailed information regarding the survival, construction and development of the parkland landscape from the early eighteenth century onward.

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 In July 2003, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a programme of archaeological investigations, in conjunction with Scott Wilson Resource Consultants, within Canons Park, Harrow (NGR TQ 1800 9200), on behalf of the London Borough of Harrow, in order to provide detailed guidance with respect to the onward development of a major restorations programme that is proposed to be carried out within the park as part of a formal application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Urban Parks Programme.
- 1.1.2 Canons Park today occupies an area of approximately 15 ha that comprises a combination of eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century landscape design history. The archaeological investigations were implemented to provide a detailed understanding of the historical development of the park in order that informed restoration works can be undertaken to enhance surviving elements of the former eighteenth century parkland and design adaptations implemented in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.
- 1.1.3 There are two principal aims to this archaeological assessment. The investigative techniques employed during the fieldwork and desk-based assessment were designed in order to provide an integrated and detailed examination and record of current and

potential surviving archaeological remains relating to the development of the Park, particularly the eighteenth century gardens. The desk-based assessment was also carried out to assess the general archaeological potential of the whole park so that archaeological implications can be considered for any future intrusive management works

- 1.1.4 This archaeological assessment has four components:
  - a desk-based landscape characterisation and development assessment incorporating a site walkover survey.
  - a topographic and contour survey of earthworks associated with the Temple and Whitchurch Avenue.
  - a programme of evaluation trenching and test pitting of historic features within the park.
  - a building survey and assessment of the Temple, George V Memorial Gardens and Walled Frame Yard within the park.
- 1.1.5 The results of this integrated programme of work are presented below. The desk-based assessment appears first, with the results of the site walkover. This is followed by the results of the topographical/contour survey and then the field evaluation and buildings survey. The discussion and interpretation combines the information obtained from all four strands in order to inform its conclusions.

#### 2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The park is located in Stanmore to the north east of Harrow, within the London Borough of Harrow. Today the remains of the old Canons Estate occupies an area of *c*. 15 hectares, that includes the municipal Canons Park, the Stanmore Railway Embankments and the London Collegiate School (Fig 1). The site is surrounded by twentieth century housing with the London Collegiate School occupying the northern part of the park and the Church of St Lawrence located at its south east corner. The Jubilee Line of London Underground bounds the park to the west.
- 2.1.2 The park is located on a sloping ridge coming from higher ground above Stanmore, and has an underlying geology of London Clay (BGS 1994). The northern end of the park occupies an elevated position lying at a height of c. 73.74 m OD, with the rest of the parkland falling away to the east, west and south. The southern end of the park lying at a height of c. 63.58 m OD.

#### 3 CANONS PARK: HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Sources Consulted

- 3.1.1 An initial desk-based assessment of the Park and its wider environs was undertaken by OA in 1998, and reported upon as part of the Historical Restoration Management Plan of Canons Park, produced by Scott Wilson Resource Consultants in May 2002, on behalf of the London Borough of Harrow (Scott Wilson 2002). It was felt that, given the length of time that had elapsed since this initial assessment was undertaken, an up-dated assessment, incorporating the results of the 1998 work, should be provided as part of the recent programme of archaeological investigations.
- 3.1.2 A variety of archaeological sources were consulted for an area extending approximately 1 km around the site (the Study Area), in conjunction with a walkover survey which

was carried out in order to determine the topography of the site, to provide information on existing land-use and areas of possible ground disturbance, and to examine potential historical and archaeological features identified from other sources.

- 3.1.3 The following sources, from whom data was acquired, were consulted:
  - the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), maintained by English Heritage details of sites and finds within the study area;
  - the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon for details of aerial photographs;
  - English Heritage's Designations Team details of any new Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Parks or Gardens, or Registered Battlefields;
  - English Heritage's Listing Section details of Listed Buildings within the study area;
  - the Local Studies and Central Reference Libraries, Harrow and the Harrow Record Office historic maps and local sources;
  - Sackler Library, Oxford;
  - Oxford Archaeology published and documentary sources.
- 3.1.4 Appendix 1 forms a gazetteer of known archaeological sites and finds within the study area. Each entry has been allocated an OA number, referred to in the text, and marked on Figures 2 and 3. A full list of sources consulted is listed in Appendix 3.

#### 3.2 The Prehistoric Period

- 3.2.1 The Park and surrounding environment lies on London Clay, a heavy deposit which is not thought to have been extensively cultivated during the prehistoric period, although the land may have been used for other purposes. Much of the land would have been left as woodland or wood pasture and would have been used for grazing. Occupation in the London area therefore tended to concentrate on the fertile well drained terrace gravels and Thanet sands, associated with the Thames to the south (*e.g* Lewis 2000, 49, 55; Lewis 2000a, 71; Brown and Cotton 2000, 84). Brockley Hill to the north is formed by Claygate Beds and is capped by a layer of pebble gravel, making it more conducive for settlement at this time.
- 3.2.2 No prehistoric settlements are known within the study area, although there is a reference by Stukeley in 1776 to a supposed Bronze Age barrow by the road on Brockley Hill (VCH 1969). However, the validity of this observation has never been verified.
- 3.2.3 Various finds spanning the whole prehistoric period have been found in the vicinity of the Park. These include a Mesolithic flint pick (**OA 4**) and a Neolithic or Palaeolithic axe fragment (**OA 27**) to the east, in modern Edgware, a Bronze Age bucket urn and Iron Age pottery at Brockley Hill (**OA 9**) and some fragments of Bronze Age pottery (**OA 37**) to the west at Great Stanmore. These finds probably indicate that as yet undiscovered settlements may have existed in the area.

#### 3.3 The Roman Period

3.3.1 The most obvious evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of Canons Park is the line of the Roman Road, Watling Street (**OA 28**), running parallel to the eastern boundary of the Park. Watling Street ran from *Verulamium* (St.Albans) to London and the route was probably surveyed from Brockley Hill. The route was carefully chosen to keep clear of the low ground to the east, where there are several small streams (Margary 1967).

- Excavations at *Verulamium* indicate that the construction of Watling Street is thought to have taken place c. AD 43-49.
- 3.3.2 Excavations of several sites on and near Brockley Hill, on both sides of the road (**OA 13**, **14**, **15**), have failed to identify the exact route of the original Roman Road although much evidence of earlier roads, i.e. metalled surfaces, side ditches etc, have been found. It appears however, that it is possible in places to trace the original line of the Roman road just to the east of the present main road (the A5).
- 3.3.3 According to the Antonine Itinerary, the Roman Settlement of *Sulloniacae* (probably named after the springs of the area) lay 12 miles from London and 9 miles from *Verulamium*. Due to the numerous Roman artefacts that were identified from Brockley Hill just to the north of Canon's Park, antiquaries have long identified Brockley Hill as being the site of *Sulloniacae*.
- 3.3.4 For example, William Stukeley in 1776, in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, describes the site thus: 'Mr Philpot, when digging his canal and foundations for his buildings, which are upon the site of the old city, found many coins, urns and other antiquities... In the wood over against the house, great quantity of Roman bricks, gold rings, and coins, have been found in digging; many arched vaults of brick with flint under the trees; the whole of the hill is covered with foundations (Vulliamy 1930).
- 3.3.5 Excavation of this site has turned up much evidence connected to an important first and second century AD pottery industry, but not evidence which necessarily indicates that there was once a Roman town in the area. Approximately 14 kilns have been found in the vicinity plus numerous clay pits, pits and dumps of 'wasters' puddling holes, workshops and pottery dumps with some associated settlement evidence (OA 2 collective number; OA 35 kilns). A small Roman cremation cemetery (dating to the first to second century AD; OA 8), has also been found near the kiln sites, as has a fourth century agricultural settlement, overlying the earlier activity.
- 3.3.6 This evidence straddled Watling Street and appears to have formed a ribbon of development either site of the Roman Road. Finch Smith (1987), in his summary of the site, suggests that up to 26 potters may have had their workshops in this area, attested to by the different potters stamps on the pottery. The stamps also suggest that the pottery industry here was started by immigrant craftsmen.
- 3.3.7 The reasons for creating a pottery industry here would have been the clay subsoil, the availability of abundant timber and brushwood for fuel, the presence of numerous springs and streams and the excellent communications that Watling Street would have provided to the major markets, especially London. These kilns were engaged in the production of mortaria, flagons, amphorae, jars, lids, bowls and beakers. It is thought that the industry was reliant, at least until the second century, on contracts to supply the military market (Swan 1984 and Sheldon 1996) and claims have recently been made for the early production at Brockley Hill of amphora for 'a fledgling wine producing industry' in southern Britain (Sheldon 1996).
- 3.3.8 The pottery industry in this area is therefore seen to be important in the context of Roman Britain and is categorised as 'worthy of protection from further erosion' (Swan 1984) and this is re-iterated in Davis *et al* 1994.
- 3.3.9 Tile making also occurred in the area, both at and to the south of Brockley Hill, within Canons Park (**OA 12, 21, 19** see below). This area seems to have been a production centre for official tiles for the provincial procurator's office, based in London (Bird 1996, 226). The abundance of Roman tile remaining in the area during the medieval period appears to have been utilised in the building of the churches in Whitechurch and Edgware. Both churches appear to have Roman tiles incorporated in their fabric.

- 3.3.10 However, there is still no evidence for a 'mansio' or any other large buildings, let alone a town, as suggested by the *Antonine Itinerary II*, on Brockley Hill. From the excavated evidence it has therefore been concluded, until further investigation proves otherwise, that the area of Brockley Hill and its associated ribbon development along Watling Street, was a small industrial settlement whose buildings left little trace and whose community was dependant on the pottery industry. It is unlikely that this is an important civil site, but the quantity and types of kilns discovered make it important within the context of Roman pottery and tile industry.
- 3.3.11 Sheldon (1996) even suggests that Brockley Hill is not the site of *Sulloniacae* at all and that the Roman town may in fact lie on the site of Edgware medieval village or at Burnt Oak, on Red Hill c. 1 km to the south of Edgware. There is no hard archaeological evidence to back these theories but if it did lie in Edgware it would make it much closer to Canons Park
- 3.3.12 Bird suggests that Edgware was one of a whole ring of roadside settlements extending c. 15-20 km (a days ride) from London which were sited on river crossings, whose existence was to cater for travellers and their animals.
- 3.3.13 Apart from the evidence relating to the main areas of occupation discussed above, further sites of possible Roman occupation have been found throughout the area around the Park, indicting that the whole area was probably utilised, if not occupied during the Roman period. These sites include a small enclosure at **OA** 5, where excavations revealed settlement evidence dating from the first to the fourth century AD (**OA** 16) and sherds of pottery and tile at **OA** 6. Both these sites are situated alongside Watling Street, adding to the supposition that ribbon development occurred along both sides of Watling Street in the Roman period, in this area. Roman tile and pottery have also been found at **OA** 10. The site of a subsidiary Roman Road has been found on Brockley Hill at **OA** 36 and early Ordnance Survey maps mention that a 'Roman watch tower' stood in this area (**OA** 22) until 1795, parts of which were then re-used to build the 'rustic bridge' at Stanmore Hall to the west.

### 3.4 Medieval Period

- 3.4.1 The most obvious physical evidence for early medieval activity in the area is Grim's Ditch or Dyke (a Scheduled Ancient Monument & part of the collective number **OA 2**), thought to date from the early Saxon period. It appears to run approximately east to west across Brockley Hill, north of Canons Park, through the earlier Roman settlement. This earthwork is *c.* 90 feet wide with a V-shaped ditch varying from between 14-23 feet wide and 5-6 feet deep. A large bank occurs on the north side and a smaller one on its south side. It appears to run from Cuckoo Hill in Pinner to the south and to stop just short of Watling Street on Brockley Hill. There has been much speculation about the origins and purposes of Grim's Ditch. Following his 1973 excavations, Castle tentatively suggests that the Ditch is part of the Harrow and Pinner Dyke system, fifth century in date, representing a territorial boundary at least 6 miles long, between the sub-Roman communities of London and *Verulamium* (Castle 1975).
- 3.4.2 Documentary evidence for this early period states that in the reign of Edward the Confessor 9½ hides in Stanmore were held by Algar, the 'man' of Earl Harold. In 1086 these 'lands' formed part of the fief of Roger de Rames and included the later manors of Little Stanmore and Edgware. Part of this Domesday Manor, including St. Lawrence's Church and encompassing land to the east to Watling Street and extending as far north as Watford Road, was then given to the priory of St. Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield. By 1353 the priory's total acreage in Little Stanmore had risen to 957 ½ acres and remained one of the largest single estates of St. Bartholomew's until the Dissolution.

- 3.4.3 Stanmore was therefore divided before the Conquest into estates foreshadowing the later parishes of Great and Little Stanmore. Both parishes are long and thin. Manor houses existed at Canons (**OA 23**, precise location unknown) and at **OA 32** known as Stanmore Chenduit, referred to once in 1260-1 and at **OA 30** the manor of Wimborough, referred to until 1753. The medieval settlement of Great Stanmore was focused on the Old Church Lane area (**OA 26**), with a thirteenth century moated manor house at **OA 11**. The focus of the settlement shifted northwards after 1600, for reasons unknown.
- 3.4.4 Settlement within Little Stanmore in the medieval period was probably always densest along Watling Street. A fifteenth century house survived as no.47 High Street until after the 1950s and would have been one of a line of medieval buildings which stretched from Whitechurch Lane to Edgware Brook (**OA 29**). From the medieval period to the twentieth century it is thought that there were very few buildings between the eastern and western boundaries of Little Stanmore parish apart from the church and vicarage (**OA 25**) and that most of the inhabitants would therefore have lived along Watling Street with possibly a scatter of houses around the church to the south.
- 3.4.5 Prior to the Dissolution of the monasteries, the land held by the Augustinian Canons of the priory of St. Bartholomew's in Little Stanmore, was often leased out, normally for thirty year stretches. For example, a lease written in 1501 for the 'manor of Little Stanmore called Canons' provides the earliest instance of an alternative name being given to the manor of Little Stanmore. The name 'Canons' was used increasingly often after this date, instead of Little Stanmore, and it was as the manor of Canons, with its great manor-house, dovecote, fishponds and gardens, which were leased, separately from most of the estate, to William Daunce of Whitechurch in 1535 and which was then leased to Hugh Losse in 1543. Losse consolidated his holdings within Little Stanmore, between 1544-46, by obtaining more of the former priory lands, including the rectory. His grandson Hugh sold the manor in 1604 to Sir Thomas Lake whose descendants sold it to James Brydges in 1709, later to become the Duke of Chandos (VCH 1976).
- 3.4.6 By 1538 the parish of Little Stanmore was also known as Whitechurch, a name thought to have been derived from the colour of the church (**OA 1**). During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the name Whitechurch was sometimes used to distinguish the church and its associated dwellings from the houses along Watling Street.
- 3.4.7 Stanmore traditionally contained a substantial proportion of wood and pasture, in part because of the character of its soils and topography, and in part because of the demands of London for hay and wood from the medieval period onwards. For example, in 1086 Little Stanmore, was assessed at 9 ½ hides and included land for 7 ploughs, pasture for the cattle of the *vill* and woodland for 800 pigs. In 1335 15% of the 957 acre estate of Little Stanmore was wooded. Cloisters Wood is first recorded in 1541 and by 1691 was part of the Canons estate. By 1838 the woods and plantations in Little Stanmore had been reduced to 58 acres.

#### 3.5 Early Post-Medieval Period

- 3.5.1 The social and economic use of the area around Canons in the post-medieval period probably changed little from that in the medieval period. An idea of the post-medieval (and possibly earlier) layout of the land surrounding the Park can probably be deduced from the 1838 Tithe map of the area (Fig. 6).
- 3.5.2 No detailed maps were found of the area dating from before 1753 during the course of this study, the two earliest ones which show the Park to any detail are Rocque's Map of 1754 (Fig. 4) and John Cary's Map of 1786. However, it is known that the area up until 1753 was still very much considered as a rural, dangerous backwater. This is exemplified by the case in 1719 when a sawyer returning home with his wages, after

working on Chandos Place, 'was robb'd, stript naked and left bound in a ditch 24 hours, near Highgate.... He is since dead' (Baker and Baker 1949 quoting from *Original Weekly Journal* 30<sup>th</sup> May 1719). The Duke himself was also held up in 1720 by two highwaymen.

#### 4 CANONS PARK: THE MANSION HOUSE

#### 4.1 The Seventeenth century house

- 4.1.1 The building which passed to Brydges in 1713 is traditionally ascribed to John Thorpe and was presumably designed for the first Sir Thomas Lake. Two plans of the proposed building were drawn up by John Thorpe in 1606, one of them describing 'Canons, my Lady Lake's House', thought to be a brick building. The plans plot the presence of a chappell, hall, buttrye, Survayinge Place, Kytchen, woodyard and Kyt garden, together with wynt'/pler, lodg, dry lard, bolt, back & pastry (Summerson, 1966, 56). It was Lady Lake who built the almshouses in the south of the Park, to the north-east of the church.
- 4.1.2 The 1606 plan shows a 'good Jacobean country House built around a symmetrical courtyard with towers at each corner and a garden at the back'. It had associated with it a formal Jacobean garden with its walk, 'a great garden wall on the east side and a great pond' 'The dove house, the knotted flower beds, the topiaries cut into fantastic shapes of birds and animals formed a lovely setting for the large Lake family' (Myers 1950 p.161). Myers also refers to a field called rowgrave 'adjoining the great garden wall near the little love house-feyld', she does not say where this field or love-house may be, nor does she cite a reference for this quote.

#### 4.2 Chandos Place

- 4.2.1 Chandos Place was probably built on the site of and/or re-using the foundations of the Lake's earlier house. It was started in *c*. 1712-3.
- 4.2.2 The house, when complete, was almost square with a central courtyard, built on an axis north-north west to south-south east. A chapel, at a right angle to a projecting wing of offices, probably jutted out from the north-east corner and a second wing may have projected north from the north-western corner. 'The great entrance hall was in the centre of what may be called the south range, with the saloon overhead; the second or main floor also boasted the largest room the library, which filled the centre of the north range......' (VCH, 1976, 115) The entire building was stone-faced, contained within an Ionic order and measured 146 ft by 124 ft. Both the interior and gardens were lavish. The lands attached to Canons, included 27 acres within the iron palisades, 63 acres making up the rest of the pleasure gardens and the physic garden, and 172 acres of woodland. (VCH 1976).
- 4.2.3 Defoe in the 1720s described the house and grounds: "This place is so beautiful in its situation, so lofty, so majestick the appearance of it, that a pen can but ill describe it, the pencil not much better...The fronts are all of freestone, the columns and pilasters are lofty and beautiful, the windows high, with all possible ornaments; the pilasters running flush up to the cornish and architrave, their capitals seem as many supporters to the fine statues which stand on the top, and crown the whole; in a word... I can assure you, we see many palaces of sovereign princes abroad, which do not equal it, which yet pass for very fine too either within or without... The inside of the house is as glorious, as the outside is fine.... And the gardens are so well designed, and have so vast a variety, and the canals are so large, that they are not to be out done in England' (Exhibit 1992).

- 4.2.4 Vertue describes it a little more modestly as a noble pile, all of stone, the four sides very similar, with statues in the front; within was a small square of brick, not handsome, the out-offices of brick and stone very convenient and well disposed... (Keane 1850, p.257)
- 4.2.5 Myers in 1950 notes that the stables were located on the 'Stanmore side of the house where the stables and coach houses were, where coaches would drive between more wrought iron gates into an inner court in the centre of the great house' (she offers no reference for placing the stables in this position).
- 4.2.6 Myers has studied the Duchesses' letters, copies of which she kept. These span the period from when she was first married in 1713 to her death in 1735. In these 22 years she copied out more than 400 letters and the details in these letters provide fascinating insights into the running of the house and details on the house itself. She mentions that the staff comprised over 140 souls who slept at the top of the house, and that 'the kitchens, servants hall, distillery, buffet, steward's and other rooms were on the far side of the courtyard (the wine, of course, was kept cool in the deep vaults below the house)' (Myers 1950, 176)
- 4.2.7 Further details can be gleaned from Armstrong writing in 1895, where he notes that the walls of the 1712 Palace were c. 12 feet thick at the base and 9 feet above. He also mentions that lead pipes dug up in a field called Forty Acres (to the north of the eastwest road from Watling Street to Watford) were part of the water supply supplying the mansion; a banqueting hall sited on 'the hill at Stanmore', within the grounds of Canons, thought to be on Brockley Hill. Druett (1938) also refers to the water supply in this area. He suggests that there was evidence of a reservoir, 'traces of which have been dug up in the Forty-acre field, for the supply of the Mansion.
- 4.2.8 By far the most detailed account of the buildings and grounds referred to, was that written by Collins-Baker and Baker in 1949. They made a very detailed study of the building records relating to the construction of Chandos, including accounts and correspondence of the architects and builders themselves. It appears from these building records that initially the 1713 building was constructed around the pre-existing building on the site and that the works concentrated on enlarging and modifying this pre-existing structure. This implies that the Palace incorporated much of the earlier building belonging to the Lakes.
- 4.2.9 Collins-Baker and Baker refer to the fact that the bricks used initially at Canons were being made on the estate itself, indicating that quarries were probably excavated within or near the Park. The bricks could in theory also have been made out of the material removed from the canal and other landscape features. The SMR locates an eighteenth century brickworks in the area of the walled garden but a precise location is at this stage unknown. These bricks were originally needed to reface the pre-existing building in brick. However, these locally made bricks proved unsatisfactory and bricks were thenceforth brought in from Brentford. Eventually it was decided not to face the building in brick but to use stone instead, one of the numerous changes to the original design plans of the house that occurred. The accounts and correspondence show that the work on the house was being continually held up, either by the slowness of the architects, lack of supplies being sent from London and the slowness and shortages of the labour.
- 4.2.10 Brydges' frustration over the slowness of progress is exemplified by correspondence dating to Christmas 1715 when John James's short comings were pointed out by Brydges when he stated that 'the hall and little room before the new parlour' had been untouched since June; no paving stones had come, so that not even the staircase could be paved; all the new chimneys smoked; and he goes on to say that if James will not attend to his contract he shall be dismissed. Shortly afterwards James Gibbs took James' place as architect.

- 4.2.11 There were still problems in September 1716, when Bridges writes that 'one half of my house being to be pulled down and the other half already so full as disables me from making you an invitation for a longer time'. The authors note that 'we cannot tell whether the demolition was of discarded work by James or merely the new clearance of parts of old Canons'.
- 4.2.12 By 1719 things were progressing with both the house and the gardens. 'His pasture and pleasure grounds at Canons were gradually laid out. Grass seed (fursee and meson) was ordered from Aleppo, to yield high, strong crops three or four times a year, and lucerne seed from France. One hundred and fifty evergreen oaks were ordered from Mr Marsh of Hammersmith in January 1719 for an avenue in the garden, to be planted 18 feet apart. An espalier was to be made of them, and at about 25 feet behind them three rows of elms were to be placed, with undergrowth between. Acorns from Leghorn; coffee trees, papaw, and various fruit trees from Jamaica; for instance, star apples, custard apples, guava, and tamarinds; flower seed from Aleppo, tortoises from Minorca........' (Collins-Baker & Baker 1949, 127).

#### 4.3 The Hallet house

- 4.3.1 The house was sold in 1747 when it was torn apart for salvageable materials, a process which had completely destroyed the house by 1753. William Hallett then 'bought the site and estate together with large quantities of the materials which other purchasers refused or neglected to clear and with them built himself a house on the centre vaults of the old one (From Gentleman's Magazine as quoted in Exhibit 1992).
- 4.3.2 Myers also notes that when James Bridges, the third Duke, revisited Chandos once it was in the ownership of Hallets. He states that 'On arriving at the house, he entered into a shrubbery.... The sundial still stood in the centre of all my old elms....The cellars he imagines were the old ones' (Myers states that the Hallett house was actually built on the middle vaults of the duke's palace Myers 1950, 181).
- 4.3.3 This indicates therefore that the new house was built on top of the site of Chandos house, which in turn (as noted above) was probably built on top of the Lake's house. However, not all sources support the fact that Hallets house was built on top of Chandos. Armstrong, writing in 1895, states 'having conducted the visitor over the sacred edifice (the church), we must next accompany him through a very pretty wood (the east of the present park) which leads from the Church to the seat of Lady Plumer, erected near the site of the former mansion, and still retaining the name of Canons. On the mound or terrace, still to be traced a little eastward of the present seat, rose and vanished, in the last century, the palatial residence of the Duke of Chandos (Armstrong 1895 18). Additionally, recent extension works undertaken at the North London Collegiate School (NLCS) has revealed the presence of existing cellars that would further suggest that the Hallet house was constructed next to, rather than on top of, the former Canons house (Zvi Barzilai pers comm photographic evidence of works held by NLCS that will require formal consultation as part of future enquiry).

## 4.4 The Twentieth Century

4.4.1 The house was reworked and extended by the architect C.E. Mallows in 1910 for Sir Arthur Du Cros (founder of the Dunlop Rubber Company), in Edwardian classical style, with formal gardens also by Mallows. In 1928 the house became the home of the North London Collegiate School, and school buildings by Sir Albert Richardson were added in 1939-40 (Cherry and Pevsner 1991, 298). The kitchen garden, now separate from the school, was laid out as the George V Memorial Garden in 1938.

#### 5 CANONS PARK: THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

## 5.1 George London's Garden

- The palatial house of the Duke of Chandos required gardens to match, and despite 5.1.1 losses of features and the diminution of the parkland, some of the key elements can still be appreciated. The garden's history has recently been reassessed in a day conference 'The Gardens of Canons' held by the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust in 1997 (Myers 1997). The paper by David Jacques 'George London's Last Masterwork' makes the wholly convincing case that the gardens were designed by George London of the metropolitan firm of London and Wise. The fundamental basis for this is the reference by Stephen Switzur in his 'History of Gardening' published in 1715 to 'That noble Design of the Right Honourable the present Earl of Carnarvon, at Edger in Hertfordshire' being George London's 'very last undertaking' before he died in 1714. Switzur would have known this well, as a pupil of London's, and the Earl of Carnaryon in 1715 was James Brydges (Duke of Chandos from 1719), while Edgware is of course in Middlesex and not Hertfordshire. The remarkable layout of the park and gardens has the hallmarks of a London design in the use of water, and the treatment of the ponds (Jacques pers comm.). Both the approach avenues (east and west) have large ponds in them, the main pond in front of the house has a parterre descending to it, and a third pond south of the parterre allowed an initial view of the house across water. Only fragments of this layout now survive (compare Figs 4 and 8).
- 5.1.2 The layout of the park has led to suggestions that William Kent may have been involved, but there is no direct evidence for this, and it is not mentioned in any of the standard accounts of his work. William Kent was indeed employed at Canons for decorative painting in 1720, when Chandos reported that the artist (newly returned from Italy), was painting '2 or 3 ceilings at Cannons' (Collins Baker & Baker 1949, 81). Most of Kent's general work in garden design was undertaken in the 1730s (Dixon Hunt 1987), by which time expenditure on the gardens at Canons were being reigned in rather than expanding. It is likely that a reference to Kent in the family papers in the Henry Huntingdon Library would have been found by the Bakers, although the papers certainly do not comprise a 'complete' family archive. It is entirely possible that Kent did consider the gardens during his stay at Cannons, but if George London had supplied a plan that was already being carried out, there was no obvious context for Kent to supply a design, and it seems less than likely that he did so.

## 5.2 Later Eighteenth Century Garden

- 5.2.1 Following purchase of the estate by William Hallett in 1748 a new house was built that was at first able to enjoy the existing park and gardens (albeit devoid of all the ornaments that had been sold), as shown on John Rocque's 1754 map of Middlesex (Fig. 4). He sold off the materials from the old house, and some peripheral estate property, and it is possible that he also sold timber from the park; there is no evidence for the creation of any new features during his time. The estate was sold by his grandson in 1786 to Dennis O'Kelly, and it is notable that the third Duke of Chandos, also a prospective purchaser, in a description of his visit to view the property remarked on how many features had remained unchanged, while also noting some changes (Fryer 1997, 19, quoting Collins and Baker 1949, 450).
- 5.2.2 The key document for the later eighteenth century is the map of the estate by Josiah Phipps, dated 1800 (Fig. 5). This depicts much of the early designed landscape intact,

<sup>&</sup>quot;Plan / of an Estate called / Cannons / in the Parish / of Little Stanmore / in the County of / Middlesex / by Josiah Phipps, London / 1800", estate plan showing the ground divided into plots RIBA Drawings Collection: RAN 28/F/17.

but with the more formal elements such as parterre and wilderness having been removed or opened out. One key change, that can be inferred by comparison with the fragmentary estate plan of c.1729,<sup>2</sup> is the transformation of the Garden and Melon Ground that were situated on the north side of the kitchen garden (London Metropolitan Archives). The garden was evidently a nursery or kitchen garden in 1729 (and the Melon Ground still survives today as the walled Frame Yard), but by 1800 it had received an informal planting within its surrounding wall. To its north the outer west court still existed, as the formal western approach to the mansion house.

#### 5.3 Repton's Garden

5.3.1 The informal planting in the walled garden had spread beyond the walls by the time of the 1838 Tithe Map, and was shown in more detail on the 1887 map in the sale particulars for the Canons Estate (Fig. 7). It included the Temple/Greenhouse building,<sup>3</sup> and extended over the whole of the west outer court, as far north as the stable yard, and much of it survives today (Fig. 8). The picturesque layout, with some evergreen planting, is undoubtedly Reptonian, and indeed Humphry Repton told his son in 1816 that he had been asked to go to Canons by Sir Thomas Plummer for 'making... a map'.<sup>4</sup> Plummer, then Vice Chancellor, and later Master of the Rolls, had just bought the estate from P. O'Kelly, so he may have initiated changes soon after purchasing the estate (he died in 1824). This may of course have been in relation to the estate overall, or for work on the gardens and lake to the east of the house, of which early nineteenth century drawings, and one possibly by Repton, survive (see Fryer 1997). While Repton was consulted on numerous country mansions in the environs of London (including the adjacent Stanmore), it is notable that on several occasion she worked for prominent lawyers (Daniels 2003, 214, fig. 206). Given that there is no 'Red Book' for Canons, the only further evidence that may be forthcoming is from the Plummer family papers.<sup>5</sup> The analysis of the Temple building presented below suggests that it had two separate functions in the two halves of the garden, facing south as a greenhouse and northwards as a Temple.

#### 5.4 Mallows' Garden

5.4.1 The formal garden designed by C.E. Mallows around the rebuilt mansion of Sir Arthur Du Cros still survives in part, and has been discussed in the Scott Wilson report (Scott Wilson 2002), as has the formation of the 1938 George V Memorial Garden (Fig. 8).

#### 6 CARTOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTARY SOURCES FOR PARK FEATURES

#### 6.1 Roads

6.1.1 From the medieval period to the early eighteenth century a main road, leaving Watling Street at Stone Grove, led east to west across both Little Stanmore and Great Stanmore, to Watford. In 1718 James Brydges inclosed the Little Stanmore section of this road where it fell within the grounds of Canons. This road is probably represented on the 1838 map by the linear feature labelled South Park, which had disappeared by 1887

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> London Metropolitan Archives, Stowe 71/2 (with reference book 72/1).

The Temple is shown on the estate map of 1827 (Metropolitan Archives Acc. 262, Temple Bundle 26), as well as the Tithe Map of 1838 (Metropolitan Archives).

The Repton papers are, by coincidence, also to be found in the Huntington Library, California (Mss 40834-40959), and the letter reference is Lit: M/8.

The family correspondence and papers of Sir Thomas Plumer (1753-1824), Master of the Rolls, is in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (Reference D2016), see HMC Report 1966-72 p. 133; this is, however, not an extensive collection.

(Figs 6 and 7). The stretch of Dalkeith Grove to the north of the current school buildings appears to be on the same alignment as the South Park road. To compensate for the closure of this road Brydges improved the east to west road (the modern London Road) from Canon's Corner to the north. Other roads which would have been present during the medieval period were those bounding the park: Whitchurch Lane bounding the south of the Park, Marsh Lane to the west, leading to Stanmore Marsh, and Watling Street to the east. The remnants of a hollow way (**OA 47**), of probable medieval date, have also been recorded running on a north west to south east alignment from the Hall and Church located at the southern end of the park (Fig. 3).

#### 6.2 Landuse

- 6.2.1 Up until the early eighteenth century most of the estate of Canons would have been farmland used for arable, pasture or woodland, as it was not until then that most of the land around Canons was transformed for ornamental purposes. A reflection of the previous agricultural land-use can be seen on the 1838 Tithe map (Fig. 6), which shows that even after the park was created some of the land was still used for agricultural purposes, as seen by the division of some areas into fields. Many of these field divisions, especially in the south-west of the present park, had disappeared by 1887 (Fig. 7).
- 6.2.2 Some of the field names noted in the Tithe Award can be traced back to the fourteenth century, e.g. Lurspit was mentioned in a document dating to 1306, as being part of the priory's pasture for cows and cart horses. The fields called Great and Little Lurspit/Ludspit seen on the Tithe Map, are located within the Park, just to the south-east of Marsh Farm, north of Whitechurch Lane. When the former monastic property was granted to Hugh Losse in 1552 it included Pear Wood, Bromfield Wood, Anmers Grove and Giles Park. Great Giles Park is noted on the Tithe Map and Award as being just to the south of Whitechurch Lane, with a field named Little Giles Park within the southwestern corner of the present park, under what is now a sports ground. Fields noted as Anmers Nursery and Great Anmers on the Tithe map lay on the north-eastern boundary of the present Park, north of the great pond.
- 6.2.3 The rental valuation of St. Bartholomew's Priory for 1541 lists the income from Little Stanmore, and provides not only an insight into the landuse, but also the economy of the manor:
- 6.2.4 The manor of Canons, so called, no doubt, from the canons of St Bartholomews its possessors, consisted of houses, gardens, orchards, ponds and waters called Pole and Le Mote and other fisheries, a grove, and rents of free and customary tenants let on lease for 50 years from 1535.... Houses and buildings pertaining to the Manor of Stanmore, called the Hoggehouse, Cookhouse, Cowhouses, Dairy, Stables, the Mylhouse, the Buttinge House, the Carthouse; also fields called Hudefelde, Brodefelde, and 2 fields called Gryimesdich; 2 groves called Clith Clay Croft and Cloyster; the moiety of a wood called Hedgerowe; let on lease for 25 years from 1527 (Webb, 1921, p.352).
- 6.2.5 It goes on to mention rents from fields called Grene Marsle, Hamistlyne, Luddepittes, Anne Marsh in Whitechurch, and Quarter lands in Little Stanmore. Other names are mentioned but the list either neglects to mention which parish they were in or which lay in adjoining parishes. Again, some of these place/field names can be traced to those noted on the Tithe map and it offers a valuable insight into the buildings present on the site of the medieval Canons Manor. However, nothing is known about the old Elizabethan manor house itself, apart from the fact that it was surrounded by moats, orchards, gardens and fish-ponds (Myers 1950) and associated with the buildings and fields mentioned above. The SMR suggests that it was located at **OA 23**, within the present walled garden, but the validity of this location is unproven (Figs 2 and 3).

- 6.2.6 Some of the field boundaries seen on the 1838 map, but which had disappeared by 1887, can be traced on the ground. For example the boundary separating the fields labelled Whitchurch Avenue with Further Dean can be seen as a hedge in the north (**OA 39**) and as a slight earthwork to the south (located north-south to the south of the Pleasure Garden). Intersecting the boundary (**OA 39**) are further slight earthworks, running approximately east to west (**OA 46**) and possibly marking the division between Further Dean and the field to the south, Little Lurspit/Ludspit field, mentioned in fourteenth century documents (see above). Additionally, aerial photographic analysis would also suggest that possible elements of the northern filed boundary of Little Giles Park may continue eastward (**OA 50 and 51**), lying beneath later garden features.
- 6.2.7 In the early eighteenth century after improvements carried out by the Duke of Chandos, Canons stood at the centre of the square formed by Watling Street, London Road, Marsh Lane and Whitchurch Lane. The principal drive led south-east to two lodges at the north end of the houses along Watling Street and was balanced by a tree-lined ride leading north-east. Avenues, terminated by Lodges, also radiated north, west and south. This southern avenue can still be seen, with some trees remaining, and represented by a raised causeway running from the house to east of the church. As late as 1731 it was hoped to extend the southern avenue for 2 ½ miles beyond St Lawrence Church. In 1729 the Duke of Chandos not only owned the land associated with Canons (481 acres), he also owned c.1,011 acres within Little Stanmore which he leased out to local tenant farmers.

#### 6.3 Water features/Ponds

6.3.1 A number of ponds, a canal and a lake formed part of the original design scheme of the eighteenth-century park. Today only the lake (**OA** 52), and the pond located along Canons Drive (**OA** 45), formerly the Edgeware Avenue, known as 'The Basin' survive (Figs 2 and 3). Although historic map evidence indicates the former locations of many of the original water features within the park, these have been predominantly removed through later development. The remains of one, of originally two, ponds flanking the southern end of the Whitchurch Avenue are still present. This long thin pond (**OA** 44) is situated to the north-west of the church, and is first shown on Phipp's Plan of Cannons in 1800. The pond today is represented on the ground by a patch of scrub and an irregular. No surviving remains of an opposing pond were observed, possibly having been in-filled and levelled.

#### 7 RESULTS OF THE WALKOVER SURVEY

- 7.1.1 A walkover survey was carried out on the site of Canons Park to try and identify any pre-1753 features, which may have survived the park landscaping. Aerial photographs of the area were also examined to try and identify any features which may pre-date the park. Most of the features identified proved to date to the early eighteenth and later parkland, and could be seen on the maps of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Features which may pre-date the early eighteenth-century park and those which are now only relict features on the ground today have been noted below and illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.
- 7.1.2 During the walkover, in the area of woodland forming the eastern boundary of the southern half of the site, a spread of tile was noted on the surface. The tile appears to have been revealed by the recent excavation of a ditch running north south. These tiles were identified as Roman and one at least was thought to be part of a box flue tile which would have been used as part of a hypocaust system in a Roman building. This tile was found in the area where the SMR notes other similar findings (**OA 21**).

- 7.1.3 In 1979 archaeological trial work was undertaken to investigate the spread of Roman tiles found during drainage work at **OA 21** (the drainage work could be the ditches noted above). Alternating layers of tile and clay were found, apparently dumped on an old turf line. As many of the tiles were miss-fired, it would appear that they formed part of a waster heap associated with tile manufacture. An auger survey was undertaken in 1980 (**OA 12**) to define the extent of this waster dump. This revealed that the tile spread extended 40m to the west and 15m to the east of the trench excavated in 1979. A laid floor of black vitrified tile was also observed 15-20m west of the excavation. It was concluded that a Roman tile kiln must be located within this area. The site was examined further in 1988 (**OA 19**) when salvage recording of a trench was undertaken. This revealed several layers of soil containing Roman tile fragments, although no features were seen, with the exception of a possible cut, seen in section.
- 7.1.4 It appears therefore that the tiles found during the walkover represent the site of a tile kiln, making hypocaust tiles, rather than a Roman villa with a hypocaust. It was probably associated with the tile industry found to the north at Brockley Hill (**OA 2** and **35**), and part of the suggested extensive ribbon development thought to be present along Watling Street. Sites such as these are unlikely to have existed in isolation and it is probable that it is associated with further kilns within Canons Park and perhaps workers houses and other areas of industrial activity. These would not have come to light in the past due to the lack of destructive development within the park and any further remains present may exist *in-situ* within this area of Canons Park.
- 7.1.5 As noted above, the settlement in Little Stanmore during the medieval period was strung out along the roads, especially Watling Street, with no central village as such. The exception to this was the church, which was built midway between the eastern and western boundaries of the parish on Whitchurch Lane. There are no obvious traces of a medieval village around the church nor traces of any of the open fields. Aerial photographic evidence does however suggest the presence of a surviving hollow way (OA 47), pre-dating the formal layout of Whitchurch Avenue, that appears to run on a north west to south east alignment from the hall located to the north of the church. Part of the alignment of this hollow way appears to be respected by surviving relict field boundaries (OA 46), shown by later mapping, and known to be mentioned in the fourteenth century. Aerial photographic analysis also indicates the presence of two further raised earthwork banks situated between the Whitchurch Avenue and its associated tree alignments (OA 50 and 51). The precise nature of these earthworks is unclear, although, they may form surviving parts of a continuation of the relict field boundary that defined the northern extent of a field parcel known as Little Giles Park on the 1838 Tithe map (Fig. 5). Again these earthworks would appear to pre-date the construction of Whitchurch Avenue and they are not seen to extend beyond the hollow way (OA 47) recorded to the east.
- 7.1.6 The ground to the west of the church was also noted to be less flat than elsewhere in the park, containing amorphous undulations; including patches of rough vegetation in the area, indicative of disturbed ground (**OA 25**). Aerial photographs show evidence of the remains of a small building and trackway in this area to the west of the church. This building appears to be that shown on the 1838 Tithe map. It may have been the Rectory, first mentioned in 1244 associated with an orchard and garden, and which was demolished in 1832 and a new rectory built to the east of the church. The south-eastern boundary of the churchyard changed between 1838 to 1887, when it was extended westwards, so that it almost incorporates the site of this earlier building.
- 7.1.7 Features seen on the walkover, which could date to the early post-medieval period, include the area of trees running along the eastern boundary of the park that can be seen on the 1838 Tithe map, labelled as The Shrubbery. This has an intermittent bank along

- its western boundary, approximately 0.5 m high (**OA 40**). Within the wooded area today are drainage ditches and banks, but these appear to be modern additions.
- 7.1.8 The courtyard of the buildings to the north-west of the walled garden are present on the 1838 Tithe map. To the south-west of these buildings is a raised building platform, seen on the ground today (**OA 41**). This appears to coincide with an area marked out on the 1838 Tithe map, which can be traced to at least the 1920s. On the 1838 map this area contains a building in its north-eastern corner, which had gone by 1887. The function of this building is unknown, although it stood within a field labelled the 'Cherry Orchard' on the 1838 map.
- 7.1.9 On the ground today, the area to the west and south-west of this platform, is irregular and contains only the remnants of a tree-lined avenue which formed the western boundary of the Cherry Orchard. This avenue of trees were still present on the 1946 aerial photograph. This photograph also shows the whole of this area being covered with allotments, (in common with other peripheral areas of the Park at this date). The removal of the avenue of trees and the use of the land for allotments may have caused the irregular ground surface seen today in this area. Some of the irregularities here also appear to have been caused by the dumping of masonry and building rubble.
- 7.1.10 Relict parkland features dating to the post-medieval period also include the partially sunken brick-faced ha-ha situated to the south of the house (**OA 42**). Other obvious earthwork features within the park are the raised causeway (**OA 48**) and its associated tree alignments (**OA 49**) that form the Whitchurch Avenue, and the terrace with a tree lined path to the east of the house running to the large pond (**OA 43**), not marked on the 1838 map.
- 7.1.11 A further building is plotted on the 1838 Tithe map to the south of the church (**OA 1**), between the church and the road. This building had also disappeared by 1887 and the site of the building incorporated into a southern extension of the churchyard.

#### 8 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

#### 8.1 Aims

- 8.1.1 The aims of the topographical survey were:
  - to provide an accurate survey base that can be used to add archaeological observations.
  - to produce a hachure plan of any significant features, e.g. to include paths, beds, terraces and any other depressions/earthworks which may relate to earlier garden features.
  - to produce a plan which will inform both current and potential future archaeological investigations/research, and act as a basis of information for the restorations programme.

#### 8.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

8.2.1 The field survey was carried out within the area of the Pleasure Garden and adjacent to Whitchurch Avenue by members of OA's Digital Survey department using a Leica TCR 750 reflector-less Total Station. An initial walkover survey to identify and locate known and previously unknown features was implemented, prior to undertaking the digital survey. The survey data was downloaded and reduced using the LisCAD software package and the recorded survey data saved as AutoCAD Map 2000 drawings. The

contour survey data was processed and corrected using Surfer 8 software creating the corrected digital terrain model shown in Figure 11.

#### 8.3 Results

#### Topographic Survey north of Temple

- 8.3.1 Initial walkover survey conducted to the north of the Temple structure indicated the presence of a small number of surviving low level earthworks possibly associated with the Temple and its immediate setting. Survey was therefore conducted in the grassed area to the north of the Temple, and a series of features (S1 to S5) recorded (Fig. 10).
- 8.3.2 Feature S1 appears to represent the remains of a former linear feature with possible associated drainage gullies orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment leading to the Temple. Analysis of early map evidence indicates that S1 is likely to represent the former location of one of a system of paths that originally ran to the north-east and to the west from the Temple shown on the 1863 Plan of Canons Park and more clearly defined on the 1887 Canons Park Estate Sales Particulars plan (Fig. 7). This interpretation of S1 could be further supported by evidence recorded in Test pit 3, and also possibly in Test pit 2, where a compacted metalled surfacing was revealed beneath topsoil deposits (see Section 8 below for detailed description of deposits recorded by test pitting).
- 8.3.3 Feature S2 appears to indicate the presence of a slight raised platform adjacent to the and overlain by the base of the northern facade of the Temple. The creation of this platform may relate either to the process of construction for the Temple or in some way relate to the path network known to lead up-to the Temple. Evidence recorded by the test pitting in this area remains somewhat ambiguous for a more definite interpretation of S2. Test pit 2 indicates the presence of a compacted flint pebble surface at the north east corner of the base of the northern facade, suggesting either a rafted foundation base or remnant of a metalled area adjacent to the Temple. Deposits recorded in Test pit 1 do not indicate the presence of any surviving path surface materials surviving immediately to the north of the Temple, although, they may represent dumped deposits for creating a raft for the Temple foundations. This discrepancy could possibly occur due to probable later disturbance occurring immediately to the north of the Temple structure, as a more formalised paved area is indicated to have been set out around the northern facade of the Temple by 1962.
- 8.3.4 Feature S3 was situated approximately 5 m to the north of the Temple structure and it is believed to represent the probable remains of a former tree planting location, the area to the north of the Temple being known to have been wooded from at least c.1863.
- 8.3.5 Features S4 and S5 located approximately 11 m to the north of the Temple structure appear to represent two short lengths of north-east to south-west aligned banks, the precise date and function of which remains uncertain.

#### Contour Survey adjacent to the Whitchurch Avenue

- 8.3.6 The contour survey was targeted such as to investigate a section across the tree alignment situated on the western side of the Whitchurch Avenue (Fig. 9). The survey area was located immediately to the south of a surviving mature oak, possibly one of only a small number of possibly contemporary surviving trees that formed part of the original tree alignment. Locating the survey area adjacent to the mature oak allowed for the historic documentary assertion that the trees were spaced *c*.18 feet or 5.5 m apart to be tested in conjunction with the results produced by the survey.
- 8.3.7 A 30 m by 30 m area was subject to detailed contour survey with readings being taken over a 0.5 m by 0.5 m grid, the results of which revealed a series of surviving features (S6 to S11) that are described below and illustrated in Figure 11.

- 8.3.8 Feature S6 represents the surviving raised bank formed by the creation of the original north to south aligned tree avenue. Features S7 to S10 are interpreted as tree bowls, indicative of the former location of tree planting along the avenue. In two instances (S8 and S10), these features correspond with the location of existing trees, albeit that these trees are the product of later planting. Examination of the spatial distribution of the tree throws along the avenue indicates a spacing pattern ranging from between 6 m to 7 m between features when measured from the location of the mature oak (Fig. 11). Although this spatial measurement is slightly greater than that referred to by historic reference (see above), it is not significantly higher, and it is with a relatively high degree of confidence that the recorded features (S7 to S10) could be interpreted as representing the original former locations of tree planting along the avenue.
- 8.3.9 An additional feature, S11, recorded by the survey appears to represent a north-west to south-east aligned linear path or track which cuts across the tree alignment. Although it is not possible, based on current evidence, to interpret the precise function of this feature, it is possible to say that it post-dates the creation of the tree lined avenue and as such is not contemporary with the creation of the Whitchurch Avenue in the eighteenth century.

#### 9 TRENCH/TRIAL PIT EVALUATION

#### **9.1** Aims

9.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

#### Whitchurch Avenue

- to record the character and identify the materials used in the construction of the avenue;
- to locate the presence of any potential associated drainage features;
- to provide accurate survey data and information regarding the construction sequence to guide the execution of the restorations work.

#### Temple

- to locate, expose and record any surviving deposits or features present beneath the paved area fronting the southern side of the temple in order to shed further light on its true form and function:
- to characterise the nature of the low level earthwork features to the north of the structure by locating, exposing and recording any surviving deposits or features present;
- to provide accurate survey data in order to guide the execution of the restoration work.

#### Scope of fieldwork

9.2.1 A total of two trenches and four test pits were excavated in and around the Temple located in the Pleasure Garden and across the Whitchurch Avenue (Fig. 9). The excavation strategy combined machine trenching in the area of the Whitchurch Avenue with hand-dug trial pits in and around the Temple. The machine excavated trenches each measured 1.2 m wide by 30 m in length and the hand dug trial pits varied in dimension from 0.5 m by 0.5 m (Trial pits 1, 2, and 3) and 1 m by 1 m (Trial pit 4). Trial pits 1, 2, and 3 were specifically sited to examine low level earthworks revealed through site inspection and topographic survey.

#### 9.3 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 9.3.1 Machine trenching and hand dug trial pitting involved the removal of made ground and topsoil overburden. Machine excavation was undertaken using a JCB-type excavator under constant archaeological supervision.
- 9.3.2 The trenches and trial pits were cleaned by hand and the revealed features/deposits were sampled to determine their extent and nature and to retrieve finds where present. All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50, and where excavated their sections drawn at 1:20. All trenches and features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

#### 9.4 Finds

9.4.1 Finds, where present, were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

## **Results presentation**

9.5.1 The stratigraphic sequence revealed in each evaluation trench and trial pit is described for the Avenue (§9.6) and the Temple (§9.7), after which the finds are summarised (§9.8).

#### 9.6 Whitchurch Avenue (Figs 9 and 12)

- 9.6.1 Two trenches were excavated along the southern extent of the Whitchurch Avenue (Trenches 1 and 2, Fig. 9) with the aim of establishing the manner of its construction.
- 9.6.2 Trench 1, measuring 30 m long by 1.2 m wide, was located across the avenue c. 260 m south from the northern end of the Whitchurch Avenue (Figs 9 and 12). Natural clay (28) was encountered at a depth of c.0.40 m below ground level (bgl) either side of the embanked avenue, and at a depth of 1.40 m from the surface of the embankment. At the eastern end of the trench, situated approximately 4 m to the east of the earthwork, the natural geology was cut by a pit feature (22). Pit 22 was filled by a grey clay silt (21) that contained no dating evidence. The precise function of pit 22 remains unknown, however, based on the recorded stratigraphy the feature must either be contemporary with, or represent activity being undertaken prior, to the construction of the Whitchurch Avenue.
- 9.6.3 Overlying pit 22 and the natural geology was a clay silt deposit (27). Deposit 27 was recorded throughout the full extent of the trench and was composed of re-deposited natural clay silts that contained fragments of ceramic building material. This layered deposit was cut by two drainage ditches 17 and 20, and was overlain by a deposit of compacted gravel (26) that forms the core of the avenue embankment. Deposit 27 is therefore thought likely to represent evidence for the creation of a preparation layer prior to the construction of the embankment above.
- 9.6.4 The raised embankment of the avenue is shown to have been constructed using a series of gravel and lime mortar deposits (23, 24, 25 and 26). The primary construction deposit is represented by deposit 26 and comprised a highly compacted dump of gravel within a clay matrix. This core deposit appears to have been strengthened/sealed along its eastern and western edges by deposits 24 and 25 that comprise a compact lime mortar with contained frequent crushed fragments of ceramic building material (CBM). These construction deposits have then been sealed by a compacted gravel 'hogging' (23) creating the final surface of the embankment. Deposit 23 lay directly beneath topsoil (14). It remains uncertain as to whether the embankment was finally completed by being grassed over, or whether deposit 23 represents its finalised exposed surface. No evidence of a buried topsoil overlying deposit 23 was recorded to suggest that it was

- finally grassed over, but the degree to which the embankment has been disturbed by later activity after its construction is also unknown due to a lack of any dating evidence from deposits. Later truncation, re-surfacing or disturbance possibly having removed any potential surviving buried soil horizon.
- 9.6.5 Two drainage ditches 17 and 20, both containing similar red ceramic drains of eighteenth to early nineteenth century date, were recorded flanking the embanked avenue. The drainage ditches were visible on the ground surface as small earthwork depressions prior to excavation. The small drainage ditches were exposed directly beneath the topsoil, both located approximately 1.6 m from the base of the embankment. It is uncertain whether ditches 17 and 20 are contemporary in date with the construction of the avenue, or were added at a later date to aid drainage of the site.
- 9.6.6 Trench 2, measuring 30 m long by 1.2 m wide, was located across the avenue *c*.425 m south from the northern end of the Whitchurch Avenue (Figs 9 and 12). Natural gravel (13) was encountered at a depth of *c*.0.30 m bgl either side of the embanked avenue, and at a depth of 1 m from the surface of the embankment. Overlying the natural throughout the extent of the trench was a mixed deposit of clay and gravel (11) that contained fragments of CBM and which is interpreted as possibly representing material deposited prior to the construction of the embankment, similar to deposit 27 recorded in Trench 1.
- 9.6.7 Overlying deposit 11 was a far simpler sequence of embankment construction deposits to those recorded in Trench 1 to the north. This may in part be due to the reduced height and width of the embankment at the southern end of the avenue, or relate to possible later modification of the avenue further to the north. The embankment was again seen to have been constructed from a core deposit of compacted flint pebbles, the surface interface of which with the topsoil appeared to show signs of wear, possibly indicative of use as a formal pathway surface. The core construction deposit of the embankment was sealed by topsoil (10), and no associated drainage ditches to the embankment were present.

## 9.7 Temple (Figs 9, 13 and 14)

- 9.7.1 Four test pits were excavated adjacent to, and directly within, the Temple structure located at the northern edge of the Pleasure Garden (Test pits 1, 2, 3 and 4; Fig. 9). These test pits were excavated in order to address the aims stated above in paragraph 9.1.1.
- Test pits 1, 2, and 3, measuring 0.5 m by 0.5 m, were all located on the north side of the 9.7.2 Temple structure (Fig. 9). Test pit 1 was located immediately in front of the base of the north facade of the Temple structure (Figs 9 and 13). The test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.41 m deep and natural geology was not reached. The earliest recorded deposit within the stratigraphic sequence was a red brick wall (9), aligned north to south, situated along the eastern edge of the test pit. The wall, where exposed, survived to a height of 0.22 m and width of 0.10 m, with bricks measuring 100 mm x 100 mm x 70 mm. The full vertical extent of the wall remains unknown. Wall 9 is believed to represent part of the foundation structure to the Temple. Abutting and overlying the foundation wall was a sequence of made ground deposits (6, 7 and 8). In stratigraphic sequence, deposit 8 (only partially observed within the test pit) comprised a grey silt clay, deposit 7 comprised a brown silt clay that contained numerous quantities of broken brick rubble and deposit 6 comprised a compacted layer of pebbles bonded in clay. No dating evidence was contained within these made ground deposits. Deposits 6, 7 and 8 are all thought to represent dumped/levelled deposits associated with the construction of the foundations for the Temple. The sequence of dumped/levelled deposits were sealed by a 0.30 m thick compact sandy silt topsoil (deposit 5).

- 9.7.3 Test pit 2 was situated directly on the north east corner of the northern facade of the Temple structure (Figs 9 and 13) The test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.42 m and natural geology was not reached. The earliest deposit recorded was a clay silt layer (4) that contained frequent inclusions of charcoal and coke indicating that it is likely to have been re-deposited, possibly as part of landscaping works in this area. The full depth of this deposit remains unknown. This deposit was overlain by a further 0.15 m layer of made ground (3) that contained fragments of broken bricks, plaster and mortar, that in turn was overlain by a compacted flint pebble deposit (1) sealed beneath topsoil (2). Deposit 1 is thought to either represent the remains of a former metalled surface/path way associated with the Temple, or to form part of a compacted foundation deposit/raft upon which the northern front facade of the Temple has been constructed, possibly similar in function to deposit 6 recorded in Test pit 1.
- 9.7.4 Test pit 3 and was located c. 0.42 m to the east of the northern facade of the Temple structure (Figs 9 and 14). The test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.43 m and natural geology was not reached. The earliest deposit recorded was a layer of re-deposited natural or naturally derived silt (32) containing charcoal fragments dispersed throughout. This deposit was sealed by a made ground layer (31), a 0.28 m thick deposit of re-deposited natural containing demolition debris such as mortar, CBM and rubbles. Overlying deposit 31 was a 0.05 m thick cobbled surface bonded with clay silt (29) that lay directly beneath the topsoil (30). Deposit 29 is likely to represent the remnant of a former path leading to the Temple.
- 9.7.5 Test pit 4, measuring 1 m by 1m, was located within the raised platform area fronting the southern side of the Temple structure (Figs 9 and 14). The test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.92 m and natural geology was not reached. The earliest deposit recorded was a mixed re-deposited silt clay deposit (37) containing charcoal. This deposit was overlain by a layer of demolition rubble (36) containing frequent broken bricks, thought to be have been deposited prior to the construction of the Temple. Demolition deposit 36 was sealed by a 0.35 m thick layer of made ground (35) composed of re-deposited natural mixed with rubble and debris. Overlying this made ground was a 0.30 m thick deposit of ash and cinders (34) believed to be indicative of soil improvement processes in this area associated with the southern facade of the Temples use as a glass house. This deposit was sealed by topsoil (33).

#### 9.8 Finds

9.8.1 The evaluation recovered only a single sherd of late nineteenth/early twentieth century willow patterned plate pottery (Test pit 4; deposit 35), the base of an eighteenth century glass bottle (Test pit 2; deposit 3) and a single brick (Test pit 4; context 36) of eighteenth century form (retained for dating purposes). The dating of the limited materials recovered by the evaluation is consistent with main focus of activity within the gardens development dating from the eighteenth century onward.

#### 10 CANONS PARK: BUILDING INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

#### 10.1 Aims and Objectives

10.1.1 The principal aims and objectives of the buildings recording work was to assess the age, history, significance and original form of the Temple, together with two walled gardens, in order to inform the garden restoration proposals. In addition to the assessment the work also aimed to produce a detailed record of the Temple.

10.1.2 The main buildings investigations work was concentrated on the Temple as the most complex of the three structures to be analysed. A plan and elevations of which were drawn and are illustrated in Figures 18 to 20.

## 10.2 Temple

10.2.1 The Temple is listed Grade II and is located to the south-west of Canons Park house. It is known to be of early nineteenth century date and has been thought likely to be part of Humphrey Repton's landscaping works undertaken in the early nineteenth century.

## Historic map evidence

- 10.2.2 A plan of 1800 survives which shows a the existing landscape at Canons Park and this plan does not show the Temple (Fig. 5), and it is thus safe to assume that the temple had not been constructed by this date.
- 10.2.3 The earliest map to show the Temple is dated 1838 (Tithe Map; Fig. 6) and this shows what appears to be two distinct structures which back directly onto each other. Each one has a main rectangular block (east west) with single central projections towards north and south. This map only gives an outline plan of the park buildings and it does not show paths or features on the ground which strongly suggests that the two halves of the temple were both genuine buildings rather as now a building with a paved area to the south. The only part of the Temple shown on the map which survives today as an intact building is the central block of the north range.
- 10.2.4 The first edition 25" Ordnance Survey Map of 1881 shows a structure with essentially the same footprint as that on the 1838 map but this map gives a clearer indication of its form (Fig. 15). The most significant aspect is that the southern half of the structure is clearly shown with a glazed roof and was presumably a large conservatory/glass house. The north half is shown as having a solid roof. The next two available maps (a sales particulars map of 1887 and an Ordnance Survey map of 1920; Figs 7 and 16) each show the Temple the same as the earlier maps with the southern half clearly a large glazed structure and the northern half a single T-shaped block with a solid roof. The fact that these maps show no dividing lines between the three parts of the northern building (i.e. the existing temple and the two previous side ranges) suggests that they were all beneath a single roof or at least that the roofs were of similar height and slope. It suggests that the two ranges to either side of the existing temple were not small leanto's with roofs sloping towards the north but were taller structures with roofs sloping towards the sides following the slope of the main roof. These later maps (especially the 1887 sale map) clearly show the garden context of the building, with the southern front facing (as it does today) onto an open glade, and the Temple fronting onto a woodland path.
- 10.2.5 The next Ordnance Survey Map of 1935 shows that by this date the glazed southern half had been taken down but the T-shaped northern half survived intact (Fig. 17). A set of sales particulars dated 1921 provides a description of parts of the garden and makes no clear mention of the temple. However it provides a detailed description of a number of glasshouses in a walled Frame Yard (detailed further below) and it may be that the glazed Temple Greenhouse was included in this section. The most likely structure referred to is a *spacious Palm House*.

## Description

10.2.6 The existing Temple is a small rectangular plan structure with a cross wall towards the centre which creates two small separate rooms with open faces to north and south. It has a slate covered gabled roof.

#### *Northern Elevation* (Figs 18 to 20; Plates 1, 2 and 4)

- 10.2.7 The northern elevation is the grander face with a stone portico supported by four Ionic columns (Plate 2). The portico has a relatively plain entablature and pediment with moulded stone cornice. Immediately in front of the portico is a small stair with two steps flanked by a pedestal on either side. The portico is on a raised base and this is partially enclosed by side walls which project from the rear wall for half the depth of the portico. These side walls, together with the rear wall, are clad in a hard twentieth-century render with horizontal bands presumably designed to give the impression of rusticated stonework. Render was removed from two small areas and this revealed that the bands are formed with plain roof tiles applied to the original brickwork and then rendered over. These faces have clearly been fully reworked in the twentieth century.
- 10.2.8 The ceiling within the northern portico is of modern plywood, but some fragmentary parts of a primary plaster cornice survive. A small hole was cut within the ceiling to allow an assessment to be made of the roof structure and this revealed that the roof timbers within this part of the building are entirely of modern softwood, suggesting that this section of roof has probably been rebuilt in the last 30 years (Plate 4).
- 10.2.9 The ceiling joists are fixed to the walls with galvanised metal joist shoes and they are structurally independent from the rafters, although probably of the same date. At the south end of this roof space is the primary brick cross wall which continues up the full height of the temple. Within this wall are 10 empty joist sockets just above the height of the modern ceiling and these are presumably from the previous ceiling. However, these sockets are almost certainly secondary, having been chiselled out of the existing brickwork rather than the bricks having been laid around the joist hole if they had been primary. In addition to this the cross wall has historic (probably primary) plaster extending up the full height of the wall above the joist sockets and therefore above the ceiling. A roof space would not have been plastered and this suggests that there would not originally have been a flat ceiling in this area. Slightly contradicting this is the fact that the other three walls are not plastered above the ceiling and show no clear evidence of having been plastered. It may be that there was some form of a coved or sloped ceiling which hid the north, west and east walls but abutted the higher south wall.
- 10.2.10 The rear face of the pediment is of brick but there is a step within this brickwork which follows the slope of the roof but c.15 cm below it. This suggests that there would originally have been a rafter within this step and the original roof line would have been slightly lower than that currently existing.
- 10.2.11 As mentioned above there were formerly side ranges which projected to east and west from the northern portico (Plate 2). These would presumably have provided storage and shed space. Historic maps show that these had solid roofs, which suggests that they shared the same (or similar) roof line as the main temple. On each side of the temple where these ranges would have been the walls are of bare brickwork, and the outline of a former building appears to be indicated on each by a band of hard modern cement render immediately below the eaves. This band may cover a series of rafter sockets from the former side ranges or other evidence of how these ranges abutted the temple. At its southern end each horizontal band of render drops down in a vertical strip to each of the surviving brick walls which formerly divided the side ranges from the glasshouse. These vertical strips are thin and suggest that the upper part of these walls, up to the single pitched roof, were more slender than the main brick wall below and may have been a stud frame. The lower part of the wall may have been thicker as it had to support one side of the conservatory.
- 10.2.12 At the east end of the eastern projecting wall there is a northward return which provides a clearer indication of the former building, but the western wall of the west side range

no longer survives. There is however a scar on the north face of the west wall to indicated where the wall formerly was and the ground base of the former building. This base is of secondary concrete set over the primary brick base. On the west side of temple, adjacent to this building base, is the low imprint from a small former lean-to the top of which rested on the existing brick wall. This lean-to would have been a small secondary addition constructed after the demolition of the larger primary ranges.

10.2.13 One feature of some significance is a small flue at the south-east corner of the former side range to the east (Plate 1). The brickwork surrounding the flue is largely a twentieth-century rebuild but at the bottom of the flue is a small iron lined opening (25 cm x 19 cm) in the west face of the stack. The opening has now been infilled with brick but the wrought iron lining survives together with two hinges presumably from a small former door. It may be that a small firebox could be inserted into the hole to provide some warmth and possibly guard against frosts within the glasshouse.

**Southern Elevation** (Figs 18 to 20; Plates 3 and 5)

- 10.2.14 The southern face of the temple is plainer and has clearly been more altered since its original construction. It consists of two free-standing Ionic columns which, together with two plain rendered pilasters, support a plain pediment with simple recessed panel (Plate 3). The pediment, columns and pilasters are in line with the rest of this face of the temple. The pediment is fully covered with a hard twentieth-century render which hides its original form together with a modern softwood bargeboard. Both the render and bargeboard were presumably added after the glasshouse was taken down and they probably hide evidence such as sockets showing how the glasshouse roof was fixed to the existing temple. To either side of the south face of the temple are brick flanking walls covered in hard render which would have formed the rear wall of the greenhouse.
- 10.2.15 The small south-facing room of the temple is semi-circular in plan with two small semi-circular alcoves towards each corner. The walls of this room are all covered in a hard twentieth-century render, but a small section of this was removed from within the eastern alcove and this revealed primary brickwork behind. The floor is of primary stone slabs and within this are two small drainage channels in a double curve layout meeting at a small iron lined sump towards the rear of the room (Plate 5). The channel is presumably from when the southern room was part of a large conservatory filled with exotic plants and the channels would have drained away excess water from watering the plants.
- 10.2.16 The ceiling above the southern room is of twentieth century plywood but a primary plaster cornice partially survives. A small rump of what appears to have been a larger moulded cornice survives in patches but in some areas this has been replaced by a similar secondary cornice in twentieth century pink plaster. A section of the modern ceiling was removed in the current works to allow an assessment to be made of the roof structure above and this revealed substantially more of the primary structure surviving in this part of the building than in the northern roof space. There is a small king-post truss which forms the south gable with modern render applied to a chicken wire mesh fixed to the south face of the truss. The truss appears to be of Pine (probably Baltic Pine) and comprises a king post with joggled head, pegged raking struts, principal rafters and tie beam. There is a single purlin to each slope tenoned to the truss with a single peg. The truss is typical for the early nineteenth century. The fact that there is a primary truss at the south end confirms that there would not originally have been a stone gable at this location similar to that at the north end of the temple. The render is modern and possibly replaced primary lath and plaster. This would have been within, or facing immediately onto the conservatory.
- 10.2.17 The rafters are largely twentieth-century replacements but there appears to be several older, possibly primary, reused rafters. A second (and secondary) purlin has been added to the backs of each the two primary purlin when the roof was re-covered and

- substantially rebuilt in the twentieth century. This has had the effect of slightly raising the roof profile.
- 10.2.18 The north face of the full-height cross wall dividing the north roof from the south is of bare primary brickwork with short primary raking struts constructed within it supporting the purlins. Access was limited but at least two primary north-south ceiling joists survive in-situ.

## Former conservatory (Fig. 18)

- 10.2.19 Historic maps show conclusively that there was formerly a large T-shaped conservatory over the raised paved area immediately south of the Temple. It is impossible to know with certainty what form the conservatory took but some limited evidence does survive. The most significant is a series of cut-off iron bases from former posts around the edge of the base of the former conservatory. Each iron base is c.1.2 m apart and is set on a small horizontal base. Between each of these bases the edge of the stone blocks are gently sloped presumably to drain water away from vertical glazed panels above. The cut-off iron bases are of square section and were presumably part of the primary greenhouse structure. However they give little clear indication of the details of the structure such as whether it was fully iron framed and how the glazing was fixed to the posts. Many of the iron posts have been covered by twentieth-century paving slabs so in some areas the analysis of the former layout is conjectural.
- 10.2.20 From the available evidence and knowledge of contemporary structures it is most likely that the glasshouse would have comprised three ranges: a north-south range that continued the line of the existing temple roof and two slightly lower projections to east and west with gabled (or possibly hipped) ends. A small gable would have projected to the south at the current location of the steps and at the centre of this would have been the entrance. The projection with the steps, and therefore the former width of this part of the glasshouse is the same width as the existing gable of the temple.
- 10.2.21 If it was constructed in the very early nineteenth century as part of Repton's landscaping then it is more likely to have been at least partially (possibly largely) timber framed and of relatively simple design but incorporating some ironwork such as the cut-off posts. The technical advances that allowed fully cast-iron framed glasshouses with large elaborate designs were towards the middle of the nineteenth century. Among these were Joseph Paxton's famous conservatory at Chatsworth (1844), the Palm House at Kew (1844-48) and the Crystal Palace (1851).

## Discussion of the Temple/Conservatory

- 10.2.22 The current building investigation has shed significant new light on the historic form of the Temple and should provide a useful guide to the restoration of the garden.
- 10.2.23 Historic maps show conclusively that on the south face of the Temple was a large glasshouse, on the existing raised paved area, with a short southward projection over the current short set of steps. Regularly spaced cut-off iron posts suggest the glasshouse was at least partially of iron construction and sloped stone sills between the posts appear to indicate the location of glazed vertical panels above. Other clear evidence of the former use of the greenhouse is apparent in the surviving drainage channels in the floor which would have been necessary to allow water to drain from the exotic plants.
- 10.2.24 The most likely roof form would be a relatively simple pitched roof with two east-west ranges off the main north-south range and with the northern side of the roof resting on the surviving brick walls either side of the temple. Map evidence suggests an early nineteenth-century date for the structure and a glasshouse of this type would be typical for this period.
- 10.2.25 The northern half of the structure had a solid (probably slate) roof and there were two ranges either side of the surviving temple. Historic maps show a single roof over the

side ranges and temple suggesting that they shared the same roof line and this is supported by bare brick sides of the temple with the apparent rendered outline of tall former adjoining structures.

### 10.3 George V Memorial Gardens (Plate 7)

10.3.1 The walls of the George V Memorial Gardens are located to the south-west of Canons Park House and to the south of the temple. They are listed Grade II and are probably in part contemporary with the mid eighteenth-century house, and later altered. They were originally kitchen gardens for the house but were converted in 1937 to memorial gardens to George V.

## Historic map evidence

10.3.2 The 1800 map shows a walled garden in the general location of the George V Memorial Garden (Fig. 5) but it is over twice the size of the current garden and extended slightly further to the west, and substantially further to the south. This concurs with the evidence of the fragmentary plan of 1729. The walled garden is shown with its current outline on the Tithe map (1838), the first edition Ordnance Survey Map (1881) and a Sales Particulars Map of 1887 (Figs 6, 7 and 15). Each of these shows what appears to be a circular pond towards the centre of the garden and the two later maps show a regular arrangement of paths and beds. There are three doorways shown: at the centre of the south and west walls and at the east end of the north wall. The 1920 and 1935 OS maps each show the outline of the garden intact, together with the circular pond but the internal layout is not detailed suggesting the garden may have become disused (Figs 16 and 17).

## Description

- 10.3.3 The George V Memorial Garden is rectangular in plan and is fully enclosed on all four sides by a 3-4 m high brick wall (Plate 7). The current layout of the garden, which dates to the 1937 redesign, comprises a sunken garden with a circular pond surrounded by a walkway at higher level.
- 10.3.4 The north wall is constructed of red bricks (23 cm x 6 cm) laid in Flemish bond with white mortar and comprises regularly spaced piers (63 cm wide) and a plinth (70 cm tall) on the internal face. There are two large entrance piers with stone cappings at the centre of the north wall which until recently flanked a gateway but the gates themselves have been stolen. The gates and entrance were inserted in the 1937 redesign of the garden. The inner face of the north wall was lime plastered (pre-dating 1937) and parts of this survive, particularly to the western half of the wall. The wall is largely hidden by thick vegetation but it is largely of single phase construction (eighteenth century) although parts have been re-pointed and other small areas patched up. At the eastern end of the wall there is a primary doorway (now blocked) beneath segmental brick arch and a pathway is shown to this point on the 1887 Sales Particulars map.
- 10.3.5 The northern end of the west wall (1-2 m), where it adjoins the north wall, is secondary and is constructed of later brickwork (possibly late nineteenth/early twentieth century) hard mortar and is without plaster. However the rest of the west wall is primary Flemish bond brick and it strongly appears to be of the same date as the north wall. The only difference is that there is that there is no plinth in the west wall and the piers extend down to the ground.
- 10.3.6 The south wall is again essentially contemporary with the other walls and its west corner is keyed into the west wall although immediately to the east of this is a substantial patch of rebuild. The south wall has full height buttresses to the north face with two steps towards the base, but no buttresses on the south face. It has two doorways towards its mid-point, each one beneath segmental arches, although the jambs

- and arch appear to be rebuilt and they each probably date to the 1937 works. The nineteenth-century maps show a pathway to a single central opening within this wall.
- 10.3.7 The south end of the east wall extends beyond the line of the south wall and its top slopes in a manner suggesting that there may have been lean-tos (possibly glasshouses) against the south wall. This is also suggested by a clear band in the brickwork of the south wall. The upper six courses (particularly towards the eastern end) are much more weathered than the lower part of the wall and the upper part has also been re-pointed unlike the lower brickwork. In the western half of the wall there appears to be two bands with the same upper courses more weathered but also a further faint band across the lower third. There are no glass houses or other lean-tos shown on any of the historic maps against the south wall.
- 10.3.8 The south wall abuts the east wall and must be of a later date but the brickwork and mortar all appears to be of broadly the same date and the straight joint probably results from a small area of rebuild. The east wall is again essentially primary with construction the same as the north wall but towards the centre of the wall a large section has been partially rebuilt with four new piers to allow the construction of a pavilion in the 1937 redesign. A concrete pier has been added to the outer face of the east wall towards its south end but to either side of this the brickwork is again primary.

#### Discussion

10.3.9 The George V Memorial Gardens were constructed as the main walled kitchen garden to serve the house. Although some areas have been repaired the main brickwork strongly appears to be of no later than mid eighteenth century date, as if contemporary with the existing house constructed in the 1750s by William Hallet. This is in contrast with the evidence of the 1800 Phipps plan which shows a larger kitchen garden (Fig. 5), with walls further to the west and south, but all four walls strongly appear to be essentially of the same date, and so may be from a nineteenth-century phase. There are areas of repair and rebuild and the largest of these is to the east wall associated with the construction of the pavilion in 1937 as part of the works to create the existing memorial gardens.

#### 10.4 Walled Frame Yard (Plate 6)

10.4.1 The second walled garden included in the current study is immediately south-west of the Temple. It is again of eighteenth-century date, is listed Grade II, and was described in a set of sales particulars as the Walled Frame Yard.

#### Historic map evidence

- 10.4.2 The yard is shown with its current outline both on the fragmentary estate map of 1729, and on the 1800 Phipps plan. The yard would therefore appear to be a surviving element of the original George London garden layout, and retained in subsequent landscaping works. It is shown with the same outline on the Tithe Map (1838), first edition OS map (1881) and Sales Particulars map (1887) but each one shows a slightly different arrangement of structures within the yard (Figs 6, 7 and 15). The 1838 map shows a long range along the north-east wall and a small detached structure at the north end of the wall. There are further ranges along the south-west wall and the north-west wall. The 1887 Sales Particulars map shows the same four buildings as the earlier map but there is a further free-standing east-west range with a small northern projection. This map, unlike the earlier one, shows that the long ranges to the north-west and northeast together with the free-standing ranges are all glass roofed while the other ranges all had solid roofs.
- 10.4.3 The 1920 map shows the same structures largely still existing but a further two glasshouses had been constructed against the south-east wall projecting towards the

- north-west. However the 1935 map suggests that by that date the glasshouses had been largely cleared away and the only buildings within the yard are the small solid roofed structure at the northern corner and the longer building against the south-west wall (Fig. 17; Plate 6).
- 10.4.4 The most useful piece of documentary evidence relating to the yard, other than the maps, are a set of Sales Particulars of 1921 which describe parts of the gardens including the Walled Frame Yard. It describes it as having brick and slated Tool Shed, Potting Shed, Fruit Store, heated Greenhouse about 48ft by 21 ft; Vinery 48 ft by 20 ft; lean-to Carnation House, 42 ft by 12 ft; Peach House; brick and slated bothy; three-quarter span Vinery, in four sections, 78 ft long, spacious Palm House. Although the description doesn't specify where this walled frame yard is from comparing the description with the contemporary maps it must relate to the walled area south-west of the temple. As detailed above it may be that one of the structures referred to (possibly the Palm House) is in fact the separate greenhouse that at this date was attached to the Temple.

#### Description

- 10.4.5 The walled frame yard is an irregularly shaped five-sided area with eighteenth-century brick walls c.2.5 3 m high. It is now partially overgrown and currently used as a park works/storage yard, the walls being partially obscured behind thick vegetation and several later twentieth-century prefabricated sheds.
- 10.4.6 The north wall has a 2 m wide patch of rebuild towards its mid-point with modern brickwork and the rest of the wall has been heavily re-pointed. At it's east end the short north wall abuts the north-east wall with a right-angled corner while at its west end it forms a shallow angle with the north-west wall. This angle is formed with special angled bricks. The north-west wall has full height piers.
- 10.4.7 The south-east wall is essentially of primary brick but with patches of rebuild and repointing on the inner face. The outer face has piers and a low plinth and has been heavily re-pointed. The lower half of the west wall is of Flemish bond but the upper half is of English bond suggesting that the wall has been raised to match the other walls.
- 10.4.8 Although each of the glasshouses within the yard were lost in the first half of the twentieth century there is some evidence on the walls of where they were formerly located and what form they took. There is hard cement render on the inner face of the north-west wall corresponding with the conservatory shown on each of the historic maps and also cement render on the southern half of the south-east wall also from a lean-to shown on historic maps. The rendered outline of two glass houses formerly against the south-east wall are visible, each one with a roof profile of two inclined sides and a flat top.
- 10.4.9 The inner face of the south-west wall is of heavily patched bare brick but on its external side there is a partially surviving single storey brick range with slate-covered pitched roof which is shown on each of the historic maps including the 1838 map. The north end of the range has been lost and a wide opening created in the yard wall but the southern two-thirds is essentially intact, with patches of rebuild, and is possibly primary (late eighteenth/early nineteenth century). The surviving range consists of four rooms: the northern room was locked and no access was possible; the two central rooms are accessible from a doorway in the east wall and the southern room was accessible from a door in the southern wall outside the yard. There are S-shaped iron tie-bar plates to the east elevation and a partially surviving 'truss' in the second room from the north. This 'truss' is very simple consisting of little more than a tie-beam with iron strap at each end nailed to the beam and extending through the wall to the S-shaped tie plate. A block and simple purlin rest of the tie-bar towards its west end which support the

common rafters. An off-centre vertical post supports a ridge piece. The rafters are of secondary softwood. Early twentieth-century iron framed windows (crittal type) have been inserted into the east wall and the floor is a concrete slab. There is a primary brick cross-wall between the southernmost room and the small adjacent room to the north. There is a primary tie-beam within it and iron straps to S-shaped tie-plates on the external walls. The southern gabled wall is timber framed of rough quality with old softwood studs and old nails. It is likely to be of earlier nineteenth-century date.

10.4.10 The floor of the yard is now largely covered with secondary concrete but a small section of a brick footing survives within the floor which probably remains from to the north side of the free-standing glasshouse shown on the historic maps. The current later twentieth-century buildings in the yard included two sheds with light-weight concrete panel walls and an asbestos roof and an abandoned iron site hut.

#### Discussion

10.4.11 Although parts of the Walled Frame Yard have been rebuilt or heavily patched up and the whole area is currently little more than a derelict dumping ground it is a significant surviving fragment of the early eighteenth-century garden and is deserving of conservation. The former glasshouses that the walls enclosed have been lost but an historic single- storey shed does survive which may date to the original construction of the area in the later eighteenth century.

#### 11 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

## 11.1 Reliability of field investigation

11.1.1 The programme of archaeological investigative techniques employed for this study were designed in order to provide an integrated and detailed examination and understanding of the development of the parkland landscape and its current state of survival. This information being required in order to provide an informed basis for the strategies to be adopted in the proposed reinstatement works. The areas of archaeological intervention were determined according to the requirements of a brief produced by Scott Wilson Resource Consultants (2003).

#### **Overall Summary of results**

11.2.1 The desk-based assessment, targeted evaluation and survey work undertaken within the park has provided a more detailed assessment of its development and its archaeological potential. Additionally it has also allowed for an accurate record of surviving garden features/deposits/structures to be made in areas where restoration works are proposed to be undertaken.

#### Pre-Eighteenth Century Activity

- 11.2.2 The desk-based assessment has identified the potential for earlier occupation and activity to be present on the site dating from the prehistoric period onward. Such early activity predominantly relates to the presence of Roman tile and pottery manufacturing industries situated within, and adjacent, to the park, due to its close proximity to Watling Street, a former major Roman road leading from London to St Albans.
- 11.2.3 In the medieval period Canons Park lay within the manor of Stanmore, later forming part of the estate holdings of the priory of St Bartholomew's from which the name 'Canons' is thought to have derived. It would appear that much of the area occupied by the park during this period was in agricultural use, probably remaining so, as suggested by cartographic evidence, until the creation of the formal parkland in the early eighteenth century. St Lawrence's Church is known however to date from the medieval period.

- 11.2.4 The archaeological assessment undertaken within the Park has identified the presence of a number of features that appear to represent surviving elements of the relict medieval/early post medieval landscape. These are predominantly focused toward the southern end of the Park and comprise fragmentary remains of former field boundaries and a probable track/hollow way leading north westward from the church. The park therefore does have the potential to contain further evidence relating to former medieval/early post medieval activity and land-use.
- 11.2.5 The park is further noted to have contained a former Elizabethan manor house, believed to have been sited within the George V Memorial Gardens. No direct evidence currently exists to support this assumption and as such its provenance remains uncertain.

#### The Chandos House and Park

- 11.2.6 There can be little doubt that the person responsible for the design of the lavish gardens and parkland laid out at Canons for the Duke of Chandos was George London of the metropolitan firm of London and Wise. The parkland as originally conceived, and as shown later by Rocque's map of 1754 (Fig. 4), conforms to both the garden style and approach that hallmarks a George London design. There is clear documentary evidence for London's involvement, and there is no reason to suppose that William Kent had any part in the scheme. If Kent had been concerned (beyond his known painting activity at Canons) the only possible source of information would be the family papers in California, and it might be expected that a reference there would already have been noticed.
- 11.2.7 Much of the former features that made up London's grand design no longer survive within the parkland landscape today. However, a small number of key elements of the originally designed and executed parkland do survive both as relict features and as lasting influences on the wider landscape surrounding the much reduced municipal parkland that today forms Canons Park.
- 11.2.8 Primarily within the present park itself are the remains of the tree and pond lined north to south aligned Whitchurch Avenue that led from the house to St Lawrence's Church. This avenue is thought to have served as an access route for the Duke from his house to the church. Survey conducted along the avenue by Scott Wilson in 2003 demonstrated that along its length the raised embankment of the avenue narrows, interestingly at a point where both an earlier former track/hollow way (identified through aerial photographic analysis) and field boundary appear to intersect across the site.
- 11.2.9 Trenches excavated across the avenue indicate that the embankment was constructed using dumped deposits of gravel and flint pebbles. The materials used and the manner of its construction do however vary between the excavated trenches, undoubtedly reflecting the discrepancy in the width and character of the avenue recorded by the survey. The northern section of the avenue (Trench 1) was both wider and higher than that recorded to the south and it appears to have been constructed using a dump of gravel, the core of which was supported on each side by a lime mortar deposit. Further gravel surfacing appears to have been used on the avenue, although it is unclear if this formed a surface to the embankment, or whether it was allowed to grass over. The northern section of the avenue also appears to have associated drainage either side of the embankment. The recorded profile of the trench (Trench 2) excavated across the southern end of the avenue indicates a much simpler method of construction consisting of a dumped deposit of flint pebbles over a prepared surface. The southern embankment also produced no evidence of any associated drainage. This lack of drainage possibly accounting for the water-logging often experienced at this end of the avenue today.
- 11.2.10 The evidence recorded by both survey and trenching may suggest that the avenue was constructed in two sections, rather than being built in a single episode. As noted above, the change in the character and form of the avenue appears to occur at a point where it

intersects an earlier field boundary and track/hollow way, and it may be suggested that the land in which the southern part of the avenue now lies may have needed to be acquired after the more northerly section of the avenue had been constructed. The more reduced nature of the southern avenues construction may suggest that resources or funds to construct this section of the avenue may have dwindled. The possibility that later disturbance or repair to the avenue may have occurred can not be overlooked, and it may equally be this later disturbance that creates the discrepancy recorded within the trenches.

- 11.2.11 The tree alignments that accompanied the Whitchurch Avenue also survive as raised earthen banks, within which a number of surviving mature oak trees are thought to represent relicts of the original planting scheme. Examination of this alignment was undertaken in order to determine whether the location of former planting could be ascertained to enable the restoration of the tree alignments to their original form. The survey conducted identified surviving features indicative of the locations of former planting. These appear to conform to a spatial arrangement of approximately 6 m to 7 m between trees. Historic reference documents that the trees were arranged *c*.18 feet apart (approximately 5.5 m) and the close correspondence between this measurement and that recorded by the survey provides a relatively high degree of confidence that the spatial measurements provided by the survey would allow for the former planting arrangement to be reinstated.
- 11.2.12 Only one of the two former ponds located at the southern end of the Whitchurch Avenue still survives as an extant earthwork. The full character of the surviving remains of the western pond could not be ascertained due to the high density of undergrowth within it. No surviving above ground evidence for the former location of the opposing eastern pond of the avenue was observed.
- 11.2.13 The Grade II Listed Frame Yard is also likely to be a contemporary feature of the early eighteenth century Park, as indicated on the *c*.1729 estate plan. This is originally thought to have formed the area known as the Melon Ground that was associated with the nursery or kitchen garden situated to the south of the house (and would have contained glass frames for hot beds). This feature appears to have been retained intact despite later alteration and adaptation of the Park over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- 11.2.14 Other surviving elements of the original parkland design are represented today by the survival of a wooded strip on the western side of the Park that previously formed part of the Stanmore Avenue, the lake situated to the north east of the North London Collegiate School, and the pond, referred to on historic mapping as 'The Basin'. The Basin today is incorporated as part of Canons Drive, but it originally formed part of the Edgeware Avenue that served as the main access route to the house. The alignment of Edgeware Avenue and its original gate piers remain preserved today in the later orientation of Canons Drive to the east of the present park. To the north-west of the mansion house the small north pond and outline of the north stable yard also survive among later school buildings.

## The Later Eighteenth-Century Gardens

11.2.15 It would appear from both cartographic and historical documentary sources that very little of the original parkland landscape created by the Duke of Chandos was changed following the sale of the estate to William Hallett around 1753. It is clear however that by 1800 much of the area of the park situated to the north of the former house had been transformed with the formal parterre having been removed on the north and east sides. This was entirely consistent with the general destruction of formal gardens and the creation of a 'natural' landscape in the immediate environs of country houses.

11.2.16 It would appear that the creation of a pleasure garden had already commenced in the area of the kitchen garden to the south-west of the mansion house, though this was later to be extended.

# The influence of Repton

- 11.2.17 The presently surviving Pleasure Garden and Temple within Canons Park, located immediately to the north of the George V Memorial Garden, form part of landscape alterations probably designed by Humphry Repton in the early nineteenth century, and commissioned by the prominent lawyer and solicitor general Sir Thomas Plummer who then owned the estate. Repton's intended visit is recorded in 1816, but no further evidence has been found for his involvement apart from the character of the garden layout. The new design included an open planted landscape over the entire west court area of the house, removing the previously enclosed walled garden. The former Melon Ground, now defined by the surviving walled Frame Yard, appears to have been retained, and was utilised as an area containing a number of glass houses.
- 11.2.18 The Temple structure constructed within this picturesque garden appears to have served two separate, yet specific, functions. The northward facing facade of the Temple appears likely to have served as a seating area from which vistas across the newly created grounds situated to the west of the house could be both appreciated and admired (by the 1870s this was a wooded glade). The southward facing facade of the Temple appears to have been utilised as a glass house or possible palm house (by the 1870s looking across a lawn with evergreen trees).
- 11.2.19 The Temple structure was connected with the rest of the Pleasure Gardens by a series of walkways. Topographical survey and test pitting results indicate that the partial remnants of at least one of these paths still survives, situated immediately to the north east of the Temple structure. The path is characterised by the presence of a raised low level earthwork, orientated north east to south west, that appears to have been surfaced using compacted gravel.
- 11.2.20 Additional low level earthworks were also identified around the base of the northern facade of the Temple. Test pitting in this location did not reveal any buried evidence for the remains of a stepped access into the Temple, although potential surfacing deposits around the north facade were indicated immediately adjacent to the north east corner of the facade. A precise interpretation of the earthworks recorded at the base of the northern facade remains somewhat ambiguous, although, it is possible that they relate to the construction of the Temples foundation, deposits of which were recorded by test pitting.
- 11.2.21 The test pit (Test pit 4) excavated within the raised platform of the southern facade of the Temple recorded deposits indicative of soil improvement (ash/cinder deposits and rubble drainage deposits) suggestive of horticultural activity within the structure. The presence of these deposits would support the interpretation of the use of the southern side of the Temple as a glass house. No clear evidence was recorded within the test pit to suggest that the structure had been utilised as a hot house.
- 11.2.22 The walled garden to south of these pleasure grounds, what is now defined by the George V Memorial Gardens, seems on map evidence to be no older than the Reptonian pleasure grounds (i.e. it was not present in 1800). Although the brick walls have the character and appearance of an eighteenth-century origin they must be of early nineteenth-century date, unless the Phipps plan of 1800 was erroneous which seems unlikely.

### Summary

11.2.23 The programme of documentary research, building survey and field survey has provided both a detailed account of the historic development of the parkland landscape and

- detailed information regarding surviving elements of the eighteenth and nineteenth century park. These results in conjunction with the results of the invasive archaeological interventions has provided significant information regarding the location, preservation, construction, and where possible development of this important parkland landscape.
- 11.2.24 The information provided through undertaking this archaeological programme of works has demonstrated the potential for future archaeological research of the site and has provided important information that can be used as a basis to informing the proposed restorations programme.

## 12 FURTHER INVESTIGATION/RESEARCH

- 12.1.1 Although a comprehensive examination of the development of the park has been undertaken, it is possible to identify a number of additional research and investigative objectives that could be considered as part of any future programme of historical analysis within the park. Future works would combine further documentary research with additional on-site field evaluation that would seek to provide information that would build upon the present understanding of the parks originally conceived design, its development and its current state of preservation. A number of potential additional research and investigative objectives that may be considered are presented below:
  - The implementation of an archaeological monitoring and recording action (watching brief) during restoration works along the length of the Whitchurch Avenue. The purpose of the watching brief being to provide additional information towards a greater understanding of the Avenues construction and development, specifically in consideration of the conclusions of the evaluation suggesting that the Avenue may have been constructed over two phases.
  - Additional targeted invasive works to fully characterise the ha-ha that survives at the northern end of the Whitchurch Avenue.
  - Additional topographic field survey undertaken at the southern end of the Whitchurch Avenue to provide greater clarity regarding the form, function and extent of extant earthworks identified in this area. This may further be supplemented by targeted invasive works that would seek to clarify the date of features and serve to substantiate the location of the two ponds that are shown to have been constructed at the southern end of the Whitchurch Avenue.
  - Further detailed research needs to be undertaken that considers the entire former parkland area, this would include the area under the ownership of the NLCS. This research would seek to assess the physical remains of all elements of the London and Wise formal gardens (whether visible or not), both within the Park and NLCS area, and is likely to require the need to undertake non-invasive geophysical survey to try and determine the survival and location of non extant elements. Such a programme of work would allow for a review of the accuracy of David Jacques' conjectural plan of the gardens at Cannons, presented in conference proceedings, to be assessed.
  - A similar process to that stated above could also be implemented within the 'Repton' Pleasure Gardens to review their reinstatement in relation to historic mapping.
  - The implementation of an archaeological monitoring and recording action (watching brief) during the period of any restorative building works undertaken on the Temple, Walled Garden and Frame Yard to provide further information regarding the date, character and phasing of the buildings.

- A wider assessment and consideration of the remains of all the estate buildings that would include the north service court of the NLCS area.
- Further consultation of material held in Huntingdon Library, from which some very extensive research has recently been done for Stow Park.
- The production of a systematic and comprehensive listing of material that relates directly to the Cannons Estate, which should further include reference to material which also relates indirectly.
- The corpus of information produced by this study should form the basis of a publication documenting the historical development of the whole parkland landscape.

Oxford Archaeology
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# **Appendix 1: Canons Park Gazetteer**

OA No.	Source	Description
1	NIMID TO 10 CE 0	St.Lawrence Church, Little Stanmore – earliest fabric dates to c.1450 –
1	NMR TQ 19 SE 8 SMR 220889	Roman tile incorporated within its fabric. – On the site of an earlier building first mentioned in 1130.
2	TQ 19 SE 13 & 19 SMR 052161 & 081849	Banks and ditches possible representing site of pre-Roman settlement – excavations revealed both Belgic and pre-Claudian pottery. Also eastern continuation of Grim's Ditch in this area. Also evidence for 1 <sup>st</sup> century kilns. Many investigations and chance finds in the area of Brockley Hill which has lead to the area being interpreted as being the site of the Roman settlement of <i>Sulloniacae</i>
3	TQ 19 SE 28 SMR 221925	St. Margaret's Church, Edgware – earliest date of 15 <sup>th</sup> century. Contains Roman tile within its fabric – formed the medieval nucleus of Edgware – first mentioned in 12 <sup>th</sup> century in association with Knights Hospitaller.
4	TQ 19 SE 29 SMR 081948	Flint pick found in 1951 dating to Mesolithic Period
5	TQ 19 SE 32 SMR 052018	Small rectangular enclosure with opening towards Watling Street, now built over
6	TQ 19 SE 33 SMR 081946	Many Roman sherds and tile pieces found
7	TQ 19 SE 35 SMR 081900	Roman and medieval pottery and bones found
8	TQ 19 SE 36 SMR 081908	A group of 2 <sup>nd</sup> century Roman urn burials and other material found including quern stone during excavations in 1953 – found originally during ploughing.
9	TQ 19 SE 37	A Roman settlement site containing finds of Romano-British and pottery dating to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> century. Also found was a Bronze Age bucket urn and Iron Age pottery
10	TQ 19 SE 40 SMR 081896	Earthen bank – possible pond bay of possible medieval date. Roman tile has been found in the vicinity
11	TQ 19 SE 41 SMR 052055, & 05205501	Possible site of moated manor house of Abbot John of St.Albans (1235-60)
12	NMR 647734 SMR 052145	Laid floor of black vitrified tile – probably Roman, observed during auger survey used to locate extent of Roman Waster dump
13	908912	Excavations across the Roman Road by DGLA north
14	1036309 SMR 052550	Excavations across Roman Road by MOLAS – found road, flanking ditch, bank, - evidence that road in use till the 4 <sup>th</sup> century, slag, bone and millstone fragments found
15	1037733 SMR 052417	Excavations across Roman Road – no archaeological deposits
16	1063533 SMR 052693	Excavations revealed Roman occupation from 1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> centuries and ditch and post-medieval trackway – see also OA 5
17	1139088 SMR 054257	Excavations revealed medieval tenement and field boundary and post-medieval features
18	1150632 SMR 052532	Salvage recording of development groundworks revealed no significant features or finds apart from oolitic limestone used as field drain packing and derived from earlier buildings of unknown date.
19	1151454	Salvage recording of a trench dug on the site of a Roman tile kiln in 1988 – no further info-
20	SMR 052159	3 Saxon sherds found in approximate location
21	SMR 052033	Part of the area of tiles and wasters investigated in this area. Spread thought to extend c. 40m west and c.15 metres east – assumed that kiln nearby.
22	SMR 052034	OS mentions that a Roman watch tower stood on Brockley Hill until 1795 – parts of it were said to be then used in the construction of the rustic bridge at Stanmore Hall
23	SMR 052067	Medieval manor house thought to be located here – rebuilt 3 times. 18 <sup>th</sup> century brick kiln also in this area – known as 'Canons'
24	SMR 052090-1	Montagues & Fiddles- medieval head tenements

25	SMR 052096	Site of old vicarage from 1244 with orchard and garden – replaced on different site in 1832.
26	SMR 052129	Site of early settlement in Great Stanmore around church and manor which had decayed and moved north by c.1600 – not known why
27	SMR 081943	Fragment of axe of either Neolithic or Bronze Age date.
28	SMR 052153	Watling Street – Roman Road from the Channel Ports to St.Albans and beyond, via London.
29	SR 052231	A bridge has stood where Watling Street crosses the Edgware Brook since at least 1597
30	SMR 052233	Site of the Manor of Wimborough (SMR suggests name may derive from Wina's Hillfort) and was noted as a field name in 1276-7. Had become a separate estate by 1528, called a manor in 1540. Name dies out in 1753.
31	SMR 052234	A stone footbridge crossing the Stanburn at Water Lane – mentioned in 1576 and led to Stanmore Marsh.
32	SMR 052232	Approximate location of the manor of Stanmore Chenduit referred to in Little Stanmore in 1260-1 – comprised a court and 396 acres in 1276-7 and not recorded again – probably merged in 14 <sup>th</sup> century with St.Barts land. By 1538 Little Stanmore was known as Whitechurch, probably due to the colour of the church.
33	SMR 052239	Post-medieval brick and stone recorded in fallen tree hole – interpreted as early 19 <sup>th</sup> century builders dump.
34	SMR 052030	Bronze coin of Maxentius found 2ft down – SMR states that possibly part of a lost collection, rather than <i>in-situ</i>
35	numerous	Site of areas of kilns – kiln 6, kiln 11, 14, 13, 5, 12 dating to 1 <sup>st</sup> and early 2 <sup>nd</sup> century, also possibly part of a timber building
36	SMR 052871	SMR notes possible Roman Road between these two points.
37	SMR 054699	Evaluation revealed evidence from Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods
38	UDP	Archaeological Priority Area, London Borough of Harrow UDP (Adopted 1994), Policies E5 and E42-44
39	Historic map	Hedgerow, shown on Phipp's plan of 1800 as boundary between
	evidence/walkover	nursery/orchards and cultivated fields to west; continues to south as eroded
40	survey	earthwork hollow.
40	Historic map evidence/walkover survey	Intermittent bank on west edge of area denoted as 'The Shrubbery' on Tithe Map of 1838.
41	Historic map evidence/walkover survey	Building platform, shown on Tithe Map of 1838, building removed by 1887.
42	Historic map evidence/walkover survey	Partially sunken brick-faced feature, possible 'ha-ha' or canal, not shown on Tithe Map of 1838.
43	Historic map evidence/walkover survey	Terrace and tree lined path to east of the house, not shown on Tithe Map of 1838.
44	Historic map evidence/walkover survey	Location of pond depicted on Tithe Map of 1838, possibly of medieval origin.
45	Historic map evidence/walkover survey	Location of pond, known as 'The Basin'. Situated along Edgeware Avenue, now known as Canons Drive. Depicted on Rocque Map of 1754 and later maps.
46	Historic map evidence/walkover survey	Earthwork hollow possibly representing boundary between fields depicted on Tithe map of 1838 and referred to in 14th century documents.
47	Aerial photographic evidence	Parallel linear feature, identified as shallow earthwork on-site, shown to run on north-west to south-east alignment from hall and church at southern end of park. Appears to respect earlier field boundaries. Probable medieval track/holloway
48	Historic map evidence/walkover survey	Raised earthern platform forming Whitchurch Avenue
49	Historic map evidence/walkover survey	Earthern bank forming east and west tree alignments either side of Whitchurch Avenue

50	Aerial photographic	Linear feature, identified as shallow earthern bank on-site, thought to form
	evidence	part of continuation of relict field boundary of late medieval origin.
51	Aerial photographic	Linear feature, identified as shallow earthern bank on-site, thought to form
	evidence	part of continuation of relict field boundary of late medieval origin.
52	Historic map	Lake that formed part of original eighteenth century design of Canons Park
	evidence	

Appendix 2: Archaeological Context Inventory

	14	Layer		0.20	Topsoil	
Trench 1	15	Fill	1.0	0.50	Fill of drainage ditch 17	
	16	Pipe	0.20		Ceramic drain pipe	
	17	Cut	1	0.50	Drainage ditch	
	18	Fill	1.50	0.55	Fill of drainage ditch 20	
	19	Pipe	0.20		Ceramic drain pipe	
	20	Cut	1.50	0.55	Drainage ditch	
	21	Fill	1.20	0.70	Fill of pit 22	
	22	Cut	1.20	0.70	Pit	
	23	Layer	8.0	0.25	Gravel hogging	
	24	Layer	2.70	0.25	Hard core deposit	
	25	Layer	2.90	0.25	Hard core deposit	
	26	Layer	7.0	0.60	Gravel core of embankment	
	27	Layer		0.40	Redeposited clay silt with CBM inclusions	
	28	Layer			Natural clay geology	
	10	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	
Trench 2	11	Layer		0.40	Redeposited clay silt with CBM inclusions	
	12	Layer		0.50	Gravel core of embankment	
	13	Natural			Natural gravel	
Trial	5	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	
Pit 1	6	Layer		0.24	Compacted deposit of pebbles bonded in clay	
	7	Layer		0.12	Make-up layer	
	8	Layer		0.03	Redeposited clay silt	
	9	Structure		0.22	Brick foundation	
Trial Pit 2	1	Layer		0.16	Compacted deposit of pebbles bonded in clay	
	2	Layer		0.02	Topsoil	
	3	Layer		0.15	Make-up layer	

4 Layer 0.08 Redeposited clay silt
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Trench/ Trial Pit	Ctxt No	Туре	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds
Trial	29	Layer		0.05	Cobbled surface	
Pit 3	30	Layer		0.05	Topsoil	
	31	Layer		0.28	Redeposited natural and rubble make-up	
	32	Layer		0.05	Redeposited clay silt	
Trial	33	Layer		0.30	Garden soil	
Pit 4	34	Layer		0.07	Layer of ash and cinders	
	35	Layer		0.35	Make-up layer	
	36	Layer		0.34	Demolition layer	

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**Appendix 4: Summary of Site Details** 

Site name: Canons Park, Harrow

Site code: CPZ 03

Grid reference: TQ 435 880

Type of evaluation: Desk-based Assessment, Building Survey, Topographic Survey and

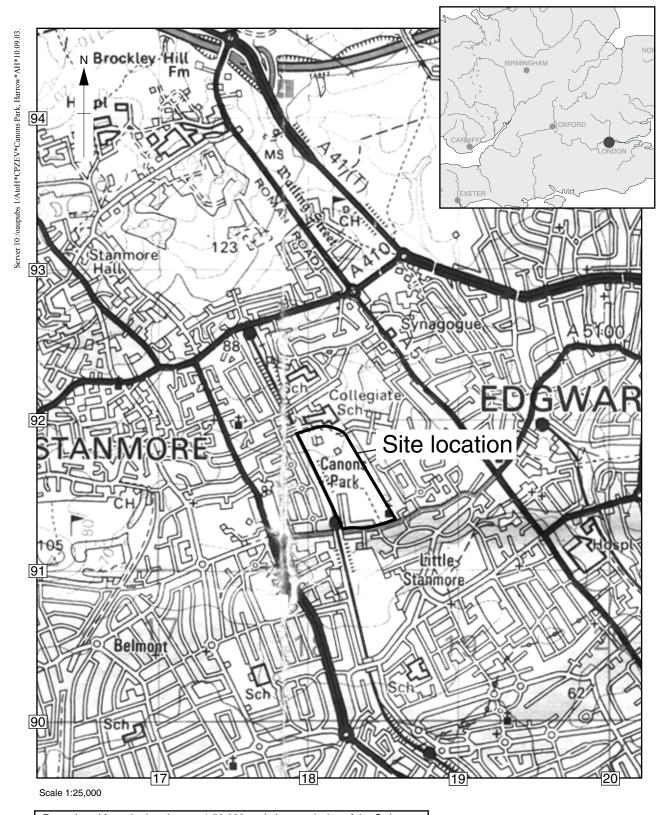
Trench/Test pit Evaluation.

**Date and duration of project:** July 2003; duration approximately 1 week.

Area of site: c. 15 ha

Summary of results: A programme of archaeological investigation, comprising desk-based assessment, field evaluation, topographical survey and building survey, was carried out by Oxford Archaeology (OA) on behalf of the London Borough of Harrow within Canons Park, Harrow. The purpose of the archaeological works was to provide further detail regarding the Parks archaeological potential and to record, where possible, surviving elements of the eighteenth century gardens and later nineteenth and twentieth century adaptations. The overall objective was to provide information regarding construction and state of preservation in order to inform a proposed programme of reinstatement. The desk-based investigations have identified that the area currently enclosed by the park has the potential to retain archaeological sites dating from the prehistoric period onwards. It has also provided a detailed assessment of the historic character and development of the parkland landscape and its current state of preservation. Detailed field survey, buildings survey and invasive evaluation, targeted on known surviving historic features and structures within the Park, has further provided detailed information regarding the survival, construction and development of the parkland landscape from the early eighteenth century onward.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Harrow Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: CPZ 03



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Figure 1: Site location

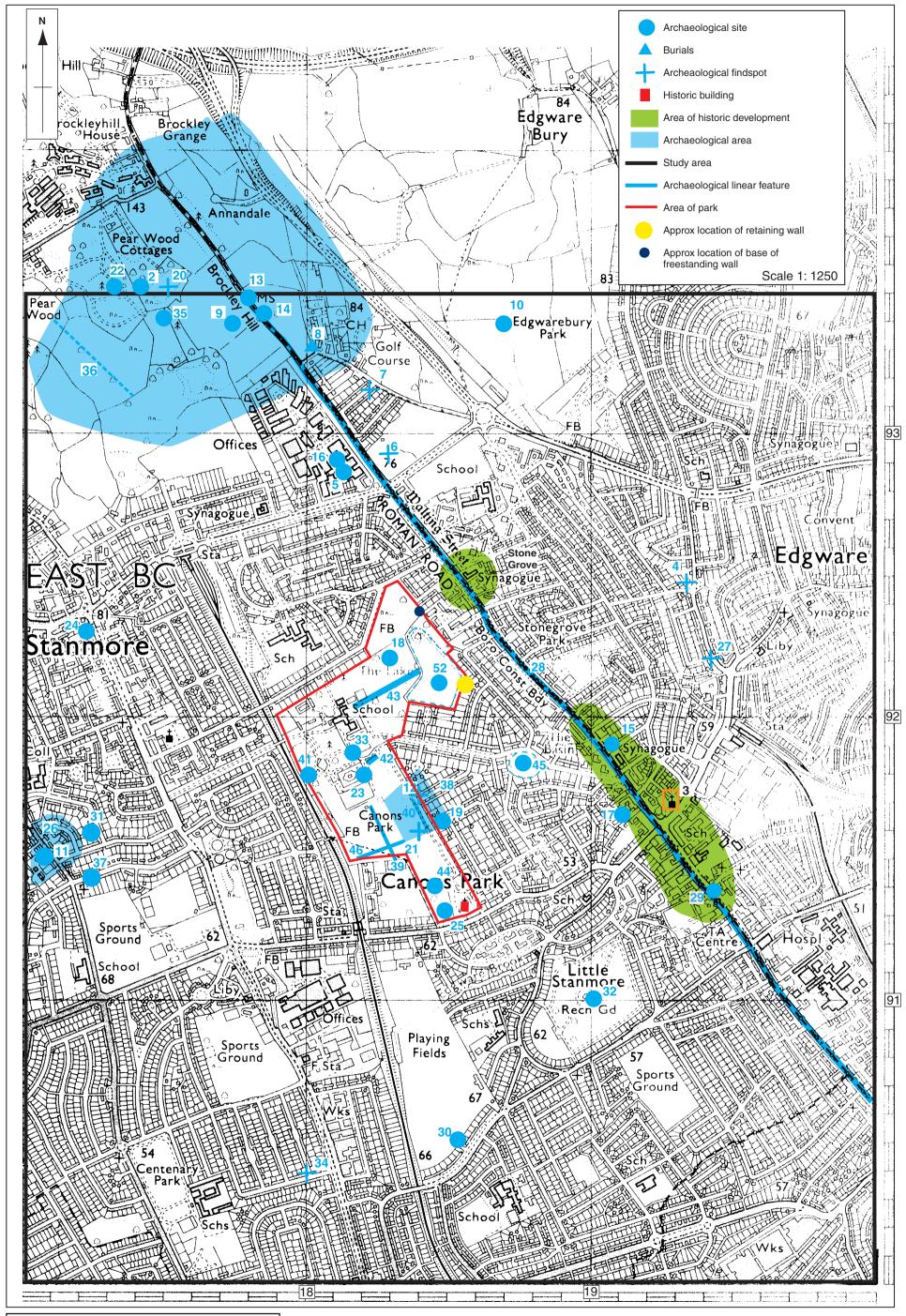


Figure 2: Archaeological features mapping

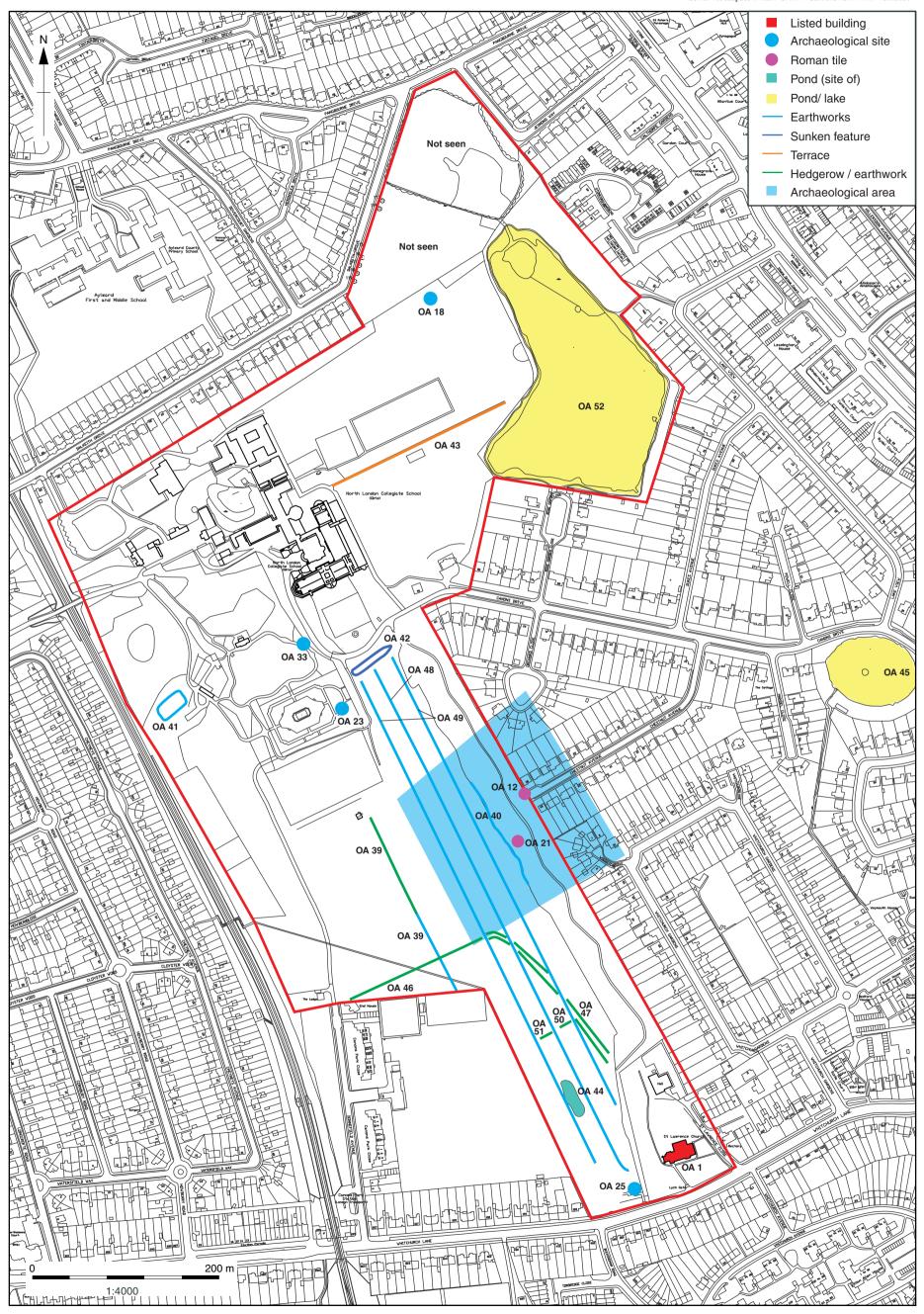


Figure 3: Detailed features mapping



Not to scale

Figure 4: Rocque map, 1754

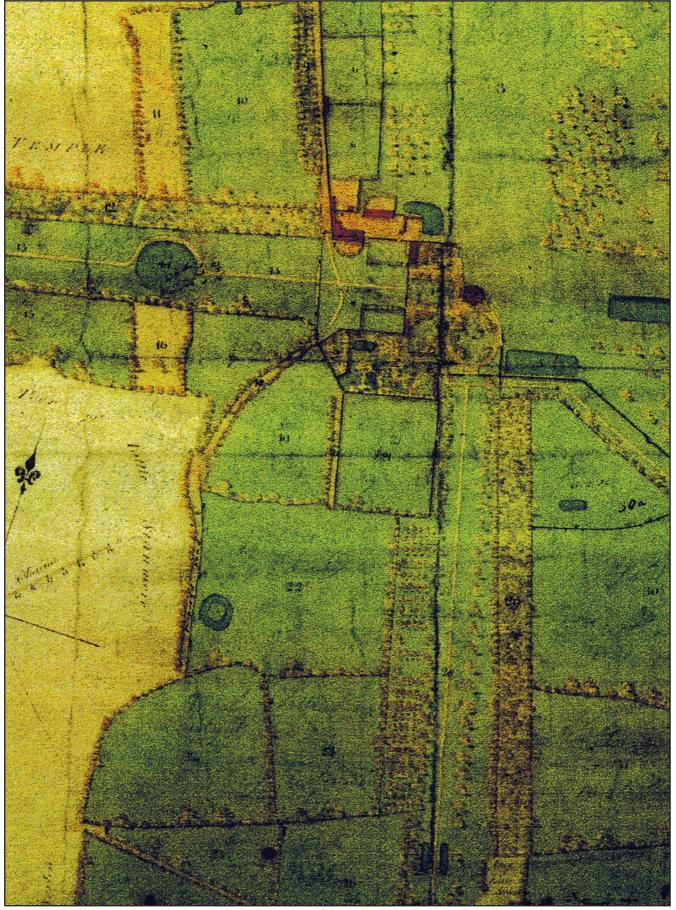
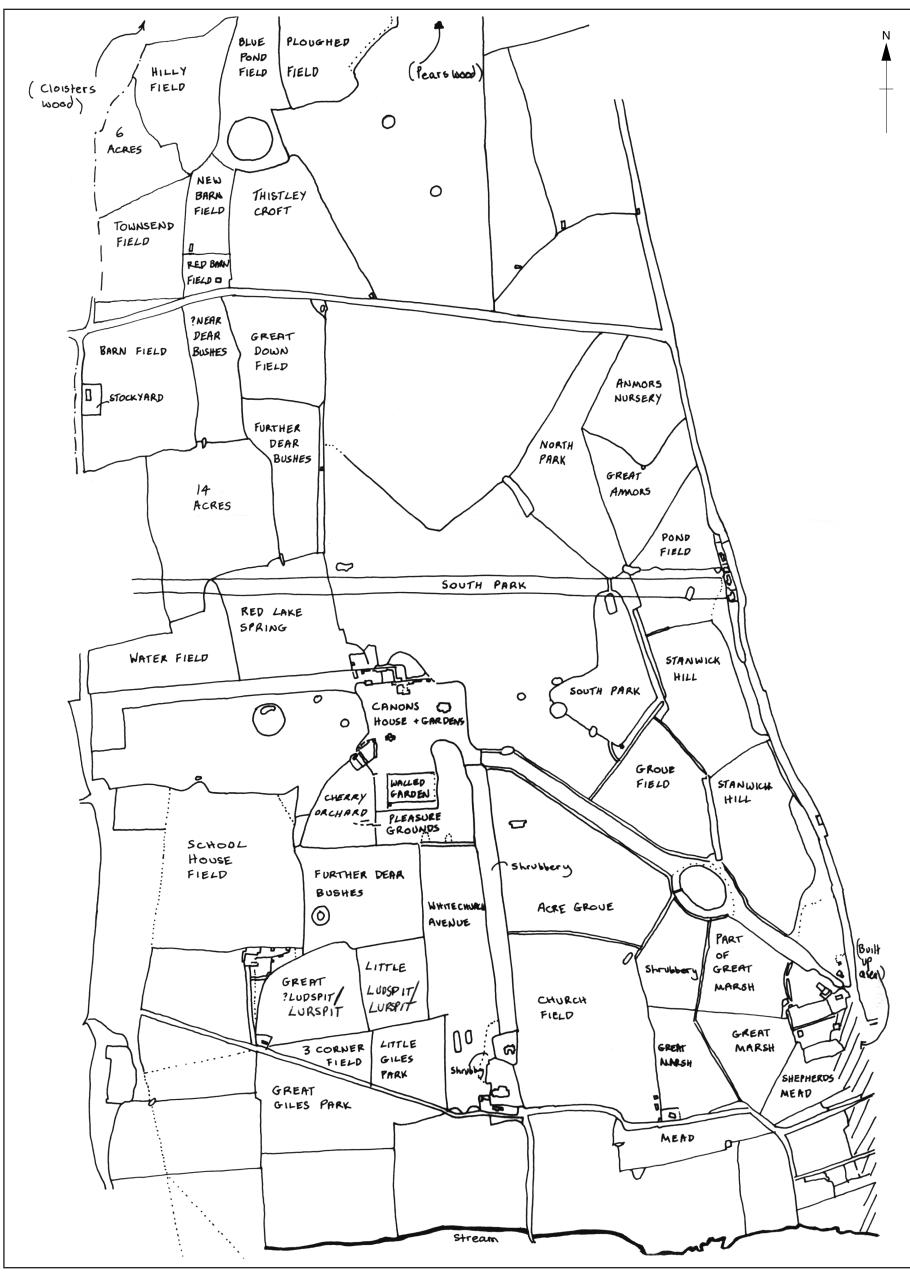


Figure 5: Plan of an estate called Cannons in the Parish of Little Stanmore in the County of Middlesex, J. Phipps, 1800



Not to scale

TRRIDGE

Not to scale

Figure 7: Canons Park Estate Sales Particulars, 1887

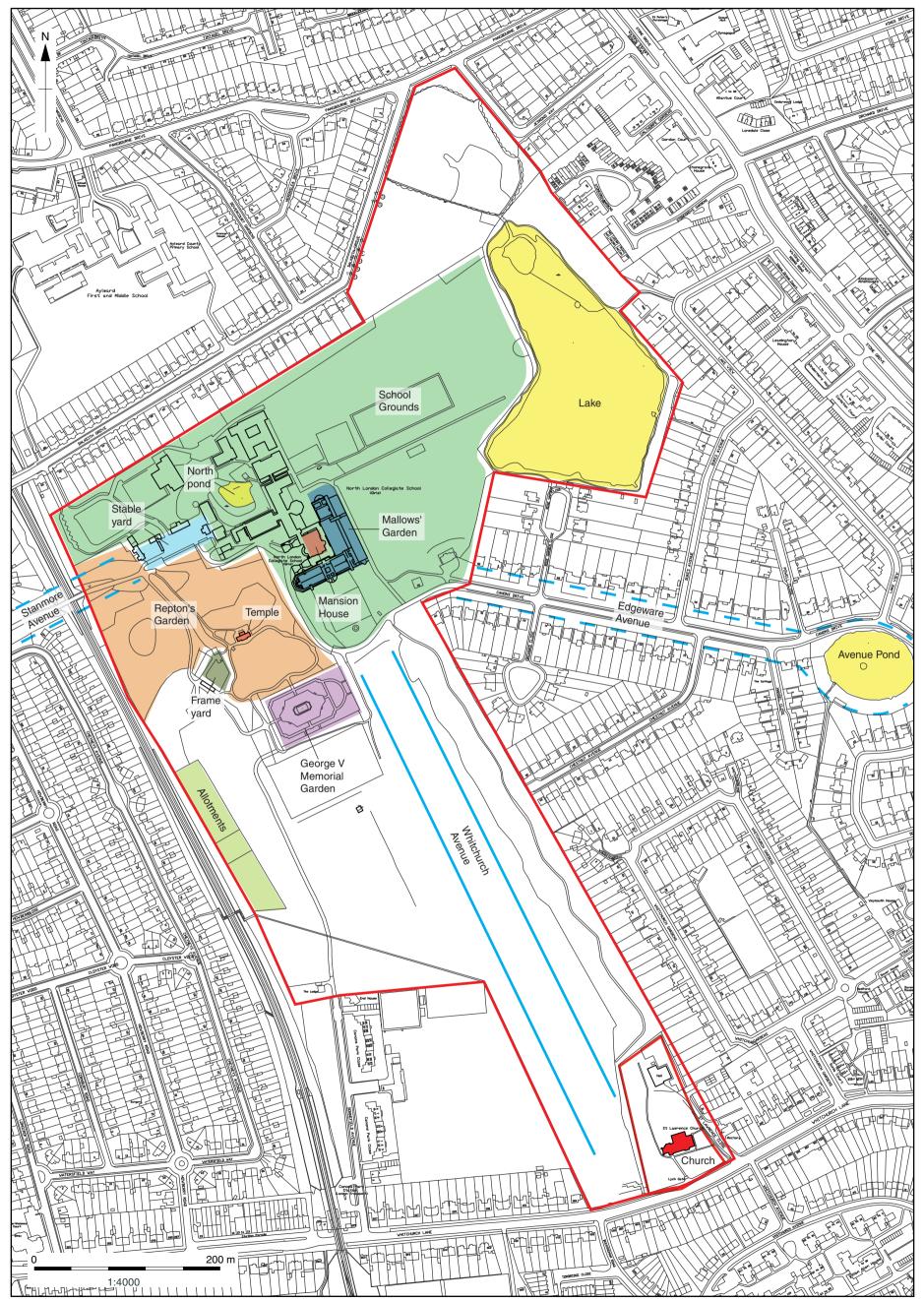
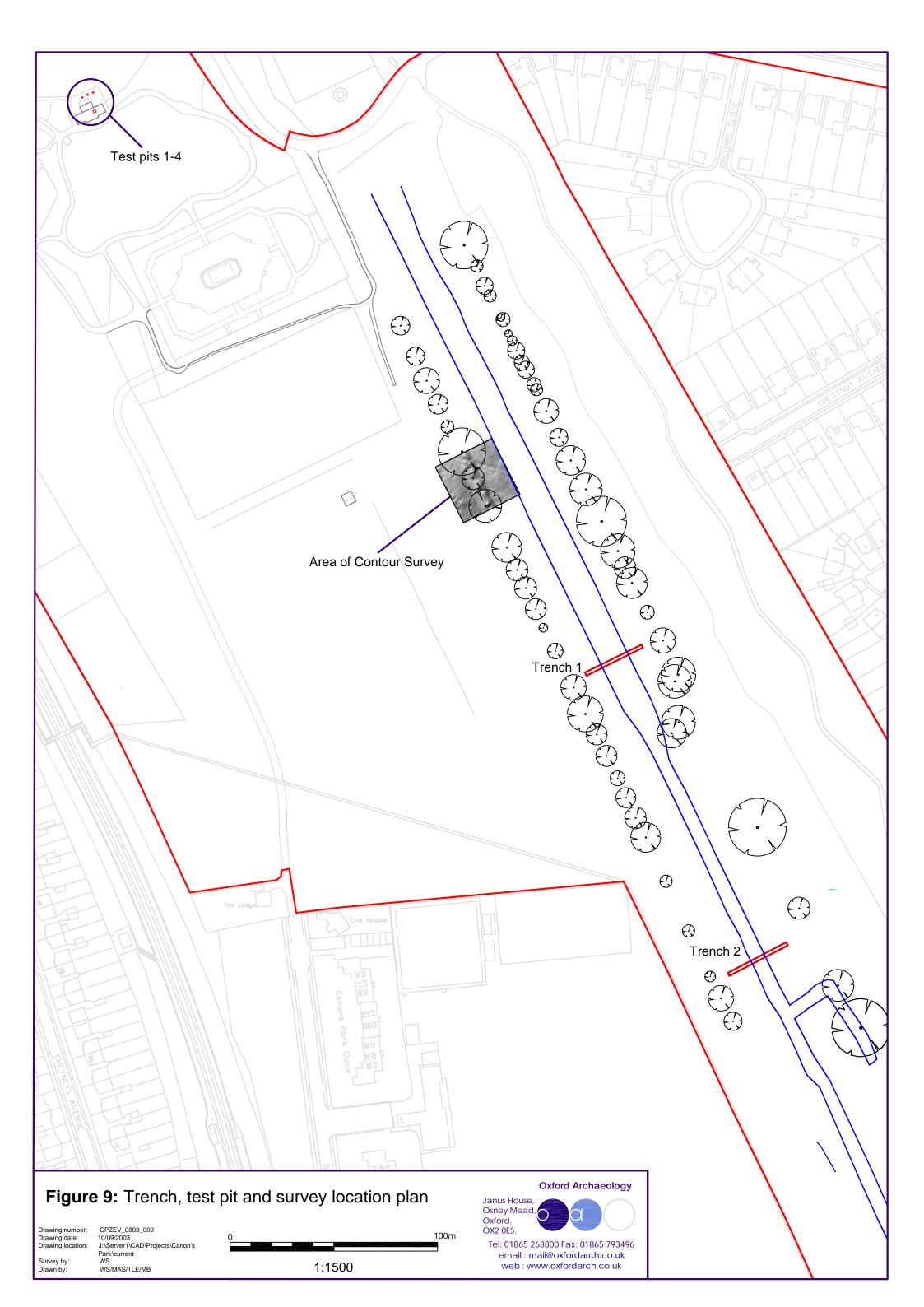
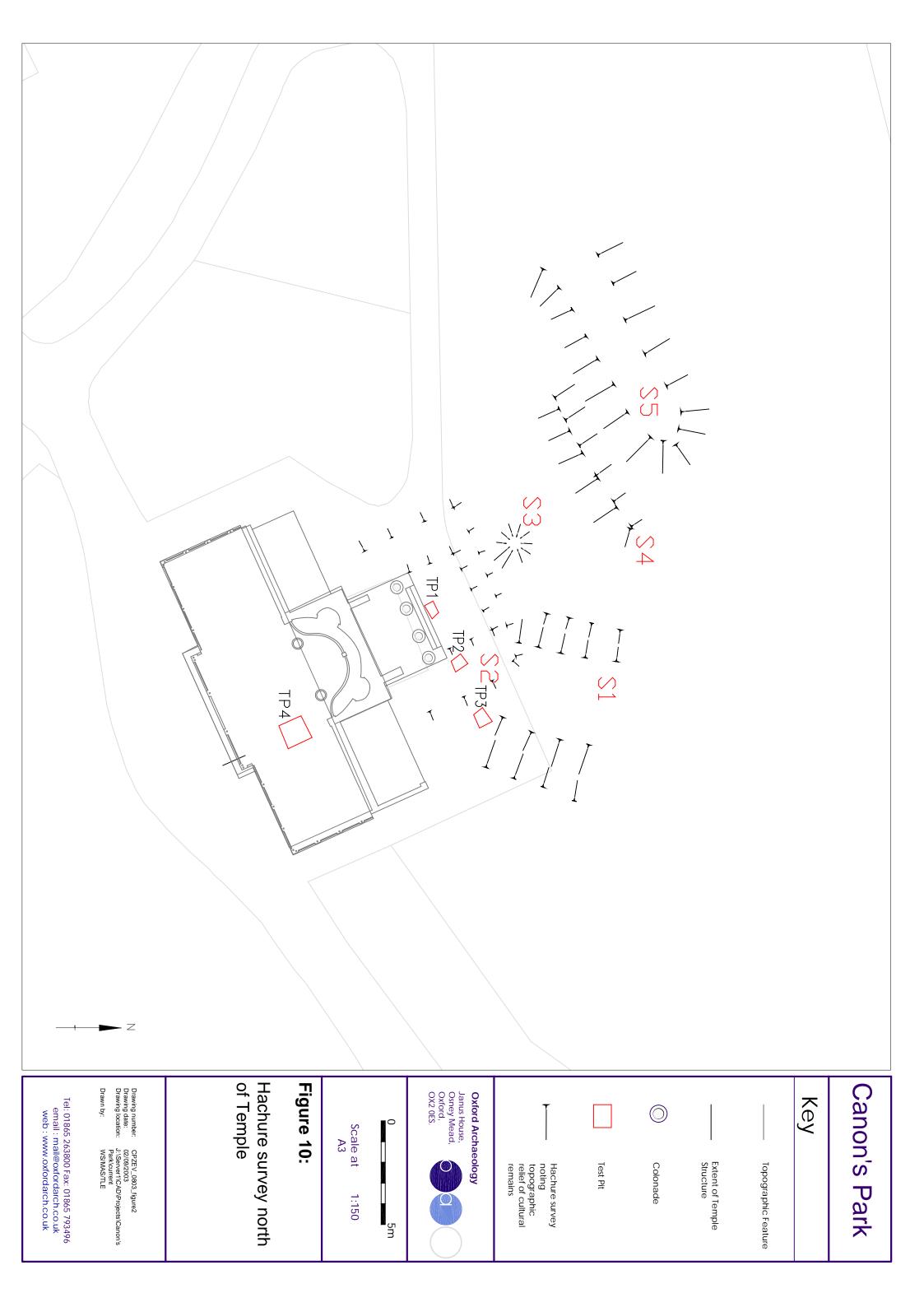
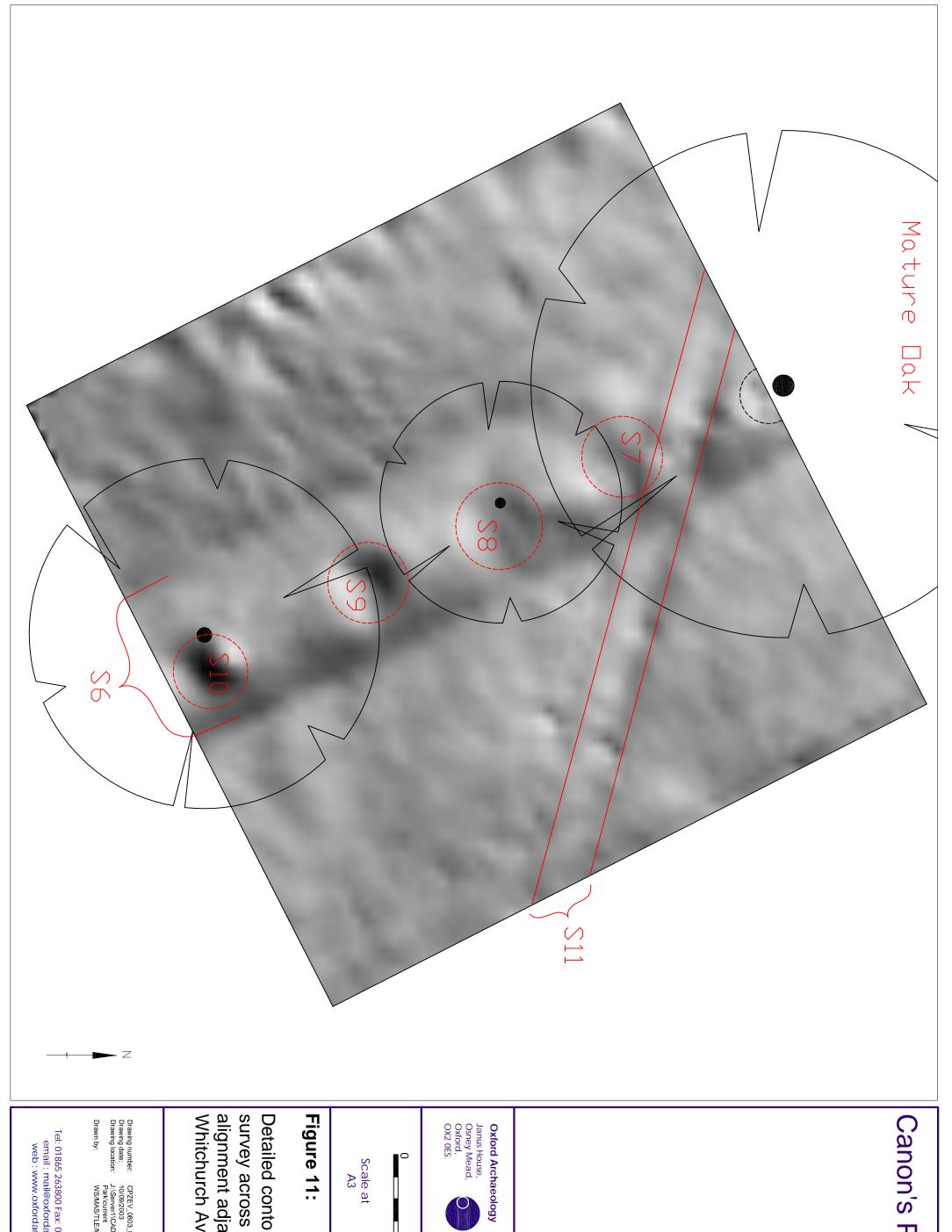


Figure 8: Garden and Landscape features







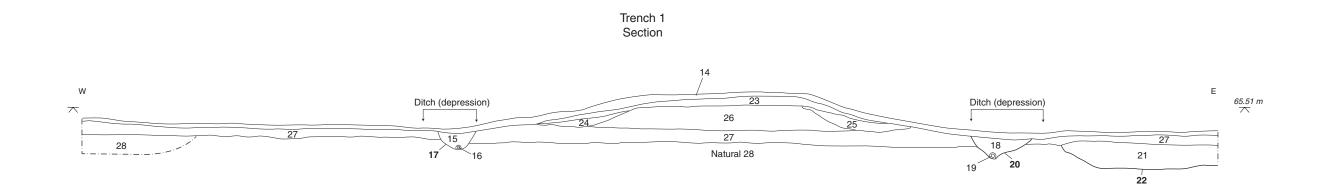
# Canon's Park

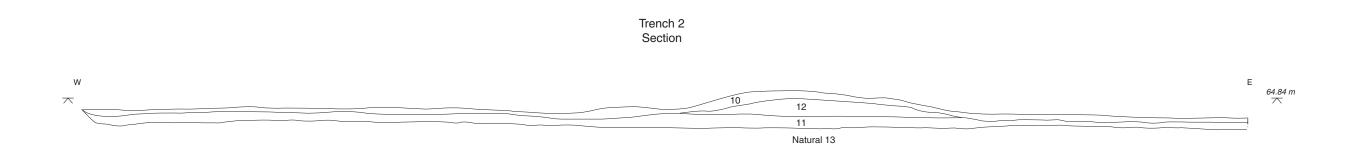
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alignment adjacent to survey across tree Whitchurch Avenue Detailed contour

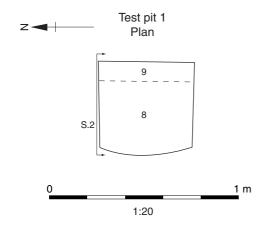
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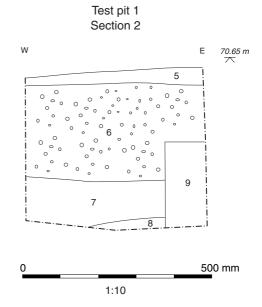
Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496 email : mail@oxfordarch.co.uk web : www.oxfordarch.co.uk

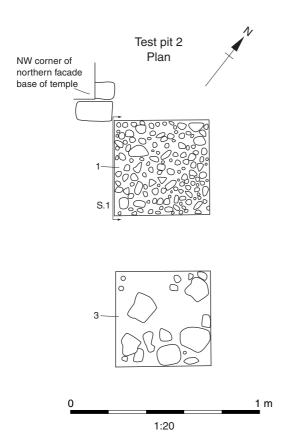












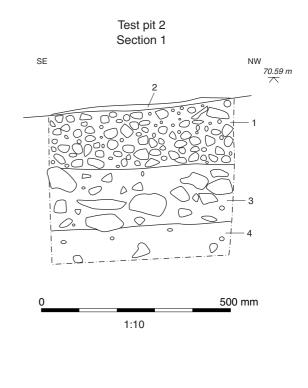


Figure 13: Test pits 1 and 2, plans and sections

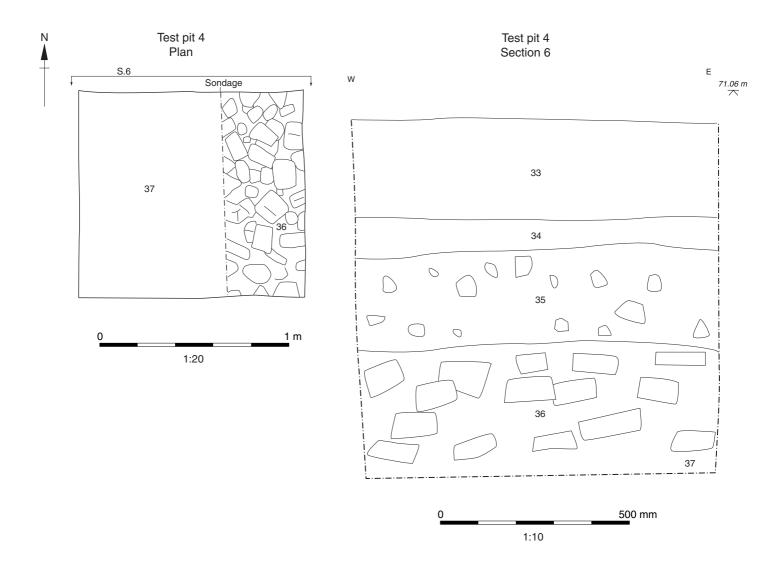


Figure 14: Test pits 3 and 4, plans and sections

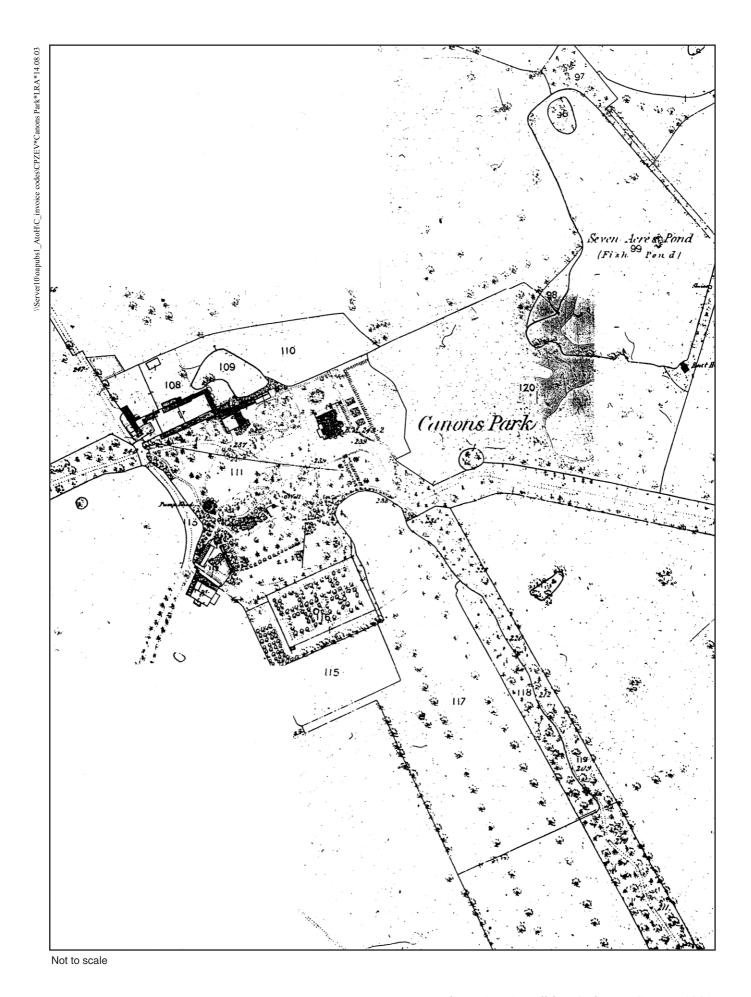
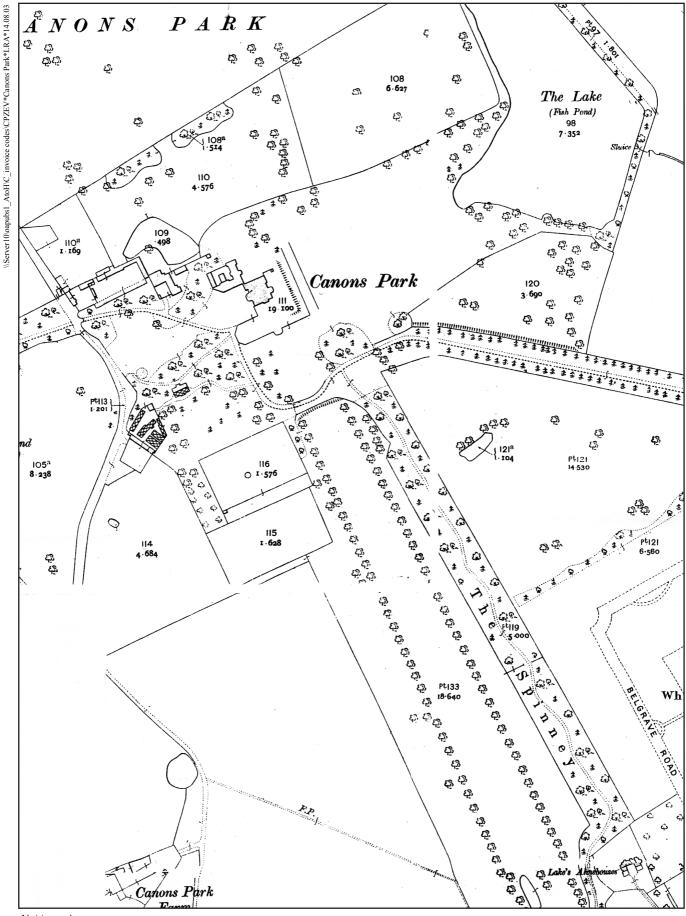


Figure 15: 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1881



Not to scale

Figure 16: Ordnance Survey, 1920? 25"

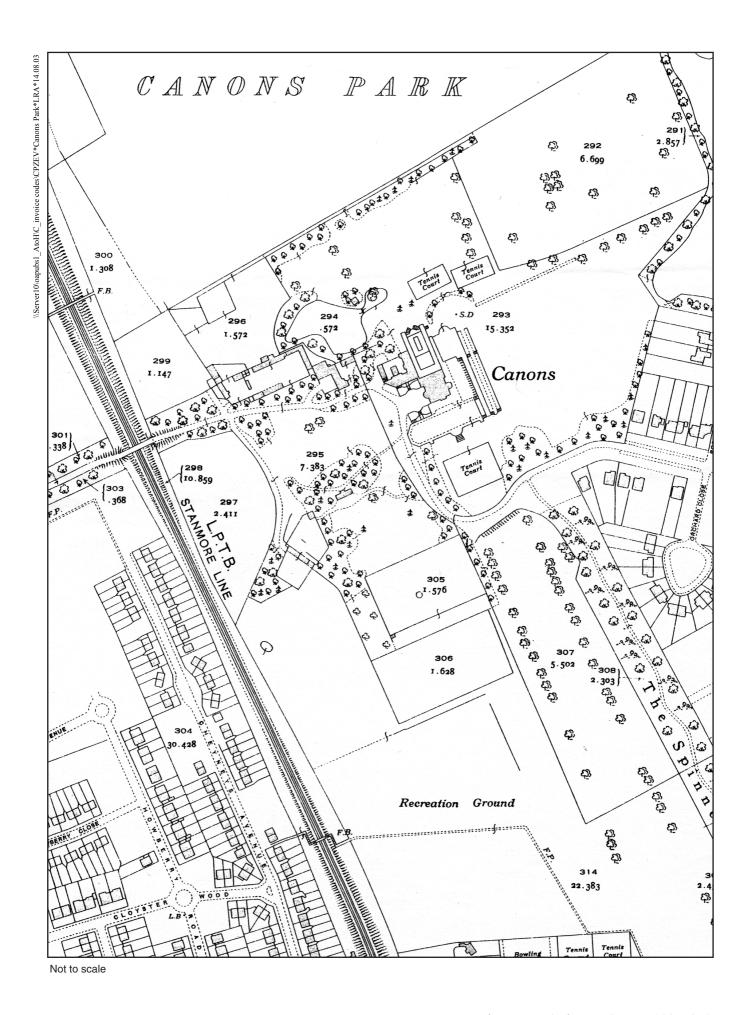
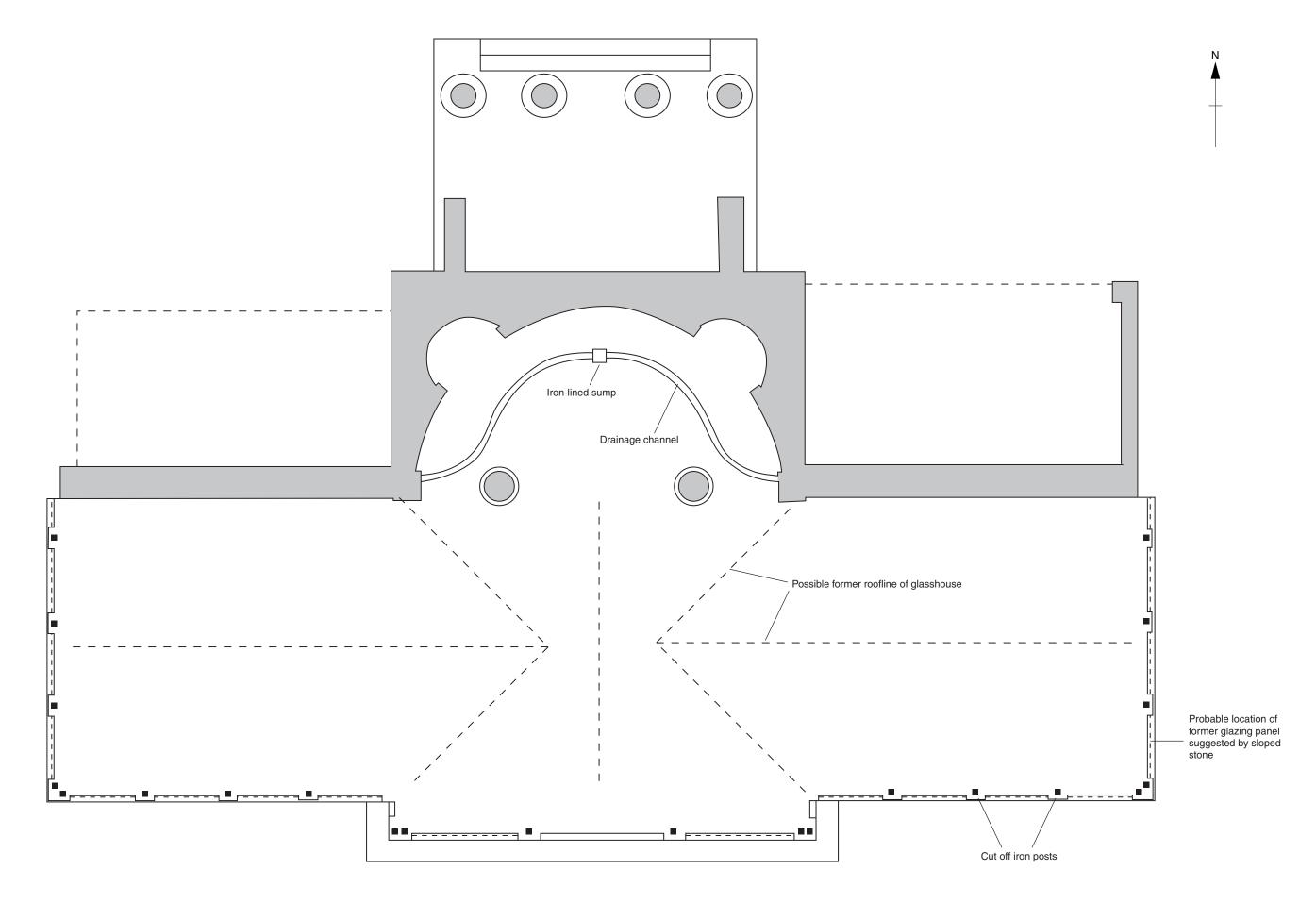


Figure 17: Ordnance Survey 1935, 25"



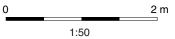
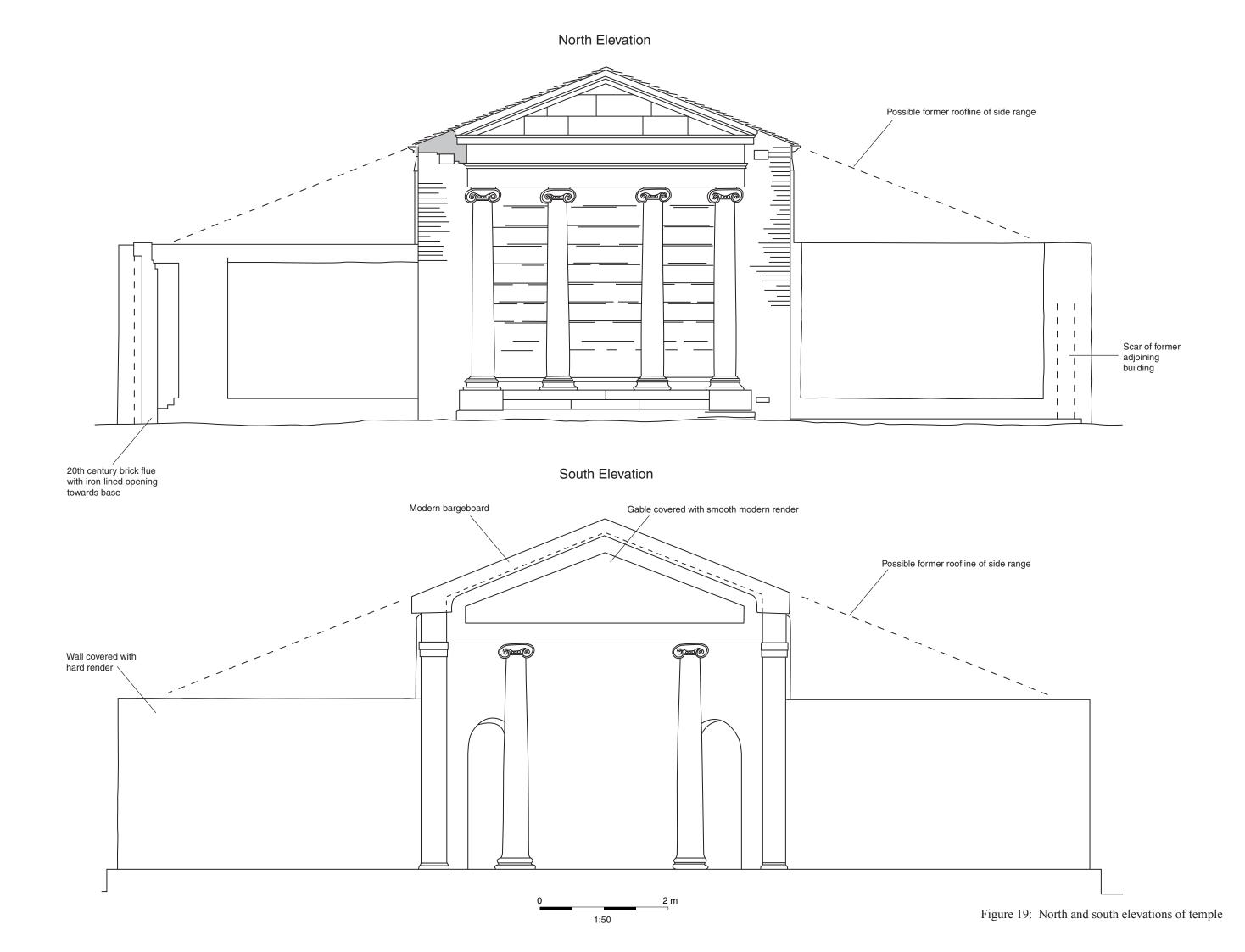
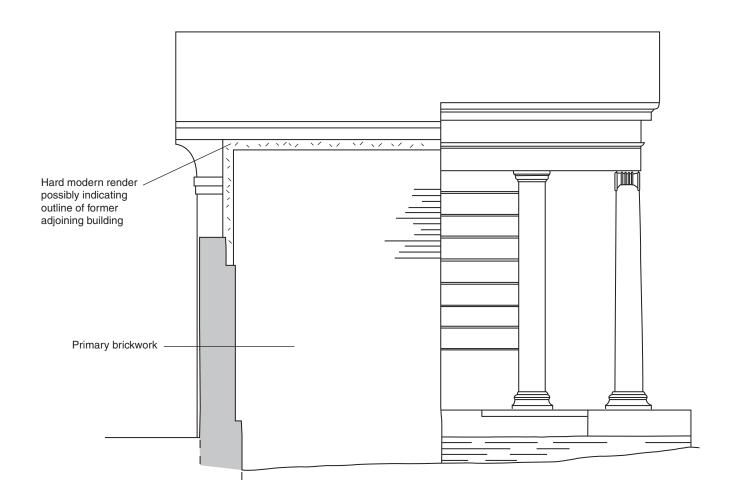


Figure 18: Ground plan of temple



# East Elevation



# West Elevation

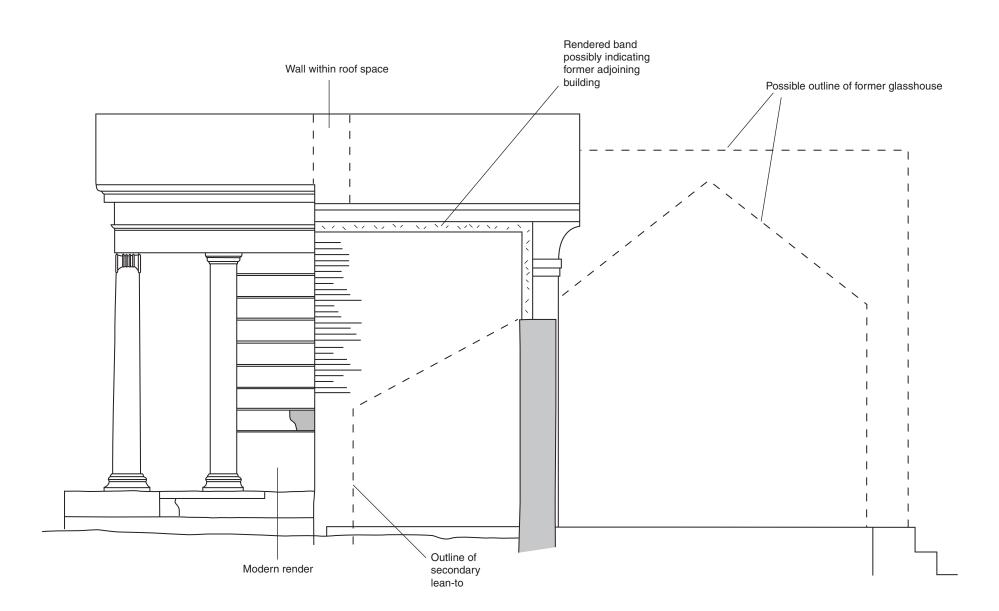




Figure 20: East and west elevations of temple



Plate 1: Flue in south east corner of former side range of Temple, looking south east



Plate 2: North elevation of Temple, looking south



Plate 3: South elevation of Temple, looking west



Plate 4: Roof space of Temple



Plate 5: Drainage channel and sump on south elevation of Temple, looking west



Plate 6: Structure located against south west wall of Walled Frame Yard, looking north



Plate 7: Memorial Garden Walls, south side, looking east

Section 418	Section line and number
	Section through feature not illustrated with section drawing
	Limit of excavation
	Sondage / Interior limit of excavation
418	Fill line and number
418	Cut line and number
418	Structure number
9	Unclear boundary
800	Stones
0	Hachures indicate inclination of slope inside excavated feature
14.80 m	Levels
670325E 689525N	Grid point
_~~_	Continuation line (trench edge continues)



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