



LAND ADJACENT TO ACTON CENTRAL STATION, EAST CHURCHFIELD ROAD, LONDON

DESK BASED ASSESSMENT





LAND ADJACENT TO ACTON CENTRAL STATION, ACTON, LONDON

Desk Based Assessment

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Abstract

Britannia Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Joanne Cooper of Westgreen Studio to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment of a site on land adjacent to Acton Central Station, Acton, London, W3 (NGR: 520669 180272), situated in the London Borough of Ealing, in the Acton Park Conservation Area. The assessment was carried out to accompany a planning application for a new five-storey apartment building.

The potential for subsurface archaeological remains prior to the middle to late 19th century is low; Acton remained a small rural settlement comprising two separate hamlets until substantial development in the 1860s.

Historic maps and documentary sources show that the site remained undeveloped until the construction of the railway in 1851 to 1853, at which time it is likely to have undergone substantial truncation associated with the adjacent railway embankment. This will have removed much of the subsurface archaeological remains, however there is an outside chance that Lower Palaeolithic finds might survive given the abundance found elsewhere in Acton by Pitt Rivers in the 1860s.

Several railway buildings were constructed on the site in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the dilapidated remains of these are present next to the railway platform retention wall in the west. These remains comprise several partially surviving arched partition walls and floor surfaces, however the roof and front walls have gone as have the majority of the other partition walls.

The proposed development will be located in the south and central areas of the site and the proposed new foundations in the southern sector will involve piling. The most significant impact will be to the dilapidated railway buildings and foundations which will necessarily be removed during construction. Upper terrace gravels with potential for Lower Palaeolithic finds will also be disturbed if any survived the railway construction.

Impact on the general archaeological setting will be negligible. No archaeological sites or listed buildings were noted in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development and none have line of sight to the assessment area.



1.0 INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

1.1 Project Background

Britannia Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Joanne Cooper of Westgreen Studio to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment of a site on land adjacent to Acton Central Station, Acton, London, W3 (NGR: 520669 180272), situated in the London Borough of Ealing, in the Acton Park Conservation Area (Fig.1).

This assessment will accompany a planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the site involving the clearance of the existing builder's yard and erection of a five-storey residential building. The assessment has been commissioned to establish the presence of, or likely potential for, buried archaeological remains and the possible impact of the development on these remains. The assessment will also consider the setting of the new development in relation to existing listed buildings and known archaeological sites within the immediate area.

1.2 Site Description

The site is located at the western end of East Churchfield Road between the southbound platform at the rear of Acton Central Station and Acton Park and covers an area of 0.1225 ha. It is bounded by East Churchfield Road to the north, Acton Park maintenance/storage depot to the south, nine 15m tall *Leylandii* trees and a metal panel fence to the east and the platform retaining wall and rear of the station to the west. The land slopes down from East Churchfield Road, so that at the southern end, the site levels are approximately 2.5m below the front access point and sits at an average height of 17.00m AOD (Pre-Planning Consultation Document 2011) (Fig. 1).

The site is currently used as a builder's yard for the storage of materials and vehicles. There are no buildings on the site or trees. The site is in a poor condition with a number of abandoned vehicles, a caravan and discarded builder's rubble.

The bedrock geology comprises London Clay Formation, clay silt and sand. This is a sedimentary deep marine deposit laid down in the Palaeogene period 34 to 55 million years ago (British Geological Survey, BGS). The superficial geology comprises Lynch Hill upper terrace gravels (Lane Fox, 1872).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims & Scope

This report aims to assess all known information relating to subsurface and above ground archaeological remains within a 500m radius centred on the site, to identify the potential presence of archaeological remains that will be impacted upon during the development. It will also consider the impact of the development on the setting of existing archaeological sites and listed buildings in the immediate vicinity. This report will take into consideration existing truncation from previous developments and the potential



impact caused by the implementation of the proposed development plans and construction methods.

A mitigation strategy may be instigated after consultation with the English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) archaeologist for the London Borough of Ealing.

2.2 Research and Sources

Historic Environment Record Office

The Greater London Historic Environment Record Office (GLHER) was consulted and provided details of all data held within a 500m radius of the site. The GLHER database holds records of archaeological sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, finds spots, registered parks and gardens, protected wreck sites and battlefields.

Documentary Sources

Primary and secondary documentary sources were consulted via the GLHER, Ealing Local History Centre, London Metropolitan Archives and the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk). All sources consulted are listed in the bibliography.

Cartographic Sources

A search of primary and secondary cartographic sources was undertaken at London Metropolitan Archives and Ealing Local History Centre.

Site Visit

A site visit was undertaken on the 4th September 2012 and a photographic record compiled. The visit aimed to identify any existing earthworks or visible archaeological remains, establish the condition and character of the existing site and note its setting. Proposed site plans were consulted during the visit to assess the areas most at risk from the development.

Presentation of Results

The results of the research are presented by historical/archaeological period and are a synthesis of all data gathered that are relevant to the site. Not all of the data supplied by the GLHER is referred to in the report, however Appendix 1 contains a full table and brief description of the HER search results.

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

The archaeological assessment was carried out in accordance with guidance laid down by the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaced Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010) in March 2012. The relevant regional planning policy for the Acton area is the London Plan



(2011): Policy 7.3 and the relevant local planning policies include the Ealing Council Unitary Development Plan 2004, Policy 4.9.

3.1 *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG March 2012)*

The NPPF recognises that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:

- The significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;
- The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- Significance (of the heritage asset) can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;
- Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred;
- Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

3.2 *The London Plan (2011)*

On 22 July 2011, the Mayor of London published the replacement of the spatial development strategy for Greater London. The relevant section on Heritage management is Policy 7.3:

Strategic

A. London's historic environment, including natural landscapes, conservation areas, heritage assets, World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and memorials should be identified, preserved and restored.

B. Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present, the site's archaeology.

Planning decisions

C. Development should preserve, refurbish and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.

D. New development in the setting of heritage assets, and conservation areas should be sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.



3.3 Ealing Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted 2004): Policy 4.9

Ealing Borough Council's current development plan was adopted in 2004 and is due to be replaced in 2013 with a Local Development Framework. Policy 4.9 states the Council's position on archaeology and the built environment which is summarised as follows:

Policy 4.9

The protection of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their settings is required by law. Any development affecting such an ancient monument requires an impact evaluation, including an archaeological assessment where appropriate.

It is the Council's intention to also protect archaeological sites, and any proposal must:

- Provide adequate opportunities for archaeological investigation prior to development;
- Be carried out in accordance with the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Code of Practice.

Where development would adversely affect Archaeological Interest Areas or archaeological remains, the applicant will normally be required to:

- Modify designs to avoid adverse effects;
- Design suitable land use and management strategies to safeguard any important remains, with the option to seek an agreement covering access and interpretation arrangements;
- Preserve in situ: where this is not feasible, provide appropriate provision for excavation.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH RESULTS

The following results are presented as a synthesis of all the data obtained from the sources detailed above (Section 2.0) and listed in the bibliography (Figs. 2-8).

4.1 Prehistoric (750000BC – 43AD) (Fig.2)

Acton is situated within the Thames Basin which has a rich record of prehistoric archaeological sites. Fertile land and an abundance of natural resources means that the area has always been an attractive location for settlement. More recent erosion of the intertidal zone has revealed evidence for dense woodland and peat deposits associated with wetland environments that swamped the earlier woods (Haughey, F. 1999).

The GLHER search returned 13 records of prehistoric date. None have been recorded on the assessment site and the majority (MLO464, MLO518, MLO1586, MLO11282, MLO523, MLO435 and MLO23016) lie around 300m to 400m to the north and west, with the closest (MLO2685) located 147m to the north. A smaller cluster of flint implements and debitage (MLO519, MLO11294 and MLO11282) are located at around 250m to 450m



south-west and a single flint blade (MLO286) is recorded 428m to the south-east. The vast majority relate to the Lower Palaeolithic (750000BC – 120000BC) period and only two date to later prehistory (MLO25531 and MLO68426). The age of such finds often means that they lie below deeply stratified layers of natural drift geology and are often re-deposited in fluvial and glacio-fluvial sands and gravels.

Further research shows that all these Palaeolithic finds are from investigations carried out by Colonel A. H. Lane-Fox (later General Pitt Rivers the noted antiquarian and archaeologist) during the construction of houses in Churchfield, East Acton from 1868 onwards (Lane-Fox 1872). These finds are often described as 'flint or lithic implements', but occasionally more detailed descriptions including a handaxe (MLO2685), cordate handaxe (MLO11282) and levallois core (MLO435) are mentioned. The remaining flint finds relate to debitage and many of the sites also contained animal bone finds, especially bovine (Ox or bison), red deer, mammoth and hippopotamus. These finds suggest the area was well exploited by early hunter gather communities. All the finds recorded by General Pitt Rivers were found at a depth of around 3m below ground level.

The later prehistoric records relate to a Mesolithic (12000BC – 4000BC) tranche axe, various blades, microliths and waste flakes (MLO25531) and 18 possible Neolithic (4000BC – 2200BC) implements including an axe head, a saw and several blades. Both sites were located between 433m and 477m north-west of the assessment area and further suggest extensive exploitation of the natural resources by hunter gather and early farming communities.

No Bronze Age or Iron Age records are recorded within the 500m search area, however activity has been noted in the wider Acton area with Bronze Age burial activity (cremation cemetery and bucket urns) at Mill Hill Park and Iron Age coins found at Bollo Lane (Baker & Elrington *et al.* 1982).

4.2 Romano-British (43AD – c. 410AD)

The Romano-British period marked a significant change in development for the wider area with *Londinium* becoming a major settlement and administrative centre. Acton is located approximately 11km west of Roman London and close to a major road that linked the city to Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*). This road ran through Acton Green, roughly 3km south of the assessment area and the course is still used in the modern road network. A reasonable potential for Roman activity such as farmsteads/villas would be expected in the area, however there is only sparse evidence within the 500m search radius.

There are no Romano-British sites recorded in the immediate vicinity. A single find spot (MLO4536) was noted 329m to the north-west and comprised several Romano-British potsherds. This would suggest some limited settlement activity in the area, but nothing substantial.



4.3 Anglo-Saxon (Early medieval) (c.410AD – 1066AD) (Fig. 2)

The withdrawal of Roman authority in Britain in the early 5th Century AD and the dominance of the Anglo-Saxons in the south and east of England led to significant changes in settlement distribution. London eventually re-emerged as an important town in the 7th century AD, but the focus of settlement initially shifted outside of the walled town to the Strand, returning back within the walls in later centuries. Settlement patterns persisting throughout Iron Age and Roman Britain did not necessarily continue into the Anglo-Saxon period. Acton can trace its origins back to this period and the name is a corruption of the Old English (Anglo-Saxon) *āc* and *tūn* meaning 'farmstead or village by the oak tree(s)' or 'farm where oak timber is worked' (Mills 2003). Despite these clear origins, there are no Anglo-Saxon sites recorded in the immediate vicinity and no records were returned in the GLHER search for this period.

The documentary evidence relating to Acton in the Anglo-Saxon period is also sparse. There is no separate entry in Domesday, because Acton formed part of the demesne of Fulham and no separate manorial buildings were located in the immediate area. In 704 AD, Waldhere, the Bishop of London, bought the manor of Fulham from the King of Mercia and Essex and this included Acton (Oates 2003).

4.4 Medieval (1066 AD – 1540 AD) (Fig. 2)

The medieval period in Acton is better represented in both primary and secondary sources, however only one GLHER record was noted in the 500m search area. In the wider area, London became an important city and the *de facto* capital of Britain after the Norman invasion in 1066. The smaller surrounding settlements tended to begin a period of growth.

The first recorded reference to Acton relates to a witness, Viel of Acton, in 1181AD (Baker & Elrington *et al.* 1982). The parish was split into two hamlets, with 'Acton Church' or 'Acton Town' forming a settlement to the west of the centre and East Acton located to the east. The proposed site lies between these two hamlets and may explain why only one medieval site has been identified in the search area.

The north of the parish is said to have been heavily wooded with oak and elm during the medieval period until the 17th century, by which time it had been mostly cleared for farmland. East Acton was first mentioned in 1294 and contained farm houses and cottages to the north and south of Acton Green (Baker & Elrington *et al.* 1982). Resident landholders were noted in 1222, but because the hamlets were outside of the manorial complex located at Fulham, no wealthy landlords or dominant estates were present until the 17th century. Thus, Acton remained a largely small and rural settlement throughout the medieval period and by 1548 a total of 158 communicants were recorded in the parish (Baker & Elrington *et al.* 1982).

Berrymead Priory (MLO100897) was a medieval monastery located on the site of the modern car park at Salisbury Street, 439m south west of the assessment area. The site was known to be held by St Paul's Cathedral and it was surrendered to the Crown in



1544 as part of the dissolution of the monasteries. After it was surrendered the priory was demolished and a manor house (MLO82517) was built on the site in the 16th century.

4.5 Post-medieval and Modern (1540AD – Present) (Figs. 2–6)

Acton is well-represented in primary and secondary sources during the post-medieval and modern periods and the growth of the town from small, rural settlement to its present size and disposition is clearly chronicled. Many of the maps consulted were produced between 1741 and 1955 with the assessment site being clearly identifiable on most (Figs. 5 - 6).

The village remained small and rural in nature for much of the early post-medieval period with population numbers remaining roughly static. In 1664 there were 137 households (72 tax chargeable, 56 exempt and 6 empty) and by the 18th century, there were still only around 180 households (Baker & Elrington *et al.* 1982).

The late 18th to mid-19th century saw a modest increase in population and affluence for the village. Acton had become a summer retreat for London courtiers and lawyers and in 1706 it was held to be blessed with 'sweet air' and a further fashion for medicinal waters brought a brief period of fame (Acton Wells was located over 500m to the north of the site). Affluent Londoners, ex-military gentry and honourable companies started to buy up existing estates or build new ones and by 1831 the population had risen to 426 (Baker & Elrington *et al.* 1982).

Substantial development occurred in the mid to late 19th century mainly due to the extension of the railway through the village which opened in 1853 and the sale of large tracts of land to development companies tasked with expanding the Thames urban conurbation (Jahn 1970).

The historic maps consulted show that the assessment site was completely free of buildings until at least 1805 (Figs. 5). The documentary sources show that the site was first developed between 1851 and 1853 via an Act of Parliament (1851) allowing the construction of the railway linking the existing main line from Paddington and the Hounslow Loop. The area around the site and railway remained undeveloped on the 1865 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, but had begun rapid and substantial development by the time the revised edition was published in 1896.

Two sites dating to the early post-medieval period were noted inside the search area. Berrymead Priory Manor House (DLO17440) was built on top of the earlier monastery after the reformation in 1540. Derwentwater House (MLO25393) was constructed in the 16th century and was notably leased in 1720 by the widow of the Jacobite Earl of Derwentwater who was beheaded in 1716. It was demolished in 1909, the 18th century gates and railings (DLO17331) survive as does a large obelisk (DLO17353) which was relocated to Acton Park 180m east of the assessment site. The houses lie 440m west and south-west of the site respectively.



The earliest map consulted was John Rocque's Map from 1741. This shows the small village of East Acton centred around East Acton Lane with a small number of buildings either side of the road. The assessment site lies to the west off a probably footpath (now Churchfield Road and East Churchfield Road) in agricultural fields. It also shows buildings on the site of Manor Farm Cottages where an 18th century pit, sealed by a 19th century garden soil (MLO99356) was recorded during a watching brief (ELO7175) in 2007.

The 1805 map produced by Edward Kelsey shows the area between East Acton and Acton Town and the contemporary land division. The area around the assessment site is split into strip fields, no-doubt retaining their medieval boundaries. Larger plots around the village are shown to be owned by Goldsmiths Company. The assessment site itself is clearly shown on the edge of a larger unnumbered plot, outside the area owned by Goldsmiths.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows a significant change to the development of the village with the construction of Central Acton railway station and railway line clearly indicated. Some almshouses built by the Goldsmiths (DLO17510) are also present on this map for the first time, but little else has changed since the Kelsey Map and the area is still dominated by agricultural fields. The site is clearly visible on an embanked area to the east of the railway line.

Substantial development of Acton began in the 1860s and General Pitt Rivers undertook his archaeological investigations on the Lynch Hill upper terrace gravels during the construction of numerous residential houses north and north-west of the assessment site. His map, produced between 1869 and 1872, clearly shows the assessment site and this phase of substantial development in addition to the gravel terraces and Lower Palaeolithic find spots.

The revised Ordnance Survey Map from 1896 shows continuing substantial development and also the construction of a platform and building to the east of the railway line on the assessment site. Numerous small structures are shown adjacent to, and bounding the new platform to the east and the remains of these are still present on the site. They currently have no roof and are partially demolished leaving some of the perpendicular dividing walls and arches. These buildings were likely workshops and storage areas associated with the station. A further group of five terraced, small, standalone structures are also shown on the site which are no longer present. Acton Park is shown for the first time to the east of the assessment site.

The Second Edition OS Map from 1915 shows further development infilling the remaining gaps around the site. The station and buildings remain as they were on the 1896 map and two small structures have been constructed immediately east of the site in Acton Park. The GLHER search notes three grade II listed buildings dating to this period that are not shown on the map. Acton Public Library (DLO17564) was constructed in 1898-1900 and a chimney associated with Acton swimming baths (DLO17563) was erected in 1904. Acton Town Hall (MLO82631) was constructed in 1909 and substantially altered in 1939. All these buildings are located 300m to 450m south-west of the site.



The 1935 Revised OS Map shows little or no change from the 1915 edition and the GLHER notes the construction of an early cinema in Acton (DLO17559) located 243m south-west of the site which is still extant to day.

By 1955 the latest OS Map suggests that little changed in the wider area around the site, however several houses to the east on East Churchfield Road have been replaced with new buildings. The bomb records for Acton show that on 21st August 1944 house numbers 6 and 8 were entirely destroyed during an air raid. Houses 4 and 10 were damaged beyond repair and many of the surrounding buildings were uninhabitable (Acton WWII Incident Reports – EA27.7). The assessment site was not bombed and the terraced structures on site have gained two new small structures on the east side. The structures adjacent to the platform are now shown as one building.

Fieldwork carried out within the 500m search area has had limited success in identifying archaeological remains. The closest work to the assessment site was an evaluation at 278-282 The Vale, Acton (ELO4827) located 158m to the south. No archaeological finds or features were present. Another evaluation at 9 Grove Place located 370m to the west recorded an undated plough soil. The only positive fieldwork was the watching brief at Manor Farm Cottages (ELO7175) mentioned above.

4.7 Site Visit (Fig. 8)

A site visit was undertaken by the author on 4th September 2012 to determine the current state of the assessment area, to investigate the presence of any surface or potential subsurface archaeological remains and to ascertain the current level of truncation.

The site is currently used as a builder's yard and is in a poor state of repair. The eastern and southern boundary fence is constructed from wooden railway sleepers and modern corrugated iron panelling. The station building and platform wall bound the site to the west.

The remains of late 19th century workshops (noted on the 1896 OS Map) are still present adjacent to the platform wall and south of the platform building. The roof is no longer present, but some of the dividing walls remain with modern brickwork filling in the surviving arches. Most of the dividing walls survive as small buttresses tied into the platform wall. Contemporary late 19th century brick surfaces survive better inside the preserved workshops showing the original footprint of the structure where the walls have not survived, however in many places this has been replaced with modern concrete.

The small, terraced, standalone structure noted on the OS Maps is no longer extant, although there are patches of surviving wall foundation present in the modern concrete hard standing.

The assessment site appears to be significantly lower than the surrounding park and ground level and rises up to meet East Churchfield Road. There is an estimated 2-3m drop from the front of the site to the rear and this may be indicative of truncation during



the construction of the railway embankment. The 1865 and 1955 OS Maps suggest that the site is immediately adjacent to the embankment and the area may well have provided suitable material for it.

No archaeological remains or structures predating the late 19th century were noted during the visit.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Archaeological Potential

Information on the archaeology in the immediate area of the assessment site is relatively sparse, due mainly to a low level of archaeological investigation in the locality. The wider area is quite well represented showing human activity within 500m from the Lower Palaeolithic to the modern periods. Evidence suggests a relatively low level of activity until the mid-19th century with a substantial and rapid development in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Given the research results, there is a **low** to **moderate** potential for the presence of lower Palaeolithic finds and a **low** potential for later prehistoric features or finds.

Similarly there is also a **low** potential for features or finds dating to the Romano-British period.

The Anglo-Saxon origins of Acton would suggest an increase in activity in the wider area, however Acton was on the outlying edge of the Fulham demesne with no manorial complex and no independent entry in Domesday. The GLHER records show no finds or features in the 500m search area and consequently there is a **low** potential for Anglo-Saxon finds and features on the assessment site.

Acton remained a very small rural settlement split into two hamlets during the medieval period and the GLHER data returned only one record relating to Berrymead Priory. The assessment site is located centrally between the two hamlets and this, in conjunction with limited growth, perhaps explains the lack of medieval activity in the immediate area of the site. Therefore the potential of archaeological features and finds from this period is also **low**.

The trend for limited growth in Acton continued well into the post-medieval period and the village remained small and rural in nature until the late 19th century. Documentary and cartographic sources indicate that the site was not developed until 1851-1853 when the railway station was constructed. It is likely that the site suffered significant truncation during this period, perhaps providing material for the railway embankment, before additional workshops were constructed in the late 19th century. The remains of the workshops adjacent to the railway platform are still standing in places and several of the dividing walls are still in place. Standalone workshops have been demolished, but the foundations and brick surfaces are still visible in places. The potential for post-medieval



finds and features on the assessment site is **high** with emphasis on late 19th and early 20th century remains due to the presence of the railway workshops.

5.2 Existing and Proposed Impact (Figs.7)

Existing Impact

Construction of the railways in 1851-53 would have had a significant impact on any surviving underlying archaeological deposits. The site drops by around 2m – 3m from the road and it is likely that material was taken from the site for construction of the embankment. Later development of the eastern platform and workshops would have further damaged surviving remains on the west and centre of the site. The likelihood of any surviving pre-19th century remains is generally slim, however Lower Palaeolithic finds may survive if the truncation did not exceed 3m.

The site is currently used as a builder's yard with the southern half currently laid to concrete hard standing which may have caused some low level truncation to surviving subsurface remains. The northern half contains a mixture of concrete and rubble which likewise would have caused limited damage to underlying deposits.

The potential for preservation of subsurface archaeology relating to the late 19th century railway buildings is **high**. Potential for Lower Palaeolithic finds depends on the depth of truncation during the railway construction, but is likely to be **low to moderate** if any of the terrace gravels survive. The archaeological potential for all other periods pre-dating the middle to late 19th century is **low** due to the potential level of truncation.

Proposed Impact

Proposed construction plans involve the clearance of the site including the remains of the railway workshops and construction of a five-storey residential building. The new development will be located in the south and central area of the site with private gardens to the east and car parking to the west and north. Construction methods and the proposed depth of footings have yet to be finalised, however the southern end of the building will be piled due to the presence of extensive tree roots and the remaining foundations will have to be substantial to support a building of this size.

The south and central area of the site are likely to have suffered the most significant truncation from the initial railway construction and the later workshop buildings and potential disturbance of pre-19th century archaeology is therefore **low**. However, the impact on the remains of the railway workshops and foundations for the standalone structures will result in their total removal.

Impact on Setting

The construction of a five-storey building will significantly change the immediate nature of the site and its setting, however no archaeological sites or listed buildings exist in the immediate vicinity or within line of site of the development. Trees to the east on the border with Acton Park will screen much of the development from view in this direction.



Existing ground reduction and the embanked railway platform wall and buildings to the west will screen much of the structure from this aspect and it will be set 45m back from East Churchfield Road.

There will therefore be a negligible impact on the setting of the surrounding historical listed buildings and archaeological sites.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

There is a **low** potential for the survival of archaeological remains before the middle to late 19th century, and a **high** potential for late 19th and early 20th century AD associated with railway workshops and buildings. This conclusion is partly drawn from the low level of archaeological investigation in the immediate vicinity of the site, but also from the known level of truncation by the construction of the railway and later associated buildings.

The most significant impact of the development will be to the surviving remains of the railway workshops which are already in an advanced state of decay. Surviving partition walls and brick floor surfaces will be removed completely and the foundations for standalone structures noted on the 1896 OS Map are also likely to be removed.

The abundance of Lower Palaeolithic finds to the north and north-west of the site suggest that the upper terrace gravels are an important archaeological layer. If any gravel deposits have survived the railway construction then these could contain significant archaeological finds.

6.2 Recommendations

After consultation with the English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, it is likely that additional archaeological work would be required to establish the presence or absence of any surviving terrace gravels that may contain Lower Palaeolithic finds. This would usually involve the monitoring of geotechnical test pits or foundation trenches by an experienced archaeologist.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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We are also grateful to Dr Kim Stabler of English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service for her input and advice.



8.0 PROJECT ARCHIVE & DEPOSITION

A full archive will be prepared for all work undertaken in accordance with guidance from the *Selection, Retention and Dispersion of Archaeological Collections*, Archaeological Society for Museum Archaeologists, 1993. Arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with the relevant museum or the GLHER Office.

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www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

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Land Adjacent to Acton Central Station, East Churchfield Road, Acton, London
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

APPENDIX 1 – GLHER DATA

Monument ID	Record Type	Name	Monument Type	Date Range	Period Range	Finds
MLO100897	MON	Salisbury Street, Acton, Ealing, W3 {Berrymead Priory}	PRIORY, BENEDICTINE MONASTERY			
MLO11282	FS	BERRYMEAD PRIORY (ON SITE OF)	FINDSPOT			
MLO11294	FS	BERRYMEAD PRIORY (SITE OF)	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 42 AD	Prehistoric	LITHIC IMPLEMENT (Prehistoric)
MLO1586	FS	LORNE TERRACE	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 150001 BC	Lower Palaeolithic	LITHIC IMPLEMENT (Lower Palaeolithic)
MLO23016	FS	WOODHURST RD	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 10001 BC	Palaeolithic	LITHIC IMPLEMENT (Palaeolithic)
MLO25393	MON	NEWBURGH RD NEAR TO	HOUSE	1540 AD to 1900 AD	Post Medieval	
MLO25531	FS	WOODHURST RD	FINDSPOT	10000 BC to 4001 BC	Mesolithic	LITHIC IMPLEMENT (Mesolithic)
MLO2685	FS	LORNE TERRACE	FINDSPOT, FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 10001 BC	Palaeolithic	AXE (Palaeolithic), LITHIC IMPLEMENT (Palaeolithic)
MLO286	FS	ACTON VALE	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 42 AD	Prehistoric	BLADE (Prehistoric)
MLO435	FS	130-134 SHAKESPEARE RD	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 10001 BC	Palaeolithic	CORE (Palaeolithic)
MLO4536	FS	CHAUCER RD	FINDSPOT	43 AD to 409 AD	Roman	POT (Roman)
MLO464	FS	CHAUCER RD	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 150001 BC	Lower Palaeolithic	FLAKE (Lower Palaeolithic)
MLO518	FS	CHURCHFIELD RD	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 10001 BC	Palaeolithic	FLAKE (Palaeolithic)
MLO519	FS	ALFRED RD	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 150001 BC	Lower Palaeolithic	LITHIC IMPLEMENT (Lower Palaeolithic)
MLO523	FS	SHAKESPEARE RD	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 10001 BC	Palaeolithic	LITHIC IMPLEMENT (Palaeolithic)
MLO68426	FS	WOODHURST RD ACTON	FINDSPOT	500000 BC to 42 AD	Prehistoric	LITHIC IMPLEMENT (Prehistoric)
MLO71209	MON	Grove Place (No 9), Acton {Plough soil}	CULTIVATION SOIL			
MLO81919	BLD	High Street Acton, [Gala Bingo Hall], Ealing, {1936 Moderne style cinema}	CINEMA, BINGO HALL	1936 AD to 2050 AD	Modern	
MLO82217	BLD	GATES, GATE PIERS AND RAILINGS TO REAR OF NUMBERS 13 AND 15	RAILINGS, GATE PIER, GATE	1700 AD to 1732 AD	17th Century to 18th Century	
MLO82239	BLD	OBELISK IN ACTON PARK (OPPOSITE GOLDSMITHS' ALMSHOUSE)	OBELISK	1700 AD to 1799 AD	17th Century to 18th Century	
MLO82517	BLD	Salisbury Street [Berrymead Priory], Acton, Ealing, W3 {16th-19th century house}	MANOR HOUSE			
MLO82587	BLD	GOLDSMITHS' ALMSHOUSES AND RAILINGS	STEPS, RAILINGS, GATE,	1811 AD	19th Century	

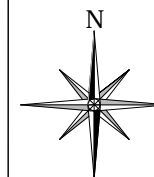
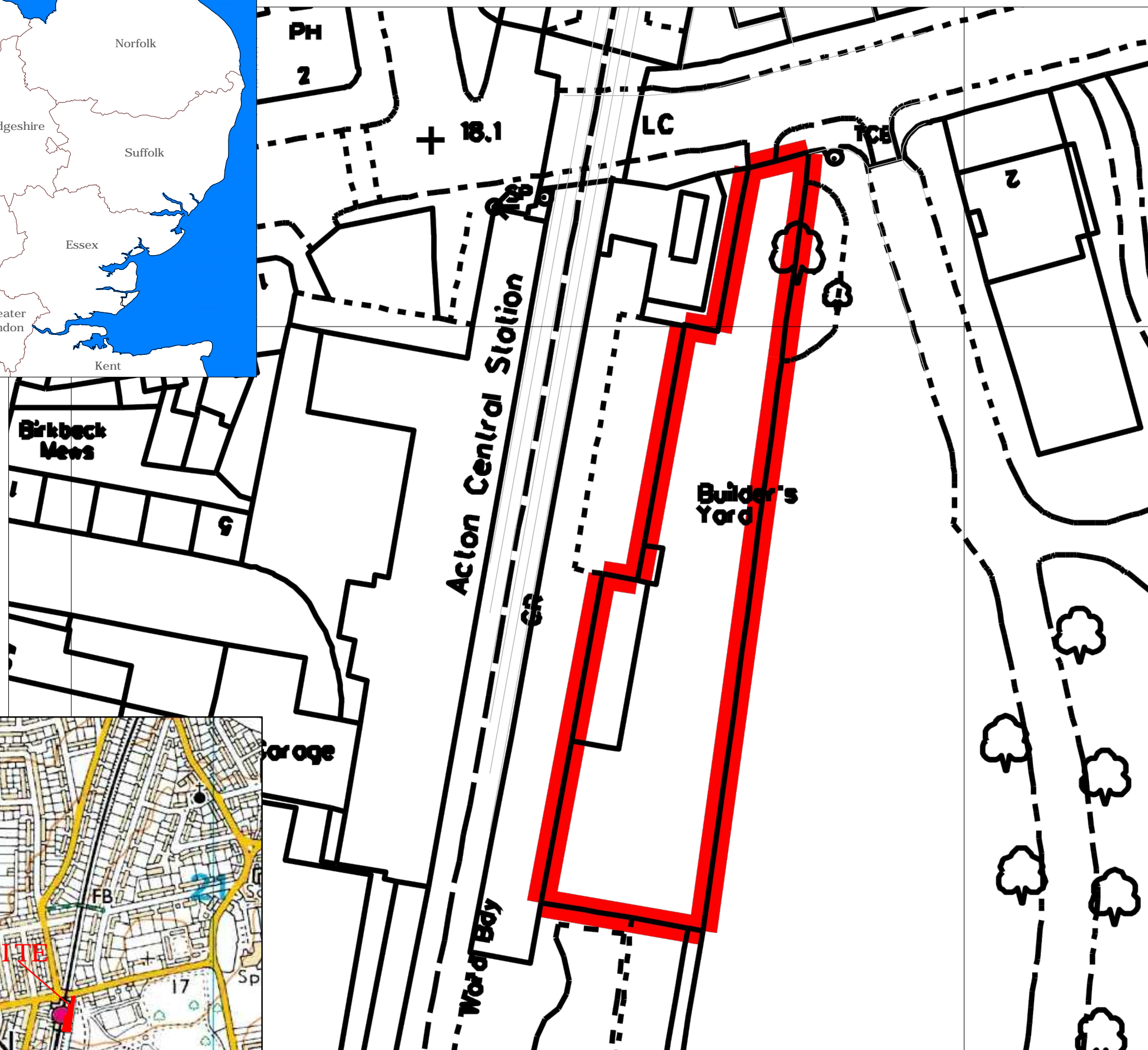
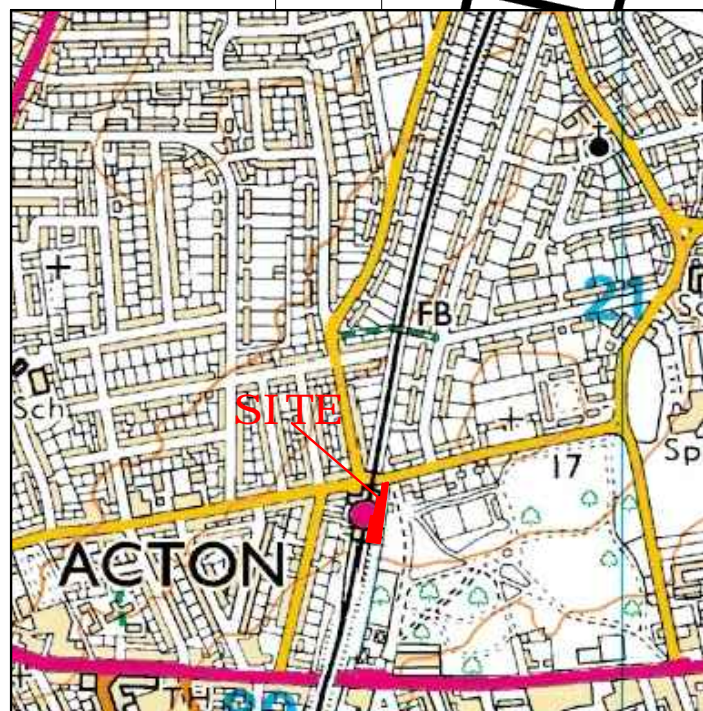


Land Adjacent to Acton Central Station, East Churchfield Road, Acton, London Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

		FRONTING ROAD	ALMSHOUSE			
MLO82628	BLD	CHIMNEY AT ACTON SWIMMING BATHS	CHIMNEY	1904 AD	Modern	
MLO82629	BLD	ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	PUBLIC LIBRARY, REFERENCE LIBRARY, APARTMENT	1898 AD to 1900 AD	19th Century	
MLO82631	BLD	Acton, [Acton Town Hall], Ealing, {early 20th century municipal building}	LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE, ASSEMBLY HALL, CLOCK TOWER, RAILINGS, TOWN HALL			
MLO99356	MON	Goldsmith Close, [1-3 Manor Farm Cottages], East Acton Lane, {late post medieval pit}	PIT, GARDEN SOIL	1750 AD to 1900 AD	18th Century to 19th Century	ANIMAL REMAINS (18th Century to 19th Century)

Event ID	Record Type	Name
ELO11985	EVP	High Street/Acton Lane/Salisbury Street [Acton Town Hall], Acton, Ealing, W3: Desk-Based Assessment
ELO11986	EVP	High Street/Winchester Street/Salisbury Street/Acton Lane [Acton Town Hall Regeneration Site], Acton, Ealing, W3: Desk-Based Assessment
ELO2638	EVT	Acton Lane (No 373), [Land to rear of], Acton, Ealing, W3: Watching Brief
ELO3208	EVT	East Acton Lane, [Manor House Sports Ground], Ealing: Evaluation
ELO3208	EVT	East Acton Lane, [Manor House Sports Ground], Ealing: Evaluation
ELO3494	EVT	Grove Place (No 9), Acton, Ealing, W3: Evaluation
ELO4827	EVT	The Vale (Nos 278-282), Acton: Evaluation
ELO5028	EVP	Acton Lane, ARK Priory primary Academy], Acton, Ealing: Desk Based Assessment
ELO7175	EVT	Manor Farm Cottages (Nos 1-3), Goldsmith Close, East Acton Lane, Watching Brief

Listed Building ID	Grade	Name
DLO17331	II	GATES, GATE PIERS AND RAILINGS TO REAR OF NUMBERS 13 AND 15
DLO17353	II	OBELISK IN ACTON PARK (OPPOSITE GOLDSMITHS' ALMSHOUSE)
DLO17440	II	BERRYMEAD PRIORY
DLO17510	II *	GOLDSMITHS' ALMSHOUSES AND RAILINGS FRONTING ROAD
DLO17559	II	Gala Bingo Club, High Street, Acton
DLO17563	II	Chimney at Acto Swimming Baths, North off Salisbury Street, Acton, Ealing
DLO17564	II	Acton Public Library, Acton, Ealing
DLO17566	II	Acton Town Hall, Acton, Ealing



NGR:	520669 180272	R. NUMBER:	1013
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PROJECT:
LAND ADJACENT TO ACTON CENTRAL
STATION, EAST CHURCHFIELD RD,
ACTON, LONDON

CLIENT:
JOANNE COOPER
WESTGREEN STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
SITE LOCATION PLAN

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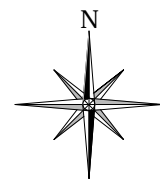
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	SITE AREA
	MONUMENT AREA
	MONUMENT POINT
	GLHER SEARCH RADIUS

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DESCRIPTION:	GLHER DATA - MONUMENT AREAS & LOCATIONS
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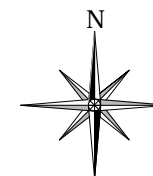
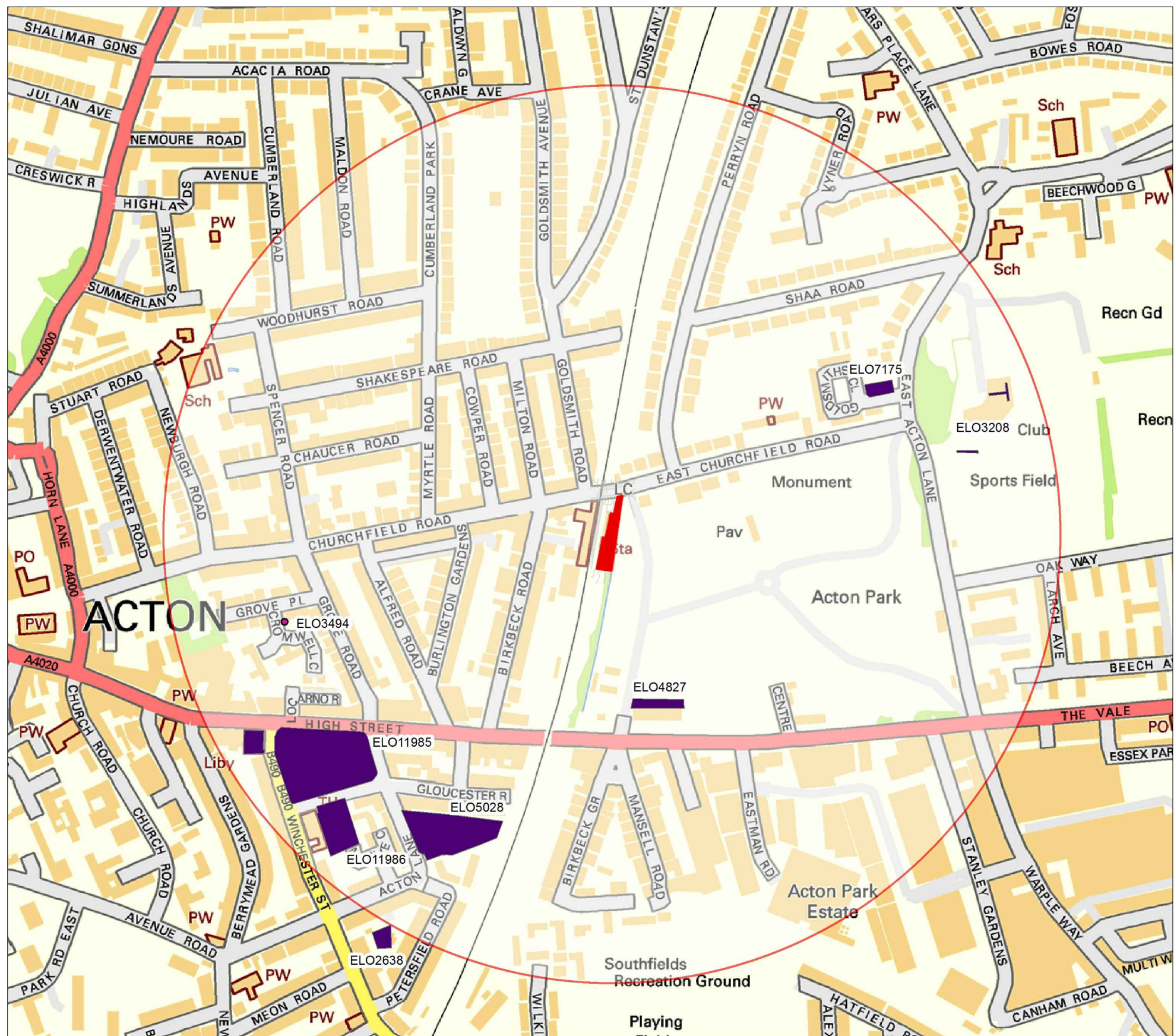
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	SITE AREA
	EVENT AREA
	EVENT POINT
	GLHER SEARCH RADIUS

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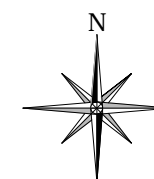
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
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	SITE AREA
	LISTED BUILDING
	GLHER SEARCH RADIUS

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DESCRIPTION:	GLHER DATA - LISTED BUILDINGS
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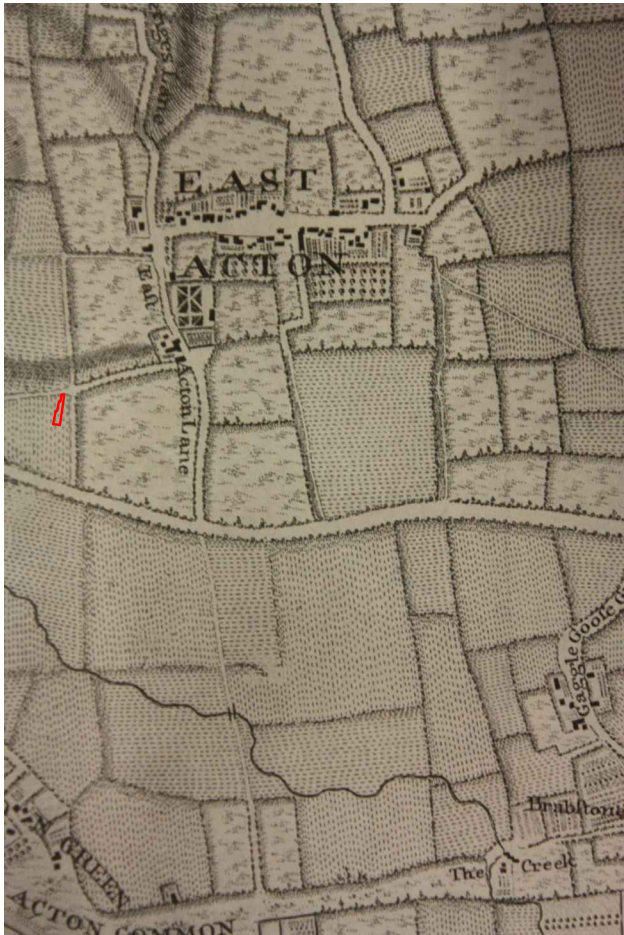


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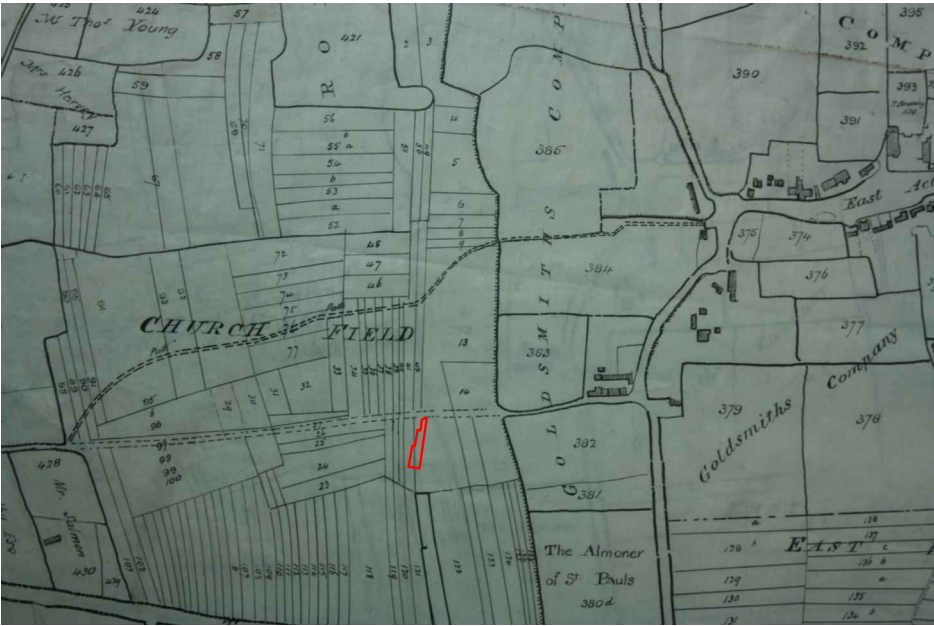
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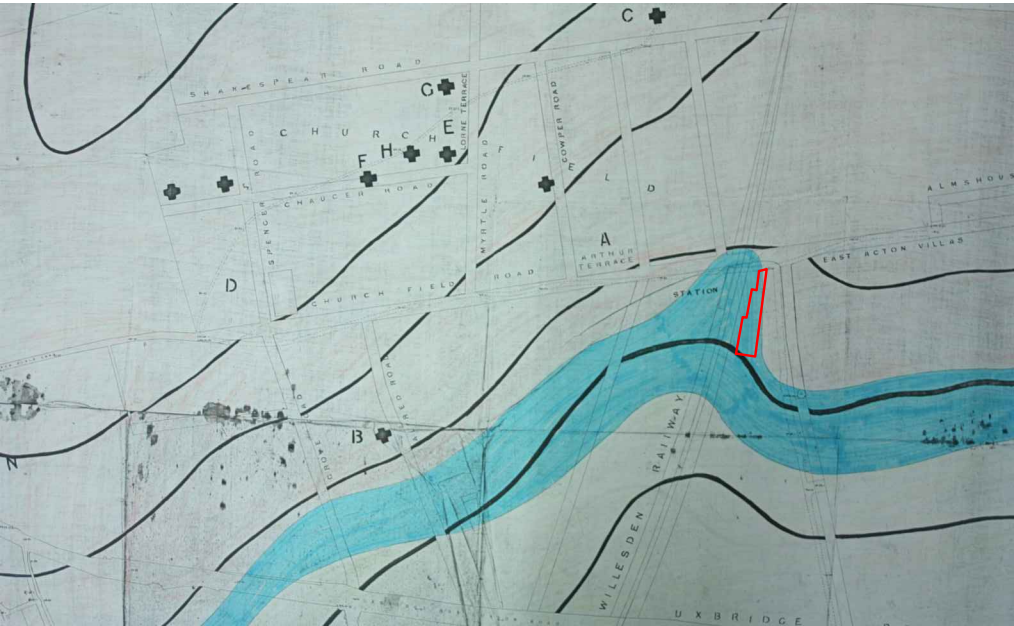
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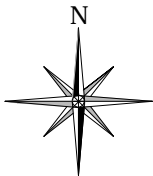
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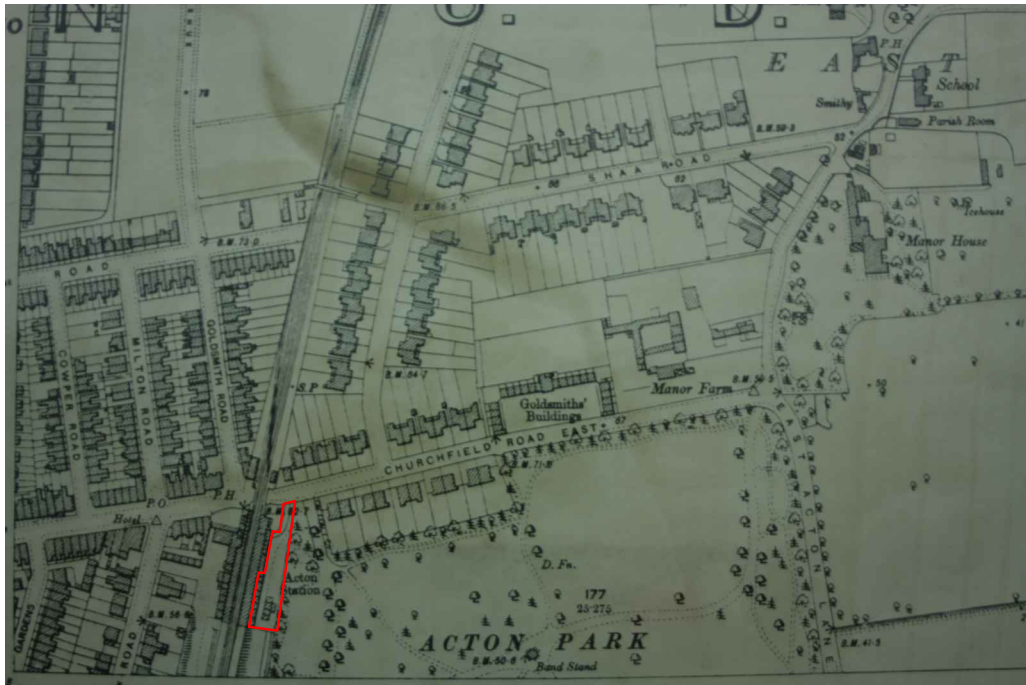


COL. LANE FOX (PITT RIVERS)
1869-72



	SITE BOUNDARY
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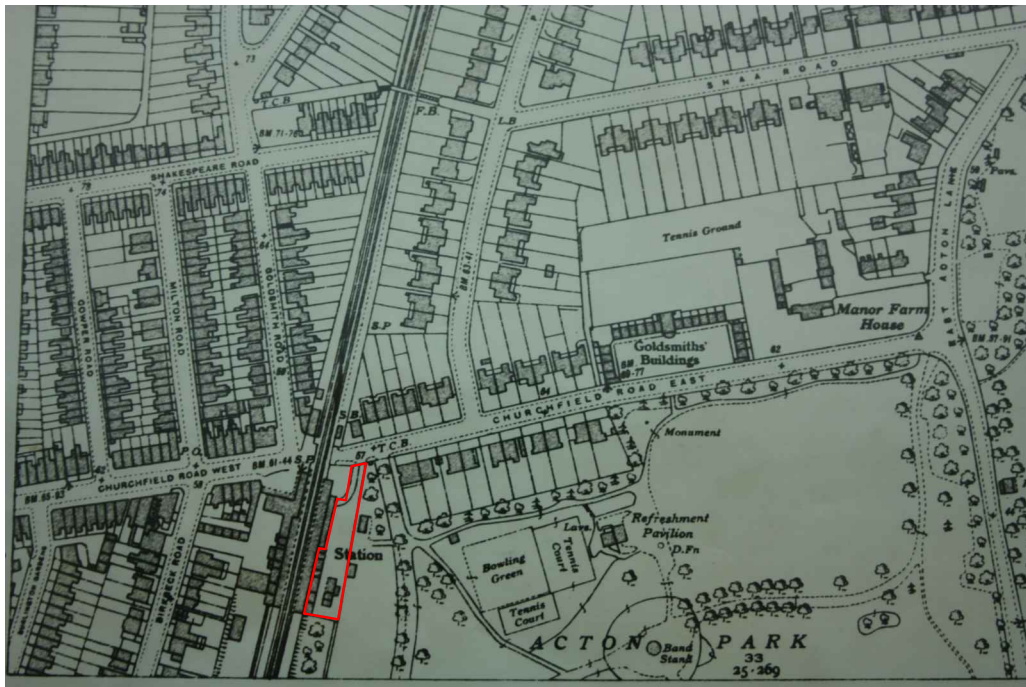
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CLIENT: JOANNE COOPER WESTGREEN STUDIO	
DESCRIPTION: CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES 1746 TO 1872	
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AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 05



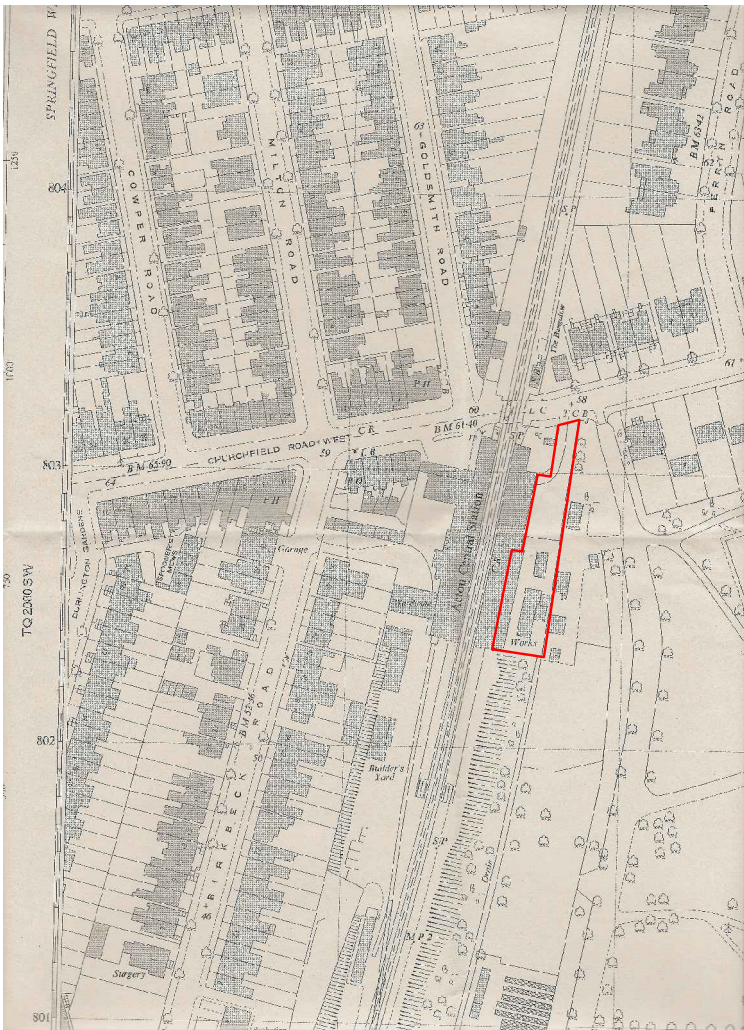
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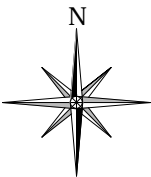
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ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1935

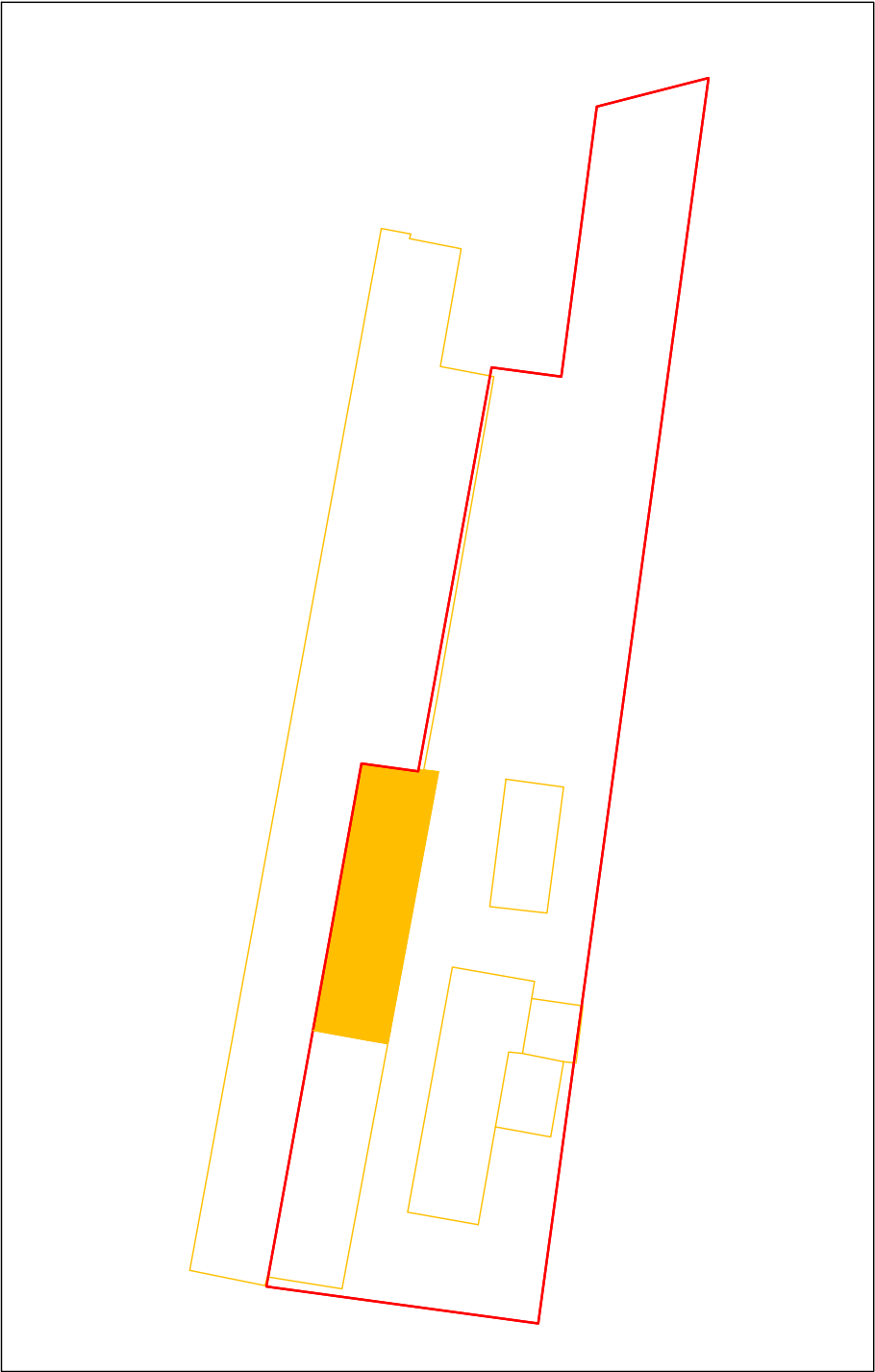
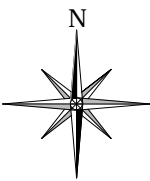


OS MAP 1955

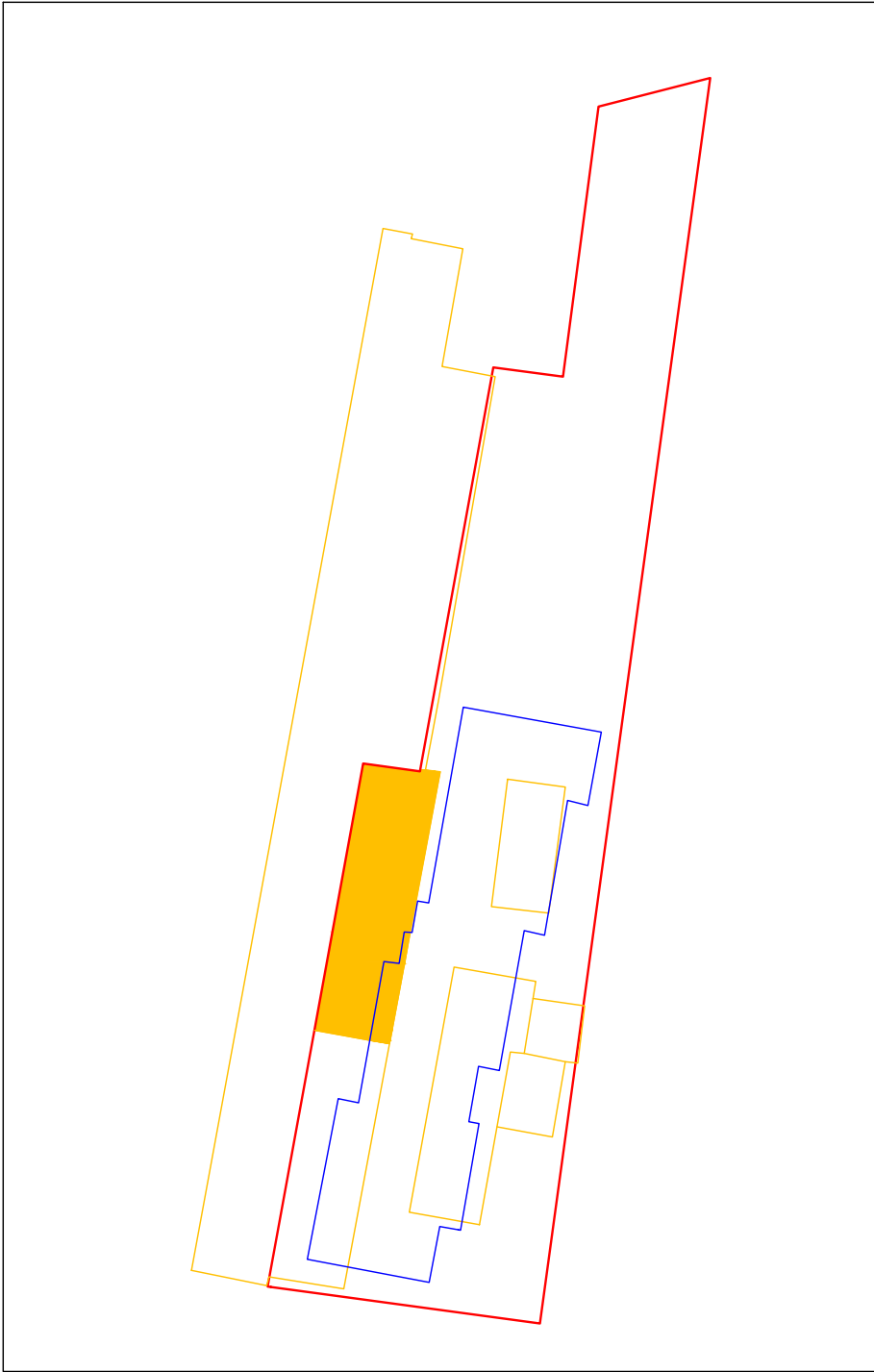


	SITE BOUNDARY
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CLIENT: JOANNE COOPER WESTGREEN STUDIO	
DESCRIPTION: CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES 1896 TO 1955	
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FIGURE: 06	



EXTENT OF RAILWAY BUILDINGS BY
1955 & AREA OF PARTIALLY
SURVIVING STRUCTURES



PROPOSED BUILDING FOOTPRINT

	RAILWAY BUILDINGS BY 1955
	AREA OF SURVIVING PARTITION WALLS & SURFACES
	PROPOSED BUILDING
	SITE BOUNDARY

NGR: 520669 180272	R. NUMBER: 1013
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PROJECT:
LAND ADJACENT TO ACTON CENTRAL
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JOANNE COOPER
WESTGREEN STUDIO

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DATE: SEP 2012	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 07



Photo 1: Site Entrance



Photo 2: Surviving Railway Building.
North Arched Partition Wall



Photo 3: Surviving Railway Building.
South Arched Partition Wall



Photo 4: Site Looking South



Photo 5: South West Corner Showing
Platform Retaining Wall

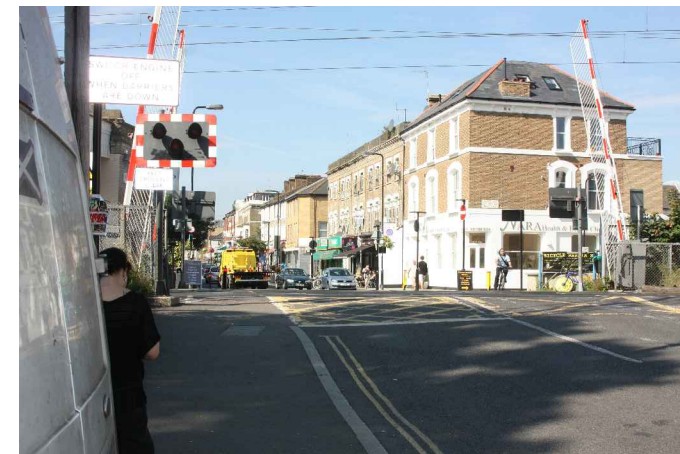


Photo 6: East Churchfield Road
Looking West

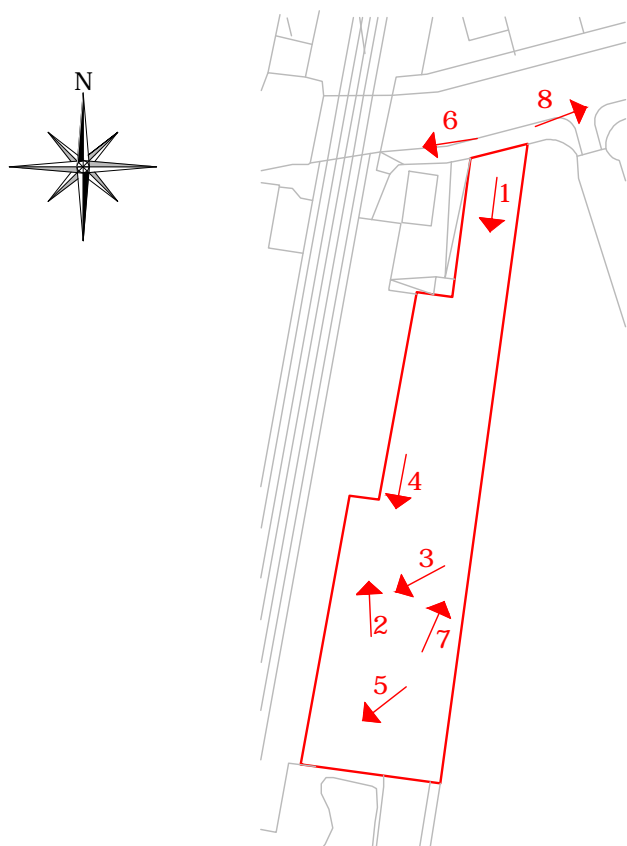


Photo 7: Site Eastern Boundary



Photo 8: East Churchfield Road
Looking East

2	DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH
	SITE BOUNDARY

NGR:	R. NUMBER:
520669 180272	1013

PROJECT:
LAND ADJACENT TO ACTON CENTRAL STATION, EAST CHURCHFIELD RD, ACTON, LONDON

CLIENT:
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DESCRIPTION:
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