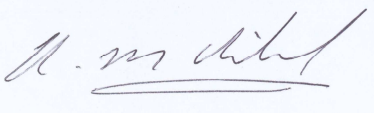




Historic England

London Borough of Merton Archaeological Priority Areas Appraisal

April 2016

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Introduction

This document has been produced by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of the London office of Historic England. The Merton Archaeological Priority Area Appraisal is part of a long term commitment to review and update London's Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs). The review uses evidence held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) in order to provide a sound evidence base for local plans that accord with the National Planning Policy Framework and its supporting Practice Guidance.

The appraisal is an opportunity to review the current APA framework in Merton and produce revised areas and new descriptions. The proposals are being submitted to the London Borough of Merton for consideration and are recommended for adoption in support of the Local Plan.

Explanation of Archaeological Priority Areas

An Archaeological Priority Area (APA) is a defined area where, according to existing information, there is significant known archaeological interest or particular potential for new discoveries.

APAs exist in every London borough and were initially created in the 1970s and 1980s either by the boroughs or local museums. In Merton such areas were formerly known as Archaeological Priority Zones (APZs). The present review of these areas is based on evidence held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER). Guidelines have been created to promote consistency in the recognition and definition of these areas across Greater London¹ and have been used in the preparation of this document.

In the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), archaeological interest means evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places and of the people and cultures that made them. However, heritage assets of archaeological interest can also hold other forms of heritage significance – artistic, architectural or historic interest. For many types of above ground heritage asset (e.g. historic buildings, landscapes and industrial heritage) these other interests may be more obvious or important. Sometimes heritage interests are intertwined – as is often the case with archaeological and historical interest. Whilst the APA system does not seek to duplicate protection given by other heritage designations, such as Listed Buildings or Conservation Areas, it does aim to overlap and integrate with such approaches. Understanding archaeological significance can enhance appreciation of historical, artistic or architectural interest and vice versa.

APAs highlight where important archaeological interest might be located based on the history of the area and previous archaeological investigations. They help local planning authorities to manage archaeological remains that might be affected by development by providing an evidence base for Local Plans. This evidence base identifies areas of known heritage assets of historic and archaeological interest and wider zones where there is a likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets will be discovered in the future. APAs act as a trigger for consultation with the borough's archaeological adviser and are justified by a description of significance which will inform development management advice and decision making. The appraisal can also indicate how archaeology might contribute towards a positive strategy for conserving and enjoying the local historic environment, for example through recognising local distinctiveness or securing social or cultural benefits.

However, archaeological research and discovery is a dynamic process so it is not possible to anticipate all eventualities, threats and opportunities. This appraisal should

¹ That is the boroughs advised by GLAAS; not the City of London and Southwark which have their own archaeological advisers.

therefore be seen as providing a flexible framework for informed site specific decision making but not a straightjacket.

Archaeological Priority Area Tiers

Previously all parts of Merton were either inside or outside an Archaeological Priority Zone (APZ). Under the new system all parts of the borough will fall into one of four different tiers of archaeological significance and potential. The tiers vary depending on the archaeological significance and potential of that particular area. New Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs) have been categorised into one of Tiers 1-3 while all other areas within the borough will be regarded as being in Tier 4. Tier levels indicate when there is a need to understand the potential impact of the proposed development on the heritage asset's significance. The type of planning applications and the tier level it is located in indicate the likelihood that archaeology will be a consideration in reaching a planning decision.

Consultation guidelines are set out in the GLAAS Charter. New guidelines will link the tiers to specific thresholds for triggering archaeological advice and assessment. It is expected that as a minimum all major applications² within Archaeological Priority Areas (Tiers 1-3) would require an archaeological desk based assessment, and if necessary a field evaluation, to accompany a planning application. In the more sensitive Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas this procedure would also apply to some smaller scale developments. Outside Archaeological Priority Areas (Tier 4) some major developments, such as those subject to Environmental Impact Assessment, may warrant similar treatment. Pre-application consultation with GLAAS is encouraged to ensure planning applications are supported by appropriate information.

Tier 1 is a defined area which is known, or strongly suspected, to contain a heritage asset of national importance (a Scheduled Monument or equivalent); or is otherwise of very high archaeological sensitivity. Thus Tier 1 covers heritage assets to which policies for designated heritage assets would apply and a few other sites which are particularly sensitive to small scale disturbance³. They will be clearly focused on a specific heritage asset and will normally

² Major applications include development involving 10 or more dwellings or an application site of 0.5 hectares or more on outline applications. For other types of applications including commercial or industrial development a major application may be defined as being 1000m² floorspace or more or an application site of 1 hectare or more on an outline application.

³ However, this does not mean that the policies for assets of national importance would apply to every development in a Tier 1 APA as that will depend upon the nature of the proposals and results of site-specific assessment and evaluation.

be relatively small. Scheduled Monuments would normally be included within a Tier 1 APA⁴.

Tier 2 is a local area within which the GLHER holds specific evidence indicating the presence or likely presence of heritage assets of archaeological interest. Planning decisions are expected to make a balanced judgement for non-designated assets considered of less than national importance considering the scale of any harm and the significance of the asset. Tier 2 APAs will typically cover a larger area than a Tier 1 APA and may encompass a group of heritage assets.

Tier 3 is a landscape scale zone within which the GLHER holds evidence indicating the potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest. The definition of Tier 3 APAs involves using the GLHER to predict the likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets, particularly sites of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future. Tier 3 APAs will typically be defined by geological, topographical or land use considerations in relation to known patterns of heritage asset distribution.

Tier 4 (outside APA) is any location that does not, on present evidence, merit inclusion within an Archaeological Priority Area. However, Tier 4 areas are not necessarily devoid of archaeological interest and may retain some potential unless they can be shown to have been heavily disturbed in modern times. Such potential is most likely to be identified on greenfield sites, in relation to large scale development or in association with Listed Buildings or other designated heritage assets.

New information may lead to areas moving between the four tiers set out above. For example, a positive archaeological evaluation could result in a Tier 2 area (or part of it) being upgraded to Tier 1 if the remains found were judged to be of national importance. It is important to understand that the new tiered system is intended to be dynamic and responsive to new information which either increases or decreases the significance of an area.

⁴ Tier 1 APAs around Scheduled Monuments will often extend beyond the boundary of the scheduled area to reflect the full extent of the asset, including the potential for associated remains. It will not usually be practicable for an APA to define the totality of Scheduled Monument's setting. Instead they will attempt to reflect areas close to the monument that would be especially sensitive. A few Scheduled Monuments which have been designated for their historical or other non-archaeological interest will not merit the definition of a Tier 1 APA.

This document comprises an appraisal of all the new APAs in Merton which have been allocated to one of Tiers 1-3. Each APA has an associated description which includes several different sections. A “Summary and Definition” section provides a brief overview of the key features of the APA, the justification for its selection, how its boundaries were defined and gives an explanation as to why it has been placed in a particular tier group. A “Description” section goes into more detail about the history and archaeology of the APA to describe its overall character. Finally a “Significance” section details the heritage significance of the APA with particular reference to its archaeological interest and related historical interest. Each description will also have a list of “Key References” along with a related map showing the extent of the APA boundary. A glossary of relevant terms is included at the end of the document.

Merton: Historical and Archaeological Interest

The London Borough of Merton was part of Surrey until 1965 and was not itself a historical entity. It is located in south-west London and lies partly within the Thames Basin Lowlands National Character Area (114) and partly within the Thames Valley National Character Area (115). Most of the borough is low lying apart from in the north where the land rises steeply to the plateau where Wimbledon Common is located. Most of the borough is situated on London Clay geology but over large areas this is covered by riverine gravels laid down by ancient courses of the Thames River and more recent alluvial deposits spread along the Wandle and Beverley Brook Rivers. London Clay is regarded as heavy, difficult to cultivate and more suitable for woodland or pasture. In contrast, the lighter permeable soils on the gravels would have provided more favourable conditions for agriculture and settlement.

The Wandle River flows north towards the Thames and has attracted both settlement and industry along its banks. Historically the focal point of Merton was at Merton Priory which was built where the main road from London to Chichester (Roman Stane Street) crossed the Wandle. The villages of Merton and Morden occupied a central agricultural belt either side of the road. In contrast, Mitcham and Wimbledon grew up on and alongside the two open commons in the south-east and north-west of the borough respectively.

The central agricultural belt became increasingly built up during the late 19th and early 20th centuries but the two commons and industrial heritage along the Wandle help the modern area to retain a degree of historic character. The archaeological interest in Merton therefore contrasts between the more intensive and sustained exploitation found along the Wandle and Stane Street corridors and the less intensive and more sporadic uses of the commons to either side.

Prehistoric (500,000 BC to 42 AD)

The Wandle Valley is thought to have been sporadically visited in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods as evidenced by lithic finds across the floodplain. Prehistoric farming communities from 4000 BC would have considered areas close to the Wandle attractive locations for settlement due to the agricultural potential of the land and the plentiful water supply. The main prehistoric site is an Iron Age hillfort known as Caesar's Camp located on Wimbledon Common which was presumably situated there to take advantage of a locally commanding position. Relatively little is known of the landscape around the hillfort but traces of somewhat earlier Bronze Age settlement in the form of small farmsteads and field systems can be discerned along the Wandle Valley forming part of a wider landscape with its focus to the south at Carshalton. The most likely areas for new discoveries are along the two

river valleys and on the undeveloped commons, although any finds on the London Clay would be of interest due to their supposed inhospitality to prehistoric farmers. The main focus for archaeological research on prehistoric Merton will be improving understanding of how this early farming landscape developed and worked as part of similar landscapes found across the wider Thames Basin. The role and landscape context of Caesar's Camp hillfort is of particular interest.

Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)

The most significant Roman feature in Merton was the Roman road known as Stane Street which linked *Londinium* to *Noviomagus Regnorum* (Chichester) and ran across the borough from the south-west to the north-east. High Street Colliers Wood and parts of the A24 south-east of Morden follow its route. Settlements probably developed close to the road and finds such as coins, pottery and burials have been made that suggest that such a roadside settlement did exist. Morden Park Mound is an enigmatic structure close to Stane Street that could be a Roman burial mound or surveillance platform. While most Roman finds are close to Stane Street a notable exception is a possible Roman villa that was found in Somerset Road near Wimbledon Village. This discovery could suggest that Roman settlement was more widespread.

Our knowledge of Roman Merton is thus still fairly limited and there is doubtless much more to discover. The main archaeological interests would be to understand how land was used and managed within the hinterland of *Londinium*. Whether, for example, there was an emphasis on specialised production for the market or Roman administration. Related questions could include whether the Wandle was used for mills as in later periods and if the people were mainly native Britons or a more diverse group influenced by the nearby city.

Anglo-Saxon (410 AD to 1065 AD) & Medieval (1066 AD to 1539 AD)

There are few finds in Merton dating from the Saxon period compared to other historic periods. However, one notable Saxon feature is the cemetery at Ravensbury where the number of burials and length of time that it was in use implies that it was linked with an as yet unidentified nearby settlement. The discovery of this settlement would be a significant advance.

Wimbledon is mentioned in a 10th century document while Merton, Mitcham and Morden are all recorded in the Domesday Book indicating that they had been established during the Saxon period. Churches in all these towns are thought to stand on the site of earlier churches that were established in the medieval or Saxon periods.

The Augustinian monastic complex at Merton Priory is the most significant archaeological site of the medieval period dating from 1117 and located close to what is now Colliers Wood underground station. It was one of the most influential of all the English monastic houses, significant for its royal patronage particularly in the 13th century when it was favoured by Henry III who visited frequently. It was an important religious centre which also hosted government meetings and the presence of such a large monastic centre would have had an influence on the surrounding area. The Priory buildings were demolished as part of the dissolution of the monasteries and the site is now occupied by a supermarket complex. The Priory church and sections of the monastic range have been extensively excavated and the site of the Priory is one of three Scheduled Monuments in Merton.

Archaeological interest in the medieval period has until now focussed on Merton Priory. Future investigations could also consider how the settlement pattern observed on early maps came into existence, how the proximity of London and the presence of the local monastery influenced the local area; and in contrast perhaps more ephemeral evidence for use of the commons. Another potential theme would be the origins of water management and industrial use of the Wandle, particularly with reference to milling.

Post medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD) & Modern (1901 AD to present day)

Mills had been built alongside the Wandle in earlier periods, and are mentioned in the Domesday Book, but it was during the post medieval period that the Wandle was fully exploited for power by numerous river related industries. Mills and factories which produced a variety of goods were established along the length of the river in Merton and their owners often built mansions nearby. The William Morris Works and Liberty Print Works, which were both located near to the site of Merton Priory, are two of the most famous of these riverside factories. Mills were sometimes adapted in order to produce different goods and in some cases had to be rebuilt after devastating fires. The Wandle itself was diverted and manipulated so that the water supply to the mills could be improved and these changes to the river can still be observed in many places today. Several of the mills were still in use during the 20th century and many of the buildings survive. While others have been demolished they may have left an archaeological trace. The riverside industrial heritage of Merton is somewhat at odds with the area's historically rural character but it is nevertheless an integral element of the borough's history and archaeology.

Merton became an attractive location for wealthy Londoners to build country houses during the post medieval period owing to its convenient distance from central London. Wimbledon Park House was built in the late 16th century on a site to the south of Wimbledon

Park for the politician Sir Thomas Cecil. Nearby Wimbledon village subsequently became a popular area for impressive country houses, particularly in the area that surrounds Rushmere Green, from the 17th century onwards. Mitcham also became a popular area for country houses and others were built throughout the borough such as Morden Park House, Morden Hall and Cannon Hill House. One of the most famous houses was Merton Place due to its association with Admiral Nelson who lived there for a short period in the early 19th century. Many of the country houses, including Merton Place, have since been demolished although their remains may survive and the majority of those that are still standing are listed.

The Surrey Iron Railway opened in 1803 and ran for nine miles between Croydon and the Thames riverside at Wandsworth. It was a horse drawn railway which mainly transported agricultural and industrial produce. It passed through Merton and its route was situated to the east of the Wandle. It closed in 1846 due to competition from steam railways but the majority of its former route through Merton is covered by APAs and part of it is used by Tramlink in Mitcham.

Wimbledon station opened in 1838 when the section of the London and South Western Railway was opened between Nine Elms and Woking. Branch lines were subsequently opened which linked Wimbledon to Tooting, Mitcham and Croydon and in 1889 the District Line of the London Underground was extended to Wimbledon. The coming of the railways to Merton did not lead to the immediate urbanisation of the area but it did mean that the journey time between Merton and central London had been drastically reduced. The 1874 OS map shows how many parts of the borough were still undeveloped but by the end of the 19th century Mitcham and Wimbledon had been increasingly built up, although the south-west of the borough was still predominantly rural. It was not until the interwar period that the undeveloped parts of Merton were built over and the area became predominantly urban. Like other London boroughs, Merton was bombed during the Second World War and anti-aircraft gun sites were located on Wimbledon Common, Mitcham Common and at Raynes Park.

The industrial heritage of the Wandle Valley is of at least regional significance, most notably in relation to the textile industry from the 17th century onwards. Some historic buildings and landscape features survive as may substantial below ground remains, some of which could be worthy of preservation or display. This period also has potential for the study of the new consumer society both in relation to production and consumption by the wealthier classes. Post medieval uses of the commons, for example during wartime, would also be of interest. For best effect this type of archaeological investigation needs to be combined with historical research, an understanding of rapidly changing technology and the analysis of standing structures.

Archaeological Priority Areas in Merton

A total of 23 Archaeological Priority Areas are recommended for Merton of which four are Tier 1 APAs, 16 are Tier 2 APAs and three are Tier 3 APAs. The revised APAs would cover approximately 38% of the borough, a slight decrease from 40% previously. A number of former Archaeological Priority Zones are not included in the new list of APAs. This is because following appraisal it was decided that they did not fulfil the selection criteria and have therefore been omitted from the revised list.

Tier 1 APAs	Size (HA)
1.1 Caesar's Camp	27.35
1.2 Merton Priory	10.28
1.3 Morden Park Mound	0.42
1.4 Ravensbury Saxon Cemetery	10.79
	Total = 48.84

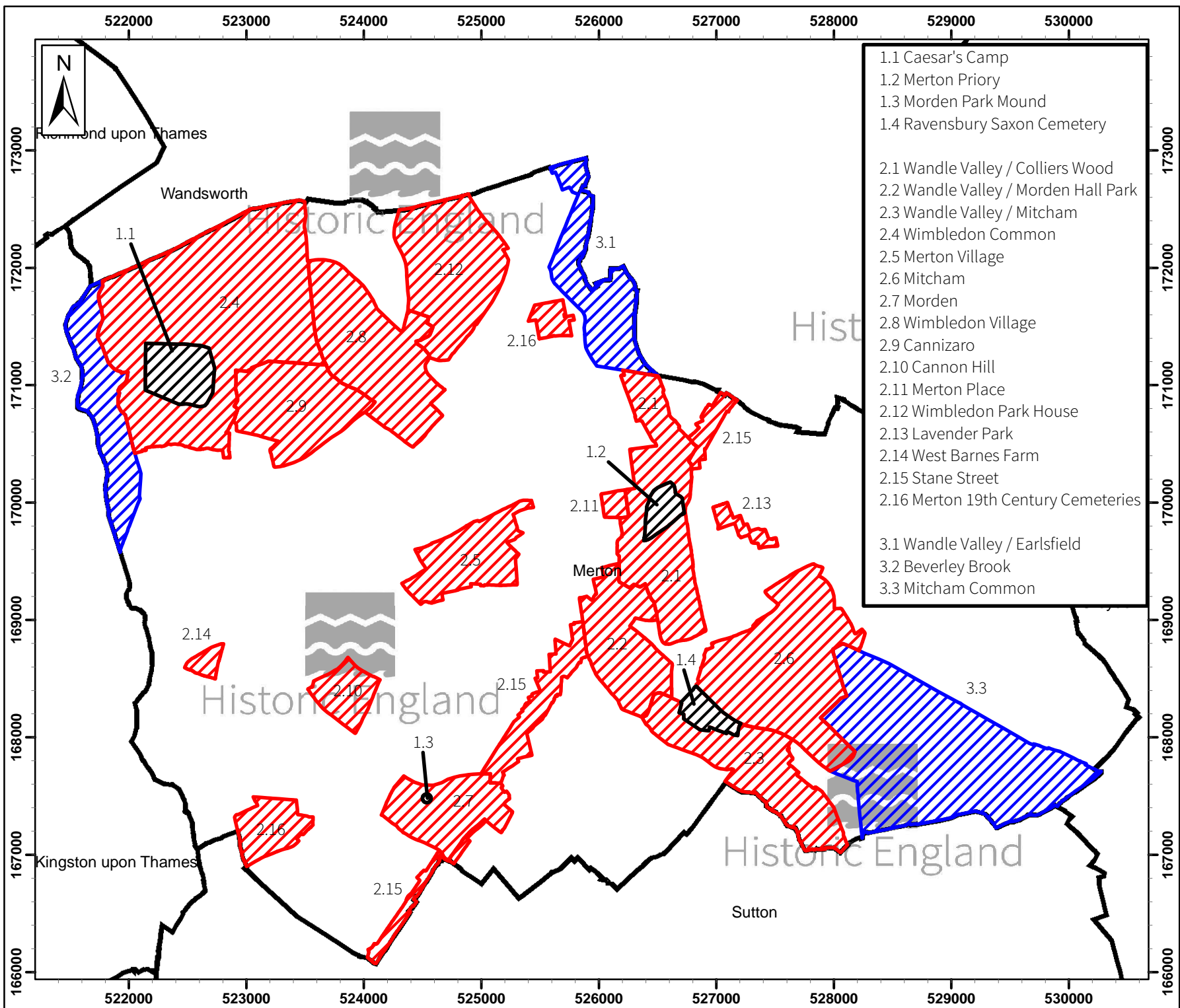
Tier 2 APAs	
2.1 Wandle Valley / Colliers Wood	93.13
2.2 Wandle Valley / Morden Hall Park	59.97
2.3 Wandle Valley / Mitcham	74.18
2.4 Wimbledon Common	237.41
2.5 Merton Village	47.48
2.6 Mitcham	131.48
2.7 Morden	48.41
2.8 Wimbledon Village	97.37
2.9 Cannizaro	67.64
2.10 Cannon Hill	20.81
2.11 Merton Place	4.53
2.12 Wimbledon Park House	90.07
2.13 Lavender Park	6.54
2.14 West Barnes Farm	5.22
2.15 Stane Street	47.84
2.16 Merton 19 th Century Cemeteries	32.67
	Total = 1064.75

Tier 3 APAs

3.1 Wandle Valley/Earlsfield	60.44
3.2 Beverley Brook	57.59
3.3 Mitcham Common	198.31

Total = 316.34

Total area of all Archaeological Priority Areas in Merton = 1429.93



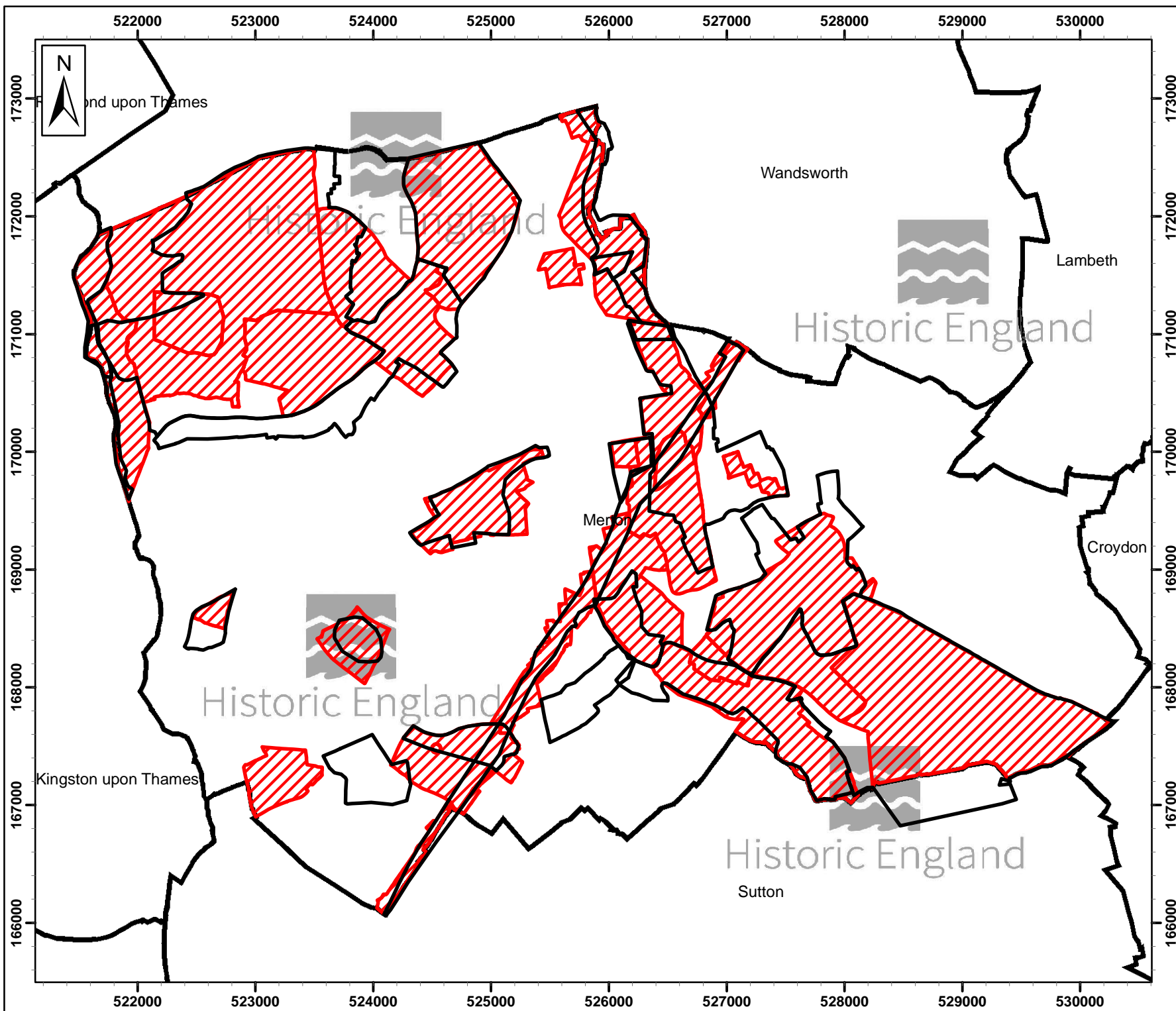
Merton Archaeological Priority Areas

- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area


Scale (at A4): 1:42,500


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Merton APAs and Former Merton APZs

 Merton APA

 Former Merton APZ

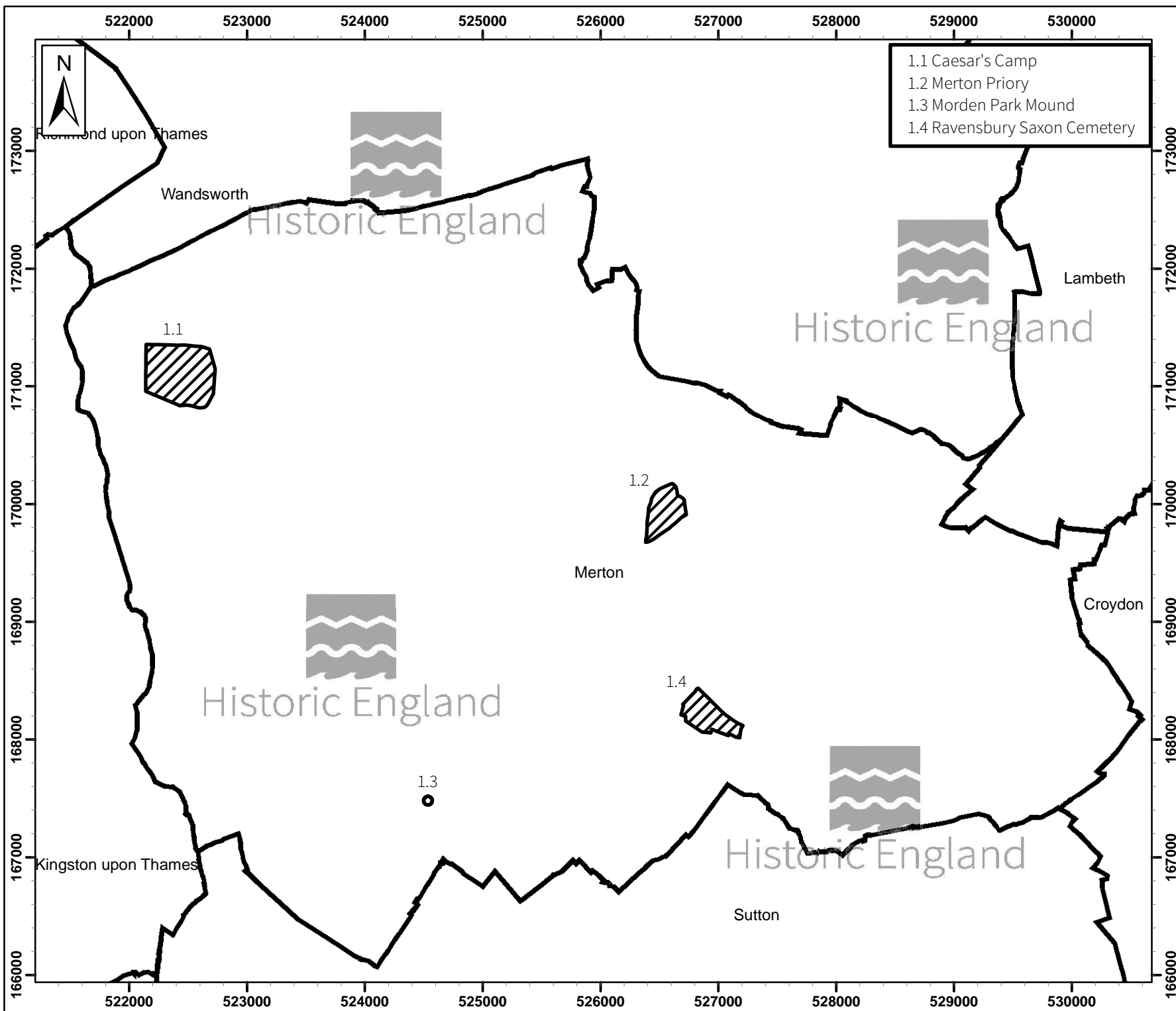
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Merton Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Areas

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

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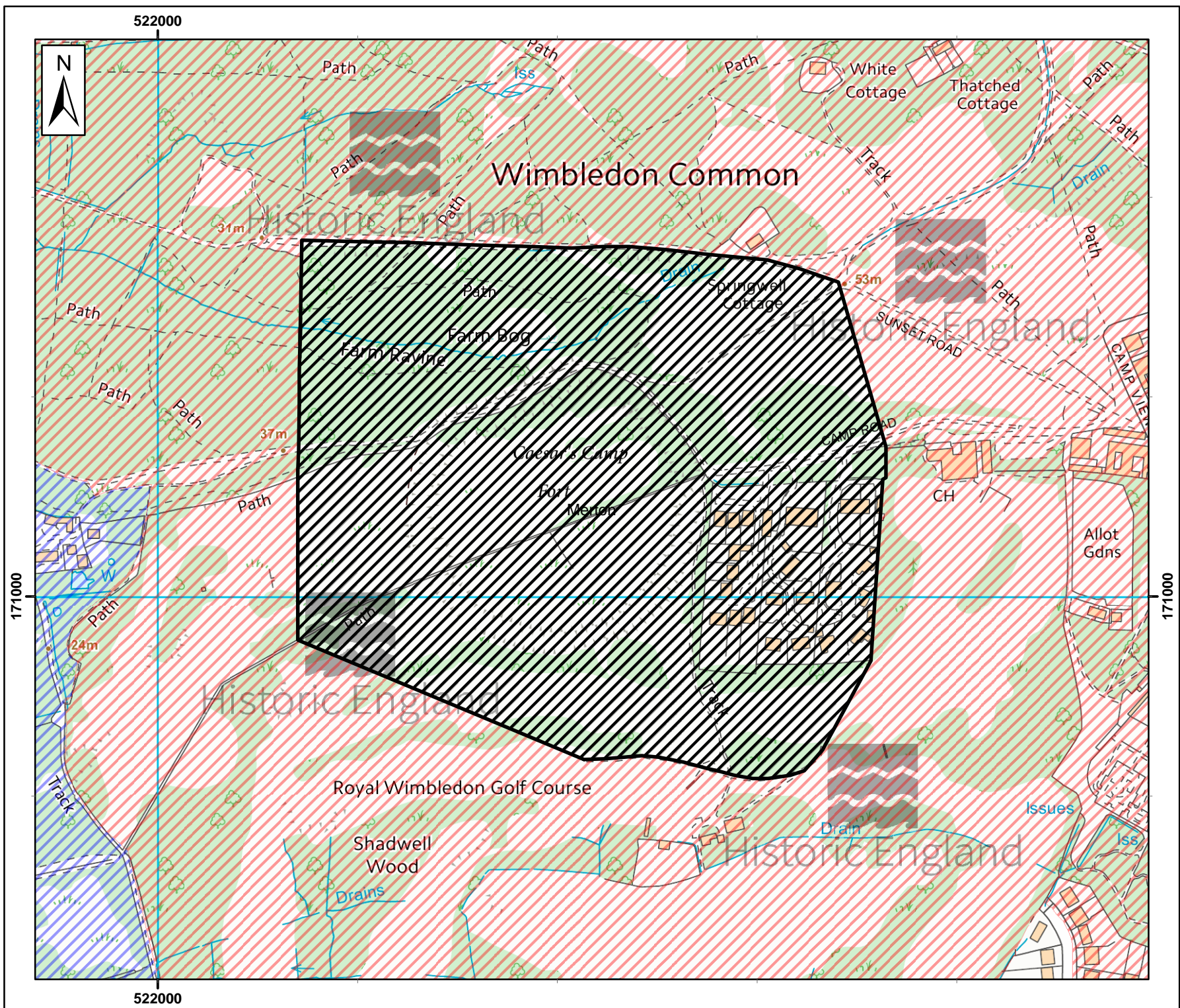
Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Areas

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Merton APA 1.3: Morden Park Mound page 29

Merton APA 1.4: Ravensbury Saxon Cemetery page 31



Merton APA 1.1
Caesar's Camp

 Caesar's Camp APA

Tier 1
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 3
 Archaeological
Priority Area

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Merton APA 1.1: Caesar's Camp

Summary and Definition

A circular Iron Age hillfort known as Caesar's Camp is located on Wimbledon Common. The hillfort itself is a Scheduled Monument but the APA also covers its immediate surroundings. The APA is classified Tier 1 because it includes a Scheduled Monument and its immediate setting which may contain associated archaeological remains.

Description

Wimbledon Common is the highest point in the London Borough of Merton and this is presumably why Caesar's Camp was located here. It has a diameter of approximately 300 metres and was surrounded by a single bank and ditch. Its survival is a consequence of successful efforts to preserve Wimbledon Common in the late 19th century. During an attempt to build on the site in 1875, part of the rampart was levelled and a section of the ditch was filled in before opponents to the development were able to stop the work. No further attempts were made to develop the site and it is still a noticeable earthwork although it has never undergone a thorough archaeological investigation. It has lain within the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club course since 1907 and is now partly within the fairways and partly within woodland.

The name Caesar's Camp is misleading since there is no evidence to link the site with Roman occupation. There have also been fewer archaeological finds from Wimbledon Common dating to the Roman period compared to finds from earlier prehistoric periods. Similar enclosed sites in Greater London are also referred to as Caesar's Camp and the Wimbledon Common site appears to have been called Caesar's Camp from the 18th century onwards. Previously it had been known as The Rounds, Bensbury Fort or Bencheberry Fort.

Significance

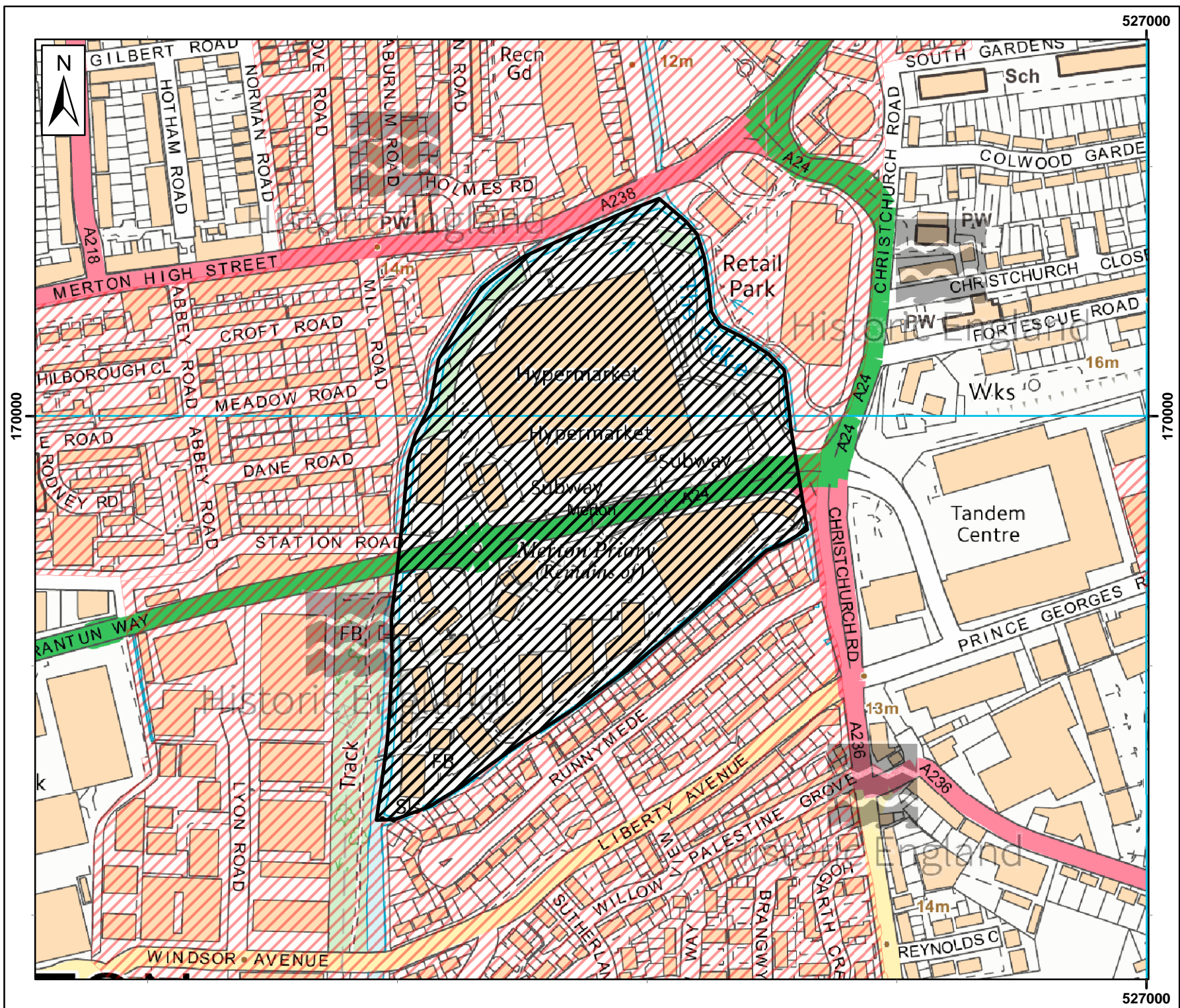
Caesar's Camp is especially significant because it is one of the best preserved of only a handful of Iron Age hillforts in Greater London; and it is a very rare example of a visible prehistoric earthwork surviving in the city. The scheduled area covers the inner area of the fort and its outer defences but it is possible that remains and finds associated with the fort might be found outside of the scheduled area. The largely undeveloped surroundings which constitute the monument's immediate setting also contribute to its significance by allowing its topographical location, form and reasons for survival to be appreciated and interpreted for public benefit as part of Merton's 'green infrastructure'.

A lack of archaeological investigations means that there is high potential to learn more about the site and for it to contribute to understanding the poorly known





Iron Age occupation of Greater London. However, the management priority must be to preserve this rare prehistoric survival intact within an open landscape setting.

Key References

Historic Wimbledon, Caesar's Camp to Centre Court, R. Millward, The Windrush Press, 1989



Merton APA 1.2
Merton Priory

-  Merton Priory APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

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Merton APA 1.2: Merton Priory

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the principal areas of the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Merton. It includes the scheduled area for the Priory and is bounded by the Wandle River to the east and north and a stream known as the Pickle to the west and south. While parts of the Priory's precinct walls extended to the south and west of the APA, the locations of the majority of monastic buildings were situated within the APA boundary. The APA is classified as Tier 1 because it includes a scheduled site which has associated archaeological remains in its vicinity.

Description

The Augustinian Priory of St Mary Merton, more commonly referred to as Merton Priory, was established in the early 12th century on a site now occupied by a supermarket complex on Merantun Way. The site's proximity to the Wandle and the Roman road of Stane Street were presumably factors for the Priory being established here. Merton Priory is one of three scheduled sites within Merton.

The Priory became an important monastic centre during the medieval period. Thomas Becket and Nicholas Breakspear (the future Pope Adrian IV) were educated at Merton, a peace conference between King Henry III and King Louis of France was held here and King Henry III also held what could be described as a parliament at the Priory in 1236. The Priory was dissolved in 1538 and subsequently demolished as part of King Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. Much of the Priory's building material was reused to build Nonsuch Palace at Cheam although surviving sections of the precinct wall stand to the east of the Pickle between Merantun Way and the Wandle and are Grade II listed. Other surviving sections of the wall can be found to the south of the APA between Windsor Avenue and Brangwyn Crescent.

Archaeological excavations took place at the Priory site in 1921 and 1922 and in 1962 and 1963 but the site was extensively excavated in various phases between 1976 and 1990. During these excavations the Chapter House, the infirmary complex, the cemetery, the domestic range, part of the cloisters and the main church building were all uncovered and recorded before the site was developed. Most of the Priory church lies beneath the section of car park between Merantun Way and the supermarket while a number of the Priory's ancillary buildings such as the infirmary lie to the south of Merantun Way. The remains of the Chapter House have been left uncovered in an accessible vault beneath an elevated section of Merantun Way and are within the scheduled area.

In later centuries printing works were established within the APA close to the site of Merton Priory and the course of the Wandle was diverted to provide these works with water power. Two of the most notable factories in this area were the William Morris Works and the Liberty Works.

The William Morris works were located near to the location of Merton Priory and Morris ran the works from 1881 until his death in 1896. The works produced a range of goods including carpets, tapestries, weavings, wallpapers and stained glass. After Morris' death his partners continued the business until the Second World War.

Liberty & Co. Ltd took over the Merton Abbey print works which were located on the east side of the Wandle just to the south of where Merantun Way now crosses the river. The print works had originally been established in 1724 as a Calico printing works which were probably associated with the bleaching ditches located on the opposite side of the Wandle and on part of the Priory site. Liberty's stopped production at Merton in 1972 and the site is now used as an arts and crafts centre. The Colour House and Wheel House which both date to the original 18th century print works still stand and are Grade II listed.

A railway was built across the site in the 19th century which followed the same route as Merantun Way. Merton Abbey station opened in 1868 and while it closed to passengers in 1929 the station did not close completely until 1975.

Significance

Merton Priory was clearly an important religious establishment which also became associated with key political events during the medieval period. The presence of such an influential religious centre would have had a significant impact on the surrounding area. The extensive excavations that took place in the late 20th century demonstrated that remains of several Priory buildings and the cemetery had survived. The Priory had large inner and outer precincts, much of which remains unexcavated, and further remains are expected to survive within the APA. While it is sometimes difficult to imagine such an important religious complex being located on what is now a large and modern shopping centre the accessible remains of the Chapter House provide a tangible link with the site's past although it would be desirable to improve its setting and interpretation.

The excavations at Merton Priory are particularly significant because they collectively represent a large scale archaeological excavation of a pre-eminent establishment of the Augustinian Order, including its cemetery, and this is a rarity in Britain. The excavation of the large and generally well phased burial population (700+) and the infirmary complex, with its own cloister and chapel, is a nationally important contribution to the understanding of monastic archaeology and the Augustinian Order. There are significant research questions identified about this site and the significance of the Priory's royal patronage is also of special interest.

The establishment of printing works within the APA in the post medieval period would not merit Tier 1 status on their own and it is the presence of the Priory remains which gives the APA Tier 1 status. However, the significance of the printing

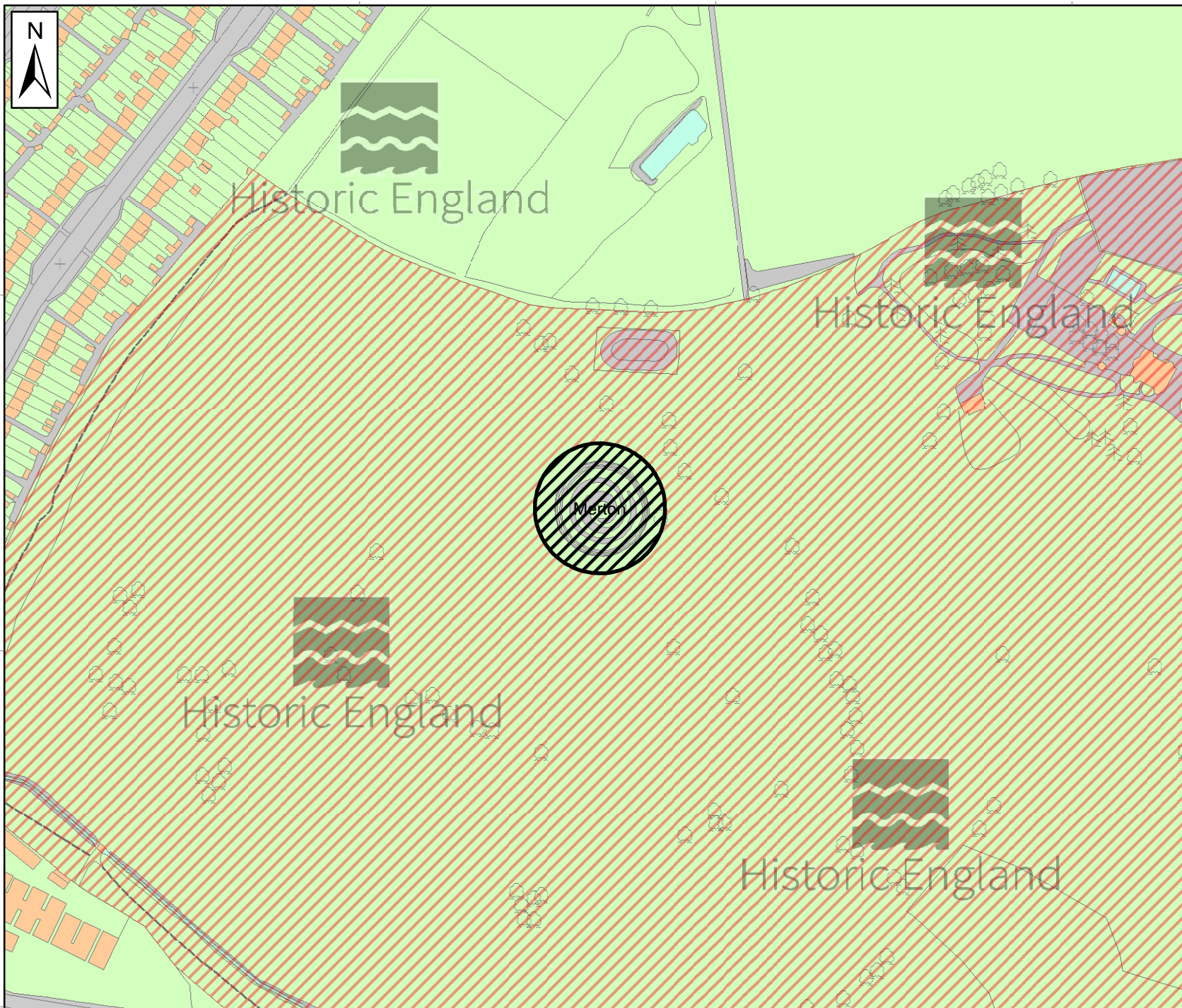
works lies in their association with William Morris and Liberty's and in their contribution to understanding the industrialisation of the Wandle Valley.

Key References

The Augustinian priory of St Mary Merton, Surrey, Excavations 1976-1990, P. Miller and D. Saxby, Museum of London, 2007

Merton Priory, P. Bruce and S. Mason, Museum of London Archaeology, 1993

London 2: South, B. Cherry and N. Pevsner, Penguin Books, 1983



Merton APA 1.3

Morden Park Mound

 Morden Park Mound APA

Tier 1
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 3
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:3,000

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Merton APA 1.3: Morden Park Mound

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the scheduled site of Morden Park Mound which is located within Morden Park. It has been classified as Tier 1 because it is a scheduled site.

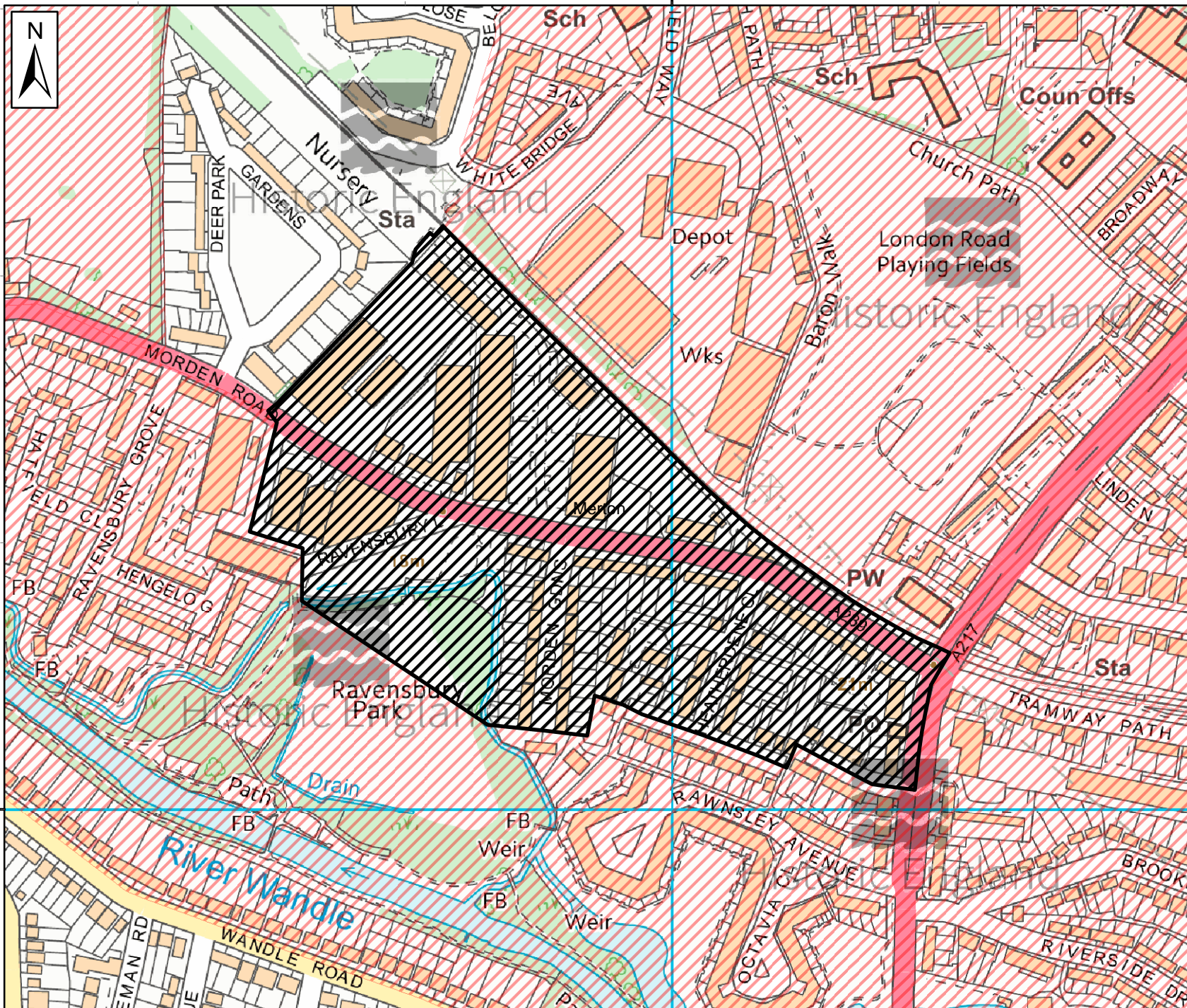
Description

Morden Park Mound is one of three scheduled sites within the borough of Merton. The mound is approximately 46 metres wide, nine metres high and is surrounded by a shallow ditch and covered by trees. Its age and purpose is unclear and various theories have been put forward. One of the main theories is that it may be a burial mound dating to the prehistoric or Roman periods. However, its size and shape mean that it is unlikely to have a prehistoric origin since it is larger than prehistoric barrows known elsewhere in England. It would also be a particularly large example of a Roman burial mound although the site's proximity to Stane Street has led to it being linked to that period. If the mound was not built for funerary purposes then it may have been constructed for signalling or surveillance or it could be the remains of a motte.

Morden Park previously formed the grounds of Morden Park House, which was built in 1770, so the mound may have been constructed as a garden feature and such features are not uncommon. A small building, possibly a belvedere which was a type of summer house built to take advantage of scenic views, is thought to have been located on top of the mound since traces of slate and brick have been found there. While the mound could be a garden feature it is also possible that the mound existed before the land around it was enclosed to form the grounds of Morden Park House.

Significance

It is clear that the Morden Park Mound is a man made structure but its purpose is uncertain despite several theories. If it is a Roman burial mound then it would be an important example of a burial mound in Greater London of which only a few have been dated to the Roman period. If it was built for surveillance it would demonstrate how an important road route between London and the south could be monitored. If it is an example of a post medieval garden feature then it is a particularly large one which would have required a significant amount of manpower to create. However, without further archaeological research it is not possible to say, with any certainty, when or why Morden Park Mound was built. Whatever the mound's origin it survived as a prominent feature within the park which provides the landscape setting within which it can be appreciated.



Merton APA 1.4 Ravensbury Saxon Cemetery

 Ravensbury Saxon Cemetery APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

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Merton APA 1.4: Ravensbury Saxon Cemetery

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the approximate location of the Ravensbury Saxon cemetery, which was excavated in various stages in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The cemetery was spread across an area that is roughly bordered by the Tramlink tramlines to the north, Ravensbury Path and Denvale Trade Park to the west, Heatherdene Close and Ravensbury Park to the south and London Road to the east. It is classified as Tier 1 because surviving remains of the cemetery would be especially vulnerable and could be judged equivalent to a Scheduled Monument.

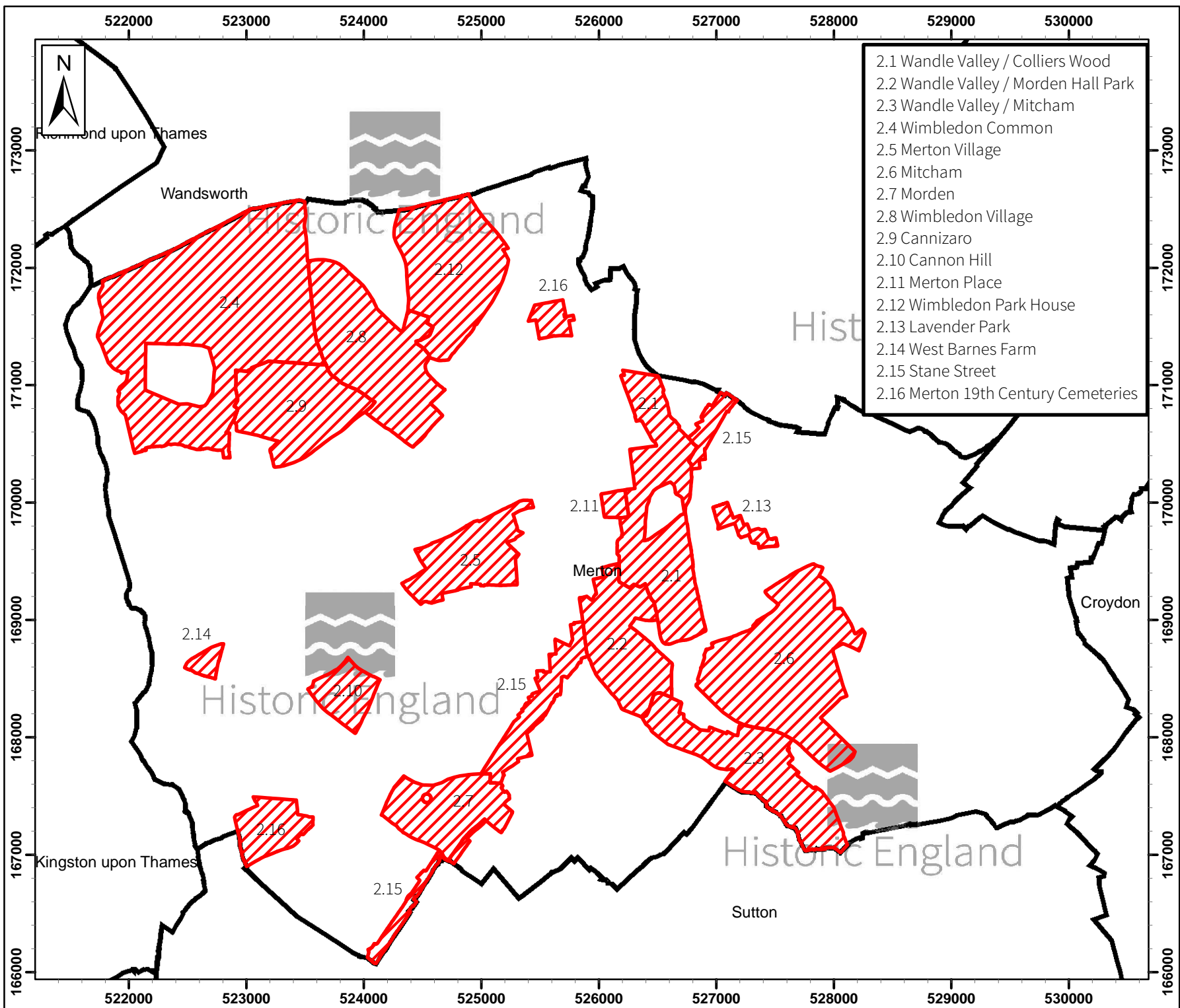
Description

Between 1888 and 1922 a series of archaeological excavations and phases of gravel extraction uncovered 238 graves dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. More than half of the burials contained grave goods dating the cemetery to between the early 5th century and the late 6th century. The grave goods included brooches, coins, rings, buckles, glass and pottery vessels, knives, spears, shield bosses and swords.


It is possible that further Anglo-Saxon burials could be found. The cemetery may have extended beyond the limits of the APA but quarrying which took place to the north of the tramlines is likely to have removed any surviving burials. Such a sizeable cemetery which was in use for two centuries would presumably have been close to a settlement but so far such a settlement has not been identified within the vicinity.

Significance

The size of the cemetery, the early post Roman origin, the length of time it was in use and the number of burials recovered from it demonstrate that this is an important example of a Saxon cemetery. The prospect that further burials may still be present justifies the site's status as a Tier 1 APA given the relative rarity of such cemeteries and their considerable potential for answering questions about past human life, beliefs and social organisation.



Merton Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Areas

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:42,500

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Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Areas

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Merton APA 2.1: Wandle Valley / Colliers Wood

Summary and Definition

The APA follows the course of the Wandle River between the railway line at the northern edge of Wandle Meadow Nature Park and Morden Hall Park. It surrounds the Tier 1 APA for Merton Priory and remains of the Priory's outer precincts may be located within it. It is classified as Tier 2 because it is an area of historic industry and also because of the concentration of earlier sites around the crossing point of Stane Street over the Wandle. It is one of four APAs which cover the River Wandle as it passes through Merton.

Description

The Wandle Valley would have provided an attractive location for prehistoric settlements due to its proximity to the river and good agricultural land. Alluvial deposits, that might contain archaeological remains associated with prehistoric human activity in the area, are deposited throughout the Wandle valley. Features associated with a Bronze Age settlement were found near to this APA at the former King's College Sports Ground in 1989 and other similar settlements may have been established within the APA.

The route of the Roman road known as Stane Street, which ran from London to Chichester, is known to have passed through the APA. It would have crossed the River Wandle to the south of Merton High Street and excavations in this area in 1997 and 1998 found that the Roman roadway ran between two raised banks. The banks may have been raised in order to prevent flooding in what would have been a marshland area and the sand beneath the road would have also prevented underlying water from seeping through. It is possible that Stane Street crossed the Wandle here by way of a ford and while the roadway sloped downwards the raised banks led to footbridges.

Roman settlements may also have developed nearby. Excavations that took place between 1966 and 1968 at the site of Haslemere Primary School in Haslemere Avenue found Roman pottery and three burials which may have dated to the Roman period. Further burials and fragments of Roman pottery were found nearby during an excavation in 1993. These finds and burials could be linked to a rural Roman settlement which was situated close to Stane Street and the Wandle. Other settlements may have been established in the vicinity and further Roman remains may still be within the APA.

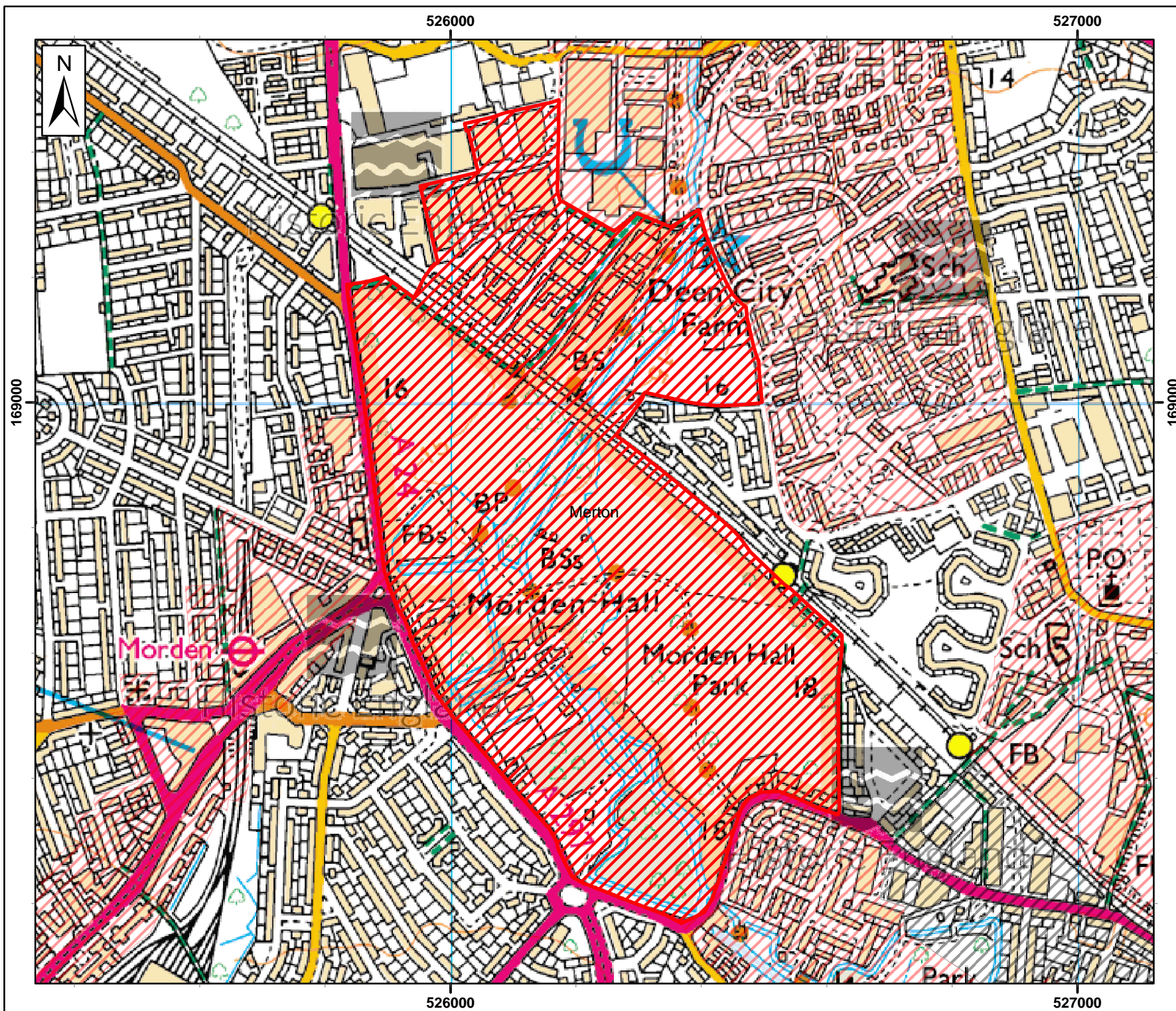
The section of the Wandle within the APA has formed a particular focus for riverside industry from at least the medieval period onwards. The Domesday survey of 1086 mentions two mills within Merton and numerous other mills and factories were established in subsequent centuries. These included corn mills, flour mills, leather works, a varnish factory, copper works and print works. The river has been

diverted and leats, mill ponds, mill races etc, were all used so that the water supply to the mills and factories could be improved. The section of the Wandle that flows to the west and north of the Priory site is an example of where the river has been diverted from its natural course. The smaller Pickle Ditch stream which flows to the east of the Priory follows the original course of the river. Similarly the section of the Wandle between Merton High Street and South Road is another part that has been straightened for industrial purposes.

The riverside setting led to a number of grand country houses being built along this section of the Wandle, sometimes by people associated with the factories and mills in the area. Homefield House was built on a site on Phipps Bridge Road just to the south of the Japan and Varnish factory established by the Harland family in the 1840s. Samuel Robert Harland, the grandson of the firm's founder, William Harland, built Homefield House in the 1860s. The house was demolished in the 1930s while the factory ceased production in the 1960s. Wandle House on Phipps Bridge Road and Wandle Bank House, which was built in what is now Wandle Park, were two other houses built within the APA. Both of these houses were demolished in the 20th century.

Significance

The Wandle and Stane Street were two features that had a significant impact on the character and development of Merton. It was here that the two interfaced and as a result a variety of important buildings and features were located within or close to the APA. The Bronze Age settlement at King's College sports ground was nearby, Merton Priory was located here and the area also became a focus for a number of riverside industries in the post medieval period. Each of these historic features would have had a significant impact and influence on the local area and as a result there is potential for the APA to contain features and finds from the prehistoric period onwards.



Merton APA 2.2
Wandle Valley /
Morden Hall Park

 Wandle Valley /
Morden Hall Park APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:8,000

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Merton APA 2.2: Wandle Valley / Morden Hall Park

Summary and Definition

The APA covers Morden Hall Park and extends into an area to the north-east of the modern Tramlink tramlines to the south of Phipps Bridge. The Park was not enclosed until the 1870s and prior to this, this stretch of the River Wandle was characterised by a significant number of important mills and factories. Grand country houses were also built within the APA, sometimes by the owners of the mills and factories. The APA is classified as Tier 2 because Morden Hall Park is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden with significant archaeological interest and it is also an area of historic industry. It is one of four APAs which cover the River Wandle as it passes through Merton.

Description

Some stretches of the Wandle in Morden Hall Park meander freely while in other areas it is obvious that the river has been manipulated and diverted for industrial purposes or for ornamental reasons. The two straight river channels which run from the centre of the park in a north-easterly direction towards Phipps Bridge are an example of where the river has been deliberately canalised. The eastern channel, known as Rucker's Cut, was constructed in 1769 to supply water to John Rucker's printing factory. Wandle Villa, which was built for Rucker in 1788, was located to the east of the printing factory. The factory closed in 1862 and was demolished in the 1870s. A large steam washing factory was built slightly to the north of the printing factory in the 1820s. It later became a printing factory but, like so many of the Wandle mills and factories, was destroyed by fire in 1848. The snuff mills in the park were built in the 18th century, possibly on the same site as an earlier medieval mill.

The first manor house constructed in the APA was called Growtes and was built on the site of the current Morden Lodge. It was built in the 16th century by the Garth family and was their home until 1682. Growtes was demolished in the late 18th century and Morden Lodge was constructed in the early 19th century. Moordon Grove was another house that was located near to Growtes on the banks of the River Wandle, although it too had been demolished by the early 19th century. Morden Hall was built to replace Growtes. The present building dates from the mid 18th century although it may have replaced an earlier late 17th century building that had been used by the Garth family after they moved out of Growtes in 1682. Morden Hall and Morden Hall Park were bequeathed to the National Trust in 1941.

Significance

The APA has particular significance because of its industrial milling heritage. Large country houses were also established here, contrasting with the riverside mills and factories. This mix of industrial and rural domestic heritage can be discerned within the character of this APA. The majority of the APA is now parkland and this,

coupled with the presence of Morden Hall, conceals the industrial heritage of this section of the Wandle. With the exception of the snuff mills in the park all these industries are now lost although they will have left an archaeological trace. Morden Hall, like Wimbledon Park House, had numerous phases of construction and adaptation dating back to the Tudor period. Unlike Wimbledon Park House the 18th century building is still standing, with the potential for the remains of former versions of the house and estate to survive within the park. There is also potential for archaeology to reveal more of the history of the designed landscape and water management systems. Traces of Stane Street may also survive in the northern section of the APA.

Key References

London 2: South, B. Cherry and N. Pevsner, Penguin Books, 1983

Merton APA 2.3: Wandle Valley / Mitcham

Summary and Definition

The APA follows the route of the River Wandle from Ravensbury Mill near Morden Road to the borough boundary with Sutton to the south-east. It is classified as Tier 2 because it is an area of historic industry. Within the APA different mills and factories were built, rebuilt or adapted and demolished owing to numerous factors such as fire damage, economic downturns or change of use, all of which add to their interest and history. The presence of a sizeable Anglo-Saxon cemetery nearby as well as a number of prehistoric archaeological finds demonstrates the multi period activity in this area. The exact location of a settlement associated with the Saxon cemetery is currently unknown but it could be located within the APA. The APA is one of four which cover the river Wandle as it passes through Merton.

Description

Riverside industry within this APA was concentrated in three distinct areas. The first area is on the riverside between Morden Road and Ravensbury Park. Ravensbury Mill was constructed in the 18th century and used as a snuff mill for most of its history. Manorial rent records indicate that an earlier mill building existed on the site in the late 17th century. The Ravensbury Print Works were established slightly to the west of Ravensbury Mill in the 17th century. Like many other Wandle print works it faced competition from Lancashire factories during the 19th century and was sold in 1875. The print work buildings were demolished in the 1940s.

The second concentration of industrial buildings along this stretch of the Wandle was located slightly to the west of Mitcham Bridge. Snuff, paper, felt, copper and flour were all produced in mills located here at various points from the 17th century until the 20th century. A snuff mill built on the south side of the Wandle to the east of Mitcham Bridge in the early 19th century went out of use by the 1830s and was demolished in 1922. The paper mill which was located at the head of the stream known as the Paper Mill Cut was only in operation during the early 19th century and had been demolished by the 1890s.

Grove Mill and Crown Mill were the most noteworthy buildings within this area. The Mill Cottages, which were built in the 18th century, were used by workers associated with both mills. Crown Mill was located opposite to where the Paper Mill Cut enters the Wandle and is recorded as having been a paper factory in the early 18th century but by the 1760s it was being used to grind corn. It later became a snuff mill and was adapted for use as a felt factory in the mid 19th century. It burnt down in 1870 but was quickly rebuilt and continued to manufacture felt until the early 20th century when it was converted for fibre production. It burnt down again in 1964 and was not rebuilt.

Copper milling was recorded as taking place at the site of Grove Mill in the 17th century although copper manufacture appears to have ceased by the mid 18th century. By the 1760s the mill was being used to grind corn but it burnt down in 1788 and was soon replaced by a new building. It burnt down again in 1907 by which time it was being operated by a fibre production company who owned Crown Mill too. The 1907 fire gutted the mill but the core of the structure was used as the basis for the current building. The mill was later used to produce soap, perfume and chiropody products until it closed down in the late 1990s. The building is now used for housing.

The third area where riverside industry was established within the APA was located where the Eagle Trading Estate now stands on the north bank of the Wandle riverside. A copper mill was established here around 1740 in a building that came to be known as Mitcham Mill but the mill was adapted in the later 18th century to become a corn mill. A logwood mill was also established in this area by the end of the 17th century. Both mills were combined in 1884 to form the Eagle Leather Works which produced leather goods until 1989. Calico bleaching had taken place on the river meadows to the north of Mitcham Mill since the reign of Elizabeth I. By the early 18th century a calico bleaching works, known as the Willow Works, had been established near to the modern junction between Willow Lane and The Willow Centre on the Willow Lane Industrial Estate.

The river throughout the APA supplied water and power to the milling industries and many of the hydrological features extant in the APA were created for an industrial purpose. For example, the site of Mitcham Mill was formerly an island because leats had been made to make the river run on both sides of the site and form a mill pond. A mill pond was also created to the rear of Grove Mill but was filled in at some point in the 1960s. A channel known as the Paper Mill Cut which runs along the southern boundary of the Watermeads nature reserve was created to supply the paper mill across the river from the Grove and Crown Mills with water. The stream which runs around the perimeter of Ravensbury Park was made so that the Ravensbury print works had a water supply and former cuts that fed water to the Willow Works may remain underneath the Willow Lane Industrial Estate.

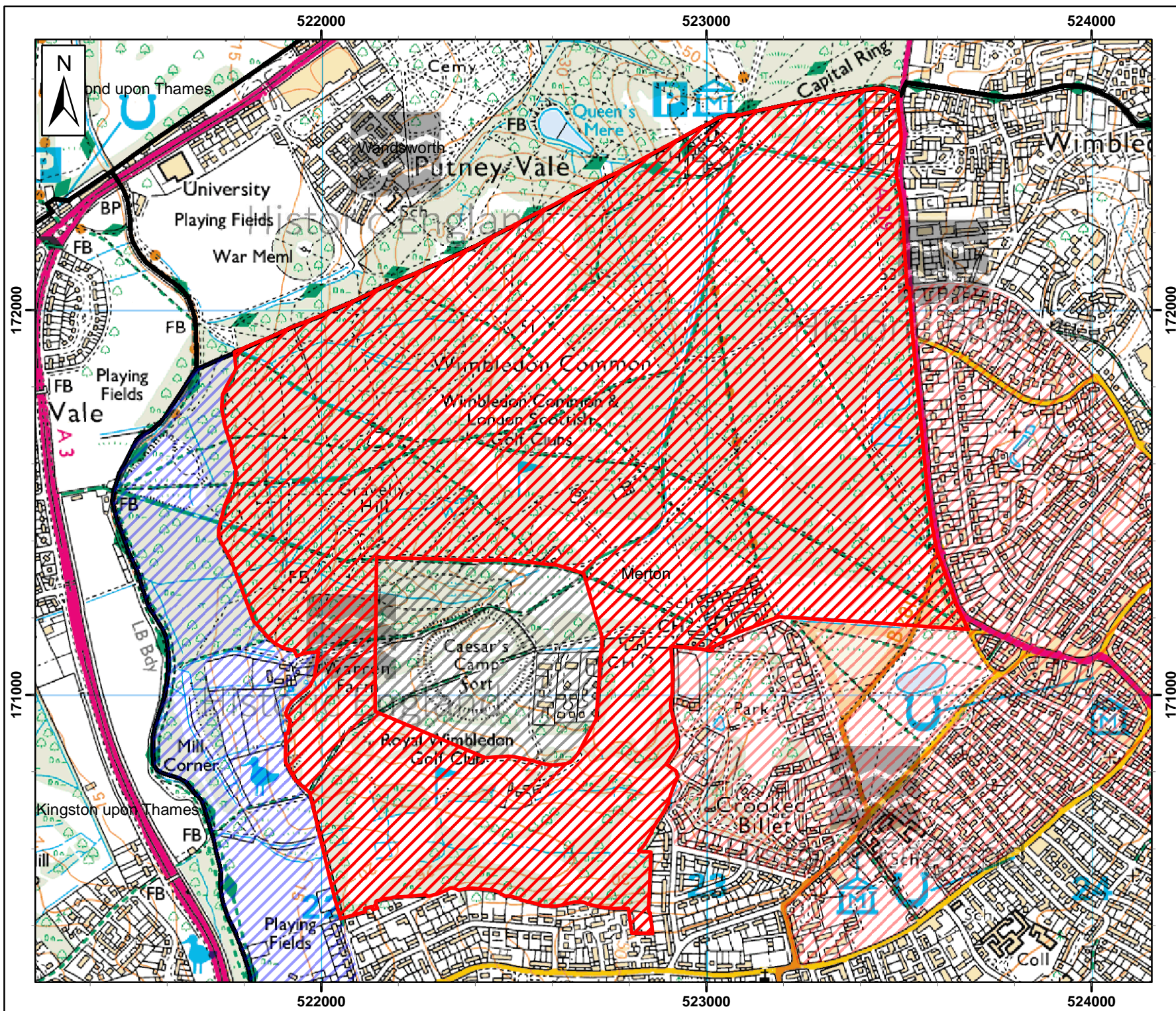
A number of large houses were built within the APA. Mitcham Grove was one of the most impressive and was located on a site to the south of Rawnsley Avenue. An archaeological excavation undertaken by the Surrey Archaeological Society on the site of Mitcham Grove in 1974 found the remains of a 12th or 13th century house with rebuilds dating to the Tudor period. The house was enlarged during the 18th century and stood on the site until 1846. Other examples are the first Ravensbury House, which stood in Ravensbury Park, and the second Ravensbury House, which stood near Wandle Lane. The Willows was built in 1746 by the owners of the Willows Bleaching Works in Willow Lane but was demolished in the 1920s. Wandle House on Riverside Drive, close to the site of the Grove and Crown Mills, is a late 18th century building and is an example of one of the grand houses built in the area which is still standing.

Significance





The APA is significant for the concentration of mills and factories and their contribution to our understanding of the industrial history of this section of the Wandle. Remains of these industrial sites may survive and the area also has potential for evidence relating to prehistoric settlements or a settlement associated with the Ravensbury Saxon cemetery that may have been located here. It can be seen within this APA how the Wandle was used by a number of mills and factories to produce a variety of products. It can also be seen how the river was diverted and manipulated in order to improve the water supply to these industrial units. Grove Mill and Crown Mill demonstrate how mills could produce a variety of products throughout several centuries in a number of different buildings. Mitcham Grove was an example of a multi phased house which had origins dating possibly as far back as the 12th century. Other country houses that were built within the APA further demonstrate how Merton was regarded as an attractive location for a country house.

Key References

London 2: South, B. Cherry and N. Pevsner, Penguin Books, 1983



Merton APA 2.4
Wimbledon Common

-  Wimbledon Common APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:13,000

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Merton APA 2.4: Wimbledon Common

Summary and Definition

The majority of Wimbledon Common lies within Merton and the Wimbledon Common APA covers the majority of this area with the exception of the areas covered by the Beverley Brook and Caesar's Camp APAs. It is classified as Tier 2 because it is an extensive area of undeveloped land associated with a known heritage asset of national importance.

Description

Wimbledon Common is the highest point in the London Borough of Merton and would have been a topographic and strategically advantageous location in prehistory. Prehistoric archaeological finds from the Common have been dated to the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods. The Wimbledon Common APA surrounds the Caesar's Camp APA which covers the site of a circular Iron Age hillfort. Further features and finds associated with prehistoric settlement may survive in other parts of the common

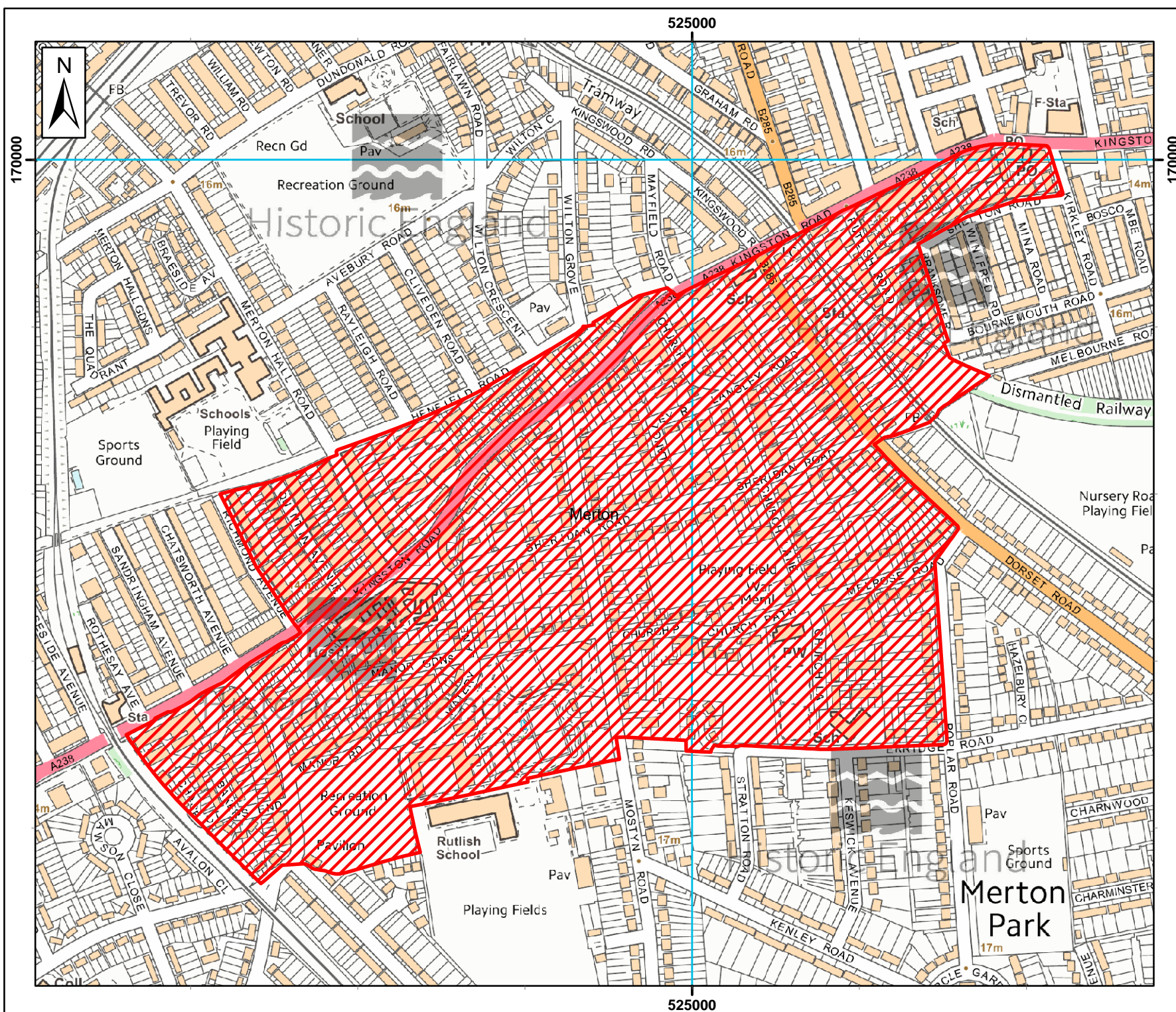
Wimbledon Common's status as a common provided the legal basis for its protection in the 19th century and has prevented major development from taking place. For much of its history it has been used for animal grazing while local inhabitants exploited the vegetation and trees for fuel. While the Common was not quarried for gravel to the same extent as Mitcham Common, some gravel quarrying did take place, for example, Bluegate Pond on Parkside is a former quarry.

A windmill was built in 1817 and in the later 19th century the area around the windmill was used for National Rifle Association meetings. The Ordnance Survey Map series for 1881 clearly shows a number of rifle ranges located on the Common. Army camps were located on the Common during both World Wars and an anti-aircraft gun battery was also located to the south-east of the windmill during the Second World War. Extensive secondary woodland has grown up over the formerly much more open common.

Significance

Wimbledon Common is a remarkable survival in London of a distinctive historic rural landscape which can be regarded as a heritage asset of historical and communal value in its own right as well as having archaeological interest. The landscape history could be better revealed and appreciated by clearing modern growth of scrub and secondary woodland. The prehistoric finds from Wimbledon Common along with the Scheduled Monument of Caesar's Camp demonstrate that the area was settled in the prehistoric period. The Common's use for military purposes during World War One and World War Two may have also left an archaeological trace. The Common, therefore, has multi phase usage and

significance. The fact that the Common has not seen any major development or cultivation means that archaeological features should survive in good condition, would lie close to the surface and could include visible earthworks.



Merton APA 2.5
Merton Village

 Merton Village APA

Tier 1
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 3
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,000

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Merton APA 2.5: Merton Village

Summary and Definition

The Merton Village APA covers the approximate area of the historic settlement of Merton. It extends as far west as the railway lines, as far north as Henfield Road and Kingston Road, as far east as Kirkley Road and as far south as Erridge Road and the John Innes Park Recreation Ground. The APA is classified Tier 2 because it is an area of historic settlement dating to the medieval period or earlier.

Description

The medieval manor of Merton was first documented in a land charter of AD 967. It is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a sizeable royal manor including 68 peasant households, a church and two mills, set within extensive agricultural land. The manor also held property in Southwark, presumably reflecting a responsibility to support the defence of the Anglo-Saxon burh (fortified town).

The existing church of St Mary in Church Lane, which replaced the late Saxon or Norman structure, was built in the early 12th century and retains some of its original medieval features. The path between the church and the vicarage passes through an archway which is thought to be from Merton Priory and dates from the 12th century. It was erected in its present location in the 1930s.

The development of the settlement was not focused on a single feature such as a green, church or manor house. In some ways Merton Village developed as a roadside settlement along Kingston Road where a number of farms and later country houses were built. If any building did provide a focus for the community then it was St Mary's Church but its location approximately a quarter of a mile south of Kingston Road meant that the settlement became spread out and less nucleated. While it may have been difficult to discern Merton as a distinct settlement, the presence of farms and large country houses in later centuries demonstrates that a small population was based here.

A number of large houses were built in the area in the late 17th and 18th centuries such as the Manor House, Dorset Hall and Long Lodge on Kingston Road which are all Grade II. Church House was another significant building to the north of St Mary's Church on the opposite side of Church Path. A Tudor building had originally been constructed here before being rebuilt in the 18th century. The wall of its garden, which dates to the 16th century, now encircles the Church Lane playing field and is Grade II listed. The house was demolished in 1923. Excavations that took place at the site in the early 1980s found the brick foundations of a 16th century tithe barn to the west of where Church House stood.

The area was developed into a predominantly residential area from 1867 onwards by John Innes after he acquired the Merton Park estate. By the end of the

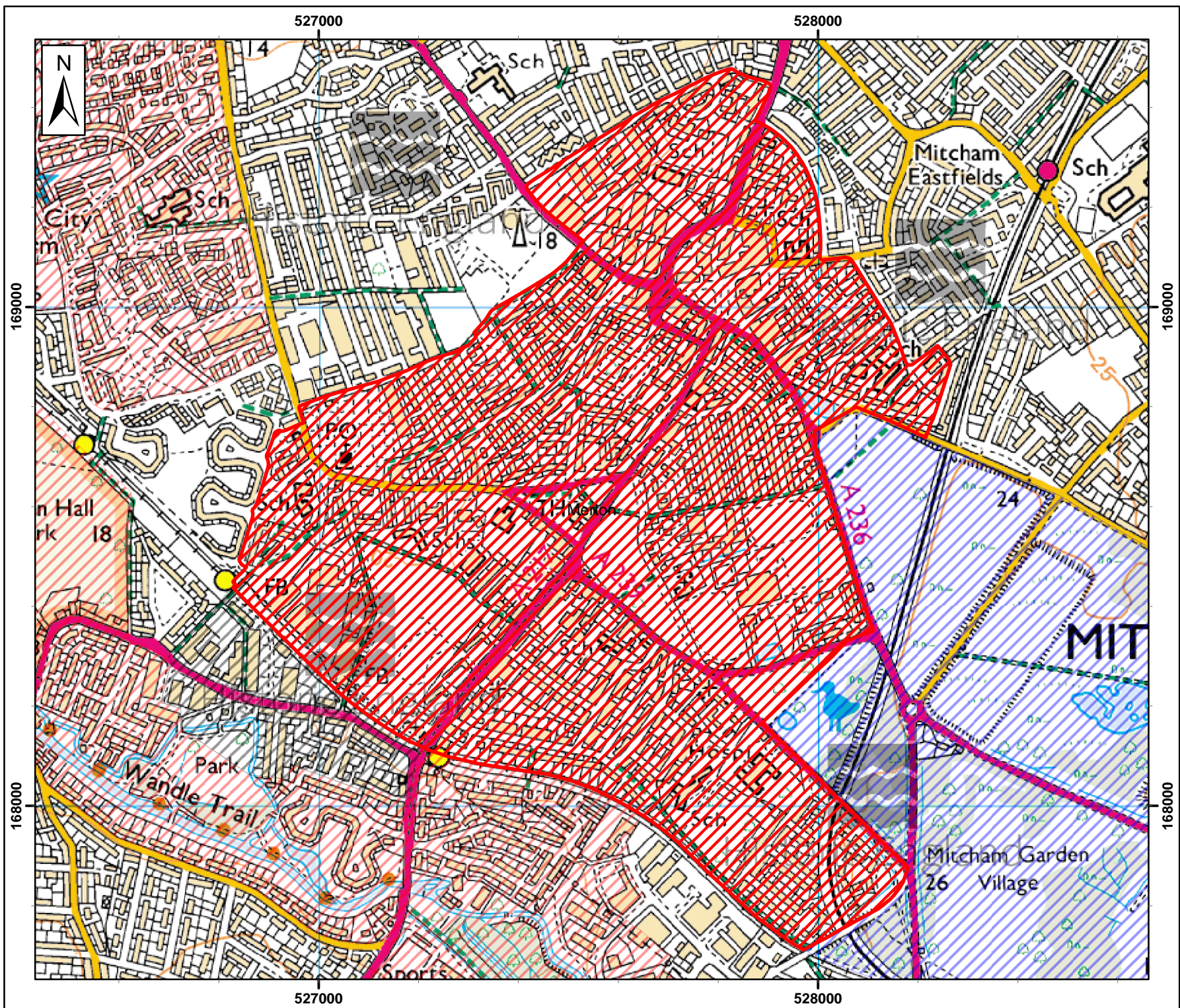
19th century Mostyn Road, Sheridan Road and Dorset Road had been established and houses had started to be built along them. More streets and houses were built in the early 20th century as the area, which became known as Merton Park, developed into the form that it retains today.

Significance





The village's proximity to Merton Priory, one mile to the east, would have had an impact and influence on the settlement in the medieval period. However, the Domesday Book entry demonstrates that there was a large and at least locally important community here before the Priory's establishment. The area's archaeological interest therefore relates principally to its potential to contribute to understanding Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post medieval rural settlement in the hinterland of London and Southwark.

Key References

London 2: South, B. Cherry and N. Pevsner, Penguin Books, 1983



Merton APA 2.6
Mitcham

-  Mitcham APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:10,000

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Merton APA 2.6: Mitcham

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the historic settlement of Mitcham along the route of London Road from its junction with Bond Road in the north to Mitcham station in the south. It includes the areas around the Upper Green, previously known as Upper Mitcham, the Lower Green/Cricket Green, previously known as Lower Mitcham and the Church of St Peter and St Paul. The Mitcham APA is classified as Tier 2 because it is an area of historic settlement.

Description

Mitcham is situated to the south-east of the London to Chichester Roman road known as Stane Street. The presence of a large Anglo-Saxon cemetery to the south of the APA suggests that a Saxon settlement was located in the vicinity. Precisely where this settlement is located is debatable but it is most probably within the boundaries of this APA, in the area to the north of the tramlines to the west of London Road possibly as far north as the Church of St Peter and St Paul. A watching brief that took place in August 2012 on a site to the south of Hallowfield Way found that quarrying had removed any earlier archaeological features or finds.

Mitcham is referred to in the Domesday Book as *Michelham*. The medieval settlement appeared to develop as a ribbon settlement along what is now London Road and became concentrated in two areas around the Upper Green and Lower Green. On some early Ordnance Survey editions a differentiation is made between Upper Mitcham and Lower Mitcham. The village also spread westwards towards the Church of St Peter and Paul, southwards along London Road and northwards towards the smaller settlement of Pigs Green or Figges Green.

As was the case with Wimbledon, Mitcham achieved great popularity with Londoners seeking a country retreat within easy reach of the capital so a number of large prestigious properties were built within and around the village cores of Upper and Lower Mitcham. A number of these buildings still survive such as Eagle House, an 18th century building towards the north of the APA and The Canons, a late 17th century house to the east of the Lower Green. To the south of The Canons, adjacent to the pond, is an early 16th century dovecote. The church of St Peter and St Paul was built between 1819 and 1822 although an earlier medieval church had occupied the site, parts of which were incorporated into the present tower. The Burn Bullock Public House and the White Hart Inn, both on the Lower Green, have retained parts that date to the 17th century.

A number of earlier country houses have not survived such as Baron House on London Road, Hall Place on Lower Green West and Mitcham House on Upper Green West. All these houses appear on Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century and early 20th century but they had all been demolished by the mid 20th century.

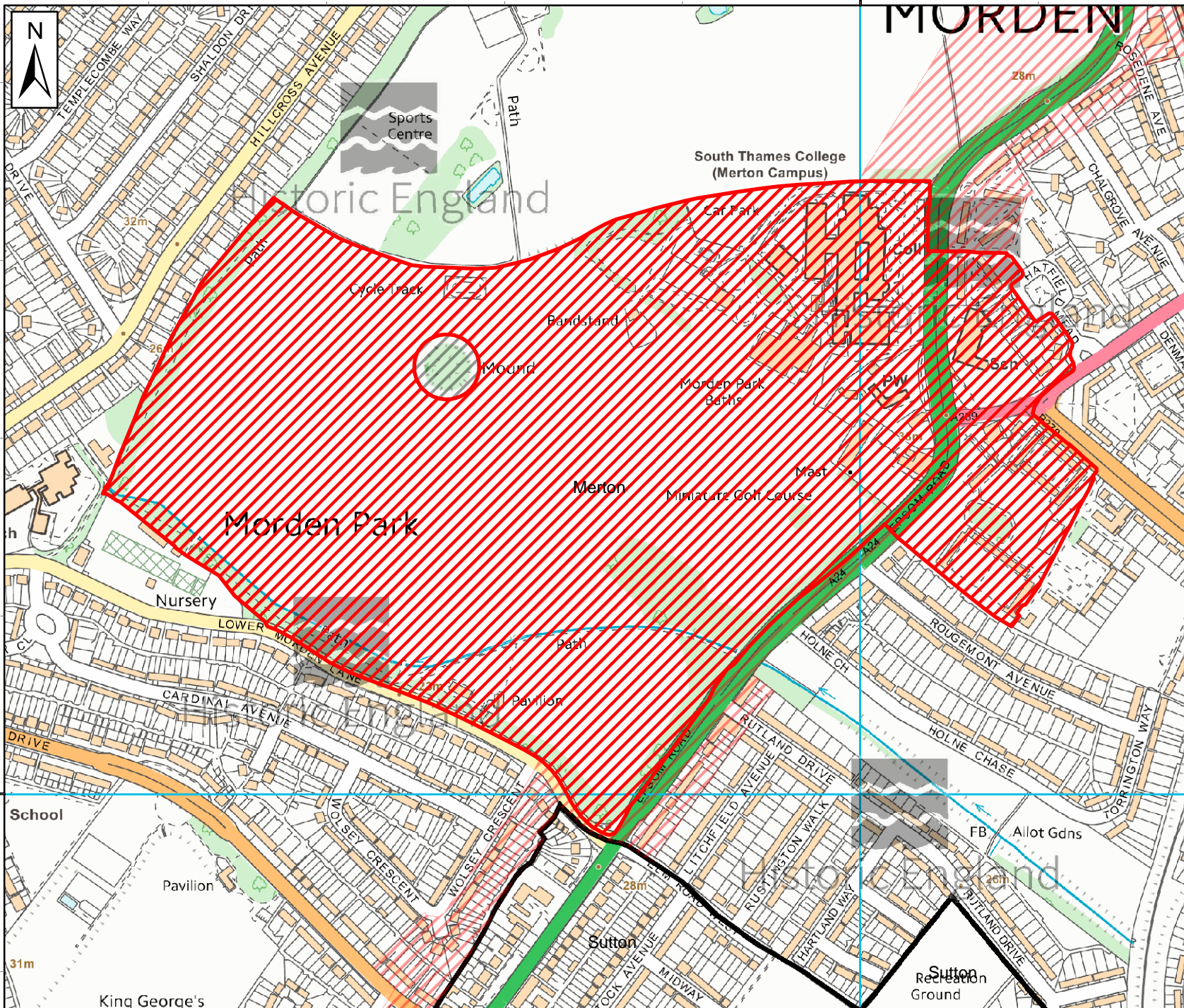
Mitcham Hall was located on the section of London Road between Linden Place and Baron Grove. It was built during the 17th century and by the mid 19th century it had its own park which covered roughly 20 acres along with associated agricultural buildings and water features. The estate was gradually broken up from the late 19th century onwards and the house was demolished soon after the death of its last owner in 1923. An excavation that took place on the site of Linden Place between 1993 and 1994 uncovered the remains of a number of buildings and a water feature associated with Mitcham Hall.

Significance

Mitcham was a settlement with Saxon and medieval origins which later became a popular area to build country retreats. It is possible that an early Saxon settlement associated with the Ravensbury cemetery to the south may have been located here. The area's archaeological interest therefore relates principally to its potential to contribute to understanding Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post medieval settlement in the hinterland of London. Evidence for early Saxon settlement would be of particular interest. Some of the surviving historic buildings would also merit recording and analysis.

Key References

London 2: South, B. Cherry and N. Pevsner, Penguin Books, 1983



Merton APA 2.7
Morden

 Morden APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,000

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Merton APA 2.7: Morden

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the site of the historic settlement of Morden to the south-east of the area now regarded as the core of Morden town centre. It covers an area on either side of Epsom Road/London Road close to its junction with Central Road and a sizeable section of Morden Park. The APA is classified Tier 2 as it is an area of historic settlement.

Description

The original settlement of Morden was a small cluster of roadside buildings, close to what is now Merton Technical College. The settlement may have initially developed because of its proximity to the Roman road of Stane Street, remains of which may exist along Epsom Road/London Road or in Morden Park. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Mordone* and it remained a relatively small rural settlement until the 20th century. Notable historic buildings of the early settlement still survive including Morden Park House, The Church of St Lawrence, the George Inn and the Old School House.

A church is thought to have occupied the site of the Church of St Lawrence since at least the 11th century and parts of an earlier stone church are incorporated into the fabric of the present 17th century building. Morden Park House was built around 1770. The house was initially surrounded by gardens and Morden Park Farm was built slightly to the east. The estate of Morden Park House is now defined by Morden Park, the southern part of which is included in the APA. The southern part of the park is included because it appears to have previously been a designed landscape with the mound as its focus at the highest point. It has never been developed and therefore has greater potential for garden features.

The George Inn occupies the site of an earlier building that was used as an inn since at least the 15th century. The present building was built in the early 20th century although the section fronting onto Epsom Road incorporates parts of the earlier building. The Old School House, near the junction of Central Road and Epsom Road, was built in 1731. Archaeological remains associated with the settlement may still survive within the vicinity.

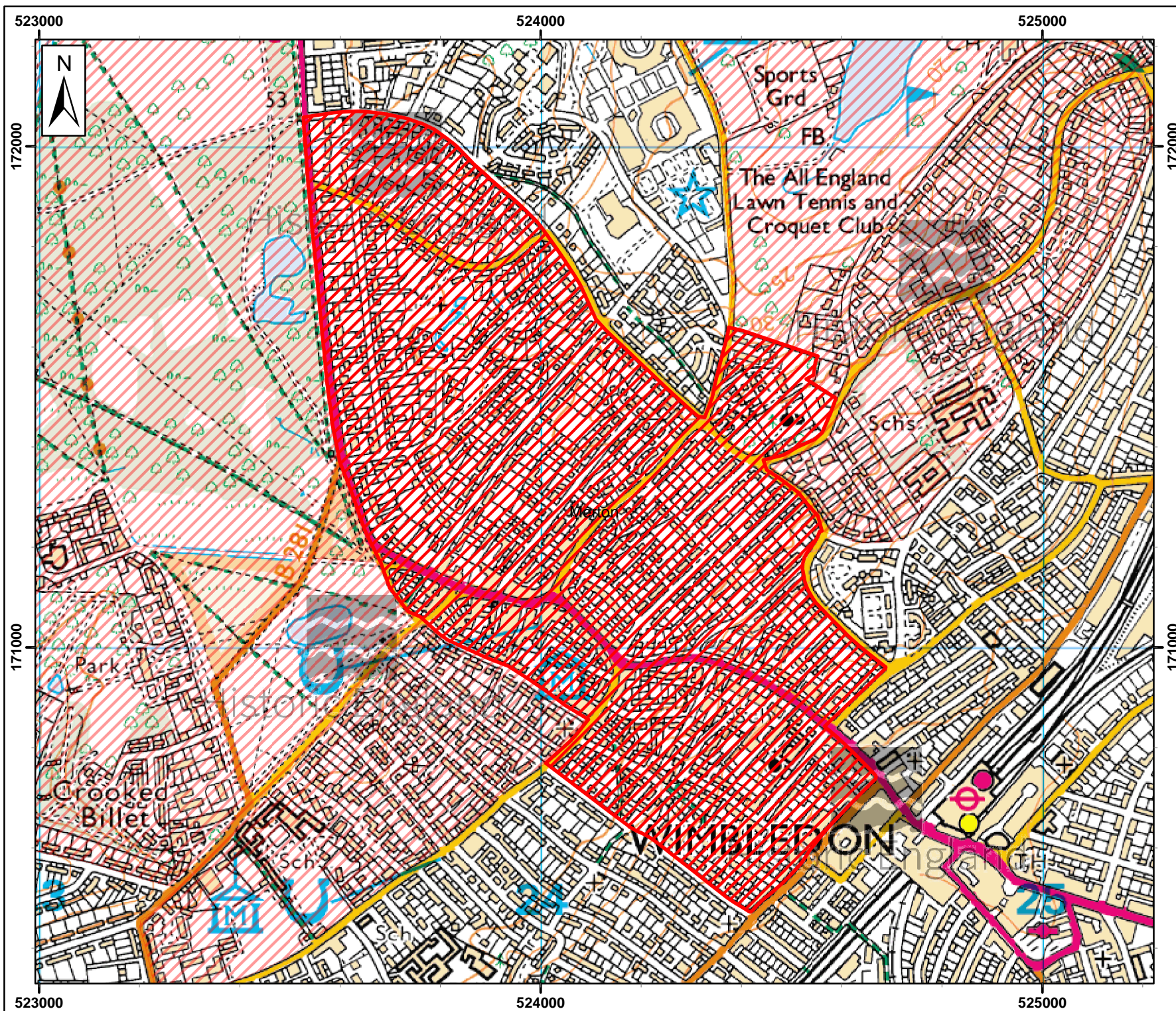
Significance

Morden was formerly a small settlement of probable Saxon origins which developed on the line of the Roman road with the Church of St Lawrence as its focus. Morden is smaller when compared to other settlement APAs within Merton and as such has heritage significance because of its individual character and because the area has not been subsumed into the modern complex of Morden to the north. The area retains a sense of place and the primary buildings are still influential in their

landscape setting. The APA also has potential because of its proximity to the Roman road and Morden Park Mound and Morden Park may retain remains associated with its former use as parkland for Morden Park House.

Key References

London 2: South, B. Cherry and N. Pevsner, penguin Books, 1983



Merton APA 2.8 Wimbledon Village

 Wimbledon Village APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:10,000

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Merton APA 2.8: Wimbledon Village

Summary and Definition

The Wimbledon Village APA covers an area between the junction of Parkside and Somerset Road in the north and the junction of Wimbledon Hill Road and Worple Road in the south. It also extends to the north-east to include the site of St Mary's Church. Wimbledon Village, at the summit of the hill, was the original settlement known as Wimbledon before the arrival of the railway in the 19th century moved the focal point of the town to the bottom of the hill. The APA is classified as Tier 2 because it is an area of historic settlement.

Description

The presence of the hillfort known as Caesar's Camp to the west of the APA suggests that the local area has been inhabited since the Iron Age. Few Roman finds or features have been found in the vicinity although an excavation that took place in Somerset Road in 2010 found the remains of what could be a Roman villa. Such a find might indicate that there was a Roman presence in the area although such a theory cannot be confirmed without further investigations. Wimbledon is mentioned in a 10th century charter and is referred to as *Wimbedounyng*, demonstrating that a settlement had been established here by this time.

Wimbledon is not mentioned in the Domesday Book but was probably within the parish of Mortlake which is recorded as being owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It became a separate manor by the early 14th century and continued to be owned by the Archbishops of Canterbury until 1536 when it was given to Thomas Cromwell. The manor was subsequently owned by a number of different people until it came into the possession of Sir Thomas Cecil who built Wimbledon Park House to the east of the settlement in the 1580s.

In the post medieval period Wimbledon became a desirable location for wealthy Londoners to build a grand country house. This was due to the village being far enough from the city to feel rural while still being close enough so that it would be possible to travel to London in a reasonable amount of time. After Wimbledon Park House was completed others started to follow. Eagle House, in the High Street, was one of the earliest to be built in 1613 and originally had gardens to its rear on land now occupied by Lancaster Road and Lancaster Gardens.

Other large houses were built in the village during the late 17th and 18th centuries such as Belvedere House which was built on St Mary's Road opposite St Mary's Church. Many of these houses have been demolished but others still survive such as Ashford House and Claremont House while a number of shops on the High Street are housed in buildings that date from the 18th century.

Wimbledon House used to stand across what is now the southern end of Marryat Road. It had been constructed in the early 18th century and appears on John Rocque's map of 1746 when it was owned by the MP Stephen Bisse. Wimbledon House had 100 acres of grounds and included several water features. The lake next to the present Buddhapadipa Temple on Calonne Road was once part of a larger lake within Wimbledon House's grounds. Wimbledon House was demolished in the early 20th century and the area once occupied by its grounds has now been developed for residential purposes.

St Mary's Church is located to the north-west of where the High Street runs through the village. It is thought that the current building is the fourth church to stand on this site since the Saxon period. The tower, spire, nave and chancel of the present church all date from the mid 19th century although parts of the medieval chancel do survive within the building's core while the Cecil Chapel dates from the 17th century. St Mary's churchyard was the only graveyard in Wimbledon until the late 19th century although few headstones dating from before the early 18th century survive.

Significance

While the area is known to have been inhabited during the Iron Age the exact location and extent of such a settlement is unknown. The discovery of a possible Roman villa in 2010 hinted at a previously unknown Roman presence in the area although the nature of such a presence is also unknown. Future archaeological investigations may uncover further finds which will help to clarify the scale of Iron Age and Roman activity in the area. What is known is that a settlement that was important enough to merit a mention in a charter did exist by the 10th century. The desirability of Wimbledon as a location for large country houses for wealthy Londoners in the post medieval period reflects how the city's growth and increased wealth could have an impact on the development of villages such as Wimbledon.

Key References

Historic Wimbledon, Caesar's Camp to Centre Court, R. Millward, The Windrush Press, 1989

London 2: South, B. Cherry and N. Pevsner, Penguin Books, 1983

Merton APA 2.9: Cannizaro

Summary and Definition

The Cannizaro APA covers Cannizaro Park, Rushmere Green and an area to the south of both of those areas. It is bounded by The Causeway and Camp Road to the north, Lingfield Road and Parkside to the east, Ridgway and Copse Hill to the south and Wimbledon Common to the west. It is classified Tier 2 because it includes the sites of several historic country houses with their associated grounds, gardens and estates which can be considered heritage assets with historic and archaeological significance.

Description

Wimbledon was an attractive area for wealthy Londoners to build grand country houses and a number were built around the perimeter of Wimbledon Common, particularly in the area surrounding Rushmere Green. These houses were built in the late 17th century and 18th century and some, such as Stamford House, West Side House, Chester House and Southside House, still survive. An excavation to the west of Chester House which took place in 1993 found remains of its garden layout and helped to enrich what was known about historic gardens from the late 17th and mid 18th centuries.

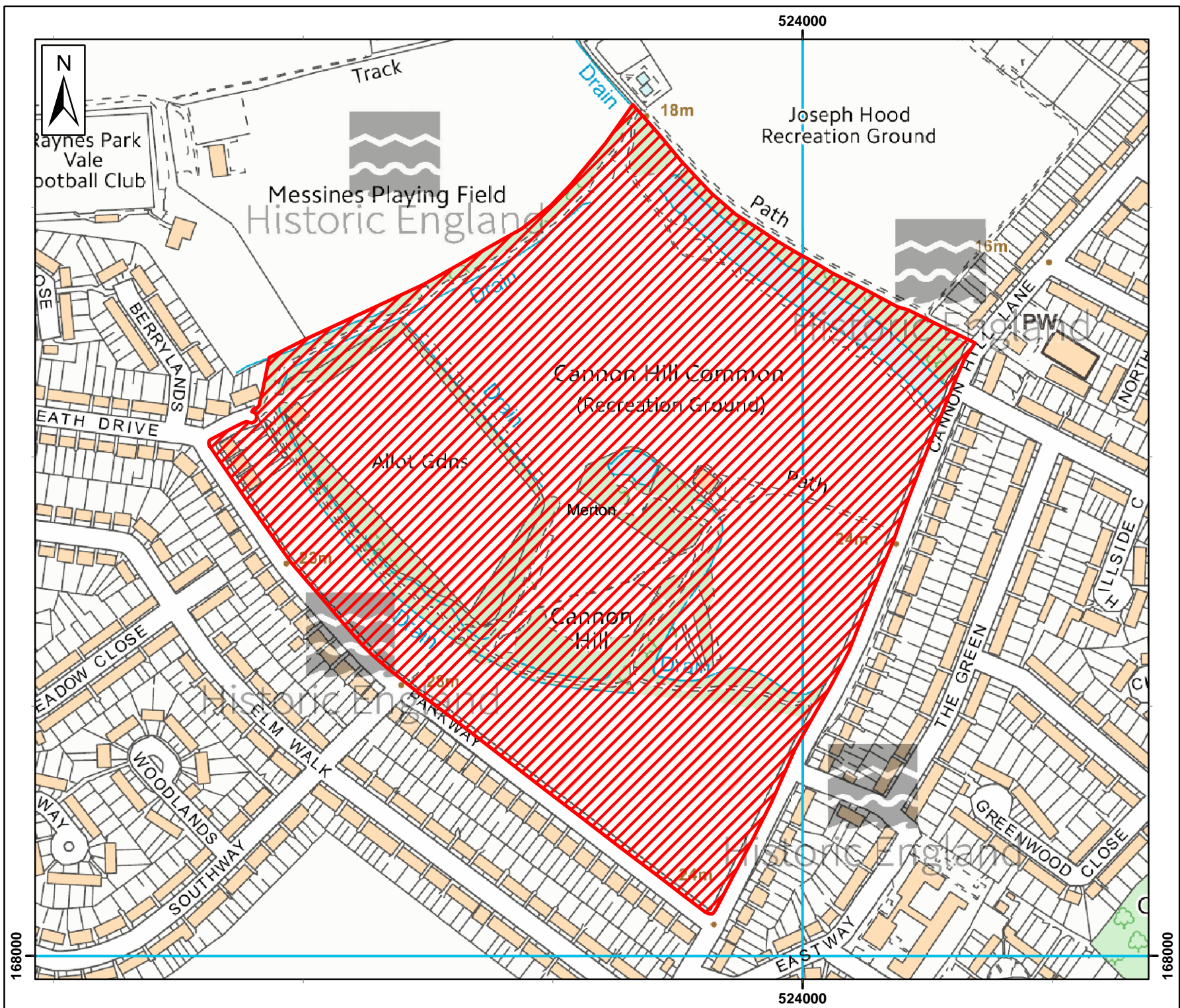
Cannizaro House and Park on the west side of Rushmere Green was once part of a large estate called The Old Park, which later came to be known as The Warren. Its area stretched as far as Beverley Brook and included the site of Caesar's Camp. Cannizaro House was built in the early 18th century but this house burnt down in 1901 and was replaced by the current building.

Other mansions that were built along Southside Common in the 18th century included Lingfield House, Lauriston House and Wimbledon Lodge. Lingfield House was located at what is now the corner of Lingfield Road and Southside Common and was demolished at some point in the late 19th century. Lauriston House stood on Southside Common between the junctions of Lauriston Road and Murray Road until it was demolished in 1957 but its stable blocks were converted into Lauriston Cottage. The north western end of Murray Road passes over the site of Wimbledon Lodge, which was demolished in the early 20th century and had gardens that stretched to the Ridgway. Remains of these houses and their gardens may survive beneath the modern buildings.





Significance

It is the concentration of such a number of former and still surviving grand country houses which makes the area significant. The houses and their landscape gardens are important for garden history and for the social history of the area. These houses reflect the developing social prestige of Wimbledon and how it had become a

desirable area for a certain strata of society in the 17th and 18th centuries.
Investigation of the material culture of this affluent social group would illustrate contrasts with other very different neighbourhoods across London.



Merton APA 2.10
Cannon Hill

-  Cannon Hill APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

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Merton APA 2.10: Cannon Hill

Summary and Definition

The APA covers Cannon Hill Common and is bounded by Cannon Hill Lane, Parkway, Messines Playing Field and Joseph Hood Recreation Ground. Cannon Hill House was built here in the second half of the 18th century and was demolished in the first half of the 20th century. The APA is classified Tier 2 because Cannon Hill House was a post medieval country house and any remains are likely to be well preserved.

Description

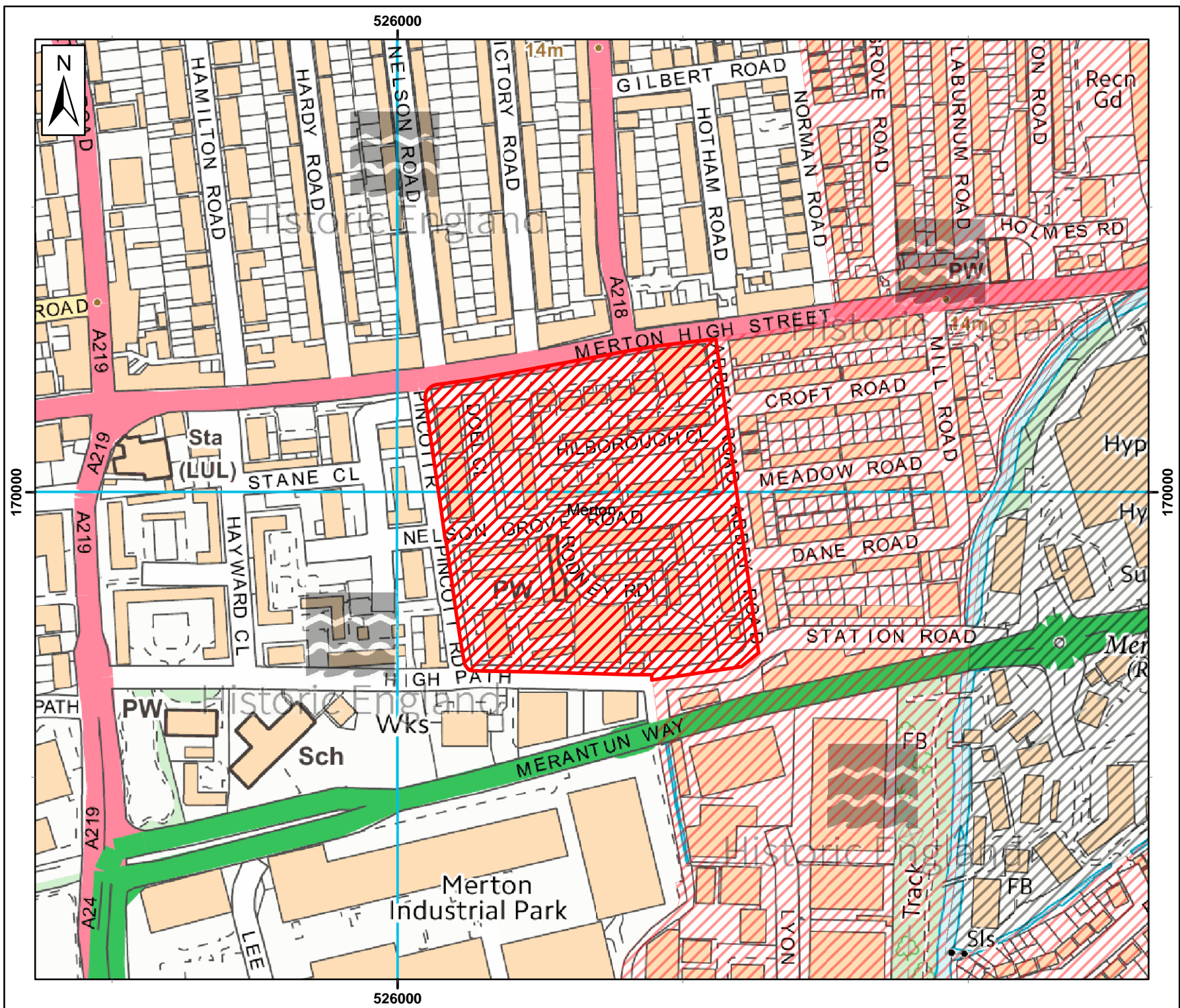
Cannon Hill House was built at some point soon after 1762/1763 after William Taylor had acquired the site and its grounds roughly followed the boundaries of the present day Common. Previously the area had been farmland owned by Merton Priory until the Priory's closure in the 16th century. It is possible that the lake which runs along the north east side of the Common, which would have provided an ornamental lake for the grounds, was created when bricks that were used to build Cannon Hill House were quarried from there. The modern pathway that leads from Cannon Hill Lane to Pavilion Cottage follows the same line as a driveway that led to the house. Cannon Hill House was demolished in the early 20th century and its grounds became a public park in the 1920s.

Cannon Hill supposedly gets its name from the fact that Parliamentary cannons were stationed on the hill during the Civil War. However, there is evidence that Cannon Hill was being used as a name for the area before the 17th century and there is no surviving physical evidence that supports the idea that a battery was ever located here. The Civil War link to the site may therefore be inaccurate.





Significance

Remains of Cannon Hill House are likely to be well preserved below ground since no development has taken place on the site since its demolition. Like other large areas of open ground in Merton, Cannon Hill Common has potential for archaeological remains dating to a variety of periods although remains of the house are the main potential heritage asset within this APA.

Post medieval country houses and their landscape gardens are important for garden history and for the social history of Merton. These houses reflect the developing social prestige and how it had become a desirable area for a certain strata of society in the 17th and 18th centuries. Investigation of the material culture of this affluent social group would compare with other social groups across London.



Merton APA 2.11
Merton Place

-  Merton Place APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:3,500

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Merton APA 2.11: Merton Place

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the area bounded by Merton High Street to the north, Abbey Road to the east, High Path to the south and Pincott Road to the west. The APA is occupied by the High Path Estate but was formerly the site of Merton Place and its grounds. It is classified as Tier 2 because it is a heritage asset of historic significance and value due to its link with Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson.

Description

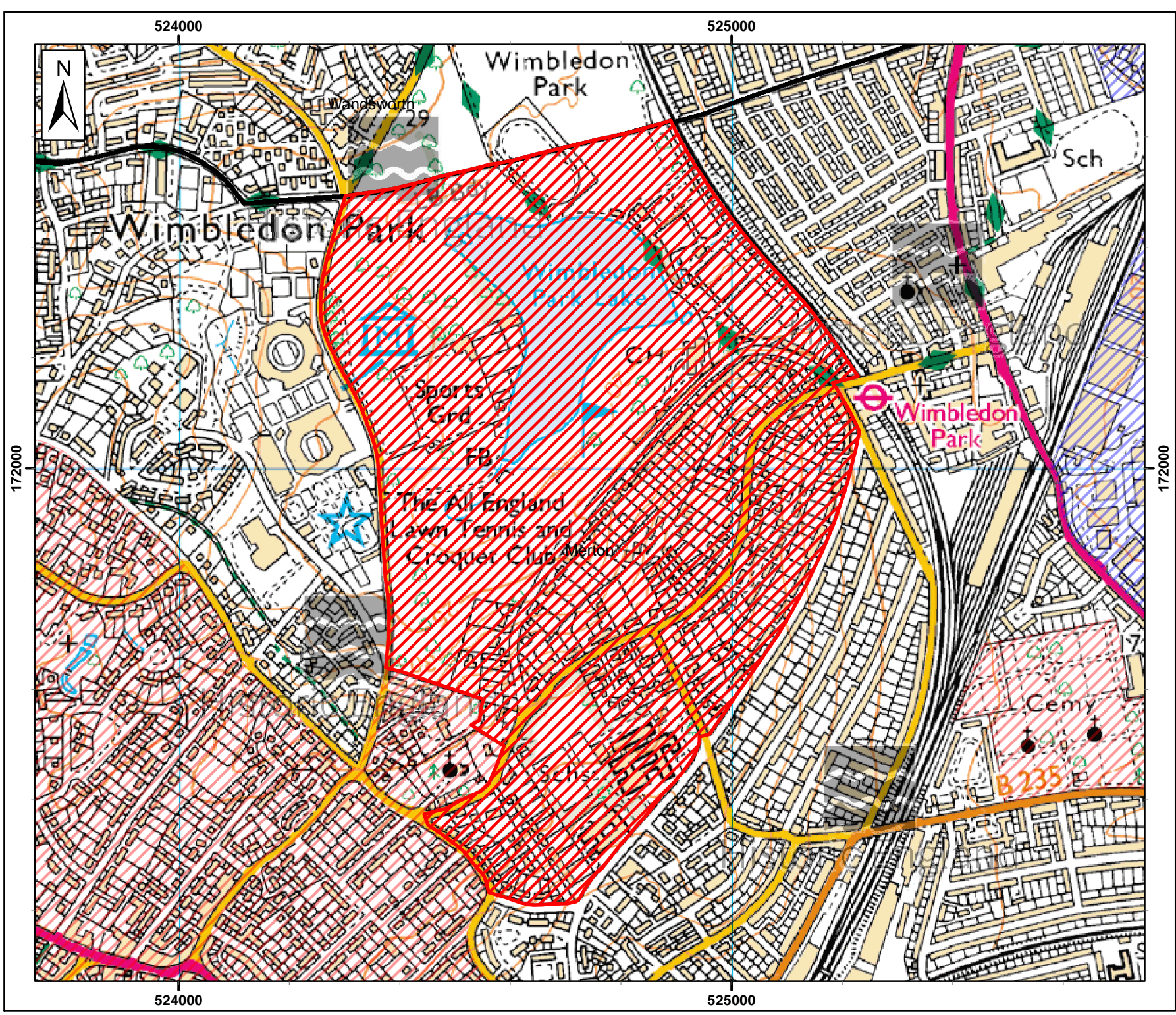
Merton Place was Nelson's home between 1801 and 1805, although he spent a significant amount of time at sea during that period prior to the Battle of Trafalgar. The house was built in the mid 18th century and was originally known as Moat House Farm. A water feature or moat associated with the house that was fed by the Wandle was renamed The Nile after Nelson moved in. The house was extended and its grounds enlarged during the occupancy of Nelson and his lover, Lady Emma Hamilton. After Nelson's death, Emma Hamilton fell into debt and was forced to move out and the house was demolished in 1821. The land was gradually developed for housing and the area became known as Nelson's Fields.

The exact location of the house is at the junction between Doel Close and Nelson Grove Road, now a group of houses known collectively as Merton Place. The Nelson Arms public house on the corner between Merton High Street and Abbey Road is on the site of the entrance lodge and gates which led to Merton Place. Maps dating from the 1860s show a small body of water to the north of where the house used to stand which could be the remains of The Nile.


The grounds of Merton Place are known to have extended to the north and south of the APA boundaries. The grounds to the north of Merton High Street were connected to the grounds to the south by a tunnel. The northern grounds may have extended as far as either Quicks Road or South Park Road while the southern grounds may have gone as far as the tramlines.

Significance

While the house itself was not particularly remarkable, it is its association with Lord Nelson that gives Merton Place such significance. If the house had survived it may have become a popular tourist attraction in the same way that Apsley House has, owing to its association with the Duke of Wellington. Remains associated with the house or its grounds may survive within the APA and remains of the tunnel may be present beneath Merton High Street providing a fascinating link to one of the principal naval figures in British history.



Merton APA 2.12
Wimbledon Park House

 Wimbledon Park House APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:9,000

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Merton APA 2.12: Wimbledon Park House

Summary and Definition

The APA covers Wimbledon Park and a section of the residential area that lies to the south of the park. The area represents land covered by the grounds of Wimbledon Park House. It is classified as Tier 2 because it covers the site of a heritage asset of archaeological and historic interest and a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden with archaeological interest.

Description

Three manor houses were built in the area to the south of Wimbledon Park, close to where the western end of Home Park Road meets Arthur Road. The first was built in 1588 for Sir Thomas Cecil, an Elizabethan politician and soldier, and at the same time an area was enclosed to form the grounds for the house. The location of this house is thought to be slightly to the north of the western junction between Home Park Road and Arthur Road. The house had several owners during the 17th century but had fallen into a state of disrepair by the early 18th century. Sir Thomas Janssen started to build a replacement manor house in what is now the area between Alan Road and Highbury Road in the 1720s. Due to financial problems Janssen lost control of the manor and it is debatable whether his house can be counted as one of the manor houses. His house became known as Belvedere House which was demolished in 1900.

The remains of the Elizabethan house were demolished and a new house was built for Sarah Churchill, the Duchess of Marlborough, in the 1730s on land that is now occupied by the playing area for Ricards Lodge High School. A smaller building, which was used as servants' quarters, was built to the north-east of the main house and a brick-lined tunnel linked the two buildings, traces of which were found during a watching brief in September 2004. The main house burnt down in 1785 and by 1801 a new house had been built on the site of the earlier service building. This house was demolished in 1949.

The Well House, also known as the Artesian Well, in Arthur Road was built over the site of a well that supplied the Georgian manor house with water. The present building was constructed in 1798 when the new house was being constructed. It is the only building associated with the former manor house which still survives.

Wimbledon Park is the only part of the former grounds of Wimbledon Park House which is still open and the lake retains the shape it had when created for the estate grounds. Church Road, which runs along the western side of Wimbledon Park, follows the route of the drive to the manor house, which was laid out in the 18th century, and replaced an earlier straight drive. The residential areas to the south of the park were gradually developed in the second half of the 19th century after Earl

Spencer had sold the Wimbledon Park Estate in 1846. The park became a public park in 1914.

Significance

From the late 16th century until the mid 20th century one of three different manor houses occupied the area to the south of the APA. Each house was a fine example of a country house which would have reflected the architectural themes of the time they were built and were visited by various famous people. The first Wimbledon Park House was the first grand country house to be built in the area and further country houses were located in the Wimbledon area in subsequent centuries. It could therefore be stated that Wimbledon's reputation as an affluent suburb of the city where wealthy Londoners could build a country retreat started with the first Wimbledon Park House. The size of Wimbledon Park further demonstrates the scale of Wimbledon Park House's grounds even though the current park is smaller than the grounds would have been. The tunnel found in 2004 demonstrates how remains associated with the houses may still be present while the remains of garden features may survive within the park.

Key References

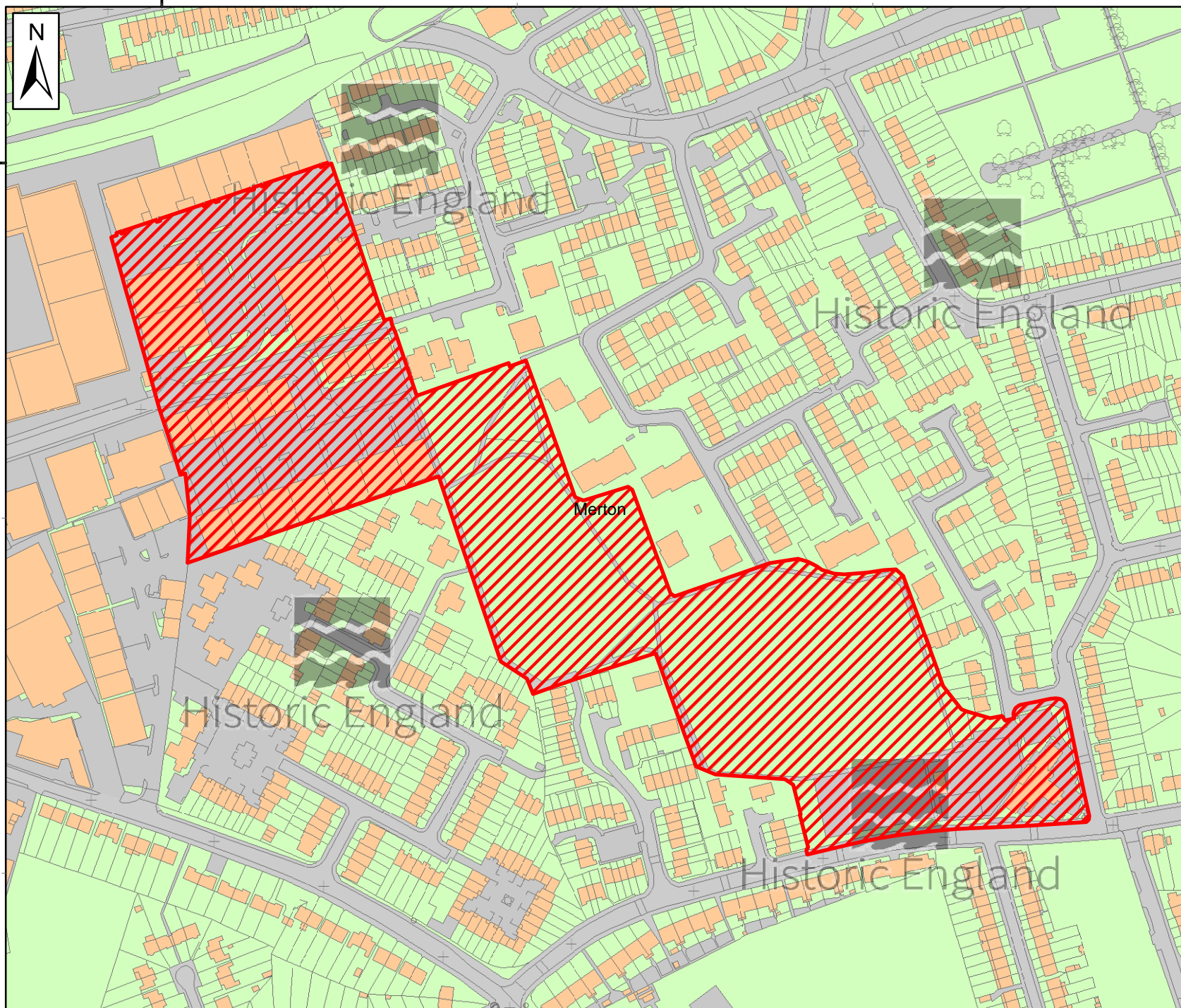
London 2: South, B. Cherry and N. Pevsner, Penguin Books, 1983

527000




170000

170000



527000

Merton APA 2.13
Lavender Park

 Lavender Park APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:3,000

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Merton APA 2.13: Lavender Park

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the site of Lavender Park and extends into an area at the eastern end of Prince Georges Road. Lavender Park was formerly part of King's College Sports Ground. It is classified as Tier 2 because evidence of a significant Bronze Age settlement has been found in this area.

Description

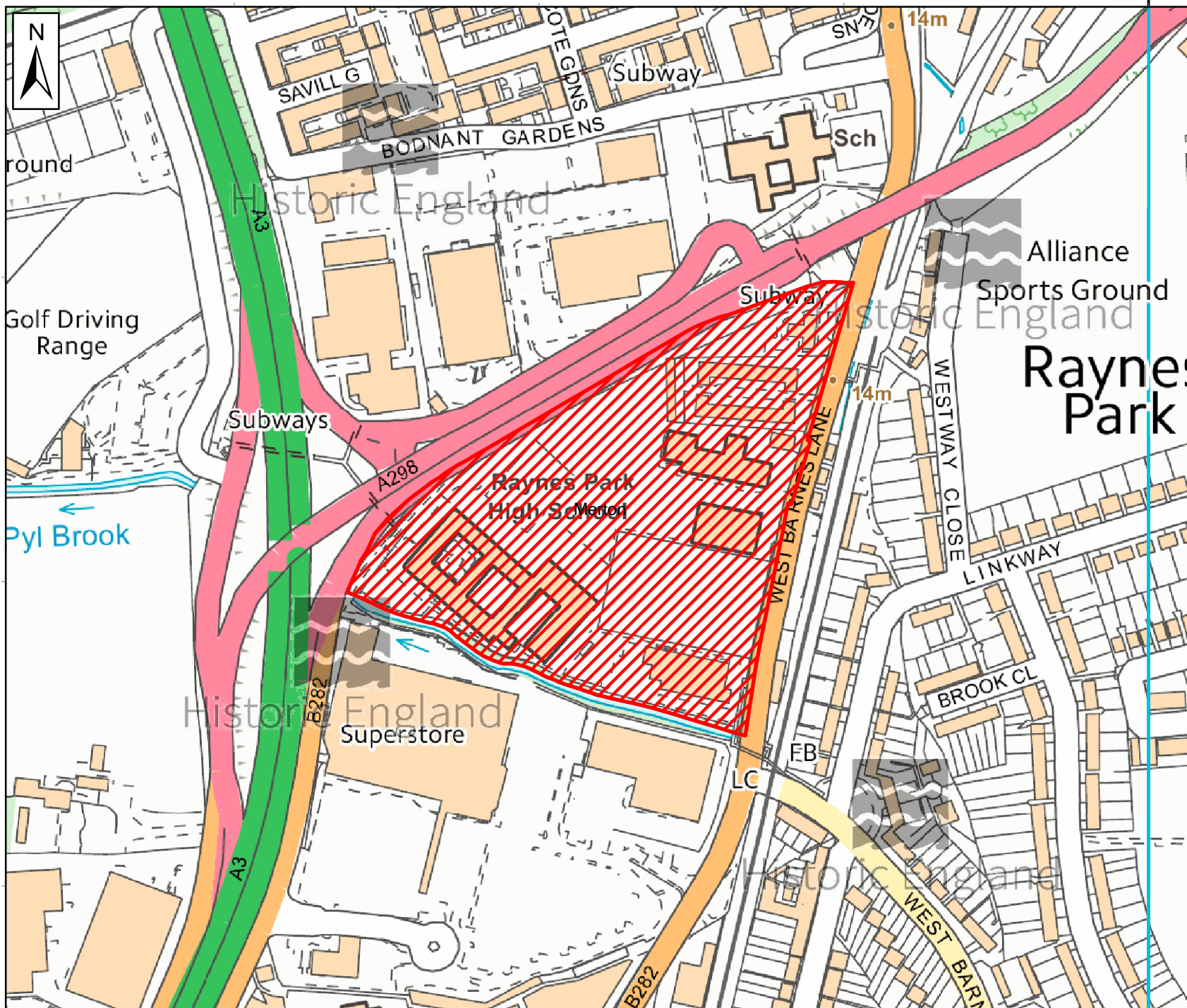
The Wandle Valley would have provided topographic advantages for prehistoric settlements owing to the river and good farming land. Excavations at the site of the former King's College Sports Ground in 1989 found a complex of features associated with a Bronze Age settlement including pits, ditches, pottery and a ditched enclosure known as a 'banjo enclosure'. The presence of these features demonstrates that organised settlement and landscape management was taking place in this part of the borough during the Bronze Age. The site is thought to have an earliest date of 1500 BC, perhaps with sporadic settlement periods in distinct phases of occupation. The area now covered by Lavender Park was not investigated during the 1989 excavations and it is possible that similar remains survive within the park and other undeveloped areas of the APA.

Significance

The King's College Sports Ground excavations demonstrated that prehistoric settlement evidence survives in the Wandle Valley owing to the good agricultural potential of the land. The features that were uncovered in 1989 would not have existed in isolation and probably related to a settlement which must have been located nearby and perhaps formed just one element in a much wider landscape. Elsewhere in the Middle Thames Valley it is known that extensive field systems containing small farmsteads were laid out in the later Bronze Age to form some of the earliest organised agricultural landscapes in Britain. Further prehistoric remains that might survive within the APA could therefore be of at least regional significance in advancing understanding of this process.

Key References

Housing Development at Former Kings College Sports Ground, Western Road, London Borough of Merton: Preliminary Report of Archaeological Investigation, Museum of London, 1989



Merton APA 2.14
West Barnes Farm

 West Barnes Farm APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:3,500

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Merton APA 2.14: West Barnes Farm

Summary and Definition

The APA is located between Bushey Road, West Barnes Lane, the A3 and the Pyl Brook. Most of the area is occupied by Raynes Park High School. It is classified as Tier 2 because it was the site of a medieval farm.

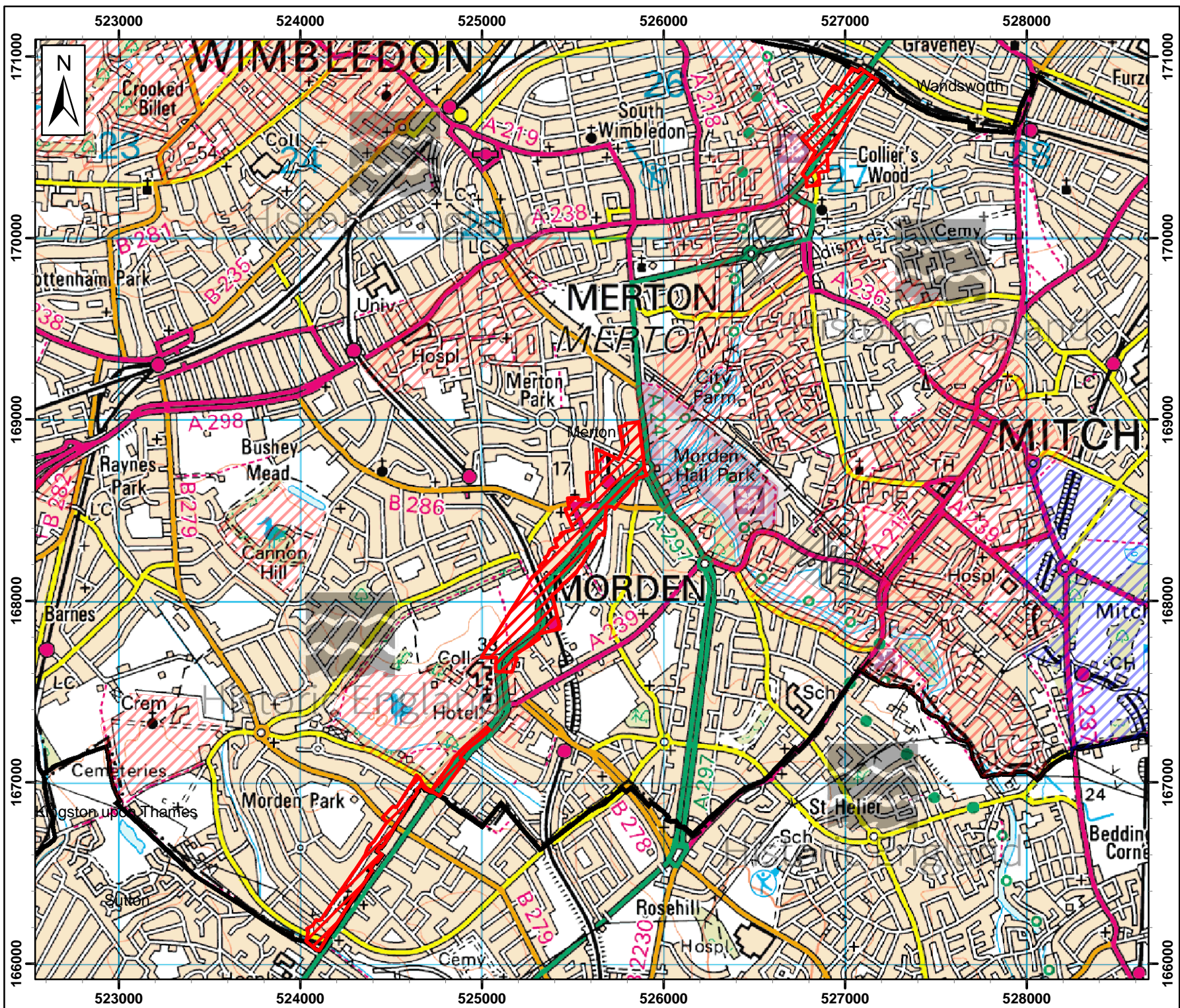
Description

In the medieval period West Barnes Farm was a monastic grange which belonged to Merton Priory. After the Dissolution the farm and 200 acres of associated land was sold off and in 1545 was acquired by Sir John Gresham. It was then owned by a number of different families over the subsequent centuries.





The Ordnance Survey Map of 1865 shows West Barnes Farm on the north side of the Pyl Brook on a site now occupied by Raynes Park High School. In 1865 the western side and part of the northern side of the farm were surrounded by a moat filled by water from the Pyl Brook. In earlier centuries the entire site may have been surrounded by a moat. The surrounding area became increasingly developed during the early 20th century and the farm was demolished in the 1920s.

Significance

West Barnes Farm's role as a monastic grange demonstrates the influence that Merton Priory had on the surrounding area but the farm continued to operate even after the Priory's dissolution. The partial moat that can be seen on 19th century maps hints that the site may have also been a medieval moated manor.



Merton APA 2.15
Stane Street

-  Stane Street APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:27,500

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Merton APA 2.15: Stane Street

Summary and Definition

The APA follows the route of the Roman road known as Stane Street, which runs from London to Chichester and crosses the borough from north-east to south-west. The route of High Street Colliers Wood follows the route of Stane Street from the borough boundary with Wandsworth as far as Colliers Wood Station. After this point, Stane Street continued in a straight line towards Pylford Bridge in the south-west and crossed through the area that was later to become the site of Merton Priory. It ran slightly to the west of Stonecot Hill and its route to the south approximately follows the borough boundary between Merton and Sutton. It has been classified as Tier 2 because it is a corridor of land flanking the route of a Roman road with the potential to reveal elements of the road itself or of roadside activity and settlement.

Description

Stane Street linked London with Chichester and is thought to have been built by AD 70. Like other Roman roads in Britain it used locally found materials in its construction such as chalk, flint, sand and gravel. The road consisted of a central road, known as an agger, which was bounded on either side by roadside ditches.

Sections of Stane Street have been seen across the APA during excavations or buildings works. It was observed in Morden Park during drain laying works in 1959 and it was also uncovered by workmen on what is now the site of Merton Civic Centre. It was seen during the construction of telephone boxes in London Road in 1963, on the site of the Priory Retail Park in 1997/1998 and during an excavation at 1-11 High Street Colliers Wood in 2004. These observations of Stane Street suggest that it did run in a straight line across Merton

Stane Street would have crossed the River Wandle to the south of Merton High Street. Excavations in this area in 1997 and 1998 found that the Roman roadway ran between two raised banks. The banks may have been raised in order to prevent flooding in what would have been a marshland area and the sand beneath the road would have also prevented underlying water from seeping through. It is possible that Stane Street crossed the Wandle here by way of a ford and while the roadway sloped downwards the raised banks led to footbridges.

The constraints presented by the establishment of Merton Priory in the 12th century and the development of Merton village to the west may explain the diversion of the medieval and modern road from the Stane Street alignment when crossing the River Wandle. No modern road between Colliers Wood and Morden follows the route of the Roman road and after the road was diverted any obvious trace of the earlier route has faded.

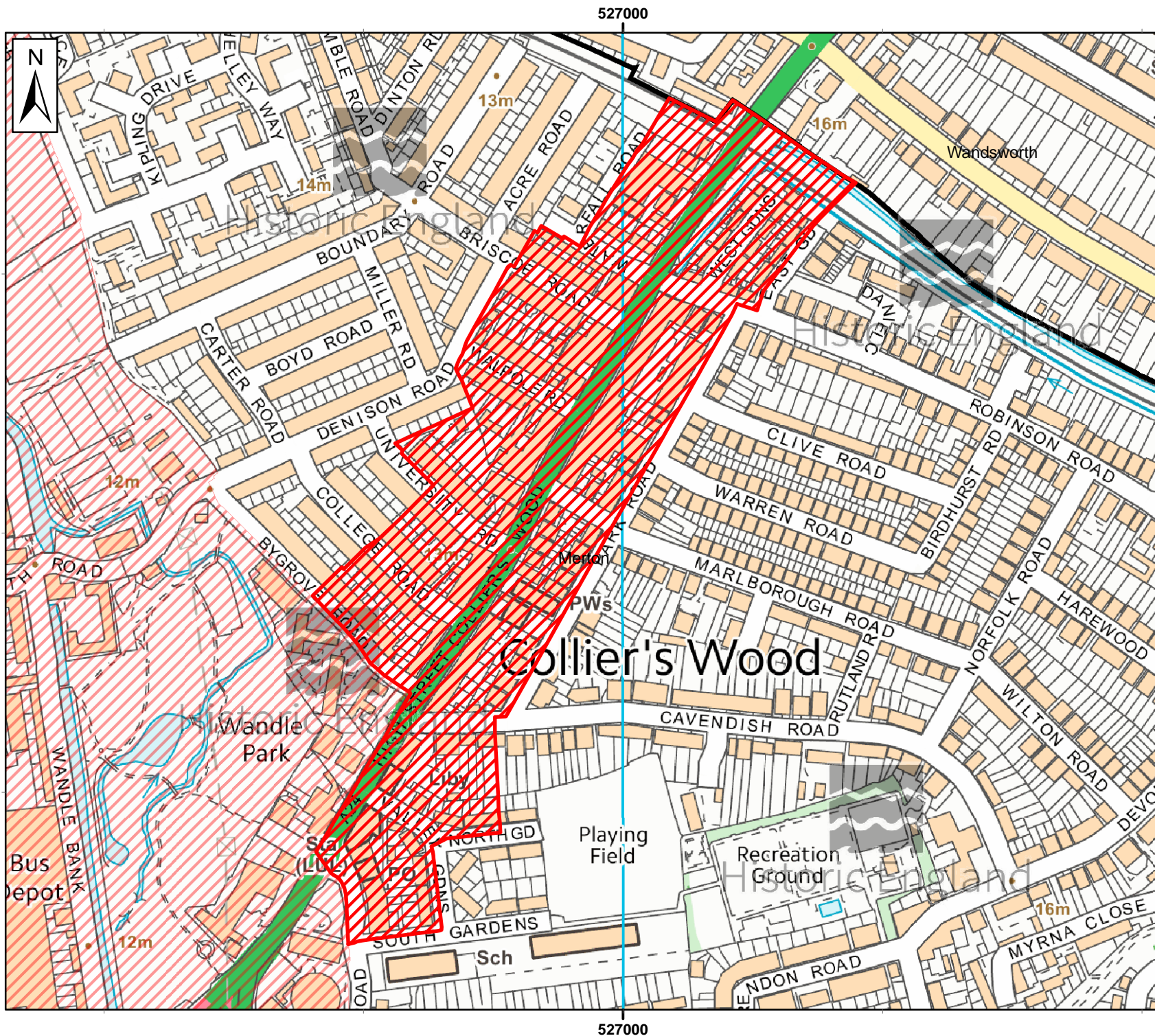
A mansio, which was an official stopping place on a Roman road, may have been located somewhere within the APA and concentrated areas of Roman finds within the APA add weight to this theory. Gravel extraction in the area near to Deer Park Road in 1922 found more than 500 Roman coins dating from the 1st to the 4th century, pottery fragments and a 1st century brooch. A number of Roman finds were recovered during the excavations on the Merton Priory site between 1976 and 1990 and Roman burials were also found near Haslemere Primary School during separate excavations in the 1960s and 1993. These discoveries have led to speculation that a mansio may have been located near to where Stane Street crosses the Wandle. The Roman finds in this area may still be indicative of some sort of Roman roadside settlement even if it was not a mansio.

Significance

Stane Street was a major Roman arterial road, linking London to Chichester, two of the most important settlements in Roman Britain. The fact that sections of Stane Street are still followed by modern roads in Merton and in other boroughs that it passed through demonstrates how it influenced road layouts in later centuries. Settlements would have developed along the route of Stane Street and Roman finds uncovered in the vicinity of the road suggest that such settlements or even a more substantial mansio were located within Merton. Future archaeological investigations could clarify the extent and nature of Roman and later settlement along this section of Stane Street.

Key References

Roman Roads in Britain (3rd ed.), I. D. Margary, John Baker, London, 1973



Merton APA 2.15 Stane Street (North-East Section)

 Stane Street APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

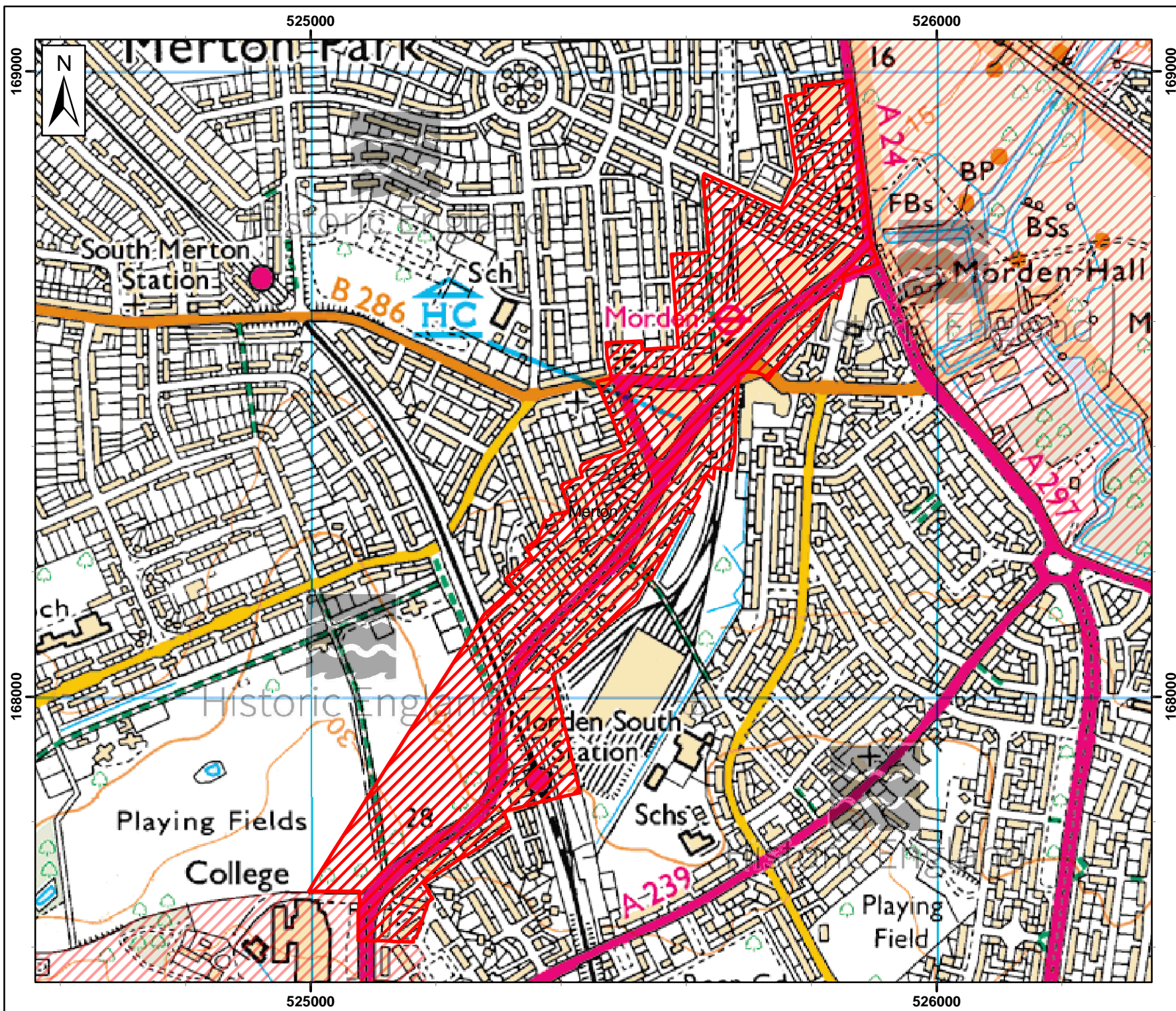
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Merton APA 2.15
Stane Street
(Central Section)

 Stane Street APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:8,000

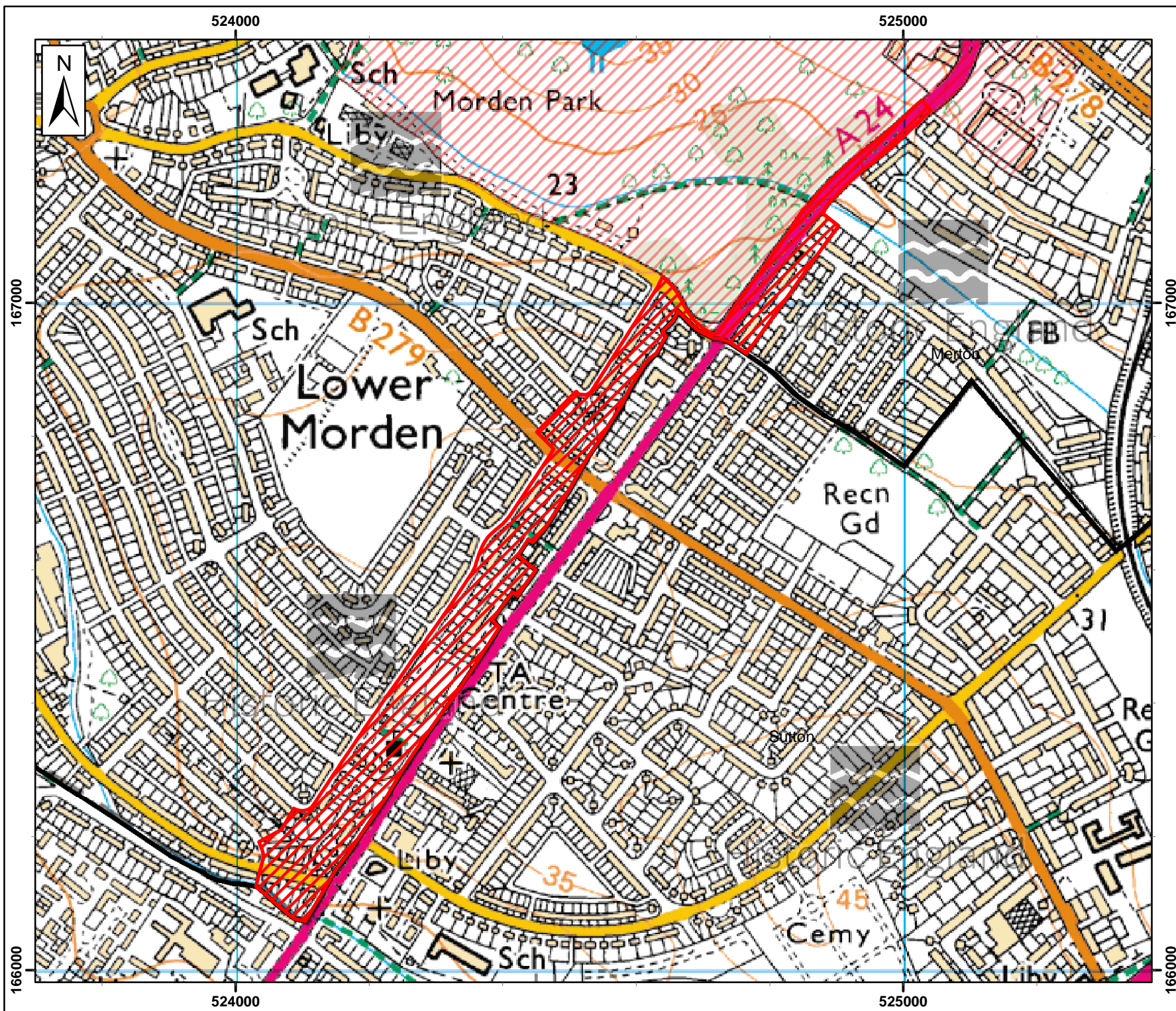
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Merton APA 2.15
Stane Street
(South-West Section)

 Stane Street APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

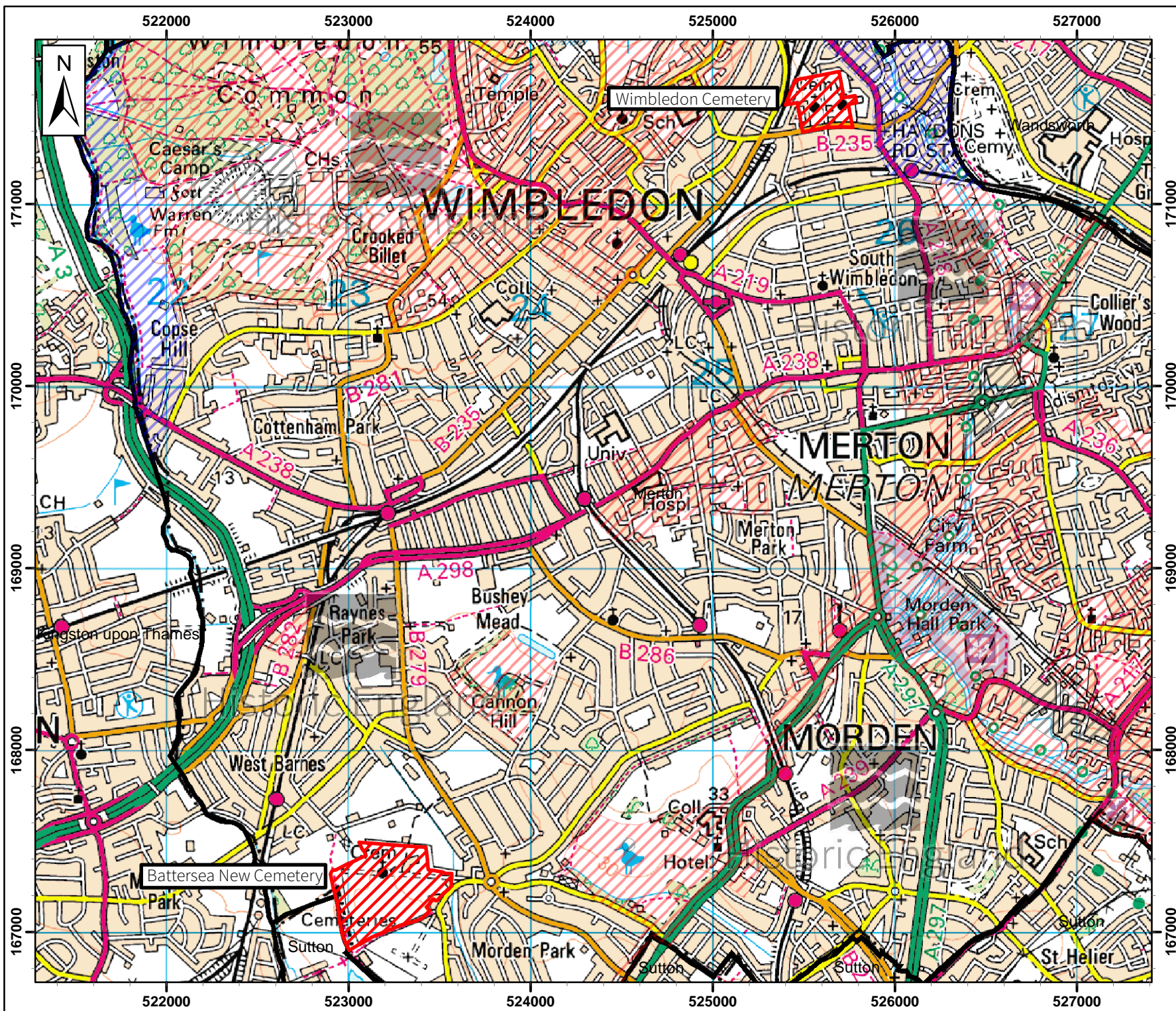
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Merton APA 2.16 Merton 19th Century Cemeteries

 Merton 19th Century
Cemeteries APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:27,500

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Merton APA 2.16: Merton 19th Century Cemeteries

Summary and Definition

This APA covers two 19th century cemeteries which are not otherwise covered by an Archaeological Priority Area. The APA is classified as Tier 2 because it covers burial grounds with 19th century origins. Both of the cemeteries are open to the public and still accept new burials.

Description

Wimbledon Cemetery, Gap Road: Wimbledon Cemetery was founded in 1877. The cemetery is a municipal cemetery which allowed burials of people from Anglican and Non-conformist backgrounds. The graves of former mayors, Belgian refugees, 19th century colonial administrators are all located within the cemetery. The entrance lodge, mortuary and two chapels, designed by Sir Banister Fletcher, are all original buildings although only one of the chapels is still in use. A memorial known as the Cooke mausoleum is one of the most impressive monuments in the cemetery and dates from 1885. The cemetery was extended northwards at some point between 1913 and 1935 and it has also extended to the north-west as far as the train lines.

Battersea New Cemetery, Lower Morden Lane: The cemetery is a municipal cemetery that was opened after space for burials in Battersea St Mary's Cemetery became restricted. It therefore includes the remains of local residents and people from the Battersea area and is still owned by the London Borough of Wandsworth. Prior to the establishment of the cemetery in 1891 the land was undeveloped although a farm known as Hobald's Farm was situated on a site towards the south-east of the cemetery and can be seen on an 1884 OS map. At the centre of the cemetery are two mortuary chapels that were designed by William C. Poole which are approached by a formal drive which leads from Lower Morden Lane. One of the chapels was Church of England while the other was Non-Conformist. The chapels were linked by a carriage porch, above the centre of which was a spire. In 1958 one of the chapels was converted into the North East Surrey Crematorium and the other was adapted in 2005 so that it too could conduct cremation ceremonies.

Significance

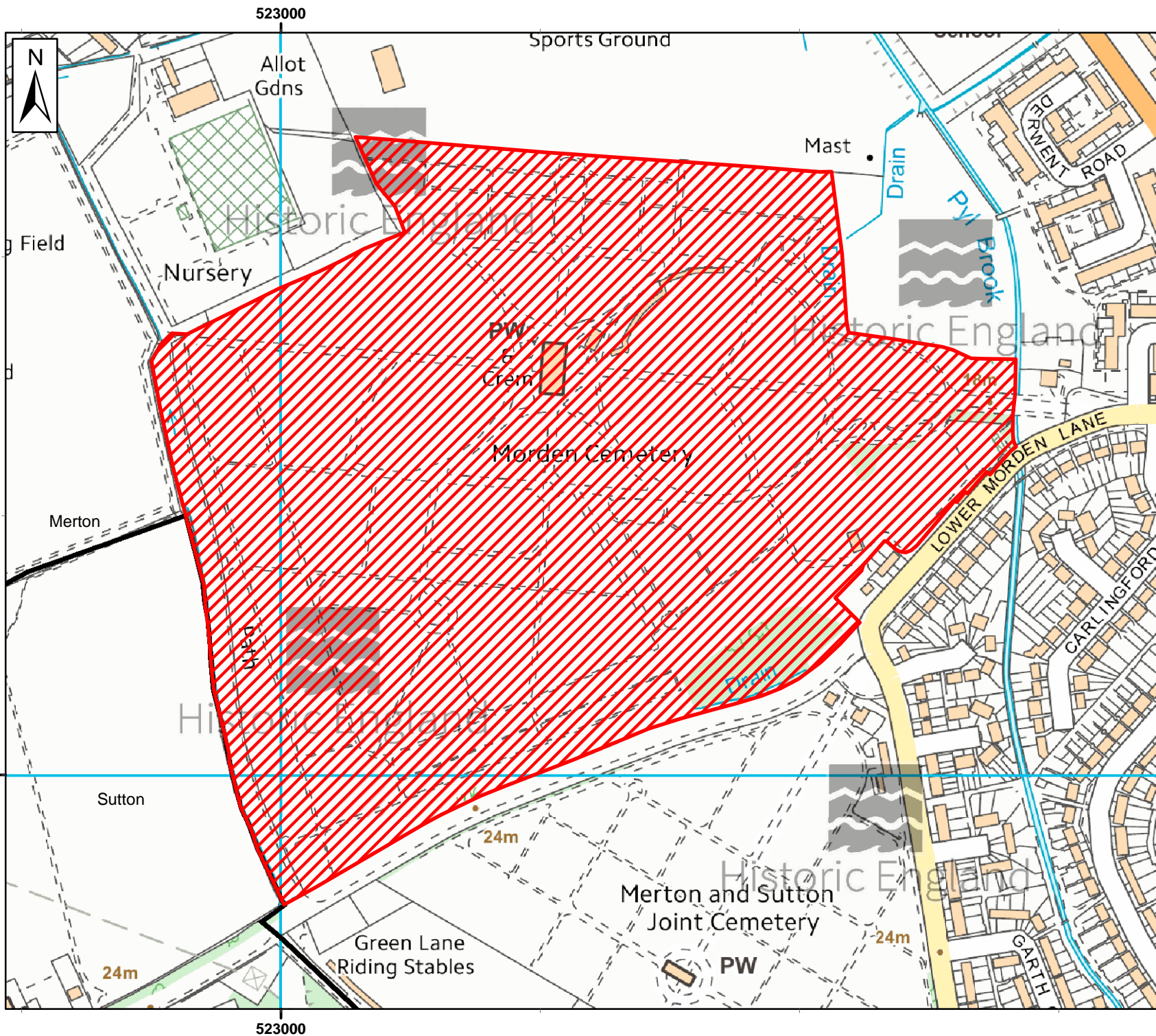
Burials which are over 100 years old are potentially of archaeological interest. The interest in burials and burial grounds relate to differences in burial practices, buildings and

monuments which typically reflect a variety of social and religious factors and also to the study of human populations including life expectancy, health and disease.

Burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines, archaeological investigation in 19th century burial grounds would normally only occur when burials more than 100 years old have to be disturbed for other reasons. Such disturbance could be for development or purposes other than routine small scale cemetery operations. The views and feelings of relatives and associated faith communities, when known, would be considered.

Key References

London Cemeteries, An Illustrated Guide & Gazetteer (4th ed.), H. Meller and B. Parsons, The History Press, 2008



Merton APA 2.16
Merton 19th Century
Cemeteries
(Battersea New Cemetery)

 Battersea New Cemetery

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

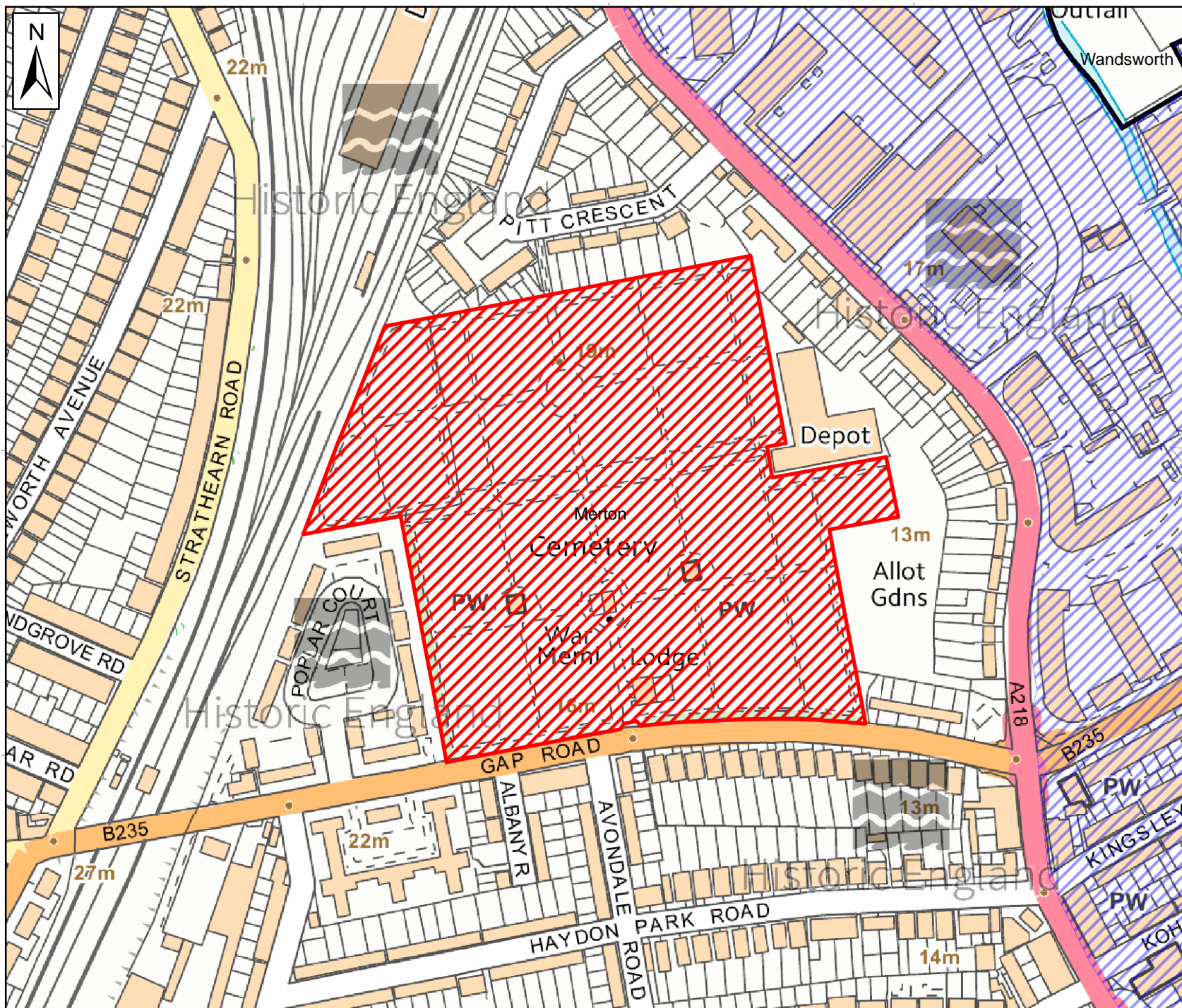
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Merton APA 2.16
Merton 19th Century
Cemeteries
(Wimbledon Cemetery)

 Wimbledon Cemetery

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

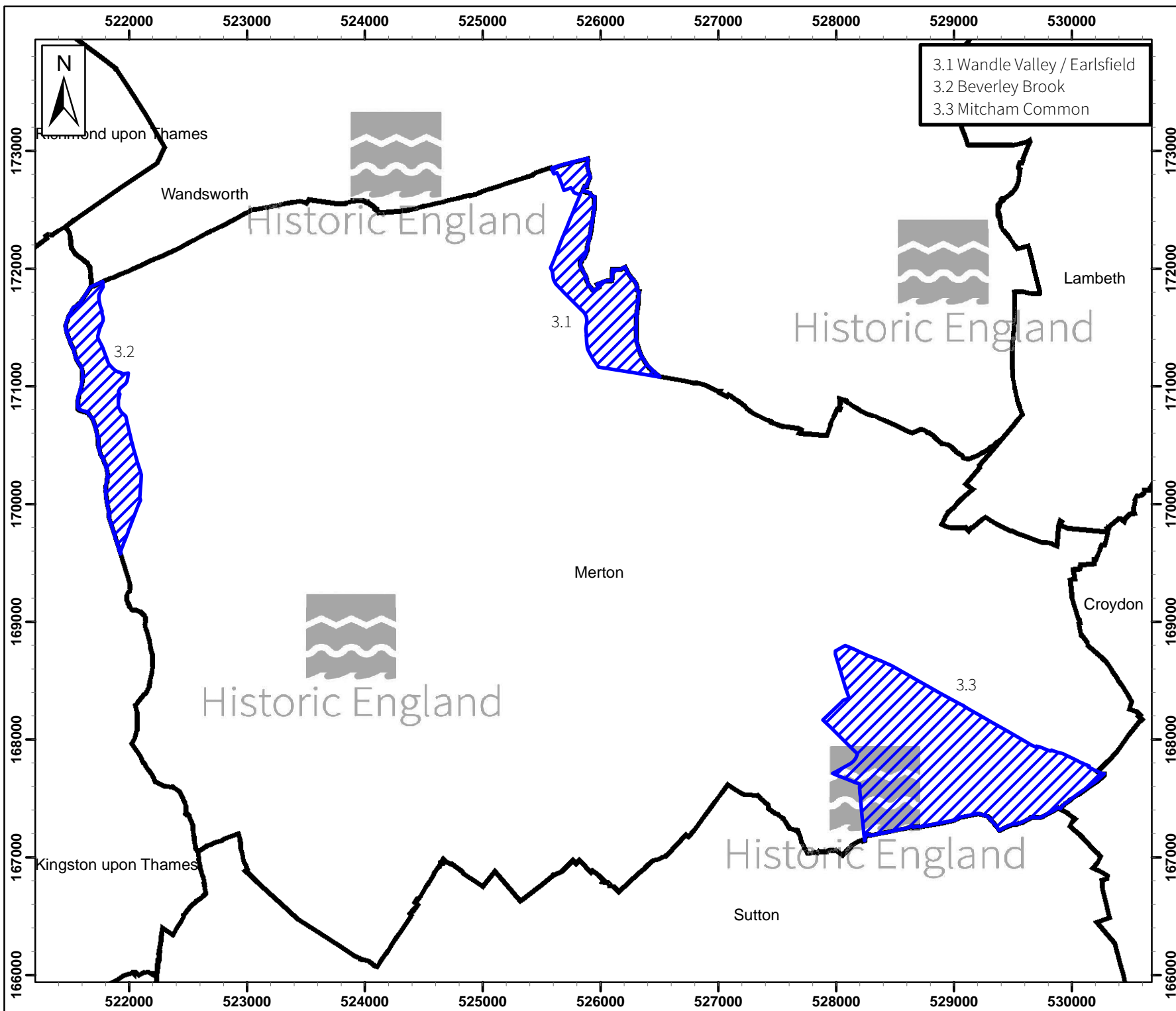
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Merton Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Areas

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

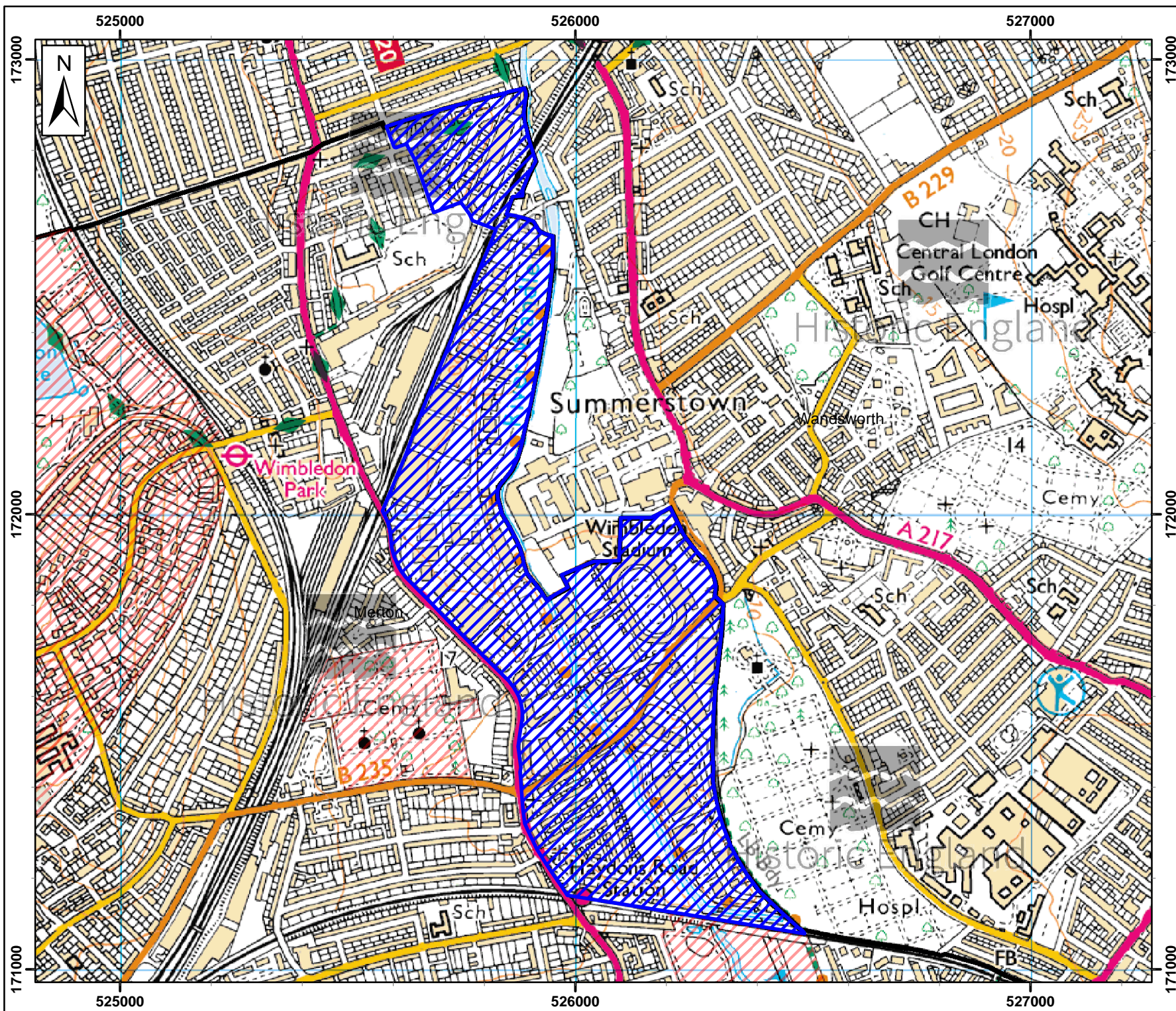
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Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Areas

Merton APA 3.1: Wandle Valley / Earlsfield	page 97
Merton APA 3.2: Beverley Brook	page 99
Merton APA 3.3: Mitcham Common	page 101



Merton APA 3.1
Wandle Valley / Earlsfield

 Wandle Valley /
Earlsfield APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:11,000

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Merton APA 3.1: Wandle Valley / Earlsfield

Summary and Definition

The APA follows the course of the River Wandle from just north of Earlsfield station to where it passes under the railway between Haydons Road and Tooting stations. It is classified as Tier 3 because it is a topographical zone with high potential for preservation of organic remains associated with a riverine environment. It is one of four APAs which cover the Wandle as it passes through Merton.

Description

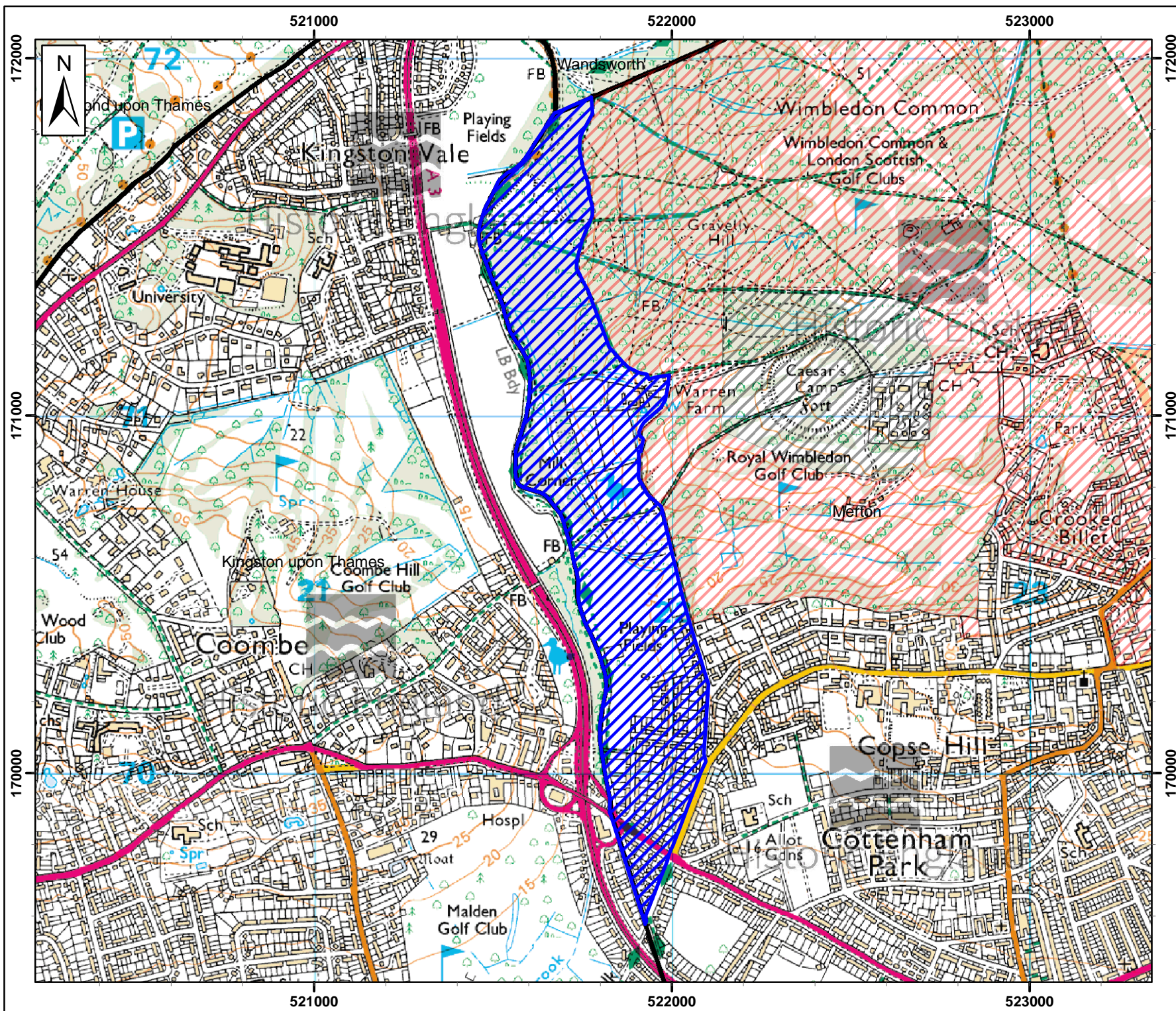
The riverside location would have benefitted early agricultural settlements although the marshy/swampy conditions in some areas of the river may have prevented settlements from developing. Nevertheless, evidence of prehistoric settlement may still survive on either side of the Wandle in this area. Archaeological finds within the APA have included a Bronze Age spearhead and an Iron Age urn.

The Wandle was later used to serve numerous mills along its length for industries such as brewing, dyeing, paper manufacture, gunpowder manufacture and textile printing. A copper works which was powered by a water wheel is known to have existed within the APA at a site just north of where Plough Lane crosses the Wandle at the end of Copper Mill Lane. The mill was established by French Huguenot refugees in the 17th century and was initially an iron plate mill although earlier mills had existed at the same site. By the mid 18th century it had become a copper mill. Ordnance Survey maps from the 19th century show the copper works and other details such as a mill dam and cottages built for workers at the mill. The copper works became a leather mill towards the end of the 19th century and finally closed in 1960. One of the 19th century mill buildings and some 20th century worker cottages are still standing. It is possible that further mills may have existed along this stretch of the Wandle.

The area bounded by Durnsford Road, the Wandle and the Wimbledon to Earlsfield railway line remained relatively undeveloped until the 20th century. The area is now covered by industrial and warehouse facilities.

Significance

This APA, like all areas that are close to the Wandle in Merton, may have been settled in the prehistoric period by people who wanted to take advantage of the agricultural benefits of a riverside environment. Such settlements may have left an archaeological trace. This section of the Wandle was not industrialised to the same extent as other sections of the river in Merton and the Copper Mill Lane site is the only significant mill site within the APA. However, it is possible that further mills might have been built in this area, the remains of which may have survived to some degree.



Merton APA 3.2
Beverley Brook

 Beverley Brook APA

Tier 1
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 3
 Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:14,000

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Merton APA 3.2: Beverley Brook

Summary and Definition

The APA covers an area on the eastern side of Beverley Brook which marks part of the borough boundary between Merton and Kingston upon Thames. It is classified as Tier 3 because alluvial deposits along this stretch of Beverley Brook may contain or preserve archaeological evidence of past human activity.

Description

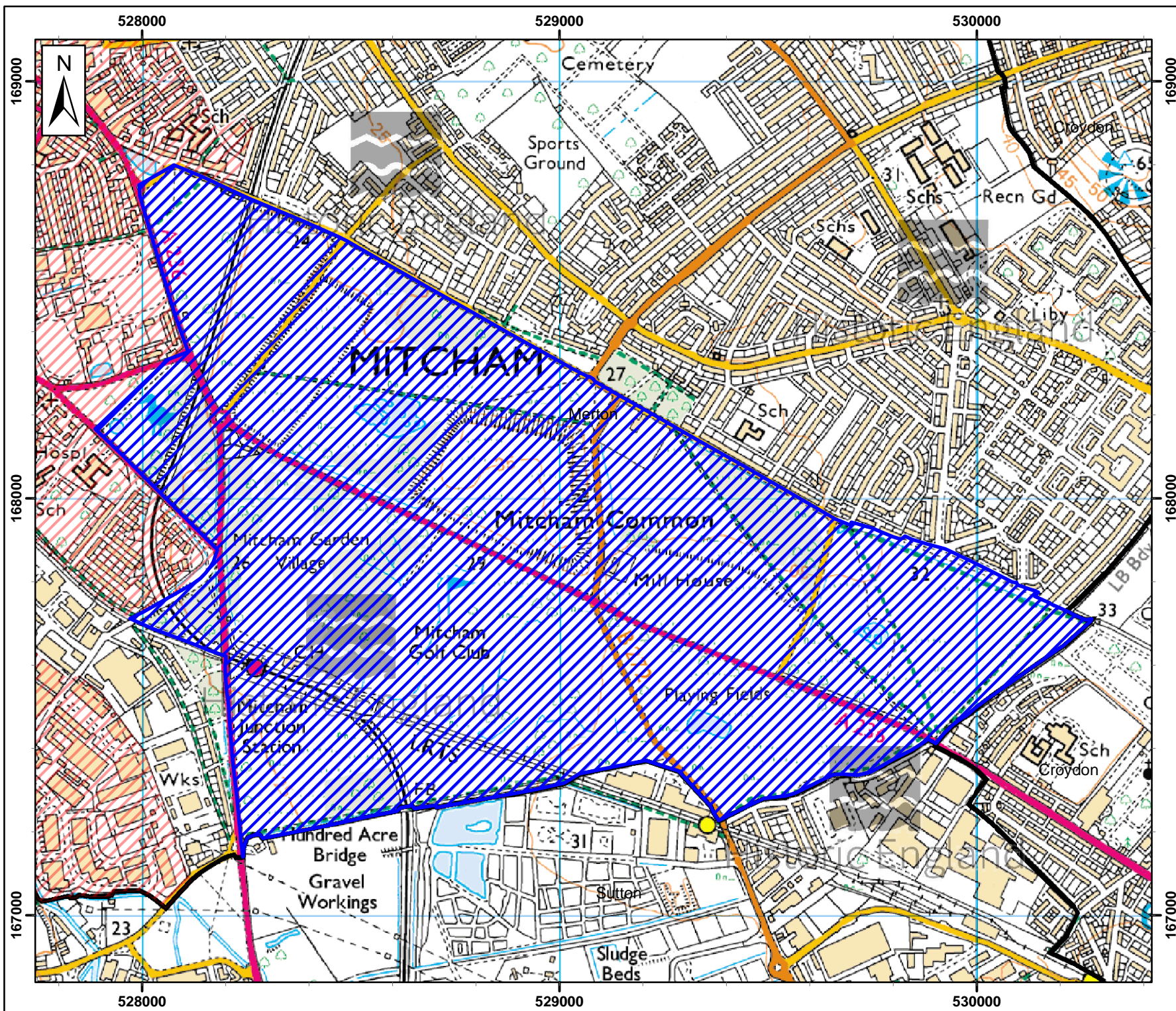
The topographic advantages of the riverside areas close to Beverley Brook may have led prehistoric communities to settle within the area. Prehistoric settlement sites have been found close to the Wandle in other parts of Merton and it is possible that similar settlements could be found here. The Iron Age hillfort known as Caesar's Camp is located to the east and the river would have formed part of its wider landscape setting and was also the fort's closest water source.

Beverley Brook was not exploited for industrial purposes to the same extent as the Wandle, however, the bend in Beverley Brook to the south west of Warren Farm is known as Mill Corner. A fulling mill is thought to have existed on this site and is mentioned in records from the late 15th century and early 17th century. However, it is not mentioned in a survey of 1649 and by 1763 the site was described as wasteland. The slight curve in the course of Beverley Brook in this area may be the result of water management and manipulation for the mill.





An area between Mill Corner and Warren Farm is called Fishpond Wood. The 1649 survey mentions eight fishponds and a long bank in the wood has been interpreted as the remains of an embankment or dam related to fishponds. It may have originally been a mill pond that was later divided and converted into fishponds.

Significance

It is possible that prehistoric communities may have settled within the APA and since a large part of the Beverley Brook APA is undeveloped any surviving archaeological features and finds may still be present with the possibility of organic survival in waterlogged conditions. While water power from Beverley Brook was never utilised to the same degree as water power from the Wandle the mill and fish ponds demonstrate that it was still being exploited albeit on a smaller scale. Remains related to any previous milling activity within the APA may also still be present.



Merton APA 3.3
Mitcham Common

-  Mitcham Common APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:12,000

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Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.



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Merton APA 3.3: Mitcham Common

Summary and Definition

Mitcham Common consists of approximately 460 acres within the London Borough of Merton although it used to extend into areas within the boroughs of Sutton and Croydon too. The APA covers an area between the borough boundary between Merton and Sutton to the south, Commonsides West and Carshalton Road to the west and Commonsides east to the north east. It is classified as Tier 3 because it is an extensive undeveloped area with potential for surviving archaeological remains.

Description

The APA has seen very little development and activities that have taken place on the Common such as grazing and its use as a golf course would have left little archaeological trace. Parts of the Common have been quarried for gravel and this gravel extraction would have removed archaeological features or finds. However, prehistoric finds on the Common have included a Palaeolithic flint axe, Bronze Age palstaves and a gold coin dating to the 1st century BC. These finds are an indicator of the APA's potential for the survival of further remains.

A circular mound known as Maiden Hill was situated near to the junction of Croydon Road and Beddington Lane. This feature appears on a number of maps dating to the 17th and 18th centuries but does not appear on an Ordnance Survey map dating to 1879. Gravel extraction during the 19th century may have eradicated the mound since the area it was situated in by this point appears to be a gravel pit. Maiden Hill may have been a prehistoric barrow or could date to later periods. It might have been used as a windmill mound during the medieval or early post medieval periods. Other prehistoric features may still survive in other parts of the APA.

A few buildings have been built on Mitcham Common such as the Ravensbury Arms public house, the windmill and the factories that formed the Tower Works and Victoria Works. A building being used as a public house, later known as the Ravensbury Arms, had been established by the end of the 18th century. A number of small houses, which came to be known as the Blue House Cottages, had also been built nearby by the early 19th century. The present Ravensbury Arms was built in 1906 and is set further back from the road so remains of the earlier public house may lie beneath its car park. The Blue House Cottages were gradually demolished until the last pair were pulled down in the early 1960s.

The windmill was built in the first decade of the 19th century but went out of use after being damaged in a storm during the 1860s. Its main structure was dismantled in the early 20th century and the brick built circular base is all that remains.

A site near the junction of Commonside East and Windmill Road was first used as a location for the Mitcham Workhouse which was opened in 1782. It was converted into a factory in the mid 19th century and became known as the Woodite Works and later the Victoria Works. A house to the east of the factory known as Woodite Towers was built for the family of the factory owners. However, this too became adapted into a factory which became known as the Towers Works. During the latter 19th century the Woodite Works produced Indian rubber but from the early 20th century onwards both factories produced a variety of goods under a number of different owners. The Tower Works were completely destroyed and the Victoria Works were damaged during an air raid in April 1941.

An anti-aircraft battery was located to the south of Mitcham Junction Station to the east of Carshalton Road during the Second World War. The Mitcham Common site would have consisted of a number of gun emplacements, accommodation huts and shelters. The huts were cleared by the mid 1960s but parts of the other structures may survive.

Significance

The prehistoric finds that have been recovered from the common suggests that some form of prehistoric activity took place here. Similar finds have also been made on Wimbledon Common and on other areas of open land in Greater London. While the common has never been extensively developed the few buildings that have been built, such as the anti aircraft battery and the factories on the former workhouse site, may have also left an archaeological trace. However, the gravel quarrying that has taken place on the common would have had an impact on any surviving archaeological remains. Maiden Hill was one casualty of gravel extraction. Preservation of remains is likely to be good as the common was uncultivated land and could include visible earthworks. An archaeological survey would be desirable to better inform management and interpretation.

Key References

Mitcham Common, E. Montague, Phillimore & Co, Trowbridge, 2001

Twentieth Century Fortifications in England, Volume 1.3 Anti-aircraft artillery, 1914-46, C.S. Dobinson, Council for British Archaeology, 1996

Glossary

Archaeological Priority Area: Generic term used for a defined area where, according to existing information, there is significant known archaeological interest or particular potential for new discoveries. They are sometimes called other names including Archaeological Priority Zones, Areas of Archaeological Significance/Importance/Interest or Areas of High Archaeological Potential.

Archaeological interest: There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places and of the people and cultures that made them (NPPF definition). There can be an archaeological interest in buildings and landscapes as well as earthworks and buried remains.

Conservation: The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances its significance (NPPF definition).

Designated heritage asset: A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation (NPPF definition).

Heritage asset: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing) (NPPF definition).

Historic environment: All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged and landscaped and planted or managed flora (NPPF definition).

Historic environment record: Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use (NPPF definition). Historic England maintains the Historic Environment Record for Greater London.

Potential: In some places, the nature of the archaeological interest cannot be specified precisely, but it may still be possible to document reasons for anticipating the existence and importance of such evidence. Circumstantial evidence such as geology, topography, landscape history, nearby major monuments and patterns of previous discoveries can be used to predict areas with a higher likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future.

Research framework: A suite of documents which describe the current state of knowledge of a topic or geographical area (the ‘resource assessment’), identifies major gaps in knowledge and key research questions (the ‘agenda’) and set out a strategy for addressing them. A resource assessment and agenda for London archaeology has been published and a strategy is in preparation.

Setting of a heritage asset: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral (NPPF definition).

Sensitivity: The likelihood of typical development impacts causing significant harm to a heritage asset of archaeological interest. Sensitivity is closely allied to significance and potential but also takes account of an asset’s vulnerability and fragility.

Significance: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence but also from its setting (NPPF definition).