437 UXBRIDGE ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

NGR: TQ 1894 8039

Report No. 583 March 2008

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purposes of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times through to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut off point

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and circa AD 1500

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid

OD

Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above sea level

OS

Ordnance Survey

Prehistoric

In Britain this term is generally used for any of the traditionally defined periods such as Palaeolithic (480,000-12,000 BC), Mesolithic (12,000-4000 BC), Neolithic (c4000-2800), Bronze Age (2800-600 BC) and Iron Age (600 BC – AD 43)

Romano-British

Term used to describe the synthesis of indigenous late Iron Age traditions with the invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated between AD 43 and AD 410

Saxon

Term used to describe the period between the end of Roman Britain *circa* AD 410 and the Norman Conquest (AD 1066)

VCH

Victoria County Histories.

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment on land at 437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing (NGR: TQ 1894 8039).

The assessment has highlighted that the site is of moderate-high archaeological potential for the recovery of prehistoric finds and of low potential for remains from the Roman through to the Post-medieval period.

The site appears to have been agricultural land throughout the Medieval and early Post-medieval periods. It remained undeveloped until *circa* 1935, when the tennis courts were constructed, followed by the public house *circa* 1956. A number of garages/short lived structures were subsequently constructed within the site, close to the southern boundary. The foundations for these earlier structures are likely to lie beneath the present industrial buildings and may only survive in a fragmentary form.

The main archaeological potential of the site is therefore for the presence of Mesolithic finds. It should be noted, however, that construction of the tennis grounds and the public house may have caused an impact on any archaeological deposits that may have been present. Features of Mesolithic date are likely to have been insubstantial and easily destroyed. However, with the exception of two garage blocks, the level of disturbance in the southern part of the site, which is of the highest potential, may have been relatively light. Preservation of Mesolithic archaeological finds and features in this area may, therefore, be considered possible.

1 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A desk based assessment has been requested on land at 437 Uxbridge Road, London Borough of Ealing (NGR: TQ 1894 8039).
- 1.2 The site has not previously been the subject of any archaeological works. This report represents the first stage of the pre-planning permission archaeological investigations for this proposed development.
- 1.3 The proposed development does not affect any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks, Gardens or Battlefields and does not affect an Archaeological Priority Area.
- 1.4 In considering a development proposal, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) will consider the policy framework set by government guidance. Relevant considerations are given below.

1.5 National Planning Policy and Guidance

1.5.1 Code of Good Practice on Archaeological Heritage in Urban Development Policies, 2000.

1.5.2 The Code of Good Practice, established by the Cultural Heritage Committee of the Council of Europe (Ref.10.1) states:

"...before taking decisions affecting the archaeological heritage, planners should obtain adequate information and advice, applying non-destructive methods of investigation wherever possible...the purpose [of assessment] will be not only to establish if it is necessary to dig but also to build a picture of the site's morphology and its potential".

1.5.3 Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning, 1990

- 1.5.4 Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG16) (Ref 10.2) sets out the Secretary of State's policy on archaeological deposits on land. PPG16 provides a series of recommendations for dealing with known and potential archaeological resources in a development context. Many of these recommendations have been integrated into regional and local development plans.
- 1.5.5 A key recommendation of PPG16 is that archaeological remains must be considered as a finite and non-renewable resource. Remains of archaeological importance therefore require appropriate mitigation to ensure their preservation in good condition. Field evaluations and early consultations with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are encouraged where proposed developments are likely to affect archaeological remains. Where important remains are confirmed, it is favourable to preserve in-situ, although it may be possible for preservation by record where this is not reasonably feasible.
- 1.5.6 Some nationally important archaeological remains are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) under the Ancient Monuments and

Archaeological Areas Act, 1979. Preservation of all SAMs *in situ* is favoured over recording prior to excavation.

1.5.7 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

1.5.8 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 provides for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest. This relates not only to Scheduled Ancient Monuments but also to other monuments which the Secretary of State believes to be of sufficient importance.

1.6 **Regional Planning Policy**

1.6.1 Regional Planning Guidance for the South-East, 2001

1.6.2 In reference to SAMs and World Heritage Sites, policy E1 of Regional Planning Guidance 9 (RPG9) (Ref 10.4) states:

"Development plans should accord with PPG 16 in protecting and enhancing existing and new areas designated for their cultural value..."

1.6.3 RPG 9 also encourages LPAs to liaise with English Heritage (EH) with a view to managing existing designated sites of archaeological importance.

1.7 Sub Regional Planning

1.7.1 The London Plan (Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London) Consolidated with Alterations since 2004 issued in February 2008).

- 1.7.2 The London Plan provides guidance on a number of heritage and archaeology related issues in Section 4B.
- 1.7.3 Policy 4B.12 (Heritage conservation) states that Boroughs should:

• ensure that the protection and enhancement of historic assets in London are based on an understanding of their special character, and form part of the wider design and urban improvement agenda, including their relationship to adjoining areas, and that policies recognise the multi-cultural nature of heritage issues

1.7.4 Policy 4B.14 (World Heritage Sites) states that The Mayor will work with the relevant boroughs, English Heritage and site owners and occupiers to agree and to implement management plans for London's World Heritage Sites. DPDs and management plans should contain policies that protect their historic significance and safeguard, and where appropriate enhance their settings. In considering planning applications the Mayor will, and boroughs should, take account of, and give appropriate weight to, the provisions of the World Heritage Site Management Plans.

- 1.7.5 Policy 4B.15 (Archaeology) states that The Mayor, in partnership with English Heritage, the Museum of London and boroughs, will support the identification, protection, interpretation and presentation of London's archaeological resources. Boroughs in consultation with English Heritage and other relevant statutory organisations should include appropriate policies in their DPDs for protecting scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological assets within their area
- 1.7.6 The London Plan Sub Regional Development Framework for West London issued in May 2006 makes no specific mention of archaeology.

1.8 Local Planning Policy

1.8.1 London Borough of Ealing's Unitary Development Plan (UDP), which was adopted in October 2004.

- 1.8.2 The policies set out in the Adopted Plan determine the position of archaeology as a material consideration in determining planning applications. As such, it seeks to preserve remains of archaeological importance. The applicable requirement for archaeological mitigation is outlined in Policy 4.9 (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Interest Areas) which states that:
 - The protection of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their settings is required by law. Any development affecting such an ancient monument requires an impact evaluation, including an archaeological assessment where appropriate.
- 1.8.3 The Policy states that it is the Council's intention to also protect archaeological sites, and any proposal must:
 - *Provide adequate opportunities for archaeological investigation prior to development;*
 - Be carried out in accordance with the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Code of Practice.
- 1.8.4 Where development would adversely affect Archaeological Interest Areas or archaeological remains, the applicant will normally be required to:
 - Modify designs to avoid adverse effects;
 - Design suitable land use and management strategies to safeguard any important remains, with the option to seek an agreement covering access and interpretation arrangements;
 - *Preserve in situ: where this is not feasible, provide appropriate provision for excavation.*

- 1.8.5 The UDF also defines a number of Ancient Monument and Archaeological Interest Areas. None of these impact upon the study area.
- 1.9 This archaeological assessment will therefore form the basis for any further pre-planning permission archaeological work, such as field evaluation.
- 1.10 This archaeological assessment was compiled in accordance with the principals of the legislative framework set out above. In addition, it fulfils the general requirements of a desktop assessment as set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment* (1999).
- 1.11 The study area includes the area defined in Figure 2, plus a 500m area around it. This allows the assessment to study the general potential of the site and its possible impact on associated monuments.

2 SOURCES

- 2.1 The information available in the Greater London Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) has been consulted. A total of 1 SMR records have been identified in the vicinity of the study area (Figure 3). No Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens or Battlefields are directly affected by the proposed development.
- 2.2 The National Monuments Record and the national Archives have also been consulted for cartographic and other historical data. Ealing Local Studies Library was closed at the time of this study. Regional and national journals have also been examined for relevant information. Aerial photographs held at the National Library of Aerial Photographs were not examined as the site has been built up since before the 1940's.
- 2.3 No geotechnical evidence was available for the site.

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 The study area comprises a working public house, The Granville, along with areas of hardstanding and car parking. The site covers an area of approximately 0.2 hectares.
- 3.2 The study area is bounded on all sides by built environment. To the north is the Uxbridge Road; to the west is Woodgrange House and a number of residential garages, to the south lie a number of residential properties between Granville Gardens and Woodgrange Avenue. To the east the site opens onto Granville Gardens, beyond which lies Ealing Common Station.

3.3 The solid geology of the study area comprises brickearth, with heavier clays to the north of Uxbridge Road (British Geological Survey, 1977).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Although the area assessed involves only the study area itself, as outlined in Figure 2, this report provides a broad overview of the surrounding area, to place the site in its landscape and historical context. This document is not in itself intended to discuss the history or development of Ealing.
- 4.2 There is no evidence for archaeological remains from within the proposed development area, although significant finds and features are present from the near vicinity of the site.
- Evidence for Prehistoric activity: There are a number of individual Sites and 4.3 Monuments Record entries for the prehistoric period in the vicinity of the study area. A Lower Palaeolithic handaxe and two flakes (MLO 471) was discovered at Tring Avenue, although its precise findspot is unknown. Two Lower Palaeolithic handaxes and a secondary flake (MLO 8398) are also known from Warwick Road to the west of the study area, while Upper Palaeolithic Mousterian flintwork has been found on Ealing Common (MLO 68433). Further Palaeolithic finds are also known from slightly further afield at Gunnersbury Avenue (MLO 13909) and North Common Road (MLO 1659). Mesolithic finds are known from Woodgrange Avenue, immediately south of the study area. These included flakes, blades, cores and scrapers from a possible working site (MLO2836), as well as a further finds from a cut feature in the fill of a small palaeochannel (MLO 82210). A cut feature of unknown date (MLO37966), doubtfully interpreted as a channel, was also identified at this site. Later prehistoric pottery (MOL 98142) was recovered as residual material in a probable Saxon feature at Acton High School in 2004.
- 4.4 **Evidence for Roman activity**: There is no evidence for Roman activity within the vicinity of the study area other than a single sherd of residual pottery from the evaluations at Acton High School (MOL 98142).
- 4.5 **Evidence for Saxon/Medieval activity**: Saxon finds were recovered from a feature at Acton High School in 2004 (MOL 98142). The feature may represent an earthwork.
- 4.6 No Anglo-Saxon settlement is known at Ealing, but the name is derived from Gillingas (Gillas's people) c. 700 AD. The Medieval settlement of Ealing village was located to the west of Ealing Common, with other smaller hamlets at Ealing Dean and Little Ealing. There was a church at Ealing by 1127 and the village was known as Church Ealing in 1274 and 1393 and as Great Ealing from 1593. The location of the study area in the rural easternmost part of the parish, close to the boundary with Acton, meant that it was sited away from the foci of settlement in Ealing, although there may have been scattered

farmsteads in the vicinity. It is possible, however, that during this period the study area fell within the borders of the Common.

- 4.7 **Evidence for Post Medieval Activity**: Post-medieval activity is limited to a single entry on the GLSMR which comprises a pit and a posthole identified during the 2004 evaluations at Acton High School (MLO 98142).
- 4.8 The earliest available map of the area comprises Rocque's map of 1746. This gives a clear indication of the pattern of land use, with village settlements clustered around churches along the Uxbridge Road. At this time Ealing and Little Ealing were described merely as very pleasant villages near Brentford (S. Simpson, *Agreable Historian*, ii 1746). At this time Ford Hook house, to the northeast of the study area, was the home of the author Henry Fielding where the air was 'the best in the kingdom'.
- 4.9 The earliest detailed plan available for the site was part of a Highway Trust Minute Book dated 1767 (Figure 4). This shows the study area as falling entirely within Ealing Common. Common land constitutes land over which people other than the owner also had rights. Those people who had a right of common were known as *commoners*. The landowner would retain other rights to the land, such as rights to minerals and large timber, and to any common rights left unexercised by the commoners. Typical common rights would include *pasture* (the right to graze animals), *turbary* (the right to take sods of turf for fuel), *mast* or *pannage* (the right to turn out pigs for a period in autumn to eat (acorns and other nuts – known as *mast*) and *estovers* (the right to take wood for the commoner's house or agriculture). The plan also shows two buildings close to the study area, one at Ford Hook and one to the southwest.
- 4.10 A plan of 1780 in the VCH shows the site as still falling within a western spur of Ealing Common running along the south side of Uxbridge Road. The area was otherwise undeveloped, with the exception of Fordhook and the road system. The building shown to the southwest in 1767 is not represented on this plan. A more detailed plan of 1786 (Figure 5) shows Ford Hook in more detail and shows the study area as falling predominantly within a large field, although the northern part fell within part of the common. No other buildings are shown on the plan.
- 4.11 By the 1840s most of the common land in this part of Middlesex had been enclosed, leaving only small remnants at Ealing and Hanwell commons. The study area is covered by a number of plans of the mid-19th century (Figures 6-9), including the earliest Ordnance survey plan of 1868. All of these plans show the study area unchanged from 1786, with the northern part still falling within Ealing Common. Ford Hook house can be seen to develop throughout this time and a number of ponds, including a large pond to the east also develop during this period. In 1835 Ford Hook was the home of Lord Byron's widow. A new building, West Lodge in Acton parish, is also shown to the east

from 1839, along with a probable agricultural building. No other significant developments are shown in the near vicinity of the study area.

- 4.12 In 1866 the Metropolitan Commons Act was passed to provide for commons within the Metropolitan Police District to be preserved for the public. The new Act enabled the Ealing Local Board to buy approximately 47 acres of Ealing Common. In 1965 Ealing Common was registered under the Commons Registration Act and was designated a Conservation Area 1982. This designation does not affect the study area.
- 4.13 The Ordnance Survey plans of 1874 (Figures 10-11) show no significant changes. The boundary between the field containing the southern part of the site and the Common containing the northern part is shown as lined with trees. It is possible that traces of this boundary may survive as a buried feature within the study area.
- 4.14 The character of the study area was, however, on the verge of change. On 1st July 1879 the Metropolitan District Railway opened the line between Turnham Green and Ealing Broadway, including a station at Ealing Common (known as Ealing Common and West Acton between 1886 and 1910). The railway line ran immediately to the west of the study area and severed it from the Common. The Ordnance Survey plan of 1896 shows the railway line, although the study area itself is not directly affected (Figure 12). Four new houses are also shown to the north of Uxbridge Road on the eastern side of Ford Hook house.
- 4.15 The portion of the Tithe Map covering the study area held at the National Archives comprises a revision of 1908, which consists of an overlay onto an Ordnance Survey base. The award identifies the field containing the study area as 'Seven Acres', which was meadowland (871b) in the ownership of Elizabeth Wegg. The field immediately to the east was named 'The Golden Meadow' (862b) and was in the ownership of Hannah, Baroness de Rothschild. Ford Hook house is not shown, having been demolished in 1903.
- 4.16 The Ordnance Survey plan of 1915 shows a complete transformation of the area from a rural to an urban landscape (Figure 13). Granville Gardens, a road running north-south, had been constructed and now formed the western boundary to the site. Housing associated with this street, and the parallel Woodgrange Avenue, abutted the southern boundary of the study area. Further housing had also been constructed to the west of the railway line around Tring Avenue and to the north of Uxbridge Road. The curtilage of one house on the western side of Woodgrange Avenue appears to impact upon the southern boundary of the study area, but this is almost certainly no more than a scaling error. The study area itself remained open ground at this time.
- 4.17 The Ordnance Survey plan of 1920 shows no apparent alterations to the study area (Figure 14). No substantial changes are visible in the surrounding landscape.

- 4.18 The Ordnance Survey plan of 1934-35 (Figure 15) shows that the study area as falling within a Tennis Ground with a clubhouse immediately to the northeast. A building on the eastern side of Granville Gardens has also been constructed in the southwestern corner of the study area.
- 4.19 The Ordnance Survey plans of 1938 and 1948-51 (Figures 16 and 17) show the study area as substantially unchanged, although the small structure in the southwestern corner appears to have disappeared.
- 4.20 The Ordnance Survey plans of 1956-57 (Figures 18-20) show that the study area is no longer a tennis ground. A public house, The Granville, has been constructed within the central part of the site and this building remains as a working pub through to the present day. A number of internal divisions are also identified on the plan, but may not represent 'hard' features. A possible structure is also present within the study area fronting onto Granville Gardens. The boundaries of the study area remain unchanged, although Woodgrange House has been constructed immediately to the east. Little change is apparent within the surrounding landscape at this time.
- 4.21 By 1972 the study area appears essentially unchanged, although two garages have been constructed within the southeast corner and a bus shelter has been constructed adjacent to Uxbridge Road in the northern part of the site. Two semi-detached properties (no's 433 and 435) have also constructed between the public house and Woodgrange House, just outside the site. Ordnance Survey plans between 1975 and 1999 (Figures 21-23) show no substantive changes to the site, its boundaries, or the surrounding area.

5 SITE INSPECTION

- 5.1 A visual inspection of the site was undertaken on 28th March 2008 to examine the external setting of the study area.
- 5.2 The site includes the Public House close to the Granville Gardens frontage. The dray hatch is also present on this frontage. To the north of the public house the study area incorporates the pavement alongside Uxbridge Road, including the bus shelter and cycle racks. Immediately to the south of the public house is a tarmac carpark with a garage block in the southeastern corner. No's 433 and 435 are situated adjacent to the eastern boundary and include a small area to their rear with a garage and small trees.
- 5.3 No archaeologically significant features were identified during the site visit.

6 IMPACT OF THE PROPOSALS

- 6.1 Based on the results of the desk based assessment the perceived archaeological potential of the site can be summarised as follows:
- 6.2 **Prehistoric**: The site appears to contain **moderate-high** potential for the recovery of prehistoric finds or deposits. A number of Palaeolithic finds have been recovered within 500m of the western boundary of the study area and activity of this date may extend eastwards across the site. Any such activity would manifest itself in the recovery of further flint implements. Mesolithic finds, however, are known from Woodgrange Avenue, immediately south of the study area. These included flakes, blades, cores and scrapers from a possible working site, as well as a further finds from a cut feature in the fill of a small palaeochannel. A cut feature of unknown date, doubtfully interpreted as a channel, was also identified at this site. Later prehistoric pottery was also recovered from further afield at Acton High School.
- 6.3 The regional research framework for London (A research framework for London Archaeology 2002) also highlights the potential of sites in Ealing for biostratigraphic research on interglacial deposits in order to understand the prevailing ecological systems.
- 6.4 **Roman**: The site contains **low** potential for the recovery of Romano-British activity. There is no evidence for Roman activity within 500m of the study area, with the exception of a single residual pottery sherd recovered from an evaluation at Acton High School. The apparent absence of activity in the immediate vicinity may, however, be due to limited previous archaeological fieldwork in the area.
- 6.5 **Saxon**: The site contains **low** potential for the presence of Saxon finds and features. There is no evidence for Saxon activity within 500m of the study area, with the exception of finds associated with a possible earthwork feature found at Acton High School.
- 6.6 **Medieval**: The site contains **low-moderate** potential for the presence of Medieval finds and features. The study area lay within Common land outside the historic core of settlement at Ealing. The site is, therefore, likely to have been located in land that was predominantly agricultural and probably used predominantly for pasture, as it was during the early-mid 19th century. It is unlikely, therefore, that there was any occupation at the site during the Medieval period. There may however, be the potential for features relating to agricultural usage of the site.
- 6.7 **Post Medieval**: The site contains **low-moderate** potential for Post-medieval features. Cartographic evidence indicates that no buildings existed within the boundaries of the site until the construction of the public house between 1951 and 1956. The site was previously a tennis ground, which may have had a relatively minor impact upon the earlier ground surface, although it is impossible to ascertain whether much levelling had been required. Prior to the construction of the tennis ground the site was divided by an east-west field

boundary, which probably originated between 1767 and 1786. Traces of this boundary may survive as a buried feature. Several short-lived small structures/garages have also been constructed within the site during the 20th century. Footings associated with some of these no longer extant buildings may survive within the site area.

6.8 The proposed development will not impact on any Scheduled Monuments, Archaeological Priority Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens or Listed Buildings.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The assessment has highlighted that the site is of moderate-high archaeological potential for the recovery of prehistoric finds and of low potential for remains from the Roman through to the Post-medieval period.
- 7.2 The site appears to have been agricultural land throughout the Medieval and early Post-medieval periods. It remained undeveloped until *circa* 1935, when the tennis courts were constructed, followed by the public house *circa* 1956. A number of garages/short lived structures were subsequently constructed within the site, close to the southern boundary. The foundations for these earlier structures are likely to lie beneath the present industrial buildings and may only survive in a fragmentary form.
- 7.3 The main archaeological potential of the site is therefore for the presence of Mesolithic finds. It should be noted, however, that construction of the tennis grounds and the public house may have caused an impact on any archaeological deposits that may have been present. Features of Mesolithic date are likely to have been insubstantial and easily destroyed. However, with the exception of two garage blocks, the level of disturbance in the southern part of the site, which is of the highest potential, may have been relatively light. Preservation of Mesolithic archaeological finds and features in this area may, therefore, be considered possible.

8 **REFERENCES**

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9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1

SITES AND MONUMENTS INFORMATION

SMR No	NGR	SITE NAME	TYPE OF	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION
			RECORD		
98142		Acton High School		Saxon and Post- medieval	Evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2004. A cut feature, possibly an earthwork, containing prehistoric and Saxon pottery was located. A sherd of residual Roman pottery was also recovered. A Post- medieval pit and posthole were also identified.
MLO 98143		Acton High School	Evaluation	Undated	Evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2004. A palaeochannel and an undated pit were recorded.
MLO 2836		Avenue	Findspot	Mesolithic	Flakes, blades, cores, notched blades and scrapers from 'workshop' site discovered 1906.
MLO 37966	TQ 1896 8032	Woodgrange Avenue	Channel	Undated	Cut feature interpreted as channel. Doubtful
MLO 37967	TQ 1896 8032	Woodgrange Avenue	Feature	Mesolithic	Cut feature in fill of small river containing ?in situ flint assemblage and charcoal
MLO 82210	TQ 1889 8046	2 The Bridge, Uxbridge Road	Listed Building	c. 1900	Single storey open shop with store room behind. Has complete period wet fish shop interior. Listed Grade II
MLO 82541		Ealing Common LRT Underground Station with Vestibule Shops & Platform	Listed Building	c. 1931	Underground station with vestibule shops and platform. Listed Grade II
MLO 82521	TQ 1918 8026	West Lodge at Grosvenor Court	Listed Building	18th century	Two storey lodge. Listed Grade II
MLO 68433		Ealing Common	Findspot	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic Mousterian flintwork
MLO 471	TQ 190 805	Tring Avenue	Findspot	Lower Palaeolithic	1 handaxe and 2 flakes
MLO 8398	TQ 184 803	Warwick Road	Findspot	Lower Palaeolithic	2 handaxes and a secondary flake

















































































