

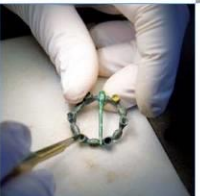
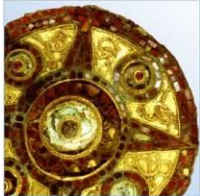
CRANFORD HOUSE CELLARS, CRANFORD PARK, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON: HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

National Grid Reference: TQ 10156 78143

AOC Project No: 34326

Site Code: CAP18

Date: May 2022



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

CRANFORD HOUSE CELLARS, CRANFORD PARK, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON: HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

On Behalf of:	Cranford Park NLHF Project Planning, Transportation and Regeneration Hillingdon Council Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge UB8 1UW
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Summary

A historic building survey of the cellars of Cranford House in Cranford Park was undertaken in advance of proposed construction of a café facility which will utilise the cellars as well as having a new, above ground building, supported on the metre-thick walls of the demolished Cranford House.

The structure of the cellars shows two major periods of construction, in c.1670 and c.1720, with two later phases of alterations being smaller building episodes. These correspond well to the known history of the site as researched in the Cranford Country Park Management Plan, and supported by historic documentation.

The cellars were recorded to Level 2 of the published Historic England guidelines, but there were some areas that could not be reached due to blockages by rubble.

The excavations were carried out by the AOC Archaeology Historic Building specialists during March 2022.

This report will be amended with more details and phasing evidence revealed during the construction phase of the new café.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results of a programme of Historic Building Survey within the cellars of Cranford House, Cranford Park, in the London Borough of Hillingdon, with two research questions. Firstly, to inform the Cranford Park NLHF Project, the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) and Historic England on the character and materials of the cellars that reveal the history and phasing of the building, and to help architects and engineers understand the character of the cellars in advance of, and during the construction phase for a new café. The recording was carried out in accordance with a Conservation Plan (LBHC 2017) and Historic England Guidelines (HE 2016), which described the archaeological and historic background of the site and defined the details to be recorded during the survey.
- 1.2 The site is located within the London Borough of Hillingdon and is a country park of some 144 acres (58 ha), bounded by the A312 and the boundary with London Borough of Hounslow to the east, Crane Meadows to the west and Cranford Lane and the outskirts of Heathrow Airport to the south. To the north, the M4 severs the park, the 8 ha. to the north of the motorway being bounded by North Hyde Gardens and the eastern edge of the Hayes Housing Zone. The two sections of the park are linked via two pedestrian subways.
- 1.3 The site contains Grade II listed structures including a Stable Block, Ha-ha, Crinkle crinkle wall & cellars, along with wildflower meadows, grassland, wetland, ponds and a secondary woodland.

2. Project Background

- 2.1 London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH), the owners of Cranford Park, have been successful in obtaining funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for a community based project at Cranford Park. AOC had been appointed as the archaeological consultant to work in partnership with LBH to deliver their brief for a local community archaeology project as part of the development stage of the grant. Due to the research and community nature of the project, it was undertaken outside the normal planning process.
- 2.2 The local planning authority is Hillingdon Borough Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Sandy Kidd, Archaeological Advisor for the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS). The works were overseen by Charmian Baker, Project Manager, Cranford Park NLHF Project at Hillingdon Borough Council.
- 2.3 The site contains a Grade II listed structures including Stable Block, Ha-ha, Crinkle Crankle wall and cellars. Cranford Park is a Conservation Area as designated by the London Borough of Hillingdon. The southern part of Cranford Park lies within the Heathrow Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined in the LBH Local Plan Part 1. The site is also located to the south of the Cranford Park North Archaeological priority area. The site does not contain any Scheduled Monuments, nor does it lie within a World Heritage Site, Registered Battlefield or Registered Park and Garden.
- 2.4 The former grand house at Cranford Park is now only represented by its cellars and Stable Block. The cellars themselves are Grade II listed (List Entry Number 1285115). The listing reads: *Circa 1720. Extensive red brick barrel vaulted cellaring extend over much of it, two bays wide with the vaults springing from a range of Portland stone piers with plain capitals* (Historic England 2019a).
- 2.5 An initial programme of evaluation was undertaken in 2018 (AOC 2018), following a geophysical survey of the site (AOC 2019a). The evaluation showed that parts of the house survive in the form of flagstone floors and wall foundations, with ephemera and dumped building materials from the house

extant in infilled voids and as made ground. A second evaluation was carried out in 2019, with inspections of the cellar included (AOC 2019b).

2.6 In order to define the scope of works, and to form an agreed strategy, a Written Scheme of Investigation was created, detailing the methodology that would be used for the Historic Building Record, and included some background history of the site (AOC 2021). The archaeological work was designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (ClfA 2014a).
- MHCLG (Updated 2021) – National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- Historic England – Management of Archaeological Projects (HE 2015).
- Historic England – *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (HE 2016)
- Museum of London/Historic England – A Research Framework for London Archaeology (MoL/EH 2002).
- Museum of London/English Heritage – A Research Framework for London Archaeology (MoL/EH 2002).

3. Geology and Topography

3.1 This area's solid geology is characterised by London Clay Formation. This is formed of clay, silts and sands, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 48 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period and was the local environment previously dominated by deep seas. In the Cranford area this is overlain by finer material called Taplow Terrace Gravels or Langley Silt Member.

3.2 No known geotechnical investigations have been undertaken on site. The area of the site lies level, with London Clay at around 26.50mOD, and the grassed park lawns at around 27.10mOD. Within the fenced area over the cellars, the ground has been made up to around 27.55mOD. The top of the extant walls of Cranford House lie at 26.99mOD, and entrance slabs of the porch lie at 26.82mOD. The vault structures of the cellar are filled with rammed brick dust and mortar, and lie at a variable height lower than the walls.

4. Archaeological And Historical Background

4.1 The following background information is derived from the Cranford Country Park Management Plan and the development brief provided by LBH, as well as the results of previous archaeological excavations.

Background

4.2 Historic sources suggest that Cranford may have developed as a settlement prior to the Norman invasion, as it was said to have been held by Thurstan, a thegn of King Edward. Around 1200 AD the manor of Cranford was divided in two: Cranford St John and Cranford le Mote. The 15th century church of St. Dunstan still stands whilst earthworks of the moated manor site of Cranford le Mote (MLO11303) lie 300m to the northeast of the parish church. Cranford St John was under the ownership of the Knights Templar from 1242 to 1308 and by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem from 1338 to 1540. The manors were reunited in 1542 when they were granted to Andrew, Lord Windsor. Elizabeth, the widow of Sir Thomas Berkeley, bought both manors in 1618 for £7,000. To

the south of the settlement of Cranford the remains of medieval ridge and furrow are visible (MLO2641). Cranford is defined as a deserted medieval settlement because it was moved from its historic site around the church when a park was created in the 17th century.

- 4.3 The post-medieval history of the site is dominated by the impact of the Berkeley family. The Berkeleys were a rich and powerful family, with many royal associations, in whose ownership Cranford Park remained for 300 years. The first Berkeley to own the Manor, Lady Elizabeth, was a cousin of Queen Elizabeth I, whilst her son George, who inherited the Barony of Berkeley in 1658, was one of the commissioners who went to the Hague to invite Charles II to return to the kingdom in May 1660.

Cranford House; Post-Medieval Period (c.AD 1667 – 1944)

- 4.4 In 1667, George Berkeley had the house built at Cranford Park on the present site. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) records elements of this house surviving in the cellars and in parts of the house demolished in 1944. The substantial walled garden also has evidence of 17th century brickwork, which may also have been contemporary with this earlier house.
- 4.5 In 1710, Georges' grandson, James, first Lord of the Admiralty, inherited Cranford Park and in 1720, he commissioned a detailed survey of his estate. The survey plan shows a house with a square floor plan and a building apparently pre-dating the current stable block with a detached southern wing. There is a pleasure garden around the house to the west, surrounded by a ha-ha.
- 4.6 In 1721, work began on the new house for James, the 3rd Earl. Thomas Coke (1675-1727), an amateur architect and friend of the 3rd Earl, is said to have been the architect. The Coke Papers in the British Library, dated 1720-23 (previously in the Berkeley family archives), include his floor plans for the remodelled house at Cranford.
- 4.7 John Rocque's 1754 survey of Middlesex shows the considerable changes to Cranford Park which had taken place since 1720. It was during this time, probably in the 1720's when the house was remodelled, that the park was formally landscaped to the grand design, with tree planting creating avenues to frame views to and from the house and river. The river itself had been widened to form a long ornamental canal on either side of the entrance bridge, which curved elegantly around four moon shaped ponds, two on the north side and two on the south. The park was also enlarged at this stage, with the acquisition of Elderstub Field to the south.
- 4.8 By the 1790s the 5th Earl had inherited Cranford Park and like his predecessors began to put his own mark on his new estate. He extended the house, building the projecting servants' wing and introducing the large, rounded bays and balconies at the southern end, and made alterations to the landscape and its features. The 5th Earl would probably have been influenced by the overriding landscape style of his time, that of 'naturalised' or Arcadian parkland. There is some evidence for this in the 1820 Plan of the Parish of Cranford which shows that some of the avenues had by then been removed, and a new structure, possibly a temple, built at the head of the ornamental lake. Cranford Park Bridge dates from this period, designed by the architect Charles Beazley. There is a local legend attached to the 5th Earl's mistress, later wife, Mary Cole, of a tunnel being constructed to enable a secret escape from the house, from the cellars to the Ha-ha (Costley-White 1961).
- 4.9 This map also shows in detail the layout of the interior of the walled garden at that time, with its paths and greenhouses. By this time, the ha-ha has trees along its length. By this time too, though probably much earlier in the 1750's or 60's, the current stables had been built, with the range at right

angles, since demolished. There are two other groups of ancillary buildings shown too, to the north of the courtyard, whilst the courtyard itself had a pond.

- 4.10 A large icehouse remains in the main field beyond the ha-ha, probably built by the Berkeleys after 1720. The wider park has relatively little parkland planting. A formalised length of the River Crane runs through the park with the late 18th century bridge built for the approach to the house and church.
- 4.11 Cranford House was never re-occupied after the First World War, and by the time it was taken over by the Council in the 1930's, it had fallen into disrepair. A survey of the cellars was made in 1943 (Plate 1). After the demolition of the house in 1944, only the extensive brick vaulted 17th cellars survived. The stable block, dating from the 1740's, comprises two, two storey blocks, with the original stalls and fittings, linked by a single storey section, with central clock tower. A wing to the south, alongside the wall to St. Dunstan's Church, was demolished in 1944.
- 4.12 A biography of Mary Cole refers to the demolition of the house: *When Cranford House was demolished in 1944 a shaft was discovered, leading by a concealed trapdoor in the floor of Mary's own room to the cellars beneath the house; in it was a rope-ladder. From the cellar an underground passage led to the ha-ha beyond the front lawn, its exit concealed by a group of flowering shrubs* (Costley-White 1961, p.166).
- 4.13 The cellars and stables are both Listed Grade II, but on the Heritage at Risk Register. The stables are boarded up, following vandalism, and the cellars have no public access. The cellars were re-surveyed in 2019 (The Morton Partnership, 2019), to enable a design for the transformation into a café to be presented.

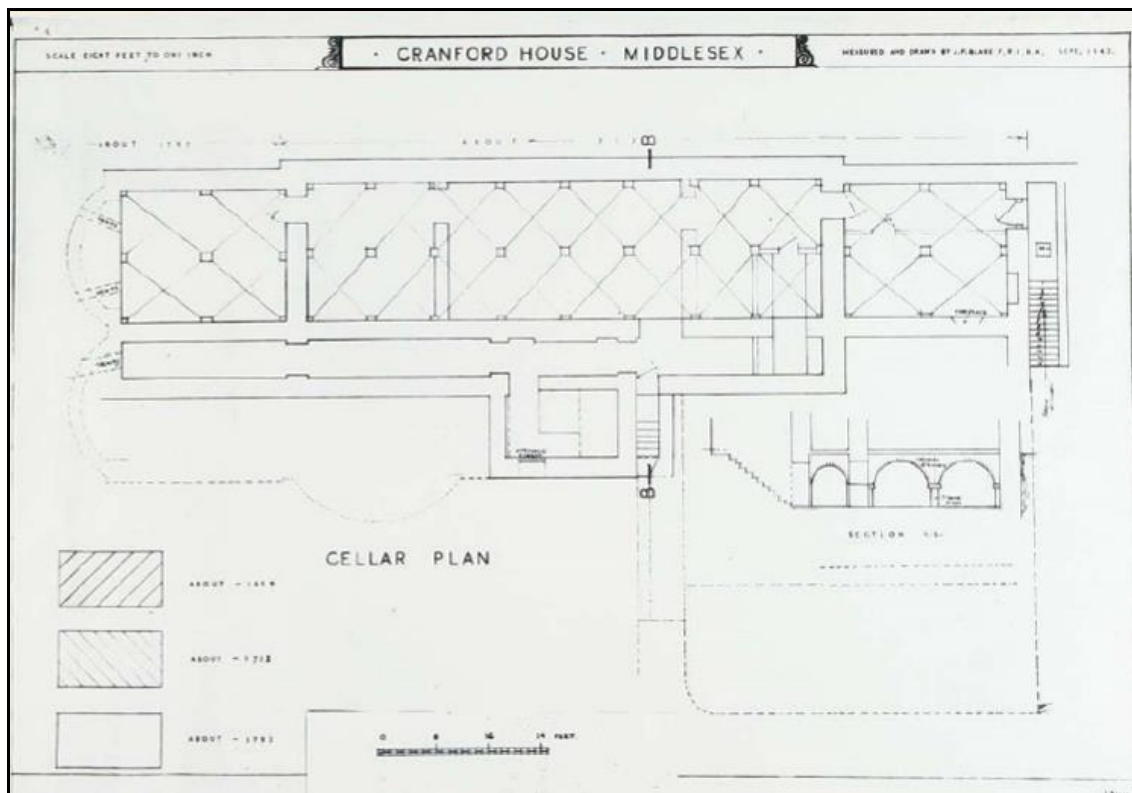


Plate 1: Cellar Plan of Cranford House

- 4.14 The park was divided into two parts when the M4 Motorway was built in the 1960s, with a smaller portion of 8 ha to the north and the larger area of 45ha to the south. The northern section contains a Northern Meadow, Dog Kennel Covert and Moat House Covert, in the north part of which is the site

of the manor house of Cranford-le-Mote. The southern boundary of Moat House Covert is marked to the west with yews at roughly regular intervals along a ditch.

Recent Archaeological Work

- 4.15 A series of investigations above and around the cellar have been conducted since 2018 (AOC 2022b), with Friends of Cranford Park and Volunteers involved in the work, as part of community involvement, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. These have revealed the presence of foundations relating to a house of 16th-17th century date to the east of the cellars, as well as areas of paving contemporary with the last phase of Cranford House, and the demolition levels of the House, in places just 0.10m below the current ground surface, but more typically beneath up to 0.50m depth of made ground over the cellar vaults. Parts of the cellars contain dumps of rubble, which either fell when Cranford House was demolished, or were added as fill to stabilise weak ground or voids.

Cranford Park Today

- 4.16 A small, modern information centre was rebuilt following an arson attack. It currently provides the only shelter and toilet on the site, but there is no plan to open it to the public on a regular basis.
- 4.17 There is an active Friends Group which leads volunteers in maintaining 'The Secret Garden' adjacent to the Stables, and puts on various well attended family activities and guided walks during the year. It has grown from strength to strength and is making links with local schools and other groups. Members of the Friends joined in on the archaeological investigations. Its activities are hampered however by a lack of facilities on the site, no access to the historic buildings, poor vehicular access from the A312 and a lack of signposting. The park also has a history of anti-social behaviour.

5. Strategy

5.1 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1.1 The aims of the Historic Building Survey were presented in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2022a). These were defined as being:
- To determine development and use of the cellar.
 - To provide a written account of the buildings form, function, date and sequence of development.
 - To photograph the exterior and interior of the structure to create a permanent archive record.
 - To provide a descriptive account and interpretation of the building.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

5.2 Methodology

- 5.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2021a).
- 5.2.2 The archaeological work conformed with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines (see section 2.6). The Building Survey corresponded to Level 2 Guidelines (Historic England 2016), with a specific addition of high resolution digital photography. A Level 2 survey is defined as a descriptive record, where both the exterior and interior of the building was seen, described, and photographed. The examination of the building has produced an analysis of its development and use, and the record includes the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a

wider project (HE 2016). This level of record is suitable for a building that will be retained, and additional details will be amended following the Proactive Archaeological Watching Brief.

- 5.2.3 The historic building record was undertaken by Les Capon, AOC's Historic Building Specialist, and a photographic specialist. The project was managed by Catherine Edwards, Project Manager (London). The site works was monitored by Sandy Kidd of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 5.2.4 Prior to commencing work, a unique site code (CAP 18) for the project was agreed in 2018, in consultation with the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) as the site identifier, and will be used for all the works, to create a coherent archive.

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6. Historic Building Record

Table of Phasing

Room Number	Function	Phase	Date
4	Store	1	1670
5	Store	1	1670
9	Corridor	1-2	1670/ 1720
6	Store	2	1720
3	Kitchen	2	1720
1	Stairwell	2	1720
2	Corridor	3	1750
8	Small store	3	1750
7	Small store	4	1800+
11	Unproved	4	1800
12	Unproved	4	1800
10	Staircase	4	1800

Overview

- 6.1 The cellars of Cranford House cover 44.25m north-south and typically 9m east-west with some localised eastern extension (Figures 3 and 4). The floor of the cellars lies at around 24.36mOD, and the vaults are typically 2.01m high, the arches at 26.37mOD. The first phase of construction comprises two major rooms (Rooms 4 and 5), with a corridor (Room 9) to the east. Phase 2 comprises the extension of the cellars to the south (Room 6) and the north (Room 3) with an entrance stair, whilst the corridor was extended alongside Room 6. A third phase is identified by mid-18th century additions and alterations forming a small store (Room 8) and a partition wall subdividing Room 3 from Room 2. A second staircase area (Room 10) in the centre of the east side, and two rooms of unproved function (Rooms 11 and 12), and may date to around 1790-1800, under the ownership of the 5th Earl, along with another partition to form a store (Room 7).

Phase 1, Principal Construction c.1670

- 6.2 The two largest rooms of the cellars (Room 4 and Room 5) (Plates 1-10) appear to be the earliest part of the cellars, and are constructed in red brick laid in English bond with lime mortar. The bricks measure 210mm by 105mm by 60mm, consistent with a late 17th century date as surmised in the 1943 RCHME Survey. Room 4 measures 11.30m north-south and 6.35m east-west, while Room 5 measures 11.95m by 6.35m, both with brick vaulted ceilings supported on three piers along the spine of the rooms, also springing from piers along the wall lines. There are thus two vaulted structures oriented north-south and four oriented east-west in each room. The piers are centred 2.95m apart in Room 4 and at 3.08m apart in Room 5. Each pier of the central row is formed of a Portland stone base with a 0.48m square profile, standing 0.97m high, surmounted by a square-profile Portland stone impost of 0.15m thickness, from which the arches spring. The chiselling of the piers is apparent, with the marks chased across the faces, rather than being dressed smoothly. Along the wall line, the piers are brick, and are dressed with a Portland stone impost, like the central piers. The

arched vault supported by the piers is a Roman vault with a true semi-circular profile. Each rib of the arches is faced with a hard-fired rubbed red brick which may have been shaped to the arch during the build rather than specially moulded. The external walls of Rooms 4 and 5 are not fully tied into the arched vaults, rather they appear to be separate but contemporary builds. Two narrow tapering slits in the west wall of Room 4 would have allowed fresh air into the cellars (Plate 4). There are two hooks in the ceiling of the central arch in Room 4, which may be attachments to hang lamps (Plate 5).



Plate 1: Room 4 Looking North



Plate 2: Room 5 looking North



Plate 3: Room 5 looking North



Plate 4: Tapering slit in Room 4



Plate 5: One of the Hooks, Room 4

- 6.3 The floor of the first phase rooms is constructed of thin bricks set on edge, just 45mm thick, laid in Herringbone pattern in Room 4 and in panels laid east-west and north-south in Room 5; there is also a strip of bricks laid on bed against the east and west walls of the room, which may be a later relaying of the surface. The area of flat bricks is flanked by a shallow gully which suggests a drain was present (Plate 6); this is partially overlain by a levelling screed, and may become clearer once building works are progressed.



Plate 6: Floor of Room 5, with filled gully

- 6.4 A broken opening to an Icehouse lies west of the junction of the two Rooms, off Room 5. The Icehouse has a diameter of c.2.3m with a domed roof, tapering to a flattish base, and is entirely built of brick. The only access is beyond a short length of a narrow brick arched opening, which appears

to have been broken apart, so its original form is lost (Plate 7). The west wall of the room at this point incorporates a wide relieving arch, most likely to accommodate potential weakness from the Icehouse structure (Plate 8). The hazards of entering a damaged brick dome and the impossibility of exiting the structure successfully debarred entry. It is possible that the entrance was bricked up in antiquity, and was broken apart by trespassers seeking access to the legendary tunnel.



Plate 7: Room 5, Broken Entrance to Icehouse



Plate 8: Relieving arch across Icehouse, Rooms 4 and 5, Looking Southwest

- 6.5 Access between Rooms 4 and 5 is through an unfurnished opening 1.45m wide, with properly pointed brickwork, and was probably never fitted with a door. Both rooms had three openings each 1.72m wide leading east to/from an adjacent corridor (Room 9) (Plates 9 and 10). All have a brick jamb which suggests that there used to be a wooden frame for a doorway or shutter at these locations. Two openings in Room 5 and one in Room 4 have been blocked with a mix of red bricks, and the blocking probably dates to after 1800, using old bricks.



Plate 9: Opening to Room 9 from Room 5



Plate 10: Blocked Opening to Room 9

- 6.6 The narrow corridor (**Room 9**) to the west of Rooms 4 and 5 is 1.71m wide, with a major buttress projecting eastwards from the wall of the first two rooms. The bricks are of the same dimensions as the two principal rooms, and the height of the vault (2.01m) is also the same. Much of the length of this corridor is covered with rubble deposited or collapse at demolition of the property, obscuring the floor and rendering parts inaccessible (Plate 11). The rubble comprises brick and Portland Stone blocks, which are likely to represent the above-ground structure of the house. The opening which enabled the rubble to enter appears to be from the eastern side (Rooms 11 and 12), as well as from a collapse of part of the vault. The collapse prevented safe access to the south end of the corridor, in order to confirm the phasing of its construction.



Plate 11: Rubble within Room 9, Looking South

Phase 2, Enlargement c.1720

- 6.7 The cellars of Cranford House were extended to the north and south (Plates 12-22), again with vaults, using bricks likely to have been manufactured in the early 18th century and therefore likely to represent work undertaken on behalf of James, the 3rd Earl Berkeley. The bricks of the walls of the additions of this second Phase typically measure 220mm by 105mm by 62mm, and those of the structural piers for the vaulted ceilings measuring 228mm by 110mm by 62mm, bonded with lime mortar and laid in English bond. The southernmost room (Room 6) (Plates 12-14) measures 7.40m north-south and 6.10m east west; slightly narrower than the principal build. The vaulted ceiling is supported by a single central pier, formed of a Portland stone base with a 0.48m square profile, standing 0.97m high, and surmounted by a square-profile Portland stone impost of 0.15m thickness, from which the arches spring. This is identical to the construction of the main build, including the use of stone in the piers along the wall line. The floor of the room is paved with bricks laid on edge, oriented east-west at the north and south ends of the room, and north-south at the sides.



Plate 12: Room 6 Looking Southwest



Plate 13: Room 6 looking towards door to Room 5



Plate 14: Central Pier, Room 6

- 6.8 The principal feature of this room at the south of the building is the presence of four former windows in the two southern bays and two western bays. These would have allowed natural light into the cellar until they were blocked. Each window opening is 1.60m wide and 1.10m high, with a brick sill 0.68m above the floor level. Each window has a segmental arch within the wall line and is not built as one with the vault. The reveals are slightly splayed, and piers from a window frame lie flush with the outer face of the wall. Investigations in 2021 (AOC 2022) outside the corner of the cellar revealed well-pointed masonry and no sign of a structural light-well, indicating that the outside wall at this point was dressed, and was intended to be seen. Each of the windows was blocked in the same period, with red bricks measuring 220mm by 105mm by 65mm, dating to the mid-18th century (Phase 3).
- 6.9 A group of shelves were raised on the east and west sides of the room, above a low platform, with bricks from the piers leaving scars on the walls, but the bricks and shelving materials gone. Eight

vertical brick piers had been raised against the west wall, with some indistinct numerals remaining, identifying their locations.

- 6.10 Numerals in the room (Plate 15) comprise painted numbers progressing anti-clockwise with 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 in black and 28 in red on the west wall; 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in white on the east wall; 15 in black ink on the northeast corner impost; 16 and 17 in white on the south wall, and 21 on the central pier.



Plate 15: Room 6 with Numerals 13-17, Looking Northwest

- 6.11 Two openings in the east wall would have led to a continuation of the parallel corridor (Room 9), which had been extended alongside Room 6. The openings were bricked up. The south end of the corridor included a small segmental arch at its eastern end, which may have supplied air-flow to the basement (Plate 16). This was examined in archaeological trenching (AOC 2022). The examinations showed that if this had been an air duct or flue, it was maintained when the property was extended with its bay window structures, with a narrow, splayed channel to the surface.



Plate 16: Room 9, extended South end

- 6.12 At the north of the Phase 1 build, the other Second Phase addition comprised one large room (later subdivided) and an access stair at the north end of the entire range. The large room (**Room 2**) now measures 8.25m north-south and 3.65m east-west, and was formerly 5.70m wide east-west (Plate 17). The room has a vaulted ceiling in common with the rest of the build, with a single central pier, which has a brick base with Portland Stone impost. The piers built with the outer walls also have stone imposts. The outer, northern wall is a 1.05m thick, constructed of red bricks measuring 225mm by 100mm by 62mm, and contains a large blocked window with a low sill measuring 1.15m wide and blocked with a mix of red bricks. The floor of the room is formed of red bricks laid on edge in herringbone pattern. The walls are covered with thick limewash or plaster.
- 6.13 There are two fixtures in the room of significance to its function, suggesting that it could have been used as a kitchen, or at least, a heated store. In the east wall towards the north end of the room is a broad chimneybreast 2.25m wide and 0.56m deep with flanking piers projecting a further 0.35m into the room (Plate 18). The fireplace is 1.05m wide and fully filled with rubble which appears to have been dumped down the flue upon demolition. The presence of any grate or furniture may be revealed during clearance, as part of the forthcoming works. Around the east and south walls of the room, are a series of storage spaces formed of two rows of small brick arches (Plate 19). These have suffered from collapse which resembles deliberate destruction.



Plate 17: Room 3 Looking Northeast



Plate 18: Fireplace in Room 3, looking East



Plate 19: Room 3 demolished brickwork

- 6.14 There are two blocked windows in the west wall of the cellars at this location, possibly blocked when the kitchen was partitioned. This indicates that natural light was available in the northwest corner of the cellars. One is blocked deep within the slightly flared reveal, and shows a lightwell beyond, so the outer face must have been hidden at ground level (Plate 20).



Plate 20: Blocked window, Lightwell beyond in Room 2

- 6.15 A wrought iron door is propped against the wall of the cellar by the doorway to Room 4 (Plate 21). This was probably affixed to one of the doorways, but with no mounts surviving at any opening, its precise original location is not proved.



Plate 21: Iron door between Room 2 and 4

- 6.16 At the north end of the building, a stairway (Plate 22) drops to the basement from east to west, landing at a small antechamber (Room 1) with bricks laid in north-south rows on the floor at the foot of the stair around a drain cover, and herringbone rows at a doorway into the cellar proper. The doorway to the cellar was once flanked with brick posts to hang a door or doors, 1.25m wide. The north and west walls of the stairwell are constructed of red bricks measuring 225mm by 100mm by 62mm, identical with the other rooms of this phase. This stair would have been overlooked by the window from the kitchen (Room 2). The stairs themselves are now flanked on the north by a cast concrete retaining wall, which is likely to be a repair dating to the demolition phase or shortly after. The presence of a window overlooking the stair implies that at one phase of the building, the stairwell was open to natural light. A steel I-beam now spans the roof above the stairs, supporting a large York Stone slab.



Plate 22: Entrance Area Room 1 Looking Southeast

Phase 3, Alterations c.1750

- 6.17 Minor alterations mark the third Phase of the cellars, rather than significant building episodes. These comprise a partition wall being built across the west side of the kitchen, forming a narrow corridor (Room 2) just 1.75m wide (Plates 23 and 24). The new wall is built off the east jamb of the northern wall, and has an untidy southern end, where the entrance to Room 4 has the opening on a different alignment, and has been partially blocked, by the necessity of attempting to build a straight wall between two uneven points.



Plate 23: Room 2 looking north



Plate 24: Room 2 looking south

- 6.18 The second alteration is the partial blocking of the narrow corridor (Room 9) to create a store with slate shelves held on brick piers at its northern end (Room 8). The shelves are numbered (Plate 25). A drain in the floor is covered by a stone slab, now cracked and broken. Numerals at the shelf locations indicate a deliberate identifier of locations, presumably for the household to know what was

stored where. These comprise 9, 10, 11 and 12 on the north wall; 14, 15, 16 and 18 on the south wall.



Plate 25: Room 8 numerals 9-12

- 6.19 The blocking of the windows in Rooms 2, 3 and 6 appears to date to this phase, with bricks typically 65mm thick being used as the materials, mostly in English bond and bonded with a lime mortar. No window frames or dressed sills are present in the blocked openings, as far as can be determined without removing the alterations.

Phase 4, 19th Century Additions

- 6.20 Later alterations to the cellars date to the residency of the 5th Earl Berkeley, his wife Mary Cole as a Dower House, and also changes after 1846. The smallest change was the erection of a narrow partition wall (Plate 26) in the northwest of Room 4, creating a store (Room 7), largely an extension of the small store (Room 8) built into the end of the narrow corridor. The room is equipped with slate shelves supported on brick piers. Not all are complete, with chips, cracks and fallen brickwork present. The bricks of the shelves are a mix of red and yellow stocks, with the yellow measuring 220mm by 110mm by 67mm, and post-dating 1780. The locations are numbered, with 5,6,7 and 8 surviving on the north side (Plate 27). The room itself is whitewashed. Two nails in the ceiling at the east end of the room may be evidence for a lost wooden partition (Plate 28).



Plate 26: Partition forming Room 7, inserted into Room 4, Looking North



Plate 27: Room 7 to 8 Overview Looking Northwest



Plate 28: Nails in arch at west of Room 7

- 6.21 Three openings in the east wall of the corridor were difficult to access due to influx of demolition materials, and merit further examination following clearance when full examination will be possible. They seem to be latest additions to the cellars.
- 6.22 A secondary stair rises eastwards from the cellars, and is currently capped by a precast slab raised on a low brick plinth, added after demolition. Twelve brick stairs with stone treads rise to a winder after a short passage (Room 10), 0.80m wide with rendered walls (Plate 29).

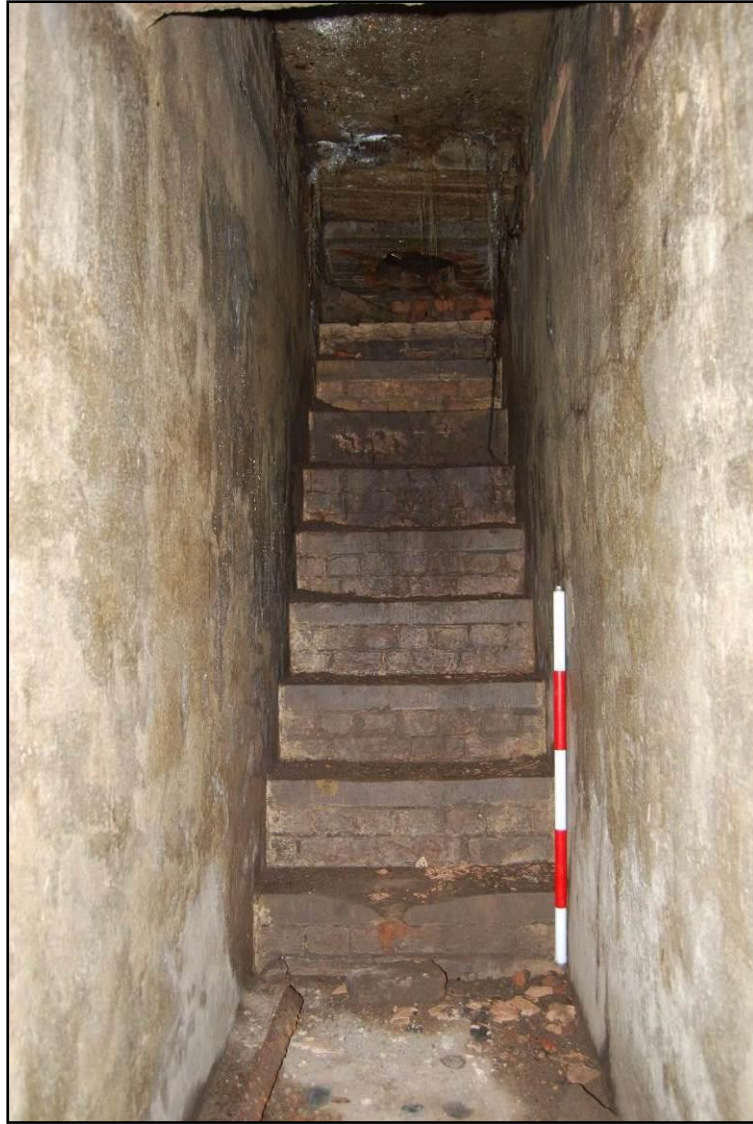


Plate 29: Room 10 Looking east

- 6.23 1m south of the stairs, a brick arch led to a space 2m by 1.50m (Room 11) with a low brick arch just 1.40m above the floor constructed of yellow bricks measuring 225mm by 111mm by 67mm and painted white (Plate 30). This corresponds with the location of a set of toilet cubicles identified in evaluation trenching (AOC 2019a) whose floor lay at 26.01mOD. The entrance to the room was spanned with layers of Portland stone, laid neatly as if trying to obscure its presence. At the back of the room, a hole has been broken through the brickwork, showing additional masonry beyond, suggesting the presence of a narrow passage. Room 11 was filled with rubble and could not be safely entered.



Plate 30: Room 11 Looking Southeast

- 6.24 The third opening, a further 1.80m south led to another space filled with rubble and dark brown silty clay soil (Room 12). The opening is a red brick arch 1.25m wide through the cellar wall, and led east for 2.10m and appeared to join the passage at the east of Room 11. A south wall at the top of the room was observed, but the extensive soil and rubble fill blocked observation of its true extent (Plate 31). There had clearly been structural collapse during demolition, since the ground above could be seen to be spanned with reinforced concrete beams, now spalling and cracked laid north-south with blocks above (Plate 32). If there ever was an escape passage from the cellars for Mary Cole, this may be its location.



Plate 31: Room 12 looking East



Plate 32: Room 12 Concrete beams

- 6.25 Overall, the cellars have a variable layer of brick dust and accumulated debris, with demolition dumps in Rooms 3, 6 and 9, plus Rooms 11 and 12, which currently obscures full structural examination. It was noted that there are no wall finishes except in Rooms 2/3 which had a thick limewash or plaster and in Room 11, which was painted white. The only fixings present were in Room 4, where a pair of hooks in the central vault may have represented hanging points for lamps.

- 6.26 There is graffiti in most of the stone piers that support the vaults, much of it of 20th century date. This shall be re-examined as part of the community programme of works, to produce a full record of marks, but tend to be as prosaic as 'JM1964' and 'TEZ WOZ ERE'. Other marks are soot streaks from candles on piers, where candles were placed on the impost, but whether these are historic or left by fun-seekers in the tunnels is not proved.

7 Conclusions and Interpretation

- 7.1 The first phase of cellar construction shows an almost symmetrical footprint, with the three rooms (Rooms 4, 5 and 9) totalling 23.5m by 9.06m internally, with walls 1m thick. This provides a strong foundation for the property, and may be evidence for the size of the initial footprint of Cranford House, or at least an area with significant foundations. The materials used in the Phase 1 cellars are red brick and Portland stone. The size of the brick is a general indicator of a late-17th century date, which would match the known history of the site. The structures are clearly very strongly built; their survival after demolition of the above ground parts of Cranford House being testament to this. It was noted that the vaults and the outer walls of Rooms 4 and 5 appear to have been built independently. This may have the effect of transferring the weight of the house onto the walls rather than the vault, which would then have only supported itself and the floor above.
- 7.2 The use of bricks laid in herringbone pattern, while attractive, produces a stable and durable surface, and better absorbs the compression of traffic and footfall. The narrow sides of the paver bricks are less prone to cracking and wear than those laid on bed. The initial function of the cellar has left no evidence for the goods. Foodstuffs or potentially wine that may have been stored within. What numbering is present appears to relate to revised locations from later phases.
- 7.3 The two major rooms of Phase 1 have access from a thin parallel corridor, which appears to be contemporary. This strongly suggests that access to the cellars from the ground floor was via the corridor, although whether this was a covered entrance integral to the house or open from an outside door is not proved by the Historic Building Record.
- 7.4 The addition of a large room at each end of the Phase 1 structure represents a significantly large programme of building works on Cranford House around 1720, with the cellars enlarged by 70%. The two principal new rooms, one at the south and one at the north, had different functions. The room at the south had four large windows in the south and west walls. These do not appear to have had lightwells (AOC 2022), but were visible parts of the structure. This would indicate that if Room 6 were a store, it was for goods that could be stored in the light when first built, although the windows were later blocked. The northern room was a kitchen with fireplace and hearth, plus small brick-built compartments or cubbyholes. This indicates a use for the cellar for more than just storage, and perhaps that some below-stairs or support functions to the property were being carried out before the service wing was constructed at the end of the 18th century. This room was also furnished with windows, in the north and west walls, providing natural light. This is the only room with a fireplace or chimneystack across the whole of the basement. The northern access stair dates to this second phase.
- 7.5 Minor changes of mid-18th date comprise minor partitions, and possibly the bricking up of the windows: the bricks for this appear to be of mid-18th century manufacture. One of the windows were infilled, the ground was made up externally to ground level. This could be work carried out during ownership by the 5th Earl Berkeley, using old bricks. More evidence may become available during the Watching Brief.

7.6 The group of rooms on the east side of the cellar are of unproved function. The stairs are a secondary access, and may be contemporary with the insertion of a tiny undercroft below a pair of toilet cubicles set 1.5m above the floor (Room 11). The cubicle structure appears to have been inserted after 1845 within an extant room, with earlier brickwork visible beyond to the east, which appeared to extend southwards. There are also layers of stone laid across the entrance to this room. Room 12 offered more evidence of a possible unknown part of the cellars: part of the roof must have given way at demolition, for there is now an area spanned by concrete beams with slabs on top. There is much rubble and soil at this location, and the full extent of Room 12 is currently unproved. Archaeological Trench 11 (AOC 2022) uncovered the top of a vaulted structure outside the known extent of the cellars. It could be a supporting arch for a weak corner. Or could be evidence that Rooms 11 and 12 are part of a previously hidden part of the cellar structures. This does not prove that there is an escape tunnel from the cellars, but it does suggest that the full extent of the cellars may have been altered, or part bricked-up.

7.7 The specific objectives of the Historic Building Survey of 2022 have been addressed as follows:

- To determine development and use of the cellar.
There appear to be two major construction episodes apparent in the structure of the cellar. These comprise the initial 17th century construction, represented by the two central Room (Rooms 4 and 5 and a linking corridor Room 9). These areas appear to have been fully underground with no natural light. There is no evidence for an original access to this phase, but it is likely to have been lost to later changes. It is possible that one end of the corridor had a stair to the cellar level from the ground floor of Cranford House. If it were at the south end, then it would have been lost when the corridor was extended. This may account for the six openings between the two rooms and the corridor.

Phase 2 comprises additions to the north and south in the early part of the 18th century, which comprised a northern store and a southern kitchen, plus a new access from the north. These rooms were supplied with natural light through large windows until the mid-18th century. The southern kitchen, with its myriad arched storage areas may have been the busiest room of the cellars.

Phase 3 is represented by the blocking of windows and the addition of minor partitions in the mid-18th century.

Phase 4 is a broad phase for 19th century activities, and is represented by a new stair (Room 10), a room built under known toilet cubicles (Room 11), and an area too blocked by demolition materials to determine its full extent and function (Room 12).

- To provide a written account of the buildings form, function, date and sequence of development.
The on-site records and this document fulfil the requirement for a written account.
- To photograph the exterior and interior of the structure to create a permanent archive record.
The cellars have been photographed with a range of digital cameras with a range of resolutions to provide a permanent photographic archive for archive, and to illustrate this report. The detail will enable re-interpretation of results should further works provide conflicting information of the phasing of the building.
- To provide a descriptive account and interpretation of the building.

The on-site records and this document fulfil the requirement for a written account.

- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
The document has been submitted to Cranford Park NLHF Project for assessment, and can be used to inform details of the build during construction phase of the new café. It will be submitted as grey literature to the digital ADS, with the potential to be part of a wider article in a journal as the project progresses.

Community Involvement

- 7.8 The investigation of the cellars for Historic Building Survey was not a suitable part of the project for community involvement, being a condition of planning permission rather than NNLHF funded community involvement. As part of the archive and the project, the full archive will be available for examination, and the results will be presented through grey literature and through lectures provided at local venues during and after the entire project runs its four-year course.

8 Further Work and Publication

- 8.1 As the project moves into the Construction Phase, attendance by an archaeologist will be required to record and interpret parts of the building exposed by the works. This will enable sampling of materials where masonry is removed, re-interpretation of phasing should contradictory evidence be apparent, and further the understanding of the east side of the cellars where rubble fall and structural loss has obscured the full extent of the building.
- 8.2 Much of the archaeological evidence due to be recorded during the proactive Archaeological Watching Brief is an unknown quantity, since some of the practicalities of construction may have to be addressed on a reactive basis. These items will include:
- Ground reduction over the extant vault structures.
 - Excavations for the new wooden stair access.
 - Excavations for ground beams interfacing with archaeological structures.
 - Rubble removal from the cellar; access and egress.
 - Re-recording of Room 3 once clear of rubble.
 - Recording and accessing the collapsed structures that have caused the rubble to have been dumped/ subsided in Rooms 9, 11 and 12.
- 8.3 Questions arising from the work are as follows:
- If there were access points to the cellars other than those extant, is there evidence for them that will be revealed during the construction phase?
 - Why are there big window openings in the west and south of Room 6, and in the north and west of Room 2/3? Any external faces of below-ground remains may shed light on the form and function of these windows.
 - A far more open view of the cellars is also indicated by the now blocked window in Room 3, and the presence of a fireplace. It would have provided heat, but was there also a cooking function? Removal of rubble from this room may enhance understanding of its function.

- The extension south for Room 6 is paralleled by the extension of the adjacent corridor. More examination of this corridor is required to fully understand its use in the building. This can be carried out when the rubble is removed.
- The addition of Room 11 is a structural oddity. Although the brickwork in the room above dates to after 1845, is there more to this room than a spacer between functional spaces? Why is the entrance stacked with laid stone?
- Room 12 is packed with rubble and tumbled masonry. What is the source of this rubble? Are there significant pieces of masonry from Cranford House within this material? What structure collapsed to allow access of materials and the need for new concrete lintels?
- Trench 11 of the community trenches revealed a vaulted structure east of the known extent of the cellars. Is this a localised support or were the cellars more extensive?
- Is there a tunnel for the use of Mary, Lady Berkeley?
- What is the character of the east wall of Cranford House? The other walls are founded on the cellar structures.

8.4 At a minimum, a short summary of the results will be submitted to the Greater London Archaeological round-up. In addition, there may be scope for combining the entire programme of works for publication in a local or regional journal.

8.5 This report will be added to the grey literature available on the online ADS OASIS project (Appendix C).

9 Archive Deposition

9.1 On completion of the project, including the NLHF-funded work, the developer/landowner will discuss arrangements for the archive to be deposited with the Museum of London. Following completion of the full extent of the fieldwork, the site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the LAARC. The excavation archive will be security copied and a copy deposited with the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) before post-excavation analysis begins or as soon after as can be arranged.

9.2 The full photographic record will be deposited with the archive.

9.3 The site archive will comprise all environmental samples and written and drawn records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record. The archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990).

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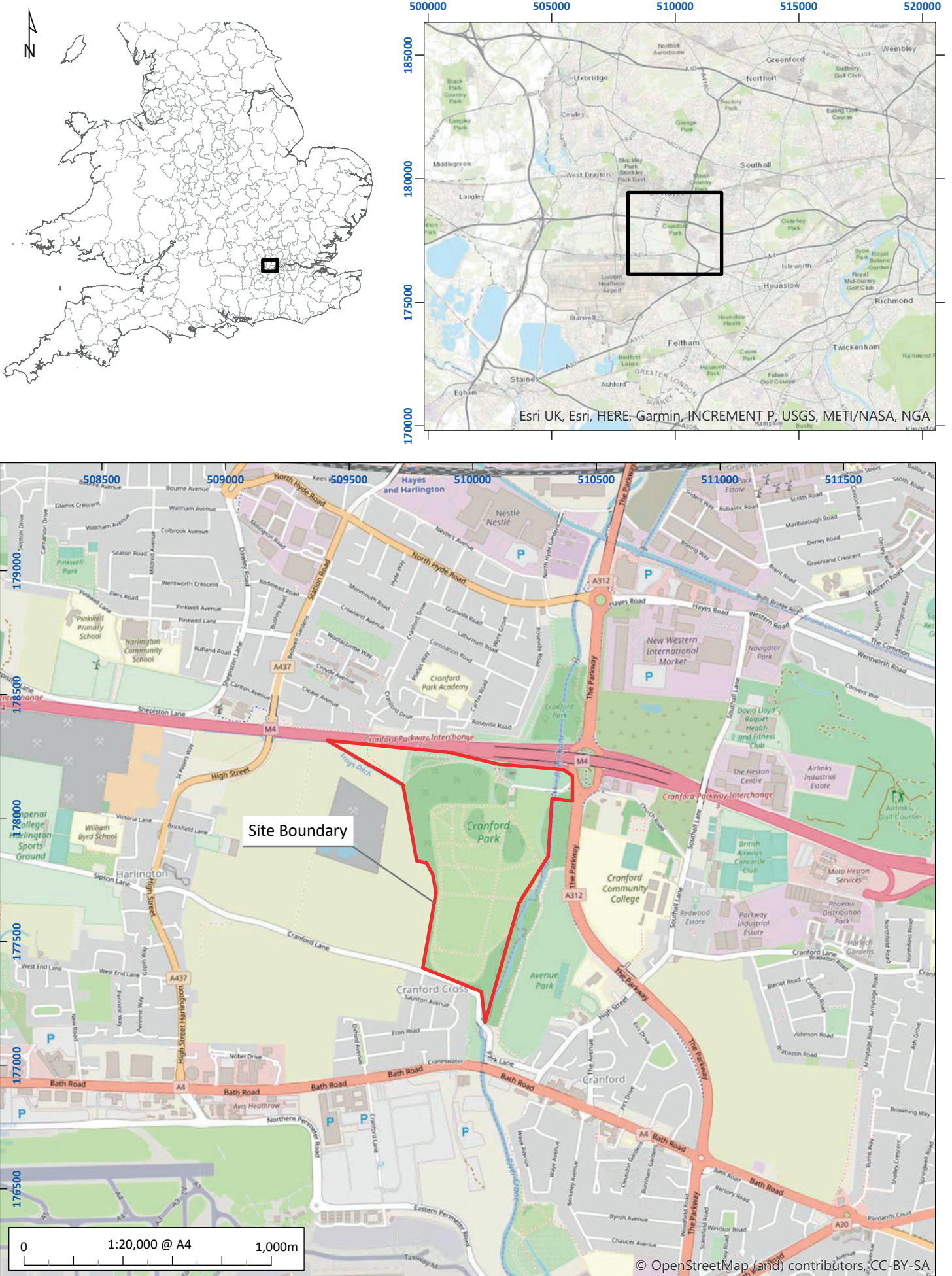


Figure 1: Site Location

03/34326/HBR/01/01

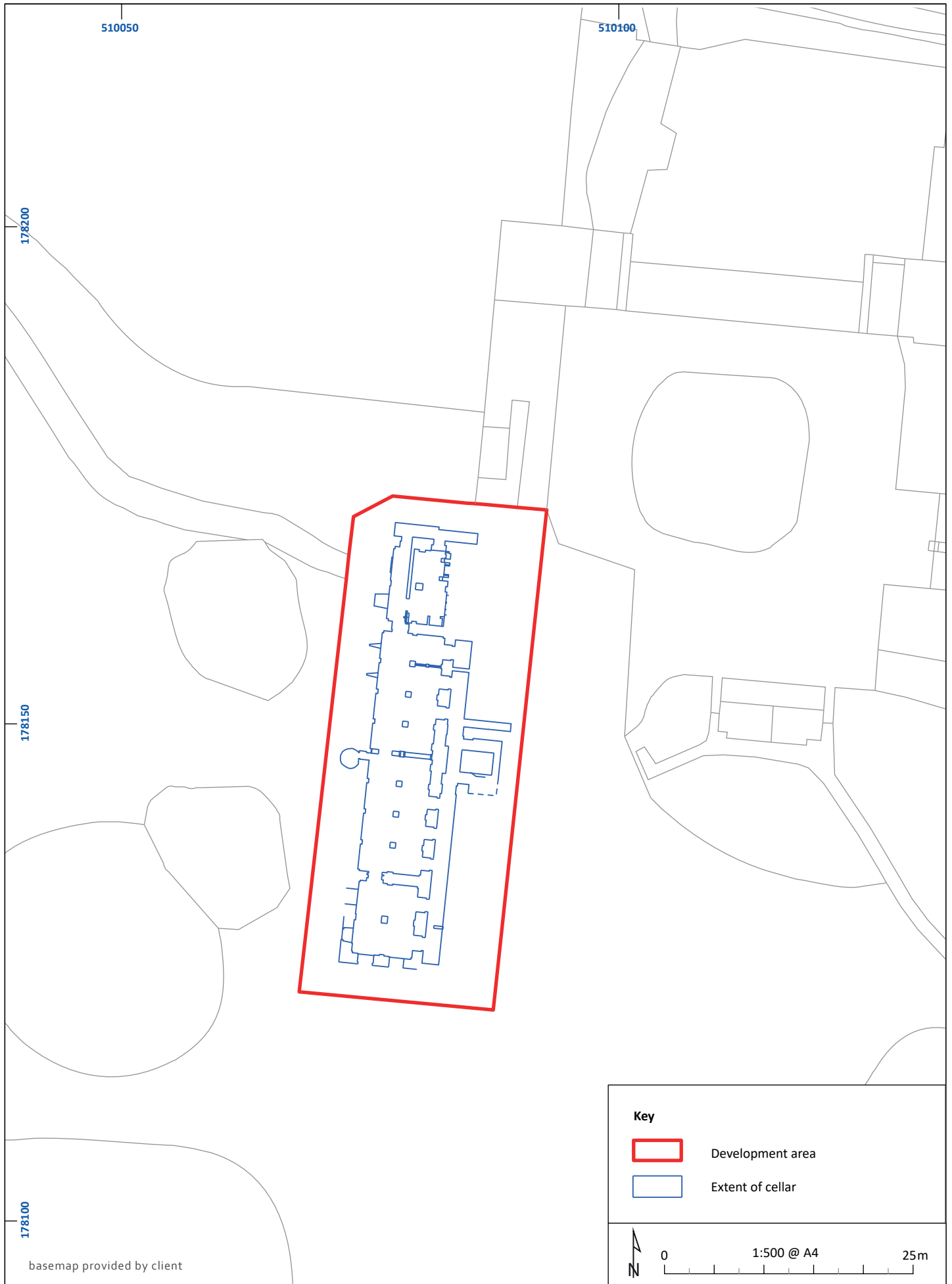
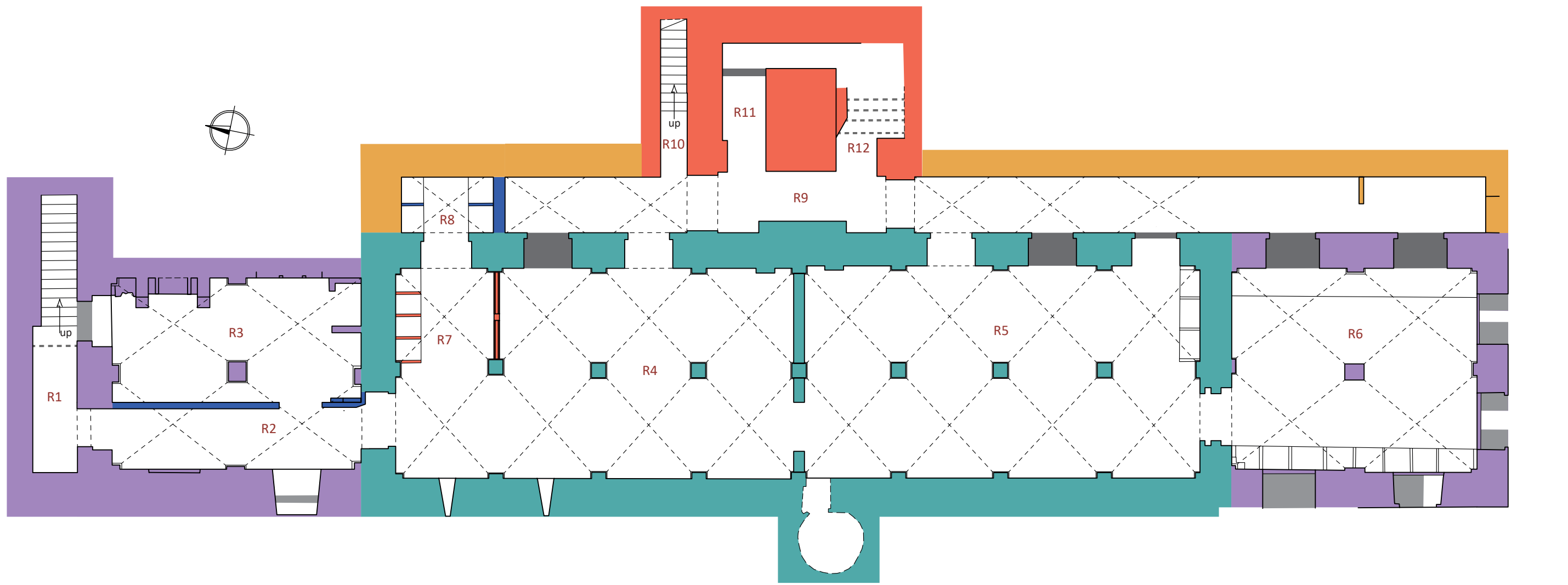


Figure 2: Detailed Cellar Location

03/34326/HBR/02/02



- Phase 1 (1670)
- Phase 1-2 (1670/1720)
- Phase 2 (1720)
- Phase 3 (1750)
- Phase 4 (1800)
- Blocked window
- Blocked door

0 1:125 @ A3 5m

Figure 3: Phased Room Plan

03/34326/HBR/03/02

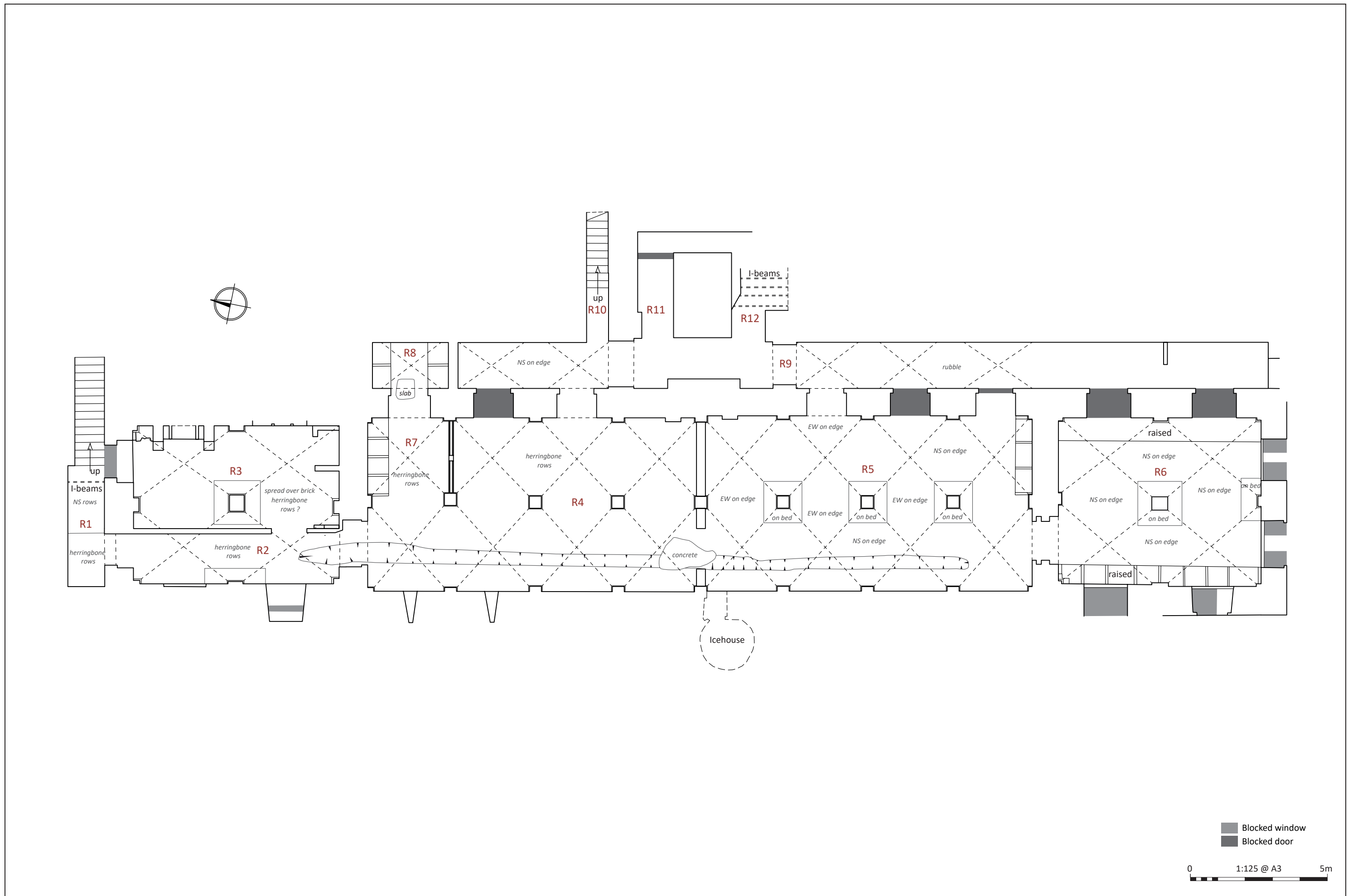


Figure 4: Detailed Cellar Plan

Appendix

Appendix A – OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-413840

Project details

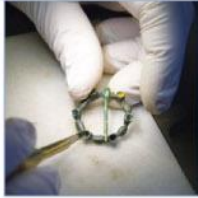
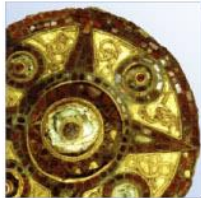
Project name	Cranford Park
Short description of the project	Level 2 HBR and Watching brief
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	34326 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey", "Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON HILLINGDON Cranford Park
Site coordinates	TQ 10085 78122 51.4908333333333 -0.4141666666667 51 29 27 N 000 24 51 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Catherine Edwards
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	London Borough of Hillingdon



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