

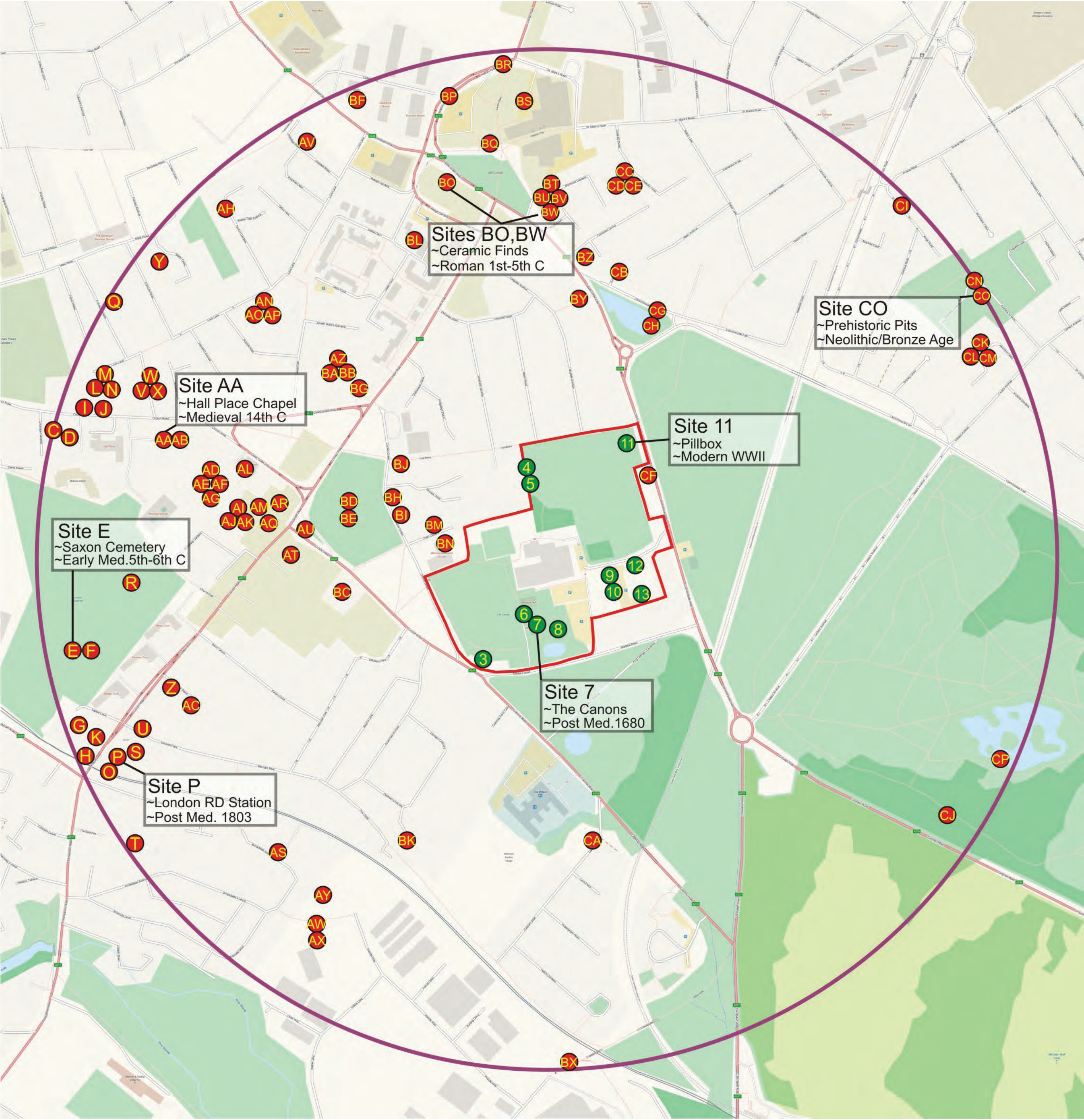
# THE CANONS - ARCHAEOLOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY

## ARCHAEOLOGY

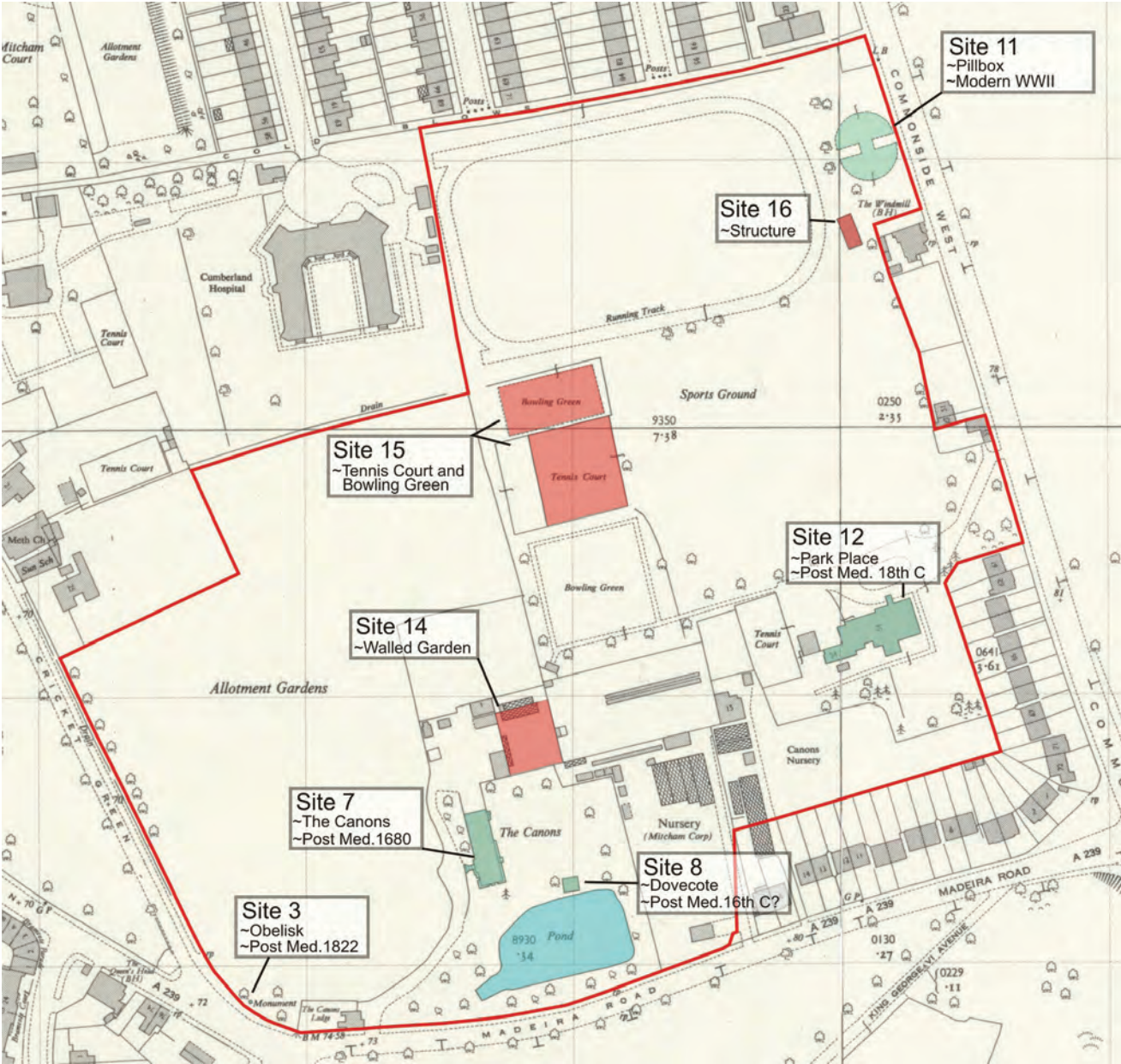
The purpose of an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) is to determine the nature, significance, and extent of the historic environment within a prescribed study area, and to assess the impact of the proposed development on the identified heritage assets within the historic environment, and their setting. This starts with an analysis of existing records such as:

- Historic Environment Record (HER) data compiled by Merton Council
- Historic maps
- Aerial photographs
- Historic documents

Once the HER data has been analysed, a map regression is undertaken in order to chart the changes of the development area over time; this process often highlights previously unknown features that may require further investigation. Aerial Photographs are used to assess the survival of known sites, and to identify potentially new sites, by analyzing images of the development area taken during different seasons and over different decades.



Compiled Historic Environment Record (HER) data showing recorded sites within a 750m radius of the site boundary. Examples illustrate the varied time periods represented in the area (Addyman Archaeology after OpenStreetMap).



Above: Example of a stage in an archaeological map regression. Green highlights show sites previously identified in the HER; red highlights show sites identified on the assessed map. Excerpt from 'Ordnance Survey 2nd edition. 25 inch to 1 mile. 'Plan TQ2768-2868' Surveyed 1952-53, Published 1953-54. (Addyman Archaeology after NLS).



Above: Example of a stage in the analysis of Aerial Photographs. Sites shown include those identified from the HER data and Map Regression (in red). Newly identified Sites 17 and 18 highlight potential features surviving below the topsoil. (Addyman Archaeology after GoogleEarth2003).

## THE HISTORY OF THE LOCAL AREA

Mitcham is recorded in the Domesday Book as two villages, Mitcham and Witford with 250 residents (1086). The first mention of the Canons area was in 1107 when an Augustinian Priory was established by the nuns of St Mary Overie of Southwark.

