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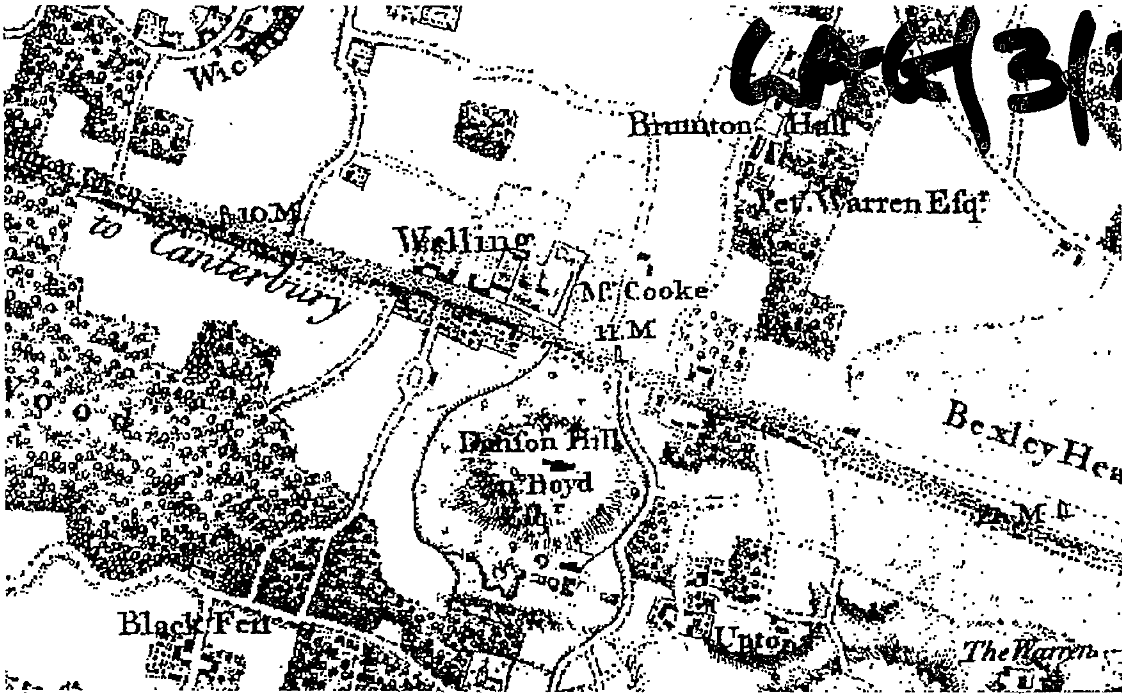

JOHN NEWTON COURT
Welling, DA16

London borough of Bexley

Evaluation report

March 2009

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MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

JOHN NEWTON COURT
Welling, DA16

London borough of Bexley

Evaluation report

National Grid Reference: 546920 175620

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation of four trenches carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA) on a small, roughly pentagonal plot of former residential parking spaces on the John Newton Housing Estate, Welling in the London Borough of Bexley, following an archaeological condition being placed on the planning consent for the construction of a three storey block of flats containing nine residential units. The report was commissioned from Museum of London Archaeology by Grehan Contractors Limited on behalf of their client. The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

The evaluation established truncation of archaeological deposits throughout the site. To the west of the site, truncated subsoil, in places disturbed, survived. The survival of this soil is due to a fall in ground level to the south and west. A backfilled linear feature, which maybe the remains of the 'Penpool Stream', was identified on this side of the site. The preserved subsoil follows the contour of the underlying natural gravel. This suggests that the 'Penpool Stream' was a natural feature, though a possible basal deposit appears no to be of great antiquity. Cut features cutting into the surviving subsoil were of indeterminate date and function. Five cut features were recorded on the eastern part of the site (Trench 4). One feature was identified as a potential ditch on a north-south alignment, being truncated by a cremation burial. These cut features, are undoubtedly Roman and are probably associated with the evidence of Roman settlement recorded by Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit (K.A.R.U) in their 1989 excavation carried out some 70m to the northeast of the site.

The depth of archaeological deposits, where they do survive, was between 0.44m and 1.50m below current ground level. In light of the revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site, the report concludes the impact of the proposed redevelopment would be to partially remove deposits or features in the area of the proposed development, though the eastern part of the site is to form a garden area where the features revealed may be preserved in situ. Appropriate safeguards will be guaranteed, by legal agreement, so that the preserved remains will not be disturbed during the subsequent occupation of the site. All development groundworks on the site, including the initial remediation of the eastern part of the site, will be mitigated by an archaeological watching brief.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place on a small, roughly pentagonal plot of former residential parking spaces between the 16th and 20th of February 2009 at Welling in the London Borough of Bexley, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is bounded to the north by residential buildings fronting the north-western side of Penpool Lane, residential buildings to the east, the rear gardens to bungalows fronting the north side of Roseacre Road to the south and houses fronting the south-eastern side of Penpool Lane to the west (see Fig 1). The centre of the site lies at OS National Grid Reference 546920 175620, with modern ground level on the eastern side of the site at approximately 42.60m OD. The site is currently a disused car park and has planning consent for the construction of a three storey block of flats containing nine residential units. The site code is JNW 09.

An archaeological excavation was carried out by Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit (K.A.R.U) some 70.00m to the northeast of the site in 1989. The excavation was carried out on an area of approximately 920m^2 on land formerly belonging to the 'Guy, Earl of Warwick' Public House. The excavation recorded 17 cut features and a small cemetery containing five burial groups. Both features and cremation burials dated from the Roman period, with activity from the late 1st to early 5th century AD. The excavation report concluded that the area formed a Roman settlement that extended beyond the area of the 1989 excavation.

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place has been adequately summarised in the preceding *John Newton Court, Welling, Kent DA16: Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation* (Nielsen, 2009) which formed the project design for the evaluation (see *Section 2,* Nielsen, 2009).

1.3 Planning background

On the basis of the sites location in an Area of Archaeological Search associated with the corridor of the Roman Watling Street road, as designated by the London Borough of Bexley, an archaeological condition (Condition 10), requiring the submission and approval of a written scheme of archaeological investigation prior to the commencement of permitted development, was placed on planning consent for the scheme (Application No. 07/02581/FUL, decision dated 12th July 2007). The submitted written scheme of investigation (Nielsen, 2009) was recommended for approval by English Heritage, the Borough's archaeological advisers, in February 2009.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Grehan Contractors Limited and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOL Archaeology). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.5 Aims and objectives

This statement sets out the methods used and approaches taken in dealing with the archaeological resource of the site. The detailed methodology is set in the context of the methods and approaches which are considered most appropriate for archaeological evaluations on sites in Greater London, in accordance with the advice contained in the English Heritage (GLAAS), *Archaeological Guidance Papers 1-5* (revised 1998) and English Heritage Centre for Archaeology *Guidelines* where appropriate. All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002.

The archaeological brief is essentially limited to establishing where, if at all, archaeological deposits may survive (presence/absence), establishing their character and significance and to ensuring archaeological deposits of national significance are not destroyed. All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002. The following research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (Section 2.2 Nielsen, 2009):

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- Is there evidence for Roman settlement or roadside activity associated with Watling Street? If so what is its character and significance?
- Is there evidence for medieval or post-medieval activity associated with the settlement of Welling (first mentioned in 1362, though the parish church dates back to the 13th century)? If so what is its character and significance?
- What are the latest deposits identified?

2 The evaluation

2.1 Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (Nielsen, 2009) and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of four evaluation trenches located to provide a representative sample of the proposed area of development. The evaluation trenches were located in accordance with the *Method Statement* (Fig 2) with minor variations in response to on-site conditions (Trench 4 was located exactly as per the *Method Statement*). The concrete and tarmac surfaces were broken out by a pneumatic breaker attached to a JCB 3CX excavator, each trench was then excavated by with a flat-bladed bucket to the first significant horizon or archaeological feature under the supervision of the Senior Archaeologist. In the case of this site, three of the four trenches were excavated to the top of natural.

In trenches where potential archaeological features were encountered these were cleaned by hand, recorded and part-excavated (sufficient to characterise the feature and obtain finds for dating) by members of the MoLA field team. The location of each evaluation trench was plotted by MoLA Geomatics using a GPS survey system. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid. Written and drawn records of all deposits encountered were made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (*MoLAS, 1994*). Levels were calculated via an engineering level traverse taken from a spot height of 42.63m OD, supplied by MoLA Geomatics and established by GPS survey.

Four multi-context trench plans of each trench were produced at a scale of 1:20 along with section of trenches at a scale of 1:10. The site also produced 30 context records, a series of digital photographs recording working shots, features and record shots of each trench were also produced. Bulk and environmental samples were taken from four features for environmental analysis and finds recovery. In addition a single standard box of finds was recovered from the site. The site finds and records can be found under the site code JNW09 in the MoL archive.

2.2 Results of the evaluation

In total, four evaluation trenches were excavated for the purpose of determining the archaeological potential of the site. The trenches have been numbered consecutively (see *Fig 2*) and a description of the recorded archaeological deposits follows.

Evaluation Trench 1

Location	Northern end of site north of Trench 2
Dimensions	10.00m (L) x 2.00m (W) x 1.37m (D)
Modern ground level	42.44m OD
Base of modern fill	41.79m OD
Depth of archaeological deposit seen	1.50m
Level of base of deposits observed	40.91m OD
Natural observed	41.10m OD

Trench 1 was excavated at the northern end of site on an approximate north-south alignment to a depth of between 1.11m and 1.37m. Recorded at a height of 42.44m OD, the trench measured 10.00m by 2.00m.

Natural, a loose, brownish orange, sandy gravel [25] was recorded at a height of 41.10m OD at the northern end of the trench. Covering the gravel was a firm, brown, silty clay [24] which extended the length of the trench. Recorded at a height of 41.52m OD, the deposit, interpreted as subsoil, was approximately 0.30 - 0.40m thick and showed evidence of being disturbed. Cutting into the disturbed subsoil at the southern end of the trench was a shallow cut feature [27]. As adjacent to the southwest corner of the trench, it was not possible to record the features shape in plan. In section, the edges were shallow with a sharp top break of slope. Recorded at a height of 41.24m OD the feature was filled with soft, greyish green, silty clay [26] containing very frequent small rounded flints and occasional large angular flints. There was no dating evidence.

[27] was cut on to the east by a partially exposed, potentially large, linear feature [23] with possible shallow and stepping edges. Recorded at a maximum height of 41.50m OD, the feature appeared to be on a northeast-southwest alignment. It was filled with bands of post-medieval backfill with identical inclusions. The most prominent of these layers of backfill was a soft, dark brownish black, silty clay [22] with moderately frequent inclusions of small to large pottery fragments and very occasional small to large glass and ceramic building material fragments. Dating evidence recovered from the backfill, suggests a 19th or 20th century date. The backfill also extended over subsoil deposits suggesting that the general ground level was raised at the same time as the linear feature was backfilled.

It has been suggested that a stream, from which Penpool Lane takes its name, ran across the site. This is apparently illustrated in Andrews, Dury, and Herbert's 1769 Map (see cover). Examination of the 1903 revision of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868 suggests that the lane followed the course of a stream, which at this stage still fed a lake ('The Lake') in Danson Park to the south. On the basis of the map evidence it is feasible that the linear feature may be the remains of the 'Penpool' stream, backfilled later than 1903.

Sealing the dumped deposits was 0.30m of soft, grey, silty, sandy clay [21] with very frequent small, rounded flints, very occasional flecks of charcoal and fragments of peg tile. Recorded at a height of 41.93m OD the deposit was covered by a thin layer of tarmac forming the modern surface.

Evaluation Trench 2

Location	Centre of site, northeast of Trench 3
Dimensions	10.00m (L) x 2.00m (W) x 1.34m (D)
Modern ground level	42.61m OD
Base of modern fill	41.69m OD
Depth of archaeological deposit seen	1.02m
Level of base of deposits observed	41.69m OD
Natural observed	42.08m OD

Measuring 10.00m by 2.00m and located in the centre of the site, Trench 2 was excavated on an approximate east-west alignment to a depth of 1.34m. Ground level was recorded at a maximum height of 42.61m OD.

The underlying natural, brownish orange gravel [16] was recorded at a height of 42.08m OD at the eastern end of the trench; sloping down to 41.27m OD at the

western end of the trench. Covering the gravel was a 60mm – 0.20m thick deposit of soft, mottled light and dark brown, silty clay subsoil [15] with very frequent small, rounded flints and very occasional small fragments of peg tile. Recorded at a height of 41.69m OD. The subsoil increased in thickness towards the west, following the contour of the natural gravel which sloped gently from the centre of the trench.

Sealing the subsoil, and the natural at the north-eastern end of the site, was a 0.40 - 0.30m thick deposit of soft grey sandy clay [9] with frequent small, rounded flints and very occasional large fragments of brick. Recorded at a height of between 41.75m and 42.23m OD, the deposit was covered by a thin layer of tarmac forming the modern surface.

Evaluation Trench 3

Location	Southeast corner of site, west of Trench 4
Dimensions	10.00m (L) x 2.00m (W) x m (D)
Modern ground level	42.61m OD
Base of modern fill	40.86m OD
Depth of archaeological deposit seen	1.50m
Level of base of deposits observed	40.80m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Excavated near the south-western corner of the site, towards its western edge, Trench 3, measuring 10.00m by 2.00m, was moved 2.00m east, as six garages still stand in the originally proposed location. Ground level was recorded at a maximum height of 42.61m OD. Trench 3 was excavated on a north-south alignment to a depth of 1.20m. A sondage was excavated in the northeast corner of the trench to a depth of 2.00m.

The earliest recorded deposit in the sondage was a soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay [29] (See Fig 3). Interpreted as a possible subsoil, the deposit was recorded at a height of 40.80m OD. It was cut by [30] a feature of indeterminate form (due to proximity to the limit of excavation). The partially exposed northern edge was moderately steep with a sharp top break of slope. Also recorded at a height of 40.80m OD, the feature was filled with soft, light greyish green, silty clay [28] containing very occasional small, rounded flints and small fragments of ceramic building material. The subsoil and cut feature were sealed by a soft, dark brownish grey, silty clay [20]. Recorded at a maximum height of 41.29m OD, the deposit contained frequent small, rounded flints and occasional fragments of pottery, glass and ceramic building material of 19th or 20th century date. A thin deposit of loose orange and brown sand [19] overlay [20]. This was covered by further bands of loose, dark yellowish and brown, silty sand [18]. The later bands of dumped deposits contained similar inclusions to the brownish grey, silty clay [20], and appear to be similar to the deposits filling the linear feature [23] and covering subsoil deposit [24], recorded in Trench 1.

[18] was sealed by a 0.50 – 0.60m thick layer of soft, greyish black, silty clay [17] with occasional small, rounded flints and small fragments of brick. Recorded at a height of 42.20 OD, the deposit was covered by a thin layer of tarmac forming the modern surface.

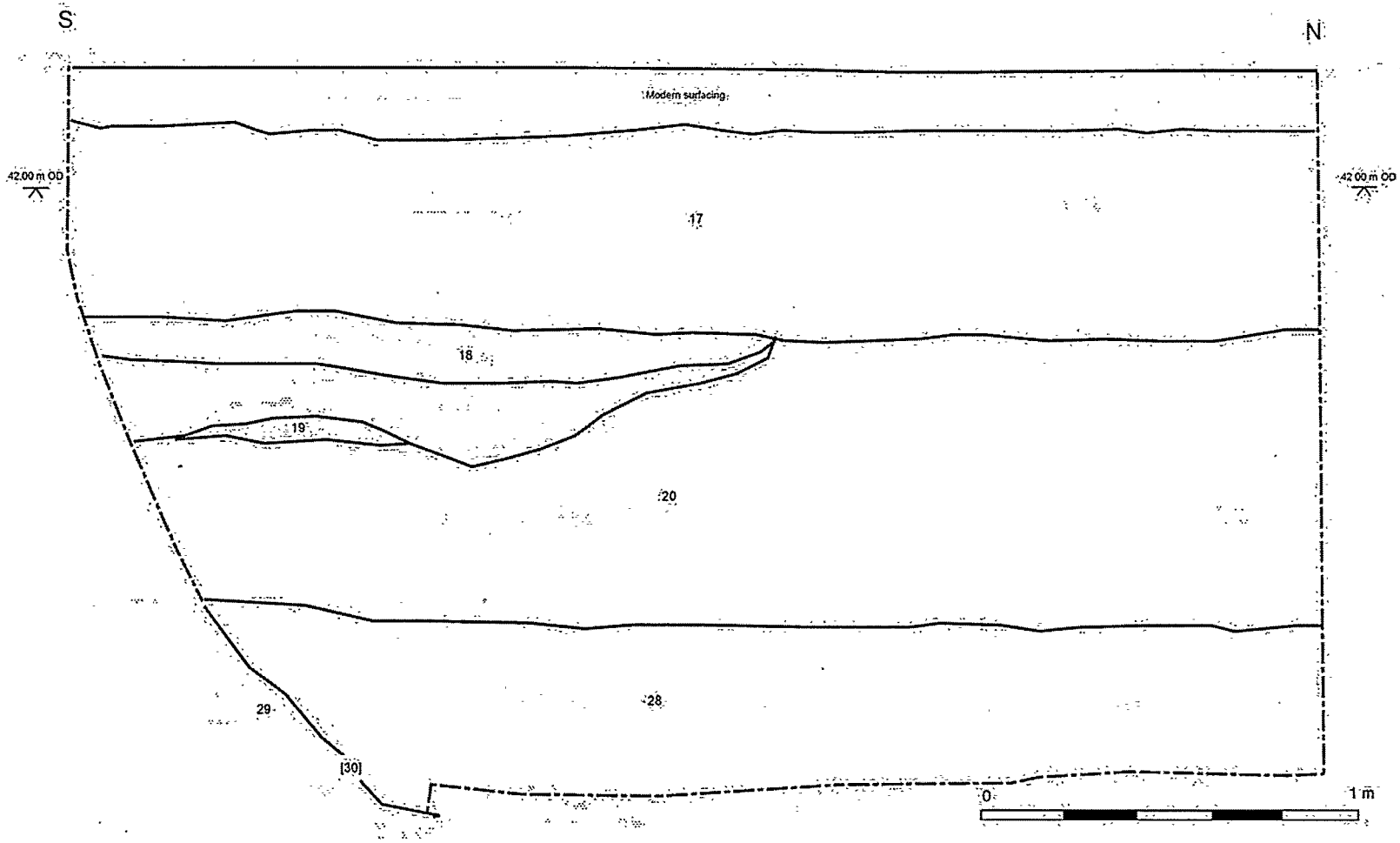

Fig 3 Trench 3, east facing section

Evaluation Trench 4

Location	Eastern end of site southeast of Trench 2
Dimensions	10.00m (L) x 2.00m (W) x 0.44m (D)
Modern ground level	42.76m OD
Base of modern fill	42.32m OD
Depth of archaeological deposit seen	0.44m
Level of base of deposits observed	41.87m OD
Natural observed	42.32m OD

Excavated to a depth of 0.44m, Trench 4 was recorded at a height of 42.76m OD (Fig 4). It measured 10.00m by 2.00m and was excavated on an east-west alignment on the eastern part of the site. A sondage was excavated in the northeast corner of the trench, to determine if a patch of loose gravel and a mixed gravel and clay deposit were fills (Figs 5 and 6). The sondage, excavated to a depth of 41.20m OD exposed a more defined natural gravel, consisting of mottled yellowish orange sand and gravel [8], recorded at a height of 41.60m OD. The sondage established that, although the gravel firstly observed was natural, the mixed gravel and clay deposits were fills to cut features

The natural gravel [6], observed at the base of the trench and recorded at a height of 42.32m OD, consisted of loose, brownish orange material. Cutting into the gravel near the western end of the trench, was an isolated, small, square, shallow feature [1], measuring approximately 0.30m by 0.30m. Recorded at a height of 42.30m OD, the feature was filled with 0.12m of mid brown, silty, sandy clay [2]. A single sherd of 1st-2nd century AD Roman pottery was recovered from the fill.

The profile of a relatively deep (0.65m) feature [13] was observed in the northeast section of the sondage. Recorded at a height of 42.05m OD, the feature had a moderately steep northern edge, a concave base, and was filled with a mid brown silty clay [14] with frequent, small to medium, rounded flints. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature.

Immediately to the west of [13], was a large linear feature [12] on a north-south alignment. The profile exposed in the north and south sections of the sondage, suggested that the feature was a ditch with possible evidence of re-cutting. The feature was approximately 3.00m wide and a maximum of 0.50m deep, from a maximum height of 42.26m OD. A sample section across the eastern part of the feature exposed a moderately steep side and slightly concave base. The fill [5] consisted of mid orange and brown, sandy clay with moderate small, rounded gravel and small to medium fragments of 1st-2nd century AD Roman pottery.

Cutting into the exposed north-western edge of the ditch, was a partially exposed feature [10]. The profile exposed in the western section of the sondage showed the feature had a vertical southern edge and a flat base. Recorded at a height of 42.22m OD the feature was approximately 0.75m deep and filled with a mid brownish grey, sandy, silty clay [11]. Limited excavation of the fill exposed two Roman vessels, one was a complete wine flagon [31] overlying a cooking vessel or a storage jar [32] (Fig 7). Fragments of calcined bone protruding from the vessel/jar indicated that it had been used as a funerary urn in a cremation burial cremation burial. In accordance with the *Method Statement* both the funeral urn and accompanying flagon was left in situ and adequately protected prior to back filling.

Approximately 0.30m to the west of the ditch, and recorded at a height of 42.26m OD, was a small, shallow, oval feature [3] on a north–south alignment. Partial excavation of the feature exposed a shallow, sloping edge and rounded base. The

fill consisted of mid brown, silty clay [4] with occasional small, rounded gravel and small fragments of abraded Roman pottery.

The features observed and the natural gravel [6] were sealed by a 0.20m thick layer of soft mid greyish brown silty clay [7] with very occasional small, rounded flints and small fragments of ceramic building material. Recorded at a height of 42.55m OD the deposit was covered by a 0.25m thick slab of concrete forming the modern ground surface.

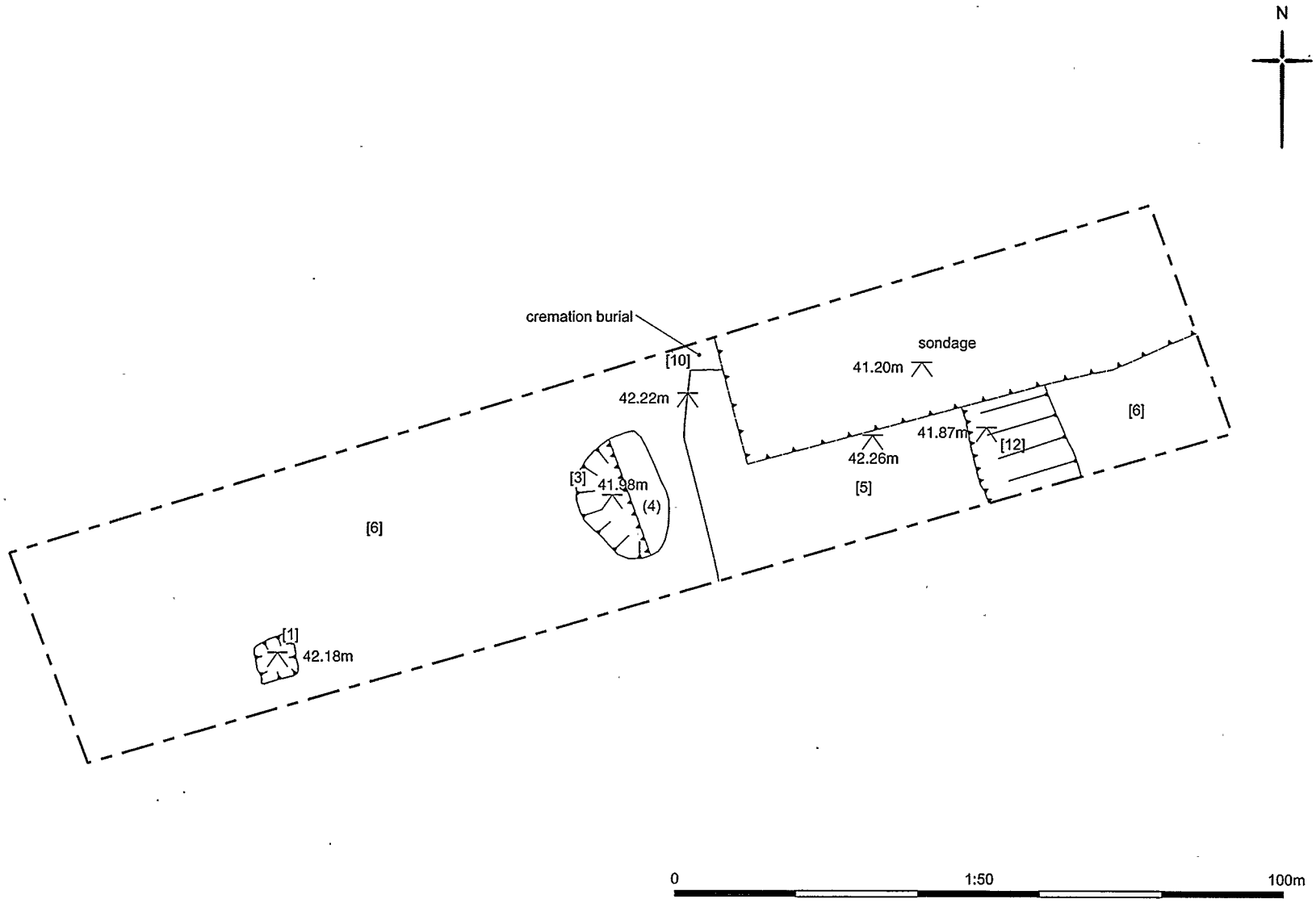

Fig 4 Trench 4

[UNW09] Evaluation report © MOL Archaeology 2009

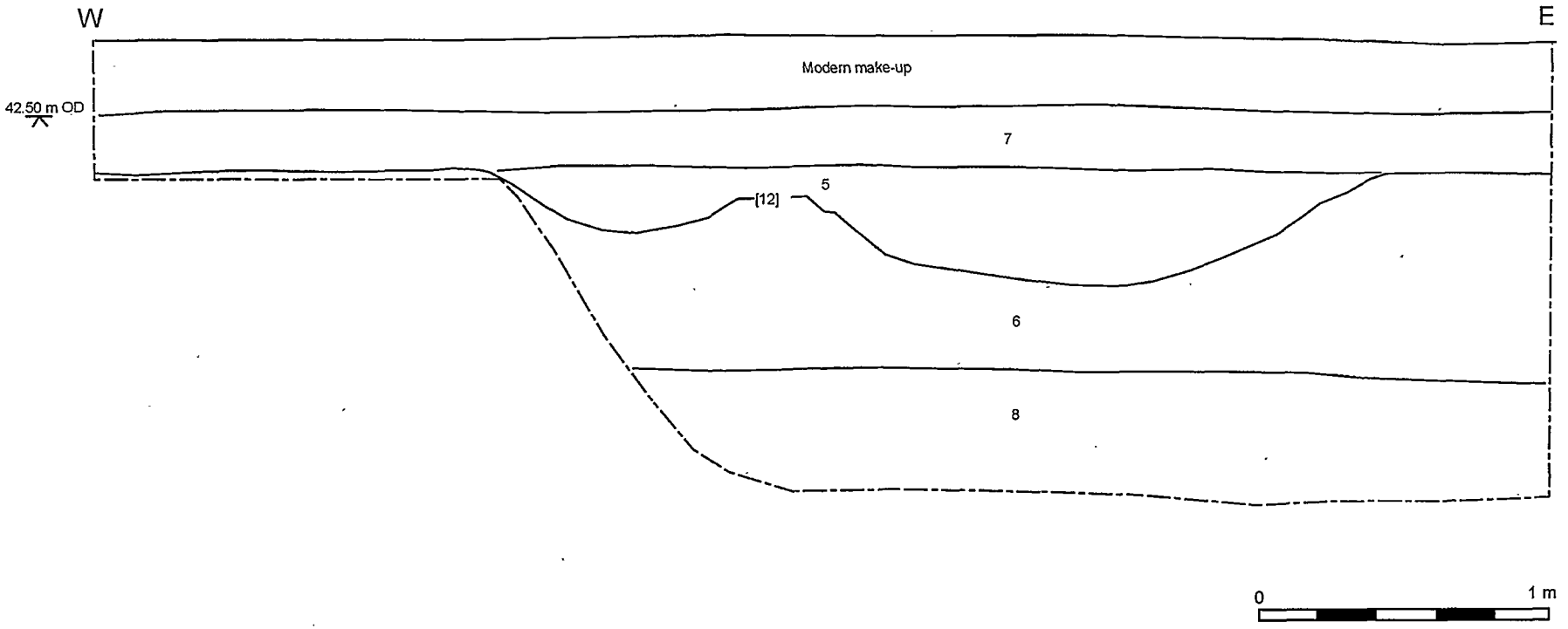

Fig 5 Trench 4 sondage, south facing section

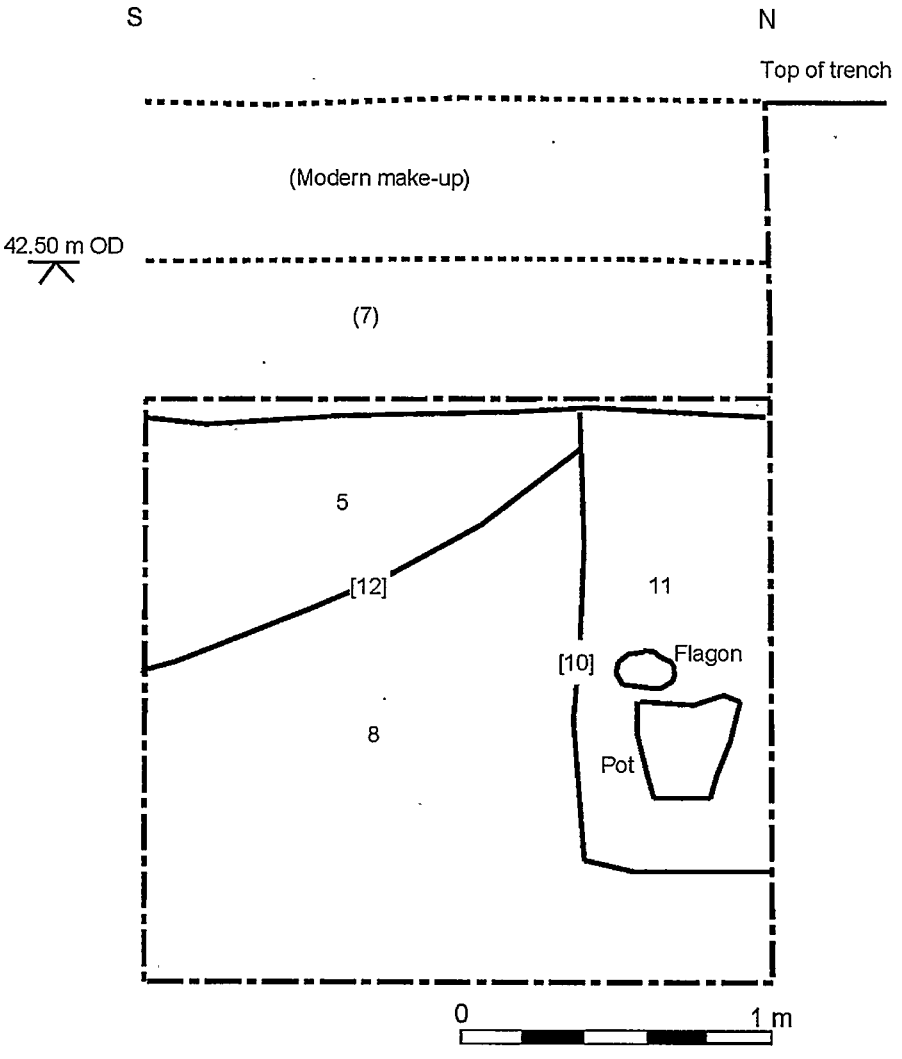

Fig 6 Trench 4 sondage, east facing section

2.3 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'. In the case of this site, the trenches, distributed throughout the area of the development site, provided a representative sample of the deposits present. The evaluation established that the western part of the site had been subjected to truncation (into the subsoil) followed by dumping to raise the ground level, which included the backfilling of a, probably, natural watercourse, in the later post-medieval period (19th – 20th century). A limited number of truncated, cut features survived in this area, which although undated are unlikely to be of major significance. The evaluation also established that, although the eastern part of the development site had also been truncated, cut features representing Roman activity, a cremation burial, pit and ditch survived. The fact that the burial cuts the ditch is of significance.

3 Archaeological potential

3.1 Realisation of original research aims

A number of site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (Section 2.2) and are discussed below.

- *What is the nature and level of natural topography?*

The natural deposits present in three of the four trenches, consisted of loose, brownish orange, sandy gravel recorded at a height of between 42.32m OD (eastern end of site) and 41.10m OD (western end of site). Overlying this, on the western side of the site was 60mm – 0.20m of soft, mottled light and dark brown, silty clay subsoil recorded at a height of 41.69m OD. A sondage, excavated in Trench 4 exposed a mottled yellowish orange, sand and gravel below the dense brownish orange gravel. This, more defined, natural gravel was recorded at a height of 41.60m OD. The natural deposits on the site sloped generally from northeast to southwest with a, possibly naturally formed, depression, potentially a stream channel, passing down the western side and identified by late post-medieval infilling and ground raising.

- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

The earliest deposits identified, discounting the origins of the possible stream channel were in Trench 4 and consisted of four cut features. Of the four features, one was identified as a cremation burial, another as a possible ditch (potentially with a recut), a pit. Dating evidence recovered from these suggest a 1st-2nd century AD Roman date, with the ditch stratigraphically earlier than the cremation burial. An undated, deep cut feature may also be related. Two further undated cut features were recorded at the western end of the site.

- *Is there evidence for Roman settlement or roadside activity associated with Watling Street? If so what is its character and significance?*

The four (possibly five) cut features identified on the eastern part of the site in Trench 4, suggest Roman activity in the vicinity, though not an actual settlement. The

remains are likely to be associated with the settlement remains recorded in K.A.R.U 1989 excavation some 70m to the north-east and in closer proximity to Watling Street.

- *Is there evidence for medieval or post-medieval activity associated with the settlement of Welling (first mentioned in 1362, though the parish church dates back to the 13th century)? If so what is its character and significance?*

There was no evidence for the presence of features or deposits from the medieval period, though two cut features recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 may date to anytime between the post-Roman and late post-medieval periods.

- *What are the latest deposits identified?*

The latest deposits identified were dumped infilling and make-up deposits on the western part of the site. These dump layers backfilled the linear feature recorded in Trench 1, and potentially (on the basis of the depth of deposits) in Trench 3. If the linear feature does cross Trench 3, the presence of ceramic building material fragments in a possible basal fill indicate that it would not be of great antiquity. It has been suggested that a stream, from which 'Penpool Lane' takes its name, ran across the site. If so, on the basis of map evidence it is likely that the stream was backfilled during the earlier 20th century (after 1903).

3.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is very limited, with evidence for partial truncation and disturbance of the subsoil on the western part of the site and complete removal of the subsoil to the east. Cut features have partially survived truncation across the site, though the concentration of Roman features to the east is not paralleled elsewhere.

The preserved subsoil at the western end of the site follows the contour of the underlying natural and suggests the ground originally sloped towards or formed the bank of a stream, tentatively identified as the Penpool stream.

The presence of the cremation burial cutting through a possible ditch, suggests associated with an established settlement; in all likelihood, that recorded by K.A.R.U in their 1989 excavation. Overall, archaeological deposits where they do survive are likely to lie between 0.44m and 1.50m below current ground level.

The site has potential for the survival of further Roman features to the east. To the west, although subsoil deposits survive, due to the fall of natural ground level in this direction, there is a lesser potential and the degree of truncation is actually higher.

3.3 Significance

The archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance, and may be of regional significance by association. On the basis of the evaluation, however, there is currently nothing to suggest that they are of national (or higher) importance.

4 Assessment by EH criteria

The Department of the Environment published a set of guidelines with criteria by which to measure the importance of individual monuments for possible Scheduling. These criteria are as follows: *Period*; *Rarity*; *Documentation*; *Survival/Condition*; *Fragility/Vulnerability*; *Diversity*; and *Potential*. The guidelines stresses that 'these criteria should not...be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case'.[1]

In the following passages the potential archaeological survival described in the initial Assessment document and Section 4 above will be assessed against these criteria.

Criterion 1: period
Taken as a whole, archaeological remain on the site are likely to be predominately Roman or later post-medieval (19th-20th century) in date.

Criterion 2: rarity
There is nothing to suggest that any of the archaeological deposits encountered in the evaluation are rare in a national or regional context.

Criterion 3: documentation
There are no surviving documentary records for remains in the area from the Roman period, although the Roman material recovered is likely to relate to the published remains found to the northeast (Garrod and Philp, 1992). There may be contemporary documentation for the medieval period and, increasingly, for the post-medieval period, including map evidence in relation to the Penpool Stream, but this material is unlikely to relate directly to the site and thereby enhance its significance.

Criterion 4: group value
The Roman cut features are likely to relate to the settlement represented by features recorded in the excavation carried out by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit some 70m to the northeast of the site. In a local context they have a group value, though they relate to a potential monument of greater significance than the findings themselves.

Criterion 5: survival/condition
The evaluation has demonstrated that there is no survival of ancient horizontal soil deposits and that any surviving remains may be horizontally truncated. Survival is likely to be greater on the eastern part of the site.

Criterion 6: fragility
The majority of cut features on the site would be affected by development activities but cannot be classed as fragile. The cremation burial identified during the evaluation, however, and any others present would be at greater risk during the development process, particularly as the feature observed is relatively close to present ground surface.

[1] Annex 4, DOE, Planning and Policy Guidance 16, (1990). For detailed definition of the criteria see that document. Reference has also been made to Darvill, Saunders & Startin, (1987); and McGill, (1995)

Criterion 7: diversity
The archaeological deposits which are likely to be found on the site represent discrete groups of archaeological remains of the Roman and late post-medieval periods. This limited diversity is in itself may be the product of truncation. There is no reason to suggest that the diversity *per se* has any particular value, which ought to be protected.

Criterion 8: potential
The site has further potential for findings of, and to produce information relating to, the Roman period in the environs of Welling. The site has limited potential to provide topographical information relating to a former watercourse.

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment on land to the south-east of the John Newton Court Estate, Welling consists of construction of a three storey block of flats containing nine residential units with associated landscaping. It is likely that, where new structures are proposed, this will result in complete or partial truncation of any archaeological features present. Impacts are likely result from initial ground reduction, the construction of new foundations/piles and other below-ground structures and services installation. The main new structure is located centrally on the site (over the area evaluated in Trench 2 and the west end of Trench 4) with a secondary structure on the west side, located to the north of Trench 3 and west of Trench 1 (Fig 5).

The assessment above (Section 4) and the archaeological potential (Section 3) indicates that the Roman findings, are of considerable local, and possibly regional, significance. To date, such remains have only been found in an area designated as a community open space in the new development. It is possible in this area to preserve deposits in situ. Though there is already a requirement that this area be subject to remediation, due to contamination, prior to redevelopment, the latter operation is likely to require the removal of only c. 400mm of material prior to reinstatement. This would be to a level just above the highest survival of archaeological deposits in this area and, since deposits are already truncated this will have little or no impact, though the potential for the presence of significant remains, particularly fragile cremation burials, at a high level cannot be discounted. In order to minimise possible future impacts after remediation 600mm of fill, including a protective membrane, will be laid. There will be a management agreement in place to ensure that the potentially significant deposits are not disturbed during the operational life of the development, such as by subsequent planting of the area. An archaeological watching brief will be maintained on the remediation groundworks to ensure the preservation of the discovered, and other potential, Roman remains in the eastern part of the site (to the east of the east end of Trench 2).

Given the lesser significance of the remains associated with the possible stream channel and the virtual absence of cut features on the western part of the site, where the main constructional impact occur, it is considered that a watching brief on construction groundworks would represent an appropriate mitigation strategy. The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed by the evaluation rests with the Local Planning Authority, as advised by their designated archaeological advisor English Heritage GLAAS.

6 Acknowledgements

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-56129

Project details

Project name	John Newton Court
Short description of the project	The evaluation consisted of four trenches spread across the area of the proposed development site. The limited evaluation of the site established the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces was limited to the western end of the site; this consisted of subsoil, which showed evidence of being disturbed in areas. The survival of this soil, is impart due to the rapid backfilling of a potential linear feature, which maybe the remains of the 'Penpool Stream', and the low level multi period use of the area. The preserved subsoil also follows the contour of the underlying natural, which suggests, the landscape originally sloped, or the inclined edge forms the bank of the stream. If this is the case, then the 'Penpool Stream' that is supposedly meant to run through the site occurred naturally. There was also evidence of cut features cutting into the surviving subsoil, though the limited excavation carried out on them, made it difficult to date them or determine their function. Further evidence of five cut features were recorded at the eastern end of the site, one feature was identified as a potential linear ditch on a north-south alignment, being truncated by a cremation burial. These cut features, probably form part of a long term Roman settlement, possibly the continuation of a Roman settlement recorded by Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit (K.A.R.U) in their 1989 excavation carried out some 70.00m to the northeast of the site.
Project dates	Start: 16-02-2009 End: 20-02-2009
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	JNW 09 – Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	CUT FEATURES Roman
Monument type	LAYERS Uncertain

Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BEXLEY BEXLEY John Newton Court, Welling
Postcode	DA16
Study area	1190.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 468 757 51.4605555556 0.113333333333 51 27 38 N 000 06 48 E Point
Lat/Long Datum (other)	51460518/113539
Height OD / Depth	Min: 41.10m Max: 42.32m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoL Archaeology
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	MoL Archaeology
Project director/manager	Robin Nielsen

Project supervisor	Bruce Ferguson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	John Newton Court - A Report on the Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ferguson, B
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	MoL Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 spiral bound site report with illustrations

Entered by	Bruce Ferguson (bferguson@museumoflondon.org.uk)
Entered on	27 February 2009