# An Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Kingston Power Station, Downhall Road, Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames, KT2 5AH

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 179 696

Site Code: KPR 09

Planning Application Number: 06/12424/FUL

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# **CONTENTS**

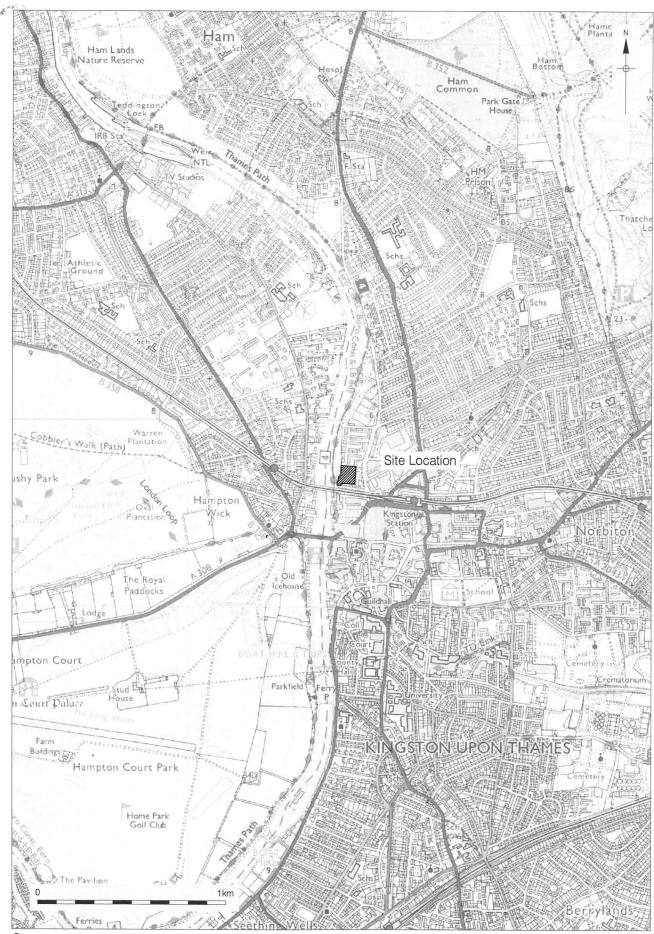
	1 Abstract	3
2	2 Introduction	4
;	3 Planning Background	7
4	4 Geology And Topography	9
į.	5 Archaeological And Historical Background	11
(	6 Archaeological Methodology	
-	7 Trench Summary	
8	8 The Archaeological Sequence	22
9	9 Interpretation And Conclusions	27
•	10 Acknowledgments	
•	11 Bibliography	30
4	APPENDICES	
,	Appendix 1: Context Index	31
,	Appendix 2: Site Matrix	34
,	Appendix 3: Oasis Report Form	35
I	ILLUSTRATIONS	
ı	Figure 1: Site Location	5
ı	Figure 2: Detailed Site and Trench Location Plan	6
ı	Figure 3: Plan of Trench 3	25
	Figure 4: Section Drawings 1 to 8	
	igure 1: Site Location	
	igure 2: Trench Locations	
i	igure 3:	25

# 2 ABSTRACT

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on the site of the former Kingston Power Station, Kingston Upon Thames, within the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames (Figure 1). The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 179 696. The evaluation was undertaken between the 14<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2009. The commissioning client was CgMs Consulting.
- 2.2 The archaeological programme consisted of three evaluation trenches and six test pits (Figure 2). The evaluation aimed to determine as far as reasonably possible the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remain, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. It also was intended to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbances and intrusions, and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance (Hawkins 2009).
- 2.3 The work was monitored on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames by Diane Walls of English Heritage GLAAS.
- 2.4 Thames Gravels were observed within Test Pits 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, and represent the earliest deposits observed during the evaluation. Trench 1 and Test Pits 1 and 4 contained channel deposits associated with the former line of the River Thames. In Test Pits 2 and 3 high-energy channel deposits were observed and are likely to have been associated with the former Downhall Ditch/Latchmere Stream. Trench 1 was the only area in which a subsoil horizon survived overlying channel deposits.
- 2.5 Trench 3 was the only area in which brickearth was observed, with archaeological features recorded a ditch, a possible pit, several post holes, and a series of stake holes. However, no dating evidence was associated.
- 2.6 The location of Trench 2 had been truncated by the construction of a pair of chambers, which remained *in-situ*, and contaminated by coal dust. This resulted in the need to abandon the trench. The construction of the former power station on the site, notably the coal pit, also resulted in the truncation of the upper levels of the observed archaeological and geoarchaeological horizons.
- 2.7 All of the trenches and test pits were overlain by late post-medieval made ground and/or concrete associated with the former power station.

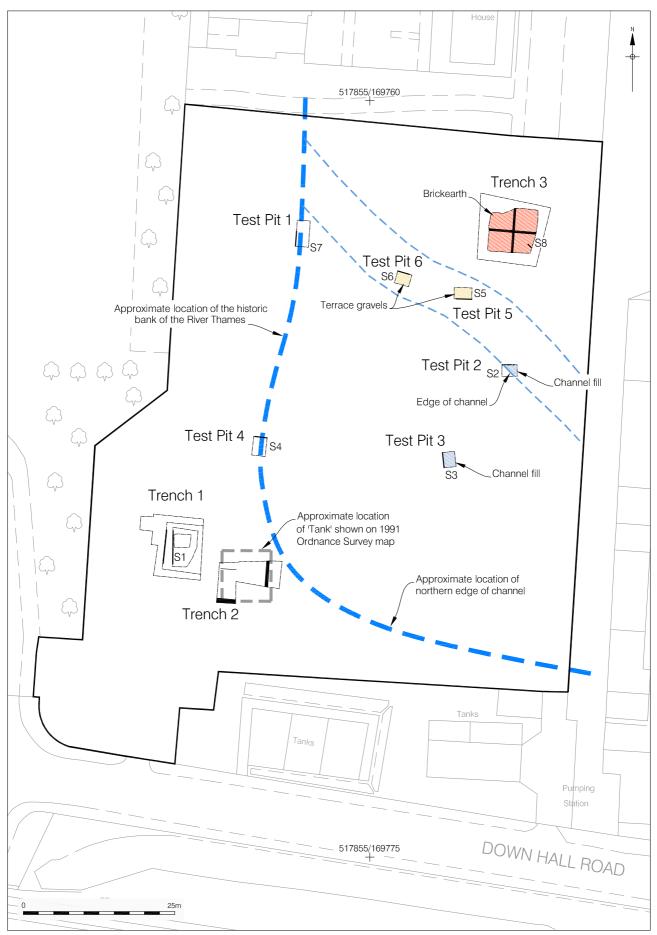
# 3 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in advance of redevelopment of land at the site of the Former Kingston Power Station, Downhall Road, Kingston Upon Thames. The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation and recording of three trial trenches and six test pits, which were to determine the archaeological potential of the site (Figure 2).
- 3.2 The site has most recently been occupied by the former Kingston Power Station, and prior to that the Kingston Sewage Works, both of which had left potential contaminants in the ground.
- 3.3 The evaluation revealed natural strata directly beneath made ground deposits, suggesting that the construction of the previous buildings at the site had truncated the underlying soils.
- 3.4 The commissioning client was CgMs Consulting. The evaluation was supervised by Sarah Barrowman of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd by Tim Bradley, and was monitored by Diane Walls of English Heritage GLAAS.
- 3.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the Museum of London LAARC under the unique site code KPR 09.



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## 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Borough's 'Unitary Development Plan', adopted 2005, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.
- 4.2 The proposed development is subject to the Borough's Archaeology Policy:

# Areas of Archaeological Significance BE19

- (A) WHERE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AFFECT KNOWN AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE, AS IDENTIFIED ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, THE COUNCIL WILL EXPECT PROVISION TO BE MADE FOR A SITE EVALUATION, WHERE REQUIRED, BY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION APPROVED BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY PRIOR TO THE DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS;
- (B) WHERE EVALUATION PROVES THE EXISTENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATE ACTION WILL APPLY:
- (i) FOR REMAINS OF MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE, THE COUNCIL WILL EXPECT PROVISION TO BE MADE FOR PRESERVATION IN SITU AND WILL CONSIDER THE NEED FOR STATUTORY PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE;
- (ii) FOR OTHER REMAINS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE, A FULL ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION WILL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO ANY DEVELOPMENT. WHERE THERE ARE REASONABLE GROUNDS TO SUSPECT THAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS MAY EXIST IN OTHER AREAS, THE PROVISIONS MADE UNDER (A) AND (B) WILL BE APPLIED.
- 6.105 Strategic Guidance advises boroughs to provide policies which preserve ancient monuments and their settings, and detailed guidance from the Secretary of State on the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest is set out in PPG16 'Archaeology and Planning'.
- 6.106 Little of the borough's early history is documented, and archaeological investigation of sites is an important method of gathering more evidence about its development. Buried archaeological remains constitute the principal surviving evidence of the borough's rich history. This includes archaeological sites and artefacts, historically or socially significant buildings and industrial history.
- 6.107 There are a number of factors which are used to identify areas which are archaeologically significant. These include:
- (i) Location of known finds;
- (ii) Location of ancient settlements:
- (iii) Historic maps and registers;
- (iv) Geology;
- (v) Topography.

The Royal Borough contains known historic centres, archaeological sites and spots where archaeological finds have been made and also areas of topography which would have been especially attractive for early settlement. This information has been used, together with

advice from English Heritage and the Museum of London, to define the known areas of archaeological significance identified on the Proposals Map. However, other parts of the borough have shown archaeological potential.

- 6.108 Where development may affect land of archaeological significance or potential, the Council will expect applicants to have properly assessed and planned for the archaeological implications of their proposals. A preliminary site evaluation may therefore be required prior to determination where development will affect a cumulative area of 25sq m or more. The evaluation may be carried out in the form of a desk top survey and/or by archaeological trial trenching by an approved archaeological organisation. The results of the site evaluation will enable the Council to determine whether preservation is required, and if so, whether 'by record' or 'in situ', as set out below. Where disturbances occur in an area smaller than 25sq m, arrangements may be made for a watching brief to be carried out. This would involve an archaeologist being present during the disturbance of the potential archaeological remains, e.g. when foundations are dug.
- 6.109 The standard construction methods associated with modern redevelopment have the potential to destroy archaeological remains and the Council, in line with PPG16, will encourage, and where necessary require, revised construction techniques in order that archaeological remains may be physically preserved in situ. Where preservation in situ is not considered appropriate the Council will encourage developers to allow archaeological remains to be properly excavated and recorded in advance of redevelopment. The Council will promote co-operation in such ventures between developers and archaeological organisations, in accordance with the provisions of the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice. Legal agreements and the imposition of planning conditions may be used to secure facilities for archaeological investigation, recording and publication. Arrangements for preservation by record will be agreed by the Council with an approved archaeological organisation and funded by the developer.
- 6.110 In addition to areas identified on the Proposals Map, a site evaluation may be required in other areas where there is sufficient evidence to suspect that archaeological remains exist. This may be in the form of additional finds on other sites not shown on the Proposals Map or further research from historical, geological or topographical information post-dating the plan. The same procedures as for identified areas will then apply.
- 4.3 The site lies within an area of Archaeological Significance, as defined by the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames UDP Proposals Map. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings on the site.
- 4.4 The site has planning consent (06/12424/FUL) subject to an archaeological planning condition.

## 5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

# 5.1 Geology

- 5.1.1 The British Geological Survey map records a downward succession of alluvium followed by river terrace deposits, London clay, and the Lambeth Ground. Brickearth is shown close to the eastern site boundary (CL Associates 2006).
- 5.1.2 Soil Mechanics undertook soil and ground water investigations in 1999. This involved the excavation of nine bore holes and nine trial pits across the evaluation site. The results of this work showed made ground in all of the trial pits and boreholes, at 0.6m to 2.3m below ground level (bgl). Alluvium was encountered across the central-west area of the site to a depth of 0.8-5.4m bgl, with a thickness of 0.5-3.5m. Layers of clayey sand were also encountered in a central east-west line across the site. Underlying the alluvium and made ground were river terrace deposits from 3.2-5.9m below ground level, with thicknesses of 0.5-3.5m. These deposits were underlain by London clay to the maximum drilling depth of 20m bgl. (CL Associates 2006).
- 5.1.3 During the evaluation Trench 1, Test Pit 1 and Test Pit 4 all yielded evidence of deposits associated with the former line of the River Thames, with in channel deposits and gravel banks being observed. Test Pits 2 and 3 also provided evidence of further high-energy river channel deposits and a gravel bank, likely to have been associated with the Latchmere Stream/Downhall Ditch.
- 5.1.4 The lack of channel deposits in Test Pits 5 and 6, where the only natural deposits observed were sterile Thames Gravels, suggests an area of higher land rising from the banked areas observed in Test Pits 1, 2, and 4 to the west and south, up to the northeast where brickearth deposits were observed in Trench 3.

#### 5.2 Topography

5.2.1 The closest watercourse to the site is the River Thames, approximately 30m to the west of the site, though, as demonstrated during the archaeological evaluation, the site overlies the prenineteenth century alignment of the River Thames. The site also overlies the Thames' confluence with a former east-west tributary channel, the Downhall Ditch/Latchmere Channel.

5.2.2 The site varies in height from 7.48m OD to 4.29m OD in the base of the former coal pit that covers the majority of the site. Late post-medieval development has resulted in a topography that does not reflect that which would have occurred naturally in the area.

# 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 The archaeological and historical background for the area of Kingston that the site lies within is laid out in full in the Evaluation Specification (Hawkins 2009) and the Environmental Assessment (CL Associates 2006). The following is a summary of the relevant parts of these documents.

#### 6.2 Prehistoric

- 6.2.1 Evidence of prehistoric occupation from at least the Mesolithic is fairly prolific along the river margins at Kingston, although most of the evidence tends to consist of residual and often small artefact scatters.
- 6.2.2 An excavation at Skerne Road produced residual blade cores, blades and a core rejuvenation tablet of possible Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. Scrapers and possible piercers were also found which may have been utilised for hide working, an activity frequently associated within riverine locations.

# 6.3 Roman

- 6.3.1 An excavation to the east of the site at Skerne Road uncovered evidence of three phases of Roman occupation. This included several pre-Flavian pits and a gully, two 3<sup>rd</sup> century quarry pits and post holes which probably also date to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, and high concentrations of mid 1<sup>st</sup> century roof and box-flue tiles. This may indicate the presence of a 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> century building in the vicinity, which was possibly demolished or altered in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The presence of a 4<sup>th</sup> century arable deposit also suggested continuity of activity in the area for most of the Roman period.
- 6.3.2 The construction of the Kingston Power Station, which the study site previously formed part of, recorded evidence from the Roman period. Roman evidence has also been recovered during investigations at Cromwell Road, Canbury Passage, and Sopwith Way.
- 6.3.3 It has been suggested that a Roman riverside settlement existed at Kingston in the area of the site, and documentary evidence indicated the presence of a Roman inhumation cemetery at 'Canbury fields', to the immediate east of the study site.
- 6.3.4 However, despite numerous archaeological investigations in the area of Kingston since the 1960s there has been a paucity of *in-situ* archaeological finds and features dating to the Roman period.

## 6.4 Saxon and Medieval

- 6.4.1 The site is remote to the known Anglo-Saxon settlements around Kingston.
- 6.4.2 The site also lies to the north of the medieval town, outside of the legal boundary of the 'Borough' of Kingston.

#### 6.5 Post-Medieval

- 6.5.1 Based on cartographic evidence the site was undeveloped in 1868, being open land surrounded by trees. By 1896 the site had been developed into the Kingston Sewage Works, with an electrical station in the south-eastern corner of the site, and a corporation depot in the north-eastern corner. This land usage continues to be shown on maps until 1949, with some expansion of structures being apparent. The OS map of 1956-1959 lacks any site details, suggesting that the sewerage plant may have been decommissioned by this time.
- 6.5.2 The 1968 OS map shows the layout of the eastern side of the site being much the same as that presently. The majority of the remainder of the site is labelled as 'Travelling Cranes', with conveyors running along the western boundary from the river to the power station to the north. By 1992-1994 this area is unlabelled, suggestion that the power station is no longer is use, though a tank in the south-west remains. By 1995 the site is shown to be vacant, apart from the substation on the eastern side, and remained as such at the time of the evaluation.

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The methodology for the excavation of the trenches and test pits was outlined in the Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation (Hawkins 2009). Two evaluation trenches were originally proposed for the site, though following pre-excavation consultation this was revised to three trenches and two test pits. As a result of the evidence observed during the course of the evaluation this was revised to a final total of three trenches and six test pits.
- 7.2 Trenches were positioned to target the potential confluence point of the old north-south line of the River Thames and a former east-west tributary channel (the Downhall Ditch/Latchmere Channel). They also aimed to identify any areas of brickearth and associated possible occupational evidence. Trench locations also took account of a live 132kv cable running along the southern edge of the site is a live 132kv cable, with Trenches 1 & 2 sited at least 5m to the north to avoid this. Equally, a live sewer run extended north-south across the site to an extant man-hole in the centre. Trench 3 and all test pits were sited to avoid this by at least 5m. The sewer was expected to be a bored pipe at considerable depth (pers comm D. Hawkins, CgMs, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009).
- 7.3 Trench 2 had to be abandoned due to health and safety concerns regarding contamination and access.
- 7.4 The evaluation aimed to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aimed to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions, and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 7.5 The trenches were stepped and excavated with a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket in spits of between 100mm and 200mm, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Trenches were stepped to allow safe access for recording and excavation of potential features and archaeological deposits. Test pits were not stepped and were in most cases recorded from surface level. Their relative dimensions are shown overleaf:

Trench/Test Pit	Length at top (m)	Width at top (m)	Max. Depth (m)		
Number					
Trench 1	10m	10.20m (max)	2.75m		
		7.20m (min)			
Trench 2	10.25m	6.10m	3.40m		
Trench 3	10.50m	10.20m	3.19m		
Test Pit 1	4.30m	1.10m	1.40m		
Test Pit 2	2.50m	1.90m	1.80m		
Test Pit 3	2.50m	2.00m	1.65m		
Test Pit 4	3.10m	2.20m	1.82m		
Test Pit 5	1.92m	1.86m	1.08m		
Test Pit 6	2.44m	2.00m	1.06m		

- 7.6 All deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in black and white and colour slide. Bulk samples were taken from relevant contexts. Artefacts pre-dating the late post-medieval made ground were collected.
- 7.7 A temporary benchmark established by the PCA surveyor using GPS was used for levelling within the trenches, and for the establishment of a secondary temporary benchmark in the lower coal pit area of site. These benchmarks were at heights of 7.48m OD and 4.87m OD respectively.

#### 8 TRENCH & TEST PIT SUMMARY

# **8.1** Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 4)

#### Phase 1

- 8.1.1 The earliest observed deposit in Trench 1 was a channel deposit [3] composed of friable light-mid brownish-yellow silty-sand, which contained frequent small mollusc shells, and occasional peg tile dating to AD1600-1800. This formed the basal limit of excavation and was encountered at 4.60mOD, with a maximum recorded thickness of 1.20m (extending below the limit of excavation).
- 8.1.2 Overlying the channel deposits [3] was a layer sub-soil [2] composed of friable light-mid greyish-brown silty-sand, with occasional peg tile dating to AD 1600-1800, and abraded daub of a type in use from 50BC-AD1666+, and clay tobacco pipe fragments from c.17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century. This was 1.00m in thickness and encountered at 5.48mOD.

#### Phase 3

- 8.1.3 Sealing the natural deposits was a 0.85m thick layer made ground [1], composed of compact mid-dark greyish brown sandy gravels, with occasional CBM, concrete pieces, and metal. This was encountered from 6.25mOD.
- 8.1.4 Overlying the made ground and sealing the trench was a layer of concrete [7]. This was 0.45m thick and encountered from 6.72mOD.

# **8.2** Trench **2** (Figure 2)

- 8.2.1 The excavation revealed that a pair of chambers, constructed of sheer walls of brick and concrete, had truncated all earlier deposits in the proposed location of Trench 2. These had been backfilled with a loose mix of CBM, concrete rubble, and metal, mixed with coal dust which had stained the masonry and the backfill a dark black.
- 8.2.2 This feature abutted the outer sides of the north-south and east-west walls of former coal pit, which also formed the northern and western edges to the pair of chambers. The observed independent walls measured c.0.60m in thickness. The western chamber was fully cleared of the rubble backfill to expose a north-south length of c.6.10m, an east-west length of c. 2.85m. The rubble filled the chamber to a depth of 2.42m. The eastern chamber was only part-cleared, showing an east-west width of 4.20m, with length unknown.

- 8.2.3 At the base of the western chamber a slot was excavated by machine to a depth of 3.40m bgl, beyond which ground water made it unsuitable to continue. This was undertaken to try determine the nature of the underlying deposits and to establish the depth of the walls of the chambers. However the underlying deposits were contaminated by the coal dust, being stained black, with no observed indications that this was lessening with depth. The base of the walls could not be observed, and continued beyond the limits of excavation.
- 8.2.4 Health and safety restrictions prevented the full excavation of Trench 2, due to inability to safely access the area and risks from contamination. This led to the decision to abandon the trench. As such only a basic description of what was uncovered was recorded. The location of the observed structure was surveyed electronically, and an annotated plan and section produced.
- 8.2.5 It was not possible to move Trench 2 to another location within the area due to restrictions in place due to the presence of a 132KV cable on the southern edge of the site.
- **8.3** Trench **3** (Figures 2, 3 & 4)

#### 8.3.1 **Phase 1**

8.3.2 The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a layer of friable greyish yellow brickearth [9] with occasional fragments of flint. This was encountered at 4.22mOD, and formed the basal limit of excavation.

# Phase 2

- 8.3.3 A series of features was observed cutting into the brickearth. In the south-eastern corner of the trench a northeast to southwest aligned ditch [10] was present. It measured 2.50m in length, continuing beyond the limits of excavation, 0.38m in width, 0.29m in depth, and was encountered at a height of 4.13m OD. The sides were steeply sloped, being near vertical, with a sharp surface break of slope. The base was flat with a gradual break of slope, though was cut lower and concave on the eastern side to a depth of 0.34m. The ditch contained a singular fill [8] of soft mid bluish grey silty clay containing moderate amounts of organic material and mollusc shells.
- 8.3.4 A circular cut [57] was observed in northwest corner of the trench, representing a possible small pit with gently sloped sides with a sharp surface break of slope, and a flat base with no perceptible break of slope. It had a diameter of 0.54m, a depth of 0.12m, and was encountered at a height of 4.24m OD. It contained a singular fill [58], composed of soft mid bluish grey silty clay.

- 8.3.5 A number of possible postholes were observed in the northern half of the site. Posthole [31] was oval in shape, with sloped sides and a concave base. It measured 0.26m by 0.19m, with a depth of 0.04m, and was encountered at 4.63m OD. It contained a singular fill of soft dark greyish blue silty clay [32]. Posthole [33] was oval in shape with sloped sides, and a concave base. It had dimensions of 0.23m by 0.20m, a depth of 0.09m, and was encountered at 4.42m OD. It contained a singular fill [34] of soft brownish grey silty clay. Postholes [59] and [61] were both semi-circular in plan due to modern truncation. [59] had dimensions of 0.16m by 0.09m (truncated), a depth of 0.05m, and was encountered at 4.22m OD. [61] had dimensions of 0.16m by 0.08m (truncated), a depth of 0.08m, and was encountered at 4.22mOD. Both had singular fills composed of soft mid bluish grey silty clay, [60] in [59], and [62] in [61].
- 8.3.6 A series of stakeholes were also observed cutting the brickearth [9]. The majority of these appeared to form a linear pattern, aligned east-west with additional lines possibly aligned north-south. Generally all were circular in plan, with vertical or convex sides, a sharp surface break of slope, and a flat base with a gradual basal break of slope. All contained a fill composed of soft bluish grey silty clay. The details of these stakeholes are summarised in the table below:

Cut	Fill	Dimensions	Depth	Maximum Height
[13]	[12]	0.10m diameter	0.12m	4.24m OD
[15]	[14]	0.10m by 0.11m	0.05m	4.23m OD
[35]	[36]	0.10m diameter	0.04m	4.11m OD
[37]	[38]	0.08m diameter	0.04m	4.20m OD
[39]	[40]	0.10m by 0.14m	0.07m	4.20m OD
[41]	[42]	0.10m by 0.10m	0.08m	4.20m OD
[43]	[44]	0.09m by 0.10m	0.04m	4.18m OD
[45]	[46]	0.09m by 0.08m	0.03m	4.25m OD
[47]	[48]	0.04m by 0.07m	0.03m	4.25m OD
[49]	[50]	0.07m diameter	0.03m	4.22m OD
[51]	[52]	0.05m diameter	0.04m	4.24m OD
[53]	[54]	0.05m diameter	0.06m	4.22m OD
[55]	[56]	0.06m diameter	0.08m	4.24m OD

8.3.7 None of the deposits within this phase contained any cultural material.

#### Phase 3

- 8.3.8 Truncating the brickearth [9] was a grid of north-south and east-west aligned concrete footings [29]. They were encountered from 4.63mOD, had an observed maximum width of 1.00m, and extended in length beyond the limits of excavation. The depth that they extended to is unknown, as they were left *in situ* as removal would have entailed the disturbance of archaeological horizons.
- 8.3.9 Overlying the footings [29] and sealing the trench was a layer of made ground [11], composed of loose mid greyish-brown sandy-silt with CBM and concrete rubble, with frequent inclusions of metal. The deposit had a maximum thickness of 3.27m and was encountered from 7.32m OD.

# **8.4** Test Pit 1 (Figures 2 & 4)

# Phase 1

- 8.4.1 The earliest deposit observed within Test Pit 1 was a deposit of loose mid yellowish brown medium-large sub-angular sandy gravels [24]. These were banked to form a moderately steep sloped channel edge running east to west. This deposit formed the basal limit of excavation, and was encountered from 4.15m OD.
- 8.4.2 A deposit of alluvial clay [23] overlay the gravels [24]. This was composed of soft sandy-clay that had a gradient in colour from mid brownish yellow at the top of the deposit to dark bluish-grey at its base. It had frequent inclusions of molluscs and organic material, and occasional burnt flint located at the basal level of the deposit. This was 1.10m thick, and encountered from 4.25mOD.

# Phase 3

8.4.3 Overlying the natural deposits and sealing the trench was a layer of concrete [22], which was 0.30m thick and encountered from 4.65mOD.

# **8.5** Test Pit 2 (Figures 2 & 4)

#### Phase 1

- 8.5.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Test Pit 2 was Thames Gravels [21]. This was composed of loose mid brownish grey large sub-angular gravels, with occasional small sub-rounded gravels. These formed a steep bank to the western side of the test pit, which ran north-south. These gravels were encountered from 3.30m OD. Sealing the gravels [21] was a deposit of soft mid-dark purplish brown organic clay [20]. This had a thickness of 0.29m and was encountered at 3.59m OD.
- 8.5.2 Abutting the organic clay [20] was a high-energy channel deposit [19]. This was composed of soft mid bluish brownish grey silty-clay with sandy patches. It contained frequent organics and small mollusc shells, and was encountered from 3.67m OD. Overlying this was a 0.26m thick layer of soft light bluish grey alluvial clay [18], which was encountered from 3.85m OD. This in turn was overlain by a layer of soft mid bluish brownish-grey sandy clay [17], which was 0.33m thick, containing organic remains and mollusc shells, and was encountered at 3.98mOD.

#### Phase 3

8.5.3 Overlying the observed natural deposits and sealing the test pit was a layer of made ground [16]. This was composed of loose mid greyish-brown CBM and concrete rubble with gravels. The layer was 0.52m thick and encountered from 4.56m OD.

# **8.6** Test Pit 3 (Figures 2 & 4)

#### Phase 1

- 8.6.1 The earliest deposit observed in this test pit was a deposit of loose mid bluish grey coarse sand with small sub-angular to sub-rounded gravels [6]. This contained frequent amounts of small, highly abraded Roman tile and a possible highly abraded tessara fragment, all dating to AD 50-160. It was encountered from 3.38mOD.
- 8.6.2 Overlying this deposit was a high-energy channel deposit [5] composed of soft mid-dark bluish-grey sandy-clay, which contained laminated layers of sand throughout. This was 0.60m thick and encountered at 3.88m OD.

## Phase 3

8.6.3 Sealing the natural deposits was a layer of compact made ground [4]. This was composed of CBM rubble with mid greyish-brown sandy-silt, and frequent amounts of concrete rubble. The deposit was 0.90m thick, encountered at 4.91m OD, and observed as the surface layer in the immediate area.

# **8.7 Test Pit 4** (Figures 2 & 4)

#### Phase 1

- 8.7.1 The earliest deposit observed in this trench was Thames Gravels [28] composed of loose mid yellowish-brown sandy medium to large sub-angular gravels. This deposit formed a steeply sloped north-south aligned bank on the eastern side of the trench. These gravels were encountered from 4.17mOD.
- 8.7.2 Overlying the gravels [28] was a river channel deposit [27]. This was composed of soft mid yellowish-brown sandy-clay with gravels. Lenses were evident in the deposit, as were moderate inclusions of plant roots. It extended in thickness beyond the basal limit of excavation, and was encountered from 4.17m OD.

# Phase 3

- 8.7.3 Overlying the natural deposits was a layer of made ground [26] that was composed of loose mid greyish brown silty clay with gravels and concrete rubble. This deposit was 0.50m thick and encountered at 4.67m OD.
- 8.7.4 Above the made ground [26] was a 0.30m thick concrete slab, which had a level of 4.97m OD and sealed the trench.

# **8.8** Test Pit **5** (Figures 2 & 4)

#### Phase 1

8.8.1 The earliest deposit observed within the test pit was the Thames Gravels [64], being composed of loose yellowish-brown sandy-gravels, which were encountered from 4.25mOD.

# Phase 3

8.8.2 The gravels [64] were overlain by a 0.45m thick layer of made ground [63]. This was composed of dark greyish black sandy silt with CBM and concrete rubble, was encountered at 4.73m OD, and formed the modern ground level of the area.

# **8.9** Test Pit 6 (Figures 2 & 4)

# Phase 1

8.9.1 The earliest deposit observed in this test pit was loose brownish yellow sandy gravels [66]. These represent the Thames Gravels and were encountered at 4.11m OD.

# Phase 3

8.9.2 The Thames Gravels [66] were sealed by a layer of compact mid greyish-brown sandy-silt with CBM and concrete. This deposit was 0.50m thick, encountered at 4.61mOD, and formed the modern ground surface of the area.

# 9 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

#### 9.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 9.1.1 Thames Gravel deposits were observed in Test Pits 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 (referred to as [24], [21], [28], [64] and [66] respectively). This appears to possibly represent an area of higher ground in the central and north-eastern area of the site that, as observed, had not been truncated by high energy channel activity. The observed banking of these gravels down from this central area, as observed in Test Pits 1, 2, and 4 also suggests the possible earlier lines of the Thames and Downhall Ditch/Latchmere Stream, or associated subsidiary channels. In Test Pits 1, 4, 5, and 6 the surface of the Thames Gravels had been truncated by late post-medieval activity. However in Test Pit 2 the surface level survived, as did an isolated overlying deposit of organic clay [20].
- 9.1.2 Test Pit 3 was the only area in which a deposit of coarse sand with small gravels [6] was observed, having the characteristics of a lower energy in-channel deposit. It also contained numerous small fragments of highly abraded tiny fragments of Roman CBM dating to AD50-160, which included tile and a possible tessara fragment.
- 9.1.3 Trench 1 also yielded in-channel deposits [3], though of a higher energy, being composed of silty sands. This deposit also yielded pieces of abraded peg tile (AD1600-1800) and daub (50BC-AD1666+).
- 9.1.4 High-energy river channel deposits were observed in Test Pits 1-4, ([23]; [17] and [19]; [5]; and [27] respectively). These were composed of sandy-clay with laminations of sand throughout. In Test Pit 2 an alluvial clay deposit [18] also lay between [17] and [19], suggesting it may have been outside of the main channel region for a period.
- 9.1.5 Trench 3 was the only area in which brickearth [9] deposits were observed during the evaluation. This did contain possible struck flint, though there were only minor indications that this may have been struck by human hand.
- 9.1.6 Trench 1 was the only area in which sub-soil deposits were observed, and they appeared to be largely un-truncated by later development. The deposit [2] was mainly sterile, with the only material culture evidence being a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem and a fragment of peg tile, both dated to *c*.AD1600-1800.

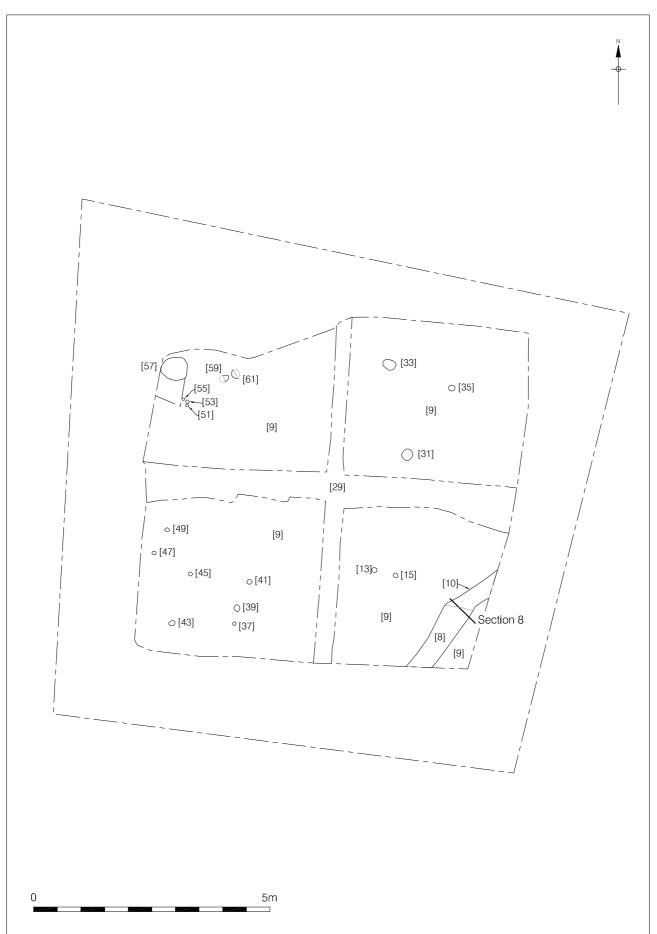
# 9.2 Phase 2 – Undated Features

- 9.2.1 The only area in which brickearth and associated archaeological features were observed was in Trench 3.
- 9.2.2 The function of the observed ditch [10] is uncertain, though a drainage or irrigation function is possible due to its proximity the channels observed in the other areas of the site.
- 9.2.3 The stakeholes observed in Trench 3 appear to be aligned in the most part, running from east to west then turning towards the north, possibly forming a fence or boundary line. Due to the limited area of survival it is uncertain how the other individual stakeholes fit into the possible pattern observed.
- 9.2.4 Four postholes were also observed in Trench 3, and whilst they may be related it is not possible to say conclusively from the evidence observed.
- 9.2.5 The base of what may have been a singular pit was also observed, but as it had been highly truncated by later activity, little information regarding its form and function could be gained.
- 9.2.6 All of the features observed contained a fill that appeared to be largely homogenous: a mid bluish grey silty clay, sterile of any cultural material, though containing small mollusc shells within the ditch.

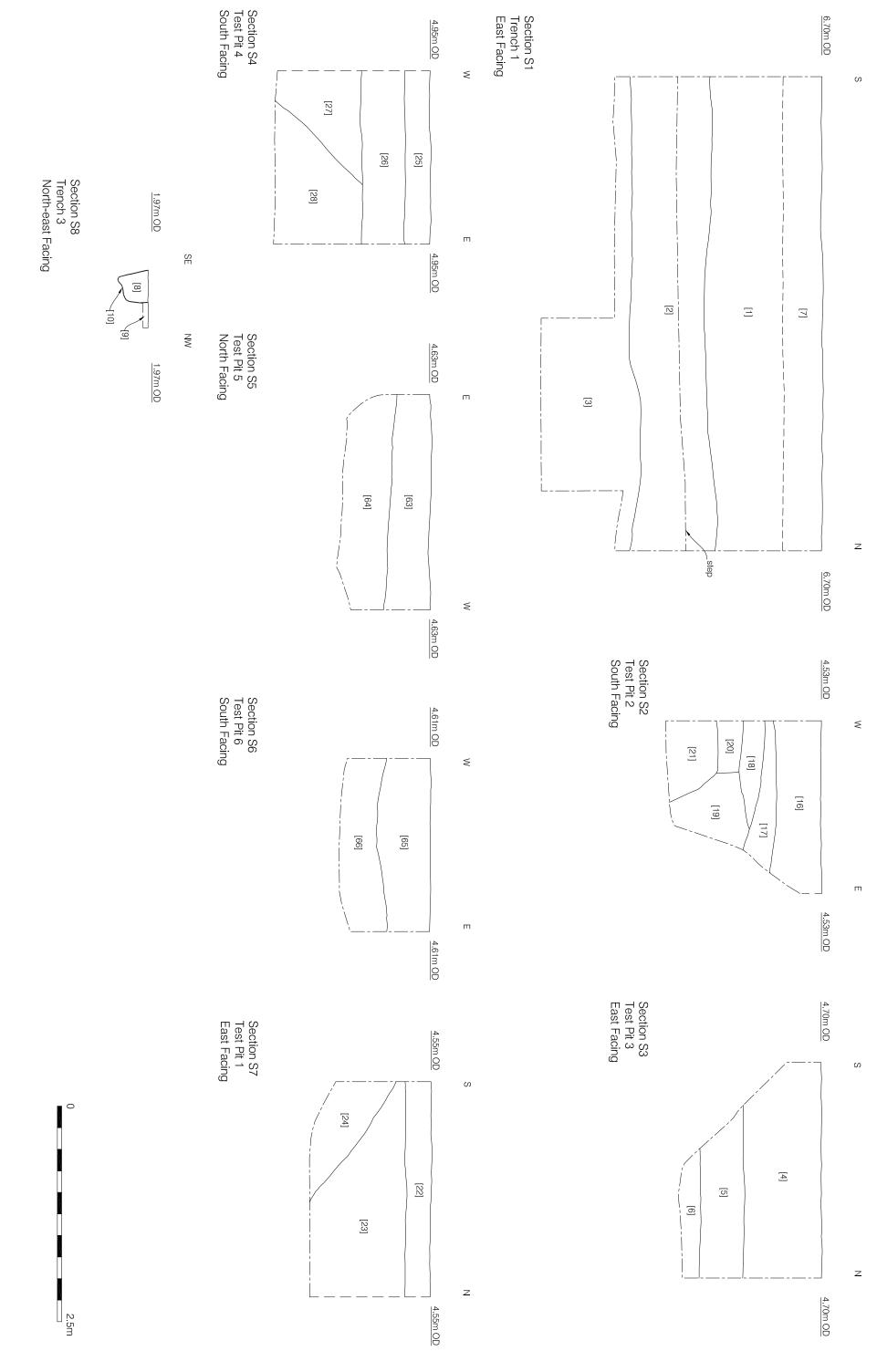
#### 9.3 Phase 3 – Late Post-Medieval

- 9.3.1 All of the trenches and test pits were sealed by late post-medieval made ground deposits, concrete slabs, or both. In Trench 3 there were also additional concrete foundations present that extended into the brickearth deposit.
- 9.3.2 These deposits and features would likely date to the development of the site as a power station by the end of the 1960s, or possibly at the earliest to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the sewerage works was established. The chambers observed during the attempted opening of Trench 2 also appear to date from the site's phase as a power station, due to their respecting and using the walls of the former coal pit, and possibly relate to the 'tank' shown on historic OS Maps.

9.3.3 Based upon the evidence seen during the evaluation it appears that the construction associated with the former power station's coal pit, which remains evident on the site, had the effect of truncating the surface of the natural and archaeological deposits within its footprint.



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#### 9 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

# 10.1 Interpretation

- 10.1.1 Trench 1, Test Pit 1 and Test Pit 4 all yielded evidence of deposits associated with the former line of the River Thames, with in channel deposits and gravel banks being observed. Test Pits 2 and 3 also provided evidence of further high-energy river channel deposits and a gravel bank, likely to have been associated with the Latchmere Stream/Downhall Ditch.
- 10.1.2 The lack of channel deposits in Test Pits 5 and 6, where the only natural deposits observed were sterile Thames Gravels, suggests an area of higher land rising from the banked areas observed in Test Pits 1, 2, and 4 to the west and south, up to the northeast where brickearth deposits were observed in Trench 3.
- 10.1.3 Trench 3, located in the very north-eastern corner of the site, provided the only evidence of brickearth and associated archaeological features. A number of the stakeholes observed appeared to form a linear alignment, and may have formed a fence or boundary line. The function of the northeast to southwest aligned ditch is uncertain, but a use for drainage or irrigation is a possible theory. It is uncertain if the observed possible postholes are associated with each other, or to other observed features. Nor is the function of the possible pit evident.
- 10.1.4 No cultural dating evidence was associated with any of the features observed in Trench 3. The only cultural material recovered during the evaluation had been re-deposited within natural channel deposits and sub-soil horizons, and only indicates the presence of Roman and post-medieval activity within the greater vicinity. Given the prevalence of Roman features recorded in the vicinity, however, it seems reasonable to apportion a likely Roman date to the features recorded in Trench 3.

# 10.2 Conclusions

- 10.2.1 The evaluation revealed the presence of brickearth with surviving archaeological horizons and features in the northeastern corner of the site, though due to the lack of artefacts associated no definitive date can be assigned to any of the features observed. However, on the basis of findings in the wider vicinity of the site, a Roman date can be reasonably assumed.
- 10.2.2 Geoarchaeological deposits were revealed across the site, with evidence relating to the Thames and Downhall Ditch/Latchmere Stream being observed, in the form of both in-channel deposits and gravel banks.

- 10.2.3 The development of the site from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, first as a Sewage Works, then as a Power Station, has resulted in the truncation of the underlying archaeological and geoarchaeological horizons. This is most notable in the area of the former coal pit, where the ground level has been significantly reduced, and made ground deposited directly upon the underlying natural horizons.
- 10.2.4 The results of the evaluation demonstrate that the majority of the central, southern and western areas of the site are occupied by the former line of the River Thames, and channels associated with the confluence of the Thames and the Downhall Ditch/Latchmere Stream. Archaeological evidence is limited to a restricted area located in the extreme northeastern area of the site, the activity presumably extending towards the higher ground beyond the site to the north and west.

# 11 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for his advice during the course of the fieldwork. Thanks also to Diane Walls and Dominique De Moulin of English Heritage for monitoring the work.
- 11.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for his project management, Mark Roughley for the illustrations, Lisa Lonsdale for logistics, and Kevin Hayward for the CBM dates. Thanks are also extended to lain Bright, Pat Cavanagh, Stuart Holden, and Chris Rees for their on site work and assistance.

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# **APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX**

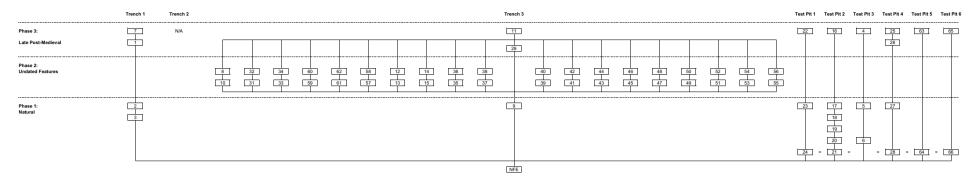
	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Туре	Description	Date	Phase	Photos No.
KPR 09	1	-	S1	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval	3	1 (5-7) 2 (5-7)
KPR 09	2	-	S1	Natural	Silty-Sand	Unknown	1	1 (5-7) 2 (5-7)
KPR 09	3	Tr 1	S1	Natural	Silty-Sand	Unknown	1	1 (5-7) 2 (5-7)
KPR 09	4	-	S3	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval	3	1 (14-16) 2 (14-16)
KPR 09	5	-	S3	Natural	Sand	Unknown	1	1 (14-16) 2 (14-16)
KPR 09	6	TP 3	S3	Natural	Sand	Unknown	1	1 (14-16) 2 (14-16)
KPR 09	7	-	S1	Layer	Concrete	Post-Medieval	3	1 (5-7) 2 (5-7)
KPR 09	8	Tr 3	S8	Fill	Fill of [10]	Unknown	2	1 (26-28) 2 (26-28)
KPR 09	9	Tr 3	-	Natural	Brickearth	Unknown	1	3 (17-22) 4 (11-16)
KPR 09	10	Tr 3	S8	Cut	Ditch	Unknown	2	1 (26-28; 32-34) 2 (26-28; 32-34) 3 (17-22) 4 (10-16)
KPR 09	11	-	-	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval	3	-
KPR 09	12	-	-	Fill	Fill of [13]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	13	Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	1 (29-34) 2 (29-34) 3 (17-22) 4 (11-16)
KPR 09	14	-	-	Fill	Fill of [15]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09		Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	1 (29-34 2 (29-34) 3 (17-22) 4 (11-16)
KPR 09	16	-	S2	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval	3	1 (17-19) 2 (17-19)
KPR 09	17	-	S2	Natural	Alluvium	Unknown	1	1 (17-19) 2 (17-19)
KPR 09	18	-	S2	Natural	Alluvium	Unknown	1	1 (17-19) 2 (17-19)
KPR 09	19	TP 2	S2	Natural	Channel Deposits	Unknown	1	1 (17-19) 2 (17-19)
KPR 09	20	-	S2	Natural	Organic Clay	Unknown	1	1 (17-19) 2 (17-19)

KPR 09	21	TP 2	S2	Natural	Gravels	Unknown	1	1 (17-19) 2 (17-19)
KPR 09	22	-	S7	Layer	Concrete	Post-Medieval	3	1 (20-22) 2 (20-22)
KPR 09	23	-	S7	Natural	Alluvium	Unknown	1	1 (20-22) 2 (20-22)
KPR 09	24	TP 1	S7	Natural	Gravels	Unknown	1	1 (20-22) 2 (20-22)
KPR 09	25	-	S4	Layer	Concrete	Post-Medieval	3	1 (23-25) 2 (23-25)
KPR 09	26	-	S4	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval	3	1 (23-25) 2 (23-25)
KPR 09	27	TP 4	S4	Natural	Sandy-Clay with Gravels	Unknown	1	1 (23-25) 2 (23-25)
KPR 09	28	TP 4	S4	Natural	Gravels	Unknown	1	1 (23-25) 2 (23-25)
KPR 09	29	Tr 3		Structural	Concrete Footings	Post-Medieval	2	3 (17-22) 4 (11-16)
KPR 09	30				VOID		<u> </u>	,
KPR 09	1	Tr 3	-	Cut	Post Hole	Unknown	2	3 (17-22) 4 (10-16)
KPR 09	32	-	-	Fill	Fill of [31]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	33	Tr 3	-		Post Hole		2	3 (17-22) 4 (11-16)
KPR 09	34	-	_	Fill	Fill of [33]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	35	Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	3 (17-22) 4 (10-16)
KPR 09	36	-	-	Fill	Fill of [35]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	37	Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	1 (35-36) 2 (35-36) 3 (17-22) 4 (11-16)
KPR 09	38	-	-	Fill	Fill of [37]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	39	Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	1 (35-36) 2 (35-36) 3 (17-22) 4 (11-16)
KPR 09	40	Tr 3	-	Fill	Fill of [39]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	41	Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	1 (35-36) 2 (35-36) 3 (17-22) 4 (11-16)
KPR 09	42	-	-	Fill	Fill of [41]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09		Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	1 (35-36) 2 (35-36) 3 (17-22) 4 (11-16)
KPR 09	44	-	-	Fill	Fill of [43]	Unknown	2	-
•———		-	•	•			•	

KPR 09	45	Tr 3	<b> </b> -	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	1 (35-36)
								2 (35-36)
								3 (17-22)
								4 (11-16)
KPR 09	46	-	-	Fill	Fill of [45]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	47	Tr 3	_	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	1 (35-36)
								2 (35-36)
								3 (17-22)
								4 (11-16)
KPR 09		-	-	Fill	Fill of [47]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	49	Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	1 (35-36)
								2 (35-36)
								3 (17-22)
								4 (11-16)
KPR 09		-	-	Fill	Fill of [49]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	51	Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Holes	Unknown	2	3 (1-3; 17-22)
								4 (1-3; 11-16)
KPR 09		-	-	Fill	Fill of [51]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	53	Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	3 (1-3; 17-22)
								4 (1-3; 11-16)
KPR 09		-	-	Fill	Fill of [53]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	55	Tr 3	-	Cut	Stake Hole	Unknown	2	3 (1-3; 17-22)
								4 (1-3; 11-16)
KPR 09		-	-	Fill	Fill of [55]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	57	Tr 3	-	Cut	Small Pit?	Unknown	2	3 (1-3; 17-22)
								4 (1-3; 11-16)
KPR 09		-	-	Fill	Fill of [57]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	59	Tr 3	-	Cut	Possible Post Hole	Unknown	2	3 (1-3; 17-22)
								4 (1-3; 11-16)
KPR 09		-	-	Fill	Fill of [59]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	61	Tr 3	-	Cut	Possible Post Hole	Unknown	2	3 (1-3; 17-22)
L/DD 00	00				E:II			4 (1-3; 11-16)
KPR 09		-	-	Fill	Fill of [61]	Unknown	2	-
KPR 09	63	-	S5	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval	3	3 (23-25)
					<u> </u>			4 (17-19)
KPR 09	64	TP 5	S5	Natural	Gravels	Unknown	1	3 (23-25)
L/DE 05	0.5		00		14 1 0	D (22 " ·		4 (17-19)
KPR 09	65	-	S6	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval	3	3 (26-28)
L/DE 0:					ļ <u>.</u>		ļ	4 (20-22)
KPR 09	66	TP 6	S6	Natural	Gravels	Unknown	1	3 (26-28)
								4 (20-22)

# **APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX**

#### APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



# **APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM**

# OASIS ID: preconst1-58961

**Project details** 

Project name Evaluation of the Former Kingston Power Station

Short description of the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of the former Kingston Power Station, comprising of 3 trenches and 6 test pits. Trench 1 and all test pits provided geoarchaeological evidence relating to the former line and deposits of the Thames and Downhall Ditch/Latchmere Channel. Trench 3 revealed brickearth, cut by a ditch, stake holes, and possible pit and post holes, all un-datable. Trench 2 was abandoned for health and safety reasons.

Project dates Start: 14-04-2009 End: 28-04-2009

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

KPR 09 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Current Land use Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities

Monument type STAKE HOLES Uncertain

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Monument type POST HOLES Uncertain

Monument type UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE Modern

Methods & 'Annotated Sketch', 'Environmental Sampling', 'Sample Trenches', 'Test Pits'

techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON KINGSTON UPON THAMES KINGSTON UPON

THAMES Former Kingston Power Station

Postcode KT2 5AH

Site coordinates TQ 179 696 51.4126428919 -0.304485405728 51 24 45 N 000 18 16 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 3.88m Max: 5.48m

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator

CgMs Consulting

Project design originator

**Duncan Hawkins** 

Project

Tim Bradley

director/manager

Project supervisor Sarah Barrowman

Type of sponsor/funding body

Developer

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive recipient

LAARC

Physical Archive ID KPR 09

Physical Contents 'Wood', 'Worked stone/lithics', 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Environmental'

Digital Archive recipient

LAARC

Digital Archive ID KPR 09

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available

'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient

LAARC

Paper Archive ID KPR 09

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available

'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Kingston Power Station, Downhall

Road, Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames, KT2 5AH

An Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Kingston Power Station, Downhall Road, Kingston Upon Thames, KT2 5AH ©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, May 2009

Author(s)/Editor(s) Barrowman, S.

Date 2009

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or publication

r London

Entered by Sarah Barrowman (sbarrowman@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 5 May 2009