

# HERITAGE NETWORK



**New Dining Hall  
NORTHWOOD PREP SCHOOL  
Moor Park, Hertfordshire**

HN1004

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT***



# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

## New Dining Hall NORTHWOOD PREPARATORY SCHOOL Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire

Project ref.: HN1004  
LPA refs.: 12/0245/FUL & 12/0246/LBC  
HER enquiry ref.: 114/12

### *Archaeological Evaluation*

*Prepared on behalf of Northwood Preparatory School*

by

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*The cover illustration shows the site looking west*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones and Robin Densem. The report text was written by Robin Densem and Greg Jones and the illustrations were prepared by Greg Jones. The report was compiled by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

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## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Northwood Prep School, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1LW		
<b>County:</b>	Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b>	Three Rivers
<b>Village/town:</b>	Rickmansworth	<b>Parish:</b>	n/a
<b>Planning reference:</b>	N6/2011/0215/FP	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 23130 15990
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Northwood Preparatory School, Sandy Lodge Road, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1LW		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	Field evaluation	<b>Current land use:</b>	School grounds
<b>Site Status:</b>	AAS	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction from Local Planning Authority
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	Post determination	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	800m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	c.60m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site code:</b>	HN1004	<b>HER reference</b>	114/12
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.:</b>	Field evaluation	<b>Archive Recipient:</b>	Three Rivers Museum
<b>Start of work:</b>	12/07/2012	<b>Finish of work:</b>	07/08/2012
<b>Related HER nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented</b>	Post-medieval
<b>OASIS UID:</b>	heritage1-130608	<b>Significant finds:</b>	BRICK, TILE, GLASS
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	Brick, tile, glass		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	n/a		

### Synopsis:

In response to a condition placed on the planning consent for the construction of new dining hall at Northwood Preparatory School, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the school to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.

The evaluation demonstrated that the ground has been built up by between 1.2 and 1.5m in recent times, using an imported layer of clay. Towards the western end of the proposed building footprint, a modern concrete yard surface was observed at a

depth of 0.4m below the existing ground surface.

The imported material sealed a buried agricultural or horticultural soil beneath which a layer of demolition material was exposed, including hand made and probably local bricks that may relate to the demolition of the 17th century Moor House.

No discrete features, that might be considered to be of archaeological significance, were uncovered although, if present, these would be likely to be protected by more than a metre of mixed overburden.

# 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared at the request of Northwood Preparatory School, as part of a programme of archaeological work carried out in advance of proposed development at the school, located in Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

**1.2** The planning consent for the proposed development (ref: 12/0245/FUL), was granted by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC), subject to a number of standard archaeological conditions issued under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), since superseded by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF).

**1.3** Northwood Preparatory School occupies the former Moor Farm, approximately 2.5km east-southeast of Rickmansworth. The development site lies between the main classroom block and the junior school, centred on NGR TQ 08290 93965.

**1.4** The site lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance 15* (AAS15), defined as an area of human occupation on the gravel terraces of the River Colne. Flint implements of prehistoric date and Romano-British pottery have been recorded in the vicinity and the site also lies within the curtilage of the medieval Manor of the More.

**1.5** The proposed development entails the construction of a new single storey block linking the existing classroom block with the east wing of the junior school, to provide a new dining hall.

## 2. Fieldwork

### TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

**2.1** Northwood Preparatory School is located to the east of Rickmansworth, on the southern edge of the valley created by the confluence of the rivers Gade and Colne. The proposed development area lies on level ground, at approximately 50m OD (Ordnance Survey 1998).

**2.2** The site lies on the boundary of two soil associations. To the east are soils of the Windsor Association (712c) described as *Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils. Some fine loamy over clayey and fine silty over clayey soils and, locally on slopes, clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging.* To the west the soils are derived from the Sonning 1 Association (581b) described as *Well drained flinty coarse loamy and sandy soils, mainly over river gravel. Some coarse loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging* (SSEW 1983).

**2.3** The underlying geology consists of chalk of the Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formations, below clay, silt, sand and gravel of the Shepperton Gravel Member ([www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)).

### METHODOLOGY

**2.4** All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

**2.5** Test-pits and trenches were located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures. All test-pits and trenches were opened using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. The test-pits were machined to a depth of 1m, and the trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate.

**2.6** The trenches were cleaned by hand, and any potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

**2.7** All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. The plan of Trench 1 was drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:50, and the section at a scale of 1:10. Other dimensioned drawings of the trenches were made on trench record sheets.

### RESULTS

#### Test-pits

**2.8** Six geotechnical test-pits were excavated on the site in July 2012 to investigate the ground conditions within the footprint of the proposed new building and to guide the further investigation of the site. These test-pits were monitored by a member of the Heritage Network's staff in order to record any archaeological remains that might be exposed.

**2.9** The location of the test-pits is shown on Figure 2. Test-pits 1 and 2, at the eastern end of the development footprint, and Test-pit 5 abutting the existing classroom block, revealed



made ground to a depth of at least 1m below the existing surface. Test-pit 3 exposed the foundations to the Junior School building and Test-pit 4 exposed a concrete surface c.0.40m below the existing ground surface. This is understood to form part of the earlier farmyard, predating the school's occupation of the site, and was identified on an aerial photograph belonging to the school and dating to 1984. Test-pit 6, at the western end of the development footprint, revealed made ground to a depth of 0.12m, below which a layer of very dark grey clay silt with inclusions of crushed brick/tile was exposed. The limited size of the test-pit prevented the further investigation of the layer at that time.

### *Test-Pit 1*

**2.10** Test-pit 1 was located approximately in the middle of the grassed area (Figure 1). It measured 1m x 1m and was 1m in depth.

**2.11** The stratigraphy in TP1 consisted of friable (10 YR 4/1) 'Dark Grey' sandy clay silt topsoil with occasional rounded stones and frequent asbestos fragments, to a depth of c.0.3m. Further excavation revealed modern made ground below the topsoil, consisting of 'Brown'(10 YR 4/3) firm mixed silty clay, with occasional modern brick fragments and occasional rounded stones >0.7m thick (Plate 1). One residual post-medieval brick fragment was uncovered from within the fill. No archaeology was seen and the natural substratum was not reached.

### *Test-Pit 2*

**2.12** Test-pit 2 was located on the southern edge of the site, abutting the school building (Figure 1). It measured 1m x 1m x 1m in depth.

**2.13** The stratigraphy also consisted of friable (10 YR 4/1) 'Dark Grey' sandy clay silt topsoil with occasional rounded stones and frequent asbestos fragments, to a depth of c.0.3m (same as Test Pit 1). Further excavation revealed modern made ground below the topsoil, consisting of 'Brown'(10 YR 4/3) firm mixed silty clay, with occasional modern brick fragments and occasional rounded stones >0.7m thick. Cutting into this layer a modern service trench/drain was seen and the concrete foundations of the building (Plate 2). No archaeology was seen and the natural substratum was not reached.

### *Test-Pit 3*

**2.14** Test-pit 3 was located on the north western edge of the site abutting the school building (Figure 1 & Plate 3). It measured 1m x 1m in area and was 0.45m deep.

**2.15** The stratigraphy consisted of a firm (10 YR 4/3) 'Brown' silty clay layer, which contained frequent concrete fragments, occasional modern metal objects and occasional bits of plastic. Below this layer, at a depth of 0.45m, the concrete foundations of the building were revealed (Plate 3) and no deeper excavation was possible.

### *Test-Pit 4*

**2.16** Test-pit 4 was located immediately to the east of the existing rubberised playground surface (Figure 1 & Plate 4) and measured 1m x 1m x 0.4m deep.

**2.17** The stratigraphy consisted of friable (10 YR 4/1) ‘Dark Grey’ sandy clay silt topsoil with occasional rounded stones and frequent asbestos fragments, to a depth of c.0.3m. Immediately below the topsoil a modern demolition layer was revealed, consisting of modern brick and concrete rubble, plastic and old broken electrical parts. Below this layer, at a depth of 0.4m, was a modern concrete surface and a concrete ‘lip’ (Plate 4).

**2.18** Based on an aerial photograph held by the school, this appears to form a farmyard surface which was in existence in 1984, prior to the construction of the junior school.

*Test-Pit 5*

**2.19** Test-pit 5 was located on the southern edge of the site, in the south western corner, abutting the school building (Figure 1). It measured 1m x 1m x 1m in depth.

**2.20** The stratigraphy consisted of friable (10 YR 4/1) ‘Dark Grey’ sandy clay silt topsoil with occasional rounded stones and frequent asbestos fragments, to a depth of c.0.3m. Further excavation revealed modern made ground below the topsoil, consisting of ‘Brown’(10 YR 4/3) firm mixed silty clay, with occasional modern brick fragments and occasional rounded stones >0.7m thick. Cutting into this layer was a modern service trench/drain and the concrete foundations of the building (Plate 5). No archaeology was seen and the natural substratum was not reached.

*Test-Pit 6*

**2.21** Test-pit 6 was excavated in the location of the proposed evaluation trench, towards the western end of the proposed building footprint (Figure 1 & Plate 6). The topsoil was the same as that seen in the majority of the other test pits and it overlay 0.9m of modern made ground, similar to that observed in Test pits 1, 2, 4 & 5.

**2.22** Feature (603) consisted of soft ‘very dark grey’ (10 YR 3/1) clay silt with tiny fragments of brick or tile (Plate 6). It was exposed at a depth of 1.2m and measured >1m x >0.6m x unknown depth, extending beyond the limit of excavation.

*Trial Trenches*

**2.23** Three trenches, numbered 1 to 3 (Figure 2), were excavated within the footprint of the proposed new building.

*Trench 1*

**2.24** Trench 1 was located in the southwest of the site, within the footprint of the proposed building (Figures 2-4, Plates 7 & 8). It was orientated east-west and measured 10.0m in length, 2.0m in width and was excavated to a depth of up to 1.9m.

*Trench 1 data:*

<b>Length (m):</b>	10.0	<b>Width (m):</b>	2.0	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.9	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
<b>Level at E End of Trench (mOD)</b>	Top	n/a	<b>Level at W End of Trench (mOD)</b>	Top	n/a		

		Base	n/a			Base	n/a
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Thickness		
1001	Layer	Hard, (10YR 6/3) pale brown silty clay with occasional concrete and brick and tile fragments.	10.0	2.0	1.1		
1002	Layer	Compacted (10YR 4/2) dark greyish brown sandy, silty clay with moderate tile fragments and occasional brick fragments, and one piece of glass	10.0	2.0	>0.7		
1003	Layer	Friable (10YR 5/2) greyish brown clay/silt with sand with moderate sub-angular gravel to 10mm.	10.0	2.0	0.10		

**2.25** The topsoil in Trench 1 consisted of 0.1m of a friable greyish brown clay/silt with sand (1003), with moderate sub-angular gravel to 10mm in diameter. This sealed a 1.1m thick layer of pale brown silty clay (1001) that contained occasional concrete and brick and tile fragments, interpreted as an imported levelling deposit. Within this, two modern service cables were revealed running diagonally across the trench from northwest to southeast, at a depth of c.0.2m. They were left in situ (Figure 3).

**2.26** Beneath the levelling deposit was a 0.70m thick deposit of dark greyish brown sandy silty clay (1002) with brick and tile fragments, that extended beyond the limit of excavation. This deposit was thought to represent a buried agricultural/horticultural earth. A sample of the brick and tile fragments, and a fragment of glass were collected from this deposit.

**2.27** No significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

### Trench 2

**2.28** Trench 2 was located in the southeast of the site, within the footprint of the proposed building (Plate 9). It was orientated east-west and measured 4.5m in length, 1.85m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.6m.

#### Trench 2 data:

Length (m):	4.5	Width (m):	1.85	Maximum Depth (m):	1.6	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	n/a	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	n/a
		Base	n/a			Base	n/a
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Thickness		
2001	Layer	Hard, (10YR 6/3) pale brown silty clay with occasional concrete and brick and tile fragment, and with moderate sub-angular gravel to 10mm	4.50	1.85	1.2		
2002	Layer	Medium compacted (10YR 4/2) dark greyish brown sandy, silty clay with moderate tile fragments and occasional brick fragments, and occasional glass fragments	4.5	1.85	>0.3		
2003	Layer	Friable (10YR 5/2) greyish-brown clay/silt with sand with moderate sub-angular gravel to 10mm.	10.0	2.0	0.10		

**2.29** The topsoil in Trench 2 consisted of 0.1m of a friable greyish brown clay/silt with sand (1003), with moderate sub-angular gravel to 10mm in diameter. This sealed a 1.2m thick layer of pale brown silty clay (2001) that contained occasional concrete and brick and tile

fragments, and moderate sub-angular gravel 10mm, interpreted as an imported levelling deposit.

**2.30** Beneath the levelling deposit was a 0.30m thick deposit of dark greyish brown sandy silty clay (2002) with brick and tile fragments, that extended beyond the limit of excavation. This deposit was thought to represent a buried agricultural/horticultural earth and contained brick and tile fragments similar to those collected from Trench 1.

**2.31** The earliest deposit, exposed at the base of the trench, consisted of 0.30m of dark greyish brown sandy silty clay (2002) with brick and tile fragments, that extended beyond the limits of excavation. This deposit was thought to represent a buried agricultural/horticultural earth. No brick or tile fragments were collected.

**2.32** A broken 0.15m diameter ceramic drain pipe was found at a depth of 1.6m, in a c.0.6m wide pipe trench that had been dug into the agricultural earth. The pipe and its construction trench were sealed by the levelling deposit (2001). The pipe was dry, and was left in situ.

**2.33** No significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

**Trench 3**

**2.34** Trench 3 was located towards the middle of the footprint of the proposed buildings (Figure 5, Plate 10). It was 3m square and was excavated to a depth of 2.2m.

**Trench 3 data**

<b>Length (m):</b>	3.0	<b>Width (m):</b>	3.0	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	2.2	<b>Orientation</b>	East-west and north-south
<b>Level at E End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	n/a	<b>Level at W End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	n/a
		<b>Base</b>	n/a			<b>Base</b>	n/a
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>				
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Thickness</b>		
3001	Layer	Hard, (10YR 6/3) pale brown silty clay with occasional concrete and brick and tile fragment, and with moderate sub-angular gravel to 10mm	3.0	3.0	1.1		
3002	Layer	Compacted (10YR 4/2) dark greyish brown sandy, silty clay with moderate tile fragments and occasional brick and glass fragments	3.0	3.0	0.3		
3003	Layer	Hard (10YR 5/2) greyish brown silty clay with moderate large brick fragments and frequent small brick and tile fragments	2.0	2.0	0.2		
3004	Layer	c.0.3m of asbestos fragments overlain by 0.10m of friable (10YR 5/2) greyish-brown clay/silt & sand topsoil with moderate sub-angular gravel to 10mm.	3.0	3.0	0.40		
3005	Layer	Hard (10YR 5/2) greyish brown silty clay	2.0	2.0	>0.2		

**2.35** The topsoil in Trench 3 consisted of 0.1m of a friable greyish brown clay/silt with sand (3003), with moderate sub-angular gravel to 10mm. This sealed a 0.3m thick layer of cement asbestos fragments that was damped down, bagged and removed by the groundworks contractor. Beneath this was a pale brown sticky silty clay (3001) that contained occasional concrete and brick and tile fragments, and moderate sub-angular gravel to 10mm diameter, interpreted as an imported levelling deposit.

**2.36** Beneath the levelling deposit was a 0.30m thick deposit of dark greyish brown sandy silty clay (3002) with brick and tile fragments, that extended beyond the limit of excavation. This deposit was thought to represent a buried agricultural/horticultural earth and contained brick and tile fragments similar to those collected from Trench 1.

**2.37** Beneath the buried earth was a deposit of grey clay (3003) with moderate large brick fragments and frequent small brick and tile fragments, 0.2m thick. This may represent a spread of demolition debris from a post-medieval brick structure, which sealed the natural horizon consisting of hard greyish brown silty clay (3005).

## **FINDS ASSESSMENT**

### **Finds Concordance**

Context	Brick		Tile		Glass		Notes
	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	
TP1	1	1105					
1002	16	840	11	600	1	710	
3003	2	2875	1	105			
<b>Total</b>	19	6590	12	705	1	710	

### **Brick**

**2.38** A total of 19 brick fragments, weighing 6590g, was recovered from two contexts. The 16 fragments recovered from layer (1002) were small abraded pieces of handmade brick, probably of post-medieval date. The 2 larger brick fragments recovered from layer (3003) were of a similar fabric and were identifiable as crude handmade bricks, untrimmed and made with poorly pugged clay, with traces of mortar adhering to them. They are of probable post-medieval date. A single brick was recovered from Test-Pit 1, which was also handmade and of coarse fabric including spots of potassium permanganate.

**2.39** Overall the assemblage is of little intrinsic significance, given its small size and fragmentary nature, though it is indicative both of local brick production and of demolished brick structures in the close vicinity.

### **Tile**

**2.40** A total of 12 fragments of tile, weighing 705g, was recovered from two contexts. There was a single fragment of post-medieval, possibly 19<sup>th</sup> century, roof tile with a high fired sandy fabric from deposit (3003). A further 11 fragments of post-medieval tile, were recovered from layer (1002). These were of a similar fabric and one fragment had a peg hole.

**2.41** Overall the assemblage is of little intrinsic significance, given its small size and fragmentary nature, though it is indicative of demolished structures in the close vicinity.

### **Glass**

**2.42** A single piece of glass, weighing 710g, was recovered from layer (1002). This fragment was a piece of thick frosted safety glass dating to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**2.43** This modern glass fragment is of little archaeological significance.

## 3. Discussion

### *Archaeological Background*

**3.1** The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 15 (AAS15), defined as an area of human occupation on the gravel terraces of the River Colne. Prehistoric activity in the area is concentrated on the north side of the River Colne and on Moor Park Golf Course, and consists of chance finds rather than evidence of settlement. These include Palaeolithic implements to the north of the present site (HER 4960), Mesolithic implements (HER 877 & 4935) and a Neolithic tranchet axe from the Moor Park Golf Club (HER 6037).

**3.2** Romano-British pottery has been recorded in the vicinity and the site of a second century Roman villa (HER 82) has been investigated on Moor Park Golf Course, approximately 400m south-west of the present site.

**3.3** The school lies within the curtilage of the medieval Manor of the More. The moated manor house (HER 826 & 829) was situated immediately to the west of the present school buildings under the school playing fields.

**3.4** The first definite mention of the manor was in 1182, when the Abbot of St Albans Abbey exchanged the manor for land in Buckinghamshire. Excavations by Martin Biddle in the early 1950s revealed that between c.1250 and 1426 the moated area underwent several phases of reorganisation (Biddle et al, 1959). Until the early fifteenth century, the manor is thought to have been fairly small and insignificant and appears to have fairly poorly constructed of timber with stone or tile (Smith, 1992, p.23).

**3.5** In 1416, it was conveyed to William Flete, a London merchant, and others. In 1426, together with Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, he obtained a Royal licence 'to enclose, crenellate, enturret and embattle with stones, lime and brick, their Manor of More in Rickmersworth and also to empark 600 acres of land'. The new mansion was large and elaborate (Biddle et al, 1959, p.137).

**3.6** By the mid-fifteenth century Sir Ralph Boteler, Lord of Sudeley, held the manor, but after Sir Ralph's death, the Abbot rebought possession. In 1521, Thomas Wolsey was made Abbot of St Albans and the manor became one of his principal country residences. He also altered and enlarged the house and grounds. In 1525, the Treaty of the More, making peace between England and France, was signed here.

**3.7** After Wolsey's fall, the manor came into the possession of Henry VIII. Catharine of Aragon was sent here during the divorce proceedings against her. In 1540, it was given to Anne of Cleves for life as part of her divorce settlement. By 1598, the building was in ruins and occupied by squatters (Biddle et al, 1959, p.137). It was still standing in 1655, but was demolished shortly afterwards. The site of the principal manor house then moved to Moor Park, to the south of the moated site and, in 1663, a new house, known as Moor House, was built by Sir Richard Franklin, who had sold the park to the Marquis of Ormonde but retained the manorial lands.

**3.8** The layout of the Moor House site is shown on Dury and Andrews' Map of Hertfordshire dated 1766. It shows a square property aligned north-east to south-west and bisected by a drive or lane. The north-western block occupies the site of the Manor of the More, with the

moat surviving at the north-eastern end and what appear to be gardens to the south-west, with a square building beyond, and three other buildings along the south-eastern boundary. The south-eastern block occupies the site of the later Moor Farm, with a concentration of buildings at the north-eastern end and along the north-western boundary, and a lone building in a square enclosure in the southern corner. Gardens or an orchard appear to be laid out along the south-eastern boundary. On the basis of a series of overlays prepared by staff at the Bodleian Library for Professor Martin Biddle, in the course of his ongoing researches into the site, the footprint of the present proposed development appears to cross the footprint of the L-shaped building shown in the north-east corner of the south-eastern block.

**3.9** A photograph of a watercolour painting, obtained by Professor Biddle and believed to show Moor House, shows a substantial brick house of two storeys and attics, with five Dutch gables to the frontage, and sliding sash windows that appear to be of a type that began to come into use in the late 1670s. The house was still standing when visited by Sir John Soane in about 1800 with a view to his making improvements. These were apparently never carried out and the house was demolished before 1814 when its site is shown as open ground on the Moor Farm estate plan (HALS 79958X).

**3.10** The buildings of Moor Farm, now occupied by the Northwood Preparatory School, lie immediately to the south-east of the moated site of the Manor of the More, and date to the seventeenth century at the earliest (DoE, 1985). They are likely to be those depicted on Dury and Andrews' map, and may form part of the property built by Sir Richard Franklin.

**3.11** The cartographic evidence for the site shows that essentially the layout of the farm buildings has changed very little since the mid-nineteenth century. The Tithe Map of 1839 (HALS off acc 550) shows the courtyard, formed by the ranges of barns to the north, west and east and the farm house to the south. This basic layout underwent various small alterations during the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**3.12** The Manor of the More moat was backfilled in the twentieth century and now lies beneath the school playing fields. When Northwood Preparatory School moved to the site in 1982, several of the existing farm buildings underwent alteration to fit them for use as classrooms and offices, and additional buildings including a sports hall, a science and technology block, a junior school annexe and a theatre, have been built since.

**3.13** Archaeological investigations on the site, undertaken by the Heritage Network since 1999, have identified the remains of an 18th-19th century aisled barn in the southern margins of the footprint of the Science and Technology building, and a number of other walls of similar date (Hillelson 1999, Hillelson & Ashworth 2001, Turner 2007).

### **Research Design**

**3.14** The aim of the present programme of work has been to identify any archaeological remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, consider their location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011), and provide a local and regional archaeological and historical context for them.

**3.15** It was considered that such investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development and extent of the seventeenth century and later Moor Park mansion, and the Moor Farm, of similar date.

### Discussion

**3.16** Six test pits and three trial trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed development.

**3.17** Natural clay (3005) was only revealed in Trench 3, and this was overlain by a possible demolition layer (3003) containing hand-made post-medieval brick. This could represent demolition of seventeenth century structures in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, or perhaps during the construction of the railway embankment immediately to the northeast of the site. This line was opened in 1887, and the railway is not shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1883.

**3.18** Overlying (3003) and extending across the site was a buried soil (1002), (2002) and (3002) that contained post-medieval brick and tile and a piece of modern glass. This was overlain by a levelling layer of imported clay (1001), (2001) and (3001), up to 1.2m thick.

**3.19** A number of modern services were observed below the topsoil layer that covered much of the site and, at the western end of the proposed building footprint, a modern concrete yard surface was observed.

### Conclusions

**3.20** The evaluation demonstrated that the ground has been built up by between 1.2 and 1.5m in recent times, using an imported layer of clay. Towards the western end of the proposed building footprint, a modern concrete yard surface was observed at a depth of 0.4m below the existing ground surface.

**3.21** The imported material sealed a buried agricultural or horticultural soil that included fragments of post-medieval brick and tile and a piece of modern glass, suggesting that it had been open ground at some point in the fairly recent past. Beneath this, and above the natural horizon, a layer of demolition material was exposed, including hand made and probably local bricks, which may relate to the demolition of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Moor House.

**3.22** No discrete features, that might be considered to be of archaeological significance, were uncovered although, if present, these would be likely to be protected by more than a metre's depth of mixed overburden.

**3.23** On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might disturb significant archaeological remains is considered to be *Moderate* for the post-medieval period and *Low* for all other periods.

**3.24** On the basis that the foundation design will involve piling, the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains of all periods is considered to be *Low*.

### Confidence Rating

**3.25** In the course of the fieldwork the weather, ground and light conditions were acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

**3.26** There are no circumstances that would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.



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## 5. Illustrations

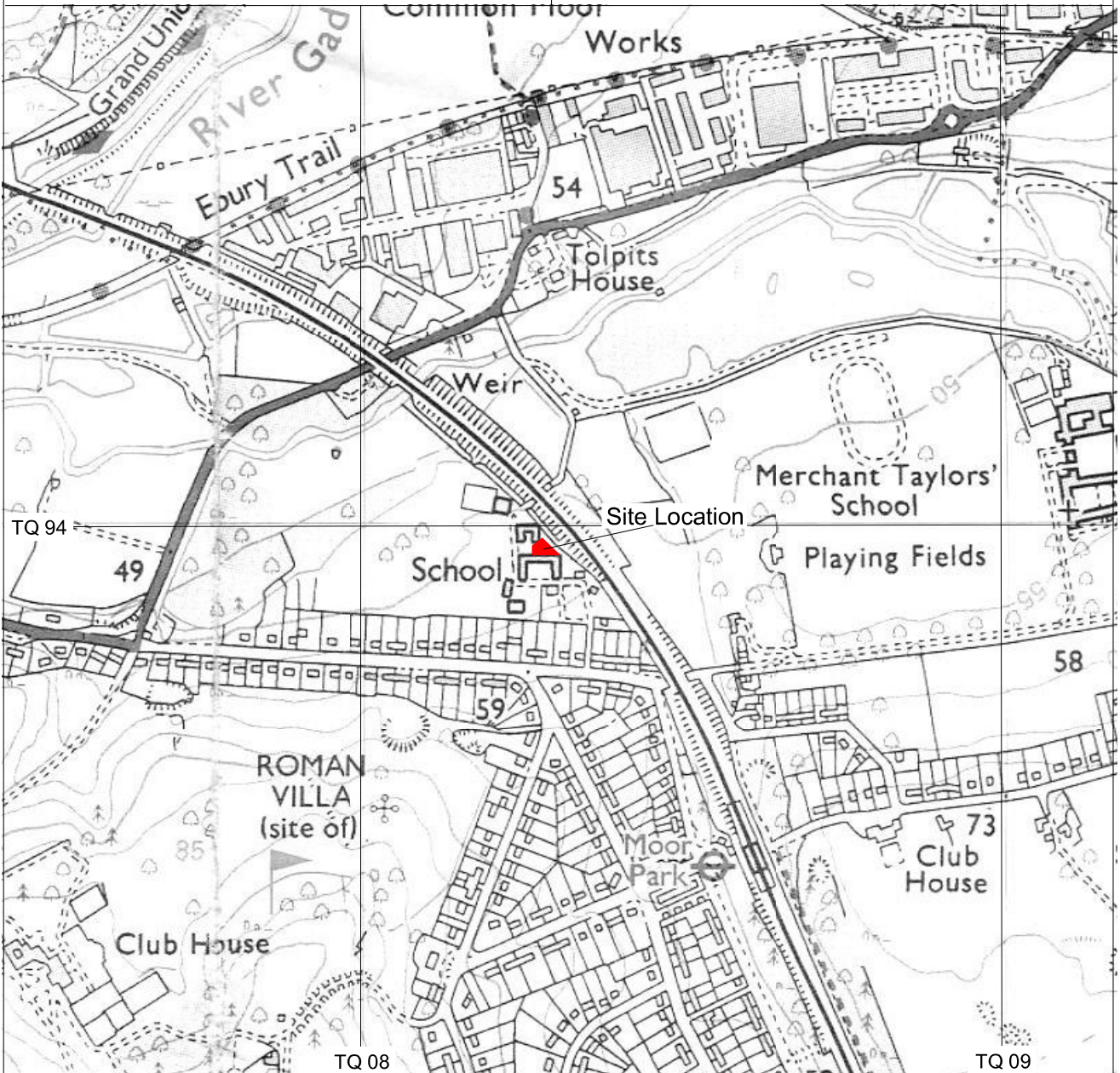
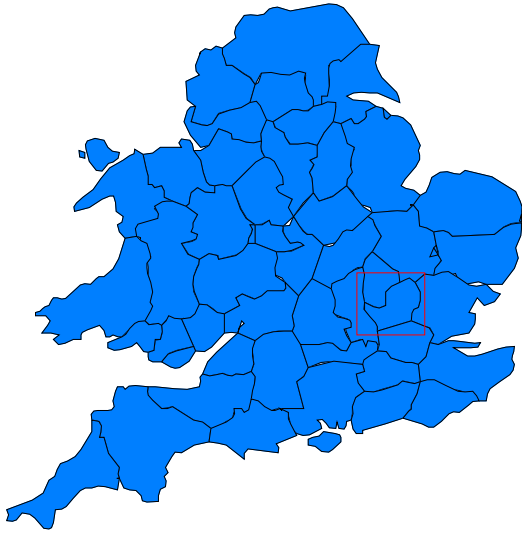
Figure 1 ..... Site location  
Figure 2 ..... Location of Test-Pits and Trial Trenches  
Figure 3 ..... Trench 1: Plan  
Figure 4 ..... Trench 1: Section  
Figure 5 ..... Trench 3: Plan and Section

Plate 1 ..... TP1, looking south  
Plate 2 ..... TP2, looking west  
Plate 3 ..... TP3, looking north  
Plate 4 ..... TP4, looking west  
Plate 5 ..... TP5, looking east  
Plate 6 ..... TP6, looking south  
Plate 7 ..... Trench 1 during excavation, looking east  
Plate 8 ..... Section 1, looking south  
Plate 9 ..... Trench 2, looking east  
Plate 10 ..... Trench 3, looking east

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Moor Park, Rickmansworth

HN1004

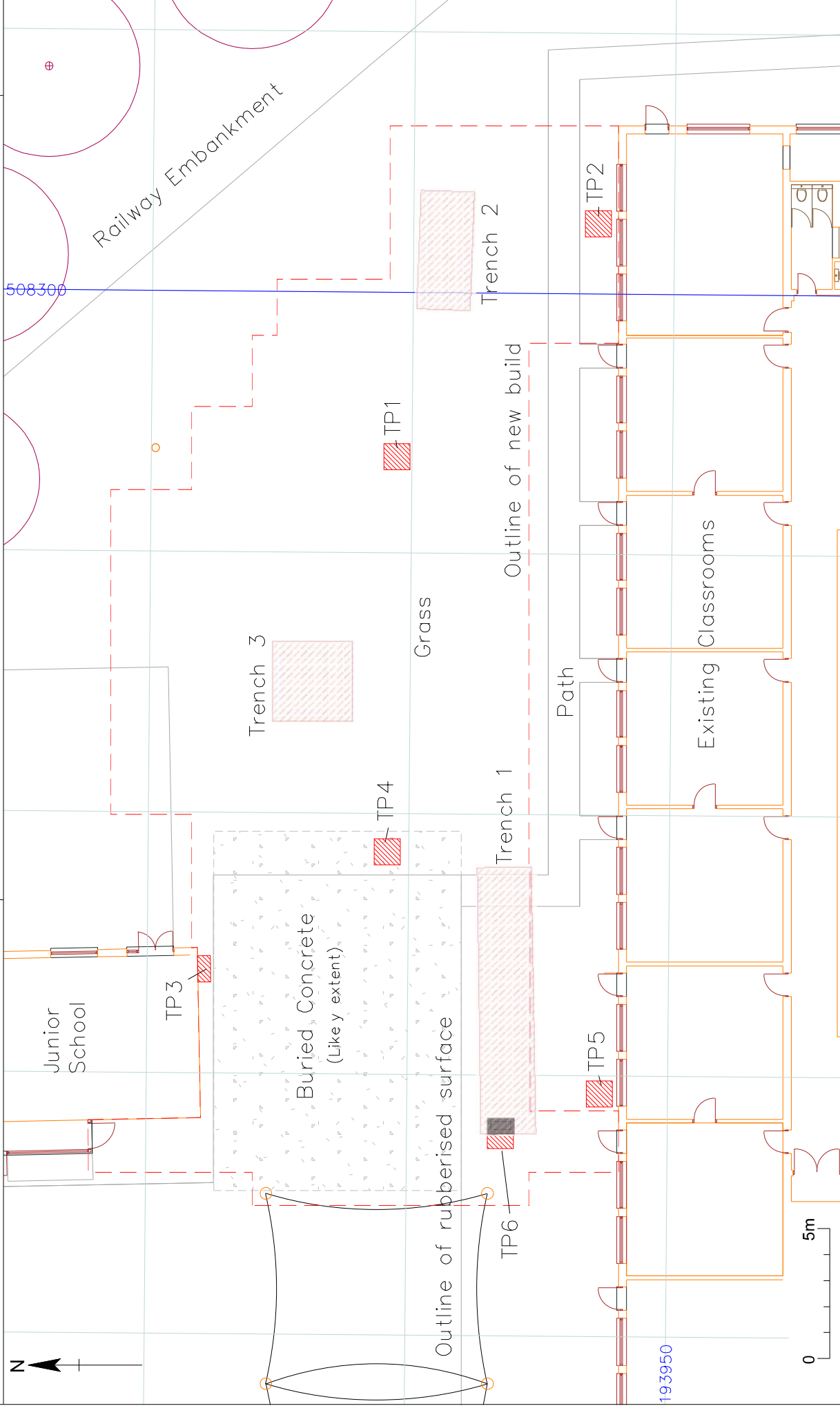


Site Location

Scale 1:10,000

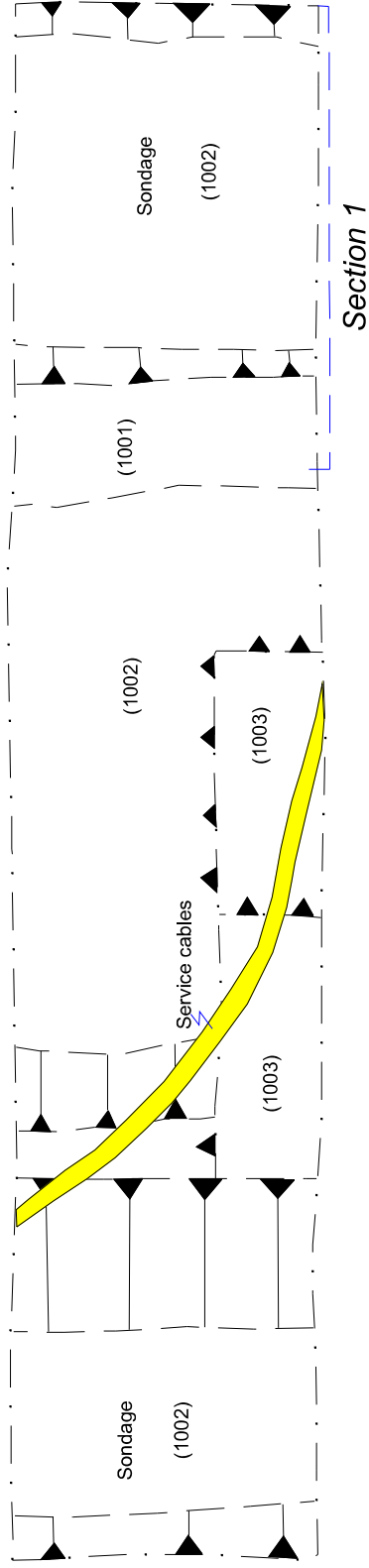
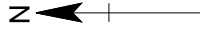
(Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no.AL100014861)

Figure 1

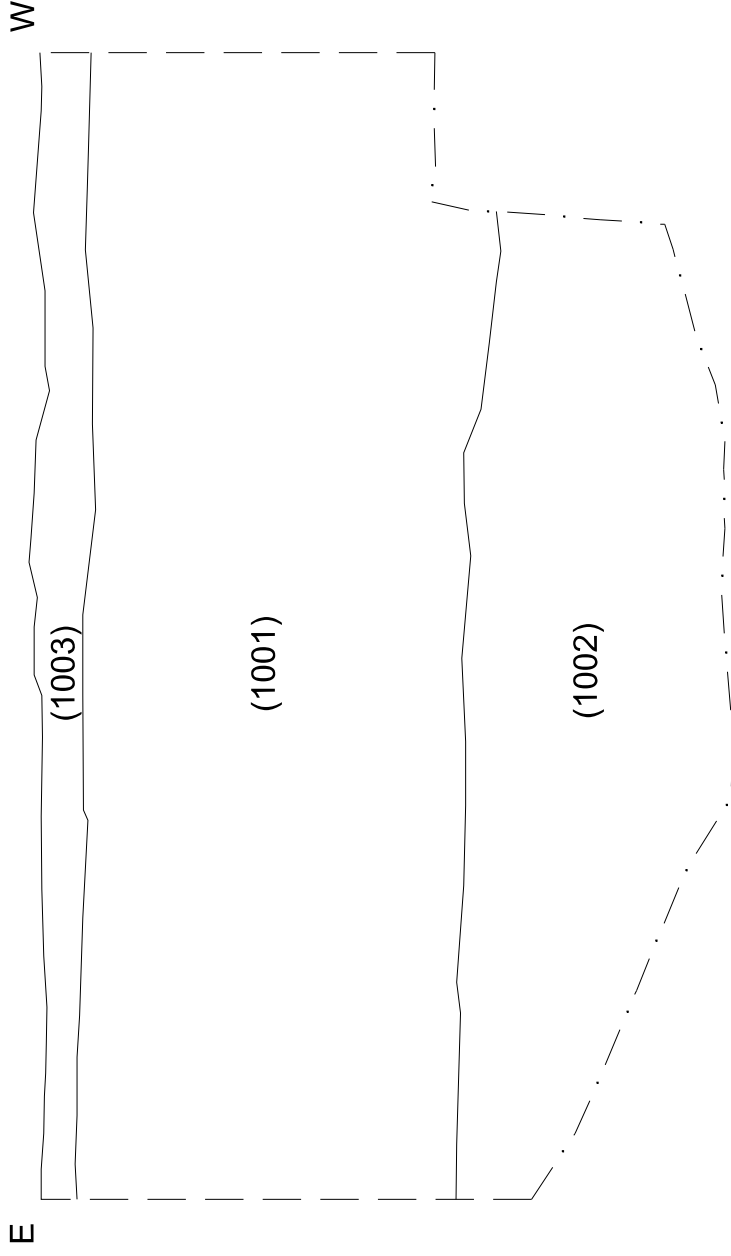


Location of Test-Pits and Trial Trenches

Scale 1:200  
Figure 1

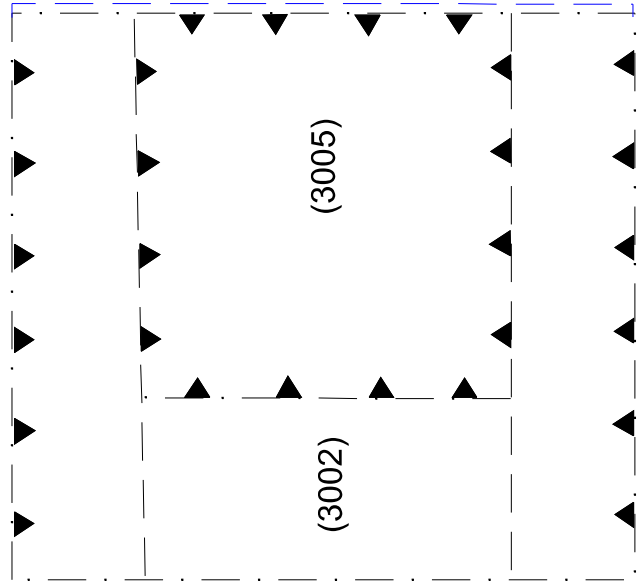
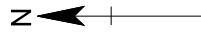


Plan of Trench 1

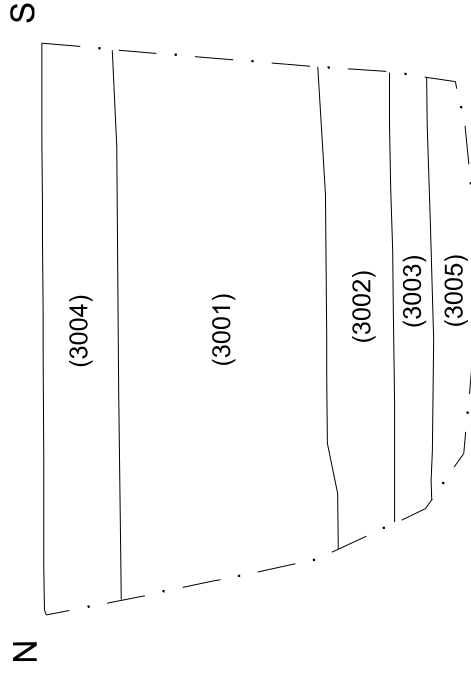


Section 1, north facing





Trench 3 Plan



Trench 3 Section,  
looking west







Plate 1: TP1 looking south



Plate 2: TP2 looking west



Plate 3: TP3 looking north



Plate 4: TP4 looking west



Plate 5: TP5 looking east



Plate 6: TP6 looking south



Plate 7: Trench 1 during excavation, looking east



Plate 8: Section 1, looking south



Plate 9: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 10: Trench 3, looking east



# Appendix

## OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-130608</i>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	Northwood Prep School, Moor Park, Rickmansworth
Short description of the project	<p>In response to a condition placed on the planning consent for the construction of new dining hall at Northwood Preparatory School, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the school to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.</p> <p>The evaluation demonstrated that the ground has been built up by between 1.2 and 1.5m in recent times, using an imported layer of clay. Towards the western end of the proposed building footprint, a modern concrete yard surface was observed at a depth of 0.4m below the existing ground surface.</p> <p>The imported material sealed a buried agricultural or horticultural soil beneath which a layer of demolition material was exposed, including hand made and probably local bricks that may relate to the demolition of the 17th century Moor House.</p> <p>No discrete features, that might be considered to be of archaeological significance, were uncovered although, if present, these would be likely to be protected by more than a metre of mixed overburden.</p>
Project dates	Start: 12-07-2012 End: 07-08-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HN1004 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods	"Sample Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE THREE RIVERS MOOR PARK Northwood Preparatory School
Postcode	WD3 1LW
Study area	58.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 08290 93965 51 0 51 38 00 N 000 26 06 W Point

<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Three Rivers Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Three Rivers Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Three Rivers Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	New Dining Hall NORTHWOOD PREPARATORY SCHOOL Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Densem, R. and Jones, G..
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report No. 737
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 14 pages, 5 figures, 10 plates