



# EDEN WALK (South Piling Works) London KT1

London Borough of Kingston Upon Thames

Report on an archaeological watching brief

August 2018



**EDEN WALK  
(South Piling Works)  
Kingston upon Thames  
London KT1**

Site Code MEG15  
NGR 580121 169144  
OASIS reference 325633

Planning reference 15/13063/FUL  
Condition Number 33

Report on an archaeological watching brief

**Sign-off History:**

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## Summary

*This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by MOLA at Eden Walk, South Piling Works, Kingston upon Thames, KT1. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Padston Consulting Ltd on behalf of the client British Land.*

*In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2018) a watching brief was carried out on the site between 6th July and 8th August 2018 as part of enabling works for the main development of the Eden Walk Shopping Centre. The investigation related to piling works to the south entrance of Eden Walk, involving ground reduction on the south side of the site into which a group of seven mini piles was inserted .*

*London clay was overlain by natural sand and gravel with evidence for waterlogging and potential organic matter. Above the gravel was a depth of banded fine sandy silts and clay sediments representing evidence for the stream channel first recorded in 1965 by the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society, during the redevelopment for the construction of a multi-storey car park, to the east of the site. Above the channel was the made-up ground associated with the construction of the modern Eden Walk Shopping Centre.*

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Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Trench location plan

Fig 3 View of Trench 11

Fig 4 View of the channel silt risings

Fig 5 Section showing the sequence of deposits on site (based on the risings)

Fig 6 Plan showing the site in relation to the 1965 excavation

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Site background

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- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA at Eden Walk, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 ('the site') between 6th July and 8th August 2018 (see *Fig 1*). This document is the Report on that work.
- 1.1.2 A desk top Archaeological Assessment (HEA) was previously prepared which covers the whole area of the site (MOLA 2015). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site (and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential).
- 1.1.3 Further to the condition on Planning Consent a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2018). All archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with that WSI.

## 1.2 Planning background

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- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the watching brief took place was fully set out in the *Archaeological impact assessment* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 9 MOLA 2015).
- 1.2.2 The watching brief was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by the the borough of Kingston upon Thames Local Authority (Consent reference 15/13063FUL; Condition number 33).

## 1.3 Scope of the watching brief

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- 1.3.1 An archaeological watching brief is normally a limited fieldwork exercise. It is not the same as full excavation, though individual features may be fully excavated.
- 1.3.2 The watching brief was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA, 2014).
- 1.3.3 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's research framework for London Archaeology, 2002.
- 1.3.4 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the watching breg (section 2).

## 2 Topographical and historical background

- 2.1.1 A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier Archaeological desk-based assessment (MOLA, 2015). A brief summary is provided here:
- 2.1.2 The site was subject to an archaeological investigation prior to its extensive redevelopment in the late 1960s to 1980s. Evidence of an ancient river channel running south to north through the eastern part of the site was found, with associated remains of Neolithic to Bronze Age activity; some Iron Age and Roman material was also found. In the central part of the Site the remains of a medieval pottery kiln were revealed.
- 2.1.3 Kingston was a significant centre for the manufacture of 'Surrey Whiteware', one of the main types of pottery used in London from c 1230 to the second half of the 14th century, and other such kilns have been recorded outside the site to the east. More recently, as part of the present scheme, trial pit evaluation has been carried out in the north-western part of the site in order to confirm the presence of human remains associated with its former use as a burial ground. This revealed the remains of a 19th century brick tomb, associated 18th–20th century finds along with disarticulated bone.

## 3 The watching brief

### 3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 The slab was broken out and cleared by the contractors. The trench was excavated by machine by the contractor and modern made-up ground removed down to 1.00m below ground level (bgl), prior to the establishment of a piling mat, through which piles were driven. Inspection of the pile risings could only be made after cessation of activity.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological excavation of features was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2018).
- 3.1.3 The trench was plotted on plans provided by the client using an 'offset methodology' and subsequently tied to the OS grid.
- 3.1.4 Where referenced in this report (eg '13.45m OD'), levels relate to OS Ordnance Datum and calculated by measurement from a nearby spot height on a plan provided to us by the client titled 'Eden Walk Existing Ground floor.dwg'.
- 3.1.5 Because of the nature of the fieldwork it was not possible to accurately calculate OS OD levels and these are based on the relative depth levels 'approximately 3.5m below slab level'.

### 3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2018).

### 3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	1
Number of overall location plans	1
Number of Context (SU) sheets	4
Number of photographs	9
Number of Plan sheets	1
Number of Sections	1
	17

## 4 Results of the watching brief

For the trench location see *Fig 2*

### 4.1 Trench 11

Location	Southeastern side of the site
Dimensions	8.25 by 1.80 by 1.00 depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	7.58m OD
Base of modern slab/	7.28m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	6.58m OD
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	6.58m OD

- 4.1.1 A trench measuring 8.25m long x 1.80m wide x 1.00 deep was on the southeastern side, forming the area of the piling mat through which a series of piles were to be driven (*Fig 3*). Loose brick rubble, formed of 19th century and 20th century stocks, in loose dry grey sandy silt was seen between 0.50m and 0.80m deep, below the slab which with a varied thickness of 0.30 – 0.50m.



*Fig 3* View of Trench 11 (looking east)



## 4.2 Piling

- 4.2.1 Within the trench, risings from the piling work were monitored circa 7 metres beyond an exclusion zone around the piling machine with activity viewed from a prescribed safe distance in the southwest corner of the site (Fig 4).
- 4.2.2 The casings for each core measured 2.2m long and the depths of the deposits seen in the risings are calculated as below ground level (bgl), as articulated by the supervisor of the piling rig during the work. Inspection of the risings was carried out following cessation of piling works at relevant intervals. The sequence of the deposits was recorded, and represented in column form in (Fig 5)
- 4.2.3 Dark grey/blackish London Clay [18] was seen at c 5.5m – 10m bgl, the top of which is calculated to be at 2.08m OD. Waterlogging evidence at the interface with the London Clay, including a distinct odour of hydrogen sulphide, indicative of de-oxygenated environment (possibly organic matter at depth). This was overlain by 0.50m deep terrace gravels [19]. Above the gravels was a 2m deep soft orangey sand, banded with fine pale grey/green gleyed clayey silt 3m bgl at c 2.58m OD, interpreted as waterlain channel sediment [20]. The sequence was sealed by 3.00 deep of loose sandy gravel and grey sandy silt containing frequent brick rubble [21], the top of which was sealed by the concrete slab for modern pavement level at 7.58 OD.



Fig 4 View of the channel silt risings [20] (looking east)

## 4.3 The finds

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4.3.1 No finds were recovered from the watching brief.

## 5 Archaeological potential

### 5.1 Answering original research aims

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#### 5.1.1 What is the nature and level of the natural topography?

London clay was found overlain by river terrace gravels. Based on the morphology of the sediments (finely laminated sandy and silts), their location and their depth above the natural gravel, suggests further evidence for the north-south channel recorded during the archaeological work carried out to the east in 1965 (Penn et al 1984) (Fig 6).

#### 5.1.2 What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest deposits recorded are the fine banded sands, clays and silts of the stream channel. Evidence for the stream in 1965 uncovered Neolithic occupation on the margins of the streams

#### 5.1.3 What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposits identified are dated to the late 20th century and associated with the construction of the Eden Walk Shopping Centre

#### 5.1.4 What is the extent of modern disturbance?

Modern disturbance is related to the truncation to a depth of 3 metres below current ground level to a depth of c 4.58m OD, although this may not be representative, given the limited nature of the investigation.

### 5.2 Answering new research aims

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5.2.1 No further research aims have been raised.

### 5.3 Significance of the data

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5.3.1 Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance. .

## 6 Publication and archiving

- 6.1.1 The results of the watching brief will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.
- 6.1.2 The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2018) with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.
- 6.1.3 In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 5) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 5.3) it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

## 7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: Padston Consulting Ltd and British Land for commissioning the work.

## 8 Bibliography

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Fig 1 Site location

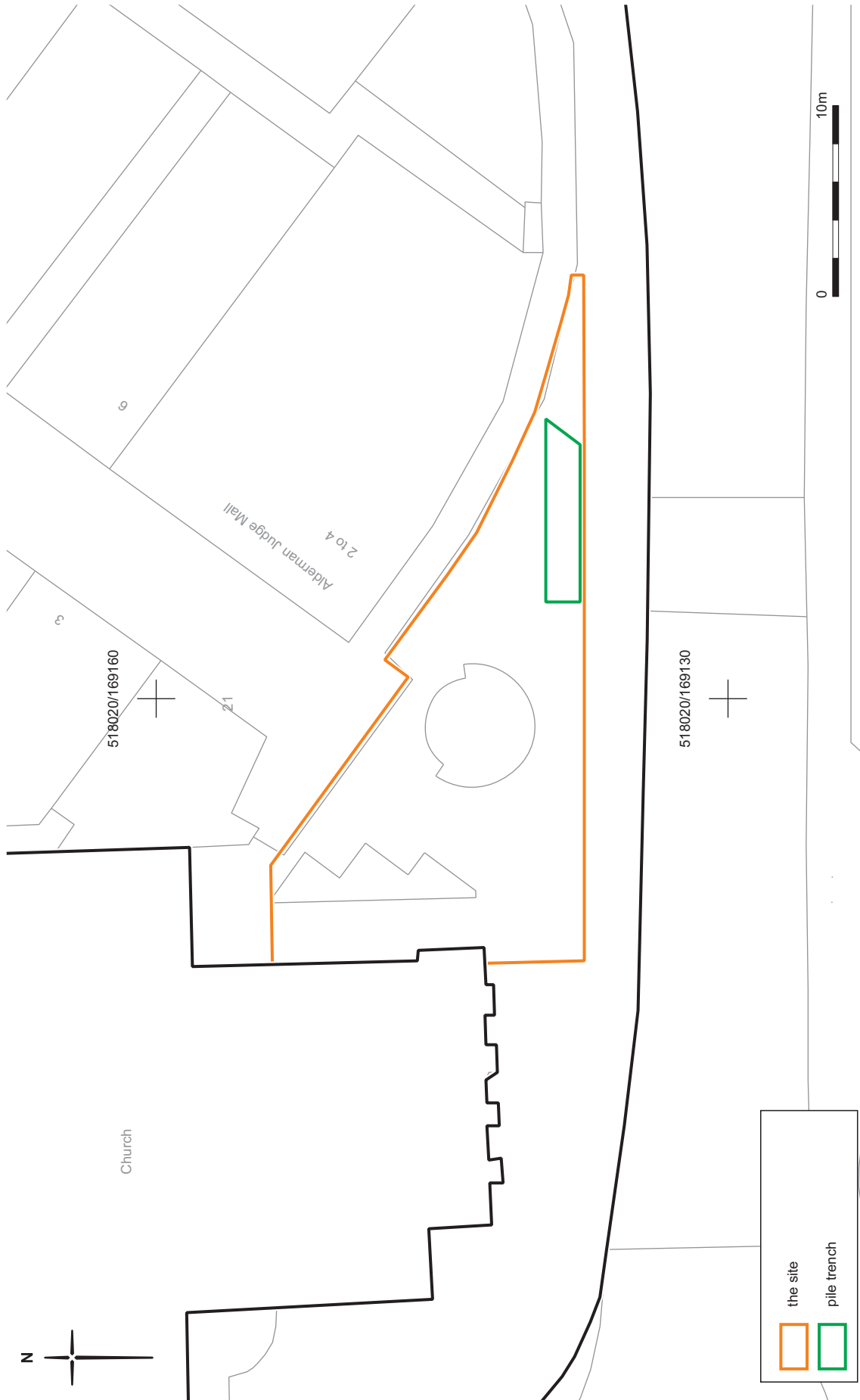


Fig 2 Trench location



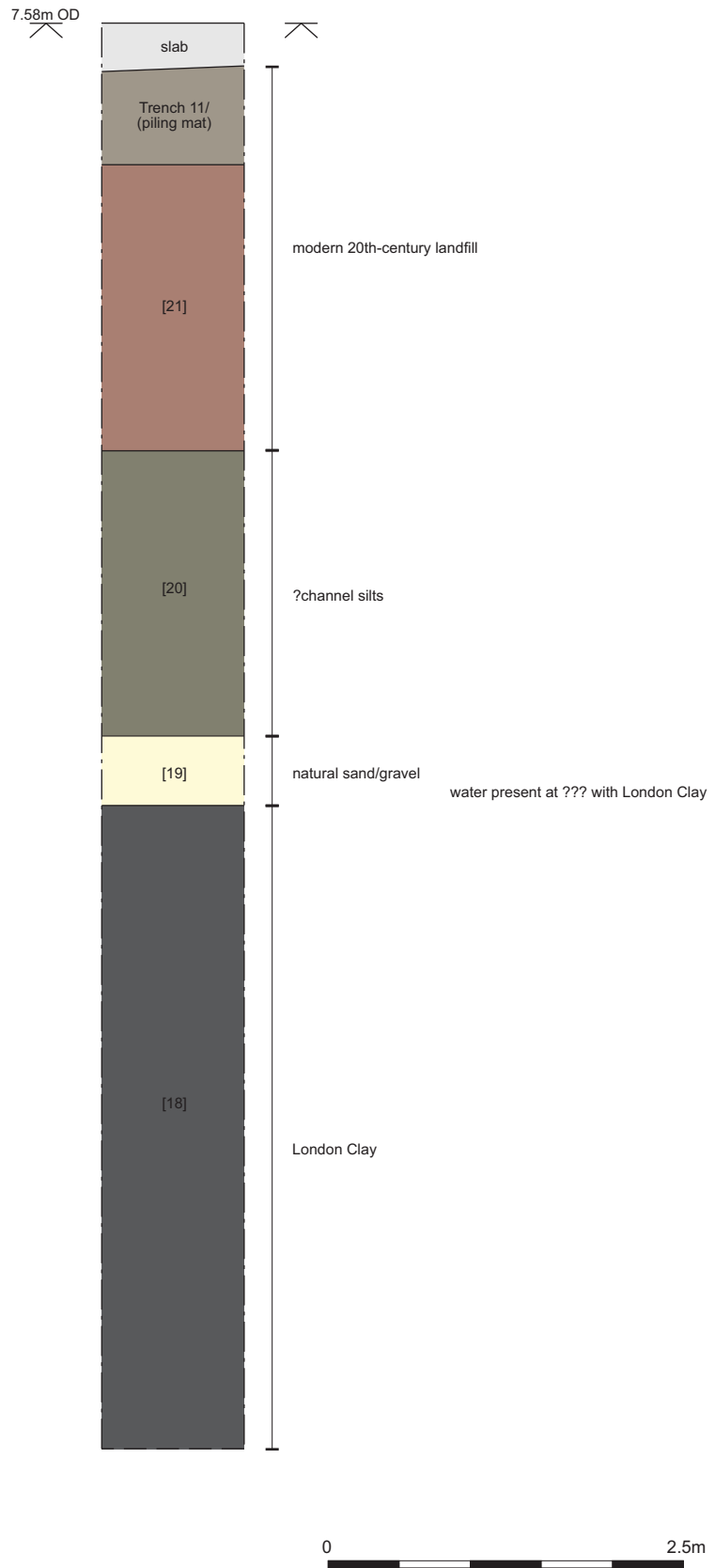


Fig 5 Section showing the sequence of deposits on the site

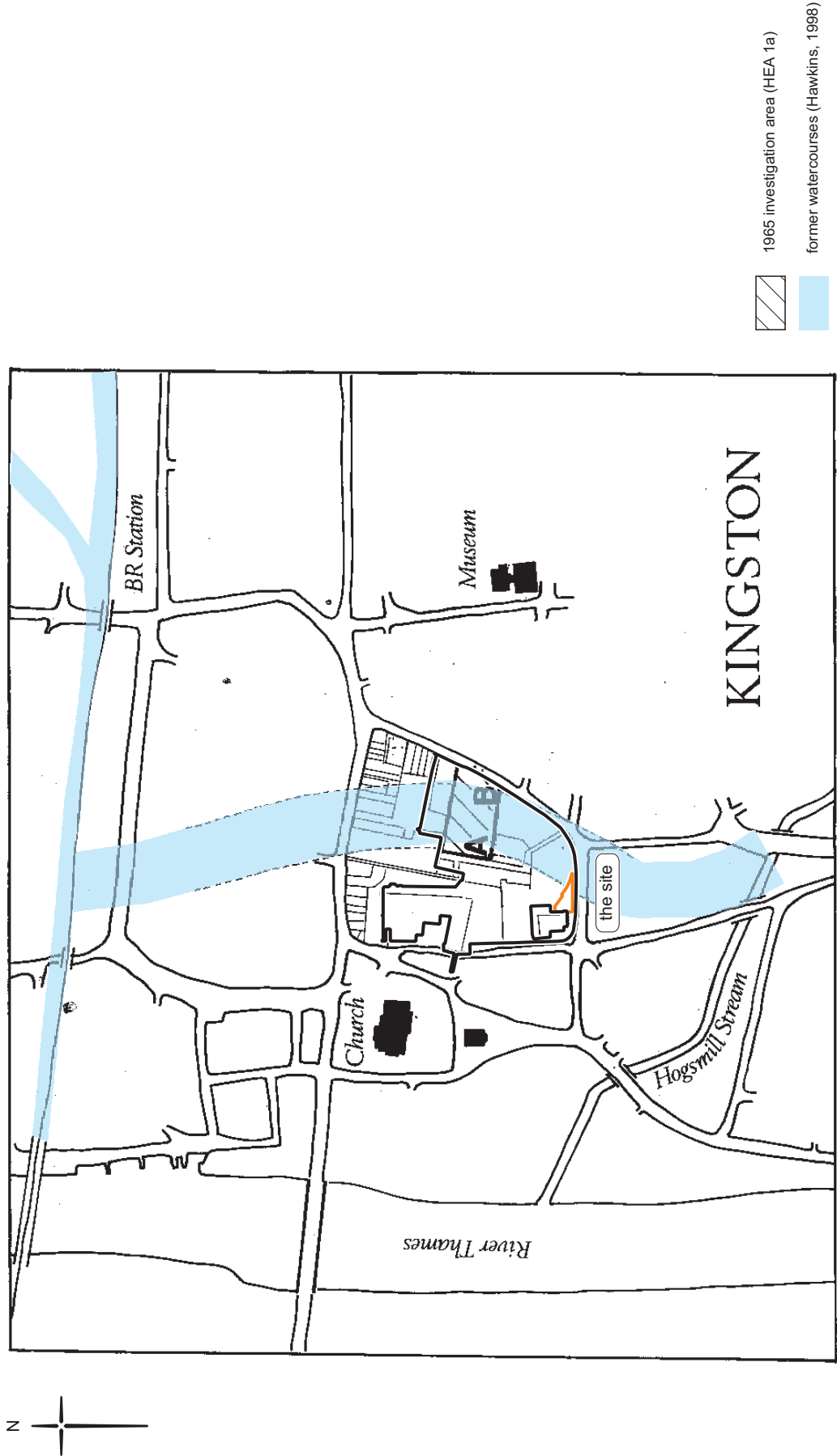


Fig 6 Plan showing the site in relation to the 1965 excavation (Penn, Field and Serjeantson 1984, Fig 1), and the former watercourse (after Hawkins, 1989)

## 9 OASIS archaeological report form

**OASIS ID: molas1-325633**

### Project details

Project name	Eden Walk (South Piling Works), Kingston upon Thames
Short description of the project	A trench measuring 8.25m long x 1.80m wide x 1.00 deep was excavated on the south side of the area in advance of a series of nine piles, two of which were monitored. Natural London Clay was located overlain by natural waterlogged silty gravel and up to 2m of soft thin banded fine sand and gleyed clay, indicative of stream silting, and evidence for the presence of a north-south palaeochannel projected through the area, recorded in 1965.
Project dates	Start: 06-07-2018 End: 02-08-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	221372 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	STREAM Mesolithic
Monument type	STREAM Neolithic
Monument type	STREAM Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
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 Eden walk (South Piling Works) Kingston upon Thames, London KT1
Postcode	KT1

Study area	130 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 80121 69144 51.392153350078 0.589268923452 51 23 31 N 000 35 21 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.58m Max: 2.58m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOL Archaeology
Project brief originator	MoL Archaeology Project Manager
Project design originator	Jo Lyon
Project director/manager	Jo Lyon
Project supervisor	Portia Askew
Type of sponsor/funding body	British Land
Name of sponsor/funding body	British Land

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Entered by	Portia Askew (paskew@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	24 August 2018

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# OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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