



**19-23 FIFE ROAD  
Kingston Upon Thames  
London  
KTI**

London Borough of Kingston Upon Thames

Revised archaeological watching brief report

February 2006



**MUSEUM OF LONDON**

**Archaeology Service**

19-23 FIFE ROAD  
Kingston Upon Thames  
London  
KT1

London Borough of Kingston Upon Thames  
Revised archaeological watching brief report

Site Code: FFR05

Project Manager  
Author

Stewart Hoad  
Sylvia Kennedy  
Kenneth Lymer

**Museum of London Archaeology Service**

© **Museum of London 2006**

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED  
tel 020 7410 2200 fax 020 7410 2201  
email [molas@molas.org.uk](mailto:molas@molas.org.uk)

## Summary (non-technical)

*This report has been commissioned by GVA Grimley in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at 19–23 Fife Road, Kingston Upon Thames. Ground excavation prior to the insertion of column bases, foundation beams, a lift shaft and escalator was monitored between 3 October and 18 November 20005 during redevelopment of the site.*

*Archaeological deposits and features were recorded in section in 10 trenches. In two trenches it was possible to record features in plan. Natural ground was observed at 6.42m OD, dropping to 5.75m OD in the southeast area of site.*

*The earliest feature recorded comprised a palaeochannel, which was seen in the southeastern part of site. This was aligned roughly north–south and cut into the underlying brickearth. A total of three gullies, two small circular pits and one possible post-hole were also recorded cutting into the weathered brickearth. Pottery recovered from the gulleys could provide no conclusive date. These features were sealed by an alluvial deposit, which covered most of the site. Pottery recovered from the first phase of work suggests that the alluvium is of recent origin.*

*The northern half of the site showed evidence of brickearth quarrying. Although it was not possible to define the extent of these deep pits, three were recorded, cutting through the alluvial deposits into the underlying brickearth. Glass bottles and pottery recovered from one of these pits suggests an 18th–19th century date.*

## **Table Of Contents**

|          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Introduction</b>                            | <b>5</b>  |
| 1.1      | Site background                                | 5         |
| 1.2      | The planning and legislative framework         | 5         |
| 1.3      | Origin and scope of the report                 | 5         |
| 1.4      | Aims and objectives                            | 5         |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Topographical and historical background</b> | <b>8</b>  |
| 2.1      | Topography                                     | 8         |
| 2.2      | Prehistoric                                    | 8         |
| 2.3      | Roman  | 9         |
| 2.4      | Saxon/Early Medieval                           | 10        |
| 2.5      | Medieval                                       | 11        |
| 2.6      | Post-medieval                                  | 11        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>The watching brief</b>                      | <b>13</b> |
| 3.1      | Methodology                                    | 13        |
| 3.2      | Results of the watching brief                  | 13        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Potential of archaeology</b>                | <b>25</b> |
| 4.1      | Original research aims                         | 25        |
| 4.2      | Significance of the data                       | 26        |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Publication and archiving</b>               | <b>27</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Appendix 1: The pottery</b>                 | <b>28</b> |
| 6.1      | Pottery  | 28        |
| 6.2      | Significance of the data                       | 28        |
| 6.3      | Revised research aims                          | 28        |

|          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| <b>7</b> | <b>Acknowledgements</b>                     | <b>29</b> |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Bibliography</b>                         | <b>30</b> |
| <b>9</b> | <b>NMR OASIS archaeological report form</b> | <b>32</b> |
|          | <b>OASIS ID: molas1-12161</b>               | <b>32</b> |

## List Of Illustrations

*Front cover: Excavating Trench 2*

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Fig 1 Site location plan   | 6      |
| Fig 2 Trench locations   | 14     |
| Fig 3 Plan of features in T19  | 19     |
| Fig 4 West facing section in T5 showing palaeochannel and alluvial deposit | 20     |
| Fig 5 Plan of gully [128] in T15   | 21     |
| Fig 6 Section through post-medieval quarry pit [119] in T9                 | 22     |
| Fig 7 Section through T1 showing post-medieval gully [102]                 | 23     |
| Fig 8 South facing section of T7 showing pit cut [115]                     | 24     |
| <br>Table 1 Summary table of the trial trenches                            | <br>15 |

# **1 Introduction**

## **1.1 Site background**

The watching brief took place at 19-23 Fife Road, Kingston-Upon Thames, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is located to the south west of Kingston Railway Station, bounded to the north by Wood Street, to the west by Dolphin Street and to the south and east by Fife Road (Fig 1) The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 518105 1518105 169465. Modern ground level on the site varied between 6.73m OD and 7.18m OD. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is 6.99m OD. The site code is FFR 05.

## **1.2 The planning and legislative framework**

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* (Hoad 2005), which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 1.2, MoLAS 2005)

## **1.3 Origin and scope of the report**

This report was commissioned by GVA Grimley and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (Hoad, 2005), and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

## **1.4 Aims and objectives**

The limited nature of the proposed works and the watching brief upon them made it unreasonable to establish any specific archaeological research objectives. The archaeological brief was essentially limited to establishing where, if at all, archaeological deposits may survive (presence/absence), recording where necessary, and to ensuring that the proposed groundworks do not involve the destruction of any archaeological deposits of national significance. Nevertheless, the following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

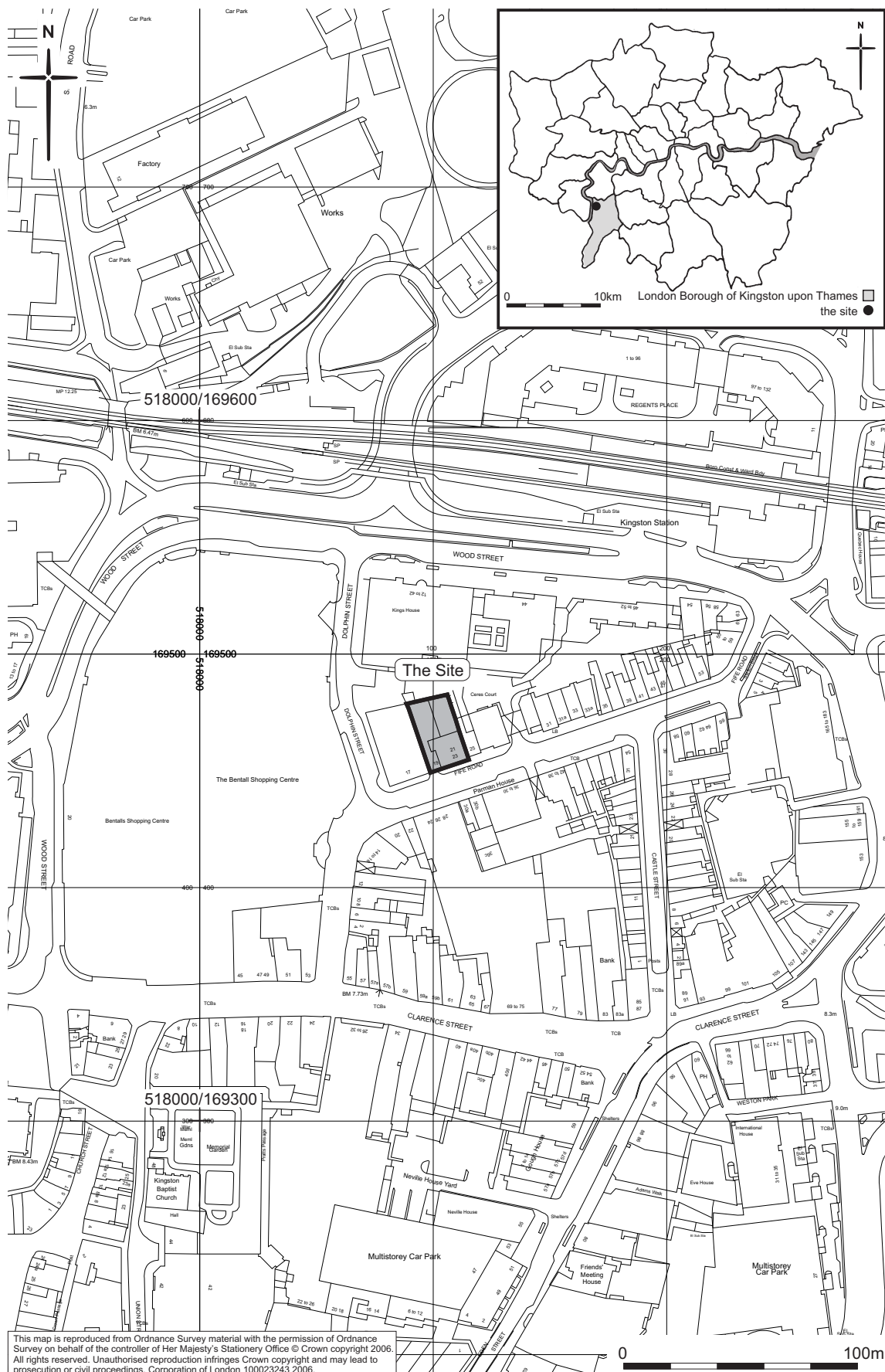


Fig 1 Site location



- What was the level of natural topography?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- What are the latest deposits identified?
- Is there any evidence of the natural channel(s) found on other sites in the vicinity?  
If so can it be related through finds evidence to a possible use as a votive feature,  
as seen at 82 Eden Street?
- Is there any evidence of Roman activity associated with settlement or occupation?
- Is there any surviving evidence of Saxon or medieval occupation or activity?

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002

## **2 Topographical and historical background**

### **2.1 Topography**

The geology of Kingston is directly related to the vagaries of the River Thames, the changes in its levels and variations in its rate of flow. The underlying gravel and sand deposits of the Reading and Woolwich beds and the London Clay were formations of the Eocene (early Tertiary) Period, laid in a basin or lagoon at least 90,000 years ago. However, Kingston's geology and topography was largely shaped by the complex of river gravels laid down as "drift" deposits in the Pleistocene Period during or after the last major age of glaciation (Devensian) some 10–13,000 years ago, forming the Flood Plain Terrace. A mantle of "brickearth" (fine-grained deposits of varying origin) veneers the Flood Plain Terrace, especially between Long Ditton and Kingston.

Changes in climate from the post-glacial period to the intervention of human societies stabilising the course and confines of the Thames contributed to the deposition of alluvium in the area. Archaeological excavations at Eden Walk to the south of the proposed development, suggest the presence of a substantial channel associated with the Thames, with silting from the Neolithic period onwards. A watching brief at the Bentalls Store re-development to the west, by the Museum of London from 1987-1990, further revealed other areas of this channel. The evidence suggested that the channel continued to silt up and had minor tributaries in the Roman period, and was still represented by marshy ground in the Medieval period. This would suggest that areas of higher ground were at times isolated either by channels or marshy ground, particularly to the east of the Thames, possibly in conjunction with the Hogsmill to the south. Penn and Rolls suggest this major channel identified at Eden Walk divided the area containing All Saints Church and the Market from land to the east. It appears, therefore, that in the immediate post glacial period the Thames ran through a low lying flood plain with substantial tributaries or braidings crossing to meet it. A smaller channel was recorded at 82 Eden Street during excavations by the then Department of Greater London Archaeology Service (Emery 1989). This silted up channel contained considerable Roman artefacts possibly of a votive nature.

Natural gravel was encountered at a depth of 3.30m below ground surface, c 4.00m OD, during archaeological investigations at 59 Clarence Street. Evidence of braided river channels was also noted here.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

A number of flint tools dating to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods have been discovered in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. In the vicinity of the

development, these include, a Palaeolithic flint blade in Penrhyn Road, a flint flake in Thames Street and a Mesolithic microlith in St James Road.

During the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods human societies led a nomadic existence of hunting and gathering. By the Neolithic period farming had been introduced and evidence of settlement, in and around Kingston town centre, was discovered at Eden Walk in excavations undertaken in the 1960s and 70s. The excavation revealed a silted up channel containing finds of pottery, worked flint, animal bones and part of a human skull. Recent excavations at the Bittoms by the Museum of London, retrieved Neolithic flint tools and waste flakes from another silted up channel. This site also revealed evidence of Bronze Age activity in the form of a large pit.

By the end of the 5th century BC iron working was introduced into Britain. Iron Age activity was discovered at the "Castle Pubic House" excavation in Fairfield Road, in the form of an early Iron Age ditch and associated finds.

Other unclassified prehistoric finds have been found in the centre of Kingston, such as a flint scraper on the Bishops Hall site and prehistoric pottery in Union Street. There have also been a number of prehistoric finds from Palaeolithic hand axes to Bronze Age swords retrieved from the river Thames in the Kingston area.

### **2.3 Roman**

Following the Roman invasion in AD 43, new roads and towns were opened up in the south-east of Britain. There is scattered evidence of Roman activity in and around Kingston town centre. Roman finds are present in the Eden Street area, from individual finds such as a single coin to important discoveries such as the recent excavation at the rear of 82 Eden Street by the Museum of London Archaeology Service. This site revealed a small silted up channel (possibly a tributary of the Eden Walk channel) in which approximately 350 Roman coins (dating to the AD 4th century), jewellery and other artefacts had been deposited. The scattered nature of the finds in the channel suggests the site may have been used as a votive area. This may offer some explanation of the Roman altar recorded in a garden in Eden Street, though there is some doubt that this object was recorded *in situ*.

Further evidence of Roman activity has been recorded to the south of the development, in the form of Roman pottery retrieved from Phase II of the Eden Walk excavations, and four postholes containing Roman pottery and tile at the "Castle Public House" excavation (possibly the only Roman "structural" evidence recorded in the town centre).

To the north-west, in the area around the power station and railway station, Roman finds have been recorded. Roof tile and pottery suggest Roman activity may have been outside the medieval town centre. Roman finds included pottery and the remains of a number of skeletons in Canbury Fields, suggesting the possibility of a Roman cemetery in the vicinity. An archaeological watching brief, conducted by the MoLAS during the re-development of the Bentall's Department store from 1987–90, revealed Roman finds

(pottery and building material including a decorated flue tile) in the sedimentary layers of a deep channel. This channel appeared to have begun silting up by the Roman period and was probably a continuation of the channel recorded in the Eden Walk excavation.

## **2.4 Saxon/Early Medieval**

Little physical evidence remains today of the important royal Saxon settlement in Kingston. The Saxon chapel of St Mary stood to the south of the parish church of All Saints until it collapsed in 1730, undermined by grave-digging (McCormack & Shipley, 1988). The chapel was excavated in the 1930's and its foundations are marked out in the church grounds.

There are a number of historical references and documents relating to the Saxon period. The earliest reference is that of a great council held in "Cyningestun", in AD 838, (document held in the British Library) where King Egbert presided. Kingston is regarded as an important Saxon royal "vill" or manor, with Surbiton as the south part of its estate and Norbiton as the north. Seven Saxon kings of England are known to have been crowned in Kingston, possibly in St Mary's Chapel, the first being Edward the Elder in AD 900 and the last Ethelred in AD 979.

Archaeological evidence of Saxon activity has been recorded at two Museum of London excavations in Kingston. At the Bittoms a Saxon pit was excavated and at 70–76 Eden Street another pit was found. At earlier Kingston excavations such as the Eden Walk site (Phase II), Saxon features were also recorded.

By the time of the Domesday Survey in AD 1086, Kingston was a royal manor held directly as part of the king's personal estate. The Domesday Survey records Kingston as having a church, five mills, three fisheries and a considerable amount of ploughland.

The Parish church of All Saints is recorded to have Norman stonework in its fabric (McCormack & Shipley, 1988), though it is uncertain that the church referred to in the Domesday Survey is the same structure. More likely it is the earlier Saxon building, St Mary's Chapel. A possible mill site, in Denmark Road close to the Hogsmill, may be one of those referred to in the Domesday Survey (McCormack & Shipley, 1988). Kingston's official emblem, three salmon on a blue background, relates the importance to the town of the fisheries mentioned in the Domesday Survey.

Various structures in Kingston are mentioned in historical documents such as a Bishop's Palace, a castle, and palace (referred to as King John's Palace). The Bishop's Palace refers to the Bishops of Winchester who held a palace in Kingston. The "Castle" and King John's Palace are recorded as having been captured by King Henry III in 1264 (Hall/Woodriff, 1981).

## 2.5 Medieval

Numerous archaeological finds and historical references confirm Kingston as a important urban medieval centre, well positioned on the Thames in relation to trade. Its strategic placement as the first river crossing upstream of London Bridge and its function as an inland port, transferring goods to and from Surrey and London, enhanced its status. During this period Kingston is referred to as a town rather than a village, reflecting its trade status and market function. In 1481 a charter officially granting incorporation was established, giving Kingston independent status.

The medieval town was centred around the Parish church and the market place, though other medieval structures such as the extant 14th century Chapel of St Mary Magdelene occur in the hinterland of the town. High Street, still used today, is thought to have been first built in the late 12th century. A number of late medieval structures still stand around the market place, which include part of 14 Market Place (now the Next building) and 23 Market Place, thought to have been first constructed in the 15th century.

There are many individual archaeological finds, for example, an iron dagger found in Fairfield Road and medieval coins discovered in High Street. Others constitute more substantial remains such as the recent excavations by the Museum of London at the Horsefair (John Lewis Department Store re-development site) where a 14th century undercroft and the medieval (13th century) Kingston Bridge were excavated. This 13th century structure may have replaced an even earlier bridge. This river crossing was an important strategic point. Armies often crossed the Thames in Kingston and a number of skirmishes occurred between rival forces. Medieval Kingston bridge was replaced by the present bridge in 1828.

Other archaeological finds indicate industrial activity in the hinterland of the town. These include evidence of the medieval pottery industry. During the medieval period the town was a centre for production of "Surrey White Ware" pottery (this was also produced in other Surrey locations, for example Cheam and Farnham, though each centre had a distinctive Whiteware type).

Two whiteware pottery kilns are known which date to the late 14th century, discovered in 1968/9 by the Kingston Upon Thames Archaeological Society. One is in Union Street and the other at 70–72 Eden Street.. The latter was not fully excavated and continued into the adjoining northern property. Results of further excavation at 70–76 Eden Street have added another three kilns to this number. Kilns were also present on the Charter Quay site.

## 2.6 Post-medieval

By the 16th and 17th centuries Kingston had established itself as an important centre for boat-building, tanning, milling, brewing and river barge traffic. It was a flourishing market town, uniquely aided by a charter granted by Charles I in 1628 forbidding the holding of any other market within a seven-mile radius. The town had begun to expand to the east and by the mid 18th century John Rocque's map shows the extent of

development, with the length of London road built up towards Norbiton (then referred to as Norbiton Street).

Following a period of decline in the 18th and early 19th century, the introduction of the railway in the mid 19th century led to an increase in population and development. This development of the town has continued with extensive enlargement this century, ensuring that Kingston has remained an important commercial centre.

### **3 The watching brief**

#### **3.1 Methodology**

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (Hoad 2005) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS 1994).

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted on to a Basement Survey drawing. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

The heights of observations and archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum via a traverse from the OS benchmark (at 8.43m OD) on the All Saints Parish Church, Kingston.

Where relevant, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20; numbered contexts were allocated where appropriate.

The site has produced: 6 trench location plans; 45 context records; 7 1:20 and 22 1:10 section drawings; and 59 photographs. In addition one small bag of finds was recovered from site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code FFR05 in the MoL archive.

#### **3.2 Results of the watching brief**

In total, 19 separate interventions (trenches) were made for the purposes of reducing ground prior to the insertion of concrete bases, foundation beams, a lift shaft and escalator. These have been numbered 1–19 consecutively. There follows a summary table of the results as well as a brief description of the deposits and features of particular note. For all trench locations see (Fig 2)



Fig 2 Trench locations



Table 1 Summary table of the trial trenches

| Trench number and dimensions | Ground surface                        |                             | Subsoil deposits                  |              | Natural deposits                                    |              | Total excavated trench depth | Archaeological remains   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------|------------------------------|--|
|                              | Description & level at surface        | Lowest level of modern fill | Description                       | Level at top | Description   | Level at top |                              |  |
| <b>1</b><br>7m x 1.2m        | Concrete<br>6.89m OD                  | 6.60m OD                    | Dark grey silty clay (100)        | 6.60m OD     | Mid orangey brown brickearth (104)                  | 6.12m OD     | 0.8m                         | Gully [102] & fill (101) at 6.35m OD                                 |
|                              |                                       |                             | Weathered brickearth (103)        | 6.39m OD     |   |              |                              |  |
| <b>2</b><br>3.7m x 3.3m      | Tarmac<br>6.91m OD                    | 6.00m OD                    | N/A                               | N/A          | N/A   | N/A          | 1.8m                         | Quarry pit [106] & fill (105) at 6.65m OD                            |
| <b>3</b><br>2.3m x 2.1m      | Tarmac<br>6.92m OD                    | 6.22m OD                    | Brown silty clay (108)            | 6.46m OD     | Orange brickearth (111)                             | 5.20m OD     | 2m                           | Palaeochannel [110] and fill (109) at 5.32m OD                       |
| <b>4</b><br>2.1m x 2.1m      | Tarmac<br>6.92m OD                    | 6.32m OD                    | N/A                               | N/A          | Mid orangey brown brickearth (125)                  | 6.32m OD     | 2m                           | None observed  |
| <b>5</b><br>2.1m x 2.1m      | Tarmac, concrete & rubble<br>6.92m OD | 6.12m OD                    | Brown silty clay (108)            | 6.47m OD     | Orange brickearth (111)                             | 5.82m OD     | 2m                           | Palaeochannel [110] and fills (112) (109) at 5.75m OD                |
| <b>6</b><br>2m x 2m          | Tarmac<br>6.92m OD                    | 6.42m OD                    | Dark grey sandy clayey silt (113) | 6.42m OD     | Mid orangey brown brickearth (125)                  | 6.20m OD     |                              |  |
|                              |                                       |                             |                                   |              | Light orangey brown brickearth (126)                | 5.12m OD     | 2m                           | None observed  |
| <b>7</b><br>2m x 2m          | Tarmac<br>6.92m OD                    | 6.42m OD                    | N/A                               | N/A          | Mid orangey brown brickearth (125)                  | 6.42m OD     | 2m                           | Pit [115] & fill (114)<br>Cut [117] & fill (116)<br>Both at 6.42m OD |
| <b>8</b><br>2m x 2m          | Tarmac<br>6.88m OD                    | 6.28m OD                    | Mid-dark brown silty clay (108)   | 6.49m OD     | Mid orangey brown brickearth with clay lenses (125) | 6.03m OD     | 1.75m                        | None observed  |
| <b>9</b><br>2.3m x 2.3m      | Tarmac<br>6.90m OD                    | 6.50m OD                    | N/A                               | N/A          | Mid orangey brown brickearth (125)                  | 6.50m OD     | 1.80m                        | Quarry pit [119] & fill (118) at 6.50m OD                            |
| <b>10</b>                    | Tarmac                                | 6.50m OD                    | Mid-dark                          | 6.50m OD     | Mid   | 6.00m OD     | 1.75m                        | None observed  |

|                                 |   |          |   |          |  |          |       |  |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|---|----------|--|----------|-------|--|
| 2.1m<br>x 2.1m                  | 6.90m OD  |          | brown silty<br>clay (108)                           |          | orangey<br>brown<br>brickearth<br>(125)        |          |       |  |
| <b>11</b><br>2.1m<br>x 2.1m     | Tarmac<br>6.90m OD                                | 6.40m OD | Mid brown<br>sandy clay<br>(134)                    | 6.66m OD |  |          |       |  |
|                                 |   |          | Weathered<br>brickearth<br>(129)                    | 6.34m OD | Mid<br>orangey<br>brown<br>brickearth<br>(125) | 5.80m OD | 1.80m | None observed  |
| <b>12</b><br>2.1m<br>x 2.1m     | Paving and<br>rubble<br>6.82 –<br>6.73m OD        | 6.00m OD | N/A   | N/A      | Mid<br>orangey<br>brown<br>brickearth<br>(125) | 6.32m OD | 1.70m | Quarry pit [133]<br>& fill (132) at<br>6.32m OD<br>Pit? [131] & fill<br>(130) at<br>6.22m OD |
| <b>13</b><br>4.8m x<br>3.3m max | Concrete<br>7.18m OD                              | 6.64m OD | Mid brown<br>silty clayey<br>sand (120)             | 6.64m OD | Mid<br>orangey<br>brown<br>brickearth<br>(125) | 5.75m OD |       |  |
|                                 |   |          | Mid<br>greyish<br>brown<br>clayey sand<br>(121)     | 6.40m OD | Light<br>brown<br>brickearth<br>(126)          | 5.38m OD | 2.10m | Palaeochannel<br>[124] and fills<br>(122) (123) at<br>5.74m OD                               |
| <b>14</b><br>2m x 2m            | Concrete<br>7.18m OD<br>and<br>Tarmac<br>6.92m OD | 6.60m OD | Mid brown<br>silty clayey<br>sand (120)             | 6.68m OD | Mid<br>orangey<br>brown<br>brickearth<br>(125) | 5.76m OD |       |  |
|                                 |   |          | Mid<br>greyish<br>brown<br>clayey sand<br>(121)     | 6.46m OD | Light<br>brown<br>brickearth<br>(126)          | 5.30m OD | 2m    | None observed  |
| <b>15</b><br>5.5m x 8m          | Tarmac<br>6.92m OD                                | 6.54m OD | Dark grey<br>brown<br>sandy<br>clayey silt<br>(113) | 6.56m OD | N/A  | N/A      | 0.75m | Gully [128] &<br>fill (127) at<br>6.15m OD   |
|                                 |   |          | Mid<br>greyish<br>brown<br>clayey sand<br>(121)     | 6.28m OD | N/A  | N/A      |       |  |
|                                 |   |          | Weathered<br>brickearth<br>(129)                    | 6.27m OD | N/A  | N/A      |       |  |
| <b>16</b><br>1.7m x 1m          | Tarmac<br>6.92m OD                                | 6.54m OD | Mid<br>greyish<br>brown<br>clayey sand<br>(121)     | 6.54m OD | N/A  | N/A      | 0.55m | None observed  |
| <b>17</b><br>2.5m x 1m          | Tarmac<br>6.88m OD                                | 6.28m OD | Mid<br>greyish<br>brown<br>clayey sand<br>(121)     | 6.28m OD | N/A  | N/A      | 0.6m  | None observed  |
| <b>18</b><br>2m x 3.5m          | Rubble<br>make up<br>6.90m OD                     | 6.40m OD | Mid blueish<br>grey clayey<br>sand (135)            | 6.42m OD | N/A  | N/A      |       |  |
|                                 |   |          | Mid brown<br>sandy clay<br>(136)                    | 6.40m OD | N/A  | N/A      |       |  |

|                        |                            |         |                                     |          |     |     |       |   |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|-------|---|
|                        |                            |         | Mid greyish brown clayey sand (121) | 6.30m OD | N/A | N/A |       |   |
|                        |                            |         | Weathered brickearth (129)          | 6.18m OD | N/A | N/A | 0.85m | None observed   |
| <b>19</b><br>5.2m x 8m | Rubble make up<br>6.85m OD | 6.45mOD | Mid greyish brown clayey sand (121) | 6.55m OD | N/A | N/A |       | Gully [138] & fill (137)<br>Pits [140] [142] & fills (139) (141)<br>?Post-hole [144] & fill (143)<br>all at c. 6.10m OD |
|                        |                            |         | Weathered brickearth (129)          | 6.20m OD | N/A | N/A | 0.75m |   |

### **Archaeological features and deposits of particular note:**

An industrial deposit of grey clayey sand with moderate amounts of iron waste and charcoal was noted in T18 (Section 28). It showed evidence of heat on deposition, as the layer underneath was scorched. This deposit is the same as fill (116) seen in Section 12 within T7, though when the deposit was exposed in plan in T18 it did not appear to be lying within a cut. A clay pipe stem indicates a post-medieval date. On analysis the iron waste was found to be undiagnostic and its small quantity unlikely to represent any real industry in the area. This suggests that it is likely to be redeposited material.

The northern area of site had some evidence of deep pitting. In T2 a thick deposit of greyish brown sandy silt was noted at c.6.65m OD. This is assumed to be the backfill of a 19th century quarry pit (undetected cut [106]). It contained lenses of yellowish sand, brickearth and dark grey silt. A few pieces of pot, two glass bottles, fragments of ceramic building material and animal bone were found within. Two more deep pits [119] and [133], containing similar fills of grey silty clay with few inclusions, were seen in T9 and T12 respectively (Fig 6). In both these trenches the full extent and depth of the cut extended beyond the limits of the intervention.

A thick alluvial layer varying from silty clay to clayey sand (108)=(121) was noted across much of the site, lensing out westwards. It sealed a palaeochannel [110]=[124] (where it was up to 1.2m thick) and directly overlay most of the features cut into weathered brickearth. This deposit had few inclusions but some charcoal flecks, peagrit and bone fragments were seen. Although no finds were recovered from it during this phase of works, the pottery found during the first phase suggests that the alluvium is of recent origin.

A total of three gulleys were observed in plan. [102], in T1, ran east–west and was filled by a light greyish brown clayey silt (101) (Fig 7). Two sherds of pottery dating to 1700–1900 were recovered from this feature. This feature was notable in that it was not sealed by the alluvial deposit (108)=(121), unlike the other two gulleys. Gulleys [128] in T15 (Fig 5) and [138] (with a terminus) in T19 (Fig 3) were aligned roughly north–south and filled with similar deposits of brown clayey sand. The small amount of pot recovered from [128] shows a mixed deposit consisting of Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon sherds. The pot within [138] is Roman but the small size of the assemblage could indicate that it is residual. Also contained within the fill of [138] was one piece of retouched flint, an awl/piercer/borer. Two pits [140] and [142] were recorded adjacent to the terminus of gully [138]; one contained a moderate amount of animal bone (cattle, sheep and pig) the other burnt flint and one piece of struck flint. All the above features were cut into weathered brickearth (129) and, with the exception of [102], were sealed by the alluvial layer.

The earliest feature recorded was a palaeochannel [110]=[124], which was seen in the southeastern part of site and aligned roughly north–south (Fig 4). It was cut into the underlying brickearth and filled by a mid grey clayey silt (109)=(123). A second fill (112)=(122) of light brown brickearth was observed on its western side. No finds were recovered from this feature and due to the depth of the interventions it was not possible to excavate it in plan, for health and safety reasons.

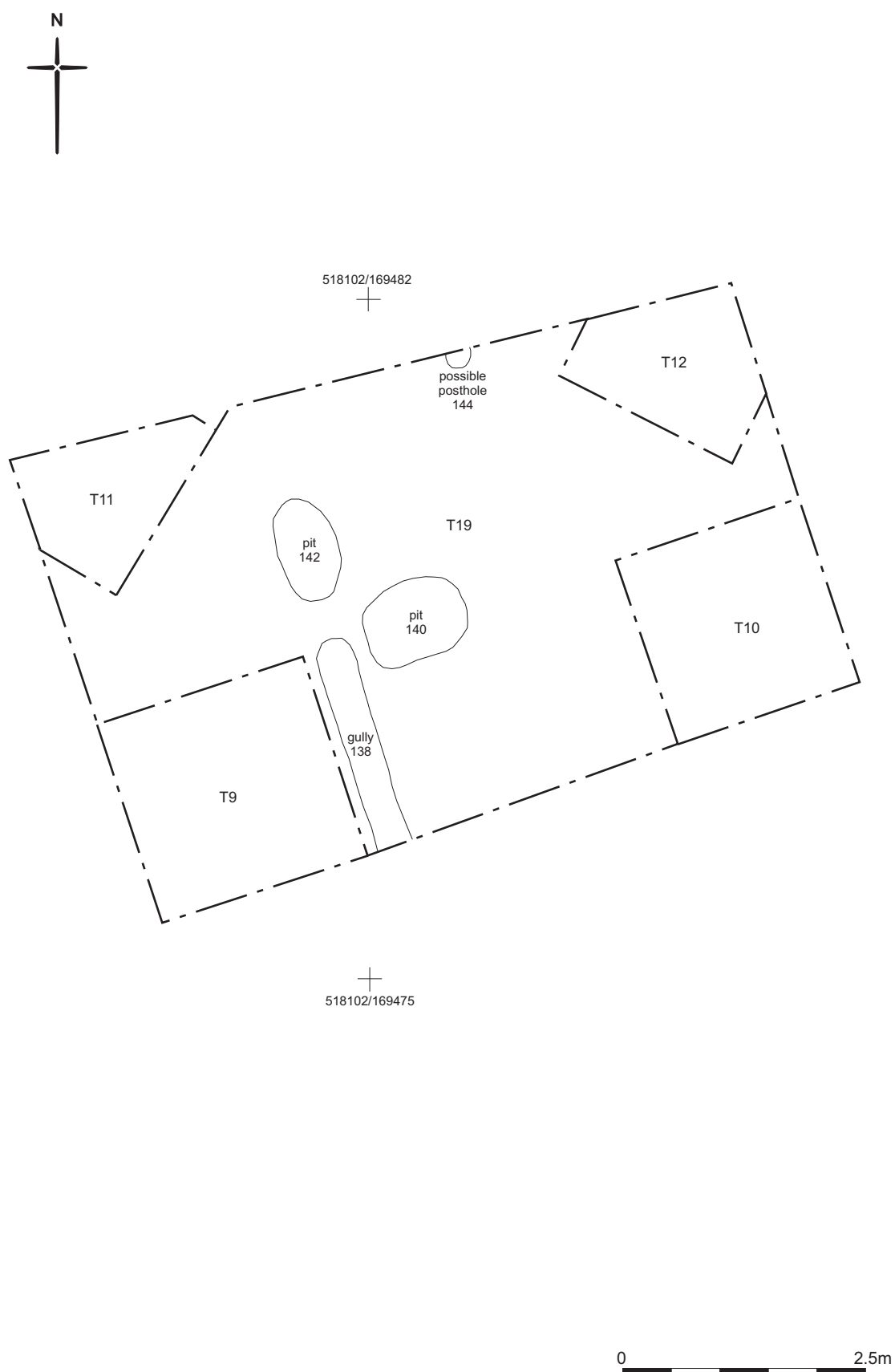


Fig 3 Plan of features in T19

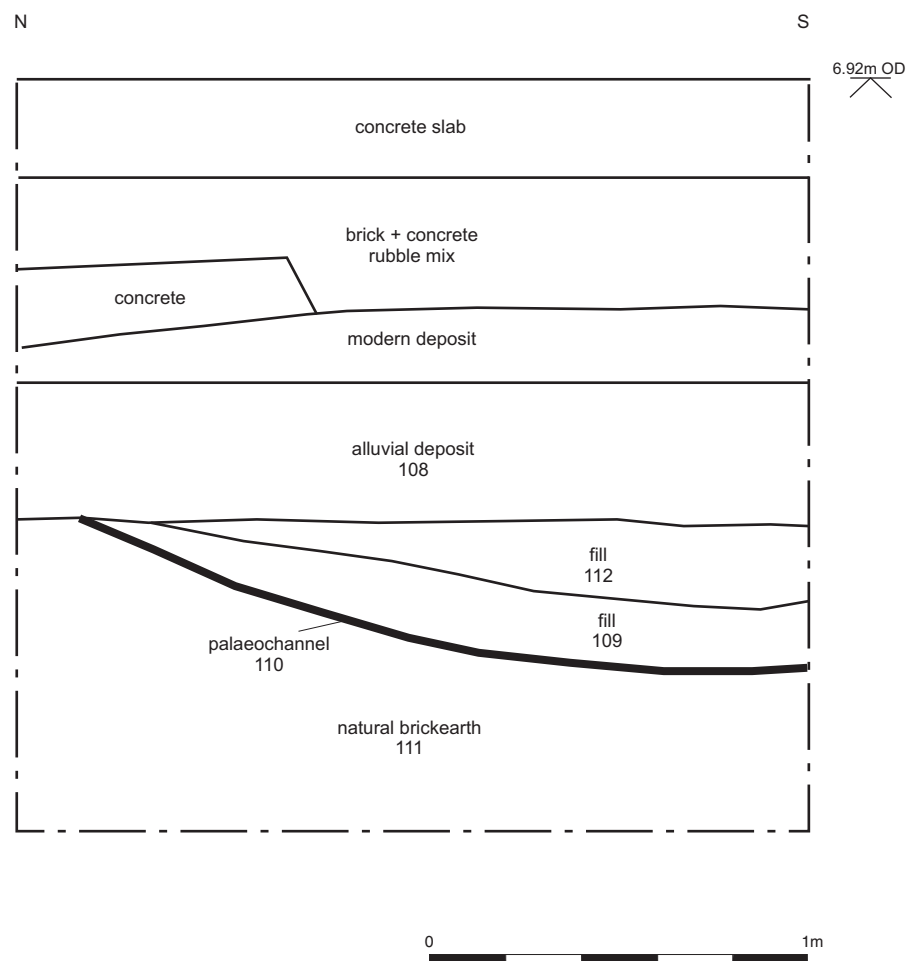


Fig 4 West-facing section in T5 showing palaeochannel [110] and alluvial deposit [108]

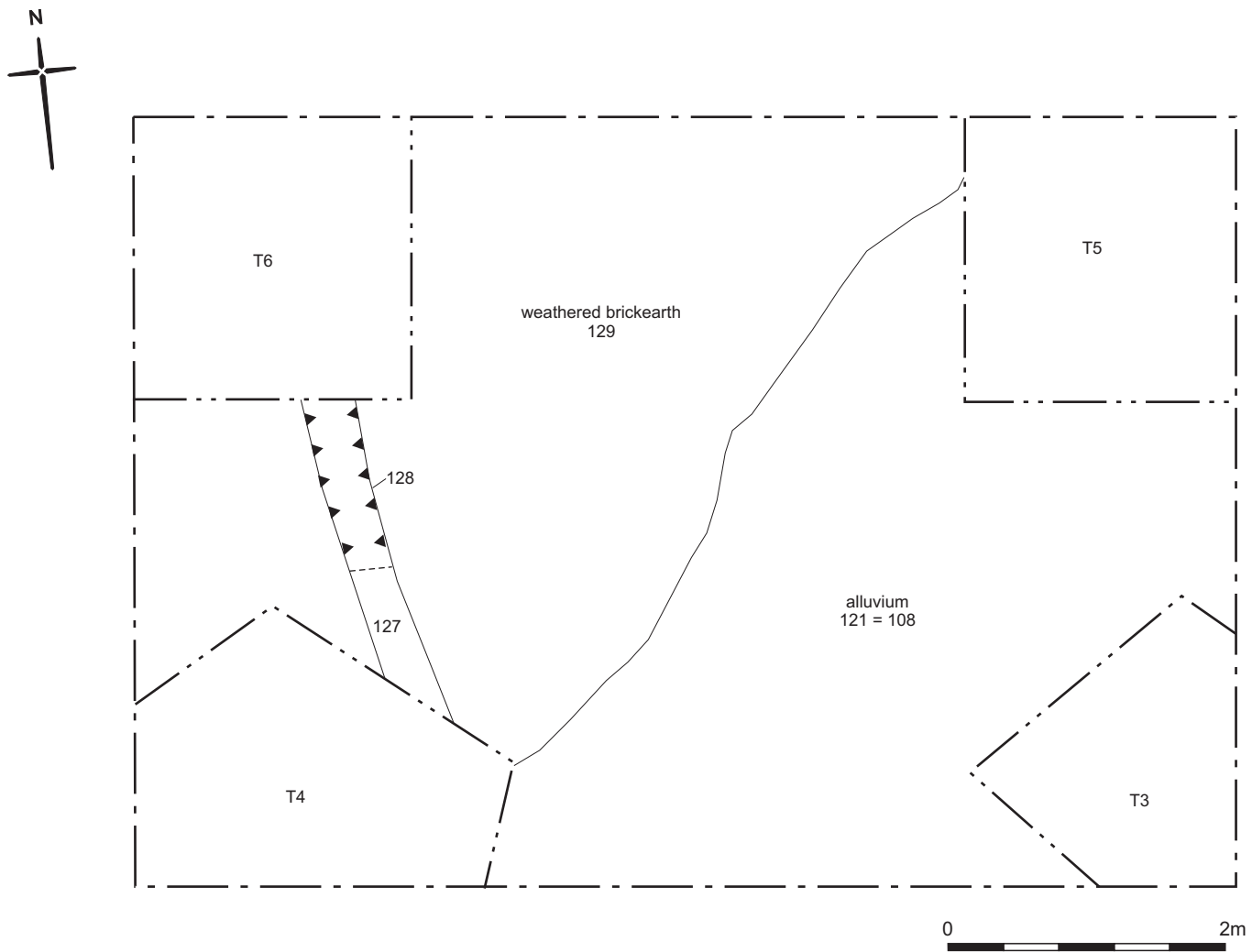


Fig 5 Plan of gully [128] in T15

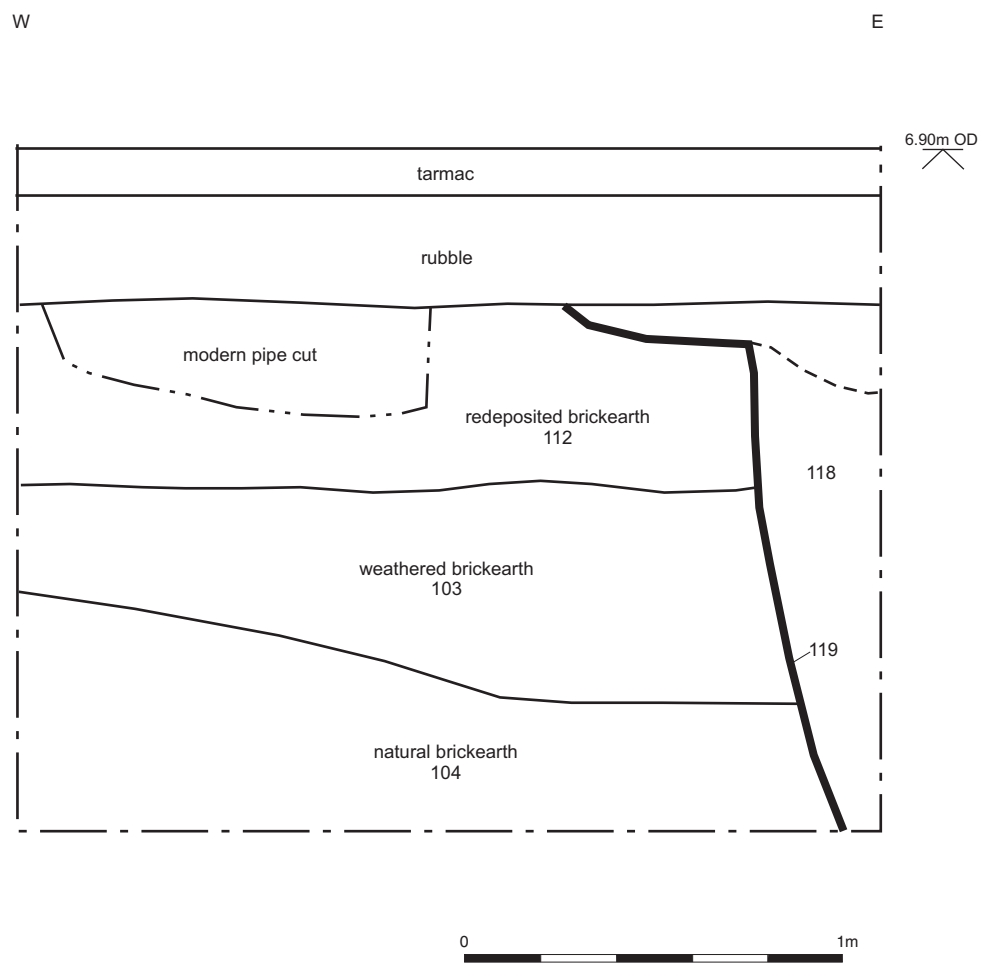


Fig 6 Section through post-medieval quarry pit [119] in T9



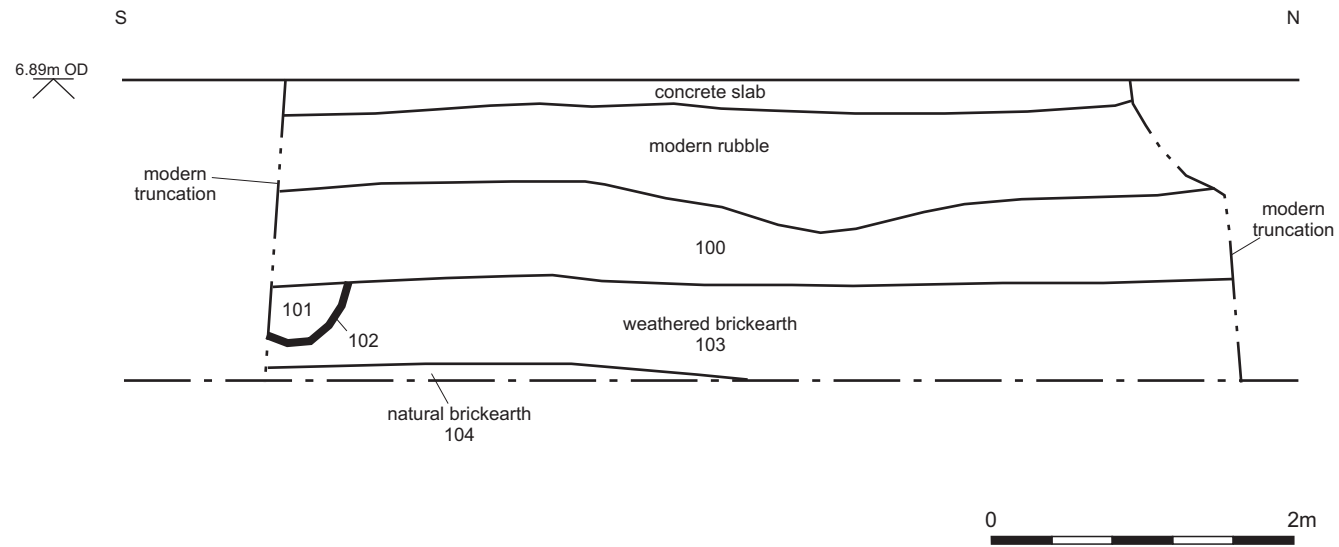


Fig 7 Section through T1 showing post-medieval gully [102]



Fig 8 South facing section of T7 showing pit cut [115]

## 4 Potential of archaeology

### 4.1 Original research aims

What was the level of natural topography?

*The highest natural deposits were observed at 6.42m OD towards the western side of site, directly below modern make up. Deposits slope gradually to the east, more particularly around the palaeochannel where the lowest level for natural is 5.75m OD. Deposits consist of light brown sandy brickearth (111)=(126) overlain by siltier orange brown brickearth (104) (125). Where it was possible to observe the deposits in more detail a layer of lighter clayier weathered brickearth, c.0.2–0.4m thick, was present above the orange brown brickearth.*

What are the earliest deposits identified?

*Although the Prehistoric sherds found in gully [128] are residual, the presence of struck/worked flint within some features in T19 suggest potential Bronze Age activity in the area.*

What are the latest deposits identified?

*Sherds from gully [102] date to between 1700–1900, whilst those from quarry [106] are c.1740–1750.*

Is there any evidence of the natural channel(s) found on other sites in the vicinity? If so can it be related through finds evidence to a possible use as a votive feature, as seen at 82 Eden Street?

*A natural channel was seen in the southeastern area of site at approximately 5.75m OD, running roughly north–south. No finds were recovered from it so a possible votive function cannot be determined.*

Is there any evidence of Roman activity associated with settlement or occupation?

*Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the site, though these are likely to be residual. Compared to Eden Street, the lack of Roman material suggests that this area was marginal land or farmed at the time.*

Is there any surviving evidence of Saxon or medieval occupation or activity?

*One sherd of Saxon pottery, the latest find within gully [128], could indicate the most northerly fringe of Saxon activity within Kingston.*

## **4.2 Significance of the data**

The archaeological remains discovered during the watching brief are of local significance only. Although largely negative, the evidence will contribute to our knowledge of the location and extent of archaeological deposits in Kingston.

## 5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation 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.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (Hoad 2005) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 4.2) 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*.

## 6 Appendix 1: The pottery

Lyn Blackmore

### 6.1 Pottery

The main potential of the pottery is as dating evidence, and it can help to address some of the research aims.

- The finds indicate that the site was used over a long period of time, but suggests that it was open land during the entire medieval and early post-medieval period.
- It is unclear what the earliest activity on the site was, as the prehistoric sherds and one of the Roman sherds are residual.
- The presence of Roman material is not unexpected, but had the site been close to a building much more material might have been expected; the sherd from [127] is residual, and those from [137] could be too.
- Saxon material is less common in Kingston but not unknown, and the site is not far from Eden Street, where more material has been found.
- The post-medieval sherds add to what was already known of the site and confirm the later post-medieval dating of the activity.

Given the size of the period assemblages the pottery has little potential for further analysis *per se* but this may change if additional excavation is carried out on the site.

### 6.2 Significance of the data

The pottery is of local significance only. It shows that there was occupation on or near the site over a long period of time, and the question is, how much more evidence has been lost over the course of time? Compared to the find from Eden Street, the lack of Roman material is striking, and it is likely that this was marginal land, or farmed at that time. The site is the most northerly of those in Kingston that are known to have produced Saxon pottery (Eden Street and The Bittoms), and could indicate the fringe of Saxon activity. In the post-medieval period there was some form of industrial (see slag) and horticultural activity on the site but this could easily have been within a domestic context.

### 6.3 Revised research aims

The following research aims can be suggested.

How do the prehistoric sherds relate to other finds from the area?

How does the Saxon sherd relate to other finds from the area?

## **7 Acknowledgements**

MoLAS is grateful to Georgina Slader and Karen Jones of GVA Grimley for commissioning this watching brief, and for supplying information. Grateful thanks are also extended to Jon Lowen and David Stephens of Norman Rourke Pryme LLP for their assistance with the project.

MoLAS is also grateful to the contractors on site for their assistance in undertaking the watching brief. Thanks are also due to Mark Stevenson (English Heritage) for advising on the scope of the survey.

## 8 Bibliography

ACAO, 1993 *Model briefs and specifications for archaeological assessments and field evaluations*, Association of County Archaeological Officers

BADLG, 1986 *Code of Practice, British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group*

Department of the Environment, 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance 16, Archaeology and Planning*

Emery, P, 1989 Preliminary Report of the Archaeological Investigation at Eden Street, Kingston Upon Thames, unpub MoL rep

English Heritage, 1991 *Exploring our Past. Strategies for the Archaeology of England*, English Heritage

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*

English Heritage, 1997 *Sustaining the historic environment: new perspectives on the future*

English Heritage, May 1998 *Capital Archaeology. Strategies for sustaining the historic legacy of a world city*

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, June 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Papers 1-5*

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, May 1999 *Archaeological Guidance Papers 6*

Gibbard, P, 1985 *The Pleistocene History of the Thames Valley*,

Hall, M, & Woodriff, B, (Ed.) 1981 *Medieval Kingston, Domesday to 1500, The Archaeology of Kingston*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 2001 *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists: Standards and guidance — Watching Brief*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), supplement 2001, *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists: Standards and guidance — the collection, documentation conservation and research of archaeological materials*

McCormack, A, & Shipley, M., 1988 *Royal Kingston*



Miller, P, & Batchelor, G, 1990 Preliminary Report on the Watching Brief at the Second Phase of Development of Bentalls Department Store, Kingston upon Thames, Museum of London , unpub MoL rep

Museum of London, 1994 *Archaeological Site Manual 3rd edition*

Museum of London, 1998 *General Standards for the preparation of archaeological archives deposited with the Museum of London*

Museum of London, 2002 *A research framework for London archaeology 2002*

Penn, J, Field D, & Serjeantson, D, 1984 Evidence of Neolithic Occupation in Kingston: Excavations at Eden Walk, 1965, *Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 75*

Saxby, D, 1999 An archaeological evaluation at the River Island Clothing Company Site at 59 A & B Clarence Street. Royal Borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames, Museum of London , unpub MoL rep

Schofield, J, with Maloney, C, (eds), 1998 *Archaeology in the City of London 1907-1991: a guide to records of excavations by the Museum of London and its predecessors*, Archaeol Gazetteer Ser Vol 1, London

Sherlock, R.L, 1975 *British Regional Geology: London and Thames Valley*, H.M.S.O.

Thompson, A, Westman A, and Dyson, T (eds), 1998 *Archaeology in Greater London 1965-90: a guide to records of excavations by the Museum of London*, Archaeol Gazetteer Ser Vol 2, London

Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers, (1991 rev. 1997) *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology, Manual*

Unitary Development Plan Written Statement, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, adopted March 1998

## 9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

**OASIS ID: molas1-12161**

### Project details

Project name 19-23 Fife Road, London borough of Kingston Upon Thames

Short description of the project Ground excavation prior to the insertion of column bases, foundation beams, a lift shaft and escalator. Archaeological deposits and features were recorded in section in 10 trenches. In two trenches it was possible to record features in plan. Natural ground was observed at 6.42m OD, dropping to 5.75m OD. Main features observed consisted of a paleochannel, two pits and three gulleys. All features were cut into weathered brickearth and, with the exception of one gully, sealed by a thick alluvial deposit of probable post-medieval date. The pottery recovered from the gulleys could not provide conclusive dating. The northern half of site showed quarrying for brickearth, with 19th century backfill.

Project dates Start: 03-10-2005 End: 18-11-2005

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes FFR05 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type GULLY Uncertain

Significant Finds BORER Uncertain

Significant Finds POT Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds POT Roman

Significant Finds POT Early Medieval

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Country            | England  |
| Site location      | GREATER LONDON KINGSTON UPON THAMES KINGSTON UPON THAMES 19-23 Fife Road, London borough of Kingston Upon Thames |
| Postcode           | KT1  |
| Study area         | 540.00 Square metres   |
| National reference | grid TQ 18105 69465 Point  |
| Height OD          | Min: 5.75m Max: 6.42m  |

### Project creators

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Name of Organisation     | MoLAS   |
| Project originator       | brief City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist |
| Project originator       | design MoLAS  |
| Project director/manager | Stewart Hoad  |
| Project supervisor       | Sylvia Kennedy                                      |
| Sponsor or funding body  | GVA Grimley   |

### Project archives

|                     |         |       |
|---------------------|---------|-------|
| Physical recipient  | Archive | LAARC |
| Physical Archive ID |         | FFR05 |
| Digital recipient   | Archive | LAARC |
| Digital Archive ID  |         | FFR05 |

Paper recipient      Archive      LAARC

Paper Archive ID      FFR05

---

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title      19-23 Fife Road, London borough of Kingston Upon Thames; a  
report on the watching brief

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Kennedy, S.

Date      2005

Issuer or publisher      MoLAS

Place of issue or  
publication      London

Description      unpublished client report

---

Entered by      skennedy (skennedy@molas.org.uk)

Entered on      13 January 2006