



136 MANOR DRIVE NORTH
New Malden
KT3

London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames

An archaeological evaluation report

July 2006



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

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KT3

London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames

An archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: MDV06

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of 136 Manor Drive North, New Malden. The report was commissioned from the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) by Dennis Brown on behalf of the client Albert Soden Limited.

Following the recommendations of the English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) an archaeological field evaluation and watching brief was conducted on the site.

The results of the archaeological fieldwork have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. The fieldwork revealed no archaeological material and no deposits earlier than 20th century ground disturbance and deposits relating to the previous buildings, now demolished. Natural clay deposits were found at 19.55m OD, 0.60m below the adjacent ground surface level.

In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes the impact of the proposed redevelopment is negligible.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at 136 Manor Drive North, New Malden, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is located in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. It is roughly triangular in plan, bounded by a railway line and embankment to the south, residential flats to the north, and fronts onto Manor Drive North to the east. The OS National Grid Ref. for centre of site is 521000 166482. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is 20.16m OD. The site code is MDV06.

A written scheme of investigation was prepared prior to the outset of the fieldwork, which covers the whole area of the site (MoLAS, MDV06) The *Method Statement* document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

An archaeological field evaluation and watching brief was subsequently carried out on the 3rd and the 4th of July 2006.

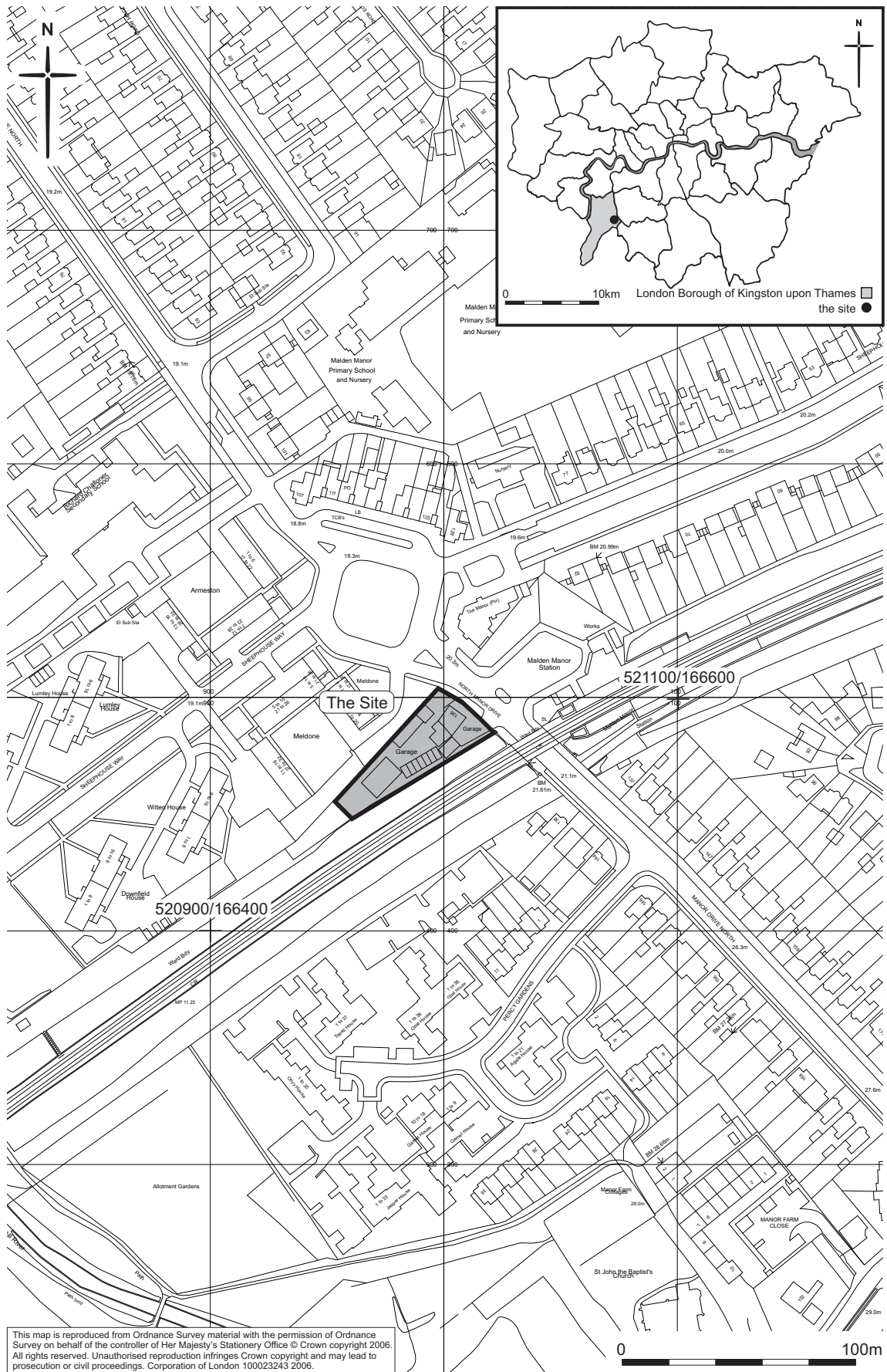


Fig 1 Site location

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

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

1.3 Planning background

The evaluation was undertaken in response to a condition placed on planning permission by the local planning authority.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Dennis Brown of Albert Soden Limited 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).

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

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

1.5 Aims and objectives

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

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2):

The limited nature of the proposed works and the archaeological evaluation makes it unreasonable to establish any specific archaeological research objectives. The archaeological brief is essentially limited to establishing the levels and nature of surviving archaeological deposits, and to ensure that the digging of evaluation trenches does not involve unnecessary destruction of such deposits. Nevertheless, in addition, a few broad research questions can be outlined:

What is the nature and level of natural topography?

What are the earliest deposits identified?

What are the latest deposits identified?

Is there any evidence relating to the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement uncovered to the south of the site?

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

The site is situated on a neck of London Clay, which lies between the relatively narrow flood plain of the Hogsmill River and the wider flood plain valley of the River Wandle. This promontory essentially represents upper solid geology extending to the south and southeast, eventually overlying older deposits of the Woolwich and Reading Beds, which form the southern extremities of the Eocene London Basin.

In physical terms the site lies on a spur of land rising above its immediate surroundings and on the north/north-western edge of a more general plateau or series of promontories which gently rise towards the chalk downlands. A gradual slope down to the Hogsmill is apparent in the levels on site.

2.2 Prehistoric

Archaeological evidence from the area comes from excavations to the south of the site at Percy Gardens and Church Road, where an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement has been uncovered. The earliest activity is represented by Mesolithic or later flint tools and waste material. These included two adzes, apparently deliberately placed in a Middle Iron Age pit, and a concentration of Early-Middle Iron Age features cut into the London Clay which comprised of rubbish pits, storage pits and postholes, the latter possibly representing a structure. From them were recovered considerable quantities of pottery, animal bone, burnt daub and baked clay loomweights. Romano-British features consisted of land boundaries or drainage ditches and a few pits. A substantial ditch was thought to delineate a settlement boundary to the south. This is supported by the presence of a large assemblage of unabraded pottery, some representing large fragments of single vessels, and a fragment of sandstone quern.

2.3 Roman

The Roman material uncovered includes pottery and coins of 1st to 3rd century date, with the main Roman occupation evidence dating to the 4th century indicating the presence of an extensive Romano-British village.

2.4 Medieval/Post-Medieval

An early medieval field boundary ditch was also recorded. This alignment persisted into the post-med period, implying that the area remained in agricultural usage until the construction of Manor Farm Buildings from c 1855 onwards. Later medieval 12th-15th century pottery has also been recovered during excavation.

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (Hoad, 2005), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

A single evaluation trench measuring 2.7m by 8.8m was excavated to the southwest of the existing building at 136 Manor Drive North.

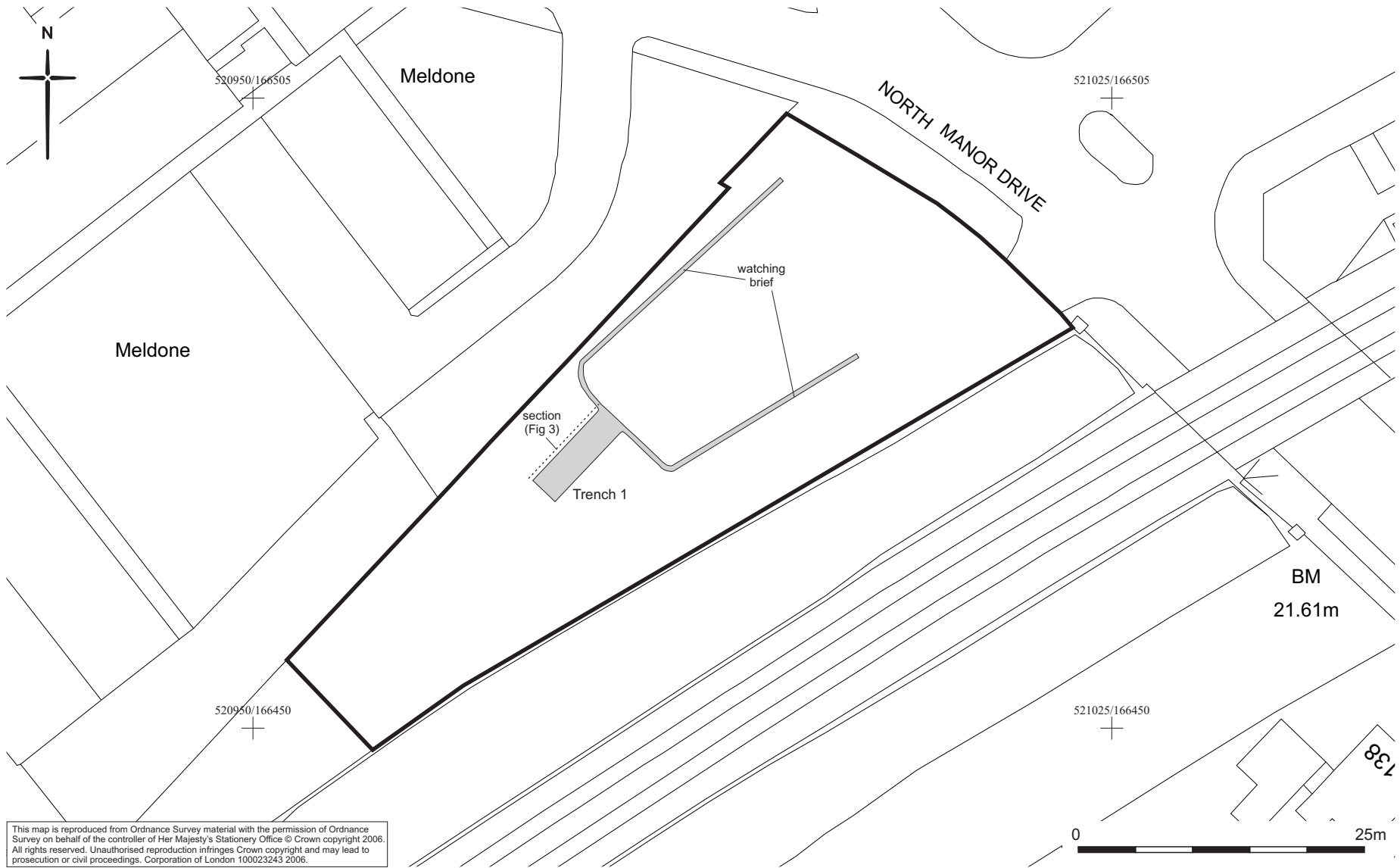
The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. The trench was excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The location of the evaluation trench was recorded by MoLAS by offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted on to a site plan. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by relative to Ordnance Datum via a transverse to the OS benchmark of 21.61m OD, on the concrete wall of the railway bridge to the south, on Manor Drive North.

The site has produced a trench location plan; a trench plan at 1:50; a section drawing at 1:20; and a series of digital photographs.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code MDV06 in the MoL archive.



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Corporation of London 100023243 2006.

Fig 2 Location of trenches

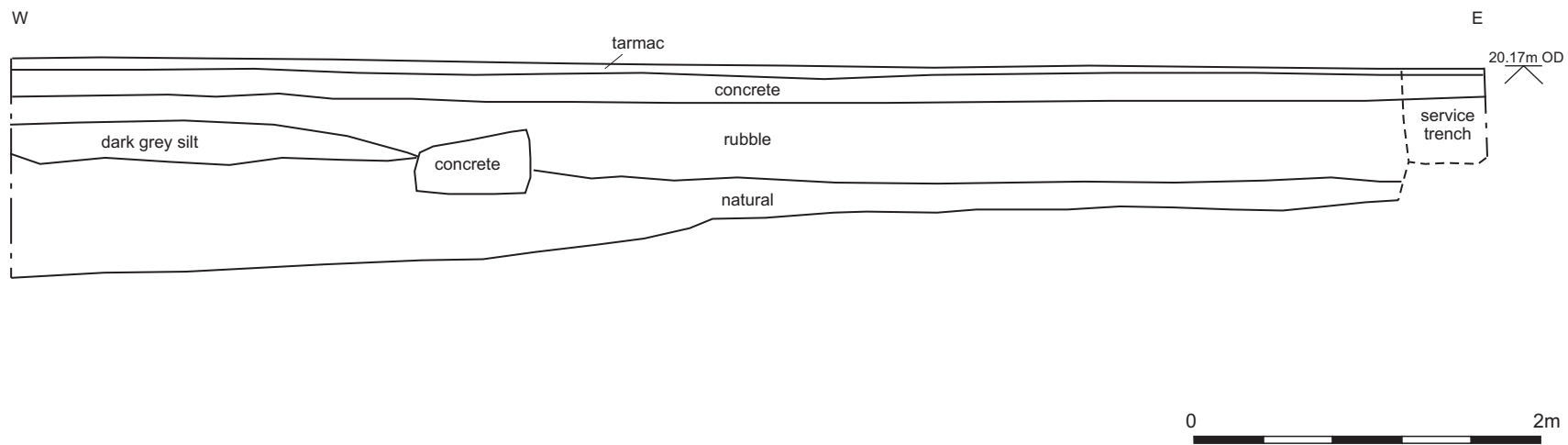


Fig 3 North-facing section of trench 1

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2 and

<i>Evaluation Trench 1</i>	
Location	Southwest rear of new building
Dimensions	8.8m by 2.7m
Modern ground level/top of slab	20.20m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	20.30m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	N/A
Natural observed	19.50m OD

Trench 1 was located to the southwest and rear of the new building in the area designated for car parking. Buildings associated with a petrol station had previously stood on the site.

Natural sandy clay (London clay) was recorded at a height of 19.50m OD. This deposit, light grey with a consistent light brown mottle was composed of clay with a small component of sand. The upper 0.70m of this material continued below the maximum depth of the trench at 1.20m below the adjacent ground surface level. Ground water appeared in the bottom 0.03m of the lowest portion of the trench.

Overlying the natural was a dark brown, moderately compact, 0.10m-0.30m thick layer of sandy clayey silt. The top of this layer was recorded at 20m OD. At the base of this deposit the soil contained a residue of liquid petroleum mixed with ground water.

These lower two deposits were cut by a structure on the northern side of the trench, the surviving remains of which are a concrete base, lying on natural, with modern yellow bricks cemented onto its surface.

Overlying the structural remains was a 0.40m layer of wall debris type rubble, mainly brick mixed with dark brown soil.

Sealing the above deposits was a 0.20m thick layer of concrete mixed with brick rubble, topped by tarmac.

<i>Service Trench 1</i>	
Location	North, west and south of new building
Dimensions	50m by 0.4 by 0.4m
Modern ground level/top of slab	20.20m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	20.30m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	19.96m
Natural observed	N/A

Service Trench 1 was a single gas-pipe trench located to the north, west and south of the new building. The open trench was recorded during the course of the evaluation.

A rubble layer up to 0.40m thick comprising building material mixed with a dark brown sandy clayey silt was observed in the sides and base of this trench.

Sealing this deposit was a 0.01–0.20m thick layer of concrete mixed with brick rubble, topped by tarmac.

3.3 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation ‘in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy’. In the case of this site no significant archaeological finds or features were discovered.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?

Natural sandy clay was recorded at a height of 19.50m OD. This deposit, light grey with a consistent light brown mottle was composed of clay with a small component of sand.

- What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest deposits identified in the evaluation trench are those associated with the previous 20th century building.

- What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposits identified in the evaluation trench are also those associated with the previous 20th century building.

- Is there any evidence relating to the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement uncovered to the south of the site?

There is no evidence relating to the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement uncovered to the south of the site.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is low. There is significant disturbance to the ground to a depth of at least 0.7m, cutting through the natural, in the northeastern two-thirds of the site where earlier buildings were located. Here the ground appears to have been levelled and partially made up with rubble from a demolished building. In the western third of the trench the ground has not been disturbed to the same depth and has a surviving probable remnant of the original topsoil present at 0.3m below the surface. If archaeological deposits were present in rest of the site they might be preserved in the portion of relatively undisturbed ground indicated to the west and south.

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at 136 Manor Drive North, New Malden involves the construction of a three-storey residential building, with a cleared area to the rear (west) for car parking. The impact of this on the surviving archaeological deposits will be to remove all deposits overlying the natural, within the footprint of the new building. At the western end of the site, truncation will be limited to the upper levels of the deposits, and it is probable that any deeply cut archaeological features (if present) may survive below the construction and make up levels of the proposed car parking area.

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed during the archaeological fieldwork rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Denis Brown of Albert sodden Limited for commissioning this report. Ray Fairbrass for his help and assistance on site. Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for his comments and guidance on the fieldwork.

7 Bibliography

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-16446

? Project details

Project name	136 Manor Drive New Malden
Short description of the project	Evaluation and watching brief revealed no archaeological deposits or artefacts. Natural geology was London clay recorded at 19.55m OD.
Project dates	Start: 03-07-2006 End: 04-07-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MDV06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation
Monument type	CL Modern
Significant Finds	none Modern
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Development (other) type	Apartment block
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Status	Complete
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? Project location

Site location	GREATER LONDON KINGSTON UPON THAMES NEW MALDON 136 Manor Drive North
Postcode	KT3 5PN
Study area	44 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 52100 16648 Point
Height OD	Min: 19.55m Max: 19.55m

Status	Complete
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? Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)


Project design MoLAS
 originator

Project director/manager Stewart Hoad

Project supervisor Simon Gannon
 (other)

Sponsor or funding Albert Soden Ltd.
 body (other)

Status Complete

 **Project archives**

Physical Archive LAARC
 recipient

Physical Archive 'No physical archive'
 Exists?

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Digital Media available 'Survey','Text'


Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Drawing','Notebook - Excavation, Research, General
 Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Status Complete

 **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1 

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