

**12 KINGSTON ROAD  
Tolworth  
London KT5**

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Archaeological Evaluation Report

February 2016



**12 KINGSTON ROAD  
Tolworth  
London  
KT5 9NU**

Site Code KRD16  
NGR 519903 165574  
OASIS reference: molas1-240866

Planning reference 15/10247

Report on archaeological evaluation

**Sign-off History:**

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Checked/ Approved by:</b>	<b>Reason for Issue:</b>
1	12.02.16	Sam Pfizenmaier	David Divers	First issue

© **MOLA**

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED tel 0207 410 2200  
email [generalenquiries@mola.org.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@mola.org.uk)

MOLA is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales  
with company registration number 07751831 and charity registration number 1143574.  
Registered office: Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED

# Summary

This report presents the findings of an evaluation undertaken by MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) at 12 Kingston Road, Tolworth, London. National grid reference to the approximate centre of the site is 519903 165574. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Tower8 on behalf of the client Whitbread PLC.

The site lies in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and is bounded by Kingston Road (A240) to the east; to the north and west, the site is bordered by a car park and access road to London Concrete and a bus depot, and to the south, the site lies adjacent to King George's playing field and cycle track.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2015) on 25th January 2016.

Natural deposits in the form of London Clay were recorded between c 24.40 and 24.50m in the evaluation trenches. Modern made ground (associated with the recently demolished post 1960's-era petrol station) overlay and truncated the top of the natural geology at a constant depth of c 0.5m below ground level. No significant archaeological deposits were observed.

Made ground across the site was evidently contaminated with waste accumulated during the site's recent use as a petrol station. With this in mind trenches were immediately backfilled after excavation and in some instances only rudimentary recording was possible.

The results from the two evaluation trenches, and watching brief during the removal of diesel tanks, indicate that recent horizontal truncation has removed all archaeological deposits.

# Contents

1	<u>Introduction</u>	3
2	<u>Topographical and historical background</u>	4
3	<u>Evaluation methodology</u>	5
4	<u>Results of the evaluation</u>	6
5	<u>Archaeological potential</u>	10
6	<u>Proposed development impact and conclusions</u>	12
7	<u>Acknowledgements</u>	13
8	<u>Bibliography</u>	14
9	<u>OASIS archaeological report form</u>	17

## List of Figs

<i>Fig 1 Site Location</i>	15
<i>Fig 2 Trench location plan</i>	16

## List of Photos

Photo 1 Trench 1, during excavation, London Clay is visible truncated by what appeared to be a manhole or soakaway, looking east.	6
Photo 2 Trench 2, natural London Clay exposed across the trench base at c 24.50m OD, looking south-west.	7
Photo 3 London clay observed at the base of the diesel tanks in the south-eastern part of the site.	8
Photo 4 During removal of the concrete diesel tanks London clay was exposed in section beneath approximately 0.5m of modern material, looking north	9

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Site background

---

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by MOLA at 12 Kingston Road, Tolworth in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames ('the site') on the 25th January 2016 (see *Fig 1*). This document is the Report on that work.
- 1.1.2 A written *Archaeological Assessment* was previously prepared, which covered 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 interpretation of its archaeological potential.
- 1.1.3 The legislative and planning framework in which the evaluation took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation 2015* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MOLA 2015). To summarise here:
- 1.1.4 The evaluation was carried out to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the Planning Permission granted by Kingston upon Thames (planning reference 15/10247).

## 1.2 Scope of the evaluation

---

- 1.2.1 Evaluation is defined by Historic England as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:
- 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
- 1.2.2 An archaeological evaluation is a limited fieldwork exercise designed to test the conclusions of preliminary desk based work. It is not the same as full excavation.
- 1.2.3 The evaluation was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for evaluation specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA, 2014).
- 1.2.4 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002.
- 1.2.5 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the evaluation (Section 2).

## 2 Topographical and historical background

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 resume of the archaeology is provided here:

### 2.1 Archaeology

---

- 2.1.1 The site has potential to contain archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period. Previous archaeological fieldwork conducted on Alpine Avenue to the north-east of the site (AEA96) produced evidence of three Iron Age roundhouses and associated industrial features, recovering residual flintwork of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date. This represents what may have been a clearing in an area that would otherwise have been heavily wooded.
- 2.1.2 The site has low potential to contain archaeological remains dating to the Roman, early medieval and later medieval periods. The site lies some distance from the main settlements in these periods. It is therefore probable that the site and surrounding area was unoccupied agricultural land or woodland at this time.
- 2.1.3 The site has low potential to contain remains dating to the post-medieval period, with such remains likely to comprise agricultural features such as plough soils. Cartographic sources dating to the mid-19th century show the site as occupied by open arable fields located at some distance from the nearest settlements, with no development occurring on the site until the mid-1950s.

## 3 Evaluation methodology

### 3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 Two evaluation trenches measuring c 2m by 7–8m and 0.6m deep were excavated in the centre and northern half of the site.
- 3.1.2 The slab/ground and standing buildings were broken out and cleared by contractors prior to MOLA supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine, and monitored by a MOLA supervisor.
- 3.1.3 Where practicable, archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2015).
- 3.1.4 A third proposed trench in the south western part of the site was not excavated due to the levels of contamination identified in the excavated trenches and also witnessed during earlier groundwork in the vicinity of this trench location.
- 3.1.5 Excavations associated with the removal of diesel tanks for the former filling station were also monitored.
- 3.1.6 Trench locations were plotted on plans provided by the client using an ‘offset methodology’ and subsequently tied to the OS grid by MOLA Geomatics.

### 3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 Due to the levels of onsite contamination the two trenches were backfilled immediately after excavation. A third trench proposed in the south-west of the site was not excavated for health and safety reasons. The levels of contamination prohibited full access into the evaluation trenches and only approximate measurements of the composition, thickness etc of deposits was possible.

### 3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	2
Number of overall location plans	1
Number of Context (SU) sheets	-
Number of photographs	26
Number of Plan sheets	-
Number of Sections	-

## 4 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see *Fig 2*.

### 4.1 Trench 1

Location	Centre of site
Dimensions	(All approximate) 2m by 7m by 0.6 deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	25.00m OD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	24.40m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None survived
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	24.40 m OD
Top of surviving natural observed at	24.40m OD
Level of base of trench	24.40m OD



*Photo 1 Trench 1, during excavation, London Clay is visible truncated by what appeared to be a manhole or soakaway, looking east.*

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the centre of the site, near the proposed location of Trench 2 shown in the WSI, but was aligned east-west. London clay was observed at the base of the trench at c 24.40m OD. This appeared fairly clean, although close



inspection was not possible. It was apparent that fairly recent (20th-century) horizontal truncation had removed all archaeological potential to the top of the natural geology. A manhole or soakaway visible at c 0.5m below ground level, in the approximate centre of the trench, was probably contemporary with the 1960's petrol station. The trench was backfilled immediately after excavation due to health and safety concerns as the modern deposits were evidently contaminated.

## 4.2 Trench 2

Location	North east of site.
Dimensions	(All approximate) 2m by 8m by 0.5–0.7m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	25.00m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	24.65m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None survived
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	24.30m OD
Top of surviving natural observed at	24.50m OD
Level of base of trench	24.30m OD



*Photo 2 Trench 2, natural London Clay exposed across the trench base at c 24.50m OD, looking south-west.*

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was located parallel to, and 3m south of, the proposed location of trench 3 as shown in the WSI. Blue grey London Clay was exposed across the base of the trench. This was flecked with very small particles of what appeared to be chalk. Although close inspection of this deposit was not possible, there was no evidence it had been redeposited. Small fragments of ceramic building material were also evident within this top layer of natural geology, likely residue from 20th-century construction. As in trench 1 modern ground work had removed any potential archaeology, truncating to natural geology. The trench was backfilled immediately after excavation due to health and safety concerns.

## 4.3 The site as a whole

---

- 4.3.1 From the two evaluated trenches and further onsite observations (see photos below) it appears that horizontal truncation, likely dating from the latter half of the 20th century, had removed any archaeological horizons which may have been present down to the top of London clay. The natural geology was recorded at a relatively consistent height of c 0.5m bgl. A similar depth of natural geology (albeit sealed by soil horizons) was recorded at Decker's Sports Ground also on Kingston Road, approximately 140m east of the site (MOLAS 2007).
- 4.3.2 Whilst onsite MOLA observed the breaking out and excavation of tanks in the south-east of the site. This allowed for observation of the sequence of relatively modern deposits overlying the truncated natural geology. The deposits observed were consistent with those seen within the evaluation trenches, suggesting that the sequence was consistent across the site.
- 4.3.3 Although only it was only possible to investigate two evaluation trenches, MOLA were informed by the demolition contractors that contaminated London Clay was found immediately below the existing slab and make-up in the west and south-west of the site. For this reason the trench located in the south-west of the site was not excavated.



*Photo 3 London clay observed at the base of the diesel tanks in the south-eastern part of the site.*



*Photo 4 During removal of the concrete diesel tanks London clay was exposed in section beneath approximately 0.5m of modern material, looking north*

## 5 Archaeological potential

### 5.1 Answering original research aims

---

A number of broad objectives and research questions have been identified for this evaluation:

- Is there any evidence for Iron Age round houses or industrial activity on the site?  
*No evidence was found for prehistoric activity on site as 20th-century activity had truncated to Natural geology.*
- Do any Mesolithic or Bronze Age residual finds survive?  
*See above*
- Is there any evidence for post-medieval agricultural features or land surfaces?  
*20th century activity had truncated to Natural geology removing all archaeological horizons*
- Is there any evidence for the field boundary shown on historic maps running through the north-western edge of the site? This is represented as a substantial hedgerow on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25":mile scale map of 1867 (not reproduced).  
*20th century activity had truncated to Natural geology removing all archaeological horizons*
- What is the nature and level of natural topography?  
*London Clay was observed across the site between 24.40 and 24.50m OD, and although due to site conditions this was not closely observed, there is no reason to believe it represented redeposited material.*
- What is the extent of modern disturbance?  
*Horizontal 20th century truncation associated with the construction and development of the petrol station (tanks, pipes drainage etc) has removed all archaeological horizons.*

### 5.2 General discussion of potential

---

- 5.2.1 The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification above natural ground) on the site is very limited. Furthermore in the unlikely event small pockets did survive, they would probably be of limited archaeological value (e.g. field boundaries/drains) and too contaminated to safely record.

### 5.3 Significance

---

- 5.3.1 No significant archaeological remains survived on site.

## 5.4 Assessment of the evaluation

---

- 5.4.1 Across the site modern contaminated material was observed overlying natural London Clay at c 0.5m bgl.
- 5.4.2 Although only the centre and eastern areas of the site were evaluated, MOLA were informed onsite that the west and south-west of the site were heavily truncated and also contaminated. For this reason no further trenches were excavated.

## 6 Proposed development impact and conclusions

- 6.1.1 The proposed development scheme comprises the clearance of the current garage and commercial units to be replaced with a four storey hotel, with single level basement car park. The basement will occupy almost the entire site footprint.
- 6.1.2 The development will involve the excavation of the majority of the site's footprint, initially to remove the contaminated material, and then for the construction of the new basement. However, given the demonstrably low potential for archaeology to survive on the site, it is very unlikely that any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development.
- 6.1.3 MOLA therefore considers that no further archaeological work should be necessary in response to the new development. However, the decision on the need for archaeological mitigation to the deposits revealed rests with the Local Planning Authority.

## 7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 The author would like to thank Tower8 for commissioning the archaeological work on behalf of the client, Whitbread PLC. Recording on site was undertaken by the author, digitising of site records was by Brigid Geist and photography was by the author. The project was managed for MOLA by David Divers

## 8 Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (CIFA), 2014 *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Standard and guidance: field evaluation*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA), supplement 2014, *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Standards and guidance: the creation, compilation deposition and transfer of archaeological archives*

Department of Communities and Local Government, 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Greater London Authority, July 2011 *The London Plan. Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London*

Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2015 *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London*

MOLAS 2007 *Archaeological evaluation Decker's Sports Ground*, MOLAS unpub report

MOLA, 2015 *Historic Environment Report for 12 Kingston Road*, MOLA unpub report

MOLA, 2015, *Written Scheme of Investigation for evaluation at 12 Kingston Road*, MOLA unpub report

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



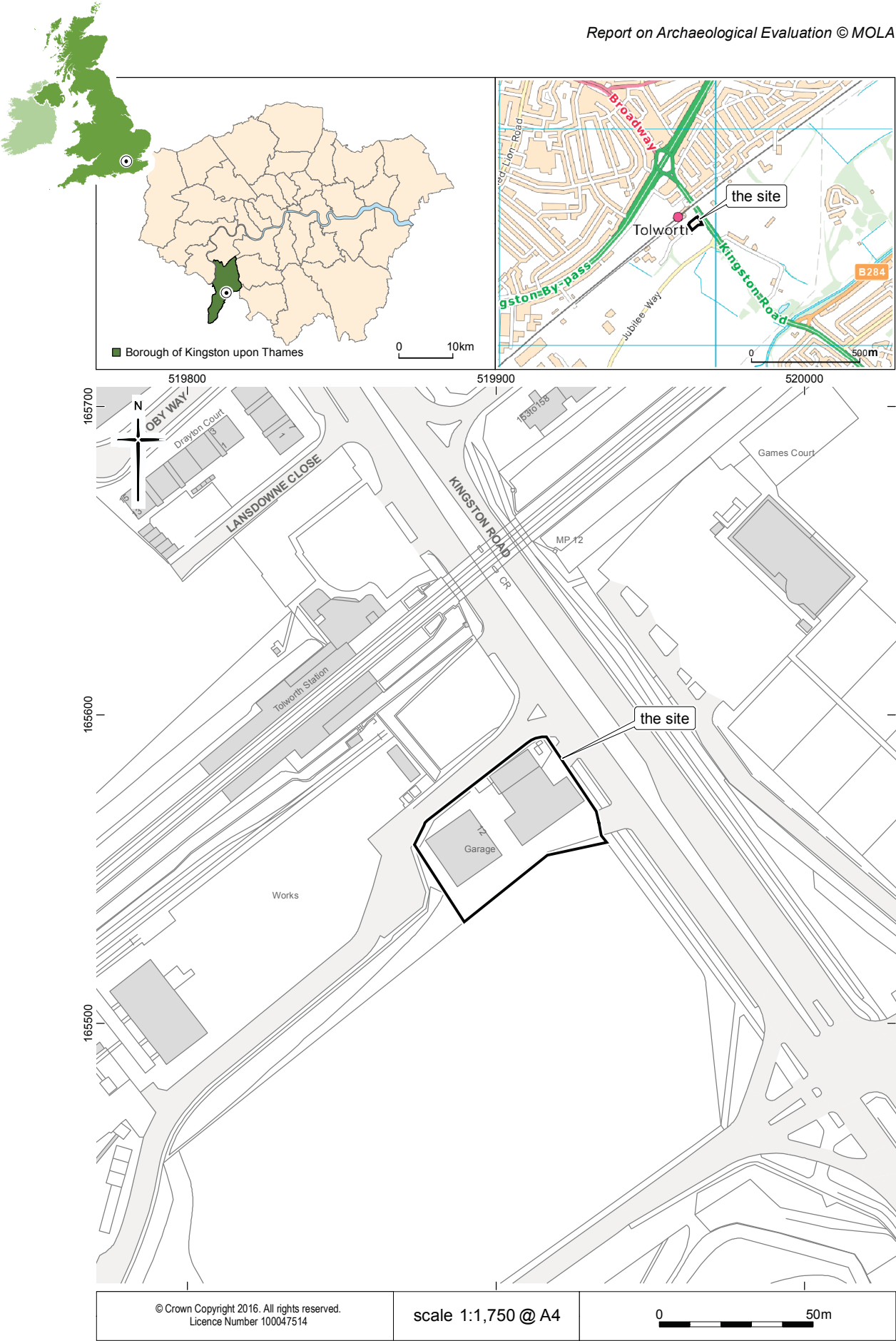


Fig 1 Site location

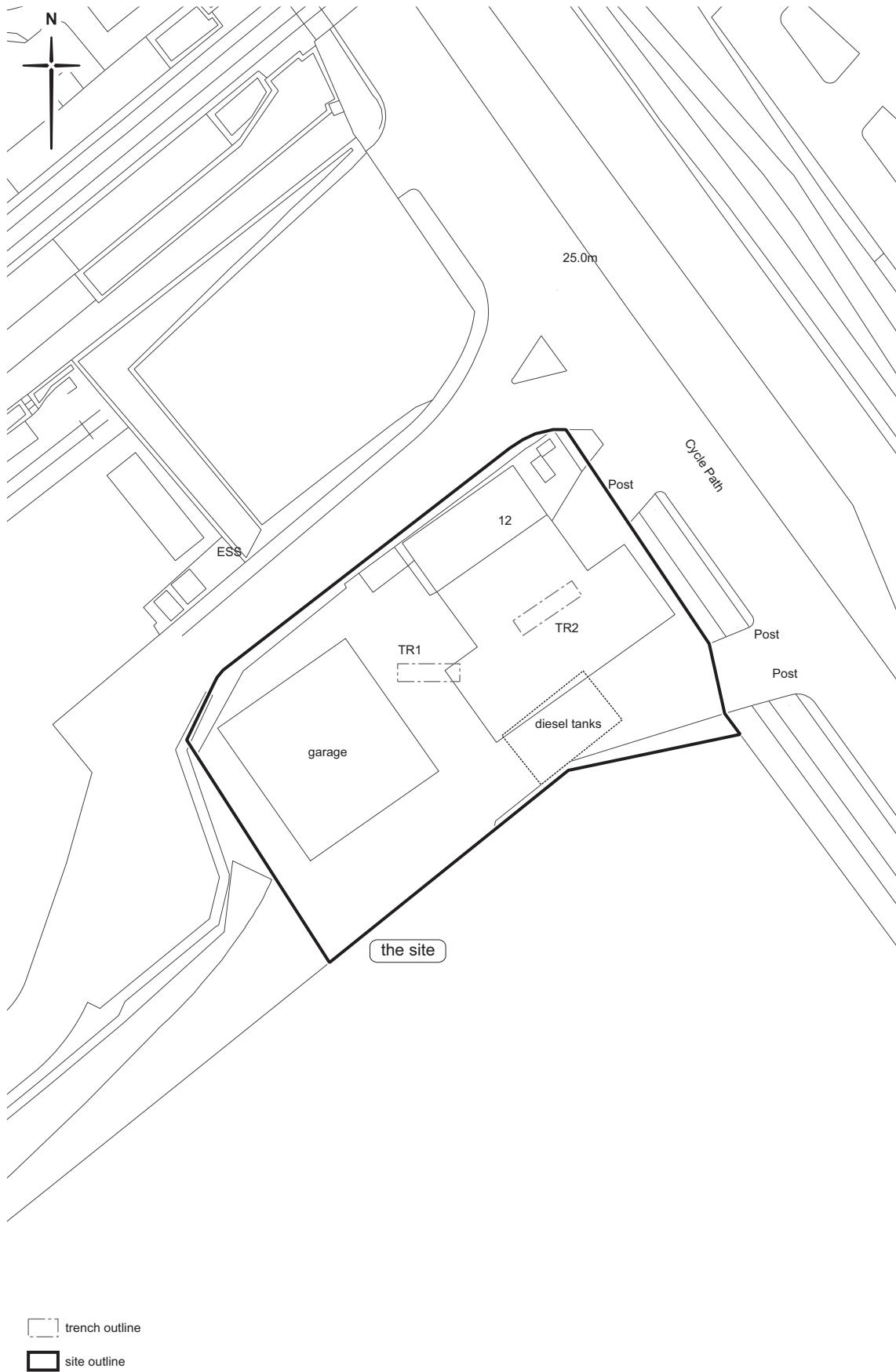


Fig 2 Trench location plan

## 9 OASIS archaeological report form

### OASIS ID: molas1-240866

#### Project details

Project name	12 Kingston Road, Tolworth KT5
Short description of the project	Two evaluation trenches were excavated . Natural deposits in the form of London Clay were recorded between c 24.40 and 24.50m OD across the site. Modern made ground (associated with the recently demolished post 1960's era petrol station) overlay the natural geology at a constant depth of c 0.5m below ground level. No significant archaeological deposits were observed or recorded. Made ground deposits across the site were evidently contaminated with waste accumulated during the sites recent use as a petrol station. With this in mind trenches were immediately backfilled after excavation and in some instances only rudimentary recording was possible.
Project dates	Start: 25-01-2016 End: 25-01-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KRD16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
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 12 Kingston Road, Tolworth KT5
Postcode	KT5 9NU
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 19903 65574 51.376388888889 -0.278611111111 51 22 35 N 000 16 43 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 24.4m Max: 24.5m

#### Project creators

Name of	MOLA
---------	------

Organisation	
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County\District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	David Divers
Project supervisor	Sam Pfizenmaier
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Tower8

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive ID	KRD16
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography" " Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID	KRD16
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Microfilm", "Report", "Survey", "Unpublisehd Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	12 Kingston Road, Tolworth, London KT5: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pfizenmaier, S.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 Ringbound client report
Entered by	Sam Pfizenmaier (spfizenmaier@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	28 January 2016