



PARK VILLAS London TW7

London Borough of Hounslow

Archaeological evaluation Report

November 2016



**Park Villas
Park Road
Isleworth
TW7 6BB**

Site Code PKV14
NGR 516818 176171
OASIS reference molas1-266708

Planning reference 00858/I/P2
Condition Number 11

Report on archaeological evaluation

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MOLA at Park Villas. The report was commissioned from MOLA by the client The Northumberland Estates.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2016) two evaluation trenches were excavated on the site on 25/10/16. This followed on from a watching brief on two geotechnical trenches in 2014.

No archaeological finds or features were observed during excavation. Post-medieval and modern dumping events were noted sealing the natural river terrace gravels. The lack of soil profile in both of the trenches suggests a degree of truncation across the site. A conclusion which concurs with the previous results of a watching brief undertaken on geotechnical test pits (MOLA 2014).

The report concludes that it is unlikely any archaeological remains will be impacted by the redevelopment.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by MOLA at Park Villas ('the site') on 25 October 2016 (see *Fig 1*). This document is the Report on that work.
- 1.1.2 A watching brief was held on two geotechnical pits excavated on 11 March 2014 as part of a previous scheme (00858/I/P1). These were reported on previously (MOLA 2014b) and so their description will not be repeated in this report.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation was previously prepared, which covered the watching brief (MOLA 2014a). The scheme was slightly amended subsequently and a revised planning application was made (00858/I/P2). A revised Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared in response to this to cover the evaluation (MOLA 2016). 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.

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the evaluation took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MOLA 2016). To summarise here:
- 1.2.2 The evaluation was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by Hounslow Local Authority (Consent reference 00858/I/P2; Condition number 11).

1.3 Scope of the evaluation

- 1.3.1 Evaluation is defined by Historic England as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:
- 1.3.2 - 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
- 1.3.3 - formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research
- 1.3.4 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.
- 1.3.5 The evaluation was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for evaluation specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA, 2014).
- 1.3.6 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002.
- 1.3.7 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation (Section 2.2)

1.4 Topographical and historical background

- 1.4.1 The topographical and historical background were adequately summarised in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2016)

2 Evaluation methodology

2.1 Field methodology

- 2.1.1 Two evaluation trenches were excavated. The original plan was for both trenches to be 2m x 5m in dimension. However, the size of the excavator bucket meant that this was essentially a bucket and a half width. Due to the loose, sandy nature of soil this made for an unstable trench which was difficult to excavate. As such the second trench was kept to bucket width but extended in length to compensate.
- 2.1.2 The ground was cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a MOLA supervisor.
- 2.1.3 Archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2016)
- 2.1.4 Trench locations were plotted on plans provided by the client using an 'offset methodology' and subsequently tied to the OS grid by MOLA Geomatics.
- 2.1.5 Where referenced in this report (eg '13.45m OD'), levels relate to OS Ordnance Datum and were calculated by measurement from a nearby spot height.

2.2 Recording methodology

- 2.2.1 A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2016).

2.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	2
Number of overall location plans	0
Number of Context (SU) sheets	0
Number of photographs	9
Number of Plan sheets	0
Number of Sections	2

3 Results of the evaluation

- 3.1.1 For trench locations see *Fig 2* .
 3.1.2 For trench photographs see *Fig 3* *Fig 3* and *Fig 4*

3.2 Trench 1

Location	Northwest corner
Dimensions	2.2m by 5m by 1.9m-1.5m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	5.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	4.10-3.70mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	4.10-3.70mOD
Level of base of trench	3.60mOD

- 3.2.1 The natural deposit is river terrace gravel and consists of light yellow brown sandy and gravel.
 3.2.2 Overlying this was approximately 0.4m of light grey brown sandy silt deposit with frequent chalk, CBM and stone inclusions and is likely post-medieval in date.
 3.2.3 Above this was 0.9m of a mid grey brown sandy silt deposit with brick, concrete and the occasional paint can inclusion. The paint can in particular suggests a more modern date for this dumping event.
 3.2.4 Sealing it all was 0.5m of a dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil.
 3.2.5 No archaeology or archaeological finds were observed.

3.3 Trench 2

Location	Southeast corner
Dimensions	1.5m by 6.5m by 1.1m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	6.40mOD
Base of modern fill/slab	5.55mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	5.55mOD
Level of base of trench	5.30mOD

- 3.3.1 Truncating the natural river terrace gravel was 0.6m of light grey brown sandy silt with chalk, CBM and stone inclusions. Likely the same or similar deposit to the post medieval dumping event observed in trench 1.
 3.3.2 Sealing this was 0.25m of the same dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil covering the whole of the site.
 3.3.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed.

3.4 The site as a whole

- 3.4.1 The two trenches produced similar results to each other, and when combined with the data produced by the watching brief on 2 geotechnical test pits (MOLA 2014b) show that the land in this area had been built up by post-medieval and modern dumping events.
- 3.4.2 The lack of soil profile above natural across the site shows a wide spread truncation event, which appears to get deeper as one moves westwards. It was previously posited that this may be part of a quarrying episode (MOLA 2014b). The uneven and sloping nature of the truncation suggests this was not part of a levelling event and so quarrying seems likely.
- 3.4.3 This truncation has likely removed any potential archaeological features which may have previously been present.
- 3.4.4 Assessing the results from all the trenches and previously excavated pits, and dating evidence where it exists, it appears that archaeological survival in this area is unlikely.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Answering original research aims

4.1.1 *What is the nature and level of natural topography?*

- Natural topography consists of a loose, light yellow brown sandy gravel river terrace deposit. This slopes from 5.55m OD in the southeast to 3.70m OD in the west.

4.1.2 *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

- Earliest deposits consist of the natural river terrace gravel.

4.1.3 *What are the latest deposits identified?*

- Latest deposits consist of modern dumping deposits.

4.1.4 *What is the extent of modern disturbance?*

- Modern disturbance mainly consists of dumping deposits and vary across the site. Truncation of the natural is much more extensive toward the west.

4.1.5 *Are there any prehistoric remains on the site?*

- There are no prehistoric remains on site.

4.1.6 *Are there any Roman remains on the site?*

- There are no Roman remains on site.

4.1.7 *Are there any Saxon remains on the site?*

- There are no Saxon remains on site.

4.1.8 *Are there any remains associated with the medieval and post medieval village of Isleworth, particularly given its proximity to the churchyard?*

- There are no archaeological remains on site of any period.

4.2 General discussion of potential

4.2.1 The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification above natural ground) on the site is unlikely.

4.2.2 There is also limited potential for survival of cut features.

4.2.3 Survival is likely to be extremely limited in certain areas because of truncation and dumping events.

4.2.4 The average depth of archaeological deposits if they do survive is likely to be 1-2m.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 Whilst the archaeological remains would have been of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they would be of regional or national importance.

4.4 Assessment of the evaluation

4.4.1 Two trenches were excavated on site which, when combined with the test pits previously excavated (MOLA 2014b), provide good spatial distribution across the site.

4.4.2 All trenches were taken down to natural, ensuring if there was any archaeology to be found it would be observed.

4.4.3 Although the sizing of the trenches changed, the area excavated was maintained.

4.4.4 As such a high level of confidence can be placed in the results of this evaluation.

5 Proposed development impact and conclusions

- 5.1.1 Taking into account the results in all the trenches it appears that archaeological deposits do not survive.
- 5.1.2 The proposed redevelopment at the site involves the creation of two new houses. The impact of this on the surviving archaeological deposits will be dependent on the depth of the foundations.
- 5.1.3 In the light of the results of the evaluation MOLA recommends that no further work need be undertaken on this site.
- 5.1.4 The decision on the appropriate archaeological mitigation to the deposits revealed rests with the Local Planning Authority.

6 Acknowledgements

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Jim Jeffrey of Northumberland Estates for commissioning the evaluation, and Will Frampton and his team from Management & Construction Services Ltd for their assistance on site.

7 Bibliography

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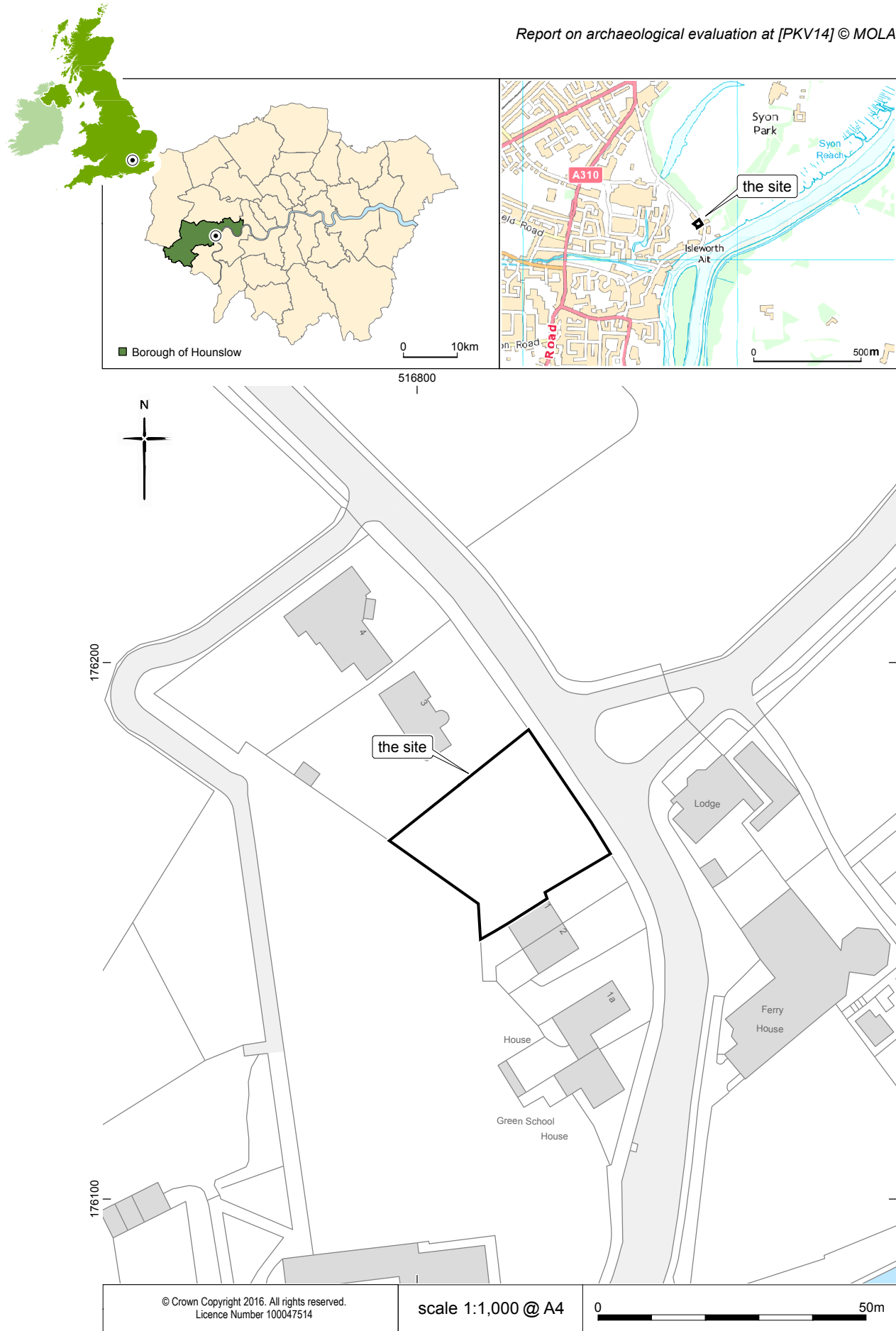


Fig 1 Site location

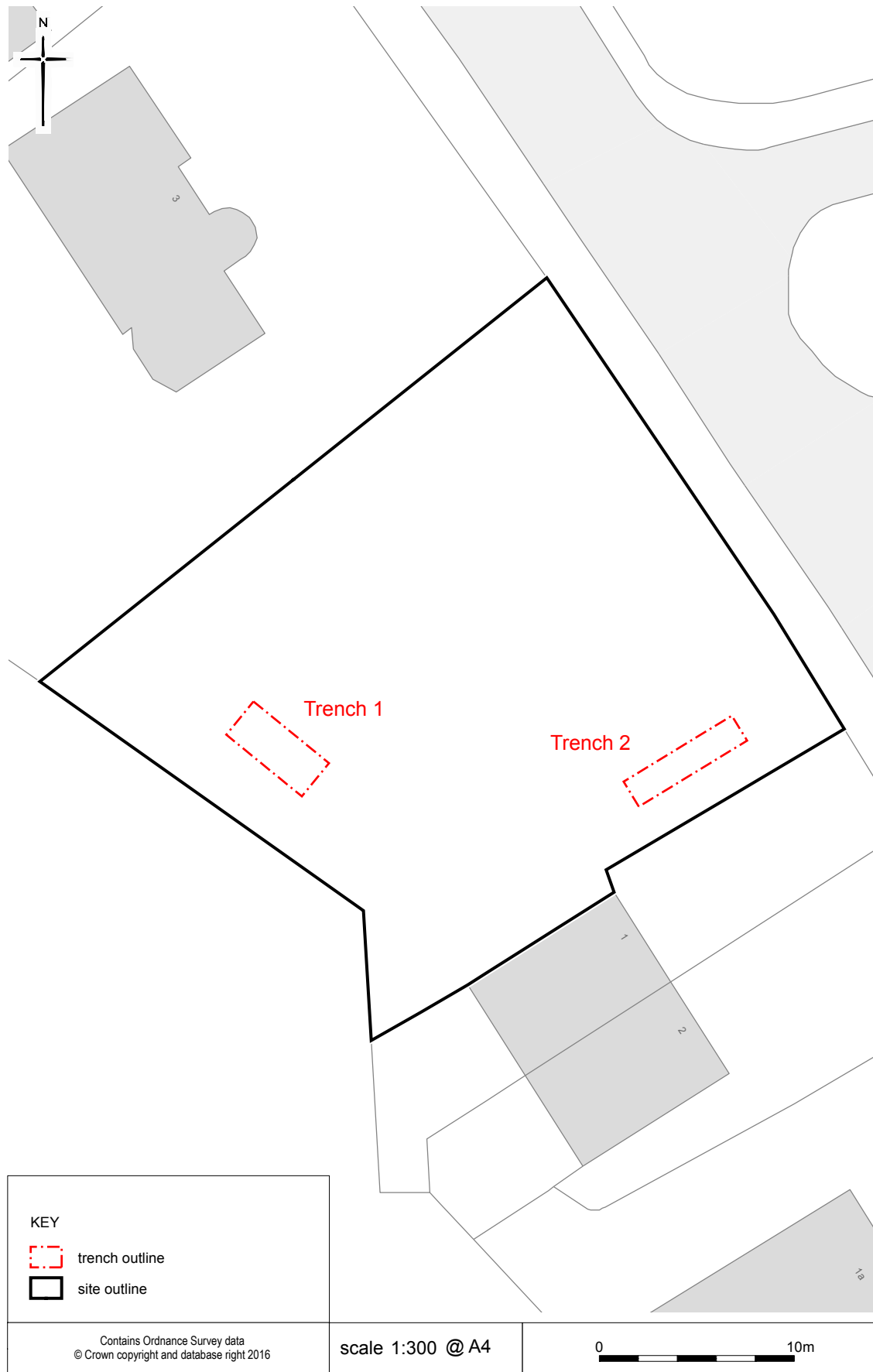


Fig 2 Historic environment features map



Fig 3 Photograph of Trench 1 facing northwest



Fig 4 Photograph of Trench 2 facing northeast

8 OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-266708

Project details

Project name	Park Villas
Short description of the project	Two evaluation trenches were excavated on the site. No archaeological finds or features were observed during excavation. Post-medieval and modern dumping events were noted sealing the natural river terrace gravels. The lack of soil profile in both of the trenches suggests a degree of truncation across the site. A conclusion which concurs with the previous results of a watching brief undertaken on geotechnical test pits
Project dates	Start: 25-10-2016 End: 25-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PKV14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HOUNSLOW HOUNSLOW Park Villas
Postcode	TW7 6BB
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 16818 76171 51.471932078252 -0.31786928808 51 28 18 N 000 19 04 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Client
Project design originator	MOLA

Project director/manager	Michael Smith
Project supervisor	Helen Vernon
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	To be designated
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	To be designated
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Section"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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