



# **HURLINGHAM RETAIL PARK**

## **Wandsworth Bridge Road**

### **London SW6**

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Report on an archaeological watching brief

March 2017



**HURLINGHAM RETAIL PARK**  
**Wandsworth Bridge Road**  
**London SW6**

Site Code WNH17  
NGR 525830 175660  
OASIS reference molas1-280046

Planning reference 2013/02870/FUL  
Condition Number 42

Report on an archaeological watching brief

**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	23.03.17	Antony Francis	Nicholas Elsdon	First issue

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## Summary

*This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by MOLA on initial drainage works at Hurlingham Retail Park. The report was commissioned from MOLA by CBRE Ltd on behalf of the client.*

*In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2016) a watching brief was undertaken on the site on 16–21 February 2017. The single c 4m by 1m trench revealed 19th-century refuse dumps sealed by the corner of a building with a concrete floor, that were probably associated with wharfs known on the site in the late 19th century. Natural deposits and alluvium were not seen in the limited excavation, and no deposits dating earlier than the 19th century were observed.*

*The report suggests that results of the watching brief will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of the area, and that a short note should appear in the annual round up of the London Archaeologist.*

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Site background

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- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA on initial drainage works at Hurlingham Retail Park ('the site') on 16–21 February 2017 (see *Fig 1*). This document is the report on that work that is part of phase 1 of the development. Further phases will also be subject to a watching brief.
- 1.1.2 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was previously prepared which covers the whole area of the site (WSP 2013). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site (and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential). Further information is available in the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2016).
- 1.1.3 Further to the condition on Planning Consent a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by MOLA (2016). All archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with that WSI.

## 1.2 Planning background

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- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the watching brief took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2016).
- 1.2.2 The watching brief was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (Consent reference 2013/02870/FUL; Condition number 42).

## 1.3 Scope of the watching brief

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- 1.3.1 An archaeological watching brief is normally a limited fieldwork exercise. It is not the same as full excavation, though individual features may be fully excavated.
- 1.3.2 The watching brief was carried out on a single trench as part of the phase 1 works. Other parts of the site have not been investigated at time of writing.
- 1.3.3 The watching brief was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014).
- 1.3.4 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's A research framework for London Archaeology (2002).
- 1.3.5 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the watching brief.

## 2 Topographical and historical background

### 2.1 History

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- 2.1.1 The historical background of the site is outlined in the desk-based assessment and written scheme of investigation (WSP 2013, MOLA 2016).

### 2.2 Topography

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- 2.2.1 The topographic background of the site is outlined in the desk-based assessment and written scheme of investigation (WSP 2013, MOLA 2016).

### 2.3 Archaeology

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- 2.3.1 There are no records of archaeological assets of the prehistoric period within the site. However, there is a substantial volume of prehistoric archaeological assets recovered within 500m of the site, indicating multi period activity. The find spots include worked flint, palstave axes and weapons. These find spots are clustered along the banks of the Thames, where disturbances have occurred historically along the river bed of the Thames, particularly around Wandsworth Bridge. There may have been occupation within the vicinity of the site during the Iron Age. The underlying bedrock geology beneath the Site (Kempton Park Gravels) reduces the probability of general archaeological deposits being recovered, although ecofacts are common. (The riverside location and the alluvial deposits indicate fertile agricultural land which may have drawn peoples to the area.) (WSP 2013, 14–15).
- 2.3.2 There are no known archaeological assets of Romano-British or post-Roman / Anglo-Saxon date known within the site or within a 500m radius (WSP 2013, 15).
- 2.3.3 There are no records of archaeological assets of the medieval period within the site, but such activity occurred within 500m of the site. To the west of the site, Broomhouse Lane existed by 1517 and the hamlet in this vicinity was present in the late 15th century. The land is known to have been in the ownership of the Bishops of London based in Fulham Place to the west in 1393, which could indicate the site and nearby area was retained for open area through the medieval period (WSP 2013, 15).
- 2.3.4 There are no records of archaeological assets of the Post-medieval period within the Site which probably continued in agricultural use. Cartographic sources of the period (Rocque's map of 1745) illustrate the site situated away from areas of settlement and formalised agricultural fields. The hamlet of Broomhouse is shown to the west as a small cluster of buildings and laid out fields. The site is shown to be scarcely utilised. Subsequent cartographic sources do not show any significant change in the site until the late 19th Century, except for planting of trees within the Site against the riverside. After 1880, buildings are shown at the Site and the wider area was subject to significant levels of development, including the Wandsworth Bridge and wharves along the River Thames. The cartographic evidence shows the site was continuously occupied by buildings associated with the wharves (WSP 2013, 15).

## 3 The watching brief

### 3.1 Field methodology

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- 3.1.1 The slab was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. The trench was excavated by hand by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological excavation of features was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2016, 9–11).
- 3.1.3 The trench location was plotted on plans provided by the client using an 'offset methodology' and subsequently tied to the OS grid.
- 3.1.4 The nature of the fieldwork did not allow OS OD levels to be measured accurately, but relative depth levels are provided. Street level near to the site was c 5m OD (MOLA 2016, 3).

### 3.2 Recording methodology

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

### 3.3 Site archive

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Site diary entry	1 page
Plan (1:20)	1
Section (1:20)	1
Number of overall location plans	1
Number of photographs	34

## 4 Results of the watching brief

### 4.1 Trench 1

Location	In the south of the site (currently a car park)
Dimensions	4.10m by 0.80m by 1.40m deep
Modern ground level near to site	c 5mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	0.10m below ground level
Thickness of archaeological stratigraphy	1.30m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	1.40m below ground level
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not seen
Level of base of trench	1.40m below ground level

- 4.1.1 The trench ran on roughly a north–south alignment (*Fig 2*). The earliest deposits consisted of what appeared to be dumps of refuse (*Fig 3, Fig 4*). The lower [004] was a black clay silt, 0.20m thick, with much cinder, from which 19th-century pottery was recovered. This was sealed by a 0.30m thick brown silty clay [003] with occasional stock brick fragments.
- 4.1.2 The trench coincided with walls and a floor of a building that overlay these dumps. The 0.08m thick concrete floor [006] occupied most of the trench, although stopped 0.90m short of the north end. A 0.40m wide wall [001] built of yellow stock brick set in cement ran east-west across the trench. The wall was built directly on the concrete floor. The south face of the wall was rendered with concrete; the north face was abutted by a 0.60m wide dump of lime mortar. The wall, mortar and dumps [003] and [004] were sealed by rubble demolition, presumably relating to the destruction of the building of which wall [001] was part.
- 4.1.3 Part of the demolition deposit in the east-facing section collapsed during excavation to reveal a second wall [002] running north-south whose line coincided with that of the east-facing section. Only the concrete render surface of this wall was visible and its relationship to wall [001] could not be reliably determined, but it is probable that wall [002] formed the corner to a building with wall [001]. No foundation was visible for wall [001], so it is likely that it was not load-bearing, instead being a dividing wall in a larger building. The foundation to wall [002] was not seen.
- 4.1.4 A thin, blue plastic water pipe ran north-south in the trench and the 0.10m thick modern concrete slab was built directly on the building demolition, with some modern hogging gravel used to level up the uneven surface before construction.
- 4.1.5 The building consisting of walls [001] and [002] and floor [006] may be part of a thin, north-south running building that seems to be associated with 'Town Mead Wharf' shown on the 1894 Ordnance Survey map (shown in fig in MOLA 2016, 5).

### 4.2 The finds

- 4.2.1 No finds were retained.



## 5 Archaeological potential

### 5.1 Answering original research aims

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5.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation outlined seven research aims (MOLA 2016, 7–8). Some attempt can be made to answer these despite the limited nature of the watching brief trench

- What is the thickness of modern make-up and reclamation layers over the alluvium?

*Modern structures were 0.10m thick. Alluvium was not seen (the trench being 1.4m deep).*

- Do any remains of the late 19th-century wharfs and industrial buildings survive on the site?

*The corner of what is probably part of a late 19th-century wharf building was recorded in the trench. The building consisted of two walls, rendered with concrete, above a concrete floor. The building may have been part of Town Mead Wharf shown on the 1898 OS map.*

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity on the site?

*No evidence of prehistoric activity was present.*

- Is there any evidence for medieval or post-medieval water management features or agricultural activity?

*No such evidence was present.*

- Was the site level raised when the current buildings were constructed in the 1990s?

*The deposits recorded in the trench suggest that there was some land raising as a result of the demolition of the buildings formerly on the site. It appears that the modern slab was built directly on the demolition deposits resulting from the destruction of those buildings; the demolition deposits were 0.70m thick.*

- What are the earliest deposits identified?

*The earliest deposits identified were refuse dumps dating to the 19th century.*

- What are the latest deposits identified?

*The latest archaeological deposits related to the demolition of the 19th-century building recorded in the trench.*

### 5.2 Answering new research aims

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5.2.1 There are currently no new research aims.

### 5.3 Significance of the data

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5.3.1 Whilst the archaeological remains are of local significance, there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance. The local significance relates to the development of the site in the late 19th century from agricultural to

industrial wharf use, as part of a more widespread process of development that included the construction of Wandsworth Bridge to the immediate east of the site and the expansion of the town.

- 5.3.2 The results will contribute to planning further archaeological works on the site to address the planning condition.

## 6 Publication and archiving

- 6.1.1 These results may contribute to any eventual publication covering later archaeological works on the site.
- 6.1.2 The results of the watching brief will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of the area.
- 6.1.3 The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2016) with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive within 12 months of the end of the last fieldwork on the site.
- 6.1.4 In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 5) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 5.3) it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

## 7 Bibliography

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (CIFA), 2014 *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Standard and guidance: watching brief*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (CIFA), 2014 *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Standard and guidance: the creation, compilation deposition and transfer of archaeological archives*
- English Heritage, 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)
- Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2015 *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London*
- MOLA (Davies, L), 2016 *Hurlingham Retail Park, Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6, Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief on enabling works*, MOLA unpub rep
- Museum of London, 2002 *A research framework for London archaeology 2002*
- WSP (Welburn, K), 2013 *Hurlingham Retail Park, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*, WSP unpub rep



Fig 1 Site location

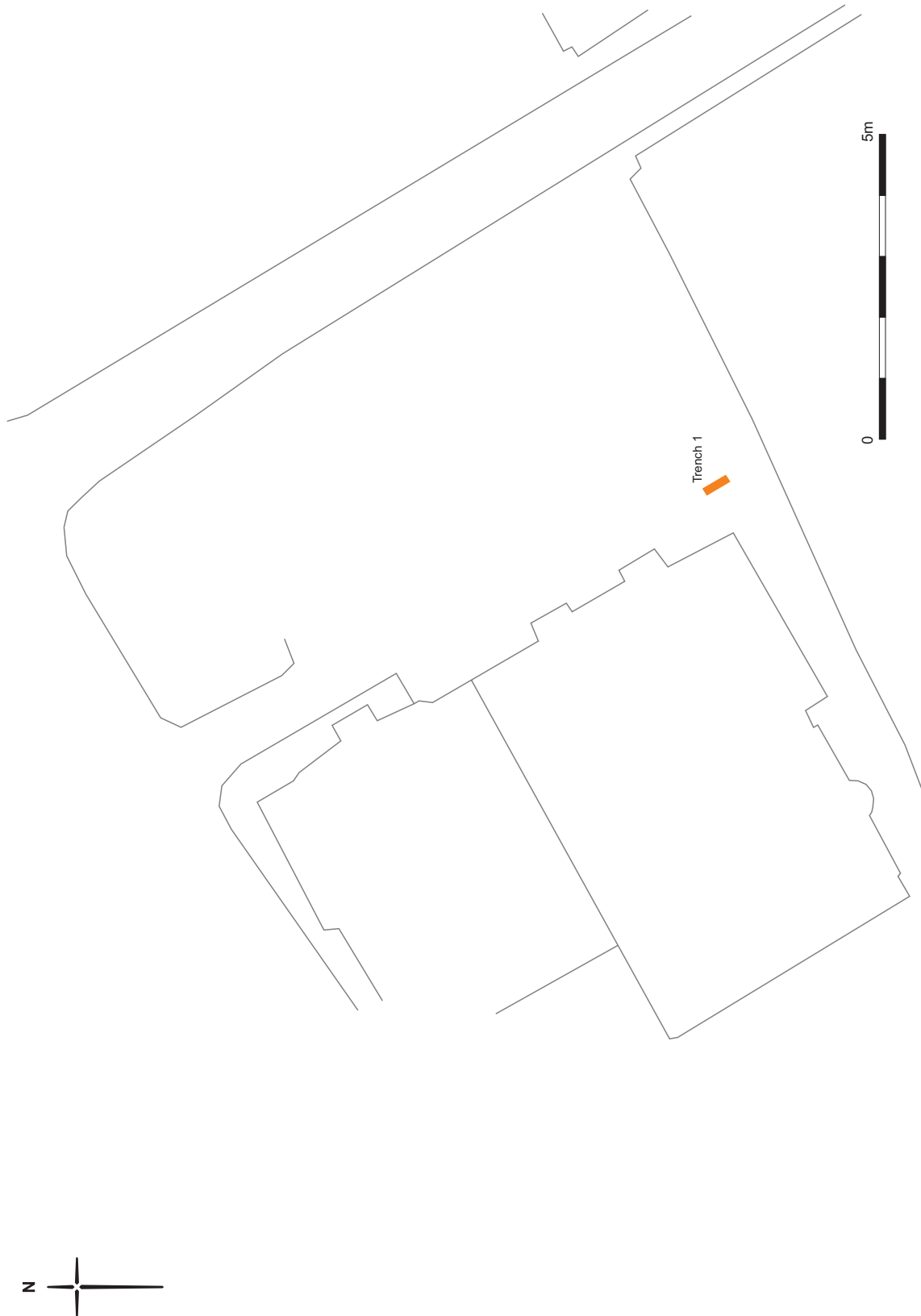


Fig 2 Location of Trench 1

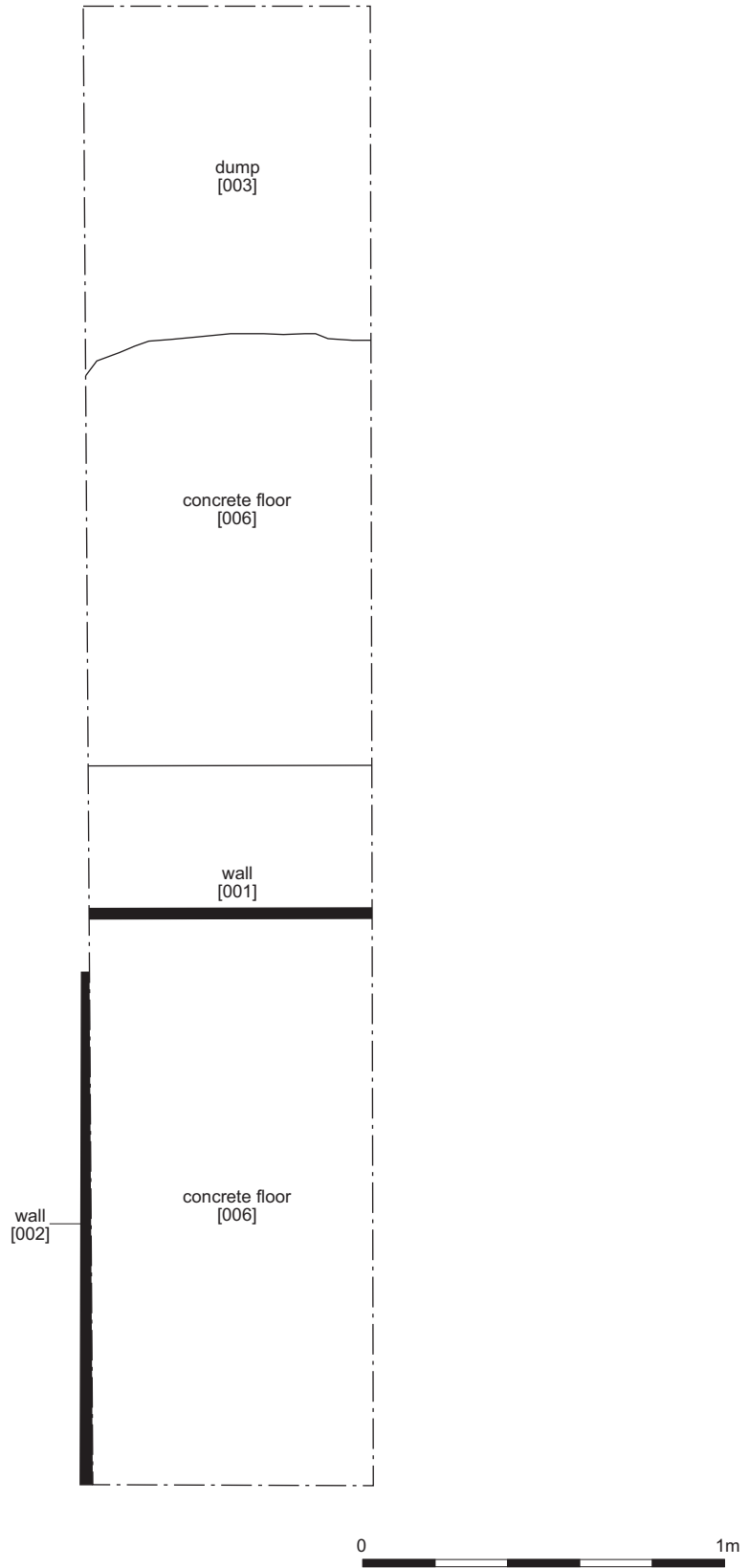


Fig 3 Plan of Trench 1

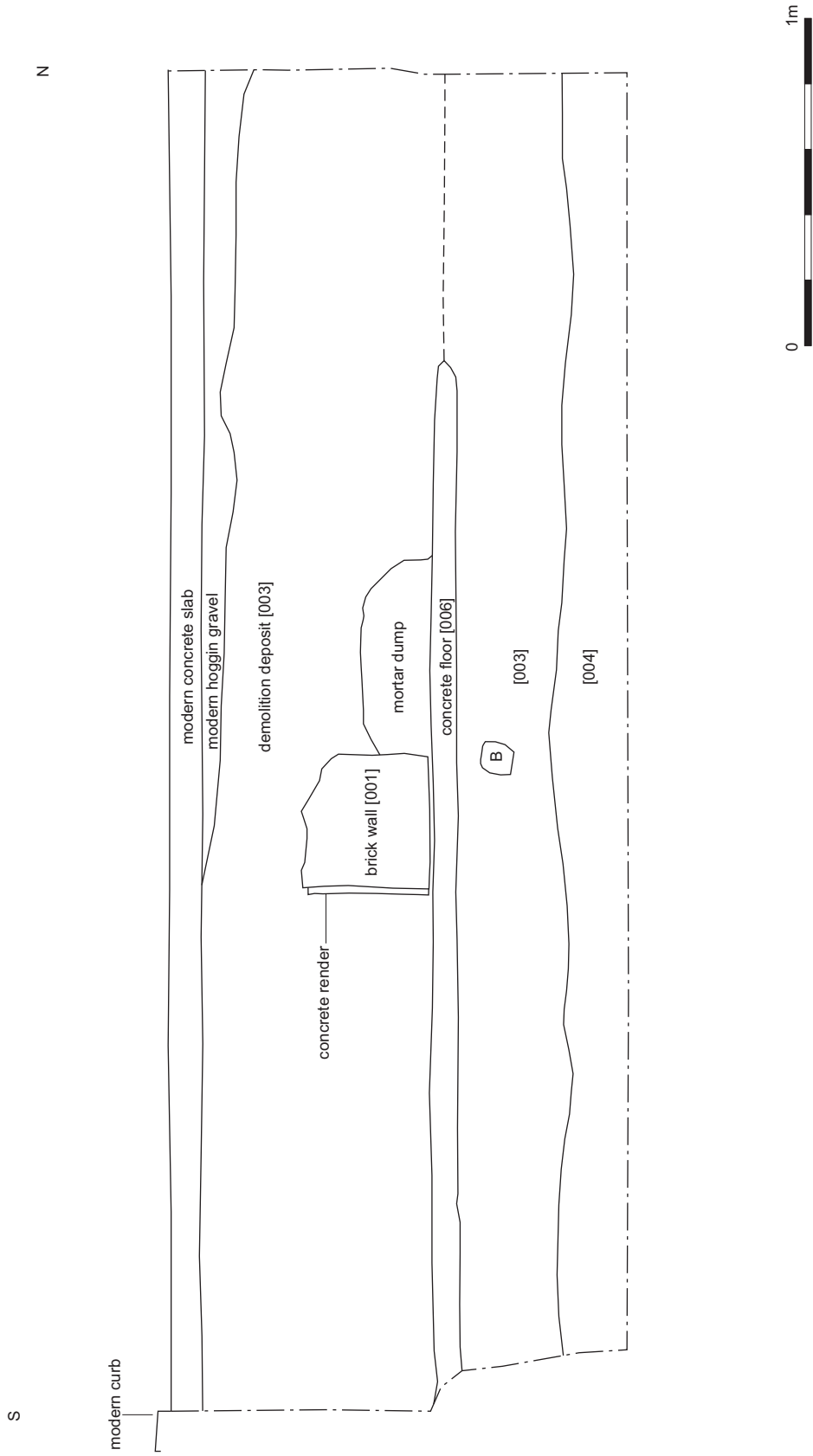


Fig 4 East-facing section of Trench 1



## 8 OASIS archaeological report form

### 8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-280046

#### Project details

Project name	Hurlingham Retail Park, Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6
Short description of the project	A single c 4m by 1m by 1.4m deep trench was excavated by contractors to reveal 19th-century refuse dumps sealed by the corner of a building with a concrete floor. The building probably relates to wharfs known on the site in the late 19th century. Natural deposits and alluvium were not seen in the limited excavation and no deposits dating earlier than the 19th century were observed.
Project dates	Start: 16-02-2017 End: 21-02-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WNH17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	BUILDING Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM Hurlingham Retail Park, Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6
Postcode	SW6
Study area	13000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 25830 75660 51.465403151495 -0.18834938857 51 27 55 N 000 11 18 W Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
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Project brief originator	Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Nicholas Elsdon
Project supervisor	Antony Francis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Archaeological consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CBRE Ltd

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### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

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### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Hurlingham Retail Park, Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6, report on an archaeological watching brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Francis, A.
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 spiral bound report

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Entered by	Antony Francis (afrancis@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	21 March 2017