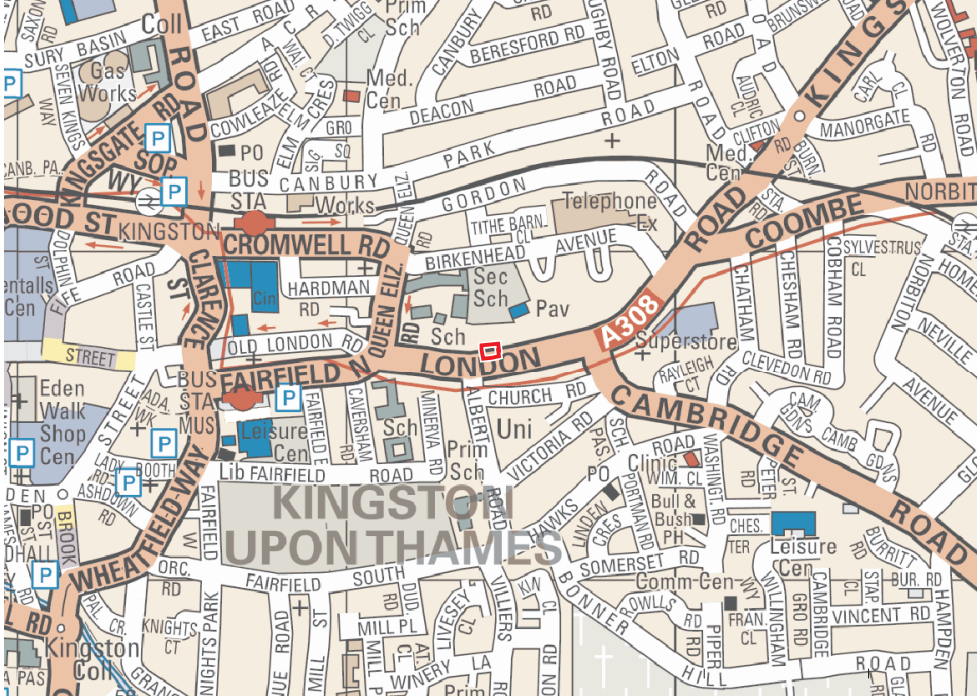

129-133 LONDON ROAD
London KT2

London Borough of Kingston

Watching brief

February 2009

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

129-133 LONDON ROAD
London KT2

London Borough of Kingston

Watching brief

Site Code: LDU09
National Grid Reference: 518717 169345

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by Stewart Sinclair on behalf of Normand Developments Ltd in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at 129-133 London Road, Kingston, KT2 6NH

Work on underpinning pits was monitored between 30/01/09 and 04/02/09 during redevelopment on the site by archaeologists from MOL Archaeology..

Archaeological deposits comprising post medieval garden soils were recorded in section in an underpinning trench and pits, which was located adjacent to and under the western boundary wall of the site. Natural ground was observed at 8.48m OD, and the highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at 9.10m OD.

Artefacts recovered from the garden soils included two abraded pot sherds of medieval date, five pot sherds of post-medieval date, and a fragment of post-medieval glass.

No significant archaeological features were noted during the watching brief.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at 129-133 London Road, Kingston, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is situated on the north side of London Road and is bounded by no. 127 to the west and by and a car parking area laid to asphalt to the east and north (see Fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 518717 169345. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is *c* 9.52m OD. The site code is LDU09.

A written scheme of investigation was prepared by MOL Archaeology, which covers the whole area of the site (MOL Archaeology, 2009). 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.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *written scheme of investigation* which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 1.2, MOL Archaeology, 2009).

1.3 Planning background

The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil the requirements of an archaeological condition placed on the site by the local planning authority, (application 05/12681/FUL, Condition 13).

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Stewart Sinclair on behalf of Normand Developments Ltd. and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology (MOL Archaeology). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for 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*, 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.

1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *written scheme of investigation* for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

- Is there any evidence that the braiding of the River Thames extended as far east as the site. If so is there any geoarchaeological information available to determine the previous courses of the River Thames?
- What level of survival is there of prehistoric remains?
- Whether there is any surviving medieval evidence for land use and occupation?
- Whether there is any surviving evidence for post-medieval occupation of the site: foundations, pits, wells and other cut features?

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

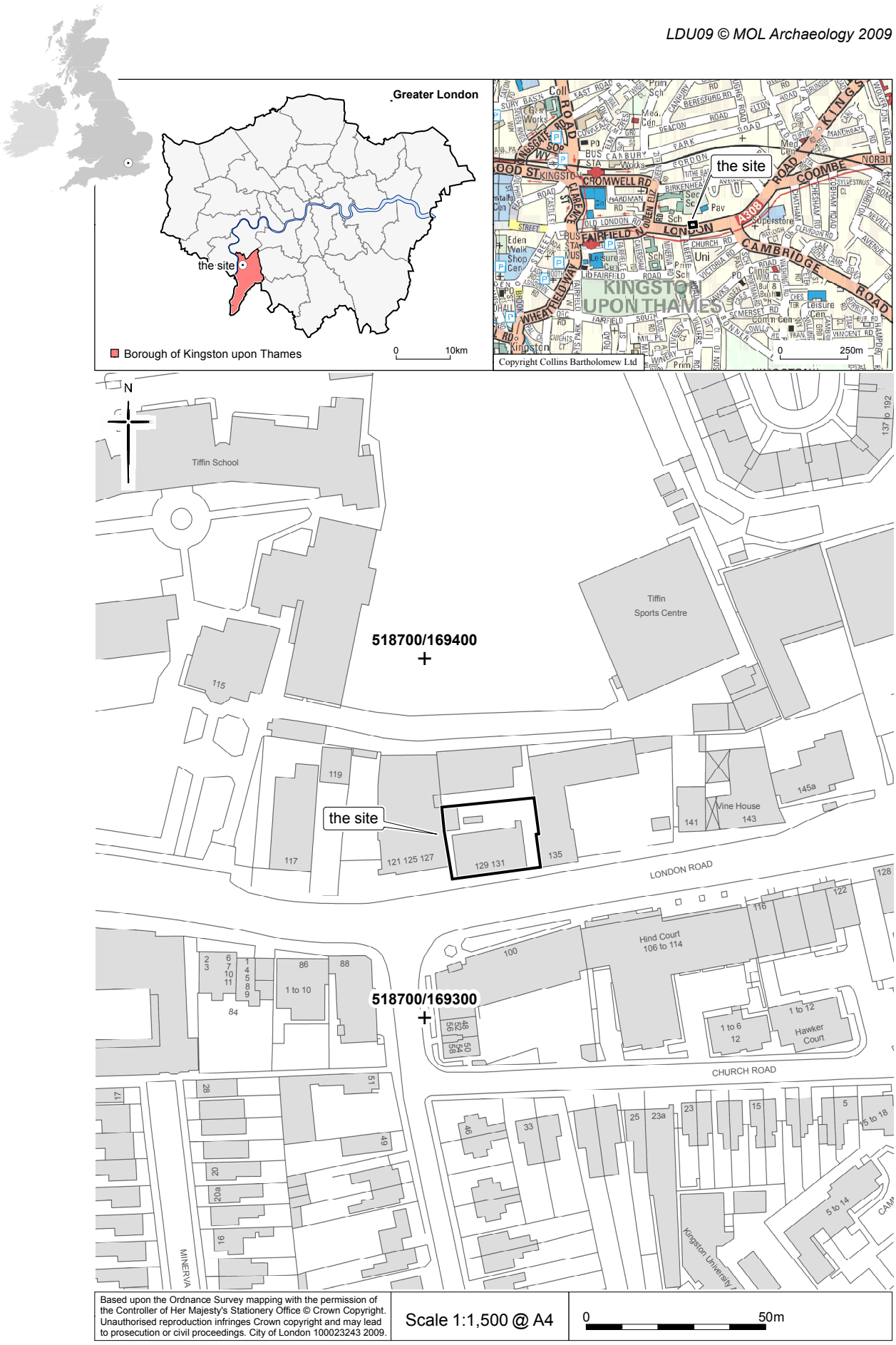

Fig 1 Site location

2 Archaeological and topographical background

2.1 Geology and 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 to the intervention of human activities stabilising the course and confines of the Thames contributed to the deposition of alluvium in the area. Archaeological excavations at Eden Walk, 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 (GLSMR 021779) to the northeast performed by the Museum of London from 1987–1990 further revealed other areas of this channel and suggested that it 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.

Brickearth deposits have been encountered to the east at Kingston Magistrates Court Extension, Bath Passage at 5.33m OD, overlying natural gravel at 5.16m OD.

2.2 Prehistoric period (c 450,000 – AD43)

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, which 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 hunting and gathering. By the Neolithic period farming had been introduced; evidence of such 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. Excavations at the Bittoms by MoLAS, 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 Public 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 period (AD43–410)

Following the Roman invasion in AD 43 new roads and towns were opened up in the southeast 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 excavation at the rear of 82 Eden Street by MoLAS. 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 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 discovered last century 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 Early medieval period (AD410–1066)

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 1930s 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 Later medieval period (1066–1485)

The Doomsday Book entry indicates that by this time Kingston was a sizeable settlement. '*Kingston, in lordship. It was in king Edwards revenue. Then it answered for 39 hides, now for nothing land for 32 ploughs. In lordship 2 ploughs; 86 villagers and 14 smallholders with 25 ploughs. A church; 2 slaves 5 mills at 20's, 2 fisheries at 10's: third fishery, excellent, but without dues; meadow, 40 acres; woodland, 6 pigs. Value before 1066, later and now £30.*'

Numerous archaeological finds and historical references confirm Kingston as an 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 to its trade status and market function. In 1481 a charter officially granting incorporation was established, giving Kingston independent status.

The Clattern Bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The Bridge crosses over Hogsmill Stream and dates to the late 12th-century, with later alterations. It is composed of 3 slightly stilted arches with 2 rings of ashlar dressings and rubble and flint filling. The upper part, dates to the 18th–century, brick with stone capping. The bridge has been widened on south side and the south face of bridge is articulated with stone ½ columns with cubic capitals, surmounted by 3 columns with scallop capitals, probably dating to the mid 19th century.

The excavation conducted at Charter Quay produced a large quantity of medieval features and artefacts, revealing medieval timbers and waterside revetments along with medieval and post medieval infill and reclamation activity.

The medieval town was centred around the Parish church and the market place although 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 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 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, one in Union Street, dated to the late 14th century, and the other at 70–72 Eden Street, first discovered in 1968/9 by the Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society, which was also dated to the 14th century. This kiln 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 period (1485–present)

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.

A bird's eye view of Kingston demonstrates that the centre of Kingston was already well established and that the east and west sides of the town were formed of regimented terraces with grounds running down to the Thames in the west and Fairfield in the east.

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). Horner's "Plan of the town and parish of Kingston upon Thames" of 1813 shows the increased density of the buildings in Kingston.

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.

Fig 2 Location of underpinning trench

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *written scheme of investigation* (MOL Archaeology, 2009) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOL Archaeology supervision. Trenches were excavated by hand by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOL Archaeology.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted on to an existing ground floor plan (Drg. No. 117/PL/110 Matrix 24 Ltd.). This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum via spot heights marked on the existing floor plan.

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

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; 9 context records; 1 1:10 section drawings; 0 photographs. In addition 1 small bag of finds was recovered from the site.

The analysis phase of post-excavation was based around the creation of a phased matrix of the contexts.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code LDU09 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, one intervention (trench) was made for the purposes of underpinning the western boundary wall. Within this trench a series of underpinning pits was excavated in three phases. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For trench locations see Fig 2

Watching Brief Trench 1	
Location	Western end of the site
Dimensions	16m x 1m x 1.3m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	9.78m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	9.20m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.62m
Level of base of deposits observed	8.58m OD
Natural observed	8.58m OD

Natural deposit (104) comprising of a mottled orange grey brown fine silty clay and interpreted as a weathered brickearth, was the earliest layer noted in the trench. It

was recorded at a depth of 8.58m OD, and extended to 8.38m OD (i.e. 0.2m thick), before extending beyond the base of the trench.

Overlying the brickearth was a layer of mid/dark grey brown silty clay up to 0.62m thick (103). This was interpreted as a garden soil and contained occasional fragments of glass, pottery, ceramic building material fragments, and charcoal flecks. A similar deposit was recorded in the west facing section of the trench

Above this was a layer of redeposited gravels (1)/(102), 0.23m thick, which contained occasional fragments of ceramic building material. This was interpreted as a make-up layer for the modern ground surface.

A further make-up layer (101) was recorded above (102). Layer (101) comprised of a redeposited brickearth with frequent inclusions of ceramic building material, chalk flecks, and crushed concrete fragments. This layer measured 0.24m thick.

Feature [107] cut through layer (101) (see Fig 3). This was interpreted as a modern geotechnical trial pit and contained two distinct fills (106) and (105). Fill (106) was the earliest and comprised of a mixture of silty clays, which were identified at originating from layers (101), (102) and (103). This was overlain by fill (105) comprising a mixture of sands and gravels.

The geotechnical trial pit was sealed by a concrete slab (100), which appeared to form the existing/modern ground surface. The slab was 01m thick.

3.3 A note on the pottery and glass

by Lyn Blackmore

3.3.1 Introduction

Seven sherds of pottery (58g), all from a layer of garden soil (103), were recovered and submitted for examination. The finds were recorded on paper and on the MOLA Oracle database using standard MOL Archaeology codes for fabrics, forms and decoration; the numerical data comprises sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight.

3.3.2 Medieval pottery

Two sherds (18g) of South Hertfordshire-type greyware are present, one from the rim of a jar, the other a body sherd; neither are sooted but both are abraded.

3.3.3 Post-medieval pottery

The five sherds (40g) range from 18th- to 19th-century in date. The earliest is from a tin-glazed ware plate with floral decoration in blue that probably dates to the early 18th century. Two sherds from the rim of a cup and the base of a plate are in transfer-printed ware type 2, with slightly blurred decoration in pale blue; this form of decoration was introduced *c* AD 1807, but these pieces date to *c* 1840 (A Gabszewicz and F Macintyre pers comm). The latest sherd is from a bowl in a dark refined redware body with transfer-printed decoration in yellow, which probably dates to between AD 1800 and 1820 (A Gabszewicz and F Macintyre pers comm). Also

present is a rim sherd from a Surrey-Hampshire border redware chamber pot or paint pot, a form that was in use during the 18th and most of the 19th centuries.

3.3.4 Post-medieval glass

Also from (2)/(103) is a small sherd from the shoulder of a small mould-blown polygonal bottle in clear glass with a natural blue tinge that dates to the late 18th or 19th century and was probably used for storing a medicine of some sort.

3.3.5 Discussion

The medieval sherds could come from a number of sources to the north of the Thames (Pearce in prep). Evidence in the form of wasters has also been discovered at the Rotunda site in Kingston (CMK00, LDK01). However, the London Road site is at some distance from the Rotunda site, where no kilns were found; until definite evidence is found for a greyware industry in Kingston, the source of the two greyware sherds must remain uncertain. They could represent rubbish discarded in fields alongside the London Road and do not necessarily indicate medieval occupation on the site.

The post-medieval sherds and glass are likely to derive from a nearby property and would appear to have been discarded in the first half of the 19th century, possibly all in the AD 1840s.

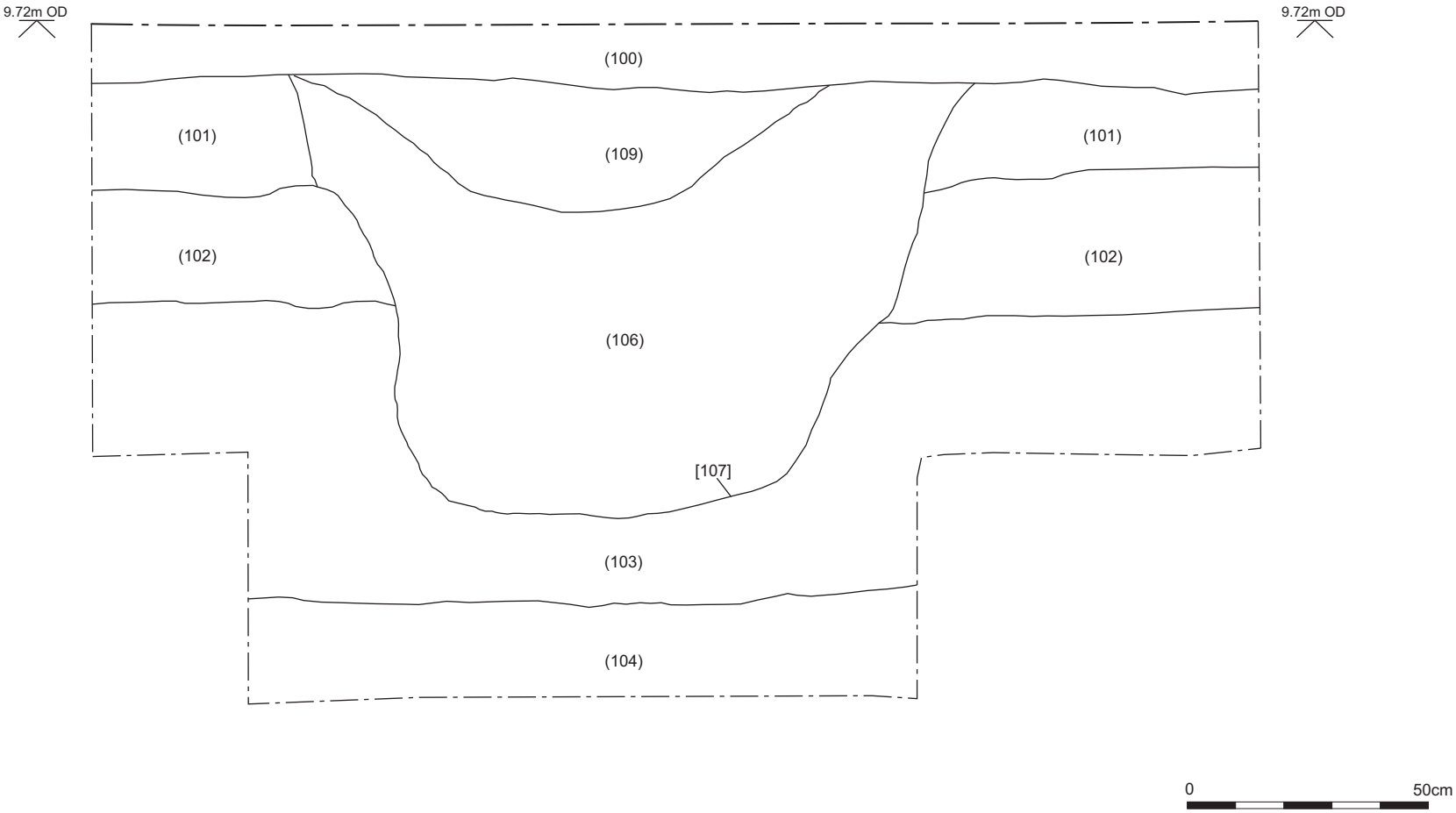

Fig 3 East facing section

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

- Is there any evidence that the braiding of the River Thames extended as far east as the site. If so is there any geoarchaeological information available to determine the previous courses of the River Thames?

  No evidence was found for deposits associated with the River Thames.

- What level of survival is there of prehistoric remains?

  No evidence for prehistoric remains was found.

- Whether there is any surviving medieval evidence for land use and occupation?

  Two fragments of medieval pottery were recovered during the watching brief. These were recovered from a post-medieval deposit and could represent rubbish discarded in fields alongside the London Road and therefore do not necessarily indicate medieval occupation on the site.

- Whether there is any surviving evidence for post-medieval occupation of the site: foundations, pits, wells and other cut features?

  A post-medieval garden soil was recorded on the site during the watching brief. This was possibly associated with the development and expansion of Kingston in the 18th century, when houses were built along the London Road, formally Norbiton Street.

4.2 New research aims

No new research aims were generated from the results of the watching brief.

4.3 Significance of the data

Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Publication and archiving

Information on 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 London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MOL Archaeology, 2009) 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 0) 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 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: Stewart Sinclair for commissioning the report on behalf of Normand Developments Ltd; Simon Pennington for monitoring the watching brief; Diane Walls of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service for her help and guidance in setting up the watching brief; and Lyn Blackmore for the assessment of the pottery recovered.

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-55714

Project details	
Project name	129-133 London Road, Kingston,
Short description of the project	Work on underpinning pits was monitored between 30/01/09 and 04/02/09 during redevelopment on the site by archaeologists from MOL Archaeology.. Archaeological deposits comprising post medieval garden soils were recorded in section in an underpinning trench and pits, which was located adjacent to and under the western boundary wall of the site. Natural ground was observed at 8.48m OD, and the highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at 9.10m OD. Artefacts recovered from the garden soils included two abraded pot sherds of medieval date, five pot sherds of post-medieval date, and a fragment of post-medieval glass. No significant archaeological features were noted during the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 30-01-2009 End: 04-02-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LDU09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	JAR Medieval
Significant Finds	CUP Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON KINGSTON UPON THAMES KINGSTON UPON THAMES 129-133 London Road, Kingston
Postcode	KT2
Study area	500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 18717 69345 51.4101800068 -0.292827136799 51 24 36 N 000 17 34 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8.38m Max: 8.58m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOL Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	MOL Archaeology
Project director/manager	Stewart Hoad
Project supervisor	Simon Pennington
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Normand Developments Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC

Physical Archive ID	LDU09
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	LDU09
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	LDU09

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	129-133 London Road, Kingston. An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hoad, S
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	MOL Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 bound client report

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Entered on	20 February 2009