

**Open Space on East Side of North Road,
Brentford, London**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for

J. B. Leadbitter & Co. Ltd.

August 1997

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by Adam Croney

Report 97/57

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on a site to the east of North Road, Brentford, London (NGR TQ 18380 77880, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. P. Abson of J. B. Leadbitter & Co. Ltd., Grange Mill, 33/35 Acre End Street, Eynsham, Oxford, OX8 1PF. Planning permission has been granted by the London Borough of Hounslow to redevelop the site subject to a condition for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks. Mr. R. Whytehead of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service has advised the Borough to request an archaeological watching brief, as detailed in the Department of the Environment's Policy and Planning Guidance Note, **Archaeology and Planning** (PPG 16, 1990) and under the terms of the Borough's UDP policies. The fieldwork was undertaken by Graham Hull and Adam Croney between July 28th-31st 1997. The site code, supplied by English Heritage, is NTR97.

Location, Topography and Geology

The development site is rectangular and is located on the eastern side of North Road, Brentford, within 500 m. of the north bank of the River Thames. The site has a mean height of 15 m. above OD and the underlying geology is brickearth (BGS 1981). Boreholes and trial pits dug by Norwest Holst Soil Engineering Ltd. in October 1995 confirm that the site is underlain by a sandy clay (Appendix 1).

Archaeological Background

A Roman road, running from London to Staines, is likely to be in the vicinity of the development site. Of an earlier date, a site closer to the river at Dock Road, a little over 0.5 Km. away, has shown evidence of Prehistoric use. It is a possibility, therefore, that some evidence of early land use may survive in this area.

Objectives and Methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and quality of any archaeological deposits. Any features found were to be excavated and fully recorded, including the monitoring of spoilheaps for artefacts dating to the early post-Medieval period or earlier unearthed during the groundworks. In this case observations were to be made so as to ensure examination of as continuous as possible a north-south transect across the site to search for the Roman road.

Results

Foundations were dug for the three rectangular buildings to be constructed on the site. These foundation trenches were excavated by machine, using a 0.7 m. bucket, to a depth varying between 1.8 and 2.0 m. The sections of the footings examined are indicated in Figure 2.

The site was evenly covered by a layer of topsoil approximately 0.40 m. in depth. This layer contained a range of modern debris including brick and tile, ceramics, glass vessels and clay pipes. This very silty layer came down onto a stiff dark brown made-

ground which included very large quantities of modern debris and rubble. A few courses of brickwork were also present, again of a modern date. At a depth of about 1.2 m. was another layer of modern made-ground. This layer came onto the natural at a depth of about 1.7-1.9 m.

The Finds

The majority of the pottery recovered was of late post-Medieval date (not retained). However, two small conjoining fragments of pottery recovered from the north-east corner of the site are of Early Bronze Age date. The fragments are decorated with whipped cord impressions and are likely to have been part of a Collared Urn, from either the decorated rim-collar or just below it (Longworth, 1984). The fabric of the pot contains a flint temper more visible on the internal surface.

Conclusion

Any archaeological features on the site appear to have been heavily truncated by modern services. The Roman road that may have passed through the site, had either been truncated by modern disturbance or did not cross the site at all. The presence of the small fragments of Bronze Age pottery, although residual, seems to suggest that there could have been early deposits present in the vicinity, but their nature is unknown and they are also likely to have been truncated.

References

- BGS, 1981: **British Geological Survey**, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition. Keyworth.
- Longworth, I. H. 1984: **Collared Urns of the Bronze Age in Great Britain and Ireland**. Cambridge University Press.
- PPG 16, 1990: **Archaeology and Planning**. Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance Note 16. (HMSO)

APPENDIX 1: GLSMR/RCHME NAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

Excavation

Watching Brief

2. LOCATION

Borough: Hounslow

Address: Land to the East of north Road, Brentford

Name: North Road, Brentford

Site Code: NTR97

National Grid Refs: Centre of site: TQ 18380 77880

Limits of site:

a) TQ

b) TQ

c) TQ

d) TQ

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit: Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Address: 47-49 De Beauvoir Rd., Reading, RG1 5NR

Site director/supervisor: Graham Hull, Adam Croney

Project manager: Steve Ford

Funded by: Leadbitter Construction Ltd.

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 28.07.97

Date finished: 31.07.97

Fieldwork previously notified? y/n: no

Fieldwork will continue? y/n/ not known: no

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic: -

Roman: -

Mesolithic: -

Saxon (pre-AD 1066): -

Neolithic: -

~~Medieval (1066-1485): -~~

Bronze Age: -yes

Post-Medieval: - yes

Iron Age: -

Unknown: -

6. PERIOD SUMMARIES (use headings for each period (ROMAN; MEDIEVAL; ETC.) and additional sheets if necessary).

7. NATURAL -

Type: Brickearth

Height above Ordnance Datum: Not known

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

a) Please tick those categories still in your possession:

Notes Plans Photos NGatives
Slides Correspondence MScripts (unpublished reports, etc.)

b) All/some records have been/will be deposited in the following museum, record office, etc.

Unknown

c) Approximate year of transfer: ?

d) Location of any copies: N/A

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? y/n: Not yet but will be in due course

If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? y/n: n

9. LOCATION OF FINDS:

a) In your possession (All/Some/None): All

b) All/Some finds ~~have been~~/will be deposited with the following museum/~~other body~~:

Unknown

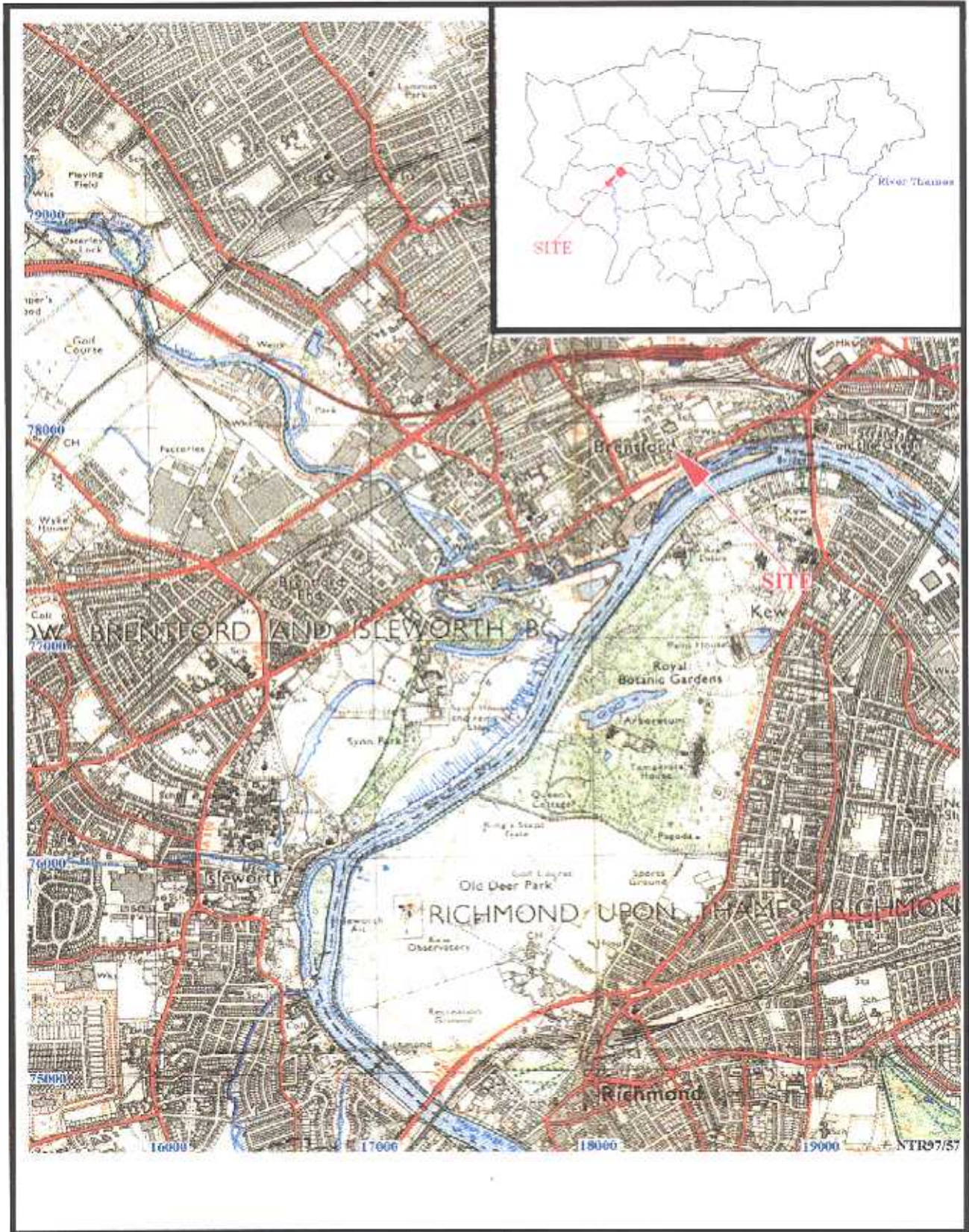
c) Approximate year of transfer: ?

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

CRONEY, A. 1997: Land to the east of North Road, Brentford, London: An Archaeological Watching Brief. Thames Valley Archaeological Services Report 97/57. Reading.

SIGNED: A Croney

DATE: 6th August 1997

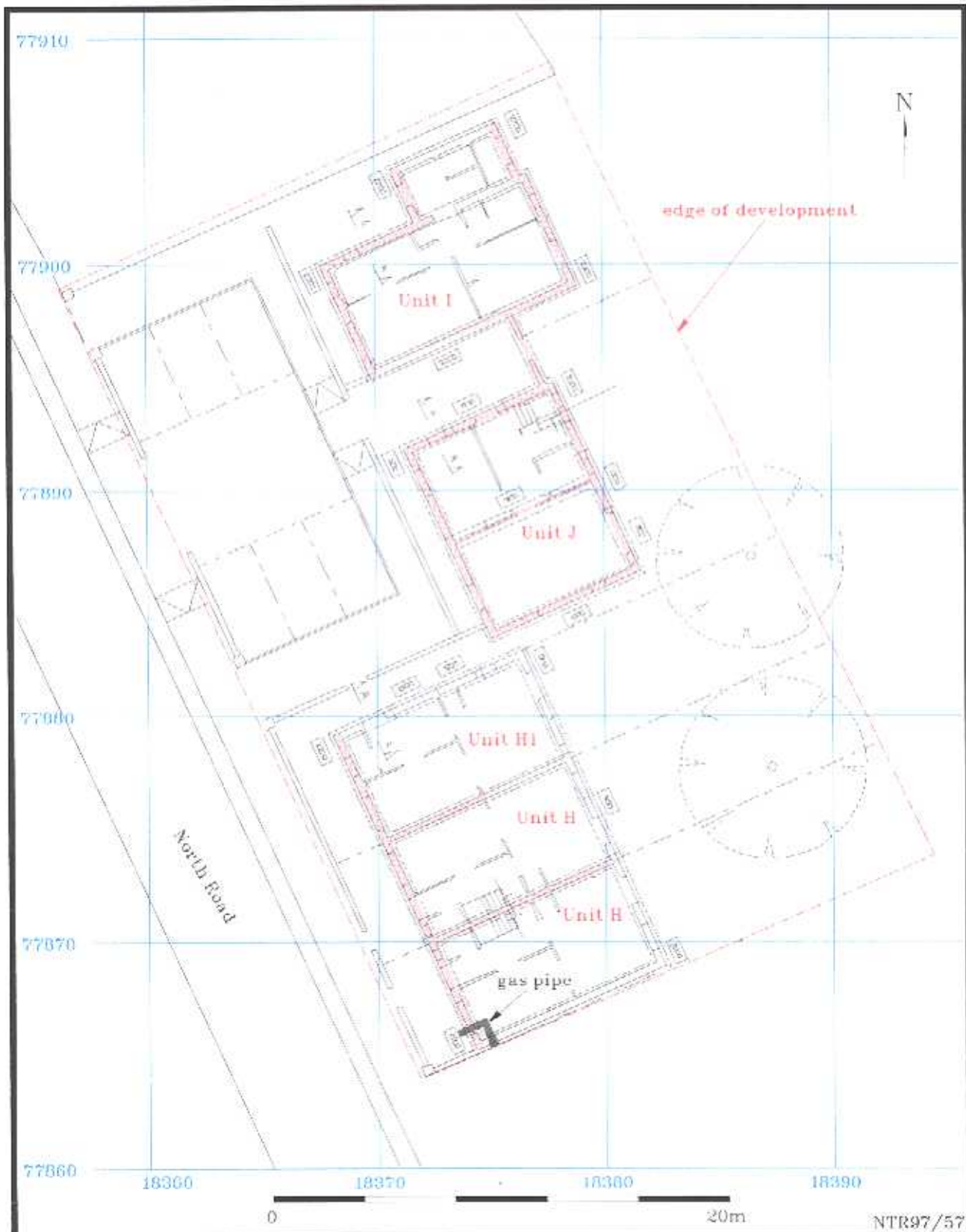


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Figure 1. Location of site within
Brentford and Greater London.



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Figure 2. Location watching brief areas.
Trenches monitored shown
in red stiple.

