

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge,
London Borough of Hillingdon**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: HRU16/121

(TQ 0570 8508)

**191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge,
London Borough of Hillingdon**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Frenncastle Management Ltd**

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HRU16/121

February 2018

Summary

Site name: 191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge, London Borough of Hillingdon

Grid reference: TQ 0570 8508

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th – 6th February 2018

Project coordinator: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: HFL18

Area of site: c. 1700 sq m

Summary of results: No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the course of the evaluation.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course, with accession code HFL18.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.02.18 Steve Preston ✓ 08.02.18

191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge, London Borough of Hillingdon An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luís Esteves

Report 16/121b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge, London Borough of Hillingdon (TQ 0570 8508) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Matthew Rockel of Frenncastle Management Ltd, 20 Mortlake High Street, London SW14 8JN.

Planning permission (18505/APP/2016/3534) has been gained from the London Borough of Hillingdon to construct new houses on site. The consent is subject to conditions relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation, to take the form, initially, of an archaeological evaluation by means of trial trenches.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Laura O'Gorman, Archaeology Advisor of Historic England, advising the Borough, who also monitored the fieldwork. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and Bethany Ingram on 5th and 6th February 2018 and the site code is HFL18. The TVAS project code is HRU16/121. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Museum of London in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the western side of Harefield Road opposite its junction with Colnedale Road, some 600m to the north of Uxbridge town centre on the westernmost margins of Greater London (Fig. 1). The site comprises a sub-rectangular parcel of land covering an area of 0.17ha bounded by Harefield Road to the south-east and east, Fray's Farm to the north, and by Fray's River to the west (Fig. 2). The site is occupied by a former public house, The Abrook Arms, with car park, patio and a grassed beer garden at the rear which slopes down towards the overgrown riverbank. A large 7m deep sewerage tank is known to occupy the north-eastern corner of the site. The underlying geology is Lambeth Group (clay, silt and sand) overlaid by superficial deposits of Lynch Hill

Gravel Member (sands and gravels) (BGS 2016). The site lies on a steep slope, at a height of approximately 34m above Ordnance Datum in the north-west rising to approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum in the south-east.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been considered in a desk-based assessment (Baljkas 2016). In summary, the area around Hillingdon and Uxbridge is rich in evidence for prehistoric occupation although by and large Hillingdon's recorded archaeology is mostly towards the south of the borough (MoLAS 2000) reflecting the greater intensity of research there. The most significant discovery in the area is the nationally significant site at Three Ways Wharf where Palaeolithic and Mesolithic *in situ* lithic and faunal scatters as well as a hunting 'kill' site, lithic working site and occupation evidence were recorded (Lewis and Rackham 2011). Other Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds have been made in the area, including bones and further Mesolithic flint scatters under peat layers to the south. A collection of twenty Palaeolithic hand axes was found within central Hillingdon while a Mesolithic occupation site and lithic working area have been recorded at Dewes Pit with other scattered records in the northern half of the area. Further sites from these periods have been recorded on the west side of the River Fray in Buckinghamshire.

While in the Colne Valley as a whole there is evidence for increased activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age, there is currently little evidence for Neolithic or Bronze Age activity in the area around the current site. Evidence for occupation in the Iron Age and Roman periods is also fairly limited. Archaeological investigations carried out along the Harefield to Southall pipeline route revealed activity dating to the late Iron Age and early Roman periods in the vicinity of Western Avenue.

There is, again, very limited evidence for activity in the early medieval period throughout the whole area with just a spearhead found near Dewes Pit and the suggestion that settlement at Uxbridge began in this period. Into the medieval period a pattern found in the rest of the Borough is repeated, with a number of manors and farmsteads becoming established and much of the land given over to agriculture. There were also a number of mills and fisheries along the length of the River Colne.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on site;
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required; and
- to provide information on the palaeoenvironmental setting of the site in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

Three trenches were to be dug, each measuring 15m long and 1.6-2m wide. These were dug as close as possible to their intended locations by a 360^o-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. The trenches were to be dug to expose the full depth of deposits above the natural geology.

Results

Two trenches (1 and 2) were dug as intended (Fig. 3) but trench 3 was changed to a test pit (TP1) due to safety considerations, live services and a deep and unstable made ground (rubble and bricks layer probably from the demolishing of the old building on site). This change took place in consultation with the monitor. The trenches ranged in length from 13m to 14m and in depth from 1.4m to 1.8m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 13m long and 1.8m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.8m of made ground overlying 0.4m of a light yellow sandy clay subsoil overlying 0.5m of a light yellow brown silty clay subsoil overlying a light reddish brown mottle silty clay natural geology with flint gravel. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Figs 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was roughly aligned ENE - WSW and was 14m long and 1.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil overlying 0.5m of made ground overlying 0.3m of a light reddish brown sandy clay subsoil overlying a reddish brown mottle silty clay natural geology. No archaeological features were present nor finds were recovered.

Test pit 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

Test pit 1 was dug in the location for trench 3, measuring 2m by 3.5m and with a depth of 2.5m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of made ground overlying 0.7m of demolition rubble overlying 0.7m of made ground

overlying 0.5m of a light yellow brown sandy clay subsoil, overlying a natural light brown mottle silty clay. The demolition debris dipped down to the west suggesting a larger area of truncation. No finds were recovered and no features were observed.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

Conclusion

The evaluation has investigated the parts of the site which were to be affected by the development proposal (with the change of trench 3 to a test pit). Despite the high archaeological potential of the area no finds or deposits of archaeological or palaeoenvironmental potential were observed during the course of the evaluation.

References

- BGS, 2016, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed: 7th February 2018)
- Baljkas, G, 2015, '191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge, London Borough of Hillingdon: an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **16/121**, Reading
- Lewis, J, 1991, 'A late glacial and early post-glacial site at Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge, England: interim report', in N Barton, A J Roberts and D A Roe (eds), *The Late Glacial in North-Western Europe: Human Adaptation and Environmental Change at the End of the Pleistocene*, CBA Res Rep **77**, London, 246–55
- Lewis, J S C, with J Rackham, 2011, *Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge; a late glacial and early Holocene hunter-gatherer site in the Colne Valley*, MoLA Monogr **51**, London
- MoLAS, 2000, *The archaeology of Greater London; an assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London*, Museum of London Archaeology Service Monogr, London
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SW and E end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	13.0	1.8	1.8	0-0.8m madeground, 0.8-1.2m subsoil, 1.2-1.7m subsoil, 1.7m+ light reddish brown mottle silty clay with flint gravel natural geology. 34.8m aOD [PI. 1]
2	14.0	1.8	1.4	0-0.4m topsoil, 0.4m-0.9m madeground, 0.9-1.2m subsoil, 1.2m+ reddish brown mottle silty clay natural geology at 32.8m aOD. [PI. 2]
[3] TP1	3.5	2.0	2.5	0-0.4m of made ground; 0.4-1.1m demolition rubble; 1.1-1.8m made ground; 1.8-2.3m light yellow brown sandy clay subsoil; 2.3m, natural light brown mottle silty clay at 38.47m aOD. [PI. 3]

Appendix 2: OASiS Submission form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: thamesva1-308591

Project details

Project name	191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge
Short description of the project	Planning permission has been gained from the London Borough of Hillingdon to construct new houses on site. The consent is subject to conditions relating to archaeology (Evaluation trial trenches). No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the course of the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 05-02-2018 End: 06-02-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HRU 16/121 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HFL18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	18505/APP/2016/3534 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	HFL18 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON UXBRIDGE 191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge
Postcode	UB8 1PW
Study area	1700 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 505710 185090 50.945756187136 0.143627267551 50 56 44 N 000 08 37 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 34m Max: 40m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Steve Ford
Project director/manager	Steve Ford
Project supervisor	Luis Esteves
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Frendcastle Management Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	HFL18
Digital Contents	"other"

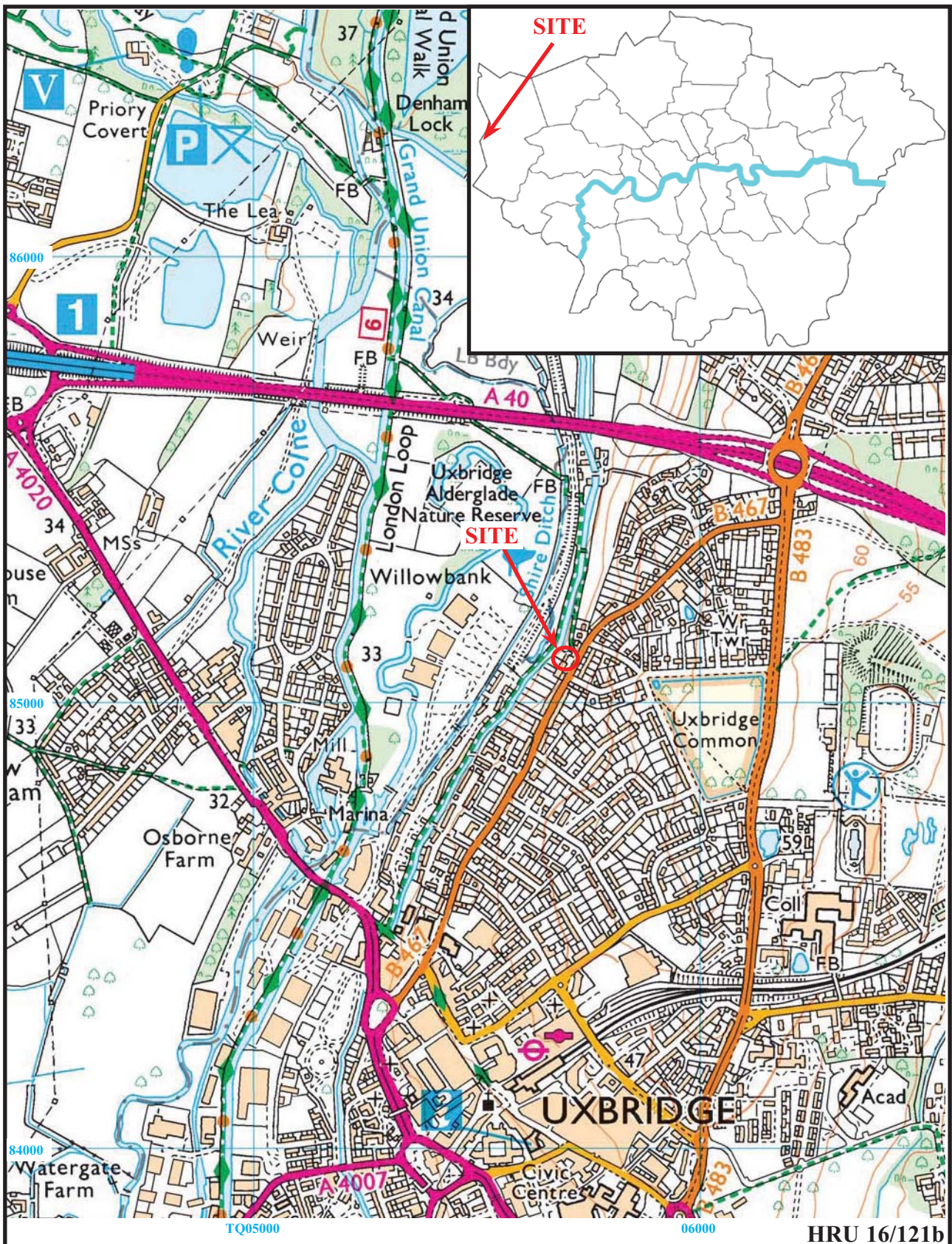
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient Museum of London
Paper Archive ID HFL18
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"; "Survey"
Paper Media available "Correspondence"; "Drawing"; "Microfilm"; "Photograph"; "Plan"; "Report"; "Section"; "Survey "; "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title 191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge, London Borough of Hillingdon
Author(s)/Editor(s) Esteves, L.
Date 2018
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Place of issue or publication Reading
Description Archaeological report for a private client.
URL <http://www.tvas.co.uk>

Entered by Luis Esteves (luisestevesfac@gmail.com)
Entered on 8 February 2018

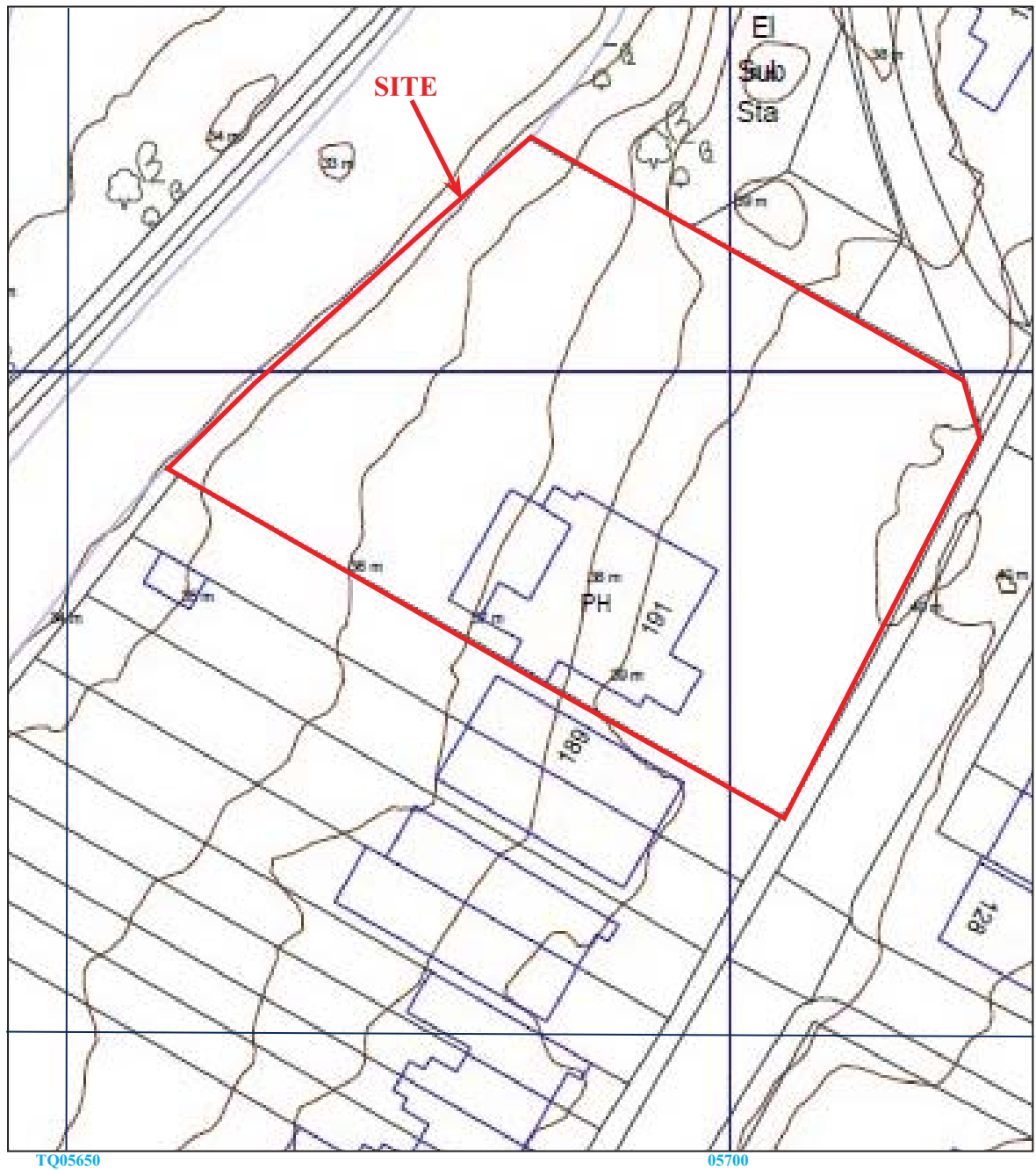
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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page



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

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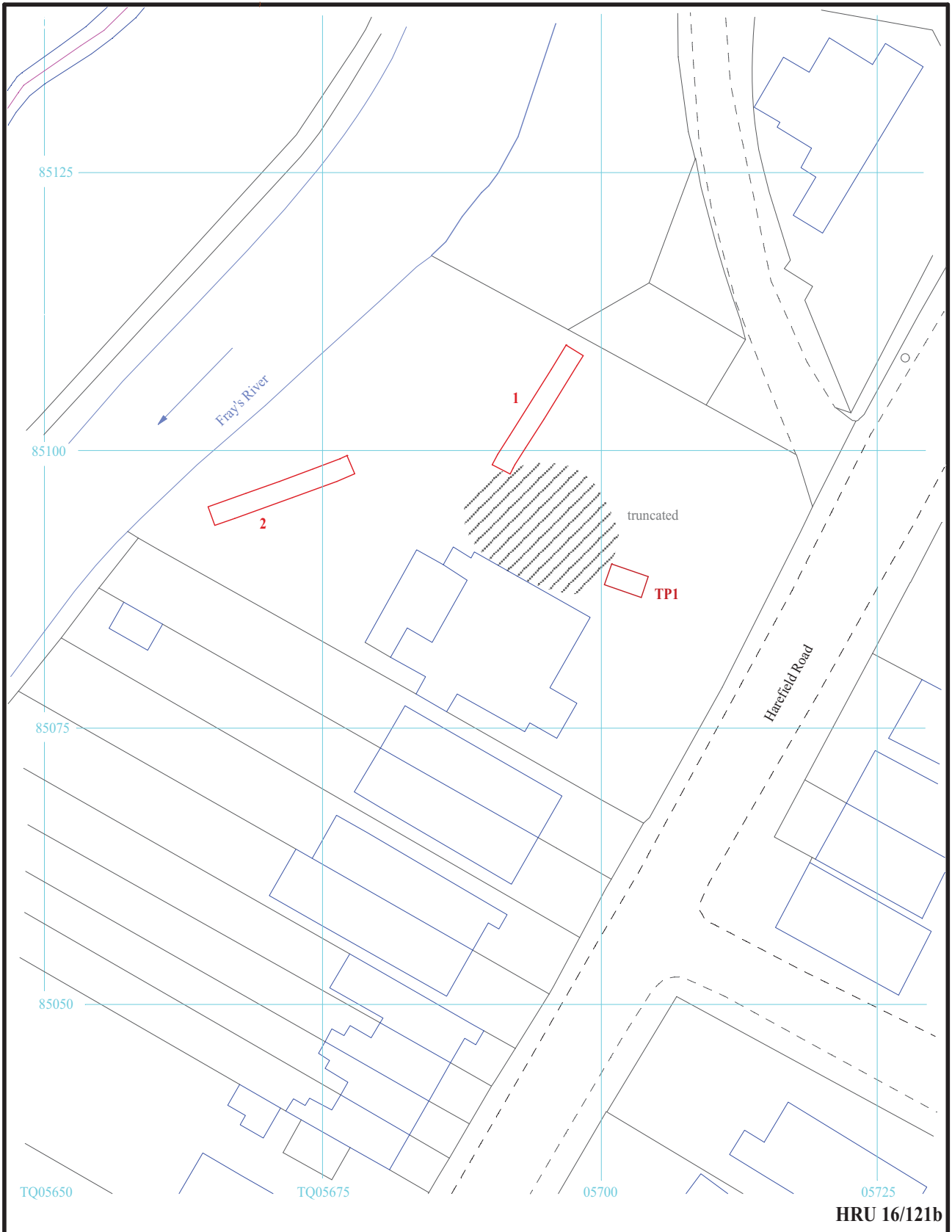


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Harefield Road.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 25m

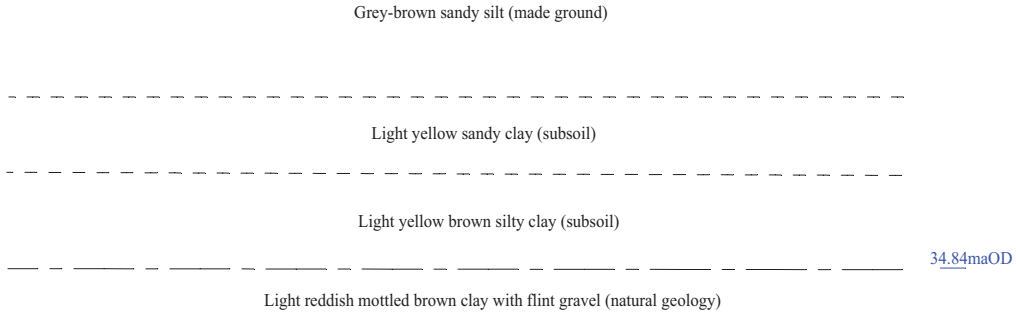


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Trench 1

SSW

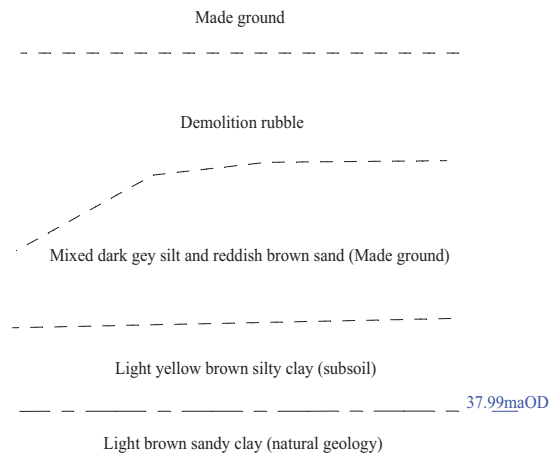
NNE



Test pit 1

WNW

ESE



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Figure 4. Representative trenches.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 3. Test pit 1, looking north east, Scale: horizontal 1m, vertical 2m.

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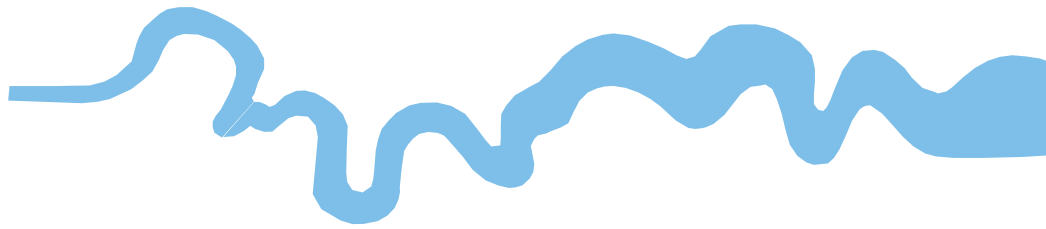
**191 Harefield Road, Uxbridge,
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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