

**181 London Road, Isleworth,  
London Borough of Hounslow**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Crest Nicholson Residential (South) Ltd**

by Jo Pine and Andy Taylor  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LTF 02

**May 2002**

## Summary

**Site name:** 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow

**Grid reference:** TQ 16754 76911

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 15th–23rd May 2002

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** LTF 02

**Area of site:** c. 2800 sq m

**Summary of results:** No archaeological deposits were noted

**Monuments identified:** None

**Location and reference of archive:** The site archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR. It is anticipated that the archive will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 24.05.02
	Steve Preston ✓ 24.05.02

# 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor and Jo Pine

Report 02/40

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow (TQ 16754 76911) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Christian Gattesco of Crest Nicholson Residential (South) Ltd, Nicholson House, 41 Thames Street, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8JG. Planning permission (00707/181/CA3 and P9) has been granted by the London Borough of Hounslow for the demolition of the existing structures on site, currently occupied by workshops, and the erection of 12 semi-detached houses. Permission was subject to a condition relating to archaeology. A desk-top study had previously been carried out for the site (Sadarangani 2001).

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Kim Stabler, of Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor, Clare Challis and Andy MUNDIN between the 15th and 23rd May, 2002 and the site code is LTF 02. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of the river Brent on a gradual downward slope to the south-west. The site lies at a height of approximately 7.40m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is brickearth above gravel (BGS 1981). At the time of the evaluation the site was being used by a car valeting service.

## Archaeological background

The desk-top study carried out for the site has summarized the archaeology of the environs of the site (Sadarangani 2001). The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential with a significant possibility of encountering prehistoric deposits. At an adjacent site to the west prehistoric activity has been discovered comprising 144 flint flakes and 97 sherds of flint-tempered pottery. There was a moderate possibility of Roman remains because London Road to the north of the site runs along the route of the London-Silchester Roman

Road. There was also considered to be a fairly high potential of late medieval and early post-medieval deposits being present.

## **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 evaluation were to determine if archaeologically relevant levels survive given that parts of the site have already been developed. To determine if archaeological deposits of any period survive, but specifically those of prehistoric and late medieval/early post-medieval date, and to determine if any deposits representing Roman roadside occupation were present.

The specification called for the excavation of five trenches, which would be 11m long and 1.6m wide at the base. This would provide a 3.1% sample of the site. These were dug with JCB-type machine under constant archaeological supervision. All possible archaeological deposits were hand-cleaned and investigated. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

## **Results**

Five trenches were excavated ranging between 3.50m and 11.20m in length (Fig. 2). This was undertaken in two stages due to the fact that the site was still in use. Trenches 1, 2 and 5 were excavated first, recorded and then back filled. Trenches 3 and 4 were then opened and recorded. This change of plan was adopted after consultation with Ms Kim Stabler, of Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service. Trench 3 had to be shortened due to the presence of a live sewer and soakaway

### Trench 1 (Plate 1)

This trench was aligned roughly E–W and was 9.70m long. Tarmac, concrete and made ground sealed a thin layer of buried soil which was 0.35m deep (Fig. 4). This in turn sealed an orange-brown silty clay with brick fragments (0.5m) onto a sterile orange-brown sandy silty clay (brickearth). The trench was excavated into this natural to confirm the geology and reached a maximum of 1.30m below the present ground surface.

### Trench 2 (Plate 2)

This was 11.10m long, aligned NW–SE and was 1.20m deep. Made ground and concrete (0.60) sealed an orange-brown sandy silty clay with brick fragments (0.55m). A modern red brick wall and a pit containing red brick and metal were recorded cutting the surface of this layer (Fig. 3). Below this layer was a sterile orange-brown sandy silty clay (brickearth). A test pit at the northern end of the trench exposed gravel at 1.60m below the present land surface.

### Trench 3

This trench was excavated NE–SW but had to be shortened due to the presence of a live sewer and soakaway. In the event it was 3.50m in length and 1.10m deep. Made ground 1.00m deep sealed an orange-brown sandy silty clay (brickearth) with brick fragments intrusively pressed into its surface. This was excavated to a depth of 1.10m below the present land surface.

### Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned north-south and was 11.20m long. Tarmac, concrete and made ground (0.85m deep) sealed a yellowish brown sandy silt with brick inclusions (0.35m). This sealed a light brownish grey clayey silt (0.30m deep) which in turn sealed gravel at 1.50m below the present land surface (Fig. 4).

### Trench 5

This trench was aligned north–south, 11m long and 1.35m deep. Tarmac and made ground (0.35m deep) sealed a buried soil, which contained red brick fragments and was 0.90m deep. This in turn sealed an orange-brown sandy silty clay (brickearth). A pit containing clay pipe was observed at the southern end of the trench cutting the brickearth (Fig. 3). At the northern end of the trench a test pit was excavated to expose gravel at a depth of 1.80m below the present land surface.

## **Finds**

Spoilheap finds of late post-medieval pottery (19th-20th century) and brick and tile were noted but not retained.

## **Conclusion**

The only features observed during the evaluation were a modern wall and pit and a pit of post-medieval or modern date. These were recorded in Trenches 2 and 5. The remaining trenches were archaeologically sterile. On the basis of the results of this field evaluation the site has little archaeological potential.

## References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Sadarangani, F, 2001, An Archaeological Desktop Assessment at 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, Brockley

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**  
0m at S or W end

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	9.70	1.60	1.30	0.00m-0.03m Tarmac; 0.03m-0.13m concrete; 0.13m-0.40m made ground; 0.40m-0.75m buried soil; 0.75m-1.25m orangey brown sandy silty clay containing brick fragments; 1.25m+ orangey brown sandy silty clay natural. Trench bottomed 4.79m aOD; top of natural at 4.84m aOD (east), 4.99m aOD (west)
2	11.10	1.60	1.20	0.00m-0.25m made ground; 0.25m-0.30m concrete; 0.30m-0.60m made ground; 0.60m-1.15m orangey brown sandy silty clay containing brick fragments; 1.15m+ orangey brown sandy silty clay natural. A test pit at N end revealed gravel at 1.60m below the present ground surface (4.57m aOD). Trench bottomed 4.78m aOD; top of natural at 5.02m aOD (NW), 5.15m aOD (SE)
3	3.50	1.60	1.10	0.00m-1.00m made ground; 1.00m-1.10m orangey brown sandy silty clay containing brick fragments; 1.10m+ orangey brown sandy silty clay natural. Trench bottomed at top of natural 5.01m aOD.
4	11.20	1.60	1.50	0.00m-0.25m Tarmac; 0.25m-0.30m concrete; 0.30m-0.85m made ground; 0.85m-1.20m yellowish brown sandy silt with brick fragments; 1.20m-1.50m browney grey clayey silt overlying gravel natural. Trench bottomed at top of gravel 5.23m aOD.
5	11.00	1.60	1.35	0.00m-0.05m Tarmac; 0.05m-0.35m made ground; 0.35m-1.25m buried soil containing brick fragments; 1.25m+ orangey brown sandy silty clay natural. A test pit at N end revealed gravel at 1.80m below the present land surface. Trench bottomed 5.04m aOD; top of natural at 5.38m aOD (North), 5.08m aOD (South); gravel at 4.73m aOD

## **Appendix 2: GLSMR/RCHME NAR Archaeological Report Form**

### **1. TYPE OF RECORDING**

Evaluation

### **2. LOCATION**

**Borough:** Hounslow

**Address:** 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow

**Name:** 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow

**Site Code:** LTF 02

**National Grid Refs:** TQ 16754 76911

### **3. ORGANISATION**

**Name of archaeological unit:** Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

**Address:** 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR

**Site director/supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Funded by:** Crest Nicholson Residential (South) Ltd

### **4. DURATION**

**Date fieldwork started:** 15/5/02

**Date finished:** 23/5/02

**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:

Post-Medieval: ?

Iron Age: -

Unknown: -

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

**Post-medieval**

Possibly one pit.

**7. NATURAL -**

Type: Brickearth over Gravel

**Height above Ordnance Datum:** Brickearth 4.84 to 5.38m; gravel at 4.73 to 5.23m

**8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVES**

a) Please tick those categories still in your possession:

Notes Yes    Plans Yes    Photos Yes    Negatives Yes

Slides Yes    Correspondence Yes MScripts (unpublished reports, etc.) All

b) All records will be deposited in the following museum, record office, etc. Museum of London

c) Approximate year of transfer: unknown

d) Location of any copies: Microfiche copy to be deposited with RCHME, and one to be kept by TVAS

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? y/n: No, but will be microfiched in due course

If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? y/n: no

**9. LOCATION OF FINDS:**

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

b) All finds will be deposited with the following museum: N/A

c) Approximate. year of transfer: unknown

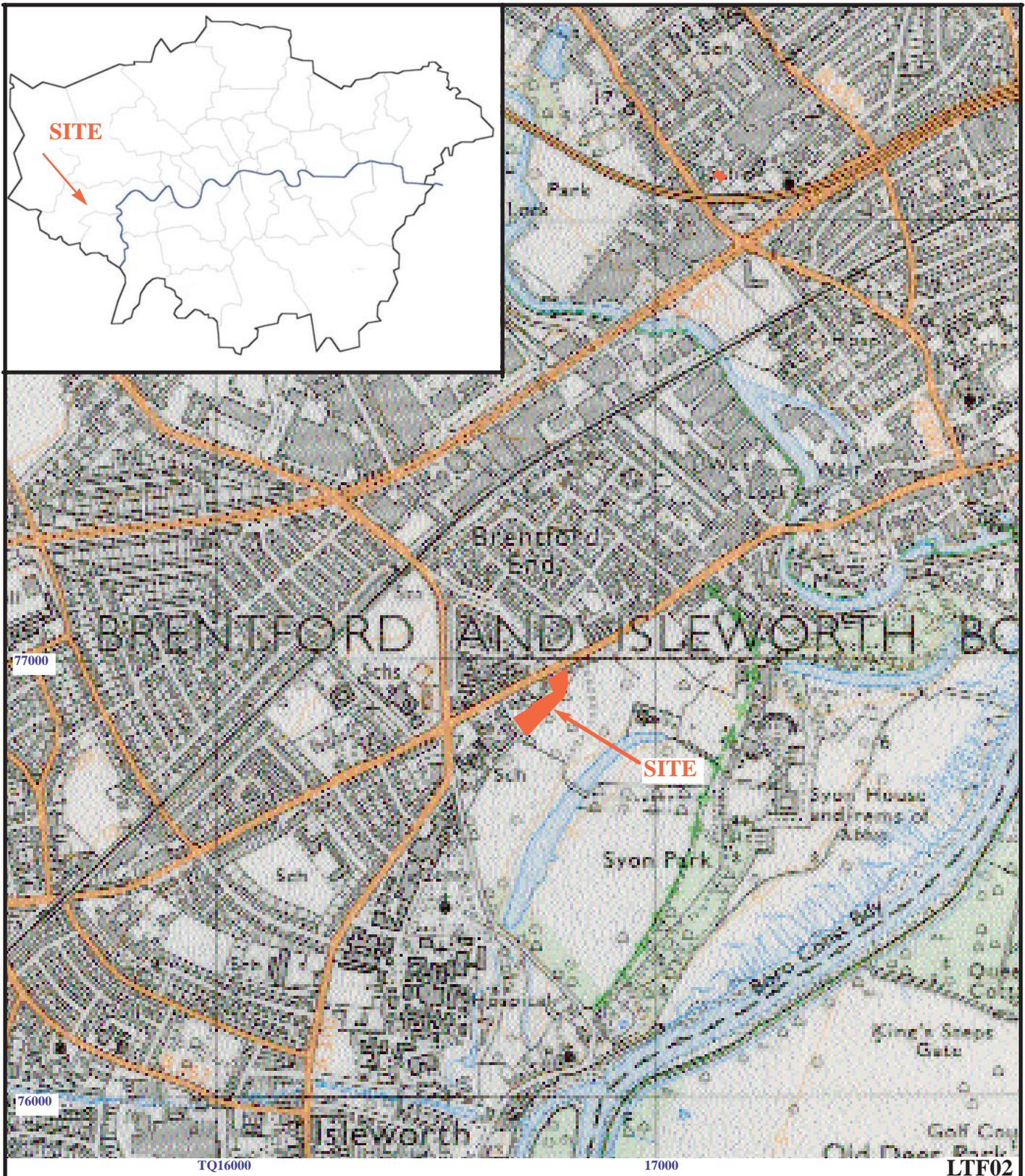
**10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Sadarangani, F, 2001, An Archaeological Desktop Assessment at 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, Brockley

Taylor, A, 2002, 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow, archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 02/40, Reading

**NAME: A TAYLOR**

**DATE: 27th May 2002**



**181 London Road, Isleworth,  
London Borough of Hounslow**

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

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1174 TQ07/17 1:25000  
Ordnance Survey Licence AL52324A0001

T H A M E S   V A L L E Y

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

S E R V I C E S

# 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow

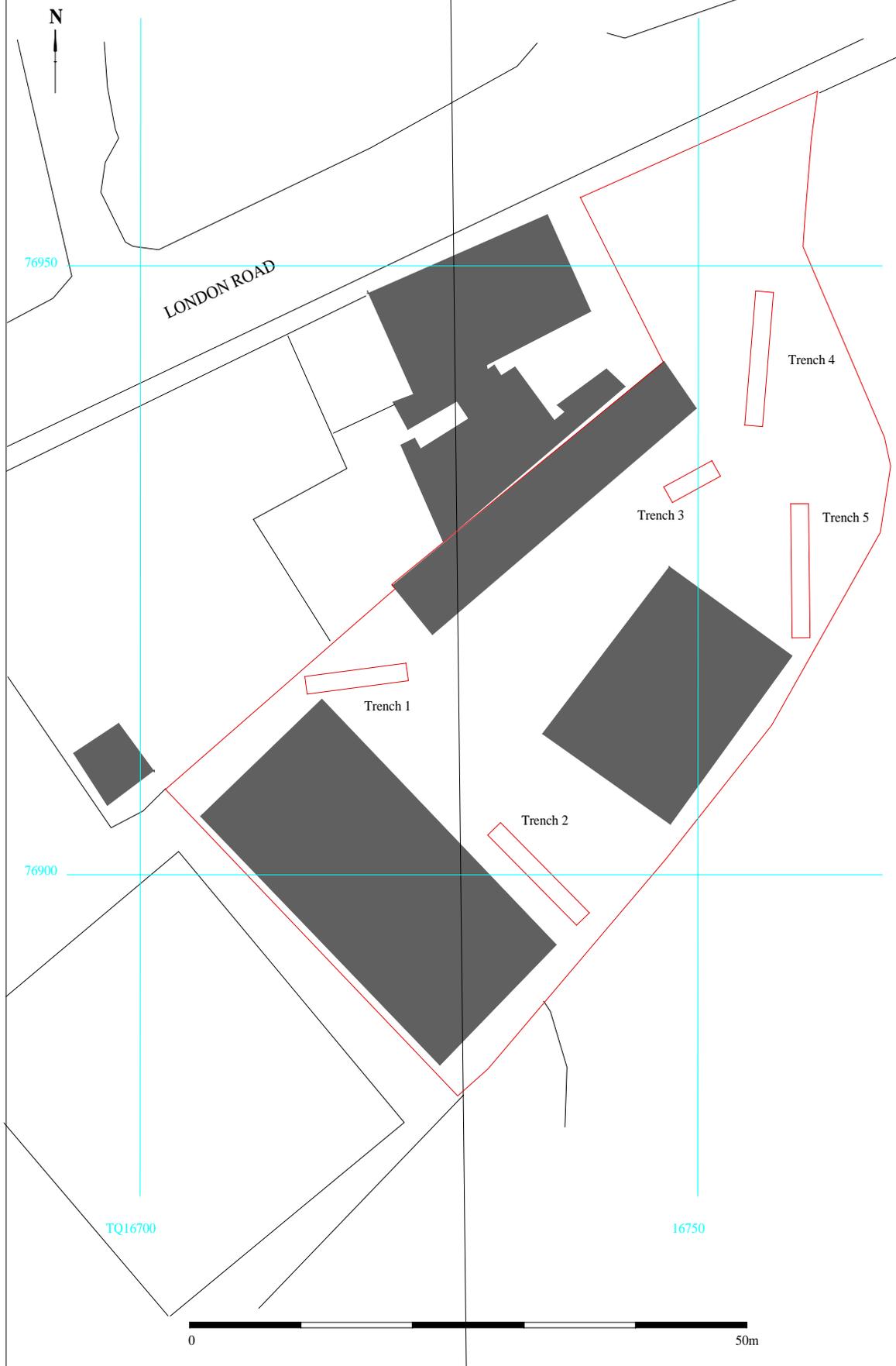


Figure 2. Location of trenches

# 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow

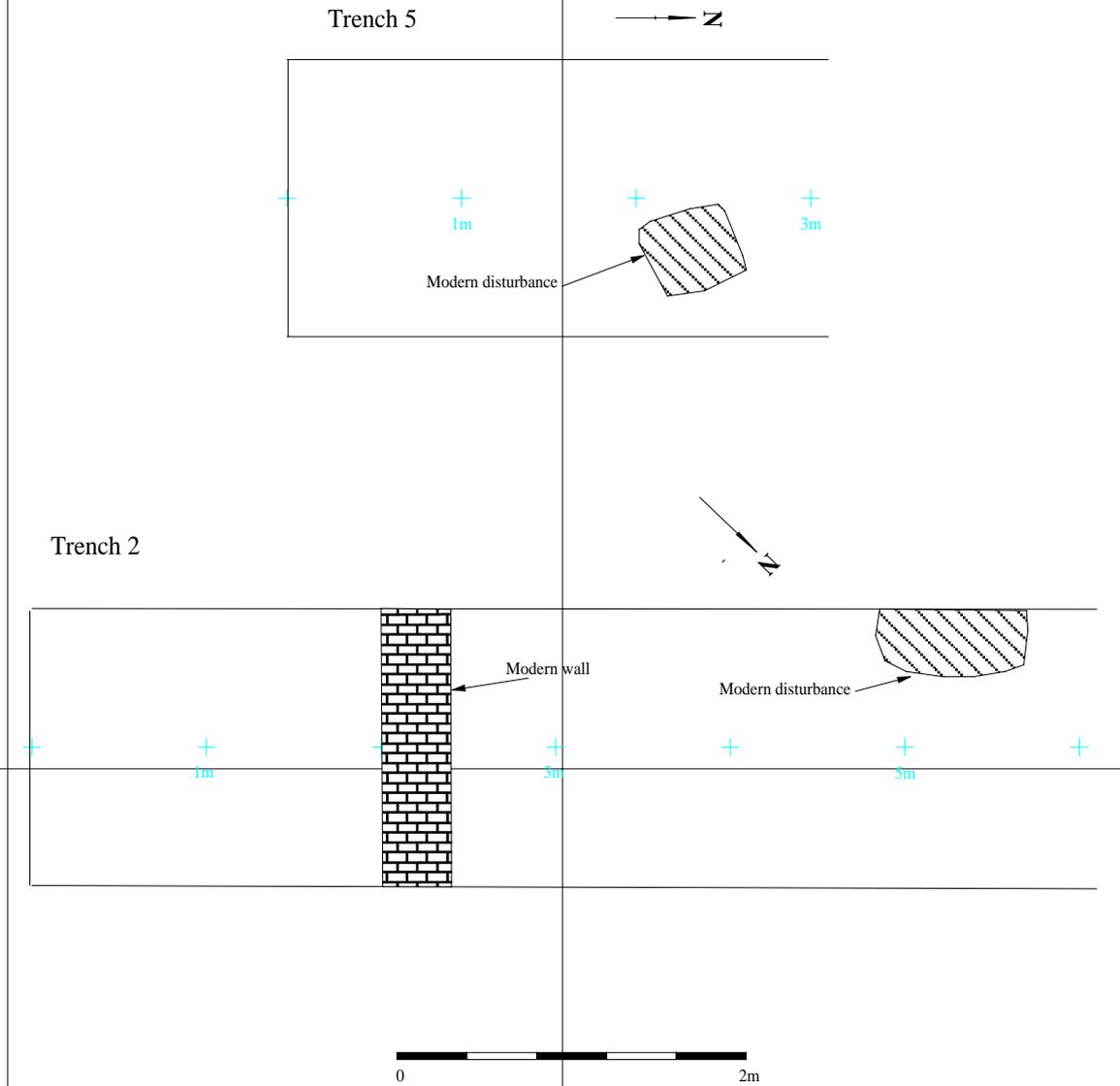


Figure 3. Plans of Trenches 2 and 5.

# 181 London Road, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow

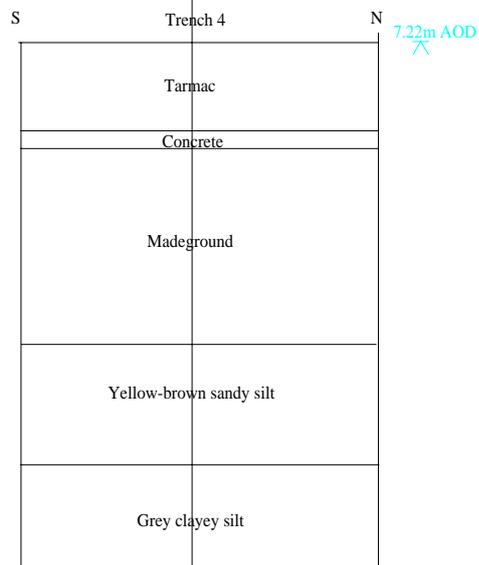
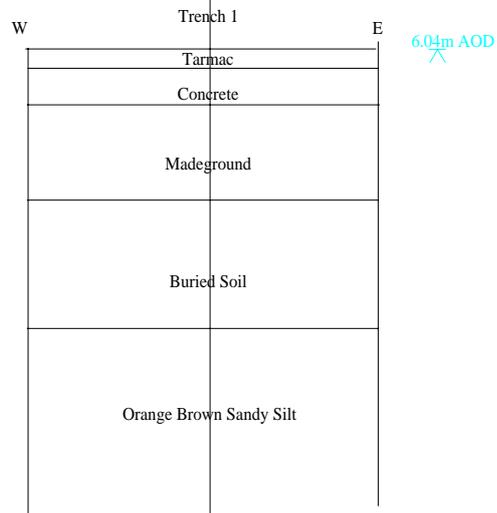


Figure 4. Representative sections of Trenches 1 and 4.



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking south west, scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north west, scale: 2m and 1m.