

**Mill Farm, Hanworth,  
London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Kier Partnership Homes**

by Sian Anthony and Jennifer Lowe  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MLF 04

**January 2004**

## Summary

**Site name:** Mill Farm, Hanworth, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

**Grid reference:** TQ 1230 7350

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 19th –21st January 2004

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Sian Anthony

**Site code:** MLF 04

**Area of site:** c. 1ha

**Summary of results:** No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

**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.

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	Steve Preston✓ 29.01.04

# Mill Farm, Hanworth, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sian Anthony and Jennifer Lowe

Report 01/88

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Mill Farm, Hanworth, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames (TQ 1230 7350) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew White of Kier Partnership Homes, Portswood House, Millbrook, Southampton SO15 0AH on behalf of Richmond Upon Thames Churches Housing Trust, Centre House, 68 Sheen Kane, London, SW14 8PL

Planning permission (Application number 00/3562/OUT) has been gained from the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames for the construction of 75 new residential properties on the site. A field evaluation has been requested in order to provide sufficient information on the archaeology in order to mitigate the effects of development. This would begin the process of satisfying the planning condition (LB12AU) relating to archaeology placed on the planning consent.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames' policies on archaeology.

A desk based assessment (Hardy 2001) has highlighted the potential for the site. To summarize, the site lies within an area of archaeological potential due to its location within the Crane Valley. Fieldwork carried out to the south of the site revealed extensive deposits both Iron Age and Saxon in date.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Mark Stevenson, Archaeological Advisor, at the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Anthony and Danielle Colls between the 19th and 21st of January 2004 and the site code is MLF 04.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course (Accn code. MLF04).

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located north west of Mill Farm Business Park, near to Whitton in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (Fig. 2). The western boundary of the site is formed by the Mill Stream, a tributary of the River Crane and the eastern boundary is marked by an area of undeveloped land. The site is a roughly rectangular

parcel of land measuring approximately 1ha. The underlying geology is Taplow gravels which overlies London Clay (BGS 1981) and the site lies at height of between approximately 15 and 20m above OD.

## **Archaeological background**

Archaeological activity on the brickearth and gravel deposits of the West London area is well attested. Much of this information has been provided by observations over many years during gravel and brick clay extraction (MoLAS 2000) and also via aerial photography (e.g., Longley 1976). Extensive fieldwork carried out within the vicinity of Heathrow airport which is located to the north-west of the site has identified deposits dating from the prehistoric and historic periods (e.g., Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993; Barrett *et al.* 2001)

## **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.

The specific research aims of the project are:

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this given that parts of the site have been previously developed and used for land fill.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present
- c) To determine if there are any deposits of Iron Age or Saxon date representing an extension of the known site to the south.

Thirteen trenches were to be excavated using a JCB-type machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. All trenches were to be 20m in length, with a contingency for further trenching if required, and the spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Previously, the site had been used as an aircraft dismantling plant and as result there was known radioactive, as well as asbestos, contamination. All trenches were monitored for contamination and some were abandoned due to the high levels of radioactivity.

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

## **Results (Fig. 3)**

### Trench 1

This trench was orientated east-west and was excavated to a depth of 0.46m. The stratigraphy revealed 0.16m of turf and topsoil overlying 0.16m of made ground. This lay directly over orange brown sandy gravels. The trench was originally excavated to 17m, however 10.50m was backfilled immediately due to contamination. No finds or archaeological features were recorded.

### Trench 2

Alignment of this trench was north east-south west and it was excavated to a depth of 0.40m. Turf and topsoil existed to a depth of 0.15m. This overlay made ground, which contained modern brick and was approximately 0.15m deep and in turn overlay gravel. At the north eastern end of the trench a thin band of clay, approximately 0.11m thick also overlay the gravels. No finds or archaeological features were recorded.

### Trench 3 (Plate 1)

This trench was orientated north-south and it was dug to a depth of 0.22m. A test pit was excavated at the northern end to a depth of 0.62m. This trench had similar stratigraphy to the previous trenches with 0.08m of turf and topsoil overlying 0.07m of made ground. This sealed an orange brown sand which became increasingly gravelly to the south. No finds or archaeological features were recorded.

### Trench 4

Orientated north west-south east, this trench was dug to a depth of 0.32m. Turf and topsoil overlay 0.16m of made ground which again overlay an orange brown sand which again became more gravelly towards the southern end of the trench. This trench was 19.90m in total, however, 3.40m of trench at the south east end was backfilled immediately due to contamination. No finds or archaeological features were recorded.

### Trench 5

This trench was orientated north-south and was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.80m. At approximately 8m from the south end the trench was stepped to avoid some buried concrete and possible services. Turf and topsoil existed to a depth of 0.10m, which in turn sealed 0.50m of made ground. This overlay a blue green gravel

with patches of clay. The northern end of the trench was backfilled immediately due to severe contamination. No finds or archaeological features were encountered.

#### Trench 6 (fig.4)

This trench was aligned north east-south west and dug to a depth of 0.72m. The stratigraphy revealed that 0.02m of turf and topsoil were present above 0.68m of made ground, which again lay directly above the natural gravels. Severe contamination was encountered in this trench and as a result the trench was abandoned at 11.50m and back filled immediately. No finds or archaeological features were encountered.

#### Trench 7

Aligned east-west this trench was excavated to a depth of 0.45m. Stratigraphically approximately 0.10m of turf and topsoil overlay 0.20m of made ground which in turn overlay a sand and gravel mix. At 10m from the western end a large modern pit was encountered containing made ground and rubble, which was excavated to a depth of 1.15m. Again severe contamination was encountered at the eastern end of the trench so this was backfilled immediately after recording. No finds or archaeological features were encountered.

#### Trench 8 (Plate 2)

The alignment of this trench was north west-south east. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.30m at the northern end and 0.45 at the southern. Turf and topsoil was recorded overlying made ground 0.30m thick, which in turn overlay orange gravels. Between 9.50m–11.50m the trench was stepped to avoid an area of contamination. Also at 11.50m the trench was extended a further 4m on the south west side for drainage purposes. A ditch was noted crossing the trench from approximately 11.50m to 19.50m, aligned north west-south east. A slot excavated through the feature revealed it to be a modern drainage ditch. A backfilled test pit, excavated by the client was observed towards the northern end of the trench.

#### Trench 9

This trench was orientated north west-south east and was excavated to a depth of 1.06m. Approximately 0.05m of turf and topsoil was recorded covering 0.91m of made ground, which sealed grey-blue gravels. No finds or archaeological deposits were encountered.

### Trench 10

This trench was aligned north-south. The turf and topsoil was removed to reveal approximately 0.45m of made ground. A mix of mid brown sand and gravels with patches of yellow clay was encountered at a depth of 0.60m. Asbestos contamination was encountered at the southern end of this trench. No finds or archaeological features were encountered.

### Trench 11

This trench was oriented east-west and was excavated to a total depth of 1m. Turf and topsoil existed to a depth of 0.16m, and made ground was encountered to a depth of 1m. This trench was abandoned at 2.60m as it was thought to be heavily contaminated. No finds or archaeological features were encountered.

### Trench 12

This trench was aligned north east-south west and dug to a maximum depth of 1.22m. Turf and topsoil, approximately 0.12m thick overlay made ground which was 0.56m thick. This overlay a blue black clay approximately 0.24m thick which in turn sealed a peat like layer 0.20m thick. The natural in this trench changed from an orange sandy clay to blue grey gravels. No finds or archaeological features were encountered.

### Trench 13 (fig 4)

The orientation of this trench was east-west and the natural gravels were encountered at 1.16m. A layer of turf and topsoil overlay 0.95m of made ground, which in turn overlay gravels. The majority of the gravel was orange yellow but in areas of contamination the natural had been stained blue. At approximately 3.50m from the east end the trench was stepped to accommodate a contaminated area. A concrete bar was encountered at 7.60m and a field drain at 10.50m. No finds or archaeological features were recorded.

## **Finds**

No finds were recovered.

## **Conclusion**

No deposits of prehistoric or later date were recorded during the evaluation. It is known that the site had been previously developed and also used for land fill and this was evident in the amount of contamination and made

ground encountered in all the trenches. If archaeological deposits had survived this would undoubtedly have had an adverse effect on them.

No finds or features of archaeological significance were encountered and as a result the site would appear to have no archaeological potential.

## **References**

- Barrett, J C, Lewis, J S C and Welsh, K, 2000, 'Perry Oaks – a history of inhabitation, part 2', *London Archaeologist*, **9**, 221–7
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- Longley, D, 1976, *The Archaeological implications of Gravel extraction in North-West Surrey*, Surrey Archaeol Soc Res Vol 3, Guildford, 1–37.
- MoLAS, 2000, *The Archaeology of Greater London*, Museum of London Archaeology Service, London
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



**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	6.50	1.60	0.46	0-0.16m turf/topsoil; 0.16-0.32m made ground. Natural orange brown sandy gravels. Trench abandoned at 6.50m due to contamination. Top of natural at 17.32mAOD. No archaeology.
2	18.20	1.60	0.40	0-0.15m turf/topsoil; 0.15-0.30m of made ground; 0.11m of clay covering natural gravels at north east end. Top of natural at 17.82mAOD No archaeology
3	17.50	1.60	0.22 s end 0.62 n end	0-0.08m turf/topsoil; 0.08-0.15m of made ground. Natural orange brown sand at north end becoming increasingly gravely towards south. Test pit excavated at north end to depth of 0.62m. Top of natural at 18.02mAOD. No archaeology <b>[Plate 1]</b>
4	19.90	1.60	0.32	0-0.10m of turf/topsoil; 0.10-0.26m of made ground. Natural sand becoming increasingly gravely towards south east end. 3.40m of trench backfilled at south end due to contamination. Top of natural at 18.06mAOD. No archaeology
5	16.00	1.60	0.80	0-0.10m of turf/topsoil; 0.10-0.60m of made ground. Natural blue grey gravel with clay patches. Trench stepped at 8m from south end due to concrete and possible services. Trench was immediately backfilled due to severe contamination at north end. Top of natural at 17.58mAOD. No archaeology
6	11.60	1.60	0.72	0-0.02m of turf/topsoil; 0.02-0.70m of made ground. Natural gravels. Trench stopped at 11.50m due to contamination and immediately backfilled. Top of natural at 17.44mAOD. No archaeology
7	23.10	1.60	0.45	0-0.10m turf/topsoil; 0.10-0.30m of made ground over natural sand. Large pit backfilled with made ground /rubble encountered at 10m, excavated to depth of 1.15m. Top of natural at 17.37mAOD. No archaeology
8	32.00	1.60	0.30m n end 0.45m s end	0-0.08m turf/topsoil; 0.08-0.38m made ground. Natural brown orange gravels. Trench stepped between 9.50-11.50m to accommodate contaminated area. Ditch encountered aligned north west-south east extending from 9.50m-19.50m. Trench extended 4m to south west at approximately 11.50m. Top of natural at 16.72mAOD. No archaeology <b>[Plate 2]</b>
9	20.20	1.60	1.06	0-0.05m of turf/topsoil; 0.05-0.96m of made ground. Natural grey blue gravels. Top of natural at 16.20mAOD. No archaeology
10	19.50	1.60	0.70	0-0.16m of turf/topsoil; 0.16-0.60m of made ground. Natural mid brown sand and gravels with yellow patches of clay. Top of natural at 15.70mAOD. No archaeology
11	2.60	1.60	1.00	0-0.16m of turf/topsoil; 0.16-1.00m made ground. Natural heavily contaminated gravels. Trench abandoned after 2.60m due to contamination. Top of natural at 16.62mAOD. No archaeology
12	18.80	1.60	1.22	0-0.12m turf/topsoil; 0.12-0.68m made ground; 0.68-0.92m blue black clay; 0.92-1.12m peat like layer. Natural both sandy clay with blue grey gravels. Top of natural at 15.84mAOD. No archaeology
13	21.00	1.60	1.16	0-0.15m of turf/topsoil; 0.15-1.10m of heavily contaminated made ground. Natural orange yellow gravels, stained blue where contaminated. 3.50m at east end of trench stepped due to contaminated area. Field drain identified at 10.50m, concrete bar recorded at 7.60m. Top of natural at 16.56mAOD. No archaeology



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

**n/a**

**7. NATURAL** (state if not observed; please DO NOT LEAVE BLANK)

Type: Taplow gravels and sand

Height above Ordnance Datum: 15.56m-18.06mAOD

## 8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVE

a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

**Notes** 1 file                      **Plans** n/a                      **Photos** yes                      **Ngatives** yes

**Slides** yes                      **Correspondence** yes                      **MScripts** (unpub reports, etc.) yes

**BULK finds** None                      **SMall finds** None                      **SOil Samples** None

**OTHer** (please specify)

b) The complete archive has been/will be deposited in the following location: Museum of London

c) Approximate year of transfer: anticipated 2005

d) Location of any copies:

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made?                      To be microfiched

## 9. LOCATION OF FINDS

**a:** In your possessions (delete as appropriate):                      n/a

**b:** All/some finds have been/will be deposited with the following museum/ other body: Museum of London

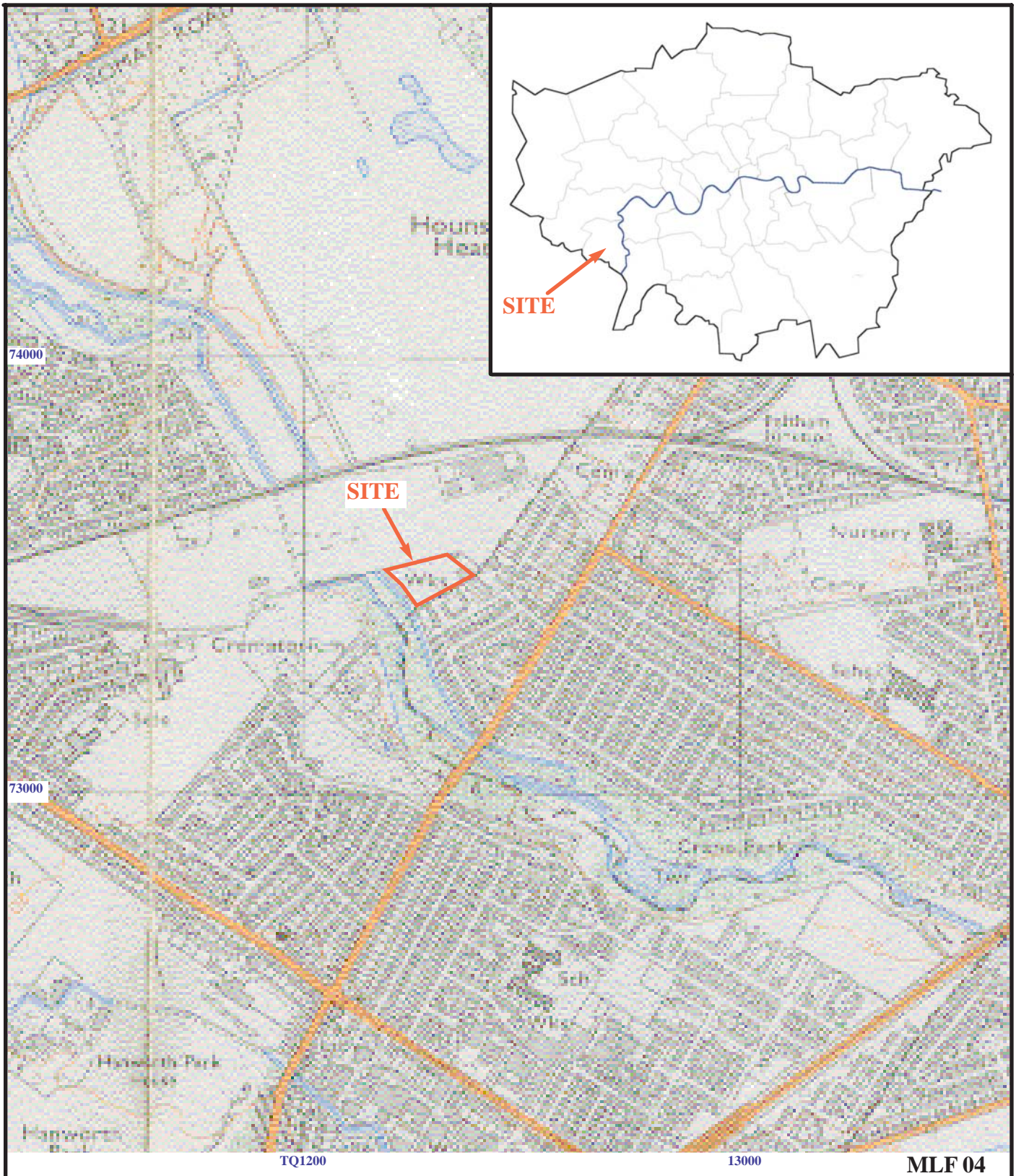
Approximate year of transfer:

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Anthony, S and Lowe, J, 2004, Mill Farm, Hanworth, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, An Archaeological Evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Report 01/88a, Reading  
Hardy, L, 2001, Mill Farm, Hanworth, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, An Archaeological Desk based assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Report 01/88b, Reading

**NAME:** J Lowe

**DATE:** 29/1/04

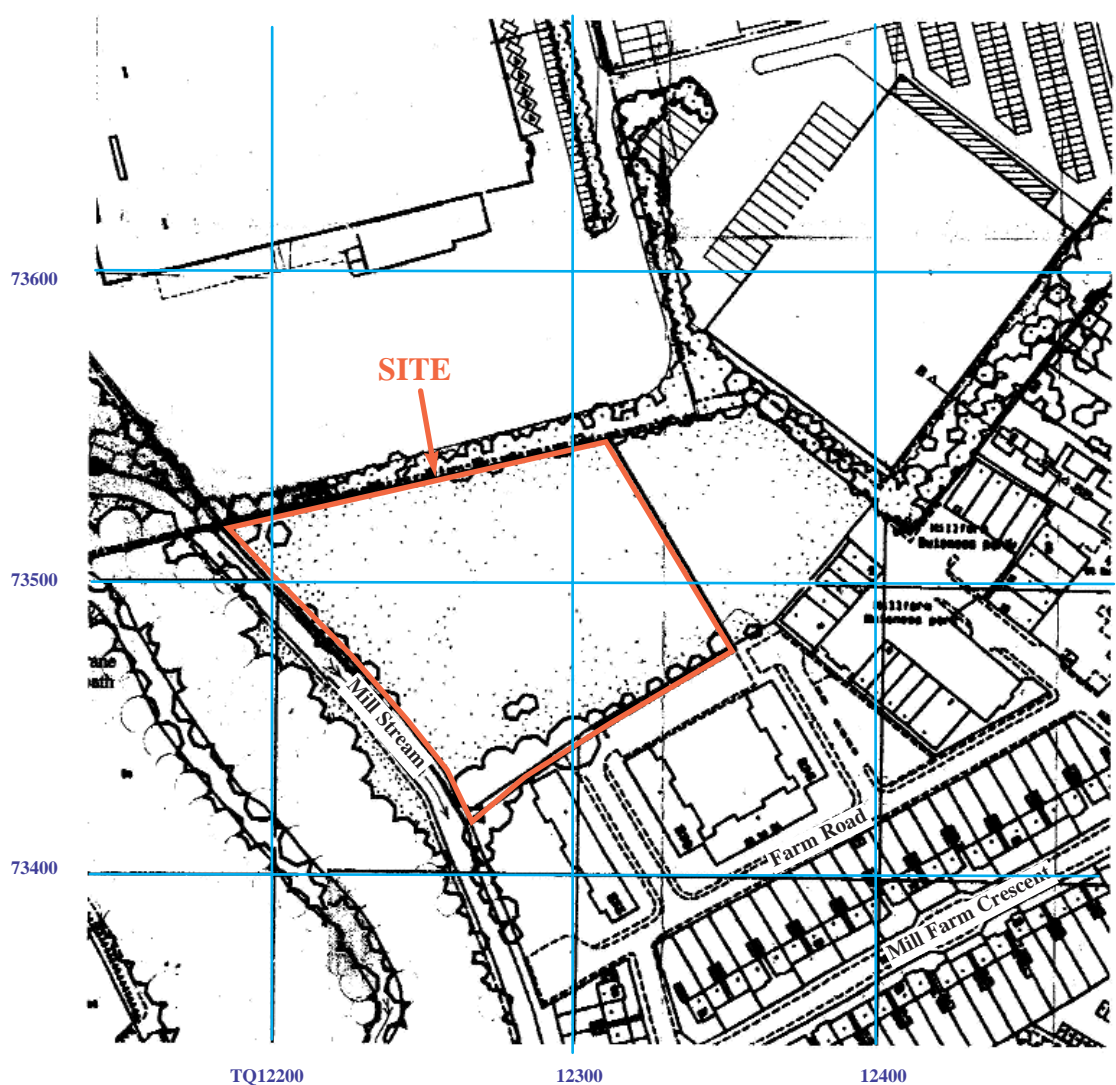


**Mill Farm, Hanworth, London Borough of  
Richmond Upon Thames, 2004  
Archaeological Evaluation**

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

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1:12500 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

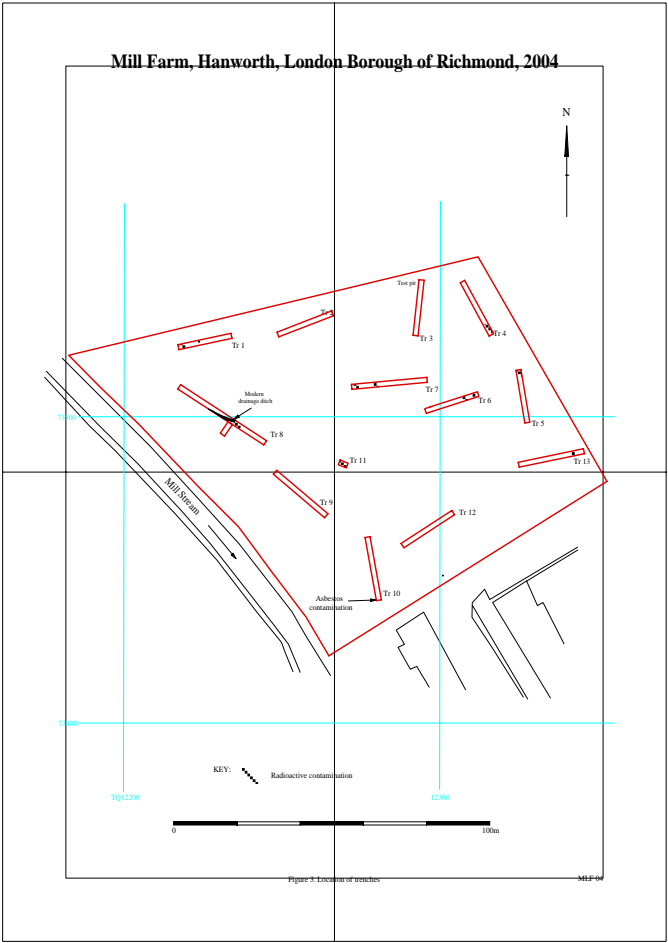


MLF 04

**Mill Farm, Hanworth, London Borough of  
Richmond Upon Thames, 2004**

Figure 2. Location of site within Hanworth.

T H A M E S   V A L L E Y  
 A R C H A E O L O G I C A L  
 S E R V I C E S



# Mill Lane, Hanworth, London Borough of Richmond, 2004

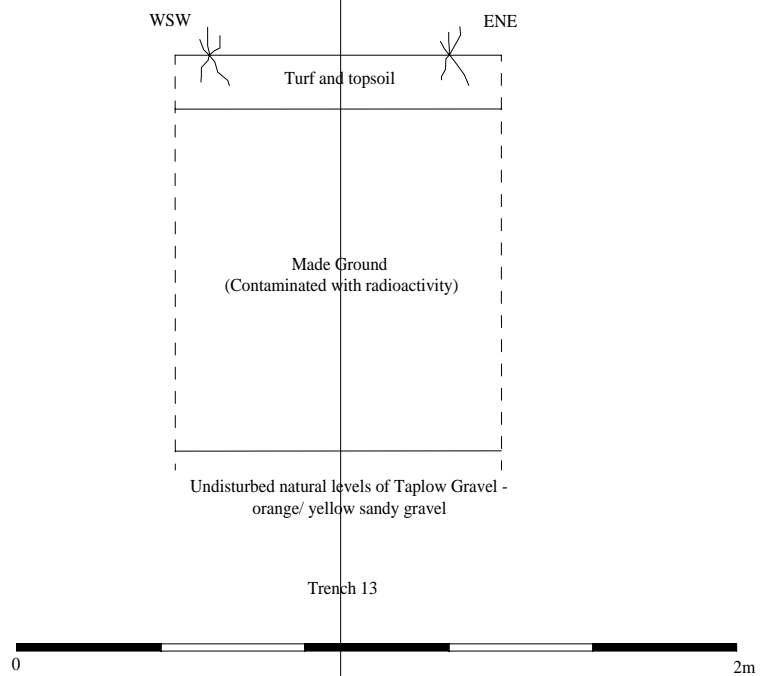
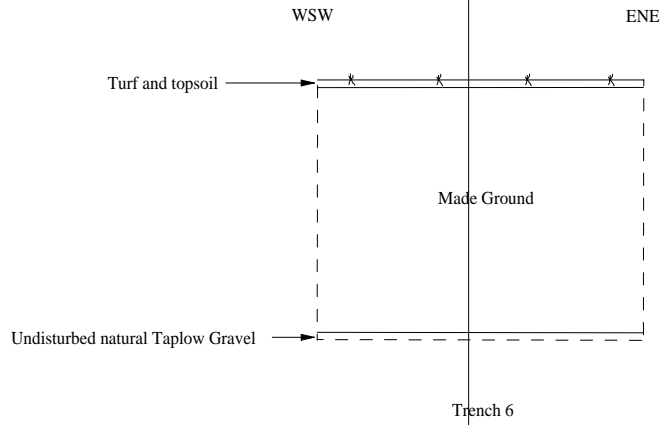


Figure 4. Representative section of Trenches 6 and 13.

MLF04





Plate 1. Trench 3. Looking south, scales 2m and 1m



Plate 2. Trench 8. Looking south east, scales 2m and 1m