

**38a Radnor Road, Twickenham,
London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Morland Homes**

by Lisa-Maree Hardy
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RDN 01

May 2001

Summary

Site name: 38a Radnor Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

Grid reference: TQ 15800 72805

Site activity: Watching brief

Date and duration of project: 17th and 22nd May 2001

Site code: RDN 01

Area of site: 150 sq. m.

Summary of results: One brick-built wall was observed which may be a foundation of a previous house. Late post-medieval pottery was observed on the spoil.

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The site archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 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.

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Report edited/checked by:	S Preston	29.05.01
	S Ford	12.6.01

38a Radnor Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Lisa-Maree Hardy

Report 01/46

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at a parcel of land on the eastern side of Radnor Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond (TQ 15800 72805) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Malcolm Watton, Architect, The Studio, 219c Kingston Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 9JN, on behalf of Morland Homes.

Planning permission has been granted by London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames Council for the construction of a four bedroom dwelling (Planning Application 00/0991/OUT). The planning application has been approved subject to a condition that requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological works, in this case specifically an archaeological watching brief. This followed a recommendation by English Heritage, and is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Policy and Planning Guidance Note, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mark Stevenson, Archaeology Advisor, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, English Heritage. The fieldwork was undertaken by Lisa-Maree Hardy on May 17th and 22nd, 2001 and the site code allocated by the Museum of London is RDN01.

Location, topography and geology

The complete site is a rectangular parcel of land adjacent to an existing row of terrace houses. The site is located on the eastern side of Radnor Road, Twickenham, in the London Borough of Twickenham (Figs. 1 and 2). The block lies on a gentle slope down from west to east. The site has previously been developed, its most recent use being as a small shed/garage. The site lies on the boundary of brickearth and river gravel terrace, and is a short distance from the River Thames (BGS 1974). The geology observed on site was orange silty clay (brickearth).

Archaeological background

The vicinity of the site once formed the extensive gardens of poet Alexander Pope (1688 – 1744) who lived in the Twickenham area. A portion of the development site is included in the English Heritage *Register of Parks*

and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. This garden was listed at Grade II. As such the archaeological potential of the development site has been highlighted. The possibility of features belonging to this garden being exposed during groundworks prompted the requirement for this watching brief.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to observe and record any archaeological deposits or garden features on the site. This involved the observation of the excavation of foundation trenches and the monitoring of spoil heaps for finds.

The foundation trenches for the house were excavated by a machine with a 1m wide toothed bucket. They were on average 1m deep, but were deeper in the western portion of the site to accommodate the slope of the land. The entire length of the trenches were monitored. One feature was observed in section after excavation and a wall was uncovered in several trenches.

Results

Observation of the northern foundation trench (Fig. 3) showed that a layer of made ground and buried soil up to 0.9m deep overlay the natural geology of orange silty clay. This layer of buried soil was truncated by a layer of debris at a depth of approximately 0.15m. This layer contained glass, broken plant pots and some china, all of which was of late post-medieval (Victorian) date. The buried soil also contained bottle glass, and stoneware containers of Victorian date (not retained).

In the central area of the proposed development, made ground up to 0.6m overlay the natural geology. The majority of this consisted of building debris and floor tiles of the previous structure.

One possible cut feature was recorded during the watching brief, as well as one standing structure. The feature (1) was observed in section following excavation. It was roughly circular in plan, 0.51m deep and 0.9m across and was infilled with post-medieval brick rubble and sandy mortar.

One standing structure was observed in the foundation trench. This consisted of a brick wall (2) aligned east-to-west across the trenches, parallel with the foundations of the existing terrace house to the south of the site, suggesting that this may too have been a foundation for a dwelling. The spoil heaps were examined during excavation, but again only late post-medieval (Victorian) finds of china, brick, tile, along with animal bone and a few fragments of ironwork were observed but not retained.

Conclusion

This project did observe two features during the digging of the new foundation trenches; one a pit and the other a probable foundation wall. Both of these are of late post-medieval date (Victorian?) and probably relate to a previous house on the plot. Neither of these features could be confidently assigned to any remains expected from a park or garden.

No features or finds of archaeological or historic garden interest were encountered during the watching brief.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
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- Yes

2. LOCATION

Borough: Richmond Upon Thames

Address: 38A Radnor Road, Twickenham

Name: 38A Radnor Road, Twickenham

Site Code: RDN01

National Grid Refs:

Centre of site: TQ 15800 72805

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

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

Site director/supervisor: Lisa-Maree Hardy

Project manager: Steve Ford

Funded by: Morland Homes

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 17th May 2001

Date finished: 22nd May 2001

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: **YES**

Iron Age: -

Unknown: -

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

POST-MEDIEVAL

Pit and brick wall observed, both of late post-medieval date (Victorian)

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 records will be deposited in the following museum, record office, etc: Museum of London

c) Approximate year of transfer: 2002

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

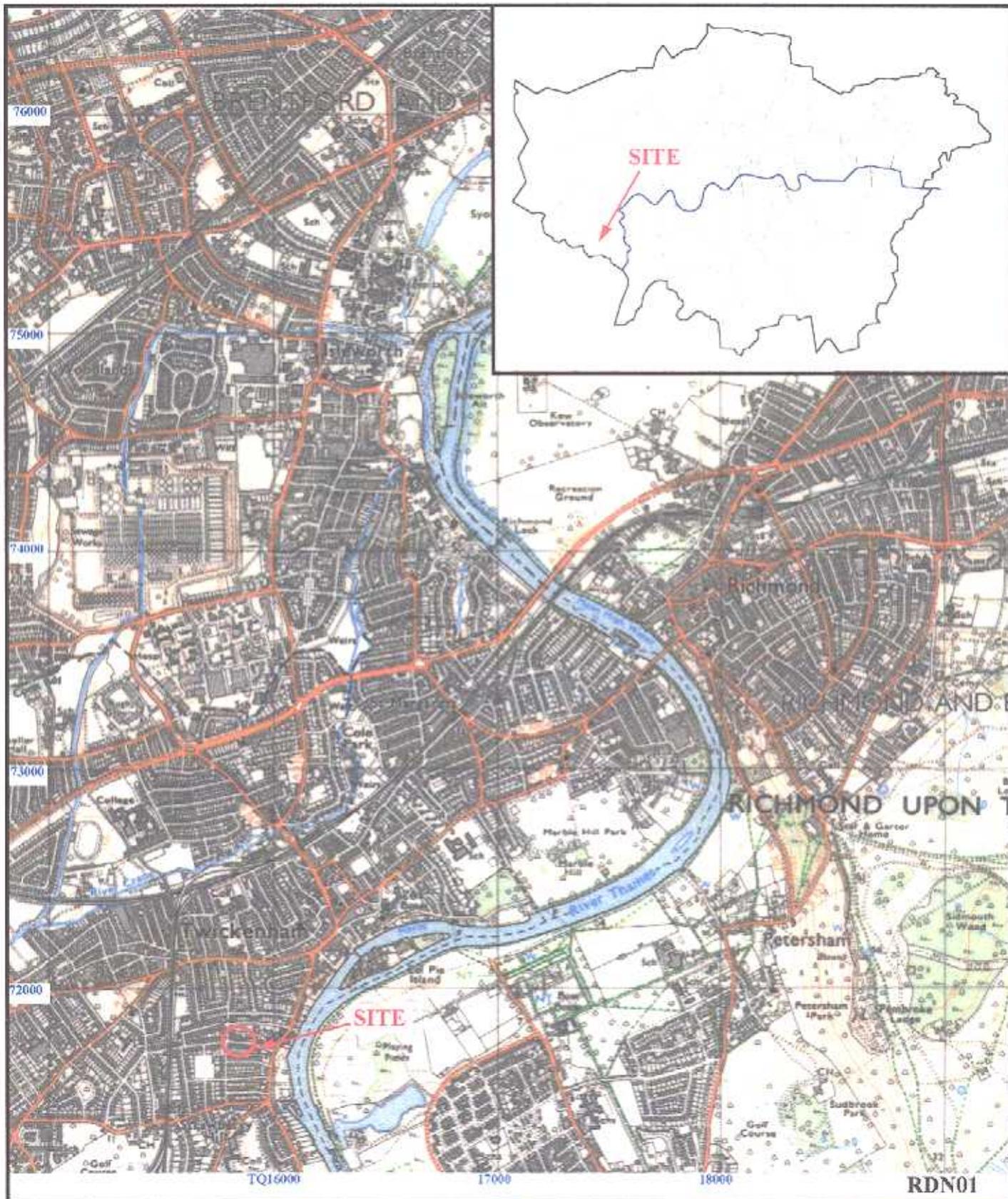
c) Approximate. year of transfer: N/A

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hardy, L, 2001, 38A Radnor Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Archaeological Watching Brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 01/46

SIGNED: Steve Ford

DATE: 28/5/01



**38A Radnor Road, Twickenham,
London Borough of Richmond, 2001**

Figure 1. Location of site within Twickenham

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SERVICES

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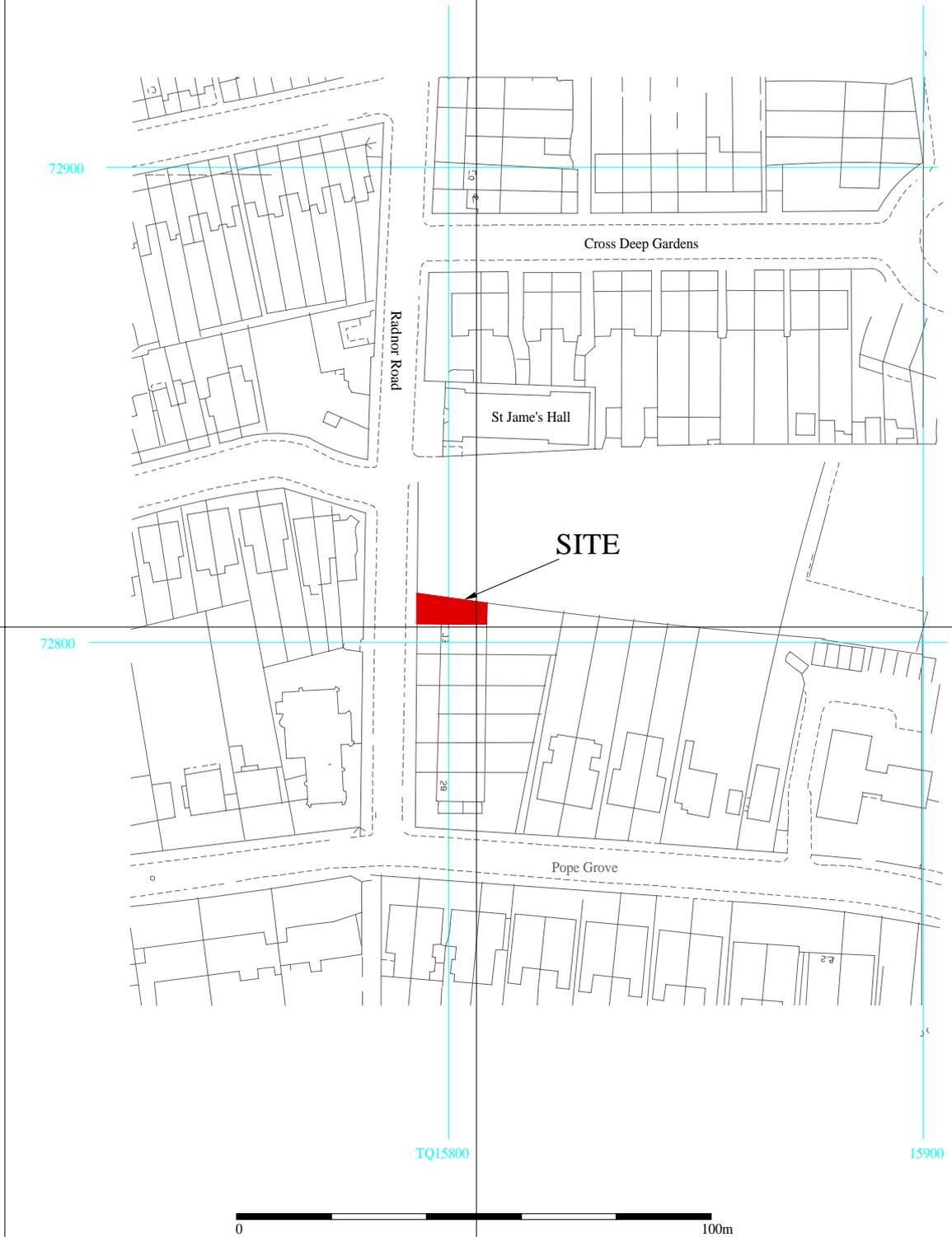


Figure 2. Location of site.

RDN01

38A Radnor Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond 2001

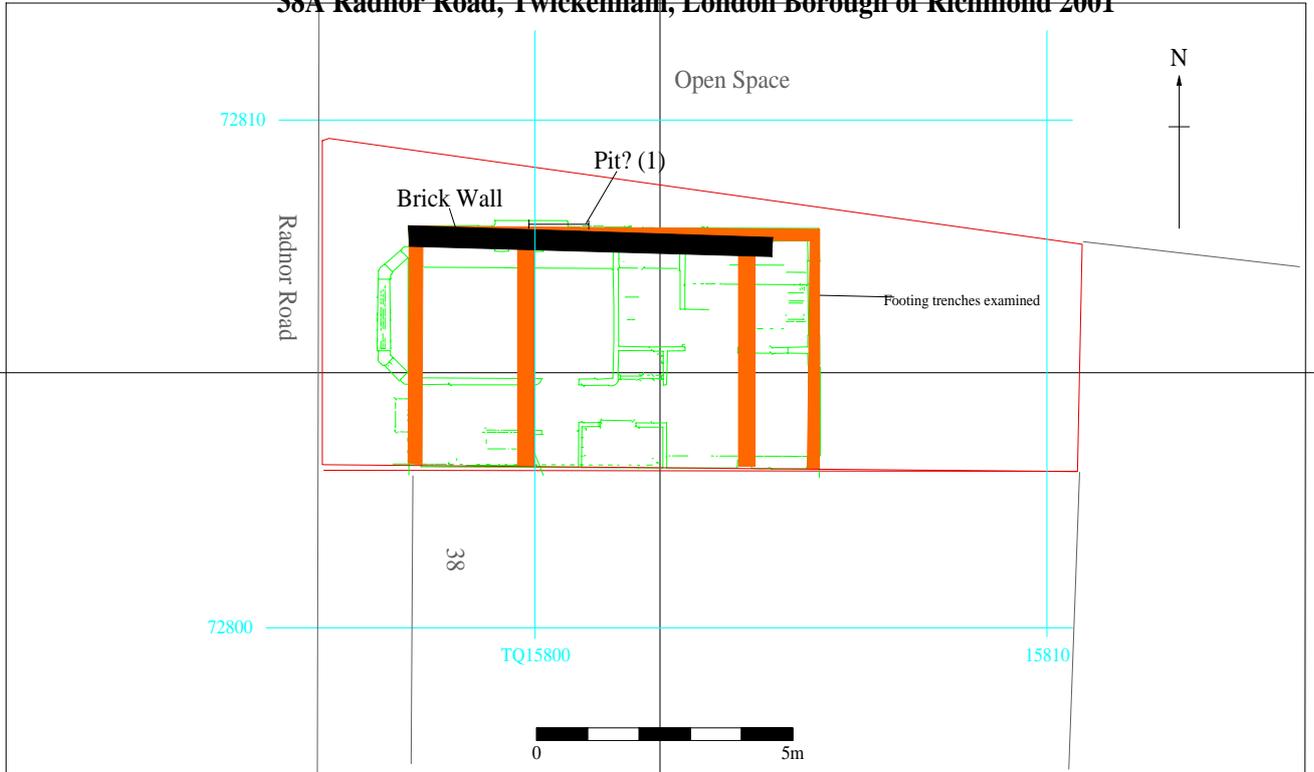


Figure 3. Location of foundation trenches examined during watching brief.

RDN01