

Prehistoric Twickenham

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Introduction

THIS ARTICLE reviews the archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity in the area known since the 8th century as Twickenham, and incorporates the unpublished results of a number of investigations undertaken during the 1990s. The study area also includes the Surrey riverside opposite Twickenham, otherwise known as Ham Fields.

Topography and geology

Twickenham lies in a fairly level, low-lying area on the outside of a bend in the River Thames. The geological drift deposits in this area mainly comprise sands and gravels of the First River Terrace and alluvium¹. Across much of Twickenham the terrace deposits are capped by brickearth, which was probably deposited as floodloam during the Flandrian period².

The course of the main channel of the Thames in this part of London has probably changed little since the end of the last glaciation. However, recent excavations close to Twickenham have produced evidence for minor changes in the river's form and position, which probably occurred during the prehistoric period. For example, an earlier course of the Thames may have been located on the site of the British Aerospace factory, near Ham. Here a trial excavation undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) in 1994 revealed a broad palaeochannel roughly parallel to the river's present course³. The former channel was over 100m wide and its bed undulated, suggesting that it may have comprised several intercutting channels. Another palaeochannel next to Hepple Close, Isleworth, may once have been an oxbow of the River Thames cutting off the land now occupied by Syon House⁴.

The River Crane, a tributary of the Thames, meanders through the northern part of Twickenham before joining the Thames at Isleworth. Another

tributary was located on the south side of Twickenham, and joined the Thames about 600m upstream from Eel Pie Island. It appears on 17th- and 18th-century maps, and is named as *Cross Deep* on Rocque's map of 1745. On the Twickenham Inclosure Award Map of 1819 it is shown running between Waldegrave Road and Tower Road before disappearing beneath the Cross Deep road.

In prehistoric times there were probably several aits (eyots) in the Thames at Twickenham, although only two survive today. The largest is Eel Pie Island, which in 1607 comprised three separate islands⁵, and is shown on Rocque's map of 1746 as two islands. The other is a small ait about 500m upstream. This was originally one of a pair of islands at the mouth of the Cross Deep stream. The site of its larger twin is now occupied by Radnor Gardens. Both islands are shown on Glover's map of 1633 and on Lewis' plan of Twickenham in 1784. The larger ait was absorbed into

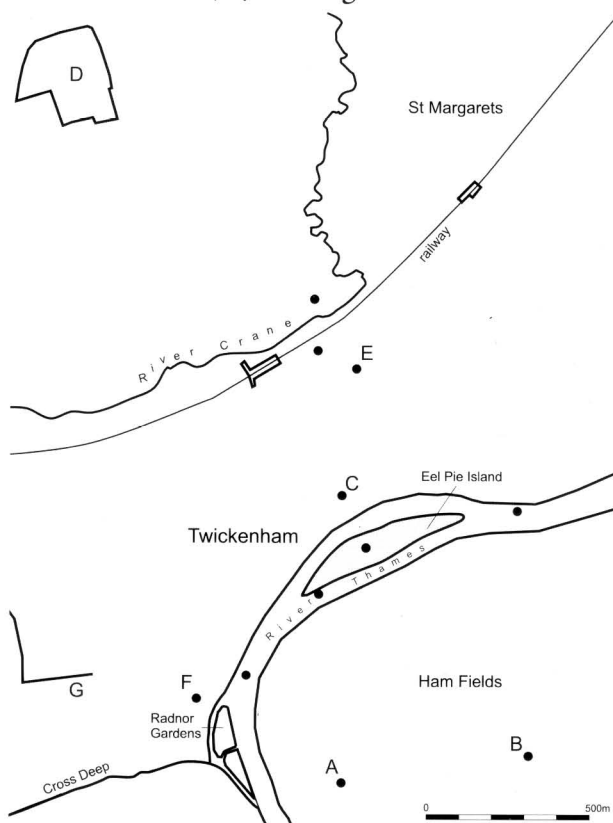


Fig. 1: plan showing the location of the prehistoric sites and findspots in the Twickenham area. The natural topography is based on information from 18th- and 19th-century maps.

1. British Geological Survey, South London Sheet 270, solid and drift edition 1:50000 (1981).
2. P L Gibbard, A G Wintle and J A Catt 'Age and origin of clayey silt 'brickearth' in West London, England' *J Quaternary Science* 2 (1987) 3-9.
3. Site code BHE94; R Cowie *British Aerospace site, Richmond Road, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames: an archaeological evaluation* MoLAS 1994 (unpub).
4. C Bell 'An archaeological excavation on land adjacent to Snowy Fielder Way, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow, Middlesex' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 47 (1996) 37-8.
5. Victoria County History *Middlesex* 3 (1962) 139.

the riverside in 1968 when the channel between the Radnor Gardens and the Middlesex bank was filled in. In prehistoric times such islands would have been especially good locations for hunting and fishing.

The circumstances of the archaeological work

Until a few years ago evidence for prehistoric activity in the study area mainly comprised chance finds dredged from the river in the 19th century, and artefacts collected during gravel digging and field-walking in Ham Fields during the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century⁶. The Ham Fields finds in the study area were concentrated in two places: the area around the farm buildings known as Coldharbour (Fig. 1, A), which was extensively quarried, and Maize Fields (Fig. 1, B), which is now covered by housing.

The first archaeological excavation to produce substantial evidence for prehistoric activity in Twickenham was undertaken behind 48 and 49 Church Street (Fig 1, C) in 1966 by the Twickenham Local History Society⁷. The dig, supervised by Rosalind Sanford and Geoff Fowler, revealed a linear feature containing struck flints and Early Neolithic pottery. This discovery was regarded as particularly significant because hitherto little evidence had been found for Early Neolithic occupation in the London area, although sites of similar date were also excavated in the mid-1960s at Eden Walk, Kingston⁸ and 184-187 High Street, Brentford⁹. The report on the excavation at Church Street includes a rough sketch plan and section of the feature together with a somewhat confusing description of the stratigraphy¹⁰.

The next archaeological excavations on prehistoric sites in Twickenham did not occur until the 1990s, when investigations were undertaken by MoLAS before or during redevelopment work at three sites. The first was an evaluation supervised by Helen Jones on the site of South Middlesex Hospital (Fig. 1, D) in 1992¹¹. During the project fourteen trial trenches were excavated, four of which revealed features dated to the Bronze Age.

Two years later excavations by Stewart Hoad at St John's Hospital, Amyand Park Road (Fig. 1, E), revealed a number of features that were possibly of prehistoric date¹².

The most recent investigation was undertaken in 1999 by the author at *Pope's Grotto* Public House, Cross Deep (Fig. 1, F), where at least two features dated to the prehistoric period were recorded during a watching brief¹³. The features were uncovered by builders excavating an area for an underground car park on the south side of the pub. The largest feature, a ditch dated to the Bronze Age, was investigated and recorded with the assistance of the Richmond Archaeological Society.

Palaeolithic (and later)

Only one site in Twickenham has produced remains that might date to the Palaeolithic period. This was a sewer trench dug in 1892, which ran from the Thames near *Pope's Grotto* up to Twickenham Sewage Works (Fig. 1, G), and produced a curious assemblage of animal bones, and plant and molluscan remains¹⁴. The finds apparently came from a 'dark loamy bed' in gravel deposits at depths of between 11 to 18ft (3.35 to 5.50m) below ground level. The stratum occurred in the western half of Popes Grove, beginning 420yd (384m) west of the Thames, and continued along the rest of the trench 'through other roads' (probably including Popes Avenue) to the sewage works. The plant and molluscan remains indicated marshy ground associated with a slow flowing watercourse. About 300 bones were collected from the surface of the 'loam' by navvies digging the trench. The animals represented were *Bos taurus* and possibly *Bos longifrons* (both species of cattle), *Cervus capreolus*¹⁵ (roe deer), *Rangifer tarandus* (reindeer), *Sus scrofa* (wild boar), *Cervus elaphus* (red deer), *Canis lupus* (wolf)¹⁶ and *Bison priscus* (bison)¹⁷. Interestingly, the 'marrow-bones' of the bison and cattle had been split and cracked, possibly indicating the presence of man (although no artefacts were found with the bones).

The 'loam' may correspond to a bed of laminated silty clay found in the 1950s about 2km to the north at Willment's gravel pit, Isleworth¹⁸. This contained

6. A D Lacaille 'Mesolithic facies in the transpontine fringes' *Surrey Archaeol Collect* 63 (1966) 21-9; D Field 'Ham: The Edwards Collection' *Surrey Archaeol Collect* 74 (1983) 169-184.
7. R Sanford 'Neolithic Twickenham' *London Archaeol* 1 no. 9 (1970) 199-201.
8. J Penn, D Field and D Serjeantson 'Evidence of Neolithic occupation at Eden Walk, 1965' *Surrey Archaeol Collect* 75 (1984) 207-224.
9. R Canham *2000 Years of Brentford* (1978) 19-22.
10. R Sanford *Excavation in Church Street, Twickenham 1966* Borough of Twickenham Local Hist Soc Paper 12 (1968).
11. Site code SMM92; H Jones *South Middlesex Hospital, Mogden Lane/Rugby Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Hounslow: an archaeological evaluation* MoLAS 1992 (unpub).

12. Site code APR94; S Hoad *St John's Hospital, Amyand Park Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames: an archaeological evaluation and excavation* MoLAS 1994 (unpub). These were briefly described in S Hoad 'Romans in Twickenham' *London Archaeol* 7, no. 14 (1995) 378-382.
13. Site code POP92; R Cowie *Pope's Grotto Public House, Cross Deep, Twickenham, Middlesex, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames: an archaeological watching brief* MoLAS 1999 (unpub).
14. J R Leeson and G B Laffan 'Geology of the Pleistocene Deposits in the Valley of the Thames at Twickenham' *Q J Geol Soc Lond* 50 (1894) 453-60. The site of Twickenham Sewage Works is now a depot at the west end of Cranford Way.

plant fragments, which gave a radiocarbon date of $43,140 \pm 1520$ BP (Birm-319)¹⁹, as well as mammal bones, mollusc shells and insect remains. The biological remains were similar to those at Twickenham. For example, the bones of reindeer and bison were recorded, as well as the remains of mammoth and woolly rhinoceros. As at Twickenham the organic deposits in Willment's Pit lay near the bottom of floodplain sands and gravels. It is thought that they probably accumulated in a channel on the floodplain during a brief temperate interstadial period that lasted only about 2000 years. Because of the similarities of the organic deposits at Twickenham and Isleworth it is tempting to conclude that they are contemporaneous. There is a problem with this, however, in that some species at Twickenham reflect the warmer climatic conditions of the Holocene. Moreover the presence of domesticated cattle is puzzling, since they could not be earlier than Neolithic in date. Indeed, the curious mixture of species at Twickenham suggests that somehow relatively recent material had become mixed with an otherwise early assemblage.

Mesolithic

Mesolithic activity is indicated in Twickenham by a small assemblage of residual struck flints from the site in Church Street (Fig. 1, c)²⁰, possibly including a bladelet with a steep retouch, although this may be Early Neolithic in date. Perforated digging tools of red deer antler have also been found elsewhere in Twickenham and on Eel Pie Island²¹. Some of these artefacts may have come from the sites of riverside camps, although as yet no Mesolithic remains have been identified *in situ* in the locality. This is partly because Mesolithic occupation and tool making sites would have usually been no more than small temporary camps that would leave little trace in the archaeological record. Moreover, such sites are often deeply buried within floodplain deposits, hindering their discovery.

On the Surrey bank many Mesolithic flint implements and much waste material have been collected from Ham Fields²². The assemblage includes cores, microliths and eighteen axes/adzes. A number of flints, collected from Ham Fields by Mr. J. G. Marsden

in the early 1930s, were 'peat-stained and encrusted with shell-marl', and probably came from under the 'alluvium' at the edge of the Thames²³. According to Marsden's records the gravel next to the Thames on the west side of Ham Fields was overlaid successively by thin patchy layers of 'shelly marl' and 'peaty matter', which were covered by alluvium. A similar sequence of strata was recently recorded by the Richmond Archaeological Society on the Surrey foreshore immediately downstream from Richmond Lock. Here tufa and calcareous shelly sands (arguably corresponding to Marsden's 'shelly marl') were overlaid by shelly sands²⁴. A piece of wood from the surface of the calcareous deposits was dated by radiocarbon to 7880 ± 50 BP (GU-5729) calibrated to BC 7000-6540, and another fragment, from the shelly sands, was dated to 7910 ± 70 BP (GU-5730) calibrated to BC 7040-6540. This suggests the deposits were laid down in the Mesolithic period, and fits well with the evidence from Ham Fields, where, judging from Marsden's flints, similar deposits apparently date to the same period. Near the top of the shelly sands was a thin deposit of organic clay, possibly matching the 'peaty matter' at Ham Fields. The strata at both sites were covered by finer fluvial sediment.

Neolithic

The main evidence for Neolithic occupation in Twickenham comes from Church Street (Fig. 1, c)²⁵, where a linear feature produced 140 flint-tempered sherds from at least a dozen thick-walled Neolithic pots and bowls. The pottery was in an early style antedating the Ebbsfleet variety²⁶. Many struck flints were also recovered. They were probably of Neolithic date, and included eighteen cores, a flake scraper, and about ninety flakes (thirteen of which showed signs of use). There were also nearly a hundred very small flakes and spalls. The feature was on a north-south alignment, and was roughly at right angles to the river Thames (about 70m to the south). It was interpreted by the excavators as a watercourse, although the local topography suggests that this is unlikely. Moreover the large number of artefacts in its fill suggests that the feature was anthropogenic, and most probably a ditch.

15. *Capreolus capreolus* according to modern nomenclature.

16. It was suggested that the single 'wolf' bone may have come from a dog; J R Leeson & G B Laffan *op cit* fn 15, 461.

17. Possibly confused with aurochs.

18. M P Kerney, P L Gibbard, A R Hall and J E Robinson 'Middle Devensian river deposits beneath the 'Upper Floodplain' terrace of the River Thames at Isleworth, West London' *Proc Geol Ass* 93 (1982) 385-93. Also see G R Coope and R B Angus 'An ecological study of a temperate interlude in the middle of the Last Glaciation, based on fossil Coleoptera from Isleworth, Middlesex' *J Anim Ecol* 44 (1975) 365-91.

19. F W Shotton and R E G Williams 'Birmingham University radiocarbon dates VII' *Radiocarbon* 15 (1973) 457-68.

20. I Smith 'Prehistoric finds' in R Sanford *op cit* fn 10, 15-21; R Sanford *op cit* fn 7, 200.

21. VCH *Middlesex* 1 (1969) 26-7; A D Lacaille 'Mesolithic facies in Middlesex and London' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 20 (1961) 135-6, Fig 7 no. 6.

22. A D Lacaille *op cit* fn 6.

23. *Ibid.*, 23-24.

24. Snail shells recovered from these deposits are entirely of freshwater species (Keith Wilkinson, King Alfred's University College Winchester, *pers comm*).

25. R Sanford *op cit* fns 7 and 10.

26. I Smith *op cit* fn 21, 15-21.

Stray finds from other sites in the area include a fine leaf-shaped arrowhead dated to the Early Neolithic period from South Middlesex Hospital²⁷ (Fig. 2), and a large number of flint artefacts, mostly axes and arrowheads, from Ham Fields. Indeed the quantity of finds from the Surrey bank suggests considerable settlement in the area by the Neolithic period²⁸.

In addition, the Thames at Twickenham has produced at least nine stone and flint axes²⁹. Most of the river finds were only given the vague provenance of 'Twickenham', but two specimens made of ground flint are known to have come from near Eel Pie Island and opposite Orleans House³⁰ respectively. A third axe made of pecked and ground greenstone/epidiorite³¹ was found upstream from the ait. Two have been subjected to petrological analysis and grouped with other stone axe finds in Britain. The results suggest that they derived from distant sources; the epidiorite axe (Group I) probably came from Devon or Cornwall, while a tuff axe (Group VI) has been linked to an axe factory at Pike o'Stickle, in Cumbria³². A chipped adze³³ was also found in the river opposite Orleans House.

Bronze Age

Fragmentary evidence for Bronze Age field systems and/or enclosures may have been found at South Middlesex Hospital (Fig. 1, D) and *Pope's Grotto* Public

House (Fig. 1, F). At the hospital site several features appeared to be of Bronze Age date (Fig. 3)³⁴. They had all been truncated by later cultivation, and survived to depths of between 20mm and 0.40m. A trench in the southern part of the site revealed three ditches or gullies, one of which produced several sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery of Deverel Rimbrey ware type (Fig. 4). The pottery has applied cordon decoration and probably came from a large bucket urn. The finds suggest that the feature was roughly contemporaneous with a ditch, probably of an enclosure, found about 0.5km to the north-east during excavations at Bankside Close, Isleworth³⁵. Three trenches in the north-east part of the hospital site revealed features containing sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery. The features comprised a posthole and stakehole in Trench 3, two pits in Trench 4, and two pits in Trench 1. Undiagnostic struck flints were recovered from another stakehole in Trench 3 and a ditch in Trench 4.

At *Pope's Grotto* Public House an east-west ditch was traced for a discontinuous length of 18.5m (Figs. 5 and 6). Although truncated the ditch survived to a depth of 0.64m and was up to 2.3m wide. Over thirty struck flints were recovered from the ditch. Most are waste flakes and probably date to Late Neolithic or Bronze Age, although one patinated blade could be of Mesolithic or Neolithic date. The absence of later objects strongly suggests that the ditch was not open beyond the Bronze Age. The ditch also produced six fragments of animal bone, which are from an ox pelvis and scapula, 'ox-sized' ribs, a pig radius and a sheep skull³⁶. None show signs of butchery, although the pig radius has evidently been gnawed by a dog. The nature of the ditch fill, and the fact that the base of the feature was level, suggest that the main purpose of the ditch was not drainage. Indeed, the considerable size of the feature suggests that it was

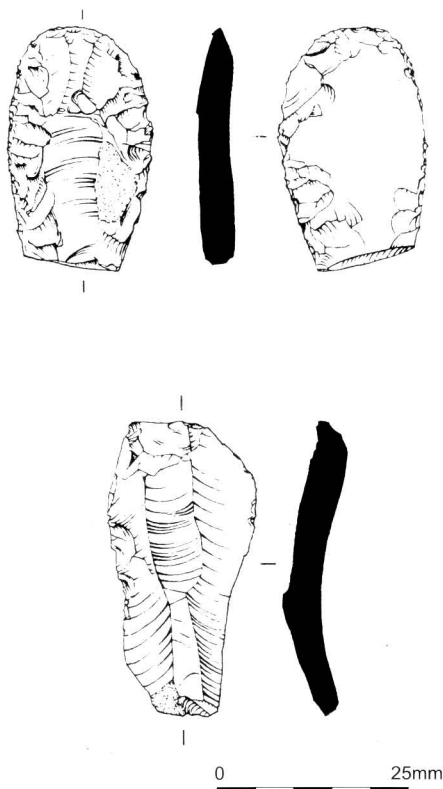


Fig. 2: flints from South Middlesex Hospital.

27. H Jones *op cit* fn 11, 13 and 14.

28. D Field *op cit* fn 6, 179.

29. Listed in R Adkins and R Jackson *Neolithic Stone and Flint Axes from the River Thames: an Illustrated Corpus* British Museum Occasional Paper no. 1 (1978).

30. London Museum acc. nos. 0.460 and 4.9.107/103 respectively.

31. London Museum acc. no. 0.626

32. London Museum acc. no. 0.3319. F Celoria (ed) 'Preliminary list of neolithic axes from London Region with petrographic data' *London Studies* 1 (1974) 90. Its find place is listed as Twickenham, but its NGR is given as TQ 024 726, which is about 13km to the west.

33. London Museum acc. no. 4.9.107/41.

34. H Jones *op cit* fn 11.

35. Site code: BKC98; G Hull 'A Middle Bronze Age field ditch? Excavations at Bankside Close, Isleworth' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 49 (1998) 1-14.

36. J Liddle *The animal bones from Pope's Grotto Public House, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames* MoLSS 1999 (unpub).

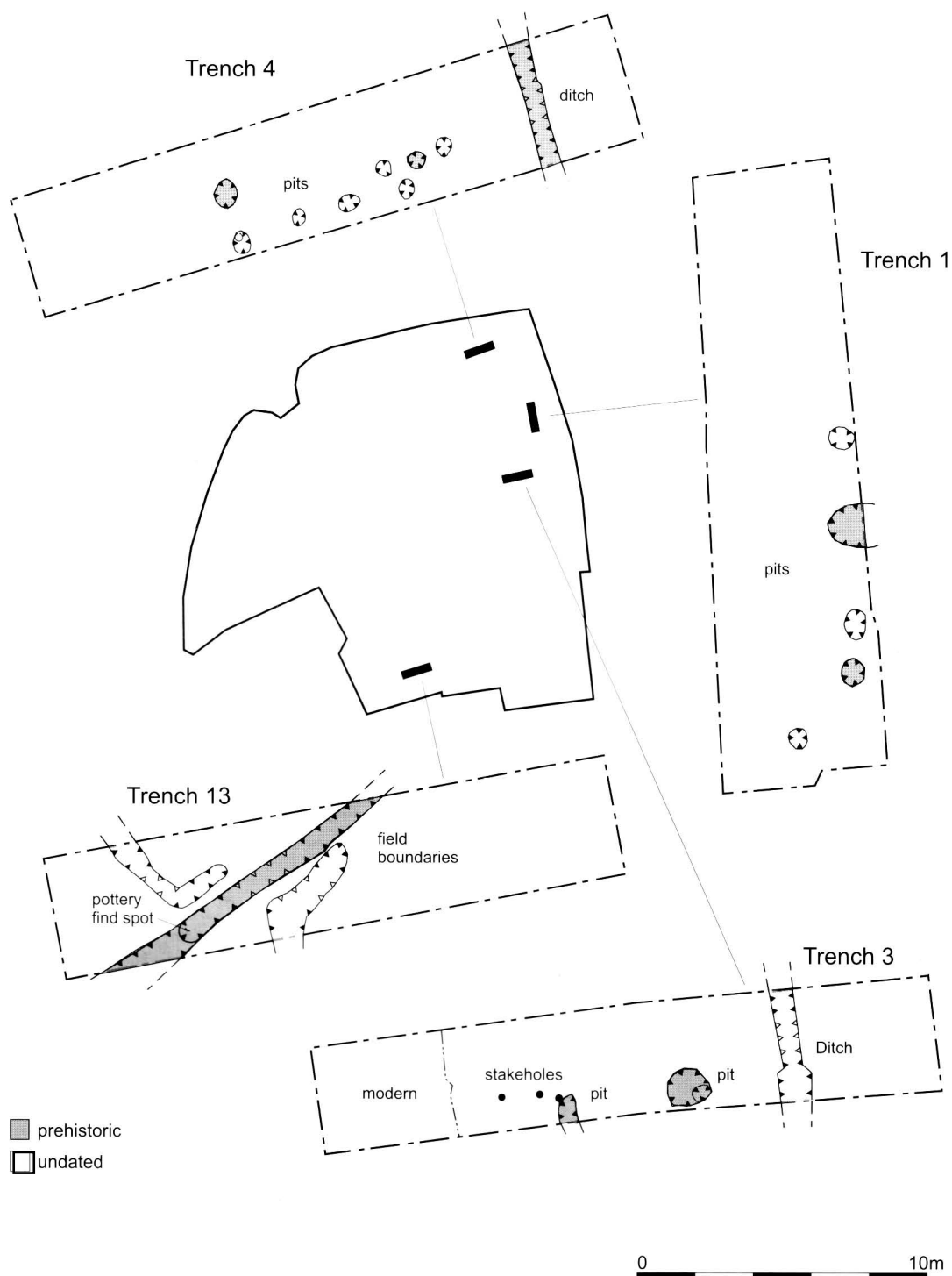


Fig. 3: South Middlesex Hospital: plan showing trenches in relation to the site outline and plans of undated and prehistoric features.

most probably either a land boundary or an enclosure ditch. It may be significant that if the ditch had continued eastwards it would have emerged at the riverbank immediately opposite the tip of the ait now occupied by Radnor Gardens.

The River Thames in west London has been one of the richest sources of Bronze Age metalwork in Britain, with particularly large concentrations of finds immediately downstream from Twickenham at Richmond and Syon Reach³⁷. By comparison the

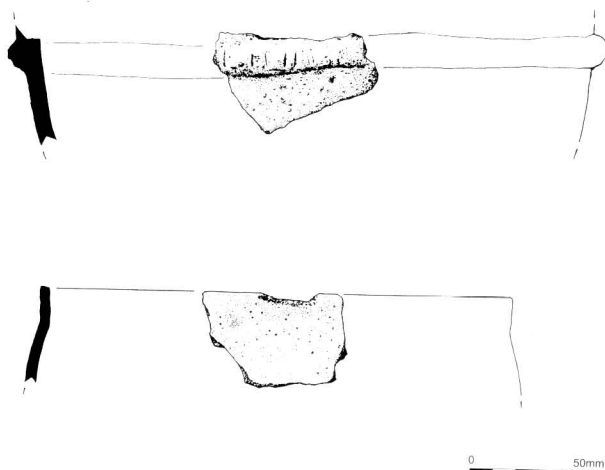


Fig. 4: Bronze Age pottery from South Middlesex Hospital

number of finds from the river at Twickenham is modest. They include a small dagger blade and spearhead from the channel on the north side of Eel Pie Island³⁸, and a spearhead from near the upstream end of the ait³⁹. A little further upstream, nearer the site of Pope's Villa, two dagger blades, a spearhead, two axes, a leaf-shaped sword⁴⁰ and a 'flint dagger'⁴¹ were recovered. It is thought that many of the Bronze Age metal objects from the river were deposited there as votive offerings, but some may have been lost by accident or during skirmishes. Others may have been eroded from riverbank sites, as at Syon Park, where a Late Bronze Age hoard was recently exposed by erosion⁴².

Chance finds from Ham Fields include barbed and tanged arrowheads, three collared urns and a beaker⁴³.

37. S Needham and C Burgess 'The later Bronze Age in the Lower Thames Valley: the metalwork evidence' in J Barrett and R Bradley (eds.) *The British later Bronze Age* British Archaeological Reports 83 (1980) 452-5.

38. G F Lawrence 'Antiquities from the Middle Thames' *Archaeol J* 86 (1929) 76-7.

39. D Field 'Basal looped spearhead from the Thames at Eel Pie Island' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 31 (1980) 16-17.

40. Lawrence *op cit* fn 39. See also C E Vulliamy *The Archaeology of Middlesex and London* (1930) 105.

41. *Thames Basin Archaeological Observers Group Newsletter* 6 (1961).

42. S Needham and C Burgess *op cit* fn 38, 443 and 445.

The urns are especially interesting since they may have been associated with unrecognised burials⁴⁴.

The possibility that there may be prehistoric burial sites in Twickenham and Ham Fields should be seriously considered, especially as two burial mound sites have been recorded a short distance to the south. The nearest of these was a bowl-shaped barrow next to Sandy Lane in Teddington. When this mound was first investigated in 1854 it stood to a height of 12ft 3in [3.74m], and measured 96ft [29.26m] east-west and 52.5ft [16m] north-south, having already suffered from road-widening and possibly from the activities of treasure hunters⁴⁵. Excavations revealed the apparent remains of two cremation burials, one of which may have been associated with an urn, and an inhumation burial. Other artefacts from the mound comprised a bronze dagger blade, struck flints and a flint 'hatchet-head'. The other burial site was discovered in 1994 at Hurst Park, East Molesey, on the Surrey bank of the Thames. Excavations on the site revealed the ring ditch of an Early Bronze Age bell barrow⁴⁶. Near the centre of the enclosed area was a small pit containing an inverted collared urn and the cremated remains of two adults accompanied by three segmented faience beads. Another cremation burial lay just outside the ring ditch.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

The Bronze Age ditch at *Pope's Grotto* Public House (see above) was cut to the east by a feature, possibly another ditch, which produced two bones (an ox tibia and a pig radius) and two potsherds. One potsherd is tempered with poorly sorted crushed burnt flint, and is probably of Neolithic or Middle Bronze Age date, while the other has a finer fabric containing small well-sorted fragments of burnt flint, and probably dates to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age⁴⁷. An undated feature further to the east may have been a continuation of this feature.

Iron Age

The clearest evidence for Iron Age activity in Twickenham is provided by a small hoard of nine tin coins from Eel Pie Island⁴⁸. A total of twenty-five potin coins from the Isleworth foreshore opposite the northern tip of Isleworth Ait may represent a

43. D Field *op cit* fn 6, 180.

44. Jon Cotton *pers comm*.

45. J Y Akerman 'Notes of antiquarian researches in the Summer and Autumn of 1854 - Teddington Middlesex' *Archaeologia* 36 (1855) 175-6.

46. P Andrews 'Hurst Park, East Molesey, Surrey' in P Andrews and A Crockett *Three Excavations Along the Thames and its Tributaries, 1994* (1996) 61-4.

47. Jon Cotton *pers comm*.

48. R A Smith 'Specimens from the Layton Collection, in Brentford Public Library' *Archaeologia* 69 (1920) 18.

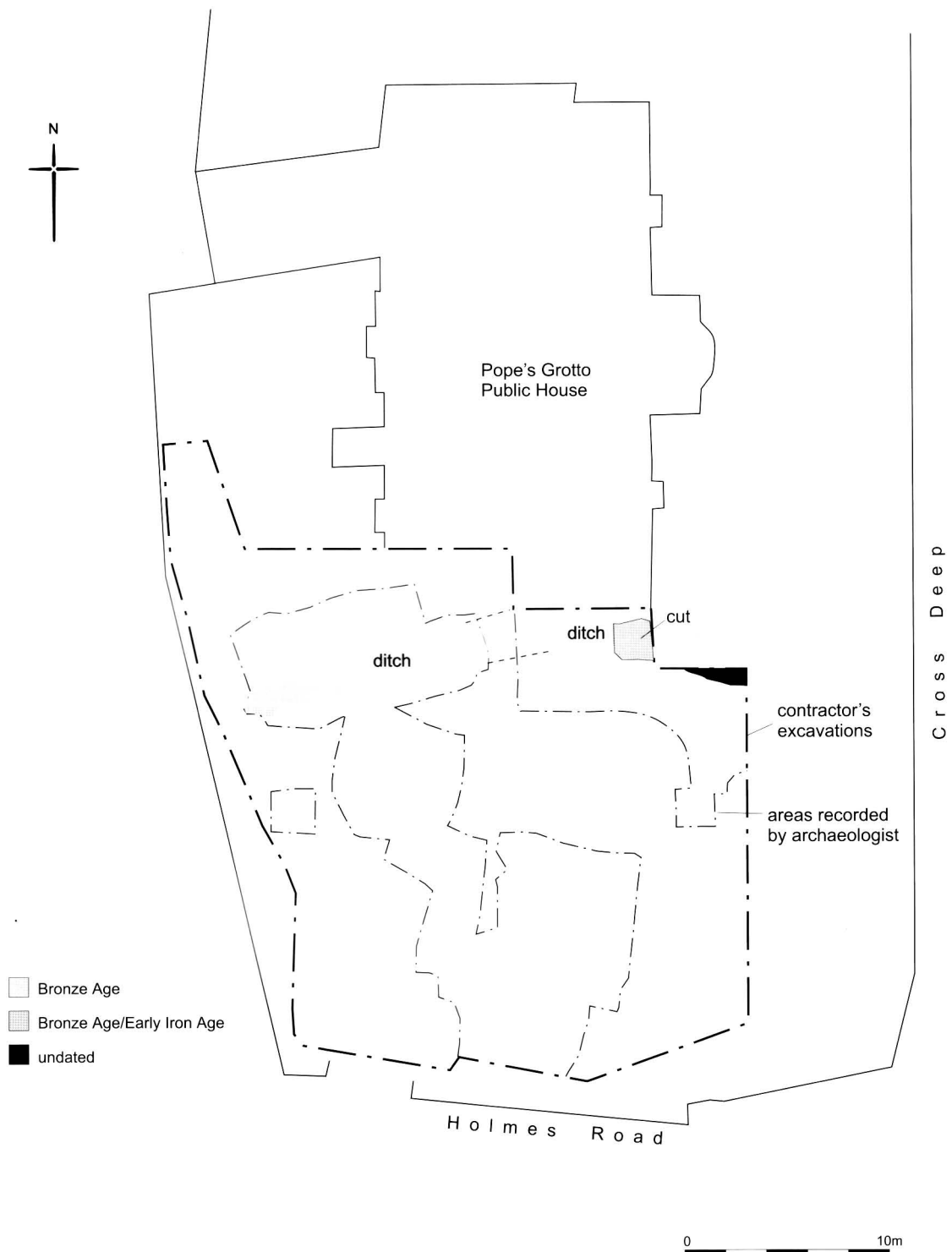


Fig. 5: plan of the site at *Pope's Grotto* Public House showing the excavation area and the prehistoric and undated features.

similar hoard⁴⁹. Because the distribution of such coin hoards seems to be focused on the river it has been suggested that their deposition may have been more to do with the movement of people than with trade⁵⁰. Other stray finds from the area include two carinated

jars and other pottery dated to the 1st century AD from Ham Fields⁵¹.

At St John's Hospital (Fig. 1, E) two parallel gulleys (field drains) were provisionally dated to the Iron

Age⁵². Another five features at this site produced no datable artefacts, but were thought to be of prehistoric date because Roman features cut them. These comprised two postholes, two intercutting pits and a ditch.

Discussion and conclusions

The present distribution pattern of prehistoric finds has almost certainly been biased towards the Thames and Ham Fields, where dredging and gravel extraction resulted in the discovery of numerous artefacts. Nevertheless, it seems likely that early activity and settlement would have been concentrated close to the Thames and its tributaries. Land on the margins of the river would have provided a suitable habitat for a considerable range of wild plants and animals, and the river would have contained a plentiful supply of fish. Initially such resources would have been exploited by transient groups of hunter-gatherers, and later by farmers settling in the river valley. The rivers would have also provided excellent communication routes at a time when overland travel would often have been difficult. Most rivercraft during the prehistoric period probably consisted of small boats made of skins or hollowed out logs. Three such log-boats are reported to have been found about 4km downstream from Twickenham on the Surrey shore, at Isleworth Ferry⁵³. However, these may have dated to the historic period, since log-boats continued in use well into the Middle Ages.

The results of the archaeological investigations in Twickenham have not been fully published, although two interim reports have appeared in London Archaeologist. The evidence for prehistoric activity from Church Street (Fig. 1, c), South Middlesex Hospital (Fig. 1, d) and possibly St John's Hospital (Fig. 1, e) warrants full publication. Regrettably, this may not be possible in the case of the Church Street excavation, as the original field records are missing,



Fig. 6: the Bronze Age ditch at *Pope's Grotto* Public House under excavation.

and may have been destroyed in a house fire, although at least some of the artefacts from the site are held at the North Kingston Centre⁵⁴. The intriguing observations and finds made in the *Pope's Grotto* sewer trench (Fig. 1, g) also merit further attention. If any biological remains recovered from this site survive they might be re-examined and dated by radio-carbon. It might also be possible to locate and map the 'dark loamy bed' seen in the sewer trench from borehole records.

The investigations in Twickenham suggest that there may have been extensive field systems in the area during the prehistoric period. For example, the principal features at Church Street and *Pope's Grotto* Public House were probably boundaries, and their alignments at right angles to the Thames suggests that they may have been intended to divide up the riverside area. Unfortunately, so far all of the archaeological projects in the locality have been small-scale, and consequently the layout of the putative field systems, and how they relate to settlements, is still a matter for speculation. If we are to obtain a clearer picture of the prehistoric landscape in Twickenham, controlled open area excavations (the bigger the better) need to be undertaken.

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49. J Cotton and B Wood 'Recent prehistoric finds from the Thames foreshore and beyond in Greater London' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 47 (1996) 25.

50. R Canham 'The Iron Age' in <who> (ed.) *The Archaeology of the London area: Current knowledge and problems* London Middlesex Archaeol Soc Special Paper 1 (1976) 48.

51. D Field *op cit* fn 6, 180-2.

52. S Hoad *op cit* fn 12.

53. G F Lawrence *op cit* fn 39, 78.

54. Jon Cotton *pers comm*.