

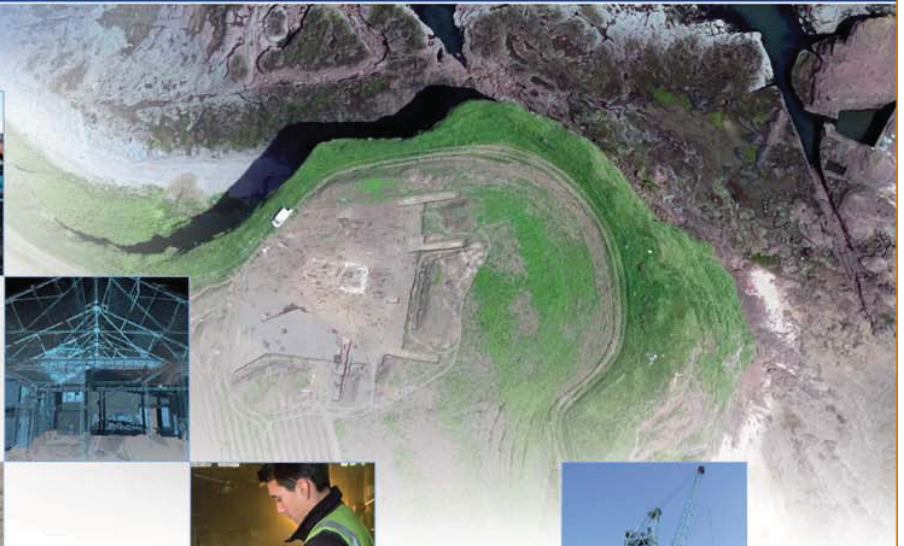
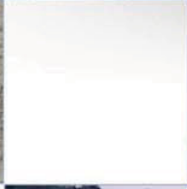
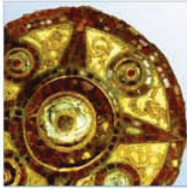
Twickenham Embankment, London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

National Grid Reference: TQ 1650 7327

AOC Project no: 30383

Site Code: TWP 09

February 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Twickenham Embankment

London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

On Behalf of: London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames
2nd Floor Planning Policy and Design,
44 York Street
Twickenham,
Middlesex
TW1 3BZ

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 1650 7327

AOC Project No: 30383

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Date of attendance: 26th-27th January 2009

Date of Report: February 2009

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Plate 2: Land ties at high tide.

Non-Technical Summary

A long, almost continuous trench was excavated near to the embankment at Twickenham to form bedding trenches for trees and other planting. The trench was no deeper than 0.90m, and exposed a wall of mid 19th century date that probably formed part of a warehouse. This was directly south of the Barmy Arms Public House.

A series of land ties post-dating the 1950s was also recorded. Some of these land ties have become detached during the current works, but until recently provided supports for the Thames-side river wall.

The Watching Brief was carried out on the whole exposed area, and all features were recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is a report following an archaeological Watching Brief during modifications to the Embankment at Twickenham between Water Lane and Church Lane. The work was carried out during January 2009. Excavation of a trench 100m by 3m was monitored, and one historic feature was recorded, a wall. The work was carried out on behalf of the London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames.
- 1.2 The site work was allocated the site code **TWP 09**. The aims of the investigation were to record any archaeological features exposed during the works. Any requirement for further analysis of the results will be decided by the archaeological advisor to the Borough.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location

- 2.1.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 6652 5173 and is within a strip of land next to the Thames, measuring 104m by 16m. The land is atop an embankment on the north bank of the Thames close to Eel Pie Island; the trench is oriented southwest-northeast. Water Lane meets with the Embankment to the southern end of the site, Church Lane to the north. The embankment is at 4.4m OD in the southwest, to 4.67m OD in the northeast.

2.2 Planning Background

- 2.2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS). The advisor recommended that a programme of archaeological work be carried out in the form of a Watching Brief. The site is being altered with new plantings within a series of concrete-lined retaining walls, with decorative kerb stones around each section. The results of the Watching Brief are set out in this document and describe all features that were revealed, with interpretations.
- 2.2.2 The Borough appointed AOC Archaeology to carry out the programme of investigation. The entire area that was being disturbed was examined on 26th -27th January. A third visit, in order to collect samples, is due when the kerb is constructed.
- 2.2.3 Twickenham Embankment is directly next to the Thames, and provides a highway for pedestrian traffic along the riverside. There is also limited access for vehicles.
- 2.2.4 This Evaluation Report conforms to the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) (PPG16). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - Institute of Field Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 1997).

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The site is situated on the north bank of the River Thames, southeast of the centre of Twickenham. The local topography slopes down from the northwest to the southeast to the bank of the Thames. The slope is obscured by the embankment. The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 270) indicates that the site is situated upon Brickearth over River Terrace Gravel.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistoric and Roman (c.400,000 BP to AD 410)

- 3.1.1 There are eight entries in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for prehistoric sites dating from the Mesolithic period through to the Iron Age. Three entries account for Mesolithic evidence in the area; another three sites produced evidence of Neolithic occupation, and there is one entry for Bronze Age material and one for Iron Age material. Although there is no clear evidence of prehistoric settlement, the finds are indicative of human activity close to the watercourse of the River Thames throughout the prehistoric period.
- 3.1.2 The site is situated at a significant distance from the bounds of the Roman settlement of *Londinium*. Little is known of Roman activity in the area; there are only three entries in the SMR for Roman finds. The nearest Roman crossing of the Thames was at upriver at Kingston.

3.2 The Early Medieval (AD 410-1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066-1540)

- 3.2.1 The earliest evidence of Twickenham, then spelt *Twicanhom* (Simpson 1998), is from 704 AD and mentions a grant of land in a Saxon charter:
'On the east and south it is terminated by the River Thames, on the north by a flooded plain, the name of which is Fishbourne...'
- 3.2.2 Other later documents also refer to Twickenham, with a variety of spellings. A number of suggestions have been put forward as to the meaning of the name, one of which is that it is Old English for 'land in a river bend, dry ground in marsh, river meadow'. The Thames would have been an important means of transport. At Ham, on the opposite bank of the river, a probable Saxon burial has been excavated, and this is the nearest evidence of Saxon occupation.
- 3.2.3 Although Twickenham is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, it was included in the Manor of Isleworth. Excavations in the area have identified medieval remains at several locations. In 1988, an excavation at Church Street to the east of the site identified a ten-metre long drainage ditch dating from the 14th century to the mid 16th century. The Church of St Mary was also established at around this time, northwest of the site.

3.3 Post-Medieval (c. AD 1540 – 1900)

- 3.3.1 The post-medieval landscape around Twickenham is dominated by large properties such as York House, Marble Hill House, and upriver, by Strawberry Hill. The presence of these large properties brought increased wealth to the town, and by the early 18th century it was considered a desirable place to live. The earlier part of the town was clustered around King Street Riverside and Church Street. Well-built and expensive terraces were raised in the 1720s at Montpelier Row and Sion Row, and the increased wealth of the town may account for the rebuilding and expansion of St. Mary's Church, also in the early years of the 18th century.
- 3.3.2 Twickenham significantly expanded with the introduction of the railway in the mid 19th century, the line to Kingston opening in 1863 and to Hounslow in 1883. Despite these new forms of transport, the Thames remained important, and in 1857, the Thames Conservancy was set up to administer navigation and port facilities. When the Conservancy was established, the foreshore at Twickenham was a natural gravel riverbank at the end of lanes leading to steps and landing places from the streets on the higher ground above. These landing points were at Wharf Lane, Bell Lane and Church Lane. The area that is now the Embankment had, at its northeast end, a building with a yard beyond. This is shown on the 1871 Ordnance Survey Map, and is separated from the Queens Head Public House (now the Barmy Arms) by a narrow lane. The date of this building is unproven, but a painting of 1860 by William Howard (*The Thames at Twickenham*) and a painting of the Riverside from 1817

both show a two-storey building at this location. This building had been demolished by 1877, when a new embankment was started. The work progressed slowly, and was finished in 1882. The new embankment was declared a public highway, and it was decreed that the new frontage be no longer used as a wharf.

- 3.3.3 The southwestern end of the site was damaged by floodwater in 1957, and a series of tie rods attached to steel piling were added to provide reinforcement. The site is sealed by a tarmac road surface, and until recently held semi-mature trees.

4. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The general aims of the excavation were to record a wall exposed during the works, and to examine the remaining exposures to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features and deposits. Subsidiary aims were as follows:
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable the archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames to make an informed decision on the status of the archaeology condition and any requirement for further mitigation work.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- 4.2 The specific aims of the investigation were:
- To determine the date of the brick wall exposed in the northwest edge of the excavations.
 - Assess the degree of modern intrusions on the site, and the extent to which this may have truncated earlier deposits.
 - Identify, where possible, elements of potential earlier waterfront deposits.
- 4.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

5. STRATEGY

- 5.1 A unique site code for the project has been applied to all records, for identification in the site archive (**TWP 09**).
- 5.2 The recording was carried out once the majority of the excavations were open.
- 5.3 The work was carried out by a project officer with a specialism in post-medieval and waterfront remains.
- 5.4 The work was under the overall direction of Andy Leonard, Fieldwork Divisional Manager, AOC Archaeology..
- 5.5 Monitoring of the archaeological work was undertaken by Diane Walls of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service.

6. METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The archaeological excavation was conducted according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by AOC Archaeology Group (2008).
- 6.2 The work comprised the recording of a trench covering approximately 100m by 3m, up to 0.9m deep. The semi-mature trees had been removed prior to these works.
- 6.3 The level of the tide at Twickenham dictated attendance: High tide inundated all areas of excavation on January 26th and 27th, 2009.

7. RESULTS

7.1 Archaeological Sequence

7.1.1 Table of stratigraphy.

Context	Description	Thickness	Height OD
1	Tarmac and made ground	0.44m max	4.34m (SW) to 4.67m (NE)
8	Sand and gravel, made ground	>0.6m max	4.14m (SW) to 4.27m (NE)

- 7.1.2 The entire length of the trench was recorded. The only feature of pre-20th century date was a brick wall (4) that is retained *in situ*. This ran close to the northwestern edge of the trench and was exposed for an overall distance of 27.30m, and up to eight courses high. The wall continued lower than the limit of excavation. The wall is mostly built of red bricks in English cross-bond, and set in a white, hard mortar with tiny gravel inclusions. The mortar was very hard, but appeared to be lime-rich rather than cement rich, so a date of late 18th – early 19th century seems likely. The bricks, at 62mm thickness, probably post-date 1800. The wall includes one small filled arch 0.4m wide. This probably provided additional structural support. The width of the wall is unproven, but is at least 0.22m thick. This wall is located 5m southwest of the closest part of the Barmy Arms, and is probably part of the warehouse building shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey Map. No associated surface or occupation level was apparent.
- 7.1.3 The excavated area was up to 3m wide. A single deposit lay southeast of the wall, mid brown silty sand with up to 50% rounded gravel of varying size (8). This forms the bulk of the made ground that underlies the surface of the Embankment, and was probably deposited during its construction in 1879-1882. Atop this was a layer of pale yellowish brown sand and gravel (3), with a similar, darker deposit above (2). The entire sequence was sealed by tarmac (1).
- 7.1.4 The wall had been intruded upon by one of the tree pits (6) that were recently removed, leaving a space in the wall 3.3m wide, and filled with loose brown humic sandy silt (5). The cut into the wall contained little brick rubble, suggesting that limited removal of the wall had occurred in tandem with the planting.
- 7.1.5 No brick structures were present in the southwestern part of the trench. Rather, nine iron sheet-piles had been driven into the gravel, at regular intervals of around 2.2m. Attached to the piles were iron tie-bars of 1" diameter, secured by square plates and nuts on screw threads (7). These represent the repairs made in 1957. Of nine land-ties present, five were intact. The repairs were sealed by a second layer of sand and gravel (8), and the tarmac was above this (1).

7.2 Finds

- 7.13.1 No finds were collected from the site. Arrangements are in place to collect brick samples should new kerbs to the planting areas intrude upon the historic wall.



Plate 1: Historic wall, looking West



Plate 2: Land ties at high tide.

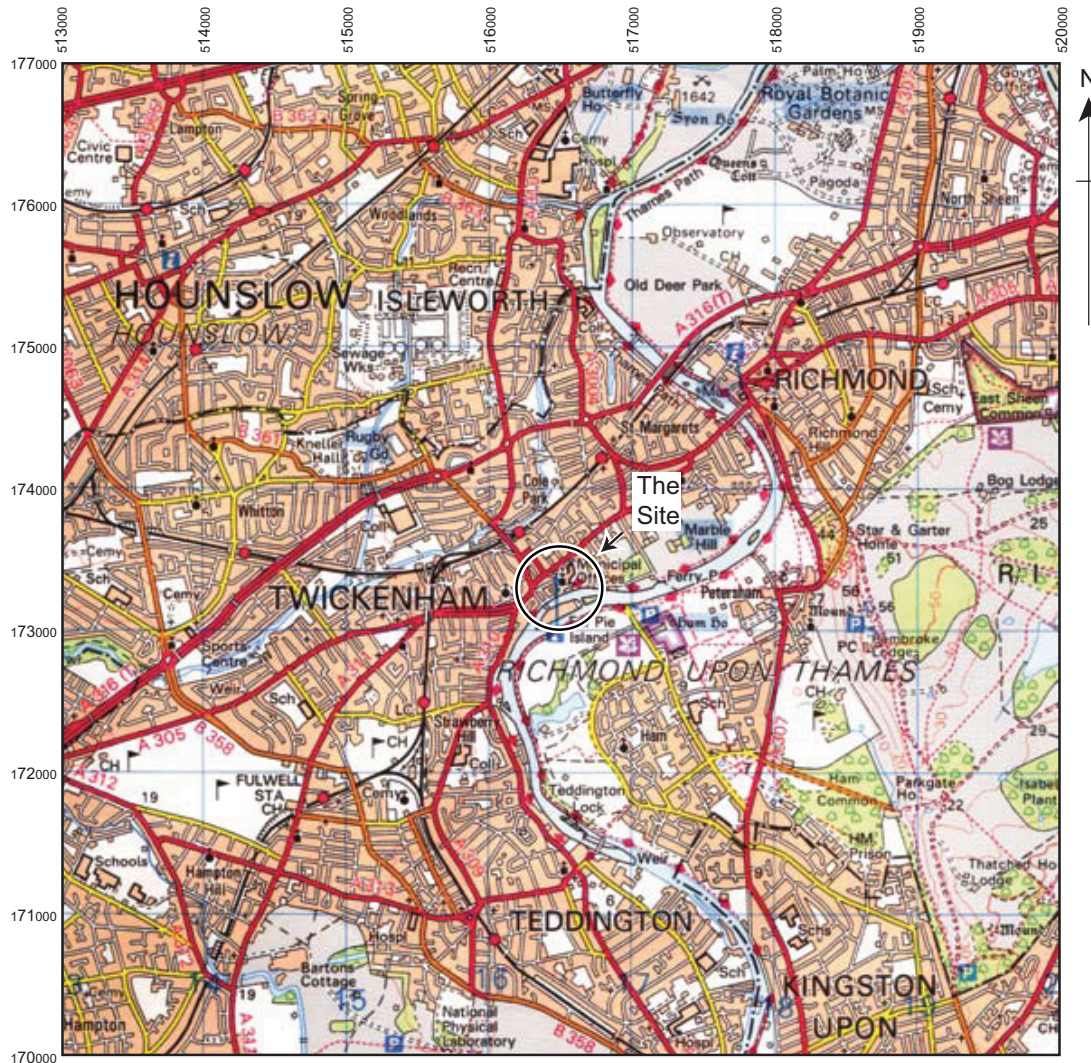
8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The wall revealed in the trench is most likely the landward wall of the warehouse represented on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, but clearly pre-dates the map, and may be of early 19th century date. The location of the foundation 5m distant from the Barmy Arms would give ample space for traffic between the two buildings. The riverside wall of the warehouse may be present under the edge of the Embankment, but this was not seen. No surface associated with the building is present, suggesting that the warehouse was largely demolished. The wall will now be protected by a layer of soft builder's sand between it and concrete surrounds of the planting beds.

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TWICKENHAM EMBANKMENT,, LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES: RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 1999 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 1000 16114



Figure 1: Site location

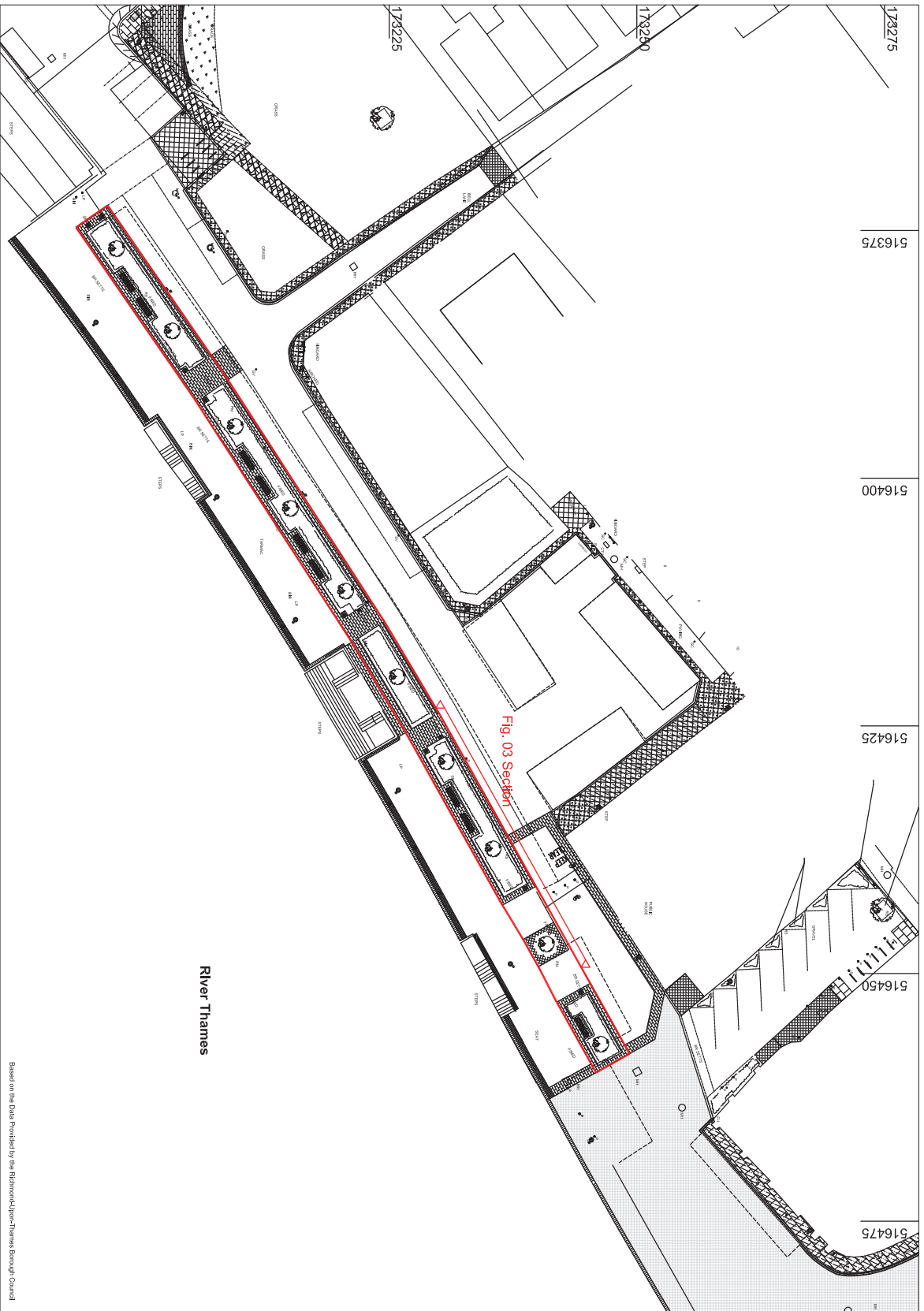


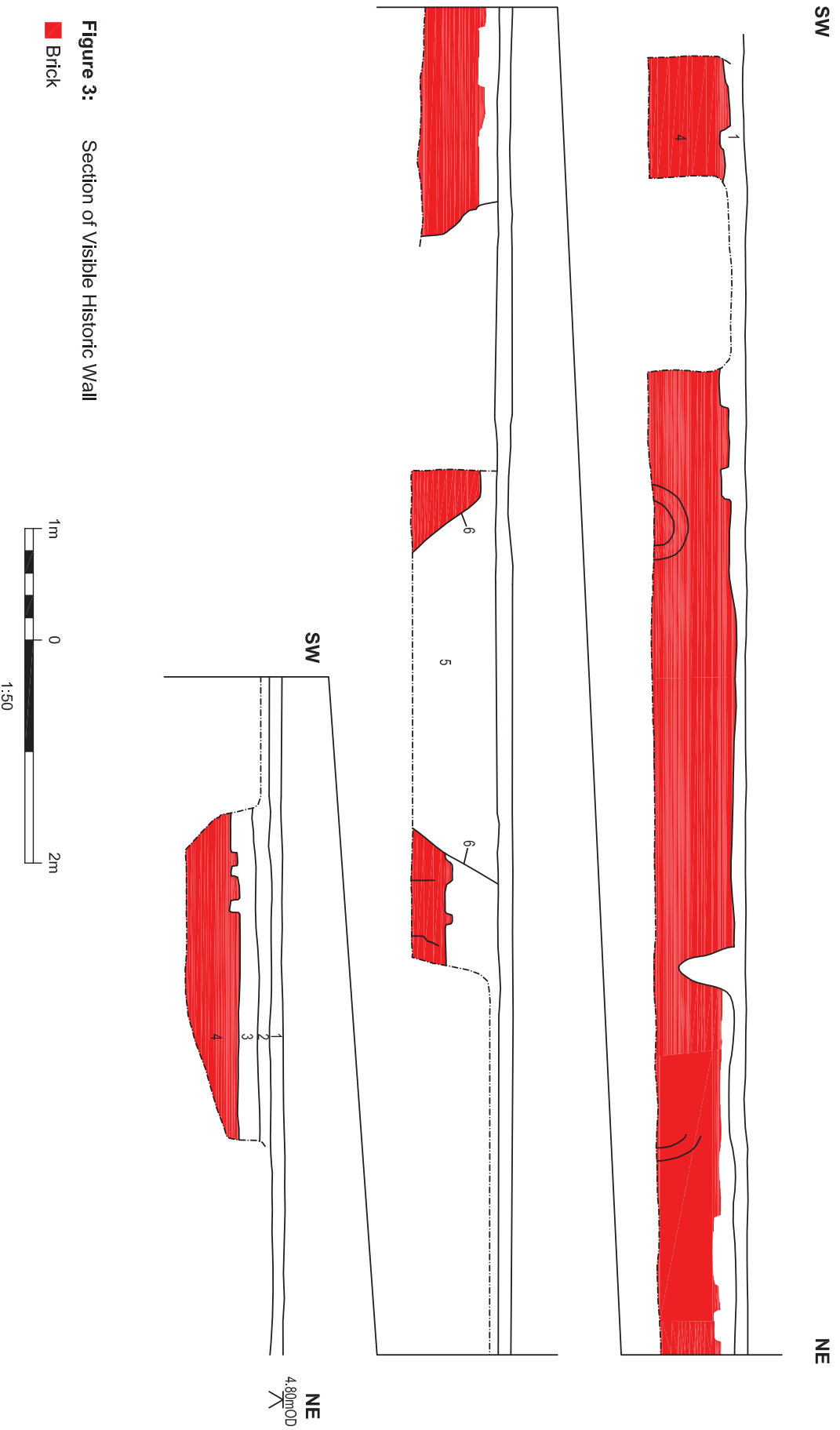
Figure 2: Detailed Site / Watching Brief Location Plan

□ Watching Brief Area



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Based on the Data Provided by the Richmond-Upon-Thames Borough Council



Appendices

Appendix A: Context Register

Context	Description	Length	Width	Depth
1	Tarmac	101m	3.00m	0.15m
2	Made ground	50m	3m	0.11m
3	Made ground	50m	3m	0.15m
4	Brick wall	27.3m	0.22m	>0.50m
5	Fill of 6	3.3m	NFE	0.75m
6	Tree pit	3.3m	NFE	0.75m
7	Tie-rods group	22m	3m	0.5m
8	Made ground	101m	2.60m	0.60m
9	Made ground	22m	3m	0.20m

Appendix B: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-54859

Project details

Project name Twickenham Embankment

Short description of the project A long, almost continuous trench 100m long was excavated near to the embankment at Twickenham to form bedding trenches for trees and other planting. The trench was no deeper than 0.90m, and exposed a wall of mid 19th century date that probably formed part of a warehouse.

Project dates Start: 26-01-2009 End: 27-01-2009

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any project codes associated with reference codes TWP 09 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Coastland 2 - Inter-tidal

Monument type WALL Post Medieval

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM
Twickenham Embankment

Postcode TW1 3DU

Study area 300.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 1650 7327 51.4459215276 -0.323402173973 51 26 45 N 000 19 24 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator EH GLAAS

Project design EH-GLAAS
originator

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Les Capon

Type of Borough Council
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Museum of London
recipient

Digital Archive ID TWP09

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Images vector', 'Text'
available

Digital Archive notes held at AOC until transfer

Paper recipient Archive Museum of London

Paper Archive ID TWP09

Paper available Media 'Context sheet', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive notes held at AOC until transfer

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Twickenham Embankment, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames: Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Capon, L.

Date 2009

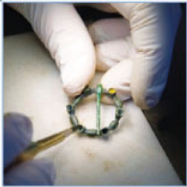
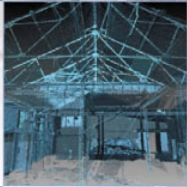
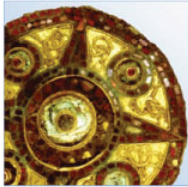
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