

**437 UXBRIDGE ROAD,
EALING.**

NGR: TQ 1897 8037

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PLANNING REFERENCE NUMBER: P/2007/0312

ACCESSION CODE: **UXD09**

Report No. 637
March 2009



**437 UXBRIDGE ROAD,
EALING.**

NGR: TQ 1897 8037

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

March 2009
Report No. 637

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with
AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2000)

Author: A. Hood

Date: 20th March 2009

Approved: R. King

QA Checked: D. King

This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill care and attention to detail within the terms of the project as specified by the client and within the general terms and conditions of Archaeological Management Services Ltd trading as Foundations Archaeology but no explicit warranty is provided for information and opinions stated. AMS Ltd accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk. Copyright of this document is retained by AMS Ltd, but unlimited licence to reproduce it in whole or part is granted to the client and/or their agents and/or assignees on payment of invoice.

CONTENTS

Summary

Glossary of Archaeological Terms and Abbreviations

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS
- 6 CONCLUSIONS
- 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appendix 1: The flint

Appendix 2: OASIS form

FIGURE LIST

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Trench Locations

437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing: Archaeological Evaluation

Site name: 437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing
Site code: URE08
Grid reference: TQ 1897 8037
Site activity: Monitoring of demolition activities and subsequent archaeological evaluation
Date of fieldwork: February and March 2009
Site area: Approximately 0.2 hectares
Project manager: Roy King
Site supervisor: Andrew Hood
Archive location: LAARC
Accession code: UXD09

SUMMARY

Between February and March 2009 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and subsequent evaluation on land at 437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing (NGR: TQ 1897 8037). The project was commissioned by Linden Homes.

The monitoring works comprised the observation of the removal of a tarmac surface immediately south of the former Granville public house. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were revealed.

The evaluation required the excavation and recording of three trenches within the area of the former tarmac surface.

The evaluation works revealed natural deposits immediately beneath modern rubble overburden. A complete lack of *in-situ* subsoils within the study area strongly suggested that the study area had previously been stripped, which may have impacted upon any potential archaeological remains. No archaeological features were present within the trenches, although a small assemblage of early Mesolithic struck flints was recovered, as residual material, from modern deposits.

The archaeological works have indicated a low potential for the survival of archaeological features. There is, however, a high potential for the presence of residual, early prehistoric flint artefacts to occur within the development area.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD1066 and AD1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period between AD1500 and AD1900.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of a programme of archaeological works undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between February and March 2009, on land at 437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing (NGR: TQ 1897 8037). The project was commissioned by Linden Homes.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2008). The fieldwork complied with IfA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001) and Archaeological Guidance Paper: *Archaeological Evaluation: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted for the re-development of land at 437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing. In accordance with the general principles of PPG16 (Planning Policy Guidance; note 16), a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works was attached to the planning permission.
- 2.2 Prior to the current development works, the study area comprised The Granville public house with an associated car park to the south. The site is bounded by Uxbridge Road to the north, Granville Gardens to the west and residential development to the east and south. The geology of the study area comprises brickearth, with heavier clays to the north of Uxbridge Road (British Geological Survey, 1977).
- 2.3 A desk-based assessment was undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in 2008. The assessment highlighted that the site was of moderate-high archaeological potential for the recovery of Prehistoric finds and of low potential for remains from the Roman through to the Post-medieval period.
- 2.4 Mesolithic finds are known from Woodgrange Avenue, immediately south of the study area. These included flakes, blades, cores and scrapers from a possible working site (MLO2836), as well as further finds from a cut feature in the fill of a small palaeochannel (MLO 82210). A cut feature of unknown date (MLO37966), doubtfully interpreted as a channel, was also identified at this site.
- 2.5 The study area appeared to have been agricultural land throughout the Medieval and early Post-medieval periods. It remained undeveloped until *circa* 1935, when tennis courts were constructed, followed by the public house *circa* 1956. A number of garages/short lived structures were subsequently constructed within the site, close to the southern boundary.

- 2.6 The desk based assessment concluded that the site contained the potential for the presence of Mesolithic finds and features. It was noted that the construction of the tennis courts and the public house could have significantly impacted upon any archaeological deposits that may have been present. The evidence for the potential for Mesolithic finds did not prejudice the current project against features and finds relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological works were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains. In turn this would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;
 - iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence, which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact and environmental samples;
 - iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;
 - v) to attempt to characterise and ascertain the full extent of the Mesolithic activity identified immediately to the south of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The WSI required archaeological monitoring of the removal of the tarmac car park area immediately to the south of the former public house. All groundworks associated with this activity were monitored and observed by an experienced archaeologist.
- 4.2 Subsequent to this phase of works, three 20m by 1.8m archaeological evaluation trenches were to be excavated in the area of the former car park. Due to on-site constraints, it was necessary to amend the location of the trenches. The final trench locations are shown in Figure 2.

- 4.3 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever were encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a 7.5 tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter cleaning and excavation was conducted by hand. Spoil tips were scanned for finds.
- 4.4 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 **Trench 1** (20m by 1.8m) was excavated onto the top of natural deposits, which comprised brown beige brickearth with occasional patches of orange clay with gravel, at an average depth of 0.36m (27.19m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural was overlaid by (101), up to 0.42m thick, which comprised mixed soil and brick rubble. Context (101) contained frequent modern artefacts, along with five struck flints. No archaeological features were present within the trench.
- 5.2 **Trench 2** (25m by 1.8m) was excavated onto the top of natural deposits, which comprised brown beige brickearth with occasional patches of orange clay with gravel, at an average depth of 0.40m (27.04m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural was overlaid by (201), up to 0.44m thick, which comprised mixed soil and brick rubble. Context (201) contained frequent modern artefacts, along with a small assemblage of six struck flints, which was datable to the early Mesolithic period. No archaeological features were present within the trench.
- 5.3 **Trench 3** (15m by 1.8m) was excavated onto the top of natural deposits, which comprised brown beige brickearth with occasional patches of orange clay with gravel, at an average depth of 0.26m (26.55m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural was overlaid by (301), up to 0.28m thick, which comprised brick rubble. No archaeological features were present within the trench.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The natural deposits were directly sealed by modern overburden. The complete lack of *in-situ* subsoils within the trenches strongly suggested that the site had previously been stripped, probably when either the tennis courts or car park were constructed. It is possible that the previous site strip may have impacted upon any archaeological remains that may have been present. In light of the evidence for modern truncation, it is unlikely that potentially ephemeral Mesolithic features would have survived.

- 6.2 The struck flints from contexts (101) and (201) represented residual evidence for Prehistoric activity within the study area. It is probable that this was a continuation of activity at Woodgrange Avenue, immediately south of the study area, where a Mesolithic possible working site had previously been identified.
- 6.3 The archaeological works have indicated a low potential for the survival of archaeological features. There is, however, a high potential for the presence of residual, early Prehistoric flint artefacts to occur within the development area.
- 6.4 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the Museum of London under accession code UXD09. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Foundations Archaeology. 2008. *437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing: Archaeological Assessment*. Unpublished.

Foundations Archaeology. 2008. *437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing: Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished.

Institute for Archaeologists. 1994 (revised 2001). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Kim Stabler of GLAAS and Nick Ashfield of Linden Homes.

APPENDIX 1 – The flint

Dr. Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

Eleven struck flints were recovered from an archaeological evaluation at 437 Uxbridge Road. Trench 1, context 101, yielded one piece of irregular waste, one tested nodule of gravel flint with small flake removals, a blade-like flake and two flakes. The flints were in fresh condition, but one of the flakes was burnt and broken. None of the artefacts from Trench 1 are intrinsically datable. Trench 2, context 201, yielded three blade-like flakes, two flakes and a uni-facial crested blade. The flintwork is in fresh condition and is not likely to have moved far from its primary context of deposition. The crested blade and the blade-like flakes derive from a blade-orientated industry aimed at producing flints of relatively broad proportions. The crested blade is 72 mm long by 28 mm wide and provides a good indication of size of the desired product as this technique is used to initiate flaking. Broad blade industries of this character typically date from the early Mesolithic (*c* 9500-6500 BC).

The flints from both trenches provide evidence for prehistoric activity, and those from Trench 2 date from the early Mesolithic. The flints were recovered from disturbed layers, but the fresh condition artefacts indicate that *in situ* deposits (for example a palaeosol, channel deposits, alluvium or peat) are or were in close proximity to the trenches. It is, however, possible that these deposits have been destroyed by the previous buildings, leaving only residual artefacts. Comparable Mesolithic material has been recovered from features cut into a palaeochannel at Woodgrange Avenue, immediately south of the study area.

APPENDIX 2 – OASIS form

OASIS ID: foundati1-59616

Project details

Project name 437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing: Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project Evaluation works revealed natural deposits immediately beneath modern rubble overburden. A complete lack of in-situ subsoils within the study area strongly suggested that the study area had previously been stripped, which may have impacted upon any potential archaeological remains. No archaeological features were present within the trenches, although a small assemblage of early Mesolithic struck flints was recovered, as residual material, from modern deposits.

Project dates Start: 01-02-2009 End: 31-03-2009

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes URE08 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes UXD09 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type N/A None

Significant Finds STRUCK FLINTS Early Mesolithic

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

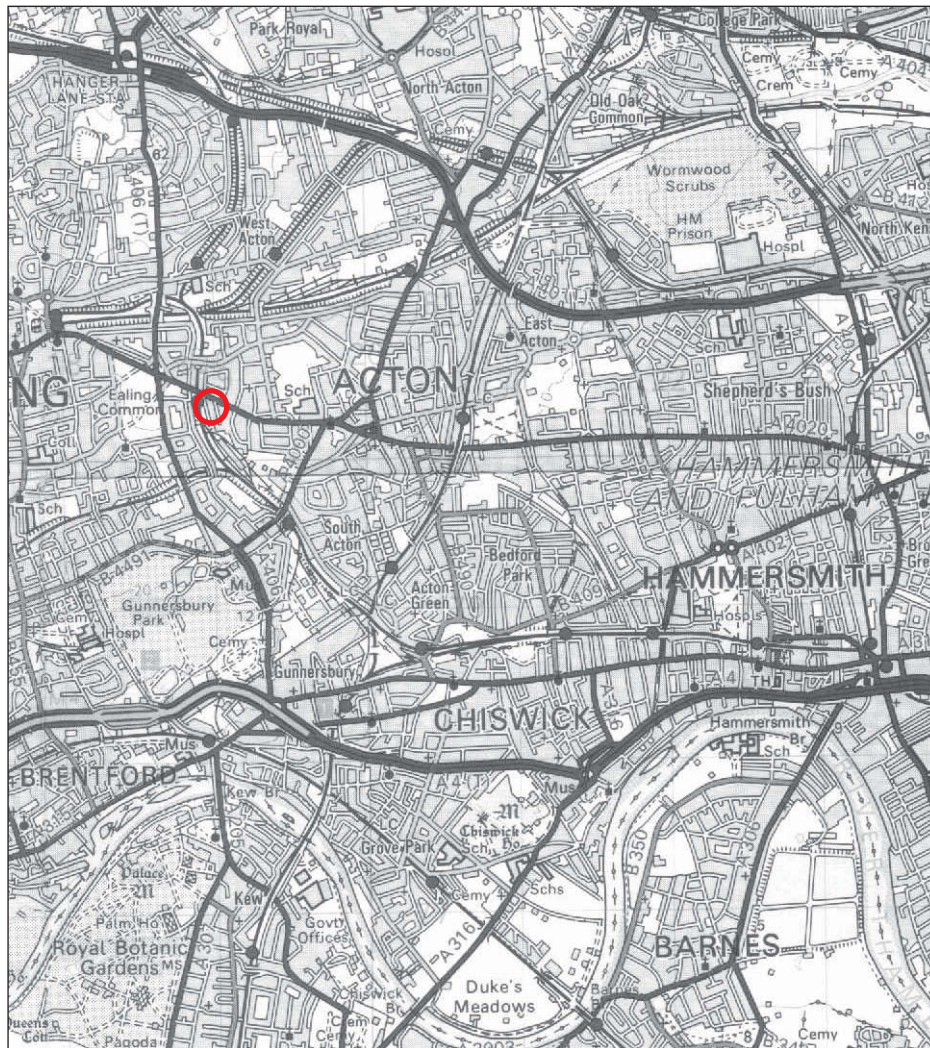
Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing: Archaeological Evaluation

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON EALING EALING 437 Uxbridge Road
Study area	0.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 1897 8037 51.5092255160 -0.285480595810 51 30 33 N 000 17 07 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Foundations Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Foundations Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andrew Hood
Project supervisor	Andrew Hood
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Contents	'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London

437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing: Archaeological Evaluation

Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report'
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	437 Uxbridge Road, Ealing: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hood, A.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 637
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Foundations Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Swindon
Description	Technical report.
Entered by	Andrew Hood (a.hood@foundations.co.uk)
Entered on	15 May 2009



© Crown Copyright
Reproduced under licence AL523064A

FIGURE 1: Site Location

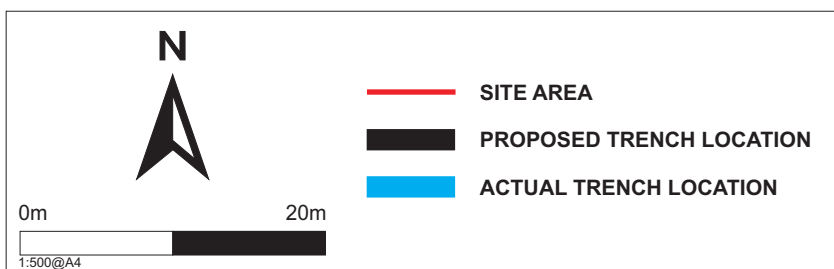
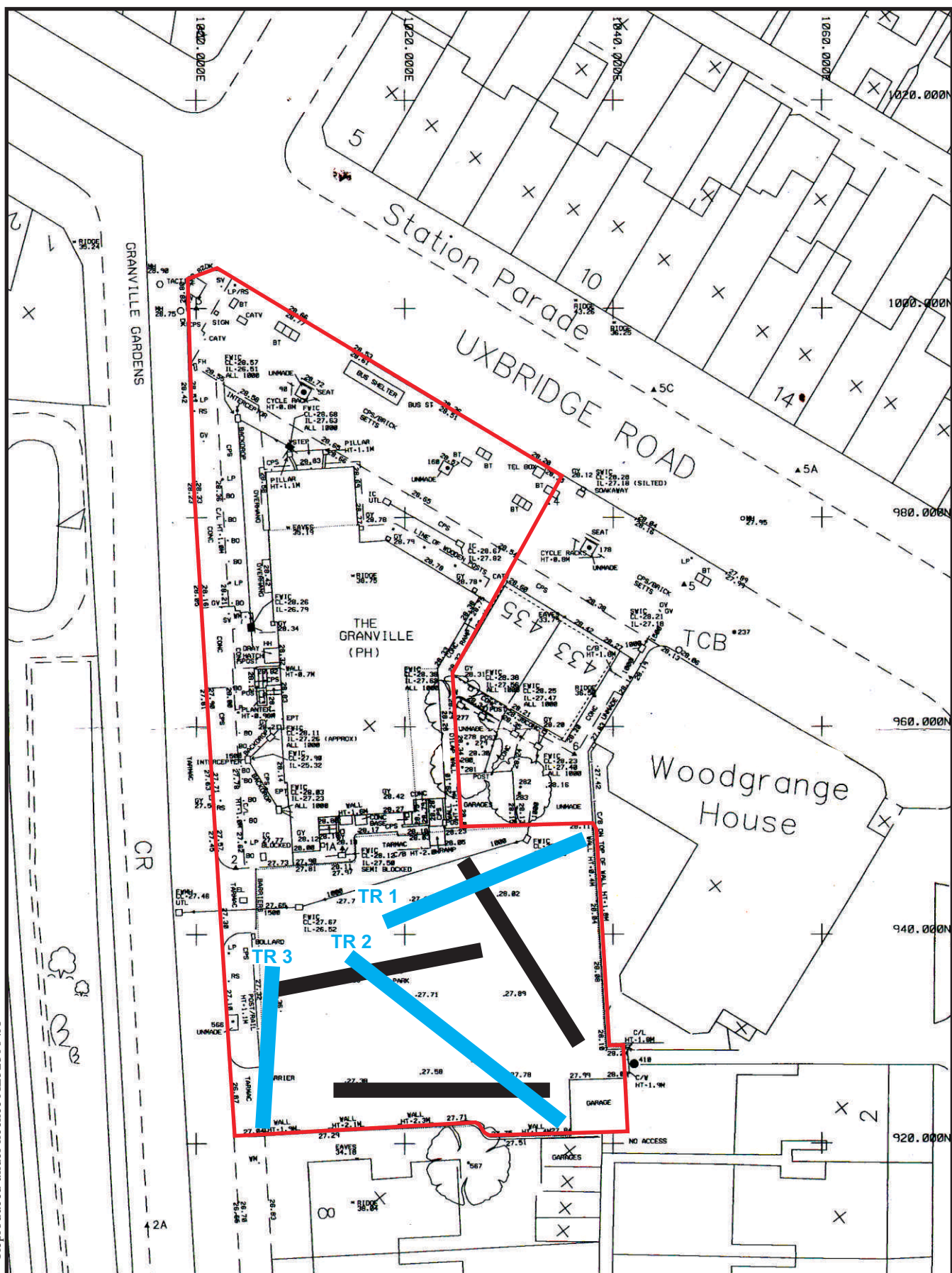


FIGURE 2: Trench Locations