

**Thames Water District Mains Replacement works along
Richmond Road, Twickenham,
London Borough of Richmond, TW1 3AW
(Distribution Mains Supergroup 180)
An Archaeological Watching Brief**



March 2012



COMPASS



ARCHAEOLOGY

Thames Water District Mains Replacement works along
Richmond Road, Twickenham,
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(Distribution Mains Supergroup 180)
An Archaeological Watching Brief

SITECODE: RMD12

NGR: TQ 1659 7356 (Centre point)

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March 2012

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Abstract

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted along both sides of Richmond Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond, between 10th of February and the 8th March 2012. The groundworks were associated with Thames Water District Mains Replacement works between Sion Road and Seymour Gardens, amounting to 105m of open-cut trenching, up to 0.6m wide and up to 1.3m deep.

The upper levels of truncated natural brickearth were observed on the northern side of the road approximately 480mm below current ground level, to the base of the trench at c.700mm, within which was buried a 36-inch gas main. No significant archaeological deposits were observed in these trenching works.

On the southern pavement, from the corner of Sion Road up to 17.2m further NE up Richmond Road, four sections of red-brick wall, and one adjoining yellow stock wall, were recorded in section. They survived as little as 250mm below the current ground level and up to eight courses to the base of the trench. The walls were built directly upon the natural brickearth and were generally bonded with a coarse grey mortar. They were identifiable using historic map regression, and along with brick samples taken in the field, were dated from the 16th to the mid-19th century. The walls are the foundations of properties whose frontages once extended into the southern carriageway of Richmond Road, and were later demolished in the early 1900s during road widening. The walls were buried beneath a layer of demolition rubble rich in crushed brick and mortar within a grey-brown silty-clay matrix. No other archaeological deposits or finds were observed.

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2 Site Location, Geology and Topography

- 2.1** The works were located along Richmond Road, between Sion Road and just short of Orleans Court/Seymour Gardens, stretching for approximately 105m NE-SW. Works took place either side of the street with a linking section towards the NE end, and a short spur onto Trafford Road at the SW end.
- 2.2** The site lies within the Conservation Area of Twickenham Riverside as designated by Richmond Borough Council and adjacent to Amyand Park Road Conservation Area. The site is approximately centred on NGR 1659 7356
- 2.3** The geological survey indicates that the site lies on a bed of Langley Silt deposit (commonly known as 'Brickearth'), overlying Kempton Park Gravels. This gravel base is a post-diversionary Thames River deposit, with the Langley Silt deposit being a more recent geological deposit.

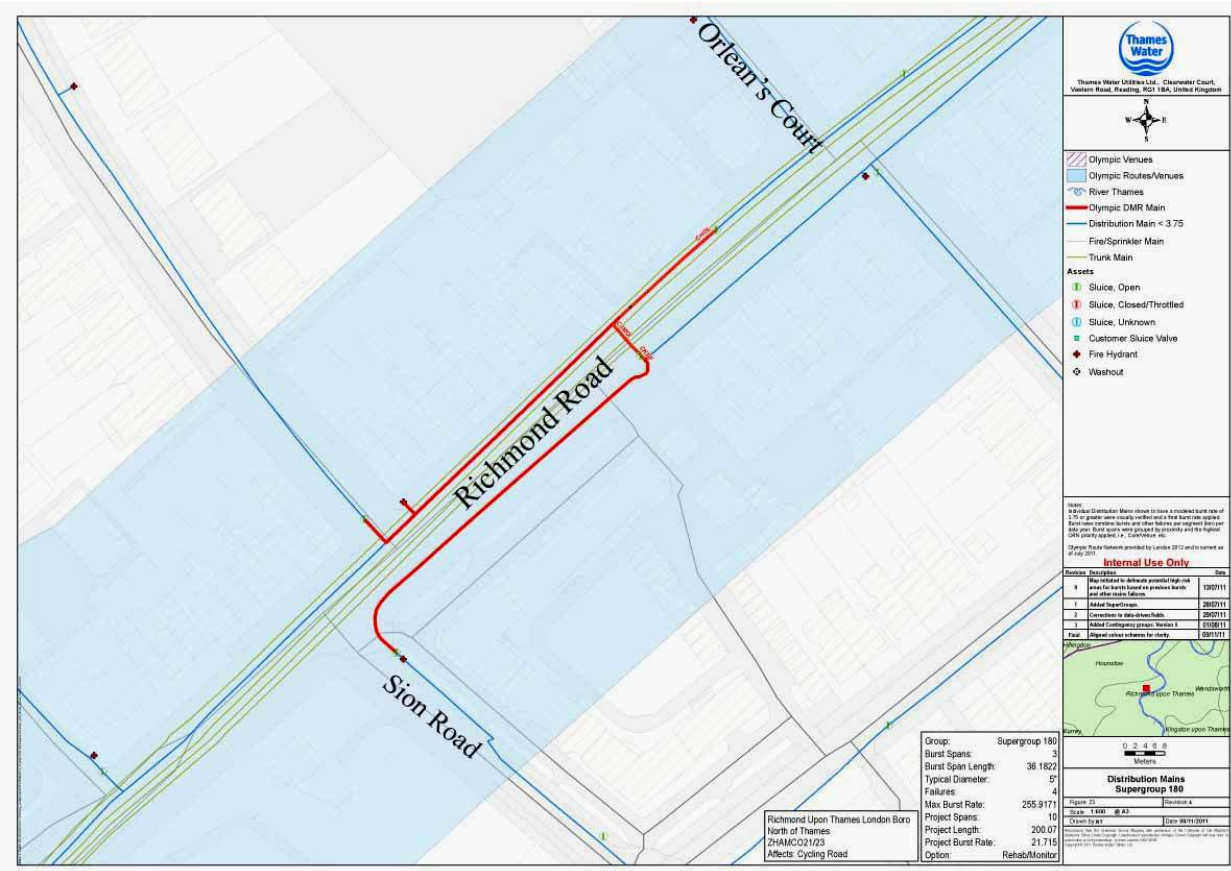


Fig.2: Location of works, (adapted from plan provided by Thames Water and incorporating OS data with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO. ©Crown Copyright 2011. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd., licence no. AL 100031317)

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 There is considerable evidence for prehistoric activity from the Neolithic to the Iron Age within the locale, and previous archaeological investigations in the area of the mains replacement works have uncovered such evidence.

This includes the 1994 MOLAS excavation (APR94) on the corner of Amyand Park Road and Strafford Road to the north of the mains replacement area¹. Prehistoric (probably Iron Age) pits, postholes and ditches were uncovered – indicating possible prehistoric settlement.

To the south-west of the study area, in the historic centre of Twickenham, an excavation by the Twickenham Local History Society in 1966 revealed a large assemblage of pottery and flint tools in what was interpreted as a palaeochannel draining into the Thames, along Church Street. Robert Cowie suggests that given the topography of the site it was more likely the feature was a boundary ditch of human construction in a conscious effort to divide up the Riverside area². Nevertheless it still represents substantial Neolithic and Mesolithic activity. Mesolithic microliths and hand axes have also been found on Eel Pie Island. The island would have provided a possible stop-over point for river traffic. It was on the island that a hoard of nine Iron Age coins were discovered, which is another encouraging sign of pre-Roman activity in the area.

- 3.2 Evidence of Roman occupation in the borough is limited, with the Amyand Park Road excavation again proving the most promising; providing features, including an enclosure ditch, post holes, and domestic rubbish pits. Pottery recovered from their fills was dated to between the mid 3rd to the early 5th centuries. Small fragments of iron slag and iron objects were also recovered from the enclosure ditch. It is thought the collected features may have formed part of a small farmstead; the population taking advantage of the fertile soils provided by the favourable underlying geology.

- 3.3 The first documented reference to the nearby settlement of Twickenham occurs in a charter dated to 704AD. It is between Swaefred, King of the East Saxons, granting a portion of land “in the place which is known as Tuican hom” Translated from the original Latin it reads:

*...I therefore think it necessary at all events to bind (my statement) with ordinary writing in order to give it additional strength. Wherefore I, Swaefred, King of the East Saxons, and I, Paeogthath with the permission of the gracious King Ethelred have determined to give Bishop Waldhere for his lordship a certain portion of land for the salvation of our souls, that is thirty cassati, in the place which is called **Tuican hom**, in the province which is named Middlesex. Now this land is marked off by the following local boundaries; 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. And we have over the*

¹ Hoad , 1994 *St Johns Hospital, Amyand Park Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. An Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation Report*, MoLAS Report

² Cowie, 1997, *Prehistoric Twickenham*

possessions of this land as above said, with available fields, pastures, meadows, marshes, fishpond, rivers, enclosures and all appertaining to it, for the lordship of the aforementioned Bishop, to be possessed by him in perpetual right and let him have free power to do whatever he will; further that the presentation of this gift might be properly preserved we added witnesses whose names are inserted below...

*Written in the year from the Incarnation of our Lord 704 the thirteenth day of the month of June and I Cenred, King of the Mercians have determined to give to Bishop Waldhere for his lordship for the salvation of my soul this land to the place which is called **Tuiccanham** and gladly with my own hand have appended a cross...*

This is followed by eleven other crosses as signatures³.

The two elements of “wic” and “ham” are clear signs of a Saxon/ Early English origin. The fact that the boundaries are so clearly defined suggests it is by 704 a relatively well-established settlement, with references to fishponds, fields, and enclosures hinting at some rich land for farming.

Archaeological evidence of a Saxon presence is provided by a reported burial site over the river in Ham, (the remains of which are now housed in the British Museum), and included shield bosses, spearheads, swords and other typical grave goods associated with Dark Age burial practises. Other physical evidence of settlement is, however, lacking. This may be due to the sometimes ephemeral nature of Saxon archaeology and limited number of excavations in the area.

- 3.4** In 1086 the Domesday Survey states that Twickenham was held by Earl Aelfgar during the reign of Edward the Confessor, and was granted by William the Conqueror to his nephew, Walter de Saint-Valery, post 1066⁴. It was later held by Richard Earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III. In 1227, Richard established Twickenham Park, enclosed 200 acres of land and building a Hunting Lodge within the grounds.

The first reference to a “vicar of Twickenham” is given in 1296, but the Church of St. Mary the Virgin is thought to have been well established by the 11th century. It is around the church that the medieval settlement probably grew. This theory is supported by the 10m long drainage ditch excavated during the Church Street evaluation in 1988 by the Department of Greater London Archaeology. The ditch would have limited expansion to west of the church and the Rivers Crane and Thames would have enclosed it to the north and south respectively.

³ Reproduced from the website of Twickenham Museum. <http://www.twickenham-museum.org.uk/detail.asp?ContentID=12>

⁴ VCH, A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 3, p.139-147

The area to the east of Twickenham, including Richmond Road, was essentially open fields and the only major feature during this period was the track extending from Church Road in the west to the point where the Richmond Ferry stood on the north bank of the Thames. This was first recorded in 1443, (in a document transferring the rights from Thomas Tyler to John Yong), but must be assumed to have existed prior to this as a major means of travel to and from the opposite shore, providing access to routes towards London.

- 3.5 Early maps exist of Twickenham in 1607 and 1635, (neither shown), depicting development on the Riverside, Church Street, and King Street, and naming up to 90 householders. The Richmond Road area however is still relatively underdeveloped, being given over to arable or open land to the north and east, as depicted in Rocque's map of 1746. Richmond road appears to delineate the extent of existing development with a few modest houses on either side.



Fig.3: Extract from Rocque's survey, 1746, depicting the watching brief area with scattered houses surrounded by gardens and open fields.

The development of Twickenham was encouraged in 1767 when a Turnpike road was begun, linking Isleworth, Twickenham and Teddington, improving links to London where Twickenham market garden products were being sold extensively. Links were further improved by the opening of Richmond Bridge in 1777, replacing the ferry and making passage safer and more convenient. It

was between 1760 and 1840 that Twickenham was considered to be at its peak in terms of market gardenry⁵.

During the late 17th – 18th centuries, a number of isolated large houses were built in this area as it became fashionable with poets, artists and politicians, Orleans House and York House being particularly relevant in relation to the area of the mains replacement works. York House and Orleans House were first constructed in the mid-17th century, and Orleans House was torn down and re-designed in the 18th century. York House is depicted on Rocque's survey as a range of buildings just to the south of Richmond Road, set within formally laid out ornamental gardens (*cf.* Fig. 3). Orleans House was demolished in 1926 and given over to gravel pits, which were unsuccessful. York House now serves as the offices of Twickenham Council.

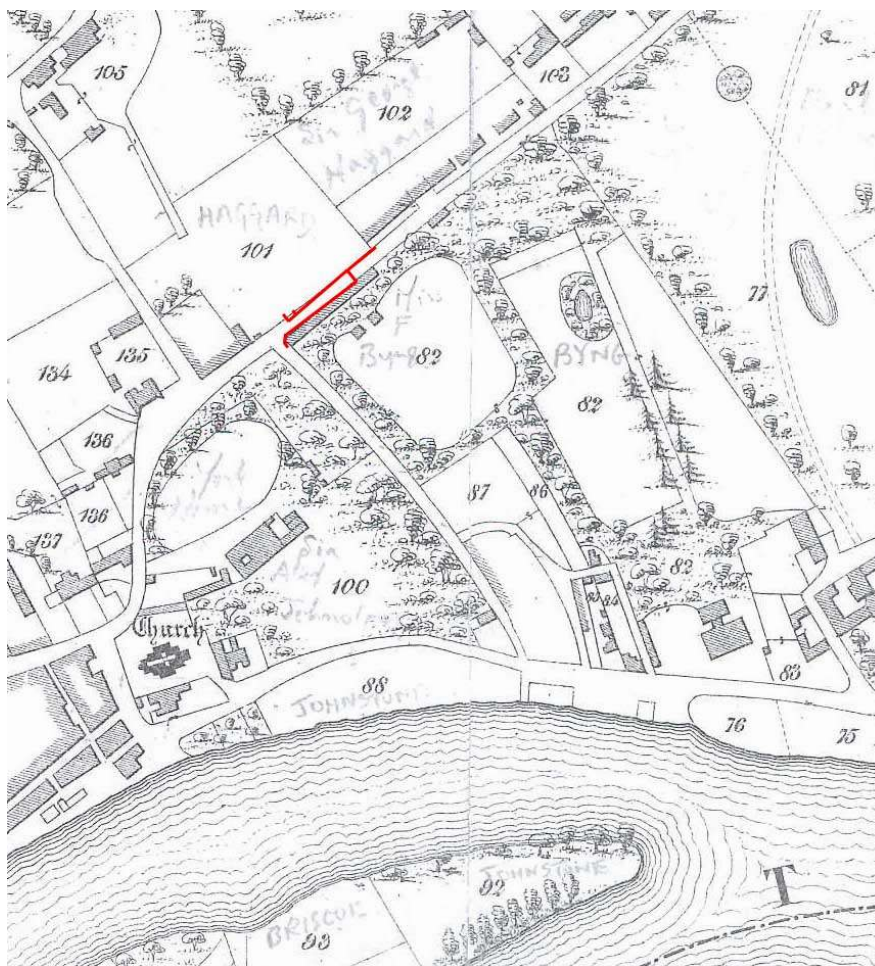


Fig.4: Extract from WT Warren's updated Enclosure Award map, 1846, based on the original 1813-14 Enclosure Award. Note the long block of properties on the south side of Richmond Road. Miss F Byng owned the plot marked 82, and it is described as a House, Garden and pleasure grounds. Plot 101 was owned by George Haggard Esq. and the schedule describes it as a Market garden

⁵ ACB Urwin, *Commercial Nurseries and Market Gardens*, (1982)

3.6 Despite the economic benefits gained from market gardening it was not until the coming of the railways in 1848 that the growth of Twickenham really began in earnest. This is reflected in the population, which increased seven-fold from 3100 in 1801 to 21,000 in 1901. This expansion was largely to the north and east of the established settlement, finally reaching the watching brief study area, with terraced housing being erected on both sides of the road, and the creation of Trafford Road.

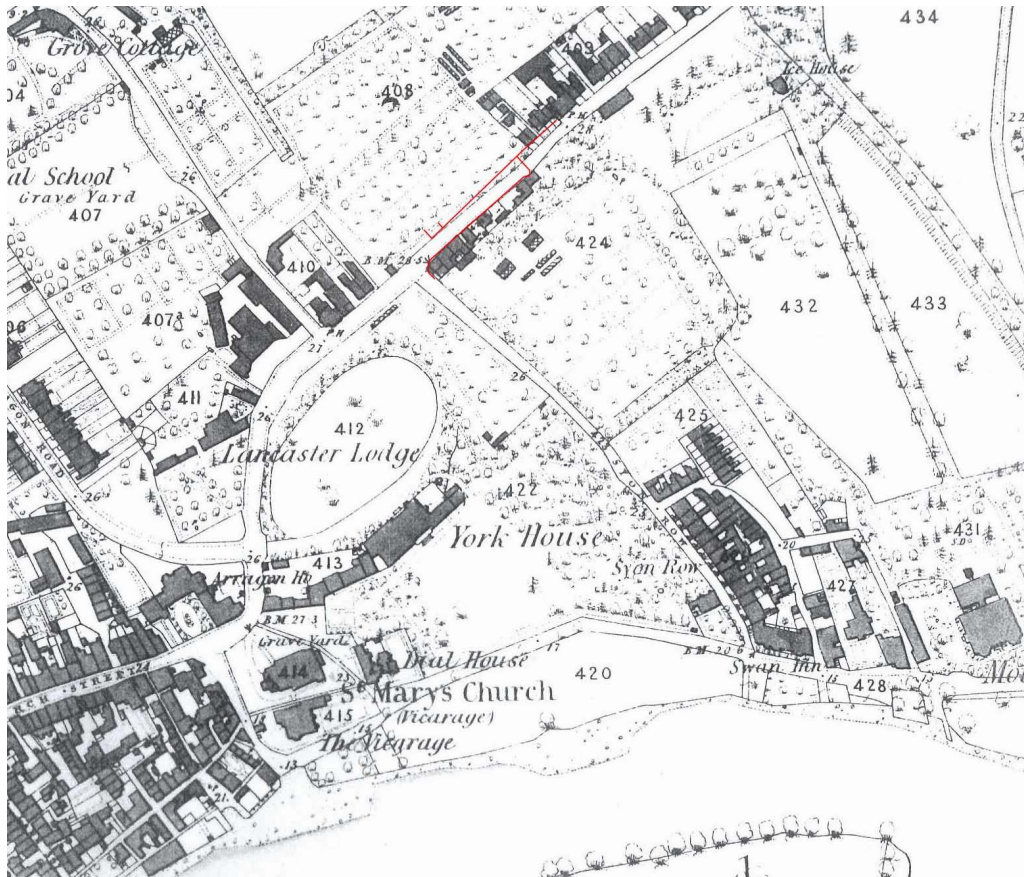


Fig.5: Extract from the 1st Edition OS Map, (1863), depicting houses extending into the southern side of Richmond Road

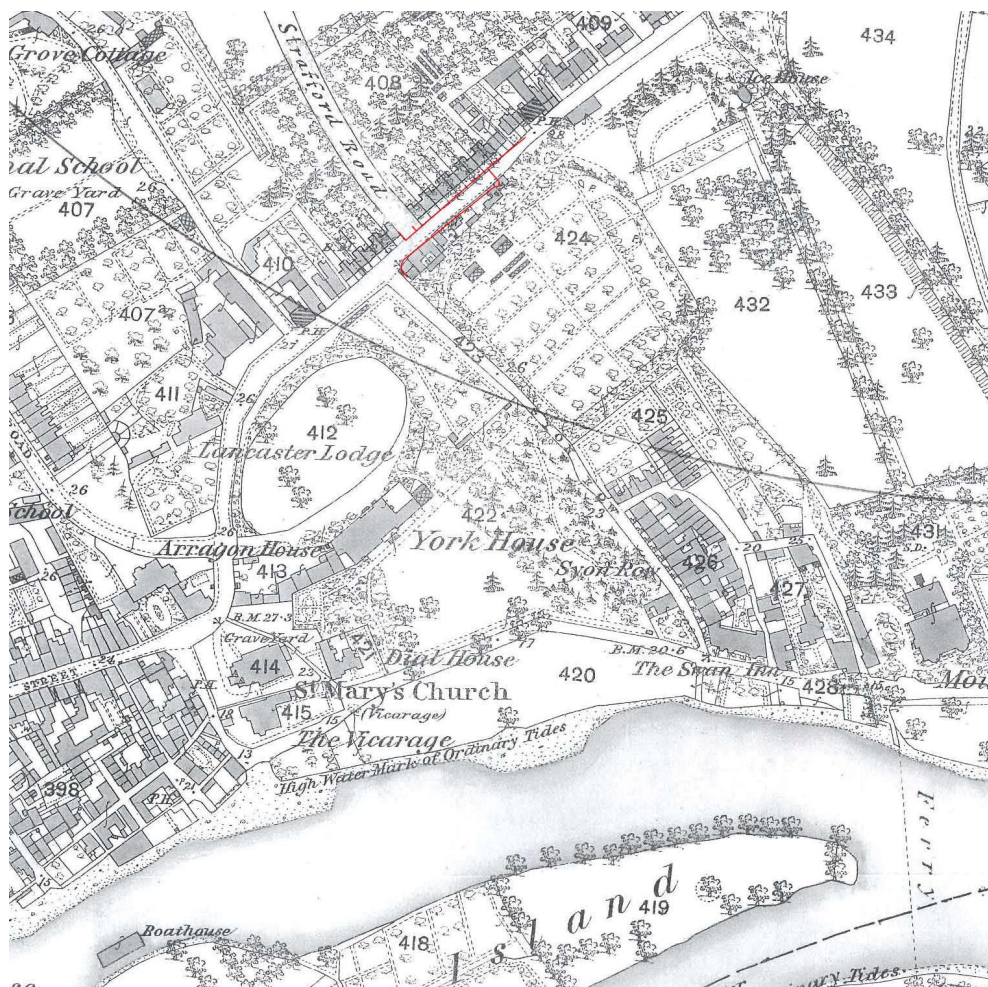


Fig.6: Extract from the updated 1st edition OS map, (1846-67), dated 1880. Note that Stratford Road has now been constructed and terraced housing erected on the north side of Richmond Road. The group of buildings on the south side and opposite Stratford Road also appear on the 1894-96 Second Edition OS map (Figure 10)

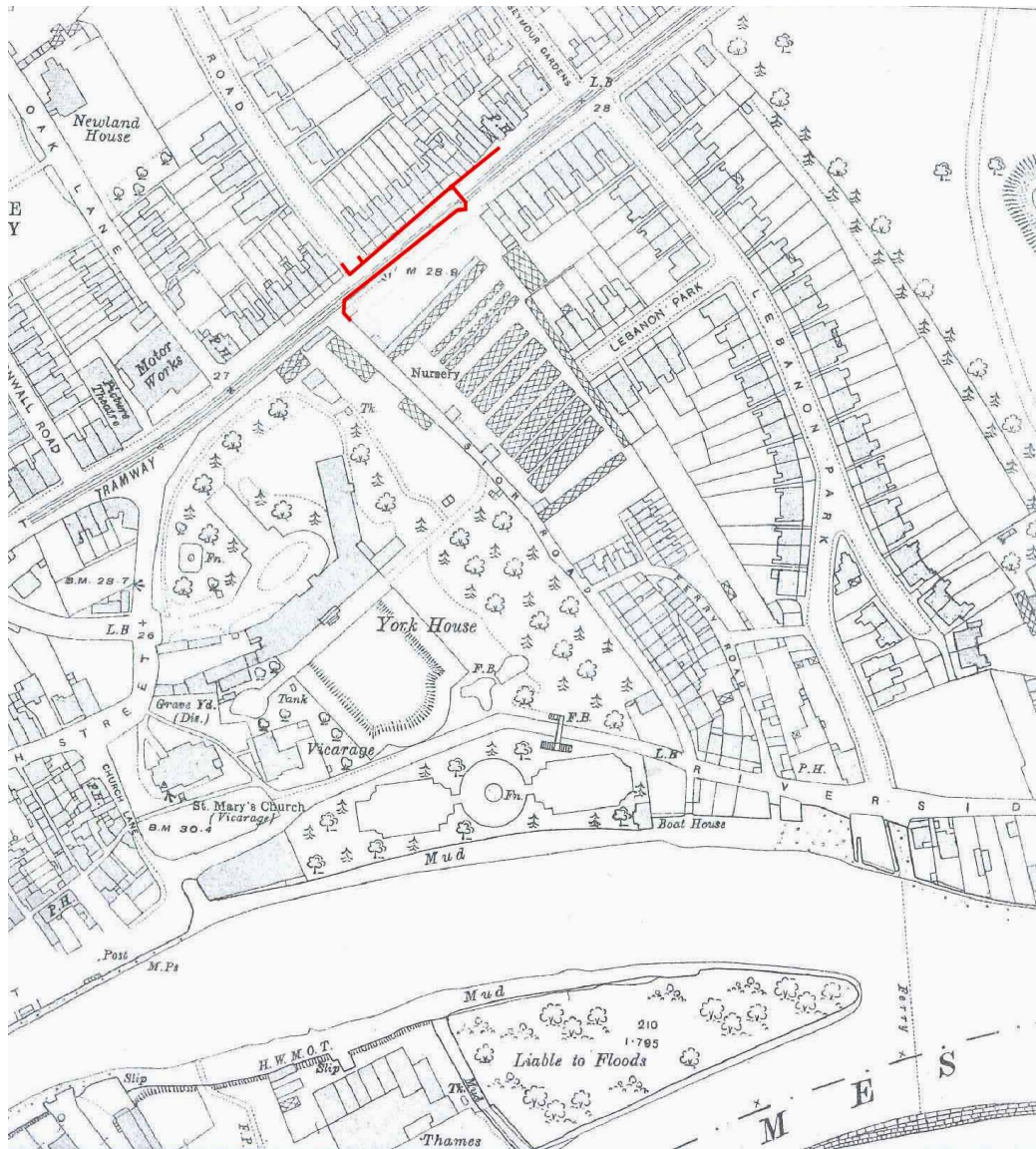


Fig.7: Extract from a 1914 map with area of works in red. The houses extending into the south side of the road have been taken down and the road widened (initially to accommodate the tramway?)

3.7 The newly developed Twickenham is reflected in the 1914 map (above), which depicts new roads and development on the east of York House around Lebanon Park. The terraced housing on the south side of Richmond Road has been demolished and a new nursery established in its place bounded by a stand-alone wall to the north. The map also shows a tramway present along Richmond Road, first installed in 1903. Due to public opposition to electrification of the trams, the trams had already been replaced by the time the above map was produced by a regular omnibus service in 1912. The nursery and terraced housing on the south side of the road was later redeveloped as Lebanon Court, but other than this the area has changed little in the intervening period.

4 Archaeological Research Questions

The watching brief presents an opportunity to address the following general and specific research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity and what is the nature of this activity- settlement or agriculture?
- Is there any evidence for Roman to medieval activity, and what is the likely nature of this?
- What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, and can this be related to the cartographic evidence?
- At what levels do any archaeological deposits survive across the area?
- At what levels do natural deposits survive, and do these accord with the Geological Survey record?

5 Methodology

5.1 Fieldwork

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (in particular, GLAAS *Standards Paper 3: Fieldwork*) and to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief, 2008*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

Adequate time was given for investigation and recording of the observed trenches, although every effort was made not to disrupt the contractors' programme. Observations were recorded on *proforma* trench sheets, and drawn in plan with measured sketches taken of sample sections. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by digital photography.

Close liaison was maintained with the groundworks team to ensure a presence on site as and when necessary. The Client and Diane Abrams of English Heritage were kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

5.2 Post-excavation work

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

The work was carried out in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London*'. Brick samples were collected and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although some material was discarded following assessment. Assessment was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff.

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage and the local planning authority. A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended to this report using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form; suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

6 Results

- 6.1** The watching brief took place between the 10th of February and the 8th March 2012 in the area depicted in Figure 2. Observed trenching amounted to approximately 102.5m of open-cut trenching and insertion pits.
- 6.2** On the 10th of February 37.5m of open-cut trenching was monitored on the southern pavement of Richmond Road, extending north-east from the junction with Sion Road to just past the bus stop outside of Lebanon Court. Natural ground was not reached and from as little as 250mm below the ground surface there was observed a thick deposit of demolition-derived material including mortar, and large quantities of crushed tile and brick fragments within a dark-grey clay-silt matrix. This was overlain with yellow-brown builders' and acting as a bedding layer for the overlying paving slabs.

Within the south-western half of the trench three sections of brick wall were observed (*cf.* Fig 14 for location). The first included a short length of wall 0.5m from the SW end, aligned NW-SE across the width of the trench which then turned a right angle and continued for a further 2.5m along the northern section of the trench. The NW-SE wall was 2 bricks wide, (230mm) and survived to seven courses high, (470mm). The return wall in the northern section was also seven courses high but its thickness was not determined. The bricks were bonded with a coarse grey mortar and measured approximately 240mm long by 110mm broad and up to 70mm thick.



Fig.8: Brick walls in SW end of trench, facing NW, (0.5m scale)

A further 3.7m on in the trench was another section of masonry 250mm below the present ground surface and extending for eight courses, (600mm), to the base of the trench. This surviving section of wall was approximately 1.5m long and continued back into the north section of the trench.

The final remaining wall was a further 9m along the trench, (a total of 17.2m from the SW end), within the southern section. It was 500mm below the current ground level and seven courses, (540mm), were visible to the base of the trench. The wall extended for 4m along the trench and took a similar form to those observed elsewhere (*cf.* Fig 14 for location).



Fig.9: *Third section of brick wall along trench. Facing E, (0.5m scale)*

These walls probably once formed part of the foundations for properties fronting onto Richmond Road as depicted in figures 4-6 and 10. They can be seen extending out into the road-line and were most likely demolished during the widening of the road sometime at the turn of the 20th century, as they are absent from the 1914 OS map, (Figure 7).

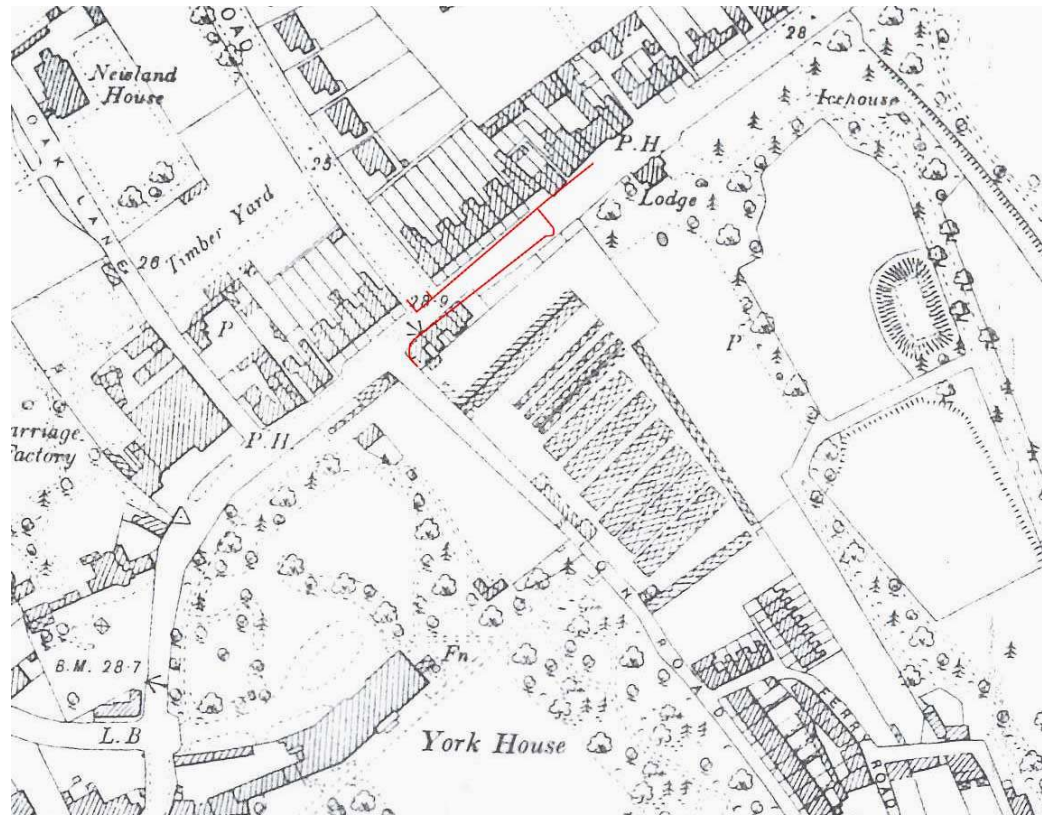


Fig.10: Extract from the 1912 reprint of the 1894-96 OS map showing the earlier property line projecting into the road.

- 6.3 On the 16th February a launch pit, 4m long by 1.5m wide and a maximum of 1.4m deep was excavated on the southern kerb line outside of nos. 56 and 58 Richmond Road. Once again no natural deposits were revealed. The pit was a mass of existing service cuts and their associated backfills including MOT Type 1, and orange-brown sands. These were overlain by concrete and tarmac within the road or bedding sand and paving slabs on the pavement.



Fig.11: Launch pit excavated on 16th February 2012. Facing NE, (1m scale)

- 6.4 A further pit was dug on the corner of Sion Road and Richmond Road on the 22nd February. The pit measured 4m NW-SE, by 2.5m NE-SW, and up to 1.1m deep. At the base of the trench, c.900mm below modern ground surface, was orange-brown clay representing natural geology. Built on top of the natural and rising to 720mm in height was a red brick wall bonded with lime mortar aligned NW-SE in the western section of the pit. The wall survived for 1.4m in length and nine courses high (*cf.* Fig 14 for location). Onto the south-eastern end of the wall was tacked a section of frogged yellow stock brick of later construction, perhaps representing repair work.



Fig.12: *Wall in south- western section of pit, 22nd February 2012. Facing S, (1m scale)*



Fig.13: Red brick wall built on natural clay geology, later yellow brick wall built on southern end. Facing SW, (1m scale)

As with the walls observed on the 10th February the masonry in the pit immediately west of them can be related to cartographic evidence. It probably represents the far SW wall of a building that once stood here on the corner of the road, (see Figs.4-6 and 10). Brick samples taken from the red brick section were dated to c.1480-1700AD which is quite early in terms of the development of the area, but it could represent re-used masonry in a later standing building, hence the appended yellow stock brick wall to the south-east.

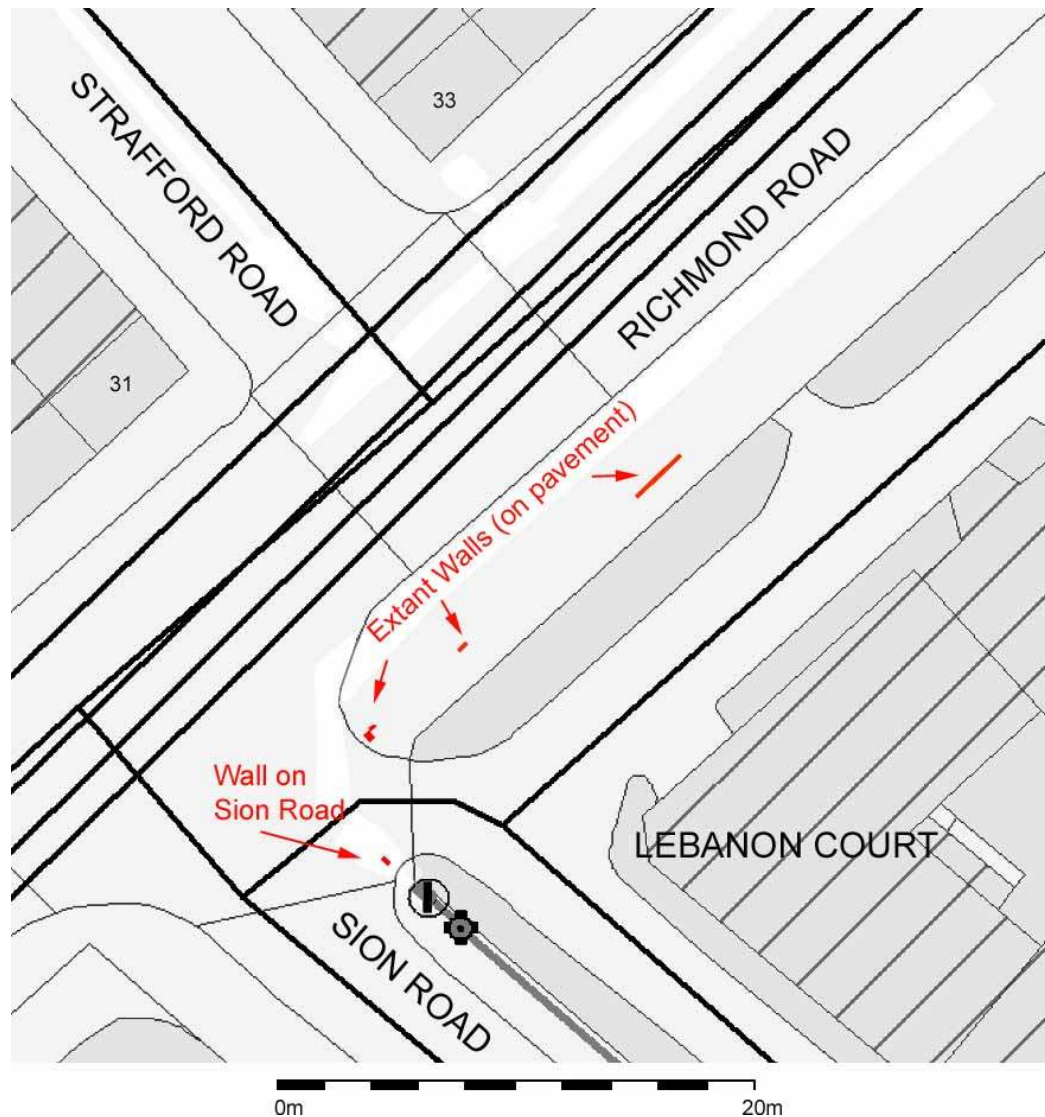


Fig.14: General plan showing the four areas of exposed red brick walls; three on Richmond Road and one on the corner of Sion Road and Richmond Road.

- 6.5** 52.5m of open-cut trenching was investigated on the northern side of the road on 29th February. The trench was aligned NE-SW from the junction with Stafford Road to outside no.53 Richmond Road, and measured 580mm wide and up to 700mm deep. Truncated natural ground was visible from 480mm below the present ground level, truncated by a 36" gas main which had been dug into the natural and then immediately reburied giving the appearance of virgin ground. This was overlain by 400mm of concrete topped with tarmac representing the modern road surface. No archaeological deposits were observed on this occasion.



Fig.15: *Trenching on north side of Richmond Road, facing SW, (0.5m scale)*



Fig.16: *Section through trench, facing NW, (0.5m scale)*

It would seem that the natural brickearth survives quite high in the vicinity and it is known that during the 1850s the surrounding area was exploited for quarrying. It could be that such activities truncated or completely removed any earlier archaeological deposits and so the lack of observed archaeology during groundworks should not be necessarily be considered a surprise.

- 6.6 A final visit was made on the 8th of March 2012 to monitor a pit dug on the SW corner of Richmond Road and Strafford Road. The pit measured 4.5m NW-SE by 1.75m NE-SW and up to 1.3m deep. The upper limit of truncated natural ground was observed at a depth of 700mm below ground level and above this was 300mm of dark-grey / brown silty clay containing sub-angular gravels and rare fragments of ceramic building material (CBM). This deposit was overlain by orange-brown aggregate beneath the existing tarmac road surface. At the southern end of the pit the stratigraphy was different in that natural ground was not reached and the tarmac road surface overlay a continuous deposit of MOT Type 1 down to the base of the trench, within which were numerous service pipes.



Fig.17: Pit dug on corner of Strafford Road and Richmond Road, facing S, (1m scale)
Note the densely packed services and disturbed ground / backfill within the pit.

7 Conclusions

The watching brief conducted along Richmond Road revealed evidence for the later post-medieval development of the immediate area in the form of brick walls associated with former properties fronting onto the south side of the street. These walls have been identified in relation to cartographic evidence, and analysis of brick samples taken corroborates the argument that they have probable mid-17th century origins.

Natural ground was observed, albeit in a truncated form, from approximately 480mm below the modern ground level and accords with the conclusions of the British Geological Survey data, in as much as the observed geology takes the form of thick brown-orange brickearth.

No archaeological deposits relating to activity predating 1500AD were encountered during groundworks and this is probably due to the significant later development of the area. This has included the construction of properties either side of the road, widening of the road itself, and the insertion of large gas mains, water piping and other services. This would likely have destroyed or heavily disturbed any earlier underlying deposits.

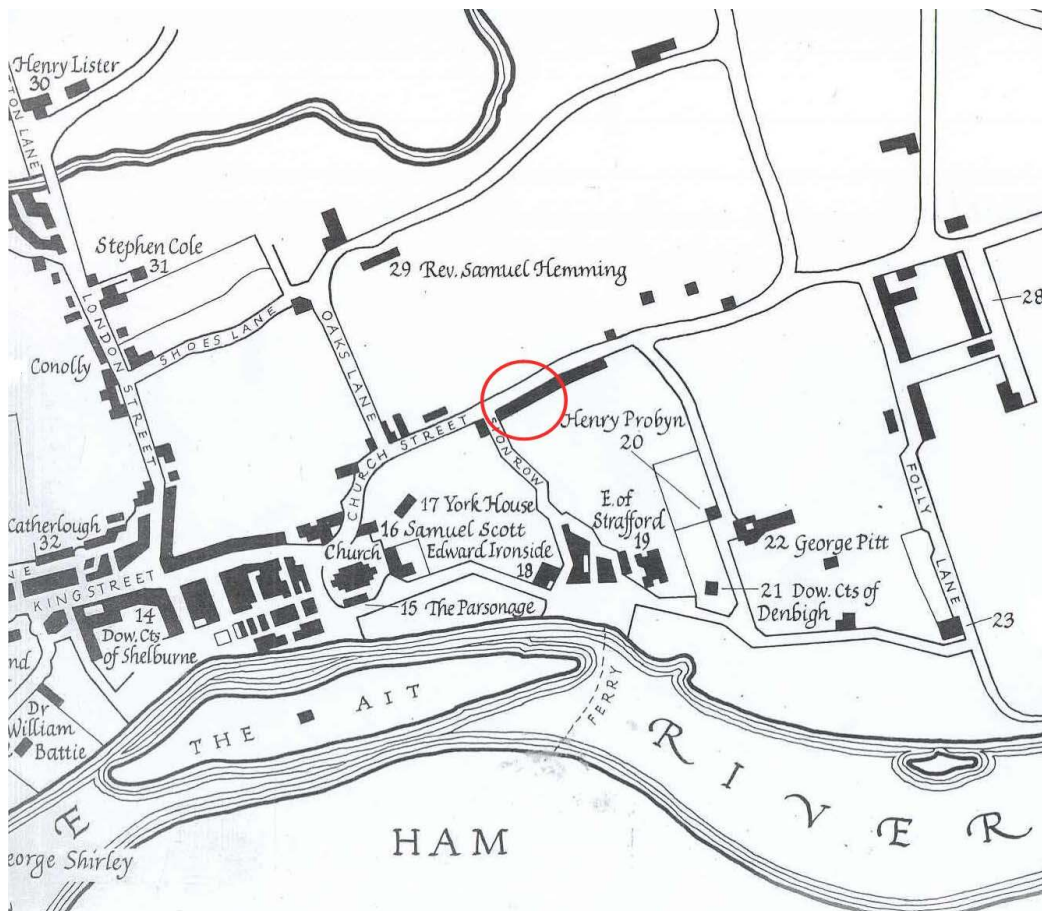


Fig.18: A depiction of Horace Walpole's Twickenham 1747-97. The early form of the buildings associated with observed brickwork have been circled (Richmond Local Studies)

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Appendix I: Ceramic Building Material analysis by *Susan Pringle*

Date found	Date of CBM / Context	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (g)	L	B	T	Condition	Comments
22.2.12	1480-1700	PM	3033	Brick	1	2686	226	113	64	M, H? A	Unfrogged. Lightly creased header and stretcher faces. Lime mortar on stretcher, with patches on bedfaces. Later type- later 17 th century
22.2.12	1480-1700	PM	3033?	Brick	1	1879	210+	104	67	V, Rd, M	Unfrogged; indented margin; 'grass marks' on upper face. Lime mortar. Vitrified and misshapen

KEY: A = Abraded; H = Heat-cracked; M = Mortar; PM = Post medieval;
Rd = Reduced; V = Vitrified

Appendix II: OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: compassa1-120863

Project details

Project name	Richmond Road DMR works (Olympics priority)
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted during groundworks associated with District Mains Replacement works by Thames Water between the 10th February and the 8th March 2012. The works took place along Richmond Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond, from the corner of Sion Road to just before Seymour Gardens. The upper levels of truncated natural brickearth were encountered at c.700mm below present ground level on the northern side of the street, into which was buried a 36-inch gas main. No archaeological deposits were observed on this side of the street. On the southern side of Richmond Road, from the corner with Sion Road and up to 17.2m further NE, four sections of red brick wall were observed in section. These walls survived as little as 250mm below present ground level and for up to 8 courses to the base of the trench, built on top of the natural geology, and bonded with a coarse grey mortar. They were identified and dated using historic map regression and brick samples taken. The walls were associated with properties whose frontages once extended into the southern carriageway of the road and were datable to the 16th to mid 19th century. They were demolished in the early years of the 20th century, (pre-1914), probably during road widening works. The walls were buried beneath associated demolition rubble rich in crushed brick and mortar. No other archaeological deposits were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 10-02-2012 End: 08-03-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	RMD12 – Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 11 – Thoroughfare
Monument type	BRICK WALL X 4 Post Medieval
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM Richmond Road, Twickenham
Postcode	TW1 3AW
Study area	0.10 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TQ 1659 7356 51.4485097021 -0.322011975370 51 26 54 N 000 19 19 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.48m Max: 0.70m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Project supervisor	Emma Jeffery
Project supervisor	Gill King
Type of sponsor/funding body	Water utility/company

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Correspondence','Map','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Thames Water District Mains Replacement works along Richmond Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond, TW1 3AW – An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street
Description	Short report of the results of the watching brief. Includes historical, archaeological, geological and topographical background of the site, details of the methodology used, photographs and descriptions of all trenches monitored, and brief conclusions reached.
Entered by	James Aaronson (james.aaronson@gmail.com)
Entered on	12 March 2012

Appendix III: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address: Richmond Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond,
TW1 3AW
Project Type: Watching Brief
Dates of Fieldwork: 10th February – 8th March 2012
Site Code: RMD12
Site Supervisor: Compass Archaeology
NGR: TQ 1659 7356 (centre point)
Funding Body: Thames Water

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted along Richmond Road, Twickenham, between 10th of February and the 8th March 2012. The groundworks were associated with Thames Water District Mains Replacement works between Sion Road and Orleans Road, amounting to 105m of open-cut trenching, up to 0.6m wide and up to 1.3m deep.

The upper levels of truncated natural brickearth were observed on the northern side of the road at approximately 480mm below current ground level, to the base of the trench at c.700mm, within which was buried a 36-inch gas main. No significant archaeological deposits were observed in these trenching works.

On the southern pavement, from the corner of Sion Road up to 17.2m further NE up Richmond Road, four sections of red-brick wall were recorded in section. They survived as little as 250mm below the current ground level and up to eight courses to the base of the trench. The walls were built directly upon the natural brickearth and were bonded with a coarse grey mortar. They were identifiable using historic map regression, and along with brick samples taken in the field, at least one was potentially dated to the 17th century. The walls represented properties whose frontages once extended into the southern carriageway of Richmond Road, and were later demolished in the early 1900s during road widening. The walls were buried beneath a layer of demolition rubble rich in crushed brick and mortar within a grey-brown silty-clay matrix.

No other archaeological deposits were observed.