

**25-27 HIGH STREET, EDGWARE**  
**London Borough of Harrow, HA8 7EE**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**



**August 2014**



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London Borough of Harrow, HA8 7EE  
  
An Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: HSE14  
NGR (Centre): TQ 19345 91413  
Planning application ref: P/3012/12

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## ABSTRACT

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out in June and July 2014 at 25-27 High Street, Edgware, London Borough of Harrow. Observations and recording took place during groundworks for an extension to the existing (1960s) building, including foundation trenches and an enlarged basement. The watching brief formed a condition of planning consent (Application Ref: P/3012/12), further to recommendations made by English Heritage.*

*This area has potential for a range of archaeological remains, including remains associated with the adjacent Roman road line (Watling Street, now the High Street), plus subsequent medieval and earlier post-medieval settlement along what remained an important thoroughfare. Historic maps show that the site was developed by 1800, although it is likely that the area to the rear formed a yard or garden/allotment.*

*The watching brief did not reveal any very significant finds or remains, although it did give a good overview of the archaeological potential of the site. Roman remains were limited to three residual finds within later features or deposits – two sherds of pottery and one possible fragment of ceramic building material.*

*The most notable discovery was a medieval pit, of probable mid-later 12<sup>th</sup> century date and suggestive of settlement in the immediate area. However, the pit – and any associated surfaces – had been truncated to the level of the natural clay. This event possibly took place in the early post-medieval period, and may have formed part of a more general clearance/levelling of the site.*

*There was limited evidence for activity from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, although a number of made ground deposits may relate to this period. A small brick retaining wall was dated to c 1550-1700, and a range of earlier post-medieval pottery was recovered from clearance.*

*Map evidence shows that the site frontage was developed by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, although from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 1960s the site appears to have been used as a garden or allotment. Features from this period included a circular brick-lined pit (possibly later 19<sup>th</sup> century) and a garden wall base of around 1900.*

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Compass Archaeology at 25-27 High Street, Edgware, HA8 7EE, London Borough of Harrow (Figs.1 & 2). The archaeological work was commissioned by Peter Mance of Maaps Design & Architecture Ltd. on behalf of Shishukunj. We are also grateful for the assistance of the on-site contractors and the site agent, Hiten Hirani.
- 1.2 Archaeological monitoring was carried out during contractors' groundworks, principally the excavation of a series of strip foundation trenches and a small basement extension to the rear of the existing building. A total of ten visits were made to the site between the 17<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014: exposed deposits and features were investigated by hand, with recording and recovery of finds dating evidence as appropriate.

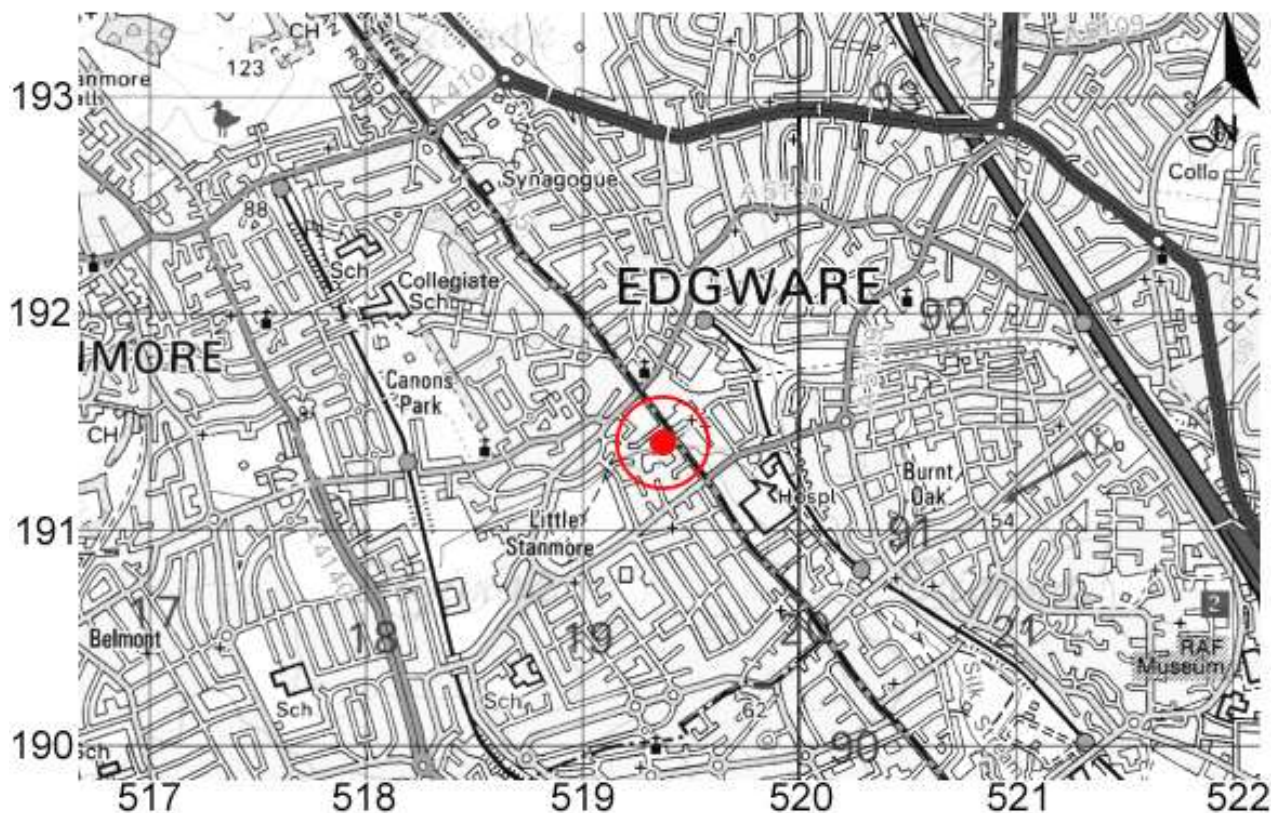


Fig.1: Modern Ordnance Survey map showing the site location (in red).

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- 1.3 The project was carried out in response to recommendations made by English Heritage (Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service), and as a condition of planning consent for the development (Application Ref: P/3012/12; Condition 17). This reflects the potential of this area for a range of archaeological remains, including the adjacent Roman road line (Watling Street, now the High Street), plus subsequent medieval and earlier post-medieval settlement along what remained an important thoroughfare.



The archaeological and historical background to the site is discussed in more detail below (Section 3).

- 1.4** The proposed redevelopment involves the change of use of the site from an office workshop and car showroom to a community centre (Fig.3). Initially an existing single-storey garage and infill extension in the southwest corner of the building were demolished. The new build included an extension to the rear (west & southwest corner) of the existing building, a small extension of the existing basement, construction of a new third floor and external changes to the rear of the site (new car and bicycle parking, landscaping, bin storage, *etc.*). The main rear extension to the building will measure approximately 8m in width (east-west) by 15m in length (north-south).

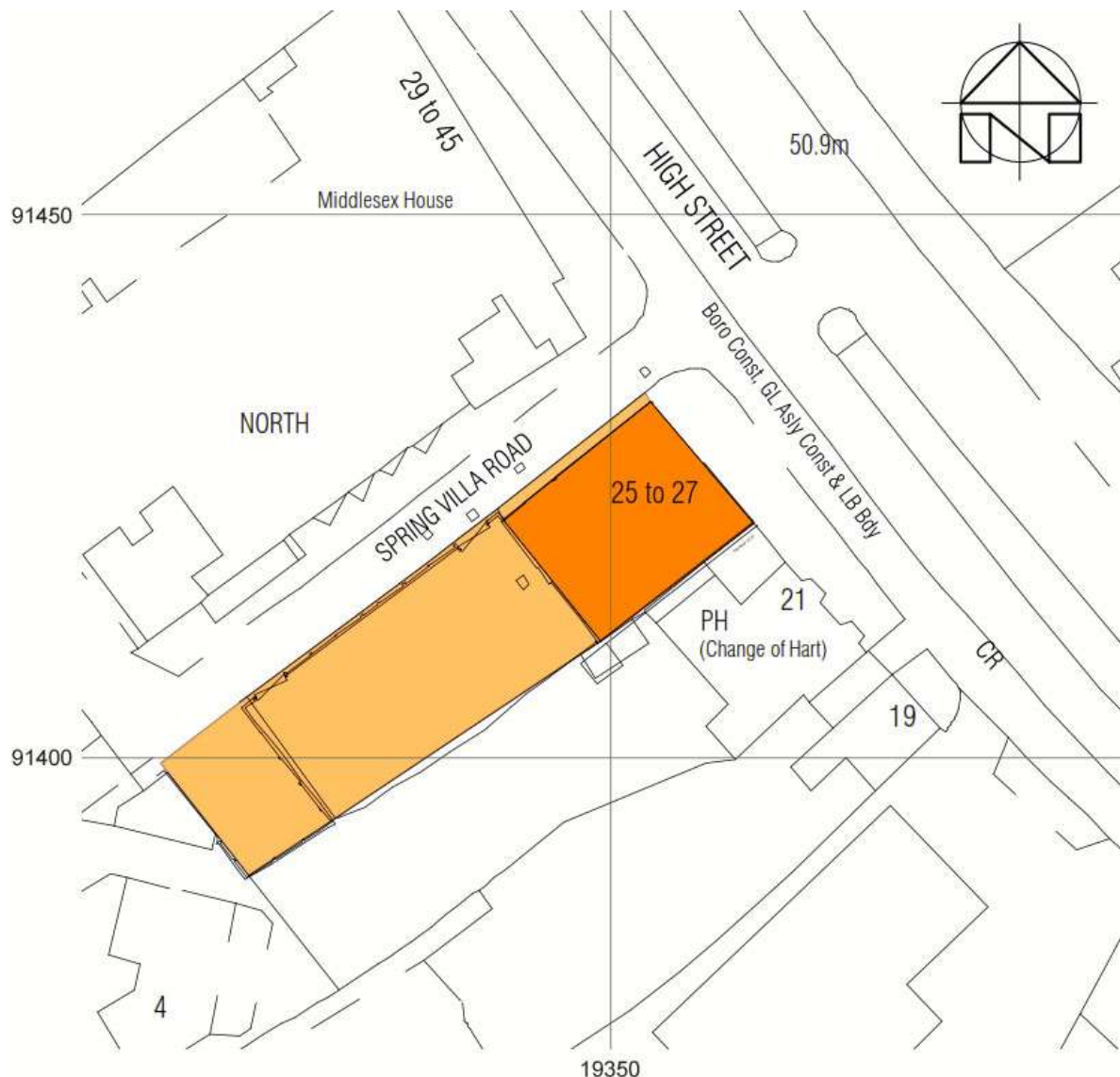


Fig.2: Site outline plan, showing the pre-development building footprint (in darker orange)

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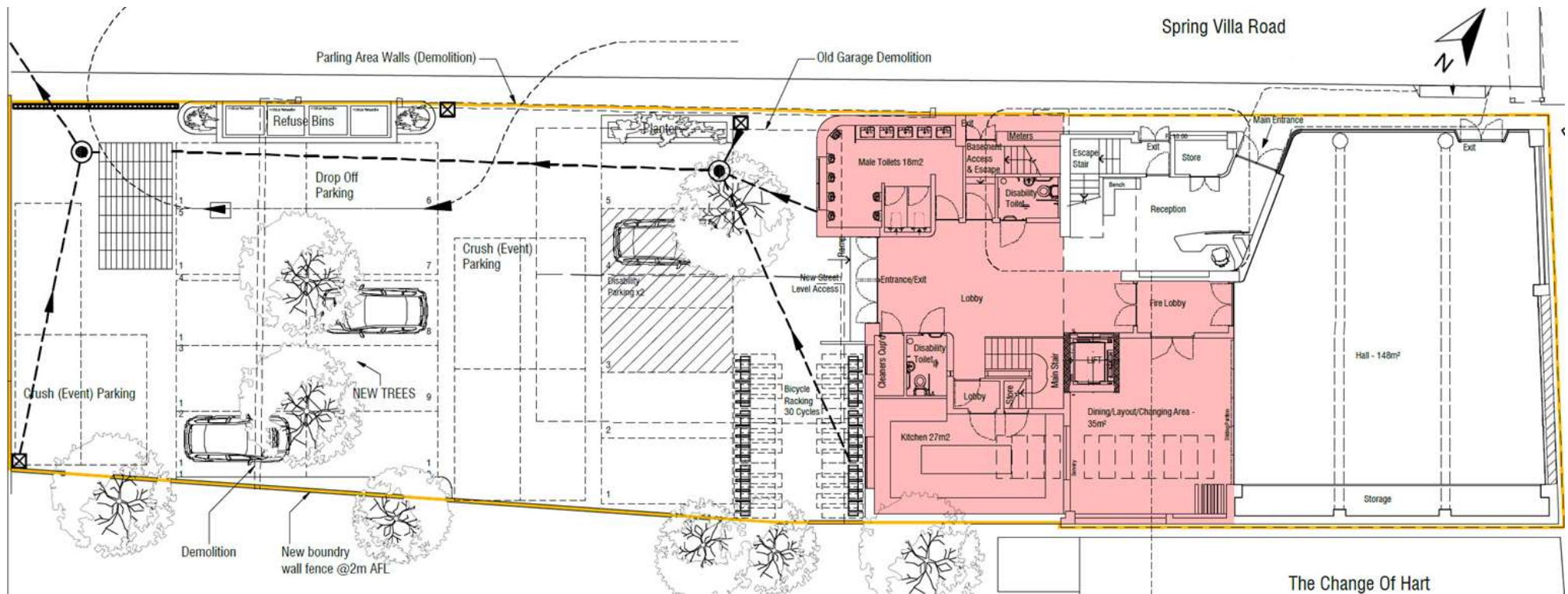


Fig.3: Ground floor/Site plan of the proposed development, with the area of groundworks (main rear extension and basement) highlighted.

*Based on MAAPS Design & Architecture Dwg. No 200-P05. Rev 0*

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.1** According to data available from the British Geological Survey (North London. Sheet 256), the site overlies the London Clay formation – clay, silt and sand formed some 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene period.
- 2.2** Pre-development geotechnical investigations undertaken by Pindoria Associates (Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers) uncovered 200 mm of concrete, overlying 600 mm of ‘made ground’, over 400 mm of disturbed clay (with roots, stones, *etc.*), over medium clay (the natural London Clay).
- 2.3** The site works were roughly centred at NGR TQ 19345 91413, located on the western side of Edgware High Street and on the southern side of the junction with Spring Villa Road. The site itself covers an area of approximately 840m<sup>2</sup>, is rectangular in shape (tapering slightly to the west), and measures approximately 57m (east-west) by 15m (north-south).

The modern ground surface is broadly level, at approximately 51m OD. Beyond the site boundaries the land rises quite steeply to the north/northeast, and drops slightly to the south and southeast towards the line of the Edgware Brook.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The following archaeological background is summarised from the Written Scheme of Investigation for 25-27 High Street, Edgware (Compass Archaeology 2013).

#### **3.2 Prehistory**

Little evidence for prehistoric activity has been uncovered in the general vicinity of this site. The Greater London Historic Environment Record reveals only a few references to prehistoric finds – a fragment of Neolithic or Bronze Age axe uncovered on Edgwarebury Lane (081943/00/00), an Early Mesolithic – Middle Neolithic find (MLO100195), and a Middle Neolithic – Early Bronze Age find (MLO100194). No evidence for prehistoric activity has been found in any of the archaeological excavations in the vicinity.

#### **3.3 Roman**

Edgware High Street follows the line of a major Roman road, Watling Street. It is believed that this was originally a prehistoric trackway before being adopted by the Romans in the 1<sup>st</sup> AD century to connect London with St Albans. However, the only evidence for Roman activity close to the site is from Canons Park, *c* 1km to the north-west of the site, where significant quantities of tile have been uncovered, including a waster heap associated with manufacture (GLHER: 052033/00/00). Slightly further afield investigations have revealed activity at Brockley Hill, widely thought to be the site of the Roman settlement of *Sulloniaca*. Occupation evidence has also been found to the southeast, at Burnt Oak, including a late 3<sup>rd</sup> century building discovered in 1971.

#### **3.4 Saxon to Medieval**

The medieval settlement at Edgware developed alongside Watling Street, possibly focused at the crossing of the Edgware Brook (some 100m to the south of the site). The first reference to Edgware is in 978AD, and the name is from “Aeges Weir” (a nearby weir or dam). The road also marks the boundary between the ancient parishes of Edgware to the east and Little Stanmore to the west.

Some archaeological evidence for medieval activity has been uncovered in excavations in the vicinity of the site, such as a medieval ditch and pit uncovered during an evaluation to the northwest at 105-9 High Street (MLO71410). A parish church was in existence by the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, with the present day St Margaret's, on the eastern side of the High Street, constructed about a century later.

#### **3.5 Post-medieval**

This area has been developed throughout the post-medieval period. 16<sup>th</sup> century houses are known to have existed between Whitchurch Lane and Edgware Brook, with a continuous line of houses along the western side of the road (in the area of the site) recorded in 1597 (GLHER: 052880/00/00). This is reflected in archaeological excavations in the area, with earlier post-medieval pits uncovered at 105-9 High Street

(MLO71411); pits and ditches at Dalkeith Grove (MLO77839); and an 18<sup>th</sup> century ditch found at 76 Stonegrove (MLO75971).



Fig.4: Site location in relation to Milne's Land-Use Map of London, 1800

Cartographic evidence also shows the earlier development of this area, with Milne's 1800 Map depicting buildings on either side of Edgware High Street (Fig 4). The 1822 OS Map shows the site in a similar way, although with slightly more development to the north and south (Fig 5 overleaf). The site at this date appears to consist of buildings fronting directly onto Edgware High Street, with yards to the rear. The 1865 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map shows the site in more detail (Fig. 6), with a row of buildings (three) fronting onto Edgware High Street and yards/allotments to the rear, plus a couple of ancillary buildings in the central part of the site. However, the 1894-96 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map (not illustrated) shows a clearance of buildings on the site, with only small structures surviving in the northeast corner and adjacent to the southern boundary, plus one former boundary within the site. The 1914 and 1932 OS maps show the site in a broadly similar way, clear apart from the few small buildings along the southern boundary. By the time of the 1962 OS 1:2500 map Gemini House (the present building) had been constructed.



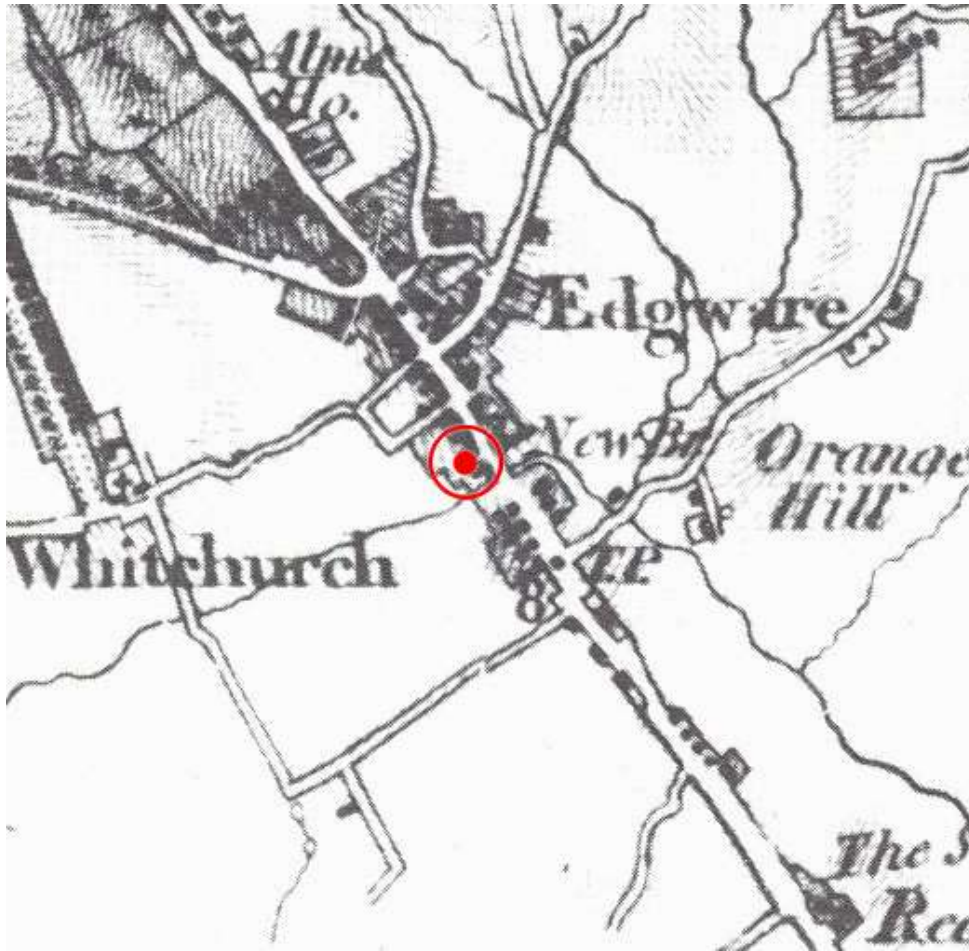


Fig.5: 1822 Ordnance Survey 2-inch: mile map



Fig.6: Site outline in relation to the 1865 25-inch Ordnance Survey map

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Aims and Objectives**

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological watching brief (Compass Archaeology 2013) was prepared and submitted to English Heritage for approval prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

The general aim of the archaeological watching brief was to record the extent and nature of any archaeological deposits or remains exposed by groundworks. Specific research questions for the archaeological watching brief were set out in the WSI as follows:

- Is there any evidence for Roman activity on the site, particularly associated with Watling Street which ran along the line of Edgware High Street?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon or Medieval activity on the site, particularly in relation to the early medieval settlement of Edgware which developed in the vicinity of the site around Edgware Brook?
- Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity on the site, particularly in relation to the early post-medieval buildings which fronted Edgware High Street in this area, or backyard-type activity in association with them?
- At what levels do archaeological or geological deposits survive across the area?
- Can the watching brief works inform on the research questions of the Museum of London and English Heritage's '*A Research Framework for London Archaeology*' publication 2002?

### **4.2 Fieldwork Methodology**

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, GLAAS Standards, Part 3: Fieldwork, 2014) and to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008c). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

Works were also carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team had valid CSCS Cards (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme), and wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, and steel-toe-capped boots as required.

The work comprised monitoring during the excavation of nine linear foundation trenches, plus one larger area for the basement extension.

Adequate time was given for on-site investigation. Representative areas of the excavations were recorded and photographed, and any archaeological deposits or features recorded on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description. The recording system used followed the MoL Site Manual, and by agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.



Where appropriate finds/samples were collected for dating purposes, and bagged with unique numbers related to the site record. Photographs, recording general site locations and conditions were also taken. The recorded excavations were located onto a general site plan, and in turn related as a 'best fit' to the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map. Levels were derived from an OSBM located on the southwest corner of the Edgware Infant & Nursery School (just to the northeast & on the other side of the High street), value 55.30m OD.

#### **4.3 Post-excavation work and the Archive**

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering of the site archive in line with MoL Guidelines, prior to deposition in the LAARC. Finds and artefacts were processed off-site and subsequent assessment /dating undertaken by appropriately qualified staff.

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, and English Heritage GLAAS. 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*.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

Nine foundation trenches plus a more extensive and deeper basement foundation were dug from the present ground surface (c. 51.0m OD), all excavation work being undertaken by a machine. The following sections provide, firstly, a brief description /interpretation of all recorded contexts, and secondly, discuss each area individually with illustrative photographs, plans and sections. The location of the trenches (1-10) is shown on Fig. 7 below.

### 5.2 List of recorded contexts

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
+	ALL	Uncontexted finds from clearance/spoil	–
1	1	Loose mixed gravel & building material	Modern makeup /disturbed ground
2	1	Dark grey silty deposit with occasional pieces of ceramic building material and mortar	Recent made ground
3	1	Dark brownish grey silty clay	Truncated subsoil
4	“	Firm brown silty gravel	Natural
5	“	Light bluish grey clay, compact	Natural
6	1 & 2	Concrete bases	Foundations for the existing building & boundary wall
7	1 & 2	Brick walls	Existing building & boundary walls
8	2	Pipe & brickwork	Drain & brick-lined ?soakaway
9	“	Yellow silty sand with pebbles	Made ground
10	“	Brown silty deposit with occasional ceramic building material (CBM) & pebbles	Made ground
11	“	Layer of broken CBM, mainly tiles but also some broken brick plus flint nodules & pebbles	Made ground /levelling
12	“	Sandy deposit with pebbles	Made ground
13	“	Firm orange-brown clay	Natural
14	“	Firm clayey gravel. Upper part is mid brown, becoming bluish grey with depth	Natural
15	“	Yellowish grey slightly sandy silt with occasional pebbles, pottery, <i>etc.</i>	Fill of the pit (16). Probable mid-late 12 <sup>th</sup> century.
16	2	A cut feature exposed & partially removed during groundworks	Surviving NE side of a medieval pit

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
17	2	A red brick wall base, oriented approx. E-W	Remains of a garden wall, probably built around 1900
18	“	Linear cut, approx. E-W	Construction cut for wall (17)
19	“	Small section of brick wall	Probable retaining wall; ?17 <sup>th</sup> century
20	3	Brown silty deposit with frequent CBM	Made ground, possibly make-up for recent concrete surfacing
21	3	Dark grey silt with some CBM, charcoal and pebbles	Made ground
22	3	Compact brownish grey silt with occasional CBM	Made ground
23	3	Firm greenish-brown clay deposit	Natural
24	“	Band of compact dark grey clay near the western end of the trench	Fill of possible feature (25)
25	“	Boundary of (24), unexcavated	Possible line of cut feature
26	“	Brown clay layer with charcoal towards the northeastern end of the trench	Probable made ground
27	4	Brown silty deposit with moderate broken CBM	Made ground – ?same as (20)
28	“	Brownish grey sandy silt with frequent building rubble & loose mortar	Made ground
29	“	Dark silty layer with CBM, mortar, pebbles & charcoal	Reworked/made ground
30	“	Firm brown clay	Natural; same as (23)
31	“	Remains of red brick feature	A brick-lined drain /soakaway
32	6	Silty sandy deposit	Made ground
33	“	Layer of chalk fragments in sandy silt matrix	Made ground/levelling
34	“	Compact clay deposit. Top was darker grey with 14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> century potsherds; lower part had occasional pebbles but otherwise clean	Reworked subsoil grading into natural
35	“	Firm & sterile silty gravel, variously brown, orange and darker grey-brown at base	Natural

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
36	7	Sand & rubble layers	Bedding/make-up for concrete block path
37	“	Mixed silty layer with frequent gravel & building material	Made ground
38	“	Layer of chalk in silty matrix	Made ground/levelling
39	“	Deposit of grey silt with occasional building rubble and slag	Made ground
40	“	Firm light-mid brown clay	Natural
41	“	Layer of mid brown gravel	Natural
42	“	Remains (N side) of a ?circular brick-lined feature, cut into context (37)	A soakaway or for garden water storage. Possibly later 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
43	8	Grey silt with moderate broken CBM and building rubble	Made ground; same as (20) & (27)?
44	“	A deposit of black silt with CBM, stones and charcoal	Made ground; same as (21)?
45	“	Greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles	Probable truncated subsoil
46	“	Firm mid brown clay with gravel lensing	Natural
47	9	Layer of mid-grey sandy silt with building rubble, <i>etc.</i>	Made ground, probably quite recent
48	10	Grey silty deposit with mortar and broken CBM	Made ground, ?same as (20), <i>etc.</i>
49	“	Black silty deposit with occasional stones and broken CBM	Made ground; same as (21)?
50	“	A layer of yellow gravel	Made ground
51	“	A layer of grey silt with occasional CBM	Made ground
52	“	Thin deposit of charcoal with pebbles	Made ground
53	“	A layer of orange gravel	Made ground
54	“	A deposit of charcoal with pebbles	Made ground
55	“	Grey silty clay with occasional stones and broken CBM	Truncated subsoil; same as (45)?
56	“	Firm brownish-yellow clay	Natural
57	2	Grey silty soil with occasional building rubble	Backfill of possible robbed-out wall trench below (17)



### 5.3 Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned approximately east – west, adjacent to the line of the boundary wall on the south side of the existing building. The observed section of trench was approximately 1.9m long and 1.0m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m.

The uppermost deposit comprised loose mixed gravel and building material (context 1), some 0.15m in depth: this was clearly modern, and probably represents disturbed material left after clearance of the previous building extension in this area. This overlay a dark grey silty deposit (context 2) with occasional pieces of post-medieval ceramic building material and mortar. There were also a few sherds of mainly modern (19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, plus one residual fragment of Midland Blackware (1580-1700; see 6.2 below). The layer was *c* 0.55m thick and was interpreted as fairly recent made ground.

Context (2) sealed a compact dark brownish grey silty clay deposit some 0.23m in thickness (context 3), probably the lower part of a truncated soil horizon. Below this was a layer of compact brownish silty gravel (context 4), some 0.52m thick, which together with light bluish grey clay (context 5) beneath represent the natural geology. Context 5 was observed to a depth of 0.15m, continuing beyond the limit of excavation.

A concrete foundation (*c* 0.7 m thick) for the existing building and part of the boundary wall were recorded in the southeastern part of the trench (context 6). The building itself and the boundary wall (context 7) were constructed of brick and set on this concrete foundation.

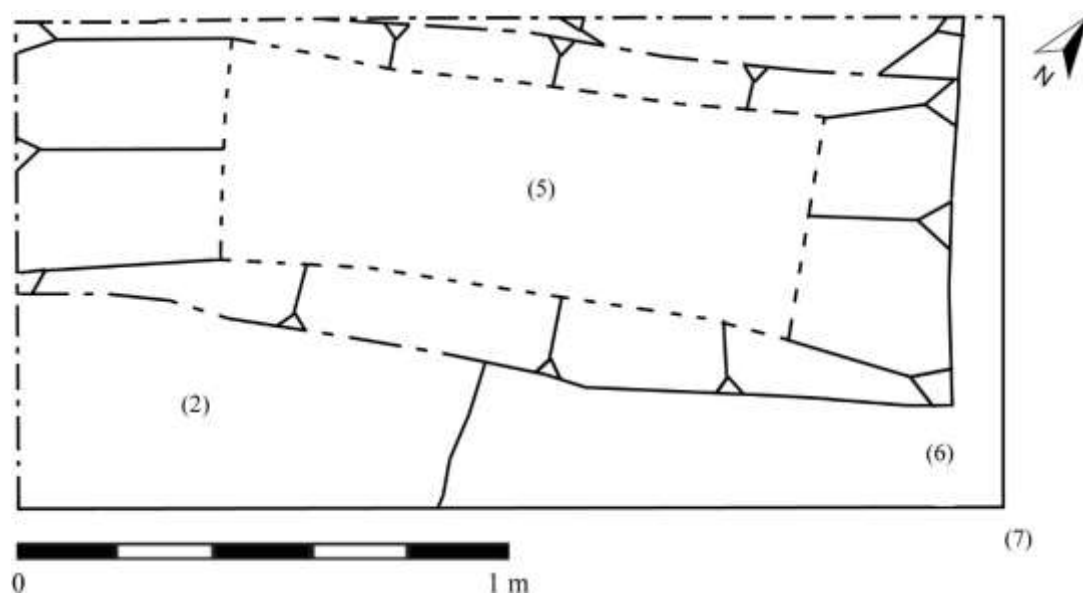


Fig.8: Trench 1, plan



Fig.9: Trench 1, facing northeast with standing building in background (*1m scale*)



Fig.10: Trench 1, southeast-facing section



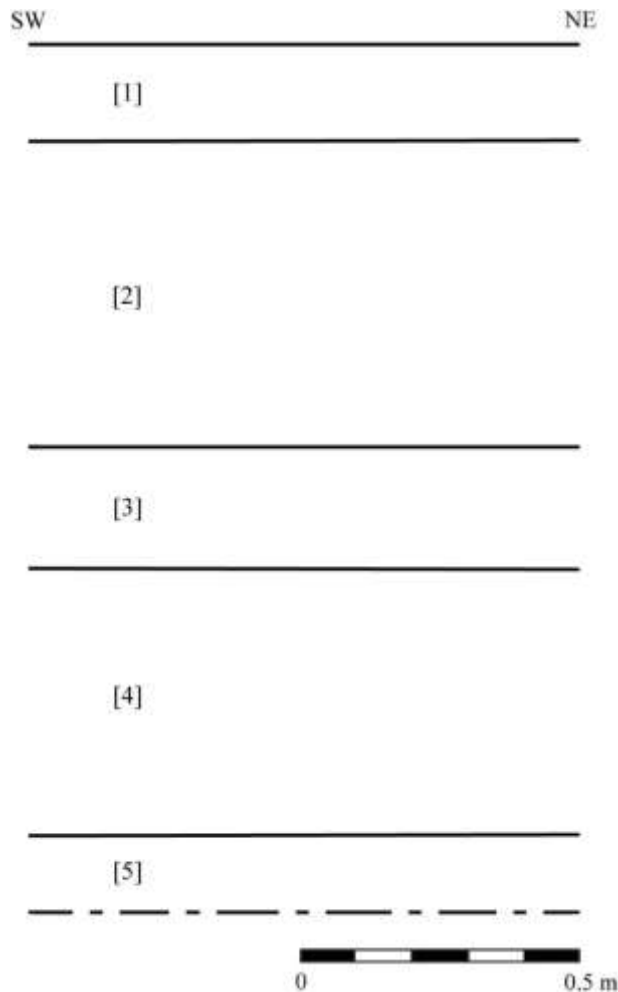


Fig.11: Trench 1, southeast-facing section

#### 5.4 Trench 2

Trench 2 actually formed the excavation for an extended area of basement and a new lift shaft, within an area of previous building extension that had been removed. The trench was roughly square, measuring some 6.5m by 5.6m in plan, and was excavated to a depth of *c* 2.6m to 3.0m from a ground surface at approximately 51.1m OD. Several archaeological features were observed and recorded in this trench, and in areas immediately adjacent to the southeast (Fig.12).

The natural deposit comprised several different elements. Below *c* 49.2m to 49.5m OD and continuing to the limit of excavation was a compact clayey gravel, initially mid brown in colour but rapidly becoming more mid-light bluish grey with depth (context 14). This was overlain by a firm orange-brown clay (context 13), some 0.25-0.50m thick, to an upper level of about 49.8m OD.

A fairly small medieval pit (context 16) was cut into the natural deposit (13) on the northeastern side of the trench, and was exposed in section by the machine excavation (*cf.* Figs.16 & 17). The top of the pit was splayed out to an overall width of *c* 1.15m, rapidly decreasing to about 0.45m or less, and the maximum depth was 0.68m. Up to

about 0.4m survived behind the line of machine excavation (to the northeast), with the rear face being somewhat flattened rather than circular.

The pit fill comprised a yellowish grey slightly sandy silt with occasional pebbles (context 15). This also produced a number of potsherds, mainly Early Medieval Sandy ware but also some slightly later South Herts. Greyware (see 6.2 below), indicating a mid-later 12<sup>th</sup> century date. The only other finds were a fragment of probable whetstone and an abraded animal vertebra (6.4 & 6.6 below), and one residual sherd of Romano-British pottery.

The pit (16) and its fill were sealed by a light brown sandy layer with some pebbles (context 12), some 0.11m thick. Almost certainly it had been truncated at some point – the pit cut was only present at the level of the adjacent natural, and lacked any associated land surface. The date of this event is unknown, as layer (12) produced no dateable finds. However, the overlying deposit (context 11) can be tentatively dated to the mid-later 16<sup>th</sup> century. This was largely made up of broken ceramic building material, some 0.16m thick – mainly roof tile plus occasional fragments of brick and flint nodules/pebbles, collectively giving a broad date of *c* 1550 to 1800. The context also produced six sherds of late medieval Transitional Earthenware, of 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century date (*cf.* 6.2 & 6.3 below).

Above layer (11) was a firm mid grey-brown silty deposit with occasional small fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material and pebbles (context 10). The layer was up to about 0.5m thick and is interpreted as post-medieval made ground. This was in turn overlain by a yellow silty sandy deposit with pebbles (context 9), some 0.15m to 0.22m thick.

Cutting these deposits and just to the southeast of the main cellar excavation was a brick wall base, aligned approximately east-west and continuing below the standing building (context 17; construction cut 18; Figs. 20 & 21). Some 2.7m of this wall was traced in plan, with a width of 0.24m and surviving depth of 0.33m (4 courses of brick). The brickwork itself used frogged Flettons that can be dated to 1891-1911 (*cf.* 6.3 below), although there was some indication of an earlier and underlying foundation cut, apparently robbed out and built over at a slightly higher level. The infill of this event, sealed by the construction of (18), was given the context number (57). It comprised a grey silty soil which included occasional building rubble and several pieces of clay pipe stem (6.5 below).

This dating and apparent evidence of reconstruction fits with the available map evidence. The line of (17) - presumably a garden wall – can be identified on Ordnance Survey plans from 1865 (Fig.6 above) through to the 1930s, and probably survived up to the construction of the present building in the 1960s. Apart from the wall itself investigation just to the south also revealed a drainpipe and probable brick-lined soakaway (context 8; Fig.12).

A further small section of brick wall (context 19) was discovered just to the southwest of (18), with a brick sample subsequently dated to *c* 1550-1700 (6.3). About 0.65m of the wall line was recorded, five courses (0.34m) high and 0.24m wide (Fig.22). This appears to have been a retaining wall rather than building foundation, with the northwest face originally exposed more or less to its base. To the southeast the

brickwork was quite roughly finished and adjoined a well-consolidated sandy silt with pebbles, whereas to the northwest the facing was more regular and abutted by later building rubble.

Contexts (6) and (7) relate to the present standing building, on the northeast side of Trench 2 – respectively the substantial and mainly concrete foundation, some 0.62m deep, and above this three courses of brickwork (*c* 0.23m) to modern ground level.

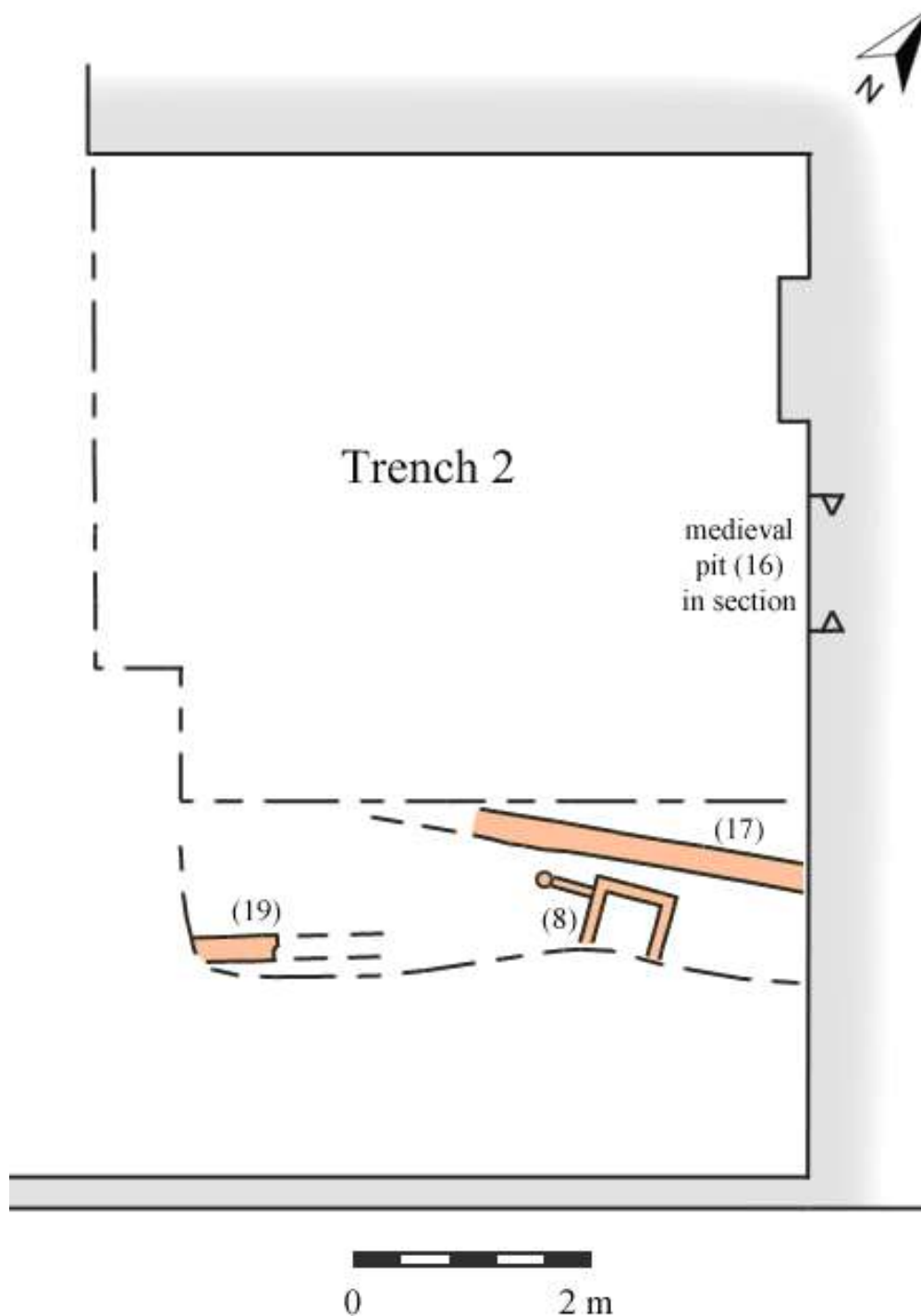


Fig.12: Plan of Trench 2 showing location of medieval pit (16), plus brickwork (17) & (19) to southeast of main excavation



Fig.13: General view of Trench 2 after excavation, looking north towards the standing building



Fig.14: Initial excavation in northern corner of new basement, showing the very disturbed nature of the ground from the previous and current building





Fig.15: Trench 2; southern part of the southwest-facing section below the existing standing building. Just above & to the left of the scale is the line of broken tile (11), and at a higher level *c* 0.6m to the right the brick wall (17)



Fig.16: Trench 2, exposed section through the medieval pit (16) and associated fill (15), facing northeast (*1m scale*)

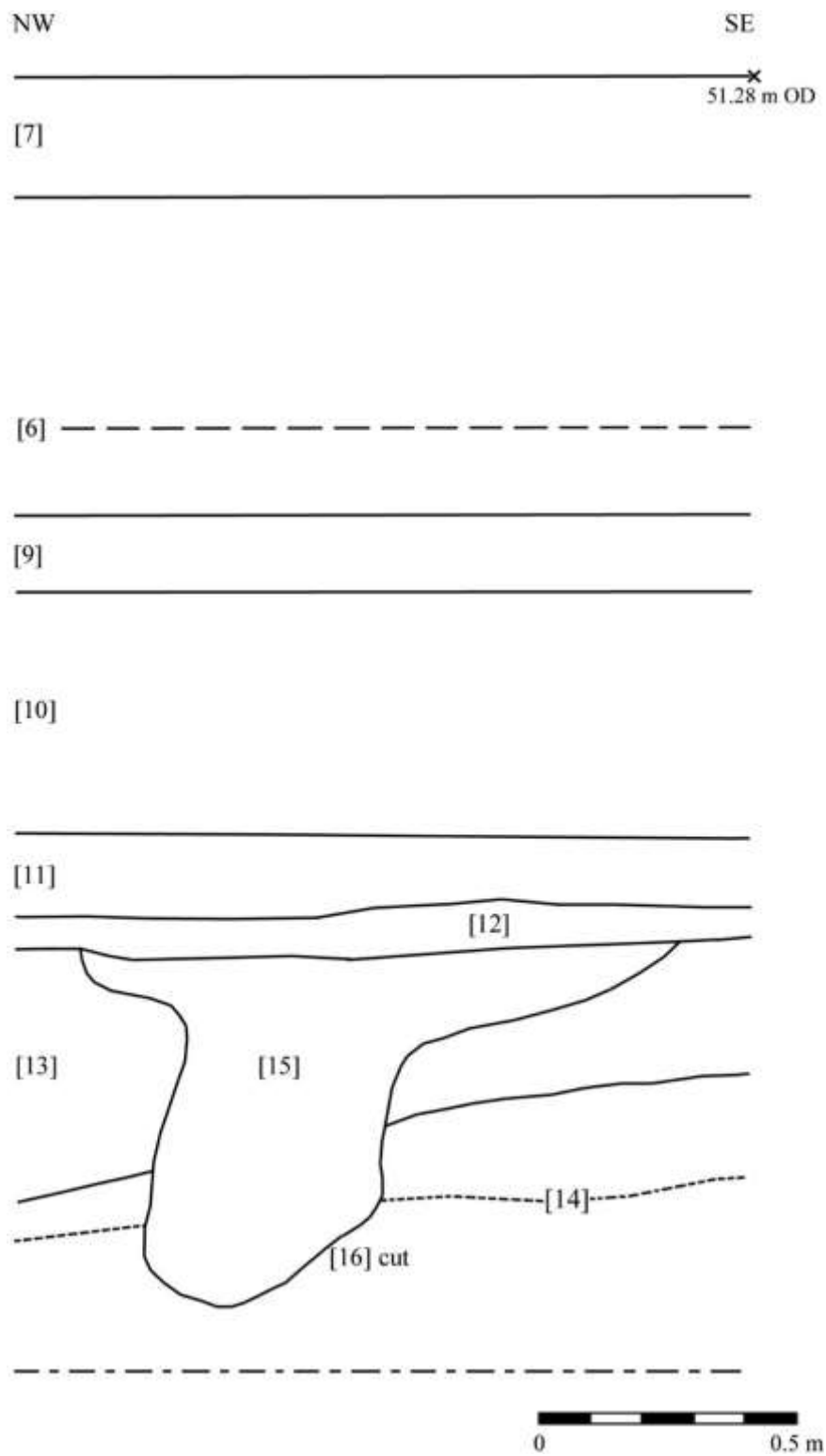


Fig.17: Trench 2; section drawing through pit (16) and adjacent/overlying strata, facing northeast





Fig.18: Trench 2, detail on the pit fill (15) & pottery inclusion (*0.3m scale*)



Fig.19: Trench 2; pit (16) after excavation, facing northeast (*1m scale*)





Fig.20: Trench 2, overhead view of brick wall base (17), with backfilled drain (8) to the left immediately above the 1m scale





Fig.21: Trench 2, detail of the southern end of the southwest-facing section. The brick wall (17) is immediately to the right of the 1m scale



Fig.22: Probable brick retaining wall (context 19), looking south (*0.4m scale*). Note the contrast between the associated deposit to the left, behind the wall, and the later rubble fill to the right of & over the top of the brickwork



Fig.23: General view of the southeastern side of Trench 2 after excavation, the remnant of brick wall (19) located in the centre of the frame

### 5.5 Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned southwest-northeast, at the latter end adjoining the concrete wall of the new basement/lift pit construction within Trench 2. The trench measured approximately 7.5m in length by 1.0m to 1.25m in width, and was excavated to a depth of *c* 1.1m.

The uppermost deposit in this trench was a brown silt (context 20) with frequent pieces of ceramic building material, *c* 0.10 to 0.15m thick – probably make-up for the concrete surfacing that previously covered the area to the rear of the standing building (so perhaps dating to the 1960s). This overlay a dark grey silt with fragments of building material, charcoal and pebbles, some 0.20m in thickness (context 21). Below this was *c* 0.25 m of compact brownish grey silt with occasional pieces of ceramic building material (context 22) – presumably made ground/levelling. Towards the northern end of the trench this overlay a further fairly shallow ( $\leq 0.12$ m) layer of brown clay with charcoal inclusions (context 26).

The lowest exposed deposit was a firm greenish-brown silty clay (context 23), at least 0.50m in thickness and continuing below the limit of excavation. This was quite sterile and evidently a natural horizon, comparable to (5), *etc.* – although here apparently truncated of any overlying soil horizon. The only break in the deposit was towards the southwestern part of the trench, where excavation exposed a band of compact dark grey



clay crossing the base of the trench (context 24). This presumably represents the fill of a cut feature (context 25), though no further evidence for extent or dating was obtained.



Fig.24: General view of Trench 3 under excavation, looking southwest (*1m scale*)

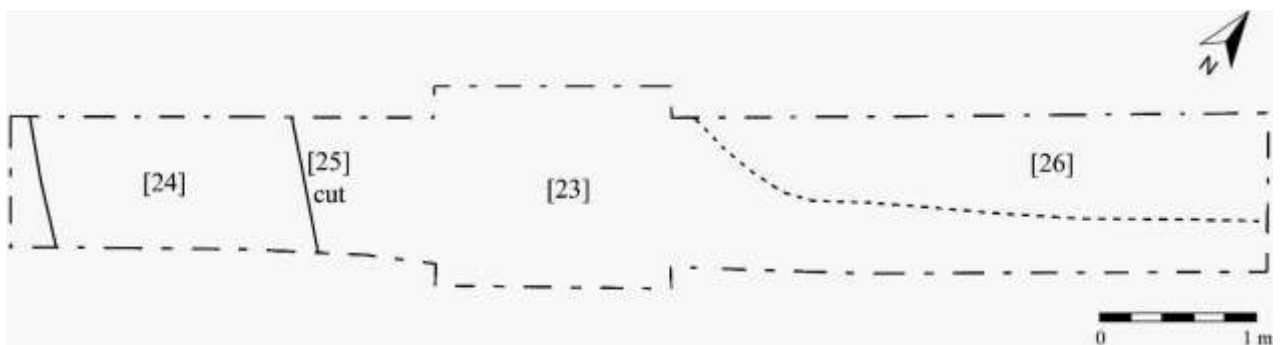


Fig.25: Trench 3, plan



Fig.26: Trench 3: central part of southeast-facing section

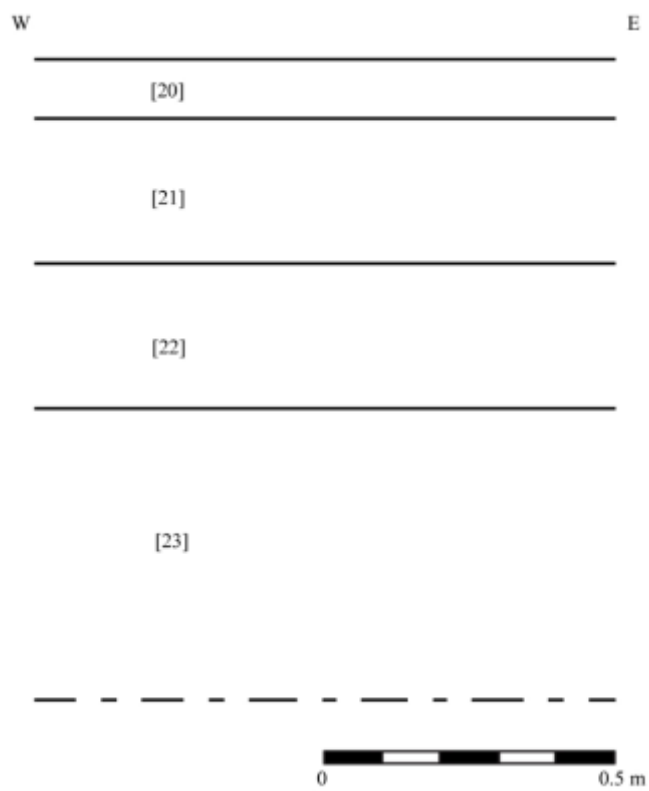


Fig.27: Trench 3, simplified drawing of southeast-facing section



Fig.28: Trench 3: central part of northwest-facing section; probable fill (24) visible on right of frame at the base of the trench

## 5.6 Trench 4

Trench 4 was dug parallel to Trench 3 and approximately 2.0m to the southeast. It measured *c* 8.5m in length by 1.0m to 1.5m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 1.1 m.

The uppermost deposit was a dark brown silt with moderate broken ceramic building material (context 27). This was about 0.10m thick and is evidently the same as context (20) in Trench 3 – assumed to be make-up for the recently removed concrete surfacing.

Beneath this was a layer of building rubble and loose mortar in brownish grey sandy silt matrix (context 28), some 0.20m thick. This overlay a mid to dark brown silty layer with fragments of ceramic building material, mortar, pebbles and charcoal up to 0.50m thick (context 29). Cut into the southern part of contexts (28) and (29) were remains of an earlier red brick-built drain or soakaway (context 31): this was disused and had been backfilled, the same as that in context (17), Trench 2.

Below layer (29) was a firm and sterile brown clay, evidently the top of the natural geology (context 30). Some 0.30m of this was exposed, continuing beyond the limit of excavation.





Fig.29: Trench 4, general view after excavation looking northeast

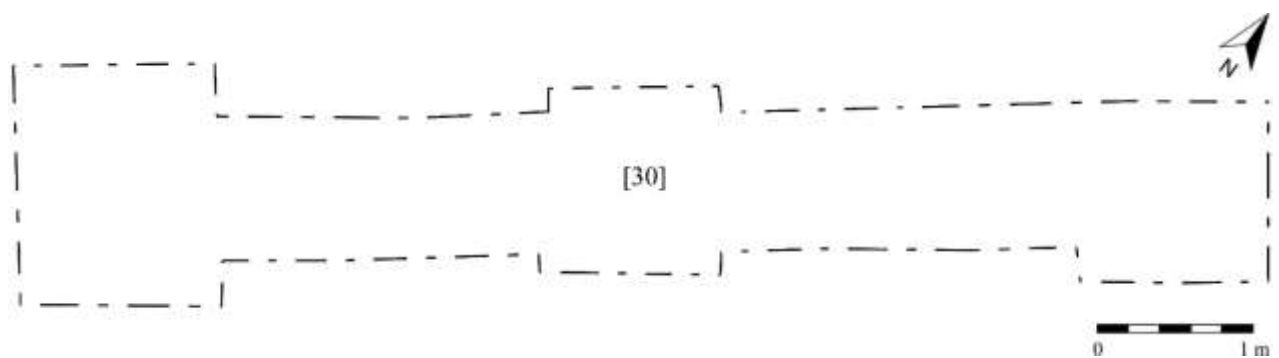


Fig.30: Trench 4, plan





Fig.31: Trench 4, central part of northwest-facing section (*1m scale*)

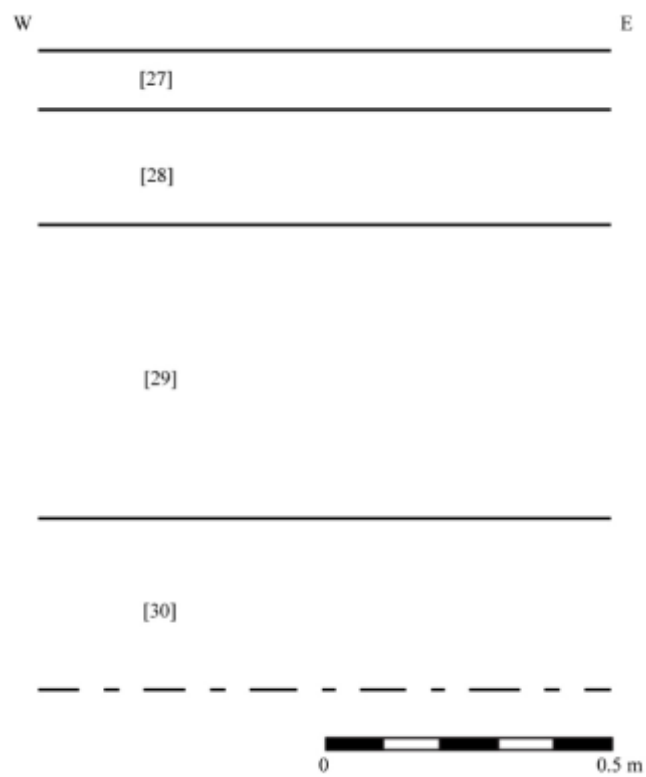


Fig.32: Trench 4, simplified drawing of northwest-facing section

## Trenches 5 and 6

Trench 5 was dug to connect the southern boundary with Trench 4, its alignment northwest-southeast. It measured approximately 2.7m in length by 0.8m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 1.95m. Trench 6 was dug more or less at the same time and at right angles to Trench 5, adjacent to the boundary and aligned northeast-southwest. It measured roughly 3.0m in length by 1.0m in width and it was also excavated to a depth of 1.95 m.

A section drawing was done only for Trench 6, where the ground was less disturbed close to the boundary line, although in other respects the stratigraphy appeared to be fairly consistent throughout both trenches. The uppermost layer comprised a silty sandy made ground some 0.3 m thick (context 32). Beneath this was a thin (*c* 50mm) layer of chalk fragments and flecks in a sandy silt (context 33), over a layer of compact clay (context 34).

The layer (34) had two distinct colour horizons: the upper one darker grey and with occasional finds – one 14<sup>th</sup>/ 15<sup>th</sup> century potsherd, a couple of pieces of ceramic tile of possibly similar date, and a few earlier and residual potsherds (see 6.2 below). This horizon was roughly 0.10m thick, and was evidently reworked. The lower part of the deposit, some 0.26m thick, appeared to be an undisturbed natural horizon – lighter (mid grey-brown) and with no finds or inclusions. Layer (34) in turn overlay a natural deposit of silty gravel about 0.70m thick (context 35). The uppermost part of this (*c* 0.3 m) was a mixed greenish-brown in colour, over a more uniform orange gravel some 0.25m thick, and thence a darker greyish-brown band *c* 0.15m thick. At the very bottom of the trench patches of lighter clay were visible, apparently the top of a single layer below the gravel.



Fig.33: Trench 5, looking towards the southern boundary of the site

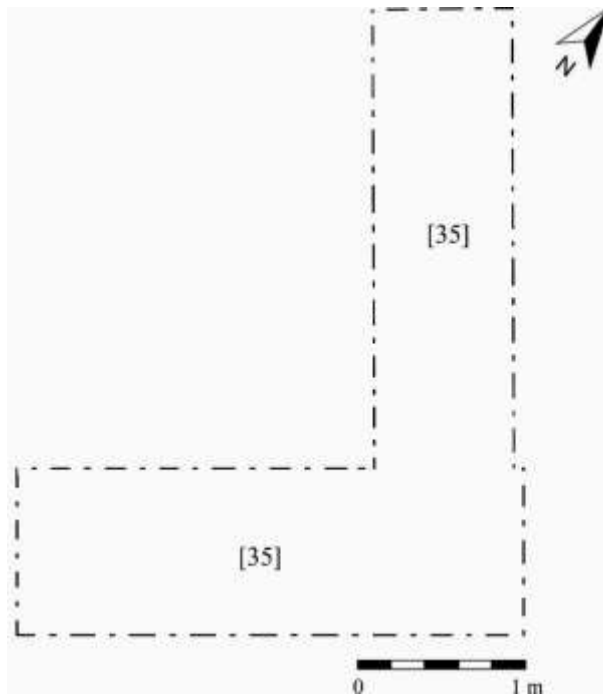


Fig.34: Plan of Trenches 5 (upper part of drawing) and 6



Fig.35: Trench 6, looking south (*1m scale*)

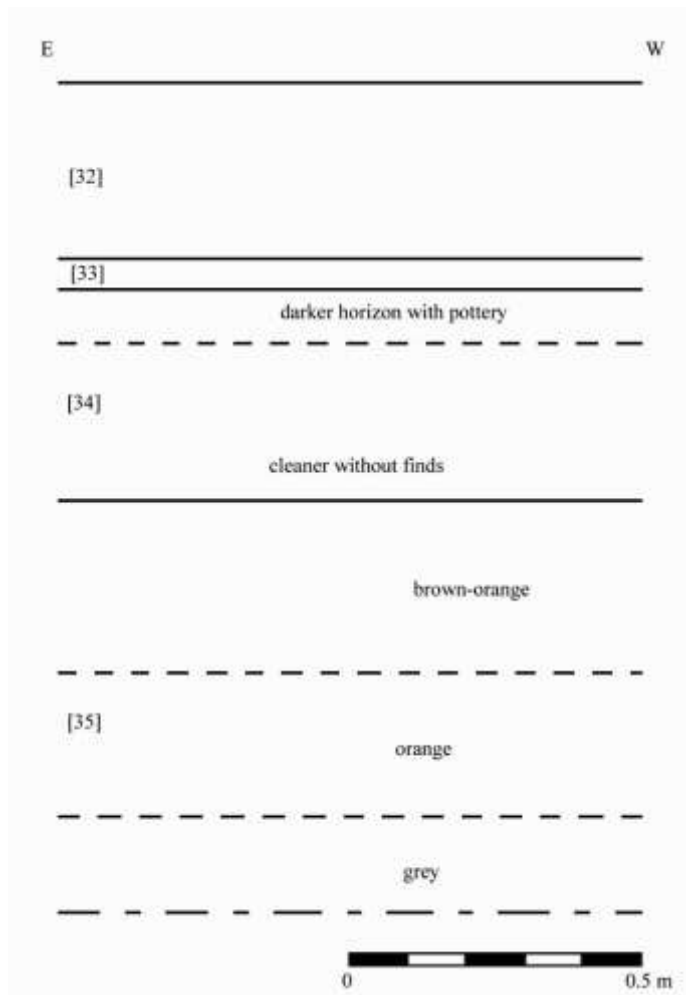


Fig.36: Trench 6, drawing of northwest-facing section.

*NB. Surface level here c 50.18m OD*



## 5.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was aligned southwest-northeast on the northern side of the site, adjacent to Spring Villa Road. Some 5m of the trench excavation was monitored from the corner of the standing building, on a line about 0.7m to 0.8m wide and 1.4m deep. On the northern side of the trench the *in situ* blockwork paving surface was at 50.93m OD, and the base of excavation at *c* 49.60m OD.



Fig.37: Trench 7, general view after excavation looking northeast (*0.5m scale*)

Below the extant paving was a 0.30m thick layer of modern makeup (context 36), including sand bedding and more mixed rubble. This overlay a deposit of made ground with frequent gravel and building material some 0.35 m thick (context 37), and also sealed the remains of a backfilled circular brick-lined feature (context 42). The surviving top of the feature was at 50.54m OD and its bottom at 49.96m OD – a total of nine courses. Its former function is uncertain, although some sort of garden water storage tank is more likely than a soakaway, given the clayey nature of the immediately adjacent and underlying ground (40). The date of construction is also unknown, although both the samples from the lining were reused (*cf.* 6.3 below) so most likely 19<sup>th</sup> century – possibly between 1865 and 1895, when OS maps show that the site was cleared of its earlier buildings.





Fig.38: Trench 7, central part of southeast-facing section showing brick-lined feature (42)

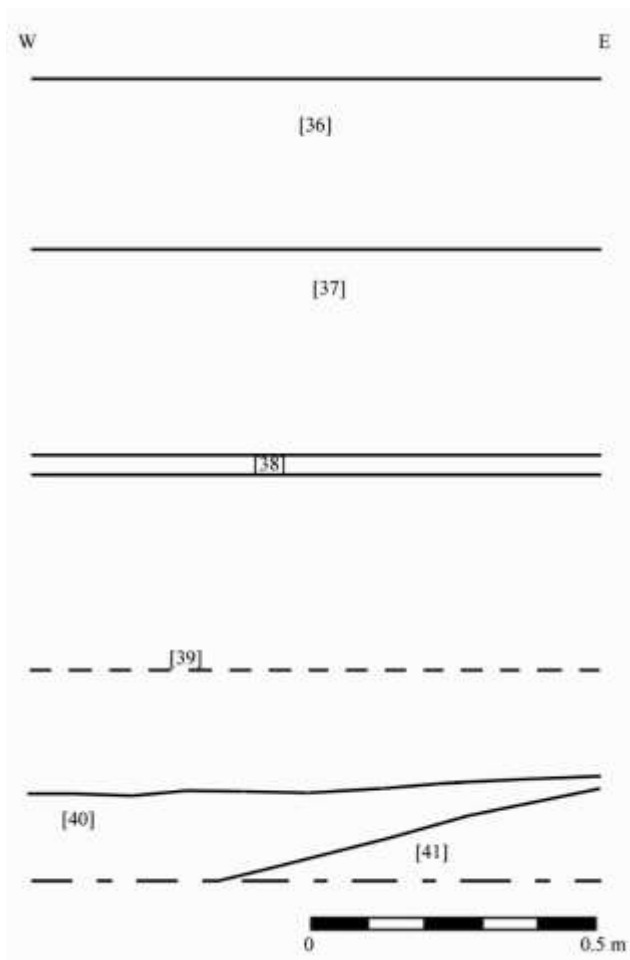


Fig.39: Trench 7, drawing of southeast-facing section immediately to the east of (42)

The made ground deposit (37) into which (42) was cut overlay a *c* 50mm thick layer of chalk fragments in silt (context 38), not dissimilar to that note on the other side of the site (Trench 6, context 33). This sealed a grey silty deposit some 0.55m thick (context 39), which contained occasional traces and one larger fragment of probable metal slag (see 6.8 below). Beneath this was the firm natural light-mid brown clay (context 40), and thereafter a layer of gravel that sloped down and disappeared below the limit of excavation to the west/southwest (context 41).

## 5.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was oriented from southwest to northeast and was positioned equidistantly between trenches 3 and 7, some 3m away from each of these, and nearly 4m from the standing building to the northeast. The trench measured *c* 4.8m in length by 0.75m to 1.0m in width (the eastern end being enlarged), and was 1.05 m deep.



Fig.40: Trench 5, general view after excavation looking northeast (*1.0m scale*)

Four different deposits were observed in Trench 8. The uppermost was a grey silty layer with broken ceramic building material and other building rubble (context 43), some 0.20m thick – probably make-up for the previous concrete surfacing, equivalent to layer (20) in Trench 3. This overlay a layer of black silt with frequent charcoal plus occasional further building material and pebbles (context 44), roughly 0.2m to 0.3m in

thickness. Beneath this there was a layer of slightly greyish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (context 45), *c* 0.33m thick, which appears to represent a truncated subsoil. This in turn sealed a clean natural deposit of mid-brown clay with some gravel lensing (context 46).



Fig.41: Trench 8, northwest-facing section at eastern end (*1m scale*)

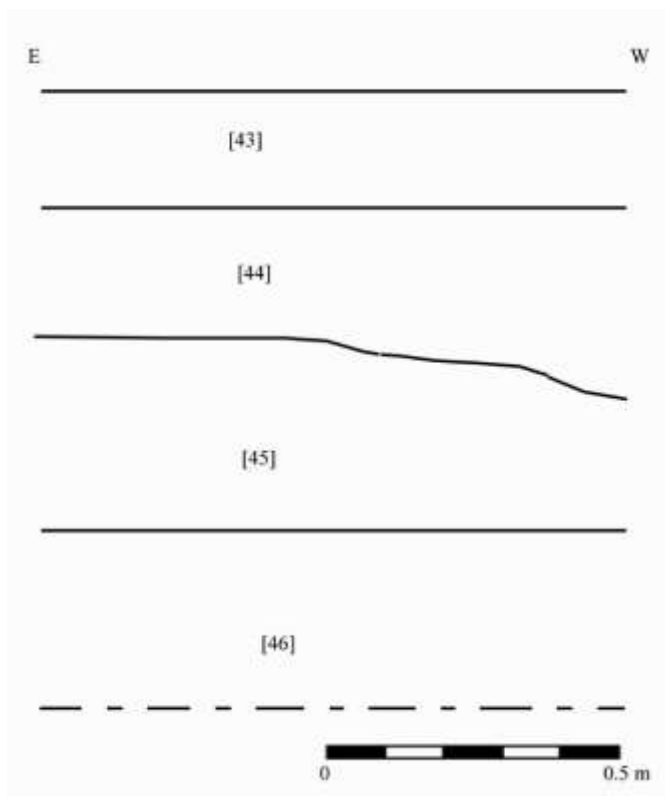


Fig.42: Trench 8, drawing of northwest-facing section





Fig.43: Southeast-facing section at the eastern end of Trench 8

## 5.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was dug as a connection between the southern end of Trench 8 and the southward continuation of Trench 7. It was oriented from northwest to southeast and measured just over 4.0m in length by 0.7m to 1.7m in width, and was approximately 1.12 m deep.

Deposits in this trench were heavily truncated, by apparently quite recent activity. Consequently what was exposed generally formed one layer (context 47), comprising a mid-grey mixed sandy silt with broken ceramic building material and other building rubble.



Fig.44: Trench 9, general view looking northwest towards Spring Villa Road





Fig.45: Trench 9, northeast-facing section



Fig.46: General view of the site after excavation of trenches 8, 9 and 10, looking approximately west towards Spring Villa Road

## 5.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was situated to connect the southern end of trenches 3 and 8. Its alignment was southeast-northwest, and it measured 3.3m in length by 0.75m in width, widening towards its northern end to about 1.5 m. It was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.10m.

The uppermost deposit comprised a grey silt some 0.20 to 0.25m thick, with frequent fragments of mortar and ceramic building material (context 48). This appears to be equivalent to contexts (20) and (43) in trenches 3 and 8 – and is interpreted as recent make-up for the previous concrete surfacing.

Context (48) overlay a black silty deposit with occasional pebbles and ceramic building material fragments, *c* 0.2 m thick (context 49) – again, probably equivalent to adjacent deposits (21) and (44) in trenches 3 and 8 respectively. However, beneath this was a series of shallow and rather intermittent deposits: a layer of yellow gravel some 0.10m thick (context 50), a mid-light grey silt with pebbles and occasional CBM 0.12m to 0.19m thick (context 51), a thin (*c* 50mm) band of charcoal and pebbles (context 52), and finally bands of orange gravel (context 53) and mixed charcoal and pebbles (context 54).

This sequence overlay a thicker (*c* 0.25m) mid grey silty clay with occasional pebbles (context 55), probably a truncated subsoil. This was replaced near the base of the trench by the undisturbed natural brownish-yellow clay (context 56).



Fig.47: Trench 10, general view after excavation looking northwest





Fig.48: Southwest-facing section at the western end of Trench 10 (*1m scale*)

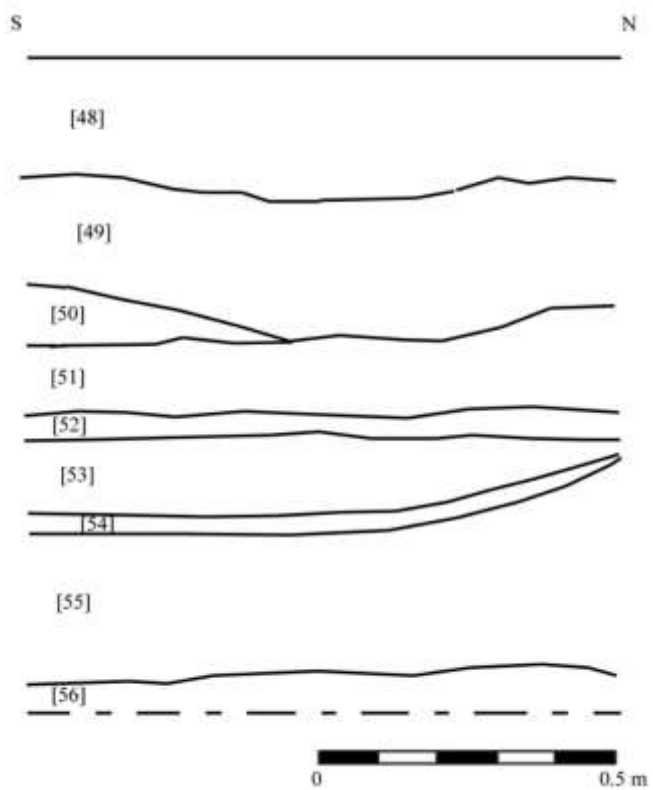


Fig.49: Trench 10, drawing of southwest-facing section

## 6 THE FINDS

### 6.1 Introduction

A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief. All were processed and examined as appropriate. Retained finds have been packed and stored following IfA (2008b) guidelines. No further analysis or conservation is required.

### 6.2 The Pottery (*Paul Blinkhorn*)

The pottery assemblage comprised 77 sherds with a total weight of 1,571 g. It was largely medieval and later, other than two residual Romano-British sherds. The pottery was recovered from four contexts: layers (2), (11) and (34) in trenches 1, 2 and 6, and the pit fill (15) in Trench 2. A number of sherds were also retained from from uncontexted spoil (+), principally in the area of Trench 2.

The following fabric types were noted:

**EMS: Early Medieval Sandy Wares**, 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century. Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, sparse to moderate angular flint and calcareous material up to 2 mm. Wheel-finished. 16 sherds, 125 g.

**SHG: South Hertfordshire Greyware**, 1150-1400. Reduced sandy wares, produced at a number of sources in the county (Turner-Rugg 1993). 2 sherds, 10 g.

**SAW: St Albans Ware**, 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century. Pink sandy micaceous glazed ware (*eg.* Pieksma 1994a, 31). 2 sherds, 64 g.

**LMT: Late Medieval Transitional Earthenwares**, 15<sup>th</sup> – mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. Wide range of utilitarian wares. Slightly sandy, red fabric with a thin, patchy glaze on one or both surfaces. Occurs commonly all over southern England, with many different manufacturing sources. 6 sherds, 122 g.

**GRE: Glazed Red Earthenware**, 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Brears 1969). 20 sherds, 808 g.

**BW: Border Ware**, AD 1550 - 1700. Wide range of utilitarian and tablewares in a fine, white fabric with a bright green, yellow or brown glaze. Manufactured at a number of centres on the Surrey/Hampshire border and the main coarseware pottery type in London in the post-medieval period (Pearce 1988). 2 sherds, 46 g.

**GST: German Stonewares**. AD 1480+. A range of hard, grey, salt-glazed fabrics produced at numerous sites in the Rhineland and beyond (Gaimster 1997). 1 sherd, 5 g.

**MBW: Midland Blackwares**, AD 1580-1700. (Brears 1969). Hard. Brick-red fabric with sparse to moderate quartz up to 0.5 mm. Glossy black glaze, usually on both surfaces. Distributed throughout the south midlands of England. Manufactured in a range of utilitarian forms, particularly mugs and tygs. 1 sherd, 15 g.

**TGE: Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware**, 17<sup>th</sup> – early 18<sup>th</sup> century (Orton 1988). Fine white earthenware, occasionally pinkish or yellowish core. Thick white tin glaze, with painted cobalt blue or polychrome decoration. Range of table and display wares such as mugs, plates, dishes, bowls and vases. 1 sherd, 38 g

**SWSG: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware**, AD 1720-1780. Hard, white fabric with a distinctive white ‘orange peel’ textured glaze. Range of fine tablewares such as mugs, tea bowls and plates (Mountford 1971). 1 sherd, 6 g.

**CPO: Chinese Porcelain, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century+** (Whitehouse 1972, 63). Hard, slightly translucent white fabric with a clear glaze, often with hand-painted polychrome decoration. Known in Europe from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but did not become common until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Wide range of table- and decorative wares. 3 sherds, 10 g.

**MOD: Miscellaneous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wares.** Mass-produced white earthenwares, stonewares, *etc.* 20 sherds, 322 g.

In addition, two sherds (29 g) of residual Romano-British pottery were also noted. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1 overleaf. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of the region. All the medieval material is in good condition, and appears reliably stratified. It comprises entirely jugs and bowls, which is the usual pattern for assemblages of this period.

The EMS fabric is very similar to material from Hertford (Pieksma 1994b, 65), and similar wares were noted by Hurst (1961, 255) at Northolt Manor. The sherd of German Stoneware from clearance (context +) is from a vessel with a moulded inscription running around the body. Just the letters “SH” are legible. Such inscriptions are usually found on mid-16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century drinking jugs, and are generally of a religious nature (*eg.* Gaimster 1997, Pl. 12).





Fig.50: Selection of medieval pottery sherds from pit fill context (15). *Scale 10 cm*



Fig.51: Selection of earlier post-medieval pottery sherds from clearance levels (+)

	RB		EMS		SHG		SAW		LMT		GRE		BW		GST		MBW		TGE		SWSG		CPO		MOD		
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
+	1	14					1	62			19	789	2	46	1	5			1	38	1	6	3	10	16	199	19thC
2											1	19					1	15							4	123	19thC
11									6	122																	15thC
15	1	15	13	117	2	10																					M12thC
34			3	8			1	2																			14thC
Total	3	29	16	125	2	10	2	64	6	122	20	808	2	46	1	5	1	15	1	38	1	6	3	10	20	322	

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

### 6.3 Ceramic Building Material (*Sue Pringle*)

A total of 14 pieces of ceramic building material from six different contexts (including clearance [+]) were retained during the archaeological watching brief. Most of the samples are of post-medieval date: however there are some that might be of medieval, or even Roman date. Detailed specifications and descriptions are given in Table 2 overleaf.

One fragment of tile and one of brick came from clearance (+): the first of these is fairly modern, but the other one could be of Roman date. Three pieces of tile and one of brick were taken from tile layer (context 11) in the eastern section of Trench 2, and are of late medieval to post-medieval date.

Two brick samples were taken from the remnant of a probable garden wall (context 17), which is visible on the later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century maps. These bricks were machine-made and virtually identical, so only one was examined in detail (Table 2), and each had a fairly shallow flat-based frog stamped as follows:

HICKS GARDENER & Co

• •  
FLETTON

These brickmakers were based in Fletton and Woodston, Cambridgeshire, and were started as a small brickworks in 1882 by Henry Hicks, a Peterborough builder. The firm became Hicks and Gardener Co. in 1891, and Hicks & Co. Ltd. in 1911. In 1927 the company went public as Hicks & Co. (Fletton) Ltd. and was soon taken over by the London Brick Company.

(Ref: *Cambridgeshire County Record Office, Huntingdon*: HICKS AND CO. (Fletton) LTD. 4196/4235/4 [n.d.])

One further brick sample was taken from a wall remnant (context 19), and appears to be earlier post-medieval in date. Two fragments of probable peg tile were taken from grey clayey layer exposed in section in Trench 6 (context 34). These might be very late medieval or post-medieval in date.

Two samples were taken from the surviving northern side of a soakaway (or possibly water storage pit), context (42). Both appear to have been reused, possibly from previous buildings on the site: an unfrogged brick with lime mortar and one limewashed face suggests an original earlier post-medieval date, whilst the other piece is of later date and might have been a tile, but cut down along one side to its present roughly brick-sized dimensions.

Context number	Context cbm date	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight	L	B	T	Condition	Comments	e date for type	l date for type
+	1890-1960	PM	yellow	brick?	1	66	0	0	10		Flat, machine-extruded, probably part of 20thc airbrick. Pale yellow fabric, cream surface - from north Kent?	1890	1960
+	1890-1960	Roman?	red	brick	1	66	0	0	0	Rd	Brick flake; thick, very reduced core. Fine textured orange fabric with abundant fine to very coarse calc carb inclusions. Probably Roman but could be post-med.	50	1800
11	1550-1800	M/PM	2276	peg	2	178	0	0	13		Polygonal nail-hole	1480	1800
11	1550-1800	M/PM	2276	peg	1	20	0	0	14		Round nail-hole	1480	1800
11	1550-1800	M/PM	2271	peg	1	74	0	0	13			1300	1800
11	1550-1800	PM	3033	brick	1	337	0	0	54		Unfrogged, flat faces, fairly sharp arrises.	1550	1700
17	1891-1911	PM	Fletton	brick	2	2563	220	105	70	M	Conjoined. Fletton brick; Shallow flat-based frog with curved edges, 180 x 62 x 11 mm, stamped HICKS GARDENER & CO/FLETTON.	1891	1911
19	1550-1700	PM	3039?	brick	1	2090	220	100-102	c.60	HM	Unfrogged; creased faces; warped and heat-cracked. Orange fabric, silty, with calcareous and sparse very coarse flint inclusions.	1550	1700
34	1480-1800	M/PM	2276	peg?	2	150	0	0	14	A x 1	Includes 1 flake. No features but probably peg tile.	1480	1800
42	1700-1900	PM	3033	brick	1	2570	235	100	63	M, Rd, Ru	Unfrogged; slightly distorted, by heat? Lime mortar on headers and both bedfaces. Areas of white limewash on 1 stretcher. Re-used.	1550	1700
42	1700-1900a	PM	3047	brick/tile	1	2037	222	108	48	S, M, Ru	Thin brick/tile. Sharp arrises and flat faces; very fine moulding sand. Patches of sooting on base, header, stretcher and top surface. Re-cut to present size/shape, with hard ?lime mortar on original upper face (so also re-used).	1700	1900

Table 2: Ceramic building material specifications.



## 6.4 Stone

Two stone items were retained during the watching brief:

- From uncontexted clearance (+) a single broken and degraded flint flake/blade with triangular cross section. Measurements: l. 22mm, w. 14mm, t. ≤4mm.
- From fill of the truncated medieval pit (context 15; Trench 2) a fragment of probable whetstone. Fine-grained greenish-grey stone (possibly metamorphosed slate). Measurements: l. 50mm, t. 8.5-10mm; cross-section trapezoidal. Wt. 11g.

## 6.5 Clay tobacco pipe

A total of eight pieces of clay tobacco pipe were recovered during the watching brief. Three pieces came from the backfill (context 57) of the wall foundation trench (18): one of these retained a maker's mark on the heel – the letter 'W' and possibly 'A' – and could be of late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date (Atkinson & Oswald 1969). The remainder, all stem fragments, were collected from uncontexted spoil (+). Details are given in Table 3 below.

Context	Description
+	Stem fragment; c 65 mm by 9 mm (length x diam.)
	“ “ c 61 mm by 10 mm
	“ “ c 53 mm by 10 mm
	“ “ c 50 mm by 7 mm
	“ “ c 36 mm by 6 mm (orange-red colour, secondary?)
57	Stem fragment; c 9 mm by 6 mm (length x diam.)
	“ “ c 22 mm by 6 mm
	Stem with heel and base of bowl, c 41 mm by 6 mm. Letter 'W' on the left side of the heel. Other side indistinct, possibly 'A'

Table 3: Clay pipe details.

## 6.6 Animal bone

Two animal bones were collected during the watching brief:

- From uncontexted clearance (+) a one broken cow femur, distal end, with butchery marks (207 g).
- From fill (context 15) of medieval pit one highly abraded vertebra, possibly sheep/goat.

## 6.7 Glass

One fragment of highly corroded ?window glass was collected from clearance (+). Measurements: l. 34mm, w. 31mm, t. 1.7mm.

## 6.8 Metal

Two metallic items were found during the watching brief:

- From uncontexted clearance (+) a small printing plate relating to Meggeson indigestion tablets – either for direct labelling or possibly advertising, and probably earlier/mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The lettering was in relief and reversed, overall size of plate 86mm x 34mm x 2-3mm thick.



Fig.52: Printing plate, shown here as a corrected image & reading as follows:

*Suck them like Sweets*  
**MEGGESON**  
*Bismuth*  
DYSPEPSIA TABLETS

- From context (39), Trench 7, a piece of slag, apparently with ferrous content. Approx. size 40mm x 35mm; wt. 80g.



Fig.53: Slag from context (39)

## 7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

7.1 The archaeological fieldwork provided an opportunity to address site-specific objectives that were defined within the preliminary *Written Scheme* (cf. 4.1 above). The responses are outlined below:

- *Is there any evidence for Roman activity on the site, particularly associated with Watling Street which ran along the line of Edgware High Street?*

Roman finds were limited to two sherds of pottery and one possible fragment of ceramic building material. All three items were residual – one potsherd from the fill of the medieval pit (16), and the other sherd and the building material from general clearance (+). There was no other evidence, and no potential features of Roman date.

- *Is there any evidence for Saxon or Medieval activity on the site, particularly in relation to the early medieval settlement of Edgware which developed in the vicinity of the site around Edgware Brook?*

There was no evidence for Saxon activity, although the sherds of Early Medieval Sandy ware pottery that were found in two contexts (15) & (34) could be of earlier to mid 11<sup>th</sup> century date – so pre-Conquest.

A single medieval pit (16) was found in Trench 2, of probable mid-later 12<sup>th</sup> century date. This most likely derives from settlement along the line of the High Street, although unfortunately the pit – and any associated surfaces – had been truncated to the level of the natural clay (13). This event possibly took place in the early post-medieval period, based on dating from the overlying context (11).

Evidence for truncation was apparent in several other areas, for example trenches 1, 8 and 10, with undated subsoil horizons directly overlain by post-medieval made ground. So it is possible that other significant medieval evidence may have been lost.

The one other area of medieval evidence – although more tentative – came from the upper, reworked level of the natural clay deposit (34) in Trench 6. This produced a 14<sup>th</sup>/ 15<sup>th</sup> century potsherd, a couple of pieces of ceramic tile of potentially similar date, and a few earlier medieval sherds.

- *Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity on the site, particularly in relation to the early post-medieval buildings which fronted Edgware High Street in this area, or backyard-type activity in association with them?*

A range of post-medieval evidence was found, the earliest the possible mid-later 16<sup>th</sup> century deposit (11) in Trench 2. This layer may also closely follow truncation of medieval horizons in this area – perhaps part of a more general clearance/redevelopment of the site.

A range of earlier post-medieval pottery was also recovered from clearance (+), including Glazed Red Earthenware, Border Ware, German Stoneware and Midland Blackware – all of potentially 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date, and in several instances some quite large sherds (cf. Fig 51).

Post-medieval structural evidence included a couple of possible brick walls in Trench 2 – a small retaining wall (19) dated to *c* 1550-1700, and a garden wall base (17) of around 1900. Trench 7 revealed part of a circular brick-lined feature (42), possibly of later 19<sup>th</sup> century date and built for water storage.

- *At what levels do archaeological or geological deposits survive across the area?*

The top of the medieval pit in Trench 2 was recorded at *c* 49.60m OD, although as noted above the feature had been truncated (possibly in the early post-medieval period) and only survived at the level of the natural clay. The evidence for medieval activity in Trench 6 (here within the reworked top of natural) was present from about 49.80m OD.

The early post-medieval horizon (11) in Trench 2 was recorded at *c* 49.75m OD. Other potentially comparable deposits, for example made ground overlying possibly truncated subsoil in trenches 8 and 10, were at similar or slightly higher levels.

Later post-medieval features were at a higher level, in some cases quite close to the modern surface (*c* 51.0m OD). The top of the garden wall base (17) in Trench 2 was recorded at 50.62m OD, and that of the brick-lined feature (42) in Trench 7 at *c* 50.54 m OD.

The surface of natural geological deposits across the site was fairly consistent, at between *c* 49.45m OD and 49.80m OD.

- *Can the watching brief works inform on the research questions of the Museum of London and English Heritage's 'A Research Framework for London Archaeology' publication 2002?*

Although limited, the results of the watching brief do provide additional evidence for activity and settlement on the adjacent road line – in particular for the mid-later 12<sup>th</sup> century and for the earlier post-medieval period.

- 7.2** The watching brief did not reveal any very significant or extensive remains, but it did provide a good overview of the archaeological potential of the site.

The medieval pit in Trench 2 was the most notable find, and is of local significance as an indication of probable 12<sup>th</sup> century activity in this area. The nature of deposits both here and elsewhere on site also suggest extensive truncation/levelling, possibly as a single event in the early post-medieval period, which may have removed other medieval remains/features.

There is limited evidence for activity in the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, although there were a number of made ground/levelling deposits that may relate to these periods. Certainly by the late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries the street frontage was developed, although from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 1960s the site appears to have been used purely as a garden or allotment.



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## 9 APPENDIXES

### 9.1 Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-187414

#### Project details

Project name	25-27 High Street, Edgware
Short description of the project	A watching brief was undertaken during contractors' groundworks to the rear of the standing building. This did not reveal any very significant remains. Roman evidence was limited to three residual finds - two sherds of pottery and one possible fragment of ceramic building material. The most notable discovery was a probable mid-later 12th century pit, indicating settlement in the immediate area. However, both the pit and associated surfaces had been truncated to the level of the natural clay: this event possibly took place in the early post-medieval period, as part of a more general clearance/ levelling of the site. There was some evidence for activity in 16th to 18th centuries, including a small brick retaining wall (c 1550-1700) and a range of earlier post-medieval pottery from clearance. Map evidence shows that the site was developed by the late 18th century, although from the later 19th century to the 1960s the site appears to have been used as a garden. Features from this period included a circular brick-lined pit and a brick wall base of c 1900.
Project dates	Start: 17-06-2014 End: 18-07-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HSE14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	SOAKAWAY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval

Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE (SMOKING) Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	WHETSTONE Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HARROW HARROW 25-27 High Street, Edgware
Postcode	HA8 7EE
Study area	225.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 19345 91413 51.6084045571 -0.276329724745 51 36 30 N 000 16 34 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 49.45m Max: 49.80m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Honza Horak
Type of sponsor /funding body	Landowner

Name of sponsor /funding body	Shishukunj
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### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	HSE14
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	HSE14
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	25-27 High Street, Edgware, London Borough of Harrow, HA8 7EE. An Archaeological Watching Brief.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Horak, H.
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, SE1 1RQ
Description	Report of the results of the watching brief. Includes historical, archaeological, and topographical background of the site, details of methodology, photographs and descriptions of all trenches monitored, finds reports and selected photographs, and overall summary/conclusions.



## 9.2 Appendix II: *London Archaeologist* publication note

Site address: 25-27 High Street, Edgware, London Borough of Harrow HA8 7EE  
Type of project: Watching brief  
Dates of fieldwork: 17 June- 18 July 2014  
Site code: HSE14  
NGR: TQ 19345 91413 (approx. centre)  
Funding body: Shishukunj

A watching brief was undertaken during contractors' groundworks to the rear of the standing building. This did not reveal any very significant remains: Roman evidence was limited to three residual finds – two sherds of pottery and one possible fragment of ceramic building material.

The most notable discovery was a probable mid-later 12<sup>th</sup> century pit, indicating settlement in the immediate area. However, both the pit and associated surfaces had been truncated to the level of the natural clay: this event possibly took place in the early post-medieval period, as part of a more general clearance/ levelling of the site.

There was some evidence for activity in the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, including a small brick retaining wall (c 1550-1700) and a range of earlier post-medieval pottery from clearance. Map evidence shows that the site was developed by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, although from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 1960s the site appears to have been used as a garden. Features from this period included a circular brick-lined pit and a brick wall base of c 1900.