

Thames Water Utilities: Tulse Hill Trunk Mains Burst Mitigation Project - AO92
Works in the road adjacent to 225 Upper Tulse Hill, London Borough of Lambeth SW2
NGR (site centre): TQ 31302 73444
Archaeological Observation & Recording (site code UTU10)

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Observation and Recording took place in April 2010 during installation of a chamber over an existing trunk water main near the eastern end of Upper Tulse Hill (Figure 1 below). This works formed part of a programme of leakage control and mitigation, and involved excavation of a single pit within the northern carriageway.
- 1.2** The area excavated measured some 2.0m by 2.3m in plan (N-S by E-W), with the northern edge located some 430mm from the adjacent kerb. Overall depth was approximately 2.45m.

2. Description

- 2.1** The upper part of the exposed sequence comprised tarmac road surfacing (*c* 60mm) over a compacted rubble and gravel base some 220-300mm thick.
- 2.2** Within the centre and northern part of the pit these deposits sealed the backfill of two east-west service trenches (*ie.*, following the line of the road; *cf.* Figures 2 & 3 below). These trenches extended from the northern edge of excavation to a line some 1.45m across the pit. The principal trench contained the existing cast iron water main, of 24 inch (610mm) internal diameter. The top of the pipe was found at a depth of *c* 1.07m, its centre line just under 1m from the northern edge of excavation. The other trench contained a plastic pipe (*c* 180mm diameter), which was located between the trunk main and the north section, some 0.94m below the road surface.

The backfill of the water main trench mainly comprised redeposited natural clay, overlain either by mixed gravel or MOT Type 1 crushed stone. The fill of the smaller trench was largely loose shingle/fine gravel.

- 2.3** In the southern part of the pit the road base directly overlay sterile natural clay, at a depth of about 280 to 350mm. In places there was a thin interface of dirty/reworked clay (<50mm), but this is assumed to derive from disturbance during road construction rather than an original soil profile – for example, there was little evidence for deeper root disturbance. In fact the natural may well have been truncated when Upper Tulse Hill was laid out (in previously open land) in the early 19th century.

The clay had a stiff yellow-light brown matrix and changed little throughout the area of excavation – the overall recorded depth being just over 2.10m on the south side of the pit. The British Geological Survey (1998, *S London. Sheet 270*) indicates a natural Head deposit in this area (described as silt, sand & clay with variable gravel). However, given its nature and consistency it seems more likely that the exposed material represents the top of the earlier London Clay, which is recorded just to the south and east.

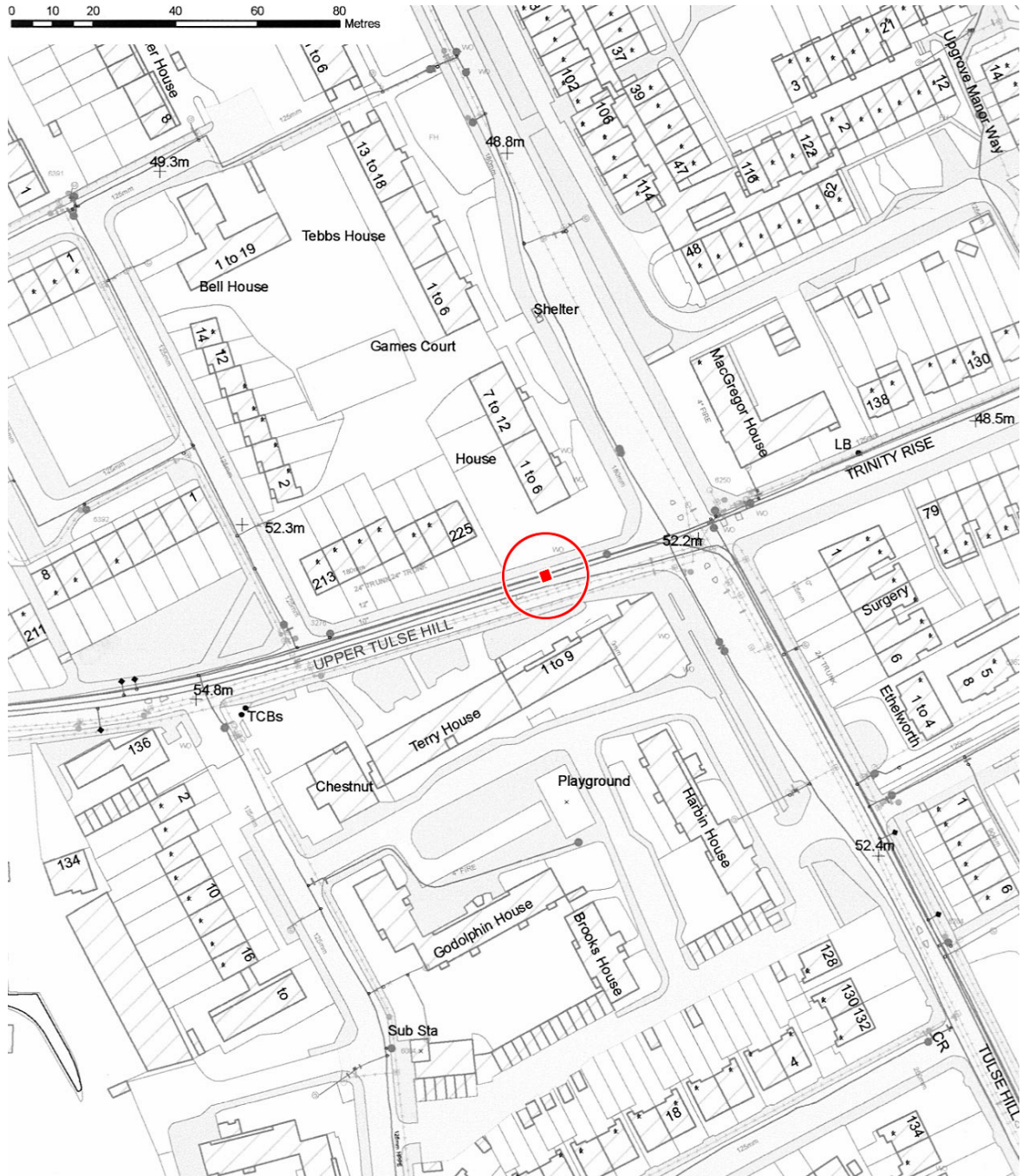


Fig 1 Site location in relation to the current Ordnance Survey map

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Figs 2 & 3 Views of the excavated pit looking east (*top*) and west. In both the 1m scale rests on top of the existing 24" trunk main.

Natural clay is visible directly below the modern road base, c 0.4m to the right of the scale in Fig 2 and in the bottom right hand corner of Fig 3.



Compass Archaeology
30th April 2010

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: compassa1-76536

Project details

Project name	Roadworks adjacent to 225 Upper Tulse Hill, Lambeth SW2
Short description of the project	A watching brief during excavation of a pit over an existing water main (c 2.0m x 2.3m x 2.45m deep). The compacted rubble and gravel road base largely overlay the backfill of two east-west services - the existing 24 inch main plus a smaller pipe to the north. To the south pit the road base overlay sterile natural clay at a depth of c 280 to 350mm. Any previous deposits may have been truncated when Upper Tulse Hill was laid out in the early 1800s. The clay had a stiff yellow-light brown matrix and changed little throughout the area of excavation. The Geological Survey indicates a recent Head deposit in this area, but it is more likely the material seen here represents London Clay.
Project dates	Start: 06-04-2010 End: 07-04-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	UTU10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	PIPE Modern
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LAMBETH BRIXTON Road adjacent to 225 Upper Tulse Hill
Postcode	SW2
Study area	4.60 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 31302 73444 51.4442408055 -0.110433532865 51 26 39 N 000 06 37 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 50.15m Max: 52.60m

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
Type of sponsor /funding body	Water Authority/Company

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Archive ID	UTU10
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Archive ID	UTU10
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Map','Miscellaneous Material','Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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