THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

66 Grange Road, Ealing, London Borough of Ealing

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: GRE20/180

(TQ 1803 8032)

66 Grange Road, Ealing, London Borough of Ealing

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for Ms Audrey Heaton

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GRE 20/180

December 2022

Summary

Site name: 66 Grange Road, Ealing, London Borough of Ealing

Grid reference: TQ 1803 8032

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 23rd August-7th October 2021

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock, Elspeth St. John-Brooks, Aidan Colyer

TVAS Site code: GRE 20/180

Museum of London Site code: GGO21

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits, features nor artefacts were recovered during the works. Although the groundworks were expected to expose the underlying Lynch Hill gravel geology, of possible Palaeolithic potential, a thick deposit of brickearth was found overlying the gravel. The foundation groundworks were not of sufficient depth to expose the gravel deposits.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course, with MOL accession code GGO21.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 21.12.22 Steve Preston✓ 21.12.22

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR
Tel. (0118) 926 0552; email tvas@tvas.co.uk; website: www.tvas.co.uk

66 Grange Road, Ealing, London Borough of Ealing
An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 20/180

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 66 Grange Road, Ealing, London Borough of Ealing (TQ 1803 8032) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Audrey Heaton, Flat 2, 66 Grange Road, Ealing, W5 5BX.

Planning permission (194042FUL) has been granted by Ealing Council for the reduction of the existing floor level to create a mezzanine level within the existing house and a single-storey rear extension. The consent is subject to a condition (6) which requires a programme of archaeological work to be carried out during works.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Louise Davies, Assistant Archaeology Adviser with Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock, Elspeth St. John-Brooks and Aidan Colyer between 23rd August and 7th October 2021 and the project code is GRE20/180. The London site code is GGO21.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern side of Ealing and on the south side of Grange Road (Fig. 1). It is surrounded by further residential properties with Ealing Common to the east and Walpole Park to the west (Fig. 2). To the rear of the property, on a flat plot of land, the site consisted of the former garden with a concrete slab (removed). The underlying geology is recorded as Lynch Hill Gravel Member sand and gravel overlying London Clay (BGS 2020) and the site lies at a height of 30m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

Archaeological background

Archaeological deposits and finds of all periods on the brickearth and gravel deposits of West London are well known, having come to light during observations carried out over many years during gravel and brick clay

extraction, and more recently, via aerial photography (e.g. Longley 1976). The Lynch Hill gravel terrace on which the site sits, is historically associated with finds of lower and middle Palaeolithic date, sometimes prolifically so (Allen 1978), as indeed is the case in the immediate vicinity of this site. In places, these finds are sometimes in mint condition suggesting *in-situ* deposition (Wymer 1968; Morigi *et al.* 2011). However, the majority of the finds recorded for the immediate environs here are poorly provenanced or clearly not *in situ*. The most important sites, and those most likely to have had *in situ* deposits, such as Creffield Road to the east of the development site, were all recorded in the 19th century (MoLAS 2000, 33) and detailed stratigraphic information is often lacking so that even assigning groups of finds to a given terrace is problematic, and concrete associations between tools and faunal remains too often rest on assumptions (Wymer 1991, 11–13). Despite the marked concentration of Lower (or early-middle) Palaeolithic findspots in Acton, most of these are of single items, probably found during house building, rather than the huge quantities of finds commonly recorded from gravel pits (Wymer 1999, 62 and map 8). The important Creffield Road site (Wymer 1999, 83, Fig. 28) lay on the Langley silts above the Lynch Hill terrace.

The Mesolithic, too is well represented in Ealing, primarily on the Langley silts (brickearth) of the area, though this apparent concentration may reflect a side-effect of the intensity of research on the Palaeolithic (MoLAS 2000, 55).

The archaeology of Ealing's later periods, strangely, is less well documented (MoLAS 2000), despite ample opportunities for its discovery. This part of the Middle Thames valley may have been less densely populated in Roman, Saxon and Medieval times than the areas of the Upper and Lower Thames and London itself. The site lies within the St Mary's Road Archaeological Priority Area, one of the targets of which is Palaeolithic finds from the Lynch Hill Gravel terrace.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works and assess them against the research aims for the region (MoL 2015, Hey and Hind 2014). In particular the watching brief was to involve monitoring the stripping of overburden and subsoil to initially expose the natural geology before further excavation. This was also to include monitoring of any gravel deposits to determine if on-site sieving and sampling for off-site processing is necessary to identify any Palaeolithic deposits and/or remains. In addition, the depositional sequence was to be recorded in section for palaeo-environmental monitoring purposes. Otherwise monitoring of deep invasive groundworks such as foundation trenches, service trenches or

soakaways was to take place. Any archaeological deposits revealed were to be excavated and recorded before the groundworks proceeded. Areas of foundation trenches were to be monitored under archaeological supervision, with all spoilheaps monitored for finds.

Results

Ground reduction (Fig. 3)

Superficial deposits approximately 0.3m thick, comprising concrete floor slabs and Tarmac were removed, along with some brick rubble made ground prior to the watching brief.

Removal of old foundations (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

The existing foundations had been removed from the rear of the house and the old trenches had not been backfilled at the time of the watching brief. These foundations had been shallow (*c*. 0.6m deep) in a trench c. 0.6m wide. No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed.

Test pit (Fig. 3; Pl.1)

A preliminary test pit was dug which was *c*. 1m long, 0.6m wide and 0.6m deep. This revealed *c*. 0.2m of grey brown sandy clay with some brick rubble, overlying grey/yellow sandy clay subsoil. The natural geology (brickearth) was not exposed.

Foundation Trenches (Figs. 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

The foundation trenches for the new extension were observed. These measured 0.60m wide and were dug to a depth of *c.*1.50m. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.10m of a concrete slab overlying 0.30m of brick rubble made ground. This overlay 0.30m of mid grey brown sandy clay overlying a mid red brown sandy clay (brickearth) natural geology (Fig. 4). No gravel deposits were encountered, nor an features or finds of archaeological interest.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

Despite the site's potential to have archaeology present no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief. The geological deposits of most archaeological potential (the

underlying gravel) was capped by a natural brickearth deposit and no gravel deposits were exposed, nor were there any archaeological features at the level of the brickearth.

References

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Appendix 1: Oasis Summary form

/overleaf

Summary for thamesva1-512049

OASIS ID (UID)	thamesva1-512049
Project Name	Watching brief at 66 Grange Road, Ealing
Sitename	66 Grange Road, Ealing
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	GRE20/180
Planning Id	194042FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd
Project Dates	23-Aug-2021 - 07-Oct-2022
Location	66 Grange Road, Ealing NGR : TQ 18030 80320 LL : 51.5094909887933, -0.300624882222121 12 Fig : 518030,180320
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Greater London District : Ealing Parish : Ealing, unparished area
Project Methodology	Ground reduction, a test pit, and excavation of new footings for an extension were monitored.
Project Results	No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered. The works did not penetrate to the level of the underlying (Lynch Hill) gravel but did encounter brickearth (at 29.49m above OD).
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	K, Beaverstock
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Museum of London;

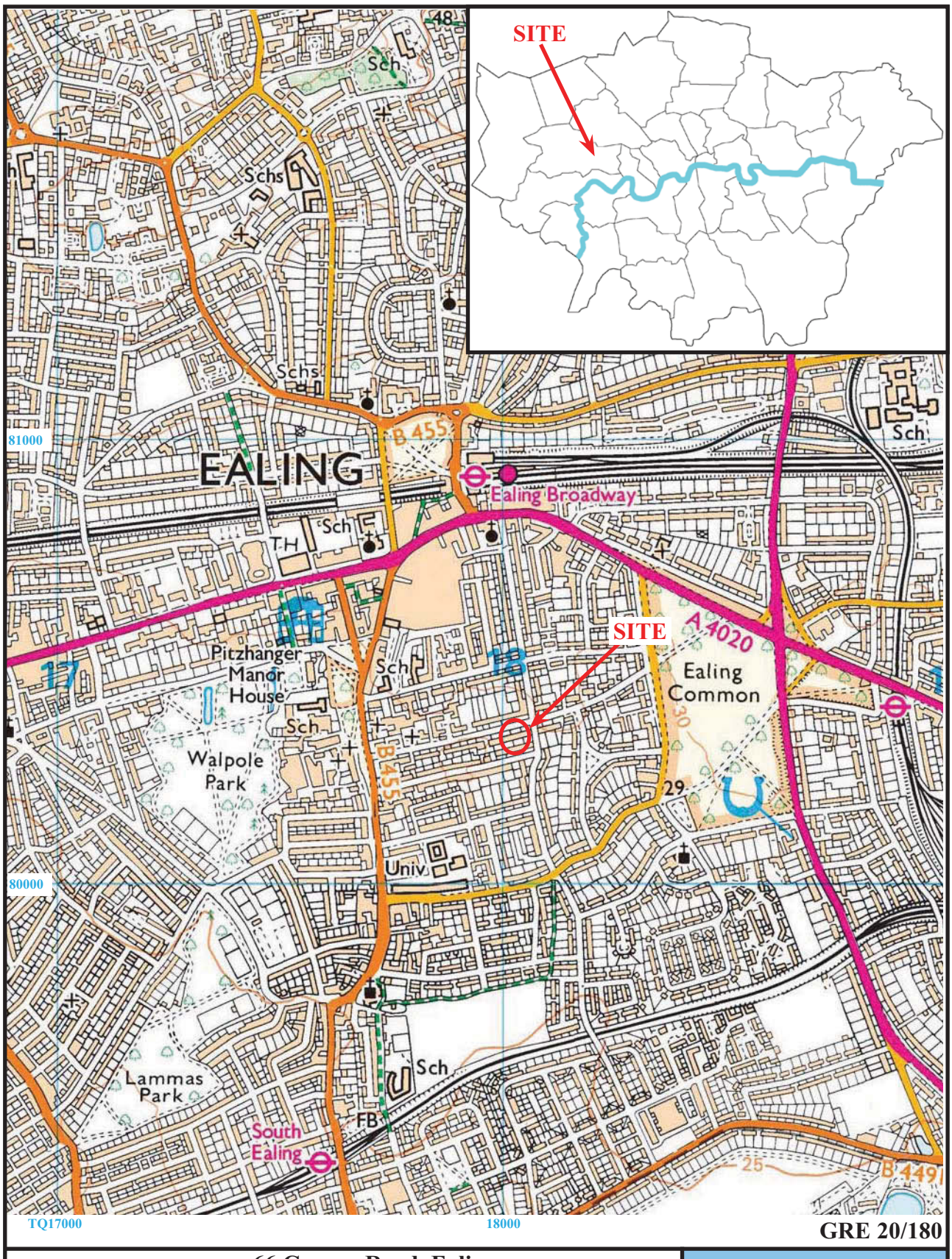

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Figure 1. Location of site within Ealing and Greater London.

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66 Grange Road, Ealing,
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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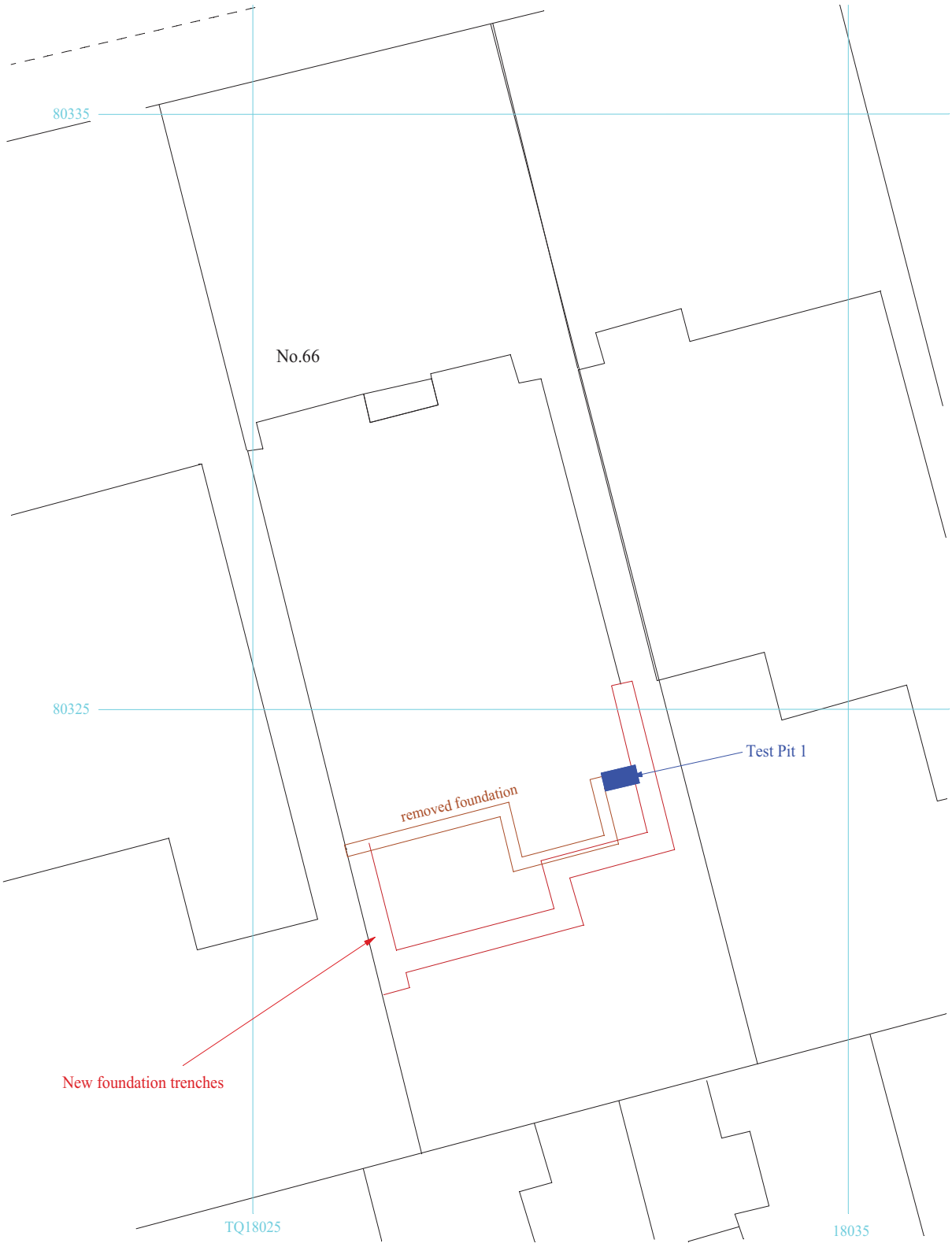

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.

0 10m

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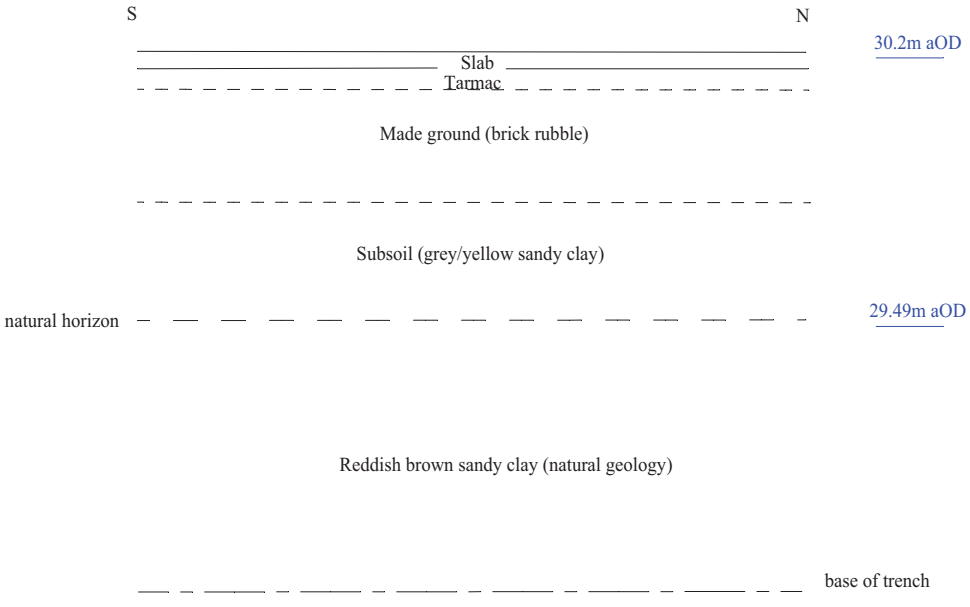

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Figure 4. Representaitve section of extension foundation trench.

0 1m

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Plate 1. Test Pit 1, looking North, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

Plate 2. New foundation trench during excavation looking south west.

Plate 3. Former foundation trench after removal of footings, looking west

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66 Grange Road, Ealing,
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Plates 1 to 3.

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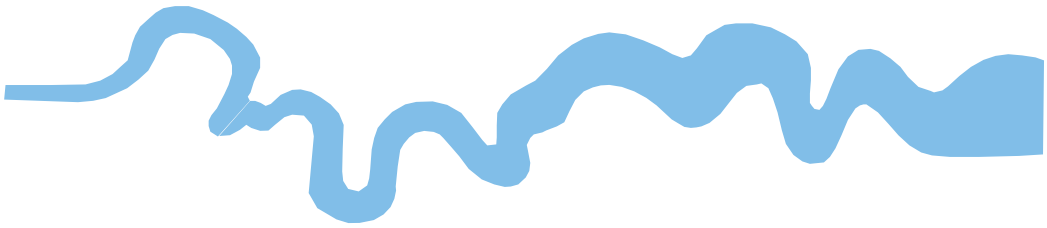
TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC



Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,
Reading RG1 5NR

Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk

Offices in:
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent, Wellingborough and Ennis (Ireland)