

**610–624 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick,
London Borough of Hounslow**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for HBG Properties**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CIG 07

September 2007

Summary

Site name: 610–624 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow

Grid reference: TQ 1969 7853

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 28th–30th August 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: CIG 07

Area of site: c. 0.28 hectares

Summary of results: No archaeology was identified

Monuments identified: No finds or deposits of an archaeological nature were observed

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course, with accession code CIG07.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 05.09.07 Steve Preston ✓ 05.09.07

610–624 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 07/78b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out 610–624 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow (TQ 1969 7853) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Ltd, Environmental Consultants, 16 South Terrace, Sowerby, Thirsk, YO7 1RH on behalf of HBG properties, Chaucer House, 13/14 Cork Street, London, W19 3NS.

Planning permission is to be sought from the London Borough of Hounslow to redevelop the site for a new office building and residential use. The results of a field evaluation are required in order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site so as inform the planning application. On the basis of the results of the evaluation, a scheme can be drawn up to mitigate the effects of development on any archaeological remains present.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Kim Stabler, Archaeology Adviser with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor, Marta Buczek and Ceri Falys between the 28th and 30th August 2007 and the site code is CIG07. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of Chiswick High Road. Thorney Hedge Road lies on the western side of the site with the remainder being bounded by housing (Fig. 2). The site is currently occupied by an office building and car parking and is a relatively flat parcel of land. The underlying geology is mapped as river brickearths, in an area also showing first river terrace gravels over London clay (BGS 1981), the geology observed was sandy clay (brickearth) in some trenches and gravel in others. The site lies at a height of *c.* 9.80m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Preston 2007). In summary the site lies close to a significant prehistoric site at the nearby former Bus Works, which may extend onto this site, while Chiswick High Road itself is on the projected route of the Roman road from London to Silchester. It is possible therefore that Roman roadside occupation or burial could have been present. Various finds and sites are recorded from near to the site with multi-period finds and deposits recorded from an excavation carried out to the north east of the proposal area. (MoLAS 2000).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site given that parts of the site have been previously developed.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine if there is any Roman roadside occupation or burial present.

Seven trenches were to be dug in total using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were to be 10m long and at least 1.60m wide.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

The seven trenches were dug ranging in length from 5.6-10m in length and up to 2.4m deep (Fig. 3). All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Trench 1

This trench measured 10.00m in length and 1.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble made ground. In turn this was overlying a grey silty clay containing fragments of brick and tile, which was overlying sandy clay natural geology. No archaeological finds nor deposits were observed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

This trench measured 9.60m in length and 1.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble made ground overlying a mid grey silty clay containing brick and tile. This was overlying a layer of crushed tile overlying sandy clay natural geology. A modern concrete foundation was present at 4m from the west end. No archaeological finds nor deposits were observed.

Trench 3

This trench measured 9.80m in length and 2.15m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble made ground. This overlay a mid grey silty clay containing brick and tile overlying sandy gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds nor deposits were observed.

Trench 4 (Plate 1)

This trench measured 9.60m in length and 1.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble made ground overlying concrete. This overlay a mid grey silty clay containing brick and tile overlying sandy clay natural geology. A modern concrete pipe was present at the south west end of the trench. No archaeological finds nor deposits were observed.

Trench 5

This trench measured 9.60m in length and 1.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble made ground overlying a dark grey clayey sand containing brick and tile. This overlay sand overlying crushed brick and tile overlying gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds nor deposits were observed.

Trench 6 (Plate 2)

This trench measured 9.20m in length and 2.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble made ground overlying a dark grey/black silty clay containing brick and tile. This overlay crushed brick and tile overlying sandy clay natural geology. A modern concrete foundation was present at 3.5m (from the south end) and along most of the eastern side of the trench. No archaeological finds nor deposits were observed.

Trench 7

This trench measured 5.60m in length and 1.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of concrete overlying brick rubble made ground overlying a mid grey silty clay containing brick and tile. This overlay brickearth natural geology. The natural geology for most of the east end of the trench had been truncated in modern times. No archaeological finds nor deposits were observed.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were retrieved during the evaluation.

Conclusion

Despite the possibility of the site lying close to the projected line of a Roman road, and close to a prehistoric site, no deposits or finds of any archaeological period were observed during the evaluation. On the basis of these results, it seems unlikely that any deposits would be located or damaged during the proposed building works.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- MoLAS, 2000, *The archaeology of Greater London; an assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London*, Museum of London Archaeology Service Monogr PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Preston, S, 2007, 'Lovell House, 610–324 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow: an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 07/78, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.00	1.60	1.90	0.00m-0.15m Tarmac; 0.15m-0.50m made ground; 0.50m-1.85m mid grey silty clay; 1.85m-1.90m+ sandy clay natural. 8.03m AOD
2	9.60	1.60	1.90	0.00m-0.20m Tarmac; 0.20m-0.60m made ground; 0.60m-1.50m mid grey silty clay; 1.50m-1.87m crushed tile; 1.87m-1.90m+ sandy clay natural. 7.96m AOD. Concrete foundation at 4.5m
3	9.80	1.60	2.15	0.00m-0.15m Tarmac; 0.15m-0.75m made ground; 0.75m-2.10m mid grey silty clay; 2.10m-2.15m sandy gravel natural. 7.78m AOD
4	9.60	1.60	1.80	0.00m-0.20m Tarmac; 0.20m-0.60m made ground; 0.60m-0.85m concrete; 0.85m-1.75m mid grey silty clay; 1.75m-1.80m+ sandy clay natural. 7.93m AOD [Plate 1] Concrete pipe at 1m
5	9.60	1.60	1.90	0.00m-0.15m Tarmac; 0.15m-0.42m made ground; 0.42m-1.25m dark grey clayey sand; 1.25m-1.30m sand; 1.30m-1.85m crushed tile; 1.85m-1.90m+ gravel natural. 7.79m AOD
6	9.20	1.60	2.40	0.00m-0.15m Tarmac; 0.15m-0.50m made ground; 0.50m-1.60m dark grey/black silty clay; 1.60m-2.30, crushed tile; 2.30m-2.40m sandy clay natural. 7.40m AOD [Plate 2] Concrete foundation at 3.6m and from 4m-9.2m along east side of trench
7	5.60	1.60	1.80	0.00m-0.30m concrete; 0.30m-0.80m made ground; 0.80m-1.70m mid grey silty clay; 1.70m-1.80m+ brickearth natural. 8.49m AOD. Truncated from 4-5.6m

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Project details

Project name	610-624 Chiswick High Road, Hounslow
Short description of the project	Evaluation trenching revealed no finds or features of interest.
Project dates	Start: 28-08-2007 End: 30-08-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CIG07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	CIG07 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	CHR07-27 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HOUNSLOW CHISWICK 610-624 Chiswick High Road

Study area	0.28 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 1969 7853 51.4925344924 -0.275733868631 51 29 33 N 000 16 32 W Point
Height OD	Min: 7.40m Max: 8.49m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Steve Ford
Project director/manager	Steve Ford
Project supervisor	Andy Taylor
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	HBG Properties

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	CIG07
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Manuscript','Microfilm','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '
Paper Archive notes	temporarily with TVAS in Reading pending deposition

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	610-624 Chiswick high Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow; an archaeological evaluation

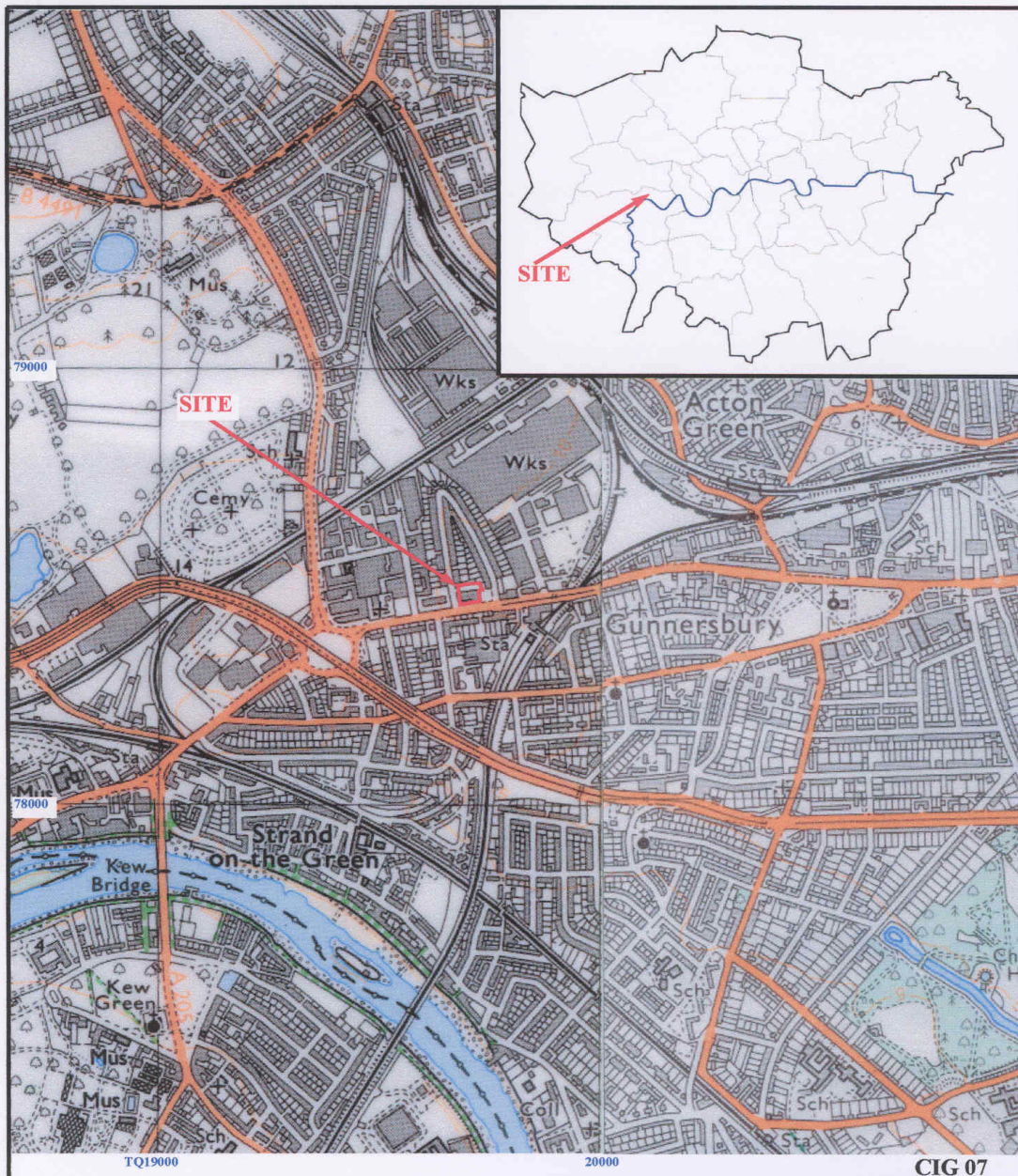
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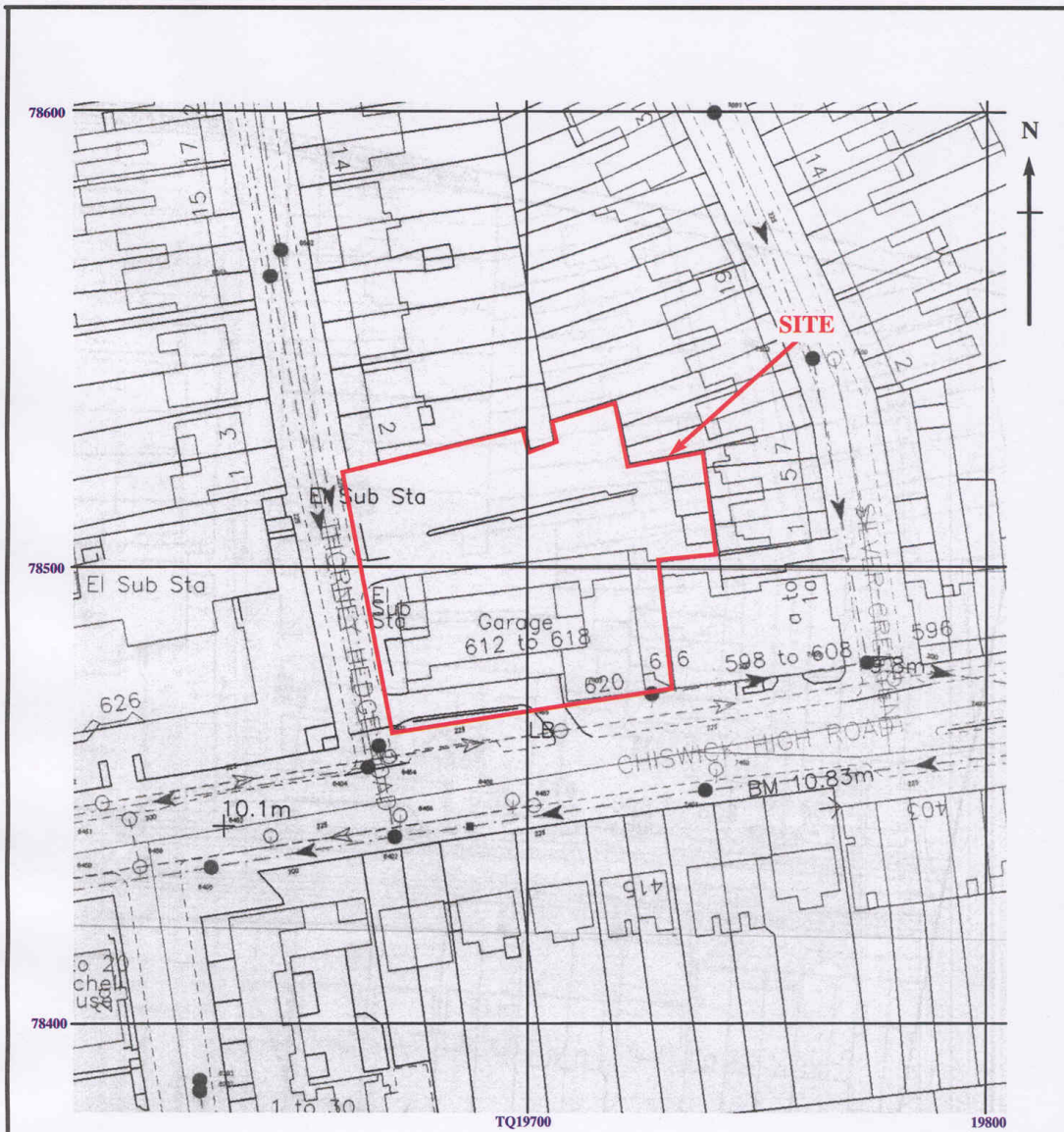
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Figure 1. Location of site within Chiswick and
Greater London.

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T H A M E S V A L L E Y

 S E R V I C E S



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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Chiswick High Road.

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Figure 3: Trench Locations

610-624 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow

Trench 2
9.83m AOD



Figure 4: Representative Section



Plate 1. Trench 4 looking south west, far scale 2m; near scale 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 6 looking east, near scale 1m, far scale 2m.