

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**6 Baker Street,
Weybridge, Surrey**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Beth Tucker

Site Code: BSB25/38

(TQ 0743 6484)

6 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey

An Archaeological Watching Brief for Sorbon Estates Limited

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Beth Tucker
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BSB 25/38

February 2025

Summary

Site name: 6 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 0743 6484

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th February and 3rd March 2025

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse and Beth Tucker

Site code: BSB 25/38

Area of site: c. 140 sq m.

Summary of results: A single foundation trench for a rear extension was excavated. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were seen. Only late 19th/20th century evidence was observed above the natural geology.

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.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 04.03.25 Steve Preston✓ 04.03.25
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6 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Beth Tucker

Report 25/38

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 6 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey (NGR TQ 0743 6484) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Luigi Sassi on behalf of Sorbon Estates, 24-26 Aylesbury End, Beaconsfield, HP9 1LW.

Planning permission (2024/2049) has been granted by Elmbridge Borough Council for a single-storey rear extension to the property. The planning permission is subject to a condition (5) relating to archaeology due to the potential disturbance of below ground deposits. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2024) and the Borough's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Matthew Saywood, Archaeological Officer at Surrey's County Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Beth Tucker on 28th and 27th February 2025 and the site code is BSB25/38. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the centre of Weybridge in north Surrey, 6km west of Esher and 7.5km south-east of Staines-upon-Thames (Fig. 1). The site is located on the north side of Baker Street near its junction with the High Street (A317) a historically important road through the settlement (Fig. 2). Some 375m to the north-west of the site runs the River Wey which meets the River Thames approximately 930m to the north. The site currently is a residential property with a flat courtyard/back garden, with a commercial retail space occupying the front of the property. It lies at a height of 19m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Bagshot Formation sand with superficial Kempton Park Gravel Member (sand and gravel) (BGS 1981), during the course of the works only the Bagshot Formation sand was witnessed.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an ‘Area of High Archaeological Potential’ due to its location within the presumed historic core of Weybridge. The town of Weybridge has Saxon origins and was recorded in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002; Robertson 2002). The parish church of St James may also hail from this period. The settlement continued to develop through the Medieval period with the High Street acting as a major road through the settlement. The site may therefore retain potential for evidence of the early development of Weybridge.

A number of archaeological sites have been noted in the vicinity of the site including remnants of the deer park of Oatlands Palace to the north-east. A Bronze Age cremation cemetery with up to 50 urns was documented also to the north-east, though details of this site are limited as it was recorded in the 19th century. A corresponding settlement may be present in the area. There is also the potential for Iron Age activity which is generally expected in the Wey Valley, however, the closest currently known example of this is approximately 1km to the west of the site at Brooklands (Poulton 2004). Two previous archaeological evaluations at Oatlands Court and Caenswood Hill revealed no archaeological finds or features (Mundin and Esteves 2016; Taylor and Milbank 2022) and a third evaluation at Holstein Avenue produced only a small amount of Medieval and early post-Medieval pottery (Ford 2018).

Objectives and methodology

The main objectives of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks for the extension. This was to involve the monitoring of any ground reduction including excavations for foundation trenches, soakaways, service trenches or deeply invasive landscaping. Where excavation was carried out mechanically, the machine was to be fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoilheaps were to be monitored throughout the works to improve the recovery of archaeological finds.

Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were to be cleaned, excavated and recorded using hand tools. All work undertaken on site was to follow the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs (2023a; 2023b) and the County’s *General Standards for Archaeological Projects in Surrey* (SCC 2023). The work was also guided by national and local research priorities such as the Historic England *Research Agenda* (HE 2017) and Surrey *Archaeological Research Agenda* (Bird 2006; cf., Cotton *et al.* 2004).

Results

A single U-shaped trench was dug at the rear of the dwelling by a 360° tracked excavator, equipped with a toothless bucket. The trench consisted of two parallel 3m branches, extending from the rear wall of the property towards the NE joined by a perpendicular trench 5.8m long (Fig. 3). The trench was generally 0.7m wide and up to 1.48m deep (Fig. 4).

The stratigraphy across most of the site (Pl. 2 and 3) consisted of: 0.05m of paving slabs, set on 0.23m of dark blackish-grey silty-sand bedding layer (containing ceramic building material CBM), above 0.12m of mid brownish-yellow sand made ground, lying on top of 0.42m of dark blackish-grey silty-sand buried topsoil (containing clay pipes), onto 0.18m of mid yellowish-brown silty-sand buried subsoil, finally above the light brownish-yellow sand natural geology from 1.1-1.4m total depth.

The stratigraphy in the south-east corner of the foundation trench differed from the rest of the site, likely due to disturbance from the construction of the adjacent property's extension (Pl. 1). It consisted of: 0.05m of paving slabs, on 0.33m of dark blackish-grey silty-sand redeposited topsoil (containing CBM), above 0.3m of dark blackish-grey sandy-silt made ground (containing CBM), on top of 0.53m of dark blackish-grey silty-sand buried topsoil (containing china and CBM), above 0.49m of mid reddish-brown silty-sand buried subsoil, and mid blueish-grey sand natural geology from 1.1-1.48m deep.

A single area of disturbance containing CBM, metal and china (likely related to the construction of the property) was noted at the south-west end of the foundation trench (Pl. 4). Additionally five ceramic pipes, a gas pipe and a manhole were also recorded within the trench.

No features of archaeological interest were recorded.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were encountered. Post-Medieval CBM, china and metal was noted in layers of made ground and not retained.

Conclusion

The archaeological watching brief at 6 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey, monitored the reduction of a single foundation trench at the rear of the property. Although the archaeological horizon was witnessed across the entirety of the trench, no finds or features of an archaeological nature were encountered. Five ceramic pipes, a gas pipe, a manhole and a disturbance likely caused by the construction of 6 Baker Street were recorded, these were all considered to be Victorian or later in date.

References

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6 Baker Street, Weybridge,
Surrey, 2025

Proposal for an Archaeological Watching Brief
Figure 1. Location of site within Weybridge and Surrey.

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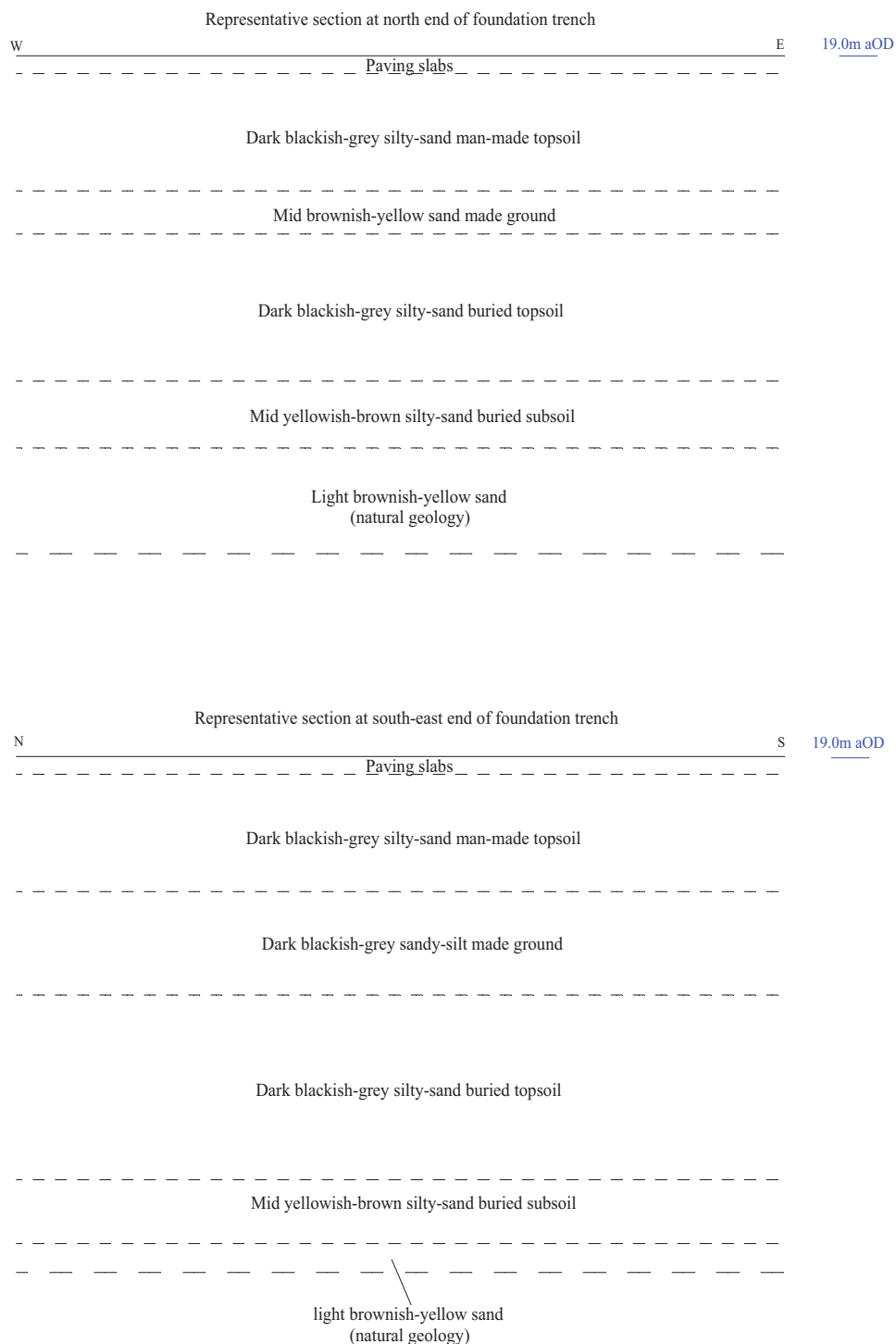


**6 Baker Street,
Weybridge, Surrey, 2025
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Site plan showing works monitored.

0 5m

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**6 Baker Street,
Weybridge, Surrey, 2025
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative Sections



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Plate 1. South-east side of foundation trench, looking east. Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. West side of foundation trench, looking east. Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 3. North side of foundation trench, looking south. Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 4. Disturbance from property construction, looking south-west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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**6 Baker Street,
Weybridge, Surrey 2025
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 4.**

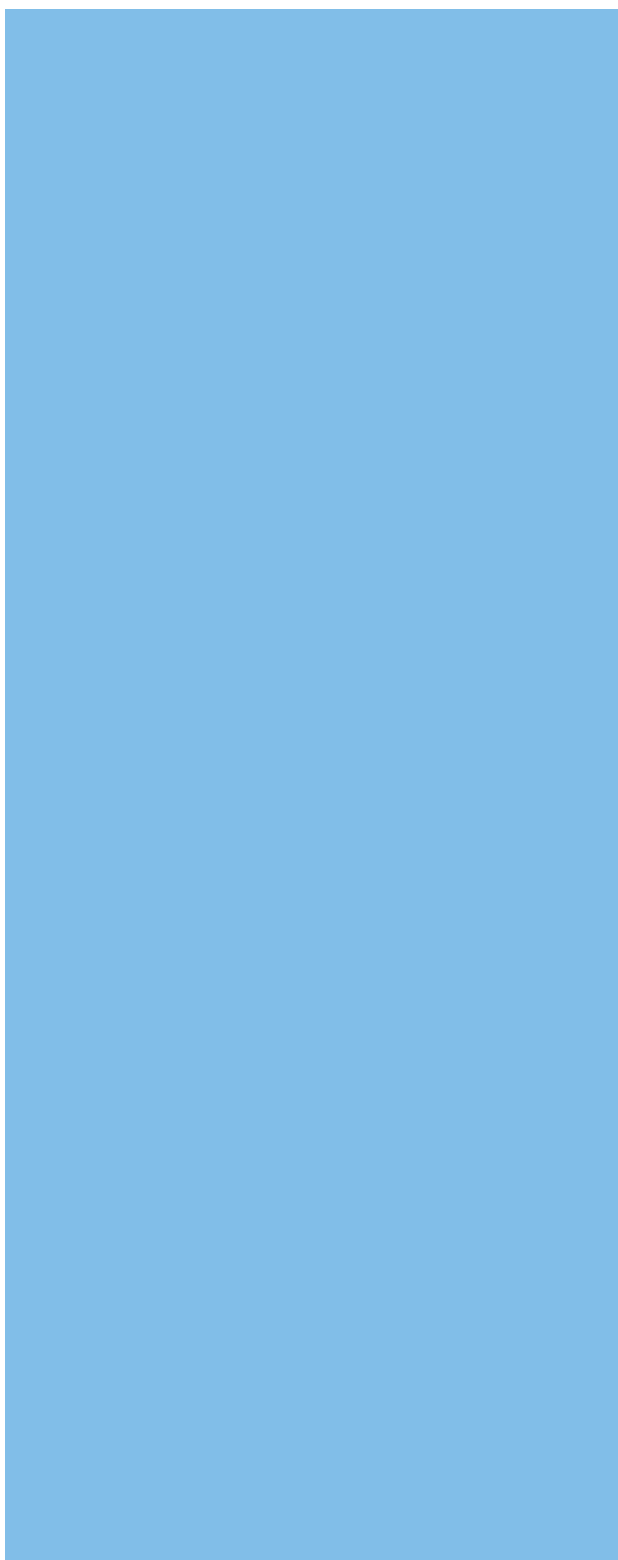
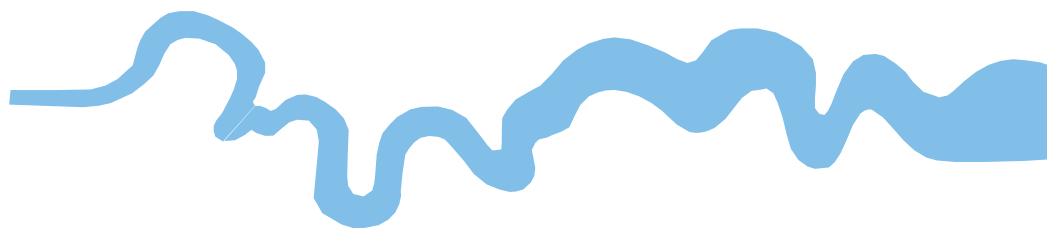
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TIME CHART

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





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