

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge,
London Borough of Hillingdon**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Maisie Foster

Site Code: HSU22/01

(TQ 0543 8439)

**Rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge,
London Borough of Hillingdon**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Shield Berks Ltd**

by Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HHU21
TVAS Project HSU 22/01

January 2022

Summary

Site name: Rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge, London Borough of Hillingdon

Grid reference: TQ 0543 8439

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th January 2022

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Maisie Foster

MoL Site Code : HHU21

TVAS Project code: HSU 22/01

Area of site: c.0.7ha

Summary of results: Both trenches were devoid of archaeological deposits with only modern truncations and the remains of modern building foundations and made ground being observed. The evaluated area is considered as having very low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Museum of London in due course with accession number HHU21.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 10.01.22
	Steve Preston✓ 10.01.22

Rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge, London Borough of Hillingdon An Archaeological Evaluation

by Maisie Foster

Report 22/01

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge, London Borough of Hillingdon (TQ 0543 8439) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Sandeep Singh for Shield Berks Ltd, 9 Peter James Business Centre, Pump Lane, Hayes, UB3 3NT.

Planning permission (6616/APP/2019/3268) has been gained from the London Borough of Hillingdon to construct new housing on the site following demolition of some existing structures. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, the consent is subject to condition (22) relating to archaeology. The results of a field evaluation are required to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site, to mitigate the effects of the development. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved Ms Louise Davies, Archaeological Adviser for Historic England, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Maisie Foster and Jon Tierney, on 5th January 2022 and the project code is HSU 22/01. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course. The Museum of London sitecode is HHU21.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the eastern side of High Street, accessible from Warwick Place in the centre of Uxbridge in West London (Figs 1 and 2). The site is an irregular parcel of land currently being used as a car park that is bounded by buildings on its north, south and west side and Warwick Place on its east. The site slopes from 41.2m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-east down to 40m aOD in the south-west. The underlying geology is mapped as Lynch Hill Gravel Member - sand and gravel (BGS 2005) which was observed during the evaluation.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Wardle and Lacey 2014). In summary this potential stems from its location within the historic core of Uxbridge. Uxbridge is not documented in Domesday Book of 1086 but other historic sources suggest it is likely to have been established by this date although little archaeological evidence has been recorded from this period (MoLAS 2000). A large excavation within the town centre at Chimes Shopping Centre to the south-east revealed an extensive range of 12th-century deposits showing the development of the planned town which extended the Saxon settlement. The settlement declined in the 14th century but was revitalised from the 17th century onwards (Knight and Jeffries 2004). Various prehistoric sites and finds have also been recorded in the environs, in particular an early hunter-gatherer site at Three Ways Wharf (Lewis and Rackham 2011).

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 survived on this site,
to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present,
to determine if any medieval or Saxon remains reflecting the early development of the town are present;
and
to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

Two trenches, 12m long and 1.6m wide were to be dug using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any feature that might warrant preservation *in situ* or be better investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds and scanned with a metal detector.

Results

Two trenches were opened, with trench 2 having to be moved to avoid service access points (Fig. 3). The trenches ranged from 11.30m to 12.50m in length and 0.61-0.92m in depth. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadth, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 12.50m long and 0.92m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.11m of Tarmac, above 0.24m of sand and 0.57m of modern made ground with concrete, brick and tile inclusions, overlying natural geology. Modern brick foundations crossed the trench at 5m, 5.8m and 12.1m from the south end. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned close to S - N and was 11.30m long and 0.61m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of tarmac and 0.51m of modern made ground with concrete, brick and tile inclusions overlying natural geology. A modern drainage pipe was recorded between 5.2-5.3m and a modern drainage ditch/soakaway from 6.50-7.7m from northern end. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recovered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recorded or recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits being present on site none were encountered during the evaluation. A considerable amount of modern made ground was recorded in both trenches, which was truncated by the remains of building foundations in Trench 1 and a modern drain and drainage ditch in Trench 2. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 2005, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 255, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Knight, H and Jeffries N, 2004, *Medieval and later urban development at High Street, Uxbridge: excavations at the Chimes Shopping Centre, London Borough of Hillingdon*, Museum of London Archaeology Report **12**, London
- Lewis, J, and Rackham, J 2011, *Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge; a late glacial and early Holocene hunter-gatherer site in the Colne Valley*, MoLAS Monogr Ser 51, Museum of London, London
- 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, London
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
- Wardle, P and Lacey, C, 2014, 'Heritage Statement: Archaeological desk-based assessment, Land to the rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge, Greater London', The Historic Environment Consultancy project 2014/1196 v5, Goring

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

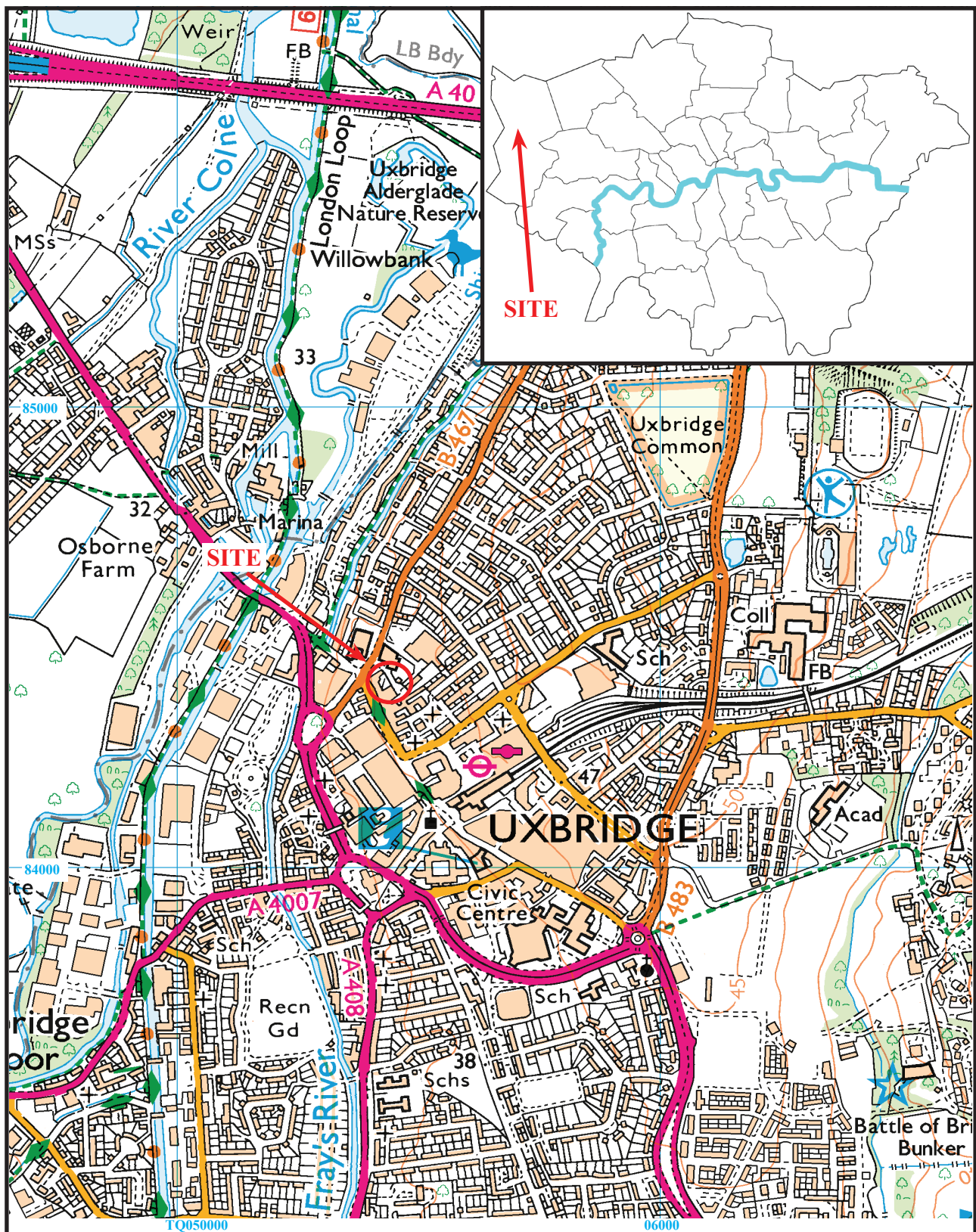
0m at S and SW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	12.50	1.6	0.92	0–0.11m Tarmac; 0.11-0.35m mid orange sand; 0.35-0.92m modern made ground with brick/tile and concrete inclusions; 0.92m+ sandy gravel and clay (natural geology) at 40.3m aOD [Pls. 1 and 2]
2	11.30	1.6	0.61	0-0.10m Tarmac; 0.10-0.61m modern made ground with brick/tile and concrete inclusions; 0.61m+ sandy gravel and clay (natural geology) 40.6m aOD [Pl. 3]

Appendix 2: Oasis Summary form/ over

Summary for thamesva1-503646

OASIS ID (UID)	thamesva1-503646
Project Name	Evaluation at Rear of 112-123 High Street, Uxbridge, LB Hillingdon
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	HSU 22/01
Planning Id	6616/APP213/1789
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd
Project Dates	05-Jan-2022 - 05-Jan-2022
Location	Rear of 112-123 High Street, Uxbridge, LB Hillingdon NGR : TQ 05431 84398 LL : 51.5486338382699, -0.480879606590955 12 Fig : 505431,184398
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Greater London District : Hillingdon Parish : Hillingdon, unparished area
Project Methodology	The evaluation comprised the digging of 2 trenches 1.6m wide and 12m long with a 360 type machine fitted with a ditching bucket. Trenches were recorded, with a written and photographic record. Height above OD was taken and the location of trenches were tied into the National Grid with a GPS.
Project Results	Two trenches were opened as intended, with no finds or features of archaeological interest recorded or recovered.
Keywords	
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Museum of London



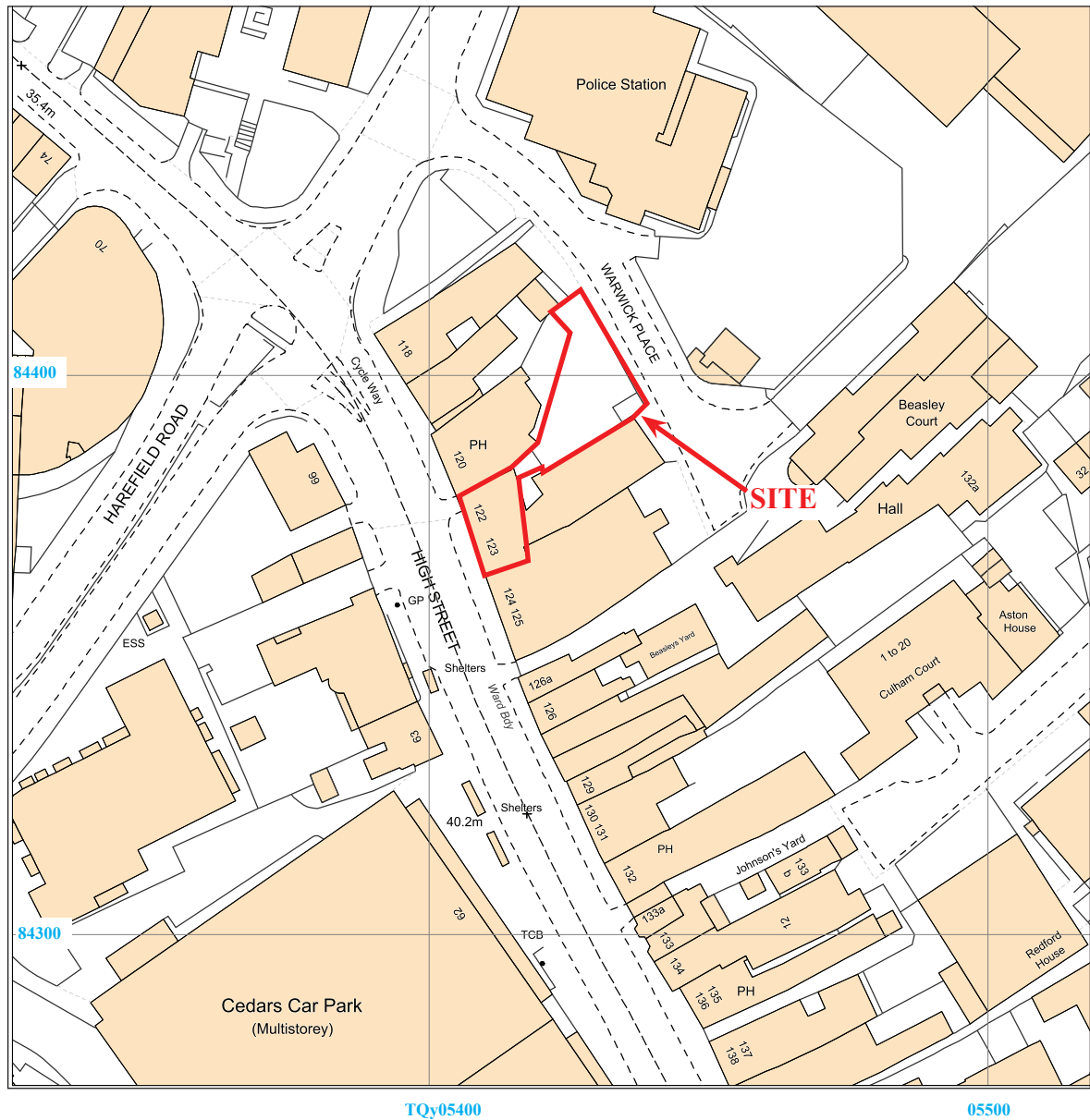
HSU22/01

**Rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge,
London Borough of Hillingdon, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Uxbridge and London.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved

THAMES VALLEY
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES**



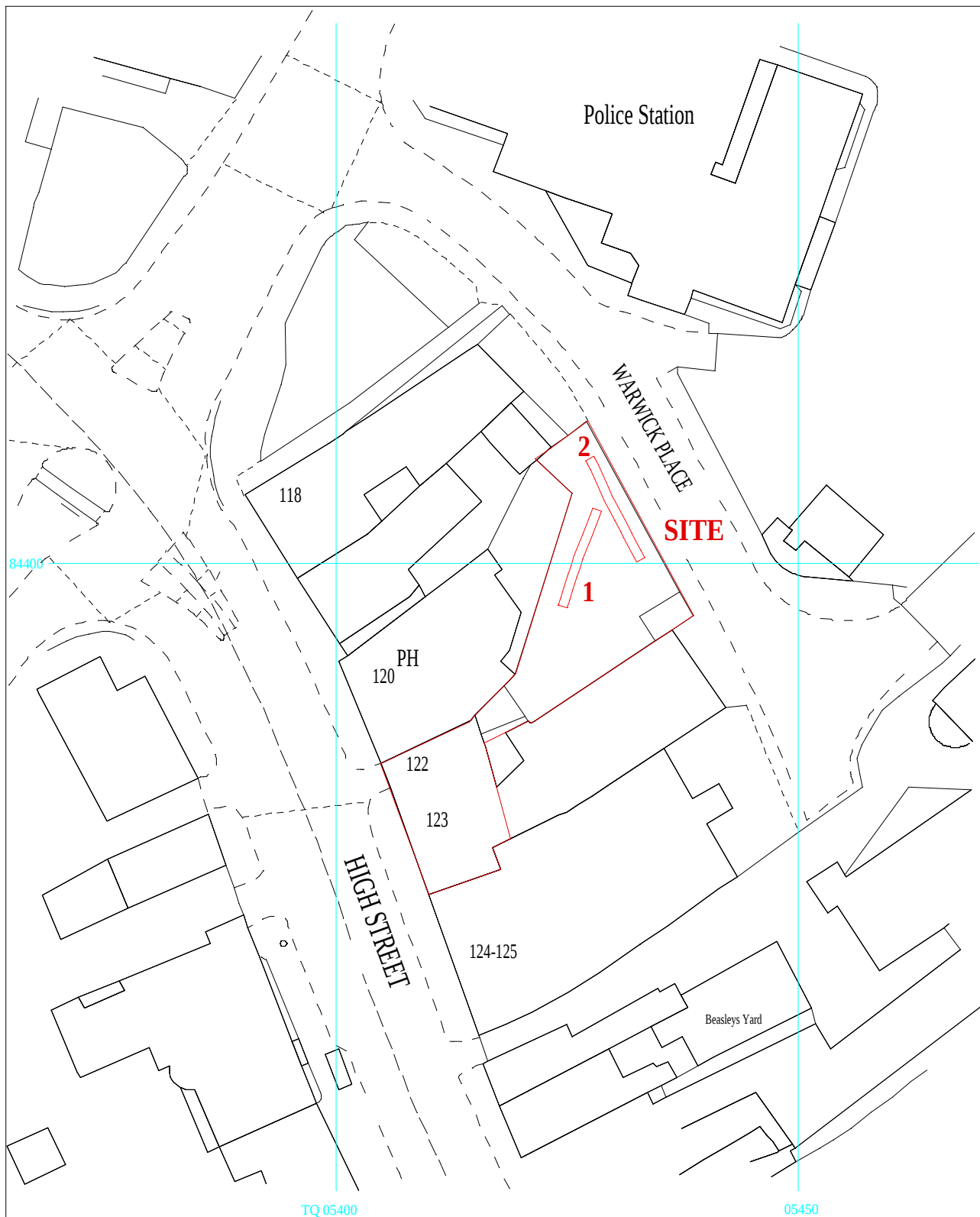
HSU22/01



**Rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge,
London Borough of Hillingdon, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation**
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off High Street.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:2500

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



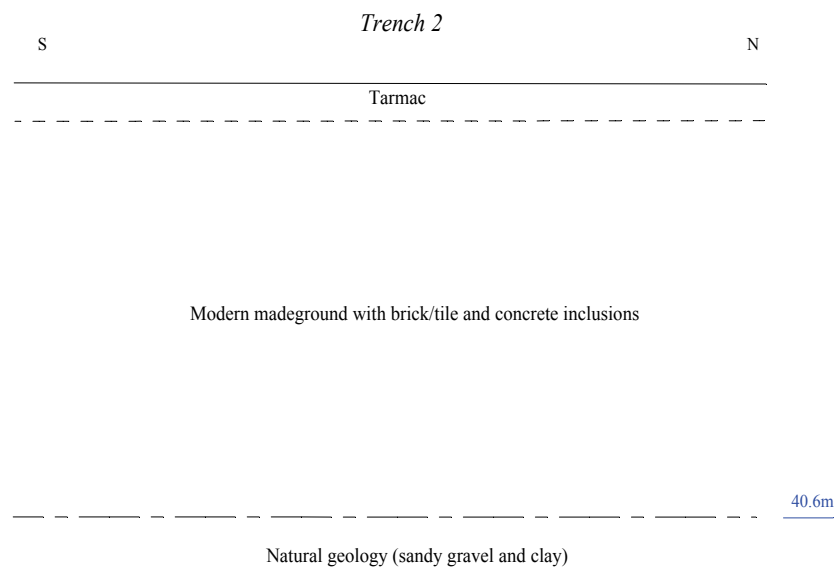
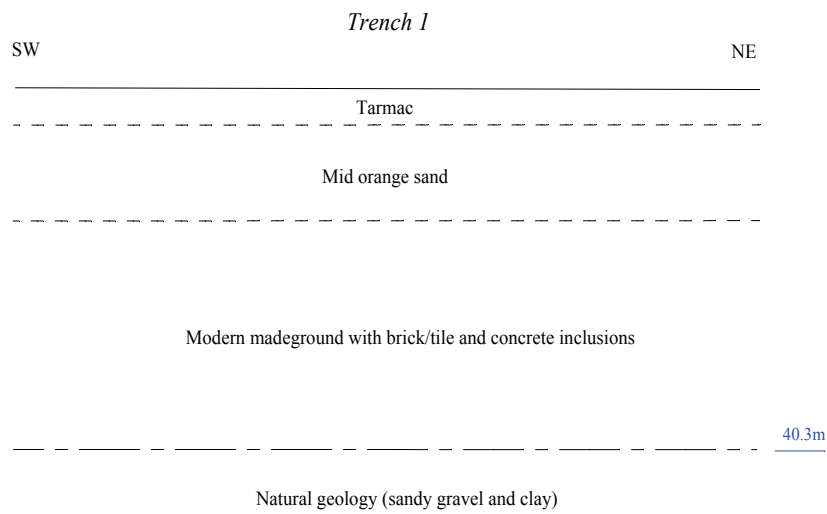
HSU 22/01

**Rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge,
London Borough of Hillingdon, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



HSU 22/01

**Rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge,
London Borough of Hillingdon, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative sections.



T H A M E S V A L L E Y
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
S E R V I C E S



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North East,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking North East, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking North,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. General site view, looking North.

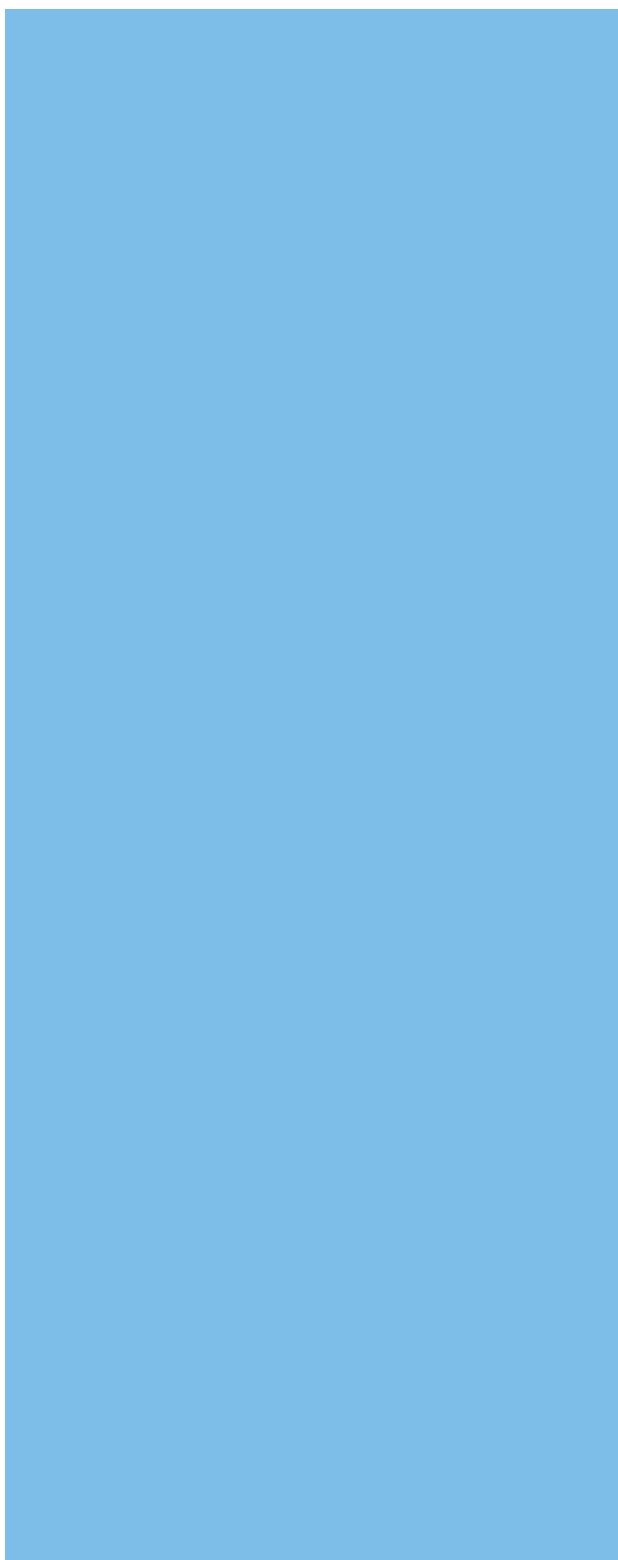
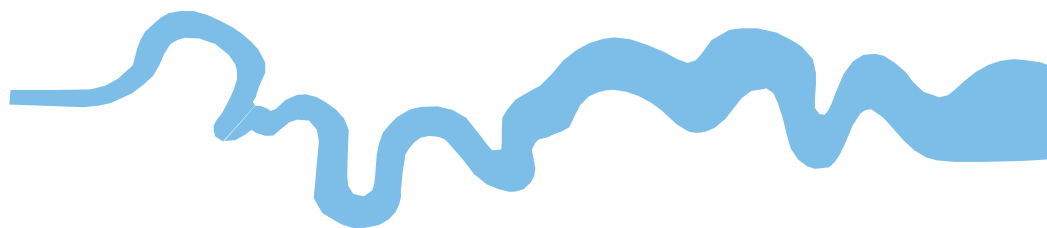
HSU 22/01

**Rear of 122-123 High Street, Uxbridge,
London Borough of Hillingdon 2022
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 4.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

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 and Ennis (Ireland)***