

HLEEV (BA)
831/97

Suburban and County Care Ltd

201–205 Hale Lane,
Edgware

NGR TQ 2020 9240

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Oxford Archaeological Unit

February 1997

201-205 Hale Lane,
Edgware

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR TQ 2020 9240

Planning ref: WO7087F

Prepared by: G. Laws/ D. Wilkinson 10 February 1997
Checked by: D. Wilkinson
Approved by: I. Scott

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
February 1997

1 SUMMARY

An Archaeological Field Evaluation was carried out on a site at Nos 201 to 205 Hale Lane Edgware; no significant archaeological features or deposits were located. There was evidence of some landscaping for the construction of buildings in the 19th century. The earliest finds were a few residual pottery sherds dating to the 17th century.

2 INTRODUCTION

On the 4th and 5th of February 1997 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an Archaeological Field Evaluation at Nos 201 - 205 Hale Lane, Edgware. The work was commissioned by Suburban and County Care Limited, following advice from English Heritage (Planning Ref. WO7087F). English Heritage issued a brief for the evaluation (R. Whytehead 7/5/96), and subsequently approved an OAU Written Scheme of Investigation (24/9/96).

2.1 Topography and geology.

The site lies at 60.70 m OD on a surface geology of London clay and is situated on a slight hill between two branches of the Deans brook. The site is located on the south side of Hale Lane, between Alders Road and Cloister Gardens. The garden to the rear of house 203 is flat and the garden to the rear of house 205 gently slopes from the western fence line to the eastern boundary. The land to the front of both houses is level.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background with results from desk-top research

Little is known of the nature of prehistoric or Roman settlement in the Hale area. The area around Edgwarebury Lane, which lies approx 1 km to the west of the development has produced the occasional stray find of prehistoric flint, including a Mesolithic flint pick (GLSMR 081948) and a fragment of Neolithic or Bronze Age flint axe (GLSMR 081943). The site lies just over 1 km from the line of Roman Watling Street and the area has produced occasional finds of Roman pottery, including a single 1st- or 2nd-century Roman sherd uncovered 1 km to the north-west in Edgwarebury (GLSMR 081987). The brief for this evaluation, prepared by English Heritage London Region, mentions further Roman potsherds discovered just to the west of the site, although these do not appear on the Greater London SMR. With the exception of such small findspots little is known of the Roman settlement of this area although more concentrated Roman activity has been located in areas such as Hendon to the south and Brockley Hill to the north.

Small settlements such as Hale are extremely common in the Hendon/Edgware area where the medieval settlement pattern is often represented by small dispersed settlements which form the nucleus of later village centres. The location of the settlement would appear to have been dictated by its proximity to the ford which carries Hale Lane, the road from Mill Hill to Edgware, across the Deans Brook. The date of the foundation of Hale, which is not mentioned in Domesday Book (1086), is not recorded and the first documented reference comes in 1498 when it is recorded that Richard Nicholl left 20s for the upkeep of Hale Lane (VCH, v, 1976). There is some uncertainty about whether the Hale here

referred to is Lower Hale, located at the ford across Deans Brook or Upper Hale, located slightly to the east at the intersection of Hale Lane and a smaller road running north from Chipping Barnet towards Edgware and avoiding the Deans Brook entirely. As marked on 18th- and early 19th- century maps Upper Hale is marginally the larger of the two and may have the better claim to be the original settlement.

The post-medieval history of the site has been traced on a succession of maps dating from 1796 (Cooke's map of Hendon) onwards. These all show the same general picture. Hale is consistently a small settlement: in 1796 it comprises only three buildings located to the south of the road and the development site still remained open land. No buildings are shown on the site on the OS 1st edition (1822). Buildings first appear on the site on the 1877 Ordnance Survey, which shows a slight expansion of the original hamlet to the west. Nevertheless the settlement appears to have remained small, still only comprising a few buildings lying to the south of the road and even the coming of the railways to Mill Hill and Edgware in the 1860s, and the consequent rapid expansion in size of these villages, failed to substantially galvanize the settlement.

2.3 Archaeological methodology

Much of the proposed new building footprint is covered by the existing buildings, and the three trenches were therefore placed as much within the footprint as ground conditions allowed. One trench (1) was placed just outside the footprint. The total area of the trenches (38.4 sq m) is equivalent to a 7% sample of the development area.

A JCB equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was used to machine each trial trench. The trial trenches varied in depth between 0.34 m to 0.52 m. A total of three trial trenches were cut, two to the rear of the properties and one in the front (Fig. 1). Each trial trench was hand cleaned and recorded in accordance with the English Heritage Archaeological Guidance Paper: 3 (1992). An area measuring 1.6 x 1 m of each trench was hand-excavated for the purposes of finds recovery, and the spoil from machining was also examined by hand. A table listing the context information is presented in Appendix 1 at the back of this report.

2.4 Aims

- 1 To establish the presence / absence of archaeological remains in the area, and in particular to establish whether any Roman remains exist.
- 2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 3 To establish the ecofactual / environmental potential of archaeological features.
- 4 To appraise the likely impact of the development proposals on any archaeological features or deposits present.

3 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Trench 1 was situated in the front of 205 Hale Lane. The trial trench measured 6.50 m x 1.6 m and was aligned east-west. Because of a water pipe and telephone cable to the east of trial trench 1, this trench was only excavated to a length of 6.50 m. The natural, a light yellowish/brown clay (104) was revealed at a depth of 0.48 m, at 59.47 OD. This was overlaid by a mid brown silt loam (103), a layer of buried garden soil, which was 0.06 m in depth. This layer was root-disturbed, and contained 19th-century or later brick and tile. This in turn was overlaid by a make-up layer of rubble and gravel (102), 0.26 m in depth, covered by a thin layer of tarmac 0.08 m in depth (101). A sample of brick and tile was retained from layer 103.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was situated to the rear of 203 Hale Lane in the garden and measured 12 m x 1.6 m and aligned north-south. The natural, a light yellowish/brown clay (203) was revealed at a depth of 0.36 m at 60.30 OD. This was overlaid by a tenacious mid grey/brown clay with pebbles and gravel (202), 0.12 m in depth, suggesting a build-up layer for the building of the houses (a similar layer was located in Trench 3). This in turn was overlaid by a topsoil, a tenacious mid to dark brown clay loam layer (201), which measured 0.22 m in depth. Two pieces of 17th-century pottery were retrieved from layer 202.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

Trench 3 was situated to the rear of 205 Hale Lane in the garden and measured 5.50 m x 1.6 m and aligned east-west. This trench was very close to the rear of the property. The natural, a light yellowish/brown clay (303) was revealed at depths from 0.17 m to 0.40 m. Levels at the top of the natural varied from 59.94 m O.D at the east end to 59.48 m OD at the west. The natural was overlaid by a tenacious, mid grey/brown clay with pebbles and gravel (302), measuring 0.14 m deep to the west and 0.04 m to the east (Fig. 2). Layer 302 appeared to have been laid to level up the site for the building of the current houses. This in turn was overlaid by a top soil, a tenacious mid to dark brown clay loam layer (301). Tile, pottery and glass were retrieved from layer 302.

3.1 Finds

A sample of brick and tile was retrieved from deposits 103, 202 and 302. Most of the finds - brick, tile, glass and pottery - which were recovered, were of 19th-century date or later. Three pottery sherds recovered from layer 302 were dated to the 17th century.

4 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

The evaluation showed that the ground was probably made up for construction in the 19th century (deposits 202, 302). Such an operation would make sense given the slope of the ground to the rear of the site. The material could have been derived from terracing the front part of the site. No significant archaeological deposits or features were found, and the earliest finds (3 sherds of 17th-century pottery) had clearly moved from their original place of deposition, given the presence of 19th-century and later finds in the same context.

The reliability of the evaluation is considered to be good. It is unlikely that the areas covered by the existing buildings will differ archaeologically from those evaluated, though they may have been subjected to more disturbance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

VCH v, 1976 *Victoria County History of the County of Middlesex*, Vol. VI.

Taylor, P (ed) *A place in time: the London Borough of Barnet up to c. 1850*, Hendon and District Archaeological Society.

Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First ed.)

Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Ctx	Type	width (m)	thick (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
1								
	101	layer		0.08	tarmac			
	102	layer		0.30	make-up layer	brick, tile, cans	15	PM
	103	layer		0.06	buried garden soil	brick, tile		
	104	layer			natural			
2	201	layer		0.24	top soil			
	202	layer		0.12	make-up layer	pottery	2	19th C
	203	layer			natural			
3	301	layer		0.18	top soil			
	302	layer		0.16	make-up layer	pottery	3	17th C
	303	layer			natural			

APPENDIX 2
GLSMR/RCHME NAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. Type of Recording: Excavation
Watching Brief
Other (specify) - EVALUATION

2. Address: 201 - 205, HALE LANE, EDGEWARE

Borough: EDGEWARE

Site Name: As Above.

Site Code: HLE 97

National Grid Refs: centre of site TQ 2020 9240

limits of site a) b)

c) d)

3. Directed/Supervised by: D. WILKINSON / G LAWS

Address: JANUS HOUSE, OSNEY MEAD, OXFORD, OX2 0ES

For (organisation/department): OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Funded by: SUBURBAN AND COUNTY CARE LTD.

4. Date fieldwork started: 4/2/97 Date finished: 5/2/97

Fieldwork previously notified Yes/No

Fieldwork will continue Yes/No

5. Periods represented:

paleolithic

roman

mesolithic

saxon

neolithic

medieval

bronze age

post-medieval

iron age

unknown

6. Period Summaries

Three sherds of 17th-century pottery (residual).
Evidence of 19th-century landscaping for construction of
buildings.

7. Natural ~~LONDON CLAY~~

Height above Ordnance Datum: 59.47 - 60.30 m OD.

Type (specify): LONDON CLAY

8. Location of Archive

a) Please tick those categories still in your possession:

NO PH SL MS
 PL NG CO

b) All/some records have been/will be deposited in the following museum, record office, etc

MUSEUM OF LONDON

c) Approx. year of transfer: 1997

d) Location of any copies:

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made?:

Yes/No

WILL BE DONE BEFORE DEPOSITION

~~If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming?: Yes/No~~

9. Location of finds:

a) In your possession (delete as appropriate) All/~~Some~~/~~None~~

b) All/~~some~~ finds have been/will be deposited with the following museum/other body:

MUSEUM OF LONDON

c) Approx. year of transfer: 1997

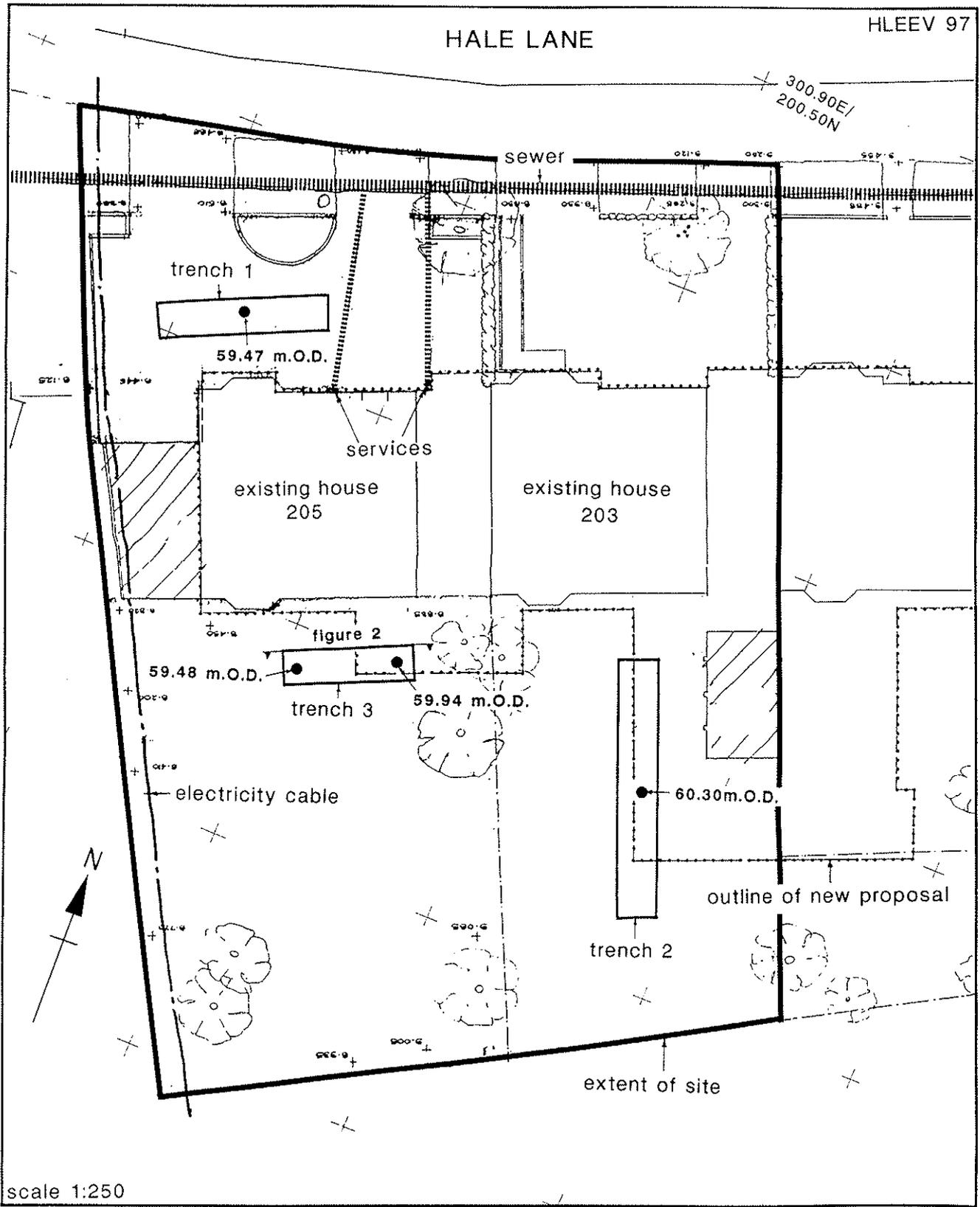
10. Bibliography:

GAU, February 1997, 201-205 Hale Lane,
Edgeware; Archaeological Field Evaluation Report.

Signature:



Date: 18/2/97.



Location of trial trenches

Figure 1

trench 3: north section

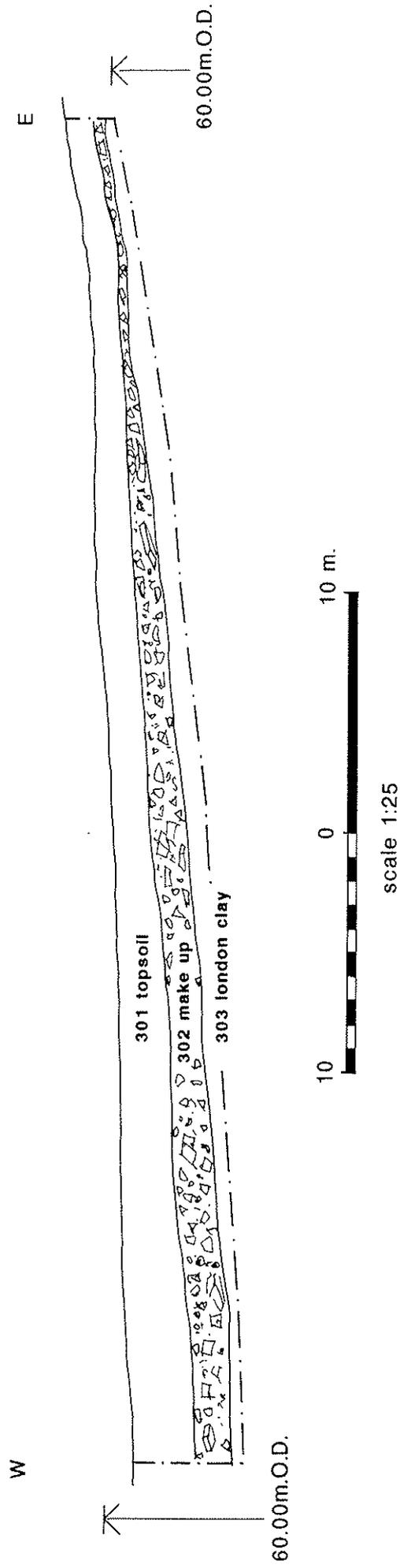


Figure 2



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES
Telephone: 01865 243888 Fax: 01865 793496



Director: David Miles B.A., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited. Registered Office: Janus House, Osney Mead
Registered Charity Number: 285627. Private Limited Company Number: 1618597