Historic England

# London Borough of Brent

## Archaeological Priority Areas Appraisal

September 2022

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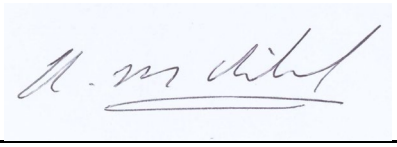
| Approval: (Signature) |  |

This document has been produced by Laura Hampden (Historic England), Sandy Kidd (Historic England).

Contents

## Introduction

This document has been produced by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of the London and South East office of Historic England. The London Borough of Brent's Archaeological Priority Area Appraisal is part of a long-term commitment to review and update London's Archaeological Priority Areas (APA). The review uses evidence held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) in order to provide a sound evidence base for local plans that accords with the National Planning Policy Framework and its supporting Practice Guidance.

The appraisal is an opportunity to review the current APA framework in Brent and produce revised areas and new descriptions. The proposals are being submitted to Brent for consideration and are recommended for adoption in support of the Local Plan.

## Explanation of Archaeological Priority Areas

An Archaeological Priority Area (APA) is a defined area where, according to existing information, there is significant known archaeological interest or potential for new discoveries.

APAs exist in every London borough and were initially created in the 1970s and 1980s either by the boroughs or local museums. The present review of these areas is based on evidence held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER). Guidelines have been published to promote consistency in the recognition and definition of these areas across Greater London and have been used in the preparation of this document.

In the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), archaeological interest means evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places and of the people and cultures that made them. However, heritage assets of archaeological interest can also hold other forms of heritage significance – artistic, architectural or historic interest. For many types of above ground heritage asset (e.g. historic buildings, landscapes and industrial heritage) these other interests may be more obvious or important. Sometimes heritage interests are intertwined – as is often the case with archaeological and historical interest. While the APA system does not seek to duplicate protection given by other heritage designations, such as Listed Buildings or Conservation Areas, it does aim to overlap and integrate with such approaches. Understanding archaeological significance can enhance appreciation of historical, cultural, social, landscape and architectural interest and vice versa.

APAs highlight where important archaeological interest might be located based on the history of the area and previous archaeological investigations. They help local planning authorities to manage archaeological remains that might be affected by development by providing an evidence base for Local Plans. This evidence base identifies areas of known heritage assets of historic and archaeological interest and wider zones where there is a likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets will be discovered in the future. APAs act as a trigger for consultation with the borough's archaeological adviser and are justified by a description of significance which will inform development management advice and decision making. The appraisal can also indicate how archaeology might contribute towards a positive strategy for conserving and enjoying the local historic environment, for example through recognising local distinctiveness and/or securing wider social and cultural benefits.

However, archaeological research and discovery is a dynamic process, it is not possible to anticipate all eventualities, threats and opportunities. This appraisal should therefore be considered as providing a flexible framework for informed site-specific decision.

## Archaeological Priority Area Tiers

Previously all parts of Brent were either inside or outside an Archaeological Priority Area. Under the new system all parts of the borough will fall into one of four different tiers of archaeological significance and potential. The tiers vary depending on the archaeological significance and potential of an area. New Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs) have been categorised into one of Tiers 1-3 while all other areas within the borough will be regarded as being in Tier 4. Tier levels indicate when there is a need to understand the potential impact of the proposed development on the heritage asset's significance. The type of planning applications, and the tier level it is in are indicative of the likelihood that archaeology will be a consideration in reaching a planning decision.

Consultation guidelines are set out in the GLAAS Charter. These guidelines link the tiers to specific thresholds for triggering archaeological advice and assessment. It is suggested that as a minimum all major applications[1] within Archaeological Priority Areas (Tiers 1-3) should be required to provide an archaeological desk based assessment, and if necessary a field evaluation, to accompany a planning application. In the more sensitive Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas this procedure would also apply to some smaller scale developments. Outside Archaeological Priority Areas (Tier 4) some major developments, such as those subject to Environmental Impact Assessment, may warrant similar treatment. Pre-application consultation with GLAAS is encouraged to ensure planning applications are supported by appropriate information.

Tier 1 is a defined area which is known, or strongly suspected, to contain a heritage asset of national importance (a Scheduled Monument or equivalent); or is otherwise of very high archaeological sensitivity. Thus Tier 1 covers heritage assets to which policies for designated heritage assets would apply and a few other sites which are particularly sensitive to small scale disturbance[2]. They will be clearly focused on a specific heritage asset and will normally be relatively small. Scheduled Monuments would normally be included within a Tier 1 APA[3].

[1] Major applications include development involving 10 or more dwellings or an application site of 0.5 hectares or more on outline applications. For other types of applications including commercial or industrial development a major application may be defined as being 1000m$^2$ floorspace or more or an application site of 1 hectare or more on an outline application.

[2] However, this does not mean that the policies for assets of national importance would apply to every development in a Tier 1 APA as that will depend upon the nature of the proposals and results of site-specific assessment and evaluation.

[3] Tier 1 APAs around Scheduled Monuments will often extend beyond the boundary of the scheduled area to reflect the full extent of the asset, including the potential for associated remains. It will not usually be

Tier 2 is a local area within which the GLHER holds specific evidence indicating the presence or likely presence of heritage assets of archaeological interest. Planning decisions are expected to make a balanced judgement for non-designated assets considered of less than national importance considering the scale of any harm and the significance of the asset. Tier 2 APAs will typically cover a larger area than a Tier 1 APA and may encompass a group of heritage assets.

Tier 3 is a landscape scale zone within which the GLHER holds evidence indicating the potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest. The definition of Tier 3 APAs involves using the GLHER to predict the likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets, particularly sites of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future. Tier 3 APAs will typically be defined by geological, topographical or land use considerations in relation to known patterns of heritage asset distribution.

Tier 4 (outside APA) is any location that does not, on present evidence, merit inclusion within an Archaeological Priority Area. However, Tier 4 areas are not necessarily devoid of archaeological interest and may retain some potential unless they can be shown to have been heavily disturbed in modern times. Such potential is most likely to be identified on greenfield sites, in relation to large scale development or in association with Listed Buildings or other designated heritage assets.

New information may lead to areas moving between the four tiers set out above. For example, a positive archaeological evaluation could result in a Tier 2 area (or part of it) being upgraded to Tier 1 if the remains found were judged to be of national importance. It is important to understand that the new tiered system is intended to be dynamic and responsive to new information which either increases or decreases the significance of an area.

This document comprises an appraisal of all the new and/or revised APAs in Brent which have been allocated to one of Tiers 1-3. Each APA has an associated description which includes several different sections. A "Summary and Definition" section provides a brief overview of the key features of the APA, the justification for its selection, how its boundaries

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practicable for an APA to define the totality of Scheduled Monument's setting. Instead they will attempt to reflect areas close to the monument that would be especially sensitive. A few Scheduled Monuments which have been designated for their historical or other non-archaeological interest will not merit the definition of a Tier 1 APA.

were defined and gives an explanation as to why it has been placed in a tier group. A "Description" section goes into more detail about the history and archaeology of the APA to describe its overall character. Finally, a "Significance" section details the heritage significance of the APA with reference to its archaeological interest and related historical interest. Each description will also have a list of "Key References" along with a related map showing the extent of the APA boundary. A glossary of relevant terms is included at the end of the document.

## Brent: Historical and Archaeological Interest

The Greater London Borough of Brent formed in 1965 through the union of Wembley and Willesden, formerly both part of the historic county of Middlesex. The borough is located to the north-west of Greater London and is named for the River Brent, a tributary of the River Thames that runs through four west London boroughs. It is bordered by seven boroughs that include Harrow and Barnet to the north/ northwest/ northeast; Camden to the east; the City of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, and Hammersmith and Fulham to the south; and Ealing to the south/ southeast.

Brent lies predominantly within the Northern Thames Basin National Character Area (NCA 111) which is an area defined by Natural England as "an area rich in geodiversity, archaeology and history and diverse landscapes". The topography, geology and watercourses will have influenced past activity and settlement patterns throughout the borough. While arable agriculture has been an important industry within many areas of the NCA, the soil quality ranges from good to poor quality as is observed within the borough of Brent. The London Clay provides a poor-quality soil with better quality found in areas that contain alluvial deposits from the Thames and other rivers in the area.

The River Brent provided an important communication, navigation and transportation route within the wider landscape, rising in the borough of Barnet following a south-west direction before joining the Tideway stretch of the Thames at Brentford. The name 'Brent' may have Iron Age/ pre-Roman origins, referring to the Celtic goddess 'Brigantia', or deriving from the Celtic words for "sacred waters". During the Saxon period a settlement pattern of villages and hamlets widely dispersed among wooded areas developed in Brent. Little is currently known about human activity within Brent prior to this period. It has been suggested that the heavy clay soils within Brent could have been a deterrent for cultivation and settlement, with woodland growth covering much of the borough. However, conjectured prehistoric trackways intersecting the borough (see below), and the later Roman road (Edgware Road) which is thought to have reused an earlier trackway indicate that some form of activity was taking place in the prehistoric period.

The pattern of settlement that developed from the Saxon period changed very little throughout the medieval to post-medieval period. The boroughs rural character, and slow history of growth and development is well documented on historic maps from showing the area as a mix of open fields and woodland from at least the 16th to late 19$^{th}$ century. Roads were notoriously poorly kept within the borough until plans for a colonial exhibition the *British Empire Exhibition* (1924-25) were implemented. Originally proposed in 1902 but

postponed due to the Russo-Japanese War and World War I the exhibition was held at Wembley Park on the site of pleasure gardens created by Edward Watkin. The exhibition led to improved local infrastructure (to accommodate the mass of visitors to Wembley) but inevitably prompted a period of intense and rapid industrial and residential development from the early 20th century. The borough is thus characterised by remnants of small early medieval settlements dispersed amongst industrial areas and housing developments. Fragments of ancient woodland may remain in small pockets throughout the borough as demonstrated in Kensal Rise park in the south of the borough where several trees including ancient oak predate the laying out as a public park.

## Prehistoric (500,000 BC to 42 AD)

Very few finds and features dating from all prehistoric periods have been recorded in Brent. The Palaeolithic is represented sporadically with hand axes and waste flakes found in Gladstone Park, and flint tools found in the general area around Wembley, including a hand-axe that was found on the allotments at Sudbury Court.

The Bronze Age and Iron Age are better represented in Brent. Five Late Bronze Age socketed axes and pieces of Bronze cake were found during construction at Disraeli Road in 1975. Bronze Age archaeology was recorded at Kingsbury Sports Ground to the north of the Barn Hill. Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age Burial 'Deverel-Rimbury Cinerary Urns were recorded during construction of the Welsh Harp Reservoir. Early Iron Age activity was recorded in excavations at the Dollis Hill Estate at the top of a hill capped by high level terrace gravels (Dollis Hill Gravels). And Iron Age activity has been also been on an outcrop of Dollis Hill gravels at the site of the former Blackbird Hill Farm. Elsewhere Deverel-Rimbury pottery has been recorded at Horsenden Hill to the west, and Deverel-Rimbury urns at Ealing to the south. Further down the river at the Brent/Thames confluence at Brentford finds from the Bronze Age have been recorded. Timbers and metal work recorded at Brentford suggest this was the location of an important Iron Age site.

It is conjectured that a series of Prehistoric trackways once ran through the forest in Brent, close to Harrow on the Hill to the west. One of these trackways is thought to have extended from Westminster, through Willesden and nearby Neasden reaching Stanmore. This aligns with a trackway documented to run along Blackbird Hill branching north through Barn Hill. This trackway is thought to have been called *Wic Street* during the Roman period and *Elderstrete* during the Saxon period when it was used to mark the boundary between Kingsbury and the neighbouring parish of Harrow. It was later called Honeypot Lane, or Hell

Lane but disappeared as a road between 1597 and 1729-38. However, remnants of the track remained as a footpath were still visible within the Barn Hill APA on aerial photographs from 1954.

The other is thought to have crossed the Thames at Brentford, passing through Perivale, Horsendon Hill and Sudbury (Druett 1971). The place name Sudbury is suggested to derive from the Old English 'Sud' (south) and 'byrig' (fortified place) and may indicate earlier settlement than is documented. Forty Lane connects Blackbird Hill Farm to Sudbury (through Wembley) and is visible on early maps of the area. While there is yet no evidence of Iron Age activity at Sudbury, considerable evidence indicative of settlement has been recorded within the earthworks of a probable hillfort at the summit of Horsenden Hill to the south of Sudbury.

While evidence of prehistoric activity is currently sparse within Brent this may to some degree reflect a lack of archaeological investigation because of the assumption that the clay lands in this area were unsuitable for prehistoric settlement. The scattering of finds and sites demonstrate that activity was taking place across the wider landscape throughout the prehistoric period and may indicate the presence of undiscovered sites. Early Iron Age remains are comparatively rare within Greater London and thus warrants further research and investigation if the opportunity should arise. Future discoveries of prehistoric material could help to reveal more about early activity within the area, how the local landscape was used and navigated, and to explore possible links or relationships between settlements within and around Brent.

## Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)

Brent lies to the west of the Roman road of *Watling Street* (Edgware Road) constructed in the 1st century AD (although a similar route used in the Iron Age may have existed at an earlier date cutting through the Forest of Middlesex). Watling Street ran from Dover through London to Kenchester, Herefordshire. Brent lies between *Londinium* to the south and the possible settlement of *Sullonicae* along Brockley Hill to the north. A pottery manufacturing site at Brockley Hill is one of the earliest known examples in Roman Britain supplying London and the south east, as well as areas in northern England, North Wales and the lowlands of Scotland.

Despite its location along a major road only a handful of sites with evidence of Roman activity have been discovered within Brent. The main cluster of Roman sites and finds have been recorded within the Old Church Lane, and Kingsbury area that lie near to the rich

alluvial floodplain of the River Brent. The river was tidal in London during the Roman period, tributaries of the Thames like the River Brent were likely navigable and may have been an important routeway. Roman building material has been recorded on Salmon Street, and Roman pottery was recorded on a site at 13, Old Church Lane. Sand quarries and ditches dated to the late Roman period were recorded at Dollis Hill.

The most significant Roman remains have been recorded at St Andrews Church where Roman building material (likely from a villa) has been recycled and incorporated within the church building and is also found within the churchyard. Evidence for villa sites around London is scare compared to patterns elsewhere in the province.

Evidence and knowledge of late Roman activity, and of activity in the countryside around *Londinium* is currently under studied. Areas like Old Church Lane and Dollis Hill (2km to the south east) where there is evidence of earlier activity and settlement may have been more attractive due to the underlying geology (Dollis Hill Gravels). It possible that the clay soils that characterise much of Brent were not intensively farmed and many areas may have remained heavily wooded during this period. Roman timber requirements in the early period of urban growth could have led to woodland clearance, or it is possible that well established means of woodland management were employed for coppice and timber. This is currently not well understood. Future discovery and investigation may help to confirm the nature of Roman activity, land use and settlement in Brent, and the relationship between outlying landscapes with the nearby Roman city.

## Early Medieval/Saxon (410 AD to 1065 AD) & Medieval (1066 AD to 1539 AD)

The Early medieval or Saxon period refers to the period from the end of Roman imperial rule in 410 to the Norman conquest in 1066. The earlier history of the period in London is uncertain. Archaeological evidence suggests a large settlement to the west of the old Roman city along the Strand had developed by the 7th century, and a charter of 672–4 includes the earliest reference to the Saxon 'port of London', and by *c*730 London (*Lundenwic*) is described as 'an emporium for many nations who come to it by land and sea' (Historia Ecclesiastica 2.3, in Colgrave & Mynors 1969, 142–3). Vikings raids on London are recorded in 842, 851, and in 871–2. Viking attacks resumed in the late 10th century, and in 1016 the London area was under Danish control.

During the Saxon period the existing documentary evidence attests to the development of a settlement pattern of small villages and hamlets dispersed among wooded areas throughout

Brent. It is likely that the forest was gradually cleared from isolated farms, the earliest of which may have been at Tunworth or Tuna's farm at Redhill, or at Wembley where the earliest documentary reference to settlement dates to 825 AD with a reference to '*Wemba Lea*' (a clearing belonging to *Wemba*). In the 9th and 10th centuries, the Saxon minster system was replaced by local parochial organisation, with formal areas of land centred on nucleated settlements that were served by a parish church. Much of the land in Kingsbury (meaning King's Fort or house) belonged to a Saxon lord *Ulward Wit*. The settlement of Neasden (or *Neasdun* meaning nose-shaped hill) to the north was recorded in 939AD (and 1000 AD), and Harlesden to the south was recorded as *Herewulf's Tun* in 939 AD. A charter of 957 AD records a road called '*Wiscrete*' (now represented by Dennis Lane, Honeypot Lane and Neasden Lane), and an agricultural estate called '*Tunwcordinga*' around the Stag Lane area. Willesden (referred to in the Anglo-Saxon Charters) is believed to derive from the Saxon *Wellesdune*, "the hill with the spring" and is later named in Domesday Book (1086 AD). Understanding the chronology of development in this the period will help to understand possible inter- and intra-site relationships.

The early to later medieval landscape of Brent was characterised by open fields, and common arable land with local (and religious) economies revolving around the agricultural land and its produce. Archaeological evidence of medieval activity (while sparse) has been recorded throughout the borough, with substantial evidence recorded at Sudbury. Many of Brent's earliest farmsteads and settlements recorded in the Domesday Book are still visible on early 20th century maps; including settlements along the Wealdstone Brook at Preston meaning 'the farm belonging to the priest' (first mentioned in 1220) and Uxendon 1257 visible as a hamlet of three farms and a tearoom Preston Hill. Currently not all these settlements are covered by an APA due to the low number of archaeological investigations within the borough, however future discoveries may warrant review and inclusion within an APA.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the earlier history of the period between the end of Roman imperial rule in 410 to the Norman conquest in 1066 further research and investigation to establish the chronology and pattern of settlement could greatly enhance our understanding of the early medieval/ Saxon period within this area of London. Sites such as that at St Andrews Church demonstrate the potential of archaeology within the borough in understanding the transitions between the late Roman and early Saxon period; and understanding the ways that Saxon communities existed in and interacted with the remnant landscape of Roman London.

Known Anglo-Saxon/Saxon estate boundaries have the potential to inform our understanding of the ways in which society was structured and organised, and how this was

formalised within the landscape. Trackways such as *Wic Street* known in the Saxon period *as Elderstrete* and used to mark the parish boundary (see above) demonstrate reuse and adaptation of the Roman landscape. The site at St Andrews Church attests to the impact that the remaining Roman features, structures and routeways had on the development of the early medieval through to the medieval religious landscape of London.

Understanding the cultural topography and continuity of use/reuse of the natural environment as a religious/spiritual resource is also of interest within the borough. The Church of St Mary, Willesden (reportedly founded in 938 AD) may have been built on the site of an earlier shrine associated with a well or grove. Due to the impact of The Black Death it became a popular place of pilgrimage renowned for its holy spring water. Similarly, Kilburn Priory, a convent set up in 1134 was used as a stopping place by travellers and pilgrims and was later the site of a medicinal well (Kilburn Wells).

## Post medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD) & Modern (1901 AD to present day)

Brent retained a predominantly rural character for most of the post medieval period. The late 16th Century Hovenden map shows a network of farms and fields comprised of meadows, ploughed fields and wooded areas. It is likely that many of Brent's historic settlements mentioned in the Domesday Book continued to function in some capacity through to the Post-Medieval period. Farm cottages at the *c*13th Century settlement at Oxgate Farm were demolished as late as the 1930's. The Old Oxgate Grade II* Listed 16th century farmhouse building is all that is currently known to remain of the medieval manor, and at the time of writing is on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

Rising levels of poverty in London within this period led to shifts in demography and economic activity. The Poor Relief Act of 1601 made churchwardens responsible for the welfare of local people. There is potential to record and investigate traces of social and economic deprivation within the historic environment in villages like Willesden where the impact of poverty is well documented. London's growing need for hay, and the agricultural depression following the Napoleonic Wars resulted in many farms converting to hay farming during the post medieval period with waggons carrying hay travelling to the Hay Market at Piccadilly. Historical documents record the impact of The Depression on local communities, including an outbreak of violence in the area around 1828, when desperate agricultural labourers burnt haystacks and threatened local landowners. The historic character of the borough did not change significantly until between the end of the 19th century to 20th

century when the hay trade declined, and the motor vehicle had replaced the horse as the main method of transport.

Despite the impact of poverty and economic decline on local communities Brent became an increasingly popular and attractive weekend rural escape for those who could afford it, with an expanding leisure and recreational offer. In the early 18th century, The Bell in Kilburn became a fashionable spa due to the discovery of the special qualities of the Kilburn Wells spring (see above). In c1880 Preston House was acquired by George Timms (d. 1899), who turned the grounds into Preston Tea Gardens. The Tea Gardens flourished well into the next century. The Welsh Harp Reservoir (named after an old pub that stood on the Edgware Road) and pub were popular leisure destinations. The proprietor of the Old Welsh Harp pub created Kingsbury Racecourse and the pub had its own railway station until 1903. By 1900 Uxendon Farm had become a shooting ground (the Lancaster Shooting Club) suitable enough to host the shotgun events at London's first Olympic Games in 1908.

Of further interest are sites like The Stag Lane Aerodrome where Britain's most famous female aviator Amy Johnson learned to fly. Rosalind Franklin who's work led to significant advancements in medical science, particularly the study of DNA is buried at Willesden Cemetery, while Mary Seacole the British-Jamaican nurse was buried in St Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green following her death in 1881.

Post World War I *The British Empire Exhibition* of 1924/25 had a significant influence on the historic landscape and character of Brent. The idea for a great exhibition, to showcase the industry and natural resources of the British Empire, was proposed in 1902 when global powers like America and Japan were seen to be challenging Britain on the world stage. Britain was economically dependent on the trade of resources obtained from its global empire. In 1917 Britain had committed to leave India, and at a time when anti-colonial sentiment was growing across Europe and beyond, it was felt that a public display of Britain's economic achievements and technological potential would help to stabilise and unify its remaining empire, and boost trade.

The pleasure grounds created by Edward Watkin at Wembley Park were chosen as the location for the exhibition and work commenced on the Empire Stadium in January 1922. A world tour in 1922 headed by Ernest Belcher and participants like Agatha Christie promoted the exhibition, while Rudyard Kipling named the exhibition's roads. The site hosted Britain's first bus station which could handle 100,000 passengers a day. The concrete stadium was finished in time for the F.A. Cup Final in April 1923 attended by a crowd of 300,000. On the 23rd April 1924 King George V declared the exhibition open in the first ever radio broadcast by

a British monarch. Wembley became a household name and 27 million visitors attended the Exhibition between 1924 and 1925. After the exhibition closed in 1925 several buildings were used as factories, some were demolished, and others were dismantled and put up elsewhere. Features including footprints of buildings and structures may still remain below ground offering opportunities for investigation and engagement with communities.

The unique and diverse cultural character of Brent has been greatly influenced greatly by changes in industry and the movement of people. Irish communities had travelled to Kilburn and Cricklewood as seasonal labourers since the early 19th century and continued to settle in the area into the 20th century. Jewish communities who had come to Britain to escape persecution in the 19th century settled in the area, and communities from the Caribbean, and the Indian sub-continent arriving to rebuild London after the war made Brent their home. By the 1960s Brent became the most ethnically diverse borough in London. Improvements to local infrastructure inevitably enabled a period of rapid suburban development. Many moved to the developing suburbs around Wembley and the population increased from 203 in 1851 to 48,500 in 1931. In the 1930's settlements like Uxendon Farm were destroyed to make way for the Metropolitan Railway extension from Wembley to Stanmore (later the Bakerloo and today the Jubilee Line). By the 1960's most of Brent had been developed for housing.
The combination of late (modern) development and richness of historical evidence offers opportunities to understand the local impact of historical social, political and economic change on the development of the landscape, settlement patterns, industry, and human experience.

## Archaeological Priority Areas in Brent and the Potential for Future Discoveries

The APA's proposed within this document demonstrate that Brent's location on the outer fringes of central London made it an attractive place for farming, religion, pilgrimage, and recreation. Located on route between London and other larger settlements it was an ideal stop gap for travellers. While the archaeological evidence relating to all periods is generally sparse within Brent it is important to note that there have been relatively few archaeological excavations and investigations in comparison to other London boroughs. Despite this, the small number of investigations and archaeological interventions and that have taken place to date attest to the variable survival of buried remains throughout the borough. The review brings to light some interesting sites that demonstrate the potential for further significant archaeological discoveries. The wealth of Community generated historical research, and local stories generated throughout Brent's year as the Borough of Culture (2020) further demonstrate Brent's unique social, economic and culturally diverse past.

## Archaeological Priority Areas in Brent

A total of 13 Archaeological Priority Areas are recommended for Brent of which 1 is a Tier I, 11 are a Tier 2 APA, and 1 is a Tier 3 APA. The APAs would cover approximately 10% of the borough.

### Tier 1 APA

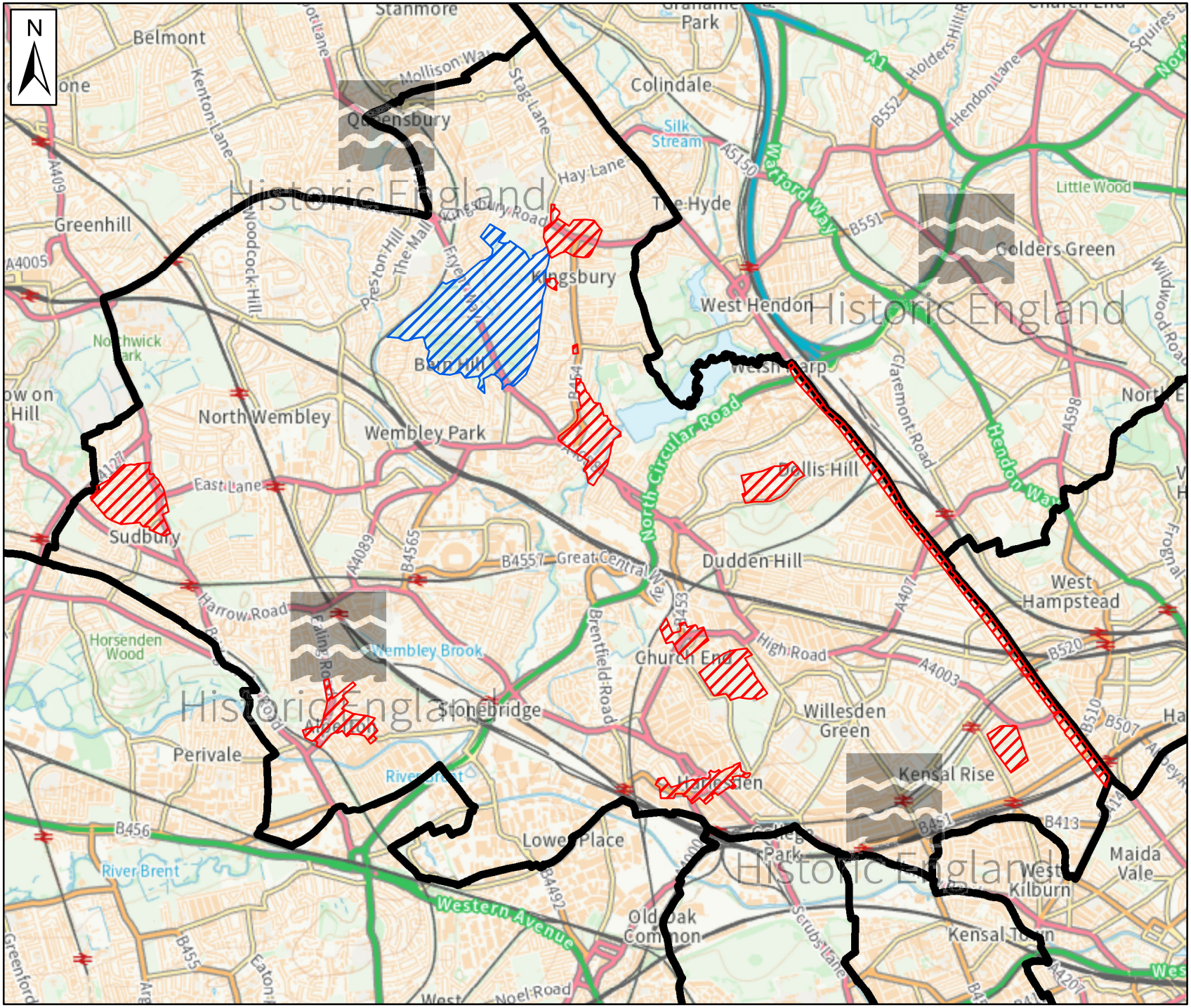
Brent APA 1.1: St. Andrews Old Church Lane

### Tier 2 APA

Brent APA 2.1: Sudbury
Brent APA 2.2: Harlesden
Brent APA 2.3: Alperton
Brent APA 2.4: Brent Post Medieval Cemeteries
Brent APA 2.5: Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill
Brent APA 2.6: Kingsbury Green
Brent APA 2.7: Dollis Hill
Brent APA 2.8: Willesden Church End
Brent APA 2.9: Watling Street
Brent APA 2.10: Kilburn Priory
Brent APA 2.11: Neasden

### Tier 3 APA

3.1 Barn Hill




# Brent Archaeological Priority Areas

30 June 2022

Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:50,000



Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

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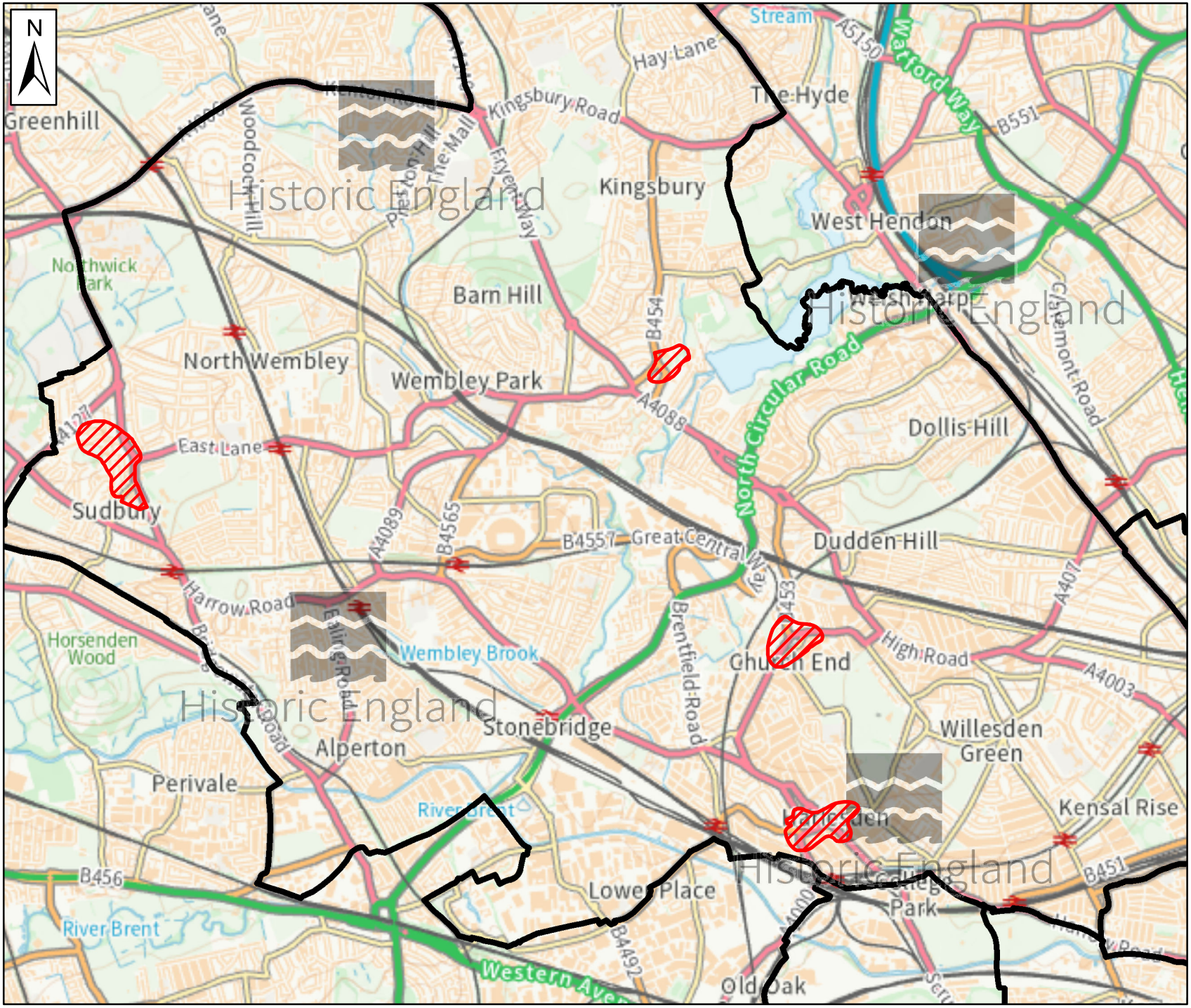


Brent
Former APA Coverage

30 June 2022

- Archaeology
- Archaeological Find Spot
- Building
- Listed Building
- TDP & TAS Maritime Archaeology
- Registered Parks & Gardens
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- World Heritage Sites
- Archaeological Priority Area
- Event Location
- Event Location (Not fully recorded on the GLHER database)
- Requested Search Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:40,000



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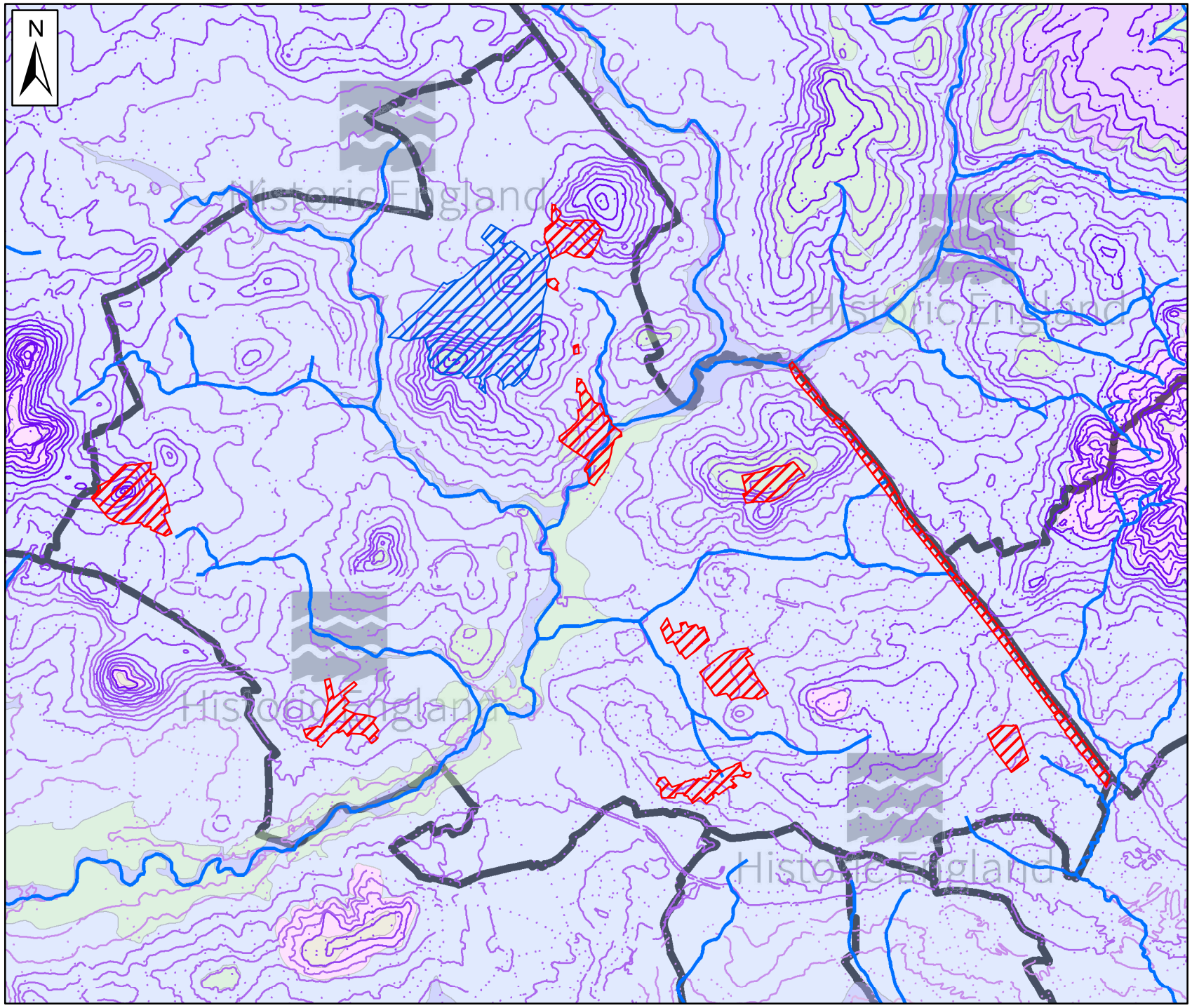


# Topography and APA Map

30 June 2022

Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:50,000



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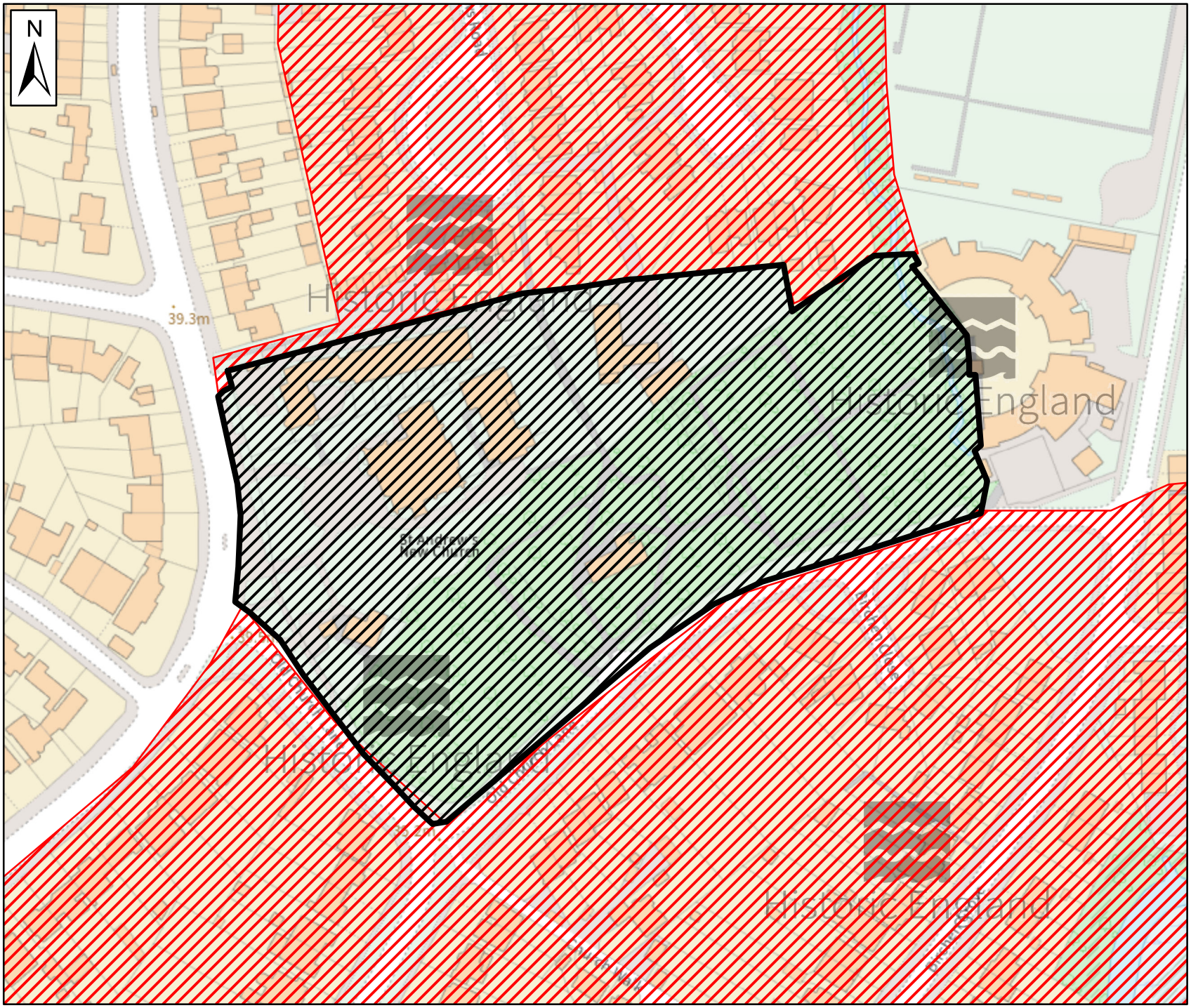


# Brent APA 1.1: St. Andrews Old Church Lane

14 July 2022

St. Andrews Old Church Lane

Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:1,704



Notes:
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## Brent APA 1.1.: St. Andrews (Old Church Lane)

### Summary and Definition

The St. Andrews (Old Church Lane) Archaeological Priority Area covers the site of an early medieval church, historic churchyard and an adjacent undeveloped parcel of land in settlement of Kingsbury. St. Andrew's is a Grade I Listed medieval parish church thought to have been built on the site of an earlier Roman building. It is a Tier 1 APA because St. Andrews Church is Grade I Listed and there is high archaeological potential within the vicinity of the church and surrounding area.

The Tier 1 APA covers the church, churchyard and adjacent parcel of land. The remaining part of the historic settlement of Kingsbury is covered by the Tier 2 Old Church lane and Blackbird Hill APA.

### Description

The St. Andrews (Old Church Lane) APA is in the historic settlement of Kingsbury near the northern perimeter of the Brent/Barnet borough boundary. Evidence of prehistoric activity was recorded in excavations in 2013 at the corner of Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill where the former Blackbird Farm once stood. There is potential for evidence of prehistoric activity associated with this site within the APA.

The most significant evidence of Roman activity within the borough has been recorded at St Andrews Church. Antiquarian William Stukeley wrote in 1749 that the church was built in the middle of a Roman encampment that he fancifully believed to have been constructed by Julius Caesar during the 54BC invasion of Britain. While the ditches were later dated to the 13th century, Roman building material (including hypocaust tiles) has been incorporated into the church building itself (see below) and building material has also been recorded within the churchyard. It is likely that the ruins of a nearby Roman building were used in construction of the church, and the use of hypocaust tiles are suggestive of a nearby Roman villa.

St. Andrews Church forms the historic core of the original village of Kingsbury. It was recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) and a Medieval ditch and embankment dating to the 13th century still survive. The place name Kingsbury may mean the 'King's manor or stronghold'. Kingsbury (*Cyngesbyrig*) is first recorded in the will of Archbishop Aelfric of Canterbury dated 1003 or 1004 and occurs again as *Kyngesbyrig* in a writ of King Edward dated 1044 – 1046.

Archaeological investigation undertaken by UCL in 2006 suggests that St Andrews Church was built no later than the year 1100. The mention of a priest in the Domesday implies either this building or its predecessor was built before 1086. The four corners of the building have large sandstone blocks in a "long and short" patterns. Two of the corners are supported by sarsen stones, which were carried to the area by glaciers during the last Ice Age. The walls are made of rubble comprised of small rocks, and debris from other buildings, held together with mortar. They are faced with flints which are not thought to be local.

Within the walls numerous pieces of Roman floor and roof tiles, and domestic pottery have been recorded. Within the church inside the original (South or "Saxon") doorway, and either side of the altar Roman hypocaust flue tiles have been set into the walls. These are used as small storage boxes to hold candles or tapers.

By 1244 the church, and the Chalkhill manor land was under the ownership of the Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. This was a religious order established to look after Christian pilgrims and provide care for the poor or sick during the Crusades. The church was dedicated to St John, Baptist, as well as to St Andrew, and during the 13th century a second (Priest's) door, and two small windows in the north and south walls, were added, as well as a porch outside the main door. A sundial was added to the south wall to mark prayer times, and a bell was installed between 1325-45 to call monks in from the fields.

Farming was a prosperous business for those who owned their land within the area, and wealthy 'yeoman farmer' families funded the upkeep of St Andrews. The oldest surviving memorial in the church is to John Shepard, who died in 1520, his first wife Anne (who died after bearing ten children) and second wife Maude (who had eight children). The Shepard family were the tenants of Hill Farm (covered by the Barn Hill Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area) for more than a century. However, the Agricultural Revolution of the 18th century led to increasing poverty levels within the parish. The church was thus poorly maintained as shown in early 19th century drawings and major restoration on the building was carried out in 1840. In 1883 a new church was commissioned and by 1977 the Old Church was declared redundant. It was later taken over in 2003 by the Churches Conservation who agreed to a 20-year lease to the Romanian Orthodox Church in 2012.

## Significance

The primary significance of the Old Church Lane Archaeological Priority Area lies within its origins as a Roman and early medieval settlement. The presence of Iron Age finds along Blackbird Hill and 'bury' place name is suggestive of earlier settlement origin, further evidence of earlier occupation could be of considerable importance.

Owing to the physical geography and geology of the area the church site occupied a significant location and focal point in the landscape. The reuse of Roman building material in the construction of St Andrew's is highly indicative of earlier occupation within the vicinity of the church site, and the within the wider environs of the APA. The Kingsbury place-name is distinctive and finding it in a location close to a major Roman road may indicate a component in one of the networks of outposts around a stronghold (in this case presumably London) now recognised in the Middle Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex.

St. Andrews Church is an important place within the wider historic religious landscape, providing the revenue and resources to feed the poor and the sick during the Crusades.

The churchyard will contain numerous medieval and post-medieval burials that can inform on diet, health and demographic factors.

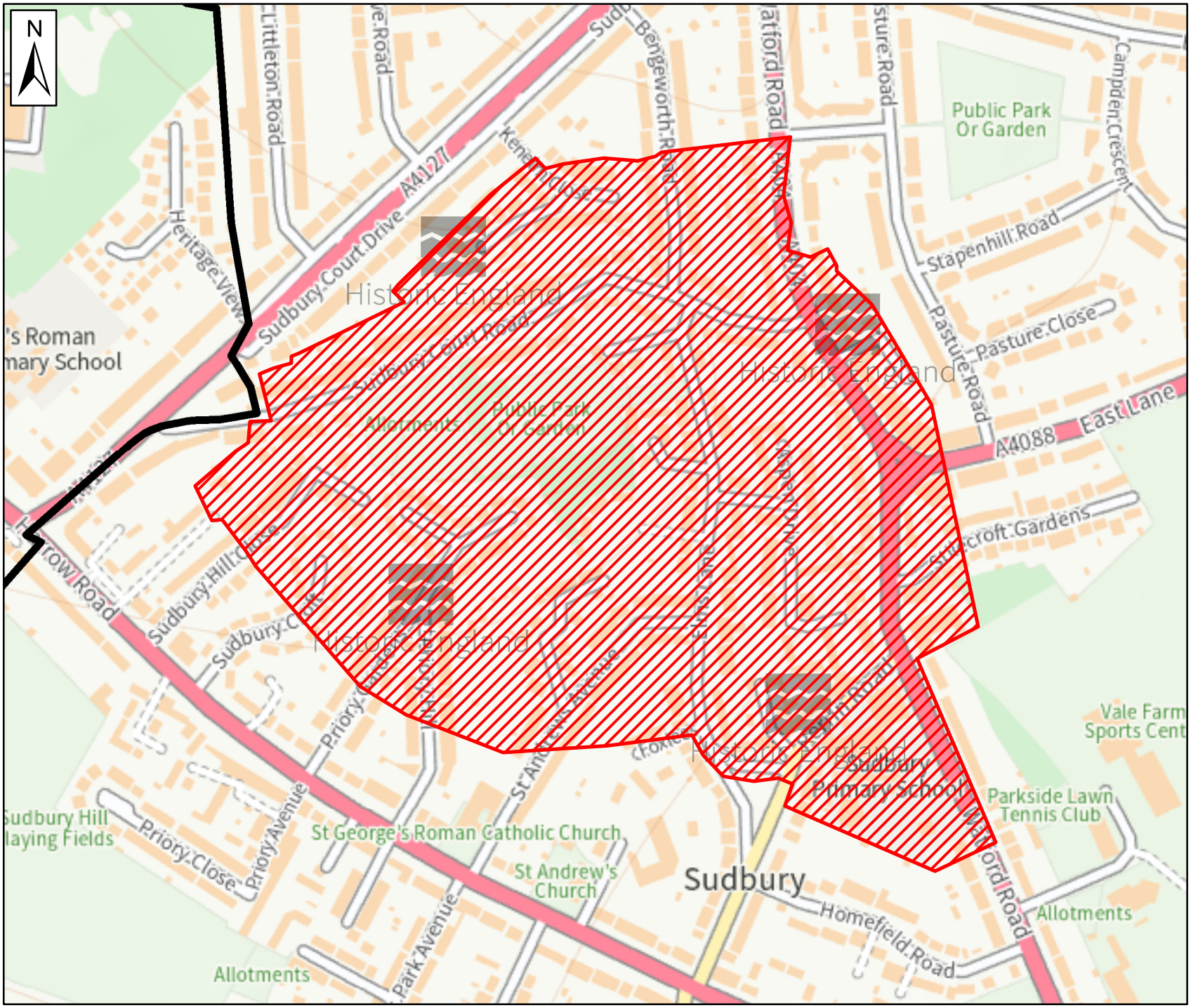
Sources

St. Andrew's Old Church, Kingsbury, Wembley History Society (Philip Grant 2013)

Victoria County History Volume 5

Blair, J. 2018 Building Anglo-Saxon England

Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Areas




Brent APA 2:1
Sudbury

26 January 2022

Sudbury

Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:5,000



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## Brent APA 2.1: Sudbury

### Summary and Definition

The Sudbury Archaeological Priority Area covers an historic medieval settlement, archiepiscopal residence and manor farm. It is classified as Tier 2 APA because it is a historic settlement with a history of positive archaeological interventions that demonstrate the potential for the recovery of well-preserved artefacts and features dating from the medieval to post-medieval period. The APA covers the core of the settlement as depicted on the John Rocque's map of 1746.

### Description

The Sudbury APA is located in a large suburban residential area of northwest London. The area within the APA is predominantly developed with the open space of Elmwood Park along the Sudbury Court Road. There is no firm evidence of prehistoric activity or occupation within the APA.

Prehistoric evidence within Brent is sparse, however, two Palaeolithic flint tools have been found in the general area around Wembley, including a hand-axe that was found on the allotments at Sudbury Court during the Second World War. Tentative evidence of a Bronze or Iron Age trackway passing along Sudbury Court comes from an early account (Elsey 1953). Prehistoric trackways are thought to have been aligned through the forest close to Harrow on the Hill to the west. One of these trackways is thought to have extended from Westminster, through Willesden and Neasden and reaching Stanmore. The other is thought to have crossed the Thames at Brentford, passing through Perivale, Horsendon Hill and Sudbury (Druett 1971).

Evidence of later prehistoric occupation has been found at Horsenden Hill directly to the South of the APA. where Iron Age evidence indicative of settlement was recorded within the earthworks of a probable hillfort. It is also suggested that an Iron Age Hillfort existed at Harrow on the Hill c1km to the north-west. The place name *Sudbury* is suggested to derive from the Old English 'Sud' (south) and '*byrig*' (fortified place).

The earliest documentary reference to settlement in the wider landscape dates to 825 with a reference to 'Wemba Lea', a clearing belonging to Wemba. Sudbury is not mentioned until the 13th century when recorded as one of twelve centres of settlement in the parish and manor of Harrow. Sudbury may have been included silently in the Domesday Book (AD 1086)

under the large manor of Harrow, which had apparently been an important local place in the Middle Saxon period.  Settlement focused around Sudbury Common. Sudbury Court Farm was the principal farm within the manor of Harrow and is documented as the centre of the medieval village of Sudbury. It was an important manorial grange forming part of the estate of the Archbishops of Canterbury and subsequently functioned as a demesne farm during the 15th-16th century. It was documented as 'Suthbery' (the southern manor house) by the late 13th century to distinguish it from an estate belonging to the Rectory of Harrow. At this point it comprised 620 acres, a grange and a chapel. Sudbury Common at this time stretched from Wembley to the foot of Harrow Hill.

By 1344 a new residence was built at Headstone Manor by the Archbishops of Canterbury. The chapel at Sudbury was described as being ruined in an *inquisition post mortem* from 1397, and the estate had been leased to tenant farmers and divided into separate land holdings with Sudbury Court remaining the most important. In 1545 King Henry VIII gave Sudbury Manor to the North family and a substantial range of manorial buildings are mentioned in a survey of 1547. From 1630 the manor was in the hands of the family that became the Churchill-Rushouts.

The extent and layout of the buildings associated with the original house at Sudbury Court has yet to be established. During demolition of the farmhouse in 1957 a watching brief undertaken by the Wembley History Society recovered pottery dated to the 16th-17th centuries.

Spencer Churchill (first cousin of Winston Churchill) who became Lord of Harrow Manor in 1912 began residential development of the estate from 1925. Mock-Tudor architecture was a popular feature of suburban design at the time, rising from the Garden Suburb Movement. Houses in the area are generally spaciously positioned within large gardens and so the area has retained a rural character. The current housing estate was developed over agricultural land so there may be potential for evidence of buried deposits, structural remains and finds of medieval date to be encountered within the area despite the later disturbance by late 19th century farm buildings and 20th century residential development.

While little definitive evidence of structural remains or deposits of medieval date were recovered during demolition of the Sudbury Court farmhouse, evidence of medieval activity is widespread throughout the rest of the APA. Significant numbers of pottery sherds dating from the 13th to 15th centuries have been recorded throughout the APA at Elms Lane, Charterhouse Avenue, and Priory Hill. At Elms Lane a Tudor wall of clay, bones, chalk and rubbish deposits was found. The wall ran in to the grounds of the neighbouring house.

A medieval occupation site and blacksmiths workshop was identified at Hundred Elms Farm north east of Sudbury Common to the south of the APA during an evaluation in 1991. Hundred Elms Farm was most likely named after the avenue of elm trees lining the sides of Elms Lane from the Harrow Road up to the farm, the avenue is visible on the John Roque's map of 1746. Hundred Elms Farm previously known as "Sudbury Place" was documented to be held by Hugh Wright in 1547 and eventually passed to an Edward Bryers in1622 by which time it was known as "the manor (or farm) of Sudbury". Structural features dating to the 13th century were recorded, these were deemed to be contemporary with a drainage ditch leading to a large feature possibly a pond or clay pit, or could be indicative of a moated manor complex on site (Priestly 2020). Leather shoes and pottery were recovered from the fill of the feature which is thought to have silted up by 1650.

Cutting through the medieval building foundations believed to be part of the remains of a 16th century manor house documented in 1547 were also recorded. Only a small part of the building was visible, so it is presumed that most of the house is located below the listed 1840's farmhouse. A pre-1745 stable block was also recorded on site. Excavations undertaken by the Wembley History Society in 1952 at the Unigate Depot recorded a 12-foot-long hearth and fireplace of a Tudor kitchen. This falls within the direct vicinity of the 16th century Grade II* Listed Hundred Elms Farm Outbuilding.

By the 1860's Hundred Elms Farm was a dairy farm belonging to the Greenhill family, cottages were built for workers including Keppel Cottages (now 920-930 Harrow Road), and produce was sold through a dairy shop in Harrow. By 1918 the farm and shop had been purchased by United Dairies, and its fields were sold for development. The farmyard was retained as a dairy depot later known as Unigate.

Medieval to post-medieval archaeology has also been recorded at Cooper's Cottage where a Westerwald stoneware tankard and a number of wells were recorded by The Wembley History Society. Elms Lane is an old track of at least medieval date or earlier. Elmwood Park to the west of Elms Lane was once the grounds of a house called Elmwood which was bombed before part of it was given to the local Council for open space. A property called Priory Hill was also present on the site of the recreation ground before World War II. Today, there are a number of old oak trees in the park including one at the summit that may date from a former hedgerow. There is potential for archaeological remains within the open space of the park that could tell us more about the medieval origins of Sudbury.

In 1582 the founder of Harrow School, John Lyon provided funds for the upkeep of the road from Harrow to London, then called "Harrow waye" and by 1681 there was a daily coach. By 1759 the village consisted of 70 properties, The 'Black Horse' and the 'Mitre' public houses both date from the 1750s, and The Swan coaching inn from 1786. A large proportion of

common land was lost after the Enclosure Act of 1817 when it was taken over by local landowners. Several substantial houses were built at this point. Animal farming played an important part of Sudbury's history, bringing prosperity to the area. However, in the 1820s and 1830s the farming community suffered as a result of a depression in the rural economy. By the 17th century a number of squatters had illegally built cottages on the common. Wembley Central station (initially called Sudbury) opened in 1842. This led to the development of more housing and schools that opened in 1846 and 1880. The British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley Park in 1924-25 invited larger numbers of people to Wembley's countryside and created a new momentum for development in the wider area.

Despite rapid development from the 18th century excavations like that at Elms Lane, and Hundred Elms Farm demonstrate the potential for the existence of structural remains from the Medieval to Post-medieval within the wider area.

## Significance

The primary significance of the Sudbury APA lies in its former status as an occasional archiepiscopal residence during the medieval period. Sudbury was considered an important manorial grange residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury before becoming a demesne farm during the 15th-16th century. The extent and layout of the buildings associated with the original manor house at Sudbury Court has yet to be established. A number of positive archaeological interventions have identified and located a range of finds and features throughout the APA. The survival of below ground features despite later disturbance by late 19th century farm buildings and 20th century residential development demonstrates the potential for further archaeological evidence.

Although there is as yet no archaeological evidence, the possibility of Saxon and/or Iron Age occupation on the hill ought to be borne in mind.

Future discoveries may enhance our understanding and interpretation of the history Sudbury, and its wider social and cultural significance within the wider area.

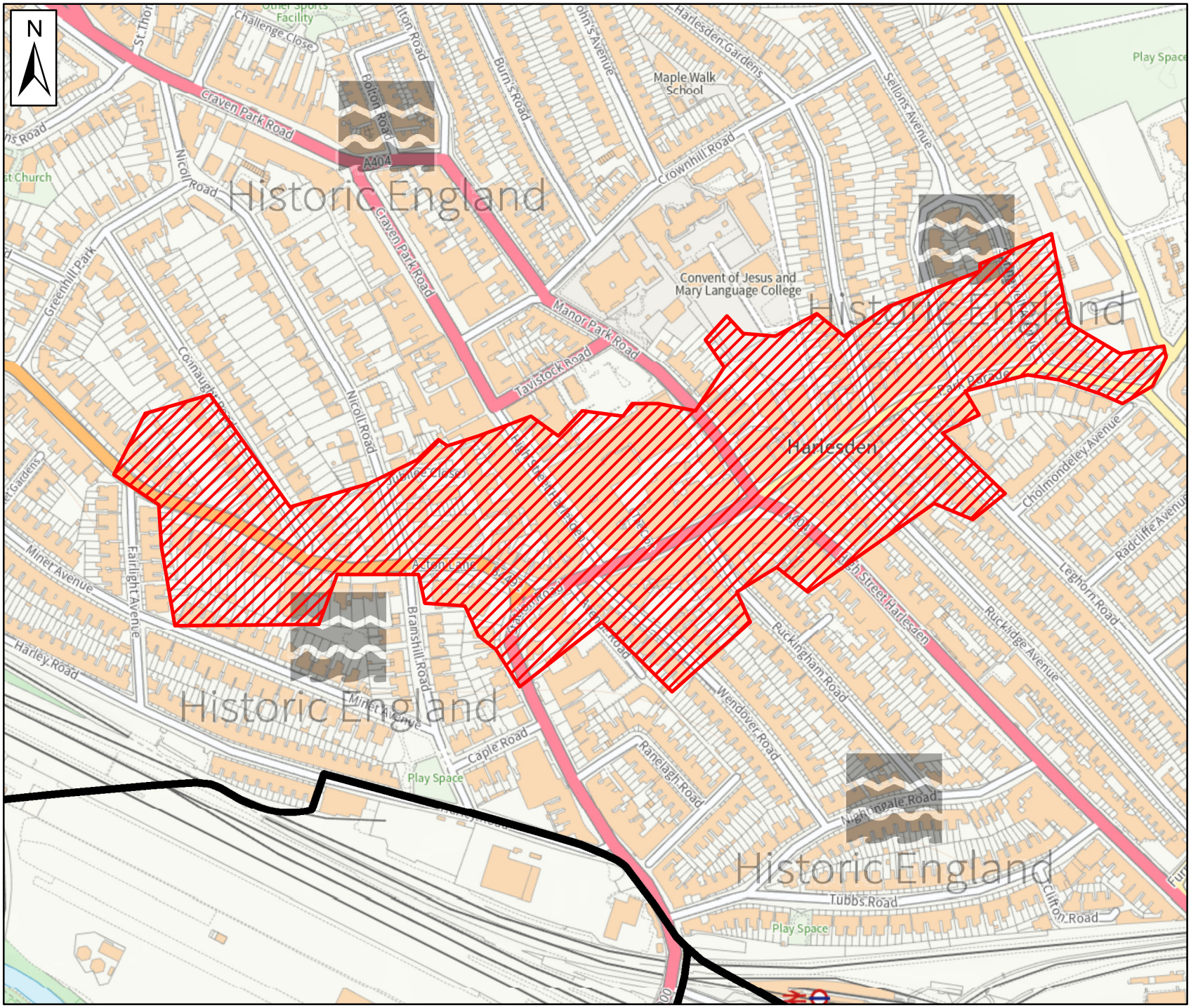
## Sources

Harrow Through the Ages (Druett, W.W. 1971).

An archaeological evaluation at 100 Elms Farm, MOLAS (1991).

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: 5 Bengeworth Road, Border Archaeology (Priestley.S 2020).

Wembley History Society Excavation overview summary-of-archaeological-excavations.pdf (brent.gov.uk) (accessed 2021)




# Brent APA 2.2: Harlesden

13 June 2022

Harlesden

Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:4,500



Notes:
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## Brent APA 2.2: Harlesden

### Summary and Definition

The Harlesden Archaeological Priority Area covers the core of a historic settlement and associated field systems as depicted on the John Rocque's map of 1746. It is classified as a Tier 2 APA because it is a documented Saxon settlement and early medieval manor with some archaeological evidence dating to these historical periods.

### Description

Harlesden is located in the southern part of Brent, south of Willesden and northwest of Kensal Green. The geology of the area of the APA is recorded by the British Geological Survey as London Clay. There was once a spring feeding into the River Brent locally making the area attractive for settlement. Soil is noted to be mostly heavy, poorly drained clay, once covered by thick oak forest and well adapted to grass farming characterising the area from the 18th century (Baker et al 1982). Substantial remnants of this woodland survived into the 18th century to the east and south of Harlesden at Stonebridge and Wormer Woods.

There is as yet no recorded prehistoric or Roman evidence from within the APA.

Harlesden is a reported Saxon settlement '*Herewulf's Tun*'. The first documentary reference to Harlesden comes from a 939 charter completed towards the end of the reign of King Athelstan. The second is a list from *c*AD 1000 noting men from 'Forth tune' that may be a referral to Fortune Gate, a former farmstead to the north west of the APA. Harlesden is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) referred to as 'Hervlvestvne', a manorial estate under the canons of St Paul in the parish of Willesden prior to 1066. The parish of Willesden once formed part of the Ossulstone Hundred, an administrative division of a Shire (or county).

There is little archaeological evidence of Saxon settlement or associated activity. However, Saxon or early medieval pottery was recorded in excavations at Tavistock Road. The limited/or current lack of evidence may be a consequence of very few archaeological investigations in the area.

By 1215 the size of the manor had declined following reorganisation of the estates of St Paul's. At this point Harlesden was one of eight prebendal manors of Willesden parish. A medieval hamlet was documented in 1319, and a tenement called *Cornhulles* documented in 1420. By the early 14th century at least two sub-manors had emerged, and in 1438 a number of tenements and crofts in Harlesden were under trust of All Souls College, Oxford. The estate

covered more than 450 acres across Harlesden and Willesden. A moated medieval site (now destroyed) was recorded during the 19th century near Willesden Junction.

The early settlement of Harlesden is likely to have formed around the medieval manor and the 'T' junction of the current High Street and Park Parade. A (probable) 17th century house built on Lord's Croft on the north side of the green by Harrow Road and the High Street and later known as Manor Farm may have been the site of the original manor and grounds. The hamlet was arranged along the north side of a narrow green, with houses built among orchards and agricultural plots, and Harrow Road heading westward from Harlesden Green was the main local road during the medieval period. By 1438 a tile kiln belonging to the All Souls Estate was active on the south side of the green. This manufactured tiles until at least the 16th century. A rival kiln was opened at the beginning of the 16th century by the Roberts estate.

To date, medieval and post medieval pottery and roof tiles have been recovered from an evaluation in Tavistock Road, this included one sherd of 13th century pottery. Further post-medieval evidence includes that of a 16th century tile kiln located on the All Souls Estate in the area of (the former) Harlesden Green

Harlesden retained an agricultural character through the post-medieval period and by the end of the 16th century there were at least seven houses and a substantial farmhouse set in orchards around the green from which the All Souls estate was managed. Grassland dominated over arable, and the proportion of woodland declined until it disappeared in the 1780's.

The arrival of the turnpike road in 1801 opened the village to middle class incomers. Harlesden became one of the earliest commercial centres in Brent, with the expansion of the rail network and construction of a station to the south of the village in the 1840's. The railways brought people, trade and a period of rapid development from the 1880's.

The 1870 ordnance survey map shows a settlement core of a number of country houses (The Grange, Harlesden Villa, Bramshill Lodge), farms (Manor Farm), the Chapel of Ease, three public houses (Crow Inn, Green Man, Royal Oak), a smithy and a post office; all surrounded by open parcels of land. From the 1880's the arrival of the (horse drawn and later electric) trams and establishment of new industries encouraged further growth, and the loss of green space. New housing appeared in Minet Avenue, Acton Lane, Bramshill and Nightingale Roads.

Industrialisation led to socio-economic changes and Harlesden became a working-class urban district. The Harlesden railway station arriving in 1912 brought further industrial growth, development and expansion, hitting its peak in the mid 1930's. The post-war years saw the decline of local industries and factories, however industrial structures including a

large warehouse built in 1860 remain at Manor Park Works, and Victorian parades focussed around Jubilee Clock remain a reminder of Harlesden's 19th century period of growth.

To date there has been limited archaeological activity within the area, however there is potential for future investigations to reveal more about Harlesden's Saxon origins, and to locate the early medieval manor.

## Significance

The Harlesden Archaeological Priority Area is primarily focussed on the potential to reveal evidence of Saxon settlement, and evidence of the early and/or later medieval manor and hamlet. The Anglo-Saxon origins of the village is of interest given the early documentary evidence of settlement on the London clay, which is generally regarded as providing poor and intractable agricultural land. The paucity of existing evidence may be explained by very limited archaeological investigation and is therefore not indicative of lack of potential.

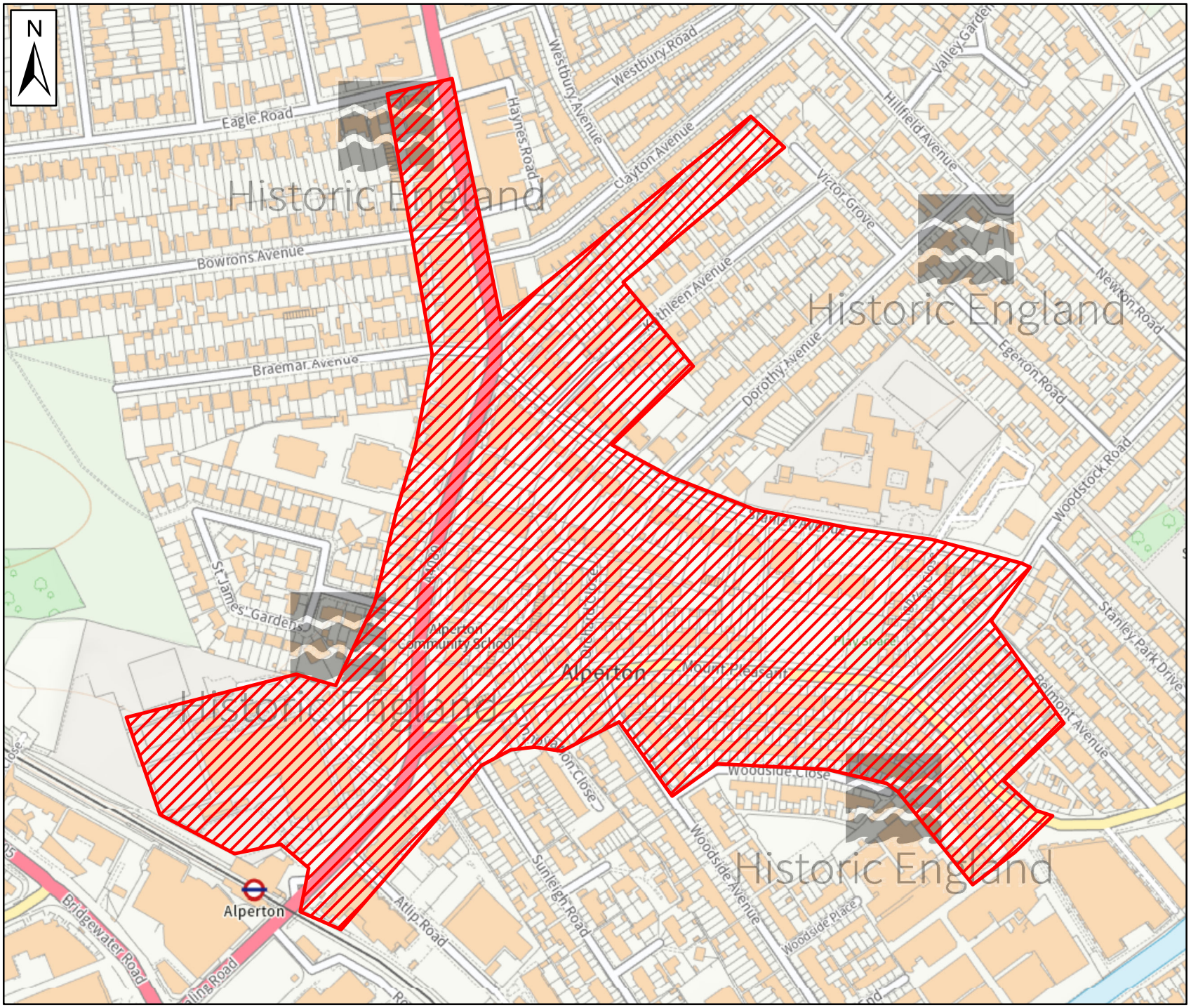
Archaeological evidence of Harlesden's industrial growth, and transformation from a middle-class suburb to working class urban district may be of local historical and cultural significance; enhancing understanding of the development of the area and enhancing local social stories and histories of migration in the area.

## Sources

Summary of Archaeological Excavations in the London Borough of Brent (1988). https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16403320/summary-of-archaeological-excavations.pdf (accessed 15/02/2021)

Manor Park Works: An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (2016)

History of Harlesden https://www.brent.gov.uk/libraries-arts-and-heritage/brent-museum-and-archive/your-local-area/history-of-harlesden




# Brent APA 2.3: Alperton

27 April 2022

Alperton

Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:4,000



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## Brent APA 2.3: Alperton

### Summary and Definition

The Alperton Archaeological Priority Area covers the core of a historic settlement and associated enclosed fields as depicted on the John Rocque's map of 1746. It is classified as Tier 2 APA because it is a documented medieval settlement. Although formerly part of the medieval settlement, the intensively developed land around Alperton Station is excluded due to likely modern disturbance.

### Description

Alperton is located in the south-west of Brent. The geology of the APA is London Clay Formation comprising clay, silt and sand forming the London Basin. With the exception of Palaeolithic handaxe discovered in 1923 in St James Gardens there is no recorded prehistoric or Roman evidence within the vicinity of the APA.

The Domesday Book (AD 1086) records extensive tracts of woodland and a high number of pigs within the wider area indicative of largely wooded areas where tenant farmers graze pigs beneath the trees. The first documentary record of Alperton comes from 1199 when it was called 'Alprinton' meaning 'the farm (or estate) of Eahlbeort', at this point it consisted of twelve buildings. A settlement at West Twyford to the north-west was established by the Saxon period with a small chapel that is mentioned in 1181. Archaeological discoveries within the wider area include pottery of possible Saxon date at Twyford Abbey to the south-west. However, no archaeological evidence of Saxon settlement has been recorded within the APA.

From the 11th to mid-14th centuries settlement activity was limited to a farmstead, and six tenements by the mid fourteenth century. One of these tenements was located in Watery Lane, to the north of the village (Capon 2010). A wooden bridge paid for by the lords of the manor of Harrow and Ealing is reported to have crossed the River Brent by 1432-33 at the south end of Ealing road. In the later Medieval and Post-Medieval periods Alperton comprised of a dispersed cluster of farmsteads around a small funnel-shaped green and the lanes leading from it. Ealing Road and perhaps Mount Pleasant are the main survivals from the rural settlement. By 1661 60 people were recorded to be living in Alperton, the village had a blacksmith shop which opened in 1680. The village expanded and by 1714 several cottages were built, and in 1722 the Plough Inn a licensed pub was established, followed by the Chequers Pub in 1751. John Rocque's 1746 Map of London shows the settlement 'Apperton' with its buildings within hedged closes or paddocks fronting onto the green and roads and with surrounding fields and meadows that were enclosed in 1817.

The construction of the Grand Junction Canal in 1801 led to further growth and changes in industry. A local brickfield run by Henry Haynes who owned 70 of the 100 buildings in Alperton was used to supply materials for the building of the canal. After construction there

were job opportunities created managing and handling the shipments of sand, hay, gravel and coal along the canal. Like other areas in Brent Alperton became a popular countryside place to visit, and a celebrated resort for anglers.

By the late 19th century Alperton was infamous for disgusting smells that emanated from local industrial ventures including a sewage farm, two recycling plants that produced manure and three large piggeries located along the canal. Bare knuckle boxing bouts and cockfights took place on Sundays at Honeypot Lane. By 1911 there were rubber, fireproofing and motorcycle factories in Alperton. The population grew substantially after the Second World War to 14432 in 1951 (from 2468 in 1921).

Limited excavations have taken place within the APA. An 18th century ditch was found at Ealing Road/Alperton Lane, during an evaluation by Oxford Archaeology in 1995 on the site of the former Chequers Pub.

## Significance

The Alperton Archaeological Priority Area is primarily focussed on the potential to reveal evidence of Saxon settlement, and evidence of the early and/or later medieval manor and hamlet. The Saxon origins of the village is of interest given the early documentary references. However, as the settlement is not mentioned in the Domesday book or earlier sources interest lies in determining whether Alperton formed part of a Pre-Conquest foundation or part of Norman expansion into former woodland. The paucity of existing evidence may be explained by very limited archaeological investigation and is therefore not indicative of lack of potential. Of additional interest and significance are the changes in economy and industry from a small rural settlement to one of the most industrialised villages in Brent. Archaeological evidence of Alperton's extensive transformation and growth from rural to industrial district may be of local historical and cultural significance; with potential to provide tangible historical markers that can enhance local social stories and enhance understanding of the development of the area.

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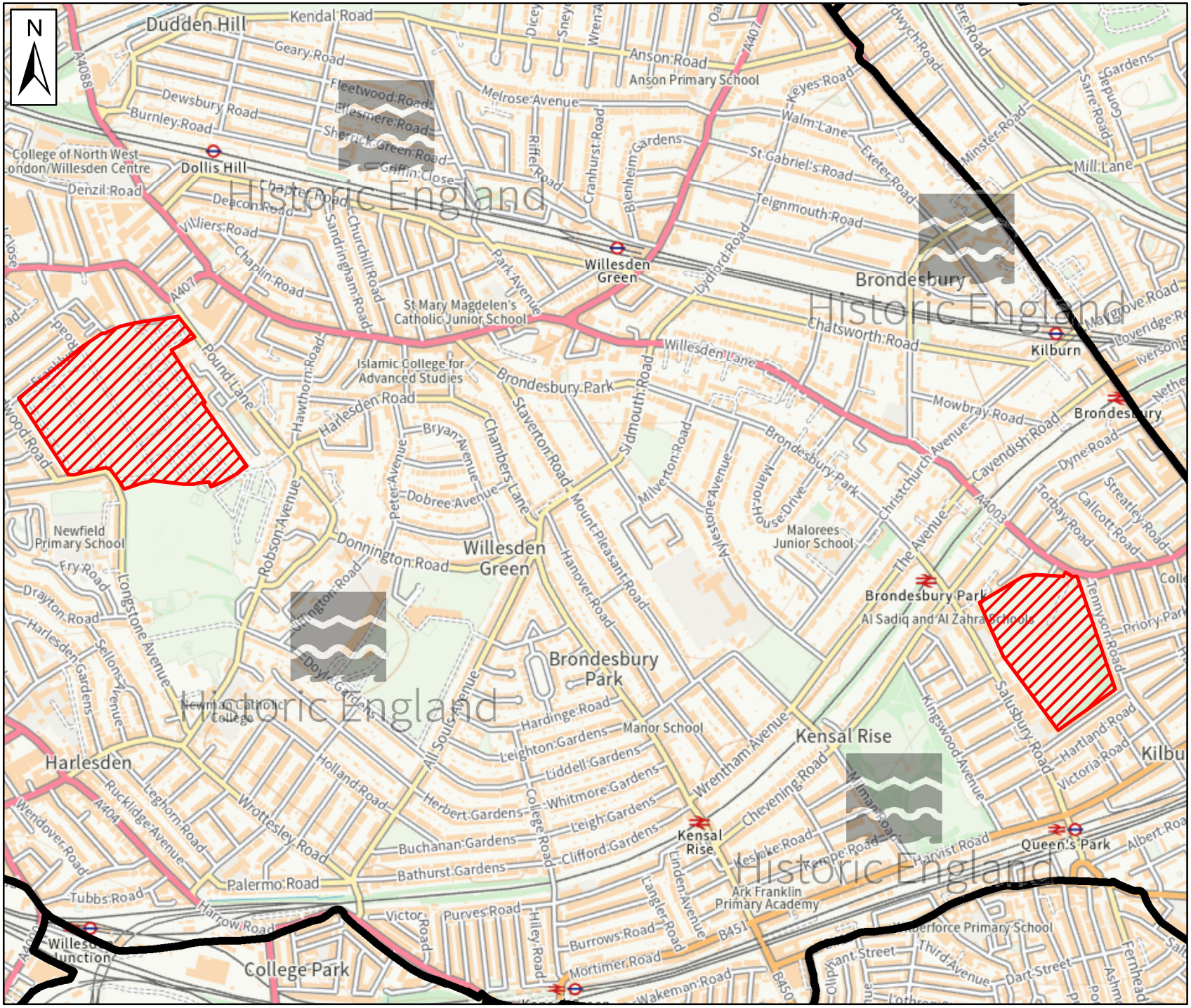
Victoria County History Middlesex Volume 4




# Brent APA 2.4: Brent Post Medieval Cemeteries

30 June 2022

Brent Post Medieval Cemeteries

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:15,000



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## Brent APA 2.4: Brent Post Medieval Cemeteries

### Summary and Definition

The Brent Post Medieval Cemeteries Archaeological Priority Area covers cemeteries not already included in another Archaeological Priority Area. The cemeteries covered by this APA are the Paddington Cemetery, and Willesden New Cemetery and Willesden Jewish Cemetery. The burial act of 1852 led to the closure of most burial vaults and churchyards in London, the sites covered by this APA thus fall on the outside of their respective historic settlements. They are scattered across the Borough and in some instances are preserved as gardens, recreational grounds or churchyards, and some may still be in use for burial. This APA is classified as Tier 2 as historic burial grounds are heritage assets of archaeological interest that often have a strong local connection with other important heritage sites and significant local individuals.

### Description

#### Paddington Cemetery

Paddington Cemetery is one of the first public cemeteries to be opened after the Metropolitan Interment Act of 1850. It is a Grade II Listed Park and Garden, designed by Thomas Little in 1855 and laid out as a series of paths in the shape of a horseshoe. It now forms a green open space surrounded by urban development, however when the cemetery was originally laid out it stood within the open rural landscape.

The number of graves is higher in the north-western half of the cemetery where the grander of the old tombs and the modern graves are located. In the south-eastern half of the cemetery older graves and urns are located on hilly ground enclosed by evergreens.

#### Willesden Cemeteries

Socioeconomic and public health issues including the plague, the Victorian practice of “baby farming”, changes in land use and population growth led to growing pressure on burial space within the parish of Willesden in the post-medieval period. By 1865 the parish churchyard had reached capacity, the newly established Willesden Burial Board purchased a 4-acre site for a new section of the cemetery between Church Path and the railway which opened in 1868. Between 1868 and 1884 over 4,000 burials took place in the consecrated section, a further 300 in the consecrated area. The Willesden Jewish cemetery opened in 1873, and the new Willesden cemetery opened in 1893.

Willesden Jewish Cemetery was the first joint project of the United Synagogue a union of five Jewish congregations in the City of London that formed in 1870. It became the first Jewish cemetery on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England and is listed at Grade II. The cemetery was created for Victorian Jews of German and Dutch origin who had settled in London. Burial space in the city was running short so Willesden initially served established Jewish families living in the City, Central and West London. At the turn of the new century London's Jewish population was boosted by new arrivals from Russia and Eastern Europe settling in the East End. This led to the "New Ground" extension in 1907 not included within the boundary of the APA. Several prominent people are buried at the cemetery including Rosalind Franklin who's work led to significant advancements in medical science, particularly the study of DNA.

## Significance

The Post Medieval Cemeteries Archaeological Priority Area contains historic burial grounds which could inform our understanding of population demography, health and disease in the later 19th and early twentieth centuries. The primary significance of the areas covered by the APA lies in the archaeological, artistic, architectural, design and historical interest. There is potential for new research and discoveries to provide insights into the local economy, political and social structure, religion, cultural change, and other important aspects of daily life that helped to shape the local character. Brent's historic burial grounds cover a different (more recent) and less archaeologically studied time period than those in inner London which were closed in 1852 and are more often affected by modern redevelopment.

The industrialisation of Brent attracted new inhabitants to the area resulting in a shift in the socio-cultural demography of the local population, changes in end of life ceremonial and burial practices, as well as physical changes in the wider environmental landscape. Changes in population size led to overspill cemeteries; burial spaces created away from traditional church burial grounds, and the emergence of non-Conformist burial grounds. These new cemeteries and burial grounds were created to serve new communities and religious denominations. They are central to the formation of community identity, providing a tangible connection with social memory, local history.

The cemeteries are preserved in situ and with tombs and memorials diverse in character and design remaining. Paddington burial grounds are designed gardens, while Willesden Jewish Cemetery has opened to the public for heritage walks and visits.

The post medieval period covers many significant and well documented national, regional and local historical events. The investigation of well-preserved human remains can provide scientific insight into the 18th and 19th century population of this area outside of the rapidly

growing city. However, it is preferable to leave burials undisturbed; proposals to disturb them would have significant implications for any proposed development. It should be noted that burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines, archaeological investigation in 19th century burial grounds would normally only occur when burials more than 100 years old have to be disturbed for other reasons. Such disturbance could be for development or purposes other than small scale routine cemetery operations. The views and feelings of relatives and associated faith communities, when known, would be considered. In accordance with legal guidelines, any archaeological investigation of modern/post medieval burials over 100 years old should be considered when assessing any examples of post medieval cemeteries and burial grounds. Specific guidelines are available for situations where many hundreds or more burials are likely to affected.

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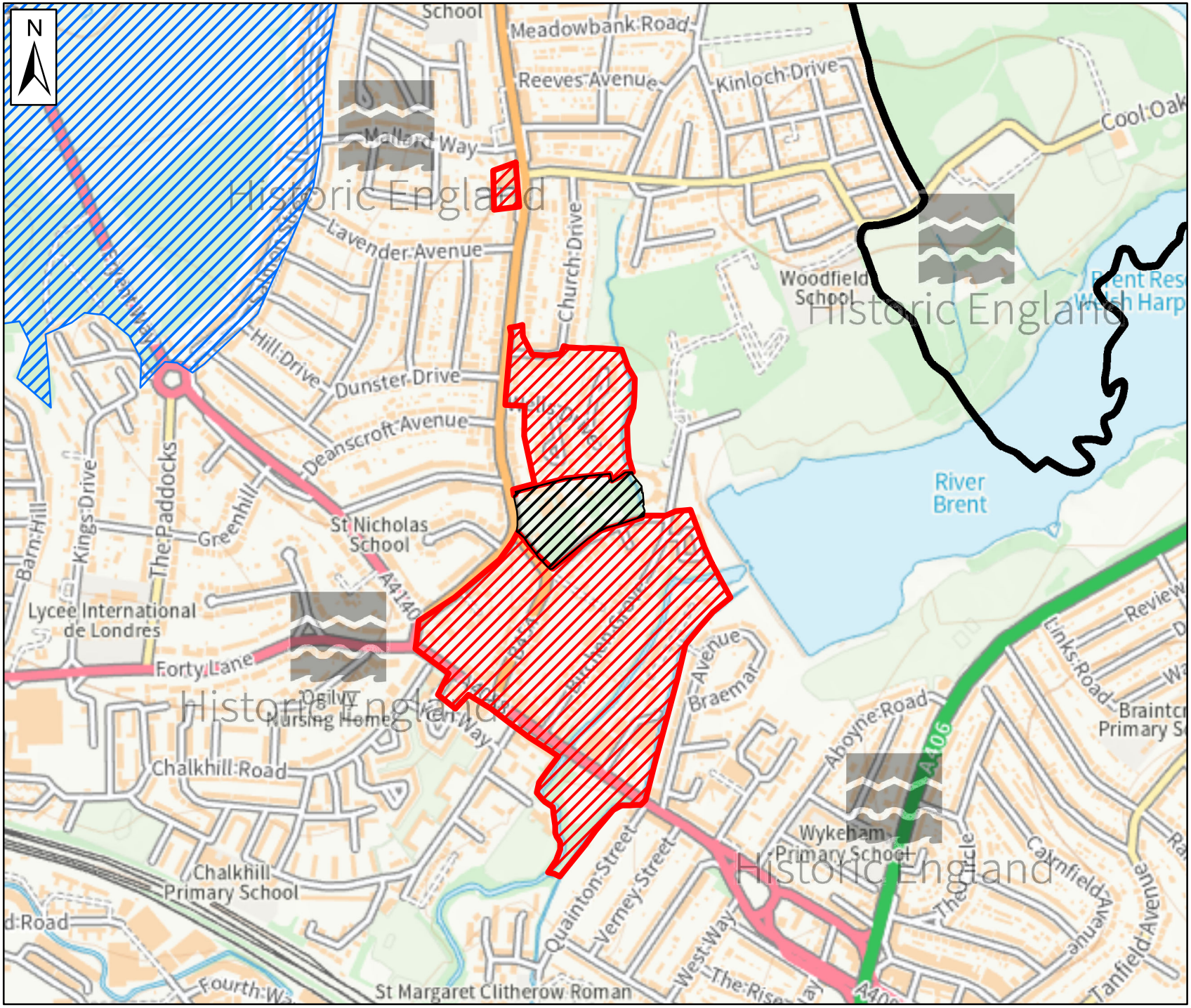


# Brent APA 2.5: Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill

14 July 2022

Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:10,000



Notes:
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## Brent APA 2.5: Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill

### Summary and Definition

The Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic settlement of Kingsbury and associated land including the area once occupied by Blackbird Farm. It is a Tier 2 APA because it is an historic settlement with a history of positive archaeological interventions producing evidence indicative of early occupation and activity from the Iron Age, Roman and early Medieval period.

The Archaeological Priority Area extends north along the old lane to Kingsbury Green (which may be a relic of the former village street) and west to Blackbird Hill encompassing an outcrop of Dollis Hill gravel that probably made this a favoured settlement location alongside the river. The APA also has a small outlier to the north covering the site of the medieval Fryent Farm. It excludes St. Andrews Church and churchyard which is covered by the Tier 1 St Andrews (Old Church Lane) APA.

### Description

The Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill APA is located near the northern perimeter of the Brent/Barnet borough boundary. It lies to the east of the River Brent on the slope of the river valley. Evidence of prehistoric activity is limited throughout the borough. However, Iron Age activity was discovered in excavations in 2013 during the demolition of the Blarney Stone Pub at the corner of Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill where the former Blackbird Farm once stood. Place-names with the element *-burh* (a fortified place) are quite often associated with prehistoric earthwork enclosures, particularly Iron Age hillforts, so it is possible that there was a more substantial later prehistoric site here than is evident from existing information. A prehistoric trackway is thought to have existed along Blackbird Hill within the vicinity of the former Blackbird Farm.

The main cluster of Roman sites and finds within Brent have been recorded within the Old Church Lane, and Kingsbury area that lie near to the rich alluvial floodplain of the River Brent. Roman building material has been recorded on Salmon Street (c500m to the west of the APA). Evidence of Roman activity highly indicative of occupation within the vicinity of the church site, and the wider environs has been recorded at St Andrews Church. Within the APA Roman pottery was recorded on a site at 13, Old Church Lane. In 1974 during reinforcement and deepening of the Welsh Harp Reservoir Roman artefacts were recorded by the Wembley Historical Society. It has been suggested that there was a Roman river crossing in the area in the vicinity of the site of the medieval bridge (see below) within the APA.

Settlement was dispersed among wooded areas during the Saxon (and later) period in Brent. In the 9th and 10th centuries, the Saxon minster system was replaced by local parochial organisation, with formal areas of land centred on nucleated settlements served by a parish

church. The place name Kingsbury may mean the 'King's manor or stronghold'. Kingsbury (Cyngesbyrig) is first recorded in the will of Archbishop Aelfric of Canterbury dated 1003 or 1004 and occurs again as Kyngesbyrig in a writ of King Edward dated 1044 – 1046. St Andrews Church, Old Church Lane recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) forms the historic core of the original village of Kingsbury.

By 1244 the church, and the Chalkhill manor land was under the ownership of the Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. This was a religious order established to look after Christian pilgrims and provide care for the poor or sick during the Crusades. The lands of *Freren Farm* to the north (currently in the vicinity of the George on the corner of Tudor Gardens and Wood Lane) were used by monks and lay brothers to grow food for the Order's Priory at Clerkenwell, in the City of London. A sundial was added to the south wall of the church to mark prayer times, and a bell was installed between 1325-45 to call monks in from the fields. A footpath leading across the fields from the farm to the church is visible on the John Roque's 1745 map. Thirteenth century pottery and building material has been recovered by the Wembley Historical Society at the fringes of the APA at the banks of the river during excavations at the allotments to the north of the church.

Additionally, within the APA to the south of St. Andrews Church between Church Lane, Blackbird Hill and the river is the reported site of a 14th century manor house that formed part of the Brancaster Estate (also known as Kingsbury manor, Coffers, or Coffers Manor). The estate included a moated manor house, and Cofferhouse. In 1325 accounts describe a lord's chamber, kitchen, larder and malt kiln, and surrounding moat with its bridges. In 1556 the estate was described as having a watermill and "Coffers" were still mentioned in the 1550's.

A medieval bridge was first recorded in 1383 and likely to have been located where Kingsbury lane (now called Blackbird Hill) crossed the river. There was a ford in use next to the bridge for horses and carts (except when the river was in flood). In 1596 it was said a footbridge had been there from "time immemorial" (VCH Volume 5). "The way from Wembly to bridge" (Forty Lane) is marked on the 1597 Hovenden map.

In 1350 Kingsbury parish was heavily affected by the Black Death. The records of Kingsbury's manor court for 1350 recorded 13 deaths 'at the time of the pestilence'. The plague impacted heavily on the population of the small village in the south of the parish and Southern Kingsbury shrank from a village to a church and one or two farms and never fully recovered. Houses were abandoned and property and population became concentrated to the north in the area of Kingsbury Green.

Individual farms across much of the rest of the parish continued to work. Farming was a prosperous business for those who owned their land, and wealthy 'yeoman farmer' families funded the upkeep of St Andrews. The oldest surviving memorial in the church is to John Shepard, who died in 1520, his first wife Anne (who died after bearing ten children) and second wife Maude (who had eight children). The Shepard family were the tenants of Hill

Farm (covered by the Barn Hill Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area) for more than a century. In 1540 King Henry VIII seized the assets of the Knights of the Hospital of St John giving the Kingsbury estate to Saint Paul's Cathedral.

Like many other historic settlements within Brent farming remained the main source of income throughout the medieval and post medieval period. The 1597 Hovenden map of Kingsbury shows the area as a mix of open fields and woodland. The map shows a property at the junction of Blackbird Hill with Old Church Lane called Findens within the vicinity of the later Blackbird Farm and farmhouse which ceased operating in 1923. The fields around the farm are shown to be leased to a John Page, and Eyan Chalkhill who had a watermill also marked on the map on the River Brent. Chalkhill's watermill (possibly built at the same site of the watermill belonging to Coffers Manor) led to the formation of a large pool submerging the existing ford crossing. A bridge strong enough to carry horses and carts was built by All Souls College, and Chalkhill was responsible for its repair while he retained his mill. A new bridge was built in 1922 as part of wider infrastructure changes associated with the British Empire Exhibition.

In 1745 John Rocque's map shows farm buildings and orchards on both sides of Old Church lane at Findens (unnamed on the map). By the mid-18th century it was fashionable for London's middle classes to visit St Andrews church and the surrounding rural landscape. Visitors mays have been drawn by antiquarian Stukeley's drawings and historic accounts of a Roman camp at Kingsbury. A small number of affluential members of built homes within the area. The influx of local tourists, new inhabitants and the new farming methods introduced in the Agricultural Revolution of the 18th century brought major landscape changes. The heavy clay soil was not suited to arable cultivation and local fields like those at Findens later renamed Blackbird Farm (and Blackpot Farm) were turned over to raising livestock or growing hay to feed the cities many horses. This change impacted financially on tenant farmers and workers, increasing poverty levels within the parish. The church was thus poorly maintained as shown in early 19th century drawings and major restoration on the building was carried out in 1840.

By the beginning of the 20th century Kingsbury was still mainly rural, however the population grew rapidly after the First World War. Although most of the fields have now gone, the path from the site of Fryents Farm to St Andrews can still be followed today from Church Lane, to Wells Drive and down the left-hand side of St Andrew's Road before the unmade path to the churchyard.

## Significance

The Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill Archaeological Priority Area covers some of the earliest known evidence Roman and early Medieval settlement within Brent. The Kingsbury place-name is distinctive, the presence of Iron Age finds along Blackbird Hill is suggestive of

an earlier settlement origin, further evidence of which would be of considerable significance. Owing to the physical geography and geology of the area St. Andrews and the surrounding settlement occupied a prominent location and focal point in the landscape. The location close to a major Roman road may indicate a component in one of the networks of outposts around a stronghold (in this case presumably London) now recognised in the Middle Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex. Old Church Lane and the surrounding farmland formed an important element within the wider historic religious landscape, providing the revenue and resources to feed the poor and the sick during the Crusades. Kingsbury is also unusual for London in having been deserted after the Black Death. Deserted medieval villages are common across Eastern and Midland England but rare in the Thames Basin. Further investigation and comparison with other settlements will provide opportunities to further understand the chronology and development of historic settlements within Brent.

## Sources

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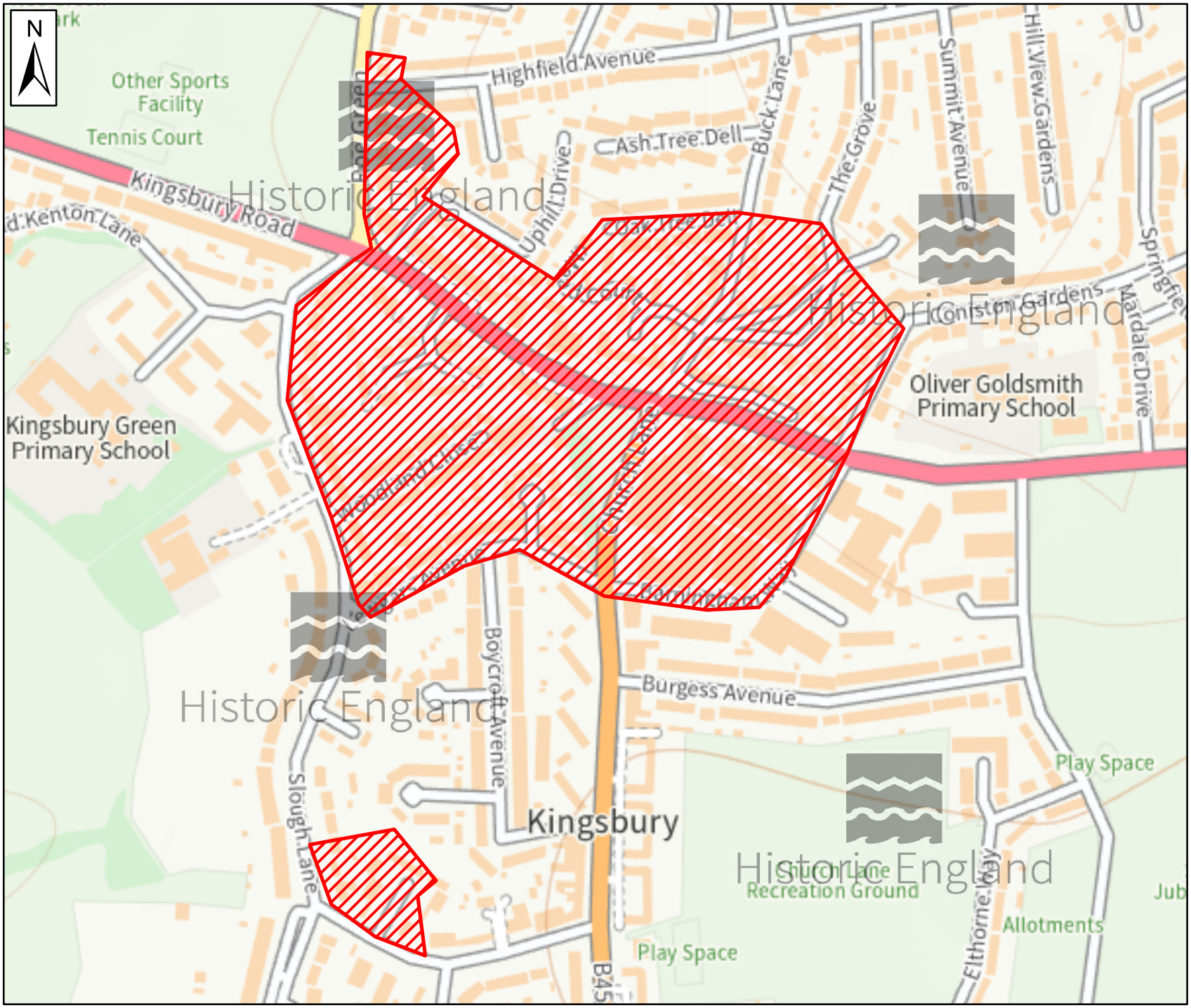


Brent APA 2.6: Kingsbury Green

30 June 2022

Kingsbury Green

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:4,750



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## Brent APA 2.6: Kingsbury Green

### Summary and Definition

The Kingsbury Archaeological Priority Area covers the medieval settlement of Kingsbury Green depicted on John Roque's map of 1746. It is classified as Tier 2 APA because it is a historic settlement with early medieval origins and some archaeological evidence of Roman and medieval activity. The APA covers the area around Kingsbury Road and Kingsbury Green plus an extension to the north to cover Roe Green and a small outlying area to the south covering the former site of Lewgars Farm.

### Description

Kingsbury is located in the north of the borough close to the borough boundary with Barnet. The APA lies north, and in close proximity to the Silk Stream, formerly a tributary of the Brent and now a source supplier for the Brent Reservoir. The APA like most of the historic parish lies on London Clay geology.

Early Prehistoric sites are not well recorded within the wider area. Bronze Age finds have been recorded at the Welsh Harp to the South, and an evaluation on the higher grounds of Kingsbury Sports Ground in 1995 recovered a Bronze Age Deverel Rimbury type pottery sherd, and a burnt flint assemblage. Bronze Age flint was also recorded during an evaluation Birchin Grove to the south.

The Roman road Watling Street runs to the east of the APA. Most Roman finds discovered in Brent come from this northern area of the borough with finds along Salmon Street, and a settlement at Church Lane to the south. Fragments of Roman amphora were found at Buck Lane, and pottery has also been found at Roe Green.

In *c*1244, around 300 acres of land were gifted to the Knights of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. By 1300, parcels of land from Tunworth were let out to tenants who cleared small fields out of the woodland. Three of these landholdings to the west side of Salmon Street became farms that lasted until the mid-twentieth century (see Tier 3 Barn Hill Archaeological Priority Area). In 1442 the Tunworth manor was granted to All Souls' College, Oxford, which collected rents from the tenant farmers for the next five hundred years. Lewgars Farm just to the south of Kingsbury Green is documented from the 13th century and was only demolished in 1952.

Settlement in Kingsbury was dispersed throughout Kingsbury in the Medieval period. Archaeological finds (pottery) of medieval date have been recorded at Buck Lane in the area around Kingsbury Green. The settlement core was primarily focused in southern Kingsbury along Church Lane, with small groupings of tenements around Kingsbury Green either side of Kingsbury Road, Roe Green, Pipers Green and near the Hyde. The Black Death heavily

impacted settlement patterns in the 14th century. Houses in the village in Church Lane were abandoned and the focus of settlement moved north to Kingsbury Green.

## Significance

The Kingsbury Green Archaeological Priority Area is primarily focussed on the potential to reveal evidence for the Saxon and Medieval settlement. The Saxon origins of the village would be of interest given the early documentary evidence for settlement in the area. Kingsbury's association with Roman settlement within the wider is also of interest.

The paucity of existing evidence for the Roman and Saxon periods may be explained by very limited archaeological investigation thus far and is therefore not indicative of lack of potential.

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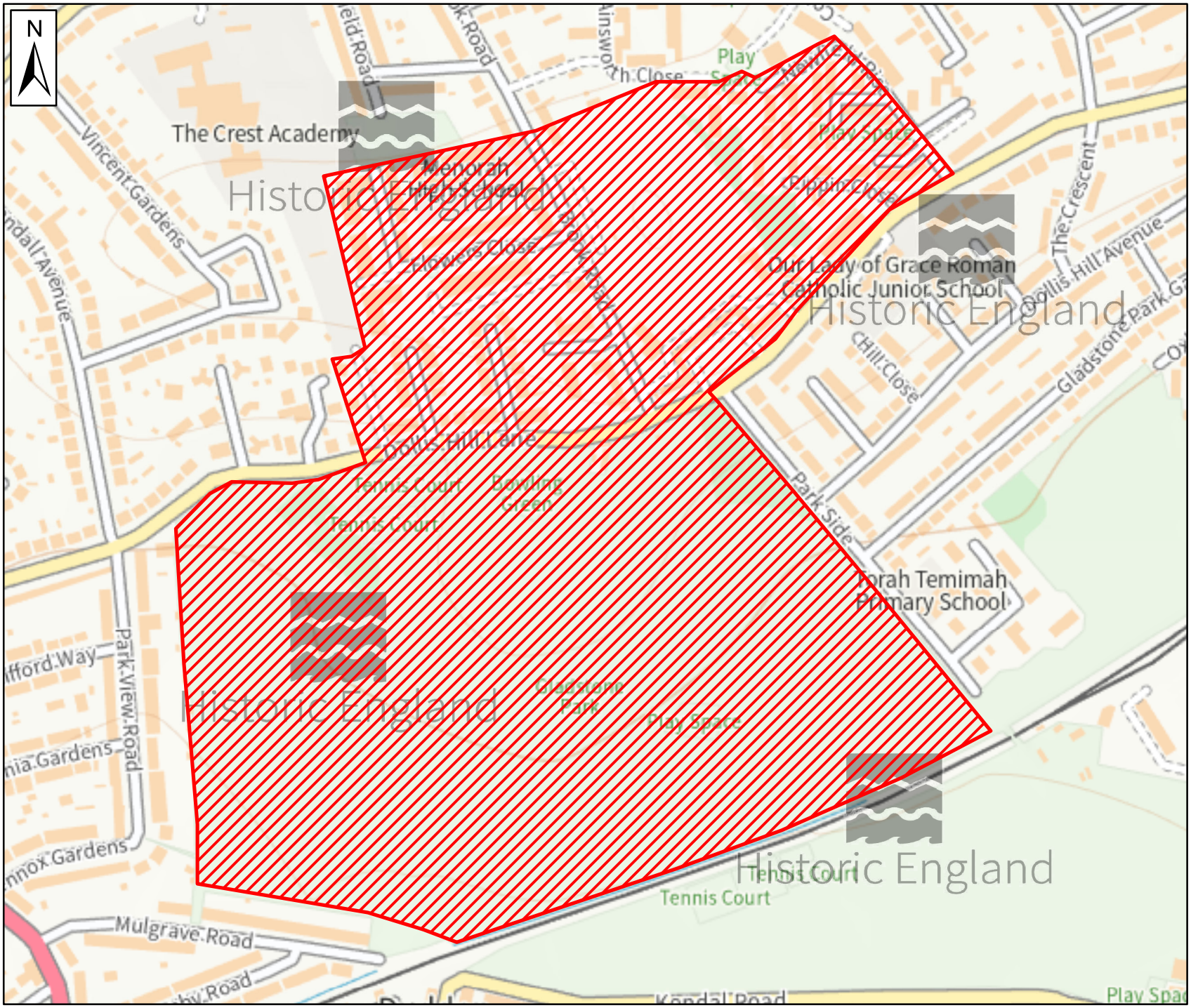


Brent APA 2.7: Dollis Hill

14 July 2022

Dollis Hill

Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:5,000



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## Brent APA 2.7: Dollis Hill

### Summary and Definition

The Dollis Hill Archaeological Priority Area is a multi-period occupation site with evidence of settlement and resource exploitation from the early Iron Age, Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval period. There are relatively few known Iron Age sites in Brent and the surrounding areas, and fewer sites with evidence of early Iron Age activity. It is a Tier 2 APA because it is a unique area of Brent with a history of positive archaeological interventions. It is a favourable topographic and geological location where there is demonstrable survival of environmental evidence, and potential for the discovery of further archaeological remains in areas of undeveloped land.

### Description

The Dollis Hill APA covers the northern part of Gladstone Park and the residential area currently known as Flowers Close, or the Dollis Hill Estate. The APA lies at the top of a hill capped by high level terrace gravels, Dollis Hill Gravels. These gravels are contemporary with a number of isolated areas of the high terrace gravel that are pre or early Anglian Ice Age. They date to 500000-450000 BP and derive from tributaries of a north flowing predecessor of the Thames. The gravels overly the London Clay. Sporadic early human occupation is now known to occur in Britain at this time and two Palaeolithic hand axes and some waste flakes have been found in Gladstone Park to the south.

Evidence of Mesolithic to Neolithic finds are very limited within the borough, however Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age Burial Urns were recorded 1km north of the APA at the Brent reservoir. Iron Age activity was discovered in excavations at the corner of Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill. Excavations undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeology Service in 2000 recorded a ditch containing Early Iron Age pottery within the APA, and a pit or large posthole containing flint (600-400BC) cut through the ditch.

Evidence of Roman activity within the borough comes from a possible settlement at Old Church Lane, where there is evidence believed to be indicative of a Roman Villa. The Roman road Watling Street constructed in the second half of the 1st century AD to connect the Roman town of *Londonium* with St Albans runs 1km to the east of the Dollis Hill APA. Evidence of a flat-bottomed ditch was recorded in 2007-8 along the route of the road at Cricklewood Bus Garage.

The largest group of archaeological remains recovered within the APA are located at its southern, highest point and date to the Late Roman period. Finds from the 1st and 2nd centuries were recorded alongside later material suggesting that they were residual or reused. Distinct archaeological features were recorded and include sand quarries and ditches. The sand quarries were 5m in diameter, and 2m deep. The fills of the ditches contained seeds and organic material including burnt grains, wheat, barley and oats; and

large amounts of building material and mill or quern fragments. The building material included combed flue tiles that are indicative of underfloor heating, and a perhaps a nearby building.

Two further large sand quarries were dated to the Medieval (c1270) and Post-medieval period (1450-1700). Repeated quarrying in the area is thought to have created the pond on Dollis Hill Lane. During the Saxon period a settlement pattern of dispersed villages and hamlets had developed in Brent, with a nearby settlement in Neasden to the west, an early medieval settlement at Kilburn to the south, and a *c*13th century settlement at Oxgate only 500m to the north-east of the APA (see below). Dollis Hill may have been a small hamlet during this period forming part of the Willesden manor mentioned in Domesday. Land use is likely to have focused around farming centred on small farmsteads. A medieval windmill (dated 1295-1365) was located to the southwest in Gladstone Park. Dollis Hill is marked as a Hamlet on the 1610 Norden map. This may relate to the three farms and buildings illustrated on the 1746 Rocque's map at Oxgate Farm. Old Oxgate Farm, the Grade II* Listed 16th century timber framed farmhouse is the boroughs oldest remaining house. Several farms were bought up by the Finch family in the early 19th century to form the Dollis Hill Estate. Dollis Hill House was built in 1825. Cartographic evidence shows that the APA lay within enclosed pasture at the beginning of the 19th century and was not built upon prior to this. There is potential for future research and investigations to improve our understanding of how the land was used in this area of Brent during the medieval and post medieval period.

In 1921 The Post Office Research Station moved to Dollis Hill, initially in ex-army huts and in 1933 permanent buildings opened by the Prime Minister. During the Second World War a team led by Tommy Flowers built the code-breaking computer used at Bletchley Park. A Cabinet War Room Bunker was also built here at the start of the second world war for Winston Churchills government. The two-level citadel was intended as a standby for the Cabinet War Rooms in Whitehall. This was later abandoned, and the upper floor was converted into a Post Office social club. After the closure of Post Office Research Station in the mid 1990's the above ground buildings were demolished and the site redeveloped for housing. The lower level, which has local authority listing, was retained and can be accessed from two points: from a door in a wall between two houses; and, via a brick blockhouse beside the road which also houses a small electricity substation.

## Significance

The primary significance of the Dollis Hill APA lies in the potential to reveal significant archaeological remains the Iron Age and Roman periods. Early Iron Age remains are comparatively rare within Greater London, Dollis Hill is therefore of local significance and interest with potential for comparisons to be made with other similar sites.

There have been very few archaeological excavations within Brent. Given this is a multi-period site with evidence for quarrying (local resource exploitation for construction and other uses), agriculture and settlement there is potential for further evidence that could help with modelling land use in the wider area through time. Dollis Hill is one of a few isolated areas of high ground, there is thus potential to enhance our understanding of the historic landscape value of this area.

The wartime association with Churchill and the early computers at Bletchley Park is also of interest.

## Sources

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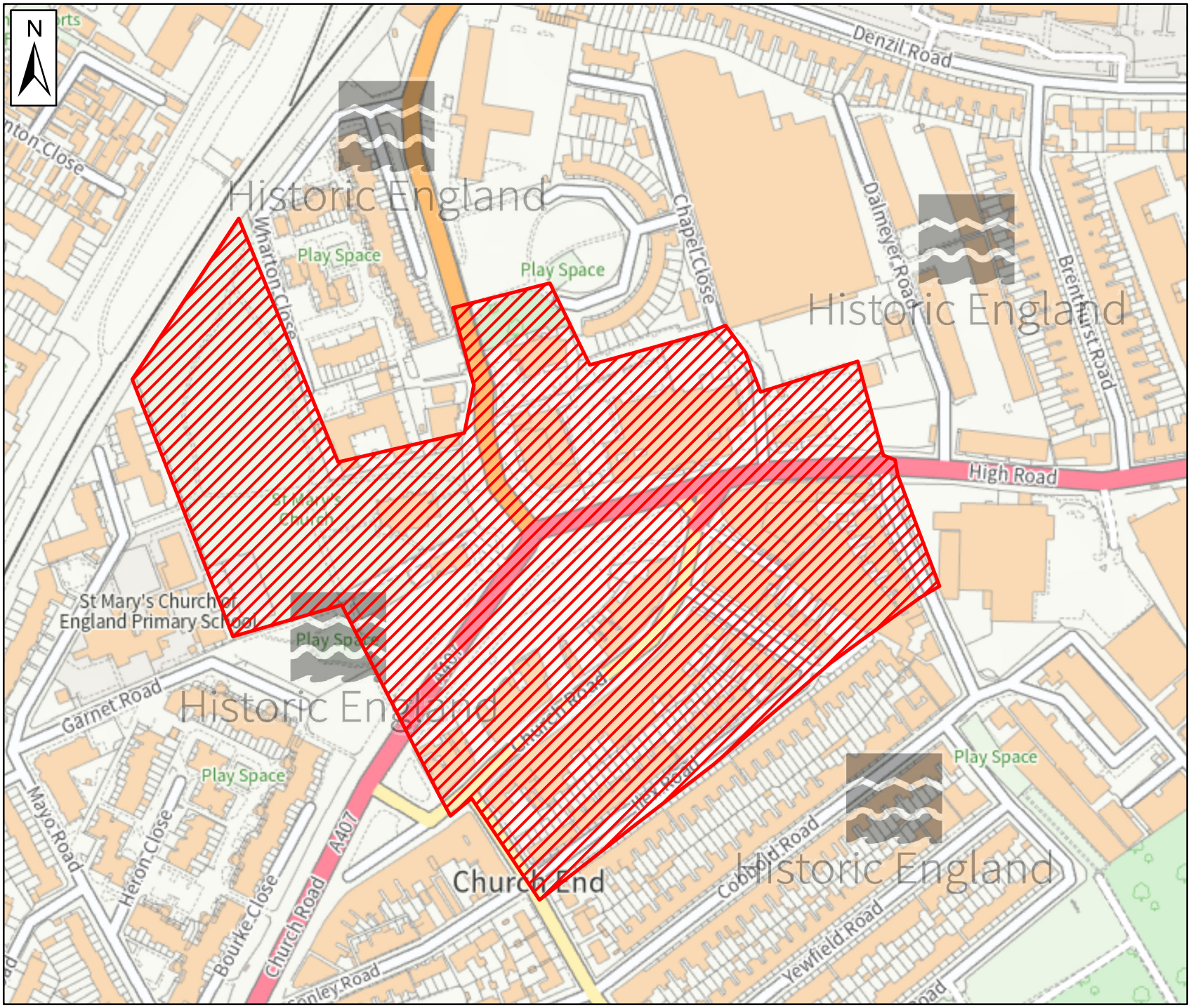


Brent APA 2.8: Wlliesden Church End

30 June 2022

Willesden Church End

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:3,000



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## Brent APA 2.8: Willesden Church End

### Summary and Definition

The Willesden Church End Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic core of Willesden. Willesden is allocated to Tier 2 because it is a medieval settlement with the oldest parish church in north-west London.

### Description

The Willesden Church End APA is in the historic parish of Willesden. There is no evidence for Prehistoric or Roman activity within the APA. A settlement pattern of villages and hamlets dispersed among wooded areas developed during the Saxon period in Brent. Neasden (*Neasdun*) to the north was recorded in 939, and Harlesden to the south was recorded as *Herewulf's Tun* again in 939. The name Willesden is believed to derive from the Saxon *Wellesdune*, "the hill with the spring". In the 9th and 10th centuries, the Saxon minster system was replaced by local parochial organisation, with formal areas of land centred on nucleated settlements that were served by a parish church. By 1000 AD the manor was in the hands of St Paul's Cathedral, Willesden is named in Domesday Book (AD 1086) as Wellesdone. Before the Norman Conquest Willesden had been a fairly large agricultural settlement. By 1086 it had 25 villager and 5 smallholder households but had lost almost half its value hinting at devastation during the conquest from which it had still not fully recovered 20 years later.

The Church of St Mary was reportedly founded in 938AD, and the settlement of Church End is likely to have developed around this time. The church may have been built on the site of an earlier shrine associated with a well or grove. The oldest surviving part of the church is reported to be the baptismal font from mid-12th century, which is one of six Norman fonts in Middlesex. The oldest part of the present building is the 13th century south arcade of the nave with numerous further additions in the ensuing centuries and it was subject to major restoration in 1960-64.

In the 11th and 12 centuries the manor land was divided and sold. During the Medieval period a Rectory Manor was recorded (1181 AD), and by c 1250 it was held by Henry de Cornhill. Records document a Willesden family in the area between 1278 to 1494. By 1425 the family held the lease of the manor of Oxgate in the north of Willesden parish, and the route leading to Oxgate farm exists today.

In the mid-13th century St Mary's was developed further with the construction of a vicarage and vicarage house. It became a popular place of pilgrimage renowned as a holy shrine with miraculous healing properties for those coming to visit the 'Black Virgin of Willesden' or 'Our Lady of Willesden'. This was described in the 16th century by Richard Mores as 'robed in sarcenet, and with stones, with a vale withal of lace embroidered with pearles and other precious jewelles and golde and silver' surrounded by a metal grille, and a canopy with hangings'.

Due to the impact of The Black Death in 1350 St Mary's became an important site in the late 14th and 15th centuries. Sources of clean water were highly sought for curing illness. Pilgrims would visit to pray and take away a flask of holy spring water.

During the Reformation the English Shrines of St Mary were destroyed and their images burned. The 'Black Madonna' was taken to Chelsea in 1538 and burned by the Kings Commissioners. Pilgrimage to Willesden resumed in the 20th century and a new statue commissioned in 1972, and the original spring and well returned to use in 1998.

Reputedly there were burials in the churchyard that date from the 10th century and confirmed burials from the 13th century. Illustrative 18th century prints show wooden grave headstones that were common in Middlesex but none of these survive. The churchyard is also reported to be the site of a 17th century plague pit.

Throughout the Post-medieval period the settlement remained largely unchanged. A topographical survey undertaken in1587 shows that the parish of Willesden remained rural with extensive woodland, with tenement burgage plots to the north and west, and areas of open fields to the east. Cottages had been constructed around the church, rectory and vicarage, with additional houses to the east by 1599 (VCH Middlesex vii, 182–204). A house owned by St Bartholomew's Hospital Estate was constructed in the 16th-century was built on the High Road c 50m north of the site.

From 1569 Parish registers were taken and a constable is mentioned in around 1580. The hamlet transformed during the 17th – 18th centuries. The Poor Relief Act of 1601 made churchwardens responsible for 'welfare', and a collector for the poor is mentioned in local records by 1608. From 1678 a poor rate was levied twice a year for which the local vestry was responsible. Mortality rates were high, with more than 70 infants being buried in Willesden parish between 1720 and 1730. The vestry is known to have faced problems relating to 'baby-farming'. The stigma of illegitimacy forced many women to give up their babies to adopters or 'baby farmers'. From the early 18th century unwanted infants from London were sent out to Willesden to be nursed. Socioeconomic problems continued to befall the vestry and later in the century a lock-up was built. The building known locally as the Round House or Jack Sheppard's Cage, was relatively short-lived; and in 1827 there were complaints that the building was being used to imprison the sick and the poor rather than criminals.

By the 18th century additions to the village included two inns, a school room, the roundhouse or lock-up, and wooden poorhouse cottages. Rocque's 1741-5 map shows Church End (named Willesdon) as a small nucleus of buildings surrounded by farmland and open fields. By 1841 the census documents several people in the parish, that were living in tents (presumably seasonal labourers). In 1847 the church was saved from destruction by the vestry, and in 1857 a vestry hall was built. The arrival of the railway led to industrial growth and the transformation from a rural settlement to an urban industrial area. In 1866 the

churchyard was extended, and the poorhouse cottages pulled down. By 1875 there were 73 houses in Church End and Chapel End to the East end of the village.

The United Land Company bought land and laid out housing estates from 1870 until the 1880s. By this point the churchyard had reached capacity, in 1865 the newly established Willesden Burial Board purchased a 4-acre site for a new section of the cemetery between Church Path and the railway which opened in 1868. The Jewish cemetery opened in 1873, and the new Willesden cemetery opened in 1893 (See Brent APA 2.4 Post Medieval Cemeteries)

Limited excavations have taken place within the APA, and no medieval finds have been recorded. Future investigation may help to determine the determine the extent and lay out of the early settlement. Excavations at the junction of Neasden Lane and High Road revealed the foundations of a late 17th to early 18th-century brick-built house cut into a thick deposit of sticky grey-black clay which overlay the natural London Clay. An archaeological evaluation at 221–227 Church Road revealed an 18th-19th-century cobbled surface. Excavations at 18 Neasden Lane within the site of St Mary's Vicarage showed that the modern development had limited impact on buried deposits. Several late post-medieval garden features were recorded.

## Significance

The significance of the Willesden Church End Archaeological Priority Area lies within its origins as a Saxon settlement, and later as a religious site that became an important place of pilgrimage during the medieval period. Evidence of early settlement features would be of regional significance, with potential to improve our understanding of the development of early settlement within the borough. Evidence of human burials from the 10th century, and evidence relating 17th century plague pits would be of great interest. Willesden Church End is an important site for wider understanding of changing attitudes in the Greater London area to religion, death, morality, mortality and health. Comparisons might be made with other similar settlements, including other sites of pilgrimage like the Kilburn Priory.

## Sources

The Church of St Mary Willesden, A History and Guide, Willesden Local History Society (1996)
The Buildings of England London 3: North West (1999)

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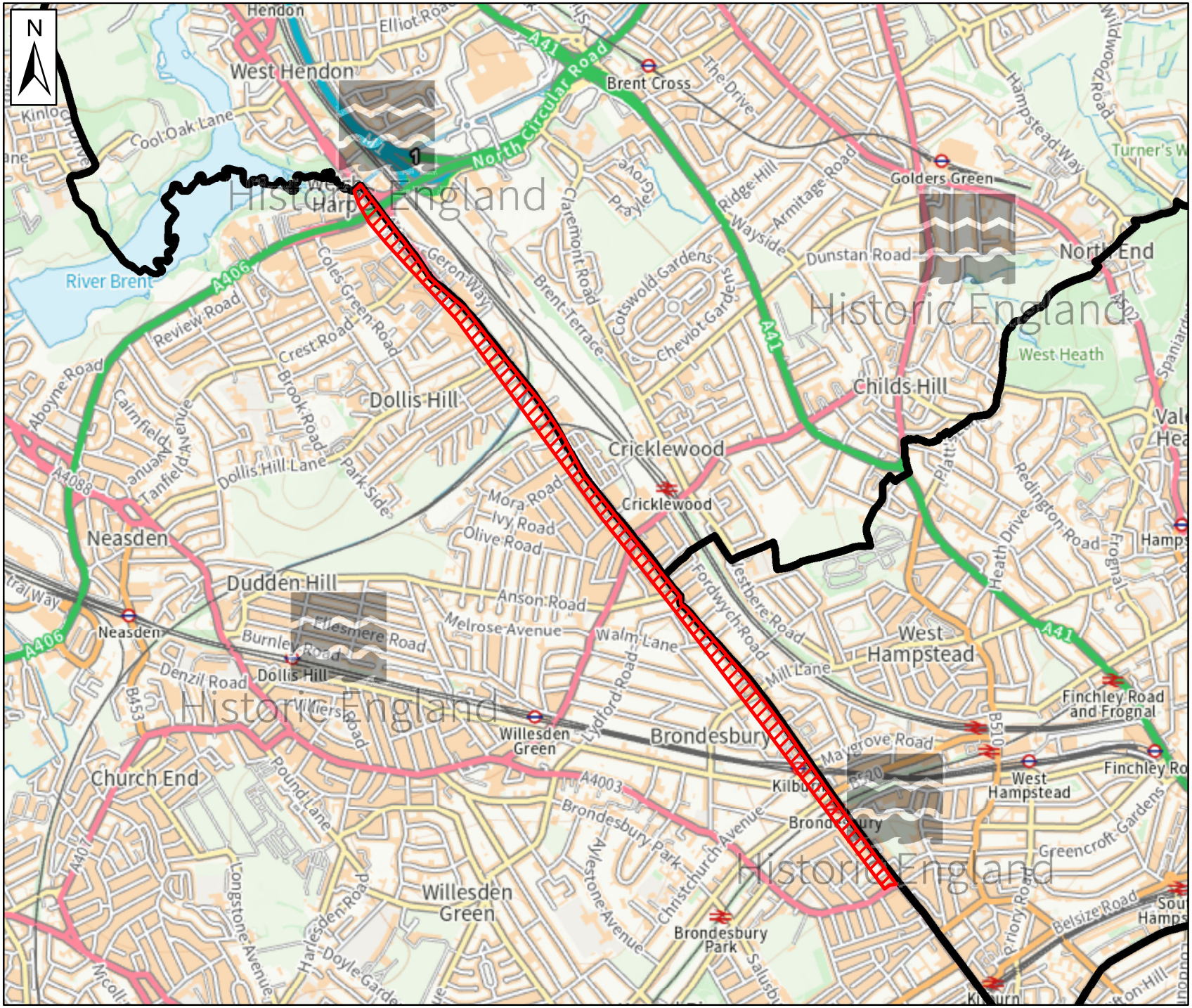


# Brent APA 2.9: Watling Street

30 June 2022

- Watling Street
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:25,000



Notes:
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## Brent APA 2.9: Watling Street

### Summary and Definition

The Watling Street Archaeological Priority Area follows Edgware Road, Maida Vale, Kilburn High Road and Shoot up Hill, which together are based on the Roman road Watling Street. The APA covers the west side of the road between Victoria Road and the borough boundary with Barnet. It abuts similar Watling Street APAs in adjacent boroughs.

The APA is classified as Tier 2 because it is a corridor of land centred on a Roman road.

### Description

Watling Street was one of the most important roads in Roman Britain and ran from Dover to London and then from London to St Alban's and onwards to Wroxeter (Shropshire). The route of the road is still followed by Edgware Road, Maida Vale, Kilburn High Road and several other roads until it reaches the boundary of Greater London. Camden, Brent, Barnet and Harrow all base part of their borough boundaries on the road demonstrating how it has been a prominent feature and has been used as a boundary marker since the Roman period.

A section of the Roman road was uncovered in 1902 when telegraph lines were being laid along Edgware Road between the junction with Bayswater Road and St. Michael's Street. The road was found approximately three feet below the present road surface and consisted of large nodular flints above a layer of compacted gravel. Near the junction with Seymour Street enough of the road was uncovered to show that it was approximately 24 feet wide.

No section of such a road has been recorded elsewhere along the route, however it is possible that the route was paved in an alternative way. It is highly likely that the Kilburn High Road follows the route of the Roman road. The location of the road was ideal as it was on higher ground and so avoided the swampy lands near Kilburn and Cricklewood.

Archaeological evidence of the Roman road in Brent comes from a flat-bottomed Roman ditch (and undated post hole) that was recorded within the APA. In an evaluation at 329 Edgware Road, Cricklewood Bus Garage 2007-8 along the projected line of the road archaeological features were recorded cutting into the natural clay.

Nearby evidence of settlement has been recorded in Dollis Hill, while further south evidence of Roman activity has been recorded Belsize Road, Camden where Roman pottery sherds were recorded. Horseshoes and Roman relics have been found along Watling Street, situated on the boundary of Hendon. Historical evidence from the 16th century mentions the roads location as running through Hendon to London. Tootell an 1800s writer mentions 'a few large stones which by tradition were dropped by the Romans on their passage through the island, to enable them to find their way back'. A mid-19$^{th}$ century milestone marked "Hendon Parish" was recorded along the road outside Nos 3 and 4 Gratton Terrace. It is likely that the Roman

road continued in use throughout the Medieval period, as indicated by the development of medieval settlements like Cricklewood and Kilburn along the route.

## Significance

Watling Street was an important Roman road linking London with St Alban's and beyond. The route remained in use, became a medieval highway, and is still followed by major roads demonstrating its continued importance. Minor roadside settlements and other land uses such as cemeteries, market gardens or quarry pits may have developed along the road and while their remains would have been impacted upon by modern developments, some might survive. Disturbance by modern development means that survival will be patchy so potential needs to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Any surviving evidence has the potential to enhance current research and understanding of the development of major transport links, and changes in social, cultural and economic roadside activity from the Roman to modern period.

## Sources

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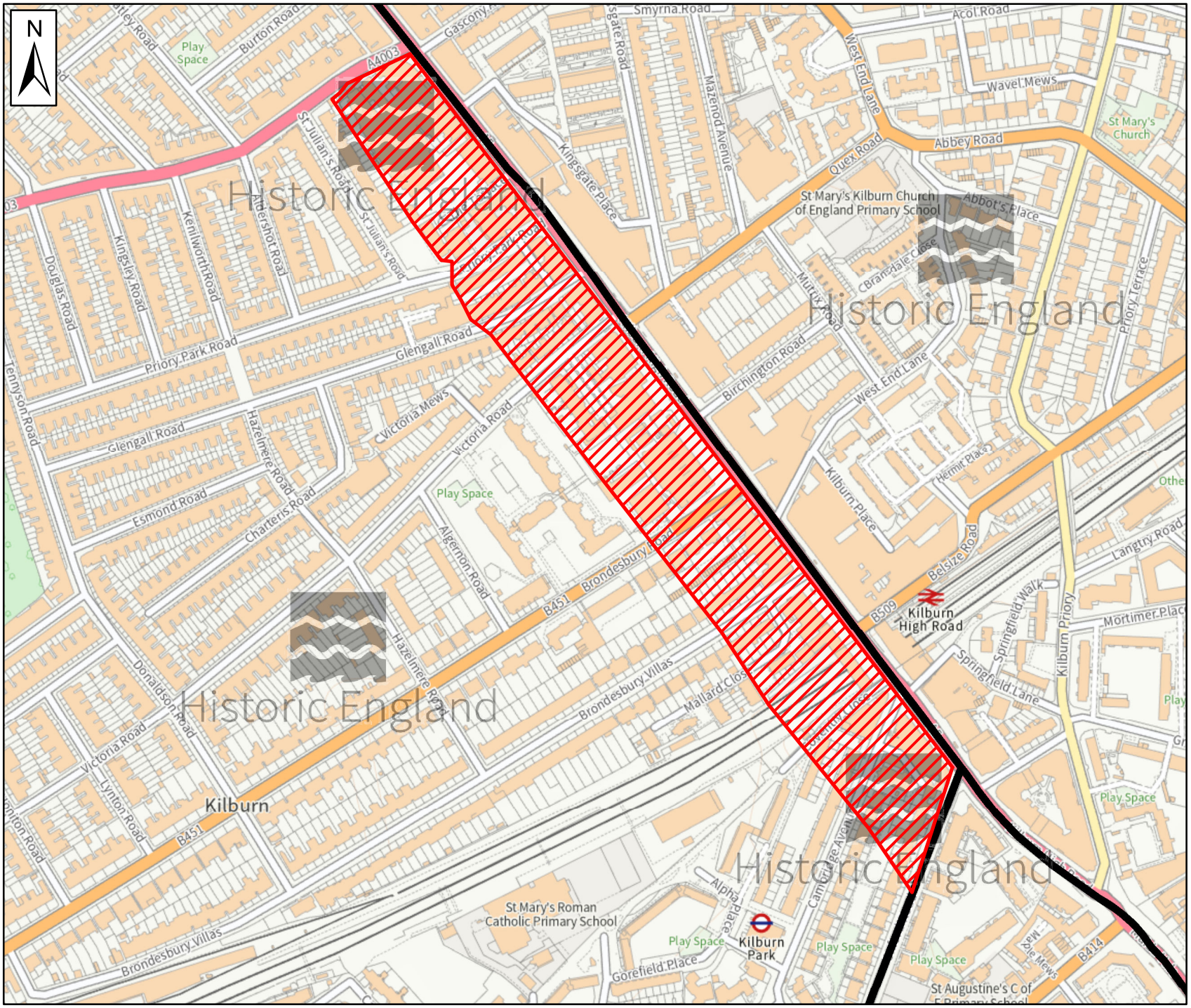


# Brent APA 2.10: Kilburn Priory and Settlement

30 June 2022

Kilburn Priory and Settlement

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:4,500



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## Brent APA 2.10: Kilburn Priory

### Summary and Definition

The Kilburn Priory Archaeological Priority Area covers a stretch of Roman Watling Street and part of the historic settlement of Kilburn associated with the medieval priory that lay on the western side of Kilburn High Road. It covers the site of a historic settlement depicted on the 1745 Roque's Map. The APA is classified as Tier 2 because it includes a corridor alongside the Roman road and is a historic settlement and priory with medieval origins.

The APA extent runs along the western side of Kilburn High Road adjacent to the Tier 2 Kilburn Priory and Settlement in Camden. It follows on from the City of Westminster Watling Street Tier 2 APA up the junction with Victoria Road.

### Description

The geology of the area is shown by the Institute of Geological Science as London Clay deposits forming the London Basin. Overlying the London Clay is a series of gravel terraces deposited during periods of glacial and inter-glacial conditions. There is no evidence of Prehistoric archaeology within the APA, and evidence is scarce within the wider area.

The Kilburn High Road has been an important thoroughfare since at least the Roman period; forming part of the Roman Watling Street. Watling Street ran from Dover to London, and north to St Albans and beyond. It runs along the present Edgware Road/Maida Vale/Kilburn High Road. There have been no archaeological investigations within the APA or this area of Brent. However, evidence of Roman activity has been recorded at nearby Belsize Road, Camden where Roman pottery sherds were recorded. A residual fragment of mortaria was also found to the south east of the APA in the upper silt layers of a former channel of the Kilburn Stream.

The first historic reference to Kilburn is the nearby priory of '*Cuneburna*', documented in 1134 and taking its name from the local river. The name is thought to originate from the old English term 'cyne-burna' (Royal stream) or 'cyna-burna' (cow's stream). The River Kilburn is likely to have made an attractive place for settlement and played an integral role in the development of the area and the formation of local historic and cultural character. The river ran along the Kilburn High Road and provided drinking water to the Kilburn Priory moat. Kilburn Priory was constructed on the location of the cell of a hermit called Godwyn. It was founded in 1134 during the reign of Henry I and dedicated to the "Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist".

The hermitage and priory lay to the east of the Kilburn High Road. A settlement began to grow along both sides of the high road from around 1296. The settlement became a renowned resting place for pilgrims stopping by on their way to shrines at St. Albans and Willesden. By the early 16th century, the priory had expanded and by 1535 it contained a

mansion and a 'hostium', a possible guesthouse for the priory which may have been the early origins of The Bell Inn.

Like most monastic institutions the priory was closed as a religious house during the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537. By this time the site appears to have been extensive; it is described as having a hall as well as a large number of chambers, a kitchen, brewhouse and bakehouse. Following the dissolution, the priory then transferred in ownership to the Earl of Warwick.

Kilburn remained an important stopping point for travellers and those seeking remedial care. Following the Reformation, healing of the sick became focussed away from the priory and towards a nearby spring. Near to the old priory, a home for the sick was set up by the sisterhood of St. Peter. The high road running through Kilburn became more frequented and inns were built along the road by the 16th century, including the Red Lion and the Cock, to host the travellers. A medieval bridge is recorded within the APA along the borough boundary with City of Westminster. The bridge is visible on Roque's map of 1745 and would have been an important crossing for travellers.

In 1714 a medicinal well referred to as the Kilburn Wells was discovered along the highroad. In 1742 the Bell Tavern was fitted up as a pump room serving spring water to 'the politest companies'. The water was cloudy white and a mild purgative rivalling Sadler's Wells. Associated leisure houses and gardens for tea drinking and other activities was set up in association with the well, as typical of the time. Unlike Hampstead the wells did not encourage housing and by the late 18th century the village still only comprised of 22 buildings three of which were inns. Several buildings are visible on the Roque's Map within the APA marked on later maps as Willesden Manor House and Kilburn Park Farm. A pump and well is also visible on the within the grounds of the former Kilburn House on the corner of Victoria Road. Water tasting continued until the 19th century when tea drinking became more popular, the Bell Tavern was demolished 1863 and a Stone plaque at corner of Kilburn high road and Belsize road marks the site of the spring.

Recent research and investigations conducted in Camden suggest that the Priory's main buildings lay to the east of Kilburn Stream at the junction Kilburn Priory and Belsize Road, most likely the gatehouse leading onto Kilburn High Street. Excavations of the railway cutting at Kilburn in 1850 revealed foundations, tessellated tiles, gothic patterned keys and human bones suggesting proximity to the priory. However, the exact area of the buildings and precinct is not wholly definitive, and there have been limited excavations in the Brent side of Kilburn High Road to determine the history of early buildings depicted on cartographic sources.

A 19th century cellar was located at Coventry Close, Kilburn during an evaluation by Museum of London Archaeology in May 1994. A layer of crushed brick was located bellow the cellar floor, which itself was backfilled with early 20th century demolition debris. The initial layer of

bricks dated to the Victorian period. This was located above the natural, indicating that no previous development had occurred in this area. The wider area was largely undeveloped until the 18th century.

Excavations at Carlton Plaza, in close proximity to the APA, have identified the location of Kilburn stream containing preserved waterlogged deposits with paleo environmental potential; which may extend into the APA itself. There is limited evidence of Roman occupation along this stretch of Watling Street, future investigation may locate remains of the road itself or its boundary ditches. Residual finds hint at settlement around the stream-crossing.

## Significance

The primary significance of the APA relates to the association with the early medieval settlement and priory at Kilburn. Kilburn village has been continually settled since the medieval period and thus has the potential to contain deposits of a medieval and post-medieval date relating to the development of the settlement. Such deposits present an opportunity to provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Due to the slow growth of the village of Kilburn only limited phases of development have occurred within the area with the original settlement following the road. This could potentially increase the chance of the discovery of remains that could shed light on the medieval priory and the settlements development.

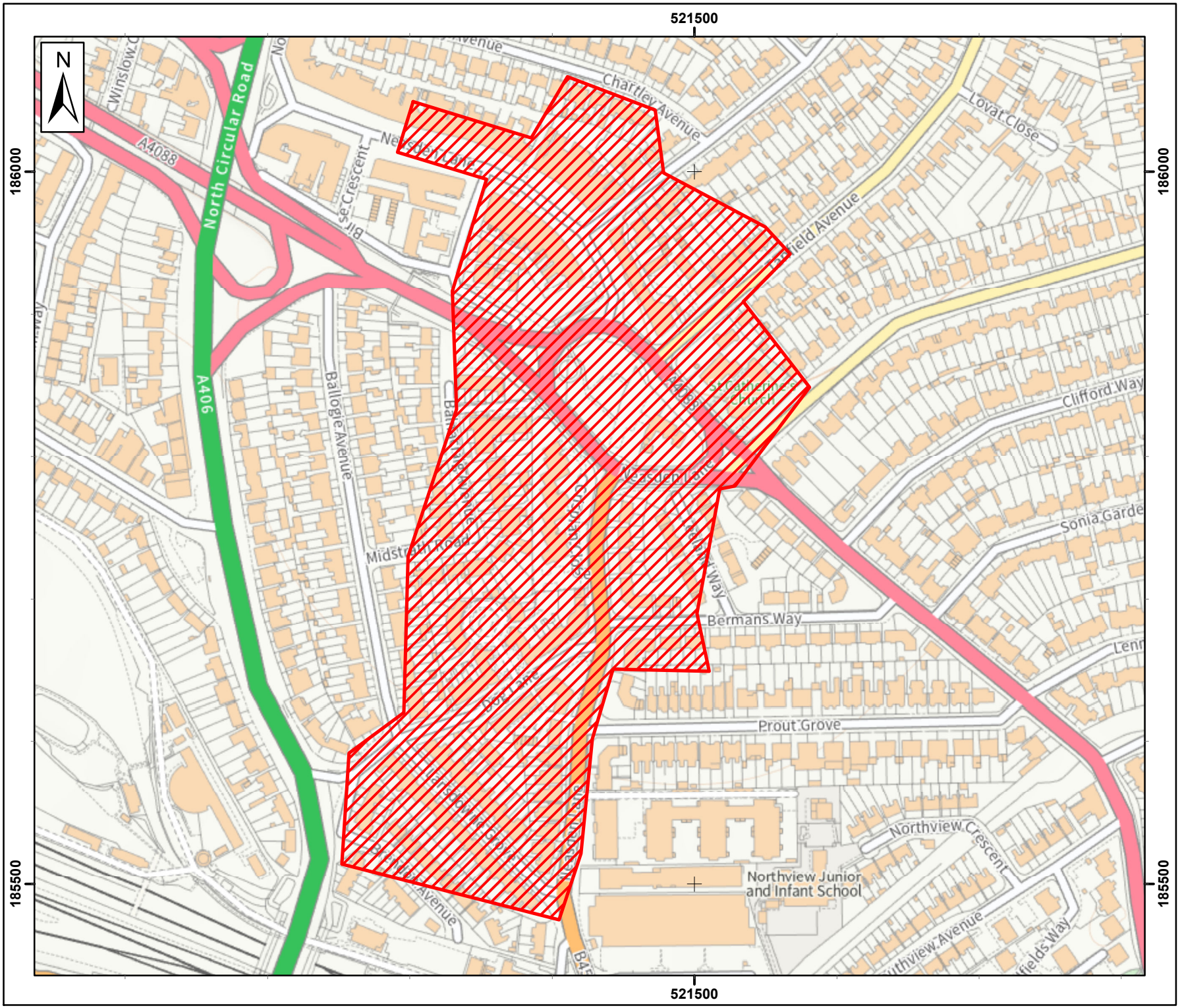
Roman boundary ditches and other features associated with Watling Street could also survive.

## Sources

The History of Lost Rivers in Camden (2010)
https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/1458280/Rivers+in+Camden.pdf/559155f8-645b-2e39-2669-3faacce135e6

London Borough of Camden Archaeological Priority Areas Appraisal (2018)
https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/planning/apa-camden/

The London Encyclopaedia (2008)




Brent APA 2.11: Neasden

October 2022

**Scale (at A4):** 1:3,500



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## Brent APA 2.11: Neasden

### Summary and Definition

The Neasden Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic core of Neasden. It is allocated to Tier 2 because it is a medieval settlement, and one of the earliest Saxon settlement sites recorded within the borough with a history of positive archaeological interventions indicative of survival of earlier features despite a period of rapid modern development.

The APA covers the extent of the settlement as depicted on Roque's 1761 map, and incorporates the later development as shown on the OS 1864/65 Six-inch Map (published in 1873) which runs north-south either side Neasden Lane.

### Description

There is currently no evidence for Prehistoric or Roman activity within the APA. However, archaeological evidence from both periods has been discovered within the wider area.

Neasden (*Neasdun*) meaning nose-shaped hill is one of the earliest known settlements of reported Saxon origin within Brent (recorded in 939AD). Willesden (or *Wellsdune* meaning 'hill with the spring') and Harlesden (*Herewulf's Tun*) to the south were also recorded in 939AD and formed part of a pattern of small settlements and farmsteads dispersed among wooded areas that developed during the Saxon period in Brent.

Very little is known about the layout of the early medieval settlement of Neasden. Documentary evidence from 1000AD confirms that land in the area was owned by St Pauls Cathedral. The land at Dog Lane was under ownership of Westminster Abbey by 1454 when a house was built on the eastern side of the junction of Dog Lane and Neasden Lane. And a tenement (Bucklands tenement) recorded in 1403 lay to the north of Bower Lane and later became Neasden Smithy.

Neasden House was constructed by the Roberts family in 1656, and by 1644 it was one of the largest houses in the parish of Willesden. Cottages on the site were demolished and converted into gardens and orchards. Neasden House was later demolished and replaced by Neasden Court in 1933. Below ground remains may exist within the site of the former grounds. The Grange (formerly The Grove) which is Grade II listed was built in 1720 and later converted by the council in the 1970's. The stables now form the Grange Museum of Community History. By 1823 there were six cottages, four large houses and farms, a smithy and a public house in Neasden grouped around a green.

To date, excavations have been limited to those undertaken at the Old Grange Tavern where reputedly a public house has occupied the site for several hundred years. A Neasden publican is mentioned as early as 1422, and in 1722 there was an inn called the 'Great House' proceeded by the 'Angel' in 1751, later becoming the 'Old Spotted Dog' depicted on the first and second edition 1860 and 1864 OS maps. By the 1870s like many other sites in Brent it

became a tea-garden attracting crowds from London. Excavations at The Old Grange between Dog Lane and Neasden Lane undertaken by AOC in 1997 recorded 19th century structural remains likely to represent The Old Spotted Dog. 17th and 18th century pottery was also recorded on site demonstrating long term use of the site.

Construction of the railway and changes in industry led to population growth and development from the late 19th century.

## Significance

The Neasden Archaeological Priority Area is primarily focussed on the potential to reveal evidence of early to post-medieval settlement. The close proximity and position on route to other known settlements including Willesden and Dollis Hill could help to clarify the chronology of development within the area; and the further understand possible inter- and intra-site relationships between the earlier known (documented) settlements and sites in Brent.

## Sources

An Archaeological Evaluation at The Old Grange Tavern, 151 Neasden Lane, London NW10, London Borough of Brent. AOC (Archaeology) Ltd. March 1997

London Archaeologist - Volume 02:12 (1975) The Grange https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-457-1/dissemination/pdf/vol02/vol02_12/02_12_311_313.pdf

Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Areas

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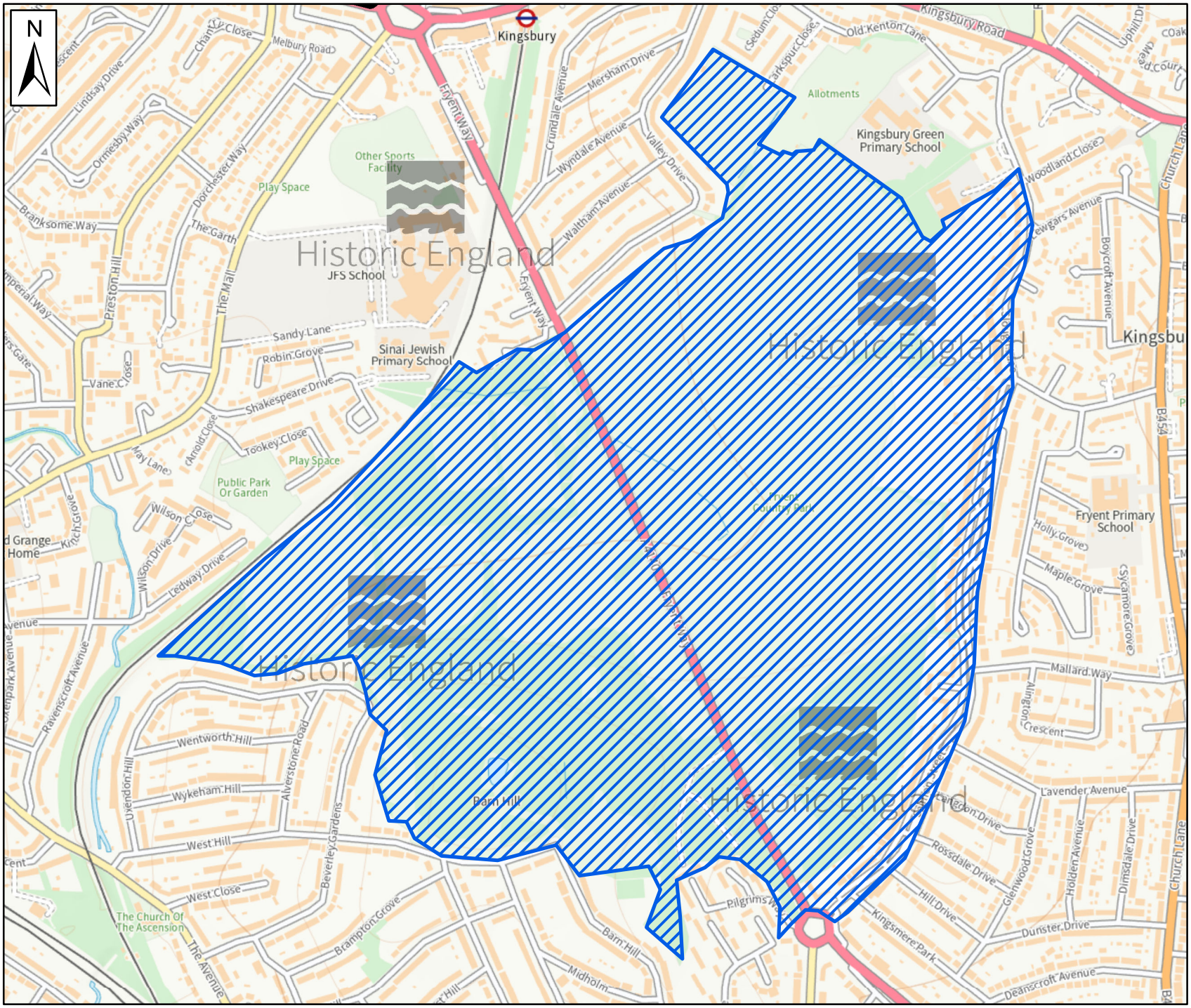
|---|---|
| Brent APA 3.1: Barn Hill | Page 70 |




Brent APA 3.1: Barn Hill

30 June 2022

Barn Hill

Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

**Scale (at A4):** 1:9,291



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Brent APA 3.1: Barn Hill

Summary and Definition

The Barn Hill Archaeological Priority Area covers the Fryent Country Park and Salmon Street which forms the eastern edge of the country park. The APA is classified as Tier 3 because it is an area of historic landscape that has remained largely undeveloped with potential for the survival of archaeological remains relating to all periods.

Description

The Barn Hill Archaeological Priority Area covers the extent of Fryent Country Park. Fryent Country Park is a designated nature reserve and public park bisected by Fryent Way. To the west of Fryent Way lies the highest point Barn Hill. Barn Hill is capped by Pebble Gravel, while the remainder of the APA lies over London Clay. A tributary of the Gaderbrook, seasonally flows through the northern edge of the Park.

Evidence of Prehistoric activity is limited throughout the borough. However, Iron Age activity was discovered in the St Andrews Church Tier 1 APA to the south in excavations in 2013 during the demolition of the Blarney Stone Pub at the corner of Old Church Lane and Blackbird Hill where the former Blackbird Farm once stood. A prehistoric trackway is thought to have existed along Blackbird Hill within the vicinity of the former Blackbird Farm. The trackway is thought to have been called *Wic Street* during the Roman period and *Elderstrete* during the Saxon period when it was used to mark the boundary between Kingsbury and the neighbouring parish of Harrow. Remnants of the track were still visible within the Barn Hill APA on aerial photographs from 1954.

Bronze Age archaeology has been recorded along the northern perimeter of the APA during excavations at Kingsbury Sports Ground, and at the Welsh Harp Reservoir to the South.

There is as yet no evidence for the Roman or early medieval use of this land although most likely it was either agricultural or woodland.

A medieval kiln has been documented in the south western area of the APA, while the eastern side of the APA running parallel with Salmon Street has historically been used as farmland. The 1085-6 Domesday Book records *Chingesberie's* two manors of Chalkhill previously belonging to King Edward the Confessor before being given to St Peter's (Westminster) Abbey; and Tunworth which belonged to a knight of King William I, Ernulf de Hesdin. Around 1244, about 300 acres of land were gifted to the Knights of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem who established a farm on Church Lane (see Church Lane Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area) which became known as Freren Farm. By 1300, parcels of land from the other Kingsbury manor, Tunworth, had been let out to tenants who cleared small fields out of the woodland, a process known as "assarting". Three of these landholdings to the west side of

Salmon Street became farms that lasted until the mid-twentieth century and are covered by the APA; Hill Farm near the junction with Mallard Way, Edwin's (later Little Bush Farm) and Richard's (which became Bush Farm.

Farming was a prosperous business for those who owned their land, and wealthy 'yeoman farmer' families funded the upkeep of nearby St Andrews (see Church Lane Tier 2 APA). The oldest surviving memorial in the church is to John Shepard, who died in 1520. The Shepard family were the tenants of Hill Farm for more than a century. Much of the land belonged to All Soul's College, the Hovenden Map drawn in 1597 shows meadow and fields layout much as it is today. Thick hedgerows marked the field boundaries and some areas were still woodland. Some old hedges have been replanted but can be used to help construct local landscape histories. All the farm buildings have been destroyed but some old farm ponds remain with some new ones created by Barn Hill Conservation Group.

There are historic references to the Barn Hill area from as early as 1547 when a Manorial survey mentions Bardon Hill. In the late eighteenth century, the area formed part of the Uxendon estate which was owned by the Page family who were infamous in the 16th century for the Babington conspiracy against Queen Elizabeth. Richard Page commenced work on a prospect tower on the hilltop. Page sought the advice of Humphry Repton who laid the southern slopes out as Barn Hills Park. Repton built follies including temples and, on the top of Barn Hill what was referred to in an 1820's guide as a "prospect tower". Mature planting on the summit still corresponds with that recorded on the 1817 enclosure map; the belt of trees running down from the hilltop and crossing Brampton Grove and Basing Hill are remains from Repton's scheme.

Significance

Fryent Country Park is a unique survival of a large area of historic Middlesex's rural landscape within the London Borough of Brent. The primary heritage significance of the Barn Hill APA lies in its history as an 18th century designed landscape but its medieval and potentially earlier elements are also significant. The park has seen little archaeological investigation but limited modern disturbance means that there is potential for archaeology relating to all periods. The public open space has potential for a community archaeology project.

Sources

Barn Hill Conservation Area Appraisal https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16402710/barn-hill-conservation-area-appraisal.pdf

Fryent Country Park https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16417589/the-fryent-country-park-story-part-1.pdf

https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/fryent-country-park-including-barn-hill-open-space

Victoria County History

Dating a hedgerow landscape in Middlesex: Fryent Country Park (Cunnington, Win; Williams, 1984)

## Glossary

Archaeological Priority Area: Generic term used for a defined area where, according to existing information, there is significant known archaeological interest or particular potential for new discoveries. They are sometimes called other names including Archaeological Priority Zones, Areas of Archaeological Significance/Importance/Interest or Areas of High Archaeological Potential.

Archaeological interest: There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places and of the people and cultures that made them (NPPF definition). There can be an archaeological interest in buildings and landscapes as well as earthworks and buried remains.

Conservation: The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances its significance (NPPF definition).

Designated heritage asset: A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation (NPPF definition).

Heritage asset: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing) (NPPF definition).

Historic environment: All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged and landscaped and planted of managed flora (NPPF definition).

Historic environment record: Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use (NPPF definition). Historic England maintains the Historic Environment Record for Greater London.

Potential: In some places, the nature of the archaeological interest cannot be specified precisely, but it may still be possible to document reasons for anticipating the existence and importance of such evidence. Circumstantial evidence such as geology, topography, landscape history, nearby major monuments and patterns of previous discoveries can be used to predict areas with

a higher likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future.

Research framework: A suite of documents which describe the current state of knowledge of a topic or geographical area (the 'resource assessment'), identifies major gaps in knowledge and key research questions (the 'agenda') and set out a strategy for addressing them. A resource assessment and agenda for London archaeology has been published and a strategy is in preparation.

Setting of a heritage asset: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral (NPPF definition).

Sensitivity: The likelihood of typical development impacts causing significant harm to a heritage asset of archaeological interest. Sensitivity is closely allied to significance and potential but also takes account of an asset's vulnerability and fragility.

Significance: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence but also from its setting (NPPF definition).