

Home Farm, Harmondsworth Lane, Sipson, London borough of Hillingdon

Museum of London Archaeology, 2011. <https://doi.org/10.5284/1000146>

Introduction



Archaeological excavations/watching briefs were undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology in phases between 1999 and 2002, on the site of Home Farm, Harmondsworth. The watching brief was commissioned by SITA in response to an application to extract gravel.

The completion of the post-excavation assessment and updated project design for the archaeological investigations at Home Farm was funded by Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) administered by English Heritage. Planning condition for the aggregates extraction at Home Farm was granted in 1989 and no provision was made for the assessment, analysis or publication costs of the archaeological investigations in the relevant planning condition.

The excavation has revealed Neolithic activity, primarily pits, and elements of an extensive later prehistoric droveway and enclosure system, comprising of a series of smaller track ways, enclosures, boundary ditches, fences/palisades, drainage ditches, and livestock control features. Associated with this are cooking pits, water holes/wells and a four-post structure. Three features were either heavily truncated or token cremations, or deposits including pyre debris. This droveway/enclosure system appears to date from the later Bronze Age, and may have been abandoned in the later Iron Age.

Six fragments of moulds and/or crucibles for bronze casting, had been discarded in a Late Bronze Age well. Further analysis is required to phase and date this activity, and to determine the extent, if any, of Romano-British activity on the site. An undated feature appeared on stylistic grounds to be a Saxon sunken featured building, and stakehole and posthole structures may have been associated with it. Elements of post-medieval, and possibly medieval, field boundary and trackway ditches were also present.

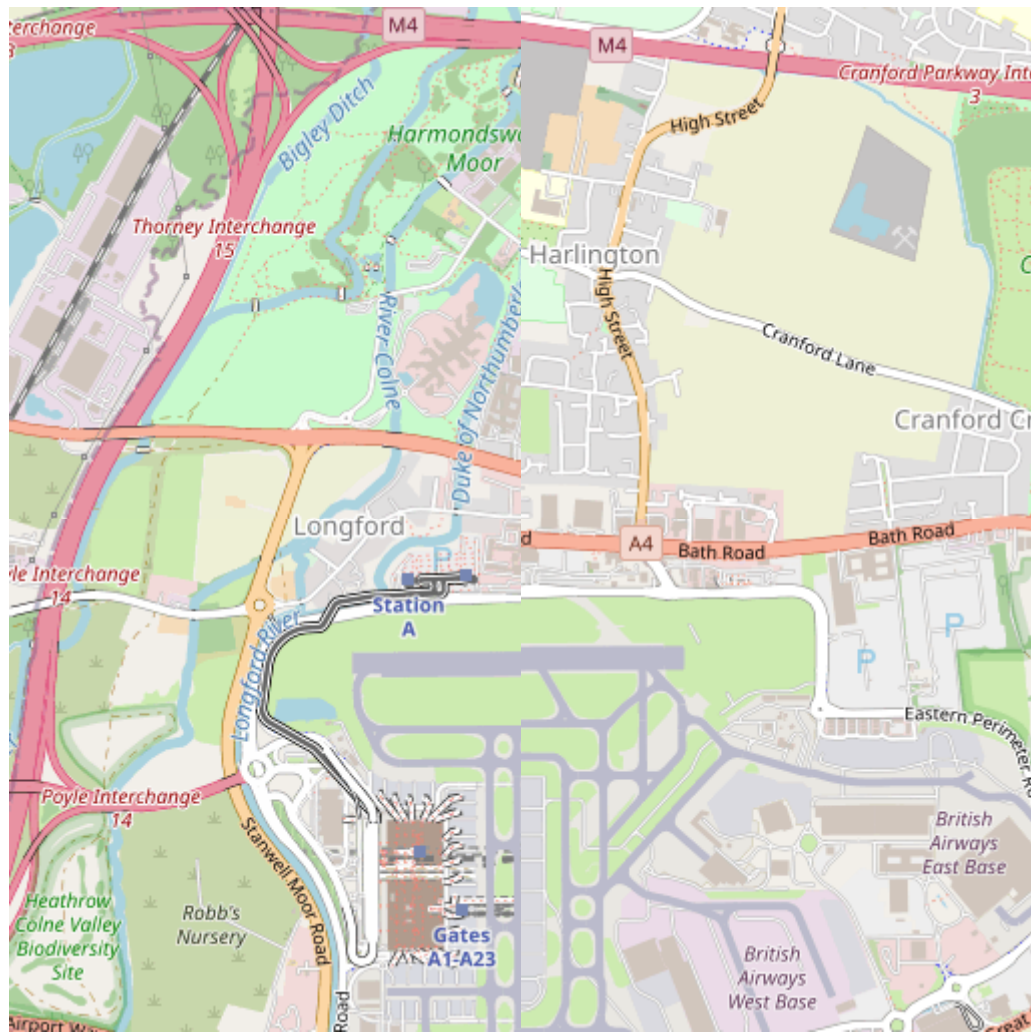
The sequence provides further data for Neolithic, later prehistoric, Roman, and early Saxon activity in the Heathrow area, which directly complements that in the proposed English

Heritage-funded backlog publication project 'West London Landscapes', and a recent MOLA publication on early Saxon occupation in the London region.

It is therefore proposed that this data is further analysed to allow the prehistoric and Roman phases to be published as an integral part of the West London Landscape Project and depending on the results of further analysis, for the Saxon sunken featured building to be published as a brief article in an appropriate journal.

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500 m
2000 ft

Data CC-BY-SA by [OpenStreetMap](https://www.openstreetmap.org/)

Location	World region	British Isles and Ireland
	British Isles country	England
	English region	London
	None	Home Farm, Harmondsworth Lane, Sipson
	None	United Kingdom, England, Greater London, Hillingdon, Sipson
	TGN	World, Europe, United Kingdom, England, Greater London, Hillingdon [7018920]

Grid reference	OSGB	507000 177500
Grid reference	Latitude longitude bounding box	51.4894174908 -0.4665853998 -0.4612388601 51.48339503
Subject	FISH Archaeological Objects (England)	CERAMIC
	FISH Archaeological Objects (England)	Human Bone
	FISH Archaeological Objects (England)	Animal Bone
	FISH Archaeological Objects (England)	CREMATION
	FISH Archaeological Objects (England)	QUERN
	FISH Archaeological Objects (England)	LITHIC IMPLEMENT
	Library of Congress Subject Headings	Archaeology
	Monument Type (England)	STAKE HOLE
	Monument Type (England)	Sunken Featured Building
	Monument Type (England)	SETTLEMENT
	Monument Type (England)	RUBBISH PIT
	Monument Type (England)	POST HOLE
	Monument Type (England)	WELL
	Monument Type (England)	DITCHED ENCLOSURE
	Monument Type (England)	COOKING PIT
Monument Type (England)	BOUNDARY DITCH	
Monument Type (England)	LINEAR FEATURE	
Period	MIDAS	Early Medieval

	MIDAS	Late Bronze Age
	MIDAS	Neolithic
	MIDAS	Roman
Project dates	Created From	01-JAN-1999
	Created To	01-MAY-2002
	First Released	25-FEB-2011
	Last Modified	18-FEB-2011
Identifiers	ALSF ID	5793
Related information	Associated Collection	Identification and quantification of archaeological projects arising from aggregates extraction in Greater London
Data types available	Text	1 objects

Overview

Home Farm is situated to the north of Heathrow Airport, between the villages of Harmondsworth and Sipson). It is bounded to the east by the rear of houses which front onto the west side of Sipson Road, by Harmondsworth Lane to the north, by open fields of Home Farm, Harmondsworth to the west and the rear of industrial premises fronting onto Bath Road and a recreation ground to the south. The site is centred on NGR 150700 177500. The site of Home Farm is located on the northern Taplow terrace of the River Thames, to the north of Heathrow Airport.

The archaeological watching brief/excavation was been commissioned and funded by SITA Waste Systems and Quarry Products in response to English Heritage advice to the Local Planning Authority to determine if there were any archaeological implications to the proposed mineral (sand and gravel) extraction on the site.

A field evaluation was carried out by MoLAS (now MOL Archaeology, MOLA) between 24th August 1998 and 24th September 1999 the results of which were produced in the subsequent Evaluation Report. This document, which also includes the geological, archaeological and historical background of the site, informed the design (Method Statement) for the watching brief/excavation. The Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, advising the Borough of Hillingdon, reviewed the results of the evaluation, which indicated the presence of significant archaeological features dating to the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. It was decided that further work was required within certain areas of the site. Subsequent archaeological excavations/watching briefs were undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeology Service, in October 1999, May 2000, March-July 2001, September-October 2001, May-June 2002, and August-November 2002.

IN 2009 MOLA submitted a project design as an application for funding from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) to English Heritage for the completion of the post-excavation assessment and updated project design for the archaeological investigations at Home Farm.

Digital Archive

The digital archive comprises the final project report:

Hoad, S., Knight, H. and Elsdon, N.J. 2010: *Home Farm, Harmondsworth Lane, Sipson, London UB7 London Borough of Hillingdon. An archaeological post-excavation assessment and updated project design*. Museum of London Archaeology.