



Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Maidens Bridge, Forty Hill from the east (see p. 5)

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17 April: Excavations & Fieldwork of EAS 2008 & AGM

15 May: Prescott Street E1 Excavations and Roman Cemetery

19 June: Geoffrey Gillam Memorial Lecture

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Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December

The Editor is Jeremy Grove

Meetings are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield (*near Chase Side*) at 8pm. Tea and coffee are served and the sales and information table is open from 7.30pm. Visitors, who are asked to pay a small entrance fee of £1.00, are very welcome.

Forthcoming events



If you would like to attend the EAS lectures, but find travelling difficult, please contact the Secretary, David Wills (Tel: 020 8364 5698) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

17th April

The Excavations & Fieldwork of Enfield Archaeology Society 2008

Preceded by Annual General Meeting

Once our AGM business is concluded, hopefully within about 10 minutes, the rest of the evening will be devoted to reports on our busy 2008 season of work, presented by Martin Dearne, Ian Jones and Mike Dewbrey. Two Tudor Palaces, a Roman settlement (or two), prehistoric sites, fieldwalking and so on....

15th May

Prescot Street, E1: Excavations and Roman Cemetery

Guy Hunt, LP Archaeology

LAMAS have recently presented LP Archaeology with their 2008 Ralph Merrifield Award for their public outreach work associated with their dig in February 2008 in Prescot Street in Aldgate. This site was the only remaining large unexcavated area within what is known as the 'East London Roman Cemetery'. They will discuss the results of their excavation, in the context of what the cemetery as a whole tells us about life in Roman Britain. For a taster, visit their web site: <http://www.lparchaeology.com/prescot/>.

19th June

The Geoffrey Gillam Memorial Lecture With Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

In memory of our late Vice-President Geoffrey Gillam, we are pleased to present a joint meeting with the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society, at the Jubilee Hall in our regular Friday night slot. The main speakers will be Ian Jones, on Geoffrey's contribution to local archaeology, and Graham Dalling on his equally important contribution to local history. Graham will also present a contribution by David Pam.

(A misprint on our 2009 programme card implies this meeting is not at Jubilee Hall – don't worry, it definitely is! My fault. Ed.)

Other EAS events:

Sunday 17 May

WEA/EAS Coach Trip: Charlecote Park and Stratford-upon-Avon

This year we will be visiting Charlecote Park in Warwickshire, a beautiful country house in the care of the National Trust, with a call at Stratford-upon-Avon en-route. Please see flyer enclosed for further details. Total cost £20, NT members with card £12.50.



Elizabethan gatehouse at Charlecote, with House behind (Ed)

11 – 12 July

EAS dig at Theobalds Palace, Cedars Park, Broxbourne

18 – 19 July

EAS dig at Elsyng Palace, Forty Hall, Enfield

Further details of the above digs, both Festival of British Archaeology events, will appear in the June bulletin.

Meetings of other Societies

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY
7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

16 April
The Intimate Theatre
Geoff Bowden

20 May
Secrets of Nature
How the wild life film was developed in Southgate
Tim Boon

19 June
Geoffrey Gillam Memorial Lecture
Joint event with EAS
Ian Jones, Graham Dalling

24 June
7pm for 7.30 at Bruce Castle
TBA. Joint event with Friends of Bruce Castle

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
7.45 for 8.00pm Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley

14 April
An Album of Treasures
Ann Saunders

10 May
The Guildhall Roman Amphitheatre
Francis Grew

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH
7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield

12 May
Henry III, Edward the Confessor and the Rebuilding of Westminster Abbey
Professor David Carpenter

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
6 for 6.30pm, Terrace Room, Museum of London

16 April
Friends in the City: The Quakers in 17th & early 18th century London
Dr Simon Dixon

14 May
Islington's Remembrance Project - Residents and Conflict in the 20th Century
John Shepherd, Project Manager

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP
7.45 for 8pm, VI Form Unit, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green

20 April
The Archaeology of the Fens
Tim Reynolds – Birkbeck College

11 May
In the school Assembly Hall
Coins and their impact on the history of Provincial Britannia
Sam Moorehead – British Museum

8 June
Ancient Egypt
Kathryn Hoare - British Museum

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
8pm, Parish Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey
(please note new venue)

23 April
Presidential Address & AGM
Stan Newens

21 May
The Town that Moved - Saint Albans in History
Brian Adams

SOCIETY MATTERS

Membership renewal – a reminder

Membership subscriptions were due on 1 January 2009, for all members joining the society before 30 September 2008.

If you have not yet renewed, you should find a reminder slip enclosed. Please send this together with the appropriate sum, to the Secretary, David Wills, 43 Millers Green Close, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7BD.

The rates are unchanged again from last year:

Ordinary Members:	£ 9.00
Joint Memberships:	£13.00
Junior Members:	£ 4.50

EAS Fieldwork



The Society carries out a busy programme of excavation and other practical activities in the Borough. Please contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) for more details if you are interested.

Enfield Archaeological Society

FOUNDED 1955

Affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology and the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

President: Harvey Sheldon B.Sc. F.S.A. F.R.S.A.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00 pm on Friday 17th April 2009

AGENDA

- 1) Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting
- 2) Report of the Executive Committee (see p. 12)
- 3) Financial Statement (Available at the meeting)
- 4) Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members.
The Executive Committee will stand for re-election.
- 5) Any Other Business.
Items for discussion must be advised to the Hon. Secretary not less than seven days before the date of the Annual General Meeting
- 6) Reports of Fieldwork, Research and other Activities carried out during 2008

David Wills, Hon. Secretary
43 Millers Green Close
Enfield Middlesex EN2 7BD
Home: 020 8364 5698
Email: david_wills1972@hotmail.com

Various Works Near Maidens Bridge July – September 2008

(Site Code ESH08)

By Martin J. Dearne and Neil, Lesley and
John Pinchbeck

Introduction

Following the unauthorised cutting earlier in the year of trenches connected with road water drainage pipe and footbridge renovation at the eastern boundary of the Forty Hill estate near Maidens Bridge, but just within the area Scheduled as an Ancient Monument because of the presence of Elsyng Palace, the society undertook for the borough the rectangularising and archaeological evaluation of these trenches (technically 'mitigation' work) which English Heritage had required the borough to have done. Though this (and a small 'watching brief' carried out near the footbridge by MJD in his professional capacity) revealed little of archaeological significance it did provide the opportunity to study what was being revealed by concurrent repair work to the weir and stream edge brickwork under and immediately east of Maidens Bridge which had necessitated bypass piping of the stream flow.

This account is adapted from the full archive report on the work (available at cost to members) and figures 3 and 4 have been omitted from it as they would add nothing to the understanding of the archaeology recorded.

The History of the Bridge

The Grade 2 Listed Maidens Bridge, immediately adjacent to the work reported here and by which Forty Hill crosses Maidens (Turkey) Brook, has probably always been a crossing point of the stream. Ermine St., the main Roman road north from Londinium, is represented north of Maidens Bridge by Bulls Cross (Margary 1955, 169ff) and then Gilmour Close. This strongly suggests that it crossed Maidens (Turkey) Brook at or close to

Maidens Bridge and a coin of Constantine I came from the brook near the bridge (TQ 3423 9877) in 1885 (Whitaker 1911, 9; GLSMR 080628).

However, its exact line at and south of Maidens (Turkey) Brook is not known and EAS excavations in 1957 directed by the late Geoffrey Gillam less than 10 m from the area of the present work, but east of Forty Hill (Fig. 1), (and further south, where work included alignments of 10 ft interval augur holes) failed to establish its line. A ridge near the bridge was found to be caused by brickearth dumping from nearby gravel extraction and ground disturbance to a considerable depth (EAS records and Gillam MS held by MJD). The most plausible line at Maidens (Turkey) Brook might, however, still be a few metres to the east of the modern Maidens Bridge.

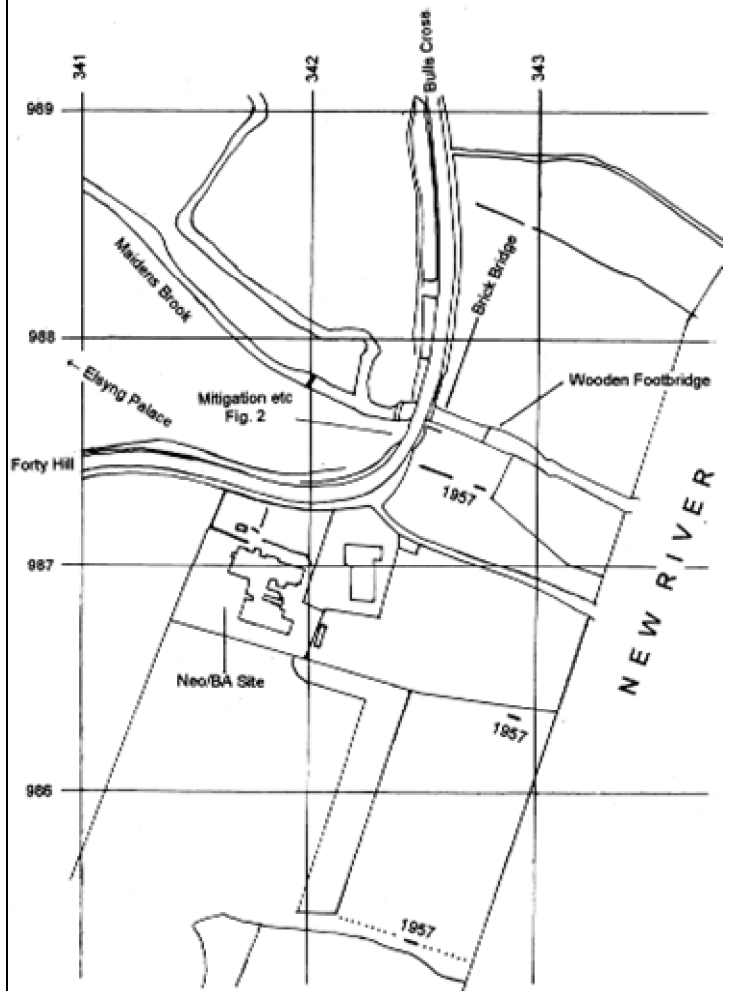


Fig 1: Location of Current & Previous Archaeological Work
(1 grid square = 100m)

The name Maidens Bridge seems to be Saxon in origin (Maegdene Brycg; Avery 2000, 19, citing Kemble, J. R. (1840) *Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonica*), but whether Avery (op cit) is right to trace it etymologically to a specific Saxon noblewoman might be doubted. Maidens Bridge is not uncommon as a bridge name, so a more

generic origin in ultimately Celtic female deity associations of rivers may be relevant.

The first record of a bridge is in 1484 when a feoffment under Richard III records the construction of Mayden Brigge (Robinson 1823, 73) and there are scattered references to it in 1572 (VCH Middx. V, 209 citing Duchy of Lancaster Rentals and Surveys 43/7/5) and in 1638 as Maydenbridge (EPNS 1942).

In the 1720s and 1730s the bridge was clearly still in use and attained some notoriety as the favoured haunt of the highwayman William Shelton who would rob victims travelling north from Enfield here, having pre selected his victims by overhearing conversations in the Kings Head in Enfield market place on market days. He was apprehended here, found guilty of highway robbery (having on a previous occasion been acquitted for lack of evidence) and hung in 1732 (Humanities Research Institute).

By 1759, however, the bridge was recorded as impassable (VCH Middx. V, 209 citing Diocesan Records 4 (Enfield Parish)/1/7 in Greater London Records Office (Middlesex Records)). A new bridge (omitted by VCH) was 'built of brick and timber' in 1761(see also below) 'at the expense of the Division' (Robinson 1823, 73) but cannot have lasted long as by 1785 a Forty Hall estate map shows the brook crossed by a ford with a narrow wooden footbridge on the east and Robinson (op cit) notes 'formerly there was a narrow [bridge] ... of wood, and the traveller had his choice of passing over it or going through the water, of which there is, after heavy rains, a great body' (see also below).

A new single arched bridge was constructed in 1795 (VCH Middx. V, 209 citing Rep. on Bridges in Mdx, 103) and 'built of brick, the complete width of the road' (Robinson op cit). By 1815 there were sluice or flood gates by the bridge (omitted by VCH) which by 1822 had been damaged by ice and then collapsed resulting in damage to the bridge and a proposal for a new bridge costed at £629, though whether it was built is unclear (correspondence between James Meyer of Forty Hall and the County Surveyors Office in London Metropolitan Archive Acc/MJ/SP/B/0083 - 0090).

The current bridge, be it the 1795 construction or a nineteenth century replacement/reconstruction, was repaired after lorry damage in the early 1970s (VCH Middx, V, 209).

A number of potentially Medieval and later water management structures are also known along the

line of Maidens (Turkey) Brook between the palace site and Maidens Bridge and in Upper and Lower Mill Rounds bordering it to the north. A Medieval and early modern water mill is likely though still unlocated, while a nineteenth century overflow channel for the New River (Old Course) has recently been recorded by the EAS at TQ 338 991 (Pinchbeck 2007a) together with a large brick culvert at TQ 3395 9895 (Pinchbeck 2007b) and a minor bridge at TQ 3399 9909 (Pinchbeck 2008). Extensive but decaying remains of a brick built cascade or water stairs within the brook a short distance west of Maidens Bridge are also currently the focus of EAS research and recording.

The Mitigation and Watching Brief Work

Fig. 2 shows the location of the trenches which were rectangularised and evaluated or archaeologically monitored but none of them revealed a great deal of archaeology.

Trench 1 included the existing footbridge steel and its concrete raft foundations above natural brickearth and a modern backfilling of brickearth mixed with some rubble. The adjacent 'watching brief' in Trench 6 only penetrated the top of a foundation layer for a modern pebbled path above it.

Trench 2 found natural or redeposited brickearth had presumably been cut into in the insertion of a modern concrete raft which encased terracotta drain pipe sections, while Trench 3 revealed widespread redeposited brickearth over 66 cm thick which produced quantities of mainly nineteenth century pottery, vessel glass and modern float window glass, half a yellow stock brick and some post 1960s plastic.

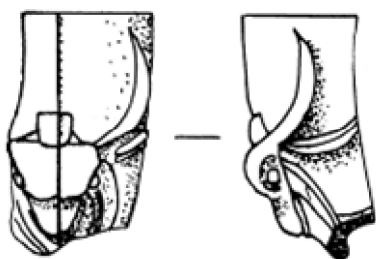
Notable were two probably in situ smashed transfer printed creamware stepped platters likely to be later nineteenth century in date and, together with vessel glass including the base of a free blown cylindrical wine bottle of c. AD 1800 - 50 (with two more partially complete from contractor's spoil), they suggested that the deposit may have originated in the nineteenth century (?connected to filling bridge works excavations) but been redisturbed in the twentieth century in laying the 25 cm diameter, now broken, salt glazed stoneware drainage pipe the trenches had originally been cut to access.

The pipe was again seen in Trench 4 where the stratigraphic sequence was as in Trench 3 with

the exception that a band of moderately frequent to frequent rounded pebbles and cobbles occurred within the lower levels of the brickearth, here up to 1.04 m thick, probably suggesting disturbance to underlying gravels.

Trench 5 showed no human disturbance at all, but thereby provided a useful section through the topsoil and natural brickearth and on to the top of the underlying Lea Valley Gravels (archaeology being the study of how humans modify natural drift geology it is always handy to see what the latter was like before they altered it).

One find worth noting, from the Trench 2 contractors' spoil, was this partial nineteenth century clay pipe bowl moulded with a goat's head on the front and presumably from the nearby former 'Goat' pub on Forty Hill:



Recording of Bridge Timber and Bridge Approach (Figs 1, 5 and 6)

However, during the work on Trenches 2 – 5 it was noted that repair work by the LBE to the brick weir in the bed of Maidens (Turkey) Brook under and east of Maidens Bridge had necessitated directing the stream flow into bypass piping, thereby revealing a number of vertical timbers projecting from the stream bed (and other associated timbers) immediately east of the weir. Although detailed examination of the structure represented was not practical it was possible to make a record of what could be seen of it.

Twelve, clearly of originally 14, c. 12 cm square timber piles formed two staggered north south lines, c. 1.87 m apart, the piles at 87 cm to 1.0 m intervals centre to centre. The more westerly line retained c. 5 cm thick vertical timber boards between them on the west, and in some cases metal retaining plates on the east faces, while the more easterly line only appeared to have the timber boards between them, again on their west.

Regrettably these remains were destroyed/obscured by their encasing in a new

concrete extension to the weir days after recording, but it must be almost certain that they were the remains of the wooden footbridge east of the former ford, in existence by 1785 and in use at least until a brick bridge was constructed in 1795 (above).

Shortly after these observations scrub clearance and the removal for repair of the top of the brick revetment/retaining wall to the north side of the brook immediately east of the current Maidens Bridge, made it possible to record brick structures running back (north) into the bank, some of which (parts of 3 on Fig. 6) were later removed during the work.

Behind the present bank revetment/retaining wall (1 on Fig. 6) of hard fired, yellow/grey, shallow frogged, 23 x 9 x 7 cm bricks (matching those used in the Flash Lane, Enfield aqueduct dated to 1820) was a lain brick surface (3 on Fig. 6) sloping up to the north. It extended for 20.85 m east of the current east side of Maidens Bridge, near the bridge was up to 4.43 m north south but narrowed as it ran east and was bounded on the north by a rather sinuous 'step wall' surviving to two courses above the level of the surface and ending at the east end of the surface in a curve originally continued to the edge of the stream.

North of the 'step wall' a pebbled surface was identified in one area. Both the brick surface and the 'step wall' were constructed of a mixture of hard fired, orange red, unfrogged, 23 x 10 x 6.5 cm bricks and medium hard fired, red/grey, shallow frogged, 23 x 10 x 6.5 cm bricks.

However, the brick surface (3) incorporated another (2 on Fig. 6) at the southern side of its east end. This second surface occupied a rectangular area, c. 1.0 m north south, and probably originally including the whole 10.1 m eastern end of the area of (3), and was differentiable since it had a slope up to the south not north and was entirely constructed of hard fired, orange red, unfrogged, 23 x 10 x 6.5 cm bricks. Both surfaces appeared, where observations were possible, to be one brick thick.

Although only limited observations were possible, it seems likely that surface (2) represents an older feature than the others recorded since it was composed entirely of unfrogged bricks, while surface (3) and the 'step wall' must be likely to have been a later addition, perhaps reusing bricks from structures associated with (2). The slope of (2) moreover suggests the approach to a bridge and it is very tempting to suggest that it

represents the remnant of an approach to the short lived brick and timber bridge of 1761 (above). If so it was perhaps incorporated into (3), presumably intended to stabilise the bank and provide an aesthetic flanking to the 1795 bridge, perhaps in (to judge from brick morphology) the second or third quarters of the nineteenth century (?contemporaneously with the construction of (1)).

The pebbled surface north of the 'step wall' was presumably a footpath, perhaps leading to the ford further east, which one may speculate could have continued to function as an alternative crossing point of the brook despite the construction of the 1795 bridge, or at least giving access to the north bank of the brook.

The recording of the later eighteenth century footbridge further downstream and possibly of the approach to the 1761 bridge preceding it to its west, and so nearer to, but still east of, the site of the present bridge, provide useful confirmations of historical sources for the development of the crossing point of Maidens (Turkey) Brook. They seem to demonstrate that the precise crossing point has moved over time and prior to 1795 lay further east than it does today and this is also likely to have implications for the line of Roman Ermine St.

If, as seems very likely, the eighteenth century bridging points reflect the Medieval bridge position this is likely to have in turn been determined by the line of Ermine St. since it was probably still in use at least this late. Therefore this provides further circumstantial evidence for Ermine St. laying east of the current Forty Hill.

Acknowledgements

The EAS are grateful to the London Borough of Enfield Highway Services, and especially Mr Trevor Pennell and Mr Bruce Madeiros, for commissioning the work and facilitating its progress; to the Dept. of Culture Media and Sport for granting Ancient Monument Consent for part of it; and especially to Dr. Jane Sidell and Elizabeth Whitbourn of their advisors, English Heritage, for their support and constructive suggestions over the course of the work.

We are as ever grateful as well to all the members of the EAS who constituted the excavation and recording teams, especially Mike Dewbrey (co project manager), Peter Spindley (site surveyor) and Neil and John Pinchbeck (assistant site

recorders), who with Lesley Pinchbeck also undertook the historical background research incorporated here. The bridge recording work was largely carried out by John and Neil Pinchbeck with assistance from other members of the EAS.

Bibliography and Abbreviations

Avery, D. (2000) Saxon Enfield: The Place Name Evidence (Edmonton Hundred Historical Society).

EPNS = English Place Name Society (1942) The Place Names of Middlesex (EPNS vol. 18).

Humanities Research Institute:

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Pinchbeck, N. (2007b) Recording Exercise and Test Pit at a Brick Built Culvert Beneath the Field Gateway Separating Upper Mill Rounds and Lower Mill Rounds, Forty Hill Estate, Enfield Middx. Unpublished Enfield Archaeological Society Archive Report.

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Rep. on Bridges in Mdx. = Report of the Committee of Magistrates Appointed to Make Enquiry Respecting the Public Bridges in the County of Middlesex (1826) penes Middlesex Record Office.

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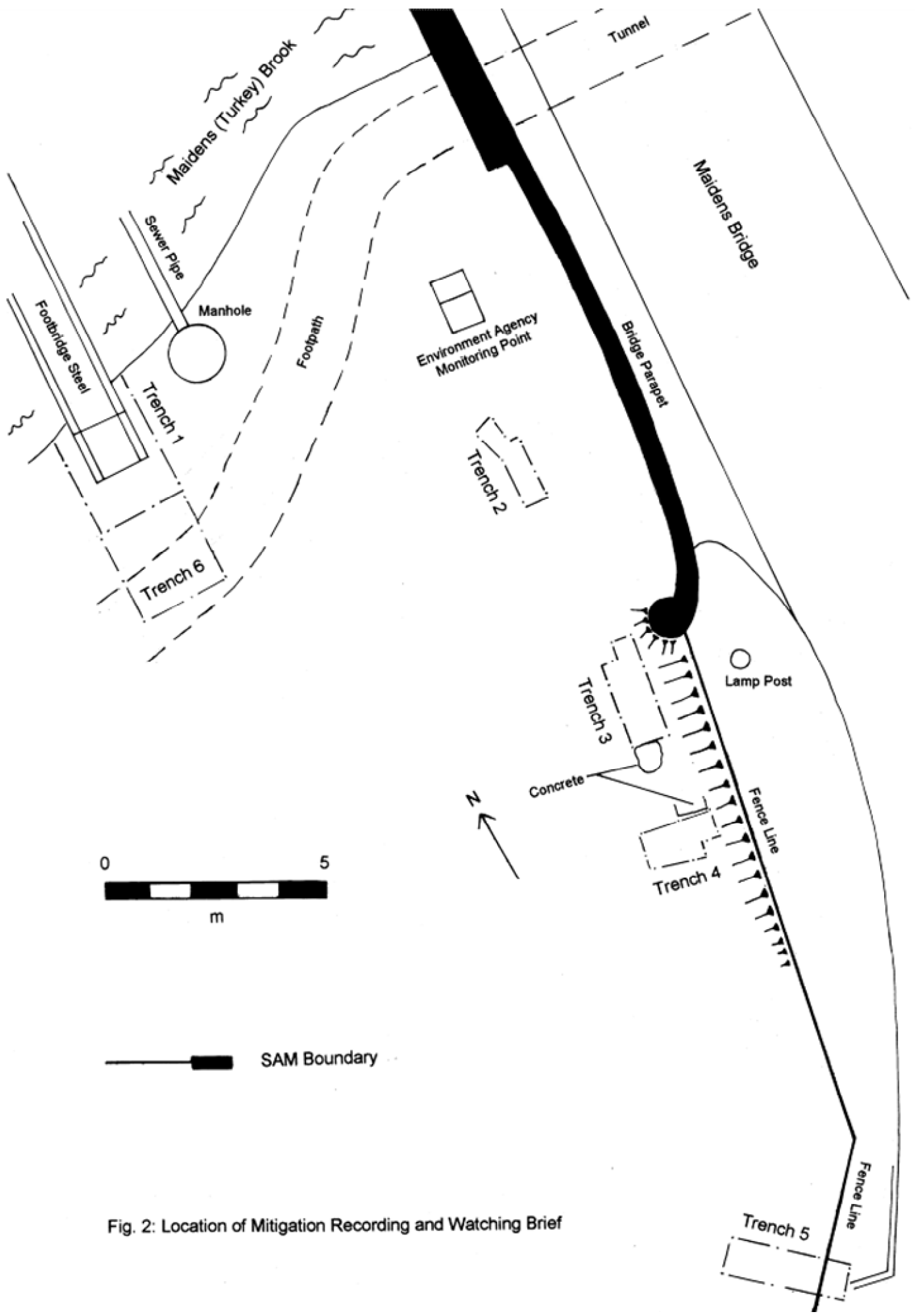


Fig. 2: Location of Mitigation Recording and Watching Brief

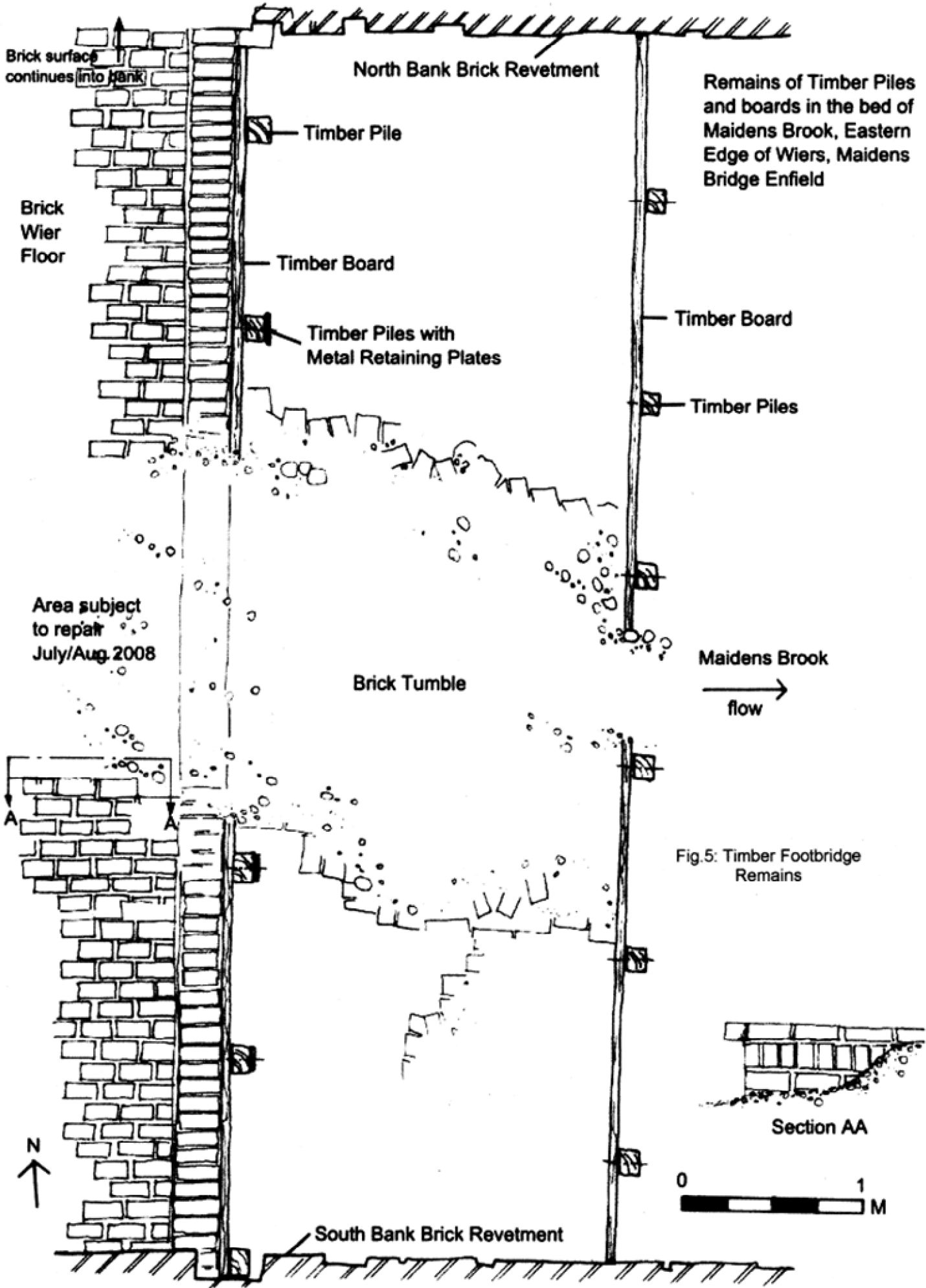


Fig.5: Timber Footbridge Remains

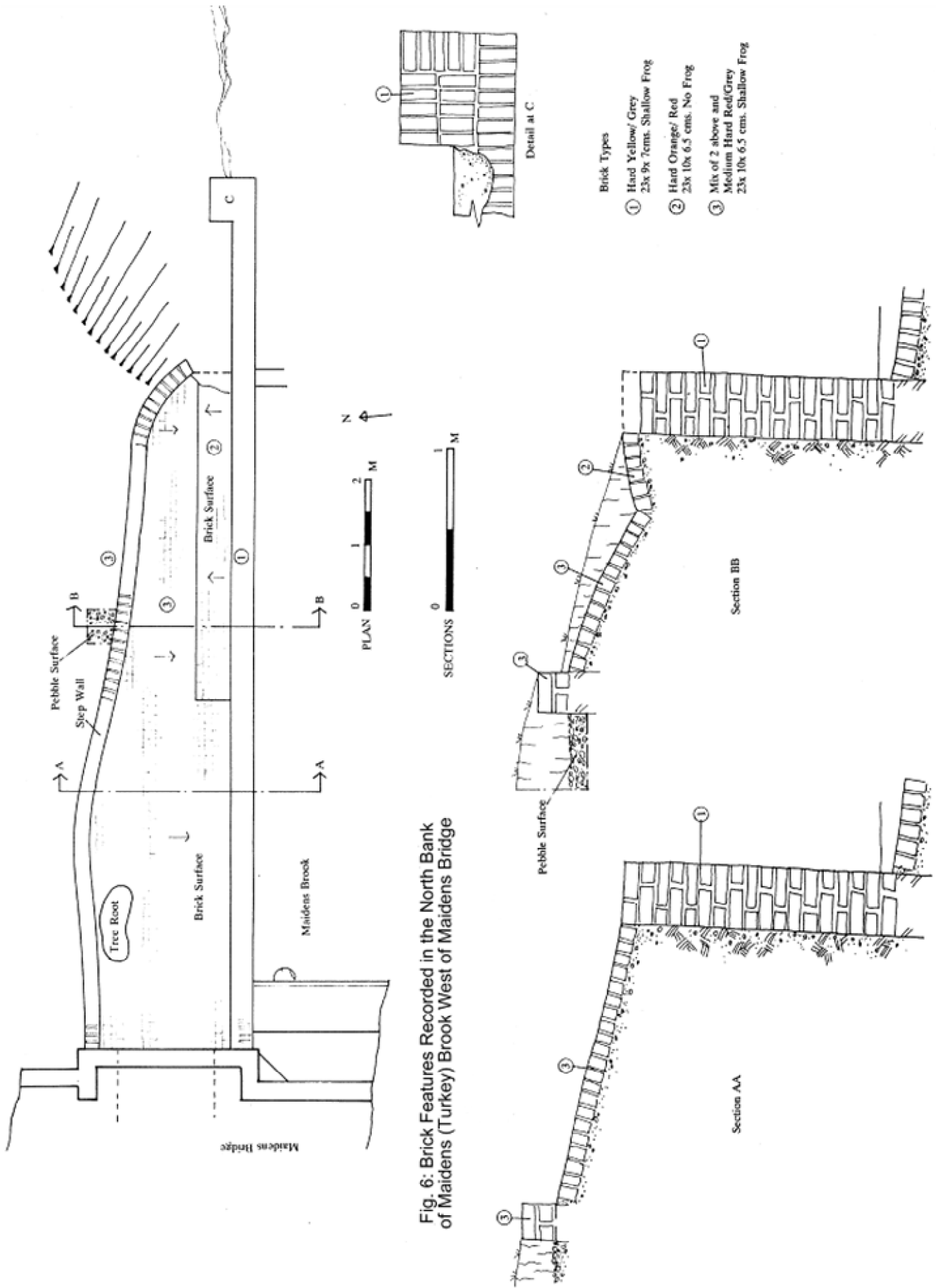


Fig. 6: Brick Features Recorded in the North Bank of Maidens (Turkey) Brook West of Maidens Bridge



Enfield Archaeological Society

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

The Executive Committee of the Enfield Archaeological Society has pleasure in presenting its 53rd Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2008.

Membership

The changes in the 2008 membership are shown in the below table:

	Adults	Juniors	Total
Membership at 31.12.07	156	5	161
Joined during the year	22	2	24
Resignations & removals	15	0	15
Membership at 31.12.08	163	7	170

Lectures

The Society is grateful to all the speakers who visited us during the course of the year. 'Local' subjects covered included: Late Victorian Enfield, St Andrews Church, English Heritage work in North London, London Cemeteries, the Bridgettine monastery of Syon and a guided tour of Theobalds Palace, Cedars Park (the Dennis Hill memorial event). The latter has been in particular demand, with our Chairman, Mike Dewbrey, providing additional guided talks several times during the year. Other talks were the Great Walls of China and A History of Fear in the Landscape.

Our thanks go to Hon. Meetings Secretary, Tim Harper, who arranges the annual lecture programme and ensures speakers are met at stations, locks up Jubilee Hall after events and provides refreshments before lectures. The Society is also grateful to Roger Eddington for running the projector; to Rosemary Perkins for running the sales and information stall, and selling the increasingly popular Society raffle tickets; and to the Enfield Society for the use of Jubilee Hall.

The joint WEA/EAS coach trip was to Suffolk and visited the Anglo Saxon royal burial site at Sutton Hoo and the 16thC Christchurch Mansion. A highly enjoyable trip was had by all and special thanks are due to Margaret Christie for organising it.

The sad news of our Vice-President and longest serving member, Geoffrey Gillam, passing away was broken in 2008. In recognition of his huge contribution to the Society and to the study of archaeology in general, it is fitting that from 2010, the AGM update of the 'Reports of Fieldwork,

Research and other Activities' carried out during each year will be dedicated to his memory.

Publicity

Our activities attracted a good deal of publicity over the year, with local papers covering the National Archaeology Week digs at Elsyng Palace and Theobalds Palace; the latter dig even managed to find itself covered on the Internet, with video coverage viewable on the Lowewood Museum website. Both digs helped publicise the Society's work and we are grateful to the Enfield Museums Service and in particular to Jan Metcalfe and Val Munday for their continued support and hard work in helping to run the Enfield event. We are also grateful to Enfield and Broxbourne Councils for their support and funding. National Archaeology Week (now renamed to the Festival of British Archaeology) will again see digs at both Elsyng Palace and close to the site of Theobalds Palace in July 2009.

Meetings at Jubilee Hall have provided additional publicity for the Society, especially via the Sales and Information stall, where publications, flyers and bulletins can be purchased by the public.

Publications

The quarterly Society News bulletin continues to be produced to a high standard, incorporating reviews of the Society's lectures, forthcoming events, fieldwork reports and other interesting articles. All this and our Society Editor, Jeremy Grove, has also managed to reduce the printing costs for each issue this year.

Additional thanks are due to the contributors, especially Martin Dearne and Mike Dewbrey, and to Neil Pinchbeck for providing many excellent illustrations in addition to other contributions.

2008 has been a very fruitful year for archive reports. Martin Dearne has written almost a dozen, recording work undertaken by the Society on a variety of sites. These include digs at Theobalds and Elsyng Palace; the Bush Hill Park area Roman settlement; mitigation work close to Maidens Bridge; and a prehistoric site near to Jesus Church, Forty Hill.

Neil Pinchbeck has also contributed to several reports and written one recording a soakaway at Forty Hall; whilst Roger Dormer and Les Whitmore have contributed to reports on excavations at Leighton Road.

Martin has also found time to write a paper on Roman Enfield for a volume ('Londinium and Beyond: Essays on Roman London and its Hinterland') dedicated to our Society President, Harvey Sheldon, in appreciation of his involvement in the archaeology of London for over 40 years.

Affiliations

The EAS is affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology and the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

Excavations, Fieldwork and Research and Library, Archives and Collections

During a busy year of excavations and other fieldwork the EAS worked on two royal palaces, two Roman settlements, a prehistoric site, a Medieval manor and a Jacobean house. At the latter, Forty Hall, a soakaway connected to the Victorian drainage system was recorded and by the time we meet for the 2009 AGM we will have completed the recording and excavation of part of its basement in connection with the installation of a lift there. At the Medieval moated manor of Cullings in Cheshunt fieldwalking established an early Medieval origin.

Two Roman sites at the south end of the Bush Hill Park Roman settlement were completed at the very end of last year helping us map its extent and this year we have been involved in reassessing the surviving material and documentation from the site at Cheshunt Park Farm in Hertford Record Office and the Lowewood Museum, Hoddesdon which has established its dates c. AD 70 – 410 + and the locations of the many trenches cut there in the 1950s and 60s. This work is ongoing.

Negative excavation results on the Elsyng Palace site together with new aerial photographs in fact advanced our understanding of the plan of the palace hugely and show that previously trusted geophysical results are in fact unreliable.

Separate work at Maidens Bridge recorded fairly modern ground disturbance but also traces of two eighteenth century bridges.

At Theobalds Palace (Cedars Park, Cheshunt) a possible Elizabethan canal with an island, probably part of the 'Great Garden' of William Cecil and later James I, was investigated as far as

unstable modern fills would allow and the development of 18th and 19thC landscaped gardens on one edge of it explored.

Finally at Jesus Church, Forty Hill, in freezing and wet conditions, a ?Mesolithic and late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint and pottery scatter was recovered from ploughsoil, with more material from spoilheaps deriving from development at Forty Hill School to the north.

A packed programme of work for 2009 on almost all of these sites is already in the advanced stages of planning.

As always, the Society is greatly indebted to our Director of Excavations and Research, Dr Martin Dearne, for directing the excavation team and writing the Society's archive reports to professional standard, and also to our Chairman, Mike Dewbrey, for organising the Pastfinders team. Thanks are also due to our Surveying and Planning teams for their meticulous recording and to all our diggers.

Any members wishing to take part in fieldwork or other activities should telephone Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888.

Financial Report

The Financial Report will be made available at the Annual General Meeting.

Executive Committee

The post of Society Auditor remains vacant. If any member would like to stand for this position (services are required only once per year) please contact, David Wills, tel: 07966 203 233. Nominations are required at least 7 days before the AGM.

The Executive Committee will stand for re-election:

President:	Harvey Sheldon BSc FSA FRSA
Vice Presidents:	Dr Iliid Anthony Ivy Drayton
Chairman:	Mike Dewbrey
Vice Chairman:	Ian Jones
Director of Research & Excavations	Dr Martin Dearne
Hon. Treasurer:	Geoffrey Lamport
Hon. Secretary:	David Wills
Hon. Meetings Secretary:	Tim Harper
Hon. Membership Secretary:	David Wills
Hon. Social Secretary	Alisa Mosquera (seconded 2009)
Hon. Editor:	Jeremy Grove
Auditor:	Position vacant
Committee:	Roger Eddington Les Whitmore

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



Three months into the year and the A.G.M. is once more nearly upon us. This year our annual round up and slide show of the past years excavations and discoveries by your Society promises to be a social evening event not to be missed! For the second year running we will be presenting our 'Golden Trowel Award' to the digger who has made the most committed contribution to the work of the excavation team in 2008. Last year's winner Neil Pinchbeck will be handing over the Golden Trowel to..... well you will just have to come along to the A.G.M. and see! There will be extra prizes to be won on the raffle and as always lots to buy on the sales table such as books magazines and pamphlets. If you share our passion for local history then missing the A.G.M. is like missing Christmas Day, so do come along and offer your support on Friday April 17th.

For once the first excavation of 2009 was not affected by the great British weather, primarily because we were working indoors! Surveying and recording of a section of the basement floor at Forty Hall was carried out in late February in advance of the installation of a disabled lift in the Grade One listed building. The area that will be disturbed by the new lift shaft will be excavated at the end of March. Whether Sir Nicholas Rainton has left anything under the floor of his cellar for us to find will no doubt be revealed at the A.G.M of course!

We also hope to have news of an excavation due to take place over the Easter weekend which should reveal evidence of one of the earliest moated medieval manor houses in the local area. Preliminary field walking of the site close to the Parish Boundary has already produced pottery fabrics dating to the early 14th century.

This year started off with a field trip to the reputed site of another moated manorial site, this time opposite 19th century Beaumont Manor in Broxbourne, by invitation of a local footpath group. We had been asked to help identify the site of the original Manor of Beaumont which may date back to the early 14th century. Research is still progressing including a full topographical and controlled metal detector survey of the site, which is under pasture and has the remains of a moat and many curious lumps and bumps.

A small group also visited the Roman settlement site at Cheshunt Park Farm where Roman roof tile fragments were recovered in the woods.

In early February we also visited Camlet Moat in Trent Park, reputedly the site of a Rangers' Lodge on Enfield Chase. Originally Camlet was believed to be the seat of the De Mandevilles but today it guards its secrets closely. Except for the tell tale fragments of roof tile which scatter the site there is little to indicate the scale of the building that once stood here. The water filled moat remains imposing and the local pagans have venerated the island within decorating the trees with ribbons around a sacred spring - which rather ironically appears to be the water-filled remains of a stone lined 14th century garderobe chute!

A noteworthy small find was recovered from plough soil recently which has been recorded on the SMR (sites and monuments register). Although slightly plough damaged a splendid example of a silver long cross penny (Seaby catalogue type 2000) from the reign of King Edward IV (1461-1470) has now been rescued from oblivion (see below). One of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of field walking I find is looking for worked prehistoric flint. Handling even a broken flint tool for the first time in thousands of years always gets the adrenaline pumping and even my 11 year old daughter is becoming quite astute at finding and identifying them.

I will emphasise once again that new inexperienced diggers are always welcome so if you have offered to help out on our excavations you should by now have received a letter from me outlining the details of the Easter dig, if not please call my office between 9am-6pm Monday to Friday on 01707-870888.

MIKE DEWBREY



Edward IV Silver Penny From Enfield



Drawing by Neil Pinchbeck