

Twyford Avenue, Acton, Ealing

Site type: Palaeolithic

Fieldwork: Compass Archaeology & Quest (2020)

GLHER records: [Evaluation at 66 Twyford Avenue](#)

Proposed scheme

Conversion of existing property into flats including new basement extension into rear garden.

Archaeological response

In the late 19th century the antiquarian John Allen Brown discovered a Middle Palaeolithic 'working floor' of flint tools and flakes in a gravel pit at Creffield Road, Acton. Associated remains were proven to have survived quarrying in 1974-5 but a further investigation in 1988 met with little success. This is recognised as a rare nationally significant discovery to which modern scientific methods could be applied.

The Twyford Avenue site lies 100-150m south of the previous Palaeolithic finds. Although only a small development, the new basement could have caused serious harm to an in-situ lithic scatter and required an expensive archaeological investigation. A single trial trench was therefore recommended to inform the planning decision.

Outcome

The trial trench encountered brickearth, sand and gravel layers similar to those seen at Creffield Road but did not find any Palaeolithic artefacts. Geoarchaeological samples were taken for scientific analysis and dating.

The application was determined by planning appeal at which it was refused but archaeology was not a reason for that refusal.

Results from this and other small-scale developments in the vicinity of Creffield Road enable us to narrow down where to find the geological deposits with potential for Palaeolithic archaeology.

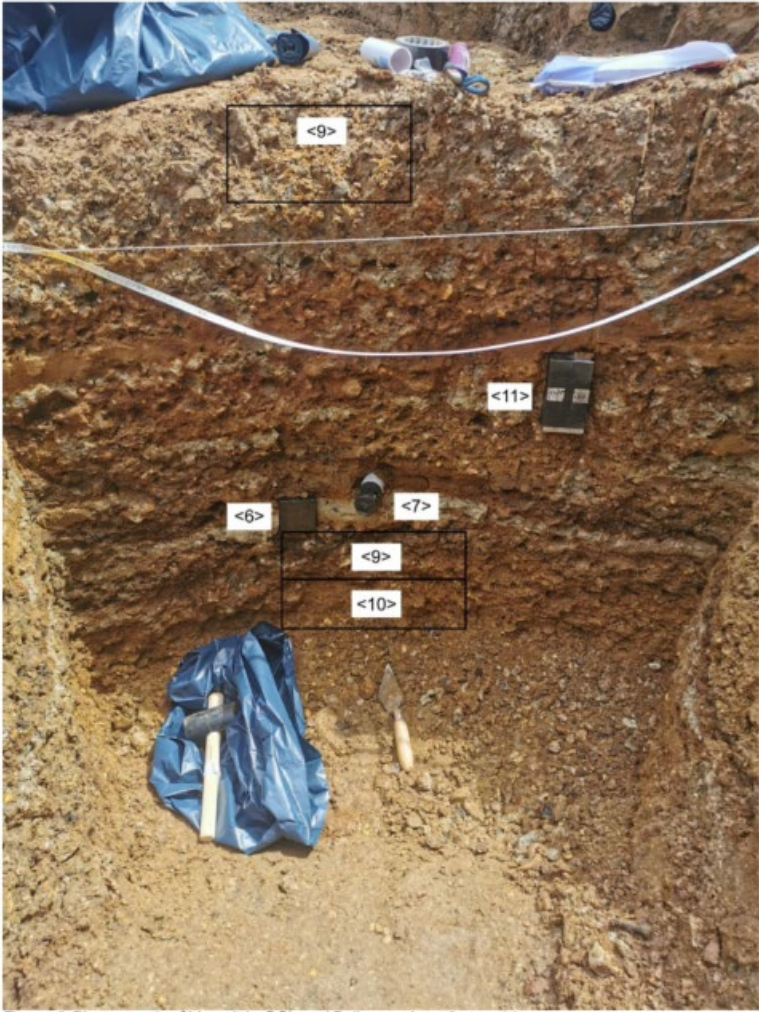


Figure 6: Photograph of Monolith, OSL and Bulk samples <6> to <11>

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