

## 1 ABSTRACT

*On the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in association with a programme of geo-technical investigations on behalf of Atkins Ltd. The archaeological investigations involved the observation and recording of 12 machine excavated geo-technical test pits measuring 3m by 0.6m using a JCB 3CX.*

*The archaeological investigations were commissioned to assess the potential for archaeological deposits to survive. Ten of the test pits were recorded as having undisturbed soil sequences overlying over naturally deposited clay. Two test pits contained made ground deposits lying directly above the natural clay, representing isolated phases of horizontal truncation. The undisturbed nature of the majority of soil profiles indicates that the potential for archaeological horizons to survive in these areas is good.*

*No significant archaeological remains or finds were identified during the watching brief.*

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **Site Location**

- 2.1 The site is located directly to the northeast of Pinner town centre, incorporating several parcels of land adjacent to the River Pinn. The site is bounded by open fields to the north and east, residential properties to the south, and the railway line to the west (Figures 1 & 2). The site is irregular in shape and covers an area of approximately 15.9ha. It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1303 9212.

### **Development Proposals**

- 2.2 The proposed scheme has yet to be fully defined. However, it is proposed that the development would involve the reconfiguration of the River Pinn, including the creation of a flood storage area.
- 2.3 In advance of the works English Heritage (Stephen Brindle, Inspector of Ancient Monuments) were consulted. It was recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken during the ground investigations to inform on the possible need for further archaeological work in advance of, or during the course of, the reconfiguration works.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Geology and Topography**

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 256) for North London, Solid and Drift Edition indicates that the site is underlain by London Clay formation over Chalk.
- 3.2 The development site is located on ground with a gentle gradient rising up to the northeast. The ground level at the southwest boundary is c68m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), with ground level increasing to c73.50m AOD at the northeast boundary of the site.

### **Archaeological Background**

- 3.3 The name Pinner is thought likely to derive from Pynn a Saxon personal name, and ora, meaning riverbank, suggesting a nearby Saxon settlement. Pinner, however, is not mentioned in the documentary sources until 1321. Hatch End is named from its position beside the gate of Pinner Park, deriving from the medieval hatch, for gate. Pinner Park is first mentioned in documentary sources from 1273, and was originally a deer park belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury, lord of the manor of Harrow. It became a farm in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and is now a scheduled Ancient Monument.

- 3.4 Hatch End developed around Headstone Lane, and although there are few survivals now of any houses of historical date, it seems to have been the northern end which was first developed.

### **Previous Archaeological Work**

- 3.5 Two phases of watching brief were carried out to the south of the site. The first was undertaken during geotechnical investigations in advance of the reconfiguration of the River Pinn (AOC 2006a). This involved the archaeological monitoring of seven geotechnical test pits. The pits demonstrated that natural deposits were between 0.45m and 1.00m below ground level, overlain by recent made ground.
- 3.6 Following the geotechnical monitoring, a watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for the reconfiguration work itself (AOC 2006b). A single wall was identified, of probable 20<sup>th</sup> century date and possibly representing the remains of a Ha Ha wall, although no associated features were identified with it.

## **4 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

- 4.1 The aims of the Watching Brief were defined as being:
- Determine the presence of any prehistoric activity.
  - Determine the presence of any remains of Roman date on the site.
  - Determine the presence of any medieval or post-medieval remains on the site.
  - Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of late post-medieval and modern buildings on the site.
- 4.2 The final aims of the investigation were:
- To make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.
  - To enable an informed decision on the status of the archaeological works and any possible requirement for further work.
  - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

- 5.1 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared (AOC 2007) detailing the methodologies utilised during the course of the archaeological investigations.
- 5.2 The fieldwork was managed by Ron Humphrey for AOC Archaeology and monitored by Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, on behalf of the London Borough of Harrow.

- 5.3 A site code **OXH 07** was obtained from the Museum of London as the unique site identity.
- 5.4 The scope of the watching brief involved the examination and recording of 12 test pits excavated during the programme of geo-technical site investigations. All excavation was undertaken using a JCB 3CX fitted with 600mm wide toothless bucket. The test pits measured approximately 3m by 1m in plan.
- 5.5 All of the work was carried out in line with Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP) 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage 1998); and IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA 1994).

## 6 RESULTS

### Test Pit 1

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.23m	(1/001)	Topsoil. Light grey/brown clayey silt.
0.23m – 0.56m	(1/002)	Subsoil. Light orange clayey silt.
0.56m – 1.16m	(1/003)	Natural clay. Clean, light orange/blue silty clay.
1.16m – 1.90m	(1/004)	Natural clay/sand. Orange/blue clayey sand.
1.90m – 3.00m	(1/005)	Natural silty clay. Light blue/orange silty clay.

- 6.1 The earliest deposit identified in Test Pit 1 was a light blue natural silty clay (1/005). It was overlain by two further natural deposits (1/004) and (1/003) to a depth of 0.56m below ground level. They were sealed by a 0.33m thick layer of subsoil (1/002) which was in turn overlain by the topsoil deposit (1/001).
- 6.2 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 1.

### Test Pit 2

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.68m	(2/001)	Topsoil. Soft, mid brown, clayey silt.

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.68m – 1.58m	(2/002)	Natural silty clay. Firmly compacted orange/blue silty clay.
1.58m – 3.00m	(2/003)	Natural silty clay. Orange/blue silty clay.

- 6.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a natural silty clay (2/003). This was sealed by a further deposit of natural silty clay (2/002) to a maximum height 0.68m below ground surface. The Test Pit was sealed by a topsoil deposit (2/001).
- 6.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 2.

### Test Pit 3

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.35m	(3/001)	Topsoil. Soft, mid brown, clayey silt.
0.35- 3.00m (NFE)	(3/002)	Natural clay. Soft, mid brownish orange clay.

- 6.5 The earliest recorded context was a soft, mid brown/orange naturally deposited clay (3/002). This was overlain by a 0.35m thick mid brown clayey silt topsoil layer (3/001).
- 6.6 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 3.

### Test Pit 4

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.40m	(4/001)	Topsoil. Soft, mid brown, clayey silt.
0.40- 3.00m (NFE)	(4/002)	Natural clay. Soft, mid brown, clayey silt.

6.7 The earliest recorded deposit was a soft, mid brown naturally deposited clayey silt (4/002). Above this was a 0.40m thick layer of mid brown clayey silt topsoil (4/001) that contained occasional fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, glass, and Ceramic Building Material (CBM).

6.8 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 4.

**Test Pit 5**

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.50m	(5/001)	Topsoil. Soft, mid brown, clayey silt.
0.50- 3.00m (NFE)	(5/002)	Natural clay. Soft, orange/brown, clay.

6.9 The earliest recorded deposit was a soft, orange/brown naturally deposited clay (5/002). Lying over the natural deposit was 0.50m thick layer of mid brown clayey silt topsoil (5/001).

6.10 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 5.

**Test Pit 6**

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.20m	(6/001)	Topsoil. Soft, mid brown, clay.
0.20m – 0.90m	(6/002)	Made Ground. Firm, mid brownish orange, clay. Occasional CBM fragments.
0.90- 3.00m (NFE)	(6/003)	Natural clay. Soft, light brownish orange, clay.

6.11 The earliest recorded deposit was a soft, light brown/orange naturally deposited clay (6/003). This was overlain by a 0.70m thick layer of brown/orange 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground (6/002), sealed by 0.20m of clayey topsoil (6/001).

6.12 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 6.

### Test Pit 7

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.50m	(7/001)	Topsoil. Loosely compacted mid brown clay with frequent rooting and occasional brick inclusions.
0.50m – 0.70m	(7/002)	Subsoil. Soft, mid brown clayey silt..
0.70-3.00m	(7/003)	Natural clay. Firmly compacted mid brown/orange silty clay.

6.13 The earliest deposit was a firm, mid brown/orange naturally deposited clay (7/003). Above this was a 0.20m thick layer of mid brown, silty clay subsoil (7/002), sealed by a 0.50m thick layer of mid brown topsoil (7/001).

6.14 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 7.

### Test Pit 8

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.40m	(8/001)	Redeposited clay and gravel. Loosely compacted mid brown/red clay with frequent stone and root inclusions.
0.40m – 1.00m	(8/002)	Made Ground. Compact, mid brown/orange, clayey gravel.
1.00-3.00m	(8/003)	Natural clay. Firmly compacted, orange/brown, clay.

6.15 The earliest deposit was a firmly compacted orange/brown clay (8/003). This was overlain by two distinct layers of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground (8/002) and (8/001) measuring 1.00m in depth.

6.16 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 8.

### Test Pit 9

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.23m	(9/001)	Topsoil. Loosely compacted mid grey/brown clayey silt.
0.23m – 0.83m	(9/002)	Natural clay. Moderately – firmly compacted blue/brown clay.
0.83m – 2.00m	(9/003)	Natural clayey sand. Moderately compacted blue/orange clayey sand.
2.00m – 3.00m	(9/004)	Natural silty clay. Very light blue/orange silty clay.

- 6.17 The earliest deposit was a natural silty clay (9/004) identified at a maximum height of 2.00m below ground level. It was overlain by two further deposits of natural formations (9/003 – 9/002) to a height of 0.23m below ground level. The Test Pit was sealed by a layer of topsoil (9/001).
- 6.18 No finds or remains of archaeological significance were encountered in Test Pit 9.

### Test Pit 10

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.25m	(10/001)	Topsoil. Loosely compacted dark grey clayey silt with occasional chalk nodules.
0.25m – 0.58m	(10/002)	Subsoil. Mid orange/brown clayey silt with occasional flint inclusions.
0.58m – 1.22m	(10/003)	Natural clay. Moderately – firmly compacted orange/brown silty clay.
1.22m – 2.99m	(10/004)	Natural clayey sand. Orange/blue clayey sand.

- 6.19 The earliest deposit was a natural clayey sand (10/004) overlain by a further deposit of natural clay (10/003) to a height 0.58m below ground level. It was



sealed by a layer of subsoil (10/002), in turn overlain by a topsoil deposit (10/001).

6.20 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 10.

### Test Pit 11

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.33m	(11/001)	Topsoil. Light grey/brown silty clay.
0.33m – 1.13m	(11/002)	Subsoil. Light orange/brown silty clay.
1.13m – 3.00m	(11/003)	Natural clayey sand. Firmly – moderately compacted mid brown clayey sand.
3.00m – 3.10m	(11/004)	Natural clay. Firmly compacted dark orange/brown silty clay.

6.21 The earliest deposit in Test Pit 11 was a firmly compacted natural clay layer (11/004). It was overlain by a naturally accumulated deposit (11/003) of clayey sand to a height of 1.13m below ground surface. This was sealed by a subsoil deposit (11/002) which was in turn overlain by topsoil deposit (11/001).

6.22 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 11.

### Test Pit 12

Depth	Context Number	Description
0.00m – 0.20m	(12/001)	Topsoil. Light grey/brown silty clay.
0.20m – 1.00m	(12/002)	Subsoil. Moderately compacted mid grey/brown clayey silt with occasional chalk nodules.
1.00m – 2.60m	(12/003)	Natural clay. Moderately – firmly compacted mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions.
2.60m –	(12/004)	Natural clay. Firmly compacted orange/brown silty clay.

Depth	Context Number	Description
3.00m		

6.23 The earliest deposit in Test Pit 12 was a natural clay layer (12/004). It was overlain by a layer of natural silty clay (12/003) to a height of 1.00m below ground level. This was sealed by a subsoil deposit (12/002) which was in turn overlain by a topsoil deposit (12/001).

6.24 No finds or remains of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 12.

## 7 FINDS

7.1 No finds were collected during the course of the Watching Brief.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The Watching Brief did not identify any archaeological remains. However, it has been demonstrated that the soil horizons are largely undisturbed and the potential for archaeological remains to survive, if present, is high.

8.2 Test Pits 6 and 8 contained made ground deposits directly overlying the natural clay at depths of c. 1m below ground level, indicating that the sequence of soils observed in the other trenches has been truncated in these areas. The depth of truncation is not significant enough to say with confidence that any archaeological remains would have been completely destroyed. Deep-cut features such as pits, wells or ditches could well survive in these areas.

## 9 PUBLICATION

9.1 Due to the nature of the project, it is expected that publication will be limited to a summary in the London Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).

## 10 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

10.1 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, and digital photographs, will be deposited with the Museum of London.

## 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology Group Ltd (2006a). *River Pinn Flood Alleviation Scheme: An Archaeological Watching Brief Summary Report.*

AOC Archaeology Group Ltd (2006b). *Archaeological Watching Brief on New River Pinn Flood Alleviation Course, Hatch End, London Borough of Harrow.*

AOC Archaeology Group Ltd (2007). *River Pinn - Flood Alleviation Scheme, Oxhey lane Farm, Hatch End, London Borough of Harrow: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

British Geological Survey (1994). *1:50,000 Series, Sheet 256: North London.*

English Heritage. (1998) *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork 3.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists. (1994) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs.*

**Figure 1 Site Location**

**Figure 2 Detailed Site Location/Test Pit Location**

## APPENDIX A - Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length/m	Width/m	Thickness/m
1/001	Topsoil	2.60	0.60	0.23
1/002	Subsoil	2.60	0.60	0.33
1/003	Natural clay	2.60	0.60	0.60
1/004	Natural clayey sand	2.60	0.60	0.74
1/005	Natural clayey silt	2.60	0.60	1.10+
2/001	Topsoil	2.50	0.60	0.68
2/002	Natural silty clay	2.50	0.60	0.90
2/003	Natural sandy clay	2.50	0.60	1.42+
3/001	Topsoil	2.80	0.60	0.35
3/002	Natural	2.80	0.60	2.65+
4/001	Topsoil	2.70	0.60	0.40
4/002	Natural	2.70	0.60	2.60+
5/001	Topsoil	2.70	0.60	0.50
5/002	Natural	2.70	0.60	2.50+
6/001	Topsoil	2.70	0.60	0.20
6/002	Made Ground	2.70	0.60	0.40
6/003	Natural	2.70	0.60	2.10+
7/001	Redeposited Clay	2.70	0.60	0.50
7/002	Subsoil	2.70	0.60	0.20
7/003	Natural	2.70	0.60	2.30+
8/001	Made Ground	2.70	0.60	0.40
8/002	Made Ground	2.70	0.60	0.60
8/003	Natural	2.70	0.60	2.00+
9/001	Topsoil	2.00	0.60	0.23
9/002	Natural clay	2.00	0.60	0.60
9/003	Natural clayey sand	2.00	0.60	1.17
9/004	Natural silty clay	2.00	0.60	1.00+

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Description</b>	<b>Length/m</b>	<b>Width/m</b>	<b>Thickness/m</b>
10/001	Topsoil	2.50	0.60	0.25
10/002	Subsoil	2.50	0.60	0.33
10/003	Natural silty clay	2.50	0.60	0.64
10/004	Natural clayey sand	2.50	0.60	1.77+
11/001	Topsoil	2.50	0.60	0.33
11/002	Subsoil	2.50	0.60	0.80
11/003	Natural clayey sand	2.50	0.60	1.87
11/004	Natural silty clay	2.50	0.60	0.10+
12/001	Topsoil	2.50	0.60	0.20
12/002	Subsoil	2.50	0.60	0.80
12/003	Natural silty clay	2.50	0.60	1.60
12/004	Natural silty clay	2.50	0.60	0.40+

## APPENDIX B - OASIS Form

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-31434**

#### Project details

Project name River Pinn Flood Alleviation Scheme, Oxhey Land Farm, Hatch End

Short description of the project On the 26th and 27th July 2007 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in association with a program of geo-technical investigations. The archaeological investigations involved the observation and recording of 12 machine excavated geo-technical test pits measuring 3m by 0.6m using a JCB 3CX. The archaeological investigations were commissioned to assess potential archaeological deposits to survive. Nine of the test pits were recorded as having undisturbed soil sequences overlying over naturally deposited Clay. Three test pits contained made ground deposits lying directly above natural, representing isolated phases of horizontal truncation. Due to the undisturbed nature of the majority of soil profiles observed, this suggests that the potential for archaeological horizons to survive in these areas is good. Of the deposits observed, none were deemed to possess any significant archaeological value.

Project dates Start: 26-07-2007 End: 27-07-2007

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 7865 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes OXH07 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None



Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HARROW PINNER River Pinn Flood Alleviation Scheme, Oxhey Lane Farm, Hatch End
Postcode	HA5 4AH
Study area	15.90 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 1303 9212 51.6160650062 -0.367266719567 51 36 57 N 000 22 02 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Atkins Limited
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Catherine Edwards
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	OXH07
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Digital Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to archive.
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	OXH07
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Report','Section'
Paper Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to archive.

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	RIVER PINN – FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME, OXHEY LANE FARM, HATCH END, LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication London

Description A4 text and illustration

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**Project bibliography 2**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title River Pinn - Flood Alleviation Scheme, Oxhey Lane Farm, Hatch End, London Borough of Harrow: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Leonard, A.

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

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Description A4 bound document

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Entered by Andy Leonard (andy.leonard@aocarchaeology.co.uk)

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