Oxhey Lane Flood Storage Scheme
London Borough of Harrow
An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

National Grid Reference: TQ 1300 9210

AOC Project no: 30248

Site Code: OXY08

September 2008

AOC Archaeology Group

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Oxhey Lane Flood Storage Scheme, London Borough of Harrow

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	**J & B Construction Co. Ltd** **41-43 Cumberland Business Park** **Cumberland Ave** **Park Royal** **London** **NW10 7RT**
National Grid Reference (NGR):	**TQ 1300 9210**
AOC Project No:	**30248**
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Illustration by:	**Jon Moller**
Date of Excavation:	**August 2008 – September 2008**
Date of Report:	**September 2008**

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Contents

Page

Contents ... ii
List of illustrations ... 3
1. INTRODUCTION ... 4
2. PLANNING BACKROUND ... 4
3. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY ... 4
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ... 4
4.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ... 4
4.2 Previous Archaeological Work ... 4
5. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION ... 5
6. STRATEGY ... 5
7. METHODOLOGY ... 5
8. RESULTS ... 6
9. FINDS ... 6
10. CONCLUSIONS ... 6
11. BIBLIOGRAPHY ... 7
Appendix A: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM ... 11

List of illustrations

Figure 1 – Site Location Plan

Figure 2 - Detailed Site Location Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted on the excavation of a drainage ditch and embankment foundation as part of a flood storage scheme for foundations at Oxhey Lane, London Borough of Harrow. The development area is situated to the north of, and parallel to, Royston Park Road and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1300 9210 (Figure 1). The ditch measured approximately 673m long and 4.50m wide, the total area impacted on was c. 3030 sq metres (Figure 2).

1.2.1 Despite repeated attendance as a watching brief during groundwork, no archaeological features were revealed. A sequence of topsoil overlay the natural drift geology, which consisted of mid brown clay. Several pieces of worked flint of prehistoric date were recovered from the topsoil. The topsoil and natural clay was truncated by several modern intrusions.

2. PLANNING BACKROUND

2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Harrow. Archaeological advice to the council was provided by Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), and the Environment Agency archaeologist, Stephen Kemp.

2.2 Previous archaeological monitoring was carried out during earlier works at Hatch End Playing Fields (AOC 2006a, 2006b, 2007).

2.3 Prior to commencing work a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared to provide a detailed project design for the archaeological investigation during intrusive groundworks (AOC 2008). This WSI conformed to the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) (PPG16). And was approved by GLAAS prior to the project commencing

3. 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.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Historical Background

4.1.1 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. 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 16th century, and is now a scheduled Ancient Monument.

4.1.2 Hatch End developed around Headstone Lane, and although few houses of historical date survive, it seems to have been the northern end which was first developed.

4.2 Previous Archaeological Work

4.2.1 Three 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 located between 0.45m and 1.00m below ground level and were overlain by recent made ground.

4.2.2 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 20th century date and possibly representing the remains of a Ha Ha wall, although no associated features were identified.

4.2.3 Further watching brief work was undertaken in July 2007 during geotechnical investigations undertaken for the flood alleviation scheme (AOC 2007). Of the 12 pits excavated, 10 contained an undisturbed soil sequence overlying naturally deposited clay. Two of the geotech pits contained made ground directly overlying the natural deposits. No archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief.

5. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

5.1 To establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the development site.

5.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features and to establish the depositional sequence.

5.3 To record and sample excavate any such archaeologically important material.

5.4 To enable the LPA archaeology advisor to make an informed decision on the status of the condition imposed on planning consent.

5.5 The final aim will be to make public the results of the archaeological work.

6. STRATEGY

6.1 A unique site code for the project was obtained from the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre (LAARC) before commencing work (**OXY08**).

6.2 An intermittent watching brief was carried out during intrusive groundworks on the site. These consisted of the removal of topsoil from the area of the ditch and bank, and the excavation of the drainage ditch.

6.3 The watching brief was undertaken by a Project Supervisor under the overall direction of Andy Leonard, Region Head of Fieldwork.

6.4 Monitoring of the watching brief was undertaken by, Kim Stabler, of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).

7. METHODOLOGY

7.1 A conditional aspect of all archaeological work is both safe access to the area of work and a safe working environment.

7.2 An experienced archaeologist was present to observe ground works, positioned outside the working area of the mechanical excavator, in the normal working arrangement. If access to the trench was needed the machine would cease operations and if necessary relocate to ensure safe access.

7.3 Subject to safe access the archaeologist would enter the ditch to carry out close inspection or record limited sections.

7.4 Recording of any excavations beyond a vertical depth beyond 1.2m was conducted from ground level, and no archaeologist entered an unshored excavation in excess of 1.2m.

7.5 Archaeological recording, where not precluded by Health & Safety considerations, consisted of:

- Limited hand cleaning of archaeological sections and surfaces sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence exposed.
- The collection of dating evidence from *in-situ* deposits and spoil scans.
- A scaled photographic recording of representative exposed sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the groundworks.
- A record of the datum levels of archaeological deposits.

7.6 Records were produced using trench record sheets and by the single context planning method and were compatible with those published by the Museum of London (MoL 1994)

7.7 A record of the full sequence of all archaeological deposits as revealed in the watching brief was made. Plans and sections of features were drawn at an appropriate scale 1:10 or 1:20, with sections drawn at 1:20.

7.8 Staff present on site wore the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

8. RESULTS

8.1.2 The sequence is summarised below:

Context	Thickness	Description
1	0.30m	Topsoil 0.30m thick, dark brown humic silty clay.
2	> 2.00m	Natural. Mid brown firm clay

8.1.4 No archaeological features were observed.

9. FINDS

9.1 Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from the topsoil. These consisted of two hard hammered waste flakes and one possible scraper with a retouched edge.

10. CONCLUSIONS

10.1 The worked flint recovered from the topsoil indicate prehistoric activity in the general area, however no archaeological features were recorded on the site. The sequence of topsoil and subsoil was interrupted in places by modern intrusions.

10.2 Consequently, no further archaeological work is recommended. The results of the watching brief will be made public via the ADS OASIS (Appendix A) project and the London Archaeologist field-work round up. A copy of this report will be made available to the local studies library. No further analysis or reporting is considered necessary.

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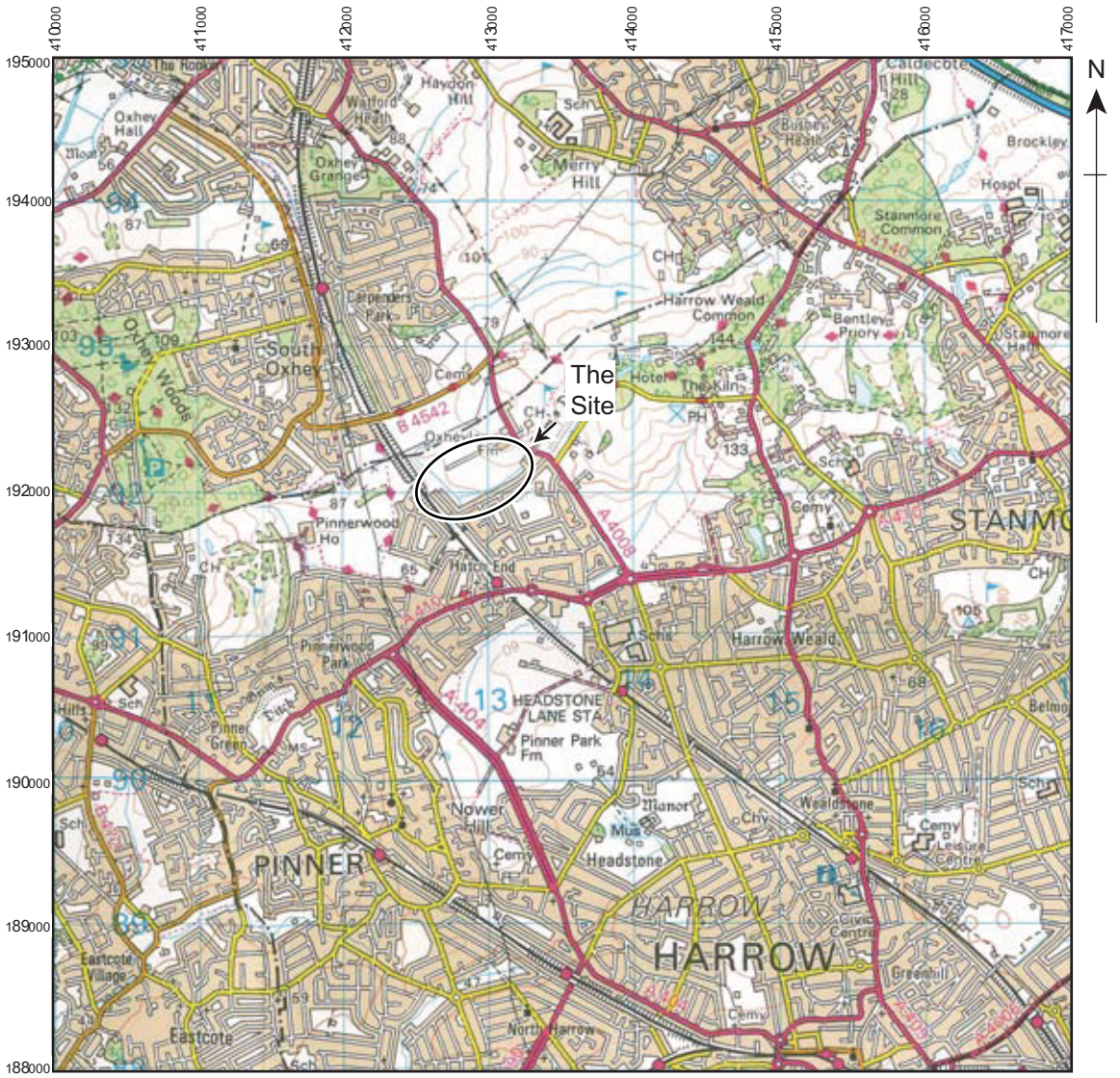

Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger Map of 2004
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500m 0 2 km

1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location

SURVEY STATION INFORMATION			
REFERENCE	EASTING	NORTHING	ELEVATION (m)
PGM D	513472.783	192259.485	89.644
PGM E	513336.132	192292.790	84.794
PGM G	512652.456	192162.094	68.723
PGM H	512615.815	192140.988	68.547
E40630475	512555.116	192089.535	69.572
E40630472	513087.329	192223.226	84.783
PGM J	512667.151	192123.050	70.216
E40630474	512614.507	192013.712	69.098
E40630473	512886.204	192100.565	72.822
E30630110	513265.960	192241.487	81.727

KEY.

- PROPOSED DITCH
- PROPOSED EMBANKMENT
- PROPOSED BUND
- EXCAVATION AREA FOR ADDITIONAL FILL MATERIAL IF REQUIRED
- TOPSOIL STORAGE AREA (2m STOCKPILE HEIGHT)
- INDICATIVE EXTENT OF CHALK MINES
- MAXIMUM EXTENT OF FLOODED AREA FOR 1:100 YEAR FLOOD
- SITE COMPOUND
- APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF TRIAL PITS WITH CONTAMINANTS ABOVE TRIGGER LEVELS
- SERVICES – FOUL WATER
- SERVICES – SURFACE WATER
- TVW 700ø WATER PIPE
- TVW CABLE
- HIGH PRESSURE GAS MAIN
- EXTENT OF WORKING AREA
- EXTENT OF LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW LAND
- EXTENT OF POST AND RAIL STOCKPROOF FENCE

NOTES.

1 NATIONAL GRID HAVE ADVISED THAT THEY NEED TO "SUPERVISE" ALL WORK WITHIN 1.5M OF THEIR HP GAS MAIN. REFER TO THE SPECIFICATION FOR CONTACT DETAILS.

2 THE CONTRACTOR IS REQUIRED TO USE DUST SUPPRESSION TECHNIQUES TO MINIMISE DUST DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE WORKS.

3 LOCATE INFILLED MINE SHAFT AND CLEAR AWAY SPOIL (CAP WITH PRE-CAST MANHOLE SURROUND AND LID, BACKFILL WITH TOPSOIL AND GRASS SEED) - DIMENSIONS TO BE CONFIRMED TO THE DESIGNER.

4 EMBANKMENT TO BE SHAPED LOCALLY TO SUIT. DO NOT USE VIBRATORY COMPACTION IN THIS AREA. REFER TO DRAWING NO. 739072-DD-300-001.

5 SITE COMPOUND AND TEMPORARY ACCESS TO BE REMOVED AND AREA REINSTATED TO MATCH SURROUNDING AREA FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE WORKS.

6 SITE COMPOUND TO BE REMOVED AND AREA REINSTATED TO MATCH SURROUNDING AREA FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE WORKS. ONE SITE COMPOUND FOR THAMES WATER.

7 ANY DAMAGE TO FIELDS IS TO BE "MADE GOOD" FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE WORKS.

8 TEMPORARY HERAS TREE PROTECTION FENCING IS TO BE ERECTED IN THE VICINITY OF TREES TO MINIMISE ANY DAMAGE WITHIN THE ROOT PROTECTION AREA. REFER DRAWING NO. 739072-DD-GA-003.

9 SIDE SLOPES OF EMBANKMENT TO BE DRESSED AND GRASSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIFICATION.

10 HYDROCARBON CONTAMINATION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AT TRIAL PITS TP2 AND TP3 AT 0.25M AND 0.7M RESPECTIVELY. REFER TO SPECIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION AND TESTING.

11 ARSENIC CONTAMINATION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AT 0.7M AT TP1. REFER TO SPECIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION AND TESTING.

12 CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM SURVEY SET OUT POINTS EXIST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ONCE ON SITE. SET OUT OF EMBANKMENT AND DITCH TO BE CONFIRMED ON SITE AND APPROVED BY DESIGNER PRIOR TO COMMENCING CONSTRUCTION. REFER TO DRAWINGS 739072-DD-100-001 TO 005

13 DEPTH TO SOFFIT OF MINES IS APPROXIMATELY 17 METRES. CONTRACTOR TO ENSURE MINE SHAFTS ARE SUITABLY GUARDED THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE WORKS.

14 REFER TO SEPARATE DOCUMENT FOR LOCATION OF KNOWN SERVICES. ALL SERVICES TO BE CONFIRMED PRIOR TO COMMENCING EXCAVATION.

15 LOCATION OF TVW APPARATUS IS INDICATIVE ONLY THE CONTRACTOR IS TO LOCATE AND PROTECT AS REQUIRED DURING THE WORKS. REFER TO SPECIFICATIONS AND PLANS.

REVISION	AMENDMENT	DRAWN BY AND DATE	DESIGNED BY AND DATE	CHECKED BY AND DATE	APPROVED BY AND DATE
C	AMENDED STEP AND PIPE HAUNCHING DETAIL	MYH 21.07.08	CS 21.07.08	CS 21.07.08	JK 21.07.08
B	TVW EQUIPMENT ADDED	JAD 10.07.08	SOC 10.07.08	CS 10.07.08	MW 10.07.08
A	INITIAL CONSTRUCTION ISSUE	NH 23.05.08	SOC 23.05.08	CS 23.05.08	MW 23.05.08

enterprise mouchel

CLIENT: LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW
PROJECT: OXHEY LANE FLOOD STORAGE AREA
PURPOSE: CONSTRUCTION
DRAWING TITLE: GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
DRAFT / ISSUE ✓
SCALE (AT A1 SIZE): 1:1250
ISSUING OFFICE: EUSTON
TELEPHONE: 020 7874 7700
DRAWING NUMBER: 739072-CO-GA-001
REVISION: C

W:\RoadsRail\LES\739072 – LBH Oxhey Lane Flood Protection\13 Drawings\13-1 Live drawings\FOR CONSTRUCTION\REV C\739072-CO-GA-001 General arrangement.dwg.

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location (Not to Scale)

Appendices

AOC Archaeology Group

Appendix A: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-48217

Project details	
Project name	Oxhey Lane Flood Storage Scheme
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted on the excavation of a drainage ditch and embankment foundation as part of a flood storage scheme for foundations at Oxhey Lane Flood Storage Scheme, London Borough of Harrow. The development area is situated to the north of and parallel to Royston Park Road and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1300 9210. Despite repeated attendance as a watching brief during groundwork, no archaeological features were revealed. A sequence of topsoil overlay the natural drift geology, which consisted of mid brown clay. Several pieces of worked flint of prehistoric date were recovered from the topsoil. This topsoil and natural clay was truncated in places by modern intrusions.
Project dates	Start: 29-08-2008 End: 18-09-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	OXY08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HARROW HARROW Oxhey Lane Flood Storage Scheme, London Borough Of Harrow

Postcode	HA5 4XX
Study area	2992.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1300 9210 51.6158912662 -0.367706334867 51 36 57 N 000 22 03 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Daniel Eddisford
Type of sponsor/funding body	Environment Agency
Name of sponsor/funding body	Environment Agency

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London

Digital Contents	'Worked stone/lithics'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Media available	'Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	OXHEY LANE FLOOD STORAGE SCHEME, LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
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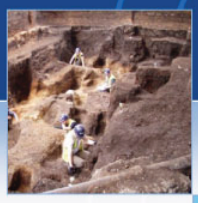

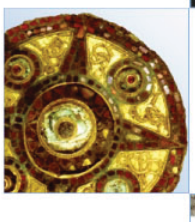

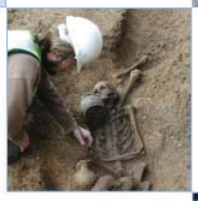



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