

# St Catherine's Farm, Catlin's Lane, Pinner, London Borough of Hillingdon; An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

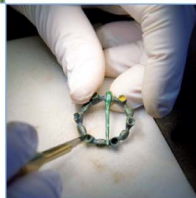
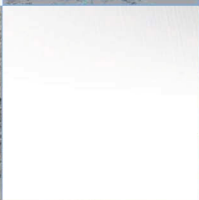
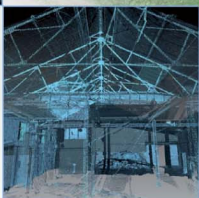
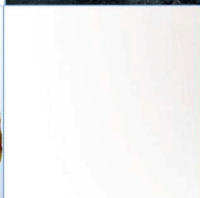
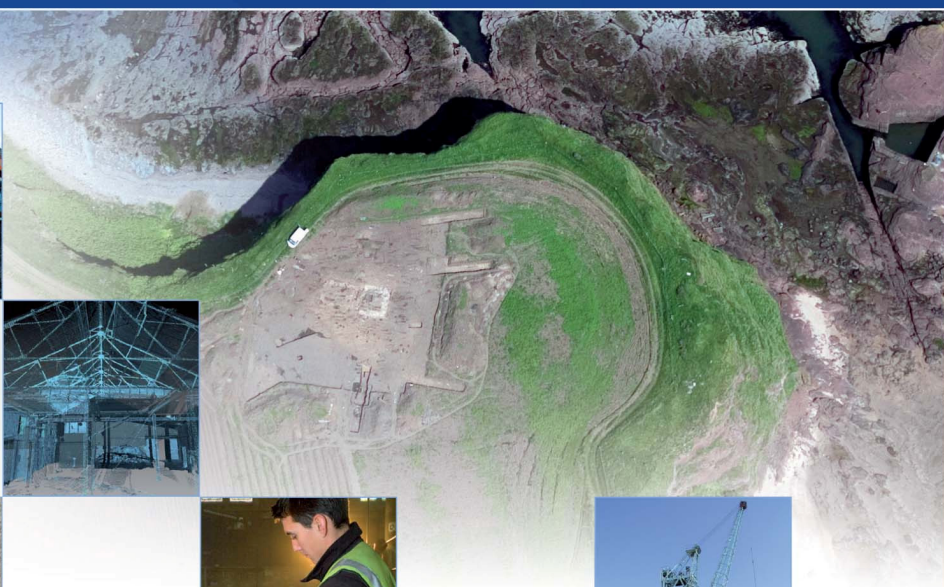
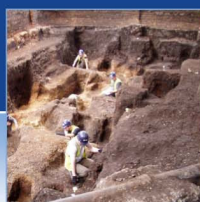
Listed Buildings Consent Ref: 63097/APP/2008/3091

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 1093 8921

AOC Project No: 30603

Site Code: CFX 12

Date: September 2012



## St Catherine's Farm, Catlin's Lane, Pinner, London Borough of Hillingdon: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:

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Catlin's Lane  
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HA5 2NE

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 1093 8921

AOC Project No: 30603

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Illustration by: Jonathan Moller and Gisli Palsson

Fieldwork: 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012

Date: September 2012

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

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Date: September 2012

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Date: September 2012

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: September 2012

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## Summary

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group, on behalf of Mr David Wright, between the 19<sup>th</sup> September and the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012 at St Catherine's Farm, Catlin's Lane, Pinner, London Borough of Hillingdon. The watching brief focused on the monitoring of the excavation of the footings for a conservatory.*

*Natural orange clayey silt was cut by the foundation of a probable garden wall of 18<sup>th</sup> century date, and a late 19<sup>th</sup> century well, which had later been capped. The site had undergone horizontal truncation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Publication of the watching brief findings will be carried out through a short summary of the fieldwork submitted to the local fieldwork roundup. An OASIS form has also been completed and an electronic copy of the watching brief report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The site archive will be prepared in accordance with local and national guidance and will be deposited with a local museum.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at the site of St Catherine's Farm, Catlin's Lane, Pinner, London Borough of Hillingdon (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is located to the west of the centre of Pinner, and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1093 8921. The site is bound by Catlin's Lane to the west, residential properties to the north and south and gardens to the east. The site occupies an area of approximately 0.4 hectares and is currently occupied by St Catherine's farmhouse and its associated garden.
- 1.3 The development plan involved the renovation of the farmhouse itself, in addition to the construction of a conservatory at the rear of the property and a loft conversion (Figure 2).
- 1.4 This document summarises the results of a watching brief undertaken on the excavation of the foundations for the conservatory.

## 2. Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH). Archaeological advice to the LPA is provided by Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of English Heritage.
- 2.2 St Catherine's Farm is a Grade II listed building. The work is being undertaken as part of List Buildings Consent (Ref: 63097/APP/2008/3091). The consent was granted subject to conditions. Condition 4 states:

*"No development shall take place until arrangements have been made for an archaeological "watching brief" to monitor the digging of the footings for the conservatory and for works to excavate the internal floors within the house and to record any archaeological evidence revealed. These arrangements are to be submitted to, and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall take place in accordance with the "watching brief" so approved. The "watching brief" shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body approved in writing by the local planning authority."*

Reason *"The site is of archaeological interest and it is considered that all evidence of remains should be recorded in accordance with policy BE3 of the adopted Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan"*

- 2.3 The Planning Policy Guidelines (PPG16) have subsequently been superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework (DoCLG 2012).
- 2.4 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief. The archaeological watching brief conformed with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2009), which set out a method statement for the monitoring and was approved by Kim Stabler on behalf of the London Borough of Hillingdon. The archaeological watching brief conformed with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
  - Department for Communities and Local Government – National Planning Policy Framework (DoCLG 2012).
  - English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
  - English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 2009a).
  - Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008).
  - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).

- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).

### **3. Geology and Topography**

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey Map of the area shows that the site lies upon solid geology of clay of the Reading and Woolwich and Lambeth beds. (BGS 1979).
- 3.2 The site lies just to the north of the River Pinn; this site generally slopes southwards towards the river.

### **4. Archaeological And Historical Background**

#### **Prehistoric (Before c.AD 43) and Roman (c.AD 43 – 409)**

- 4.1 Very little evidence of prehistoric activity has been found in the vicinity of the site. The River Pinn valley would have provided good transport links and the flood plain would have provided rich soils.
- 4.2 A scattering of Roman coins have been found in and around Pinner but little other evidence of Roman activity has been recorded.

#### **Early Medieval (c.AD 410 – 1065) and Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)**

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The ancient parish of Ruislip covered the area now occupied by modern Ruislip, Northwood, Pinner and Eastcote, the formation of which dates to the early medieval period. The parish was located in the hundred of Elthorne and the county of Middlesex. Morris (1955) reports that the parish was woodland, with no settlement until the 7<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.5 Little other Saxon evidence has been recorded in the area.
- 4.6 Although neither Pinner nor Eastcote are mentioned in the Domesday Book. A park for wild beasts is mentioned and this is thought to have extended north of the River Pinn across the area of the site (VCH 1971).
- 4.7 The site is thought to have lain within the manor of St Catherine's for much of the medieval period although the exact extent of the manor is unknown. It was part of Ruislip manor before being passed to Hammondswoth. The manor seems to disappear during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.8 The Manor of Ruislip is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, and it probably covered the same area as the 20<sup>th</sup> century Ruislip Northwood Urban District Council. The entry for Ruislip makes clear it was a heavily wooded landscape with enough woodland to support 1500 pigs, but also much arable land. There were 53 heads of households, with a population of approximately 250.
- 4.9 By the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Manor of Ruislip was divided into three tithings: Westcote (Ruislip), Eastcote (Ascot) and Norwood (Northwood). These are listed in the Manor Rolls of 1248. The area was divided by three ancient roads: Eastcote Road running east west connected Eastcote with Ruislip, Ducks Hill Road ran north from Ruislip to Northwood, and Field End Road led south from Eastcote to the open fields.

#### **Post-Medieval (c.AD 1485 - Modern)**

- 4.10 During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century the area became famous for making bricks and tiles. However, the area around the site appears to have remained largely agricultural; the 1916 Ordnance Survey map



of Middlesex shows the farmhouse surrounded by fields (OS, 1916). However, by 1938 it was bordered by a row of houses (OS, 1938).

- 4.11 The farm is thought to have got its name from the St Catherine's Manor in which it is situated.
- 4.12 St Catherine's Farmhouse itself is a timber framed building dating mainly to the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century partially concealed within 19<sup>th</sup> century skin. The earliest part of the house is thought to have been the southern portion which could be late medieval; this was substantially altered later centuries. The northern portion of the house is Victorian with a 20<sup>th</sup> century garage attached.

## 5 Strategy

### 5.1 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
  - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
  - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
  - To enable Kim Stabler, archaeology advisor to the London Borough of Hillingdon, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
  - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 5.1.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
- Determine the presence of any remains associated with St Catherine's Farmhouse.
- 5.1.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

### 5.2 Methodology

- 5.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009). All work was carried out in accordance with national guidelines (English Heritage 2009a, IfA 2008).
- 5.2.2 The watching brief was carried out during ground excavation works of foundation trenches for the conservatory as well as the stripping of material from within the footprint of the conservatory. A 3.6 tonne 360 tracked excavator was used.
- 5.2.3 The site code CFX 12 was obtained prior to the commencement of work; it was used for all records and finds from the site.
- 5.2.4 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 1994).
- 5.2.5 All of the work was carried out in line with:
- English Heritage Archaeological Guidance Papers (AGP): 2-4, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 2009a & b).
  - Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2011).



- IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008).

- 5.2.6 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. In this report the archaeological fills and layers are represented in curved brackets i.e. ( ), whilst the cut numbers are represented in square brackets i.e. [ ].
- 5.2.7 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.
- 5.2.8 The archaeological watching brief was conducted by the author under the overall management of Melissa Melikian, Operation Director. The site was monitored by Kim Stabler of GLAAS on behalf of the London Borough of Hillingdon.

## 6 Results

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence (Figure 4)**

Context No	Thickn ess	Approximate Height mAOD	Description/Interpretation
1	0.50m	49.90m	Dark brownish grey rubbly silt. Made ground.
5	0.80m	49.40m	Mid yellowish orange clayey silt. Natural deposit

- 6.1 The natural yellowish orange clayey silt (5) was observed throughout the foundation trenches at an approximate height of 49.90mAOD. The natural clay was cut by a wall foundation [4] and the cut for a well [8]. The wall foundation trench was aligned east west, but was on a slightly different alignment to the existing building, it was linear with vertical sides and a flat based, it measured 3.30m in length, 0.46m in width and 0.12m in depth. The trench was filled with a compacted bedding layer (3), which consisted of CBM in a dark grey silt matrix, it was 0.10m thick. The bedding deposit was overlain by a single course of bricks [2] bonded with a pale lime mortar; the bricks were red, unfrogged and measured between 210mm and 215mm in length, 95mm and 110mm in width and 45mm and 51mm in thickness (Plate 1). The bricks were laid in stretcher pattern; four bricks wide, this was thought to date to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The foundation was cut by a recent drainage trench.



Plate 1. Wall foundation [2] looking east

- 6.2 Well cut [8] was circular with vertical sides and measured 0.90m in width and 4.40m in depth (Plate 2). The well lining itself [7] consisted of red bricks laid in stretcher pattern, bonded with sandy lime mortar, it was not possible to measure the bricks due to lack of access. The well was capped with four courses of frogged red bricks [6] measuring 215mm x 110 x 70mm, in stretcher pattern, bonded with sandy lime mortar, these bricks were probably late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. The top of the domed cap had been truncated, and was covered with a sandstone slab.



Plate 2. Well [6] and Capping [7], looking southeast.

- 6.3 The features were overlain by a made ground deposit of loose dark brownish grey rubbly silt (1). The lack of subsoil or topsoil deposits suggests some form of truncation during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## 7 Finds and Environmental

- 7.1 No finds were collected during the course of the watching brief and no environmental samples were taken. The only notable finds observed were the bricks used in the construction of the wall foundation and well. The bricks in the wall foundation [2] were handmade red bricks of irregular size; they are thought to be locally made and 18<sup>th</sup> century in date.
- 7.2 The bricks used to construct the well [7] were not observed due to lack of access; the well capping [6] was constructed from large, frogged, red bricks which had been stamped, the writing was illegible however. These bricks are thought to be of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 8 Conclusions

- 8.1 The watching brief was successful in establishing the presence of archaeological remains on site.
- 8.2 The natural horizon consisted of yellowish orange clayey silt, it was observed throughout the trenches. Both the well and the wall foundation were related to the farmhouse itself; the well as a convenient supply of fresh water which had been capped when disused, this capping had later been truncated. The foundation may have been part of a garden wall, although the fact that it was not perpendicular to the current building is slightly curious.
- 8.3 Any topsoil and subsoil had been stripped from the building footprint, probably during the 20<sup>th</sup> century when both the well capping and the wall foundation were truncated.
- 8.4 No further work is recommended on the site, however, the final decision rests with Kim Stabler of GLAAS.

## 9 Publication

- 9.1 A copy of the watching brief report will be issued to Kim Stabler, of GLAAS the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time.
- 9.2 A short summary of the results of the watching brief will be submitted to the local fieldwork roundup, and grey literature added to the online ADS OASIS project (Appendix B).

## 10 Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Following completion of the project the site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre (LAARC). The archive will be security copied and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR).
- 10.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines provided by the LAARC and the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990).
- 10.3 An OASIS form has been completed initiated (Appendix B) and this will be completed and deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

## 11 Bibliography

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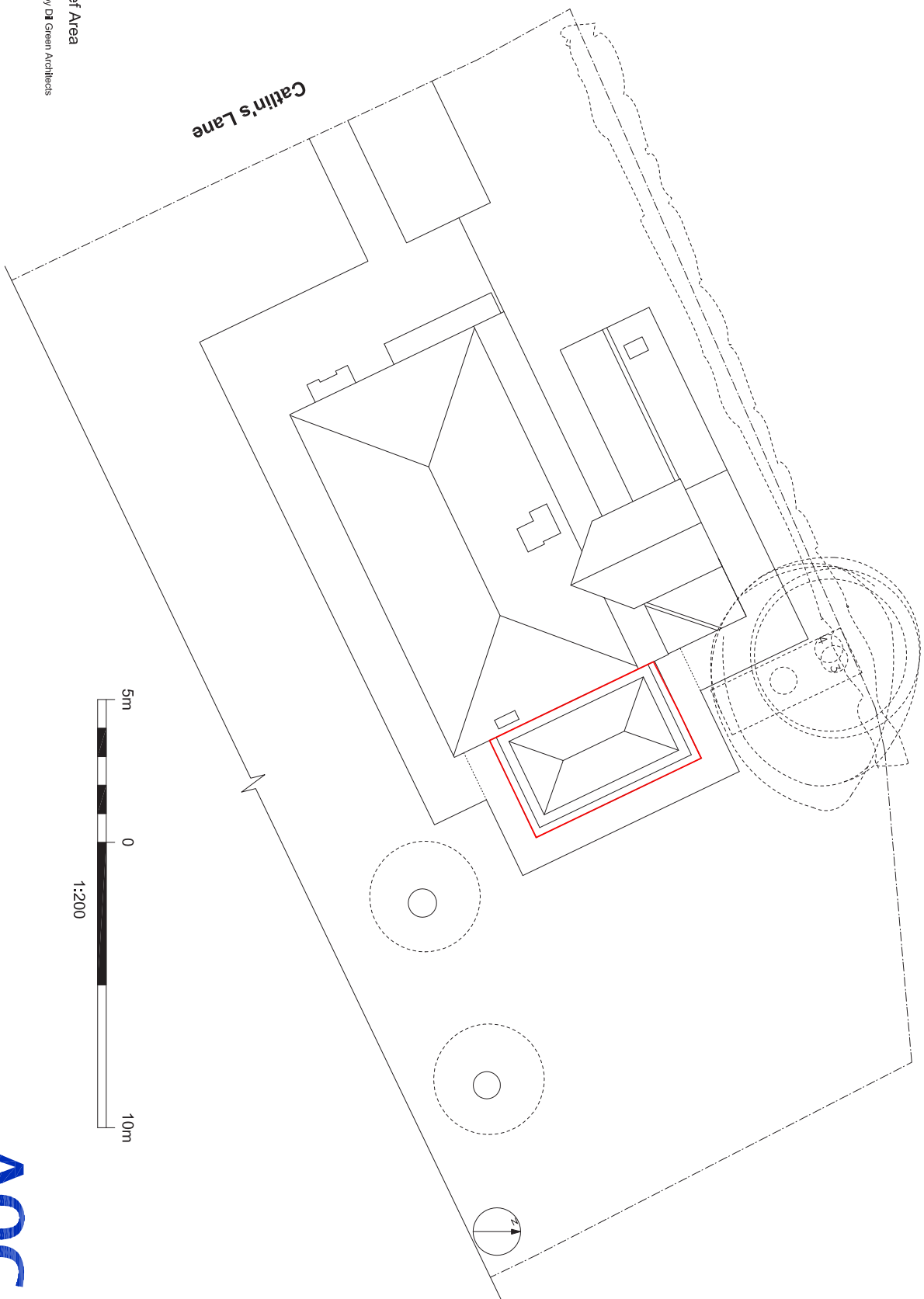


ST CATHERINES FARM, CATLIN'S LANE, PINNER, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site Location Within London



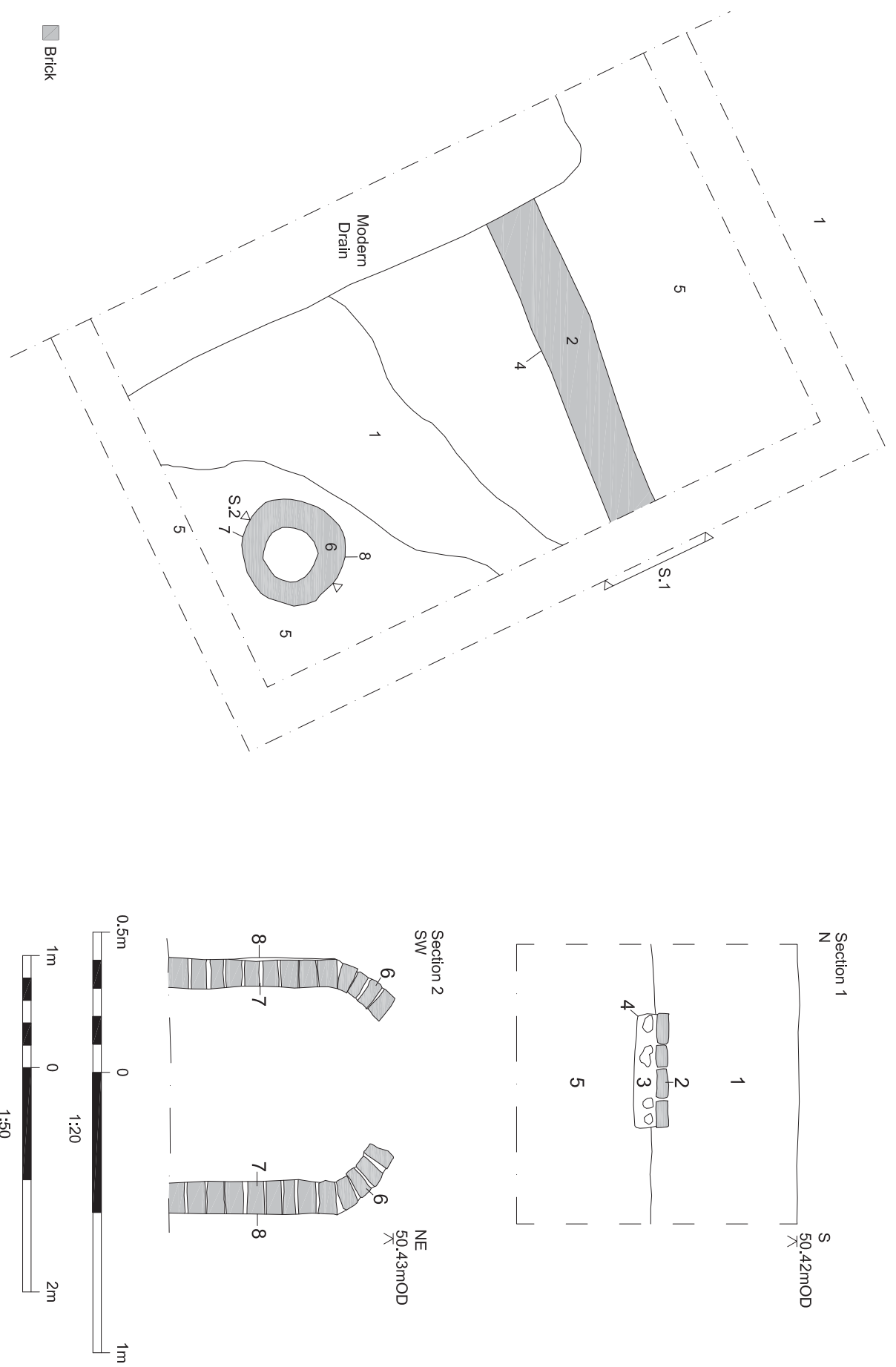
**Figure 1:** Site Location



□ Watching Brief Area

Based on the Plan Provided by DJ Green Architects

**Figure 2:** Detailed Watching Brief Location Plan



**Figure 3:** Watching Brief Area Plan (1:50) & Sections (1:20)



## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Thickness
1	Made ground.	6.30m	4.10m	0.50m
2	Wall foundation.	3.30m	0.46m	0.08m
3	Bedding deposit.	3.30m	0.46m	0.10m
4	Foundation cut.	3.30m	0.46m	0.12m
5	Natural deposit	6.30m	4.10m	0.80m
6	Well capping	0.90m	0.90m	0.20m
7	Well lining.	0.90m	0.90m	4.80m
8	Well cut	0.90m	0.90m	4.80m

## Appendix B – OASIS Form

### Project details

Project name St Catherine's Farm

Short description of the project The watching brief focussed on the monitoring of the excavation of the footings for a conservatory. Natural orange clayey silt was cut by the foundation of a probable garden wall of 18th century date, and a 19th century well, which had later been capped. The site had undergone horizontal truncation in the 20th century.

Project dates Start: 19-09-2012 End: 21-09-2012

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 30603 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes CFX12 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Listed Building

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type FARMHOUSE Post Medieval

Monument type WALL FOUNDATION Post Medieval

Monument type WELL Post Medieval

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

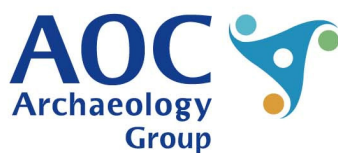
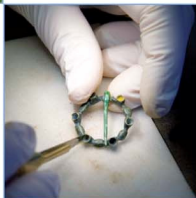
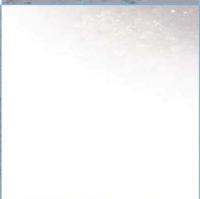
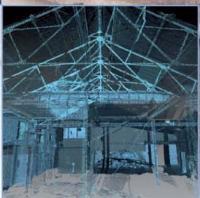
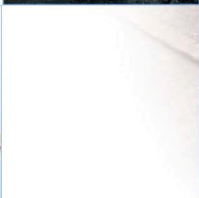
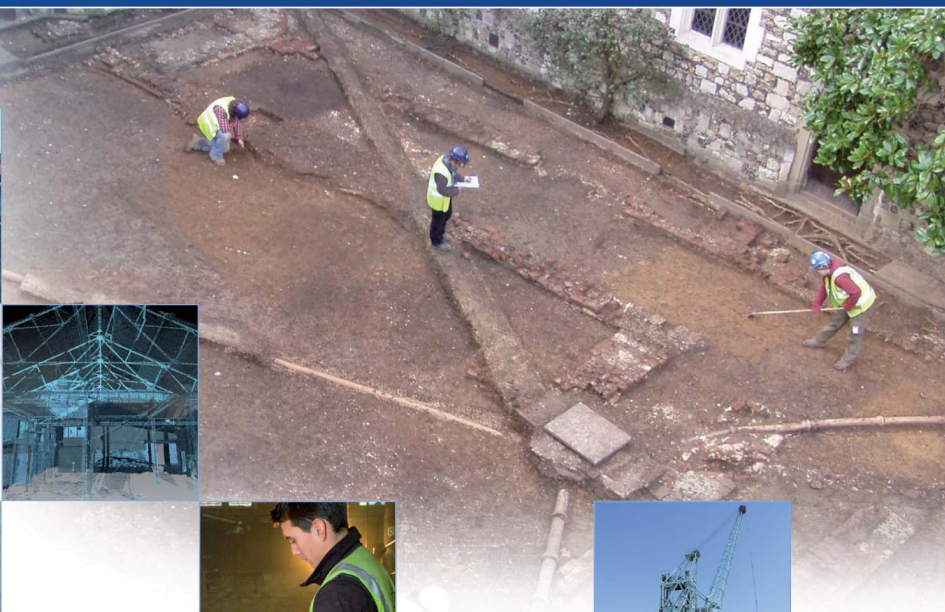
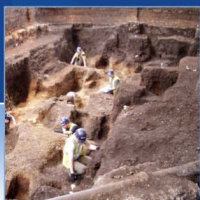
Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country England

Site location	GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON RUISLIP St Catherine's Farm, Catlin's Lane, Pinner
Postcode	HA5 2HE
Study area	0.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 1093 8921 51 0 51 35 25 N 000 23 54 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 49.90m Max: 50.10m
Project creators Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Melissa Melikian
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	David Wright
Project archives Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London-LAARC

Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London-LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London-LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	25 September 2012



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