

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
LAND TO THE REAR OF 83-85 ST MARKS ROAD
ENFIELD
MIDDLESEX**

on behalf of Character Homes (UK) Ltd



Nigel Wilson HND AIFA

July 2005

ASC: 666/ESM/2

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	ESM	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	666
<i>Museum of London site code:</i>	MKE05		
<i>County:</i>	Middlesex		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Enfield		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Enfield		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TQ 3380 9553		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Conversion to flats		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	TP/02/1087		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Enfield Borough Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	5 th July 2005		
<i>Client:</i>	Character Homes (UK) Ltd 81 Maurice Road Canvey Island Essex SS8 7HT		
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Internal Quality Check

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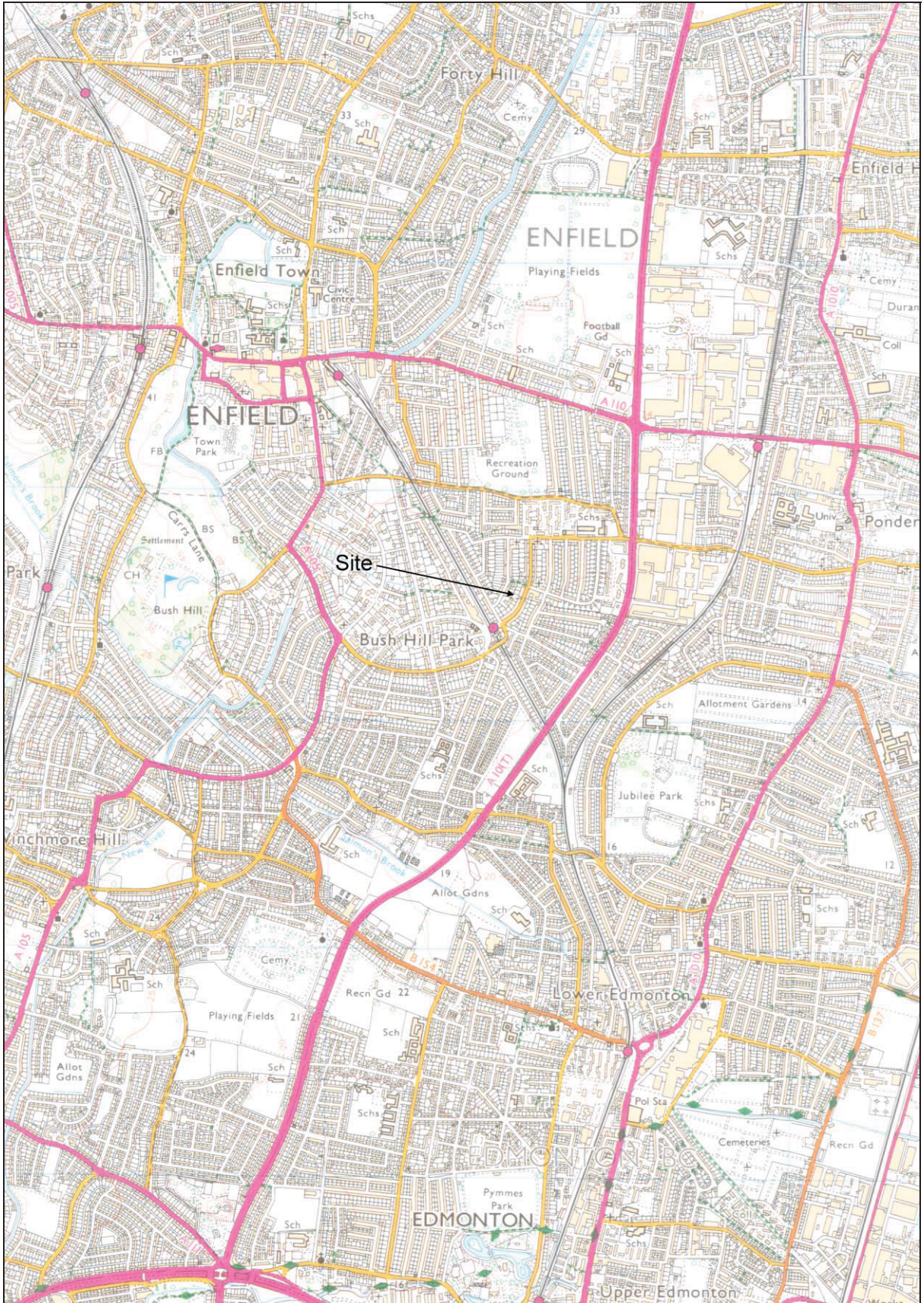


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During July 2005 a watching brief was undertaken on land to the rear of 83-85 St Marks Road, Enfield, Middlesex. The work was required to monitor the archaeological impact of the redevelopment of the site. The main building was constructed prior to the start of the watching brief. Examination of the drainage runs indicated that the site was archaeologically sterile.

1. Introduction

1.1 In July 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on land to the rear of 83-85 St Marks Road, Enfield, Middlesex (NGR TQ 3380 9553; Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Character Homes (UK) Ltd, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2005), and a standard brief prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Enfield Borough Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLASS)*. The relevant planning application reference is TP/02/1087.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required as a planning condition under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16)*, in response to proposals for the construction of a two-storey building, containing four self contained flats, and the landscaping of the surrounding garden area.

1.3 *Location*

The site is located in a residential area approximately 1.6km from the historic core of Enfield. It is situated c.200m to the north east of Bush Hill Park railway station, and c.1km west of the site is the New River.

1.4 *Description*

Access is from St Mark's Road, on the eastern side of the site. The remaining three sides of the site are enclosed by the gardens of the surrounding residential areas.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The site is in an urban area, therefore its underlying geology has not been mapped. It is at an elevation of c.20-25m OD.

1.6 *Historical & Archaeological Background*

Evidence of prehistoric settlement in Enfield can be found on the west of the parish, where there are the remains of an oval camp in Hadley Wood. There are probable Bronze Age and Iron Age dwellings in the vicinity of the River Lea at Ponders End, c.2.4km west of the development site (VCH, Vol V, 212).

There is evidence that houses were built on the western side of Roman Ermine Street, especially in the area of Bush Hill Park, where the development site is situated. Roman finds were also uncovered at a moated site, *c.*1km north west of the development site at NGR TQ 5333 1963 (VCH, Vol V, 212-213).

Enfield is mentioned in the Domesday survey as having been held by Geoffrey de Mandeville, and as being worth £50 (Williams & Martin ed., 1992, 364). A church was probably in existence at this time, and most of the parish was covered by woodland, part of which was already enclosed as a park (VCH, Vol V, 213).

The medieval core of Enfield was centred *c.*1.6km north west of the site. Bush Hill Park was sold for development in 1871, and housing spread rapidly after the opening of the Bush Hill Park Station in 1880 (VCH, Vol V, 219).



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991), to the requirements of GLAAS *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (1998), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief, which required:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision;
- Inspection of sub-soil for archaeological features;
- The excavation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits;
- Sub-soil stripping under archaeological supervision;
- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits;
- Rapid examination of spoil heaps for archaeological material;
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.
- Particular attention to be paid to the excavation of the lakes, ditches and sandpits.

2.4 Constraints

Due to factors beyond ASC's control the only areas actually observed were the drainage runs on the E, S and W sides of the house, it was also possible to examine the stripped ground around the house in the area where the pond is to be excavated.

3. Results

- 3.1 Prior to ASC being called in the main building was erected, it therefore proved impossible to examine this area. Service runs on the W, E and S sides of the building and a large pit for a waste tank on the S side of the block were observed (Fig 3). As the topsoil had been removed from the rest of the site it was also possible to conduct a general scan of the exposed natural subsoil over the rest of the site.
- 3.2 Each drain trench was 250mm wide and had a maximum depth of 600mm at the SW corner of the building falling to a maximum depth of c.1000mm where it joined the existing drainage system to the SE of the new building. The pit for the waste tank measured 3000mm sq and had a depth of 1500mm (the tank had already been placed in the pit but the builders were able to confirm that they had not reached the base of the clay).
- 3.3 The soil profile across the site did not vary. About 200-300mm of rich organic topsoil had been removed across the site, exposing the upper subsoil deposits. This subsoil comprised of c.350mm of sandy clay containing about 20% gravel, this deposit gradually became more clayey until at c.800mm below the original ground surface it became clean blue London Clay. This clay extended down to a depth of at least 2000mm below the surface.
- 3.4 No features of archaeological interest or artefacts were observed during the watching brief.

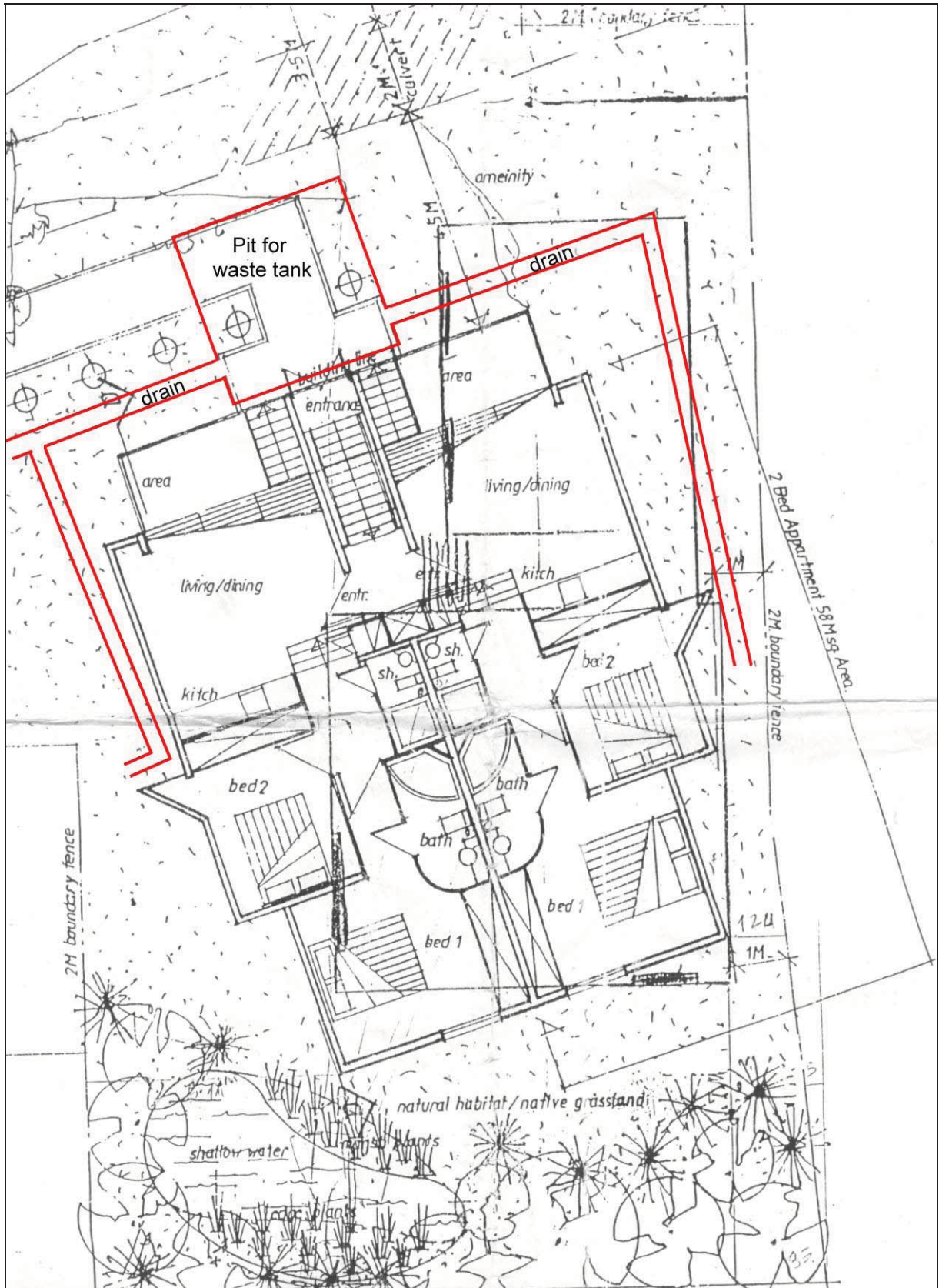


Figure 3: Drain runs observed during the watching brief (Scale 1:100)



Plate 1: Western drain trench



Plate 2: Eastern drain trench



Plate 3: southern drain trench and waste tank pit



Plate 4: Southern drain trench and waste tank pit

4. Conclusions

The watching brief on land to the rear of 83-85 St Marks Road provided an opportunity to assess the archaeological potential of this area of Enfield. Though much of the development had taken place before the watching brief commenced, examination of the drainage runs, and a walkover of the exposed subsoil seems to indicate that it is unlikely that any significant archaeology was disturbed during the construction work.

5. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Kevin Patrick of Character Homes (UK) Ltd for commissioning the watching brief. Kim Stabler monitored the project for GLAAS. The project was managed by Dr Jonathan Hunn MIFA, and the field work was carried out by Nigel Wilson HND AIFA. Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA edited the report.

6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Project Design
2. Initial Report
3. Clients site plans
4. Site Monitoring Sheet
5. List of photographs/slides
6. B/W prints & negatives
7. Original specialist reports and supporting information
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with the Museum of London.

7. References

Standards & Specifications

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

Rouse C. 2005 *Land to the rear of 83-85 St Marks Road, Enfield Middlesex. Project Design for watching brief*. ASC (Ref 666/ESM/01)

Secondary Sources

Baker, T.F.T (ed), 1976. *The Victoria History of the County of Middlesex*. (Victoria County History.) V 207-260.

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

Williams & Martin ed., 1992. *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. (Penguin) 364.

Appendix 1: Field Monitoring Record Sheet



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: 83-85 St Marks Road, Enfield		Project No/Code: 666/ESM		Sheet: 1 of 1		
		Date of visit: 5/7/2005				
Client/Developer Character Homes UK						
Contact: Kevin Patrick			Phone: 07771 687175			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 8.30		Finish: 12.30		
Completed by: Nigel Wilson						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dry overcast, site stripped to natural subsoil, new brick building erected.						
Observations: Drain trenches open to W,E & S of flats and 3m sq pit to S of flats. Each trench 250mm wide. Topsoil removed from across the whole site but seems to have been about 250mm deep. 0-250mm topsoil 250-600mm sandy clay with some gravel >600mm blue clay Also walked across the rest of the site which had been stripped including the pond area . No archaeology or finds observed anywhere on site.						
Comments:						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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