

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
58A CHIPPERFIELD ROAD
APSLEY
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 05295 05054

on behalf of Cassiobury Developments LLP



Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) PIFA

June 2011

ASC: 1381/ACR/2



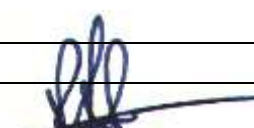
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	ACR	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1381
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-102743	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	DACHT: 4418
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Apsley		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Hemel Hempstead		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 05295 05054		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.770sqm		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of three new dwellings		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	4/02390/08/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum Borough Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	June 2011		
<i>Client:</i>	Cassiobury Developments LLP 113 Smug Oak Business Centre Lye Lane Bricket Wood St Albans Hertfordshire AL2 3UG		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Richard Townley		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Martin Cuthbert	<i>Date:</i>	8 th June 2011
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In June 2011 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out at 58A Chipperfield Road, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, prior to the construction of three houses. Two archaeologically supervised trenches were excavated within the footprint of the building. A further area of 30.6 sq m was stripped by the contractors prior to the evaluation. All areas were cleaned to determine the presence of archaeological remains. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the excavated areas.

1. Introduction

1.1 In June 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 58A Chipperfield Road, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Cassiobury Developments LLP*, and was defined in discussions with *Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit*, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum Borough Council*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2011).

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The relevant planning application reference is 4/02390/08/FUL.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is located within the county of Hertfordshire, in the district of Dacorum, in the village of Apsley, at NGR TL 05295 05054 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises an irregular piece of land at the southwestern end of Chipperfield Road. It is bounded to the northeast by residential properties and to the northwest by Manorville Road. The centre of the site had been occupied by a single dwelling, recently demolished, with a garden to the rear, and tarmac and further garden to the front (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area are Unsurveyed, but are likely to belong to the Charity 2 Association, which comprise *well drained flinty fine loamy soils in valley bottoms. Calcareous fine silty soils over chalk or chalk rubble on valley sides, sometimes shallow over flinty and chalky drift over chalk* (Soil Survey 1983,

571m). The underlying geology comprises recent and Pleistocene Boulder Clay (BGS, Sheet 238). The site is located on a slight north-south slope and lies at an elevation of c.126m OD.

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the construction of three new dwellings (Fig. 3).

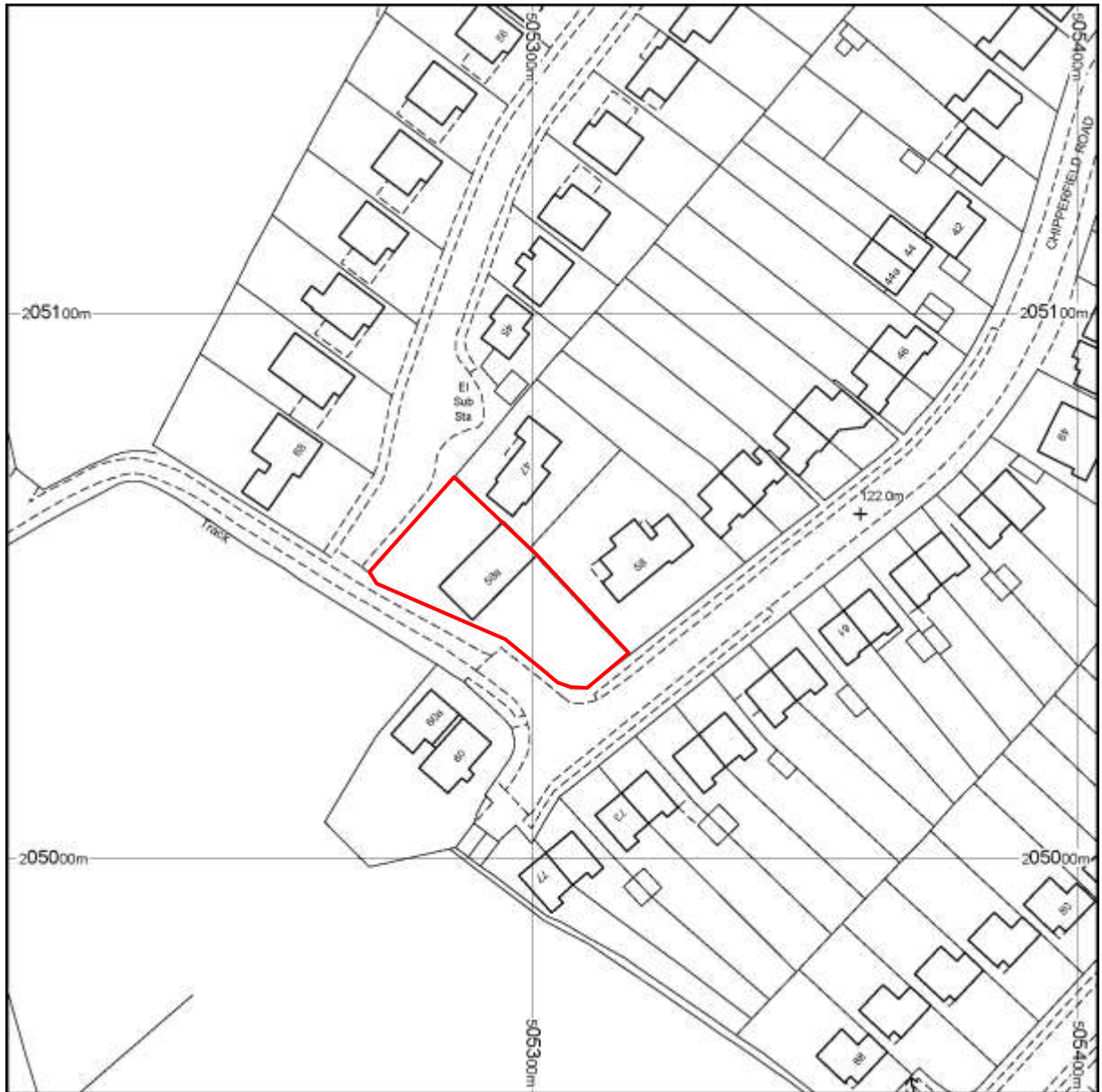


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)



Figure 3: Proposed development (*not to scale*)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To obtain sufficient information to establish the extent, character, quality, date and condition of any archaeological features which may be affected by the proposed development.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGEO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required:

- Machine excavation of a pattern of trial trenches, amounting to a 7% sample of the proposed extraction area, sited so as to provide as full coverage of the area as possible. Trench locations are shown in Figure 4.
- Recording and sampling of any archaeological features or deposits revealed in the trenches.
- Provision of a contingency for up to a further 1% of trenching, in order to further investigate any significant archaeological features

2.4 Constraints

On arrival at the site it was noted that groundworks had already taken place across a small area at the south of the site (Area 1). Because of this, trench 1 was relocated c.7m further southwest than indicated in the project design. Trench 1 was also short by c.8m due to a concrete slab.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER: request number 249/10) and other readily available sources.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC-AD43)

Excavations carried out during alterations to the A41, c.0.1km to the southwest of the development site, recovered pottery dating from as early as the Neolithic period through to the early Iron Age. A re-cut palisaded ditch, at least 50m in length, and area of pits and one side of a causewayed entrance were also identified during the evaluation. Two further features containing large amounts of oxidised clay with flint, mica and quartz may indicate pottery manufacture (HER11471). Close by is another area of settlement, located on high ground overlooking the river valley. Excavations uncovered a range of Middle Iron Age features, including two round houses, a rectangular post-built structure, and two small four-post structures, as well as pits, post holes and substantial ditches. The area is known as Manor Estate Apsley, and is a rare example of *in-situ* Middle Iron Age archaeology in Hertfordshire (HER16589). Two gold coins dating to the Late Iron Age have also been discovered in the vicinity of the site (HER128).

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

The Gade Valley saw considerable human activity throughout the Roman period. There was extensive settlement, and the attendant pastoral and agricultural activities, and trade and communication routes would have had a major impact on the area. Indeed, the significance of the Roman archaeological remains has led to the proposition that the area may have once been a Roman administrative unit or 'pagus' (Bailey 1989, 111).

3.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

No Saxon features have been identified close to the development site. However activity dating to this period is known c.3km to the north, at Hemel Hempstead. It is thought that the Saxon settlement in Hemel Hempstead had two origins; the construction of a mill and associated settlement in Bury Mill End, about a mile and a half north of the point where the Gade and Bulbourne converge, and the establishment of a manor beside a track which followed the valley (Hunns 2000, 3).

Hemel Hempstead is one of the earliest documented settlements in Hertfordshire. It is recorded that King Offa gave land to Wealdere, the bishop of London, in the region called *Haemele* around the years 704-709 (*ibid*). It is also recorded that Egelwin le Swarte and his wife Aelfleda granted a manor at Kings Langley to the Abbey of St Albans c.1048-66 and that the manor in Abbots Langley was given to the same abbey by Aethelwine the Swarte and his wife Wynfleda (Page 1908, 323). Abbots Langley

was held by the abbey until the Dissolution, but failed to hold onto Kings Langley during the upheavals before and after the Norman Conquest.

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

The development of the area of Apsley during the medieval period is not well understood, and the HER records no entries for this period.

3.6 **Post-Medieval - Modern** (1500- present)

During the post-medieval period, Apsley became known for its paper mills, after John Dickinson, the inventor of a new method of continuous papermaking, purchased an existing mill in the area in 1809. Construction of the Grand Junction Canal (now the Grand Union), commenced in 1793. Its route passed to the south of Hemel Hempstead on a similar route to the old turnpike road. The canal was completed in 1804, allowing improved transportation between Birmingham and London, but not without causing some major problems for Dickinson's mills when the canal company was forced to draw water from the Gade to top up the canal (Hunns 2000, 20).

During the modern period, Apsley has become an outer district of Hemel Hempstead. The character of the modern town of Hemel Hempstead is largely due to the Greater London Plan of 1947, which provided for the development of a number of towns in the Home Counties to relieve overcrowding in the capital (Hunns 2000, 21). Twelve thousand new houses were to be built in Hemel Hempstead in six distinct areas, as well as schools, factories and public buildings. The proposed level of development was soon increased and the population grew from 22,000 in 1949 to over 81,000 today.

4 Results

4.1 General

This section provides a summary of the results of the evaluation. Full descriptions of the trenches, in tabulated form, are provided in Appendix 1.

Two trenches were excavated across the development site. The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket, working under archaeological supervision. A further area (Area 1) was opened by the contractors prior to the evaluation and without archaeological supervision. The trenches and area 1 were cleaned sufficiently to determine if archaeological remains were present. Basic trench information was recorded on pro-forma sheets and a photographic record was compiled. The spoil heaps were visually scanned looking for the presence of archaeological artefacts, but none were recovered.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 4, Plate 1)

Trench 1 was situated at the southern end of the site, aligned northwest-southeast. It was 7m long and 1.5m wide. Its stratigraphy consisted:

- Modern made ground* (101)
Mid brown silty clay - c.0.25m
- Original topsoil* (102)
Dark brown silty clay - 0.2m.
- Subsoil* (103)
Mid brown silty clay, frequent flint inclusions- 0.30m
- Natural* (104)
Orange clay, frequent flint inclusions.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within trench 1.

4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Plate 2)

Trench 2 was situated at the northern end of the site, aligned northeast-southwest. It was 14.5m long and 1.5m wide. Its stratigraphy consisted:

- Topsoil* (201)
Dark brown silty clay – 0.05-0.3m.
- Subsoil* (202)
Mid brown silty clay, frequent flint inclusions- 0.1-0.2m
- Natural* (203)
Orange clay, frequent flint inclusions.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within trench 2.

4.4 Area 1 (Fig. 4, Plate 3)

Area 1 formed an irregular shaped area measuring 30.6 sq m, and was located at the southern end of the site. The stratigraphy was the same as within trench 1.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within area 1.

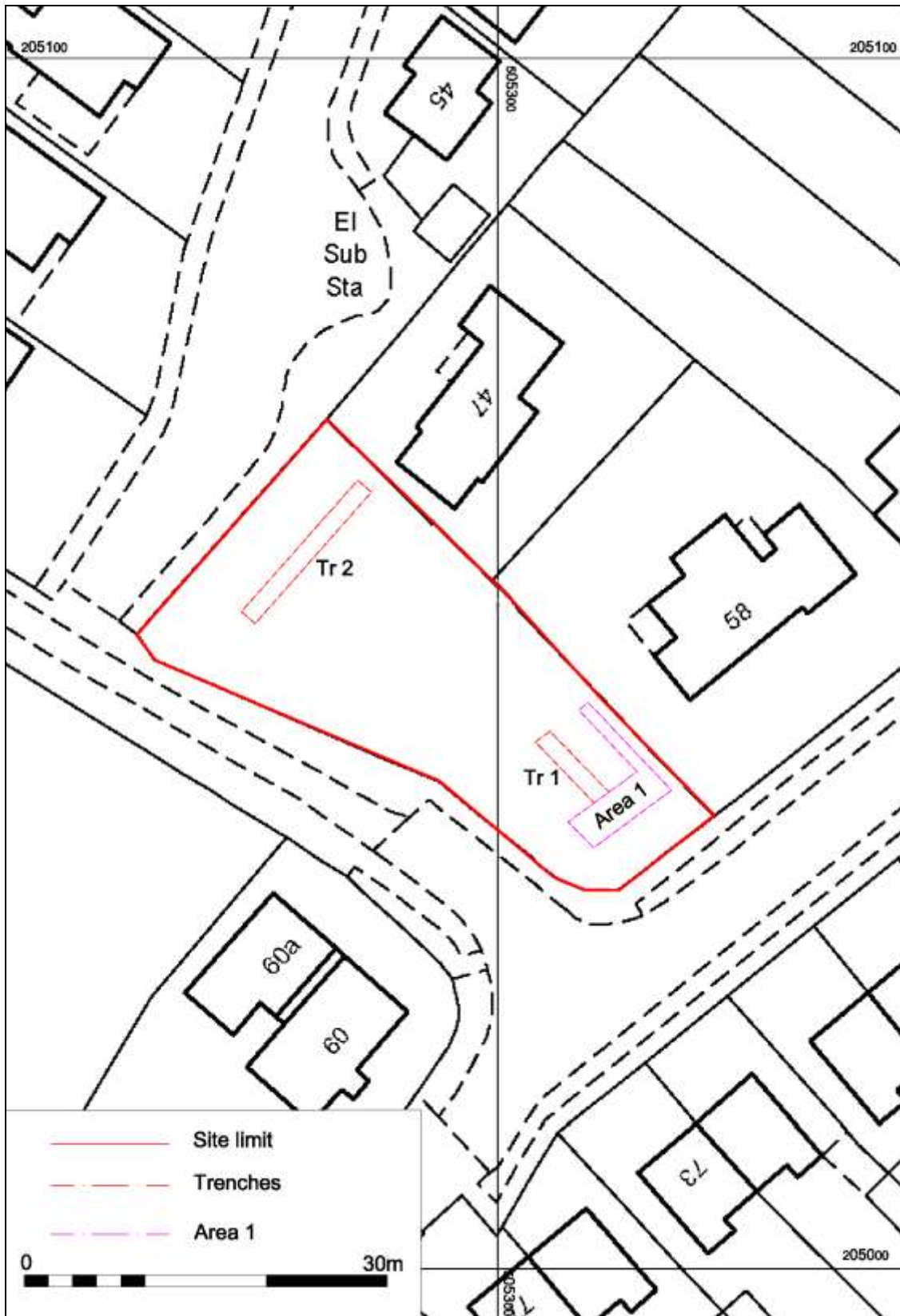


Figure 4: Trench locations (scale 1:500)



Plate 1: Trench 1 stratigraphy, looking northeast, 2x1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 2 stratigraphy, looking southeast, 1m scale



Plate 3: General shot of Area 1, looking northeast 1m scale

5. Conclusions

5.1 Two archaeologically supervised trenches were excavated within the footprint of the building as well as an area of 30.6 sq m that was stripped by the contractors prior to the evaluation. No archaeological features were observed in the trenches. While the existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the trenches cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features were present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on archaeological remains.

5.2 Confidence Rating

The evaluation took place in overcast and damp weather conditions. Full co-operation was received from the contractors and a high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the evaluation.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Cassiobury Developments LLP*. The writer is grateful to Richard Townley for his assistance. The project was monitored by Kate Batt of the *Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit*, on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to the on site contractors.

The project was managed for ASC by David Fell BA MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA PIFA and Gareth Shane BA. The report was prepared by Martin Cuthbert and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust.

8. References


Standards & Specifications


- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Rouse, C 2011 *Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation at 58A Chipperfield Road, Apsley, Hertfordshire* ASC/1381/ACR/1


Secondary Sources

- Bailey, K. 1989 'The Middle Saxons' in Bassett, S. (ed) *The Origins of Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms*. Leicester University Press, 108-122 (Leicester).
- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Hunns T 2000 *Hemel Hempstead: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report*. Herts County Council, 3-22
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	7m	Width	1.5m	Depth	0.75m
	Levels					
	Trench top NW end			125.99m OD		
	Trench base NW end			125.29m OD		
	Trench base SE end			124.96m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	NW	505303/205043		SE	505308/205038	
	Orientation			Northwest - Southeast		
	Reason for Trench			Located within footprint of proposed development.		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
101	Layer	Mid brown silty-clay - Modern made ground	N/A	0.25	0	
102	Layer	Dark brown silty clay- Original topsoil	N/A	0.20	0.25	
103	Layer	Mid brown silty clay with frequent flint inclusions- Subsoil	N/A	0.30	0.45	
104	Layer	Orange clay with frequent flint inclusions - Natural	N/A	-	0.75	

Area 1					
	Max Dimensions (m)				
	Area		30.6 sq m		
	Levels				
	Area 1 base, east corner			124.86m OD	
	NGR Co-ordinates				
	Centre			505310/205038	
	Orientation:			N/A	
Reason for Trench:			Excavated by contractors prior to the evaluation.		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
101	Layer	Mid brown silty-clay - Modern made ground	N/A	0.25	0
102	Layer	Dark brown silty clay- Original topsoil	N/A	0.20	0.25
103	Layer	Mid brown silty clay with frequent flint inclusions- Subsoil	N/A	0.30	0.45
104	Layer	Orange clay with frequent flint inclusions - Natural	N/A	-	0.75

Trench 2						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	14.5m	Width	1.5m	Depth	0.13-0.5m
	Levels					
	Trench top SW end		126.63m OD			
	Trench base SW end		126.50m OD			
	Trench top NE end		126.18m OD			
	Trench base NE end		125.78m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	SW	505280/205083	NE	505289/205065		
	Orientation:		Northeast-Southwest			
Reason for Trench:		Located within footprint of proposed development.				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
201	Layer	Dark brown silty clay- Topsoil		N/A	0.30	0
202	Layer	Mid brown silty clay with frequent flint inclusions- Subsoil		N/A	0.20	0.30
203	Layer	Orange clay with frequent flint inclusions - Natural		N/A	-	0.50

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 51A Chipperfield Road, Apsley, Hertfordshire				SITE NO/CODE: 1381/ACR	Acc n.o:
Shot	Film/Neg	B&W	Digital	Subject	
1	1/24	✓	✓	Trench 2 general shot, looking southwest, 2x1m	
2	1/23	✓	✓	Trench 1 general shot, looking southeast	
3	1/22	✓	✓	Trench 1 stratigraphy, looking northeast, 2x1m	
4			✓	Trench 2 stratigraphy, looking southeast, 2x1m	
5			✓	Trench 2 stratigraphy, looking southeast, 2x1m	
6			✓	Trench 1 stratigraphy, looking northeast, 2x1m	
7			✓	Area 1, looking northeast, 1x1m	
8			✓	Area 1, looking northwest, 1x1m	
9			✓	Area 1, looking northwest, 1x1m	
10			✓	Area 1, looking northeast, 1x1m	
11-14			✓	General site shot	

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Archaeological Evaluation: 58A Chipperfield Road, Apsley, Hertfordshire.	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-102743
Short Description:	In June 2011 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out at 58A Chipperfield Road, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, prior to the construction of three houses. Two archaeologically supervised trenches were excavated within the footprint of the building. A further area of 30.6 sq m was stripped by the contractors prior to the evaluation. All areas were cleaned to determine the presence of archaeological remains. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the excavated areas.		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Residential	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 05295 05054
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	58A Chipperfield Road, Apsley, Hertfordshire.		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	770 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	126m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	N/A	Project design originator:	Rouse 2011
Project Manager:	David Fell BA MA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Martin Cuthbert BA PIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Cassiobury Developments LLP		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	6 th June 2011	End date:	6 th June 2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Dacorum Heritage Trust	B&W photographs and negatives	
Paper:		Project Design, Eval Report, Trench sheets, survey register	
Digital:		All digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: 58A Chipperfield Road, Apsley, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1381/ACR/2		
Author(s):	Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) PIFA		
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