

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: LAND TO THE REAR OF CHURCH FARM HIGH STREET, PINNER LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

NGR: TQ 1232 8970

on behalf of Henry Homes Plc



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D Fell MA MIFA

February 2008

ASC: 1031/PHS/2

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Site Data

ASC project code:	PHS		ASC project no:	1031				
OASIS ref:	archaeol2-3	39328	Accession no:	CFP08				
County:		Greater	Greater London					
Village/Town:		Pinner						
Civil Parish:		Harrow	3					
NGR (to 8 figs):		TQ 123	2 8970					
Extent of site:		c. 35m	x 70m					
Present use:		Garden						
Planning proposal:		Construction of 2 detached & 3 terraced properties						
Planning application	n ref/date:	P/1253/04/CFU						
Local Planning Auth	ority:	London Borough of Harrow						
Date of fieldwork:		11 th -12 th February 2008						
Client:		Henry Homes Plc 23 The Courtyards Croxley Business Park Hatters Lane Watford WD18 8YH						
Contact name:		Sara Bedford						

Internal Quality Check

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Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:		Date:	

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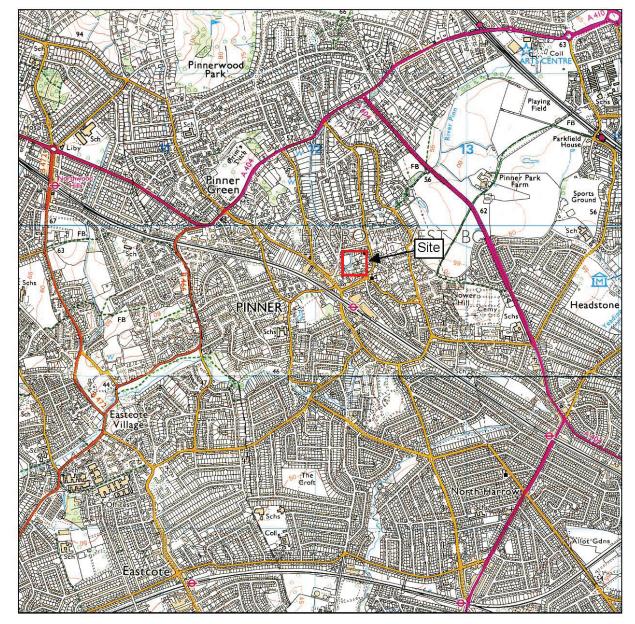


Figure 1: General location (Scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In February 2008 ASC Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of Church Farm, High Street, Pinner, prior to the construction of a new housing development. Three trial trenches were excavated, which contained a number of ditches and pits dating to the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. A small finds assemblage of the same dates was also present. No earlier features or artefacts were observed and it is unlikely that significant archaeological remains are present on the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 In February 2008 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an evaluation at land to the rear of Church Farm, High Street, Pinner, Harrow. The project was commissioned by Henry Homes Plc, and was carried out according to an advice letter (Stabler 2006) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), the London Borough of Harrow, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, and a project design prepared by ASC (Barclay 2008). The relevant planning application reference is P/1253/04/CFU.

1.2 Planning Background

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

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 Archaeological Organisation by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 Management

The project was carried out under the overall direction of **David Fell** MA MIFA. David is an experienced archaeologist with extensive fieldwork and post-excavation experience, and also of historical research and building recording. David holds a first degree from the University of York, and a master's degree from Birmingham University. He has held a range of supervisory appointments since 1990, including Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit, Bucks County Archaeology Service, Beds County Archaeology Service, Archaeological Project Services, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust and the Museum of London Archaeology Service.

1.5 The Site

1.5.1 Location & Description

The site is located in the village of Pinner, in the London Borough of Harrow, and is centred on Ordnance Survey National grid Reference TQ 1232 8970 (Figure 1). It lies close to the centre of the village c. 95m northwest of the parish church (Figure 2). The south side of the site fronts on to an area of grass and private residences are present on all other sides.

1.5.2 Geology & Topography

The site is in an urban area and the natural soils have not been surveyed (Soil Survey, 1983, U). The underlying geology is likely to be London Clay (BGS, Sheet 51N02W). The site lies at an elevation of 70m AOD.

1.5.3 Proposed Development

The proposal is for the construction of five houses, with associated gardens and driveways (Figure 3).

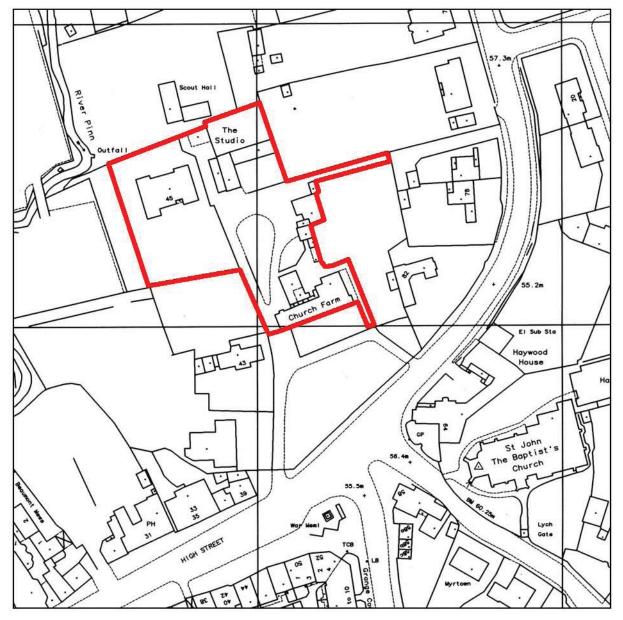


Figure 2: Site plan (Scale 1:1250)



Figure 3: Proposed development (not to scale)

2. Aims and Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 3), the aims of the evaluation were:

• To gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological remains (and associated paleo-environmental deposits) within the site.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (IFA 2000) and Standard & Guidance Notes (IFA 2001) and to the relevant sections of ASC's own Operations Manual.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the requirements of an advice letter from *GLAAS* (Stabler 2007), which required:

• Excavation of three 15m trial trenches (Figure 4)

2.4 Constraints

The trench layout, as specified in figure 4 of the project design (Barclay 2008), was modified in order to avoid a number of buildings and trees. In addition, access to a road leading to the northeast side of the site had to be maintained. No other constraints were encountered.

3. Archaeological and 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 a desk-based assessment prepared for this project (Semmelmann & Rouse 2006).

3.2 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

Although there are three entries in the Historic Environment Record (HER) for prehistoric features and finds, including a barrow (HER 16982) 650m NE of the site, none are known from Church Farm.

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

The Iron Age in Pinner is represented by some pottery fragments unearthed in Waxwell Lane (HER 20381) approximately 500m NW of the site and Grim's Ditch, approximately 1km to the northwest.

3.4 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

Roman coins, pottery and brick and stonework have been found at Waxwell, Bury Pond (Barrow Point) Hill, and Pinner Road in Pinner (VCH 1971).

3.5 Saxon (c.450-1066)

The manor of Harrow encompassed the present day town of Pinner in the Saxon period and the Domesday Survey of 1086 records that Earl Leofwine held the lands during the time of King Edward (Williams & Martin 2002, 358). There is only a little archaeological evidence for Saxon activity within the town including some pottery fragments, which were recovered between Church Farmhouse and Grim's Ditch during an excavation on Waxwell Lane in 1973 (HER 20381).

3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The Domesday Survey (1086) records that Archbishop Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury held 100 hides at Harrow until the Dissolution in 1545 (Williams & Martin 2002, 358).

By the early 14th century, Pinner was one of the largest hamlets in the parish of Harrow. Church Farmhouse is first recorded in 1396 as a half hide head tenement known as Newers or Blakes held by Thomas Blake (Clarke 2004, 205). The present building was possibly initially constructed by John Bird who owned the property between 1506 and 1536 (*ibid.* 38).

3.7 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The Domesday Survey (1086) records that Archbishop Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury held 100 hides at Harrow until the Dissolution in 1545 (Williams & Martin 2002, 358).

By the early 14th century, Pinner was one of the largest hamlets in the parish of Harrow. Church Farmhouse is first recorded in 1396 as a half hide head tenement

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3.8 *Modern* (1900-present)

The population of Pinner continued to expand into modern times. With the expansion of urbanisation, many of the farm buildings disappeared, although little industrial activity occurred.

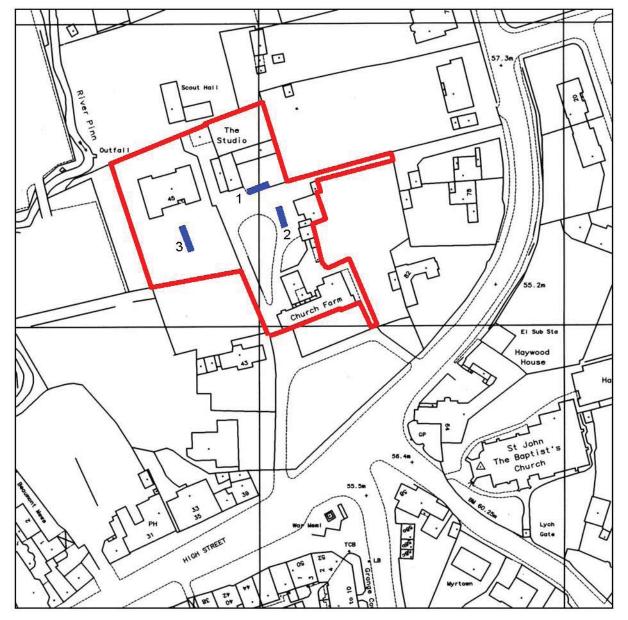


Figure 4: Trench location plan (Scale 1: 1250)

4 Results

4.1 General

This section provides a summary of the results of the fieldwork. Full details of each trench, in tabular form, are provided in Appendix 1 and conclusions are provided in Section 5. Three trenches were excavated across the site (Figure 4), and aimed to test accessible areas within, or close to, the footprints of the proposed buildings.

4.2 Natural Soils

The natural strata was a stiff, light yellowish-orange clay. The mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil and dark blackish brown silty clay topsoil were only present in the area of Trench 3, within the garden of 45 High Street. The ground surface in the area of the other two trenches, located to the rear of Church Farm, was flat rather than sloping as it was in the garden.

4.3 The Trial Trenches

4.3.1 **Trench 1** (Figs. 5-6: Plate 1)

Trench 1 aimed to evaluate the northern part of the site, and was aligned eastwest. A single ditch [107] was observed within this trench.

The natural strata (128) comprised light yellow clay and was present at a depth of c.0.65m. It was exposed across the entire trench and had been cut by a single linear feature [107]. No subsoil layer was present in the trench.

A northwest-southeast aligned ditch [107] was present in the centre of the trench. It was 0.82m wide and 0.90m deep with a steep sided profile and concave base. The upper fill (108) comprised light grey silty clay with occasional reddish brown mottling and was 0.2m thick. The lower fill (109) comprised dark blue-black silty clay with occasional orange mottling (109). No artefacts were present in this feature, and the ditch is undated.

The ditch had been sealed by a layer of brownish orange silty clay (106). This was 0.12m thick and is interpreted as re-deposited material. It was overlain by a c.0.25m thick layer of crush chalk (105) which, in turn, had been sealed by a further deposit of brownish yellow clay (104).

A number of spreads of obviously modern material (101), (102) were present below the topsoil (100). The latter was c.0.2m thick and comprised blackish brown silty clay.

4.3.2 **Trench 2** (Figs. 7-11: Plates 2-4)

Trench 2 aimed to evaluate the east part of the site, and was aligned from northwest to southeast. Three features dating to the 18th to 19th centuries were observed in this trench.

The natural strata (129) was present throughout the trench. It comprised mottled yellowish brown clay and was present at a depth of c.0.35m.

The natural strata had been cut by a circular pit [114]. This was present halfway along the trench and its north edge lay beneath the north edge of the trench. It was 1m in diameter and was 0.2m deep with concave sides and a flat base. It was filled with a deposit of grey silty clay (115), which contained a small assemblage of obviously modern brick and tile.

The upper 0.35m of the trench profile comprised a deposit of compacted mid brown gravel and sand (111), which is interpreted as a foundation layer for the overlying tarmac farmyard surface (110).

The makeup layer had been cut by two modern intrusions, namely a trench containing a modern ceramic drain [116] and a 0.9m wide pit [112]. Both these features contained a small assemblage of miscellaneous 19th and 20th century artefacts. They are interpreted as modern intrusions and are not archaeologically significant.

A layer of modern crushed brick and chalk fragments (118) was observed at the north end of the trench. It overlay the natural strata, at a depth of c.0.35m and is not archaeologically significant.

4.4.3 **Trench 3** (Figs. 12-15: Plates 5-7)

Trench 3 aimed to evaluate the west part of the site and was aligned north-south. Three undated and 18th /19th century features were observed within this trench.

The natural strata (130) consisted of yellowish brown clay (130) was present at a depth of c.0.35m. It was observed throughout the length of the trench and had been cut by three intrusions.

A ditch [122] was present towards the south end of the trench. It was aligned from east to west and was 1m wide and 0.30m deep with a concave profile. It was filled with a deposit of mid brown silty clay (123) but no dating evidence was present.

A circular pit [124] was present to the north of Ditch [122]. It was 0.44m in diameter and 0.20m deep with near vertical edges and a flat base and was filled with a deposit of blue-grey silty clay containing contained fragments of 18th century brick and tile.

A third feature [126] was present c.4m from the north end of the trench. It extended beyond the east edge of the trench and its' northern side was obscured by a block of modern concrete (120). It had a concave profile c.0.4m deep and was filled with an undated deposit of blackish brown silty clay.

The upper part of the trench profile comprised subsoil and topsoil layers. The subsoil consisted of light brown silty clay (121) and was generally c.0.20m thick. A modern concrete slab had been inserted into the subsoil, and partially obscured underlying feature [126]. The overlying topsoil comprised blackish brown silty clay (119) which varied in thickness between 0.40m to 0.60m.



Plate 1: Northwest facing Section of Ditch [107] (Scale = 1m)

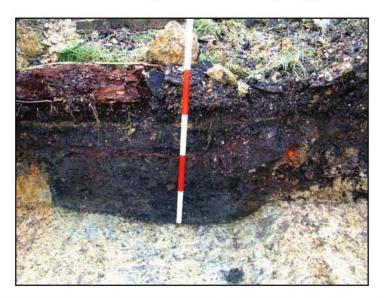


Plate 2: Northwest facing Section of Pit [112] (Scale = 1m)



Plate 3: Northwest facing Section of Pit [114] (Scale = 1m)



Plate 4: West facing Section of Gully [116] (Scale = θ .4m)



Plate 5: West facing Section of Ditch [122] (Scale = 1m)



Plate 6: Southeast facing Section of Pit [124] (Scale = 0.5 m)



Plate 7: Southeast facing Section of Pit [126] (Scale = 0.5m)

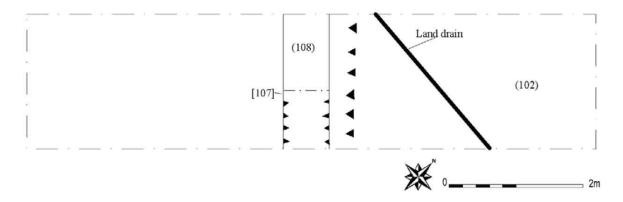


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 1 (Scale 1:50)

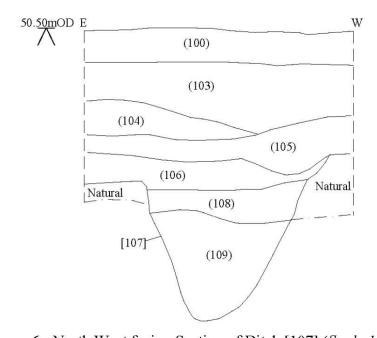


Figure 6: North West facing Section of Ditch [107] (Scale 1:20)

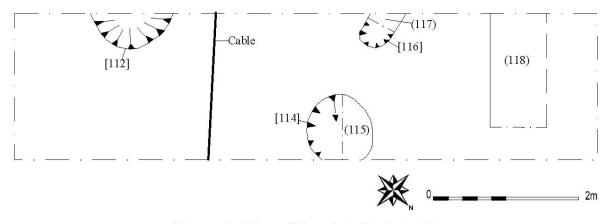


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 2 (Scale 1:50)

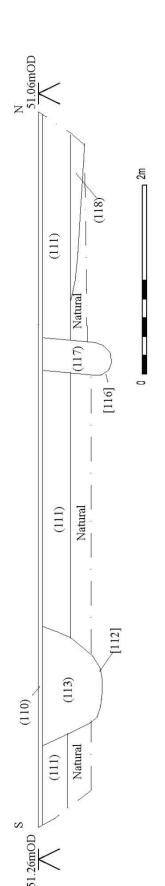


Figure 8: Northeast facing Section of Trench 2 (Scale 1:40)

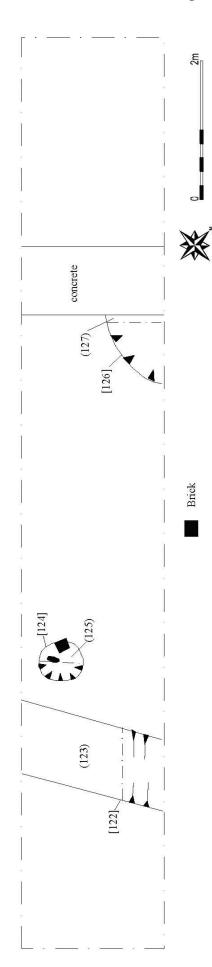
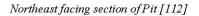
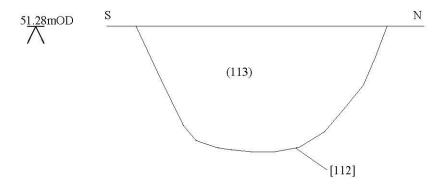
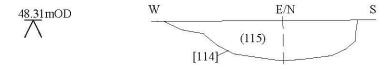


Figure 9: Plan of Trench 3 (Scale 1:50)

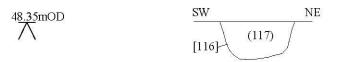




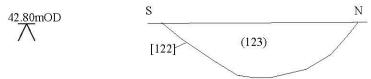
Northwest facing section of Pit [114]



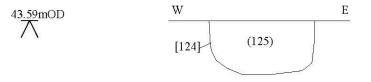
West facing section of Gully [116]



East facing section of Ditch [122]



South facing section of Pit [124]



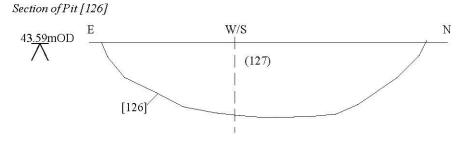


Figure 10: Sections (Scale 1:20)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Three trial trenches were excavated with the aim of providing as wide a sample as possible of the site. They were located in accessible areas, between standing buildings and trees and were aligned from north to south and east to west.
- 5.2 A total of seven features were observed in the trenches. Two 18th to 20th century pits were present in Trenches 2 and 3, and a further late 20th century pit {112] and drain [116] were present in Trench 2, cutting a modern make-up layer (111). Further, undated features, were present in Trenches 1 and 3.
- 5.3 It is likely that the east part of the site, tested by Trenches 1 and 2 had been disturbed by the construction of the existing farm buildings and the laying out of the driveway. The subsoil did not survive in this area. In comparison, in the west side of the site the full soil profile survived and this area has probably seen less modern disturbance.
- A very limited finds assemblage was recorded, comprising a small quantity of 18th-20th century brick and tile, pottery and a fragment from the stem of a 19th century clay pipe.
- 5.5 No prehistoric, Roman or medieval 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 pre-dating the 18th century are present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have significant impact on significant archaeological remains.

5.6 Confidence Rating

- 5.6.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in bright sunny weather conditions, although the ground was wet, due to rain the previous night. The machining was undertaken to a high standard and the stratigraphy was well defined and easy to distinguish.
- 5.6.2 A high confidence rating is attached to the results of the evaluation.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Henry Homes Plc*. The writer is grateful to Sara Bedford for her assistance. The project was monitored by Kim Stabler on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to *Lynch Plant Hire* and *Maxwell Plant Hire*.

The project was managed for ASC by David Fell MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Jenny Richards BA PIFA and Martin Cuthbert BA. The report was prepared by Jenny Richards and edited by David Fell MA 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. Finds
 - 7. Site record drawings
 - 8. List of photographs
 - 9. B/W prints & negatives
 - 10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Museum of London Archive Store*.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- Barclay C, 2008 Land to the rear of Church Farm, High Street, Pinner. Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation. ASC Report no 1031/PHS/1
- 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).
- Stabler K 2006 Advice letter Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (English Heritage)

Secondary Sources

BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.

- Clarke, P. 2004 History of Pinner Phillimore (Chichester)
- Nixon, T., McAdam, E., Tomber, R. & Swain, H. 2002 A Research Framework for London Archaoelogy. Museum of London (London)
- Semmelmann K & Rouse C 2006 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Church Farm, High Street, Pinner ASC Ltd
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
- Williams, A. & Martin, G. H. 2003 Domesday Book: A Complete Translation (London)

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

				Trench	1					
No ove	erall trench p	hotograph			Max Di	mensions (m)				
	available		Length	8m	Width	1.80m		Depth	1m	
						Levels				
			Trench ba	ase southwes	st	50.39m C)D			
			Trench to	p southwest	S 4	51.43m C	D			
			Trench ba	ase northeas	• 3	50.50m C	D			
			Trench to	p northeast		51.37m C	51.37m OD			
				NGR Co-ordinates						
			SW TQ 12295 89747			NE	TQ 1	2304 89749		
			Orientation			SW-NE				
			Reason for Trench			Planning condition				
Context	Туре	Description a	and Interpre	etation		Width (max: m	200	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
100	Layer	Blackish brow	n silty clay.	Topsoil		 ≱		200	N o r	
101	Layer	Concrete slab	s and tarma	c. Modern del	oris	-		100	200	
102	Layer	Gravel, cut by	plastic land	l drain. Moder	n) — [8		100	200	
103	Layer	Brick rubble.	Spread of m	odern brick		-		400	300	
104	Layer	Light yellow b	rown clay. S	Subsoil		120		200	700	
105	Layer Crushed chalk. Modern spread				# 15 m		300	900		
106	Layer	Light brown o	Light brown orange silty clay					120	1000	
108	Fill		Upper fill of [107]			820		200	800	
109	Fill		Primary fill of [107]			800		600	980	
107	Cut	Steep sided c cut of ditch	ut with conc	ave base. Cor	nstruction	820		900	1000	
128	Layer	Light yellow c	lay. Natural	strata		-		-	c.650	

				Trench	2				
Max Dimensions (m)									
		2	Length	7.60m	Width	1.80m	Depth	0.80m	
			Levels						
		一理题	Trench b	ase north		51.06m OD			
			Trench to	p north		51.85m OD			
			Trench b	ase south		51.26m OD			
			Trench to	p south		51.78m OD			
					NGR	Co-ordinates			
	MA TO		NNW	TQ 12377	89740	SSE TO	12308 89733		
		45一	Orientat	ion		NNW-SSE			
			Reason	for Trench		Planning co	ndition		
Context	Туре	Description a	and Interpre	etation		Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
110	Layer	Tarmac				x=x	50	15	
111	Layer	Mid brown gra	avel and sar	nd		(,)	300	50	
113	Fill	Fill of [112]				900	650	50	
112	Cut	Cut of shallow Modern intrus		oncave base	and sides.	900	650	50	
115	Fill	Fill of [114]	North Control of the			1000	400	350	
114	Cut		Cut of small steep sided pit with flat base			1000	400	350	
117	Fill	Fill of drain [1				400	200	350	
116	Cut	Cut with near	Cut with near vertical sides and concave base. Cionstruction cut of modern drain gully				200	350	
118	Layer	Crushed brick				-	100	350	
129	Layer	mottled yellow			trata	1.5	1001	c.350	

				Trench	3				
		0		Many Haderman Scattering		mensions ((m)		
			Length	13m	Width	1.80m	Depth		0.88m
						Levels			
F			Trench ba	ase north		50.21m O	D		
			Trench to	p north		50.80m O	D		
			Trench ba	ase south		50.71m O	D		
			Trench top south			51.59M oD			
					NGR	Co-ordinates			
			N TQ 12273 89734			S TQ 12277 89722			
			Orientati	ion		N-S			
			Reason	for Trench		Planning condition			
Context	Туре	Description a	and Interpre	etation		Width (max: mr	Thickner n) (max: m		Depth (BGL: mm)
119	Layer	Blackish brow	n silty clay.	Topsoil			600		(6)
120	Layer	Concrete slab				3000	400		c.300
121	Layer	Subsoil				(I=)	200		600
123	Fill	Fill of [122]					300		800
122	Cut	Cut of shallow	Cut of shallow ditch with concave base and sides			1000	300		800
125	Fill	Fill of [124]	124]			440	200		800
124	Cut		teep sided pit with flat base			440	200		800
127	Fill	Fill of [126]			1400	200		800	
126	Cut	Cut for pit witl	h concave b	ase		1400	200		800
130	Layer	Yellowish bro	wn clay. Nat	tural strata		10.50	1-1		c.800

Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context	Pot	tery	Во	ne	Flint	Shell	Stone	Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	(no)	Туре	(no)
113	1	12						Clay pipe stem	1
115			1	45				CBM	14 =2140g
117								CBM	1=97g
125			5	16				CBM	5=60g

Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NA	VIE:			SITE NO/CODE:
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subj	ect
1	✓	✓	Site overview	
2	✓	✓	Site overview	
3	✓	✓	Site overview	
4	✓	✓	View of Trench 2	
5	✓	✓	View of Trench 2	
6	✓	✓	View of Trench 3	
7	✓	✓	Section of Ditch [107]	
8	✓	✓	Section of Pit [112]	
9	✓	✓	Section of pit [114]	
10	✓	✓	Section of gully [116]	
11	✓	✓	Section of Trench 2	
12	✓	✓	Section of ditch [122]	
13	✓	✓	Section of pit [124]	
14	✓	✓	Section of pit [126]	
14	✓	✓	Section of trench 3	

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

	PROJECT	T DETAILS						
Project Name:	Church Farm, Pinner							
Short Description:	In February 2008 ASC Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of Church Farm, High Street, Pinner, prior to the construction of a new housing development. Three trial trenches were excavated, which contained a number of ditches and pits dating to the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. A small finds assemblage of the same dates was also present. No earlier features or artefacts were observed and it is unlikely that significant archaeological remains are present on the site.							
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Trial Trenching							
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Listed Previous work: None (eg. SMR refs)							
Current land use:	Gardens	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No					
Monument type:	Listed building	Monument period:	Medieval and Post-medieval					
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Post medieval pottery							
	PROJECT	LOCATION						
County:	TQ 1232 8970							
Site address: (with postcode if known)								
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	2450 sq. m.	Height OD: (metres)	c. 51					
	PROJECT	CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services 8	& Consultancy Ltd						
Project brief originator:	English Heritage	Project design originator:	C Barday					
Project Manager:	D Fell	Director/Supervisor:	J Richards					
Sponsor / funding body:	Henry Homes Plc							
	PROJE(CT DATE						
Start date:	11th February 2008	End date:	12 th February 2008					
	PROJECT	ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal	bone, files/sheets)					
Physical:	Museum of London Archive Store (CFP08)	Finds (animal bone, CBM)						
Paper:	Museum of London Archive Store (CFP08)	Site records, project design, r negatives	.A.S 5557 I					
Digital:	Museum of London Archive Store (CFP08)	CD-ROM with copies of all dig	gital files and photos					
BIBLIOGRAF	PHY (Journal/monograph, publis	hed or forthcoming, or unpublis	hed client report)					
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation at C	hurch Farm, Pinner, Harrow						
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1031/PHS/	/2	1					
Author(s):	J Richards							
Page nos	27	Date:	26 th February 2008					