

Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme Bury Farm

London Borough of Barnet



Archaeological Evaluation Report



February 2006



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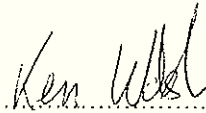
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Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme Bury Farm, London Borough of Barnet

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUND INVESTIGATION MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

During December 2005, Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief and field evaluation at Edgwarebury Park and Bury Farm in the London Borough of Barnet, on behalf of the Environment Agency.

Three worked flints, of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date, were recovered from the topsoil. In addition, the evaluation revealed a shallow gully and a small pit of 18th or 19th century date within the eastern part of the site. Within the southern part of site, three localised deposits of made ground and dumped 20th century domestic materials were recorded to a maximum depth of 1.50m.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

1.1.1 In December 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a watching brief and field evaluation at Bury Farm, Edgwarebury Park, in the London Borough of Barnet, on behalf of the Environment Agency. The work was carried out in respect of a planning application for the construction of two flood storage reservoirs, as part of a flood alleviation scheme for the Silk Stream in Edgware. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (OA 2005), approved by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, and with the standard methodologies for evaluations from the Institute of Field Archaeology (IFA), English Heritage and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS). The development sites are centred on the Edgwarebury Brook and are located at NGR TQ 187 937 and NGR TQ 187 932 respectively. In total, an area of approximately 3.0 ha will be affected by the earthworks.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The sites are located on uneven ground at Bury Farm and Edgwarebury Park in the London Borough of Barnet. The site lies at c 87 m OD and the underlying geology is London Clay.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 Due to the time constraints attendant on this project, it was not possible to establish the archaeological background of the immediate area prior to commencement of the evaluation. However, no designated sites lie within the site area. Given the low level of archaeological evidence recovered during the current work, no further details of the archaeological or historical background have been sought.

2 AIMS

2.1 Ground Investigation Monitoring

2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were to monitor and record the excavation of geotechnical test pits during the ground investigation in Bury Farm and Edgwarebury Park.

2.2 Evaluation

2.2.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI, were to establish within the constraints of the sampling strategy, the presence/absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and depth of any surviving archaeological remains within the Bury Farm site.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of Fieldwork: Ground Investigation Monitoring

3.1.1 The watching brief was carried out during the excavation of 30 geotechnical test pits each measuring 2m x 0.5m. The proposed locations are shown in Figure 2. The deposits were removed to an average depth of 3.6m by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket. A suitably qualified archaeologist was in attendance throughout the ground investigation works.

3.1.2 Test pits B6 and B11 (Bury Farm) were moved because of access difficulties.

3.1.3 Test pits A3 and A4 (Edgwarebury Park) were not excavated due to time constraints.

3.2 Scope of Fieldwork: Evaluation

3.2.1 The evaluation consisted of 22 trenches measuring 30m x 2.5m, and two trenches measuring 15m x 2.5m (Fig. 3)

3.2.2 Trenches 1, 2, 12, 14, 19, 20, 22 and 24 were moved from their proposed locations (OA 2005, Fig. 2) in order to avoid damage to fences and hedge-lines on the perimeter of the site and are shown as excavated (Figure 3).

3.2.3 Trenches 13 and 21 were not excavated due to lack of space, and to avoid damage to fences which were securing horses.

3.3 Fieldwork Methods and Recording

3.3.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

3.3.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand as appropriate and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature and to retrieve finds. Trenches containing archaeology were planned at a scale of 1:50, and their sections drawn at a

scale of 1:10, with the exception of long sections at 1:50. All test pits, trenches and features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film, in addition to this were taken working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological work. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.4 Finds

3.4.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the evaluation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.5 Palaeo-environmental Evidence

3.5.1 No palaeo-environmental deposits suitable for sampling were revealed during the watching brief or evaluation.

3.6 Presentation of Results

3.6.1 A description of the soil and ground conditions is given, along with an outline of the distribution of deposits. This is followed by a brief discussion of the finds and the results.

3.6.2 Empty trenches are identified but are not separately described. Details of all deposits can be found within the table of contexts in Appendix 1.

3.6.3 Individually described are Test pits A7, B1 and B3, and Trenches 1, 20, 23 and 26 which revealed possible features or made ground deposits.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and Ground Conditions

4.1.1 The site is located on yellowish brown London clays with intermittent gravel, mudstone and flint inclusions. The clays were overlain by up to 0.40m of mid brown silty clay topsoil. The ground was soft and uneven underfoot. During the watching brief and evaluation the ground conditions were mostly dry.

4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

4.2.1 Test pits A1, A2, A5, A6, A8-16, B2 and B4-B16, Trenches 2-12, 14-19, 22, 24, and 25 contained no archaeological features or deposits. Post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil in Test Pits A11, A12, B7, B8 and B15, 19th century brick and tile was recovered from the topsoil in Test Pits A9, A12, A14, A15 and B7, a fragment of possibly Roman roof tile was recovered from Test Pit A11 and struck flints were recovered from the topsoil in Test Pits B7 and B9 and Trench 18.

4.2.2 The stratigraphy in these test pits and trenches is as described above. Details of individual contexts are given in Appendix 1.

- 4.2.3 Test pits A7, B1 and B3, and Trenches 1, 20, 23 and 26 revealed possible features or made ground deposits and these are described below.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of Deposits

Test Pit A7

- 5.1.1 Test pit A7 was located to the east of Edwarebury Park just north of Edwarebury Brook.
- 5.1.2 The underlying natural consisted of light yellowish brown clay with occasional lenses of mudstone. It was overlain by a layer, 0.50 m thick, of dark brown clayey silt with a large quantity of domestic rubbish, including glass bottles, porcelain, clay pipes, animal bones and cooking pots. A representative sample of the pottery was retained including plates, saucers and cups of late 19th/early 20th Century date. This layer in turn was sealed by mid brown silty clay topsoil, 0.10 m thick.

Trench 1/Test Pit B3

- 5.1.3 Trench 1 was aligned WNW-ESE within the south-western corner of the evaluated area, adjacent to test pit B3. The deposit sequence was the same in trench and test pit.
- 5.1.4 The underlying natural (103) consisted of clean yellowish brown clay with irregular bands of gravel. The clay was overlain by up to 1.48 m of a mid greyish brown silty clay (102) which contained a high density of modern demolition debris, including brick, concrete, glass, porcelain and rubber. The deposit was thickest to the west-north-west of the trench and is likely to be the result of modern landscaping. This in turn was sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clay topsoil (101), 0.22 m thick, which contained occasional 19th century porcelain fragments.

Trench 20/Test Pit B1

- 5.1.5 Trench 20 was aligned N-S within the south-western corner of the site, adjacent to test pit B1 which contained a similar deposit sequence..
- 5.1.6 The underlying natural (2000) consisted of an orange brown clay with infrequent gravel lenses. Overlying this was a loose mid grey brown silty clay (2001) which contained rubble similar to that in Trench 1. The spread confined to the southern 5.30 m of the trench and thickened to the south, reaching a maximum depth of 1.20 m. Pottery retained from this layer where it was seen in Test Pit B1 was of 19th Century date. Again this is likely to be the result of recent landscaping to level out the ground surface. The modern rubble was overlain by 0.30 m of mid brown silty clay topsoil (2002).

Trench 23

- 5.1.7 Trench 23 was aligned E-W in the eastern part of site, just east of Edgewarebury Brook.
- 5.1.8 The trench revealed a pale brownish yellow clay with blue mottling (2301) at a depth of 0.36 m beneath present ground level. Cut into this were two features (not illustrated), a ditch (2302) running NE-SW, and a small irregular pit (2304).
- 5.1.9 Cut 2302 measured 0.70 m deep by 0.80 m wide, with moderate, irregular sloping sides and a flatish base. This was filled by a dark bluish grey silty clay, with occasional iron panning, which produced a sherd of 19th Century pottery. Cut 2304 measured 0.22 m thick by 0.90 m wide with steep convex sides and an uneven base. The fill of this was a brownish grey silty clay with occasional blue mottling which produced three sherds of late 18th/early 19th Century pottery .

Trench 26

- 5.1.10 Trench 26 was 15 m long aligned N-S on the trackway to the south of site.
- 5.1.11 Within Trench 26 the natural clay (2603) was revealed at a depth of between 0.80 - 1.80 m beneath the present ground level. Above the clay was 0.2 - 0.3 m of a mid brown clayey silt (2601) with occasional charcoal flecks. This was overlain by up to 1.40 m of a mid greyish brown silty clay (2602) which contained a high density of modern demolition debris. The trench was sealed by 0.25 m of mid brown silty clay topsoil containing a high proportion of wood chippings.
- 5.1.12 It seems probable that layer 2601 was the original topsoil sloping downhill to Edgewarebury Brook and this has had modern rubbish (2602) dumped on top of it to create a level surface for the trackway/bridlepath.

5.2 Finds

- 5.2.1 The finds recovered, of which a representative sample were retained, included ceramic building materials, pottery and glass bottles, and were predominantly of 19th and 20th century date with occasional sherds of 17th/18th century pottery. Three pieces of struck flint were also recovered from the topsoil.

Lithics

- 5.2.2 A total of three pieces of worked flint were recovered from the evaluation: a bladelet core from context 1801 in trench 18; an end scraper recovered from TP B9; and a retouched rejuvenation flake from TP B7. All three pieces were recovered from the topsoil and could date to the Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic (see Appendix 3).

Pottery

- 5.2.3 The assemblage comprises a mixture of fairly large fresh 19th-century sherds and much smaller sherds of earlier pottery. All the pottery is Post-medieval in date. The earliest piece is a scrap from a 17th or 18th-century vessel in, possibly local, glazed

red earthenware (TPA12, topsoil) and a sherd from an unglazed red earthenware jar of similar date (TPA11, topsoil). Most of the assemblage, however, consists of mass-produced Staffordshire-type white earthenwares dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries (see Appendix 4).

Animal Bone

- 5.2.4 A medium-mammal sized rib fragment, weighing 9g, was recovered from TP. B1.

Ceramic Building Material

- 5.2.5 Twenty fragments of ceramic building material weighing 333g were recovered from nine trial pits
- 5.2.6 Four of the pieces were identifiable: two bricks (A9, B7), a probable roof tile (A11) and one white-glazed wall tile are all likely to be of 19th century date (B3). All other fragments were amorphous and could not be identified, though it is suggested on the basis of fabric that some may be brick fragments (A12, A15). The fragments from B15 & B16 have the appearance of fired clay rather than CBM in which case they may have derived from oven or hearth bases. However all the unidentified fragments could be derived from bricks (see Appendix 5).

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of Field Investigation

- 6.1.1 Throughout the evaluation conditions were good. The underlying clay natural was thoroughly tested by the excavation of the geotechnical test pits across site. The features and deposits revealed during the evaluation were carefully excavated and recorded but are likely to be the result of modern disturbance. A large amount of post-medieval (20th century) material was recovered, but only a sample was kept.
- 6.1.2 The methodology used and the results obtained are felt to have given a accurate representation of the area which was under evaluation.

6.2 Overall Interpretation

Summary of results

- 6.2.1 No significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed.
- 6.2.2 The three struck flints may be indicative of a background level of earlier prehistoric activity in the northern part of the site. Given their provenance, and the evidence for relatively recent dumping of material at the site, it is possible that the flints are intrusive to the site.
- 6.2.3 The features found within Trench 23 yielded finds late 18th or 19th century date and are probably associated with agricultural activity.

6.2.4 In general, the natural is overlain by topsoil, but there were three areas identified where the underlying clay is sealed by modern deposits, primarily to the south and south-west of site. These probably represent the re-deposition of domestic material, possibly associated with the clearance of London Underground arches and land to the south-west of Edgwarebury Park.

7 REFERENCES

- OA 2005 Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme Bury Farm, London Borough of
Barnet: Written Scheme of Investigation

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
1	101	Layer	Topsoil	0.22		Modern
	102	Layer	Made ground	1.68	Pot, CBM, Glass	Modern
	103	Layer	Natural clay	1.68+		
2	201	Layer	Topsoil	0.31		Modern
	202	Layer	Natural clay	0.31+		
3	301	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		Modern
	302	Layer	Natural clay	0.3+		
4	401	Layer	Topsoil	0.12		Modern
	402	Layer	Natural clay	0.12+		
5	501	Layer	Topsoil	0.14		Modern
	502	Layer	Natural clay	0.14+		
6	601	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		Modern
	602	Layer	Natural clay	0.3+		
7	701	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		Modern
	702	Layer	Natural clay	0.2+		
8	801	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		Modern
	802	Layer	Natural clay	0.3+		
9	901	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		Modern
	902	Layer	Natural clay	0.3+		
10	1001	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		Modern
	1002	Layer	Natural clay	0.2+		
11	1101	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		Modern
	1102	Layer	Natural clay	0.2+		
12	1201	Layer	Topsoil	0.25		Modern
	1202	Layer	Natural clay	0.25+		
13	NOT EXCAVATED					

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
14	1401	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		Modern
	1402	Layer	Natural clay	0.2+		
15	1501	Layer	Topsoil	0.28		Modern
	1502	Layer	Natural clay	0.28+		
16	1601	Layer	Topsoil	0.11		Modern
	1602	Layer	Natural clay	0.11+		
17	1701	Layer	Topsoil	0.25		Modern
	1702	Layer	Natural clay	0.25+		
18	1801	Layer	Topsoil	0.19		Modern
	1802	Layer	Natural clay	0.19+		
19	1901	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		Modern
	1902	Layer	Natural clay	0.2+		
20	2000	Layer	Natural clay	1.5+		
	2001	Layer	Made ground	1.5	Pot, CBM, Glass	Modern
	2002	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		Modern
21	NOT EXCAVATED					
22	2201	Layer	Topsoil	0.28		Modern
	2202	Layer	Natural clay	0.28+		
23	2300	Layer	Topsoil	0.36		Modern
	2301	Layer	Natural clay	0.36+		
	2302	Cut	Cut of linear	0.7		Modern
	2303	Fill	Fill of 2302			Modern
	2304	Cut	Cut of pit	0.58		Modern
	2305	Fill	Fill of 2304			Modern
24	2401	Layer	Topsoil	0.26		Modern
	2402	Layer	Natural clay	0.26+		
25	2501	Layer	Topsoil	0.28		Modern
	2502	Layer	Natural clay	0.28+		
26	2600	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		Modern
	2601	Layer	Buried topsoil	1.8		
	2602	Layer	Made ground	1.6	Pot, CBM, Glass	Modern
	2603	Layer	Natural clay	1.8+		

APPENDIX 2 WORKED FLINT*By Rebecca Devaney*

A total of three pieces of worked flint were recovered from the evaluation at Edgewarebury (*Table 1*).

The bladelet core, from context 1801, is minimally worked with parallel bladelet removals taken from one end and a couple of small flake removals taken from the other end. Bladelet cores are usually associated with Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic assemblages.

The end scraper, recovered from test pit B. 9, has direct retouch on the distal end of a blade. The retouched rejuvenation flake, from test pit B. 7, has direct retouch on a broken edge to the right of the dorsal surface. The dorsal blade scars on both pieces indicate they were removed from prepared blade cores, which suggests a Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date for the pieces.

The remaining dorsal cortex, seen on the bladelet core and scraper, is reminiscent of gravel derived flint and is probably locally sourced. The worked flint is uncorticated, however, slight to moderate post-depositional damage is present on all pieces and the retouched rejuvenation flake is lightly burnt.

A further fragment (7 g) of burnt unworked flint was retrieved from test pit B. 1 (*Table 1*).

Further work is not required.

Table 1. Summary of flint by context

Test pit / Context	B. 1	B. 7	B. 9	1801	Total
Bladelet core				1	1
End scraper			1		1
Retouched rejuvenation flake		1			1
Burnt unworked	1				1
Total	1	1	1	1	4

APPENDIX 3 THE POTTERY

By John Cotter

Introduction and Methodology

The assemblage comprises a total of 34 sherds of pottery weighing 644g. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.).

Date and Nature of the Assemblage

The assemblage comprises a mixture of fairly large fresh 19th-century sherds and much smaller sherds of earlier pottery. All the pottery is post-medieval in date. The earliest piece is a scrap from a 17th or 18th-century vessel in, possibly local, glazed red earthenware (TPA12) and a sherd from an unglazed red earthenware jar of similar date (TPA11). There is a single sherd of Jackfield-type ware - a high quality black-glazed tableware produced in the Midlands c. 1740-80 (TPB7). Most of the assemblage, however, consists of mass-produced Staffordshire-type white earthenwares dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries plus a few pieces of English and Chinese porcelain and English stoneware of similar date.

Potential of the Material and Recommendations for further work

Given its late dating, poor condition and the small size of the assemblage, the pottery appears to have little further potential for research.

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
TPA7	c1875-1925	9	242	WHEW Staffs mass-produced white earthenwares. EPO Eng porcelain. CHIPO Chinese porcelain. EST Eng stoneware. Plates, saucers, cups, stoneware preserve jar
TPA11	17-19C	1	8	REW Red earthenware. Unglazed bodysherd from ?jar. Flowerpot-like fabric but has curvature, poss 17-18C?
TPA12	17-18C	1	2	REW Red earthenware. Glazed chip from int rim angle - ?bowl/dish. Fine Metropolitan-type fabric & glaze
TPB1	c1850-1900	12	268	Mostly WHEW incl base of preserve jar. EPO. YSLREW Yorks-type slipped redware - floor frag from large dish or jar
TPB3	c1850-1900	3	24	WHEW, EPO
TPB7	c1740-1780	1	2	JACK Jackfield-type ware. Wall sherd from wide dish/bowl with handle stub, v thin-walled
TPB8	18-19C	1	12	FLPOT Flowerpot rim, not modern
TPB15	c1850-1900	2	42	TYNE Tyneside-type red earthenware dish/jar base. SELTBR Brown-glazed German selter water bottle sherd
2303	c1825-1900	1	4	WHEW brown transfer printed
2305	c1780-1830	3	40	PW Pearlware footring base - ?jug. LNEST London-type stoneware storage jar rim
TOTAL		34	644	

APPENDIX 4 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL*By Cynthia Poole*

Twenty fragments of ceramic building material weighing 333g were recovered from nine trial pits. All pieces were examined using a x10 hand lens to characterise the fabrics. All the data is summarised in the table below.

Four fabrics were identified.

A: orange red, fine sandy clay.

B: red, maroon poorly sorted quartz sand fine-coarse, plus clay pellets/grog up to 8mm.

C: orange red, frequent well-sorted medium quartz sand.

D: cream, fine refractory clay.

Four of the pieces were identifiable: two bricks (A9, B7), a probable roof tile (A11) and one white-glazed wall tile are all likely to be of 19th century date (B3). All other fragments were amorphous and could not be identified, though it is suggested on the basis of fabric that some may be brick fragments (A12, A15). The fragments from B15 & B16 have the appearance of fired clay rather than CBM in which case they may have derived from oven or hearth bases. However all the unidentified fragments could be derived from bricks.

Ctxt	Nos	Wt (g)	Fab	Form	Description	Comments	Thickness	Dimensions	Date
TP A9	3	114	B	Brick	Broken surfaces, but core of brick from size.			60x40mm	19thC
TP A11	1	4	C	Roof: flat	Flat surfaces with sanding on surface	Probably roof peg/nib tile based on thickness.	12mm		Ro?
TP A12	1	2	A	Unid	Amorphous.				
TP A12	1	3	B?	Unid	Amorphous. ?brick				19thC
TP A14	2	1	A	Unid	Amorphous.				
TP A15	3	7	B	Unid	Amorphous: similar in character to A9 & B7 ?brick fragments.				19thC
TP B3	1	27	D	Wall tile	White glazed wall tile set on a bed of grey mortar (10 mm thick) surface over grey concrete 25 mm thick		8mm		19thC
TP B7	1	162	B	Brick	Flat surfaces, side striated; fairly sharp arris		>48 mm		19thC
TP B15	4	7	A	Unid	Fired clay: Amorphous.				
TP B16	3	6	A	Unid	Fired clay: Amorphous.				

APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme Bury Farm, London Borough of Barnet

Site code: EPK 05

Grid reference: TQ 187 937 **Type of evaluation:** Thirty 2 x 0.50 m geotechnical test pits, two 15 x 2.5 m trenches and twenty two 30 x 2.5 m trenches.

Date and duration of project: 10 Days, 5th - 19th December 2005

Area of site: Approximately 3.0 Hectares

Summary of results: A linear and a pit found within the east of the site, which are thought to be recent. Made up ground surfaces to the south and south-west of the site, also modern. Three pieces of unstratified struck flint...

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Museum of London in due course.



Scale 1:25,000

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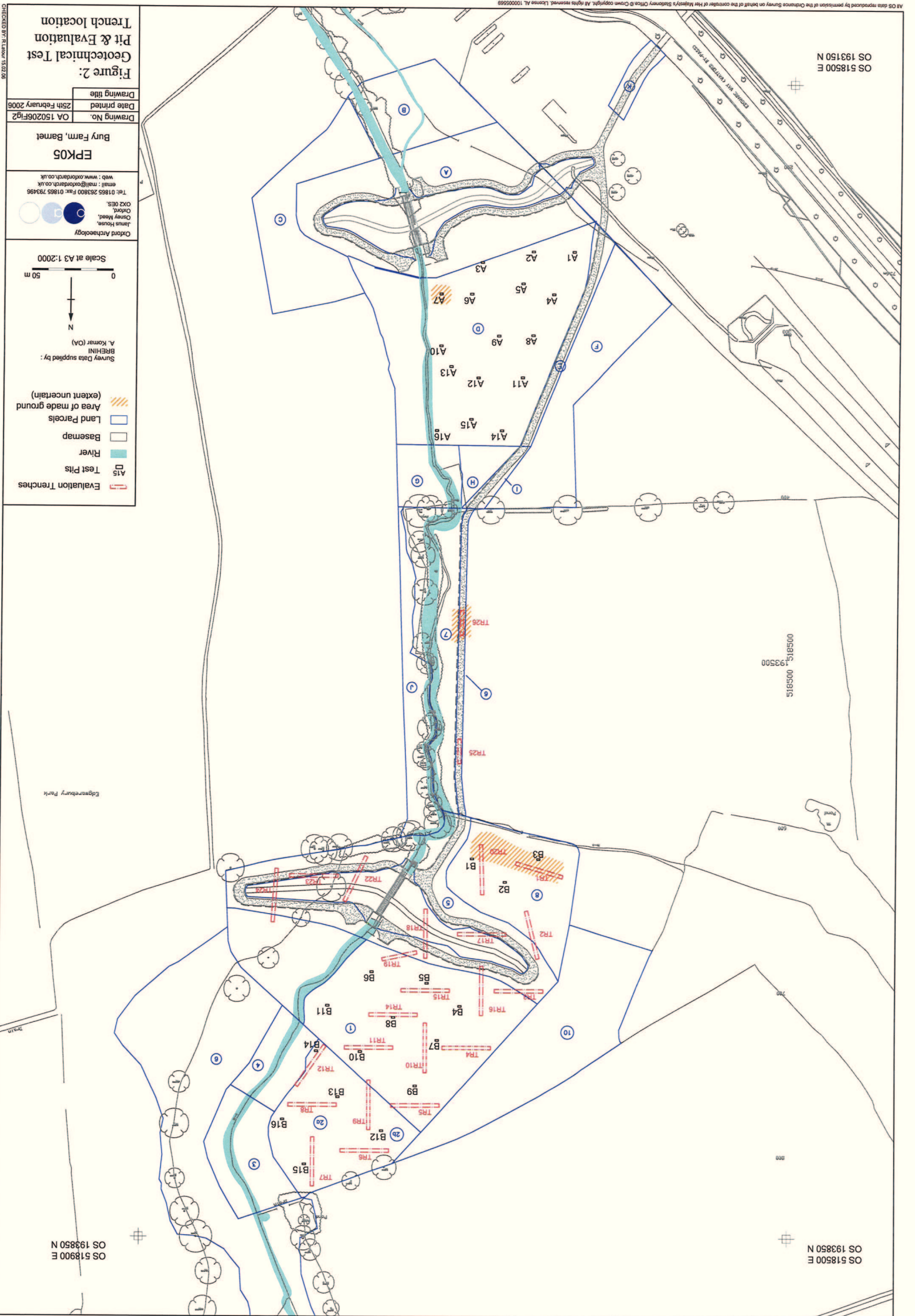
Figure 1: Site location

OS 518500 E
OS 193150 N

005815
005815
193500

OS 518500 E
OS 193850 N

OS 518900 E
OS 193850 N



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EPK05
 Bury Farm, Barnet

Drawing No. OA 150206Fig2
 Date printed 25th February 2006
 Drawing title

Figure 2:
 Geotechnical Test
 Pit & Evaluation
 Trench location

Scale at A3 1:2000
 0 50 m
 N
 Survey Data supplied by:
 BRE/INI
 A. Komar (CA)

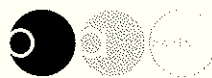
Legend:
 Evaluation Trenches
 Test Pits
 River
 Basemap
 Land Parcels
 Area of made ground
 (extent uncertain)



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