

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at

# **10 - 20 DOCK STREET**

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For Purple Property Holdings Ltd

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Janine Young MA

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at

# 10 - 20 DOCK STREET

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Client: Purple Property Holdings Ltd

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Local Authority: Tower Hamlets

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NGR: 534250,180750

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Author(s): J Young

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## L~P:ARCHAEOLOGY

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# Abstract

*Planning permission for the redevelopment of the site 10-20 Dock Street, London, E1 8JP has been granted pursuant to an archaeological condition.*

*An Archaeological Deskbased Assessment (DBA) of the site has shown that the site area is located in an area of archaeological potential, lying within an Archaeological Priority Zone as designated by Tower Hamlets UDP. The site lies within an area of known Roman activity and also contains potential for archaeological remains from the Medieval and Post Medieval periods.*

*The planning condition states that the developer must implement a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). This specification is for an initial archaeological evaluation to further clarify the archaeological potential on the site in order to enable the creation of a WSI for the full archaeological programme.*

*The evaluation is to consist of 5 (1.5m x 1.5m) hand excavated test pits placed across the site. This document sets out the methodology for the excavation of these pits.*

# 1. Introduction and Scope of Study

- 1.1. This specification for archaeological evaluation has been prepared by Janine Young on behalf of Purple Property Holdings Ltd.
- 1.2. This specification concerns land located at 10 – 20 Dock Street. The site is bound to the east by Dock Street and adjacent properties to the north, south and west (Figure 1). The site is centred at 534250,180750 and covers an area of 1180m<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.3. This specification is the first stage response to an archaeological condition which was attached to the planning consent for the redevelopment of the site. This condition was attached by the local planning authority on the basis of advice from the archaeological advisor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- 1.4. A Desk Based Assessment of the site has highlighted the potential for archaeological remains being present on site, it is now proposed to carry out an archaeological evaluation in order to clarify the level of survival of archaeological remains on the site. The results of this evaluation will then be used to inform the formulation of the Written Scheme of Investigation which will set out the programme of works necessary for the discharge of the planning condition.
- 1.5. The evaluation will consist of 5 test pits arranged specifically in order to target various areas of the site, including the area which has been previously built on and the area around which was previously used for car parking (Figure 2).
- 1.6. Fieldwork will be carried out by Michael Bamforth of L – P : Archaeology, with additional field staff as necessary.

## 2. Site Background

### 2.1.GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1. Digitised maps from the British Geological Survey show the site to be situated on an underlying drift deposit of coarse sand and gravel, overlying the London clay. The data from the BGS is not intended to be used at low scale and on site observations will be needed to clarify the exact nature of the geology on site.
- 2.1.2. This type of geology is typical for this area as observed during various archaeological investigations in the vicinity.

### 2.2.TOPOGRAPHY AND SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.2.1. The site is situated at 10 -20 Dock Street, London. It is bound to the east by Dock Street itself and to the west by existing buildings. The site is bisected by Flank Street, resulting in a subdivision of the site into two.
- 2.2.2. The site lies at approximately 10m AOD, with the land falling gently south towards the Thames.
- 2.2.3. Almost the entire site is currently occupied by buildings, the southern part of the site is occupied by a nineteenth century warehouse building, a site visit confirmed that between 50% and 75% of the building footprint is basemented.
- 2.2.4. Several buildings are still extant on the site; number 10-12 Dock Street located in the north west corner of the study site, is a Victorian building containing a shop and has a basement. The remainder of the site is occupied by warehouse buildings which wrap around 10-12 Dock street. These buildings are probably of 20<sup>th</sup> century date and do not contain basements. In addition, there is a small car park (2 cars) just north of Flank Street.
- 2.2.5. The site has been subject to much redevelopment during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, possibly with basement digging activity. As a result the site is potentially very disturbed and a priority of the evaluation is to determine the extent of archaeology which survives both within and without the areas of known basements.

## 2.3.ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.3.1. An archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) has been produced by L - P : Archaeology for the site area, this should be referred to directly for more detailed information on the archaeological and historical background of the site (Eve 2004).
- 2.3.2. The DBA concluded that the site lies in an area of known archaeological importance, designated as an archaeological priority zone by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in their UDP. Evidence from fieldwork carried out in close proximity indicates that the area surrounding the site was an area of Roman activity with an extra mural Roman cemetery in close proximity, the limits of the cemetery have not been definitely defined and it remains possible although unlikely that burial remains may be present on site.
- 2.3.3. Saxon and Medieval remains in the vicinity are slight, as the site is thought likely to have been used for agricultural purposes land for a large part of its history. The potential for archaeology of this period is therefore lower.
- 2.3.4. The site was developed relatively early in the Post Medieval period, being located close to the walled city of London. In this area, the first urban expansion took place. The site is known to have been developed since the 17<sup>th</sup> century although earlier occupation is possible. Should they survive on the study site, these remains of early post medieval development are of archaeological interest. The archaeological remains from this period on the study site are likely to take the form of small-scale industrial or residential occupation.
- 2.3.5. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the study site have recorded deep archaeological stratigraphy from the Post Medieval period, which has been observed to be up to 3m thick in places although 2m seems to be more like the average depth of deposit. In some cases, this large build-up of material appears to be the result of deliberate rubbish deposition, sometimes within large gravel extraction pits.



### 3. Objectives of Archaeological Evaluation

3.1. Given the archaeological potential discussed above, it is proposed to hand excavate five test pits in order to assess the survival of archaeological deposits in both the basemented and unbasemented areas.

3.2. All of the testpits will measure 1.5m x 1.5m. FIGURE 2.

3.2.1. Testpit One will be placed in the area of the existing car park, it will assess the survival of archaeological remains in the street-front area in a place with no known basement. Partly it aims to discover whether the street front was basemented during the 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.

3.2.2. Testpit Two will be placed within the basement of the Victorian building at 10 – 12 Dock Street. This aims to discover whether archaeological deposits survive beneath the basemented areas of the site. If this was the case, then it would also give an indication of the relative depth of deposits.

3.2.3. Testpit Three will be placed at the rear of 10-12 Dock Street in an area which is currently occupied by a light warehouse which does not currently have a basement. This testpit is located to find out whether this area had been previously basemented and if not, what the nature and depth of any surviving archaeological remains are.

3.2.4. Testpit Four is placed in an area which is currently occupied by a single storey structure at the rear of 20 Dock Street which has no basement. This pit is placed to assess survival in an un-basemented area of the site.

3.2.5. Testpit Five is placed in the basement of 20 Dock Street. This part of 20 Dock Street is occupied by a substantial late Victorian building and this pit aims to assess whether any archaeology survives within the basements.

#### 3.3. GENERAL AIMS OF THE EVALUATION

3.3.1. To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.

3.3.2. To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will comment on the quality and significance of the remains.

- 3.3.3. To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- 3.3.4. To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.3.5. To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy and WSI to be devised.

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1. The entire site will be visually inspected before the commencement of any trenching.
- 4.2. Five testpits 1.5m x 1.5m will be hand excavated to a depth of 1.2m, the testpit locations are shown in Figure 2. These locations are subject to slight change dependent on conditions on site.
- 4.3. The test pit locations will be accurately surveyed prior to excavation and related to the National Grid.
- 4.4. The modern slab and made-up surface can be broken out using a mechanical breaker under archaeological supervision. An archaeological watching brief will cover all breaking and mechanical removal of modern material. One archaeologist must be present for every machine being used. The removal of modern material will be to the level identified by the archaeologist.
- 4.5. The excavation will consist of hand excavation to preserve the all features and deposits by record. Hand excavation by context is required where walls, floors or other features are encountered. For example these may include:
  - ◆ Ditch or linear feature
  - ◆ Clusters of cuts and re-cut features
  - ◆ Post holes
  - ◆ Any structural evidence
  - ◆ Areas of organic potential
- 4.6. All features will be hand excavated to meet the aims of the evaluation:
  - ◆ Pits and postholes will normally be sampled by half-sectioning.
  - ◆ Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate.
  - ◆ Excavated material will be examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
  - ◆ Any wooden structures encountered will be excavated in whole or sampled as

appropriate.

- 4.7. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits will be by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section.
- 4.8. Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered that are worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will cease. A site meeting will be held between the client, L – P : Archaeology and the Essex Archaeological Development Control Officer to assess the significance of the deposits and to decide on a strategy for sampling them to provide sufficient data for a useful assessment or subsequent mitigation strategy.
- 4.9. All finds, artefacts, industrial remains and faunal remains will be collected.
- 4.10. All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.
- 4.11. Any human remains will also be left in situ, covered and protected. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations. Such removal will be in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds Amendment Act 1981 and in accordance with Excavation and post Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains (IFA technical paper 13).

## 5. Access and Safety

- 5.1. Reasonable access to the site will be arranged for representatives of the Local Planning Authority and the English Heritage Advisor to Tower Hamlets who may wish to make site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigations are progressing satisfactorily.
- 5.2. The Local Planning Authority and English Heritage Advisor to Tower Hamlets should be given at least three working days notice of the commencement date.
- 5.3. Before any site work commences, a full Risk Assessment Document will be produced setting out the site specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum any risks to health and safety. In addition to this risk assessment, the following considerations will also be made.
- 5.4. All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 5.5. No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. Where the installation of temporary support work and other attendance are required, these will be provided as required.
- 5.6. Where possible all excavation of features will be completed daily and no significant features or artefacts will be left visible overnight.
- 5.7. The likely presence of groundwater within the trenches will be taken into account.
- 5.8. All archaeological sections will be backfilled upon completion for safety reasons unless the applicant or developer has given written instructions to the contrary. English Heritage will be notified prior to works and their agreement will be obtained.
- 5.9. Excavation will be in accordance with the relevant Health and Safety Guidelines.

## 6. Recording

- 6.1. A site code will be allocated and used to label (using appropriate materials not adhesive labels) all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.
- 6.2. The recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (edited by Chris Spence, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 1994).
- 6.3. Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the course of the excavation. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide.
- 6.4. The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with current requirements of the Museum of London. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets, sample registers, finds recording sheets, access catalogues, and photo record cards will also be used. This requirement for archival compatibility extends to the use of a computerised database.
- 6.5. A site location plan will be prepared (OS 1:1250) showing investigation area and development site in relation to surrounding locality and street pattern.
- 6.6. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the investigation area, OS grid. The locations of the OS bench marks used and site TBM will also be indicated.
- 6.7. Burials will be drawn at 1:10. Other detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20.
- 6.8. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 6.9. Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an

appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.

- 6.10. Upon completion of each significant feature at least one sample section will be drawn, (including a profile of the top of natural deposits extrapolated from cut features etc. if it has not been fully excavated). The stratigraphy will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 6.11. An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains in both plan and section. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological works.
- 6.12. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.
- 6.13. A Harris Matrix stratification diagram will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavations.

## 7. Finds and Samples

- 7.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the nominated representative of the local authority.
- 7.2. Unstratified material recovered from the spoil is to be recovered and included with the finds assemblage.
- 7.3. Material dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century shall be retained and included with the finds assemblage.
- 7.4. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in the Museum of London
- 7.5. Marking of finds will follow the requirements of the recipient museum. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags marked with the same details.
- 7.6. Documentary material including the paper archive, photographic negatives and prints will be stored in boxes to the same standard as above.
- 7.7. Photographic negatives will be stored in archival quality polypropylene sleeves with strip divisions, three ring holes, centres 107mm apart and dimensions no greater than, 255mm (from the punched side to the opposite edge) by 300mm. The sleeve should have a white writing strip.
- 7.8. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds'. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 1998. Any necessary, conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators.
- 7.9. All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. They will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation "Conservation Guideline No. 2" and English Heritage guidelines. Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1991)" will also be followed and the current IFA guidelines.



7.10. Minimum levels of data acquisition will be defined according to the “information recovery levels” summarised by Carver (1987). The default data acquisition will be defined according to the “information recovery levels” summarised by Carver (1987). The default data acquisition level for all pre-modern assemblages is level D. Close attention will be given to sampling for date, structure and environment.

7.11. Should significant deposits be encountered during the course of the excavation, the advice of the regional science advisor will be sought. If it is considered appropriate these will be sampled by a specialist in accordance with the English Heritage Environmental Guidelines (2002). These deposits will be subject to the following treatment:

- ◆ Organic samples will be subject to appropriate specialist analysis. There may be a requirement to submit timbers to dendrochronological analysis and to process some samples to provide C14 dating.
- ◆ For carbonised remains, bulk samples a minimum of 10 litres (but up to 30 litres for early prehistoric features) will be collected.
- ◆ Bulk samples of 10 - 30 litres will be taken from waterlogged deposits for analysis of macroscopic plant remains.
- ◆ Columns for pollen analysis will be taken where appropriate.
- ◆ Mollusc samples will be gathered as required.
- ◆ Other bulk samples for small animal bones and other small artefacts maybe taken from appropriate deposits depending on the aims of the project.
- ◆ Environmental samples will be assessed for potential through summary analysis by an environmental specialist.
- ◆ Residues and any retained samples will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.

## 8. Report

8.1.A formal report on the results of the archaeological works will be prepared and will include:-

- ◆ The aims and methods adopted in the course of the excavation.
- ◆ The nature, extent, date, condition and significance of the archaeological finds with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if appropriate.
- ◆ Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.
- ◆ The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits across the site, as affected by its present state and recent past (eg. extent of known basements, quarrying).
- ◆ The likely effect of development (nature and extent of proposed groundworks).
- ◆ Summary of archaeological impact.
- ◆ Recommendations for further action, identifying any areas suitable for either preservation in situ or further archaeological works.

8.2.Copies of the excavation report will be sent to the client and to English Heritage for submission to the Local Planning Authority.

## 9. Archive and Published Reports

- 9.1. The site code will be used to mark all plans, drawings, context and recording sheets, photographs and other site material during excavation.
- 9.2. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will properly be curated by the Museum of London and be available for public consumption. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (1992), and the SMA’s draft “Selection, Retention and Disposal of Archaeological Collections” (1992) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 9.3. An accession number for the archive will be allocated by the relevant museum prior to the commencement of the fieldwork
- 9.4. The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Archaeological Projects” 5.4. It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 9.5. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (1990) will be followed. Arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the appropriate Museum.
- 9.6. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the appropriate museum within 6 months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority or English Heritage). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.
- 9.7. The project will be registered and regularly updated as part of the OASIS project.

# FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location



 Site Area

0 10m



CLIENT // Purple Property Holdings Ltd

PROJECT // 10-20 Dock Street

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

DOC REF: LP0309L-SAW-v1.1 L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Testpit Locations



- Site Area
- Basement
- Testpit Locations
- Car Park

0 10m



CLIENT // Purple Property Holdings Ltd

PROJECT // 10-20 Dock Street

DESCRIPTION // Proposed Testpit Locations

DOC REF: LP0309L-SAW-v1.1 L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

# SOURCES CONSULTED

## APPENDIX I

# BIBLIOGRAPHIC

EVE 2004 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of land at 10-20 Dock St, London. L – P : Archaeology*  
Unpublished Archive Report.