

41 MALTBY STREET
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Site code: MTT 04

National Grid Reference: TQ 3369 7959

On behalf of

ROSEBERRY HOMES LTD

September 2004

National Grid Reference: TQ 3369 7959

Site Code: MTT 04

On behalf of: Gary Bullard

Prepared by: Fitz

Watching Brief by: Fitz

Illustrations by: Jon Moller

Timing: Watching Brief
9th-10th September 2004

CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY	1
2	INTRODUCTION	1
	2.1 Site Location	
	2.2 Planning Background	
	2.3 Archaeological Background	2
3	AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	6
4	METHODOLOGY	7
5	RESULTS	8
	5.1 Rear basement room	8
	5.2 Front basement room	9
	5.3 The void	9
6	FINDS	10
7	CONCLUSIONS	10
8	RECOMMENDATIONS	11
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY	11

FIGURES

- Fig.1 Site location
- Fig.2 Detailed site location
- Fig.3 Lower ground floor plan showing watching brief area

APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Context Register
- Appendix B – Oasis form

1 SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 9th and 10th September 2004 by AOC Archaeology Group at 41 Maltby Street in the London Borough of Southwark. This involved the monitoring and recording of six of nine proposed boreholes. Whilst the relatively small bore diameters offered only a limited window for interpretation it did reveal a large alluvial sequence into which possibly there were two cut feature fills, one post medieval and one undated.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site Location (Fig 1 & 2)

The site of 41 Maltby Street is in the London Borough of Southwark and is centred on NGR TQ 3369 7959. Triangular in shape Maltby Street forms the west boundary with Millstream Road to the South and the railway viaduct and Jubilee underground line on the north and eastern side.

The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone as designated by the London Borough of Southwark, but contains no listed buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

2.2 Planning Background

The proposed scheme involves the construction of a mixed use development containing both office space and residential areas. It is proposed that the new building will comprise a six floor residential building with a basement across the majority of the site to accommodate parking, the depth of the basement is to be approximately 1.5m below ground level in half of the site and on the other half it is to be 2.5m below ground level.

2.3 Archaeological Background

The Southwark area is rich in archaeology and the site's potential is discussed in a desk-based assessment report produced by AOC Archaeology in September 2003

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Aims of the Investigation

- The aim of the investigation was to get an idea of depths of made ground and any potential archaeology across site working in tandem with the soils contamination engineer. The Museum of London issued a unique site code (MTT04) as an identifier for the paper and any artefact records.

3.2 Methodology

Due to various constraints six of a proposed nine boreholes were recorded. (see figure 2 for locations) Percussion boring with 1 metre sections of 125 mm diameter, ending at 5 or 6 metres depth below surface, of strata encased in plastic tubing which could be cut open allowed for quite a detailed examination.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Archaeology Present

As opposed to usual AOC results format the deposits will be described from the top 0 point to 5-6 metres depth below surface (d.b.s.) The current yard surface is not totally even but where nearby survey OD heights are given they will be referenced here.

Context description		thickness	interpretation
Borehole 1 (3.03mOD)			
1001	concrete	0.17m	current yard surface
1002	dark brown-grey sandy gravel clay silt	0.41m	ground make up
1003	gravely yellow brown clay silt mix with brick/coal fragments	0.32m	ground make up
1004	mid grey brown clay silt with moderate brick/mortar inclusion	0.56m	ground make up
1005	firm dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal, pot , CBM and tobacco pipe inclusion	0.24m	feature fill ?
1006	mid grey silty clay with small charcoal flecks, wood/root flotsam and minute chalk/lime fragments	0.27m	disturbed alluvium ?
1007	compact blue-grey silty clay with various densities of charcoal and wood	0.90m	alluvial clay
1008	rich brown peat	0.64m	peat horizon
1009	peat like but with more clay and charcoal fragments.	0.19m	alluvial
1010	mid blue grey clay	0.40m	alluvial
1011	fine sandy blue grey clay	0.40m	alluvial
1012	soft, greenish green silty fine gravel sands with moderate small and medium rounded/sub-round and sub-angular gravel stone	0.50m +	alluvial
Borehole 2			
2001	concrete	0.20m	current yard surface
2002	white , loose poor concrete/mortar	0.18m	bedding
2003	red brick and soil band sequence with 3 levels of brick, the top one having a thin slate on top.	0.62m	uncertain-demolition clear out?
2004	brick rubble and soil matrix	0.70m	make up or infill
2005	friable brown grey clay silt with moderate animal bone and one undated pot sherd	0.10m	feature fill ?
2006	mid brownish grey fine sand silt clay with charcoal flecks.	0.08m	worked alluvial ?
2007	rich brown peat	0.37m	peat horizon
2008	peat like, but with greyer clay mix	0.45m	alluvial, not fully formed peat
2009	dark slate grey with browner lenses silt clay	0.20m	alluvial
2010	sticky dark slate grey silt clay with organic flotsam	0.76m	alluvial
2011	mid blue grey clay with fine sand	0.59m	alluvial
2012	similar to above, more waterlogged,		

	fine sand and organics noticeable	0.32m	alluvial
2013	greenish grey soft clayey silt sand	0.15m	
2014	lens sequence of firmer grey clays and softer sandier grey brown gravels	0.27m+	alluvial

Borehole 4 (2.92mOD)

4001	compacted gravel	0.25m	hardstand for slight ramped gate entrance.
4002	mixed, colourful ! sequence of brick rubble and soils	0.75m	demolition infilling

At the 1 metre level (d.b.s) , under the rubble the bore hits a solid obstruction and further drilling is abandoned

Borehole 7 (3.08mOD)

7001	concrete	0.24m	current yard surface
7002	very hard whitish limestone	132mm	?machine base /foundation
7003	loose gravely sandy silt, brick fragment	0.15m	bedding
7004	dark brown grey mixed lenses with brick, mortar and tobacco pipe stem inclusions	1.35m	ground make up or infill
7005	greyish silt clay mix	50mm	lens
7006	blackish mixed clay silt with brick/tile fragments and clinker/coke residue	0.30m	industrial-clear out dump ?
7007	red brick	0.13m	unsure if rubble or floor
7008	dark grey mix similar to 7006	80mm	lens
7009	grey fine sand clays	0.93m	alluvial
7010	grey brown peaty clay	120mm	interface
7011	rich brown peat	0.12m+	peat

limit of boring at 4metres d.b.s.

Borehole 8 (3.02mOD)

8001	concrete	155mm	current surface
8002	hard, oolitic limestone	270mm	foundation?/ machine base?

Drilling abandoned at this point. There is still something firm but when tapped gives a hollow sound beneath.

Borehole 9 (2.91mOD)

9001	concrete	0.23m	current surface
9002	mixed dark grey brown clayey silts with moderate brick/mortar frags and occasional slate and white glazed post medieval pot	1.35m	ground make up
9003	dark grey silty clay. Charcoal flecks at top and tiny mollusc lenses	1.10m	alluvial
9004	dark brown organic flotsam rich peat	0.95m	peat
9005	firm slate grey clay	0.32m	alluvial
9006	mid grey sticky slight sandy clay	0.80m	alluvial
9007	very sandy grey clay, some pale leached patches.	0.58m	alluvial
9008	softer grey clayey silt sands	0.22m	alluvial
9009	dark yellow brown sands (with a slight green hue) with small round and sub- rounded gravels	0.40m+	alluvial

4.2 Finds

The artefacts discussed as inclusion in the context descriptions were not retained, the “post medieval” finds falling within a broad range of mid eighteenth to twentieth century. The one exception being 2005, tentatively interpreted as a feature fill, which was bagged and sieved in the office. From this came seven small fragments of animal bone and one very small piece of plain pinkish orange coloured pot, possibly Roman.

5 CONCLUSIONS

Whilst the boreholes offer only a limited window into the ground, and so limiting a correct interpretation of contexts, they have helped in understanding the varied depths of various events. A lot of the post medieval ground make up is possibly post 1945 ground clearance and infilling. Some foundations of previous structures may survive - are all the brick levels in 2003 rubble or are any *in situ* remnants? (the brick 7007 also).

Is the solid resistance encountered in borehole 4 a foundation of a former street front structure?

Is the limestone under the concrete in boreholes 7 and 8 foundation or load bearing platforms, or abandoned blocks from the old stone yard?

Apart from context 2005 which hinted at being a possible feature fill, no firm evidence of pre-18th century activity was seen, even in residual finds form. This, though, is not to say that the archaeological potential is low. Indeed the potential for this area of London should be fairly good, and one thing to note is that where sandy gravels were encountered they did not seem to be particularly fresh in colour.

6 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author wishes to thank Mike Reeve of SLR, Colin and Nick of Tor Drilling, and the friendly staff of Lassco who allowed the use of their facilities.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology Group (2002)

A cultural heritage desk-based assessment for the site 41 Maltby Street

SLR CONSULTING (2004)

Phase1 contamination assessment of 41 Maltby Street, London SE1



Figure 1: Site Location

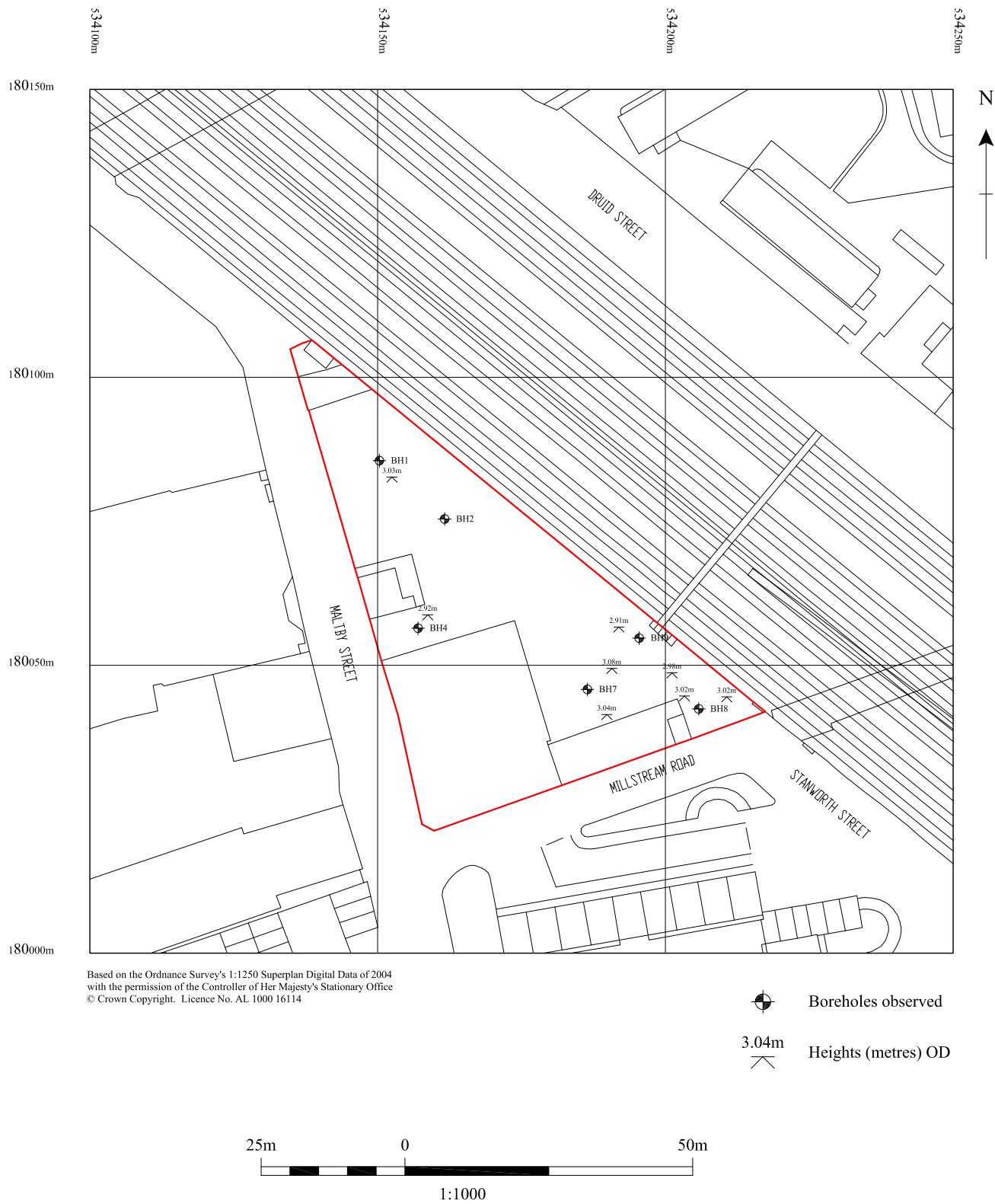


Figure 2: Site Boundary and Borehole Locations