

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (GEG 04)

<i>Client</i>	Landmark Development Projects Ltd
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	TQ 53374 18202
<i>Project Manager</i>	Mark Roberts
<i>Text</i>	Candy Hatherley
<i>Illustrations</i>	Mike Kimber
<i>Pottery and clay pipe</i>	Lynn Blackmore
<i>Fieldwork</i>	Candy Hatherley Kelly Clapperton
<i>Schedule</i>	
Fieldwork	December 2004
Report	December 2004

Summary

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Landmark Fenit Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Former Truman's Brewery, Grey Eagle Street, London (NGR: 53374 18202) in advance of a proposed housing development.

The evaluation comprised 6 m of linear trial trenching within the yard area of the former brewery. Two walls of a 19th century building were encountered directly beneath the concrete and hardcore. These truncated a 'garden soil' deposit containing domestic and industrial waste including pottery dating from the 17th century. Beneath this was a mixed layer of 17th century 'garden soil' and redeposited brick earth overlying brick earth natural.

1. INTRODUCTION

Landmark Fenit Ltd commissioned Headland Archaeology Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Former Truman's Brewery, Grey Eagle Street, London, in advance of a proposed residential development. A Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigations was submitted prior to the works commencing and the work was carried out following consultation with Rob Whytehead of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) and in accordance with English Heritage Guidance Papers for work in London.

The site lies at the junction of Calvin and Grey Eagle Streets in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. It is bounded by Calvin Street to the north, Grey Eagle Street to the east and standing buildings on the two sides. The site is currently occupied by a standing derelict building and an associated yard area covered by concrete. The evaluation was undertaken within the yard area of the brewery.

2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area lay well outside of the Roman, Saxon and medieval city of London. Agas's map of London (1560-70) shows the site lying in an area of undeveloped land outside of the medieval town.

The site was developed from the second half of the 17th century by houses along both frontages with gardens to the rear (Ogilby & Morgan 1681). The quality of these early buildings was not likely to be high, as many were subsequently rebuilt, and surviving buildings in the area date to the 18th century (Shepard 1957).

The first edition Ordnance Survey plan of the site (1857) shows that the back gardens of the terraced houses along Grey Eagle Street and Great Pearl Street had been developed including the proposed development area, now occupied by a 'Store' accessed from Grey Eagle Street. Although the site was not bombed during the Second World War it is shown as a 'Ruin' in 1948 (Ordnance Survey) and had been partially cleared by 1962 (Ordnance Survey 1963). By 1989 (Ordnance Survey) the site had been cleared and redeveloped with the construction of the current standing building in 1970. The building was used as a cold store.

A number of early and later medieval finds have been recovered within the vicinity of the proposed development site including two early medieval coloured glass beads from Brick Lane in 1906. Monitoring of a test pit within Truman's Brewery in 1992 recorded the presence of a preserved soil some 2.3 m below ground level, which was presumed to be medieval, and a cut feature (possibly a pit) beneath it. This was speculatively dated to the Saxon or early medieval period.

3. METHOD

A single 6 m long trench was excavated within the yard area using a JCB 3CX equipped with a 1.60 m wide toothless bucket and concrete breaker, under direct archaeological supervision. The trench was excavated in spits down to the first archaeological horizon. Further

excavation, to a depth of 2.50 m, was carried out to expose and record the brick earth natural.

Headland Archaeology Ltd uses the Museum of London Recording Manual. The surfaces of all trenches were hand cleaned, recorded on plan and photographed using black and white print and colour transparencies. An overall site plan was compiled and tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 map of the area. Individual features were planned at 1:20; sections/elevations were drawn at 1:10 and related to the Ordnance Datum. Archaeological deposits were sampled in accordance with Headland Archaeology Ltd standard environmental sampling practice. A minimum 10-litre bulk samples of all archaeological deposits taken for wet sieving and flotation.

4. RESULTS (Figure 1)

One trench excavated within the proposed development area (Figure 1). A full description of all contexts is given in Appendix 1 and an assessment of environmental samples in Appendix 5.

Trench 1 (Figure 2 and 3)

Trench 1 was located at the centre of the yard area. From the south-west a 6 m length of trench was excavated to a depth of 1.30 m. Deposits encountered within the trench were recording and sampled before the trench was excavated to a final depth of 2.50 m (10.45 m O.D), exposing 0.70 m of brick earth natural.

Orientation	NE-SW
Length	6.00 m
Width	1.60 m
Depth (Average)	2.50 m
Matrix	<pre> (001) Concrete (002) Hardcore ┌───┴───┐ (003) (005) 19th century brick foundations (004) Garden soil (006) Interface of garden soil and brick earth Brick earth natural </pre>

Two walls of a 19th century building (003 and 005) were encountered beneath the hardcore (002). Only the base of the foundations survived which appeared to be contemporary with the Victorian buildings on the north side of Calvin Street due to the similarity of their bricks and mortar. These foundations truncated a 'garden soil' deposit (004) containing low levels of domestic and industrial waste including oyster shell, animal bone, charcoal and pottery. Twenty sherds of mid to late 17th century wares were recovered and a possibly later 17th-century clay pipe bowl.

Underlying (004) was a garden soil (006) mixed with redeposited brick earth natural. This again contained low levels of domestic waste similar to those identified within (004). Eight sherds of mid 17th century pottery were recovered. Below (006) was a natural deposit of brick earth.

5. *DISCUSSION*

The archaeological evaluation at the Former Truman's Brewery has revealed that a series of garden soils survive beneath the foundations of a 19th century structure. These soils appear to be very mixed, containing low levels of domestic and industrial waste including animal bone, marine shells, charcoal and slag. This material most likely arrived on site through the deposition of midden materials and manuring onto cultivation areas.

The pottery recovered within the garden soils was early post-medieval. The number and size of sherds, which are both very small, may indicate that the site was not within an area of domestic activity. The date of the small assemblage reflects the extension of development into the area.

Untruncated natural brick earth was encountered at 2.50 m below the concrete surface of the former brewery's yard. If this is the case across the site, there is the potential for archaeological features to survive at this depth as the site has not been quarried for brickearth.

6. *ARCHIVE*

The site archive will be deposited at the Museum of London.

7. *REFERENCES*

Bibliography

Museum of London 2002 *A Research Framework for London Archaeology 2002*.
Sheppard F.H.W. (ed) 1957 Survey of London XXVII Spitalfields & Mile End New Town – The Parishes of Christ Church & All Saints.

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1875 (Surveyed 1873) London (Co. Middlesex) Sheet VII.57, 1:1056
Ordnance Survey 1896 London Sheet VII.57, 1:1056
Ordnance Survey 1914 London Sheet VII.57, 1:1056
Ordnance Survey 1948 Plan 51/3382 SE, 1:1250
Ordnance Survey 1963 (Revised 1962) Plan TQ/3382 SE, 1:1250
Ordnance Survey 1989 Plan TQ 3382 SE, 1:1250
Ordnance Survey 1993 Sheet Ref. TQ 3382 SE, 1:1250

Appendix 1: Context Register

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Above</i>	<i>Dimensions (m)</i>
001	Concrete	002	Depth: 0.30 m
002	Type 1 hardcore	003/005	Depth: 0.28 m
003	19 th century brick foundations. Eight courses of bricks bonded with light grey shelly mortar. Wall running NE-SW across trench.	004	Depth: 0.74 m Width: 0.98 m
004	Dark grey silty clay with brick, charcoal, oyster shell, bone and pottery. Garden soil.	006	Depth: 1.30 m
005	19 th century brick foundations. Four courses of bricks bonded with dark grey mortar. Wall running NE-SW across trench.	004	Depth: 0.40 m Width: 0.70 m
006	Mixed deposit of dark grey silty clay and light tan brick earth natural. Contains charcoal, oyster shell, bone and pottery. Interface of garden soil and brick earth.	Natural	Depth: 0.22 m

Appendix 2: Photographic register

Film type:	CS and BW.P	No: 1
Shot No.	Direction facing	Description
1	-	ID shot
2	SE	Section through trench
3	SE	Section through trench
4	NW	Section through trench
5	NW	Section through trench
6	E	General shots of trench
7	E	General shots of trench
8	N	Shot from outside into inside of site
9	SW	Shot of building from outside
10	NE	Shot of building from outside
11	S	Shot of outside from inside site
12	S	General shot of site from within boundary wall
13	W	General shot of boundary wall of site
14	SW	General shot of boundary wall of site
15	E	General shot boundary wall of site
16	S	Section through trench post-ex down to natural

Appendix 3: Sample Register

Sample No.	Context No.	Description
1	004	Dark grey silty clay with brick, coal, bone, pottery and oyster shell inclusions. Garden soil/ cultivation deposit.
2	006	Interface deposit between garden soil [004] and redeposited brick earth natural. With oyster shell, coal, pot and bone inclusions

Appendix 4: Drawing register

No.	Scale	Description
1	1:10	North west facing section Trench 1
2	1:10	South east facing section Trench 1.

Appendix 5: Assessment of samples

Rosalind Gillis

SAMPLE STRATEGY

Bulk soil samples (20 litres in size) were taken from two deposits consisting primarily of garden soils, for the recovery of small finds and palaeoenvironmental remains.

METHODOLOGY

Bulk soil samples were subjected to a system of flotation in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250 μ m sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (flot) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

The results are summarised in table 1 and 2.

Total number of samples	2
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RESULTS**Pottery and Clay pipe**

Several small sherds of pottery ranging from the Roman period to 18th century and fragments of clay pipe were recovered from both samples.

Glass

Small fragments of degraded window glass were recovered from both samples.

Brick and mortar

Small fragments of red brick were recovered from both contexts. A very small quantity of mortar was recovered from Context [004]

Industrial debris

Ferrous and non-ferrous slag was recovered from Contexts [004] and [006] respectively. High concentrations of coal and cinders were recovered from both deposits.

Metal objects

A copper pin and one iron nail were recovered from Contexts [004] and [006] respectively.

Bone

Large fragments of unburnt large mammal bone were recovered from both contexts. Small quantities of poorly preserved burnt bone were recovered from both contexts. Fish bone was recovered from both contexts, only the larger skeletal parts i.e. the vertebrae survived.

Marine shell

Fragments of oyster shell were recovered in small quantities from both contexts.

Carbonised plant remains

No carbonised cereals were recovered from the contexts. There was a low frequency of fat hen/orache (*Chenopodium/Atriplex sp.*) found within Context [004]

DISCUSSION

Two deposits of 'garden' soil were uncovered during the evaluation at Trumans Brewery, Contexts [004] and [006]. Low levels of domestic and industrial waste, including pottery, bone, marine shell and slag, were recovered. These could equally have been incorporated inadvertently during the occupation of the site and repeated building/digging of pits etc or through deliberate introduction of midden material onto cultivation areas.

A number of sherds of pottery were recovered from both contexts and date from the Roman period to the 19th century with the majority being post-medieval in date. The inclusions of pottery from earlier periods such as the sherd of Roman pottery indicate the reworking of earlier material into the 'garden' soils.

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Context Description</i>	<i>Pottery</i>	<i>Glass</i>	<i>Metal object</i>	<i>Brick/ mortar</i>	<i>Slag</i>	<i>Clay pipe</i>	<i>Mammal bone</i>	<i>Burnt bone</i>	<i>Fish bone</i>	<i>Marine shell</i>	<i>Charcoal</i>	<i>Coal</i>	<i>Cinders</i>
1	4	Dark grey silty clay, garden soil/ cultivation deposit	+++	++	+	+++	+	+	+++	++	+	+	+	+	+++
2	6	Interface deposit between garden soil [004] and redeposited brick earth natural	++	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+	+	+		+	++

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

Table 1. Composition of retents

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Context description</i>	<i>Mammal bone</i>	<i>Burnt fish bone</i>	<i>Terr. shell</i>	<i>Weed seeds</i>	<i>Charcoal</i>	<i>Coal/cinders</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	4	Dark grey silty clay, garden soil/ cultivation deposit	+			+		++++	Chenopodium/Atriplex+
2	6	Interface deposit between garden soil [004] and redeposited brick earth natural	+	+	+		+	++++	

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

Table 2. Composition of flots

Iron Age

Unknown

- 6) **PERIOD SUMMARIES** Use headings for each period (ROMAN; MEDIEVAL; etc), and additional sheets if necessary.

Roman

One sherd of Late Roman pottery recovered from a 18th – 19th century 'garden soil'.

Post-Medieval

Two walls of a 19th century building truncated a 'garden soil' deposit containing domestic and industrial waste dating to the 18th – 19th century. Beneath this was a mixed layer of garden soil and redeposited brick earth also dating to the 18th – 19th century.

- 7) **NATURAL** (state if not observed; please DO NOT LEAVE BLANK)

Type: **Brick Earth**

Height above Ordnance Datum: Located on drawings 1 and 2, Ordnance Datum height of c. 10.45 m O.D.

8) **LOCATION OF ARCHIVES**

- a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

NOtes	PLans	PHotos 1 B & W film	NGatives 1 B & W film
SLides 1 Colour slide film	COrrrespondence	MScripts (unpub reports, etc.)	
BULK finds 4 bags of pottery	SMall finds		
OTher (please specify) 6 CONTEXT SHEETS; 2 SECTIONS; 1 SITE REGISTER			

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standars and has been deposited in the following location:

c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: YES/NO

Have you arranged for RCHME microfilming?: YES/NO

9) **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

SIGNED: C Hatherley

DATE: 16-12-04

NAME (Block capitals): C HATHERLEY

Please return the completed form to:

English Heritage, The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record,
Room 214, 23 Savile Row, London. W1X 1AB.
Tel 0207 973 3000



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Figure 1 - GEG04: Truman's Brewery, London - Site and Trench Location



Figure 2 - GEG04: Truman's Brewery, London - Trench 1 - NW facing section