

**THE MARSHALLING YARD, G-GATE
OLYMPIA, HAMMERSMITH ROAD, W14
8UX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
SUMMARY REPORT**

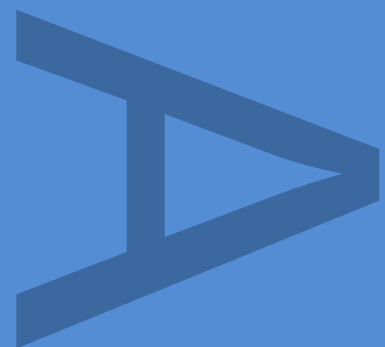
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BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:
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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY


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THE MARSHALLING YARD, G-GATE OLYMPIA,
HAMMERSMITH ROAD, W14 8UX

AN INTERIM SUMMARY REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Iain Bright		August 2012
Graphics Prepared by:			
Graphics Checked by:			
Project Manager Sign-off:	Chris Mayo		August 2012

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: 2008/00547/FUL

SITE CODE: GOI12

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COMMISSIONING CLIENT: Earls Court & Olympia Group Limited

PREPARED BY: IAIN BRIGHT (PIfA),
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

PROJECT MANAGER: CHRIS MAYO (MIfA)

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD
Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7733 7896
Email: cmayo@pre-construct.com
Website: www.pre-construct.com

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report summarises an archaeological evaluation which was undertaken at The Marshalling Yard, G-Gate Olympia, Hammersmith Road between the 23rd and 28th August 2012 by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA). Although the site is not located an archaeological priority area as defined in the Local Planning Authority (LPA), it lies within Conservation area 23, Olympia and Avonmore.
- 1.2 A pre-commencement condition (number 9) was included within the planning permission that stipulated a programme of archaeological work be undertaken (Mayo 2012). A desktop assessment was completed by PCA (Fairman 2007) which observed that there was low potential for archaeological features being observed, but highlighted nonetheless the close proximity of a Roman road.
- 1.3 Three evaluation trenches were excavated, all measuring 15m x 1.80m, down to a depth of 1.20m. A narrow machined sondage was excavated in each trench (two in Trench 2) in order to investigate the lower deposits and/or the extent of late post medieval or modern truncation.

2 TRENCH SUMMARIES

2.1 Trench 1 (Plates 1-3)

- 2.1.1 The earliest deposit observed comprised of a firm mid yellowish brown silty clay (or natural brickearth) [7]. It was observed at the base of the machined sondage (Plate 2) at the northern end of the trench at 3.68m OD.
- 2.1.2 Overlying this was another layer of brickearth [6] which was light orangey brown in colour and seemed to contain a higher content of clay. It was approximately 0.40m thick at 4.08m OD.
- 2.1.3 Sealing this was another 0.40m thick layer of light yellowish brown silty clay [5] at 4.48m OD which represented a further layer of brickearth and contained frequent rooting, manganese flecks and occasional fragments of burnt flint.
- 2.1.4 This was overlaid by a 0.25m thick mid to dark orangey brown silty clay layer [4], from which a single sherd of early-mid post medieval pottery was recovered.
- 2.1.5 Two walls were observed truncating these earlier layers, the northern most of which likely pertains to the early 20th century development that appears on OS Maps in 1921. The southern wall formed the northerly extent of a substantial basement within which lay demolition rubble (Plate 3). This building likely represents the remains of the public house which appeared on site from the mid 19th century.
- 2.1.6 Two subsequent layers of post-medieval/modern made ground were observed in the northern end of the trench (outside the basemented area). Layer [3] was a 0.30m thick friable, dark brownish grey sandy silty clay containing frequent brick and CBM fragments at 5.03m OD and was in turn overlain by a 0.50m thick layer of dark brownish grey sandy silt [2], at 5.53m OD with frequent fragments of brick, charcoal, coal and small sub rounded pebbles.



Plate 1; Trench 1, facing south.



Plate 2; Sondage within Trench 1, looking east



Plate 3; Northern basement wall of 19th century pub, looking east.

2.2 Trench 2 (Plates 4-6)

- 2.2.1 Natural brickearth [22] was observed in a machine excavated sondage at the southern end of Trench 2 (Plate 5) at 4.30m OD.
- 2.2.2 Overlying was a 0.55m thick layer of redeposited clayey brickearth [21] at 4.85m OD, which could possibly be the same as layer [6] encountered in Trench 1. A fragment of burnt flint, CBM and clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from this context.
- 2.2.3 Sealing this was a layer of reworked brickearth resembling context [5] in Trench 1. It was 0.40m thick and was observed at 5.25m OD.
- 2.2.4 Truncating this layer was the construction cut [16] for a late 18th – early 19th century wall foundation [1]. It extended for 1.40m in a NW-SE direction and beyond the LOE of the trench. Its primary fill [19] comprised of a dump of broken peg tile and mid yellowish brown sandy silt [19] and was recorded at 4.89m OD. The foundation itself [1] was constructed from unfrogged orange/red fabric brick bonded with a friable mid yellowish brown lime mortar in English style (Plate 6). It appeared to be one course thick and as such possibly represents a property boundary. Some evidence for later repointing was observed towards the base. It was observed, primarily in section, at 6.09m OD.
- 2.2.5 Observed in the western section, adjacent to the late 18th-19th century wall, was a more substantial wall foundation [15] comprised of frogged yellow stock brick bonded with cement mortar (can be seen in Plate 5). It measured 3.40m in length by 0.30m in width into the LOE. It is likely this represents the eastern edge of the 19th century bank shown on historic maps.

2.2.6 The northern end of the trench appeared to be severely truncated by what is potentially a large pit [10]. Observed only in section, and primarily within the second machine sondage, the origin of the cut could not be ascertained, however it appeared to truncate the lower layers of brickearth, the base recorded at 3.22m OD. It was filled by two deposits of mid/dark greyish brown and mid yellowish brown clayey silts, [8] and [11] respectively. The lower fill, [8], produced 19th century glass and pottery fragments. What is believed to be the upper fill was recorded at 4.48m OD and was overlain by three layers of late post-medieval/early modern made ground [12], [13] & [14], the latest of which was observed at 5.68m OD. The centre of the trench was truncated by modern services.



Plate 4; Trench 2 looking south.



Plate 5; Sondage in south of Trench 2



Plate 6; Late 18th – early 19th century wall as seen in west facing section.

2.3 Trench 3 (Plates 7-8)

2.3.1 As suggested from the historic OS maps contained in the desktop assessment, Trench 3 lay within the footprint of the 19th century pub and bank buildings and as such a high degree of truncation was encountered.

2.3.2 No natural brickearth was observed in the trench. Instead the basements of the aforementioned 19th century structures extended to 2.55m below current ground level, whereupon a slab of unknown thickness was encountered. The slab was recorded at a height of 3.60m OD, and was not broken out. A 0.50m thick wall [18] was observed running north-south towards the eastern end of the trench (Plate 8), which likely represents the internal dividing wall between the bank and the pub. It was constructed from frogged, yellow stock brick and bonded with cement mortar. The western side (within the pub cellar) was rendered with plaster. This was overlaid by a 2.35m layer of demolition rubble [17].



Plate 7; Trench 3 looking west.



Plate 8; Sondage at east end of Trench 3 revealing basement slab.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The results of the evaluation can be summarised as such: Trenches 1 and 3 demonstrated that the basements of buildings formerly fronting Hammersmith Road (namely the pub and the bank) had caused severe truncation beyond the level of natural ground. In addition it appeared that the northern two thirds of Trench 2 had been locally truncated by post-medieval and modern activity, beyond the level of the natural brickearth.
- 3.2 Trenches 1 and 2 revealed that a sequence of post-medieval deposits had survived previous truncation in localised areas, which appeared to comprise of layers of reworked brickearth overlying the natural.
- 3.3 The evaluation has revealed the presence of soil horizons which could have a potential for archaeological remains. The work has also shown that whilst there has been extensive truncation by late post-medieval and modern development, there could be localised areas of survival. However, the evaluation has not discovered any archaeological features earlier than the aforementioned periods.
- 3.4 The proposed development will entail the excavation of a basement at the southern end of the site, in the area which has been truncated by previous development. In the remainder of the site the proposed groundworks are expected to comprise localised piles, pile-caps, groundbeams and service trenches.
- 3.5 Based on the results of the evaluation PCA recommends that an archaeological watching brief during development groundworks would be an appropriate mitigation strategy for the development. If agreed by the Archaeology Advisor to the LPA, any such strategy must follow the preparation of a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the archaeological contractor and approved in advance by the LPA.

4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PCA

PCA SOUTHERN

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTHERN

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE
STAPLEFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WESTERN

6 KING ALFRED PLACE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 7DF
TEL: 07714 134099
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

