GEFFRYE MUSEUM, 136 KINGSLAND ROAD, E2 8EA

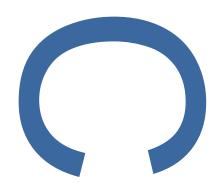
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING OF GEOTECHNICAL
TEST PITS

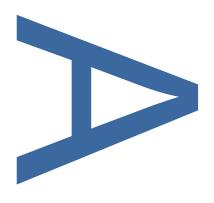
LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

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OCTOBER 2015





PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Geffrye Museum, 136 Kingsland Road, Borough of Hackney, E2 8EA: Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Pits

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Geffrye Museum, 136 Kingsland Road, Borough of Hackney, E2 8EA:

Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Pits

Central NGR: TQ 33483 83091

Local Planning Authority: Borough of Hackney

Commissioning Client: Mills Whipp Projects

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects to undertake archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits in and around the basement of the Geffrey Museum, 136 Kingsland Road, Borough of Hackney, E2 8EA. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 33483 83091 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is in Conservation Area as defined in the Borough of Hackney's Local Plan and the Geffrye Museum itself is a Grade I listed building.
- 1.3 Five geotechnical test pits were located across the current museum basement and one test pit was located outside to the north east of the building in the garden (Figure 2). It was anticipated that the test pits would provide information about the below ground potential for archaeology on the site and as such it was proposed to monitor them archaeologically during excavation. This will help inform the archaeological mitigation strategy required for further works on the site.
- 1.4 This report details the stratigraphic sequences encountered during the course of the works.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects to undertake archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits in and around the basement of the Geffrey Museum, 136 Kingsland Road, Borough of Hackney, E2 8EA. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 33483 83091 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The Geffrye Museum is bounded by Kingsland Road to the east, Pearson Street to the north, Geffrye Street to the east and Cremer Street to the west (Figure 1).
- 2.3 The Watching Brief involved monitoring 6 trial pits in total, 5 within the basement of the Geffrye Museum and one more pit outside the building (Figure 2) in order to ascertain the depth and nature of any building foundations and their supporting sub-strata.
- 2.4 The site is in Conservation Area as defined in the Borough of Hackney's Local Plan and the Geffrye Museum itself is a Grade I listed building.

3 TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 The drift geology of the area compromises sands and gravels, the Hackney Gravels. The subject site lies within the presumed upper reaches of the River Walbrook. The top of the natural brickearth, which caps the Hackneys Gravels, lies between 15.7m OD and 15.9m OD. The modern ground level lies about 17.50m OD. The general area of the Geffrye Museum slopes down from the north west to the south east.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (MILLS 2015)

- 4.1 Kingsland Conservation Area was designated in 1998, and centres on the Kingsland Road which follows the line of Ermine Street, a Roman road linking London with York. It includes important listed buildings such as St. Leonard's Church, the Geffrye Almshouses (now the Geffrye Museum), and St. Columba's Church.
- 4.2 Little prehistoric material has been reported from the vicinity of the subject site. Some Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Ages flints, largely residual, were found on Holywell Lane about 1 km to the South (But et al, 2011 16). It has been suggested (Black, 1976 8) that Old Street follows the line of Iron Age trackway but this has not been archaeologically confirmed.
- 4.3 The actual Ermine Street was the roman road which led from Londinium to Lindum (Lincoln) and Eboracum (York). The road left at what is now Bishopsgate and followed the line of modern Kingsland Road. The site probably lay within open land east of Ermine Street (Kignsland Road)
- 4.4 Saxon and Medieval settlements were in the vicinity of the subject place, such as Hoxton, Haggerston and Shoreditch. And was part of the estate held by Holywell Priory.
- 4.5 In 1712 Sir Robert Geffrye left monies in his will to buy land for the Ironmongers' Company Almshouses. In 1714-1715 the almshouses, 14 originally, were constructed.

5 THE SEQUENCE OF DEPOSITS

- 5.1 The work was carried out between 05/10/2015 and 07/10/2015 and the excavation of six pits measuring 1m² was monitored (Figure 2). The test pits were broken out by the contractor using a hand held breaker and then excavated using mattocks, shovels and trowels, all were monitored by an archaeologist on site. Ground level in the basement was located at approximately 16.80m OD.
- 5.2 TP1 was located to the south west of the basement and measured 1.00m north-south x 1.00m east-west (Plate 1). The following sequence was observed:
 - 0.15m thick concrete slab [30] overlying 0.07m of levelling layer of gravel and fragmented bricks [19].
 - Below this was 0.14m of loose, mid brown, sandy silty clay [20] (a second backfill of the brick foundation). After removing this context a surface measuring 0.05m thick was identified, comprised of CBM and lime mortar flecks and dust [21] this was interpreted as a construction layer.
 - Beneath this construction activity was 0.58m of dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent flecks of charcoal and CBM [22]. This appears to be the first backfill associated with the brick foundation).
 - The above deposit overlays the brick foundations [31] which were constructed on a mid-brownish yellow silty clay [24] identified as pre-1714 which was approximately 15.80m OD (not fully excavated).

Plate 1: Test Pit 1



- 5.3 TP2 was located to the east of TP1, also at the south of the basement; the measurements were 1.00m north-south x 1.00m east-west (Plate 2). The following sequence was observed:
 - 0.15m thick concrete slab [37] overlying 0.08m of levelling layer of gravel and fragmented bricks [6].
 - Below this was 0.20m of loose, mid brown, sandy silty clay [15] identified as a second backfill of the brick foundations. Beneath this, a layer, 0.04m thick of CBM and lime mortar flecks and dust [16] was interpreted as a construction surface.
 - Below this was 0.53m of dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent flecks of charcoal and CBM [7], this constituted the first backfill of the brick foundations.
 - Finally, the above deposit overlays the brick foundations [38], which were constructed on a mid-brownish yellow silty clay [17] identified as pre-1714 at approximately 15.79m OD (not fully excavated).

Plate 2: Test Pit 2



- 5.4 TP3 was located to the north of TP2, in the middle of the current museum basement and it measured 1.00m north-south x 1.00m east-west (Plate 3). The following sequence was observed:
 - 0.18m thick concrete slab [32] overlying 0.05m of levelling layer of gravel and fragmented bricks [3].
 - Below this was 0.17m of loose, mid brown, sandy silty clay [25] interpreted as
 the second backfill of the brick foundations. Beneath this a layer, 0.03m thick,
 of CBM and lime mortar flecks and dust [26] was interpreted as a construction
 surface.
 - Underneath, was 0.56m of dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent flecks of charcoal and CBM [5], this constituted the first backfill of the brick foundations.
 - Finally, the above deposit overlays the brick foundations [33], which were constructed on a mid-brownish yellow silty clay [34] identified as pre-1714 at approximately 15.87m OD (not fully excavated).

Plate 3: Test Pit 3



- 5.5 TP4 was located at the north of the basement and measured 0.90m north-south x 0.90m east-west (Plate 4). The following sequence was observed:
 - 0.20m thick concrete slab [28] overlying 0.18m of levelling layer of gravel and fragmented bricks [1].
 - Below this was 0.13m of loose, mid brown, sandy silty clay [2] interpreted as
 the second backfill of the brick foundations. Beneath this a layer, 0.03m thick,
 of CBM and lime mortar flecks and dust [13] was interpreted as a construction
 surface.
 - Underneath, was 0.51m of dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent flecks of charcoal and CBM [4], this constituted the first backfill of the brick foundations.
 - Finally, the above deposit overlays the bricks foundation [29], which were constructed on a mid-brownish yellow silty clay [8] identified as pre-1714 at approximately 15.78m OD (not fully excavated).

Plate 4: Test Pit 4



- 5.6 TP5 was located to the east of TP4, also at the north of the basement; the measurements were 0.85m north-south x 0.90m east-west (Plate 5). The following sequence was observed:
 - 0.15m thick concrete slab [35] overlying 0.17m of levelling layer of gravel and fragmented bricks [10].
 - Below this was 0.21m of loose, mid brown, sandy silty clay [11] interpreted as
 the second backfill of the brick foundations. Beneath this a layer, 0.04m thick,
 of CBM and lime mortar flecks and dust [27] was interpreted as a construction
 surface. Underneath, was 0.49m of dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent
 flecks of charcoal and CBM [12], this constituted the first backfill of the brick
 foundations.
 - Finally, the above deposit overlays the brick foundations [36], which were constructed on a mid-brownish yellow silty clay [14] identified as pre-1714 at approximately 15.77m OD (not fully excavated).

Plate 5: Test Pit 5



- 5.7 TP6 was located outside the museum, specifically, to the northeast of TP5, against the northern garden wall. The measurements were 1.00m north-south x 0.80m east-west x 1.03m depth (Plate 6). The following sequence was observed:
 - 0.50m of organic soil from the garden [9] overlying 0.93m of rubble backfill for the concrete foundation of the garden wall [18].
 - Below this, was a dark brownish silty clay layer which was not excavated [23].

Plate 6: Test Pit 6



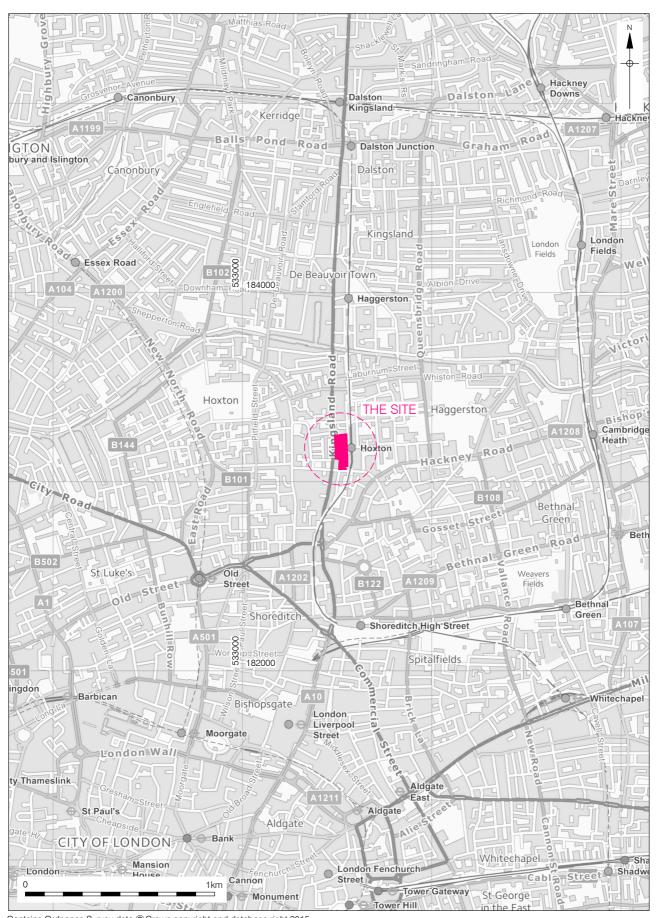
6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The sequence of TP6 shows a chronology for the late 20th century. However, the results obtained in the 5 test pits inside the museum's basement have the same archaeological sequence divided into three phases:
 - Phase 1: Before 1714. This phase refers to deposits [8], [14], [17], [24] and [34]. These contexts form the layer on which the foundations of the current museum were built c.1714. They were not excavated and only observed in plan approximately 1m below current basement level. These are identified as constituting an archaeological horizon, of unknown depth, surviving under the current basement.
 - Phase 2: 1714. The museum foundations [29], [31], [33], [36], [38] were built
 on the earlier archaeological layer and backfilled 0.60m. Above this backfill, a
 thin layer of crushed CBM and lime mortar evidenced the construction surface
 for the building. A second backfill for the foundations was then deposited over
 this.
 - Phase 3: Basement Remodelling (Late 20th century). This phase relates to
 modern activity and the current basement with concrete floor which extends
 the whole length of the building.
- The excavation of these test pits only reached the depth of the wall foundations. Beneath these foundations the exposed layer appears to be pre-1714 deposit. The test pits did not reach natural so it is unclear what depth of these levels survive under the wall foundations and the extent of the basement.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mills, P, 2015, Written Scheme of Investigation for a Geotechnical Trial Pit Watching Brief, Mills Whip Projects

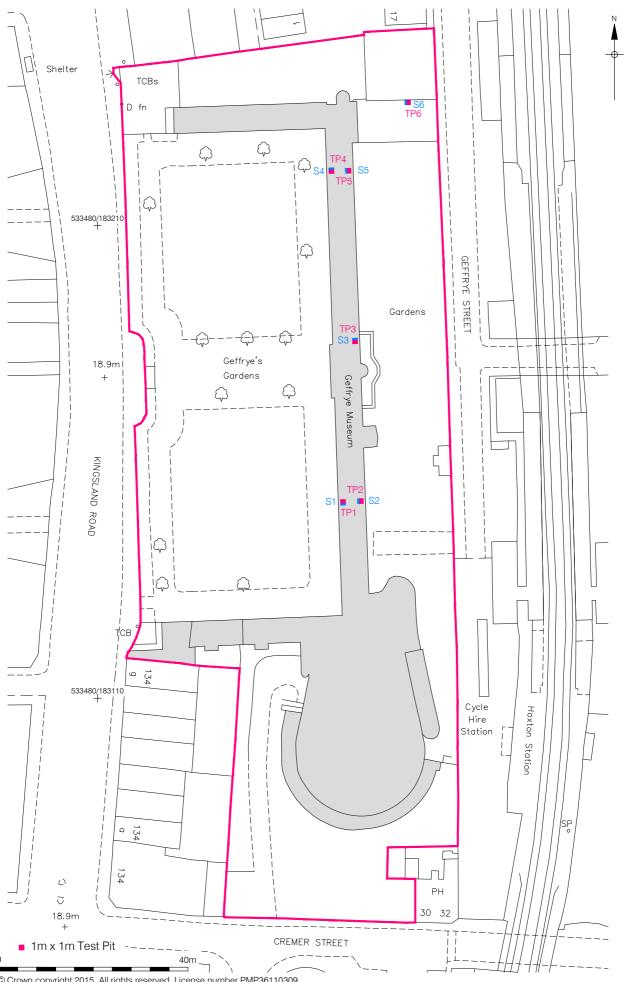
Stevenson G. 2015, Geffrye Museum, London Borough of Hackney, E2 8EA: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Pits, PCA



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Figure 2 Test Pit Locations 1:800 at A4

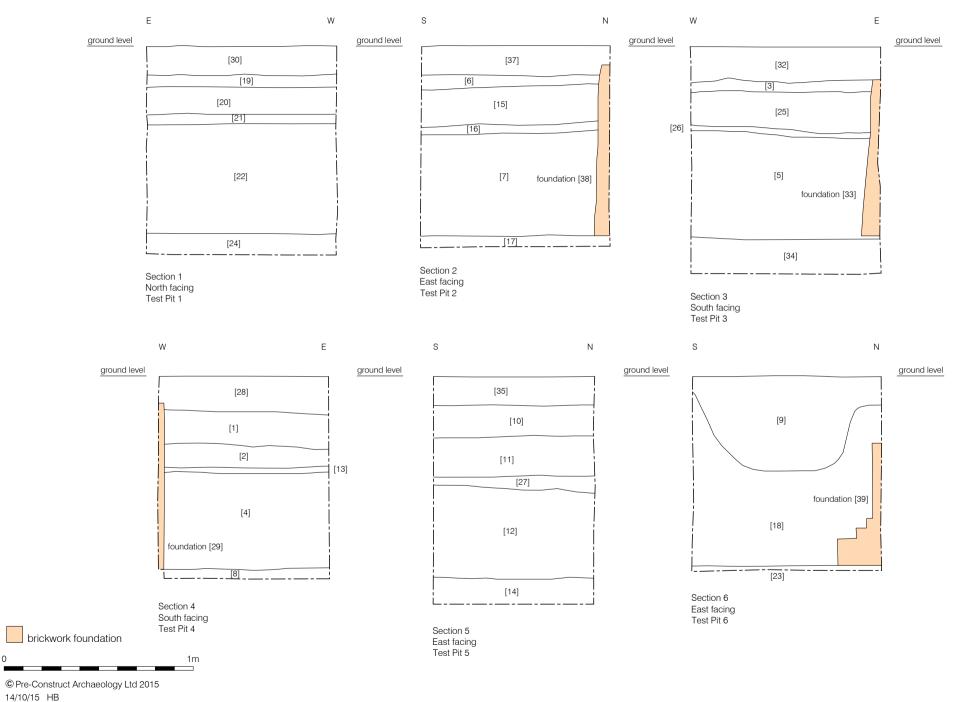


Figure 3 Sections 1-6 1:20 at A4

9 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context			Trench	Plan	Section /	Dimensions	Dimensions	Height /	Highest Level	Lowest Level		
No.	Type	Description	No.	No.	Elevation	N-S (m)	E-W (m)	(m)	(bgl/bfl)	(bgl/bfl)	Phase	Period
1	Layer	Fragmented briks and concrete mixed with medium size gravel. Bedding layer for concrete.	TP4	N/A	Sec. 4	0.90m	0.87m	0.20m	0.20m bgl	0.20m bgl	3	Late 20thC
2	Layer	Made ground, mixed rubbly, silty sand, moderate brick & mortar frag; construction debris from 1710's	TP4	N/A	Sec. 4	0.90m	0.87m	0.13m	0.38m bgl	0.38m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
3	Layer	Fragmented briks and concrete mixed with medium size gravel. Bedding layer for concrete.	TP3	N/A	Sec. 3	1.00m	1.00m	0.05m	0.18m bgl	0.18m bgl	3	Late 20thC
4	Layer	Backfill of brick foundation, silty clay, moderate flecks of CBM and charchoal; 1710's	TP4	N/A	Sec. 4	0.90m	0.87m	0.51m	0.54m bgl	0.54m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
5	Layer	Backfill of brick foundation, silty clay, moderate flecks of CBM and charchoal; 1710's	TP3	N/A	Sec. 3	1.00m	1.00m	N/A	0.33m bgl	0.33m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
6	Layer	Fragmented briks and concrete mixed with medium size gravel. Bedding layer for concrete.	TP2	N/A	Sec. 2	1.00m	1.00m	0.08m	0.15m bgl	0.15m bgl	3	Late 20thC
7	Layer	Backfill of brick foundation, silty clay, moderate flecks of CBM and charchoal; 1710's	TP2	N/A	Sec. 2	1.00m	1.00m	0.53m	0.47m bgl	0.47m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
8	Layer	Made ground, silty clay, occ.flecks of CBM. Before 1700's	TP4	N/A	Sec. 4	0.90m	0.87m	N/A	1.02m bgl	1.02m bgl	1	Before 18thC
9	Layer	Organic material layer; actual garden area; blackish silty clay.	TP6	N/A	Sec. 6	1.00m	0.80m	0.50m	17.16m OD	17.16m OD	3	Late 20thC

1	1	Le		Í	i	1	1	İ	i	1 1		
		Fragmented briks and concrete mixed with medium										
		size gravel. Bedding layer for							0.15m	0.15m		Late
10	Layer	concrete.	TP5	N/A	Sec. 5	0.85m	0.90m	0.17m	bgl	bgl	3	20thC
		Made ground, mixed rubbly,										
		silty sand, moderate brick &										Before
		mortar frag; construction							0.32m	0.32m	_	1714
11	Layer	debris from 1710's	TP5	N/A	Sec. 5	0.85m	0.90m	0.21m	bgl	bgl	2	AC
		Backfill of brick foundation,										Before
		silty clay, moderate flecks of							0.57m	0.61m		1714
12	Layer	CBM and charchoal; 1710's	TP5	N/A	Sec. 5	0.85m	0.90m	0.49m	bgl	bgl	2	AC
		Made surface of dust and										Before
		crushed CBM and lime							0.51m	0.51m		1714
13	Layer	mortar. 1700's	TP4	N/A	Sec. 4	0.90m	0.87m	0.03m	bgl	bgl	2	AC
		Marka and all all and										
		Made ground, silty clay, occ.flecks of CBM. Before							1.06m	1.06m		Before
14	Laver	1700's	TP5	N/A	Sec. 5	0.85m	0.90m	N/A	bgl	bgl	1	18thC
<u> </u>	Layer	Made ground, mixed rubbly,	11.0	14//	000.0	0.00111	0.00111	1071	Dgi	Dg.	<u> </u>	10010
		silty sand, moderate brick &										Before
		mortar frag; construction							0.23m	0.23m		1714
15	Layer	debris from 1710's	TP2	N/A	Sec. 2	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m	bgl	bgl	2	AC
		Made surface of dust and										Before
		crushed CBM and lime							0.43m	0.43m		1714
16	Layer	mortar. 1700's	TP2	N/A	Sec. 2	1.00m	1.00m	0.04m	bgl	bgl	2	AC
		Made ground, silty clay,										
		occ.flecks of CBM. Before							1.00m	1.00m		Before
17	Layer	1700's	TP2	N/A	Sec. 2	1.00m	1.00m	N/A	bgl	bgl	1	18thC
		David Sillar Community										
		Backfill of concrete foundation, moderate frag of							17.08m	16.66m		Late
18	Layer	bricks, cement and tarmac	TP6	N/A	Sec. 6	1.00m	0.8	0.93	OD	OD	3	20thC
10	Layer	Fragmented briks and	11.0	14// (000.0	1.00111	0.0	0.55	OB	OB		20010
		concrete mixed with medium										
		size gravel. Bedding layer for							0.15m	0.15m		Late
19	Layer	concrete.	TP1	N/A	Sec. 1	1.00m	1.00m	0.07m	bgl	bgl	3	20thC
		Made ground, mixed rubbly,										Define
		silty sand, moderate brick & mortar frag; construction							0.22m	0.22m		Before 1714
20	Layer	debris from 1710's	TP1	N/A	Sec. 1	1.00m	1.00m	0.14m	bgl	bgl	2	AC
	Layer	GCDIIG IIOIII 17 10 3	11 1	11//	OCC. 1	1.00111	1.00111	J 0. 17111	L bgi	bgi		70

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21	Layer	Made surface of dust and crushed CBM and lime mortar. 1700's	TP1	N/A	Sec. 1	1.00m	1.00m	0.05m	0.36m bgl	0.36m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
22	Layer	Backfill of brick foundation, silty clay, moderate flecks of CBM and charchoal; 1710's	TP1	N/A	Sec. 1	1.00m	1.00m	0.58m	0.41m bgl	0.41m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
23	Layer	Made ground, silty clay.	TP6	N/A	Sec. 6	1.00m	0.80m	N/A	16.16m OD	16.16m OD	1	N/A
24	Layer	Made ground, silty clay, occ.flecks of CBM. Before 1700's	TP1	N/A	Sec. 1	1.00m	1.00m	N/A	0.99m bgl	0.99m bgl	1	Before 18thC
25	Layer	Made ground, mixed rubbly, silty sand, moderate brick & mortar frag; construction debris from 1710's	TP3	N/A	Sec. 3	1.00m	1.00m	0.17m	0.23m bgl	023m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
26	Layer	Made surface of dust and crushed CBM and lime mortar. 1700's	TP3	N/A	Sec. 3	1.00m	1.00m	0.03m	0.30m bgl	0.30m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
27	Layer	Made surface of dust and crushed CBM and lime mortar. 1700's	TP5	N/A	Sec. 5	0.85m	0.90m	0.08m	0.53m bgl	0.53m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
28	Layer	Concrete floor.	TP4	N/A	Sec. 4	0.90m	0.90m	0.20m	0.00m bgl	0.00m bgl	3	Late 20thC
29	Masonry	Wall foundation, red brick 220x100x65 mm, hard greyish lime mortar, 1700's	TP4	N/A	Sec. 4	0.90m	N/A	0.83m	0.14m bgl	1.02m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
30	Layer	Concrete floor.	TP1	N/A	Sec. 1	1.00m	1.00m	0.15m	0.00m bgl	0.00m bgl	3	Late 20thC
31	Masonry	Wall foundation, red brick 220x100x65 mm, hard greyish lime mortar, 1700's	TP1	N/A	N/A	1.00m	1.00m	0.99m	0.15m bgl	0.99m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC

	1	<u> </u>			İ	İ		1	1	1		
32	Layer	Concrete floor.	TP3	N/A	Sec. 3	1.00m	1.00m	0.18m	0.00m bgl	0.00m bgl	3	Late 20thC
33	Masonry	Wall foundation, red brick 220x100x65 mm, hard greyish lime mortar, 1700's	TP3	N/A	Sec.3	1.00m	1.00m	1.00m	0.27m bgl	1.00m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
34	Layer	Made ground, silty clay, occ.flecks of CBM. Before 1700's	TP3	N/A	Sec. 4	1.00m	1.00m	N/A	1.01m bgl	1.01m bgl	1	Before 18thC
35	Layer	Concrete floor.	TP5	N/A	Sec. 5	0.85m	0.90m	0.15m	0.00m bgl	0.00m bgl	3	Late 20thC
36	Masonry	Wall foundation, red brick 220x100x65 mm, hard greyish lime mortar, 1700's	TP5	N/A	N/A	0.85m	0.90m	0.91m	0.15m bgl	1.06m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
37	Layer	Concrete floor.	TP2	N/A	Sec. 2	1.00m	1.00m	0.15m	0.00m bgl	0.00m bgl	3	Late 20thC
38	Masonry	Wall foundation, red brick 220x100x65 mm, hard greyish lime mortar, 1700's	TP3	N/A	N/A	1.00m	1.00m	1.00m	0.10m bgl	1.00m bgl	2	Before 1714 AC
39	Masonry	Mixed of concrete and bricks foundation	TP6	N/A	Sec. 6	0.23m	0.80m	0.65m	16.81m OD	16.16m OD	3	Late 20thC

10 APPENDIX 3: SITE MATRIX

Excavation TP1 TP2 TP3 TP4 TP5 TP6 Archaeological Phase 3 30 37 32 28 35 9 = Late 20thC modern surfacing 18 19 3 10 6 = = Archaeological Phase 2 20 25 second backfill 15 11 = = Early 18thC-1714 AC 21 construction surface 16 26 = 13 = 27 22 12 first backfill 5 4 = = foundations 31 38 33 29 36 Archaeological Phase 1 previous archaeological 24 34 23 layer Before 18thC

Geffrye Museum, 136 Kingsland Road, Borough of Hackney, E2 8EA: Project name

Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Pits

the project

Short description of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects to undertake archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits in and around the basement of the Geffrey Museum, 136 Kingsland Road, Borough of Hackney, E2 8EA. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 33483 83091. The Watching Brief involved monitoring 6 trial pits in total, 5 within the basement of the Geffrye Museum and one more pit outside the building. In order to ascertain the depth and nature of any building foundations and their supporting substrata. 6.2 The excavation of these test pits only reached the depth of the wall foundations. Beneath these the exposed layer appears to be an archaeological made ground. The test pits did not reach natural so it is unclear what depth of archaeological levels survive under the wall foundations and the extent of the basement.

Start: 05-10-2015 End: 07-10-2015 Project dates

Previous/future

No / Yes

work

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Conservation Area

Site status Listed Building

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Significant Finds ALMSHOUSE Post Medieval

Methods &

"Test Pits"

techniques

Development type Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the

Pre-application

planning process

Project location

Country **England**

Site location GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY Geffrye Museum, 136

Kingsland Road, Borough of Hackney, E2 8EA

Postcode E28EA Study area 6 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 33483 83091 51.530431720472 -0.075417518929 51 31 49 N 000

04 31 W Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Organisation

Project brief Mills Whipp Projects

originator

Project design Gemma Stevenson

originator

Project Gemma Stevenson

director/manager

Project supervisor Leonardo Penades

Project archives

Digital Archive Greater London SMR, British Library, NMR and local library

recipient

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

available

Paper Archive Greater London SMR, British Library, NMR and local library

recipient

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Matrices", "Miscellaneous

available Material", "Report", "Section"

Project

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