

**THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED NEW
MOSQUE**

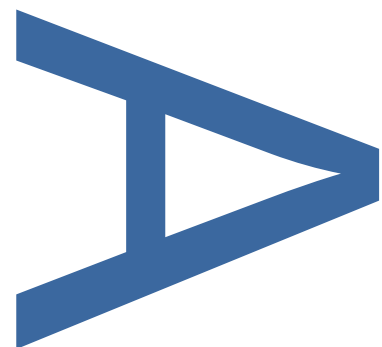
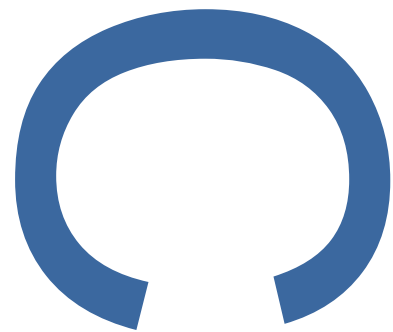
**STEPNEY SHAHJALAL MASJID,
DUCKETT STREET E1 4LU**

SUMMARY OF TEST PITS

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

PCA REPORT NO: R12640

SEPTEMBER 2016




DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**A SUMMARY OF THE TEST PITS EXCAVATED AT THE
SITE OF THE PROPOSED NEW MOSQUE, STEPNEY
SHAHJALAL MASJID, DUCKETT STREET E1 4LU**

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
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A summary of the test pits excavated at the site of the Proposed New Mosque, Stepney Shahjalal Masjid, Duckett Street E1 4LU

By James Langthorne, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, 22nd September 2016

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Three test pits, each approximately 1m square in plan, were excavated at the site of the proposed mosque on Duckett Street, Stepney in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on 21st September 2016. The investigation was centred at TQ 3603 8195 (Figure 1). The work was subject to a Watching Brief conducted by the author. The test pits were excavated by machine, the locations of the test pits recorded by EDM and levels were taken from the triangulation points still extant at the site which were indicated on the Setting Out Plan (makespaceTechnical Ltd. 30/06/2015). The test-pits were located as follows (also see Figure 1):

Test Pit	Easting	Northing	Surface Elevation
TP1	536033.235	181941.582	10.364
TP2	536020.026	181925.858	9.98
TP3	536039.608	181930.868	10.235

- 1.2 The site occupies a plot of land which partially straddles the boundary of the former (Old) East London Cemetery, used for burials between 1837 and 1852. The test pits executed at the site and herein reported were all positioned outside of the cemetery in order to investigate the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and further more to confirm the absence of burials.
- 1.3 PCA were commissioned for the work by CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of Brook Williams Group. The project was managed for PCA by Chris Mayo.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

2.1 Test Pit 1

- 2.1.1 The earliest deposit found in Test Pit 1 was naturally deposited fairly loose light-mid brownish orange sandy gravel [2]. It was encountered at a maximum height of 9.40m OD and had been subsequently overlain by a 1.10m-thick layer of garden soil [1]. Garden soil [1] was described as being fairly firm but friable mid-dark brownish grey slightly clay sandy silt and contained moderate amounts of small sub-angular, sub-rounded and rounded pebbles, occasional-moderate brick rubble and root activity and very occasional wooden plank fragments and plastic or polystyrene debris. No discrete archaeological features were seen cutting either of these deposits.

2.2 Test Pit 2

2.2.1 Test Pit 2 was the only trench in which natural deposits were not encountered. The first deposit recorded in Test Pit 2 was a layer of fairly loose but friable mid grey brown sandy silt [4] that extended over 0.70m in depth. Subsoil [4] was encountered at a maximum height of 9.08m OD, lower than the levels of the natural sandy gravels found in Test Pits 1 and 3, and was seen to contain occasional-moderate amounts of sub-angular, sub-rounded and rounded pebbles, occasional root activity and very occasional brick fragments. Layer [4] was sealed by a 1.70m-thick deposit of garden soil [3]. No discrete archaeological features were seen cutting either of these deposits.

2.3 Test Pit 3

2.3.1 As in Trench 1 the earliest deposit found in Test Pit 3 was naturally deposited sandy gravel [7], seen at a height of 9.17m OD. Sandy gravel [7] was sealed beneath a 0.60m-thick layer of fairly loose light greyish yellow very slightly silty sand that was mottled in parts by black streaks [6]. Made ground [6] was flecked with small fragments of CBM and chalky mortar and reached a maximum height of 9.77m OD. Test Pit 3 was capped by a 0.40m-thick layer of garden soil [5]. As with Test Pits 1 and 2 no discrete archaeological features were found truncating any of the deposits.



East facing section in Test Pit 1



South-east facing view of Test Pit 2.



South facing section in Test Pit 3

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 Natural sandy gravels were encountered in Test Pits 1 and 3 at heights between 9.40m OD and 9.17m OD respectively reflecting a gentle incline of the site to the south. A previous archaeological evaluation at the site by PCA¹, in which test-pits were undertaken within the boundary of the cemetery, recorded natural at heights between 10.15m OD and 9.92m OD.
- 3.2 The watching brief at Duckett Street did not find any clear evidence of archaeological activity or human bone whether articulated within a grave or disarticulated and potentially redeposited. Subsoil deposit [4] in Test Pit 2 was encountered below the level of the natural sandy gravels seen in the other two test pits, and indicated the presence of a large truncation of some description; potentially the result of a grubbed out foundation or services. It is known that the area of the site external to the cemetery, fronting Duckett Street, was previously occupied by terraced properties and it is highly likely that the deposit in Test Pit 2 relates to a feature associated with these properties.
- 3.3 That the natural ground external to the cemetery was recorded at a lower level than that within the cemetery in 2004 implies that the land outside the cemetery has been subject to impact of some type in antiquity.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

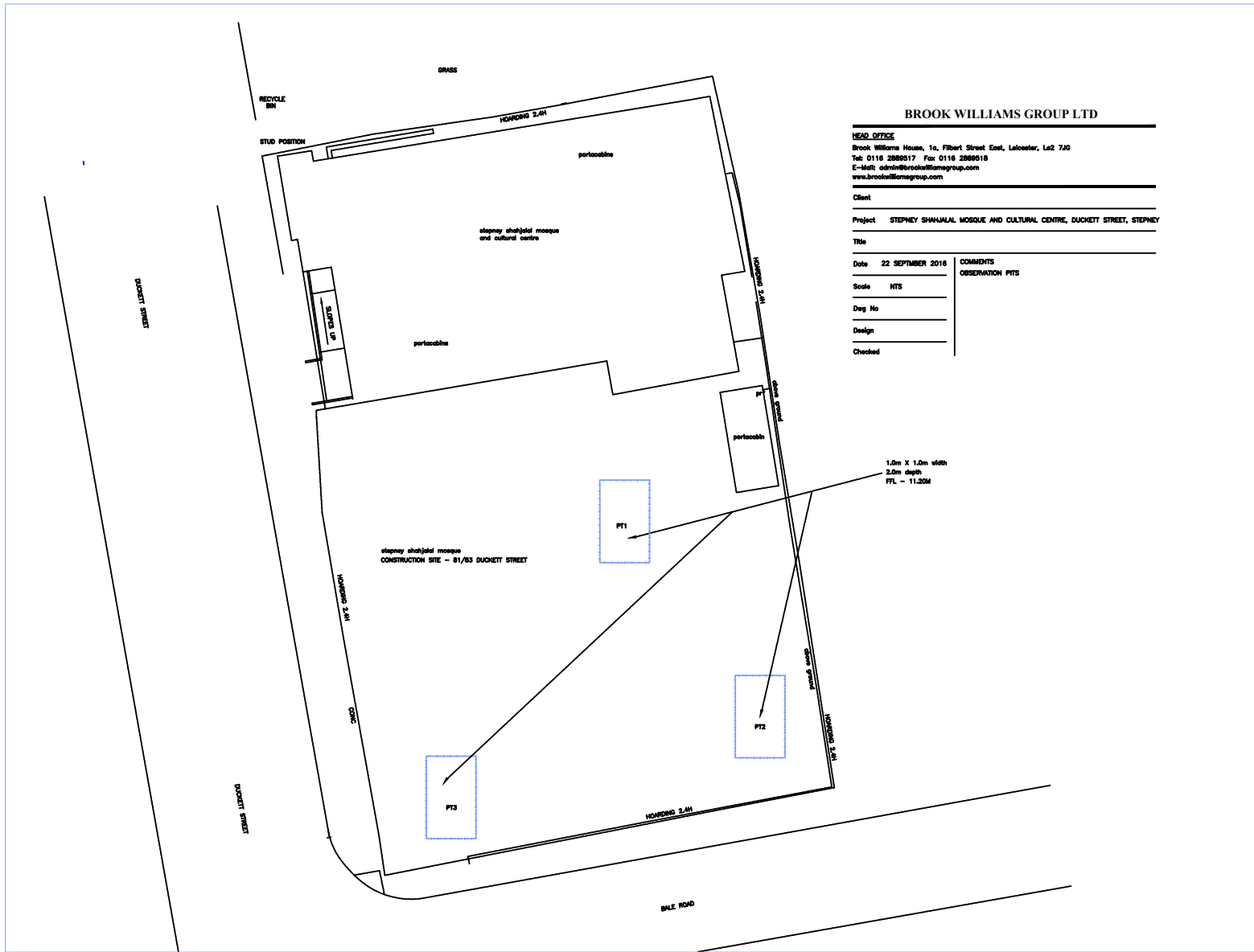
- 4.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and Brook Williams Group for funding it. We particularly thank Adam Ahmad and his colleagues of Brook Williams Group for accommodating the work on site, providing the survey information and Figure 1.

¹ Keith-Lucas, F. 2004 'Archaeological Evaluation in Shandy Park, Duckett Street, Stepney, London Borough of Tower Hamlets', unpublished report for CgMs

*A summary of the test pits excavated at the site of the Proposed New Mosque, Duckett Street E14LU.
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Figure 1: Test Pit Locations

Provided by Brook Williams Group, with thanks



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Client

Project **STEPNEY SHAJIDAT MOSQUE AND CULTURAL CENTRE, DUCKETT STREET, STEPNEY**

Title

Date	22 SEPTEMBER 2016	COMMENTS
Scale	NTS	OBSERVATION PTS
Dwg No		
Design		
Checked		

5 OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-263601

Project details

Project name	Test pits excavated at the site of the Proposed New Mosque, Stepney Shahjalal Masjid, Duckett Street E1
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief performed on 3 test pits at the site of a proposed mosque in Stepney. Each test pit was a metre square in plan. Natural sandy gravels were encountered in Test Pits 1 and 3 at heights between 9.40m OD and 9.17m OD respectively reflecting a gentle incline of the site to the south. No clear evidence of archaeological activity was encountered during the watching brief. However a subsoil deposit in Test Pit 2 was encountered below the level of the natural sandy gravels seen in the other two test pits indicating the presence of a large truncation of some description; potentially the result of a grubbed out foundation or services relating to the terraced housing that was originally extant in this area of the site.
Project dates	Start: 21-09-2016 End: 21-09-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	TOPSOIL Modern
Monument type	SUBSOIL Modern
Monument type	MADE GROUND Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS STEPNEY Stepney Shahjalal Masjid, Duckett Street
Postcode	E1 4LU
Study area	1913 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3603 8195 51.519568087708 -0.039157970335 51 31 10 N 000 02 20 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.17m Max: 9.4m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Duncan Hawkins
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	James Langthorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Brook Williams Group

Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images vector", "Survey", "Text", "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"
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