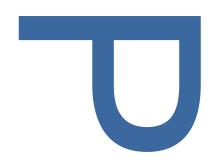
74 RIVINGTON STREET, LONDON, EC2A 3AY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

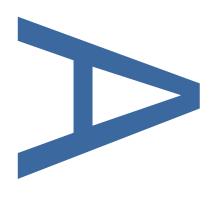




LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

SITE CODE: RVT18

JULY 2018



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

74 RIVINGTON STREET, LONDON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd					
Project Number	K5647				
Report Number	R13331				

	Name & Title	Date
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	-	·
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74 RIVINGTON STREET, LONDON EC2A 3AY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CENTRAL NGR: TQ 33355 82555

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CODE: RVT18

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: Mills Whipp Projects Ltd.

on behalf of: Esselco Group

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July 2018

PCA Report Number: R13331

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details an archaeological watching brief undertaken during geotechnical investigations conducted at the site of 74 Rivington Street, London EC2A 3AY.
- 1.2 A total of nine Trial Pits and two Boreholes were excavated by the geotechnical contractor, Soils Limited.
- 1.3 Natural deposits were only seen within the Boreholes. Natural London Clay was encountered from a depth of 5m BGL, overlain by Hackney Gravel Member deposits from a depth of 3m BGL, which were then sealed by a layer of natural brickearth from a depth of 1.5m BGL.
- 1.4 All archaeological deposits encountered belonged to the post-medieval period consisting of a possible cut feature and a layer of plough/garden soil which survived across the site except where truncated by more recent masonry structures.
- 1.5 Modern activity had caused some moderate truncation but may be limited to structural foundations.

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2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects Ltd on behalf of Esselco group to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of a number of Trial Pits and Boreholes at 74 Rivington Street, London EC2A 3AY.
- 2.2 The investigations were excavated on 30th June, 1st July and 4th-5th July 2018.
- 2.3 The site was approximately 940m² and formed an L-shape bounded to the north by Rivington Street, business properties to the south and west and London Overground lines to the east. (Figure 1). It is centred at TQ 33355 82555.
- 2.4 Five of the Trial Pits (TP 2, TP3, TP5, TP6 and TP10) were opened in pre-planned locations. TP1, TP7, TP8 and TP9 were excavated in alternative locations illustrated within Figure 2 and Trial Pit 4 was not excavated. Borehole 1 was excavated in its pre-planned location, however, Borehole 2 was relocated north of its original location and Borehole 3 was not excavated.
- 2.5 The geotechnical contractor excavated the nine Trial Pits and two Boreholes under constant archaeological supervision by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA), following a methodology outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mills Whipp 2017). This was to meet criteria required by Historic England for an archaeological desktop assessment and pre-determination evaluation.
- 2.6 The project was managed by Chris Mayo of PCA and supervised by Leo Penades and Matthew Edmonds. It was monitored by Adam Single of Historic England.

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3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.
- 3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

3.2.1 The relevant Strategic Development Plan Framework is provided by the London Plan which was published in March 2015. It includes the following policies of relevance to archaeology within London:

Policy 7.8

Heritage assets and archaeology

Strategic

- A London's heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorial should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.
- **B** Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

Planning decisions

- C Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.
- D Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.
- E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.

LDF preparation

- **F** Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.
- G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory

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organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

3.3 Local Policy: Archaeology in the London Borough of Hackney

- 3.3.1 This study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Hackney which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which it is the custodian. The local planning authority responsible for the study site is the London Borough of Hackney whose Local Development Framework Core Strategy was adopted in November 2010. The majority of the previous Unitary Development Plan policies were saved, including most of those relating to the historic environment.
- 3.3.2 The relevant section of the LDF for the Borough is Core Strategy 25:

Core Strategy Policy 25: Historic Environment

All development should make a positive contribution to the character of Hackney's historic and built environment. This includes identifying, conserving and enhancing the historic significance of the borough's designated heritage assets, their setting and where appropriate the wider historic environment.

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4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

The following geological and topographical information is taken from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2018) and summarised from the written scheme of investigation (Mills Whipp 2017).

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey identifies the underlying bedrock geology at the site to be the 'London Clay Formation', overlain by drift geology of the Hackney Gravel Member.
- 4.2 The subject site lies within the upper reaches of the River Walbrook. Natural brickearth was seen at a height of 12.76m OD at 97-113 Curtain Road to the west of the study site, and at a height of 12.56m OD at 183-185 Shoreditch High Street. At New Inn Yard in 2004, untruncated natural gravel was seen at a height of 11.10m OD.
- 4.3 The site is occupied by Black + White office space, which is surrounded by tarmac and paved outdoor surfaces. The modern topography lies at 15.55m OD on the north rising slightly to the south at 16m OD then drops to 15m OD on the Dereham Place frontage.

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5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following Archaeological and Historical background is reproduced from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mills Whipp 2017):

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 Little prehistoric material has been reported from the vicinity of the subject site. A potentially Palaeolithic water buffalo horn found to the east of the study site, and a Mesolithic axe was found in Great Eastern Street to the west, suggestive of a transient prehistoric population within this area.

5.2 Roman

- 5.2.1 The Roman road to York is believed to have followed the line of modern Shoreditch High Street.
- 5.2.2 Roman material has been reported to the south at Holywell Priory consisting of some field ditches, quarries and some pits. In addition four burials which seem to date to c.300 AD were uncovered. These had been dumped together with some intercutting.
- 5.2.3 Generally, early Roman occupation appears to have been slight but the growth of later Roman London led to greater exploitation of the hinterland to provide greater amounts of arable land.

5.3 **Saxon**

5.3.1 No in situ Saxon material has been found in the area. The subject site probably lay within marginal land west of Ermine Street in the Saxon period.

5.4 Medieval

- 5.4.1 By the 12th century St Leonard's church formed the focal point of a small settlement. The village clustered around the junction of Old Street, Shoreditch High Street and Hackney Road.
- 5.4.2 The subject site at this time is thought to have laid in open ground west of Shoreditch High Street.

5.5 Post Medieval

- 5.5.1 In a plan of 1562 a ribbon development is visible along Shoreditch High Street, the subject site lying in the open ground behind the houses. A property boundary or field boundary follows the line of modern Rivington Street. The area was used for gardens.
- 5.5.2 A number of evaluations around the subject site have demonstrated a similar pattern of landuse. A number of post mediaeval quarries for gravel have been found, together with 17th and 18th century ploughsoils, occasional ditches, pits and evidence for market gardens. Immediately south of the subject site an extensive evaluation was undertaken in 2005. The evaluation uncovered low grade 17th and 18th century soils and minor features.
- 5.5.3 The present building on the site was built 1898-9 for James Latham as a seasoning shed. These had large open ventilation to allow timber to be seasoned. By 1914 large open sided sheds occupied most of the site.

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6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The proposed investigation as per the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mills Whipp 2017) comprised six Trial Pits and three Boreholes.
- During the investigation five of the Trial Pits (TP 2, TP3, TP5, TP6 and TP10) were excavated in preplanned locations. However, TP1, TP7, TP8 and TP9 were excavated in alternative locations illustrated within Figure 2 due to on site constraints. Trial Pit 4 was not excavated. Borehole 1 (BH1) was excavated in a pre-planned location, however, Borehole 2 (BH2) was relocated north of its original location due to access restrictions. The third Borehole was not excavated.
- 6.3 It was originally intended that the Trial Pits would measure a minimum of 1m by 1m, however, due to site constraints this was not possible. The maximum dimensions of the Trial Pits are recorded in the table below:

Trial Pit	Dimension North-South	Dimension East-West	Max. Depth (BGL)		
TP1	0.40m	0.60m	0.90m		
TP2	0.30m	0.40m	1.30m		
TP3	0.50m	0.30m	1.20m		
TP4	-	-	-		
TP5	0.35m	0.50m	0.50m		
TP6	0.53m	0.40m	0.30m		
TP7	0.38m	0.60m	0.25m		
TP8	0.40m	0.55m	0.28m		
TP9	0.30m	0.45m	0.70m		
TP10	0.60m 0.38m		1.30m		

- 6.4 The two Boreholes were excavated to a maximum depth of 20m BGL.
- 6.5 All nine Trial Pits were excavated by hand, whilst the two Boreholes were excavated using a Borehole rig. All excavation works were performed under constant supervision of the attendant archaeologist over the course of four days.
- 6.6 All interventions were located using existing plans of the site.
- 6.7 All Trial Pits were recorded on pro-forma Recording Sheets, and in the case that archaeological remains were encountered were planned and sectioned at a scale of 1:20.
- 6.8 The two Boreholes were recorded on pro-forma Borehole Record Sheets.
- 6.9 Throughout this report deposits were recorded in relation to ground level. The ground level varies across the site from 16m OD to 15m OD.

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7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASED DISCUSSION

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit seen during the investigation was a layer of very dark grey clay [8] and [17] seen within Borehole 2 and 1 respectively. This was the natural London Clay and was seen at a depth of 6m BGL in BH1 and 5m BGL in BH2.
- 7.1.2 The London Clay was overlain by a layer of loose yellow brown sandy gravel [3] in BH1 and [7] in BH2, this layer was seen from a depth of 3m BGL and 3.10m BGL respectively.
- 7.1.3 Sealing the natural gravel was a layer of very firm mid grey orange silty clay [2] in BH1 and [6] in BH2. This natural brickearth layer was seen from a depth of 1.5m BGL within BH1 and 2.80m BGL within BH2.

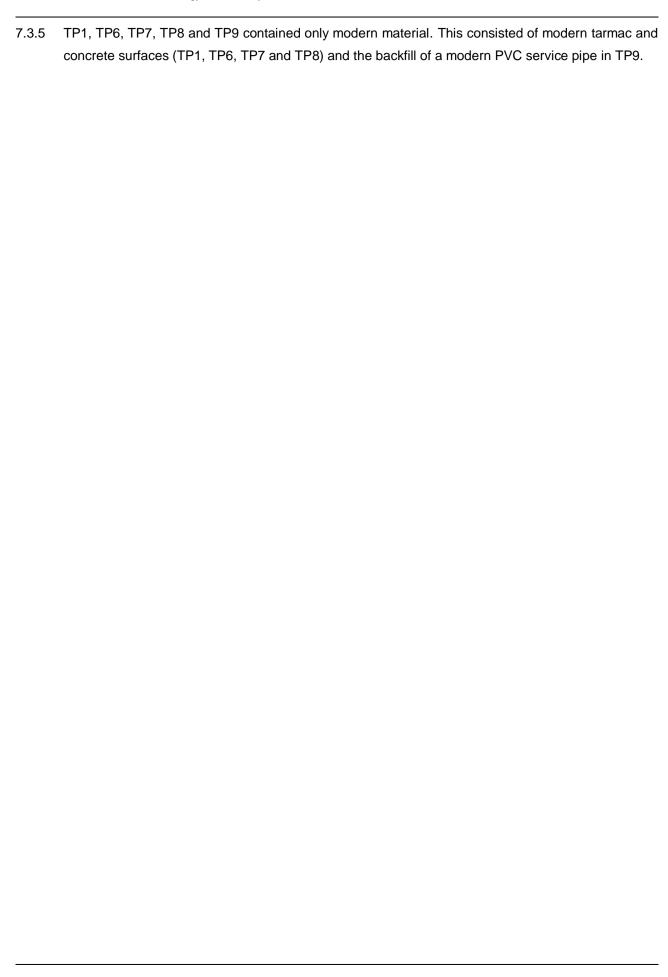
7.2 Phase 2: Post Medieval

- 7.2.1 The natural brickearth [6] seen within BH2 appeared to be cut by an indeterminable feature filled with a firm dark brown silty clay sand [5] with occasional coal and ceramic building material (CBM) flecking. The feature may have been 1.5m deep.
- 7.2.2 Within BH1, BH2, TP2 and TP10 a layer of soft dark brown silty sandy clay was seen, numbered [1], [4], [15] and [16] respectively. This layer contained CBM (dated 1600-1900) and coal fragments and flecking, along with clay tobacco pipe (CTP), pottery (dated 1805-1830), a single shard of glass (dated 18th -19th century), animal bones and pebbles. Within BH1 [1] was seen from a depth of 0.30m BGL to a depth of 1.50m BGL where it sealed natural brickearth layer [2]. Layer [4] within BH2 was seen from a depth of 0.30m BGL to a depth of 2.80m BGL where it sealed fill [5]. Within TP2 and TP10 this layer was the earliest seen deposit. In TP2 layer [15] was seen from a depth of 0.45m BGL, and layer [16] within TP10 was seen from a depth of 0.28m BGL. In both locations this layer was seen to continue below the limit of excavation (LOE) at a depth of 1.30m BGL.

7.3 Phase 3: Modern

- 7.3.1 Overlaying the post-medieval made ground [1] and [4] within BH1 and BH2 was a 0.30m thick layer of concrete and tarmac.
- 7.3.2 TP2 revealed the stepped foundation of a garden wall [11], backfilled by deposit [12], to a depth of 0.45m BGL where it was then sealed by modern levelling layer sealed with concrete and the current tarmac surface.
- 7.3.3 TP3 only contained the loose dark brown silty sand backfill [9] of the construction cut for the wall of the current building, with occasional fragments and flecking of CBM and mortar, continuing below the LOE at 1.20m BGL.
- 7.3.4 TP5 revealed the stepped foundation of a wall [11] constructed from modern frogged bricks bonded with cement mortar sitting on a cement bedding and backfilled with a soft dark brown grey silt sand clay [10] with occasional oyster shell fragments. Wall [11] survived from a depth of 60mm BGL down to 0.50m BGL, and was sealed by a 30mm layer of tarmac forming the current external surface.

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8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The natural geology was only reached within BH1 and BH2 at a depth of between 1.5m BGL and 2.80m BGL, where it was seen to comprise a layer of brickearth, overlaying sandy gravel of the Hackney Gravel Member and then, from a depth of between 5m BGL and 6m BGL, the natural London Clay.
- 8.2 No evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval occupation or structures were seen during the monitoring of ground investigations, although the survival of a substantial layer of brickearth as seen within BH1 and BH2 suggests a potential for the survival of prehistoric archaeological remains.
- A possible 1.10m deep cut feature was seen within BH2, sealed by a layer of post-medieval material dated to the early 19th century which was seen across the northwest and southeast of the site (BH1, BH2, TP2 and TP10); however its absence within the other interventions is most likely due to their limited size, and their proximity to walls that have truncated this layer. This layer appears to be some sort of plough or garden soil, dating to the period when the site lay within open ground until the late 19th century.
- 8.4 Modern material was seen within all of the investigations, showing moderate truncation from construction of masonry walls, and layers of modern material forming modern outdoor surfaces.
- 8.5 The results of this site investigation will be published as a minimum by PCA as a summary in the annual 'Round-Up' of *London Archaeologist*.
- 8.6 The physical and digital archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under site code RVT18.

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9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mills Whipp, 2017, "74, Rivington Street, London EC2A 3AY: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching/Stopping Brief". Mills Whipp Projects Ltd.

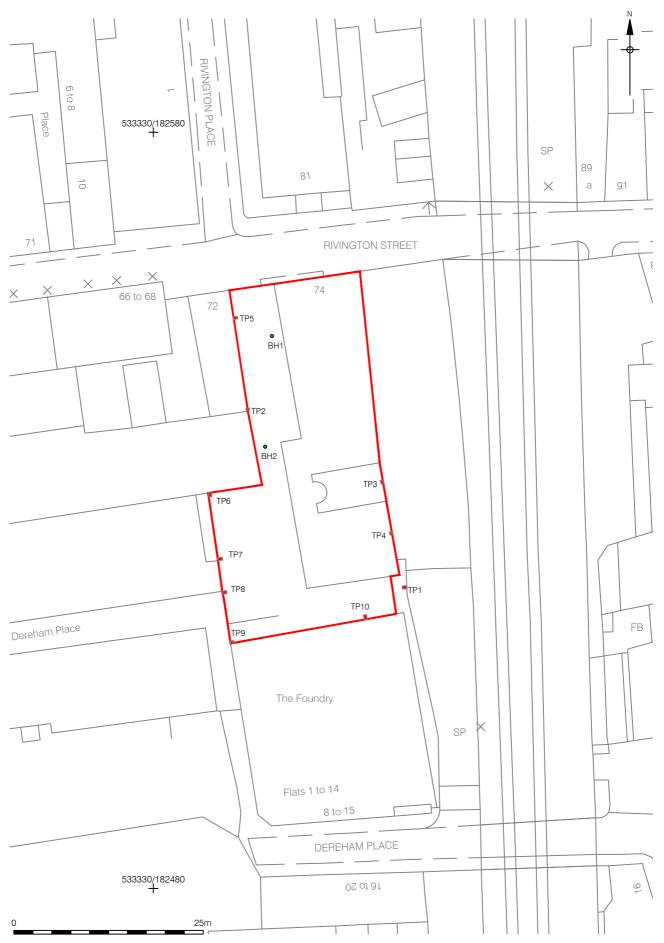
Online Resources

British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer. [online] Available at: http://www.bgs.ac.uk/ [Accessed 17/07/2018]

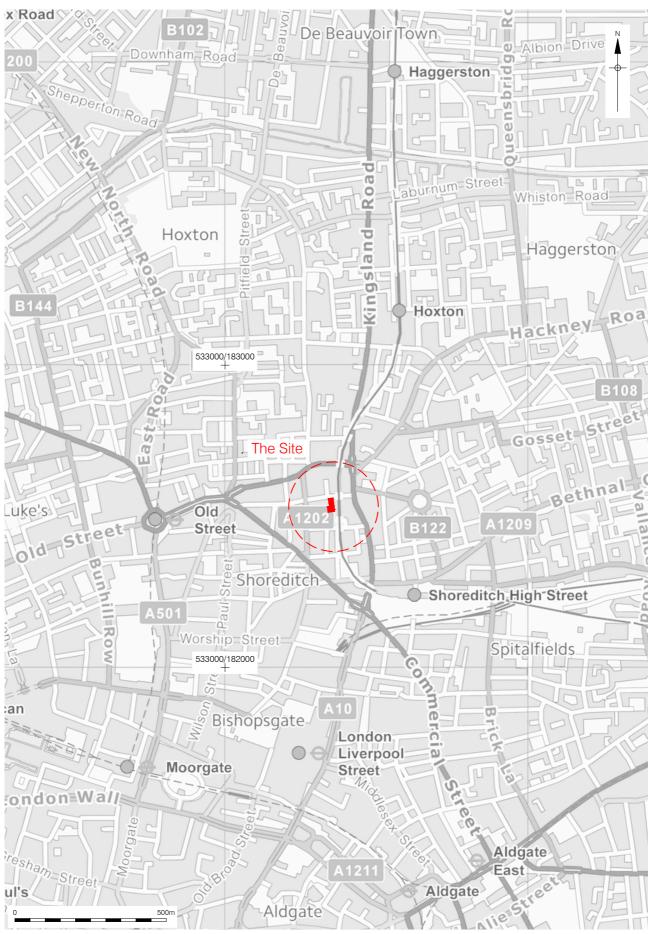
10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mills Whipp Projects Ltd for commissioning the work, and Soils Limited for their work and co-operation during excavation.
- 10.2 The author would also like to thank Leonardo Penades and Matthew Edmonds for supervising the work, Anna Tonelli for preparing the illustrations, Kevin Hayward for his building materials spot dating, Kevin Rielly for his animal bone analysis, Chris Jarrett for his artefact assessments and Chris Mayo for managing the project and editing this report.

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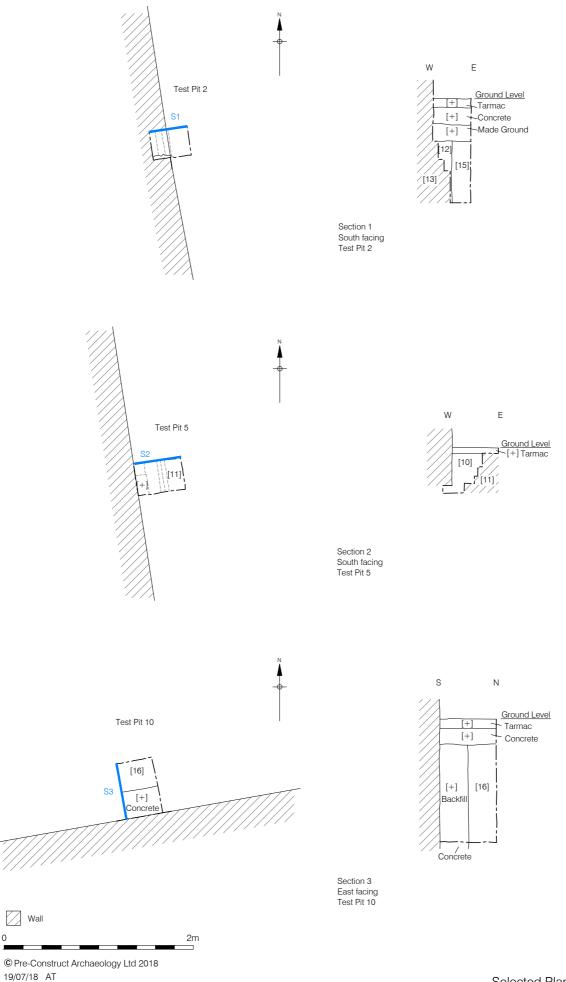
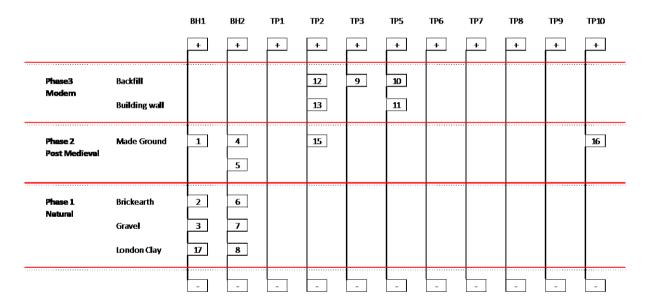


Figure 3 Selected Plans and Sections 1:40 at A4

11 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	CTX_Type	CTX_equalto	Trial Pit/Borehole	CTX_Interpretation	CTX_Category
1	Layer	4, 15, 16	BH1	Layer of Post Medieval made ground	Make-up
2	Layer	6	BH1	Brickearth	Natural
3	Layer	7	BH1	Natural Sand/Gravel	Natural
4	Layer	1, 15, 16	BH2	Post Medieval made ground	Make-up
5	Layer		BH2	Post Medieval made ground	Make-up
6	Layer	2	BH2	Brickearth	Natural
7	Layer	3	BH2	Brickearth	Natural
8	Layer	17	BH2	London Clay	Natural
9	Fill	10, 12	TP3	Post-Medieval backfill of construction cut for current wall	Backfill
10	Fill	9, 12	TP5	Backfill of modern construction cut	Backfill
11	Masonry	13	TP5	Modern brick wall	Wall
12	Fill	9, 10	TP2	Fill of [14]	Backfill
13	Masonry	11	TP2	Brick foundation of current building	Foundation
14	Cut		TP2	Construction cut for [13]	Construction Cut
15	Layer	1, 4, 16	TP2	Post-Medieval made ground	Make-up
16	Layer	1, 4, 15	TP10	Post-Medieval made ground	Make-up
17	Layer	8	BH1	London Clay	Natural

12 APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



13 APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

13.1 Seven sherds (43g) of pottery were recovered from a single context: [15]. The pottery consists of four types. Two sherds are recorded in black basalt ware (BBAS), dated 1770–1900 and come from a teapot, which survives as shoulder sherds with a moulded, repeating arrow type border in relief. In creamware (CREA), dated 1740–1830, the base and foot ring of a rounded bowl also occurs. The latest pottery type in the group consists of refined whiteware (REFW), dated 1805–1900 and this is represented by the base and rounded wall sherds of a bowl or dish. A small sherd of residual Frechen stoneware (FREC), dated 1550–1700, probably derived

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- from a rounded jugs, is also noted. Together, the contemporaneous pottery types found in deposit [15] indicate a deposition date of *c*. 1805–30.
- 13.2 The pottery is of no significance as it occurs in such a small quantity and in a fragmentary condition with little meaning. The only potential of the pottery is to date the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the material, which can be discarded as it is fully catalogued.

14 APPENDIX 4: GLASS ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

14.1 The assemblage consists of a single fragment of glass (2g), which was recovered from context [15]. The glass consists of a shard of a window pane made in clear soda glass, which can only be broadly dated to the 18th-19th century. The glass has no significance and its only potential is to provide broad dating to the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the material.

15 APPENDIX 5: BUILDING MATERIAL SPOT DATES AND REVIEW

By Kevin Hayward, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Context	Fabric	Form	Size		ange of terial	Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
18	2276	Post medieval peg tile	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1600-1900	No mortar

15.1 Review

15.1.1 A single fragment of post medieval peg tile from RVT18 [18] (50g) was the sum total of all the post medieval building material from this site. Its presence merely reflects post medieval building activity in this part of Hackney.

15.2 Recommendations

15.2.1 Other than dating feature [18] the post medieval peg tile is unremarkable and an extremely common fabric for London and as such should be discarded.

16 APPENDIX 6: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Reilly, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

16.1 Introduction

16.1.1 The site was located at the eastern end of Rivington Street just to the west of Kingsland Road, some 200m north-west of Shoreditch High Street train station. Excavations consisted of a

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number of trial pits and boreholes, these incursions providing evidence for natural deposits overlain by late post-medieval occupation coinciding with the development of this area. A few bones were recovered from a general made ground level, this forming the major part of the contents of each of the several incursions.

16.2 Methodology

16.2.1 The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

16.3 Description of faunal assemblage

16.3.1 The excavations provided a total of 4 hand collected bones, these taken from made ground level (15), dated by the ceramic building material between 1600 and 1900 and from the pottery between the early and mid 19th century. All are unidentifiable to species, including one cattle-size limb bone fragment which appears to be burnt; and three sheep-size pieces - part of a lumbar vertebra, a rib proximal end and an unfused diaphyseal fragment of a limb bone, most probably a sheep/goat proximal humerus. The vertebra had been extensively butchered, with a longtitudual chop splitting the bone slightly off-centre and a transverse cut removing the posterior part of the centrum and probably the neural arch. This small collection was well preserved, with two out of three (discounting the vertebra), representing significantly less than 25% of their respective skeletal parts. The presence of fresh breaks undoubtedly suggests that the noted fragmentation was in part related to the manner of recovery.

16.4 Conclusion and recommendations for further work

16.4.1 These few bones can add very little regarding animal usage in this area during the post-medieval era. No further work can be recommended.

17 APPENDIX 7: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-322702
Project details
Project name
Short description of the project

74 Rivington Street, London EC2A 3AY
This report details an archaeological watching brief of
geotechnical investigations consisting of a total of nine Trial
Pits and two Boreholes, excavated by the geotechnical
contractor and monitored by an archaeological supervisor.
Natural deposits were only seen within the Boreholes.
Natural London Clay was encountered from a depth of 5m
BGL, overlain by Hackney Gravel Member deposits from a
depth of 3m BGL, and was sealed by a layer of natural
brickearth from a depth of 1.5m BGL. All archaeological
remains encountered belonged to the Post-Medieval period
consisting of a possible cut feature and a layer of

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plough/garden soil which survived across the site except

where truncated by more recent masonry structures.

Start: 30-06-2018 End: 04-07-2018

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Monument type
Significant Finds
Significant Finds
CLAYER Post Medieval
POTTERY Post Medieval
GLASS Post Medieval

Significant Finds CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval

Project location

Project dates

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY 74 Rivington

Street, London

Postcode EC2A 3AY

Study area 940 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 33355 82555 51.525644798159 -0.077464903381 51 31

32 N 000 04 38 W Point Min: 1.5m Max: 2.8m

Height OD / Depth **Project creators**

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator Mills Whipp Projects Ltd
Project design originator Mills Whipp Projects Ltd

Project director/manager Chris Mayo

Project supervisor Leonardo Penades and Matthew Edmonds

Type of sponsor/funding body

Name of sponsor/funding body

Developer

Esselco Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC
Physical Archive ID RVT18

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass"

Digital Archive recipient LAARC
Digital Archive ID RVT18

Digital Media available "Database", "Spreadsheets"

Paper Archive recipient LAARC
Paper Archive ID RVT18

Paper Media available "Diary", "Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General

Notes","Plan","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Author(s)/Editor(s)

Date

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