

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

12A & 14 CHEYNE ROW, LONDON BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA, SW3

Type of project

EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K826
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Elliott Wragg		17/12/04
Graphics Prepared by:	Hailey Baxter		22/12/04
Graphics Checked by:	Peter Moore	<i>Peter Moore</i>	6/1/05
Project Manager Sign-off:	Peter Moore	<i>Peter Moore</i>	10/1/05

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 12a and 14 Cheyne Row, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, SW3.

Site Code: CHZ 04

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2715 7778

**Written and Researched by Elliott Wragg
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, January 2005**

Project Manager: Peter Moore

Commissioning Client: Peter Wood & Partners

**Contractor:
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD
Tel: 020 732 3925/639 9091
Fax: 020 77327896**

E-mail: pmoore@pre-construct.com

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
January 2005**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

Table of Contents:

1	Abstract	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Geology and Topography	7
4	Archaeological and historical Background	8
5	Archaeological Methodology	10
6	Site sequence	11
7	Conclusions, Interpretation and Recommendations	12
8	Acknowledgements	13
9	Bibliography	14
	Appendix 1: Context Register	15
	Appendix 2: OASIS Form	16

List of Figures:

Figure 1	Site Location and Natural Topographical Plan	5
Figure 2	Auger and Borehole Location Plan	6

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological field evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 12a and 14 Cheyne Row, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, SW3 (see Figure 1). The central National Grid reference is TQ 2715 7778. The field evaluation was undertaken on 9th and 10th December 2004. The work was commissioned by Peter Wood of Peter Wood & Partners on behalf of Robert Hefner III of Cheyne Row.
- 1.2 The evaluation comprised the drilling of two auger holes, to create a section across the site and investigate whether the natural sand on the site had been removed by quarrying (see Figure 2).
- 1.3 The evaluation identified the presence of natural sand and gravel overlain by subsoil and garden soil in a garden extension to the south of the proposed development. This showed that the borehole taken immediately to the north of the auger holes lay within a large cut feature, almost 4m deep. A contour plan of the surface of the natural sand and gravel was prepared from all known boreholes and archaeological excavations in the area. It showed that the site lies on a very slight spur with the sand and gravel dropping gently to the south and east. It has therefore been concluded that in the subject site, in the area where new basements are proposed, no potential archaeology survives because the natural ground has been removed by a quarry pit.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the 9th and 10th December 2004 by Elliott Wragg of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, and was commissioned by Peter Wood of Peter Wood & Partners on behalf of Robert Hefner III of Cheyne Row. The evaluation was undertaken on land in the garden of 12a & 14 Cheyne Row, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, SW3. The evaluation was to investigate the site prior to new basements being excavated on the site.
- 2.2 The evaluation comprised the drilling of two auger holes to assess the nature of any underlying deposits. In particular its aim was to establish the extent of a possible anomaly recorded in a borehole in the courtyard immediately to the north. This borehole recorded natural sand and gravel at a level of 2.43m OD when the expected level for the vicinity was approximately 5.00m OD. The data recorded on site was to be incorporated with other known data concerning the natural gravels of the area to create a contour plan of the underlying topography.
- 2.3 The site was bounded to the west by Cheyne Row, and to the north, east and south by gardens of other properties on Cheyne Row.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 2715 7778.
- 2.5 The evaluation was managed by Peter Moore from Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and was monitored by Diane Walls of English Heritage (GLAAS).
- 2.6 A temporary benchmark was established on site with a value of 6.18m OD, which was transferred from a benchmark located on the Albert Bridge with a value of 5.02m OD.
- 2.7 The site was given the code CHZ 04.



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

Figure 1
 Site location and
 contours on top of natural gravels
 1:1,600



Figure 2
Borehole and augerhole location
1:500

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The site is located about 100m north of the River Thames, at c.6.60m OD, on land gently sloping down from north to south
- 3.2 According to the British Geological Survey of England and Wales (sheet 270), the natural geology of the site consists of Thames river terrace deposits, comprising Kempton Park Gravel, overlying London Clay.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The following text has been abridged from the archaeological and historical background of an Archaeological Desktop Assessment of the nearby property at 6 Cheyne Walk.¹

4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 A small number of Palaeolithic hand axes have been found in the area, including one discovered north of the river, possibly next to Albert Bridge.

4.2.2 Numerous Mesolithic implements have been recovered from the river including Tranchet axes, other flint objects and antler tools, including a harpoon head. An assemblage of Mesolithic flint implements were found some 500m north of the site in the area of Sydney Street. A quantity of burnt and struck flint dating to this period was recovered during excavations by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at 6-12 Old Church Street, approximately 150m to the west of the study site, and a pit excavated at 2-4 Old Church Street also appears to have been Mesolithic in date.

4.2.3 A large amount of Neolithic material has been recovered from the river, including polished stone axes, flint tools and small pottery assemblages. Three Neolithic flint flakes were found in the vicinity of Sydney Street and a single, unstratified, flint of this date was recovered at 2-4 Old Church Street.

4.2.4 The Bronze Age is also well represented by finds from the river, metalwork in particular being present. The excavations at 6-12 Old Church Street also recovered two sherds of pottery dating to this period.

4.2.5 Iron Age coins and especially weaponry have been recovered from the river although no finds have been recovered terrestrially in the area of the site.

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 A small amount of Roman pottery has been recovered from the river. A single coin of Tetricus (AD 259-274) was found in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, approximately 800m to the east of the site, while residual sherds of Roman pottery were discovered during excavations at 61-62 Cheyne Walk. Furthermore, the excavations at 2-4 and 6-12 Old Church Street recorded features belonging to this period, suggesting the presence of a small settlement.

4.4 Saxon

4.4.1 The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of AD 758 refers to a Synod, which created a temporary Archdiocese of Lichfield, held at *Cealcythe*, the residence of King Offa. The settlement is believed to be in the area of Old Church Street, an argument supported by the discovery of a number of structural features dating to this period at 6-12 Old Church Street.

4.4.2 The Domesday Book refers to the manor of *Chelscheed* in the Ossulton Hundred of Middlesex, held by Edward de Sarisbri.

4.4.3 Other finds dating to this period have been recovered from the river including a large iron stirrup, a silver ring and a Viking axe.

¹ Peter Boyer, "6 Cheyne Walk, London SW3, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea: Archaeological Desktop Assessment", unpublished Report, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, April 2004.

4.5 Medieval

- 4.5.1 The medieval manor house is believed to have been located in the area of Lawrence Street, to the west of the study site, while the Saxon settlement appears to have developed in the medieval period in the same area around Old Church Street. A number of medieval features were recorded during the excavations at 2-4 and 6-12 Old Church Street and at 61-62 Cheyne Walk. St Luke's Church, now rebuilt, is believed to be of medieval origin.

4.6 Post-Medieval

- 4.6.1 A large number of features dating from the 15th to 18th centuries were recorded during excavations at 61-62 Cheyne Walk and 2-4 and 6-12 Old Church Street suggesting a continuity of occupation.
- 4.6.2 The Manor of Chelsea was acquired by Charles Cheyne in 1657 and it was he who gave his name to Cheyne Walk and Cheyne Row. The manor house was still standing at this time but had been demolished by 1704. Cheyne Walk was established as a residential street in the early 18th century.
- 4.6.3 The area around Cheyne Walk developed into one of the most fashionable parts of London, occupied by characters such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti and George Eliot, who died at 4 Cheyne Walk in 1880. More recently it has become home to luminaries of the contemporary music establishment, amongst others.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The evaluation comprised two auger holes drilled to evaluate the levels of natural sand and gravel. They were drilled on a north-south axis, forming, together with the borehole, a section across the site.
- 5.2 Any deposits and features identified were investigated and recorded using the single context recording method, and pro-forma borehole sheets.
- 5.3 A temporary benchmark, with a value of 6.18m OD, was traversed onto the site from a benchmark located on the Albert Bridge with a height of 5.02mOD.
- 5.4 In order to see the results of the borehole and auger holes in a wider context a contour of all known values of non-truncated natural sands and gravels was produced using Surfer Software.

6 SITE SEQUENCE

6.1 Auger Hole 1

6.1.1 The lowest deposit recorded in this auger hole was light yellowish brown natural sand and gravel [4] with a top height of 5.40m OD.

6.1.2 Sealing this was a subsoil deposit [3] comprising greyish brown silty sand, 0.17m thick, and encountered at 5.57m OD.

6.1.3 This, in turn, was sealed by a layer of made ground [2] with a top height of 5.84m OD.

6.1.4 Overlying the made ground was topsoil [1] up to the top of the auger hole which was at a height of 6.64m OD.

6.2 Auger Hole 2

6.2.1 The lowest deposit identified in this auger hole was natural sand and gravel [7] with a top height of 5.01m OD.

6.2.2 This was overlain by a subsoil deposit [6] which was similar to that recorded in auger hole 1. This deposit was 0.18m thick and was encountered at a height of 5.19m OD.

6.2.3 Above the subsoil was a layer of made ground [5] with a top height of 5.69m OD.

6.2.4 The above deposits were sealed by topsoil [1] up to the top of auger hole 2 which was at a height of 6.69m OD.

6.3 Borehole 1

6.3.1 The top of the gravel in the borehole was recorded at 2.43m OD and had 3.8m of clay and modern surfaces over it.

7 CONCLUSIONS, INTERPRETATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Natural sand and gravel was recorded at a height of 5.40m OD in Auger Hole 1 and at a height of 5.01m OD in Auger Hole 2. These heights are consistent with the known underlying topography of the area as seen from the contour plan of the area (see Fig.1).
- 7.2 The natural sand and gravel was however recorded at a height of 2.43m OD in the previously drilled borehole, located approximately 10m to the north. This would appear to be a small, localised, anomaly, which most likely represents a pit dug for gravel extraction.
- 7.3 There was no evidence of archaeologically significant features or deposits in the area of Auger Holes 1 and 2, while any such deposits in the area of the borehole would have been destroyed during the probable gravel extraction process.
- 7.4 As such, no further mitigation is recommended for this site.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Peter Wood of Peter Wood & Partners for commissioning the project, Robert Hefner III and his staff for their help and co-operation during the fieldwork.
- 8.2 We would also like to thank Diane Walls, English Heritage (GLAAS), for monitoring the evaluation.
- 8.3 The author would like to thank Tony Baxter and Roddy Mattinson for their very hard work and assistance on site, Josephine brown for the CAD illustrations and Peter Moore for project management and editing.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Peter Boyer, 6 Cheyne Walk, London SW3, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. *Unpublished Report, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, April 2004.*
- Alistair Douglas, Saxo-Norman Buildings in Kensington. *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society 52, 113-126, 2001*
- Shahina Farid, An Excavation at 6-12 Church Street, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society 51, 115-141, 2000.*

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Type	Description	OD height m OD	Auger Hole
1	Layer	Topsoil	6.64/6.69	1 & 2
2	Layer	Made ground	5.84	1
3	Layer	Subsoil	5.57	1
4	Layer	Natural sand and gravel	5.40	1
5	Layer	Made ground	5.69	2
6	Layer	Subsoil	5.19	2
7	Layer	Natural sand and gravel	5.01	2

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

[List of Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: preconst1-5829

Project details

Project name 12a and 14 Cheyne Row, Chelsea
 Short description of the project Evaluation
 Project dates Start: 09-12-2004 End: 10-12-2004
 Previous/future work No / No
 Any associated project reference codes CHZ 04 - Sitecode
 Type of project Field evaluation
 Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
 Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential
 Monument type QUARRY Post Medieval
 Methods & techniques 'Augering'
 Development type Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
 Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
 Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
 Site location GREATER LONDON KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA CHELSEA 12a and 14 Cheyne Row, London Borough Kensington and Chelsea
 Postcode SW3
 Study area 180 Square metres
 National grid reference TQ 2715 7778 Point
 Height OD Min: 6.64m Max: 6.69m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Peter Moore
 Project Peter Moore

director/manager

Project supervisor Elliott Wragg

Sponsor or funding body Mr Robert Hefner III

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents 'Survey'

Digital Media available 'Survey','Text'

Digital Archive Exists? Yes

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents 'Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Manuscript','Map','Matrices','Plan','Report','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive Exists? Yes

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation of land at 12a and 14 Cheyne Row, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, SW3

Author(s)/Editor(s) Elliott Wragg

Date 2005

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or publication London

Description Bound unpublished evaluation report

Entered by Peter Moore (pmoore@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 10 January 2005

© ADS 1996-2003 Created by Jo Clarke, email Last modified Monday 24 November 2003
 Cite only: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/print.cfm> for this page