ALDBOROUGH HATCH CHAPEL, OAKS LANE, ALDBOROUGH HATCH, LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE, IG2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING EXERCISE AND WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre 96 Endwell Road London SE4 2PD An Archaeological Recording Exercise and Watching Brief at Aldborough Hatch Chapel, Oaks Lane, Aldborough Hatch, London Borough of Redbridge, IG2 7QD

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 4531 8915

Site Code: AHO 09

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological recording exercise and watching brief of works monitored by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Aldborough Hatch Chapel, Oaks Lane, Aldborough Hatch, London Borough of Redbridge, IG2 7QD. The site central National Grid Reference is TQ 4531 8915. The work was undertaken intermittently between Friday 3rd and Saturday 25th July 2009 and was supervised by Richard Humphrey. The commissioning client was Mr Balkrishna Savant.
- 1.2 The works consisted of two parts. Firstly was the recording of remains of a structure that were exposed during the archaeologically unmonitored excavation of trenches that were to form part of a geothermal heating system. Secondly was the monitored excavation of additional trenches as part of the same system.
- 1.3 The unmonitored works consisted of the recording of six east to west aligned trenches that were joined at the western end by a north to south aligned trench. In addition to this, a smaller square trench had been dug in the southeast corner. In the east facing section of the north to south trench the masonry remains of a north-north-east to south-south-west aligned building were exposed. These consisted of a construction cut having been made through naturally occurring orange-brown sandy-gravels that in turn contained red brick foundations. The northeast corner of the building was partially exposed but had been severely truncated by the recent works. The notably skewed alignment of this structure is comparable with the foundation trenches of a building dated from between 1480 and 1700 that were exposed during previous archaeological investigations on the site; however the bricks recovered from the newly exposed section of wall are dated to the late 17th century. It is possible that either the newly exposed walls are unrelated to the earlier ones beneath the chapel or that the supposed construction date for the chapel, in c. 1660, is erroneous and should actually be in the early 18th century.
- 1.4 In the southeast corner of the unmonitored trench excavations a red brick floor surface was also recorded. This had been partially truncated by the recent works and is thought to represent a yard surface or floor for structures of a similar date to those exposed in these works to the west and in the previous works to the north.
- 1.5 The second phase of works involved the monitoring under archaeological conditions of further trenches excavated as part of the geothermal system. This consisted of thirteen east to west aligned trenches that were positioned to the east of the previous works. The remains of several red brick foundations in a poor state of preservation were seen on a north to south alignment as well as possible floor surfaces. It is suggested that these represent the remains of an outbuilding associated with the manor house or the structure to the west that was demolished at the same time as the manor house.

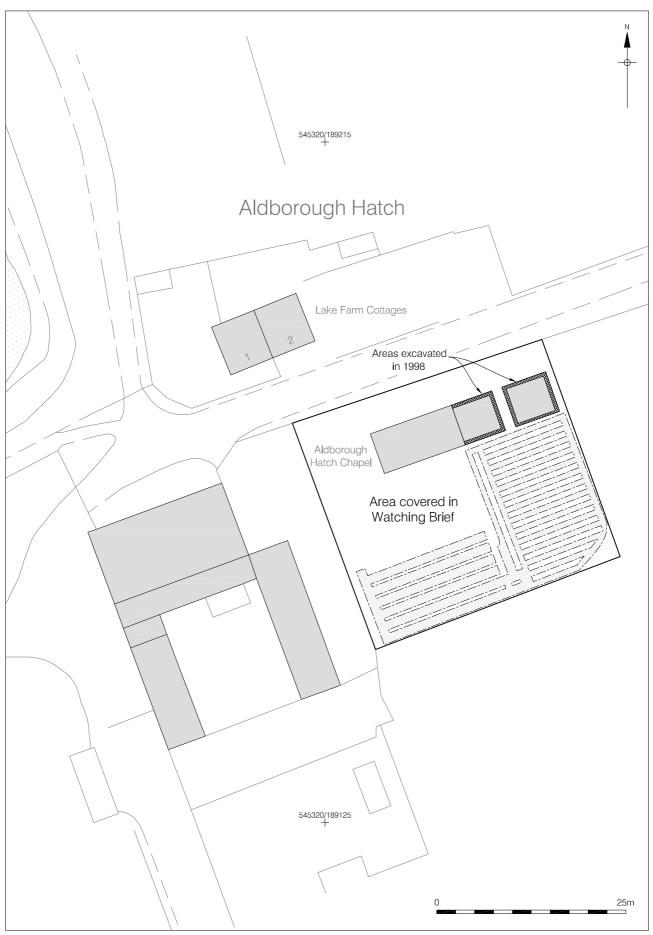
2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological recording exercise and watching brief were undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 3rd and 25th July 2009, supervised by Richard Humphrey. The Project Manager was Chris Mayo.
- 2.2 The site was located at Aldborough Hatch Chapel, Oaks Lane, Aldborough Hatch, London Borough of Redbridge, IG2 7QD (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the north by Lake Farm Cottages, to the east and south by pasture and to the west by stables.
- 2.3 The first stage of works consisted of the recording of damaged masonry remains of a structure that were observed during the archaeologically unmonitored excavation of trenches that would allow for the insertion of a geothermal heating system in to the grounds of the redeveloped Aldborough Hatch Chapel. The second stage consisted of archaeologically monitoring the excavation of further trenches designed for an additional length of geothermal heating pipe. This aimed to avoid the potential destruction of further unrecorded archaeological remains.
- 2.4 The work was commissioned by Mr Balkrishna Savant and was undertaken following English Heritage guidelines (1998) and the direction of the Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Redbridge, David Divers of GLAAS.
- 2.5 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ45318915 and the site was given the code AHO 09.



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3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGY IN REDBRIDGE AND THE UDP

- 3.1.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 In short, government policies provide a framework which:
 - Protect Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - Protect the settings of these sites
 - Protect nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments
 - Has a presumption in favour of in situ preservation
 - In appropriate circumstances, requires adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in situ
 preservation
- 3.1.3 In considering any proposal for development, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, of existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.
- 3.1.4 The London Borough of Redbridge Core Strategy Development Plan Document (adopted 2008) includes policies in relation to archaeological practice within the Borough.
- 3.1.5 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone as designated by the London Borough of Redbridge.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The site is situated at the northern edge of the suburb of Newbury Park, in the west of the parish of Aldborough Hatch. The underlying subsoil consists of alluvial gravel associated with the River Roding (Sabel 1998). The site is presently in the grounds of the Chapel, which stands in a grassed field.
- 4.2 Observations during the works suggested that the natural stratigraphy slopes gently from north to south.
- 4.3 Ground level at the site is estimated to be at approximately 28.00m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological investigation at the same site and for the same client in 1998. The following background is taken from that report (Sabel 1998) and other on-line sources.
- 5.2 The site lies to the south of Fairlop Plain and prior to the medieval period was part of Hainault Forest. This area forms part of the northern gravel terrace of the Thames Valley and is an area of extensive gravel quarrying, as evidenced by the modern 'sand and ballast works' situated just to the north of the site.
- 5.3 The GLSMR (accessed in 1998) identified four ring ditches on Aldborough Road within a 100m radius of the site, while within the vicinity of the study site Bronze Age activity has been recognized and Roman activity has been found and excavated at Fairlop Plain. Considerable Roman activity has been recorded in the area including the Roman Road from London to Colchester, to the south of the site, and sites at Valentines, Uphall Camp, Carswell near Woodford Bridge Road and Wanstead.
- Documentation of the area during the medieval period shows it within Hainault Forest but by the beginning of the 16th century the edges of the forest had been exploited for forestry and agriculture. Arable land together with manor houses and farms were now characteristic of this area. Aldborough or Aldbury was a name first recorded in the 14th century and may have been derived from the word 'bury' meaning manor. The Aldborough estate lay on the south edge of Hainault Forest with an entranceway or gateway ('hatch') to the forest. Prior to the Dissolution it had been held by Barking Abbey but subsequently was passed to Bartholomew Barnes. Aldborough House farmhouse was believed to have stood on the study site in 1666 and was referred to as a 'building of modest size'. This may refer to the building standing between the Chapel and the House on the c. 1800 plan of the site.
- The first known source to identify a Chapel on the estate comes from a 1770 map, however, the origins of the Chapel are believed by H. Lockwood (a local historian) to date to the c. 1660s. He records: "I discovered some years ago that the fields immediately east of the old house were collectively known as 'Chapel Close', as far back as the Tithe book of 1669. This makes it almost certainty that a chapel stood there before 1669." This fits with a documentary source recording a contemporary tenant of Aldborough Hatch estate as a clergyman called Edward Kighley who inherited the property from the death of his father's wife, the heiress to the estate who died in 1668. During the Commonwealth period he was appointed minister of the short-lived chapel at Barkingside. After the Restoration of 1660 he appears to have been ejected for non-conformity but continued to preach there as a Presbyterian. It is conjectured that his step-mother had the Chapel built for him some time before her death.

- 5.6 In 1728 Colonel Braden built a new house to the east in the vernacular style and rebuilt or re-clad the west front of the Chapel. Presbyterian congregations continued to meet in the Chapel until the late 17th century and in the 18th century the owners continued to maintain the Chapel but with Anglican forms of worship. The c. 1800 plan of the Aldborough Estate depicts a similar arrangement of structures to those on the 1770 map but by c. 1808 Aldborough House had been demolished and only the Chapel survived. This ground plan was recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1863. The east gable wall of the Chapel was built at about this time but may also have been rebuilt again later in the 19th century using yellow stock bricks from north Kent.
- 5.7 Services were still held in 1841 but were eventually transferred to the new Church of St. Peter's Aldborough Hatch in 1863. Since then the Chapel has been used as a farm outbuilding and chicken coup.
- An archaeological watching brief was previously undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. to the east of the Chapel in 1998 prior to the construction of an extension and garage (Sabel 1998). This revealed alluvial gravels and silty clays sealed by agricultural soil. An early post-medieval timber building in which the sole plates were probably built on to a bed of roof tiles, that were laid over a drainage trench with a gritty crushed chalk fill, was found. This was either demolished or rebuilt in brick or had its sill beams replaced with brick plinths in the mid 16th century. The walls of this building were truncated in the early 19th century by the Chapel's east gable wall footings. The east gable wall of the Chapel was rebuilt in the early 19th century when the building to its west was demolished at the same time as the 18th century basemented house to the east.
- The recently excavated trenches in the area of the site have exposed archaeological structures likely to relate to the activity outlined above. In particular, the foundations of a probable 17th century building were observed in the southwest corner of the site and a brick floor was identified in the southeast section during a visit by David Divers, English Heritage (GLAAS). As such, David Divers has recommended that the recently exposed archaeological structures be fully recorded.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2008) which was approved by David Divers.
- An archaeologist inspected the areas which were excavated without appropriate attendance and examined the nature of the in situ and removed soils for artefacts and recorded the results. All the excavated areas were inspected and recorded, including the possible 17th century building foundations and brick floor that was previously noted on the site.
- 6.3 Following the granting of required consents the remaining site works were completed with full archaeological attendance. All archaeological finds, features and deposits were fully recorded.
- 6.4 Recording on site was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified in the Museum of London Site Manual. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and representative sections at a scale of 1:10. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on pro-forma context sheets.
- 6.5 Levels were calculated from the current ground surface, estimated to be at approximately 28.00m OD.
- 6.6 The site archive was compiled under the MoL site code AHO 09
- 6.7 The archaeological Recording Exercise and Watching Brief aimed to address and answer the following objectives:
 - Locate, define, record and date any surviving archaeological deposits, features of finds on the site
 - Is there any evidence of prehistoric remains in the area of development?
 - Is there any further evidence of Roman activity in the area of the site?
 - Is there any evidence for medieval activity in the area of the site?
 - Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity, particularly relating to the 17th century farmhouse and the later Chapel in the area of the site?

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 RECORDING EXERCISE

- 7.1.1 The area of unmonitored excavation measured approximately 10.00m north to south by 17.50m east to west and was positioned approximately 5.00m to the south of the Aldborough Hatch Chapel building. It consisted of six east to west aligned trenches each measuring approximately 1.25m wide. These were connected at the western end by a north to south aligned trench also measuring approximately 1.25m wide. The two southern most of the east to west aligned trenches were extended by 3.50m to the east to form an additional square of excavation. These trenches had been excavated in 2008, approximately 1 year prior to their archaeological recording.
- 7.1.2 All of the trenches had been machined to a depth of approximately 1m below ground surface where sandy-gravels were observed. These were of a firm to loose compaction and consisted of small to medium sized unsorted stones and were of a mid orange-brown colour. Aside from a piece of residual animal bone observed on the surface towards the east of the trench, this horizon was devoid of culturally modified finds and cut features and was therefore identified as representing naturally-occurring stratigraphy.
- 7.1.3 Towards the west of the site, in the north to south aligned trench, a construction cut [5] was made through natural gravels [4] for masonry [1] and [2]. This cut was not fully exposed owing to the nature of the remaining archaeology as well as the damage that had been bought about as a result of the trench excavation. It is suggested that from the orientation of the masonry components that filled this construction cut, it would have been positioned on north-north-east to south-south-west alignment.
- 7.1.4 Masonry [1] and [2] represented the remains of the northeastern corner of a structure. The corner of the foundation had been mostly removed by the digging of the modern trench although some bricks were visibly in the unexcavated area that lay between the second and third east to west aligned trenches (figure 3). Masonry [1] represented the approximate east to west aligned northern foundation of the structure and its turn to the south. As mentioned, it was visible in the unexcavated area between the second and third trenches as well as in the east-facing section of the north to south aligned trench. It was made from poorly-fired unfrogged red bricks. Approximately five courses of brickwork were seen although a bond pattern could not be discerned. Masonry [2] was seen in the east-facing section of the north to south aligned trench and most likely represents the foundation for the eastern external wall of a building. It was more badly damaged than masonry [1] with many of the bricks being crushed. Where seen it extended for approximately 4.00m north to south and was 0.20m high with three courses of brick work visible. Like masonry [1], this too was made from poorly fired, unfrogged red bricks. The bricks from both walls were fabric 3033/near 3039-type, stock-moulded and hand-made. The bricks, in

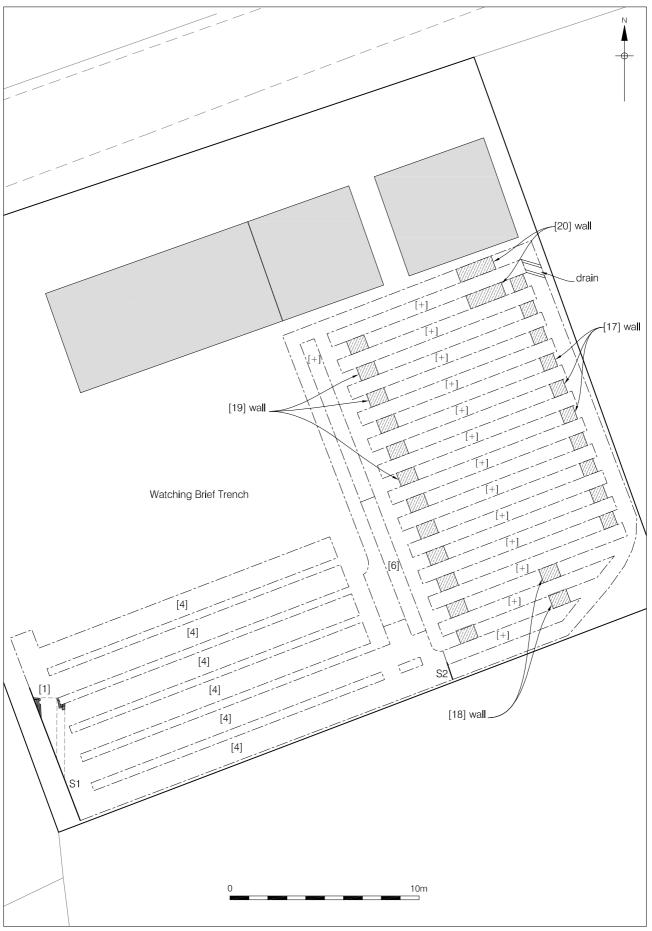
combination with the mortar, have been tentatively dated to the late 17th or early 18th century.

- 7.1.5 Floor surface [3] was recorded in the west and north facing sections of the southeast corner of the trench at approximately 0.40m below ground level (fig. 3). It was composed of unfrogged red bricks that had been badly damaged by the recent excavations. It was seen set into a layer of crushed mortar [13] that would have acted as a bedding layer for the overlying brickwork. The floor was composed of no more than one course of bricks without any suggestion of horizontal truncation having removed any additional courses. Where seen, this measured approximately 0.90m north to south in the west facing section and 0.30m in the north facing section and was between 60mm and 80mm deep. Underlying bedding layer [13] was slightly thinner at between 20mm and 30mm. Unlike masonry [1] and [2], this did not appear to have been made within a construction cut but rather the bedding material appeared to have been deposited directly on top of natural sandy-gravels [4].
- 7.1.6 Sealing the brick floor [3] was a sequence of dumped horizons. Directly overlying the floor, horizon [14] was composed of a combination of ceramic brick material rubble and redeposited natural gravels. This appears to have been deposited following the demolition and disuse of the surface and its associated structures. This in turn was overlain by horizon [15] that represented a plough soil. It was a mid-grey colour and composed of a combination of silt, sand and decayed humic material. This was in turn overlain by modern topsoil in this area of the site. The surrounding sections to this feature showed no other indication of floors or foundations.
- 7.1.7 Following the construction of the foundation walls [1] and [2] in the west of the trench, a horizon of clean, fine silt and clay appeared to have been used to backfill the interior of the structure. Fill [6] was a grey to light orange-grey clayey-silt and of a firm to friable compaction. It was very clean with no traces of residual material. This deposit would have served to raise the interior of the structure in preparation for bedding layers for the floor surfaces. The presence of this deposit to the north of foundation [1] also suggests that it was used to backfill the construction cut [5].
- 7.1.8 A sequence of dumped horizons consisting of demolition rubble and gravel was seen to seal masonry remains [1] and [2]. These were predominantly recorded as horizons [7] and [8]. The lower of the two, [7], was composed of redeposited gravel with rare ceramic building material flecks and may too have been used to raise the interior floor height of the structure in preparation for a floor. Overlying this, horizon [8] was a darker grey colour and contained an increased content of red brick and tile demolition rubble. Unlike the lower deposits, this may have been a product of the demolition of the structure rather an intentional floor-raising layer from the building. Sealing this was 40-100mm thick layer of crushed mortar, that is more likely to be a later dump of material rather than an in situ bedding layer. This was overlain by approximately 0.35m of topsoil. The masonry in the southwest corner of the area was seen to be sealed by a mid-grey layer of ploughsoil [9] at a depth of 0.47m below the ground surface. This was in turn sealed by topsoil measuring approximately 0.50m thick.

7.2 Watching Brief

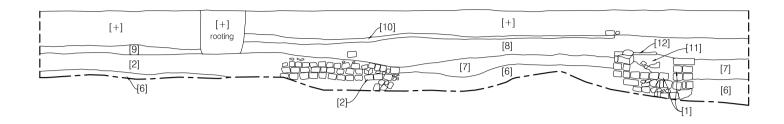
- 7.2.1 The area monitored in the watching brief phase of works was positioned to the east of the previous investigations and measured approximately 20m north to south by 12m east to west (fig. 3). A trench was excavated by a JCB machine on a north to south alignment that divided the two areas and was used to connect the geothermal pipe with the southern side of the renovated Chapel building. This was dug to approximately 1.00m below ground surface and was 0.30m to 0.40m wide. This revealed a similar sequence of stratigraphy as seen in the west of the area, namely between 0.30m and 0.40m of topsoil to overlie natural clayey-gravels. Although no archaeological relevant finds, features or deposits were seen in this excavation it was noted that the level of the natural horizon raised from south to north. The absence of observed finds may be attributed to the deep and narrow trench that prohibited closer inspection.
- 7.2.2 At the southern boundary of the site, the trench detailed above turned 90° to the east, parallel with the southern boundary of the site. From there it continued for approximately 8.00m when it turned again to the north. This trench measured the same as before, that being 1.00m below ground level and between 0.30m and 0.40m wide. This trench continued to the north until it was approximately 1.50m south of the newly built garage structure to the east of the Chapel building. A 19th century red brick box drain [16] was observed in the north of the trench. This consisted of a bed of tiles with two courses of bricks positioned on the north and south side. A further brick was used to cap the drain. This was aligned on a west-north-west to east-south-east direction and is suggested to represent a Victorian addition to the Chapel.
- 7.2.3 In the centre of the area that was created by the two parallel north to south aligned trenches, thirteen east to west trenches were excavated. These were dug to a depth of 1.00m below ground level and measured between 0.30m and 0.40m wide. The spaces of unexcavated ground between these trenches measured between 0.50m and 1.00m wide. Mid orange-brown clayey gravels were seen at the base of the trench and interpreted as representing natural stratigraphy. As noted previously, these appeared to rise towards the north, creating a gentle slope towards the south. These were seen in the section of the trench to measure between 0.60m and 0.70m and were in turn overlain by approximately 0.40m of topsoil.
- 7.2.4 A badly degraded north to south aligned red brick foundation [17] was seen in the east of the trench at a height of 0.40m below ground level. This measured 0.50m wide and was 0.30m high. It was seen throughout the east to west traverses and may represent a contemporary feature to masonry [3] as seen in the works to the west. It appeared to be built within a construction cut that had been backfilled with a crushed mortar deposit.
- 7.2.5 Masonry [18] was observed extending on a parallel alignment to [17] at a distance of 2.75m to the west. This was seen in the 2nd and 3rd east to west trenches and had a similar appearance in terms of building material, dimensions and depth below ground surface as foundation [17]. At between 4.00 and 5.00m to the west still, masonry [19] was recorded. This was parallel to both

- [17] and [18] and was seen throughout the thirteen east to west trenches. It measured approximately 0.50m wide and was 0.40 deep. The combination of these three red brick foundations strongly suggests the presence of a demolished structure in this location. There was also the suggestion of a red brick floor surface extending between walls [18] and [19].
- 7.2.6 In the centre of the 12th and 13th east to west trenches (at the north of the area) a large red brick foundation [20] measuring 2.50m north to south by 2.50m north to south was seen. This was between 1.50m and 2.00m south of the newly built garage structure and was much lower in the archaeological sequence than the walls of the presumed structure that masonry [17], [18] and [19] created. It was made from unfrogged red bricks and was seen at between 0.60m and 0.70m below ground level. Whilst it is possible that this was part of the structure to the south, it may also have been part of the building whose foundations were revealed as part of the works prior to the construction of the new garage building to the north.
- 7.2.7 These features were sealed by a 0.40m thick horizon of topsoil that contained frequent inclusions of demolition rubble, presumably from the demolition of the structure that stood here.

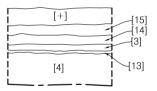


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Section S1 East facing



Section S2 West facing



8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Natural stratigraphy was composed of mid orange-brown sandy gravels in the west of the site at an untruncated depth of approximately 0.50m below ground level. In the east of the site an increase in the clay proportion and a darkening in colour of the gravel were observed. The difference between the two may have been as a result of the exposure to the atmosphere of the western trenches for over a year. It was noted that the height at which natural material was recorded raised to the north of the area, creating a very gentle north to south sloping of the site.
- 8.2 The recording exercise was successful in making a written-record of the masonry remains of a building that was partially destroyed by the unmonitored excavation works. These were notably built on a skewed alignment to the extant Chapels' orientation and, along with the observation of angled foundation trenches seen in the works prior to the construction of the new garage building, suggest a phase of occupation of the site that predates the construction of the current Chapel. The bricks used in the walls are considered to be of late 17th or early 18th century date.
- 8.3 This poses a problem in the phasing of the site. By virtue of the fact that the walls recorded in this exercise are on a skewed alignment matching that of remains found beneath the Chapel by PCA in 1998, these remains in their entirety are therefore considered to pre-date the construction of the Chapel. The brick dates given by the newly exposed walls post-date the supposed construction date of the Chapel in c. 1660 (see Chapter 5, above).
- 8.4 One possible explanation for this discrepancy is that the walls seen in this work are actually later than the build of the Chapel and therefore unconnected to the remains recorded in 1998. It may have been that another, unknown factor influenced the alignment of both constructions. Another possibility is that the supposed construction date for the Chapel of c. 1660 is actually erroneous, and that it was built in the 18th century instead. Supporting evidence for this comes from the fact that list description for the Chapel is given as c. 1730, and various other sources also suggest that it "probably dates from the late 17th or early 18th century." (Online source #1). If this is the case, and the current Chapel dates to the 18th century, then there must have been a precursor which has since been demolished and which was ministered by Edward Kighley in the 17th century. The temptation is to suppose that the structural remains recorded in 1998 by PCA beneath the current Chapel actually related to this precursor.
- 8.5 Fortunately, it would appear that only the northeastern corner of this building was damaged by these works and the majority of the structure remains in situ to the west of the area. As this building is not visibly on any historic cartographic sources or mentioned in historical records, it is not possible to assign it a function.
- 8.3 A brick floor surface seen in the southeastern corner of the recording exercise may relate to three north to south aligned red brick wall foundations that were seen in the watching brief phase of works. Ephemeral traces of floor surfaces were seen between these walls and suggest internal surfaces from the building. A large brick foundation seen deeper in the northern two trenches of

- the watching brief may relate to the same structure or that of the building that was seen during the works prior to the construction of the garage. A red brick drain is likely to be a 19th century addition to the Chapel building.
- The archaeological sequence was completed in both stages by the accumulation of between 0.30m and 0.40m of topsoil that contained frequent ceramic building material and other demolition rubble, presumably from the demolition of the structures previously standing on the site.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr Savant for commissioning this project and David Divers, Archaeology Advisor to the LPA, for monitoring the work. We especially thank Mr Divers for providing further historical background to the site.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Mr Savant for help on site and Mark Roughly for the illustrations. Chris Mayo managed and edited the project. The CBM was assessed by Berni Sudds and Kevin Hayward.

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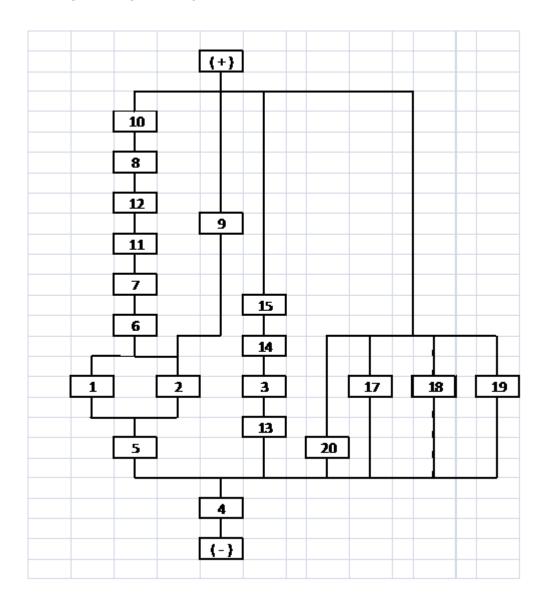
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Туре	Description
1	Masonry	Pre-1660s foundation
2	Masonry	Pre-1660s foundation
3	Masonry	Pre-1660s floor
4	Layer	Natural sandy-gravels
5	Cut	Cut for masonry [1] and [2]
6	Fill	Crushed mortar
7	Fill	Levelling gravel
8	Layer	Demo. Rubble/gravel
9	Layer	Mid grey silty-sand
10	Layer	Crushed mortar bedding
11	Fill	Deposit between turn in wall [1]
12	Layer	Crushed brick
13	Layer	Crushed CBM
14	Layer	CBM/gravel
15	Layer	Made ground
16	Masonry	19th century red brick box drain
17	Masonry	N-S foundation
18	Masonry	N-S foundation
19	Masonry	N-S foundation
20	Masonry	Deeper foundation

APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-62500

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Recording Exercise at Aldborough Hatch Chapel, London Borough of

Redbridge, IG2

Short description of the

project

An archaeological recording exercise and watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The works consisted of two parts. Firstly was the recording of remains of a structure that were exposed during the archaeologically unmonitored excavation of trenches that were to form part of a geothermal heating system. Secondly was the monitored excavation of additional trenches as part of the same system. The unmonitored works consisted of the recording of trenches in which were observed the masonry remains of a north-north-east to south-south-west aligned building. The northeast corner of the building was partially exposed but had been severely truncated by the recent works. The notably skewed alignment of this structure is comparable with the foundation trenches of a building dated from between 1480 and 1700 that were exposed during previous archaeological investigations on the site; however the bricks recovered from the newly exposed section of wall are dated to the late 17th century. It is possible that either the newly exposed walls are unrelated to the earlier ones beneath the chapel or that the supposed construction date for the chapel, in c. 1660, is erroneous and should actually be in the early 18th century. In the southeast corner of the unmonitored trench excavations a red brick floor surface was also recorded. This had been partially truncated by the recent works and is thought to represent a yard surface or floor for structures of a similar date to those exposed in these works to the west and in the previous works to the north. The second phase of works involved the monitoring of further trenches. The remains of several red brick foundations in a poor state of preservation were seen on a north to south alignment as well as possible floor surfaces. It is suggested that these represent the remains of an outbuilding associated with the manor house or the structure to the west that was demolished at the same time as the manor house.

Project dates Start: 03-07-2009 End: 25-07-2009

Previous/future work

Any associated project reference codes

Yes / Not known AHO 09 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type WALLS Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Part Excavation', 'Salvage Record', 'Watching Brief'
Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON REDBRIDGE REDBRIDGE Aldborough Hatch Chapel

Postcode IG2 7QD

Study area 750.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 4533 8917 51.5821279273 0.09778949026720 51 34 55 N 000 05 52 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator David Divers
Project design originator Tim Bradley
Project director/manager Chris Mayo

Project supervisor Richard Humphrey

Type of sponsor/funding

body

Private Client

Name of sponsor/funding

body

Mr Balkrishna Savant

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Images vector', 'Spreadsheets', 'Text'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Plan', 'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Oaks Lane, Aldborough Hatch, London Borough of Redbridge, IG2 7QD

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