

**Addendum to an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Central Street and Seward Street,
London Borough of Islington**

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3210 8250

Site Code: TDI 09

Written and researched by Rebecca Lythe

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, January 2010

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Commissioning Client: Mount Anvil

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report details the results of the second phase of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land off Central Street and Seward Street in the London Borough of Islington, EC2 (central National Grid Reference TQ 321 825).
- 1.2 The project was commissioned by client Mount Anvil and the archaeological consultant was CgMs Consulting. The work was supervised by James Langthorne and Rebecca Lythe and project managed by Tim Bradley, all of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) monitored the work on behalf of the London Borough of Islington.
- 1.3 The site was assigned the code TDI09.
- 1.4 Five trial trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6) were excavated during the first phase of the evaluation, between 21st September and 14th October 2009; these are discussed in a separate document entitled "Central Street and Seward Street, An Archaeological Evaluation"¹. The second phase of work involved the excavation of a sixth trench (Trench 4), between 16th and 18th December 2009. This could not be excavated during the first phase due to the presence of a modern building, demolished in the intervening period between the two phases of the evaluation. This document forms an addendum to the original report and describes and discusses the archaeology encountered during the excavation of the remaining Trench 4.
- 1.5 The trench was excavated and recorded in accordance with the methodology outlined in the Specification² and Evaluation Report³ in order to meet the aims and objectives also detailed in these documents.

¹ Langthorne, J. 2009

² Meager, R. 2009

³ Langthorne, J. 2009

2 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

2.1 Phase 1- Natural

2.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the second phase of the project consisted of a layer of loose, mid yellowish brown sandy gravel, [88], found in the base of the trench at a level of 12.74m OD. The layer represents natural terrace gravel and is equivalent to contexts [20] in Trench 2, [73] in Trench 3 and [35] in Trench 5. No “brickearth” was found above the deposit suggesting that, like the areas encountered during the first phase of the evaluation, horizontal truncation had taken place prior to the accumulation of any later deposits.

2.2 Phase 2- Post-Medieval

2.2.1 The natural terrace gravel was sealed by a thick sequence of dump layers composed of sandy silt to silty sand with frequent inclusions of pottery sherds, clay pipes and fragments of CBM. These layers, contexts [87], [86], [85] and [84], presumably represent part of a post-medieval attempt to raise and level the ground before building commenced on the site. In total, 3.11m of made ground was deposited directly on top of the natural terrace gravel. The top of the sequence was observed at a height of 16.00m OD in Trench 4, suggesting that the late post-medieval ground surface was built up to this level or higher in this location. During the first phase of the project, similar dump layers were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5, suggesting the ground level of the entire site was elevated during the post-medieval period.

2.2.2 The made ground was truncated by a near vertical construction cut, [94], shown in Section 7 (Figure 4). The cut contained masonry that may have formed part of a row of 19th century terraces, described subsequently. The feature was over 0.49m wide and over 1.35m deep, the top being at a height of 15.58m OD, and had been backfilled with [93], a deposit of loose, light greyish brown silty sandy clay that contained occasional inclusions of pottery, clay pipe and late post-medieval glass.

2.2.3 Brick foundation [90] was observed within the aforementioned construction cut, abutted by a similar wall, [89]. Together they formed an “L” shaped structure that ran along the southern and western edges of the trench, continuing beyond the limits of excavation to the north, south, east and west (Figure 3). They had been built with frogged, yellow London Stock Bricks bonded with indurated mid brown mortar on concrete beds and were over 0.30m wide. Their true widths were not determined as they continued beyond the western and southern trench edges. The recorded remnants suggest that foundation wall [90], which ran east-west, was constructed first. This was

1.85m deep, the top being at a level of 16.63m OD. It sat on a bed of concrete, [92], which was over 0.21m thick, the top being at a height of 14.70m OD and had been poured into the base of construction cut [94]. This brick foundation wall and concrete bed was abutted by the second foundation wall, context [89], which was orientated north-south. The construction cut for [89] was not identified but was presumably created soon after poured concrete [92] solidified. It was 0.90m deep, the top being at a height of 16.36m OD, and also sat on a bed of poured concrete, [91], observed at a level of 15.44m OD. This concrete was over 0.65m deep and over 0.46m wide.

- 2.2.4 Clay pipe fragments, pottery and glass recovered from the backfill of the construction cut and the layers it truncates suggest that the foundation walls were built in the mid to late 19th century. Cartographic evidence suggests that they may have formed part of a row of residential terrace houses that fronted Peartree Street in the 19th century.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The results of the second phase of work at Central Street and Seward Street support the results of the first phase of the evaluation.
- 3.2 Archaeological deposits pre-dating the later post-medieval period have not survived in the location of Trench 4. Any earlier remains appear to have been truncated prior to the deposition of the mid to late post-medieval made ground. This made ground was truncated by a construction cut for two walls, forming an “L” shaped structure. They presumably form part of a 19th century terrace house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Langthorne, J. Y., 2009, *Central Street and Seward Street, An Archaeological Evaluation Pre-Construct Archaeology* Unpublished Report

Meager, R., 2009 *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at Central Street and Seward Street, London EC1* CgMs Unpublished Report

APPENDIX 1: UPDATED OASIS FORM

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Central Street and Seward Street, London Borough of Islington, EC2
Short description of the project	The evaluation was undertaken in two phases. The first phase was carried out by James Langthorne between 21-09-2009 and 14-10-2009 and consisted of five trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6). The second phase was supervised by Rebecca Lythe between 16-12-2009 and 18-12-2009 and consisted of one trench (Trench 4). The earliest deposits encountered in four of the six trenches were natural sands, clays and gravels, the heights and differing characters of which indicated severe truncation. The results of the evaluation indicated that archaeological deposits that pre-date the later post-medieval period have been entirely truncated by the construction and demolition of 19th century terraced housing that fronted Seward Street and Central Street and the Chartered Gas Works of a similar date. Remains of garden structures of the terraced housing and masonry structures pertaining to the gas works were still extant on site despite fairly severe truncation by modern building works. The evaluation also indicated that any migration of the boundary of the St Bartholomew's Hospital burial ground to the west of the site did not occur and there was no evidence for plague pits along Seward Street. Finally a level taken on the floor of the basement within 53 Central Street in the south-east corner of the site indicated that it was unlikely that any archaeological deposits would have remained extant after its construction.
Project dates	Start: 21-09-2009 End: 18-12-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TDI09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	GARDEN WALLS Post Medieval
Monument type	OUTBUILDINGS Post Medieval
Monument type	GAS WORKS Post Medieval
Monument type	GARDEN SOIL Post Medieval
Monument type	DEMOLITION/ROBBER CUTS Modern

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Monument type	MADE GROUND Modern
Monument type	NATURAL None
Monument type	SOAKAWAY Post Medieval
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ISLINGTON ISLINGTON Land at Central Street and Seward Street
Postcode	EC2
Study area	8048.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 321 825 51.5254461082 -0.09556766018630 51 31 31 N 000 05 44 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.74m Max: 16.71m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Richard Meager

Addendum to An Archaeological Evaluation at Central Street and Seward Street, London Borough of Islington

Project director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor James Langthorne

Project supervisor Rebecca Lythe

Type of sponsor/funding body Mount Anvil

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Archive ID TDI09

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID TDI09

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Survey'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID TDI09

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Part 1: "Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Central Street and Seward Street" and Part 2 "Addendum to Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Central Street and Seward Street"

Addendum to An Archaeological Evaluation at Central Street and Seward Street, London Borough of Islington

Author(s)/Editor(s) Langthorne, J. and Lythe, R.

Other bibliographic details Parts 1 and 2

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Entered by Rebecca Lythe (rlythe@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 4 January 2010

Appendix 2: Context Index

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Description	Date	Phase
TDI07	84	Tr. 4	S7 & S8	Dump Layer	Post-Medieval	2
TDI07	85	N/A	S7	Dump Layer	Post-Medieval	2
TDI07	86	Tr. 4	S7	Dump Layer	Post-Medieval	2
TDI07	87	N/A	S7	Dump Layer	Post-Medieval	2
TDI07	88	Tr. 4	S7	Terrace Gravel	Natural	2
TDI07	89	Tr. 4	S7	Brick Foundation Wall	Post-Medieval	2
TDI07	90	Tr. 4	S7 & S8	Brick Foundation Wall	Post-Medieval	2
TDI07	91	Tr. 4	S7	Concrete Foundation	Post-Medieval	2
TDI07	92	Tr. 4	S7 & S8	Concrete Foundation	Post-Medieval	2
TDI07	93	N/A	S8	Backfill of [94]	Post-Medieval	2
TDI07	94	N/A	S8	Construction cut for [90]	Post-Medieval	2



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

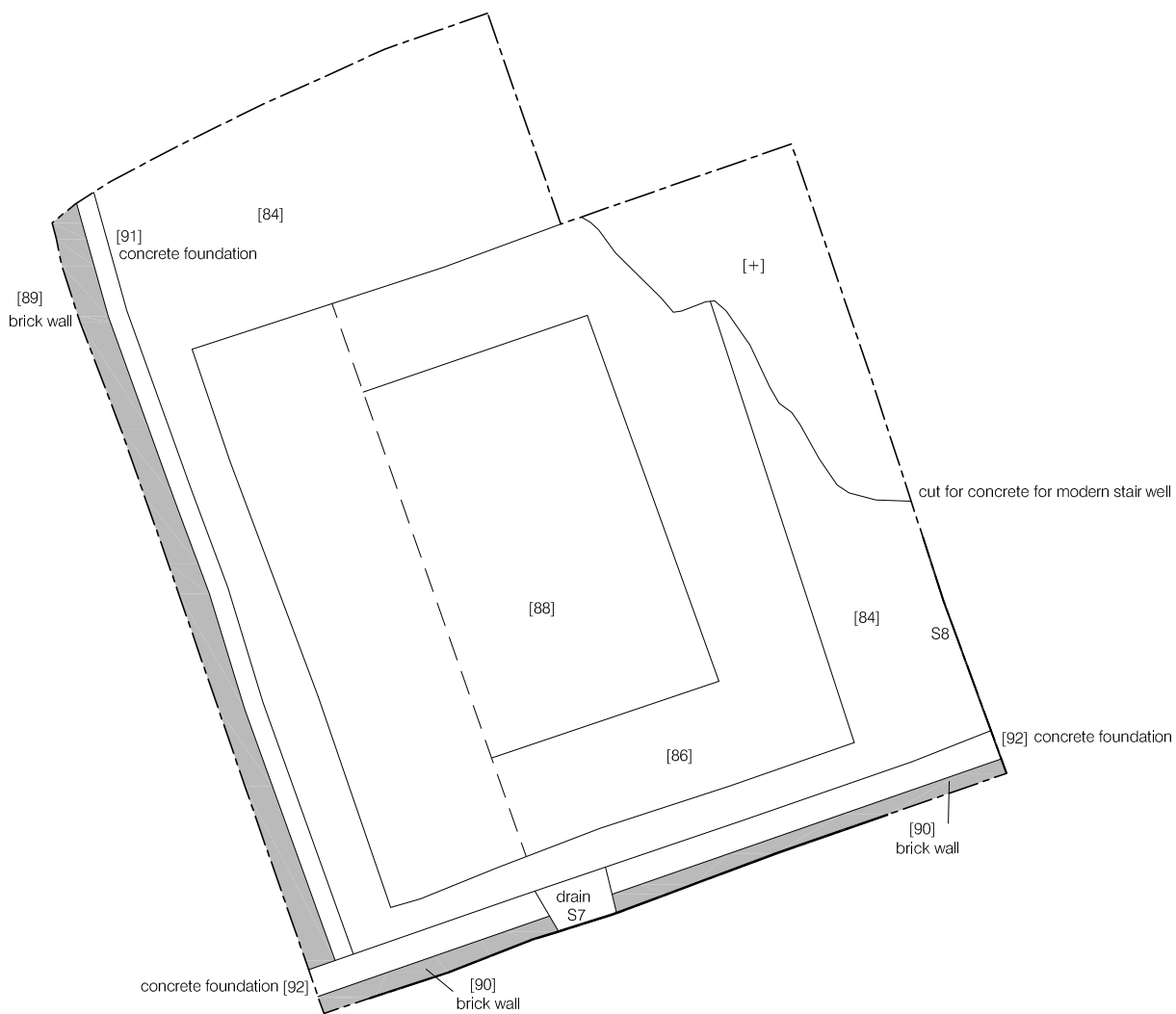


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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4



532128/182476
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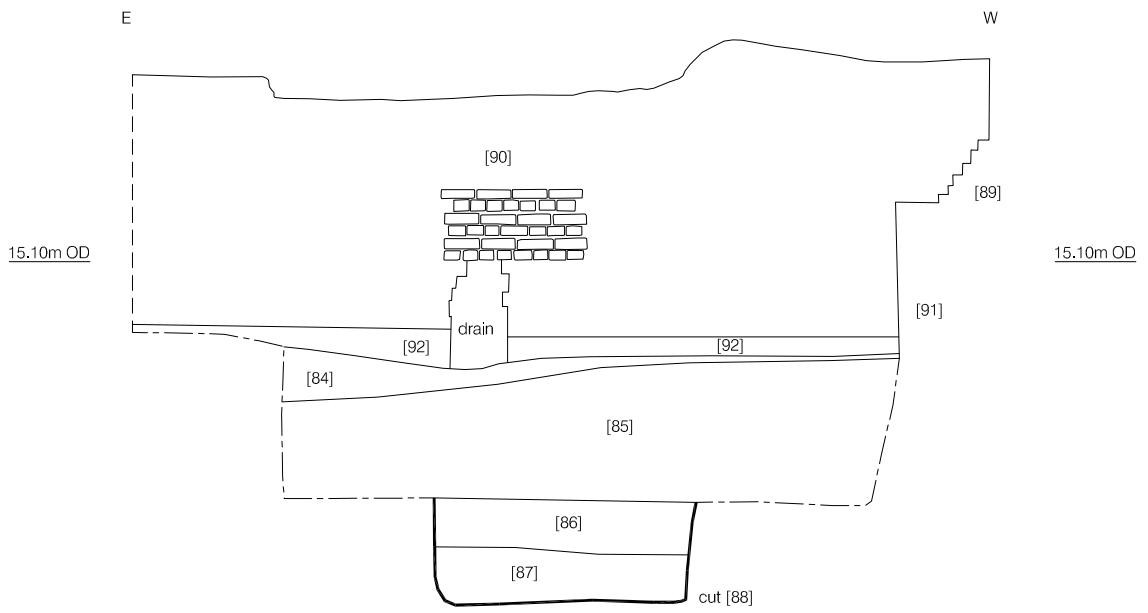
532128/182460
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 masonry

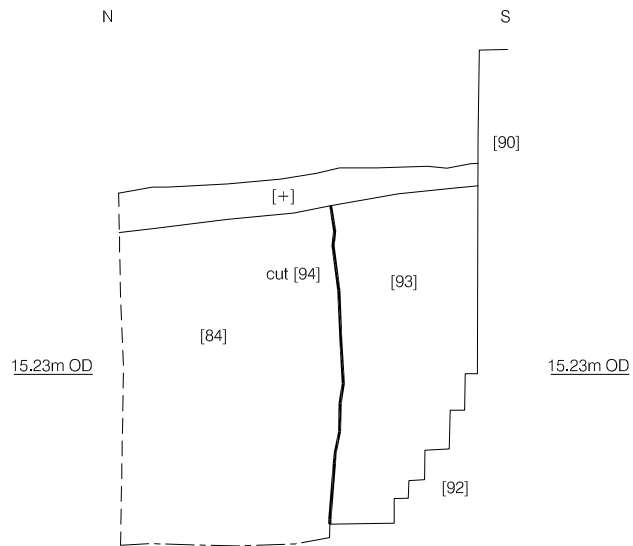
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Figure 3
Trench 4
1:75 at A4



Section 7
Trench 4
North Facing



Section 8
Trench 4
West Facing