

1 ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 11th and 12th January 2006 at 169 New Cross Road, London Borough of Lewisham, on behalf of Benjiman Developments (uk) Ltd. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation consisted of two machine excavated trenches, the first measuring 46 square metres, the second measuring 10 square metres. A single feature was recorded in Trench 1. This was a brick lined soakaway, dating to after c.1850 and was probably 20th century. No earlier archaeological features or deposits were identified in either of the trenches.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located in the London Borough of Lewisham to the northeast of New Cross Gate. The proposed development is centred on national grid reference (NGR) TQ 3582 7654 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site is roughly rectangular in shape and is bounded by Hatcham Park Road to the north, Hatcham Park Mews to the east and residential properties to the south and west. The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 0.08m (800m²).

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 270), indicates that the site is situated upon River Brickearth, overlying London Clay and the Woolwich and Reading Beds.
- 3.2 The site lies c.3km to the southwest of the River Thames, on the rising ground on the southern edge of the Thames flood plain. It is situated at approximately 4m above Ordnance Datum.
- 3.3 Apart from soil sample analysis, no geotechnical investigations have been conducted within the proposed development area.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Lewisham. Archaeological advice to the Borough is provided by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of English Heritage.
- 4.2 The proposed development (Application No.: DC/05/59173) of the site comprises the construction of a three-storey building incorporating 14 self-contained flats with associated landscaped gardens, six car-parking spaces and an access road to service these new properties from Hatcham Park Road to the north.
- 4.3 None of the proposed structures will contain basements. However, the design involves the use of strip foundations which will affect a considerable proportion of the footprint of the building.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the site, although a limited number of archaeological investigations have occurred in the area. The following background information has been taken from historical maps and the London Archaeological Round-Up (Maloney 2004).

- 5.2 An evaluation has been undertaken just to the north of the site that revealed surviving brickearth deposits beneath the 19th and 20th century made ground.
- 5.3 Two phases of evaluations on the Kender Estate, to the west of the site, were completed in 2002. The trenches did not reveal significant archaeological deposits, but there was brickearth at 1.74mOD which had been horizontally truncated by a 19th century basement and well.
- 5.4 A map regression exercise has been undertaken to identify the land use of the development site over the past 250 years. Roque's map of 1746 is one of the earliest maps to depict the site in question, and represents the site as being comprised of open ground in association with a small number of farm buildings.
- 5.5 Maps dating to 1821 and 1833 depict the site in greater detail, revealing a number of small properties being present within the site boundary. Further detail is added in 1844 with the addition of the Tithe Map, indicating the site in use as a coach station. The site remains labelled as this on OS maps up to 1956.

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The general aims of the investigation were:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable GLAAS to make an informed decision on the status of the condition on the planning permission, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- 6.2 The specific objectives of the Evaluation were to:
- Determine the presence of the late 18th century / early 19th century coach station.
- 6.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The evaluation consisted of two evaluation trenches. Trench 1 was 16m long. For the northern 9m Trench 1 was 2m wide. It was widened to 4m for the last 7m at the southern end (see Figure 2). Trench 2 measured 5m x 2m. This figure represents 5% of the proposed development area. Contingency for a further 20m² was allowed for the extension of trenches or for the excavation of a further trench were it deemed necessary.
- 7.2 The number and location of the trenches were altered to allow for practical on-site considerations. GLAAS were consulted prior to these changes.
- 7.3 All overburden was removed down to the top of the first recognizable archaeological horizon, using a JCB 3CX with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 7.4 All machining was carried out under direct control of an experienced archaeologist.
- 7.5 Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 7.6 On completion of machine excavation, all faces of all trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Areas where definite or possible archaeological features were observed were hand cleaned.
- 7.7 All investigation of archaeological horizons was by hand, with cleaning, inspection, and recording in plan.
- 7.8 A minimum number of features, within each significant archaeological horizon, required to meet the aims were hand excavated.
- 7.9 No deposits were entirely removed. As the objective was to define remains it was not necessary for all trenches to be fully excavated to natural stratigraphy. However both trenches were excavated to the underlying natural geology. Even in the case where no remains were located the stratigraphy of both evaluation trenches was recorded.
- 7.10 Any excavation, whether by machine or by hand, was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appeared to be demonstrably worthy of preservation *in situ*.
- 7.11 After recording, the trenches were backfilled with excavated material.
- 7.12 A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was set up on site, transferred from a Bench Mark on New Cross Gate.

- 7.13 The evaluation work was undertaken by the Andy Leonard, Project Supervisor, under the overall project management of Tim Carew, Project Officer.

8 RESULTS

Summary

The stratigraphy was similar in both trenches excavated. Above the natural clayey silt deposit, a layer of late post-medieval or modern silty clay made ground, approximately 0.50m thick, was identified. In turn this was overlaid by modern made ground. Stratigraphic trench descriptions are outlined below.

8.1 Trench 1 (Figure 2)

Sample section: 0.00m = 4.56mOD

0.00-0.70m	(1/001)=(1/002). Modern made ground including loose tarmac, crushed brick and concrete.
0.70-1.30m	(1/003)=(1/008). Moderately compacted mid brown clayey silt. Late post-medieval/early 20 th century made ground.
1.30-NFE	(1/007). Reddish brown silty clay. Natural deposit.

- 8.2 Trench 1 was located at the north end of the site on a north-south orientation.

- 8.3 Cutting the late post-medieval/early 20th Century made ground (1/003)=(1/008), was a brick-lined soakaway [1/006] (Figure 2). This was sub-circular and measured 1.20m north-south, 0.90m east-west (to the limit of excavation) and was 0.65m deep (to the vertical limit of excavation). The bricks (1/005) were frogged and are relatively late in date (dating from 1850 to the present day). The fill (1/004) was evidently deliberate infill, rather than gradually accumulated rubbish, dating to the 20th Century.

- 8.5 No archaeological finds or features were identified in Trench 1.

8.6 Trench 2 (Figure 2)

Sample section: 0.00m = 5.19mOD

0.00-0.30m	(2/001). Modern made ground.
0.30-1.10m	(2/002). Brown silty clay. Occasional building material inclusions. Late post-medieval/early 20 th Century made ground.
1.10-NFE	(2/003). Reddish brown silty clay. Natural deposit.

8.7 Trench 2 was located at the southern end of the site on an east-west orientation.

8.8 No archaeological finds or features were identified in Trench 2

9 FINDS

9.1 No finds were retrieved from the site.

10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 No evidence for the late 18th Century coach inn, or any other archaeological features, was identified in the evaluation.

10.2 Although the trenches were altered in location, number and size from those originally stipulated in the WSI, they were concentrated to a greater extent within the impact of the footings for the proposed development than intended. It would appear from the results that the area of the site was horizontally truncated in the late post-medieval or modern period and subsequently built up with the made ground deposits, recorded as (1/003), (1/008) and (2/002), which immediately overlay natural deposits (1/007) and (2/003).

10.3 It is therefore recommended that no further work is required to satisfy the planning condition on this site. However, the final decision regarding any further work will rest with the London Borough of Lewisham and its archaeological advisor Mark Stevenson (GLAAS).

10.4 Publication of the results will be through ADS OASIS form (Appendix C) with a short summary submitted to the London Archaeologist fieldwork round-up. No further analysis or reporting is considered necessary.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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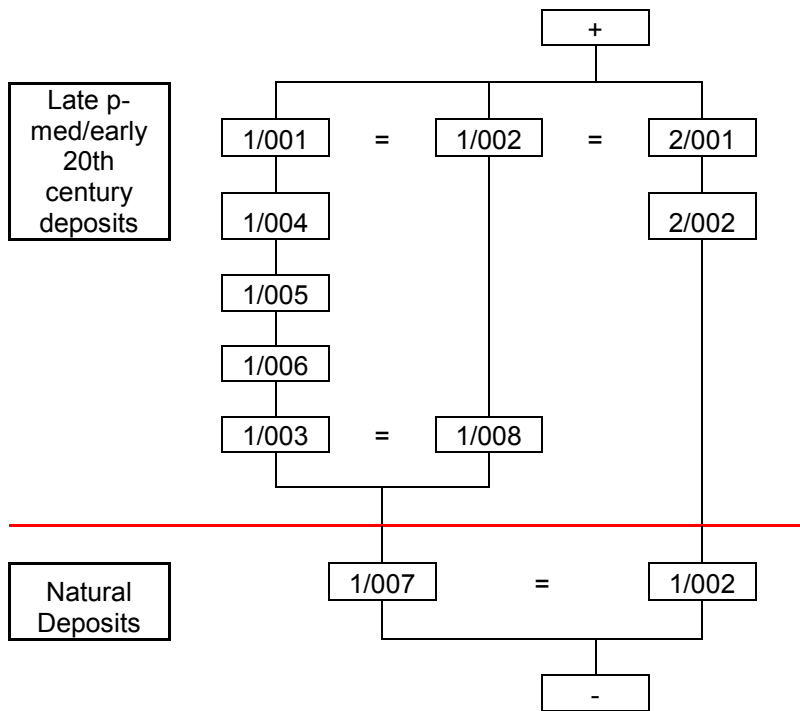
Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Trench Locations and plans

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT REGISTER

NCX 06 Context Register				
Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
[1/001]	Modern made ground	Trench	Trench	0.70m
[1/002]	Modern made ground	Trench	Trench	0.66m
[1/003]	Post-medieval made ground	Trench	Trench	0.60m
[1/004]	Fill of [1/006]	1.20m	0.90m	0.65m+
[1/005]	Brick-lining for soakaway [1/006]	1.20m	0.90m	0.65m+
[1/006]	Cut for soakaway	1.20m	0.90m	0.65m+
[1/007]	Natural clayey silt	Trench	Trench	NFE
[1/008]	Post-medieval made ground	Trench	Trench	0.65m
[2/001]	Modern made ground	Trench	Trench	0.30m
[2/002]	Post-medieval made ground	Trench	Trench	1.40m
[2/003]	Natural clayey silt	Trench	Trench	NFE

APPENDIX B – MATRIX



APPENDIX C – OASIS FORM

1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

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

1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-12380

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation report at 169 New Cross Road, New Cross, London Borough of Lewisham
Short description of the project	On 11th and 12th January 2006 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 169 New Cross Road, New Cross, London Borough of Lewisham on behalf of Benjiman Developments (uk) Ltd. The aim was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains. No archaeological features or finds were identified other than a 20th century brick-lined soakaway.
Project dates	Start: 11-01-2006 End: 12-01-2006
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	7438 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	NCX 06 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DC/05/59173 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground

Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
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 LEWISHAM DEPTFORD AND NEWCROSS 169 New Cross Road, New Cross, London Borough of Lewisham
Postcode	SE14 5PX
Study area	0.08 Hectares
National grid reference	TQ 3582 7654 Point
Height OD	Min: 3.39m Max: 3.91m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Tim Carew
Project supervisor	Andy Leonard
Sponsor or funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	NCX 06
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Digital Archive notes	Archive will be held at AOC until deposition with the Museum of London
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	NCX 06
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic',
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	Archive will be held at AOC until deposition with the Museum of London

Project bibliography 1

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Title	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at 169 New Cross Road, New Cross, London Borough of Lewisham
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carew, T.
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology Group
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Description A4 bound document

**Project
bibliography 2**

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Leonard, A.

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Entered by Andy Leonard (andyleonard@aocarchaeology.co.uk)

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2 OASIS:

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