

Greenwich Peninsula Foreshore, Tunnel Avenue, Royal Borough of Greenwich: An Archaeological Walkover Survey Report

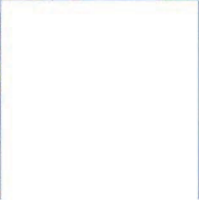
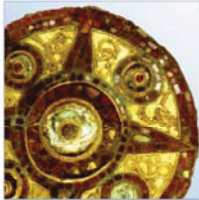
Planning Reference: 02/2903/O

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 3878 7997

AOC Project No: 32182

Site Code: GPF12

Date: July 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

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Greenwich Peninsula Foreshore, Tunnel Avenue, Royal Borough of Greenwich:

An Archaeological Walkover Survey Report

On Behalf of:	RPS Planning 14 Cornhill London EC3V 3ND
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 3878 7997
AOC Project No:	32182
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Illustration by:	Jonathan Moller
Date of Fieldwork:	6th June 2012
Date of Report:	June 2012

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

On the 6th June 2012 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a walkover survey on the Greenwich Peninsula Foreshore, Tunnel Avenue, Royal Borough of Greenwich. The walkover survey was commissioned by RPS Planning on behalf of QED. The work comprised a rapid walkover survey of the Thames foreshore as part of the redevelopment of the Greenwich Peninsula.

There was no evidence of alluvial deposits or peat and no artefactual evidence pre-dating the 20th century. There were, however, late post medieval/modern structural features in situ, including walls and a paved surface. The walls lie in the approximate location of an early 20th century jetty and dock wall (Ordnance Survey 1919).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The site is located in the northwest of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, situated to the west of Tunnel Avenue and the O2 Arena. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3878 7997 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is roughly rectangular in shape and measures approximately 0.4 hectares. It is bounded to the east by Tunnel Avenue and the river wall to the south and north by foreshore and to the west by the River Thames.
- 1.3 The site's development scheme comprises part of a wider scheme of redevelopment of the Greenwich Peninsula. This includes the construction of a 26,000 seat arena and 10,000 dwellings, retail and commercial buildings and associated facilities including transport links.
- 1.4 Specifically the proposals include the re-alignment of the northern section of the river wall with new river walls to be constructed to 6.27m AOD such that they meet current flood defence requirement. The existing concrete wall and slipway will be refurbished and raised to 6.27m AOD respectively. The existing sheet pile wall will be replaced with a new sheet piled wall and ecological terraces will be constructed in front of the realigned northern section from 2.5m AOD at the river edge to c.3.6m AOD adjacent to the river wall (ibid). The terraces will be surrounded by a sheet piled wall and separated by timber groynes.
- 1.5 The archaeological works comprised a visual walkover of the site and the surveying and photography of any features or significant finds observed.
- 1.6 This report details the results of the foreshore walkover.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the Royal Borough of Greenwich Council. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.2 Planning permission was granted in 2004 (Planning Ref No 02/2903/O); condition 117 stated that;
"No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The relevant works shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: The development is likely to damage archaeological remains. The applicant should therefore submit detailed proposals in the form of an archaeological project design. The design should be in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines."
- 2.3 Subsequently the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) consulted GLAAS who recommended a second condition specific to the site (MMO Reference MLA/2012/00035).
- 2.4 The Museum of London Archaeology Service previously undertook a geoarchaeological assessment in December 2002 (MoLAS 2002). This report identified areas of archaeological potential across the site.
- 2.5 A general Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced for the development as a whole (CPM 2005) which detailed the methods and standards to which the monitoring would conform.

Subsequently an addendum to the WSI was produced by RPS Planning (RPS 2012); this document was produced in response to a GLAAS requirement for a Level 1 walkover survey of the foreshore. The addendum was approved by GLAAS on 24th May 2012.

2.6 All works were conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- Institute of Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008a).
- English Heritage - Archaeological Guidance Papers 2-4 London Region (EH 1998a-c).
- Department for Communities and Local Government – National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012)

3 Geology and Topography

3.1 The solid geology underlying this site is London Clay; this is overlain by Floodplain Terrace Gravels, the gravels are overlain by alluvial clays and peat deposits.

3.2 The foreshore lay at approximately 0mOD and sloped from east to west.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following information has been extracted from the Addendum to the Greenwich Peninsula 2005 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (RPS 2012).

4.1 The Prehistoric Periods

(Palaeolithic c. 500,000 – 10000 BC; Mesolithic c. 10000 to 4000 BC; Neolithic c. 4000-2200 BC; Bronze Age c. 2200-700 BC and Iron Age c. 700 BC - AD 43)

4.1.1 No finds of features of prehistoric date have been recorded at the site, however, the alluvial and peat deposits which date to the Neolithic/Bronze Age have the potential to contain archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains.

4.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

4.2.1 The sea level appears to have been lower during the Roman period than today, and there is evidence the marshy areas were drier and extensively used. Several finds of Roman material have been made on the Greenwich Peninsula including glazed pottery which was found off Blackwall Point about 7.6m below ground level.

4.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 – AD 1538)

4.3.1 It is likely the area was not heavily utilised in the Saxon and Medieval period. It is first mentioned in 14th century documentary records when it was known as East Greenwich. In the early part of this century the Thames had been subject to extensive flooding and a number of water management features such as ditches and river walls were implemented. At this time the area was used as grazing land and divided into many separate field plots. By the 15th century a programme of land reclamation introducing sluices and drains was in place. A sea wall was also constructed just before the Tudor period which would have been perhaps 20m in land from the current river wall. Evidence of these drainage features and field boundaries and river walls may survive in the archaeological record.

4.4 The Post-Medieval (AD 1538 – AD 1900) and Modern Period (AD 1900 to present)

- 4.4.1 During the 17th century the peninsula remained a patchwork of fields many of which can probably be traced back to the late 14th century. The peninsula was crossed north-south by Green Lane, which originally have been a medieval drove way. By the late 18th century the area was still mainly marshland, although several more roads had been constructed.
- 4.4.2 The peninsula remained used for grazing and market gardening until the mid 19th century when industrial works began to spring up.

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the archaeological walkover survey were defined as being:
- 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 determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable the archaeology advisor to the Royal Borough of Greenwich Council to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the archaeological walkover survey were defined as being:
- To determine the nature, date and significance of any re-deposited archaeological finds present on the foreshore and whether these allude to potential for associated in-situ archaeological features or artefact scatters within the underlying alluvium, peat or gravels
 - To determine the nature, date and significance of any in-situ archaeological features, structures or finds concentrations within the exposed foreshore surface and whether archaeological mitigation will be required to mitigate construction impacts
- 5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 The walkover survey was carried out on the 6th June 2012. The work comprised a rapid walkover survey based upon English Heritage Level 1 methodologies (EH 2007).
- 6.2 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 1994) and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- 6.3 The walkover, recording and reporting conformed to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 2008b).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
 - Rescue/United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – First Aid for Finds (3rd Edition) (2001).

- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).

6.4 Archaeological recording consisted of:

- A scan for dating evidence the surface deposits.
- Photographic recording of representative exposed surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the works.
- Written records on pro-forma sheets.
- A record of the datum levels of archaeological deposits, using GPS..

6.5 A unique site code, GPF12, was obtained from the Museum of London prior to the commencement of fieldwork. This was used as the site identifier on all records.

6.6 The investigation area was accurately located to the National Grid.

6.7 The works were supervised by Ian Hogg, under the overall direction of Melissa Melikian, Operations Director. The work was monitored by Mark Stevenson of GLAAS.

7 Results

7.1 The ground conditions on the site consisted of mixed rubble dumped material interspersed with soft silts. The walkover survey identified four features within the site (Figure 3). A 19th century paved surfaced [1] constructed from cobbles measuring 230mm in length, 80mm in width and 0.11m in thickness; they were aligned north south, the surface measured 7.00m in length, 5.00m in width and was 0.11m thick.



Plate 1 – Paved surface [1] facing south

7.2 To the south-east of the paved surface was a stone wall [2] constructed from a single course of granite blocks, late post-medieval in date; it was aligned north south and measured 7.00m in length, 0.30m in width and 0.15m in height.



Plate 2 – Stone wall [2] facing south

- 7.3 A 20th century concrete wall [3], aligned east-west, was observed to the south of wall [2], it was 9.00m long, 0.60m wide and 0.30m high and was constructed from reinforced concrete with a high aggregate content. This wall was close to the location of a jetty seen on the 1919 Ordnance Survey map (Ordnance Survey 1919) and may have formed part of the jetty. A second 20th century concrete wall [4] was located to the west of wall [3] it measured 8.00m in length, 0.50m in width and was 0.20m high.



Plate 3 – Concrete wall [3] facing north-west

8 Finds and Environmental Samples

- 8.1 No finds were retrieved from the site; the only finds observed were of 20th century date and consisted of CBM, plastic, wood and metalwork.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 During the course of the foreshore walkover features of later post medieval or modern date were identified; the walls and paved surface were probably associated with a slipway of some form or possibly earlier dock walls. These features were located and planned using GPS. The walls are located within the proximity of an early 20th century jetty (Ordnance Survey 1919) and wall [3] may have formed part of this jetty. The north – south aligned wall [2] is in the approximate location of the dock wall at this period. The paved surface is not recorded on historic mapping.
- 9.2 No significant finds were identified and no material earlier than 19th century was seen. No evidence of alluvial deposits, peat or land surfaces, was observed.
- 9.3 The investigation achieved its aims in characterising the surface deposits of the Thames foreshore in this area.
- 9.4 The majority of the structural remains encountered are not located within the area of the proposed development impact but a single pile will impact towards the eastern end of concrete wall [3].

10. Publication and Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in the London Archaeological Round Up, and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 10.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, finds and digital records will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive.

11 Bibliography

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GREENWICH PENINSULA FORESHORE, TUNNEL AVENUE, ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKOVER SURVEY REPORT

Site Location Within London



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2008 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. WL100023757

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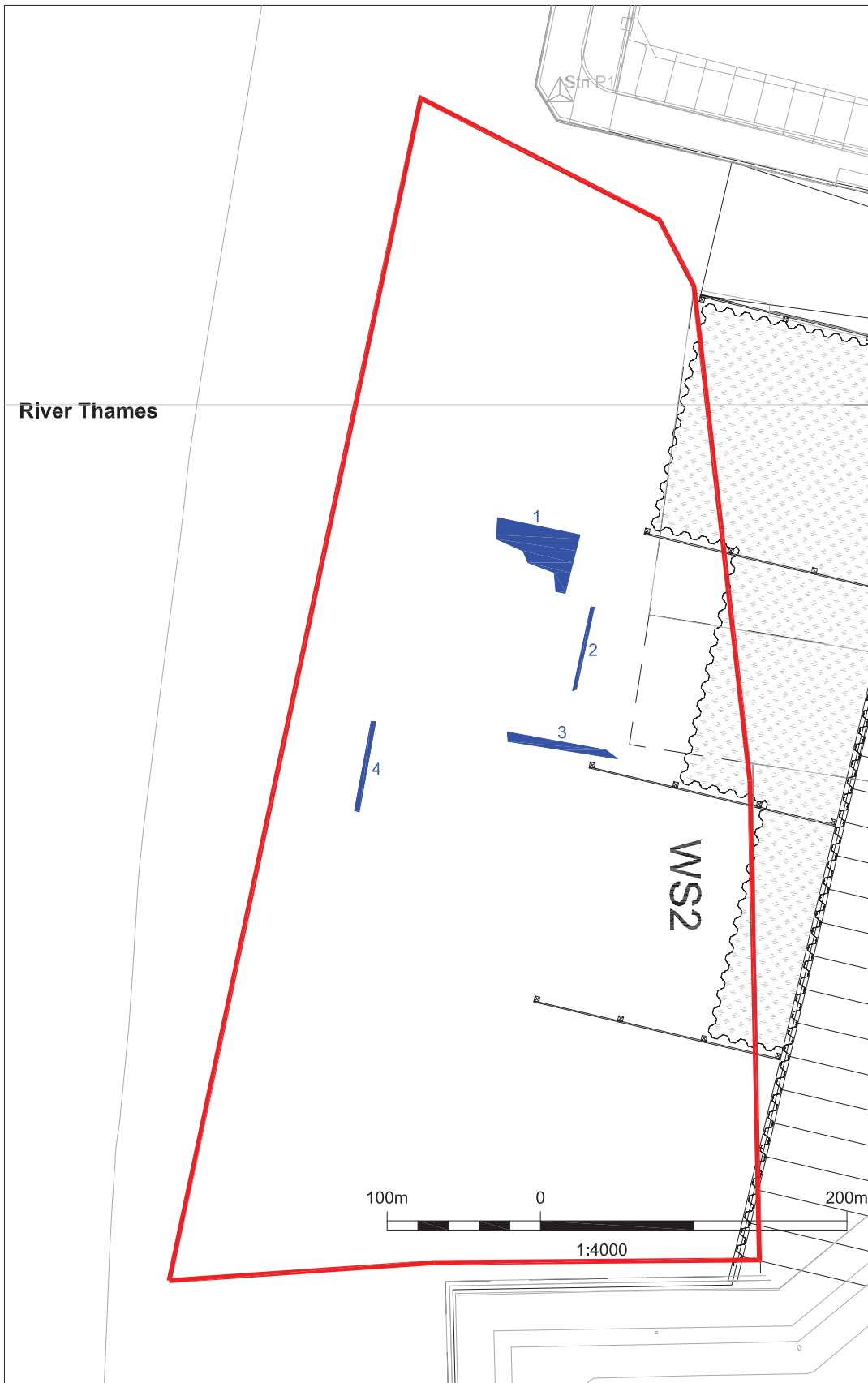
Figure 1: Site Location

GREENWICH PENINSULA FORESHORE, TUNNEL AVENUE, ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH :
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKOVER SURVEY REPORT



□ Walkover Area Outline

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location Plan



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:1250 Superplan Digital Data of 2011
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- Walkover Area Outline
- Structures

Figure 3: Plan of Structures Seen on the Foreshore



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1	Paved surface	7.00m	5.00m	0.11m
2	Wall	7.00m	0.30m	0.15m
3	Wall	9.00m	0.60m	0.30m
4	Wall	8.00m	0.50m	0.20m

Appendix B – Oasis Form

Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-127970

Project details

Project name Greenwich Peninsula Foreshore

Short description of the project A walkover survey was conducted on the Thames foreshore at Greenwich. A paved surface and three walls all of late 19th or 20th century date were recorded. No significant finds or features were observed.

Project dates Start: 05-06-2012 End: 06-06-2012

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 32182 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Coastland 2 - Inter-tidal

Monument type WALLS Post Medieval

Monument type PAVED SURFACE Post Medieval

Investigation type "Part Survey"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON GREENWICH GREENWICH Greenwich Peninsula Foreshore

Study area 0 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 3878 7997 51 0 51 30 03 N 000 00 01 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design
originator RPS

Project
director/manager Melissa Melikian

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of
sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of
sponsor/funding body Quintain

Project archives

Physical Archive
recipient LAARC

Digital Media
available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Media available "Plan", "Report", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

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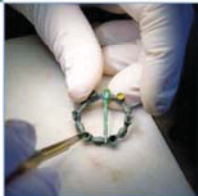
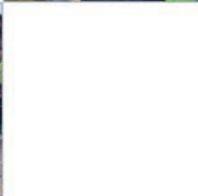
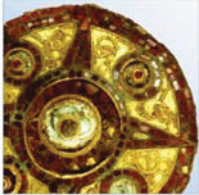
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