100 Shepherdess Walk, London Borough of Hackney: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

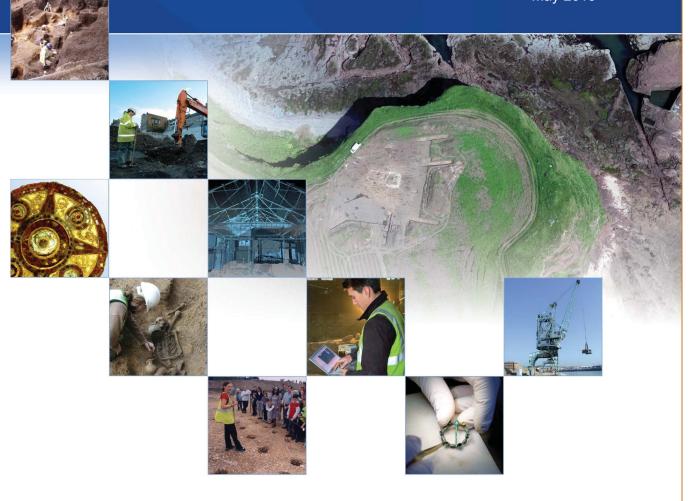
Planning Application Number: 2012/2065

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 3240 8314

AOC Project No: 32203

Site Code: SWH13

May 2013





100 Shepherdess Walk, London Borough of Hackney An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of: **Shepherdess Development Ltd**

c/o Solidspace Associates

83 Weston Street

London **SE1 3RS**

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 3240 8314

32203 **AOC Project No:**

Prepared by: **Chris Clarke**

Illustration by: **Lesley Davidson**

25th & 26th April 2013 Date of Fieldwork:

Date of Report: May 2013

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

Author: Chris Clarke Date: May 2013

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Draft Report Stage: Date: May 2013

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Plate A – Trench 1 Looking West

Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group, on behalf of Shepherdess Developments Ltd, on the 25th and 26th April 2013 at the site of 100 Shepherdess Walk, Shoreditch, London Borough of Hackney. The evaluation consisted of one machine excavated trench measuring 10m by 1.8m at base.

The only features truncating the natural clay deposits were associated with the mid 20th century demolition and clearance of the site, with the features then subsequently overlain by made ground deposits up to 2.70m thick. This combined with a phase of horizontal truncation dating to approximately the same period indicated that the potential for features and horizons of archaeological interest to survive on site is limited.

Due to the lack of the archaeological deposits or features,, it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The final decision regarding the requirement for further archaeological fieldwork lies with Adam Single of GLAAS, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Hackney.

The results of the evaluation will be summarised for inclusion in the London Archaeology Round-up and published via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation, consisting of one evaluation trench excavated at the site of 100 Shepherdess Walk, Shoreditch, London Borough of Hackney (Figure 1). The centre point of the site is located at (NGR) TQ 3240 8314.
- 1.1.2 The site is located on the northern side of the junction at Shepherdess Walk and Wenlock Street, approximately 500m northwest of Old Street Station. The development is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 440sqm in size. The site is bound by Shepherdess Walk on the west, Wenlock Street on the south, and adjacent commercial / residential properties on the north and east (Figure 2).

1.2 **Planning Background**

- 1.2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Hackney. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of English Heritage.
- 1.2.2 A planning application (Ref: 2012/2065) for the development has been submitted and approved with conditions. Following advice from the archaeological advisor, Adam Single, the following archaeological conditions were placed on the consent:
 - Heritage assets of archaeological interest survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development (including historic buildings recording), in accordance with recommendations given by the borough and in PPS 5/NPPF.
 - A) No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority.
 - B) No development or site preparation works below ground level shall take place other that in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (A).
 - C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (A), and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.
- 1.2.3 The site does not contain any previously designated or recorded heritage assets; however the site lies within Wenlock Barn Archaeological Priority Area as designated in the Hackney Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2010). The Archaeological Priority Area relates to the Wenlocks Barn moated manor house which is believed to have once been present within this area. A study of the cartographic evidence suggests that the site may lie upon, or close to, the location of Wenlocks Barn and any remains associated with the medieval manor house which may survive within the site would be considered of heritage interest.
- 1.2.4 The proposed development site does not contain, lie within or adjacent to, any nationally designated listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Park and Gardens or World Heritage Sites. Furthermore, no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Park and Gardens or World Heritage Sites lie within a 500m radius of the site.

- 1.2.5 The first phase of the archaeological investigation was the production of a desk-based assessment (AOC 2012) for the site which recommended evaluation trenching. The evaluation trenching forms the second phase of investigation.
- 1.2.6 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Shepherdess Development Ltd to carry out the field evaluation. The methodology was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2013). This document detailed how the evaluation would be undertaken and was approved by Adam Single of GLAAS.

Geology and Topography 1.3

- 1.3.1 Geological mapping for the area indicates that the geology underlying the development site comprises London Clay overlain by Hackney Gravel (AOC 2013).
- 1.3.2 An archaeological evaluation in 2007 at Nos. 3-11 Wenlock Street, immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site, recorded natural sands and gravels occurring at a height of between 15.54m AOD and 16.35m AOD (PCA 2007).
- 1.3.3 The existing topography of the site is roughly level and present at a height of approximately 18.70m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 1.3.4 No geotechnical information is available for the site.

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

The information below has been paraphrased from the desk-based assessment (AOC 2012).

2.1 **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)

2.1.2 A review of the GLHER data from within a 500m radius of the site indicates that there is currently no substantial evidence for prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the development site.

2.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 2.2.1 The main focus of Roman period activity in this region was located to the south, within and close to the modern extent of the City of London, which was occupied from AD 43 through to the Roman withdrawal from Britain in AD 410, and beyond.
- 2.2.2 More substantial evidence of Roman period activity in close proximity to the development site includes possible route of a Roman road located in the vicinity of Golden Lane c. 350m to the southwest. Currently, no archaeological evidence has been identified to support this interpretation.

2.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 - AD 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 - AD 1538)

- 2.2.3 No physical remains of early medieval activity have been recorded within the study area.
- 2.2.4 Documentary evidence does indicate there was early medieval activity occurring in the local landscape as place names such as Hoxton and Shoreditch are all thought to originate in the early medieval period (Weinreb et al. 2008). The site lies closest to Shoreditch, with the nucleus of the village believed to have been focused around the junction of Kingsland Road and Old Street c. 1km to the south-east (Weinreb et al. 2008, 836).
- 2.2.5 There is more substantial evidence of medieval activity within 500m of the site. The most significant feature associated with this period is the possible location of the manor of Wenlocks Barn.

- 2.2.6 The only readily available evidence for Wenlocks Barn dates from the early post-medieval period, the earliest being a survey and rental dated 1557. However, it is described as a prebendal manor (a type of 'manor' which originated during the medieval period) and on some 18th century mapping sources, the (presumed) manor house is shown as surrounded by a curving enclosure, possibly representing some form of moated boundary - which is a feature often associated with a medieval origin.
- 2.2.7 The GLHER located this potential moated manor house c. 20m to the south of the site, on the opposite side of Wenlock Road, although this appears to be a generalised location. The Wenlock Barn Archaeological Priority Area, of which the proposed development site occupies the south-west corner, occupies an approximately 350m square area where the medieval manor site is assumed to lie.
- 2.2.8 Other sites related to medieval activity include the discovery of part of an unnamed road approximately 200m to the south of the site, and two possible plague pit sites, located c. 400m to the south.

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

- 2.4.1 Early cartographic sources give some idea of the nature of the general area of the site during the first half of the post-medieval period. The earliest source is Chassereau's 1745 map of Shoreditch, which indicates the area of development site lay well outside the limits of the urban extent and was located within the agricultural hinterland of the city. The land in the immediate vicinity of the site is occupied by fields, as well as an unnamed property with a large yard area, fronting onto an unnamed road which later becomes known as Shepherdess Walk. The building is later shown on Horwood's map of 1799 which names the property as being 'Wenlocks Barn'.
- 2.4.2 Pride's 1796 map of Wenlocks Barn Manor provides significantly more detail, and shows a complex of buildings within a large curving enclosure. The original map, held at the London Metropolitan Archives, labels these buildings as 'Wenlocks Manor Farm', rather than Wenlocks Manor, however it is possible that the farmstead evolved out of an earlier manorial site (as can be noted in examples of numerous similar farmsteads across the country).
- 2.4.3 Pride's map provides a clear picture of how the complex was laid out at this time. The complex consists of two groups of buildings; the first group lies adjacent to the road, consisting of one large rectangular building, with two smaller buildings attached to its southern elevation. The size of this building suggests it could be the former manor house itself. Immediately to the east of this group is a second set of buildings which form three sides of a courtyard; a layout which might suggest these buildings represent stables, coach houses, and other outbuildings. A water course surrounds the complex on its eastern and southern sides and is possibly the remains of a moat. The lands associated with the manor appear to be relatively extensive, bounded by Hoxton Street to the east, Old Street to the south, Goswell Road to the west, and the approximate line of the Hackney/Islington Borough boundary.
- Later post-medieval mapping show the site of the possible manor within the evolving streetscape of 2.4.4 this part of London. The Langley and Belch map of 1812 shows the area to the north of City Road as starting to be developed and marks 'Wenlocks Barn' adjacent Shepherdess Walk, albeit still surrounded by open ground, including the 'East India Drill Ground'. It is not clear from the mapping if the Wenlock Barn site still comprises a complex of structures.
- 2.4.5 Greenwood's map of 1827 shows Wenlock's Barn slowly being absorbed into the urban development of London, as properties are built on both sides of Shepherdess Walk up to Regents

Canal in the north. Regents Canal, c. 300m to the west and north-west, provided the main impetus for post-medieval development in this area due to the improved transport opportunities and it spurred on the development of many industrial facilities (as identified on the GLHER) built adjacent to the line of the canal. This included the 19th century former Britannia Iron Works, the Wharf Road Printing Works and factory and a warehouse, iron works and pharmaceutical works at the northern end of Wharf Road.

- 2.4.6 Greenwood's map shows Wenlock's Barn still remains detached from the adjacent properties at this time, although it is now surrounding by a network of new streets. By 1855 the house still remains distinct in comparison to the terraced houses on either side of Shepherdess Walk and, following the construction of Wenlock Street, the property now appears to lie at the northern side of the junction of these two roads. This would suggest the 'Wenlock Barn' site lies within and upon the approximate location of the proposed development site.
- 2.4.7 Cassell's map of 1863 no longer depicts an isolated building on the northern corner of the Shepherdess Walk/Wenlock Street junction, but instead shows a single block of buildings probably representing a row of terraced houses or similar development. This change suggests the Wenlocks Barn site has been demolished at some point between the late 1850s and early 1860s and redeveloped.
- 2.4.8 The GLHER identifies a range of other buildings within the surrounding area likely dating from this period during the 19th century and attesting to the spread and extent of urban development. These include two groups of listed terraced houses at the northern end and southern end of Shepherdess Walk; the 19th century Church of the Holy Trinity located c. 100m to the south of the proposed development site and the former Blockmaker's Arms Public House c. 200m to the north-west. Within closer proximity to the site, post-medieval development includes the locally listed Holy Trinity Church hall and vicarage c. 100m to the south and the locally listed 'Plumage House' (106 Shepherdess Walk) which sits upon the site's northern boundary.
- 2.4.9 'Plumage House' was formerly known as 'Royal Standard Tavern' and, prior to this, it is thought to have been known as the 'Albert Saloon'. Online sources suggest the Albert Saloon and Pleasure Gardens (1839 - 1857) were located somewhere adjacent to this building, although they are not shown on the available mapping or listed in the trade directories. The Gardens were the site for concerts, vaudevilles and melodramas and could reputedly accommodate c. 10,000 patrons (D.V.L u.d.). If they were located near here, it is possible they may have been situated within and around the open area labelled as 'Drill Ground' on later mapping (adjacent to the site on the east). The online sources could be mistaken and the pleasure gardens may have been located further south along Shepherdess Walk.
- 2.4.10 The most obvious example of surviving 19th century development within the area of the site is an extended group of Grade II listed, two-storey terraced houses on the opposite side of Shepherdess Walk, and similar locally listed terraced development further north at Nos. 87 – 105 Shepherdess Walk. Both these sets of buildings are residential in character, fronting directly on to the roadside, and contain basement levels. They are visible on the late 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping.
- 2.4.11 The development site appears to contain four terraced properties fronting onto Shepherdess Walk, with a single detached property fronting onto Wenlock Street – possibly joined by a narrow structure with roadside access (such as a garage). The southern most terraced building is labelled as a 'postoffice' on the earlier map and then shown to encompass the adjacent building, making it larger than

- the other terrace properties. The building fronting on to Wenlock Street has bay windows either side of a central entrance, which could suggest a higher status of building; although this is uncertain.
- 2.4.12 The Trade Directory of 1882 provides a good indication of the types of activity within the site at the end of the 19th century. The directory lists within the site Nos. 98 – 104 Shepherdess Walk and No. 1 Wenlock Street. All of theses are listed as commercial premises; although they may have had residential properties above.
- 2.4.13 Located adjacent to the northern boundary of the site is a large public house (Royal Standard Tavern), while the yard and out buildings of a military 'Drill Ground' borders the site to the east. Parts of the drill ground were subject to archaeological evaluation works in 2007 which found substantial 19th century levelling deposits and evidence of possible horizontal truncation.
- 2.4.14 A review of the London County Council Bomb Damage maps indicates that the four Shepherdess Walk properties were damaged beyond repair during World War II, while the Wenlock Street property received general blast damage (Saunders 2005, Map 50). The available 1946 / 1947 aerial photography shows that the four Shepherdess Walk properties within the proposed development site have been demolished with most of the debris having been cleared away to expose what appears to be the ground floor. Limited evidence for wall lines remains. The Wenlock Street property is still present.
- 2.4.15 No further changes are identified as occurring within the site boundary until 1954, at which point the Ordnance Survey map of this date indicates the Wenlock Street property is still present, but the remaining area of the proposed development site is depicted as open ground. The Wenlock Street property and the area of open ground to the west remain until the latter half of the 20th century when the 1968-73 OS map shows that the area within the site boundary has been re-developed and is now occupied by the a new structure labelled as 'Hostel'.
- 3.2.1 This is the building which currently stands within the site and later Ordnance Survey maps show that no subsequent changes have occurred.

3. Strategy

3.1 Aims of the Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation 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 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 the archaeology advisor to the London Borough of Hackney, 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.
- The specific aims of the watching brief were defined as being: 3.1.2
 - To identify any evidence that may relate to the presence of the conjectured medieval manor.

- To determine the presence of any features which may relate to the manor of Wenlocks Barn and the later post-medieval development of the site.
- 3.1.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

3.3 Methodology

- A Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by AOC Archaeology (2013), defined the site 3.3.1 procedures for the archaeological evaluation. This document detailed how the evaluation, initially consisting of two machine excavated trenches, would be undertaken. All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (IfA 2009 & 2010, EH 2008 & 2009). Provision was made for a report as defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 3.3.2 During the evaluation, due to the depth of trenching required and restrictions in space available, it was decided to excavate only one stepped trench located centrally within the site towards the western frontage (Figure 3). This modification to the methodology was approved by Adam Single of GLAAS.
- 3.3.3 A unique site code for the project (SWH13) has been issued by the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC), and was used as the site identifier for all records produced.
- The evaluation trenching was undertaken on the 25th and 26th April 2013. 3.3.4
- 3.3.5 The levels for the trench were established using a Trimble R6 Global Positioning System.
- 3.3.6 The evaluation was conducted by the author under the overall management of Paul Mason, AOC Project Manager. The site was monitored by Adam Single of GLAAS on behalf of Hackney Borough Council.

Results 4

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Surface of Trench = 18.70m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description	
18.70-17.75m	0.00m	(100)	Made ground. Soft, dark grey, silty clay. Frequent demolition debris.	
17.75-16.35m	0.95m	(101)	Made ground. Soft, mid grey, sandy clay. Frequent CBM debris.	
16.35-16.15m (NFE)	2.35- 2.55m	(110)	Natural horizon. Soft, reddish brown, silty clay.	
16.20-16.10m (NFE)	2.50- 2.60m	(111)	Natural horizon. Loose, yellowish brown, sand.	

4.1.2 Trench 1 was located in the western area of the site, orientated east-west and measured 10m by 1.80m at base (Figures 3 & 4, Plate A).



Plate A. Trench 1 Looking West

- 4.1.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 1 was a loose, yellowish brown, natural sand (111), present in the western half of the trench, recorded at a height of 16.20m AOD. Overlying this in the eastern half of the trench was a soft, reddish brown, natural silty clay (110) recorded at a maximum height of 16.35m AOD.
- 4.1.4 Cut through the natural deposits (110) and (111) at regular intervals throughout the trench was a series of 19th or 20th century truncations [103], [105], [107] and [109] of various size and shape. These truncations were filled with a soft, mid grey, sandy clay deposit (contexts (102), (104), (106) and (108) respectively), which contained frequent 19th and 20th century ceramic building material (CBM) and concrete fragments, and was similar to the overlying made ground deposits (101). The character of the truncations indicated they were directly associated with the demolition and clearance of the previously existing 19th century terraced houses once present on site, and, as such, were not excavated.
- 4.1.5 Sealing contexts (102), (104), (106) and (108) was a substantial layer of soft, mid grey, sandy clay made ground (101), which contained frequent 19th and 20th century demolition debris and was between 1.40m to 1.70m thick, extending across the full area of the trench. Completing the sequence of deposits within Trench 1 was a soft, dark grey, silty clay made ground deposit (100), up to 1m thick, which contained modern demolition debris.
- 4.1.6 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 1.

5. **Finds**

5.1 No finds were collected during the course of the evaluation.

Conclusion 6.

6.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and the archaeological potential of the site. Undisturbed natural silty clay deposits were observed at the base of Trench 1 at a maximum height of 16.35m AOD.

- 6.2 The only features encountered during the evaluation were associated with the demolition and clearance of the 19th century terraced houses during the mid 20th century.
- Overlying these features was a sequence of made ground deposits clearly associated with the mid 6.3 20th century clearance of the site and later activity. Due to the lack of undisturbed deposits overlying the natural horizon, it is likely that a phase of horizontal truncation has taken place on site during the 19th or 20th century which removed any previously existing deposits.
- Due to the high level of 19th and/or 20th century truncation encountered during the evaluation, the 6.4 potential for features and horizons of archaeological interest to survive on site is limited.
- 6.5 No evidence for the conjectured medieval manor or features associated with the manor of Wenlocks Barn was identified during the course of the archaeological investigation.
- 6.6 Due to the lack of archaeological deposits/features it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The final decision in regards to the requirement for further archaeological fieldwork lies with Adam Single of GLAAS, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Hackney.

7. Publication and Archive Deposition

- Due to the nature of the results, publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the London 7.1 Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 7.2 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, digital and black and white photographs, and finds, will be deposited with the LAARC.

8. **Bibliography**

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Site Location Within London Hackney Site

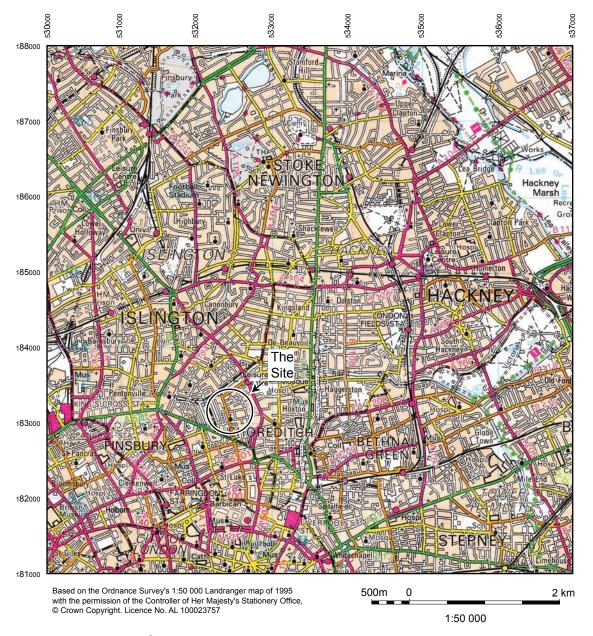


Figure 1: Site Location



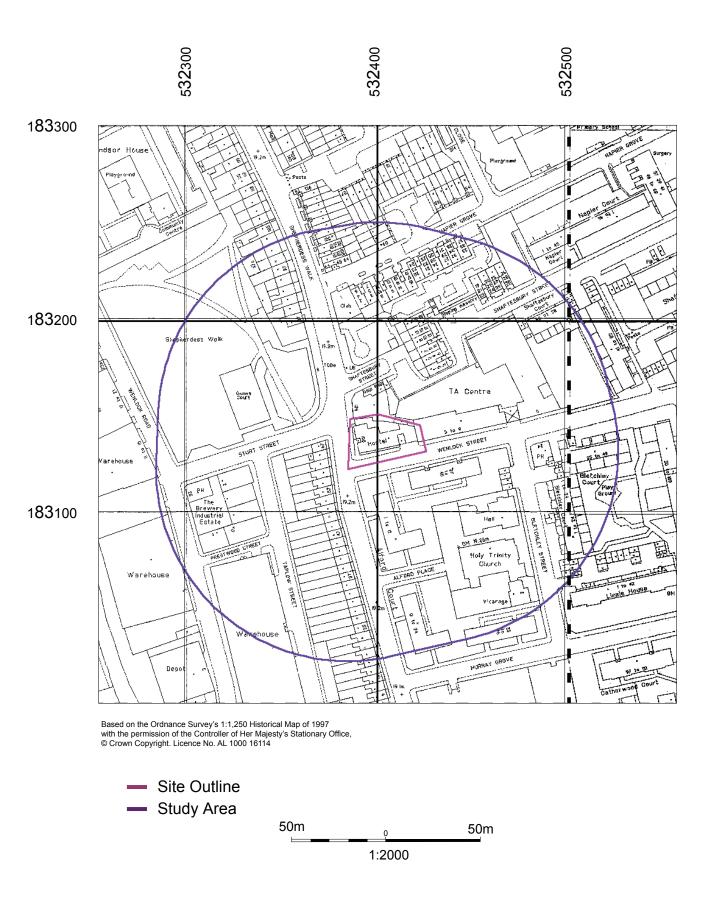


Figure 2: Detailed Site Location Plan





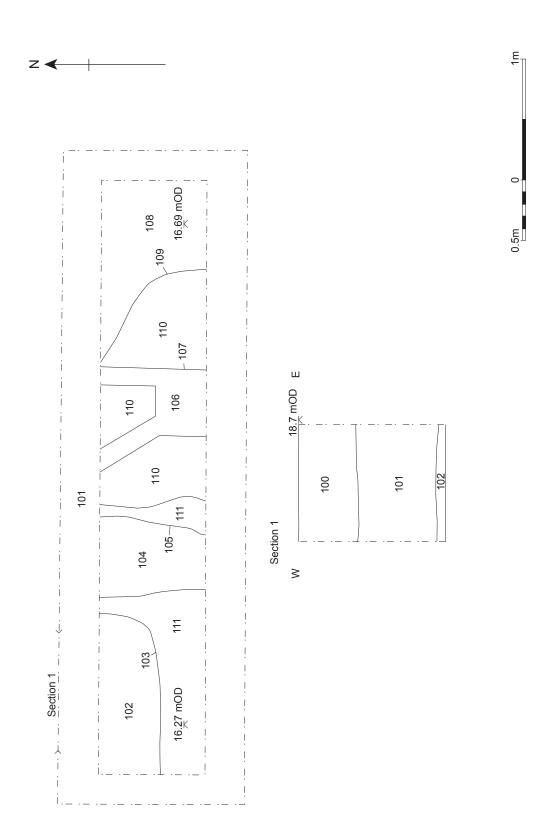


Figure 4: Trench 1 Plan and Section

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Made Ground	12.00m	3.80m	0.95m
101	Made Ground	10.00m	1.80m	1.70m
102	Fill of truncation [103]	2.50m	1.10m	NFE
103	Truncation	2.50m	1.10m	NFE
104	Fill of truncation [105]	1.80m	1.30m	NFE
105	Truncation	1.80m	1.30m	NFE
106	Fill of truncation [107]	1.80m	1.50m	NFE
107	Truncation	1.80m	1.50m	NFE
108	Fill of truncation [109]	3.00m	1.80m	NFE
109	Truncation	3.00m	1.80m	NFE
110	Natural	5.50m+	1.80m+	0.20m+
111	Natural	4.50m+	1.80m+	0.20m+

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-142605

Project details

Project name 100 Shepherdess Walk, Shoreditch

Short description of An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the the project site of 100 Shepherdess Walk, Shoreditch, London Borough of Hackney. The

> evaluation consisted of one machine excavated trench measuring. The only features encountered truncating natural clay deposits were associated with the mid 20th century demolition and clearance of the site, with the features subsequently overlain by made ground deposits up to 2.70m thick. This combined with a phase of horizontal truncation dating to approximately the same period indicated that the potential for features and horizons of archaeological

interest to survive on site is limited.

Project dates Start: 25-04-2013 End: 26-04-2013

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated 32203 - Contracting Unit No.

project reference

codes

associated SWH13 - Sitecode Any

project reference

codes

Any associated 2012/2065 - Planning Application No.

project reference

codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

& """Sample Trenches""" Methods

techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.) Prompt Planning condition

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY 100 Shepherdess Walk

Postcode N1 7JN

Study area 440.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3240 8314 51 0 51 31 52 N 000 05 27 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 16.00m Max: 16.00m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology

Organisation

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

originator

Project design AOC Archaeology

originator

Project Paul Mason

director/manager

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of developer

sponsor/funding

body

Name of Shepherdess Development Ltd

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Digital Archive LAARC

recipient

Digital Archive ID SWH13

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

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

available

Digital Archive notes To be held at AOC until ready to archive

Paper Archive LAARC

recipient

Paper Archive ID SWH13

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

available

Paper Archive notes To be held at AOC until ready to archive

Project

bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title 100 SHEPHERDESS WALK, LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY: A WRITTEN

SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, C.

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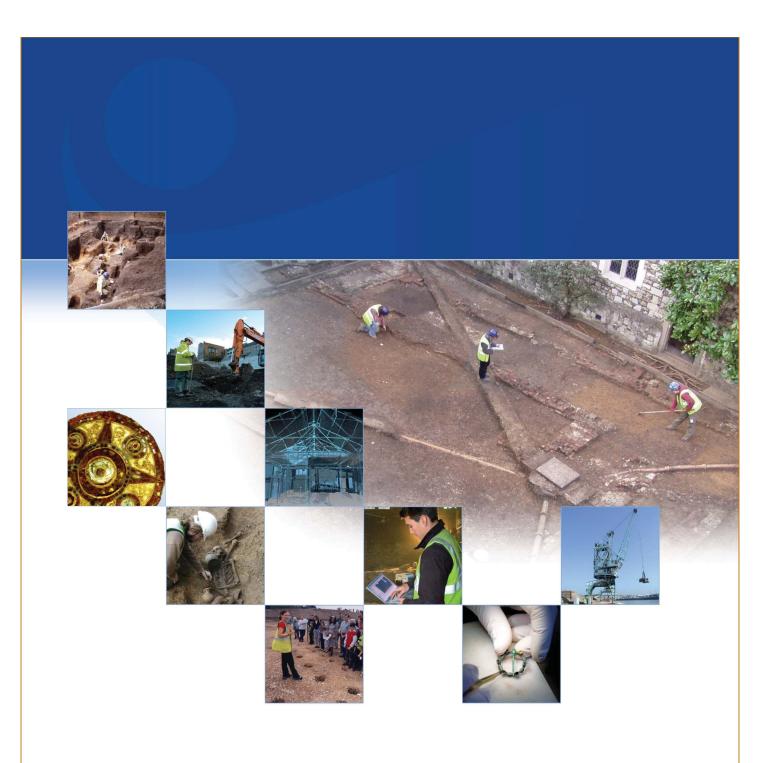
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