

1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In April and May 2005 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 3-4 Griggs Place, Bermondsey, Southwark. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of three test pits excavated to establish the depth of the foundations of the adjacent building. All of the test pits were excavated to a depth of approximately 2m and all contained made ground of 19th or 20th century date. No significant archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified.

2 INTRODUCTION

Site location (Fig. 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at 3-4 Griggs Place, Bermondsey, London Borough of Southwark, National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 3338 7926. The site is bounded to the north by Grange Walk, to the south by Grange Road, to the west by Griggs place and to the east by Griggs Court.

3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The development plan comprised the construction of three flats on the site. The groundworks comprised underpinning the adjoining buildings and general ground reduction to a depth of approximately 2m.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990), and in line with the policy 4.9 of the UDP, it was imposed as a condition on planning consent by the LPA archaeology advisor that an archaeological watching brief be carried out, in order to record any archaeological deposits and features exposed during the development.
- 4.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was accordingly prepared by AOC Archaeology (March 2005) and submitted to the archaeology officer for Southwark Council for approval prior to commencement of groundworks.

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 For much of its past the area of Southwark consisted of marshland; areas of permanently dry ground would have been confined to the few small sand or peat eyots within the marshland and the higher Flood Plain gravel. The existence of such gravel deposits in the north Southwark area was instrumental in the prehistoric and Roman development of the region, as these islands were the first places in the area to become inhabited, with the intervening creeks and marsh areas creating natural boundaries between the settlements. The areas between the eyots gradually became reclaimed as human habitation and subsequent building and drainage programs expanded in the area.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The site lies within the archaeological priority zone of Borough/Bermondsey/Riverside. No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the site. However, there have been numerous excavations in the immediate surrounding area and there are numerous entries within the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) for archaeological features or chance finds in the vicinity of the site.
- 6.2 The site lies to the east of the Bermondsey eyot, and there have been numerous prehistoric finds, including trackways and structures dating to the Bronze Age, discovered on the gravel terraces that formed the landscape of the Thames floodplain during this period (MoLAS 2000).
- 6.3 Excavations along Grange Road, to the southeast of the site, revealed evidence of Late Iron Age/early Roman activity and a series of linear features containing Roman finds (MoLAS 1998).
- 6.4 The site is also located in close proximity to Bermondsey Abbey. Excavations at the site between 1984 and 1988, revealed Bronze Age, Saxon and Roman finds along with the 200 *in situ* burials and the foundations of the Clunaic priory and Benedictine Abbey (MoLAS 1998).

7 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 7.1 The aims of the investigation as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were:
- 7.2 To establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the development site.
- 7.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features and to establish the depositional sequence.
- 7.4 To record and sample excavate any such archaeologically important material.
- 7.5 To enable the LPA archaeology advisor to make an informed decision on the status of the condition imposed on planning consent.

- 7.6 The final aim will be to make public the results of the archaeological work.

8 STRATEGY

- 8.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation was designed by AOC Archaeology (AOC 2005) and submitted to the Senior Archaeological Officer for Southwark Council for approval prior to the commencement of groundworks.
- 8.2 The Watching Brief comprised the monitoring of three test pits excavated to establish the depth of the footings of the adjoining buildings.
- 8.3 All works were carried out in accordance with regional and national guidance (English Heritage, 1998a and b).

9 METHODOLOGY

- 9.1 A unique site code for the project (GIG 05) was obtained from the Museum of London prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.
- 9.2 Three test pits were monitored over four days by an experienced archaeologist. Two test pits were excavated using a mechanical excavator while the third was hand excavated.
- 9.3 A full written record was completed for all the excavated areas. Context numbers were allocated to each deposit and plans were produced locating features.
- 9.4 The work was monitored by Sarah Gibson, Senior Archaeology Officer to Southwark Council.

10 RESULTS (Figure 3)

Test Pit 1

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 0.00-1.50m | (1/001). Mixed, loosely compacted light yellow – dark brown sandy silt with modern building debris inclusions. 20 th century made ground. |
| 1.50-1.90m+ | (1/002). Loosely compacted dark grey silt with occasional building material inclusions and clay tobacco pipe. Late 19 th /early 20 th century made ground. |

- 10.2 Test Pit 1 was located at the southeast corner of the site and measured 1.50m by 1.50m.
- 10.3 Overlying a 0.40m thick (to the vertical limit of excavation) made ground deposit (1/002) dating to the late 19th /early 20th century was a 1.50m thick deposit of 20th century made ground (1/001).
- 10.4 No significant archaeological finds or features were identified in Test Pit 1.

Test Pit 2

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 0.00-2.00m+ | (2/001). Loosely compacted dark grey silt with occasional building material inclusions and clay tobacco pipe. Late 19 th /early 20 th century made ground. |
|-------------|--|

- 10.5 Test Pit 2 was located at the northeast corner of the site and measured 1.50m by 1.50m.
- 10.6 A single deposit (2/001) was identified as late 19th/early 20th century made ground, similar to that recorded in Test Pit 1 as (1/002). This was 2m thick to the vertical limit of excavation
- 10.7 No significant archaeological finds or features were identified in Test Pit 2.

Test Pit 3

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 0.00-1.00m | (3/001). Loosely compacted mixed dark brown sandy silt with modern building material inclusions. 20 th century made ground. |
| 1.00-2.00m+ | (3/002). Loosely compacted dark grey silt with occasional building material, clay tobacco pipe and animal bone inclusions. Late 19 th /early 20 th century made ground. |

- 10.8 Test Pit 3 was located in the southwest corner of the site and was hand excavated. It measured 1m by 1m.
- 10.9 Sealing a 1m thick deposit (to the vertical limit of excavation) of late 19th/early 20th century made ground (3/002) was a 1m thick deposit of 20th century made ground, similar to layer (1/001) recorded in Test Pit 1.
- 10.10 No significant archaeological finds or features were identified in Test Pit 3.

11 FINDS

- 11.1 No finds were retrieved from the site. Fragmentary clay tobacco pipe was observed in the earlier deposits (3/002) and (1/002) but these had no merit as individual finds and, as they were observed in the late 19th/early 20th century made ground material, were residual.

12 CONCLUSIONS

- 12.1 No significant archaeological deposits were encountered on the site earlier than the late 19th/early 20th century made ground deposits (3/002) and (1/002). As these deposits appeared to be made ground as opposed to backfill associated with the construction cuts for the adjoining buildings, it is possible that archaeological deposits may still be preserved below the level of the groundworks' impact.
- 12.2 Publication of the results will be through the ADS OASIS form (Appendix B) with a short summary submitted to the London Archaeologist fieldwork round-up. No further analysis or reporting is considered necessary.

13 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology Group (2005): *A Written Scheme Of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 3-4 Griggs Place, Bermondsey, Southwark*. March 2005.

English Heritage (1998a): *Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London (English Heritage London Region 1998)*.

English Heritage (1998b): *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Reports. (English Heritage London Region 1998)*.

Museum of London, (2000) *The Archaeology of Greater London: An assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London*.

Museum of London, (1998) *Archaeology in Greater London 1965-90: A guide to records of excavations made by the Museum of London*.

Fig 1 – Site Location

Fig 2 – detailed site location

Fig 3 – Test Pit Location

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	20th century made ground	Trench	Trench	1.50m
1/002	Late 19th/early 20th century made ground	Trench	Trench	0.40m+
2/001	Late 19th/early 20th century made ground	Trench	Trench	2.00m+
3/001	20th century made ground	Trench	Trench	1.00m
3/002	Late 19th/early 20th century made ground	Trench	Trench	1.00m+

Appendix B – OASIS Form

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OASIS ID: aocarcha1-15585

Project details

Project name	3-4 Griggs Place, London Borough of Southwark: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Short description of the project	In April and May 2005 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 3-4 Griggs Place, Bermondsey, Southwark. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of three test pits excavated to establish the depth of the foundations of the adjacent building. All of the test pits were excavated to a depth of approximately 2m and all contained made ground of 19th or 20th century date. No significant archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified.
Project dates	Start: 11-04-2005 End: 14-05-2005
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GIG 05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status (other)	Archaeology Priority Zone of Borough/Bermondsey/Riverside
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 3-4 Griggs Place, Bermondsey, London Borough of Southwark

Postcode	SE1 3AB
Study area	70.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3338 7926 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Mark Beasley
Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor	Chris Thatcher
Sponsor or funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	GIG 05
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Text'

Digital Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC Archaeology until deposition with Museum of London
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	GIG 05
Paper Contents	'Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Manuscript', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC Archaeology until deposition with Museum of London

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 3-4 Griggs Place, Bermondsey, Southwark
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Beasley, M.
Date	2005
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology Group
Place of issue or publication	AOC Archaeology Group
Description	A4 bound document

Project bibliography 2

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s) Leonard, A.

Date 2006

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

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