

1 ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 5th September 2006 at 447-453 New Cross Road, New Cross, London, on behalf of ACE Architects Partnership. 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, measuring 10m x 2m and 11.50m by 2m. The trenches revealed 1.70m of made ground overlying natural clay and brickearth deposits which demonstrated that the site and the adjacent areas had undergone significant horizontal truncation during the 19th – 20th centuries.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in either of the trenches.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site was located at 447-453 New Cross Road, London Borough of Lewisham. The proposed development is centered on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3691 7706 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site is bounded to the south by New Cross Road and to the north by Glenville Grove. Shops and local residences lie to the east and west. The site is roughly rectangular in shape (Figure 2). The area affected by the development covers an area of approximately 850m².
- 2.3 The proposed development is for the construction of a part three/part four storey building incorporating roof terraces, comprising 2 one bedroom and 10 two bedroom self-contained flats near to the rear of 447 New Cross Road. This building will also have associated landscaping and cycle storage facilities.

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 of the southern edge of the Thames flood plain. It is situated at approximately 4m above Ordnance Datum.
- 3.3 No geotechnical investigations have been conducted within the 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).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 A Desk Based Assessment has not been prepared for this project.
- 5.2 No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the site itself.

PREHISTORIC

- 5.3 Prehistoric occupation in New Cross was largely confined to gravel islands and brickearth. Previous investigations have revealed surviving brickearth deposits beneath the 19th and 20th century made ground. Of particular note was work undertaken at Bramcote Lane where a prehistoric trackway was excavated. Two phases of evaluation adjacent to the site on Kender Estate were completed in 2002. The trenches did not reveal any archaeology, but investigations did expose

brickearth at 1.74mOD which had been horizontally truncated by a 19th century basement and well.

ROMAN

- 5.4 The main road from London to Dover and Canterbury runs through the area, providing a lasting road that is still used today.

SAXON

- 5.5 The area of New Cross was settled during the Saxon period and was known as Hatcham, the name meaning either 'the village in the clearing' or 'Hacci's village'. A map of 1619 shows that New Cross was still heavily wooded at the beginning of the 17th century. (AOC 2003).

POST-MEDIEVAL

- 5.6 During the 18th century, the old Roman road had been maintained and travellers using it had to pay tolls at the turnpike gates. New Cross Gate refers to the toll gate established at the New Cross Turnpike road in 1718. In 1843 the Royal Naval School was housed at New Cross and was opened by Prince Albert. Another naval connection in this direct area was the establishment of a signalling station forming the Admiralty semaphore telegraph from Deal to Dover at Telegraph Hill Park. However, it was the Haberdashers Company that stamped the area with an identity that still remains today. From the 1870's, the company which had purchased the manor in the 17th century laid out plans for houses of a "superior class".
- 5.7 The site is located within an area of archaeological interest as defined in the Unitary Development Plan for the Borough of Lewisham, (UDP 2001).

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The general aims of the evaluation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits, and to establish the depositional sequence.
 - 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 imposed 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 final aim was to make public the results of the archaeological work.

7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 The evaluation consisted of two evaluation trenches measuring 10m by 2m and 11.50m by 2m (Figure 3).

7.2 Trench 1 was shortened to 10m due to limited machining space whilst Trench 2 was extended to 11.50m to compensate.

7.3 Due to the depth of the made ground (1.6m) in both trenches, neither trench was fully excavated down to the natural deposits. Instead the trenches were excavated down to 1.5m with two sondages excavated down to the natural at either end of the trenches.

7.4 All machining was carried out under direct control of an experienced archaeologist using a JCB 3CX.

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 trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

7.7 All excavation was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appeared to be demonstrably worthy of preservation *in situ*.

7.8 After recording, the trenches were backfilled with excavated material.

7.9 A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was set up on site, transferred from a temporary surveyor's Bench Mark on Stanley Street.

7.10 The evaluation work was undertaken by Catherine Edwards, Project Supervisor, under the overall project management of Ron Humphrey, Project Manager.

8 RESULTS

8.1 Trench 1 (Fig 4)

Depth (m OD)	Context	Description
7.60 – 7.05	1/001	Dark brown and black sandy silty clay. Modern made ground.
7.05 – 6.70	1/002	Mixed yellow and dark brown sandy clay. Moderate brick and tile. Mixed made ground deposit.
6.70 – 6.30	1/003	Grey sandy silt clay. Frequent metal, brick and slate. Ground make up.
6.30 – 6.00	1/004	Grey and orange sandy clay, with occasional charcoal, clay pipe, brick and tile. Redeposited dirty alluvium.
6.00 – 5.70	1/005	Yellow and blue clay with a more sandy silt clay at northern end. Natural clay and occasional brickearth.

8.2 No archaeological remains were identified in Trench 1.

8.3 Trench 2 (Fig 5)

Depth (m OD)	Context	Description
7.29 – 6.89	2/001	Dark brown and black sandy silty clay. Modern made ground.
6.89 – 6.64	2/002	Mixed yellow and dark brown sandy clay. Moderate charcoal, brick and tile. Mixed made ground deposit.
6.64 – 6.19	2/003	Grey brown silty sand with inclusions of brick, mortar, tile and charcoal. Ground make up.
6.19 – 5.79	2/004	Grey sandy clay with frequent deposits of charcoal, clay pipe and brick. Redeposited dirty alluvium.
5.79 – 5.49	2/007	Orange and blue clay with dark orange sandy clay in the north of the trench. Natural clay and occasional brickearth.

8.4 A modern pipe trench ran north-south through Trench 2 [2/006]. The pipe within the trench was already partially demolished and the backfill was very disturbed (2/005). The pipe was originally cut through deposit (2/004), suggesting that the made ground deposits recorded above, post date the pipe.

8.5 No significant earlier archaeological remains were identified in Trench 2.

9 FINDS

9.1 A small amount of finds were collected from deposit 1/003 in Trench 1, these included burnt slate, a fragment of brick and a fragment of course redware pottery

which has a wide date range from 1580 to 1900. The pottery was spot dated and has not been retained.

10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 No evidence for any archaeological activity was identified on the site.
- 10.2 Although neither trench was fully excavated down to the natural horizon, the sondages at the both ends of the trenches demonstrated that significant horizontal truncation had taken place, comprehensively destroying any archaeological remains on this site. The truncation recorded on site and the premises adjacent to the site, suggests that large scale ground reduction had taken place during the 19th century allowing extra space for later industrial buildings and 20th century housing developments.
- 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 archaeology advisor Mark Stevenson (GLAAS).
- 10.4 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.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Unitary Development Plan of Lewisham Council (August 2001).

Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Trench Locations and plans

Fig 3

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	Car park surface and make up	Trench	Trench	0.55m
1/002	Mixed made ground deposit	Trench	Trench	0.35m
1/003	Mixed made ground deposit	Trench	Trench	0.40m
1/004	Redeposited alluvial deposit	Trench	Trench	0.30m
1/005	Natural clay and brickearth	Trench	Trench	0.30m +
2/001	Car park surface and make up	Trench	Trench	0.40m
2/002	Mixed made ground deposit	Trench	Trench	0.25m
2/003	Mixed made ground deposit	Trench	Trench	0.45m
2/004	Redeposited alluvial deposit	Trench	Trench	0.40m
2/005	Fill of pipe trench	Trench	0.60m	NFE
2/006	Cut of pipe trench	Trench	0.60m	NFE
2/007	Natural clay and brickearth	Trench	Trench	0.30m +

APPENDIX B

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-18072

Project details

Project name	447-453 New Cross Road
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 5TH September 2006 at 447-453 New Cross Road, New Cross, London, on behalf of ACE Architects Partnership. 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, measuring 11m by 2m. The trenches revealed that 1.70m of made ground overlying natural clay and brickearth deposits. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in either of the trenches.
Project dates	Start: 05-09-2006 End: 05-09-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NXD06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
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 447-453 New Cross Road
Postcode	SE14
Study area	850.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3691 7706 Point
Height OD	Min: 6.00m Max: 5.79m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey

Project supervisor Catherine Edwards

Sponsor or funding body ACE Architect Partnership

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Digital Media available 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Microfilm','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 447-453 NEW CROSS ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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

Date 2006

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology Group

Place of issue or publication London

Description Unpublished Bound report with illustrations

Entered by Catherine Edwards (catherinedwards@aocarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 8 September 2006