

Bath Road, Holbeck, Leeds:
Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On behalf of: CRE8 Management Ltd
1A Portland Buildings
127-129 Portland Street
Manchester
M1 4PZ

National Grid Reference (NGR): SE29465 32790

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20454

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Timing: Excavation February 2007
Report February 2007

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground subject to redevelopment at Bath Road, Holbeck, Leeds.

The excavation of geotechnical test pits exposed the remains of cellars back filled with early to mid 19 century bricks.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by CRE8 Management Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of Geotechnical test pits prior to development at Bath Road, Holbeck, Leeds. The works were implemented by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (WYAAS) the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority. Due to the timing of the works it was not possible for WYAAS to provide a *Watching Brief specification* for the works. However it was verbally stated that a watching brief would be required for trial pits 5, 9, 10, and 14 (terraced housing), trial pit 16 (bath house) and trial pits 7 and 17 (reservoir edge) (Gomersall 2007).

2.2 Site location

2.2.1 The proposed development site is centred on NGR: SE29465 32790 (Fig. 1) It is bounded to the north by Water Lane, to the west by Bath Road, to the east by Marshall's mill and to the south by Sweet St The site currently occupies an area of waste ground with patches of cobbles and concrete visible in the surface and contains piles of dumped fly tipped soil. The underlying alluvium geology comprises of soft brown clay overlying sand and gravel.

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

2.3.1 In 1790 John Marshall bought an acre of land at Water Lane, Holbeck and during 1791-2 built a six storey water powered mill which has been restored and stands to the east of the investigation area (NALC 2007; HUV 2007) The area under investigation has been developed since the early 19th century and contained housing and cooling services associated with the neighbouring Marshall's linen and flax mill. Partial demolition of these structures occurred in 1893 with the cooling reservoirs filled in. By 1953 the remainder of the housing had been demolished and was followed by the construction of small industrial units (White 2003).

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- i)* determine the character, condition, date, extent and quality of any archaeologically significant remains within the development area;
- ii)* to formulate an appropriate mitigation strategy should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, in discussion between the client, AOC Archaeology Group and WYAAS

4. METHOD

4.1 Seven Geotechnical Test Pits were excavated using a JCB type mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.5 m wide toothless ditching bucket, at various points around the site (Fig. 2). All excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision and dug to a depth to satisfy the requirements of the geotechnical test pitting, up to a depth of 2.5 m. The overburden was removed in shallow spits until the first archaeological sediments, deposits, features or natural geology were encountered. All machine excavation was carried out under the direct supervision of an experienced field archaeologist.

4.2 The fieldwork was undertaken on 1st February 2007 under dry and sunny conditions.

4.3 The Test Pits were part of larger geotechnical investigation and as such the Test Pit numbering system reflects this.

5. RESULTS (Figs. 3 and 4)

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The various data gathered from the evaluation are presented as a series of appendices:

- i)* Appendix 1 contains test pit summaries;
- ii)* Appendix 2 contains the test pit context register;
- iii)* Appendix 3 contains the photographic register;
- iv)* Appendix 4 contains the drawing register;
- v)* Appendix 5 contains the brick sample register;
- vi)* Appendix 6 contains the WYAAS summary sheet;

5.2 Geotechnical Test Pit 5 (Fig. 3)

5.2.1 This Test Pit was dug through the edge of a dump of fly tipped soil (501) with a depth of 0.6 m. Directly below this imported deposit was a surface

constructed from stone setts/cobbles (502) which extended westwards for a distance of 1.4 m.

- 5.2.1 The extent of this surface marked the edge of the fly tipping and beyond this extent excavation continued through the overlying top soil (503) which contained a large amount of displaced similar cobbles to (502) indicating that the cobbled surface once extended further. Patches of cobbling can be seen on the present ground surface else where on site. Deposit (503) had a depth of 0.7 m and overlay natural alluvial deposits of soft brown clay 2.4 m in thickness which in turn overlay further natural deposits of sand and gravel.

5.3 Geotechnical Test Pit 7

- 5.3.1 Turf and topsoil was seen to a depth of 0.4 m and contained occasional fragments of building rubble. Below this an alluvium deposit of soft brown clay, 2.7 m thick was seen to overlie a further alluvium deposit of sand and gravel. No archaeological significance deposits or features were located within this trench

5.4 Geotechnical Test Pit 9 (Fig. 4)

- 5.4.1 Directly below the turf and topsoil (900), which had a depth of 0.25 m were seen the remains of two brick built walls (901) and (902). Wall (901) was aligned east to west with wall (902) aligned north to south and appeared to tie in to the south side of wall (901). Excavation of the test pit was shifted 0.5 m to the south of wall (901) in order to minimise damage. Excavation showed that these walls cut the underlying natural geology of clay (903) to a depth of 0.4 m below the base of (900). Excavation of the test pit continued through the clay for a further 2.05 m where the top of the underlying sand and gravels were encountered. In house dating based on brick typology dates these walls to the 19th century

5.5 Geotechnical Test Pit 10 (Fig. 5)

- 5.5.1 The layer of turf and topsoil (1001) was seen to have a depth of 0.05 m. This was seen to overlie a deep layer of brick rubble (1002) which was seen to have a depth of 1.8 m. at which point the remains of a sandstone flagged floor (1004) was encountered. Deposit (1002) was split by a brick wall (1003) aligned east to west across the pit which continued down to the floor (1004).
- 5.5.2 Collapse of the unstable sides of the trench (1002) revealed that the trench was positioned over a small basement room bounded by brick built and plastered walls (1005). The walls had a depth of 1.8 m with the room measuring 1.2 m east-west and 1.9 m. north south. A door way was seen in the eastern wall indicating further basements in this direction. Unfortunately wall (1001) collapsed but it showed how this wall was not tied into wall (1005) and was probable a later addition. From observations elsewhere on site it is clear that this basement cut through the underlying natural clay.

5.6 Geotechnical Trench 14

- 5.6.1 This Test Pit was situated directly on the top of an area of fly tipped material consisting of black silt with inclusions of frequent brick and other building rubble (1401) and was seen to have a depth of 1.4 m which corresponded to the level of the surrounding present ground surface.
- 5.6.2 Directly below this deposit was a layer of tarmac (1402) which sealed a deep deposit of brick rubble (1403). This deposit was dug to a depth of 1.5 m at which point excavation of the test pit was halted due to the instability of the rubble sides of the test pit. The brick rubble contained bricks which have been initially identified in house as ranging from early to mid 19th century.
- 5.6.3 Based on observations from Test Pit 10 this rubble deposit (1403) is highly likely to represent the infilling of a basement type structure or even the remains of the former cooling reservoirs.

5.7 Geotechnical Test Pit 16

- 5.7.1 Turf and topsoil containing occasional brick and building fragments was seen to a depth of 0.2 m and seen to directly overlie the natural clay, 1.7 m in depth which in turn overlay further natural deposits of sand and gravel. No archaeological deposits or features of archaeological significance were seen within this test pit.

5.8 Geotechnical Test Pit 17

- 5.8.1 The upper layer of this trench consisted of a concrete slab 0.16 m in depth which over lay a mixed layer of dark brown silty clay and brick fragments. Directly below this layer was seen to be the natural clay which had a depth of 1.7 m at which point sands and gravels were encountered. No archaeological deposits or features of archaeological significance were seen within this test pit.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Test Pits 5, 9, 10 and 14 were located in the vicinity of possible terraced housing remains. Of the Test Pits only 9 and 10 located any significant remains. These included the wall foundations within pit 9 and on a larger scale a basement within pit 10 which consisted of structural features such as walls and a doorway both surviving to full height. The doorway may indicate further survival of basements below the present ground surface. This basement was seen to have been in filled with brick rubble most likely derived from demolition. A similar deposit within the confines of Pit 14 and it is likely that given the position of the pit further housing basements exist. In house dating by the brick typology, suggests dates of between early to mid 19th century tying into Marshall's development of the area.
- 6.2 Evidence for the remains of the bath house and the cooling reservoirs was not apparent on site. Given that other deep remains still exist on site (Test Pits 10 and 14) this lack of evidence may be due to the positioning of the Test Pits

and their small size rather than an absence of remains. Further evaluation of a more archaeological 'bent' may provide evidence for these features especially when the size of the reservoirs is taken into account.

- 6.3 The reservoirs supplied water for the new manufacturing process of wet spinning carried out by the mill and for other operations such as Beetling, (a finishing process where the linen is pounded by wooden mallets in water to close up the weave) (Trickett 2007) On the 1st ed OS map of 1852 the size of the reservoirs can clearly be seen (Fig. 6). It is possible that the reservoirs were shared by other industrial units or mills in the surrounding locality
- 6.4 Despite the features being relatively of relatively late date it may be deemed that such features are a diminishing resource as such archaeology has been ignored in past developments. In such a situation these remains may be classed as of greater significance than may have been the case a few years ago and it is clear that features relating to both above and below ground structures still survive.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- Gomersall H, 2007, Pers comment
- HUV 2007, Holbeck Urban Village website
- NALC 2007, The National Archives Learning Curve website
- Trickett P, 2007 *Barbush Mills, Historic building Report*, Unpublished AOC client document
- White 2003, *Igloo Regeneration Partnership, Leeds Holbeck Urban Village, Desk Study Report*, White Young Green Environmental Ltd., Unpublished Report

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 1852 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 6 inch to 1 mile Yorkshire Sheet 218

APPENDIX 1: GEOTECHNICAL TEST PIT SUMMARIES

Test pit 5						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	1.5	Width (m)	0.5	Depth (m)	3.10
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W					
<i>Overburden</i>	Fly tip material (501) Turf and topsoil (503)				Depth (m)	0.6 0.7
<i>Subsoil</i>	None				Depth (m)	
<i>Natural</i>	Soft brown clay over sand and gravels (504)					
<i>Significant features</i>	Cobbled surface					
<i>Finds</i>	None					

Test pit 7						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	3.0	Width (m)	0.5	Depth (m)	3.1
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W					
<i>Overburden</i>	Turf and Topsoil				Depth (m)	0.4
<i>Subsoil</i>	None				Depth (m)	
<i>Natural</i>	Soft brown clay overlying sand and gravels					
<i>Significant features</i>	None					
<i>Finds</i>	None					

Test pit 9						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	2.4	Width (m)	1.4	Depth (m)	2.3
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W					
<i>Overburden</i>	Turf and topsoil (900)				Depth (m)	0.25
<i>Subsoil</i>	None				Depth (m)	
<i>Natural</i>	Soft brown clay overlying sand and gravels (903)					
<i>Significant features</i>	Wall (901), Wall (902)					
<i>Finds</i>	Brick sample 1					

Test Pit 10						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	2.8	Width (m)	1.2	Depth (m)	2.3
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S					
<i>Overburden</i>	Turf and topsoil (1001)				Depth (m)	0.05
<i>Subsoil</i>	None				Depth (m)	
<i>Natural</i>	Not seen					
<i>Significant features</i>	Backfill (1002), Wall (1003), Floor (1004), Walls (1005)					
<i>Finds</i>	Brick sample 2					

Test Pit 14						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	2.0	Width (m)	0.5	Depth (m)	2.9
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S					
<i>Overburden</i>	Fly tipped material (1401)				Depth (m)	1.4
<i>Subsoil</i>	None				Depth (m)	
<i>Natural</i>	Not seen					
<i>Significant features</i>	Tarmac (1402), Brick rubble (1403)					
<i>Finds</i>	Brick samples 3, 4, and 5					

Test Pit 16						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	2.9	Width (m)	0.5	Depth (m)	2.7
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S					
<i>Overburden</i>	Turf and topsoil (1001)				Depth (m)	0.2
<i>Subsoil</i>	None				Depth (m)	
<i>Natural</i>	Soft brown clay over sand and gravel					
<i>Significant features</i>	None					
<i>Finds</i>	None					

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Test Pit 17						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	1.0	Width (m)	0.5	Depth (m)	2.5
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W					
<i>Overburden</i>	Concrete slab				Depth (m)	0.16
	Brown silty clay					0.3
<i>Subsoil</i>	None				Depth (m)	
<i>Natural</i>	Soft brown clay over sand and gravel					
<i>Significant features</i>	None					
<i>Finds</i>	None					

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Test Pit	Description	Dimensions				Above	Below
			Height (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)		
501	5	Loose black silt frequent building rubble				0.6	502	
502	5	Fly tipped material Layer of black stone sets laid in stretcher fashion. Ave size of sets 150 mm x 130 mm x 170 mm to 240 mm x 130 mm x 200 mm	Exposed 1.4	Exposed 0.5				501
503	5	Cobbled surface Loose black silt containing frequent inclusions of building rubble and stone sets the same as (502)				0.7	504	
504	5	Turf and topsoil Soft brown clay				2.4		503
900	9	Natural alluvium Loose black silt containing occasional brick fragments				0.25	901 902	
901	9	Turf and topsoil Alignment of mortared red brick. Unexcavated	2.4	0.2			Cuts 903	
902	9	Wall Alignment of mortared red brick. Aligned north-south. Laid as stretchers and headers. Five courses remain but in bad condition. Brick size 300mm x 110 mm x 70 mm.	1.0	Only seen in section		0.55	Cuts 903	
903	9	Wall Soft brown clay overlying sand and gravel				2.05		Cut by 901 and 902
1001	10	Natural alluvium Loose black silt containing occasional brick fragments				0.05	1002 1003 1005	
1002	10	Turf and topsoil Loose deposit of bricks, bounded by walls (1003) and (1005)				1.8	1004	
1003	10	Basement infilling Alignment of red mortared brick. Single brick width wide laid as stretchers. Aligned E-W. Brick size 230 mm x 115 mm x 90 mm	1.2	115				1001
1004	10	Wall Sand stone paving. Only seen from surface and only partial uncovered						1002
1005	10	Flagged floor Three sides of room built from red mortared brick. Inner surface has been plastered and white washed. Doorway seen in eastern wall at junction with wall (1003) with width of 0.9 m.	1.0 1.2 0.5			1.8		1002
1401	14	Walls of basement room Loose black silt containing occasional brick fragments				1.4	1402	
1402	14	Turf and topsoil						
1403	14	Tarmac surface Deposit of brick rubble containing at least three different types of brick				0.05	1403	1401
	14	Basement or reservoir infilling				>1.5		1402

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APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Colour slide Film No.1

No.	Test Pit	Description	From
1		Registration	
2-3	17	General	E
4-5	14	General	E
6-7	9	Wall 902	E
8-9	10	Basement remains	W
10-11	10	Basement remains	S
12-13	5	Stone setts	E

Black and White Print Film No.1

No.	Test Pit	Description	From
1		Registration	
2-3	17	General	E
4-5	14	General	E
6-7	9	Wall 902	E
8-9	10	Basement remains	W
10-11	10	Basement remains	S
12-13	5	Stone setts	E

APPENDIX 4: PLAN REGISTER

No	Description	Scale
1	Test Pit 5	1:10
2	Test Pit 9	1:10
3	Test Pit 10	1:10

APPENDIX 5: Brick sample register

No.	Context	Description	Size (mm)			Provisional date
			Length	Width	Thickness	
1	902	Red Brick Unfrogged	300	110	70	Early 19 th C
2	1003	Red Brick Unfrogged	230	115	90	Early 19 th C
3	1403	Red Brick, Unfrogged	235	115	70	Early 19 th C
4	1403	Red Brick, Shallow frog both sides. Similar to 5	230	105	75	Mid 19 th C
5	1403	Red Brick, Shallow frog both sides. Similar to 4	230	110	80	Mid 19 th C

APPENDIX 6: WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE
SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/ Address <i>Bath Road</i>	
Township <i>Holbeck</i>	District <i>Leeds</i>
National Grid Reference (to six or eight figures depending on the archaeological sensitivity of the site) <i>SE29465 32790</i>	
Contractor <i>AOC ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP</i>	
Date of Work <i>1ST FEBUARY 2007</i>	
Title of Report (in full) <i>BATH ROAD, HOLBECK, LEEDS: ARCHAEOLOGY WATCHING BRIEF, DATA STRUCTURE REPORT</i>	
Date of Report <i>5TH FEBUARY 2007</i>	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS (100 WORDS OR LESS) <i>A WATCHING BRIEF WAS CARRIED OUT BY AOC ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP ON GEOTECHNICAL TEST PITS ON LAND MARKED FOR REDEVELOPMENT. IT WAS SEEN THAT THE TOPSOIL OF THE SITE CONTAINED 19TH CENTUARY BRICK RUBBLE AND LAY DIRECTLY ABOVE THE NATURAL BROWN CLAY ALUVIUM. THIS LAYER WAS SEEN TO SEAL SHALLOW WALL FOUNDATIONS (TEST PIT 9) WHICH WERE SEEN TO CUT THE NATURAL. ALSO CUTTING THE NATURAL WERE THE REMAINS OF A BASEMENT ROOM (TEST PIT 10) WHICH HAD BEEN INFILLED WITH 19TH CENTUARY BRICK RUBBLE UPTO 1.8 M IN DEPTH. A SIMILAR DEEP DEPOSIT OF BRICK RUBBLE WAS SEEN IN TEST PIT 14, SUGGESTING FURTHER BACK FILLING OF UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES. THIS COOROSPONDS TO THE LOCATION OF TERRACED HOUSING ASSOCCIATED MARSHALL'S MILL SEEN ON THE FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP (1852) OF THE AREA. IT IS LIKELY THAT FURTHER SIMILAR REMAINS STILL EXIST WITHIN THE SITES BOUNDARIES</i>	
Author of summary <i>Erlend Hindmarch</i>	Date of summary <i>5th February 2007</i>

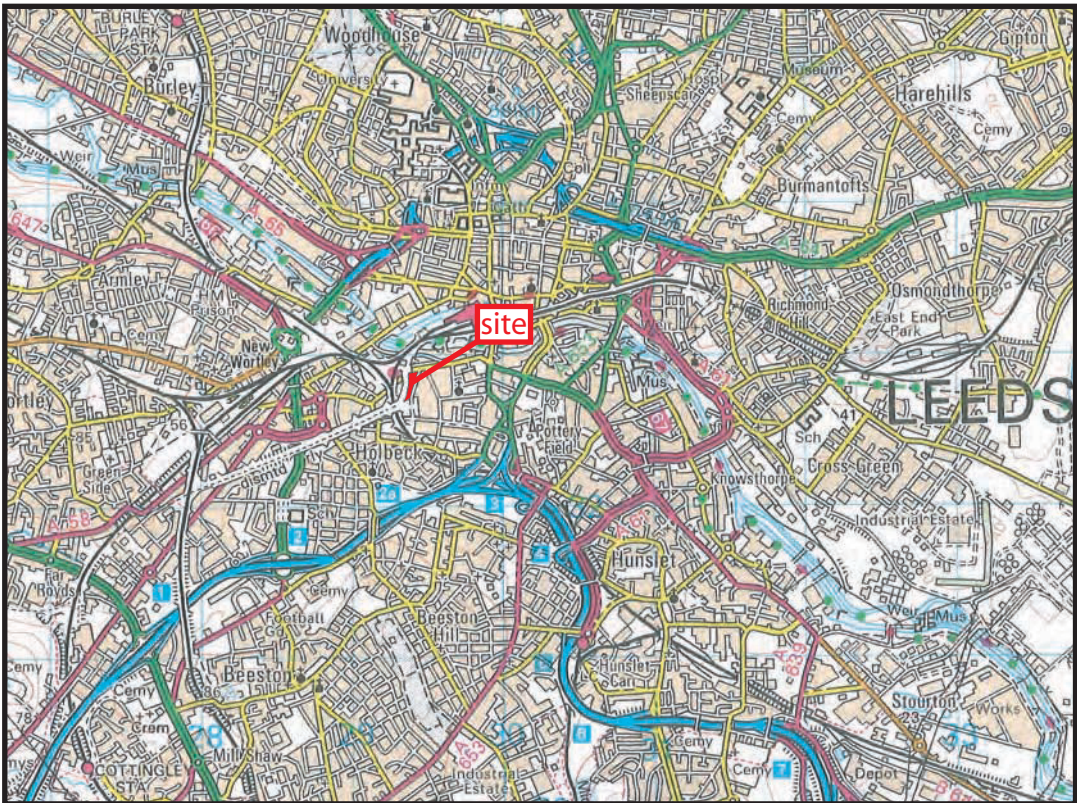
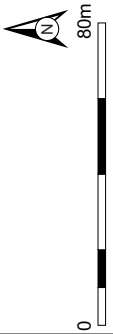


Figure 1: Site location

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Figure 2: Location of Test Pits

- Test Pits watched by AOC
- Other Test Pits



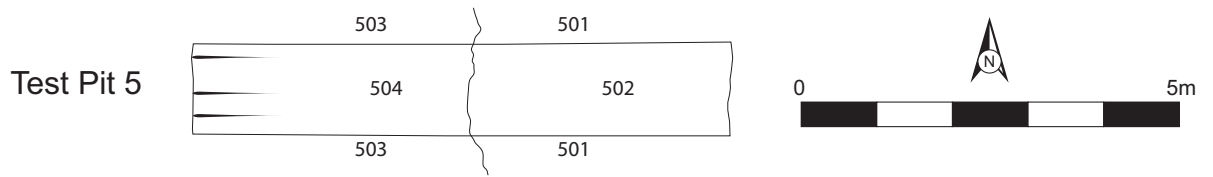


Figure 3: Plan of Test Pit 5

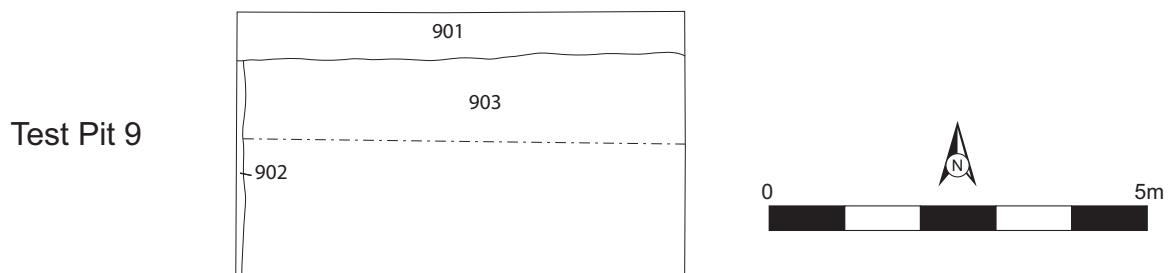


Figure 4: Plan of Test Pit 9



Figure 5: Plan of Test Pit 10



Figure 6: Site location on extract from 1st edition map by Ordnance Survey, 1852