

## 1 ABSTRACT

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 86 – 100 Mare Street, London Borough of Hackney, on behalf of Barker Shorten Architects. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains.*

*The evaluation comprised the excavation of three machine excavated trenches measuring 11m x 2m at base. The Woolwich and Reading beds of natural clay were identified at between 15.23mOD and 16.27mOD. The clay was cut by a 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century wall in Trench 3 and a single 19<sup>th</sup> century pit in Trench 2. Sealing the pit and the natural clay were layers of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground and foundations for the previous buildings on the site. A concrete slab sealed all the trenches at a height of between 17.13mOD and 17.47mOD.*

*No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in any of the trenches.*

## **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 The site is located at 86 – 100 Mare Street in the London Borough of Hackney. The proposed development is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3488 8393 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site is roughly rectangular in shape and is bounded by 102 – 103 Mare Street to the north, a factory to the east, 82 Mare Street to the south and Mare Street to the west. The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 648m<sup>2</sup>.

## **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 256), indicates that the site is situated upon Woolwich and Reading beds of mottled clays overlain by Hackney gravel.
- 3.2 No geotechnical investigations have been conducted within the proposed development area.

## **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Hackney. Archaeological advice to the Borough is provided by David Divers, of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 4.2 The proposed development (Application No.: 2006/0206) of the site is for the construction of 973m<sup>2</sup> of storage space along with 29 residential units.
- 4.3 This document reports on the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken to identify any archaeological remains that might be threatened by the proposed development.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The following information is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2007).

### **Prehistoric (before c.AD 43)**

- 5.2 There have been significant Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint tool assemblages found on sites in Hackney.

### **Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)**

- 5.3 The development site is situated outside the Roman settlement of *Londinium* and there have been few finds of Roman date within the immediate vicinity of the site. However the A10 road, formed by modern day Shoreditch High Street, Kingsland Road and Kingsland High Street to the west, delineates the line of the Roman road known as Ermine Street.

### **Anglo-Saxon (c.451-1065)**

- 5.4 The focus of Saxon activity in London was in the Covent Garden area, then known as *Lundenwic*. There are no finds within the vicinity of the site of Saxon date although it has been suggested that the name Shoreditch, to the southwest of the site, originally came from the Saxon name ‘*Sordig*’ or ‘*Sorditch*’.

### **Medieval (c.1066 - 1485)**

- 5.5 Three drainage ditches dating to 1150 – 1500 were excavated at 30 – 36 Upper Clapton Road.

### **Post-Medieval (c.1485 - modern)**

- 5.6 Mare Street had a distinct settlement by 1593. A 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century rectangular building has been recorded at the south end of Upper Clapton Road. It comprised brick footings for a timber-framed structure. Fourteen shallow pits and postholes were also identified in a north-south linear arrangement, forming a boundary fence. Excavations in the vicinity of the site have identified three 18<sup>th</sup> century quarry pits and a rubbish pit at 277 – 287 Mare Street.

## **6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **6.1 The aims of the Evaluation were:**

- 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 (including evidence of past environments).
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the nature and extent of existing 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 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 specific objectives of the Evaluation were to:**

- Determine the presence of any remains of prehistoric date.
- Determine the presence of any remains of medieval date.
- Determine the presence of any remains of post-medieval date on the site.
- Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of late post-medieval and modern development on the site.

### **6.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.**

## **7 METHODOLOGY**

### **7.1 The evaluation consisted of three machine-excavated trenches measuring 11m x 2m at base. Before excavation the entire site was visually inspected and all trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to check for live services.**

### **7.2 All overburden was to be removed down to the top of the first recognizable archaeological horizon or the natural deposit in the event that no archaeological horizons were present, using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.**

### **7.3 All machining was carried out under direct control of an experienced archaeologist.**

- 7.4 Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 7.5 On completion of machine excavation, all faces of trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools.
- 7.6 All trenches were excavated to the underlying natural clay. Although no archaeological remains were identified, the full stratigraphic sequence was recorded.
- 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 the site, transferred from a Bench Mark on the railway bridge over Westgate Street.
- 7.11 The evaluation work was undertaken in two days by Chris Clarke, Project Supervisor, under the overall project management of Andy Leonard, Project Officer.

## 8 RESULTS

### 8.1 Table of results

#### Trench 1

17.13 to 16.53mOD	(1/001). Firmly compacted light grey concrete ground slab.
16.53 to 15.38mOD	(1/002). Moderately compacted yellow/grey sandy clayey silt. 20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground.
15.38 to 15.18mOD+	(1/004). Moderately to firmly compacted mid brown/orange silty clay. Natural clay.

8.2 Trench 1 was located at the northwest part of the site (Figure 3). Natural clay (1/004) was present to a maximum height of 15.38mOD. No archaeological features were present cutting or overlying this deposit. Immediately on top of the clay were 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete foundations (1/003) to a maximum height of 16.59mOD. These covered the 6m of trench to the east and are the remains of previous development on the site.

8.3 Sealing the concrete foundations was a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground (1/002) to a maximum height of 16.53mOD. This was overlain by a concrete slab (1/001) at a height of 17.13mOD.

8.4 No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in Trench 1.

#### Trench 2

17.36 to 16.86mOD	(2/001). Firmly compacted light grey concrete ground slab.
16.86 to 16.21mOD	(2/002). Moderately compacted brown/grey silty clay. Frequent inclusions of building material. 20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground.
16.21 to 15.55mOD	(2/005). Moderately to firmly compacted mid brown silty clay. Natural clay.

8.5 Trench 2 was aligned north – south to the west end of the site. Natural clay (2/005) was present across the length of the trench to a maximum height of 16.27mOD. It was cut at the north end of the trench by a sub-circular pit [2/004] measuring 1.25m x 0.75m to the limit of excavation. It contained a fill (2/003) of mid grey/brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds and ceramic building material. Given the inclusions and irregular shape of the feature, pit [2/004] was probably for general rubbish dumping.

- 8.6 Sealing pit [2/004] and the natural clay (2/005) was a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground (2/002) to a maximum height of 16.86mOD. This was in turn sealed by a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete (2/001) at a maximum height of 17.36mOD.
- 8.7 No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in Trench 2.

### **Trench 3**

17.47 to 17.07mOD	(3/001). Firmly compacted light grey concrete ground slab.
17.07 to 16.67mOD	(3/006). Moderately compacted grey rubble layer with brick and rubble inclusions. 20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground.
16.67 to 16.17mOD	(3/007). Moderately compacted dark grey/brown silty clay with a single pottery sherd, occasional ceramic building material and charcoal fleck inclusions. 19 <sup>th</sup> century buried soil horizon.
16.17 to 15.85mOD	(3/008). Moderately compacted silty clay with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Subsoil.
15.85 to 15.78mOD+	(3/009). Mid brown/orange natural clay.

- 8.8 Trench 3 was aligned east-west at the east end of the site. Natural clay (3/009) was identified at a maximum height of 15.85mOD. It was sealed by a subsoil deposit (3/008) of moderately compacted silty clay below a buried soil horizon (3/007) of silty clay to a height of 16.67mOD. A linear construction cut [3/003] was identified at the west end of the trench aligned north-south. It contained a red-brick wall foundation (3/002) comprising bricks measuring 230mm x 100mm x 50mm. The size of the brickwork indicates an early post-medieval date (c. 17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> century).
- 8.9 To the east of wall foundation (3/002) a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground (3/006) containing frequent brick and rubble inclusions was identified at a maximum height of 17.07mOD. A linear cut (3/005) aligned northwest-southeast truncated layer (3/006) at the east end of the trench. It contained previous 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete slabs (3/004) lying directly below the current ground slab (3/001) at a height of 17.47mOD.
- 8.10 No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in Trench 3.

## **9 FINDS**

- 9.1 No finds, *in situ* or residual, were retained from any of the trenches.

## 10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The evaluation met its primary objective: to establish the presence/ absence of any archaeological remains. The only archaeological remains identified on site, wall (3/002) and pit [2/004], dated to the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century and are suggestive of a domestic use, probably the remains of a former domestic building on Mare Street.
- 10.2 The presence of the 19<sup>th</sup> century buried soil horizon (3/007) at a height of 16.67mOD in Trench 3 also indicates that the west end of the site, nearer to Mare Street, has suffered a degree of truncation. 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground deposits were present to depths of up to 15.38mOD in Trench 1, and 16.21mOD in Trench 2.
- 10.3 It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is required to satisfy the archaeological planning condition on this site. However, the final decision regarding any further work will rest with the London Borough of Hackney and its archaeology advisor, David Divers (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.



## 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Detailed Site location

### Figure 3 – Trench Location

Figure 4 – Sample sections

**APPENDIX A – CONTEXT REGISTER**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>
1/001	Concrete ground slab	11.00m	1.80m	0.60m
1/002	20th century made ground	11.00m	1.80m	1.15m
1/003	20th century concrete foundation slab	3.80m	1.80m	NFE
1/004	Natural clay	4.40m	1.80m	0.20m+
2/001	Concrete ground slab	11.00m	1.80m	0.55m
2/002	20th century made ground	11.00m	1.80m	0.65m
2/003	Fill of pit 2/004	1.25m	0.75m	0.10m+
2/004	19th century pit cut	1.25m	0.75m	0.10m+
2/005	Natural clay	11.00m	1.80m	0.20m+
3/001	Concrete ground slab	11.00m	1.80m	0.40m
3/002	19th century wall foundation	2.00m	1.80m	1.25m
3/003	Construction cut for 3/002	2.00m	1.80m	1.25m
3/004	20th century concrete slab	4.00m	1.80m	0.64m
3/005	Construction cut for 3/004	4.00m	1.80m	0.64m
3/006	20th century made ground	11.00m	1.80m	0.40m
3/007	19th century buried soil horizon	5.00m	1.80m	0.45m
3/008	Subsoil	5.00m	1.80m	0.32m
3/009	Natural clay	11.00m	1.80m	0.10m+

## APPENDIX B

### 1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

#### 1.1 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-26979

##### Project details

Project name	86 - 100 Mare Street, London Borough of Hackney: An Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 25th and 26th April 2007 at 86 to 100 Mare Street, London Borough of Hackney. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised the excavation of three machine excavated trenches measuring 11m x 2m at base. The Woolwich and Reading beds of natural clay were identified at between 15.23mOD and 16.27mOD. The clay was cut by a 17th/18th century wall in Trench 3 and a single 19th century pit in Trench 2. Sealing the pit and the natural clay were layers of 19th and 20th century made ground and foundations for the previous buildings on the site. A concrete slab sealed all the trenches at a height of between 17.13mOD and 17.47mOD. No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in any of the trenches.
Project dates	Start: 25-04-2007 End: 26-04-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MEK07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval

Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
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 HACKNEY HACKNEY 86 to 100 Mare Street, London Borough of Hackney
Postcode	E9 7SJ
Study area	648.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3488 8393 51.5376392835 -0.05496626633280 51 32 15 N 000 03 17 W Point
Height OD	Min: 15.38m Max: 16.21m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	AOC Archaeology
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard



Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Barker Shorten Architects

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London

Digital Archive ID MEK 07

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Images vector', 'Text', 'Images raster / digital photography'

Digital Archive notes Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with the Museum of London.

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Archive ID MEK 07

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Matrices', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive notes Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with the Museum of London.

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	86 - 100 Mare Street, London Borough of Hackney: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Leonard, A.
Date	2007
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)
Title	86 - 100 Mare Street, London Borough of Hackney: An Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Leonard, A.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	AOC Archaeology
Description	A4 bound document

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Entered on 20 June 2007