

1 ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 19th and 20th March, and 9th May 2007 at 33 – 35 Lewisham Way, London Borough of Lewisham, on behalf of Measur. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two trenches measuring 11.00m by 2.00m at base. The natural geology varied between clayey gravels and sandy gravels. It was present at between 13.61mOD and 14.27mOD. In Trench 2 the natural gravel was cut by a large 17th – 19th century feature, probably the result of gravel quarrying. No further significant archaeological features were identified in either of the trenches. Sealing the natural deposits were a series of 20th century layers put down to build up the ground level. The top of the trenches was between 16.07mOD and 15.61mOD.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located at 33 – 35 Lewisham Way in the London Borough of Lewisham. The proposed development is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3657 7698 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site is an irregular shaped parcel of land and is bounded by Lewisham Way to the west, New Cross Road to the north, Parkfield Close to the east, and mixed commercial and residential properties to the south. The area affected by the development covers a total area of 900m².

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 270), indicates the underlying geology to be London Clay overlying Upper Chalk. The drift geology consists of River Terrace Gravels
- 3.2 Preliminary results of a geotechnical study of the site (GEA 2007) suggested deposits of made ground to a depth approximately 2.00m – 3.00m below ground level, overlying the natural deposit.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Lewisham. Archaeological advice to the Borough is provided by Mark Stevenson, of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 4.2 The proposed development (Application No.: 06/62431) of the site involves the demolition of an existing building and the construction of a part three/part five storey building to the rear of the existing building on the site. This will provide nine two bedroom flats and four two bedroom maisonettes. The foundations of this construction were liable to impact on any potential archaeological remains on the site.
- 4.3 Accordingly a programme of archaeological work was required as a condition of the planning permission. The first stage in the process was the preparation of a Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2006).
- 4.4 This document reports on the results of the archaeological evaluation fieldwork 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 2006).

Prehistoric (before c.AD 43)

- 5.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic activity is known in the area, the Langley Silts are known to be a source of Palaeolithic material. Other than a single Bronze Age socketed axe, no finds of prehistoric date have been reported from within a 500m radius of the site.

Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)

- 5.3 The line of the Old Kent Road, which runs along the eastern boundary of the site, is the suggested alignment for Watling Street, the road from Dover, Canterbury and Richborough, to London. A two-faced head was found at St Thomas Watering Place, to the north of the site, and two residual pottery sherds were found at Hatchem Park Mews to the east.

Saxon and Medieval (c.451-1485)

- 5.4 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 from 1619 shows New Cross to have still been heavily wooded at the beginning of the 17th century.

Post-Medieval (c.1485 - modern)

- 5.5 During much of the 18th and part of the 19th century, this part of London was used primarily as market gardens. The old Roman road had been maintained and travellers using it had to pay tolls at the turnpike gates. The gate at Hatcham was called New Cross Gate, after the New Cross Inn, and the new name gradually replaced the old. Much of the land became market gardens in the 19th century and only began to be heavily built up at the end of the 19th century.

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.
- 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 Lewisham 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 Roman date.
- Determine the nature of the made ground on the site.
- Determine the extent of any modern truncation of 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 two machine-excavated trenches measuring 11m x 2m at base. Due to the depth of the made ground the trenches were stepped to ensure safe access. 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 deposit. The full stratigraphic sequence was recorded in both trenches.
- 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 Goldsmith's College.
- 7.10 The evaluation work was undertaken in three days by Andy Leonard, Project Supervisor.

8 RESULTS

- 8.1 Trench 1 was moved slightly to the east and placed on a northwest-southeast alignment to allow for access into and out of the site (Figure 2).

Trench 1

15.61 to 15.30mOD	(1/001). Firmly compacted light grey concrete ground slab.
15.30 to 14.20mOD	(1/002). Dark yellow/orange moderately compacted sandy gravel with 20 th century brick and metal inclusions. 20 th century made ground.
14.20 to 13.60mOD	(1/003). Loosely compacted dark brown/grey sandy silt with occasional brick inclusions. 20 th century made ground.
13.60 to 11.60mOD	(1/004). Firmly compacted yellow/orange clayey, silty gravel with occasional hydrocarbon contamination. Natural terrace gravels.

- 8.2 Natural clayey gravels (1/004) were present to a maximum height of 13.60mOD. A sondage excavated at the south end of the trench showed these were at least 2m thick. Patches of hydrocarbon contamination were present in the gravels.
- 8.3 The gravels were sealed by two substantial deposits of 20th century made ground (1/002 & 1/003), probably associated with the previous warehouse on the site. They were sealed by the concrete slab (1/001) to a maximum height of 15.61mOD.
- 8.4 No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in Trench 1.
- 8.5 Trench 2 was at the south end of the site, aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2).

Trench 2

16.07 to 15.47mOD	(2/001). Moderately compacted bricks and concrete in a dark brown/grey silty matrix. Bedding layer for the concrete slab.
15.47 to 14.27mOD	(2/002). Dark brown/grey moderately compacted clayey silt with frequent building material inclusions. 20 th century made ground.
14.27 to 14.17mOD	(2/003). Firmly compacted yellow/orange silty gravel. Natural terrace gravels.

- 8.6 Natural silty gravels (2/003) were present at a maximum height of 14.27mOD. A broad, shallow, slightly irregular feature [2/006] cut the natural gravels at the northwest end of the trench (Figure 3). It had gently sloping sides and a relatively flat base to the northwest limit of excavation. To the limits of the trench it measured 7m by 2m and was 0.90m deep. Its primary fill (2/004) was a moderately compacted light brown clayey silt with clay tobacco pipe, tile and pottery inclusions dating to the 17th – 19th centuries. A single 17th century farthing token was also recovered. This deposit appeared to be a deliberate infill once the feature had ceased to serve its original function. A secondary fill (2/005) was a moderately compacted slightly clayey silt with occasional root inclusions. This is likely to be the result of gradual silting as the original filling slumped over time. The feature itself is probably the result of gravel quarrying for roads or similar surfaces that require material good for providing a firm, level base.
- 8.7 Sealing feature [2/006] and the natural gravels (2/003) was a 1.20m thick layer of 20th century made ground (2/002), probably used to build up the level of the site in advance of the construction of the present warehouse. This was in turn sealed by a 0.60m thick bedding layer (2/001) of bricks and concrete in a dark brown silty matrix at a maximum level of 16.07mOD. This would have supported the concrete slab but this had been removed prior to excavation of the trench.
- 8.7 No other significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in Trench 2.

9 FINDS

- 9.1 Finds were retrieved from the primary fill of feature [2/006], (2/004):
- Three clay tobacco pipe stems.
 - Three pieces of post-medieval tile.
 - One piece of animal rib bone.
 - One 17th century farthing token. This was in poor condition and is being conserved by the Museum of London Specialist Services (MoLSS).
- 9.2 No other finds were retrieved from the site.

10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The evaluation met its primary objective: to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. The earliest feature was a 17th – 19th century gravel quarry pit [2/006] identified in Trench 2. No features were found in Trench 1, possibly due to modern horizontal truncation (given that the natural deposits were recorded as being 0.60m lower in Trench 1).
- 10.2 The final decision regarding any further work will rest with the London Borough of Lewisham and its archaeology advisor, Mark Stevenson (GLAAS).
- 10.3 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 – Trench location

Figure 3 – Trench 2 plan and section

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	Concrete ground slab	Trench	Trench	0.30m
1/002	20th century made ground	Trench	Trench	1.10m
1/003	20th century made ground	Trench	Trench	0.60m
1/004	Natural silty gravel	Trench	Trench	2.00m +
2/001	20th century bedding layer	Trench	Trench	0.60m
2/002	20th century made ground	Trench	Trench	1.20m
2/003	Natural sandy gravels	Trench	Trench	0.10m +
2/004	Primary fill of [2/006]	4.10m	2.00m	0.30m
2/005	Secondary fill of [2/006]	7.00m	2.00m	0.90m
2/006	Gravel extraction pit cut	7.00m	2.00m	0.90m

APPENDIX B

1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

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1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-27130

Project details

Project name 33 - 35 Lewisham Way, New Cross, London Borough of Lewisham: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 19th and 20th March, and 9th May 2007 at 33 to 35 Lewisham Way, London Borough of Lewisham. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two trenches measuring 11.00m by 2.00m at base. The natural geology varied between clayey gravels and sandy gravels. It was present at between 13.61mOD and 14.27mOD. In Trench 2 the natural gravel was cut by a large 17th to 19th century feature, probably the result of gravel quarrying. No further significant archaeological features were identified in either of the trenches. Sealing the natural deposits were a series of 20th century layers put down to build up the ground level. The top of the trenches was between 16.07mOD and 15.61mOD.

Project dates Start: 19-03-2007 End: 09-05-2007

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes LWW07 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE 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 LEWISHAM DEPTFORD AND NEWCROSS 33 - 35 Lewisham Way, New Cross, London Borough of Lewisham
Postcode	SE14
Study area	900.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3657 7698 51.4747711624 -0.03330290072630 51 28 29 N 000 01 59 W Point
Height OD	Min: 13.60m Max: 14.27m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	AOC Archaeology

Project design
originator AOC Archaeology

Project
director/manager Les Capon

Project supervisor Andy Leonard

Type of
sponsor/funding
body Developer

Name of
sponsor/funding
body Measur

Project archives

Physical Archive
recipient Museum of London

Physical Archive ID LWW 07

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Metal'

Physical Archive
notes Archive to be retained at AOC until deposition with the Museum of
London

Digital Archive
recipient Museum of London

Digital Archive ID LWW 07

Digital Contents 'Metal','Stratigraphic'

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

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

Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	LWW 07
Paper Contents	'Metal','Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Microfilm','Section','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC until deposition with the Museum of London

Project bibliography 1

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Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology Group
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Project bibliography 2

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

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2 OASIS:

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