

## 1 ABSTRACT

*The following document reports on the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of GalifordTry Partnership between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007 at 95-99 Barking Road, Canning Town, London Borough of Newham. 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 10.00m by 2.00m and one trench measuring 24.00m by 2.00m.*

*Alluvial deposits of silt and clay were recorded in all the trenches. The alluvium was overlain by the remains of late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century buildings. These were sealed by 20<sup>th</sup> century deposits of made ground.*

*No significant archaeological remains were identified during the evaluation.*

## **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3957 8173, and is within land bounded by Malmesbury Road to the north, Ordnance Road to the east, Barking Road to the south and a church to the west (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site is roughly rectangular in shape. The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 2.234m<sup>2</sup>.

## **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 256), indicates that the site is situated upon Kempton Park Gravel, overlying the London Clay.

## **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Newham. Archaeological advice to the Borough is provided by David Divers of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 4.2 The proposed development (Ref No.: 06/02173/FUL) is for 49 residential units with a mix of 1, 2, 3, and 4 bedroom accommodation with associated parking and landscaping.
- 4.3 Prior to the commencement of the construction works, on the recommendation of the archaeology advisor to the London Borough of Newham, an archaeological investigation was required as a condition of the planning permission. Accordingly GallifordTry commissioned AOC Archaeology to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2007).
- 4.4 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**

- 5.2 The area of the Thames flood plain is known to have been occupied throughout the prehistoric period. Peat deposits in the area are generally believed to be a prehistoric formation, probably late Neolithic/Bronze Age.

- 5.3 Two worked flints were recovered during work carried out in 2003 at Cumberland School, Alexandra Street, approximately 500m to the east of the site. They were of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date and were recovered from a natural channel cut into the Brickearth. A cremation burial was also identified on the site, thought to be prehistoric or possibly Roman in date.

**Roman**

- 5.4 Two Roman field boundary ditches, or possibly drainage ditches, were also identified at the Cumberland School site. They were sealed by an alluvial deposit.

**Saxon**

- 5.5 No Saxon archaeological remains are recorded in the London Archaeological Archive Resource.

**Medieval**

- 5.6 The area was sparsely populated during the medieval period other than mention of a few fishermen (Weinreb and Hibbert 1995). Excavations to the west of the site identified clay silt marsh deposits containing pottery and tile of medieval date.

**Post-medieval**

- 5.7 Due to its proximity to London by road, the area developed rapidly from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onward. The Blackwall Yard also contributed to the development of the area, the East India Company having many of its ships built at the yard and subsequently constructing an almshouse and the Church of St Matthias.
- 5.8 In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the East and West India Docks were opened, providing opportunity for further development and rapid population expansion. This led to an influx of skilled labour living side by side with poorly paid unskilled workers.
- 5.9 World War II had a huge impact on the area, with half the houses destroyed in the Blitz. Consequently much of the area was redeveloped in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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.
- Assess the potential of the site to inform on the post-medieval development and chronology of Canning Town.
- Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of late post-medieval and modern building activity.

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. Trenches 3 and 4 measured 10.00m x 2m, Trench 1 measured 24.00m x 2m at base. A fourth trench (Trench 2) was abandoned following an on-site meeting with the archaeology advisor to the London Borough of Newham. Trench 1 was stepped to provide 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 removed down to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon or the natural deposit in the event that no archaeological horizons were present using a JCB 3CX with a 1.8m wide 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 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*.
- 7.7 After recording, the trenches were backfilled with excavated material.
- 7.8 A Temporary Bench Mark was set up on the site. This was transferred from a Bench Mark on the corner of the public library on Barking Road (Figure 2).
- 7.9 The evaluation work was undertaken in four days by Paolo Guarino, Project Supervisor, under the overall direction of Ron Humphrey, Project Manager.

## 8 RESULTS

### 8.1 Table of results

#### Trench 1 (Figure 3)

1.67 to 1.42mOD	(1/001). Firmly compacted light grey concrete ground slab.
1.42 to 0.77mOD	(1/002). Moderately – loosely compacted crushed hardcore and tarmac in a dark black ashy silt matrix. 20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground.
0.77 to -0.63mOD	(1/003). Moderately compacted mid brown silty clay. Occasional building material inclusions. Alluvial clay.
-0.63 to -3.03mOD	(1/004). Moderately compacted light grey silty clay. Frequent peat patches. Alluvium.

8.2 Trench 1 was located in the centre of the site (Figure 2). Modern concrete intrusions prevented full excavation along the entire length of the trench (Figure 3).

8.3 Naturally deposited silty clay alluvium with occasional dark silt lenses was identified at a maximum height of -0.63mOD (1/004). A sondage excavated at the south end of the trench demonstrated that this deposit continued beyond the vertical limit of excavation (at -3.03mOD). No archaeological remains were present overlying or cutting this deposit.

8.4 Sealing alluvial deposit (1/004) was a layer of mid brown silty clay (1/003) to a maximum height of 0.77mOD. This contained occasional inclusions of fragmentary building material. It appeared to be naturally deposited, the inclusions likely to be intrusive, but it is possible this was a redeposit. It was overlain by a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground (1/002) with lenses of hydrocarbon contamination. The made ground was overlain by the present concrete slab (1/001) at a level of 1.67mOD.

8.5 No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 1.

## Trench 2

- 8.6 Trench 2 was abandoned in agreement with David Divers, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service.

## Trench 3 (Figure4)

1.64 to 1.47mOD	(3/001). Firmly compacted light grey concrete ground slab.
1.47 to 1.37mOD	(3/002). Moderately – firmly compacted crushed hardcore in a brown sandy silt matrix. 20 <sup>th</sup> century bedding layer for the present concrete ground slab.
1.37 to 0.79mOD	(3/011). Moderately - loosely compacted dark grey sandy silt. Occasional building material inclusions. 20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground.
0.79 to 0.52mOD	(3/003). Moderately compacted dark grey sandy silt clay with building material inclusions. Made Ground.
0.52 to 0.27mOD	(3/004). Moderately – firmly compacted mid brown silty clay with orange flecks. Alluvial clay.
0.27 to 0.02mOD	(3/005) Moderately - firmly compacted light brown clay silt. Natural alluvial clay.
0.02 to -0.48mOD	(3/006) Moderately - firmly compacted orange sandy clay with orange flecks, Natural clay.
-0.48 to -0.83mOD	(3/007) Moderately – firmly compacted light brown silty clay. Natural alluvial clay.

- 8.6 Trench 3 was located to the northeast of the site (Figure 2) and measured 10.00m x 2.00m at base. A sondage was excavated at the northeast end of the trench.
- 8.7 A sequence of natural alluvial clays (3/007 to 3/004) were identified from the vertical limit of excavation, -0.83mOD (2.20m below ground level), to a maximum height of 0.52mOD. No archaeological remains were present overlying or cutting these deposits.
- 8.8 Sealing the natural clays was a narrow band (0.10m thick) of dark grey sandy silt (3/003) of late 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A construction cut [3/010] truncated layer (3/003) and contained a foundation platform of concrete (3/009) for a brick structure (3/008). Structure (3/008) comprised a central wall aligned east-west, with smaller walls projecting to the north and south. The entire structure measured 4.40m east-west by 1.80m north-south and only survived to two courses high. The bricks themselves were yellow and frogged, measuring 240mm x 110mm x 65mm indicating a late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century date. The structure probably represents the remains of a domestic building, demolished during World War II.

- 8.9 Structure (3/008) was sealed by a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground (3/003) with moderate inclusions of brick, tarmac and concrete. This was overlain by a bedding layer of crushed building material (3/002) at a level of 1.37mOD. The bedding layer provided a base for the existing concrete ground slab (3/001) at a level of 1.64mOD.
- 8.10 No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 3.

#### **Trench 4 (Figure 5)**

1.85 to 1.73mOD	(4/001) Firmly compacted light grey concrete ground slab.
1.73 to 1.51mOD	(4/002) Moderately – firmly compacted crushed hardcore in a brown sandy silt matrix. 20 <sup>th</sup> century bedding layer for the present concrete ground slab.
1.51 to 1.33mOD	(4/003) Firmly compacted light grey concrete footing.
1.33 to 1.17mOD	(4/010) Firmly compacted dark grey sand Backfill of foundation trench.
1.17 to 0.93mOD	(4/007) Firmly compacted dark rubble, bonded with a silty matrix. Industrial residue.
0.93 to 0.48mOD	(4/008) Firmly compacted red brick rubble bonded within a silty matrix. Industrial residue.
0.48 to -0.22mOD	(4/009) Moderately compacted grey/green silty clay Natural clay.

- 8.11 Trench 4 was located to the southeast of the site (Figure 2) and measured 10.00m x 2.00m at base. A sondage was excavated in the centre of the trench.
- 8.12 An alluvial clay deposit (4/009) contained a single sherd of North-Kent Shelly ware dating to 100-150AD, although this is likely to be residual. It was overlain by a highly compacted red brick rubble (4/008) industrial layer to a maximum height of 0.93mOD. This was in turn sealed by a layer of industrial residue (4/007), a dark rubble bonded within a silty matrix.
- 8.13 Two concrete pads were identified at either end of the trench; (4/011) and (4/012). These provided solid bases for overlying structures. At the southwest end of the trench, pad (4/012) was overlain by brick wall (4/006). This comprised a single course of yellow, frogged stretcher bricks measuring 220mm by 110mm by 65mm. It was aligned north-south. Pad (4/011) was overlain by walls (4/004) and (4/005). Both walls comprised a single course of bricks similar to those found in (4/006). Wall (4/004) was aligned east-west and formed a right-angle with wall (4/005). All the brick structures were of a similar level (1.30mOD) and represent the remains of a late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century domestic building, probably demolished during World War II.



- 8.14 A thin, 0.16m thick layer of demolition material (4/010) overlay the brick structures. A late 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete slab (4/003) sealed this and was in turn overlain by a made ground deposit of crushed building material (4/002), subsequently sealed by the present concrete slab (4/001) at a level of 1.85mOD.

## 9 FINDS

- 9.1 No finds, *in situ* or residual, were retrieved from Trenches 1 and 3. One sherd of pottery was retrieved from Trench 4. This has been identified as North Kent Shelly ware dating to 100-150AD (MoLAS *pers comm.*).

## 10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The evaluation met its primary objective: to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. Natural gravels were not identified in any of the trenches despite excavating sondages to a maximum depth of 4.75 below ground level. Alluvial clays were identified in all of the trenches but did not contain any finds or archaeological features other than a single sherd of early Roman pottery. The earliest archaeological remains comprised the brick structures recorded overlying the alluvial deposits. These were, at the earliest, late 19<sup>th</sup>, probably 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.
- 10.2 Given the limited scale and significance of the archaeological remains identified, it is 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 Newham and its archaeology advisor, David Divers (GLAAS).
- 10.3 Publication of the results will be through the ADS OASIS form (Appendix C) 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 – Trench 1 plan and section

Figure 5: Trench 3 Plan and section



Figure 6: Trench 4 plan and section

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT REGISTER

<b>BKU 07 Context Register</b>				
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>
1/001	Concrete ground slab	24.00m	2.00m	0.25m
1/002	C20th made ground	24.00m	2.00m	0.70m
1/003	Alluvium	24.00m	2.00m	1.40m
1/004	Alluvium	24.00m	2.00m	2.40m
3/001	Concrete ground slab	10.00m	2.00m	0.17m
3/002	Hardcore	10.00m	2.00m	0.10m
3/003	C20th made ground	10.00m	2.00m	0.58m
3/004	Alluvial Clay	10.00m	2.00m	0.25m
3/005	Alluvial Clay	3.30m	2.00m	0.25m
3/006	Alluvial Clay	3.30m	2.00m	0.50m
3/007	Alluvial Clay	3.30m	2.00m	0.35m
3/008	C19th/C20th Building	5.20m	2.00m	0.27m
3/009	Concrete footing for 3/008	5.20m	0.25m	0.33m
3/010	Foundation trench cut	10.00m	2.00m	NFE
4/001	Concrete ground slab	10.00m	2.00m	0.12m
4/002	Hardcore	10.00m	2.00m	0.22m
4/003	Concrete Footing	10.00m	2.00m	0.18m
4/004	Post Med Building	2.20m	0.30m	0.20m
4/005	Post Med Building	0.55m	0.50m	0.10m
4/006	Post Med Building	1.05m	0.10m	0.20m
4/007	Industrial residues	2.50m	2.00m	0.24m
4/008	Industrial residues	2.50m	2.00m	0.45m
4/009	Natural Clay	1.00m	2.00m	2.00m
4/010	C19th made ground	10.00m	2.00m	0.16m
4/011	Concrete Footing	10.0m	2.00m	0.20m
4/012	Alluvium	10.00m	2.00m	NFE

## APPENDIX B: OASIS FORM

### 1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

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#### 1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-30930

##### Project details

Project name	95-99 Barking Road, Canning Town: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation undertaken at 95 - 99 Barking Road, London Borough of Newham consisted of two machine excavated trenches measuring 10.00m by 2.00m and one trench measuring 24.00m by 2.00m. Alluvial deposits of silt and clay were recorded in all the trenches. The alluvium was overlain by the remains of late 19th/20th century buildings. These were sealed by 20th century deposits of made ground. No significant archaeological remains were identified during the evaluation..
Project dates	Start: 15-08-2007 End: 20-08-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BKU 07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	7864 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type	BRICK FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	'Measured Survey','Photographic Survey','Sample Trenches','Visual Inspection'
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 NEWHAM CANNING TOWN 95-99 Barking Road, canning town
Postcode	E16
Study area	2234.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3956 8172 51.5166379188 0.01160181443440 51 30 59 N 000 00 41 E Point
Height OD	Min: -3.03m Max: 0.77m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group

Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Leigh Savage
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	GallifordTry Partnership

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
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Physical Archive ID	BKU07
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Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
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Physical Archive notes	Archive comprises one sherd of Roman pottery. Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with the Museum of London.
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Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
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Digital Archive ID	BKU07
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Digital Contents	'none'
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Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
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Digital Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with the Museum of London.
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Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
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Paper Archive ID	BKU07
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey', '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	95 - 99 Barking Road, Canning Town, London Borough of Newham: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Leonard, A.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	AOC Archaeology
Description	A4 bound document

### Project bibliography 2

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	95 - 99 Barking Road (Phase II), Canning Town, London Borough of Newham: An Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Guarino, P.

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication AOC Archaeology

Description A4 Bound document

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

Entered on 26 September 2007

## 2 OASIS:

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