

## 1 ABSTRACT

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at York House, George Road, Norbiton in the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames on behalf of Brevington Estates Ltd. The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological remains exposed during the development.*

*The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of ground works at the site on the twenty eighth of August and twenty third of November 2007. Natural sandy terrace gravels were identified at between 48.30mOD and 50.62mOD. Sealing the gravels was a layer of naturally accumulated subsoil, which was in turn sealed by dark organic topsoil.*

*No archaeological remains or residual finds were identified during the programme of archaeological monitoring.*

## **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 The site is located at York House, George Road, Kingston (Figure 1). The proposed development is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 2012 7024, and is within land bounded by No.40 to the north, No.38 to the east, an open area to the south and land attached to a substantial building to the west. The site is roughly triangular in shape (Figure 2) and measures 0.1 of a Hectare.

## **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 270), indicates that the site is situated upon High Level Terrace Gravels.
- 3.2 Geotechnical investigations were conducted on site by Albury S. I. Ltd (2005). The trial pit records indicated that a deposit of made ground, varying from topsoil to sandy subsoil, was approximately 0.50m thick across the site. This immediately overlay the brown sandy gravels of the High Level Terrace Gravels.

## **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The local planning authority is the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. Archaeology advice to the council is provided by Mark Stevenson, Greater London Archaeology Advisory service (GLAAS).
- 4.2 A planning application has been submitted to develop the site (Application No.: 03/14899/F). Mark Stevenson (GLAAS) has recommended that an archaeological condition is placed on any planning permission to secure a programme of archaeological work in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department for the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990).
- 4.3 The development (Application No.: 03/14899/F) consists of the construction of one new five-bedroom house on the site. It was the excavation associated with the foundation construction that was subject to archaeological watching brief conditions.
- 4.4 This document reports on the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken to identify any archaeological remains that might be threatened by the proposed development. All works were undertaken by professional archaeologist in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2006).

## **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 Detailed studies relating to the area surrounding Kingston contribute valuable information to our knowledge of the landscape at this time. Such studies revealed that during the Prehistoric period, c.3000BC, the historic centre of Kingston next to the River Thames would have been an island (Butters 1995).
- 5.3 There is a great deal of evidence for prehistoric activity within the area of Kingston, ranging from the Mesolithic period through to the Iron Age. Excavations at Warren Cutting and Coombe Hill identified a possible Bronze Age ditch and an enclosure ditch containing Mesolithic flint and late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery; large quantities of struck flints would appear to be knapping floor debris. Also on Coombe Hill, a Mesolithic or Neolithic rough-out flint axe was excavated during work on the present golf course. Struck and burnt flints have been found at the Birch Grove, Warren Road and Wolsey Spring, George Road. Residual Bronze Age struck and burnt flints were also found within 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century gravel quarrying pits during excavations at Long House, George Road. At Mary Mount International School, George Road Bronze Age pottery and worked flints were also observed as residual elements. At Warren Cutting a possible Bronze Age ditch was identified and also an enclosure ditch containing Mesolithic flint and late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery.

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

- 5.4 There are a few find-spots of archaeological material of Roman date in Kingston but none particularly close to the development site. The potential for the presence of archaeological material of Roman date on the site is very low. Most would appear to be focused around the town centre identified during excavations at Eden Street and Skerne Road or towards Worcester Park.

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

- 5.5 A late Saxon pit was excavated on London Road at the Tiffin Boys' School. Other Saxon remains in the Borough have only been found much further away.

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

- 5.6 The medieval centre of Kingston lay to the southwest of the site, the closest site to the proposed development being St. Leonard's Leper Hospital, a chapel founded in 1309, and a 12<sup>th</sup> century pit excavated at the Tiffin School just off London Road. Residual medieval pottery and field boundary ditches have also been found fairly frequently in the vicinity, the closest being at Coombe Road. There is, therefore, a low potential for archaeological deposits of this period being found on this site.
- 5.7 By 1086 the Domesday Book records the settlement at Kingston as being well established, with a church, five mills, three fisheries and extensive ploughland. The Manor of Hartington is also recorded to be close by in this period, with further influence being attributed to St. Leonard's Leper Hospital. The 13<sup>th</sup> century saw a growth in trade and prosperity in the town, which can be attributed

- to the construction of a bridge over the Thames, facilitating better communications, and the granting of a market charter to the town by 1242 (Butters 1995). By the 14<sup>th</sup> century further activity has been recorded in the town, which includes the presence of a tithe barn owned by Canbury Manor in 1303, c.500m north-west of the Kingston Tup.
- 5.8 The growth of Kingston can also be observed in the increase of archaeological finds from this period. A cluster of finds occurs in the Fairfield Road/Eden Road area, with the discovery of a medieval pottery kiln, layers of cultivation soil with c.14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery and more substantial evidence in the form of boundary ditches, post holes and a medieval iron dagger. Another Medieval kiln was discovered during excavations along London Road, dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century, with evidence of an associated structure in close proximity. Medieval boundary ditches and pits have also been found at the Kingston Grammar School.

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

- 5.9 Across the River Thames from Kingston, Hampton Court Palace was built in 1515 by Cardinal Wolsey, who passed on this great estate to Henry VIII in 1525 (Butters 1995). The construction of such an important establishment would have a great influence over the town, acting as a focal point in the region. There is a moderate potential for post medieval material being found on the site predominantly of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries especially in view of the fact that a 16<sup>th</sup> century building of Ivy Conduit at Holy Cross School lies on George Road. This building's Tudor provenance was associated with Henry VIII's Palace at Hampton Court. With the publication of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey in 1868 it becomes clear that large scale urban development has taken place in Kingston, much of which can be attributed to the overall growth of London as a whole. World War II had a limited impact on the area surrounding the Kingston Tup, the only influence was the installation of air raid shelters for civil protection.

## 6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The specific objectives of the Watching Brief are to:
- Determine the presence of any prehistoric activity.
  - Determine the presence of any remains of Roman date on the site.
  - Determine the presence of any Medieval or post-medieval remains on the site.
  - Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phase's of late post-medieval and modern buildings on the site.
- 6.2 The final aims are:
- To make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.
  - To enable Mark Stevenson of GLAAS, 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.

## 7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 An archaeologist was present to observe ground works, positioned outside the working area of the mechanical excavator, in the normal working arrangement, at times entering the trench to carry out close inspection or record limited sections.
- 7.2 Machining of the proposed dwellings foundations was undertaken with a flat bladed bucket (toothless) in horizontal spits.
- 7.3 Archaeological recording, where not precluded by Health & Safety considerations consisted of:
- The collection of dating evidence from *in-situ* deposits and spoil scans.
  - A scaled photographic recording of representative exposed sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the ground works.
  - A record of the datum levels of all deposits.
- 7.4 Records were produced using *pro-forma* context and trench record sheets and by the single context planning method, compatible with those published by the Museum of London (MoL 1994)
- 7.5 A record of the full sequence of all deposits as revealed in the Watching Brief were made, and plans and sections were drawn at an appropriate scale of 1:10 or 1:20, where deemed necessary.

## **8 RESULTS**

- 8.1 No archaeological remains were revealed by the archaeological monitoring of works at the York house development.
- 8.2 The stratigraphy revealed within the excavated house footings consisted of a natural deposit of light yellowish orange, loose, poorly sorted sandy gravel (1/003), reached at 48.30m OD, which continued to 48.10m OD. Overlying this was a mid brown, loose, sandy silt subsoil (1/002), with poorly sorted gravel inclusions situated between 48.80 - 48.30m OD. An organic, dark blackish grey, loose, sandy silt topsoil (1/001), with frequent modern debris and root inclusions was situated at the surface of the site between a height of 49.00 - 48.80m OD.
- 8.3 The stratigraphic model varied across the length of the excavated footings, with topsoil (1/001) directly overlaying natural gravels (1/003) in places at a height of 50.62m OD.

## **9 FINDS**

- 9.1 No finds, *in situ* or residual, were retrieved from any of the deposits. No samples were taken from any of the trenches.

## **10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 The watching brief met its primary objective: to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. No evidence for any archaeological activity was identified on the site. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required to satisfy the archaeological planning condition on this site. However, the final decision regarding any further work will rest with the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames and Mark Stevenson (GLAAS).
- 10.2 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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Museum of London (1999): *General Standards for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives Deposited with the Museum of London.*



Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Detailed Site location

## APPENDIX A – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	Dark blackish grey, loose sandy silt	13.00m	7.00m	0.20m
1/002	Mid brown, sandy silt with loose gravel inclusions	13.00m	7.00m	0.50m
1/003	Light yellowish orange, loose, sandy gravels	13.00m	7.00m	0.20m+

## APPENDIX B

### 1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

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#### 1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-17570

##### Project details

Project name York House, George Road, Kingston; An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Short description of the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at York House, George Road, Norbiton in the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames on behalf of Brevington Estates Ltd. The aim of the watching brief was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains.

The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of ground works at the site on 28/08/07 and 23/11/07. Natural sandy terrace gravels were identified at between 48.30mOD and 50.62mOD. Sealing the gravels was a layer of naturally accumulated subsoil, which was in turn sealed by dark organic topsoil. A small 20<sup>th</sup> century bonfire pit was revealed by excavations, found truncating the topsoil. No archaeological remains or residual finds were identified during the programme of archaeological monitoring.

Project dates Start: 28-08-2007 End: 23-11-2007

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes GOE 07 – Site code

Type of project Watching Brief

Site status None

Methods & techniques Archaeological monitoring

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 York House, George Road, Norbiton, The Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames.

Postcode KT2 7PF

Study area 280m<sup>2</sup>

National grid reference TQ 06448450 Point

Height OD Min: 48.10m Max: 50.90m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology Group

Project brief originator AOC Archaeology Group

Project design originator AOC Archaeology Group

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Leigh Savage

Sponsor or funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London

Digital Archive ID GOE 06

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic', 'Survey'

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

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

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Archive ID YOK 07

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Pro – forma sheets', 'Photograph', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

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

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	York House, George Road, Kingston; A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Beasley, M
Date	2006
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	York House, George Road, Kingston; An Archaeological Watching brief report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Harris, P
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	AOC Archaeology
Description	A4 Bound document

Entered by Paul (paul.harris@aocarchaeology.com)  
Entered on 4 January 2008

## 2 OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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