

8 Lombard Road, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton An Archaeological Evaluation Report

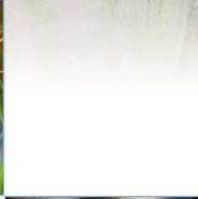
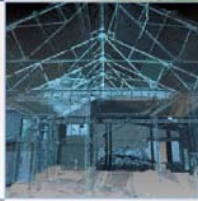
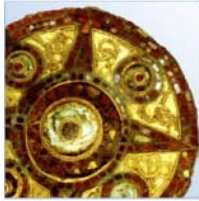
Planning Application Number: Pre Application

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 2602 6922

AOC Project no: 30110

Site Code: LMW 08

Date: May 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

8 Lombard Road, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of: Bizspace
The Pixmore Centre,
Pixmore Avenue,
Letchworth,
Hertfordshire,
SG6 1JG

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 2602 6922

AOC Project No: 30110

Prepared by: Paul Harris

Illustration by: Jonathon Moller

Date of Excavation: 29th and 30th April 2008

Date of Report: May 2008

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

An Archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 29th to 30th April 2008 at 8 Lombard Road, Wimbledon. The work was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Bizspace. The aims of the evaluation were to assess the impact of development on any surviving archaeological remains within the site.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two trenches measuring 15m x 2m and 8m x 3m at base. The trenches were aligned northwest to southeast. The evaluation revealed a deep stratigraphy of modern made ground deposits, built to a depth of over 3.8 metres. The natural deposits were not reached and no archaeological remains were identified

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 2602 6922, and is within land bounded by Lombard Road to the north, and commercial properties to the east, south and west. The area to be developed is located within the rear car park of the property, and is rectangular in shape, covering a total area of approximately 465m² (Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.1.2 Currently the site is occupied by car parking facilities. The proposed development is for the construction of a new office/industrial unit.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The British Geological Survey map (sheet 270) indicates that the site is located on the boundary between drift deposits of River Terraces and Alluvium, over a solid geology of London Clay.
- 1.2.2 The site is located on level ground on the edge of River Wandle flood plain at an approximate height of 17m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 1.2.3 No geotechnical investigations have been conducted within the proposed development area.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The Local Planning Authority is the London Borough of Merton. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 1.3.2 In accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990) and the recommendations of GLAAS, an archaeological evaluation was carried out as part of a predetermination investigation in support of a planning application.
- 1.3.3 The proposed scheme is a commercial development involving the erection of a single new three storey office/industrial unit.
- 1.3.4 The archaeological investigation is required to inform the planning decision about an appropriate mitigation strategy, in relation to the destruction of the potential archaeological resource.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aims of the Evaluation were defined as being:
- 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 extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable the Archaeology Advisor to make an informed decision in relation to the archaeological potential of the site and whether any further archaeological work will be required should a planning application be made

- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

1.4.2 The specific aims of the Evaluation were:

- To determine the presence of any remains of Roman date on site.
- To determine the presence of any remains of medieval date on site.
- Assess the degree of post-medieval and modern development on the site, and the extent to which this may have truncated earlier deposits.

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

1.5 Methodology

1.5.1 A site code **LMW 08** was obtained from the London Archaeology Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) in advance of commencing the fieldwork.

1.5.2 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 2 trenches, measuring 15m x 2m and 8m x 3m at base (Trench 1 and 2), orientated northwest – southeast, within the proposed buildings footprint. The location of Trench 2 was amended from a 15m x 2m trench due to site access being partially restricted within the southern corner of the buildings footprint. Accordingly it was moved and widened to cover a larger area.

1.5.3 Trench 1 was initially excavated to a depth of 1.2m without reaching natural deposits. Accordingly a 2m x 0.7m sondage was excavated in the south-eastern end of the trench to a depth of 2m below the car park surface.

1.5.4 Having revealed the deep stratigraphy of made ground within Trench 1, Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 1.2m before being stepped to a further depth of 2.2m below the car park surface. The Trench was not entered due to unstable sides.

1.5.5 Before excavation the entire site was visually inspected and all trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to check for live services.

1.5.6 All overburden was removed using a JCB 3CX digger with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was carried out under direct control of an experienced archaeologist.

1.5.7 On completion of machine excavation, all faces of trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools and the full stratigraphic sequence was recorded. Any archaeological remains revealed were excavated by hand with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appeared to be demonstrably worthy of preservation *in situ*.

1.5.8 All recording was undertaken in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Archaeological Field Manual (Museum of London Archaeology Service 3rd edition 1994). Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements was recorded on standardized pro – forma recording sheets. Plans were drawn of each trench at a scale of 1:20. Short representative sample sections of trenches were drawn at 1:10. A digital photographic record was created, illustrating the excavated trenches and sample sections recorded.

- 1.5.9 Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of spatial distribution.
- 1.5.10 A Temporary Bench Mark was set up on the site, transferred from a previously surveyed point to the east of the site and levels were recorded for each deposit.
- 1.5.11 The evaluation work was undertaken in 2 days by Paul Harris, Project Supervisor, under the overall project management of Andy Leonard, Project Manager.

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Roman (c. AD43-450)

- 2.1.1 There is varied evidence for Roman activity within the area. The closest known feature associated with this period is the line of the Roman road, Stane Street (built in 76 AD), which is thought to follow the line of Colliers Wood High Street (AOC 2003a). The line of Stane Street is thought to continue to the southwest, running close by to the location of the site.
- 2.1.2 A section of the North Curtilage wall and North-east Bastion of a late 3rd – mid 4th century Roman Structure (NMR 1321985) was found within the cellar of a building at a nearby Dog Kennel Yard, at 12 St Lawrence St. The segment revealed was constructed within sandstone rubble and stood 3 metres high.
- 2.1.3 An Inhumation burial and ditch were uncovered at the Phillips Bridge Primary School (EHNMR 647995), but a relationship to either Stane Street or the Roman structure is unknown.
- 2.1.4 Artefactual evidence of Roman occupation within a 1km proximity to the site has been found in the form of a hoard of Roman coins (GLSMR 030652) and a Brooch (GLSMR 03065201) discovered at Mordon Road, and a pot sherd recovered from Station Road (GLSMR 030647).

2.2 Anglo-Saxon (c. AD 451-1065)

- 2.2.1 Little is known of settlement in the Merton area throughout the Saxon period, although it is likely that the fertile grounds near to the Wandle were used for agricultural purposes. Documentary sources from the Saxon period indicate that the Battle of Meretun took place in the area in 871, resulting in the death of King Ethelred. The name Merton (meaning 'farmstead by the pool') is first recorded in 967 (AOC 2003a).

2.3 Medieval (c. AD 1066-1485)

- 2.3.1 By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Merton is listed as being held by William the Conqueror and containing a church, two mills and land for 21 ploughs, along with woodland and ten acres of meadow (VCH).
- 2.3.2 Shortly thereafter the area was given to Gilbert Norman, the sheriff of Surrey, by Henry I, and by 1117 Gilbert had received permission to build an Austin (Augustinian) monastery at Merton, dedicated to St Mary (VCH). The main buildings of the priory were located in the natural island between the Rivers Pickle and Wandle, and are now bisected by the Merton relief road (Merantun Road), the area is registered as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

- 2.3.3 The main priory buildings were within a larger precinct that is roughly defined by the River Pickle and Christ Church Road on the east, Liberty Avenue to the south, and the Wandle to the south west. The precinct boundary then turns to the west, along Merantun Road, and then to the north at Abbey Road. Merton High Street marks the northern boundary line of the precinct area.
- 2.3.4 Upon Dissolution, in 1538, the priory was surrendered to the crown and the buildings demolished. Much of the building material from the main priory buildings was re-used in other structures and thus dispersed throughout the local area, and as far a field as the construction of Nonsuch Palace in Surrey (AOC 2003a). Flint and ashlar stone taken from the buildings, for example, were used in the construction of a 17th century wall that runs along the south side of Station Road. By the 19th century nothing remained of the priory buildings with the exception of the one chapel.

2.4 Post-Medieval (c. AD 1486-modern)

- 2.4.1 By the mid 17th century the expanse of grounds that was once the priory precinct had almost exclusively been devoted to cloth-working and the new techniques of calico-bleaching and printing that had been introduced to Britain through the East India Company, although copper and flour mills, iron-working mills and areas for the working of brazil wood and leather were also established on the northern area of the priory precinct (AOC 2003a). By the late 18th/early 19th centuries two main factories for calico bleaching and printing had come to dominate the area, as the supply of clear water from the Wandle was necessary for the bleaching and printing processes and to drive the machinery
- 2.4.2 Coinciding with industrial growth was the formation of the Merton district as a residential area. The close proximity to London and the easy availability of land made the area attractive as an urban district from the 18th century onwards (AOC 2003a). Numerous large houses were built at this time, including the residence of Lord Nelson, known as Merton Place, which may have been built on a moated medieval site.
- 2.4.3 With the arrival of the Underground in 1923, Merton became fully integrated into the London suburban landscape (Weinreb & Hibbert 1983).

3 Results

3.1 Trench 1

16.37 to 16.11mOD	(1/001). Black Tarmac. Car park surface.
16.11 to 15.41mOD	(1/002). Compacted CBM rubble within a mid brown silty matrix. Made Ground.
15.41 to 14.71mOD	(1/003). Orangey yellowish brown clay with occasional CBM inclusions. Made ground.
14.71 to 14.12mOD	(1/004). Blackish greenish clay, with high levels of hydro carbon contamination. Made ground / Oil dump.
14.71 to 14.44mOD	(1/005). Mid greyish brown sandy clay, with moderate hydro carbon inclusions.
14.44 to 14.11m OD	(1/006). Mid – light greyish brown mottled orange, sandy clay. Made ground.
14.11 to 13.16m OD	(1/007). Mid – dark yellowish grey clay with frequent modern CBM inclusions.
13.16 to 12.66m+ OD	(1/008). Mid – dark greyish brown silty clay, with moderate CBM and Glass inclusions

- 3.1.1 Trench 1 (15.00 by 2.00 by 1.20m) was excavated in the north-western corner of the proposed buildings footprint. It was orientated northwest– southeast.
- 3.1.2 The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m. A Sondage placed in the south-eastern end of the trench was excavated to 2m below the car park surface. Additionally an auger sample was taken in the north-western end of the trench reaching a depth of 3.8m below the car park surface.
- 3.1.3 The excavation techniques used within Trench 1 revealed 7 distinct deposits of made ground underlying the car parks tarmac surface, all dating to the 20th century.
- 3.1.4 No archaeological features were revealed and no artefacts were recovered from the excavation of the trench.

3.2 Trench 2

16.32 to 16.10mOD	(2/001). Black Tarmac. Car Park Surface.
16.10 to 15.78mOD	(2/002). Mid brownish orange sandy hardcore, with frequent crushed concrete inclusions. Levelling layer.
15.78 to 15.48mOD	(2/003). Compacted Demolition rubble, with frequent CBM and pot inclusions. Made Ground.
15.48 to 14.12mOD	(2/004). Mid orangey brown sandy clay with occasional CBM inclusions. Made Ground.

- 3.2.1 Trench 2 (8.00 by 3.00 by 2.20m) was excavated within the centre of the proposed buildings footprint orientated northwest-southeast.
- 3.2.2 The trench was initially excavated to a depth of 1.2m. It was then stepped and excavated to a depth of 2.2m below the car park surface. Natural deposits were not identified.
- 3.2.3 The excavation revealed 3 distinct deposits of made ground underlying the car park's tarmac surface.
- 3.2.4 No archaeological features were revealed and no artefacts recovered from the excavation of the Trench.

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Fragments of modern brick, pottery, metal and glass were identified from throughout the deposits of made ground but were not retained.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

- 4.1.1 The evaluation revealed a deep stratigraphy of modern made ground deposits, built to a depth of over 3.8 metres, burying the natural topography of the site to create a man made plateau on which the car park was constructed. The natural deposits were not reached and no archaeological remains were identified.

- 4.1.2 The results as they stand alone are inconclusive; archaeological remains could survive below the made ground recorded. However, a review of the levels related to Ordnance Datum in the surrounding area (Figure 2) demonstrates that the man-made plateau is raised by a maximum 1.5m. The auger reached a depth of 12.66mOD, some 2.5m below the ground level of the surrounding area (an average 15.50mOD).
- 4.1.3 It is likely, in light of the levels data, that any significant archaeological remains have been truncated by the land preparation in advance of the current development and that further archaeological work is unlikely to identify any surviving archaeological remains. However, the decision regarding the necessity for any further archaeological fieldwork will rest with the London Borough of Merton and its archaeology advisor, Diane Walls.
- 4.1.4 Publication of the results of this evaluation will be through the on-line ADS OASIS form (Appendix B) with a short summary in the London Archaeologist round-up.

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Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Detailed Site and Trench Layout

Figure 3 – Trench plans and sample sections

Appendices

Appendix A Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth	Plan No.	Section No.
1/001	Tarmac Surface	15.00m	2.00m	0.26m	-	1
1/002	Made layer	15.00m	2.00m	0.70m	-	1
1/003	Made layer	15.00m	2.00m	0.73m	-	1
1/004	Made layer	15.00m	2.00m	0.59m	-	1
1/005	Made layer	15.00m	2.00m	0.27m	-	1
1/006	Made layer	15.00m	2.00m	0.33m	-	1
1/007	Made layer	15.00m	2.00m	0.95m	-	1
1/008	Made layer	15.00m	2.00m	0.50m	-	1
2/001	Tarmac Surface	8.00m	2.50m	0.22m	-	-
2/002	Made layer	8.00m	2.50m	0.32m	-	-
2/003	Made layer	8.00m	2.50m	0.30m	-	-
2/004	Made layer	8.00m	2.50m	1.36m	-	-

Appendix B OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-42523

Project details

Project name 8 Lombard Street, Merton

Short description The aims of the evaluation were to assess the impact of development on any surviving archaeological remains within the site. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two trenches aligned northwest to southeast. The evaluation revealed a deep stratigraphy of modern made ground deposits, built to a depth of over 3.8 metres. The natural deposits were not reached and no archaeological remains were identified

Project dates Start: 29-04-2008 End: 30-04-2008

Previous/future work No / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Methods & 'Sample Trenches'
techniques

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the Pre-application
planning process

Project location

Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON 8 Lombard Road,
London Borough of Merton
Postcode SW19 3TZ
Study area 465.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 2602 6922 51.4074775221 -0.187907796783 51 24 26 N 000 11 16 W Point

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief EH GLAAS
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology
originator

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Paul Harris

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Bizspace
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'
available

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media 'Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'
available

Entered by Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@aoc.com)

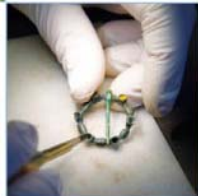
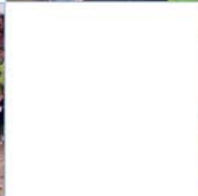
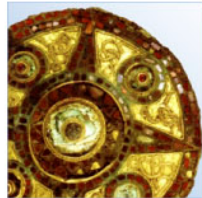
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OASIS:

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