

Brookfields Precinct, Icknield Street, Birmingham: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

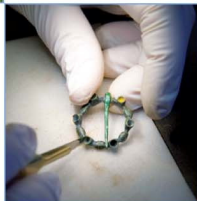
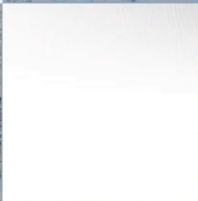
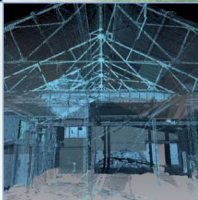
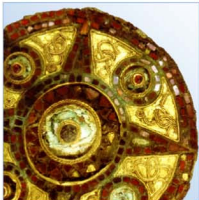
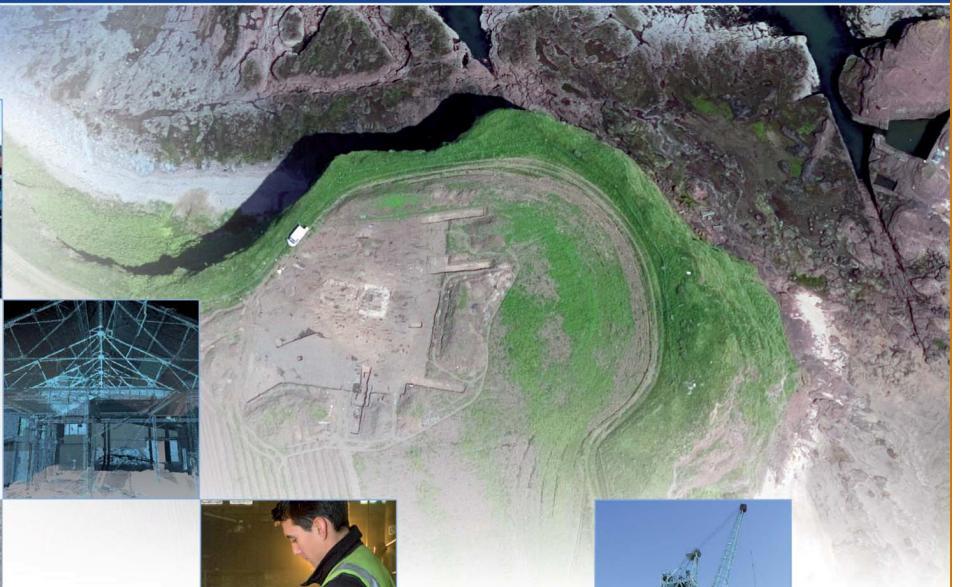
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AOC Project Number: 30332

Site Code: IKB 10

Date: October 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Brookfields Precinct, Icknield Street, Birmingham: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Pinnacle Consulting Engineers Ltd
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National Grid Reference (NGR): SP 0552 8752

AOC Project No.: 30332

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

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Non-Technical Summary

Between the 15th March and 17th May 2010 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief at Brookfields Precinct, Icknield Street, Birmingham, on behalf of Pinnacle Construction Engineers.

During the course of the watching brief it became apparent that the area of the site had been heavily truncated onto natural deposits; probably during clearance of Victorian terraces on the site and construction of the former Brookfields shopping centre. This truncation and levelling has resulted in a sequence of 19th and 20th century deposits. These deposits included demolition layers associated with former Victorian terraces on the site that were damaged by bombing during World War II and demolition layers associated with the former Brookfields Precinct. A number of Victorian features including infilled basements, two wells and nine waste pits were recorded where they had cut into natural deposits.

No evidence for the posited Warstone medieval moated site or any other features that pre-dated the Victorian terraces was noted during the watching brief.

No further work is recommended.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a report on the results of an archaeological watching brief at Brookfields Precinct, Icknield Street, Birmingham (Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.2 The site is located off Icknield Street, Birmingham and is currently occupied by waste ground and a number of industrial buildings in the western part of the site. The site is bounded by Icknield Street to the south-east, Camden Street to the north-east, Ellen Street to the north-west, Spring Hill to the southwest and a public library to the south. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 0552 8752; it measures approximately 1.1 hectares in size and is roughly rectangular in shape (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The development comprised the complete demolition of the existing industrial buildings in the western corner of the site, and the construction of a new retail centre.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Birmingham City Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the City Archaeologist, Mike Hodder.
- 2.2 The site does not contain any Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and does not lie within any Area of Archaeological Importance.
- 2.3 The development proposes the complete demolition of the current commercial buildings in the western corner of the site, and construction of a retail centre and associated car park.
- 2.4 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990) and the recommendations of the City Archaeologist, an archaeological investigation was required as a condition on planning permission; this comprised of a watching brief on intrusive groundworks. The watching brief was undertaken to a methodology outlined in a written scheme of investigation prepared by AOC (AOC 2010) and approved by Mike Hodder, Birmingham City Archaeologist.
- 2.5 The watching brief conformed to the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) (PPG 16), which in March 2010 was superseded by Planning Policy Statement (PPS5) (DCLG 2010) and was carried out in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
 - English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998).
 - English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 2008).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
 - Rescue/United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1998).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).

- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).

2.6 All works were also be informed by:

- Council for British Archaeology – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1987).
- Museum of London – Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition) (MoL 1994).

3 Geology and Topography

3.1 The site lies upon solid geology of Triassic mudstone. It sits approximately 130mOD and slopes around 5m from northwest to southeast.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 The Prehistoric Period (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

4.1.1 The following information is drawn from Birmingham City Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

4.1.2 While the SMR does not record any prehistoric features or finds within 500m of the site, Birmingham itself is relatively rich in prehistoric finds. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint tools have been found in the city centre and Neolithic polished axes have been found to the south and the north-west of the site.

4.1.3 Around 40 burnt mounds dating to the Late Bronze Age have been recorded across Birmingham. These mounds usually contain many burnt quartzite which have led to the interpretation of the mounds as being either debris from cooking or a system for bathing in warm water. However few associated settlements have been recorded near to the mounds.

4.1.4 There is no evidence of Iron Age activity recorded in the vicinity of the site.

4.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

4.2.1 A Roman Fort at Vincent Drive in Edgbaston, to the south of the site, has been excavated a number of times. Its earliest phase dates to the mid 1st century AD, indicating an early military presence in the area. A Roman road running between the fort and Shenstone just to the east of Icknield Street and a pottery kiln was recorded at Perry Bar to the north of the site.

4.2.2 Birmingham SMR records a Roman coin being found at Ladywood Middleway, immediately to the south of the site.

4.3 The Early Medieval Period (AD 410 – AD 1066)

4.3.1 There is very little evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in Birmingham. The name Birmingham seems to have Saxon origins as *Beornaham*. There are no SMR records within 500m of the site.

4.4 Medieval Period (AD 1066 – AD 1536)

4.4.1 Medieval Birmingham seems to have been centred near St Martin's Church to the east of the site. Excavation in this area has revealed evidence of settlement and a market which was known to have existed in this area.

- 4.4.2 The Domesday Book records Birmingham as being a small settlement worth only 20 shillings. The settlement grew during the medieval period to become a prosperous town based on the wool and cloth trade.
- 4.4.3 The SMR contains two records for medieval remains within 500m of the site. A medieval coin was found at 60 Ellen Street, to the west of the site, and Warstone Moat, a possible medieval moat only visible within the site, little else is known about this feature (Birmingham CC 2001).

4.5 The Post-Medieval (AD 1536 – AD 1900) and Modern (AD 1900 – Present) Periods

- 4.5.1 Birmingham developed rapidly in the 16th century, becoming a centre of the ironworking industry; it was noted for producing knives, guns and swords. During the Civil War Birmingham's arms industry became increasingly important as its refusal to support the king led to it being sacked. Subsequently it became a major supplier of arms to the Parliamentary cause.
- 4.5.2 By the 18th century Birmingham was expanding even faster, tripling in size between 1750 and 1800. Canals, and later, railways, increased Birmingham's transport links in the late 18th and 19th centuries, leading to further expansion. As a result of the city's expansion and the unsanitary conditions created by it a sewer system was constructed during the mid 19th century.
- 4.5.3 The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the clearing of many of Birmingham's slums and its further expansion into the surrounding countryside. During the Second World War Birmingham was again a centre for the arms industry and was heavily bombed. The site itself was bombed and was only cleared of debris relatively recently.
- 4.5.4 Cartographic evidence indicates that the site was occupied by houses in the late 19th century (Ordnance Survey 1890). The later maps show very few changes until the site suffered bomb damage during World War II.

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the watching brief are 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 Birmingham City Council 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.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were:
- To determine the presence of any remains of Roman date.

- To determine the presence of features relating to medieval settlement activity, specifically relating to Warstone Moat.

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

6 Methodology

6.1 The watching brief was undertaken on intrusive demolition and construction groundworks and the removal of Japanese Knotweed taking place within the development site (Figure 2). The observed areas comprised of two open areas (Areas 1 – 2 and three geotechnical test pits (Test Pits A – C).

6.2 The archaeologist was present to observe groundworks, positioned outside the working area of the mechanical excavator, in the normal working arrangement. If access to the trench was needed the machine ceased operations. Subject to safe access, the archaeologist entered the trench to carry out close inspection or record limited sections.

6.2 Machining was done where practicable with a flat bladed bucket (toothless), and in horizontal spits.

6.4 Archaeological recording, where not precluded by Health & Safety considerations, consisted of:

- Limited hand cleaning of archaeological sections and surfaces sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence exposed.
- 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 groundworks.
- A record of the datum levels of archaeological deposits.

6.6 Insurances, copyright and confidentiality and standards are defined in Appendix A.

6.8 The watching brief was monitored by Mike Hodder, Birmingham City Archaeologist on the behalf of Birmingham City Council and Andy Leonard for AOC Archaeology.

6.9 A unique site code IKB 10, was obtained from Birmingham City Museum Service; this was used as the site identifier for all records produced.

7 Results

7.1 Area 1 and Test Pits A – C (Figure 3)

- 7.1.1 Area 1 was located along the eastern edge of the site. This area appeared to have been heavily truncated with demolition rubble from the modern commercial use of the site overlying the demolition level of the Victorian properties that preceded it.
- 7.1.2 During the period of the watching brief, the area was reduced in level by up to 2.00m with natural deposits comprising of orange and reddish clayey sands (102, 103, 106, 107, and 115) being encountered at between 0.80m and 3.00m below the existing ground surface. In parts these natural deposits were overlain by a 0.50m thick recent buried topsoil (105) which was in turn overlain by modern demolition layers, made ground and tarmac (100, 101 and 104) which combined were a minimum of 1.50m in thickness and in places up to 3.00m thick (Figure 5, Section 1).
- 7.1.3 The topsoil horizon (105) sealed a number of features which were cut into natural deposits. These comprised of three infilled red brick basements [111, 118 and 122], which conformed to the footprint of former Victorian terrace houses on the site. Basement [111] was 3.50m north/south, 1.75m east/west and at least 1.00m in depth (Plate 1, Figure 5, Section 1). Basement [118] was 2.10m north/south, 1.70m east/west and at least 1.0m in depth. Basement [122] comprised of two separate bays divided by walling [121]; together these bays were 9.50m north/south, 4.70m east/west and at least 0.80m in depth. All of the basements were lined by brick walling bonded by lime mortar and infilled by loose grey soil with inclusions of building rubble and 19th century pottery fragments. Basement [111] was also capped by a cement floor (108) 0.20m in thickness.



Plate 1: Victorian basement [111] viewed from west.
Note truncation onto natural red sand.

- 7.1.4 To the west of these basements was a brick-lined well [114], which was 1.10m in diameter and infilled with rubble in a loose grey silty matrix (112). The well was not excavated but 19th century pottery was noted in its fill.
- 7.1.5 All of these features can be associated with the Victorian terrace houses that occupied the site until their demolition after World War II. .
- 7.1.6 The sections of Test Pits A – C, which were excavated against the foundations of the existing library building adjacent to the south east corner of the site also demonstrated the level of truncation in this area (Figure 5 Test Pit Sections). All three Test Pits demonstrated that made ground (401, 501 and 601) lay directly over natural deposits (405, 506 and 605). No archaeological finds or deposits were noted.

7.2 Area 2 (Figure 4)

- 7.2.1 Area 2 was a triangular area in the south west portion of the site (Plate 2). As with Area 1 it was evident that severe truncation had taken place across this section of site with up to 2.00m of modern demolition material and made ground (201) extending over the area.



Plate 2: General view of Area 2 viewed from south east.

- 7.2.2 Natural deposits, comprising of orange and reddish sandy clays (232 and 233) were encountered at c. 1.0m to 2.0m below the modern ground surface. The natural, as in Area 1, was overlain by a 0.20m thick buried topsoil (231). This buried topsoil was in turn overlain by modern made ground and demolition material (201) of up to 2.0m thickness.
- 7.2.3 The buried topsoil in part sealed a number of underlying foundations, floors and pits; all of which are likely to be associated with the Victorian terrace houses which stood on the site until their demolition after World War II.

- 7.2.4 The oldest of these features appeared to be 10 pits [210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 227, 229 and 234] which cut into the natural. All of these were rectangular or oblong in shape, sharply cut and infilled by loose grey material with rubble and ash. Pit [210] was almost square with dimensions 1.70m north/south, 1.60m east/west and 0.32m depth. Pit [212] was rectangular with dimensions 1.90m east/west, 0.85m north south and 0.22m depth. Pit [214] was rectangular with dimensions 1.65m east/west and 0.85m north/south; this feature remained unexcavated. Pit [216] was square with dimensions 1.50m on each side and 0.34 m in depth. Pit [218] was rectangular with demensions 2.32m east/west, 0.50m north/south; this pit remained unexcavated. Pits [220 and 222] were only partly visible against the southern edge of the site but in the case of [220] appeared to be square or rectangular in shape with a width of 1.80m east/west and in the case of [222] oval with a width of 1.10m east/west; neither of these pits were excavated. Pit [227] was small and square with dimensions of 0.55m on a side and depth of 0.12m. Pit [229] was rectangular with dimensions 1.20m north/south, 0.50m east/west and 0.15m depth. Pit [234] was rectangular with dimensions 1.45m north/south, 0.90m east/west and 0.20m depth.
- 7.2.5 The lay out, form and orientation of pits [210, 212, 214, 216, 218 and 220] suggest that they may be related and could delimit a roughly square area in the south west corner of Area 2. It is also possible that two linear brick foundations [204] and [208] delimit the northern and eastern edges of this area. Taken together it is possible that the brick foundations [204 and 208] mark the boundaries of a tenement or garden plot and that the pits [210, 212, 214, 216, 218 and 220] may be waste pits associated with an outhouse or working area within this plot. Within this area there was also a fragment of brick flooring (205) 3.80m north/south and 2.20m east/west. A number of pottery sherds were retrieved during excavation of these features; all except one of these finds can be ascribed a 19th to 20th century date. The one exception was a sherd of Staffordshire combed slipware which was retrieved from the fill (211) of pit [212]; this can be ascribed a broadly 18th century date but could be residual.
- 7.2.5 Similarly Pits [227, 229 and 234] may be associated with activities being undertaken within the adjacent tenement or garden plot to the west of wall [208]. Another fragmentary portion of brick flooring (206) 3.60m north/south and 2.20m east west was also identified in this area. Some 5m to the north of flooring (206) was a circular brick-lined well [225], 1.40m in diameter.
- 7.2.3 Built over pit [210] and brick foundation [204] was a double bayed brick foundation structure comprising of two sqaure brick lined foundations [202 and 203] bonded by a sandy mortar. It is likely that these can be associated with construction on the site following the demolition of the Victorian terraces after World War II.

8 Finds

- 8.1 A very small assemblage of finds was retained from Area 2 during the course of the watching brief. All could be dated to the 19th to 20th centuries except for a single sherd of Staffordshire combed slipware from fill (211) of pit [212], which could date to the 18th century.
- 8.2 The retained finds are described in more detail in Appendix B of this report. No further work is recommended on the retrieved finds.
- 8.3 The retrieved finds are the property of the landowner and will, if agreed by them, be deposited with Birmingham Museums Service, along with the remainder of the site archive.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 The watching brief achieved its aims and objectives by demonstrating that it is unlikely that any remains that predate the Victorian development of the site survived within the site; it is therefore unlikely that any evidence for the medieval Warstone Moat, even if it lay within the site will have survived the later truncation by Victorian and 1960s development on the site.
- 9.2 During the course of the watching brief two open areas and three test pits were monitored. Natural deposits were identified in all of these excavations at a depth of 0.20m to 3.00m below the existing ground surface. In all areas it was evident that significant truncation of potential archaeological deposits and natural had occurred. This truncation may have been associated with the construction and subsequent demolition of Victorian terrace houses that stood on the site until damaged by bombing during World War II, but is more likely to be associated with the construction of the commercial buildings, which superseded them.
- 9.3 A number of infilled Victorian basements, conforming to the known footprint of the Victorian houses that stood on the site were identified in Area 1; to the west of these was an infilled well. In Area 2 two fragmentary sections of brick flooring were recognised along with two brick foundations, which could be garden/tenement walls. Associated with these were 10 pits filled by ashy waste and rubble and an infilled well. These features could be associated with activities being undertaken within the garden/tenement plots associated with the Victorian properties that formerly occupied the site.
- 9.4 All of the small assemblage of pottery recovered from features in Area 2 could be dated to the 19th to 20th centuries indicating that these features were all associated with the Victorian terrace houses and associated tenements that occupied the site until their demolition following World War II. The only evidence for any earlier activity on the site was a single sherd of Staffordshire combed slipware from a pit in Area 2, which could be ascribed an 18th century date. No evidence for features or deposits associated with the Warstone moated site, believed to lie in the locality was noted during the course of the watching brief.
- 9.5 It is very probable that any archaeological remains predating the construction of the Victorian terrace houses on the site has been removed by the Victorian construction programme or subsequent demolition and replacement by the old Brookfields precinct.
- 9.6 No further archaeological work is recommended. Copies of the watching brief report will be issued to the Archaeological Advisor, the Local Planning Authority, the client and the Local Archaeological Society on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time.
- 9.7 An OASIS has been completed and is included as Appendix C of this report. An electronic copy of the watching brief report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) and a summary of the results will be prepared for inclusion in the annual archaeological fieldwork round-up in West Midlands Archaeology.

10 Bibliography

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Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Detailed Watching Brief Location

Figure 3 Area 1: Plan

Figure 4 Area 2: Plan

Figure 5 Sections

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Contexts (Area 1)

Number Context	Depth	Dimensions	Description
(100)	1.50m to 3.00m	60.00m x 12.00m	Made Ground/Demolition Rubble: Recent concrete, tarmac and sand substrates.
(101)	1.50m		Made Ground//Demolition Rubble Demolition material from Victorian buildings
(102)			Natural: Red brown boulder clay with mudstone fragments.
(103)			Natural: Mid grey/yellow clay silt
(104)	0.20m	15.00m x 5.00m	Modern tarmac
(105)	0.50m	60.00m x 12.00m	Modern topsoil.
(106)	0.80m	60.00m x 12.00m	Disturbed natural: Orangey red sand with rootlets
(107)		60.00m x 12.00m	Natural: Orangey red sand.
(108)	0.20m	2.80m x 1.70m	Cement capping to Victorian basement [111]
(109)	1.00m +	3.50m x 1.75m	Walling of Victorian basement [111]; Brick
(110)	1.00m +	3.50m x 1.75m	Rubble infill of basement [111]
[111]	1.00m +	3.50m x 1.75m	Victorian basement
(112)	Unk	0.85m dia	Rubbly fill of well [114]
[113]	Unk	0.20m	Brick lining of well [114]
[114]	Unk	1.05 m dia	Well
(115)		45.00m x 12.00m	Natural: Bright red sand
(116)	0.80m +	2.10m x 1.70m	Rubbly infill of Victorian basement [118]
[117]	0.80m +	2.10m x 1.70m	Walling of Victorian basement [118]
[118]	0.80m +	2.10m x 1.70m	Victorian basement
(119)	0.80m +	4.20m x 4.50m	Rubbly infill of Victorian basement [122]
(120)	0.80m +	4.20m x 4.50m	Rubbly infill of Victorian basement [122]
[121]	0.80m +_	9.50m x 4.70m	Walling of Victorian basement [122]
[122]	0.80m +	9.50m x 4.70m	Victorian basement

Contexts: Test Pit A

Context Number	Depth	Dimensions	Description
(401)	0.40m	3.00m x 0.70m	Modern made ground: Loose reddish sand with rubble and tarmac fragments
(402)	0.20m	0.70m x	Backfill of construction cut for recent wall [404]

		0.15m	
[403]	0.60m		Recent brick wall
[404]	0.20m	0.70m x 0.15m	Construction cut
[405]	1.10m +	3.00m x 0.70m	Natural: Red clayey sand.

Contexts: Test Pit B

Context Number	Depth	Dimensions	Description
(501)	0.35m	3.00m x 1.20m	Modern made ground: Loose reddish sand with rubble and tarmac fragments:
[502]	0.40m	1.65m x 0.25m	Fragment of brick walling which appears to abut with wall [504]
(503)	0.25m	1.20m x 0.20m	Re-deposited natural into construction cut [505]
[504]	0.60m		Foundation of standing Library building
[505]	0.25m	1.20m x 0.20m	Construction cut for wall [504]
(506)	0.55m	3.00m x 1.20m	Natural: Reddish brown clay/sand

Contexts: Test Pit C

Context Number	Depth	Dimensions	Description
(601)	0.45m	3.00m x 0.60m	Modern made ground of reddish brown sand with rubble
(602)	0.25m	0.60m x 0.30m	Re-deposited natural infilling construction cut [604]
[603]	0.80m		Foundation of standing Library building
[604]	0.25m	0.60m x 0.30m	Construction cut for wall [603]
(605)	0.65m	3.00m x 0.60m	Natural: Reddish/brown clay/sand

Contexts (Area 2)

Context Number	Depth	Dimensions	Description
(201)	2.00m	35.00m x 32.00m	Modern Made Ground: Greyish sandy clay with rubble.
[202]	0.20m	3.00m x 3.00m	Victorian brick foundations
[203]	0.20m	3.00m x 3.00m	Victorian brick foundations
[204]	0.30m	5.40m x 0.40 m	Victorian brick foundations
[205]	0.12m	3.80m x 2.20m	Fragment of Victorian brick flooring
[206]	0.12m	3.60m x 2.20m	Fragment of Victorian brick flooring

(207)	0.08m	5.30m x 0.50m	Infill of construction cut [208]: Soft dark brown silty sand with brick and tile fragments
[208]	0.08m	5.30m x 0.50m	Cut for wall
(209)	0.32m	1.70m x 1.60m	Fill of pit [210]: Soft dark brown/grey clay/silt with brick, tile and slate fragments, with much ash.
[210]	0.32m	1.70m x 1.60m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared
(211)	0.22m	1.90m x 0.85m	Fill of pit [212]: Soft dark brown silty/sand with tile fragments and stone
[212]	0.22m	1.90m x 0.85m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared
(213)		1.65m x 0.85m	Fill of pit [214]: Soft dark brown/grey clay/silt with brick, tile and slate fragments, with much ash.
[214]		1.65m x 0.85m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared
(215)	0.34m	1.50m x 1.50m	Fill of pit [216]: Soft dark brown/grey clay/silt with brick, tile and slate fragments, with much ash.
[216]	0.34m	1.50m x 1.50m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared
(217)	0.10m	2.32m x 0.50m	Fill of pit [218]: Soft dark brown/grey clay/silt with brick, tile and slate fragments, with much ash.
[218]	0.10m	2.32m x 0.50m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared
(219)		1.80m x 1.10m	Fill of pit [220]: Soft dark brown/grey clay/silt with brick, tile and slate fragments, with much ash.
[220]		1.80m x 1.10m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared
(221)		1.50m x 1.10m	Fill of pit [222]: Soft dark brown/grey clay/silt with brick, tile and slate fragments, with much ash.
[222]		1.50m x 1.10m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared
(223)	0.40m	0.40m dia	Fill of well cut [225]: Soft dark brown silty sand with building rubble.
[224]	0.40m	0.40m dia	Brick lining of well [225]
[225]	0.40m	0.40m dia	Well
(226)	0.12m	0.55m x 0.55m	Fill of pit [227]: Soft dark brown/grey clay/silt with brick, tile and slate fragments, with much ash.
[227]	0.12m	0.55m x 0.55m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared
(228)	0.15m	1.20m x 0.50m	Fill of pit [229]: Compact light brown sand with building rubble and cobbles
[229]	0.15m	1.20m x 0.50m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared
(230)	0.20m	1.45m x 0.90m	Fill of pit [234]: Compact light brown sand with building rubble and cobbles
(231)	0.20m	20.00m x 17.00m	Buried soil horizon: Soft light brown silty sand with frequent sub angular stones.
(232)			Natural: Compact orange brown sandy gravel
(233)			Natural: Firm reddish brown sand
[234]	0.20m	1.45m x 0.90m	Victorian pit. Sharply cut and squared

Appendix B – Specialist Reports

An Assessment of the Finds From Brookfields Precinct, Icknield Road, Birmingham

by

Paul Fitz

The Pottery

A very small assemblage of pot sherds was retained from Area 2 to help spot-date five contexts. A description and spot date for each context is summarised below.

Two small sherds of blue/white 'European/English scene' transfer printed ware were retained from fill (209) of Pit [210]. These sherds can be ascribed a date range of c. 1780 – 1900+. A single sherd of yellow/brown Staffordshire combed slipware plate was recovered from fill (211) of Pit [212]; this can be ascribed a date range of c.1670-1795. Two small sherds of white English porcelain were recovered from fill (215) of Pit [216]; these can be ascribed a date of c. 1745-1900+. A single fragment of English stoneware, three sherds of plain white glazed earthenware (commonly 'ironstone china') and a small sherd of blue/white transfer printed ware were recovered from fill (223) of well [225]; these can be ascribed a date of c. 1780 – 1900+. A single sherd English china tea cup was recovered from fill (226) of Pit [227]; this can be ascribed a date to anywhere later than 1800.

This assemblage is broadly contemporaneous with the known Victorian buildings that occupied the site up until their demolition following World War II.

No further work is recommended on this assemblage. The retrieved finds are the property of the landowner and will, if agreed by them, be deposited with Birmingham Museums Service, along with the remainder of the site archive.

Appendix C – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-53439

Project details

Project name Brookfields Precinct, Birmingham

Short description of the project Watching Brief during groundworks for new shopping centre on Icknield Street, Soho, Birmingham. The site had formerly been occupied by Victorian terraces which were demolished following bomb damage during WWII. These were replaced in the 1960s/70s by a shopping centre, which was demolished for the new development. A medieval moated site is believed to lie in the locality. No evidence for any site pre-dating the Victorian terraces was noted with the site being observed as very heavily truncated; probably for construction of the 60s/70s precinct.

Project dates Start: 15-03-2010 End: 26-10-2010

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes 30332 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes IKB 10- Museum accession ID

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type HOUSING Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST MIDLANDS BIRMINGHAM BIRMINGHAM Brookfield Precinct, Icknield Street,

Postcode B18

Study area 1.10 Hectares

Site coordinates SP 0552 8752 52.4852027483 -1.918703162040 52 29 06 N 001 55 07 W Point

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project originator brief Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project originator design AOC Archaeology

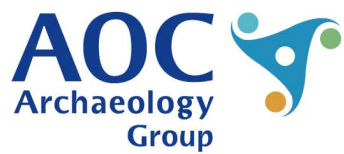
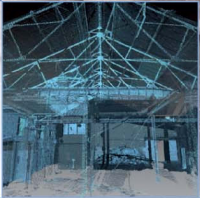
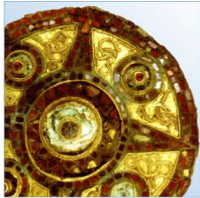
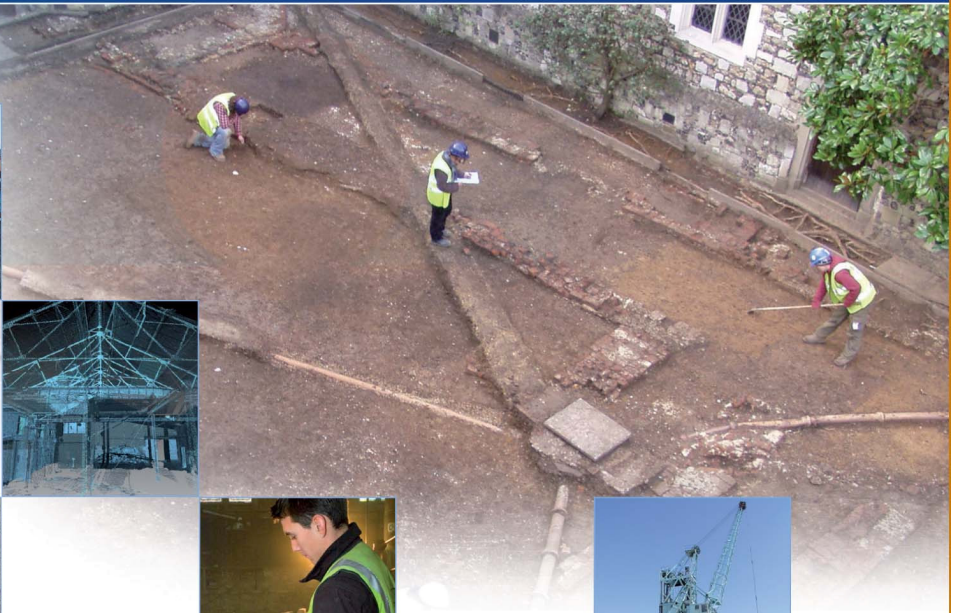
Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Pinnacle Consulting Engineers Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Entered by Alan Ford (alan.ford@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 27 October 2010



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