

Former Ladywell Road Police Station London Borough of Lewisham Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

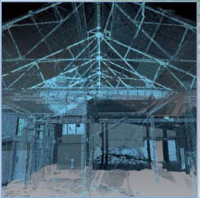
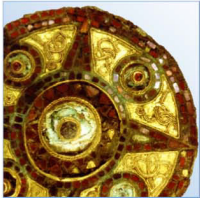
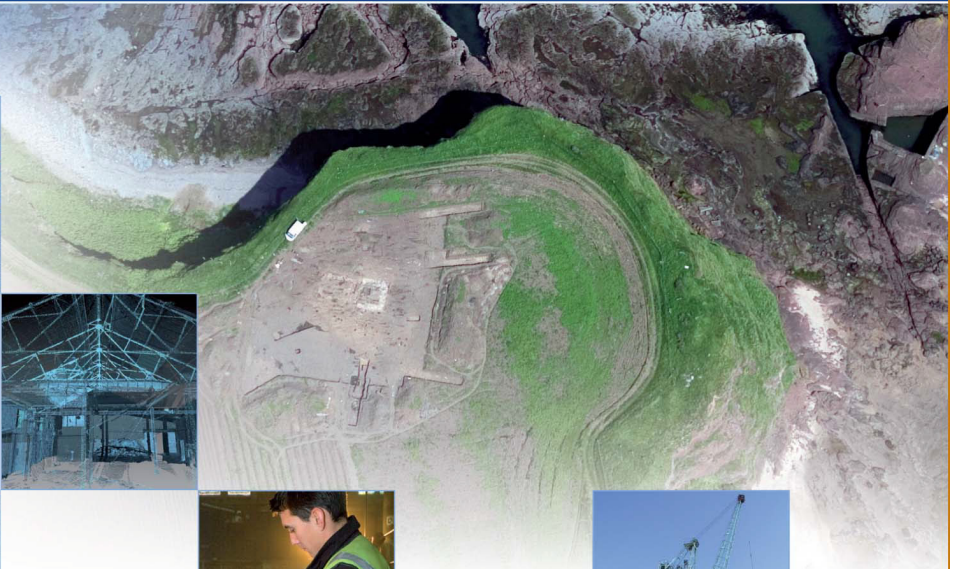
Planning Application Numbers: DC/07/66447, DC/07/66133,
DC/07/66133A, DC/07/66133B, and DC/07/66135

National Grid Reference: TQ 3797 7489

AOC Project no: 30252

Site Code: LDY 09

March 2009



AOC
Archaeology
Group

ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Former Ladywell Road Police Station, London Borough of Lewisham Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

On Behalf of: The Purelake Group
Springbank Business Centre
87-89 Springbank Road
London
SE13 6SS

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 3797 7489

AOC Project No: 30252

Prepared by: Tim Carew and Les Capon

Illustration by: Jon Moller

Date of Evaluation: 4th-5th March 2009

Date of Report: March 2009

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

Author: Les Capon **Date:** March 2009

Approved by: **Date:**

Draft/ Report Stage: **Date:**

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Unit 7
St Margarets Business Centre
Moor Mead Road
Twickenham
TW1 1JS
Tel. 020 8843 7380



www.aocarchaeology.com

Contents

	Page
Contents	ii
List of illustrations	iii
Non-Technical Summary	iv
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. BACKGROUND	1
2.1 Site Location	1
2.2 Planning Background.....	1
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
3.1 Geology and Topography.....	2
3.2 Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval (c.400,000 BP to AD 1540).....	2
3.3 Post-Medieval (c. AD 1540 – 1900)	2
4. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	3
5. STRATEGY	4
6. METHODOLOGY	4
7. RESULTS	5
7.1 Trench 1.....	5
7.2 Trench 2.....	5
7.3 Trench 3.....	6
7.4 Finds	7
8 CONCLUSIONS	8
9 BIBLIOGRAPHY	9
Appendix A: Context Register	15
Appendix B: OASIS Form	16

List of illustrations

Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Detailed site/ Trench location plan and section

Figure 3 – Plan of Trench 3

Figure 4 – Sample sections

Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land to the rear of the former Ladywell Police Station, London Borough of Lewisham. The evaluation established that no features of archaeological significance survived on the site. The stratigraphic sequence shows garden soils directly lying above naturally lain terrace gravel. The garden soil dates the use of the site to the 18th and 19th centuries as gardens associated with Lewisham House, which was demolished in the late 19th century, prior to the erection of the Police Station.

The aims of the evaluation have been met: to assess the site for archaeological remains. No further archaeological work on the site is anticipated.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is a report following archaeological evaluation ahead of development of land behind the former Ladywell Road Police Station in Lewisham. The work was carried out during March 2009. Three trenches up to 20m long were excavated, and all features and deposits within the trenches were examined and interpreted. The work was carried out on behalf of the Purelake Group. These investigations were undertaken as a requirement of conditional planning permission, to determine the necessity of further archaeological mitigation works.
- 1.2 The site work was allocated the site code **LDY 09**. The aims of the investigation prior to fieldwork are discussed with reference to the results. Any requirement for further work will be decided by the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Lewisham.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location

- 2.1.1 The site is located in the London Borough of Lewisham, situated close to the junction of Ladywell Road and Lewisham High Street within the historic core of Lewisham; National Grid Reference TQ 3797 7489 (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The land encompassed by the Police Station is L-shaped. Two of the buildings on the site have been retained; the original Police Station facing north onto Ladywell Road, and a small stable block to the rear. The original Police Station is Grade II listed, reflecting its architectural detail and importance to Lewisham at the turn of the 20th century. Building recording (Level 2) has been agreed for the retained structures. The majority of the rest of the site was until recently covered by modern blocks. These were entirely removed prior to evaluation.

2.2 Planning Background

- 2.2.1 The local planning Authority is the London Borough of Lewisham. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Mark Stephenson of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of English Heritage.
- 2.2.2 The site is located within St. Mary's Conservation Area and the Lewisham & Catford / Rushey Green Area of Archaeological Priority (AAP) as defined in the Lewisham Unitary Development Plan (2006). Within the site boundaries the former Ladywell Road Police Station in the northeast of the site and former stable block building in the southeast of the site are Grade II Listed.
- 2.2.3 Planning permission, Listed Building Consent and Conservation Area Consent for the proposed development was granted by Lewisham Borough Council on 13th March 2008 (Planning References DC/07/66447, DC/07/66133, DC/07/66133A, DC/07/66133B, and DC/07/66135). A condition was attached to the planning decision for a programme of archaeological work. The first stage of the work was the production of a Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2008)
- 2.2.4 This Evaluation Report conforms to the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) (PPG16). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - Institute of Field Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (IFA 1994).
 - Institute of Field Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 1997).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following background information is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009).

3.1 Geology and Topography

- 3.1.1 The underlying geology is a River Terrace (Kempton Park Gravels) with alluvium a short distance to the west (British Geological Survey, Sheet 270). The site lies in the eastern side of the valley of the River Ravensbourne, a tributary of the Thames, at around 11.60mOD. Directly south of the site is the graveyard of St Mary's Church, and the ground level there is almost a metre higher, at 12.50mOD.

3.2 Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval (c.400,000 BP to AD 1540)

- 3.2.1 The site lies in the valley of the River Ravensbourne, a tributary of the Thames, and the surrounding landscape was used during the prehistoric periods, from Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age. There seems to have been little activity in the Roman period, it being focussed further to the north, along the major roads of the period.
- 3.2.2 Lewisham appears to have first been settled in the Saxon period, possibly as early as the 6th century. Its name derives from Leofshema, meaning Leof's village. Antiquarians and modern historians have suggested that the original settlement was centred on the Church of St. Mary, whose cemetery wall bounds the south edge of the site. The church is mentioned in a charter of AD 964, although the current building is 18th century. The population of Lewisham in 1085 has been estimated at 300 - 400 people, although these may have been across a wide area. Settlement in the medieval period grew along Lewisham High Street, including farmsteads and larger estates including a priory. The name Ladywell is a strong indication of the likely proximity of the abbey: Ladywell itself is now beneath the approach road to the station.

3.3 Post-Medieval (c. AD 1540 – 1900)

- 3.3.1 Lewisham continued to develop in the post-medieval period with inns, taverns, private houses and commercial premises being built. Houses of the wealthy in the local area reflect the affluence of 17th century Lewisham and included St. Mary's vicarage next to the church and Lewisham House, an extensive property on the corner of Ladywell Road and Lewisham High Street with gardens extending east and south to the graveyard of St. Mary's Church. The house was reported in 1785 as being 'the largest and best mansion in the High Street' and for a short time in the 18th century was used as a school / academy. It was subdivided into two houses in the late 18th century.
- 3.3.2 The introduction of the railway and the opening of Lewisham Station in 1849 brought increasing urbanisation to Lewisham, partly the demand of housing for a growing London populace. Lewisham House was pulled down in 1894, and no evidence of it remains today. It lay directly east of the site of the Police Station, which was built across its gardens.
- 3.3.3 Ladywell Police station was built upon the grounds of Lewisham House, facing directly onto Ladywell Road. The stable block appears to have been built contemporaneously, although not as expensively as the Police Station, using cheaper yellow brick rather than the smooth red bricks that form the frontage. No changes are apparent to the layout of the Police Station until the 1950s. The Ordnance Survey Map of 1949-52 shows new workshops, garages and catering facilities erected in the western section of the site. The 1991 Ordnance Survey Map suggests that some parts of the original Police Station have been demolished, for a different footprint is shown. This may have been a single storey part, since the first storey windows to the rear are in character with the rest of the property.

4. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The general aims of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site. Subsidiary aims were as follows:
- 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 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.
- 4.2 The specific objectives of the Evaluation were to:
- Determine the presence of any remains of prehistoric, Saxon, medieval, or post-medieval date.
 - Assess the potential of the site to inform on the post-medieval development and chronology of Lewisham.
 - Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of modern buildings on the site.
- 4.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

5. STRATEGY

- 5.1 A unique site code for the project has been applied to all records, for identification in the site archive (**LDY 09**).
- 5.2 The excavation was carried out following demolition and removal of the 20th century buildings on site.
- 5.3 The work was carried out by a team of experienced archaeologists.
- 5.4 The work was overseen by a Project Officer under the overall direction of Andy Leonard, Fieldwork Manager.
- 5.5 Monitoring of the archaeological work was undertaken by Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeology Service (GLAAS).

6. METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The archaeological excavation was conducted according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by AOC Archaeology Group (AOC 2009).
- 6.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches (Figure 2) of varying lengths. On-site constraints such as the presence of a crane for construction required shortening of one trench, so additional width was excavated. Blocks of numbers were assigned to each trench to avoid accidental double numbering or repetition.
- 6.3 The entire site was visually inspected before the commencement of any machine excavation. The trenches were all CAT scanned prior to excavation.
- 6.4 All machining was carried out using an 20-ton 360 excavator fitted with a 2m wide ditching bucket. All excavation occurred under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Officer. Natural terrace gravel deposits were tested for a minimum of 0.5m to check the potential for Palaeolithic remains.
- 6.5 All methodologies conformed to that set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009).

7. RESULTS

7.1 Trench 1

7.1.1 Table of stratigraphy (Figure 4).

Context	Description	Thickness	Height OD
100	Made ground	0.30m max	11.33m (NW) to 11.31m (SE)
104	Garden soil	0.80m max	11.05m (NW) to 11.03m (SE)
105	Terrace Gravel	>0.5m	10.25m (NW) to 10.30m (SE)

7.1.2 Trench 1 was located between the Police Station and the Stable Block, in the east part of the site, and measured 15.25m by 2.25m at base. Gravel and sand (105) was present at 10.30mOD in the southeast of the trench, dropping slightly northwards, to 10.25mOD. The gravel was directly overlain by a layer of organic dark brown sandy silt (104) up to 0.90m deep. No subsoil interface was present. Small fragments of transfer-printed porcelain and unglazed redware, probably flowerpot, indicate a 19th century date, probably garden origin for this layer. The pottery was not retained. The depth of this deposit may be indicative of a high level of cultivation and improvement. Towards the base of a deposit was an irregular linear cut [107] with frequent small gravel and fragments of root (106), which was part of a tree pit.

7.1.3 At the southeast end of the trench was part of a small brick footing (103), made of pinkish red bricks measuring 240mm by 110mm by 65mm, and bonded with cement, which was clearly of 20th century date, and must relate to the development of the site during its use as a Police Station.

7.1.4 The garden soil was cut by a large intrusion [102] that started near the southeast end of the trench, sloping down northwards at around 10°, and removing the entire deposit after c.10m. This also intruded into the underlying terrace deposits to 9.85mOD, and was backfilled with greyish brown sandy silt with a high building material content.

7.1.5 The entire sequence was sealed by a general overburden of building rubble 0.30m deep that relates to the modern demolition activity (100). No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 1.

7.2 Trench 2

7.2.1 Table of stratigraphy (Figure 4)

Context	Description	Thickness	Height OD
200	Made ground/ intrusion	1.10m	11.20m (E to 11.21m (W)
203	Garden soil	0.80m	11.10m
204	Terrace Gravel	>0.45m	9.72m (W) to 10.16m (E)

7.2.2 Trench 2 was located to the rear of properties fronting onto Ladywell Road, and was oriented east-west, measuring 20m by 2m. Terrace gravel (204) was present at 10.16m at the east end of the trench, and had been truncated to 9.72m in the west. The gravel was sealed by 0.9m depth of garden soil: this dark brown organic sandy silt (203) contained occasional fragments of flowerpot, and was identical in character to the garden soil in Trench 1.

7.2.3 The garden soil was cut by a large intrusion [202] that started 3m from the eastern end of the trench, sloping down westwards at around 10°, and removing the entire deposit after c.12m. This also intruded into the underlying terrace deposits to 9.72mOD, and was backfilled with greyish brown

sandy silt with a high building material content (201). This matches with the footprint of 20th century police station buildings that stood at this location.

- 7.2.4 The entire sequence was sealed by a general overburden of building rubble 0.10m deep that relates to recent compaction following demolition (200). No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 2.

7.3 Trench 3

- 7.3.1 Table of stratigraphy (Figures 3 & 4).

Context	Description	Thickness	Height OD
300	Made ground/ intrusion	1.00m	10.93m (SW) to 11.27m (NE)
301	Garden soil	0.70m	11.07m (NE) to 10.04m (SW)
310	Terrace Gravel	>0.70m	10.34m (SW) to 10.38m (NE)

- 7.3.2 Trench 3, located to the south of the site, next to the graveyard, measured 17.2m by 2.5m at base, and was oriented southwest-northeast. Terrace gravel (310) at the base of the trench lay at 10.38mOD, in the northeast, dropping slightly to 10.34mOD in the southwest. The gravel was sealed by a 0.70m deep layer of organic dark brown sandy silt (301) that contained fragments of 19th century porcelain, indicating a common origin with the other soils interpreted as garden deposits. Two features of garden origin were present, seen only at the base of the deposit. The larger of these was a tree pit 1.70m across [307] with very irregular edges and base, and filled with a mix of sand, gravel and dark brown sandy silt (306). The smaller feature [305] was seen near the edge of the trench, and had two straight edges forming the corner of a larger feature. This was filled with sandy silt (304) identical to the garden soil above, and may be the remnant of a planting bed.
- 7.3.3 The garden soil was cut by two large linear features. One was oriented east-west [303], parallel to the south wall of the site for 7.5m, and had a 45° slope and flat base. This was backfilled with building debris including concrete and plastic (302), and is thought to be the robber trench for a recently removed foundation. A second cut ran north-south [309], and is likely to have been part of the same building represented by the larger cut. The fill was similarly characterised by the presence of concrete, brick rubble, and occasional pieces of plastic.
- 7.3.4 The whole of the trench was sealed by a compacted layer of modern building material (300). No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 3.

7.4 Finds

7.4.1 The finds collected were of 19th century date or later. No further work is recommended, given their small quantity and origin in garden soils of a known garden area, and in 20th century features.

Context	Item	Comment	Date
104	Brick sample	240mm x 110mm x 65mm	20 th century
301	Pottery	3 x Transfer printed ware, 1 X earthenware (residual medieval?)	19 th century
301	Glass	Green wine bottle base	19 th century
301	Animal bone	Horse tooth x 1	-
302	Animal bone	Small, x 2	-
304	CBM	Brick x 2, Tile x 2, drain pipe x 1	20 th century
308	CBM	1 x tile, 1 x brick	20 th century

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1. The underlying geology Kempton Park Gravel was identified in all trenches. No evidence of Palaeolithic date was found in the gravels. Where not truncated, the gravel shows a drop to the northwest from 10.34mOD to 10.16m OD. However, the lack of any subsoil interface in any of the trenches may indicate some disturbance of the top of this deposit.
- 8.2. The gravel was directly sealed by dark brown topsoil, of great regularity across the whole site. Given the known history of the site, this must represent garden soil relating to Lewisham House which formerly stood to the east. The depth, up to 0.90m, may be testament to continued improvement of the soil, perhaps through use as a kitchen garden. The one cut feature may be a planting bed, and it is possible that the tree-pits represent trees in the garden during the 19th century.
- 8.3. The biggest impact on the site was caused by the foundations of the brick and concrete buildings added to the site in the latter half of the 20th century, and their recent demolition. Although deep truncations were present, the sequence of 19th century soil over natural gravel terraces was still present in all trenches.
- 8.4. Despite the potential for archaeological deposits on the site, no finds or features pre-dating the 19th century were present. This may suggest that the focus of known medieval Lewisham did not extend this far behind Lewisham Road: it is thought that the centre of Lewisham was based around St. Mary's Church.
- 8.5. The garden soils were checked for finds during excavation, and no pottery earlier than the 19th century was present. Although garden soils suggest repeated reworking and improvement, a complete lack of earlier material may indicate that this area was peripheral to earlier settlement.
- 8.6. Given the limited results of the evaluation publication will be through the online ADS OASIS website, with a short summary submitted to London Archaeologist. Any requirement for further work will be decided by the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Lewisham.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AOC Archaeology (2008): *Former Ladywell Road Police Station, Lewisham: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*
- AOC Archaeology (2009): *Former Ladywell Road Police Station, London Borough of Lewisham: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- Council for British Archaeology (1987). *First Aid For Finds* (Second Edition).
- Department of the Environment (1990). *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16)*.
- English Heritage (1991). *Management of Archaeological Projects*.
- English Heritage London Region (1992). *Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines) Archaeological Guidance Paper: 5*.
- English Heritage (1998a). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork*. (English Heritage London Region).
- English Heritage (1998b). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Reports*. (English Heritage London Region).
- English Heritage (2002). *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists (1997). *Code of Conduct*.
- Museum of London (1994). *Archaeological Site Manual* (3rd ed).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (1983). *Conservation Guidelines No 2*.
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (1990). *Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice*.

Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Detailed site/ Trench location plan

Figure 3 – Trench 1 plan

Figure 4: Sample sections

Appendices

Appendix A: Context Register

Context	Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Made ground	15.25m	2.25m	0.30m
101	Fill of cut 102	15.25m	2.25m	Max 1.20m
102	Modern intrusion	15.25m	2.25m	Max 1.20m
103	C20 th footing	0.60m	0.20m	0.14m
104	Garden soil	10.00m	2.25m	
105	Yellow sand and gravel	15.25m	2.25m	>0.50m
106	Fill of 106	1.04m	0.15m	0.08m
107	Tree pit	1.04m	0.15m	0.08m
200	Made ground	20.00m	2.00m	0.10m
201	Fill of 202	16.80m	2.00m	1.00m
202	Modern intrusion	16.80m	2.00m	1.00m
203	Garden soil	12.20m	2.00m	0.90m
204	Mottled gravel and sand	20.00m	2.00m	>0.45m
300	Made ground	17.2m	2.5m	Max 0.70m
301	Garden soil/ topsoil	17.2m	2.5m	Max 0.70m
302	Fill of 303	7.5m	2.55m	0.92m
303	Modern foundation cut	7.5m	2.55m	0.92m
304	Fill of 305	1.10m	0.41m	0.36m
305	Garden feature	1.10m	0.41m	0.36m
306	Fill of 307	1.70m	0.90m	0.64m
307	Tree pit	1.70m	0.90m	0.64m
308	Fill of 309	1.60m	1.05m	>0.40m
309	Modern foundation cut	1.60m	1.05m	>0.40m
310	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	17.2m	2.5m	>0.70m

Appendix B: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-56066

Project details

Project name The former Police Station at Ladywell Road

Short description of the project Three trenches were excavated. garden soil of 19th century date was present.

Project dates Start: 04-03-2009 End: 05-03-2009

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes 30252 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes LDY09 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 30196 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches','Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location	GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM LEWISHAM AND BLACKHEATH former Police station and stables,2 Ladywell Road
Postcode	SE13 7UR
Study area	2500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3797 7489 51.4556475687 -0.01397080360840 51 27 20 N 000 00 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.16m Max: 10.38m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project design originator	Les Capon AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Tim Carew
Project supervisor	Les Capon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

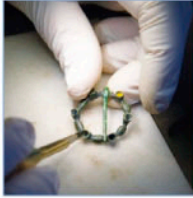
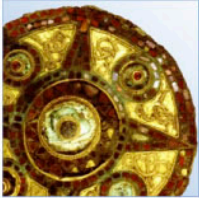
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	LDY 09
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Digital Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	LDY 09
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Former Ladywell Police Station, London Borough of Lewisham: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Capon, L.
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	22 pages, 3 figures, A4
Entered by	les capon (les.capon@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	13 March 2009



AOC Archaeology Group, Unit 7, St Margarets Business Centre, Moor Mead Road, Twickenham TW1 1JS
tel: 020 8843 7380 | fax: 020 8892 0549 | e-mail: london@aocarchaeology.com