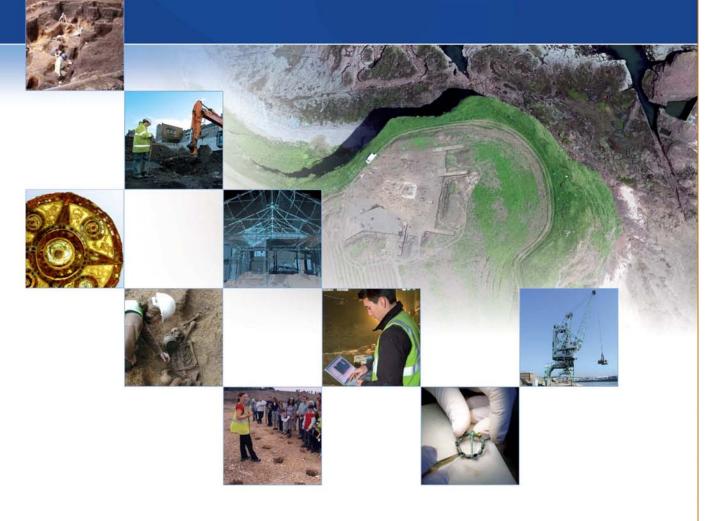
National Grid Reference Number: TQ 4237 7397

AOC Project no: 30399

Site Code: EPL 09

Date: April 2009





The Rose Garden, Eltham Palace, London Borough of Greenwich **Archaeological Excavation Report**

On Behalf of: **English Heritage**

1 Waterhouse Square

London EC1N 2ST

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 4237 7397

AOC Project No: 30399

Prepared by: **Chris Clarke**

Illustration by: Jon Moller

16th to 23rd March 2009 **Date of Excavation:**

15th April 2009 **Date of Report:**

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

Author: Chris Clarke Date: April 2009

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Date:

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Non-Technical Summary

In March 2009 an archaeological excavation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of English Heritage at the Rose Garden, Eltham Palace, London Borough of Greenwich (NGR TQ 4237 7397). The excavation was undertaken to locate a leaking water pipe requiring reparation works. Due to the archaeological sensitivity of the site, the all excavations were undertaken by a team of professional archaeologists.

The archaeological work comprised the excavation of two trenches along the line of the pipe. The pipe was located in both trenches, overlain by a sequence of late 19th/early 20th century made ground deposits. No significant archaeological remains were identified.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The site is located within the grounds of Eltham Palace, to the south of Eltham, in the London Borough of Greenwich (Figure 1). The area of excavation was located in the Rose Garden, in the southwest corner of the palace grounds (Figures 2 and 3) and was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 4237 7397.
- 1.2 Eltham Palace is a Grade I Listed property and Scheduled Monument (26336) owned by English Heritage. Eltham Palace contains structural elements dating from the 14th to 20th century, with the Palace complex focused around a great hall with associated apartments and other domestic structures. Surrounding the palace buildings is a partially backfilled medieval moat, set within several acres of formal gardens and landscaped grounds.
- 1.3 The excavation in the Rose Garden was commissioned in order to locate and repair a leaking water pipe. As the pipe trench was located within the Scheduled Area, professional archaeologists were required to excavate the trench and record any archaeological remains encountered.
- 1.4 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by English Heritage to carry out the archaeological excavation in accordance with the Brief issued by English Heritage (EH 2009). This document detailed how the excavation would be undertaken.
- 1.5 The work was authorised under Scheduled Monument Class 6 Consent.

2. **Geology and Topography**

- 2.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet South Solid 1:62500), indicates that the site is situated upon London Clay.
- 2.2 Eltham Palace is situated 500m south west of Eltham Parish Church on the edge of a natural eminence. The ground slopes away to the south and west of the site towards the Thames and the City of London. The remains of the medieval manor, bishop's palace and royal palace occupy a moated island reached from the north east by a stone bridge; on the north east side of the bridge is an area called Court Yard where the remains of the outer court of the royal palace are located. To the south and east of the island are the remains of the gardens of the royal palace.

3. **Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 3.1 The following has been taken from the Brief prepared by English Heritage (EH 2009).
- 3.2 Eltham Palace was established in 1295-1305 by Anthony Bek, Bishop of Durham, on the site of an earlier manor house. After his death in 1311, it was occupied as a royal palace and altered and extended over the following centuries.
- By the early 17th century it had fallen into 'fayre decay' and in 1651 was bought by Nathaniel Rich 3.3 who demolished some of the buildings. At the Restoration the manor returned to the crown and from the 17th to the 19th centuries the site was occupied as a farm.
- 3.4 In the 1930s the standing remains of the medieval palace were partly restored and incorporated into Eltham Hall, a country house built by Stephen Courtauld. In 1945 the crown lease passed to the War Office and the house and grounds were subsequently occupied by the Army Education Corps and renamed Eltham Court. In 1995 the management of the site passed to English Heritage.

- 3.5 The trench location is in a garden compartment within the infilled medieval moat. The garden appears to have been created by the early 14th century and may contain deposits from the late 13th century manor of Bishop Antony Bek, or predecessors, including a late 11th century complex of Bishop Odo of Bayeux, or even a pre-conquest thegnly residence.
- The moat remained water-filled until the 17th century and possibly later. In the early years of that 3.6 century, building works were carried out to the royal lodgings fronting onto precisely the area of moat in which the proposed excavation is located.
- 3.7 The site of the excavation is adjacent to the revetting wall, incorporating fabric of the 14th - 17th centuries, which lies entirely within the Scheduled Area.
- 3.8 A flower garden was created in the western moat in the late 19th century by Richard Bloxham, who had converted the site from a farm into a 'gentleman's residence', Eltham Court. Under Stephen and Virginia Courtauld, who took out a lease on the property in 1933, the western arm of the moat was laid out as a number of 'garden rooms' with formal planting, after the manner of Great Dixter and Sissinghurst. The proposed excavation is located on the line of a path around the perimeter of the southernmost of these garden compartments.

4. Aims of the Investigation

- 4.1 The aims of the Excavation were defined as:
 - to provide a full record of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations for the pipe reparations;
 - to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

5. Methodology

- Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 5.1 1994).
- The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current best archaeological practice and local 5.2 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 of Field Archaeology Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IFA 1992).
 - Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (IFA 1994).
 - Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1997).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).

- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).
- Council for British Archaeology First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1987).
- The original Brief (EH 2009) and Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2009) detailed the 5.3 excavation of a single 3m by 1m trench. Due to fact that the leaking pipe could not be found within the original trench, the size of the trench was extended to 5m by 1m. A small, 1m by 1m, test pit was also excavated north of the first trench to try and locate the leaking pipe. Neither trench managed to identify where the leak originated from, meaning additional contractors were not called to undertake repairs on the pipe and so the watching brief element of the project detailed in the Brief (EH 2009) and the WSI (AOC 2009) was not required to be undertaken.
- 5.4 A unique accession code for the project was obtained from the Museum of London: EPL09.
- 5.5 The excavation was undertaken by a supervisor, under the overall direction of Andy Leonard, Divisional Head of Fieldwork at AOC Archaeology Group, and monitored by Justin Waite (English Heritage Technical Buildings Manager) and Jane Sidell (Inspector of Ancient Monuments).

6. Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Figure 4)

6.1.1 Surface of Trench = 54.39m OD

Height (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
54.39-54.29m	0.00m	(101)	Topsoil & Turf. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
54.29-53.44m	0.10m	(104)	Made Ground. Firm, dark grey, silty clay, with frequent fragments of CBM.
53.44-52.94m (N.F.E)	0.95m-1.45m	(106)	Natural? Firm, bluish orangey brown, clay.

- 6.1.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 1 was a firm, orangey brown, clay (106), observed at a height of 53.44m OD in a sondage excavated at the northern end of the trench. Context (106) is believed to be the natural deposit in this area, London Clay, but due to the limited exposure of this deposit this interpretation cannot be confirmed.
- 6.1.3 A ceramic drainage pipe (105), measuring approximately 0.22m in diameter, was observed in the trench sondage at a depth of 52.99m OD, 0.45m below the upper level of context (106). The drainage pipe was orientated approximately north-south. It is assumed that drainage pipe (105) lies at the base of pipe trench [107] truncating context (106) from a higher level, although the cut was not discernable from the surrounding clay.
- 6.1.4 Overlying the clay horizon and pipe trench a substantial, 0.85m thick, deposit of firm, dark grey, silty clay made ground (104), containing frequent fragments of CBM (ceramic building material) of varying size. Truncating the made ground was north-south aligned pipe trench [103] which ran along the full length of Trench 1. Pipe trench [103] was roughly V-shaped in profile and measured over 0.80m at its widest point. The lead pipe at the base of the trench was recorded at a height of 53.74m OD at the northern end of the trench; 0.90m below ground level and rising up to 0.60m below ground level at the southern end of the trench. The backfill (102) of pipe trench [103] was very similar to that of

made ground (104), suggesting that the same material excavated to create pipe trench [103] was then used in its subsequent backfill. Finds from backfill (102) included two pieces of animal bone (one cow, one sheep/goat with possible butchery marks), bricks of 19th/20th century date, and several sherds of pottery, including blue and white transfer print ware, green and white transfer print ware and pearl ware, indicating a late 19th/early 20th century date.

6.1.5 Sealing the sequence of deposits in Trench 1 was a 0.10m thick layer of silty clay (101) topsoil and turf.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 5)

6.2.1 Surface of Trench = 54.41m OD

Height (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description		
54.41-54.31m	0.00m	(201) Topsoil & Turf. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.			
54.31-54.21m	0.10m	(202)	Made Ground. Soft, dark grey, silty clay, with frequent fragments of CBM and charcoal.		
54.21-53.91m	0.20m	(203)	Sealing/Leveling Layer. Firm, yellowish brown, clay, with moderate fragments of CBM.		
53.91-53.61m (N.F.E)	0.50m-0.80m	(206)	Made Ground. Firm, dark brownish grey, silty clay, with frequent fragments of CBM.		

- 6.2.2 The earliest feature observed in Trench 2 was a small linear patch of masonry [207] running parallel to the eastern side of the trench, at a height of 53.71m OD and measuring 0.80m long with a width of 0.10m. The masonry feature [207] appeared to be composed of a friable, yellowish grey, sandy mortar, containing CBM flecks and small stoney inclusions, bonded onto building stone of uncertain size. Due to the limited area uncovered, it was not possible to define the character or nature of masonry feature [207].
- 6.2.3 Overlying masonry [207] was a 0.30m+ thick made ground deposit consisting of firm, dark brownish grey, silty clay, with of CBM and mortar inclusions (206). Truncating made ground (206) was pipe trench [205] forming a T-shape in plan, mirroring the north-south/east-west alignment of the lead water pipe at the base of the cut. The pipe trench [205] generally had a V-shaped profile, and measured up to 0.3m in width. The junction of the lead water pipe was observed at the base of Trench 2 at a height of 53.65m OD. The backfill (204) of the pipe trench [205] was very similar in character to made ground (206), implying that the material excavated to create pipe trench [205] was used to backfill the trench once the lead pipe was laid. Finds retrieved from (204) included brick of 19th/20th century date and two sherds of blue and white transfer print ware dating to the late 19th/early 20th century.
- 6.2.4 Sealing pipe trench [205] was a 0.30m thick layer of firm, yellowish brown, clay (203), containing fragments of CBM. It is likely context (203) was purposely laid to level off the ground surface. A further deposit of dark grey, silty clay made ground (202), containing CBM fragments and measuring up to 0.10m thick, was present above layer (203). Above this was made ground (202) followed by (201) topsoil and turf no more than 0.10m thick.

7. **Finds**

- 7.1 A limited selection of finds was recovered during the course of the excavations, consisting of pottery and glass fragments, metal objects, and Ceramic Building Material (CBM) (Appendix B). Most of the finds date to the 19th or 20th century. The assemblage as a whole, though useful in spot dating the two contexts they originate from, is limited in its potential for further research. Other than xradiography and stabilisation of the ironwork there is no further work required for the other materials.
- 7.2 The finds corroborate the known history of the Rose Garden at Eltham Palace, laid out in the 1930s within the filled 14th century moat

8. **Conclusions**

- 8.1 What was thought to be natural deposits were only identified in Trench 1 at a height of 53.44m AOD. Natural deposits were not observed in Trench 2.
- 8.2 The main purpose for excavating the two trenches was to locate the position of the pipe and the leak deriving from it. A lead pipe was located in both Trench 1 and Trench 2, in addition to the location of an earlier ceramic drainage pipe located approximately 0.50m deeper than the lead pipe in Trench 1. No leak from either the lead pipe or ceramic drainage pipe was identified.
- 8.3 A simple sequence of deposits was identified during the excavation to find the two pipes. The earliest deposit record (106), observed in Trench 1 and believed to be the natural London Clay, appeared to have been truncated by cut [107] for the purposes of laying the ceramic drainage pipe. Sealing the backfill of the ceramic drainage pipe was a substantial layer of made ground, identified as (104) in Trench 1 and thought to be the same as layer (206) in Trench 2. Pottery recovered from layer (104) indicates it to have been deposited in the 19th century. The trench for the lead pipe uncovered [103] and [205], was observed truncating made ground in both trenches. The sequence of deposits in Trench 2 demonstrates that further layers of made ground (203) and (202) were deposited in the vicinity of Trench 2, most probably for the purpose of raising and levelling off the ground level at that time. Ultimately, topsoil and turf were (101) and (201) were laid in this area of the Rose Garden to complete the appearance of the garden that is appreciate currently.

9. **Bibliography**

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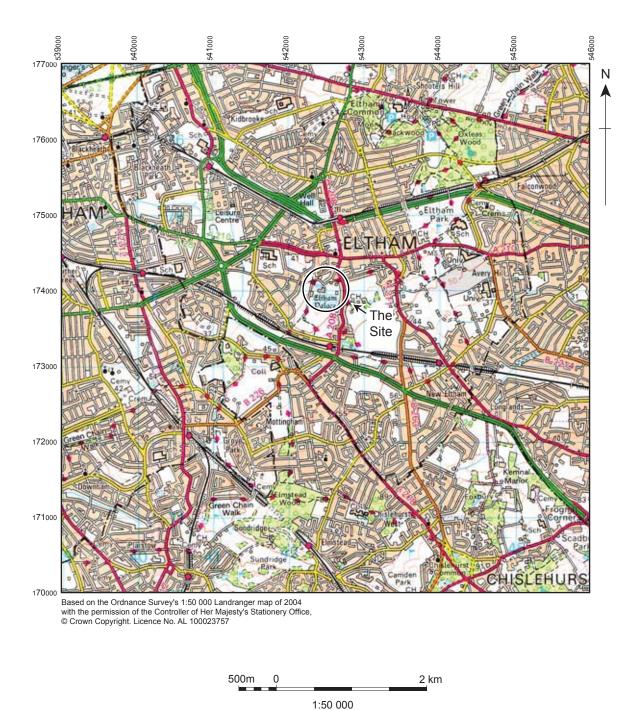


Figure 1: Site Location





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THE ROSE GARDENS, ELTHAM PALACE, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

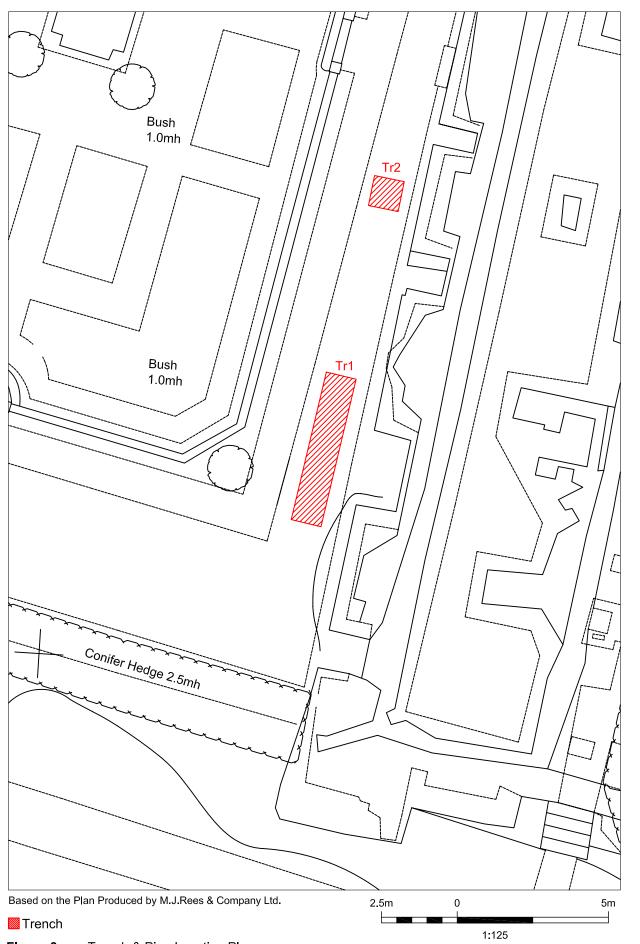
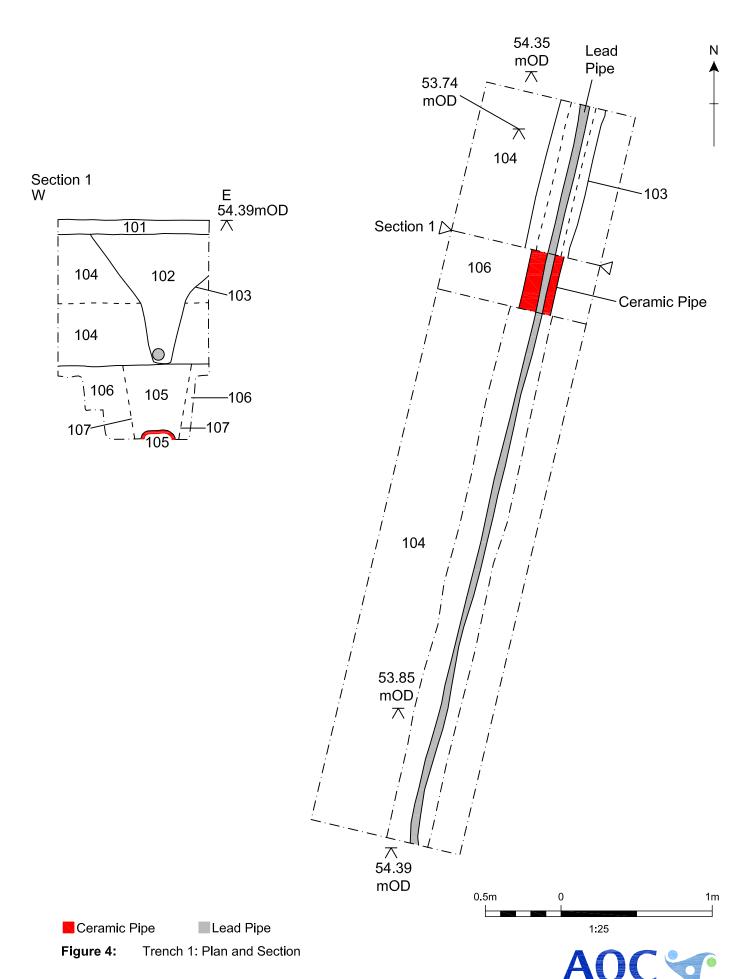


Figure 3: Trench & Pipe Location Plan



Archaeology Group

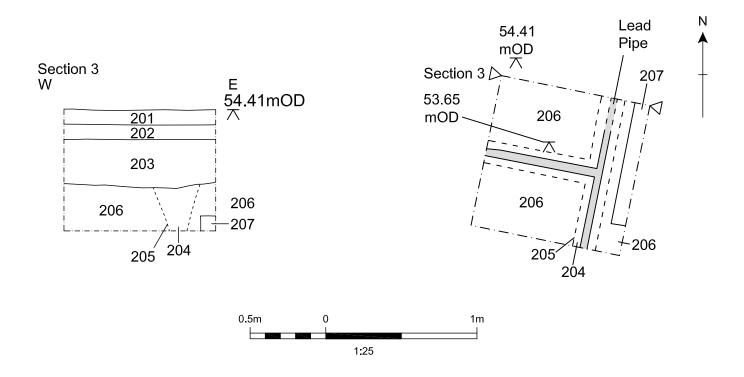


Figure 5: Trench 2: Plan and Section

Ceramic Pipe

Lead Pipe



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

				AUC T
Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depthaeology
101	Turf and topsoil - loamy soil	5m	1m	0.1m Group

102	Redeposited made ground with lead pipe	5m	0.04m	<0.8m
103	V-shaped lead pipe cut	5m	0.04m	<0.8m
104	Made ground	5m	0.04m	0.85m
105	Ceramic pipe	5m	0.4m	1.45m
106	Natural - London clay	5m	>0.4m	>0.5m
107	Cut for ceramic pipe	-	-	-
201	Turf and topsoil - silty clay	1m	1m	0.1m
202	Made ground	1m	1m	<0.1m
203	Redeposited natural?	1m	1m	0.3m
204	Fill of 19th C pipe trench	1m	0.3m	0.3m
205	Cut of 19th C pipe trench	1m	0.3m	0.3m
206	Made ground	1m	1m	0.3m
207	Masonry?	0.8m	0.1m	>0.12m

Appendix B – Finds Report

Introduction

Finds were recovered from two contexts during the excavation of two trenches excavated to locate a leaking water pipe in the Rose Garden area of the grounds of Eltham Palace and are discussed below. The contexts are from the fills of pipe trenches (102) and (204).

Ceramic Building Materials

The assemblage consists of five bricks, three fragments of roof (peg) tile and a land-drain piece from context (102), and one brick from context (204). These are recorded in table form below.

Context	Form	Width	Length	Depth	Weight (g)	Comment	Date
	Brick	1	/	65mm	324	Yellow brick-with frog	1800-1930
Brick		110mm	/	1	752	Red, unfrogged	1800-1930
	Brick	115mm	/	70mm	1,515	Hand-made	1800-1930
102	Brick	110mm	/	60mm	905	Unfrogged, overfired	1800-1930
Brick	Brick	105mm	/	55mm	1,450	Red, unfrogged	1550-1700
	Peg-tile	/	/	12-	415	Three pieces of plain red	1550-1900
				15mm	413	tile	
	Pipe	50mm	1	50mm	594	Land-drain segment	1800-1900
204	Brick	105mm	300mm	65mm	2,453	Shallow frog	1800-1900

Most of the bricks from context (102) are of 19th and 20th century date. The thinnest of the brick pieces, at 55mm, is a pale red colour, and may be of 16th century date. However, without the full dimensions, this is uncertain. The other bricks prove a more recent date for the entire context.

The brick from (204) is a large brick, the dimensions and the shallow frog suggest a post 1800 date.

The Pottery

Pottery was collected from two contexts; (102) and (204). The pottery from (102) consisted of 11 sherds of blue and white transfer printed wares, one sherd of green and white transfer printed ware, one sherd of pearlware, one sherd of English stoneware, one piece of 'china', one terracotta flowerpot sherd and a postmedieval redware sherd from a large storage vessel. This assemblage suggests a late 19th century or early 20th century date for this context, which is the fill of the trench for a land-drain.

Pottery from context (204) consisted of two sherds from the same blue/white transfer printed (European floral pattern) ware bowl, with a floral pattern, which date to the late 19th or early 20th century.

Animal Bone

Two fragments of animal bone were retained from context (102). This includes a cow-sized rib shaft with evidence of butchery in the form of saw marks and sheep/goat rib shaft.

Glass

One clear bottle piece and one clear, rib-frosted window glass piece were collected from context (102).

Ironwork

Two pieces of iron were retrieved from context (102). One appears to be a fixing bracket (moderately oxidised), 105mm in length with a slight curving at one end. It is 3mm thick. The other piece is a heavily concreted 1-2mm thick fragment broken off a larger object. It is heavily oxidised in places which may suggest rivets or fixing tacks.

Discussion

The assemblage as a whole, though useful in spot dating the two contexts, is limited in its potential for further research. The two iron objects should be x-rayed and stabilisation as part of long term archival curation. Other than the ironwork no further work required for the other materials.

Context (102) if dated by the pottery, specifically the green-mulberry/white transfer printed sherd, appears to be no earlier than 1825, but is likely to date to later in the 19th century, or possibly the early 20th century. Some of the items in the assemblage may be earlier, though all are of post-medieval date. Context (204) as dated by the pottery is no earlier than 1780.

Appendix C – OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

<u>List of Projects</u> | <u>Search Projects</u> | <u>New project</u> | <u>Change your details</u> | <u>HER coverage</u> | <u>Change country</u> | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-58133

Project details

Project name The Rose Garden, Eltham Palace, London Borough of Greenwich

of the project

Short description An archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of the Rose Gardens, Eltham Palace, London Borough of Greenwich (NGR TQ 4243 7400). The excavation in the Rose Garden was commissioned in order to locate and repair a leaking water pipe within a Scheduled Area. Excavation of a single 3m by 1m trench which was extended to 5m by 1m. Further survey results identified a new target for excavation to the north of the first trench. In this location a 1m by 1m test pit was excavated.

Project dates Start: 16-03-2009 End: 23-03-2009

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated 30399 - Contracting Unit No.

project reference

codes

Any associated EPL09 - Sitecode

project reference

codes

Field evaluation Type of project

Site status Scheduled Monument (SM)

Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument Current Land use

CERAMIC DRAINAGE PIPE Post Medieval Monument type

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Development type Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration

Prompt Scheduled Monument Consent

Position in the Not known / Not recorded

planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON GREENWICH ELTHAM The Rose Garden, Eltham Palace

Postcode SE9

Study area 4.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 4232 7397 51.4463002692 0.048233429710 51 26 46 N 000 02 53 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 52.94m Max: 53.44m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology Group

Organisation

Project brief English Heritage

originator

Project design AOC Archaeology Group

originator

Project Andy Leonard

director/manager

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Туре of English Heritage

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive Museum of London

recipient

Physical Archive EPL09

ID

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Glass', 'Metal'

Digital Archive Museum of London

recipient

Digital Archive ID EPL09

Digital Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'

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

available

Paper Archive Museum of London

recipient

Paper Archive ID EPL09

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media 'Context

available sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey

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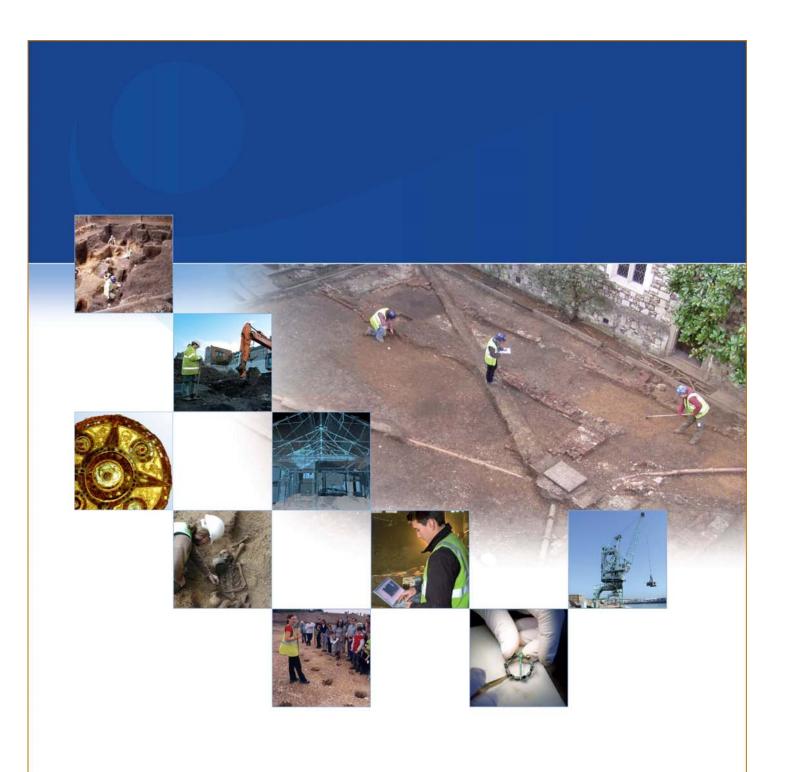
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