25-31 Carrs Lane, Birmingham

A Desk Based Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation Report

Planning Application Number: Pre-Planning

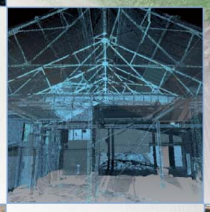
National Grid Reference Number: SP 0731 8688

AOC Project No: 30531

Site Code: CRL 09

Date: October 2009






AOC Archaeology Group

ARCHAEOLOGY | HERITAGE | CONSERVATION

25-31 Carrs Lane, Birmingham

A Desk Based Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	**Drivers Jonas LLP** Cornwall Court 19 Cornwall Street Birmingham B3 2DY
National Grid Reference (NGR):	**SP 0731 8688**
AOC Project No:	**30531**
Prepared by:	**Paul Harris**
Illustration by:	**Jonathan Moller**
Date of WSI:	**October 2009**

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

Author: Paul Harris	**Date: October 2009**
Approved by: Melissa Melikian	**Date: October 2009**
Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft	**Date: October 2009**

AOC Archaeology Group

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Non-Technical Summary

In October 2009 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Drivers Jonas LLP at 25 – 31 Carrs Lane, Birmingham (NGR SP 0731 8688). Prior to the submission of a planning application, a programme of evaluation trenching and a simultaneous desk-based assessment was decided upon to inform on the archaeological potential of the site. The results of the desk based assessment and archaeological evaluation are merged within this document to form a rounded investigation of the sites archaeological potential.

The desk based assessment revealed….

The evaluation comprised two machine-excavated trenches. the remains of at least one building with adjacent backfilled basements was revealed Natural clays were observed within the northernmost trench at a height between 123.84m OD and 125.40m OD. The natural deposits were overlain by thick layers of homogenus sandy clay that contained peg tile and two horn cores. Within the southernmost trench deep truncation filled with demolition rubble made it impractical to reach the natural sediments.

4.1

5. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

5.1 Desk Based Assessment

5.2 Evaluation

5.1 The aims of the archaeological 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 Mike Hodder to make an informed decision on appropriate conditions of planning permission and requirements for further work to satisfy those conditions.
- 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 evaluation were:

- To assess the site's ability to inform on the development of Birmingham.
- To determine the presence of medieval and post-medieval domestic and industrial remains.
- To assess the extent of 19th century truncation of the site.

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

6 STRATEGY

6.1 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London's Archaeological Site Manual (MoL 1994).

6.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- Council for British Archaeology – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1987).
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines) (EH 1992).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998a).
- 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 Field Evaluations (IFA 2008).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 2008).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).

6.3 Project Supervisors, Paul Harris and Ian Hogg conducted the evaluation under the overall management of Catherine Edwards and Melissa Melikian for AOC Archaeology. The work was monitored by Mike Hodder on behalf of Birmingham City Council.

7 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

7.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches (Figure …). Trench 1 was located within the north and west of the site, measuring 20.00m north to south and 1.80m east to west. Trench 2 was located within the south of the site, extending 13.00m on a northwest-southeast alignment, also measuring 1.80m in width.

7.2 The entire site was CAT scanned and visually inspected before the commencement of any machine excavation, revealing extensive services throughout the south of the site. Services were avoided within the centre and at the southeast end of Trench 2, shortening the total excavated length of the trench to 10.50m.

7.3 All machining was undertaken using a JCB 3CX excavator under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisors. A mechanical breaker was initially used to fracture the concrete surface found across the north of the site. Once the concrete surface was broken, a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the trenches. Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed in successive level spits down to the natural geology where safe and practical.

7.4 Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of their spatial distribution.

7.5 White, concreted asbestos fragments were observed within the infill of a basement in the south of Trench 1. Once Identified excavation of the basement ceased and the fragments were covered.

7.6 The depth of made ground deposits and truncations meant that many of the deposits revealed in Trench 1 were examined and recorded during the machine stripping or recorded from the top of the trench. This incorporated the cleaning of trench faces using appropriate hand tools and hand cleaning, inspection, and recording both in plan and section of all archaeological deposits.

7.7 Within Trench 2 extensive and unstable demolition material meant that all recording was undertaken from the surface of the trench.

7.8 The trenches were accurately located to the National Grid.

7 RESULTS

8.1 Trench 1

Context Number	Surface level (m OD)	Depth	Extent	Description

(101)	125.76m	0.04m	20.00m x 1.80m	Black tarmac surface.
(102)	125.71m	0.05m	20.00m x 1.80m	Concrete surface foundation.
(103)	125.41m	0.30m	20.00m x 1.80m	Mixed crushed tarmac, gravel and crushed brick levelling layer.
(104)	124.64m	0.40m	3.50m x 1.80m	Dark greyish black charcoal rich, silty clay layer, with brick, tile and coal inclusions.
(105)	124.24m	1.30m	11.5m x 1.80m	Homogenous mid-dark grey sandy clay layer, with frequent charcoal and tile inclusions and occasional brick and horn inclusions.
(106)	123.72m	0.10m+	20.00m x 1.80m	Mid – light brownish yellow clay, with frequent rounded pebble inclusions. Natural mudstone.
[107]	125.41m	2.00m+	1.50m x 1.70m+	Irregular shaped pit.
(108)	125.41m	2.00m+	1.50m x 1.70m+	Red brick and building rubble within a silty clay matrix. Fill of pit [107].
[109]	125.54m	1.80m	0.10m+ x 0.36m	Red brick wall bonded in a sandy cement mortar.
[110]	125.22m	0.70m	1.46m x 0.22m	Red brick wall bonded in a pink sandy cement mortar.
[111]	125.46m	-	0.57m x 0.21m	Red brick wall bonded to [110].
[112]	125.16m	0.60m	3.00m x 1.00m	Red brick wall in a loose yellow sandy mortar.
[113]	125.41m	2.00m	3.00m x 0.10m	Red brick basement wall in a white lime mortar.
(114)	125.41m	2.00m	3.00m x 1.80m	Brick, tile and rubble basement infill.
[115]	123.41m	0.07m	3.00m x 1.80m	Red brick basement floor.
[116]	125.07m	1.00m	1.80m+ x 0.50m	L shaped red brick wall bonded in a pink sandy cement mortar.
[117]	125.01m	2.00m+	1.80m+ x 0.08m	White glazed brick internal basement lining.

[118]	125.01m	2.00m+	0.43m x 0.34m	White glazed brick pillar in backfilled basement.
(119)	125.01m	2.00m+	5.00m+ x 1.80m+	Brick and concrete rubble infill of basement.

8.1.1 Trench 1 (Figures …) was located in the northwest of the site, aligned north-south and measured 20.00m x 1.80m. Natural clays (106) sloped from the south to the north, at a height of 123.72m AOD in the north and 125.40m AOD in the centre of the trench. Natural deposits were not reached within the south of the trench where asbestos was found.

8.1.2 A significant layer of homogenous mid-dark grey sandy clay (105), with frequent charcoal and tile, and occasional brick and horn inclusions overlaid the natural clay deposits (106) throughout the centre and north of Trench 1. Two horn cores and … sherds of tile were recovered from the deposit, which measured up to 1.30m thick. Within the north of the site a dark greyish black charcoal rich, silty clay layer (104), with brick, tile and coal inclusions overlaid deposit (105).

8.1.3 Within the north of the trench, a brick built basement was revealed, formed from a north-south orientated brick wall [113] within the eastern face of the trench and associated brick floor [115]. Brick wall [113] extended 3.00m south of the trenches northern extent, curving from a north-south orientation to a northwest-southeast alignment. It was composed of soft fired red bricks (230x110x 80mm) bonded within stretcher coursing by a white lime mortar. To the west of [113] floor [115] was formed from similar soft fired red bricks (230x110x80mm) set upon natural clays (106) in stretcher coursing. It extended 3.00m north to south and over 1.80m west of [113]. The basement was filled with a deposit of brick and tile within a mid greyish brown silt matrix (114).

8.1.4 To the south of basement [113] brick wall [112] stretched 3.00m north to south within the western face of the trench. It was formed from hard-fired red bricks (220 x 100 x 70mm) loosely held within a stretcher bond by sandy yellow mortar. The wall sat upon industrial deposit (104), bonded to east-west orientated wall [110] to the south. Wall [110] was formed from hard-fired red bricks (220 x 100 x 70mm) bonded in a stretcher coursing by pink sandy cement mortar. The wall extended across the trench two courses wide.

8.1.5 Wall [111] was found overlying layer (104), bonded to the south of [110] within the western section of the trench. It extended 0.57m to the south of [110] on a north-south orientation, formed from soft fired red bricks (230 x 110 x 80mm) held in stretcher coursing by a brown sandy cement mortar.

8.1.6 To the south of [111], within the centre of the trench, a large, irregularly shaped pit [107] was revealed extending into the eastern wall of the excavation. The feature had steep sloping, rounded sides and a rounded base. It contained a single fill of modern brick and rubble within a mid greyish brown silty clay matrix (108). The pit truncated layer (105) and a brick wall [109] within the western face of the trench. Brick wall [109] was formed from hard fired red bricks (230x110x70mm) held in stretcher coursing by a yellow sandy cement mortar.

8.1.7 Within the south of the trench an L shaped section of wall [116] was found stretching across the trench east to the west and extending 0.55m to the north in the western face of the trench. It was built from hand made red bricks (220 x 110 x 60mm) bonded in a stretcher bond by pinkish white

sandy cement mortar. Brick and mortar samples obtained during the evaluation have been analysed and suggest a 18th to 19th century date (Appendix …).

8.1.8 The southern face of brick wall [116] was lined with a 20th century skin of white glazed, frogged, red bricks (220 x 110 x 80mm). A stamp of "*RUFFORD*" and "*STOURBRIDGE*" were found on the internal surface of the bricks, which dates it to after 1851, but most probably to the early 20th century (Cockeram, 1988). The bricks were bonded in stretcher coursing by a grey cement mortar, forming the internal wall to a basement. To the south, an internal basement pillar constructed from white glazed bricks [118] was revealed within the western wall of the trench. The pillar was formed from the *Rufford* bricks used in [117], with white glazed, rounded corner bricks (230 x 110 x 80mm) used to make the corners of the pillar rounded and smooth. The bricks were stamped *"GIBBS & CANNING LIMITED TAMWORTH"*. The basement formed from wall [117] and pillar [118] was backfilled with demolition material composed of brick and concrete rubble (119). Within this deposit asbestos was identified. Accordingly, excavation of the material ceased and any asbestos fragments were backfilled and covered. It is possible that the deep deposits of demolition material are the same as those within Trench 2 to the south, suggesting that from the south of wall [117] the site was completely truncated.

8.2 Trench 2

Context Number	Surface level (m OD)	Depth	Extent	Description
(201)	125.74m	0.08m	10.50m x 1.80m	Grey, loosely bound, asphalt surface.
(202)	125.66m	0.30m	10.50m x 1.80m	Mid – light pinkish red gravel, brick dust and crushed brick levelling deposit.
(203)	125.36m	2.50m+	10.50m x 1.80m	Brick demolition layer, comprising red engineering bricks, frogged red bricks and burnt black bricks, with occasional plastic cable and metal inclusions.

8.2.1 Trench 2 (Figure …) was located in the south of the site; it was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 13.00m x 1.80m, although the avoidance of services within its length reduced the total excavated length to 10.50m. The natural clays revealed in Trench 1 were not reached within Trench 2 due to the excessive depth and unstable nature of the demolition deposits encountered at the base of the trench. The basal demolition layer comprised over 2.50m of loose brick and brick rubble (203), composed of frogged red bricks, red engineering bricks and burnt black bricks. This was overlain by a 0.30m thick, pinkish red, gravel and crushed brick levelling layer (202), which was overlain by 0.08m of grey, loosely bound asphalt (201), representing the former car park surface. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

8 FINDS

9.1 Finds recovered from the site comprised two bovine horn cores and seven sherds of peg tile from layer (105). The presence of horn cores may suggest that tanning was taking place within the vicinity of the site during the medieval or post-medieval periods, although secure dating evidence is needed to specifically date this activity. The tile sherds were incomplete and are not datable.

9.2 A sample of three bricks was recovered from wall [116]. Analysis of the sample (Appendix …) shows that the bricks are hand made and date to the 18th – 19th century.

9.3 Environmental bulk samples of 40 and 20 litres were taken from layers (104) and (105). The samples will be processed and analysed for the presence of environmental material and industrial residues during the next stage of archaeological work on the site.

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The archaeological evaluation met its primary aim; to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Within the south of the site heavy truncation containing brick demolition material extended beyond a depth of 2.50m. In the south of Trench 1 the northern end of a basement was revealed that was infilled with similar brick demolition material, suggesting that the truncation was formed from a demolished basement of a structure that previously occupied the site.

10.2 Within the north of the site, beyond the truncated basement, a significantly deep, homogenous soil horizon was revealed that contained post-medieval tile and horn cores, which may be indicative of a tanning industry within the area. Above this was a shallower coal rich deposit also suggests post-medieval industrial activity. Secure dating evidence was not recovered from the deposits, but the tile suggests….

10.3 The post-medieval deposits were overlain by the foundations of a … century structure comprised of at least two rooms and a basement to the north, which was found in-filled with brick and tile. From documentary sources….

10.4 It is AOC's recommendation in accordance with Mike Hodder's suggestions that further work is required within the north of the site in the form of an open area excavation. However, the exact requirements and the scope of further work will be decided by Mike Hodder.

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context Register						
Context No.	**Context Description**	**Length**	**Width**	**Depth**	**Plan No.**	**Section No.**
(101)	Black tarmac surface.	20.00m	1.80m	0.04m	1	1
(102)	Concrete surface foundation.	20.00m	1.80m	0.05m	1	1
(103)	Mixed crushed tarmac, gravel and crushed brick levelling layer.	20.00m	1.80m	0.30m	1	1
(104)	Dark greyish black charcoal rich, silty clay layer, with brick, tile and coal inclusions.	3.50m	1.80m	0.40m	1	1
(105)	Homogenous mid-dark grey sandy clay layer, with frequent charcoal and tile inclusions and occasional brick and horn inclusions.	11.5m	1.80m	1.30m	1	1
(106)	Mid – light brownish yellow clay, with frequent rounded pebble inclusions. Natural mudstone.	20.00m	1.80m	0.10m+	1	1
[107]	Irregular shaped pit.	1.50m	1.70m+	2.00m+	1	1
(108)	Red brick and building rubble within a silty clay matrix. Fill of pit [107].	1.50m	1.70m+	2.00m+	1	1
[109]	Red brick wall bonded in a sandy cement mortar.	0.10m+	0.36m	1.80m	1	1
[110]	Red brick wall bonded in a pink sandy cement mortar.	1.46m	0.22m	0.70m	1	1
[111]	Red brick wall bonded to [110].	0.57m	0.21m	-	1	1
[112]	Red brick wall in a loose yellow sandy mortar.	3.00m	1.00m	0.60m	1	1
[113]	Red brick basement wall in a white lime mortar.	3.00m	0.10m	2.00m	1	1
(114)	Brick, tile and rubble basement infill.	3.00m	1.80m	2.00m	1	1
[115]	Red brick basement floor.	3.00m	1.80m	0.07m	1	1
[116]	L shaped red brick wall bonded in a pink sandy cement mortar.	1.80m+	0.50m	1.00m	1	1
[117]	White glazed brick internal basement lining.	1.80m+	0.08m	2.00m+	2	2
[118]	White glazed brick pillar in backfilled basement.	0.43m	0.34m	2.00m+	2	2
(119)	Brick and concrete rubble infill of basement.	5.00m+	1.80m	2.00m+	2	2
(201)	Grey, loosely bound, asphalt surface.	10.50m	1.80m	0.08m	2	2

(202)	Mid – light pinkish red gravel, brick dust and crushed brick levelling deposit.	10.50m	1.80m	0.30m	2	2
(203)	Brick demolition layer, comprising red engineering bricks, frogged red bricks and burnt black bricks, with occasional plastic cable and metal inclusions.	10.50m	1.80m	2.50m+	2	2

Appendix B – Finds Assessment

An assessment of the finds from an archaeological evaluation at Carrs Lane, Birmingham

Paul Fitz
AOC Archaeology (South)

October 2009

Building Material

Ceramic building material (CBM) was retrieved from two contexts . one as bulk finds (105) and another as a brick sample from wall [116].

Seven fragments of peg tile were recovered from deposit (105). The only complete dimensions being the thickness' which ranged from 11mm to 14mm.

Three bricks were collected from a wall structure [116]

	Width(mm)	Depth(mm)	Length(mm)
brick	110	68	incomplete
brick	105	60	220
brick	105	68	230

All are relatively smooth hand-made, unfrogged orange - red bricks, dating from the 18th-19th century. All three have traces of soft pink bonding mortar and two show signs of light burning.

Animal Remains

Two horn cores, 1 of which is very large, and a small piece of rib, presumably from cattle were retrieved from context (105).

Discussion and recommendations

This small assemblage of finds offers no firm dating evidence and only hints at some small scale industrial activity on or near site by dint of the two horn cores.
The bricks are almost certainly of the 18th or 19th century.

It is recommended that the animal bone is recorded and packed to the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery archiving guidelines. Dependant on further work the brick and tile can be retained until time of archive deposition, when discarding can be agreed with the museum

Appendix C - OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-65379

Project details

Project name	25-31 Carrs lane, Birmingham
Short description of the project	A two trench archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 25 - 31 Carrs Lane, Birmingham. The south of the site was found to be heavily truncated by a demolished basement, but within the north of the site at least one 18th - 19th century building with adjacent backfilled basements was revealed above thick layers of homogenus made ground that contained peg tile and horn cores.
Project dates	Start: 22-10-2009 End: 26-10-2009
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	30531 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CRL09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
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	WEST MIDLANDS BIRMINGHAM BIRMINGHAM 25-31 Carrs Lane, Birmingham
Postcode	B4 7SY
Study area	0.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 0731 8688 52.4794274658 -1.892354690720 52 28 45 N 001 53 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 123.72m Max: 125.40m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Paul Harris
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of	Drivers Jonas LLP

sponsor/funding body	

Project archives

Physical recipient	Archive	Birmingham City Museum
Physical Contents		'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital recipient	Archive	Birmingham City Museum
Digital available	Media	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper recipient	Archive	Birmingham City Museum
Paper available	Media	'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	25-31 Carrs Lane, Birmingham; A Desk Based Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.
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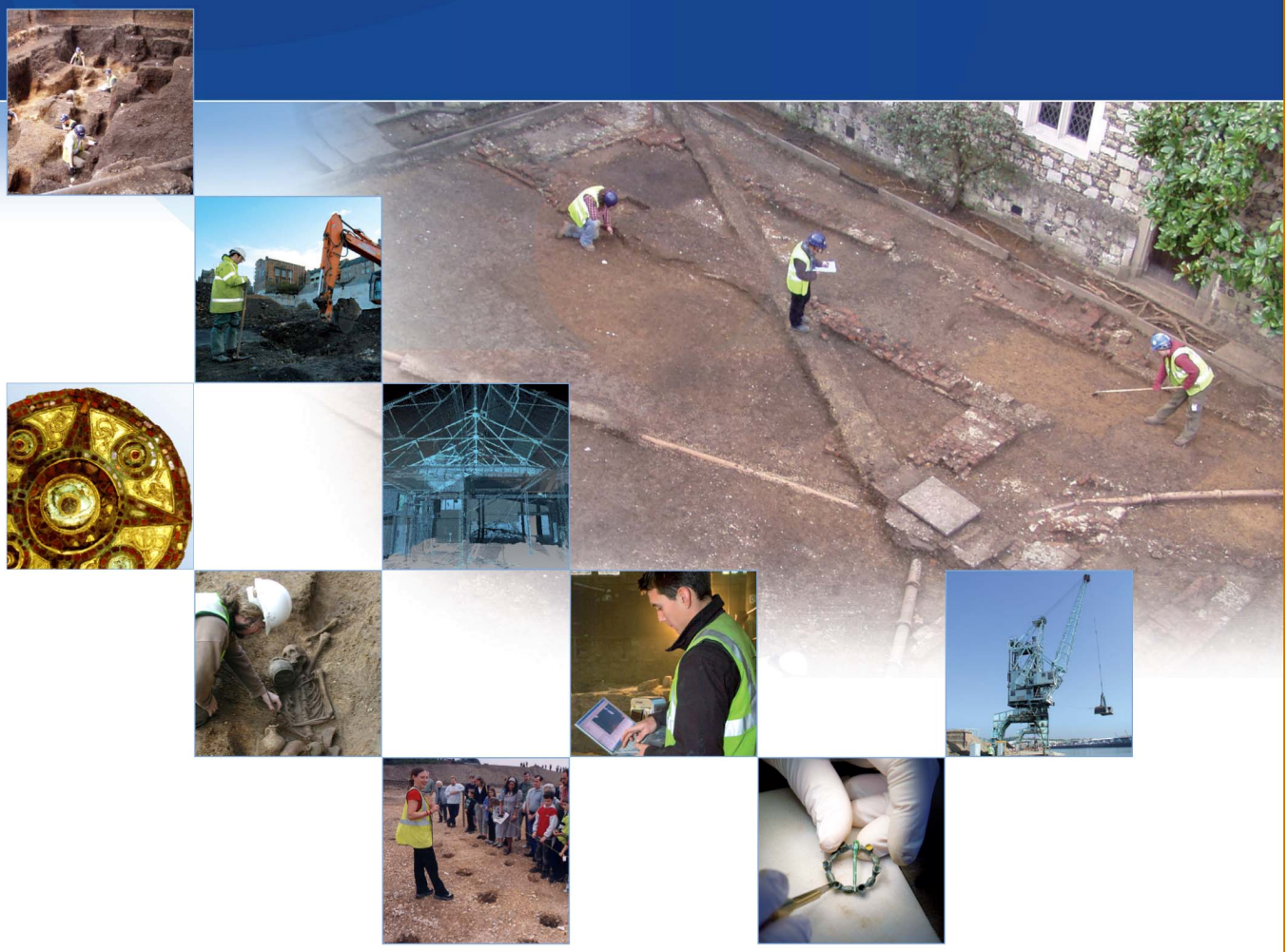

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