

8 Herbal Hill, Farringdon, London Borough of Islington: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

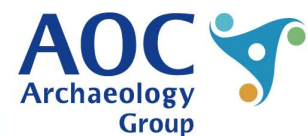
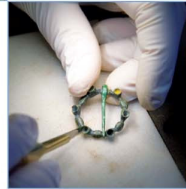
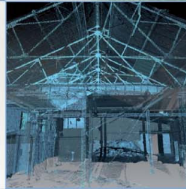
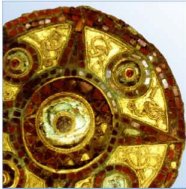
Planning Reference: P 071047

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 3129 8213

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ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

8 Herbal Hill, Farringdon, London Borough of Islington: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Commissioned by:	RPS 1 st Floor West Cottons Centre Cottons Lane London SE1 2QG
On Behalf of:	Ely Property
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 3129 8213
AOC Project No:	30799
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Non-Technical Summary

Between the 17th September and 6th October 2010 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief at 8 Herbal Hill, Farringdon, London Borough of Islington. The watching brief was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Ely Property. The work comprised the recording of four trenches dug in the basement of the property.

Analysis of the despoists and features observed during the course of the watching brief identified one main phase of archaeological activity present on site dating to the late 16th to 17th century. The deposits pre-dating this relate to the natural topography of the site.

The late 16th to 17th century was represented by two distinct archaeological formations on site. In the area of the main basement the archaeological sequence was formed of a systematic sequence of made ground which significantly raised the immediate ground level of the area during this period. In the area of the lower basement there was a northwest-southeast orientated boundary ditch which was backfilled during the first half of the 17th century. Both areas had been horizontally truncated during the construction of the currently existing 19th century building.

The evidence recorded during the watching brief strongly supports the indication that the area of the site was being heavily modified and re-landscaped during the late 16th to 17th century, most likely this was associated with land reclamation adjacent to the River Fleet.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The site is located in central London, in the area of Farringdon immediately to the west of Farringdon Road (A201), and located approximately 1.2km north of the River Thames at National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3129 8213. The site is bound by Herbal Hill to the east, and a mix of residential and commercial properties to all other sides. The site is roughly rectangular in shape and covers an area of approximately 750m² (Figures 2 & 3).
- 1.2 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in association with re-development works at 8 Herbal Hill. During the course of the watching brief, the excavation of four trenches were observed and recorded.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Islington. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeological Advisor Service (GLAAS).
- 2.2 Planning consent for redevelopment of the site has been granted (December 2007) by the London Borough of Islington (Ref P 071047). Condition 6 of that consent states:

“No development shall take place until the applicant, or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Once approved the development shall only take place in accordance with this programme. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority”

Reason: Important archaeological remains may exist on this site. Accordingly the planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to the development and to accord with policies D43 and D47 of the Islington Unitary Plan (2002), policy 4B.14 of the London Plan (2004) and PPG 15 (sic)

- 2.3 The development proposes the re-development of the building for conversion into university residential accommodation, which will involve remodelling of the interior and strengthening of the existing structure to allow the construction of additional storeys.
- 2.4 The site is located within a conservation area but does not contain any known Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings.
- 2.5 A desk-based assessment was prepared for the site by LPA Archaeology (2007) as part of the initial phase of the project.
- 2.6 In accordance with the planning consent, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared as a method statement for the archaeological investigation (RPS 2010). This WSI was approved by Kim Stabler of GLAAS.

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 British Geological Survey map data (2006) indicates that the site is located on Hackney Terrace Gravels overlain by alluvial deposits from the River Fleet. Exposed London Clay deposits are located close by.
- 3.2 The River Fleet, which rises in Hampstead and Kenwood ponds and has now been channelled underground, flows to the east of the site, and roughly follows the line of Farringdon Road. The site lies in an area of rising ground to the north of the River Thames. A shallow gradient is present which travels from south to north following the line of the Fleet river valley (LP Archaeology 2007).
- 3.3 The road level immediately adjacent to the site lies at an approximate height of 14m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 3.4 Geotechnical Site Investigation works at 3-7 Herbal Hill suggested that the site was located above a substantial alluvial channel, which is likely to be the River Fleet (AOC Archaeology 2001). Three boreholes were undertaken as part of the SI works at 3/7 Herbal Hill. They revealed the following:
 - Bore hole 1 showed a gravely silt horizon 0.7m beneath the basement slab, (over 3m beneath the modern ground surface), which was sealed by 0.7m of made ground. The gravely silt overlay the London Clay.
 - Borehole 2 showed that made ground occurred to a depth of 4.2m beneath modern ground level. Beneath this was a sequence of silts and gravels almost 4m deep, with oyster shells observed in the upper silt layer.
 - Borehole 3 showed that the made ground extended to a depth of 4.8m below modern ground level and directly overlay the London Clay.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The following background material has been summarised from the desk-based assessment undertaken of the site by LP Archaeology (2007).

Prehistoric

- 4.2 There is very little evidence for Prehistoric activity within Islington, although the scant evidence that does exist comes primarily from the southern part of the borough in close proximity to the site.
- 4.3 Two records of Palaeolithic findspots are present on the GLHER, which records the discovery of a Palaeolithic handaxe in the Clerkenwell area and an unstratified Palaeolithic flint flake found on Grays Inn Road.
- 4.4 The evidence for the Iron Age period is scarce. The only record which exists in the GLHER refers to the line of the Roman Road, which supposedly followed the line of Clerkenwell Road and is thought to have perhaps originated as an Iron Age trackway.

Roman

- 4.5 The study site lay in open land on the outskirts of the city of London during this period, it was not therefore subject to the same dense occupation of the main part of Londinium. A search on the GLHER only returned the results of a few finds which date to the Roman period, consisting of unstratified finds of a sherd of stamped samian, a coin of antoninianus of Carausius, and a follis of Constantine I discovered in the Farringdon Road area.

- 4.6 The line of the Roman road between Silchester and Colchester is thought to run through the immediate area. It seems likely that the Roman Road will have followed the line of Hatton Wall, along Clerkenwell Road as far as Old Street where the line of the road becomes more definite.

Early Medieval

- 4.7 There is little evidence to suggest that the area of Clerkenwell was settled during the early medieval period, although it is possible that some of the religious foundations in this area had their origins in the early medieval period.
- 4.8 A search of the GLHER revealed two records which date from this period, the first records the unstratified discovery of a saxon cane bead which was found to the north east of the study site. The second is a loose reference which refers to a well, which is 'said by Pink to have been located in Holborn or Clerkenwell, near to the Fleet River'. However the location of this well and its date and significance is not clear.

Medieval

- 4.9 Activity in the area of Clerkenwell began to increase to a great extent in the medieval period. The first major changes began in the area with the foundation of two important religious houses. A small hamlet grew up in the area serving these 12th century foundations.
- 4.10 The first of these was the foundation of the Priory of St Mary's in 1145 by Jordan de Bricet. The priory owned land all over England although this was concentrated in London in the 13th and 14th centuries. The nuns owned the site of the priory and an adjacent field in Holborn, they also received rents from other properties in Holborn. The priory survived dissolution until 1539.
- 4.11 The nuns' church, stood partly on the site of the later church of St. James, Clerkenwell. The cloister of the nunnery lay on its north side. The church and other buildings survived into the 18th century, although the original church was demolished in 1788 to make way for the present church of St. James. By 1815 a small piece of wall to the north of the church was all that was left of the Priory.
- 4.12 The site of the priory lies c180m to the north west of the study site, a series of GLHER entries record details of the Priory, these are primarily taken from the VCH records although some fieldwork has been carried out which also records evidence for the priory, one record discusses the results of a watching brief which was carried out just to the north of the study site. Medieval deposits were observed that probably represented the remains of an agricultural or horticultural soil, possibly from within the grounds of a medieval nunnery. No archaeological features were attributed to this period. Other records detail the discovery of part of the Clerkenwell Priory precinct wall that was found in 1924, this is located just 100m to the south east of the study site. Some reused stonework from the cloister building has also been identified in the structure of the current building at 48 Clerkenwell Close.
- 4.13 The second religious foundation in the area was the Priory of St John of Jerusalem which was founded in 1185 as the headquarters of the Knights Hospitallers. The main precinct of this priory lay to the south east of the study site with its western boundary lying along Turnmills Road around 100m from the study site, across the course of the Fleet River.
- 4.14 An important feature of the area in which the study site was located is the River Fleet. It is unclear exactly where the course of the river flowed although it appears to curve slightly to the east of the study site around what is now Herbal Hill (although it is possible that it did encroach on the study site) and then followed the line of the modern Farringdon Road. The earliest reference to the use of the river dates to the 12th century when it was used for bringing cargoes into London. The Knights Hospitallers had a wharf further to the south at Fleet Lane, which was also used by St Bartholomew's Hospital.

- 4.15 During the 13th and 14th centuries the river was used for transport but also for waste disposal acting as both a sewer and a rubbish dump. The banks of the river were in general used for industry by cutlers and tanners. A large number of wells were built along its banks. It is unclear from documentary evidence whether the river was navigable as far north as the study site.
- 4.16 An excavation for a sewer at Ray Street was carried out in 1885, this revealed a stone pavement at 13ft depth and wooden piles at 26ft and large hollow wooden pipes at 26ft; the ground in the area was also described as marshy. This site is located just to the north of the study site and it is although it is difficult to interpret the results it is possible this represented either a mill building or a wharf.
- 4.17 The Medieval period sees a great deal of activity within close proximity to the study site, with the two religious orders and the estate at Saffron Hill, however it would appear that the study site remained as open undeveloped land during this period.

Post-Medieval

- 4.18 With the dissolution of the monasteries, the nature of the area of Clerkenwell changed significantly as both St Mary's and St Johns Priory were dissolved and their precincts broken down and built over in various phases of development.
- 4.19 Early cartographic evidence of the area comes from the 1572 Braun and Hogenberg map; this map shows the area of the study site as open fields, contained within an arching road. The course of the River Fleet can be seen in close proximity to the study site, as can the Hatton estate to the south and the two religious precincts to the north east and south east of the site.
- 4.20 The next cartographic evidence dates to the 1658; the Faithorne and Newcourt map again shows the study site as open fields. It also shows that by this date the precincts of both St Mary's and St John's have completely changed and the area has undergone redevelopment, in particular with the construction of many buildings to the east of the study site.
- 4.21 Leake's map of 1666, which shows the areas of London affected by the great fire, just shows the study site which is unaffected by the fire, although it does appear to be more built up by this date. The Ogilby and Morgan map dating to 1676 also reinforces this showing a well developed area of streets.
- 4.22 Documentary sources describe how the fire spread across the River Fleet destroying the wharves and houses on either side. After the fire the river was widened and the lower stretches turned into a canal with wharves on either side. However it remained un-passable and in 1766 the river was channelled underground from at least as far as Fleet Bridge to the Thames.
- 4.23 Roque's 1746 map shows in detail the site area, with the upper part of Saffron Hill in what is now known as Herbal Hill and several small yards and alleys are shown in this area which is now clearly densely built up. The course of the River Fleet is seen clearly as still running through the area around of study site; it is, however, difficult to determine from this evidence whether the river actually crossed the study site itself but this is a possibility. It was perhaps little more than an open sewer at this time.
- 4.24 The area continued to develop throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, later maps from this period show the construction of St Peter's church to the north of the study site and a general increase in buildings in the area.
- 4.25 The Fleet ditch remained in this area as a 'filthy open sewer' until the 1840's when it was covered over in order that Farringdon Road and Holborn circus could be constructed. Much demolition of the slums of the area took place at this time and the area become dominated by warehouses and a commercial character.
- 4.26 The Metropolitan Railway was opened in 1863 and this lay parallel to Farringdon Road and followed the course of the Fleet River from Codpiece Row through the Saffron Hill area. It is likely that the

area of the study site was redeveloped, perhaps as warehousing during this period as it lies in immediate proximity to the River Fleet and the new railway and road.

- 4.27 The final major change to the area came with the construction of Clerkenwell Road in 1878, which cut directly to the south of the study site joining Theobalds Road with Old Street. This area quickly became dominated by warehousing.
- 4.28 An evaluation undertaken at 3-7 Herbal Hill, located immediately adjacent to the northwest of the site and carried out by AOC Archaeology, found substantial dump deposits dating to the 17th century. These deposits were associated with silts thought to be related to a channel of the River Fleet. This sequence of post-medieval deposits had been truncated by later 19th century construction (AOC 2001).

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The general aim of the investigations was to establish the character, date and function of any archaeological features and deposits.
- 5.2 The WSI identified the specific research aims as being:
- The presence of the River Fleet and associated channels/tributaries on the site.
 - Evidence of any settlement or other activities adjacent to the River Fleet and associated channels/tributaries.
 - Post-medieval reclamation and re-use of the land as the River Fleet may have silted/dried up.
- 5.3 These aims and objectives are consistent with English Heritage/MoL research frameworks for London archaeology (2002).

6 Methodology

- 6.1 The watching brief was carried out between 17th September and 6th October 2010 and was focussed on the monitoring of four small trenches dug in the basement and lower basement areas of the existing building on the site as part of the structural reinforcing works (Figures 3 & 4).
- 6.2 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 1994).
- 6.3 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to 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).

6.4 Archaeological recording 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, where obtainable.

6.5 A unique site code, **HBL10**, was obtained from the Museum of London prior to the commencement of fieldwork. This was used as the site identifier on all records.

6.6 During the course of the works all Ordnance Datum measurements were established based on the main contractor's survey data.

6.7 The watching brief was undertaken by Paul Owen, Stella Bickelman and the author, under the overall direction of Melissa Melikian; General Manager. The work was monitored by Simon Blatherwick for RPS, and by Kim Stabler on behalf of GLAAS.

7 Results

7.1 Trench 1

7.1.1 Surface of Trench = 7.80m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
7.80-7.60m	0.00m	(100)	Concrete Slab
7.60-7.10m	0.20-0.70m	(101)	Made ground: soft, black, silty sand, frequent inclusions.
7.60-7.00m	0.20-0.80m	(102)	Made ground: soft, mid grey, silty sand, frequent inclusions.
7.60-6.97m	0.20-0.83m	(103)	Made ground: soft, blackish brown, silty sand, frequent inclusions.
7.08-6.60m	0.72-1.20m	(104)	Made ground: soft, mid grey, silty clay, moderate inclusions.
7.08-6.50m	0.72-1.30m	(105)	Soil horizon: loose, dark yellowish brown, clayey gravel.
7.08-6.22m	0.72-1.58m (NFE)	(106)	Natural: compact, yellow, sandy gravel.

7.1.2 Trench 1 was located in the main basement of 8 Herbal Hill, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 4m by 2.6m in plan (Figure 3).

- 7.1.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a compact, yellow, sandy gravel (106), interpreted as the natural horizon (Figure 5, Section 1). At its highest it was recorded at 7.08m AOD and within the trench incorporated a gradient which gradually decreased to the northwest. This deposit was observed throughout the full area of the trench.
- 7.1.4 Overlying natural (106), and mirroring its gradient, was a loose, dark yellowish brown, clayey gravel soil horizon (105), which had a maximum thickness of 0.15m. Column sample <1> was taken through context (105), the analysis of which identified it to be a colluvial deposit. In turn, soil horizon (105) was overlain in the northwest half of the trench, by a more substantial deposit described as soft, mid grey, silty clay (104) which measured up to 0.50m thick. Deposit (104) contained a small assemblage of finds which included small fragments of animal bone, oyster shell, ceramic building material (CBM) and a single sherd of yellow glazed Border Ware dating to the late 16th or 17th century. The way in which the deposit was laid down decreased the gradient associated with layers (106) and (105) until the immediate horizon was equal to the localised maximum height of the natural (106).
- 7.1.5 This levelled horizon was subsequently sealed by a substantial deposit of soft, blackish brown, silty sand made ground (103), occupying the full area of the trench, and demonstrated a noticeable tip line to the northwest side of the trench. The deposit measured 0.60m thick. Recovered from deposit (103) was a large quantity finds, primarily in the form of animal bone and CBM. Several sherds of late 16th or 17th century pottery were also collected, represented by two fragments of Midlands Purple ware and a single sherd of London-area post-medieval redware. The tip line established by deposit (103) was replicated by a soft, mid grey, silt clay made ground deposit (102) up to 0.30m thick. Deposit (102) also contained a similar range of finds as made ground (103), which included a fragment of vitified, over-fired unfrosted brick. A further soft, black, silty sand made ground deposit (101) overlay made ground (102) following the same tip line, reaching a thickness in excess of 0.50m. Once again, the same quantity and type of finds were represented in made ground (101), as in the the two previous made ground deposits. Included within context (101) was a single clay tobacco pipe stem, a rim sherd from a green glazed Border Ware plate and a single sherd from a Midlands Purple butter pot, which were also dated to the late 16th or 17th century.
- 7.1.6 The archaeological sequence in Trench 1 was sealed by a 0.20m thick concrete slab (100) which formed the modern basement floor at 7.80m AOD.

7.2 Trench 2

- 7.2.1 Surface of Trench = 5.50m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
5.50-5.30m	0.00m	(201)	Concrete Slab
5.30-4.80m	0.20-0.70m (NFE)	(203)	Made Ground: soft, black, silty sand, frequent inclusions.

- 7.2.2 Trench 2 was located in the lower basement of 8 Herbal Hill and measured 0.70m by 0.70m in plan (Figure 4).

7.2.3 The earliest context identified was a soft, black, silty sand made ground deposit (203) which contained frequent fragments of CBM. The made ground was recorded at its highest at 5.30m AOD and was in excess of 0.50m thick. Cut into the surface of made ground (203) was a concrete lined drain [202] with an approximate diameter of 0.30m. Sealing drain [202] was 0.20m thick concrete slab which formed the floor of the lower basement at 5.50m AOD.

7.3 Trench 3

7.3.1 Surface of Trench = 5.50m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
5.50-5.15m	0.00m	(301)	Concrete Slab
5.15-4.95m	0.35-0.55m	(308)	Soil Horizon: compact, orangey brown, sandy gravel.
4.95-4.35m	0.55-1.15m	(305)	Natural: firm, dark orangey brown, clay.

7.3.2 Trench 3 was located in the lower basement of 8 Herbal Hill, orientated northeast-southwest, and measured 2.4m by 1.5m (Figure 4).

7.3.3 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 3 was a firm, dark orangey brown, clay (305) identified as the natural deposit (Figure 5, Sections 5 and 6). The natural was recorded at its highest at 4.95m AOD. Overlying the natural in the northeast corner of the trench was what appeared to be an undisturbed soil horizon consisting of a compact, orangey brown, sandy clay deposit (308), up to 0.20m thick. This layer had been heavily truncated by later activity.

7.3.4 Cut through soil horizon (308) was ditch [304]/[307]. The ditch was observed in two of the trench sections and was orientated on an approximate northwest-southeast alignment. The ditch was not seen in plan. The cut of the ditch was concave in profile, reaching a maximum width of 2.40m by 0.90m deep. Levels taken on the base of ditch [304]/[307] suggest that the course of the ditch may have been descending from the northwest to the southeast, but this cannot be fully confirmed due the limited expose of the ditch combined with the degree of later truncation. The fill (303)/(306) of ditch [304]/[307] was a uniform deposit consisting of a soft, dark grey, sandy silt material.

7.3.5 A large assemblage of finds was recovered from the fill of the ditch [304]/[307]. The pottery formed the most distinctive part of the assemblage containing a variety of wares including early post-medieval redware, white Border Ware, olive glazed Border Ware, and tin-glazed ware, incorporating the forms of jars, bowls, and candlestick bases. Multiple fragments of clay tobacco pipe were also collected including a near complete bowl with milling along the rim. Numerous fragments of brick and peg-tile were also present. Notable among the CBM assemblage was a fragment of polychrome, tin-glazed floor tile, which has a fleur-de-lis corner design with yellow infilling believed to date to between AD 1620-40. The animal bone assemblage was primarily composed of cow and sheep bones, which included some evidence for butchery. A near complete horse skull was also recovered. Taking into account the date ranges attributed to the variety of material recovered from the ditch suggests that the fill was deposited during the first half of the 17th century.

- 7.3.6 Environmental sample <3> was taken from context (306), analysis of which revealed evidence for food waste in the form of a range of fruits including fig, blackberry/raspberry, elder and cherry/sloe. There was also evidence for buttercup, goosefoot and sedge located within the vicinity of the ditch.
- 7.3.7 Truncating the southeast edge of ditch [304]/[307] was modern vertically sided, flat based cut [309] which was filled by a soft, black, silty sand deposit (302), incorporating fragments of modern CBM. Overall cut [309] was 1m wide by 0.20m deep. This feature, and the trench as a whole was sealed by a 0.35m thick concrete slab (301). The concrete slab formed the floor of the lower basement at 5.50m AOD.

7.4 Trench 4

- 7.4.1 Surface of Trench = 7.80m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
7.80-7.60m	0.00m	(401)	Concrete Slab
7.60-7.30m	0.20-0.50m	(402)	Made Ground: firm, dark brown, sandy clay, frequent inclusions.
7.30-6.90m	0.50-0.90m	(403)	Made Ground: firm, dark greyish brown, silty clay, moderate inclusions.
6.90-6.60m	0.90-1.20m	(404)	Made Ground: soft, dark grey, silty sand, occasional inclusions.
6.60-6.20m	1.20-1.60m	(405)	Made Ground: soft, dark greyish black, silty sand, occasional inclusions.
6.20-6.30m	1.60-1.70m	(406)	Alluvial Deposit(?): soft, dark brown, sandy silt.
6.30-6.20m	1.70-1.60m	(407)	Alluvial Deposit(?): loose, black, sandy silt gravel.
6.20-6.10m	1.60-1.70m (NFE)	(408)	Natural: firm, yellowish brown, sandy clay.

- 7.4.2 Trench 4 was located in the main basement of 8 Herbal Hill, and measured 3m by 3m in plan (Figure 3).
- 7.4.3 The earliest deposit encountered was a firm, yellowish brown, sandy clay deposit (408) recorded at a height of 6.20m AOD (Figure 5, Sections 2 and 4). Overlying the natural was a sequence of two distinct deposits. Situated immediately above the natural (408) was a loose, black, sandy silt gravel deposit (407), measuring up to 0.10m thick. Layer (407) was overlain by a soft, dark brown, sandy silt deposit (406), 0.10m thick. Deposit (406) was only observed in the northwest area of the trench, with the horizon reaching a maximum height of 6.20m AOD. The descriptions of contexts (407) and (406) identify them as fine, shallow, silty deposits, which in combination with their appearance suggests they were deposited in a damp or alluvial environment. This is in contrast to the later deposits in the sequence suggesting these earlier deposits of made ground were created through a different formation process. Column sample <2> was taken through context (407), analysis of which indicated there was an artificial component to this deposit, implying the context had been disturbance. This is most likely to have occurred when the later layers of made ground were deposited.

- 7.4.4 Sealing the possible alluvial horizons was a further sequence of four contexts consisting of artificially deposited made ground. The first in this sequence, and overlying layer (406), was a soft, dark greyish black, silty sand made ground deposit (405), which was up to 0.45m thick and contained a small assemblage of animal bone, CBM and oyster shell. The brick fragments recovered potentially date to between the mid 15th to 16th century. Above layer (405) was a soft, dark grey, silty sand made ground deposit (404) measuring 0.35m thick, from which occasional fragments of CBM and mortar were collected. This in turn was overlain by a firm, dark greyish brown, silty clay made ground (403) 0.30m thick. Further fragments of CBM and mortar were recorded as deriving from this context. The last in the sequence of made ground deposits, located immediately above layer (403) was a firm, dark brown, sandy clay layer of made ground (402) which measured up to 0.30m thick, and contained fragments of brick and mortar which may also date to the mid 15th or 16th century.
- 7.4.5 Context (402) was sealed by a 0.20m thick concrete slab which formed the floor of the main basement at 7.80m AOD.

8 Finds and Environmental Samples

- 8.1 During the course of the watching brief an assemblage of early post-medieval finds was collected from 10 different contexts. Late 16th to 17th century pottery was collected from contexts (101), (103), (104) and (306). Fragments of CBM derived from contexts (101), (102), (103), (104), (303), (306), (402), (403), (404) and (405). Clay tobacco pipe stems and bowls were recovered from contexts (101) and (306). A moderate assemblage of animal bone was also collected from contexts (101), (103), (104), (306) and (405)
- 8.2 The pottery assemblage, consisting of 30 sherds, was identified as deriving from between the late 16th to the late 17th century. Analysis of the assemblages recognised that a limited range of fabrics and forms were present, with the greatest variety collected from context (306). The assemblage is of limited significance due to its small size and composition of wares common in early post-medieval London
- 8.3 A total of 90 fragments of CBM were collected during the watching brief, which primarily dated to the mid 15th to 16th century. The assemblage was mainly formed of brick and peg tile fragments, although notable included a fragment of polychrome, tin-glazed, Delft floor tile. The CBM forms analysed are typical of a London assemblage from this period.
- 8.4 A small assemblage of clay tobacco pipe was recovered during archaeological works on site. This assemblage consisted of stem fragments, in addition to a near complete bowl fragment. All fragments are 17th century in date.
- 8.5 The animal bone assemblage consisted of 44 fragments. Cattle and sheep bones formed the greatest proportion of the assemblage, with horse and cat also represented. Limited evidence for butchery was also identified. The most interesting aspect of the assemblage was the near complete horse skull recovered by context (306). The assemblage is small and holds no potential for further analysis.
- 8.6 Three environmental samples were also taken. Column sample <1> was taken from Trench 1; column sample <2> was taken from Trench 4; and bulk sample <3> was taken from the fill (306) of ditch [307].
- 8.7 Analysis of the two column samples taken indicated the sequences observed in both Trenches 1 and 4 primarily consisted of made ground deposits, although context (105) at the base of Trench 1 is likely to represent a natural subsoil. Due to the limited character of the column samples no further work was recommended.

- 8.8 The bulk sample taken from context (306) was identified as containing evidence for a small range of fruits, which probably derived from kitchen or food waste. Evidence of the natural vegetation types in proximity to the site was also collected. No further analysis has been recommended.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 During the course of the watching brief on site the nature and extent of the archaeological potential was observed, in addition to the associated disturbance of this potential. A full sequence of deposits from natural through to the modern ground surface was recorded adjacent to the boundaries of the site in Trenches 1, 3 and 4.
- 9.2 Natural was identified in all trenches, except Trench 2. The form of and height of the natural varied dependent on location. The highest area of natural was encountered in Trench 1 where an undisturbed sandy gravel deposit was recorded at a 7.08m AOD. In Trench 4, adjacent to Trench 1 a brown clay deposit, thought to be London Clay, was identified at 6.20m AOD. Trench 3, in the lower basement area, contained further deposits of probable London Clay, recorded at a height of 4.95m AOD.
- 9.3 Two distinct sequences of deposits were identified during the watching brief, which related to different areas of the site. In the main basement area, Trenches 1 and 4, were located within 2m of each other, this meant the two deposit sequences recorded could be directly related to one another to reconstruct a single sequence of events. The earliest deposit in Trench 1 was a sandy gravel (106) layer recorded at its highest at 7.08m AOD, which also incorporated a gradient descending to the northwest towards Trench 4. Within Trench 4 London Clay was recorded as the earliest deposit at a lower height of 6.20m AOD, a reduction in the height of the natural by approximately 0.90m. This would imply that the original topography on site consisted of a low gravel terrace to the southeast side of the site incorporating a shallow gradient to the northwest where the original ground horizon levelled off when the underlying London Clay geology was encountered. Prior to intensive human activity in this area, a colluvial deposit (105) formed on the upper part of the terrace gradient; this is likely to have formed by means of slopewash derived from agricultural activity taking place higher up the terrace. At the base of the terrace, represented by the sequence in Trench 4, a possible alluvial influence on soil formation process is thought to be represented by contexts (407) and (406). These contexts do contain anthropogenic material, but their fine grained appearance and insubstantial character possibly suggest they were deposited gradually, potentially in damper conditions at the base of the slope, and had anthropogenic material incorporated at a later point when human activity began to occur within close proximity of the site.
- 9.4 Later activity on site is far more defined, as overlying these relatively undisturbed deposits was a substantial sequence of made ground deposits. Context (104) is the first of these made ground deposits laid down; this deposit contained a good assemblage of domestic finds, which strongly indicates that the deposit derived from a large quantity of household waste being tipped down the established terrace gradient; this event appears to have occurred during a short period of time during the late 16th or 17th century.
- 9.5 This phase of domestic waste deposition appears to correlate with deposits (405) and/or (404), which are similar in character, and also appear to have been deposited by the late 16th century. The depth of these deposits in Trench 4, and their fairly level profiles may even imply they were part of a co-ordinated effort in the late 16th or early 17th century to raise the level of the potentially damper lower ground adjacent to the level of the gravel terrace seen in Trench 1. This apparent raising of the ground level appeared to continue in Trench 1 with a series of sequential made ground deposits (103), (102) and (101) which were deposited directly over the original gravel terrace (106) and later

- infilling (104). The angle of the interface between these later made ground deposits clearly indicates they were being tipped in the same direction as the original topographic gradient. This later series of made ground deposits also contained assemblages of domestic waste dated to the late 16th or 17th century; in addition the presence of fragments of CBM and mortar suggest that the maintenance and demolition of properties was occurring in proximity to the site. The character and material recovered from layers (403) and (402) in Trench 2 were also similar, indicating they were an extension of the same phase of made ground deposition in order to raise the ground level.
- 9.6 The last phase of activity, observed in both Trench 1 and 4, was the horizontal truncation of all existing deposits at a height of 7.60m AOD to facilitate the laying of concrete floor (100) and (401) as part of the existing modern building on the site.
- 9.7 The second distinctive sequence of deposits was observed in the lower basement area, consisting of Trenches 2 and 3, and incorporating the only cut feature recorded on site. The most detailed sequence of deposits was recovered from Trench 3. Overlying the London Clay (305) in the northeast corner of Trench 3 was an *insitu* undisturbed deposit (308). Only a small proportion of the deposit survived due to later truncation, placing its interpretation as tentative; it is, however, possible that this deposit represents part of the original terrace gravels that once overlay the London Clay in this area.
- 9.8 Cut through the centre of Trench 3 on a northwest-southeast alignment was large ditch [303]/[307]. Due to the limited exposure of the ditch, it is difficult to confirm the function of the ditch, although it could have potentially been constructed as a boundary ditch since its alignment approximates the nearby boundary alignments currently in use. The largest single assemblage of finds collected during the watching brief derived from the fill (303)/(306) of ditch [303]/[307]. A range of domestic waste, fragments of building/demolition debris, and most notably a near complete horse skull were collected from the ditch. The dating of this material implies that the ditch was backfilled during the first half of the 17th century by a systematic disposal of waste.
- 9.9 Trench 2 is located along the extrapolated course of ditch [303]/[307], which implies the single deposit recorded within the trench, context (203), may represent part of the ditch fill. The limited size and depth of Trench 2 prevented evidence for the ditch cut being identified. Due to later truncation, the full size of ditch [303]/[307] cannot be established, but it is feasible the feature observed is only the base of a much larger ditch. The lack of weathering associated with edges of the ditch and limited date range of the finds recovered, suggests the ditch may have only been open for only a short period prior to it being infilled.
- 9.10 The only evidence for activity later than the backfilling of the ditch during the first half of the 17th century was the modern cuts [202] and [309] associated with a phase of horizontal truncation associated with the construction of the modern concrete floor (201) and (301).
- 9.11 Analysis of the deposits and features observed during the course of the watching brief have identified one key phase of archaeological activity has taken place on site and dating to the late 16th to 17th century. The deposits pre-dating this relate to the natural topography of the site, which consists of a low gravel terrace to the southeast boundary of the site incorporating a shallow gradient descending to the northwest where the underlying London Clay becomes exposed. The main phase of activity on site dates to the late 16th to 17th century, and is represented by two distinct archaeological formations on site. In the area of the main basement the archaeological sequence is formed of a systematic sequence of made ground dumps, surviving to a depth of 1.30m. The dumps of made ground appear to be part of a purposeful and consistent scheme to raise the immediate ground level of the area. These results are very similar to the sequences observed during the

- evaluation undertaken adjacent to the site at 3-7 Herbal Hill, implying such activity was also taking place in the wider area at this time.
- 9.12 In the area of the lower basement, located approximately 5m to the northwest of the main basement trenches, was a northwest-southeast orientated boundary ditch which was subsequently backfilled using further quantities of domestically derived dump material during the first half of the 17th century. The northwest-southeast alignment of the ditch not only approximates the alignment of modern boundaries, it also runs approximately parallel to the alignment of the River Fleet. This suggests the ditch may have defined a property boundary that had a direct relationship with the course of the River Fleet.
- 9.13 Both areas had been horizontally truncated during the 19th century construction of the existing building. The evidence recorded during the watching brief strongly supports the indication that the area of the site was being heavily modified and re-landscaped during the late 16th to 17th century, most likely to be associated with land reclamation and boundary demarcation adjacent to the River Fleet.
- 9.14 The archaeological potential is demonstrated by the identification of features and recovery of finds dating to the late 16th to 17th century and associated with probable land reclamation and boundary demarcation adjacent to the River Fleet. No features were identified which could be directly associated with evidence of settlement, nor was any evidence for the River Fleet and associated channels/tributaries identified.

10. Publication and Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in the London Archaeological Round Up, and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 10.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, finds and digital records will be deposited with the LAARC.

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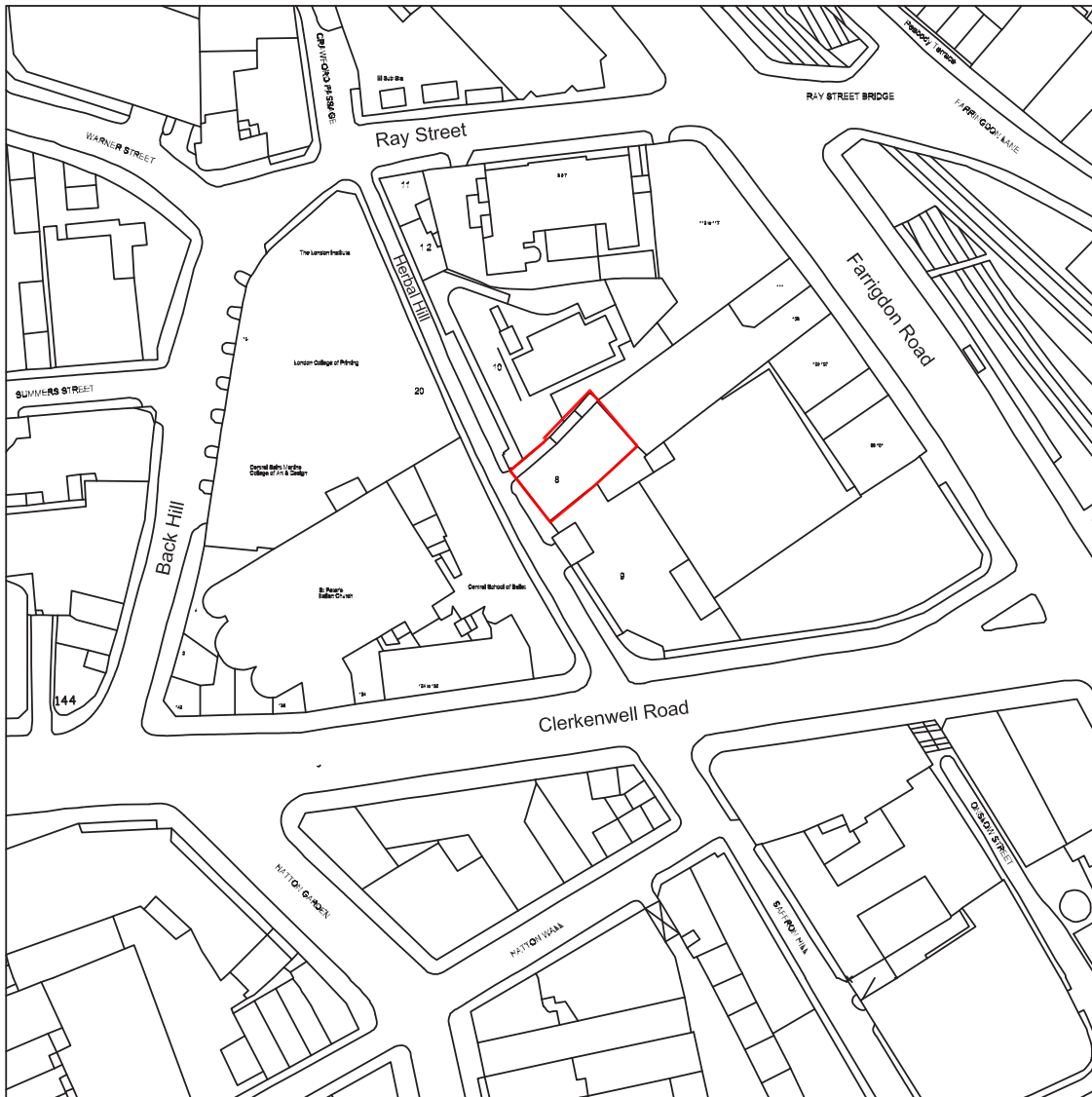
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Figure 1: Site Location



□ Site Outline

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location Plan



Figure 3: Main Basement Floor Plan



Figure 4: Lower Basement Floor Plan



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Concrete Slab	4.00m	2.60m	0.20m
101	Made Ground	1.00m	2.60m	0.50m
102	Made Ground	2.60m	1.28m	0.30m
103	Made Ground	2.60m	2.60m	0.60m
104	Made Ground	2.60m	1.70m	0.50m
105	Soil Horizon	2.60m	1.58m	0.20m
106	Natural	4.00m	2.60m	0.90m+
201	Concrete Slab	0.70m	0.70m	0.20m
202	Modern Drain	0.70m	0.30m	0.30m
203	Made Ground	0.70m	0.70m	0.50m
301	Concrete Slab	2.40m	1.50m	0.35m
302	Fill of [309]	1.00m	0.50m	0.20m
303	Fill of Ditch [304]	1.50m+	2.40m	0.56m
304	Cut of Ditch	1.50m+	2.40m	0.56m
305	Natural	2.40m	1.50m	0.60m+
306	Fill of Ditch [307]	1.50m+	2.00m	0.90m
307	Cut of Ditch	1.50m+	2.00m	0.90m
308	Soil Horizon	0.60m	0.10m	0.20m
309	Modern Cut	1.00m	0.50m	0.20m
401	Concrete Slab	3.00m	3.00m	0.20m
402	Made Ground	3.00m	3.00m	0.30m
403	Made Ground	3.00m	3.00m	0.40m
404	Made Ground	3.00m	3.00m	0.40m
405	Made Ground	3.00m	3.00m	0.45m
406	Made Ground	3.00m	3.00m	0.16m
407	Made Ground	3.00m	2.00m	0.13m+
408	Natural	3.00m	3.00m	0.17m+

Appendix B – Specialist Reports

The Post-Roman Pottery

by

Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered 30 sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 789g, from four individually numbered contexts. Some 22 different vessels appear to be represented. On the whole the pottery is in good condition: although sherd sizes range from small (< 30mm across) to large (> 60mm across) most sherds do not show significant signs of abrasion suggesting most have not been subjected to repeated reworking. The smallest sherds, comprising 15 pieces weighing 57g, were all recovered from the environmental sample from [306] which overall produced the largest assemblage totalling 24 sherds. The whole assemblage is of early post-medieval date most probably dating to the late 16th/early 17th to later 17th centuries. The assemblage has been fully listed for archive on excel database as part of the assessment.

Made ground [101] produced a single sherd of Midlands Purple (MPUR) butter pot along with part of a rounded rim from a green glazed Border ware (BORDG) plate. Made ground [103] contained a similar assemblage consisting of two sherds of MPUR butter pot as well as a London-area Post-medieval Redware (PMR) body sherd with external wavy incised line decoration. Silting [104] produced a single sherd from a yellow glazed Border ware (BORDY) tripod strainer of well-known type (Pearce 1992, No. 450G).

Ditch fill [306] accounts for the majority of the assemblage and includes a typical range of wares for the late 16th to 17th centuries. A couple of heavily abraded pieces of sandy oxidized earthenware may well be of early Post-medieval Redware (PMRE) of 16th- century date but the sherds are too small/undiagnostic to be certain. PMR sherds include fragments from a heavy jar with horizontal thumbing around its neck, a small jar with lid-seated rim, the complete base of a candlestick and a tiny scrap from the environmental sample with traces of possible white slip. The other redwares consist of the finer products from the Border ware industry (RBOR). Although no RBOR forms are recognizable, there is a base fragment that is obviously a second as it has had the glaze leak into cracks in the body of the vessel. The white Border wares are also represented including two BORDG bowls, a BORDG pedestal cup (Pearce 1992, 73, No. 399) and an olive glazed Border ware dish (BORDO). Two sherds of tin-glazed ware (TGW) were also recovered, both decorated with blue painted designs. The vessels include the base of a foot-ring charger with geometric pattern of London type and a handled bowl/cup. Although the latter vessel has decoration similar to some 17th- century Dutch examples from Norwich (Jennings 1981, 200, No. 1414) it has a vertical handle, rather than the more common horizontal type, and is also probably of London origin. Small chips (6g) from at least three different Frechen stoneware (FREC) vessels were also recovered from the environmental sample. Such imports were perhaps the most common type in 17th- century London.

The assemblage from the site is very small and consists of wares that are common in early post-medieval London. Far better groups from the capital have already been published and the current assemblage offers no potential to add new data to our understanding of the ceramics of the period. The material has provided a useful dating tool but the assemblage is too small and dislocated from its creational source to reliably comment on the functional or social context of the material. No further analysis work is proposed beyond that undertaken for this assessment and no separate pottery report is considered worthwhile in any future publication that may arise from the site work.

The Ceramic Building Material

by

Sarah Porteus

A total of 90 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 6068g were recovered. The material was primarily of medieval and early post-medieval date.

Methodology

The ceramic building material has been recorded on a recording form based on that of the Museum of London (MoL). The CBM has been quantified by fabric, form, weight, and fragment count. Fabrics have been identified with the aid of a binocular microscope and cross-referenced to the MoL building materials type series where available. The data has been entered onto an Excel database. Material which should be retained has been clearly labelled; the remainder of the material should be discarded.

Brick

The earliest material recovered is probably brick in fabric MoL3033, which consists of an orange sandy fabric with moderated poorly sorted quartz with coarse rose quartz and sparse black iron-rich inclusions. Brick in this fabric had thicknesses ranging from 51 to 60mm and one complete width of 105mm the brick is of mid 15th to 16th century date. All examples of the brick were soft fired and unfrogged with some exhibiting indented margins. Brick in fabric MoL3033 was recovered from contexts [303] [306] [402] and [405] and also from within sample <3> of context [306]. A single vitrified, over-fired unfrogged brick was recovered from context [102]. The date of this brick is uncertain although form suggests it is of possible early post-medieval date.

Peg tile

Contexts: 101, 102, 103, 104, 303, 306, 403, 404, 405

Peg tile is all of later medieval or early post-medieval date, C15th-C17th. Three fabric types were identified: provisional fabric T1, an orange fabric with sparse fine to medium quartz and fine calcareous inclusions and micaceous speckling; T2, a fine sandy orange fabric with fine black sand inclusions and moderate fine quartz; and T3, an orange fine fabric with moderate elongated voids and calcareous inclusions and sparse black iron rich inclusions. Some poorly formed circular peg holes were identified.

Flanged tile

A single fragment of flanged tile was recovered unstratified from trench 3 in a fine sandy creamy orange fabric. The fragment has combed keying but is probably a 19th or 20th century fragment.

Delft floor tile

A fragment of polychrome, tin-glazed floor tile was recovered from context [306]. The piece has a fleur-de-lis corner design with yellow infilling in the very corner; a trace of a green leaf is visible just above the corner design. The tile has knife-cut chamfered edges with a thickness of 16mm a possible nail hole is visible in the corner. A similar design with a central image of a flower with fleur-de-lis corners is described in Betts and Weinstein (2010) and is believed to be Dutch and dating to AD1620-40, the illustrated example of this tile appears to be well executed with good definition. Other similar examples are known from the London tile makers. Illustrated examples of tiles from the latter and with fleur-de-lis corners and central floral or bunch of grapes design have similar less well defined edges to the design (Pickleherring design 8, Tyler, Betts and

Stephenson 2008 p55). No exact date is given for this design although the pothouse is known to have existed between 1618 and 1723. It is likely this example is an imitation of the Dutch design of 1620-40 and likely to be of contemporaneous or slightly later date, although without scientific analysis of the fabric the exact origin remains uncertain.

Summary

The assemblage contains a range of material typical of a London assemblage of later medieval or early post-medieval date. The assemblage contains little of note except the presence of a fragment of polychrome floor tile from context [306] which is likely to be of early to mid 17th century and may have been used in a higher status building at one time. The presence of the tile in the fill of a ditch may be associated with demolition of buildings of this date.

Items for illustration

The polychrome tin-glazed tile from context [306] is recommended for illustration by photograph.

Analysis of Potential

The ceramic building material provides broad dating evidence for the features in which it occurs.

Significance of the data

The assemblage is not of international, national, regional or local significance.

Publication

The findings of this report should be incorporated into the main text of any publication as required. No further specialist work is required.

Preparation for deposition of the archive

The remaining building materials should be re-boxed in stable cardboard boxes appropriate to the deposition requirements of the receiving museum and the polychrome tile from [306] should be given an accession number.

Conservation requirements

None.

The Clay Tobacco Pipe

by

Elke Raemen

Introduction

A small assemblage consisting of 10 fragments (wt 38g) was recovered from two individually numbered contexts. Included are both hand-collected pieces and fragments recovered from the environmental residues. One bowl was recovered which was classified according to the London 'Chronology of Bowl Types' by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 177-180).

The assemblage has been recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive and data has also been entered onto a digital register.

The Assemblage

Stem fragments

Nine stem fragments were recovered. All are of 17th-century date, rendering it possible to give an approximate date. The latest piece, dating to ca. 1650-1700, was recovered from made ground [101]. All other fragments were found in ditch fill [306]. Hand-collected pieces are all unabraded, suggesting a minimum of reworking. All pieces date between ca. 1600-1650 and none are conjoining.

Bowl

A near complete bowl with milling along the rim was recovered from ditch fill [306]. The piece, which has been smoked, consists of a variant of type AO4/5 (ca. 1610-1640). As is the case for the stem fragments, the bowl is unabraded.

Significance and Potential

The unabraded nature of hand-collected pipe fragments from [306] as well as the lack of any intrusive clay pipes makes this group useful to refine the dating evidence. Overall however the assemblage is too small to be of potential for further analysis and none of the pipes are of intrinsic interest.

Methodology for Further Work

The assemblage has been fully recorded on pro forma sheets for archive as well as on a digital datasheet. Both these formats will be included in the archive. It is proposed to draw from the above report where refinement of dating of contexts is necessary. No further work is required.

The Animal Bone

by

Gemma Ayton

Introduction

The assemblage contains 44 fragments of animal bone from 5 contexts dating to the 16th and 17th centuries. The assemblage has been hand-collected and 21 fragments have been retrieved from soil sample <3>, context [306]. The surface of the bone is in a moderate to good state of preservation with little evidence of erosion.

Methodology

Wherever possible bone fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. The bone was identified using the in-house reference collection, held at English Heritage, Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth, and Schmidt (1972). Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size. The larger fragments are recorded as cattle-sized and the smaller fragments as sheep-sized. The elements have been recorded according to the part and proportion of the bone present with reference to Serjeantson's (1996) zoning system.

The state of fusion has been noted and tooth wear has been recorded according to Grant (1982). The differentiation of sheep and goat long-bones and teeth has been carried out with reference to Halstead and Collins (2002), Boessneck (1966) and Boessneck *et al* (1969). Measurements have been taken in accordance with Von Den Driesch (1976). Each fragment has then been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology.

Quantification

A total of 30 fragments of bone were identifiable to element and/or taxa. The assemblage contains bones from cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep (*Ovis*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/capra*), equid and cat (*Felis catus*). The NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) counts are displayed in Table 1.

Taxa	101	103	104	405	306
Cattle			1		2
Cattle-Sized	2	1			6
Sheep				1	2
Sheep/Goat	1		1		2
Sheep-Sized		1	1		2
Equid	1				4
Cat					1
Small Mammal					1

Table 1: NISP counts

The assemblage contains both meat bearing and non-meat bearing elements. Evidence of butchery has been noted on two sheep-sized ribs, retrieved from contexts [103] and [306], and a cattle mandible retrieved from context [306]. The slice and cut marks noted on the cattle mandible are visible around the mandibular hinge and are indicative of dismemberment.

A single sheep mandible gave a tooth wear value of 32 (Grant 1982) which suggest that the animal was approximately 2-3 years old at the time of death (Hambleton 1999).

A small quantity of biometric data has been retrieved and is displayed in Table 2. All long bone measurements are given in mm. The MSD refers to the mid-shaft diameter and has been taken in accordance with Harcourt (1974).

Context	Species	Bone	GL	Bd	Bp	SD	MSD
306	Sheep	Metatarsal	100	17.02	15.88	7.55	
306	Dog	Tibia			21.2		9.8

Table 2: Biometric data

An equid skull has been recovered from context [306] alongside both a left and a right mandible. The occipital and pre-maxillary region have been destroyed but the rest of the skull is in a good condition. Certain measurements of the skull have been taken and are displayed in Table 3. The measurements are shown in cm.

Context	Species	Bone	31	32	38	41	42	43
306	Equid	Skull	6.7	6.2	9.7	20.6	14.7	13.4

Table 3: Equid skull measurements

Potential for further work

Due to the size of the assemblage, it holds no potential for further analysis and no further work is required.

The Environmental Samples

by

Lucy Allott

Charcoal fragments and flots from an environmental sample (<3>, [306]) taken during archaeological investigation at Herbal Hill were submitted for assessment. Ceramic building materials from this context range in date between from the 15th and 17th century (see Porteus). The sample was processed by AOC in a flotation tank and flots were retained on 1mm and 300µm meshes. Flots were weighed, measured and scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and an overview of their contents recorded (Table 4). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made with reference to modern comparative material and reference texts (Anderberg, A-L. 1994, Berggren, G. 1969, 1981, Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

Results

Flots from this sample are dominated by sediment and small flecks of vitrified charcoal. Uncharred macrobotanical remains are relatively common. Although these remains are not preserved through mineralisation or charring, they may be contemporary with the infilling of the feature if the deposit was sufficiently waterlogged and well sealed enabling preservation in anaerobic conditions. The assemblage provides evidence for a range of fruits including fig (*Ficus carica*), blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus* sp.), elder (*Sambucus* sp.) and cherry/sloe (*Prunus* sp.). Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/bulbosus/repens*), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and sedge (*Carex* sp.) are also indicated and may provide evidence for vegetation in the vicinity of the site.

The small assemblage of charcoal submitted for assessment consisted of vitrified charcoal and several fragments similar to coal. No taxonomic identifications were obtained for the vitrified charcoal as anatomical features were indistinct, fused and glassy.

A single fragment of bone was also recorded in the sample.

Significance and Potential

The small assemblage appears to contain a fairly typical array of botanical remains some of which may represent kitchen or food waste. Although some of the macrobotanical remains may derive from fruits that were eaten, the composition of the assemblage and preservation of the remains provide no clear indication of latrine deposits. This single sample provides no potential to further characterise the range of foods consumed or the natural vegetation environment and therefore no further work is recommended.

Table 4: Flot Description (Quantification Key: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250).

Sample Number	Context	Flot Description	Flot Weight g	Flot Volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Uncharred Macrobotanical Remains	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Faunal Remains
3	306	300 µm flot - small fragments of charred, often vitrified charcoal & possible industrial matter. 1mm flot - uncharred twigs common, occasional charred fragments, mostly vitrified.	34	30	20	70	Ficus carica (**), Rubus sp. (*), Prunus sp. (1 fragment), Sambucus nigra (*), Runcunculus acris//bulbosus/repens (**), Chenopodium sp. (*), Carex sp. (*)		*	***	1 frag (rib?) bone

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Geoarchaeological Assessment

by

C. P. Green

Introduction

This report summarises the findings arising out of the environmental archaeological assessment undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development at 8 Herbal Hill, Farringdon (National Grid Reference: TQ 313 822; site code: HBL10). The site is in central London in the valley of the Fleet River, a left (north) bank tributary of the River Thames. The site is about 1.5km upstream from the confluence with the Thames. The British Geological Survey (BGS) (1:50,000 Sheet 256 North London, 1994) shows the floor of the Fleet valley at this point occupied by Alluvium overlying London Clay. The valley cuts down through a terrace of the River Thames underlain by the Hackney Gravel which therefore forms the higher part of the valley side. Herbal Hill lies on the west of the valley and is approximately aligned with its axis.

Results and Interpretation of the Lithostratigraphic Descriptions

All of the material recorded in column sample <2> and in the two upper units (Units 2 and 3) in column sample <1> have the character of made ground or dumped material (Table 2). They are without structures typical of natural depositional processes, they lack evidence of soil forming processes, and they contain more or less substantial amounts of anthropogenic material.

Unit 1 (context (105)) in column sample <1> (Table 1) seems likely to represent a natural subsoil. It is penetrated by root networks and does not contain anthropogenic material. The very poorly sorted condition of the sediment suggests that it may be a colluvial deposit derived from nearby terrace sediments and occupying a position on the valley side of the Fleet River.

Table 1: Lithostratigraphic description of column <1>, 8 Herbal Hill, Farringdon

Depth (m OD)	Context(s)	Unit	Description
7.05 to 6.95	(102) and (103)	3	Loose mixture of 'soil', CBM fragments and mortar
6.95 to 6.66	(104)	2	10YR4/2 dark greyish brown; very poorly sorted gritty stony clay with fragments of CBM (up to 75mm); unstructured; charcoal; sharp contact with:
6.66 to 6.55	(105)	1	10YR4/6 dark yellowish brown; very poorly sorted stony sandy clay with sub-angular flint clasts (up to 40mm); massive; root channels with iron-rich coatings.

Table 2: Lithostratigraphic description of column <2>, 8 Herbal Hill, Farringdon

Depth (m OD)	Context(s)	Unit	Description
6.60 to 6.43	(405) (<i>disturbed</i>)	2	Black; loose very poorly sorted gritty sand with fragments of pottery, including base of small ?cup-thin green glaze.
6.43 to 6.31	(405)	2	Black; very poorly sorted gritty sand with fragments of pottery; massive/chaotic; charcoal; very sharp contact with:
6.31 to 6.10	(405) and (407)	1	10YR4/4 dark yellowish brown; very poorly sorted gritty stony clay with clasts of sub-angular flint (up to 50mm); crudely bedded, incorporating horizontal bed of sediment resembling context (405) at 6.15-6.12m OD; piece of oyster shell.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended on the samples from 8 Herbal Hill.

Appendix C – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-91313

Project details

Project name 8 Herbal Hill, Farringdon, London Borough of Islington

Short description of the project AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief at 8 Herbal Hill, Farringdon, London Borough of Islington. The work comprised the recording of four trenches dug in the basement of the property. Analysis of the deposits and features observed during the course of the watching brief identified one main phase of archaeological activity present on site dating to the late 16th to 17th century. The deposits pre-dating this relate to the natural topography of the site. The late 16th to 17th century is represented by two distinct archaeological formations on site. In the area of the main basement the archaeological sequence is formed of a systematic sequence of made ground dumps which significantly raised the immediate ground level of the area during this period. In the area of the lower basement there was a northwest-southeast orientate boundary ditch which was backfilled during the first half of the 17th century. Both areas had been horizontally truncated during the construction of the currently existing building. The evidence recorded during the watching brief strongly supports the indication that the area of the site was being heavily modified and re-landscaped during the late 16th to 17th century, most likely to be associated with land reclamation adjacent to the River Fleet.

Project dates Start: 17-09-2010 End: 06-10-2010

Previous/future work No / No

Any project codes associated reference HBL10 - Sitecode

Any project codes associated reference 30799 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference P 071047 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAP TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ISLINGTON FINSBURY 8 Herbal Hill, Farringdon, London Borough of Islington
Postcode	EC1R 5EJ
Study area	750.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3129 8213 51.5223100247 -0.107376144770 51 31 20 N 000 06 26 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.95m Max: 7.08m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project originator brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project originator design RPS

Project director/manager Melissa Melikian

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of Developer sponsor/funding body

Name of Ely Properties sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC recipient

Physical Archive ID HBL10

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','other'

Physical Archive To be held at AOC until ready to archive. notes

Digital Archive LAARC recipient

Digital Archive ID HBL10

Digital Contents 'Environmental','other','Animal Bones','Ceramics'

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

Digital Archive notes To be held at AOC until ready to archive.

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Archive ID HBL10

Paper Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','other'

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section'
available

Paper Archive notes To be held at AOC until ready to archive.

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 8 HERBAL HILL, FARRINGDON, LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clarke, C

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or London
publication

Description A4 text, 5 illustrations, 38 pages bound between plastic covers

Project bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 8 Herbal Hill, London Borough of Islington. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Blatherwick, S.

Date 2010

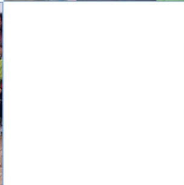
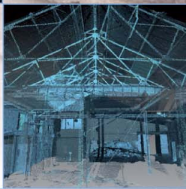
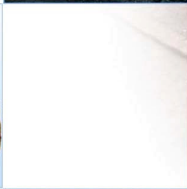
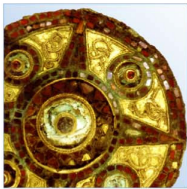
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