

HERITAGE NETWORK



35-41 SILVER STREET Enfield, Middx.

(HN470 / SVS04)

Historic Building Record & Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

35-41 SILVER STREET Enfield, Middlesex. TQ 3288 9668

HN470 SVS04

Historic Building Record and Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared on behalf of Nicon Developments Ltd

by

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The cover photo shows nos.35 – 41 Silver Street at the time of the present study, with no.35 on the right hand side

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out David Hillelson, Karin Semmelmann, Chris Turner, Geoff Saunders and David Kaye, and the finds assessment was undertaken by Helen Ashworth. Illustrations were prepared by David Kaye, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

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Site name & address:	35-41 Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex				
County:	Middlesex	District:	London Borough of Enfield		
Village/town:	Enfield	Parish:	Enfield		
Planning reference:	N/a	NGR:	TQ 3288 9668		
Client name & address:	Nicon Developments, N	Vicon House, 45 Silver Street	t, Enfield, EN1 3EF		
Nature of work:	New restaurant & flats	Present land use:	Shops, flats and gardens		
Size of affected area:	c.395m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.12.4m ²		
Site Code:	HN470	Other reference:	SVS 04		
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson		
Type of work:	Evaluation	Archive location:	Museum of London		
Start of work	8 th July 2004	Finish of work	14 th July 2004		
Related SMR Nos.:	N/a	Periods represented:	Post-med/Victorian/Modern		
Previous reports:	N/a				

Summary

Synopsis:

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct a restaurant and flats on the site of 35-41 Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Nicon Developments Ltd to undertake a programme of historic building recording and archaeological evaluation.

The building record focused on no.35 Silver Street, a much altered early 18th century structure, including a number of well preserved original features.

The field evaluation consisted of a single trial trench measuring c.2m x 6.2m, located to the rear of no.35 and within the footprint of the proposed new building. There was evidence that substantial ground disturbance had taken place, which was possibly associated with the demolition of earlier structures in the 19^{th} century. This is in line with the cartographic evidence. Apart from a single unstratified sherd of pottery there was no evidence of Medieval or earlier activity on the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Nicon Developments Ltd*, as part of an archaeological investigation associated with the redevelopment of 35-41 Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex (Fig.1). The determination of the planning application for the development by the London Borough of Enfield (LBE), has been referred back to the applicants for further information on the archaeological potential of the site. This is in accordance with the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning. The scope of the required investigation has been discussed with staff at the *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service* (GLAAS), a department of English Heritage acting as advisers to LBE.

1.2 The study area focuses on a block of four buildings on the eastern side of Silver Street, centred on NGR TQ 3288 9668. The development proposes the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of a single unit to be used as a restaurant/bar (Fig.2).

1.3 The site lies in the historic core of Enfield, close to the parish church which has existed on its present site since at least the 12^{th} century, and close to the site of Enfield Manor and Palace. The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record shows a significant number of historic and listed buildings in the immediate vicinity of the site, and it is likely that the present buildings, which are not listed, have been built on the site of post-medieval, medieval or earlier structures.

1.4 On the basis of the known archaeology in the area it was considered that the site might offer the potential to contribute to our understanding of:

- the origins and development of settlement in Enfield;
- the transition from early to later medieval periods and the influences on settlement growth and development;
- development and change in the post-medieval period.

1.5 The aim of the historic building record has been to preserve by record no.35 Silver Street, which pre-dates the modern period and whose retention has not been considered desirable, and provide an historic archive which can contribute to the understanding of development and change in the post-medieval townscape.

1.6 The aim of the evaluation will has been to assess the risk that buried archaeological remains might be encountered in the course of the development works, and to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any such remains, together with their archaeological and historical context, if they were found to be present.

1.7 The present report has been prepared in order to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required.

2. Historic Building Record

General

2.1 Number 35 Silver Street is the southernmost building in the row of otherwise modern buildings comprising the present study. Its western elevation fronts the High Street and an access arch to the north of the building leads to a yard with outbuildings to the rear (Fig.2).

2.2 The ground floor has been subdivided to provide a shop and ancillary rooms on the street frontage and a kitchen and dining room to the rear. A modern extension to the rear of the property houses a store and outside WC on the ground floor and a bathroom on the first floor (Fig.3).

External elevations

2.3 The building is of a light timber frame with brick nogging. The rear of the property is weatherboarded, and where this was removed it could be seen that the bricks beneath were unpainted. This is in contrast to the access arch, where the bricks have been painted white.

2.4 The weatherboarding itself has been painted black. The timbers are largely roughly cut, and many have waney edges. A nail taken from a section of weatherboarding has a rectangular profile and no head, which suggests that it could date from the late 17^{th} to early 19^{th} century (Taylor). That this may have been the intended covering for this elevation is suggested by the fact that the bricks beneath the weatherboarding are not painted or rendered over.

2.5 Most of the windows are later 19^{th} century sash windows with one earlier 18^{th} century window in Bedroom 3.

2.6 The south elevation of the access arch has been breached for windows and a door. The north elevation contains a chimney support.

Internal

2.7 The living area is on two floors, with the kitchen and dining room on the ground floor and a living room, three bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor. The staircase leads off from the dining room. There is no current access to the living area from the shop, which has been entirely remodelled with modern partitioning and suspended ceiling, and no original features were observable.

Kitchen (Fig.4)

2.8 The kitchen is in a flat-roofed extension to the north of the building. A door in the north elevation leads out to the yard and there are three windows of varying size in the same elevation.

2.9 The working area is on the eastern side of the room, where a serving hatch allows access to the dining room.

2.10 An archway in the south elevation leads through to the dining room.

Dining room (Fig.4)

2.11 This room retains no original features. There is a modern fireplace in the east elevation and the stair is accessed via a door in the west elevation.

Living room (Fig.5)

2.12 The living room overlooks Silver Street. Original panelling has been revealed underneath later plasterwork on the north and east walls. The panelling is full height with a chair rail just below the mid point. The panelling is of pine, which has been painted a number of times. (Plate 1a)

2.13 The blocked fireplace was opened to reveal a cast iron fire. Both the opening and the grate were based on the form of a scallop shell. Actual oyster shells were found mortared into the wall to the top left of the fireplace. (Plate 1b)

2.14 The panelling and the fireplace appear to be of early to mid 18th century date.

Bedroom 1 (Fig.5)

2.15 Bedroom 1 also overlooks Silver Street. There were no original features visible in this room.

Bedroom 2 (Fig.5)

2.16 Bedroom 2 has two later 19th century windows in the east wall overlooking the yard. Between the two windows is a large pillar extending approximately 1m into the room from which the sides bow out to meet the east wall.

2.17 There is some 18th century panelling on the south wall, which is similar to that in the living room. The rear of the panelling has been exposed in the landing showing the back boards which are set horizontally and are also of pine.

Bedroom 3 (Fig.6)

2.18 Bedroom 3 lies at the rear of the building with a 12-light sash window in the north wall and access to the modern bathroom in the east elevation. A fireplace was until recently located in the east elevation, next to the bathroom door. The broken remains of the fire surround were recorded (Plate 2a). Although sharing to scallop motif, this fireplace is likely to be later than that in the living room.

Discussion

2.19 Although the building has been extended and considerably altered over the years, some original and well preserved features are still in situ.

2.20 The timber framing and brick work, together with the panelling, and the window in Bedroom 3 are all indicative of an early 18^{th} century date. Later 19th century reworking is

evident in the windows with larger panes and "horns" on the end of the vertical frames. The modern alterations have predominantly affected the interior of the building in order to update the living and shop areas.

3. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The site lies at c.32m AOD, on level ground with walled boundaries to the north and south.

3.2 The underlying geology consists of strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) compacted sandy gravel overlain by brown (7.5YR 4/4) clay.

METHODOLOGY

3.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and IFA standards.

3.4 One trench was opened to the rear of no. 35. It was aligned north to south and measured 6.2m x 2m (Fig.2). This constituted 3.15% of the footprint of the proposed building. Its location was limited due to restrictions on access and the presence of modern services.

3.5 The trench was opened using a tracked 360° mini-digger fitted with a 0.8m wide toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. The trench was to be machined to the first significant archaeological horizon.

3.6 The trench was cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

3.7 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film.

RESULTS

3.8 The trench measured 2m x 6.2m and was between 1.05m and 1.58m deep. Originally it was intended to be 5m x 1.5m but because of the limited accessible area available for excavation within the footprint of the proposed building, it was extended to increase the likelihood of exposing any potential archaeology.

3.9 The stratigraphy of the trench had been heavily affected by post medieval and modern disturbance. It consisted of three layers above the natural geology with an additional localised layer of redeposited natural between the cut for a water pipe and a pit containing rubble in-fill, contexts [112] and [106] respectively (Fig.7).

3.10 The upper layer, which was covered by the existing surface of paving and brick, consisted of very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay. It had a mixed compaction with frequent flint, concrete, charcoal and CBM inclusions. Beneath this was a friable, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay layer also with frequent flint and CBM inclusions. Underlying that was a layer of firm, brown (7.5YR 4/4) clay with occasional flints. This overlay the natural geology. The layer of redeposited natural was a friable, dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay with frequent flints.

3.11 The trench contained five features two of which were cuts for the service pipes. The others were wall [103], and two pits [101] and [106].

3.12 Pit [101] was sub-rectangular and cut the baulk of the trench on the southern and eastern sides. It measured at least 1.92m in length and was at least 1.90m wide. It was cut into the natural geology such that it was 1.25m deep. As the base of the pit had not been reached after the machining, it was augered to ascertain its actual depth.

3.13 The wall [103] was orientated north to south extending from the southern baulk of the trench. It was approximately 0.90m high (13 courses), had a maximum length of 0.95m and was 2 courses deep. It was heavily damaged by root action and had slumped along its length at an angle of approximately 30° and was truncated. The bricks were red clay 0.24m x 0.11m x 0.06m (9.5 x 4.25.x 2.5 inches) in size, bonded with a lime mortar.

3.14 Pit [106] was only visible in the west facing section of the trench so its size and shape in plan could not be determined. From the section it was measured to be 1.06m wide by 0.86m deep and it was 'U' shaped. The cut contained rubble infill much of which was brick though not of the same type as the wall [103].

3.15 None of the features visible in the west facing section of the trench were observed in the east facing section, although this section had been reduced.

Context	Туре	Description	Dimensions (m)
101	Cut	Sub-rectangular pit filled with CBM and containing wall (103) and fill (102).	Length: 1.92m+ Width: 1.90m+ Depth: 1.25m
102	Fill	Firm, yellowish brown (10YR 3/4), silty clay with frequent flint, CBM and roots. Fill of [101].	Length: 1.92m+ Width: 1.90m+ Depth: 1.25m
103	Wall	13 courses high, 2 courses deep, red brick. Brick size (0.24m x 0.11m x 0.06m). Heavily damaged by root action.	Length: 0.95m Height: 0.90m Width: c0.14m
104	Layer	Loose, very dark grey (10YR 3/1), silty clay with CBM and gravel.	0.30m thick
105	Layer	Mixed compaction, very dark grey (10YR 3/1), silty clay with CBM, flint, concrete and charcoal.	0.28m thick
106	Cut	Pit of indeterminate shape containing large amount of brick and building rubble. 'U' shaped.	Length: unknown Width: 1.06m Depth: 0.86m
107	Fill	Loose, brown (10YR 3/4), very silty clay with CBM. Rubble in-fill.	Length: unknown Width: 1.06m Depth: 0.86m
108	Layer	Firm, brown (7.5 YR 4/4), clay with occasional flints <0.02m. Brickearth.	0.54m thick
109	Layer	Friable, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2), silty clay with frequent flint and CBM.	0.43m thick
110	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2), silty clay with frequent flints <0.04m. Redeposited natural.	0.30m thick
111	Cut	Linear cut for waste pipe.	Length: 2.14m+ Width: 0.98m Depth: 0.78m

Recorded contexts

Context	Туре	Description	Dimensions (m)
112	Fill	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4), slightly silty clay	Length: 2.14m+
		with gravel. Contains frequent flints <0.02m. Fill of waste	Width: 0.98m
		pipe cut [111]	Depth: 0.78m
113	Cut	Linear cut for water pipe.	Length: 2.14m+
			Width: 0.66m
			Depth: 0.40m
114	Fill	Firm, very dark grey (10YR 3/1), silty clay with CBM,	Length: 2.14m+
		flint and gravel. Fill of water pipe cut [113]	Width: 0.66m
			Depth: 0.40m

FINDS CONCORDANCE

3.16 Due the high incidence of brick, CBM and rubble only a sample of the artefacts present was taken. The spoil was also inspected for items likely to provide dating evidence.

	Pot	terv	CE	BM	Clay	pipe	Comments
Ctxt	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	
102	220	1			10	1	
103			2175	1			Sample brick from wall [103]
U/S	15	1			10	1	
Total	235	2	2175	1	20	2	

ARTEFACTS

Pottery

3.17 A total of 2 pottery sherds, weighing 235g, were recovered from 1 unstratified and 1 stratified contexts during the excavation.

3.18 A single sherd of ceramic bottle dating from the 19^{th} century was recovered from context (102).

3.19 A single small unstratified sherd of London White Ware dating from the 14th or 15th century was recovered from the spoil of Trench 1.

3.20 A ceramic bottle recovered from context (102) represents 93% of the assemblage by weight. The bottle is unmarked and probably dates from the 19^{th} century.

Recommendations

3.21 Given the small size of the pottery assemblage and its largely modern nature, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Ceramic Building Material

3.22 A total of 1 ceramic building material fragment, weighing 2175g, were collected from context [103]. This was a sample of the brick used to construct the wall in cut [101]. It is dated to around the 17^{th} century.

Recommendations

3.23 No further work is proposed on this fragment.

Clay pipe

3.24 The bowl of a clay pipe, weighing 10g, was recovered from context [102] close to the base of the wall [103]. It has been dated to the mid- 18^{th} century.

3.25 The pipe recovered from the unstratified context also dates to the mid-18th century.

Recommendations

3.26 Given the small size and nature of this assemblage, no further work is proposed.

ECOFACTS

3.27 No ecofacts were recovered during the excavation.

DISCUSSION

3.28 The evaluation revealed two pits [101] and [106], a wall [103], and two modern service trenches.

3.29 Pit [101] contained the remains of a wall the base of which was approximately 1.5 below ground level.

3.30 Pit [106] contained a substantial quantity of CBM, stone and rubble. There was also the three or four courses of a wall orientated north-south. Pit [106] cut pit [101].

3.31 The stratigraphy of the trench suggests there has been substantial disturbance of the ground. The content of layers [105] and [109] consisted largely of CBM indicative of made ground associated with building activity.

3.32 Layer [110] appeared to be redeposited natural overlaying layers [109] and [108]. These layers are truncated by pit [106] to the south and the service trenches to the north.

3.33 Whilst the stratigraphy of both the east and west facing sections of the trench were similar, none of the features observed in the west facing section were reflected in the east facing.

3.34 The cartographic evidence shows that there has been a substantial reduction in the footprint size of the buildings on the plot (Figs.8&9). The principal reduction occurred some time between 1867 and 1886 with another smaller alteration post 1935.

4. Conclusions

4.1 Although nos. 37 to 41 Silver Street are modern buildings, no. 35 appears to be the last building of 18^{th} century origins to survive on the east side of Silver Street. The presence of original structural elements, panelling and fireplaces certainly make the building worthy of record if not retention. The building appears to have undergone substantial alterations both internally and externally particularly during the 20^{th} century.

4.2 A study of the historic Ordnance Survey plans covering the site, and the depth of the wall seen in pit [101], suggest that it could have formed part of a cellar at the eastern end of the original building. A sample brick taken from the wall is contemporary with the main building, dating to the 1700s. The remains of the wall seen in pit [106] may have formed part of the footings of another extension or lean-to immediately to the east of that.

4.3 The disturbance associated with layers [110], [109] and [108] may have been the result of the demolition of a structure forming the north-east corner of the post-1913 building. The service trenches subsequently cut through these layers.

4.4 Apart from the single unstratified sherd of pottery, there was no evidence of Medieval or earlier activity on the site.

4.5 Although a survey of 1572 recorded the presence of four cottages and two houses on the east side of Silver Street in 1572 (Pam 1992: 47), no architectural or archaeological evidence pre-dating the 18th century was revealed during the present investigation.

CONFIDENCE RATING

4.6 In the course of the fieldwork, weather and ground conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

4.7 There are no other circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the present evaluation which is less than High.

5. Sources Consulted

Baker, T.F.T.(ed). 1976 History of the County of Middlesex Victoria County History

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Pam, D. 1992. A Parish Near London: Before 1837 Enfield Preservation Society

Pam, D. 1992. A History of Enfield Vol II: A Victorian Suburb 1837-1914 Enfield Preservation Society

Taylor, J. *Nails and Wood Screws* http://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/nails/nails.htm

6. Illustrations

Figure 1 Site location
Figure 2Site layout
Figure 3Plan of number 35
Figure 4Interior elevations of kitchen and dining room
Figure 5Interior elevations of living room, bedroom 1 and bedroom 2
Figure 6Interior elevations of bedroom 3
Figure 7 Plan and section of Trench 1
Figure 8aOrdnance Survey Plan (1867) Figure 8bOrdnance Survey Plan (1886)
Figure 9aOrdnance Survey Plan (1913) Figure 9bOrdnance Survey Plan (1935)
Plate 1aLiving room panelling Plate 1bLiving room fireplace
Plate 2aOyster shells set into living room fireplace surround Plate 2bBedroom 3 fireplace

Appendix 1: Black and White Photographic Log

Roll No.	Photo No.	Description	Facing
1	1	West elevation	Е
	2	West elevation	Е
	3	East elevation	W
	4	East elevation	W
	5	Access arch: east end	W
	6	Access arch: east end	W
	7	Access arch: south wall	SW
	8	Access arch: north wall	NW
	9	Arch into kitchen	Ν
	10	Dining room: east elevation	Е
	11	Dining room: south elevation	S
	12	Stairs	W
	13	Living room: north elevation	Ν
	14	Living room: east elevation	Е
	15	Living room: south elevation	S
2	1	Living room: west elevation	W
	2	Bedroom 1: west elevation	W
	3	Bedroom 1: north elevation	Ν
	4	Landing: south elevation	S
	5	Bedroom 2: north elevation	Ν
	6	Bedroom 2: south elevation	S
	7	Landing: back panelling of Bedroom 2	S
	8	Landing: back panelling of Bedroom 2	S
	9	Landing: looking east	Е
	10	Bedroom 3: east elevation	Е
	11	Bedroom 3: fireplace	
	12	Bedroom 3: north west window	NW
	13	Landing: looking west	W
	14	Street frontage	NE
	15	Rear of properties	NW

Appendix 2: Digital Colour Photographic Log

Sheet	Photo No.	Facing	
А	1	Shop: west elevation	WNE
	2	Shop: east elevation	SE
	3	NE	
	4	Kitchen: west elevation	W
	5	Kitchen: north east corner	NE
	6	Kitchen: north elevation	Ν
	7	Dining room: window & hatch	Ν
	8	Living room: south elevation	S
	9	Living room: exposed brickwork	SW
	10	Living room: fireplace	S
	11	Living room: fireplace	S
	12	Living room: north elevation	Ν
В	1	Living room: oyster shells set into fire surround	S
	2	Bedroom 1: fireplace	Ν
	3	Bedroom 2: door moulding	Е
	4	Bedroom 2: pillar & roof detail	Ν
	5	Bedroom 2: pillar	W
	6	Bedroom 2: south elevation	S
	7	Bedroom 2: panelling detail	Е
	8	Bedroom 3: fireplace	
	9	Bedroom 3: east elevation	Е
	10	Access arch: SE corner	SE
	11	Rear elevation: south west corner	SW
	12	Access arch: south elevation	SW
С	1	Access arch: south elevation	SW
	2	Access arch: south elevation detail	S
	3	Access arch: chimney relieving arch	NW

















