

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
14 Holywell Row
London Borough of Hackney
EC2A 4JB**

NGR 533110 182150

London Borough of Hackney Planning Ref: 2015/2251

**ASE Project No: 160490
Site Code: HYW16
ASE Report No: 2016482
OASIS ID: archaeol6-270386**



by Jonathan Gardner

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Neptune Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 14 Holywell Row, Hackney, London.

A number of post-medieval features were observed and recorded including a brick-built cesspit and brick-built walls and deposits of made ground. These suggest extensive rebuilding and/or extension of the property.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the Neptune Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 14 Holywell Row, Hackney, London (NGR 533110 182150; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is on the eastern side of Holywell Row and is one of a row of terraced buildings in an extensively built-up area. The street level adjacent to the site is c.15mAOD.

1.2.2 According to the latest available data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geological strata at the site consist of the London Clay overlain by Taplow Gravels (BGS 2016).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the excavation of a substantial basement, as well as other above-ground works, was granted by Hackney Council in January 2016 (Planning Reference 2015/2251).

1.3.2 Following the production of an archaeological desk-based assessment (AB Heritage 2016), which highlighted the potential archaeological significance of the site, and consultation between the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) of Historic England and Hackney Council, a planning condition (no.5) was attached to the permission requiring that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. No development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.'

REASON: Heritage assets of archaeological interest are expected to survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of appropriate archaeological investigation, including the publication of results, in accordance with Section 12 of the NPPF'

1.3.3 Accordingly, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd were contracted to compile a Project Design and Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring (PCA 2016) outlining the methods to be used at the site, and in the reporting and archiving of the results. Subsequent to this, ASE were contracted to carry out the monitoring itself which was undertaken as a watching brief.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The following research aims and objectives were identified in the WSI (*ibid.*):

'The proposed development will allow several research areas to be explored.

These include the nature of the prehistoric occupation.

The nature of the Roman occupation known from the area will be explored in detail.

Land use during the Saxon and early mediaeval periods will be examined in detail.

The development of Holywell Priory will be examined in detail.

The early post mediaeval land uses will be examined in detail appropriate to significance.

The site uses after the 18th century will be examined as a brief recording exercise.'

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out between the 22nd September and the 28th November 2016. The on-site monitoring was undertaken variously by Sarah Ritchie (Senior Archaeologist), Jonathan Gardner and Tom Rugg (Archaeological Assistants), with additional reporting by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Andrew Leonard and in post-excavation by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site was reviewed in an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (AB Heritage in Jan 2016) which took into account all known archaeological features and finds-spots with a 250m radius of the property ('the study area'). Below is a summary of the assessment.

2.2 Prehistoric (c.500, 000 BC - AD 43)

2.2.1 There is substantial evidence of prehistoric activity in the area now covering Greater London. Some such evidence includes occupational features, which often took advantage of the water sources available to provide a variety of resources to support settlements.

2.2.2 While there are no known heritage features of prehistoric date within the boundary of the proposed development site, a probable Holocene palaeochannel, c.200m to the south of the proposed development site.

2.3 Roman (AD 43 - AD 410)

2.3.1 During the Roman period, Hackney was utilised for farmland to provide resources for the Roman town of *Londinium* to the south. A number of Roman roads passed through Hackney, including the roads to York and Colchester.

2.3.2 While no known records for Roman features exist within the boundary of the proposed development site, there are four such records within the surrounding study area.

2.3.3 The majority of recorded features of Roman date within the study area consist of findspots. These include the findspot of a bone needle on Scrutton Road, c.70m north of the proposed development site, a figurine on Paul Street c.190m north-west of the site, and a pot on Bonhill Street c.200 west of the site.

2.4 Medieval (AD 410 - AD 1536)

2.4.1 Various names for the earliest settlements in Hackney have been recorded through the medieval period, and the name Hackney is not recorded until 1198. The name likely derived from 'ey' (meaning raised place in a marsh), and the name of the Danish person; *Haca* or *Hacon*, who is believed to have owned areas around the River Lea (Hackney Council 2014).

2.4.2 No cultural heritage features of medieval date lie within the boundary of the proposed development site. However, there are four features which date to this period within the general area. This includes the Saxon Finsbury Manor c.120m to the southwest of the proposed development site. This was a substantial building, accessed via a gatehouse and bridge through walls and a moat.

- 2.4.3 Holywell Priory was founded in the early 12th century at c. 200m north-east of the proposed development site, but was dissolved by 1539. By the end of the medieval period, Hackney had become a popular residence for the wealthy in London. Other evidence of occupation in the area surrounding the proposed development during this period comes from Worship Street c. 60m south of the proposed development site, where deposits such as pottery, leather, and organic matter were recorded during excavations.
- 2.5 Post Medieval (AD 1537 - AD 1800)
- 2.5.1 The area surrounding the proposed development site continued to develop during the post medieval period, as the population increased to support the demands of industry.
- 2.5.2 One cultural heritage feature of this date is known within the boundary of the proposed development site, while a further fifteen features of this date are located within the surrounding study area.
- 2.5.3 The plague in London was prevalent in the mid-1600s, when c. 30m east of the site, a pit was excavated to bury those which had died from the disease. During the 17th and 19th centuries this area was used as a cemetery. The area is now occupied by a car park.
- 2.5.4 There is known to have been a building at 14 Holywell Row since at least 1786 when insurance documents were filed for the property with the Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Group. The architecture of the existing building at the proposed development site is suggestive of origins in the Georgian era, however the building was 'seriously damaged' (London Bomb Damage Map) during the Second World War, which may suggest why the existing features of the property are not analogous with the original post-medieval architectural style.
- 2.5.5 Other features which demonstrate the historic development of the area beyond general occupation, include the site of an early playhouse c.200m north-east of the proposed development site, which perished in the Great Fire of London, along with possible Civil War defences c.200m to the north-north-east of the site at Holywell Mount.
- 2.5.6 The majority of the remaining cultural heritage features of this date consist of occupational features, such as refuse dumps, and the remains of former buildings and structures.
- 2.6 Modern (AD 1801 - Present)
- 2.6.1 Many of the 24 known cultural heritage features of modern date in the study area depict an era of substantial development during the 19th century, which supported the growth of furniture manufacture and trade within the area of the South Shoreditch Conservation Area. Products from this trade may have been transported from the area via the North London Railway which was present in the area during the mid-19th century, c.200m east of the proposed development site. These railway lines no longer exist.

- 2.6.2 The existing building at the proposed development site is the only known cultural heritage feature of modern date within the site boundary.
- 2.6.3 The local listing details (The Hackney Society 2011 - 2015) for 14 Holywell Row show that the Georgian property was re-built in the early - mid 19th century to mimic the Georgian features of its predecessor. Later alterations are likely to have been made after the building suffered 'serious' bomb damage during the Second World War, as shown on the London Bomb Damage Map.
- 2.6.4 Many of the nearby features consist of Grade II Listed traffic controlling gunposts along Worship Street, Scrutton Road, and Curtain Road, within c.150m of the site.
- 2.6.5 Additional features of this date within the study area primarily consist of buildings.
- 2.7 Undated
- 2.7.1 The three known cultural heritage features of unknown date which are located within the study area include the Locally Listed buildings on Holywell Row. It remains unclear whether these are remodelled Georgian buildings, or 19th century buildings mimicking Georgian architecture. These buildings include numbers 15-21 and 25-27 Holywell Row.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 3)

3.1.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of manually and mechanically excavated ground reduction and underpinning pits (P1 – P15).

3.1.2 All levels were measured from a contractor's benchmark of 10.264m OD.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

3.2.1 The site was extremely constricted and often multiple underpin trenches were being excavated simultaneously and thus, at times, due to plant operation, ASE could not always monitor all of the excavation that was taking place.

3.2.2 Furthermore, the production of this report has been severely constrained by the accidental disposal of a good deal of the archaeological paperwork by the site contractors.

3.2.3 This report is therefore based upon watching brief day-sheets, three surviving plans, one section, photographs and finds, as well as two interim reports (prepared in connection with GLAAS visiting the site).

3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 As stated above, the paper archive is mostly incomplete due to the contractors accidentally destroying it. What survives consists of colour digital photographs, five watching brief sheets with notes and scans. This will be deposited at the LAARC at the end of the project.

Context sheets	0 (all lost)
Section sheets	1 (others lost)
Plans sheets	2 (+1 scanned but physical copy lost)
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	80
Context register	0 (lost)
Drawing register	0 (lost)
Watching brief forms	7
Trench Record forms	1

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Ground reduction 22nd September

4.1.1 The first visit consisted of the monitoring of ground reduction immediately below the existing 0.25m thick concrete slab. The work was undertaken using a 1-ton mechanical excavator fitted with 0.5m grading bucket. This revealed a layer of crushed rubble [006] / [021] overlying made ground horizon [001] and the tops of walls [002] which probably formed old internal walls from an earlier phase of construction of the existing building (see Figure 3). The made ground horizon [001] contained a variety of pottery, the latest date range being: 1760-1800.

4.2 Underpinning pits (P1 - P6) 10th and 11th October 2016

- 4.2.1 Following this, the excavation of underpinning pits (Figure 3) was monitored.
- 4.2.2 The earliest deposit recorded was natural clay [011] (Figure 5) at around at depth of c. 8.25m OD.
- 4.2.3 This was overlain by a layer of clayey made ground [007] / [008] / [025], containing a tile no more closely dateable beyond a broad 17th-18th century date.
- 4.2.4 Above this was the aforementioned made ground horizon [001] / [003] which is 18th or 19th century.
- 4.2.5 Cut into the made ground [001], a number of wall-footings [009] / [010] apparently pertaining to the earliest construction phase of the existing building were recorded.
- 4.2.6 In underpinning pit P3, apparently associated with 17th-18th century wall [002], were the fragmentary remains of a single course thick rough and unmortared brick floor [004] which was uneven and slumped downwards to the north-west, with a top level of 8.86m OD.
- 4.2.7 In underpinning pit P5 a brick-lined 18th century cesspit [012] was observed at near surface level (9.36m OD) and extending beyond the south-eastern limit of excavation (L.O.E). The interior of the cesspit (1.15m x 0.7m x 1.35m deep), whose fabric comprised a 2 course thick regular bond of unfrogged red bricks thick and was 11 courses high, contained a grey mixed demolition/mortar fill [013] changing to a dark grey brown loose sandy silt fill [018] at 8.61m OD. Fill [018] contained large quantities of 19th-century domestic refuse. The internal faces of the brickwork of the cesspit was mineralised consistent with cess deposition.

4.3 Monitoring of Underpin pits P6 – P9 on 17-18th October 2016

4.3.1 P6 – P9 revealed a similar sequence as described above.

4.3.2 P6 in the south corner of the site revealed a denser deposit of rubble/CBM [021] and notably another roughly north-south wall [019]. This wall, below c. 0.25m of made ground [001], was of mid-yellow-red unfrogged brick like [002] in P3 and P4 and was around 0.45m wide and 3 courses high (c. 0.20m). This did not appear to lie underneath extant foundations [010] of the building on P6's south side, however this trench was begun prior to ASE being on site and hence only around 0.25m was observed in the north-eastern section– and thus, may have been truncated. Wall [019] was trench built in construction cut [020] which truncated the underlying demolition rubble layer [021] which was around 0.5m thick here.

4.4 Monitoring of underpinning pits P10 - P15 on 23rd and 28th November 2016

4.4.1 These two visits were undertaken to focus on the rear of the footprint of 14 Holywell Row in order to assess the potential for earlier (i.e. 18th Century or earlier) structures following consultation with GLAAS on 18th October and historic map regression showing potential change to building footprints (see AB Heritage 2016). P10 to 13 were recorded after they were excavated by machine/hand in ASE's absence.

4.4.2 In P10 -15 the sequence was similar to that recorded in P1-P6.

4.4.3 P14 revealed the whole external face of the cesspit [012] down to 7.91m OD.

Context	Trench	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	All	Layer	Made ground	Site	Site	0.25m
002	P3, P4	Masonry	Internal 18 th C cross wall	5m	0.45m	0.6m
003	All	Layer	= [01]	-	-	-
004	P3	Masonry	Brick floor/rubble	1m (trench)	0.8m	0.10m
005	P2	Layer	Burnt layer	Trench	Trench	0.10m
006	P3	Layer	Demolition layer = [21]	Trench	Trench	0.3m
007	All (except P1, P5)	Layer	Clayey layer/made ground	Site?	Site?	0.6m (max)
008	P1	Layer	Clay/made ground (likely = [07])	Trench	Trench	0.4m
009	All	Masonry	18 th C Brick footings under extant building footprint	Site	c.04m	c.0.8m (max)
010	All	Masonry	= [09]	-	-	-
011	All	Layer	Natural clay	Site	Site	Not bottomed:1.5m thick to LOE
012	P5, P10, P14	Masonry	Brick cesspit	2.8m	1.2m	1.55m
013	P5	Fill	Upper fill Cesspit [12]	1.15m	0.7m	0.75m

Context	Trench	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
014	P2	Fill	Backfill of cut [15] (in P2 only)			
015	All	Cut	Extant building footing construction cut	Site	c. 0.5m	c.0.6m
016	LOST	?	<i>Records lost by contractor</i>	-	-	-
017	LOST	?	<i>Records lost by contractor</i>	-	-	-
018	P5	Fill	Lower fill cesspit [12]	1.15m	0.7m	0.8m
019	P6	Masonry	18 th C NNE-SSW cross wall	0.25m (N.F.E)	0.45m	0.25m
020	P6	Cut	Cut for [19]	0.25m	0.45m	0.28m
021	P6	Layer	Demolition layer (= [06]?)	Trench	Trench	c.0.4m
022	P7 LOST	?	<i>Records lost by contractor</i>	-	-	-
023	P7 LOST	?	<i>Records lost by contractor</i>	-	-	-
024	?	Layer?	<i>Records lost by contractor</i>	-	-	-
025	P8	Layer	Clay silt Layer = [07]	Trench	Trench	c. 0.4m
026	P8	Fill	Fill of cut [27]	1m	0.8m	0.25m
027	P8	Cut	Shallow cut into [025]	1m	0.8m	0.25m
028	P10	Layer	Made ground =[007]	Trench	Trench	0.5m
029	P14	Fill	Backfill of c/cut [30]			1.4m
030	P14	Cut	C/cut for cesspit structure [12]	c. 1.5m	At least 1.5m	1.4m

Table 3: List of contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at 14 Holywell Row, London Borough of Hackney. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Other Building Material	Weight (g)
001	2	82					1	16				
002			2	3220	1	430						
007			1	228								
008	3	18					1	8				
010											1	3606
012			3	5820								
018	30	1152	1	4			7	36	2	32	1	68
019			3	2572								
024	3	76					24	136				
025	3	72	1	2762			1	2			1	8
026	1	8	1	38			1	2				
Total	42	1408	12	14644	1	430	35	200	2	32	3	3682

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

001 – Mixed. c. 1680-1710 and c. 1760-1800

008 – c. 1725-1775

018 – c. 1840-1880

024 – c. 1680-1710

025 – c. 1650-1700

026 – c. 1650-1700

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 41 sherds of pottery, weighing 1400g, from six individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 5 as part of the archive.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments
001	Tin-glazed ware	EPM	1	10	Ointment pot x1 (blue-tinged glaze)
001	Creamware	LPM	1	72	Bowl x1 (poor glaze)
008	Staffordshire-type white salt glazed stoneware	EPM/ LPM	2	16	Tea bowl x1
018	Tin-glazed ware	EPM	1	6	Plate x1 (blue decoration on white glaze)
018	Refined red earthenware	EPM/ LPM	1	210	Coffee pot x1 (zig-zag engine-turned incised lines)
018	Creamware	LPM	1	8	Bowl x1 (industrial slip of black and red/brown annular bands with engine-turned chequer)
018	Pearlware	LPM	8	240	Plates x4 (x1 Blue shell-edge Type 1 decoration, x1 BLSH Type 2, x1 BLSH Type 3/4, x1 moulded patterned rim); saucer x1 (hand-painted blue and green floral); coffee cup x1 (late hand-painted polychrome floral design)
018	Yellow ware	LPM	2	12	Bowl x1 (brown mocha decoration)
018	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	4	96	Plates x2 (floral designs); jug x1 (Eastern-style building design)
018	Blue transfer-printed whiteware with polychrome highlights	LPM	2	44	Saucer x1 (Chinese design with underglaze red-orange highlighting and overglaze hand-painted yellow/gold enamelling). Blue transfer on base giving pattern (AMHERST) and maker's initials (J&W)
018	Refined whiteware	LPM	8	434	Jar x1 (expanded rim), jug x1 (banded)
018	English porcelain	LPM	3	100	Bowl x1 (copy of late Chinese type with hand-painted overglaze polychrome orange, mauve, yellow, brown Chinese floral design)
024	Tin-glazed ware	EPM	1	30	Bowl x1 (blue floral design on slight blue tinged glaze). Footring
024	Border ware (yellow/clear glaze)	EPM	1	20	Pipkin x1 (externally sooted)
024	Midlands Purple	EPM	1	22	Jar/butter pot x1 (black glaze all over)
025	Tin-glazed ware	EPM	2	52	Bowl x1 (plain unglazed concave base), drug jar (blue cable decoration with horizontal purple lines above)
025	Border ware (yellow/clear glaze)	EPM	1	20	Uncertain form x1 (clear glaze internally)
026	London-area post-medieval redware	EPM	1	8	Uncertain form x1 (clear glaze internally)

Table 5: Pottery assemblage (EPM – Early Post-Medieval c. 1550-1750; LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

5.2.2 Although there is a great range in sherd size the material is generally all in quite fresh condition, suggesting it has not been subjected to any significant reworking. The earliest material appears to relate to the latter part of the 17th century and early part of the 18th. This assemblage is too small to comment on but there is nothing to suggest anything other than a domestic one of the period. A number of the sherds fall between the early and late post-medieval periods (as defined in Table 1), being of types that were common either side of the mid-18th century (eg the Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware). There is sufficient material present to suggest unbroken activity through into the 19th century. The largest group, from context [018], consists of notably large fresh sherds, including some vessels that were obviously quite old, but in contemporaneous use, when the group was discarded. For example, the coffee pot is almost certainly of the 18th century but the transfer-printed wares (and clay pipes) put deposition of the group between c. 1840 and 1880. There are no late 19th- or early 20th- century sherds.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford

5.3.1 Twelve fragments weighing a total of 14.6kg were recovered from 7 separate contexts. The assemblage includes brick, floor and roof tile. Fabrics were identified and recorded using the Museum of London (MoL) fabric series.

5.3.2 Brick samples were retrieved from three walls. Sample [002] contained two complete unfrosted bricks measuring 220x100x62mm in MoL fabric 3034. Sample [012] produced three complete bricks with shallow, scooped frogs in a variant of MoL3039. Lastly, [019] contained a complete brick with a slight scooped frog in MoL3034 and a fragment from another brick in MoL3033. A 17th-18th century date for the bricks is probable, although they may have been reused at a later date.

5.3.3 A floor tile fragment 290mm wide and 41mm thick was recovered from context [025]. The tile is made in MoL fabric 2318 and has knife trimmed chamfered edges. The tile is unglazed and has a nail hole in the corner of the underside. A 17-18th century date is probable for this tile. Context [018] produced a fragment from a Dutch purple tin-glazed wall tile. Although not an exact match the tile shares a similar border design to an example from King Edward Street which depicts a harbour scene within an octagonal border dating to c1730-1800 (Betts & Weinstein 2010, 46; Fig 284). Lastly, a roof tile fragment in MoL fabric 2587 came from context [007]. The tile has chalk and sandy mortar on all surfaces suggesting it has been reused. It is not closely dateable beyond a broad 15-18th century date.

5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The archaeological work recovered a relatively large assemblage of clay pipe from the site. The material has been fully listed in Table 6 using the typology of Atkinson and Oswald (1969).

Context	Element			No	Weight (g)	Combined stem length	Bore diameter	Comments
001	Bowl	AO22	1680-1710	1	14	38mm	2.4mm	Fresh
008	Stem	-	1700-1750	1	6	60mm	2.1mm	Fresh
018	Bowl	AO28	1820-1840	1	6	5mm	1.4mm	Front seam leaf dec. Flower/flower maker mark on heel
018	Bowl frag	AO28	1820-1840	1	6	39mm	1.5mm	Both seams with leaf dec. Heel missing
018	Bowl frag	AO28	1820-1840	1	4	40mm	1.3mm	Back seam leaf dec. Maker W/?T or I
018	Bowl	AO29	1840-1880	1	8	32mm	1.2mm	Leaf/acorn dec on both seams. Maker W/W on heel
018	Stem	-	1750-1900	3	10	170mm	1.4-1.5mm	Fresh
024	Bowl	AO18	1660-1680	1	20	45mm	3.0mm	Slight wear
024	Bowl	AO20 type	1680-1710	1	20	32mm	2.5mm	Fresh
024	Bowl frag	?	1680-1710	2	2	-	-	Slight wear
024	Stem	-	1650-1700	18	82	1010mm	2.3-2.8mm	Some stained
024	Stem	-	1700-1750	2	8	105mm	1.9-2.1mm	Quite fresh
025	Stem	-	1650-1700	1	2	40mm	2.5mm	Fresh
026	Mouthpiece	-	1650-1700	1	2	50mm	2.6mm	Fresh

Table 6: Clay pipe assemblage

5.4.2 The clay pipe assemblage closely mirrors the ceramics as far as chronology is concerned. The material is also dominated by fresh fragments that have obviously not been reworked to any notable extent. The earliest pipes are from the later 17th century to very beginning of the 18th. These include a curiously long bowl from [024], the closest parallel type being AO20. Although not a good match the dating of the bowl would be in keeping with the AO20 type. There are relatively few pipe fragments that can definitely be placed in the 18th century. The assemblage from [018] provides a small group of early/mid-19th-century pipes, three of which have maker's marks. Even the best of these (W/W) cannot be ascribed to a particular maker with any certainty, as there are several London makers with this initial working at the time.

5.5 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Context [018] produced two fragments (32g) from a pale blue medicine bottle of octagonal section. The shards, which show a notable amount of surface deterioration, have embossed gradations on them in Roman numerals and would be very much in keeping with a mid-19th- century date suggested by the other finds from this deposit.

5.6 The Stone and Mortar by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Two pieces of stone were recovered during the work. Context [002] produced a 430g fragment from a 51mm+ thick paving slab in Purbeck limestone and context [010] contained a 3614g block of Kentish Ragstone. The latter is battered and broken, but clearly is a re-used fragment from a roughly faced building block, with mortar traces on the faced side.

5.6.2 Two pieces of mortar were recovered. Context [018] contained a 68g piece of off-white abundant sandy mortar while [025] produced a 6g fragment of white/off-white very fine plaster from internal walling or ceiling.

5.6.3 The stone and mortar assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Stratigraphic sequence and survival

6.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was London Clay in places slightly more weathered and varying from a mid-yellow blue to a mid-brown yellow lying across the site at a maximum height of 8.50m. This was generally covered by a blue-brown clayey silt of variable thickness containing post medieval finds of 17th/18th century date and then an 18th or 19th century made ground horizon. In several trenches (P2, P8, P14) this was obviously truncated by later features such as the cesspit in P5 and P14 and the wall footing [015] in P5 and P10. In the eastern half of the site an overlying layer of demolition / levelling rubble was recorded.

6.2 Discussion

6.2.1 Based on the historic mapping evidence (see Pre-Construct Archaeology 2016 and AB Heritage 2016) combined particularly with the excavation of cesspit [012] in P5/ P14 it would appear the rear of 14 Holywell Row was reconfigured in the early 19th century following its original construction in the late 18th century.

6.2.2 A map of 1783 (HGL N.D.a; not reproduced here) by Carrington Bowles indicates buildings on the site corresponding roughly to the first OS map and contemporary building frontage with maps consulted that were earlier than this (e.g. John Bowles' from 1742; (HGL N.D.b) showing only a path through open fields, from 'Hog Lane' in the south-west towards Holywell Mount in the north-east, though corresponding to the modern street's curvature. This corresponds with the suggestion in the DBA that the building was present at least from 1786 (AB Heritage 2016, p. 13), though the London Metropolitan Archives holds a surveyors' affidavit relating to an unnumbered building on the row from 1776 suggesting construction began a decade or so earlier (LMA 2016).

6.2.3 The first OS map of 1877 of the area shows a small open courtyard at the east corner within the footprint of the current building which at around 1.5 metres long corresponds closely to the dimensions of the cesspit excavated in P5 which would suggest this area was outside the building at this time. By the time of the 1896 OS map this open space has been covered over which, based on the backfilling with 19th century finds of the cesspit, would fit with the archaeological remains as suggesting a reconfiguration of the rear of the building and potentially, based on these OS maps, a slight lengthening of its back wall, (though this was not clear in the archaeological deposits observed on site). It may also be at this period the current fabric of the building was rebuilt over the earlier footings [010] were undertaken given the standing building appears to use 19th century brickwork with [010] being of 18th century character (i.e. unfrogged and of smaller dimensions).

6.2.4 It is therefore possible that the two cross walls observed on site [002] and [019] relate to the earlier phase of the building and were demolished at the same time as the cesspit pit went out of use given that they and the foundations [010] which are built adjacent to and over them (it is unclear if they were bonded together unfortunately) were sealed by a 19th century made ground [001]/[003].

The evidence for an even earlier 19th century refurbishment of sorts is also suggested by the Hackney Society (see AB Heritage 2016, p. 14)

6.3 Conclusions

- 6.3.1 Though not proved conclusively it would appear that the results of the watching brief tentatively indicated at least two phases of use for 14 Holywell Row and potentially, with the layers of silty clay (e.g. [007]) and demolition material [006]/[021], a building up of the area prior to initial construction.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Neptune Group for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and John Gould Archaeological Advisor at GLAAS for his guidance and monitoring. Thanks are also due to the staff of Top Level Construction who undertook the excavations and facilitated site access.

HER Summary

Site Code	HYW16					
Identification Name and Address	14 Holywell Row					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Hackney					
OS Grid Refs.	533110 182150					
Geology	Taplow Gravel over London Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	160490					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site	Urban					
Dates of Fieldwork			22.09.2016 - 28.11.2016			
Sponsor/Client	Mr Nicholas Herbert					
Project Managers	Any Leonard/Dan Swift					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary						
				None		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Neptune Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 14 Holywell Row, Hackney, London.</i></p> <p><i>A number of post-medieval features were observed and recorded including a brick-built cesspit and brick-built walls and deposits of made ground. These suggest extensive rebuilding and/or extension of the property.</i></p>						

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-270386**

Project details

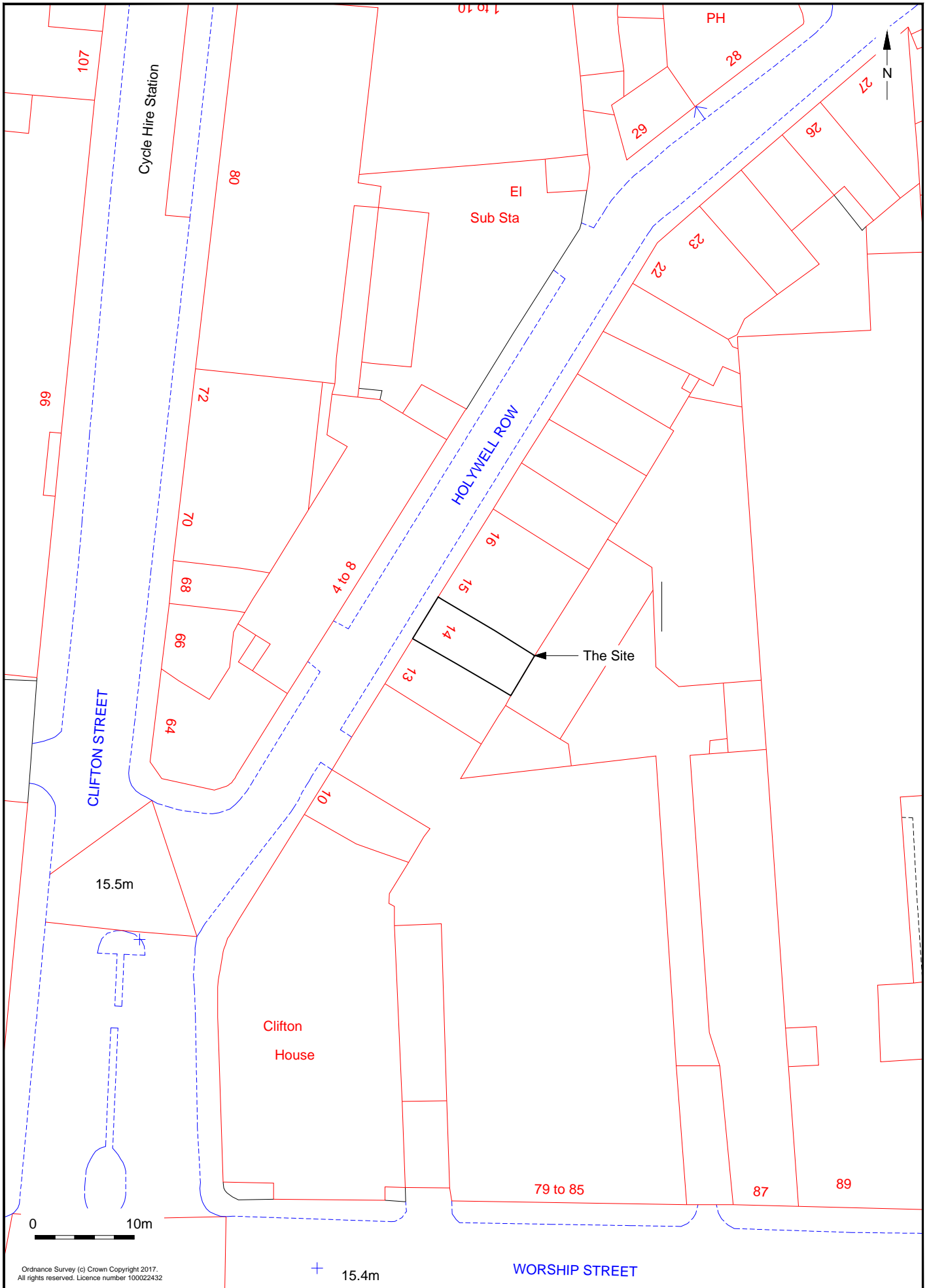
Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - 14 Holywell Row, London Borough of Hackney
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Neptune Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 14 Holywell Row, Hackney, London. A number of post-medieval features were observed and recorded including a brick-built cesspit and brick-built walls and deposits of made ground. These suggest extensive rebuilding and/or extension of the property.
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2016 End: 28-11-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2015/2251 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	160490 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HYW16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY 14 Holywell Row
Postcode	EC2A 4JB
Study area	0.01 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 3311 8215 51.522062829545 -0.081147904706 51 31 19 N 000 04 52 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Jonathan Gardner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Pre Construct Archaeology
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Neptune Group
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - 14 Holywell Row, London Borough of Hackney
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Gardner, J.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2016482
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos
Entered by	Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	5 December 2016



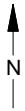
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© Archaeology South-East		14 Holywell Row, London EC2A 4JB	
Project Ref: 160490	Feb 2017	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2016482	Drawn by: JC	Fig. 1	



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© Archaeology South-East		14 Holywell Row, London Borough of Hackney	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160490	Feb 2017	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2016482	Drawn by: JLR		



+ 533110, 182160



+ 533110, 182145

-  Existing walls
-  Underpinning pit

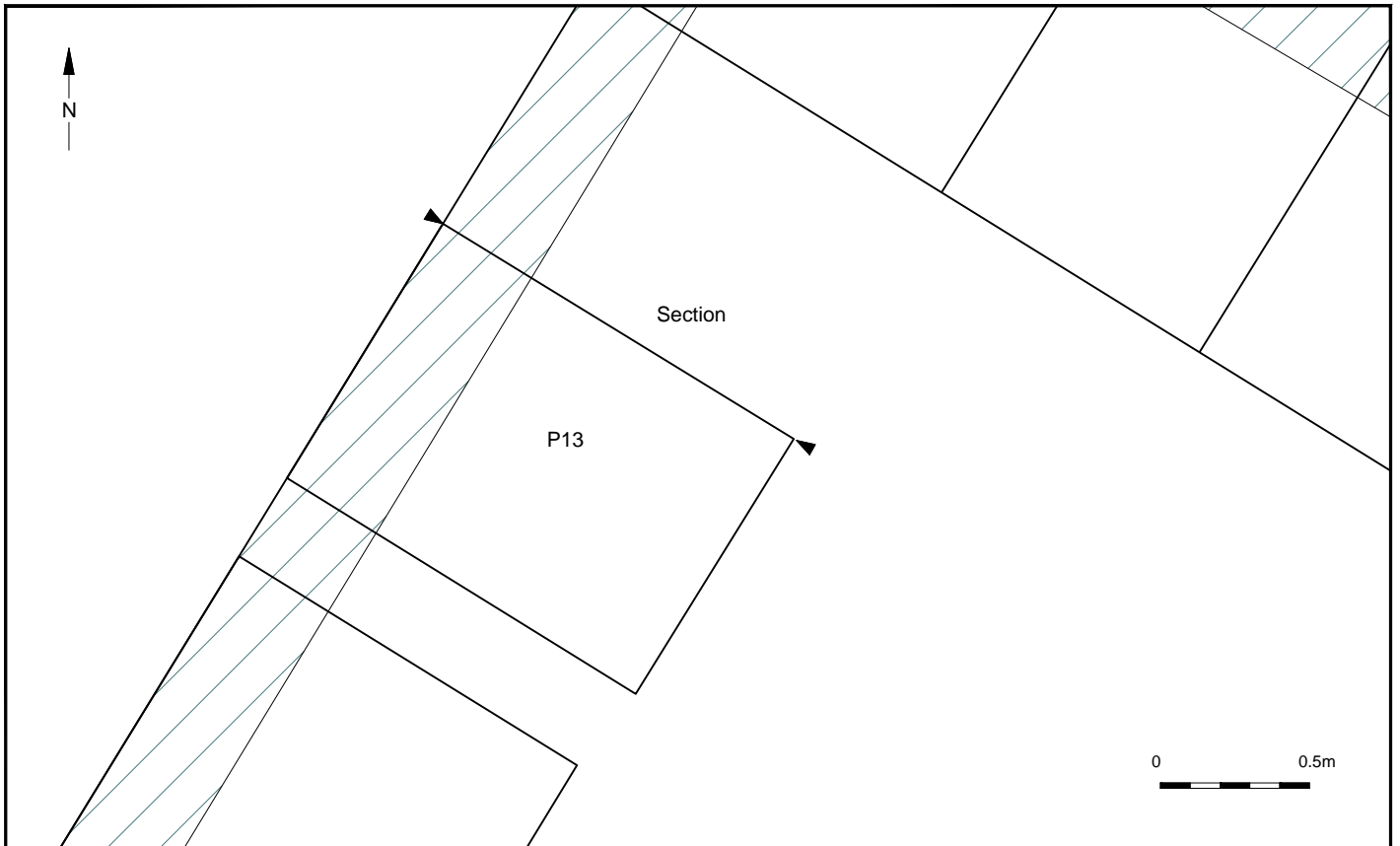
0 2m





P14 showing cess pit 012

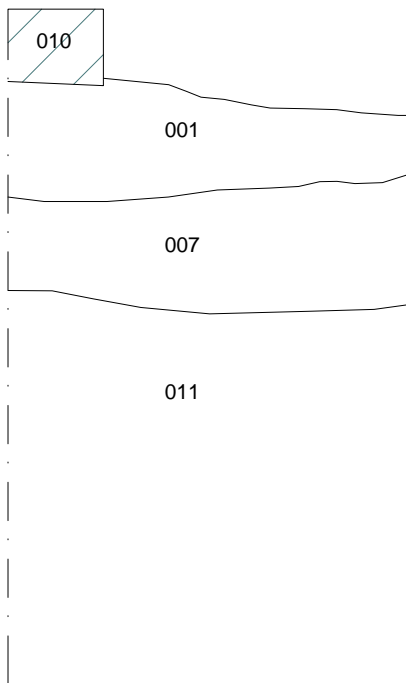
© Archaeology South-East		14 Holywell Row, London Borough of Hackney	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 160490	Feb 2017	Underpinning pits P5, P10 and P14: plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016482	Drawn by: JLR		




Section, P13

NW

SE



 Existing wall

0 0.5m



Lower part of south-east facing section, P13

© Archaeology South-East		14 Holywell Row, London Borough of Hackney	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 160490	Feb 2017	Underpinning pit P13 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016482	Drawn by: JLR		

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