

Archaeological Evaluation Report

STRATFORD ISLAND UNIVERSITY CENTRE

For The University of East London

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

STRATFORD ISLAND UNIVERSITY CENTRE

Client: University of East London

Local Authority: London Borough of Newham

NGR: 538990, 184605

Planning App: 10/01868/LTGDC/LBNM

Author(s): C. Barton

Doc Ref: LP0980L-AER-v1.0

Site Code: GTF11

Date: January 12

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Stratford Island, in the London Borough of Newham. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of the University of East London.

No previous archaeological investigation of the site has been recorded but the surrounding area is known to contain Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval remains.

The objectives of the evaluation were to determine whether any archaeological remains were present on the site of the proposed development. No remains of archaeological significance were found. The ground had been severely disturbed during previous development.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of the University of East London.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Cornelius Barton of L – P : Archaeology between the 13th and 15th of September 2011. This report was written by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology.
- 1.3. The site is located in at Salway Road, Stratford, within the London Borough of Newham(LBN) (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 538990, 184605.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by the Museum of London is GTF11.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with a specification for archaeological evaluation (SAE) prepared by Mike Bamforth of L - P: Archaeology (BAMFORTH 2010).

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

- 2.1.1. Permission has been granted for development of land off Great Eastern Road, Stratford E15 1BX, in the London Borough of Newham. The application reference is 0/01868/LTGDC/LBNM.
- 2.1.2. The proposed development is a 5 storey building with associated basements. The structure will be sub-basemented to a depth of 0.85m AOD. The building is to be constructed using pad foundations. Foundation pads will be constructed to depths of up to 1m below basement levels with an additional 0.5m for a mass concrete sub-base. The maximum depth of disturbance will therefore be 2.35m in those areas occupied by the deepest foundations.
- 2.1.3. The site does not contain nor lie adjacent to any scheduled monuments or listed buildings. It does not lie within an archaeological priority zone.
- 2.1.4. In considering any planning application for development the Local Planning Authority, the London Borough of Newham, is bound by the policies provided by PPS5. Additional guidance to help implement these policies is given in the accompanying Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (DCLG, ENGLISH HERITAGE, DCMS 2010).
- 2.1.5. When considering an application, LBN is bound by local policies 4B.15 in the London Mayors Plan, and by policy EQ43 in the Borough UDP (Adopted 2001, saved 2007) regarding archaeology and planning. As such, the following condition was attached to the development.

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

- 2.1.6. University of East London and LBN have agreed the methodology for these works in the specification LP0980L-SAE-v1.5 (BAMFORTH 2010).

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex shows the site to be located on undifferentiated River Terrace Deposits overlying Lambeth Group clay, silt, sand and gravels. This data is at relatively low resolution and offers only a rough indication of the site geology ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).
- 2.2.2. Geotechnical boreholes completed on site reveal made ground to depths ranging from 0.6m to 2.5m across the site over yellowish brown sand and gravel natural deposits.
- 2.2.3. The observed geology on the site was consistent with the above, consisting of modern make-up deposits overlying natural gravels.

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located on a raised gravel terrace to the east of Stratford Marsh and the valley of the River Lea. The River Lea is divided into several channels that pass under Stratford High Street before converging and flowing into the Thames. It should be noted that these channels were greatly altered by a flood relief scheme completed in 1935 and bear little resemblance to the earlier watercourse (POWELL 1973:44).
- 2.3.2. The site is bounded by Great Eastern Road to the northeast and northwest and by Salway Road to the south (FIGURE 2).
- 2.3.3. The site is relatively level at an approximate elevation of 4.5mOD.

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.4.1. The site is under hard standing, having been in use previously as a car-park.

2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 2.5.1. Information from the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) is referenced with the Monument ID in brackets e.g. (MLO12345) or wherever possible by the Museum of London site code.
- 2.5.2. The evidence of activity from the Early Prehistoric periods in the vicinity of the site indicates *in situ* deposits are primarily limited to the Lea Valley to the west,

with occasional lithic materials recovered from the gravel terraces east of the river.

- 2.5.3. Excavations associated with the extension of the Jubilee Line at Stratford Market Depot, approximately 775m to the southwest of the site, recorded extensive evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity (HW-OP91). A number of features were excavated dating from the Late Bronze Age through the Iron Age including a neonate burial, a possible roundhouse, and a series of ditches, pits, and postholes associated with settlement of the site (HILLER AND WILKINSON 2005:12-17).
- 2.5.4. Furthermore evidence of a Prehistoric field system at The Grove (GVE01) and Romford Road (RDV02) dates from the Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age and thus the site was possibly part of a wider landscape exploited during this period.
- 2.5.5. The site falls less than 150m to the north of the Roman Road from London to Colchester. The “Great Road” is recorded from Bethnal Green, crossing the River Lea at Old Ford and running north east through Stratford along the line of High Street, The Broadway and Romford Road (MARGARY 1967:246). A roadside settlement at Old Ford, 2km west of the site, has been well documented (M. C. ISAAC ET AL. 1979).
- 2.5.6. Stratford was located within West Ham from the Early Medieval to Post Medieval periods. The area of West Ham was referred to simply as Ham during the Early Medieval period. It is not until the 12th Century that East and West Ham are first noted (POWELL 1973:71-72)
- 2.5.7. Most evidence from this period is concentrated along the course of the ancient Channelsea River, a branch of River Lea, to the west of the site. A stone and timber bridge or jetty was recorded at the Stratford Box watching brief to the west (SBX00). Other wattle and timber was recorded in the area around the jetty dating to this period suggesting substantial activity at this time.
- 2.5.8. The closest recorded evidence to the study site was recorded at 58 The Broadway, 200m to the south (HW-AL94). A watching brief at the site noted Early Medieval dumped deposits and cultivation soil suggestive of agricultural

exploitation. It is suggested the site was also likely in use as farmland during this period.

2.5.9. The village of Stratford existed from the Medieval period as Stratford Langthorne. The 'tall thorn', or Langthorne, existed as a feature as early as 958, with Stratford first recorded as a place name sometime between 1066 and 1087 (POWELL 1973:44). The site area was likely located on the periphery of the settlement at this time.

2.5.10. The village of Stratford Langthorne continued to grow in importance into the Post Medieval period. A particular spurt of growth is noted at the turn of the 18th century when the village is said to have doubled in size. Hamlets are noted to the east (MLO73264) and also at Maryland Point to the north (MLO25835). The latter is thought to have been settled in 1658-59 by the wealthy merchant Richard Lee (POWELL 1973:45).

2.5.11. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1869 shows the site area in use as gardens of nearby residences. By the time of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey in 1896, the gardens surrounding the site had been replaced by development. The eastern site area is occupied by a large building later used as a Courthouse.

2.5.12. The courthouse and three residential buildings on the eastern site area remained until the early 21st century at which point they were demolished and the area gained its current use as car parking facilities.

2.5.13. For a more detailed summary of the archaeology and history please refer to desk based assessment prepared for the site (DUFTON 2010).

3. Aims

- 3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.
- 3.2. The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation, as defined by the SAE (BAMFORTH 2010) were:
- ◆ To establish if the site area is within the Late Bronze Age field system recorded to the east and, if so, to try and determine the specific land use (English Heritage 2002: 25).
 - ◆ To ascertain if there is evidence for the Medieval village of Stratford Langthorne extending into this area
- 3.3. The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the SAE (BAMFORTH 2010).
- 4.2. Three trenches were dug in accordance with the SAE (Bamforth 2010). The trenches were moved slightly to avoid services and facilitate access for plant (FIGURE 2).
- 4.3. Trenches were dug by means of a mechanical excavator under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist.

5. Results

5.1. Results are given below trench by trench. Trench is abbreviated below to Tr. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Heights are measured against Ordnance Datum (MOD).

5.2. TRENCH 1

5.2.1. Tr 1 was dug to a depth of 1.4m, at which depth natural deposits consisting of mixed silts and gravel were reached. Overlying the natural were mixed deposits of brick rubble, soil and gravel. One large brick foundation was uncovered running roughly east-west, but this was of clear late 19th or 20th century origin. Artefacts recovered from the trench included various glazed ceramics, glass and plastics of 19th or 20th century origin.

5.2.2. The rubble was likely the remains of the Court House building demolished in the early 21st Century.

5.3. TRENCH 2

5.3.1. **Trench 2** was dug in two stages. It was begun at the west end, but could only be dug to a depth of 0.4m due to the presence of a series of brick and concrete foundations. Digging between the foundations with a narrow bucket revealed that they were sunk to a depth in excess of 1.3m, and their removal was



Plate 1 - Section of Trench 1 facing west, 2m scale

therefore not practicable. Following consultation with GLAAS, the shape of the trench was altered (FIGURE 2). This allowed a square trench to be excavated at the east side of the originally proposed trench.

5.3.2. The foundations were of modern frogged brick and concrete, and were presumably the footings of the courthouse building.

5.4. TRENCH 3

5.4.1. Tr 3 was rotated 90 degrees from the originally proposed location in order to avoid a large concreted service pipe. The trench was dug to a depth of 1.10m. The sequence was similar to that in Tr 1, consisting of several layers of modern make-up deposits of building rubble and hardcore overlying natural gravel. No artefactual material of earlier than 19th century date was recovered and there were no remains of archaeological significance

5.5. Across the site, the stratigraphic sequence suggests severe truncation associated with past development. There was no evidence of relict topsoil or subsoils in any of the trenches.

6. Finds and Environmental Sampling

6.1. The artefactual material found on the site was all of late 19th or 20th century origin, and was not retained.

6.2. No preserved environmental deposits were present, and no samples were taken.

7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1. A site at Stratford Island is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves the construction of a five storey mixed use educational building with basements.
- 7.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings. It is not within an archaeological priority zone.
- 7.3. Three archaeological evaluation trenches were dug on the site, to a total of 5% of the proposed development area.
- 7.4. There are no remains of archaeological significance present. The only structures in the evaluation trenches were the brick and concrete footings of the 19th century building. Below the modern deposits was natural gravel.

8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 4 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 18 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 3 x Trench record sheets

8.2. The archive is to be deposited at the Museum of London.

SOURCES CONSULTED

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FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site General



SCALE - 1:10,000 @ A4

0 500m



PROJECT // 0980L- Stratford Island University Centre

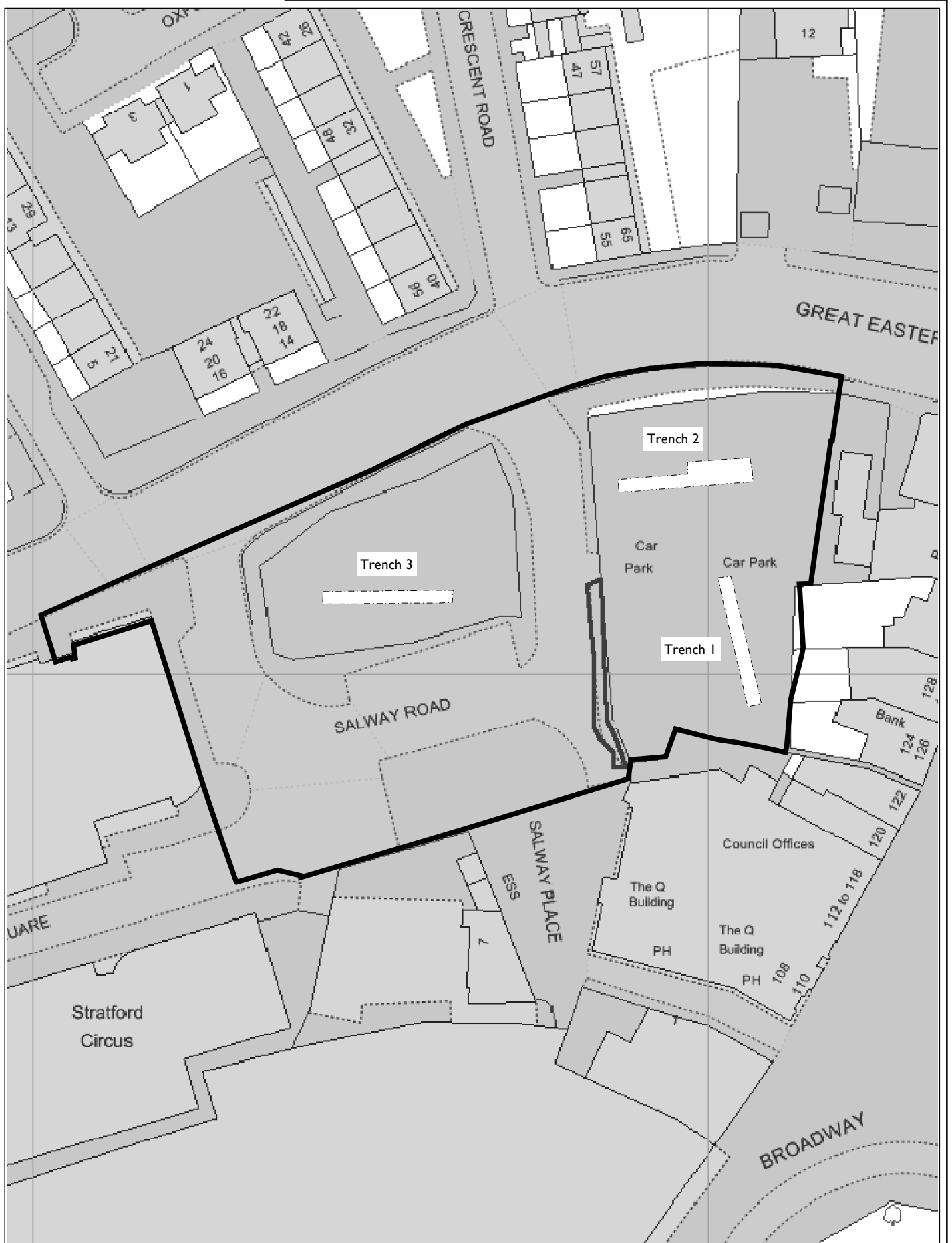
DESCRIPTION // Map of general site location

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DOC REF: LP0980L-DBA-v1

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FIGURE 2// Site Location Detail



A4 Scale 1:750

Trench Limit of Excavation

Site Area

0 50m



PROJECT // 0980L- Stratford Island University Centre

DESCRIPTION // Map of detailed site location with trenches

Map generated by Groundsure, Licence No: 10001511162

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OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-117986

Project details

Project name	Stratford Island University Centre
Short description of the project	Trenching evaluation in advance of development
Project dates	Start: 13-09-2011 End: 15-09-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GFT11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM STRATFORD Stratford Island
Postcode	E15 1BX
Study area	0.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 538990 184605 50.9444391018 0.190949751544 50 56 39 N 000 11 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.50m Max: 4.50m

Entered by	B Barton (c.barton@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	23 January 2012

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Figure List:

FIGURE 1 - SITE LOCATION GENERAL

FIGURE 2 - SITE LOCATION DETAIL AND TRENCH PLAN

Appendix List:

APPENDIX 1 - OASIS RECORD