

Archaeological Evaluation Report

BATTERSEA MISSION YORK

For Heritage Collective Ltd

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

BATTERSEA MISSION

Client: Heritage Collective Ltd

Local Authority: London Borough of Wandsworth

NGR: 526970,176170

Planning App: 2013/6582

Author: C. Barton

Doc Ref: LP1755L-AER-v1.3

Site Code: BMN14

Date: February 22

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Battersea Mission, York Road, Wandsworth. 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 Heritage Collective Ltd.

No archaeological works have been undertaken previously on the site.

No archaeological remains were found, and the results of the evaluation suggest that the site has been truncated by 20th century development.

1. Introduction

1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Heritage Collective Ltd. The fieldwork was carried out by L - P : Archaeology between 19th and 21st August 2014.

1.2. The site is located at Battersea Mission, York Road, Wandsworth, SW11 3QE (FIGURE 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference 526970,176170.

1.3. The site code allocated by the Museum of London is BMN14.

1.4. The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by John Duffy of L - P : Archaeology (DUFFY 2014).

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

2.1.1. The site has been approved for redevelopment (Application 2013/6582). The proposed development consists of demolition of the existing structures at the rear of the Mission, and erection of nine self-contained residential units, with associated landscaping and amenity space.

2.1.2. The site does not contain or lie adjacent to any listed buildings or Scheduled Monuments.

2.1.3. In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority, the London Borough of Wandsworth (LBW), must consider policy DMS2 within the Development Management Policies Document of the Wandsworth Local Development Framework (adopted 2012). On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment LBW take advice from the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

2.1.4. The following condition has been attached to planning consent:

6. No development shall take place until archaeological investigations have been undertaken by an investigating body approved by the council. Site investigations shall be carried out in accordance with a detailed scheme to be approved in advance by the local planning authority, unless it is agreed in writing that a site investigation is not required.

In order that the archaeological remains that may exist on site can be investigated in accordance with Council policy DMS2(d).

2.1.5. LBW and L - P : Archaeology have agreed the methodology for these works in the WSI (DUFFY 2014).

2.2.GEOLOGY

2.2.1.The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records the superficial (drift) deposits as alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) and Langley Silt Member (clay and silt), and the solid deposits as London Clay Formation. This data is at relatively low resolution and does not give site specific data (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 2014).

2.3.LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.3.1.The site is located on York Road, Battersea (FIGURE 1).

2.3.2.The site is bounded by York Road to the south, by commercial premises to the east and west, and by residential properties to the north (FIGURE 2).

2.3.3.The site is roughly even, with an average height of 4.5m OD.

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS

2.4.1.The site is currently occupied by Battersea Mission, a one and two storey building of mid-20th century construction.

2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

PREHISTORIC

2.5.1.In the general area, especially along the Thames foreshore, there is a large amount of evidence from the Prehistoric periods, mainly in the form of scattered metal or flint artefacts. These artefacts have likely been redeposited and due to their unstratified nature can not be taken as clear evidence of Prehistoric occupation.

2.5.2.The Thames valley in general has yielded a large number of Palaeolithic finds and Wymer highlights the confluence of the Thames and the Wandle (approximately 1.5km to the

southwest of the site) as an area of some activity during this period (WYMER 1999).

2.5.3. However it is rare that *in situ* sites are discovered and recorded and no particularly prolific Palaeolithic sites have been recorded along this stretch of the River Thames (WYMER 1999).

2.5.4. There are no noted finds from the Mesolithic and Neolithic and finds from the Bronze Age and Iron Age within the study area also quite limited.

2.5.5. There are a large number of Bronze Age artefacts deposited within the whole of the River Thames and they are often recovered from the foreshore. It is common for high value metal artefacts to be ritually deposited within watery areas during the Bronze Age, however, only one of these deposits falls within the wider site study area (half a sword, MLO10031).

2.5.6. There is no evidence for Iron Age remains in the area, it is possible that this may be to do with lack of fieldwork in the area rather than an actual lack of activity.

ROMAN

2.5.7. Battersea is not known as an area of any significant Roman settlement and it is situated some distance from the areas more densely populated. It is thought that Roman Stane Street ran to the south east of the study site, from London Bridge through Clapham, although this is almost 3km from the study site.

EARLY MEDIEVAL AND MEDIEVAL

- 2.5.8. There are no known archaeological deposits from the Early Medieval period in the study area, the focus of the activity was around the Clapham area to the south of the study area.
- 2.5.9. The site falls within the Manor of Battersea, a manor of 72 hides, held by Earl Harold before the time of the Conquest (MALDEN 1912).
- 2.5.10. In 1460 Booth, a tenant of the manor of Sylverton (a sub-manor of Battersea to the south of the study site) became Bishop of York and bequeathed 400 acres of land in the area to the see of York. Part of this land was then used to build a house some time after 1461, known initially as Bridge Court which was to be used as a residence and place for Bishops of York to stay on visits to London (LOOBEY 2002).
- 2.5.11. This building was located c.400m to the southwest of the study site at the corner of York Place, under the former Price's Candle Factory. Archaeological work carried out at the site in 1996 and 1998 (HAWKINS 2000) confirmed the presence of a Medieval building on the site, although was unable to confirm the exact location of the Medieval building due to truncation of the earlier deposits by later development on the site (MLO68189).
- 2.5.12. While the manor house or its associated grounds and out-buildings are unlikely to have stretched as far as the site, it is highly likely that there was some form of settlement or activity within the area during the medieval period.

POST MEDIEVAL

- 2.5.13. The site sits to the north of the 'lost river' of Falcon Brook (more recently known as Battersea Creek and now buried and

part of the sewerage system). Although the exact line of the Brook is not clear, excavations undertaken at Bridge's Wharf (KILLOCK 2008) recovered evidence of the early post-medieval timber revetments that would have reinforced and managed the northern bank of the Falcon Brook.

3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the evaluation were:

- ◆ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will include a comment on the quality and significance of the remains.
- ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.
- ◆ To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, if required. Any such strategy could consist of further fieldwork followed by a programme of post excavation analysis, reporting and possible publication and dissemination.

4. Methodology

4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the WSI (DUFFY 2014).

4.2. SITE WORKS

4.2.1. A total of five 1m by 1m test pits were excavated across the site (APPENDIX 1).

4.2.2. All test pits were excavated by hand, following breaking out of the hard-standing by a hand operated breaker.

5. Results

5.1. Results are given below. Test Pit is abbreviated below to TP. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets].

5.2. TEST PITS 1-3

5.2.1. TP 1-3 were dug within the Mission building. Below the concrete hardstanding (301) the stratigraphic sequence consisted of several layers of modern make-up material (302) - (304) and (306). In TP 3 an electrical cable in a concrete jacket was present at 3.5mOD (1.10m below ground level).

5.2.2. At 3.30m OD (1.20m below ground level) a second concrete slab (307) was present. This could not be penetrated by the auger and excavation ceased (FIGURE 3).

5.3. TRENCH 4 -5

5.3.1. TP 4 and 5 were dug outside the mission building (FIGURE 4). Below the concrete hard-standing (501) was a layer of crushed brick and builders sand (502). Below this was a layer of mixed brick-rubble, (503) which contained 20th century pottery and glass fragments.

5.3.2. Below (503), at 2.20m OD (2m below ground level) was a deposit of clean coarse grey-brown sand (504). The auger could not penetrate further than this, but drilling produced a grinding sound consistent with contact with a coarse gravel surface, probably the natural gravel although this is not certain.

5.4. DISCUSSION

5.4.1. The stratigraphic sequence across the site consists of modern

make-up deposits to a depth of at least 1.20m below current ground level inside the building, and to 2m below current ground level outside. No remains of archaeological significance were present in any of the test pits.

6. Finds

6.1. The only artefactual material found was of 20th century origin, consisting of brick fragments, mass-produced glazed ware and glass fragments. This material was noted but not retained.

7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1. A site at Battersea Mission, York Road, Wandsworth, is proposed for redevelopment.
- 7.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any Scheduled Monuments or listed buildings.
- 7.3. No archaeological works have been carried out on the site previously. The area is believed to have a moderate to low potential to contain archaeological remains.
- 7.4. The results of the evaluation indicate that the site area has been truncated by modern activity to a depth of between 1 and 2 metres below current ground level.
- 7.5. Based on these results further archaeological works would only be required if the proposed development exceeds a depth of 1m below ground level.

8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 3 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 1 x CD Digital images
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 5 x Trench sheets

8.2. Due to the modern date of the finds assemblage it was not retained.

8.3. The archive is to be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC).

SOURCES CONSULTED

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WYMER, J.J., 1999. *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain*. Salisbury: The Trust for Wessex Archaeology Ltd and English Heritage.

FIGURES

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX 1

OASIS ID: lparchae1-188933

Project details	
Project name	Battersea Mission, York Road Wandsworth
Short description of the project	Test-pit evaluation of commercial development.
Project dates	Start: 19-08-2014 End: 21-08-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BMN14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH BATTERSEA Battersea Mission, York Road
Postcode	SW11 3QJ
Study area	0.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 526970 176170 50.9371791865 0.17349732839 50 56 13 N 000 10 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.20m Max: 4.50m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	HERITAGE COLLECTIVE LLP
Project director/manager	KARL HULKA
Project supervisor	Cornelius Barton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Indigo Scott
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	BMN14
Digital Contents	"none"

Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	BMN14
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Battersea Mission, York Road, Wandsworth-Archaeological Evaluation Report
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Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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