

Specification for Archaeological Mitigation of

10-20 DOCK STREET LONDON E1

For Purple PropertyHoldings

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Specification for Archaeological Mitigation of

10-20 DOCK STREET LONDON

Client: Purple Property Holdings

Local Authority: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Figures

Table of Appendices

1. Introduction and Scope of Study
2. Site Background
3. Objectives of Archaeological Watching Brief
4. Methodology
5. Recording
6. Finds and Samples
7. Report
8. Archive
9. Access and Safety

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Site Location Detail

Figure 3 - Ordnance Survey 1897

TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Sources Consulted

1. Introduction and Scope of Study

- 1.1. This specification for Archaeological Mitigation has been prepared by Janine Young on behalf of Purple Property Holdings Ltd.
- 1.2. This specification concerns land located at 10-20 Dock Street London, E1. The local authority is the London Borough of Tower Hamlets who take archaeological advice from the English Heritage's Greater London Advisory Service
- 1.3. Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of the site subject to certain planning conditions including an archaeological condition (condition 4). An archaeological evaluation, consisting of the excavation of five trial pits, was carried out by L – P : Archaeology in 2006. This represented the first step towards the fulfilment of this condition (HUNT 2006).
- 1.4. Based on the results of this work a recommendation has now been made for further archaeological mitigation at the site in order to enable full discharge of the planning condition.
- 1.5. A two stage approach is required for this mitigation. The first step will be to complete a photographic survey and brief descriptive record of the building at 20 Dock Street prior to its demolition. This will then be followed an archaeological watching brief during ground reduction and other groundwork associated with the development of the site as a whole.
- 1.6. This document sets out a methodology for the execution of both these phases of works.
- 1.7. Fieldwork will be carried out by a member of L – P : Archaeology's field staff.

2. Site Background

2.1. GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1. The British Geological Survey Geoscience Data Index shows the site to be located on river terrace gravels above London Clay.
- 2.1.2. The fieldwork has confirmed the upper levels of natural geology as river terrace gravels.
- 2.1.3. The natural geology observed on the study site was therefore largely the river terrace gravels which survived at varying depths according to the level of truncation.
- 2.1.4. The natural terrace gravels in this area probably once capped by brickearth. This has been shown at various sites in the area, where the brickearth was reported to be relatively undisturbed. Observations on the study site did not indicate any surviving patches of the brickearth which was probably removed by Post medieval activity.
- 2.1.5. The natural geology is covered by a thick build up of archaeological deposits and made ground across the entire site which is up to 4m thick in places.

2.2. TOPOGRAPHY AND SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.2.1. The site is made up of several distinct plots subdivided by a small cobbled street known as Flank Street (FIGURE 2). The southern block located at 20 Dock Street is occupied by a late 19th century mill building that is currently occupied as offices. This building has a basement in the original mill building area. The rear of the building is formed by a single storey 'lean-to' structure with no basement.
- 2.2.2. The northern block consists of 3 distinct areas. The first is a small external street level car park located immediately to the North of Flank Street. The second is a disused warehouse formerly occupied by "Varma Merchants". This is the largest plot that wraps around behind the car park and the fourth plot which is occupied by number 10 Dock Street
- 2.2.3. The third plot is occupied by a 19th century building. It is currently in use as an

estate agency on the ground floor with flats above; it also has a basement.

2.2.4. Observations on site indicate that the modern topography does not really reflect the natural topography of the area. The current street level is around 3m above the natural gravel, but even the surface of this gravel does not represent the natural topography of the area as it has been heavily modified by gravel extraction. Trading Estate. Prior to this development the site is likely to have been used for arable farming.

2.3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.3.1. For a full account of the archaeological and historical background of the area, please refer to the desk based assessment (EVE 2004) and the evaluation report (HUNT 2006). This summary of the results of the evaluation is included for the convenience of the reader, but it should be noted that this is not an exhaustive account of the archaeology of the area.

2.4. PREHISTORIC

2.4.1. There is only one record for prehistoric activity in the study area and its immediate surroundings (500m radius) recorded in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR). An evaluation undertaken at 77-101 The Highway revealed a possible prehistoric pit cut into the natural gravels.

2.4.2. No prehistoric features were encountered on site during the evaluation.

2.5. ROMAN

2.5.1. The study site lies only 400m east of the eastern wall of Roman 'Londinium'. The area east of the city is recognised as a large Roman cemetery, with a suspected road running east-west through it (BARBER & BOWSHER 2000). This cemetery lies a short distance to the north of the study site.

2.5.2. One focus of Roman activity within the area is quarrying and gravel pits. These have been suggested at Royal Mint Street (TQ 3395 8080), East Tenter Street (TQ 3398 8102), and Prescott Street (TQ 3400 8199).

2.5.3. It should be noted that neither the archaeological evaluation at the site DCK06 or previous archaeological interventions in close proximity to the site (ENN99,

DCS95 and DOT00) revealed any evidence of Roman remains.

2.6.MEDIEVAL

- 2.6.1. The area may have been left fallow or cultivated in the early medieval period; however, by the 12th century much of the area probably would have been agricultural land (MOLAS 1995:12). A watching brief at 38-40 Dock Street by Pre-Construct Archaeology (DOT00) reported evidence for one or possibly two 14th century property/field boundaries and a probable refuse pit.
- 2.6.2. Excavations in 1995 at 4–10 Dock Street (DCS95), found little medieval remains and results suggest that the site was probably left open and used for agriculture (MOLAS 1995:12).
- 2.6.3. The archaeological evaluation revealed no remains dating to the Medieval period.

2.7.POST MEDIEVAL

- 2.7.1. The earliest phase of activity on site appears to be a phase of gravel extraction. Two of the test pits excavated which went to a deep level encountered large features which have been interpreted as gravel pits. This is further corroborated by the results from other fieldwork undertaken in Dock Street.
- 2.7.2. In terms of dating this activity, the lower fills of these pits are devoid of dating evidence, making it difficult to date the pits with any great certainty. The upper fills are clearly post medieval in date, but it is not certain that these fills were contemporary with the initial cutting and subsequent silting up of the pits.
- 2.7.3. The most likely hypothesis is that these pits date to the post medieval period along with the upper fills, but it does remain possible that they date to an earlier period.
- 2.7.4. Dump layers
- 2.7.5. The upper fills of the gravel pits were made up of thick layers of imported soil. These layers observed in TP2 and 5 were rich in ceramics, animal bone and building materials, being highly indicative of rubbish dumping.

2.7.6. These layers may have been simply rubbish heaps or a deliberate attempt at raising the ground level or a combination of both. Given that the previous phase of activity saw quite extensive gravel quarrying down to around 8mAOD, it is easy to imagine that the large pits would have made an ideal location for rubbish disposal and that the resulting infill would have been highly beneficial in allowing development in an area so close to the river.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

2.7.7. The first evidence of the development of the site observed during the fieldwork came from test pits 1 and 3 which were located outside the basemented areas.

2.7.8. In TP 1, a sequence of 2 phases of building activity was noted. In both cases, the crude red brick construction did not permit accurate dating beyond a rough date of 18th of 19th century, although a slightly earlier date cannot be ruled out. The demolition deposits in pits 1 and 3 contained the majority of the 'pantile' from the site, this is a roofing material associated with low status uses such as cheap structures or on roofs where the tiles were hidden.

2.7.9. The fact that at least 2 phases of activity were observed in TP 1 gives some indication of the many phases of development and redevelopment that must have been undertaken in the area during the later part of the post medieval period. The crude construction and use of 'pantiles' gives some impression of the temporary and somewhat haphazard structures that must have been built to house small scale industry along the street frontage of Dock Street.

2.7.10. TP 3 was located in an area to the rear of the street front buildings and gave a strong indication that this area had been in use as a yard area up until the late 20th century. The sequence of yard surfaces created a build up of over 1.2m in thickness. This gives some indication of the relatively fast build up of debris in this yard area. The relaying of the yards at least twice with a cobbled surface can be tentatively linked to redevelopment of the other structures in the area.

2.7.11. This picture broadly agrees with the map evidence, although no strong evidence of the earliest development on the site was observed in the field. Documentary sources indicate this to be during the late 17th century. The only real evidence of buildings of this date comes from building material debris

found re-used as hard core or make up layers.

THE MILL BUILDING

2.7.12. In the southern portion of the site, a large scale redevelopment of the site sees the construction of a mill building described on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition as a “Rice Mill”.

2.7.13. This building appears to be redeveloped and replaced by the current mill building at some point towards the end of the 19th century. The original mill building had a smaller footprint than the current buildings, as it did not extend as far as the public house. There is no evidence to suggest that the current mill building was extended and therefore it seems more likely that the building was entirely redeveloped at this time.

2.7.14. The mill itself conforms to the tradition in the area of small scale industrial activity, although this particular building was much larger and more substantial than its predecessors or the buildings on Dock Street to the north of Flank Street such as those observed in TP 1.

2.7.15. The current mill itself has been redeveloped at least twice in the 20th century, initially being converted from a mill to a warehouse and then being converted from a warehouse to offices. During the first of these conversions, many of the historic structural elements of the mill were replaced with concrete columns and beams.

MODERN DEVELOPMENTS

2.7.16. During the 20th century, the tradition of small scale industry seems to be largely replaced by warehouse and dock related buildings. It is possible that this change had already begun during the 19th century.

2.7.17. Two of the Victorian buildings, the Mill and number 10 Dock Street survived 20th century redevelopment, however the other parts of the site see much low level redevelopment of the building and small scale changes to the layout of the site.

2.7.18. In TP 1 for example, the building occupying the site was demolished to make

way for a small car park. In TP 3, the yard area is roofed over and becomes part of the warehouse building. In TP 4, the yard area is roofed over by at least two phases of lean to structure.

3. Objectives of Archaeological Mitigation

3.1. The aims of the Historic Building Survey are as follows:

- 3.1.1. To adequately record by written and photographic records the mill building at 20 Dock Street, its materials, layout and both internal and external appearance as it exists prior to demolition.
- 3.1.2. To provide an account of the fixtures, fittings, plant or machinery associated with the building, and their purpose.
- 3.1.3. To identify key architectural features.
- 3.1.4. To provide a brief account of the buildings past and present uses and its significance in both local and regional context.

3.2. The general aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief are as follows:

- 3.2.1. To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains
- 3.2.2. To assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site; to recover associated objects; and to record such evidence as does survive.
- 3.2.3. To provide dating information that will be useful in dating the archaeological deposits encountered.
- 3.2.4. To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- 3.2.5. In addition, the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits will be noted and recorded.

4. Methodology

4.1. HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

4.2. Written Account

4.2.1. On site pro forma sheets will be utilised for both external elevations and for each internal room. These sheets will form part of the main archive and will comprise relevant information regarding the building and its rooms. Information held on these sheets shall also include written notes detailing the room or elevation appearance and any features, fixtures or fittings of note.

4.2.2. A description of the building will be written detailing building materials, room use and any original features as well as any named architects/builders, owners or patrons. The relationship of the building to its surroundings, past and present will also be described.

4.3. Photographic Survey

4.3.1. All photographs will be taken using a 35mm camera using both colour slide and black and white films. A digital back up of all photographs will also be taken. An appropriate, graduated scale will be used in all photographs and where necessary artificial light sources will also be used. A full photographic index and record will be kept at all times. The photographs taken will include the following:

4.4. External Photography

4.4.1. General exterior views of all elevations

4.4.2. Detailed scale photos of the external appearance of the building

4.4.3. Any external architectural or historic detail

4.4.4. Photographs showing the relationship of the building to its setting

4.4.5. Historic photographs will be used, where possible, to show the setting of the building and its relationships to its past settings

4.4.6. Any external construction detail

4.5. Internal Photography

4.5.1. The overall appearance of all internal rooms

4.5.2. Scale photographs of any architectural or historic features, fixtures or furniture

4.5.3. Any internal construction detail

4.6. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.**

4.7. A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor all agreed groundworks.

4.8. The area of groundworks will be visually inspected prior to the commencement of work.

4.9. The client's groundwork contractor, using appropriate methods, will undertake all groundworks. This will include a combination of demolition of existing structures, machine stripping and trenching, and hand excavation, according to the development programme and under the supervision of the monitoring archaeologist.

4.10. Provision will be made for site visits by the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

4.11. Where the groundworks reveal archaeological deposits, the site archaeologist will record these deposits in situ pending a decision as to their significance. In particular, the archaeologist will define the extent of all features.

4.12. Any human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations. Such removal will be in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds Amendment Act 1981.

4.13. If the deposits are not considered to be either burials or a concentration of significant archaeology, they will be removed under the following methodology:

4.14. A minimum number of features within each significant archaeological horizon will be hand excavated to meet the objectives of the watching brief. Pits and postholes will be half-sectioned, although some features may require complete excavation.

4.15. Particular care will be taken not to damage any areas containing significant remains,

which might merit preservation in situ. Such evidence would normally include deep or complex stratification settlement evidence and structures. Such areas will be protected from disturbance or deterioration prior to a site meeting between the Heritage Conservation Unit, the client and their representatives to determine the most appropriate strategy for preservation in-situ.

- 4.16. All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.
- 4.17. Should no/low levels of archaeology be identified the archaeological advisor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets shall be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting will be held to determine the strategy of continued monitoring.
- 4.18. Unless otherwise agreed with the client and the archaeological advisor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, an archaeological presence will be maintained on site during all groundworks/excavation.

5. Recording

- 5.1. A site code will be allocated by the Museum of London and used to label (using appropriate materials not adhesive labels) all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.
- 5.2. The recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (EDITED BY CHRIS SPENCE, 3RD EDITION 1994).
- 5.3. The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with current requirements of the Museum of London. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. Sample registers, finds recording sheets, access catalogues, and photo record cards will also be used.
- 5.4. Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the course of the watching brief. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide.
- 5.5. A site location plan will be prepared (OS 1:1250) showing investigation area and development site in relation to surrounding locality and street pattern.
- 5.6. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the investigation area, OS grid. The locations of the OS bench marks used and site TBM will also be indicated.
- 5.7. Burials will be drawn at 1:10. Other detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20.
- 5.8. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 5.9. Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance

Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.

5.10. Upon completion of each significant feature at least one sample section will be drawn, (including a profile of the top of natural deposits (extrapolated from cut features etc. if it has not been fully excavated). The stratigraphy will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.

5.11. An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains in both plan and section. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological works.

5.12. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.

6. Finds and Samples

- 6.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the nominated representative of the local authority.
- 6.2. Where possible, unstratified material recovered from the spoil is to be recorded and included with the finds assemblage.
- 6.3. For the purposes of the watching brief, contexts dating to pre-20th century human use of the area shall be recorded and pre-20th century materials shall be retained and included with the finds assemblage.
- 6.4. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive to the Museum of London.
- 6.5. All finds and other items of archaeological interest removed from the site will be subject to an initial assessment of the material archive. Based on the results of this assessment, and subject to the approval of the Heritage Conservation Unit, specialist work will be undertaken where necessary to analyse and record the material archive.
- 6.6. Specialist reports will be compiled principally using type series as defined by the Museum of London, where applicable.
- 6.7. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds'. 3rd edition 1998 (UKIC 1998). Any necessary conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators as approved by the Museum of London with full records kept of any treatments given.
- 6.8. All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. They will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation "Conservation Guideline No. 2" and English Heritage guidelines. Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (MGC 1991)" will also be followed and the current IFA guidelines.

6.9. Should significant environmental deposits be encountered during the course of the groundworks, the advice of the regional science advisor will be sought. If it is considered appropriate these will be sampled by a specialist in accordance with the English Heritage Environmental Guidelines (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2002). These deposits will be subject to the following treatment:

- ◆ Organic samples will be subject to appropriate specialist analysis. There may be a requirement to submit timbers to dendrochronological analysis and to process some samples to provide C14 dating.
- ◆ For carbonised remains, bulk samples a minimum of 10 litres (but up to 30 litres for early prehistoric features) will be collected.
- ◆ Bulk samples of 10 - 30 litres will be taken from waterlogged deposits for analysis of macroscopic plant remains
- ◆ Columns for pollen analysis will be taken where appropriate
- ◆ Mollusc samples will be gathered as required.
- ◆ Other bulk samples for small animal bones and other small artefacts maybe taken from appropriate deposits depending on the aims of the project.
- ◆ Environmental samples will be assessed for potential through summary analysis by an environmental specialist.
- ◆ Residues and any retained samples will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.

7. Report

7.1.A formal report on the results of the archaeological mitigation will be prepared after completion of the fieldwork and will include:

- ◆ The aims and methods adopted in the course of the building recording and watching brief.
- ◆ A full description of the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of all archaeological deposits uncovered during groundworks, with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if required.
- ◆ Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.
- ◆ A catalogue of finds, including any finds or environmental specialist reports.
- ◆ Summary of archaeological impact, including a statement on the significance of the results both locally and nationally.
- ◆ The OASIS record.

7.2.A draft report will be issued in the first instance to Purple Property Holdings for comment and approval .

7.3.Following approval two bound copies of the archaeological mitigation report will be sent to Purple Property Holdings, and two to the GLSMR.

7.4.If considered appropriate, a short report of the evidence will be sent to the relevant journals for inclusion in various fieldwork summaries.

8. Archive

- 8.1. The site code will be used to mark all plans, drawings, context and recording sheets, photographs and other site material recorded during groundworks.
- 8.2. Documentary material including the paper archive, photographic negatives and prints will be stored in boxes to comply with guidelines as outlined in “Standards for Deposition of Archaeological Archives with Museum of London”.
- 8.3. Photographic negatives will be stored in archival quality polypropylene sleeves with strip divisions, three ring holes, centres 107mm apart and dimensions no greater than, 255mm (from the punched side to the opposite edge) by 300mm. The sleeve should have a white writing strip.
- 8.4. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will properly be curated by the Museum of London and will be available for public access. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (MGC 1992) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 8.5. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (WALKER 1990) will be followed. Arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the Museum of London.
- 8.6. The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Archaeological Projects” 5.4. It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 8.7. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (WALKER 1990) will be followed. Arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the Museum of London, and allowance will be made for any long-term storage costs that may be incurred.

8.8. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the Museum of London within 6 months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.

8.9. The project will be registered and regularly updated as part of the OASIS project.

9. Access and Safety

- 9.1. Reasonable access to the site will be arranged for representatives of Purple Property Holdings the Local Planning Authority and the archaeological advisor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets who may wish to make site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigations are progressing satisfactorily.
- 9.2. The Local Planning Authority and the archaeological advisor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets should be given at least 24 hours notice of the commencement date.
- 9.3. Before any site work commences, a full Risk Assessment Document will be produced setting out the site specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum any risks to health and safety. In addition to this risk assessment, the following considerations will also be made.
- 9.4. All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 9.5. No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. The installation of temporary support work and other attendance will be provided as required.

FIGURES

SOURCES CONSULTED

APPENDIX I

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