



LORD GAGE SITE
John Street
West Ham
E15

London Borough of Newham

An archaeological evaluation report

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MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

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Site Code: GOS07
National Grid Reference: 539635 183640

Project Manager	Jo Lyon
Author	Ken Pitt
Graphics	Sandra Rowntree

Museum of London Archaeology Service

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Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED

tel 020 7410 2200 fax 020 7410 2201

email molas@molas.org.uk

Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of Lord Gage Site, John Street West Ham London, E15. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by Wates Construction.

Following the recommendations of an Archaeological assessment (Bull 2006) three evaluation pits/trenches were excavated on the site.

Natural brickearth was found in all of the trenches with the only archaeological feature found being a 19th-century, or later, pit.

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Fig 2 Trench locations

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at Lord Gage site, John Street, West Ham E15, hereafter called ‘the site’. The site is bounded by John Street to the north, Plaistow Grove to the east, New Plaistow Road to the south and Church Street to the west. The centre of the site lies at National Grid reference 539635 183640. Modern ground level around the perimeter of the site slopes imperceptibly from *c* 3.4m Ordnance Datum (OD) at the north-west and north-east corners of the site to 3.01m OD in the south-west and 2.96m OD in the south-east. The site code is JOS07.

A desk-top *Archaeological assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (Bull 2006). The *assessment* document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

An archaeological field evaluation was subsequently carried out on three trenches.

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological impact assessment* which formed the project design for the evaluation (Bull 2006 section 2).

1.3 Planning background

The evaluation was carried out to assess the archaeological potential of the site, as indicated by the previous desk based assessment (Bull 2006), and in response to the planning condition attached to the development scheme.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Wates Construction and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or

- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.5 Aims and objectives

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002.

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2):

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- What are the latest deposits identified?

2 Topographical and historical background

A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier *Archaeological assessment* (Bull 2006). A brief resume was also provided in the method statement for the archaeological evaluation (Lyon 2007 section 1.3).

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (Lyon 2007) and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Three evaluation trenches were excavated.

The trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, under MoLAS supervision, to the first significant archaeological horizon.

The locations of evaluation trenches were recorded by MoLAS by offsetting from the site boundary and plotted on to a Site Survey (Dwg. No. 653, Wates Construction). This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by a traverse from a bench mark (Value 4.17m OD) located on the north side of John Street.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; 1 section drawing at 1:20 and 1:10; and 8 photographs. No finds were recovered from the site.

The site records can be found under the site code JOS07 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2.

3.2.1 Trench 1

<i>Evaluation Trench 1</i>	
Location	East side of site
Dimensions	15.70m by 2.10m by 0.84m–1.01m depth
Modern ground level	3.02–14m OD
Base of modern fill	2.42–9m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	2.15m OD
Natural observed	2.42–9m OD

Trench 1 was located in the east of the site and orientated north–south; it was originally planned to be 20m by 2m but, due to a live drain to the south, the length was reduced to 15.70m. The deposits in the trench consisted of modern garden soil,

0.20m thick, the surface of which lay at 3.02–14m OD. This deposit overlay a deposit of possible ‘ploughsoil’, which was 0.22m thick. This deposit sealed natural brickearth, the surface of which was at 2.42–9m OD. The only archaeological feature observed in this trench was a modern pit, 19th century or later, possibly a garden feature.

3.2.2 Trench 2

<i>Evaluation Trench 2</i>	
Location	Central area of site
Dimensions	20.00m by 2.10m by 0.41–62m depth
Modern ground level	2.53m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	0.20m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	1.91–2.11m OD
Natural observed	2.30m OD

Trench 2 was located to the south-west of the centre of the site and was orientated east–west. Modern garden soil, c 0.20m thick, overlay natural brickearth, which lay at 2.30m OD. The brickearth was cut by a modern drainage trench that ran along the whole length, and almost the whole width, of the trench.

3.2.3 Trench 3

<i>Evaluation Trench 3</i>	
Location	West side of site
Dimensions	10m by 2.10m by 0.55m depth
Modern ground level	3.26m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	2.27m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	2.05m OD
Natural observed	2.60m OD or N/A

Trench 3 was located along the western limit of the site. The deposits observed in the trench consisted of a modern soil horizon, at 3.26m OD, which sealed natural brickearth, at 2.60m OD.

3.3 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation ‘in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy’. In the case of this site no significant archaeological features were found.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

- *What is the nature and level of natural topography?*

The natural sub soil was brickearth that had a gentle slope downwards from west to east and north to south.

- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

Modern features probably associated with gardens of 19th century properties.

- *What are the latest deposits identified?*

Modern features probably associated with gardens of 19th century properties.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is low. There is some limited potential for survival of 19th century cut features. However such survival is likely to be extremely limited in certain areas because of truncation by the previous buildings that occupied the site.

4.3 Significance

Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of minor local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at Lord Gage site involves the construction of new residential properties with piled foundations and ground beams. The impact of this on any surviving archaeological deposits would be to remove them locally.

The evaluation has shown that there are no significant surviving archaeological deposits on the site, however, and that the previous buildings, and clearance activities after WWII bombing, probably removed anything that previously survived.

MoLAS recommends that no further archaeological works are necessary on the site. The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor, however.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Wates Construction for funding the project and those members of MoLAS who worked on the site.

7 Bibliography

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-28112

Project details

Project name	Lord Gage site
Short description of the project	Evaluation consisting of three trenches produced natural brickearth a one 19th century or later pit.
Project dates	Start: 18-06-2007 End: 18-06-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	JOS07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	URBAN Modern

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM STRATFORD John Street
Postcode	E15
Study area	90.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 39635 83640 51.5338741767 0.01344331749270 51 32 01 N 000 00 48 E Point

Height OD Min: 2.30m Max: 2.60m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Jo Lyon
Project supervisor	Ken Pitt
Name of sponsor/funding body	Wates Construction

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Lord Gage Site John Street West Ham E15 A report on the evaluation
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Issuer or publisher	MoLAS
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Fig 1 Site location

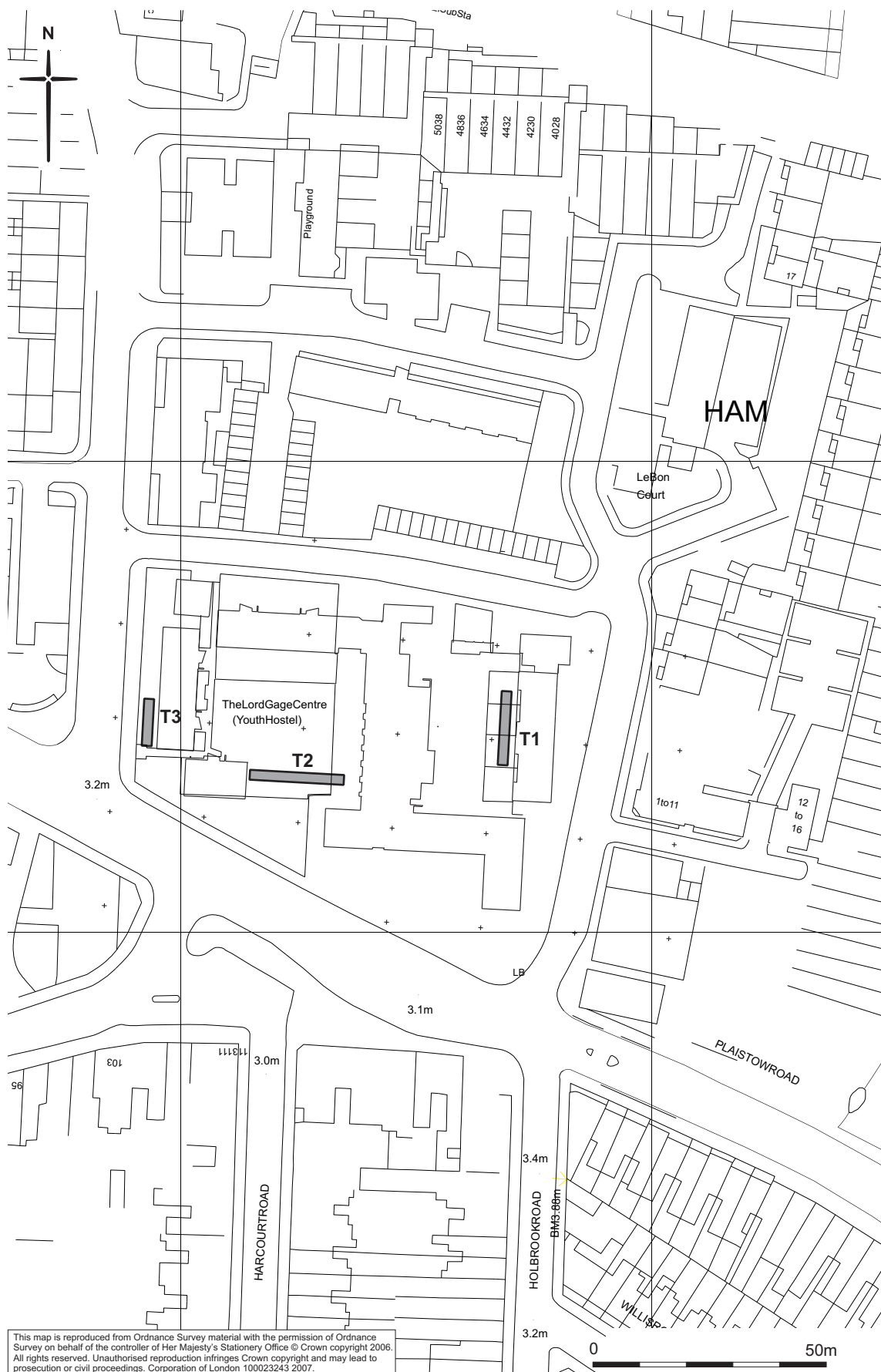


Fig 2 Trench locations