Hammersmith Pumping Station, Great West Road, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

An Archaeological Evaluation

for St James Group Ltd

by Andy Taylor and Steve Ford
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HPU05
(HPS01/94)

March 2005
Summary

Site name: Hammersmith Pumping Station, Great West Road, Hammersmith, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Grid reference: TQ 2225 7835

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 2nd to 4th March 2005

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: HPU05

Area of site: 0.6ha

Summary of results: No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered.

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Museum of London in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Jennifer Lowe ✓ 24.03.05
Steve Preston ✓ 24.03.05
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Hammersmith Pumping Station, Great West Road, Hammersmith, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr Keith Da Costa of St James Group Limited, Wellington House, 209–217 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, TW12 1NP.

Planning permissions (app nos 2003/0324/P; 2003/0324/P; 2003/343/P; 2003/0345/P) have been gained from the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham for the construction of new apartments on the site following demolition of some existing structures, along with conversion to residential use of the existing pumping station building. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field evaluation has been requested in accordance with Archaeology and Planning (PPG16, 1990) and the Borough’s policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Kim Stabler, Archaeology Advisor at Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (English Heritage). The fieldwork was supervised by Andy Taylor and undertaken with the assistance of Leon Fern from 2nd–4th March 2005. The Museum of London site code is HPU05. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course.

Site description, location and geology

The site is located on the south side of Great West Road, Hammersmith on the north bank of the river Thames. The development area is centred on TQ 2225 7835 and covers c. 0.6ha. The site is occupied by the large original water pumping station building with various ancillary structures, including the new smaller replacement pumping station and a yard. Numerous in-use services are present below ground within the yard areas. The site lies at a height of c. 6m above Ordnance Datum and is located on first terrace gravel (BGS 1981), which was observed in the evaluation trench.
Archaeological background

A desktop study has highlighted the archaeological potential of the site (Hardy 2001). In summary the lower terraces of the Thames Valley are considered to be rich in archaeological finds and deposits of many periods. Various finds of prehistoric date have been recovered from the foreshore and from dredging of the Thames, including Palaeolithic handaxes, Mesolithic flint axes and antler tools, Neolithic flint and stone axes, Bronze Age bronze tools, weapons and horse trappings and Iron Age metalwork and coins. An Iron Age ditch is recorded to the north-east. Roman finds are not plentiful but include a bronze figurine from the Thames, a coin and a Roman ditch. Saxon and medieval finds in the vicinity include a decorated plaque, and a possible building and a jetty.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which would warrant preservation in situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project were;

a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

The agreed specification was for the excavation of three trenches, two at 8m length and one at 15m length, all 1.6m wide. They were to be targeted at the footprints of the proposed new structures and the site of the excavation for a ramp for access to basement carparking on the south side of the pumping station. The trenches were to be dug under continuous archaeological supervision by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless bucket. Spoilheaps were to be searched for finds. It was anticipated that the presence of the many buried services would require alteration to the trench layout.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.
Results

In the end, only a single trench could be fully dug to expose the natural geology. Although the three proposed trenches had been positioned to avoid the known services presented on the detailed survey of the site, the high sensitivity of the services and imprecision of their location meant that the trench to the south of the pumping station could not be dug. It was proposed therefore, and agreed with the archaeological monitor, that the second trench should be doubled in length to offset the loss of trenching. In the event the discovery of a further unrecorded service along the length of this second trench prohibited its digging to expose natural geology. The positions of the dug trench and abandoned trench are shown on Figure 3 and a representative section presented in Figure 4.

Trench 1 (Plates 1 and 2)

This trench was 15.1m long and between 2.02 and 2.44m deep. Beneath a concrete surface was made ground in various layers to a depth of over 2m. The lowest level comprises a grey/brown silty clay which is considered to be a brickearth deposit, the top of which is the archaeologically relevant horizon. This deposit in turn overlay a clayey loam with much gravel. No deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were observed in this trench.

Trench 2

A 15m length of concrete yard surface was broken for this trench but a live service was located and found to be aligned more or less along the whole length of the trench. The digging of this trench was therefore abandoned. The presence of other known services in immediately adjacent areas would not allow for a repositioning of this trench.

Finds

Modern 19th- and 20th-century material such as glass, brick and tile were noted in various made ground contexts but not retained.

Conclusion

It was not possible to dig the full complement of three evaluation trenches as intended due to the presence of many live services and it is likely that the presence of at least some of these services will have been deep enough to have compromised the archaeologically relevant levels. However, the one trench dug accounted for half of the
total length of trenching originally planned but no archaeological deposits nor finds were recorded during the
fieldwork. On the basis of the results of the field evaluation therefore, the site appears to have low archaeological
potential.

References

Hardy, L-M, 2001, ‘Hammersmith Pumping Station, Great West Road, Hammersmith, An Archaeological desk-
based assessment’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Report 01/94, Reading
APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at W or S end

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<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Breadth (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.44W</td>
<td>2.02E</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.3 N</td>
<td>Abandoned after concrete breaking and discovery of live service.</td>
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APPENDIX 2: OASIS form submission
### OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

**List of Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Log out**

**Printable version**

**OASIS ID: thamesva1-7462**

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[http://ads.archaeology.org.uk/oasis/print.cfm?CFID=133&CFTOKEN=55610091](http://ads.archaeology.org.uk/oasis/print.cfm?CFID=133&CFTOKEN=55610091) 24/03/05
Sponsor or funding body: Developer

Project archives:
- Physical Archive Exists?: No
- Digital Archive Exists?: No
- Paper Archive recipient: Museum of London
- Paper Archive ID: HPU05
- Paper Contents: 'Stratigraphic'
- Paper Media available: 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Map', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
- Paper Archive notes: Temporarily with TVAS in Reading pending deposition
- Paper Archive Exists?: Yes

Project bibliography 1
- Publication type: Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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- Author(s)/Editor(s): Taylor, A.
- Other bibliographic details: report 01/84b
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Hammersmith Pumping Station, Great West Road, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.
Archaeological Evaluation 2005

Figure 1. Location of site within Hammersmith and Greater London.
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Hammersmith Pumping Station, Great West Road, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Plan of trenches.
Hammersmith Pumping Station, Great West Road, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, 2005

Trench 1

Concrete

Made ground

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Grey brown silty clay (natural geology)

Base of trench (Natural geology—silty clay with gravel)

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Figure 4: Representative section.
Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.

Plate 2. Trench 1 looking north, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.