Archaeological Evaluation
629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN

Site Code: ROR16

NGR: TQ 3690 8351

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SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT 629-631 ROMAN ROAD, LONDON E3 2RN

Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Planning Application: PA/15/02869

The residential development of 5no apartments with change of use and the enlargement of the first floor, with an additional floor and alterations to ground and first floor frontages.

1.0 Introduction and Summary

1.1 CG Developments Ltd are currently making preparations for the development of land at 629-631 Roman Road, London. The proposed development comprises of the change of use of the existing shop and residential space to residential space and the conversion to 5no apartments. A planning application for the proposed development (PA/15/02869) has been submitted to Tower Hamlets Borough Council and subsequently granted consent with an attached condition (10) stating that:

‘No demolition or development shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.

If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage 1 then for those parts of the site, which have archaeological interest a stage 2 WSI shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI, which shall include:

A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works
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B. The programme for post investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage 2 WSI.

Reason: In order to identify and protect heritage assets of archaeological interest in accordance in policy DM27 of the Managing Development Document.'

1.2 Previous Works

In March 2016 Touchstone Archaeology submitted a WSI for trial trenching to three areas of the proposed development site. John Gould EH GLAAS approved the WSI and the works were carried out on 18th July 2016. Three test pits of 1sqm were excavated to natural geology. Trench 3 revealed a solid structural feature at a depth of 0.3m below the foundation of the building and continuing for 0.38m to a brick earth base. It is possible that it is a section of the Roman Road that ran from Colchester to London. Trench 1 revealed a possible mortar surface of a very thin lens at 0.45m and may have been the edge of the road. No finds were recovered.

1.3 In 1984 MOLA uncovered the remains of a Roman road at the junction of Roman Road and Parnell Road (080967) c.100m east of the development site and it is probable that the remains found in Trench 3 are a continuation of this feature.

1.4 John Gould EH GLAAS visited site on 18th July 2016 to view the evaluation trenches and recommended that further investigation be undertaken to establish the extent of the road feature and the survival of any evidence of settlement adjacent to the road.

1.5 Local evidence

Archaeological evidence within the immediate vicinity includes pits thought to be a Roman cemetery at Parnell Road Play Area, one of which contained a burial, coffin nails and pottery of a bulbous flagon and dish in a course sandy fabric and a ditch containing fragments of slag (080797/081022/ML03829).

Excavations at 91-93 Parnell Road to the north of Roman Road have revealed...
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several features including a complex of Roman pits and ditches representing part of an agricultural field system with finds of coins, slag, pottery and a statuette (080814), a Roman ditch, yard, building and post hole (1042603), a Roman feature (082758Z9), a Bronze Age field boundary, Roman pits and field boundaries and post medieval pits (083500Z8), several cut features of uncertain function with similar fills of tile, daub, charcoal, potsherds and slag (082886), an east west aligned beam slot on the same line as an earlier ditch (082963) cutting a possible surface (082964) and possible Roman fence lines and narrow gullies thought to have delineated small fields or paddocks alongside the main London to Colchester road running north south and east west. There was no evidence of ploughing and it was thought that the area was pasture or allowed to lie fallow (083502Z3)

1.6 Proposed works

In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource and in accordance with the provisions of Planning Policy Statement - Planning for the Historic Environment (2012), in particular Policy 12, and Condition 10 of the planning consents, Touchstone Archaeology Touchstone Archaeology proposes to carry out an archaeological investigation to a programme of methodology agreed by John Gould EH GLAAS.

1.7 All works will adhere to EH GLAAS Archaeology Guidance Papers (AGPs, revised 2009), in particular AGP No 3; Standards and Practises in Archaeological Fieldwork in London. The project will also conform to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Oct 1994, revised Sept 2001 and Oct 2008). The archaeological works are to be monitored by EH GLASS.

1.8 The present specification seeks to provide a programme and methodology for undertaking the Archaeological Evaluation, setting out the objectives, the standards to be attained and the format for reporting through to publication. The archaeological works are being undertaken to further investigate the extent of the archaeological features and deposits revealed during trial trenching on 18th July 2016 and to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any further buried archaeological features and deposits that may be present within the proposed development area.
1.9 The proposal is for 4no evaluation trenches located to coincide with the placement of the mass concrete foundation, alternately positioned to both the east and west of the area. The positioning allows some distance from both party walls improving access to the trench. The depth of the excavation is 1m; the road surface and surface feature were found at 30cm and 45cm respectively, therefore the depth is adequate for the archaeological horizon. Trench 1 (2m x 3m) will assess whether the road feature extends east and whether we can find the northern boundary. Trench 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (2m x 2m) will establish how far the road extends to the north and any northern boundary features such as ditches or settlement features (Fig.1).

2.0 Archaeological Potential and Objectives

2.1 The development site is in an Area of Archaeological Potential, details of which have been sourced by the Greater London HER team at agher@english-heritage.org.uk

2.2 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the both the Greater London HER Team. These records have been consulted and are detailed in the WSI (March 2016) and 1.5 & 1.6 of this document.

2.3 The principle objective of the Archaeological Evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the proposed development site.

2.4 To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation.

2.5 To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present.

2.6 The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the archaeological programme to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.
2.7 Should archaeological remains be found, further archaeological investigation may be required. This work will be covered by a separate specification and not form part of the present work.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource and in accordance with the provisions of Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010) and Conditions of the planning consents, Touchstone Archaeology are to carry out an Archaeological Evaluation prior to the proposed development.

3.2 This specification seeks to provide a programme and methodology for undertaking this work, setting out the objectives, the standards to be attained and the format for reporting through to publication. The archaeological works are being undertaken to ensure preservation by record of archaeological deposits and features on the site where development will lead to their permanent loss.

3.3 Hand excavation of the trenches will be limited to the removal of topsoil/overburden to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface whichever is the higher. Following the clearance of overburden, excavation of any exposed archaeological features in all instances will be undertaken by hand. Any archaeological features exposed will be hand cleaned using a trowel, hoe or other suitable tool and any archaeological features exposed mapped, recorded and photographed. If necessary, hand recovery of cultural material will be augmented by wet or dry screening of 100-200 litre control samples through 10mm mesh. On site screening will not preclude the taking of other bulk soil samples for off-site screening.

3.4 Archaeological features will generally only be sampled to elucidate the stratigraphic sequence and secure datable materials for assessment. Full excavation will not be undertaken at this stage. Should burials be encountered these will not be excavated.

3.5 Care will be taken not to damage archaeological deposits or structures by unnecessary excavation. In particular the underlying natural geological surfaces are not to be reduced to more clearly expose anticipated archaeological features. Within the limits of the archaeological objectives, a soil sampling programme for bulk screening, palaeo-environmental analysis, and soil micromorphology is to be undertaken if suitable deposits are identified from which data can be
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retrieved. The English Heritage Regional Archaeological Science Advisor will be consulted on the programme.

3.6 Generally, bulk soil samples and sub-samples will be taken from the unexcavated fills of all archaeological features for bulk screening, palaeo-environmental analysis and soil micromorphology. In addition, further soil samples will be taken where required in the form of monolith samples. The stratigraphic position of such samples will be fully recorded.

3.7 A general site safety strategy will be agreed, if necessary in writing, and implemented prior to the commencement of all fieldworks, to include if necessary a risk assessment, a methods statement, safety plans and procedures for safety inspections and the reporting of accidents. Safety procedures are to follow the guidelines established by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in: *Policy statement on Health and Safety* and in the *Standards and guidance* and the practical guidance in the SCAUM manual *Health and Safety in field archaeology*.

3.8 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the Statutory or other Service Authorities and the landowner concerned will be taken to avoid interference with or damage to their services, and to comply with any of their Codes of Practice that may be applicable. Should any pipes, cables, ducts or other apparatus be uncovered during the archaeological works the Statutory or other Service Authorities and landowner concerned will be informed immediately and further works will cease until adequate precautions have been taken for re-instatement or protection of any apparatus.

3.9 Any water drains which may be interfered with, or cut through, will be preserved and pipes or other means be provided so as not to stop or diminish their present usage. Should any drain be uncovered appropriate measures will be provided to convey the water and soil to a suitable outlet and every reasonable precaution taken to protect all property from damage. Temporary or permanent connections to any mains drains pipes or other services will only be made with the prior permission of the relevant Statutory Authority.

3.10 Enquiries as to the position and line of any existing services will be made. Archaeological work will not commence until the presence or otherwise of all such services has been established. The positions, depths and dimensions of all services encountered will be measured and recorded.

3.11 On completion of hand clearance the area of archaeological investigation will be enclosed with appropriate barriers to appropriate safety standards and maintenance. Appropriate hazard signs will also be displayed.
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3.12 Appropriate security will be provided. Particular care will be taken to avoid the loss of data by unauthorized excavation for archaeological artefacts. Should security problems arise a permanent presence on the site of the investigation may be required.

3.13 Adverse weather may temporarily halt archaeological works. It may be appropriate therefore to provide cover and protection over exposed archaeological features and deposits. Time should be allowed for delays due to bad weather.

3.14 A detailed calendar for the implementation and completion of the archaeological works will be arranged between the archaeological contractor and the EH Archaeological Officer and the dates for both the commencement and completion of the archaeological investigation will be notified to the EH Archaeological Officer.

4. Recording

Notwithstanding the requirements detailed above, the following general procedures will be followed:

4.1 All structures, deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards using appropriate recording systems. The recording systems used will be compatible with those used on other similar archaeological excavations within Greater London. The records are to be integrated into the Greater London District HER and the Museum of London Archaeological Officer will allocate site codes and archive numbers. The site archive will be prepared according to the guidelines set out in: Management of archaeological of projects: Appendix 3 (English Heritage, 2nd edn. 1991).

4.2 All archaeological contexts are to be recorded individually on single context record sheets. A further more general record of the work, comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology is to be maintained as appropriate.

4.3 Supplementary recording systems will be compiled for investigations and samples taken for bulk screening, palaeo-environmental analysis, and soil micromorphology

4.4 A full colour photographic record of all phases of the archaeological works will be kept. The photographic digital film record, as well as the written record of the same, will comprise part of the site archive. Record photographs taken as
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4.5 More detailed information on the classes and types of records to be compiled during the course of the excavation(s) is to be found in: *Policy and Guidelines for the transfer of archaeological archives within Croydon Borough District*.

4.6 A site plan to indicate the location of the boundaries of the proposed development site and the position of archaeological areas is to be drawn at a scale of 1:100. Plans to indicate the locations of archaeological features are to be drawn to a scale of 1:50, with more detailed plans as necessary. Detailed plans should normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. All detailed plans and sections are to be related to the site plans.

4.7 All plans and sections will be drawn on polyester based drawing film, and each plan and/or section will be clearly labelled.

4.8 A site grid will be established across the areas subject to necessity. All field surveying will be preceded by a site visit to clarify the site specific surveying methodology, determine lines of sight and locate appropriate survey points.

4.9 All recording points will be accurately surveyed with an EDM or Total Station to a horizontal accuracy of +/- 500mm., and located to the National Grid.

4.10 A full record of levels above Ordnance Datum of archaeological features and deposits exposed and excavated will be compiled and if necessary a general contour survey of the proposed development area undertaken. Temporary benchmarks may be established, but all heights will be related to approved Ordnance Survey benchmarks. The stations closest to each individual site will be used to minimize error. All levelling to site temporary bench marks will form part of a closed loop back to the point of origin, and will close to within an error of 20mm K, where K is the distance traversed in kilometres. If the error falls outside of this limit, the traverse is to be repeated. Errors will be minimized by equalizing back sights and foresights and ensuring these are less than 100mm.

5.0 Assessment and Reporting

5.1 The results of the trenching works will be communicated to CG Developments Ltd, and the EH Archaeological Officer at the earliest possible opportunity. This will comprise either a brief written statement or an interim
5.2 The site archive will be collated after the works, with all site drawings inked-in, and records and finds cross-referenced and ordered as an internally consistent permanent record. The site archive will comprise two elements, the documentary (written, drawn, photographic and electronic) record and the material remains recovered. A full archival indexed catalogue of the documentary site archive will be prepared.

5.3 The site archive will include all records created and artefacts and soil samples recovered during the course of the fieldwork and will be suitably marked as such to distinguish these records from those created during post-excavation analysis. No parts of the documentary site archive will be discarded. The documentary site archive will also be distinguished from records created during project management.

5.4 All soil samples and each class or type of artefacts will be clearly and suitably marked and boxed. A full archival catalogue of the material archive will be prepared.

5.5 On completion of the ordering and cataloguing, the site archive will be assessed in accordance with the principles of Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MORPHE Project Manager’s Guide (English Heritage, 1st edn, 2006) and a programme of post-investigation analysis will be defined and agreed between CG Developments Ltd, the archaeological contractor (Touchstone Archaeology), LAARC and the Council Archaeological Officer.

5.6 As a minimum the post-excavation analysis will include:

a) the stratigraphic analysis of the results of the archaeological investigation
b) the creation of a context matrix
c) a written description of the stratigraphic analysis
d) the preparation of phased site plans

5.7 The material archive will be studied and assessed by type of artefact and outline catalogues prepared including data on the quantity, identification and date of the artefacts assessed. Further conservation of artefacts will be undertaken where appropriate. In addition, appropriately qualified specialists will compile assessments of the various categories of artefacts. These assessments will include an academic justification for the retention of the material remains studied and proposals for the dispersal of artefacts not
considered worthy of preservation. Full archive cataloguing of artefacts will not be undertaken at this stage.

5.8 Sub-samples from the soil samples taken for bulk screening, palaeoenvironmental analysis and soil micromorphology will be processed as part of the post-excavation analysis where this has not previously been undertaken during the evaluation. To avoid contamination and deterioration as a result of long-term storage it may prove necessary to process all soil samples. Should this prove impractical or unnecessary soil samples are to be stored under appropriate conditions. Finds recovered from bulk screening will be treated as small finds and appropriately recorded. Residues will be retained as part of the site archive. Samples taken of wooden structures or bulk materials such as metallurgical residues will also be retained. Interim summary reports on the results of the processing of soil samples will be compiled by type of artefacts and classes of biological material recovered.

5.9 Dispersal of certain classes of the material site archive, including soil samples, may be appropriate and will follow established procedures and a review of the material within the particular context of the evaluation. A detailed brief setting out the procedures for the retention and dispersal policies for samples and artefacts is to be prepared as part of the post-excavation analysis. This will follow the guidelines set out in: Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections: guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (The Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993).

5.10 On completion of the ordering of the site archive and as part of the assessment process, a field report on the work will be compiled. This will consist of a brief concise narrative with appropriate illustrations to present an overview of the results of the work undertaken by area and period. This report will be completed within two weeks of the completion of the works and submitted to CG Developments Ltd and the HE Archaeological Officer. Where significant artefacts have been recovered during the course of the works or where the archaeology recorded is complex, a summary report will be compiled.

5.11 Recommendations for further archaeological work are not to be included within the field report. The report, however, will assess the archaeological importance of any archaeology revealed during the evaluation.

5.12 Should no further archaeological works be required following the completion of the works and the completion of the post-excavation analysis, an appropriate programme of further post-excavation assessment as required will be defined and agreed in writing between CG Developments Ltd, the
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archaeological contractor and the HE Archaeological Officer to bring the results
of the investigation to publication.

5.13 This will comprise in the first instance an assessment report that will
contain as a minimum the following, together with such further work as is
justified by the assessment. The post assessment will be completed within one
year of the completion of the evaluation and a report submitted to CG
Developments Ltd and the HE Archaeological Advisor.

a) a brief summary of the archaeology of the site

b) a description and interpretation of the archaeology and depositional history of
the site and a summary list of features with additional information, including
matrices, on stratigraphic relationships.

c) a table showing the classes and numbers of artefacts located and their
interpretation if appropriate.

d) a catalogue and discussion of any other finds by category, the level of detail
required being determined by the assessment, but with particular attention
being paid to all stratified and other datable material and any finds of intrinsic or
historic interest.

e) copies of the excavation location plans at 1:100, a plan of the main
archaeological features at 1:50, together with more detailed plans and key
section drawings, all at appropriate scales.

f) recommendations for further post-excavation work to attain publication
standard.

5.14 The results of the works and the importance of any archaeology revealed
and recorded during the works will determine the methodologies to be adopted
in the preparation of interim field, summary and assessment reports. Should the
works reveal little of archaeological importance or significance the assessment
and reporting detailed above will not required and a brief summary report only
should be prepared.

5.15 Should further archaeological works be required following the completion
of the strip, map and record, post-excavation analysis and assessment of the
results of the work will be incorporated into subsequent programmes of
archaeological investigations.
6.0 General

6.1 Any enquiries or complaints made to the archaeological contractor during the course of any phase of the fieldworks or subsequent post-exavcation analysis and assessment from landowners, Statutory Authorities or the public shall be recorded in writing and forwarded immediately to the landowner. The archaeological contractor shall not enter into any written, verbal or electronic communication with landowners, Statutory Authorities or the public without the prior consent of the landowner.

6.2 All artefacts recovered during the excavation shall remain the property of the landowner. The finds may be retained by the archaeological contractor for a period not exceeding 2 years for post-excavation analysis. The artefacts are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with: Walker, K. *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage and conservation* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section, 1990) and: *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1992).

6.3 On completion of the project, the archaeological contractor is to arrange for the transfer, subject to the landowners consent, of the documentary, photographic and material archive to the appropriate museum (LAARC) and to ensure that the appropriate level of resources for cataloguing, boxing and long term storage are available. Further details, including information on the appropriate storage media and the procedures for the transfer of ownership of artefacts is contained in: *Policy and Guidelines for the transfer of archaeological archives by Touchstone Archaeology*.

6.4 The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the evaluation, by GG Developments Ltd and the HE Archaeological Officer.

6.5 Copies of all reports compiled as a result of the excavation and post-exavcation archaeological works will be submitted to CG Developments. In addition two copies of each report to the HE Archaeological Officer and one copy of each report to the HER Officer, the Greater London HER Team for inclusion on the County Sites & Monuments Record.

6.6 In undertaking the work the archaeological contractor is to abide by the: *Code of conduct* and the: *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
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Compiled by: Touchstone Archaeology - Zoe Schofield.
19/10/2016

References:

MOLA GL8051_SLO56598
MOLA GL8059_SLO77759

Data provided by GLHER

IFA (2014) STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE for archaeological field evaluation

IFA (2014) STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE for archaeological excavation

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

Tower Hamlets Local Development Plan Adopted
April 2013
Archaeological evaluation at 629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN

Trench 2 - Post-Medieval on weathered brickearth

Trench 1 - Possible surface or edge of road at 45cm

Trench 3 - Road feature at 30cm depth

3no Test pits carried out on 18th July 2016

Trench 6
Trench 4
Trench 5
Trench 3
Trench 2
Trench 1

Figure 1