# An Archaeological Watching Brief at 199 Long Lane, Southwark, SE1 4PD

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For EHA Group Ltd

**DRAFT REPORT** 

September 2011

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under Accession number LNN11

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#### Abstract

An archaeological watching brief during ground works involving ground reduction and piling was carried out by PRO Archaeology Services in advance of the construction of a 7 storey building comprising of 7 residential units (Class C3) above a ground floor retail premise (Planning Ref: 10/AP/0836) at 199 Long Lane, Southwark, SE1 4PD (TQ 3305 7950). A total of four separate site visits were made during May and July 2011.

The watching brief followed an archaeological evaluation undertaken by PRO Archaeology Services (January 2011) which recorded the remains of a medieval feature and post medieval building (PAS 2011a).

The earliest archaeological features recorded during the watching brief were possibly related to the post medieval building considered to be a tannery. The reduction did not exceed c. 0.90m (c. 2.60m AOD) from the previous ground level and was generally only c. 0.60m in depth (c. 2.90m AOD). The previously discovered medieval archaeological features were located at a depth of 2.2m beneath previous ground level (c. 1.34m AOD), not achieved during these excavations.

The south eastern corner of the plot was occupied by a basement which would have destroyed any archaeological remains in this area.

#### 1. Introduction

PRO Archaeology Services was commissioned by the EHA Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief prior to the erection of a 7 story building at 199 Long Lane, Southwark, SE1 4PD. The site is centred at NGR TQ 3305 7950 and located on sandy silt alluvium overlaying Kempton Park/Shepperton Gravels.

The development site 199 Long Lane, Southwark, SE1 4PD lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Southwark and the Southwark Plan. The Local Planning Authority placed a condition on the planning consent requiring the *implementation of a programme of archaeological work* to be conducted by a suitably experienced archaeologist.

The initial stage of works required an archaeological evaluation (9.5m x 1.6m trench). The work was conducted in accordance to the Specification prepared by PRO Archaeology Services (PAS 2010) and approved by the Senior Archaeological Officer, Southwark Council (Dr Christopher Constable), which complied with the principles established in *PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010). In conducting the archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief, PRO Archaeology Services adhered to the

Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA, 1999) & Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) (English Heritage, 1991).

The evaluation trench uncovered the remains of a medieval pit dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century AD and a later post medieval building considered to be a tannery dated by a coin found within a wall to 1752 (PAS 2011a).

Following production of the archaeological evaluation report Christopher Constable the Senior Archaeology Officer, Southwark Council decided the appropriate response would be a watching brief during ground works.

PRO Archaeology Services produced a Written Scheme of Investigation for Watching Brief (PAS 2011b) which set out a method for the works which was duly approved by Dr Christopher Constable before site works took place.

# 2. Site Location and Description

The site at 199 Long Lane, Southwark, SE1 4PD is bound to the north by commercial properties fronting Athena Court and City Walk. To the east the site are properties fronting onto Long Lane and to the south Long Lane itself (Figure 1).

According to the maps of the British Geological Survey (Sheet 270), the site lies on Holocene Alluvium. Clay and silts would have accumulated at the site as the site lies on the Thames Floodplain. The Holocene deposits seal Kempton Park/Shepperton Gravels part of an earlier Thames Terrace sequence deposited during the late Devensian glaciation. The site slopes gently downwards from north to south from a height of 3.65m AOD to 3.58m AOD.

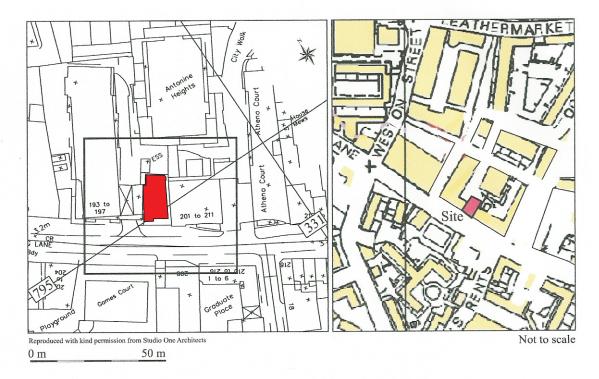
# 3. Planning Background

Following original planning refusal at the site, amendments were made to the application with regard to neighbouring occupants. Changes were made to the residential units planned for the site, reducing the number of units from 10 to 9. The site now has planning permission (Ref: 10/AP/0836) for redevelopment of the site through the erection of a 7- storey building comprising a retail premises located on the ground floor (Use Class A1) and 7 self contained flats located above (Use Class C3).

The Local Planning Authority has placed the following condition on the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in





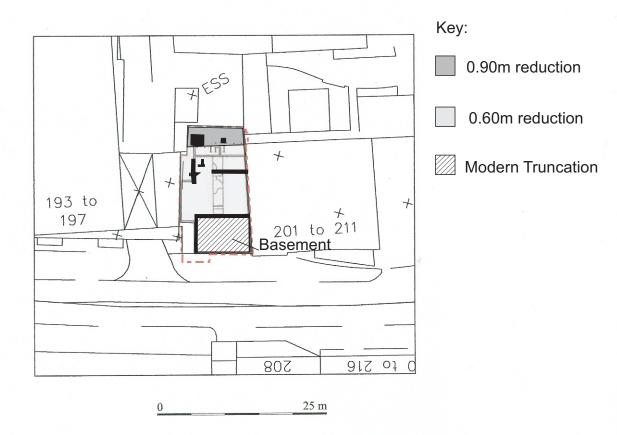


Figure 1. Site location

accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

# 4. Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological investigation are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of the excavations in general accordance with the research frameworks set out in the *framework for London Archaeology* (Molas 2003)

Specific aims should be:

- To clarify the nature of deposits and assess the potential for prehistoric remains from the Palaeolithic to the end of the prehistoric period.
- To clarify the presence of any prehistoric or Roman activity, which may be related to the known settlement of Roman Londinium.
- To further understand the possible medieval roadside ditches which are thought to continue into this site known from the 211 Long Lane excavations.
- To further clarify the presence of any post medieval buildings associated with the tanneries of the area.
- Further understand the medieval feature uncovered during the evaluation stage of works.
- Further understand the structural remains identified during the evaluation thought to be part of the post medieval tanning industry known to exist around this part of Southwark.

# 5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The archaeological potential was detailed in the Desktop Assessment of the site (PCA 2008). The proximity of known archaeological remains recorded on the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) now known as the Historic Environment Record (HER) were used as a basis for the archaeological potential at the site. The most important discoveries have come from the neighbouring site at 211 Long Lane which uncovered prehistoric and Roman remains (McKinley 2006).

Although no previous archaeological work has been undertaken at the site the archaeological Desk based study concluded that archaeological potential is variable for different periods. It was considered that there is a low to moderate potential for prehistoric remains, a moderate to high potential for Roman remains, a low potential for Saxon remains and a high potential for medieval remains and very high potential for post medieval remains (PCA 2008). It was recommended that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken at the site.

A 0.25km radius search of the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (now called HER) was undertaken by PCA Archaeology (2008) and the results of this search are summarised as follows.

#### Prehistoric

Three struck flints were located at 180-196 Long Lane, c. 150m north-west of the study site along with struck flints from 217- 219 Long Lane to the immediate south east. In general, Mesolithic and Neolithic finds are common close to the periphery of former gravel eyots as at Butler's Wharf. This study area is situated close to the Bermondsey Eyot increasing the sites prehistoric potential.

The archaeological evaluation at 211 Long Lane revealed a pit containing one sherd of Iron Age pottery (Allen et al 2005).

## Roman

A sizable Roman settlement existed in Southwark linked to the main Roman town of Londinium (now City of London) by a bridge. The GLSMR recorded numerous Roman find spots from sites such as 175-177 Long Lane, 9 Leathermarket Street and Green Walk.

The archaeological evaluation undertaken on land next to the site is the most relevant and revealed three ditches containing 2nd to 3rd Century AD Roman pottery and ceramic building material. These ditches ran parallel with the modern street frontage which may have represented the remains of a Roman roadside ditch (Darton 2002). Further excavation in 2006 revealed these ditches may have been medieval (McKinley 2006). Evidence from the excavation suggested that frequent flooding events led to deposition of alluvium over an earlier marsh like horizon indicating the site was situated in wet marginal area with low key activity with some limited occupation.

#### Saxon

The only Saxon finds located within a 0.25km radius of the site were pottery sherds found at the corner of Tower Bridge Road. No Saxon material was found at the adjacent site of 211 Long Lane.

#### Medieval

The road of Long Lane was established by the 12th & 13th Centuries AD linking the settlement around Borough High Street with Bermondsey Abbey. This road should cross close to the sites southern boundary. The GLSMR search of 2008 indicated medieval activity in the vicinity of the site. A medieval dumped deposit was found at 173 Bermondsey Street and a number of pits and ditches of 12th to 14th Century AD date were uncovered 217-219 Long Lane. At 239 Long Lane 12 pits, two postholes and a number of stakeholes were found and at Morocco Street a linear feature of a similar date was recorded. Excavations on the corner of Tower Bridge Road revealed chalk and ragstone walls with a drain thought to be of medieval date.

The excavations at 211 Long Lane uncovered medieval ditches on the southern side of the site and medieval and post medieval extraction pits on the northern side of the site. It was thought the site was not intensively occupied and was probably used as farmland by the occupants of Bermondsey Abbey. Most of the medieval activity was dated to the 12th to 14th Centuries AD. It is thought the roadside ditches should continue into this study site at 199 Long Lane.

#### Post medieval

Cartographic evidence suggests Long Lane was largely undeveloped during this period. The leather industry began to develop and the settlement pattern shifted from agricultural to industrial and residential (PCA 2008). Tanning pitshave been uncovered in excavations throughout the area. The first known building recorded on the study site was found on Parker's map of London 1720 which was a small square shaped structure located in the south western corner of the site. This building is likely to have been associated with the tanning industry. The northern side of Long Lane seems to have been developed at this time with regularly spaced properties. The southern side was undeveloped. Further development occurred at the site throughout the post medieval period probably associated with increased industrial activity.

In the late post medieval period the site grew rapidly with numerous extant buildings. Leather and cloth industries continued to expand. The site is illustrated in detail on Horwoods map of London in 1799. This suggested that the irregularly shaped buildings depicted on Rocques map of 1741-7 had been replaced by two rectangular structures forming part of terrace with gardens to the front.

By the time the Ordnance Survey map of 1872 had been complied tanning yards to the rear of the site had been developed considerably. A series of elongated buildings were erected at the site and in 1874 an extension was made to the L-shaped structure forming a rectangular building with a central courtyard. Tanneries continued to be occupied around the site and the site itself was occupied by a structure marked as Public House, which continued until 1948.

The 19th Century structure was replaced by two L-shaped buildings in the in the 1940's or 1950's. By 1995 the entire terrace had been pulled own creating a large yard in front of group of warehouses to the north. The site has been open since this date.

## 6. Methodology

The investigation comprised continuous monitoring of all ground works throughout the programme of ground reduction and after pile insertion.

The modern overburden was carefully removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The mechanical excavator was used to

remove the non-archaeologically significant material in controlled spits of 100mm in order to reveal and limit impact upon the archaeology.

At the northern end of the site the ground reduction reached 0.90m and revealed some structural elements of the post medieval tanning industry. Excavations this deep were a mistake by the machine driver and after archaeological recording the area was backfilled to make the level up to 0.60m ground reduction. This meant the archaeological feature 1002 was not hand excavated and only cleaned and recorded as it was preserved *in situ*.

Once the development area had been reduced by 0.60m it was subject to concrete piling which could not be monitored by an archaeologist effectively due to the limited size of the open excavations and to commensurate with health and safety legislation.

Where appropriate surfaces were inspected, hand cleaned, examined and recorded. Deposits were recorded on standard pro-forma context recording sheets. A plan (Figure 2) was drawn at 1:50. A full black and white, colour (35mm transparency) and digital photographic record of the work was taken and will form part of the site archive.

All recording points were accurately tied into the National Grid and located on the 1:1250 map of the area (Figure 1). Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features encountered were levelled with respect to OD obtained from a spot height marked on a supplied drawing of Long Lane. All artefacts recovered during the excavations were suitably labelled, bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the Institute of Conservation 1983 Conservation Guidelines No. 2. The assessment of artefacts was provided by Luke Barber MIFA a pottery and special find specialist at the Sussex Archaeological Society. No samples thought suitable for environmental sampling were taken.

The site archive will include all project records and cultural material produced by the project. The archive will be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). On completion of the project PRO Archaeology Services will arrange for the archive to be deposited with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive in conjunction with the general standards for archive preparation and deposited with the Museum of London (MOLAS 2009) within a reasonable timeframe (usually three months of completion of the project).

Number of Contexts	19
No. of files/paper record	28
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	13 digital 7 B&W & 13 Colour Slide
Bulk finds	6 bags
Registered finds	0

Environmental flots/residue	0
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Table 1: Quantification of site archive

#### 7. Results

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material. Numbers not shown in any brackets are masonry features i.e. walls.

The earliest features were structural remains associated with a post medieval building. A square shaped feature  $(1.5m \times 1.9m)$  [1002] cut into (1008) had red and yellow brick masonry 1003 on its north west side and stone rubble infill on its east side (1004). Attached to the southern and northern sides was an iron drain, with a simple iron bracket on the eastern and western sides: 1005.

A sub rectangular feature 1006 was located east of the square structure which cut into buried topsoil (1008). It was 0.70m wide and 0.40m deep with straight sides forming a flat base constructed of frogged rectangular red bricks. Inside the centre of the feature was (1007) light grey brown ashy silt with slag and an almost complete pot of 19<sup>th</sup> Century date (See Section 8)

Wall 1013 was constructed of red bricks (<0.23 x 0.10m) and was 0.50m in width bonded with a grey mortar. It was a minimum of 3.70m in length after which it could not be traced due to a raised impact level in this area. The wall was cut into friable dark grey brown made ground (1011) with CBM, clay pipe and pottery fragments included dated to the early through to the late post medieval period (See Section 8).

Butting up against Wall 1013 was the badly truncated return 1014, which could have been the remains of an internal wall. Immediately adjacent to the Wall 1014 was soft dark black silty clay with high coal inclusions (1010).

To the east of the wall was friable mid grey brown clay silt made ground with CBM and concrete inclusions (1012). Also yellow brown sandy silt with brick and stone (1018) was recorded adjacent to 1013 alongside more masonry constructed of frogged red bricks (<0.23 x 0.10m) of a Victorian/modern date (1015 & 1016).

A large wall 1017 was seen orientated north west south east and was on the same alignment as the wall first discovered during the evaluation dated to 1752, but was of a Victorian/modern date.

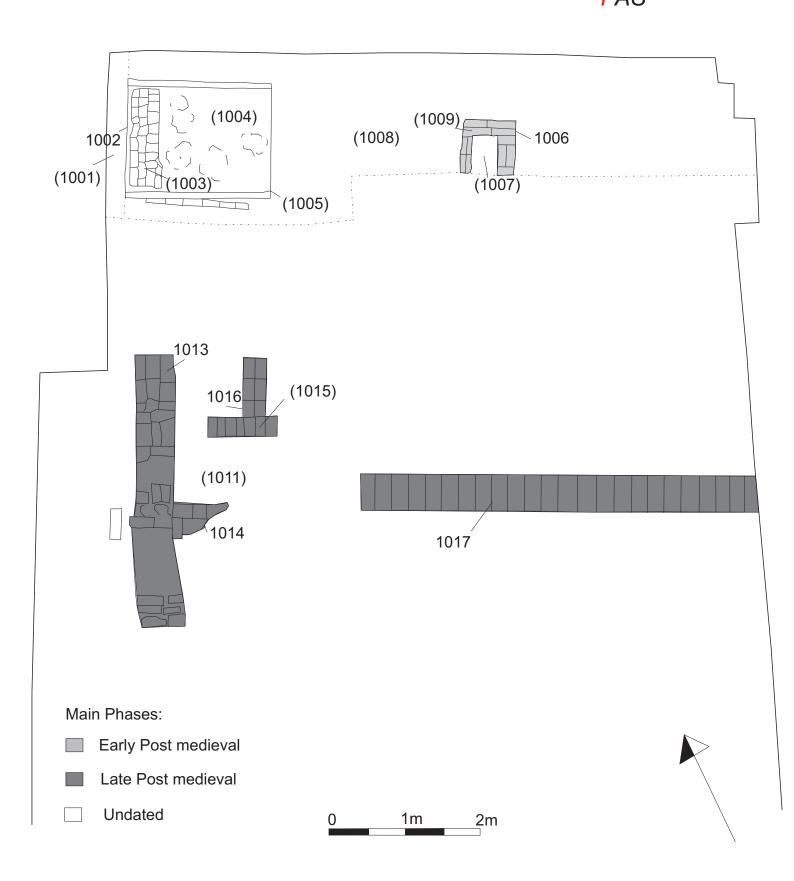


Figure 2: Project Title: 199 Long Lane, Southwark, Watching Brief

Plan of Features: Scale 1:50 Drawn by PR: 9/09/2011

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# **8. The Finds** by Luke Barber

The second stage of archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of artefacts, a high proportion of which were from unstratified deposits. The material is quantified in Table 2. Considering the small size of the assemblage it will be discussed by context.

Context	Pottery (by period)	Ceramic Building Material	Other	Comments
U/S	Roman – 5/102g Late post-medieval – 1/10g	-	Worked flint 6/194g Slag 2/79g	Mixed prehistoric to C19th
1007	Late post-medieval – 41/6341g	Peg tile 1/67g Pan tile 1/62g Drain 1/75g	Clay pipe 4/13g	c. 1840-1880
1011	Early post-medieval – 1/10g Late post-medieval – 1/23g	-	Worked flint 1/6g Clay pipe 5/14g Glass 1/22g Iron 1/3g Bone 3/78g	c. 1800-1900 (high residual C17th)

Table 2: Quantification of finds

The earliest finds from the site were all recovered from unstratified deposits. A small assemblage of worked flint is present that includes two flake cores. One, in a light grey flint, is well utilised with flake removals on all sides while the other, in a black flint with surviving cortex in places, only has limited removals and has clearly been subjected to natural battering. Apart from a probably unworked piece of off-white gravel flint the remaining three pieces all consist of fresh flakes/blades in light grey or grey olive flint, two of which still remain some cortex. All have been removed using a soft hammer, however, in the absence of any platform preparation, a Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date is suspected (Chris Butler *pers comm.*).

The five Roman sherds are in variable condition, ranging from quite extensively abraded to relatively fresh. The material includes an abraded East Sussex-type grog tempered bodysherd, a fresh reduced fine sand/grog bodysherd with exterior burnishing (possibly Highgate Wood), a slightly abraded base/lid fragment in a reduced fine sandy micaceous ware. In addition there are two slightly abraded bodysherds from possible Central Gaulish Dr 18/31 platters. All in all most of the material can be placed in a later 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>- century date bracket. The only other sherd of unstratified pottery was from an English stoneware bottle of 19<sup>th</sup>- century date. The only other unstratified finds consist of two pieces of quite dense fuel ash slag with bubbled surfaces and adhering fire-cracked flint, possibly from post-medieval lime-burning.

Context (1007) produced the most securely dated group of artefacts. The 41 fresh sherds of pottery represent three different vessels of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two

of these consist of internally glazed large bowls with similar rounded club rims in fine post-medieval redware. Both are nearly complete. One is in a pale orange fabric (10/2292g) while the other is in a more orange red fabric (12/2630g). The third vessel consists of the upper portion of an English stoneware handled bottle with a tan top and Bristol glaze. The clay pipe from [1007] is also in an unabraded condition and consists of an AO29 type bowl and three stem fragments (one of which has leaf decoration along the seam). All can be placed in an 1840 to 1880 date bracket.

Other finds from (1007) include a piece of hard-fired peg tile tempered with sparse fine sand with some voids to 2mm and a medium-fired piece of pan tile tempered with moderate fine/medium sand and rare iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. There is also an iron-washed salt glazed drain fragment.

Context (1011) produced a more mixed assemblage of finds. The single piece of worked flint consists of a very fresh piece of black flint with cortex and is probably not of prehistoric origin. It is quite probable it derived from later work associated with flint walling. There is a single sherd from a tin-glazed earthenware plate with blue painted decoration and three of the clay pipe stems can be placed between 1600 and 1650. The other sherd of pottery is possibly from an English stoneware sagger of later 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century date and the remaining two clay pipe stem fragments would be in keeping with this date range. The context also produced a fragment of aqua mineral water bottle of 19<sup>th</sup>- century date, a small fragment from the shank of a nail and three pieces of animal bone including part of a probable cattle scapula.

The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and no additional work is proposed.

#### 9. The Discussion and Conclusions

The results of the archaeological evaluation were successful in establishing the aims and objectives set out at the start of the project in the WSI, (Riccoboni 2011a) repeated in Section 4.

The only evidence for prehistoric or Roman remains discovered during this watching brief were residual prehistoric flints and Roman pottery sherds. There was no earlier residual material from the adjacent site of 193-197 Long Lane (Pre-construct 2002) but this could be expected as the adjacent excavations were further away from the Roman activity recorded during the archaeological excavations at 211 Long Lane (Wessex Archaeology 2004).

The medieval ditches which were thought to continue into this site from 211 Long Lane were not located as they we presumably destroyed by the large basement seen near the street frontage (Fig. 1).

The medieval feature discovered during the evaluation trench (Riccoboni 2011b) was not re-examined as excavations did not reach the same depths. The original design of the lift shaft (expected to be 2m in depth) was redesigned and the impact did not exceed *c.* 2.95m AOD.

The earliest features discovered were of a post medieval date, probably connected to a tannery which occupied this site, first discovered during the evaluation (Riccoboni 2011b). However, due to the limited nature of the ground reduction only fragments of features associated with this building [1009] were recorded and a complete picture could not be achieved. The post medieval building dated to 1752 was proved (during the evaluation stage of works) to be surviving at a depth of *c*. 1.1m beneath previous ground level (*c*. 2.45m AOD). Ground reduction over the location of the building, achieved only *c*. 0.60m (*c*. 2.95m AOD) and the building was therefore not further examined.

At 199 Long Lane we see a direct continuation of the worked soil, with small amounts of 17th- to 18th-century artefactual material, discovered at 193-197 Long Lane. The earliest structural features 1002 & 1006 possibly associated with the tannery were cut into this worked soil (1008). The square shaped structural remains 1002 with iron drains may have been a wash area. There was no evidence of tanning pits (like the pits seen at 211 Long Lane) despite the area being occupied by a tannery. However, this is to be expected as tanning pits would have been located a short distance to the rear of the tannery, as skinning and tanning were particularly odorous activities.

The walls: 1013, 1015, 1016 & 1017 can be vaguely matched to the building shown on the OS maps first dating to 1894 which was seen to occupy the site until 1970. Wall 1017 was on a very similar alignment to the wall dated 1752 discovered during the evaluation (119), but was part of the later building described above seen on OS map 1894.

There was deep, extensive 19th- to 20th-century truncation to the south eastern area in the form of a cellar, which had probably destroyed much of the earlier archaeological evidence (Fig. 1).

A confidence is good that the best results were achieved considering the relatively shallow excavations which took place across the site.

#### 10. Acknowledgements

PRO Archaeology Services would like to thank AHA Group manager Paul Nicolas for commissioning PRO Archaeology Services to undertake the watching brief. Also thanks are extended to the site staff James Vessey BA MA AIFA and Margaret Sutton Smith. Thanks are also extended to Dr Christopher Constable the Senior Archaeology Officer, Southwark Council for supporting PRO Archaeology Services throughout its first project within the Borough.



Plate 1: Over view of square masonry feature 1003



Plate 2: Wall 1013 1015 & 1016 looking north



Plate 3: General shot of 0.60m ground reduction taking place



Plate 4: concrete piling after insertion

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# **APPENDIX 1: Context list**

Context No Trench/Area Type/deposit/ cut/masonry Descrip		Description	Depth (m)	Provisional date	
1000	WB	Deposit	Concrete	0.20	Modern
1001	WB	Deposit	Dark grey black topsoil same as 101		Modern
1002	WB	Cut	Construction cut for square structural remains		Post medieval
1003	WB	Masonry	Red and yellow / unfrogged bricks		Post medieval
1004	WB	Masonry	Roughly hewn stones (<100-200mm)	/	Post medieval
1005	WB	Drain	Iron drain around 1002	0.10	Post medieval
1006	WB	Cut	Construction cut for brick drain	0.40	Post medieval
1007	WB	Deposit	Fill of 1006	0.40	Post medieval
1008	WB	Deposit	Topsoil layer same as (108)	0.20	Post medieval
1009	WB	Masonry	Red bricks frogged	0.40	Post medieval
1010	WB	Deposit	Dark grey black silty clay	/	Modern
1011	WB	Deposit	Dark grey brown silty / clay		Modern
1012	WB	Deposit	Mid grey brown silty clay	/	Modern
1013	WB	Masonry	Frogged red brick	/	Modern
1014	WB	Masonry	Frogged red brick	/	Modern
1015	WB	Masonry	Frogged red brick	/	Modern
1016	WB	Masonry	Frogged red brick	/	Modern
1017	WB	Masonry	Frogged rd brick	/	Modern
1018	WB	Deposit	Mid yellow brown sandy silt	/	Modern
1019	WB	Masonry	Frogged brick wall	/	Modern

**APPENDIX 2: HER Summary Form** 

Identification name and address: 199 Long Lane, Southwark, SE1 4PD

Site code: LNN11

# Summary:

An archaeological watching brief during ground works involving ground reduction and piling was carried out by PRO Archaeology Services in advance of the construction of a 7 storey building comprising of 7 residential units (Class C3) above a ground floor retail premise (Planning Ref: 10/AP/0836) at 199 Long Lane, Southwark, SE1 4PD (TQ 3305 7950). A total of four separate site visits were made during May and July 2011.

The watching brief followed an archaeological evaluation undertaken by PRO Archaeology Services (January 2011) which recorded the remains of a medieval feature and post medieval building (PAS 2011). Only post medieval building features were recorded during this stage of works.

District/ Unitary: London Borough of Parish: Southwark

Southwark

Period(s):Early to Late Post medieval

NGR: 3305 7950

Type of archaeological work: Watching Brief

Date of Recording: May & July 2011
Unit undertaking recording: PAS

Geology: Holocene Alluvium

Title and author of accompanying report:

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 199 Long Lane, Southwark, SE1 4PD.

Author: Paul Riccoboni BA (Hons) AIFA

Summary of fieldwork results:

The earliest archaeological features recorded during the watching brief were possibly related to the post medieval building considered to be a tannery. The reduction did not exceed c. 0.90m (c. 2.60m AOD) from the previous ground level and was generally only c. 0.60m in depth (c. 2.90m AOD). The previously discovered medieval archaeological features were located at a depth of 2.2m beneath previous ground level (c. 1.34m AOD), not achieved during these excavations.

The south eastern corner of the plot was occupied by a basement which would have destroyed any archaeological remains in this area.

Location of Archive / Finds: Museum of London Archive Ref: LNN11

Contact at Unit: P Riccoboni Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011