

# *Sutton Archaeological Services*

## Evaluation Report

on

**33-35 Linom Road,**  
Clapham, London, SW4 7PB  
LIR 04: (TQ 3020 7523)

for

*London & Continental Securities Ltd*



Fig. 1 John Rocque's map of Surrey (1768)

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**33-35 Linom Road,**  
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London Borough of Lambeth  
LIR 04: (TQ 3020 7523)

by

J G PERRY: October 2004

## **Summary**

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 33-35 Linom Road, Clapham, London, SW4 7PB from 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

The site lay in an area of archaeological importance as defined in London Borough of Lambeth's Unitary Plan. Research by Sutton Archaeological Services for the project design indicated that there was Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

One trenches was excavated across the site revealing modern debris and garden deposits over the natural.

No Medieval archaeology was found. We recovered pottery and CBM dating from the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century.

We recommend that no further archaeology is needed, though the decision to discharge the archaeological condition rests with the archaeological advisor at English Heritage and the local planning authority.

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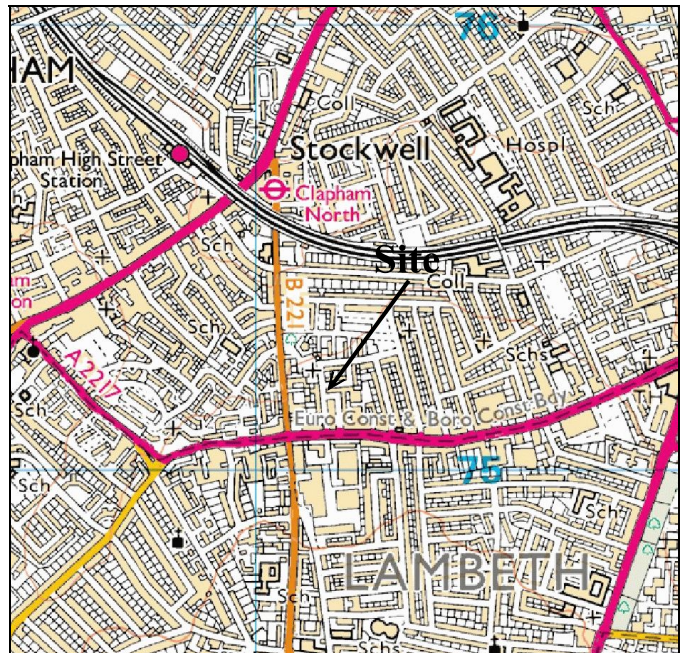
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## Introduction

**Origin and scope of report:** This report relates to the site of the proposed development at 33-35 Linom Road, Clapham, London, SW4 7PB.

London & Continental Securities Ltd (the Developers) has commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an evaluation and any subsequent archaeological work that may be necessary.



**Fig. 2** Location Plan

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**Location:** The site is situated in the London Borough of Lambeth, at the end of a terrace of house formed by Linom Road to the north, Hetherington Road to the west and Ashmere Grove to the south. Clapham Common and the A3 lie 1km to the west, with Stockwell 1km to the north-east. The river Thames lies 3km to the North.

**Topography:** The site lies on the southern side of the Thames Valley, with the ground sloping northwards towards the river. Ground levels around the site are between 35 and 38m aOD.

**Geology:** The basic geology consists of River Terrace Gravels. The sand and gravel deposits have been overlain in some places with a sandy sub-soil deposit (brickearth).

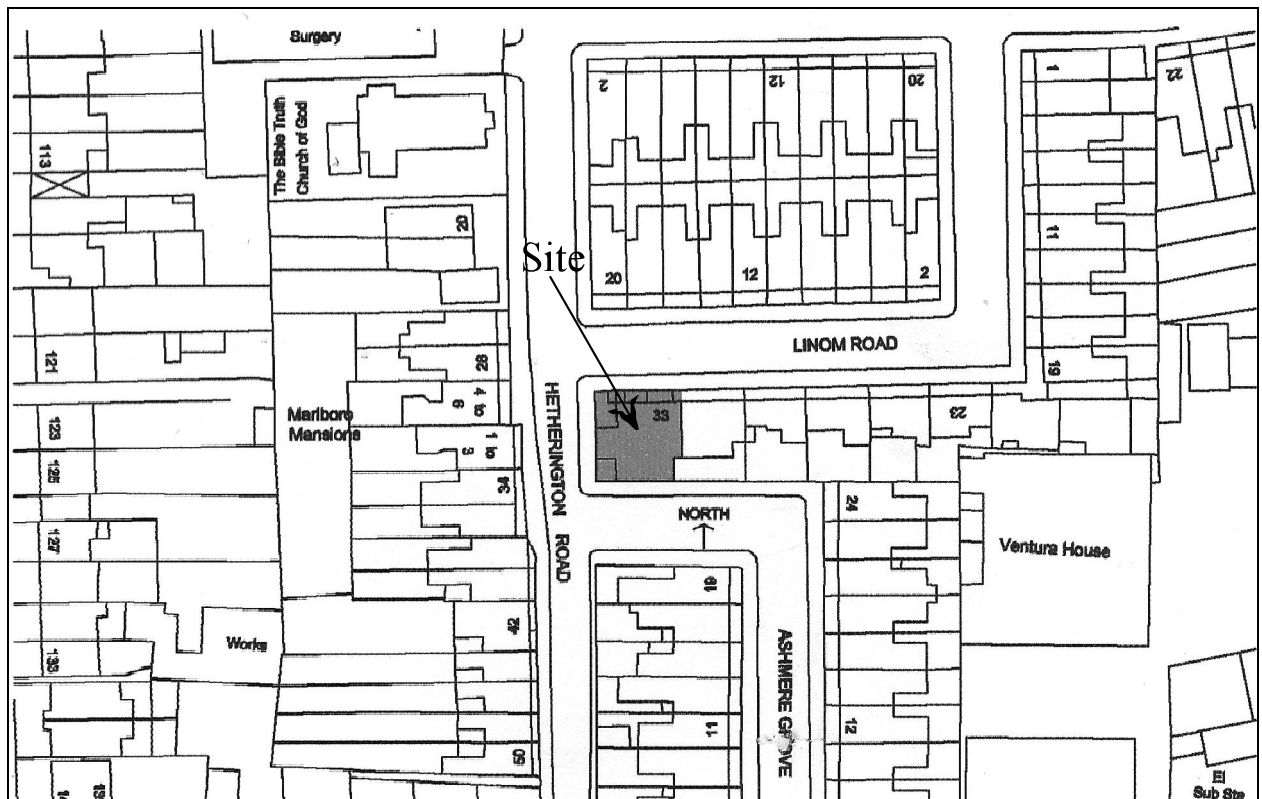
## Planning background

The site was a modern (1960's) building used as a doctors surgery.

The proposed development would demolish the present building.

It was proposed to build 6 residential flats.

The site lies in an area of archaeological importance as defined by policy CD14 in the London Borough of Lambeth's Unitary Development Plan (Appendix II of our project design).



**Fig. 3**

Site Location Plan

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English Heritage has advised the borough that an archaeological condition under PPG 16<sup>1</sup> should be included in the planning approval.

The London Borough of Lambeth included the following condition in the grant of planning permission

- 8 *No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.*

## Archaeological Proposals and Background

Taking the evidence as a whole, the potential for Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon settlement in the area of the site seems **low**. There is also a **low to medium** potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval settlement in the area of the site.

<sup>1</sup> Department of the Environment: *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, HMSO, 1990.

*Prehistoric:* There have been some scattered finds of flint and stone artefacts across the area, but no firm evidence of settlement. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a **low** potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this site.

*Roman:* The A3 is thought to follow the alignment of *Stane Street*, the Roman Road from Chichester to London. Few Roman artifacts have been found, though a watching brief on the Pavillion Service Station at 33 Clapham High Street was thought to have produced some Roman plough soil. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a **low** potential for Roman archaeology on this site.

*Saxon:* There is no known Saxon occupation in the area, therefore, pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was only a **low** potential for Saxon archaeology.

*Medieval to Post-Medieval:* The evidence for Medieval and Post-Medieval settlement in and around the site is focussed on the village centre in the area of Stockwell and old town Clapham. At the time of Rocque in 1745 (fig. 1) these were the two main built up areas.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a **low to medium** potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation on the site.

## **Research objectives**

Sutton Archaeological Services carried out the evaluation following our research design dated September 2004. After a brief assessment of the evidence, our objectives were to look for signs of Prehistoric and Roman occupation on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists has defined the purpose of a field evaluation as follows.

“The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource

- the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.”

*Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, IFA, 2001*

## **Archaeological Methodology**

**Standards:** SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with

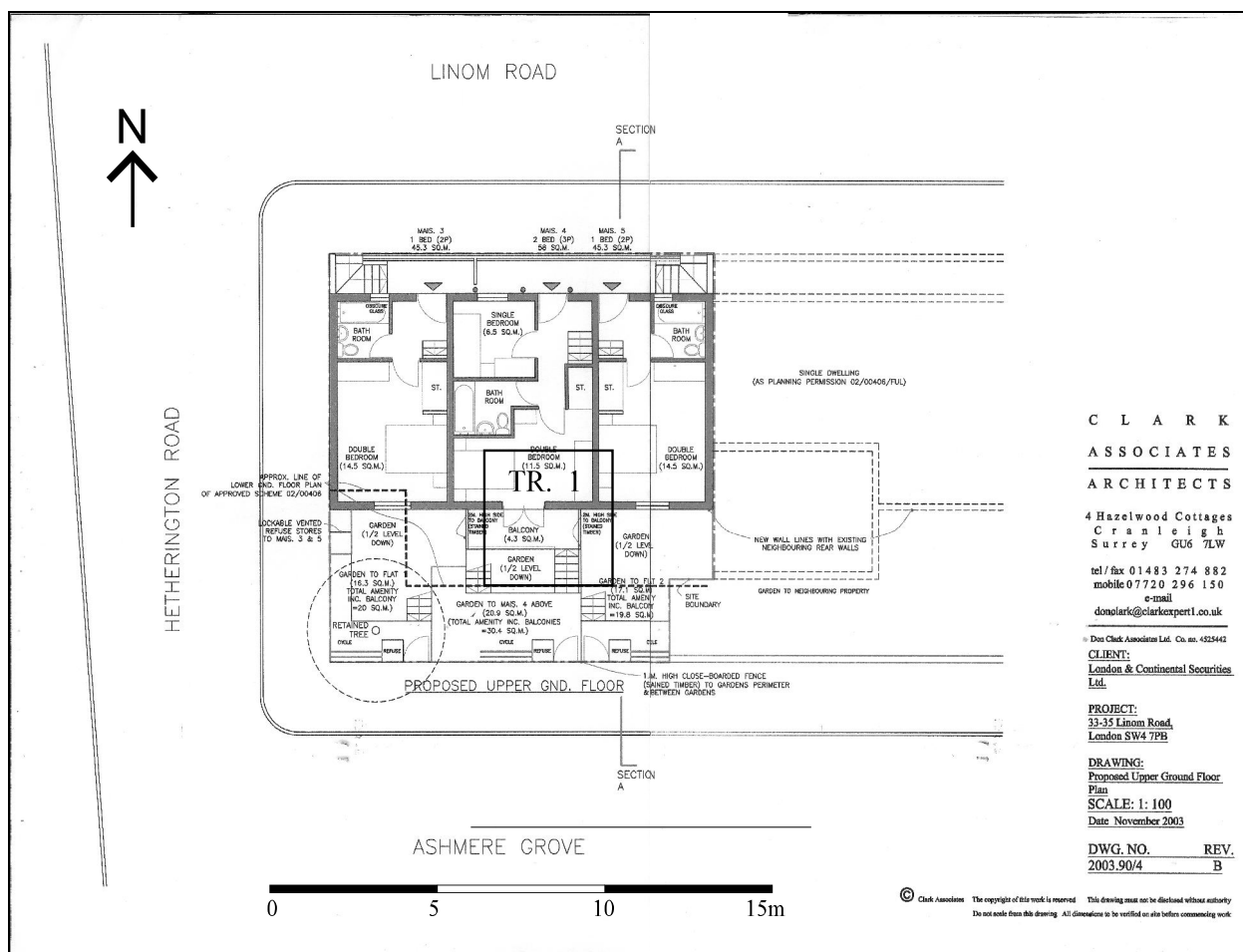
- our project design dated September 2004. (See below for the change we had to make in positioning Trench.)
- the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology, Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations
- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.
- the planning condition inserted by the London Borough of Lambeth’s grant of planning permission.

**Control:** All excavation work was done under the control of the archaeologists on site.

**Trenches:** We dug 1 trenches as shown on Fig 3. due to the size of the site it was not possible to excavated a 10m trench. After discussions with English heritage the 10m x 2m trench was changed to a 4m x 4m trench.

We broke open each trench with a JCB 3CX Site Master and a wide-bladed (1.50m+) smooth-edged ditching bucket and, where appropriate, a toothed bucket.

**Non-archaeological deposits:** We removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits from the 19th century or later. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first significant archaeological layer (or the natural deposits), at which point all machine work ceased in that trench. (We excavated up to 20cm into the natural to make sure we had reached true natural and not re-deposited material.) In this way we excavated the trenche without finding any significant archaeological deposits.



**Fig. 4** Development and trench location plan

**Site records:** We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. A Munsell soil colour chart was used to determine soil colour and all readings were taken with moist soil. In all, we recorded 3 contexts - numbered [001] to [003] - in a single context recording system. The site was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Methodology in Appendix III of our Project Design, and using the Museum of London's recording system. Fig. 4 shows the site matrix.

**Levels:** All levels were taken from an Ordnance Survey Bench Mark, value 2090m aOD, on Thomas House on Kepler Road.

**Backfilling:** After excavating and recording we backfilled the trenches and roughly levelled the ground, leaving surplus spoil on site.

## **Evaluation results**

### ***Trench 1***

Trench 1 was located in the central part of the site (west: 20.75m aOD. east: 20.63m aOD). Context **[001]** was a rubble deposit, a friable, brown sandy clay, containing 30-40% 19<sup>th</sup> century brick rubble. The depth of the rubble varied across the trench from 20cm to 45 cm.

Underlying **[001]** was a garden type soil, a friable, dark brown silty clay deposit **[002]** (west: 20.46m aOD. east: 20.21m aOD), containing frequent small to medium flint pebbles. The deposit had a depth of between 30cm and 42 cm across the trench.

Context **[003]** was the natural clay and extended across the whole of the trench. It consisted of a very soft, brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) (west: 20.20m aOD. east: 19.89m aOD) , containing frequent small to medium flint pebbles. Also contained within the clay matrix were lenses of a friable, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) medium sand, containing 10-20% small to medium flint pebbles.

There were no archaeological finds or features, except modern CBM in context **001** and 19<sup>th</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery in context **002**.

## **Assessment and interpretation**

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was a possibility of Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

The evaluation only revealed debris, possibly demolition material from the 19<sup>th</sup> century houses that once stood on the site, garden deposits again from the 19<sup>th</sup> century houses, over the clay and sand natural.

There was no evidence for archaeology in the trench other than the 19<sup>th</sup> century remains. No archaeological finds made, except modern CBM and 19<sup>th</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

We found no evidence of Medieval occupation on the site.

## **Archaeological Potential**

Following the evaluation our revised view is that this site has no potential for archaeological remains of any period.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development does not threaten to destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We recommend that no further archaeology is needed, though the decision to discharge the archaeological condition rests with the archaeological advisor at English Heritage and the local planning authority.

## **Publications and dissemination**

The evidence is not worthy of publication but a note on the evaluation will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up and a copy of the report lodged in the local library.

## **Archive**

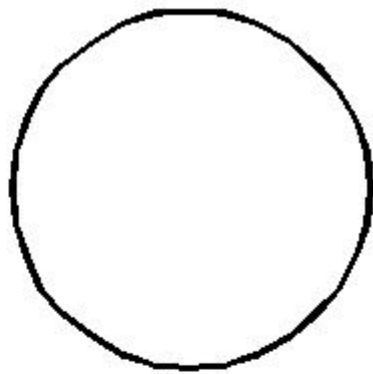
The site archive, including all finds, will be prepared in accordance with the Museum of London's standards. The Developer will donate it to the museum and deposit it when the final report has been completed.



**Plate 1**                  Trench 1



**Plate 2**                  East section



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