

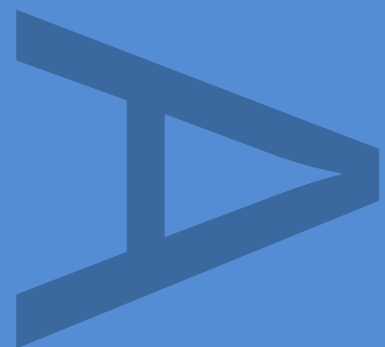
**A N ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE
LEISURE CENTRE, SE11
4TW**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
SOUTHWARK**

SITE CODE: SMC11

REPORT NO: R11099

SEPTEMBER 2011



An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre, London Borough of Southwark, SE11 4TW

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3182 7885

Site Code: SMC11

Written and researched by Guy Seddon

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, September 2011

Report Number: R11099

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Commissioning Client: Balfour Beatty Construction

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September 2011

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre

Type of project

Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
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Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		22.9.11

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
1 Chris Constable Comments	24.10.11	HH	HH

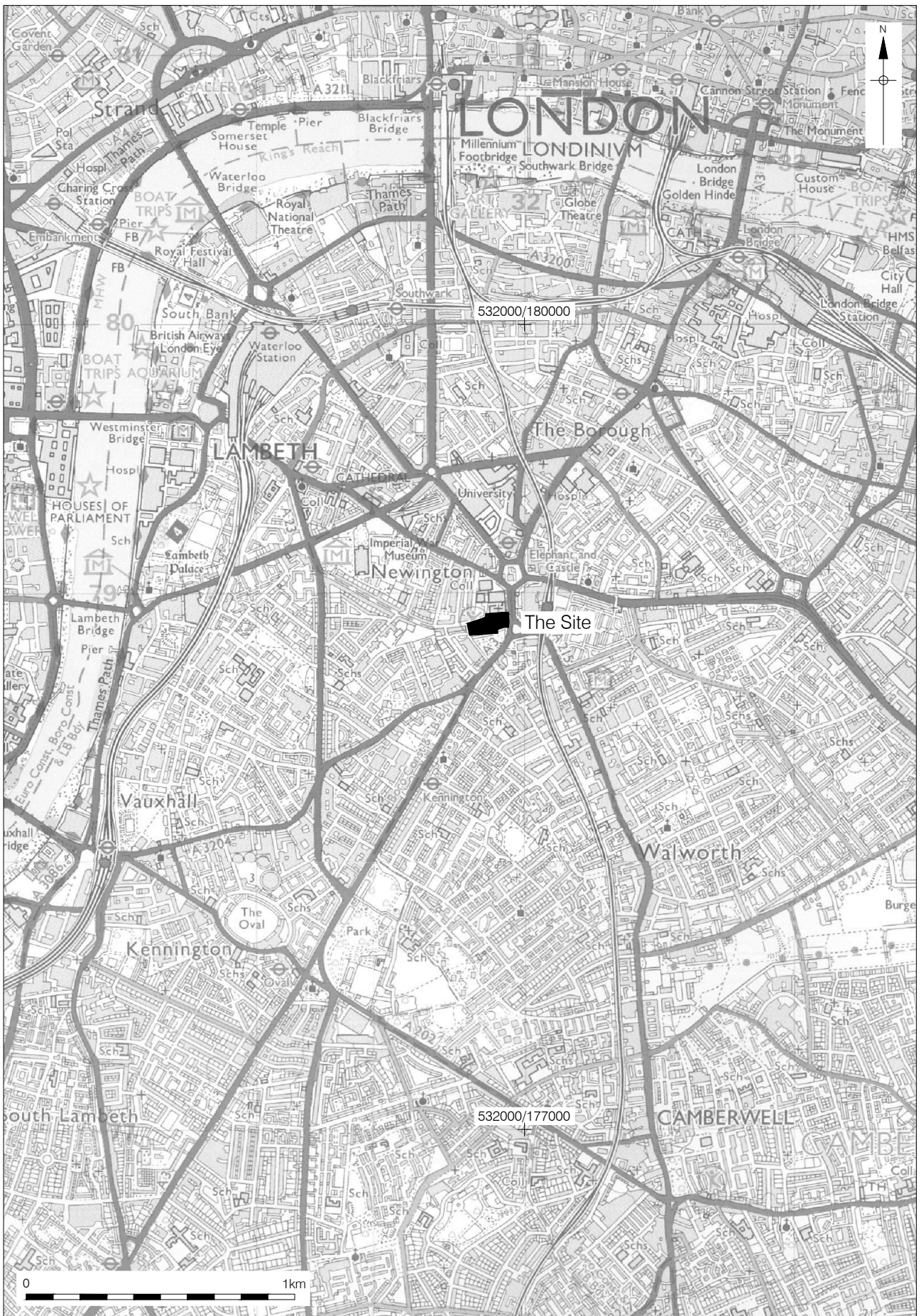
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre, London Borough of Southwark. The field evaluation was undertaken between 12th-14th September 2011. The commissioning client was Balfour Beatty Construction.
- 1.2 The archaeological programme for the evaluation consisted of two trenches located to the south of the Leisure Centre, on a thin strip of land which had not been affected by excavation for the construction of the Leisure Centre.
- 1.3 No natural deposits were witnessed on site.
- 1.4 The evaluation encounter the tops of at least three brick vaults which may contain burials, as found during previous work to the south of the site in the main part of the graveyard. The vaults were located in Trench 2 only. Some of the arched tops of the vaults had been removed when the floor of St Gabriel's church was constructed in 1876. This construction had also resulted in the vaults being partially backfilled, so it was not possible to identify burials within them. The vaults were sealed by the rammed rubble make up layer for the floor of the church.
- 1.5 In Trench 1, a number of concrete foundations relating to a previous building were encountered. A substantial Victorian wall foundation was also identified, running north-south through the trench. Although a small amount of charnel was found adjacent to the wall, there was no evidence for burials in this area.

2 INTRODUCTION

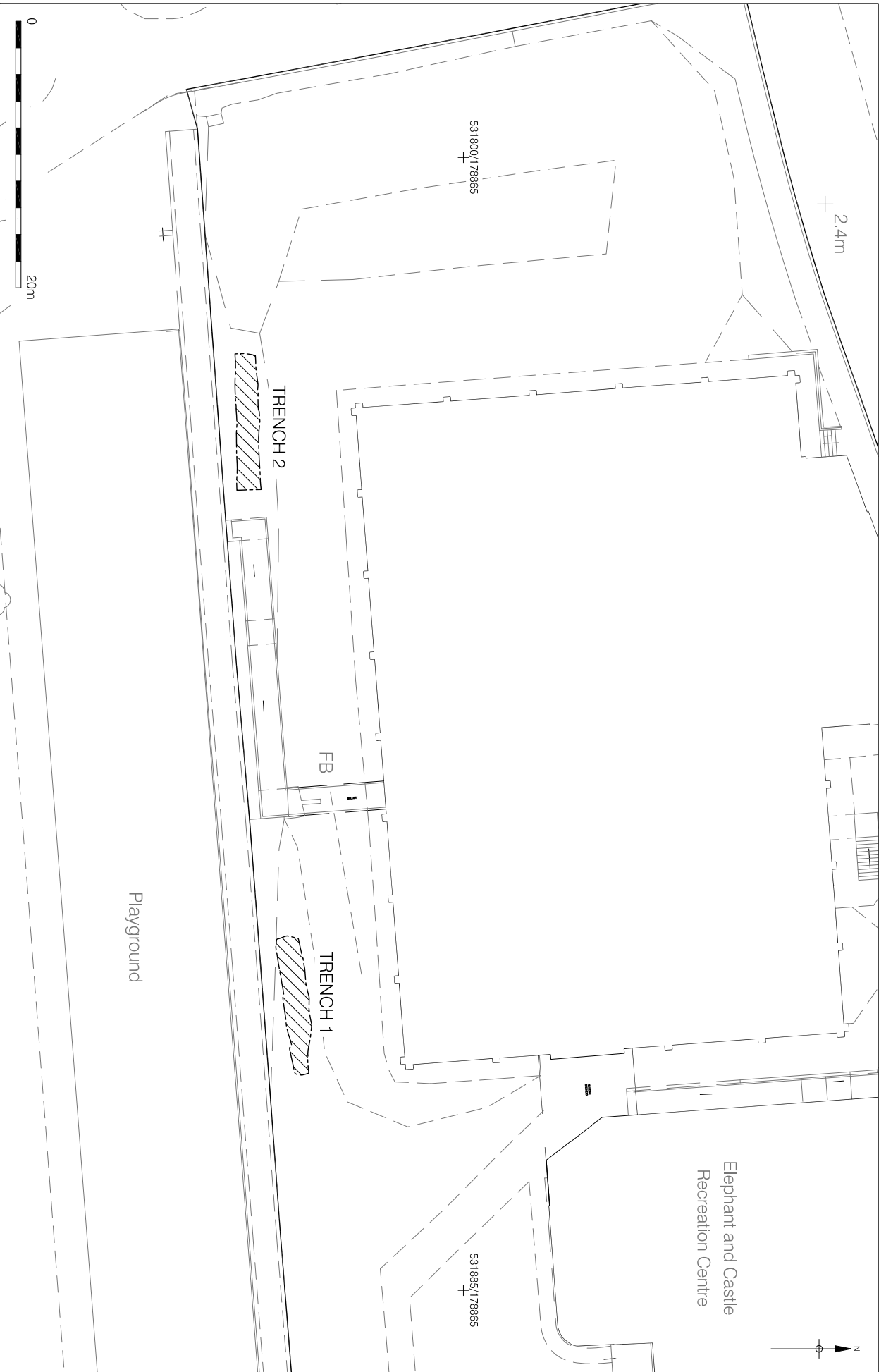
- 2.1 An archaeological site investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 12th-14th September 2011, in advance of redevelopment at the Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre, London Borough of Southwark, SE11 4TW (Figure 1). The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 3182 7885. Two trenches were excavated in the grass verge between the cut for the Leisure Centre to the north and the public footpath to the south (Figure 2).
- 2.2 The commissioning client was Balfour Beatty Construction with the archaeological evaluation being undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of Guy Seddon and the project management of Helen Hawkins. The evaluation was monitored by Chris Constable, the Senior Archaeology Officer for the London Borough of Southwark.
- 2.3 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the Museum of London LAARC.
- 2.4 The site was allocated the site code SMC11



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Detailed Trench Location plan
 1:400 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Policy: Planning Policy Statement (PPS5)

3.1.1 In March 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5), which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of archaeological remains.

3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS5, by current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 Archaeology in the London Borough of Southwark

3.2.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Southwark, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which it is the custodian. Relevant policy statements for the protection of the buried archaeological resource within the borough are contained within the following documents:

- The Southwark Plan (adopted 2007)
- Southwark Policy Guidance (Archaeology) (2007)

3.2.2 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by the London Plan, published February 2004. It includes the following policy of relevance to archaeology within central London:

Policy 4B.15 Archaeology

The Mayor, in partnership with English Heritage, the Museum of London and Boroughs, will support the identification, protection, interpretation and presentation of London's archaeological resources. Boroughs in consultation with English Heritage and other relevant statutory organisations should include appropriate policies in their UDPs for protecting scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological assets within their area.

3.2.3 The proposed development of the site is subject to the Council's Archaeology Policies and justifications:

Policy 3.19 Archaeology

Planning applications affecting sites within Archaeological Priority Zones (APZs), as identified in Appendix 8, shall be accompanied by an archaeological assessment and evaluation of the site, including the impact of the proposed development. There is a presumption in favour of preservation in situ, to protect and safeguard archaeological remains of national importance, including scheduled monuments and their settings. The in situ preservation of archaeological remains of local importance will also be sought, unless the importance of the development outweighs the local value of the remains. If planning permission is granted to develop any site where there are archaeological remains or there is good reason to believe that such remains exist, conditions will be attached to secure the excavation and recording or preservation in whole or in part, if justified, before development begins.

Reasons:

Southwark has an immensely important archaeological resource. Increasing evidence of those peoples living in Southwark before the Roman and medieval period is being found in the north of the borough and along the Old Kent Road. The suburb of the Roman provincial capital (Londinium) was located around the southern bridgehead of the only river crossing over the Thames at the time and remains of Roman buildings,

industry, roads and cemeteries have been discovered over the last 30 years. The importance of the area during the medieval period is equally well attested both archaeologically and historically. Elsewhere in Southwark, the routes of Roman roads (along the Old Kent Road and Kennington Road) and the historic village cores of Peckham, Camberwell, Walworth and Dulwich also have the potential for the survival of archaeological remains.

- 3.2.4 The site is located on the margins of an Archaeological Priority Zone (Old Kent Road) as defined by the London Borough of Southwark.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain, South London, indicated that the site and surrounding area is located on flood plain gravel terraces of the River Thames.

4.1.2 The area between the first terrace and the Thames is directly characterised by alluvium, which overlies the flood plain gravel to a distance of approximately 0.5 miles from the river.

4.1.3 London clay underlies the drift alluvium and gravel deposits.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site itself was located on a thin strip of land sandwiched between open parkland to the south, (previously St Mary's Church Yard) and the deep cut which had been excavated to construct Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre to the north. The site itself was located at 4.21m OD in the east and 4.43m OD in the west.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section is a brief summary of the archaeological and historical background of land at Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre, London Borough of Southwark (Morse 2008, Constable 2011). This summary highlights the general trends and opportunities for archaeology in the area but should not be taken as being a comprehensive analysis.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 There is almost no evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate area of the study site. One Palaeolithic flint flake was discovered as an isolated find at Kennington Church and two Palaeolithic flint flakes were found at Kennington Road.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 The site lies to the west of Stane Street, a Roman road running south from the city of London, and local references to the discovery of Roman road metalling are recorded in the HER. Cremation burials, pits and pot sherds dating to the Roman period have also been found in the vicinity of the site.

5.4 Saxon and Medieval

5.4.1 Evidence of Saxon activity in this area is limited, however a Saxon coin hoard was discovered at Colworth Grove, c.500m to the east of the study site.

5.5 Medieval and Post-Medieval

5.5.1 The site lies close to the centre of the medieval village of Newington, part of Walworth Manor, first recorded as Neutone in Domesday Book in 1086.

5.5.2 The evaluation area is located to the north of the historic church of St Mary's Newington. It is likely that this is the site of the church referenced in the Domesday Book for Walworth, and, as such the graveyard is likely to have been in use for at least 900 years. Previous works within the graveyard for the landscaping scheme for the park has revealed both stray human remains and numerous in-situ burials in single inhumation graves and within brick-lined grave shafts.

5.5.3 The evaluation site partially covers the Church of St Gabriel, which was built in the north of the churchyard following demolition of the Church of St Mary. St Mary's was awkwardly sited being, in the words of an early 19th century writer "a protuberance obtruding on the highway," and in 1876 it was pulled down so that a much-needed widening of Newington Butts could be made.

5.5.4 The new church, erected on the east side of Kennington Park Road from the designs of James Fowler, was consecrated in May, 1876. It was built of Kentish rag with Bath stone dressings in the Early English style, but the spire which formed part of the design was never erected. The roofs of the nave and chancel were of hammer beam construction, the height of the nave from floor to ridge being 70 feet, and its length 100 feet.

5.5.5 The church was burnt out in an air raid on 10th May, 1941, and was not rebuilt ('The Church of St Mary, Newington', Survey of London: volume 25: St George's Fields (The parishes of St. George the Martyr Southwark and St. Mary Newington) (1955), pp. 91-94. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=65449> Date accessed: 22 September 2011).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 The excavation of the trenches was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.

- 6.2 A row of street lights ran to the south of the trenches along the edge of the footpath. The area was therefore CAT scanned to locate the electric cable, and test pits dug, at the request of Balfour Beatty Construction, to ascertain the route of the electric cable. The trenches were then located 1m to the north of the cable route for safety.
- 6.3 A mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket excavated the trenches in spits of between 150mm and 200mm through undifferentiated deposits.
- 6.4 Following excavation, all aspects of each trench that required examination were cleaned and excavation undertaken on any extant discrete archaeological features using appropriate hand tools. All deposits were then recorded on pro forma context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in black and white, colour slide and digital formats.
- 6.5 All survey work and levels were carried out using a handheld GPS.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Post-Medieval

7.1.1 Within Trench 1 two walls and a burial soil were unearthed. Wall [1] was found at 3.94m OD and constructed from frogged yellow bricks with English Garden Wall bonding. It ran on a north-south alignment for a distance of 1.80m+, had a width of 0.60m and a height of over 1.15m.

7.1.2 To the west of Wall [1] was burial soil [2]. It was a mid greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional human charnel, with a thickness of over 1.15m. There was no evidence for any burials cut into this soil.

7.1.3 In the eastern end of Trench 1 at a height of 3.84m OD was red brick built Wall [3] which ran on an east-west alignment. It was constructed in a stretcher bond and may have been connected with Wall [1]. However the relationship between the two walls was obscured by a concrete slab of late 20th Century date which had been constructed against the east face of Wall [3]. .

7.1.4 The earliest feature in Trench 2 was brick vaulting [5]. It was constructed from red bricks in stretcher bond with the vaults running on a north-south alignment. At its highest point the top of the vaulting reached 3.91m OD, dipping down to 3.39m OD. In total three arches of vaulting were uncovered with the central one collapsed in on itself. Two holes were recorded running through the roof of the vaults, possibly for ventilation of the space beneath. It was unclear whether these are the remains of brick lined burial vaults or vaulting beneath the church floor as part of the construction of the church. The vaults were filled with soil so no burials could be definitively identified.

7.1.5 Overlying the vaulting was floor bedding layer [4] at a level of 4.03m OD and c. 0.40m thick. It was constructed from very compacted earth, mortar and concrete and showed numerous signs of repair. This was presumed to be the makeup layer for the floor of the church.

7.2 Phase 2: 20th Century

7.2.1 The western end of Trench 1 was severely truncated by a concrete structure, possibly the remnants of a bomb shelter dating to the Second World War. The trench was also heavily truncated to the east of Wall [1], with modern material including plastic being used as backfill. It is highly likely that this disturbance occurred during the construction of the leisure centre.

8 TRENCH SUMMARY

8.1 Trench 1

8.1.1 It is highly likely that the walls discovered in Trench 1 are part of the boundary wall to the burial grounds. The Ordnance Survey map of 1873 (Figure 5) shows a dog leg to the boundary wall in the northeastern corner of the grounds and it is highly probable that this is what is represented.

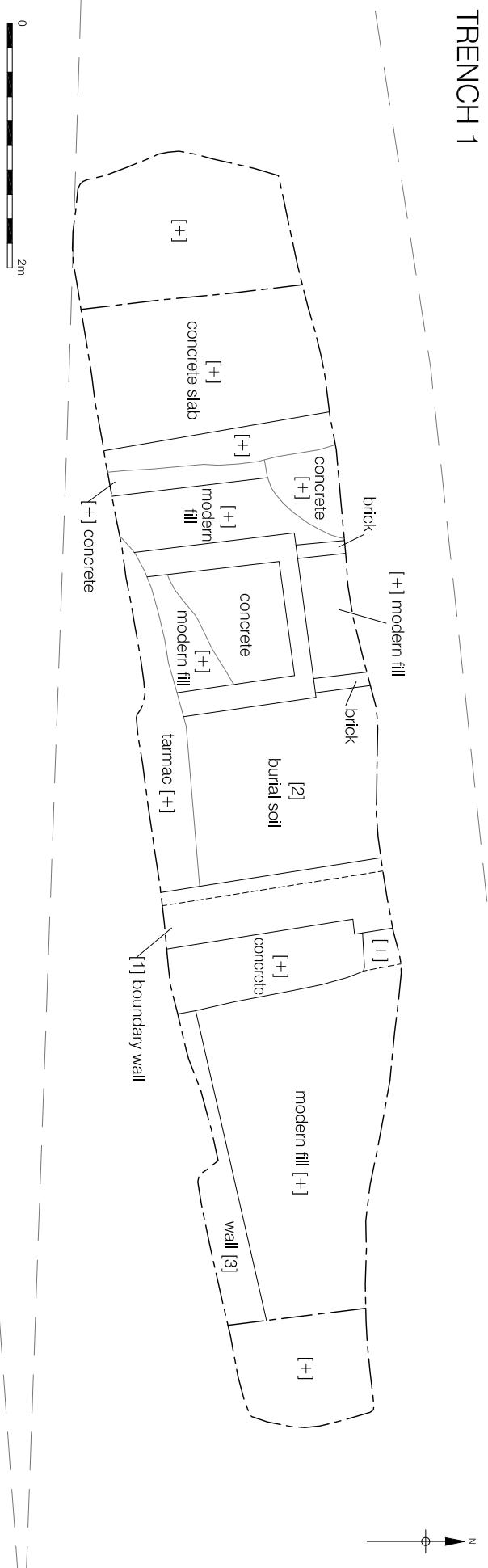
8.1.2 No grave cuts were identified in Trench 1 in the small area of undisturbed cemetery soil. Based on the topography of the site, if burials were present here they should have been encountered within the 1.2m depth of soil excavated.

8.2 Trench 2

8.2.1 The floor make up layer and vaulting located in Trench 2 most probably relate to St Gabriel's Church that was located in this area of the study site, and potentially to earlier burial vaults on the site. The floor make up layer showed good repair to the east, getting worse towards the west, however the layer was intact, suggesting that the vaults were sealed beneath it.

8.2.2 The floor make up layer was inserted after the collapse of the vaulting. There was no evidence for the original flooring of the church building.

TRENCH 1



TRENCH 2

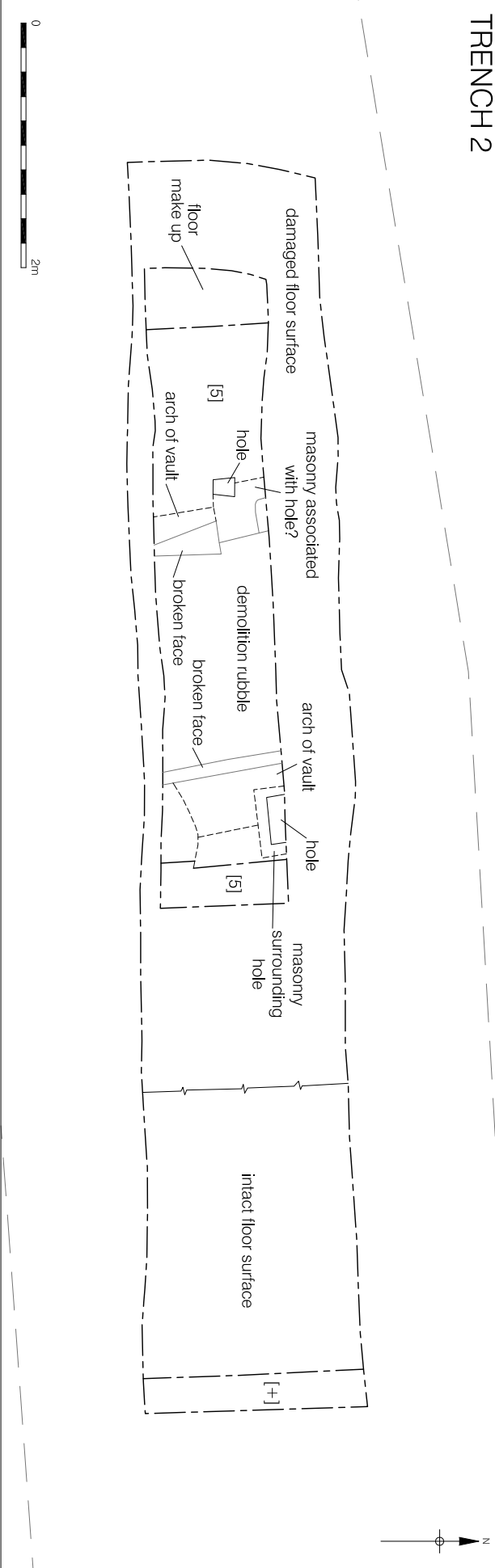


Figure 3
 Plans of Trenches 1 and 2
 1:50 at A4

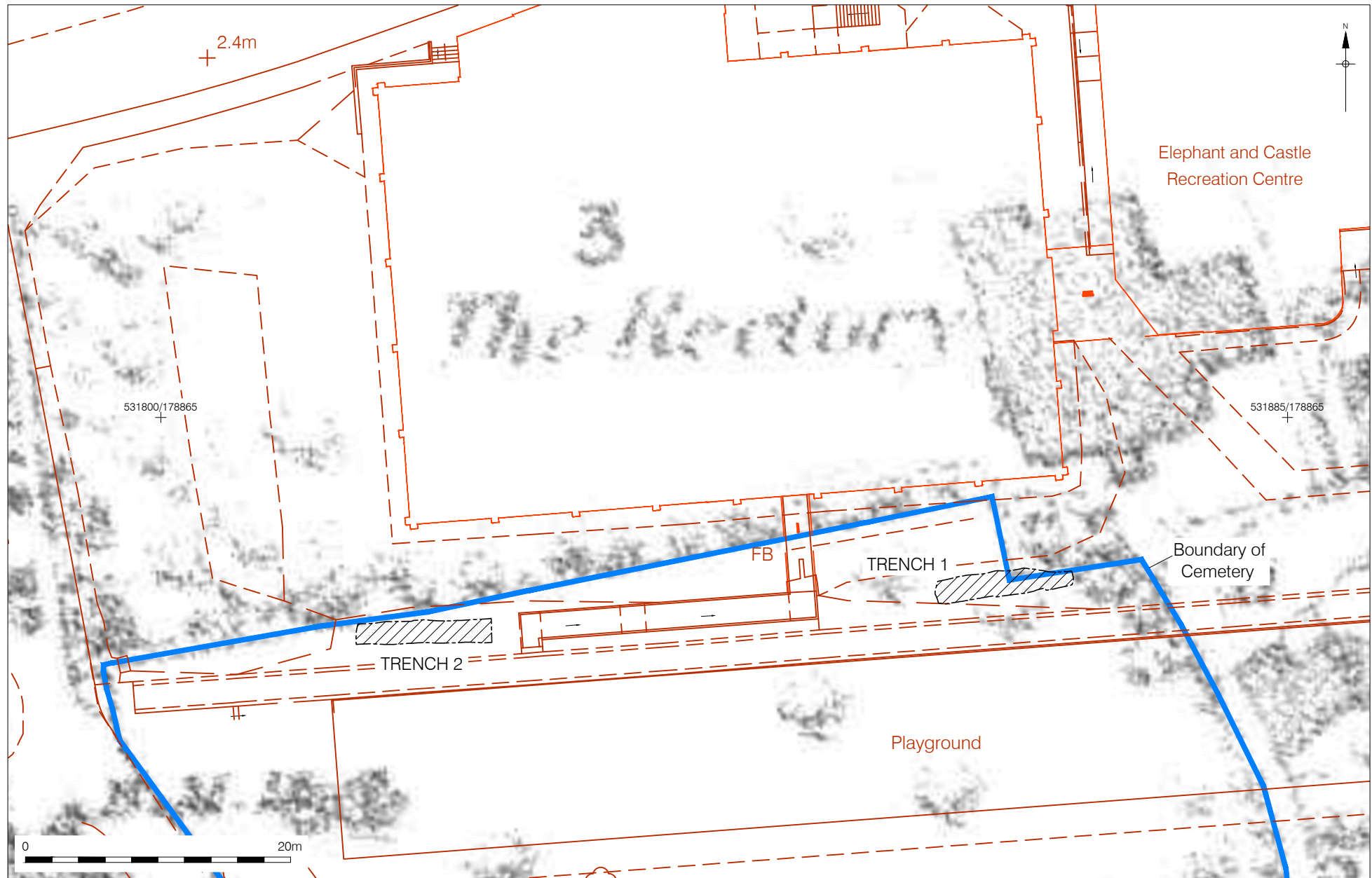


Figure 4
Trench Location plan overlain on Ordnance Survey map, 1873
1:400 at A4

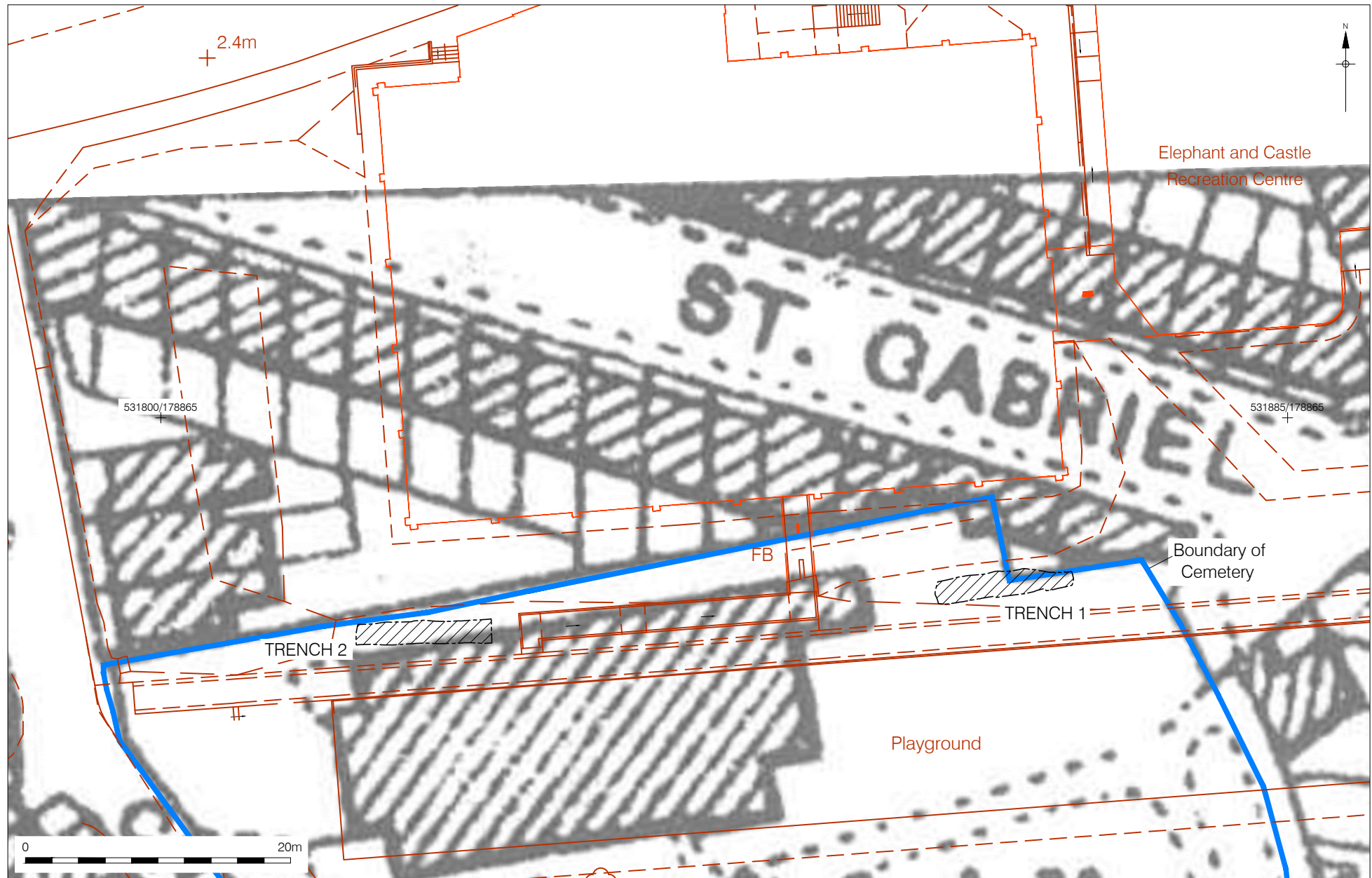


Figure 5
Trench Location plan overlain on Ordnance Survey map, 1894-96
1:400 at A4

9 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Interpretation

9.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation (Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2011) prepared before archaeological work commenced at Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre highlighted eight specific research objectives to be addressed by the evaluation:

9.1.2 To investigate the presence of burials within the proposal site:

Although no definite burials were observed during the evaluation of the site it is certain that the site lies within the old burial grounds (Figure 5). It is possible that the vaulting found in Trench 2 relates to vaulted burials pre-dating the construction of St Gabriel's Church

9.1.3 To assess if the remains of St Gabriel's Chapel of Ease are present in the western trench.

Brick vaulting and a floor bedding layer were observed in the western trench (Trench 2).

9.1.4 To assess the nature, extent and density of burials within this area of the site.

The vaults found in Trench 2 may relate to burial shafts. No other burials were encountered during the evaluation. In Trench 1, extensive truncation by 20th century concrete was apparent in much of the trench and no burials were identified in the small area of remaining cemetery soil.

9.1.5 To establish assess the depth of the burial population.

As no definite burials were observed during the evaluation it is impossible to answer this question. However the burial soil was excavated to 2.79m AOD, a depth of 1.20m from the present day ground surface. Burials in the main part of St Mary's Churchyard (Morse 2008) were located c. 050m below ground level which suggests that they are not present in the cemetery soil noted in Trench 1.

9.1.6 To assess whether graves contain coffin stacks or are occupied by single inhumations.

No graves were encountered during the evaluation.

9.1.7 To assess the presence or absence of brick-lined grave shafts

No definite brick-lined grave shafts were encountered during the evaluation, although the vaults may relate to these features.

9.1.8 To assess other relevant features such as the presence of memorials or architectural fragments relating to the former churches on the site.

No memorials were observed during the evaluation. The vaulting beneath the floor of St Gabriel's however still exists in a good state of preservation. It is also likely that the vaulting may well contain inhumations.

9.1.9 To assess the condition of coffins

No coffins were observed during the evaluation.

10 CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation have demonstrated that some remains of St Gabriel's Chapel of Ease are still present on site and in a good state of preservation.
- 10.2 It is highly likely that although no burials were encountered during the evaluation there will be some burials in situ beneath the vaulting in Trench 2.
- 10.3 Recommendations for further work will be provided by Dr Christopher Constable at Southwark Council in consultation with the Church.

11 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Balfour Beatty Construction for commissioning the work, and Chris Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer for Southwark Council for monitoring the site.
- 11.2 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for project managing the site and editing this report, Mark Roughley for the illustrations, Sophie White for Logistics, and Richard Archer for his work on site and surveying.

12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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unpublished report

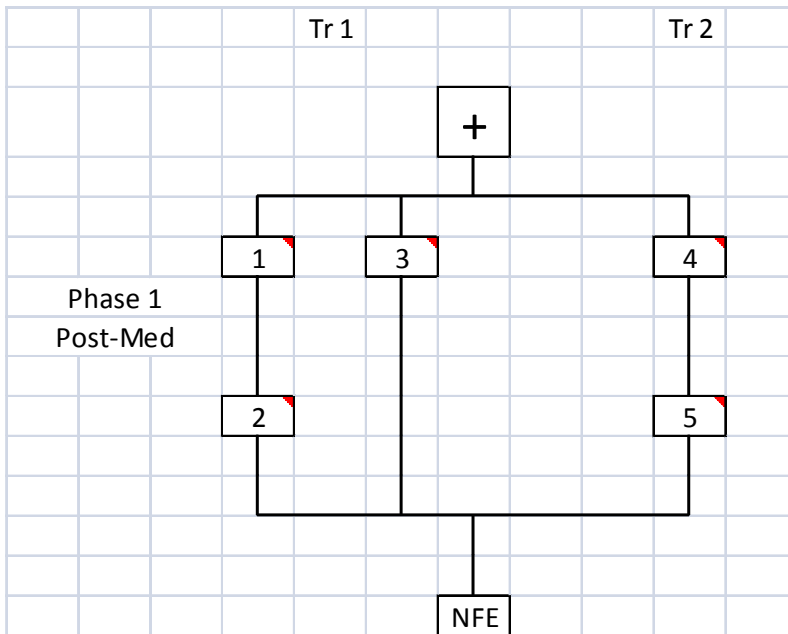
Morse, C. 2008 Archaeological Watching Brief Report for works at St Mary's Churchyard
Southwark, LP Archaeology Unpublished Report

PCA 2010 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological evaluation. Elephant and
castle leisure centre redevelopment, London SE11 4TW* PCA Unpublished Report

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Trench	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
SMC 11	1	1	Tr1		Masonry	Yellow Brick Wall	Post Med	1
SMC 11	2	1	Tr1		Layer	Burial Soil	Post Med	1
SMC 11	3	1	Tr1		Masonry	Red Brick Wall	Post Med	1
SMC 11	4	2	Tr2		Layer	Make up Layer for Floor	Post Med	1
SMC 11	5	2	Tr2		Masonry	Red Brick Vaulting	Post Med	1

APPENDIX 2: PHASED MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-110399

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre, London Borough of Southwark. The field evaluation was undertaken between 12th-14th September 2011. The commissioning client was Balfour Beatty Construction. No natural deposits were witnessed on site, with the earliest deposits being the tops of post-medieval vaulting, probably associated with St Gabriel's Church. Overall the results of the archaeological evaluation demonstrated that no archaeological deposits that pre-dated the post-medieval period were extant across the majority of the site.

Project dates Start: 12-09-2011 End: 14-09-2011

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project codes SMC11 - Sitecode reference

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings

Monument type WALLS Post Medieval

Monument type VAULTS Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & 'Sample Trenches'

techniques

Development type Re-development of the Leisure Centre

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the Not known / Not recorded
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY
ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK Elephant and Castle Leisure
Centre, London Borough of Southwark

Postcode SE1 6XX

Study area 40.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3182 7885 51.4927071931 -0.100966715772 51 29 33 N 000 06
03 W Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Organisation

Project brief Southwark Council
originator

Project design Helen Hawkins
originator

Project Helen Hawkins
director/manager

Project supervisor Guy Seddon

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Balfour Beatty Construction
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital available Media 'Spreadsheets','Text'

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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