## CHARLES DICKENS SCHOOL, LANT STREET, LONDON SE1 1PQ

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

PLANNING REFERENCE: 13/AP/0683

**PCA REPORT NO: 11513** 

**SITE CODE: CDS13** 

**SEPTEMBER 2013** 



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

# CHARLES DICKENS SCHOOL, LANT STREET, LONDON SE1 1PQ

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Report Number	R11513	

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Site Code: CDS 13

Central NGR: TQ 3223 7973 (532230, 179735)

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Southwark

Planning Reference: 13/AP/0683

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## 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Charles Dickens School, Lant Street, SE1 1QP in the London Borough of Southwark.
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted between 8th and 13 August 2013 and comprised monitoring the excavation of 28 pad foundation holes to support a modular classroom block for Charles Dickens School. The development has full planning permission from the London Borough of Southwark under planning application 13/AP/0683.
- 1.3 The area of the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Southwark in the Southwark Plan (2007).
- 1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in order to inform of the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or features on the site.
- 1.5 The watching brief revealed a layer of Roman ploughsoil overlain by a Post Medieval agricultural horizon. Within this horizon were the remains of the 19th century houses that occupied the site until the middle of the 20th century together with a late 19th century rubbish pit. Overlying the whole site was a layer of made ground comprising primarily of demolition rubble from the 19th century houses.
- 1.6 The archaeological features and deposits were in keeping with those found in an earlier archaeological evaluation conducted on the site by Birkbeck College.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Charles Dickens School, Lant Street, SE1 1QP in the London Borough of Southwark, in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo, 2013).
- 2.2 The site is an irregular shaped plot which is bordered to the south by Pickwick Street, to the east by Lant Street, properties fronting Sanctuary Street and Redman House, to the north by properties fronting Weller Street and Isaac Way and to the west by Weller Street and Toulmin Street (Figure 1). It currently contains a school building at the centre, aligned eastwest, and playground areas to the north and south. The site is located at central National Grid Reference TQ 3223 7973.
- 2.3 The proposed development, under planning application number 13/AP/0683 will see the "Installation of a modular building comprising two classrooms and toilets on land to the north of former Lant Street to serve Charles Dickens School".
- 2.4 The works, carried out between 8th August and 13th August 2013, comprised of the monitoring of localised excavations for 28 pad foundations measuring approximately 800mm x 800mm (Figure 2). Prior to these excavations a shallow reduced dig of approximately 500mm across the entire proposed building footprint had been completed without archaeological attendance.
- 2.5 During the watching brief it became apparent that there had previously been some archaeological work at the site. After further investigation it is now known that an archaeological evaluation was conducted on the site by Birkbeck College in 1999 under the site code LNT99 (Miles, 2003).
- 2.6 The works were supervised by Ian Cipin and project managed by Chris Mayo, both of Pre Construct Archaeology Ltd. The project was monitored by Dr Christopher Constable, Senior Archaeology Planning Officer at the London Borough of Southwark.
- 2.7 Following the completion of the project the site archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) identified by the unique code CDS13.

## 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND FIELDWORK OBJECTIVES

## 3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.
- 3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

## 3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

3.2.1 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by "The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London Consolidated with Alterations since 2004" (Feb 2008). It includes the following policy relating 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 DPDs for protecting Scheduled Ancient Monuments and archaeological assets within their area.

## 3.3 Local Policy: Archaeology in the London Borough of Southwark

- 3.3.1 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)
- 3.3.2 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.

## 3.4 Site Specific Constraints

3.4.1 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Southwark in the Southwark Plan (2007). The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

## 3.5 Fieldwork Objectives

- 3.5.1 The work aimed to address the following objectives:
  - To determine the palaeotopography.
  - To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity.
  - · To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity.
  - To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity.
  - To establish the nature of post-medieval activity.
  - To establish the extent of past post depositional impacts on the archaeological resource
  - To report on the findings of the work and, if appropriate, propose an appropriate level of analysis and publication.

## 4 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies in the Thames Basin, to the south of the southern edge of the Thames Valley floodplain. The underlying geology of the area comprises Palaeocene London Clay, which is overlain by Pleistocene sands and gravels. Holocene alluvial deposits cover the original landscape with sands, silts and clay and include sand and gravel islands (eyots) interspersed with braided channels and areas of marshes and mudflats. The closest eyot, South Island, is situated approximately 250m to the north of the study site (Sayer, 2005).

## 5 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Of greatest relevance to the site is an archaeological excavation which was conducted at the site immediately east of Charles Dickens School in 2004, to the southeast of the proposed development footprint, reported upon elsewhere by PCA (Sayer 2005; Sayer et al forthcoming). The work saw an open-area excavation covering an area of 60m by 25m. The assessment report included the following archaeological and historical background, which can be considered entirely relevant to the site at Charles Dickens School.

## 5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 Artefactual evidence has shown that the gravel terraces and alluvial lowlands, with their proximity to reliable water sources, were an attractive prospect for a focus of activity during the prehistoric periods. Finds recovered from sites in the Southwark area have included Palaeolithic artefacts but the majority date to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and later prehistoric periods. Within the study area of the site the earliest find encountered is a Neolithic arrowhead recovered from Borough High Street. A watching brief carried out at 6-8 Marshalsea Road recorded the presence of a late prehistoric channel and natural gravels, capped by sand sloping down to the northeast. Residual Bronze Age lithics and pottery were recovered from Swan Street.

## 5.2 Roman

- 5.2.1 The early Roman period is represented largely by military activity in the area. Southwark provided the first suitable place to construct a harbour and bridge that could be reached from the major invasion points on the coast by road.
- 5.2.2 To the north-east of the site is the point at which two Roman roads converge. Stane Street ran into Southwark from Chichester to the south. The course that this road follows is that of the present Borough High Street. The study site is currently situated just to the west of Borough High Street, however, during the Roman period the distance would have been greater with the proposed route of Stane Street lying approximately 100m to the east. Evidence for the road has been found below buildings on Borough High Street and the buried road surface was found under Newington Causeway.
- 5.2.3 Watling Street provided the main route from Dover in the south-east and ran into Southwark along roughly the same route as that of Tabard Street. These two roads converged close to the present site of the church of St George the Martyr. Further to the north a third probable road joined which may link the Southwark crossing point of the Thames to another further upstream between Lambeth and Westminster.
- 5.2.4 In order for the construction of these roads to be possible extensive drainage of marshes, bridging of eyots and embankment of river inlets and channels had to be undertaken.
- 5.2.5 A military supply base was established in the area c. AD 50 and by the end of the first century the settlement had become densely populated and covered an area of around 13

hectares. The military origin of Southwark is illustrated by finds such as fittings from horses' and legionaries' armour found on domestic sites in Southwark Street and coins, the proportion of which are of Claudian date, make them comparable with other early military sites such as Richborough and Hamworthy. Stamped tiles of the Classis Britannica, a branch of the army responsible for collecting river tolls and suppressing piracy, have also been found on a number of Southwark sites and a marble inscription from Winchester Palace indicates the presence of legionary soldiers in the early 3rd century AD.

- 5.2.6 The southern boundary or boundaries of Roman Southwark are as yet undefined although the location of a number of cemeteries and a temple precinct in recent decades may delimit the settlement margin in this area.
- 5.2.7 Recent discoveries within the area include a 1st century road side ditch and building and a mid 2nd-late 3rd century cemetery on Watling Street, evidence of ritual activity and settlement at Swan Street, including a boundary ditch potentially associated with the southern boundary of the Roman settlement during AD 50/55-80, and a temple complex at Tabard Square.
- 5.2.8 Evidence of buildings has been found at Mint Street where wall plaster, lamps and two clay water pipes were found. A clay and timber building with a gravel yard was found at 218-224 Borough High Street and Roman foundations and buildings were found on sites along Borough High Street and side streets running into it.

## 5.3 Saxon

- 5.3.1 There is no evidence for significant Saxon occupation in the vicinity until the late 9th century. The Saxon centre of Lundenwic was established along the Strand away from the Roman settlement of Londinium. The area appears to have been abandoned at the end of the Roman period and was known to the Saxons as Wealawyrd and Waleorde, "the farm of the Britons". The first religious building erected on the site of Southwark Cathedral is traditionally said to have been constructed in the 7th century although the archival evidence to support this early date remains elusive. The Cathedral's earliest surviving fabric dates to the early 12th century.
- 5.3.2 By the early 10th century the former Roman bridge had been replaced and the Burghal Hideage of c. AD 910 implied a defensive circuit around the bridgehead of 2225. Southwark was also named for the first time as Suthringa Geweorch, meaning "the defensive works of the men of Surrey". By the end of the 10th century Southwark was known as Sudwerca, "the south works", in other words, the southern outpost of London outside the city's own defences. It is thought that Ethelred II had a mint in the Southwark area, indicated by numismatic evidence, although its location is unknown.
- 5.3.3 By 1086 Southwark was shown in the Domesday Book to be an urban centre in its own right. Discoveries relating to the Saxon period in the vicinity of the site have been restricted to stray finds around Union Street and Southwark Street further to the north.

## 5.4 Medieval

- 5.4.1 Throughout the medieval period Southwark remained a small but thriving city suburb, bounded by the river to the north, Horsleydown to the east, Bankside to the west and the church of St George the Martyr to the south. The site at this time would have lain beyond the southern boundary of the suburb, but there is evidence that large houses and inns were established beyond the boundary in areas where dry land could be found within the marsh.
- 5.4.2 During this period the site would have probably been within the Diocese of Westminster, with Winchester Palace lying approximately 700m to the north. Following the erection of the first St George's church in 1122 by the Abbot of Bermondsey, elements of settlement were to be around this church, Kent Street and Blackman Street. Evidence comprises pits, ditches and wells, some of which dating to the 13th-14th centuries identified at 223-237 Borough High Street, less than 200m to the east of the site. The only evidence of earlier medieval buildings was found in the form of a medieval post hole found at Swan Street and brick arches found during work at Suffolk Place 100m to the north.

## 5.5 Post-Medieval

- 5.5.1 By the Tudor period the older parts of Southwark had become built up. It was during this period that Suffolk Palace was constructed by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, the brother-in-law of Henry VIII. Little is known about the palace but what is known is that it was built opposite to the church of St George, possibly situated very close to, if not on the site. The palace was converted into a mint by Henry VIII which was discontinued and demolished by 1557.
- 5.5.2 Archaeological evidence of activity dating to this period has been found with pottery dating to the late 15th century and some later Tudor wares at 275-287 Borough High Street, and five late 17th century pits and a brick building at 240-246 Borough High Street.
- 5.5.3 Rocque's map of 1746 shows that Lant Street was not in existence at this time and the site was occupied by gardens and an orchard. Horwood's map of 1799-1819 illustrates that the site was undergoing development during this period. New Lant Street, the forerunner of Lant Street, and Old Lant Street having been laid out and the site is occupied by a number of buildings to the north, with an expanse of courtyard to the rear.
- 5.5.4 By 1861 nearly 89,000 people lived in the Southwark parishes of St Saviour, Christ Church and St George the Martyr, many of which were the urban poor in a time when poverty, overcrowding, inadequate sewerage and water supplies caused widespread disease and were of high concern.
- 5.5.5 Major programmes of redevelopment were put into action during the 18th and 19th centuries and Southwark was the focus of much industrial development. The area was well suited to industry being close to both rail and shipping in the city. In addition, the large numbers of poor within the population provided cheap labour. Typical industries near the site included Iron Works, Pickfords Goods depot yard, Engineering Works and a lead works, all in operation by 1872. The site itself at this time would have been occupied by a number of buildings used for industrial purposes.

## 5.6 Site Specific Information

- Of high relevance to this particular site is an archaeological excavation which was conducted at the site immediately east of Charles Dickens School in 2004, to the southeast of the proposed development footprint, reported on elsewhere by PCA (Sayer 2005, Sayer et al, forthcoming). The work saw an open-area excavation covering an area of 60m x 25m. This excavation revealed the presence of Roman linear features and pits dating to the 1st century AD, comprising of a quarry pit, ditches, a cremation burial and a pit filled with disarticulated human bone. This was followed by 2nd century ditches, burials and a ritual well, and a 4th century cemetery with 84 inhumation burials. These were mostly supine, some on their sides and a few in prone position. The 4th century cemetery included a formal headless dog burial with grave goods and some of the inhumations were on a chalk or lime substance. Grave goods included pottery and glassware as well as an ivory handled folding knife with key on a chain and the remains of a bone inlaid casket. Some medieval pitting and post-medieval soakaways were also present (Sayer, 2005).
- 5.6.2 Of specific relevance to this site is an archaeological evaluation that was carried out in 1999 as a training excavation by Birkbeck College. A single trench was opened measuring 27m east-west x 9m north-south and was stepped in to c. 21. X 5.2m which would have encompassed, more or less, the entire study site. This excavation revealed natural sands and gravels overlain by Roman ploughsoils. This was overlain by possible 17th century building remains and the remains of a bone-knuckle floor. Various 18th century chalk footings, wall remains and floor surfaces were recorded that were attributed to the houses that occupied the site during its last phase of occupation. It is also noted that these houses were demolished during the 20th century sometime between 1957 and 1969 (Miles, 2003).

## 6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Prior to PCAs appointment a shallow reduced dig of approximately 500mm across the entire proposed building footprint had been completed without archaeological attendance. In the process of monitoring subsequent on-site works PCA could see that this work had only impacted upon modern or late post-medieval deposits.
- The excavation of 28 foundation pads (hereafter referred to as Pad-Holes 1 to 28, "PH") for the new development was monitored (see Figures 2 & 3). These had a general size of 0.6m by 0.6m, with depths as necessary to reach firm, geological ground; these ranged from 2.4m deep (PHs 16, 17, 21 and 24) to 1.6m deep (PH 5).
- 6.3 The excavations were undertaken by a mini-digger fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, continuously monitored by the attendant archaeologist. All deposits and features were investigated as far as was reasonably practical and safe.
- 6.4 All deposits were recorded on proforma context sheets. Trench plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively.
- 6.5 A digital photographic record was also kept of all of the site works and remains.
- 6.6 Ground level at the surface form which the pad excavations commenced was flat at an elevation of 4.28m OD. This level was used to calculate the heights in this report.
- 6.7 The trenches were set out by the groundwork contractor prior to the commencement of the watching brief. For the purpose of archaeological recording the location data provided by the developer was used to locate the trenches.
- 6.8 Site records were compiled in accordance with the approved WSI and the guidance set out in PCA's *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor, 2009). All site records and finds were identified with the unique site code CDS13.

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

## 7.1 Phase 1: Roman (Figure 5)

7.1.1 The earliest deposit seen during the watching brief was a Roman agricultural horizon (9) comprising of a mid-greyish brown silty sand, seen at levels between approximately 2.17m OD and 2.07m OD and visible in PHs 11, 19 and 22. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from this layer, one being early Roman micaceous sandy ware (AD 50-100) and the other being an unsourced sand-tempered ware (AD 50-400), both with unidentifiable forms (C Jarrett, pers. comm.).

## 7.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval (Figure 5)

- 7.2.1 Layer (9) was sealed by a post-medieval horizon (3), seen in various Pad Holes, comprising of a dark brownish grey sandy silt seen at approximate levels between 3.17m OD and 2.47m OD. The deposit contained inclusions of occasional pottery, animal bone and clay tobacco pipe. A total of nineteen pot sherds were collected from this layer, which have been dated to between AD 1665 and 1700 (C Jarrett, pers. comm.).
- 7.2.2 From the small animal bone assemblage one fragment in particular, a cattle metacarpus, had been sawn through close to the proximal end and also drilled through the medial side of the articular surface. Such bones have been found elsewhere and may relate to bone working (K. Rielly, pers. comm.).

## 7.3 Phase 3: 19th Century (Figures 3, 4 and 5)

- 7.3.1 Cut in to layer (3) were construction cuts for 4 masonry remains which are considered to represent foundation structures. Unfortunately owing to the depth at which they were seen in each Pad Hole it was, for reasons of safety, impossible to enter and record them in detail.
- 7.3.2 Pad Hole 14 contained masonry [12] which comprised of unworked chalk stones laid in a random order running in a north-south direction. This wall was only seen in section and was 0.80m long by 0.40m deep, and was seen at an upper level of approximately 2.77m OD.
- 7.3.3 Pad Hole 15 contained masonry [13] which comprised of unworked chalk stones laid in a random order in a north-south direction. This wall was 0.80m long and 0.40m wide and seen at a level of approximately 2.59m OD. It is probable that this is the same wall as [12] seen in Pad Hole 14.
- 7.3.4 Pad Hole 16 contained masonry [14] which comprised of unworked chalk stones laid in a random order running in a north-south direction. This wall was 0.80m long, 0.30m wide and seen at a height of approximately 2.34m OD. Once again, it should be considered that this is the same wall as [12] and [13].
- 7.3.5 Pad Hole 18 contained masonry [16] which comprised of unworked chalk stones laid in a random order running in an east-west direction. This wall was 0.80m long, 0.15m wide and 0.35m deep and largely seen protruding from the south facing section. It was seen at a level of approximately 2.92m OD.
- 7.3.6 Two of the aforementioned chalk foundations had, built directly on to them, brick walls that

- are likely to be the remains of the 19th century houses that occupied the site. Wall [11] was built directly on top of chalk wall/foundation [12] and comprised of red unfrogged brick with courses of alternate headers and stretchers bonded with a light grey lime mortar with white flecks. It ran for at least 0.80m in an east-west direction and to a depth of 0.40m, and was seen at a height of approximately 2.77m OD.
- 7.3.7 Wall [15] was built directly on top of chalk wall/foundation [16] and comprised of red unfrogged brick with courses of alternate headers and stretchers bonded with a light grey lime mortar with white flecks. It had an observed length of at least 0.10m in an east-west direction, a depth of 0.35m and was seen at a height of approximately 3.22m OD.
- 7.3.8 A number of other contemporary walls were found and recorded as context numbers [2], [4], [5], [6], [7] and [8]. All comprised of red unfrogged brick with alternate courses of headers and stretchers and bonded with a light grey lime mortar with white flecks.
- 7.3.9 Wall [2] was seen only in section in Pad Hole 2 and ran in an east-west direction for 0.80m, was 1.30m deep and was seen at an approximate height of 3.89m OD. About 0.80m from the top of the wall (3.09m OD) was seen evidence of a greenish yellow sandstone floor slab assumed to represent the floor of an associated basement.
- 7.3.10 Wall [4] was seen in Pad Hole 5 with a depth 0.50m deep and seen at a height of approximately 2.37m OD.
- 7.3.11 Wall [5] was seen in Pad Hole 3 with a depth of 1.25m and was seen at a height of approximately 3.82m OD.
- 7.3.12 Wall [6] was seen in Pad Hole 6 with a depth of 1.30m from a height of approximately 3.87m OD.
- 7.3.13 Wall [7] was observed in Pad Hole 7 with a depth of 0.50m at a height of approximately 3.07m OD. In addition the top of this wall showed evidence of some remains of a greenish yellow sandstone floor slab, albeit heavily truncated.
- 7.3.14 Wall [8] was seen in Pad Hole 10 with a width of 0.15m and a depth of 0.80m and seen at a height of approximately 3.32m OD.
- 7.3.15 Towards the north-western part of the site, in Pad Holes 17, 21 and 25, was evidence of a large-scale feature [10], although it could also have been a number of smaller, intercutting features. Its fill comprised of a dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of CBM (brick and tile), metal, pot, animal bone and moderate fragments of mortar. The bottom of this pit was not reached and was evident to depths of between 1.00m and 1.40m at heights of between approximately 3.37m OD and 3.72m OD. The pottery collected from within this pit has been dated to between 1830 and 1900 (C Jarrett, pers. comm.).

## 7.4 Phase 4: Recent Deposits (Figure 5)

7.4.1 Overlying almost the entire site was a layer of made ground [1] comprising of a loose, mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of CBM (brick and tile), occasional bone, oyster shell, metal and some modern material. Also collected from within this layer was an archaeological finds label bearing the site code LNT99. It should be therefore be assumed that this layer represents the backfilling of the evaluation trench relating to this site code (see below).

## 8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

## 8.1 Interpretations and Conclusions

- 8.1.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of groundworks on the proposed site of a new modular classroom block for Charles Dickens School which involved the initial reduction of the ground over the whole area followed by the excavation of 28 holes for pad foundations.
- 8.1.2 The watching brief recorded a Roman ploughsoil seen at heights of between approximately 2.17m OD and 2.07m OD with a late 1st century AD spot date.
- 8.1.3 The Roman ploughsoil was overlain by a Post Medieval layer seen at heights of between 3.17m OD and 2.47m OD with a spot date of 1655-1700.
- 8.1.4 Remains of the 19th century houses that previously occupied the site were revealed at various heights and in varying levels of preservation. These building remains consisted of chalk footings beneath brick walls. In some cases, truncated remains of sandstone floor slabs were visible.
- 8.1.5 In the north-west corner of the site a large feature, thought to be an extensive rubbish pit, was noted that has been attributed a spot date of 1830-1900.
- 8.1.6 The entire area was sealed by a layer of made ground that is likely to represent the demolition of the 19th century houses and the subsequent levelling of the site.
- 8.1.7 The sequence of archaeological deposits and features seen during the watching brief are in keeping with those recorded in an archaeological training evaluation in 1999 by Birkbeck College (site code LNT99). The report of findings further to that investigation (Miles 2003) contained the following abstract:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on behalf of the London Borough of Southwark on land at 25-47 Lant Street, SE1. The evaluation was carried out as a training excavation for students of Birkbeck College.

A single trench was opened by machine, to the west of the centre of the site measuring c.27m east-west x c.9m north-south, stepped in to c.21m x c.5m. Natural sands and gravels were reached in 4 parts of the trench at c.1.8m OD.

Overlying the natural was a possible 'ploughsoil' deposit of Roman origin. Within this layer were 90 sherds of a single Dressel 2-4 wine amphora, probably from Italy & of late 1st century AD date. The amphora contained much unidentifiable bone & charcoal, suggesting a possible cremation burial.

There was extensive evidence for activity from the 17th to the 19th century. Initially this consisted of a number of pits and ground make-up. There was evidence of a 17th century building. A remnant of a knuckle-bone floor, constructed of cattle metapodials, probably of 17th century date was also found. The layout of the last buildings on site was established during the early 18th century and by the end of that century. During the 19th century drainage systems were inserted into the properties. The buildings continued in use, with structural modifications until their demolition by 1969. The site was then

levelled with demolition material and covered with a tarmac surface.

- 8.1.8 The presence of in situ archaeology on a site where an evaluation has already been conducted is explained by two factors. Firstly, the Birkbeck College evaluation comprised of one large stepped trench and undoubtedly some of the Pad Holes are located over the step thus revealing unexcavated deposits. Secondly, it is noted in the report for the evaluation that the site was not excavated entirely down to natural deposits with some archaeology being left in situ (Miles 2003).
- 8.1.9 The results of this recent investigation have supported the findings of the 1999 work; that the site lay as arable land in the Roman period before being consolidated and developed in the post-medieval periods. The watching brief confirmed the presence of chalk footings supporting brick walls, which certainly correlate to the urban development of the site in the 19th century. The walls observed were all aligned NW-SE and SW-NE, which correlates exactly to the alignment of the terraced housing which formerly fronted onto Lant Street prior to its clearance in the second half of the 20th century.
- 8.1.10 That the findings of this investigation are perhaps not as spectacular as those of the 1999 work is simply explained by the small dimensions of the pad-holes required for the new development, which precluded a larger study area

### 8.2 Recommendations

- 8.2.1 This fieldwork project has demonstrated that a sequence of archaeology ranging from the Roman to the post-medieval and modern periods survives on the site, a sequence which is entirely to be expected for this location in Southwark. The features and deposits encountered are considered to be of local interest only and furthermore have already been investigated on a much larger and more detailed scale in 1999.
- 8.2.2 The artefactual assemblages arising from the fieldwork, comprising pottery, clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material and animal bone, have all been assessed (see Appendices 5-8). None of the assemblages are considered to be significant enough to warrant further individual attention or research.
- 8.2.3 PCA recommends no further archaeological work for this development.

## 8.3 Quantity of the Archive

Contexts	16 contexts on 16 sheets
Plans	2 plans on 2 sheets
Sections	28 sections on 28 sheets
Pottery	6 bags
СТР	3 bags
СВМ	1 bag
Animal Bone	3 bags
Digital photographs	53 shots

## 8.4 Site Archive and Publication

- 8.4.1 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the *London Archaeologist* 'Round Up'.
- 8.4.2 The site archive is currently held by PCA at its headquarters in Brockley, London.
- 8.4.3 Following approval of this report, the entire site archive will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under site code CDS13. PCA will provide a copy of this report to the local studies library, and it will be supplied to the Greater London Historic Environment Record by the Senior Archaeology Officer at the London Borough of Southwark.

## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank the London Borough of Southwark for commissioning the project, and particularly Jeremy Peakin. We also thank Dr Christopher Constable for monitoring the site on behalf of the London Borough of Southwark.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Peter Little and his team for their assistance while on site, and Chris Mayo for his project management of the site and editing this report. Thanks also go to Hayley Baxter for the illustrations, and Chris Jarrett, Berni Sudds and Kevin Rielly for assessing the finds.

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- Miles M, 2003, Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at 25-47 Lant Street, SE 1, London Borough of Southwark, Faculty of Continuing Education, Birkbeck College, unpublished report
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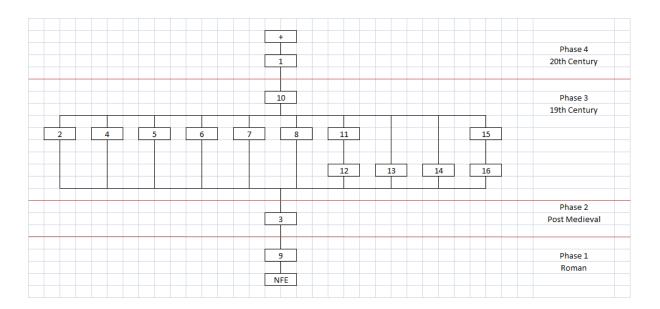
Southwark Council, 2007 Southwark Plan

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## **APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX**

Context No.	Pad Hole	Type	Section No.	Comments
1	Various	Layer	Various	Made Ground
2	PH 2	Masonry	S. 01	19th C Wall
3	Various	Layer	Various	Agricultural Horizon
4	PH 5	Masonry	S. 03	19th C Wall
5	PH 3	Masonry	S. 02	19th C Wall
6	PH 6	Masonry	S. 03	19th C Wall
7	PH 7	Masonry	S. 05	19th C Wall
8	PH 10	Masonry	S. 15	19th C Wall
9	PH 11, 19 & 22	Layer	S. 16, S. 21, S. 24	Roman Layer
10	PH 17, 21 & 25	Fill	S. 11, S. 12, S. 13	Rubbish Pit
11	PH 14	Masonry	S. 17	19th C Wall
12	PH 14	Masonry	S. 17	Chalk Wall
13	PH 15	Masonry	S. 18	Chalk Wall
14	PH 16	Masonry	S. 19	Chalk Wall
15	PH 18	Masonry	S. 20	19th C Wall
16	PH 18	Masonry	S. 20	Chalk Wall

## **APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX**



## **APPENDIX 3: PLATES**

Plate 1: General Site View, View - North-East



Plate 2: Site During Groundwork, View - North-East



Plate 3: Pad Hole 2, With 19th C. Wall, View - North



Plate 4: Pad Hole 18, Chalk Footing With Wall On Top, View - West



Plate 5: General Site View, Post Excavation, View - East



## **APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM**

## 10.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-158654

Project details			

Project name Charles Dickens School, Lant Street, London SE1 1QP: An Archaeological

Watching Brief

Short description of the

project

The watching brief revealed a layer of Roman ploughsoil overlain by a Post Medieval agricultural horizon. Within this horizon were the remains of the 19th century houses that occupied the site until the middle of the 20th century together with a late 19th century rubbish pit. Overlying the whole site was a layer of made ground comprising primarily of demolition rubble from the 19th century houses. The archaeological features and deposits were in keeping with those found in an earlier archaeological evaluation conducted on the site by Birkbeck College.

Project dates Start: 08-08-2013 End: 13-08-2013

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project

reference codes

CDS 13 - Sitecode

Any associated project

reference codes

LNT 99 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes

13/AP/0683 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type WALLS Post Medieval

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT Roman

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds BONE Post Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY POBACCO PIPE Post Medieval

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK Charles Dickens School, Lant

Street

Postcode SE1 1QP

Study area 160.17 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 532230 179735 50 0 50 56 24 N 000 10 52 E Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project design originator Chris Mayo
Project director/manager Chris Mayo

Project supervisor Ian Cipin

Type of sponsor/funding

body

Local Authority

Name of sponsor/funding

body

London Borough of Southwark

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Charles Dickens School, Lant Street, London SE1 1QP: An Archaeological

Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Cipin, I.

Other bibliographic details PCA report no. R11513

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or

publication

London

Description A4 client document with blue covers

Entered by Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 18 September 2013

## **APPENDIX 5: POTTERY ASSESSMENT**

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

#### Introduction

The archaeological work recovered a total of 40 sherds, representing 34 estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weighed 3.097kg. Two sherds (2 ENV, 19g) are of an early Roman date and were solely recovered from context [9]. The rest of the material dates to the post-medieval period and was found in two contexts: [3] and [10]. The Roman material is fragmentary and one sherd is slightly abraded. The post-medieval pottery consists entirely of sherd material, although items with complete profiles are recorded. The pottery types and their forms were recorded using standard Museum of London classification codes.

## Spot dating Index

## Context [3], spot date: 1665-1700

- Surrey-Hampshire border whiteware with olive glaze (BORDO), 1550-1700, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 50g, form: tripod pipkin
- Surrey-Hampshire border whiteware with yellow glaze (BORDY), 1550-1700, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 36g, form: dish
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580-1900, 10 sherds, 8 ENV, 495, form: bowl; handled, jar
- Surrey-Hampshire border redware (RBOR), 1550-1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 381g, form: chamber pot
- Surrey-Hampshire border redware with brown glaze (RBORB), 1580-1800, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 14g, form: jar; medium rounded
- Combed slipware (STSL), 1660-1870, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 29g, form: dish; rounded
- Tin-glazed ware with plain white glaze (Orton style C) (TGW C), 1630-1846, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 40g, dish (moulded)
- Tin-glazed ware with external lead glaze/polychrome painted (Orton style D)
   (TGW D), 1630-1680, 2 sherds, 2 ENV, 173g, form: charger
- Westerwald stoneware with purple and blue decoration (WEST PURP), 1665-1750, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 15g: tankard

Total: nineteen sherds, 17 ENV, 1.233kg

## Context [9], Spot date: late 1st century AD

- Early Roman micaceous sandy ware (ERMS), 50-100 AD, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 11g, form: unidentified
- Unsourced sand-tempered wares (SAND), 50-400 AD, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 8g, form: unidentified

Total: two sherds, 2 ENV, 19g

## Context [10], spot date: 1830-1900

- Chinese blue and white porcelain (CHPO BW), 1590-1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 4g, form: possible dish
- Continental porcelain (CONP), 1710-1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 97g, form: tureen
- Miscellaneous unsourced post-medieval (redware) pottery (MISC), 1480-1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 83g, form: syrup collecting jar
- Midlands purple ware (MPUR), 1400-1750, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 99g, form: butter pot
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580-1900, 5 sherds, 5 ENV, 662g, form: bowl; medium flared, flower pot, jar; tall rounded
- Surrey-Hampshire border redware (RBOR), 1550-1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 40g, form: unidentified
- Plain refined white earthenware (REFW), 1805-1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 10g, form: unidentified
- Tin-glazed ware with plain white glaze (Orton style C) (TGW C), 1630-1846, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 31g, form: ointment pot
- Transfer-printed refined whiteware (TPW), 1780-1900, 5 sherds, 2 ENV, 727g, form: plate; oval
- Brown or black transfer-printed refined whiteware (type 3) (TPW3), 1810-1900, 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 89g, form: medium rounded

Total: nineteen sherds, 15 ENV, 1.842kg

## Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The assemblage has little significance at a local level and compares well to the dating evidence described in a summary for a previous archaeological excavation on the site (LNT99: London Archaeologist Round-up 1999). The main potential of the pottery is to date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage.

## APPENDIX 6: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

#### Introduction

The archaeological work recovered a total of 12 fragments of clay tobacco pipes consisting of seven bowls and five stems. The bowl types range in date between c. 1660-1800 and were classified according to Atkinson and Oswald (1969) and prefixed AO, while the 18th-century shapes are as defined by Oswald (1975) and are prefixed OS. The material was recovered from two contexts: [3] and [10]. The condition of the assemblage is good, with relatively few of the bowls being damaged and none are abraded, indicating fairly rapid deposition after the material was discarded by the users. However, both contexts contained at least one residual bowl.

Context [3], spot date: 1700-1740

## **Bowls**

AO13: one heeled bowl, dated 1660-1680

AO15: one spurred bowl, dated 1660-1680

OS10: two heeled bowls, dated 1700-1740

### Stems

Five fragments, mostly thick in diameter with wide bores, except for one thin diameter example with a fine bore.

Total: four bowls, five stems

Context [10], spot date: 1760-1800

## **Bowls**

AO22: one heeled bowl, dated 1680-1710

OS22: one spurred bowl, dated 1730-1780

OS23: one spurred bowl with the first initial W present and the last initial never appears

to have been present.

Total: three bowls

## Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The assemblage has little significance at a local level and the bowl types are typically those found in the London area and Southwark. The main potential of the clay tobacco pipes are to date the contexts in which they occurred. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage.

## References

- Atkinson D. and Oswald. A., 1969, 'London clay tobacco pipes'. Journal of British Archaeology Association, 3rd series, Vol. 32, 171-227.
- Oswald, A. 1975, *Clay pipes for the Archaeologist*, British Archaeological Reports, British series, No.14.

## APPENDIX 7: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Berni Sudds, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

## Introduction

Two fragments of ceramic building material were presented for analysis, catalogued below in Table 1.

Context	Description	Date
3	Refined white earthenware wall tile (clear glaze)	19th – 20th century
10	Moulded clay tile? Corrugated to upper surface and painted	Modern
	with an iron oxide/ red slip. Linear grooves to base (left by	
	moulding process). Architectural tile?	

Table 1: The ceramic building material

## Conclusion and recommendations for further work

Both pieces of tile are of modern date and as evidently re-deposited, and having little intrinsic interest, no further analysis is recommended.

## **APPENDIX 8: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT**

By Kevin Rielly, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

### Introduction

The site provided evidence for some Roman activity followed by post-medieval ploughsoils, dated to the 18th century with some contemporary masonry, followed by various structures and a single rubbish pit with a 19th century fill. Bones were limited to the agricultural soil and the later rubbish pit and all were hand collected. The assemblage was well preserved with moderate levels of fragmentation.

## Methodology

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

## Description of faunal assemblage

The two deposits, the 18th century agricultural soil [3] and the 19th century pitfill [10], provided a total of 25 bones (see Table 1).

Context	3	10
Species		
Cattle	1	3
Cattle-size	4	2
Sheep/goat	5	3
Sheep	1	
Pig		3
Sheep-size	2	
Dog		1
Grand Total	13	12

Table 1: Distribution of animal bones by context

Both deposits provided fragments belonging to relatively large cattle and/or sheep, including cattle-size ribs and a sheep femur from [3] and a cattle second phalange and metacarpus from [10]. This would generally signify the presence of improved breeds, although this is

perhaps unlikely considering the earlier level. Such breeds entered the London meat markets at the end of the 19th century (Rixson 2000, 302). It can be conjectured that the earlier horizon contains some later material. The soil provided a number of sheep fragments including the remains of a polled (hornless) skull as well as two radii, a femur and a tibia. There was also a cattle tibia from a veal-aged calf. The species range in the later deposit was somewhat more diverse, with pig and dog added to cattle and sheep. Pig was represented by a maxilla, a humerus and a femur, sheep by a humerus, tibia and a metatarsus and dog by a humerus. The cattle metacarpus from this deposit has been sawn through close to the proximal end and also drilled through the medial side of the articular surface. Such bones have been found elsewhere and may well relate to bone working.

#### Conclusion and recommendations for further work

This small collection is well preserved and seemingly well dated, apart from the suggestion of possible residuality concerning the earlier level [3]. The assemblage is clearly not large enough for any serious analysis and can say very little about the utilisation of meat or other animal products within this area in the 18th and 19th centuries. The possible craft waste is of interest, however, with such waste generally found somewhat to the east and south-east of this part of Southwark (see Rielly 2011, 161)

## References

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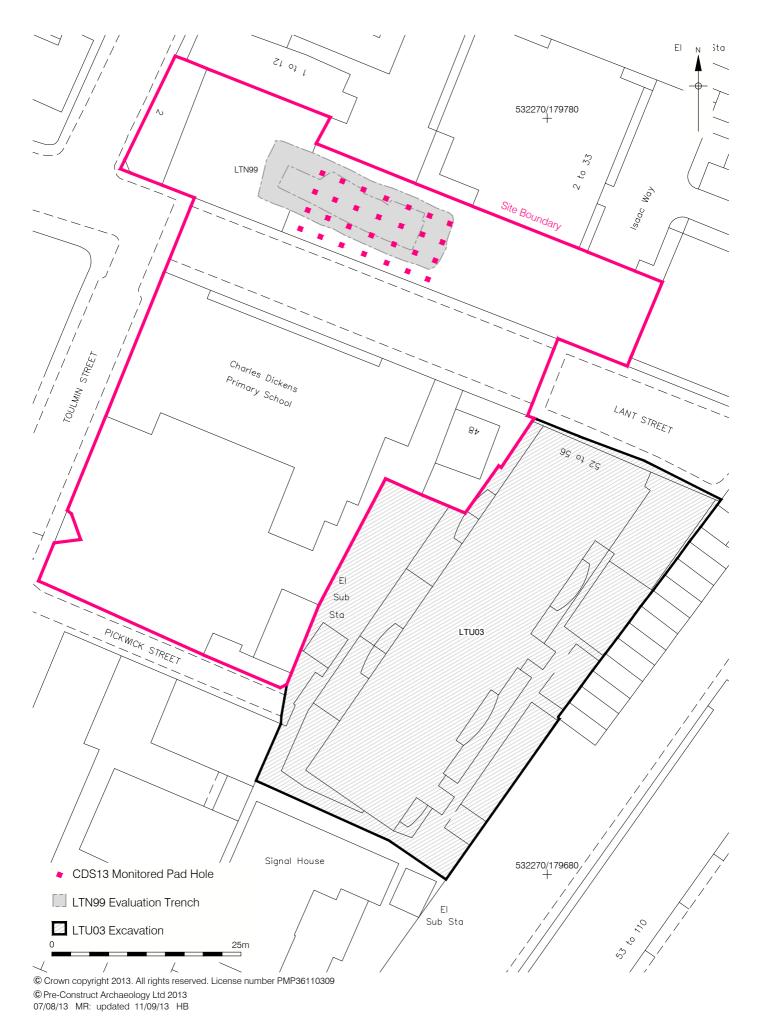
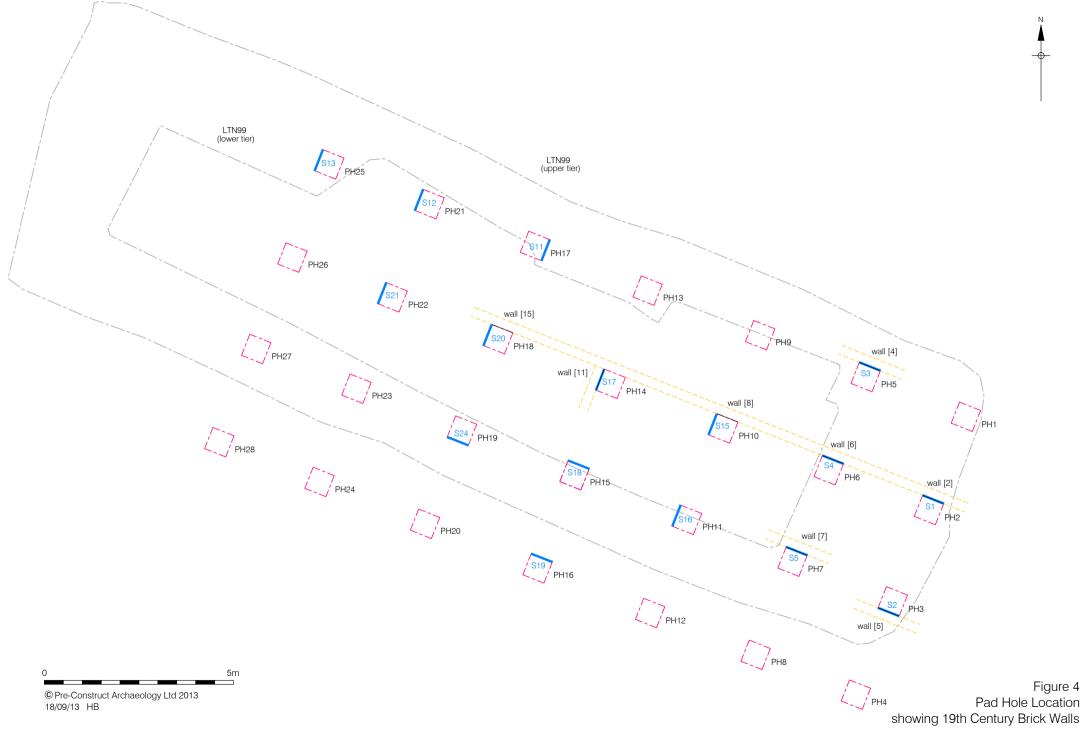


Figure 2 Area of Watching Brief 1:500 at A4





Pad Hole Location showing 19th Century Brick Walls 1:100 at A4

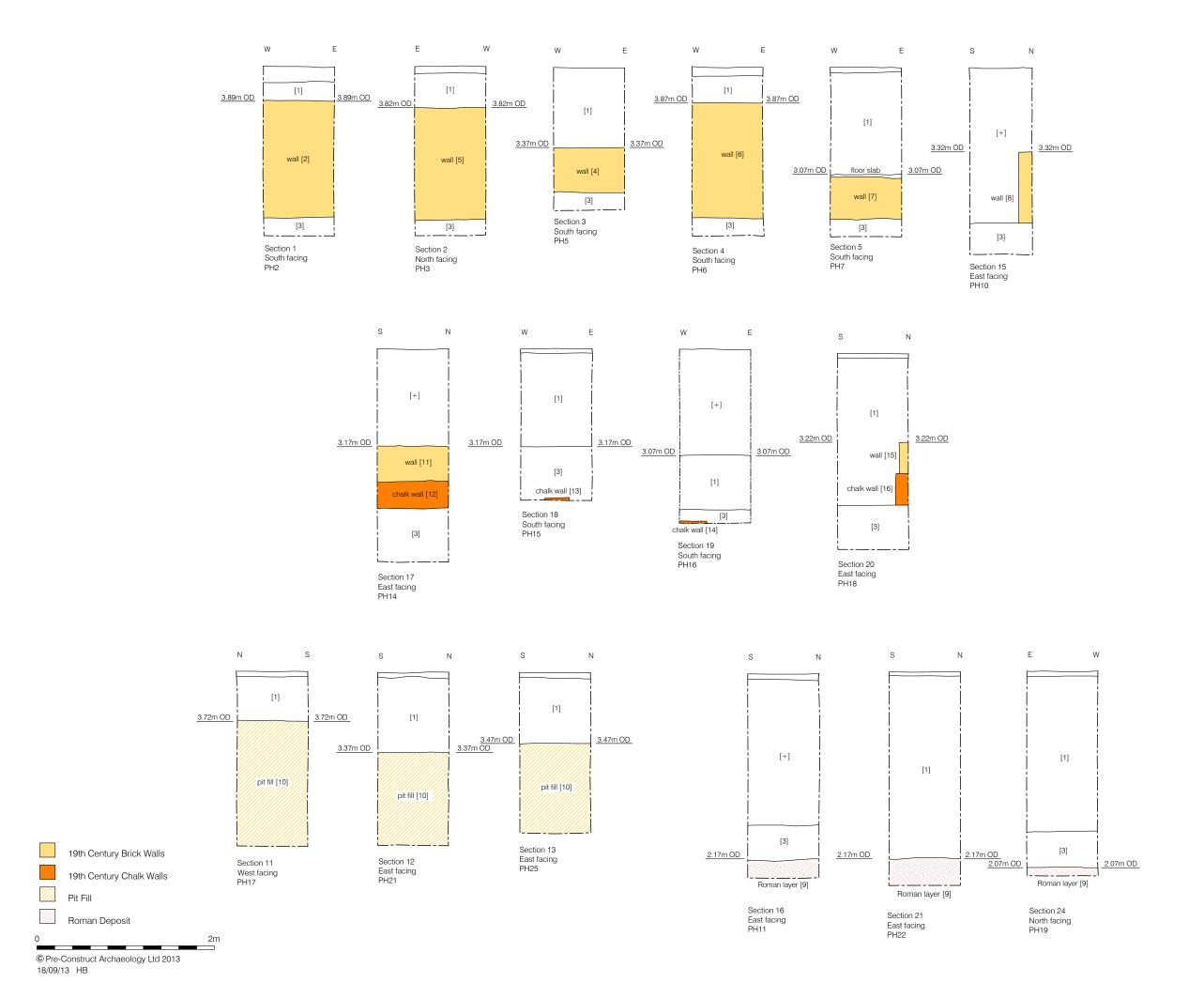


Figure 5 Sections 1-6, 11-13, 15-20, 22 & 24 1:40 at A3

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