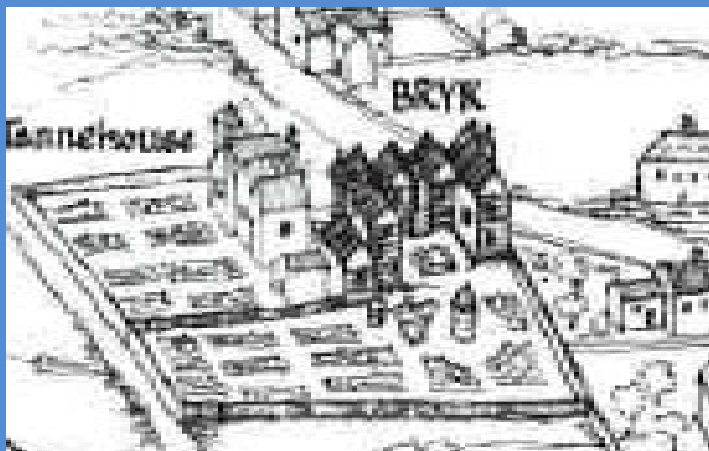


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF AT
SUTTON HOUSE/BREAKER'S
YARD, 2 AND 4 HOMERTON
HIGH STREET, HACKNEY, E9
6JQ**

SITE CODE: SNH 13

REPORT NO: R11583

DECEMBER 2013



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT SUTTON
HOUSE/BREAKER'S YARD, 2 AND 4 HOMERTON HIGH STREET,
HACKNEY, E9 6JQ**

Site Code: SNH 13

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 35259 85092

**Written and Researched by Neil Hawkins
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, December 2013**

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December 2013**

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name


SUTTON HOUSE/BREAKER'S YARD, 2 AND 4 HOMERTON HIGH

STREET, HACKNEY, E9 6JQ

Type of project

Archaeological Watching Brief

Quality Control

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1 ABSTRACT

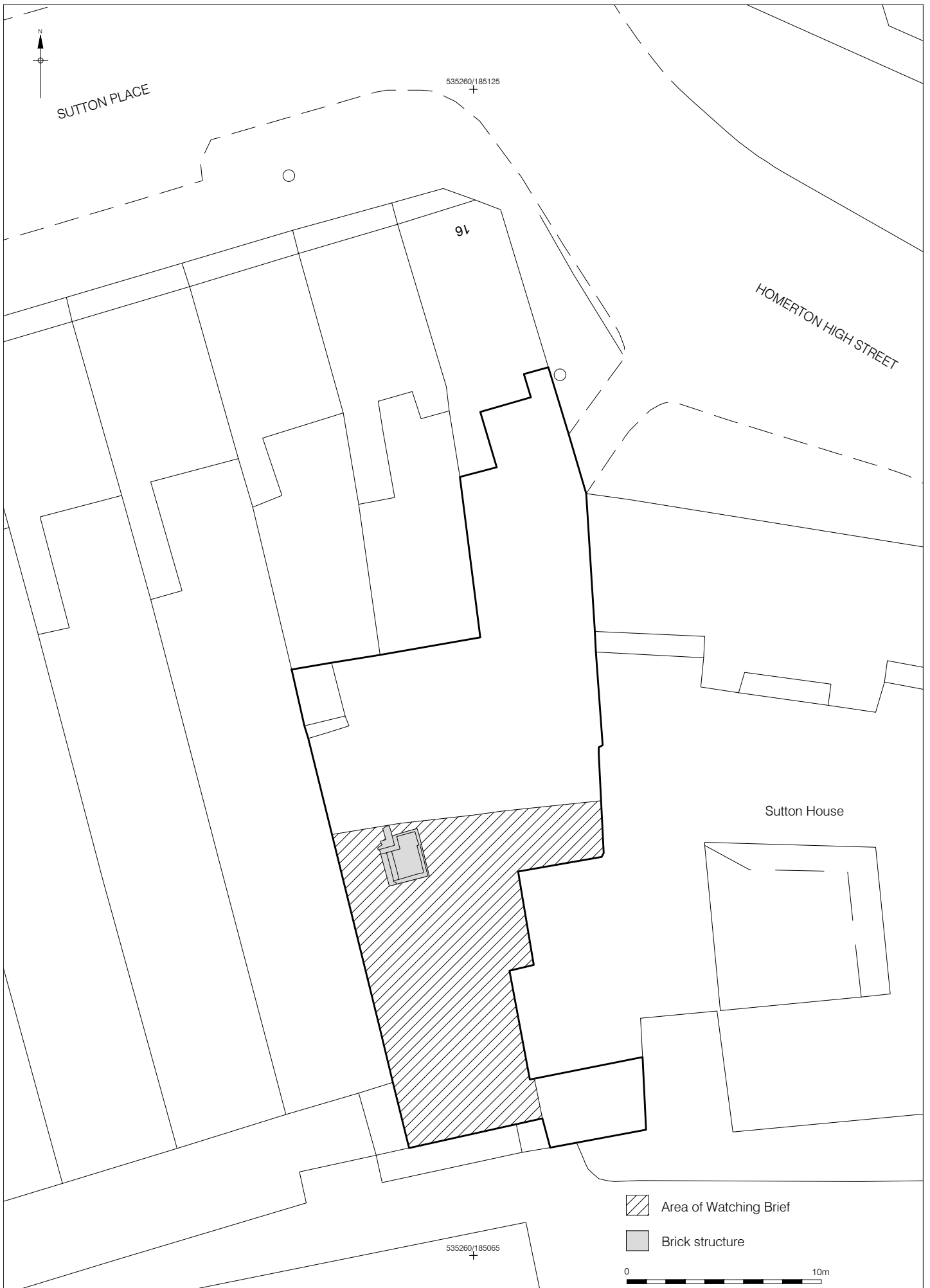
- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 6th November and 15th November 2013 on land at Sutton House/Breaker's Yard, 2 and 4 Homerton High Street, Hackney, E9 6JQ, London Borough of Hackney by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.
- 1.2 Archaeological monitoring was required during works associated with redevelopment of the site, to create new outdoor space. The monitoring consisted of the observation of ground reduction across the site and excavation of new drainage.
- 1.3 The watching brief was commissioned by Gary Marshall, National Trust Archaeologist.
- 1.4 The archaeological watching brief recorded a series of brick and masonry features located in the centre of the site, the earliest of which was the corner of a Tudor building, the Tanhouse, known to have been extant on the site from the late 15th century. Recorded in direct association with the Tudor foundations was an external brick structure which appeared to represent a soakaway. The recorded remains appeared to suggest that the original rectangular structure was also Tudor in date and was subsequently rebuilt in the 18th century. During this phase three drainage inlets, one of which ran down a pan tile 'downpipe' from the eaves of the roof, were constructed, feeding into the structure. The 19th century saw this feature capped with a brick arch roof and a small area sealed by two large York stones, which appeared to allow access into the structure, suggesting it was still in use. These remains were sealed by a series of late 19th century and 20th century deposits associated predominantly with the Breaker's Yard extant on the site from the mid 20th century onwards.
- 1.5 The soakaway structure was backfilled with inert material and covered over, as the majority of it was located beneath the formation level for the new development.

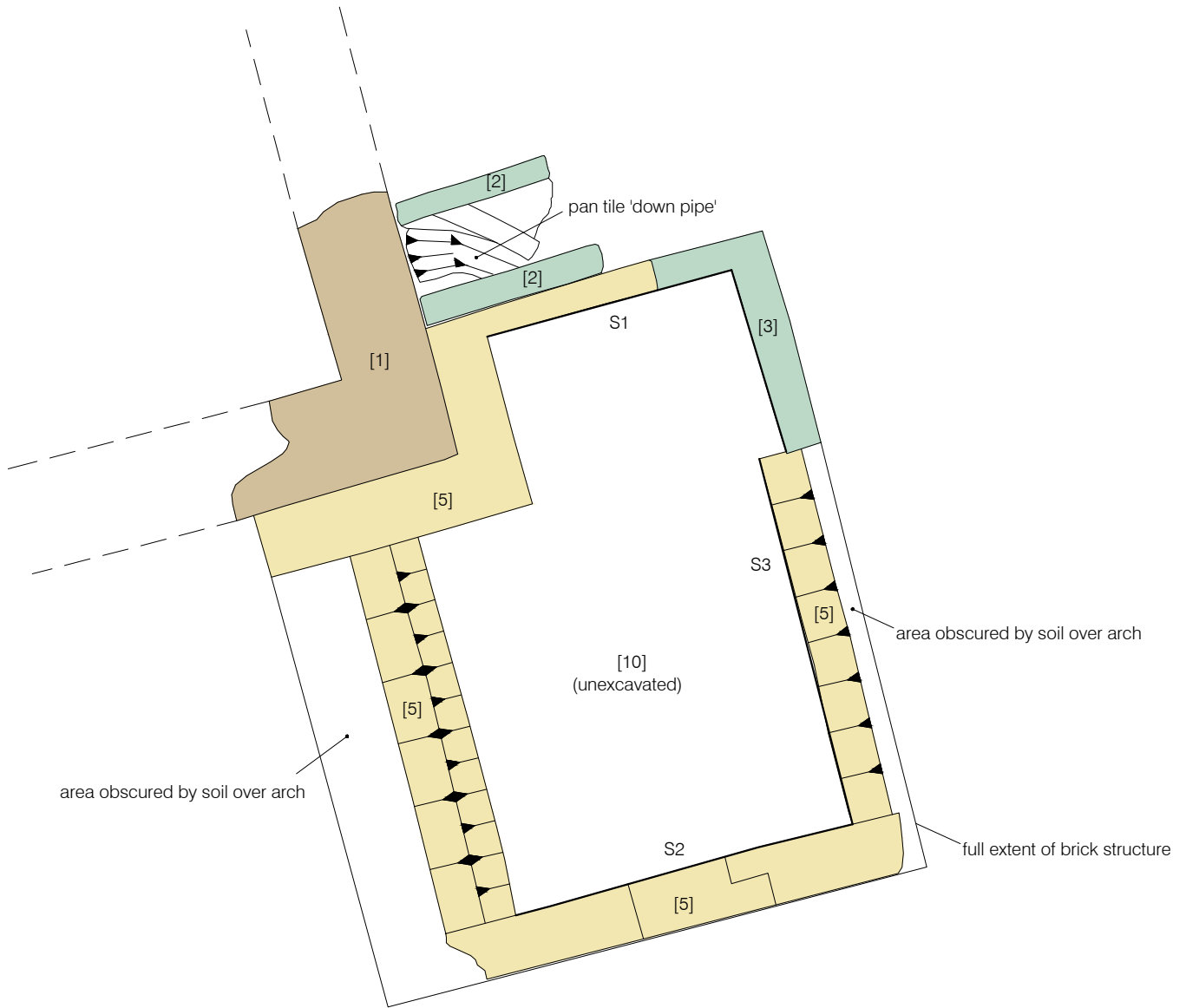
2 INTRODUCTION




- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at Sutton House/Breaker's Yard, 2 and 4 Homerton High Street, Hackney, E9 6JQ.
- 2.2 The proposed development will see new outside space constructed in the former Breaker's Yard, located directly to the west of Sutton House, which is a National Trust property.
- 2.3 The site is not located in an Area of Archaeological potential as designated by the London Borough of Hackney. However, given the site's proximity to the 16th century Sutton House, and its location on Homerton High Street, which may have medieval antecedents, PCA was commissioned by Gary Marshall, Archaeologist for the National Trust, to carry out a watching brief on groundworks at the Breaker's Yard site.
- 2.4 The requirements for the archaeological watching brief were outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation. Previous work on the site (MoLAS 2007) had suggested that any surviving archaeology would be at a depth of 500mm or below. The site was stripped to between 450mm and 700mm under archaeological supervision.
- 2.5 The watching brief was commissioned by Gary Marshall, National Trust archaeologist. The project manager for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. was Helen Hawkins and the watching brief was supervised by Neil Hawkins. The site was monitored by Adam Single (English Heritage GLAAS), archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Hackney.
- 2.6 The National Grid Reference of the site was centred at TQ 35259 85092.
- 2.7 The site was given the code SNH 13.
- 2.8 The National Trust's HBSMR event number for the project is ENA7238.



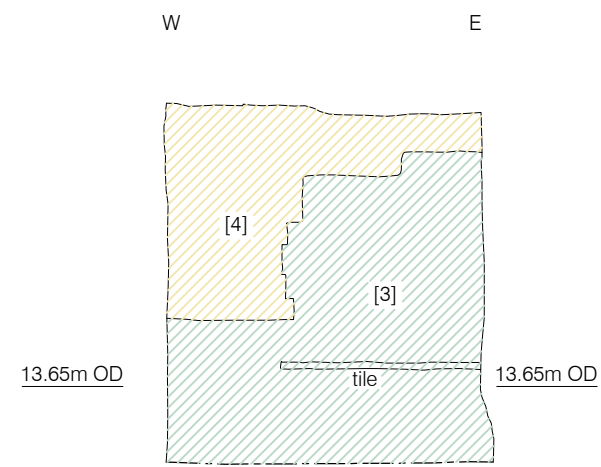
Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



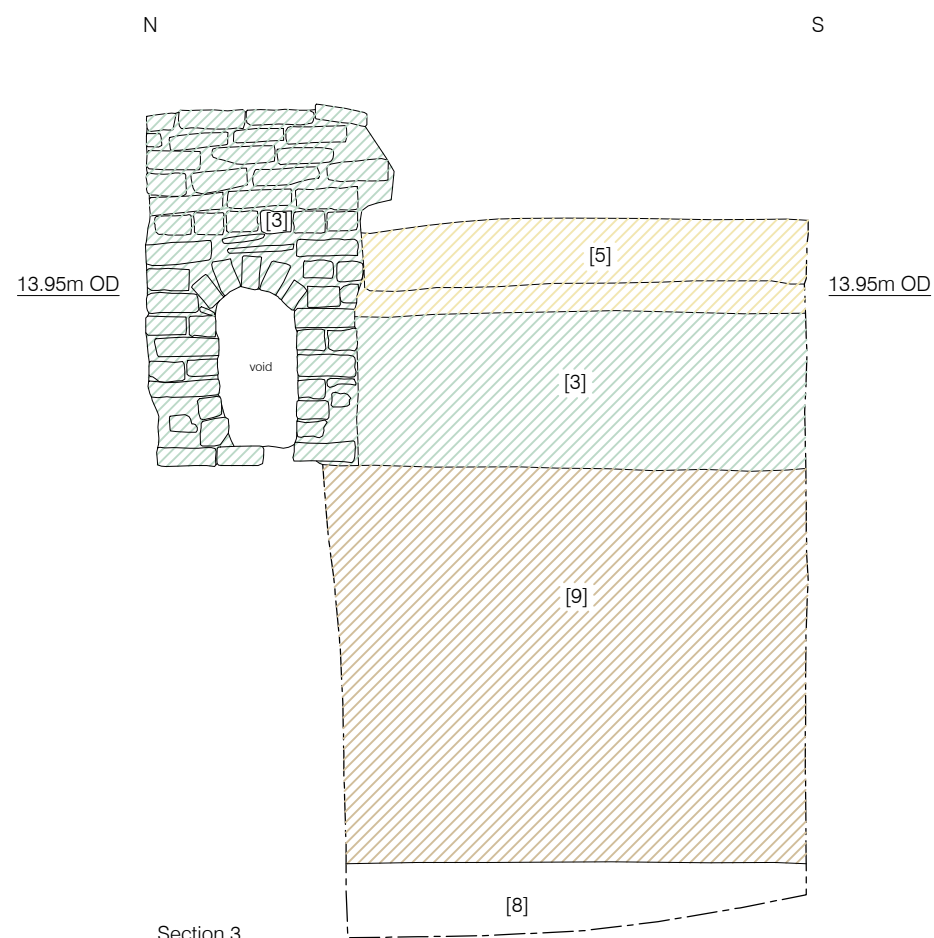


-  Phase 2: Tudor
-  Phase 3: 18th century
-  Phase 4: 19th century

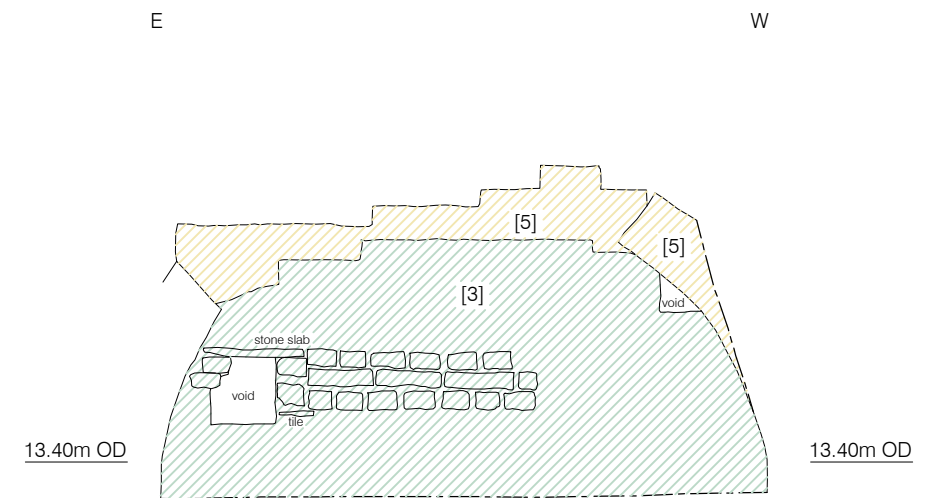







Section 1
South facing



Section 3
West facing



Section 2
North facing
showing sample of brick detail

-  Phase 2: Tudor
-  Phase 3: 18th century
-  Phase 4: 19th century



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Figure 4
Sections 1-3
1:25 at A3



0 10m

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Figure 5
Brick structure seen in relation to
reconstructed Tanhouse building
(after Mike Gray)
1:250 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning permission has been granted by the London Borough of Hackney for redevelopment of the Breaker's Yard site to provide a new garden and outside space for Sutton House. As part of the planning permission, an archaeological condition was attached to the site. In discussion with the London Borough of Hackney's Archaeological Adviser, Adam Single, an archaeological watching brief was agreed as appropriate mitigation for the construction work.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.2 The British Geological Survey suggests the area of the site to be on the boundary between Hackney Gravel and Taplow Gravel formations.

4.3 Topography

4.3.1 The site is located on flat ground, which lies at an approximate height of 15.50m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1.1 An archaeological evaluation (MoLAS 2007, HHK07) and watching brief (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2009) were carried out on the Breaker's Yard site, and the information from these investigations is included below. The geological, archaeological and historical background is taken from the evaluation report (MoLAS 2007).
- 5.1.2 Hackney in the early 16th century was very different in character from the area we know today. The area was still largely rural, but during this period it became increasingly common for rich Londoners to establish country retreats here to escape from the overcrowded City to the west.
- 5.1.3 Sutton House, which was originally known as Bryk Place, was built in 1535 for Sir Ralph Sadleir, a courtier of Henry VIII, and was sold by him in 1550. The house was later mistakenly named after Thomas Sutton, who actually lived in a neighbouring property. It was occupied by merchant families until the later 17th century when it was used as a girls' school. During the mid 18th century the house was divided in two, and at the end of the 19th century the properties were bought by the Rector of Hackney, who established the St John's Institute there.
- 5.1.4 The National Trust acquired the property from the Institute in 1936 and, after leasing the building to a variety of six institutions, it became vacant and fell into disrepair. It was in this context that archaeological investigations by the Department of Greater London Archaeology and later by MoLAS were undertaken during 1990-2, after local groups campaigned for the restoration of the house (Museum of London site code: SUT90). The excavations were co-ordinated with analysis of the standing structure by English Heritage and documentary research by the Sutton House Society.
- 5.1.5 The Breaker's Yard site lies over the south-eastern part of the Tanhouse – the property actually owned by Thomas Sutton (Figure 5).
- 5.1.6 The Tanhouse – originally a tannery – had been converted into a dwelling house in the late 15th century and was acquired by Sir Ralph Sadleir, builder of the Bryk House, in 1537. The Tanhouse appears from a plan of c 1741 to have been a substantial two-storey timber framed house with brick cellars and a turret set in an acre of garden. An inventory of the Tanhouse drawn up on the death of Thomas Sutton in 1611 details '...Sutton's chamber, a wainscot chamber, a wardrobe containing 'olde hagnyges of ymagery', a chamber at the stairhead, a little garret chamber, a chamber over the larder, a steward's chamber, a garret near the turret, a great hall, a parlour, a kitchen, wet and dry larders, a wash-house, a stable, a bakehouse and a house next to the stable...'. The Tanhouse had prosperous tenants throughout the 17th century. In the 18th century however, it was converted into three residences before being demolished in 1806 to make way for the building of the present late Georgian terrace on the south side of Sutton Place (Belcher, Bond, Gray and Wittrick 2004).
- 5.1.7 The excavations undertaken in 1990–92 by MoLAS at Sutton House identified a north–south aligned wall, apparently defining the Tanhouse property and evidently pre-dating the construction of the Bryk House.
- 5.1.8 An evaluation in the Breaker's Yard site (MoLAS 2007) comprised a single trench located in the supposed south-eastern corner of The Tanhouse.
- 5.1.9 The site revealed a surprisingly deep sequence of deposits, the earliest of which was a possible medieval 'ploughsoil' that probably predates Sutton House. This deposit was cut by some quarry pits and covered by an early modern soil horizon. A brick wall was recorded in the evaluation but was of probable 19th century date.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 Methods

6.1.1 As set out within the Research Design of the Written Statement of Investigation, the following aspects of the redevelopment were to be archaeologically monitored:-

- The site strip to a depth of between 450-750mm below ground level.
- The excavation of the drainage runs.

6.1.2 The watching brief aim was to address the following primary objectives:-

- To better define the natural topography of the site, and the height at which it survives.
- To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity. Is there any evidence for medieval Homerton, predating the Tanhouse and Sutton House?
- To establish if further evidence for the use and development of the Tanhouse survives on the site, and confirm the extent of truncation by later use
- To confirm the date and nature of the made ground deposits.
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

6.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:-

- This Written Scheme of Investigation
- GLAAS Archaeological Guidance Papers: 3: *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork In London* (GLAAS 2009)
- *MoRPHE* (English Heritage, 2008).

6.1.4 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (number 23) with the Institute for Archaeologists and as such operated within the Institute's 'Code of Practice'.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 7.1 The archaeological features discussed below are shown on Figures 3, 4 and 5.
- 7.2 Phase 1: Natural Deposits
- 7.2.1 The earliest deposit recorded during the watching brief was a layer of natural gravelly sand, context [8]. This deposit consisted of a loose gravelly sand and was recorded at 11.83m OD. This deposit was encountered within an excavated sondage in the interior of brick structure [9]/[3]. The British Geological Survey suggests the area of the site to be on the boundary between Hackney Gravel and Taplow Gravel formations. Natural deposit [8] would be consistent with either of these gravel terraces without definitively identifying which of the two it represents.
- 7.3 Phase 2: Tudor
- 7.3.1 Located centrally within the watching brief area was a small area of disturbed brick wall, context [1] (Plates 3 and 4). This brick wall was aligned north-south, running for 1.25m before returning to the west for 0.88m. This brick wall clearly represented a corner of a building with the brickwork being truncated at both the northern and western ends. The brick wall was composed of shallow wide red bricks (fabric 3033) bonded with a cream brown soft lime mortar both of which are typical of the Tudor period (Appendix 2). Recorded at a highest level of 14.58m OD, at least eight courses of brickwork survived, to c. 0.65m deep, but the masonry continued deeper. The northern side of the east-west masonry was faced with re-used squared Reigate and Kentish ragstone (ibid). Other fragments of ragstone and Hassock stone were also re-used elsewhere within the wall but not as a facing. It is probably no coincidence that the wall appeared to have been disturbed particularly on the line of the location of the stonework suggesting it had been robbed. It is highly likely that this wall represents a section of the Tanhouse, known to have been previously extant on the site (Figure 5). The top of Wall [1] was located at formation depth and therefore the wall was exposed mostly in plan, other than a small sondage excavated at the western side to ascertain depth.
- 7.3.2 Recorded directly southeast of Tudor brick wall [1] was a sunken rectangular brick structure [9] (Plate 1). Only a limited area of this phase was revealed within the structure as the upper limits appeared to have been reconstructed at a later date (see Phases 3 and 4 below). The brickwork of the structure was composed of red bricks similar to those used in Tudor brick wall [1]. The bricks were bonded with a soft brown lime mortar again similar to that used in Tudor wall [1]. Only two faces of this rectangular brick structure were identified, the eastern and southern, but it is assumed that the entire structure was of the same build at this level. The earliest phase of the rectangular structure was recorded at a highest level of 13.38m OD and consisted of eleven courses, being 1.35m deep. No base for this structure was recorded and it appeared to be installed into the underlying natural deposits. This brick structure is assumed to be rectangular in shape. At the northwestern corner of the rectangular structure it abutted and respected Tudor wall [1], mirroring the outline of later structure [3]. The dimensions of this structure can only be extrapolated from the recorded dimensions of later structure [3] (see below). Although the rectangular structure cannot be definitively identified as Tudor in date it is likely that it does represent a Tudor structure associated with and external to the Tanhouse, or possibly slightly later. Whatever date it is, it clearly predates the 18th century alterations of Phase 3 described below. Given that the structure had no floor, and due to its subterranean nature, it was interpreted as a soakaway
- 7.4 Phase 3: 18th Century

- 7.4.1 The next phase of activity is represented by a rebuild or extension of the earlier brick rectangular structure [9], structure [3] (Plates 3 and 4). This structure was rectangular in shape, with the northwestern corner incorporating the corner of Tudor wall [1] into it. This structure appeared to be installed upon the earlier brickwork [9], potentially being a reconstruction of it. The brick structure measured 2.50m north-south by 2.15m east-west. The brickwork was located at a highest level of 14.58m OD and had a depth of 1.20m, with fifteen courses of brickwork extant. However, if this brickwork was part of the same structure as the earlier brickwork directly below, [9], then the overall structure would have had a total depth of 2.55m. The structure was composed of a mixture of brick fabrics including re-used Tudor brick but predominantly by narrow post great fire bricks (fabrics 3032, 3107, 3033 & 3101). These bricks in large areas appeared to be un-mortared and laid 'dry', where mortared it was with a grey clinker-type mortar. The combination of brickwork and mortar suggested a date range of 1750-1800 for the structure (Appendix 2). Indeed it is noted that the width of many of these bricks conforms to the brick tax regulations brought about in 1776 (*ibid*). This would therefore provide a *terminus post quem* of 1776 for the installation of this structure.
- 7.4.2 Located within two of the four internal faces of the structure were the openings for gullies flowing into the rectangular structure. The first, located within the northern end of the eastern side of the structure (Plate 2) was 0.53m high by 0.27m wide and had an arched roof. The top of this gully was located at 14.08m OD. As this gully was devoid of fill, observation along its length illustrated that it continued to the east away from the structure before turning to the north. It could also be seen that the gully had a slight fall along its length downwards from east to west into the brick structure. This gully may be the same as the culvert found in the southern part of the MoLAS evaluation trench. Located at the eastern end of the southern side of the structure was another inlet for a gully. This second gully was a considerably smaller opening being 0.23m high by 0.21m wide. This gully was capped by a thin stone slab, located at 13.76m OD. This gully was also partially void of fill and therefore observation along its length illustrated it continued some distance to the south, being capped by stone and brick. Again the gully had a slight fall downwards along its length from south to north into the rectangular structure.
- 7.4.3 Located directly north of, and abutting brick structure [3], was a small structure composed of brickwork and tile, [2] (Plates 3 and 4). The structure also abutted Tudor wall [1] to the west. This structure consisted of two short parallel rows of brickwork aligned east-west set 0.30m apart from one another. The southern most of the alignments directly abutted rectangular structure [3]. These two parallel lines of brick had two courses extant and were located at 14.60m OD. This brickwork acted as a surround for what appeared to be a downpipe between the walls which dropped downwards at a very steep angle. This downpipe was composed of adjoined sections of pan tile which flowed from the west, where it abutted Tudor wall [1], down to the south where it would originally have discharged into brick structure [3]. However, a later alteration blocked this off (see below). A third alignment of brickwork running northwest-southeast framed the northeastern side of the tile downpipe. The lowest point of the tile downpipe where it would have fed into structure [3] was located at 14.18m OD. The three elements of brickwork were all composed of narrow post great fire bricks bonded with a grey clinker-type mortar (Appendix 2). This combination of material provides a similar date range as structure [3], 1750-1800. This structure represents the lowest level structural elements for a downpipe running off of a building, which would then have discharged into rectangular structure [3]. As the downpipe structure abutted Tudor wall [1] to the west it must therefore have fed off the side of the building whilst it was still extant.
- 7.5 Phase 4: 19th Century

- 7.5.1 The 19th century also saw the rectangular brick structure [3] capped with an arched roof, [5]. As part of this capping of structure [3] an area of brickwork within the northern interior face also altered (context [4]). An area consisting of narrow, frogged post great fire bricks and yellow London stocks, bonded by a hard Portland type cement mortar was installed within the earlier brickwork (see Figure 4, Section 1). The location of this brickwork suggests that it was probably installed to block off the drainage inlet where earlier downpipe structure [2] would have discharged into rectangular structure [3]. Capping the majority of structure [3] was an arch which was built into the upper courses of structure [3], recorded at c. 14.50m OD. The arch was composed of the same brick types as context [4]; narrow, frogged post great fire bricks and yellow London stocks, again bonded by a hard Portland type cement mortar (Appendix 2). This illustrates a 19th century date to these alterations to the rectangular brick structure. The arch did not cap the entire structure however; the small narrower area of the structure directly east of Tudor wall [1] was instead sealed by two large York stone slabs. It appears that this area was not sealed by an arch, so as to allow access into the rectangular structure much like an inspection chamber. This suggests that the rectangular brick feature was still in use during the 19th century.
- 7.6 Phase 5: Modern
- 7.6.1 Directly sealing brick structure [3] and the later 19th century arched capping over it, structure [5], was a modern levelling deposit, [6]. This deposit was also recorded, albeit with localised variation due to its mixed nature, across the entire area of the watching brief. Indeed this was the earliest deposit encountered across much of the watching brief area where the ground was reduced to a lesser extent. Recorded at c. 15m OD this layer consisted of a dark brown-grey silt from which was recovered a range of ceramics spot dated to the late 19th and 20th century. Sealing levelling layer [6] was another layer of modern made ground recorded at a highest level of 15.51m OD, the modern ground level. These deposits relate to 20th century activity across the area of the site.
- 7.6.2 A mother of pearl gaming counter (see Appendix 3) was recovered from the modern layer. As this dates to the late 18th century, it had probably been removed from its original context by previous disturbance of the upper layers on the site.

Plate 1 West facing section showing Wall [9]



Plate 2 Gully in northeastern corner, part of structure [3]



Plate 3 Structures [5], [3] and [1] facing north



Plate 4 Structures [5], [3] and [1] prior to the removal of the vaulted roof of [5]



8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The earliest deposit recorded during the archaeological watching brief was a layer of natural gravelly sands. This deposit was only recorded within a single sondage which was excavated within the brick structure to reveal the depth of brickwork itself. For this reason the height of this natural deposit, 11.83m OD, does not represent the level of the natural topography, instead being a truncated horizon. The British Geological Survey suggests the area of the site to be on the boundary between Hackney Gravel and Taplow Gravel formations. Natural deposit [8] would be consistent with either of these gravel terraces but does not definitively identify which of the two it represents.
- 8.2 The earliest archaeological evidence encountered during the watching brief was the corner of a brick wall, dating to the Tudor period. The combination of brick fabric type, mortar type and stonework elements provided a date range of 1480-1700 (Appendix 2). During this period the area of the site was known to have been occupied by a large house, the Tanhouse. This building was originally a tannery which was later converted into a dwelling in the late 15th century and was subsequently acquired by Sir Ralph Sadleir, builder of Bryk House (Sutton House), in 1537. The structural remains recorded during the watching brief almost certainly represent the Tanhouse. A reconstruction drawing of the location of the Tanhouse (Figure 5) aligns itself closely on a north-south axis with the remains recorded during the watching brief, illustrating them to represent a southeastern corner of the main building range. The recorded wall however appears to lie just east of its reconstructed location. These in situ remains therefore can aid in the refinement of the reconstructed location of the Tanhouse.
- 8.3 Recorded directly east of the brickwork remains of the Tudor Tanhouse was an unusual rectangular brick structure. This structure was constructed directly against the Tudor wall, being built around the corner of the wall respecting its alignment. This suggests that the Tudor masonry was still extant when the rectangular structure was installed. Therefore the rectangular structure had a direct association with Tanhouse. The brick structure had two openings within the internal walls which represented drainage inlets discharging into the interior of the structure. Also located directly north of the rectangular structure was a 'downpipe' composed of pan tiles which would have fed into the interior. Although the upper levels of this downpipe did not survive it is assumed that this would have taken water run-off from the eaves of the roof of the Tanhouse directly into the rectangular structure. This combination of three openings discharging into the structure suggests that it represented some form of soakaway or water holding tank. The structure did not appear to have a floor, which also supports its interpretation as a soakaway. The majority of the structure and the pan tile downpipe structure were composed of brick fabrics and mortar suggestive of an 18th century date. A number of phases of this structure were recorded during the watching brief. The earliest appeared to be of a contemporary date with the Tudor remains, or potentially not long after, of the Tanhouse although this cannot be conclusively identified due to on site constraints during the watching brief. Built directly upon the earlier potentially original Tudor rectangular structure was an 18th century rebuild. It was in this 18th century phase that the three inlets were recorded feeding into the structure. No inlets were observed within the earliest phase of brick structure and therefore its original function may have been somewhat different to a simple soakaway. It must be noted however that only a limited area of the earlier structure was revealed with a deep excavated sondage. The deposits located within the interior of the structure provided little information regarding the structure's usage; it being a sterile and homogenous silt.

- 8.4 A final alteration to the rectangular structure occurred during the 19th century. This phase saw the inlet where the downpipe fed into structure being blocked off and the vast majority of the structure being capped with a brickwork arch. A small area in the northern end of the structure was instead sealed by two York stone slabs which presumably allowed access into this drainage feature akin to a modern day inspection chamber. It seems highly likely that these 19th century alterations, particularly the blocking off the downpipe, coincided with the demolition of the Tanhouse in the early 19th century prior to the construction of Sutton Place. It is interesting to note however that the presence of an access hole, as sealed by the York stone slabs, suggests that the structure was still in use a drainage feature during this period.
- 8.5 Sealing the rectangular structure, and extending across the entire area of the watching brief, was a sequence of probable late 19th century and 20th century deposits. These layers represent levelling and occupation predominantly associated with the Breaker's Yard previously extant on the site in the second half of the 20th century. In the vast majority of the watching brief area, where excavation was only undertaken to a limited depth, these deposits were the only ones recorded.
- 8.6 As the majority of the structure was located below the formation level for the garden, it was backfilled with an inert material and preserved *in situ*.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Gary Marshall, National Trust Archaeologist for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the site on behalf of the London Borough of Hackney.
- 9.1.2 The author would like to thank Chris Cleeve, Learning Officer/Project Manager at Sutton House for his assistance on site, Claire Jackson and Pete Boyer of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd for their assistance on site, Josephine Brown for the illustrations, Kevin Hayward for the building material report, Helen Hawkins for her project management and editing and Jonathon and Dan of the Principal Contractors for their cooperation and enthusiasm on site. Thanks also to Bill Neal for identifying and providing information on the mother of pearl gaming chip.

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APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-166463

Project details

Project name	Sutton House/Breaker's Yard, 2 and 4 Homerton High Street, Hackney
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 6th November and 15th November 2013 on land at Sutton House/Breaker's Yard, 2 and 4 Homerton High Street, Hackney. The monitoring consisted of the observation of ground reduction across the site and excavation of new drainage. The archaeological watching brief recorded a series of brick and masonry features located in the centre of the site, the earliest of which was the corner of a Tudor building, the Tanhouse, known to have been extant on the site from the late 15th century. Recorded in direct association with the Tudor foundations was an external brick structure which appeared to represent a soakaway. The recorded remains appeared to suggest that the original rectangular structure was also Tudor in date and was subsequently rebuilt in the 18th century. During this phase three drainage inlets, one of which ran down a pan tile 'downpipe' from the eaves of the roof, were constructed, feeding into the structure. The 19th century saw this feature capped with a brick arch roof and a small area sealed by two large York stones, which appeared to allow access into the structure, suggesting it was still in use. These remains were sealed by a series of late 19th century and 20th century deposits associated predominantly with the Breaker's Yard extant on the site from the mid 20th century onwards.
Project dates	Start: 06-11-2013 End: 15-11-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HHK07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SNH13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GAMING COUNTER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY Sutton House/Breaker's Yard, 2-4 Homerton High Street, Hackney
Postcode	E9 6JQ
Study area	800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3525900 8509200 51 0 51 32 52 N 000 02 56 W Point
Height OD /	Min: 11.83m Max: 11.83m

Depth

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator English Heritage

Project design originator Helen Hawkins

Project director/manager Helen Hawkins

Project supervisor Neil Hawkins

Type of sponsor/funding body National Trust

Name of sponsor/funding body National Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient National Trust-Sutton House

Physical Archive ID SNH13

Physical Contents "Ceramics","other"

Digital Archive recipient National Trust-Sutton House

Digital Archive ID SNH13

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Database","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient National Trust-Sutton House

Paper Archive ID SNH13

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT SUTTON HOUSE/BREAKER'S YARD, 2 AND 4 HOMERTON HIGH STREET, HACKNEY, E9 6JQ

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hawkins, N.

Date 2013

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APPENDIX 2: CBM AND STONE REVIEW

Dr Kevin Hayward

SNH13 Sutton House

Context	Fabric	Material	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date Mortar
1	3101; 3033; 3107; 3105; 3106; 2276	Shallow wide Tudor bricks up to 120 x 52mm; lumps of Reused Reigate, Hassock and Kentish ragstone blocks, early post medieval peg tile bonded in a brown lime mortar	5	50	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700	1500-1700
2	2279; 3032R; 3101	Pan Tile; Post Great Fire Brick Narrow grey clinker mortar	3	1630	1900	1664	1900	1750-1900	1750-1850
3	3032; 3107; 3033; 3101	Tudor Brick (at base there are more) higher up post great fire bricks narrow; reused Reigate stone blocks and post great fire bricks grey clinker mortar	4	1450	1900	1664	1900	1750-1900	1750-1850
4	3032R; 3035; 3101	Reused narrow post great fire bricks some frogged; yellow stock grey clinker mortar	3	1664	1940	1780	1940	1700-1900+	1800-1900
5	3032R; 3035; 3101	Reused narrow post great fire bricks some frogged; yellow stock grey clinker mortar	3	1664	1940	1780	1940	1700-1900+	1800-1900

Review

It has been possible to subdivide this site into three phases on the basis of mortar, stone and ceramic building material.

Phase 1 1500-1700 corner of Tudor wall [1] brick building adjacent to Sutton Place. The shallow, wide red bricks 3033; reused Reigate and Kentish ragstone, Hassock are typical of this period, as is the distinctive cream-brown quite soft mortar

Phase 2 [2] [3] 1750-1800 a group of structures with pan tile, narrow post great fire bricks and a grey clinker-type mortar. The width of these bricks conforms with the brick tax regulations brought in 1776.

1776	Brick size regulation Act: took effect July 1777, first blanket national legislation. Min. size of bricks at 8 ½ x 4 x 2 ½ ". Last legislation on sizes until the 20 th century, remained in force until the 19 th century	216 x 101.5 x 63.5	Parliament (Act)
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Phase 3 repairs and arch [4] [5] have the appearance of narrow, frogged post great fire bricks and yellow London stocks in a hard Portland type cement. This places the third phase in the 19th century

Recommendations

The main item of interest is the corner of a brick walled structure adjoining Sutton House, (Tan House); this, on the basis of mortar, brick and reused stone is Tudor in date and contemporary or near contemporary with the 1535 construction of Sutton House
The base of an 18th century brick structure predating the construction in 1806 of the adjoining Georgian House may have evidence for earlier (Tudor) use but it was not possible to access the bricks or mortar.

The structure abutting the Tudor wall is 1750-1800 in date with 19th century modification.

APPENDIX 3: METAL/WOOD FIND ASSESSMENT (SNH13)

Chris Jarrett

A single, unstratified composite item made of copper alloy and wood was recovered from the archaeological investigation. The item consists of two copper alloy conical tubes measuring in total 117mm long. Each item has a widest diameter of 17mm tapering to 10mm in diameter. One of the tubes had its narrowest point inserted into the widest end of the other. The most intact cone measures 79mm long. The widest end of the item contains a slightly decayed, snapped off end of a wooden handle. The function of this item is unknown, although it may represent part of a wooden tool.

There are no recommendations for further work on the item.

APPENDIX4: POTTERY ASSESSMENT (SNH13)

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

An unstratified small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (one box). All of the pottery dates to the 19th century. None of the sherds show evidence for abrasion and were probably therefore deposited fairly rapidly after breakage. The fragmentation of the pottery ranges from sherd material to vessels with complete profiles. The pottery was quantified by sherd count and estimated number of vessels (ENV), besides weight. Pottery was recovered from one context as a small sized group (fewer than 30 sherds).

All of the pottery (seven sherds, 7 ENV and weighing 435g, of which none was stratified) was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an ACCESS database, by fabric, form and decoration. The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London Archaeology. The pottery occurs only in context [6] which represents unstratified material from the overburden on the site, and it is discussed by its fabric and form.

Pottery types and fabric

Transfer-printed whiteware (TPW), 1780-1900, four sherds, 2 ENV, 392g

Candlestick: the form is represented by a socket with a band of a blue dendritic pattern found on the top of the rim and on the side of the socket, the latter also having a blue painted band below the design. One sherd, 1 ENV, 50g.

Dinner plate: complete profile of a dinner plate with a footring and a scalloped rim decorated with a geometrical Chinoiserie fence/trellis and floral border. The plate has a central floral design. On the underside of the base is a printed mark of the design 'Trellis & Plants' within a geometrical badge, above 'J. Allsup/16 S^t Paul's Church Yard/London'. There is also present a small blue star shaped batch mark. John Allsup (formerly Pallett and Green) was a glass and china dealer, who is recorded at No. 15 S^t Paul's Church Yard in 1839 and in 1848 his address was at No. 16. This business was at that address in 1856, although difficult to identify after that date (Pigot 1839, 121; Kelly 1848, 626; Kelly 1856, 822). Two sherds 1 ENV/184g.

Water closet: a wall fragment with an internal Indian style landscape dating to the mid 19th century. One sherd, 1 ENV, 158g.

Brown or black transfer-printed refined whiteware (type 3) (TPW3), 1810-1900, three sherds, 1 ENV, 42g.

Bear's grease pot lid: complete profile with a black-transfer printed design on the top of the lid reading 'F. S. CLEA[VER'S]/GENU[INE]/BEAR'S [GREASE]/FOR T[HE HAIR/6]/PENC[E EACH]' (see Plate 1. for a complete example).



Plate 1. Black-transfer-printed whiteware, F. S. Cleaver's bear's grease lid.

The pottery recovered from context [6] is dated to the late 19th century by the latest form, the bear's grease pot lid.

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The pottery has little significance at a local level as the pottery types are those frequently found in London. The occurrence of the water closet is of interest as these items are relatively rare finds; while the J. Allsup marked plate indicates where the household was purchasing some of its pottery. The main potential of the pottery is to date the context it occurred in. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage and information should be taken from this report should a publication text be required.

Some finds have been retained by the National Trust as they were found and therefore they are not discussed in this report. All were from unstratified deposits.

References

Pigot & Co, 1839, *Pigot & Co's Directory of London*. London.

Kelly, F. 1848, *The small edition of the Post Office London Directory*. London.

Kelly, F. 1856, *The small edition of the Post Office London Directory*. London.

APPENDIX 5: MOTHER OF PEARL GAMING CHIP

A mother of pearl item was recovered from the topsoil on the site. Consultation with expert Bill Neal revealed that the item was a gaming counter, made in around 1770 - 1800 and used for card games. This is a very basic type which was produced in China and imported to the UK in huge numbers. Mother-of-pearl gaming counters started to be imported to special order by the Captains and Supercargoes of the East India Company in around 1710; they were generally armorial and produced to accompany the huge services of Chinese armorial porcelain being ordered by the nobility. From then on the trade developed and the porcelain and gaming counters gradually became slightly less prohibitive in price. By 1770 counters were being produced for the middle classes - mass produced, but always totally hand-made. This is the type found at the Breaker's Yard. It would have been part of a set in three shapes: round, 'square' (the Breaker's Yard example) and long-oblong. There would probably have been 140 counters in the set to begin with so that each shape could be ascribed a different value at the start of the game.

The trade in armorial counters continued until around 1840 and in that time nearly all the great and the good had their set of armorial counters - even Queen Charlotte.

The Breaker's Yard example may not be standard mother-of-pearl (though it may have degraded) - it appears to be a variation called window-pane mother of pearl as it is almost translucent.

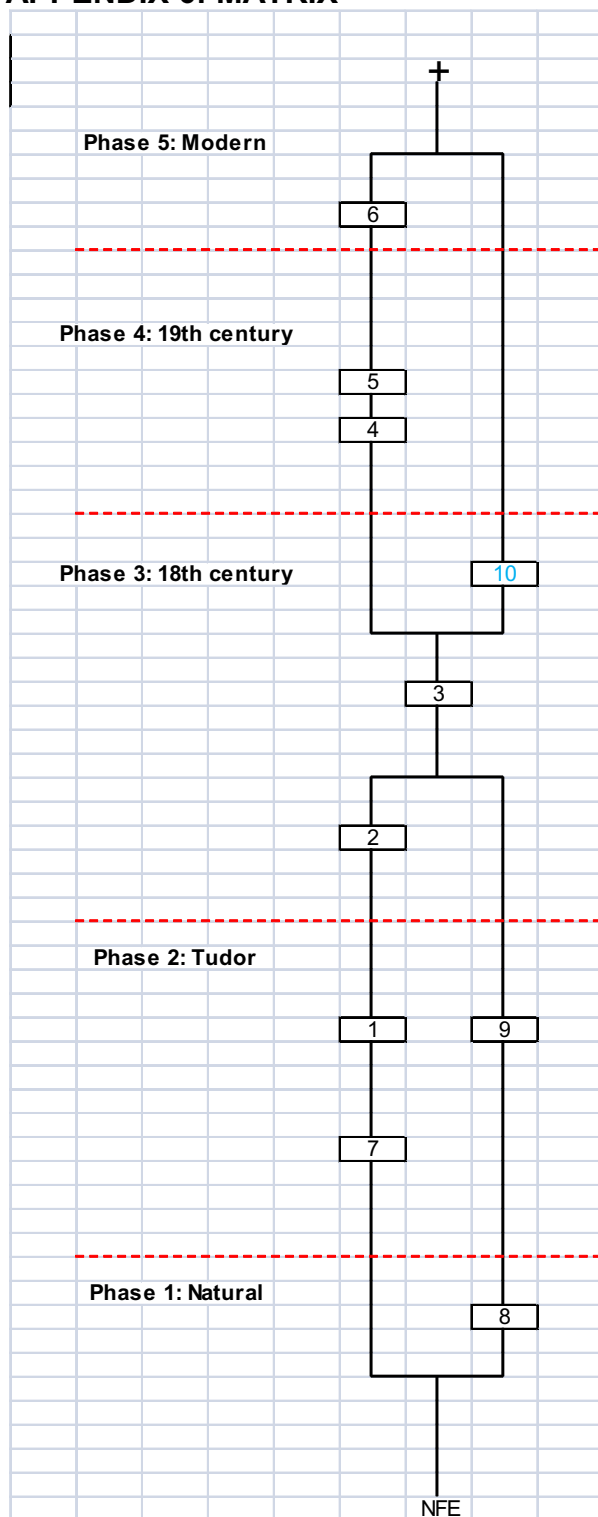


Plate 1: Gaming Counter Side A



Plate 2: Gaming Counter Side B

APPENDIX 6: MATRIX



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