FESTIVAL WING
SOUTHBANK CENTRE
BELVEDERE ROAD
LONDON SE1 8XX



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



**PCA REPORT NO: R11604** 

**SITE CODE: SBC13** 

**SEPTEMBER 2014** 



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

### **DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

# FESTIVAL WING, SOUTHBANK CENTRE, LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre 96 Endwell Road London SE4 2PD

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE, BELVEDERE ROAD, LONDON SE1 8XX, AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Site Code: SBC13

Central NGR: TQ 3086 8034

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Lambeth

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#### 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX in the London Borough of Lambeth. The watching brief was commissioned by Fugro Engineering Services and took place between 7<sup>th</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013.
- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief was required in order to test the archaeological potential of the made ground and of underlying alluvium (ARUP, 2013). The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of test pits and boreholes to inform on the survival or presence of archaeological deposits on the subject site.
- 1.3 The site is bounded by Waterloo Bridge to the east and Belvedere Road to the south. A northwest orientated road runs along the western boundary of the site separating it from the Festival Hall. The northern boundary of the site is bounded by the River Walk and River Wall which lines the banks of the River Thames.
- 1.4 The earliest natural deposit observed during the watching brief was dark grey to yellowish grey sandy gravel. This deposit was interpreted as part of the river terrace gravel. The top of the river terrace gravel was recorded at -0.91m OD in BH01B, located approximately 20m to the south east of the existing river wall, and between -0.48m OD and -1.23m OD in BH02A and BH04 respectively which were positioned furthest southwest from the river wall.
- 1.5 A number of homogeneous and well sorted deposits were observed overlying the river terrace gravel. These deposits consisted of dark grey sandy silty clay and were interpreted as alluvium. With the exception of context [2], where occasional fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) were observed, all alluvial deposits were sterile.
- 1.6 Deposits dating to the post-medieval period were observed in TP01, TP02B, TP03, TP04 and in BH04. These deposits, interpreted as consolidation ground raising, were found between 2.77m OD and 2.47m OD in TP02 and TP01 respectively.
- 1.7 Modern ground raising consisting of at least 3m thick mixed silt and demolition rubble was observed during the excavation of BH01B. The demolition rubble is likely to be associated with the ground raising/consolidation activity for the redevelopment of this part of the site after World War II as shown on Ordnance Survey map of 1952-53.
- 1.8 The area within the footprint of the car park located in the central part of the site appeared to have suffered the greatest impact by modern intrusions as this part of the site it lay approximately 0.80m below street level. Presumably the redevelopment of the site in the 1960s entailed extensive landscaping and truncation of earlier post-medieval deposits and structures.

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the geotechnical investigation at the Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. The watching brief took place between 7<sup>th</sup> August and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013.
- 2.2 The archaeological watching brief was originally designed to monitor the excavation of 9 boreholes and 6 test pits required in order to provide geotechnical parameters and detailed stratigraphic information for the design of the building foundations and substructure. The scope of work was subsequently altered during the fieldwork due to site constraints (see Section 6).
- 2.3 The specific aim of the watching brief was intended to provide a first assessment of the presence or absence of archaeological deposits on site.
- 2.4 The proposed development will consist of the construction of two new buildings on site.
  Other buildings on site will also undergo some degree of demolition and refurbishment works.
- 2.5 The site is located at The Festival Wing of the Southbank Centre.
- 2.6 The site is bounded by Waterloo Bridge to the east and Belvedere Road to the south. A northwest orientated road runs along the western boundary of the site separating it from the Festival Hall. The northern boundary of the site is bounded by the River Walk and River Wall which lines the banks of the River Thames.
- 2.7 The centre of the site lies at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TQ 3086 8034.
- 2.8 The project was assigned the unique site code SBC13.

#### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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. Chapter 12 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
- 3.2 In considering any proposal for development, including allocations in emerging development plans, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.

#### 3.3 Regional Guidance: The London Plan

3.3.1 Additional relevant planning strategy framework is provided by The London Plan, published January 2011. It includes the following policy of relevance to archaeology within central London:

# Historic environments and landscapes POLICY 7.8 HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

#### Strategic

A London's heritage assets and historical environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.

B Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, prtect and, were appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

#### Planning decision

- C Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.
- D Development affecting heritage assets and their setting should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.
- E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological assets or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that assets.

#### LDF preparation

- F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.
- G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organizations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their setting where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

#### 3.4 Local policy: Archaeology in the London Borough of Lambeth

- 3.4.1 The investigation aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Lambeth, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which it is custodian. Relevant policy statements for the protection of the buried archaeological resource within the borough are contained within the Lambeth Local Development Framework Core Strategy, adopted January 2011.
- 3.4.2 No designated heritage assets, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Battlefield or Historic Wreck designations lie within the site or its immediate vicinity. The site lies in an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Lambeth.

### 4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

#### 4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) of England and Wales (Sheet 270, South London), indicates that the site's geological sequence consists of a basal geology of London Clay Formation consisting of clay, silt and sand. The sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 34 to 55 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. These are typically overlain by river terrace deposits and alluvium.

# 4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The topography of the site is relatively flat, at approximately 4m OD. The car park located in the central area of the site is approximately 0.80m below street level.

#### 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The site is located within an area of archaeological priority (APA 2 Lambeth Waterfront) that is thought to contain prehistoric settlement, Roman settlement, medieval riverside village centres and important houses, post-medieval settlement and early industrial development.

#### 5.2 Post-medieval

- 5.2.1 It was not until the late post-medieval period that this part of the Lambeth Waterfront saw intensive development when it became the focus of industrial activity associated with the nearby docks. Most of the archaeological assets identified within the area to date are dated to this period.
- 5.2.2 The site was formerly occupied by a dock, later labelled as Canterbury Dock, which separated the Walkers Parker & Co. Lead Works to the west from Grellier's Stone Warf and Belvedere Stone Warf to the east as shown on Ordnance Survey map 1873-75.
- 5.2.3 The site was in use as a timber yard in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The timber yards gave way to wharves and industrial buildings in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century.

#### 5.3 Modern

5.3.1 During World War II, the area suffered extensive bomb damage. In 1951, the site was cleared for the Festival of Britain. The construction of the present buildings at the site was completed in the 1960s.

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The borehole and test pit locations were laid out by Frugo Engineering Services (FES) in accordance with the requirement specified in the Ground Investigation Specification (Arup, 2013).
- 6.2 The tarmac and/or the concrete surface was removed by jackhammer with underlying modern deposits removed by hand digging by FES.
- 6.3 The ground was tested with a CAT scanner for live services prior to the excavation of the boreholes and test pits. Where live services or obstruction were found the boreholes or test pits were re-located or abandoned.
- 6.4 Live services were found during the excavation of BH05, BH01 and TP02. As a result BH05A, BH01B and TP02B were excavated in an attempt to re-locate these boreholes and test pit.
- 6.5 The boreholes were excavated to depths between 45m and 13m below ground level (BGL) using 250mm metal casing. The test pits (TP) were excavated to a maximum depth of 2.65m BGL.
- 6.6 The sizes of test pits 1 to 4 is as follows:
  - TP01 measured 0.5m by 0.5m at the top and 1.85m deep.
  - TP02B measured 0.5m by 0.6m at the top and 1.40m deep.
  - TP03 measured 0.9m by 0.6m at the top and 1.91m deep.
  - TP04 measured 0.5m by 0.5m at the top and 1.85m deep.
  - A test pit was excavated for the location of BH05A: it measured 0.5m by 0.5m at the top and 1.20m deep.
  - A test pit was excavated for the location of BH01B: it measured 1m by 1m at the top and 2.65m deep.
- 6.7 Boreholes 6, 7, 8 and 9 were abandoned or partially excavated as they were located in areas where the CAT scanner detected very strong electrical signal possibly from live services.
- The recording systems employed was fully compatible with those used elsewhere in London, that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS 1994). Detailed descriptions of all deposits excavated and exposed were recorded on pro-forma recording sheets. The site produced five test pit sections at a scale of 1:10 and five borehole sections at a scale of 1:10. The site produced 23 context records.
- 6.9 Test pits and boreholes were monitored for archaeologically significant deposits and finds throughout excavation by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

#### 7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

#### 7.1 Summary of test pits: TP01, TP02B, TP03, TP04 and test pit for BH05A

- 7.1.1 In the east part of the site, the base of **TP01** revealed a very firm dark to mid grey brownish deposit of silty clay [19] found at 1.67m OD. This deposit was 0.50 thick, did not produce any finds and was interpreted as naturally deposited alluvium. Context [19] was sealed at 2.47m OD by 0.80m thick late post-medieval deposit [18] in turn sealed by modern concrete and tarmac which represents the existing pavement surface recorded at 3.02m OD.
- 7.1.2 At the base of **TP02A**, located in the central area of the site, a 0.20m thick concrete slab [20] was observed at 2.77m OD. It is not clear at this stage due to the small size of TP02A if the concrete slab was *in situ* or was just a large lump of concrete mixed with the modern made ground. Concrete [20] was sealed by modern deposits interpreted as ground consolidation associated with the redevelopment of the site during the construction of the Festival Wing of the Southbank Centre. The modern pavement surface was found at 3.86m OD.
- 7.1.3 The earliest deposit recorded in **TP03** in the west part of the site was firm light yellow brownish sandy silty clay deposit [14] recorded at 2.50m OD. This was a 0.70m thick sterile deposit and was interpreted a naturally deposited alluvium. Deposit [14] was overlain at 3.25m OD by 0.75m thick deposit of dark brown garden soil [13] of post-medieval date in turn sealed by modern made ground including the tarmac for the existing ground surface at 3.70m OD.
- 7.1.4 **TP04** was located near the south west corner of the site. The earliest deposit recorded in this test pit was a 0.45m thick deposit [17] found at 1.53m OD, consisting of firm dark brown silty clay with frequent small fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) and occasional flecks of chalk inclusions. Context [17] was sealed by loose to soft sandy mortar silt [16] with very frequent chalk flecks and occasional ceramic building material (CBM) fragments inclusion. Context [16] was 0.50m thick and was found at 2.03m OD and was in turn sealed by deposit [15] consisting of loose sandy silt with frequent flecks of chalk inclusions. Context [15], found at 2.43m OD, was 0.40m thick and was overlain at 2.93m OD by the concrete and modern tarmac for the existing pavement. Context [16] and [17] were interpreted as post-medieval consolidation/ground raising deposits. Context [15] was interpreted as modern made ground.
- 7.1.5 Test pits for the relocation of BH5 (later recorded as BH05A) and BH01 (later recorded as BH01B see paragraph 7.2.2 below) were positioned in the north part of the site and revealed modern deposits consisting mainly of demolition rubble. In these test pits the modern deposits were excavated to a depth of 2.74m OD and 1.49m OD respectively and in turn were sealed by the existing pavement slabs at 3.94m OD and 5.09m OD respectively.

#### 7.2 Summary of Boreholes: BH01B, BH02A, BH03 and BH04

- 7.2.1 The excavation of the nine proposed boreholes was very problematic as their proposed locations coincided with live service comprising high voltage and fibre optic cables. As a result only BH01B, BH02A, BH03 and BH04 were fully excavated.
- 7.2.2 **BH01B** was located in the north east corner of the site. The earliest deposit archaeologically observed was mid grey natural river terrace gravel [22] found at -0.91m OD. This deposit was overlain by 2.75m thick naturally deposited sandy clay [21] found 1.49m OD which was interpreted as alluvium. Modern consolidation/ground raising deposits and the paving slab for the existing pavement floor sealed the archaeological sequence 5.09m OD.
- 7.2.3 The earliest deposit archaeologically recorded in **BH02A**, which was located in the eastern part of the site within the car park, was dark grey and yellow sandy gravel [7]/ [8] found at -048m OD3.50m. These deposits were interpreted as river terrace gravel and were sealed in turn by firm dark grey sandy silt clay [6] found at 0.82m OD which was interpreted as alluvium. Context [6] was 1.30m thick and was sealed by 1.54m thick modern consolidation/ ground raising deposit in turn sealed by 0.66m modern levelling and tarmac for the existing car park recorded at 3.02m OD.
- 7.2.4 **BH03** was located in the western part of the site. The earliest deposits archaeologically observed in this borehole were yellow to green yellowish sandy gravel deposit [3]/[4]/[5] found between 0.73m OD and -1.27m OD and with an overall thickness of 2m. These deposits were interpreted as river terrace gravels. The upper part of the river terrace gravel represented by context [3] was sealed by firm dark grey sandy silt clay [2] with occasional to moderate ceramic building material (CBM) fragments and occasional small rounded flint pebbles. This deposit, recorded at 1.19m OD, was interpreted as reworked/disturbed alluvium and was dated to the post-medieval period. Context [2] was approximately 0.46m thick and was sealed at 2.01m OD by firm dark grey sandy silt clay sterile deposit [1] which was interpreted as alluvium. Context [1] was overlain by 1.60m of modern consolidation/ground raising deposit. The archaeological sequence was sealed by 0.22m sand and paving slab for the existing pavement recorded at 3.93m OD.
- 7.2.5 **BH04** was located in the western area of the car park and near the south west corner of the site. The earliest deposit observed consisted of dark grey sandy gravel deposit [12] found -1.23m OD. This deposit, interpreted as river terrace gravel, was overlain at -0.53m OD by a 0.70m thick deposit of mid grey sandy clay [11] which was interpreted as a naturally deposited alluvium. Deposit [11] was in turn sealed at 0.37m OD by a firm 0.90m thick sterile deposit of dark grey sandy clay [10] which similarly to [11] was interpreted as alluvium. The alluvium was overlain at 1.87m OD by deposit [9] consisting of dark brown silt clay with moderate chalk, oyster shells and charcoal flecks and occasional ceramic building material (CBM) fragments and clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem inclusions. This deposit was interpreted as post-medieval consolidation/ground raising.

The archaeological sequence was sealed by 1.20m of modern make up and the tarmac for the existing car park recorded at 3.07m OD.

7.2.6 Boreholes 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were abandoned as they were located in areas were the CAT scanner detected very strong electrical signal probably associated with live services approximately 0.5m BGL.

#### 8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The earliest natural deposits archaeologically observed during the watching brief were identified in BH01B, BH02A, BH03 and BH04, where dark grey to yellowish grey sandy gravel was identified. This deposit was interpreted as part of the river terrace gravel. The top of the river terrace gravel was recorded at -0.91m OD in BH01B, located approximately 20m to the south east of the existing river wall, and between -0.48m OD and -1.23m OD in BH02A and BH04 respectively, which were positioned furthest south west of the River Thames.
- A number of homogeneous and well sorted deposits were recorded in TP01 and TP03 and in BH01B, BH02B, BH03 and BH04 overlying the river terrace gravel. These deposits consisted of dark grey sandy silt clay and were interpreted as alluvium. All alluvial deposits were sterile with the exception of context [2], where occasional fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) were observed. However, the interpretation of deposit [2] is not certain as this context may have been contaminated by the overlying later deposits during the excavation of the BH03. The alluvium was observed at 1.49m OD to the north in BH01B and between 0.37m OD and 2.50m OD in BH04 and TP03 respectively, both located in the central part of the site.
- 8.3 Deposits dating to the post-medieval period were observed in all test pits. These deposits, interpreted as consolidation ground rising, were found between 2.77m OD and 2.47m OD in TP02B and TP01 respectively.
- 8.4 Modern ground rising consisting of at least 3m thick mixed silt and demolition rubble was observed during the excavation of the test pit for the re-location of BH 1. The demolition rubble may have been associated with the ground rising/consolidation activity for the redevelopment of this part of the site after World War II as shown on Ordnance Survey map of 1952-53.
- 8.5 Modern deposits observed in all boreholes and test pits are likely to be associated with site clearance for the Festival of Britain in 1951 as the site suffered extensive damage to the industrial building which occupied the site during World War II.
- The area within the footprint of the car park located in the central part of the site appeared to have suffered the greatest impact by modern intrusions as this part of the site lay approximately 0.80m below street level. Presumably the redevelopment of the site in the 1960s entailed extensive landscaping and truncation of earlier post-medieval structures. No archaeological structures were encountered during the geotechnical investigations and no archaeological deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were recorded.

### 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### 9.1 Printed Sources

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1993. Standards in Archaeological Practice.

Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, 2009 Archaeological Guidance Papers 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London.

ARUP 2013, The Festival Wing: Ground Investigation Specification; Report Reference SPEC/227187/70

## 9.2 Cartographic Sources

OS map 1873-75

OS map 1952-53

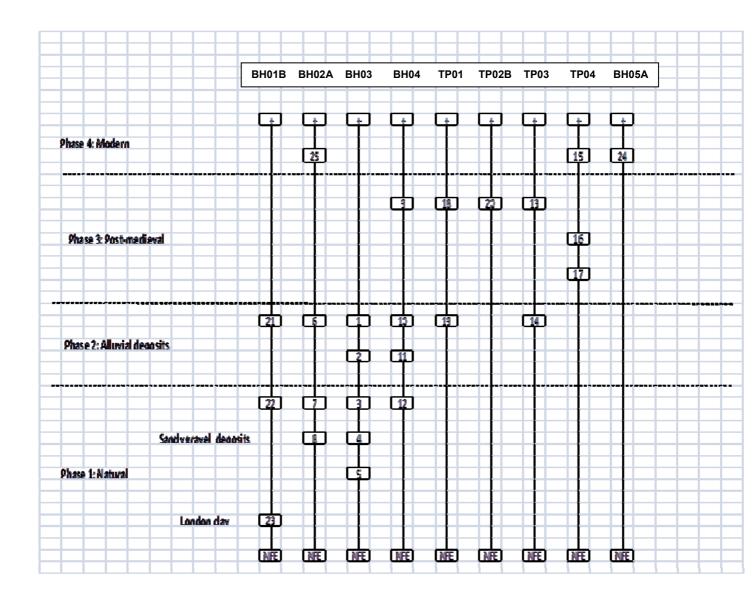
### 10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Fugro Engineering Services (FES) for commissioning the work. The author would like to thanks Jon Finnigan from FES for his help and support on site.
- The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for his project management and for the editing of this report, and Josephine Brown for the illustrations.

# **APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX**

Context N	oBorehole	Test Pit No	Phase	Section	Туре	Description	Highest Level
1	BH03		2	1	Deposit	Alluvium	2.01m OD
2	BH03		2	1	Deposit	Re-worked alluvium. Post-med	1.19m OD
3	BH03		1	1	Deposit	Green yelloish sandy gravel	0.73m OD
4	BH03		1	1	Deposit	Dark grey sandy gravel	0.33m OD
5	BH03		1	1	Deposit	Yellow sandy gravel	-1.07m OD
6	BH02A		2	2	Deposit	Alluvium	0.82m OD
7	BH02A		1	2	Deposit	Dark grey sandy gravel	-0.48m OD
8	BH02A		1	2	Deposit	Yellow sandy gravel	-2.48m OD
9	BH04		3	4	Deposit	Post-medieval make up	1.87m OD
10	BH04		2	4	Deposit	Alluvium	0.37m OD
11	BH04		2	4	Deposit	Natural sandy clay	-0.53m OD
12	BH04		1	4	Deposit	Sandy gravel	-1.23m OD
13		TP03	4	5	Deposit	Modern made ground	3.25m OD
14		TP03	2	5	Deposit	Natural brickearth	2.50m OD
15		TP04	4	6	Deposit	Modern made ground	2.43m OD
16		TP04	3	6	Deposit	Post-medieval make up	2.03m OD
17		TP04	3	6	Deposit	Post-medieval make up	1.53m OD
18		TP01	3	7	Deposit	Post-medieval make up	2.47m OD
19		TP01	2	7	Deposit	Alluvium	1.67m OD
20		TP02B	3	8	Masonry	Early concrete (Late 19th early 20th c.2)77m OD	
21	BH01B		2	9	Deposit	Alluvium	1.49m OD
22	BH01B		1	9	Deposit	Sandy gravel	-0.91m OD
23	BH01B		1	9	Deposit	London clay	-5.41m OD
24		BH05A	4	10	Deposit	Modern made ground	3.69m OD
25	BH01B		4	9	Deposit	Modern made ground	4.84m OD

### **APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX**



#### **APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM**

**Project details** 

SOUTHBANK CENTRE, BELVEDERE ROAD, LONDON SE1 8XX Project name

of the project

Short description An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1

8XX in the London Borough of Lambeth. The watching brief was

commissioned by Fugro Engineering Services and took place between 7th August and 16th October 2013. The work recorded terrace gravels sealed by alluvium and post-medieval and modern made ground. No archaeological structures were encountered during the geotechnical investigations and no archaeological deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were recorded.

Start: 07-08-2013 End: 16-10-2013 Project dates

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Type of project Recording project

Site status (other)

Archaeological Priority Area

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON LAMBETH LAMBETH The Festival Wing, Southbank

Centre

Postcode SE18XX

Study area 8970.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3086 8034 51 0 51 30 22 N 000 06 51 W Point

Height OD / Depth

Min: -1.23m Max: -0.48m

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Project brief originator

**ARUP** 

Project design originator

**ARUP** 

Project Tim Bradley director/manager

Project supervisor

Ireneo Grosso

Type of

sponsor/funding

Geotechnical Contractor

body

Name of sponsor/funding body

Fugro Engineering Services

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive

recipient

LAARC

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

LAARC

Paper Contents

"Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available

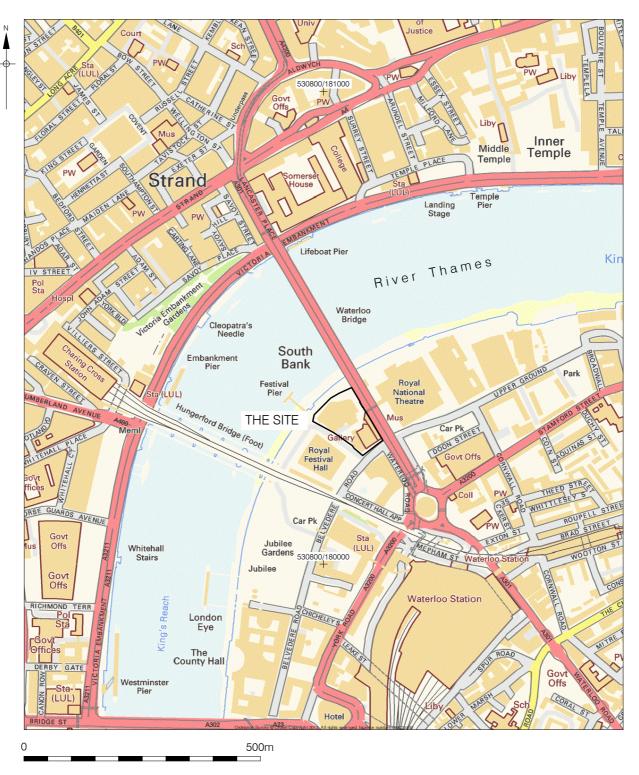
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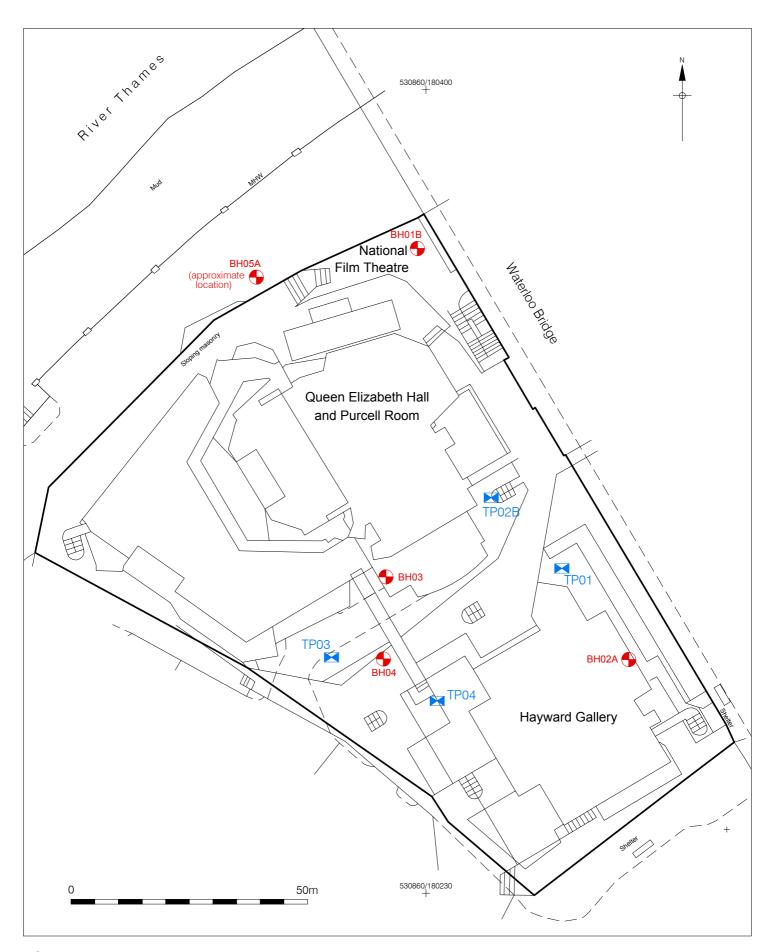
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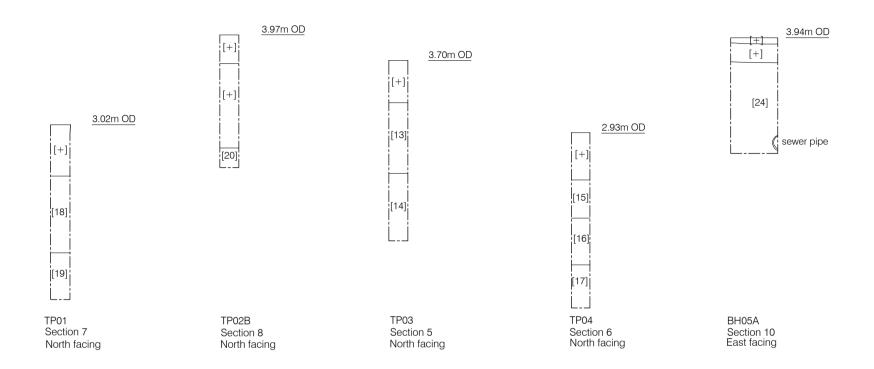
15 January 2014



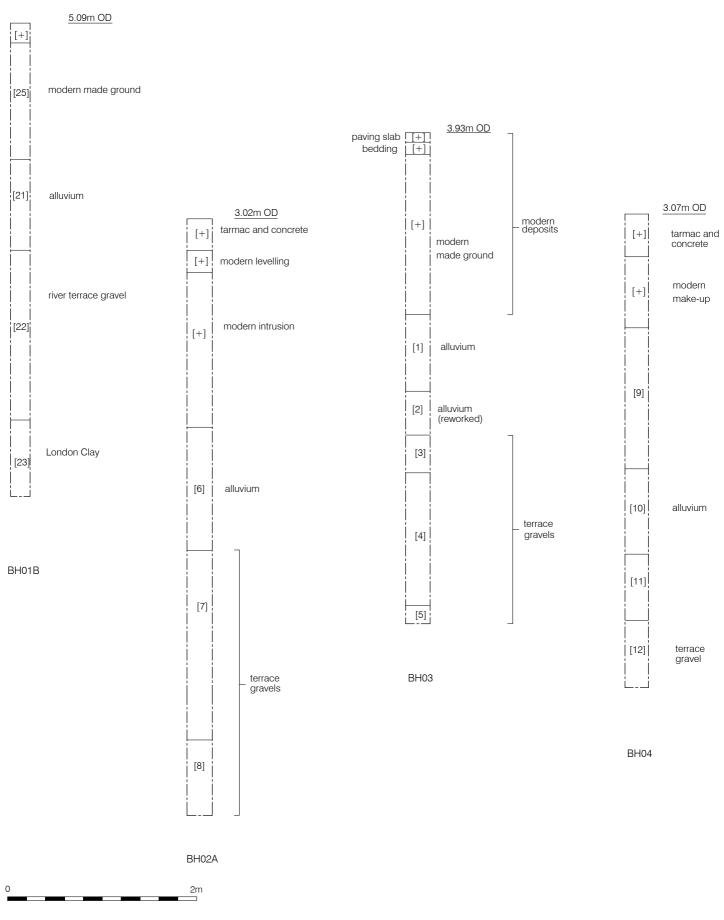
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