

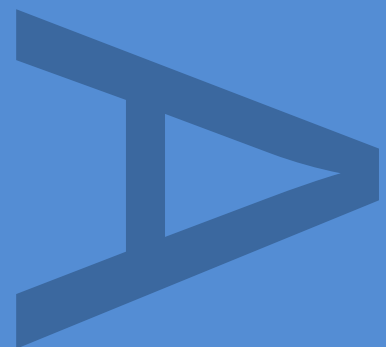
**LAND TO THE REAR OF 59  
CAMBERWELL GROVE, SE5 8JA  
LONDON BOROUGH OF  
SOUTHWARK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**PCA REPORT NO: R11613**

**SITE CODE: CMW13**

**JANUARY 2014**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

59 CAMBERWELL GROVE, SE5 8JA  
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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**LAND TO THE REAR OF 59 CAMBERWELL GROVE, SE5 8JA**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Museum of London Site Code:** CMW13

**Local Planning Authority:** London Borough of Southwark

**Planning Application Number:** 13-AP-0565

**Central NGR:** TQ 32961 76495

**Commissioning Client:** Mr Simon McCausland

**Written and Researched by:** Clare Jackson  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, January 2014

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**January 2014**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of a watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. during development works on land to the rear of 59 Camberwell Grove, London Borough of Southwark, SE5 8JA.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and was designed to observe and record the ground excavation for a single storey extension with an extended lightwell and new steps to the rear garden beyond (Figure 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Simon McCausland.
- 1.3 The investigation revealed that below the existing garden topsoil and paving slabs there were two pits containing late post medieval demolition material. These cut through a post medieval horticultural soil, which in turn directly sealed natural deposits. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) during works necessitated by the development of land to the rear of 59 Camberwell Grove, SE5 8JA.
- 2.2 The site is located within the London Borough of Southwark, and centred at National Grid Reference TQ 32961 76495. The site occupies a plot of land bordered by 59 Camberwell Grove to the west, the gardens of 61 and 57 Camberwell Grove to the north and south and the churchyard of St Giles Camberwell to the east.
- 2.3 PCA was commissioned for the watching brief by Mr Simon McCausland in order to fulfil archaeological Planning Conditions 3 and 4 attached to the full planning permission for development. The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the Southwark Unitary Development Plan. The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 2.4 The area under observation was located in the garden to the rear of the property and the works comprised of ground excavation for the construction of a single storey extension at lower ground level with an extended lightwell and new steps to the rear garden.
- 2.5 The project was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2013).
- 2.6 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 CMW13.
- 2.7 The watching brief was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
- 2.8 The project was monitored by Dr Christopher Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer at the London Borough of Southwark and project-managed for PCA by Tim Bradley. The watching brief was supervised by Richard Humphrey.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

- 3.1.1 In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), replacing Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) 'Planning for the Historic Environment' which itself replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning'. It provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of heritage assets.
- 3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance the NPPF, by current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

#### **3.2 Regional Guidance: The London Plan**

- 3.2.1 The over-arching strategies and policies for the whole of the Greater London area are contained within the Greater London Authority's London Plan (July 2011) which includes the following statement relating to archaeology.

##### Policy 7.8: Heritage assets and archaeology

###### Strategic

A London's heritage assets and historic 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 of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.

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

###### Planning decisions

C Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.

D Development affecting heritage assets and their settings 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 asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.

###### 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 organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

### **3.3 Local Guidance: London Borough of Southwark**

3.3.1 The watching brief was conducted in accordance with the following conditions attached to the planning consent:

3.3.2 Condition 3 – Before any work hereby authorised begins, the applicant shall submit a written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological recording, which shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and implemented and shall not be carried out other than in accordance with any such approval given.

*Reason – In order that the details of the programme of archaeological observation and recording works are suitable with regard to the impacts of the proposed development and the nature and extent of archaeological remains on site in accordance with Chapter 12, paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, policy 12 of the Core Strategy 2011 and saved policy 3.19 of the Southwark Plan 2007.*

Condition 4 – Within six months of the completion of the archaeological site works, an assessment report detailing the proposals for post-excavation works, publication of the site and preparation of the archive shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and that the works detailed in this assessment report shall not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with any such approval give.

*Reason – In order that the archaeological interests of the site are secured with regard to the details of the post-excavation works publication and archiving to ensure the preservation of archaeological remains by record in accordance with Chapter 12, paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, policy 12 of the Core Strategy 2011 and saved policy 3.19 of the Southwark Plan 2007.*

3.3.3 The area of the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Southwark's UDP.



## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

- 4.1.1 Relevant to the site is an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Barrowman 2013) prepared for a development at 73 Camberwell Grove. The following is summarised from that document.
- 4.1.2 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (British Geological Survey 1998) shows that the site lies over an undivided clay and silt London Clay Formation deposit and a deposit of Taplow Gravels.

### **4.2 Topography**

- 4.2.1 The site occupies a plot of land bordered by 59 Camberwell Grove to the west, the gardens of 61 and 57 Camberwell Grove to the north and south and the churchyard of St Giles Camberwell to the east. The site was locally relatively flat, although positioned on a wider general rise from north to south along Camberwell Grove.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 Relevant to the site is an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Barrowman 2013) prepared for a nearby site at 73 Camberwell Grove, from which the following is drawn.
- 5.2 The GLHER indicates that a single Palaeolithic flint implement found in the vicinity of King's College Hospital is the only evidence from any prehistoric period to have been found in the area.
- 5.3 Roman evidence within the area is minimal, with just two sites recording any material or features of this date. At Grove Park, some 650m south-east of the site, there is some evidence that Roman coins have been recovered in and around a well situated at the site. A second site at Camberwell Green, around 550m north-west of site, revealed a number of cut features of Roman date, which were subsequently sealed by a cultivation soil also believed to be Roman in date.
- 5.4 There is no archaeological evidence of early medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. Despite a settlement having been established during this period, it is referred to as being further to the west at Camberwell Green.
- 5.5 In the medieval period the village of Camberwell is known to have been of a reasonable size, large enough to have its own church. Two manors were present within the vicinity of the site and several major roads passed through. However, there is a limited amount of archaeological evidence recovered from the area. Two pieces of medieval architectural fragments were recovered from archaeological test pitting at Camberwell Green, however there was no evidence of the structures from which they came. It is probable they are from a high status building that preceded a later mansion which was believed to have stood in the area. There is also archaeological evidence of the surrounding agricultural and horticultural landscape; a medieval horticultural soil containing medieval pottery and a 13<sup>th</sup> century coin was recorded at the site of the former Mary Datechlor School, around 270m north-west of the study site.

5.6 The post medieval period was associated with the steady growth of Camberwell, expanding from a discrete village to a thriving suburb of London. Archaeological investigations in the area have recorded activity associated with this growth; evidence of basements and brick foundations were recorded at the site of the former Mary Datechlor School and at Wren road along with gravel extraction pits and quarries. Garden soils dated to the post medieval period were recovered at the site of the former Odeon Cinema on Denmark Hill and at Kimpton Road, along with several rubbish pits. The rural landscape of agriculture, horticulture and arable farming that surrounded the village of Camberwell continued from the medieval period well into the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, as the population and number of properties increased, land use changed from large open fields to smaller market gardens. Based on the map regression evidence the site lay within fields until development first occurred on the plot of land in which the site is situated in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The area of the proposed extension has been in use as a garden since this time.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 In accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2013), the area of proposed groundworks was excavated by the contractors under archaeological supervision. The proposed groundworks subject to archaeological monitoring comprised of two phases:
- Excavation of a linear trench 1.35m wide and 7m in length down the centre of the proposed extension area. This trench was subsequently shored after being recorded.
  - Excavation of the remaining areas within the proposed extension area on either side of the linear trench from Phase 1. The total area excavated was 3.50m in width and 7m in length.
- 6.2 The area was opened by hand, under archaeological supervision. Excavation was undertaken in spits until the natural gravels were reached.
- 6.3 The trenches and exposed sections were, if necessary, cleaned by hand, recorded and photographed. Recording of the deposits was accomplished using the Single Context Recording Method on proforma context and planning sheets, as presented in PCAs Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009). Contexts were numbered and are shown in this report within squared brackets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 6.4 The OD heights of all principle strata were calculated from Ordnance Survey data indicating ground level heights across the site was 8.05m OD.
- 6.5 The archaeological interventions were located by means of measured survey.
- 6.6 The completed archive, comprising all written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre under the unique Site Code CMW13.

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE (FIGURE 3 AND PLATES)**

### **7.1 Phase 1: Natural Gravel and Sand**

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on site was mid orange brown natural sandy gravel [1]. The deposit was archaeologically sterile and was observed at a depth of 6.42m OD.
- 7.1.2 Sealing [1] was a layer of clean mid orange brown sand [8]. This deposit extended across the whole area of excavation, 3.50m wide and 7m in length. The layer was 0.20m in depth and was observed at a depth of 6.62m OD.

### **7.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval Deposits**

- 7.2.1 Overlying deposit [8] was a moderately compacted, mid brown layer of silty sand [2]. This had inclusions of small stones, CBM flecks and charcoal. It was c.0.80m thick from an upper level of approximately 7.42m OD and extended across the excavation area (3.5m wide and 7m in length). The deposit was considered to be a horticultural horizon related to the fields that occupied the site before the current property and garden was developed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.2.2 Deposit [2] was cut by two pits [3] [5], both containing crushed late post-medieval demolition material [4] [6] and were interpreted as being associated with minor works undertaken in connection with the current property. Pit [3] measured 0.80m in diameter with a depth of 0.50m; pit [5] measured 1m in diameter and was 0.60m in depth. Both pits were observed at a height of 7.42m OD.
- 7.2.3 Sealing [3] and [5] was a layer of mid orange brown silty sand [7]. This layer extended across the whole site and was considered to be a garden soil associated with 59 Camberwell Grove. The deposit extended to a depth of 0.35m and was observed at a height of 7.77m OD.
- 7.2.4 A modern slab and a bedding layer of sand [+] sealed [7] across the entire area, with a depth of 0.13m. The top ground level of the site was 8.05m OD.

Plate 1: West Facing Shot of Phase 1 Trench Sowing Natural Gravel



Plate 2: North Facing Shot of Sequence Including Pits [3] & [5]



Plate 3: West Facing Shot of Entire Area During Phase 1 Excavation



Plate 4: West Facing Shot of Installation of Shoring During Phase 2 Excavation (Natural Gravel Exposed Across Base of Trench)



## **8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 Natural deposits recorded during the watching brief were sand and sandy gravels recorded at approximate height of 6.62m OD and 6.42m OD respectively. They were overlain by a thick, silty sand deposit of horticultural soil. Two rubbish pits cut through this deposit at a height of 7.42m OD. Both pits contained a crushed demolition material, likely to have derived from minor works on the property of 59 Camberwell Grove. These were sealed in turn by a garden soil and a modern slab with a layer of bedding sand.
- 8.2 No archaeological features beyond the two late post-medieval pits were identified during the watching brief and no finds were observed.
- 8.3 Given the consistent thickness of the horticultural soil horizon across the site and the fact that it directly overlay the natural deposits, it is possible that some degree of horizontal truncation had taken place during previous cultivation practices, in particular ploughing, during the post-medieval period. This may have impacted upon or removed earlier archaeological horizons which may have been present across the site.
- 8.4 PCA considers that the watching brief methodology employed at the site has been an effective and successful strategy to mitigate the impact of the proposed development. It has suggested possible truncation from previous ploughing, although the presence of sterile natural gravel combined with a lack of archaeological finds suggests that the site may have been devoid earlier activity.
- 8.5 PCA does not recommend any further fieldwork or post-excavation work for this project. It is recommended that the results will be published within the annual Fieldwork Round-Up of the London Archaeologist, and the entire site archive will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre under site code CMW13.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Simon McCausland for commissioning the work. We also thank Dr Christopher Constable of Southwark Council for monitoring the work.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for project management and editing, and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations.

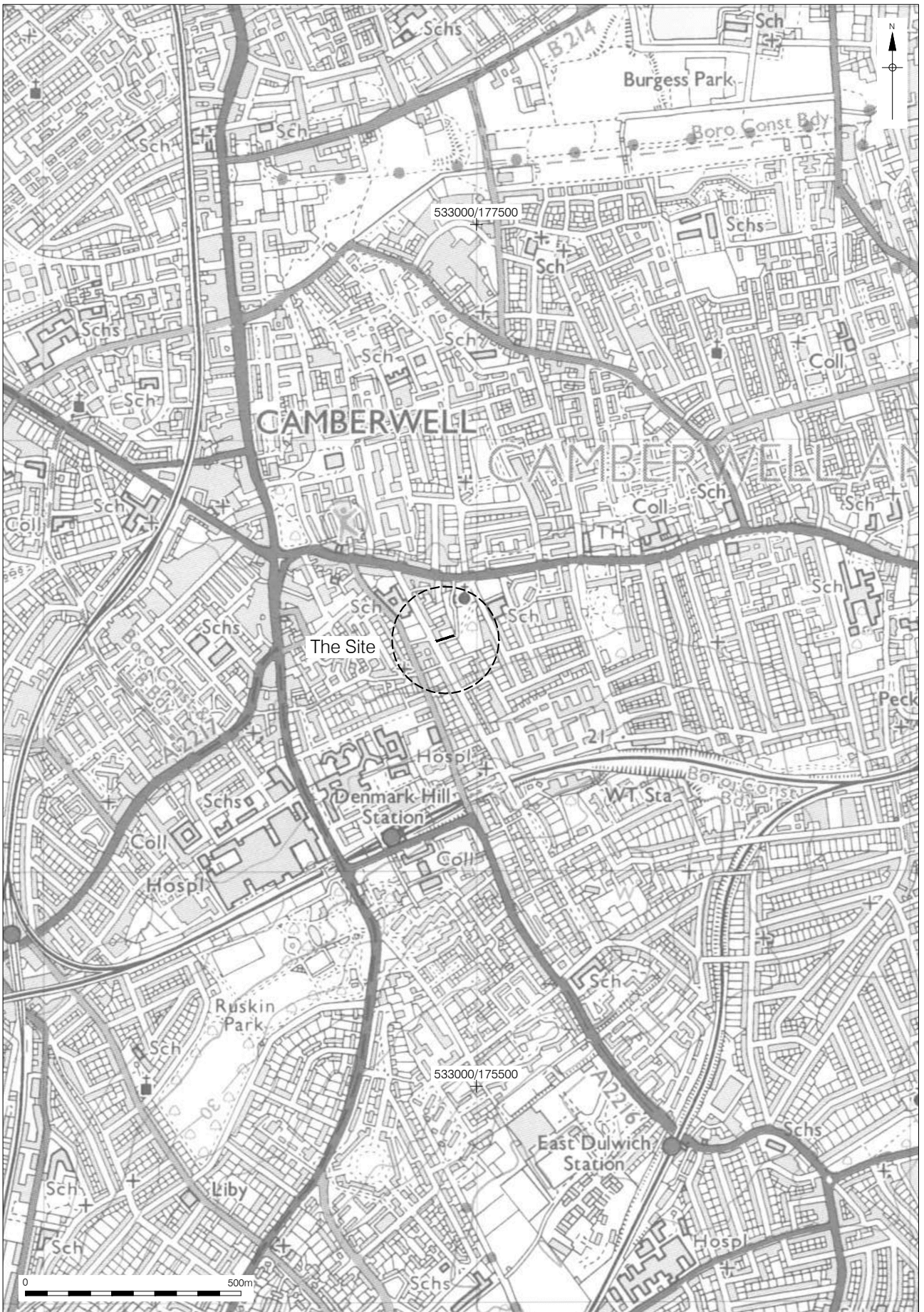
## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Barrowman, S. 2013. '73 Camberwell Grove, Camberwell, SE5 8JE: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment.', unpublished report.

Bradley, T. 2013. 'Land at 59 Camberwell Grove, SE5 8JA, London Borough of Southwark: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief.' Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, unpublished report.

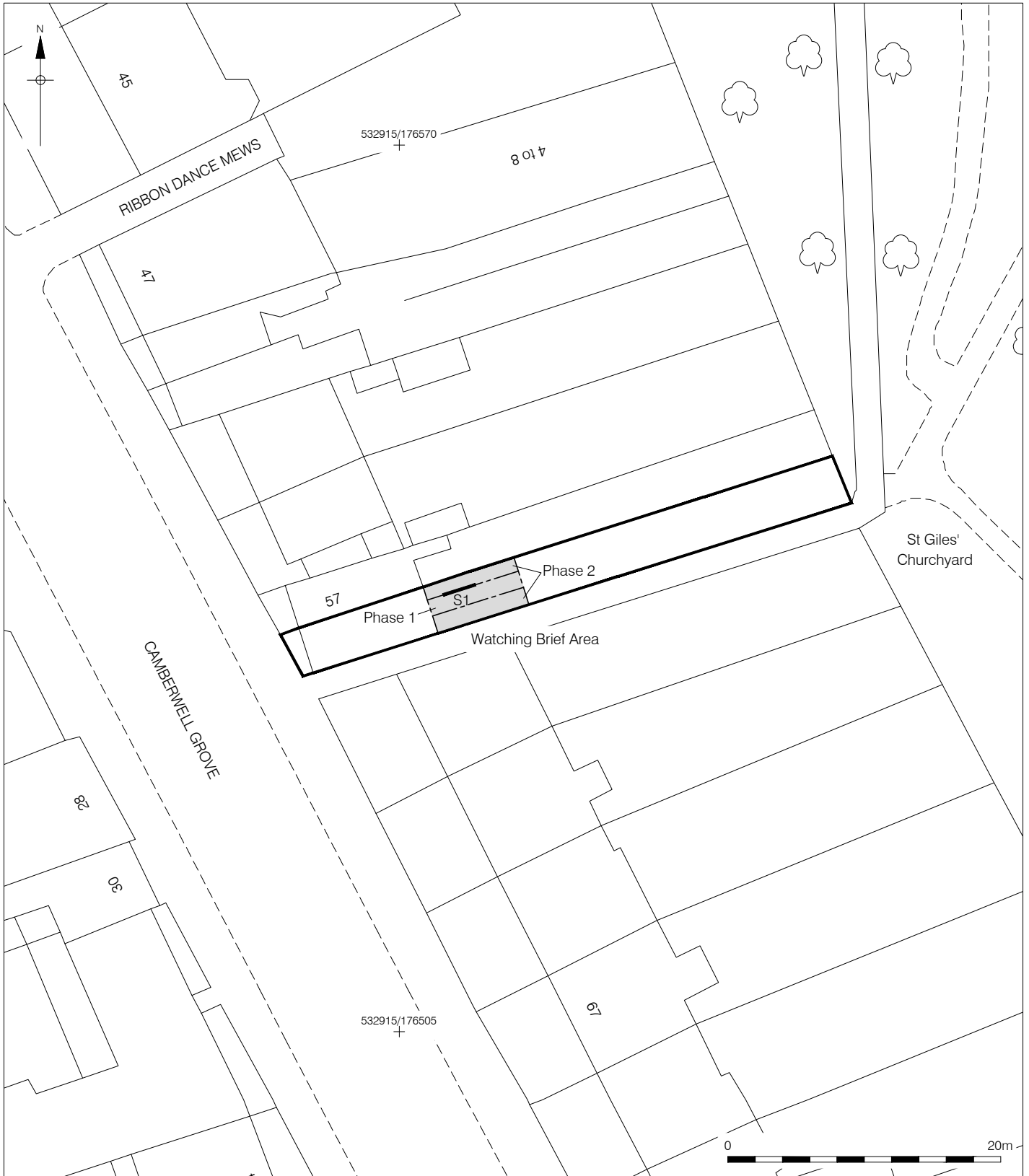
Taylor, J. with Brown, G. 2009. *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited





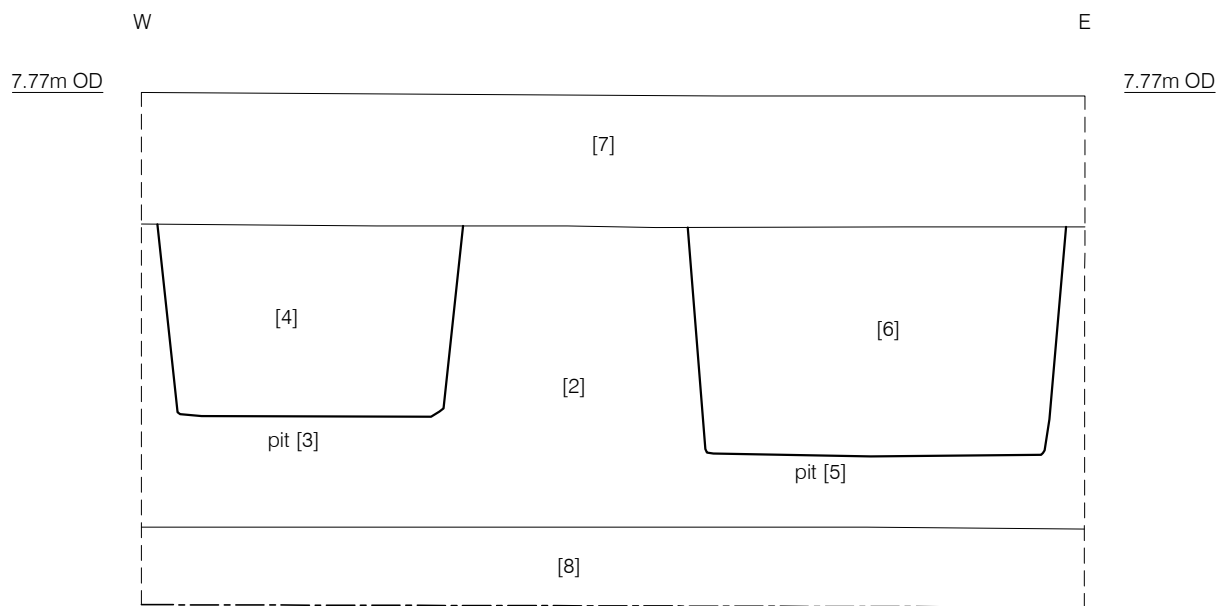
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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:12,500 at A4



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 27/01/14 JS

Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:400 at A4



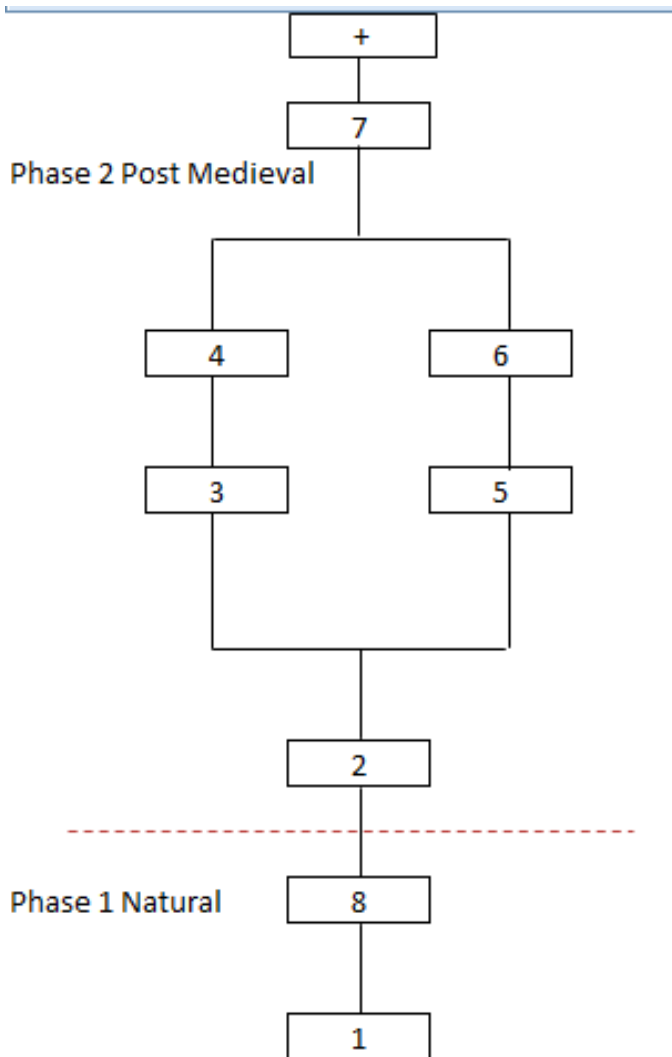
Section 1  
 Stage 1  
 South Facing



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 27/01/14 JS

Figure 3  
 Section  
 1:20 at A4

## APPENDIX 1: PHASED MATRIX



## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Section	Type	Description	Date	Phase
1		Layer	Natural	Natural	1
				1540-1900	
2	1	Layer	Horticultural	AD	2
3	1	Cut	Pit	C19/20	2
4	1	Fill	Pit	C19/20	2
5	1	Cut	Pit	C19/20	2
6	1	Fill	Pit	C19/20	2
7	1	Layer	Garden soil	C19/20	2
8	1	Layer	Natural	Natural	1

## APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project details

Project name	59 Camberwell Grove
Short description of the project	A watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. during development works on land to the rear of 59 Camberwell Grove, London Borough of Southwark, SE5 8JA The Watching Brief was carried out on 15th November 2013 and was designed to observe and record the ground excavation for a single storey extension with an extended lightwell and new steps to the rear garden beyond. The investigation revealed that below the existing garden topsoil there were two pits containing late post-medieval demolition material which cut through a post-medieval horticultural soil, which in turn directly sealed natural deposits. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.
Project dates	Start: 15-11-2013 End: 15-11-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CMW13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Site status (other)	Archaeological Priority Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK CAMBERWELL AND DULWICH 59 Camberwell Grove
Postcode	SE5 8JA
Study area	24.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 32961 76495 51 0 51 28 16 N 000 05 07 W Point

Lat/Long Datum      Unknown

Height OD / Depth      Min: 7.42m Max: 7.62m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation      PCA

Project brief originator      Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project design originator      Tim Bradley

Project director/manager      Tim Bradley

Project supervisor      Richard Humphrey

Type of sponsor/funding body      Private Client

Name of sponsor/funding body      Simon McCausland

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Physical Archive recipient      None

Digital Archive recipient      LAARC

Digital Contents      "none"

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

Paper Archive recipient      LAARC

Paper Contents      "none"

Paper Media available      "Context sheet","Section","Unpublished Text"

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at 59 Camberwell Grove SE5 8JA: A watching brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jackson, C
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 spiral bound

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Entered on	27 January 2014



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