

**LAND AT 2-6 WILD'S RENTS,**

**SE1 3QG**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**WATCHING BRIEF**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF**

**SOUTHWARK**

**REPORT NO: R11687**

**APRIL 2014**



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**LAND AT 2-6 WILD'S RENTS, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, SE1 3QG**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Museum of London Site Code:** WDS 14

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

**Planning Application Number:**

**Central NGR:** TQ 3304 7942

**Commissioning Client:** Steven Finley, Finley Harrison Ltd

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**April 2014**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. during works on land at 2-6 Wild's Rents, London Borough of Southwark, SE1 4QG.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out intermittently between 28<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and consisted of the archaeological monitoring of underpinning works, a lift shaft and new foundations relating to a redevelopment of the site for two new dwellings. The work was commissioned by Steven Finley of Finley Harrison Ltd.
- 1.3 The watching brief encountered natural deposits consistent with the known underlying geology as described by the British Geological Survey, the Kempton Park Gravel Terrace along with alluvial deposits associated with the River Neckinger. Cutting the natural in one trench was the remains of a single probable pit of uncertain date which contained a single sherd of residual Roman samian pottery. A sequence of late post-medieval ploughsoil sealed by 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground sealed the alluvium in some of the trenches. Modern concrete sealed all deposits of the trenches which represented the current ground level.
- 1.4 The watching brief has illustrated that in the location of the basement the vast majority of any potentially underlying archaeological deposits or features have been severely truncated; modern concrete directly seals the natural stratigraphy. The presence of a possible pit however does suggest that deeper cut archaeological features may still survive. The watching brief trenches outside the basement recorded a more extensive depositional sequence from the undated alluvium to the later post-medieval and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) during works necessitated by the redevelopment of land at 2-6 Wild's Rents, London Borough of Southwark, SE1 4QG.
- 2.2 The site is located within the London Borough of Southwark, and centred at National Grid Reference TQ 3304 7942. The site occupies a plot of land bordered to the south by Elim Street, to the east by Wild's Rents, to the north by Graduate Place and 210-216 Long Lane and to the west by 208 Long Lane and the Elim Estate.
- 2.3 PCA was commissioned for the watching brief by someone of Finley Harrison Ltd in order to fulfil archaeological Planning Conditions 3 and 4 attached to the full planning permission for development. The site is located within an Archaeology Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Southwark. The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 2.4 The watching brief consisted of ten trenches relating to underpinning works, a lift shaft and new foundations relating to the redevelopment of the site to form two new dwellings.
- 2.5 The project was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 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 WDS 14.
- 2.7 The watching brief was conducted between 28<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- 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 Helen Hawkins. The watching brief was undertaken by Maria Buczak, Matt Edmonds, Ian Cipin and Alexis Haslam.

### **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 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is the London Borough of Southwark whose Southwark Plan (2007) is gradually being replaced with new LDF policies, the first part; the Core Strategy having been adopted on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Meanwhile, the majority of policies of the Southwark Plan have been saved pending the full introduction of the LDF, including most of those relating to the historic environment:

#### Policy 3.15 – Conservation of the Historic Environment

Development should preserve or enhance the special interest or historic character or appearance of buildings or areas of historical or architectural significance. Planning proposals that have an adverse effect on the historic environment will not be permitted.

The character and appearance of Conservation Areas should be recognised and respected in any new development within these areas. Article 4 directions may be imposed to limit permitted development rights, particularly in residential areas.

In this policy the term historic environment includes Conservation Areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected London Squares, historic parks and gardens and trees that are protected by Tree Preservation Orders, trees that contribute to the character or appearance of a Conservation Area and ancient hedgerows.

#### **Reasons**

The council recognises the importance of Southwark's built heritage as a community asset and will seek the adequate safeguarding of this asset. Southwark has around 2500 listed buildings, 38 Conservation Areas, seven scheduled monuments and a rich archaeological heritage. These historic features define the local environment, providing a sense of place and enriching the townscape.

PPS 1 states that control of external appearances is important in Conservation Areas and areas where the quality of the environment is particularly high.

PPG 15 requires local authorities to include policies for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment.

#### **Policy 3.19 – Archaeology**



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

### **Reasons**

Southwark has an immensely important archaeological resource. Increasing evidence of those peoples living in Southwark before the Roman and medieval period is being found in the north of the borough and along the Old Kent Road. The suburb of the Roman provincial capital (Londinium) was located around the southern bridgehead of the only river crossing over the Thames at the time and remains of Roman buildings, industry, roads and cemeteries have been discovered over the last 30 years. The importance of the area during the medieval period is equally well attested both archaeologically and historically. Elsewhere in Southwark, the routes of Roman roads (along the Old Kent Road and Kennington Road) and the historic village cores of Peckham, Camberwell, Walworth and Dulwich also have the potential for the survival of archaeological remains.

PPG16 requires the Council to include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings.

[NB All PPG and PPS Policies have now been replaced with the NPPF]

### **3.4 The relevant section of the Core Strategy is as follows:**

## **Strategic Policy 12 – Design and conservation**

Our approach is:

Development will achieve the highest possible standards of design for buildings and public spaces to help create attractive and distinctive places which are safe, easy to get around and a pleasure to be in.

We will do this by

1. Expecting development to conserve or enhance the significance of Southwark's heritage assets, their settings and wider historic environment, including conservation areas, archaeological priority zones and sites, listed and locally listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, world heritage sites and scheduled monuments.
2. Carefully managing the design of development in the Thames Policy Area so that it is sensitive to the many special qualities of the River.
3. Making sure that the height and design of development conserves and enhances strategic views and is appropriate to its context, the historic environment and important local views.
4. Requiring tall buildings to have an exemplary standard of design and make a positive contribution to regenerating areas and creating unique places. Locations where tall buildings could go are in London Bridge, the northern end of Blackfriars Road, Elephant and Castle and action area cores. These are shown on the Key diagram.
5. Continuing to use the Southwark Design Review Panel to assess the design quality of development proposals.
6. Requiring Design and Access Statements with applications and encouraging Building for Life Assessments and heritage impact assessments.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

- 4.1.1 According to the British Archaeological Survey (BGS) of England and Wales (Sheet 270, South London), the site lies on the boundary of two separate phases of geological activity on the north-western edge of the Bermondsey eyot. Underlying Long Lane and the area to the north of the study site are deposits of Holocene alluvium which were formed by the River Thames and the River Neckinger (an associated braided channel) during episodic periods of transgression and regression. These episodes produced complexes of alluvial clays and silts which are interspersed with horizons of localised peat (Allen et al, 2005, p74).
- 4.1.2 The alluvium seals the Kempton Park River Terrace Gravels, which were formed during the Devensian period and are identified on the BGS immediately to the south of the site as part of the Bermondsey eyot. In the immediate vicinity of the study site, excavations at 211 Long Lane identified the gravel at a highest level of 1.10m OD on the northern side of Long Lane. This gravel sloped sharply down towards the north and onto the Neckinger floodplain, extending to a low of -0.33m OD (McKinley, 2006, p87). Eocene London Clay underlies the River Terrace Gravels.
- 4.1.3 Previous excavations have established that the palaeo-topography of the Southwark and Bermondsey area comprised sand and gravel islands eroded and dissected by braided channels and tributaries of the Thames. These watercourses produced a landscape of low lying islands or eyots which were also separated by mudflats and marshes. The archaeological evidence at 211 Long Lane suggests that the site lies on the north-western edge of the Bermondsey eyot which was separated from the northern Horsleydown eyot by the River Neckinger (Allen et al 2005, 73-74).

### **4.2 Topography**

- 4.2.1 The site lies approximately 800m to the south of the River Thames. The ground height at the site is approximately 3.2m OD.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 A site specific archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Haslam 2009) was prepared for the site from which the following is summarised. This also included a review of archaeological findspots within a 200m radius held on the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) along with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the site.

### **5.2 Prehistoric**

- 5.2.1 The basic palaeo-topography of Southwark and Bermondsey area consists of sand and gravel islands eroded and dissected by braided channels and tributaries of the Thames producing a landscape of low-lying islands or eyots separated by mudflats, marshes and tidal watercourses. Due to the low-lying nature of the area, Southwark has been affected by generally rising sea levels since the last glaciations and this constantly changing landscape has had a direct impact on settlement patterns in the area.
- 5.2.2 There is some evidence for prehistoric activity on the gravel islands within Southwark and both pottery

and worked flints found in north Southwark suggest that this area was frequented from the Mesolithic period onwards. Evidence suggests that the islands were exploited for their resources rather than permanently settled during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Isolated finds have been recovered, however, largely on the edge of eyots such as at Butler's Wharf, Three Oak Lane and Marlborough Grove.

- 5.2.3 More permanent settlement in Southwark occurred from the late Neolithic onwards, as evidence from Borough High Street and Union Street dating from this period and also from the subsequent Bronze Age suggest that agricultural activity occurred along the Thames shoreline and islands. Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age pits and ditches have been found to the south of the study site on the Bermondsey eyot, along with sporadic finds of flint and pottery. There is little evidence for Iron Age activity in the north of Southwark, however, apart from a small number of Iron Age burials. This lack of archaeological evidence is likely to relate to the rise in sea level that affected the area throughout the Iron Age and early Roman period.
- 5.2.4 At 211 Long Lane a heavily truncated pit containing a single sherd of Iron Age pottery with a sandy fabric and a sheep/goat bone was recorded. A few residual fragments of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery were recovered from sandy foreshore and flood plain deposits.

### **5.3 Romano-British**

- 5.3.1 The Roman presence in Southwark is well documented and numerous excavations have revealed an extensive settlement on the southern side of the Thames. The main settlement area was focused in the northern Southwark area, stretching at least as far as Tabard Square where 2nd century Roman clay and timber buildings were found, later replaced by a large religious complex.
- 5.3.2 The settlements in Roman Southwark and Londinium (located in the modern day City of London) were connected via a bridge thought to have been situated just east of the current London Bridge. The Roman road (known as Stane Street) ran from London Bridge southwards, approximately along the alignment of Borough High Street before dividing in two around the St George's Church area. Stane Street continued southwards to link with the Roman town at Chichester whilst another major Roman road, Watling Street ran from London to Dover.
- 5.3.3 In the early Romano-British period the site lay on the south bank of the Neckinger River. Throughout this period the river became progressively choked with sediment and occupation debris as the off-island area was subject to frequent flooding.
- 5.3.4 During the early Roman period efforts were made to stabilise Bermondsey marsh for the use of agriculture. Field ditches of Roman date have been found in the vicinity, three of which were located at 180-196 Long Lane.
- 5.3.5 The archaeological evaluation at 211 Long-Lane recorded several Roman features cutting into the alluvial sand and gravels, including an east-west aligned ditch in Trench 4 running parallel with Long Lane. North of this possible roadside ditch, two smaller ditches were located. The rounded terminus of a northwest-southeast ditch contained mid 2nd century pottery. An east-west aligned ditch was recorded containing mid to late 2nd century pottery. Some doubt has been cast on the Roman date of these features by the subsequent excavation of 211 Long Lane. The sites excavators assert that most 'Roman' features at 211 Long Lane are in fact medieval, with the Roman pottery being residual. The

excavation at 211 Long Lane did record some evidence of Roman domestic refuse disposal in the form of surface middens.

- 5.3.6 Evaluations and excavations at Bermondsey Square to the east of the study site recorded numerous Roman features and deposits including postholes, pits and ditches. A Roman clay and timber building was also revealed indicating Roman inhabitation of the site.

## **5.4 Saxon & Medieval**

- 5.4.1 The main Saxon settlement in London, known as Lundenwic, was located in the area of modern day Covent Garden, with the main trading centre situated on the Strand on the north bank of the river Thames. Southwark at this time was referred to in the Burgal Hidage document of AD 914 as 'Suthringa geweorch' which translates as 'the defensive work of the men of Surrey', a fortified place. However no evidence has yet been found of these defences during archaeological investigations.

- 5.4.2 Very few late Saxon remains have been found in Southwark. It is possible that by the end of the 10th century a Minster had been established there, as one is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086; it is speculated that this was located on the site of Southwark Cathedral. 11th century documents indicate a mint was in action at this date and that Southwark was a centre for a sizeable population.

- 5.4.3 No diagnostic material of Saxon date was recorded within the GLHER search radius.

- 5.4.4 By the medieval period the Neckinger channel had been reduced to a stream. The route now followed by Long Lane was established by the late 12th/13th century, providing a causeway across the marshes and connecting Bermondsey Abbey with the settlement at Borough. Bermondsey Abbey was founded as the Cluniac Priory of St Saviour, Bermondsey in 1086 (later becoming a Benedictine Abbey) and was dissolved in 1537. It is known that the main church lay to the north-east of Bermondsey Square. The study site lies outside of the Abbey's western precinct wall, but extensive remains of the Abbey, cloisters and precinct have recently been discovered during excavations by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

- 5.4.5 The areas outside the main medieval settlements were marshy and were likely to have been dissected with drainage ditches which also served as boundary markers. It is probable that the site and the majority of the land around it were utilised as fields or pastoral land during this period. Lying in such close proximity to Bermondsey Abbey, the land occupied by the proposed development site was feasibly used as low-key agricultural land by the occupants of the Abbey themselves.

- 5.4.6 Medieval evidence from the excavation at 211 Long Lane suggested that contemporary activity on this site coincided with the establishment of Long Lane, with most of the pottery recovered dating to between the late 12th and early 14th centuries. A sequence of apparently causewayed ditches found running adjacent to the Long Lane frontage are attributed to the late medieval period, their use as roadside ditches possibly continuing into the early post-medieval times.

## **5.5 Post-Medieval**

- 5.5.1 The area encompassing 6 Wild's Rents appears to have retained its medieval topographic and land-use characteristics into the early post-medieval period. The earliest known cartographic evidence for this area of Southwark dates back to the mid 17th century.

- 5.5.2 Post-medieval evidence excavated at 211 Long Lane provides a suitable template for predicting the

types of post-medieval remains to be expected on the study site. The tanning industry dominates the Long Lane from the later 17th century. Horn-core and barrel lined pits were found situated close to the street frontage. Late 17th to 19th century groupings of shallow rubbish pits were discovered concentrated approximately 20m to the north of the Long Lane street frontage. Some of these pits were probably associated with early tanning activity and were subsequently reused for domestic activity or backfilled. Several post-medieval ditches were also discovered. There was further evidence of deliberate back-filling of a road-side ditch in the 16th century. A revetted ditch running perpendicular to Long Lane was backfilled in the later 17th or 18th century. The fill of this ditch included large quantities of cooking, serving, storage and other vessel forms.

## **5.6 Cartographic Evidence**

- 5.6.1 The earliest cartographic evidence relating to the site concerns Faithorne and Newcourt's map of 1658. This depicts the study site as situated within a field on the south side of Long Lane. Although Bermondsey Abbey had been dissolved by this point in time, buildings still listed as the Abbey are situated at a short distance to the east of the modern site boundary.
- 5.6.2 Parker's map of 1720 continues to show the site boundary within open agricultural land on the south side of Long Lane. By this point in time however the north side of Long Lane is shown as developed, with a number of detached properties and associated plots of land lining the street frontage. The fields to the south of Long Lane appear to correlate with the northern property boundaries, possibly suggesting an association with the dwellings on the other side of the road.
- 5.6.3 By the time of Rocque's map in 1741 the area surrounding the site had undergone a considerable phase of development. Wild's Rents is now displayed, forming a north-east south-west aligned road adjoining the south side of Long Lane, and a row of terraced properties is depicted as fronting onto the eastern side of this new street. The western side of Wild's Rents remains relatively untouched however, with the only evidence of construction within the site boundary comprising of the rear of a building fronting onto the south side of Long Lane. The rest of the site appears to comprise of either garden or open land, which was most probably associated with the Long Lane property.
- 5.6.4 On Horwood's map of 1799 Wild's Rents has been renamed Miles's Rents and a number of changes have occurred within the site boundary. The Long Lane building formerly occupying the northern area of the site has been demolished and has reverted to open land. In the southern area two terraced houses fronting onto the western side of Miles's Rents have been constructed, with a further two properties forming part of the same terrace situated to the south of the site boundary. The southernmost of the terraced houses is shown as bordered by a small alley, also named Miles's Rents, on its southern side. Of further note, two tan yards owned by a Mr. Latimer and a Mr. Harvey are recorded at the southern end of the street.
- 5.6.5 Horwood's map of 1813 reveals considerable changes within the vicinity of the site. Although no alterations are depicted within the site boundary itself, the two terraced properties adjoining the dwellings on the eastern side of Miles's Rents have been demolished following the introduction of the north-west south-east aligned Elim Street. Further new roads including Baal Zephon Street and Wilderness Street are present to the west of the site, with new terraced housing developments currently under construction on all of the new street frontages.

- 5.6.6 By 1872 this area of Bermondsey was fully developed, as depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of the same year. Uniform rows of terraced houses are displayed along Elim Street and Wilderness Street, and it is notable that Wild's Rents has returned to its original name. Within the site boundary the two late 18th century terraced houses have been demolished and have been replaced with two terraces fronting onto the north-eastern corner of Elim Street, and two terraces fronting onto the western side of Wild's Rents. A further two terraced houses are displayed in the north-western corner of the site boundary, fronting onto an alleyway located to the rear of a number of houses on Elim Street and to the east of a cooperage works.
- 5.6.7 The 1894 Ordnance Survey map indicates that by the late 19th century the two terraces located on the north-eastern corner of Elim Street had been converted into a public house. Another property had also constructed within the site boundary to the rear of the Wild's Rents terraces, with this new building adjoining the two houses situated on the alleyway to the rear of Elim Street. No changes are shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1911, but on this map the terraces fronting onto the alleyway are listed as 'Castle Buildings'.
- 5.6.8 The Ordnance Survey map of 1912 displays the first evidence of the Elim Estate, situated to the west of the study site. This new development had a considerable impact upon the local area, resulting in the demolition of both Elim Street and Wilderness Street. The only remnant of Elim Street displayed on the map comprises of a small section of road located to the south of the pub situated within the site boundary. Although the public house and the two Wild's Rents terraces (one of which is now listed as No. 4) remained standing, the Castle Buildings to the rear of Elim Street had also been removed during the demolition process. The property adjoining the Castle Buildings to the rear of the Wild's Rents dwellings also survived.
- 5.6.9 It is unclear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1951 as to whether or not the buildings occupying the site boundary in 1912 had undergone demolition and subsequent replacement, or whether they had simply been renovated. By the mid 20th century the site was occupied by numbers 4, 5 and 6 Wild's Rents, all of which are listed as forming part of the same public house. The building formerly abutting the Castle Buildings had been demolished. The southern end of the public house depicted on the 1951 map bears significant similarities in terms of shape to the pub on the map of 1912, which would appear to imply that the two terraced properties were eventually taken over by the pub itself. This would suggest that none of the Wild's Rents or Elim Street properties were demolished, but evidence of renovation is clear on the later map with possible extensions situated to the rear of the two terraced houses. Of further note, to the north of the site boundary numbers 210-216 Long Lane had been demolished by 1951 and replaced with a Medical School.
- 5.6.10 No changes are present within the site boundary on either the Ordnance Survey map of 1963 (Fig. 17) or the Ordnance Survey map of 1982, both of which continue to depict the site as occupied by a public house. The map of 1963 states that the Medical School is now named St Christopher House which now functions as a hostel for Guy's Hospital.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 In accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2013) an archaeological watching brief exercise was undertaken. This consisted of monitoring the below ground construction works on site. These were concentrated in two main areas; underpinning in the yard area and various pits in the basement (Figures 2 and 3). Trenches 1, 2, 5 and 8 were located in the yard area and Trenches 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 were located in the basement.
- 6.2 The trench 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 PCA's 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.
- 6.3 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 WDS 14.



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

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

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was a sandy gravel deposit, contexts [11] and [17]. These natural deposits were only recorded within two of the excavated trenches, Trenches 7 and 9, both excavated within the basement. Both contexts [11] and [17] were located 0.30m below ground level being directly sealed by modern concrete. This suggests a truncated land surface and not the original topography.

### **7.2 Phase 2: Possible Alluvium**

7.2.1 Recorded in three of the watching brief trenches, 1, 5 and 8, located at the northern extreme of the site, was a layer of dark yellowish-brown clayey sand, contexts [5], [8] and [14] respectively. Only limited areas of this deposit were recorded within deeper sondages in the three trenches, being located between 1.60m and 1.80m below ground level. This sterile and homogenous deposit contained no artefacts or inclusions and was at least 0.50m thick but continued below the trench limits. This deposit may represent part of an alluvial sequence, known to seal the natural terrace gravels to the north of the site in the area of Long Lane.

### **7.3 Phase 3: Probable Pit**

7.3.1 Cutting the natural gravel [17] in trench 9 was a probable pit [16]. Only a small area of this feature was recorded however, measuring 1.26m east-west by 0.34m north-south, as it continued north outside the trench limit. This pit was located directly below modern concrete 0.30m below ground level in the basement and was 0.32m deep, illustrating it to have been truncated. This pit was filled by a dark grey silty sand from which was recovered a single sherd of Roman Samian pottery. This sherd was South-Gaulish Samian, most common in Britain c. AD 40-110 but in production up to AD 140 (B. Seddon pers comm.). This lone sherd was very abraded and therefore is most likely residual. This was the only artefact recovered from this feature and therefore it remains undated, being either late Roman or post-Roman.

### **7.4 Phase 4: Late Post-Medieval Ploughsoil**

7.4.1 Sealing the possible alluvial layers [5], [8] and [14] in Trenches 1, 5 and 8 was a layer of late post-medieval ploughsoil, contexts [4], [7] and [13]. This ploughsoil deposit was also recorded as the earliest encountered deposit within Trench [6], context [10]. This brownish-grey clay silt ploughsoil was located between 0.50m, 0.76m and 1m below ground level and had a maximum thickness of 0.85m. Recovered from ploughsoil context [4] in Trench 1 was a clay tobacco pipe bowl and stem which dated to 1680-1710, however more pertinently pottery recovered from the same context, which included Sunderland Coarseware with a mottled glaze, provided a date range of 1775-1850 (C. Jarrett pers comm). This therefore suggests this deposit to either be late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century based on a *terminus post quem* of 1775. Such ploughsoil or garden soil horizons are well documented in the area of the site.

### **7.5 Phase 5: 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

- 7.5.1 Recorded in four of the watching brief trenches were various late 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground deposits. Within Trench 1 a sequence of made ground, contexts [1], [2] and [3], was recorded at 0.10m below ground level and had an overall thickness of 0.75m. A small ceramic assemblage was recovered from the uppermost of these deposits, context [1], which consisted of refined Whiteware, Pearlware and post-medieval Redware, provided a date range of 1805-1830 (C. Jarrett pers comm).
- 7.5.2 In Trenches 5, 6 and 8 made ground contexts [6], [9] and [12] respectively were also encountered. Context [6] was located 0.20m below ground level and was 0.80m thick. Context [9] was located 0.20m below ground level and was 0.30m thick. Context [12] was located at 0.20m below ground level and was 0.80m thick. These deposits all represent the same made ground horizon across the site, dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

## **7.6 Phase 6: Modern**

- 7.6.1 Sealing the deposits throughout all the watching brief trenches were various modern deposits. In trenches 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 modern concrete sealed all deposits and represented the current ground level.
- 7.6.2 Trenches 3 and 10 exclusively recorded modern deposits. In Trench 3 modern deposits were recorded to 0.80m below ground level. In Trench 9 modern deposits were recorded to 0.65m below ground level. Both these modern sequences were capped by modern concrete which represented the current ground level.

Plate 1: South end of Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 3 facing west



## 8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 A natural deposit of sandy gravel was recorded within two of the watching brief trenches. This natural deposit is consistent with the known underlying geology as described by the British Geological Survey as Kempton Park River Gravels, formed during the Devensian period (Haslam 2009). This natural stratigraphy however does not represent the original natural topography of the site, instead being a truncated land surface. This is illustrated by the natural deposits being directly overlain by the modern concrete basement slab.
- 8.2 Recorded within deeper excavated sondages within three of the watching brief trenches were alluvial deposits. These deposits were all located within trenches excavated in the northern extent of the site. These alluvial deposits were homogenous and sterile, being devoid of artefactual remains and are undated. This alluvium is consistent with known deposits of Holocene alluvium located to the north of the site and underlying Long Lane (Haslam 2009), associated with the River Neckinger.
- 8.3 Cutting into the natural gravels in Trench 9 was a probable pit. As discussed above this feature, and the natural deposits it was cutting through, were located directly below the modern concrete slab in the area of the basement, illustrating considerable truncation to the underlying depositional sequence in that location. Only a small area of this feature was recorded and it continued outside the excavation limit and therefore interpretation of it is problematic; the recorded shape and dimensions define it as a probable pit. The dating of this feature is also somewhat uncertain as only a single sherd of what appeared to be residual South-Gaulish Samian ware was recovered. This single sherd suggests a post early Roman date for this feature although more detailed information cannot be gleaned as no associated stratigraphic sequence existed. Indeed although it may appear the pit cuts directly into the natural gravel this is most likely a product of horizontal truncation and originally the feature would have been deeper and cut from higher up. The general location of the site is rich in archaeological heritage from a range of periods and this feature could represent any one of these from the late Roman onwards.
- 8.4 Sealing the alluvial deposits in the yard watching brief trenches was a sequence of late post-medieval and 19<sup>th</sup> century deposits. A similar sequence of late post-medieval ploughsoil sealed by 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground was recorded in five of the trenches. Such a post-medieval and 19<sup>th</sup> century depositional sequence is well recorded in the general vicinity of the site (Haslam 2009).
- 8.5 The archaeological watching brief has illustrated that in the trenches located outside the area of the basement archaeological deposits survived intact with a consistent sequence of alluvium, post-medieval ploughsoil and later made ground being encountered. These watching brief trenches were not excavated deep enough however to encounter any potential earlier deposits or natural stratigraphy. However, such deposits would undoubtedly have survived below the intact sequence described above.

- 8.6 The archaeological watching brief has illustrated that within the area of the basement considerable previous truncation has occurred, with the concrete basement slab directly sealing the natural terrace gravel. However an archaeological feature was encountered within one of these trenches which also illustrated that deeper cut features may still survive below the basement slab albeit partially truncated.
- 8.7 The depositional sequence of the site was completed by modern concrete throughout all watching brief trenches, which represents the current ground level.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

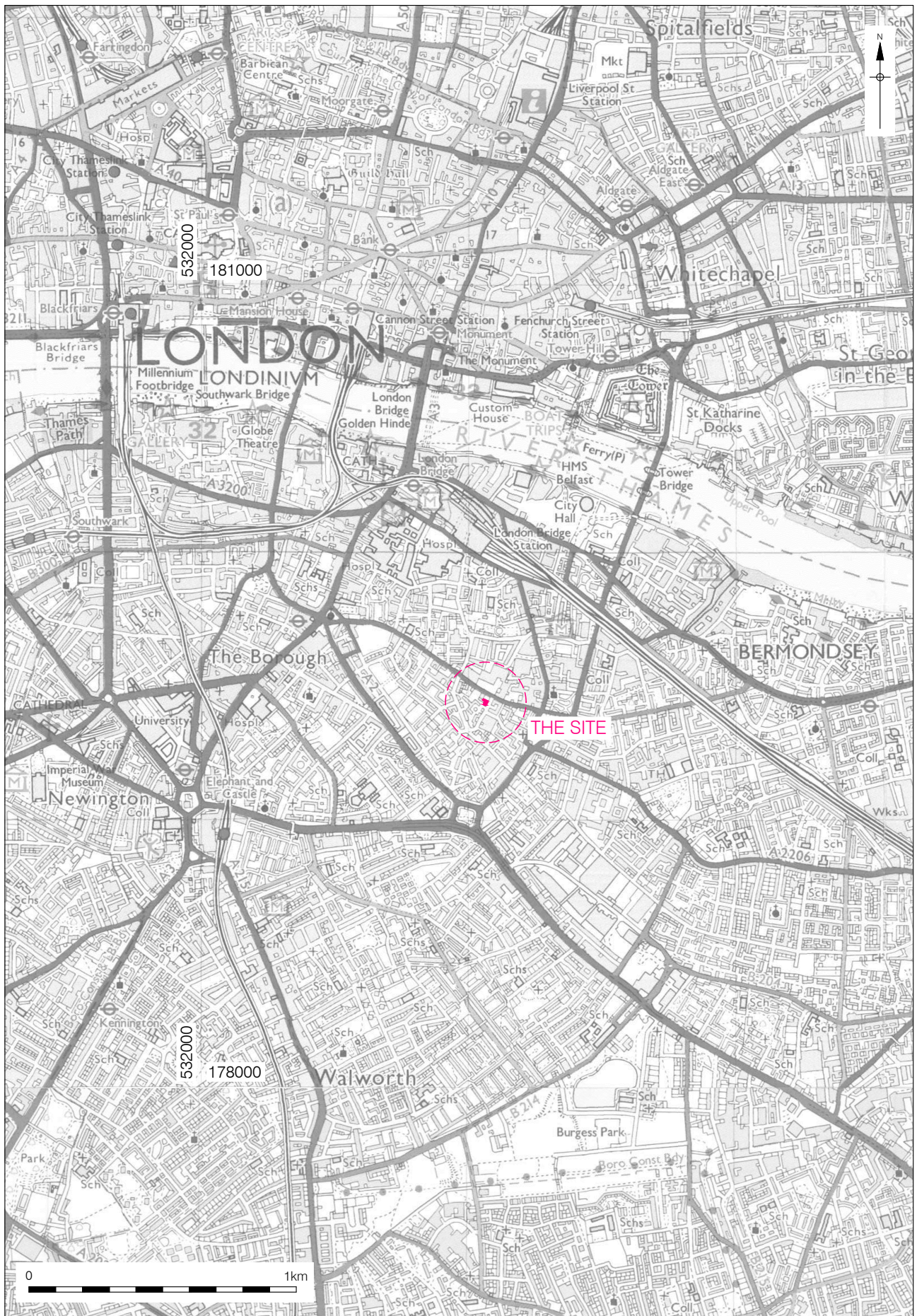
- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Steve Finley of Finley Harrison for commissioning the work. Thanks also go to Dr Christopher Constable, Senior Archaeological Adviser for the London Borough of Southwark for monitoring the work on behalf of the Council.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for project management and editing, and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations.

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Hawkins, H 2013 *Land At 2-6 Wild's Rents, London, London Borough Of Southwark, SE1 4QG: Written Scheme Of Investigation* PCA Unpublished Client Report

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

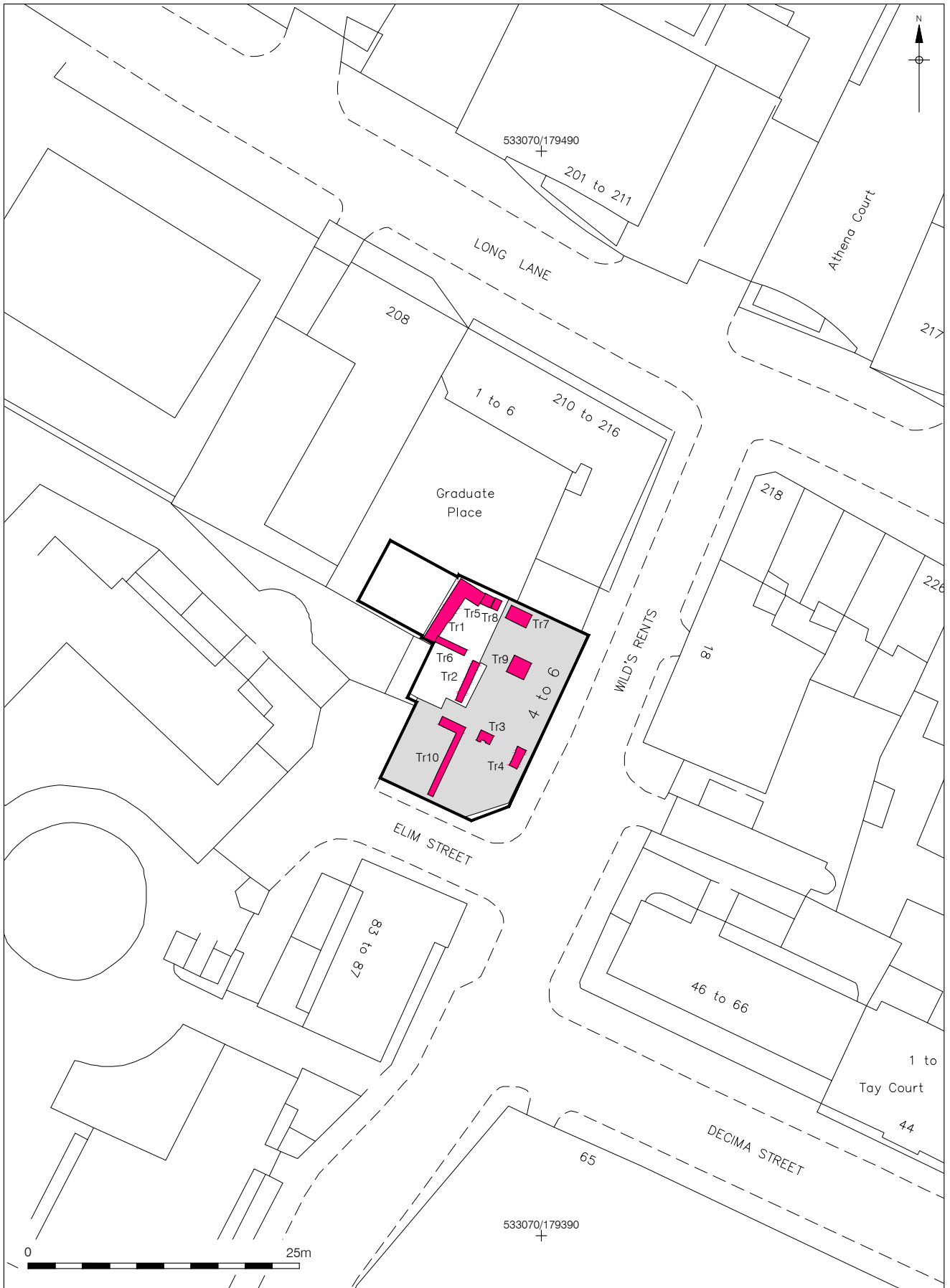


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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
 Detailed Site Location  
 1:500 at A4



Existing Ground Floor Plan showing Trenches monitored at Ground Floor Level

Existing Basement Plan showing Trenches monitored at Basement Level

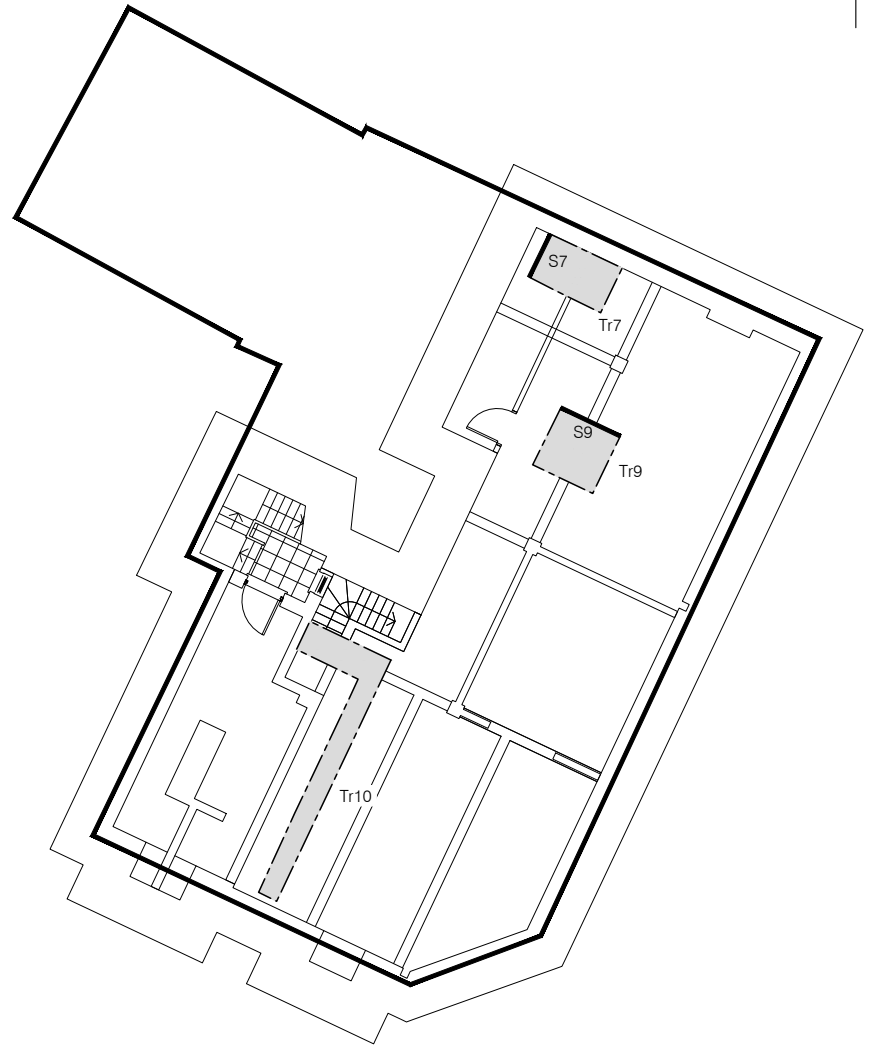
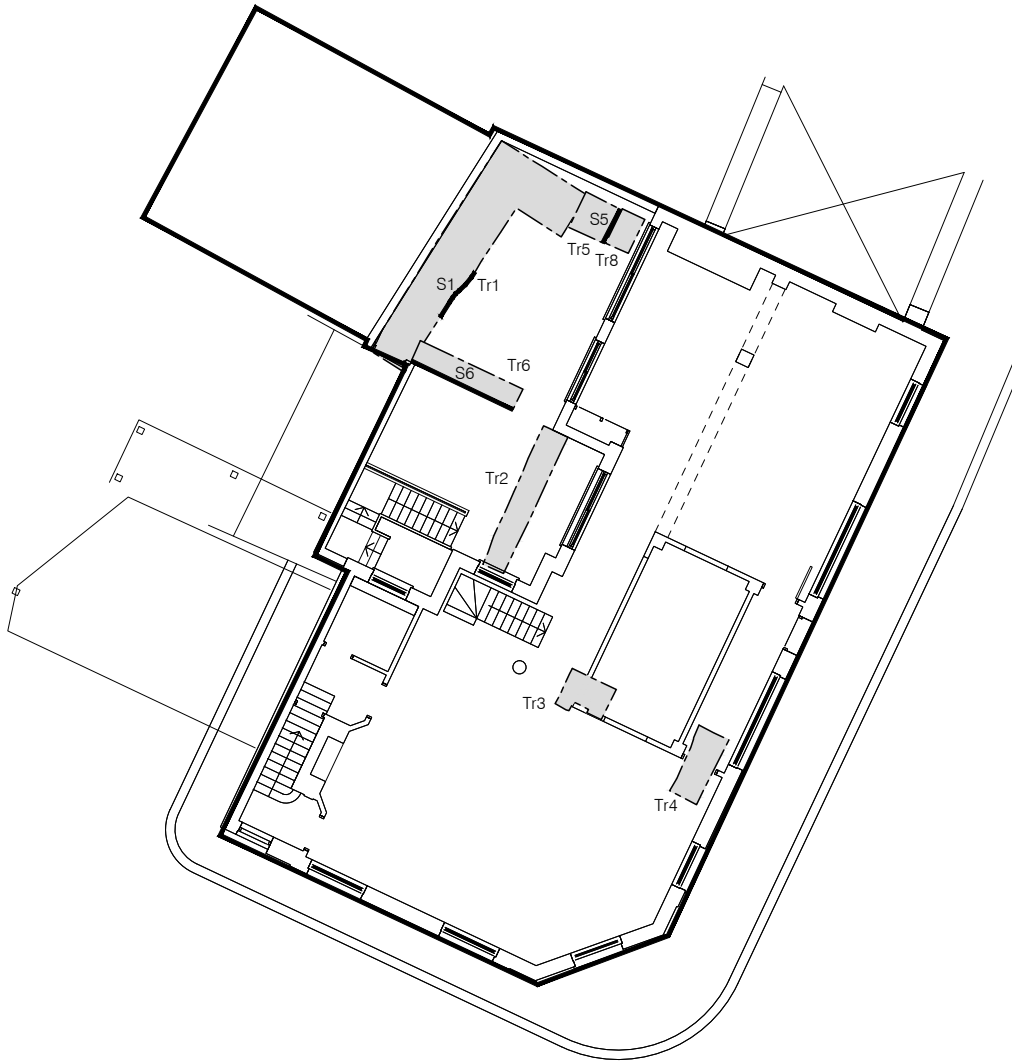
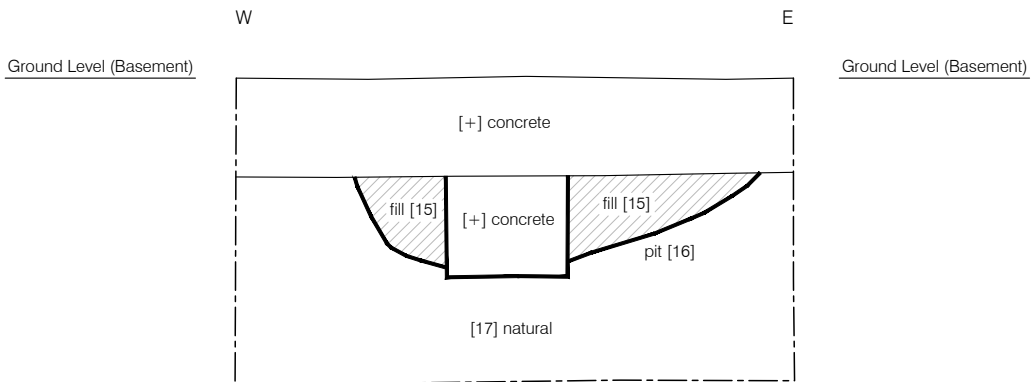
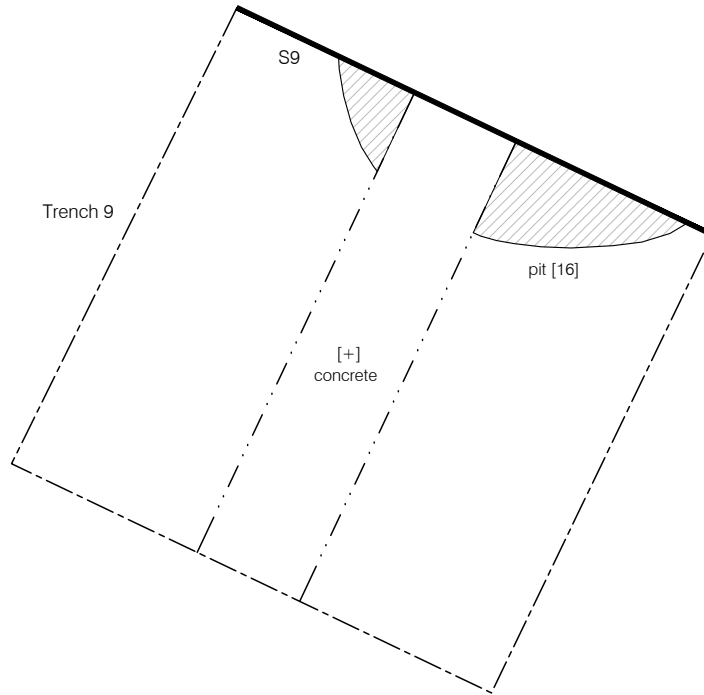


Figure 3  
Trench Location  
1:200 at A4

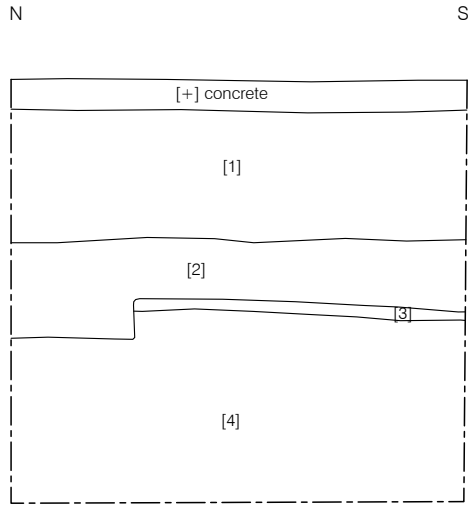


Section 9  
South Facing  
Trench 9

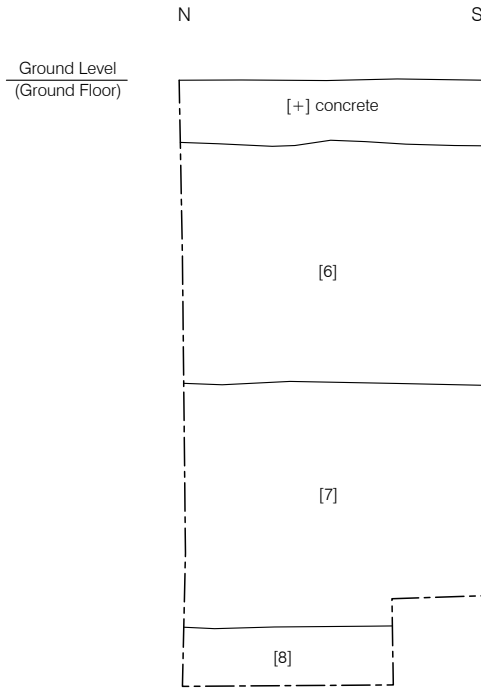


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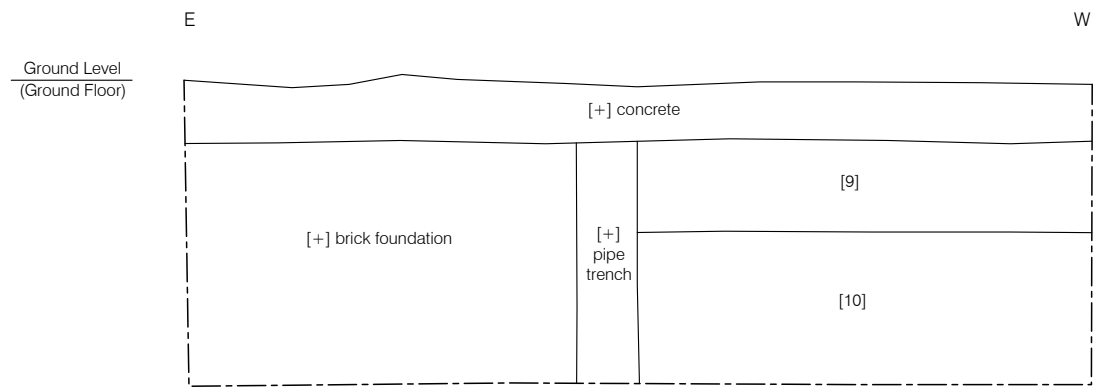
Figure 4  
Plan & Section of Trench 9  
1:25 at A4



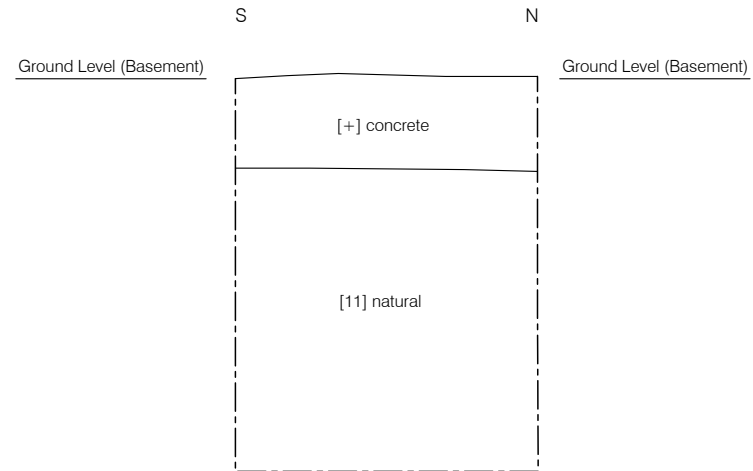
Section 1  
West Facing  
Trench 1



Section 5  
West Facing  
Trench 5



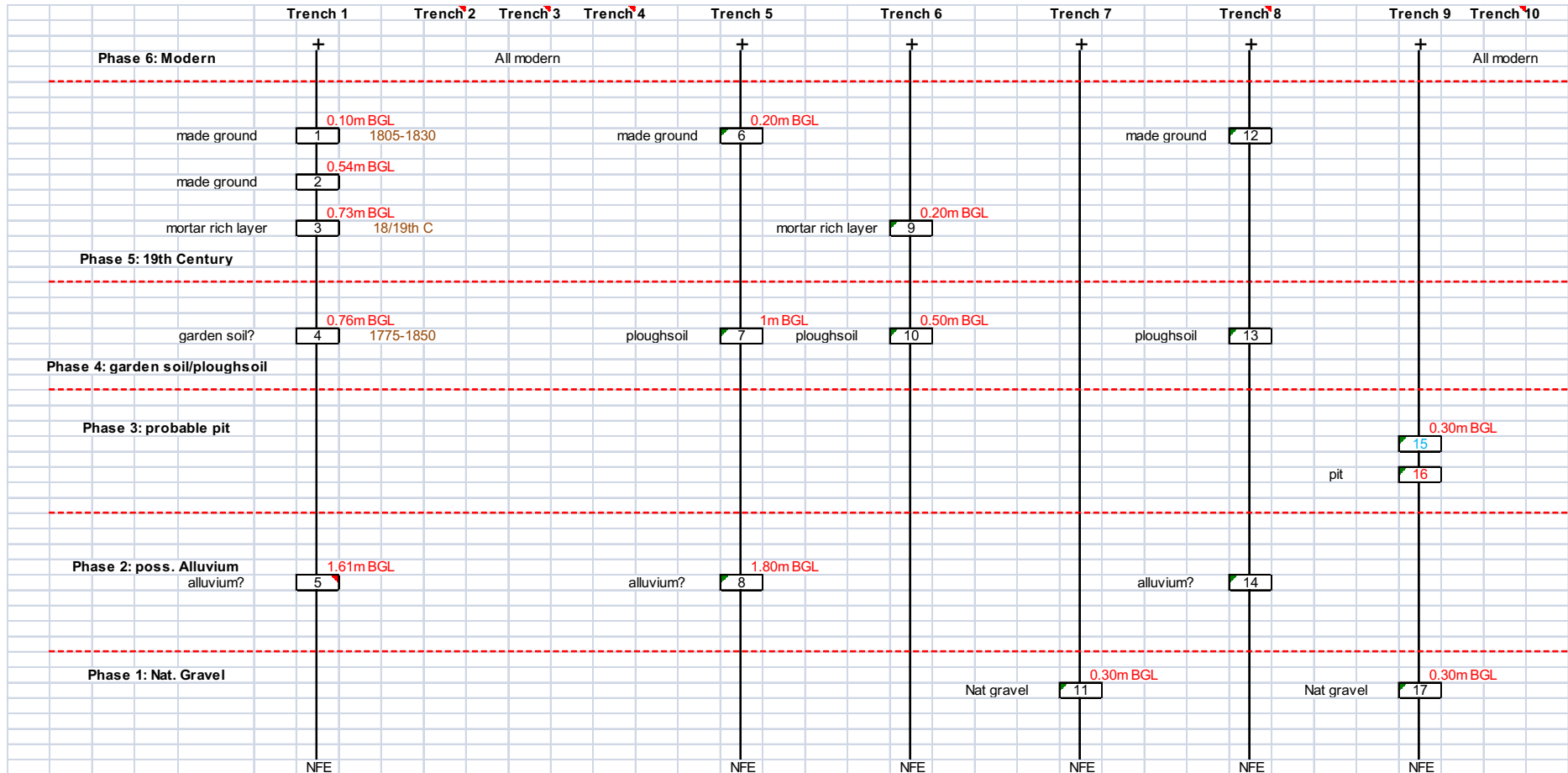
Section 6  
North Facing  
Trench 6



Section 7  
East Facing  
Trench 7



## APPENDIX 1: PHASED MATRIX



## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

| Context No. | Trench No. | Section No. | Phase | Type  | Description                          | Level (m below ground) |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------|-------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1           | 1          | 1           | 5     | Layer | 19 <sup>th</sup> century made ground | 0.10                   |
| 2           | 1          | 1           | 5     | Layer | 19 <sup>th</sup> century made ground | 0.54                   |
| 3           | 1          | 1           | 5     | Layer | 19 <sup>th</sup> century made ground | 0.73                   |
| 4           | 1          | 1           | 4     | Layer | Late post-medieval ploughsoil        | 0.76                   |
| 5           | 1          | -           | 2     | Layer | Alluvial clay                        | 1.61                   |
| 6           | 5          | 5           | 5     | Layer | 19 <sup>th</sup> century made ground | 0.20                   |
| 7           | 5          | 5           | 4     | Layer | Late post-medieval ploughsoil        | 1.00                   |
| 8           | 5          | 5           | 2     | Layer | Alluvial clay                        | 1.80                   |
| 9           | 6          | 6           | 5     | Layer | 19 <sup>th</sup> century made ground | 0.20                   |
| 10          | 6          | 6           | 4     | Layer | Late post-medieval ploughsoil        | 0.50                   |
| 11          | 7          | 7           | 1     | Layer | Natural terrace gravel               | 0.30                   |
| 12          | 8          | -           | 5     | Layer | 19 <sup>th</sup> century made ground | 0.20                   |
| 13          | 8          | -           | 4     | Layer | Late post-medieval ploughsoil        | 1.00                   |
| 14          | 8          | -           | 2     | Layer | Alluvial clay                        | 1.80                   |
| 15          | 9          | 9           | 3     | Fill  | Fill of [16]                         | 0.30                   |
| 16          | 9          | 9           | 3     | Cut   | Probable Pit                         | 0.30                   |
| 17          | 9          | 9           | 1     | Layer | Natural terrace gravel               | 0.30                   |

## APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-176886

### Project details

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | LAND AT 2-6 WILD'S RENTS, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, SE1 3QG   |
| Short description of the project       | <p>A watching brief was carried out at 2-6 Wild's Rents intermittently between 28th February and 17th March 2014 and consisted of the archaeological monitoring of underpinning works, a lift shaft and new foundations relating to a redevelopment of the site for two new dwellings. 1.3The watching brief encountered natural deposits consistent with the known underlying geology along with alluvial deposits associated with the River Neckinger. Cutting the natural in one trench was the remains of a single probable pit of uncertain date which contained a single sherd of residual Roman samian pottery. A sequence of late post-medieval ploughsoil sealed by 19th century made ground sealed the alluvium in some of the trenches. Modern concrete sealed all deposits of the trenches which represented the current ground level. The watching brief has illustrated that in the location of the basement the vast majority of any potentially underlying archaeological deposits or features have been severely truncated; modern concrete directly seals the natural stratigraphy. The presence of a possible pit however does suggest that deeper cut archaeological features may still survive. The watching brief trenches outside the basement recorded a more extensive depositional sequence from the undated alluvium to the later post-medieval and 19th century.</p> |
| Project dates                          | Start: 28-02-2014 End: 17-03-2014  |
| Previous/future work                   | No / Not known   |
| Any associated project reference codes | WDS14 - Sitecode   |
| Type of project                        | Recording project  |
| Site status                            | Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area   |
| Current Land use                       | Residential 1 - General Residential  |

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Monument type      | PIT Uncertain      |
| Significant Finds  | POT Roman          |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief"   |
| Prompt             | Planning condition |

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### Project location

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Country              | England   |
| Site location        | GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 2-6 Wild's Rents                             |
| Postcode             | SE1 3QG   |
| Study area           | 600.00 Square metres  |
| Site coordinates     | TQ 330400 794200 51.4975436569 -0.0831866649284 51 29 51 N 000 04 59<br>W Point |
| Height OD /<br>Depth | Min: 0m Max: 0m   |

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### Project creators

|                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name of<br>Organisation            | Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd |
| Project brief<br>originator        | Chris Constable               |
| Project design<br>originator       | Helen Hawkins                 |
| Project<br>director/manager        | Helen Hawkins                 |
| Project<br>supervisor              | Matt Edmonds                  |
| Type of<br>sponsor/funding<br>body | Architectural Practice        |

Name of sponsor/funding body  
 Finley Harrison Ltd

**Project archives**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive recipient | LAARC  |
| Physical Archive ID        | WDS14  |
| Physical Contents          | "Ceramics"   |
| Digital Archive recipient  | LAARC  |
| Digital Archive ID         | WDS14  |
| Digital Contents           | "none"   |
| Digital Media available    | "Database","Spreadsheets","Text"   |
| Paper Archive recipient    | LAARC  |
| Paper Archive ID           | WDS14  |
| Paper Contents             | "none"   |
| Paper Media available      | "Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text" |

**Project bibliography 1**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)              |
| Title            | LAND AT 2-6 WILD'S RENTS, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, SE1 3QG |



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

Date 2014

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