

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT 134
WESTON STREET, LONDON, SE1
4PZ**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
SOUTHWARK**

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**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 134 Weston Street, London, SE1 4PZ,
London Borough of Southwark**

Site Code: WTN14

Central NGR: TQ 3296 7946

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Southwark

Planning Reference:

Commissioning Client: Life Less Ordinary

Written/Researched by: Ireneo Grosso
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project Manager: Peter Moore (MIfA)

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

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

E-mail: pmoore@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	I Grosso		30.04.14
Graphics Prepared by:	H Baxter		30.04.14
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown		06.05.14
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		06.05.14

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

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at 134 Weston Street, London, SE1 4PZ, London Borough of Southwark.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out on 20th March 2014 and was designed to observe and record the excavation of one single trench (Figure 2, Trench 1). The work was commissioned by Life Less Ordinary.
- 1.3 The earliest deposit encountered during the archaeological evaluation was a firm yellowish brown coarse sand gravel. This natural gravel layer was cut by a large feature of unknown extent. This was interpreted as a Roman feature due to its location in the archaeological sequence and based on the results of similar investigations in the near vicinity of the site.
- 1.4 The large cut feature was overlaid by a firm mid to dark brown sandy clay silt layer. One single abraded fragment of CBM retrieved from this layer was dated between AD 50 to 160.
- 1.5 The possible Roman layer was overlaid by post-medieval made ground and cut by a possible 18th century property boundary/fence line. An 18th century ditch was also noted.
- 1.6 The archaeological sequence was sealed at approximately 3m OD by modern made ground about 1.35m thick.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological investigation commissioned by Life Less Ordinary was undertaken on land at 134 Weston Street, London, SE1 4PZ in the London Borough of Southwark, on 20th March 2014.
- 2.2 The site comprises an irregular plot of land at Weston Street, London Borough of Southwark, SE1 4PZ. Weston Street lies to the west, a former public house at the junction of Weston and Elim Streets lies to the north, and to the south and east are buildings associated with the Elim Estate. The site is located at central National Grid Reference TQ 3296 7946, and is situated within the London Borough of Southwark.
- 2.3 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Moore 2014) detailed the methodology by which the archaeological investigation was undertaken. The WSI followed the English Heritage guidelines (GLAAS 2009) and those of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 1993). The watching brief and evaluation was supervised by Ireneo Grosso, project managed by Peter Moore for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and monitored by the Senior Archaeology Officer (Southwark Design, Conservation and Archaeology), Christopher Constable.
- 2.4 The proposed development at the site consists of residential accommodation.
- 2.5 The site was given the Museum of London site code WTN14. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited within the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on 27 March 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

3.1.2 Chapter 12 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, with the following statements being particularly relevant to the proposed development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

3.1.3 Additionally:

141. Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

3.1.4 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will now be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF.

3.1.5 The NPPF also states that:

214. For 12 months from the day of publication, decision-takers may continue to give full weight to relevant policies adopted since 2004 even if there is a limited degree of conflict with this Framework.

215. In other cases and following this 12-month period, due weight should be given to relevant policies in existing plans according to their degree of consistency with this framework (the closer the policies in the plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).

3.1.6 As such the local planning authority will continue to also be guided by the existing London Plan and the London Borough of Southwark's Development Plan, and by other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

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

Historic environment and landscapes

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 Policy: Archaeology in the London Borough of Southwark

- 3.3.1 The document aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Southwark, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which it is the custodian. Relevant policy statements for the protection of the buried archaeological resource within the borough are contained within the Core Strategy (April 2011):

Strategic Policy 12 – Design and conservation

How we will achieve our vision to improve our places

SO 2F: Conserve and protect historic and natural places

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.

3.3.2 Also:

5.109 Throughout the borough there are many attractive and historic buildings, monuments and sites that reflect Southwark's rich history and add to the unique character and identity of places. We currently have 40 conservation areas covering 686ha (23% of the borough) and around 2,500 listed buildings and monuments. The Tower of London, a World Heritage Site, is located across the River from London Bridge. There are also archaeological remains that cannot be seen that provide important evidence of our past. We have identified 9 Archaeological Priority Zones (APZs) covering 679ha (23% of the borough).

3.3.3 The Southwark Plan also contains relevant policy statements, which were 'saved' in July 2010:

Policy 3.19 – Archaeology

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

Reasons

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

3.4 Site Constraints

- 3.4.1 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined by Southwark Adopted Policies Map (March 2012).
- 3.4.2 No Scheduled Monuments exist within the study area.
- 3.4.3 There are no Listed Buildings upon the site.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Unless referenced otherwise, the geological and topographical background cited below was obtained from the DBA and WB prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Barrowman, 2012a).

4.2 Geology

- 4.2.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the site is located upon Kempton Park Gravels, a post-diversionary Thames River Terrace deposit of gravels which are sandy and clayey in part, which overlie London Clay.

4.3 Topography

- 4.3.1 The site is essentially flat, as is the immediately surrounding topography. Spot heights indicated on Ordnance Survey maps show a bench mark height of 3.1m OD at the junction of Weston Street and Pardoner Street, to the south of the site.
- 4.3.2 During the prehistoric and earlier historic periods Southwark was a landscape composed of low lying eyots surrounded by braided channels, tributaries of the Thames, and marshlands. Based on landscape modelling of the area the site would have lain upon the Bermondsey eyot, towards its south-western edge (Heard 1996).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Unless referenced otherwise, the archaeological and historical background cited below was obtained from the DBA prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Barrowman, 2012).

5.2 Prehistoric

- 5.2.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity has been found in the Southwark and Bermondsey areas. Upstanding gravel eyots appear to have been preferentially exploited on account of their free-draining, dry nature and easy access to natural resources provided by the nearby marsh and floodplain. Reflecting this there has been sporadic evidence from the prehistoric period found upon the Bermondsey eyot, which the site is situated upon (Heard 1996).
- 5.2.2 Isolated find spots of Mesolithic and Neolithic date have been identified in the wider area, typically being situated close to the periphery of former gravel eyots. This was the case at Butler's Wharf, Three Oak Lane and Marlborough Grove.
- 5.2.3 The dispersed nature of the evidence in the Southwark and Bermondsey areas does not suggest intensive settlement during the early Holocene. Nomadic or semi nomadic populations probably exploited the eyots on a sporadic basis and as a result prehistoric archaeological remains are relatively uncommon.
- 5.2.4 Elsewhere on the Bermondsey eyot, pits and ditches ranging from the Neolithic to Iron Age have been unearthed. At 211 Long Lane, a heavily truncated pit was excavated, which contained a single sherd of Iron Age pottery and fragments of bone from a sheep or goat. With the exception of these remains and several burials located further north, the Bermondsey area does not appear to have been exploited intensively during the Iron Age. This may be due to contemporary sea level rises, which may have made this low-lying area unsuitable for habitation.
- 5.2.5 The GLHER records that only a small amount of prehistoric evidence has been recorded within the study area itself. A find spot on Long Lane produced three Mesolithic to Bronze Age struck flints, and also struck and burnt flints of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date.
- 5.2.6 Prehistoric environmental evidence has proved somewhat more prolific. A Bronze Age palaeo-land surface in the form of a peat horizon was found at Rothsay Street, part of a marshy fen environment associated with channel activity of earlier origins. A further peat deposit was encountered during an evaluation on Falmouth Road. Additionally, an investigation on Leathermarket Street uncovered peat deposits, two possible water channels, and flood deposits.

5.3 Roman

- 5.3.1 Numerous excavations attest to the fact that a sizable Roman settlement had developed in Southwark, focused on the southern side of the Thames. The road now termed Borough High Street formed an artery through a township that stretched at least as far as modern day Tabard Square. Excavations undertaken on the Square revealed a deeply stratified sequence, consisting of 2nd century clay and timber buildings superseded by a municipal religious complex.
- 5.3.2 The settlement linked with the main town of Londinium, positioned in what is now the City of London, via a bridge, situated in the approximate location of London Bridge. This connected with Stane Street, a major Roman road that ran through Southwark's Roman settlement along the approximate line of Borough High Street, before splitting in the location of St. George's Church. Stane Street itself continued in a southerly direction, ultimately linking the City with the Roman port of Chichester, whilst the other, eastern branch became Watling Street, connecting with Canterbury. Archaeological work at 165 Great Dover Street recorded evidence of a Roman road, along with the associated ditch.

- 5.3.3 The precise status of Roman Southwark remains uncertain; we do not even know whether it was named separately from Londinium. However, as the 'suburb' lay beyond the walls of Londinium, parts of it inevitably became utilised as a burial ground. This is reflected in the GLHER results with multiple sites with evidence of Roman burials known from within the study area. An excavation and watching brief at 165 Great Dover Street uncovered four funerary structures in the form of two walled cemeteries, a possible mausoleum, and a possible temple structure, along with 30 inhumations and five cremations. Bones were also recorded near Old Kent Road, a cremation was found in 1899 on Tabard Street, and a skeleton was reported as having been found during the construction of a World War II air raid shelter.
- 5.3.4 An occupation site was recorded during an excavation at 175-77 Long Lane, with Roman deposits and topographical evidence being encountered.
- 5.3.5 Archaeological work at Rephidim Street also recorded agricultural evidence, with a ditch system, a deposit with carbonised grains possibly representing burnt residue from threshing, and a silted up water channel that had been potentially been reclaimed. Three Roman ditches were also recorded at 180-196 Long Lane, though their possible usage was not recorded on the GLHER.
- 5.3.6 Environmental evidence from the Roman period has also been recorded within the study area. Evidence of a marsh and associated flood deposits was seen on Falmouth Road. A water channel and flood deposits were also seen at Long Lane.
- 5.3.7 The GLHER search results also included a number of findspots, such as sherds of amphorae at Green Walk, one from a feature and the other from alluvium. Pottery was also found in flood deposits at Rothsay Street, and in Tabard Street in the late 19th century. A notable amount of pottery was also recorded to have come from a waterlain or foreshore deposit at a site at 9 Leathermarket Street.

5.4 Saxon

- 5.4.1 There is no evidence for permanent post-Roman settlement in Southwark, with the main Saxon settlement in the area, known as Lundenwic, having been located to the west in the position of modern day Covent Garden. Indeed it is possible that the bridge across the Thames had fallen into disrepair and collapse in the 5th/6th century AD.
- 5.4.2 In the late 9th century much of eastern England, including Lundenwic, was subject to Viking raids. In the Burgal Hidage document of AD 914, Southwark was referred to as Suthringa Geweorch, which translates as "the defensive work of the men of Surrey, suggesting that the area was fortified in some way. The dating of this document is disputed but it has been generally been accepted that it was produced in c. AD 915. Whilst archaeological evidence relating to this has been generally lacking, a recent Thameslink investigation on Bedale Street, undertaken jointly by Pre-Construct Archaeology and Oxford Archaeology, has potentially uncovered the first substantial evidence of a late Saxon ditch in the area (Pers Comm Joanna Taylor, Pre-Construct Archaeology, 02/05/2012).
- 5.4.3 A Minster may have been built on the site of Southwark Cathedral during the Saxon period, and a building is mentioned in the Domesday Book of AD 1086. A mint had also been created prior to the 11th century. This seems to suggest that a Saxon settlement had been established in the Borough area, and some authorities parallel the rise of London in the 10th century with one in Southwark, including the re-establishment of a bridge across the river, but this remains to be proven.
- 5.4.4 Little supporting archaeological evidence of Saxon activity has been found to date. Excavations at Bermondsey Square unearthed some late Saxon to early medieval pottery dating between AD 970 and AD 1100 in several pits and a ditch. Residual pottery dating between AD 400 and AD 750 was also recovered from a later plough soil. However, no evidence from this period was contained in the GLHER search for the study area.

5.5 Medieval

- 5.5.1 Following the Norman conquest Southwark underwent a considerable expansion, with documentary references to Southwark being a centre of population in the 11th century, and as well as having the Minster it also had a mint. The distribution of features containing Saxo-Norman pottery suggests that the settled area extended along the waterfront from Winchester Palace in the west to Battle Bridge Lane in the east and as far south as St. George's church.
- 5.5.2 Bermondsey Abbey, termed the Cluniac Priory of St Saviour in the Domesday entry of 1086, was a dominate feature of the wider area during the medieval period. It later became a Benedictine Monastery before its dissolution during the Reformation in AD 1537. Foundations associated with the church, cloisters and precinct were unearthed during excavations at Bermondsey Square.
- 5.5.3 During the 12th and 13th centuries notable growth had occurred in Southwark, which now boasted some relatively upmarket residential properties such as Winchester Palace. The High Street largely respected the line of the Roman road, and two churches had been erected alongside it: St. Margaret in the north by AD 1107, and St. George to the south by AD 1122. Documentary research and archaeological investigations suggest that by the later 12th century the High Street may have been lined with buildings from the bridgehead to St. George's.
- 5.5.4 The results of the GLHER search indicated that evidence of a small scale rural settlement was seen at 217-219 Long Lane in the form of 12th to 14th century pits and a ditch. A further 12 pits, along with post and stake holes, were seen at 239 Long Lane and were believed to have had a possible industrial function, whilst at 174-178 Long Lane pit evidence ranged from the early medieval period through to the post-medieval period. Additional industrial evidence was seen in the form of possible gravel quarry pits at 180-196 Long Lane. A deposit of garden soil was also found at 127 Long Lane, whilst an inlaid floor tile was recovered in Tabard Street.

5.6 Post-Medieval

- 5.6.1 Southwark and Bermondsey expanded considerably throughout the post-medieval period, becoming a sizeable residential centre. Commercial growth in the region surrounding the study site occurred, with a particular emphasis on the leather industry. Land exploitation therefore gradually shifted from agricultural to industrial and residential use.
- 5.6.2 The earliest archaeological indication of leather production in the vicinity of the study area consists of one probable 17th century cut feature at Rothsay Street, and a horncore and wattle lined pit at 9 Leathermarket Street, which was also of 17th century date.
- 5.6.3 Other early industrial features were seen in the form of 17th to 18th century pits which were recorded 165 Great Dover Street. A large dump of 17th to 18th century pottery and kiln waste was also recorded at 9 Leathermarket Street, suggestive of local pottery production.
- 5.6.4 Parker's map of 1720 was the earliest map encountered to cartographically depict the location of the study site. The site itself is within open land, to the south of the subdivided but undeveloped plots which line Long Alley, as Long Lane is called. This map also shows that whilst Southwark is notably developed around Borough and the Thames, the hinterland of the site still largely remains open land, with the only the main arterial roads and adjacent properties present.
- 5.6.5 The site remains undeveloped in Rocque's map from 1746, though details of this depiction show that it lies within a cultivated plot. This map also depicts that the level of development in the local area is increasing, with structures now seen upon many of the formerly open plots of land to the north and east of the site.
- 5.6.6 Horwood's map from 1792-1799 illustrates the expansion Southwark's local industries with a number of local tanneries clearly shown. However the location of the study site remains open, and within an area of open meadows.

- 5.6.7 Southwark and Bermondsey grew rapidly throughout the late post-medieval period. This is clearly illustrated by the map regression and the high number of GLHER hits of 18th to 19th century date in the area. These include extant houses at 175, 175A, 225, 227 and 229 Long Lane, and numerous extant buildings of 19th century date that are not listed on the GLHER. Other structural remains have been recorded archaeologically with 19th century walls and drains found at 193-197 Long Lane, a well and a cellar of 19th century date at 165 Great Dover Street, and the 19th to 20th century remains of a wall, a cellar, and a stanchion/slab at 127 Long Lane.
- 5.6.8 The leather and cloth industries continued to expand with the construction of the “London Leather, Hide and Wool Exchange” on Leathermarket Street in 1829. By 1872 further tanneries and curriers had opened in the vicinity. Several 19th century tanning pits were also excavated at 217-219 Long Lane. The importance of tanning to the area is highlighted by the name of a public house constructed on Long Lane in 1829, known as “Simon The Tanner”. Other industries were also present, demonstrated by an iron foundry at Tabard Gardens and a timber yard on Long Lane.
- 5.6.9 Horwood’s map of 1819 is the earliest encountered to show Elim Street and what is now Western Street, then Baalzephon Street. It also clearly shows the residential expansion into the area, along with the further development the existing industries to the north and east. The public house to the immediate north of the site is one of the new structures, as are the terrace houses around the site, however the site itself remains vacant.
- 5.6.10 The St Mary Bermondsey Valuation Plan from 1833-36 is the earliest depiction of development upon the study site. A building is seen to be occupying the southern half of the site, whilst the northern half remains as open land.
- 5.6.11 The First Edition of the Ordnance Survey map from 1872 is the first time any form of development is depicted upon the northern half of the study site, in the form of a structure which extends north beyond the site boundary. The building upon the southern half of the site appears to have been retained, resulting in the entirety of the site now being built upon.
- 5.6.12 The Goad Plan from 1887 indicates that the two earlier structures upon the site have been removed and replaced by a single dwelling, with an open yard space to the east. Baalzephon Street has now been renamed as Weston Street.
- 5.6.13 The Ordnance Survey map of 1894-96 illustrates a change to the shape of the structure upon the site, and the addition of a small outbuilding in the yard area.
- 5.6.14 Charles Booth’s Poverty Map of 1898-99 records the poverty classification of the residents of London at the time, illustrating that of the life of the residents of the site was ‘fairly comfortable’ with ‘good ordinary earnings’.
- 5.6.15 The London County Council Bomb Damage Map of 1939-45 indicates that whilst much of Southwark was badly impacted upon by the bombing raids of the Second World War the immediate surrounds of the site escaped relatively lightly, with the site itself only suffering ‘general blast damage – not structural’. This is also the first depiction of the area following the removal of most of the terraced houses and the development of the local estate which surround the study site.
- 5.6.16 The Goad Insurance Plan from 1947 shows that the structure upon the site has change in form and is now in use as an office, which also extends beyond the eastern site boundary. The terrace houses which lay to the immediate south of the site have also now been removed by this time and replaced by garages.
- 5.6.17 The Ordnance Survey map of 1950 indicates that the layout of the structure upon the site has again changed, with an open yard space now present in the east of the site. The garages that were immediately adjacent to the south-eastern site boundary have also now been removed, with much of the surrounding area being vacant.
- 5.6.18 The 1957 Ordnance Survey map illustrates that the structure seen in the former map has now been demolished and the site remains completely vacant.

- 5.6.19 By the time of the Ordnance Survey map of 1965 a building had been constructed upon the site. Only a strip of land closest to Western Street remains open still, with the building being aligned with the boundaries across most of the site.
- 5.6.20 The 1995 Ordnance Survey map shows the site with its present layout, with the structure from 1965 being replaced by a single building which occupies the entire property.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to determine the presence or absence of surviving features at the site and, if present, to assist in formulating an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeology.
- 6.2 The research design set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Moore 2014) aimed to address the following objectives:
- To determine the palaeotopography of the site;
 - To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity;
 - To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity and how it relates to the emerging model of landscape usage, as well as industrial and settlement activities;
 - To establish the presence or absence of medieval and post-medieval activity;
 - To establish the extent of past post-depositional impacts, such as the sewer, access shaft and their construction cuts on the archaeological resource.
- 6.3 The site had its hard surfaces and current building removed before the evaluation trench was excavated.
- 6.4 The evaluation is designed to be the first stage of archaeological site investigation and may be followed by further archaeological mitigation if required by the Senior Archaeology Officer for Southwark Council. Such requirements will be subject to discussion between the Senior Archaeology Officer for Southwark Council, the client and PCA.
- 6.5 The location of the base of Trench 1 was outside the area disturbed by the sewer construction access shaft and was excavated using a 360° 8 on track machine with a toothless ditching bucket to remove modern overburden under the supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was mounded at least 3m from the edges of the trench. The trench was stepped down to safely access the base deposits.
- 6.6 Trench 1 dimensions at ground level was 3.19m north-west south-east by 2.80m north-east south-west and 1.22m deep. At the base of the trench a north-south orientated concrete foundation was exposed and a smaller trench was excavated next to it, located approximately in the centre of the trench and alongside the west side of the concrete foundation. Its dimension were 1.21m north-west south-east, 1.41m north-east south-west and 0.97m deep (Figures 2 and 3).
- 6.7 Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The majority of the investigation of archaeological levels was carried out by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section.
- 6.8 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were evaluated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Features will be evaluated so as to characterise their form, function and date. Fabric samples were taken from brickwork structures and environmental samples were taken from the sequence of alluvium observed in the north part of the site.
- 6.9 The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in London that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS 1994) and with PCA Site Manual (Taylor and Brown, 2009). The site archive was organised to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area.
- 6.10 A full digital photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation.

- 6.11 The complete archive produced during the evaluation and watching brief, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the Museum of London site code WTN14.
- 6.12 One temporary benchmark (TBM) was established with a GPS with a height of 3.11m OD. The TBM was located on the east corner of the site.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The following text is an overview of the archaeological sequence recorded during the evaluation. Full individual context description and Ordnance Datum levels are detailed in Appendix 1 and stratigraphic relationships are shown in Appendix 2. Figure 1 shows the site locations, Figure 2 shows the location of Trench 1, Figure 3 shows Trench 1 plan, and Figure 4 shows Sections 1 and 2.

7.2 Phase 1: Natural Deposit (Figure 4)

- 7.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the archaeological evaluation was a firm yellowish brown coarse sand gravel [8] found at 1.09m OD alongside the west limit of excavation of Trench 1. This natural deposit, exposed to a maximum level of 0.81m OD, was interpreted as Kempton Park Gravels, a post-diversionary Thames River Terrace deposit which overlies London Clay.

7.3 Phase 2: ?Roman (Figure 4)

- 7.3.1 Natural sandy gravel layer [8] was overlaid at 1.34m OD by moderately firm mid yellowish/reddish brown sandy silt clay layer [7] with very occasional charcoal flecks. The dimensions of layer [7] were 0.53m north-south and 0.24m in thickness and did not contain any dating evidence.
- 7.3.2 Layer [7] was truncated to the north at 1.34m OD by cut feature [6]. This feature was only observed in east facing Section 1, and measured 0.50m north-south, 0.43 deep. The layer extended beyond the north limit of excavation. Its profile in section presented a regular and nearly vertical side (south side only exposed) sloping gradually to a fairly flat and regular base. Its infill consisted of moderately firm mid reddish brown sandy silt clay [5] with moderate gravel inclusions. No artefacts were retrieved from this fill. The full extent, date and function of cut feature [6] is unknown at this stage of the archaeological investigation.
- 7.3.3 Context [5] was overlaid at 1.60m OD by firm mid to dark brown sandy clay silt layer [4] with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel inclusions. This layer measured 0.76m north-south and 0.37m in thickness and was observed in east facing Section 1 only. One single abraded fragment of CBM retrieved from this layer was dated between AD 50 to 160.

7.4 Phase 3: 18 century deposits (Figure 3 and 4)

- 7.4.1 Layer [4] was sealed at 1.93m OD by firm dark reddish brown sandy clay silt layer [1] with occasional charcoal flecks and small lumps of mortar. The dimensions of this layer were 0.42m north-south, 0.32m thick and observed in section 1 only. One single sherd of pottery was recovered dating this layer to the 18th century. Context [1] was interpreted as post-medieval made ground.
- 7.4.2 Context [1] was truncated at 1.86m OD by cut feature [3] located in the south-west corner of Trench 1. Context [3], observed in Section 1 only, measured 0.36m north-south, was 0.45m deep and its profile consisted of nearly vertical and regular sides sloping gradually to a narrow and fairly flat base. The infill of this cut consisted of moderately firm mid dark brown sandy silt [2] with very frequent mortar lumps and moderate charcoal flecks. Very decayed wood, observed in the central part of context [2], extended beyond the west limits of Trench 1. The decayed wood seemed to be a plank of wood orientated east-west and as a result cut feature [3] was interpreted as a construction cut for an east-west orientated wood fence which probably represented a property boundary.

- 7.4.3 Fill [2] was truncated at 1.86m OD, together with all Phase 1 to 3 deposits, by cut feature [11] which nearly occupied the full extent of the base of Trench 1. The edge of cut [11] followed the line of the west limit of excavation of Trench 1 and measured approximately 3m north-west south-east. The width was 2.40m north-east south-west and Cut [11] was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m OD giving a partial depth of 0.90m. The profile of Cut [11], observed in the north facing Section 2, consisted of a very regular side sloping gradually to the base of Trench 1. The infill of Cut [11] was recorded as Fills [10] and [9]. Context [10], the lower fill, consisted of firm mid reddish brown sandy clay silt with moderate gravel and occasional CBM fleck inclusion. Upper fill [9] consisted of soft mid yellowish grey very fine lime mortar with occasional gravel and moderate charcoal flecks inclusions. One fragment of clay tobacco pipe dating between 1730 and 1780 was recovered from fill [9]. Cut feature [11] was interpreted as a north-west south-east orientated ditch cut but its function at this stage is unknown.
- 7.4.4 Fill [9] was truncated by modern north-west south-east orientated concrete foundation which extended beyond the north and south limits of Trench 1.
- 7.4.5 The archaeological sequence was sealed at approximately 3m OD of modern made ground about 1.35m thick.



Post-medieval cut [11]. Looking west.



North facing section showing cut [11] and fills [10] and [9].

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Interpretation

- 8.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation (Moore 2014) prepared before archaeological work commenced at 134 Weston Street highlighted specific primary objectives to be addressed by the archaeological investigation.

8.2 What is the palaeotopography of the site?

- 8.2.1 Weston Street is situated on the 'mainland' but in a very marginal area on the south side of the Borough Channel, which separated the south island from the dry ground to the south. The surface of the natural sands and gravels extending south of the channel has been recorded between 1.00m and 1.80m OD (Graham, 1978). This area of relatively high ground fell away sharply to the east where a shallow northwest to southeast aligned channel passed between the mainland and Bermondsey Eyot. The highest level recorded on the gravel during the excavations carried out at Tabard Square was 1.22m, taken in the southwest corner of the site (Killock, 2009). The archaeological evaluation at 134 Weston Street recorded natural sandy gravel at 1.31m OD which is consistent with the level of the natural sandy gravel recorded in this part of Southwark.

8.3 What evidence is there for prehistoric occupation of the site?

- 8.3.1 The archaeological evaluation did not find any evidence of prehistoric activity. However, a very small area of Trench 1 survived late post-medieval activity and as a result archaeological deposits dating to the prehistoric period could be present on the west part of the site.

8.4 What evidence is there for Roman activity and how it relates to the emerging model of landscape usage, as well as industrial and settlement activities?

- 8.4.1 The excavation of Trench 1 found evidence of early deposits sealing the natural sandy gravel. These deposits have been interpreted as dating to the Roman period as were sealed by a layer from which a fragment of Roman CBM dating 50 to 160 was recovered. More evidence of Roman deposits is probably present in the western area of the site away from the post-medieval activity represented by Cut [11] (see below).

8.5 What evidence is there for medieval and post-medieval activity?

- 8.5.1 Evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity was recorded during the evaluation. Phase 2 deposits were sealed by layers and one cut feature dated to the 18th century. The cut feature, truncated to the east by later post-medieval Cut [11] (see below) was interpreted as the construction cut associated with the erection of a wooden fence orientated east-west which probably represents a property boundary.
- 8.5.2 Post-medieval ditch Cut [11] occupied most of the base of Trench 1 and extended beyond the eastern limit of excavation. This ditch was north-west south-east orientated and was backfilled with firm mid reddish brown sandy clay silt with moderate gravel and occasional CBM fleck inclusion and soft mid yellowish grey very fine lime mortar with occasional gravel and moderate charcoal flecks inclusions. One fragment of clay tobacco pipe dating between 1730 and 1780 was recovered from Fill [9]. The function of this cut feature is unknown at the time of writing.

8.6 What was the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource?

- 8.6.1 The more affected part of the site by post-depositional impact seems to be the eastern half of the site where the large post-medieval ditch was located.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Rinay Chawda of Life Less Ordinary for commissioning the archaeological work. We also thank Dr Christopher Constable, Senior Archaeologist for the Planning and Regeneration Department, who monitored the site on behalf of the London Borough of Southwark.
- 9.2 Furthermore the author would also like to thank: Peter Moore for project managing and editing of this report; Hayley Baxter for the illustrations; Chris Jarrett, Berni Seddon for their assessment of the pottery and ceramic building material. Finally thank you to Debbie Koussiounelos for her work on site, to Rick Archer for the surveying and to Chris Cooper for the logistical support.

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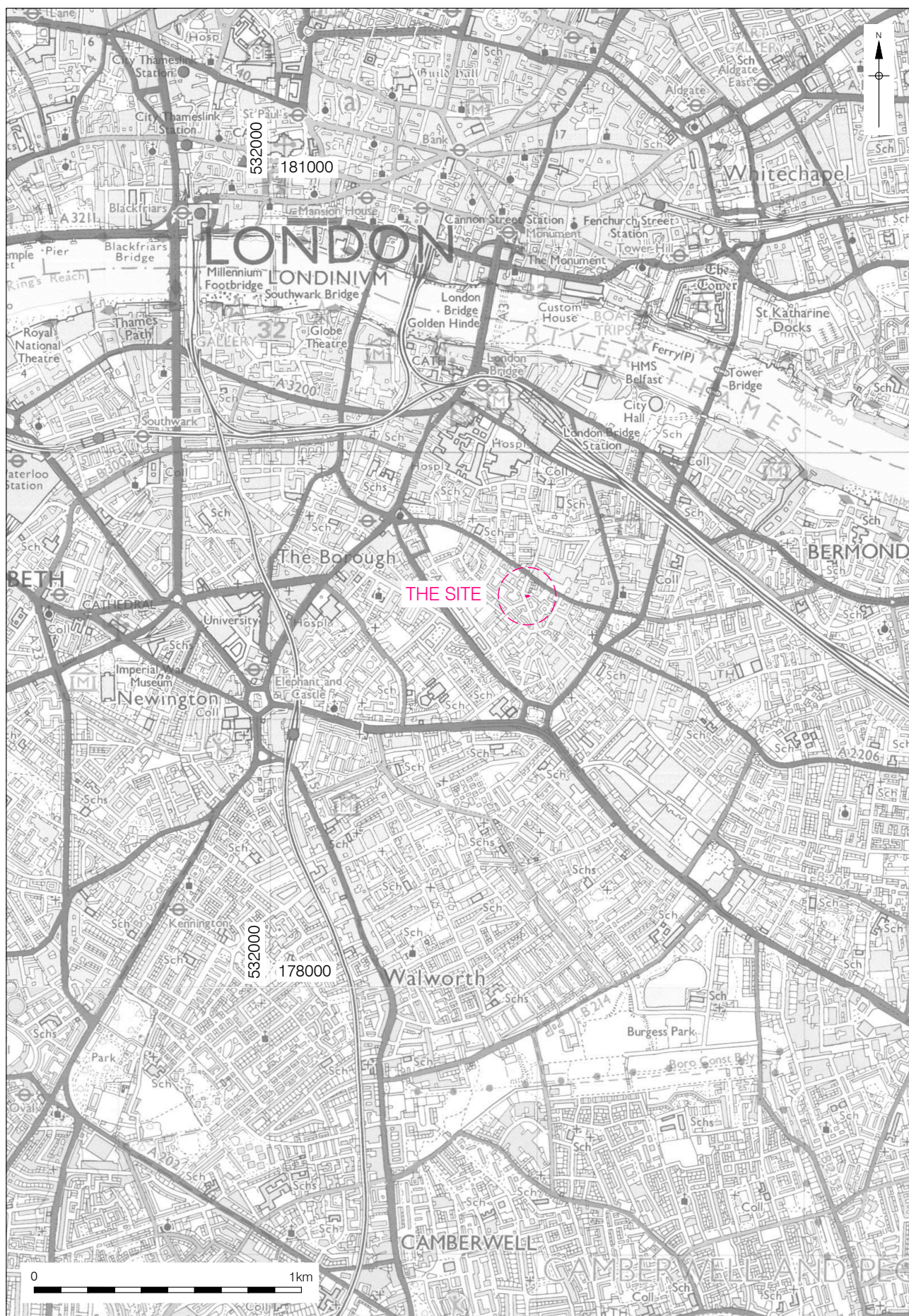
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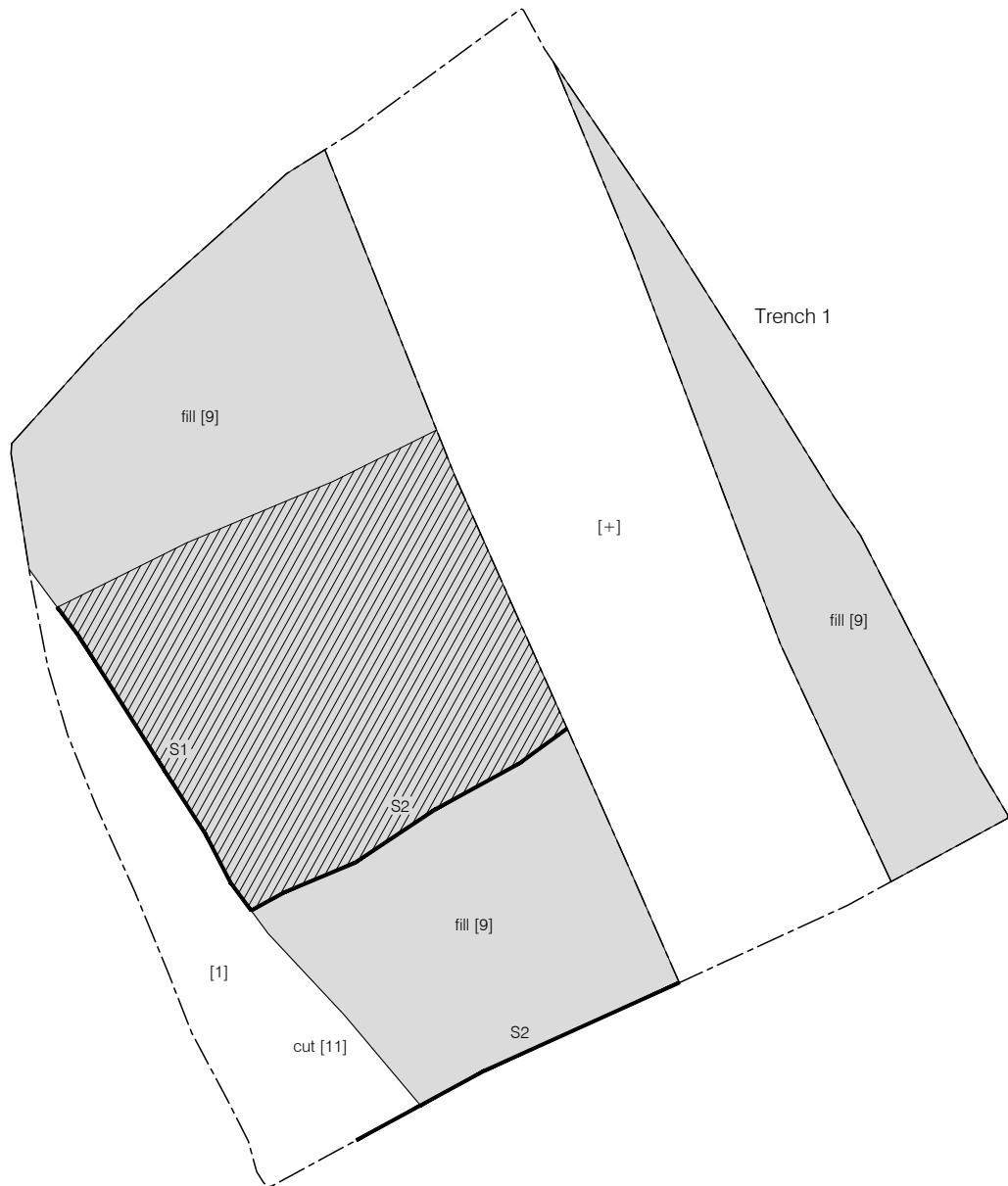
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4



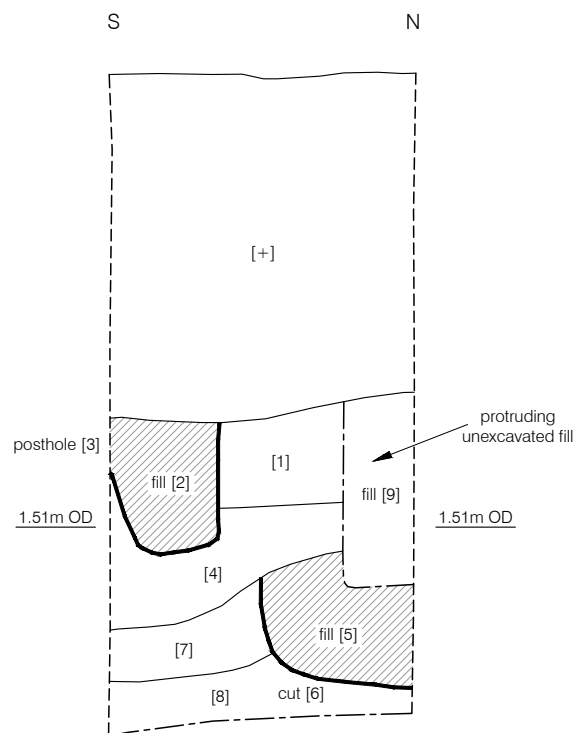
 excavated slot

 cut feature

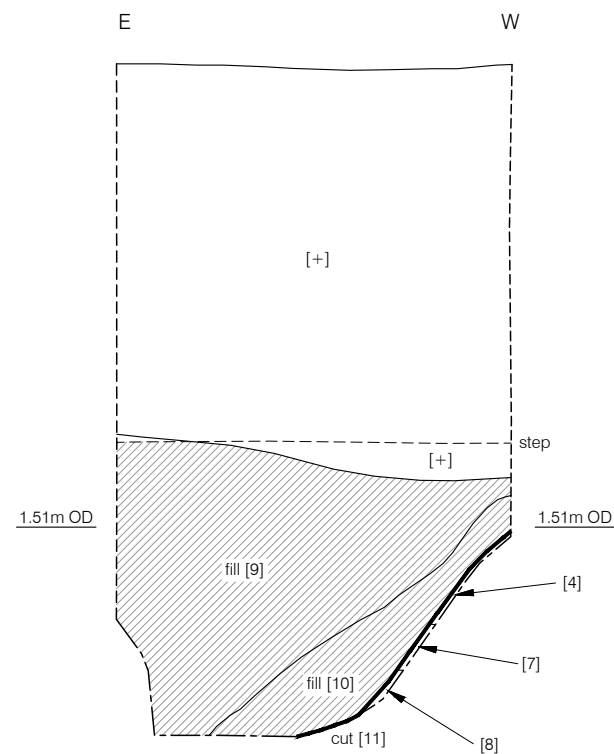
0  1m

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Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1
1:25 at A4



Section 1
East facing
Trench 1



Section 2
North facing
Trench 1

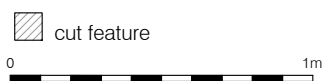
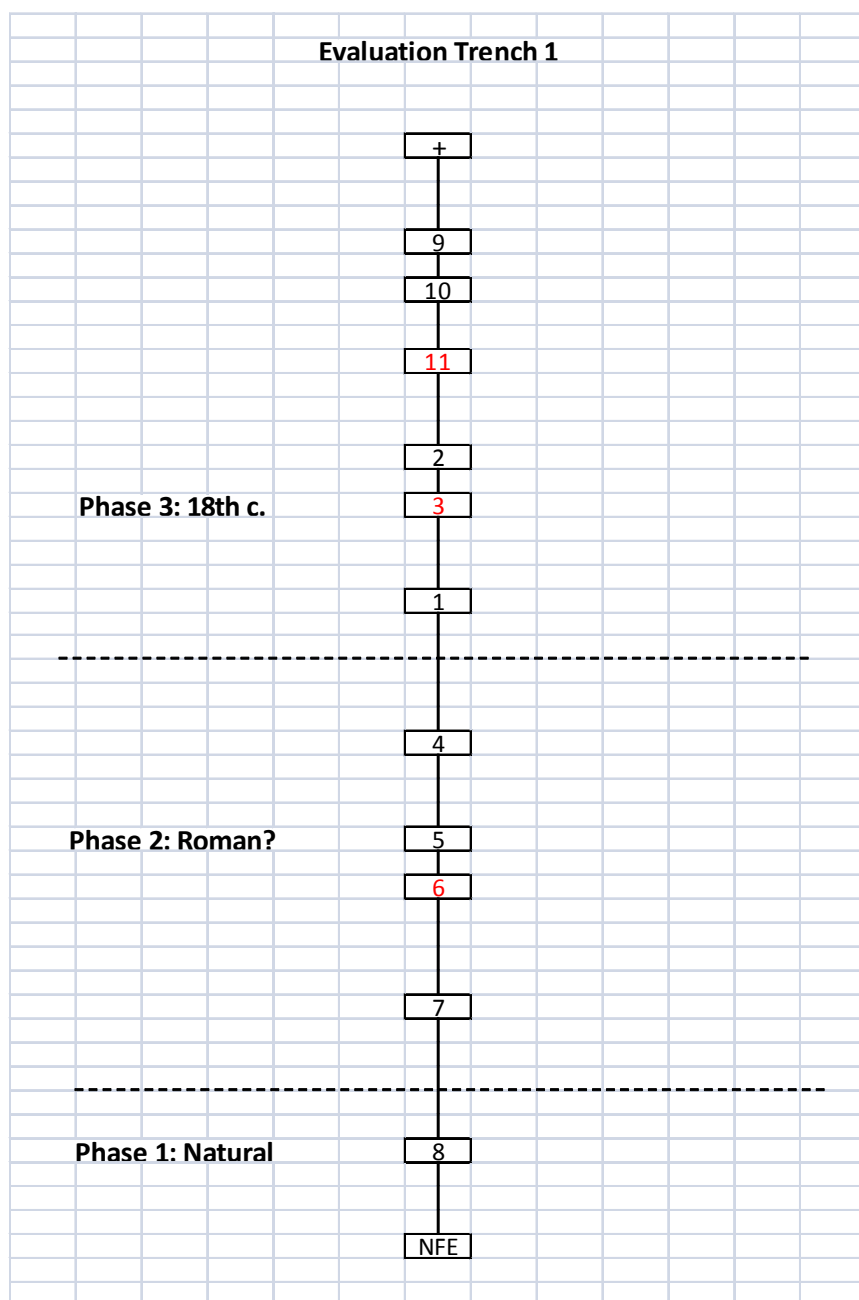


Figure 4
Sections 1 & 2
1:25 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEX INDEX

Context No	Trench No	Phase	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Highest Level	Lowest Level
1	1	3	Post-ex	1	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt	1.93m OD	1.85m OD
2	1	3		1	Fill	Fill of posthole [3]	1.86m OD	1.84m OD
3	1	3		1	Cut	Posthole filled by [2]	1.86m OD	1.41m OD
4	1	2		1, 2	Layer	Dark brown sandy clay silt	1.60m OD	1.57m OD
5	1	2		1	Fill	Fill of cut feature [6]	1.42m OD	1.34m OD
6	1	2		1	Cut	Cut feature filled by [5]	1.34m OD	0.98m OD
7	1	2		1, 2	Layer	Yellowish brown sandy clay	1.34m OD	1.17m OD
8	1	1	Post-ex	1, 2	Layer	Natural sandy gravel	1.31m OD	0.99m OD
9	1	3	Post-ex	1, 2	Fill	Upper fill of cut feature [11]	1.95m OD	1.68m OD
10	1	3	Post-ex	2	Fill	Lower fill of cut feature [11]	1.61m OD	0.81m OD
11	1	3	Post-ex	2	Cut	Large post-medieval cut feature	1.69m OD	0.80m OD

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-178369

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 134 Weston Street, London, SE1 4PZ, London Borough of Southwark

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at 134 Weston Street, London, SE1 4PZ, London Borough of Southwark. The evaluation was carried out on 20th March 2014 and was designed to observe and record the excavation of one single trench. The earliest deposit encountered during the archaeological evaluation was a firm yellowish brown coarse sand gravel. This natural gravel layer was cut by a large feature of unknown extent. This was interpreted as a Roman feature due to its location in the archaeological sequence and based on the results of similar investigations in the near vicinity of the site. The large cut feature was overlaid by a firm mid to dark brown sandy clay silt layer. One single abraded fragment of CBM retrieved from this layer was dated between AD 50 to 160. The possible Roman layer was overlaid by post-medieval made ground and cut by a possible 18th century property boundary/fence line. An 18th century ditch was also noted. The archaeological sequence was sealed at approximately 3m OD by modern made ground about 1.35m thick.

Project dates Start: 20-03-2014 End: 20-03-2014

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes WTN14 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Roman

Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the Not known / Not recorded
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 134 Weston Street,
London, SE1 4PZ

Postcode SE1 4PZ

Study area 50.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 329600 794600 51.4979220196 -0.0843235201469 51 29 52 N 000 05
03 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 0.81m Max: 1.09m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief Chris Constable
originator

Project design Peter Moore
originator

Project Peter Moore
director/manager

Project supervisor Ireneo Grosso

Type of Construction/housing
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Life Less Ordinary
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Archive WTN14

ID

Physical Contents "Ceramics","other"

Digital Archive LAARC
 recipient

Digital Archive ID WTN14

Digital Contents "Ceramics","other"

Digital Media "Database","Text"
 available

Paper Archive LAARC
 recipient

Paper Archive ID WTN14

Paper Contents "Ceramics","other"

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 134 Weston Street, London, SE1
 4PZ, London Borough of Southwark

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

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 publication

APPENDIX 4: POTTERY REPORT

Pottery spot dating index

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (less than one box). The pottery dates from the post-medieval period. None of the sherds show evidence for abrasion and so was probably deposited fairly rapidly after breakage. The fragmentation of the pottery consists entirely of sherd material and one form could be identified. Pottery was recovered from two contexts and individual deposits produced a single sherd.

All the pottery (two sherds/2 ENV/40g, of which none are unstratified) was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and entered on a database, by fabric, form, decoration, sherd count and estimated number of vessels (ENV's). The classification of the pottery types follows the standard Museum of London Archaeology (2007) typology.

Spot dating Index

Context [1], spot date: 18th century/1570-1846

English tin-glazed ware (TGW), 1570-1846, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 22g, form: ointment pot with blue line on white decoration (18th century).

Context [2], spot date: 1480-1650

London-area post-medieval slipped redware with green glaze (PMSRG), 1480-1650, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 18 g, form: unidentified

Significance and potential and recommendations for further work

The pottery has little significance at a local level. The pottery consists of fabric types commonly found in the London area. The main potential of the pottery is to date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage.

Reference

LAARC, 2007. Post 1992 Museum of London Code Expansions Post-Roman Pottery. www.museumoflondon.org.uk/.../post92mol_post_roman_fab_form.pdf (accessed 2014).

APPENDIX 5: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE REPORT

Clay tobacco pipe spot dating index

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A small sized assemblage of clay tobacco pipes was recovered from the site consisting of a single bowl which was classified by Oswald's (1975) typology (OS).

Spot dating Index

Context [9], spot date: 1730-1780

One OS12 heeled bowl dated 1730-17680 which survives with most of the bowl missing. The heel is not maker marked with initials.

Significance and potential and recommendations for further work

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage has no significance at a local level. The bowl types represented are commonly found in London and Southwark. The main potential of the material is to date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage.

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PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE
STAPLEFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

