

**An Archaeological Watching Brief during Geotechnical Investigations at
128-150 Blackfriars Road, London Borough of Southwark, SE1 8EQ**

Site Code: BKF14

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3160 7980

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CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	2
2	INTRODUCTION.....	3
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND	6
4	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	10
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	11
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	13
7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION	15
8	INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS.....	22
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	23
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	24

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	25
APPENDIX 2 – SITE MATRIX.....	26
APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM.....	27

ILLUSTRATIONS

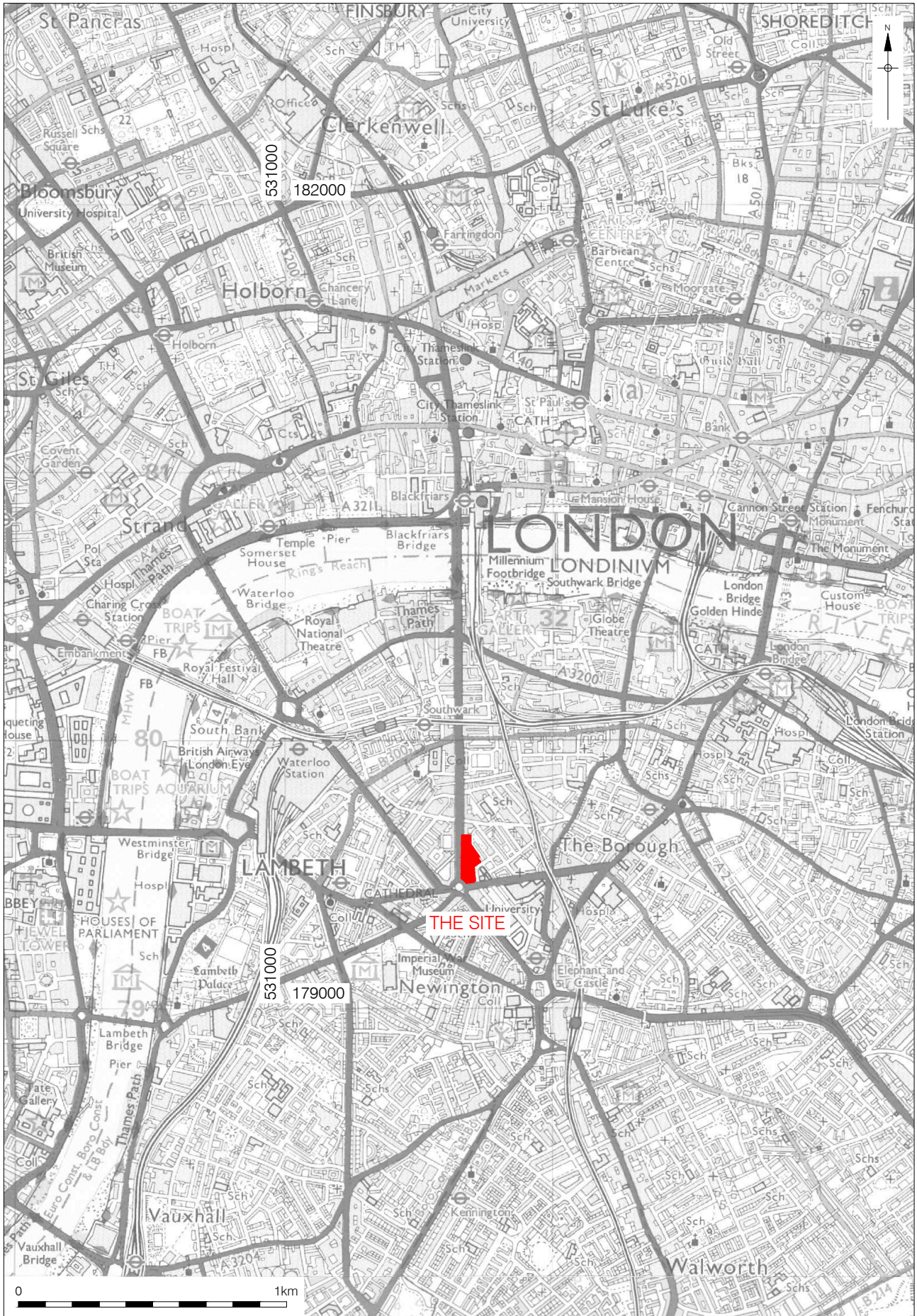
Figure 1 – Site Location.....	4
Figure 2 – Location of Test Pits and Boreholes on site.....	5

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken intermittently between 12th-19th June 2014 during geotechnical investigations at 128-150 Blackfriars Road, Southwark (Figure 1). The watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Consulting.
- 1.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring of ten boreholes and seven test pits across the site (Figure 2).
- 1.3 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the geotechnical investigations to establish the nature and depth of the below ground deposits to assist in ascertaining which areas of the site have seen previous impact and to highlight where archaeological remains might survive.
- 1.4 The only deposits found within the test pits were modern in date, sealing natural deposits. It was not possible to monitor all the boreholes but those observed suggested the same pattern of made ground (apparently slightly older but still dating to the modern era) straight down onto natural.
- 1.5 Natural deposits were sands, sandy gravels and gravelly sands overlying London clay.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at 128-150 Blackfriars Road, Southwark (Figure 1) between 12th and 19th June 2014.
- 2.2 The site measures 0.94ha in extent. The test pits and Boreholes 1-2 were located in the basement of Hill House which occupies the north of the site; the remaining boreholes were situated in an area to the south of Hill House, outside and on street level.
- 2.3 The requirements for the archaeological watching brief were outlined in the Method Statement (Hawkins 2014). These consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of eight test pits and, where practicable, the inspection and recording of the arisings and logs of ten boreholes and two CBR pits (Figure 2). Ultimately, the two CBR pits and one of the test pits (Test Pit 7) were not carried out, on the decision of the geotechnicians; thus, ten boreholes and seven test pits were excavated in total.
- 2.4 The watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Consulting; the project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. by Helen Hawkins and the supervising archaeologist was Maria Buczak.
- 2.5 The National Grid Reference of the site was centred at TQ 3160 7980.
- 2.6 The site was given the code BKF14.

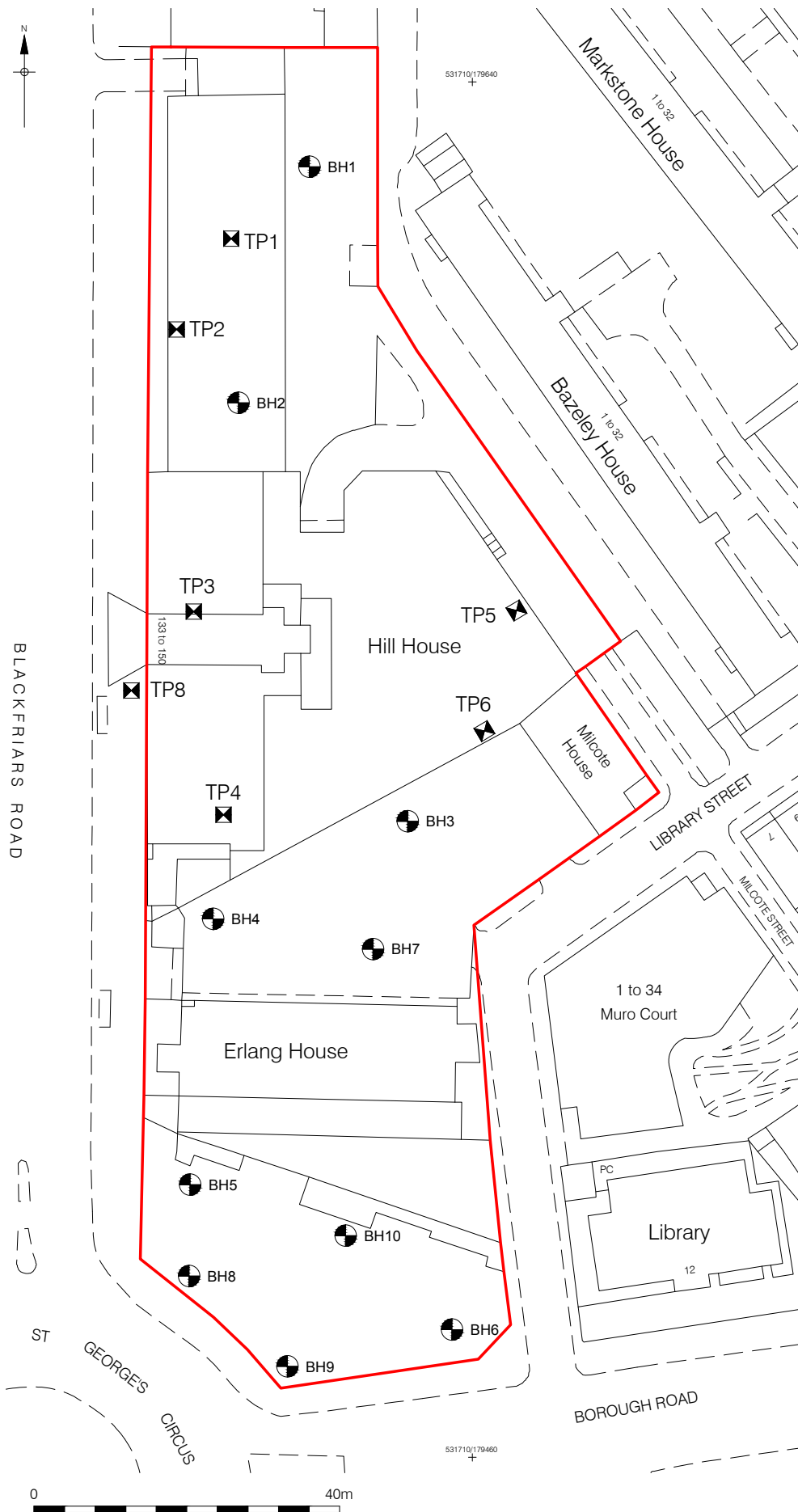


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19/06/14 JB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Location of Test Pits and Boreholes
1:800 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework Framework (NPPF), which replaces national policy relating to heritage and archaeology (Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment).
- 3.2 Section 12 of the NPPF, entitled *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 12 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:
- Delivery of sustainable development
 - Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment
 - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, and
 - Recognition of the contribution that heritage assets make to our understanding of the past.
- 3.2.1 Section 12 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 128 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be *no more than sufficient* to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 3.2.2 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the planmaking process.
- 3.2.3 Annex 2 also defines *Archaeological Interest* as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are a primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.
- 3.2.4 A *Designated Heritage Asset* comprises a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.
- 3.2.5 *Significance* is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.
- 3.2.6 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets (which include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas)
 - Protects the settings of such designations
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.

- 3.3 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.
- 3.4 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by the London Plan published 22 July 2011. Policy relevant to archaeology at the site includes:

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, REUSE 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. BOROUGHES 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. BOROUGHES, 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.**

- 3.5 The London Borough of Southwark Core Strategy was adopted in April 2011 and contains the following relevant policy:

STRATEGIC POLICY 12 – DESIGN AND CONSERVATION

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.**

- 3.6 The London Borough of Southwark Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted in July 2007. The Plan contains Policy 3.19 - Archaeology which seeks to protect and safeguard archaeological remains. This policy has been saved until the adoption of the Local Development Framework.

POLICY 3.19 – ARCHAEOLOGY

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AFFECTING SITES WITHIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY ZONES, AS IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX 7, 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.

- 3.7 In terms of designated heritage assets, as defined above, the site does not lie within the vicinity of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Historic Battlefield or Historic Wreck site. The study site does not lie within an 'Archaeological Priority Zone', on the adopted Core Strategy proposals map (adopted 2011).

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The solid geology of the study site is London Clay, forming the London Basin (British Geological Survey).

4.1.2 The drift geology of the study site is shown by British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London 1998) to lie on Kempton Park Terrace Gravels.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 Mapping of the buried topography of Southwark indicates that the study site lay on the gravel terrace of higher ground of Southwark's 'mainland'.

4.2.2 The current topography of the study site comprises a gradual slope from c. 4m OD in the south of the study site down to c. 3.5m OD in the north of the study site.

4.2.3 The natural topography of the Southwark area, to the north of the study site, is one of low gravel eyots separated by lower-lying areas and braided stream channels, which were periodically flooded. Episodes of Holocene transgression and regression of the Thames have led to the deposition of alluvial silts and clays interspersed with episodes of localised peat formation, especially in channel locations. As the study site is thought to have lain on Southwark's 'mainland', deeply buried alluvial deposits would not be present on the study site.

4.2.4 The study site lies approximately 1.5km south of the current south bank of the River Thames.

4.3 Landscape Features

4.3.1 The area of monitoring is currently occupied by several large modern buildings with basements (Hill House, Erlang House and Milcote House), with concreted open areas in-between.

4.3.2 The site is bounded by Blackfriars Road to the west, Library Street to the east and St George's Circus and Borough Road to the south.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The archaeological and historical background is taken from the desk based assessment for the site (CgMS 2014) and summarised below.
- 5.2 Prehistoric – Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages
- 5.2.1 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for the later prehistoric periods can probably be defined as low, alluvial deposits are considered unlikely to be present due to the topographical position of the site.
- 5.3 Roman
- 5.3.1 A map reconstructing Roman Southwark shows the study site as lying within undeveloped land. Most Roman settlement and activity in Southwark appears to be concentrated to the north-east of the study site; the study site also lay at least 1km to the west of the principal Roman road south-west out of London, Stane Street, which ran toward Chichester.
- 5.3.2 Overall it would seem likely that the study site lay some distance from the south-western edge of the Roman settlement of Southwark, in an area of horticultural or agricultural land, and that therefore its archaeological potential for this period can be defined as low.
- 5.4 Saxon and Medieval
- 5.4.1 The abandonment of land around Southwark in later Roman periods appears to continue through the Saxon and early medieval periods. The study site is thought to have lain outside the settled area of Saxon settlement in an area of agricultural or horticultural land.
- 5.4.2 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for these periods can be defined as low.
- 5.5 Late Medieval and Post-Medieval
- 5.5.1 The study site is thought to have lain outside the settled area of late medieval settlement, and also some distance to the south of post-medieval Southwark, in an area of agricultural or horticultural land known as St George's Fields until it was developed in the late 18th century.
- 5.5.2 Blackfriars Road, known as Great Surrey Street until 1829, was laid out from the southern end of Blackfriars Bridge to St George's Circus between 1770-1800.
- 5.5.3 Remains of late 18th century buildings are considered unlikely to have survived post depositional impacts from cumulative phases of modern construction and demolition. Therefore the potential for these periods is now considered to have been reduced.
- 5.6 Modern
- 5.6.1 By 1872 a post-medieval Wheelwrights Workshop and Cart Shed are shown on the site of Milcote House in the east of the study site and there was a significant increase in buildings within the central parts of the site.
- 5.6.2 By 1792-99 the Horwood Map shows the west of the study site occupied by buildings fronting 'Great Surrey Street,' the south-east of the study site occupied by buildings fronting 'New Street', and the east of the study site occupied by buildings fronting 'Pearl Row.
- 5.6.3 By 1907-1912 the buildings comprising the Cart and Wheel Works were demolished and cleared from the south and east of the study site and a large factory (Tobacco Factory) was built.
- 5.6.4 The London Bomb Damage Map shows blast damage to buildings fronting Blackfriars Road and irreparable damage to buildings in the south of the study site.
- 5.6.5 By 1951-52 'Ruins' are shown in the north and south-east of the study site and a cleared area is shown to the south-east of the Tobacco Factory. Between 1952 and 1973-76 all buildings on the study site were demolished and cleared ahead of the

construction of 'Hill House' in the north-west of the site, 'Erlang House' in the south of the site and 'Milcote House' in the east of the site. Milcote Street was realigned to respect the study sites north-eastern boundary. No further significant changes occurred on the study site between 1976 and 2013.

- 5.6.6 The potential for the Modern period resides within any below ground remains of 19th and 20th century buildings outside the footprint of the existing buildings.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 Methods

6.1.1 In accordance with the Method Statement (Hawkins 2014) the following aspects of the geotechnical investigation at 128-150 Blackfriars Road were to be archaeologically monitored:

- The excavation of eight geotechnical test pits
- Where practicable the arisings and logs of the ten boreholes and two CBR pits were also to inspected and recorded

6.1.2 Ultimately only seven test pits and ten boreholes were excavated; one test pit and the two CBR pits were not carried out, on the decision of the geotechnicians.

6.1.3 It was possible to archaeologically monitor only one of the ten boreholes (Borehole 6).

6.2 Test Pits

6.2.1 After the surface concrete was broken and removed by a concrete breaker, all of the test pits were excavated using hand tools under the supervision of an archaeologist.

6.2.2 Following excavation, each test pit was cleaned by hand tools (where possible), evaluated, and recorded using sketch plans, sections and notes. Photographs were also taken as appropriate.

6.3 Borehole 6

6.3.1 As the borehole was drilled, the arisings extracted were examined by the archaeologist. Records were then made using sketches and notes. Photographs were taken as appropriate.

6.4 Excavations

6.4.1 The table below summarises the dimensions of all archaeologically monitored test pits and boreholes:

Test Pit	Dimensions North-South	Dimensions East-West	Depth (below level of basement floor)	Depth of natural deposits in test pit (below level of basement floor)
1	0.44m	0.99m	1.60m	0.40m
2	0.55m	0.88m	1.08m	n/a
3	0.60m	0.60m	1.15m	n/a
4	0.90m	1.00m	1.25m	n/a
5	1.00m	1.50m	0.75m	0.50m
6	1.80m	1.00m	0.70m	0.60m
8	0.90m	1.30m	0.70m	0.50m

Borehole	Depth top of borehole (OD)	Depth of natural deposits in borehole (OD)
6	3.57m	-0.93m

6.4.2 Natural deposits were encountered in test pits 1, 5, 6 and 8, and borehole 6.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

- 7.1 Test Pit 1 (Figure 2 and Plate 1)
- 7.1.1 Natural deposits were encountered at 0.40m below the top of the test pit. They consisted of alternating layers of loose, fine, mid-dark brownish orange sand and compact, mid brownish orange sandy gravel. Natural was found down to the excavation depth limit at 1.60m.
- 7.1.2 Modern concrete lay immediately over the natural deposits.
- 7.2 Test Pit 2 (Figure 2 and Plate 2)
- 7.2.1 No natural deposits were encountered during the excavation of this test pit.
- 7.2.2 Modern deposits only were discovered in Test Pit 2. A layer of 0.40m thick concrete overlay 0.64m of modern hardcore which sat on top of a further layer of concrete at the excavation depth limit (1.08m).
- 7.3 Test Pit 3 (Figure 2 and Plate 3)
- 7.3.1 No natural deposits were encountered during the excavation of this test pit.
- 7.3.2 Modern deposits only were discovered in Test Pit 3. A layer of 0.35m thick concrete overlay modern hardcore, which continued down to the excavation depth limit at 1.15m.
- 7.4 Test Pit 4 (Figure 2 and Plate 4)
- 7.4.1 No natural deposits were encountered during the excavation of this test pit.
- 7.4.2 Modern deposits only were discovered in Test Pit 4. A layer of 0.52m thick concrete overlay 0.73m of re-deposited natural which sat on top of a further layer of concrete at the excavation depth limit (1.25m).
- 7.5 Test Pit 5 (Figure 2 and Plate 5)
- 7.5.1 Natural deposits were encountered at 0.50m below the top of the test pit. They consisted of alternating layers of compact, mid brownish orange gravelly sand and loose, fine, mid brownish orange sand. Natural was found down to the excavation depth limit at 0.75m.
- 7.5.2 Modern concrete lay immediately over the natural deposits.
- 7.6 Test Pit 6 (Figure 2 and Plate 6)
- 7.6.1 Natural deposits were encountered at 0.60m below the top of the test pit. The natural here comprised loose, fine, mid brownish orange sand with occasional gravel inclusions, and continued down to the excavation depth limit at 0.70m.
- 7.6.2 Modern concrete lay immediately over the natural deposits.
- 7.7 Test Pit 8 (Figure 2 and Plate 7)
- 7.7.1 Natural deposits were encountered at 0.50m below the top of the test pit. The natural here comprised loose, fine, mid brownish yellow sand and continued down to the excavation depth limit at 0.70m.
- 7.7.2 Modern concrete lay immediately over the natural deposits.
- 7.8 Borehole 6 (Figure 2 and Plate 8)
- 7.9 Natural
- 7.9.1 Natural deposits were encountered at -0.93m OD. The natural here comprised alternating layers of sand, sandy gravels, gravelly sands and gravelly clays, until London clay was encountered at -5.93m OD.
- 7.10 Modern

- 7.10.1 Above natural deposits was a deposit of brickearth with flecks of clay building material (0.07m - -0.43m OD). Overlying this was a layer composed purely of red brick material (1.17m-0.77m OD). It is unknown exactly when these layers of made ground date from but the red brick material appears to be no older than 19th century, and may well be more modern still.
- 7.10.2 Above these brickearth and red brick deposits were various layers of made ground which appeared very modern in appearance (between 3.37m and 1.17m OD). These consisted of, variously, layers of gravelly sand, red brick, sandy silt, gravelly silty sand and sandy silt, all containing flecks of clay building material.
- 7.10.3 Above these layers of made ground was 0.20m of modern concrete (3.57m-3.37m OD).

Plate 1 North facing view of Test Pit 1; concrete immediately above natural sands and gravels



Plate 2 North West facing view of Test Pit 2 being excavated; only (+) (concrete and hardcore) was encountered



Plate 3 South facing view of Test Pit 3; only (+) (concrete and hardcore) was encountered



Plate 4 West facing section in Test Pit 4 showing sequence of concrete and re-deposited natural (+) above concrete encountered at excavation depth



Plate 5 South West facing section in Test Pit 5; natural deposits immediately below concrete



Plate 6 North East facing section in Test Pit 6; natural deposits immediately below concrete



Plate 7 East facing view of Test Pit 8; natural deposits immediately below concrete



Plate 8 West facing view of Borehole 6 being excavated



8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Interpretation

8.1.1 Natural deposits were encountered at some of the monitored locations on the study site. Natural was encountered in Borehole 6 (at 4.50m below street level/-0.93m OD), and in Test Pits 1, 5, 6 and 8 (at, respectively, 0.40m, 0.50m, 0.60m and 0.50m below basement floor level).

8.1.2 The natural encountered across site comprised sands, gravelly sands, sandy gravels and gravelly clays and, further down, London Clay.

8.1.3 The presence of these sand and gravel naturals, rather than alluvial deposits and peats, supports the desk based assessment's hypothesis that the study site lay on the gravel terrace of higher ground of Southwark's 'mainland' rather than the area of braided stream channels and low gravel eyots which is the topography of the Southwark area to the north of the site.

8.1.4 In all the test pits, natural was immediately overlain by concrete and/or hardcore relating to the modern construction of the existing building on site (Hill House). This demonstrates that the impact modern development has had on the study area is very substantial, at least within the footprint of the existing buildings.

8.1.5 Indeed, the extent of impact of the modern construction of Hill House is such that natural was not even encountered in three test pits (Test Pit 2, 3 and 4) despite the fact they were excavated to a considerable depth (respectively, 1.08m, 1.15m and 1.25m below basement floor level).

8.1.6 The brickearth with CBM flecks found on borehole 6 may be of potential archaeological interest, but not enough of it was seen to allow any dating of the deposit.

8.1.7 In the open areas between the existing buildings on site, natural deposits were immediately overlain by perhaps slightly earlier, but still modern, made ground (19th century at earliest). This demonstrates that modern development has had a perhaps lesser, but still very substantial, impact on the areas between the existing buildings on site.

8.1.8 Although only one borehole was monitored, the geotechnicians on site stated that they had encountered almost identical results for the other boreholes they had excavated.

8.2 Conclusions

8.2.1 The extent of impacts of modern developments on the study area means that nothing of archaeological significance survives in the footprints of the existing buildings, and nothing predating the modern period is likely to survive in the areas between them.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs for commissioning the work.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Josephine Brown for the CAD figures, and Helen Hawkins for her project management and editing.

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APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Test Pit	Type	Description
1	TP 5	Layer	Natural gravelly sand layer
2	TP 5	Layer	Natural sand layer
3	TP 6	Layer	Natural sand layer
4	TP 1	Layer	Natural sand layer
5	TP 1	Layer	Natural sandy gravel layer
6	TP 1	Layer	Natural sand layer
7	TP 8	Layer	Natural sand layer

APPENDIX 2 – SITE MATRIX

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-181984

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 128-150 Blackfriars Street
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief of geotechnical investigations (10 boreholes and 7 test pits) at 128-150 Blackfriars Street, Southwark, London
Project dates	Start: 12-06-2014 End: 19-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BKF14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 128-150 Blackfriars Road, Southwark
Postcode	SE1 8EQ
Study area	0.94 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 316 798 51.5012967457 -0.103779845709 51 30 04 N 000 06 13 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: -0.93m Max: -0.93m

Project creators

Name of Organisation CGMS Consulting

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design
originator CgMs Consulting

Project
director/manager Helen Hawkins

Project supervisor Maria Buczak

Project archives

Physical Archive
Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient NMRC, Museum of London

Digital Archive ID BRK14, 128-150 Blackfriars Road

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets"

Paper Archive recipient NMRC, Museum of London

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research",
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