

**236-238 OLD KENT ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK
SE1 5UB**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK**

**PCA REPORT NO:R11921
NOVEMBER 2014**

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY




DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

236-238 OLD KENT ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH
OF SOUTHWARK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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236-238 Old Kent Road, London Borough of Southwark, London SE1 5UB
An Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: OKS14

Central NGR: TQ 33310 78509

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Southwark

Planning Reference: 12/AP/3783

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting

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CONTENTS

1	Abstract	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Planning Background	5
4	Geology and Topography	7
5	Archaeological and Historical Background	8
6	Archaeological Methodology	10
7	Archaeological Sequence	11
8	Interpretations and Conclusions	12
9	Acknowledgements.....	13
10	Bibliography	13

Plates

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX	14
APPENDIX 2: PHASED MATRIX	14
APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	15
APPENDIX 4: PLATES	17

Figures

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION	19
FIGURE 2: TRENCH LOCATION.....	20
FIGURE 3: PLANS & SECTIONS.....	21

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of a watching brief carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on 30 October 2014 at 236-238 Old Kent Road in the London Borough of Southwark (centred on National Grid Reference: TQ 33310 78509). The watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in order to satisfy the archaeological condition of the planning permission granted for the partial redevelopment of the study site (planning application number 12/AP/3783).
- 1.2 Prior to the commencement of the watching brief the site had been subject to an archaeological desk based assessment (Meager 2012a) and following consultation with the Senior Archaeology Officer for Southwark Council, a written scheme of investigation detailing the requirements and proposed working methods of an archaeological monitoring exercise (CgMs 2012b).
- 1.3 A total of eight test pits were excavated, five within the lower ground floor level and three to the rear of the building. These were excavated into natural gravels in order to establish the nature of the pre-existing footings as well as to determine the level of survival of archaeologically significant features or horizons. These works were supplemented by the excavation of foundation trenches to the rear of the building.
- 1.4 The investigations revealed natural gravels overlain by brickearth and post-medieval made ground or garden soils. This sequence was largely observed within the excavations to the rear of the building. Only natural gravels were identified within the trial pits excavated within the interior of the building and suggested extensive horizontal truncation within the footprint of the extant building.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) during initial ground investigation works necessitated by the redevelopment of land at 236-238 Old Kent Road, London Borough of Southwark, SE1.
- 2.2 The site is located within the London Borough of Southwark, and centred at National Grid Reference TQ 33438 78478. The site comprises a pair of mid-terrace three storey houses with rear areas backing onto premises fronting Madron Road to the southwest, and single storey shop premises extending northeast-wards to front the Old Kent Road.
- 2.3 PCA was commissioned by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Ms Angela Clark to carry out a watching brief to development works. The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined in the Borough's Local Development Framework Proposals Map. The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 2.4 The areas under observation included works within the ground floor and sunken areas of the rear gardens of properties 236-238 Old Kent Road, Southwark, SE1. These works included the excavation of foundation trenches and geotechnical trial pits.
- 2.5 The project was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012b).
- 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 OKS14.
- 2.7 The watching brief was conducted on 30th October 2014.
- 2.8 The project was managed for PCA by Tim Bradley and supervised by Paw Jorgensen.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

3.1.1 In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), replacing Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) 'Planning for the Historic Environment' which itself replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning'. It provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of heritage assets.

3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance the NPPF, by current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Guidance: The London Plan

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

Policy 7.8: Heritage assets and archaeology

Strategic

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

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

Planning decisions

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

D Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.

LDF preparation

F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.

G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

3.3 Local Guidance: London Borough of Southwark

3.3.1 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Southwark Plan adopted July 2007. The Plan contains the following 'saved' policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features.

Policy 3.19 Archaeology

313 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

314 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.

3.3.2 In terms of designated heritage assets, as defined above, the site does not lie within the vicinity of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Historic Battlefield, Historic Wreck Site, World Heritage Site, Listed Building or Conservation Area. However, the site does lie within an Archaeological Priority Zone.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

- 4.1.1 The solid geology of the study site is illustrated by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) as London Clay deposits forming the London Basin.
- 4.1.2 Further detail is provided by British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London: 1998) which demonstrates that the study site lies within an area of Kempton Park Gravels, defined as 'Post-diversionary Thames River Terrace Deposits: gravel, sandy and clayey in part'.

4.2 Topography

- 4.2.1 The ground floor of 236-238 Old Kent Road is roughly level with a spot height of 3.2m AOD situated in the centre of Old Kent Road immediately southeast of the site. The rear garden area of the site is however c.2-3m lower.
- 4.2.2 No watercourses or naturally occurring bodies of water area known to occur within the study site or its immediate vicinity.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A Desk-Based Assessment was compiled prior to the commencement of the watching brief (CgMs 2012a). Unless otherwise stated, the following represents a summary of that document.

5.2 Prehistoric

- 5.2.1 Undiagnostic flintwork together with two Neolithic stone axes were identified at the Bricklayers Arms to the east of the site. An assemblage of struck flint including two blades dating to the Mesolithic/Neolithic was identified at Humphrey Street to the southeast. Residual flintwork was also identified in later contexts to the east of the site.
- 5.2.2 A late Neolithic or early Bronze Age occupation site, represented by cut features, scattered flintwork and pottery was found to the southeast of the study site, at the junction of Humphrey Street and the Old Kent Road. The presence of a hearth and daub suggests semi-permanent buildings; possibly a farm homestead.
- 5.2.3 Peat deposits dating to the Bronze Age, together with a wooden trackway have been identified at the Bricklayers Arms Railway yard site, and at Willow Walk/Pages Walk to the east of the site. To the southeast, at 14-38 Albany Road, evidence of land drainage in the late Iron Age is suggested, though the dating evidence is inconclusive and the supposedly Iron Age drainage ditch may actually be Roman.

5.3 Roman

- 5.3.1 It is apparent that this part of Southwark formed part of a highly developed agricultural landscape which developed around the bridgehead settlement to the north and the line of the Roman Road along which the Old Kent Road has been aligned.
- 5.3.2 Finds and features typically associated with Roman roads can include evidence for settlement and occupation, ditches and associated aligned land and agricultural divisions, together with quarry pits, burials and chance finds of material culture
- 5.3.3 Other evidence in close proximity to the subject site included an inhumation burial and cremation burials with ditches and a building to the east of the site at 279 Old Kent Road. Numerous discoveries of Roman pottery and vessels have also been made within the vicinity.

5.4 Anglo Saxon and Medieval

- 5.4.1 No finds or features of Anglo-Saxon date were identified within a 750m radius of the study site, and the potential for this period was subsequently deemed to be low.
- 5.4.2 During the Medieval period the study site is considered to have lain away from known areas of settlement and activity.

5.5 Post Medieval and Modern

- 5.5.1 Cartographic sources (not reproduced) depict the study site within undeveloped land southwest of the Old Kent Road until 1779. By 1784, a terrace of thirteen houses named Surrey Place had been erected on the site
- 5.5.2 Later maps dated between 1792-99, 1807 and 1814 illustrate the site occupied by Nos. 8 and 9 Surrey Place, comprising buildings with gardens projecting northeast to the Old Kent Road frontage.
- 5.5.3 The footprint of the building had been extended towards the Old Kent Road frontage by 1893.
- 5.5.4 At some point during the twentieth century Nos. 236-238 have been amalgamated to become a single property.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 In accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012b), an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the ground investigations. This consisted of the excavation of a number of foundation trenches, supplemented by a further 9 trial pits. The dimensions of the trial pits and whether these were located within the property (internal) or within the garden (external) can be found below:

Trial Pit No.	Location	Dimensions		
		NE-SW (m)	NW-SE (m)	Depth (m)
1	External	0.64	1.00	0.65
2	External	0.50	1.00	0.50
3	External	1.10	0.50	0.70
4	Internal	0.30	0.40	0.60
5	Internal	0.50	0.50	0.70
6	Internal	0.30	0.30	0.60
7	Internal	0.30	0.30	0.70
8	Internal	Abandoned		
9	Internal	0.40	0.40	0.65

- 6.2 All excavation works were undertaken by hand, and monitored by the attendant archaeologist.
- 6.3 The trial pits 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 1:10.
- 6.4 The archaeological interventions were located by means of measured survey.
- 6.5 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 OKS14.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of naturally deposited gravel recorded variably as [2], [5] and [8]. It comprised moderately compact small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel in a reddish brown to yellowish red clayey sand to sandy clay matrix. In the deeper foundation trenches the gravel was exposed to a thickness of 0.80m though the base of the deposit was not reached. While recorded as a single deposit it was clear that the gravel layer was the result of a series of depositional episodes. Overall the deposit is consistent with the description of the Kempton Park gravel documented by the British Geological Survey as forming the superficial deposit within the area of the study site.
- 7.1.2 Natural gravels were observed within trial pits 4-9 within the internal area of the property, barring TP8 which was abandoned. These were considered to represent a truncated horizon and recorded as deposit [5].
- 7.1.3 In the foundation trenches and the external test pits the natural gravel was sealed by a layer of brickearth [4]=[7] varying in thickness from 0.25m to 0.30m.

7.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

- 7.2.1 Trial pits 1 and 3 were sealed by made ground deposits of silty sand containing gravels and flecks of brick and tile. These were identified as layers [3] and [6] respectively and extended to a maximum thickness of 0.40m
- 7.2.2 Trial pit 2, located to the rear of the garden was overlain by a 0.35m thick layer of garden soil [1]. Pottery and brick/tile fragments recovered from the deposit were consistently of a late post-medieval (19th century or later) date.

8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Natural gravel consistent with the Kempton Park gravel formation was observed within all areas investigated. This was overlain in the south-western external trial pits only by natural brickearth. Within the building the trial pits demonstrated that the natural brickearth had been removed during the construction of the sub-basement level.
- 8.2 No archaeological features or artefacts dating to any historical periods from the prehistoric to the early post-medieval were recorded during the archaeological watching brief.
- 8.3 Made ground and garden soils potentially dating to late 19th/20th century was recorded across external areas investigated to the rear of the property. These deposits are likely to represent a culmination of the numerous modifications made to the property over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Ms Angela Clark for commissioning the work. Thanks also to inside out architecture, and to Ian Ireland, Site Manager for the groundwork. Thanks are also extended to Dr Chris Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer at Southwark Council, for monitoring the archaeological investigations.
- 9.2 The authors would like to thank Tim Bradley for his project management and editing, and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations. Thanks are also extended to Paw Jorgensen for his work on site and archive completion.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

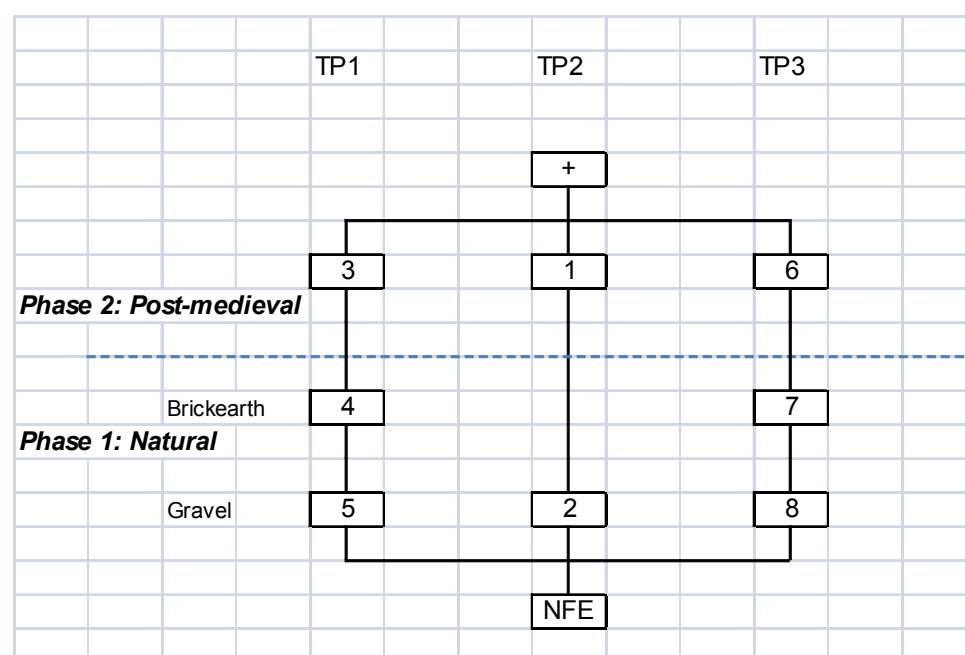
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
OKS14	1	n/a	1	Layer	Garden soil	Post-medieval	2
OKS14	2	TP2	1	Layer	Natural Gravel	Natural	1
OKS14	3	n/a	2	Layer	Made ground	Post-medieval	2
OKS14	4	n/a	2	Layer	Natural Brickearth	Natural	1
OKS14	5	TP1	2	Layer	Natural Gravel	Natural	1
OKS14	6	n/a	3	Layer	Made ground	Post-medieval	2
OKS14	7	n/a	3	Layer	Natural Brickearth	Natural	1
OKS14	8	TP3	3	Layer	Natural Gravel	Natural	1

APPENDIX 2: PHASED MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-195328

Project details

Project name 236-238 Old Kent Road, London Borough of Southwark, London, SE1 5UB: An Archaeological Watching Brief

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was carried out on a series of foundation trenches and trial pits in advance of redevelopment works at 236-238 Old Kent Road, London, SE1. This revealed a sequence of natural gravels overlain by brickearth and post-medieval made ground and garden soils. The investigations suggested that natural horizons had been extensively truncated within the footprint for the extant building.

Project dates Start: 30-10-2014 End: 30-10-2014

Previous/future work Not known / No

Any associated project reference codes OSK14 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type LAYER Modern

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Investigation type "Recorded Observation", "Test-Pit Survey"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 236-238 Old Kent Road, London Borough of Southwark, London, SE1 5UB

Postcode SE1 5UB

Site coordinates TQ 33310 78509 51.4892923437 -0.0796430815194 51 29 21 N 000 04 46 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design originator Richard Meager

Project director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor Paw Jorgensen

Type of sponsor/funding body Private Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Ms Angela Clark

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Archive ID OKS14

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID OKS14

Digital Media available "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID OKS14

Paper Media available "Context

sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text", "Unspecified Archive"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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APPENDIX 4: PLATES



Plate 1: North west facing shot of external development area prior to excavation, showing reduced terrace level on which excavations occurred



Plate 2: North east facing shot of external area during excavation



Plate 3: South west facing shot of external area during excavation

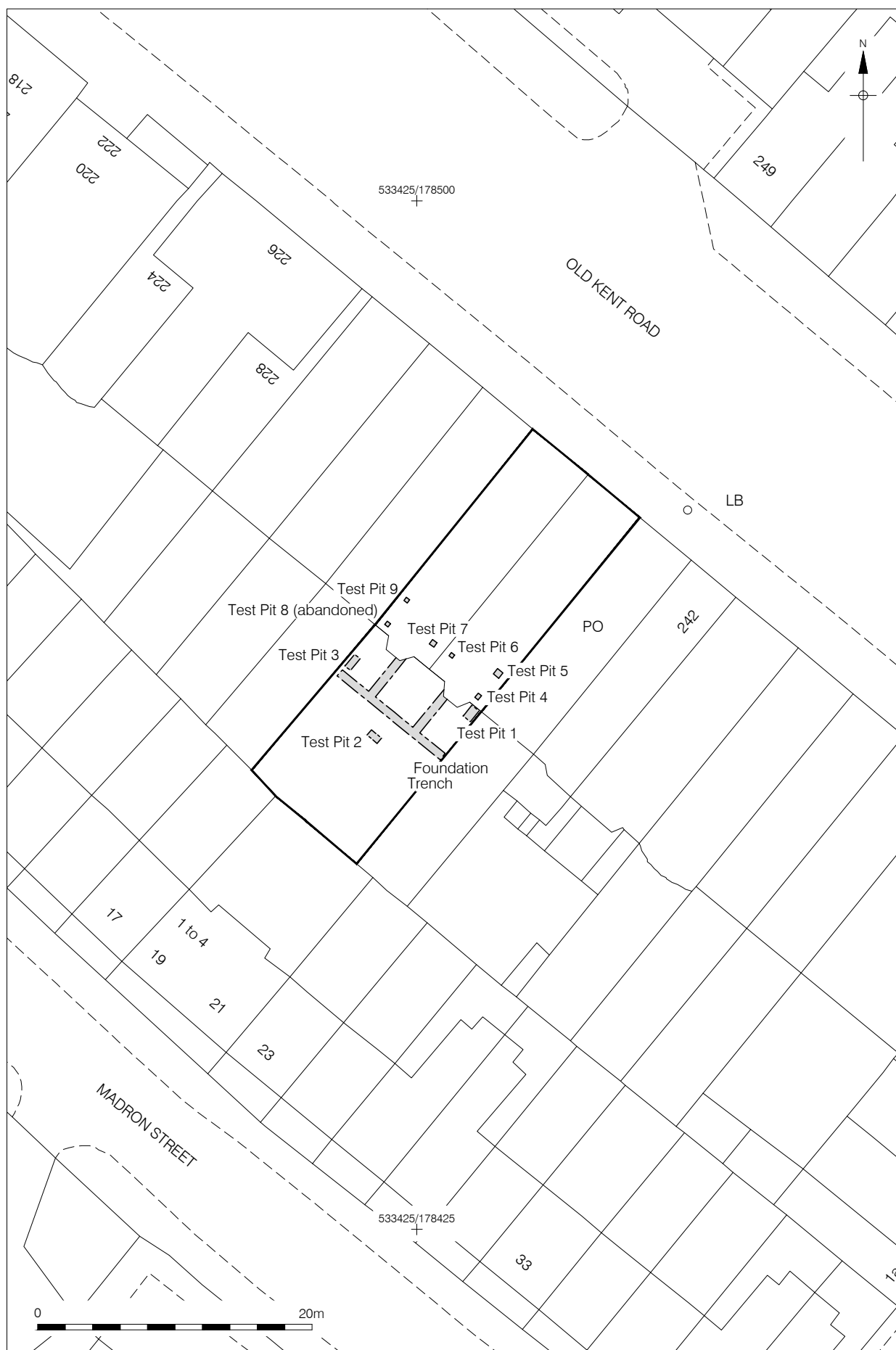


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21/11/14 JS

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

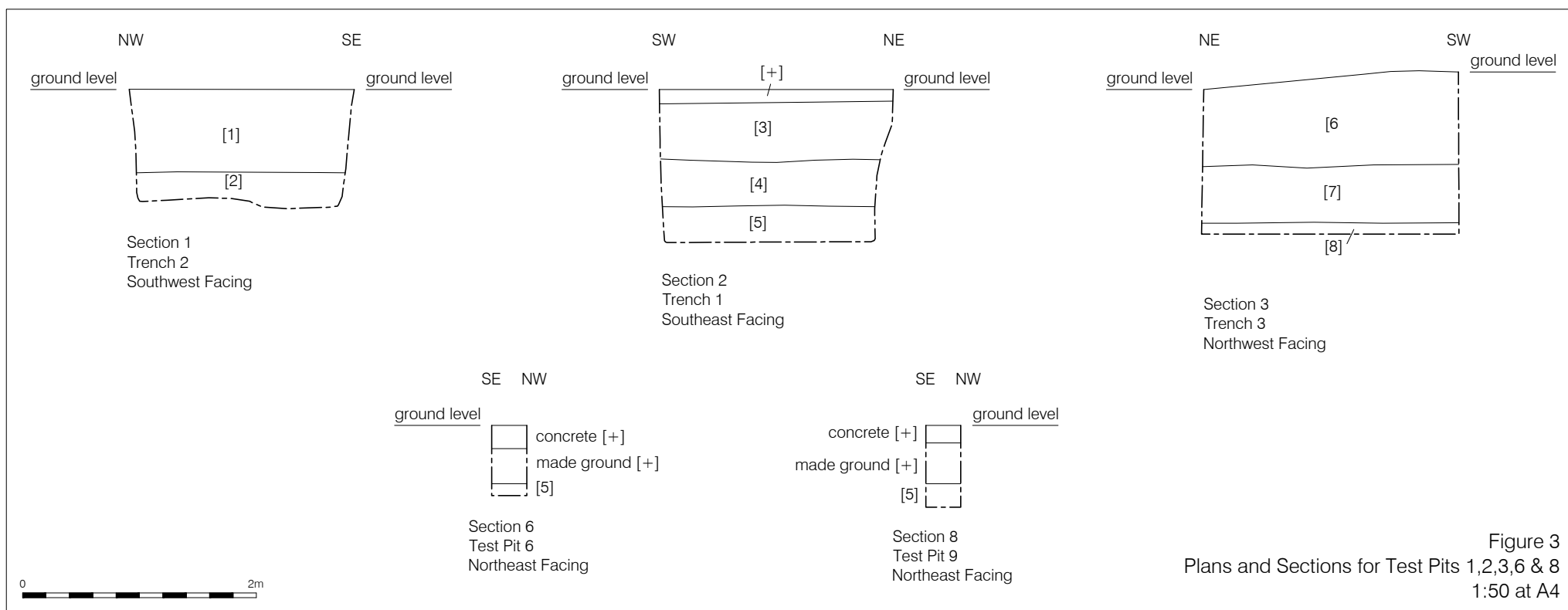
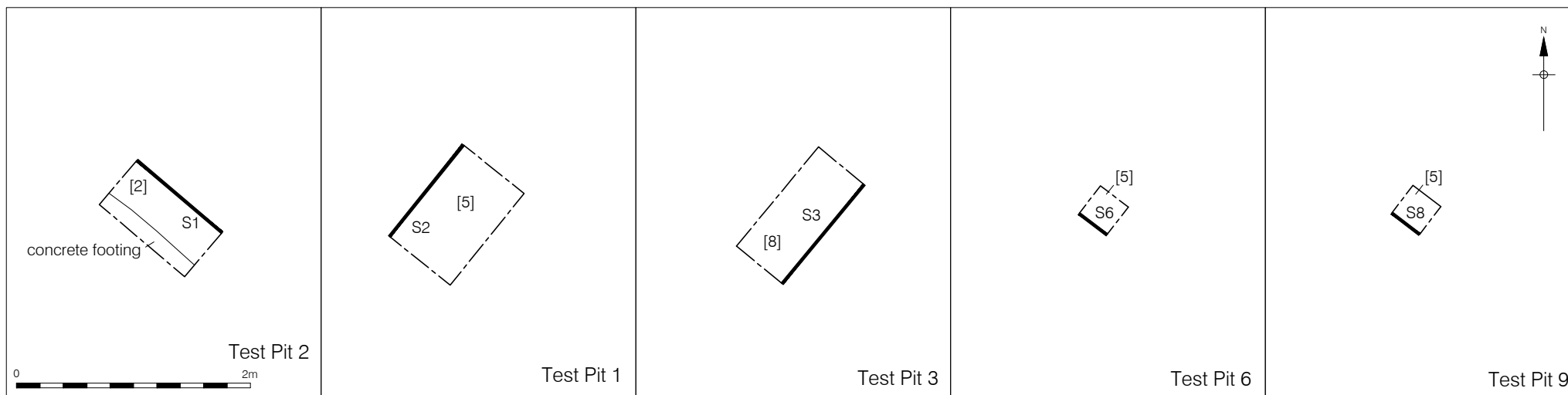


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21/11/14 JS

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:400 at A4



PCA

PCA SOUTH

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