

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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St Mary's Churchyard, Newington Butts, Elephant And Castle,
London Borough Of Southwark, SE11

Type of project

Archaeological Building Recording And Evaluation

Quality Control

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
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**THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING OF A WALL
FRAGMENT, AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF TWO
MOUNDS, AT ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD, NEWINGTON BUTTS,
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, SE11**

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

**BUILDING RECORDING WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY: TOM O'GORMAN
EVALUATION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY: JAMES YOUNG LANGTHORNE
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, January 2007**

PROJECT MANAGER: PETER MOORE

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January 2007

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Section 1 - Archaeological Building Recording of a Wall Fragment at St Mary's Churchyard, Newington Butts, Elephant and Castle, London Borough of Southwark, SE11

Section 2 - An Archaeological Evaluation of Two Mounds at St Mary's Churchyard, Newington Butts, Elephant and Castle, London Borough of Southwark, London SE11

**Section 1 - Archaeological Building Recording of a Wall Fragment at
St Mary's Churchyard, Newington Butts, Elephant and
Castle, London Borough of Southwark, SE11**

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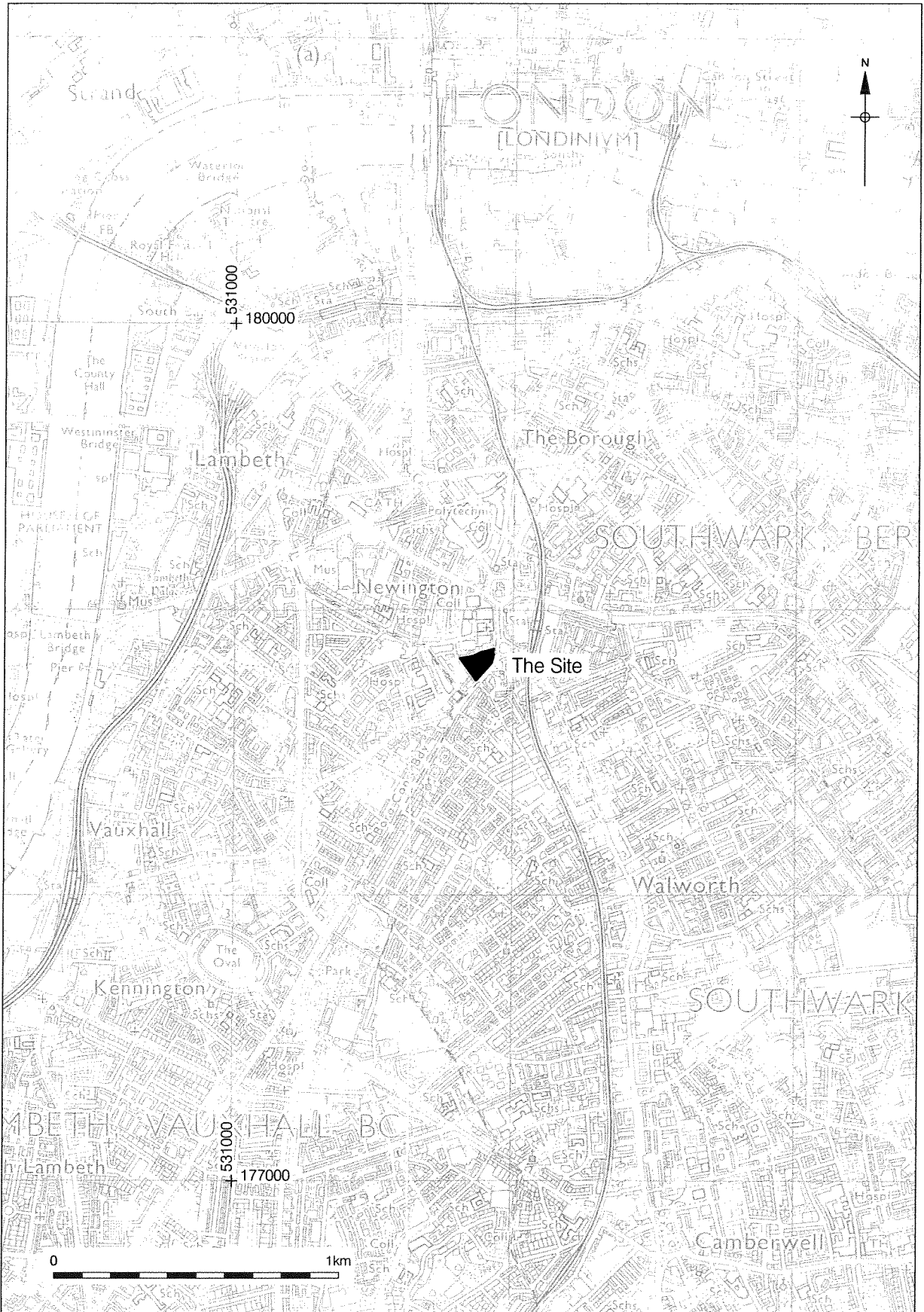
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1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

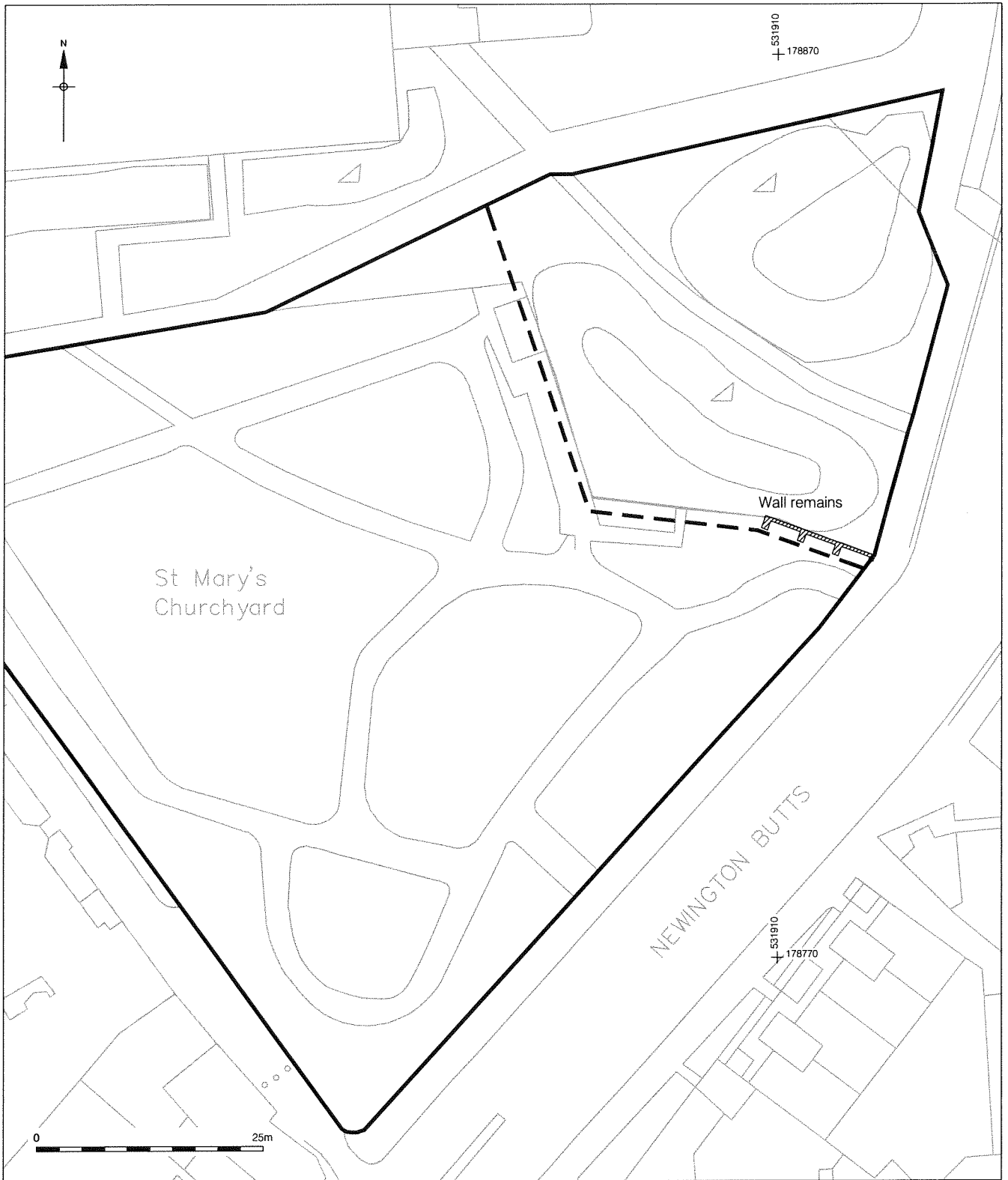
- 1.1 This report is commissioned by the London Borough of Southwark, in advance of proposed renovation and landscaping of the park at St Mary's Churchyard, Newington Butts, London Borough of Southwark, SE11 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 This report presents the outcome of an archaeological building recording of a fragment of brick wall, which remains within the churchyard (Figure 2). Recording consisted of a brief description and drawn record of the structure, a photographic survey and an examination of relevant documentary records and historic maps.
- 1.3 The wall represents the sole surviving element of a building which was originally thought to be part of a nineteenth century ecclesiastical building. It comprises a single east-west wall, and three buttresses which project southwards. The style of the wall fragment is nineteenth century neo-gothic ecclesiastic, but given its location outside the churchyard and the known location of all buildings associated with the church, it is believed that this wall fragment is from an institutional type building, such as a school.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Wall Location
1:625 at A4

2 INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING BACKGROUND

2.1 Outline

2.1.1 This report is commissioned by the London Borough of Southwark, in advance of proposed renovation and landscaping of the park at St Mary's Churchyard, Newington Butts, London Borough of Southwark, SE11. The proposal involves the clearance of the mounds on site and the possible demolition of a section of brick wall to the south of these mounds, which was thought to represent a fragment of a nineteenth century ecclesiastical building.

2.1.2 This report was commissioned in order to determine whether the remnant standing structure was part of a late nineteenth century church, or part of an earlier ecclesiastical structure which had survived as the back of, or side wall to, a row of terraced houses.

2.1.3 The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TQ3187 7884.

2.2 Report Objectives

2.2.1 This report aims to identify and assess the architectural and historic significance of the wall, in advance of the landscaping works by the London Borough of Southwark.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 This report was produced as the outcome of a Level 2 archaeological building recording survey of a fragment of brick wall, which remains within the churchyard/park. The fieldwork recording consisted of a brief description, a drawn record of the structure, a photographic survey and an examination of the fabric.

3.2 Background Research

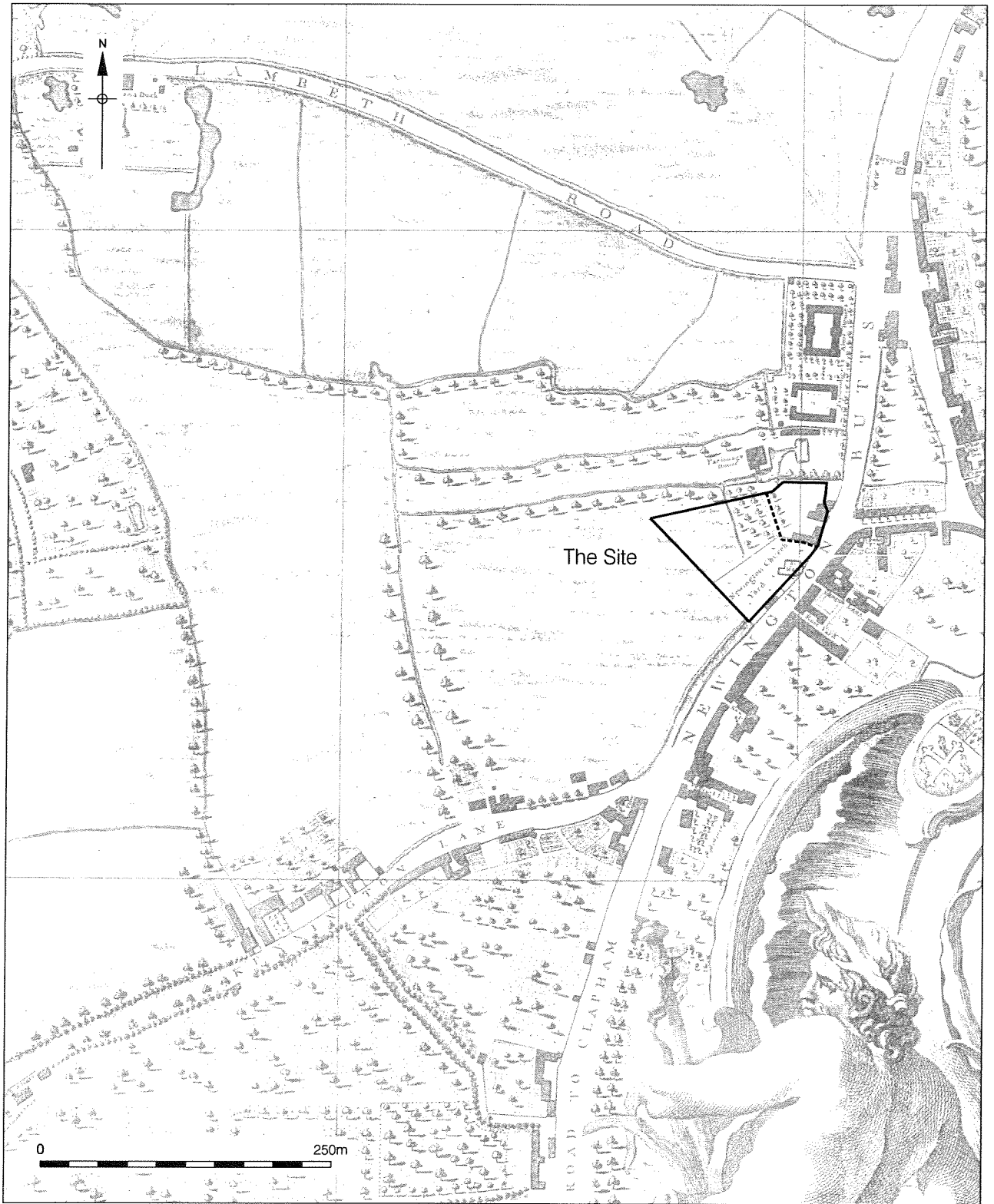
3.2.1 A review of the relevant documentary records and historic maps was undertaken by the author on Monday 18th December 2006 at the Southwark Local History Library, so as to give background context to the understanding of the wall, and the results are incorporated in this report.

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A detailed examination of documentary records and historic maps was undertaken to assess the likely development and historic functions of the building.
- 4.2 The earliest reference to a church at the site comes from an early 20th century history of the Diocese (LSPCK, 1906: 51), which states that an original medieval parish church at St Mary Newington Churchyard was replaced sometime in the fourteenth century. There is no further mention of the church until 1600 when the South Aisle was added by Sir Hugh Brown, a process which gave the church dimensions of 54 feet from north to south and 43 feet from east to west.
- 4.3 The main structure of the church was demolished in 1720, leaving only the clock tower to which 'a miserable fabric was attached which lasted only until 1791' (LSPCK, 1906: 49), a fact supported by the Victoria County History (1912, Vol iv: 76). At a cost of £926 this fabric, measuring 62 feet by 58 feet, consisted of the large clock tower at the western end, possibly three storeys in height, a short pitched-roof nave with aisles to both sides and a small apsidal chancel. The external elevation of the south aisle shows an entrance at the west and three equally spaced, full-sized windows.
- 4.4 The John Rocque map of 1746 (Figure 3) placed the church at the eastern edge of the churchyard.
- 4.5 Due to an increase in attendance it was decided to rebuild the church in 1793. An Act of Parliament was obtained for this, and construction began on the 19th June at a cost of £2,500. The church was extended to 87 feet by 58 feet, was built of brick, had undetached aisles, and a turret and cupola at the west end (Figure 4). Further evidence also shows that a porch was added at the western end of the north and south aisles .
- 4.6 However, due to 'its abutting so far into the road as to become a public danger' (LSPCK, 1906:47) the church was moved south to Kennington Park Road, in 1872, with the church building at Newington Churchyard finally being demolished in 1876 (Figure 5).
- 4.7 Abutting St Mary Newington Churchyard to the northeast is an area of land, which was occupied by buildings from the mid-eighteenth century, and has seen a number of different uses. The boundary between this area and that of the churchyard appears to remain in the same form and position from at least the 1746 map to the present

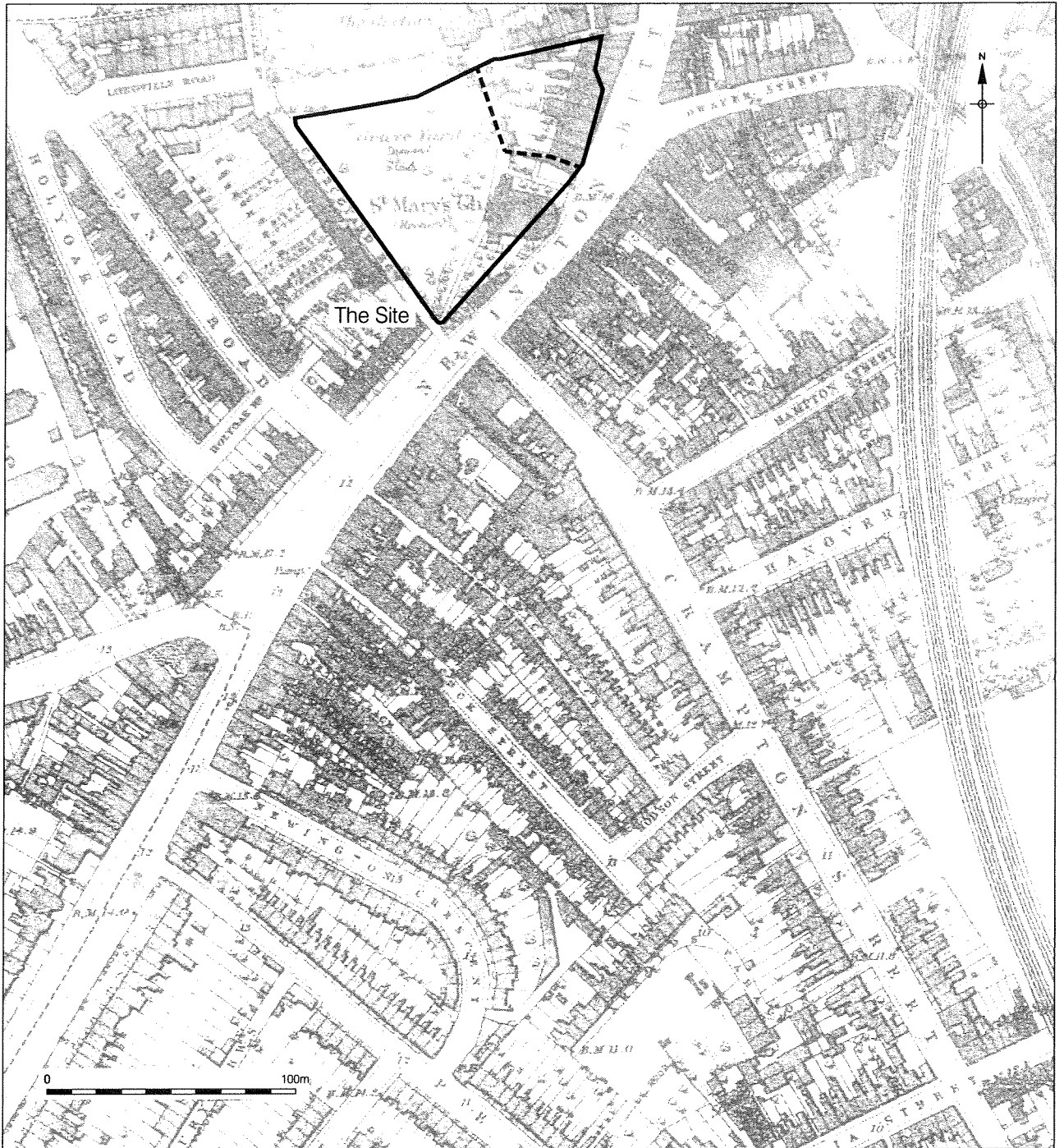
day (see it marked on Figures 2-6) and corresponds exactly with the alignment of the fragment of wall, placing the building represented by the fragment firmly to the north of the graveyard.

- 4.8 The first evidence for structures on this land is from the John Rocque map of 1746) (Figure 3), where two buildings are evident, although their function cannot be discerned. The southern building is L-shaped, and its southern wall respects the area's boundary line, standing in the same position as the present-day wall fragment.
- 4.9 By 1819 these buildings had been replaced by what appears to be terraced housing, which fronted eastwards onto Newington Butts. It is possible, however, that these buildings incorporated elements of their predecessors. As with the previous buildings the southern wall of the most southerly property (No. 10) respected the boundary line of that area of land exactly.
- 4.10 This situation persisted at least until 1896, with the properties gradually being extended backwards from Newington Butts (Figures 5, 7a and 7b), but still respecting the southern boundary line. However, by 1950 these properties had been demolished and replaced by an open space (Figure 6).
- 4.11 Other building of prominence in the area include St Gabriel's Church, which was erected at the northwest corner of St Mary's Graveyard in 1874 but which had been demolished by 1950 (Fig. 6), and Parsonage House. This large timber building was erected some time before 1737 and was used under this name until at least 1863, when it was used as a Rectory (Figure 4), finally being demolished in 1872.



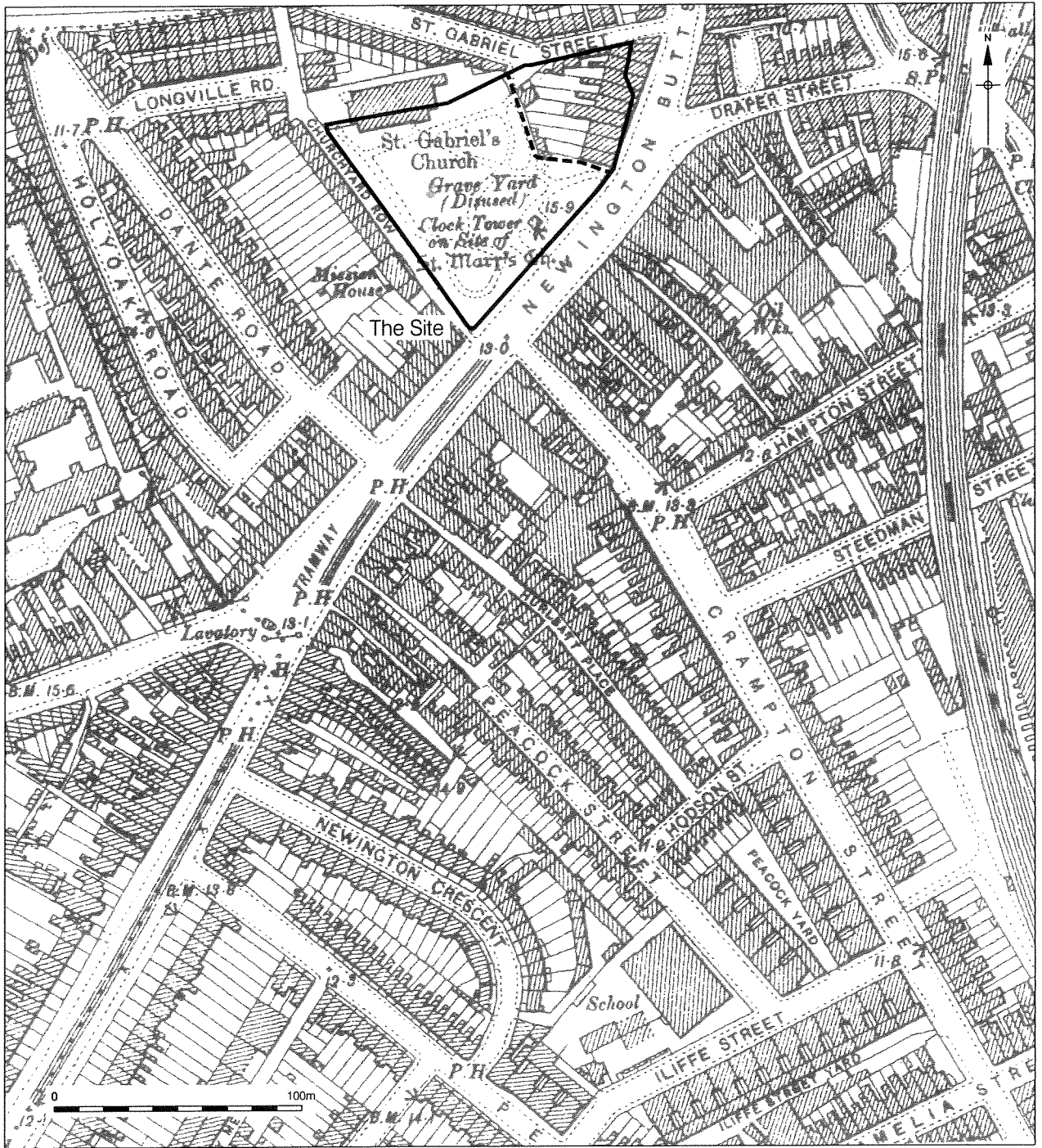
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Figure 3
Approximate Site Location, John Rocques, 1746
Approximately 1:5,000 at A4



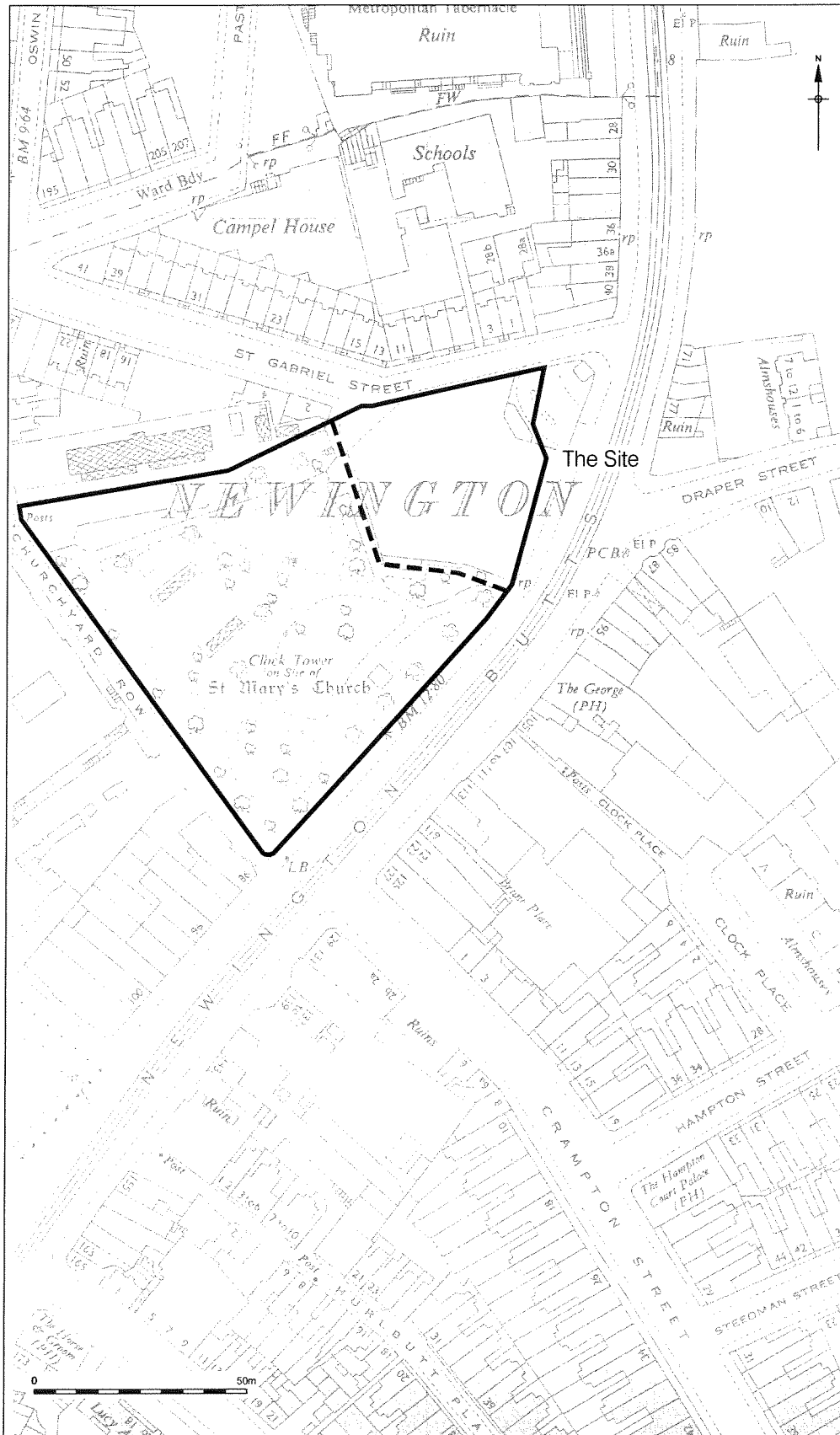
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Figure 4
Ordnance Survey: 1873
1:2,500 at A4



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Figure 5
Ordnance Survey: 1896
1:2,500 at A4



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Figure 6
 Ordnance Survey: 1950
 1:1,500 at A4



Figure 7a: Newington Butts looking Southwest, 1760



Figure 7b: St Mary's church, 1866

5 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

5.1 The structure consists of a single fragment of wall aligned east-west (Figures 2 and 8), the south facing elevation being an external face. The elevations will be described according which direction in which they face, beginning with the south elevation.

5.2 South Elevation

5.2.1 The south elevation consists of a nineteenth century straight red brick wall built in English bond, with individual bricks having the dimensions 230mm x 110mm x 65mm. Three evenly spaced buttresses project southwards from the wall, each being positioned on a brick plinth and having a concrete cap at approximately 4m above ground.

5.2.2 The buttresses create two separate bays, in which a sandstone windowsill runs horizontally from buttress to buttress at approximately two-thirds height. Atop of these sills and abutting the buttresses curved brick window reveals are evident, with red brick blocking extending between them. To the east of this the wall shortens to below windowsill height and is capped by a course of yellow stock bricks. At its eastern the wall abuts a modern yellow stock brick buttress, which supports a metal railing.

5.2.3 Service pipes/cables run horizontally along the wall directly below the windowsill and through the buttresses where they abut the wall and the remains of modern trellising can still be seen against the wall in each bay below the line of the windowsill.

5.3 East Elevation

5.3.1 The east elevation presents a yellow stock brick skin to the eastern edge of the wall, which comprises a later addition to neaten the truncated face of the red brick structure. To the south has been added a low yellow stock brick buttress. This buttress has a sandstone plinth, which extends to the south and forms the base for a metal railings fence.

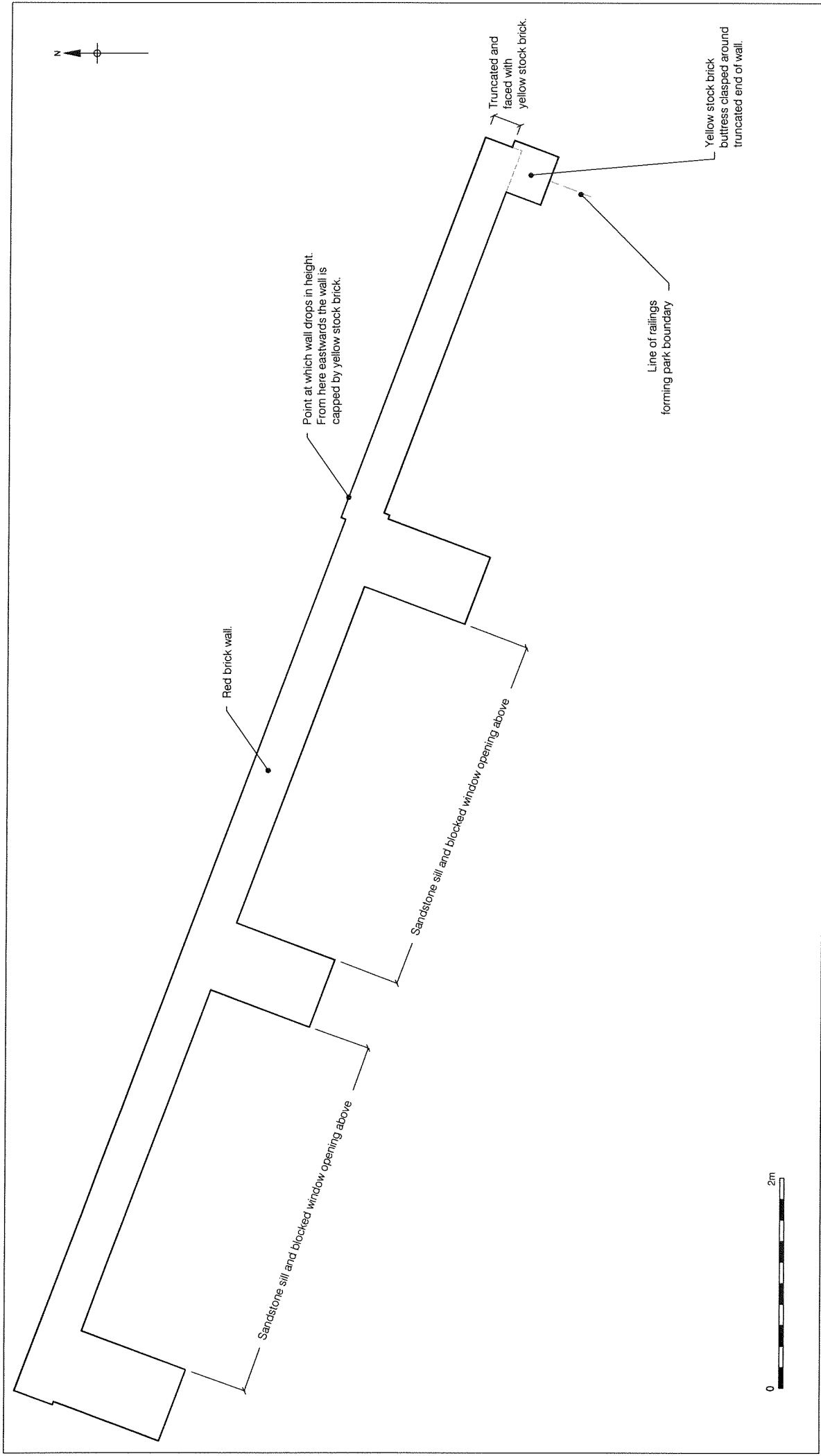
5.4 North Elevation

5.4.1 The north elevation consists of a red brick wall with a concrete rendering over all but the top five courses of bricks. The bond appears to be English. However, the bond appears much more irregular directly below the concrete capping for the buttresses on the opposite side of the structure. This is suggestive of a rebuild due to a redesign

of the external elevation or work to neaten and cap the wall following destruction of the main body of the building.

5.5 West Elevation

- 5.5.1 The west elevation comprises two elements. The first is one of the south projecting brick buttress and plinth. The second is the east-west wall. This appears to have been repaired using red bricks. However a scar extending approximately 5 feet up the wall may represent the position of a removed wall, which extended from the older fragment of wall and may have functioned as a boundary wall.



6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The site of St Mary Newington Churchyard has a long history of use, dating back to before the fourteenth century. For the majority of the time St Mary's Church has stood on the site, in its several phases. Ecclesiastical use of the site finished between 1896 and 1950 when St Gabriel's Church was demolished, although a clock tower continued to stand on the site of St Mary's Church at least until January 1966. The wall fragment has traditionally been thought to have been part of one of the churches on the site given its neo-gothic ecclesiastic style.
- 6.2 However according to evidence from the Ordnance Survey maps, the location of the former churches of St Mary Newington is too far south for the piece of wall in question to belong to any of the church rebuilds, especially as the south face of the wall is clearly external. The northern boundary of the graveyard can clearly be traced through the map regression and shows the building represented by the wall to have been constructed to the north of the churchyard.
- 6.3 That this remnant wall belonged to other buildings, such as Parsonage House, Newington Rectory, or the Fishmongers and the Alm Houses, can also be discounted as these buildings can be clearly identified on Ordnance Survey maps as lying beyond the site's boundaries.
- 6.4 The wall fragment therefore represents a nineteenth century building built with a severe and functional aspect in a basic neo-gothic ecclesiastic style. It is therefore likely that this building may have had an institutional function (school, workhouse etc). That it has survived so far may be due to it being mistakenly taken as a remnant of one of the earlier churches.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank John Cordner of Southwark Borough Council for commissioning the work.

- 7.1 The author would like to thank Southwark Local History Library for their assistance with the historical background research, Alex Rose-Deacon for setting up the fieldwork and supervising the report and Peter Moore for project managing and editing.

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**Section 2 - An Archaeological Evaluation of Two Mounds at St Mary's
Churchyard, Newington Butts, Elephant and Castle,
London Borough of Southwark, London SE11**

CENTRAL NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: TQ 318 788

SITE CODE: NBE 06

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

**EVALUATION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY: JAMES YOUNG LANGTHORNE
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, January 2007**

PROJECT MANAGER: PETER MOORE

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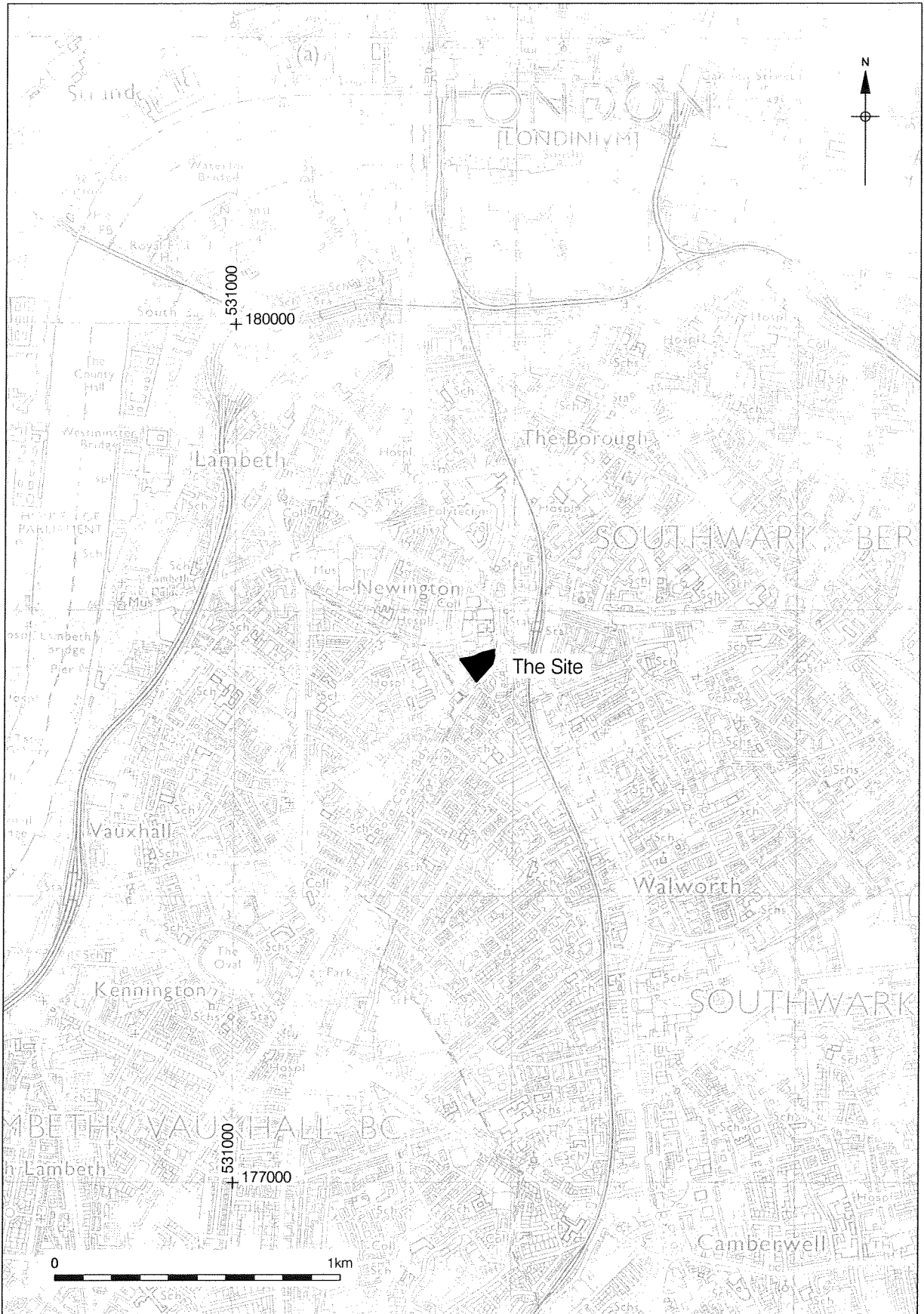
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on two mounds at St. Mary's Churchyard, Elephant & Castle, London Borough of Southwark, SE11. The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 318 788. The field evaluation was undertaken on 14th December 2006. The commissioning client was the London Borough of Southwark.
- 1.2 The archaeological programme consisted of two trial pits, which were dug to determine the presence or absence of human remains within the mounds, and the character of their make-up deposits.
- 1.3 The earliest deposits encountered were late twentieth century in origin.
- 1.4 No archaeological deposits were found on site.
- 1.5 No human remains were found on site.

2 INTRODUCTION

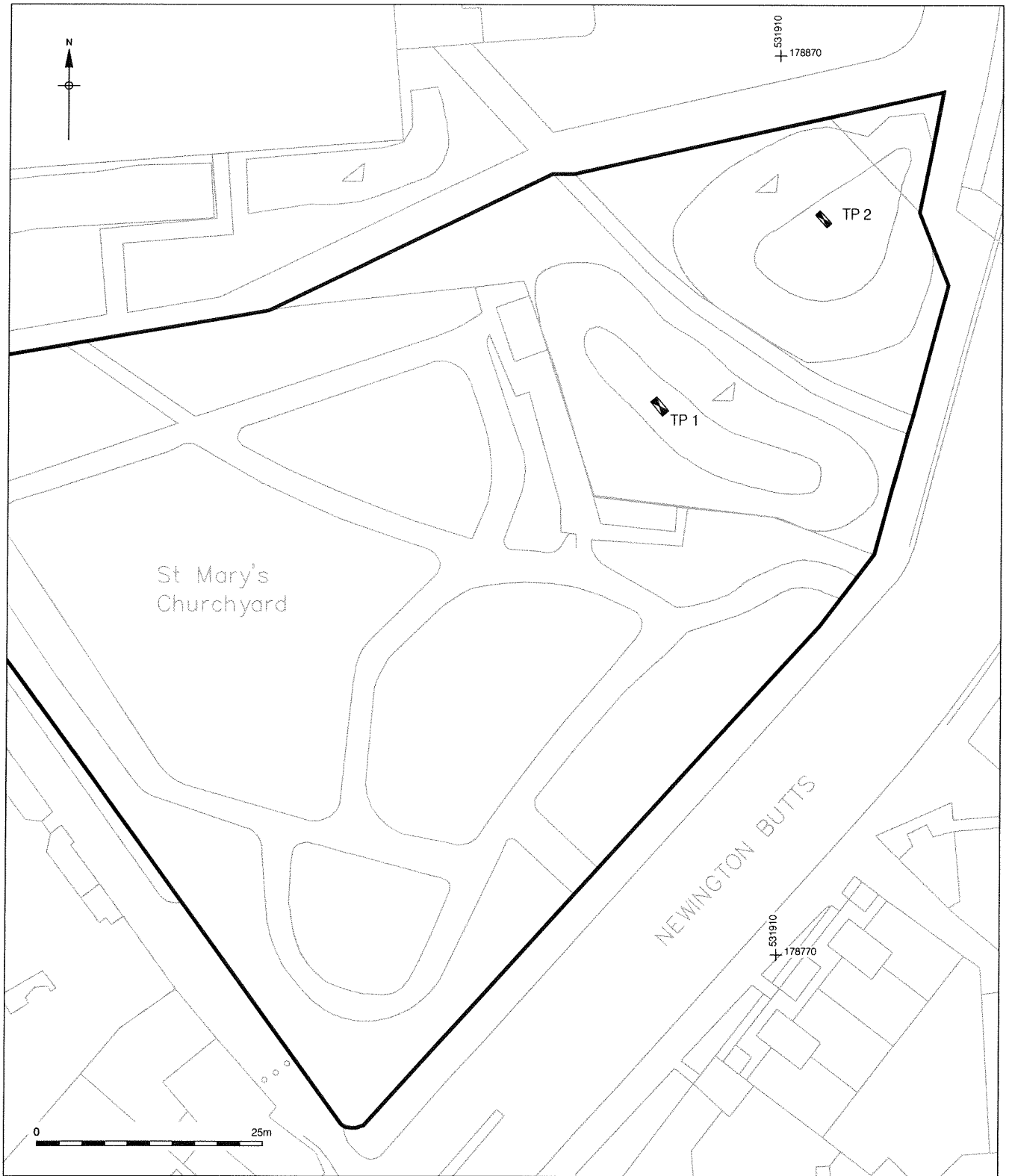
- 2.1 An archaeological site investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on 14th December 2006 in advance of redevelopment of land at St Mary's Churchyard, Elephant & Castle, London Borough of Southwark SE11 (Fig.1). The area under investigation were two mounds in the north-east corner of the recreational ground, known as St Mary's Churchyard. This area was bordered to the north by a leisure centre, to the east by Newington Butts, to the south by the junction of Newington Butts and Churchyard Row, and to the west by Churchyard Row. The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation and recording of two trial pits, which were to determine the presence or absence of human remains within the mounds and also the character of the deposits of the mounds (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 The work was commissioned by John Cordner of the London Borough of Southwark. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of James Langthorne and the project management of Peter Moore. The evaluation was monitored by Christopher Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer, London Borough of Southwark.
- 2.3 Levels on site were taken from a spot height of 3.88m OD located at a gateway to the recreation ground on Newington Butts, directly to the south of the mounds.
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be stored by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. until their deposition in LAARC.
- 2.5 The site was allocated the site code: NBE 06.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Test Pit Locations
1:625 at A4

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The methodology for the excavation of two trial pits was set out in the Method Statement prepared by Peter Moore of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (Moore 2006). The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of human remains, and to define the nature of the make-up deposits, within the two mounds in the north-east corner of the churchyard.
- 3.2 All trenches were excavated with a mini 360 degree mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket in spits of approximately 150mm, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Trial Pit 1 measured 1.00m by 0.90m at base and was orientated east-west and Trial Pit 2 measured 1.80m by 0.70m at base and was orientated north-south. Both trial pits were just over 2.00m deep, this being as far as the reach of the mechanical excavator permitted. A larger mechanical excavator could not be used because of access difficulties, the incline of the mound slopes and the slippery ground conditions. During clearance of the fills the faces of the trial pits were examined and recorded.
- 3.3 All deposits were examined by a trained osteologist (the author) so that in the case of any bone being found it could immediately be defined as human or animal. The deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets, trial pit plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at a scale of 1:10. The locations of the trial pits were surveyed from fixed landmarks in the surrounding area. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in both black and white print and colour slide formats. No bone was encountered and no finds were collected.
- 3.4 Levels on site were located from a spot height of 3.88m OD located at a gateway to the recreation ground on Newington Butts, directly to the south of the mounds.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION

4.1 Trial Pit 1

- 4.1.1 No archaeological deposits were found in Trial Pit 1, nor were there any traces of human chanel material.
- 4.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Trial Pit 1 was a layer of twentieth century made ground [4]. A fairly firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with inclusions consisting of moderate amounts of small sub-rounded flint pebbles and brick fragments as well as occasional wood and concrete fragments. This layer was revealed at a maximum height of 5.42m OD and was at least 0.42m thick.
- 4.1.3 This made ground [4] was overlain by a fairly loose, light orange grey, silty sand, with frequent fragments of twentieth century brick (the identifiable fragments were mostly frogged red brick though there were also traces of greyish yellow frogged brick), a moderate amount of shredded plastic sheeting (seen mostly at the base of the layer), and occasional metal fragments. This deposit [3] was clearly a further layer of modern made ground. This layer was encountered at a maximum height of 6.05m OD and was 0.63m thick.
- 4.1.4 This made ground [3] was sealed by a compact, dark grey brown, silty clay, with frequent fragments of modern brick (as with [3] the bricks were mostly frogged red brick though there were also fragments of greyish yellow frogged brick), a moderate amount of small to medium sized sub-rounded and rounded flint pebbles, and occasional sherds of modern pottery, plastic sheeting, and a discarded iron pipe. This deposit [2] was another layer of modern made ground. It was encountered at a maximum height of 6.80m OD and was 0.75m thick.
- 4.1.5 The successive layers of made ground were all sealed by topsoil [1]. The topsoil was a fairly soft, mid greyish brown, clay silt, which had occasional sub-rounded pebble and brick fragment inclusions. This final deposit was encountered at a height of 7.10m OD and was 0.30m thick.

4.2 Trial Pit 2

- 4.2.1 No archaeological deposits were found in Trial Pit 2, nor were there any traces of human chanel material.

- 4.2.2 The earliest deposit in Trial Pit 2 was a layer of modern made ground [6]. A compact, dark grey brown, silty clay, with frequent fragments of modern concrete and brick (the bricks were mostly frogged red brick though there were also fragments of yellow stock brick and greyish yellow frogged brick), a moderate amount of small to medium sized sub-rounded and rounded flint pebbles, and occasional sherds of twentieth century pottery and metal fragments. This deposit was a layer of modern made ground. It was encountered at a maximum height of 6.87m OD and was at least 1.79m thick.
- 4.2.3 This layer of made ground was sealed by topsoil [5]. The topsoil was a fairly soft, mid greyish brown, clay silt, which had occasional sub-rounded pebble and brick fragment inclusions. This final deposit was encountered at a height of 7.10m OD and was 0.23m thick.

5 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Interpretation

- 5.1.1 Both trial pits clearly show that the mounds are constructed from of one or more layers of twentieth century made ground.
- 5.1.2 No archaeological deposits or disarticulated human charnel were found in either trial pit.

5.2 Conclusions

- 5.2.1 It has been clearly shown by the evaluation that no archaeological deposits or human remains are evident in either of the two mounds in the north-eastern corner of St. Mary's Churchyard.
- 5.2.2 The made ground deposits that make up the mounds are very modern in character and could not have originated from any possible 19th century grave clearance. It is suggested that they were constructed, either during the post-1945 creation of the Leisure Centre to the north of the site, or from terraced housing that was demolished on Newington Butts.

6 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank John Cordner of the London Borough of Southwark for commissioning the work and Christopher Constable for monitoring the work.

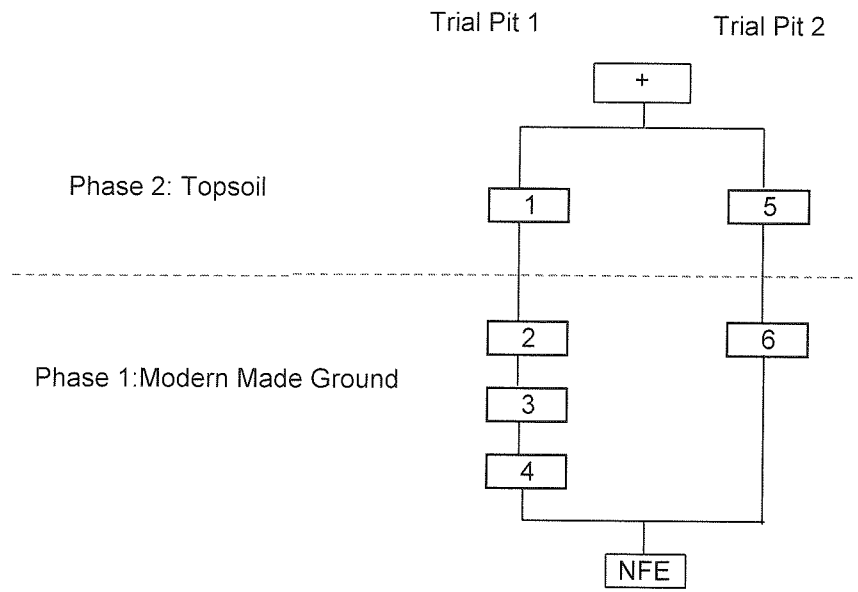
- 6.2 The author would like to thank Peter Moore for project managing the site and editing this report, Dave Harris for the illustrations, Richard Archer for his work on site.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Moore, P. 2006 *Method Statement for an Archaeological Investigation of two mounds at St. Mary's Churchyard, Elephant and Castle, Southwark, London SE11*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Unpublished Report.

APPENDIX 1

Site Matrix



APPENDIX 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Index

Context	Type	Description	Trial Pit
1	Layer	Topsoil	1
2	Layer	Made Ground	1
3	Layer	Made Ground	1
4	Layer	Made Ground	1
5	Layer	Topsoil	2
6	Layer	Made Ground	2

APPENDIX 3

OASIS form

OASIS ID: preconst1-21402

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation of two mounds at St. Mary's Churchyard, Elephant and Castle, Southwark, London SE11
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trial pits, which were to determine the presence of archaeological deposits, principally human remains, within two mounds located in the north-east corner of St. Mary's Churchyard. The trial pits were approximately 1m square at base and were just over 2m deep. The earliest deposits encountered were modern made ground, probably demolition material from terraced housing that used to exist on the site. No archaeological deposits or human charnel were found in the trial pits.
Project dates	Start: 14-12-2006 End: 14-12-2006
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	MADE GROUND Modern
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Estate management (i.e. maintenance of existing structures and landscape by capital works and on-going maintenance)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the	Not known / Not recorded

planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK St Mary's Churchyard, Newington Butts, Elephant and Castle, Southwark
Postcode	SE 11
Study area	512.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 318 788 51.4922624879 -0.101273346098 51 29 32 N 000 06 04 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	James Young Langthorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	London Borough of Southwark

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No

Digital Contents	'none'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Map', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation of two mounds at St Mary's Churchyard, Elephant and Castle, Southwark, London SE11
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Langthorne, J.
Date	2006
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