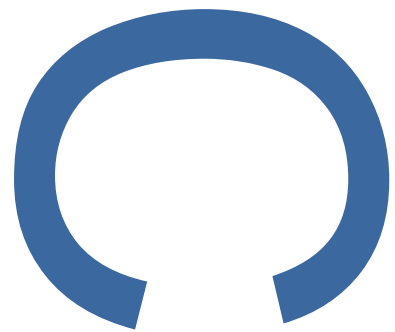


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF ON THE CHILDREN'S
PLAYGROUND AT ST MARY'S
PARK (PHASE 1 AND 2), ELEPHANT
AND CASTLE, LONDON BOROUGH
OF SOUTHWARK, SE11 4TW**

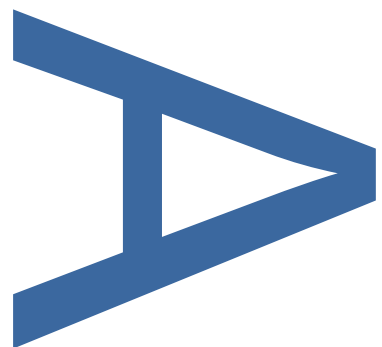


**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK**




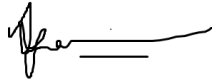
SITE CODE: SMC 11

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on the Children's Playground at St Mary's Park (Phase 1 and 2), Elephant and Castle, London Borough of Southwark, SE11 4TW.

Site Code: SMC 11

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3183 7886

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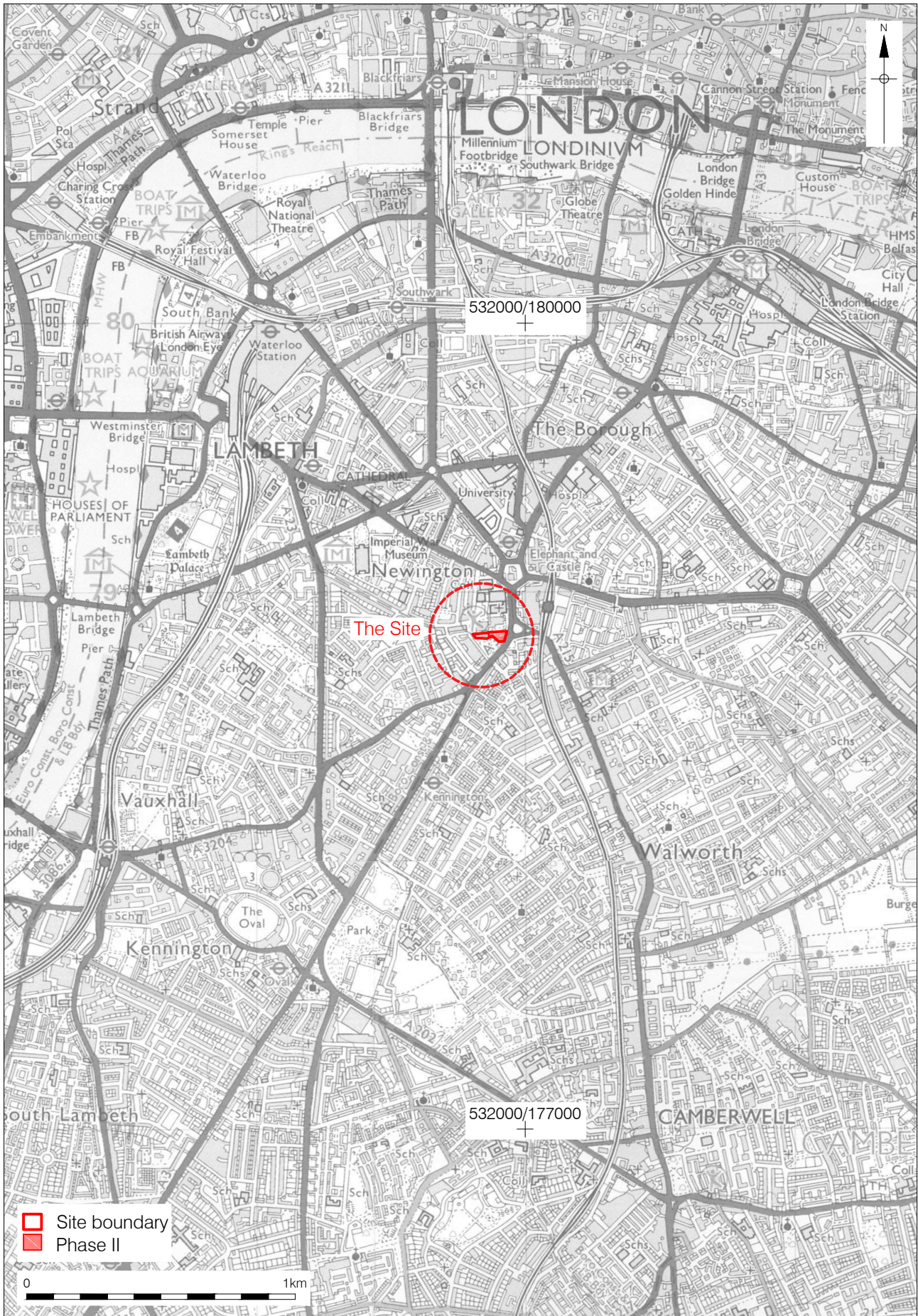
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the construction of a Children's Playground in St Mary's Park, Elephant and Castle, London Borough of Southwark by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, on various dates between 13th January and 23rd March 2015. The report represents the amalgamation of two phases of work carried out at the subject site and supplements previous archaeological investigations (Haslam, 2014).
- 1.2 The watching brief consisted of the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of foundation pits for playground furniture; together with pits for seating benches; a large soakaway and two test pits. In addition, trenches were excavated for lighting and landscaping. The site lies within the Archaeological Priority Zone of Elephant and Castle/Kennington Park Road. St. Mary's Park was formerly the churchyard of the parish church of St. Mary Newington.
- 1.3 Fragments of wall foundations composed of yellow stock bricks were observed in a number of trenches. These were part of St. Gabriel's Chapel, erected on the site and consecrated in 1874, and later demolished in 1937.
- 1.4 Otherwise no features of archaeological significance were found, however numerous charnel bones were uncovered, collected, and later reburied beneath the formation level of the excavated foundations.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on works associated with the construction of a children's playground in St. Mary's Park, Elephant and Castle, London Borough of Southwark. Groundworks consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches for 14 pieces of playground furniture; 8 foundation pits for bench seats and two test pits. An electricity trench was excavated along the northern edge of the site; landscaping took place and a lighting trench was dug along the southern side.
- 2.2 The site lies within the Archaeological Priority Zone of Elephant and Castle/Kennington Park Road. St. Mary's Park was formerly the churchyard of the parish church of St. Mary Newington.
- 2.3 The study site comprised the northwest corner of St. Mary's Park, and was situated on relatively level ground at heights between 4.16m AOD and 3.94m AOD.
- 2.4 The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3183 7886.
- 2.5 The site was given the unique code SMC 11.
- 2.6 The project was monitored by Dr. Christopher Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer for the London Borough of Southwark, project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited by Peter Moore and supervised by the author, Maria Buczak and James Langthorne.
- 2.7 A Written Scheme of Investigation for all landscaping works was prepared (Moore 2013) prior to the fieldwork commencing.
- 2.8 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC), Mortimer Wheeler House, Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED under the site code SMC11.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500

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).

Fact box: Archaeological Priority Zones (APZs)

These are areas where there is significant potential for archaeological remains. It is important that proposals on sites in APZs assess any remains which may be on site.

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.

PPG16¹ requires the Council to include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings.

3.4 Site Constraints

- 3.4.1 The park is partially located within the Kennington Road and Elephant and Castle Archaeological Priority Zone and this children's playground may partly lie with the Zone or is at least immediately adjacent to it.
- 3.4.2 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the site.

¹ Department of the Environment 1990

4 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Located on the south side of the River Thames, the site is situated within area of the Elephant and Castle on the western edge of the A3. The study site is located in the northwestern corner of St. Mary's Park, formerly part of the churchyard of the parish church. The site is fairly level but raised above the surrounding area. Levels range between 4.16m AOD and 3.94m AOD.
- 4.2 The following information is taken from the assessment report of the adjacent Leisure Centre excavations (Haslam 2014) The Geological Survey of Great Britain (South London – Sheet 270) defines the site as underlain by Eocene London Clay which overlies the Woolwich and Reading Beds. Sealing the London Clay are the Devensian Kempton Park Gravels, a sequence identified as sandy gravel with localised lenses of silt, clay and peat (BGS 2012). Located a short distance to the north-east of the site is the 'Rockingham Anomaly', an isolated geological zone in which the London Clay is sealed by Flandrian alluvium and Quaternary peat (BGS 2012). This anomaly reflects the somewhat complex nature of Southwark's natural topography. The Holocene landscape to the north of the borough is however generally accepted to have comprised sand and gravel islands dissected by braided channels and tributaries of the Thames. These watercourses provided a landscape of low lying islands or 'eyots' which were also separated by mudflats and marshes (Cowie & Corcoran 2008, 161). The site itself lies on the gravel terrace to the south of the north Southwark eyots and the levels recorded on the Kempton Park Gravels revealed during the excavation were low; at between at between -0.06m OD and -0.33m OD. This contrasts with the upper levels of the gravels on the Bermondsey eyot which have previously been recorded at +2.2m OD (Cowie & Corcoran 2008, 161).
- 4.3 This information therefore suggests that the site was on low lying ground, an interpretation which appears to be corroborated by the conjectured route of Lock Stream (the upper part of the Neckinger River) to the immediate north. This stream is believed to have flowed through the Elephant and Castle along Brook Drive after rising at St George's Fields (Weinreb et al 2008, 576). The stream then continued eastwards from Newington Butts forming a pond near the Lock Hospital at the junction of Tabard Street and Great Dover Street near the first milestone from London Bridge (Barton 1982, 45). The river then continued through the grounds of Bermondsey Abbey before entering the Thames at St Saviour's Dock (Weinreb et al 2008, 576).

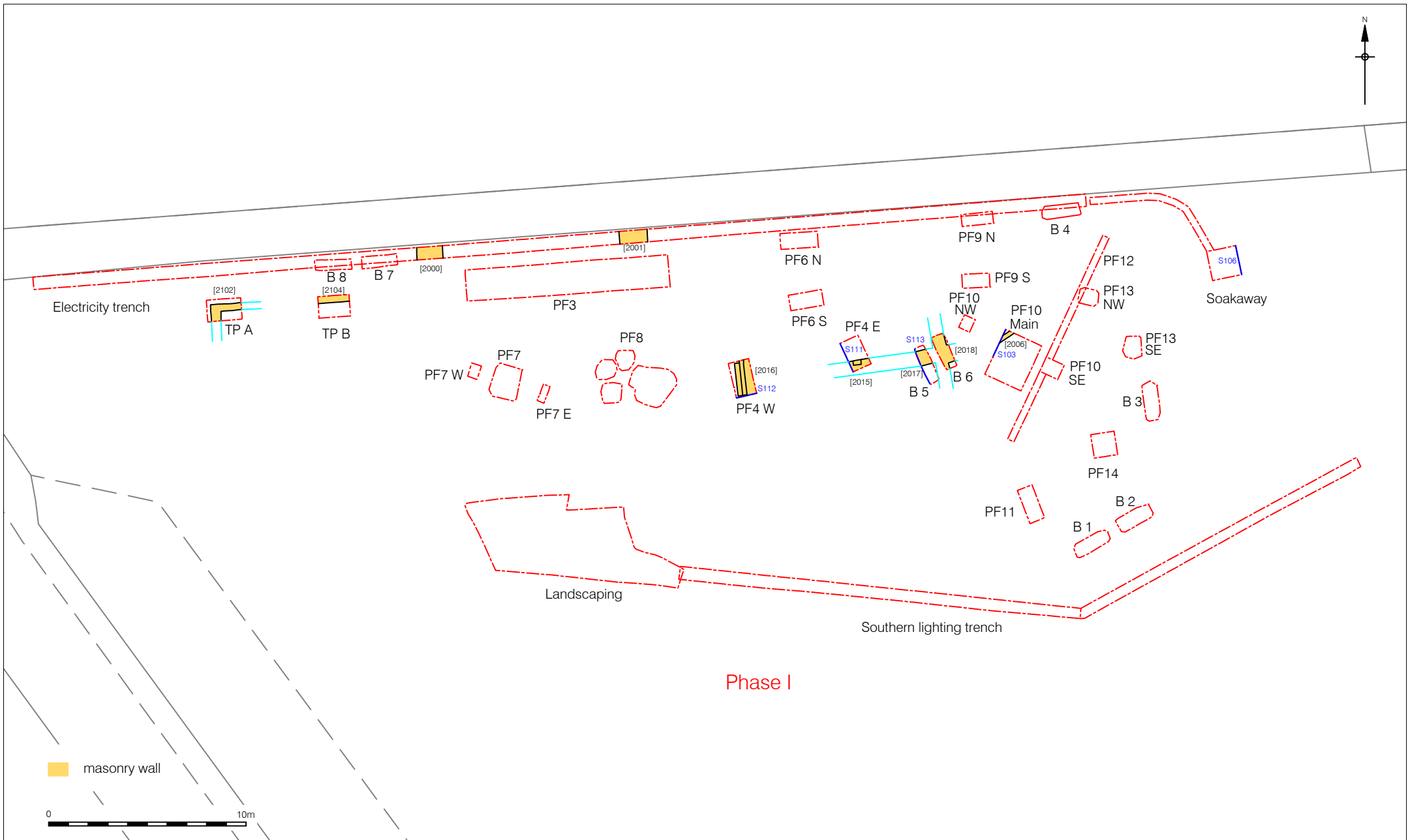
- 4.4 Despite the presence of some Palaeolithic activity within the vicinity of the site, with flint tools recovered to the south at Kennington Park Road and to the west at Kennington Road, there is an absence of findspots dating to the later prehistoric periods (Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age). The only confirmed archaeological evidence covering any of these eras concerns a watching brief conducted on the Leisure Centre itself between 1976 and 1977 where a peat horizon was revealed and was subsequently dated to the Bronze Age at between 1,200 and 850 BC. This suggests that during this particular period the area would have been unsuitable for sustained settlement.
- 4.5 Extending south from Southwark was the Roman road of Stane Street which continued on towards Chichester, roughly following the line of the modern Kennington Park Road. The conjectured alignment of this thoroughfare therefore places the road to the immediate east of the site, and sections of metalled road surface have previously been identified along Newington Causeway to the north.
- 4.6 The proximate settlement of Walworth is believed to have originated as a farm during the Saxon period. It is recorded as '*Wealawyr*' in AD 1086 and was granted by Hitard (jester to Edmund Ironside) to Christ Church, Canterbury in AD 1052. This farm is also referenced in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086. There is however no contemporary reference to Newington and it would seem that neither a settlement nor a farm stood within the immediate vicinity of the site during the Saxon period.
- 4.7 Although Newington is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, the 11th century manor of Walworth is described as having a church and 8 acres of meadow. As such, the size of the manor may have been sufficient to incorporate the area of the site and there is therefore a possibility that the church listed as part of the Manor does in fact refer to an 11th century predecessor of St Mary Newington. Alternatively, this church may have been located elsewhere within Walworth.
- 4.8 The first reference to Newington Butts is variably documented as in either 1512 (Darlington 1955, 81-90) or in 1558), and the name is likely to have originated from archery training. Alternative interpretations suggest that the name derived from the Butts family who owned an estate in the area, or simply from the convergence of two roads which formed a triangle of land.
- 4.9 A General History of St Mary's Church and the Rectory

- 4.9.1 Despite the poor documentation of Newington's medieval parish church, the list of rectors at St Mary's is almost complete from 1212 onwards. In John Aubrey's History of Surrey (1719), the author claims that the contemporary church was 150 years old at this time, apart from the North Aisle which had been built by Sir Hugh Brawn in 1600.
- 4.9.2 Returning to the church, an Act of Parliament was passed in 1790 which gave permission for a rebuild. These works were completed in 1792/93 and had been deemed necessary due to an increase in the size of the Newington population. Indeed, requirements for extensions to the cemetery had previously been recorded in 1637 and 1665, with further enlargements undertaken in 1757, 1821 and 1834. Due to overcrowding within the cemetery, burials ceased in 1854. The new church structure was described as unsightly, built of brick with a portico on the west front and with a small bell-turret on the roof.
- 4.9.3 By 1871, the proximity of the church to the main road had become an issue and the Board of Works, under the 'Metropolitan Improvement Act' proposed that it should be removed in order to widen Newington Butts (now the modern A3). The Board offered £5,000 to assist in the removal and a further grant of £4,000 was obtained from the London Churches Fund in 1875. A subscription, headed by the rector with £1,000 was opened among the parishioners for the remaining £9,000 required in order to move the church. A site for the new church was then obtained from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners which now placed St Mary's within a more central part of the parish on the eastern side of Kennington Park Road. The new church was opened in 1876 where it still stands today although bomb damage sustained on the 10th of May 1941 during the Second World War meant that it was substantially rebuilt in 1958.
- 4.9.4 The old church was demolished, with the materials sold off at public auction for a sum of £538 in 1876. 500 bodies were removed from the churchyard during the site clearance and were reinterred within a vault that had been specifically built for the purpose, and another 13 or so bodies were reburied in Nunhead cemetery, including members of the Dupere and Foot families. Following demolition and clearance, the former cemetery was opened as a public garden, and a 100 foot tall clock tower was installed in the location of the former church in 1877. The tower was built at the expense of Robert Faulconer and cost £5,000 but was knocked down in 1971.

4.9.5 Following the demolition of the church a decision was made to construct a new church on the former site of St Mary's for mission purposes and as a Chapel of Easement for the new church on Kennington Park Road. This building, named St Gabriel's, was constructed in the north-western corner of the former churchyard and was consecrated in 1874. It was described as; *'a small one of red brick in the style of the 13th century, and consists of a chancel with vestries, & c., nave with a clearstory, and low aisles. There is one bell in a cote over the chancel arch'*. St Gabriel's church had a short lifespan and was demolished in 1937.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The project involved the replacement of the previous playground dating to 2006. To this end the previous construction was levelled and a layer of type 1 concrete chippings laid down. This material was then used as a mat and foundations were excavated through it. These consisted of foundation pits for playground furniture and bench seats; two test pits; some landscaping and the excavation of electricity service trenches. A table is attached of the observed work.
- 5.2 All work that involved excavation within the burial ground was monitored by the attending archaeologist. The majority of the excavations were carried out by a mini digger fitted with a flat bladed bucket, although there was also some digging by hand.
- 5.3 Within each excavation area, spoil was examined for any charnel remains. These bones were later reburied below the formation level of the present works.
- 5.4 Following all machine and hand excavation, the relevant faces of all the trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Recording then took place both in plan and in section of all deposits onto pro-forma sheets. A digital photographic record of the site was also made.



6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 PHASE 1: Post-Medieval

- 6.1.1 The earliest deposits seen on site were in a soakaway slightly to the east of the playground. This was a consequence of the depth of the pit; 1.60m. In this feature the earliest context at a height of 2.55m OD was a loose mid brown sandy silt [2008] with flint pebbles, ceramic building material (cbm) frags and disarticulated human bone. This material was seen in the base of the pit and up to 0.10m thickness in the sections. Above this the next context, [2007], was of similar material. This deposit was 0.50m in depth and had a top height of 3.05m OD. It contained flint pebbles and cbm but had much more charnel (disarticulated human bone) than the context below. In addition, in the eastern section, were two human skulls. From their attitude both seemed to part of articulated skeletons stretched out to the east. One of the skulls became loose and was reburied with the other charnel bones, the other was protected from the concrete to be poured, and then left in situ.
- 6.1.2 The upper layer [2007] was interpreted as the main layer of the cemetery, with [2008] part of an earlier phase of burials.
- 6.1.3 Above [2007] was another layer with a depth of 0.40m. This material [2004] was again similar to the previous two, but comprised more of a clayey silt. In addition to flint pebbles and cbm; charcoal, mortar and pot probably 18th century in date were present along with frequent charnel. This was fully seen in the soakaway where it had a top height of 3.45m OD. It was also seen in other features in the eastern part of the site; in three holes for Playground Furniture 10 (PF10) 3.40m/3.45m OD, and PF11 3.54m. Additionally this material was observed, at a height of 3.62m, in a deep hole excavated into the southern electricity trench as [2022].
- 6.1.4 Layer [2007] would seem to be another layer within the cemetery, but this material had been more disturbed than the earlier layers already discussed.

6.2 PHASE 2: Late Victorian

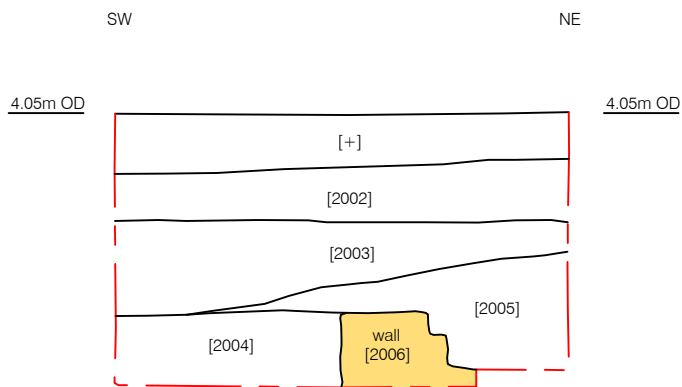
- 6.2.1 Above the cemetery soils already mentioned was a loose mixture of sand mortar and sandy silt [2019]; a demolition layer of soft red brick fragments. This was seen centrally in the site in two foundations for PF4 and slightly to the west in a pit for Bench 5. It was visible at heights between 3.80m and 3.64m.
- 6.2.2 Layer [2019], was truncated in PF4 and Bench 5 by a masonry foundation of yellow stock frogged bricks [2015], [2016] and [2017]. Other similar yellow brick foundations were found in the playground area; [2000] and [2001] in the electricity trench along the northern edge of site; [2006] in PF10; [2018] in Bench 6; [2102] in TPA and [2104] in TPB.
- 6.2.3 In the main foundation a wall [2006] running from southwest to northeast was uncovered. It was 0.90m in length and 0.25m in width and seen to a depth of 0.25m. In the east support for PF4 masonry [2015] measured 0.80m north-south by 0.56m east-west. This very substantial foundation was seen to a depth of 0.50m. In the west support for PF4 masonry [2016] measured over 1.80m north-south by 0.95m east-west. Again this substantial foundation was seen to a depth of 0.60m. In the pit for Bench 5, this wall [2017] ran east-west was 0.78m in width north-south, and was seen for a distance of 0.60m east-west.
- 6.2.4 Masonry [2018], in the pit for Bench 6, comprised a substantial T- shaped foundation. In the west part of the pit it filled the whole area north to south of 1.80m. This then returned to the east centrally in the trench where it became a foundation 0.90m in width. The width of the trench east to west was 0.70m.
- 6.2.5 In the electricity trench along the northern edge of site, north-south wall foundation [2000] was 1.30m in width east-west and was seen for a distance of 0.60m north-south, and a depth of 0.70m. Also in the electricity trench a substantial east-west wall foundation, measuring 1.55m east-west by 0.60m north-south, was seen to a depth of 0.70m.
- 6.2.6 Masonry [2102] was identified in TPA towards the northwest corner of the site. This was an L-shaped foundation running north-south and then returning to the east. East-west the length of the wall was 1.54m and the width was 0.36m; the length of the wall north-south was 0.86m and the width was 0.50m, all these were seen to a depth of 0.50m. Wall [2104] was seen in TPB to the east of TPA. This wall measured 1.60m east-west by 0.35m in width north-south with the north edge not seen, observed to a depth of 0.55m.

- 6.2.7 As noted in the Historical Summary, the parish church was closed in 1871 and later rebuilt in Kennington Park Road. Very soon after this a chapel of easement, St. Gabriel's, was built in the northwest corner of the churchyard. Although some of the burials in the churchyard had been removed, this new chapel presumably punched through those remaining. The study site is the northwest corner of the churchyard. Therefore the brick fragments found were remains from this chapel, which was later itself demolished in the middle of the 20th century.
- 6.2.8 The demolition layer [2019], cut by the chapel foundations, appeared to consist of imported early brick fragments, and therefore may have acted as a working floor during the construction of the chapel.

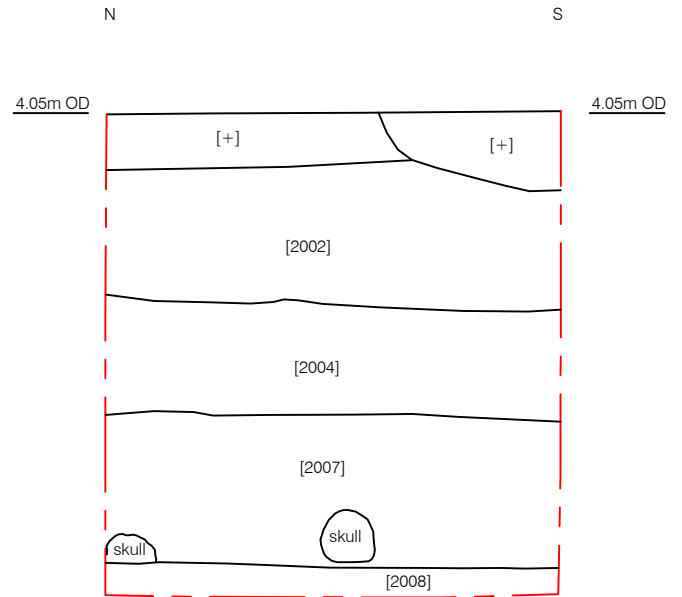
6.3 **PHASE 3: 20th Century**

- 6.3.1 Positioned adjacent to the yellow brick foundations in the pits for PF4 west support and Bench 5, was a mixed make up and demolition deposit [2020]. This was a dark grey brown sandy silt which contained frequent fragments of yellow stock bricks. These were seen at heights of 3.79m and 3.84m OD, but both deposits and brick foundations were truncated at this height by modern material.
- 6.3.2 In deeper parts of the Southern Lighting Trench two comparable contexts, [2021] and [2023], containing rubble with heights of 3.84m and 3.79m OD were observed.
- 6.3.3 In PF10, to the east of PF4 and Bench 5, [2005] physically sealed the yellow stock foundation present there [2006]. Context [2005] was a mid grey brown clayey silt with inclusions of cbm, charcoal, mortar fragments and flint pebbles. This was very similar to the cemetery soils found, but seemingly redeposited.
- 6.3.4 Physically above [2005] in PF10 was another make up layer of mid yellowish brown clayey sand [2003]. This was present at a height of 3.70m OD.
- 6.3.5 Material also containing rubble; light brown yellow rubble and gravel; was found in PF7 [2009], Bench 7 [2010] and Bench 8 [2011]. Heights for these were 3.70m, 3.72m and 3.70m OD.

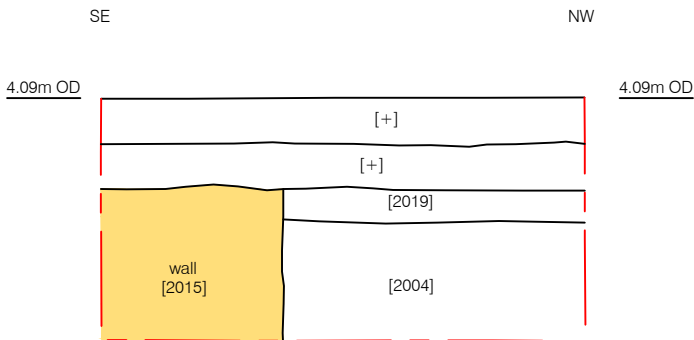
- 6.3.6 Above [2003] in PF4 was a layer of dark grey brown clayey sandy silt with frequent cbm fragments, stone and charcoal fragments. This was seen over most of the site, averaging 0.20m - 0.35m in depth, sealing the earlier archaeology and only overlaid by the recent, now demolished playground material. In PF13 and Southern Lighting Trench this material was identified as contexts [2012] and [2014] respectively.
- 6.3.7 Along the southern edge a light grey brown sandy silt topsoil [2013] was present sealing the archaeology. Over most of the study site area as already noted the topsoil would have been removed by the previous playground.
- 6.3.8 In 1937, St. Gabriel's Chapel, no more than 60 years old, was demolished. Context [2020] particularly with its yellow brick fragments shows material from this event. It seems likely that contexts [2003], [2009], [2010] and [2011] were also involved in this process with the rubble they contained as part of their matrix.
- 6.3.9 The study area became a public park following the demolition of the chapel and contexts [2002], [2012], [2014], [2101] and [2103] would seem to relate to levelling for this event below topsoil and recent activity relating to the old playground.



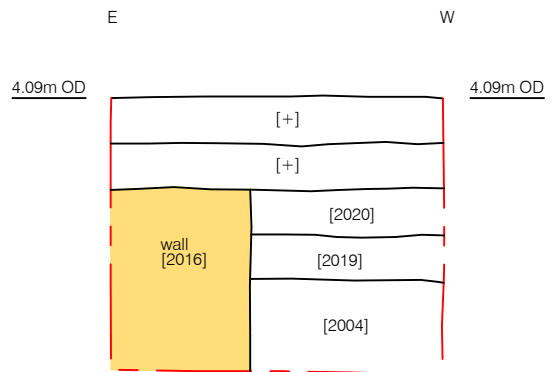
Section 103
PF10 Main, south east facing



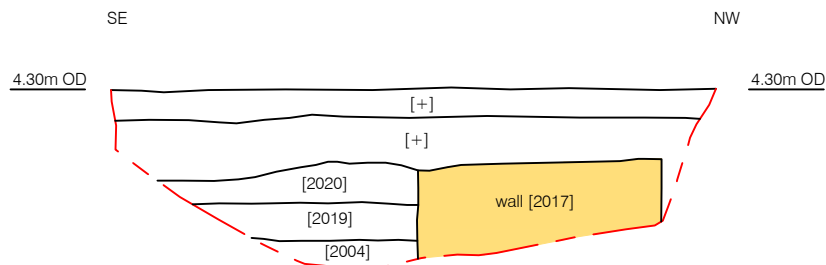
Section 106
Soakaway, west facing section




Section 111
PF4 E, north east facing section



Section 112
PF4 W, north facing section



Section 113
B 5, north east facing

 masonry

0  1m

7 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 There was no evidence of any activity on the site earlier than the Post-Medieval period.
- 7.2 The only in situ burials identified were in the section of the deep soakaway. Therefore, as had been previously seen in the adjacent Leisure Centre excavations (see Haslam, 2014) most of the burials were likely to have been present at a deeper level than the other foundations excavated here.
- 7.3 Fragmentary evidence relating to the Late Victorian St. Gabriel's Chapel was identified within numerous areas of investigations. This comprised evidence of both construction in the form of in situ walls/foundations in addition to evidence of its later demolition with rubble layers extending across parts of the site.
- 7.4 Remains were seen of ground raising activity, using a variety of materials, carried out in recent times (20th century) whilst the area functioned as a public park. The site was finished on the south side with the extant topsoil layer.

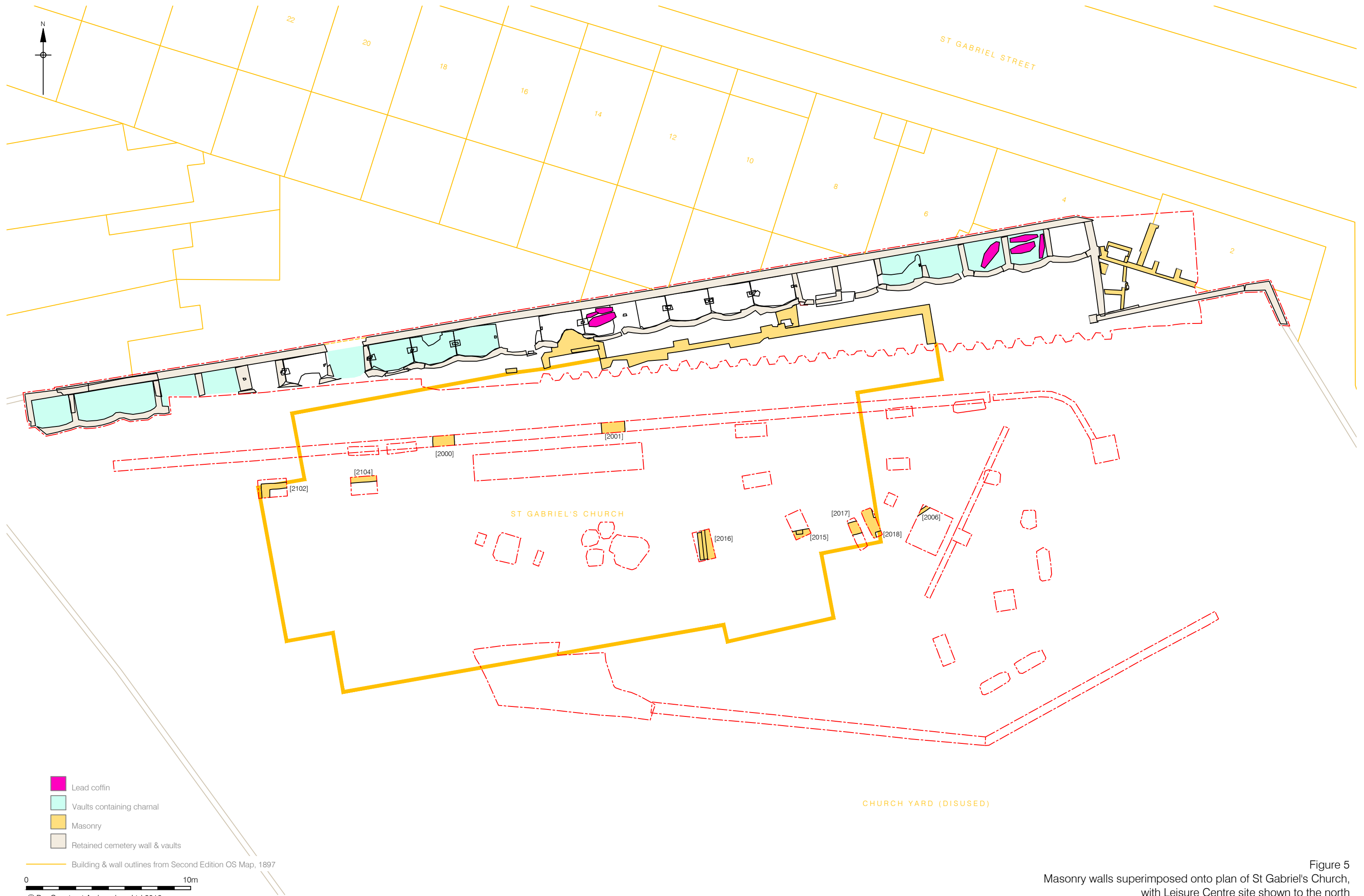


Figure 5
Masonry walls superimposed onto plan of St Gabriel's Church,
with Leisure Centre site shown to the north
1:200 at A3



Figure 6
 Phase II test pit locations
 1:200

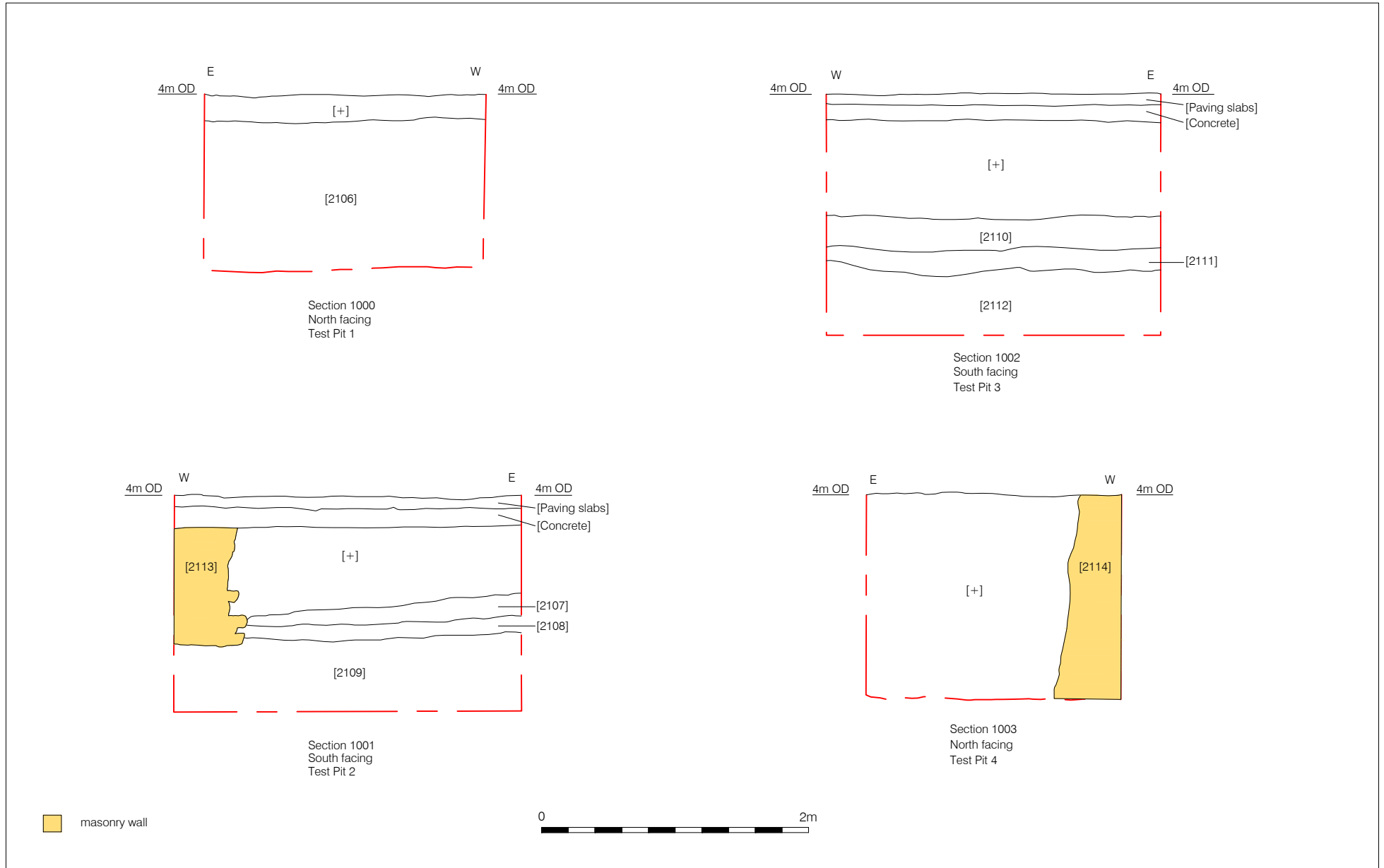


Figure 7
Phase II sections
1:40 at A4

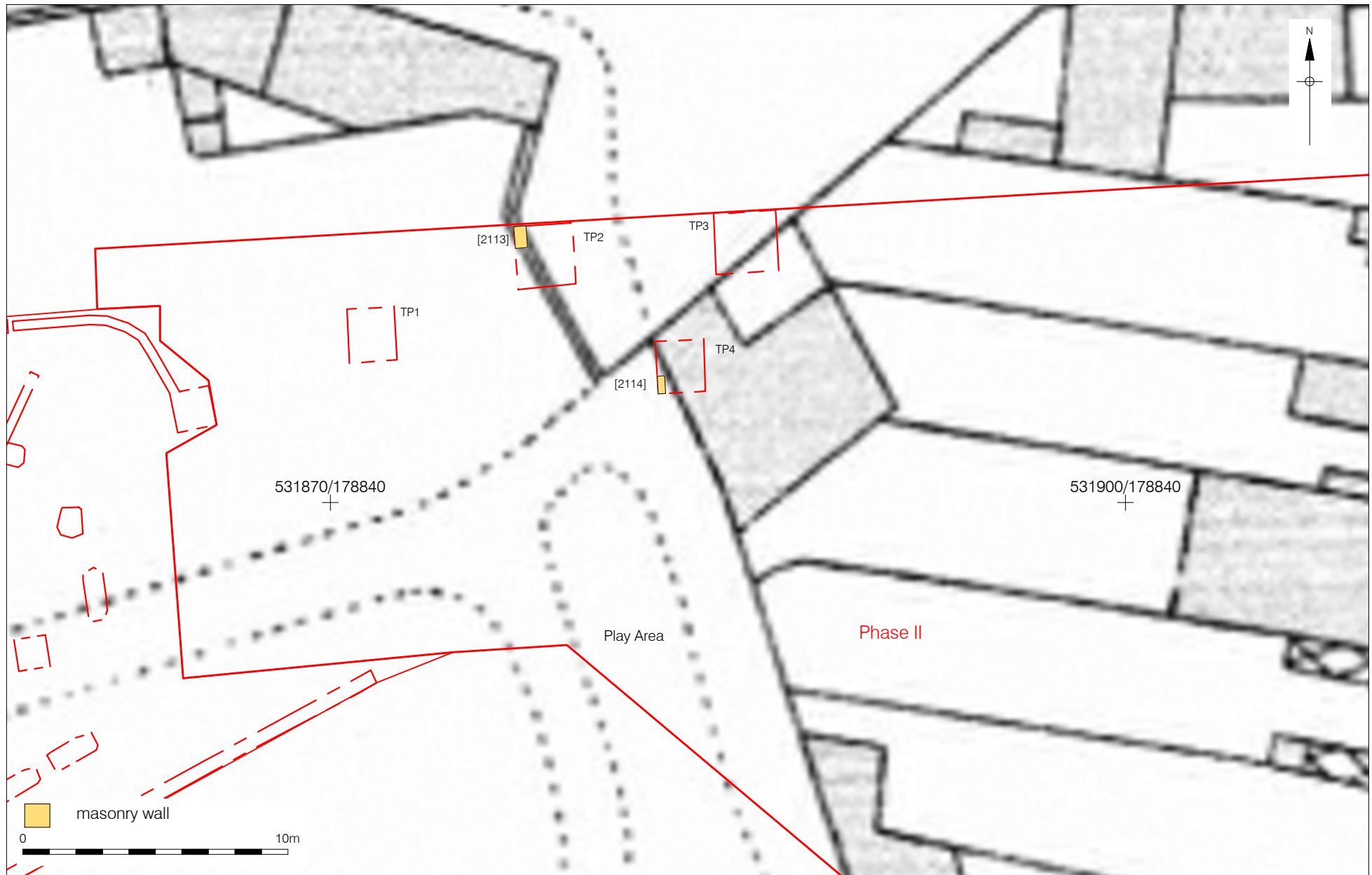


Figure 8
Historic map (OS 1895) showing test pit locations and masonry wall
1:200 at A4



8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Deborah McKenzie of Southwark Council and Paul Hook of Blakedown Landscapes for commissioning the work and Chris Constable for monitoring the watching brief on behalf of London Borough of Southwark.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank the site contractors for their co-operation throughout the site work, Peter Moore for his project management and editing; Josephine Brown and Tilia Cammegh for the illustrations; and Maria Buczak and James Langthorne for their work on this project.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Haslam, A. 2014 "An Archaeological Excavation on Land at the Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre, London Borough of Southwark, SE11 4TW". Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report No.11773.

Moore, P. 2013 "A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at St. Mary' Park, Elephant and Castle, London Borough of Southwark". Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report.

APPENDIX 1: Trench Index

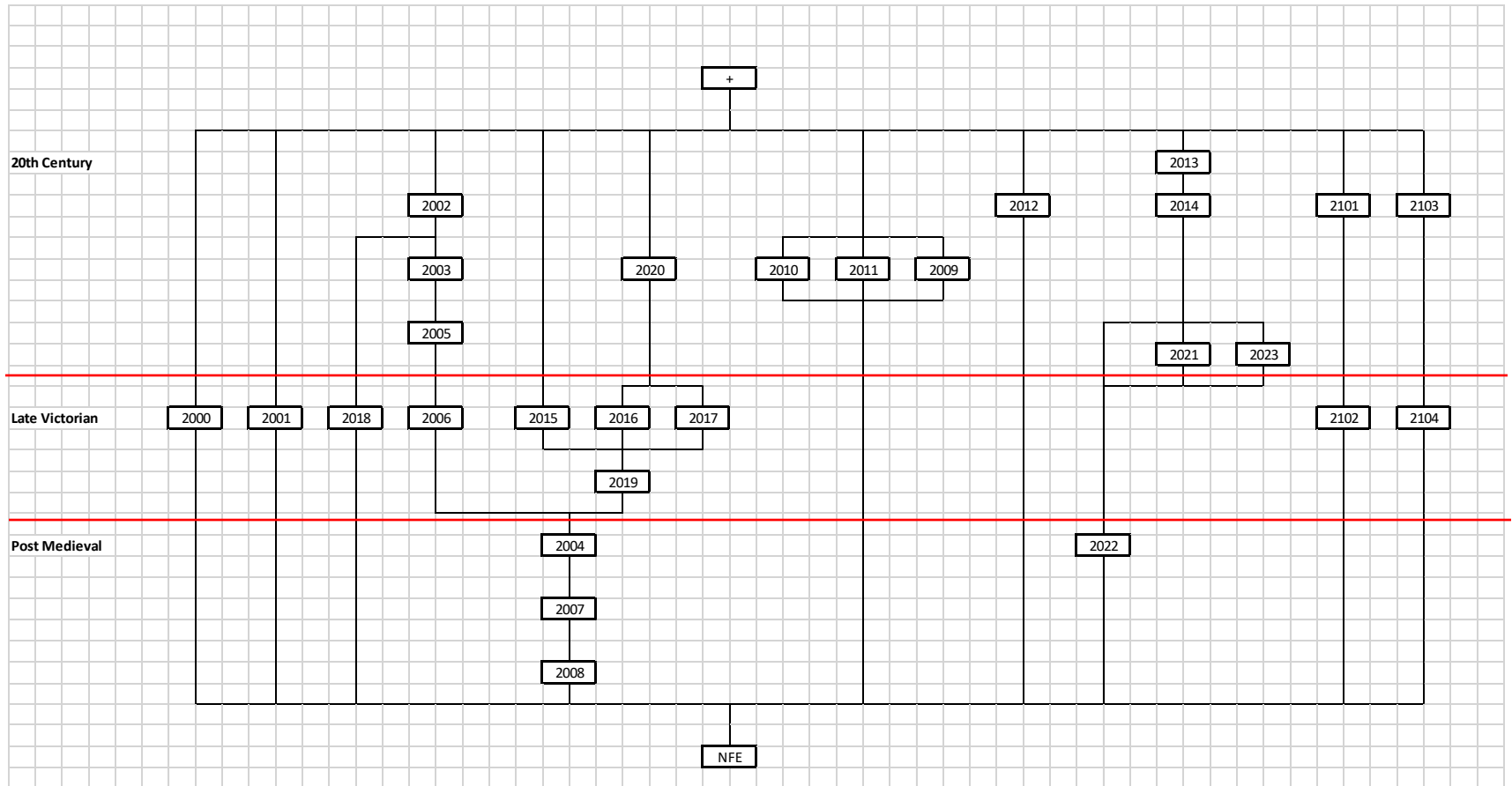
Trench	Trench Designation	Size		Depth	Contexts	Section
Playground Furniture 1		not monitored				
Playground Furniture 2		not monitored				
Playground Furniture 3	PF3	10.40m	1.80m	0.80m	2003	n/a
Playground Furniture 4 - west	PF4	1.80m	1.10m	0.90m	2004, 2016, 2019, 2020	S112
Playground Furniture 4 - east	PF4	1.60m	1.00m	0.80m	2004, 2015	S111
Playground Furniture 5		not monitored				
Playground Furniture 6 - north	PF6	1.90m	0.80m	0.95m	2004	n/a
Playground Furniture 6 - south	PF6	1.70m	0.80m	0.95m	2004	n/a
Playground Furniture 7 - main	PF7	1.60m	1.27m	0.50m	2009	S107
Playground Furniture 7 - west	PF7	0.70m	0.50m	0.25m	none	n/a
Playground Furniture 7 - east	PF7	0.90m	0.35m	0.25m	2009	n/a
Playground Furniture 8 - north	PF8	0.80m	0.70m	0.40m	none	n/a
Playground Furniture 8 - west	PF8	0.90m	0.80m	0.40m	none	n/a
Playground Furniture 8 - south	PF8	0.95m	0.95	0.40m	none	n/a
Playground Furniture 8 - east	PF8	2.30m	1.87m	0.40m	none	n/a
Playground Furniture 9 - north	PF9	1.60m	0.60m	0.50m	2002	n/a
Playground Furniture 9 - south	PF9	1.40m	0.70m	0.50m	2002	n/a
Playground Furniture 10 - main	PF10	2.50m	2.00m	0.90m	2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006	S103
Playground Furniture 10 - northwest	PF10	0.70m	0.60m	1.00m	2002, 2004	S105
Playground Furniture 10 - southeast	PF10	1.00m	0.80m	0.80m	2002, 2004	S104
Playground Furniture 11	PF11	1.80m	0.80m	0.90m	2002, 2004	S102
Playground Furniture 12	PF12	11.60m	0.35m	0.45m	2002	n/a
Playground Furniture 13 - northwest	PF13	0.90m	0.84m	0.60m	2012	S109
Playground Furniture 13 - southeast	PF13	1.00m	0.80m	0.59m	2002	n/a
Playground Furniture 14	PF14	1.20m	1.20m	0.85m	2002, 2004	n/a
Bench 1		1.50m	0.50m	0.40m	2002	n/a
Bench 2		1.70m	0.50m	0.40m	2002	n/a
Bench 3		1.65m	0.65m	0.40m	2002	n/a
Bench 4		1.60m	0.50m	0.30m	none	n/a
Bench 5		2.00m	0.60m	0.60m	2004, 2017, 2019, 2020	S113
Bench 6		2.00m	0.70m	0.60m	2004, 2018	n/a
Bench 7		1.80m	0.60m	0.40m	2010	n/a
Bench 8		1.80m	0.50m	0.40m	2011	S108
Soakaway		1.50m	1.50m	1.60m	2002, 2004, 2007, 2008	S106
Electricity Trench		54.00m	0.60m	0.70m	2000, 2001	S101
Southern Lighting Trench		47.00m	0.60m	0.45m	2013, 2014, 2021, 2022, 2023	n/a
Landscaping		14.20m	4.75m	0.40m	2013, 2014,	S110
Test Pit A	TPA	1.75m	1.10m	0.80m	2101, 2102	S120
Test Pit B	TPB	1.60m	1.10m	1.00m	2103, 2104	S121

APPENDIX 2: Context Index

Context	Type	Trench	Comments	Height (m OD)	Phase
Phase 1					
2000	Masonry	Electricity	Wall Foundation	4.14m	2
2001	Masonry	Electricity	Wall Foundation	4.14m	2
2002	Layer	All Trenches	Made ground	4.10m	3
2003	Layer	PF10	Made ground	3.70m	3
2004	Layer	Soakaway, PF10, PF11	Cemetery Soils	3.54m	1
2005	Layer	PF10	Disturbed Cemetery Soil	3.60m	3
2006	Masonry	PF10	Wall Foundation	3.40m	2
2007	Layer	Soakaway	Early Cemetery Soils	3.05m	1
2008	Layer	Soakaway	Early Cemetery Soils	2.55m	1
2009	Layer	PF7	Yellow Gravel layer	3.70m	3
2010	Layer	Bench 7	Rubble layer	3.72m	3
2011	Layer	Bench 8	Rubble layer	3.70m	3
2012	Layer	PF13	Subsoil	3.74m	3
2013	Layer	Southern Lighting Trench, Landscaping	Topsoil	4.16m	3
2014	Layer	Southern Lighting Trench, Landscaping	Subsoil	4.06m	3
2015	Masonry	PF4	Wall Foundation	3.79m	2
2016	Masonry	PF4	Wall Foundation	3.79m	2
2017	Masonry	Bench 5	Wall Foundation	3.90m	2
2018	Masonry	Bench 6	Wall Foundation	3.88m	2
2019	Layer	PF4, Bench 5	Demolition Layer	3.80m	2
2020	Layer	PF4, Bench 5	Demolition Layer	3.84m	3
2021	Layer	Southern Lighting Trench	Rubble layer	3.84m	3
2022	Layer	Southern Lighting Trench	Subsoil	3.62m	1
2023	Layer	Southern Lighting Trench	Sandy layer	3.83m	3
2101	Layer	Test Pit A	Made ground	3.78m	3

Context	Type	Trench	Comments	Height (m OD)	Phase
2102	Masonry	Test Pit A	Wall Foundation	3.70m	2
2103	Layer	Test Pit B	Made ground	3.75m	3
2104	Masonry	Test Pit B	Wall Foundation	3.75m	2
Phase 2					
2106	Layer	Test Pit 1	Cemetery Soil	3.80m	1
2107	Layer	Test Pit 2	Sand/Gravel Surface	3.30m	2
2108	Layer	Test Pit 2	Organic disuse layer	3.10m	2
2109	Layer	Test Pit 2	Cemetery Soil	3.00m	1
2110	Layer	Test Pit 3	Sand/Gravel Surface	3.00m	2
2111	Layer	Test Pit 3	Organic disuse layer	2.80m	2
2112	Layer	Test Pit 3	Cemetery Soil	2.60m	1
2113	Masonry	Test Pit 2	Wall foundation	3.80m	2
2114	Masonry	Test Pit 4	Wall foundation	4.00m	2

APPENDIX 3: Site Matrix



APPENDIX 4: OASIS REPORTING FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-242987

Project details

Project name	St. Mary's Park, Playground Project (Phase 1 and 2), Elephant and Castle
Short description of the project	This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the construction of a Children's Playground in St. Mary's Park, Elephant and Castle, London Borough of Southwark. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation pits for playground furniture; together with pits for seating benches; a large soakaway and two test pits. Additionally trenches were excavated for lighting and landscaping took place. Fragments of wall foundations from St. Gabriel's Chapel, built in 1874 and demolished in 1937, were observed.
Project dates	Start: 13-01-2015 End: 23-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SMC11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK St Mary's Park, Elephant and Castle
Postcode	SE11 4TW
Study area	770 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3183 7886 51.492794731996 -0.100819002266 51 29 34 N 000 06 02 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 3.94m Max: 4.16m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Peter Moore
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	Phil Frickers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Type of sponsor/funding body	Southwark Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Blakedown Landscapes and Southwark Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	SMC11
Digital Media available	"Text","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	SMC11
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Matrices","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief on the Children's Playground at St. Mary's Park, Elephant and Castle, London Borough of Southwark
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Frickers, P
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	Ring Bound A4 Client Document, Blue Cover
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Entered by	Amelia Fairman (afairman@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	13 July 2017

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