

**38-40 GLASSHILL STREET, LONDON SE1 0QX**  
**SUMMARY REPORT OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**SITE CODE:** GLA11

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

**CENTRAL NGR:** TQ31897976

**COMMISSIONING CLIENT:** CgMs CONSULTING

**PREPARED BY:** CHRIS MAYO (MifA)  
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**30<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

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**August 2011**

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## **Methodology**

As outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation two archaeological test-pits (Trenches 2 and 3) were marked out by the client within the rooms of the existing development which have a sub-basement (which extends to a depth of 0.8m below street level). The slab at the surface of each trench was cut and broken out by hand, so that they each measured 1.5m by 1.5m (Figure 2).

Each pit was hand excavated by the attendant archaeologist and two labourers provided by the client, using shovels and pick-axes. The pits were reduced in spits of up to 200mm at a time, until a maximum safe achievable depth was reached. Then a power auger was used by the ground-labourers under archaeological supervision to reach the surface of the natural drift geology. The maximum excavated depth of Trench 2 was 1.75m and of Trench 3 was 1.8m.

The trenches were then each cleaned and recorded by the attendant archaeologist, prior to being backfilled by the same team.

Street level outside the site entrance was approximately 3.86m OD, and therefore the slab height within the sub-basement was approximately 3.06m OD.

## **Trench 2 Sequence** (Figures 2 and 3)

The surface of what was considered to be the underlying drift geology, terrace gravels [4], was recorded at approximately 1.36m OD. The deposit was a loose and light brown gravel/sand (50/50), the gravel being rounded to sub-angular.

Above the gravels was a made ground deposit [3], 0.25m thick and recorded at an upper height of approximately 1.66m OD. The layer comprised moderate to firmly compacted mid to light brown clay/silt/sand (10/20/70) and included very frequent sharp to well-rounded gravel and occasional fragments and small pieces of charcoal.

Sealing [3] was a further layer of post-medieval made ground [2] which was 0.2m thick and recorded at a surface height of approximately 1.86m OD. The deposit was a firm light-brownish/grey sandy/clay/silt (10/20/70) which included frequent gravel and moderate quantities of animal bone (noticeably cow and sheep rib). Post-medieval pottery sherds were also recovered.

A substantial deposit of made ground [1] was above [2], measuring 1.0m thick at an upper height (truncated by the basement) of approximately 2.86m OD. The deposit was a blackish very dark brown slightly clayey/sandy/silt (5/20/75); it contained frequent inclusions of CBM nodules and fragments, slate, occasional flint and chalk nodules, moderate gravel, frequent oyster shell and moderate lumps of chalky mortar. At a depth of 0.5m into the deposit it became less clayey and more grey in colour. The layer yielded post-medieval pottery, CBM, CTP and glass fragments.

Within deposit [1] were observed two substantial foundations which had been excavated into holes which had clearly subsided, so that when they were filled with concrete they bowed out beyond their cut-lines. These foundations formed crude pier bases of which two were seen in the trench, and correlate to the existing structure at the site - directly above one of them a scar could be seen at ceiling level where an iron column would have been connected.

Context [1] was sealed by a 0.12m thick layer of compacted demolition rubble make-up for the slab for the sub-basement, 80mm thick.

Plate 1: Trench 2, West facing



Plate 2: Trench 2, North-west facing



### **Trench 3 Sequence** (Figures 2 and 3)

The surface of what was considered to be the underlying drift geology, terrace gravels [9], was recorded at approximately 1.31m OD. The deposit was a loose and light brown gravel/sand (50/50), the gravel being rounded to sub-angular.

The gravel was sealed by layer [8], 0.15m thick at an upper height of approximately 1.46m OD. The layer was an extremely hard indurated deposit of mid-brown/dark grey sand/silt (40/60) with occasional gravel and large fragments of peg and pan tile; large pottery sherds were also recovered.

The next layer, [7], was 0.3m thick at an upper height of approximately 1.76m OD. It comprised indurated 'dirty' gravel (sub-round to rounded) in a clay/silt (20/80) matrix with occasional small fragments of peg tile.

Layer [7] was sealed by another made ground deposit [6], which was compositionally the same as [8] but only moderately compacted and also including frequent fragments of CBM, occasional gravel, CBM lumps and charcoal, and moderate fragments of chalky mortar. It was 0.55m thick from an upper height of approximately 2.31m OD, and yielded glass fragments and CTP stems.

Next in sequence was further made ground deposit [5], which was 0.55m thick at an upper truncated (by the existing sub-basement) height of approximately 2.86m OD. Layer [5] was very indurated, a dark grey sand/silt (5/95) with frequent inclusions of chalky mortar fragments, CBM fragments and flecks, moderate gravel, occasional cement fragments and very occasional charcoal. Pottery and CTP was recovered from the layer.

The surface of the Trench 3 sequence was finished by extremely compact demolition rubble make-up (0.15m thick) for the sub-basement slab, 50mm thick.

Plate 3: Trench 3, East facing





Plate 4: Trench 3, North facing



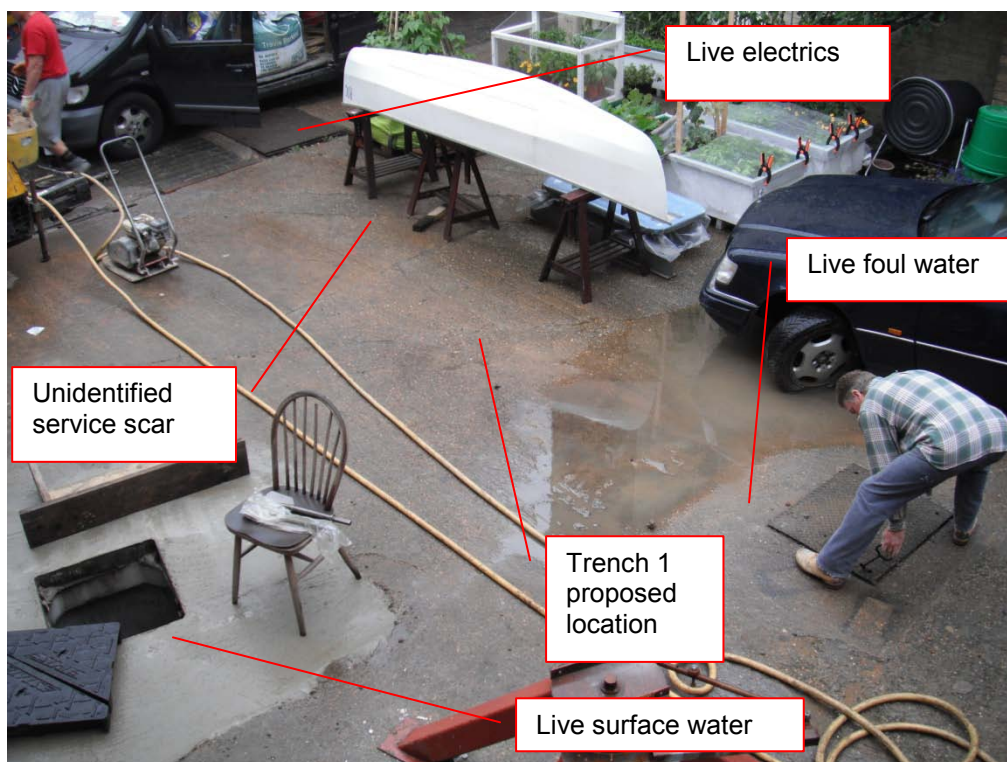


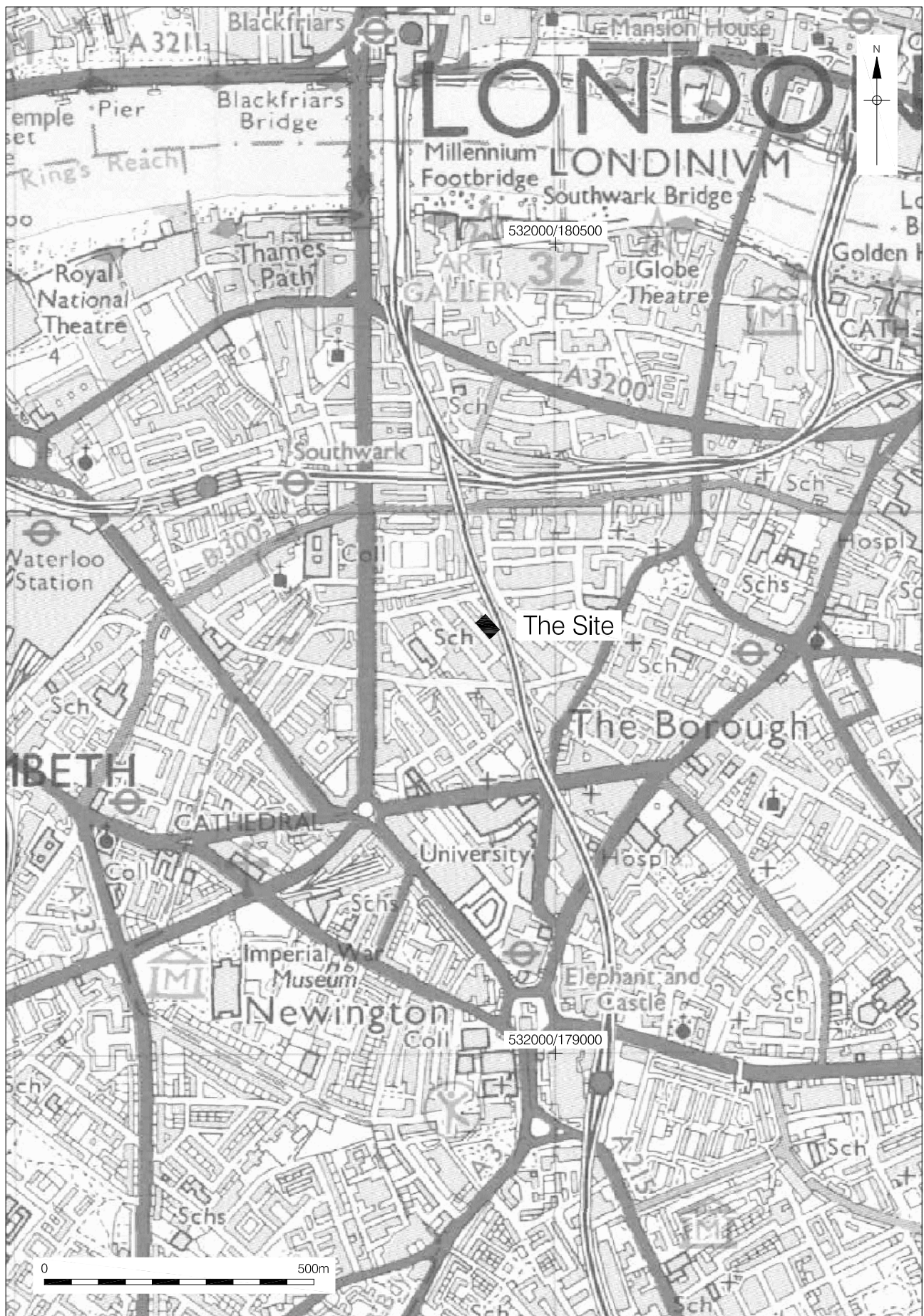
## Conclusions

The sequences revealed in both trenches are consistent with post-medieval activity and ground-raising. These deposits were seen directly atop the natural drift geology which may suggest that there has been some horizontal truncation at the site, although the stratified nature of the post-medieval horizons indicates a gradual build-up rather than a single phase of activity.

The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed that a third evaluation trench (Trench 1) would be excavated within the external courtyard at the site. A services inspection undertaken by the client with the attendant archaeologist present demonstrated that the courtyard was crossed by at least three live services (Figure 4) with a fourth, unidentified scar also visible. These services made the excavation of the trench unachievable.

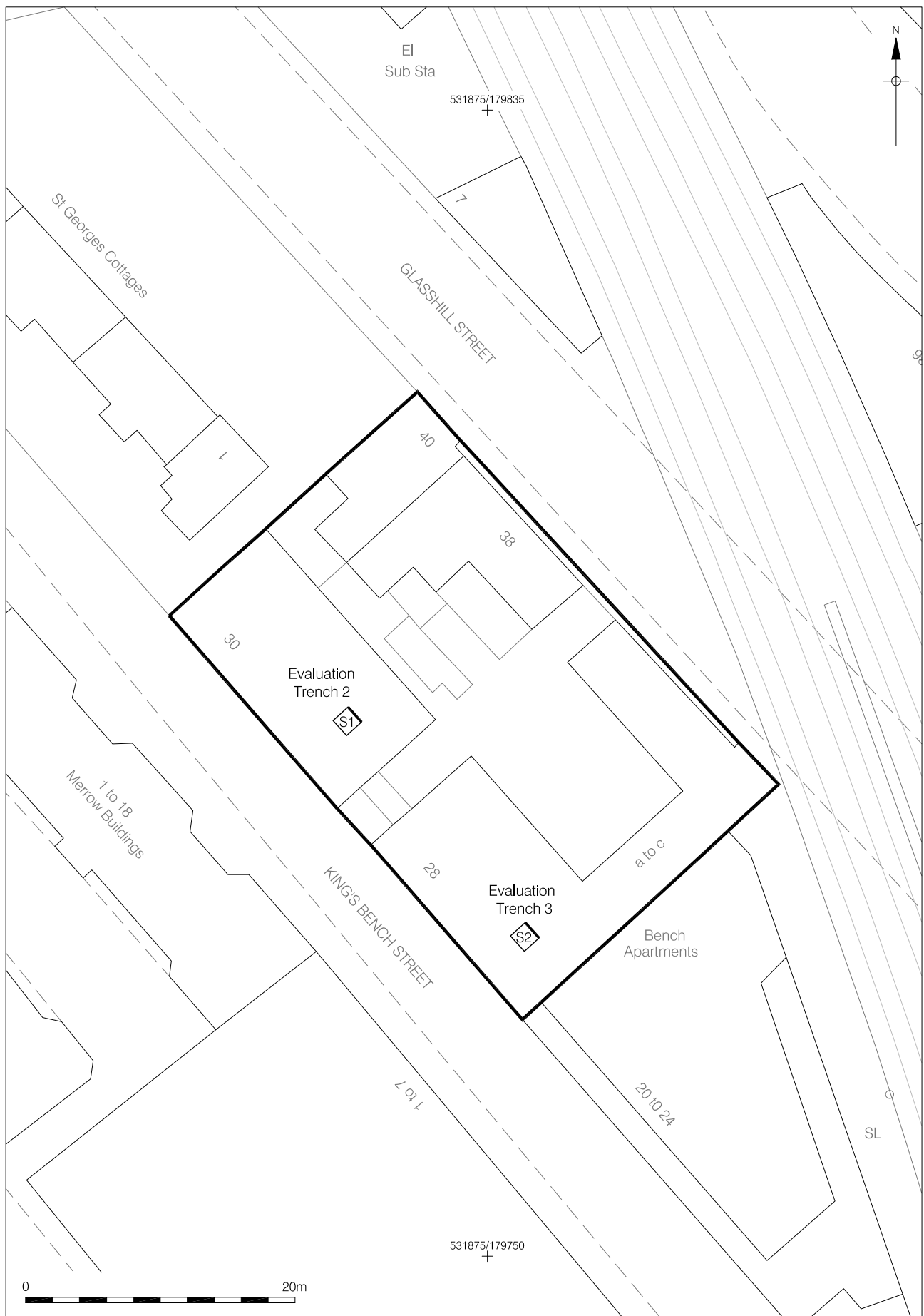
Plate 5 View Northeast of external courtyard showing proposed position of Trench 1 and service locations (annotated)





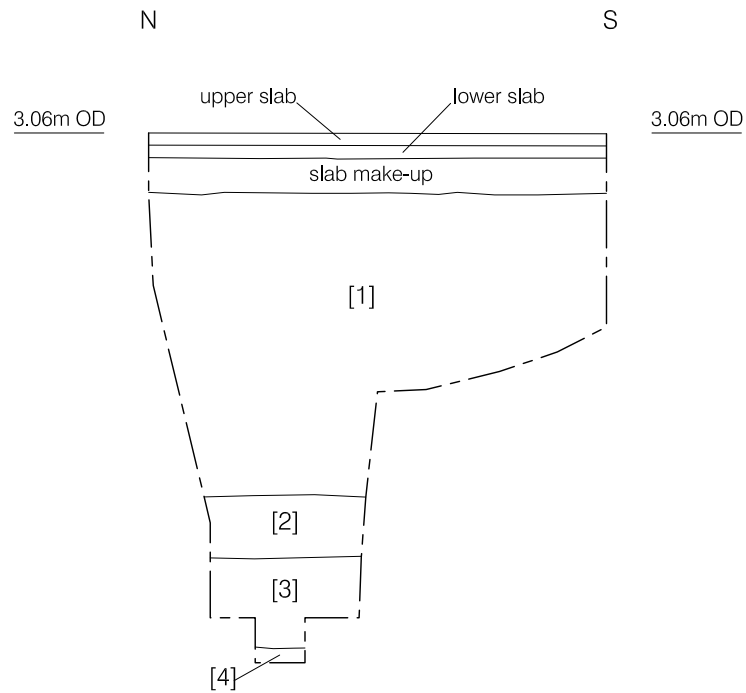
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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:10,000 at A4

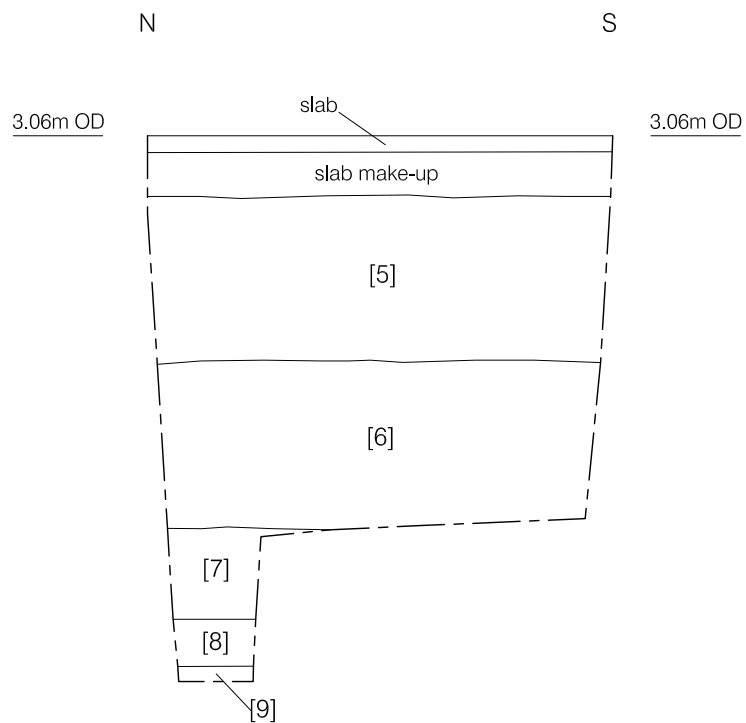


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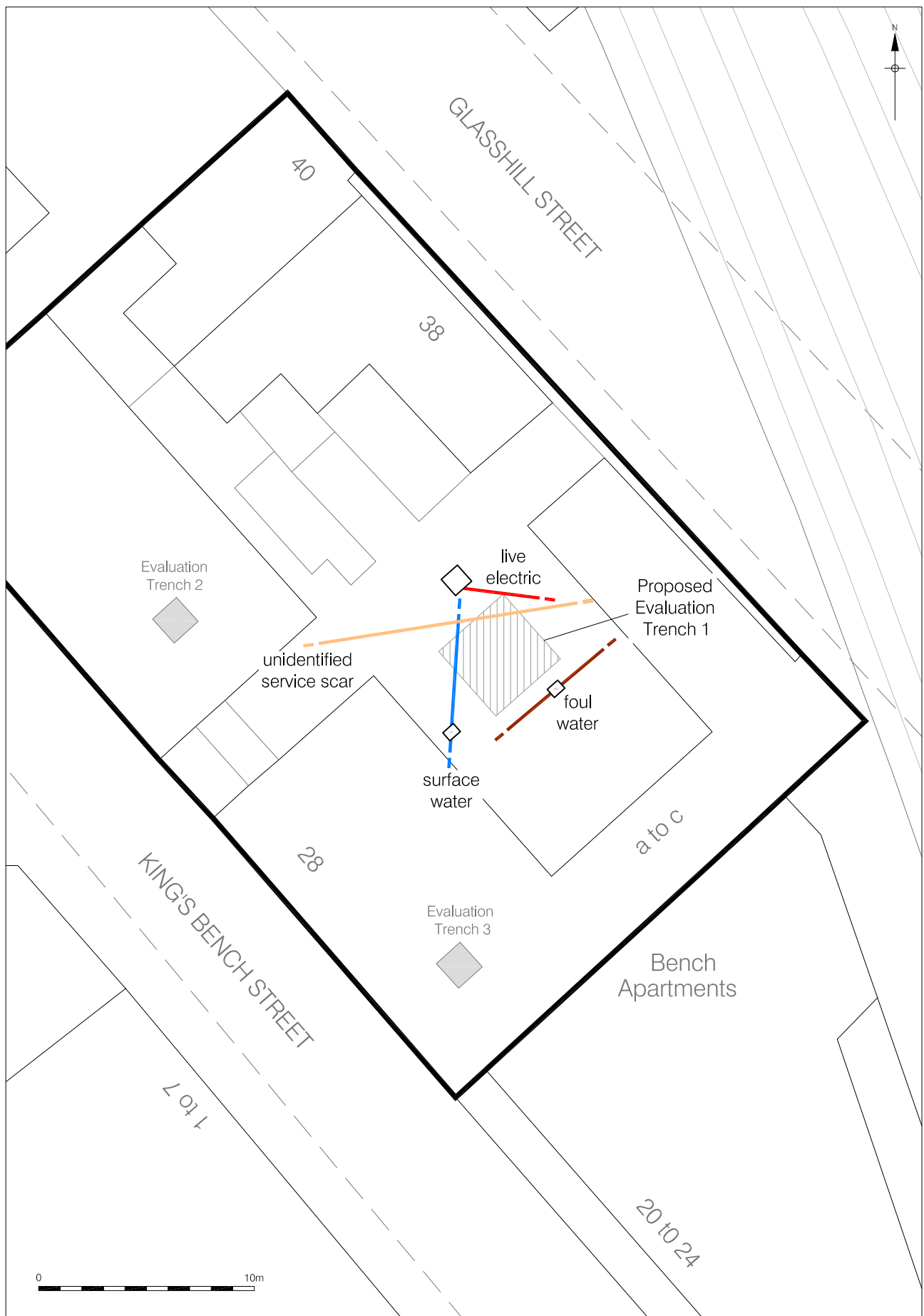
Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:400 at A4



Section 1  
Trench 2, West facing



Section 2  
Trench 3, West facing



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Figure 4  
 Existing Services  
 1:250 at A4

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**OASIS ID: preconst1-270998**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at 38-40 Glasshill Street
Short description of the project	Two archaeological test-pits were excavated within the sub-basement of the existing building revealing natural terrace gravels beneath a sequence of post-medieval made ground. As these deposits were seen directly atop the natural drift geology it appears that there has been horizontal truncation at the site, although the stratified nature of the post-medieval deposits seem to indicate a gradual build-up rather than a single phase of activity.
Project dates	Start: 25-08-2011 End: 06-09-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GLA11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches"", ""Test Pits""
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 38-40 Glasshill Street

Postcode	SE1 0QX
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3189 7976 51.500869500202 -0.099618669842 51 30 03 N 000 05 58 W Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Chris Mayo
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultants
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	GLA11
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	GLA11
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"



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## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	38-40 Glasshill Street, London SE1 0QX. Summary Report of an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mayo, C.
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
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