

An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Queen Elizabeth Public House Asylum Road, Peckham, London Borough of Southwark

Site Code: QEZ 07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3480 7730

Written and Researched by Denise Mulligan

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2007

Project Manager: Chris Mayo

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting on behalf of Open Architecture

**Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD**

**Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7639 9588**

Email: cmayo@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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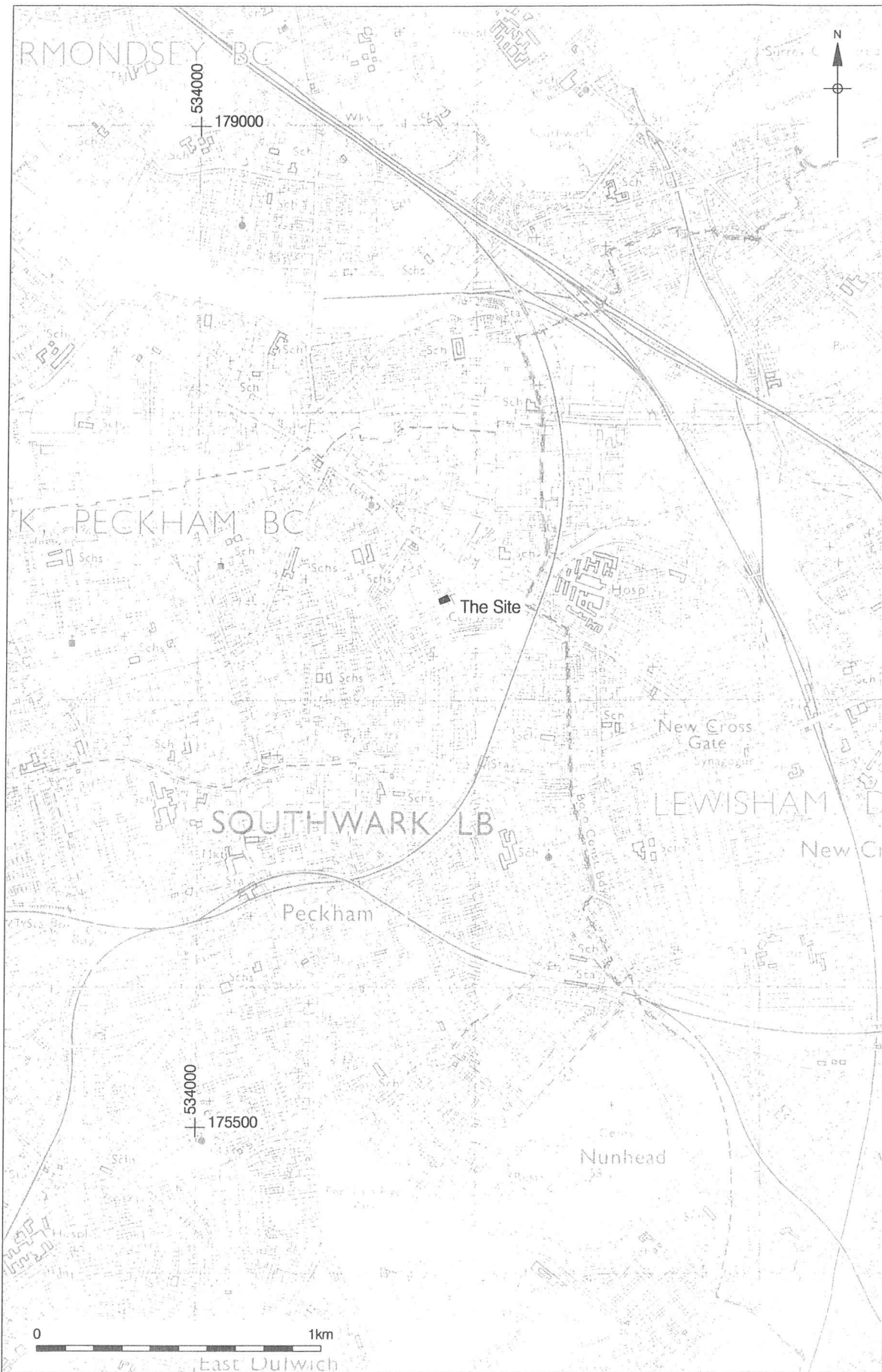
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Queen Elizabeth Public House Asylum Road, Peckham, in the London Borough of Southwark. The watching brief was commissioned by Suzanne Gailey of CgMs Consulting and took place on 12th June 2007.
- 1.2 The site is bordered by Gervase Street to the north, by residential housing to the south, by a school to the east and by Asylum Road to the west.
- 1.3 Prior to the investigation, the study site had been reduced by 0.72m below the existing pavement level to an approximate height of 3.00m OD. The watching brief monitored the excavation of three trenches. Trench 1 was located in the southwest corner and was aligned east/west; Trench 2 was located in the southeast and was aligned north / south; Trench 3 was located to the northeast and was aligned east / west
- 1.4 All trenches contained natural sand, sealed by very compact fine gravel, which was sealed by a thick layer of natural brickearth. The brickearth was truncated by a 19th century wall foundation [9] in Trench 3 and then sealed either by garden soil or made ground.
- 1.5 No pre-19th century archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief.

2 INTRODUCTION

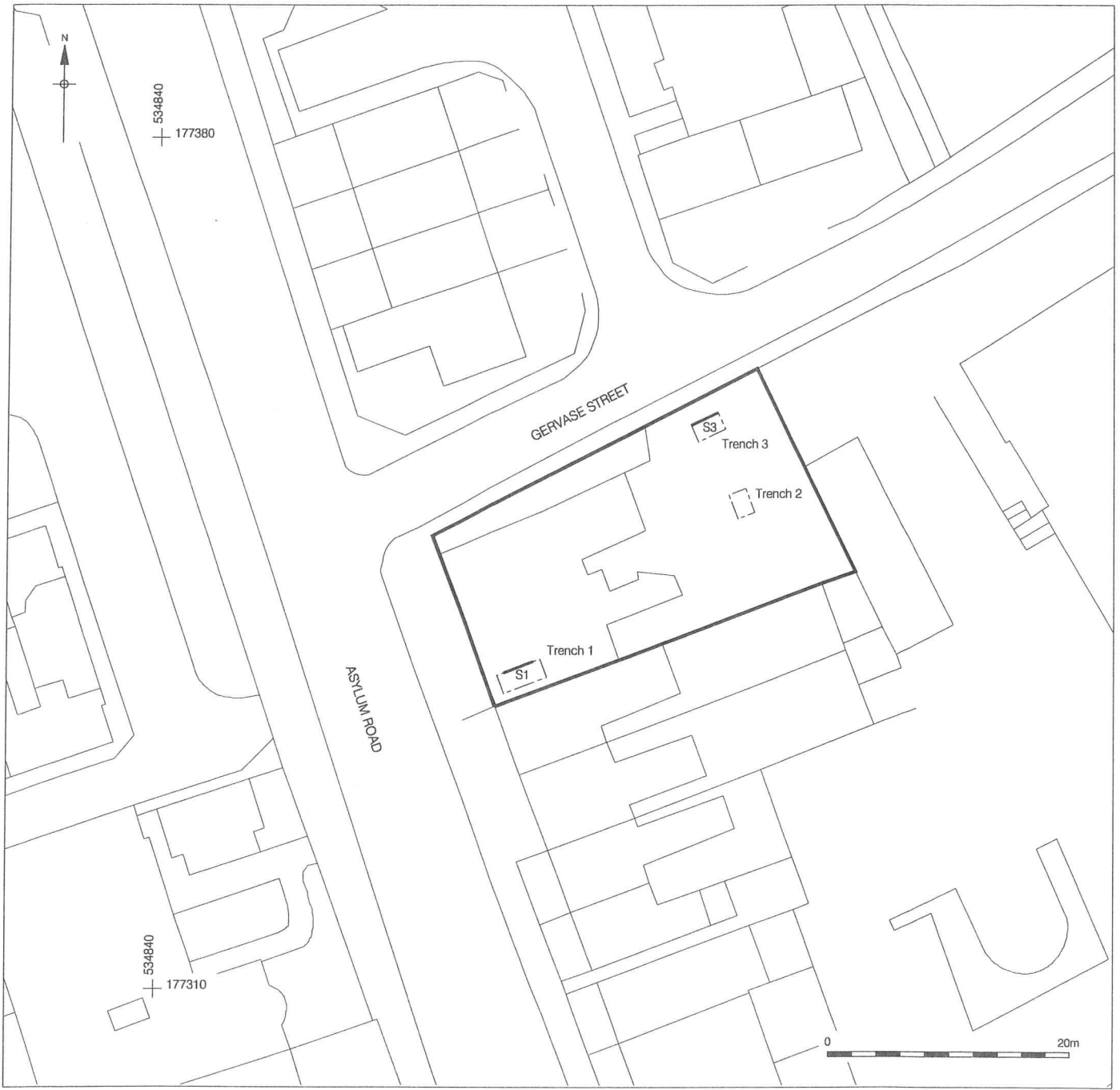
- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at Queen Elizabeth Public House Asylum Road, in the London Borough of Southwark in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site for residential properties. The watching brief was conducted on 12th June 2007 and was commissioned by Suzanne Gailey on behalf of Open Architecture.
- 2.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment had been completed prior to the fieldwork (Gailey 2007). This concluded that the site had a low potential for all archaeological periods except the Roman, due to the likely presence of the Roman London-Lewes Road running parallel along the Asylum Road (Gailey 2007, 10).
- 2.3 The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3480 7730. The site was given the unique code QEZ 07.
- 2.4 The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd by Chris Mayo and supervised by the author.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 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 PPG16, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.
- 3.3 In short, government guidance provides a framework which:
- Protects Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - Protects the settings of these sites
 - Protects nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments
 - Has a presumption in favour of in-situ preservation of important remains
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in-situ preservation.
- 3.4 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by the London Plan, published on 10 February 2004. It includes the following policy relating to archaeology within central London:
- POLICY 4B.14: ARCHAEOLOGY
- THE MAYOR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE, THE MUSEUM OF LONDON AND BOROUGHs, WILL SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF LONDON'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES. BOROUGHs IN CONSULTATION WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE AND OTHER RELEVANT STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE APPROPRIATE POLICIES IN THEIR UDPS FOR PROTECTING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS WITHIN THEIR AREA.
- 3.5 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Southwark Unitary Development Plan (UDP) published in 2004. The Plan contains the following policy

which provides a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:

POLICY 3.719 – ARCHAEOLOGY

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AFFECTING SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY ZONES, AS IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX 9, SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE SITE, INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESERVE IN SITU, PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, PROVIDE FOR THE PERMANENT DISPLAY AND INTERPRETATION OF THE MONUMENT OR REMAINS. THE LPA WILL ENSURE THE PROPER INVESTIGATION, RECORDING OF SITES AND PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS BY A SUITABLY QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTOR, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHERE A DEVELOPMENT INCORPORATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OR WHERE IT IS CONSIDERED THAT PRESERVATION IN SITU IS NOT APPROPRIATE.

REASONS

SOUTHWARK HAS AN IMENSELY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE. INCREASING EVIDENCE FOR PREHISTORIC COMMUNITIES 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. PPG16 REQUIRES THE COUNCIL TO INCLUDE POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST AND OF THEIR SETTINGS.

- 3.6 A new version of the Southwark Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2006, which will be adopted shortly, contains the following policy relating to archaeological and heritage features:

POLICY 3.19 – ARCHAEOLOGY

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AFFECTING SITES WITHIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY ZONES, AS IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX 7, SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE SITE, INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT. THERE IS A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF PRESERVATION IN SITU, TO PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE, INCLUDING SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AND THEIR SETTINGS. THE IN SITU PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT, UNLESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OUTWEIGHS THE LOCAL VALUE OF THE REMAINS. IF PLANNING PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO DEVELOP ANY SITE WHERE THERE ARE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OR THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH REMAINS EXIST, CONDITIONS WILL BE ATTACHED TO SECURE THE EXCAVATION AND RECORDING OR PRESERVATION IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IF JUSTIFIED, BEFORE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The study site is shown by the geological survey to lie in an area of Langley Silt over London Clay to the south of the alluvial flood plain of the River Thames. The investigations under taken by Risk Management in April 2007 (Gailey 2007, 5) confirmed the stratigraphic sequence at the site as Made Ground overlying Langley Silts over Kempton Park Gravels. Made ground was found across the site to a maximum depth of 1.10m below ground level.
- 4.2. The site is broadly at a level of 3.00m AOD. It is flat, and lies 2 km south west of the River Thames.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The following summary is taken from the archaeological desk-based assessment for the site (Gailey 2007)
- 5.2 Prehistoric
- 5.2.1 No finds from the prehistoric period are recorded within a 500m radius of the site.
- 5.3 Roman
- 5.3.1 Traces of Roman Road have been identified along Asylum Road just south of the Old Kent Road. Excavations to the south of the site at 115 Asylum Road identified a section of Roman Road. This is believed to form part of the London - Lewes Road [Old Kent Road SMR MO5606]. Evidence of Roman roadside activity has been recovered along Asylum Road and could be present at the study site
- 5.4 Saxon – Medieval
- 5.4.1 Peckham is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. By the medieval period Henry I passed it on to his son, the Earl of Gloucester, who became Lord of the manor. Later cartographic evidence identifies the core of the village of Peckham 1km southwest of the study site.
- 5.5 Post-Medieval
- 5.5.1 Between 1830 and 1842 the Queen Elizabeth public house was built on the study site. On Dewhurst's map of 1842, the pub is recorded as Old Queen Bess. By the time of the 1871 Ordnance Survey Map, two terrace houses are seen fronting onto [George Street] now Gervase Street, occupying the eastern boundary of the site. There was no change to the site until the 1930s when the terrace houses were demolished.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Trenches were located in available locations and excavated using a mini-digger under archaeological supervision, fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. Excavation proceeded in spits and continued through the modern made ground until natural sand was reached.
- 6.2 Trenches were excavated to a minimum width of 1.40m and at a depth of approximately 2.70m below ground level.
- 6.3 All recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London that is, those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS 1994). Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A full photographic record of the investigations was also prepared, using digital images.
- 6.4 Levels on the trenches were approximated from existing data contained in the desk-based assessment.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on site was natural sand [3], [7] and [12], which was seen in the base of all the trenches excavated, at a depth of 2.70m below ground level (0.30m OD). No features or artifacts were observed in this deposit.
- 7.1.2 Overlying the sands was a deposit of gravel [6] and [11], encountered in Trenches 2 and 3 at a height of approximately 0.68m OD. The gravel was fine, well sorted and very compact. No dating evidence was recovered from this natural deposit.
- 7.1.3 The gravel was sealed by a brickearth deposit [2], [5] and [10], seen in all trenches and approximately 1.20m thick, recorded at an upper height of 1.88m OD. This layer was not disturbed in Trenches 2 and 3, although it had been horizontally truncated in Trench 1. Evidence of root activity was visible in all trenches.

7.2 Phase 2: 19th Century Wall

- 7.2.1 This was a north /south wall [9] seen in Trench 3 and relates to terrace housing seen in cartographic evidence of 1871. The wall foundations cut the natural brickearth [10].

7.3 Phase 3: 20th Century

- 7.3.1 The site sequence was completed by garden soils ([4] and [8]) and made ground [1]. They date from the mid to late 20th century.

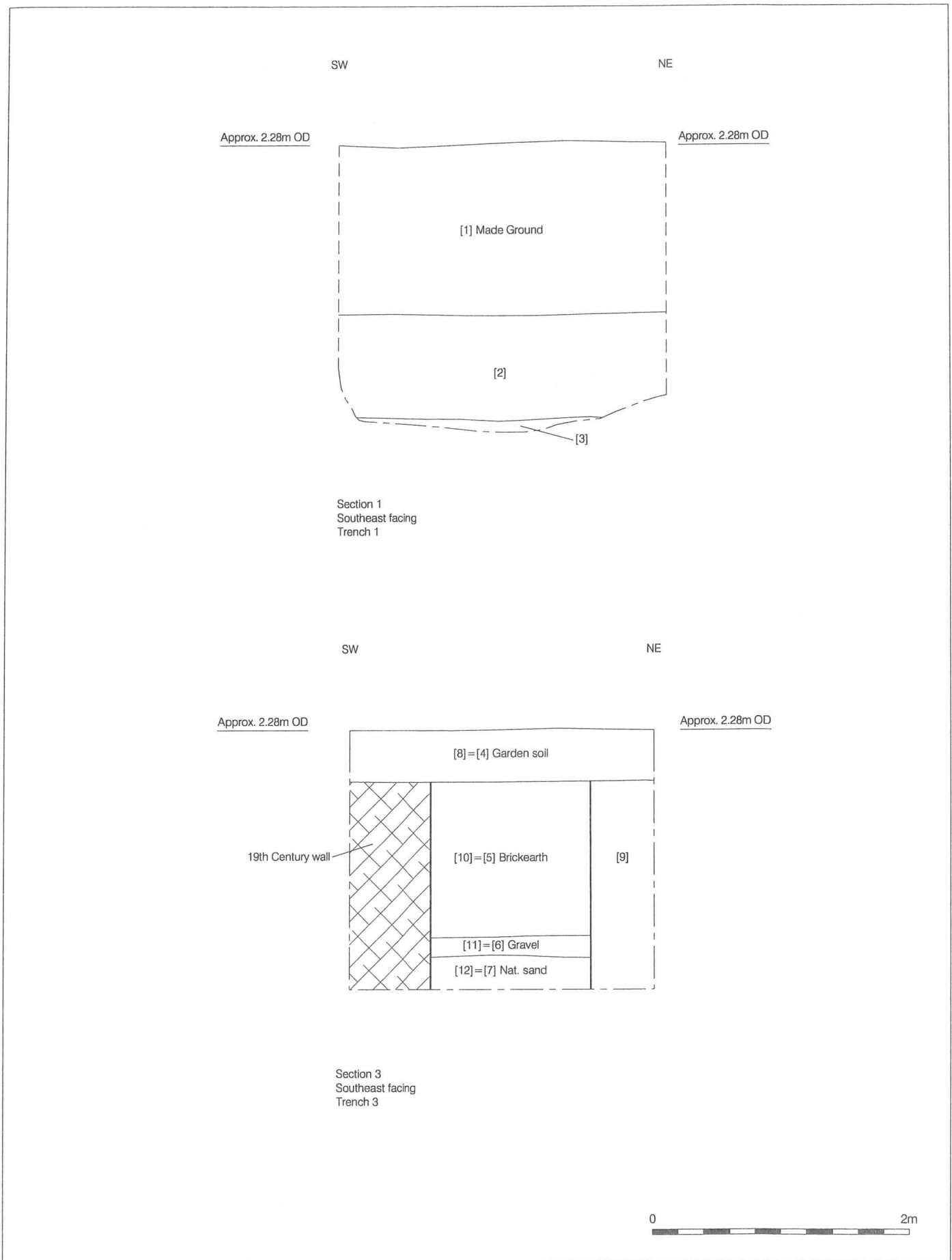


Figure 3
Sections
1:40 at A4

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 One of the principal objectives of the archaeological watching brief was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period. The Roman period was of particular interest as finds have been located within a 500m radius of the study site.
- 8.2 The earliest datable evidence of human activity at the site was from the 19th century, and consists of a north /south wall foundation in the north-east corner. It can be attributed to the 19th Century terraced houseing which occupied the site in the map of 1871.
- 8.3 No other archaeological remains were found at the site. The underlying natural sequence was seen to be sand overlain by a thin layer of gravel, and then sealed by brickearth.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Suzanne Gailey of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of Open Architecture.
- 9.2 The author would also like to thank David Harris for the illustrations and Chris Mayo for his project managing and editing.

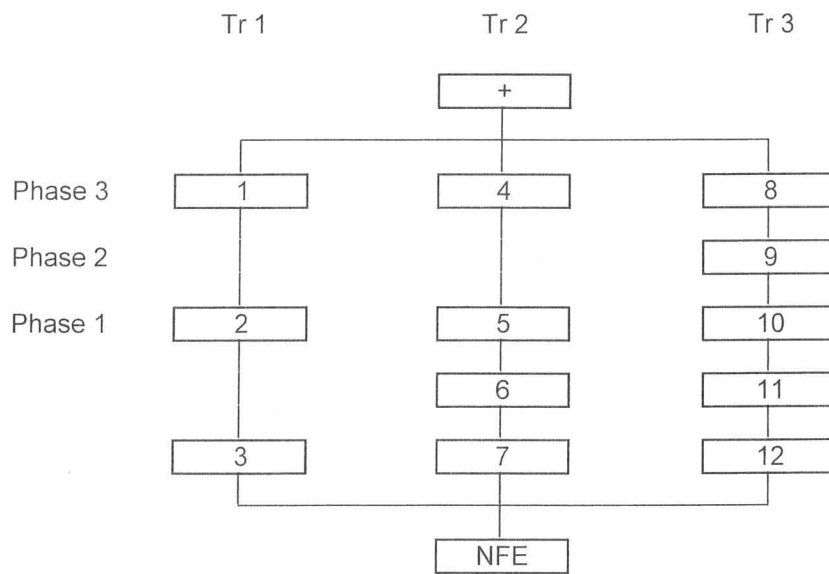
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Gailey, S. 2007 'Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land At Asylum Road, Peckham, London Borough Of Southwark', unpub rep for CgMs Consulting (September 2006, revised May 2007)

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Drawings
QEZ 07	1	N/A	1	Layer	Made ground	11/06/2007	3	Trench 1
QEZ 07	2	N/A	1	Layer	Layer brickearth	11/06/2007	2	Trench 1
QEZ 07	3	N/A	1	Layer	Natural sand	11/06/2007	1	Trench 1
QEZ 07	4	N/A	2	Layer	Garden soil	11/06/2007	5	Trench 2
QEZ 07	5	N/A	2	Layer	Brickearth	11/06/2007	3	Trench 2
QEZ 07	6	N/A	2	Layer	Gravel	11/06/2007	2	Trench 2
QEZ 07	7	N/A	3	Layer	Natural sand	11/06/2007	1	Trench 2
QEZ 07	8	N/A	3	Layer	Gardfen soil	11/06/2007	5	Trench 3
QEZ 07	9	N/A	3	Masonry	century wall	11/06/2007	4	Trench 3
QEZ 07	10	N/A	3	Layer	Brickearth	11/06/2007	3	Trench 3
QEZ 07	11	N/A	3	Layer	Gravel	11/06/2007	2	Trench 3
QEZ 07	12	N/A	3	Layer	Natural sand	11/06/2007	1	Trench 3

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-27582

Project details

Project name	Queen Elizabeth Public House
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Queen Elizabeth Public House Asylum Road, Peckham, in the London Borough of Southwark. The watching brief was commissioned by Suzanne Gailey of CgMs Consulting and took place on 12th June 2007. The site is bordered by Gervase Street to the north, by residential housing to the south, by a school to the east and by Asylum Road to the west. Prior to the investigation, the study site had been reduced by 0.72m below the existing pavement level to an approximate height of 3.00m OD. The watching brief monitored the excavation of three trenches. Trench 1 was located in the southwest corner and was aligned east/west; Trench 2 was located in the southeast and was aligned north / south; Trench 3 was located to the northeast and was aligned east / west All trenches contained natural sand, sealed by very compact fine gravel, which was sealed by a thick layer of natural brickearth. The brickearth was truncated by a 19th century wall foundation [9] in Trench 3 and then sealed either by garden soil or made ground. No pre-19th century archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief
Project dates	Start: 12-06-2007 End: 12-06-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	QEZ 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	ROAD Roman
Significant Finds	NONE Roman
Methods & techniques	'Photographic Survey','Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK Queen Elizabeth Public House
Postcode	SE15
Study area	523.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3480 7730 51.4780726034 -0.05865410796940 51 28 41 N 000 03 31 W Point
Height OD	Min: 1.88m Max: 1.88m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Denise Mulligan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architectural Practice
Name of sponsor/funding body	Open Architecture

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Plan', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

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