

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT THE SITE OF THE FORMER
BREWERY TAP PUBLIC HOUSE,
STOCKWELL GREEN,
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

AUGUST 2007

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**THE FORMER BREWERY TAP PUBLIC HOUSE,
STOCKWELL GREEN,
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at the site of the Former
Brewery Tap Public House, Stockwell Green, London Borough
of Lambeth**

Site Code: LGS07

National Grid Reference: TQ 3054 7605

Written and Researched by Stuart Watson

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, August 2007

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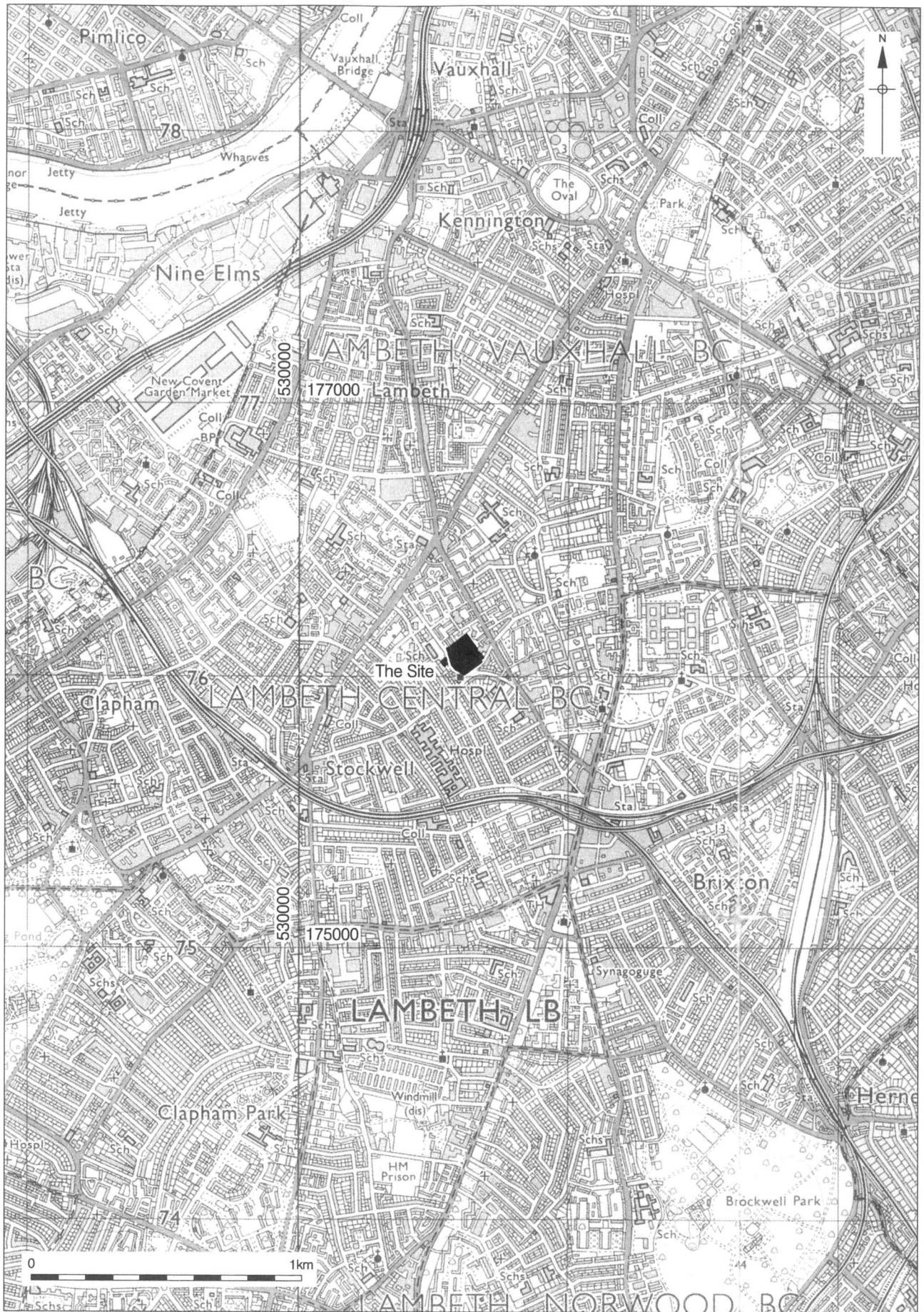
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This document details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation at the site of the former Brewery Tap Public House and Council Depot, Stockwell Green, London Borough of Lambeth (fig. 1). The evaluation, commissioned by Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Hawkins/Brown and their Project Managers Drivers Jonas, was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology in advance of the redevelopment of the site for residential and community usage. The evaluation consisted of two trenches excavated between 20th and 22nd August 2007 (fig. 2).
- 1.2 The site is bound to the north-east by Lingham Street, to the north-west by properties fronting Grantham Road, to the south-west by properties fronting Kay Road and to the south-east by St Andrews Church. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 3054 7605
- 1.3 The evaluation found evidence for natural sandy gravels overlain by alluvially deposited sandy silts. The remainder of the evaluation trenches comprised late 19th century dump deposits and 20th century building foundations.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Hawkins/Brown and their Project Managers Drivers Jonas. The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and was conducted at the site of the former Brewery Tap Public House and Council Depot, Stockwell Green, London Borough of Lambeth between 20th and 22nd August 2007 (fig. 1). The site was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 3054 7605
- 2.2 The site was, until recently, occupied by The Brewery Tap Public House and a Lambeth Council Depot. Both have since been demolished as part of a wider development scheme encompassing not only this site, but also the site of the Bottle store opposite. However, it was evident that the deep concrete foundations of the Bottle store site would have severely impacted on any archaeological remains and consequently it was agreed to limit the archaeological works to the Brewery Tap site.
- 2.3 Whilst the majority of the ground surfaces had been removed prior to the archaeological evaluation, it would appear that they were once comprised of a mixture of tarmac and concrete.
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited at the Museum of London under the site code LGS 07.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1993.

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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 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 is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.
- 3.3 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the London Borough of Lambeth Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The aims of the evaluation are to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Lambeth, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are custodians and in consequence the development of the site is subject to a Planning Condition:

(12) No development shall take place until the applicant, their agent or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to the applicant and approved by the local Planning Authority. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

***Reason:** In the interests of safeguarding potential archaeological remains in accordance with policy CD14 of the adopted UDP and policy 43 of the revised deposit UDP.*

- 3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation was submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority, and the archaeological work undertaken, as detailed by this report, is in response to that planning condition.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey: Sheet 270 (South London 1:50 000) identifies the underlying solid geology of the site as Taplow Gravels.
- 4.2 The site has until recently been occupied by a Public House and a Council depot with associated yard areas. These have since been demolished and the site can be typified as generally level with no distinct differences in the topography evident.
- 4.3 The current ground level of the site in the vicinity of the evaluation trenches is at between c. 9.45m OD and 9.72m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The archaeological background to this site has already been detailed in a Desk Based Assessment (Densem 2003), and is summarised here.

5.2 Prehistoric / Roman / Medieval

5.2.1 The available data revealed little evidence for any of these periods within the immediate vicinity of the study site.

5.3 Post-medieval / Modern

5.3.1 The main historical use of the study site dates back to the post-medieval, and continued into the modern period.

5.3.2 In 1801 the study site was occupied by Hammerton's Brewery, alternatively known as Stockwell Brewery. Between 1869 and 1950 the Brewery buildings were enlarged and rebuilt, until their demolition in the late 1950s - early 1960's.

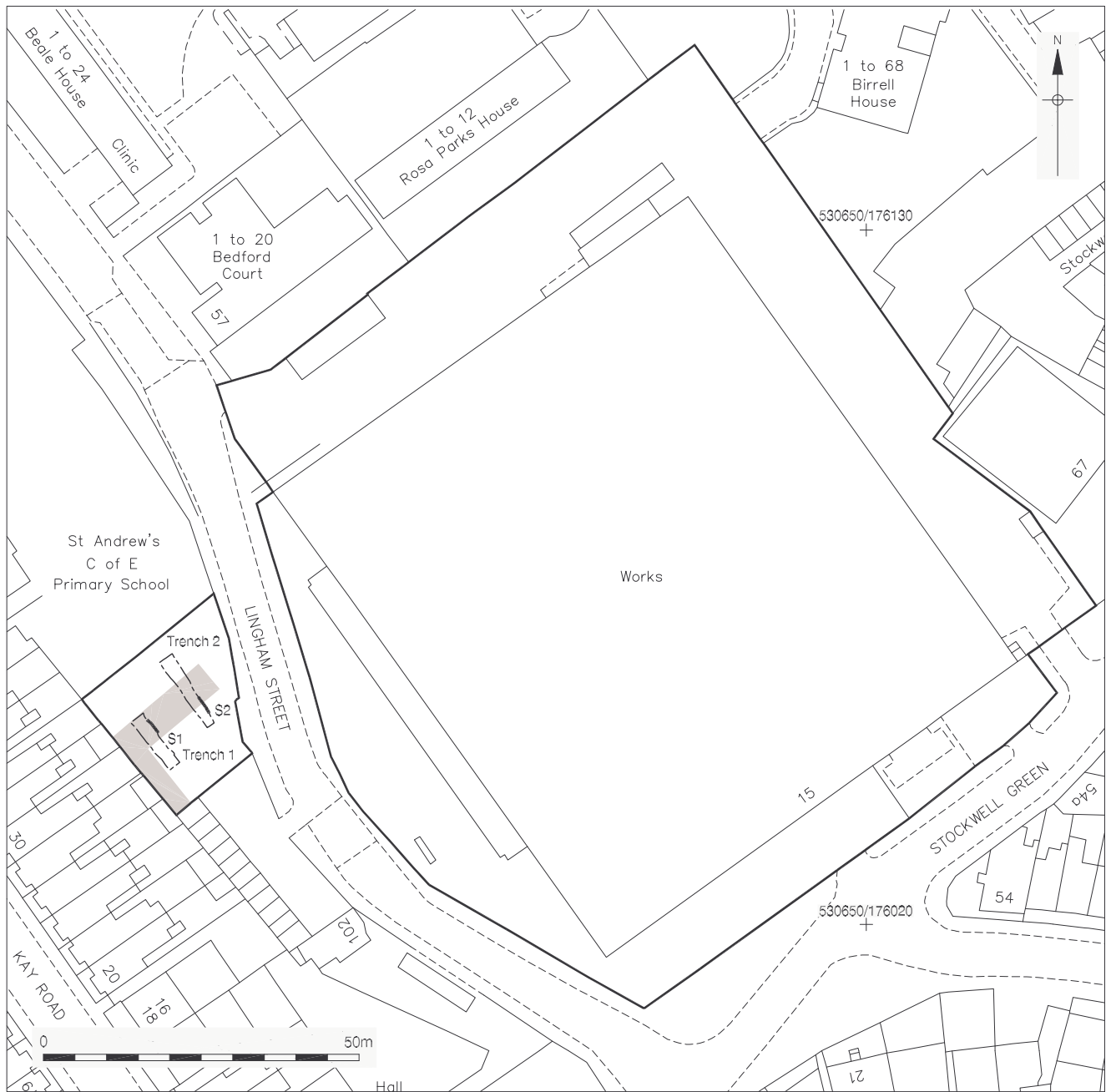
5.3.3 By the mid 1960s, the study site was occupied by a Public House and Council depot, both now recently demolished.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Two evaluation trenches were excavated to the natural horizon. Trench 1 measured 10.00m by 2.00m by 1.20m deep, giving a total excavated area of 20m². Trench 2 measured 13.00m by 2.50m by 1.00m deep, giving a total excavated area of 32.5m². Thus the total excavated area of the site was 52.5m². Trench 1 was cut from a height of 9.39m OD, and Trench 2 was cut from a height of 9.45m OD. Trench 1 was positioned in the location specified by the project design. However, due to problems with access and modern services, Trench 2 was re-sited to run parallel with Trench 1.
- 6.2 The evaluation trenches were machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued through undifferentiated deposits in spits no greater than 200mm until the natural horizon was attained.
- 6.3 The work was undertaken using the single context recording system following English Heritage (GLAAS)¹, and Institute of Field Archaeologists², guidelines. The trenches were located via triangulating from known, mapped, points of the site. The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:20 and representative sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. A photographic record was also kept.
- 6.4 A temporary benchmark (value 9.58m OD) was transferred from a temporary benchmark already established at a neighbouring construction site in Romero Close, Stockwell (Value: 11.02m OD).
- 6.5 The site was given the code LGS 07.

¹ English Heritage GLAAS 1998.

² IFA 1993



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Location of demolished building

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,000 at A4

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

7.1.1 The earliest deposit recorded during the excavation of Trench 1 was a naturally deposited sandy gravel horizon [3] encountered at a height of 8.74m OD. The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 2 was the same naturally deposited sandy gravel [4] encountered at a height of 8.68m OD (fig. 2).

7.2 Phase 2: Natural / Undated

7.2.1 Overlying the natural gravel in Trench 1 was a light greenish brown, sandy silt layer [2] indicative of alluvial deposition and encountered at 9.02m OD (fig. 3). No cultural material was contained within the layer and its date of deposition is unknown. This layer was not observed overlying the natural gravel in Trench 2, and is presumed to have been truncated.

7.3 Phase 3: 19th century

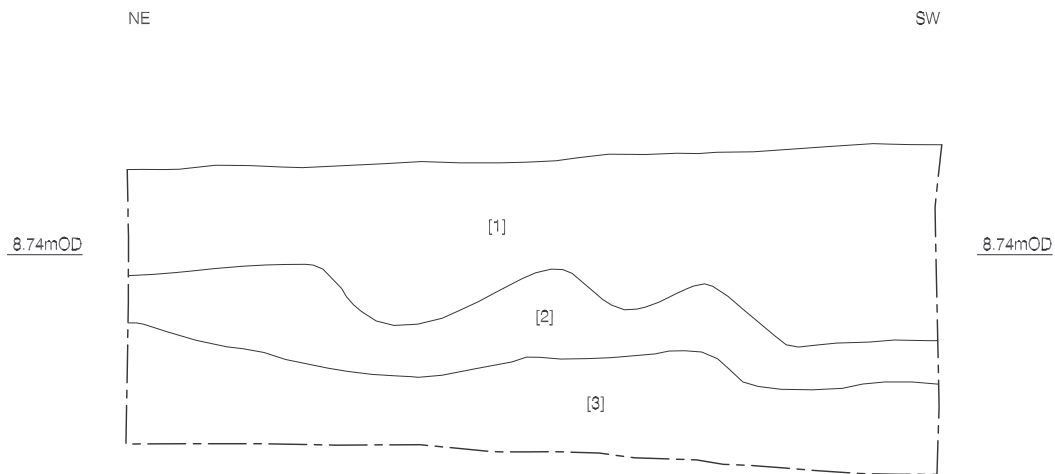
7.3.1 In Trench 1, the earlier horizon was sealed by a loose to firm, dark brownish black clayey silt layer [1] encountered at 9.42m OD (fig. 3). Contained within the deposit were fragments of Refined White Earthenware pottery, dated from 1800-1900, and shards of an English Stoneware bottle, dated from the late 19th to early 20th century. Clay tobacco pipe stems dated from the 19th century. The layer probably represents dumping during the late 19th - early 20th century.

7.3.2 In Trench 2, the natural gravel was sealed by a mid orangey brown sandy silt layer [5] encountered at 9.01m OD (fig. 3). The layer contained occasional fragments of Tin Glaze ware and Refined White ware, both dated from 1800-1900+, and probably represents a layer of garden soil dated to the late 19th-early 20th century. This layer had been severely truncated by modern intrusions associated with the Public House.

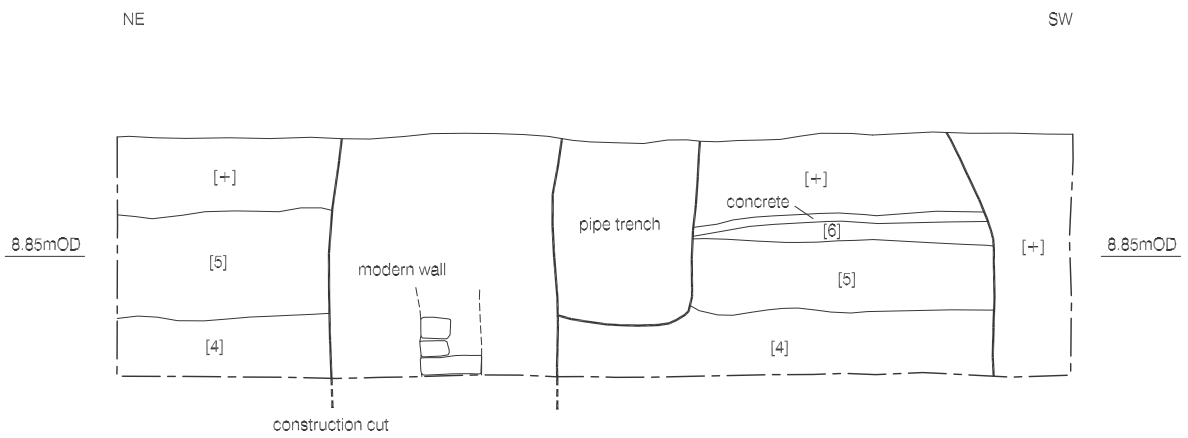
7.4 Phase 4: Modern

7.4.1 Overlying layer [5] in Trench 2 was a thin layer of concrete (fig. 3). Although in itself not historically important, the large number of internal screw bottle stoppers used as ballast within the concrete may be, as they are variously marked with brewer's names and drinks logos. The range of names and logos would suggest they came from the bottling plant opposite the site, rather than the pub itself, which is unlikely to stock such a wide range of brands. This type of stopper came into use in the 1870s and

continued until the 1960s. The remainder of Trench 2 was comprised of modern wall foundations associated with the Council depot, which were also observed in Trench 1. In the north-eastern end of Trench 1 a concrete floor surface associated with the Brewery Tap Public House was encountered at 8.90m OD.



Section 1
South West facing
Trench 1



Section 2
South West facing
Trench 2



8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The earliest deposit recorded on site was a natural sandy gravel horizon. In Trench 1 this was overlain by an undated alluvial layer, which in turn was sealed by a levelling layer dating to the late 19th - early 20th century. In Trench 2 the natural sandy gravel horizon was sealed by a layer of garden soil dated to the late 19th - early 20th century.
- 8.2 The archaeological evaluation was intended to assess the presence and survival of archaeological deposits, particularly the presence of remains of the medieval settlement of Stockwell Green and the 19th century remains of the brewery on the site. However, no evidence was found for either of these activity periods, and therefore either no remains were ever present on the site or 20th century developments have had a major impact on the survival of any buried archaeological deposits.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of Hawkins/Brown and their project managers Drivers Jonas.
- 9.2 The author would like to express his thanks to the John F. Hunt staff for their support during the evaluation. The author would also like to thank Matt Edmonds for his assistance on site; Lisa Lonsdale for logistics; Hayley Baxter for the illustrations; and Chris Mayo for project managing and editing the report.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service 1998

Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation

2 Desk-Based Assessments

*3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in
London*

4 Archaeological Reports

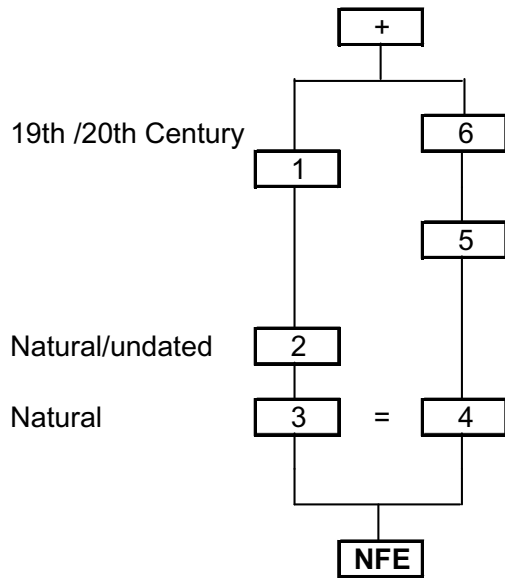
5 Evaluations

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1993 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments.*

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Height m OD	Date	Phase
LGS07	1	TR 1	S. 1	Layer	Levelling layer	9.42	19 th /20 th C.	3
LGS07	2	TR 1	S.1	Layer	Alluvium	9.02	Natural/undated	2
LGS07	3	TR 1	S.1	Layer	Natural sand/gravel	8.74	Natural	1
LGS07	4	TR 2	S. 2	Layer	Natural sand/gravel	8.68	Natural	1
LGS07	5	TR 2	S. 2	Layer	Garden soil	9.01	19 th /20 th C.	3
LGS07	6	TR 2	S. 2	Layer	Lens of bottle tops	8.96	19 th /20 th C.	3

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: preconst1-30781

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation of the former site the Brewery Tap Public House, Stockwell Green, London Borough of Lambeth
Short description of the project	The results of an Archaeological evaluation at the site of the former Brewery Tap Public House and Council depot, Stockwell Green, Lambeth
Project dates	Start: 20-08-2007 End: 22-08-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LGS 07 - Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	FFOUNDATIONS Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LAMBETH BRIXTON Stockwell Green.
Postcode	SW4
Study area	52.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3054 7605 51.4678393286 -0.120431096087 51 28 04 N 000 07 13 W Point
Height OD	Min: 8.19m Max: 8.74m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consultants Ltd
Project design originator	Sally Dicks
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Stuart Watson

Type of sponsor/funding body Hawkins/Brown

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London
Physical Contents 'Ceramics', 'other'
Digital Archive Exists? No
Paper Archive recipient LAARC
Paper Contents 'Ceramics', 'other'
Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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