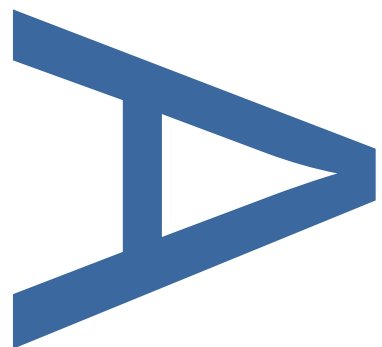
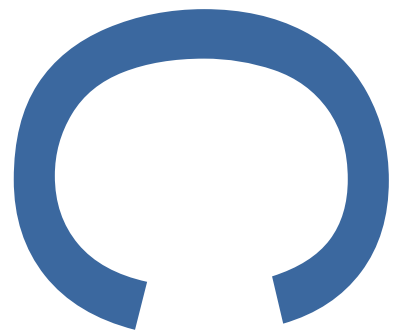


**RUBY TRIANGLE, OLD KENT ROAD,  
SOUTHWARK SE15 1LG:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**SITE CODE: KRA18**

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

**JUNE 2018**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**RUBY TRIANGLE, OLD KENT ROAD, SOUTHWARK SE15 1LG**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Site Code:** KRA18

**Local Planning Authority:** London Borough of Southwark

**Central National Grid Reference:** TQ 34615 77834

**Written by:** Stacey Amanda Harris  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

**Project Manager:** Helen Hawkins (MCIFA)

**Commissioning Client:** CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group)

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**June 2018**

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**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**Site Name**

**RUBY TRIANGLE, OLD KENT ROAD, SOUTHWARK SE15 1LG**

**Type of project**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
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## 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report presents the methods and results of an archaeological investigation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at Ruby Triangle, Old Kent Road, Southwark SE15 1LG. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 34615 77834 in the London Borough of Southwark.
- 1.2 Following a Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018) an archaeological evaluation was carried out between 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The investigation was to comprise the excavation of five Test Pits to establish the presence and character of any archaeological deposits and determine the extent of past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource. Due to site restrictions, only three of the test pits were actually completed.
- 1.3 The archaeological evaluation revealed a high modern impact on the buried deposits in the form of modern masonry, services and levelling activity.
- 1.4 Natural gravel was found within Test Pit 4 at a height of 1.50m OD and Test Pit 5.1 at a height of 1.43m OD.
- 1.5 Post-medieval layers were seen within Test Pits 4, 5.1 and 5.2. Within Test Pit 4 these layers sealed a cut feature of unknown purpose which truncated the natural gravels. Within Test Pits 5.1 and 5.2 the post-medieval layers sealed an earlier and undated layer of agricultural soil.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at Ruby Triangle, Old Kent Road, Southwark, London SE15 1LG between 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 34615 77834 in the London Borough of Southwark (Figure 1). The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Heritage and monitored by Gillian King, Senior Planner Archaeology, on behalf of Southwark Council. The clients' archaeological consultants, CgMs Heritage, had previously prepared a desk-based assessment for the project (CGMS Heritage 2018). A geoarchaeological monitoring report (Quest 2018) was also submitted with the planning application which evaluated the below ground sequence through boreholes and identified no evidence for the Bermondsey Lake being present on the site.
- 2.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018) was designed by Pre-Construct Archaeology for the evaluation work and was approved in advance by Gillian King of Southwark Council. The archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited under the supervision of Stacey Amanda Harris and the project manager was Helen Hawkins.
- 2.3 The evaluation was proposed to consist of five Test Pits measuring 2m by 2m in plan.
- 2.4 The site was recorded under the unique site code KRA18, issued by LAARC. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under that code.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework**

- 3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2012, and 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 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current local plan policy and by other material considerations.

#### **3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan**

- 3.2.1 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by The London Plan, published July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 and amended in 2015. Policy 7.8 headed “Heritage Assets and Archaeology” details guidance relating to strategy and planning decisions that affect the historic environment and outlines the formulation of Local Development Framework for each London Borough:

#### **3.3 London Development Framework: London Borough of Southwark Local Plan**

- 3.3.1 The London Borough of Southwark Core Strategy was adopted in April 2011 and contains archaeological policy STRATEGIC POLICY 12 – DESIGN AND CONSERVATION.
- 3.3.2 The London Borough of Southwark Unitary Development Plan (UPD) was adopted in July 2007. The Plan contains the following policies which have been saved until the adoption of the Local Development Framework:

##### **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.

- 3.3.3 Planning permission is being sought for the redevelopment of the site. As the site is located in an Archaeological Priority Zone, an archaeological evaluation report is required to accompany the planning application.

## 4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The following information regarding the sites geological and topographical make up is taken from the site's Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2018)
- 4.2 Geology
- 4.3 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences as London Clay deposits forming the London Basin. Overlying the London Clay is a series of gravel terraces deposited during periods of glacial and inter-glacial Conditions.
- 4.4 Further detail is provided by British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London: 1998) which shows the site to be underlain by deposits of Langley Silt Brickearth, defined as sandy clay and silt, above clays and sands of the Lambeth Group (Woolwich and Reading beds).
- 4.5 Site specific geotechnical information revealed deposits of made ground c.1.7-2.8m thick across the study site (0.6m of made ground was observed in BHB towards the centre of the study site), overlying gravels which have been interpreted as comprising Kempton Park Gravels. Kempton Park Gravels have been categorised as part of the Devensian Stage, the last glacial stage of the British Pleistocene epoch. The geotechnical works included monitoring of three boreholes by Quest (Quest 2018). In TP1, Quest identified a thin horizon of slightly sandy silt, which could represent survival of Langley Silt Brickearth, located between 1.85m and 1.55m OD (c 1.5m BGL). Quest concluded that the elevation of the Gravel, and the location of the site not far from the floodplain edge, indicated that there was some potential for archaeological evidence or remains to be present. However, it is significant that across the majority of the site the Made Ground directly overlies the Gravel, and in places this may have truncated the natural sequence, thus having a significant negative impact on its archaeological potential.
- 4.6 The Gravel surface identified in the boreholes is of similar elevations to that at the B&Q Depot, Old Kent Road (Bird et al., 1991; Sidell et al., 2002) and 21-35 Marlborough Grove, where flint scatters and hearth deposits were recorded on weathered sand deposits overlying the Kempton Park Gravel at between ca. 0.8 and 1.2m OD.
- 4.7 Topography
- 4.8 The ground level of the study site is variable. Ground level by TP4 was 2.29m OD and 2.28m OD at Test Pit 2, but higher ground was present around Test Pits 5.1 and 5.2, at 3.53m OD.
- 4.9 No watercourses or naturally occurring bodies of water are known within the vicinity of the study site.



## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The archaeological and historical background cited below is taken from the archaeological desk based assessment (CgMs 2018).

### 5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 No finds or features of Palaeolithic date are recorded on the GLHER within the study area search radius. Within the Kempton Park Gravels, which have been identified through geoarchaeological fieldwork to underlie the study site, the identification of archaeological artefacts within this horizon to date is typically rare

5.2.2 To the northwest of the study site, Mesolithic worked flint blades, cores, flakes and burnt flint, together with a cut feature, was found at 21-35 Marlborough Grove. Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork, daub and burnt flint has additionally been identified along the Old Kent Road to the northwest. Residual Mesolithic/Neolithic flintwork was identified at Sharratt Street to the east.

5.2.3 During construction of the gas works to the east of the study site, during the nineteenth century, the bones of mammals that would have been present during the Early Palaeolithic period (mammoth, rhinoceros and aurochs) were found. Mammalian fossils have also been identified at Peckham Park Road to the southwest.

5.2.4 Geoarchaeological excavation at Varcoe Road to the east of the study site revealed peat deposits of Neolithic to Bronze Age date, together with two phases of timber trackway dated to the Bronze Age. Evaluation at Rolls Road to the northwest revealed alluvial and peat deposits, with similar local deposits dated to the Bronze Age. Monitoring at Ilderton Road also to the east revealed natural sands and gravels intercut with post glacial streams, in turn sealed by waterlain clays.

5.2.5 An undiagnostic prehistoric ditch together with a curvilinear cut feature was found at 551 Old Kent Road to the northwest of the study site. Prehistoric, possibly Neolithic ditches and flintwork was identified at 556-576 and 578-596 Old Kent Road, and also at Ossory Road. Individual artefactual discoveries include a Bronze Age axe on the Old Kent Road.

5.2.6 Overall it is reasonable to assume that the study area was not particularly populated throughout the later prehistoric periods. The possibility exists that the route of the later Roman Road, Watling Street, might have followed the course of an earlier prehistoric trackway, however this has yet to be proven archaeologically.

5.2.7 The area of the study site is understood to have comprised a mixture of marshes and eyots throughout the later prehistoric periods and would, due to regular flooding, have been unsuitable for permanent settlement and agriculture. It is probable that the area would have been used seasonally for hunting and gathering, and also used for the seasonal grazing of cattle. Archaeological evidence for these ephemeral uses of the

landscape is sparse and would likely comprise the chance discovery of isolated artefacts.

### 5.3 Roman

5.3.1 The line of the Old Kent Road along the southwestern part of the study site follows the line of the Roman Watling Street, linking London with Canterbury and Richborough. Typical archaeological features associated with Roman roads can include evidence for settlement and occupation, roadside ditches and associated land division, together with quarry pits, burials and chance losses.

5.3.2 Evidence for Stane Street has been identified in several archaeological interventions along the Old Kent Road. To the northwest, road side ditches were identified during evaluations at 430-432 Old Kent Road, together with evidence of agricultural activity, also at 556-576 and 578-596 Old Kent Road, at 556-588 Old Kent Road, and at other sites on the Old Kent Road. To the southeast, a possible section of Watling Street was identified at 79 Asylum Road.

5.3.3 Additional evidence for the presence of the road was identified northwest of the study site during construction of the Grand Surrey Canal in the late nineteenth century. Workers broke up a 250ft length of a dressed chalk causeway, held in place and supported by oak piles, 15ft wide. Pits identified as associated with the road were found at the Cockneys, 610 Old Kent Road, opposite the study site.

5.3.4 To the southeast, evaluation at 4-10 Asylum Road revealed a possible Roman building foundation. An inhumation has been identified on the Old Kent Road to the northwest. Individual artefacts include a lamp off the Old Kent Road to the north of the study site.

5.3.5 Previous archaeological interventions within the study area search radius have identified that the designated Archaeological Priority Area along the route of Watling Street is accurate. Previous investigations have identified buildings, evidence of settlement and industrial activity adjacent to the road. Archaeological recording has not identified any cemeteries suggesting that a major settlement centre was not present.

#### 5.3.6 Saxon & Medieval

5.3.7 The prehistoric features identified at 551 Old Kent Road to the northwest of the study site lay beneath a peat layer, containing cattle bone and burnt flint, indicating that the area comprised marginal marshland during the Saxon and Medieval periods. Also to the northwest, evidence of market gardening dated to the Medieval period was identified at 556-576 and 578-596 Old Kent Road, and also at Ossory Road.

5.3.8 The GLHER places the location of Hatcham Coldharbour Manor house in the vicinity of Ruby Street, to the east of the study site, however, this is probably erroneous. The location is dubious as there are no records, nor archaeological evidence, and the earliest maps of the area do not show any buildings at this location. The Victoria County

History for Surrey states that the Manor was situated within the parishes of Camberwell, Deptford and Peckham, and also in Hatcham – it also mentions the manor of ‘Cold Abbey in Peckham’ which provides further evidence that the GLHER grid reference is incorrect. Brayley’s Topographical History of Surrey (1878) references the manor of Cold Abbey, and that in the 14<sup>th</sup> century it was known as the manor of ‘Coldherbergh’ in ‘Hachesham’, which again may be where the reference to Hatcham comes from. It states that the manor consisted partly of land within ‘Hachesham’ and partly of land within ‘Camerwell’. This source references a road within Peckham that is still called Coldharbour Lane - there is a modern Coldharbour Lane at Camberwell 2km to the southwest of the study site.

#### 5.4 **Post Medieval and Modern (including map regression exercise)**

- 5.4.1 Eighteenth and early nineteenth century maps show the study site undeveloped in fields fronting the Old Kent Road.
- 5.4.2 The Greenwood map dated 1830 shows the construction of terraced houses fronting the Old Kent Road (Grenada Place); also the creation of Caroline Place along the northwestern boundary, with houses to the east, and Chatham Place within the southeastern part of the study site, together with the construction of Grenada Cottage towards the centre of the study site, accessed from the Old Kent Road. The eastern part of the study site remains open ground.
- 5.4.3 The St Giles Camberwell Tithe Map 1837 erroneously shows just Grenada Cottage and one other building within the study site – the open space within the eastern boundary is recorded as grassland.
- 5.4.4 The 1842 Dewhirst plan of London shows the study site as on the 1830 Greenwood map, with the addition of a short terrace of houses on the eastern boundary.
- 5.4.5 The First Edition Ordnance Survey 1873 shows the study site developed with houses and gardens/rear areas, including the Triangle within the northeastern boundary, and buildings either side of Sydenham Place to the southeast. The centre of the study site remains occupied by a single dwelling surrounded by gardens and buildings to the northwest.
- 5.4.6 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1894-6 shows the construction of buildings within the centre of the study site, and also the removal of terraced houses fronting the eastern boundary, and their replacement with a school with open space around it.
- 5.4.7 The 1897 GOAD Insurance Plan shows the buildings in the centre of the study site comprised a laundry. No significant changes are shown within the study site on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey 1919 or the Revised Edition Ordnance Survey 1937.
- 5.4.8 The World War Two Bomb Damage Map 1946 shows significant damage within the study site (black signifies total destruction; purple signifies damage beyond repair; dark

red signifies serious damage, repairable at cost; orange signifies general blast damage, yellow signifies minor blast damage).

- 5.4.9 The 1949 GOAD Insurance Plan shows the removal of the most severely bomb damaged areas, together with housing formerly in the southeastern corner. The southwestern side of Ruby Triangle is now occupied by a two storey 'plating works' with stores buildings to the southeast, while a two storey 'Insulating Component Factory' fronts Sandgate Lane to the west.
- 5.4.10 The 1952 Ordnance Survey shows the absence of the plating works southwest of Ruby Triangle, and the factory fronting Sandgate Lane, within the study site. The small scale 1974-5 Ordnance Survey shows further redevelopment within the study site.
- 5.4.11 The current site survey shows the study site occupied by the buildings of the Sandgate Trading Estate, with Ruby Triangle remaining to the northeast.
- 5.4.12 The study site currently comprises a range of light industrial units of 19th century Victorian date, though to 20th century and contemporary warehouse buildings. Businesses include a garage mechanics, churches (one of which is the World Harvest Christian Centre), a metal recycling and collection centre (Southwark Metals), office supplies (Staples outlet), floor covering (Carpetright) and car hire (Enterprise Rent-a-Car).

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The methodology for the excavation of the five Test Pits was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the site (Hawkins 2018).
- 6.2 The completed Test Pits were excavated by a JCB excavator under archaeological supervision until either significant archaeological horizons or natural deposits were encountered.
- 6.3 If safe to do so, archaeological deposits were cleaned and excavated by hand, if not the Test Pits were recorded from above.
- 6.4 All excavated Test Pits measured 2m by 2m in plan. The maximum depth to which the Test Pits were excavated varied and is described further below.
- 6.5 Test Pits 1 and 3 were not excavated at the request of the landowner.
- 6.6 Test Pit 2 was excavated to a depth of 1.05m BGL at which point a concrete capped service was encountered and the Test Pit was abandoned.
- 6.7 Test Pit 4 was excavated to an overall depth of 0.70m BGL (1.60mOD) where natural gravels were encountered, and to a depth of 1.22m BGL (1.07m OD) in the north-east corner where a cut feature truncated the natural layer.
- 6.8 During the excavation of Test Pit 5.1 a service was encountered in the north-east corner of the test pit at a depth of 1.15m BGL (2.38m OD). As a result excavation in this location ceased at a depth of 1.58m BGL (1.95m OD), and a second attempt was made, Test Pit 5.2, to the west of the original location.
- 6.9 Test Pit 5.2 was excavated to a depth of 2.50m BGL (1.03m OD), at which depth it had been ascertained that natural gravel was present and had been thoroughly tested to confirm it was natural.
- 6.10 Once excavation had been completed all deposits were then recorded on pro forma context sheets. Test Pits were recorded in plan using GPS survey equipment and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A digital photographic record was also made.

## 7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Test Pit 1

7.1.1 The excavation of Test Pit 1 was cancelled at the request of the landowner.

7.1.2 BHA was previously monitored in this location (Quest 2018) and revealed made ground with a thickness of 2.8m, directly overlying natural gravels at 0.48m OD.

### 7.2 Test Pit 2 (Ground Level 2.28m OD)

#### **Phase 4: Modern**

7.2.1 This test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.05m BGL (1.26m OD). All of the material seen was modern (Plate 1).

7.2.2 Excavation stopped upon the uncovering of what appeared to be a concrete capped service at a height of 1.26m OD. This service was overlain by mixed modern material which was in turn sealed by a layer of reinforced concrete.

### 7.3 Test Pit 3

#### **Phase 4: Modern**

7.3.1 Excavation ceased during the breaking of the reinforced concrete slab at the request of the landowner.

7.3.2 Previous investigation at this location however (BHD; Quest 2018) revealed a sequence of made ground (1.70m thickness) overlying natural gravels at 0.74m OD.

### 7.4 Test Pit 4 (Ground Level 2.29m OD)

#### **Phase 1: Natural**

7.4.1 Natural orange sandy gravel [5] was seen at a height of 1.60m OD across the entirety of Test Pit 4 (Plate 2).

#### **Phase 3: Post Medieval**

7.4.2 Part of a cut feature [4] was seen in the north-eastern part of the Test Pit. This cut contained a dark grey brown sandy clay fill [3] with fragmentary CBM and charcoal flecking (Plate 2).

7.4.3 Overlying pit [4] was a 0.23m thick layer of mid yellow brown clay silt [2] with occasional fragments of CBM, pot, glass and charcoal flecking, all of late post-medieval date.

7.4.4 A 0.35m thick layer of dark grey brown clay silt [1] was present from a height of 2.06m OD. This layer contained CBM fragments and charcoal flecking.

#### **Phase 4: Modern**

7.4.5 Test Pit 4 was sealed by a modern layer of hardcore levelling and tarmac.

**7.5 Test Pit 5.1 (Ground Level 3.53m OD)**

**Phase 2: Undated**

7.5.1 A layer of dark blackish brown silty clay [10] was seen from a height of 2.38m OD to continue below the limit of excavation (caused by the presence of services) at 1.95m OD (Plate 3).

7.5.2 Layer [10] was the same as [7] within Test Pit 5.2.

7.5.3 This layer contained no retrievable artefacts or inclusions.

**Phase 3: Post Medieval**

7.5.4 Overlying layer [10] was a 0.50m thick layer of mid red brown silty clay [9] (Plate 3). This layer contained frequent CBM fragments and a fragment of blue and white willow pattern pottery. It was not possible to retrieve the pottery fragment seen during excavation.

7.5.5 Layer [9] was the same as layer [6] seen within Test Pit 5.2.

**Phase 4: Modern**

7.5.6 Archaeological layer [9] was truncated by a modern service and remnant of modern bonded masonry which was in turn sealed by modern made ground. Overlying the made ground was a layer which appeared to be an old bedding layer presumably for a paved external surface sealed by a 0.20m thick layer of modern compacted refuse and made ground.

**7.6 Test Pit 5.2 (Ground level at 3.53m OD)**

**Phase 1: Natural**

7.6.1 Natural light red brown sandy gravel [8] was seen from a height of 1.43m OD (Plate 4) and was tested to ensure it was natural to a level of 1.03m OD.

**Phase 2: Undated**

7.6.2 A 0.80m thick layer of dark blackish brown silty clay [7] (Plate 4) was seen from a height of 2.23m OD, containing occasional lenses of gravel and brickearth. No finds were identified in this layer, which was generally very sterile.

7.6.3 Layer [7] was the same as [10] within Test Pit 5.1 and both layers probably represent a former ploughsoil.

**Phase 3: Post-Medieval**

7.6.4 Overlying layer [7] was a 0.67m thick layer of dark red brown silty clay [6] (Plate 4). This layer contained frequent CBM fragments and occasional gravel.

7.6.5 Layer [6] was the same as layer [9] within Test Pit 5.1.

**Phase 4: Modern**

7.6.6 Archaeological layer [6] was truncated by a remnant of modern masonry to the west which was sealed by a layer of sand and was overlain by what appeared to be an old bedding layer presumably for a paved external surface sealed by a 0.33m thick layer of modern compacted refuse and made ground.



**Plate 1:** Test Pit 2, Modern material overlying a north-south concrete capped service, looking north (1m scale).





**Plate 2:** Test Pit 4, Cut feature [4] truncating layer of natural gravel [5], looking north (1m scale).



**Plate 3:** Test Pit 5.1, Modern material sealing a layer of made ground [9] which overlay agricultural layer [10] looking northeast (1m scale).



**Plate 4:** Test Pit 5.2, Modern material sealing and truncating a layer of made ground [6] which overlays a layer of agricultural soil [7] which in turn seals a layer of natural gravel [8], looking northeast (1m scale)

## 8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

### 8.1 Research Objectives

The following research objectives were contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018) for this evaluation:

- To determine the palaeotopography.
- To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity.
- To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity.
- To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity.
- To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity.
- To establish the extent of past post depositional impacts on the archaeological resource

### 8.2 To determine the palaeotopography.

8.2.1 Natural ground was reached in only two investigations so it is difficult to extrapolate the palaeotopography for the whole site. However, although the test pits were excavated to very different depths, the natural gravel was found at 1.50m OD in TP4 and 1.43m OD in TP 3, indicating that the current topography of the site had been heavily affected by modern construction. No evidence for a ploughsoil was seen in TP4, suggesting the top of the gravel may have been slightly truncated in this area.

8.2.2 The results of previous SI works (Quest 2018, see Figure 2) do however suggest some differences in elevation of the underlying natural. This varied between 0.48m OD in the south-west of the site (BHA near TP1) to 1.61m OD in the east of the site (BHB/TP4). The former result is likely to reflect deeper intrusions as opposed to natural undulations in the topography.

### 8.3 To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity, to determine the presence or absence of Roman activity, to establish the presence or absence of medieval activity.

8.3.1 There was no evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity on the site. The ploughsoil seen in TPs 5.1 and 5.1 may be of medieval date, based purely on its location beneath later post-medieval deposits and its sterile nature.

### 8.4 To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity.

8.4.1 Post-medieval activity was present on the site in the form of dump layers and a pit in TP4. The ground in the vicinity of TPs 5.1 and 5.2 appeared to have been raised during the late post-medieval period.

### 8.5 To establish the extent of past post depositional impacts on the archaeological resource

8.5.1 It was clear from the results of TP2 and TP 5.1 that there was a high impact from the insertion of modern services on the site. It is possible that the ground had been truncated in TP4, and the varying heights between TP4 and 2 and TPs 5.1 and 5.2 indicate that much of the site had been landscaped in the modern period for the current buildings and roads.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that the gravel terrace in the north of the site was located at a level of c.1.50m OD. Some evidence for an agricultural soil over the gravel was also present in the north-east of the site. There was no evidence for the possible brickearth layer seen in the geotechnical investigations. Ground raising and pitting had taken place in the late post-medieval period, and extensive impact from modern development had also occurred.
- 9.2 Once the project is deemed complete, and the report approved by the London Borough of Southwark, the completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will be deposited with LAARC under site code KRA18.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Richard von Kalinowski-Meager of CgMs Heritage for commissioning the work.
- 10.2 We also thank Gillian King of Southwark Council for monitoring the fieldwork.
- 10.3 The supervisor would like to thank Ellen Green and Wayne Perkins of PCA for their hard work on site.
- 10.4 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for her help, project management and editing, also Hayley Baxter for the CAD illustrations.

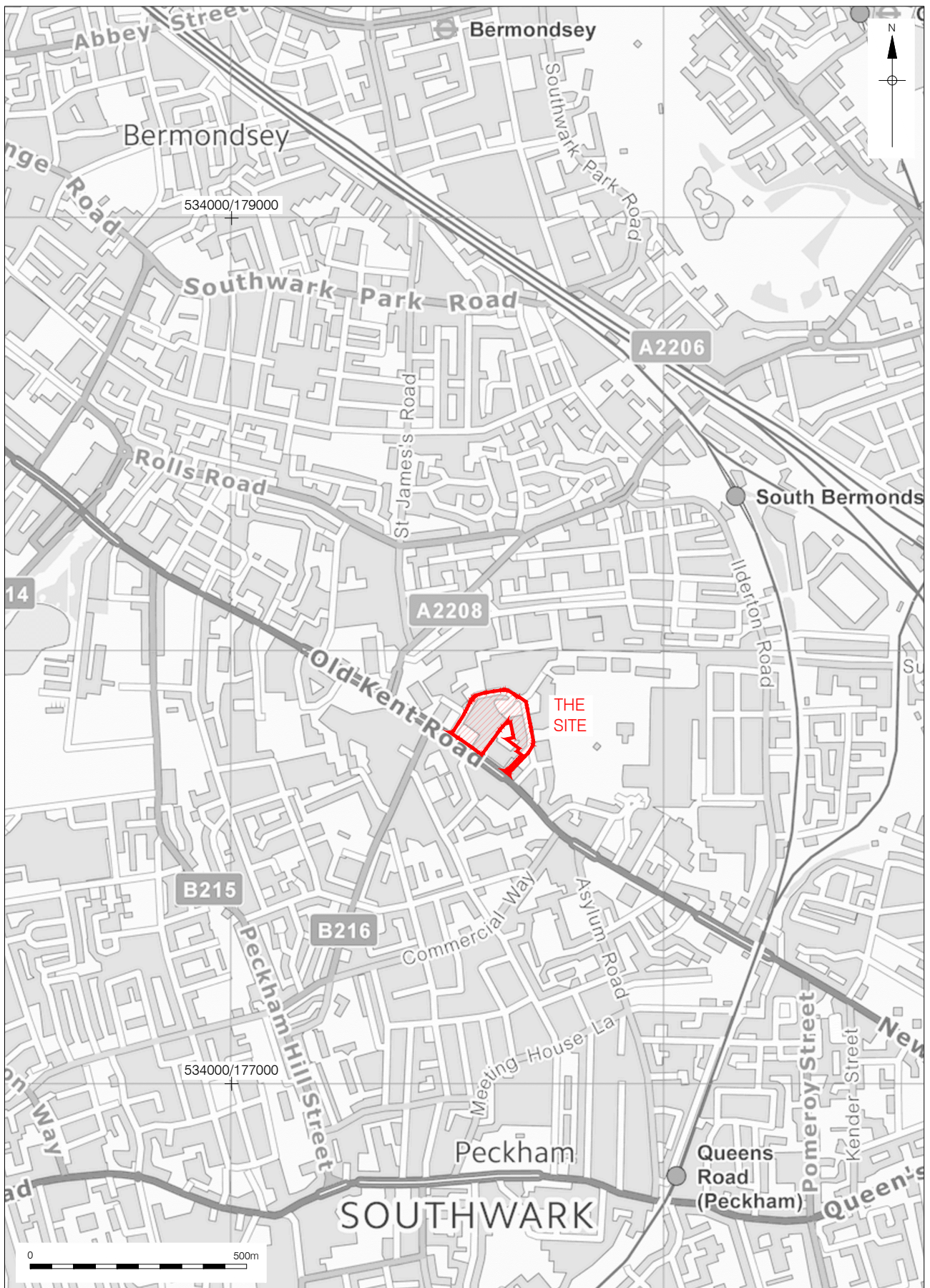
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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:12,500 at A4



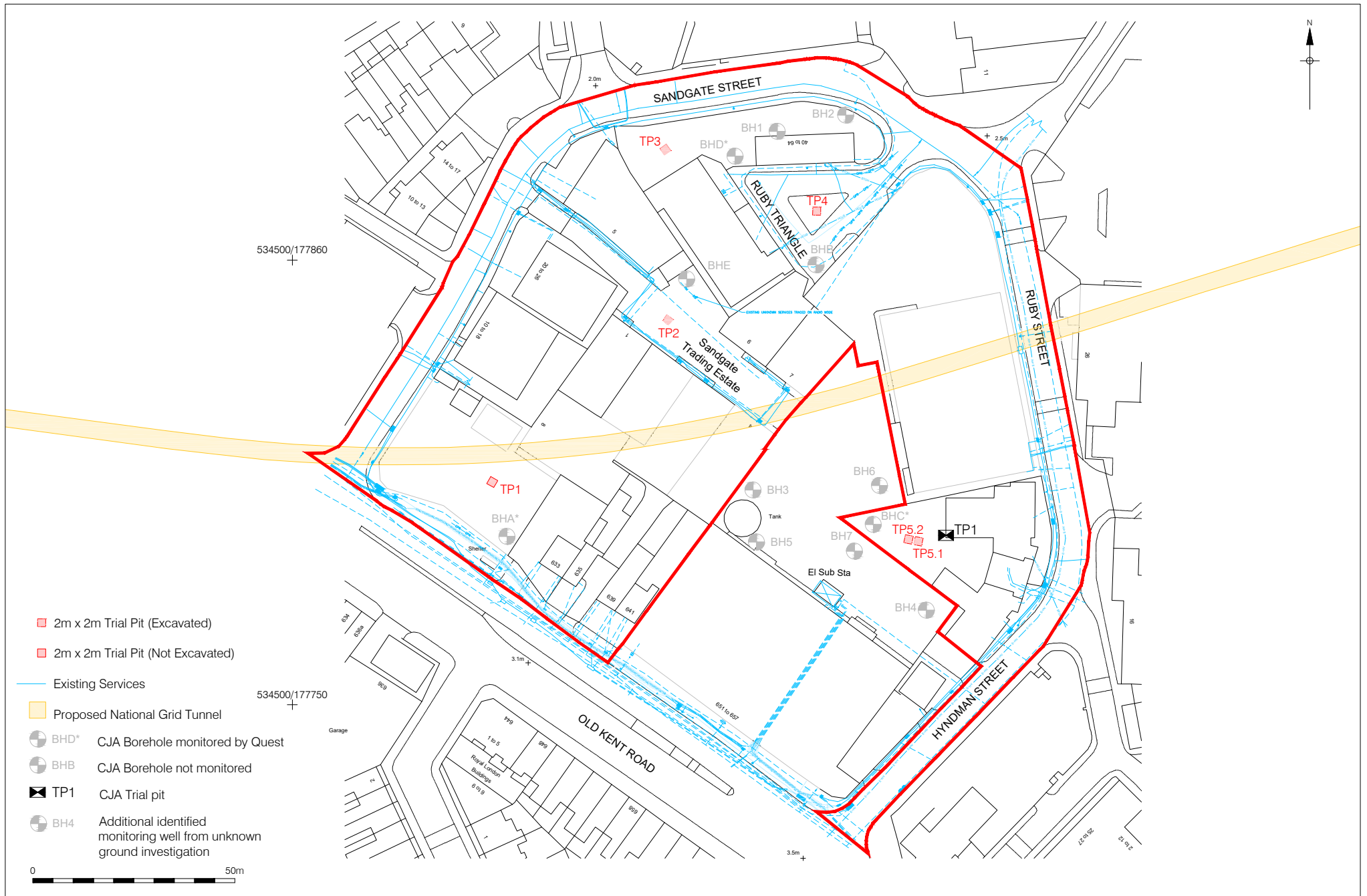
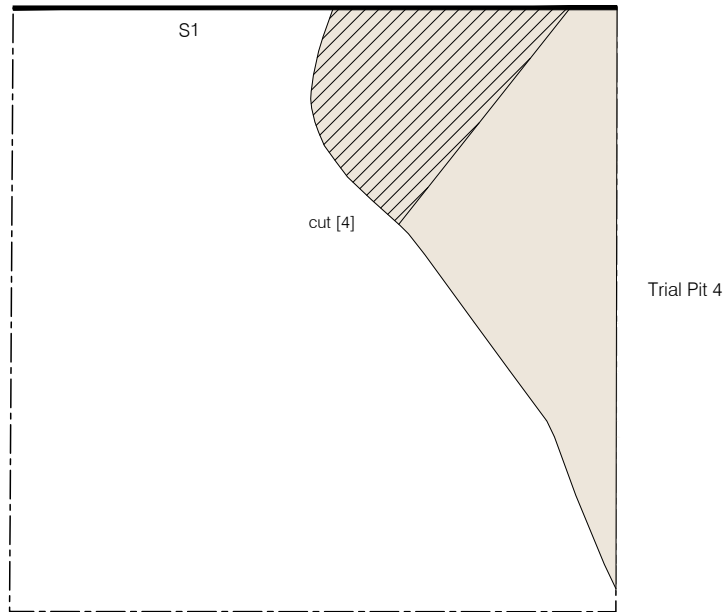


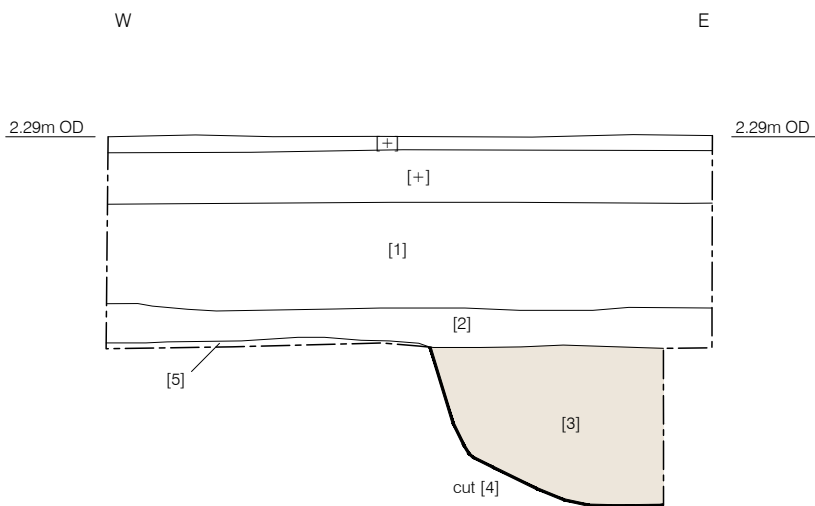



Figure 2  
 Trial Pit Locations  
 1:1,250 at A4



-  Archaeological Feature
-  Excavated Slot



Section 1  
South facing  
Trial Pit 4

-  Archaeological Feature



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Figure 3  
Plan and Section from Trial Pit 4  
1:25 at A4

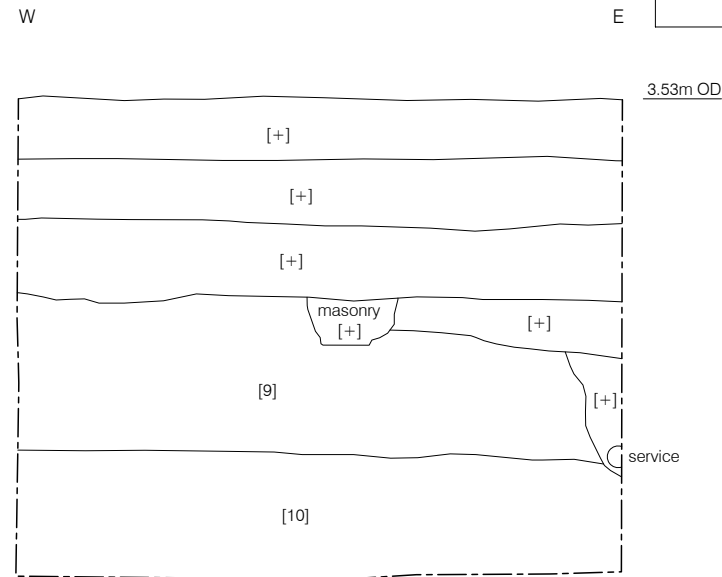
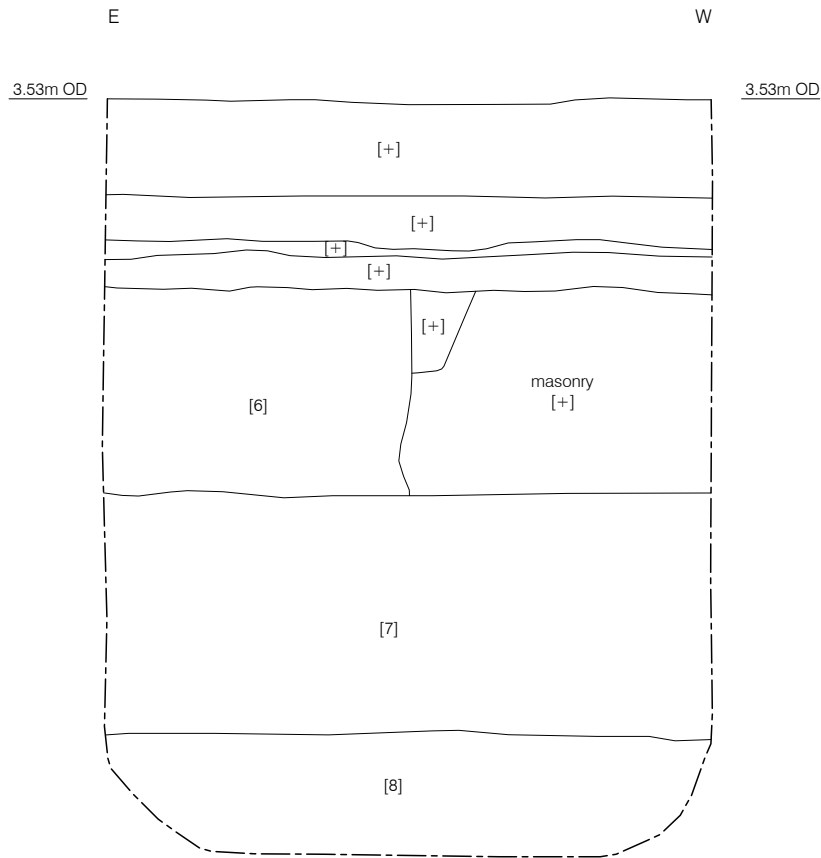
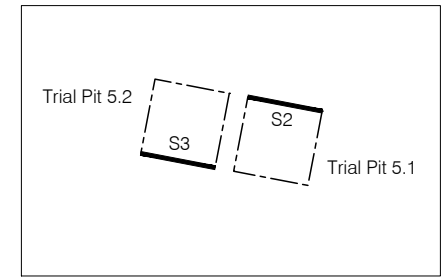


Figure 4  
 Sections from Trial Pits 5.1 & 5.2  
 1:25 at A4

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site_Code	Context	CTX_Type	CTX_equality	Area	CTX_Interpretation	CTX_Category
KRA18	1	Layer		TP4	Post Medieval made ground	Make-up
KRA18	2	Layer		TP4	Redeposited garden soil	Make-up
KRA18	3	Fill		TP4	Dark fill of pit or ditch	Backfill
KRA18	4	Cut		TP4	Cut of pit or ditch	Other
KRA18	5	Natural		TP4	Natural sandy gravel	Natural
KRA18	6	Layer	9	TP5.2	Layer of made ground	Make-up
KRA18	7	Layer	10	TP5.2	Layer of agricultural soil	Agricultural
KRA18	8	Natural		TP5.2	Natural sandy gravel	Natural
KRA18	9	Layer	6	TP5.1	Layer of made ground	Make-up
KRA18	10	Layer	7	TP5.1	Layer of agricultural soil	Agricultural

## APPENDIX 2: MATRIX

	Test Pit 2	Test Pit 4	Test Pit 5.1	Test Pit 5.2
<b>Phase 4 Modern</b>	+	+	+	+
<b>Phase 3 Earlier Post-Medieval</b>		1	9 =	6
<b>Phase 2 Undated</b>		2	10 =	7
		3		
		4		
<b>Phase 1 Natural</b>		5		8
	NFE	NFE	NFE	NFE

Fill	
Cut	
Layer	
Masonry	
Timber	
Floor	
Natural	

## APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA ENTRY FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-320334

### Project details

Project name	Ruby Triangle, Old Kent Road: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	This report presents the methods and results of an archaeological investigation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at Ruby Triangle, Old Kent Road, Southwark SE15 1LG. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 34615 77834 in the London Borough of Southwark. An archaeological evaluation was carried out between 14th and 19th June 2018. The investigation was to comprise the excavation of five Test Pits. Due to site restrictions, only three of the test pits were actually completed. The archaeological evaluation revealed a moderate modern impact on the buried deposits in the form of modern masonry, services and levelling activity. Natural gravel was found within Test Pit 4 at a height of 1.50m OD and Test Pit 5.1 at a height of 1.43m OD. Post-medieval layers were seen within Test Pits 4, 5.1 and 5.2. Within Test Pit 4 these layers sealed a cut feature of unknown purpose which truncated the natural gravels. Within Test Pits 5.1 and 5.2 the post-medieval layers sealed an earlier and undated layer of agricultural soil.
Project dates	Start: 14-06-2018 End: 19-06-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KRA18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK Ruby Triangle, Old Kent Road
Postcode	SE15 1LG
Study area	1.5 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 34615 77834 51.482916012717 -0.061113210017 51 28  
58 N 000 03 40 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 1.43m Max: 1.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator CgMs RPS Ltd

Project design originator Richard Meager

Project director/manager Helen Hawkins

Project supervisor Stacey Amanda Harris

Type of sponsor/funding body House builder

Name of sponsor/funding body unknown

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID KRA18

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID KRA18

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Drawing", "Plan", "Section"

Project bibliography  
1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title RUBY TRIANGLE, OLD KENT ROAD, SOUTHWARK SE15 1LG AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Author(s)/Editor(s) Harris, S

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher PCA

Place of issue or LONDON

publication

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