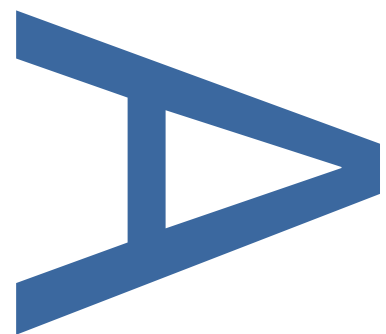
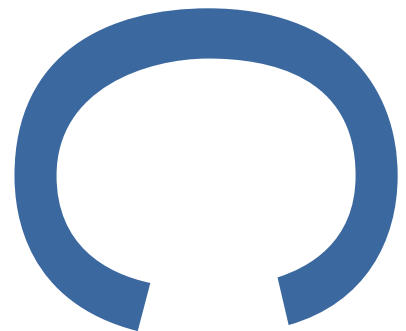


**MAYFLOWER PUBLIC HOUSE
RIVER WALL & IMMEDIATE
FORESHORE, ROTHERHITHE,
LONDON BOROUGH OF
SOUTHWARK, SE16 4NF**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKOVER
SURVEY AND WATCHING BRIEF**

SITE CODE: RTT18

JULY 2018



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**MAYFLOWER PUBLIC HOUSE RIVER WALL & IMMEDIATE
FORESHORE, ROTHERHITHE, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK,
SE16 4NF**

Type of project

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKOVER SURVEY AND WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K5625	
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	W Perkins		12.07.2018
Graphics Prepared by:	R Murphy		10.07.2018
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	11.07.2018
Project Manager Sign-off:	Z Pozorski	<i>Z Pozorski</i>	19.07.2018

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

**MAYFLOWER PUBLIC HOUSE RIVER WALL & IMMEDIATE FORESHORE,
ROTHERHITHE, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, SE16 4NF.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKOVER SURVEY & WATCHING BRIEF**

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 35189 79900

Written and researched by Wayne Perkins (ACIfA)

Fieldwork: Watching Brief by Leo Penades

: Walkover Survey by Tanya Jones

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

July 2018

Project Manager: Zbigniew Pozorski

Commissioning Client: WPH Marine Construction Ltd

Marine Management Organisation Licence No. L/2018/00111/1

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

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

E-mail: ZPozorski@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
July 2018**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	2
2	INTRODUCTION	4
3	SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	9
5	SURVEY OVERVIEW.....	10
6	WATCHING BRIEF	11
7	DETAILED OBSERVATIONS	11
8	CONCLUSIONS & SUMMARY	17
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	19
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	20
	APPENDIX 1: POTTERY ASSESSMENT	28
	APPENDIX 2: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT	29
	APPENDIX 3: GLASS ASSESSMENT	30
	APPENDIX 4: POST-ROMAN COIN ASSESSMENT	31
	APPENDIX 5: METAL OBJECT ASSESSMENT	32
	APPENDIX 6: LITHIC ASSESSMENT	33
	APPENDIX 7: OASIS FORM.....	34

FIGURES

	FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION	22
	FIGURE 2: DETAILED SITE LOCATION	23
	FIGURE 3: PLAN OF FEATURES	24
	FIGURE 4: CONSERVATION AREAS	25
	FIGURE 5: HISTORIC MAP (1746).....	26
	FIGURE 6: HISTORIC MAP (1896).....	27

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and methodology of archaeological walk-over survey and watching brief undertaken on the south bank of the Thames foreshore at the Mayflower Public House River Wall, Rotherhithe, London Borough of Southwark SE16 4NF. The study area was 'L' shaped in plan to encapsulate the area directly below the timber platform and a trench intervention and measured 44.86m². Access to the foreshore was by the Church Stairs which runs alongside the western edge of the Mayflower Public House.
- 1.2 The study area was located between the Elephant Stairs to the west and the Hanover Stairs to the east. The stairs are ancient 'watermen's' stairs used to access the river during high tide. The Mayflower public house is located between the Thames Tunnel Mills building to the west and the Tunnel Wharf building to the east.
- 1.3 A Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Marine Licence was granted to WPH Marine Construction Ltd for the removal of rubble and the casting of a concrete strip in front of the existing river wall as underpinning. The works were to include the installation of permanent concrete scour-protection in order to prevent further erosion of the exposed foundations at the base of the river wall beneath the Mayflower Public House (MMO Ref. L/2018/00111/1).
- 1.4 The walkover survey was undertaken during the 20th June 2018 at low tide and the watching brief over the course of 2 days, those being the 2nd and 3rd of July 2018. During the former survey a comprehensive photographic record was made of the principal structures and/or components. During the latter phase a plan of all surviving timbers on the foreshore was made at 1:20.
- 1.5 The investigation involved the systematic walkover of the area, identifying, examining and recording any structures, features, layers or significant finds scatters present in the area of investigation. A short trench in the form of an inverted 'L' was excavated 0.40m away from the river wall around the north-east corner for a total length of 6m. A number of diverse finds were recovered from layer [1] beneath the present foreshore gravel which mainly dated to the post-medieval period, although several residual prehistoric flints were also part of the assemblage.
- 1.6 Five archaeological phases and three separate structural phases were identified. The earliest structure consisted of a grouping of heavily eroded timber posts of varying sizes aligned roughly north-east to south-west under the modern timber stage that supports the decking at the back of the Mayflower Public House. Secondly, several horizontal land ties – organised perpendicularly to the river wall – may have formed a grid iron structure along with a parallel timber plank and other heavily eroded timbers which make up Phase 2. An earlier river wall revetment of vertical timber posts had been piled around the opening or 'mouth' of the river wall under the Mayflower building. It displayed light erosion and the timbers were rounded off by wave action. This represented Phase 3 of activity on the foreshore. The modern structure of the timber platform and decking comprised Phase 4 and additional layers of dumped pebbles and gravel (shingle) were the most recent phase (5) of activity. The structures have been

classified by monument type and allotted to broad dating periods, but close dating of the timbers was not attempted during this survey.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological survey was undertaken on the Thames foreshore, consisting of a walkover survey on the 20th June 2018 and a Watching Brief between the 2nd and 3rd of July 2018 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA). The area surveyed measured was 44.86m² and access to the foreshore was by the Church Stairs. The study area was limited to the area directly below the raised timber staging of the decking above. The site was located between the Elephant Stairs to the west and the Hanover Stairs to the east and the public house itself is located between the Thames Tunnel Mills to the west and Tunnel Wharf to the east (Figure 1). Access was by the Church Stairs – the former ‘waterman’s’ stairs used by Thames Watermen to access the river at high tide.¹
- 2.2 The National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 35189 79900.
- 2.3 The investigation was commissioned by WPH Marine Construction Ltd. A Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Marine Licence was granted for the removal of rubble and the casting of a concrete strip in front of the existing river wall as underpinning. The works were to include the installation of permanent concrete scour-protection in order to prevent further erosion of exposed foundations at the base of the river wall underneath the Mayflower Public House (MMO Ref. L/2018/00111/1).
- 2.4 The project specific condition (5.2.3) attached to the licence issued on 26th March 2018 reads as follows:
- No works shall take place until the applicant has commissioned a walk-over of the works area, and archaeological watching brief, to mitigate the impact of works activity on the foreshore and surrounding area. This must be secured through discussion with Gillian King, Archaeology Advisor for the London Borough of Southwark (Gillian.King@southwark.gov.uk). Once agreed, confirmation of the walk-over survey and archaeological watching brief must be submitted to MMO no later than 5 working days before commencement of licensed activities.*
- Reason: To deal with unexpected discoveries of possible historic or archaeological interest*
- 2.5 The foreshore walkover survey was undertaken by Tanya Jones and the Watching Brief supervised by Leonardo Penades. This report was written by Wayne Perkins from the records provided. The project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski of PCA.
- 2.6 All work was undertaken following the appropriate Historic England (GLAAS) (2015) and ClfA (2014) guidelines, as well as the Southwark Archaeology Policy Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- 2.7 The archaeological investigation followed the methodology set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared for the site by PCA (Pozorski 2018), to undertake a systematic walkover over of the site, identifying and recording any features, structures, layers or finds

¹ River Thames Society <http://www.riverthamessociety.org.uk/CMS/FILES/AccessToTheRiverThamesCOMPLETEPDF1.pdf>

spreads which were evident during the walkover, and presenting the results within an illustrated report. The Watching Brief observed the excavation of the trench and executed the planning of the timbers.

- 2.8 The investigation required the excavation of a single, 'L' shaped trench which was located parallel to the existing river wall but set back c.0.40m away from it so as not to undermine the existing river defences of sandbags. The works were carried out by WPH Marine Construction Ltd under the supervision of PCA.

3 SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Geology, Topology & Site Description

- 3.1.1 There is no record that this section of foreshore had been studied systematically in the past apart from the Thames Discovery Programme that have designated it Rotherhithe FSW03². However, a number of surveys have been undertaken close by and there are several known find-spots in the vicinity.
- 3.1.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) of England and Wales, the local geology consists of the alluvium overlying clay, silt and sand of the Lambeth Group, a deposit which occurs throughout the London Basin and extends north into Suffolk, and which is up to 39m thick on the west side of the London Basin.³
- 3.1.3 The public house site lies on a land generally level at c. 3.5m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The site is located adjacent to the River Thames and the area of investigation below the Public House on the foreshore is periodically submerged into river waters during the high tide periods (see Figure 2 for Mean Low and High Water) (Pozorski 2018).
- 3.1.4 The site is located on the northern side of Rotherhithe Street on the Rotherhithe peninsula on the opposite bank to Wapping (Figure 1). The Mayflower Pub is located between two large buildings; the Thames Tunnel Mills to the west and former Thames Wharf to the east (Figure 2). The site comprises an area on the foreshore of the river, beneath the deck forming a terrace/garden of the pub and at the corner of the river wall east of the deck (Figure 3).

3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.2.1 The archaeological background was outlined in the WSI (Pozorski 2018) and is reproduced in summary below.
- 3.2.2 The site has a low potential for structural remains predating the post-medieval period. No associated evidence for prehistoric occupation sites is known from the surrounding area. The prehistoric evidence is limited to findspots e.g. Bronze Age sword found in the early 1830s near Limehouse.
- 3.2.3 The site has moderate potential for evidence of prehistoric occupation in the vicinity. The limiting factor for early inhabitation was primarily environmental, with the subject site to have lain within a tidal floodplain. Seasonal exploitation was however possible and archaeologically identified features have been recorded from such marginal environments in other parts of the borough. As climate changes stabilised and water management techniques became more sophisticated, so development increased.

² Thames Discovery Programme online: <http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/>

³ British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

- 3.3 The site has moderate potential for evidence of prehistoric occupation in the vicinity. The limiting factor for early inhabitation was primarily environmental, with the subject site to have lain within a tidal floodplain. Seasonal exploitation was however possible and archaeologically identified features have been recorded from such marginal environments in other parts of the borough. As climate changes stabilised and water management techniques became more sophisticated, so development increased.
- 3.3.1 Initially Roman settlement was focussed around London Bridge, and adjacent to the arterial roads, but the discovery of cremation burials and a revetted channel adjacent to the subject site indicates the area was sustainable for development during this time, and as such has a moderate potential for Roman remains although the finds suggest no occupation in the area. The recovered remains consisted of coins, brooches, hairpin, stud and pottery sherds, all retrieved as residual finds.
- 3.3.2 There are no sites or finds of Saxon or Medieval date within the area of the site. Although historic sources mention Rotherhithe no archaeological evidence was found in the area. The Roman settlement at London Bridge is believed to have contracted during the Saxon period with a significant lack of archaeologically identified evidence recovered from throughout the area. Some evidence suggests however that some of the waterways managed during the Roman period were maintained into the Saxon and potentially medieval periods. The population gradually increased throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, with large scale land reclamation works and the construction of river defences providing the impetus for further construction. The ease of access to the river and transport routes in close proximity to the subject site meant that much of the early development was linked to industry.
- 3.3.3 The development in Southwark was essentially dictated by and defined by the palaeo-topography of the area, being part of a chain of prehistoric islands. The braided network of river channels and risk of flooding to adjacent areas would have limited early occupation, but later gave rise to exploitation by industry as well as long-lived and extensive water management techniques including the maintenance of revetted channels. Large scale land reclamation activities are also known archaeologically dating back to at least the Roman period. The immediate area of the subject site was utilised as medieval river defences, comprising the construction of an earthen bank to gradually reclaim land and push the southern bank of the Thames progressively northwards. Both natural flooding and the corresponding alluvial deposition, and the artificially raising of ground level for flood defences have the potential to preserve early organic remains and archaeological horizons. Extensive ground consolidation has the potential to provide a buffer between archaeological levels and modern truncations such as those caused by services or basemented buildings.
- 3.3.4 Post-medieval activity is principally associated with successive periods of reclamation, consolidation and raising of the riverbank within a 60 m wide strip east of Rotherhithe Street, an area which was utilised in the post-medieval period as a timber yards associated with shipbuilding, and grain storage from the mid-19th century.

- 3.3.5 The St. Mary's Rotherhithe Conservation Area is a fine example of a "London Village" on the riverside. The surviving historic core is a relatively small area, 3 kilometres east of Tower Bridge. It centres on the 18th century St. Mary's Church and a few surrounding streets. Buildings on the northern edge of the conservation area lie right on the river wall. Surrounding the church and churchyard are remnants of the former industrial townscape dating from the 19th century. To the east lies the former Engine House and air shaft to Brunel's tunnel and to the south, the 18th century former school on St. Mary Church Street.⁴
- 3.3.6 The Mayflower public house sits on the site of original The Shippe pub and claims to date back to the Pilgrim Fathers leaving for Southampton Water in 1620. The pub was rebuilt in 1780 and renamed as The Spread Eagle & Crown. Following World War II bomb damage, it was extensively rebuilt in the 20th century and renamed The Mayflower in 1957. The building itself is not listed.

⁴ Southwark Council Website: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/design-and-conservation/conservation-areas?chapter=33>

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological survey were as follows:
- To record comprehensively any archaeological remains that may have been exposed due to erosion of the foreshore or that were already visible above the current land surface immediately below the decking structure;
 - To survey the location of any archaeological features recorded within this area;
 - To provide information that may be used in the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy in the future.
- 4.2 An 'L' shaped trench was excavated c. 40m away from the river wall in readiness to receive the concrete anti-scour layer. All works were monitored by the attendant archaeologist. The area directly below the timber decking was planned at 1:20 and a section drawn of the exploratory 'L' shaped trench.
- 4.3 The monitoring of the works had been preceded by the site walkover survey which determined the nature of the remains on the site and evaluated what techniques were required for their recording and/or preservation.
- 4.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). All works were also undertaken following the site specific risk assessment prepared in advance of the fieldwork, which noted particular health and safety considerations and measures to be implemented for foreshore survey work (Pozorski 2018).
- 4.5 Access to the foreshore was gained via the Church Stairs which run down the west side of the Mayflower public house.
- 4.6 The Watching Brief was undertaken on the 2nd and 4th July 2018 by PCA field archaeologist Leonardo Penades.
- 4.7 All archaeological features were planned at 1:20 using a running numbering system for each separate timber (or coherent timber structure). Notable features were photographed.
- 4.8 The recording system adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in London, that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCA's Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009). The site archive was organized so as to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the London area.
- 4.9 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation, comprising digital photographs.
- 4.10 The site was designated with a unique code supplied by the Museum of London. All archives for the site will be stored under the number **RTT18**.

5 SURVEY OVERVIEW

- 5.1 The foreshore area directly beneath the wooden decking for the Mayflower Public House was the subject of the non-intrusive archaeological survey by PCA and the excavation of an 'L' shaped trench by WPH Marine Construction contractors whose operation was observed and recorded by the attendant field archaeologist of PCA.
- 5.2 The project was given a unique site code of RTT18.
- 5.3 Work was confined to the area directly below the elevated decking stage above; the area of foreshore north of the river wall and the Mayflower public house (above) which has relatively few timber structures in comparison to the (former) wharves either side. What is of interest is the relative paucity of structures on the foreshore immediately north of the Mayflower Inn. This may be explained that the buildings either side were working wharves and buildings whilst the Mayflower was a public house that did not require industrial-scale timber structures on the foreshore.
- 5.4 Access to the site was by the Church Stairs which run along the western edge of the Mayflower public House, recorded as early as Rocque's Map of 1746 (Figure 5) and the Ordnance Survey Map of 1896 (Figure 6). The steps are just one of many 'Waterman's' stairs which gave the Thames watermen access to the river at high tide (River Thames Society 2018). They were an access point to this part of foreshore between the Elephant Stairs to the west and Hanover Stairs to the east and possibly served the wharves and the Mayflower public house.
- 5.5 A differentiation could be made between relatively 'new' timbers with little erosion and those timbers heavily eroded and (possibly) displaced to some degree. Five archaeological phases were identified as well as three architectural ones. Structures have been classified by their function, but dating was not undertaken. Therefore, the structures have been placed within five broad phases but without close dating of the timbers themselves.
- 5.6 In some places heavily-eroded timbers were difficult to interpret but they appeared to be partially destroyed/decayed mooring structures, a jetty or a fish trap of unknown date; these remain 'unclassified' and have been apportioned Phase 1, Structure 1. They are roughly in a north-east to south-west alignment.
- 5.7 To the west of the study area and running along the boundary line between the Mayflower and the Thames Tunnel Mills building is a projecting landing stage or wharf structure clearly visible on contemporary Google Maps, whilst 42m to the east another landing stage, whose limit is picked out by eroded vertical timbers, projects northward from the east end of Tunnel Wharf (Figure 7).

6 WATCHING BRIEF

- 6.1 A short trench in the form of an inverted 'L' was excavated 0.40m away from the river wall around the north-east corner for a total length of 6m (Figure 3). A modern dump layer of pebbles and gravel designed to protect the foreshore from further erosion sealed the older, post medieval layer [1] recorded in Section 1 of the 'L' shaped trench.
- 6.2 A number of diverse finds were recovered from layer [1] beneath the present foreshore level which mainly dated to the post-medieval period, although several residual prehistoric flints were also part of the assemblage. Layer [1] comprised of clean pebbles and gravel (shingle) and it was 60-70mm thick.

7 DETAILED OBSERVATIONS

- 7.1 The structures surveyed within the study area have been classified by their type and likely function following the descriptions and recording conventions outlined and adopted by the Thames Discovery Programme⁵. No dating or recovery of the timber structures was attempted during the operation.
- 7.2 The evaluation identified three main types of maritime structure and five phases of activity within the area recorded:

PHASE & STRUCTURE	DESCRIPTION	PERIOD	DATE
1	Earlier (unclassified) structures; possible fish trap	Undated	?
2	Land Ties & Barge-bed & lower river gravels [1]	Post-Medieval	?
3	River Wall Revetment	Post-Medieval - Modern	?
4	Timber Decking & Platform	Modern	20 th Century
5	Sand & Gravel Layer (upper gravels)	Modern	20 th Century

- 7.3 The study area was delimited by the footprint of the raised timber decking (which acts as the garden for the public house above) and the small 'L' shaped trench which was dug against the north-east corner angle of the River Wall (Figure 3)

⁵ Thames Discovery Programme: <http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/>

Phase 1: Earlier unclassified structures (undated)

7.4 The earliest structures encountered were a series of heavily eroded timbers of varying sizes [5, 6, 8 & 9, 15 – 22] recorded as Phase 1. However, they are loosely organised in a north-east to south-west alignment with a 'return' angled north-west to south-east which may form a 'V' in plan. This would be in keeping with the form of known Saxon fish-traps recorded on the foreshore at Chelsea.⁶(Plate 1).



Plate 1: Phase 1 consisting of a number of heavily eroded timbers aligned north-east to south-west. The large square vertical timber in the centre belongs to the Phase 2 barged.

Phase 2: Land Ties & Grid Iron (Post Medieval)

7.5 The timbers that belong to this phase consist of both land ties [6, 11 & 14] (set perpendicularly to the river wall) with [11] pegged into position by a vertical timber [12]. A horizontal plank set parallel to the river wall [13] - possibly relating to this structure - was trapped under the later decking structure (Phase 4). This is possibly a re-used timber as there appears to be a rebate

⁶ Thames Discovery Programme:

[file:///C:/Users/WPerkins/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/30512246-Fishtrap-Factsheet%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/WPerkins/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/30512246-Fishtrap-Factsheet%20(1).pdf)

cut in the west end. It may be a recycled length of flush hull or ceiling planking from a boat.⁷ Timbers [2, 7 & 14] are considered to be part of this scheme (Plates 2 & 3). This arrangement may represent an eroded barge bed or gridiron - which were timber structures built on the foreshore to provide stable working surfaces on which vessels could be grounded at high tides⁸. Many such structures on the foreshore have been found to be constructed of re-used timbers from parts of buildings or boats (MOLAS 1994). The former designation is likely as the structure has an 'ad hoc' feel and seems to be built from reclaimed ship's timbers which is characteristic of this kind of structure.

- 7.6 The 'lower' gravels recorded in Trench 1 may also belong to this earlier phase; stone, clay tobacco pipe, a coin and a metal object were all recovered from layer [1] (Plate 5). The layer was sealed by 'modern' dumps of fresh pebbles and gravel (shingle) (Phase 5).



Plate 2: Timbers [2, 7 & 14] of Phase 2 grid iron. View to south. Scale 0.5m

⁷ Thames Discovery Programme online <http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/discover/foreshore-factsheets-vessels>

⁸ Thames Discovery Programme online: <http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/discover/foreshore-factsheets-gridirons>



Plate 3: Phase 2 Grid iron structure, consisting of two horizontal land-tie timbers [6 & 11]. The large square timber to the right is part of the Phase 3 river wall revetment. View to east.

Phase 3: River Wall Revetment (Post Medieval – Modern)

- 7.7 A line of five squared vertical posts which formed an inverted 'L' shape in plan were recorded at the margins of the study area. The posts preceded the later Decking Platform (Phase 4) as they were used by the platform's builders to strengthen their structure (Plate 4). A small timber spacer block [23] against one of the verticals is evident on the plan (Figure 3).

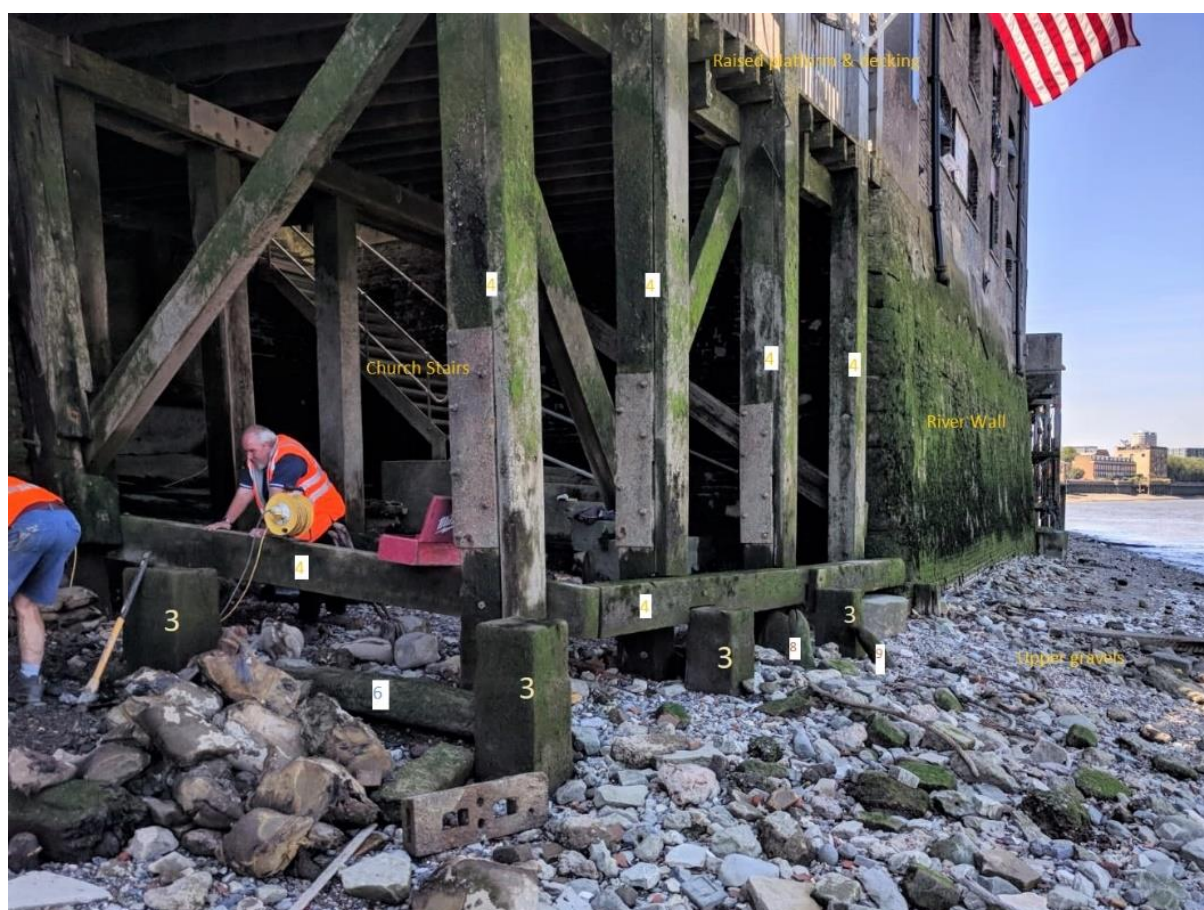


Plate 4: The four vertical squared-off timbers of the river wall revetment (Phase 3) can be seen outside of the Timber Platform (Phase 4). The builders have used the existing revetment timbers to strengthen the platform's foundations. View to south-east.

Phase 4: Timber Decking & Platform (Modern 20th Century)

- 7.8 The timber decking platform labelled as structure 4 is an 'L' shaped arrangement of vertical posts that use the space between the River Wall and the revetment timbers (Phase 3) to create a rectangular timber structure to the rear of the Mayflower public house. It also followed the line of the preceding River Wall revetment of Phase 3 and its vertical piles to strengthen the foundations of its structure.

Phase 5: Pebbles & Gravel (shingle) (Modern 20th Century)

- 7.9 A layer of clean pebbles and gravel (shingle) was noted, comprising the modern 'surface' of the foreshore. This gravel may be a modern dump of shingle added for foreshore protection or simply the tide-washed layer of the foreshore make-up. It was revealed in Section 1 and recorded as being 60-70mm thick (Plate 5).



Plate 5: Section 1 showing modern upper gravels and lower, dark grey lower gravels [1] against the River wall. View to south-west.

8 CONCLUSIONS & SUMMARY

- 8.1 The study site lies within the Thames Discovery Programme Key Site designation Rotherhithe FSW03, comprising the Thames southern foreshore between Hope Wharf at the west to Clarence Wharf & Pier to the east. During the Post-Medieval period Rotherhithe's waterfront became home for ship builders and breakers, commercial wharves, chandleries and mast makers.⁹ Documentary sources record that shipyards had been established in Rotherhithe by at least the 14th century (Milne & Wragg 2012:11). Few districts in London saw so many phases of change as the Rotherhithe peninsula (Rankin 1999:1). By the 18th century, Rotherhithe was at the centre of the 'golden age' of shipbuilding when its yards were supplying many of the ships used by the Royal Navy and the East India Company (Heard & Goodburn 2003:4). The site falls within the St Mary's Rotherhithe Conservation Area (Figure 4).¹⁰
- 8.2 The Mayflower Public house claims its origins back to the 17th century. It is documented that the Pilgrim Father's ship the Mayflower sailed from a public house with approximately 65 passengers on board from a public house called the Shippe in Rotherhithe Street in 1620. Thence the ship made for Southampton Water. The public house website claims that the actual mooring post is still visible from the building.¹¹ The public house was extensively re-built in 1780 century and renamed the Spread Eagle & Crown (Pozorski 2018). It was only during rebuilding post-World War II that it was latterly re-named the Mayflower in 1957. Despite its outward appearances, the current building dates from this period (Pevsner & Cherry 2002). This is underlined by the fact that it is not a listed building (Pozorski 2018). Certainly, a building is shown adjacent to the Church Stairs in Rocque's Map of 1746 (Figure 5), however, the building is oriented parallel to the waterfront as opposed to being oriented perpendicular to the river (as it is today) - so is likely to represent the earlier Shippe, pre-rebuilding. It was re-built in 1780 century and its plot re-oriented, as depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1896, during which time it was re-named the Spread Eagle & Crown (Figure 6). It would seem that its role as a public house (and post office) – located between two active wharves – Thames Tunnel Mills and Tunnel Wharf – meant that its foreshore did not require industrial-size timber structures. It can be viewed on the current Google Earth application, sandwiched between the two buildings, both of which seem to have wharf extensions or landing jetties projecting into the river and visible at low tide.

⁹ Thames Discovery Programme <https://www.scribd.com/document/38700953/Rotherhithe-Key-Site-Information>

¹⁰ Southwark Council Online:
<https://geo.southwark.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Southwark%20Design%20and%20Conservation&overlay=s=Conservation%20areas&x=535018.21008504&y=179882.93829976&zoom=13&showInfo=True>

¹¹ The Mayflower <https://www.mayflowerpub.co.uk/>

- 8.3 Phase 1 consists of a number of heavily eroded vertical timbers of varying sizes, five of which seemed to be cut from boxed heart timber and they form Structure 1. Although they are aligned roughly north-east to south-west they do not form a cohesive structure. It is conceivable that they are the remains of a fish trap or small jetty but, due to the limitations of the survey, that is conjecture. The timbers remain unclassified and undated although their heavy erosion is testament to their old age.
- 8.4 Phase 2 comprises a number of horizontally laid land-ties set perpendicularly to the river wall. A large plank [13] had been laid parallel to the river wall and a vertical post [2], tied in to two cross timbers [7] & [14] comprise the grid iron structure (Structure 2). Timber structures of this type forming grid irons generally date to the post-medieval period so that barges could be grounded at low tide for loading and repairs. Dating can be difficult, as often they are constructed from recycled ship's timbers. Due to the nature of the survey no close dating was attempted so the structure has been consigned to the post-medieval period.
- 8.5 Phase 3 is represented by the timber revetment of the foreshore, located some 2.5 meters north of the river wall. Four, (c.240mm x 240mm) vertical timbers of boxed-heart cut square posts comprise Structure 3. The arrangement was oriented east to west springing off from the north-west corner of the river wall returning in an 'L' shape to meet the slightly recessed north-east corner of the river wall. The timbers are slightly eroded but do not appear to be ancient. Therefore, a post-medieval to modern date has been apportioned to this structure.
- 8.6 Phase 4 is represented by the modern timber structure built to support the wooden decking to the rear of the Mayflower public house. The combination of squared-off uprights and bracing timbers are all designated as Structure 4. This belongs to the Modern period.
- 8.7 Phase 5 is the modern dump layer of pebbles and gravel designed to protect the foreshore from further erosion. It sealed the older, post medieval layer [1] recorded in Section 1 of the 'L' shaped trench.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 The watching brief on the trench excavation and plan of the timbers were undertaken by Leo Penades of PCA Ltd who also completed all the field recording.
- 9.2 The walkover survey and photography were undertaken by Tanya Jones of PCA Ltd.
- 9.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Andy Taylor of WPH Marine Construction Ltd for commissioning the work.
- 9.4 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank the team of Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for their cooperation during the works.
- 9.5 Thanks to Ray Murphy of the PCA CAD department for the figures.
- 9.6 The author would also like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for the managing the project and the report editing.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bamforth, M (2018) *Wood on the Foreshore*. London: LP Archaeology.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2014), '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*'.

Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, 2009, '*Standards for Archaeological Work (Papers 1-8) (Draft)*'

Heard, K & Goodburn, Damian 2003 *Investigating the Maritime History of Rotherhithe: Excavations of Pacific Wharf, 165 Rotherhithe Street, Southwark*. Museum of London Archaeological Service. Archaeology Studies Series 11.

Milne, G & Wragg, E 2012 *Foreshore Archaeology: Thames Shipbuilding & Shipbreaking in, Proceedings of the Fifth Symposium on Shipbuilding on the Thames*. Docklands History Group. Museum of London Docklands.

MOLAS (1994) 'Recording Timber & Timber Structures: An Introduction' in, *MOLAS Archaeological Site Manual*. London: City of London Archaeological Trust. 3rd Edition.

Taylor, J. with Brown, G. (2009), *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Pevsner & Cherry 2002 *The Buildings of England: London 2: South*. Yale University Press.

Pozorski, Z 2018 *Mayflower Pub Wall, Rotherhithe, London SE16 4NF: WSI for Archaeological walkover Survey & Watching Brief*. London: Pre-Construct Archaeology. Unpublished report.

Rankin, S (1999) *A Short History of the Surrey commercial Docks*. Rotherhithe Local history paper No.6

Texts Consulted

Brunning, R (et al) (2010) *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation & Curation of Waterlogged Wood*, English Heritage

Dunkley, M (2012) *Ships & Boats: Prehistory to 1840*, English Heritage, Introduction to Heritage Assets.

Dunkley, M (2016) *Ships & Boats: 1840-1950 Introduction to Heritage Assets*, Historic England

Spence, C (Ed) (1994) *Archaeological Site manual, 3rd Edition: recording Timber & Timber Structures*, Museum of London

Internet Sources

British Geological Survey Online <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Frog Blog <http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/frog-blog>

Mayflower Public House <https://www.mayflowerpub.co.uk/>

Old Maps Online

<https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/>

River Thames Society

<http://www.riverthamesociety.org.uk/CMS/FILES/AccessstotheRiverThamesCOMPLETEPDF1.pdf>

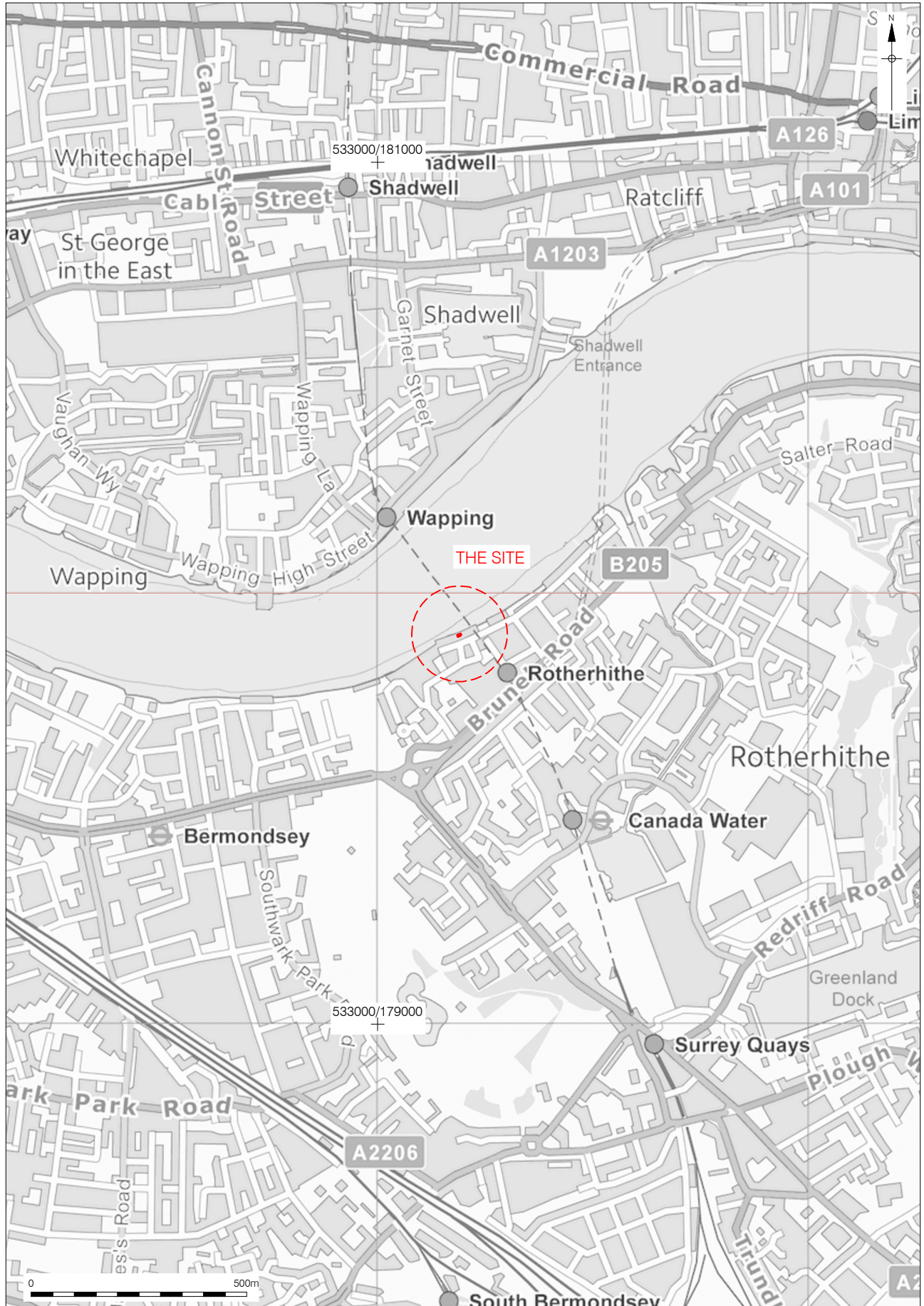
Southwark Council Website

<https://geo.southwark.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Southwark%20Design%20and%20Conservation&overlays=Conservation%20areas&x=535018.21008504&y=179882.93829976&zoom=13&showInfo=True>

Thames Discovery Programme

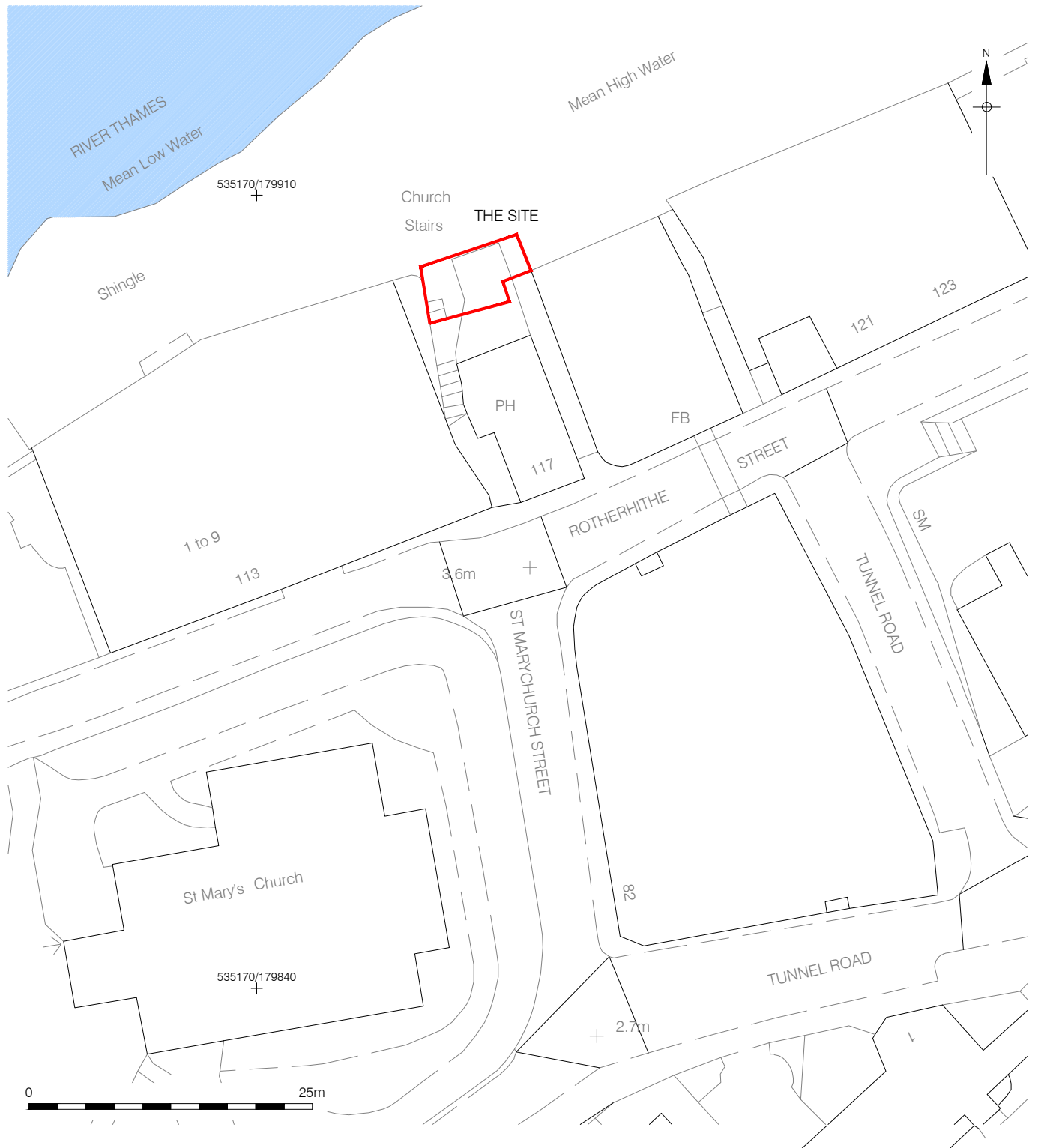
<http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/discover/wood-on-the-foreshore>

<http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/discover/foreshore-factsheets-vessels>



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2018
 06/07/18 RM

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:12,500 at A4



© Crown copyright 2018. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2018
 06/07/18 RM

Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location
 1:500 at A4

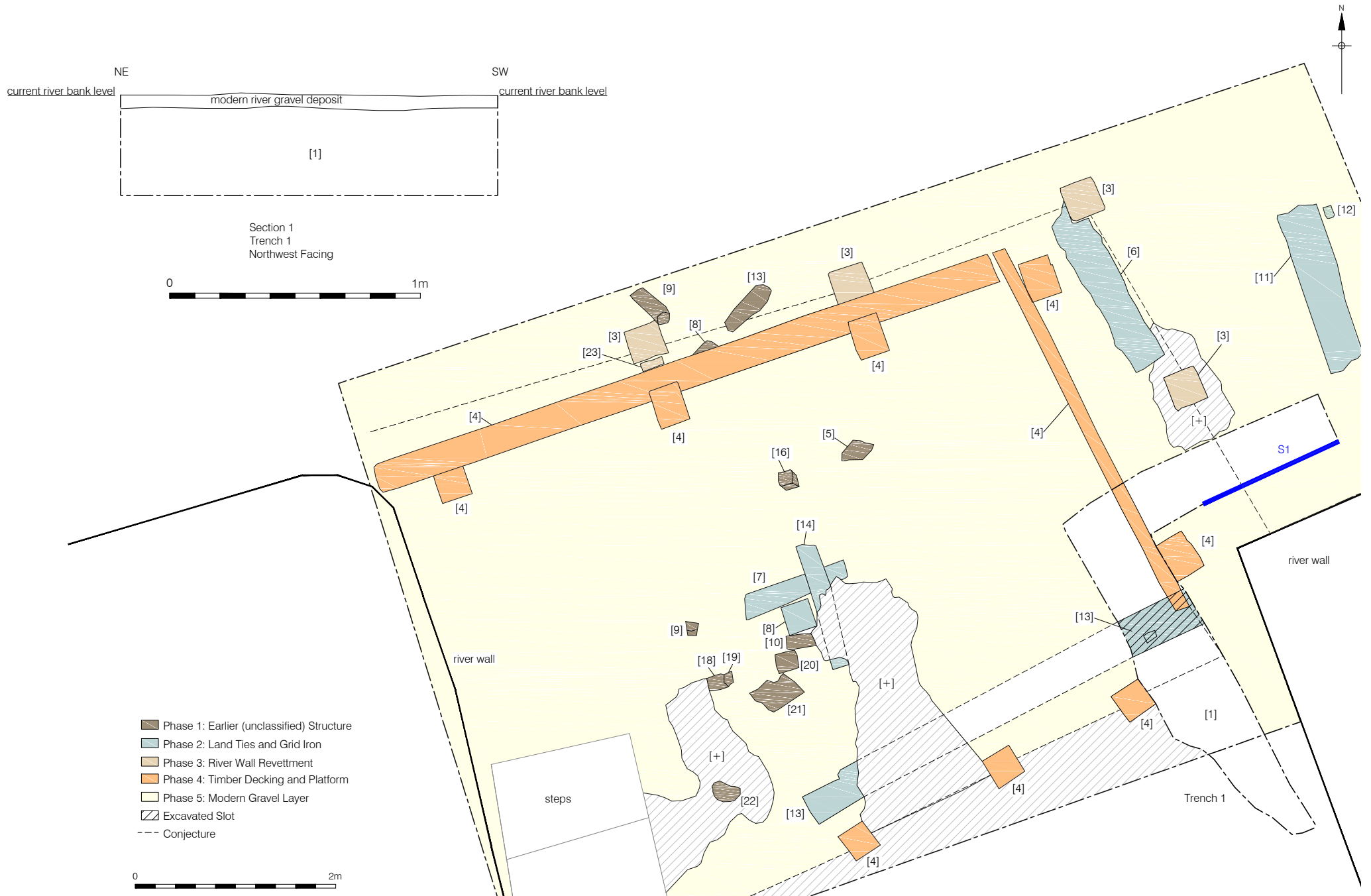
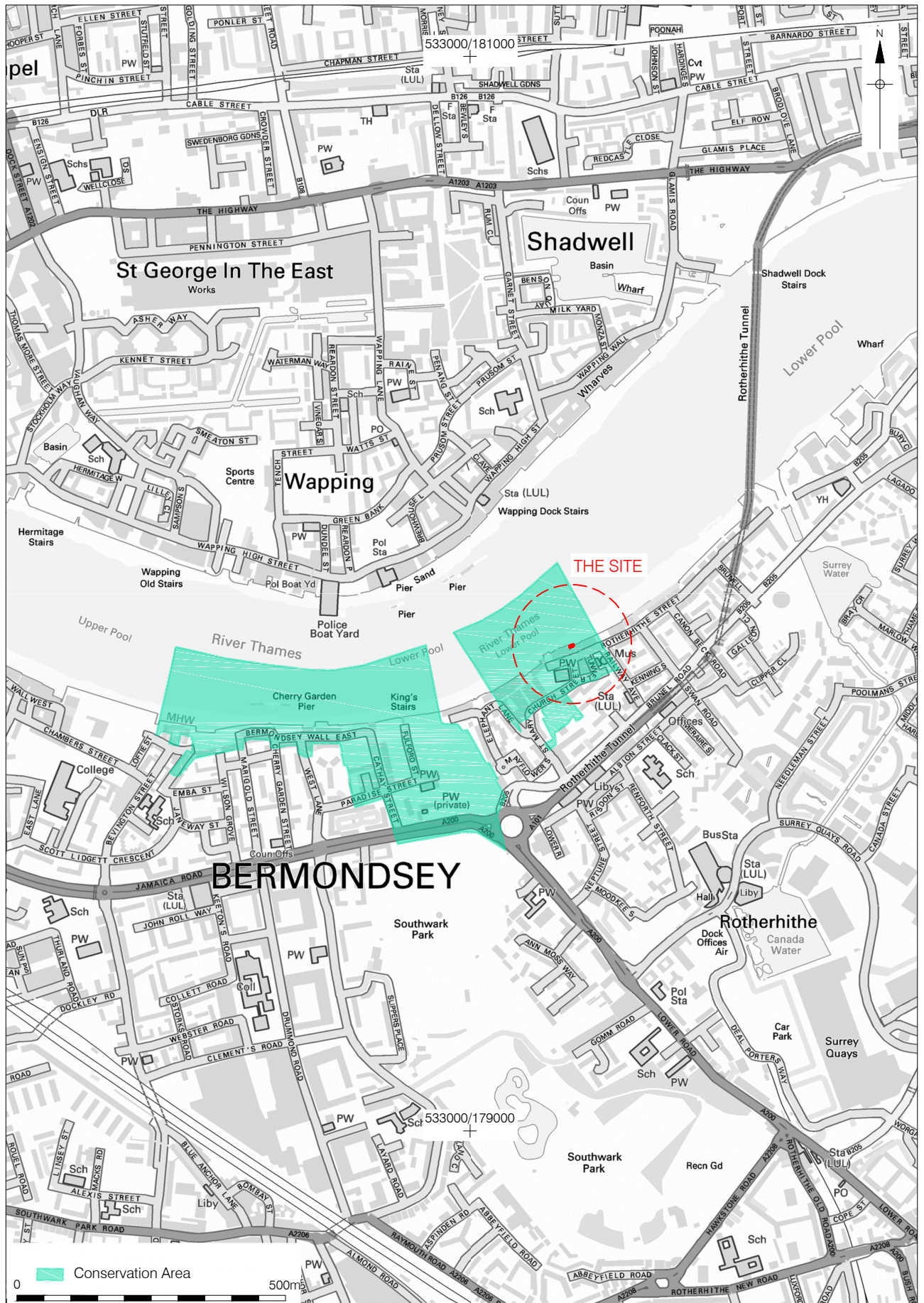


Figure 3
Plan and Section of Features
Plan 1:50 and Section 1:20 at A4

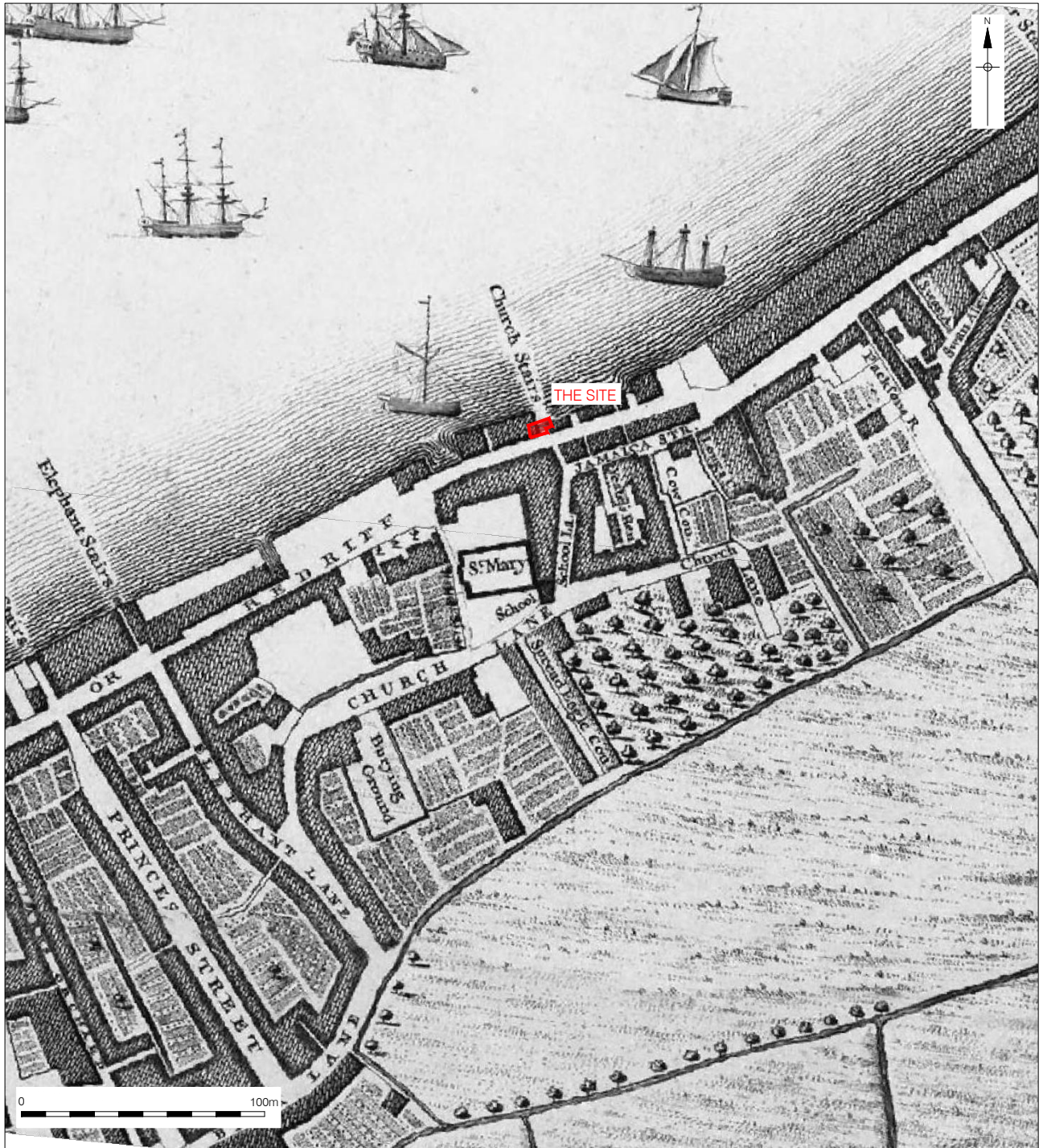


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2018

06/07/18 RM

Figure 4
 St Mary's Rotherhithe Conservation Area with the Mayflower Pub indicated
 1:12,500 at A4



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2018
06/07/18 RM

Figure 5
Roque's Map of 1746
1:2,500 at A4



Figure 6
Ordnance Survey Map, 1896
1:800 at A4

APPENDIX 1: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the excavation (two sherds/2 estimated number of vessels (ENV)/23g, of which none was unstratified). The pottery dates solely to the post-medieval periods. The assemblage is in a poor condition and consists of water worn sherds, which could be assigned to a form. The material was found in one context as a small sized group (under 30 sherds). The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London Archaeology (2014). The assemblage is discussed as a spot dating index.

Spot dating Index

Context [1], spot date: 1630–1680

Latest pottery type date range: 1630–1680

London biscuit-fired tin-glazed ware (TGW BISC), 1570–1846, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 6g, form: tea bowl.
Base with a short footring, water worn

London tin-glazed ware with blue- or polychrome-painted decoration and external lead glaze (TGW D), 1630–1680, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 17g, form: charger. Base sherd with a footring and with an internal discoloured blue on white geometrical pattern. Water worn.

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The assemblage is of little significance as the pottery sherds occur as singular fragments without much meaning. It is probable that both sherds were made at the local Rotherhithe tin-glazed ware pothouse, which was operating during the period c. 1636– c.1663 (Archer 1997, 561). The main potential of the pottery is to date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the pottery.

Reference

Archer, M. 1997. *Delftware: The Tin-glazed earthenware of the British Isles, A catalogue of the collection in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London*. London: The Stationary Office.

Museum of London Archaeology, 2014. Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes.
<http://www.mola.org.uk/resources/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes>

APPENDIX 2: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

INTRODUCTION

A small sized assemblage of clay tobacco pipes was recovered from the site, consisting of 24 fragments, of which 23 are unstratified. All of the fragments are in a good condition, indicating fairly rapid deposition after breakage. Clay tobacco pipes occur in one context as a small (under 30 fragments) sized group. The clay tobacco pipes were classified by Atkinson and Oswald's (1969) typology (AO). The assemblage consists of two bowls and 26 stems. The bowl shapes date to between c. 1680–1850 and all were smoked. The assemblage is presented as an index.

INDEX

Unstratified

X1 AO22 heeled bowl with a tall straight-sided profile. The item survives as mostly the heel and the stem.

X22 stems, which are mostly medium thick and with medium bores, except for two examples with fine bores

Context [1], spot date: c.1820–1850

X1 AO28, dated c. 1820–1850, which is decorated with wheat ear and grass leaf borders on the front and back of the bowl (SF 2). The spur and the back of the bowl is missing.

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The assemblage is of no significance at a local level as the finds are in a fragmentary state and without any meaning. The only potential of the clay tobacco pipe found in context [1] is to date this deposit. There are no recommendations for further work on the material.

Reference

Atkinson, D. and Oswald, A., 1969, 'London clay tobacco pipes'. *Journal of British Archaeology Association*, 3rd series, Vol. 32, 171-227.

APPENDIX 3: GLASS ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A small assemblage of glass was recovered from the excavation (one sherd, 64g) and this dates solely to the post-medieval period. The fragment of glass survives as the splayed base of a free-blown early cylindrical wine bottle, dated c. 1740–1850. The wine bottle was made in dark olive green high-lime low-alkali (HLLA) glass and is in a water worn condition.

The wine bottle is of no significance as it survives as a frequently found vessel type in London later post-medieval dated archaeological deposits, is recorded in a fragmentary, worn state and has very little meaning. The only potential of the glass is to date the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the material, which can be discarded as it is fully catalogued.

APPENDIX 4: POST-ROMAN COIN ASSESSMENT

Murray Andrews

Introduction

One post-Roman coin was recovered during a watching brief at Mayflower Wall, Rotherhithe, Southwark. It is described in the table below.

Assemblage composition

The sole coin from Mayflower Wall is a copper-alloy farthing of Charles II, struck between 1672 and 1679. It constitutes a typical example of the kind of fractional coinage – or ‘small change’ - known to have enjoyed extensive domestic circulation after the restoration of the English monarchy in 1660. Milled copper fractions like the Mayflower Wall coin were exempt from the Great Recoinage of 1696, and remained legal tender into the eighteenth century; hoard evidence from Dunchurch (Warwickshire), however, suggests that pre-1700 fractional coins had largely fallen out of circulation by c.1750, and that those that did persist in currency at this date were extensively worn (Robinson 1972). In view of its condition, the Mayflower Wall specimen is therefore likely to constitute a coin accidentally lost from currency no later than the early eighteenth century, and quite probably within the last two decades of the seventeenth century.

Significance

The post-Roman coin from Mayflower Wall constitutes a key element of the archaeological data from the site and provides valuable evidence for site chronology. Furthermore, it provides material evidence for the ‘small change’ economy of London and its hinterland in the early modern period.

Recommendations

- Any further publication should include this coin within a wider small finds catalogue.

Bibliography

Robinson, P.H. 1972. The Dunchurch and Stafford finds of eighteenth-century halfpence and counterfeits. *British Numismatic Journal*. 41. pp.147-58.

Catalogue

Context	SF	Description	Date
1	1	Copper-alloy farthing of Charles II. 1672-1679. Milled Coinage (Spink 3394), London mint. Obverse: CAROLV[S A] CAROLO, Cuirassed bust left. Reverse: BR[I]T[AN] NIA, Britannia seated left. Die axis 180°, weight 4.4g. Moderate wear.	1672-1679

APPENDIX 5: METAL OBJECT ASSESSMENT

A LEAD DISC

Märit Gaimster

A lead disc (SF 3) was recovered from context [1]. The disc appears plain, although there are possible remains of embossed pattern at the edge on one side; at the centre is a small rectangular nail hole. The disc has a diameter of about 23mm and is just over 2mm thick. It is partly cracked, something that is clearly caused by the central piercing, indicating that this was a secondary act or function. The disc was associated with a farthing of Charles II (1672–1679; see Andrews this report), pottery dating from 1630–1680 and clay tobacco pipe dating from 1820–1850 (see Jarrett, this report).

The most likely original function of the disc, if indeed it had one, would potentially be as a lead token. Series of lead tokens were produced alongside the multitude of copper-alloy private tokens during the period c. 1648–1673 (Dickinson 1986, 4–15). While the size of the Mayflower Wall disc corresponds well with a 17th-century private penny token, it lacks any trace of other characteristics. The 17th-century lead tokens shared the features of the contemporary copper-alloy items with initials, guild arms and emblems, and dates; crucially, these tokens were also normally bifacial (cf. Mitchiner and Skinner 1985, pl. 16–21). Later unofficial lead tokens, however, continued to be produced into the 19th century. These were normally uniface items, often featuring crude ‘stock designs’, or lettering (*Ibid.*, 138–39). It is unlikely that any possibly original design can be identified on the Mayflower Wall token, even if it was cleaned by a conservator. Its secondary function may have been simply to mark or decorate a door or another wooden object, such as a chest or casket, or it may have had the specific function of a washer or a rove in a wooden construction.

References

Dickinson, M. 1986. *Seventeenth-century tokens of the British Isles and their values*. London: Seaby.

Mitchiner, M. and Skinner, A. 1985. ‘English Tokens c. 1425 to 1672’, *The British Numismatic Journal* **54** (1984), 86–163.

APPENDIX 6: LITHIC ASSESSMENT

Ella Egberts

Two flakes were recovered from the above-mentioned site. One is a large, struck from light grey opaque chert, well struck decortication flake (L 67mm, W 44mm, T 14mm, weight 43.4g). It has a wide, dihedral type platform. Some possible retouch at the distal end could point to it being a blank for the production of an end scraper.

The other flake (L 39mm, W 27mm, T 6mm, weight 4.5g) is struck from dark grey translucent flint, with a rim of cortex remaining along the left edge. The flake is thin and fairly well struck with a small platform. Along the mesial part of the left edge there is some possible fine use damage or very fine retouch.

Although only two pieces, and it not concerning highly diagnostic examples, the well struck nature of especially the larger one, together with the prepared platform and the possible fine retouch along the edge of the other flake may point to Late Neolithic/EBA date.

APPENDIX 7: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: [preconst1-321877](#)

Project details

Project name	Mayflower Public House River Wall and Immediate Foreshore, Rotherhithe, London Borough of Southwark SE16 4NF
Short description of the project	A Walkover Survey and Watching Brief was undertaken prior to the excavation of a trench for underpinning the river wall directly under the Mayflower Public House in Rotherhithe. The Walkover Survey conducted on the 20th June was made to make a photographic survey of the exposed timbers and structures on the foreshore. During the 2nd to the 4th of July 2018 a three-day Watching Brief took place during the excavation of the trench and a number of Post Medieval finds were recovered from the lower gravels. Two residual prehistoric flints were part of the assemblage. The survey and plan revealed 5 phases and 3 distinct structures on the immediate foreshore. The earliest structure was a collection of heavily eroded posts which may have been the remains of a fish trap but this is uncertain: the timbers remain unclassified and undated. The second phase and structure was the remains of a gridiron consisting of three land ties and a horizontal plank. A foreshore revetment consisting of a line of squared timbers were dated to the Post Medieval to Modern period. This revetment provided the foundation for a raised timber platform that supported a decking area to the rear of the Mayflower, recorded as structure 4. Finally, dumped layers of pebbles and gravel had been introduced to prevent erosion to the foreshore in recent times.
Project dates	Start: 20-06-2018 End: 04-07-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	RTT18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Coastland 2 - Inter-tidal
Monument type	FISH TRAP Uncertain
Monument type	GRID IRON Post Medieval
Monument type	FORESHORE REVETMENT Post Medieval
Monument type	TIMBER DECKING AND PLATFORM Modern
Monument type	DUMPED PEBBLES AND GRAVEL Modern
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LEAD DISC Post Medieval
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Late Neolithic

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK Mayflower Public House
Postcode	SE16 4NF
Study area	44.86 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 35189 79900 51.501346559268 -0.052059418784 51 30 04 N 000 03 07 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project design originator	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Leonardo Penades

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Contents	"Glass", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	NMRC, Museum of London
Paper Archive recipient	NMRC, Museum of London
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Entered by	Wayne Perkins (WPerkins@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	9 July 2018

PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
t: 01223 845 522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

UNIT 19A, TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
TURSDALE
DURHAM DH6 5PG
t: 0191 377 1111
e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
t: 020 7732 3925
e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG
t: 01636 370410
e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP
T: 01223 845522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN
t: 01926 485490
e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX
t: 01962 849 549
e: winchester@pre-construct.com

