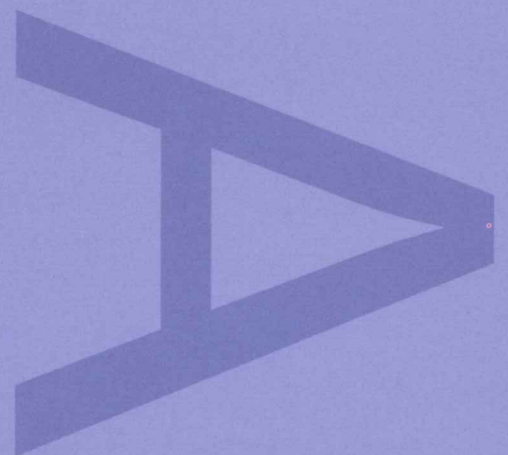
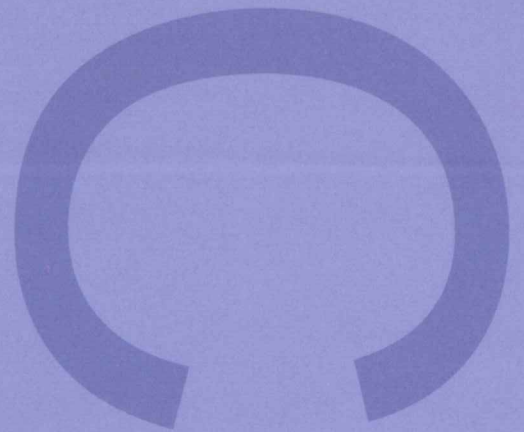
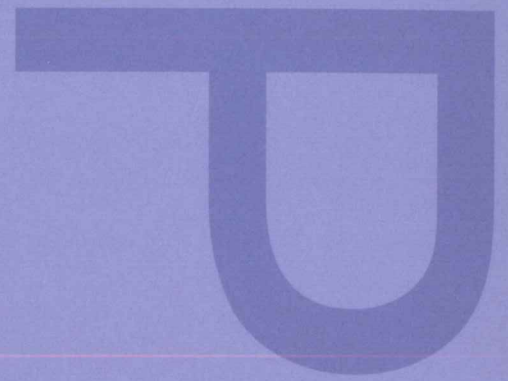


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION OF LAND AT
THE STUDIO BUILDING, 169
TOWER BRIDGE ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF
SOUTHWARK SE1**



NOVEMBER 2007

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Studio Building, 169 Tower
Bridge Road, London Borough of Southwark, SE1**

Site Code: TOD 07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3339 7956

**Written and Researched by Richard Humphrey
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, October 2007**

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October 2007**

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

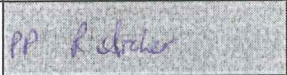



Site Name

The Studio Building, 169 Tower Bridge Road, Southwark

Type of project

Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K1600
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Richard Humphrey		15.11.07
Graphics Prepared by:	Hayley Baxter		15.11.07
Graphics Checked by:	Helen Clough		15.11.07
Project Manager Sign-off:	Helen Clough		15.11.07

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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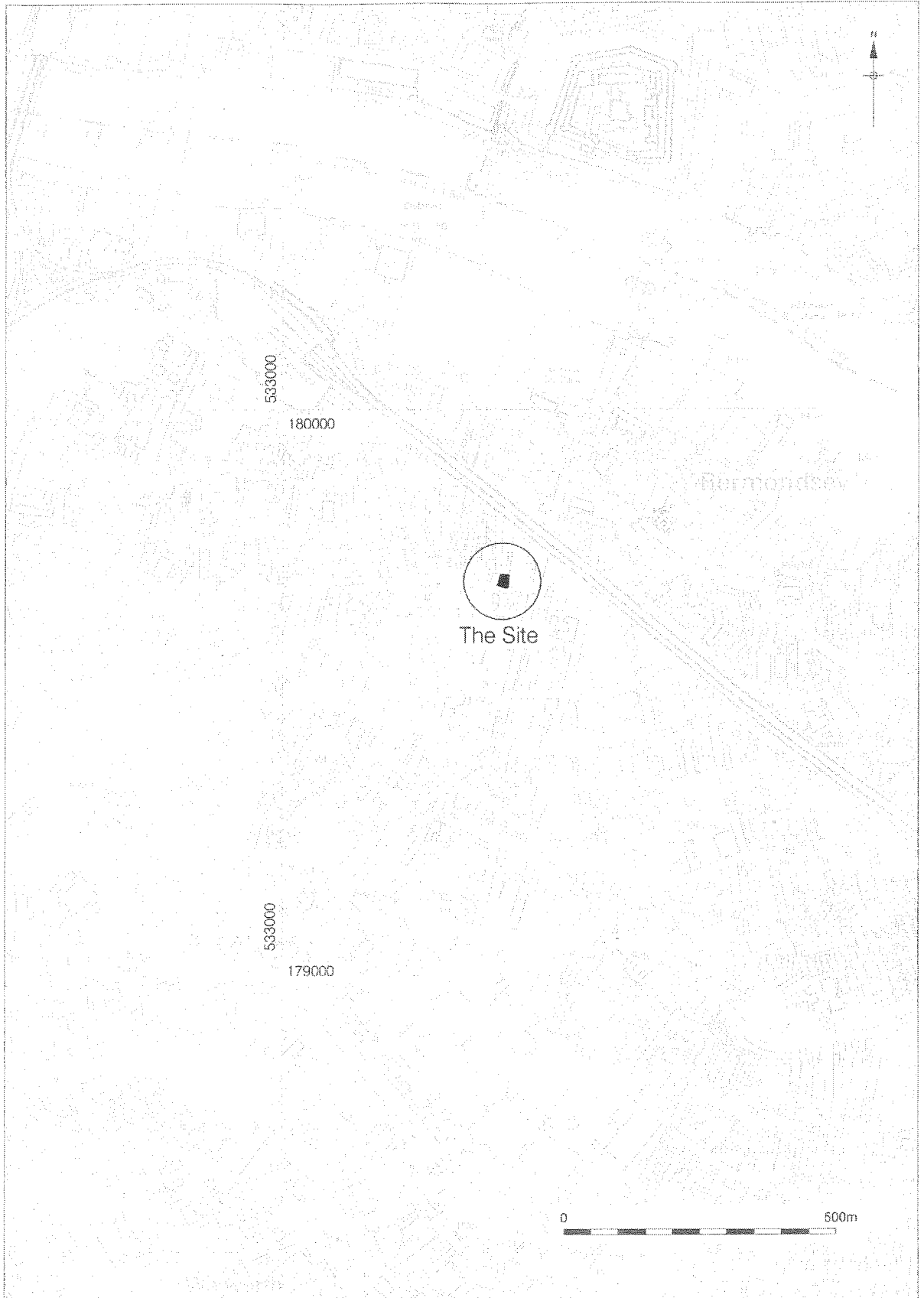
1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at The Studio Building, 169 Tower Bridge Road, London Borough of Southwark.
- 1.2 One evaluation trench was excavated on the site, in advance of development of the land into residential property. This measured 4m by 4m and was positioned on the location of a proposed pile cap in the centre of the site.
- 1.3 A 19th century wall and remnants of an associated floor surface were recorded almost directly beneath the present day ground surface. Further excavation revealed an accumulation of silt horizons containing post-medieval ceramic building material, and below this a marshy layer containing medieval pottery. This sealed a band of peat, which in turn covered a blue grey alluvial silt horizon. Beneath this were natural undisturbed sandy gravels. This sequence of deposits strongly suggests that the area is located between the two main prehistoric eyots in the vicinity of the site, within the river channel. A timber stake, found in the north facing section of the trench, possibly represents part of a fence line or mooring point. Dating of this feature remains uncertain although it is most likely to be from the late-medieval to early post-medieval period.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land The Studio Building, 169 Tower Bridge Road, London, in advance of construction of new residential property.
- 2.2 The evaluation was conducted between the 10th and 11th October 2007 and was commissioned by Sunlight Projects Limited. The work was undertaken following English Heritage guidelines.¹
- 2.3 The excavation was undertaken in the car park to the rear of 169 Tower Bridge Road, formerly known as the Sarson's Vinegar Factory. The current buildings of 169 Tower Bridge Road and 37 Tanner Street bound the site on all sides.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3339 7956.
- 2.5 The site was assigned the code TOD 07.
- 2.6 The evaluation was supervised by Richard Humphrey and Ireneo Grosso. Dr Christopher Constable, Senior Archaeological Officer for the London Borough of Southwark monitored the site. The project was managed by Helen Clough for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

¹ "Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations", Revised June 1998.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:10,000 at A4



Figure 2
Trench location
1:400 at A4

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of the evaluation the site was part of the car park for the offices and residential properties of 169 Tower Bridge Road.
- 3.2 The archaeology of the Southwark area is inextricably linked with climatic changes, which have had an impact on the geology and topography of the area since the last glaciation. These conditions have affected the nature of the settlement in the area through time
- 3.3 The underlying geology in the vicinity of the site is sand and gravels of the First River Terrace.
- 3.4 Between the end of the last glaciation and the present day the sea level around Britain has generally risen. In addition the British Isles are tilting down slowly to the south east. This has resulted a general rise in water levels around the coastline and within estuarine river valleys, termed the Flandrian or Holocene transgressions. In addition locally there have been periods when the water level has dropped slightly, resulting in what are known as regressions. This effect is visible in the Thames Valley and has resulted in the deposition of alluvial silts and peats, overlying the gravels.
- 3.5 Bermondsey was originally located in an area of low lying islands and tidal streams which are no longer visible due to rising river levels which deposited thick deposits of alluvium and because of human reclamation. In the vicinity of the site two major islands are known, Horsleydown Eyot to the north and Bermondsey Eyot to the south. Other smaller islands are likely to have existed in the vicinity. At high tide the areas between the islands would have become inundated.
- 3.6 In the later medieval and post-medieval eras the ground was drained and raised for development, both domestic and industrial.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the Written Scheme of Investigation² prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 4.2 A 4m by 4m-square trench was excavated within the site. This was targeted on a proposed pile cap location in the centre of the site. The trench was stepped at 1.2m intervals due to the depth of the excavation.
- 4.3 A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove unproductive soils down to the highest archaeological horizon.
- 4.4 The features identified within the trench were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence. This was conducted by the excavation of slots through features and by half sectioning.
- 4.5 The features were assigned individual context numbers. Drawings were made in plan and a representative section of each trench was also made.
- 4.6 Heights above Ordnance Datum were supplied by a site engineer employed by Sunlight Projects Ltd.
- 4.7 The trench location was surveyed in by a Sunlight Projects Ltd. surveyor and located to OS data.
- 4.8 The completed archive, including all artefactual, written, drawn and photographic material, will be deposited with the appropriate repository.

² Brown, G. (2007) *Written Scheme of Investigation For An Archaeological Evaluation at the new Studio Building, 162 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1, London Borough of Southwark*. Pre-Construct Archaeology, Ltd. Unpublished Report

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The archaeological and historical background, together with the potential for the survival of remains on the site are covered in detail within the Desk Based Assessment for 167 Tower Bridge Road³. The following represents a summary of that report.
- 5.2 Evidence for features and artefacts from the pre-Roman period are rare. However, evidence pertaining to natural land surfaces of clay and peat have been recorded at a number of sites in the immediate vicinity and help to inform on the past environment and topography of the area. In particular, previous investigations have assisted in predicting the locations of the various islands or eyots. These islands were inhabited throughout the prehistoric era. At 33 Tanner Street a Bronze Age cooking pit was recorded and peat deposits from a similar age were recorded at 159-161 Tower Bridge Road.
- 5.3 On the Horsleydown Eyot, a Bronze Age plough soil with ard marks cutting into the sands was recorded at Phoenix Wharf and Wolseley Street. Prehistoric pottery was found at Phoenix Wharf, 271 Tooley Street and at 22-28 Whites Ground, where a number of lithics were also recorded.
- 5.4 On the Bermondsey Eyot, similar assemblages of pottery and lithics have been recorded, notably at Long Walk and Alaska Works on Grange Road.
- 5.5 The Roman settlement in Southwark was centred to the west of the site, generally in the area of the present day Borough High Street. Excavations at the Trocette at the corner of Tower Bridge Road and Bermondsey Street and at the corner of Long Walk and Tower Bridge Road recorded ditches and gullies of Roman date, most likely associated with agricultural practices. A timber trackway observed at Long Lane suggests that the smaller islands in the vicinity were also exploited.
- 5.6 During the medieval period, the site was probably prone to intermittent flooding and may have required drainage ditches. The establishment of the Cluniac Abbey of St. Saviour in the late 11th century led to economic growth in the area. Historical records suggest that a Saxon Abbey preceded this, although evidence is ephemeral. It was a place of popular pilgrimage in the 13th century as well as being the location of a great

³ Brown, G. (1999) *A Desk-Based Assessment of the Archaeological Potential of a Development Site at 167 Tower Bridge Road, London Borough of Southwark, SE1*. Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpublished report.

assembly of crusaders in AD 1250. When it was dissolved in AD 1542, the plot was filled by a mansion house built by Sir Thomas Pope.

- 5.7 Frequent flooding of the Horsleydown Eyot limited human activity in the region during the medieval period. Indeed, the Bermondsey Eyot is recorded as having been flooded and a number of legal cases were brought about for lack of maintenance of river defences.
- 5.8 The development of the tanning industry in the area commenced in the late 14th century. The area was attractive to tanners as the land was cheap, being on the edge of the city, as well as there being an abundant water supply.
- 5.9 The tanning industry remained the principal industrial land use of the area well into the post-medieval period. This is supported by evidence from historical documents, excavations at Tanner Street, Bermondsey Street, Leathermarket Street, Tower Bridge Road and cartographic data.
- 5.10 A map of the area by John Rocque, dated to the early to mid 18th century shows an 'L'-shaped building within the site. This structure is no longer visible on Horwood's map from the end of the 18th century. Instead, what appears to be a series of terraced houses with back gardens can be seen fronting Tanner Street, with marshland behind them. The site lies within the marshland. The terraces are visible on a map dated to 1819 but are replaced by a larger structure on the 1872 Ordnance Survey map, most likely associated with the Vinegar Works. It is uncertain whether the site was covered by the structure or if it lay within the works courtyard. The Vinegar works are still seen to dominate the site on Ordnance Survey maps from 1907 and 1950, where the area seems to have been filled with several large vats, relating to activity at the Vinegar Works.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 measured approximately 4m by 4m. Due to the depth of the trench, the sides of the excavation were stepped in at approximately 1.2m intervals.
- 6.1.2 Natural gravelly-sand, [11], was observed at a height of -0.75mOD.
- 6.1.3 Sealing this horizon was a band of alluvial grey-blue alluvial silt, [10]. This was recorded at a height of -0.25mOD and seen throughout the trench. Overlying [10] was a layer of peat, [9]. This was approximately 0.30m deep and was recorded at a height of 0.05mOD. Both layers [9] and [10] are likely to have been formed as a result of the dropping of water levels, (regression) and strongly suggest that the site is situated not on an island or eyot, but within a river channel.
- 6.1.4 Driven through layer [9] was a sharpened timber stake, [12]. The end of this had been worked to form a point. Assessment of this find (Appendix 2) suggests it most likely to date from the late-medieval to early post-medieval period. However, a single sherd of Roman pottery found close by does not rule out the possibility of it being Roman. Its suggested use is as a mooring or tethering point for animals or to locate a net or fish trap. The stake was not seen to be associated with any other features or objects.
- 6.1.5 Layer [8] sealed both the timber stake [12] and the peat deposit [9]. It was 0.85m thick and was observed at a height of 0.90mOD. The layer was composed of silt, most likely formed by the marshy conditions that existed in the area. Medieval green-glaze pottery was observed within this layer.
- 6.1.6 Overlying layer [8] was layer [7], seen at a height of 1.50mOD. Of a similar nature to [8], it was composed of silty material from the marshy conditions of the area. Within the layer were post-medieval ceramic building material and pottery fragments as well as frequent animal horn cores, presumably from the tanning industry that existed in the area. Cut through this layer was a circular pit [5] containing the badly degraded remains of a timber barrel [4], which was filled by a sandy deposit, [3]. No evidence was observed to suggest a use for this barrel.
- 6.1.7 A 0.15m thick band of crushed mortar [6] sealed layer [7]. It was recorded at a height of 1.65mOD and represents the demolished floor of a late post-medieval structure on the site. This is most likely the same as the floor surface [1] seen within the center of the trench. Associated with both of these surfaces was a late 19th century red brick

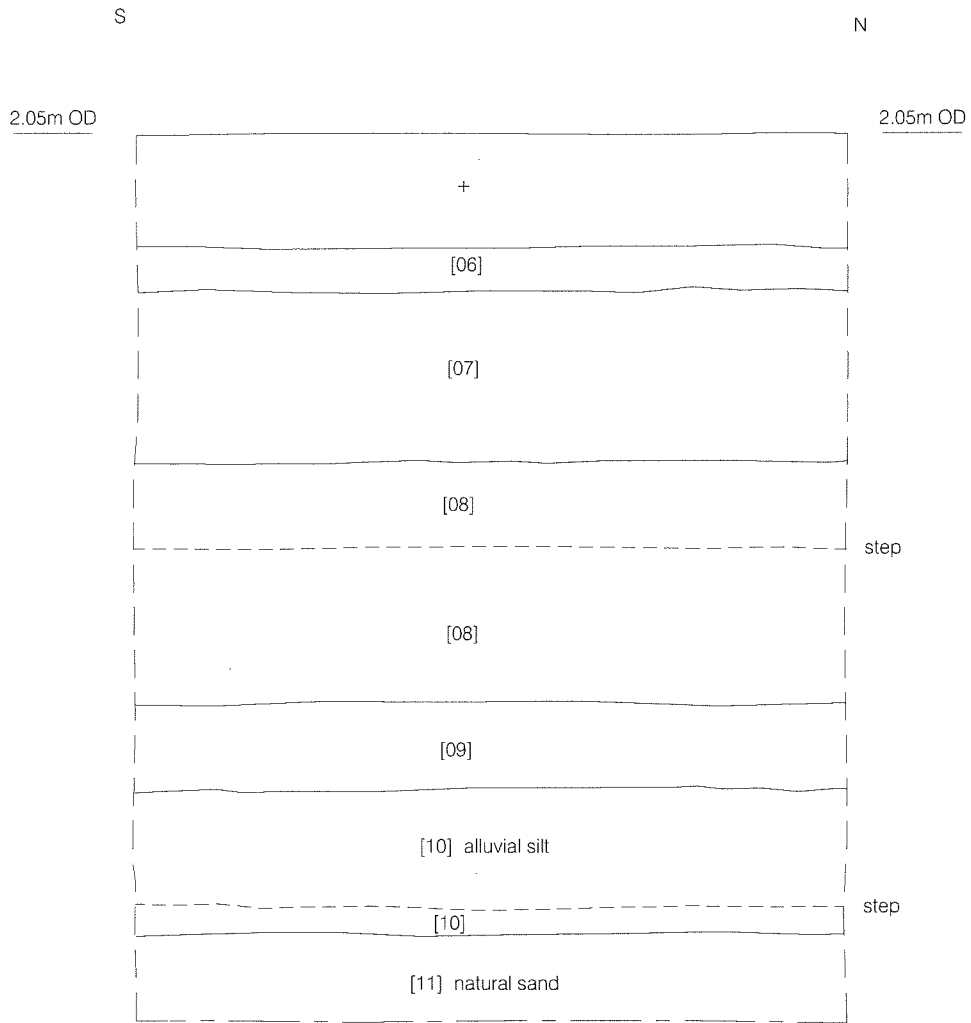
wall [2] running approximately north-south in the eastern section of the trench. It measured in excess of 4m long and was 5 courses high.

6.1.8 Surfaces [6] and [1] and wall [2] were all sealed by modern made ground.



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Figure 3
Plan of Evaluation Trench
1:40 at A4



0 1m

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Figure 4
Section 1
1:25 at A4

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Natural terrace gravels were observed at a height of -0.75mOD. The overlying sequence of silt and peat is most likely the result of receding water levels (regression), during the Holocene. This strongly suggests that the site is situated in what would have been the channel between the Horsleydown and Bermondsey Eyots.
- 7.2 Of particular interest was a sharpened stake seen driven through the peat layer. Although there is the possibility of it dating from the Roman period, it is most likely to be from the late medieval to early post-medieval period. Its use has been suggested as a mooring or tethering point for animals or to locate a net or fish trap. A single sherd of pottery found directly adjacent to the stake was dated to the Roman period.
- 7.3 Sealing these layers was a sequence of silts containing medieval pottery overlain by silts containing post-medieval pottery fragments. These layers are representative of the marshy environment that existed in the locale and is indicated on Horwood's map.
- 7.4 Sealing these layers were dumped deposits from the post-medieval period containing frequent amounts of horn core, almost certainly from the tanning industry that was prevalent in the area. Remnants of a flagstone floor and an associated brick wall relate to either the late 19th century Vinegar Works in the area or possibly as part of one of the earlier terraced house that would have fronted Tanner Street.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank David Manktelow and Jeff Tomlinson of Sunlight Projects Limited for commissioning this project and Dr Christopher Constable, London Borough of Southwark Senior Archaeological Officer, for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Ireneo Grosso for assistance in fieldwork, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations, Damien Goodburn for the timber assessment and James Gerrard for pottery dating. Helen Clough managed and edited the project.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench	Comments
1	Masonry	1	Damaged 19 th C Floor
2	Masonry	1	N-S Red brick wall
3	Fill	1	Fill of Barrel
4	Timber	1	Barrel
5	Cut	1	Filled by [3] & [4]
6	Layer	1	Crushed mortar
7	Layer	1	Grey-Blue silt
8	Layer	1	Brown silt
9	Layer	1	Peat
10	Layer	1	Blue alluvium
11	Layer	1	Natural Sand
12	Timber	1	Stake

APPENDIX 2: TIMBER ASSESSMENT

By Damian Goodburn

The exact species of timber [12] was not determined although there is the suggestion that it could have been a fast growing tree such as Willow or Poplar. It was observed as a rounded, vertical stake measuring 0.86m in length and with a diameter of 65mm. The top of the stake was recorded at 0.35mOD, although there was some truncation to the top.

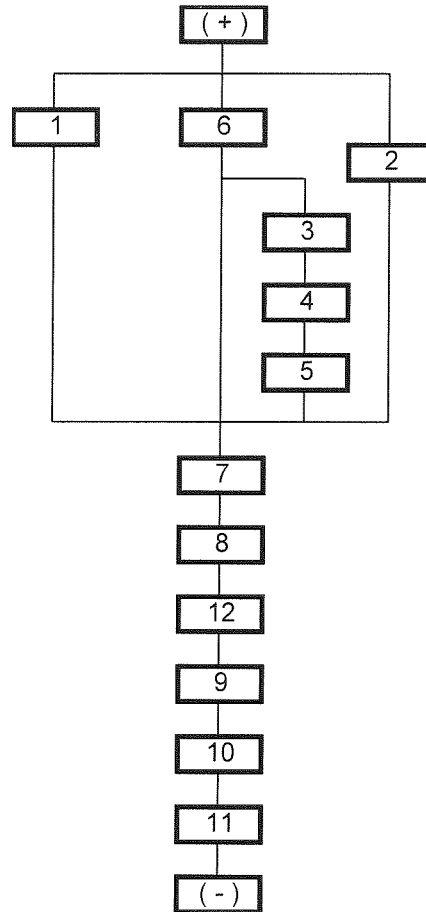
The base of the timber had been worked into three flat faces that make a point. Some compressed partial axe marks were visible. The flatness of these facets, solid condition of the timber, lack of root penetration and depth recorded at suggest this stake dates from the late medieval to early post-medieval period. However, the presence of Roman pottery close by does not rule out the possibility of it dating from between the late Iron Age period to 1800 AD.

The exact function of the stake is unknown. If it is from an early context, then it could have been used as a mooring point, to locate net or fish traps or to tether animals to. As part of a sequence of other stakes, it could represent a fence line or barrier.



Plate 1-Photograph of timber stake

APPENDIX 3: TRENCH MATRIX



APPENDIX 4: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-33405

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Studio Building, 169 Tower Bridge Road, London Borough of Southwark, SE1

Short description of the project This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at The Studio Building, 169 Tower Bridge Road, London Borough of Southwark. One evaluation trench was excavated on the site, in advance of development of the land into residential property. This measured 4m by 4m and was positioned on the location of a proposed pile cap in the centre of the site. A 19th century wall and remnants of an associated floor surface were recorded almost directly beneath the present day ground surface. Further excavation revealed an accumulation of silt horizons containing post-medieval ceramic building material, and below this a marshy layer containing medieval pottery. This sealed a band of peat, which in turn covered a blue grey alluvial silt horizon. Beneath this were natural undisturbed sandy gravels. This sequence of deposits strongly suggests that the area is located between the two main prehistoric eyots in the vicinity of the site, within the river channel. A timber stake, found in the north facing section of the trench, possibly represents a fence line or revetment from an attempt at water management in the area.

Project dates Start: 10-10-2007 End: 11-10-2007

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes TOD 07 - Site code

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK 169 Tower Bridge Road
Postcode	SE1
Study area	25.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3339 7956 51.4987192326 -0.07809404200210 51 29 55 N 000 04 41 W Point
Height OD	Min: -0.75m Max: -0.75m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Helen Clough
Project supervisor	Richard Humphrey

Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Sunlight Projects Limited
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics', 'Metal'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	A Desk-Based Assessment of the Archaeological Potential of a Development Site at 167 Tower Bridge Road, London Borough of Southwark, SE1
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brown, G.
Date	1999
Entered by	Richard Humphrey (rhumphrey@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	2 November 2007

OASIS:

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