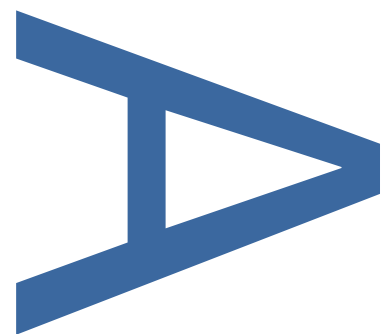
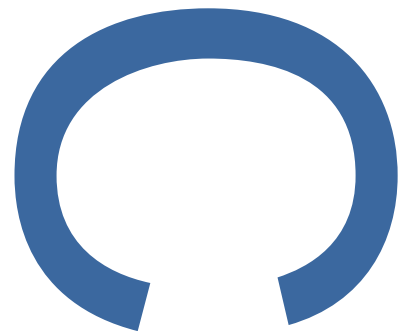


**74 UNION STREET,  
SOUTHWARK,  
LONDON, SE1 1SG**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF ON  
GEOTECHNICAL  
SITE INVESTIGATION**

**SITE CODE: UIS19**

**FEBRUARY 2019**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**


## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

74 UNION STREET, SOUTHWARK, LONDON, SE1 1SG

Type of project

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GEOTECHNICAL SITE INVESTIGATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5927
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
1	20.02.2019	ZP	RR

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**74 UNION STREET, SOUTHWARK, LONDON, SE1 1SG**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GEOTECHNICAL SITE**  
**INVESTIGATION**

---

**SITE CODE:** UIS19

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

**PLANNING REFERENCE:** 18/AP/1187

**CENTRAL NGR:** TQ 32236 80063

**WRITTEN BY:** CECILIA GALLEANO  
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

**PROJECT MANAGER:** ZBIGNIEW POZORSKI  
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

**COMMISSIONING CLIENT:** ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTIVE

**VERSION:** 2.0 WITH ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTIVE COMMENTS

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**February 2019**

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## **CONTENTS**

1	ABSTRACT .....	3
2	INTRODUCTION.....	4
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND .....	5
4	GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND .....	6
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	6
6	RESEARCH DESIGN.....	7
7	METHODOLOGY.....	8
8	RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION .....	8
9	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE.....	10
10	INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS.....	11
11	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	12
12	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	12
	PLATES .....	13

## **FIGURES**

	FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION .....	15
	FIGURE 2: DETAILED SITE LOCATION .....	16
	FIGURE 3: SECTIONS .....	17

## **APPENDICIES**

	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX .....	18
	APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX.....	19
	APPENDIX 3: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL .....	20
	APPENDIX 4: OASIS REPORT .....	21

## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at 74 Union Street, Southwark, London SE1 1SG. The site is located within the existing building on the site and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 32236 80063.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and comprised the inspection and recording of seven geotechnical test pits and one borehole. The test pits and a borehole were located within the ground floor of a disused office building at the address. The test pits were hand excavated by the attending groundworkers to determine the depths and condition of the building's existing footings. The borehole was to assess general ground conditions on the site.
- 1.3 Natural superficial deposits were observed across the site and consisted of alluvial deposits of clay, sand, and gravel. The natural bedrock, London Clay, was encountered in Borehole 1 at the depth of 9.2m below ground level (bgl). Natural geology was overlain by post-medieval and modern made ground deposits and the remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century development on the site.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical site investigation, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at 74 Union Street, Southwark, London SE1 1SG. The site is located within the site which is occupied by two-storey office building and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 32236 80063.
- 2.2 The site is located in the London Borough of Southwark and is bounded by Union Street to the south, neighbouring properties to the west and east and by railway viaduct to the (Figure 2) north. The site comprises a vacant two storey office building which provides garage, storage and office accommodation and does not have a basement.
- 2.3 The monitoring took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- 2.4 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was prepared for the site (Archaeology Collective 2018a) to support the planning submission. The assessment identified that there are no designated or non-designated heritage assets within the site. However, the site is located within the Borough, Bermondsey and Riverside Archaeological Priority Zone (APZ) (DLO35765), which has been designated in recognition of the Roman archaeology of the area. The assessment identified a low potential for prehistoric remains; and high potential for Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains.
- 2.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for the project (Archaeology Collective 2018b), which defined a pro-active programme of observation and recording during the geotechnical site investigation works. The WSI followed confirmation from Gillian King, Senior Planner Archaeology for Southwark Council, that an archaeological watching brief would need to be maintained during the ground investigation works. The results of the watching brief are to further inform the archaeological evaluation strategy.
- 2.6 The investigation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited under the supervision of Cecilia Galleano, and the project management of Zbigniew Pozorski. The archaeological work was commissioned by Archaeology Collective on behalf of the overall client.
- 2.7 The site was allocated the unique site code UIS19. The complete archive comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).
- 2.8 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- *Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Watching Brief. 74 Union Street, London, SE1 1SG* (Archaeology Collective 2018b)
  - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016)
  - Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Guidelines for

Archaeological Projects in Greater London (HE GLAAS 2015)

- *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014).
- Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

3.1 Planning permission was granted for the demolition of the existing building and erection of four storey commercial office unit, with a set-back fifth floor providing access to a roof terrace (Southwark Borough Council Ref. 18/AP/1187)

3.2 Condition 4 -5 and 13 attached to the permission stipulated:

#### *Condition 4*

*Before any work hereby authorised begins, the applicant shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

#### *Reason*

*In order that the details of the programme of works for the archaeological mitigation are suitable with regard to the impacts of the proposed development and the nature and extent of archaeological remains on site in accordance with Strategic Policy 12 - Design and Conservation of The Core Strategy 2011, Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012*

#### *Condition 5*

*Before any work hereby authorised begins, the applicant shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

#### *Reason*

*In order that the applicants supply the necessary archaeological information to ensure suitable mitigation measures and/or foundation design proposals be presented in accordance with Strategic Policy 12 - Design and Conservation of The Core Strategy 2011, Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012*

#### *Condition 13*

*Within six months of the completion of archaeological site works, an assessment report detailing the proposals for post-excavation works, publication of the site and preparation of the archive*

*shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and that the works detailed in this assessment report shall not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with any such approval given.*

*Reason*

*In order that the archaeological interests of the site are secured with regard to the details of the post-excavation works, publication and archiving to ensure the preservation of archaeological remains by record in accordance with Strategic Policy 12 - Design and Conservation of The Core Strategy 2011, Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.*

- 3.3 In advance of the project a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Archaeology Collective (2018b) and approved by Gillian King.

## **4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey identifies the solid geology on the site as London Clay Formation, of clay and silt, a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Palaeogene Period, which indicates a local environment previously dominated by deep seas. The solid geology is overlain by alluvium deposits of clay, silt, sand and peat which are fluvial in origin, although boreholes dug nearby showed presence of terrace gravel deposits at -0.20m Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 4.2 The site is located at 4.4m to 4.7m OD.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 A detailed background to the site was provided in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment prepared by Archaeology Collective (2018a). In summary:
- 5.2 Evidence of prehistoric presence within the study area is scarce and includes limited evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity.
- 5.3 Part of the site lies in an area which was formed by lower lying marshes and water channels, evidence of which indicates that part of the area was reclaimed, and watercourses were controlled to allow the occupation. Roman presence is highly represented by remains of a settlement at Southwark - such as buildings, cellars, yards, walls and floors, industrial activity and burial practices. An archaeological evaluation immediately adjacent to the site recorded Roman artefacts close to a possible channel.
- 5.4 The early medieval period is poorly represented: the archaeological study identified a possible presence of the manor of Southwark, a mint, a robbed out feature, areas of dark earth and a find spot of a bead within the 250m radius study area around the site.



- 5.5 The medieval period is represented by manor boundary ditches and channels, water channel and the possible location of a burial ground. Medieval Southwark was established as a burh, mint and port.
- 5.6 During the post-medieval period the area was affected by the industrial growth, as well as the associated increase of domestic and social structures, including warehouses, factories and workshops evidence of buildings and houses and cemeteries.
- 5.7 The study area was, also, subject to a high number of bombings during World War Two, including a V1 flying bomb which fell on the north side of Union Street. The site was 'damaged beyond repair' as a result of this bomb. Cartographic evidence suggests that the site was developed upon from at least the mid-18th century and was subsequently redeveloped during the Post-Medieval and Modern periods.

## **6 RESEARCH DESIGN**

- 6.1 In line with the approved WSI (Archaeology Collective 2018b) the general aims of the watching brief were:
- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains;
  - to record the character, date location and preservation of any archaeological remains on site; and
  - to record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site.
- 6.2 The project also has the potential to contribute to the following objectives of a research framework for London archaeology:
- Roman period: defining the economic character of different parts of the region through time – focussing on production, consumption and distribution;
  - Roman period: Examining the reasons for and characteristics of contraction, decline and abandonment of the urban settlement;
  - Roman period: Defining the relationships between landscape, river and settlement;
  - Saxon period: Studying the transitions between late Roman and early Saxon, including the reasons and implications for shifting settlement patterns;
  - Saxon period: Studying data from Southwark, in order to be able to characterise the nature of the settlement there; and
  - Medieval period: Understanding the relative and evolving character of development in Westminster, along the Strand between Westminster and the City, and Southwark, and comparison with other riverine settlements beyond London.

## **7 METHODOLOGY**

- 7.1 The proposed methodology of the archaeological work was detailed in the site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Archaeology Collective 2018b) and comprised the archaeological monitoring of seven geotechnical pits and a single borehole located within the office building on the site (Figure 2).
- 7.2 Any potential archaeological features or deposits encountered within the test pits were cleaned and investigated by hand and recorded by the attending archaeologist. However, investigation of the archaeological features and deposits was restricted due to the limited dimensions of the test pits.
- 7.3 All recording systems adopted during the investigation were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London Borough of Southwark; presented in PCAs *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor & Brown 2009, updated 2018). A selective section of each test pit was drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10 in order to illustrate the observed sequences, modern disturbance and current ground level. In addition to a series of digital photographs recording the encountered deposits a written record of each deposit was also produced. Location of the section drawing was located by offsetting from the internal walls and plotted onto OS mapping data by CAD.
- 7.4 Following the completion of all phases of fieldwork and reporting the project archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) with the unique site code UIS 19.

## **8 RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION**

### **8.1 Test Pit 1**

- 8.1.1 The pit was located along the eastern wall of the garage (Figure 2) and it measured 0.60m by 0.30m. It was dug at the maximum depth of 1.30m. Three contexts were observed underneath 0.23m of concrete slab. A dark grey sandy-clay made ground layer [2] covered a brick foundation [4] of the earlier phase of the existing building and a possible silty clay alluvial layer [3] which was not fully excavated. The wall was dated by the brick specialist as part of a 19<sup>th</sup> century structure.

### **8.2 Test Pit 2**

- 8.2.1 Test pit 2 was located along the western wall of the garage and it was 0.60m long and 0.30m wide. It was dug to a maximum depth of 1.28m.
- 8.2.2 Under a 0.23m concrete slab a cut [27], interpreted as part of foundation cut of the standing building, was filled by light grey modern rubble [26]. [27] cut the made ground layer [6] and was determined to be the same as the made ground [2] observed in Test Pit 1.

8.2.3 The made ground [6] covered a yellowish-brown concrete layer [7] (0.51m thick). This concrete foundation overlay a mid brown silty-clay alluvial layer [8], considered as same as [3].

### 8.3 Test Pit 3

8.3.1 Test pit 3 was located along the southern wall of the office accommodation room and it measured 0.40m by 0.40m by 1.20m.

8.3.2 The same made ground layer [9] encountered in Test Pits 1 and 2 overlay two different brick walls [11], [10]. Masonry [10] was later than [11] and was built in from the side of [11]. The context [12] was interpreted as concrete foundation for [10], same as [7], and was covering [13], similar deposit to the alluvial layer [8].

### 8.4 Test Pit 4

8.4.1 Test pit 4 was located along the eastern wall of the office accommodation room and it was 0.45m long and 0.40m wide. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.68m.

8.4.2 Under the concrete slab and a structural metal frame, only made ground [16] was observed in the pit. The layer was considered equal to [2], [6] and [9] contexts.

### 8.5 Test Pit 5

8.5.1 This pit was located towards the northern portion of the office accommodation room and it measured 0.35m by 0.30m by 1.70m.

8.5.2 The stratigraphy within Test Pit 5 consisted of three made ground layers, a masonry in between them and one alluvial layer.

8.5.3 The made ground [17] was a mid-brown sandy-clay with frequent CBM and mortar fragments and it was 0.15m thick.

8.5.4 Underneath the made ground layer, a brickwork wall [18] made by only two courses of red bricks, with very hard grey cement mortar, was found. This structure was 0.18m thick.

8.5.5 Underneath the wall [18] the same made ground layer [19], observed in the other test pits, was identified. It was 0.50m thick and overlay a mid-brown silty-clay made ground layer with occasional flecks of charcoal, chalk and CBM.

### 8.6 Test Pit 6

8.6.1 Test Pit 6 was located along the western wall of the building, north of Test Pit 2 (Figure 2). It contained a very similar stratigraphy as Test Pit 2.

8.6.2 The pit was 0.44m long, 0.26m wide and 1.58m deep.

8.6.3 The made ground layer [24] considered the same as [2] was found under the concrete slab and cut by a foundation cut [23] for the standing building. The cut was filled by rubble [22].

## 8.7 Test Pit 7

- 8.7.1 Test Pit 7 was located towards the southern portion of the garage, near the entrance and it was 0.34m long and 0.22m wide. It was excavated to the maximum depth of 0.34m.
- 8.7.2 Under the concrete slab only the made ground layer [25] observed. The deposit was similar to made ground encountered in all the other test pits.

## 8.8 Borehole 1

- 8.8.1 The borehole was located along the southern portion of the garage, close to Test Pit 7 and it measured 0.25m in diameter. It was carried out until the natural horizon was reached at the level of 9.35m bgl.
- 8.8.2 The borehole showed a similar stratigraphy noted within the test pits. The same made ground layer as the one encountered in the other test pits, here recorded as [14], extended to the maximum depth of 1.27m.
- 8.8.3 Underneath it another made ground layer [15] was observed. It was 1.30m thick and its composition was sandy-silty-clay with occasional coarse gravel and CBM. A piece of timber was also observed but it was obliterated by the mechanical auger.
- 8.8.4 A silty-sand alluvial layer [28] was noted at the depth of 2.80m bgl. It was 1.20m thick and it has occasional flecks of CBM and lenses of sand towards the higher portion. The CBM could not be dated due to a high abrasion.
- 8.8.5 In between 4m and 9.20m bgl three alluvial deposits were present; from the top to the bottom their composition was made by: coarse sand [29] with occasional gravel, gravel [30] with occasional sand pockets, and coarse sand [31] with occasional sub angular, medium size, pebbles. At the depth of 9.20m the London Clay bedrock deposit was encountered.

## 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 9.1 The following section describes the deposits recorded during the investigation by archaeological phase.
- 9.2 **Phase 1: Natural**
- 9.2.1 Natural superficial deposits were encountered in most of the test pits and in the borehole. The mid brown silty-clay layer [3], [8], [13] and [21] was interpreted as alluvial deposit although dimensions of the investigation do not allow to give a certain interpretation.
- 9.2.2 At a deeper level (c. 4m bgl) coarse sand [29], sandy-gravel [30] and coarse sand [31] alluvial deposits were recorded (within the borehole).
- 9.2.3 The bedrock represented by London Clay was observed within the Borehole 1 at 9.20m bgl.

### 9.3 **Phase 2: undated**

9.3.1 Two made ground deposits [20] [28] overlaying natural alluvial contexts remain undated. The small flecks of CBM recovered were undatable.

### 9.4 **Phase 3: Post-Medieval**

9.4.1 A thick layer of made ground [2], [6], [9], [14], [16], [19], [24] and [25] contained occasional animal bones, moderate small and medium fragments of CBM and flecks of CBM and moderate pieces of concrete (intrusive) as inclusions. It was present in all *sondages* and covered stratigraphically post-medieval masonry structures.

9.4.2 Masonry [4], [10] and [11] were determined to be of the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century origin. The limited extensions of the test pits did not allow to give a further interpretation.

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

9.5.1 Under a slab of concrete floor surface, the probable foundation cut [23] and [27] for the standing wall was observed in Test Pits 2-6 and it was filled by very loose modern rubble [22] and [28].

9.5.2 The foundation cut for the existing building observed within Test Pits 2 6 was not present in the Test Pit 1 probably because the construction of this portion of the building used the earlier wall [4] as a foundation.

9.5.3 In Test Pit 5 a modern made ground layer [17] overlay a modern masonry [18] composed by only 2 courses of frogged bricks with a cement mortar.

## 10 **INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS**

10.1 The results of the watching brief allowed to identify the level of the bedrock geology at the depth of 9.20m bgl whilst the superficial natural deposits reflect the expected natural stratigraphy of fluvial deposits. A few contexts, underneath the post-medieval sequence, were identified as made ground for their anthropogenic inclusions. No datable finds were found in these deposits.

10.2 The deposits sequence above those features was constituted by 19<sup>th</sup> century and later brickwork and related concrete foundations. The structures were sealed by a thick layer of made ground observed in all probes and cut by modern foundation of the standing building.

10.3 The eastern walls of the standing building (north-south garage wall and east-west accommodation room wall) appear to be constructed on previous walls recorded in Test Pits 1 and 3. The western building wall, running north to south does not seem to be built upon on previous structures and its own foundation cut was visible in Test Pits 2 and 6.

## **11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 11.1 Pre-Construct would like to thank Rebecca Ryan of Archaeology Collective for commissioning the work on behalf of the overall client. We also thank Gillian King, the Senior Planner Archaeology Southwark Council for her input and advice to the project.
- 11.2 The author would also like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for his project management and editing this report, and Ray Murphy for the illustrations.

## **12 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Taylor, J. with Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

## PLATES



**Plate 1: Garage with Borehole 1. Looking north.**



**Plate 2: Test Pit 1.**

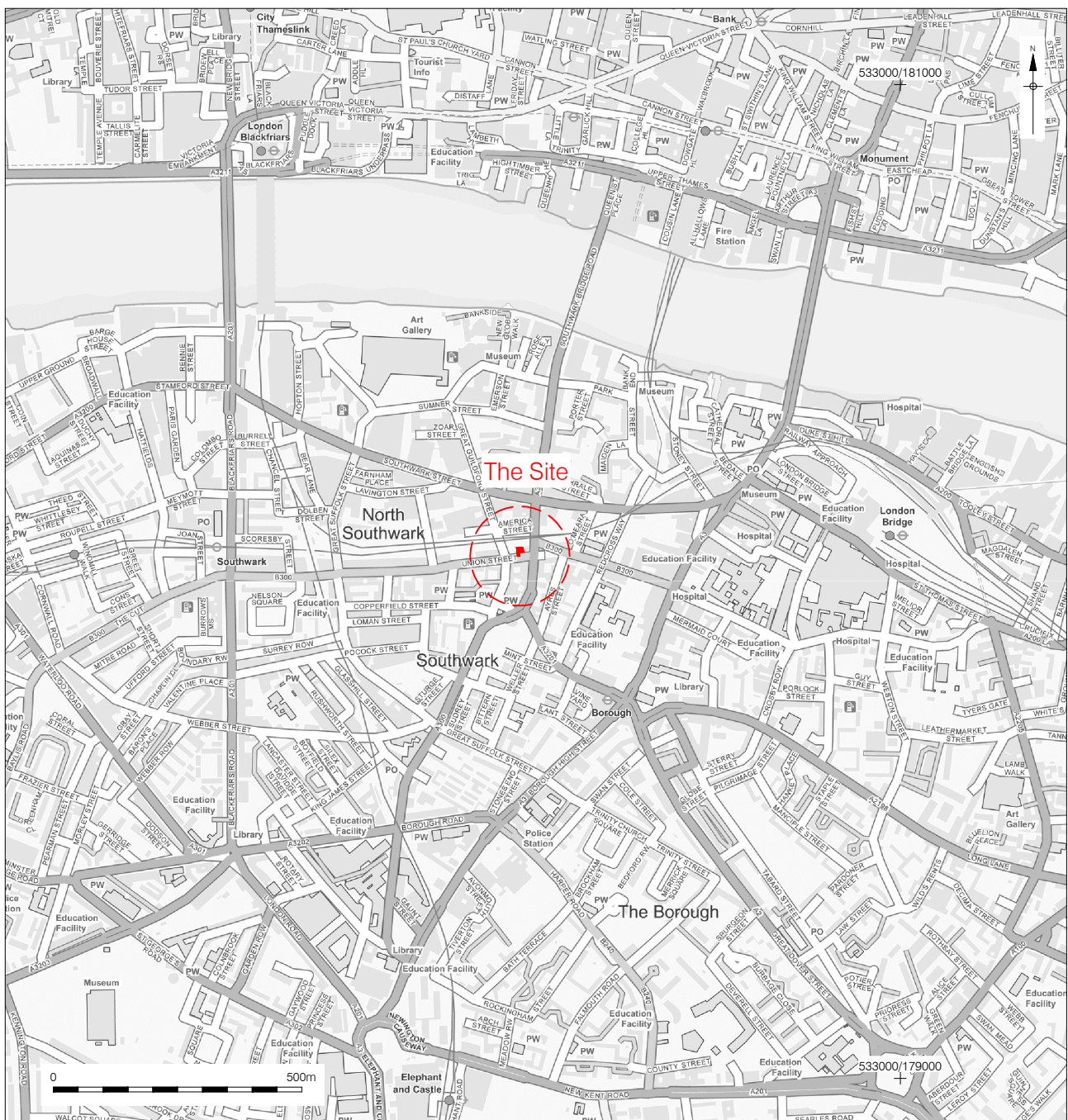


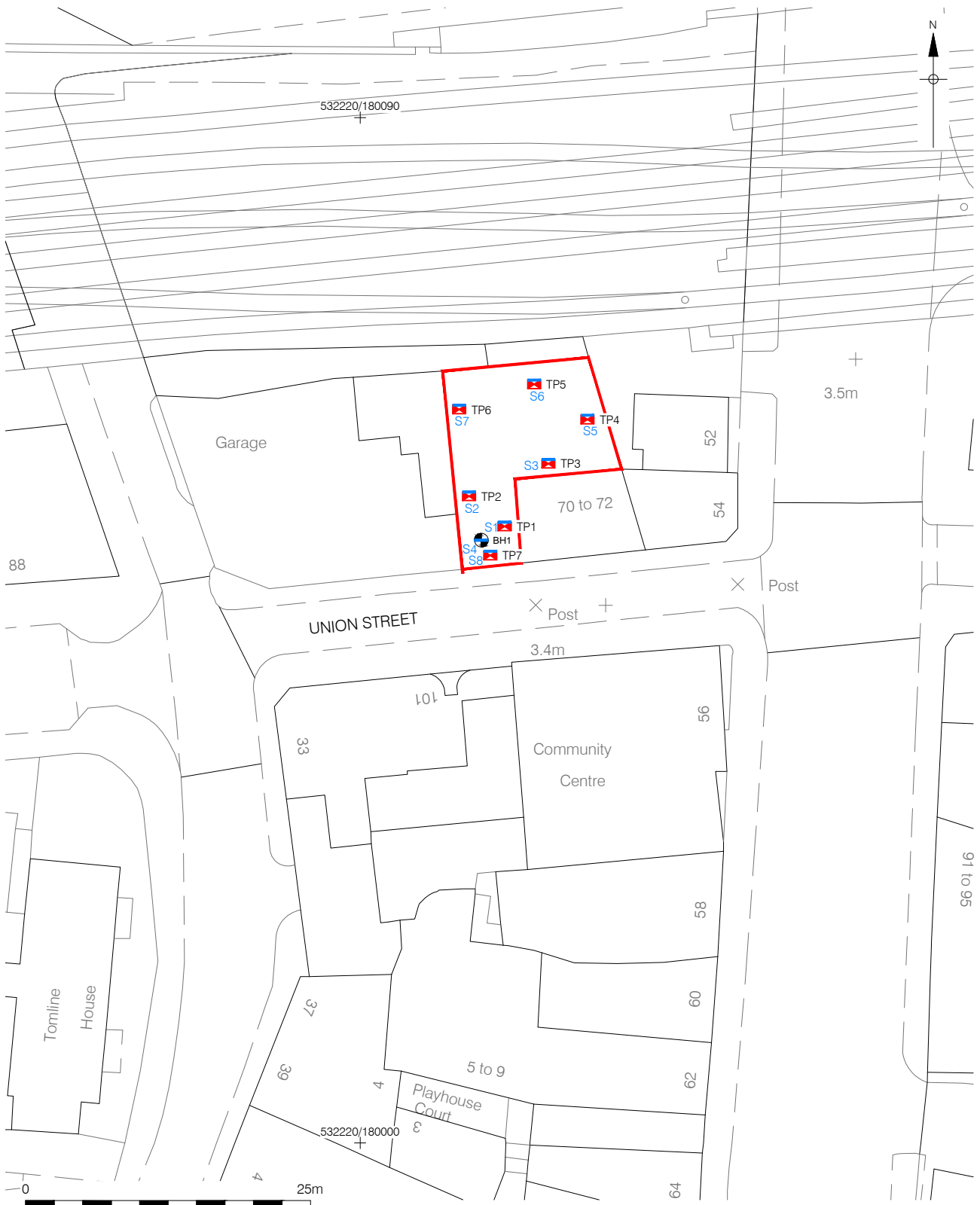
**Plate 3: Test Pit 3.**

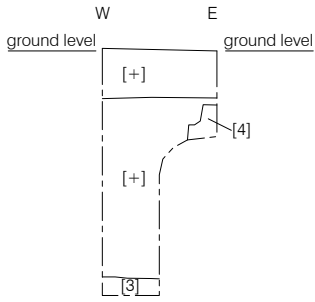


**Plate 3: Test Pit 6.**

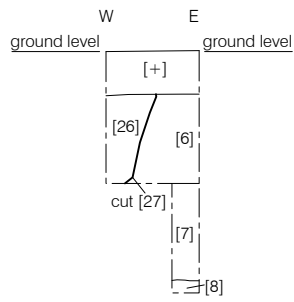




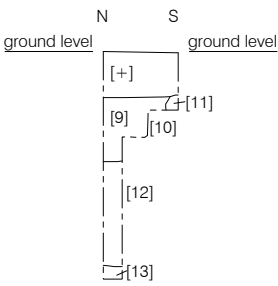
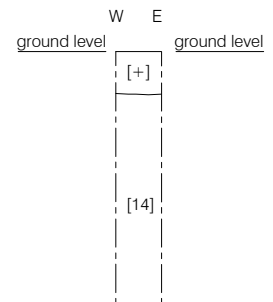




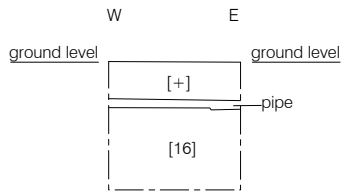
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Test Pit 1  
South Facing



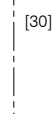
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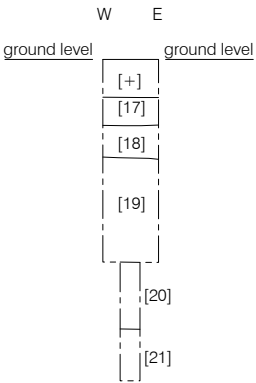
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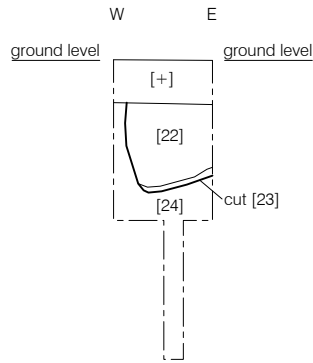
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Test Pit 4  
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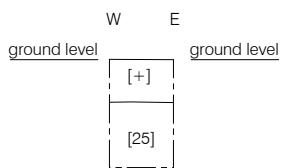
Section 4  
Borehole 1



Section 6  
Test Pit 5  
South Facing



Section 7  
Test Pit 6  
South Facing



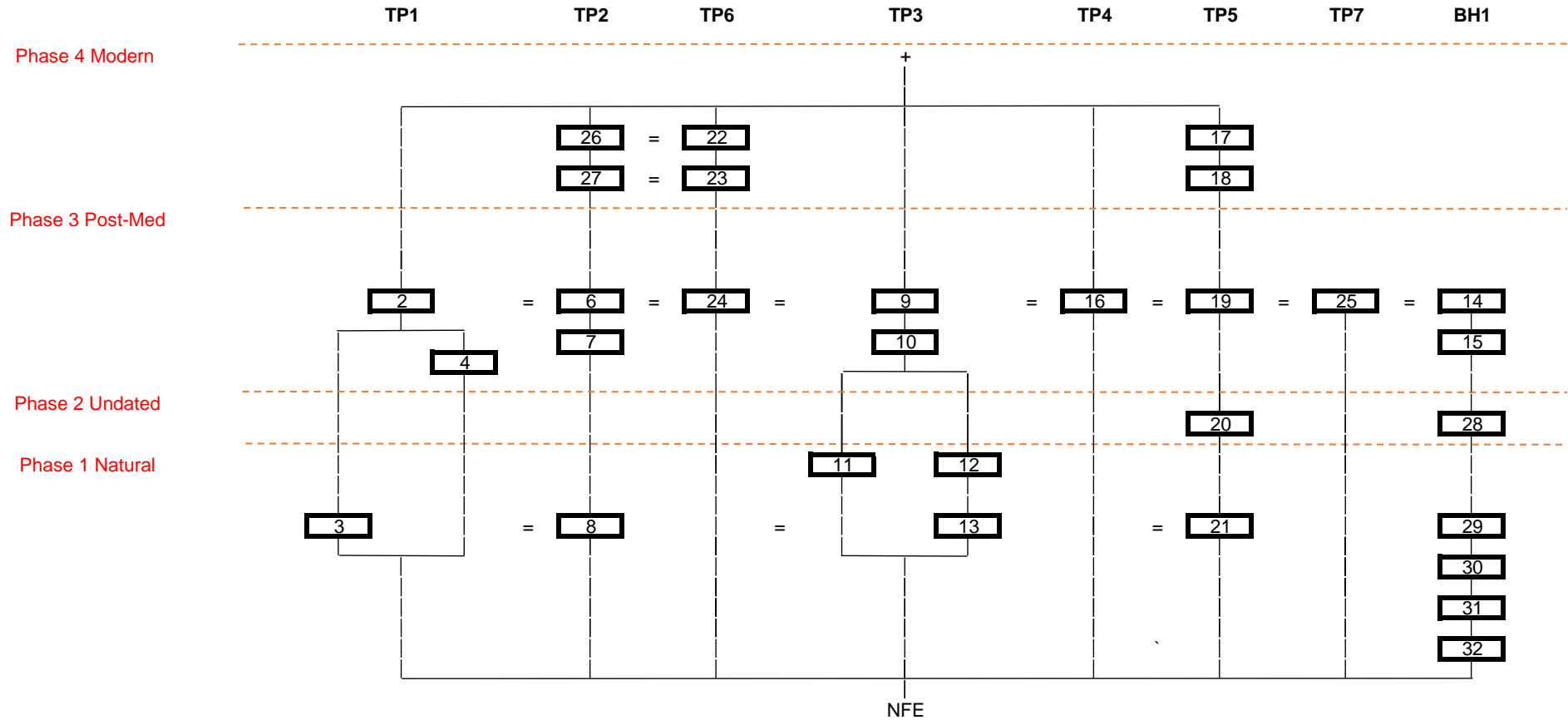
Section 8  
Test Pit 7  
South Facing



## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Typology of Context	Context Number	Minimum depth (m BGL)	Maximum depth (m BGL)
Made Ground	2,6,9,14,16,19,24,25	0.20	0.24
Made Ground	15	1.50	
Made Ground	17	0.20	
Made Ground	20	1.06	
Made Ground	28	2.8	
Masonry	4	0.3	0.49
Masonry	10	0.31	0.68
Masonry	11	0.30	
Masonry	18	0.35	
Concrete Foundation	7	0.70	
Concrete Foundation	12	0.58	
Foundation Cut	23/27	0.22	0.70
Alluvial Deposit	29	4	
Alluvial Deposit	30	5.8	
Alluvial Deposit	31	7.6	
London Clay	32		9.20

## APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



### APPENDIX 3: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Spot Dates of Ceramic Building Material, 74 Union Street, Southwark, London (UIS19)

Amparo Valcarcel, January 2019

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
4	3032R	Post-great fire narrow and unfrogged brick	2	1666	1900	1666	1900	1800-1900	No mortar
10	3035	Yellow London stock brick (unfrogged)	1	1770	1940	1770	1940	1800-1900	No mortar
28	UNK	Small and abraded sandy fabric	1					Undatable	No mortar

## APPENDIX 4: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-342850

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### Project details

Project name	74 Union Street, Southwark, London
Short description of the project	Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Site Investigation
Project dates	Start: 23-01-2019 End: 01-02-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	UIS19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Test-Pit Survey"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 74 Union Street, Southwark
Postcode	SE1 1SG
Study area	300 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 32236 80063 51.50351169606 -0.094522562242 51 30 12 N 000 05 40 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Southwark Council
Project design originator	Archaeology Collective
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Cecilia Galleano
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Entered by	Zbigniew Pozorski (zpozorski@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	15 February 2019



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