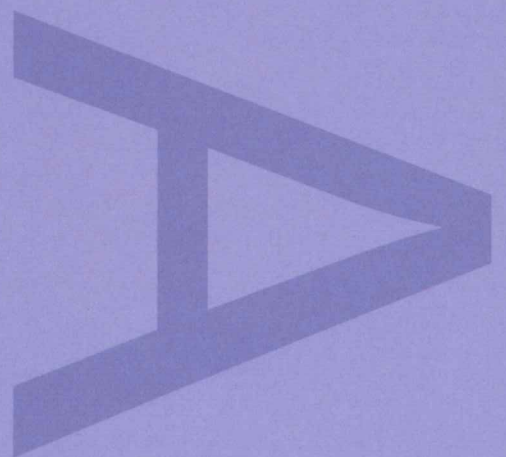
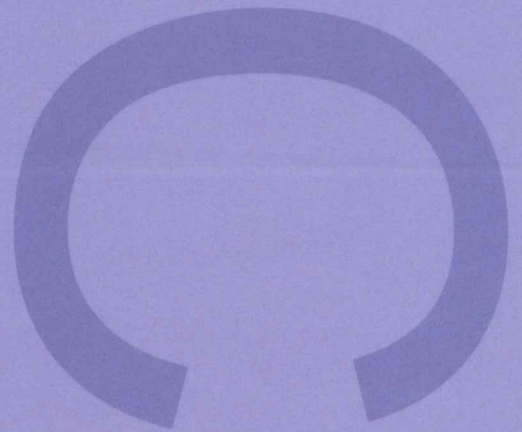
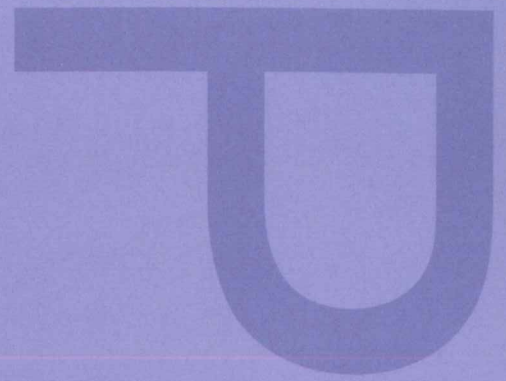


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF AT 118-128  
TOWER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, SE1**



**JANUARY 2008**

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

Land At 118-128 Tower Bridge Road,  
London Borough Of Southwark, SE1

Type of project

Archaeological Watching Brief

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road,  
London Borough of Southwark, SE1.**

**Site Code: TXB 07**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3335 7933  
Written by Iain Bright  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2007**

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July 2007**

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# 1 ABSTRACT

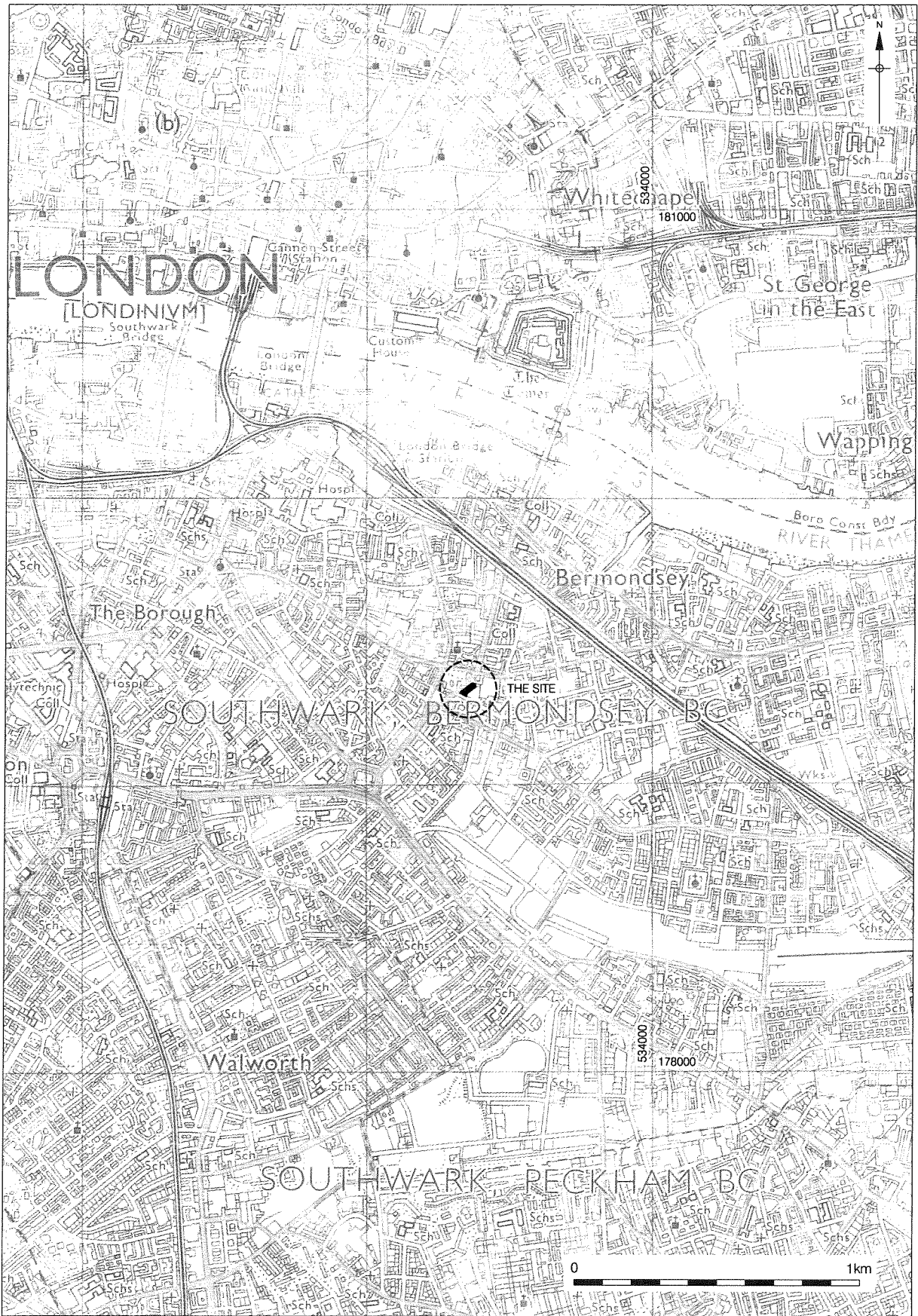
- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between the 14th May and 18th July 2007 at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road, Bermondsey, London Borough of Southwark, SE1, by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited in advance of the proposed works intended to improve amenities and security around housing located on the site. The watching brief was commissioned by Simon Boden on behalf of Wandle Housing Association.
- 1.2 Work carried out at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road, Bermondsey, consisted of the building of a section of new wall along Grove Walk (**Area 1**), the removal of the old bin enclosures located within three property dividing pathways (**Area 2**) landscaping of land at the southern end of the site (**Area 3**), the installation of new hoop railing located in the property gardens and around new bin enclosures (**Area 4**) and the construction of a new access from Long Walk adjacent to the White Bear public house (disused), requiring that the existing access to be blocked off and new steps and a retaining wall be built (**Area 5**).
- 1.3 In **Area 1** the ground was excavated adjacent to the location of the new wall, up to 1m deep into the topsoil and fill beneath. Works in **Area 2** consisted of the removal of the old bin enclosures located within the three pathways, exposing 0.15m of topsoil. The landscaping in **Area 3** exposed flagstones and 0.10m of topsoil, **Area 4** saw the construction of 57 postholes for the installation of hoop railings along a series of paths around the property gardens and the new bin enclosures and **Area 5** involved the excavation of 0.44m of ground exposing 0.20m of topsoil and 0.24m of modern brick rubble, in preparation for the installation of the new step access.
- 1.4 Generally the soil consisted of shallow topsoil located beneath the grass or paved surface, with a mixture of brick rubble fill and sand exposed in the 1m deep area excavated for the construction of the wall towards the southern end of the site.
- 1.5 No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed in any area excavated on this site. A few type-3035 yellow stock bricks dating from c1770-1850 were observed within the brick rubble fill in **Area 1**, and some CBM and ceramic fragments dating to approximately the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century was noted within the topsoil in **Area 4**.

1.6 In summary the watching brief found no archaeological deposits or features dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval period due to the shallow nature of the landscaping works carried out.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road, Bermondsey, London Borough of Southwark, SE1, which took place between the 14th May and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007. The watching brief was commissioned by Simon Boden on behalf of Wandle Housing Association.
- 2.2 The site at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road (see Figures 1 and 2) is currently occupied by residential flats fronting on to Tower Bridge Road with gardens to the rear. The site is bounded to the north by Long Walk, and to the south by Grange Walk. The works undertaken were for the purpose of improving the amenities and security around the building, and included the removal of the existing bin enclosures on Tower Bridge Road and the construction of new bin enclosures to the rear of the flats. The new bin enclosures were enclosed by now hoop railings. Additional work consisted of the construction of a new section of wall along Grange Walk and the provision of new access from Long Walk which required new steps and a retaining wall to be built.
- 2.3 An archaeological desktop assessment of land at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road (Douglas 2007) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Moore 2007) was prepared and agreed prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3335 7933.
- 2.5 The site was given the code TXB 07.
- 2.6 The site was monitored by Steven Brindle, English Heritage, and Chris Constable, London Borough of Southwark. The site was project managed by Peter Moore and the watching brief was variously carried out by Berni Sudds, Peter Moore and the author.





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Figure 1  
 Site location  
 1:20,000 at A4

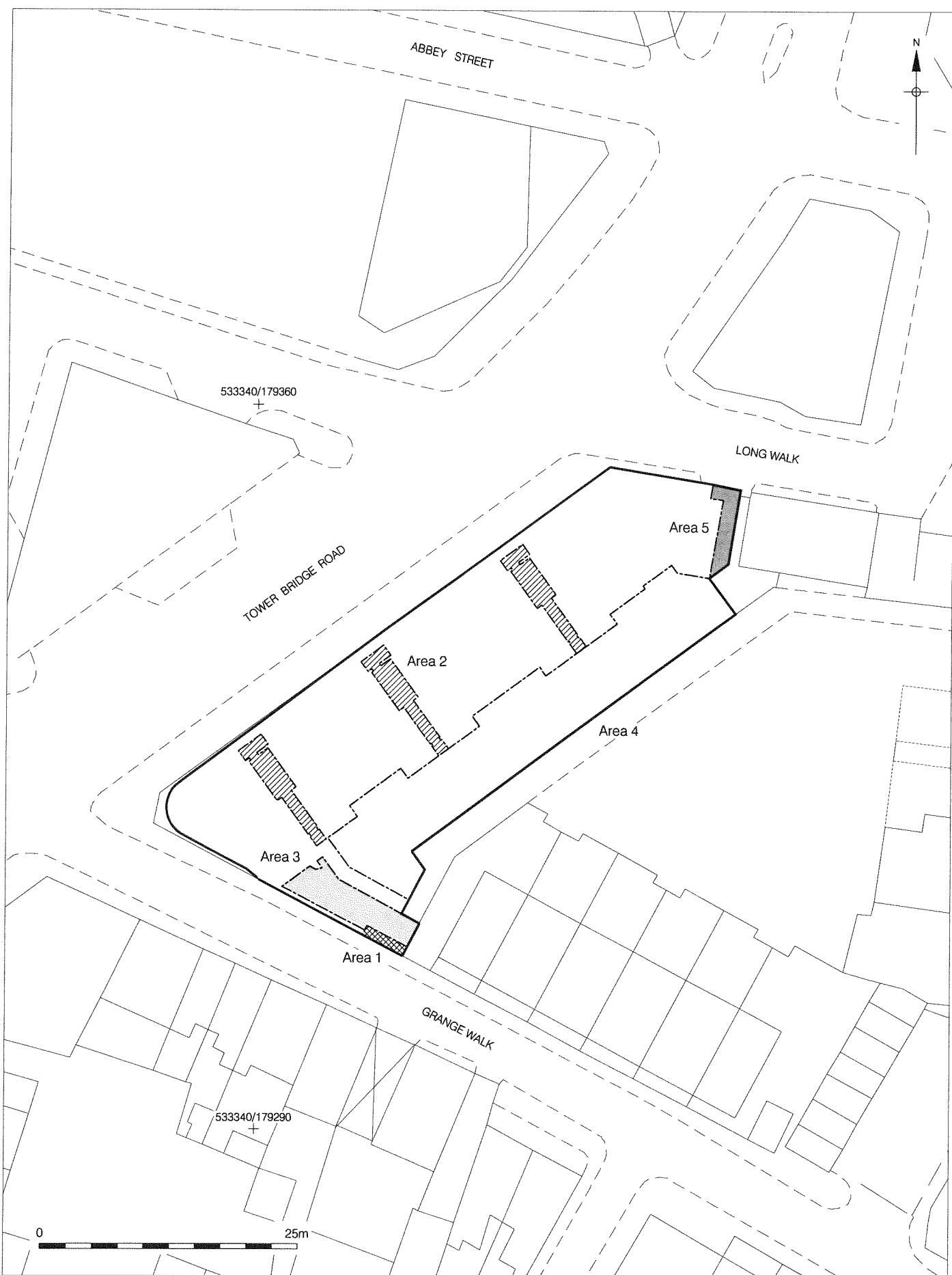


Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:500 at A4

### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOUTHWARK AND THE UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (UDP)

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Southwark, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Borough's 'Unitary Development Plan' 1995 (soon to be replaced by the 'Southwark Plan'), and the draft archaeology policy, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.1.2 The proposed development of the site is subject to the Council's Archaeology Policy:

*OBJECTIVE E.5:*

*TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING AND DISPLAY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE*

*3.62 The archaeological heritage of the borough includes historic centres and ancient monuments, archaeological sites and areas of geology and topography especially attractive for early settlement and is of national international significance. Many sites and finds in Southwark, particularly those from the Roman, Medieval and Elizabethan periods are very well known, and the Council will do all that it can to assist in their preservation, protection and display for all to enjoy.*

*Sites of Archaeological Importance*

*POLICY E.5.1:*

*The Council will seek to conserve and protect the borough's archaeological heritage and to enhance the knowledge of its historical development. The policy will apply to sites of potential archaeological importance, where ancient remains are threatened by development.*

*(i) The Council will expect the applicant to provide information to enable an assessment of the impact of a proposed development on the potential archaeology of the site. This would usually be desk-based information and would be expected prior to the determination of a planning application.*

*(ii) Where there are likely to be important remains on a site, which may merit preservation in situ, then the results of an archaeological field evaluation will, if feasible, be required prior to the determination of a planning application.*

*(iii) Where the evaluation reveals important remains their protection and preservation will be the primary objective. This can be achieved by redesigning the proposed development and by foundation modification.*

*(iv) Where important archaeological remains cannot be preserved, or where remains do not merit preservation, then the Council will use planning conditions to ensure excavation and recording of the remains prior to redevelopment, i.e. preservation by record.*

*(v) Archaeological investigations are to be undertaken by recognized archaeological field unit to a written specification. These will need to be approved by the Council prior to commencement of any work.*

*Reason:*

*3.63 To protect Southwark's archaeological heritage, which includes remains of national importance. These remains are under constant threat from proposed developments and the policy will ensure their protection through the planning process. The Council considers that the archaeology of the borough is a community asset and that its preservation is a legitimate objective, against which the needs of development must be balanced and assessed.*

*Implementation:*

*3.64 By application of the Council's statutory development control powers and by planning and other legal agreements. This policy applies to all sites within the defined Archaeological Priority Zones and, in addition, the Council will apply this policy as appropriate to sites of potential archaeological importance outside these zones. The Department of the Environment has also issued comprehensive guidance (Planning Policy Guidance 16, "Archaeology and Planning" November 1990). See also Policy R.2.2: Planning Agreements.*

*3.65 The Proposals Map and Schedule identify Archaeological Priority Zones at: Borough/Bermondsey/Riverside (Proposal 1); Old Kent Road (Proposal 51); Elephant & Castle/Kennington Park Road (Proposal 60); Walworth (Proposal 63); Camberwell (Proposal 102); Peckham (Proposal 113); Dulwich Village (Proposal 152).*

- 3.1.3 The site falls within Borough/Bermondsey/Riverside Archaeological Priority Zones as set out in Southwarks Unitary Development Plan.

- 3.1.4 The Southwark UDP mirrors advice contained in the Department of Environment document 'Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)'. This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of the construction schemes upon buried archaeological strata.

### **3.2 SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT**

- 3.2.1 The site lies within the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (GL 165) of Bermondsey Abbey. The monument consists of the medieval Cluniac Priory (later the Benedictine Abbey) of St Saviour and the post-medieval 'mansion' house of Sir Thomas Pope.
- 3.2.2 The works conducted on this site required and were granted Scheduled Monument Consent.

## 4 GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The following information is a summary taken from the desktop assessment prepared on the site prior to the fieldwork (Douglas 2007). The site lies some 750m to the south of the River Thames. During the prehistoric and Roman periods the site was on a low-lying sand island or eyot surrounded by abraded water-courses (channels and tributaries associated with the River Thames), marshes and mud flats on the flood plain of the Thames.
- 4.2 The Geological Survey of Great Britain, South London, Sheet 270 shows the underlying drift geology in the vicinity of the site as Quaternary period River Terrace sand and gravels. The sand and gravel, 4.50m to 6.0m thick, overlies the solid geology of Woolwich and Reading Beds
- 4.3 The OD level on the sands and gravel reported in the excavations carried out on the site during the 1980's was a potential maximum height of 2.10m OD but because of extensive truncation by human and natural forces the average height was at c. 1.90m OD. During excavations carried out by PCA on Bermondsey Square (BYQ98) (Figure 4) natural sands and gravels were encountered at 2.06m OD on the area of land immediately to the north of the White Bear public house, while on land to the west of Tower Bridge Road natural was at between 1.88m OD and 1.25m OD.
- 4.4 Today the site is on relatively flat land at c. 4.10m OD.

(Douglas 2007)

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The following information is a summary taken from the desktop assessment prepared on the site prior to the fieldwork (Douglas 2007). In order to assess the potential of the archaeology within the area of development an examination of all archaeological entries in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) has been made within a 100m radius of the site.
- 5.1.2 The intention of the SMR search is to locate known archaeological sites and to predict and extrapolate the likely archaeological conditions within the development areas from finds made nearby. This information is supplemented by other archaeological, documentary, and cartographic sources.
- 5.1.3 The first serious study of Bermondsey Abbey was undertaken by J C Buckler between 1810-20 AD when he surveyed the remains of the abbey and 16<sup>th</sup> century 'mansion' house that replaced it. D Corbett and W F Grimes conducted the first modern archaeological investigation of the abbey in 1954 and in 1962-3 on the north side of Abbey Street, where they exposed the northern part of the eastern end of the abbey church (Grimes 1968).
- 5.1.4 The site itself was archaeologically investigated during excavations (BA 84) undertaken by the Department of Greater London Archaeology (DGLA) between 1984 and 1988. The footprint of the buildings at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road fall within an area almost completely unexcavated but it was cleaned and recorded at the level where the first archaeological features were revealed. The exposed features were preserved in situ and the trench backfilled prior to the construction of the houses, which now occupy the site (Steele and Sloane in prep).
- 5.1.5 Since 1998 extensive archaeological excavations have also taken place and are continuing opposite 118-128 Tower Bridge Road at Bermondsey Square (BYQ98). Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out these excavations and the initial results have been detailed in several client reports (Divers 1998, Mayo 2002, and Douglas 2006).
- 5.1.6 The SMR search revealed other recent archaeological investigations in the locality where significant remains have been found. They include excavations at The Trocette (TRE91) on the corner of Bermondsey Square and Tower Bridge Road, at the corner

of Bermondsey Street and Tower Bridge Road (TOB95), at 207-208 Grange Road and at the Watch House, Saint Mary Magdalen Churchyard, Bermondsey Street (BNY98).

## **5.2 Prehistoric**

- 5.2.1 No evidence for prehistoric activity was unearthed within the study site but on adjacent land to the east (BA84) residual struck and fire cracked flints were recovered from Roman and later features.
- 5.2.2 Excavations at Bermondsey Square (BYQ98) have also recovered some prehistoric pottery as well as struck flints although much of this material is also likely to be residual.
- 5.2.3 Despite the residuality of the prehistoric finds it seems likely that the eyot at Bermondsey was an area of settlement from at least the Bronze Age.

## **5.3 Roman**

- 5.3.1 No evidence for Roman activity was found within the study site during the excavations of the 1980's, but on the land adjacent and to the east Roman pits and ditches were unearthed.
- 5.3.2 At Bermondsey Square Roman features and deposits were encountered right across the site including pits, postholes, ditches, gullies, a timber lined well, and traces of clay-and-timber buildings. Roman finds included pottery, brick, tile, bone hairpins, a copper-alloy ring, a copper alloy brooch, and an iron latch.
- 5.3.3 To the west of the site at The Trocette (TRE91) Roman ceramics were recovered from an east/west running ditch, a gully on the same alignment and from a pit. Further evidence for Roman occupation was unearthed at the nearby excavations at the corner of Bermondsey Street/Tower Bridge Road (TOB95) where two east/west aligned ditches and two inhumations were discovered.
- 5.3.4 To the south of the site residual Roman pottery was also found at 207-208 Grange Road (GNG96).
- 5.3.5 There is clearly evidence for Roman occupation in the vicinity of the site and this is probably an under representation in the archaeological record because of extensive



later disturbance which would have occurred during the construction of the Abbey and the robbing of the Abbey foundations during the post-dissolution period.

#### **5.4 Early Medieval**

5.4.1 The name '*Beourmund's ey*' is thought to be of Saxon origin and the *Liber Niger* of Peterborough, in which Pope Constantine addresses Haedda as abbot of *Vermundsei* (Bermondsey) suggests that a minster church occupied the site in the Middle Saxon period (Steele and Sloane in prep). In the late Saxon period, Bermondsey was a royal manor held by Earl Harold.

5.4.2 Significant quantities of Middle Saxon pottery, 3 sceatta coins, copper-alloy strap ends, ceramic loomweights, bone pin, and antler comb were all recovered during the abbey excavations of 1984-88 (Beard 1986). The finds suggest that there was a significant and prosperous Middle to Late Saxon settlement at Bermondsey (Steele and Sloane in prep, 13).

5.4.3 During the 1984-88 excavations Late Saxon east/west and north/south aligned boundary and enclosure ditches were exposed in land adjacent and to the east of the site. The ditches contained large quantities of burnt daub, which together with large quarry pits also recorded here, testify to buildings in the close proximity.

5.4.4 Saxon pottery was also found at the corner of Bermondsey Street and Tower Bridge Road (TOB95).

5.4.5 At Bermondsey Square, Saxon ditches, gullies and pits were excavated. Pottery from throughout the Saxon period was represented in the ceramic assemblage.

5.4.6 The evidence so far unearthed from excavations in the vicinity of the site indicates continuous settlement at Bermondsey throughout the Saxon period.

#### **5.5 Medieval**

5.5.1 In c. 1086 the Cluniac Priory of St Saviour was founded at Bermondsey. Although no remains for the beginning of the medieval period (1050 AD– 1100 AD) were discovered under 118-128 Tower Bridge Road further to the east masonry foundations with an apsidal east end, interpreted as a possible chapel, drainage ditches, burials and large quarry pits were revealed. These features were all thought to be part of the priory complex (Steele and Sloane in prep).

- 5.5.2 The earliest remains uncovered at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road, includes masonry foundations thought to date to 1100 AD – 1150 AD and associated with the main south cloister and the south cloister range. The cloister walk enclosed the cloister garth to the north and west. In the north of the site, on the south side of the main cloister 4m from the southeast corner were the partial remains of an octagonal structure probably a lavabo. Adjacent to the south side of the cloister walk was the refectory. Parts of the north and south wall foundations of the refectory had survived. These foundations consisted of rammed chalk and gravel. The southern foundations were capped with masonry that had survived to a height of 0.20m. The wall had a chalk rubble core and was faced with greensand, Kentish ragstone and Caen stone. The foundation offset level was at 3.50m OD (Steele and Sloane in prep, 26-27), only 0.60m beneath current ground level. A carved stone head that probably formed part of the sculptural detail of the abbey was recovered from rubble overlying the south wall of the refectory.
- 5.5.3 At the east end of the refectory was a separate room or passage indicated by a robber trench for a north/south wall. This room nearly 5m long may have been a warming room (Ibid, 28). Beyond the passage was the east range. Walls that formed part of the east range survived in places to a height of 3.87m OD.
- 5.5.4 Further to the east beyond the east range of the main cloister were unearthened surviving elements of the infirmary, a second cloister, chapter house, chapel and monastic graveyard (these features are to the east and beyond the area shown in illustration), from which 200 bodies were exhumed.
- 5.5.5 The 12<sup>th</sup> century layout of the south cloisters was thought to have remained unchanged until at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century. During the period 1330 – 1430 the monastery at Bermondsey underwent major changes to its organisation and to its physical layout. In 1380 AD Richard Dunton, the first English prior, was appointed and was probably responsible for a large-scale building campaign. However a further catalyst for the abbey's expansion may have been the raising of the status of St Saviours from a Cluniac Priory to a Benedictine Abbey in 1399.
- 5.5.6 In the area of the study site, the refectory building seems to have undergone a major refurbishment with significant alterations and additions. A new south wall, set 1.3m back from the standing south wall, was built creating a corridor along the length of the building on its south side. New structures were also built against the south wall of the corridor. Parts of the south refectory wall survived to a height of 3.70m OD

- 5.5.7 The south cloisters extended to the west beyond the limits of the site and the edge of the excavated area. The excavations at Bermondsey Square revealed parts of the southwest corner of the south cloister walk. A stretch of north/south wall foundation, to the south of the cloister walk, may indicate the west end of the refectory. The highest level on the masonry remains here were at c. 3.88m OD.
- 5.5.8 As part of the excavations at Bermondsey Square, the 'Island' of land on Long Walk immediately to the north of the site is also being investigated and part of the south transept to the abbey church and the northeast corner of the main cloister have been revealed.
- 5.5.9 At The Trocette, a 6.90m stretch of foundation 1m wide, running east/west, was discovered. These remains were probably part of the abbey precincts wall. To the north of precinct wall the foundations of a single small rectangular room or cell 2.40m x 2.0m were recorded.
- 5.5.10 At the corner of Bermondsey Street and Tower Bridge Road (TOB95) a 10m length of an east/west aligned wall was found constructed from chalk and ragstone bonded with a sandy mortar. An east/west aligned drain was also exposed.
- 5.5.11 Opposite the site at Nos. 5, 6, and 7 Grange Walk stand three Grade II listed houses. Incorporated within these buildings are the remains of a medieval abbey gatehouse, and it is possible that the below ground remains of the gatehouse may extend northwards into the study site.

## **5.6 Post-Medieval**

- 5.6.1 Soon after the Henry VIII dissolution of the monasteries in 1542 AD the abbey buildings and eventually the whole area within the abbey precinct passed into the hands of Sir Thomas Pope. He demolished the abbey church and most of the other monastic buildings and built a large courtyard style house (Bermondsey House) to the south of the church on the site of the main cloistral buildings.
- 5.6.2 The 16<sup>th</sup> century 'mansion' house consisted of a single quadrangle with a separate range running parallel some distance to the east. This was divided into two houses one to the north the other to the south. It is likely that another range connected the south house to the quadrangle to the west (Steele and Sloane, 155).
- 5.6.3 The greater part of the medieval masonry was demolished, the foundations largely robbed out and the building material sold to be reused elsewhere. However some of

the medieval walls of the monastery survived into the post-medieval period because they were incorporated into the 16<sup>th</sup> century 'mansion'. Indeed the south wall of the former medieval refectory appears to coincide with the south wall of a 'Tudor' building surveyed by Buckler in c. 1810-20. This wall may have formed the main court of the house (Steele and Sloane in prep, 158).

- 5.6.4 In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Bermondsey House probably went into a slow decline with the property gradually being sub-divided. Nevertheless, and although ramshackled in appearance, the building remained largely intact until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Schofield 1984, 142).
- 5.6.5 Rocque's map of 1739 AD shows the area of the site lying to the east of King John's Court (later known as Bermondsey Square). The plan of King John's court appears to reflect the layout of the 16<sup>th</sup> century 'mansion' and in turn the monastic cloister. Most of the site straddles an open area that seems to have been used for horticulture. However there are buildings in the north and south of the site fronting onto Long Walk and Grange Walk.
- 5.6.6 Horwood's map of 1812 shows that to the north of the site an east/west running road Abbey Street had now been laid out, although the site itself remained principally unchanged.
- 5.6.7 The OS map of 1872 shows that the central area of the site was still an open area while the southern frontage was taken up with a row of terraced houses. Buildings that enclosed another open area, Bear Yard, occupied the northern part of the site. The northern part of the site was also to the west and adjacent to a public house. Goad's Insurance Plan of 1887 shows that the buildings surrounding Bear Yard were part of a tin ware factory. The cartographic evidence details how the character of Bermondsey had changed during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century from a semi-rural suburb to become a heavily populated urban environment with industry and domestic dwellings placed side by side.
- 5.6.7 The OS map of 1894 shows no significant changes to the layout of the site. However by 1914 the OS map shows a radical transformation of the site. By 1914 Tower Bridge Road had been built adjacent to the western boundary of the site. The row of terraced houses on the southern frontage remained but the buildings in the northern part of the site had been demolished and a new large commercial/industrial building erected. The new building fronted on to Tower Bridge Road and covered most of the site.

The OS map of 1973 shows that the site as open land. The buildings that occupied the site at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were destroyed during the bombing of London in World War II or were torn down soon after.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 A single archaeologist was present during the ground reduction phase of the work to examine the nature of the *in situ* and removed soils, to examine the soils for artefacts and to record the results.
- 6.2 The area of proposed ground works was broken out by the main contractors. The spoil, make-up and any other "modern debris", was removed by the sub-contractor and monitored by an archaeologist, variously Berni Sudds, Peter Moore and the author, with absolute and relative depths recorded. The objective of the Watching Brief was to allow trained archaeologists to identify, record and retrieve (as far as possible) archaeological remains that may be uncovered in the course of a development programme.
- 6.3 In **Area 1** (Figure 2) the observance of works was carried out on the 14th May 2007. Said work consisted of the removal of railings adjacent to the wall on Grove Walk, the excavation of the ground in advance of the installation of footings for the construction of the new wall.
- 6.4 In **Area 2** (Figure 2) works were observed between the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007 and the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and consisted of the removal of the old bin enclosures located primarily at the end of the three property dividing pathways.
- 6.5 In **Area 3** (Figure 2) landscaping took place on land immediately north of the construction of the new wall (Area 1). This was observed between the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007.
- 6.6 In **Area 4** (Figure 2) intermittent monitoring was undertaken between 12th - 19th June 2007 of the digging of post holes for new hoop railing that was gradually installed along the boundaries of the property gardens and around the location of the new bin enclosures.
- 6.7 In **Area 5** (Figure 2) work on the development of the new stepped access from Long Walk was monitored on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Work was observed prior to the installation of the steps, with excavations having been taken to their intended limit of depth.
- 6.8 The single context system was used for recording and sketch plans were made of work conducted in Area's 1 and 4.

6.9 The site is based on relatively flat land at c. 4.10m OD. All recorded depths contained within this report can be calculated roughly from this known level.

## 7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 In relation to **Area 1** of the site, excavation of the ground was carried out to a depth of 1m below present ground surface. Excavation was conducted with a small mechanical digger. Made ground was observed adjacent to and encompassing the area excavated. The made ground consisted of greyish brown silty sand, and was topped with 0.10m of sand for paving slabs or topsoil/grass turf. Further make-up of the trench consisted of a brick rubble/polystyrene fill. Yellow stock 3035 bricks were observed, which are a relatively modern variety dating from c1770-1850.
- 7.2 The total length of the wall (including the rebuild) consisted of 4.32m. The north facing section contained reinforced steel rafting and concrete. Protruding into the trench was a concrete block - relating to old services - starting at 0.35m below ground surface and continuing below the 1m depth. Concrete foundations were also observed at the eastern and western extremes of the area within which work on the new wall was being conducted.
- 7.3 Work observed in **Area 2** involved the removal of the old bin enclosures located at the Tower Bridge Road end of the property dividing pathways and the replacement of existing access gates to said pathways from the eastern side of the properties. During these works a total of 0.15m of turf and topsoil was exposed. No archaeological deposits or features were observed.
- 7.4 The landscaping of **Area 3** was conducted following excavations made during the construction of the wall in Area 1. During the course of this work it was observed that a number of flagstones and approximately 0.10m of topsoil were removed by workmen. No significant archaeological deposits or features were noted.
- 7.5 Works conducted in **Area 4** consisted of the digging of postholes and the erection of hoop railing along the pathways around the property gardens and area of new bin enclosures. A total of 57 postholes were dug within this area each measuring approximately 0.25m x 0.25m with a maximum depth of 0.35m. The postholes were cut through the turf and topsoil, which consisted of soft brown sandy silt with some sub-rounded to sub-angular pebble inclusions. Occasional CBM and ceramic fragments were observed, all modern in nature (19th-20th century). Once the construction of individual hoop railing was established the postholes were backfilled and work continued in this way in a southerly direction.
- 7.6 The construction of the new step access in **Area 5** involved the removal of paving stones, revealing 0.20m of topsoil, followed by 0.24m of brick rubble (modern yellow



unfrogged stock bricks contained therein). The excavated area observed measured 1.72m (E-W) and 0.70 - 0.92m (N-S), with a maximum overall depth of 0.44m.

## 8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Principle aim and objective of this archaeological watching brief was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period, but in particular any activity relating to the medieval Cluniac Priory (later the Benedictine Abbey) of St Saviour and the post-medieval 'mansion' house of Sir Thomas Pope.
- 8.2 The earliest archaeological material noted in **Area 1** consisted of the 3035 yellow stock bricks - dated to between c1770 - 1850 - which were located within a layer of modern brick rubble beneath the topsoil. No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed whilst work took place within this area.
- 8.3 Due to the relatively shallow nature of the posthole cut into the turf and topsoil of the property gardens in **Area 2, 3 & 4**, the only archaeological remains observed were modern in nature, consisting of CBM and ceramic fragments dating from the 19th-20th centuries. No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed whilst work took place within this area.
- 8.4 Likewise excavations in **Area 5** revealed only modern topsoil and brick rubble due to their relatively shallow depth.
- 8.5 In sum, the works carried out at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road, Bermondsey, did not require excavation to the level at which any medieval or post medieval deposits or features could be observed and recorded.
- 8.6 Due to the shallow nature of excavation works on site no archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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- 9.2 The author would like to thank Alistair Douglas, Berni Sudds and Peter Moore for their assistance on site and with the compilation of and analysis of notes made during the watching brief, respectively. In addition thanks go to Peter Moore for his project management and editing. Thanks also to Hayley Baxter for the CAD illustrations.

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## APPENDIX 1 – OASIS FORM

### 1. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

1.1.1. Printable version

1.2. OASIS ID: preconst1-36374

#### Project details

Project name	118-128 Tower Bridge Road
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief on landscaping works around block of flats.
Project dates	Start: 14-05-2007 End: 18-07-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	TXB 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	MODERN LANDSCAPING Modern
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Estate management (i.e. maintenance of existing structures and landscape by capital works and on-going maintenance)
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England  
Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY  
ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK 118-128 Tower Bridge  
Road  
Postcode SE1  
Study area 1080.00 Square metres  
Site coordinates TQ 3335 7933 51.4966615815 -0.07875696222530 51 29 47  
N 000 04 43 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning  
Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Peter Moore  
Project director/manager Peter Moore  
Project supervisor Iain Bright  
Type of sponsor/funding body Wandle Housing Association  
Name of sponsor/funding body Wandle Housing Association

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient LAARC  
Digital Contents 'Survey'  
Digital Media available 'Text'

Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Plan','Report','Survey ','Unpublished Text'
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 118-128 Tower Bridge Road, Londn Borough of Southwark, SE1.
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**2. OASIS:**

Please e-mail [English Heritage](mailto:English.Heritage@ahds.ac.uk) for OASIS help and advice

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