

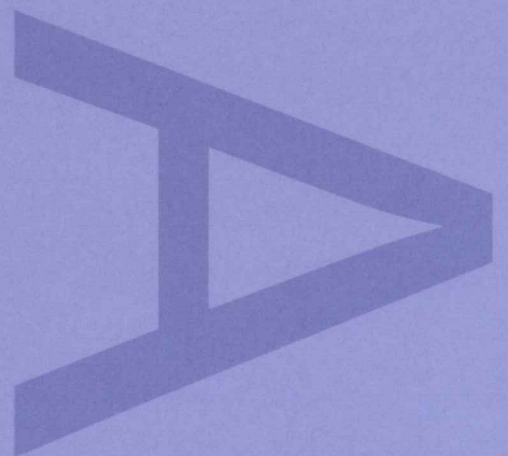
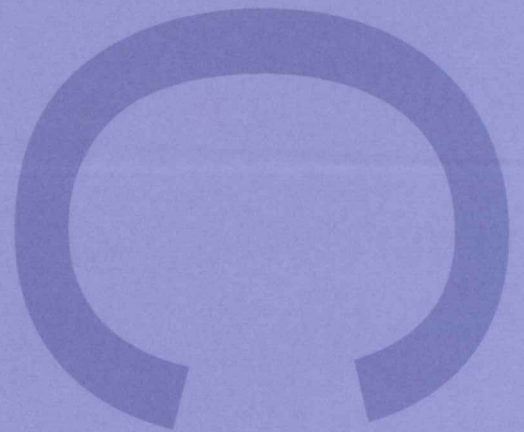
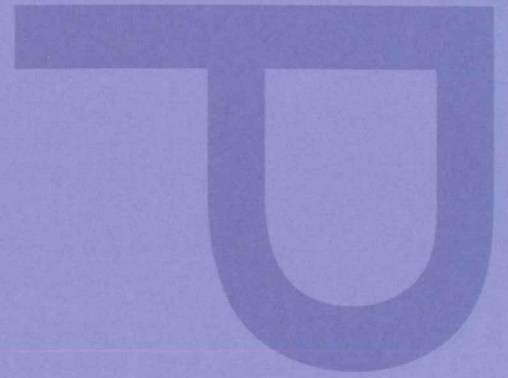
56 STAMFORD STREET

LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

WATCHING BRIEF

AUGUST 2004

SFE 04



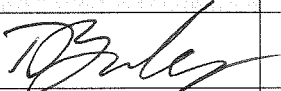

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

56 Stamford Street,
London Borough of Southwark SE1

Watching Brief

Quality Control

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56 Stamford Street, London Borough of Southwark SE1

Watching Brief

Site Code: SFE 04

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3141 8039

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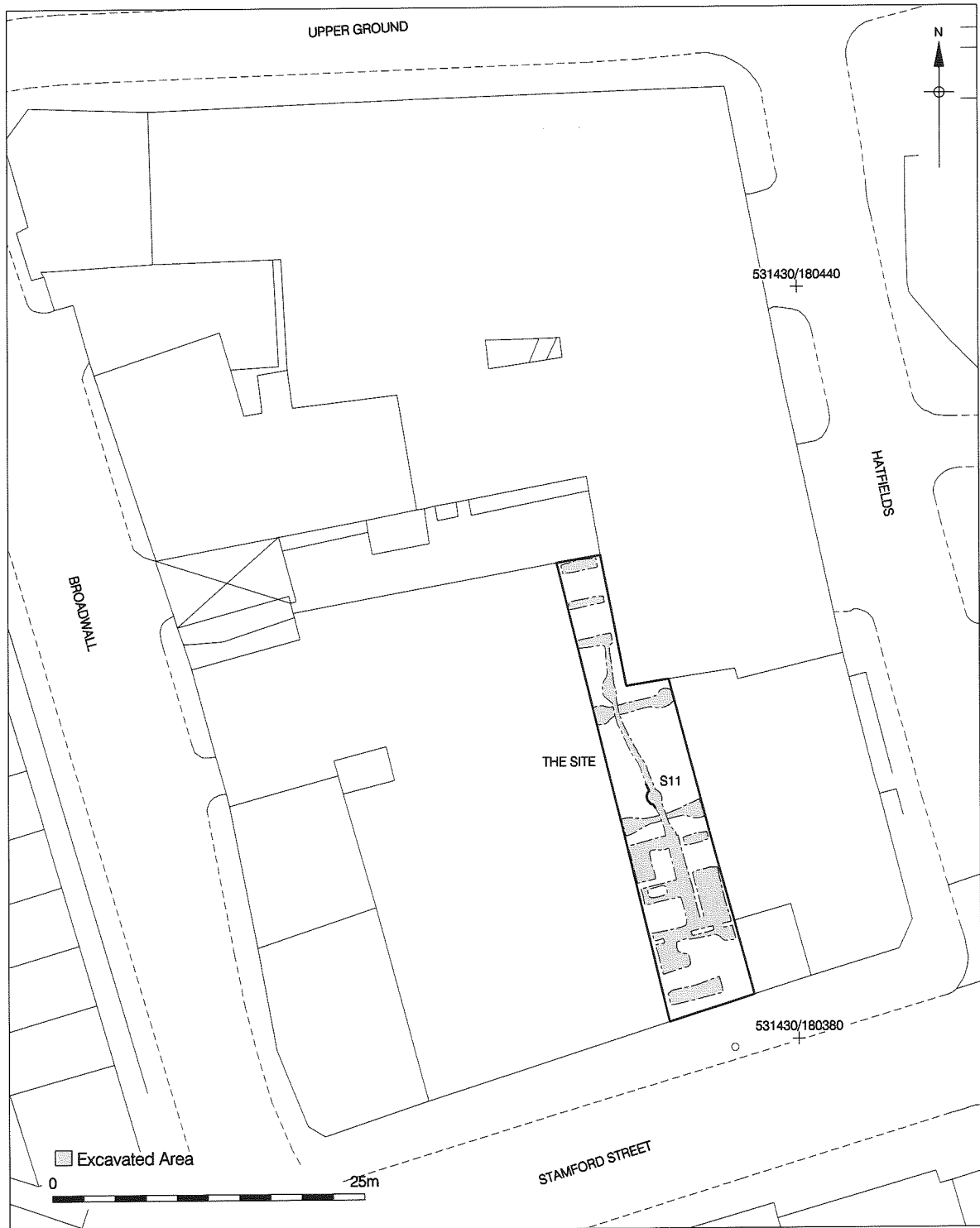
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between 28th July to 11th August at 56 Stamford Street, London Borough of Southwark, SE1.
- 1.2 The areas for ground reduction were located within the confines of the standing building at 56 Stamford Street and concerned the excavation of ground beam trenches. The trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of c. 600mm below basement level.
- 1.3 The watching brief revealed evidence of an undated brown clay deposit of probable alluvial origin sealed by an 18th century layers consistent through out the site, this was generally sealed by layer of modern make-up/consolidation layers up to the present basement level.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 56 Stamford Street, London Borough of Southwark, SE1 between 28th July and 11th August 2004. The work was commissioned by Manik Rahman of Orange Enterprise Ltd. The site was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Jim Leary and supervised by Tony Baxter and Chris Pickard.
- 2.2 The site lies within an archaeological priority area as defined by Southwark Council's Unitary Development Plan.
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3141 8039 and it was given the site code SFE 04.
- 2.4 The areas of excavation were located within the basement of the standing building at 56 Stamford Street, Southwark. The site is bound to the east by Hatfield Street, to the north by a road called Upper Ground, to the west by Broad Street and to the south by Stamford Street.
- 2.5 The ground beam trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of c. 600mm. Drain runs and manholes were dug to a depth of c. 1m-1.30m.



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning Policy Guidance Note 16

- 3.1.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning'. It provided guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 The advice states 'the desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining planning applications whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled. Developers and local authorities should take into account archaeological considerations and deal with them from the beginning of the development control process' (paragraph 18).
- 3.1.3 It also states 'where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation' (paragraph 8).

3.2 Archaeology in Southwark

- 3.2.1 The site is located within the Archaeological Priority Zone of Borough/Bermondsey/Riverside as defined in the London Borough of Southwark's Unitary Development Plan.
- 3.2.2 The Council's Archaeology Policy is as follows:

OBJECTIVE E.5: TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING AND DISPLAY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

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 and international significance. Many finds and sites in Southwark, particularly those from the Roman, Medieval and Elizabethan periods are very well known, and the Council will do all it can to assist in their preservation, protection and display for all to enjoy.

POLICY E.5.1: The Council will seek to conserve and protect the Borough's archaeological heritage and to enhance the knowledge of its historic development. The Policy will apply to sites of potential archaeological importance where ancient remains are threatened by development.

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

Where there is potential for 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

Where the evaluation reveals important remains their protection and preservation will be the primary objective. This can be achieved by re-designing the proposed development and by foundation modification.

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.

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

Reason: 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: 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 the zones. The Department of the Environment has also issued comprehensive guidance (Planning Policy Guidance 16, 'Archaeology and Planning' November 1990). See also POLICY B.3.3: Community Benefit.

The Proposals Map and Schedule identify Archaeological Priority Zones at:

- Borough/Bermondsey/Rotherhithe (proposal 1)
- Old Kent Road (Proposal 72)
- Elephant and Castle/Kennington Park Road (Proposal 85)
- Walworth (Proposal 90)
- Camberwell (Proposal 144)
- Peckham (Proposal 160)
- Dulwich Village (Proposal 205)

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 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 glacial episode. These conditions have largely determined the nature of settlement in the area through time. The surface geology of north Southwark is formed by Flood plain (Pleistocene) gravels and, in places, alluvial sand or clay, deposited as sea levels periodically rose during the post-glacial period (periods of so-called 'marine transgression'). The surface height of the alluvial material varies according to the level of the underlying deposits. Post-glacial sea-level changes in the lower Thames estuary also account for the formation of organic peats, during periods of relative sea-level fall (so-called 'marine regression') (Tyers 1988, 5).
- 4.2 At Hopton Street c. 100m to the east of the site (Ridgeway 1999, 72-6) natural gravels were located at between 0.10m OD to 0.24m OD. The gravels were overlain by a mid greyish brown fine sand to a thickness of at least 1.2m located at a top height of 0.99m OD to the north of the site sloping down to 0.85m OD in the south. In places the sand had been truncated by fluvial activity and later intrusions.
- 4.3 At the time of the Roman Conquest in AD 43 a broad 'main channel' existed between the north bank of the Thames, some 100m to the north of the modern city waterfront, and a south bank lying close to the modern riverfront of north Southwark. Evidence from numerous archaeological investigations, in addition to data collected from engineering trial pits and boreholes, has established that to the south of the 'main channel' the river crossed north Southwark in braided channels intersecting islands or eyots of land, with surfaces no higher than c. +1.8m OD (Heard *et al.* 1990, 609). The margins of the eyots existed as tidal mudflats or marshland, exposed at low tide but subject to diurnal flooding. Examination of the flora suggests that sedges and rushes covered the mudflats and alder dominated the sand islands. A northern and south island have been identified in Southwark, divided by 'Southwark Street Channel', with 'Guy's Channel' to the east, 'Bankside Channel' to the west and 'Borough Channel' to the south of the southern island.
- 4.4 Environmental evidence suggest that the Thames may have been tidal as far as London. The tidal range at the time has been estimated as between c. +1.50m OD (high tide) and c. -1.0m OD (low tide) (Milne, 1995, 39). During the mid 1st century AD, the ground surface in the vicinity of the study site would probably be at the same level as that located at 47-67 Hopton Street located just to the east of the study site at c.

1m OD. Although the ground surface would be above the mean High Water Mark level it would be possibly prone to occasional flooding. Depending on their precise location and height some of the relatively elevated spot surfaces may also have been flooded during exceptionally high tides. At South Point, Blackfriars Road a recent watching brief identified the presence of natural gravels, overlain by natural peat and alluvial silt clays that were presumably filling the Bankside channel (Darton and Taylor 2002).

- 4.5 The Roman period was marked by a fall in sea level in the Thames region that had begun around the time of the Claudian invasion (Brigham 1990). The resulting marine regression (Devoy 1979) continued to c. AD 300, affected the London region as a whole as the south bank's topography had always been a limiting factor in urban development. The fall in sea level made marginal land available for exploitation and resulted in the drying up of former channels which were abandoned, backfilled and built over. Evidence for land reclamation and backfilling of channels has been recorded at numerous sites around Borough High Street Yule (1988) and Hunt's House Guy's Hospital (Taylor-Wilson 2002) to the new Wolfson Wing (Pickard forthcoming).
- 4.6 From the late Roman era onwards, sea-levels rose due to a marine transgression, and the vicinity of the site would have been prone to periodic riverine inundation. By the 14th century, riverside embankments had been constructed to defend Southwark and north Lambeth, although the area was still subjected to occasional flooding due to its low-lying nature.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 *Prehistoric*

5.1.1 Although flint tools and flakes from the Palaeolithic have been found in Southwark, the majority of the earlier prehistoric finds are mainly Neolithic. Mesolithic camps possibly dating to as early as 8,000-6,000 BC has been located adjacent to the line of the Old Kent Road on the edge of the relatively high flood plain gravel close to the margins of the wetlands nearer to the Thames (Sheldon 2000, 128).

5.1.2 It is clear from a number of excavations across north Southwark that organised agriculture, represented by ploughing, was undertaken in the area by the Early Bronze Age. Such evidence has been encountered at Hopton Street, near Blackfriars Bridge (Ridgeway *ibid.*) where not only ard-marks were recovered but postholes from circular timber structures. A subsoil and associated plough soil produced a large assemblage of lithics including both struck and burnt flint as well as animal bone and pottery. The finds suggested a predominantly Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age assemblage, with a smaller Mesolithic to Early Neolithic component. The Late neolithic material included the complete burial of a beaker bowl of a type more commonly found in southern Europe.

5.1.3 Further ard-marks were located to the south at Tabard Square (Killock *forthcoming*) and at Hunt's House, Guy's Hospital where two technological traditions were located indicating flint working in the Later Mesolithic, and the Later Neolithic and Bronze Age (Taylor-Wilson 2002, 6).

5.1.3 A cluster of sites on the eyot at Horsleydown near Tower Bridge including the recent excavations at 169 Tower Bridge Road (Pickard *forthcoming*) have produced a substantial body of evidence for Bronze Age agricultural activity including an actual fragment of an ard (a plough share) at Three Oak Lane (Proctor *forthcoming*). The ard-marks have been located at between c 0.20-0.60m OD across Southwark generally close to the margins of ancient islands that as sea levels rose during the Bronze Age, were sealed by a widespread deposition of estuarine silts (Sheldon *ibid.*).

5.1.4 As stated above there is direct evidence for agricultural activity of Bronze Age date at Hopton Street although the site appears to be abandoned at this period due to rising sea levels. The Bronze age material at Hopton Street were sealed by a 0.35m thick deposit of pre-Roman silts that in turn were overlain by over a metre of brown clay

containing Roman and medieval material.

- 5.1.5 Abraded pottery and flints of Bronze Age date were also found at 106–114 Borough High Street, lithics and prehistoric features were also recorded at 120-124 Borough High Street which broadly indicates activity of this period in the area. Concentrations of flint tools of Mesolithic and Early Bronze Age date have also been recovered in Southwark. A round post-built structure dated to between the Late Neolithic and Late pre-Roman Iron Age was located at site F at the Courage Brewery excavation as well as flints and pottery of Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date associated with a series of pits, post holes and a ditch cut (Hammer 2003).
- 5.1.5 Bronze Age and Iron Age burial evidence is extremely limited in Southwark and includes an Early Bronze Age round barrow at Fenning's Wharf that contained cremated human bone and pottery in its fills. Features associated with the barrow contained Late Bronze Age pottery indicating its significance into that date (Sheldon *ibid.*). At 124-126 Borough High Street the discovery of a burial of probable Iron Age was located cutting into the natural sands below the Roman road leading to the bridgehead. There were apparently no associated and contemporary features, and this burial is considered to have been isolated individual and not evidence for an occupation site in the vicinity.
- 5.1.6 The evidence discovered to date suggests a broadly casual exploitation of the higher ground with only limited permanent occupation, in the early prehistoric period particularly the Neolithic (Bishop 2002).
- 5.1.7 There is sparse evidence of Iron Age exploitation around Borough High Street, pottery and features of that date has only been located on a couple of sites. Features interpreted as pre-Roman field boundaries were located at Swan St in 1998 (Beasley forthcoming) and gullies and post-holes of that date were located along Southwark St and on the eastern edge of the northern island.
- 5.2 *Roman Southwark*
- 5.2.1 The geography of north Southwark was crucial to its urban development in the Roman period and indeed to the location of *Londinium* itself, Southwark's island topography dictated where the roads and river crossing and therefore the city itself could be built (Milne *ibid.*). North Southwark was the furthest point down stream that a fixed bridge

could span the river.

- 5.2.2 Southwark was settled either contemporaneously with Londinium or at a very short time after. The Roman settlement in Southwark was located around the bridgehead over the Thames and to either side of the approach road (Road 1), which was constructed c. AD 50. The road is believed to bifurcate to the south of (the later) St. George's church, with an eastern route, Watling Street to Kent, and a western route, Stane Street, to Sussex. It has been suggested that road construction and associated engineering schemes in north Southwark were military driven with pre-Flavian military equipment located at several sites (Heard et al *ibid.*, 611) and numismatic evidence (Hammerson and Sheldon 1987) tends to support this view.
- 5.2.3 Buildings that were destroyed probably during the Boudican revolt of AD 60/61 have been located during excavations along Borough High Street (particularly the Northern Line Ticket Hall site) and at London Bridge. The buildings were constructed between AD 50-55 and fronted the eastern side of Road 1 and extended over a length of 60 metres. Evidence to date indicates that pre-Boudiccan buildings were constructed along the line of Road for 300m from the bridgehead though not far from it to east and west (Sheldon 2000). After the revolt Southwark and Londinium were rebuilt and extended.
- 5.2.4 In the early Roman period a great deal of effort was put into improving drainage to reclaim land and to control the flow of water within the channels that surrounded and bisected the sand eyots in order to protect against erosion, flooding and to facilitate water transport. Sea-levels fell by as much as 1.5m between the late 1st and 3rd centuries allowing the previously uninhabitable margins of Southwark's eyots to be utilised by the resident population. Reclamation of the land by narrowing or blocking off channels meant that possibly by the late 1st century the channels which divided the settlements southern eyot had been blocked off creating a peninsula. Intensive drainage of the eyot fringes has also been noted during the Roman period, particularly the 3rd century. At Hopton Street (*ibid.*) a channel of prehistoric origin appeared to be maintained and possibly kept open throughout the Roman period.
- 5.2.5 The main settlement of Roman Southwark developed either side of Road 1 as far south as St. George's church during the late 1st century and well into the 2nd century. Remains of Roman date do extend to the south of this point, as evidenced by recent excavations at Swan Street and Tabard Square.

5.2.6 Roman Southwark's status remains uncertain; as the 'suburb' lay beyond the walls of *Londinium*, parts of it inevitably became utilised as a burial ground. During the 1980s investigations revealed a number of inhumations within the settlement, mainly towards the southern edge of the northern island. More recent work in Southwark has however revealed over 25 inhumations and 5 cremations at the Great Dover Street cemetery (Mackinder 2000) and excavations at America Street and Union Street have uncovered over 80 inhumations. It has been envisioned that Southwark served as an entrepot concerned with the military needs of an army engaged in conquest, both in distributing the supplies of war and redistributing the spoils and for providing the more personal needs of the military administration in an emerging *Londinium*.

5.2.7 A recent study has estimated that at its height the Roman settlement area in north Southwark would have covered approximately 18 hectares. Numerous investigations in the vicinity of the study site have yielded evidence for roadside domestic/light industrial buildings.

5.2.8 The initial phase of intense Roman occupation both in the City and Southwark appears to come to an end during the second half of the 2nd century. Several sites in Southwark have occupation sequences that stop in the mid 2nd century. Numerous explanations have been put forward for this apparent decline including insecurity, political instability and disease. Where later Roman stratigraphy had survived in Southwark, it is typically overlain by a 'dark earth' deposit containing 4th century pottery. Similar deposits of 'dark earth' are commonly found in north Southwark, and its appearance has been generally interpreted as being indicative of a contraction of the settlement area.

5.3 *Saxon and Medieval*

5.3.1 There is no evidence for permanent settlement in the post-Roman era in Southwark, and indeed it is possible that the bridge across the Thames had fallen into disrepair and collapse by the 5th / 6th century AD. A single coin of Justinian (AD 527-565) found in the 19th century represents one of the few finds of early or Middle Saxon date from Southwark. The rising sea level may have rendered much of the land in north Southwark uninhabitable during the immediate post Roman period. *Londinium* itself was probably abandoned some time in the 5th century. Saxon occupation appears to have largely concentrated in small hamlets such as at Hammersmith and Croydon.

- 5.3.2 Later Saxon settlement in London was concentrated in the Covent Garden area and the trading emporium of *Lundenwic* as mentioned by Bede in his *Historia ecclesiastica*. In the late 9th century much of eastern England, including *Lundenwic*, was subject to Viking raids. The City was reoccupied in the late 9th or early 10th century utilising the more easily defensible walled area of the Roman town.
- 5.3.3 Southwark is only extensively occupied at the end of the Saxon period and its name derives from this period being referred to in a document, the Burgal Hidage of AD 914, as '*Suthringa geweorch*' ('the [defensive] work of the men of Surrey'), a fortified place (burh). Carlin 1996, 9), the term *south work* was slightly later in origin. It seems probable that the bridge across the Thames was re-established at this time.
- 5.3.4 Documentary references indicate Southwark being a burgeoning centre of population by the 11th century and as well as having the Minster it also had a mint. By the 12th century considerable growth had taken place. A Minster may have been established in Southwark as early as the end of the 10th century as one is recorded in the Domesday Book, and is presumed to have preceded the Augustinian priory of St. Mary Overy (Southwark Cathedral).
- 5.3.5 Southwark's settlement grew to include many important buildings including the six acre palace of Bishop of Winchester's Manor built to the west of the priory of St Mary Overie in the 12th century, two Royal residences built in the 14th century one each for Edward I and II and also by the 14th century the Benedictine Abbey of St Saviour Bermondsey had replaced the 11th century Cluniac Priory and numerous town houses were constructed for lay magnates and gentry.
- 5.3.6 The route of the High Street that virtually mirrored the route of (Roman) Road 1 had two churches had erected alongside it by the 12th century St. Margaret in the north and St. George to the south. Documentary research and archaeological investigations suggest that by the later 12th century the High Street may have been lined with buildings from the bridgehead to St. George's (Carlin *ibid.*, 22).
- 5.3.7 In the 12th century the Broadwall Dyke was built to the west of the site and it is shown on the later Agas map of 1562 (Fig 4) with people walking along it. Stamford Street that runs east-west to the south of the study site was built on demised land of the manor of Paris Garden that roughly followed the line of an earlier road *Holland Leaguer*.

5.3.7 Alongside the large scale religious structures of the period the 14th century saw an increase in commercial and residential developments. This included two prisons (the Marshalsea and King's Bench), a hospital for the poor (St Thomas's dedicated to Thomas Beckett), the riverside industries of fishponds and brothels (colloquially both known as the stews) were located to the west and industries such as tanning and lime burning that were accompanied by offensive odours were concentrated on the periphery of Southwark. One of the most striking things however about Southwark at the time is the number of inns and drinking houses along the High Street.

5.4 *Post-Medieval*

5.4.1 Southwark's population grew steadily throughout the Post-Medieval era bringing with it the inherent problems of overcrowding namely sanitation, disease and fire. Between the reformation and the end of the 17th century Southwark had been transformed from fashionable faubourg to a suburban slum following the forceful eviction of ecclesiastics and the voluntary migration of aristocrats. A population expansion mainly from the Low Countries resulted in an increase from c 10,000 at the start of Elizabeth I reign to 19,000 by the end, so that by the time of the Civil war the population had risen by fifty percent despite the plagues of 1577/8, 1603, 1634-7 and 1641 (Rendle 1888).

5.4.2 By the 15th century the site would have been raised above the level of the Thames, river defences were in place but the site was still prone to flooding. Due to the occasional wet environment it is likely that the site was grazing land rather than plough land as is shown on the Agas map (Fig 4). It is shown on the aforementioned map as being surrounded by drainage channels with Gravel Lane to the east and Paris Garden Mansion to the north although due to the aspect shown it is difficult to locate the site accurately.

5.4.3 By the time of Rocque's map of 1747 the ground is sufficiently dry for what appears to be a mixture of orchards and market gardening with buildings to the east the Broad Wall dyke is still in place to the west with buildings and a Tenter ground beyond that.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The watching brief was designed to monitor and record the excavations of ground beams and drainage runs at 56 Stamford Street in the London Borough Of Southwark, SE1.
- 6.2 The ground beam trenches were excavated first by the concrete floor slab being broken out by a hand held pneumatic drill, the trenches were then machine excavated using a mini digger. In certain areas due to access problems for the machine the trenches were hand excavated by labourers.
- 6.2 The areas of excavation are shown on the proposed ground beam drawing (Fig 2). The depth of the ground beams varied in depth from 0.4m to 0.6m, whilst other interventions penetrated to a greater depth namely a drain run that c. north-south across the site and a manhole.
- 6.3 Excavation was carried out using appropriate hand tools. Only tools suitable for the purpose were used for the hand excavation. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence. All archaeological features (Stratigraphic layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded using standard recording methods. The basement levels were supplied by the contractors.
- 6.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with the GLAAS Archaeological Guidance Paper 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; Archaeological Guidance Paper Watching Brief (GLAAS, 1998) and Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1990).
- 6.5 The archive will be transferred to London Archaeological Resource Centre and will be stored under the Site Code SFE 04.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

Sondage 1 Section 1

- 7.1 The earliest deposit in this sondage was an 0.17m thick friable dark brownish black organic sandy silt [11] with occasional pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, oyster shell flecks and frequent charcoal flecks. This layer represented a dump of 18th century date that was located at a top height of 1.94m OD. Overlaying [11] was [8] a moderately compacted make up layer comprising a mottled brown and grey sandy silty clay with moderate CBM fragments that was 0.10m thick with a top height of 2.03m OD.
- 7.2 Layer [8] acted as a make up layer for wall [6] associated brick floor [7], which date from the 19th century. Wall fragment [6] comprised 2 courses of red regular rectangular bricks that measured ? x 110mm x 75mm and stood to a height of 0.17m. The wall appeared to have been built free standing as it was surrounded on either side by demolition layers [4] and [5] and was not contained within a cut. The associated floor [7] comprised a layer of brick fragments and mortar that was heavily disturbed that was located at a top height of 2.03m OD and was 0.09m thick.
- 7.3 To the east of floor [7] was wall foundation [9] that was located within construction cut [10]. It was unclear whether the construction cut truncated the floor surface. The foundation comprised a mixture of brick rubble and chalk, the brick was of the same fabric and form found in wall [6], this suggests the walls were contemporary and the floor post dated the walls. The wall foundation was seen in section only and measured 0.30m E-W within a 0.24m deep construction cut and was truncated to a top height of 1.99m OD.
- 7.4 Demolition layers [4] and [5] both comprised sandy silt rubble layers that were c. 0.20m thick and located at top heights of 2.17m OD and 2.11m OD respectively. A further demolition layer [3] sealed both of these deposits that comprised 0.11m thick layer of rubble and dark brown sandy silt. Overlaying [3] was an 0.20m thick rubble make up layer [2] for the concrete floor layer [1] that was located at a height of 2.49m OD.

Sondage 2 Section 2

- 7.5 The earliest deposit in this section was layer [15] as described above that contained 18th century pot and glass (see 7.1). In turn this layer was overlain by modern make

up layer [14]. Both layers [14] and [15] were truncated by a drain run with layer [14] sealed by the concrete floor located at 2.49m OD.

Sondage 3 Section 3

7.6 The earliest deposit located in this sondage was layer [17] a 0.12m thick friable dark blackish brown sandy silt with occasional pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, oyster shell flecks and frequent charcoal flecks. Layer [17] was interpreted as an 18th century garden/plough soil and was located at a top height of 1.85m OD.

7.7 Sealing layer [17] was a layer of 0.50m thick make up layer and brick rubble [16] sealed by the 0.10m thick concrete floor surface [1]. The concrete floor was located at 2.49m OD.

Sondage 4 Section 4

7.8 The earliest deposit located in this sondage was layer [13] that was at least 0.15m thick friable dark blackish brown sandy silt with occasional pottery and clay tobacco pipe of 18th century date, animal bone, ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, oyster shell flecks and frequent charcoal flecks. Layer [13] was equivalent to layer [17] in Sondage 3 and was located at a top height of 1.88 OD.

7.9 Sealing layer [13] was a layer of 0.50m thick make up layer and brick rubble [16] sealed by the 0.10m thick concrete floor surface [1]. The concrete floor was located at 2.49m OD.

Sondage 5 Section 5

7.10 The earliest deposit in sondage 5 was [19] (= [13], [15], [17]) a dark blackish brown sandy silt that was slightly organic in nature that was located at a top height of 1.80 m OD. Sealing [19] was a 0.65m thick modern make up layer [18], that in turn was sealed by the concrete floor located at 2.49m OD.

Sondage 6 Section 6

7.11 The earliest deposit in sondage 6 was layer [23] a light orangey brown with patches of grey sandy clay with frequent mortar that was located at a top height of 2.86m OD and was at least 0.20m thick. It was not clear if this layer was re-deposited or had intrusive material pressed into. It is likely that this material was originally alluvial in origin. Sealing [23] was [22] a dark brown silty sand with moderate pot of 18th century date, CBM fragments, animal bone and charcoal that was a maximum 0.27m thick. Sealing

[22] was the concrete floor [1] located at 3.11m OD.

Sondage 7 Section 7

- 7.12 The earliest deposit in sondage 6 was layer [25] a light pinkish brown sandy clay with frequent mortar and CBM fragments that was located at a top height of 2.90m OD and was at least 0.15m thick. This layer was possibly equivalent to [23] in sondage 6. Sealing [25] was layer [24] a light to mid brown sandy silt with moderate pot, CBM fragments, and mortar that was a maximum 0.50m thick. Sealing [22] was the concrete floor and rubble bedding layer [1] located at 3.61m OD.

Sondage 8 Section 8

- 7.13 Sondage 8 revealed only modern make up layer [20] that was 0.25m thick and the 0.15m thick concrete floor layer [1] located at 3.61m OD.

Sondage 9 Section 9

- 7.14 Sondage 9 revealed only modern make up layer [21] that was 0.30m thick and the 0.15m thick concrete floor layer [1] located at 3.61m OD.

Sondage 10 Section 10

- 7.15 Sondage 10 was located in the area of a new manhole and drain run and was therefore slightly deeper than others excavated in this area. The earliest deposit was [28] a modern make up layer [28] that was 0.60m thick and was located at a top height of 3.04m OD. Layer [28] was truncated by a former drain run [27] that virtually mirrored the alignment of the new drain run. The backfill of the drain cut [26] was sealed by the 0.15m thick layer of concrete floor layer [1] that was located at a top height 3.61m OD.

Sondage 11 Section 11

- 7.16 The floor slab in the area of sondage 11 had been removed prior to recording but was located at approximately 3.31m OD. The earliest deposit [31] was a mid brown sandy clay with occasional mortar and CBM fragments that was located at a top height of 2.06m OD and was at least 0.15m thick. As with layer [23] in sondage 6 it was not clear if this layer was re-deposited or had intrusive material pressed into. It is likely that this material was alluvial in origin. Sealing [31] was [30] a layer of a dark blackish brown sandy silt that was slightly organic in nature that was a maximum 0.20m thick. Sealing [30] was a 0.95m thick modern make up layer [29], that in turn was sealed by the concrete floor.

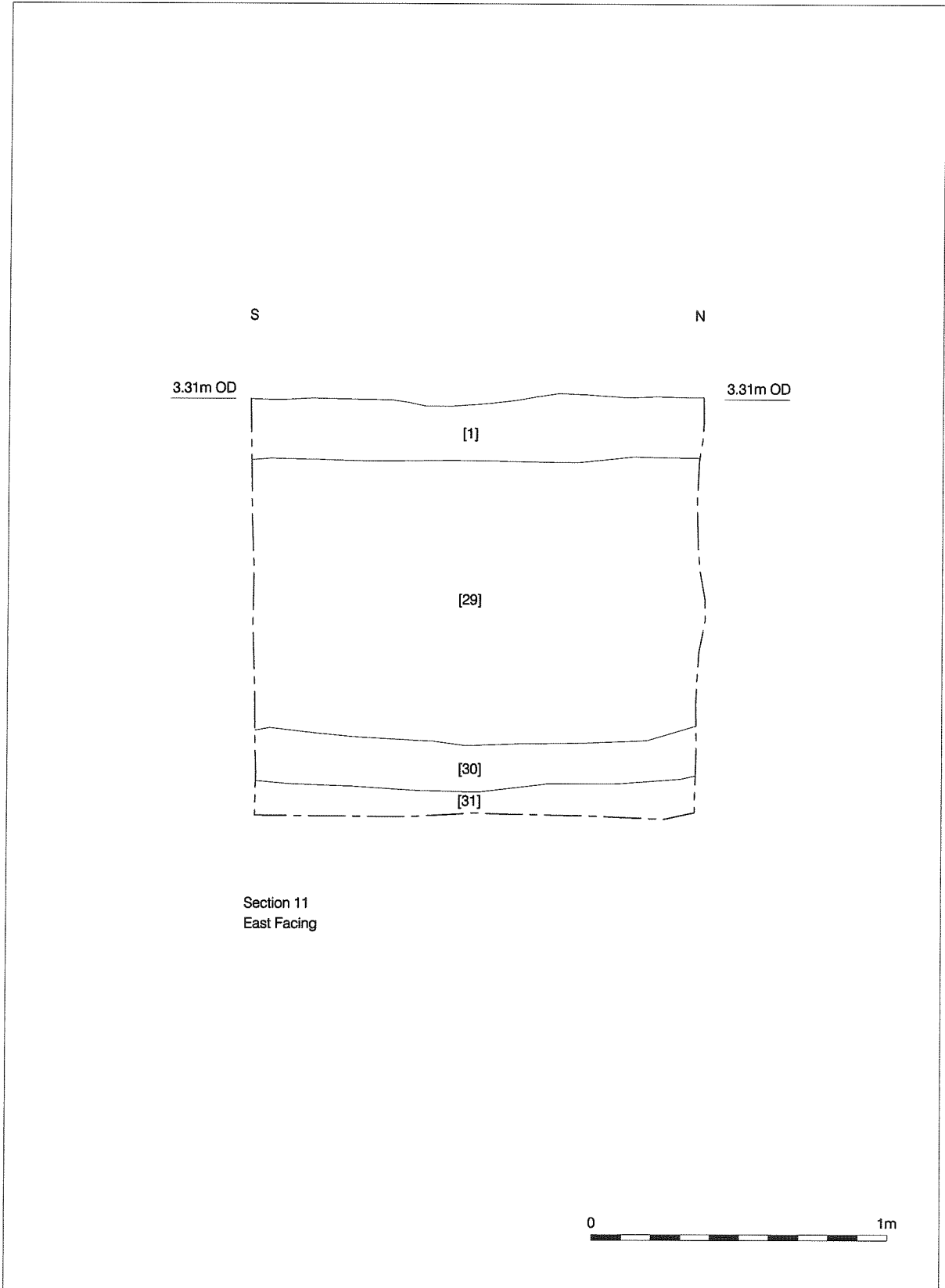


Figure 3
Section 11
1:20

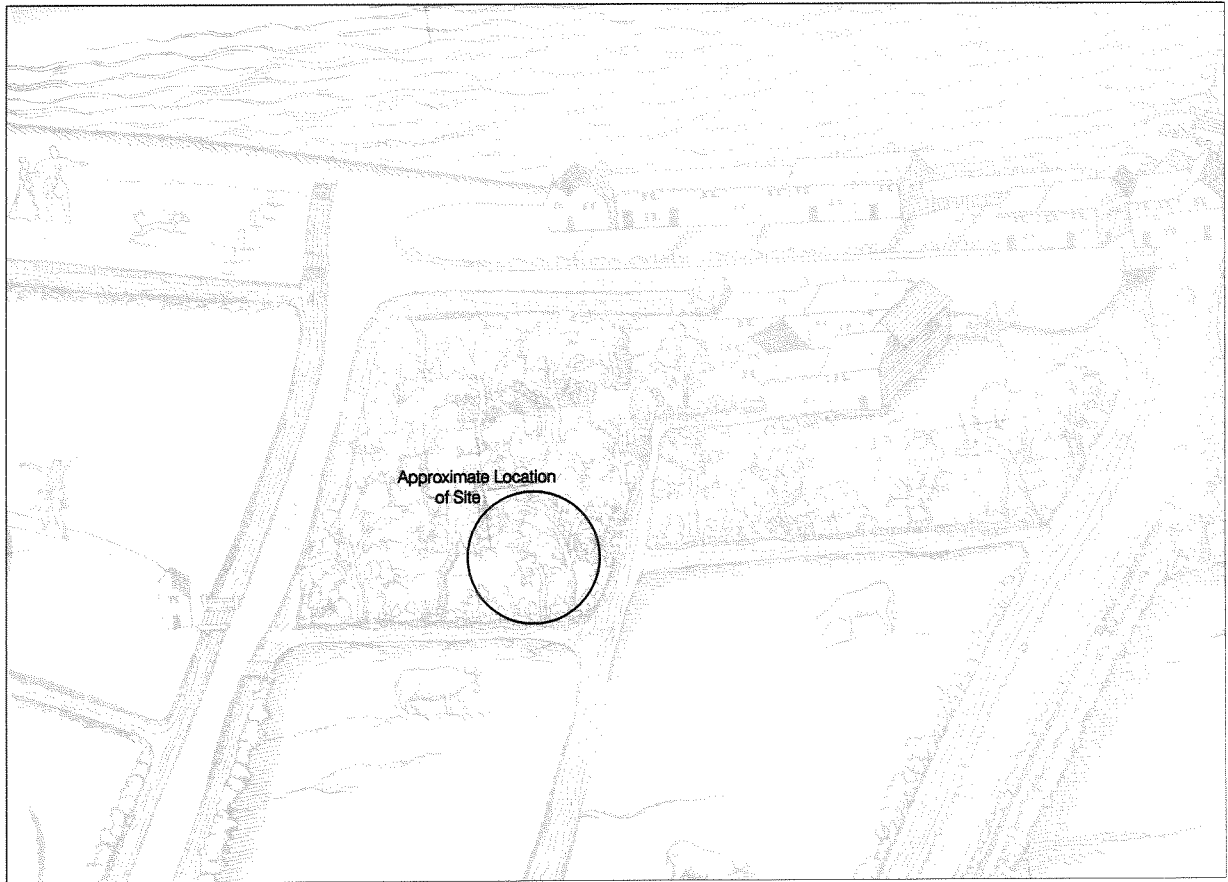


Figure 4
Agas Map, 1562

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The earliest horizon located during the watching brief was a layer of mid brown sandy clay [31] that was located at a top height of 2.06m OD. Similar brown clay deposits [23] and [25] were located elsewhere on site but these appear to have been re-deposited. A similar brown clay alluvial horizon over 1m thick, found at many sites in the area, such as at Hopton Street where its top height was 2.35m OD, made represent the same layer.
- 8.2 A layer of either dumped 18th century material or possible agricultural/garden soil of the same date was the earliest deposit in the majority of sondages. Sealing the 18th century material was 19th century demolition layers, heavily truncated 19th century walls and modern make up layers associated with the construction of the present building.
- 8.3 As the construction programme at the site does not include interventions at a greater depth than those encountered in the watching brief no further work is recommended.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Manik Rahman of Orange Enterprise Ltd for commissioning the work.
- 9.2 The author would also like to thank Antony Baxter for supervising and recording the majority of the sondages and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Jim Leary for his project management and David Divers for the editing.

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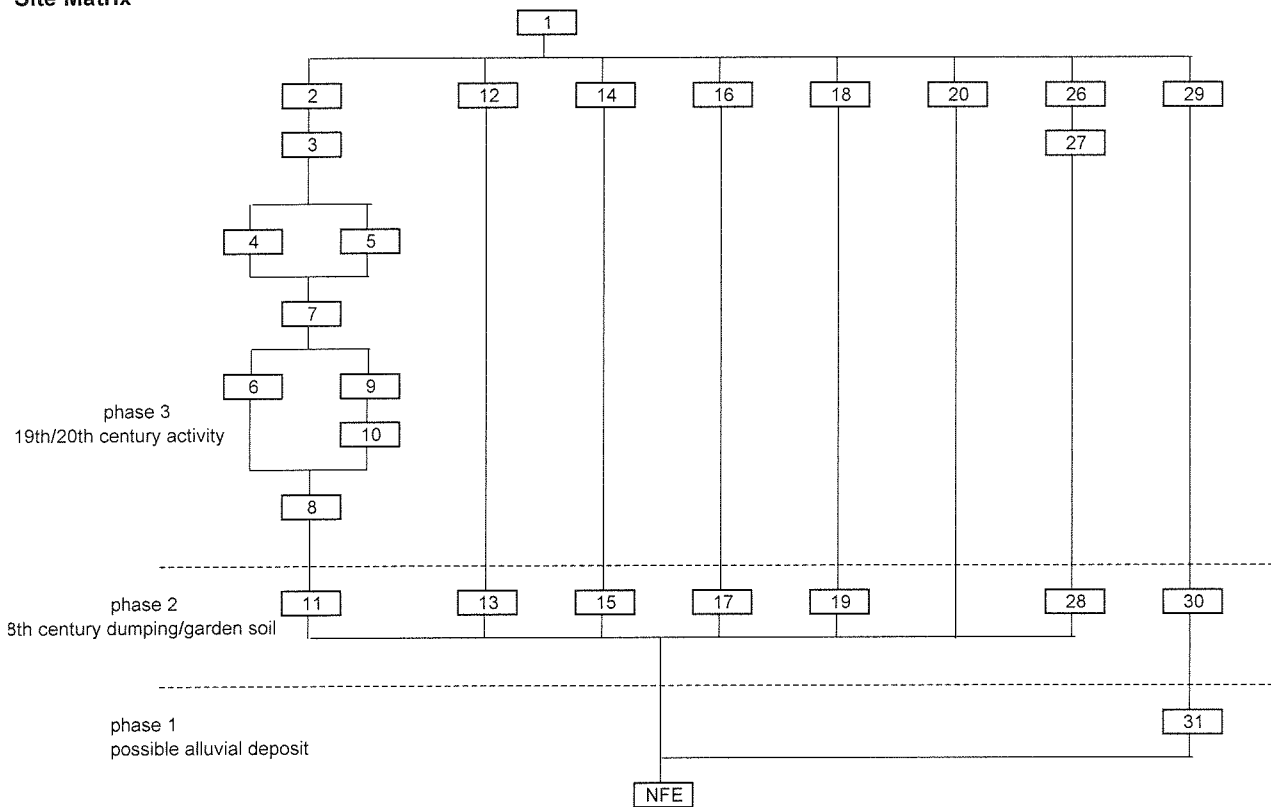
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APPENDIX 1 - Context Descriptions

Context Number	Top OD Height (m)	Lowest OD Height (m)	Section Number	Same as	Type	Description
1	3.61	2.49	1 to 11		Layer	Modern concrete floor
2	2.35	2.35	1		Layer	Bedding layer for concrete
3	2.25	2.06	1		Layer	Demolition layer
4	2.17	2.14	1		Layer	Demolition layer
5	2.11	2.02	1		Layer	Demolition layer
6	2.16	2.16	1		Masonry	N-S Wall fragment
7	2.03	2.00	1		Masonry	Brick floor
8	2.03	1.93	1		Layer	Make up layer for [6] and [8]
9	1.99	1.82	1		Masonry	N-S Wall fragment
10	1.99	1.66	1		Cut	Construction cut for [9]
11	1.94	1.91	1		Layer	Humic Dump layer
12	2.33	2.33	4	[14], [16], [18]	Layer	Modern made ground
13	1.88	1.79	4	[15], [17], [19]	Layer	Possible garden/plough soil
14	2.35	2.35	2	[12], [16], [18]	Layer	Modern made ground
15	1.85	1.85	2	[13], [17], [19]	Layer	Dump possible garden/plough soil
16	2.35	2.30	3	[12], [14], [18]	Layer	Modern made ground
17	1.85	1.83	3	[13], [15], [19]	Layer	Dump possible garden/plough soil
18	2.33	2.31	5		Layer	Modern made ground
19	1.80	1.78	5	[13], [15], [17]	Layer	Dump possible garden/plough soil
20	3.46	3.44	8	[21]	Layer	Modern made ground
21	3.45	3.42	9	[20]	Layer	Modern made ground
22	3.11	3.06	6		Layer	Modern made ground
23	2.86	2.79	6		Layer	Modern made ground
24	3.31	3.27	7		Layer	Modern made ground
25	2.90	2.77	7		Layer	Dump layer
26	3.45	3.45	7		Fill	Backfill of Drain Cut
27	3.45	3.42	10		Cut	Drain cut
28	3.04	2.95	10		Layer	Dump layer
29	3.11	3.09	11		Layer	Modern made ground
30	2.20	2.15	11		Layer	Humic dump layer
31	2.06	1.99	11		Layer	Brown Clay possible alluvium

APPENDIX 2

Site Matrix



APPENDIX 3: OASIS Data collection form

OASIS ID: preconst1-3656

Project details

Project name	56 Stamford Street
Short description of the project	Watching brief during excavations in basement revealed a brown alluvial clay overlain by 18th century made ground. Remains of 19th century brick buildings and associated features also recorded.
Project dates	Start: 28-07-2004 End: 11-08-2004
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FSE 04 – Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 56 Stamford Street
Postcode	SE1
Study area	175 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3141 8039 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	Jim Leary
Project manager	Jim Leary
Project supervisor	Antony Baxter
Sponsor or funding body	Orange Enterprise Ltd

Project archives

Archive recipient	LAARC
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Project bibliography

Publication type	An unpublished document/manuscript
Title	56 Stamford Street, London Borough of Southwark: Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baxter, A
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pickard, C
Date	2004
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
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Description	Watching brief archive report
Entered by	David Divers (ddivers@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	23 August 2004