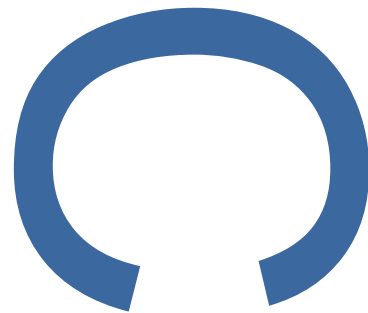
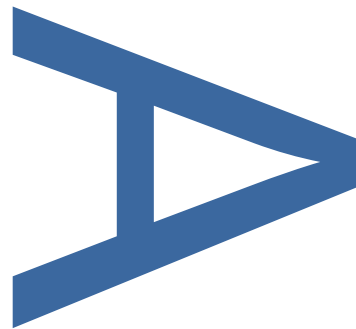


**90-92 BLACKFRIARS ROAD,
SOUTHWARK SE1 8HS**



WATCHING BRIEF



<i>Planning reference</i>	n/a		
<i>Local planning authority</i>	LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK		
<i>PCA report no.</i>	R13886	<i>Site Code</i>	BAF19
<i>PCA project no</i>	K6115	<i>Date</i>	October 19

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

www.pre-construct.com

Project Information	
Site name	90-92 BLACKFRIARS ROAD, SOUTHWARK SE1 8HS
Project type	WATCHING BRIEF
Site address	90-92 Blackfriars Road SE1 8HS
NGR	
Local planning authority	LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK
Planning reference	
Commissioning client	RPS
Project dates	October 2019
Archive site code	BAF19

PCA Information			
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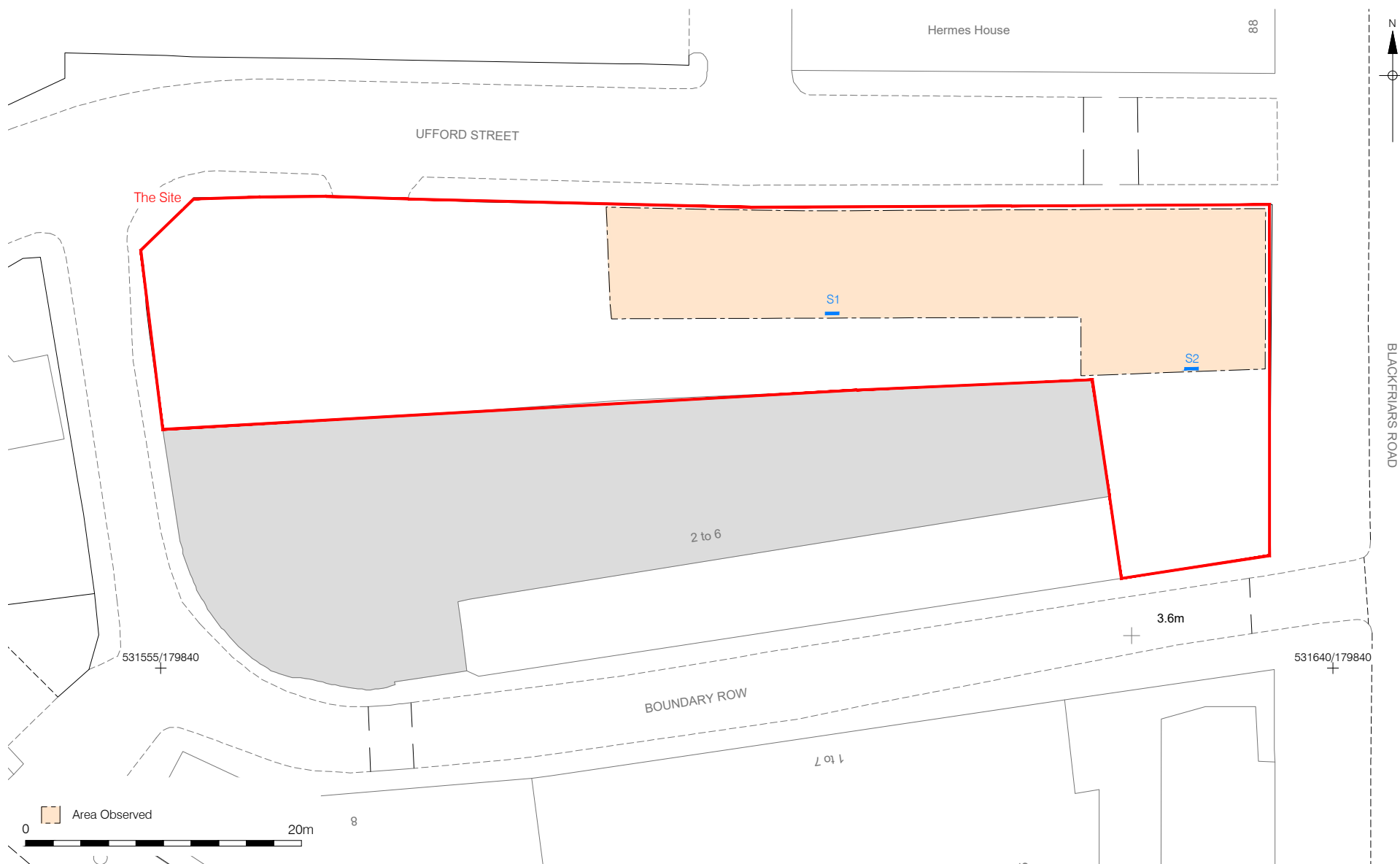
1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and methodology of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at land at 90-92 Blackfriars Road, London Borough of Southwark SE1 8HS. The central grid reference for the site was TQ 31594 79854. The fieldwork was undertaken intermittently in April 2019. The work was commissioned by RPS.
- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief recorded natural sandy gravel on the eastern area of the site at 1.6m below ground level. This deposit is consistent with the known underlying geology of the site as described by the British Geological Survey, the Kempton Park Gravel Member.
- 1.3 Overlying the natural gravel across the site was a sequence of alluvial deposits, located at 0.9m below ground level and with a maximum thickness of 0.7m. This alluvial horizon consisted of sterile and homogenous clay deposits which contained no environmental potential nor anthropogenic material. These deposits are again consistent with the known underlying geology of the site as described by the British Geological Survey as Alluvium; the site is located on the boundary between the Kempton Park Gravel member to the south and Alluvium associated with the River Thames to the north.
- 1.4 Sealing the alluvial sequence across the site was a horizon of post-medieval and modern made ground, recorded between 0.3m and 0.7m below ground level. On the eastern side of the site this deposit was 0.6m thick and is thought to date to the later post-medieval due to brick and tile fragments of this date observed as inclusions. This made ground represented an episode of landscaping potentially in preparation of redevelopment of the site in the late post-medieval period.
- 1.5 Very extensive footings, slabs and Type 1 made ground material, of the former modern buildings occupying the site were present.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at 90-92 Blackfriars Road, London Borough of Southwark SE1 8HS (Figure 1), in advance of redevelopment of the site. The fieldwork was undertaken intermittently between 17th and 26th April 2019.
- 2.2 The site was centred at TQ 31594 79854 and comprised a roughly rectangular plot of land. The site was bounded by Blackfriars Road to the east, by Boundary Row to the south and west, and by Ufford Street to the north.
- 2.3 A planning application was submitted to the London Borough of Southwark for the demolition of buildings previously on the site and the construction of a new building between five to eight storeys in height with associated basement. An archaeological condition, in this case a watching brief, was attached to the planning permission.
- 2.4 The site was not previously subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment nor did it lie within a Local Planning Authority designated Archaeological Priority Area.
- 2.5 The watching brief methodology was outlined in a site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2014) which was prepared prior to the fieldwork and was approved by Gillian King, London Borough of Southwark Senior Archaeology Officer.
- 2.6 The fieldwork consisted of groundworks for the new basement undertaken by the on site contractor which were then visited and recorded as found by a PCA archaeologist (Figure 2).
- 2.7 The archaeological investigation was conducted by PCA under the supervision of Jim Heathcote and Aidan Turner, and project managed by Helen Hawkins.
- 2.8 The fieldwork was issued the unique site code BAF19. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be deposited with the appropriate local repository under that code.





3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Site Specific Planning Background

3.2 Permission for Development (Conditional) was granted by the London Borough of Southwark on 4 June 2013. Condition 8 of the Consent reads;

Archaeological Works

Before any work hereby authorised begins, the applicant shall submit a written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological recording, which shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and implemented and shall not be carried out other than in accordance with any such approval given.

Reason: In order that the details of the programme of archaeological works are suitable with regard to the impacts of the proposed development and the nature and extent of archaeological remains on site in accordance with chapter 12, paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, policy 12 of the Core Strategy 2011 and saved policy 3.19 of the Southwark Plan 2007

3.2.1 Condition 9 of the Consent reads;

Archaeological Reporting

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 post-excavation works, publication and archiving to ensure the preservation of archaeological remains by record in accordance with chapter 12, paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, policy 12 of the Core Strategy 2011 and saved policy 2.19 of the Southwark Plan 2007.

3.2.2 Following discussion with the LPA's Senior Archaeology Officer a programme of archaeological work consisting of a watching brief was detailed and outlined in the site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2014).

3.3 There are no Listed Buildings, World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens within the site. The site is not located within a LPA designated Archaeological Priority Area.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey identifies the underlying bedrock geology on the subject site to be the 'London Clay Formation'. This clay and silt deposit formed between 34 and 56 million years ago in deep seas during the Palaeogene Period.
- 4.2 The British Geological Survey suggests the site lies on the boundary between Alluvium, described as clay, silt, sand and peat, to the north and the Kempton Park Gravel Member, described as sand and gravel, to the south. These natural strata were both formed up to the 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.
- 4.3 Modern ground level at the site was generally level at c. 3.6m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The following background is summarised from the site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2014).
- 5.2 RPS consultation with the LPA's Senior Archaeology Officer has indicated that the Site is potentially of relatively low archaeological importance although the possible survival of a boundary ditch to the north of Boundary Row is of interest. Boundary Row and Surrey Row (on the east side of Blackfriars Road) mark the boundary of the Manor of Paris Gardens and the Parish of Christ Church, Blackfriars.
- 5.3 The Survey of London describes the boundary to the Paris Garden Manor as; 'a stream or open sewer which ran in a wide loop round the manor from the Old Barge House Stairs, south to what is now Surrey Row, and north again to the river near Falcon Dock. The stream may have been in part a natural feature, though it is unlikely that it was so for the whole of its length, but the earth wall which flanked it was certainly man-made'.
- 5.4 Information from a 250m search of the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) indicates that "archaeological excavation" was undertaken to the north of Boundary Row in 1988 and that "*no archaeological features were revealed*".
- 5.5 Excavation at 109-115 Blackfriars Rd, in 1988 recorded three parallel linear cut features. Probably of medieval origin, they were interpreted as being approximately on the alignment of the strip field system recorded on 17th-18th Century maps. An unstratified sherd of early Saxon chaff-tempered potter was recovered from this site and medieval pottery was recovered from a number of pits. Gravel quarry pits were also recorded truncating earlier archaeological features.
- 5.6 At 86 Blackfriars Road a single trench revealed post medieval made ground over brick earth at 0.40m OD and alluvial clays.
- 5.7 A small printing works was operating in 1872 on Boundary Row whilst at 8-20 Pocock Street evidence of 18th- 19th century land reclamation and a 19th century cesspit were found during a watching brief.
- 5.8 Cartographic evidence for the site includes Rocque's map of 1746 which may indicate the presence of a building on the eastern part of the Site. Horwood's map of 1792 records Ufford Street as Hansard Place with Boundary Row as Georges Row. The 1821 survey of Christ Church Parish records a Lace Manufactory on and to the south of the Site. By the time of the 1879 Ordnance Survey the Site is occupied by terraced properties with a Printing Works to the south. Ufford Street is recorded as John Street West with Boundary Row now in use as a street name. The LCC Bomb Damage maps show the western end of the Site suffered bomb damage during WWII: The Site is shown as partially vacant (at the western end) in the 1951/52 Ordnance Survey. The western end of the Site is still an undeveloped plot.

6 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Phase 1: Natural Gravel

6.1.1 The earliest deposit recorded during the archaeological watching brief was a natural sandy gravel horizon [7], recorded in the eastern area of the site. This natural horizon was only recorded in section at 1.6m below ground level.

6.1.2 In the western area of the site the natural had been truncated in plan by modern development such as concrete slabs.

6.2 Phase 2: Natural Alluvium

6.2.1 Sealing the natural gravel [1] in the eastern area of the site was a sequence of two alluvial deposits; a greyish-green alluvial clay, [6], and a dark grey alluvial clay, [5]. These deposits had a combined thickness of 0.7m thick and were recorded at 0.9m below ground level. These sterile and homogenous naturally deposited layers contained no inclusions.

6.2.2 The earliest deposit recorded in the western area of the site comprised a sequence of alluvial deposits; greenish-grey silty-clay alluvial deposit [3] overlain by an orangish-brown silty clay [2]. This sequence of natural alluvium was recorded at 0.9m below ground level and had a combined thickness of 0.3m but continued deeper beyond the excavation limit.

6.3 Phase 3: Later Post-Medieval Made Ground

6.3.1 Sealing the alluvial sequence, contexts [5] and [6], in the eastern area of the site was a layer of made ground, [4]. This made ground was 0.6m thick and was recorded 0.3m below ground level. Brick and tile fragments of a probable later post-medieval date were noted within this horizon but not retained.

6.3.2 Overlying the alluvial sequence contexts [2] and [3], in the western area of the site, was a horizon of made ground, [1], which was 0.2m thick and was located at 0.7m below ground level. Late post-medieval brick fragments were noted within this deposit but were not retained.

6.4 Phase 4: Modern

6.4.1 Sealing made ground deposit [4] in the eastern area of the site was a layer of modern 'type 1' made ground 0.3m thick which represented the modern surface level.

6.4.2 Sealing the made ground horizon [1] in the western area of the site was a sequence of modern deposits, concrete slab and a loose crushed concrete deposit. This modern sequence had a combined thickness of 0.7m.

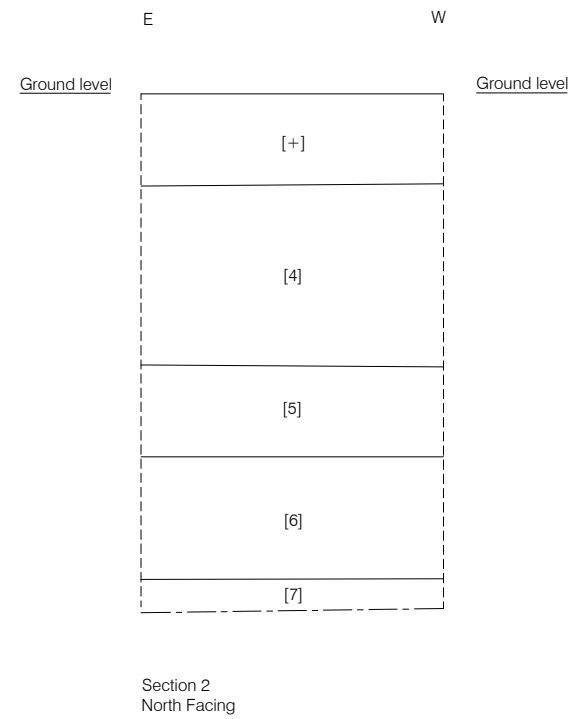
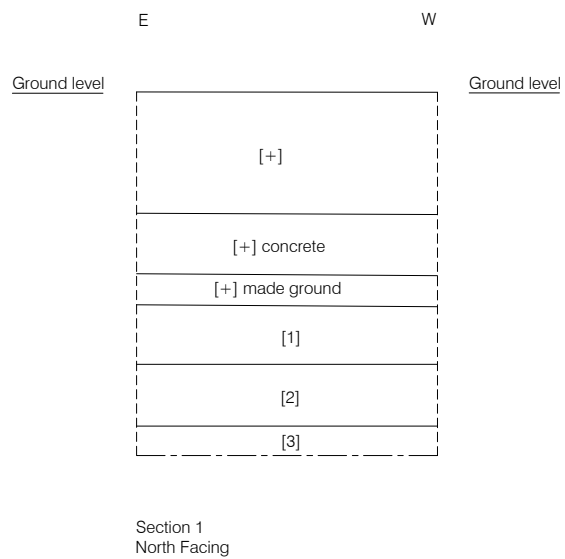


Plate 1 Basement with piles, facing west



Plate 2 Section 1 facing south



7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief consisted of a natural sandy-gravel horizon [7]. This deposit was only recorded on the eastern side of the watching brief where groundworks were deeper. This gravel was located at 1.6m below ground level and is consistent with the known underlying geology as described by the British Geological Survey as the Kempton Park Gravel Member. This natural gravel was not recorded on the western side of the watching brief area as the inspected excavation did not penetrate deep enough to encounter it.
- 7.2 Recorded sealing the natural gravel on the eastern side of the watching brief and also as the lowest encountered deposit on the western side of the site was a sequence of alluvial deposits, contexts [2], [3], [5] and [6]. This alluvial horizon, 0.9m below ground level and 0.7m thick on the eastern side of the site, comprised sterile and homogenous clay deposits which contained no environmental remains nor any anthropogenic material and therefore was of little significance. The presence of alluvial deposits across the site was as expected, the British Geological Survey illustrates that the site lies on the boundary of the Kempton Park Gravel Member to the south and Alluvium to the north which derives from the River Thames which lies c. 680m to the north.
- 7.3 Sealing the alluvial sequence across the site was a horizon of post-medieval made ground, contexts [1] and [4]. This made ground was recorded between 0.3m and 0.7m below ground level and was between 0.2m and 0.6m thick in the eastern area of the site. Brick and tile fragments of a probable later post-medieval date were noted within this deposit but not retained. Cartographic evidence such as William Morgan's Map of the City of London 1682 illustrates the site to be undeveloped open ground east of Angel Street ([www.Layers of London.com](http://www.LayersofLondon.com)). By the time of Rocque's map of 1746 the site remained open undeveloped land east of Angel Street and north of Melancholy Walk within grounds associated with buildings to the east towards gravel lane (*ibid*).
- 7.4 The stratigraphic sequence of the site was completed by modern made ground deposits and concrete, representing the modern surface level, including former basement slabs.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank RPS for commissioning the work.
- 8.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would also like to thank Gillian King of the London Borough of Southwark for monitoring the fieldwork.
- 8.3 The author would like thank Helen Hawkins for her project management and editing of the report, and Diana Valk for the CAD illustrations.
- 8.4 The author would also like to thank Jim Heathcote and Aidan Turner for undertaking the fieldwork.

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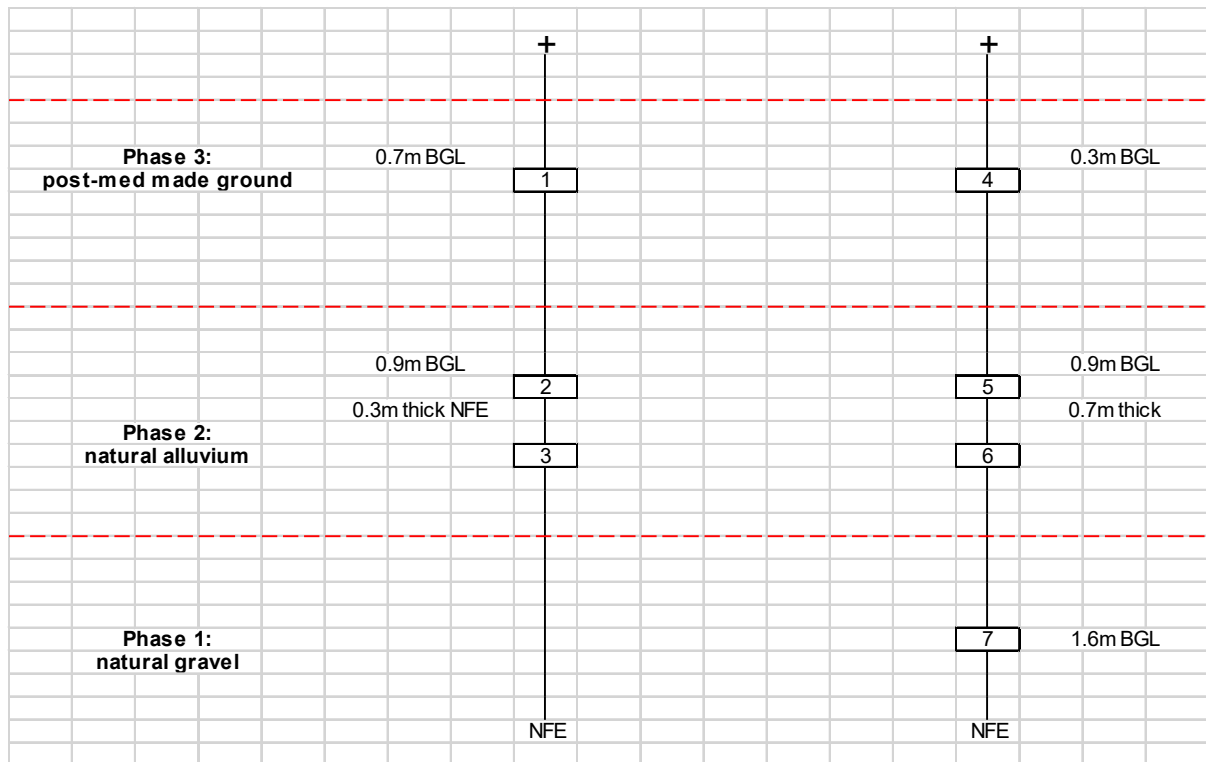
www.BGS.co.uk

www.LayersofLondon.com

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	CTX_ Interpretation	Level (m below ground level)	Thickness	Section	Phase
1	Layer	Made ground	0.7	0.2	1	3
2	Layer	Alluvial clay	0.9	0.2	1	2
3	Layer	Alluvial clay	1.1	0.1	1	2
4	Layer	Made ground	0.3	0.6	2	3
5	Layer	Alluvial clay	0.9	0.3	2	2
6	Layer	Alluvial clay	1.2	0.4	2	2
7	Layer	Natural sandy-gravel	1.6	0.1 NFE	2	1

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-370539

Project details

Project name 90-92 Blackfriars Road, Southwark

Short description of the project An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by PCA at 90-92 Blackfriars Road. The watching brief recorded natural sandy gravel on the eastern area of the site at 1.6m below ground level. This deposit is consistent with the known underlying geology of the site as described by the British Geological Survey, the Kempton Park Gravel Member. Overlying the natural gravel across the site was a sequence of alluvial deposits, located at 0.9m below ground level and with a maximum thickness of 0.7m. This alluvial horizon consisted of sterile and homogenous clay deposits which contained no environmental potential nor anthropogenic material. Sealing the alluvial sequence across the site was a horizon of post-medieval made ground, recorded between 0.3m and 0.7m below ground level. On the eastern side of the site this deposit was 0.6m thick and is thought to date to the later post-medieval due to brick and tile fragments of this date observed as inclusions. This made ground represented an episode of landscaping potentially in preparation of redevelopment of the site in the late post-medieval period.

Project dates Start: 17-04-2019 End: 26-04-2019

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes BAF19 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 90-92 Blackfriars Road

Postcode SE1 8HS

Study area 100 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 31594 79854 51.501783474036 -0.103846100522 51 30 06 N 000 06 13 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator RPS Group

Project design originator Duncan Hawkins

Project director/manager Helen Hawkins

Project supervisor Aidan Turner

Type of sponsor/funding body House builder

Name of sponsor/funding body United Living

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient LAA

Digital Archive ID BAF19

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient LAA

Paper Archive ID BAF19

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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