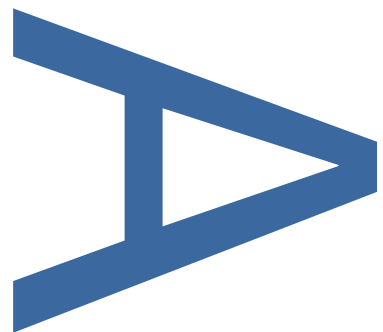
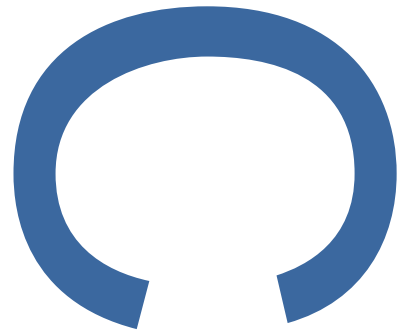


**196 SOUTHWARK PARK ROAD,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF  
SOUTHWARK, SE16 3RP**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:  
15/AP/4723**

**MAY 2018**



## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

196 Southwark Park Road, London Borough of Southwark SE16 3RP.

### Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5521
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	T Brook		18.04.2018
Graphics Prepared by:	R Scales		01.05.2018
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	08.05.2018
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
1	10.05.2018	Anne Johnson (Archaeology Collective)	ZP

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**196 SOUTHWARK PARK ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, SE16 3RP**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

---

**CENTRAL NGR:** TQ 34434 78791

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CODE:** SWP18

**COMMISSIONING CLIENT:** Archaeology Collective

**on behalf of:** Technocrates Construction Ltd.

**WRITTEN BY:** Tom Brook  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Chris Mayo & Zbigniew Pozorski  
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**May 2018**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details an archaeological watching brief which was conducted on the site of 196 Southwark Park Road, London, SE16 3RP. The site was home to a pub with a basement, built in the post-war period. It is located within the London Borough of Southwark and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 34434 78791.
- 1.2 Two large ground intrusions were dug by sub-contractor GA Demolition, one to remove the remains of a pub basement ahead of development works including construction of mixed-use building.
- 1.3 No deposits of archaeological interest were found during the watching brief. However, a layer of undisturbed subsoil was recorded in two areas of the site and holds potential for archaeological survival.
- 1.4 A layer of make-up material, probably dating to the early post-war period - when the pub was rebuilt following war damage - was present and contained residual Victorian material.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) has undertaken an archaeological watching brief during the demolition and removal of a basement at 196 Southwark Park Road, London Borough of Southwark, SE16 3RP (Figures 1 - 2). The project was commissioned by Archaeology Collective.
- 2.2 The monitoring took place over five days between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018 during the works to remove any obstructions to the planned mixed-use redevelopment of the site. The site is broadly rectangular and is bound by Southwark Park Road to the north, St James Road to the west, Whitehorse Youth Centre to the south and 198 Southwark Park Road to the east (Figure 1). It is centred at TQ 34434 78791.
- 2.3 The groundworks were conducted by the overall Client's contractor, GA Demolition, under constant archaeological supervision by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA). This met criteria required by the Archaeology Advisor to the Borough of Southwark, Gillian King.
- 2.4 The project was managed by Chris Mayo and Zbigniew Pozorski of PCA and supervised by Phillip Frickers and James Heathcote. It was monitored by Gillian King, Archaeological Advisor to the Borough of Southwark.
- 2.5 The primary objective of the watching brief was to preserve 'by record' the extent and significance of any surviving archaeological features and deposits within the monitored area and to record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site. The specific aims of the project were as follows:
- To direct the machine excavation required for removal of foundations and concrete hard standing to allow for observation and recording.
  - To observe and record any archaeological features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible date.
- 2.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- The Written Scheme of Investigation for this project (Archaeology Collective 2018)
  - Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work (HE GLAAS 2015)
  - 'Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief' (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists CIfA 2014).
  - Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Historic England 2016)

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications. Chapter 12 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

In considering any proposal for development, including allocations in emerging development plans, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.

#### **3.2 Regional Guidance: The London Plan**

Additional relevant planning strategy framework is provided by The London Plan, published January 2011. It includes the following policy of relevance to archaeology within central London:

##### **Historic environments and landscapes**

##### **POLICY 7.8 HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

###### Strategic

- A London's heritage assets and historical environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.
- B Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

###### Planning decision

- C Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.
- D Development affecting heritage assets and their setting should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.
- E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological assets or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that assets.

### LDF preparation

- F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.
- G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organizations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their setting where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

### **Archaeology in the London Borough of Southwark**

- 3.3 London Borough of Southwark Unitary Development Plan (UPD) was adopted in July 2007. The Plan contains the following policy which has been saved until the adoption of the Local Development Framework:

#### **POLICY 3.19 – ARCHAEOLOGY**

- 3.4 This work aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Southwark which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which it is the custodian. Relevant policy statements for the protection of the buried archaeological resource within the borough can be reviewed within Policy 3.19.
- 3.5 Planning permission was granted for the demolition of existing 2-storey office building and erection of a part 5, part 3 storey mixed-use building comprised of 378sqm of retail floorspace at ground-floor level in three separate units (Class A1), 261sqm of office floorspace at first-floor level (Class B1(a)) and 10 residential units comprised of 2no. 3xbed dwellinghouses, 4no. 3xbed flats, 3no. 2xbed flats and 1no. 1xbed flat (LB Southwark Planning Ref. 15/AP/4723).
- 3.6 The planning consent has a condition (Condition 7) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, as follows:  
  
*Before any work hereby authorised begins, the applicant shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation works, an archaeological watching brief, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*
- 3.7 This report details the results of the first phase of archaeological investigation undertaken on the site, completed in accordance with the above archaeological condition.



## **4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND**

The following geological and topographical summary is related from the Desk-Based Assessment (Archaeology Collective 2015).

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey identifies the solid geology as Lambeth Group (clay, silt & sand), overlain by superficial deposits of Kempton Park sands & gravels.
- 4.2 No site specific geotechnical information is currently available.
- 4.3 The application site lies is a rectangular shaped plot 470m<sup>2</sup> in area, situated on flat land at a height of 1.90m AOD, at the junction of Southwark Park Road with St. James Road, centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 534434 178791.
- 4.4 The predominant feature of the topography of this part of Bermondsey is a series of sand and gravel islands or 'eyots', divided by stream channels and low-lying mud flats, which were formed when the River Thames migrated northwards at some point in the Early Holocene period. The application site lies upon the Bermondsey Eyot.
- 4.5 Bermondsey's early history was affected directly by the movement of the Thames, which itself reflected fluctuations in sea level caused by climatic change and isostatic readjustment. This changing environment resulted in the formation of peat layers, and the deposition of silts and clays with a cumulative depth of over two metres in lower-lying areas. Peat deposits in Bermondsey have generally been equated with the Tilbury IV regression which occurred in the late second millennium BC, although the proposed succession may oversimplify a more complex alluvial sequence

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Historical and archaeological research for the site was conducted as part of the desk-based assessment (Archaeology Collective 2015). The following is a summary of that report:

- 5.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site and within a 750m radius was carried in support of the application. A summary of findings set out in this document is given below.
- 5.2 The application site lies within the Bermondsey Lake Archaeological Priority Zone.
- 5.3 The desk-based assessment concluded that there was a moderate potential for encountering remains of prehistoric and Roman activity, and low potential for activity from other periods.
- 5.4 The map regression indicated that the application site was open farmland until the mid-19th century when rapid development in this part of Bermondsey took place.
- 5.5 However, significant impacts on any underlying archaeological remains will have derived from long-term ploughing, and more recently, from the late 19th century onwards, by the cutting of cellars and foundations during the construction of the Colleen Brawn Public House. Bomb damage, and the subsequent demolition and rebuilding of the public house in the 1950s are likely to have at least partly truncated below ground deposits.

## 6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief comprised a programme of observation and recording of the grubbing out of a basement to the north of the site, known as Watching Brief Areas 1-4, followed by a further ground intrusion, known as Test Pit 1, towards the south-west of site (Figure 2).
- 6.2 All excavation was conducted under constant supervision of the attendant archaeologist over the course of five days. Location plans were drawn at 1:100 and 1:50 and a section was drawn at 1:20 in Watching Brief Area 4, in the north-east corner of the site.
- 6.3 Excavation of the basement and modern buildings were undertaken using a toothed machine bucket. Following removal of all modern materials, excavation continued using a toothless grading bucket and potential archaeological material was removed in spits of a maximum thickness of 300mm.
- 6.4 Excavation in Watching Brief Areas 1-4 continued to a depth necessary to remove the basement construction and truncations caused by the basement. Test Pit 1 was excavated by the sub-contractor and was supervised by the attending archaeologist.
- 6.5 The test pit had the following dimensions:

<b>Test Pit</b>	<b>Dimensions north- south</b>	<b>Dimensions east- west</b>	<b>Max. depth (from ground level)</b>	<b>Approximate OD height at top</b>
TP1	5.00m	2.00m	2.50m	1.88m

- 6.6 Levels were obtained using a topographical map of the site produced in February 2018.
- 6.7 In this report 'ground level' (GL) refers to a level of approximately 1.88m AOD.

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### Watching Brief Areas 1-4

- 7.1 Watching brief areas 1-4 were excavated to a depth of 3.38m BGL – the maximum depth of the basement truncation.
- 7.2 Layer [3], the deepest visible deposit in the section, was the light yellowish-brown natural sands, at least 2.40m thick, with occasional small flint pebbles. Overlying Layer [3] was a mid orangey-brown silty sand, 0.80m thick, probably a subsoil.
- 7.3 Layer [1] was a mid greyish-brown, loose deposit, 0.18m thick, consisting of brick, tile and shell overlying Layer [2].
- 7.4 Section 1 shows the material in the south-facing northern bulk.
- 7.5 The removal of the structure and associated basement revealed truncated natural sands directly below the basement slab, thus removing any probability of archaeological deposits surviving within the basement footprint.



*Figure 1 Looking north - showing natural sands below the previous location of the basement slab*

- 7.6 The maximum depth of the excavation in Watching Brief Areas 1-4 was 3.38m.



*Plate 1: Watching Brief Area 4 - Looking north – showing Section 1 – light yellowish natural sands [3] overlain by mid orangey-brown silty sands [2].*

### Test Pit 1

- 7.7 Test Pit 1 was dug in the south-western area of the site, to the south of Watching Brief Areas 1-4.
- 7.8 The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural sand [3] sealed by a subsoil interface [2] sealed by a topsoil [1], beneath modern concrete.
- 7.9 A section wasn't possible in this area due to an unsafe section, however full photographic and in-plan recording took place.



*Figure 2 Looking South - showing Layer [2], overlying natural sands [3]*

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The natural geology was reached at a depth of around 0.80m below ground level (BGL), approximately 1m AOD, in Watching Brief Area 4 and in Test Pit 1.
- 8.1.1 The excavation of the basement footprint demonstrated that the basement truncated any potential archaeological deposits to around 3.38m BGL, far deeper than the upper horizon of the natural deposits (around 0.80m BGL).
- 8.1.2 A sequence of natural sands sealed by subsoil, sealed by topsoil, sealed by concrete was seen. The survival of subsoil Layer [2] suggest that there is potential for archaeological survival in those areas not truncated by the basement.
- 8.1.3 Layer [1] was a mixture of demolition material some of it Victorian in date. The layer probably relates to the levelling of the site after heavy bomb damage in World War II and the construction of the pub soon after in the 1950s. The Victorian material is likely to be residual – relating to the construction of a public house on the site at some point between 1893 and 1913, the construction of which was noted in the Desk-Based Assessment (Archaeology Collective 2015).
- 8.1.4 The excavation of Test Pit 1 showed an identical sequence to that seen in Section 1 which suggests that the potential for archaeological survival at the south end of site is similar to that in the north of the site.
- 8.2 The results of the site investigation will be published as a minimum by PCA as a summary in the annual 'Round-Up' of *London Archaeologist*.
- 8.3 The physical and digital archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under site code SWP18.

## **9 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

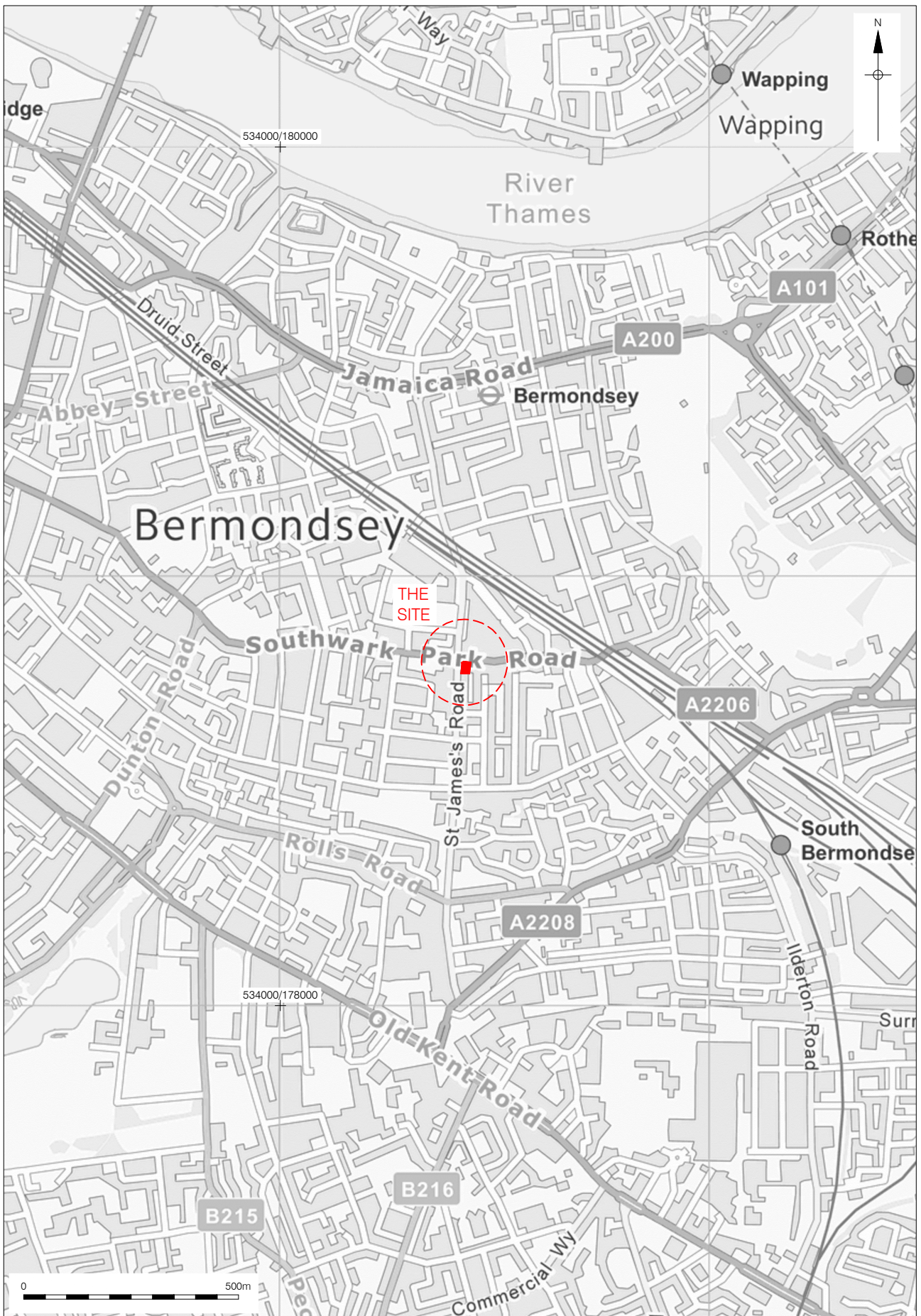
Archaeology Collective 2015, 'Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: 196 Southwark Park Road, London, SE16 3RP', unpublished report.

Archaeology Collective 2018, 'Written Scheme of Investigation (Archaeological Watching Brief: Observation and Recording) 196 Southwark Park Road, London, SE16 3RP', unpublished report.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Archaeology Collective for commissioning the work and the team at GA Demolition for their co-operation on site during excavation.
- 10.2 The author would also like to thank Rosie Scales for preparing the illustrations, Phillip Frickers and James Heathcote for supervising, and Chris Mayo for project management and editing.





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 01/05/18 RS

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:12,500 at A4

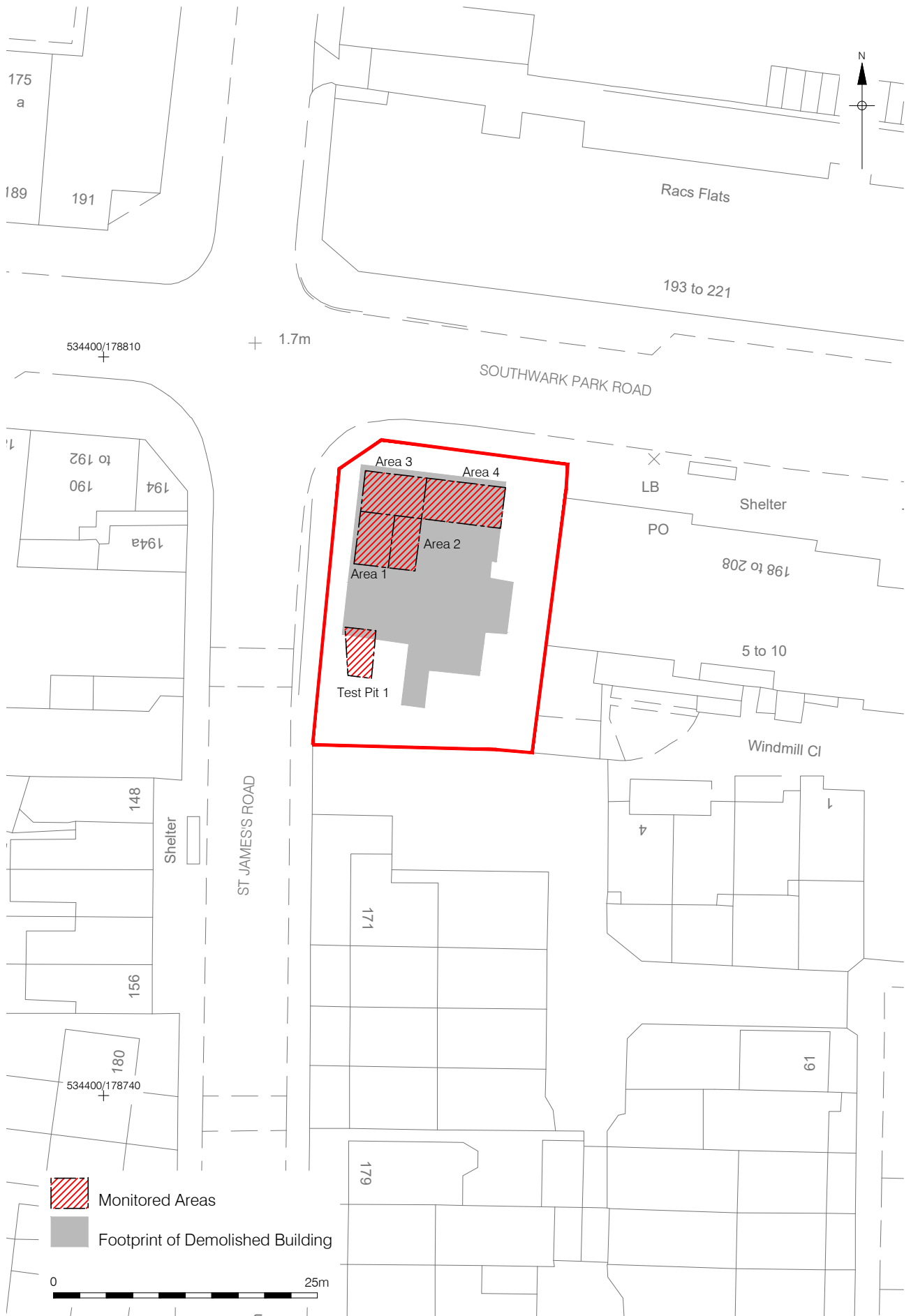
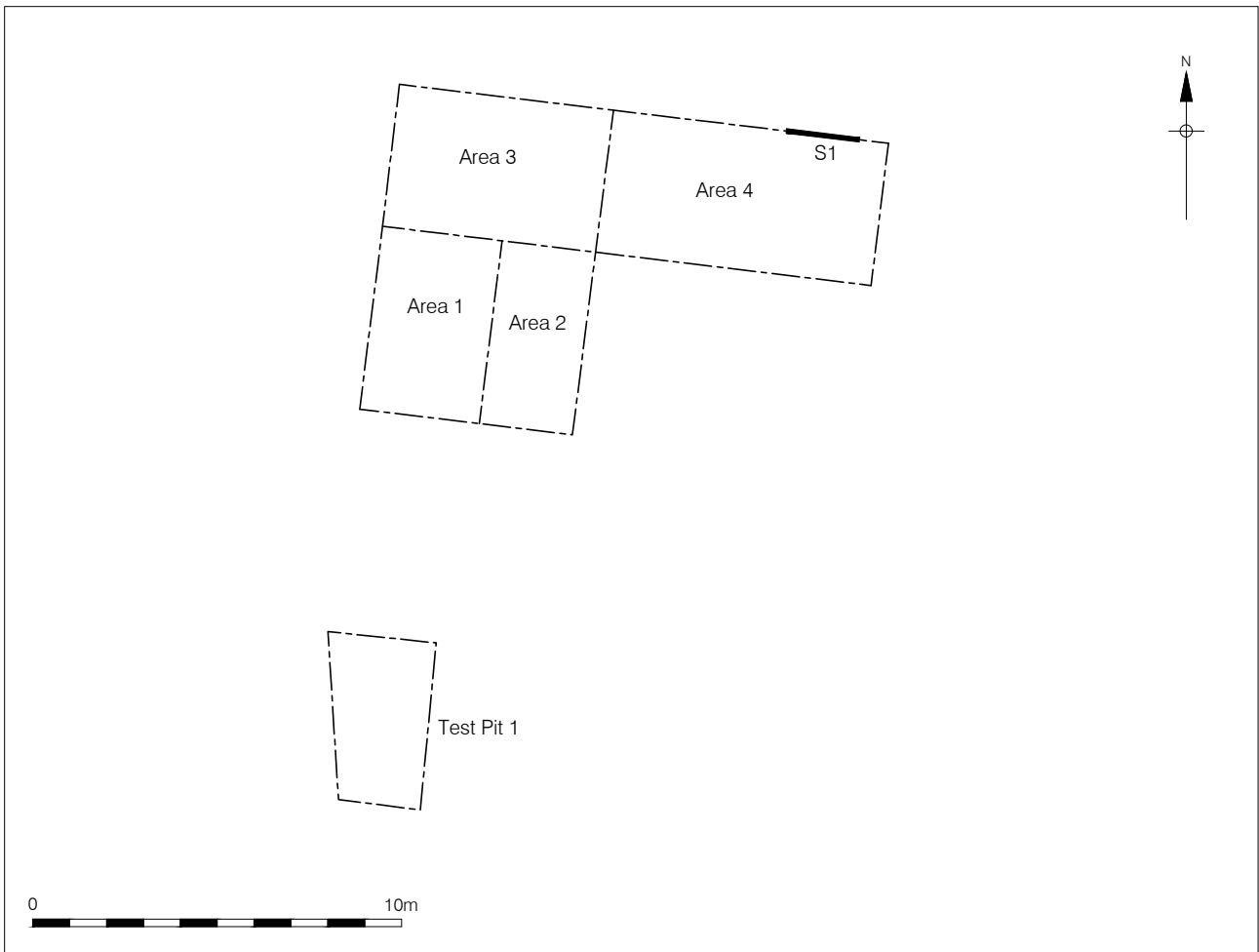
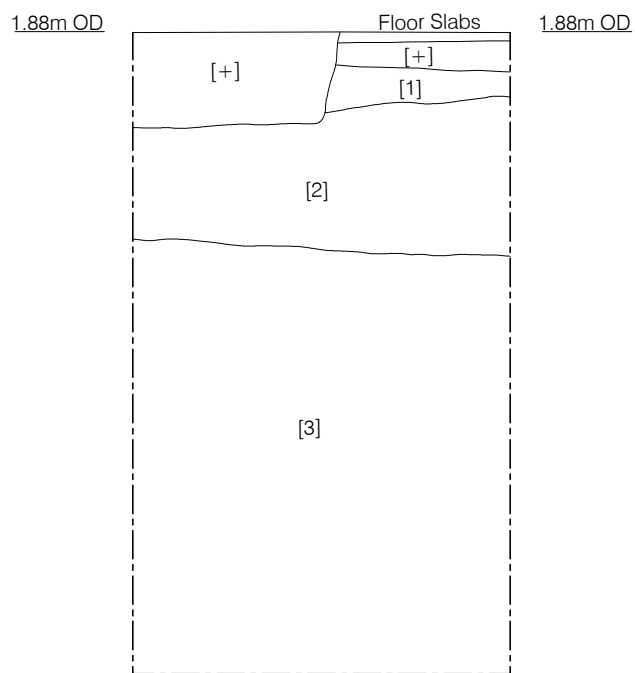


Figure 2  
 Watching Brief Areas and Test Pit 1 Locations  
 1:500 at A4



W E



Section 1  
Area 4  
South facing



Figure 3  
Plan and Section 1  
Plan 1:200 at A4; Section 1:40 at A4

---

## APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-374207

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### Project details

Project name	196 Southwark Park Road, LB Southwark, SE16 3RP
Short description of the project	Archaeological Watching Brief on removal of any obstructions to the planned development. No archaeological remains were found.
Project dates	Start: 10-04-2018 End: 20-04-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SWP18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

---

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK 196 Southwark Park Road
Postcode	SE16 3RP
Study area	200 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 34434 78791 51.491560074379 -0.063354115633 51 29 29 N 000 03 48 W  
Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

---

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator Archaeology Collective

Project design  
originator Sylvia White

Project  
director/manager Zbigniew Pozorski

Project supervisor Tanya Jones

Type of  
sponsor/funding body Consultancy

Name of  
sponsor/funding body Archaeology Collective

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive  
recipient LAA

Physical Contents "other"

Digital Archive  
recipient LAA

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Text"

Paper Archive  
recipient LAA

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

---

## Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	196 Southwark Park Road, LB Southwark, SE16 3RP: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	T Jones
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London
<hr/>	
Entered by	Zbigniew Pozorski (zpozorski@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	18 November 2019

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Area	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/Depth (m)	Highest level (m BGL)	Lowest Level (m BGL)
1	Layer	WBA1-4	Levelling Layer	-	-	0.18	0.20	0.38
2	Layer	WBA1-4	Subsoil	-	-	0.80	0.38	1.18
3	Layer	WBA1-4	Natural sands	-	-	2.40	1.18	3.38

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