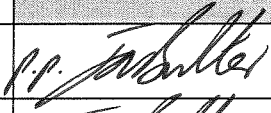



551 OLD KENT ROAD
LONDON SE1
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

EXCAVATION

Quality Control

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**Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation at 551 Old Kent Road,
London Borough of Southwark**

Site Code: OKX07

National Grid Reference: TQ 3501 7740

Written and Researched by Ireneo Grosso

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, April 2008

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This document details the results and working methods of an archaeological excavation on land at 551 Old Kent Road, Southwark (Fig. 1), in advance of a residential development by Commodore Developments (UK) Ltd and follows an evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology in February 2007¹. The redevelopment site was centred around National Grid Reference TQ 3501 7740.
- 1.2 Natural sandy brickearth was found across the excavation area at a level of 0.65m OD to the south and gradually sloping downwards, at a level of 0.20m OD, to the north. An E-W prehistoric ditch, already observed during the initial evaluation², truncated the natural sandy brickearth and presented a terminus to the west. Another possible curvilinear prehistoric cut feature was observed just next to the ditch but unfortunately no cultural material was found in its fill.
- 1.3 A peat layer, sealing the prehistoric cut features, contained a single cattle bone and a few burnt flints. Although the near absence of cultural material, this layer, occasionally disturbed by rooting, indicates that the study site was marshy, marginal land possibly during the Saxon and medieval periods.
- 1.4 The post-medieval activity on the study site was represented by two postholes sealed by a sequence of homogenous clay layers, largely devoid of cultural material, indicating the site had been largely flooded and abandoned in the post-medieval period until the beginning of the ground works associated with the construction of the Georgian terrace house and of the N-S sewer, which truncated the western side of the study site.

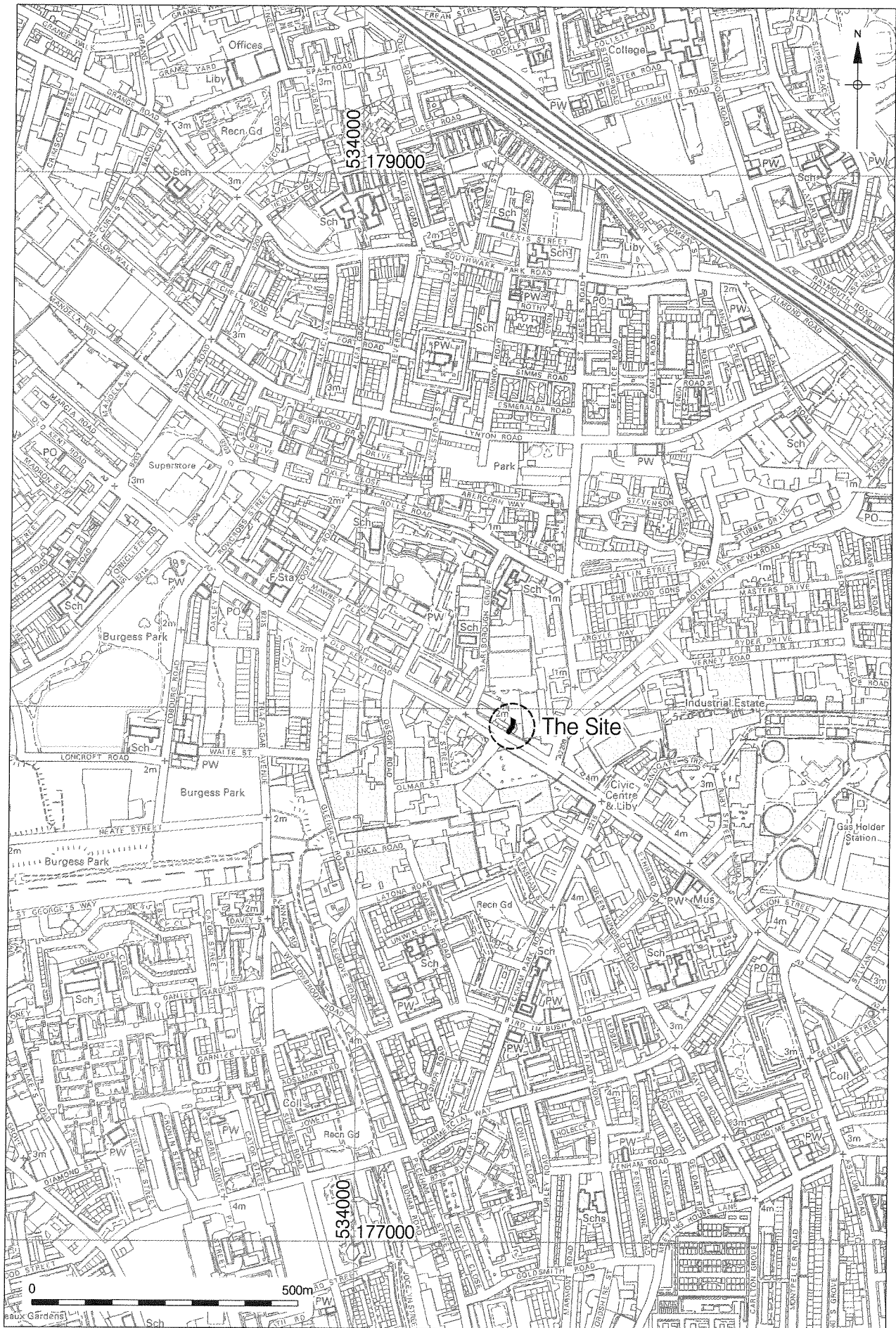
¹ Seddon, 2007.

² Seddon, 2007.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological field excavation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 551 Old Kent Road, London Borough of Southwark (Fig. 1) between 21st January and 1st February 2008 and followed an earlier evaluation of the site undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology in February 2007³, which revealed evidence of a prehistoric ditch and a possible Roman posthole, both sealed by a medieval or post-medieval ploughsoil. The south of the site, within the footprint of the previous building and adjacent to Old Kent Road, was proven at the evaluation stage to be truncated by post-medieval basements.
- 2.2 The earlier evaluation of the site demonstrated archaeological preservation in Trench 1 to the rear of the site and further archaeological work was undertaken in the form of an excavation area centred on this trench within the confines of the rear of the property, and within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 2.3 The commissioning client was Commodore Developments (UK) Ltd. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook the fieldwork under the supervision of Ireneo Grosso, the project management of Chris Mayo and post-excavation management of Jonathan Butler.
- 2.4 The site was bounded by Old Kent Road to the south, by the Six Bridges Industrial Estate to the east and north and by the rear garden of the property at 549 Old Kent Road to the north-west. The site occupies the land at the rear of 551 Old Kent Road and was originally used as a garden.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre at Eagle Wharf Road under the site code OKX 07.

³ Seddon, 2007.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:10,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The Southwark Plan (or Unitary Development Plan) sets out the framework for future development and land use in Southwark. The policies in the Southwark Plan are used by development control to make decisions on individual planning applications in Southwark. The Southwark Plan was adopted in July 2007 and, along with the London Plan, it makes up the current Development Plan for Southwark. The following archaeological concerns are addressed:

Policy 3.19 Archaeology

313 Planning applications affecting sites within Archaeological Priority Zones (APZs), as identified in Appendix 8, shall be accompanied by an archaeological assessment and evaluation of the site, including the impact of the proposed development. There is a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ*, to protect and safeguard archaeological remains of national importance, including scheduled monuments and their settings. The *in situ* preservation of archaeological remains of local importance will also be sought, unless the importance of the development outweighs the local value of the remains. If planning permission is granted to develop any site where there are archaeological remains or there is good reason to believe that such remains exist, conditions will be attached to secure the excavation and recording or preservation in whole or in part, if justified, before development begins.

Reasons

314 Southwark has an immensely important archaeological resource. Increasing evidence of those peoples living in Southwark before the Roman and medieval period is being found in the north of the borough and along the Old Kent Road. The suburb of the Roman provincial capital (Londinium) was located around the southern bridgehead of the only river crossing over the Thames at the time and remains of Roman buildings, industry, roads and cemeteries have been discovered over the last 30 years. The importance of the area during the medieval period is equally well attested both archaeologically and historically. Elsewhere in Southwark, the routes of Roman roads (along the Old Kent Road and Kennington Road) and the historic village cores of Peckham, Camberwell, Walworth and Dulwich also have the potential for the survival of archaeological remains.

315 PPG16 requires the council to include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings

3.2 Archaeological fieldwork was a condition for the granting of full planning permission for the development. PCA undertook an archaeological evaluation at the site in February 2007⁴, which revealed *in situ* archaeology at the rear of the property, comprising a prehistoric ditch aligned parallel to the Old Kent Road and a possible Roman posthole, both sealed by a medieval or post-medieval plough soil horizon.

⁴ Seddon, 2007.

- 3.3 As a result of the evaluation the Senior Archaeological Officer for Southwark requested that the untruncated area at the rear of the property be excavated as an archaeological mitigation (Fig. 2).

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 GEOLOGY

4.1.1 The site is shown on maps published by the British Geological Survey, (Geological Survey of Great Britain, OS sheet 270), to be underlain by 'solid strata of the Thanet Sand of Palaeocene Age, which is in turn underlain by the Upper Chalk. The Thanet Sand is dense fine sand. Drift deposits comprising the Kempton Park Gravel, a Thames River Terrace Deposit, are shown to overlie the Thanet Sand, which are in turn overlain by brickearth deposits.

4.2 TOPOGRAPHY

4.2.1 The site lies on sloping ground, with ground level to the south of the site at 2.68m OD, falling to 1.70m OD to the north.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 It has become apparent in the last 20 years, that archaeological remains are preserved beneath the alluvium previously thought of by archaeologists as natural. As such evidence for the exploitation of the Southwark islands dating from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age has been discovered. The exact form and extent of Southwark's ancient eyots remain uncertain, although archaeological excavations have increased our knowledge and understanding of settlement patterns in the area.

5.1.2 Previous excavations by the Museum of London in 1990, 40m to the south at the current B&Q site, demonstrated the existence of Mesolithic and Neolithic material with two apparently *in situ* flint scatters. A number of features, including a gully, several ditches and some postholes, were also identified, although their contemporaneity with the artefact scatters remains doubtful⁵.

5.1.3 A third flint scatter was found at Marlborough Grove, some 200m to the northwest, during excavation in 1995. Examination of the assemblage suggests that they can be dated to the conventional Early Mesolithic.⁶

5.1.4 Excavations to the east around the junction of St James's Road and Old Kent Road, also undertaken by the Museum of London in 1990, revealed a thin layer of weathered sand containing flint blades, scrapers, cores and waste flakes⁷. Whilst to the west excavations at 1-21 Ossory Road and 464-476 Old Kent Road revealed several prehistoric features including a possible enclosure ditch. Finds included late Mesolithic/Neolithic flint flakes and blades. The prehistoric features were sealed by a sandy gravelly layer containing Roman pottery⁸.

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 Old Kent Road in this part of Southwark is believed to run along the approximate line of the Roman Watling Street from London to Dover. Roman feature and finds are common

⁵ Sidell *et al*, 2002; Thompson *et al* 1998, 198.

⁶ Sidell *et al*, 2002.

⁷ Thompson *et al* 1998, 212.

⁸ Greenwood & Maloney 1996, 21.

from the area, and it is apparent that during this period it was part of a highly developed agricultural landscape. Dating evidence recovered from the field system indicates a 2nd to 3rd century date. Limited evidence of structure in the form of post holes have also been found.

5.2.2 The Roman settlement in Southwark was centred to the northwest of the site in the area of the present Borough High Street. However, Roman pottery from pits and ditches excavated on sites on the Bermondsey eyot, indicated that there was occupation during the late 1st and 2nd centuries. At the west end of the eyot there is evidence for timber and stone structures, one of which may have been a hypocaust.

5.2.3 Roman make-up layers associated with the construction of Roman Watling Street were observed during the excavation of B&Q Depot at Old Kent Road⁹.

5.2.4 The evaluation and later watching brief at The Cockneys, 610 Old Kent Road, revealed a series of shallow pits; some of these were undated but were probably the result of gravel extraction associated with the construction or repair of Roman Watling Street to the north¹⁰. Further evidence of Watling Street was found at 430-432 Old Kent Road where a Roman ditch aligned approximately E-W, considered to be one of the roadside ditches of the Roman Watling Street, was observed. Mid 3rd-4th-century pottery was recovered from the ditch fill and 4th-century pottery and a coin from the overlying ploughsoil¹¹.

5.2.5 An archaeological watching brief conducted by PCA at 434-452 Old Kent Road revealed 4 ditches and a pit of Roman date. A residual struck flint was recovered from a layer that sealed the ditches¹².

5.3 Saxon and Medieval

5.3.1 During the Saxon and medieval periods the site is believed to have lain in marshy, marginal land. There is an almost complete absence of material relating to this period. The same is true for the later medieval period.

⁹ Thompson *et al* 1998, 198.

¹⁰ Valler & Thorpe, 2006; Evans, 2006.

¹¹ Greenwood & Maloney 1996, 20.

¹² Crisp & Hawkins, 2005.

5.3.2 The line of the Old Kent Road was also an important thoroughfare in the medieval period, and was the route followed by pilgrims to Canterbury as immortalized by Chaucer.

5.4 Post-Medieval

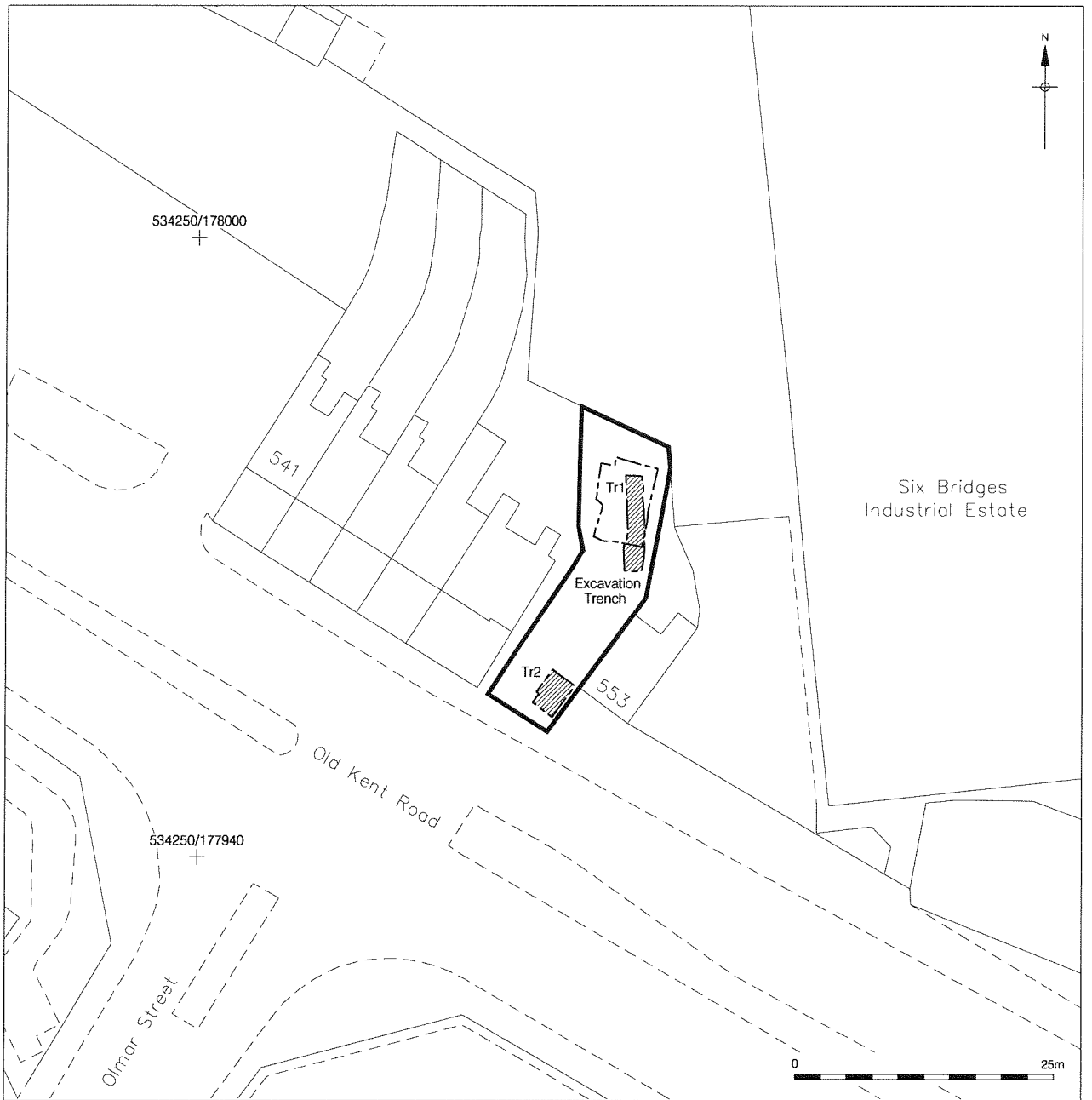
5.4.1 As the urban population of Southwark grew during the 17th and 18th century the remaining open ground was increasingly used for rubbish disposal resulting in land reclamation of the areas previously uninhabitable due to flooding, and subsequently for domestic and industrial development.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The area of excavation was located at the rear of the property at 551 Old Kent Road and measured c. 40m² (Fig. 2). The excavation followed the methodology that was laid out in the archaeological method statement¹³.
- 6.2 Lack of available space for the storage of the spoil meant that the excavation was carried out in two stages. The eastern half of the excavation area was opened up first with the western part, which continued until the east side of the north-south construction cut for a modern sewer was observed, only being undertaken once the eastern side had been recorded and backfilled. Based on this approach, during the course of the fieldwork the first half of the excavation area was given the nomenclature 'Trench 3', and the second half 'Trench 4. However, for the sake of simplicity these trenches are referred to in this report as the 'site' or 'study area'.
- 6.3 The positions of all services were checked before locating the trenches on the ground and trenches were CAT scanned before work commenced. Where necessary the extent, axis and location of the trenches were changed to avoid live services and physical obstructions.
- 6.4 The removal of modern overburden and later post-medieval layers was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued through undifferentiated deposits in spits of no greater than 100mm until either significant archaeological, or natural, undisturbed deposits were encountered.
- 6.5 Following machine clearance, all faces of the excavation areas that required examination were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological deposits was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section.
- 6.6 Areas of excavation were fenced off during the excavation to protect the archaeology and the public and were all backfilled at the end of the excavation.
- 6.7 Recording was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified in the Museum of London Site Manual. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and full or representative sections at a scale of 1:10. Contexts were numbered sequentially from the last number used in the evaluation and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets.

¹³ Mayo, 2007.

- 6.8 A temporary benchmark (TBM 3.32m OD) was transferred from the Ordnance Survey Bench Mark located on the southwest side of Bowles Road (BM 2.85m OD).



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 2007 Evaluation Trenches

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The following description of the stratigraphy details the main characteristics of each context and its position in the phased stratigraphic matrix (Appendix 2). Ordnance Datum levels and physical dimensions are referenced when relevant to an understanding of the archaeological sequence and when not cited can be found referenced in Appendix 1.

7.2 Phase 1: Natural (Figure 4)

7.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the excavation of the site was a naturally formed sandy brickearth, recorded as [23] to the east of the site and [36] to the west. This horizon was encountered at a maximum level of 0.65m OD to the south of area of investigation and showed a very gradual variation in height across the area of excavation towards the north with the lowest level recorded at 0.20m OD to the northwest.

7.3 Phase 2: Prehistoric (Figure 3)

7.3.1 Evidence for possible prehistoric activity was found across the centre of the excavation area. Crossing this trench on an east to west orientation was a ditch, [30], which was recorded as [13] during the evaluation. Despite a general absence of cultural material during the excavation three struck flints and four burnt flints were retrieved from its fill during the evaluation suggesting a possible prehistoric date for the ditch, although it is possible that the flints were residual. The highest level of cut [30] was observed at 0.43m OD and the lowest level at 0.32m OD. The ditch was filled by a mid brown sandy silt recorded as [29] in the excavation and as [12] in the evaluation. The feature had a terminus to the west, was 0.14m deep and measured 2.74m long (E-W) as observed by 0.63m wide, and extended to the east beyond the limit of excavation.

7.3.2 Just west of the terminus of ditch [30] was observed a shallow, curvilinear ditch, recorded as [32] in its eastern extent and [35] to the west. The cut had a terminus to the south and was truncated to the west by the construction cut for the modern live sewer located to the west of the study site. The highest level was observed at 0.42m OD and the lowest at 0.20m OD. A firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt, [31] / [34], with very occasional rounded and sub angular pebbles and occasional burnt flints but without artefact filled this ditch. The curvilinear ditch extended about 1.70m E-W, 1.63m N-S, was 0.60m wide with a very irregular base which had a maximum depth of 0.12m.

7.4 Phase 3: Roman (Figure 3)

7.4.1 A posthole [15], the top of which was recorded at +0.07m OD, was revealed during the evaluation in Trench 1. It appeared to be sub-square in plan, with steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.40m north-south and 0.26m deep. It contained a single fill, [14], composed of a moderately compacted, dark grey brown, clayey silt, (50%/50%), which contained three fragments of heavily abraded pottery and small pieces of burnt bone. The pottery was provisionally identified as Rhodian amphora, RHOD2, (yellow fabric), dated between AD 50 and 150¹⁴.

7.5 Phase 4: Medieval (Figure 3)

7.5.1 Overlying the earlier features was a spongy dark brown layer with very occasional animal bones, small size rounded pebbles and moderate root disturbance which was recorded as [28] and [33]. Its highest level was found at 0.54m OD to the west, the lowest at 0.39m OD to the east and the feature extended over an area measuring about 5.95m E-W and 11.16m N-S. It followed the gradual slope of the natural brickearth downwards to the north and was about 0.15m thick. A very similar layer, in composition, compaction and colour was observed and recorded in section 3 as context [20] and was interpreted as bioturbation.

7.5.2 These deposits were interpreted as ploughsoil during the evaluation but it is possible that they represent a marsh layer formed during the late Saxon / Early medieval times. The study site is located southwest of the so-called Bermondsey Lake of probable Late glacial origin and at the time of the first occupation of the site it had been silting up for millennia¹⁵. Moreover during the Saxon / medieval periods the site is believed to have lain in marshy, marginal land. Unfortunately no artefacts were retrieved from this layer, and its dating is very uncertain but it definitely pre-dates the re-deposited post-medieval alluvial clay which has been observed overlying this marsh layer across the excavation area.

7.5.3 Sealing the marshy Saxon / Medieval layer was a very firm dark brownish grey peaty clay [19] with occasional root disturbance but without any dating material. It was observed at 0.94m OD and gradually sloping downwards to the north at 0.49m OD and

¹⁴ J. Gerrard, pers comm.

¹⁵ Sidell *et al*, 2002.

recorded on the east and west facing sections 3 and 4 respectively but not in plan. It extended 7.17m N-S, 4.44m E-W and was about 0.55m thick.

- 7.5.4 This layer too respected the topography of the natural horizon in its gradual slope from the south downward to the north and was interpreted as alluvial clay of possible medieval date. In addition this layer definitely pre-dated the re-deposited alluvial clay by which it was sealed across the whole area of excavation.

7.6 Phase 5: Post-Medieval (Figure 3)

- 7.6.1 The post-medieval phase was represented by cuts [25] and [27] located to the north and to the south of prehistoric ditch [13] / [30] respectively. Cut [25], found at 0.73m OD, was a circular posthole with a diameter of 0.27m and a depth of 0.40m and filled by mid yellowish grey sandy silty clay [24] with very occasional pottery and small fragments of slag. Feature [27], found at 0.44m OD, was almost rectangular in plan with vertical and regular sides and a flat and regular base. It measured 0.59m E-W by 0.35m N-S with a depth of 0.15m, was filled by mid yellowish grey sandy silty clay [26] and contained occasional small fragments of slag.
- 7.6.2 A single sherd of local post-medieval redware (PMR) was recovered from context [24], and its appearance indicates a possible 17th to mid 18th-century date. Despite the lack of artefacts from context [26], its composition, colour and compaction indicates that it was very similar to [24] and for this reason it is very likely that posthole [25] and the rectangular cut [27] belong to the same archaeological phase.
- 7.6.3 Overlying layer [19] and cuts [25] and [27] was firm light brownish grey sandy silty clay [18], observed at 1.15m OD (highest level) in section 4 and at 0.59m OD (lowest level) in section 3. It extended across the entire area of excavation and was about 0.45m thick. Context [18] contained very occasional pottery and some stems of clay tobacco pipes dating 1720-80 and 1580-1910 respectively. This layer is possibly associated with the ground works associated with the construction or later modification of the property at 551 Old Kent Road.
- 7.6.4 To the south of the area of investigation and following the south limit of excavation, was observed a modern E-W masonry wall which was interpreted as being part of the tank structure constructed against the south of the property at 551 Old Kent Road.
- 7.6.5 To the west of the study site and delimiting the west side of the area was observed the eastern side of the construction cut for the existing N-S live sewer.

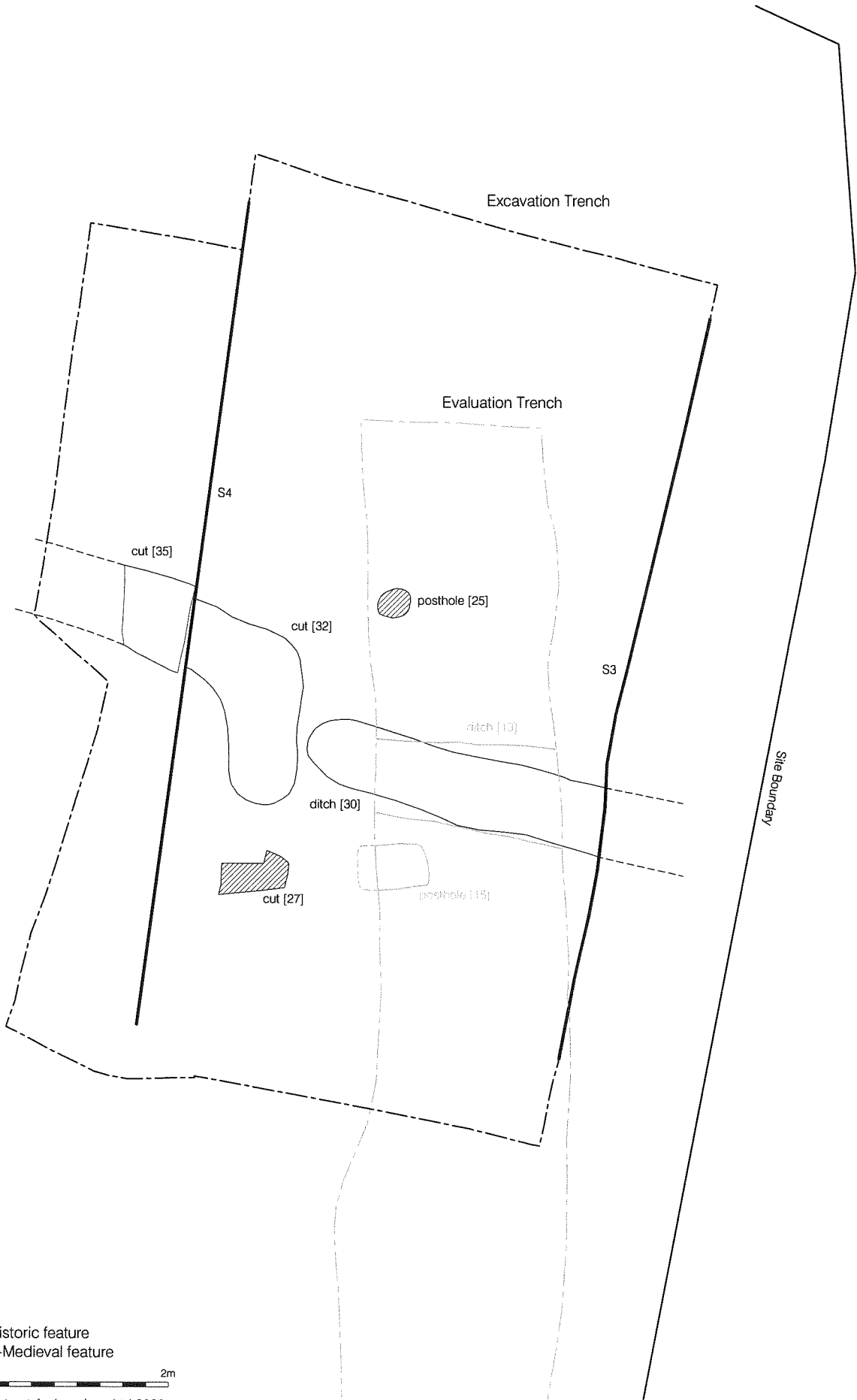
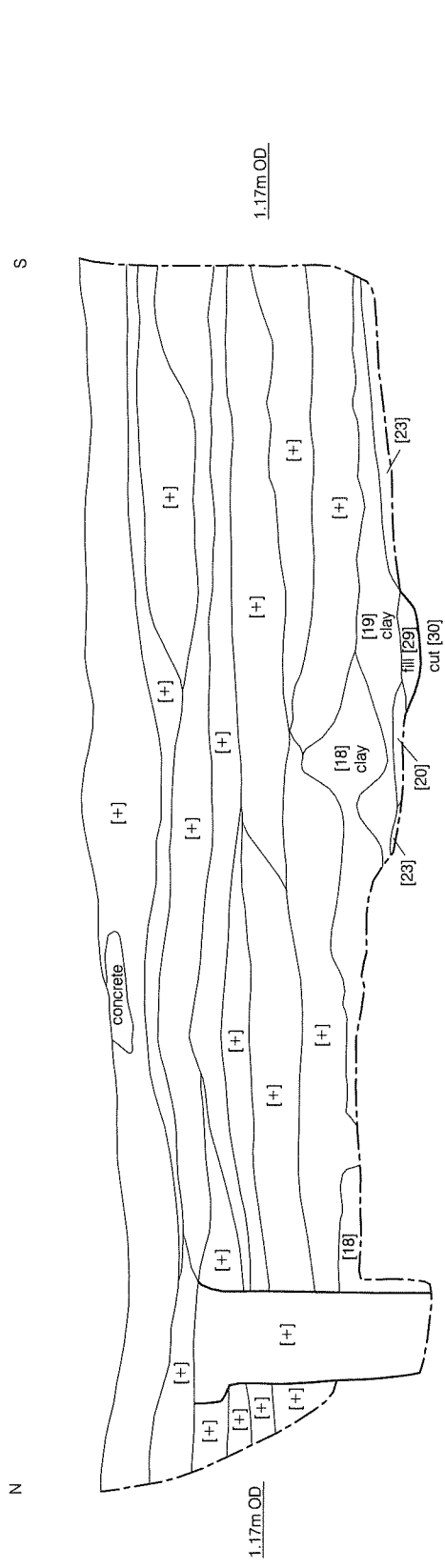
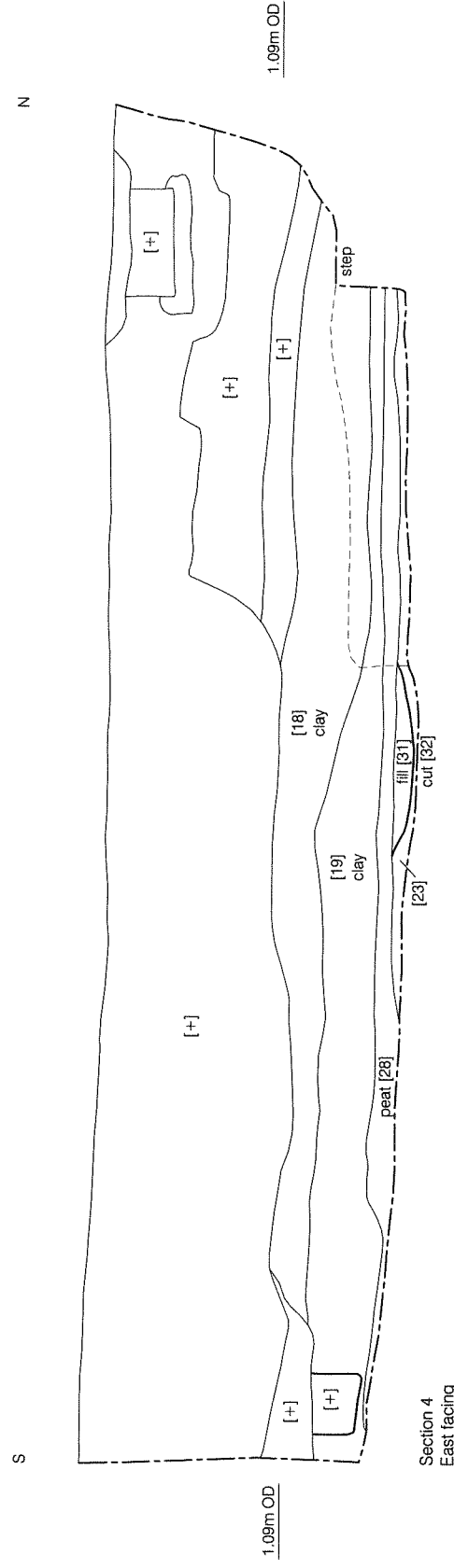


Figure 3
Plan of Excavation Trench
1:50 at A4



Section 3
West facing



Section 4
East facing



8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

8.1 The excavation tried to address the following research objectives which were stated in the archaeological method statement¹⁶:

8.2 To determine the palaeotopography of the site.

8.2.1 The topography in the immediate vicinity of the site would have been dominated by the so-called Bermondsey Lake, which lay a short distance to the north and northeast. One of a number of lakes of probable Late Glacial origin situated along the Thames valley, the basin was likely to have been 200m (and possibly up to several kilometres) in length east to west and about 4m in depth¹⁷.

8.2.2 The open area excavation found that the natural brickearth horizon showed a very gradual variation in height across the areas of excavation from the south to the north. The study site lay in the immediate vicinity of Bermondsey Lake and it is possible that this gradual sloping follows the topography associated with the Upper Palaeolithic period.

8.3 To determine the nature and date of prehistoric activity at the site.

8.3.1 Two ditches were revealed within the excavation. Although the eastern ditch contained three struck flints, these were of probable Mesolithic or Neolithic date and are therefore residual and cannot date the features¹⁸. It is probable that the flints were redeposited and there is indeed a concentration of Early Mesolithic activity which was observed during the excavation of the B&Q Depot, situated just 30-40m south of the site. It is possible that the ditches may be late Bronze Age or Iron Age in date, however as they seem to respect the alignment of Watling Street (Old Kent Road) it is perhaps more likely that they may be part of a Roman field system adjacent to the Roman road.

8.4 What is the nature of the ditch revealed during the evaluation? Is it associated with other contemporary features/finds?

8.4.1 The ditch revealed during the evaluation was apparently associated with a curvilinear ditch to the east. It is probable that both are part of an enclosure or field system.

¹⁶ Mayo, 2007.

¹⁷ Sidell *et al*, 2002.

¹⁸ B. Bishop, pers comm

8.5 To determine the nature and date of Roman activity at the site.

8.5.1 No definitive archaeological evidence for Roman activity was observed during the excavation. However, during the evaluation a posthole was found containing Roman pottery. However, the pottery was heavily abraded and it is possible that it was residual. The two ditches, which may be part of a field system, seem to respect the alignment of Watling Street and it is possible that they are Roman in date.

8.6 To investigate the possible presence of Roman structural remains at the site. Are they indicative of roadside activity associated with the Roman Watling Street?

8.6.1 The only evidence of possible Roman structural remains on site was the posthole containing Roman pottery which was observed in the evaluation. No associated features were found and it is unlikely that it was part of a structure. As the Roman pottery was very abraded it is possible that the feature might be more recent in date.

8.7 To establish the presence or absence of medieval and post-medieval activity.

8.7.1 The study site occupied an area which is believed to have lain in marshy, marginal land during the medieval period. The presence of a peaty clay layer, recorded as contexts [20] and [28], support the view that this was marshland after the Roman period. Moreover this layer was sealed across the entire area of excavation by firm silty clay, which in turn represents the natural deposition of alluvium sometime during the medieval period.

8.7.2 There was evidence for post-medieval activity on the site represented by posthole [25] and by a rectangular shape cut [27]. Due to the limited area of excavation the function of these archaeological features could not be clarified.

8.8 To establish the extent of past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resources.

8.8.1 Sometime during the late post-medieval period the study site underwent intensive groundwork represented by layer [18] that contained very occasional clay tobacco pipes stems and small fragments of slag.

8.8.2 Evaluation Trench 2, situated to the south of the site, showed the presence of the basement footings for the original Georgian property fronting onto Old Kent Road. To

the south of the excavation area was observed a possibly early 20th century tank constructed against the southern wall of the original property.

- 8.8.3 To the west of the study site the construction cut for the existing live sewer truncated the archaeological sequence to beyond the level of the natural horizon.

9 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 PAPER RECORDS

Context	19 sheets (contexts 18 to 36)
Plans	11 plans (18 sheets)
Sections	3 sections (7 sheets)
Photographs:	
Black and white prints (35mm)	1 film
Colour slide (35mm)	1 film

9.2 THE FINDS

Pottery, Clay tobacco pipe, animal bone, lithics and burnt flints	1 Box
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10 IMPORTANCE OF THE RESULTS AND PUBLICATION OUTLINE

10.1 Importance of the results

10.1.1 The archaeological evaluation and excavation revealed limited, largely undated archaeological remains. The three struck flints of probable Mesolithic or Neolithic were most likely found residually within a later feature. They provide continuing evidence of prehistoric activity of that date in the area, with the biggest concentration at the B & Q site.

10.1.2 The ditches provide continued evidence of agricultural field systems in the area, which are possibly of prehistoric date but are most likely of Roman date as they seem to respect the alignment of Watling Street.

10.1.3 Archaeological evidence of the build up of a marsh and the flooding of the area during the medieval period was revealed.

10.2 Further work

10.2.1 The limited nature of the archaeological remains and the almost complete lack of finds revealed at 551 Old Kent Road suggest that no further work is required.

10.3 Publication outline

10.3.1 The limited nature of the archaeological remains on site suggest that only the minimum requirement for publication of the site is needed: an inclusion in the 'London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 2008' published by London Archaeologist.

11 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Joseph Mansour of Commodore Developments (UK) for commissioning the work and the Senior Archaeological Officer for Southwark, Christopher Constable, for monitoring the site.
- 11.2 The author would like to thank Paw Jorgensen and Pari White for all their assistance during the excavation. The author would also like to thank Jeremy Rogers for the surveying, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations, Chris Jarrett and Barry Bishop for their respective reports. Furthermore, the author would like to thank Chris Mayo for his project management and Jon Butler for the editing of this report.

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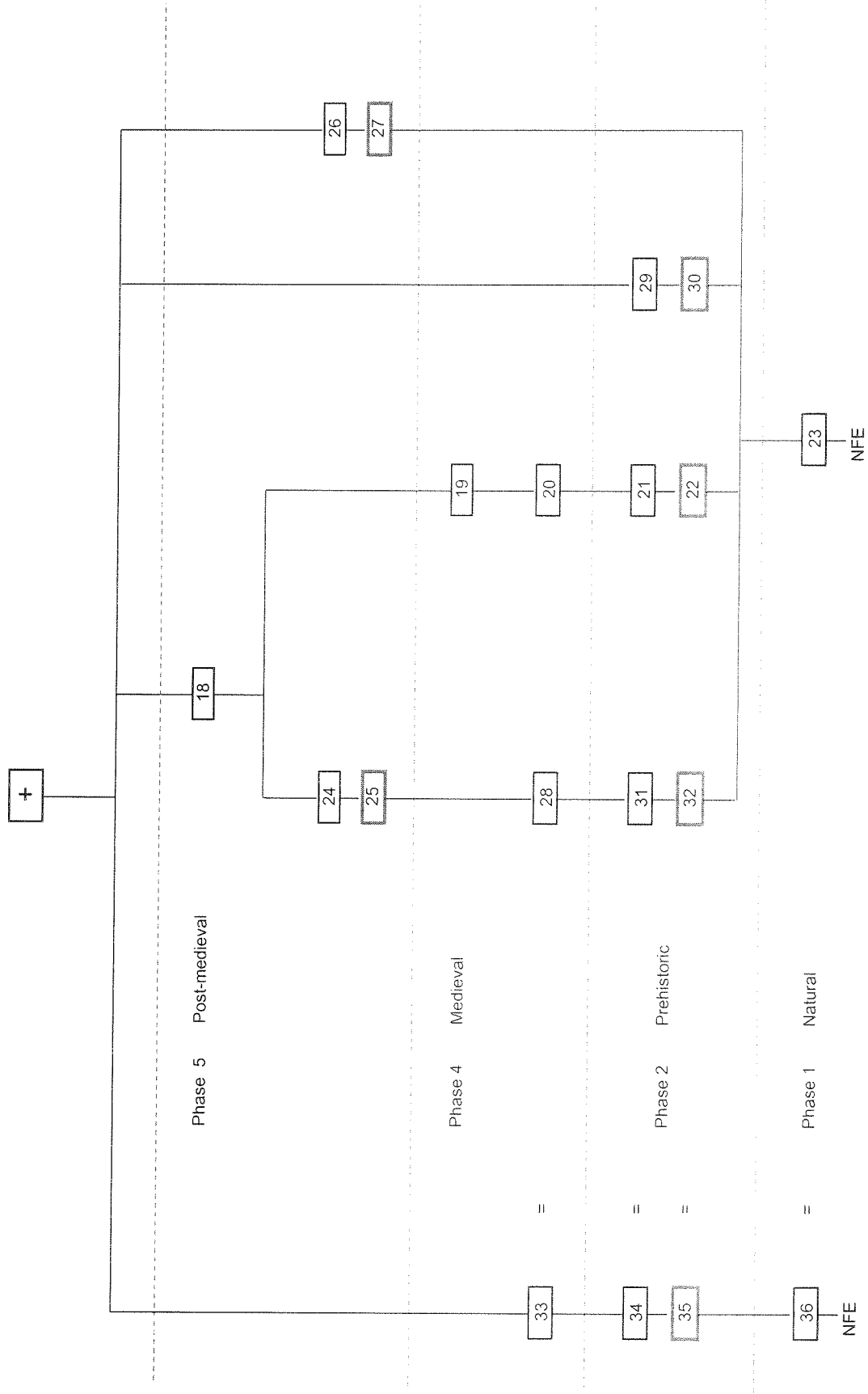
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context

No	Trench No	Phase	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Highest Level	Lowest Level
18	3	5	18	3, 4	Layer	Alluvial deposit	0.79m OD	0.50m OD
19	3	4		3, 4	Layer	Alluvial deposit	0.94m OD	0.49m OD
20	3	4		3	Layer	Bioturbation same as layer (28)	0.46m OD	0.32m OD
21	3	2		3	Fill	Fill of E-W prehistoric ditch [22] same as (29)	0.44m OD	0.40m OD
22	3	2		3	Cut	E-W prehistoric ditch filled by (21) and same as [29]	0.43m OD	0.32m OD
23	3	1	23	3, 4	Deposit	Natural brickearth same as (36)	0.65m OD	0.37m OD
24	3	5			Fill	Fill of post medieval posthole [25]	0.73m OD	0.73m OD
25	3	5	25		Cut	Post medieval posthole filled by (24)	0.73m OD	0.33m OD
26	3	5			Fill	Fill of post medieval posthole [27]	0.44m OD	0.44m OD
27	3	5	27		Cut	Post medieval posthole filled by (26)	0.44m OD	0.29m OD
28	3	4	28	4	Layer	Medieval marsh layer same as (33)	0.54m OD	0.43m OD
29	3	2			Fill	Fill of prehistoric E-W ditch [30] same as (21)	0.43m OD	0.42m OD
30	3	2	30		Cut	E-W prehistoric ditch filled by (29) and same as [22]	0.43m OD	0.28m OD
31	3	2		4	Fill	Fill of curvilinear prehistoric ditch [32] and same as (34)	0.46m OD	0.42m OD
32	3	2	32	4	Cut	Curvilinear prehistoric ditch filled by (31) and same as [35]	0.42m OD	0.30m OD
33	4	4	33		Layer	Medieval marsh layer same as (28)	0.51m OD	0.39m OD
34	4	2			Fill	Fill of curvilinear prehistoric ditch [35] and same as (31)	0.33m OD	0.30m OD
35	4	2	35		Cut	Curvilinear prehistoric ditch filled by (34) and same as [32]	0.33m OD	0.20m OD
36	4	1	36	5	Layer	Natural brickearth same as (23)	0.53m OD	0.20m OD

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett

The excavation produced a total of four sherds of pottery dating to the post-medieval period and was recovered from two contexts. The condition of the material is fragmentary and forms were not easy to identify and includes some abraded material. The pottery was classified according to Museum of London standard codes.

Context [18] produced three sherds of pottery. One red earthenware sherd is so abraded that it was not possible to classify and may even be ceramic building material. The second sherd from deposit [18] is possibly from a flowerpot in local Post-Medieval redware (PMR), dated 1580-1900, but the third sherd dates the context. This sherd is as white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG), dated 1720-80 and is possibly in the form of a small rounded teapot. Context [24] has recorded a single sherd of local post-medieval redware (PMR), but its appearance indicates a possible 17th to mid 18th-century date.

Recommendations For Further Work

The pottery has little or no significance at a local, national or international level and follows the ceramic profile for London. The potential of the pottery is to date the features it was found in. It does not require illustration. There are no further research questions or recommendations for further work.

APPENDIX 4: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett

Three stems of clay tobacco pipe were recovered in context [18] and their only value is to broadly date the context to between 1580-1910.

Recommendations For Further Work

The clay tobacco pipe has little or no significance at a local, national or international level and follows the ceramic profile for London. The potential of the finds is to date the features it was found in. It does not require illustration. There are no further research questions or recommendations for further work.

APPENDIX 5: LITHIC ASSESSMENT

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

Excavations at 551 Old Kent Road resulted in the recovery of three pieces of flint. This report describes this material, comments on its wider significance and recommends any further work that may be required to achieve its full research potential. All measurements follow the methodology of Saville (1980).

Description of the Assemblage.

Three pieces were recovered, all from context [12], the fill of an undated ditch. They comprised:

- A serrated blade-like flake of grey-brown flint in a slightly chipped and abraded condition. This has a heavily-trimmed narrow striking platform measuring 1mm in width, a diffuse bulb of percussion and a feathered distal termination. Its dorsal surface exhibits several unidirectional and mostly parallel flake scars. Although somewhat obscured by light post-depositional chipping, there are convincing traces of fine serrations along its right lateral margin, and these may also extend along its left lateral margin. It measures 32mm X 18mm X 5mm and weighs 3g.
- A flake of opaque yellow-brown (toffee coloured) flint. This has laterally fractured (cf a silet flake) and is in a slightly chipped condition. It has a trimmed, narrow striking platform measuring <1mm wide, a hemispherical bulb of percussion and its distal is missing. Its dorsal surface exhibits several unidirectional and mostly parallel flake scars. It measures >25mm X >13mm X 4mm and weighs 2g.
- A small fragment of thermally flawed opaque black flint. Due to the degree of its fragmentation it is uncertain whether this represents the fragmentary remains of a deliberately struck flake or a natural thermal spall. It measures 26mm X 115mm X 9mm and weighs 2g.

Discussion

Of the three pieces reported here, only two were unquestionably deliberately struck. Neither of these was particularly chronologically diagnostic although serrated flakes are typically dated to the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods, and such dating would also accord well with the technological traits of both of the convincingly struck pieces. This time frame would also encompass the main period of occupation at the B&Q and Marlborough Grove sites, located c.100m to the east and north respectively. Both of these sites furnished large lithic assemblages, predominantly of Early Mesolithic characteristics, and both also contained examples of serrated flakes (Cotton 2002, table 5). Later, Neolithic, flintwork was also recovered from both of these sites, albeit in small quantities, and the wider area has produced ample evidence of occupation from the Mesolithic

to the Bronze Age periods. The proximity of these two sites and their predominantly Mesolithic flintwork cannot, therefore, be used to imply dates for the assemblage reported here.

All three of the pieces of flint were in a relatively good condition but they did show some minor edge chipping and abrasion, suggesting they had experienced a limited degree of post-depositional disturbance, although they were probably found close to where originally discarded. There is thus little to indicate that the struck flint were not, at least broadly, contemporary with the use of the ditch from which they were recovered, but such an association should not be automatically assumed, given the possibilities of residuality.

The type and range of the activities to which serrated flakes were employed remains obscure; they have traditionally been regarded as composite sickles, essential elements in Neolithic tool-kits and linked to harvesting silica-rich plants, particularly cereals. Experimental work involving micro-wear analysis confirms that serrated blades could have been used in cutting or sawing soft plant material, such as bracken or green wood (Levi-Sala 1992) and other micro-wear experiments have tended to confirm an association with plant processing (Avery 1982, 38; Grace 1992; Bradley 1993). Microwear analysis on the serrate from the B&Q site indicated that this may also have been used to cut silica-rich herbaceous plant fibre (Donahue 2002, 84). Although cereal harvesting remains a possibility if a Neolithic date is accepted for the piece, the processing of plant resources other than cereals is equally possible, and the lack of 'sickle-gloss' on this example may even suggest that this may be more likely.

Recommendations

Due to the small size of the assemblage, this report is all that is required for the purposes of archiving. The assemblage does contribute to the wider understanding of prehistoric activity in Southwark and mention should be made of it in the Greater London Historic Environment Record. A brief account of the lithic assemblage, which can be summarized from this report, should also be included in any published report on the excavations.

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APPENDIX 6: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-40275

Project details

Project name	551 Old Kent Road, London SE1
Short description of the project	Following an earlier evaluation in 2007 an excavation was undertaken at the rear of the site. Three residual struck flints of possible Mesolithic - Neolithic date were recovered from an E-W aligned ditch. To the west another ditching ending in a curvilinear terminus was revealed. No dating was recovered from either ditch but a possible late prehistoric date is possible. More likely is a Roman date as they respect the alignment of Watling Street. The features were sealed by medieval marsh and alluvial layers. A post-medieval pothole and pit together with dumped deposits were also observed.
Project dates	Start: 21-01-2008 End: 01-02-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	OKX 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LITHICS Mesolithic
Investigation type	'Full excavation'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 551 Old Kent Road
Postcode	SE1
Study area	40.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	3501 7740 3501 00 00 N 7740 00 00 E Point
Height OD	Min: 0.20m Max: 0.65m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo

Project supervisor	Ireneo Grosso
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Commodore Developments (UK) Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Database','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Notebook - Excavation','Research','General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation at 551 Old Kent Road London Borough of Southwark
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Grosso, I.
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
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