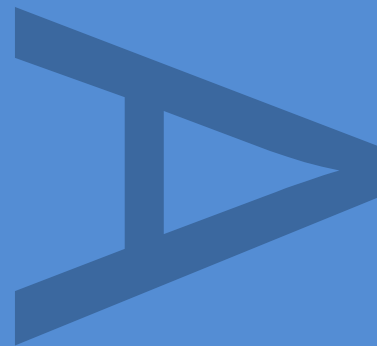


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF OF A
GEOTECHNICAL
INVESTIGATION AT
PONTON ROAD, NINE ELMS,
LONDON BOROUGH OF
WANDSWORTH**



NOVEMBER 2008

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

An Archaeological Watching Brief of a Geotechnical Investigation at Ponton Road, Nine Elms, London Borough of Wandsworth

Site Code: PNO08

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 297 775

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CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	4
2	INTRODUCTION	5
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND	8
4	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	9
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	10
6	METHODOLOGY	12
7	THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	14
8	CONCLUSIONS	22
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	23
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	24

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location.....	6
Figure 2: Trial Pit and Borehole locations	7
Figure 3: Borehole Sections	19
Figure 4: Trial Pit Sections 2-5	20
Figure 5: Trial Pit Sections 6-9	21

Appendices

Appendix 1: Context Index	25
Appendix 2: Site Matrices	26
Appendix 3: Pottery Dating	27
Appendix 4: Clay Tobacco Pipe Dating	28
Appendix 5: Ceramic Building Material Dating	29
Appendix 6: OASIS Form	30

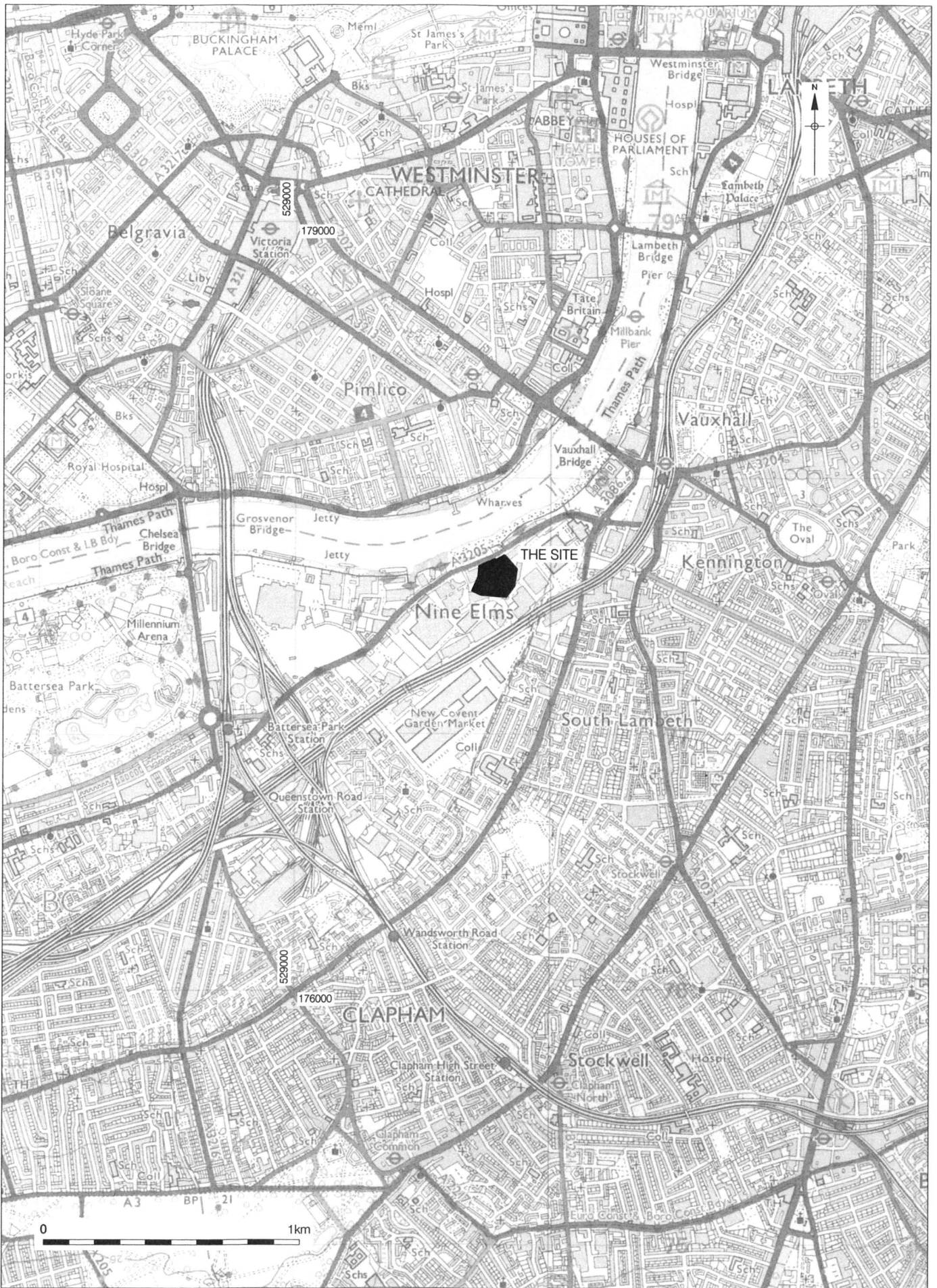
1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd during a geotechnical investigation at Ponton Road, Nine Elms, in the London Borough of Wandsworth. The geotechnical work included trial pits and boreholes. The work was commissioned and undertaken by Concept Site Investigations on behalf of their client. The watching brief was conducted between the 10th –13th November 2008.

- 1.2 The watching brief observed a sequence comprising of a layer of alluvium sealing natural terrace gravel. A silty ground build-up, or colluvium, which could be interpreted as an agricultural soil horizon, overlay the alluvial deposits; finds have dated the colluvium to at least the early post-medieval period. This was below late post-medieval to modern demolition layers and made ground. Additionally foundation structures and a basement or cellar, likely to form part of or relate to the nineteenth century brewery house, were uncovered, along with a portion of a structure of unknown function or origin that could potentially pre-date this. A post-medieval well or cesspit was located towards the northern perimeter of the site and towards the south a substantial layer of brickearth was observed between a layer of agricultural soil and alluvial deposits. One of the borehole investigations also revealed what appeared to be a fill (or series of fills) contained within a deep cut truncating the natural gravels.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted between 10th –13th November 2008 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at Ponton Road, Nine Elms, London Borough of Wandsworth. The work monitored the first phase of a geotechnical investigation undertaken by Concept Site Investigations to record ground conditions. A second phase of ground investigations is due to take place at a later (as yet undetermined) date. The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 297 775.
- 2.2 The site is located within a cluster of business units and storage facilities all of which align Ponton Road. The site occupies a total overall area of approximately 18.5 acres. It is bordered to the north by Nine Elms Lane, to the south by railway lines, to the east by Covent Garden Flower Market and to the west by Royal Mail Sorting Centre (Woolford 2008).
- 2.3 Five boreholes and eight geotechnical trial pits were excavated across the site. The trial pits were to be excavated well into the natural terrace gravels, the ideal depth being at the start of the water table. Due to tidal variance throughout the day this was not always achievable, although generally the total depths of the pits measured around 3.50m below ground level (BGL). The boreholes were to be dug to a depth of 6.00m, or to the point at which the natural sands and gravels were encountered. On only one occasion were the gravels encountered at a depth exceeding 6.00m with BH 1-3 recording them at 7.50m BGL.
- 2.4 The geological, historical and archaeological background of the site has been examined in detail in an Arup Geotechnics engineering report (Woolford 2008). The site works were monitored by Richard Hughes, of Arup, on behalf of the client and Diane Walls, English Heritage (GLAAS) on behalf of English Heritage and the London Borough of Wandsworth.
- 2.5 The site archive will eventually be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre under the site code PNO08.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A3

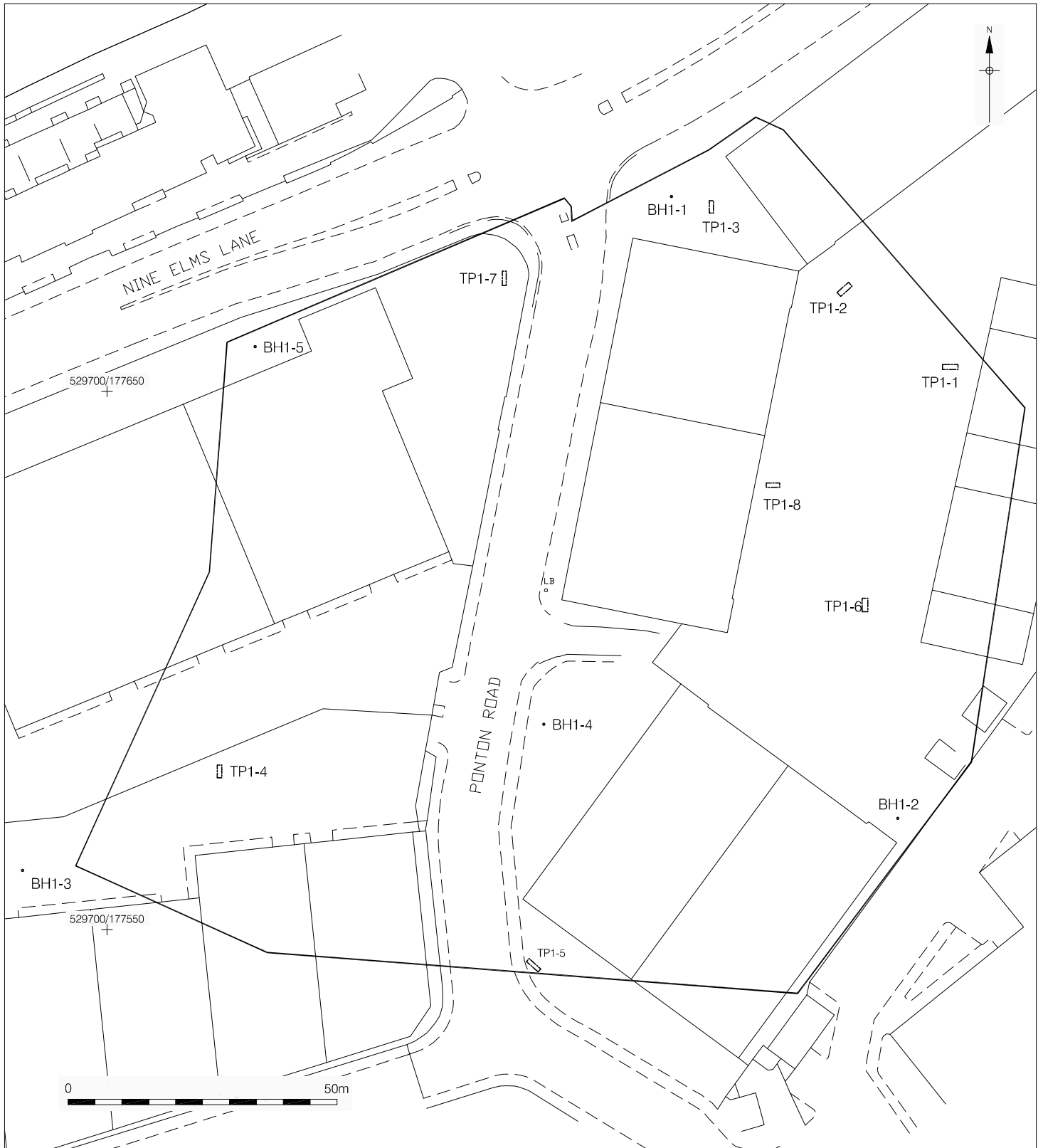


Figure 2
 Test Pit and Borehole Location
 1:1,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Archaeology in Wandsworth and the Unitary Development Plan (UDP)

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Wandsworth, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Borough's 'Unitary Development Plan' 2003 and the draft archaeology policy, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

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

Archaeology

Objective

- **To ensure the preservation or recording of important archaeological remains.**

78. Archaeological remains are part of the Borough's heritage and should not be destroyed without record. Modern methods of site clearance tend to destroy remains, though redevelopment may provide an opportunity to carry out archaeological investigation. English Heritage has identified areas of greatest likely archaeological importance in the Borough called Archaeological Priority Areas (see Proposals Map). These include the Thames and the Wandle Valley. Many archaeological finds have been found outside these areas and important remains may be found elsewhere in the Borough. The Council will consult, and be guided by English Heritage (Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service) on the archaeological implications of development proposals. When there is good reason to believe that there are remains of archaeological importance on a site, the Council will consider directing applicants to supply further details of proposed development, including the results of archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation, before the application is determined. In appropriate cases developers should adopt measures which allow the remains to be permanently preserved in situ. In other cases, the Council will require provision for the excavation and recording of the remains prior to development commencing, and the analysis, interpretation and appropriate publication of results. Archaeological investigations should be carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice of the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group.

Policy TBE14

Where development involving ground disturbance is proposed in Archaeological Priority Areas, the Council will require developers to make provision for archaeological investigation. Normally the submission of an archaeological evaluation report will be requested prior to determination. Archaeological investigation may also be required elsewhere in sites of archaeological potential.

Policy TBE15

In appropriate cases, the Council may also require preservation in situ, or excavation. The recording and publication of results will normally be required.

3.1.3 The site falls within an Archaeological Priority Zone as set out in the Wandsworth Unitary Development Plan.

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

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The British Geological Survey maps show the drift and solid geology to comprise of alluvium and River Terrace deposits over the London Clay Formation. A relatively shallow ground water table is anticipated in the alluvium and River Terrace deposits (Woolford 2008).

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The recent 1:25,000 scale Ordnance Survey (OS) map of South London indicates the site to be situated at an approximate elevation of +4.00m OD (ibid).

4.2.2 The site is located on the south bank of the River Thames, with the northern site boundary approximately 70 metres from the river's edge (ibid).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has previously been reported in an Arup Geotechnical desk-based assessment of the area (Woolford 2008). What follows is a summary of the most relevant aspects of that study.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 Prehistoric sites of significance have been found at Vauxhall (i.e: at the confluence of the Effra with the Thames) and along the foreshore of the Thames, in exposed peat and silt soils. At Battersea Power Station complex sequences of natural normally consolidated alluvial soils have been mapped.

5.2.2 The GLSMR notes a number of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Middle-Bronze Age find spots along the foreshore. Finds are mostly flint tools/axe heads but includes some worked red deer antler and two side looped spearheads. At Vauxhall, in the Thames, fine bronze swords have been discovered.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 During the Roman period the site lies generally unoccupied to our current knowledge. The Roman city was sited within the present day City of London and a bridgehead settlement in Southwark slowly expanded westwards towards Waterloo. However, it is possible that there would have been Roman activity along the Thames, up stream of the City and with farming set close to the arterial roads approaching from the southwest.

5.4 Saxon / Early Medieval

5.4.1 The early to mid Saxon city of *Lundenwic* was sited in the Covent Garden area and then with significant Saxon development on the Thorney Eyot, where Westminster Abbey is presently located. The river edge at Nine Elms would have been ideal for graving docks and other foreshore activities with deeper river channels, and for windmills making use of the higher strength winds. The location of the site is in traditional agricultural lands set between late Saxon and medieval hamlet settlements at Vauxhall and Battersea.

5.5 Late Medieval

5.5.1 Part of the traditional rural setting comprised of a manor house with associated landholding which would appear to have a medieval origin. Indeed the GLSMR notes a 'Manor house of medieval age' which would likely to have been a timber framed set of buildings with wattle and daub infilled panels or may have been built in stone. The manor house may have had a half basement or none, given the high water table. All buildings would likely have had a shallow strip foundation. Around the main building and out-buildings there would have been yards and gardens and the ground would have been utilised for rubbish pits.

5.6 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 5.6.1 The 1745 Rocque Map shows the site to be located in Nine Elms situated in a rural landscape. A road ran parallel to the northern site boundary and buildings (likely to be residential) can be seen just inside the site boundary. Buildings can also be seen on the banks of the River Thames.
- 5.6.2 The 1862 Stanford Map shows the Thornes Brewery, consisting of two large buildings, has been constructed in the central eastern area of the site. The 1874 – 1875 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows several small buildings had been constructed adjacent to the brewery and are considered likely to be part of the brewery expansion. By 1896 a school had been constructed adjacent to the brewery house buildings; this was disused and abandoned by 1951. The 1951 OS map shows that the original Thornes Brewery was taken over in 1914 by Meux's Brewery and was renamed as the 'Horseshoe Brewery.' The brewery has been described to be a "five storey brew house with an octagonal stack and a huge brew house tower in yellow stock brick with red brick and stone dressings" (Pearson c.f. Woolford 2008). By the late 1960's the Horseshoe Brewery appears to be unchanged, although brewing ceased in 1964, and by 1975 the buildings are still standing.
- 5.6.3 Heartfield Manor House is shown in the north-western corner of the site on the 1862 Stanford Map. Adjacent to the manor house, the London Gas Light Co. of Vauxhall built a gas producing plant which consisted of a gas holder surrounded by several small buildings. By 1874 – 1875 the works had been extensively developed and comprised of a retort house and meter house located within the site boundary as well as a second gasometer tank, a boiler house, an engine house and a purifying house located just south of the site. Residential buildings had also been constructed to the east of the gas works. These would have been of a traditional Victorian style, constructed in rows adjoining each other, possibly with basements. The 1896 OS map shows that the gas works had been expanded further to include eight retort houses on land previously occupied by residential buildings. The manor house had been demolished and the site has been left vacant and a single rail line passes east-west through the centre of this area. By 1951 all remaining residential buildings had been demolished to allow for the expansion of the gas works, which remained relatively unchanged until its closure in 1970.
- 5.6.4 Residential buildings have been shown elsewhere on OS maps from the 1874 – 1875 period in the eastern area of the site. By 1916, however, small sections of residential housing had been demolished with the land left vacant. During the 1960's, demolition of residential housing continued until the 1975 OS map shows the houses no longer remain.
- 5.6.5 In the south-eastern corner of the site the South Western Railway Depot had been developed by the time of the 1862 Stanford map. This included four railway sidings running parallel to the southern site boundary into large goods sheds which were partly located within the site boundary. A railway viaduct parallel to the southern site boundary had been constructed which was part of the London and Southampton Railway. The railway depot continued to expand up to 1916 when it became the Nine Elms North Goods Depot. By the 1975 OS map the Nine Elms North Goods Depot has been completely removed and the site left vacant.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The watching brief was conducted in accordance with a method statement (Brown 2008) approved by Diane Walls of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, English Heritage, on behalf of the London Borough of Wandsworth.
- 6.2 The attending archaeologist monitored the excavation of eight geo-technical trial pits (designated TP) excavated across the site, using a JCB excavator (Figure 2). The aim was to dig the pits to a depth of the natural terrace gravels and, if possible, until the water table was encountered so that a sample could be taken. Due to variations within the tidal range during the course of these investigations, it was not always possible to reach the depths required for such a sample. In addition, TP1-4 was abandoned prematurely due to its proximity to a modern (and potentially live) service running alongside the western section of the pit.
- 6.3 The trial pit dimensions were as follows:

Table 1: Trial Pit Dimensions

TP number	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Max depth (BGL)
TP1-1	2.90m E to W	0.90m N to S	3.80m
TP1-2	2.85m NE to SW	1.00m NW to SE	c3.50m
TP1-3	2.30 N to S	0.75m E to W	3.80m
TP1-4	2.40m N to S	0.85m E to W	Abandoned at 2.10m
TP1-5	2.90m NW to SE	0.75m NE to SW	3.55m
TP1-6	2.50m N to S	1.05m E to W	c3.50m
TP1-7	2.70m N to S	0.70m E to W	3.90m
TP1-8	2.50m E to W	0.80m N to S	3.60m

- 6.4 The nature and depth of these trial pits precluded any examination of features or deposits by hand below a depth of approximately 1.00m depending upon ground conditions; deeper deposits were recorded from the top of the trench. It was, therefore, practical only to record a long section for each TP.
- 6.5 In addition a total of five boreholes were dug across the site (designated BH). BH1-5 was not monitored. All the remaining boreholes were to be excavated to a depth of 6.00m BGL, although BH1-3 continued to an overall depth of 7.50m BGL as the natural terrace gravels were not encountered until this point.
- 6.6 The borehole depths were as follows:

Table 2: Depth of boreholes

BH number	Total Depth (BGL)
BH1-1	6.00m
BH1-2	6.00m
BH1-3	7.50m
BH1-4	6.00m

- 6.7 It should be noted that due to the nature of the drilling methods associated with borehole investigations, the stratigraphic record as detailed in this section of the report is unlikely to represent a true reflection of the archaeological sequences present below the ground.
- 6.8 The archaeological deposits were assigned individual context numbers and recorded onto *proforma* sheets and recorded in plan and section as appropriate. A photographic record (digital) was also made.
- 6.9 Concept Site Investigations surveyed the site proceeding completion of ground works and provided the necessary data relating to the positions of each trial pit and borehole along with a reduced level datum taken at each TP and BH location, which are used in this report.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 TP1-1

7.1.1 Natural terrace gravels [40] were observed at a height of 1.15m OD. They consisted of a loose yellowish reddish brown sandy gravel with frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded flint pebble inclusions. Overlying the gravels was a 0.20m thick layer of redeposited/alluvial reddish brown sandy gravel [39]. In turn, sealing this was a loose, soft, dark greyish brown silty clay [38] containing occasional to moderate flecks of CBM and charcoal, and some rootlets. Encountered at 1.35m OD and extending down for 0.55m, this layer could represent gradual ground build up, or colluvium, over a period of many years, or more specifically could be interpreted as an agricultural horizon or plough soil dating to the post-medieval period or earlier. Recorded at a level of 2.55m OD was a 0.65m thick layer of likely nineteenth century made ground [37]. This consisted of a dark grey silty sand with frequent fragments of CBM and slate. A construction cut [62] for the seemingly E-W running wall foundation [35] & [43] truncates this layer. Although mostly recorded in section the cut is likely to have been linear with a flat base and was filled with a greyish white concrete footing [36] overlain with one or two courses of orange fabric, frogged, machine moulded brick [35]. A sample taken of the brickwork concluded that it dated from some time between 1800- 1940 AD and as such this masonry could form part of the wall foundations for the nineteenth century brewery building that once stood within the vicinity of the trial pit location. The masonry, recorded at a height of 2.95m OD, runs east-west from the eastern LOE until it is truncated by a concrete encased ceramic pipe [42] and associated construction cut [44]. This feature runs in a north-south direction and is approximately 0.50m in width. The ceramic pipe contained within was encased in a cemented light yellowish grey sandy concrete and could likely have been a water or drainage pipe servicing the brewery building. Sealing these features, from a level of 3.25m OD was a 0.30m thick layer [34] of greyish brown silty sandy clay containing frequent fragments of CBM, concrete and occasional mortar and slate. This layer likely represents a layer of demolition rubble and modern made ground. Overlying this deposit was 0.50m worth of modern crush, bedding sand and the brick surface of the present day car park. The present day surface level was recorded at 3.75m OD.

7.2 TP 1-2

7.2.1 At a depth of 1.24m OD, natural terrace gravels [52] were encountered. These were overlain with 0.80m thick alluvium [51] consisting of a reddish brown clayey gravel with sub-rounded to sub-angular flint (2.05m OD). Truncating this layer to the southwest end of the pit was a deposit or structure [53] and associated construction cut [63]. Appearing to run in a northwest to southeast alignment, this feature was seen from an approximate height of 2.05m OD and measured c.0.20-0.30m in thickness. Due to the fact that this feature was observed at some depth from the top of the trial pit, it was not possible to ascertain its substance or fabric type although it did seem to consist of an indurated/cemented greyish white material, concrete like in nature. It is possible that this structure could form part of a late post-medieval building foundation but the fact that it appeared to be cut directly into the deeper alluvial layers could indicate an earlier date. Sealing this feature was a 1.05m thick layer of moderately compacted dark bluish grey sandy silty clay [50] containing frequent brick and tile fragments, chalk flecks and fragments, charcoal flecks and occasional pot and clay tobacco pipe fragments. A piece of pottery retained from this deposit was

identified as being a sherd of tin glazed earthenware [TGW] of the late seventeenth to late eighteenth century. A clay tobacco pipe stem recovered was dated to c. 1580 – 1800 AD. Overall, this layer, observed from a height of 3.09m OD likely represents a post-medieval dump layer and/or made ground. In turn, overlying this was a loose greyish brown silty sandy rubble [49] comprising of frequent fragments of CBM, slate, charcoal, concrete and mortar. Recorded from a level of 3.54m OD and averaging a thickness of 0.45m, this layer represents post-medieval to modern made ground and was directly sealed by modern crush, bedding sand and the brick car park surface which was recorded at a height of 4.14m OD.

7.3 TP 1-3

7.3.1 The natural terrace gravels [13] were encountered at 1.21m OD and consisted of a loose light reddish brown sandy gravel and clay containing frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded pebble inclusions. Overlying this the gravel was a 0.40m thick layer of loose, soft, dark grey and brownish black sandy clayey silt [12]. This deposit was relatively sterile aside from occasional fragments of animal bone and could possibly represent an agricultural horizon or, more specifically, plough soil. This was encountered at 1.61m OD. Above this at 2.71m OD lay a 1.10m thick, loose dark greyish black silty sand [11] containing frequent CBM and mortar fragments. This likely represents a post-medieval colluvial build up over a number of years. Seemingly cut [61] into this layer was a brick lined shaft, likely representing a post-medieval well or cesspit [14]. A sample taken from this feature revealed it to consist of an orange fabric stock moulded brick dating to between 1650 and 1800 AD. Observed in section the shaft measured approximately 0.60m across and extended for a depth of 1.35m. Overlying this feature was a 0.70m thick layer of made ground [10] consisting of brownish grey sandy demolition rubble. Starting at 3.41m OD the deposit contained frequent CBM fragments, lumps of mortar, concrete and occasional cobblestones towards the southern end of the pit. This made ground sat beneath a cumulatively 0.60m thick layer of modern crush, bedding sand and paving slabs. Modern ground level stands at a height of 4.01m OD.

7.4 TP 1-4

7.4.1 This trial pit was prematurely halted due to the dangers associated with a collapsing section caused by the presence of a modern service located within the western limit of excavation.

7.4.2 As such the earliest deposit, encountered at 2.20m OD, consisted of a loose, spongy dark greyish black peaty silty layer [60]. The deposit contained moderate charcoal flecks, organic material, and occasional animal bone, mortar and coal/clinker. This layer could possibly represent either a post-medieval agricultural horizon or colluvium. Overlying this was a 0.30m thick layer of probable late nineteenth to early twentieth century made ground [59], consisting of a loose greyish bluish black sandy clay containing frequent CBM fragments and moderate flecks of chalk and occasional oyster shell. This layer was encountered at 2.50m OD above which lay a loose to moderately compacted greyish brown silty sandy rubble [58] containing frequent fragments of CBM, concrete, mortar and occasional slate and glass. Measuring a thickness of 0.50m and encountered at a depth of 3.00m OD this material represents modern made ground. Overlying this up to modern day ground

level was a layer of highly compacted concrete, crush, bedding sand and the brick car park surface, which was surveyed at 3.65m OD.

7.5 TP 1-5

7.5.1 The natural terrace gravels [21] were encountered at a depth of 0.75m OD. Overlying this at 1.40m OD was a 0.95m thick layer of light yellowish brown gravelly clay alluvium [20], containing occasional evidence of iron staining. Encountered at a depth of 2.05m OD and overlying the alluvial clay and gravel was a 0.65m thick layer of light pinkish brown sandy clay or brickearth [19]. The deposit contained moderate flecks of charcoal and occasional iron staining. Due to the depth of the deposit within the trial pit, it was not possible to ascertain whether any features or deposits lay within this horizon, although the potential clearly remains. Overlying the brickearth was a soft, loose, dark greyish brownish black sandy silt [18] containing occasional CBM fragments, flecks of chalk, potsherds and clay tobacco pipe stems. One piece of pottery recovered consisted of a post-medieval fired redware [PMFR] dating to between 1580 and 1700 AD, whilst a clay tobacco pipe stem was dated to between 1580 and 1910 AD. This 0.50m layer, which begins at a depth of 2.55m OD, could represent a post-medieval agricultural soil or colluvium. A relatively thin layer of soft mottled light brown and yellow clay [17], measuring approximately 0.30m in thickness, occurs above this at 2.85m OD. Containing occasional fragments of CBM this could represent a late post-medieval made ground. An even slighter deposit [16] overlies this made ground, consisting of a 0.15m thick soft medium brown sandy silt with frequent rootlets and occasional small fragments of CBM, glass and pottery contained within. Occurring at 2.99m OD, this 'earthy' deposit may represent garden soil. Above this lay a 0.35m thick brownish grey sandy silt [15] containing frequent lumps of mortar, CBM fragments, chalk flecks and lumps of concrete. This deposit, observed at 3.37m OD represents the modern made ground and is sealed by a layer of crush, bedding sand and, ultimately, the brick car park surface. Present day ground level stands at 3.84m OD.

7.6 TP 1-6

7.6.1 Natural terrace gravels [48] were encountered at 1.06m OD and consisted of a loose reddish yellow sandy gravel with frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded flint inclusions. Sealing this was 0.20m worth of alluvial clayey gravel [47] at 1.26m OD. Above this lay the 0.40m thick concrete floor [46] for a cellar or basement possibly associated with or part of the old brewery house that previously stood in the area. It was recorded at a level of 1.66m OD. Observed in the eastern section of the trial pit was a north-south aligned basement/cellar wall [45] which was comprised of a machine moulded orange fabric brick and brown sandy cement mortar in an English Cross bond. The wall rose for 1.00m above the floor level. It is probable that the top of the wall had been truncated by modern ground levelling and reinforcement and was overlain by a layer of compacted brick crush, a small clay levelling/dump, a layer of greyish compacted gravel, modern crush, bedding sand and the brick car park surface. Modern ground level was recorded at 3.58m OD.

7.7 TP 1-7

7.7.1 A loose light yellowish brown sandy gravel [5] was observed at a depth of 0.98m OD, representing the natural terrace gravels. Overlying this was a 1.00m thick light to mid

brown gravelly clay [4] containing moderate to occasional small sub-rounded gravel and occasional to moderate iron staining. This alluvial clay was encountered at a level of 1.98m OD. Above this was a layer of soft, loose, dark brownish black clayey silt [3] containing small flecks of charcoal and measuring approximately 0.40m in thickness. This relatively sterile deposit likely represents colluvial build up over a number of years on land possibly utilised for agricultural purposes and was recorded as starting at a height of approximately 2.38m OD. Sealing this was a 1.20m thick demolition dump layer [2], at 3.58m OD, consisting of a light grey sandy mortar rubble containing frequent CBM fragments, ash and occasional slate. Above this, starting at a height of 3.88m OD, was a 0.30m thick dark bluish black clayey silt [1] containing moderate fragments of CBM and represents the modern made ground. Above this lay turf and topsoil. A level taken adjacent to the location of the trial pit recorded the turf to exist at a height of 4.18m OD.

7.8 TP 1-8

7.8.1 The natural sands and gravels [30] were encountered at approximately 1.02m OD. They were sealed by a 0.70m thick layer of light brown sandy gravelly clay alluvium [29] which began in sequence at 1.72m OD. Immediately overlying the alluvial deposits was a sterile dark greyish black sandy silt [28] at 1.92m OD, measuring only 0.20m in thickness and which in turn was overlaid by a loose dark brown sandy silt [27]. This deposit, occurring at 2.62m OD contained moderate charcoal flecks, very small sub angular flint and occasional rootlets. It measured approximately 0.70m in thickness. These two layers could represent incidents of colluvial build up over a number of years. They are sealed by 0.70m of made ground, consisting of a dark greyish brown sandy silt [26] containing frequent CBM fragments, chalk flecks, mortar and concrete fragments and moderate amounts of slate and ash. This layer, observed at 3.32m OD, was overlain by modern crush, bedding sand and the brick car park surface. Present day surface level stands at 3.92m OD.

7.9 BH 1-1

7.9.1 This borehole recorded the natural terrace gravel [33] as occurring at an approximate depth of 1.25m OD. Overlying this was a 0.20m thick layer of alluvial fine to coarse sandy gravels [32]; reddish brown with angular to sub-angular flint appearing halfway into the deposit. Sealing this was 2.30m worth of made ground [31], consisting of a loose dark brown sandy gravelly clay with occasional wood fragments, sub-angular to sub-rounded flint, CBM, roots and rootlets and animal bone. The made ground occurred at a level of 3.75m OD and was overlaid with 0.40m worth of modern crush, bedding sand and paving slabs. The modern pavement was recorded at a level of 4.15m OD.

7.10 BH 1-2

7.10.1 Natural sands and gravels [25] were recorded at a depth of 0.61m OD and were sealed by a 0.50m thick layer of alluvium consisting of light greyish brown clayey sandy gravel [24]. This was observed at 1.11m OD. Occurring at c. 2.31m OD was a probable post-medieval made ground [23]. This layer was 1.20m thick and comprised of a moderately compacted mottled brown and grey sandy gravelly clay containing occasional to moderate fragments of mortar, plaster, yellow fabric brick, chalk and charcoal flecks. Above this, at 3.21m OD, lay a loose dark brown sandy gravel [22]

containing occasional roots and rootlets, CBM fragments and sub-rounded to angular flint nodules. This deposit was 0.90m thick and represents a layer of modern made ground. It was overlaid with modern crush, bedding sand and the brick car park surface, which was recorded at a height of 3.71m OD.

7.11 BH 1-3

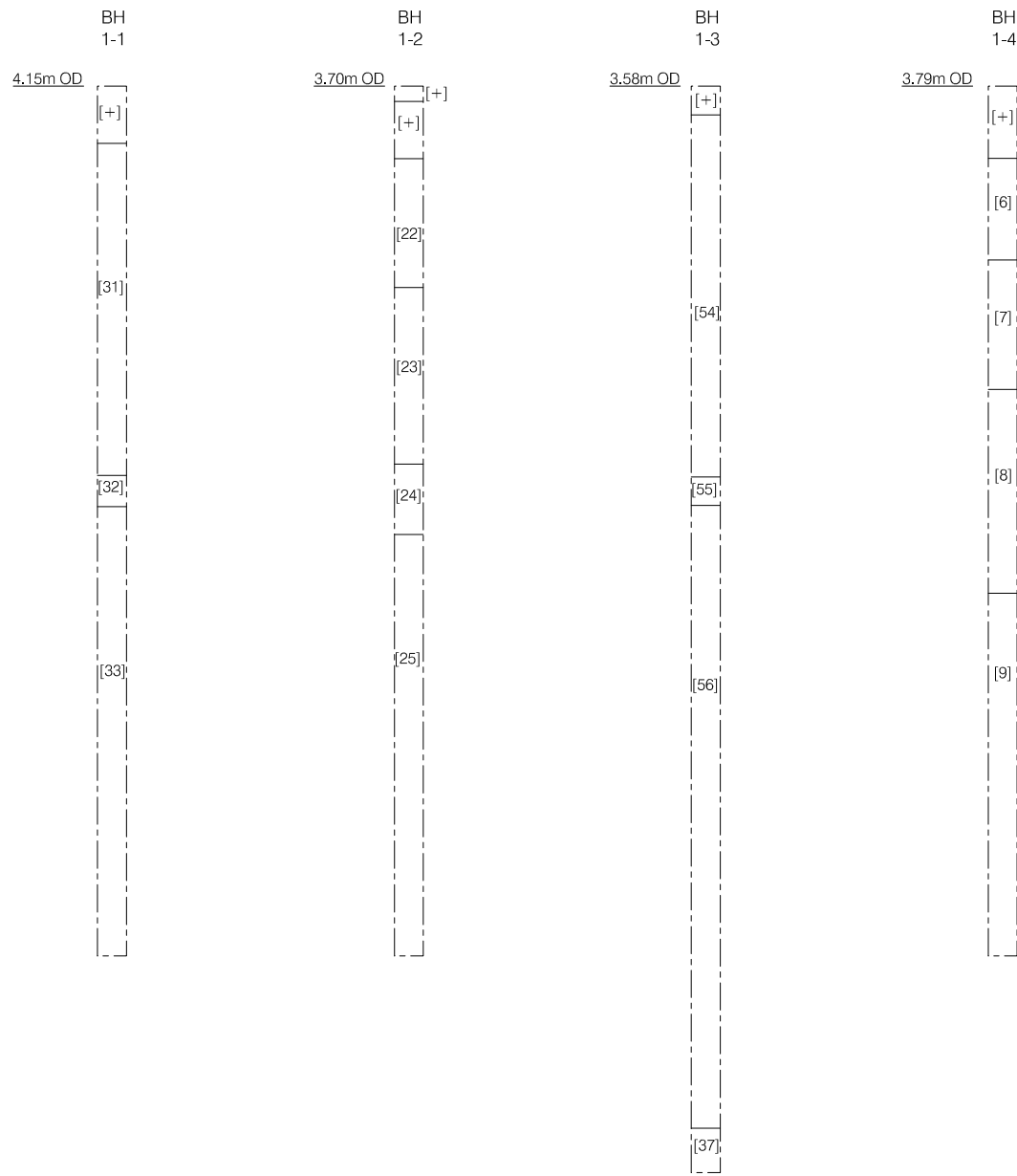
7.11.1 The natural terrace gravels [57] were recorded at a depth of 7.20m BGL, -3.62m OD, considerably deeper than encountered elsewhere on site. Situated above the gravels, at 0.68m OD, was a 4.30m thick deposit consisting of a mottled brown, reddish brown and blue clay and sand [56]. It is likely that this context represents a fill, or series of fills, of an unknown feature that has been cut deep into the alluvium and gravels. A piece of concrete containing small brick fragments and dating from 1870 AD onwards was recovered from this layer. However it should be noted that this find could be intrusive, as a consequence of the borehole drilling techniques. It remains possible, therefore, that this layer could pre-date the post-medieval period. Sealing this deposit was 0.20m thick dump of dark grey gravelly [55] clay containing occasional mortar and CBM fragments. And overlying this, at 3.38m OD, was a loose to moderately compacted layer of dark brown silty sand with gravel and clay [54]. This layer was 2.50m thick and contained fine to coarse flint with moderate concrete and CBM fragments, plastic, wire and occasional chalk, rootlets and oyster shell. Above this lay modern crush, bedding sand and the brick car park surface. The present day car park lies at a height of 3.58m OD.

7.12 BH 1-4

7.12.1 Natural gravels [9] were recorded at a level of 0.29m OD. Overlying these was a moderately compacted mottled reddish brown to brown alluvial clay [8] with occasional shell fragments. The alluvium, at 1.69m OD, measured an approximate thickness of 1.40m and was overlain by a 0.90m thick layer of reddish brown clay with gravel [7], containing frequent fragments of CBM, mortar and oyster shell. Occurring at 2.59m OD, this possibly represents an earlier, likely post-medieval, made ground. Over this lay a 0.70m thick mid brown sandy silty rubble [6], containing frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded flint pebbles, occasional CBM, concrete, mortar and oyster shell fragments. This deposit began at 3.29m OD and forms the later made ground deposit. Overlying this was approximately 0.50m of modern crush, bedding sand and the brick car park surface. A level taken on the modern car park surface was recorded at 3.79m OD.

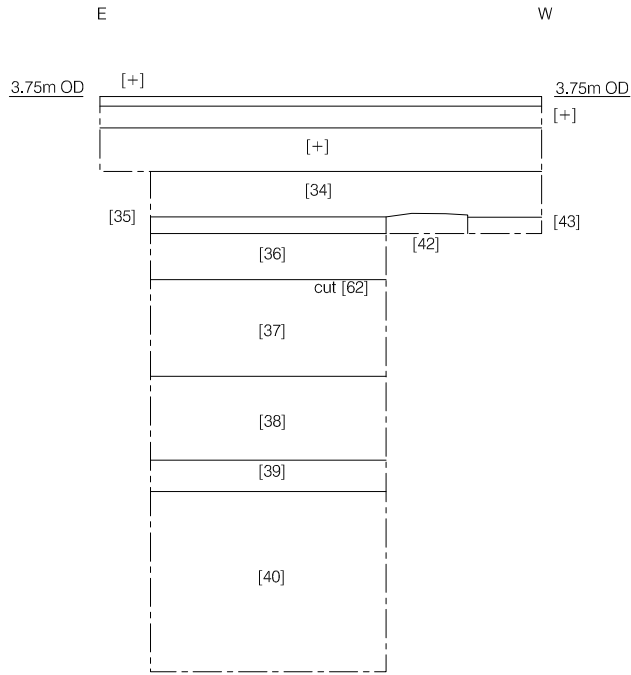
7.13 BH 1-5

7.13.1 This was not archaeologically monitored or recorded.

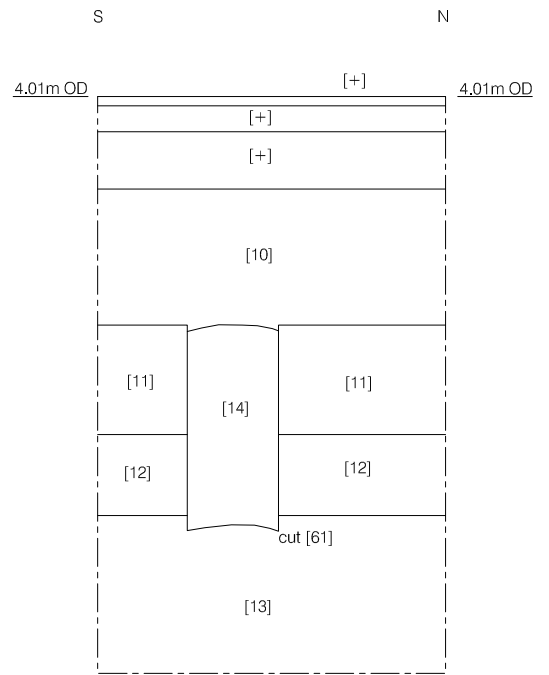


0  2m
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2008

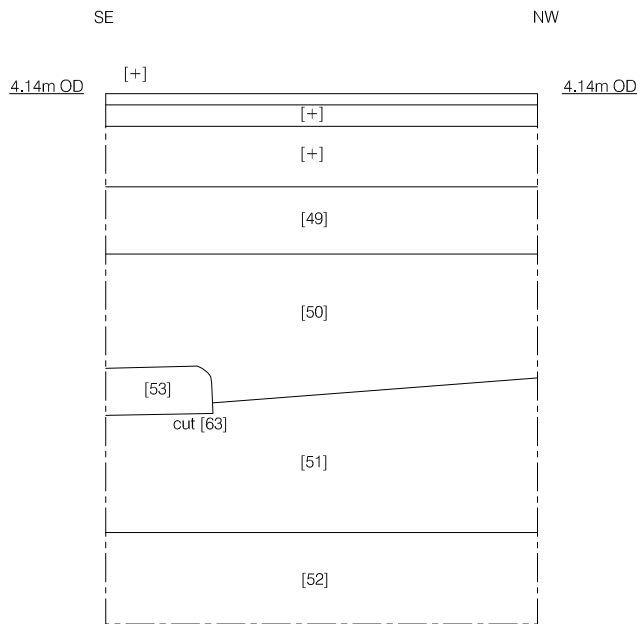
Figure 3
 Section 1
 1:50 at A4



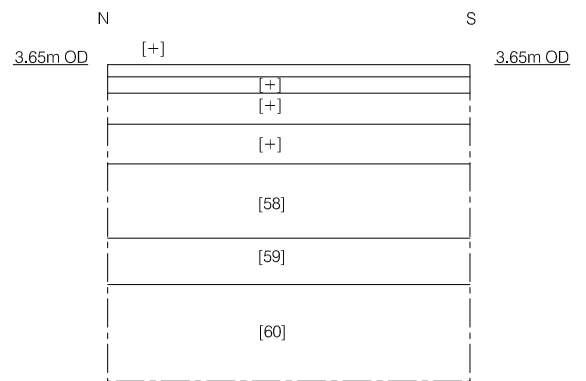
Section 2
TP 1-1
North Facing



Section 4
TP 1-3
East Facing



Section 3
TP 1-2
Southeast Facing



Section 5
TP 1-4
West Facing

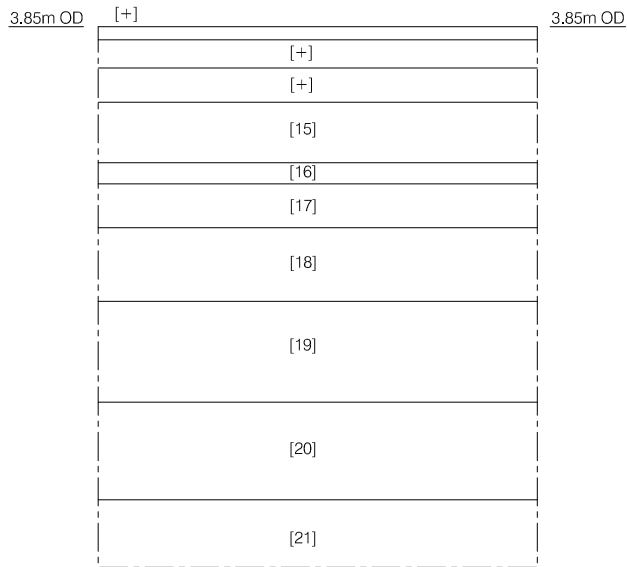


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Figure 4
Sections 2-5
1:50 at A4

NW

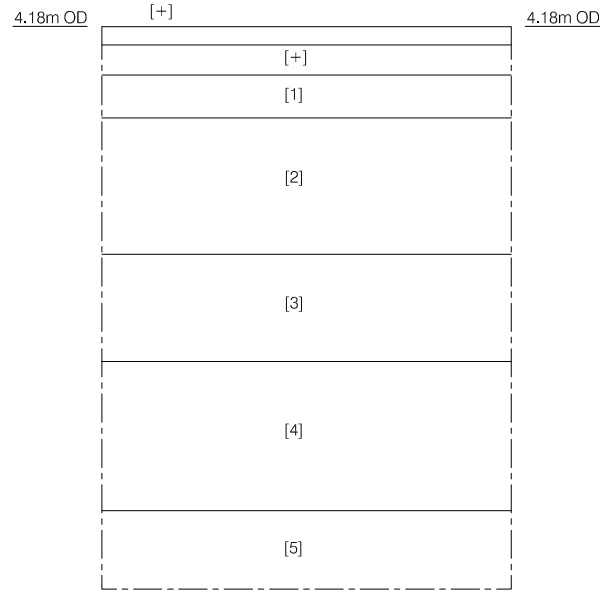
SE



Section 6
TP 1-5
Southwest Facing

SW

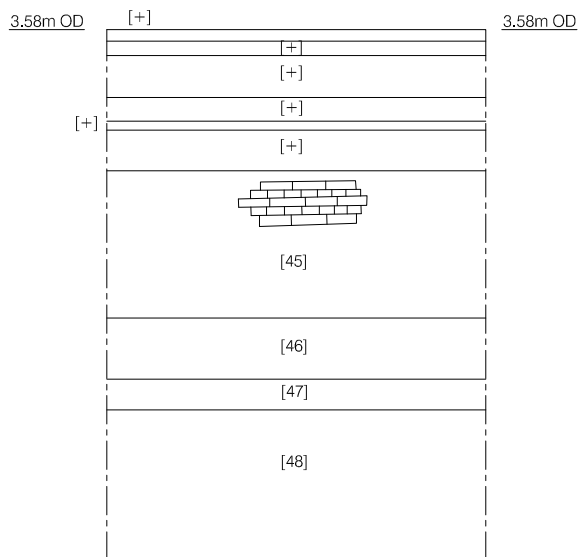
NE



Section 8
TP 1-7
Southeast Facing

N

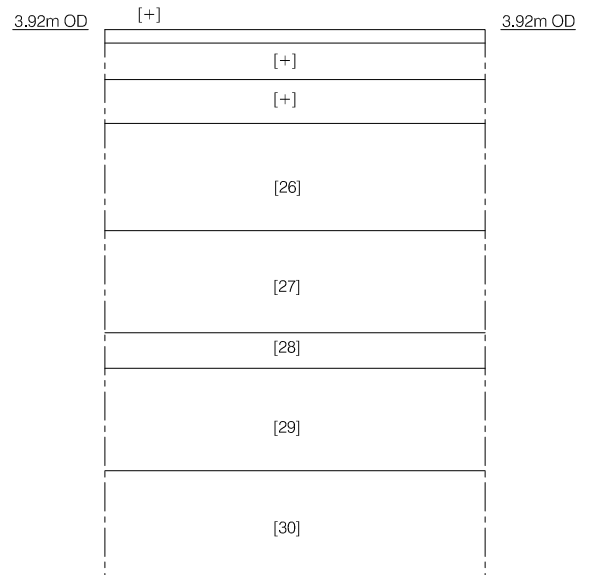
S



Section 7
TP 1-6
West Facing

W

E



Section 9
TP 1-8
South Facing



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Figure 5
Sections 6-9
1:50 at A4

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Given the nature of geotechnical trial pits and borehole surveys, the extent to which a thorough archaeological appraisal of the deposits and features that are extant within the stratigraphy of this site is clearly limited. As such the conclusions here are tentative and can be considered merely as a recommendation for future archaeological investigations at Ponton Road, Nine Elms.
- 8.2 For the most part across the site the archaeological sequence appears to consist of natural terrace gravels sealed by a layer of alluvium, overlain in turn by a silty colluvial build up that could possibly represent an agricultural horizon in the form of plough soil. Later deposits can be seen above these in the form of late post-medieval – early modern demolition and dump layers and made ground up to present day surface level.
- 8.3 In addition to this, however, there are a number of key areas of potential interest. Within the eastern-central area of the site, TP1-1 and TP1-6 revealed building foundations and a basement or cellar likely related to the nineteenth century brewery building that previously stood in the area. Further investigations would be useful in defining the extent of any further remains that still exist *in situ* below current surface level. Additionally TP1-2, situated towards the northeastern edge of the site, appeared to contain a deposit or structure, the fabric of which was unfortunately not possible to ascertain due to its depth. As this feature was cut into the alluvial gravel and sealed by a layer containing early to mid post-medieval cultural material it is possible that this feature could pre-date this period.
- 8.4 Further areas of archaeological interest lie, in particular, to the south of the site within the vicinity of TP1-5. Here lay over half a metre of brickearth, sealing alluvial deposits and terrace gravels, which was in turn overlain by an equally thick layer of silty soil, possibly representing a plough soil, from which finds that were dated to the sixteenth century onwards were obtained. Brickearth can provide potential of prehistoric or Roman features or deposits and the approximate dating of the overlying soil suggests that this portion of the site could remain undisturbed by later activity, thereby increasing the chance of early remains lying *in situ*.
- 8.5 The final area of potential is situated beyond the western limit of the site, with BH1-3 encountering what appeared to be the fill (or a sequence of fills) contained within an unknown feature that was cut deep into the natural terrace gravels. Although a piece of nineteenth to twentieth century concrete was recovered from this deposit, the likelihood of this being an intrusive find is high due to the nature of borehole drilling techniques and its effects on the deposits encountered. Lying outside the western limit of the site, however, makes this possible feature potentially irrelevant to any future work related to this project.
- 8.6 To summarise, the archaeological potential of this site remains moderately high with particular interest focusing on the central and south eastern areas whereby archaeological objectives could be fulfilled concerning; the nineteenth century building, any potential medieval to post-medieval structures and earlier features and deposits truncating the layer of brickearth observed towards the south.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Concept Site Investigations for commissioning this project and also Richard Hughes of Arup, and Diane Walls; English Heritage (GLAAS), on behalf of English Heritage and the London Borough of Wandsworth.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Jason Waldron, Dan Strong and Jon Roberts of Concept Site Investigations for their assistance and co-operation during the watching brief. The author would also like to thank Chris Jarrett for pottery and clay tobacco pipe analysis, Kevin Hayward for brick sample analysis, Jenny Simonson for illustrations and Gary Brown and Chris Mayo for project management and editing of this report.

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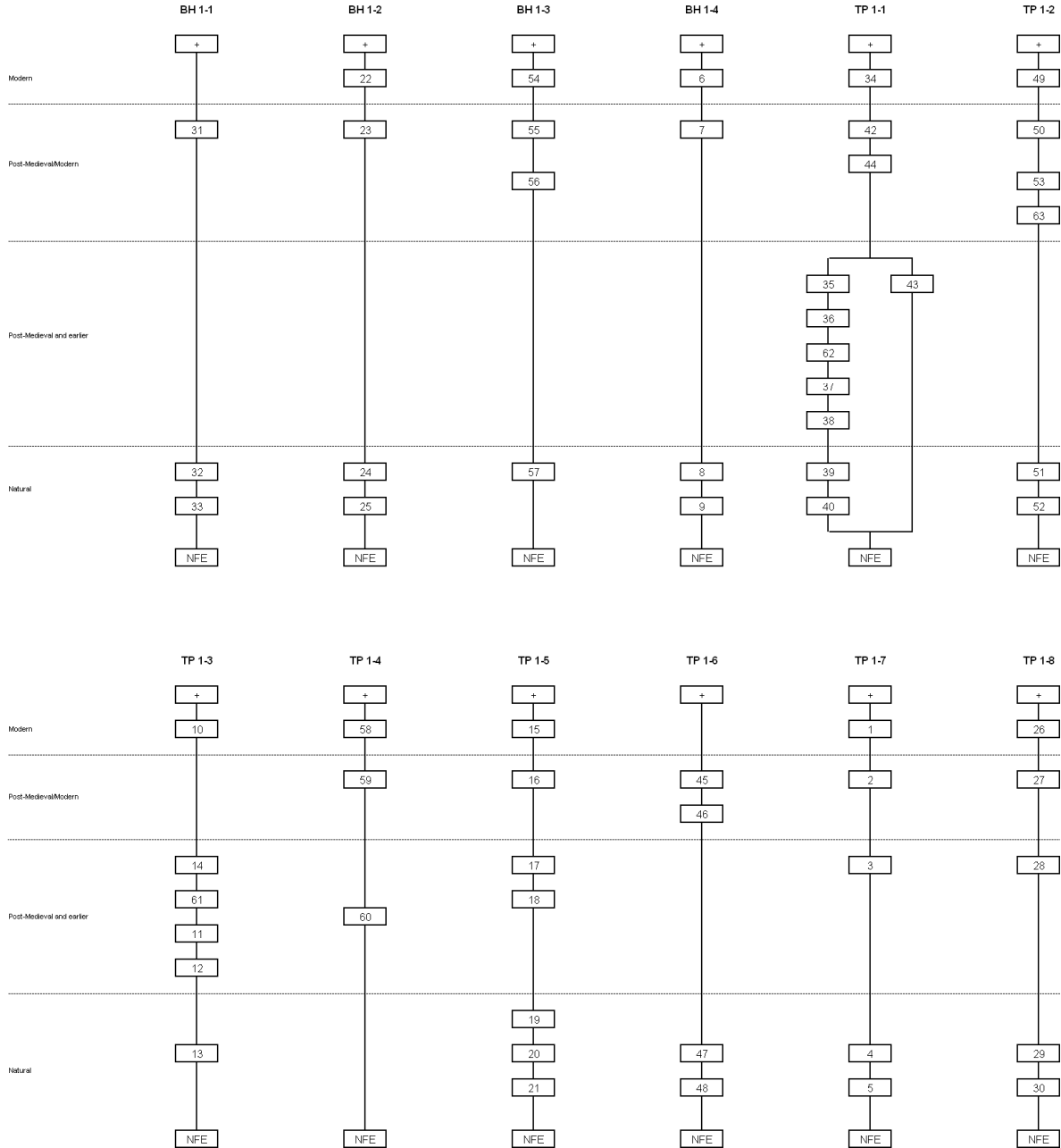
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Appendix 1: Context Index

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date
PNO08	+	N/A	All	Layer	Modern surfaces and bedding layers including; brick, bedding sand, type 1, concrete, turf and topsoil	Modern
PNO08	1	N/A	S8	Layer	Made ground	Modern
PNO08	2	N/A	S8	Layer	Demolition/Dump layer	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	3	N/A	S8	Layer	Ground build-up/colluvium	Post-Medieval
PNO08	4	N/A	S8	Layer	Alluvium	Natural
PNO08	5	N/A	S8	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	6	N/A	S1	Layer	Made ground	Modern
PNO08	7	N/A	S1	Layer	Made ground	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	8	N/A	S1	Layer	Alluvium	Natural
PNO08	9	N/A	S1	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	10	N/A	S4	Layer	Made ground/Demolition rubble	Modern
PNO08	11	N/A	S4	Layer	Ground build-up/colluvium	Post-Medieval
PNO08	12	N/A	S4	Layer	Agricultural horizon/possible plough soil	Post-Medieval
PNO08	13	N/A	S4	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	14	N/A	S4	Masonry	Well shaft or Cess pit	Post-Medieval
PNO08	15	N/A	S6	Layer	Made ground	Modern
PNO08	16	N/A	S6	Layer	Possible garden soil	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	17	N/A	S6	Layer	Made ground	Post-Medieval
PNO08	18	N/A	S6	Layer	Agricultural horizon/possible plough soil	Post-Medieval
PNO08	19	N/A	S6	Layer	Brickearth	Natural
PNO08	20	N/A	S6	Layer	Alluvium	Natural
PNO08	21	N/A	S6	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	22	N/A	S1	Layer	Made ground	Modern
PNO08	23	N/A	S1	Layer	Made ground	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	24	N/A	S1	Layer	Alluvium	Natural
PNO08	25	N/A	S1	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	26	N/A	S9	Layer	Made ground	Modern
PNO08	27	N/A	S9	Layer	Ground build-up/colluvium	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	28	N/A	S9	Layer	Ground build-up/colluvium	Post-Medieval
PNO08	29	N/A	S9	Layer	Alluvium	Natural
PNO08	30	N/A	S9	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	31	N/A	S1	Layer	Made ground	Modern
PNO08	32	N/A	S1	Layer	Alluvium	Natural
PNO08	33	N/A	S1	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	34	N/A	S2	Layer	Made ground/Demolition rubble	Modern
PNO08	35	N/A	S2	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval
PNO08	36	N/A	S2	Deposit	Concrete footing for [35]	Post-Medieval
PNO08	37	N/A	S2	Layer	Made ground	Post-Medieval
PNO08	38	N/A	S2	Layer	Ground build-up/colluvium	Post-Medieval
PNO08	39	N/A	S2	Layer	Alluvium	Natural
PNO08	40	N/A	S2	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	41	N/A	N/A	VOID		N/A
PNO08	42	N/A	S2	Deposit	Concrete encased ceramic pipe	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	43	N/A	S2	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval
PNO08	44	N/A	S2	Cut	Construction cut for [42]	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	45	N/A	S7	Masonry	N-S aligned cellar/basement wall	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	46	N/A	S7	Layer	Concrete cellar/basement floor	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	47	N/A	S7	Layer	Alluvium	Natural
PNO08	48	N/A	S7	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	49	N/A	S3	Layer	Made ground	Modern
PNO08	50	N/A	S3	Layer	Dump layer	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	51	N/A	S3	Layer	Alluvium	Natural
PNO08	52	N/A	S3	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	53	N/A	S3	Masonry	Structural footing	Post-Medieval
PNO08	54	N/A	S1	Layer	Made ground	Modern
PNO08	55	N/A	S1	Layer	Dump layer/Made ground	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	56	N/A	S1	Layer/Fill?	Fill of unknown feature	Post-Medieval
PNO08	57	N/A	S1	Layer	Natural Terrace Gravels	Natural
PNO08	58	N/A	S5	Layer	Made ground	Modern
PNO08	59	N/A	S5	Layer	Made ground	Post-Medieval/Modern
PNO08	60	N/A	S5	Layer	Agricultural horizon/possible plough soil	Post-Medieval
PNO08	61	N/A	S4	Cut	Construction cut for [14]	Post-Medieval
PNO08	62	N/A	S2	Cut	Construction cut for [35]	Post-Medieval
PNO08	63	N/A	S3	Cut	Construction cut for [53]	Post-Medieval

Appendix 2: Site Matrices



Appendix 3: Pottery Dating

Context	Date	Description
19	1580-1700	Post-medieval fired redware [PMFR]
50	1650-1750	Tin glazed earthenware [TGW]

Appendix 4: Clay Tobacco Pipe Dating

Context	Date	Description
19	1580-1910	X 1 clay tobacco pipe stem
50	1650-1800	X1 clay tobacco pipe stem

Appendix 5: Ceramic Building Material Dating

Context	Date	Description
14	1650-1800	Stock moulded, fabric 3032/3032nr, 3033
35	1800-1940	Machine made, frogged, fabric 3032nr, 3035

Appendix 6: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-51909

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief of a Geotechnical Investigation at Ponton Road, Nine Elms, London Borough of Wandsworth

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd during a geotechnical investigation at Ponton Road, Nine Elms, in the London Borough of Wandsworth. The geotechnical work included trial pits and boreholes. The work was commissioned and undertaken by Concept Site Investigations on behalf of their client. The watching brief was conducted between the 10th -13th November 2008. The watching brief observed a sequence comprising of a layer of alluvium sealing natural terrace gravel. A silty ground build-up, or colluvium, which could be interpreted as an agricultural soil horizon, overlay the alluvial deposits; finds have dated the colluvium to at least the early post-medieval period. This was below late post-medieval to modern demolition layers and made ground. Additionally foundation structures and a basement or cellar, likely to form part of or relate to the nineteenth century brewery house, were uncovered, along with a portion of a structure of unknown function or origin that could potentially pre-date this. A post-medieval well or cesspit was located towards the northern perimeter of the site and towards the south a substantial layer of brickearth was observed between a layer of agricultural soil and alluvial deposits. One of the borehole investigations also revealed what appeared to be a fill (or series of fills) contained within a deep cut truncating the natural gravels.

Project dates Start: 10-11-2008 End: 13-11-2008

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes PNO08 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Monument type COLLUVIUM Post Medieval

Monument type BREWHOUSE Post Medieval

Monument type WELL Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Significant Finds CTP Post Medieval

Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH WANDSWORTH Ponton Road, Nine Elms, London Borough of Wandsworth
Postcode	SW8
Study area	18.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 297 775 51.4810651298 -0.131986439436 51 28 51 N 000 07 55 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: -3.62m Max: 2.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Gary Brown
Project director/manager	Gary Brown
Project supervisor	Iain Bright
Type of sponsor/funding body	Geotechnical contractors
Name of sponsor/funding body	Concept Site Investigations

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

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