

## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION


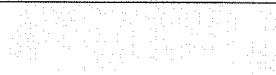
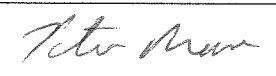

### Site Name

5 MOROCCO STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK  
SE1

### Type of project

WATCHING BRIEF

#### Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K885
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An Archaeological Watching Brief on Ground Reduction Works at the rear of 5 Morocco Street, London, SE1, London Borough of Southwark

Site Code: MCO-05

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3320 7965

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, April 2005

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April 2005

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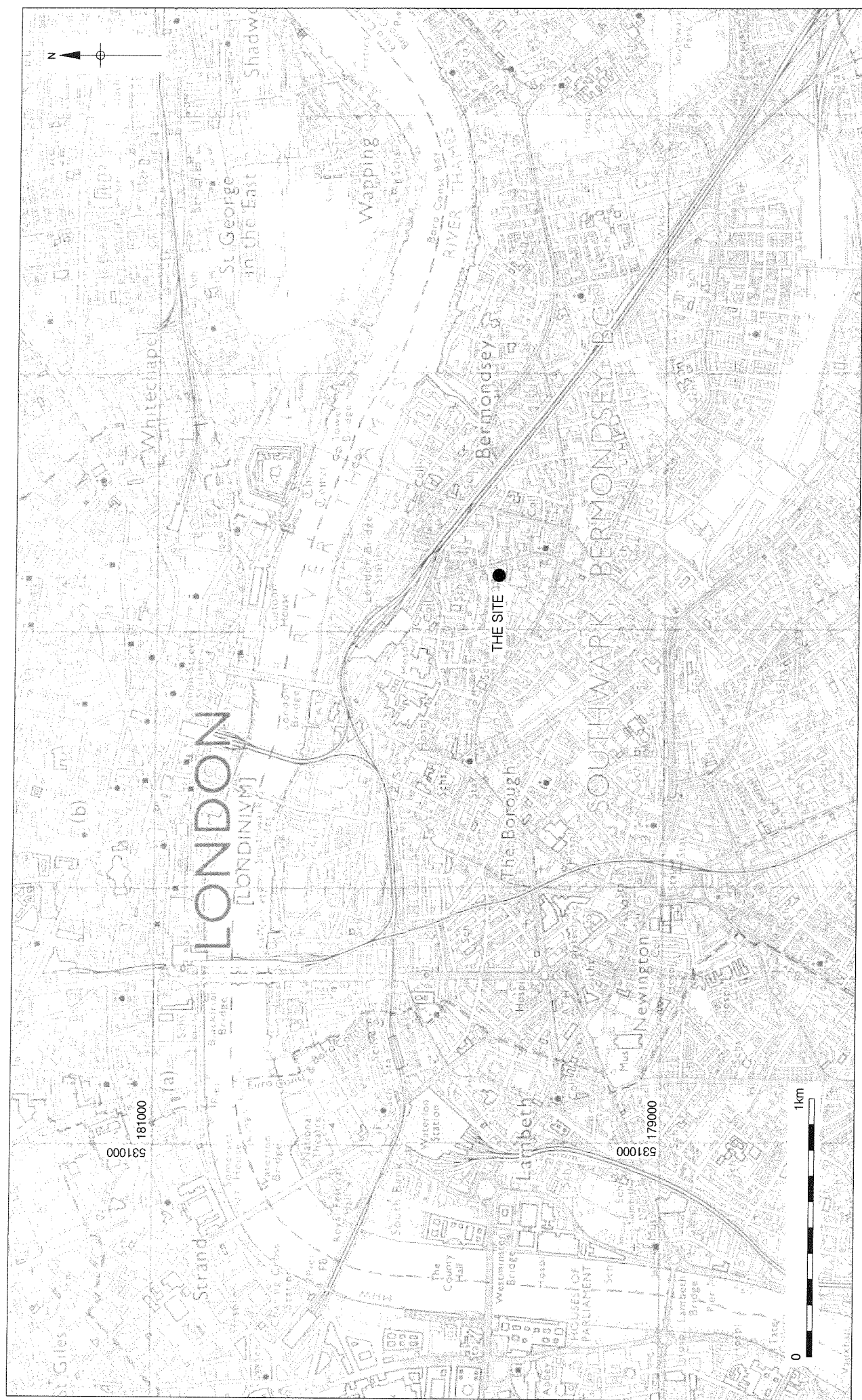
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## **1.0 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of 0.85m of hard core and soft deposits following the insertion of 16 small diameter piles at the rear of 5 Morocco Street, London SE1, London Borough of Southwark, between 18<sup>th</sup> and 22nd April 2005.
- 1.2 Initially a watching brief was initiated at each location whereby a hole was excavated through the concrete floor slab. On completion of the restricted break out sixteen piles were cut using the cfa method. These operations were not monitored. Following the insertion of the piles an area 4.80m x 12.00m was excavated, initially by hand, but for the most part by mechanical excavator. The ground was reduced in controlled spits from south to north down to a depth of about 0.84m from the adjacent floor level surface for the purposes of a development planned for the site. Attention was paid to the removal of all deposits to the specified depth.
- 1.3 At base all the sections revealed 18<sup>th</sup> century made ground. Above that were the remains of some footings relating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century light industrial building or warehouse, still standing immediately to the north of the site, at number 1 to 3 Morocco Street. The footings were overlain with made ground containing 19<sup>th</sup> century material, including ashes coal waste and brick rubble. To the south of the trench some 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground formed the ground leveling material beneath the floor boards that were still visible in section.
- 1.4 A rectangular wood lined lime pit, about 1.50m x 1.80m and truncated to the north by the 19<sup>th</sup> century wall footing, was uncovered in the south eastern corner of the site, the top of which coincided with the highest level of the 18<sup>th</sup> century layer. It was capped off with yellow stock bricks



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:625

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., during the excavation of pile pits and ground reduction work, for the purposes of a development proposed at the rear of 5 Morocco Street, London SE1, London Borough of Southwark. The watching brief was commissioned by Tim Pitman, Pitman Tozier Architects. The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3320 7965.
- 2.2 The watching brief was a planning requirement as the site is located in an area of archaeological potential. Peat formations containing late prehistoric cultural material have been found at a number of locations in the vicinity of Bermondsey Street, and finds of Roman date are also known. The east side of Bermondsey Street more-or-less marks the location of the precinct wall of Bermondsey Abbey and the street itself is thought to have been founded in the medieval period. In the later medieval era the abbey and its surrounding lands were largely isolated, and were in an area best described as marsh. However, these conditions suited some of the dirtier trades of the time such as tanning, leather working and bone rendering, and much of the marsh was reclaimed. Such industries grew in importance in the post-medieval era and tanneries, leather workers, curriers etc proliferated into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The naming of Morocco Street reflects this having previously been known as Upper Russell Street.
- 2.3 The site was designated the code MCO-05.
- 2.4 The watching brief was carried out on the removal of the concrete slab forming the current ground level of the site and on the ground reduction works removing non-archaeological 'soft' deposits sequentially to allow any archaeological deposits to be safely observed and recorded to a depth of about 0.85m.
- 2.5 The project was monitored by Sarah Gibson, Southwark Council Archaeology Officer. The site was project managed by Gary Brown and supervised by the author.

### **3.0     ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1     At the location of each pile a small area was broken by hand to determine whether the pile would be impacted upon when being sunk. On completion of this breaking out 17 piles were drilled employing the cfa method. Thereafter the remaining concrete slab was lifted and the ground reduced.. The area excavated under archaeological supervision measured approximately 4.80m x 12.00m and was approximately 0.85m deep.
- 3.2     The concrete at the top of the trench was broken out by hand using a hand held pneumatic drill and shovels. The deposits beneath the slab were then excavated in spits initially by hand, but subsequently by a small mechanical excavator with a ditching bucket.
- 3.3     A long section and the base of the trench was hand cleaned and recorded. A photographic record was made, a plan was drawn at 1:20, and a section was drawn at 1:20.



#### 4.0     **ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION**

4.1     The whole area was observed during ground reduction and the surviving archaeological deposits were recorded. These findings are described below.

##### 4.2     Phase 1 – 18<sup>th</sup> century made ground

The base of the trench intruded by about 0.30m into a layer of 18<sup>th</sup> made ground [14]/[15]. The layer was largely composed of a mid grey silty sand and contained a large quantity of building demolition material in the form of brick rubble and a significant quantity of mortar fragments. Pottery retrieved from this layer includes fragments of sugarloaf moulds and syrup jars. There appeared to be a large quantity of this within the layer. Other pottery retrieved is dated later than 1740.

##### 4.3     Phase 2 – 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground

Above the 18<sup>th</sup> century material and cut into it were the remains of an E-W oriented wall footing [3], floor board supports [1], [2] and [5] and pillar bases [17], [18] and [19] belonging to a 19<sup>th</sup> century building and apparently on the same alignment as the standing building to the north at 1-3 Morocco Street. South of the large wall footing [3] and cut by its construction cut [16] was a wood lined rectangular pit, [7] full of lime [6]. The box measured 1.50m x 1.65m. It was not excavated and no finds were visible in it. In the west facing section, south of wall footings [3], a layer [4] was clearly discernable as the make up for the floor of the 19<sup>th</sup> century building and the floor boards were visible within it. Above the floor and common also in the made ground [13] to the north of the wall footing [3] was a quantity of shaped slate off-cuts. A small deposit of slate dust was visible above the floorboards in [4].

##### 4.4     Phase 3 – 20<sup>th</sup> Century

At the north of the trench, to the north of the wall footing [3] was a homogenous layer of made ground [13] composed of silty sand and brick rubble, about 0.40m thick. It contained significant quantities of 19<sup>th</sup> century brick and some 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragments. Within this layer was a small quantity of thin leather off cuts and the burnt corner of a leather working trade magazine almost certainly 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

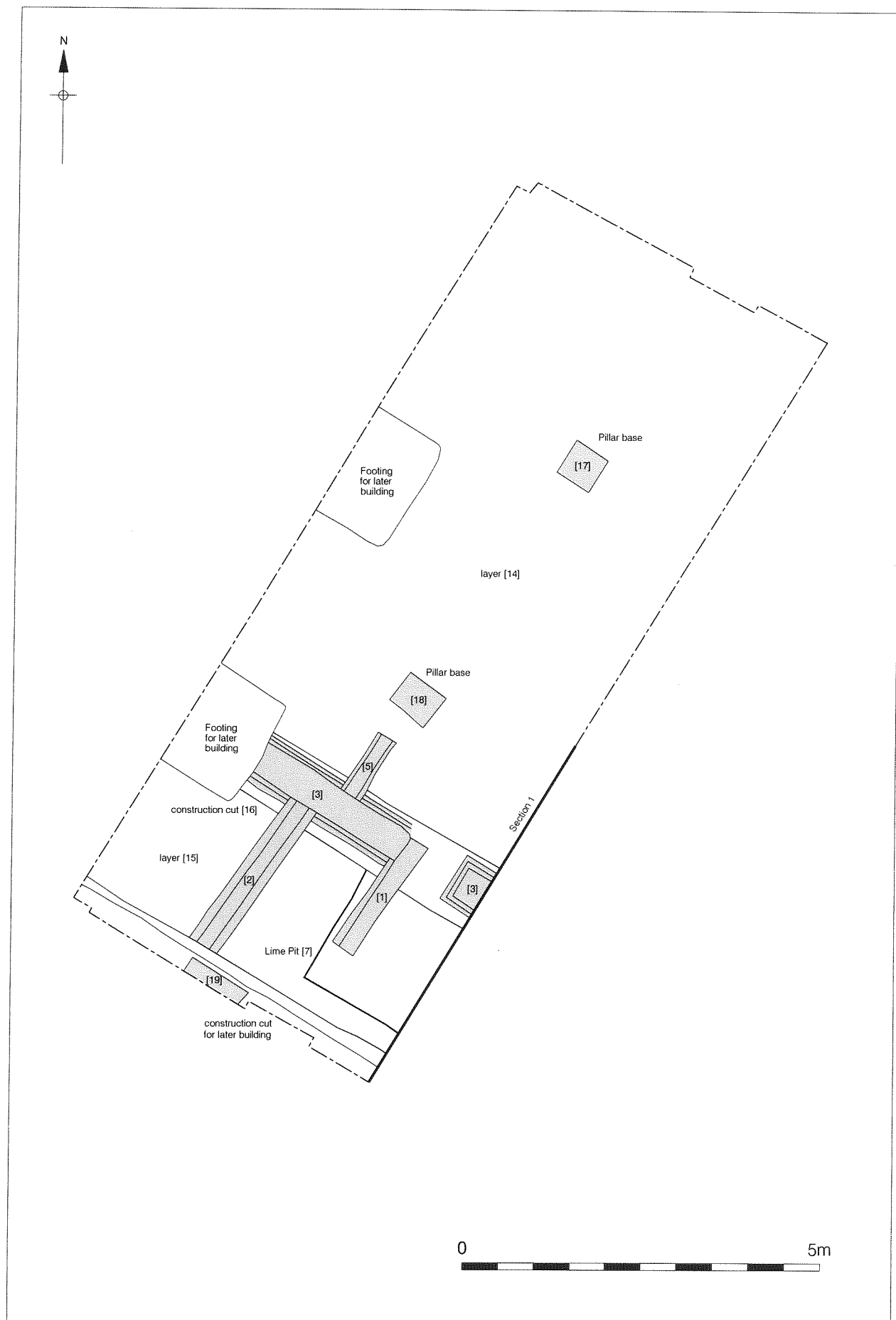


Figure 3  
19th Century Building and Features  
1:75

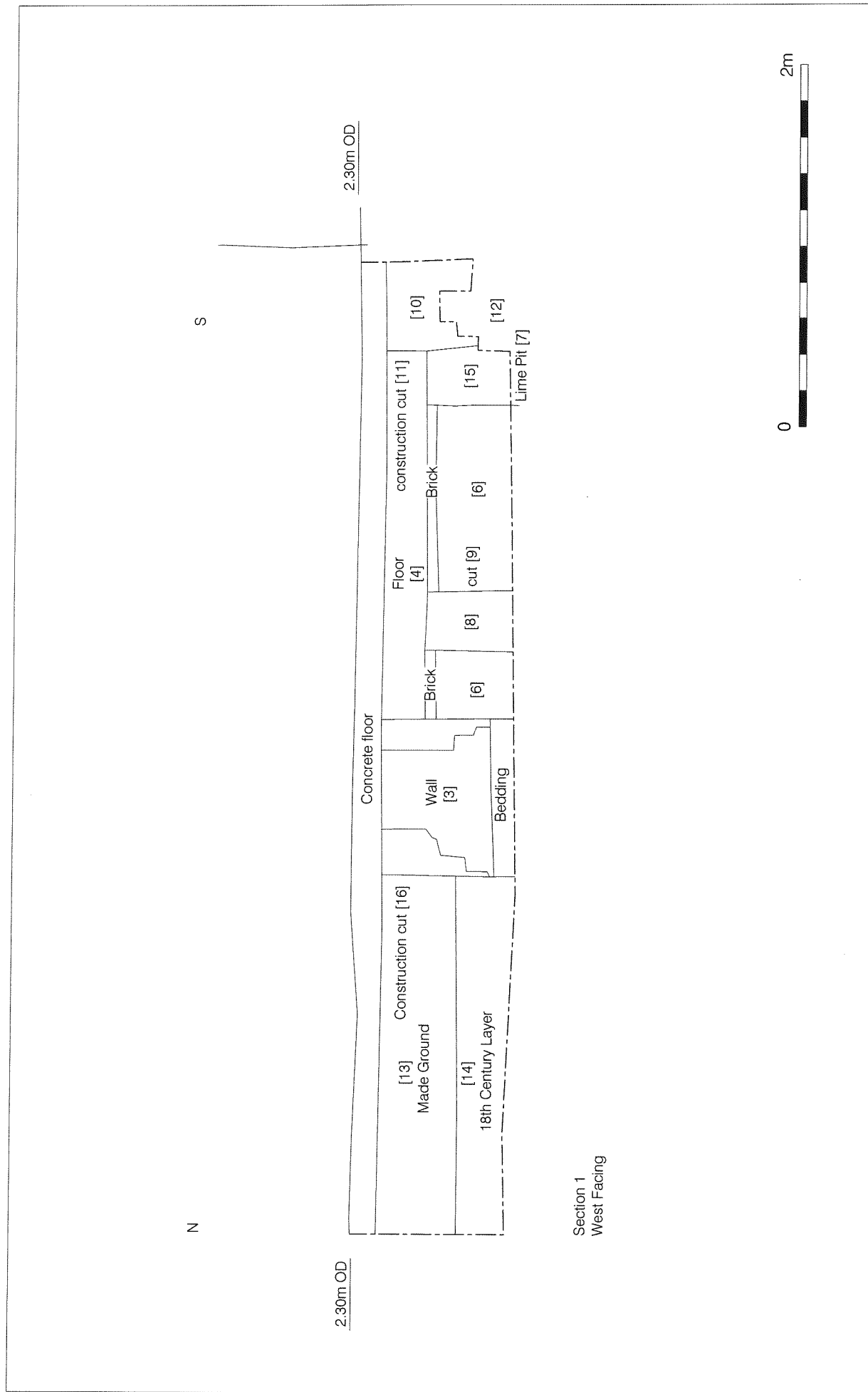


Figure 4  
Section 1  
1:30

## **5.0 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS**

5.1 This watching brief was intended to monitor the ground reduction work, to record any surviving archaeology and ascertain whether any cellars had existed on the site

5.2 In the base of the trench a layer of 18<sup>th</sup> century demolition material [14] and [15] was identified over the whole of the site. It would appear that the site was occupied by small industrial or craft workshops, demolished to make way for a 19<sup>th</sup> century development housing units for similar purposes. The large quantity of syrup jars and sugarloaf mould fragments could be indicative of the use of at least one period in the history of the workshop sited here.

5.3 Overlying the 18<sup>th</sup> century made ground were the remnants of a 19<sup>th</sup> century wall footing [3] some shallow walls that were probably floor board supports and three brickwork pillar bases. These were all in continuous alignment with the standing building seen to the north, at numbers 1-3 Morocco Street. It seems that this building continued north across the site at 5 Morocco Street and it is possible that the E-W footing [3] represents a division between two units within the complex. The cut slate remains found in the made ground [13] indicate that slate cutting, probably for architecturally decorative purposes, was conducted in a workshop in the south of the site.

5.4 Above that was a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground capped with a concrete slab dating from the 1960s when the current property was built.

## **6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Tim Pitman of Pitman Tozier Architects, for commissioning the work on behalf of Mr Alan Rackham. PCA would also like to thank Mr Alan Rackham for his affable helpfulness and general interest and Sarah Gibson for her help and advice.

The author would also like to thank Hailey Baxter for the illustrations, Chris Jarrett for the finds assessment and Gary Brown for his project management and editing.

## APPENDIX 1

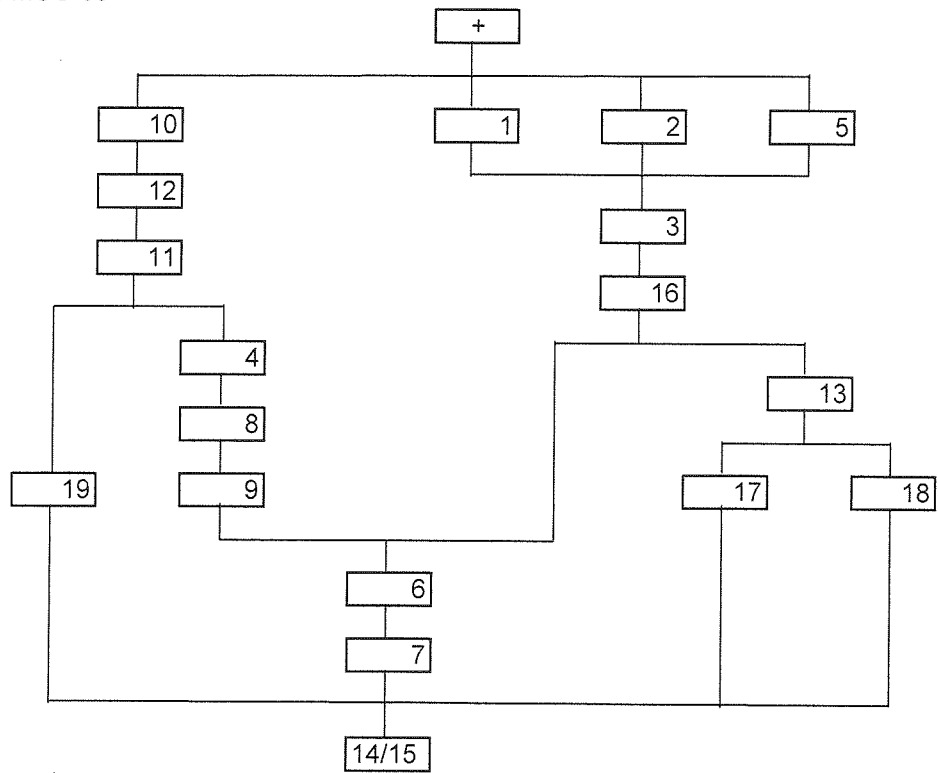
## CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Number	Type	Notes
1	Masonry	19 <sup>th</sup> century floor support
2	Masonry	19 <sup>th</sup> century floor support
3	Masonry	19 <sup>th</sup> century wall footing
4	Layer	19 <sup>th</sup> century made ground
5	Masonry	19 <sup>th</sup> century floor support
6	Fill	Lime fill of [7]
7	Cut	Rectangular lime pit. Cut of [6]
8	Fill	Modern fill of [9]
9	Cut	Modern cut of [8]
10	Fill	Modern construction cut backfill
11	Cut	Modern construction cut.
12	Masonry	19 <sup>th</sup> century brickwork seen in section 1
13	Layer	Modern made ground
14	Layer	18 <sup>th</sup> century demolition material/made ground
15	Layer	18 <sup>th</sup> century demolition material/made ground
16	Cut	Construction cut for [3]
17	Masonry	19 <sup>th</sup> century pillar base
18	Masonry	19 <sup>th</sup> century pillar base
19	Masonry	19 <sup>th</sup> century pillar base

## APPENDIX 2



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED  
SITE CODE: MCO 05  
MATRIX



## APPENDIX 3

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

[List of Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Log out](#)

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**OASIS ID: preconst1-8094**

## Project details

Project name	5 Morocco Street, London SE1
Short description of the project	A watching brief was undertaken on holes for piles and found 18th century make-up deposits and evidence of 19th century warehouse or light industrial building.
Project dates	Start: 18-04-2005 End: 22-04-2005
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MCO 05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	MAKE-UP DEPOSITS Post Medieval
Monument type	INDUSTRIAL BUILDING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SUGARLOAF MOULDS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK 5 Morocco Street, London SE1
Postcode	SE1
Study area	57.60 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3329 7965 Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Gary Brown
Project director/manager	Gary Brown

Project supervisor Strephon Duckering  
Sponsor or funding body Pitman Tozier Architects

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient LAARC  
Physical Contents 'Ceramics'  
Physical Archive Exists? Yes  
Digital Archive recipient LAARC  
Digital Contents 'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey'  
Digital Media available 'Survey','Text'  
Digital Archive Exists? Yes  
Paper Archive recipient LAARC  
Paper Contents 'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey'  
Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Manuscript','Map','Matrices','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '  
Paper Archive Exists? Yes

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
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