



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

The Castle
147 Kentish Town Road
Camden
London

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January 2016



Quality Check

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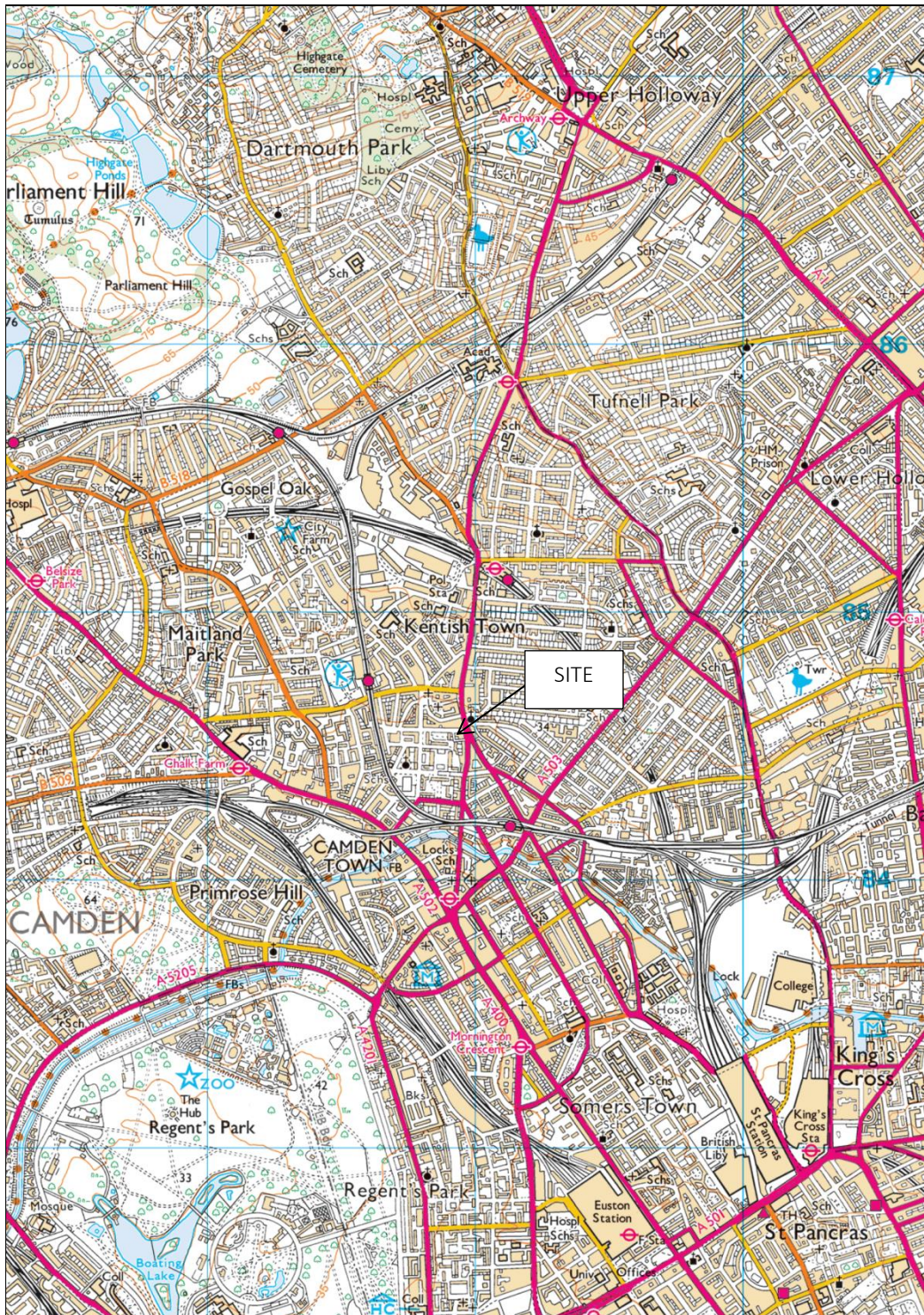


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

In January 2016 KDK Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at The Castle, 147 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London, in advance of redeveloping an existing former public house into office and flats. The evaluation revealed a series of post-medieval brick foundation walls associated with a former building which once stood to the rear of the Castle, depicted on OS mapping from 1894-1969. The foundations were found to be cutting into made-ground containing post-medieval finds of clay pipe stem, fragments of ceramic building material, willow pattern pottery and a fragment of animal bone.

1 Introduction

1.1 In January 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation of The Castle, 147 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London. The project was commissioned by Roman Pardon Architects on behalf of Ringley Estate Agents, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Shlasko 2015), and approved by Sandy Kidd, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Camden Council. The relevant planning application reference is 2013/5568/P.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as Section 12 of the Planning Consent for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location & Description

The site is situated in the London Borough of Camden, centred at National Grid Reference TQ 28945 84543 (Fig. 1). The site is a rectangular plot of land on the corner of Kentish Town Road to the east and Castle Road to the north, with commercial properties to the south and west. Site access is to the north via Caste Road (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The superficial geological deposits for the site area are not recorded, whilst the underlying bedrock geology consists of London Clay Formation comprised of clay, silt and sand (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Topographically the site is on a level plane at an elevation height of 28m AOD.

Proposed Development

The development involves the redevelopment of the existing former public house, including enlargement of the existing basement and the construction of 9 self-contained residential flats. The existing buildings façade will be retained and restored (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

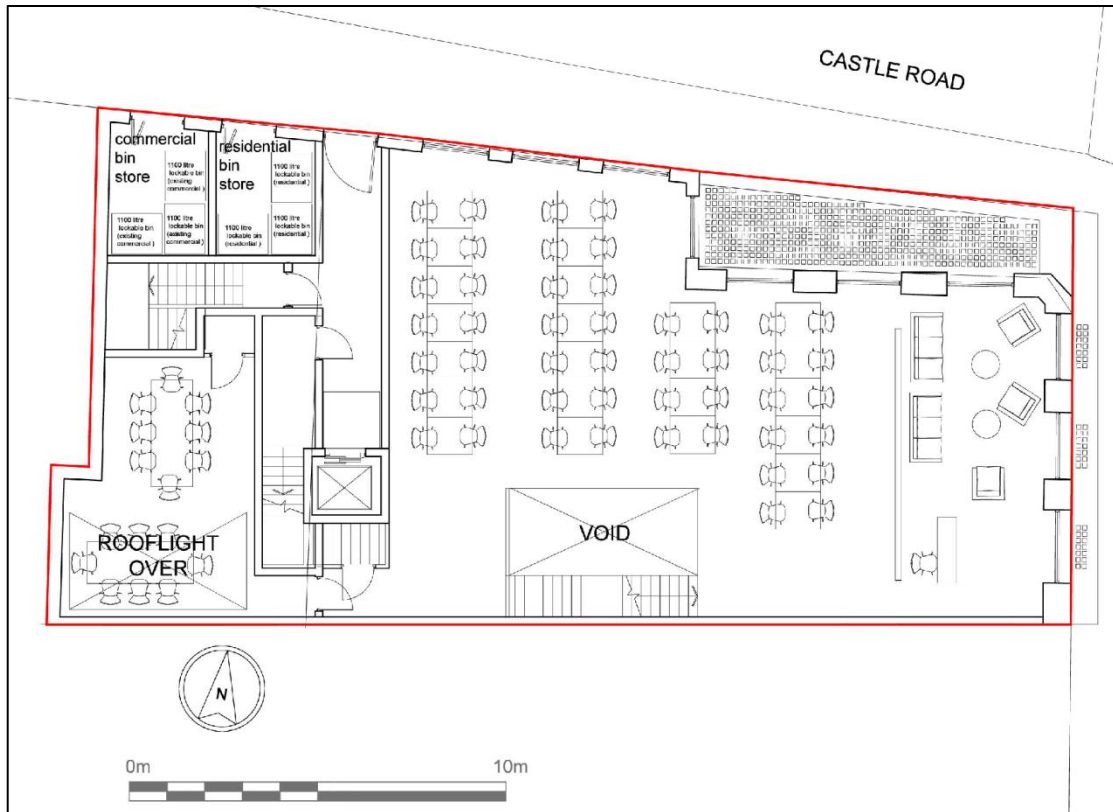


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:200)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this evaluation as defined in the approved WSI (Shlasko 2015) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area with a specific objective to identify and investigate remains related to the medieval/post-medieval Castle Inn, animal pound or reputed hunting lodge of King John,
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape, and
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions, and explore the potential for possible industrial activity in the vicinity.

2.2 *Methods*

The methods used were as follows:

- Excavation of one evaluation trench measuring 4.3 x 2m situated within the less disturbed area of the site (Fig. 4)
- The Archaeological Advisor was consulted on the archaeological remains identified in the evaluation trench for determination of further investigations

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014b, 2014c, 2014d, & 2014e)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a)
- Current Historic England guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)

2.4 *Constraints*

Due to the confined space, location of services, and presence of debris within the area, the trench dimensions were reduced from 10 x 1.8m down to 4.3m x 2m.



Figure 4: Trench location plan, with proposed in red, and actual in blue (scale 1:200)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The development site lies within the medieval/post-medieval settlement of Kentish Town in the London Borough of Camden. Originally part of the parish of St Pancras, the village developed in the medieval period as an agricultural settlement, before gradually being subsumed into Greater London in the 18th and 19th centuries. The origin of the name is uncertain, although it has been suggested that the name Kentish Town derives from ‘Kenditch’ meaning the “river” or “green” in Celtic languages, and “ditch”, an allusion to the River Fleet, which ran through the settlement (Hibbert *et al.* 2011: 454). Another possible derivation is from the manor of Cantelows or Kennestoune mentioned in the Domesday survey (Walford 1878).

In particular the development site has the potential for medieval and post-medieval remains of archaeological interest that related to the Castle Tavern, a public house that operated on the site from the medieval period until 2011.

This section has been compiled with information from the Greater London Historical Environment Record (GLHER) Report 12091, CgMs Desk Based Assessment (Meager 2013), reliable internet sources and KDK’s own library.

3.2 *Prehistoric - Saxon* (before 600BC - 1066)

Before modern building obliterated most of the natural landscape, Kentish Town possessed many qualities that made it an attractive location for settlement. The River Fleet ran just south of the development site and even in the early 19th century, Kentish Town was known for its rural and rustic charm (Hibbert *et al.* 2011: 454). The lower reaches of the Fleet played an important economic role during the Roman period, and the name “Fleet” may come from an Anglo-Saxon word, suggesting the continued importance of the river and its environs into the Saxon period (London’s Lost Rivers 2015). However, although we can speculate that settlement was likely during prehistory and through the Roman and Saxon periods, there are, in fact, no known archaeological or historical remains from those periods within the area under consideration.

3.3 *Medieval* (1066 - 1500)

The earliest remains located in the vicinity of the development site date to the medieval period. At the beginning of the medieval period, the area now known as Kentish Town was part of the parish of St. Pancras. This area was probably part of a land grant to the Dean and Chapel of St Paul’s in 603, which appears later in the Domesday survey as the manor of Cantalows/Kennestoune and is described as containing four miles of land with “plenty of timber in the hedgerows, good pasture for cattle, a running brook, and two 20d. rents” (Walford 1878).

The hamlet of Kentish Town first appears as a separate entity in 1208, as Kentisston (Camden 2015). The settlement straddled a road leading out of London towards the north, which later became Kentish Town Road, located on the east side of the development site. By the mid-15th century, the hamlet was large enough to support a chapel-of-ease, built on Kentish Town Road.

Kentish Town’s location on a busy thoroughfare encouraged the building of several inns and taverns, including the public house that originally stood on the development site. Although the medieval building was replaced in the 19th century, local legend puts a building there as early as the reign of King John (1199 - 1216) (GLHER017815). It is said to have been a hunting lodge for the King, however there is no actual evidence to support this theory (GLHER017815). Another public house, located 95m south-east of the development site on Kentish Town Road (GLHER024979) may also date to the medieval period. To the north-east of the site at the corner of Erskine Road, the site of a medieval manor house has been identified (GLHER017813). A number of roads dating to this period also exist within the area; Kentish



Town Road, Fortess Road and Crowndale Road (GHER017862, GHLE011085, GLHER017807; Meager 2013).

3.4 *Post-medieval* (1500 - 1900)

As a rural spot with good transportation and proximity to London, Kentish Town became a popular place for Londoners looking for a country house. By the 18th century, day visitors would come to enjoy the country air, perhaps stopping at the Castle Tavern, with its two acres of gardens and access to the River Fleet (Hibbert *et al.* 2011: 454). In 1824, Mary Shelley, then living on Kentish Town Road, wrote to a friend, “the country about here is really pretty; lawny uplands, wooded parks, green lanes, and gentle hills form agreeable and varying combinations” (Emms 2012).

The rural character of Kentish Town began to change during the 1840s, as speculative builders began to construct rows of villas on the open farmland. In 1848, the old Castle public house was replaced with the building that currently stands on the site (GLHER017815). Most of the buildings and remains listed on the GLHER date to this period of construction. For instance, the terrace of nine houses at Numbers 8 - 24 Kelly Street (GLHER081394), c.42m north of the development site, is Grade II listed and date to the 1840s. Two other Grade II listed terraces within 100m of the development site (GLHER081393 and GLHER081395) also date to the early to mid-19th century.

The development of Kentish Town continued into the late Victorian era, with increasing construction of both domestic and commercial buildings. Construction on the Midland Railway in the 1860s and the disappearance of the River Fleet into a series of underground pipes also changed the character of the neighbourhood (Hibbert *et al.* 2011: 454). Evidence for some of these changes has been observed during archaeological investigation, such as at the Stables Market (GLHER080326), where trial trenches revealed remains related to the railway.

Other notable buildings that date to the late Victorian era are the 1884 - 5 Church of St Barnabas (GLHER081404), located 60m east-north-east of the development site, and the St Pancras Public Baths (GLHER80304), located 240m to the north-west and dating to 1898. Over 35 Grade II listed buildings can be found around the development site.

The present building on the site dates to 1848 and is first shown on the 1849 Ordnance Survey (OS) map at the eastern end of the site fronting Kentish Town Road (GHER 017815). The 1868 OS map depicts two further buildings along the northern side of the site fronting Castle Road, and the site appears to have been divided into two plots. The 1870 OS map refers to the site as the Castle Public House and the original building has now extended further to the west. By the time of the 1894 - 6 OS map, the building is reminiscent of today with a further building to the rear of the public house. This layout is unchanged on the 1936 - 9 OS map, and mapping for the present day indicates that the previous building to the rear is no longer present, having last being depicted on the 1963 - 9 OS map (Meager 2013).

3.5 *Modern* (1900 - present)

Kentish Town suffered considerable damage during the Blitz (Bomb Sight 2015) and, as a result, there was a lot of construction during the second half of the 20th century (Hibbert *et al.* 2011: 454). The Castle Tavern (renamed several times) remained open until 2011 (Pub History 2015).

A desk-based assessment was undertaken in 2013 on the site to review the sites below ground archaeological potential. The assessment concluded that there was low potential for activity dating to the prehistoric to the Anglo-Saxon periods and a low/moderate potential for the medieval period. Post-medieval and modern activity may well be encountered around the present building (Meager 2013).



Geotechnical works were also carried out in 2013 revealing made-ground deposits 1.3 - 1.5m thick, containing ash and brick fragments, above a layer of gravel 0.5 - 1.1m thick. Below the gravel layer was the London Clay (Site Analytical Services Ltd 2013; Meager 2013).



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

A single trench was excavated orientated north to south with dimensions 4.3m x 2m and a maximum depth of 1.55m. A 5 tonne machine fitted with a 1.8m toothless bucket carried out the excavation. Context numbers relating to this evaluation are as follows:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Layer	0.16m deep	Concrete
101	Layer	0.2m deep	Made ground: soft mid orangey brown clay with frequent ceramic building material (CBM) flecks.
102	Structure	0.33m deep, 1.5m long, 0.38m wide	Brick foundation wall: 'U'-shaped in plan with base of the 'U' to the south. Made of yellow brick 220 x 105 x 60mm (8.66x4.13x2.36") with shallow frog. Four courses of stretcher bond.
103	Structure	N/A	Mortar for wall [102]: grey white cement mortar.
104	Structure	0.32m deep, 0.44m wide	Brick foundation wall: orientated east to west. Made of red brick 230 x 100 x 70mm (9.05x3.93x2.75") with shallow frog. Four courses: 2 lower courses are stretcher bond, 2 upper courses are header bond. A layer of purple slate-like material was bonded to the uppermost course. Butted by walls [102], [106] and [108].
105	Structure	N/A	Mortar for wall [104]: beige, sandy lime mortar.
106	Structure	0.51m deep, 1.22m long	Brick foundation wall: orientated north to south. Made of red brick 220 x 100 x 70mm (8.66x3.93x2.75") with shallow frog. Two courses of header bond, respecting a lead pipe. Butts wall [104] to the south.
107	Structure	N/A	Mortar for wall [106]: beige sandy lime mortar.
108	Structure	0.67m deep, 1.54m long	Brick wall: orientated north to south. Made of red brick 100mm wide x 65mm deep (3.93" wide x 2.55" deep) with shallow frog. Two courses of header bond with no mortar. Partly overlies wall [104] to the south, and wall [112] to the north.
109	Layer	Unknown	Natural geology: soft, mid orange brown clay with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
110	Structure	0.48m deep, 0.48m long	Possible inspection chamber: square in section. Made of red brick 235 x 105 x 65mm (9.25x4.13x2.36"). Five courses of stretcher bond with 1 layer of purple slate-like material underlying and a partial slab of stone overlying. May also have functioned as a step.
111	Structure	N/A	Mortar for possible inspection chamber [110]: beige, sandy lime mortar.
112	Structure	0.24m deep, 0.74m wide	Brick wall: linear in plan, orientated east to west. Made of red brick 220 x 100 x 70mm (8.66x3.93x2.75") with shallow frog. Three courses of header bond. Partly overlaid by wall [108] to the south.
113	Structure	N/A	Mortar for wall [112]: grey white cement mortar at the west end, and beige, sandy lime mortar bonding the rest.
114	Layer	0.94m deep	Made-ground: mid-dark blackish brown, soft clay with finds of frequent flecks of ceramic building material (CBM), sherds of willow pattern pottery, clay pipe stem, oyster shell and a fragment of animal bone (finds not retained).



4.2 **Trench 1** (Figures 5 – 10, Plates 1 - 10)

The general trench stratigraphy comprised 0.16m of concrete (100), overlying 0.2m deep of made-ground (101), overlying 0.94m deep of made-ground (114), underlying which was the natural strata (109).

The trench exposed a series of brick wall foundations, all of which were cutting into made-ground (114) and described as follows:

Wall [102] found at the southern end of the trench, 'U'-shaped in plan consisting of four courses constructed of yellow bricks with a shallow frog laid down in a stretcher bond and bonded with grey white cement mortar (103). The foundation butted a further foundation brick wall [104].

Wall [104] found towards the southern end of the trench, orientated east to west consisting of four courses of red bricks with a shallow frog. The two lower courses were laid down in stretcher bond and the two upper courses were header bond. A layer of slate was bonded to the uppermost course, acting as a damp-proof coursing. The foundation was bonded with beige, sandy, lime mortar (105). It was butted by foundation wall [102] to the south and foundation wall [106] to the north at the western end. To the north at the eastern end, foundation wall [108] partially covered [104].

Wall [106] was seen in the west section of the trench, orientated north to south. Two courses were found constructed of red bricks with a shallow frog and laid down in a header bond and bonded with beige, sandy, lime mortar (107). Towards the northern end of the wall the brickwork respects a lead pipe. The foundation butts foundation wall [104] to the south.

Wall [108] was found in the east section of the trench, orientated north to south. It consisting of two brick courses constructed of red bricks with a shallow frog, laid down in a header bond with no mortar. At the walls southern end it partly overlay wall [104], whilst at its northern end it partly overlay wall [112]. A possible inspection chamber [110] was also found underlying wall [108].

Possible inspection chamber [110] was rectangular in section and seen in the east side of the trench. It consisted of five courses of red bricks laid down in a stretcher bond and bonded with beige lime mortar (111), at the base of which was a layer of slate for damp-proof coursing. The structure was capped with a possible limestone slab that had been broken. The structure may have also acted as a step as opposed to an inspection chamber. The structure was also found underlying wall [108].

Wall [112] was situated towards the northern end of the trench, orientated east to west. It was constructed of three courses of red bricks with a shallow frog laid down in a header bond. The majority of the wall was bonded with a beige sandy lime mortar, aside from at the western end, which consisted of grey white cement interpreted as a later retouching. The wall was overlaid by wall [108] to the south at its eastern end.



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing south, with 1m scales



Plate 2: Site stratigraphy, facing west, with 0.5m scale

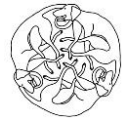


Plate 3: Brick wall [102], facing west, with 1m scale



Plate 4: Brick wall [102], facing south, with 1m scale



Plate 5: Brick wall [104], facing west, with 1m scale



Plate 6: Brick wall [104], facing south, with 1m scale



Plate 7: Brick wall [106], facing west,
with 1m scales



Plate 8: Brick wall [108] and possible inspection
chamber [110], facing east, with 1m scales



Plate 10: Brick wall [112], facing west,
with 1m scale



Plate 9: Brick wall [112], facing south,
With 0.5m and 1m scale

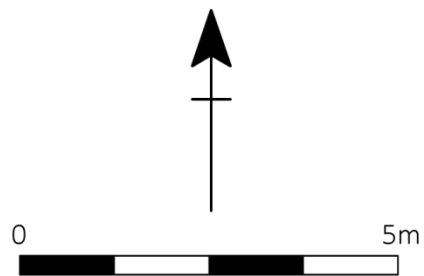
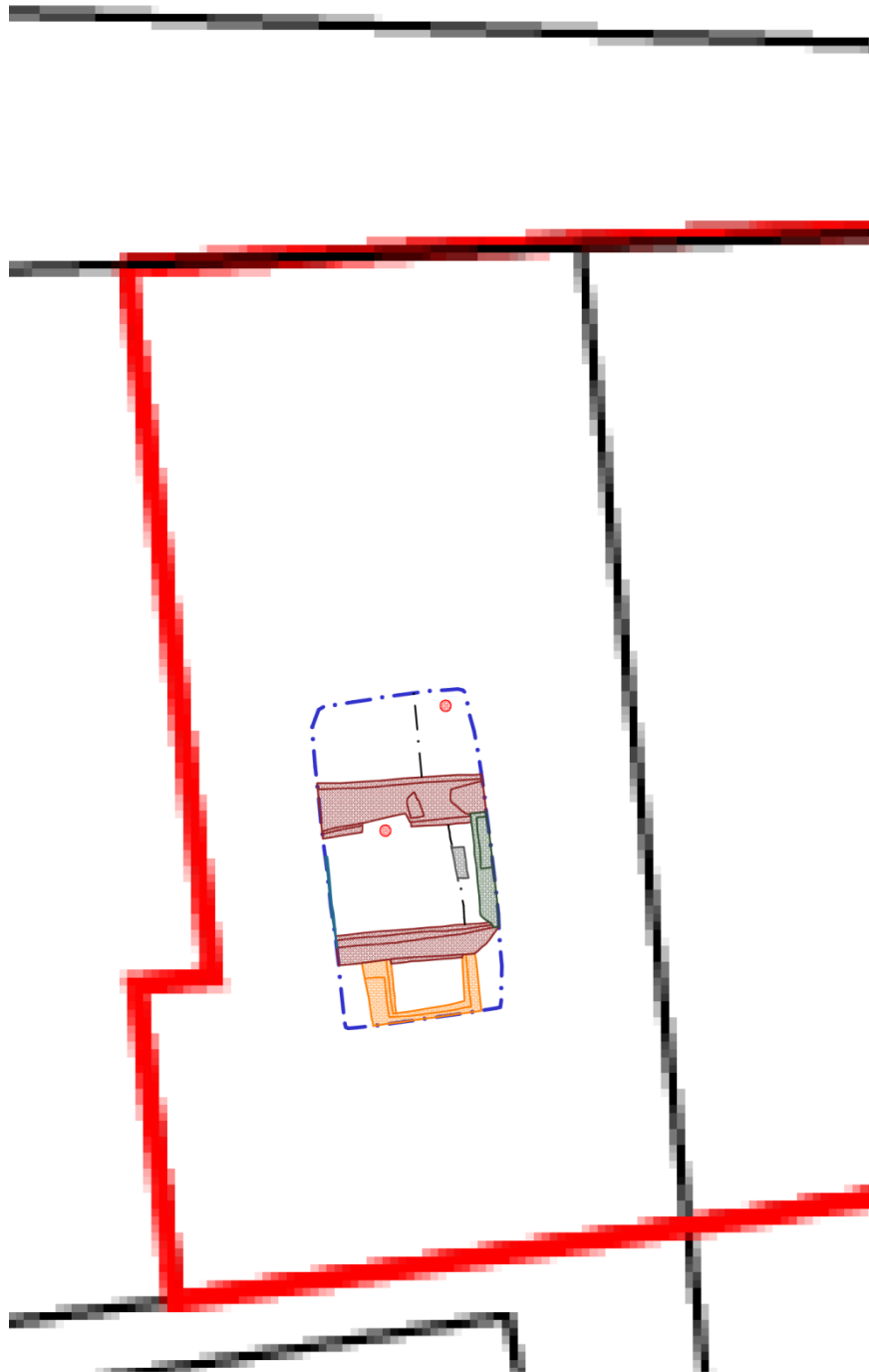


Figure 5: Trench plan with archaeology (scale 1:100)

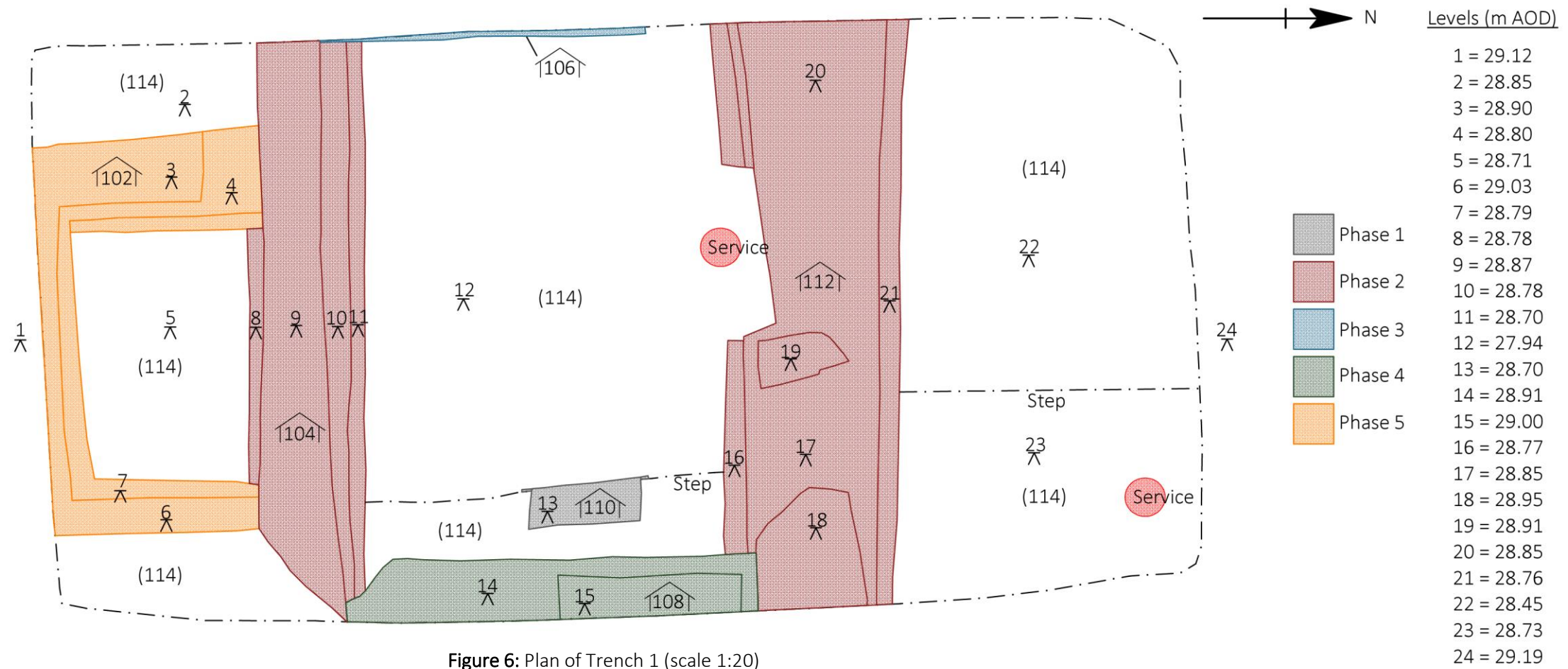


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 1 (scale 1:20)

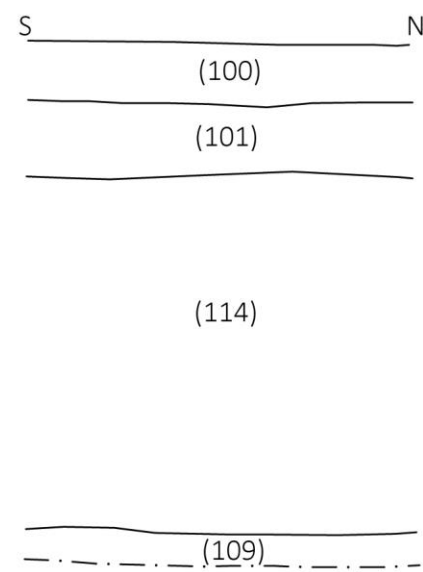


Figure 7: Representative site stratigraphy (scale 1:20)

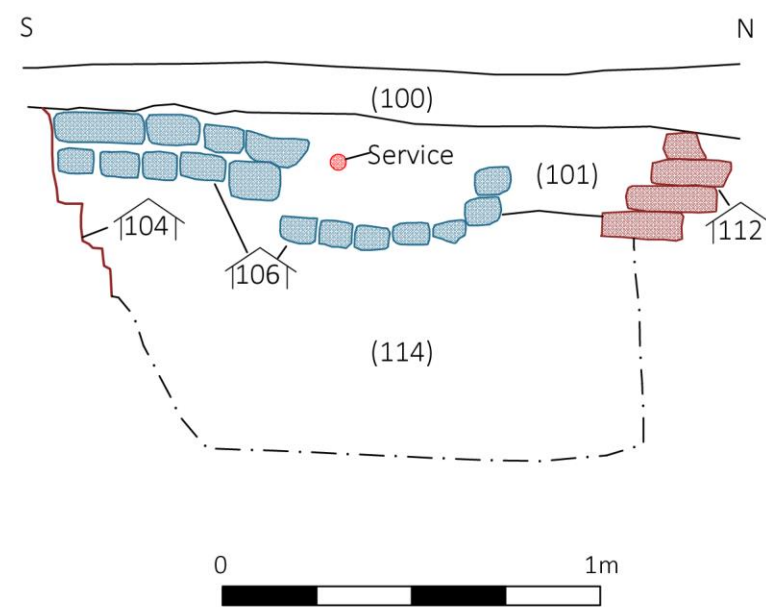


Figure 8: Brick wall [106], east facing section (scale 1:20)

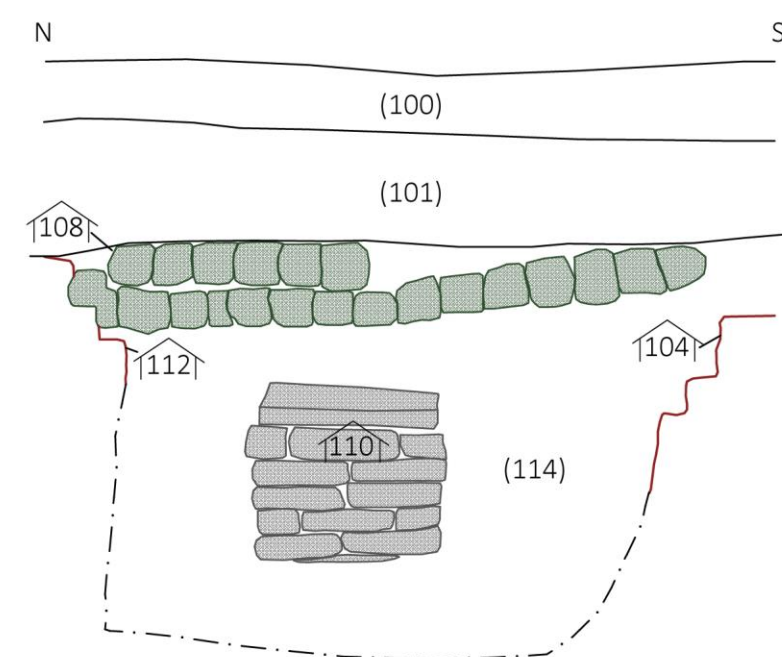


Figure 9: Brick wall [108] and possible inspection chamber [110], west facing section (scale 1:20)

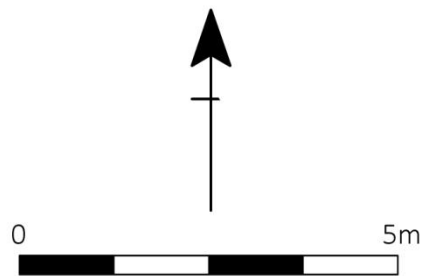


Figure 10: Archaeology overlay on the 1894 OS map (scale 1:100)



5 Conclusions

The aims of the project were to establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area with a specific objective of identifying and investigating remains related to the medieval/post-medieval Cast Inn, which once stood within the vicinity, and to confirm activity relating to a possible animal pound or reputed hunting lodge of King John, also believed to be within the site vicinity. They also sought to establish the relationship of any remains to the surrounding contemporary landscape and to recover paleo-environmental remains to determine the local environment and to explore for possible industrial activity in the vicinity.

The evaluation revealed a series of post-medieval brick wall foundations, a possible service chamber and the general site stratigraphy of made-ground deposits overlying the natural strata. The made-ground contained flecks of CBM, sherds of willow pattern pottery, clay pipe stem, oyster shell and a fragment of animal bone all believed to be post-medieval.

Construction phasing for the brick foundations can be established (Figure 6); the possible inspection chamber [110] was found at a lower level (Phase 1); walls [104] and [112] were on the same east to west alignment, parallel to one another and contemporary (Phase 2). Walls [106] and [108] were later additions as [106] butts [104], whilst [108] partially overlay [104] and [112], (Phase 3&4). The final construction phase was the 'U'-shaped wall [102] butting [104] and was bonded with cement mortar (Phase 5).

Referring to OS maps for the site the present building (Castle Inn) dates to 1848 and was first shown on the 1849 map. The 1868 OS map depicts two further residential buildings along the northern side of the site fronting Castle Road, at which time the site appears to have been divided into two plots. By the time of the 1894-6 OS map, the main building is comparable to today but with a further residential building to the rear of the public house orientated north to south, situated within the evaluation area. This building to the rear of the site is no longer present and was last depicted on the 1963-9 OS map.

Overlaying the archaeology found in the evaluation with 1894 OS map indicates that the brick foundations are indeed the residential property that once stood to rear of the site, that was demolished after 1969 (Figure 10).

No finds, features or deposits pre-dating the post-medieval periods were found relating to the medieval origins of the Castle Tavern or evidence of an animal pound or the possible hunting lodge for King John. The post-medieval date of the findings also meant that paleo-environmental data was not obtained and no evidence for industrial activity was encountered.

The lack of earlier evidence may be due to the site having undergone development activity in the post-medieval and modern periods, which may have truncated any earlier archaeological features that could have been present. It may also be that the site is not located within the footprint of the animal pound or hunting lodge.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Nicola Chambers of Roman Pardon Architects for commissioning this report on behalf of Mehdi Mehra of Ringley Estate Agents. Thanks are also due to Sarah-Jane Hathaway of the Greater London Historic Environment Record Office for providing Historic Environment Records and other relevant documents, and to Sandy Kidd and Laura O’Gorman of Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the project.

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The fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA and Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA. The report was written by Jessica Bertrand and Carina Summerfield-Hill, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Trench recording sheets
4. Site drawings
5. Client's site plans
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).



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Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 173/CKT		Site Name: The Castle, 147 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London
Digital	B&W	Subject
1	1	General trench shot, looking north
2		General trench shot, looking north
3		General trench shot, looking north
4	2	Wall [102], looking west
5		Wall [102], looking west
6		Wall [102] detail, looking south
7		Wall [102] detail, looking south
8	3	Wall [104], looking west
9		Wall [104], looking west
10	4	Wall [104], looking south
11		Wall [104], looking south
12	5	Wall [106] and made-ground (114), looking west
13		Wall [106] and made-ground (114), looking west
14	6	Wall [108] and inspection chamber [110], looking east
15		Wall [108] and inspection chamber [110], looking east
16	7	Wall [112], looking west
17		Wall [112], looking west
18	8	Wall [112], looking north
19		Wall [112], looking north
20	9	Wall [112], looking south
21		Wall [112], looking south
22	10	General trench shot, looking south



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	The Castle, 147 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London	Project Site Code	173/CKT
OASIS reference	Kdkarcha1-227512	Event/Accession no	KTR15
OS reference	TQ 28945 84543	Study area size	325.66 sq. m
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	29m AOD
Short Description	In January 2016 KDK Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at The Castle, 147 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London, in advance of redeveloping an existing former public house into office and flats. The evaluation revealed a series of post-medieval brick foundation walls associated with a former building which once stood to the rear of the Castle, depicted on OS mapping from 1894-1969. The foundations were found to be cutting into made-ground containing post-medieval finds of clay pipe stem, fragments of ceramic building material, willow pattern pottery and a fragment of animal bone.		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Meager 2013)	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Redevelopment of former public house into office spaces and residential flats	Current land use	Derelict building
Local Planning Authority	Camden Council	Planning application ref.	2013/5568/P
Monument type	Former public house	Monument period	Post-medieval
Significant finds	Series of post-medieval brick foundations	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Sandy Kidd (GLAAS)	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Mehdi Mehra, Ringley Estate Agents		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	19/01/16	End date	20/01/16
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC)	None	
Paper		Brief, WSI, report, site records and drawings, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital		CD containing all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: The Castle, 147 Kentish Town Road, Camden, London		
Serial title & volume	173/CKT/3		
Author(s)	Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA and Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA		
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