

# BEATRICE TATE SCHOOL, SOUTHERN GROVE, MILE END LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## An Archaeological Evaluation Report

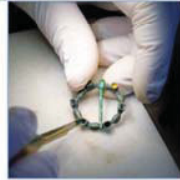
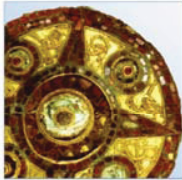
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ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Beatrice Tate School, Southern Grove, Mile End, London Borough of Tower Hamlets:

### An Archaeological Evaluation Report

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Non-Technical Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at Southern Grove, Mile End, London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The work was undertaken on behalf of Bouygues UK. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the Beatrice Tate School development on any surviving remains of a post medieval workhouse that had previously occupied the site.*

*The evaluation involved the excavation of two trenches, one measuring 20.00m x 1.80 whilst the other measured 10.00m x 1.8m. The excavation works were carried out using a JCB 3CX under the direction of the on-site project officer. Several made ground deposits were recorded varying from gravels with brick intrusions to possible demolition deposits with very frequent brick and mortar. A single wall was recorded cutting into the made ground which may be the truncated remains of a workhouse structural wall. A concrete base was also recorded in one trench which may also have a connection to the workhouse structure. Two surfaces were recorded on site, the first being the remains of smooth surface overlying crushed yellow stock brick whilst the second was recorded as a rough surface formed out of natural stone, ceramics and concrete. It remains unclear whether these deposits relate to the workhouse structure. Overlying both trenches were deposits of made ground and modern tarmac and concrete.*

*No significant structural remains were recorded on site and as such no further work is recommended.*

*Publication of the evaluation findings will be carried out through a short summary of the fieldwork submitted to the local fieldwork roundup. An OASIS form has also been completed and an electronic copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The site archive will be prepared in accordance with local and national guidance and will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre.*

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document details the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Southern Grove, Mile End, London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The site will be developed to relocate Beatrice Tate School from its current location on St Judes Road, Tower Hamlets (Figure 1). The investigation took place from 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and comprised of the excavation of two evaluation trenches.
- 1.2 The development site is located in the north of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, south of Mile End Road, on the eastern side of Southern Grove - NGR: TQ 3671 8247 (Figure 1).
- 1.3 The site is roughly rectangular in shape, aligned north-south and measures approximately 9,706 sq m. The site is bounded by Southern Grove to the west, the rear of properties fronting onto Mile End Road to the north, the rear of properties fronting on to Brockesley Street to the east and Tower Hamlets Cemetery to the south (Figure 2).
- 1.4 The first phase of development works will be restricted to the southern section of the site and comprises the demolition of the buildings which currently occupy this area and the construction of the new school buildings. Development plans covering the northern and central sections of the site have not been confirmed, however proposed development works will likely include the demolition of the 20<sup>th</sup> century office structure in the north of the site, whilst the disused former workhouse in the centre of the site will be retained.

## 2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.2 The site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Area/Area of Archaeological Potential. No World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefields or Registered Parks & Gardens are located within the limits of proposed development, or within a 250m radius of the site (Magic 2010).
- 2.3 The Tower Hamlets Cemetery Conservation Area extends into the eastern boundary of the site; encompassing the former workhouse located in the central section of the site.
- 2.4 Three additional Conservation Areas have been identified as lying, or partly lying, within 250m of the site. These comprise:
  - Tredegar Square Conservation Area, c. 45m to the north of the site;
  - Ropery Street Conservation Area, c. 160m to the south / south-west of the site;
  - Clinton Road Conservation Area, c. 250m to the north-west of the site;
- 2.5 The first stage of works involved the production of a desk-based assessment produced by AOC Archaeology (2010). The archaeological evaluation has been commissioned by Bouygues UK as part of the developments team's risk management strategy. There is no requirement for archaeological work as a condition of planning consent (Application Number PA/11/01918).
- 2.6 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation.

### 3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map Sheet 270, (BGS 1993), indicates that the bedrock geology is of the Taplow Gravel Formation, comprising gravel and sand of the Wolstonian Age.
- 3.2 The general topography of the site and the surrounding area is relatively flat and there are no nearby rivers. The site is situated c. 1.5km north of the River Thames and c. 1km west of the River Lea and while alluvial / river deposits are recorded on the map as following the course of the River Thames and the Lea River, there is no superficial geology recorded in the area of the site. There are deposits of the Langley Silt Member formed of clay and silt of the Devensian Age marked to the south-west of the site.
- 3.3 Geotechnical investigations were undertaken in October 2010 by Ian Farmer Associates. The results are summarised below.
- 3.4 The ground investigations comprised three cable percussion boreholes (BH1, 2 & 3) each excavated to a depth of c. 23.45mbgl (below ground level) and ten window sampler boreholes (WS1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10).
- 3.5 The general pattern of deposits encountered during the geotechnical investigations comprised made ground to a varying depth between 1.10m – 4.30mbgl, overlying a c. 0.20 – 0.75 thick layer of 'possible' made ground, encountered at depths of between 1.00mbgl to 2.75m. The average thickness of made ground encountered in the site was c. 2.30m in thickness (Ian Farmer Associates 2010).
- 3.6 Beneath the made ground deposits, the geotechnical investigations have proven the existence of Taplow Gravel Formation, recorded at depths between 1.450m – 5.50mbgl, overlying the natural London Clay formation, which was recorded at a depth of 4.50 – 5.50mbgl (Ian Farmer Associates 2010).
- 3.7 Although the approximate positions of the some of the exploratory holes were potentially located over areas of the workhouse's former footprint, the only possible brick foundations / hardcore rubble noted were in BH2 in the south-west of the site and BH3 in the north of the site. Evidence for wall lines or foundations are unlikely to have been identified from such small areas of examination (Ian Farmer Associates 2010).
- 3.8 Substantial made ground was noted in WS1, in the north-east corner of the southern section of the site. The approximate location of this exploratory hole is not thought to have been located in an area of past basement and it is not known what this substantial deposit relates to.

### 4 Archaeological and Historical Background

#### 4.1 The Prehistoric and Roman Periods

**(Palaeolithic c. 500,000 – 10000 BC; Mesolithic c. 10000 to 4000 BC; Neolithic c. 4000-2200 BC; Bronze Age c. 2200-700 BC, Iron Age c. 700 BC - AD 43 and Roman AD 43 - 410)**

- 4.1.1 There are no entries of prehistoric or Roman date recorded on the GLHER as lying within 250m of the development area. The site is located upon Taplow gravels, which are not known for their archaeological potential, and there is little evidence of substantial activity from later periods.
- 4.1.2 This is also reflected in the wider area; there is little evidence of significant activity within a wider 1km area around the site recorded on various online databases (English Heritages Pastscape

database and National Monuments Records Excavation Index and the Archaeological Data Service's ArchSearch).

- 4.1.3 Within the wider landscape, it has been shown that the Lower Lea Valley has been almost continuously occupied since the end of the last Ice Age (c. 12,000 years ago) and is thought to have been well populated during the Bronze Age (1,800–600 BC) and Iron Age (600 BC–AD 43).
- 4.1.4 The main evidence of Roman activity comprises the town of *Londinium* (London), established by AD 53 and located with the area currently occupied by the modern City of London, c.3.5km to the west / south-west of the proposed development site. The settlement and land use within the landscape surrounding the town would have been strongly influenced by the development of the city as a major trading post, port and provincial capital by the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (AOC 2009).
- 4.1.5 Small, nucleated settlements and larger villa estates were located along the major roads, acting as both markets and as producers; supplying the city, particularly with agricultural produce. The nearest evidence dating to the Roman period was settlement activity identified in the area of Old Ford, just over 1km to the north-east of the site.

## **4.2 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) & Medieval Periods (AD 1066 – AD 1536)**

- 4.2.1 The proposed development site appears to have lain within the early medieval manor of Stepney, which covered the majority of the modern day Borough of Tower Hamlets. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Stepney stretched eastward from the medieval City of London to the River Lea (AOC 2009).
- 4.2.2 The manor of Stepney is recorded in the Domesday Book as part of the Bishop of London's Manor of Stepney in 1066 and 1086 and formed part of a larger block of land around London thought to have been held by the bishopric since before c. 1000 and possibly as early as c. AD 606 (Cockburn, King and McDonnell 1969).
- 4.2.3 The hamlet of Mile End is first recorded in 1288, when it appears as '*La Mile ende*'. The name literally means 'the hamlet a mile away', meaning 1 mile from Aldgate. Mile End is situated on the old London to Colchester road, Mile End Road, which was referred to as '*Oldstrete*' in 1383, indicating that the road was already well established by this date (Mills 2004)
- 4.2.4 There is no evidence of significant activity within, or within the vicinity of the development site during the early medieval or medieval periods. The area of Mile End mainly comprised common land throughout the medieval period (Weinreb and Hibbert 1995) and it is likely that the proposed development site lay within the agricultural hinterland of the surrounding settlements.

## **4.3 The Post-Medieval (AD 1536 – AD 1900) and Modern Periods (AD 1900 – Present)**

- 4.3.1 The western half of Mile End developed rapidly in the last quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and in 1690 constituted a separate hamlet known as Mile End New Town. The eastern, more extensive hamlet of Mile End Old Town remained predominantly open ground in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Much of the hamlet was developed for housing during the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the population rose to nearly 113,000 (Weinreb and Hibbert 1995).
- 4.3.2 During the 18<sup>th</sup> century the majority of built development along Mile End Road was located to the west of the site. The southern side of Mile End Road was occupied by the Plough Tavern, nurseries and hot houses, while the northern side was occupied by numerous inns and taverns along its length between Mile End and Aldgate, along with a brewery, hospital, almshouses, and a number of shops. However, a large area of Mile End Old Town was occupied by farmland and in 1772, 78% of the land

- was recorded as being under pasture (244 acres), mowed (230.5 acres), ploughed (42 acres) and wheat (12 acres) (Morris 2002).
- 4.3.3 The Plough (or Plow) tavern is shown on John Rocque's *'Map of London and its Environs'* surveyed in 1741-46 and Richard Horwood's map of 1819. Comparison of these maps with later Ordnance Survey mapping suggests that The Plough was located c. 50m to the north-west of the site.
- 4.3.4 The Mercer's Trading Company held a large area of land to the south of Mile End Road in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, in the centre of which was the 'Halfway House' tavern. These lands were predominantly used for cattle farming (Morris 2002).
- 4.3.5 The 'Halfway House' tavern is shown on Rocque's *'A New and Accurate Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster & The Borough of Southwark'* surveyed 1746/1748 in a similar position to where 'The Plough' is shown on the other early mapping. This could be a mistake by the cartographer or could indicate a change of name. If this is the Halfway House as noted above, then it would suggest the area of the site may have been included in the lands owned by the Mercer's Trading Company.
- 4.3.6 Tower Hamlets Cemetery is located adjacent to the site on its south and south-east sides. This cemetery was opened in 1841 and was one of the privately owned cemeteries built during the 1840s to accommodate the increased number of burials resulting from the expanding population of the London Metropolis (GLHER). Documentary sources from the 19<sup>th</sup> century describe the cemetery as a 'dreary place', occupying 30 acres of ground and holding the remains of thousands of people, mostly from the poorer classes, many of whom occupied nameless graves (Walford 1878). The chapel and lodges within the cemetery were damaged during the Second World War and later demolished (Weinreb and Hibbert 1995).
- 4.3.7 The Whitechapel Union Workhouse was built within the site in approximately 1872 to replace an earlier workhouse which was located on Charles Street (now Vallance Road). The Charles Street workhouse then became the Whitechapel Union Infirmary following the opening of the South Grove (now Southern Grove) site.
- 4.3.8 The workhouse is first shown on the 1896 OS map as comprising a central block (which is still extant) with northern and southern wings, smaller ancillary buildings to the rear and in the south of the site and what appears to be a gatehouse style structure fronting onto South Grove in the west of the site.
- 4.3.9 Of anecdotal historical interest, Peter Higginbotham notes that the 1881 census shows a Martha Tabran, a supposed victim of Jack the Ripper, living in the South Grove site (Higginbotham 2005), whilst another alleged victim, an Annie Millwood, survived a multiple stabbing and was sent from the Whitechapel Workhouse Infirmary to the South Grove Workhouse in March 1888, where she collapsed ten days later and died whilst in the back yard of the building while *'engaged in some occupation'* (Scott 2008).
- 4.3.10 The exact form and structure of the workhouse at this time is not yet known, although Higginbotham suggests a mortuary was added to the site by the 1880s (Higginbotham 2005). The 1881 census also showed that there were 395 residents at the same site, 113 of which were under 70 and 8 over 80 (Higginbotham 2005) – this suggests that the workhouse was a large structure, presumably with the facilities to cater for the inmates (kitchens etc.).
- 4.3.11 There is no mention in any of the sources referenced for this assessment of a burial ground on the site. Basil Holmes 1897 work *'London's Burial Grounds – Notes on their History from the Earliest Times to the Present Day'* has an entire chapter dedicated to almshouse's, workhouse's and



- institution's burial grounds, which, although indicating some workhouses did have adjoining, separate or incorporated cemeteries, makes no mention of such a ground at the South Grove site. With the proximity to the Tower Hamlets Cemetery, it would seem unlikely that the workhouse would not utilise that cemetery to bury its residents. Also the possibility of unlicensed or unrecorded burials in the workhouse's grounds cannot be completely ruled out.
- 4.3.12 Trade directories record the land use within the area of the site in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 1863 Post Office Directory for London lists the Tower Hamlets Cemetery, but the workhouse has not yet been built. A stone mason and mason / statuary are recorded on Mile End Road to the north of the site, presumably due to the close proximity to the cemetery.
- 4.3.13 By 1876 the Whitechapel Union Workhouse is recorded on South Grove. In 1888, a Samuel Yearly Waterer was the Master of the Whitechapel Union Workhouse and a Mrs Mary Ann Herring was the matron. It remains as the 'Whitechapel Union Workhouse' into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 1928 Post Office Directory for London records that the workhouse is now known as the 'Whitechapel Institution (Stepney Union)'.
- 4.3.14 Although the exact form and layout of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century workhouse is not yet fully understood, it may not have changed that significantly by the 1930s, when it became the 'South Grove Institution'. The English Heritage Pastscape entry for the site (Monument Number: TQ 38 SE 292) states that by 1930 it had an entrance block with entrance archway and receiving wards, a three-storey administrative building with a refectory at the rear and kitchens attached (the central block), flanked by accommodation blocks, connected to it via escape bridges. The entry also lists a workshop and bakery on the site and records that in 1930 it could accommodate nearly 700 inmates.
- 4.3.15 Plans from the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) dated July 1930 show that the site comprised an entrance block fronting onto South Grove, with a central block in the east, separate male and female blocks to the south and north, a laundry block in the north and a bakehouse block in the south of the site with a row of stores along the eastern boundary.
- 4.3.16 The plans indicate that the central block included a dining room, kitchens, scullery, boiler house on the ground floor; staff rooms, offices and wards on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor; and nurse's bedrooms, master's bedroom and wards on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The entrance block included dayrooms and wards.
- 4.3.17 The ground floor of the bakehouse block included a 'cripple's' dayroom, ward and lavatories, stores, a plumbers shop, tailor shop, electricians shop, fitter's room, fitters shop and wood chopping rooms, as well as the bakery ovens and flour room. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor included a men's ward and two disused wards whilst a second building along the western boundary housed a mortuary and a barber's shop.
- 4.3.18 The plan of the men's block shows dayrooms, bathrooms and a men's ward on the ground floor, and men's sick ward, kitchens, bathrooms on the first and second floors, with staircases in the north-west corner of the building. The men's block was located to the south of the central block and it is presumed that the women's block (which was located to the north) would have likely had an identical layout.
- 4.3.19 The plans include useful information on the nature of the building, such as the material used in the construction of the stairwells and the types of floors (e.g. the plumbers shop had a stone floor and a brick floor, whilst the wards had concrete floors). Such information will be useful in identifying any below ground remains which may survive within the site.
- 4.3.20 Cross sections through the central block and one of the ward blocks indicate that these buildings both contain basement levels. A second plan of the South Grove site, thought to be of post-1930s date, shows several alterations including new gardens, an extension to the barbershop and new

workshops in the south of the site, and demolition of part of the bakehouse block (the part previously containing the workshops), new windows and a new urinal block in the north of the site and lime-washing of walls of the laundry block and the central block.

- 4.3.21 Material at the LMA also includes a report by the Greater London Council Department of Architecture and Civic Design, dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 1934. It relates to a report from the Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1933 on the fire precautions at the Institution. The report includes several details and descriptions of the interior of the building – such as doors, stair wells and materials, along with recommendations for alterations.
- 4.3.22 After 1930, the workhouse had become a Public Assistance Institution (a name given to a workhouse after 1929 after the Local Government Act abolished Poor Law Unions and Guardians, and control passed to public assistance authorities run by county boroughs and county councils – English Heritage 2010). Trade directories record that by 1940 it is known as ‘Southern Grove House’ (LCC) and by 1950 as ‘Southern Grove Lodge’.
- 4.3.23 In 2003 only the central block remained and a planning application describes its use as Council offices, administration and containing industrial kitchens which provided the Borough’s ‘Meals on Wheels’ service. The English Heritage Pastscape record indicates that it was a day centre in 2007 (possibly meaning only the new building in the south of the site); it is currently unoccupied.

## 5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the evaluation are defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
  - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
  - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
  - To enable the archaeology advisor to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the evaluation are defined as being:
- Determine the presence or absence of any structural remains relating to the post-medieval workhouse.
- 5.3 The aim is also to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## 6. Methodology

- 6.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two evaluation trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m and 10m x 1.80m respectively.
- 6.2 The machining was carried out using a JCB 3CX machine with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of the archaeological Project Officer.

- 6.3 The site code BTS 12 was obtained from the LAARC, London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre, and was used as the site identifier for all records produced.
- 6.4 The trenches were located to the National Grid using differential GPS which also provided accurate levels for both trenches.
- 6.5 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 3rd edition 1994).
- 6.6 All of the work was carried out in line with:
- English Heritage, (1991), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2)
  - *Archaeological Guidance Papers (AGP): 2-4, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork* (English Heritage 2009)
  - *IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).
  - Institute for Archaeologists (2010), *Code of Conduct*
- 6.8 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For each trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated. In this report the archaeological fills and layers are represented in curved brackets i.e. ( ), whilst the cut numbers are represented in square brackets i.e. [ ].
- 6.9 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.

## 7. Results

### 7.1 Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 3)

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence**

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
100	0.08m	10.69m – 10.61m	Tarmac Surface
101	0.28m	10.61m – 10.33m	Concrete. Car Park formation deposit.
102	0.22m	10.33m – 10.11m	Compact and crushed yellow stock bricks covered in a smoothed grey gritty deposit. Rough surface.
103	0.16m	10.11m – 9.95m	Compact dark grey sandy clay with tile and brick. Made ground.
105	0.18m	9.95m – 9.77m	Dark brown sandy clay with inclusions of brick, chalk, mortar and gravel. Made ground.
106	0.12m	9.77m – 9.65m	Soft dark grey sandy clay. Made ground.
107	0.18m	9.65m – 9.47m	Soft dark brown clay silt and gravel with occasional brick. Made ground.

- 7.1.1 Trench 1 measured 20.00m x 1.80m and was aligned north-south (Figure 3).
- 7.1.2 The earliest deposit in Trench 1 was (107), a soft dark brown clay silt and gravel with occasional brick. This deposit, recorded at an upper height of 9.65m OD, was observed within two excavated sondages at the northern and southern ends of the trench. The layer has been interpreted as made ground.

- 7.1.3 Overlying (107), were two layers of made ground, (106) and (105). The lowest deposit, (106), was a soft dark grey sandy clay whilst overlying deposit (105), was a dark brown sandy clay with inclusions of brick, chalk, mortar and gravel.
- 7.1.4 Cutting into deposit (105), was (104), a coarse concrete base or footing recorded at a height of 9.95mOD. The base was located within the south-eastern corner of the trench with only 0.75m x 0.50m x 0.20m observed in plan. The trench could not be extended due to the location of live heating pipes immediately to the south of the trench. It is unclear what the base or footing may directly relate to, however, the remains may be the very edge of a larger base which was perhaps part of an earlier structure on site, possibly related to the workhouse.



*Plate 1 – Made ground deposits and concrete base (104).*

- 7.1.5 Overlying the concrete and the trench was made ground deposit (103), a 0.16m thick layer of compact dark grey sandy clay with tile and brick. Above the made ground was (102), a 0.22m thick layer of crushed yellow stock bricks and smoothed grey gritty sand. This layer appears to have formed a rough floor or surface. The brick clearly acts as make-up ground whereas the gritty sand acts as a thin smooth surface. The surface appears to change colour within the northern limit of the trench, from a grey to yellow. This might suggest that something may previously have overlain the floor, perhaps upright brickwork which had been completely removed.



Plate 2 – Floor (102)

7.1.6 Above the floor were two more recently laid deposits recorded as (101), a 0.28m thick layer of concrete, overlaid by (100), a modern tarmac horizon. This was recorded at an upper height of 10.69mOD.

## 7.2 Trench 2 (Figure 2 & 4)

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
200	0.15m	10.90m – 10.75m	Tarmac and concrete surface.
201	0.33m	10.75m – 10.42m	Grey gritty sandy clay with brick and tile. Made ground.
205	0.32m	10.42m – 10.10m	Grey sandy clay with very frequent red brick and white chalk. Made ground/ demolition layer.
206	0.21m	10.10m – 9.89m	Loose chalk and red brick. Made ground/demolition layer.
207	0.25m	9.89m – 9.64m	Dark blue grey silty clay with charcoal, clinker, red brick and mortar. Made ground.

7.2.1 Trench 2 measured 10.00m x 1.80m and was aligned north-south (Figure 4).

7.2.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 2 was (207), a 0.25m+ thick layer of dark blue grey silty clay with inclusions of charcoal, clinker, red brick and mortar. This was recorded at a height of 9.89mOD. Overlying (207) were two layers of possible demolition or made ground deposits. The lowest deposit, (206), was a 0.21m thick layer of loose chalk and red brick. This deposit was only recorded within the northern extent of the trench (Figure 4). Overlying (206), and the full extent of the trench, was (205), a 0.32m thick layer of grey sandy clay with very frequent red brick and white chalk. Both of

these deposits may be interpreted as a demolition horizon, however, they may simply be made ground deposits formed of imported used building materials.

- 7.2.3 Cutting into (205), was [204] a linear cut for (202), an east west yellow stock brick all. The cut, [204], measured 1.20m x 1.80m x 0.70m deep. The northern cut edge was vertical whereas the southern edge was a gradually sloped. The brick wall (202), recorded at an upper height of 10.42mOD, was formed by yellow stock bricks measuring 240mm x 120mm x 70mm. The wall varied in terms of preservation. At the eastern extent of the wall, close to the trench edge, four courses were observed. However, within the western extent, only one course remained in situ. The bricks were bonded with a grey cement mortar. The wall may have been part of an earlier structure on site, possibly part of the original workhouse buildings. The backfill of the wall cut [204] was (203), a dense brown sandy gravel with occasional brick inclusions.



*Plate 3 – Yellow stock brick wall (202)*

- 7.2.4 Overlying deposit (205) within the northern limit of the trench was (208), a 0.20m thick layer of compacted natural stone, glazed ceramics and concrete within a yellow mortar. This layer is thought to have formed a rough surface, possible related to a path or garden surface.
- 7.2.5 Overlying both surfaces (205) and (208), was (201), a 0.33m thick layer of grey gritty sandy clay and yellow gritty gravel with inclusions of brick and mortar. This has been interpreted as a made ground deposit.
- 7.2.6 Overlying the trench was (200), a 0.15m thick layer of reinforced concrete and tarmac.

## **8 Finds**

- 8.1 No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

## **9 Discussion**

- 9.1 The archaeological evaluation accomplished its aim of establishing the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A single post-medieval brick wall was recorded within Trench 2, along with a possible rough surface, whilst in Trench 1, a rough concrete base or footing and a smooth surface, possibly part of an internal floor were recorded. No large scale structural remains were observed other than those described above. This suggests that the previous structure had undergone significant demolition prior to the later developments on site.

- 9.2 The natural horizon was not established during the works as the aim was solely to locate and record structural remains related to the workhouse buildings.
- 9.3 The earliest deposits recorded on site were interpreted as made ground. Cutting into these deposits were the structural remains that may relate to the workhouse. The remains include a narrow wall, rough path, smooth surface or floor and a rough concrete base or footing. The remains have no direct relationship and it is clear that a substantial level of demolition had been carried out on site. As such it is difficult to ascertain whether they relate to the same period and are part of the same construction.
- 9.4 Overlying the structural remains were further made ground deposits followed by modern surface layers of tarmac and reinforced concrete.

## 10 Publication

- 10.1 Due to the nature of the project, initial publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the London Archaeologist Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).

## 11 Archive deposition

- 11.1 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, and digital photographs, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre.

## 12 Recommendations

- 12.1 Due to the lack of significant structural remains on site and the disturbed nature of the remains recorded on site, it is not thought that further work would expand our knowledge of the site.

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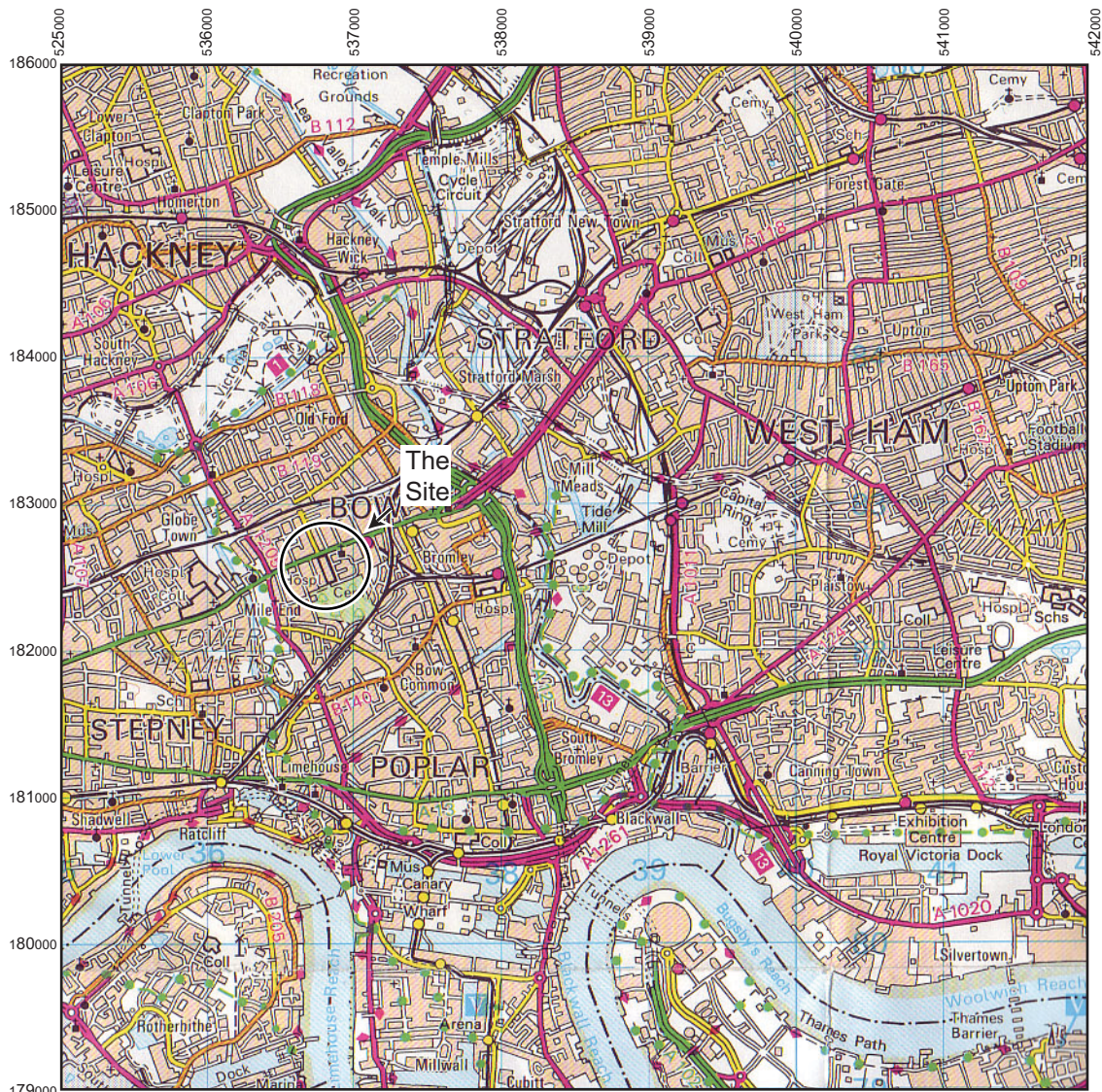
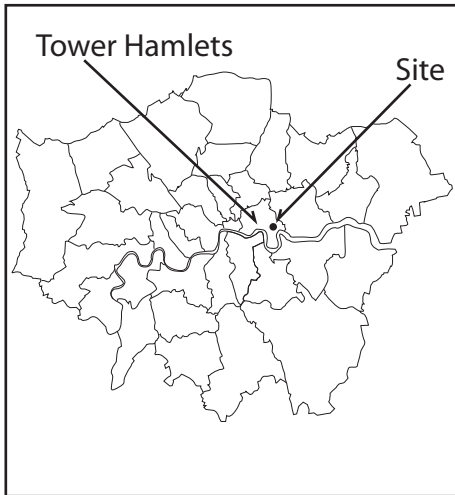
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BEATRICE TATE SCHOOL, SOUTHERN GROVE, MILE END, LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Site Location Within London



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 1995 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

500m 0 2 km

1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location

BEATRICE TATE SCHOOL, SOUTHERN GROVE, MILE END, LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT



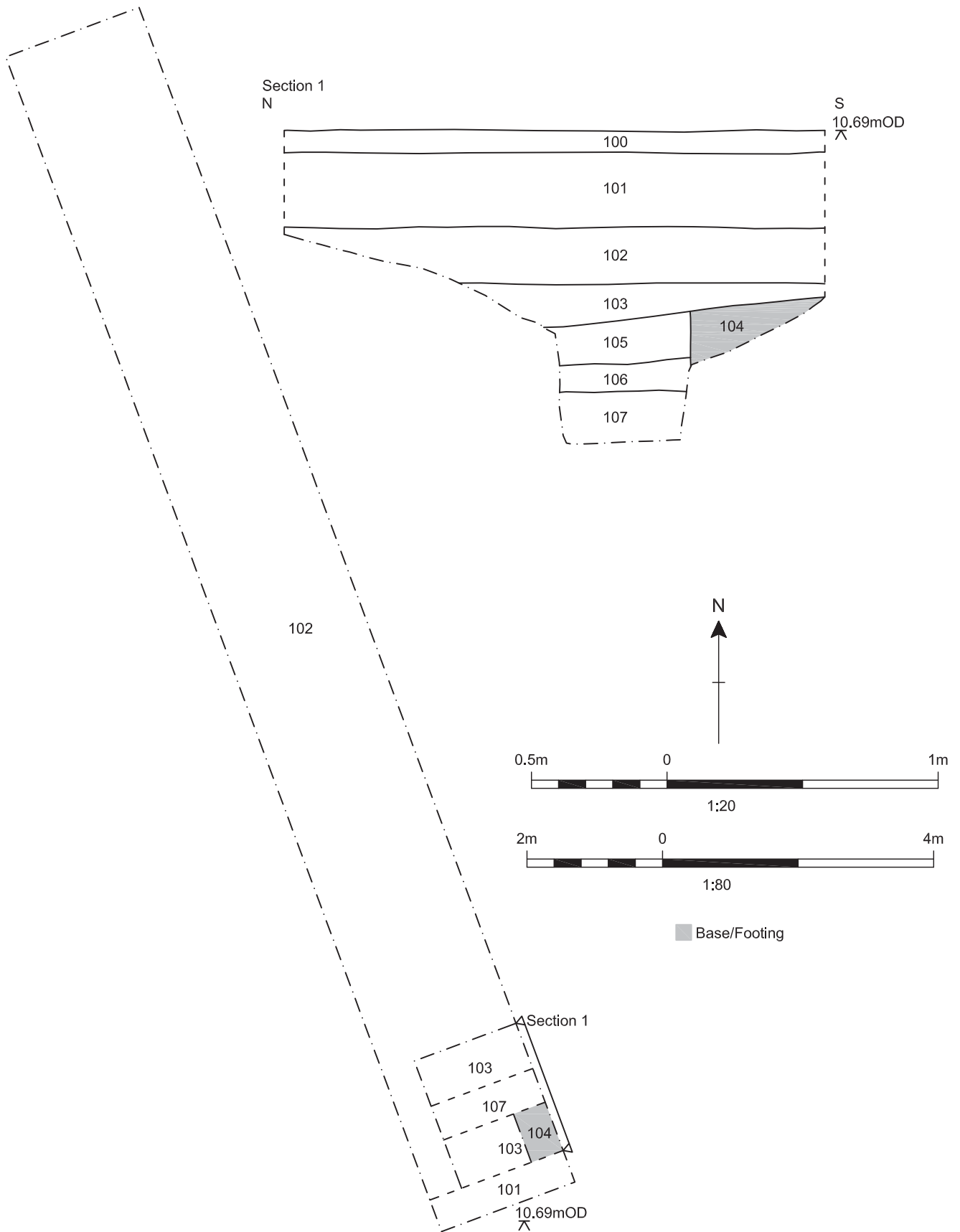
Based on the Plan Produced by Kings Land and Architectural Surveyors

**Figure 2:** Detailed Site / Trench Location Plan

10m 0 20m

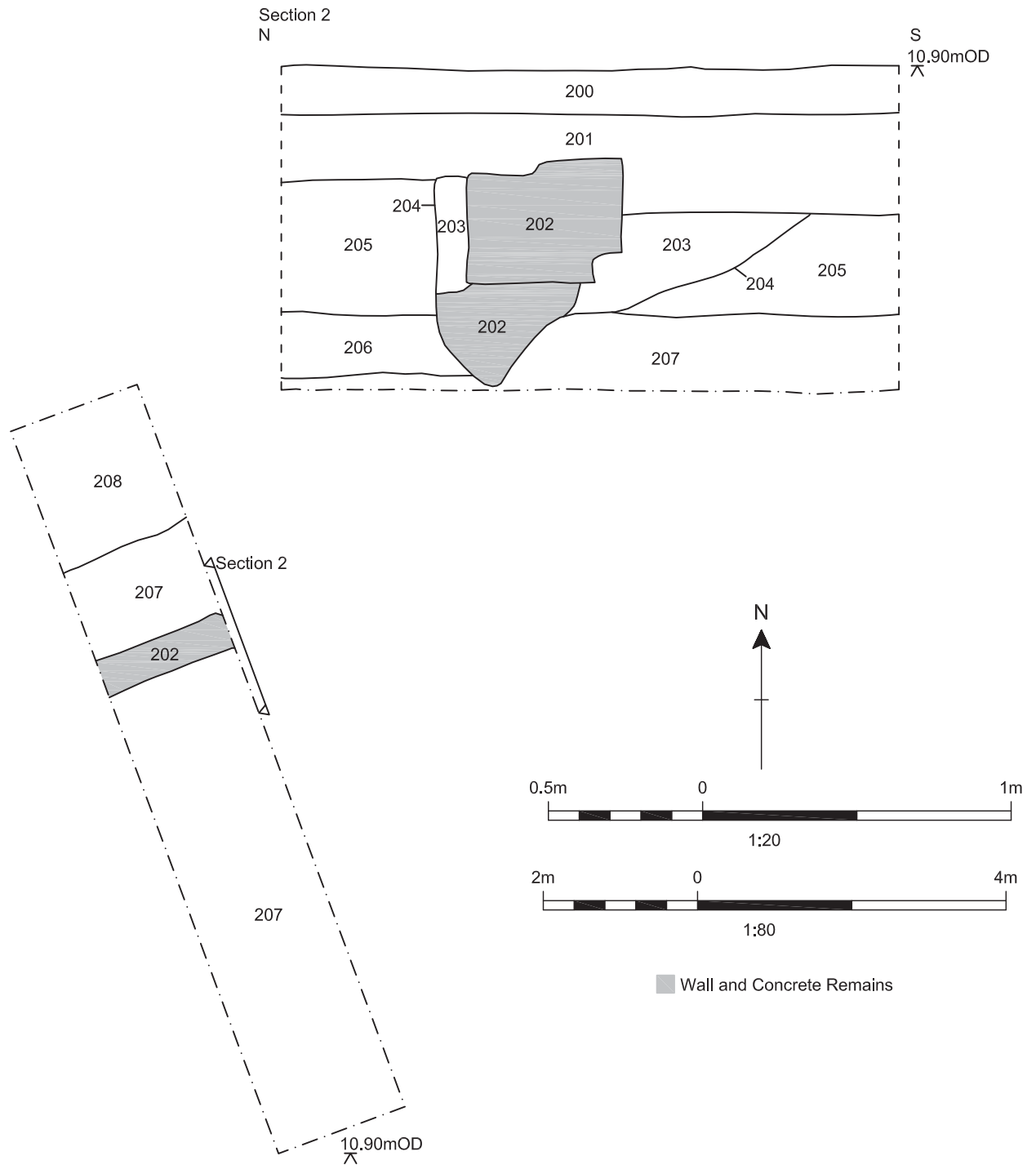
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BEATRICE TATE SCHOOL, SOUTHERN GROVE, MILE END, LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS:  
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**Figure 3:** Trench 1: Plan (1:80) and Section (1:20)

BEATRICE TATE SCHOOL, SOUTHERN GROVE, MILE END, LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT



**Figure 4:** Trench 2: Plan (1:80) and Section (1:20)

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## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

<b>BTS 12</b>	<b>Context Register</b>			
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Description/Index code</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>
100	Tarmac	20.00m	1.80m	0.08m
101	Formation deposit	20.00m	1.80m	0.28m
102	Rough Surface	20.00m	1.80m	0.22m
103	Made ground	20.00m	1.80m	0.16m
104	Concrete base or footing	0.75m	0.50m	0.2m
105	Made ground	20.00m	1.80m	0.18m
106	Made ground	20.00m	1.80m	0.12m
107	Made ground	20.00m	1.80m	0.18m
200	Tarmac and concrete	10.00m	1.80m	0.15m
201	Made ground	10.00m	1.80m	0.33m
202	Brick wall	1.80m	0.50m	0.40m
203	Trench backfill	1.80m	0.60m	0.33m
204	Wall trench cut	1.80m	1.20m	0.70m
205	Made ground	10.00m	1.80m	0.32m
206	Made ground	3.15m	1.80m	0.21m
207	Made ground	10.00m	1.80m	0.25m
208	Rough surface	2.0m	1.80m	0.20m

## Appendix B – Oasis Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-115395**

### Project details

Project name FORMER INFIRMARY BUILDINGS, SOUTHERN GROVE, MILE END

Short description of the project A two trench evaluation was completed by AOC between the 23rd-25th January 2012. The trenches were located to target the possible remains of the previous workhouse structures thought to be located on site. Limited structural remains were recorded on site including a small truncated wall, concrete base, floor and rough surface. The remains indicated that a level of demolition had already been completed on site.

Project dates Start: 23-01-2012 End: 25-01-2012

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any project codes associated reference 32060 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference BTS12 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type WALL Post Medieval

Monument type CONCRETE BASE Post Medieval

Monument type FLOOR Post Medieval

Methods & 'Targeted Trenches'  
techniques

Development type Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)  
planning process

### Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS TOWER HAMLETS FORMER  
INFIRMARY BUILDINGS, SOUTHERN GROVE, MILE END

Study area 9706.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3671 8247 51.5240768428 -0.02916034335050 51 31 26 N 000 01 44 W  
Point

### Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology Group  
Organisation

Project brief EH GLAAS  
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology Group  
originator

Project Paul Mason  
director/manager

Project supervisor Catherine Edwards

Type of developer



sponsor/funding  
body

Name of Bouygues UK  
sponsor/funding  
body

### Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC  
recipient

Digital Archive LAARC  
recipient

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'  
available

Paper Archive LAARC  
recipient

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'  
available

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title SOUTHERN GROVE, MILE END, LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Carter, N

Date 2010

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or London

publication

Description bound DBA including photos, illustrations, gazetter and maps.

### Project bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title BEATRICE TATE SCHOOL, SOUTHERN GROVE, MILE END, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, C

Date 2012

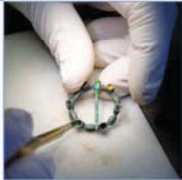
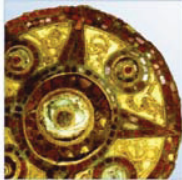
Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

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Description bound A4 report with illustrations, plans and photographs.

Entered by catherine edwards (catherine.edwards@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 26 January 2012



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