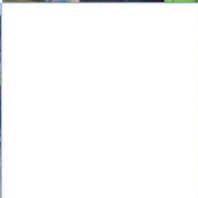
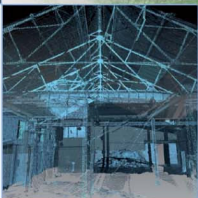
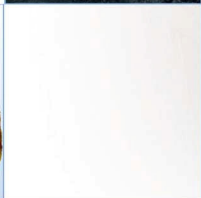
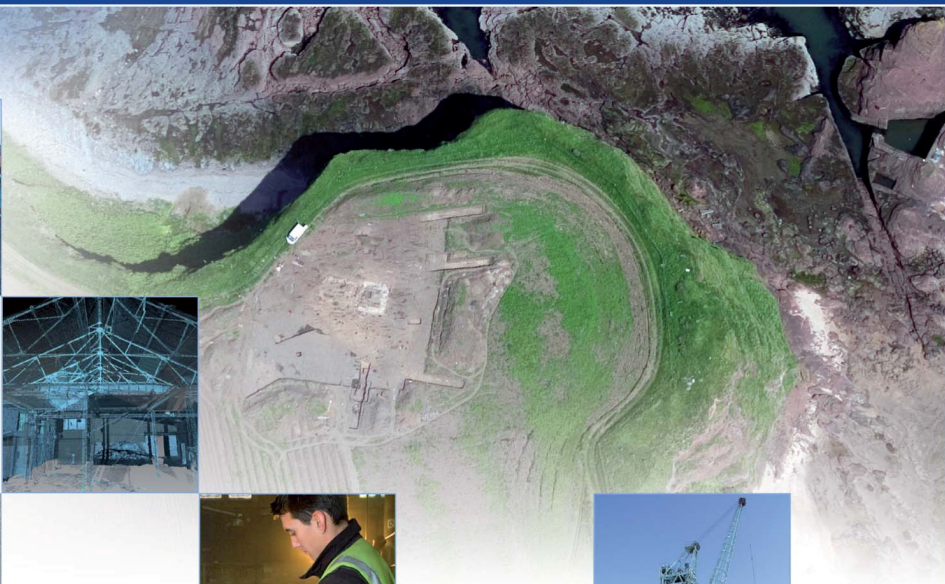
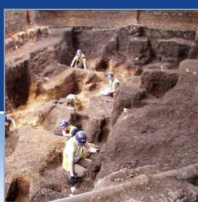


96 Great Guildford Street, London Borough of Southwark, Archaeological Evaluation Report

Planning Application Number: 11/APP/1688
National Grid Reference Number: TQ 3217 7998
Site Code: GGS 12
AOC Project No: 30683
Date: June 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

96 Great Guildford Street, London Borough of Southwark

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	St Mungo's Community Housing Association Great Guildford Street Southwark London SE1 0ES
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 3217 7998
AOC Project No:	32025
Prepared by:	Catherine Edwards
Illustration by:	Jonathan Moller
Date of Report:	June 2012

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

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Approved by: Melissa Melikian	Date: June 2012
Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft	Date: June 2012

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Figure 2 – Detailed Site/Evaluation Trench Location Plan

Figure 3 – Trench 1 Plan and Section

Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 28th and 30th June 2012 at the site of 96 Great Guilford Street, London Borough of Southwark. The work was undertaken on behalf of St Mungo's Community Housing Association. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of development on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised of a single trench measuring between 6m x 2.50m at top and 5m x 1.20m at base. The single trench contained a post-medieval soil horizon overlaid by later post-medieval made ground deposits and brick and concrete footings.

Due to the lack of archaeological remains and the probable truncation of deposits on site, no further archaeological work is recommended.

Publication of the watching brief 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 watching brief 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 the proposed development at 96 Great Guildford Street, London Borough of Southwark (Figure 1). The investigation took place from 28th to the 30th June 2012 and comprised of the excavation of a single trench. All works were undertaken by a team of professional archaeologists.
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3217 7998 (Figure 1). The site is located on the western side of Great Guildford Street. It is bounded by blocks of flats to the north and west, Duthy Hall to the south and Great Guildford Street to the east. The site is irregular in shape and approximately 1000 sq m in size (Figure 2). The current scheme comprises the demolition of the current building except for the eastern façade and the construction of a three storey basemented hostel with 51 en-suite rooms for the homeless.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Southwark Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Dr Chris Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer for the London Borough of Southwark. The site does not lie within an Archaeological Priority Zone, but it does fall with a conservation area as defined by the Southwark UDP proposals map.
- 2.2 The current scheme comprises the demolition of the current building except for the façade, and the construction of a three storey basemented hostel with 51 en-suite rooms for the homeless.
- 2.3 A desk-based assessment undertaken by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2011) appraised the archaeological potential of the site thus:
 - Low potential for significant archaeological evidence related to prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods;
 - Low to medium potential for significant archaeological evidence related to the post-medieval period;
 - High potential for palaeoenvironmental remains in the unbasemented areas.
- 2.4 Archaeological conditions (Conditions 3, 4, 5 and 6) were attached to planning consent (Planning Ref. 11/APP/1688) to inform on the archaeological potential of the site. The works were carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (AOC 2011). The WSI was approved by the Southwark's Senior Archaeology Officer prior to the commencement of works.
- 2.5 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation.

3. Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the geology comprises London clay overlain by alluvial deposits and Kempton terrace gravels (BGS 1981)
- 3.2 The site is located c.500m south of the River Thames, on fairly level ground lying at c.4mOD.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric Periods (c.500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.1 No Palaeolithic evidence has been recorded close to the site, the Holocene alluvium and terrace gravels are very unlikely to contain evidence from this period.

- 4.2 The site lies on the northern side of the Borough Channel; human activity from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age has been noted on the raised eyots within the channel (CgMs 2011). Investigations at Marshalsea Road, 300m southeast of the site, suggest that the site lay on the southern side of a river channel during the earlier periods of prehistory. By the Bronze Age the site lay on the northwestern edge of the channel or within the channel itself (CgMs 2011).
- 4.3 Evidence from archaeological investigations close to the site suggest that rising river levels had led to the abandonment of areas of cultivation in the vicinity (CgMs 2011).

Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.4 The Roman settlement of Southwark spread across two islands. During this period the site lay on marginal land to the north of the Borough Channel (CgMs 2011), to the southwest of the Roman settlement at Southwark. Excavations carried out by AOC at 140-142 Union Street, 75m north of the site, found evidence for Roman ditches, possibly for drainage purposes (AOC 2010). Further evidence of the marginal nature of the site was found at 17-23 Disney Place, 150m east of the site, where water lain silts clays and peats of Roman date were recorded (CgMs 2011).
- 4.5 A minor Roman road has been recorded 250m northeast of the site; it probably linked Southwark's north and south islands (Cowan et al 2009).
- 4.6 The excavations carried out at Union Street found that the earlier Roman features were overlain by thick deposits of alluvium, this reflects the rising water levels which led to the abandonment of parts of Southwark during this period (AOC 2010).

Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 – AD 1536)

- 4.7 While no direct evidence of Saxon activity has been found close to the site, Southwark is thought to have been a burgh; the ditch forming the burgh's defences has been identified close to the River Thames to the north of the site (Sheldon 1978).
- 4.8 The abandonment of Southwark during the late Roman period appears to continue well into the medieval period. Some evidence of medieval gravel extraction has been noted on Southwark Bridge Road, 300m southwest of the site (CgMs 2011).
- 4.9 An increase in activity occurred in Southwark during the late medieval period, with a number of high status residences being constructed close to the site, outside of the main settlement of Southwark. Domestic pitting of late medieval and post-medieval date was noted at Union Street (AOC 2010).

The Post Medieval (AD 1536 – AD 1900) and Modern (AD 1900 – Present) Periods

- 4.10 During the earlier post-medieval period the site remained undeveloped and was probably part of a series of gardens (CgMs 2011).
- 4.11 The site was first developed during the 18th century with buildings constructed along the Great Guildford Street frontage (CgMs 2011). During the later 19th century the site underwent rapid development, with the Great Guildford Street frontage bringing further developed. The 1896 Ordnance Survey map (CgMs 2011) shows the south of the site had been occupied by a Sunday school and a Presbyterian Church.
- 4.12 By the turn of the 19th century the site contained St Saviour's Union Casual Ward, intended to provide temporary shelter for the homeless. A survey of these buildings showed that the ground floor comprised Men's Rooms and Offices, while the basement located in the east of the site contained a kitchen and laundry (LCC 1926). By the mid 20th century the site contained the Ministry of Social Security and Receptions Centre.

5. Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The general aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and function of any archaeological features within areas of development and to establish the need for a programme (or otherwise) of archaeological mitigation.
- 5.2 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 map any archaeological remains encountered and sample excavate the features.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of excavated archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable, archaeology advisor, to make an informed decision to satisfy the condition.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 5.3 The specific aims of the investigation are:
- To gather evidence of the site's palaeoenvironment.
 - To gather evidence for post-medieval agricultural practices.
- 5.4 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The evaluation consisted of archaeological trial trenching (archaeological evaluation). The evaluation involved the machine excavation of a single trench, excavated under archaeological supervision.
- 6.2 The trench was located as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011). Due to the depths of the deposits encountered on site, the trench was stepped to allow the safe excavation of the lower deposits. Due to the logistical constraints and with the agreement for the Chris Constable, the trench was excavated in two halves. The archaeological works did not establish the natural horizon due to the limited reach of the tracked machine.
- 6.3 All machining was carried out using a three tonne tracked machine with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of the archaeological Project Officer.
- 6.4 The accession code GGS12 was obtained from the LAARC for the project, and was used for all fieldwork.
- 6.5 All evaluation trenches were accurately located to the National Grid and their levels calculated using a temporary benchmark (TBM) established on site by the fieldwork team having moved the level from a benchmark on Union Street, at the junction with Redcross Way. The value of the benchmark was 4.61mOD whilst the TBM on site was valued at 3.55mOD.
- 6.6 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 3rd edition 1994).
- 6.7 All of the work was carried out in line with:
- 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).

- 6.8 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For the single 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

Trench 1

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
01	0.08m	4.05m – 3.97m	Tarmac Surface.
02	0.05m	3.97m – 3.92m	Type 1 bedding layer.
04	1.10m	3.92m – 2.82m	Grey brown sandy silt. Made ground.
06	0.60m	2.82m – 2.22m	Loose brick rubble with inclusions of grey silt, crushed tile and mortar. Made ground.
07	0.40m	2.22m – 1.82m+	Dark blue grey brown sand and gravel clay with inclusions of pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipe. Buried soil horizon.

- 7.1 Trench 1 measured 5m x 2.5m at base, 6m x 2.5m at the top and was aligned roughly northeast-southwest (Figures 2 and 3).
- 7.2 The lowest deposit recorded in Trench 1 was (07), a 0.40m+ thick layer of dark blue, grey, brown sandy gravel clay with inclusions of pottery, clay tobacco pipe, tile, glass, animal bone, bone comb fragments, metal fragments and glass. The pottery sherds recovered, included examples of post-medieval red ware, dark grey-black metallic lustre earthenware, brown glazed earthenware and a single pearlware or creamware sherd. The assemblage suggests a late 18th century date. The fragments of clay tobacco pipe (12 pieces) also suggest an 18th century date.
- 7.3 An environmental sample taken from layer (07), contained small quantities of vitrified material. Macro and microscopic examination of the slags indicate the presence of hammerscale flakes and spheres that are likely to have been produced as the result of blacksmithing. The quantities of residues present suggest that ironworking was a limited activity, perhaps representing an occasional or singular event.



Plate 1 – Showing full stratigraphy of Trench 1

- 7.4 Overlying (07), was made ground deposit (06), a compact layer of crushed brick, tile and mortar. It is possible that this layer was deposited to seal the moist and wet deposit below, thus making it more suitable for development.
- 7.5 Cutting into layer (06) were the truncated remains of several walls [05]. The walls were constructed in red and yellow stock bricks. The walls appeared to be the lower footings or basements of a previous structure that had occupied the site fronting Great Guilford Street. In general the walls were two courses wide bonded in a grey white sandy mortar. A curved section of wall was observed in the north eastern end of the trench.
- 7.6 Overlying the brick footings was deposit (04), a 1.10m thick layer of made ground recorded as a grey brown sandy silt with inclusions of brick, concrete, metal and later post-medieval pottery. Cutting into (04) was [03], a 1.50m x 0.50m and 0.80m thick piece of concrete. The concrete did not appear to be connected to the footings described appear.
- 7.7 Covering the trench was (02) a 0.05m thick layer of Type 1, which was in turn overlaid by (01), a 0.08m thick layer of tarmac.

8 Finds (Appendix C)

- 8.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from layer (07); the lowest deposit recorded in Trench 1. The assemblage consists of pottery, clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material, glass, animal bone, slag and metal.
- 8.2 The pottery assemblage consisted of 18 sherds, weighing 282 grams. Six sherds have been identified as post-medieval red wares dated to 1580-1900+ AD. All are glazed; two with internal dark olive green and four with a brownish yellow glaze. Also present are three sherds from a dark grey-black metallic lustre earthenware vessel; as well as a sherd from a gold colour, lustre fine ware, probably from a cup. Other fragments include examples of brown glazed earthenware, white tin glazed ware and pearl ware or cream ware. The latter sherd is possibly the later fragments in this assemblage dating to 1770-1850 AD.
- 8.3 Twelve pieces of tobacco pipe, weighing 84 grams, were recovered. Six stems and one complete plain bowl were identified, along with a flat foot of a DUA Type 22, dated to c1680-1710 and one slight extended foot and stem piece that has traces of the attached bowl. This fragment is suggestive of a DUA Type 25 which was common between 1700 and 1770.
- 8.4 A single, incomplete roofing peg tile piece was recovered measuring 11mm thick and weighing 114 grams. The fragment has a smallish rectangular fixing nail hole, rather than the conventional rounded or squared peg holes.
- 8.5 A punted base of an aqua green bottle was recovered. It was only 36 mm diameter and is probably a chemists bottle.
- 8.6 Six pieces of animal bone were recovered. A single fragment appears to have been worked as the sides appear very smooth that have either been lathed or filed. The other fragments have been identified as a cattle limb bone with no evidence of butchery and a rib and limb are of smaller mammal.
- 8.7 A non ferrous hollowed tube (casing ?) object was also recovered from (07). The object measured 100mm in length, 13 mm wide at one end, bulbing out to 20mm at the other end. Despite giving the appearance of iron it has a totally non-magnetic response.
- 8.8 Small quantities of vitrified material were recovered. Macro and microscopic examination of the slags indicate the presence of hammerscale flakes and spheres that are likely to have been produced as the result of blacksmithing. The quantities of residues present suggest that ironworking was a limited activity, perhaps representing an occasional or singular event. Two levels of residues were recovered from the environmental samples. The larger residues consists of small amorphous fractured pieces of vitrified stone, ceramics, fuel in the form of coal or coke, fuel ash slag and unclassified iron slags. None of this material is diagnostic of a particular stage in the ironworking process but when considered alongside the hammerscale recovered from the finer residues it is likely that this represents rake-out material from an ironworking hearth. The finer residues, less than 10 mm in length, also consist of a range of vitrified and heat-affected material, mainly small fragments of coal or coke fuel, fuel ash slags and heat affected soil and sand. Amongst this material are frequent hammerscale flakes and spheres, diagnostic residue from blacksmithing. The vitrified residues represent small-scale blacksmithing during the 18th century. The limited quantity of iron slag suggests that the activity was likely to be episodic if not a singular event rather than representing industrial-scale ironworking.

9 Discussion

- 9.1 The archaeological evaluation established the presence of a thick 18th century layer on site that contained domestic waste in the form of pottery, tile, animal bone, glass and clay tobacco pipe. The residual remains of vitrified material indicate the presence of a working blacksmiths near to the site. An iron working foundry was located to the northwest of the site adjacent to Ewer Street.
- 9.2 The overlying deposit of compact made ground suggest a deliberate attempt to solidify the ground ahead of the redevelopment of the site. Later structural development of the site was observed through the remains of brick footings and surfaces.
- 9.3 Later made ground was observed on site overlying the demolition of the previous building. Modern make up and tarmac overlaid the trench.

10 Recommendations

- 10.1 Due to the lack of significant archaeological remains on site, it is recommended that no further work is required. The final decision rests with by Dr Chris Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer.

11 Publication

- 11.1 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).

12 Archive deposition

- 12.1 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.

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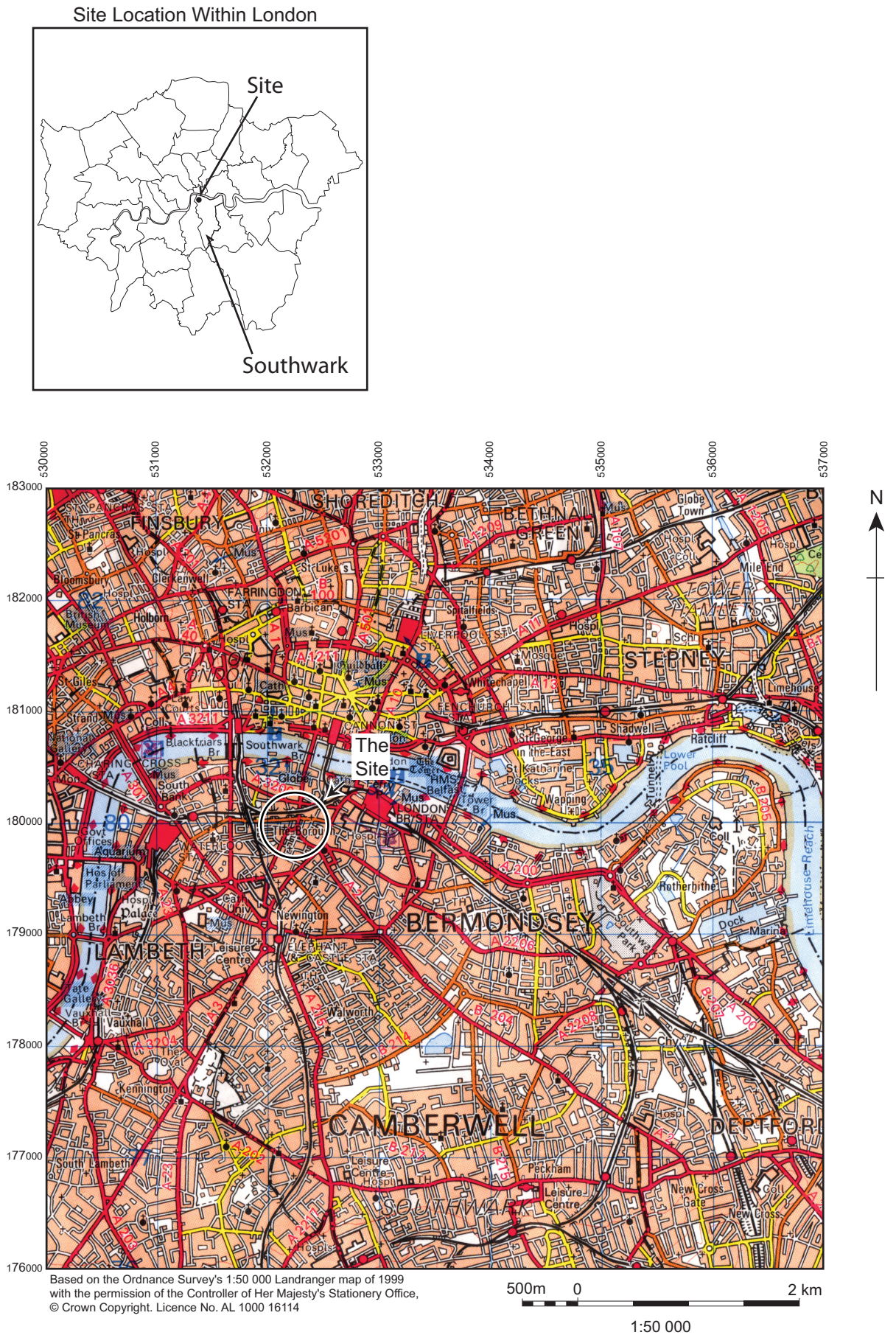


Figure 1: Site Location

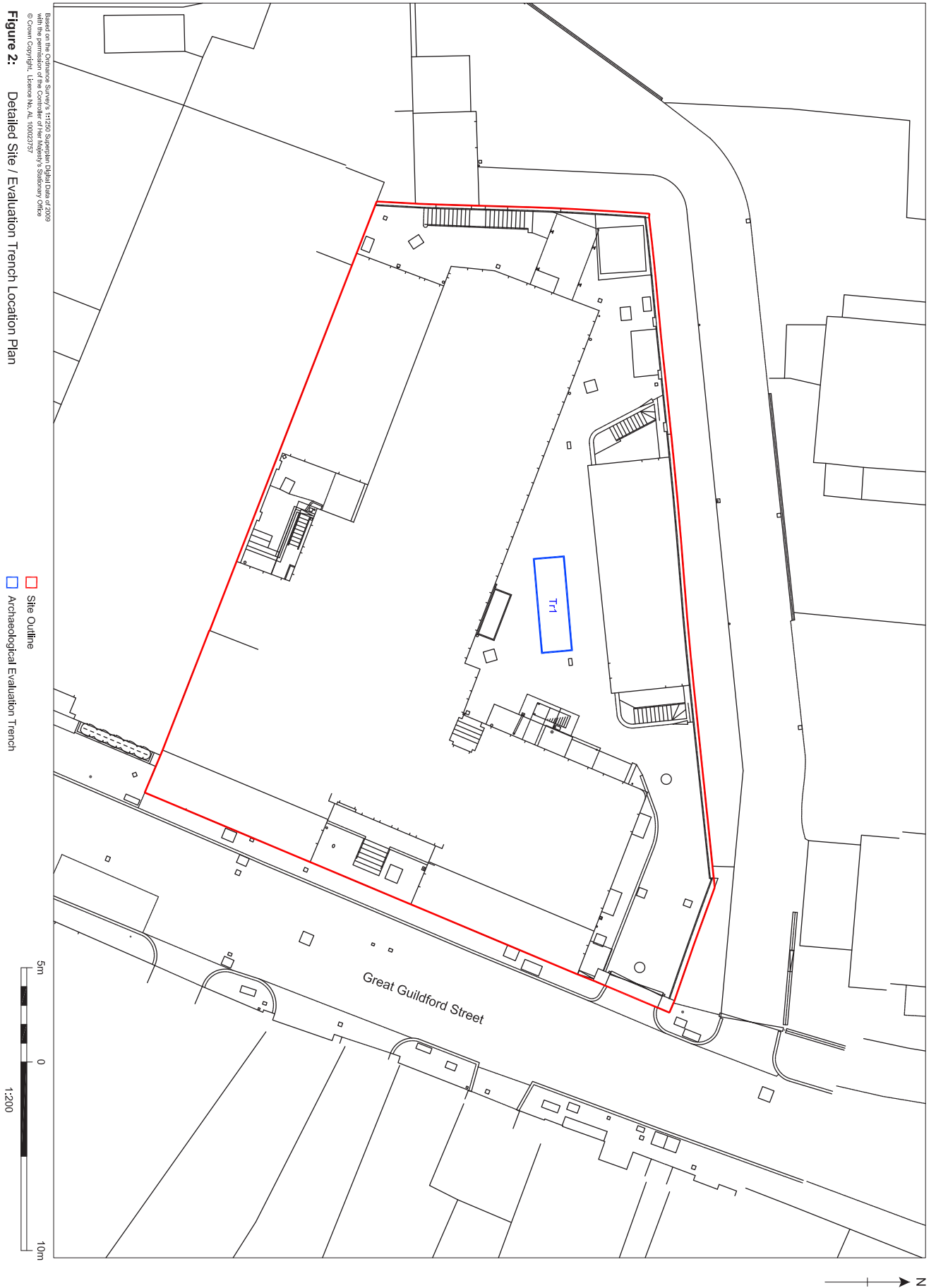


Figure 2: Detailed Site / Evaluation Trench Location Plan

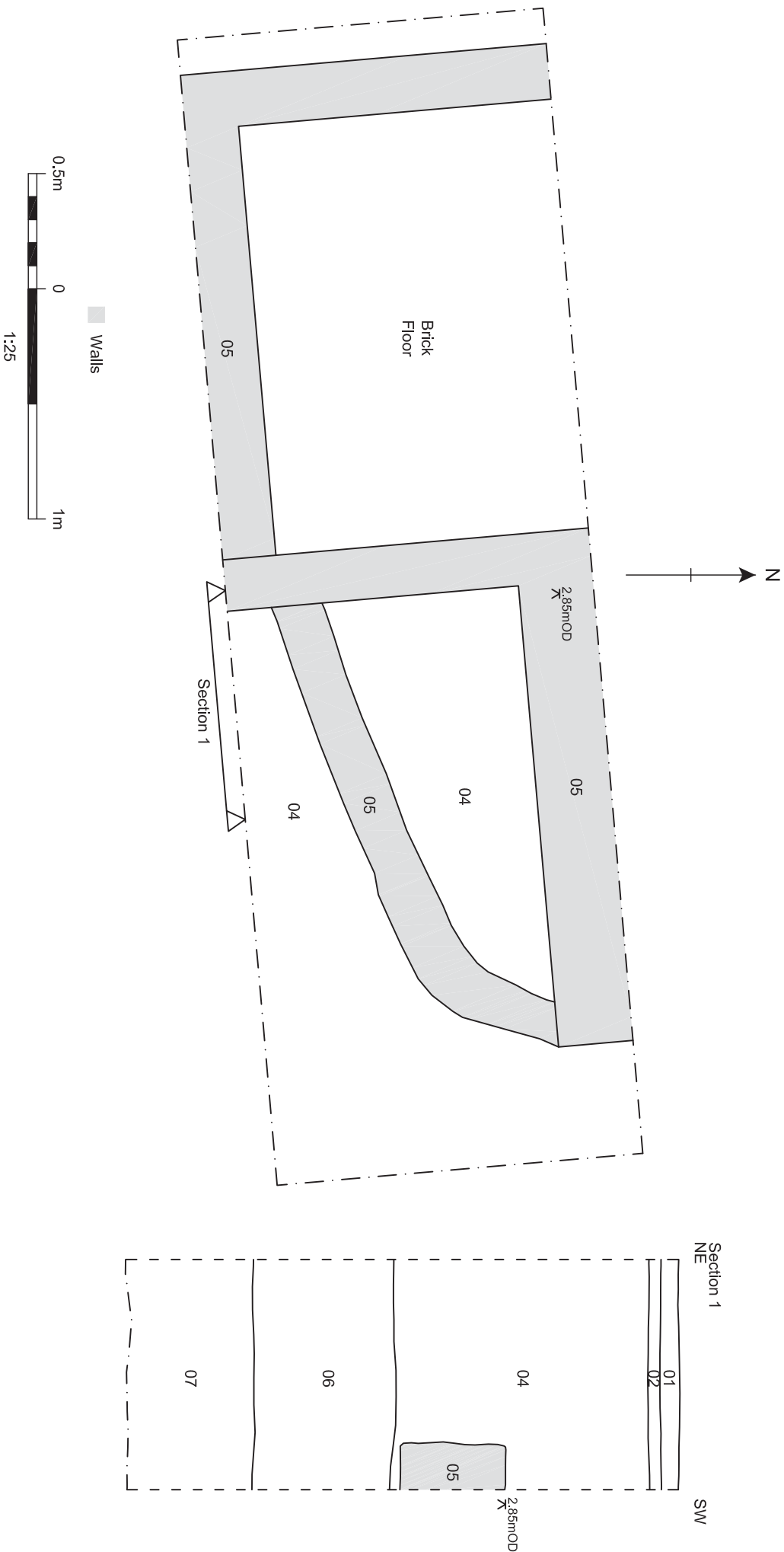


Figure 3: Trench 1: Plan and Section

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context	Description	Length/m	Width/m	Depth/m
01	Tarmac	6.0m	2.50m	0.08m
02	Type 1	6.0m	2.50m	0.05m
03	Concrete	1.50m	0.50m	0.50m
04	Made ground	6.0m	2.50m	1.10m
05	Brick work footings	Varied	Varied	1.10m
06	Made ground	5.0m	2.50m	0.60m
07	Buried Soil	5.0m	2.50m	0.40m

Appendix B – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-116216

Project details

Project name 96 Great Guildford Street

Short description of the project A programme of Historic Building Recording was conducted at 96 Great Guildford Street, London Borough of Southwark, currently occupied by the St. Mungo's housing charity. The St. Mungo's building was built between 1896 and 1900 as the St Saviour's Union Casual Ward. The exterior appearance of the St. Mungo's building is of late Victorian unabashed utilitarian design with decorative elements limited to an imposing brick pediment located to the central gable. Alterations to the exterior are limited. The interior fabric of the building has been mainly unaltered, although limited original features survive. Early alterations to the building are represented by the construction of a small single storey brick extension to the first floor, while later, more modern alterations to the fixture and fittings are extensive, giving the building a modern utilitarian character. Subdivision of rooms has occurred on each floor through the use of stud walls, although more extensive spatial reorganisation of the accommodation has occurred during the late 20th century in order to improve the available facilities. A single trial trench was excavated between 28th-30th June 2012. The trench uncovered post medieval layers of buried soil and made ground dating to the late 18th century. Cutting into these layers were a series of late post-medieval walls. No natural observed.

Project dates Start: 20-02-2012 End: 30-06-2012

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference 32025 - Contracting Unit No. codes

Any associated project reference GGS12 - Sitecode codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type WALL Post Medieval

Significant Finds CERAMIC Post Medieval

Significant Finds RESIDUES Post Medieval

Methods & "Measured Survey","Photographic Survey","Survey/Recording Of techniques Fabric/Structure","Targeted Trenches"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 96 Great Guildford Street

Postcode SE1 0ES

Study area 1000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3217 7998 51 0 51 30 10 N 000 05 43 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project originator brief Southwark Council

Project originator design AOC Archaeology

Project Paul Mason

director/manager

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Project supervisor Catherine Edwards

Type of
sponsor/funding developer
body

Name of
sponsor/funding St Mungo's Community Housing Association Ltd
body

Project archives
Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Archive GGS12
ID

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Media
available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Contents "Ceramics"

Paper Media
available "Context sheet","Matrices","Microfilm","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project
bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 96 GREAT GUILDFORD STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK:A
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clarke, C.

Date 2012

Issuer or
publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or
publication London

Description A4 text, 9 illustrations, 35 pages bound between plastic covers

Project
bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 96 GREAT GUILDFORD STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK: A
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF HISTORIC
BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hogg, I.

Date 2012

Issuer or
publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or
publication London

Description a4 text, 2 illustrations, 20 pages bound between plastic covers

Project
bibliography 3

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 96 GREAT GUILDFORD STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK. AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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

Date 2012

Issuer or
publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or
publication London

Description A4 report with illustrations and a single plate

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

Entered on 13 June 2012

Appendix C – Specialist Reports

An Assessment of Finds

By Paul Fitz

Summary

A small mixed assemblage of finds were collected from one context (7) and are summarised below

Pottery

Eighteen sherds were collected, weighing 282 grams. Six of these are post medieval red wares<1580-1900+>. All are glazed; two with internal dark olive green and four with a brownish yellow glaze.

Also present are three sherds from the same dark grey-black metallic lustre earthenware vessel as well as gold? colour lustre fine sherd, probably a cup.

A brown glazed earthenware and two white tin glazed sherds<1630-1800- if 'Orton C'> and a single pearl ware or cream ware sherd are possibly the later sherds in this assemblage <1770-1850>

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Twelve pieces of tobacco pipe (84grams) were recovered, six being stem lengths (between 38 and 111mm long). One complete, plain bowl (no milling) and flat foot of DUA type 22<c1680-1710> and one slight extended foot and stem piece has traces of bowl that suggest a DUA type 25 <common 1700-1770>

Building Materials

A single, incomplete roofing peg tile piece (114 grams) with a thickness of 11mm. it has a smallish rectangular fixing nail hole , not of the conventional rounded or squared peg holes as seen.

Glass

A punted base of an aqua green bottle was recovered (11 grams). It is only 36 mm diameter and is probably a chemists bottle

Animal Bone

Six pieces of animal bone(244 grams) were recovered from context 7. one piece, 58mm in length and only 3mm thick looks to have been worked, its very smooth sides lathed or filed, possibly the remains of a bone comb. Of the other pieces, one is a cattle limb bone with no evidence of butchery, whilst the other pieces (rib and limb) are of smaller mammal

Metal

A strange non ferrous hollowed tube (casing ?) object 100mm in length , 13 mm at one end, bulbing out to 20mm at the other. Despite giving the appearance of iron it has a totally non-magnetic response. Its weight is 76 grams

Discussion/Recommendations

The finds assemblage is small in size and has little significance on a local or national level. Proper analysis of materials may only be beneficial if with other assemblages from any nearby excavations.

The finds will be catalogued and amalgamated with other finds from this project. The building material can be discarded.

Material for illustration

None

Analysis of potential

The ceramic provides broad dating evidence for context 7, in which it occurs.< late eighteenth century>

Significance of the data

International and national

The assemblage is not of international or national significance.

Regional and local

The assemblage is not of Regional or Local significance.

Further work required

The finds to be marked and bagged, and catalogued with finds retrieved from the soil sample from this context

Preparation for deposition in the archive and conservation

None

Bibliography

MoL DUA (1984) *guide to the DUA clay tobacco pipe series*

The Vitrified Material from Great Guildford Street, Southwark

By Dawn McLaren

Overview

Small quantities (220.9g) of vitrified material were recovered from a layer of redeposited sand and gravel (context 007) containing 18th century pottery and charred plant macrofossils. Macro and microscopic examination of the slags indicate the presence of hammerscale flakes and spheres that are likely to have been produced as the result of blacksmithing. The quantities of residues present suggest that ironworking was a limited activity, perhaps representing an occasional or singular event.

Classification

Two levels of residues were recovered from context 007 during soil sample processing: fragments over 10mm in length and residues over 1 mm. The former consists of small amorphous fractured pieces of vitrified stone, ceramics, fuel in the form of coal or coke, fuel ash slag and unclassified iron slags. None of this material is diagnostic of a particular stage in the ironworking process but when considered alongside the hammerscale recovered from the finer residues it is likely that this represents rake-out material from an ironworking hearth. The finer residues, less than 10 mm in length, also consist of a range of vitrified and heat-affected material, mainly small fragments of coal or coke fuel, fuel ash slags and heat affected soil and sand. Amongst this material are frequent hammerscale flakes and spheres, diagnostic residue from blacksmithing (McDonnell 1994, 229).

During smithing small fragments of iron slag are expelled from the cooled surface of the billet or forged object either as the result of hammering or from flaking within the hearth during heating. These small residues, often referred to as hammerscale and slag spheres, consist of a shiny, dark grey, magnetic waste product usually encountered as small plates or flakes, typically only a few millimetres across and less than a millimetre thick, and as small molten-looking spheres (Dungworth & Wilkes 2009, 33). When these residues are allowed to build up at the base of a smithing hearth they can fuse together to form a plano-convex sub-circular slag cake, often referred to as a smithing hearth bottom. No hearth bottom fragments are present amongst the slags from context 007.

Context	Size	Short description	Weight (g)	Magnetic?	Interpretation
7	>1 mm	Vitrified residues consisting of hammerscale flakes and spheres, small fragments of coal/coke, vitrified stone, low-density silica-rich fuel ash slags and heat affected soil/sand	53.9	Y	Residues from blacksmithing
7	>10 mm	Vitrified stone	7.9	N	Rake-out from ironworking feature
		Vitrified ceramics	31.3	N	
		Fuel residues: coal/coke	32.8	N	
		Fuel ash slag	30	N	
		Unclassified iron slag	65	Occasional pieces	

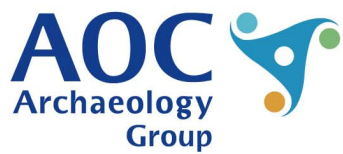
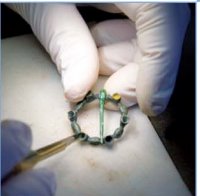
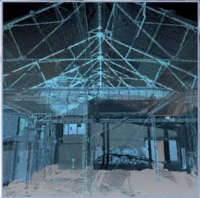
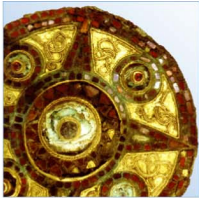
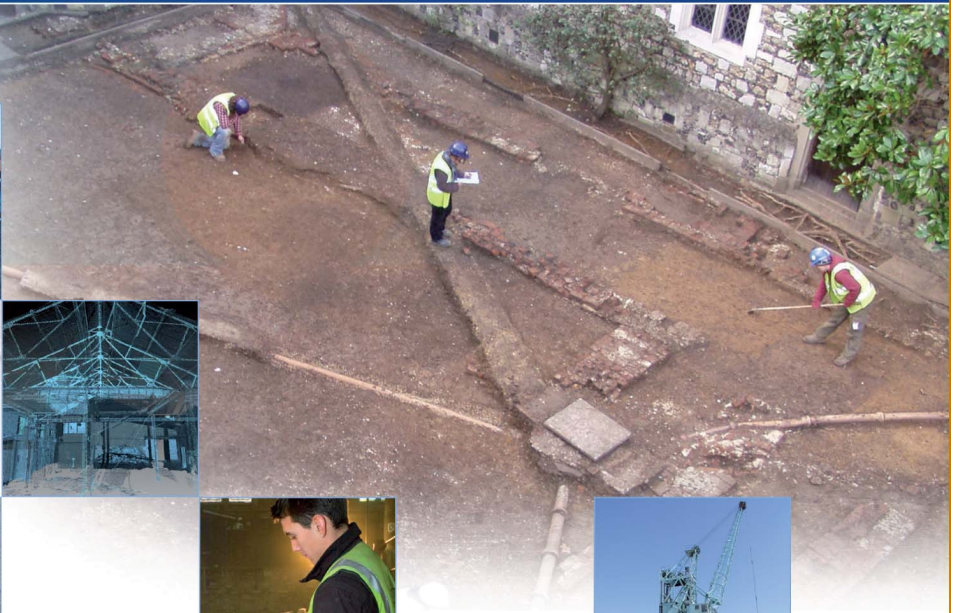
Table 1: summary of vitrified material present

Conclusion

The vitrified residues from Great Guildford Street represent small-scale blacksmithing during the 18th century, dated by proximity to chronologically distinctive ceramics. The limited quantity of iron slag suggests that the activity was likely to be episodic if not a singular event rather than representing industrial-scale ironworking.

References

- Dungworth, D & Wilkes, R 2009 'Understanding hammerscale: the use of high-speed film and electron microscopy', *Historical Metallurgy* 43(1), 33-46.
- McDonnell, G D 1994 'Slag report', in Ballin Smith, B (ed), *Howe: Four Millennia of Orkney Prehistory. Excavations 1978-82*, 228-34. Edinburgh (=Soc Antiq Scot Monogr Ser, 9).



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