

57 Webber Street, London Borough of Southwark: A Historic Building Record

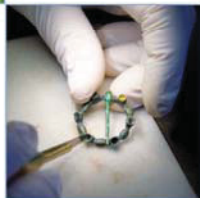
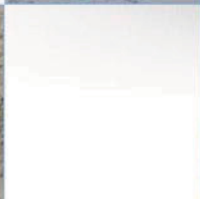
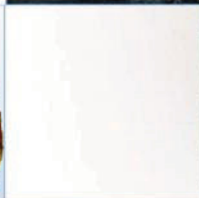
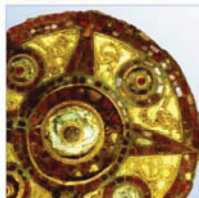
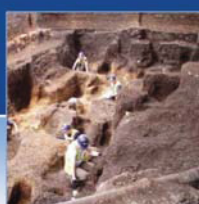
Planning Application Number: 11/AP/1107

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 3180 7971

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Date: March 2012



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57 Webber Street, London Borough of Southwark:

A Historic Building Record

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Non-Technical Summary

A programme of Historic Building Recording was conducted on a standing building at 57 Webber Street, London Borough of Southwark, formerly known as The Bell Inn public house. The site is located and is located on the north side of Webber Street, close to the junction with Lancaster Street; National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3180 7971. The current development comprises the demolition of the existing public house and the construction of a five storey building with both residential and commercial properties.

The programme of recording consisted of a Level 2 standing building survey with additional historic background research. From map evidence, The Bell appears to have had its origins in the 18th century, although elements of the building may derive from an earlier structure. The irregular shape of the building suggests a rebuild of the property limited by pre-existing site boundaries. The architectural detail to the upper portion of the southern elevation indicates this portion of the building dates to the 1830s. The design of the ground floor elevation indicates this part of the frontage is later. Analysis of features within the building indicate that several phases of internal modification have place at various dates between the 18th to 20th century. The majority of the inn, however, seems to be of early-mid 19th century date with later additions.

At the completion of the project, the archive will be prepared for deposition with an appropriate local museum. A summary report will be submitted to the local Fieldwork Round-up and electronic copies of the report made available via the Archaeological Data Service and OASIS.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results of Historic Building Record of the building at 57 Webber Street, London Borough of Southwark, formerly known as the Bell Inn public house. The proposed development involves the demolition of the current public house and the construction of a five storey building of residential and commercial properties. The building was recorded to Level 2 of the published guidelines (English Heritage 2006), with additional historical research into the property also undertaken.

2. Site Location

- 2.1 The application site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3180 7971 and is located on the north side of Webber Street, close to the junction with Lancaster Street, in the Borough area of Southwark (Figures 1 & 2). The site is bounded by Webber Street to the south, a primary school to the north and east, and residential properties to the west.

3 Planning Background

- 3.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Southwark. Archaeological advice to the planning authority is provided by Dr Chris Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer.
- 3.2 A planning application for the development (Planning Application Refs: 11/AP/1107) was granted for the demolition of current public house and the construction of a five storey building with both residential and commercial properties. A condition placed on the granted application, was for the implementation of an archaeological building survey. Condition 3 stated:

No demolition or development shall take place within the proposed development site until the applicant successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological building recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to the planning authority and approved in writing.

Reason: In order that the Local Planning Authority may be satisfied as to the details of the programme of works for the archaeological building recording in accordance with saved policy 3.13 Urban Design of the Southwark Plan (July 2007) and SP12 Design and conservation of the Core Strategy (April 2011).

- 3.3 Due to the presence of historic structures on the site it was determined that a programme of Historic Building Recording would be undertaken prior to the demolition of the building. In accordance with the planning condition a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), detailing the methodology for recording was created (AOC 2012), which was approved by Dr Chris Constable. No desk-based assessment has been produced for this site.
- 3.4 The WSI conformed to the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS 5) issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG 2010). The methodology was also designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects MAP2 (EH 1991).
 - English Heritage – Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice. (EH 2006).
 - Institute for Archaeologists - Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (IfA 2008).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
 - Museum of London – A Research Framework for London Archaeology (MoL 2002).

- London Borough of Southwark – Draft Southwark Archaeological Policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance (LBS 2002).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation - Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (1990).

4. Geology and Topography

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey mapping (BGS 1979) of this area indicates that the solid geology underlying the site and surrounding area is the London Clay formation. This is an Eocene marine deposit, laid down c. 55 million years ago. This is overlain by a superficial geology of Kempton Park Gravel comprising sand and gravels formed in the Devensian period (c.110,000 - 25,000 years Before Present (BP). The geological mapping furthermore indicates that the site lies near the boundary where alluvium associated with the River Thames overlies the gravels.
- 4.2 The site is located approximately 1km from the current southern bank of the River Thames, a focus of human activity from prehistory onwards, attested by numerous artefacts discovered from the River and its flood plains (e.g. MoLAS 2000).
- 4.3 Southwark has been identified as lying within a low lying area within the floodplain of the River Thames and has in the past been an area of braided river channels threading between gravel islands and eyots. Since the retreat of the last ice sheet c. 10,000 years ago, the area has been affected by fluctuating sea levels with periods of high sea level (transgression) resulting in flood plain deposition of alluvium over the natural gravels. Conversely, during periods of falling sea level (regression) the area will have seen the development of reed, saltmarsh and woodfen peats within former braided channels. The area that the site lies in has been identified as being poorly drained and marshy during the historical period.

5. Archaeological And Historical Background

The following background is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and other sources as listed (AOC 2012).

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

- 5.1.1 The site lies within 850m of the southern bank of the River Thames and a number of palaeochannels have been identified in the Southwark Area. The nearest is that identified at South Point, the peat from which has been dated to the Bronze Age.
- 5.1.2 No prehistoric evidence has been recorded within 200m of the site but the site lies in what would have been a prime location near to riverine resources. Evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded in similar locations elsewhere in Southwark including concentrations of prehistoric activity on Borough High Street (Pickard 2003, Sadarangani 2004).

5.2 Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 5.2.1 Southwark was a major waterfront and port during the Roman period and was located on the southern approach to the Thames crossing, which lies c. 60m west of the modern London Bridge. Borough High Street follows the line of the principal route through Roman Southwark. In addition the Roman Stane and Watling Streets also converged on the Thames crossing at Southwark.
- 5.2.2 Evidence for Roman activity has been identified from within 550m of the site and includes a number of Roman burials and cremations such as those found at Lant Street c. 530m to the east of the site (Sayer 2005). There are also records of further finds of Roman urns and Roman channels containing what may be domestic refuse from the area of Union Street (AOC, 2010 and Hulka & Meddens

2004). The investigations at Union Street concluded, however, that the area was on the margins of the Roman settlement at Southwark.

5.3 Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)

- 5.3.1 With the collapse of Roman rule, Southwark appears to have become abandoned and no data has been recorded for Early Medieval activity within Southwark. There is however a record in the *Burghal Hidage* that a fortification was established at *Suthringa geweorche*, which may refer to a fortified bridgehead at Southwark (Tames 2004).

5.4 Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1536)

- 5.4.1 During the 11th century, Southwark became re-established as the southern suburb of London; the Domesday Book of 1087 recording a Minster Church, dock and a herring fishery as well as 50 houses.
- 5.4.2 Throughout the medieval period Southwark became the centre for a large number of industrial activities including milling, fulling, brewing, leatherworking and trades associated with military procurement. The borough also lay on the southern end of the only crossing of the River Thames with London Bridge being built in stone in 1209. The borough was therefore once more the location of the meeting of important road routes into London and was known for the services provided to travellers including inns and brothels. The borough also became known for its large immigrant population.
- 5.4.3 No significant evidence for medieval activity has, however been located within 200m of the site and it is conjectured that the site lies outside of the main settled area of the borough

5.5 Post-Medieval and Modern Periods (AD 1536 – Present)

- 5.5.1 The population of Southwark of Southwark rose from c. 10,000 in 1547 to c. 30,000 in 1676, the majority of which may be attributable to an influx of immigrants to the borough (Reilly 1998).
- 5.5.2 The earliest maps to show the area of the site are a map of 1627 depicting the Manor of Pans Gardens and the 1662 Morden and Lea Map. Both these maps show the site to have apparently been open ground.
- 5.5.3 It appears that little had changed by Rocque's depiction of the area in 1746 when the site appears to have lain in an open area of Tenter Grounds associated with the fulling trade.
- 5.5.4 Between 1777 and 1800 the line of modern Blackfriars Road became established as Great Surrey Street; this passed from the new Blackfriars Bridge across the Thames to the popular Spa at St Georges c. 1.8km to the south of the river.

5.6 The Bell Public House

- 5.6.1 The earliest available mapping showing the area of the site in any detail is John Rocque's Map of London, surveyed in 1746 (Plate 1). This shows that the area of the site is located within St Georges Fields, which at this time remained undeveloped common land. Several unnamed tracks and roads shown crossing St George's Fields, the east-west aligned road is likely to be the antecedent of the later Webber Street. On the northern side of the east-west aligned road is a small complex of buildings, possibly industrial in character, which are believed to be located in the same vicinity as the current building previously known as The Bell public house.

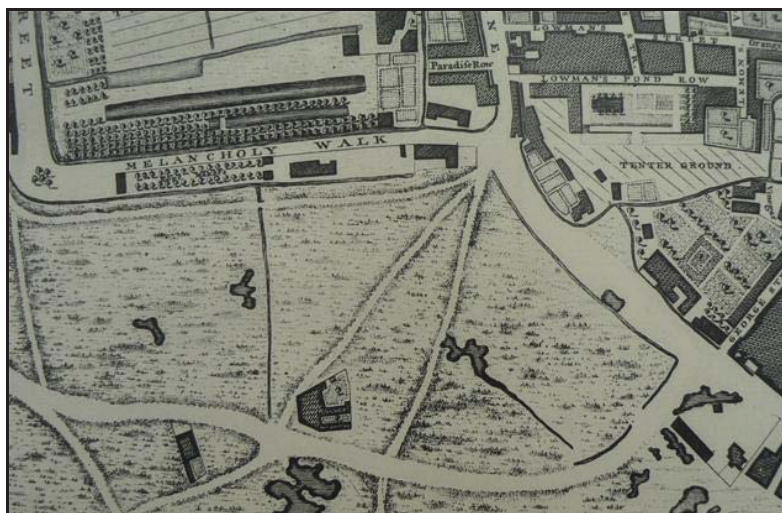


Plate 1: Rocque 1746

5.6.2 Cary's Map of 1787 shows that development has begun to spread across St Georges Fields, in particular, the new roads radiating from a central point (the obelisk) (Plate 2). The smaller tracks on the northeast side of St. Georges Fields are no longer marked, although the same unmarked east-west aligned road (later Higlens Lane / Friar Street, now Webber Street) is still present. The isolated building centrally located on the north side of the road is still present, and is believed to be the same building marked on Rocque's map of 1746.



Plate 2: Cary 1787

5.6.3 Horwood's Map of 1792-99 shows that the east-west aligned road to the southern boundary of the site (now Webber Street) has now been named as Higlens Lane (Plate 3). The general area is characterised by terraced housing and small plots, interspersed with some areas of undeveloped land. What is thought to be the same isolated building, is now depicted as a rectangular building located on the northern side of Higlens Lane. The higher level of detail shown allows the building to be located in the same approximate area as the current building with a greater level of confidence.

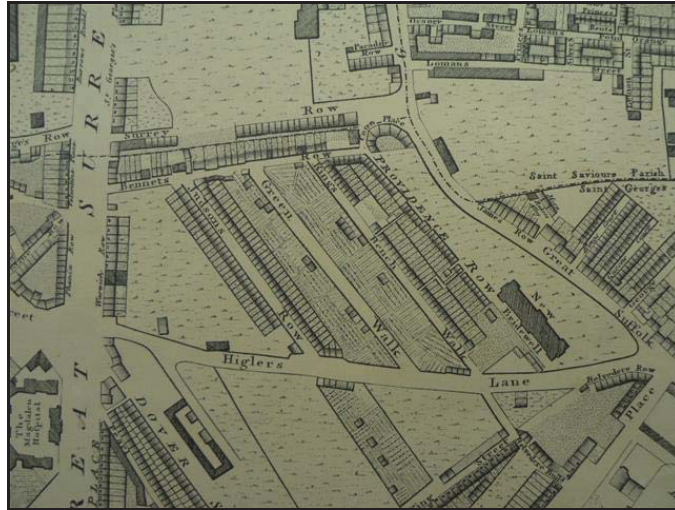


Plate 3: Horwood 1792-99

5.6.4 By 1819, Horwood's map shows that Higlrs Lane has been renamed 'Friar Street' (Plate 4). The mapping also indicates that the rectangular building shown on the previous map is still standing. The relative location of the rectangular building has shifted, marked in a position closer to the junction of Friar Street and Artillery Street (formerly Judsons Row), believed to be down to improved contemporary surveying techniques. This slightly altered location now firmly places the building within the same location as that of the current building being investigated. A brewhouse has been constructed to the rear, and may suggest that the building fronting onto Friar Street may have been utilised as part of the brewing trade, i.e. a public house. The shape and alignment of the rectangular building fronting onto the road, now appears to be at odds with the northwest-southeast alignment of the immediately adjacent buildings.

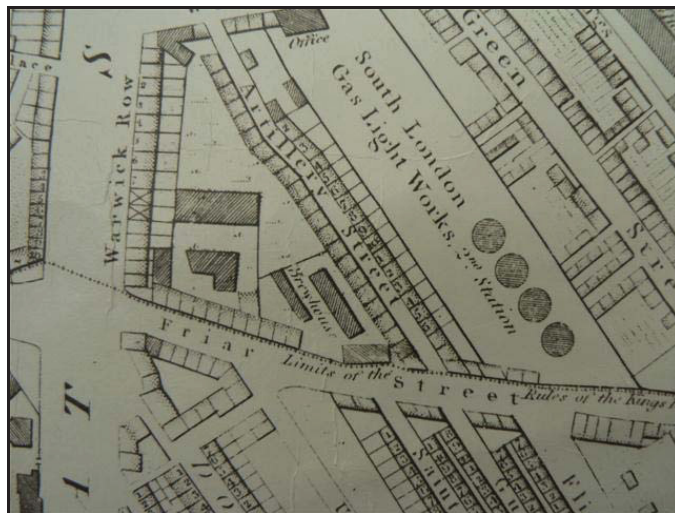


Plate 4: Horwood 1819

5.6.5 Rate Books held in Southwark Local History Library dating from 1811 onwards show that the property at Higlars Lane / Friar Street was occupied by Alexander Hicks in 1811 until the 1830s when Samuel Woodgates took over occupation of the property (Table 1). The type of property is not recorded as a public house, however, the rental recorded for the property is higher than the adjacent properties, which indicates that it was used for commercial purposes and based on later documentary evidence (see below), it may have functioned as a pub throughout the 19th century.

Year	Address	Occupier	Rental
1811	Higlers Lane	Alexander Hicks	30
1815	Higlers Lane	Alexander Hicks	50
1818	15 Friar Street	Alexander Hicks	50
1821	15 Friar Street	Alexander Hicks	50
1825	15 Friar Street	Alexander Hicks	50
1827	Friar Street	Alexander Hicks	50
1831	Friar Street	Samuel Woodgates	50
1841	15 Friar Street	Samuel Woodgates	44.4
1851	Friar Street	Samuel Woodgates	

Table 1: Rate Book Entries 1811-1851 (Southwark Local History Library)

- 5.6.6 The first trade directory to record a public house named 'Bell' on Friar Street is Pigot's National and Provincial Commercial Directory of 1832-34. This is the earliest documentary evidence discovered recording the pub by name. The landlord is recorded as Samuel Woodgates. The pub is not listed in Pigot's Directory of 1826-27, or Johnstone's London Directory of 1817, but nor is it listed in the Post Office London Directory of 1848, so this cannot be taken as proof that it was not in existence by this date.
- 5.6.7 The 1841 Census records Samuel Woodgates as a Victualler in Friar Street (Table 2). A total of nine occupants are recorded within the property, including five servants and two men who were likely to have been lodgers, based on their unrelated occupations. The Rate Book for 1841 records that Samuel Woodgates occupied three houses, nos. 13/14, which are recorded as having a gross estimated rental of £58, and no. 15 at £44.4. The pub was at Number 15 and had a higher rent.

Name	Age / Sex	Profession, Trade, Employment or of Independent Means	Born in the same County
Samuel Woodgates	25 / M	Victualler	N
Jane Gallant	25 / F	Female Servant	N
John Gallant	25 / M	Male Servant	N
Elizabeth Gallant	20 / F		N
Mary Jones	40 / F	Female Servant	N
William Terrant	35 / M	Male Servant	N
Richard Newport	20 / M	Male Servant	N
Robert Wood	25 / M	Labourer	N
Charles Miller	30 / M	Clerk	N

Table 2: 1841 Census Records

- 5.6.8 The 1851 Census records Samuel Woodgates at 15 Friar Street (Table 3). A total of 10 occupants are recorded within the property, including a barmaid, errand boy and two pot men, who would have been employed at the Bell.

Name	Relation to Head of Family	Age / Sex	Profession, Trade, Employment or of Independent Means	Where Born
Samuel Woodgates	Head	35 / M	Licensed Victualler	Whitechapel
Margaret Woodgates	Mother	57 / F	Funded Property	Islington

James R. Woodgates	Cousin	17 / M	Errand Boy	St George Southwark
James T. Woodgates	Cousin	20 / M	Medical Student (?)	St George Southwark
Jane Gallant	Cousin	36 / F	Barmaid	Islington
John Gallant	Cousin	37 / M	Proprietor of Houses	Islington
Elizabeth Gallant	Cousin	35 / F		St Andrews
William Cribb	Servant	36 / M	Pot Man	Lambeth
William Martin	Servant	35 / M	Pot Man	Tenterden, Kent
Mary West	Servant	40 / F	House Servant	Iver Stow, Bucks

Table 3: 1851 Census Record

5.6.9 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872 shows the public house fronting onto Friar Street (Plate 5). The area to the rear of the site, previously occupied by the brewhouse, is now marked as a distillery. Later Ordnance Survey mapping of 1893 and 1938 indicate no changes to the footprint of the public house (Plate 6). The mapping of 1938 shows that the road has been renamed as Webber Street, and the public house now occupies Number 57 (Plate 7).

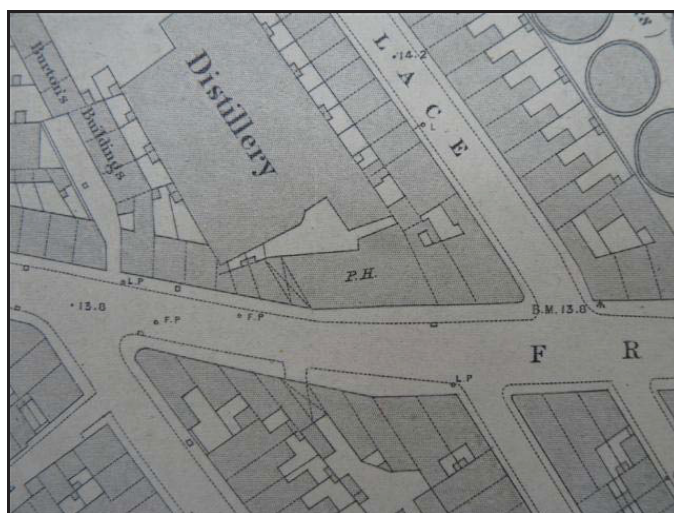


Plate 5: Ordnance Survey 1872

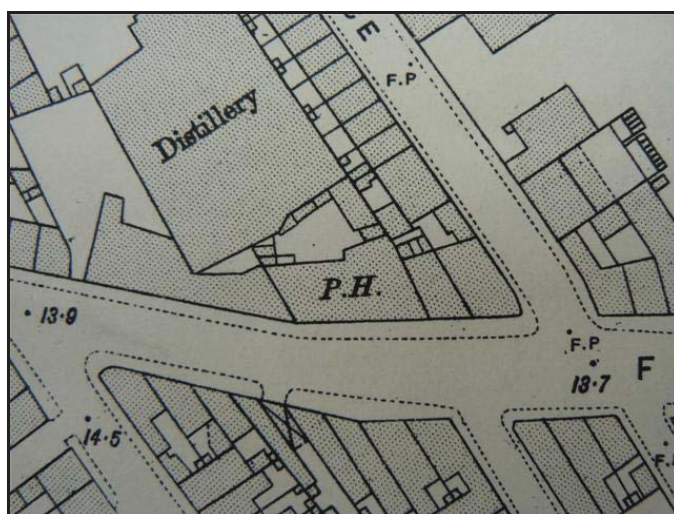


Plate 6: Ordnance Survey 1893

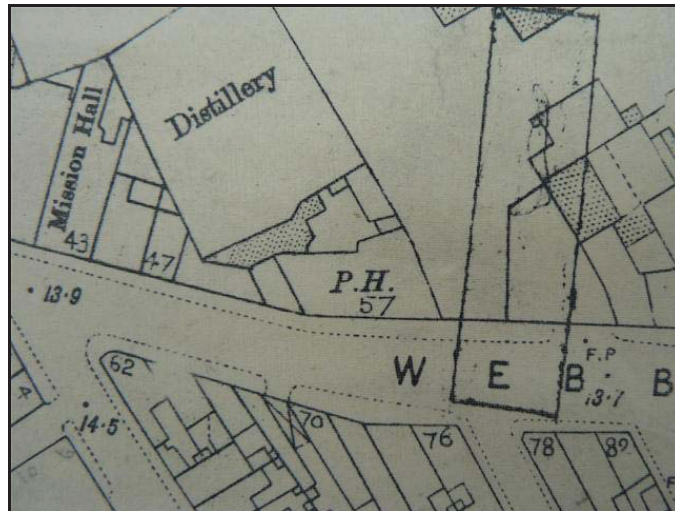


Plate 7: Ordnance Survey 1938

- 5.6.10 Trade directories from the 19th century show that the Bell in Friar Street remained occupied by Samuel William Woodgates until at least 1856. In 1869, Frederick Richmond occupied the Bell (now at No. 29 Friar Street), until at least 1891 (Dead Pubs 2012). He is also recorded as the occupier of the *General Abercrombie* Public House at 52 Friar Street, further to the west of the Bell (Post Office Directory 1886). Other public houses in the surrounding streets around the Bell included the *Crown* at 108 Blackfriars Road; *Flowers of the Forest* at 123 Blackfriars Road; *Equestrian Tavern* at 124 Blackfriars Road; *Old Kings Head* at 173 Blackfriars Road; *Dover Castle* at 42 Little Surrey Street; *Old Kings Arms* at 35 Surrey Row; and *Lord Nelson* at 63 Nelson Square (Post Office Directory 1886).
- 5.6.11 Towards the end of the 19th century, the owners / occupiers of the Bell change more frequently. Luke Hosegood is recorded as the Bell proprietor in the 1895 Post Office Directory. By 1899 the Bell is run by Thomas Leigh; by 1910 Richard Hough and by 1915 Mrs Alice Hough (Dead Pubs 2012).
- 5.6.12 The economic and social conditions of the area around the site can be interpreted through contemporary poverty and disease maps of the parish. Booths 'Descriptive Map of London Poverty', published in 1889, shows the area occupied by the Bell as 'mixed' (colour coded pale purple), with the wider area classified as poor (pale blue), very poor (dark blue) and of the lowest class described as 'vicious, semi-criminal' (black) (Plate 8). The main streets (e.g. Blackfriars Road, London Road, Borough High Street) mainly comprise 'well-to-do' middle class residents (red).

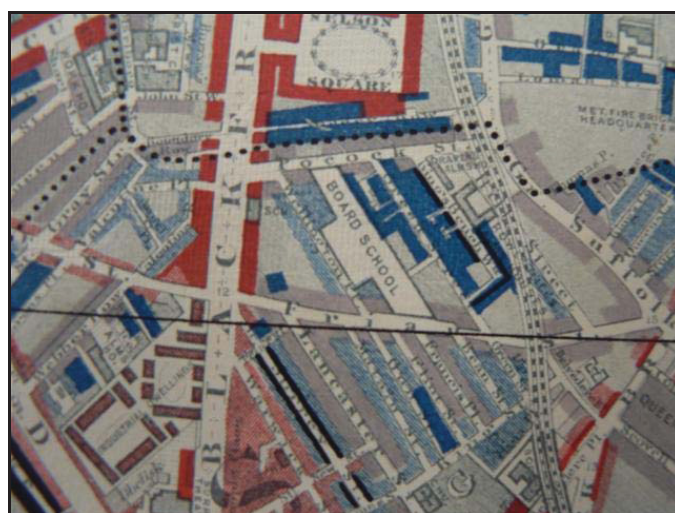


Plate 8: Booths 'Descriptive Map of London Poverty', 1889

- 5.6.13 The 'Disease Map of the Parish of St George-the-Martyr, Southwark' published in 1893 indicates that there were cases of Enteric Fever (green dot) in or adjacent to the public house with cases of Scarlet Fever (red dot) and Small Pox (black dot) recorded elsewhere in Friar Street (Plate 9).



Plate 9: 'Disease Map of the Parish of St George-the-Martyr, Southwark' published in 1893

- 5.6.14 The Goad Plan of the site was produced in 1889 and revised periodically until 1968 (Plate 10). It provides some information regarding the construction of the property. The public house is shown as a two storey building fabricated from brick, stone or concrete (colour coded pink) and the roof is marked as patent (felt etc.) (p). Several single storey structures are shown to the rear, some of which have skylights (^) and some of which had slate roofs (o).

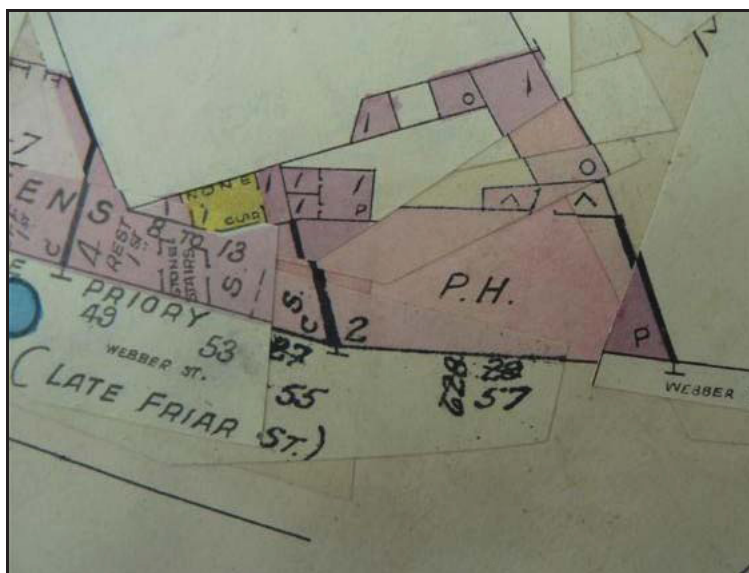


Plate 10: Goad Plan 1889, revised until 1968

6. Aims of the Investigation

- 6.1 The aims of the Historic Building Record were defined as being:

- To determine the buildings development and use.
- A written account of the buildings form, function, date and sequence of development.

- To photograph the overall appearance of the principle rooms and circulation areas.
- To create measured and sketched plans and sections, as appropriate, in line with Level 2 standards.
- To make a Level 2 drawing of any pieces of architectural decorations, structural features and details.
- To conduct background research on the site to place the building within its historical context.

5.2 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

7. Methodology

7.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012).

7.2 The site code **WEB12** was supplied by the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC) as the unique site identifier, and will be used on all fieldwork records.

7.3 The building record corresponded to Level 2 of the English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006) for all buildings. Level 2 is a physical and analytical record and comprises an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record includes an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It includes all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support a historical analysis.

7.4 In addition to the Level 2 building record, Dr. Chris Constable, archaeological advisor to the London borough of Southwark, specified that historical research associated with the property should also be undertaken in order to provide a detailed historical context of the property's use.

7.5 At the time of recording, the building was unoccupied and partially furnished. The doorways and windows fronting onto Webber Street had been boarded up for security purposes.

7.6 The fieldwork was monitored by Dr Chris Constable on behalf of the London Borough of Southwark and by Melissa Melikian, Operations Director, for AOC Archaeology.

8. Results of the Building Record

8.1 The building recorded as part of the Historic Building Record, formerly known as the Bell Inn, is located at 57 Webber Street, located on the northern side of the road. The area of Webber Street on which the Bell Inn lies is of mixed character. Contemporary 19th century buildings lie immediately to the west of the public house on the northern side of the street, in used as both commercial and residential properties, while the remainder of the immediate area is dominated by modern brick built residential apartment blocks (Plates 11 & 12).



Plate 11: Webber Street Looking Northwest



Plate 12: Webber Street Looking Northeast

- 8.2 The Bell Inn public house is roughly trapezoidal in shape with the southern elevation set parallel to Great Guildford Street; the northern elevation facing onto a yard at the rear of the building. The western elevation directly abuts the adjacent property; while the blind eastern elevation over looks the car park associated with the adjacent primary school. The building measures approximately 16.5m east-west, by 18m north-south (Figure 2 & 3).
- 8.3 The three-storey, three bay, stock brick building has a partial basement, and is furnished with a double pitched slate roof (Plate 13). The southern elevation contains two storeys with the brick work having been rendered and painted. The ground floor has been decoratively modelled throughout containing four doorways, of which the central two doorways have been blocked. The remaining two doorways form the main entrances to the building. All four doorways are separated by pilasters and plain wooden framed windows under which are simple decorative panels. Chips in the paint work covering the panels indicate that the decorative frontage incorporating glazed bull-nosed bricks has been obscured. Spanning the width of the elevation is a fascia incorporating the name of the former

public house, framed at both ends by painted wooden console brackets. Five wooden sash windows are present on the first floor, each with a moulded architrave with a console bracket supported pediment. A parapet incorporating four plain inset decorative panels overlies the moulded cornice. Crowning the parapet is a raised decorative centre incorporating a scroll and flame motif. To the western end of the elevation the projecting pub sign represented by a simple painted picture of a bell above the lettering 'THE BELL', mounted on a painted metal bracket incorporating scroll work (Plate 14). A sign advertising the alcoholic beverage Guinness is present at the same height at the eastern end of the elevation.



Plate 13: Southern Elevation Looking North



Plate 14: Signage of Southern Elevation

- 8.4 The northern elevation is much simpler in design incorporating three storeys. The majority of the ground floor is obscured by a series of single storey extensions to the rear of the property, the later of which contain doorways from which the rear yard area can be accessed (Plates 15, 16 & 17). The brickwork associated with the central portion of the ground floor area has been painted, and within this section of the building is a wooden sash window with painted stone sill and a blocked doorway. The eastern side of the north elevation has six wooden sash windows with dressed brick shallow segmented arches on two floors. The western side of the elevation also contains several wooden sash windows, although the presence of different coloured brickwork indicated the fenestration of this portion of the elevation has been altered. The two windows to the western side of the elevation each appear to have replaced two earlier windows located to both the first and second floors, with the dressed brick arches associated with the former second floor windows still visible. A number of different sash window styles are present in the northern elevation, indicating that several phases of modification to the external appearance of the building have taken place. The windows incorporating six pane frames may be associated with the original construction of the building. Variation in the form of the brickwork directly beneath the cornice implies later alterations to the elevation have also taken place at roof level.



Plate 15: Northern Elevation Looking Southeast



Plate 16: Northern Elevation Looking South



Plate 17: Northern Elevation Looking Southwest

- 8.5 The eastern side of the rear yard contains two phases of single storey brick built structures. The earliest part is directly attached to the northern elevation of the main building and has a lean-to slate roof. The only opening now observable is a wooden sash window with six pane frames which looks out onto the yard (Plate 18). The range continues northwards, and abuts this section: it occupies the northeast corner of the yard. This later extension has a lean to slate roof and replacement wooden doors and wooden sash windows (Plates 18 & 19). All openings have segmental arches. On the western side of the block is a shallow alcove set to the ground floor and what appears to be a redundant chimney stack (Plate 19). The western extension is brick built with a flat roof, wooden door and uPVC casement windows, all of which appear to be late 20th century in origin (Plate 20).



Plate 18: Eastern Range Looking East



Plate 19: Eastern Range Looking North



Plate 20: Western Extension Looking West

- 8.6 The eastern elevation of the main block does not contain any openings and has been primarily rendered then painted (Plate 21). The brick buttresses dominate the elevation, while a wooden hoarding announcing the name of the former public house and replicating the painted bell design is located on the southern side of the elevation. Of note is the tall red brick pier, crowned with a pyramidal coping stone, located adjacent to the road. The design of the pier indicates it used to be part of a now demolished building which previously was previously located in the area now occupied by the school car park.



Plate 21: Eastern Elevation Looking West

- 8.7 Internally, the ground floor of the main building contains four rooms, consisting of a public bar (Room G1), kitchen (G2), corridor (G3), and utility room (G4) (Figures 3 & 7). The northern half of Rooms G2, G3 and G4 lie within the earliest section to the north. The eastern ground floor range contains three utility rooms (G5, G6 and G7), while the western extension contained the public lavatories (G8, G9 and G10).
- 8.8 Room G1 occupies the majority of the ground floor, extending across the full width of the building. Access into the room from the southern elevation is through two entrance doors at either end of the room, which lead into small vestibules prior to leading into the main bar. The small vestibules are later additions created by the insertion of stud walls. The room incorporates many decorative elements including painted wooden panels at floor level, plain skirting boards and dado rails, and concave coving with rolled and cable moulding (Plates 22 & 23). Internal doors lead onto Rooms G3 and G8, both of which have moulded architraves, although the door leading onto Room G3 is distinguished by the presence of an engraved mirror positioned above the door (Plate 24). All the decorative features present appear to date to the 20th century. A featureless chimneybreast is present on the western wall of the room. The servery is located centrally on the northern side of the room, the exterior of which repeats the same decorative elements observed throughout Room G1. The interior of the servery is dominated by the modern fixtures and fittings associated with the modern pub trade. Corridor G8, located within the western extension, leads immediately off Room G1 and is decorated in the same style.



Plate 22: Room G1 Looking West



Plate 23: Detail of Coving in Room G1



Plate 24: Detail of Internal Door in Room G1

- 8.9 Corridor G3 provides access to the remaining rooms within the main building, as well as separate staircases to the basement and first floor. The corridor is lit by a skylight at the northern end of the room set into the lean to roof associated with the earliest of the buildings single storey range. Plain skirting boards are present.
- 8.10 Modern glazed tiles cover the walls and floor of the adjacent kitchen (G2), with all fittings and fixtures associated with its function as a modern pub kitchen. A blocked fireplace occupies the southern wall, adjacent to which is a small built in cupboard with a wooden door (Plate 25). A small simple pantry is accessed through a doorway in the northern wall of the room. As with corridor G3 the room is lit by means of a skylight set into the lean to roof of the earliest extension. The doorframe from the hall has no surviving door, but the frame may be of 18th century date. Its exact form is obscured by heavy layers of paint, suggesting that it has been *in situ* for many years.



Plate 25: Room G2 Looking South

- 8.11 Room G4 has been created as a result of the insertion of a stud wall to the rear of the servery in Room G1. The room is long and narrow and does not contain any features of interest apart from plain skirting boards.
- 8.12 The yard is accessed through a modern wooden door located in the later of the two eastern extensions. This extension also contains Room G5 which is accessed directly from the main building. As with kitchen (G2) it contains a modern tiled interior, lacking any distinguishing features. From the corridor though, the original segmental arched doorway can still be seen as the brick has not been rendered (Plate 26).



Plate 26: Room G1 Looking Northwest

- 8.13 Rooms G6 and G7 are also located within the later extension and accessed through the yard. The interior of Room G6 has been rendered, while the brick walls in Room G7 have been treated with whitewash. The only feature of interest is associated with Room G7 in the form of a laundry stove, which appears to be a brick built structure with a rendered exterior into which a metal pan is inserted over a metal fire grate in which hot water would be heated (Plate 27). There is a strong possibility it is connected to the redundant chimney attached to the western side of the extension.



Plate 27: Possible Laundry Stove Room G7 Looking Northwest

- 8.14 The western extension contains separate male and female lavatories (G9 and G10). Both lavatories have modern layouts and features, and do not have any historic elements.
- 8.15 The basement divided into three rooms, B1 to B3, and is accessed from the ground floor by the use of a steep wooden staircase (Figures 4 & 7, Plates 28 & 29). The current plan of the basement is due to two partition walls incorporating modern double wooden doors. The wall dividing Rooms B1 and B2 is made of brick and plaster board with the principal ceiling joist reinforced with a steel beam, whereas the wall dividing Rooms B2 and B3 is of breeze block construction. The appearance of all three rooms is similarly utilitarian in character with painted walls and concrete floors. All fittings and fixtures within the room relate to the storage and supply of beer to the taps in the servery upstairs. A secure storage area has been created in Room B3 by the construction of a wooden partition. Barrel drops are located on the southern wall of Rooms B2 and B3, accessed through wooden trapdoors incorporated into the pavement outside the public house. The eastern trapdoor has been blocked and sealed with tarmac. There is also a blocked, splayed opening in the centre of the southern wall, at ceiling height, and probably represents a coal-chute.



Plate 28: Room B3 Looking Northwest



Plate 29: Room B1 Looking West

- 8.16 There are eight rooms present on the first floor (Figures 5 & 7). Rooms F1, F4, F5, F6, and F7 appeared to have previously been in use as bedrooms, with Rooms F2 and F3 providing associated bathroom and toilet facilities. Corridor F8 provides access to each of the rooms. The staircase leading up to the first floor is secured on the first floor landing with a banister incorporating part square, part turned balusters (Plate 30). The first floor layout is split level with short sets of steps leading up from corridor S8 to Rooms S1, S5, S6, and S7 over the bar. The wall lines on the northern side of the first floor are likely to be original, although some alterations have occurred on the southern side of the floor where later stud walls have been inserted in order to define new room space as well as storage space in Room F7. The sash windows to the first floor have moulded architraves, with those to the southern elevation constructed in a walk-in style (Plate 31). Blocked chimneybreasts are present in Rooms F4 and F6 (Plates 32 & 33), while floor scars in Room F7 define the former presence of a fireplace against the northern wall. Later features include fitting

cupboards in Rooms F1 and F4, gas fires in Rooms F1 and F5, and a wall safe in Room F7. The internal wooden panelled doors appeared to be early 20th century in date due to the style of the brass doorknobs, and have painted numbers on the exterior of the door relating to the use of the building as a commercial residence (Plate 34). Simple skirting boards are present in all rooms, while Room F1 contains moulded picture rails. All bathroom fittings in Room F3 are late 20th century in date, including the tiled finish, which covers a blocked sash window that is still visible on the exterior.



Plate 30: Room F8 Looking East



Plate 31: Room F1 Looking West



Plate 32: Room F4 Looking Southeast



Plate 33: Room F6 Looking Northeast



Plate 34: Internal Door Room F7

- 8.17 The third floor contains three rooms, two of which appeared to be former bedrooms (S2 & S3), associated bathroom facilities (S1), and an adjoining corridor (S4) (Figures 6 & 7). Access to the third floor is via a central staircase leading onto corridor S4. The whole of the second floor is decorated in the same style, primarily using wooden panelled walls and moulded window frames (Plates 35 & 36). When the wooden panelled walls were placed, it caused the sash window at the western end of the floor to become split between Room S1 and the stair well. The only other feature of interest is the large cupboard incorporated into the southeast corner of Room S3. The bathroom S1 is partially tiled, but all the fixtures are modern in character. A wooden hatch set into the wall opposite the staircase provides access to the roof space. The twin pitch of the roof could be easily seen within the roof space, the northern portion of which incorporated partial height of the second floor rooms. The roof trusses consisted of a tie-beam resting on wall-plates incorporated into each elevation and resting on vertical posts along the line of the central roof valley, with diagonal struts attached to common rafters (Plate 35). The roof trusses supporting the southern pitch had been strengthened using vertical metal ties. The timber used for the tie-beams appeared to vary in age. One is possibly original, being converted to a box-quartered beam, with axe marks, while the rest exhibit surface saw marks from a machine saw.



Plate 35: Room S4 Looking West



Plate 36: Room S2 Looking Northwest



Plate 37: Roof Truss Looking East

9. Conclusions and Interpretation

- 9.1 The property now known as The Bell appears, from map evidence, to have had its origins in the 18th century, in association with a brewery established to its north, as depicted on the Rocque, Cary and Horwood Maps. Although a square-ended building is depicted, it seems that a couple of elements of this building survive. The majority of the inn, however, seems to be of early-mid 19th century date with later additions.
- 9.2 The inn, is a parallelogram in plan, with a range of buildings to the north. This is a most irregular building, and suggests a rebuild of the property limited by the site boundary. The side walls of the building are oriented northwest-southeast, the front wall faces south. The side walls form the site boundaries, and a range of outbuildings to the rear (Rooms G5-G7) respect this northwest-southeast alignment. One of the rooms has a later wall (Room G7), and contains the remains of a water-stove that is possibly evidence for a laundry on the site. Within the body of the inn is a large chimneystack that serves a kitchen on the ground floor and is blocked on the first floor. This also respects the northwest-southeast alignment, and therefore may also be of an early phase. One doorframe of this part of the building, between the kitchen (Room G2) and the adjacent hall, is heavily painted with many layers, but is potentially an 18th century frame, the only example known within the building. There is a large void between this chimneystack and the rear of the bar, which seems an unlikely form if the building is all of one phase.
- 9.3 The main structure of the inn comprises a large bar, now open plan, with an entrance at each end a servery facing south. This overlies a cellar and has a staircase to the first floor, in turn leading to the second floor. Much of this part of the building is a single phase. The front elevation shows a regular repeating pattern on the first floor: the ground floor frontage is later. This regularity includes five regularly-spaced windows, each with closed pediment dressings supported on scrollwork brackets, which suggests a date of around 1830. To the rear, the windows are equally well-spaced, each first and second floor window is a walk-in window with a sash.
- 9.4 The second floor is only extant to the rear, and may have originally been servants' quarters. The second floor comprises four rooms only; each is partitioned with simple panelling which seems likely to be original to the build. Of note are two blocked windows on the second floor, which would have extended the accommodation across the whole of the rear. There is no access to this space, so clearly there has been some modification. This probably dates to a recent phase of repairing and rebuilding the roof. Internally, there are few partitions, which can be proved to be original on the ground and first floors. The doorframe and door to Room F1 may date to the 1830s, and the wall between Rooms F5 and F6 is thicker than the proven modern partitions also on this floor.
- 9.5 The stair to the second floor interrupts one of the windows. Rather than being an insertion, this may be the result of external design overriding the practical functions of the internal layout.
- 9.6 The cellar has two barrel drops and evidence for a coal chute. These are likely to be part of the 1830s build. However, there have clearly been changes in the cellar. Two I-beams which span the ceiling have clearly been inserted. They are mostly encased in the buildings' fabric, so no manufacturer could be proved. However, they indicate that some 20th century repairs were undertaken.
- 9.7 Such repairs and changes include the ground floor front wall of the pub. This has plain square pilasters and wide plate glass windows/ external mouldings are wooden, and of typical Edwardian style. The windows have lightly moulded frames, and initially may have had etched surface decoration. There is one very decorative piece, an etched mirrored panel over the door from the bar to the hall. This is of a style consistent with an early 20th century date. The bar area was previously

divided. This is shown by the presence of a chimneystack in the western wall. There may have been a second fireplace in the eastern part of the bar, but there is no current evidence for it. The first floor is well-served with fireplaces, indicating three rooms across the front range, as currently. Thus, the modern partition between rooms F6 and F7 is probably in the location of an older one.

- 9.8 The top of the front and rear walls are surmounted by a parapet, clearly added as a modification. The erection of this parapet may be contemporary with a rebuild of the double pitched roof: all of the timbers bar one collar beam are remarkably clean, with notable machine-saw-marks. The anomalous collar beam, with axe marks, may be an original timber.
- 9.9 The most modern events are two partitions on the front half of the first floor (Rooms F6 and F7). These are most likely replacements of original, failed fabric. The other modern event is the opening up of the bar into a single open plan space. There is no surface evidence for the location of lost partitions, but there must have been at least two bars. If the pilaster-flanked recesses in the centre of the south wall were also once doorways, then there may have been a third, central bar.

10. Further Work and Publication

- 10.1 The building is of moderate historic value and the results do not merit widespread publication other than as a summary and this document, a copy of which will be publicly available.
- 10.2 Copies of the report will be issued to the LPA archaeological advisor, the HER Manager and the Local Studies Library on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time.
- 10.3 A short summary of the results of the project will be published with a short summary submitted to the London Fieldwork Round-up and grey literature added to the online ADS OASIS project (Appendix A).

11. Archive Deposition

- 11.1 The archive will be prepared in accordance with local and national guidance (UKIC 1990, Brown & AAF 2007). On completion of the project, AOC will discuss arrangements for the archive to be deposited with LAARC and the developer/landowner. It is envisaged that the archive will be deposited no later than six months after the completion of all fieldwork following approval of the report by Dr Chris Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer for the London Borough of Southwark.

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Disease Map of the Parish of St George-the-Martyr, Southwark' 1893 (Southwark Local History Library)

Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (Southwark Local History Library)

Ordnance Survey map of 1938 (Southwark Local History Library)

Goad Plan 1889-1968 (Southwark Local History Library)

Site Location Within London

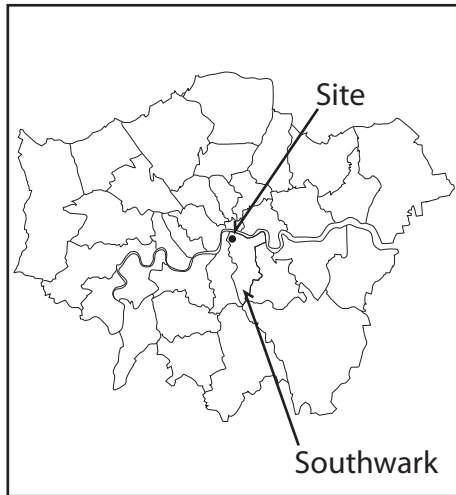


Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Plan Produced by Neale & Norden Ltd

Building to be Recorded

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

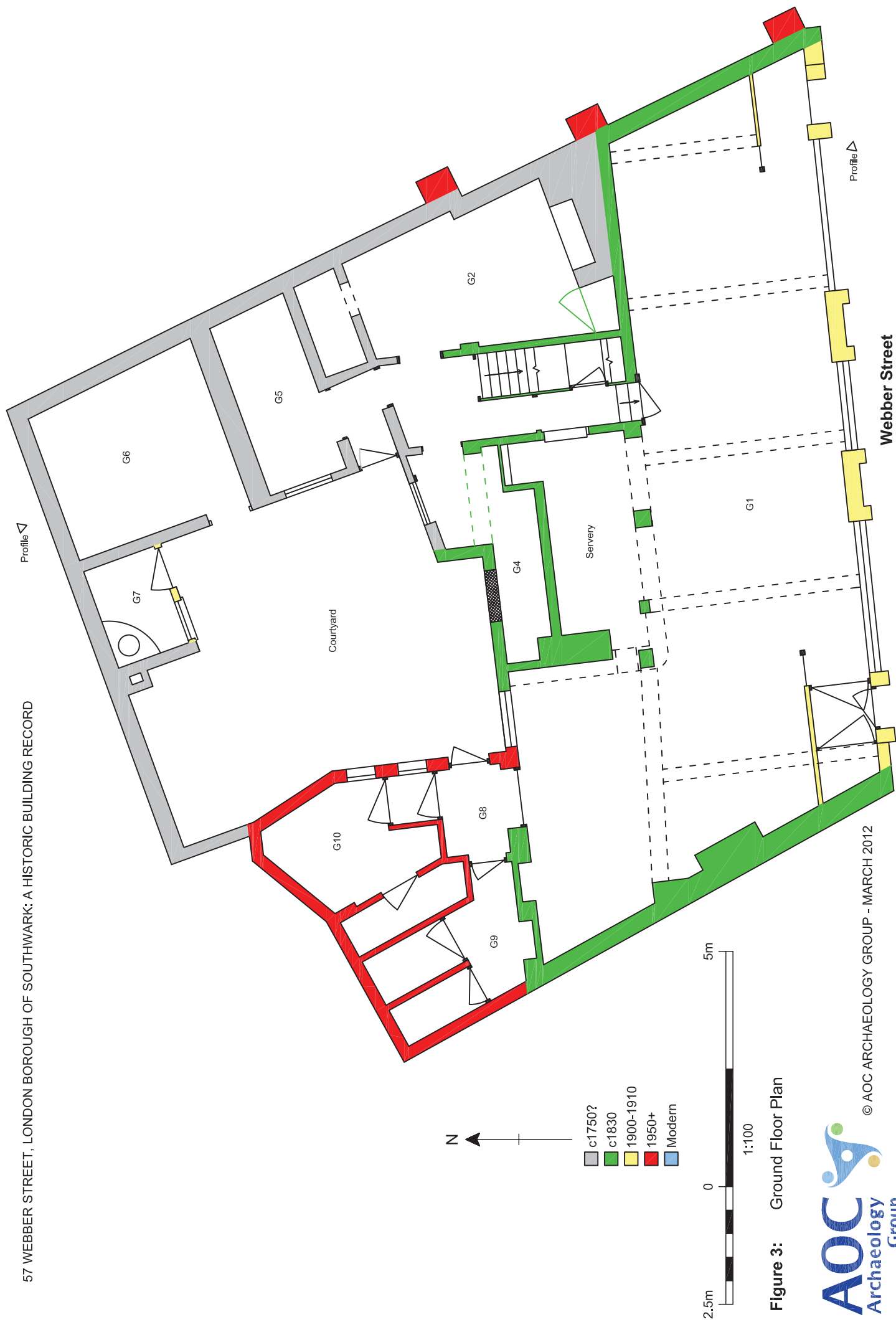


Figure 3: Ground Floor Plan

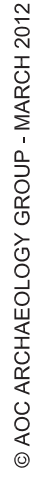


Figure 3: Ground Floor Plan

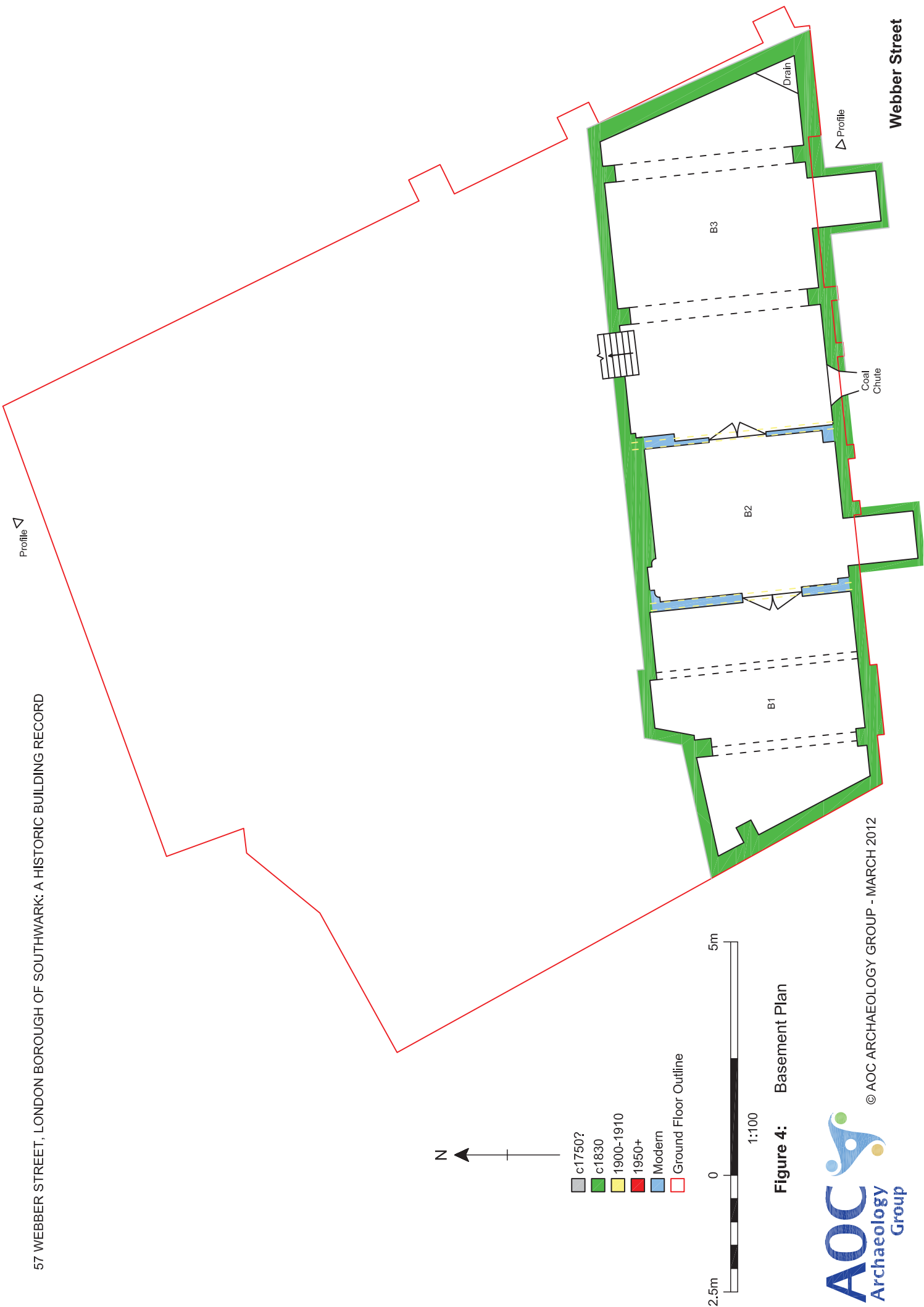


Figure 4: Basement Plan



Figure 5: First Floor Plan

Profile ▽

Profile ▽

Webber Street

N

- c1750?
- c1830
- 1900-1910
- 1950+
- Modern
- Ground Floor Outline



Figure 6: Second Floor Plan

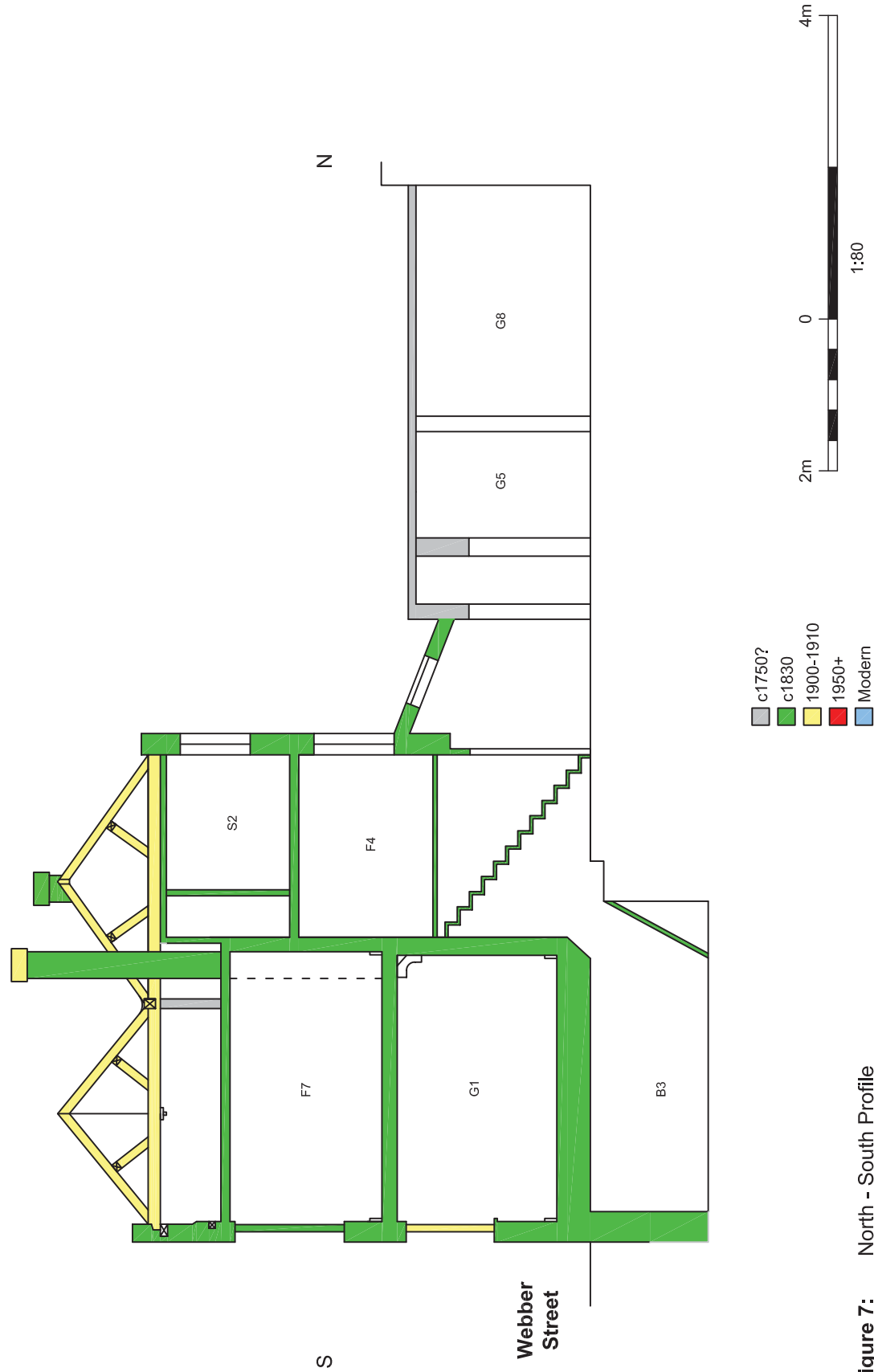


Figure 7: North - South Profile

Appendices

Appendix A - OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-119098

Project details

Project name 57 Webber Street

Short description of the project A Level 2 HBR recording of the public house The Bell, due for redevelopment. Map evidence indicates the building had its origins in the 18th, but the majority of the current structure was built in c1830. Several phases of internal modifications have taken place ranging in date from the 18th to 20th century.

Project dates Start: 02-03-2012 End: 02-03-2012

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes WEB12 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 32087 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Building Recording

Site status None

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Methods techniques & 'Annotated Sketch','Measured Survey','Photographic Survey'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 57 Webber Street

Postcode SE1 ORF

Study area 251.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3181 7969 51.5002590746 -0.100796855337 51 30 00 N 000 06 02 W
Point

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Southwark Council
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology Group
originator

Project director/manager Melissa Melikian

Project supervisor Les Capon

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding body

Name of Directech Ltd
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive ID WEB12

Digital available Media 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper recipient Archive LAARC

Paper Archive ID WEB12

Paper available Media 'Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 57 WEBBER STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK: A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

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

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication London

Description A4 text, 2 illustrations, 16 pages bound between plastic covers

Project bibliography

2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 57 WEBBER STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK:A HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clarke, C., Capon, L. and Smith, C.

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or London
publication

Description A4 text, 7 illustrations, 42 pages bound between plastic covers

Entered by Chris Clarke (chris.clarke@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 8 March 2012

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-119098

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Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Methods & 'Annotated Sketch','Measured Survey','Photographic Survey'
techniques

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 57 Webber Street

Postcode SE1 ORF

Study area 251.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3181 7969 51.5002590746 -0.100796855337 51 30 00 N 000 06 02 W
Point

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Southwark Council
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology Group
originator

Project Melissa Melikian
director/manager

Project supervisor Les Capon

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding body

Name of Directech Ltd
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive ID WEB12

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'
available

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Archive ID WEB12

Paper Media 'Plan','Report','Section'
available

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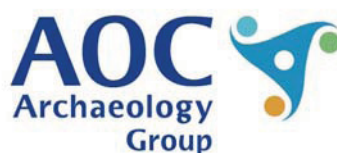
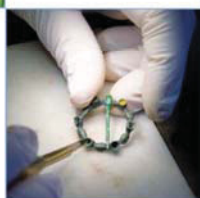
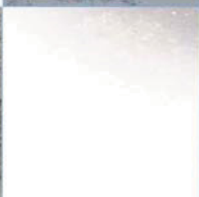
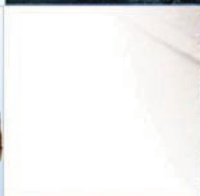
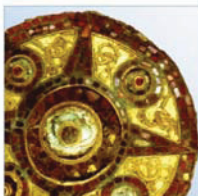
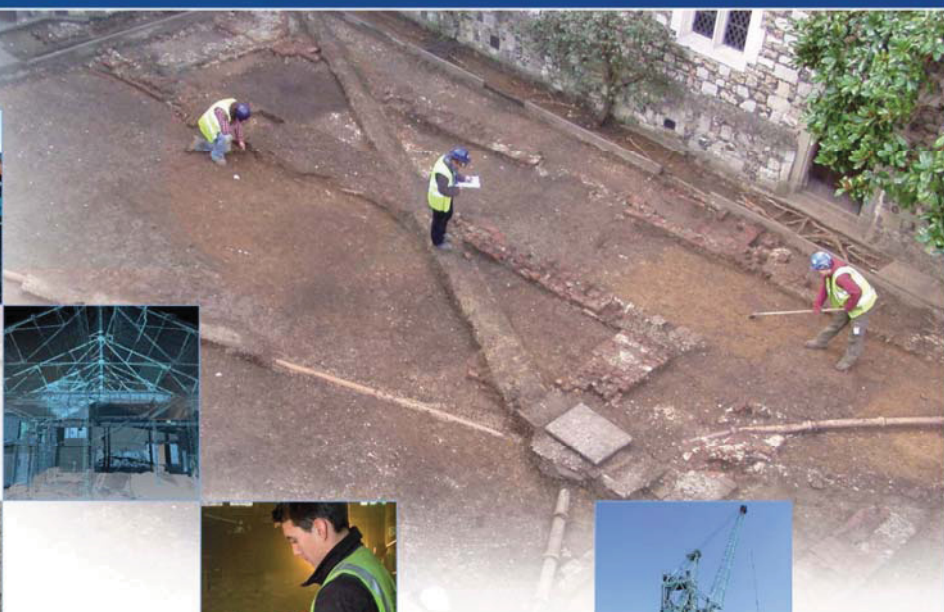
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