

St Josephs RC Primary School, Deptford, London Borough of Lewisham

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

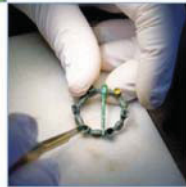
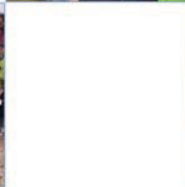
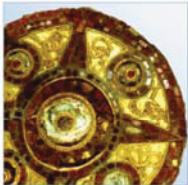
Planning Application: 09/72100/X and 09/72101/CAC

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 3730 7747

AOC Project no: 30633

Date: March 2010

Site Code: JOD10



ARCHAEOLOGY

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CONSERVATION

St Josephs RC Primary School, Deptford, London Borough of Lewisham: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	John Rich Architects 9 Mortlake Terrace Kew Green Richmond TW9 3DT
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 3730 7747
AOC Project No:	30633
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Date of Watching Brief:	04/03/10 – 17/03/10
Date of Report:	March 2010

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

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology at the site of St Josephs Primary School in Deptford between 4th and 17th March 2010 on behalf of John Rich Architects. The work comprised the monitoring of foundation trench excavations.

One 19th/early 20th century wall was identified in the east part of the site. No other archaeological remains were observed during the archaeological watching brief.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The site is located between Crossfield Street to the north and a railway to the south, with the rear of properties fronting on Deptford High Street to the west (Figures 1 & 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 3730 7747.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavations for new foundation trenches as set out in Figure 3.

1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Lewisham. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of English Heritage.
- 1.2.2 Two planning applications were submitted to develop the site (Application No.: 09/72100/X and 09/72101/CAC). These comprised the partial demolition of the existing school including the existing hall/dining room and the construction of a new building at the side of the reception area, to provide a main hall, kitchen, office, storeroom and W. C. facilities.
- 1.2.3 The site lies within the boundary Archaeological Priority Area (APA 9: Upper Deptford) and is also within St Paul's Conservation Area and adjacent to Deptford High Street Conservation Area as designated by the Lewisham Council Unitary Development Plan (Lewisham Council, 2004). As such GLAAS recommended that the first stage in the archaeological investigation should be in the form of a Desk Based Assessment.
- 1.2.4 Accordingly a Desk Based Assessment was prepared by AOC Archaeology (AOC 2009). On the basis of the results of that document GLAAS further recommended a programme of archaeological watching brief be undertaken. A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2010) was prepared and subsequently recommended for approval by GLAAS, as fulfilling the requirement for a detailed project design for the next stage of work.

1.3 Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 The Geology Map of London, published in 1993, shows that the area of the proposed development site is underlain by made ground overlying Bagshot sands (Siliceous Sands).
- 1.3.2 The area of the St. Josephs RC Primary School site is approximately c. 600m to the south of the current Thames foreshore and the topography of the site itself is relatively flat. The site is also located c.350m to the east of Deptford Creek.

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1 The following information is drawn from the Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2009).

The Prehistoric Period (c. 500,000 BP – AD 43)

- 2.2 In the prehistoric period, Deptford was a small island of relatively solid ground surrounded by marshland prior to the draining of the marshes and reclamation of land in the Thames basin throughout the Roman and medieval periods. Such islands in this area would have encouraged early human settlement given that they would have provided the only habitable land in the surrounding landscape.
- 2.3 Two findspots dating to the prehistoric period are known within 500m of the site, including a Palaeolithic stone implement, found c. 450m to the south-west. In the Deptford Broadway area, c. 420m to the south of the site, Neolithic flint flakes and an Iron Age quern were recovered from a pit.

The Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.4 Five Roman sites were noted in the Desk Based Assessment within 500m of the site.
- 2.5 The nearest site relates to the findspot of two Roman bronze lamps found c. 200m north of the school site on Albury Road. A tessellated floor and brickwork, located on Deptford High Street c. 300m south of the school, has also been dated to the Roman period.
- 2.6 There is further Roman evidence along Deptford Broadway, in the form of pits and ditches, c. 400m to the south of the school site. Several finds were recovered from these ditches, including 2nd century pottery and building material. A Roman road leading from Southwark to Greenwich is recorded somewhere in the vicinity although the exact location is not known.
- 2.7 Probably the most significant evidence of Roman and Saxon settlement in the area are the two graves located at 7 Deptford Broadway, c. 420m to the south of the proposed development site. One burial is believed to be of Roman date, although no grave goods were discovered to confirm this, while the other dates to the 6th century, evident by the grave goods. Early to mid Saxon settlement is thought to have been focused in the Broadway area (c. 400m to the south of the proposed development site), after which it then shifted to the area around to St. Nicholas Church, c. 50m to the north-east of the proposed development site).

The Early Medieval (AD 410-1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066-1550)

- 2.8 The name 'Deptford' is first recorded as 'Depeford' in 1293 and is derived from the Old English words 'dēop' and 'ford' meaning 'deep ford' (Mills 2003). The 'deep ford', which gave its name to Deptford crossed the River Ravensbourne (known as Deptford Creek here) at the point now crossed by Deptford Bridge. A bridge has existed here as early as the 1230s.
- 2.9 In 1513 the Royal Dockyard was established at Deptford to build ships for the Royal Navy. A separate settlement, probably associated with the dockyards, developed beside the Thames and was known as Deptford Strand.
- 2.10 The assessment identified eight entries in the Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Features that relate to medieval activity within 500m of the site; including two findspots, one comprising medieval earthenware pottery on Bronze Street, c. 150m from the school; and one of an Old English jug found c. 300m to the north of the school.
- 2.11 A church stood on the site of the current St Nicholas Church, c. 350m to the north-east of the proposed development site, from at least the 12th century. The original church was dismantled and

rebuilt in 1697 and has undergone several phases of repairs and alterations since then, including extensive restoration following significant bomb damage sustained during the Second World War.

- 2.12 Settlement occupation appears to develop in the Deptford Broadway area, c. 400m to the south of the proposed development site, evident by the medieval pit and ditches. A 13th century tile-built oven has also been revealed and a 14th century wall, which was believed to have been part of a coaching inn.
- 2.13 Evidence for settlement growth appears to the north and south of the proposed development site, domestically and commercially. Firstly, there is evidence of a hermitage dating to the late medieval period near the Deptford Bridge, c. 300m south-east of the school site; and there is commercial evidence in the form of 14th century mills. The flour, tide and water mills were located by the Deptford Creek, approximately 500m north-east of the school.

Post-Medieval (c. AD 1550 – 1900)

- 2.14 The assessment identified 21 entries of Listed Buildings dating to the post-medieval period in the Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Features within 500m of the site. The closest of these to the site are:
- The Grade II Listed walls of the former graveyard to the old Baptist chapel (now demolished), c. 70m to the north-east of the site, which were constructed in the 18th century and were rebuilt in places during the 19th century.
 - The Grade I Listed Church of St Paul, c. 50m to the north-east, which was built in 1730 from white ashlar, designed in the classical style;
 - Grade II Listed walls and railings of St Paul's Churchyard, c. 150m to the north-east of the proposed development site, built in the early 18th century.
- 2.15 The rectory to the Church of St Paul, was designed and built in the Baroque style by the same architect responsible for the church itself, Thomas Archer. The rectory was triangular in plan with octagonal rooms and turrets at each corner and was located adjacent to the north-eastern boundary of the site, on the northern side of Crossfield Road, as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1869 (Section 6.1) and as demolished in 1894.
- 2.16 The Royal Dockyard, along with other shipbuilding yards and maritime industries made Deptford a prosperous town. By the late 17th century there was a demand for housing as the local population increased with the expanding Dockyard and houses were constructed on land on the west side of 'Butt Lane', which later became Deptford High Street.
- 2.17 This population pressure soon led to the division of Deptford into two parishes, following an Act of Parliament passed in 1730. These two parishes were distinguished by the names and churches of 'St. Nicholas' and 'St Paul' (Lysons 1796).
- 2.18 The post-medieval period is represented by a concentration of over 40 pits and other features, c. 400m to the south of the proposed development site, as the settlement of Deptford developed and expanded throughout the 16th-19th centuries. These most likely related to structures along both Deptford Broadway and Deptford High Street. A terrace of houses and a gabled house dating to the late 17th century also survive in this area.
- 2.19 As the area began to develop, there was an increase in commercial and industrial activity, as represented by several public houses, and:

- A late 17th/ early 18th century pottery kiln,
 - A bakehouse built in 1791-2, c. 200m to the north of the proposed development site;
 - A flour mill, built around 1821 on the site of an earlier flour mill adjacent to the River Ravensbourne, c. 450m to the south-east of the proposed development site; and
 - Quarrying evidence from a number of gravel pits.
- 2.20 The London & Greenwich Railway, London's first railway line, was constructed through Deptford and opened in February 1836. The first bridge taking the railway line over Deptford creek closed in 1869. The ramp at Deptford Station is the earliest and the only surviving example of the three ramps that were constructed, and is now Grade II Listed, as is the railway viaduct between Deptford Creek and North Kent Junction.
- 2.21 The Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Features contains an entry relating to a post-medieval cemetery. This has been identified from sketch maps and notes taken by a Mrs. B. Holmes in the late 19th century. It is not known which cemetery is described. The GLSMR suggests that it relates to either the Friends burial ground, shown on the OS map of 1869 adjacent to the western boundary of the proposed development site, or the Congregational chapel ground, c. 50m to the south of the proposed development site both of which have since been built over.
- 2.22 An open air nursery school was established in 1914, c. 300m to the north-east of the proposed development site, by Margaret and Rachel McMillan, the pioneers of nursery education who believed that education during early years could counter some of the negative effects of poverty. It was the only school built specifically for under-fives until the war. A commemorative monument to Margaret McMillan exists at the site of the nursery school.

3. Strategy

3.1 Aims of the Investigation

3.1.1 The aims of the investigation were 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 Lewisham to make an informed decision on the status of the archaeology condition and any requirement for further mitigation work.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

3.1.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were:

- To determine the presence of any remains of post-medieval date related to 17th century settlement at Deptford, as set out within the Lewisham Council Unitary Development Plan.
- 3.1.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 The watching brief was carried out over four days and was focussed on trench excavations for new foundations (Figure 3). All work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2010).

3.2.2 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 1994).

3.2.3 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998).
- English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 1992).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2001).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 1997).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).
- Council for British Archaeology – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1987).

3.2.4 A unique site code **JOD10** was acquired for the project from the Museum of London, prior to the commencement of works on site.

3.2.5 The watching brief was undertaken by Stella Bickelman, under the overall direction of Andy Leonard; Project Manager. The work was monitored by Mark Stevenson on behalf of the London Borough of Lewisham.

4. Results

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
0.00m	(1)	Tarmac hard-standing
0.15m	(2)	Dark brown silt made ground
0.75m	(3)	Brown sandy silt. Buried topsoil
1.05m	(4)	Natural gravelly sand

- 4.1 Foundation trench excavations were monitored along the south, west, northwest and east parts of the new building. The sequence of deposition was the same in all trenches.
- 4.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a naturally deposited light yellow/brown gravelly sand (4), 1.20m below ground level. Across the site the natural sand was sealed by a mid-brown homogenous sandy silt with few inclusions (3) which was a buried topsoil, up to 0.30m thick. This was in turn sealed by a dark brown silty sand made ground deposit (2), 0.60m thick. It contained frequent building material inclusions indicating a late 19th/early 20th century date.
- 4.3 In the east part of the site (Figure 3) the made ground was truncated by a vertical construction cut [7] for a wall aligned east-west (6). The wall comprised red frogged brick on stretcher and had been backfilled to the south side by a dark brown silty sand with frequent rubble, clay pipe and animal bone inclusions (5). The wall was 1.90m high and 0.06m wide (Figure 4), which suggests it was not a structural wall, more probably an internal basement partition wall.
- 4.4 The made ground (2) and wall (6) were sealed by a hard-standing layer of tarmac (1) across the site.

5. Finds

- 5.1 Building material and animal bone inclusions were noted in the made ground (2) and backfill (5) deposits but due to the relatively late date these were not retained.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The watching brief met its primary objective, to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area. The only feature identified was a late 19th/early 20th century basement partition wall. The buried topsoil horizon across the site is probably representative of the gardens associated with the terrace houses depicted in the maps from 1869 onwards.
- 6.2 Due to the limited results it is recommended that no further work be undertaken on the site, although the final decision rests with the London Borough of Lewisham and its archaeology advisor. Publication of the results will be via the online OASIS form (Appendix B), with a short summary submitted to the London Archaeologist.

8. Bibliography

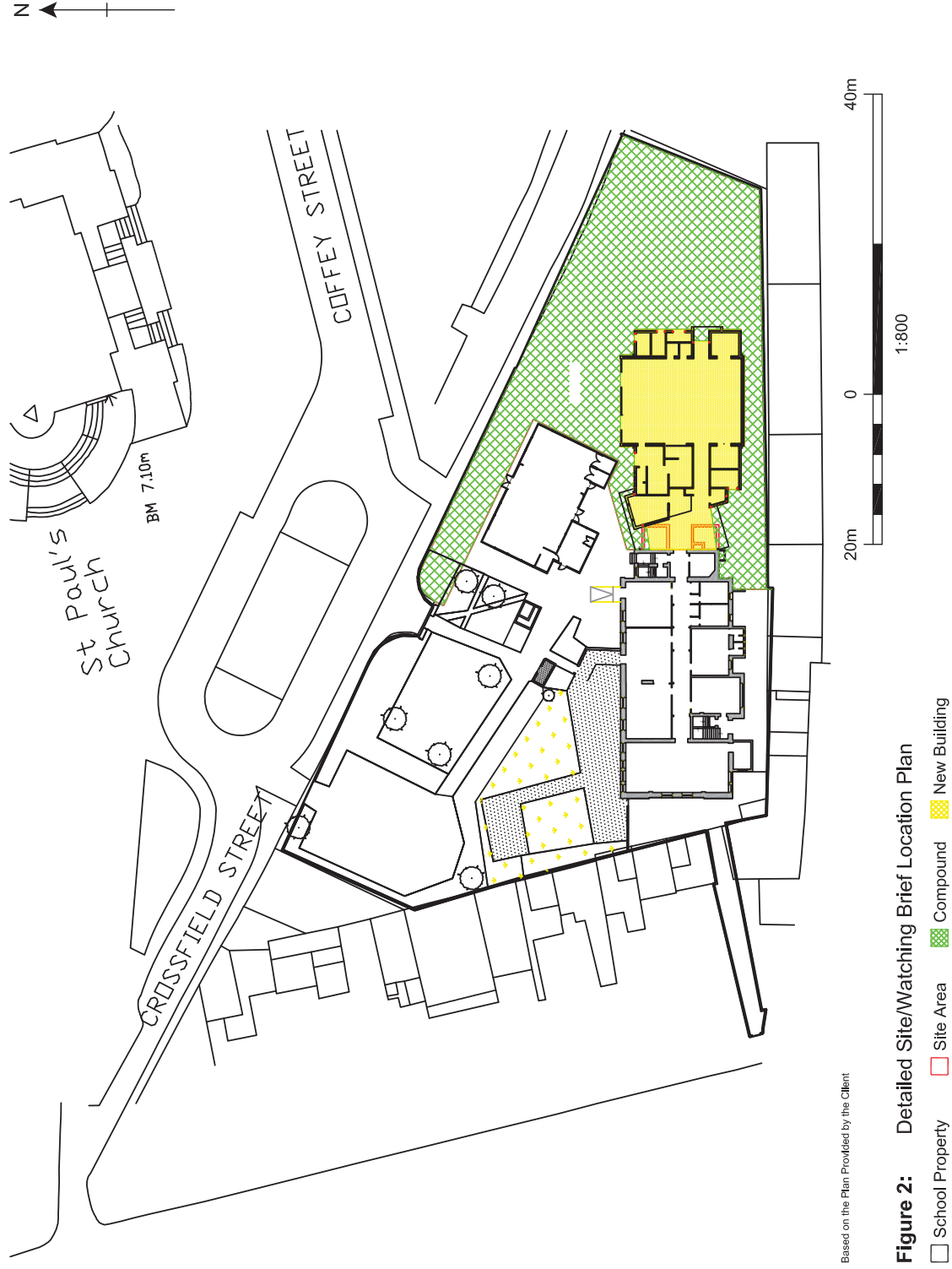
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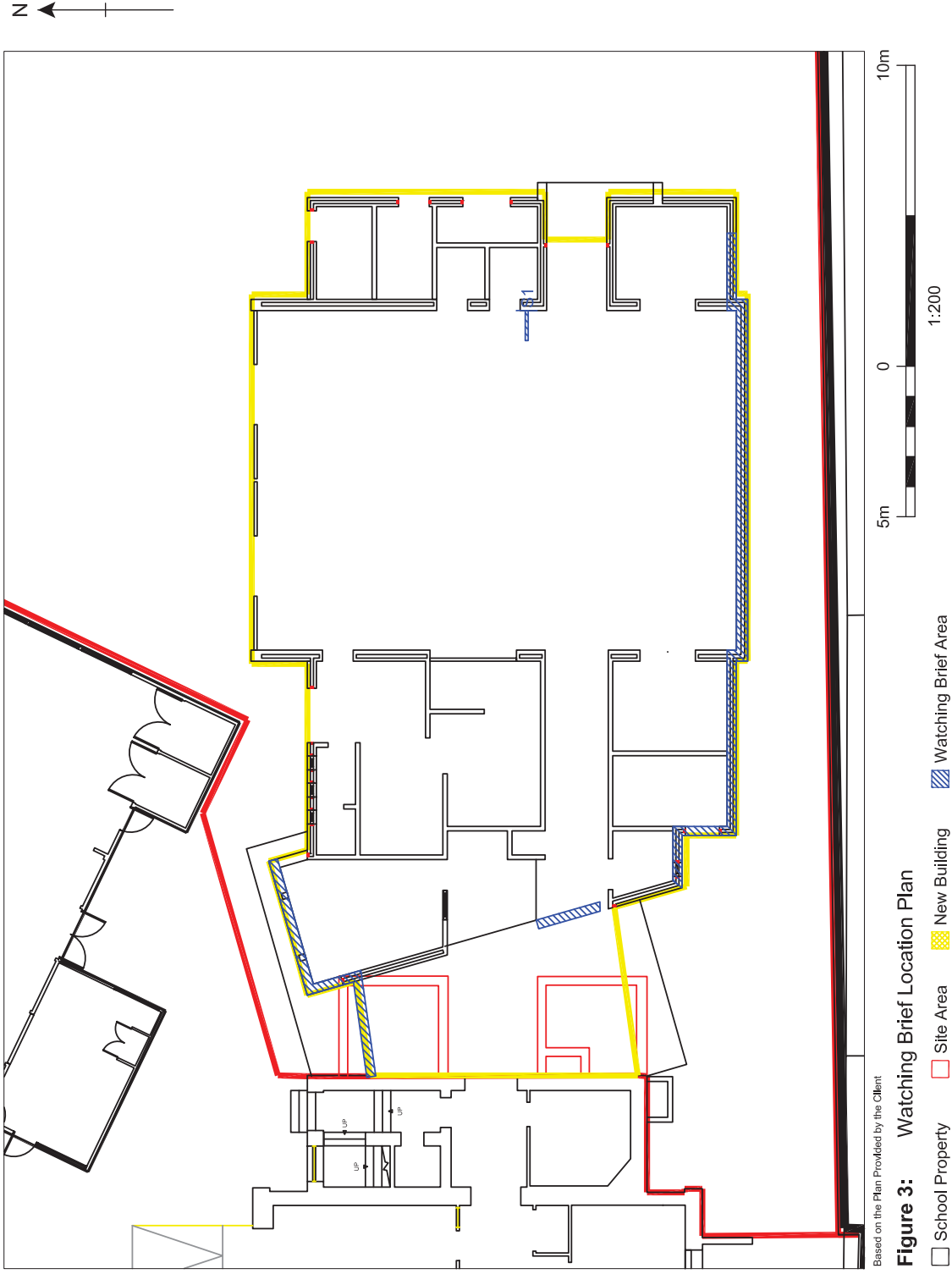


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Figure 1: Site location





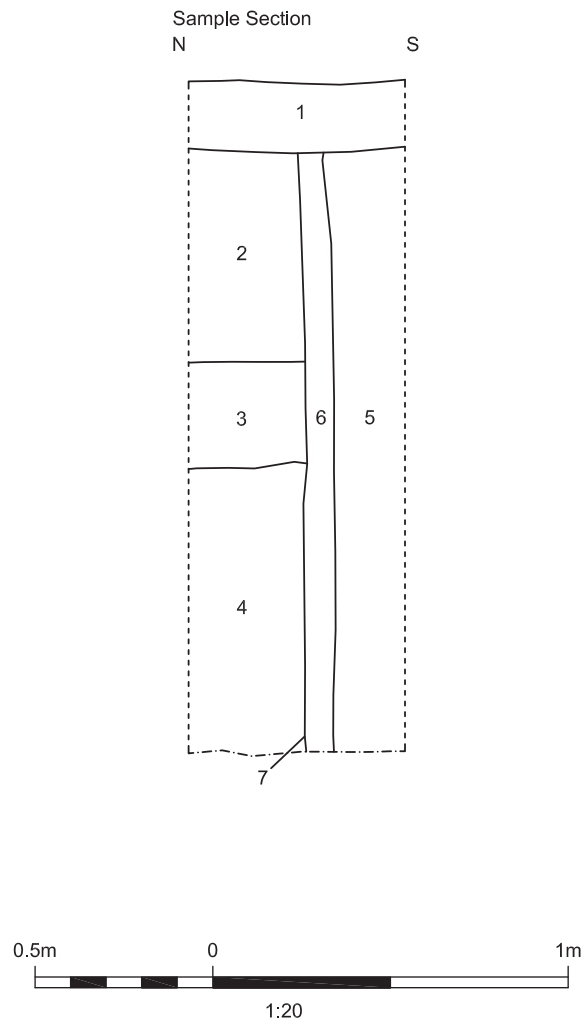


Figure 4: Sample Section



Appendices



Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	description/index code	Length	Width	Depth
1	DEPO	SITE	SITE	0.15m
2	DEPO	SITE	SITE	0.60m
3	DEPO	SITE	SITE	0.30m
4	DEPO	SITE	SITE	0.35m+
5	FILL	1.00m+	0.20m	1.90m
6	MASO	1.00m+	0.06m	1.90m
7	CUT	1.00m+	0.30m+	1.90m

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: aocarcha1-72643

Project details

Project name ST JOSEPHS ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL, CROSSFIELD STREET, DEPTFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology at the site of St Josephs Primary School in Deptford between 4th and 17th March 2010 on behalf of John Rich Architects. The work comprised the monitoring of foundation trench excavations. One 19th/early 20th century wall was identified in the east part of the site. No other archaeological remains were observed during the archaeological watching brief.

Project dates Start: 04-03-2010 End: 17-03-2010

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes 09/72100/X - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference codes 09/72101/CAC - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Conservation Area

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type WALL Uncertain

Significant Finds NA None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Conservation Area Consent

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM DEPTFORD AND NEWCROSS ST JOSEPHS
ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL, CROSSFIELD STREET, DEPTFORD, LONDON
BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Postcode SE10 8

Study area 500.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3730 7747 51.4789977694 -0.02260665186980 51 28 44 N 000 01 21 W Point

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology Group
Organisation

Project brief English Heritage
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology Group
originator

Project Andy Leonard
director/manager

Project supervisor Stella Bickelmann

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of John Rich Architects
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive ID JOD10

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

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

Digital Archive Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with LAARC
notes

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Archive ID JOD10

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

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

Paper Archive Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with LAARC
notes

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title St Josephs RC Primary School, Deptford, London Borough of Lewisham: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Date 2010

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bibliography 2**

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Title St Josephs RC Primary School, Deptford, London Borough of Lewisham: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Harris, P.

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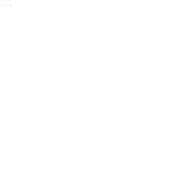
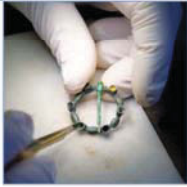
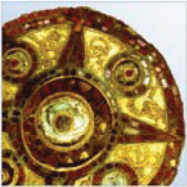
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