

105 Blackfriars Road, London Borough of Southwark: Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

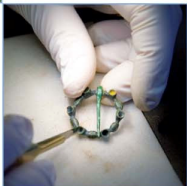
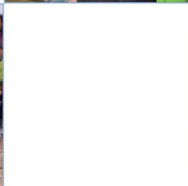
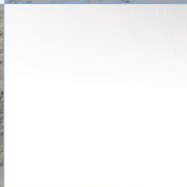
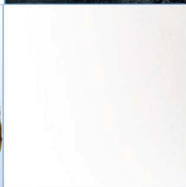
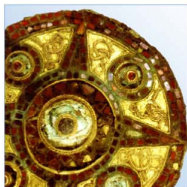
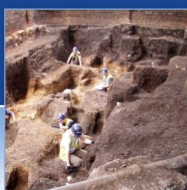
Planning Application: 07/AP/0962

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 3161 7977

AOC Project No: 30961

Site Code: BLK 11

Date: May 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

105 Blackfriars Road, London Borough of Southwark

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

On Behalf of: **Stiff & Trevillion Architects Ltd**
16 Woodfield Road
London
W9 2BE

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 3161 7977

AOC Project No: 30961

Prepared by: Les Capon

Illustration by: Jonathan Moller

Date of Evaluation: 9th – 10th May 2011

Date of Report: May 2011

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

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Date: May 2011

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Date: May 2011

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: May 2011

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 105 Blackfriars Road, London Borough of Southwark, a small site on the western side of the street. Part of an early 19th century tile-floored cold store and a later basement were recorded at the south of the site. Across the majority of the site, the archaeological horizons had been truncated by the insertion and later removal of petrol storage tanks in the post-war period.

Overall, due to truncation of the natural and potential archaeological deposits, there is limited potential for significant archaeological features to survive. It is therefore recommended that no further work be undertaken.

Due to the limited nature of the findings, publication is expected to be limited to a short entry in the London Archaeologist Fieldwork Round-Up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

1.1.1 105 Blackfriars Road occupies a parcel of land most recently in use as a car park on the corner of Blackfriars Road and Valentines Place in the London Borough of Southwark (Figure 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR TQ 3161 7977 (Figure 1). The site is bounded by The Crown Public House to the south, and a narrow passage, Valentine Row, separates the site from a second car parking area to the west (Figure 2).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Southwark. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by Dr Chris Constable of the Southwark Council.

1.2.2 The site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Zone or a Conservation Area. There are no Listed Buildings within the site boundary and the site neither contains nor lies within the area of any defined World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Areas of Historic Woodland.

1.2.3 The development proposal is for the erection of a new part three, part four and part seven storey development for offices with a shop on the ground floor. A basement will also be excavated. It is likely that the foundations will be piled.

1.2.4 An archaeological condition was a requirement of the planning consent (Ref: 07/AP/0962). The first stage of archaeological investigation was an evaluation; no desk-based assessment was required. AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Stiff & Trevillion Architects Ltd to carry out the evaluation. The methodology was set out in a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (AOC 2011). This document detailed how the evaluation, comprising two trenches, would be undertaken. The WSI was approved by Dr Constable prior to the start of work on site.

1.2.5 These works were carried out in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2008a).
- Institute of Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (IfA 2008b)
- English Heritage - Archaeological Guidance Papers 2-4 London Region (EH 1998a-c)
- Department for Communities and Local Government - Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010).
- Museum of London – A Research Framework for London Archaeology (MoL 2002).

1.3 Geology and Topography

1.3.1 The British Geological Survey mapping (BGS Sheet 270) 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.

- 1.3.2 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).
- 1.3.3 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.

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 2.1 The site lies within 1km 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. The location of Valentine Road is, however believed to have been above the high tide line associated with this channel (Yule 2005).
- 2.2 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).

Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)

- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Evidence for Roman activity has been identified from within 400m of the site and includes a number of Roman burials and cremations such as those found at Lant Street c. 600m to the east of the site (Sayer 2005). There are also records of further finds of Roman urns and a Roman channel deposit containing what may be domestic refuse from the area of Union Street. The investigations at Union Street concluded, however, that the area was on the margins of the Roman settlement at Southwark (Hulka and Meddens 2004). It is therefore posited that Valentine Road also lies outside of the main occupied area.

Medieval (c.AD 410 – 1536)

- 2.5 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).
- 2.6 During the 11th century, Southwark became re-established as the southern suburb of London: the Domesday Book of 1087 records a Minster Church, dock and a herring fishery as well as 50 houses.
- 2.7 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.

- 2.8 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

Post-Medieval (c.AD 1538 – Modern)

- 2.9 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).
- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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 George's c. 1.8km to the south of the River. The land plot in which the Site lies is first depicted on Horwood's map of 1799 with buildings being depicted around the perimeter of the site by 1819.
- 2.13 The area continued to become more developed during the later 18th and early 19th centuries. During the 20th century, the site had become a garage and/or petrol station by 1950 before being cleared of tanks in the 1990s. The site is now a private car park.

3. Strategy

3.1 Aims of the Investigation

- 3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were defined as follows:

- 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 Southwark to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

- 3.1.2 The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were defined as follows:

- To determine the presence of any prehistoric to medieval activity on site.
- To assess the potential of the site to inform on the post-medieval development and chronology of London.
- To assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by late post-medieval buildings on the site.

- To provide suitable information concerning the preservation in situ of archaeological deposits so as to inform further mitigation through foundation design or archaeological mitigation.

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

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by AOC Archaeology (2011). The WSI defined site procedures and detailed how the evaluation, consisting of two machine-excavated trenches would be undertaken (Figure 2). All work was carried out in accordance with national guidelines (IfA 2008). Provision was made for a report as defined in the WSI.

3.2.2 Prior to commencing work, a unique site code (BLK11) for the project was obtained from the LAARC, Museum of London and was be used as the site identifier for all records produced.

3.2.3 The evaluation was undertaken on the 9th and 10th May 2011.

3.2.4 Levels for each context were established relative to Ordnance Datum, taken from a benchmark on 59a Webber Street, with a value of 3.91m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum).

3.2.5 The evaluation was conducted by Les Capon under the overall management of Melissa Melikian, Operations Director. The site was monitored by Dr Chris Constable, archaeological advisor for the London Borough of Southwark.

4. Results

4.1 Trench 1 (Figures 2 and 3)

4.1.1 Surface of Trench = 3.91m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
+3.86m to +3.96m	0.00m	(1)	Car Park Surface with Made Ground
+3.36m	0.50m	(6)	Upper Demolition Horizon
+2.78m	1.08m	[4]	Floor Surface
+2.40m	1.60m	(8)	Development Horizon
+1.10m	2.76m	(9)	Buried Topsoil
+0.79m	3.07m	(10)	Subsoil
+0.36m to 0.00mOD	3.50m	(11)	Terrace Gravel

4.1.2 Trench 1 was orientated north – south in the southwest of the site and measured 10m x 2m in plan, extended by 3m x 1.4m at the southern end.

4.1.3 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 1 was present at +0.36m OD at the southern end of the trench, truncated lower towards the north by a deep modern cut related to removal of petrol tanks from the site. This deposit was yellow sand with 80% rounded gravel, and was naturally lain Kempton Park Gravel (11). This was sealed by a layer of mid brown sandy silt with occasional rounded gravel (10). Above this was a layer of very dark brown sandy silt (9), up to 0.30m deep, and notable for its lack of any cultural inclusions. This may be a deposit consistent with the known post-medieval beginnings of the site as open ground beyond the main settlement of Southwark.

- 4.1.4 The clean dark brown soil was sealed by a similar layer of dark brown sandy silt (8) which had clearly been reworked to some degree, since it contained occasional fragments of red brick and lime mortar. Beyond indicating a post-medieval date, the fragments were too small to offer much dating evidence, and were not retained. This dark brown soil may have been reworked in association with buildings erected on the site in the early 19th century.
- 4.1.5 The building remains were in two phases. The earlier phase was represented by a tiled floor with firebrick sides and a brick culvert beneath. The culvert [7] is constructed with a brick base and brick sides of seven courses with an arched top. It was 0.46m wide internally, and ran eastwards from an end wall for 1.50m before being cut off by the addition of a later basement. A thin lens of silt in the culvert (17) did not yield any finds. Above the culvert was the semi-collapsed tiled floor of a small room 1.94m by 1.74m in plan [4]. The tiles were 30" square and laid on a thin bed of sand. The walls of the room were just 0.26m high: the surviving north, west and south walls [14 and 15] were formed of firebricks 0.40m by 0.28m by 0.10m, manufactured by W. Hancock, the name stamped on the bricks. The southern wall [14] has the remnant of a segmental arch springing northward, truncated when a later basement was established, and this may represent a low roof, suggesting the room may have been a sunken cold store. The demolition horizon relating to the floor was a loose mix of dark brown sandy silt and brick rubble (6), and the finds included clay tobacco pipe fragments of mid to late 19th century date, a piece of blue and white transfer print, and a piece of Staffordshire slipware. This indicates that the building associated with this floor was altered after about 1875.



Plate 1: Tiled Floor [4]

- 4.1.6 The new build was represented by a yellow brick wall [13] and a concrete floor [12] built inside a cut into the tile-floored building and underlying sandy silts. The floor of the basement was at 1.82m below the current surface, at +2.02mOD. Also of this date is a ceramic drain (18) in a trench [19] cutting across the fill over the tiled floor. The basement fill (23) comprised demolition deposits that may relate to rapid demolition during, or because of, the Second World War.
- 4.1.7 The remains of the basement and the tiled floor were cut into by a deep intrusion [3] over 4.00m deep, cutting deep into the underlying gravel, and relates to the removal of fuel tanks fairly recently. The fill was loose rubble in a grey brown sandy silt soil matrix (2). The rubble included lumps of

concrete, pieces of brickwork, metal, plastic, and occasional articles of clothing. The backfill was sealed by a layer of hardcore and gravel with a sprinkling of gravel and bricks laid to mark parking bays (1).

4.2 Trench 2 (Figures 2 and 3)

4.2.1 Surface of Trench = 3.98m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
+3.95m to +4.03m	0.00m	(1)	Car Park Surface
+3.75m	0.20m	(2)	Top of Backfill
-0.25m	4.20m	(11)	Truncated Gravel

4.2.2 Trench 2 was orientated north – south and measured 10m by 2m in plan.

4.2.3 The lowest deposit observed was loose yellow sand with c.80% rounded gravel, which had been truncated to a level of -0.25mOD, the result of modern truncation [3]. This was sealed across the trench by 4.00m depth of loose rubble in a grey brown sandy silt soil matrix (2). The rubble included lumps of concrete, pieces of brickwork, metal, plastic, occasional articles of clothing, and even part of a bicycle. The truncation most probably relates to removal of storage tanks after the garage on site was closed.

4.2.4 At the northern end of the trench, a 2m width of concrete with drain downpipes was present [20], a remnant of the garage known to be on site, and this concrete, flooring, of 0.30m depth, was the remnant of a toilet block. The backfill of the truncation has been pushed under the toilet floor.

4.2.5 The backfill was sealed by a layer of hardcore and gravel with a sprinkling of gravel and bricks laid to mark parking bays (1).



Plate 2: Trench 2, fill of truncation

4.2.6 No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered in Trench 2.

5. Finds

- 5.1 No finds were collected during the course of the evaluation.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and the archaeological potential of the site. Deep, post-war truncation had effectively removed most potential stratigraphy from the site, cutting into the Kempton Park gravel.. In the small area of untruncated deposits examined, a full sequence of subsoil and buried topsoil overlay the gravel, with no evidence for archaeological events prior to the erection of buildings on the site in the early 19th century, as shown on historic maps.
- 6.2 The building remains comprised a tiled surface with culvert underneath. The surface appears to have had an arched top, and may have been a below-ground cold-store dating to before the advent of refrigeration. The sides of the structure use bricks by W. Hancock. His works were established in Chester in 1791, but the stamp suggests an early 19th century date, as does the form of the structure. The street was developed by 1819, and this surface is probably contemporary with the first phase of development. This store was demolished and a new basement sunk during the 20th century. The building associated with the basement appears to have been demolished during the Second World War, perhaps the result of bombing. After the war, the site was used as a petrol station, the deep truncation related to the installation and removal of the petrol tanks.
- 6.3 No further archaeological work is recommended on the site, although the final decision is to be made by Dr Chris Constable, Archaeology Officer for Southwark Council.

7. Publication

- 7.1 Due to the limited nature of the findings, publication is expected to be limited to a short entry in the London Archaeologist Fieldwork Round-Up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).

8. Archive Deposition

- 8.1 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, and digital photographs, will be prepared in accordance with national guidelines (UKIC 1990), and deposited with the Museum of London's Archaeological Archive Research Centre.

9. Bibliography

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105 BLACKFRIARS ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK:
RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Approximate Site Location
Within England & Wales



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2001
with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
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500m 0 2 km

1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location

105 BLACKFRIARS ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK:
RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

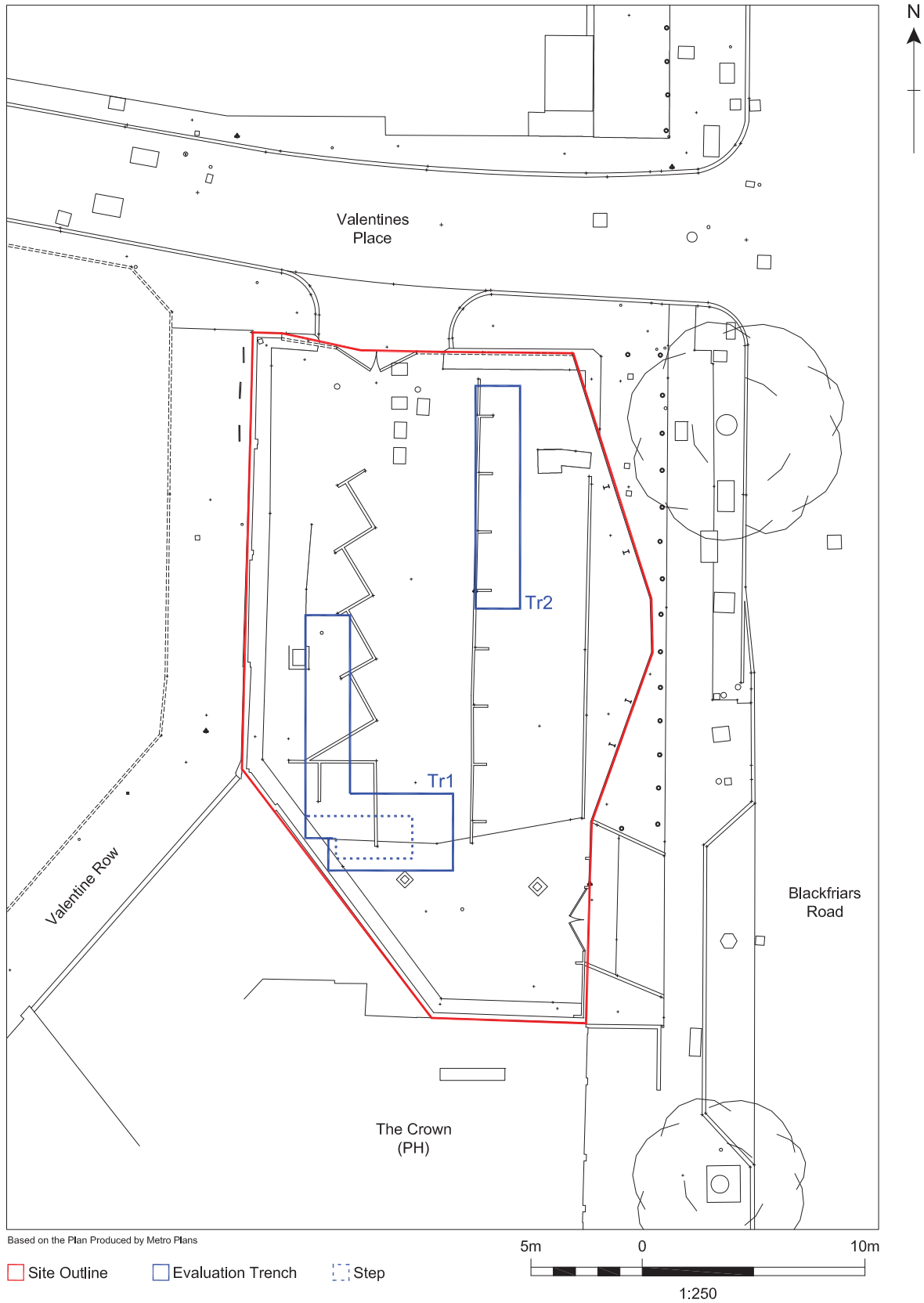


Figure 2: Detailed Site/Trench Location Plan

105 BLACKFRIARS ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK:
RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

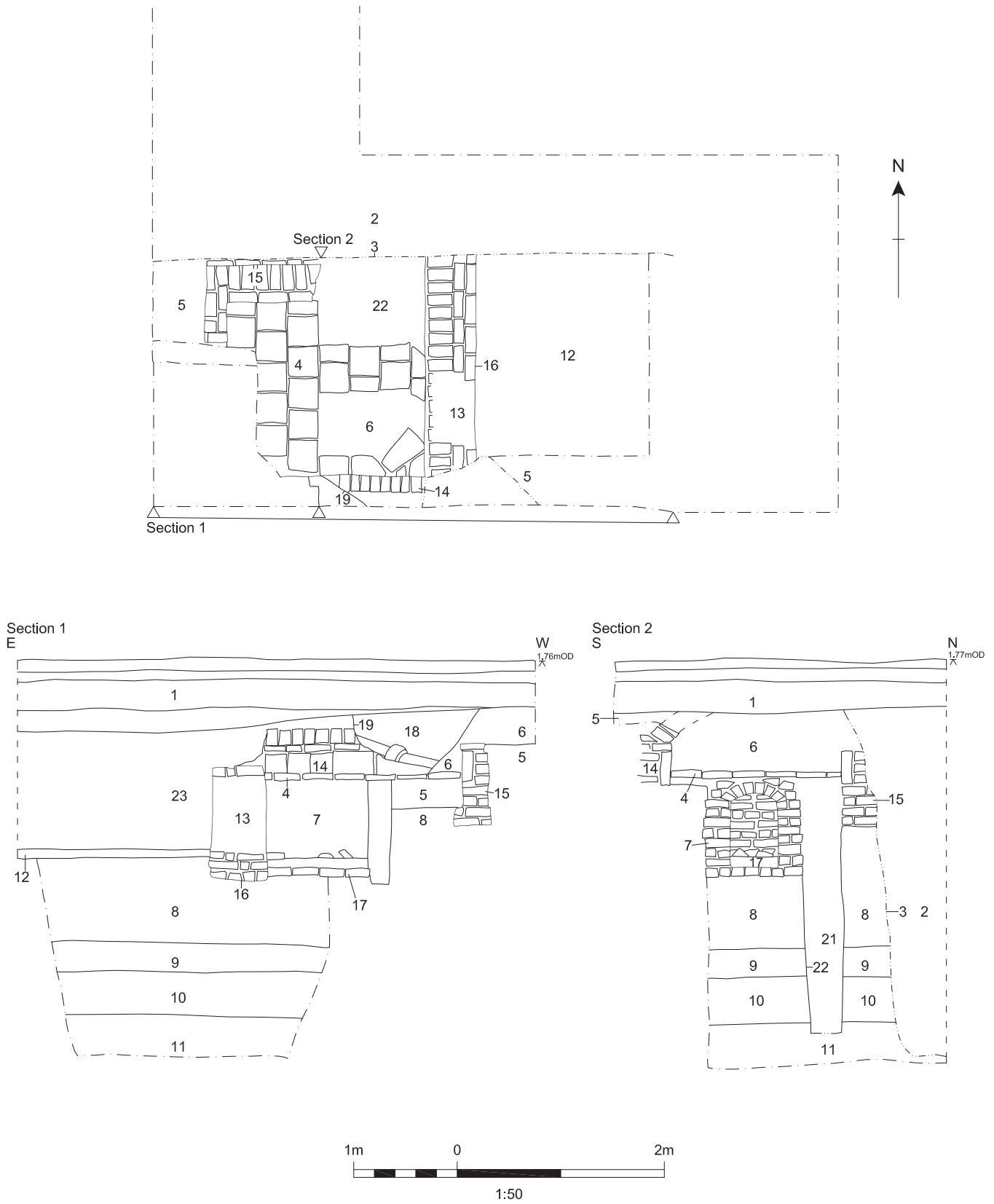


Figure 3: Trench 1: Plan and Sections

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1	Car park surface and hardcore	20m	12m	0.30m
2	Fill of [3]	18m	12m	3.60m
3	Modern truncation	18m	12m	3.60m
4	Tiled Floor	1.94m	1.74m	0.07m
5	Garden Soil	1.00m	0.60m	0.30m
6	Demolition deposit over [4]	1.94m	1.74m	0.22m
7	Culvert	1.50m	0.92m	0.95m
8	Post-medieval soil deposit	5.00m	2.00m	1.30m
9	Dark brown sandy silt	2.50m	2.00m	0.30m
10	Subsoil	2.50m	2.00m	0.41m
11	Terrace gravel	2.50m	2.00m	>0.30m
12	Basement floor slab	3.00m	2.00m	0.08m
13	Basement wall	2.00m	0.48m	1.20m
14	Wall with [4]	1.00m	0.36m	0.35m
15	Wall with [4]	1.00m	0.36m	0.22m
16	Cut for basement	3.00m	2.00m	1.20m
17	Culvert silt	1.50m	0.46m	0.10m
18	Drain and fill	2.00m	0.60m	0.50m
19	Cut for drain	2.00m	0.60m	0.50m
20	Toilet Block sub floor	2.00m	2.00m	0.30m
21	Fill of [22]	0.40m	0.40m	>3.00m
22	Borehole intrusion	0.40m	0.40m	>3.00m
23	Backfill of basement	3.00m	2.00m	1.40m

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-96754

Project details

Project name	105 Blackfriars Road
Short description of the project	Part of an early 19 th century cold store and a later basement were recorded at the south of the site, overlying naturally lain deposits. Most of the site had been truncated in the Post-war period.
Project dates	Start: 09-05-2011 End: 10-05-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BLK11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	BASEMENT Modern
Monument type	HOUSE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample 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 105 Blackfriars Road
Postcode	SE1 8HW
Study area	512.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 31615 79775 51.5010685564 -0.103573167532 51 30 03 N 000 06 12 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0.36m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Southwark Council
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Alan Ford
Project supervisor	Les Capon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Stiff & Trevillion Architects Ltd

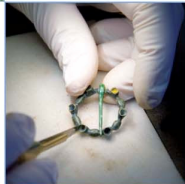
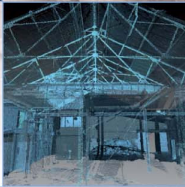
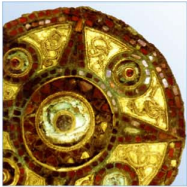
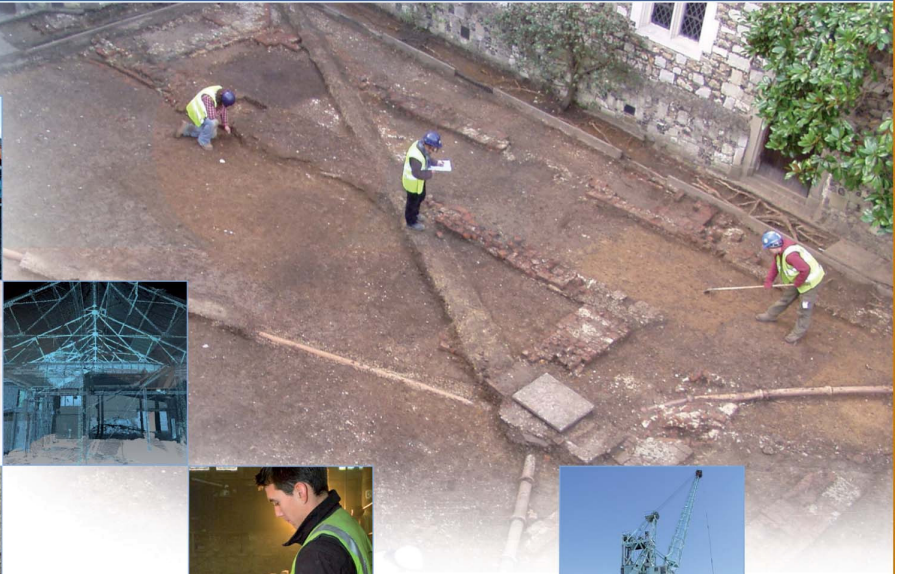
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London-LAARC
Digital Archive ID	BLK 11

Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
Digital Archive notes	Held at AOC until transfer
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London-LAARC
Paper Archive ID	BLK 11
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	Held at AOC until transfer

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	105 Blackfriars Road, London Borough Of Southwark: Report on an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Capon, L.
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	AOC
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	29 pages, 3 figures, 2 plates. A4
Entered by	les capon (les.capon@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	18 May 2011



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