



St Joseph's RC School, Bermondsey, Greater London

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Plate 2 Made ground above concrete slab

Plate 3 Modern drainage in concrete slab

Plate 4 Breaking out concrete slab in piling locations

Plate 5 Made ground underneath concrete slab

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at St Joseph's RC School, Bermondsey, Greater London, NGR 534088, 179601 to monitor the construction works of a new ICT suite in the northern part of the school grounds.

The site was an irregular parcel of land of approximately 4200 square metres, currently used as an outdoor play and picnic area. The footprint of the new building is approximately 11m x 8m.

The watching brief monitored the ground reduction to formation level for the proposed new building and the breaking out of the exposed concrete slab in the areas where 8 piling were excavated. The watching brief identified modern made ground deposits on site to a depth of 0.70m. The piles would have had limited impact to archaeological deposits should they have been preserved below this depth.

No archaeological finds or features were identified within the archaeological investigations.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Fairthorn Farrell Timms LLP, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Gillian King, Greater London Archaeological Advisor, who monitored the project for Southwark Council and to O'Reilly Builders for their co-operation and help on site.

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St Joseph's RC School, Bermondsey Greater London

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Fairthorn Farrell Timms LLP, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during below ground activities associated with the construction of a new building to be used as an ICT suite. The monitored works covered the monitoring of below ground activities within the footprint of the new building of approximately 11m by 8m, centred on NGR 534088, 179601, at St Joseph's RC School, Bermondsey, Greater London (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.1 The proposed work was undertaken as a condition of a planning application submitted to Southwark Council (16/AP/0158) in January 2016. Following revisions to the design of the school extension, this application was amended and resubmitted in October 2016 (16/AP/4459). The following conditions were placed upon the application 16/AP/0158:

Condition 4 *'Before any work hereby authorised begins, the applicant shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and archaeological watching brief, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'*

Reason: *In order that the details of the programme of works for the archaeological mitigation are suitable with regard to the impacts of the proposed development and the natures and extent of archaeological remains on site in accordance with Strategic Policy 12-Design and Conservation of The Core Strategy 2011, Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the South Plan 2007 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.'*

1.1.2 A slight variation to this condition omitting the words 'and archaeological watching brief' was placed upon the subsequent application (16/AP/4459), however after consultation with the archaeological advisor Gillian King it was confirmed that there was a requirement for an archaeological watching brief.

Condition 7 *'Within six months of the completion of the archaeological site works, an assessment report detailing the proposals for post-excavation works, publication of the site and preparation of the archive shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and that the works detailed in this assessment report shall not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with any such approval given.'*

Reason: *In order that the archaeological interests of the site are secured with regard to the details of the post-excavation works, publication and archiving to ensure the preservation of archaeological remains by record in accordance with*



Strategic Policy 12- Design and Conservation of the Core Strategy 2011, Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012. '

- 1.1.3 As the archaeological watching brief did not encounter any archaeological remains it was agreed with the Archaeological Advisor at GLAAS that a standard Archaeological Watching Brief report should be prepared.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2017). Gillian King, Greater London Archaeological Advisor approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken between the 25th July 2017 and 1st August 2017.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site comprises an irregular parcel of land of approximately 4200 square meters (m²), located 670m to the south east of Tower Bridge and 1km to the east of Borough. The northern limit of the site is c.250m south of the River Thames.
- 1.3.2 The site is currently occupied by St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School. The location of the proposed building was as an outdoor play/picnic area. The site is surrounded on all sides by residential development, consisting of a combination of modern developments and converted industrial buildings.
- 1.3.3 The site is situated within a relatively flat area of land at an elevation of approximately 7-8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Local topography slopes very gradually towards the River Thames, with much of the landscape levelled by human activity. The underlying bedrock geology throughout the site is mapped as Palaeogene Clay and Silt of the London Clay Formation, overlain to the north by Quaternary Alluvium, comprised of clay, silt, peat and sand (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been produced by Wessex Archaeology (2016) which investigated the known heritage resource within a 400m radius of the site. A summary of the assessment has been provided below;

Prehistoric

- 2.1.2 Throughout the prehistoric period, the River Thames followed a path to the south of its present course, with the peat formation common, before the Thames tidal head moved upstream to Westminster, depositing gravel layers. During this time the Thames was considerably wider, with a series of sand and gravel 'eyots' (islands) which formed from eroded sand and gravel deposits, with a series of water channels around them.



Fluctuating water levels meant that different areas were dry and wet throughout prehistory.

- 2.1.3 Evidence for Bronze Age to Iron Age farming has been found 120m to the north west, 240m to the west and 115m to the north of the site. One site contained a series of prehistoric ard marks, with evidence of multiple ploughing events. The ard is believed to have been made of wood and was used to break up the ground for cultivation. Small amounts of prehistoric pottery and flintwork were recovered during the excavation. Another site showed evidence of Bronze Age farming with ard marks and surviving plough soil, alongside evidence of flint knapping. A collection of stakeholes and daub with impressions of wattle suggests the possibility of a Bronze Age settlement in the area. More evidence of prehistoric farming and occupation was revealed to the south west of this, sealed beneath an alluvial deposit, indicating that the area was subject to inundation.
- 2.1.4 There is another concentration of records to the north west of St Saviours Dock. An evaluation 270m to the north west of the Site, consisting of a single 2.5m² trench containing several prehistoric cut features including an east-west gully and a shallow pit, which contained an *in-situ* pot. The pot was a reused storage jar, which had been repurposed as an oven. These features indicate an Iron Age settlement, with residual flints indicating an earlier Mesolithic or Neolithic presence.
- 2.1.5 A Neolithic flint scatter was recorded during an excavation 380m to the north west of the site, alongside prehistoric pottery and later remains. A worked red deer antler/bone artefact was recovered 300m to the north west of the site. A pit containing possible Iron Age/Romano-British pottery was excavated during an evaluation 350m to the north west of the site.
- 2.1.6 An Iron Age silt layer was discovered during an evaluation 310m to the north west of the site, however it was unclear if the pottery used to date the layer came from a feature or was deposited as part of an inundation event. Neolithic flint flakes, burnt flint and Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery, were recovered from a silted up stream channel directly west of this.
- 2.1.7 Residual Iron Age pottery was found on a Romano-British occupation site, 360m to the southwest of the site, directly north of an excavation, which revealed an Iron Age ditch and pits, providing more distinct evidence of Iron Age activity.
- 2.1.8 A collection of records to the north of the site contain evidence of a peat deposit dated to the Bronze Age, primarily present approximately 3m below ground level (bgl). An evaluation 190m to the north of the Site, which contained evidence of this peat deposit, concluded that the Thames foreshore during the Neolithic was located roughly along the alignment of Jacob Street. An evaluation 210m to the north of the Site contained prehistoric deposits dating to the Mesolithic/Neolithic and Iron Age.
- 2.1.9 Evidence of transient activity such as livestock herding was recorded during an evaluation 290m to the south of the site, consisting of a single flint sherd and some abraded pottery. Several ditches that were believed to be part of a single curvilinear ditch were found during an evaluation 320m to the south of the site. These were considered Iron Age or Early Romano-British in date and contained several residual Bronze Age worked flints.
- 2.1.10 A worked Bronze Age log was discovered during an evaluation 390m to the west of the site, presumed to have been abandoned in transit, with no related context. A single timber, dated to the prehistoric period and believed to be evidence of woodland, was

recorded 240m to the northeast of the site. A Bronze Age dagger/halberd head is recorded as being discovered 340m to the northeast of the site.

- 2.1.11 Several records on the Thames Foreshore Survey have been dated to the prehistoric period including two timber structures 320m to the north east of the site, gravel deposits and silt and peat deposits containing animal bone, worked flint and other artefacts.

Romano-British

- 2.1.12 There is evidence for the Romano-British period within the 400m Study Area. An evaluation 320m to the north east of the site revealed ploughsoil and a sequence of timbers in two main linear structures with wattle hurdling between the timbers. This was interpreted as possible evidence of Romano-British water management, although a single worked flint blade was also found.
- 2.1.13 An iron padlock dating to the Romano-British period was found 120m to the north of the site during the construction of the South Eastern Railway in 1847. Samian pottery and coins dating to the reigns of the Emperors Claudius and Vespasian were found during the construction of a Sewer in 1845, 180m to the east of the site. A pit was found during an evaluation 100m to the east of the site. The pit had been truncated by later 19th century works and contained finds dating to the 1st century AD, including a substantial animal bone assemblage and a mortarium, which resulted in the pit being interpreted as a possible ritual deposit.
- 2.1.14 Residual pottery consistent with an area of marginal activity was recovered during an evaluation 280m southeast of the site, directly north of the previously mentioned possible Iron Age/Romano-British ditches. Further ditches overlain by an alluvial deposit containing Romano-British and medieval artefacts were recorded during an evaluation and subsequent excavation 350m to the south of the site. A watching brief 340m to the west of the site revealed a single possible Romano-British cut feature.
- 2.1.15 To the north west of St Saviours Dock, three sites all contained evidence of Romano-British activity in a landscape prone to regular flooding events. One contained a number of cut features, one of which contained an early Romano-British penannular brooch. A recut north east/south west aligned drainage ditch was recorded during an excavation 360m to the north west of the site, indicating further attempts to manage the landscape in the Romano-British period. Several iron needles and a part of a flute were recovered from Butlers Wharf 300m to the north east of the site. A water channel discovered during an evaluation 350m to the southwest of the site recorded finds dating from as early as the Iron Age through to the 18th century when it was backfilled and levelled.

Anglo-Saxon

- 2.1.16 Anglo-Saxon evidence within the Study Area is extremely limited, with only one GLHER entry containing a definitive date. This may be the result of significant decline in the occupation of Southwark and the Romano-British city of *Londinium* after the Roman withdrawal in the 5th century AD (www.britannia.com Accessed: 14/03/2016).
- 2.1.17 A large timber was found resting against a wattle structure during an evaluation in 1986 330m to the northeast of the site, possibly representing a revetment.
- 2.1.18 All other entries that may relate to this period on the GLHER consist of 'implied evidence'. Specifically, these entries refer to archaeological remains pertaining to periods both before and after the Anglo-Saxon period, with the implication of sustained activity of some

form. For example, during an evaluation 350m to the southwest of the site, a 'large channel running alongside the neckinger was discovered'. This channel is described as containing evidence dating to 'as early as the Iron Age, before being backfilled and levelled in the 18th century'. The wording implies evidence from through the intervening time period, but stops short of confirming their presence.

- 2.1.19 An excavation 280m to the north west of the site found evidence of a series of flooding events starting in the late Iron Age and continuing until the 16th-17th century. This could provide a further explanation as to why there is a distinct lack of Anglo-Saxon evidence in an area that still contained a major trading settlement to the west.
- 2.1.20 Bermondsey is mentioned in the Domesday Book as having a very large population of 72 households, 8 'ploughlands', 5 plough teams, woodland, 5 swine renders and a church in 1066 (opendomesday.org). This indicates that the area was heavily occupied at the end of the Anglo-Saxon period. However due to the changing path of the Thames it is possible that parts if not all of the Study Area was largely submerged during this time.

Medieval

- 2.1.21 A 15th century timber waterfront primarily constructed from reused timbers, from clinker built boats, was recorded during an evaluation 330m to the north east of the site. Late medieval/post-medieval dumping was revealed associated with a revetment of similar date during a watching brief 240m to the north of the site.
- 2.1.22 A possible medieval moated site mentioned in Oliver Twist is recorded 170m to the north of the site. The Knights of Saint John, also known as the Knights Hospitaller, had a towered hall located 300m to the north west of the site. This tower was mentioned in a Heritage Statement for Shad Thames Pumping Station as being a medieval manor, also known as 'Knights Manor' (Thames Water 2013). Chalk foundations for two buildings located near the medieval St Saviour's Mill were revealed during an evaluation and excavation 180m to the north of the site and were interpreted as being associated with the mill rather than the mill itself, possibly storage sheds or the miller's residence. St Saviours was owned by the Cluniac monks of Bermondsey Abbey (Saxby 2012), who also owned a windmill recorded as being approximately 240m to the southwest of the site; however its true location is uncertain.
- 2.1.23 Medieval pottery was recovered during an evaluation 340m to the north west of the site from a subsoil layer. The site was interpreted as being part of Horselydown Common, which was used as communal grazing land until the 18th century, but which existed from at least 1514 (Corner 1858). An extensive medieval/post-medieval tannery was recorded during an excavation on the north side of Queen Elizabeth Street 360m to the north west of the site.
- 2.1.24 Two distinct phases of medieval activity centred on a north/south aligned channel were identified during an excavation 220m to the northeast of the site. The first phase consisted of a series of east/west orientated stakeholes, which were interpreted as relating to a weir or fish traps and a contemporary bed of large chalk blocks, possibly relating to a barge bed. The second phase consisted of the deliberate damming of the channel, with wooden beams, tiebacks and wattling used to contain an infill of redeposited clay, which appeared to have been used as the foundation of a clay embankment that served as a river defence.



2.1.25 Alluvial layers containing medieval artefacts were located during an archaeological investigation 360m to the south of the site. Flooding events and finds contained within a water channel both imply medieval evidence without specifically stating they are present.

Post-medieval

2.1.26 There are extensive post-medieval records within the Study Area, primarily in the northern half of the Study Area. In the southern half of the Study Area the post-medieval evidence seems to primarily relate to farming activity consisting of field boundaries and horticulture, gradually shifting towards residential development in the 18th century. A collection of postholes discovered during an evaluation 310m to the southeast of the Site were interpreted as possible temporary structures associated with Bermondsey Spa.

2.1.27 A former town hall is located on Spa Road, 370m to the southwest of the Site. A possible channel of the River Neckinger was backfilled in the 18th century 350m to the southwest of the Site south of a single 18th century pit.

2.1.28 Evidence of river management and channelling is recorded throughout the northern half of the Study Area. To the north west of the site is St Saviours dock (previously Savorys Dock), which was originally a tidal creek serving Bermondsey Abbey, which was developed, into a dock in the 17th century. It is also the exit of the modern Neckinger River, whose name derives from its relationship to the hanging of pirates, possibly derived from the 'devil's neckcloth', a colloquial term for a noose (Hibbert 2008). Imported materials, including Spanish olive jars and German jettons, discovered during an excavation 260m to the north west of the site indicate that much of the early activity was related to the dock, with a timber frame likely representing a dockside wharf.

2.1.29 A channel discovered during an excavation 250m to the west of the site, which is mentioned in 17th century documents revealed traces of a revetment of the same period, indicating water management. It is possible that this represented a natural channel that was subject to human management in the post-medieval period, much like the River Neckinger is 100% managed today. A timber waterfront was revealed in excavations 280m to the north west of the site.

2.1.30 A shallow pit was discovered during a very small evaluation 290m to the west of the site. Post-medieval drainage channels were found during an excavation 290m to the north west of the site, with evidence of large scale 18th century redevelopment of the site, with dumps of material and industrial waste deposited to raise the land above the flooding horizon, and a series of brick buildings with associated drainage and cess pits. Further land reclamation was discovered during a related evaluation to directly north, a watching brief 390m north west of the site and during an evaluation 320m to the north west of the site, which also contained evidence of 18th century residential housing.

2.1.31 Industrial activity is also prevalent within the Study Area. An evaluation 100m to the north of the site revealed an industrial landscape comprising evidence of pottery manufacturing, alongside imported Dutch pottery, which could indicate nearby affluent housing. This site was prone to flooding from the prehistoric period, a risk that is evidenced by drainage present after the site was reoccupied in the 17th century. An excavation 220m to the north east of the site revealed post-medieval ground levelling followed by the construction of brick, cellared buildings most likely associated with the development of the post-medieval wharfage. The remains of a substantial 18th century warehouse were recorded during a building survey in 2008, 250m to the north west of the site.



- 2.1.32 Post-medieval features including pits, a well/cesspit and a water feature were revealed during an evaluation 100m to the east of the site. To the north a further evaluation revealed extensive evidence of drainage channels, revetted with timber revetments, used to drain the land, with timber structures. A large channel, probably naturally occurring, was revealed during an evaluation 150m to the north of the site that had been backfilled in the post-medieval period, with the ground level raised to allow for industrial development. Evidence for post-medieval structures was found during an evaluation 220m to the north of the site.
- 2.1.33 Watercourses that defined Jacobs Island were dug in the 17th century, linked to the Thames and probably included millstreams and a branch of the River Neckinger. The medieval mill continued in use, with five separate phases of timber revetment, constructed from reused clinker boat planks, recorded during an evaluation 180m to the north of the site.
- 2.1.34 The Thames Foreshore Survey recorded extensive post-medieval remains, primarily relating to timber structures (such as revetments), mooring blocks and loose planks, along with pottery, boats and other assorted finds.
- 19th Century (AD 1800-1900) and Modern (AD 1900-present day)*
- 2.1.35 Extensive 19th and 20th century industrial, commercial and river management evidence is recorded at several locations along the Thames bank within the Study Area to the north and northeast of the site.
- 2.1.36 St James' Churchyard 220m to the southeast of the site was laid out as a garden in 1886. A substantial 19th century tannery was revealed in its entirety by an archaeological investigation 360m to the south of the site. Many of the tannery buildings were partially demolished and reused at the start of the 20th century during the foundation of a Salvation Army Colony. A fellmongers yard was located 390m to the west of the site during the 19th century.
- 2.1.37 19th century domestic waste was recorded during an evaluation 20m to the east of the site, sealing the previously discussed Bronze Age peat layer. Georgian and Victorian building foundations were found during an evaluation 170m to the south of the site, directly east of eight tanning pits and two probably associated lime tanks found during a separate evaluation. An evaluation 280m to the south of the site uncovered extensive evidence of 19th century residential terraces, including several cess and rubbish pits containing a rich assemblage of mass-produced household ceramics. Further foundations associated with these 19th century terraces were revealed in an evaluation to the east, 300m to the southeast of the site.
- 2.1.38 Post-medieval occupation to the north west of the site continued into the 19th century, with all buildings later demolished and the land levelled in the 20th century. 19th century cellared buildings were excavated west and north west of the site. A small brewery and stone yard, both operating in 1872 and since redeveloped, are located 340m southwest and 370m west of the Site.
- 2.1.39 The streams related to the previously mentioned medieval moated site referenced in Oliver Twist were built over in 1850 after a major cholera outbreak, evidence of which was found during excavations 180m north of the site. A Roman Catholic burial ground on land given in 1833 is present 70m to the west of the site.



- 2.1.40 The Princess Club was a 19th century building 250m to the south east of the site, which was added two and repurposed during the First World War to serve as a military hospital. The remains of a WWII Anderson shelter were discovered during an evaluation 310m to the south of the site along with 19th century building remains.
- 2.1.41 The Study Area, particularly the southern half, was subject to considerable bombardment during the London Blitz, with multiple severely damaged and destroyed buildings. The southern half of the site was used as a clearance area during this period (Saunders 2005).
- 2.1.42 While 20th century records within the Study Area are fairly limited, it is clear that there has been extensive development and redevelopment since 1900, as seen during the site visit and by the development of Bermondsey Underground station 400m to the south east of the Site, which was opened in 1999 (Horne 2000). Modern surfaces were recorded during an evaluation 280m to the south of the site.

Undated and Negative

- 2.1.43 There are a large number of undated records from the Thames Foreshore Survey, including possible shipworking evidence, geological deposits and timber structures. There was also a single negative watching brief 250m to the west of the Site, with the site having previously been tested in order to avoid neighbouring Bronze Age deposits.

Map Regression

- 2.1.44 Historic mapping is available for the site from the start of the post-medieval period. The 1553-1559 'Plan of London as in Elizabeth's (the first) Days' indicates that the site is probably unoccupied. The 1741-45 Rocque Map of London shows some form of ordered usage of the site, perhaps as a market garden or as an open space. The 1784 Hogg map is less detailed, mostly showing the road layout. The 1799 Horwood map shows the site within what appears to be an empty field or meadow, with a line of terraced housing to the north along George Row. The mid-18th century maps show extensive development throughout the Bermondsey waterfront.
- 2.1.45 Between the 1799 and 1820 Horwood maps show a row of terraced houses were built within the Site along George Row, continuing the building sequence seen on the 1799 map. Several other buildings have been built within the site. Due to their size, and the industrial nature of the Bermondsey waterfront at this time, it is possibly that these represent industrial buildings or warehouses, possibly a precursor to the industrial complex. On the 1872 Ordnance Survey (OS) map these other buildings appear to have all been removed and replaced by a curriery (tannery) complex, with one long building located within the approximate location of the hallway of the proposed extension. The tannery complex forms part of an extensive leather industry in Bermondsey, possibly dating as far back as the medieval period, with a royal charter granted in 1703 making Bermondsey the major leatherworking centre of London (Weinreb and Hibbert 1983).
- 2.1.46 The 1872 OS map also shows a new terraced development within the northern part of the site, with at least two properties on the new Virginia Row, with associated gardens and a possible further structure located with the main area of the proposed extension. The tannery building appears to have been demolished by 1894-1896 OS map but otherwise the site is unchanged until the 1914 OS map, which shows the original school building, as shown on the 1919-21 OS map. At this stage the school was only present in the northern half of the site, with terraced housing and a surviving tannery building present in the southern half of the site until sometime prior to the 1949-50 map.



- 2.1.47 The terraces that once surrounded the site have been removed by 1949 and, replaced with large residential complexes, such as the 'Dickens Estate' to the north. This may represent redevelopment of the area after damage caused by the London Blitz in 1940 and 1941, although the London Bomb Damage Map indicates that one of the three buildings making up this estate was itself heavily damaged in the blitz.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and as defined in the ClfA' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record all archaeological features revealed during the fieldwork;
- establish a broad phased plan of the archaeology revealed during the fieldwork;
- investigate the function of any structural remains and the activities taking place within and close to the Site to identify, expose, plan and investigate the archaeological resource within a framework of defined aims;
- seek a better understanding of the said archaeological resource; and
- determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence where development is proposed.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The watching brief monitored the ground reduction to formation level for the proposed new building and the breaking out of the exposed concrete slab in the areas where piling was to be carried out.
- 4.2.2 The ground reduction was carried out using a 360 degree tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. Breaking out of hardstanding areas was achieved with a toothed bucket where needed and the breaking out of the concrete slab was achieved by using a hydraulic pecker tool (**Plate 4**).
- 4.2.3 The footprint of the proposed building measured approximately 11m x 8m and the eight areas for the piling measured 1m x 1m each (**Appendix 3**).



4.2.4 Where necessary, the surface was cleaned by hand to ensure the identification of archaeological features, however, no archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief

4.2.5 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval.

Recording

4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.7 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed a quality control and curation process, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Gillian King, Greater London Archaeological Advisor, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the watching brief.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 There were no archaeological features or deposits revealed during the watching brief, the site had been subjected to a levelling event and the level built up with deposits of made ground containing building rubble (**Plates 1 - 5**).

5.1.2 Across the whole extent of the monitored area was a concrete slab, approximately 0.3m in thickness. This slab extended outside the footprint of the new building (**Plate 2**). The slab was sealed by a made ground layer that formed the base of the outdoor play/picnic area (**Plates 1 – 2**).

5.1.3 The concrete slab had modern drainage present towards its southern extent (**Plate 3**).

5.1.4 The positions of the piling were marked out and the concrete slab broken out in these areas to show that below the slab was a further layer or layers of a made ground (**Plate 4**).



5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The watching brief showed that a soil sequence of a dark brown made ground with abundant fragments of modern brick, glass and plastic of undetermined thickness was sealed by a 0.30m thick layer of reinforced concrete. This was overlain by 0.40m of a made ground of building debris. This was in turn sealed by a layer of paving slabs or to the east, topsoil.
- 5.2.2 No archaeological finds or features were recorded throughout the archaeological investigation on site.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The results of the watching brief encountered made ground to a depth of at least 0.70m in the location of the new building. This is consistent with the site being in a location subject to heavy aerial bombardment during WWII, and subsequent redevelopment of the surrounding areas.
- 6.1.2 The made ground is composed of an abundant mixture of concrete, brick, glass, plastic and building rubble that is consistent with post war demolition/levelling layers.
- 6.1.3 The presence of a reinforced concrete slab at formation level precluded the further investigation into lower lying layers beneath it (**Plate 5**). The formation level of the new building was the same depth as the concrete slab. The only impact into potential archaeological horizons was from the eight driven piles.
- 6.1.4 The archaeological watching brief has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives of the specification. The results of the watching brief revealed that made ground existed at the site to a depth of at least 0.70m below ground level. If there are any lower lying archaeological remains present onsite, with the exception of the eight driven piles, any potential archaeology should be reasonably preserved in situ.

7 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Maidstone. London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **GER17**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

7.2 Preparation of the archive

- 7.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by LAARC, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **accession code GER17**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics



7.3 Selection policy

7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

7.4 Security copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

7.5 OASIS

7.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

8 COPYRIGHT

8.1 Archive and report copyright

8.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

8.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

8.2 Third party data copyright

8.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



REFERENCES

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Wessex Archaeology 2017 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished report ref. 112641.01



APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|----------------------|
| 101 | Layer | | Grass/topsoil. Outdoor play/picnic area for school | 0.00–0.10 |
| 102 | Layer | | Paving slabs. Outdoor play/picnic area for school | 0.08-0.10 |
| 103 | Layer | | Made ground. Abundant concrete fragments, brick fragments, plastic, glass fragments. Levelling layer? | 0.10-0.40 |
| 104 | Layer | | Reinforced concrete slab. Purpose unknown. | 0.40-0.70 |
| 105 | Layer | | Made ground. Common concrete fragments, brick fragments, plastic, glass fragments. Unknown depth. | 0.70+ |

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Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-292179

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | St Joseph's RC School, Bermondsey |
| Short description of the project | Archaeological watching brief undertaken in accordance with a planning condition to monitor the groundwork in association with the construction of a new building to be used as an ICT suite. |
| Project dates | Start: 25-07-2017 End: 01-08-2017 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 112641 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | GER17 - Museum accession ID |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | Conservation Area |
| Current Land use | Community Service 1 - Community Buildings |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |
| Prompt | 16/AP/0158 |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK St Joseph's RC School |
| Postcode | SE16 4UP |
| Study area | 88 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 534088 179601 50.94007311947 0.183765774136 50 56 24 N 000 11 01 E Point |

Project creators



Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator Fairthorn Farrell Timms LLP
Project design originator Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager Mark Williams
Project director/manager Marie Kelleher
Project supervisor Mark Denyer
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Paper Archive recipient London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre
Paper Archive ID GER17
Paper Media available "Diary", "Photograph", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

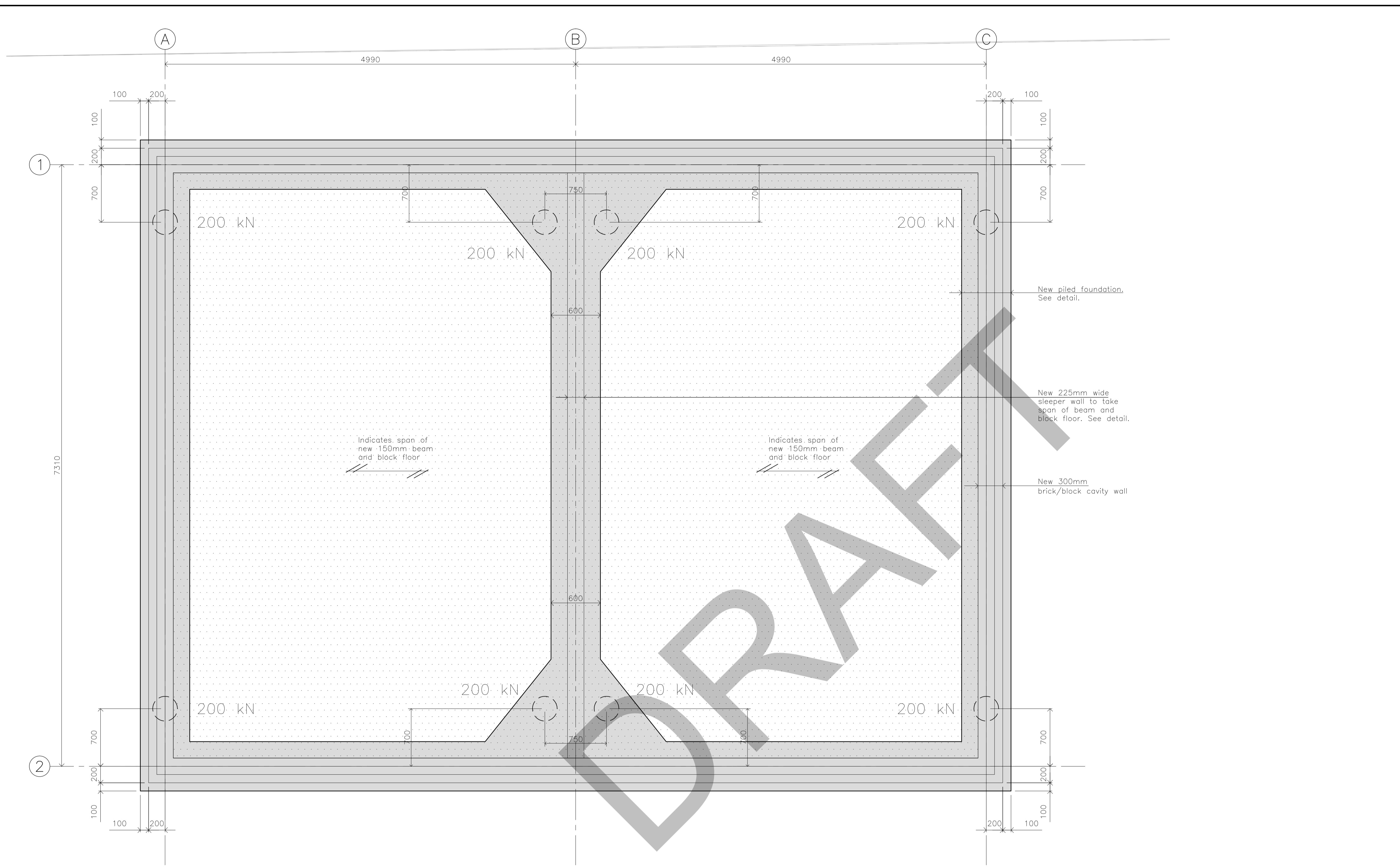
Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title St Joseph's RC School. Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s) Denyer. M
Other bibliographic details 112641.03
Date 2017
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication Maidstone
Description Report detailing the results of an archaeological watching brief. Grey literature report.

Entered by Mark Denyer (m.denyer@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on 7 August 2017

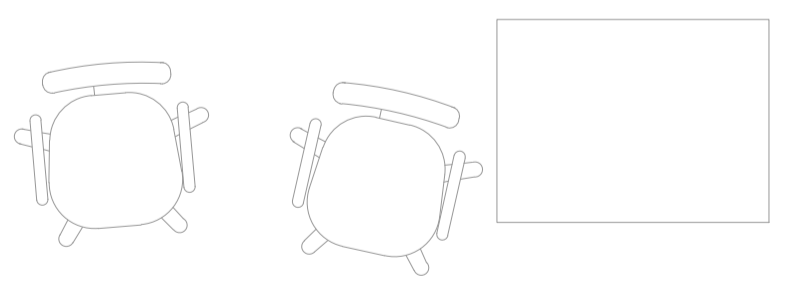


Appendix 3: Foundation Plan

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FOUNDATION PLAN
1:25



300 dia CFA piles for working load 100–300kN as indicated. Design sulphate class DS-3 and ACEC of AC-3. Average length may be assumed to be 15m but tendering contractor to indicate extra cost for 20m

- GENERAL NOTES:
1. This drawing is copyright (C).
 2. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant drawings and specifications.
 3. This drawing shall not be scaled: use only figured dimensions. All dimensions are shown in millimetres and levels in metres above OS Datum.
 4. Dimensions and conditions shall be verified on site. Any discrepancies between this drawing and site conditions shall be brought to the attention of the Engineer for resolution prior to placing orders or construction.
 5. All work shall comply with the Building Regulations and the requirements of the Local Authority, current Codes of practice and British Standards.
 6. Dimensions indicated thus: *are to be confirmed on site.
 7. For remainder of notes see drg no.H****/**.
 8. Concrete for ground beams to be FND 2 to BS 8500.2:2015

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----------|-------|------|
| B | Updated drawing | IS | 04.07.17 | GN | GN |
| A | Updated to suit latest layout | AF | 07.02.17 | GN | GN |
| Rev | Description | By | Date | Chk'd | Auth |

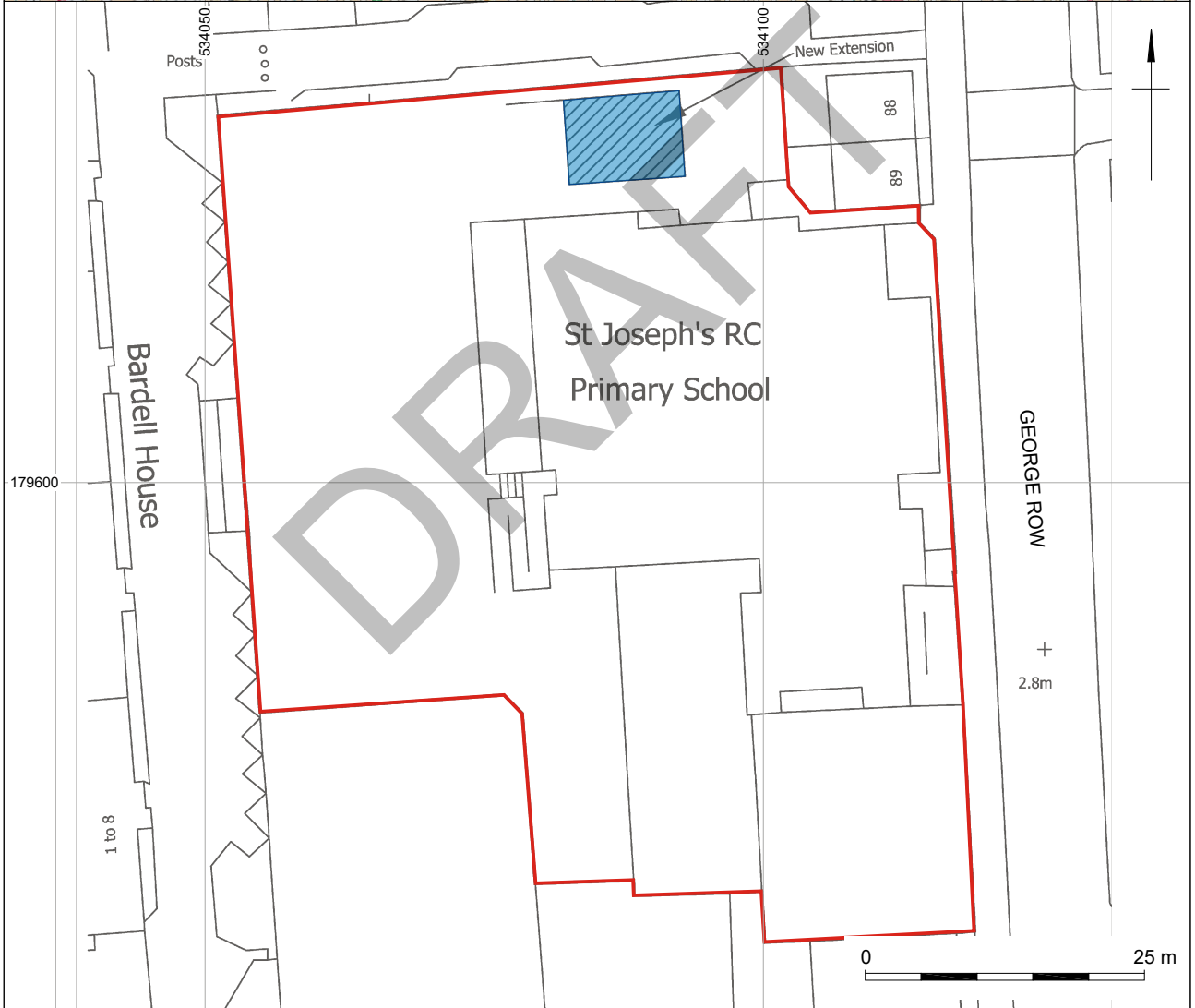
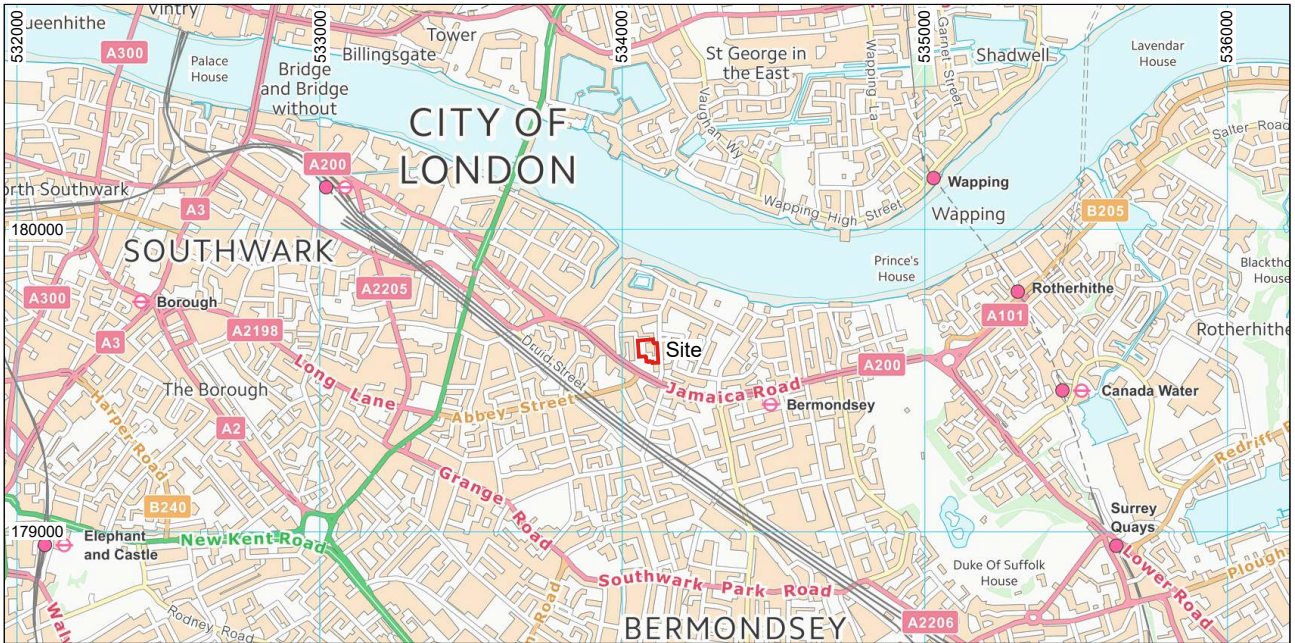
MARKS HEELEY
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Client
ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

Project
**ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
 GEORGE ROW, LONDON
 SE16 4UP**

Title
**PROPOSED
 FOUNDATION PLAN**

| | | | | |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sheet Size | Original Scale | Designed/Drawn | Checked | Authorised |
| A1 | 1:25 | JB | JC | JC |
| Status | Drawing Number | Date | Date | Date |
| P | H11021-01 | 11.12.15 | 11.12.15 | 11.12.15 |
| | | | | Rev |
| | | | | B |



| | | | |
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| | Scale: 1:625 @ A4 | Illustrator: | ALS |
| Path: R:\PROJECTS\112641\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2017_08_08\112641WB.dwg | | | |

Site location and plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Made ground under grassed picnic area



Plate 2: Made ground above concrete slab


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|---|---|---|------------------|-----|
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Plate 3: Modern drainage in concrete slab



Plate 4: Breaking out concrete slab in piling locations



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Plate 5: Made ground under concrete slab

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