

**An Archaeological Watching Brief during Chamber
works on Dover Road, Shooters Hill, Greenwich,
SE18 3DH**

Site Code: SHO12
NGR (centre): TQ 4375 7646

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February 2012

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An Archaeological Watching Brief during Chamber works on Dover Road, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, SE18 3DH

This document forms a summary of a watching brief which took place between 11th and the 13th of January 2012 on the eastern pavement at the junction of Dover Road and Cleanthus Road, Shooters Hill, the London Borough of Greenwich. The work entailed excavating a trial pit over the existing cast-iron water main to ascertain its condition. The groundwork was undertaken by MGJV on behalf of Thames Water.

The watching brief was carried out during contractors groundworks in line with a WSI produced by Compass Archaeology (this report should be read in conjunction with the WSI which provides an historic background to the site). The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards for Archaeological Work*, July 2009) and to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). The site record will be deposited within the Museum of London Archive under the code SHO12. A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended to this report using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

The pit was located on the corner of Dover Road and Cleanthus Road, outside the boundary fence of the Shooters Hill Water Tower. It measured 1.2m long by 0.6m wide and was excavated by hand to a depth of 1.45m. Its location, directly over the existing trunk main, meant that the underlying stratigraphy had been severely disturbed in the relatively recent past, and no *in situ* deposits of archaeological significance were observed. Approximately 950mm below the current ground level *in situ* natural was exposed, (Context 5), which was formed of striking orange-grey clay-silt containing frequent flint gravels. The surviving natural was confined to the extreme east of the pit, having been truncated by various cuts for the insertion of previous pipe trenches. These cuts were allocated context number [4] and contained several cast iron pipes aligned N-S and E-W across the pit and backfilled within a loose dark-grey / brown silty-clay containing frequent gravels, (Context 3). The backfilled content of the service trenches was sealed beneath up to 600mm of strong-brown / orange silty-clay containing frequent medium sized rounded flint gravels, CBM fragments and roots, (Context 2). In the light of the similarity in composition with context (5), context (2) was interpreted as redeposited natural backfilled within the original Victorian mains water trench. The uppermost stratigraphy comprised a bed of concrete up to 170mm thick, under 30mm of tarmac, representing the current pavement, (Context 1).

Two residual sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from spoil in the base of the pit, within context (5). These included 1 body sherd of burnished shell-tempered ware from a closed vessel and a base sherd from a fine oxidised sandy ware vessel. The former had some sooting on the exterior, suggestive of having been used over a fire. As neither sherd was diagnostic, it makes dating problematic. However, the fabrics suggest an earlier Roman date of *c.* AD43-150¹.

¹ Pottery analysis by Katie Anderson of ABCeramics

No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed during the groundworks, and this is unsurprising considering its location immediately over the existing trunk main. Such activity would have likely destroyed or at least heavily truncated any earlier deposits. Elsewhere within the immediate surrounding area earlier deposits may still survive *in situ*, and this has been shown to be the case during watching briefs by MoLA in 1995, and the identification of an Iron Age industrial site by the Time Team on nearby Eaglesfield Road, 1997.



Fig.1: *General location shot of chamber excavated on corner of Cleanthus Road, (left of frame), and Dover road, (foreground). Facing N*

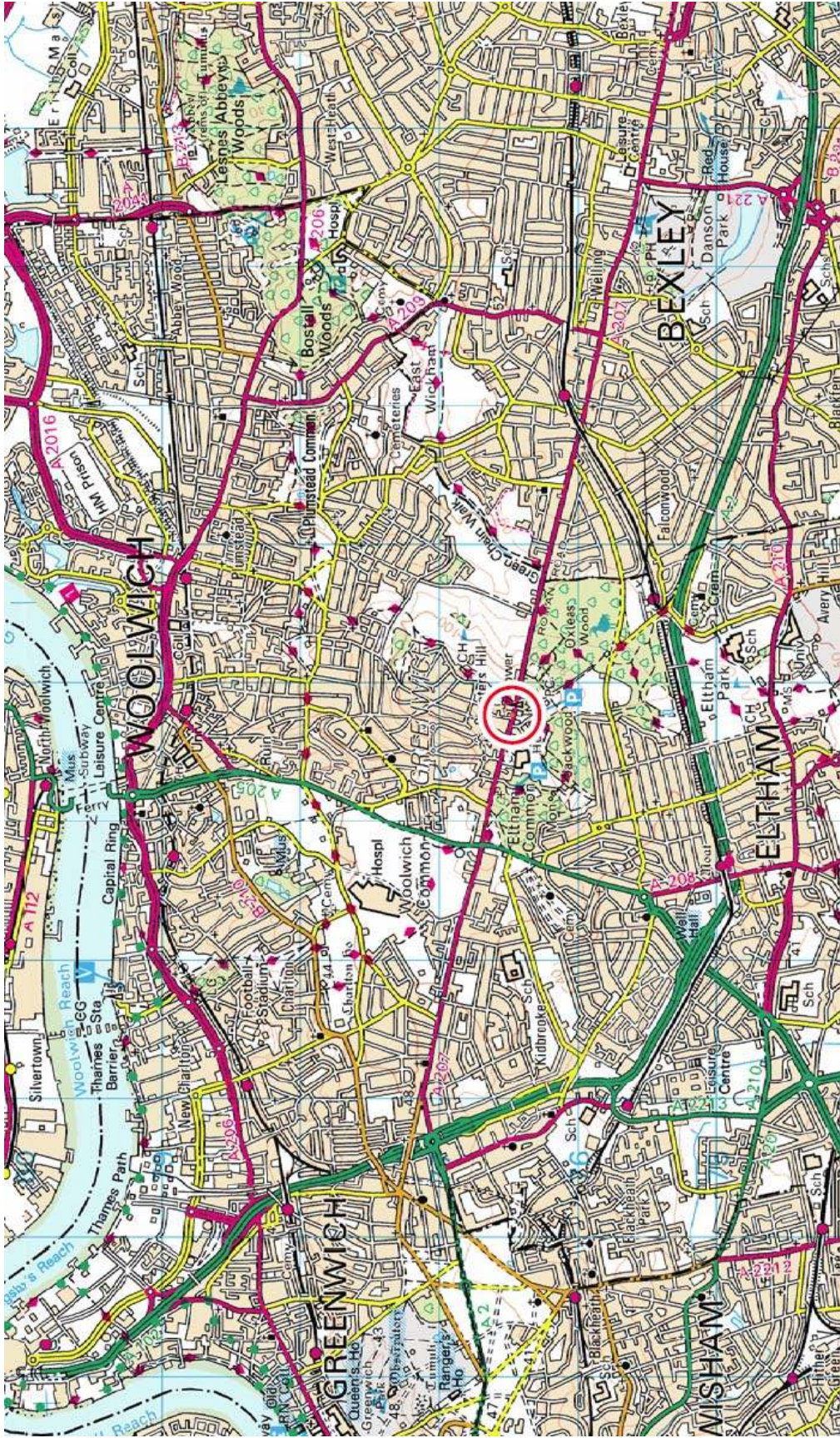


Fig.2: Wider location map of site, provided by Thames Water. (Reproduced from OS data with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO. ©Crown Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd., licence no. AL 100031317)

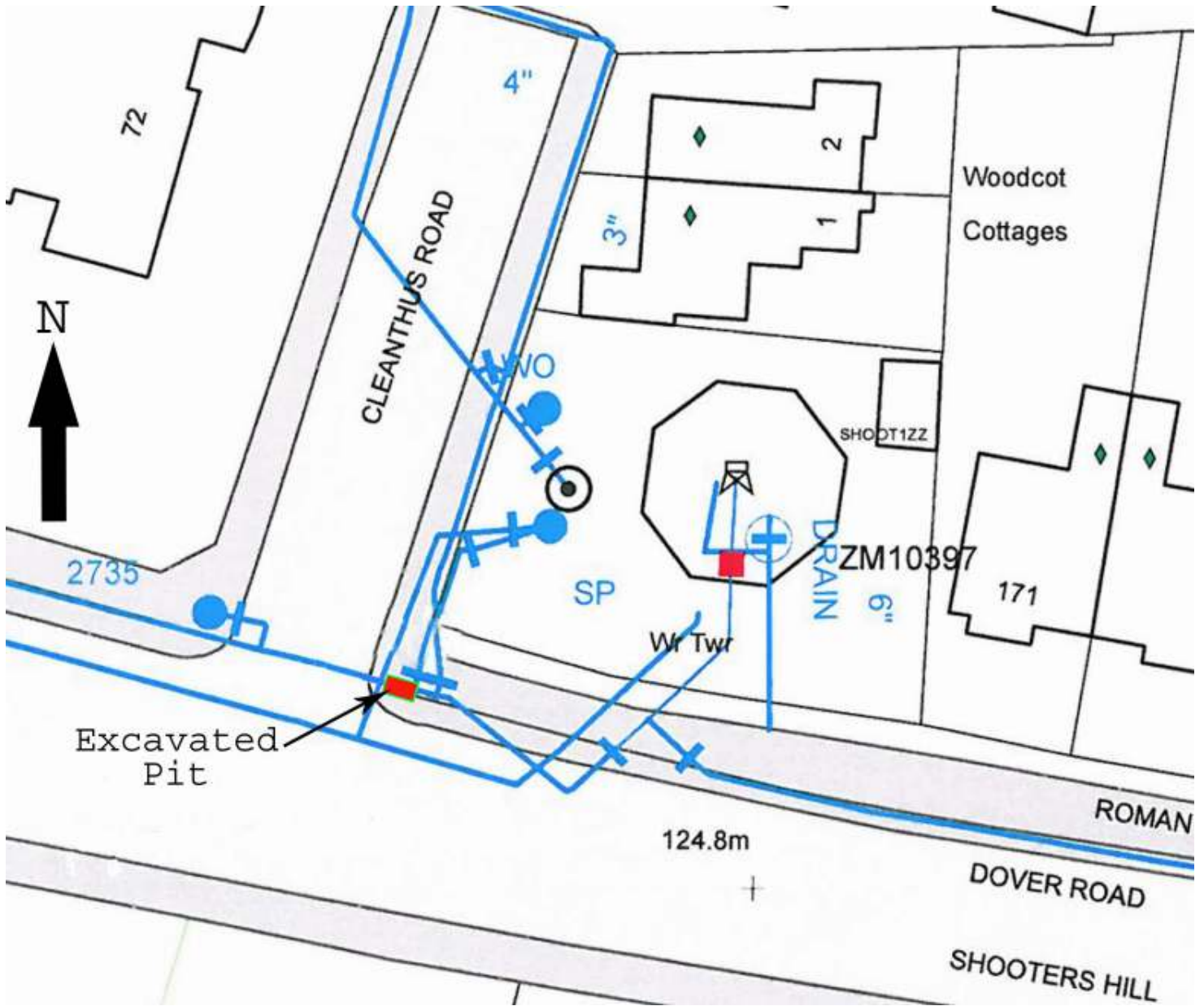


Fig.3: Location plan of excavated chamber pit. Modified from plan provided by Thames Water and used in WSI. (Scale 1:300)



Fig.4: Section through finished pit, facing E. Exposed natural, (5), in base; pipe trench backfill, (3), above; and redeposited natural / backfill, (2), towards top of frame



Fig.5: Finished pit, facing W and showing previous cast-iron pipes within trench; the uppermost buried within concrete

Appendix I: OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: compassa1-119225

Project details

Project name	Thames Water Inspection Chamber, Dover road, Shooters Hill, Greenwich
Short description of the project	A watching brief took place between 11th and the 13th of January 2012 on the eastern pavement on the junction of Dover Road and Cleanthus Road, Shooters Hill, the London Borough of Greenwich. The work entailed excavating a trial pit over the existing cast iron water main in order to ascertain its condition. The pit measured 1.2m long by 0.6m wide and was hand excavated up to a depth of 1.45m. Its location, directly over the existing trunk main, meant that the underlying stratigraphy had been severely disturbed in the relatively recent past, and no in situ deposits of archaeological significance were observed. In situ natural, orange, gravel deposits were observed from 0.95m below the current ground level, overlain by existing pipe trench back-fill and redeposited natural. Two residual sherds of romano-british pottery, dated to AD43-150, were recovered from the basal gravels.
Project dates	Start: 11-01-2012 End: 13-01-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SHO12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POT SHERDS X2 Roman
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON GREENWICH GREENWICH Dover Road, Shooter's Hill
Postcode	SE18 3DH
Study area	0.72 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 43750 76465 50.9371053201 0.188483855080 50 56 13 N 000 11 18 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.95m Max: 1.45m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Contractor
Name of sponsor/funding body	MGJV

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'other'

Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Survey', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Drawing', 'Plan', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief during Chamber works on Dover Road, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, SE18 3DH
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street
Description	Short report of the results of the watching brief. Includes details of the methodology used, photographs and descriptions of all trenches monitored, and brief conclusions reached.

Entered by	James Aaronson (james.aaronson@gmail.com)
Entered on	15 February 2012

Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address: Dover Road, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, SE18 3DH
Project Type: Watching Brief

Dates of fieldwork: 11th-13th January 2012
Site Code: SHO12
Site Supervisor: James Aaronson

NGR: TQ 4375 7646

Funding body: MGJV

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