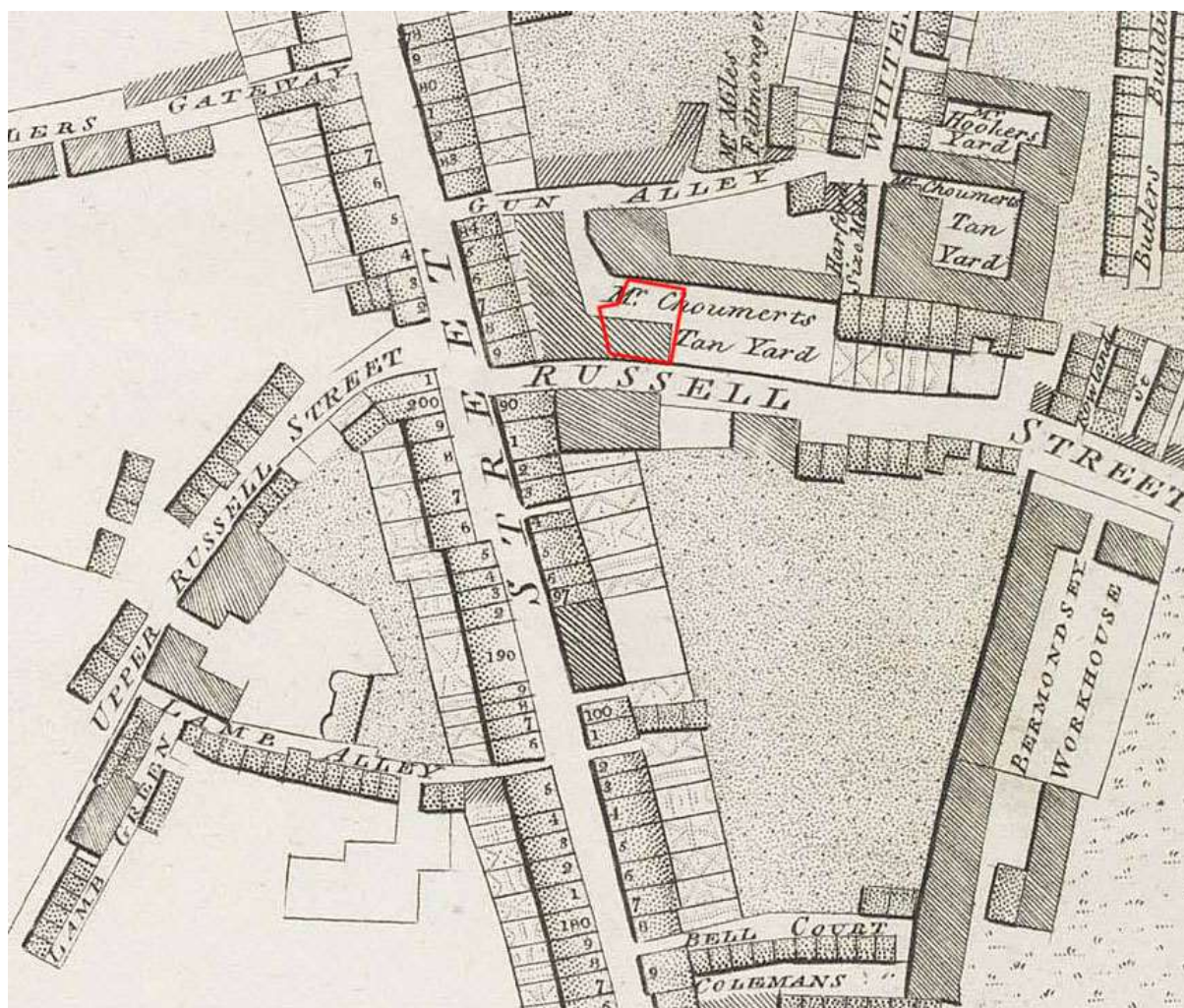


3 TANNER STREET, BERMONDSEY, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, SE1 3LE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



September 2015



3 TANNER STREET, BERMONDSEY,
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, SE1 3LE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Site code: TSR15

NGR: TQ 3328 7971

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September 2015

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Abstract

An archaeological programme of investigation and recording, (hereafter known as a watching brief), was undertaken during the excavation of three trial trenches at the rear of the property of 3 Tanner Street, prior to the construction of the new extension. The fieldwork was undertaken by Compass Archaeology on the 27th August 2015.

The watching brief uncovered very few archaeological finds and features. None of the finds, features or deposits predated the 19th century. Both yellow and red stock-brick structures were observed which probably formed part of a network of drains. A similar sequence of fills were observed within all three trenches consisting of a very moist dark-grey / brown clayey-silt with inclusions of yellow sandy construction gravel, whole and fragmented modern day bricks, and crushed CBM. The mixed fills came down onto sterile dark-grey / brown clay at the base of the trenches. At a level of approximately 0.40m above the trench bases there was a concentration of roots visible along all sections. The trenches were excavated to maximum depth of 0.96m.

The recorded deposits and features appear to relate to construction processes on this site over the course of 19th and 20th centuries. The fills of the trial trenches were most likely a series of make-up layers deposited to level up or build up the ground for subsequent development.

CONTENTS

	Page
1 Introduction	1
2 Acknowledgements	2
3 Site location and geology	2
4 Archaeological and historical background	3
5 Archaeological research questions	5
6 Methodology	6
7 Results	9
8 Conclusions	12
9 Bibliography	13
Appendix I OASIS data collection form	14
Appendix II London Archaeologist summary	17

LIST OF FIGURES

Front cover – Extract from Horwoods map of 1799 showing the site outlined

		Page
Fig. 1	Site location	1
Fig. 2	Detailed site location	2
Fig. 3	Extract from the 1895 OS map showing the site outlined	4
Fig. 4	Area of the archaeological investigation	7
Fig. 5	Plan of the trial trenches	9
Fig. 6	Location of the three trial trenches, facing east	10
Fig. 7	A typical trench section...Trench 1 facing E	11
Fig. 8	Trench 2 facing NW	11

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document summarizes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on 27th August on the site of 3 Tanner Street, Bermondsey, London Borough of Southwark, SE1 3LE. This work was undertaken as a condition of planning consent (Ref: 14/AP/4084) for erection of a single-storey rear extension to the property.



Fig.1: Site location

- 1.2 The archaeological programme was recommended by Dr Chris Constable, the Senior Archaeological Officer at Southwark Council due to the site's location within the locally designated Archaeological Priority Area of Borough, Bermondsey, and Rivers, and the potential for encountering prehistoric and Roman remains.
- 1.3 The work involved the excavation of three trial trenches c4.80m x 0.80m, and c0.90m deep, within the rear yard of the property, for investigative purposes prior to the redevelopment of the site.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Compass Archaeology would like to thank Mr Sanjay Sharma for commissioning and supporting the archaeological programme and to Tristram Dodwell of Hampson Williams Architecture for supplying the relevant planning documents and providing access to the site.

3 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1** The site is located towards the western end of Tanner Street, c30m east of the junction with Bermondsey Street (fig.1). The site is approximately 16.5m long, (N-S), and 13m wide, (E-W). The site comprises the western end of a large warehouse style brick building on the north side of Tanner Street with a small enclosed rear yard laid to patio. The site lies opposite 4 Tanner Street and Tanner Street Park open space.

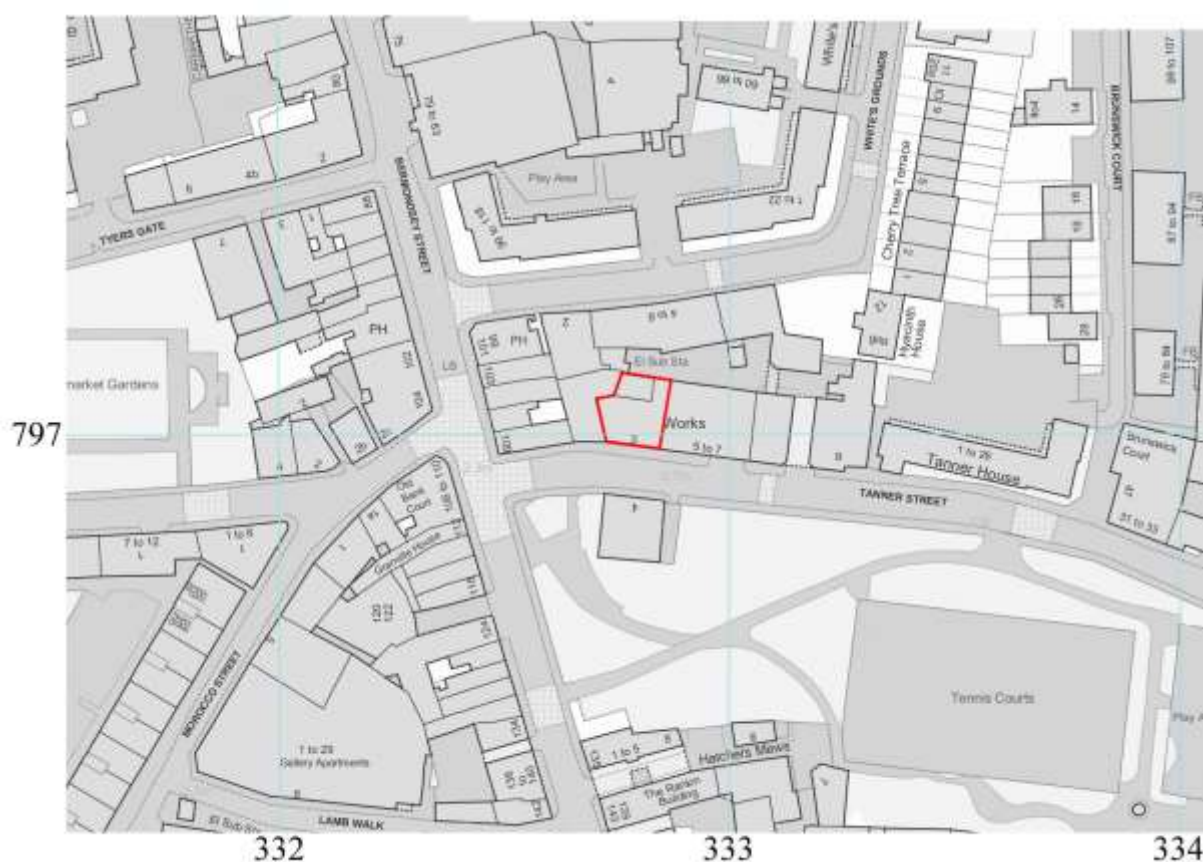


Fig.2: *Detailed site location*

- 3.2** The site lies over recent alluvium overlying Lambeth Beds. The top of the natural geology has been encountered between -2.44m to -2.15m OD. The site is believed to be situated between two of what used to be eyots/islands which were formed as a result of a depositional process associated with the movement of channels and inlets during the Early Holocene period.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The historical and archaeological background to the site has been discussed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation submitted by Compass Archaeology, and will not be repeated at length here. Only the most relevant points will be reproduced here.

4.1 *Prehistoric*

The evidence for prehistoric activity in the Southwark area is concentrated mainly on the gravel eyots (such as Bermondsey eyot to the south of the site and Horsleydown eyot to the north of the site). Little evidence for prehistoric activity has been uncovered in the immediate vicinity of the site, with the only evidence being Bronze Age peat, probably part of an east-west channel, found during work at 171 Bermondsey Street (at -0.28mOD), and waterlain silts and clays at No.9 Tanner Street silts and clays at between +0.35mOD- +0.50mOD.

4.2 *Roman*

The Roman settlement of Londinium was established in the 1st century AD within the modern footprint of the City of London. Southwark was a suburb of the major settlement, with several significant stone-built municipal buildings. The Roman road of Watling Street ran just over 1km to the southwest of the site, connecting the southern end of Roman Southwark with Canterbury and Dover beyond.

The area of Bermondsey and Horsleydown remained restricted to agricultural use. Early Romano-British drainage ditches, fence-lines and pits have been recorded at 53-65 Tanner Street, to the west, 22-28 White's Ground to the north and on the west end of Lamb Walk and Morocco Street, to the southwest.

4.3 *Saxon/ medieval*

Middle Saxon (c650-850) features and pottery were found on the site of Bermondsey Abbey, some 450m southwest of the site. Also, large quantities of late Saxon (c850-1066) pottery and a boundary ditch.

In the 11th century the establishment of Bermondsey Priory created a new focus for settlement the settlement approximately 350m to the south of 3 Tanner Street with Bermondsey Street established as the road linking the abbey with London Bridge.

Development in this area appears to have begun in the medieval period, with episodic reclamation of the land from marshland since the late 12th century onwards.

In the early 14th century in the area around Tanner Street numerous tanneries, calico-makers and breweries were established. The development of the tanneries was enhanced by the proximity of the raw material needed for leather tanning, such as water from tidal streams and oak bark from the woods south of London. Also, the butchers obtained a permission to dump their refuse in a designated area in Southwark.

4.4 *Post-Medieval*

Development around Bermondsey Street and in the vicinity of the site continued throughout post-medieval period.

Horwood's map from the end of the 18th century shows the site occupied by buildings on the street frontage. The rear is labelled as part of Mr Choumerts Tan Yard. Evidence of this former complex may be encountered in the form of yard surfaces or even tanning pits, as was revealed at Brunswick Court to the north.

In the period of the Industrial Revolution the area of Bermondsey was dominated by warehouses and industrial yards, mainly such as tanneries, flour mills, curriers and wool factories. The study site is occupied by a Hop warehouse built in c1838.

The building was occupied by several businesses over the next 150 years, (see fig.2). No.3 Tanner Street was the site of the forge for creating patented carriage springs. Later it was used as a venue for making military uniforms, flags and banners. In 1986 the building was purchased by private individuals and partially restored. Since then it has been used as offices.



Fig.3: Extract from the 1895 OS map with the site outlined

5 PLANNING AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 An archaeological evaluation of the development area was recommended by English Heritage as part of the Local Authority planning process, to form a condition of planning consent.
- 5.2 The protection of archaeological sites is a material planning consideration. An initial evaluation should be designed to provide all parties, particularly the Local Planning Authority, with sufficient material information upon which to base informed decisions, incorporating adequate heritage safeguards. Where an evaluation produces positive results safeguards will be applied; these would normally consist of either design modifications to preserve archaeological remains *in situ* or, where this is not achievable, archaeological rescue excavation in advance of development.
- 5.3 The evaluation conformed to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), adopted in March 2012, which replaces PPS 5 ‘*Planning for the Historic Environment*’ and policies HE6 and HE7.
- 5.4 The London Borough of Southwark has its own specific policies regarding archaeological remains and other heritage assets contained within its Core Strategy (adopted April 2011). The following Southwark Plan (2007) policies relating to conservation areas have been saved and have no diminished relevance, as they are consistent with the core strategy: these are not all the policies but appear the most relevant to this case.

Policy 3.19 – Archaeology

Planning applications affecting sites within Archaeological Priority Zones (APZs), as identified in Appendix 8, shall be accompanied by an archaeological assessment and evaluation of the site, including the impact of the proposed development. There is a presumption in favour of preservation in situ, to protect and safeguard archaeological remains of national importance, including scheduled monuments and their settings. The in situ preservation of archaeological remains of local importance will also be sought, unless the importance of the development outweighs the local value of the remains. If planning permission is granted to develop any site where there are archaeological remains or there is good reason to believe that such remains exist, conditions will be attached to secure the excavation and recording or preservation in whole or in part, if justified, before development begins.

Reasons

Southwark has an immensely important archaeological resource. Increasing evidence of those peoples living in Southwark before the Roman and medieval period is being found in the north of the borough and along the Old Kent Road. The suburb of the Roman provincial capital (Londinium) was located around the southern bridgehead of the only river crossing over the Thames at the time and remains of Roman buildings, industry, roads and cemeteries have been discovered over the last 30 years. The importance of the area during the medieval period is equally well attested both archaeologically and historically. Elsewhere in Southwark, the routes of Roman roads (along the Old Kent Road and Kennington Road) and the historic village cores of Peckham, Camberwell, Walworth and Dulwich also have the potential for the survival of archaeological remains. PPG16 requires the council to include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings

5.5 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as designated by the London Borough of Southwark, known as Borough, Bermondsey, and Rivers relating to the historic settlements which developed on the higher ground and historic river courses and channels of the prehistoric period.

5.6 The site is not a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and no Listed Building was affected by the proposals.

5.7 *Archaeological research questions*

The fieldwork undertaken on the site gave an opportunity to address the following research questions:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric exploitation of the immediate area either seasonal / marginal or permanent?
- Is there any evidence of earlier water channels dating to the prehistoric period?
- Is there any evidence of Roman cultivation or land management, and what form does this take?
- Is there any evidence of the Saxon or medieval origins of Bermondsey?
- Is there any evidence of the medieval development of Bermondsey in the form of earlier properties or industrial use?
- Is there any evidence of the post-industrial use of the site in the form of tanning pits, yards surfaces, or former building footings?
- Is there any evidence of land reclamation and can this be dated?
- At what level does archaeology survive across the site?
- At what levels is natural ground present and what form does this take?

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 *Standards*

6.1.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with current Historic England guidelines (in particular, (*Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work, 2014*) and to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute.

6.1.2 Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team hold valid CSCS Cards, (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme), and wore hi-visibility jackets, hard-hats, and steel-toe-capped boots as required during excavation. All members of the fieldwork team also followed the contractors' health and safety guidelines.

6.2 *Fieldwork*

6.2.1 Fieldwork took place in the rear yard of the property. Excavation of the three trial trenches was undertaken by hand by a team of labourers working under archaeological supervision. Following initial clearance sufficient time was given for investigation and recording of the trial trenches.

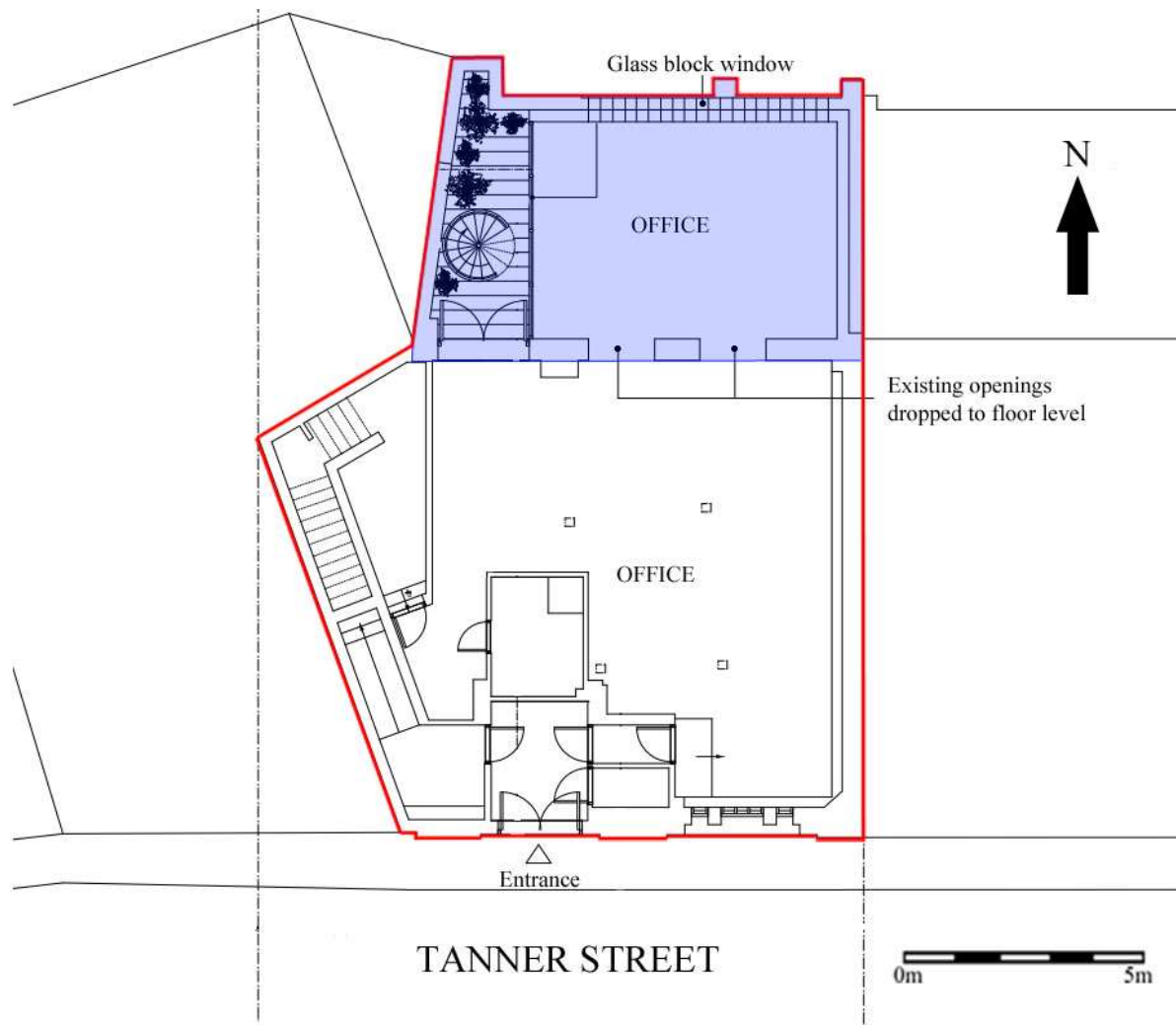


Fig.4: Location of the area of archaeological investigation, outlined in blue

6.2.2 The archaeological monitoring included an on-site photographic and drawn record. The photographs taken recorded representative sections in all three trenches, and a general site location. A general plan of the trial trenches and their location was drawn at a scale of 1:20. Levels taken at the top and base of the trenches and on significant deposits were derived from an Ordnance Datum Benchmark located on the corner of Morocco Street and Leathermarket Street, (value 3mOD).

6.2.3 The Client and Senior Archaeology Officer at Southwark Council were kept informed on the progress and results of the fieldwork.

6.3 Post- excavation

6.3.1 The finds retrieved from site were collected, and given a unique context number, bagged and taken to Compass for further assessment.

6.3.2 After assessment the finds were discarded due to their perceived lack of archaeological interest.

6.4 *Report and Archive*

- 6.4.1** Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client and the London Borough of Southwark Archaeology Officer and the Southwark local History Library.
- 6.4.2** The report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations have been included as appropriate, including a site plan located to the OS grid. A short summary of the project has been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the London Archaeologist.
- 6.4.3** There is no provision for further analysis or publication of significant findings. Should these be made the requirements would need to be discussed and agreed with the Client and with Southwark Council.
- 6.4.4** Assuming that no further work is required, an ordered indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation will be compiled in line with MoL Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives, and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive under site code TSR15. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum.

7 RESULTS

7.1 The three parallel trial trenches were located in the back yard of the property, and aligned N-S. They measured approximately 4.80m x 0.80m in plan and were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.96m, they are numbered 1 to 3 from west to east. The following section is a written description of the observed stratigraphy complemented by photographic record highlighting the main points. Contexts are referred to in brackets thusly; (x).

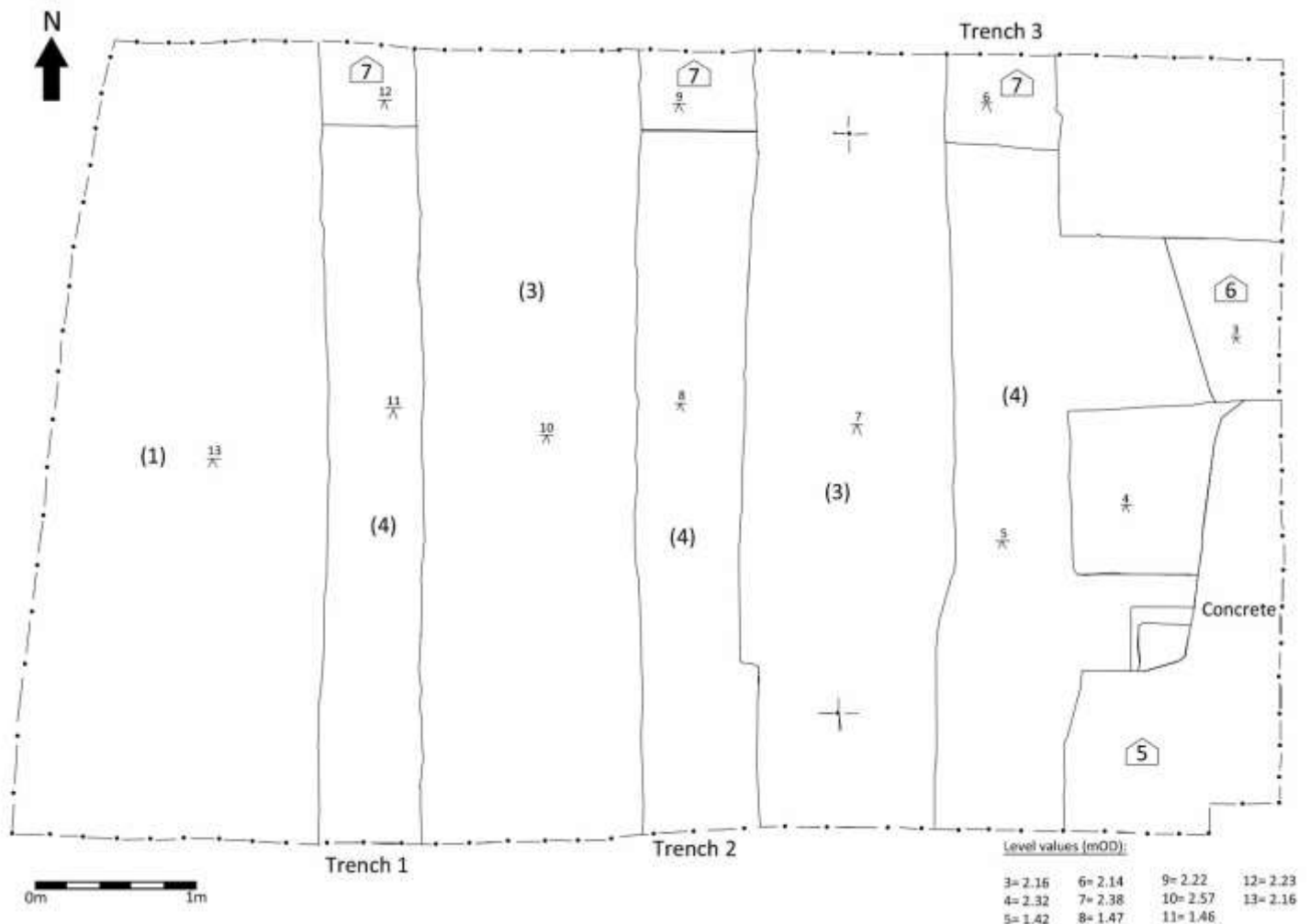


Fig.5 Plan of the trial trenches

7.2 The observed stratigraphy was largely uniform throughout the three trenches. The tops of the trenches lay at 2.37mOD to 2.57mOD with the ground rising slightly to the east. The uppermost levels consisted of a dark-grey brown silt overlying a yellow sand and construction gravel layer with mortar inclusions, (1). The sand and gravel layer contained whole and fragmented bricks, mostly yellow stock bricks. The layer directly below was concrete mixed with ash, (2), (see fig.). This in turn overlay a very moist dark-grey brown clayey-silt with inclusions of crushed red brick building material and occasional dump of sandy mortar, (3) (figs.). From a depth of approximately 0.40m up from the trench bases there were numerous roots present within the sections, (see fig.). The basal fill of the trenches, at the approximate depth of 0.80- 0.96m below ground level, was a sterile, wet, soft, grey-brown silty-clay (*Fig. 13-14*). The bases of the trenches lay at 1.46mOD,

(Trench 1), 1.47mOD, (Trench 2), and 1.42mOD, (Trench 3). These mixed deposits represent a significant amount of redeposited made-ground used to level up the existing site.

- 7.3** In the eastern half of the site a layer of broken concrete ran parallel with the eastern boundary wall, and in the southeast corner was a modern drain, (5). Excavation also revealed fragments of a yellow stock-brick structure visible in the northeastern part of Trench 3 at the level of 2.16mOD and a red-brick structure in the northern end of all three trenches at the level of 2.14mOD, 2.22mOD and 2.23mOD in Trenches 1 to 3 respectively, (figs. 5, 6, 7, 10, 13-15). These structures were most likely parts of a drain of 19th century date. The brick structures cut the trench fills and were most likely constructed after these contexts were deposited.
- 7.4** A very limited number of finds were retrieved from the trial trenches. They included four pieces of animal bone, two pieces of blue and white transfer-printed ware, three fragments of glass, an oyster shell, a piece of folded lead, and a small fragment of a clay tobacco pipe. None of the finds predate the 19th century.



Fig.6: Location of the three trial trenches, facing east, (1m scale)



Fig.7: A typical trench section showing levelling layer (1) at the top, concrete (2) below and clay-silts (3) and (4) further down. Red-brick drain (7) is visible in the left of frame. Trench 1, facing E, (1m scale)



Fig.8: Trench 2, facing northwest, (1m scale)

8 CONCLUSIONS

In summary no significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the investigation at 3 Tanner Street. There were no finds, features or deposits on the site that predate the 19th century.

The observed fills within the trenches was made-ground with inclusions of red-brick rubble and occasional mortar dust. In the bottom part of the trenches, there were numerous roots massed across the sections highlighted the highly disturbed nature of the ground.

The mixed nature of the fills suggest that they were redeposited at some point to level out, or build up, the ground. Considering the site's historic use as part of a tanning yard in the 18th century, it is possible that there were tanning pits here which, at a later stage, were dug out and refilled to clear the site before redevelopment in the 19th century.

As a result of these findings no further archaeological work is deemed necessary at this stage.

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Appendix I OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: compassa1-222387

Project details

Project name	3 Tanner Street, Southwark
Short description of the project	<p>An archaeological programme of investigation and recording, was undertaken during the excavation of three trial trenches at the rear of the property of 3 Tanner Street, prior to the construction of the new extension. The fieldwork was undertaken by Compass Archaeology on the 27th August 2015.</p> <p>The watching brief uncovered very few archaeological finds and features. None of the finds, features or deposits predated the 19th century. Both yellow and red stock-brick structures were observed which probably formed part of a network of drains. A similar sequence of fills were observed within all three trenches consisting of a very moist dark-grey / brown clayey-silt with inclusions of yellow sandy construction gravel, whole and fragmented modern day bricks, and crushed CBM. The mixed fills came down onto sterile dark-grey / brown clay at the base of the trenches. At a level of approximately 0.40m above the trench bases there was a concentration of roots visible along all sections. The trenches were excavated to maximum depth of 0.96m.</p> <p>The recorded deposits and features appear to relate to construction processes on this site over the course of 19th and 20th centuries. The fills of the trial trenches were most likely a series of make-up layers deposited to level up or build up the ground for subsequent development.</p>
Project dates	Start: 27-08-2015 End: 27-08-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TSR15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE, POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK 3 Tanner Street, Southwark, London
Postcode	SE1 3LE
Study area	208 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 533324 179701 50.940183365529 0.182683277028 50 56 24 N 000 10 57 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	London Borough of Southwark
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private individual

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Contents	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Contents	Images, plan, photographs
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Contents	Unpublished report, levels list, site plan, trench plan

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	3 Tanner Street, Bermondsey, Southwark, London SE1 3LE
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Agnieska Trambowicz & James Aaronson
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street. London SE1 1RQ
Description	In-house report: including figures and photographs. Text includes location of the site, historical background to the site, details of methodology used, description and interpretation of the deposits, features and finds investigated at the site.
Entered by	Compass Archaeology (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	4 September 2015

Appendix II London Archaeologist summary

Site Address: 3 Tanner Street, Bermondsey, London Borough of Southwark, SE1 3LE

Project Type: Watching brief

Dates of Fieldwork: 27th August 2015

Site code: TSR15

Site Supervisor: Geoff Potter

NGR: 3328 7971

Funding body: Mr. S.Sharma

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