

FISH! RESTAURANT, CATHEDRAL STREET

London Borough of Southwark SE1 9AL

An Archaeological Watching Brief



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September 2016

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NGR: TQ 32645 80265

Site Code: CDR16

Planning Ref: 15/AP/3413

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Abstract

On the 16th December 2015 an Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at Fish! Restaurant, Borough Market, London SE1 9AL (Site Code CDR16). The watching brief was conducted in order to monitor groundworks being carried out as part of a redevelopment programme on the restaurant, in accordance with a planning application (15/AP/3413). Archaeological monitoring was recommended by Southwark Council due to the site lying within the Class I Archaeological Priority Zone of Southwark Cathedral and St Mary Overey Priory. .

The groundworks comprised a single trench located to the east of the restaurant, within Borough Market, bounded by Southwark Cathedral to the north and Cathedral Street to the west. The trench measured 6.0m in length x 1.6m in width x 0.45m in depth. The base of excavation was recorded at 5.19mOD.

The stratigraphy comprised a series of modern make-up layers below paving slabs sealing a deposit of medium to dark-brown soil abundant with modern waste, rubble and plastic sheeting.

No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Prior to the onsite works a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced, relating to the works described here (Ref: 15/AP/3413), and also a second application (Ref: 15/AP/2925) relating to the development works on the southern side of the restaurant. At this stage the second application is not being taken forwards.

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Fig.3 adapted from original drawings provided by coa architecture.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document forms a summary of results for an archaeological watching brief conducted on groundworks located to the rear of Fish! Restaurant, Borough Market, London SE1 9AL. The watching brief took place on the 16th December 2015.



Figure 1: Site location, marked in red.

- 1.2 The archaeological works were commissioned by Fish! Kitchen Limited, following recommendations from Southwark Council as part of the requirements of a planning application relating to proposed redevelopment and extension works to the restaurant. The proposed work comprised erection of a single storey extension to the existing entrance pavilion and a partial removal of existing glass roof and existing walls (Ref: 15/AP/3413).
- 1.3 A second planning application associated with this redevelopment scheme, construction of a new first floor extension to the existing cold store, installation of new steel gantry and access stair (Ref: 15/A/2925) is not being taken forwards at this time.
- 1.4 The works were deemed necessary due to the site's location within the Archaeological Priority Zone of Southwark Cathedral and St Mary Overey Priory (APZ 2 Class I), as defined by Southwark Council¹ (previously the APZ of Borough, Bermondsey and Rivers).

¹ New Southwark Plan Preferred Option. Appendix 8 – Part 1. Class I Archaeological Priority Zones.

2 SITE LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORKS

- 2.1 The site is approximately centred at NGR TQ 32645 80265, on the north-east side of Borough Market. The restaurant is bounded by Cathedral Street and the remainder of the market to the west, the railway viaduct to the south and Southwark Cathedral to the north. The watching brief took place at the rear of the restaurant, on the east side of the site.
- 2.2 The archaeological programme entailed monitoring a single trench dug to the east of the existing building on an area of open ground between the present washroom and storage facilities, and covered seating area (fig.2).



Figure 2: Site boundary, marked in red.

3 RESULTS

- 3.1 The single trench was located at the rear of Fish! Restaurant, adjacent to the current washroom facilities/storage area on the south, covered seating to the north and open area of Borough Market to the east (fig.3). The conventions employed below denote (contexts).

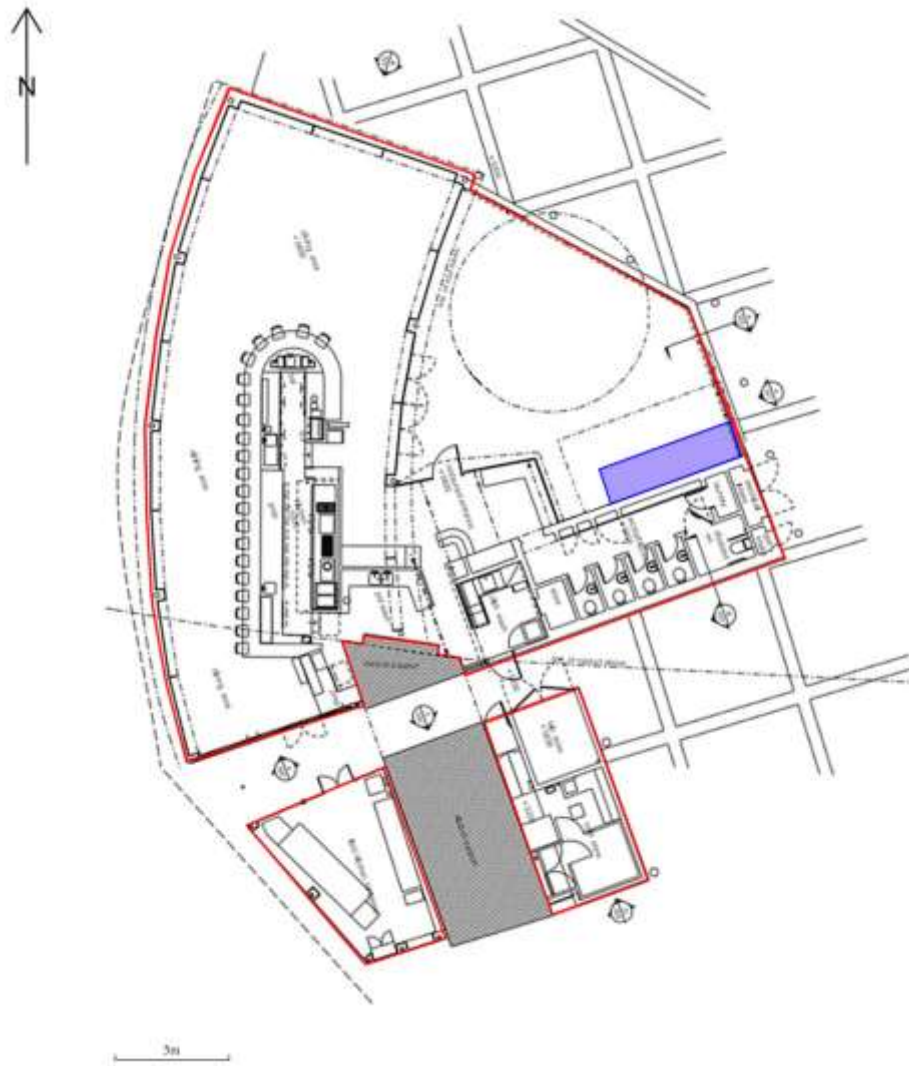


Figure 3: Trench (blue) in relation to Fish! Site boundary (red). Adapted from coa architecture 'existing ground floor plan' drawing number 14008-001C.

- 3.2** The trench measured 6.0m in length (E-W) x 1.6m in width and dug to a total depth of 0.45m (5.19mOD).



Figure 4: Completed trench. Part of the present building can be seen to the left of the frame. Facing W. Scale 1m.

- 3.3** The stratigraphy observed across the entirety of the trench comprised 100mm of pinkish MOT Type 1 mixed with coarse yellow bedding sand (2) below stone paving slabs (1). This sealed 350mm of a medium to dark brown soil (3), abundant with large fragments of brick, angular stones and gravel, and modern waste.



Figure 5: Sample of exposed stratigraphy observed in the south facing section. Facing N. Scale 1m.

- 3.4 The lowest deposit contained modern waste including plastic cable ties, paper and plastic sheeting. Three shallow services were exposed at a depth of 60mm below the present ground level. These were left *in-situ*.



Figure 6: Completed trench and exposed services. Facing E. Scale 1m.

- 3.5** No features or finds of archaeological interest were recorded.
- 3.6** The base of the trench was recorded at 5.19mOD. No natural deposits were observed.
- 3.7** The material was taken to be post-medieval made ground, most likely laid down during previous construction works relating to the restaurant, below a modern bedding layer for the stone paving covering the open area of Borough Market.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the watching brief can be compared to the original research questions set out in the WSI.

4.1 *If exposed, what is the level of the natural ground surface – and is this original or truncated by later activity?*

No natural deposits were exposed during the watching brief due to the location of the trench and limited depth of excavation.

4.2 *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity on the gravel 'eyot', and what is the nature of this?*

Prehistoric levels / deposits were not encountered during the watching brief.

4.3 *Is there any evidence for Roman occupation/activity, and what is the nature of this?*

No evidence of Roman occupation or activity was recovered from the completed trench.

4.4 *Is there any evidence for earlier medieval activity, for example pits as previously found in the vicinity?*

No medieval finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, nor were there any features of archaeological interest which are comparable with archaeological features previously recorded in the vicinity of the site.

4.5 *Is there any evidence for the development of this area in the medieval period: what is the nature of this, and how well can it be dated?*

No evidence of medieval activity or development was recorded during the watching brief. Again, this was undoubtedly due to the limited depth of excavation, which primarily exposed modern made ground.

4.6 *What evidence for the later post-medieval development/use of the area is there? Does this include any evidence of documented fire damage, rebuilding etc.?*

The stratigraphy exposed and recorded during the watching brief comprised post-medieval backfill/made ground below a bedding layer for modern paving. The presence of plastic sheeting and waste within context (3) would suggest the material has been recently deposited or disturbed. It is likely that this occurred either during the construction of the rear part of Fish! which lay adjacent to the trench, or is associated with the levelling off of the ground to lay the existing paving.

No sections of masonry, burning or char layers, or pre-modern finds were observed.

5 REFERENCES

5.1 Digital Sources

Greater London Historic Environment Record. GLHER@HistoricEngland.org.uk

London Archaeological Archive & Resource Centre (LAARC) database. <http://archive.museumoflondon.org.uk/laarc/catalogue/>

5.2 Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. (2014a). *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

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Historic England (2016). *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London*

Rayner L, Cotton J, Sidell J, Wheeler L. (2002). *The Prehistory and Topography of Southwark and Lambeth:* MoLAS Monograph 14.

Seeley, D, Phillpots, C, Samuel, M. (2006). *Winchester Palace, Excavations at the Southwark Residence of the Bishops of Winchester:* MOLAS Monograph, 31.

Southwark Council (2016). *New Southwark Plan Preferred Option. Appendix 8 – Part 1. Class 1 Archaeological Priority Zones (to be adopted in 2017).*

Yule, B. (2005). *A Prestigious Roman building complex on the Southwark waterfront: Excavations at Winchester Palace, London, 1983-90:* MOLAS Monograph, 23.

Appendix I – OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: [compassa1-263526](#)

Project details

Project name	Fish! Restaurant, Cathedral Street
Short description of the project	A watching brief was undertaken by Compass Archaeology during excavation of a single trench as part of redevelopment works at Fish! Restaurant, Borough Market. The trench measured 6m in length x 1.6m in width x 0.45m in depth. The observed stratigraphy comprised stone paving slabs above 100mm of pinkish MOT Type 1 mixed with coarse yellow bedding sand, overlying 350mm of medium to dark brown modern made ground. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were recorded, and no finds recovered.
Project dates	Start: 16-12-2015 End: 16-12-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CDR16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/AP/3413 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	15/AP/2915 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Site status (other)	Archaeological Priority Zone
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK Fish! Restaurant
Postcode	SE1 9AL
Study area	10 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 532653 180270 50.940712604442 0.181752792012 50 56 26 N 000 10 54 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	London Borough of Southwark

Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	Heidi Archer
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Fish! Kitchen Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Fish! Restaurant, Cathedral Street, London Borough of Southwark, SE1 9AL An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Archer, H.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, London SW11 3SJ
Description	A short summary report regarding the historic background, circumstances of, findings and conclusions of the watching brief. Includes site plan, trench plan and photographs.

Entered by	Heidi Archer (heidi@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	23 September 2016