

**Thames Water Utilities: Foul Water Sampling Access Scheme**  
**Construction of kiosk & pipe trench, Brixton Road, London Borough of Lambeth SW9**  
**NGR (site centre): TQ 31189 76469**  
**Archaeological Observation & Recording. Site code BXN10**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** Archaeological Observation and Recording took place on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 during groundworks adjacent to an existing sewer on the eastern side of Brixton Road, midway between the centre of Brixton and (to the north) the junction with Kennington Park Road (Figure 1 overleaf). The site was located on open ground adjacent to a corner plot (Nos. 233-39), and on a slight north-facing slope at about 6.5m OD.
- 1.2** The works involved excavation of a single east-west trench, at right angles to the road line and measuring almost exactly 5m in length. At its eastern end this formed the foundation for a new sampling kiosk, 1.25m long by 0.75m wide and 0.40m deep. The remainder of the trench was dug to take a pipe linking back to the existing sewer, *c* 3.6m long by 0.45m to 0.60m wide. The depth of excavation increased slightly from east to west, from *c* 0.5m to 0.7m below the present surface.

**2. Results**

- 2.1** The groundworks were monitored by an archaeologist and exposed deposits investigated by hand, but no significant remains were recorded and no finds retained. In particular, there was no evidence for the projected Roman road line (the London-Brighton road) and no sign of the historic course of the River Effra – the latter being shown here within a canalised course in 1841.
- 2.2** The trench was dug from a grassed surface, adjacent to the property boundary to the south and bounded by tarmac hardstanding to the north (Figure 2). The upper part of the exposed sequence comprised topsoil (*c* 150mm) over a greyish-brown sandy clay made ground some 300mm thick. This latter contained recent plastic debris and tin cans as well as pieces of ceramic building material.
- 2.3** At either end of the trench this deposit overlay solid concrete, which was locally truncated but not removed by the excavation. To the east the concrete formed a reinforced slab over the area of the kiosk foundation, extending for some 1.4m along the line of the trench. To the west the concrete (apparently without reinforcement) covered just over 1m, at its western end of the trench abutting a manhole on the line of the existing sewer.
- 2.4** In the central part of the trench and between the two areas of concrete (*c* 2.5m) the recent deposits overlay further made ground at a depth of *c* 0.45m. This deposit comprised a fairly clean greyish-orange mixed sandy gravel, possibly redeposited natural but with occasional fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century or later brick and tile and also containing a length of east-west lead pipe. The horizon may date from the initial residential development of the site, which can be dated from map evidence to the

earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century (c 1805-1840). The material was truncated by the new trench (by up to 0.2m) but not fully removed, and underlying deposits were not exposed.

- 2.5 The natural drift geology in this area is recorded as Kempton Park Gravel River Terrace (British Geological Survey 1998, *South London. Sheet 270*). However, this was not exposed in excavation.

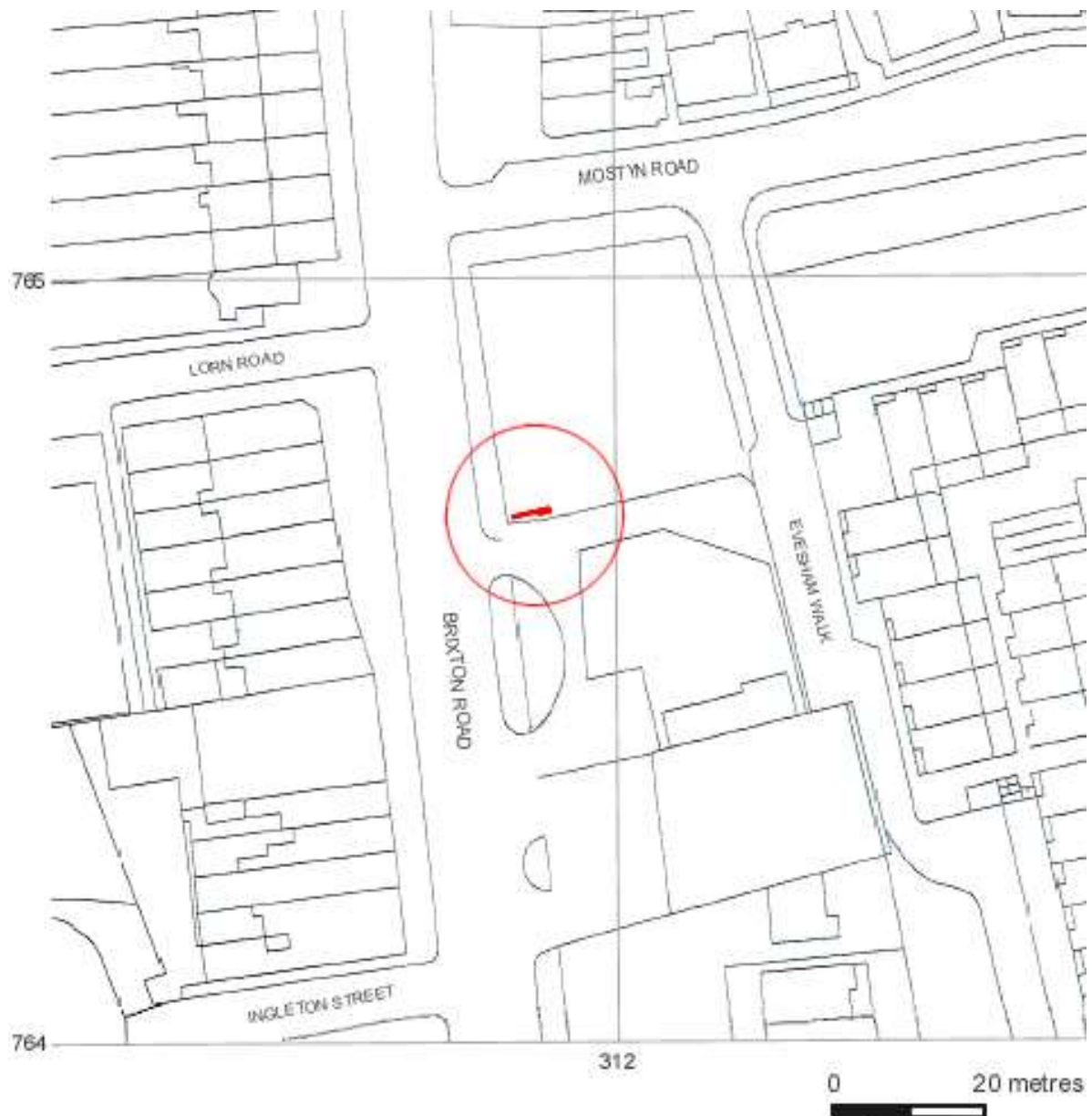


Fig 1 Site location in relation to the current Ordnance Survey map

*Based on Ordnance Survey digital data with permission of the HMSO. ©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd., licence no. AL 100031317. Original plan provided by Thames Water Utilities*



Figure 2 View along the trench during excavation, looking west towards Brixton Road.

Solid concrete can be seen in the foreground and at the far end of the trench in front of the existing manhole casing. The 0.2m scale rests on top of the intermediate sandy gravel made ground

## OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: compassa1-77949

### Project details

Project name	Thames Water kiosk and pipe trench, Brixton Road, LB of Lambeth SW9
Short description of the project	A single 5m trench at right angles to and on the eastern side of Brixton Road, c 0.45m to 0.75m wide & 0.4m to 0.7m deep. No significant remains were exposed - there was no evidence for the projected Roman road or for the historic River Effra. Exposed deposits comprised topsoil (c 150mm) over sandy clay made ground with recent plastic debris and tin cans (c 300mm). At either end of the trench these deposits overlay concrete, which was not removed. In the centre of the trench further made ground was exposed - a fairly clean sandy gravel containing occasional fragments of 19th century+ brick and tile and a length of lead pipe. This may represent redeposited natural, dating to the residential development of the site in the earlier 19th century. This material was not fully removed, and underlying deposits/ natural geology were not exposed.
Project dates	Start: 13-05-2010 End: 13-05-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BXN10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LAMBETH BRIXTON 233-39 Brixton Road
Postcode	SW9
Study area	3.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 31189 76469 51.4714547438 -0.110936400377 51 28 17 N 000 06 39 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment

Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	M J Miles
Type of sponsor/funding body	Water Authority/Company

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Archive ID	BXN10
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Archive ID	BXN10
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Report'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Thames Water Utilities: Foul Water Sampling Access. Construction of kiosk and pipe trench, Brixton Road SW9
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Miles, M J
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, SE1 1RQ
Description	5-page summary report, incl. location plan and photo.