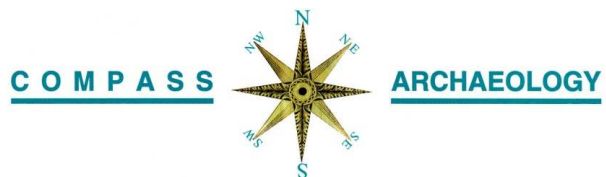


THAMES WATER UTILITIES LTD
COLDHARBOUR LANE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME
RUSH COMMON SITE, BRIXTON HILL SW2
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



September 2010

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RUSH COMMON SITE, BRIXTON HILL SW2
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING REFERENCE: 08/01938/F
SITE CODE: TZU09
SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 3091 7493

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September 2010

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Abstract

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on the site of Rush Common, Brixton Hill, London Borough of Lambeth, during works associated with the Thames Water Utilities Ltd. Coldharbour Lane Flood Alleviation Scheme. The site was approximately centred at NGR TQ 3091 7493. The watching brief was carried out in response to a planning condition on a range of works accompanying the construction of a new sewer shaft (Application Ref: 08/01938/F).

Archaeological monitoring recorded layers of topsoil and modern made-ground overlying reworked natural deposits and natural clays. Deposits and features probably associated with the line of terraced houses constructed to the east of the site in the late 19th century were recorded in both the northern and southern site areas. In the northern part of the site ceramic path edging was recorded which ran parallel with garden boundaries shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1916. Sections of brick were also recorded in this area and are thought to be the remains of contemporary garden features. In the southern area graduated and changing soil profiles are thought to represent a large carriage drive and adjacent gardens belonging to the late 19th century houses.

No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late 19th century were recorded during the course of the archaeological watching brief.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during works at the Rush Common Site, Brixton Hill SW2, London Borough of Lambeth as part of the Thames Water Utilities Coldharbour Lane flood alleviation scheme. The monitoring was carried out between 6th April 2009 and 15th April 2010. The site was centred at NGR TQ 3091 7493 (see Figure 1 below).
- 1.2 Initial topsoil stripping was observed in two site compound areas, along with several small pits excavated for post supports in the construction of site hoarding, adjacent excavation of pipe trenches connecting the shaft with the control kiosk and ventilation column were observed and recorded.
- 1.3 The project on which this report is based was commissioned by Dave Jones of the Ecology and Heritage Team at Thames Water Utilities Ltd. The fieldwork was undertaken further to recommendations by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage (GLAAS), and in response to a planning condition on a series of works accompanying the construction of a new sewer shaft (Reference 08/01938/F).

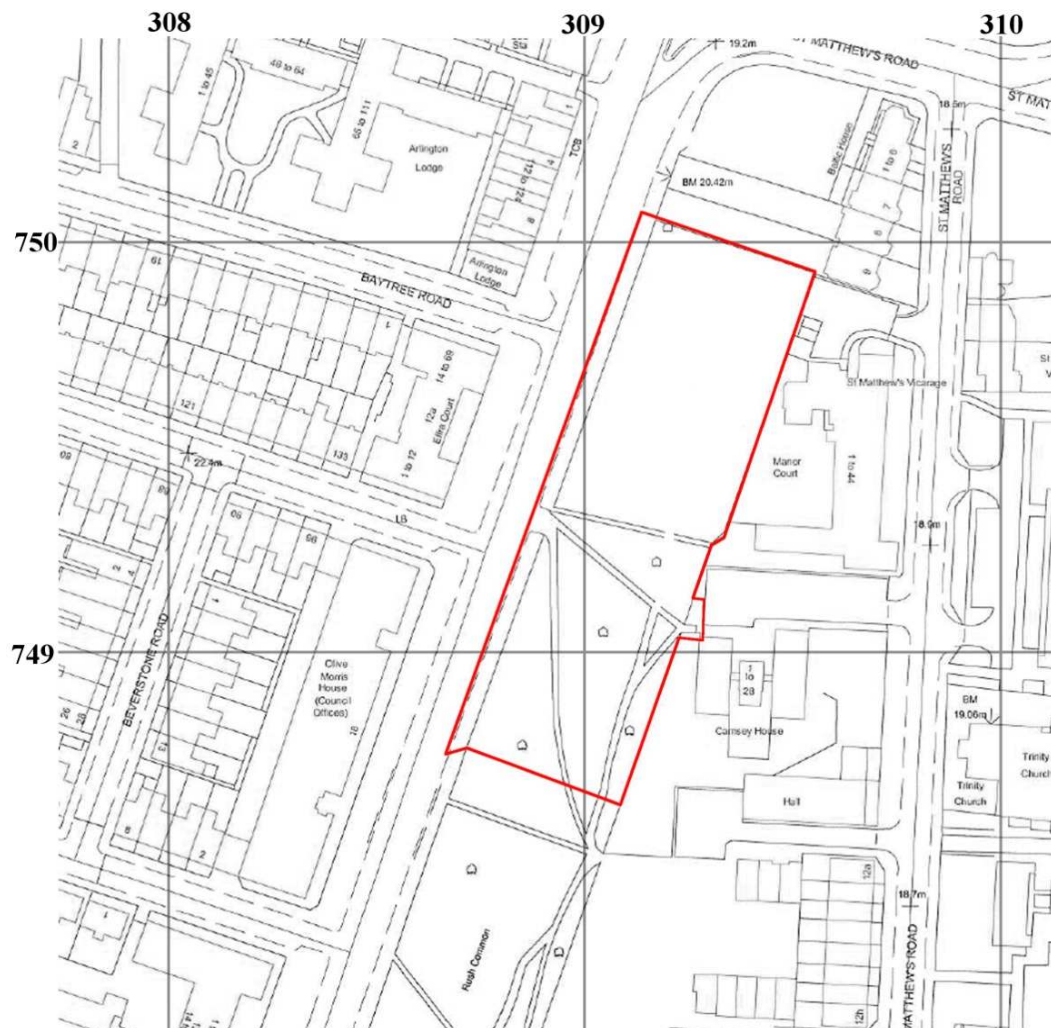


Figure 1: Site location based on the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map.

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2. Site Location and Geology

- 2.1** The archaeological fieldwork took place within an area of open land adjacent to Brixton Hill and just to the south of the town centre. The ground surface here is at about 20.0m to 21.5m OD, falling slightly to the north and more generally to the east towards the historic line of the River Effra (east of the present Effra Road).
- 2.2** The British Geological Survey (1998, *South London. Sheet 270*) indicates that the site mainly overlies Head (described as silty sand and clay with variable gravel). However, this is replaced to the northeast and possibly within the site boundary by a River Terrace Deposit of Taplow Gravel.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1** The principal archaeological potential of this site is that it lies adjacent to the projected line of a Roman road, represented today by the straight line of Brixton Hill (the A23). The route is variously referred to as the London-Brighton road or London-Croydon-Portslade Road (Margary 1937, 128 & 1973, 62; Imber 1979, 17), and is thought to have continued northwards to join Stane Street in the Kennington area.

The road is later apparently referred to as '*thare street est*' in 1062 (13th century claim) and as '*Brixton Causea*' by 1646. The Ordnance Surveyors' drawings of 1804-6 also label the road *Brixton Causeway*.

- 3.2** The site area itself is shown on Rocque's survey of 1746 as open land, forming part of the larger area of *Rushy Green*, which occupied the land between the present Brixton Hill and Effra Road. The area appears to have remained undeveloped until the late 19th century, and is shown as such by the 1st Edition 5 foot: mile OS map of 1867-70 (Figure 2). However, the land may well have been enclosed between these dates, and appears on the later map as several separate fields with one boundary crossing the centre of the site.
- 3.3** The 2nd Edition OS map of 1894 shows significant development, with a line of quite substantial terraced houses having been built immediately to the east of the present site; exactly the same picture is shown by the 25-inch map of 1916, reproduced here as Figure 3. The houses to the north have gardens extending westward to the line of Brixton Hill, whilst eight properties to the south share a carriage drive that encloses what is assumed to be a large communal garden. This latter includes what would appear to be a line of embanked ground, parallel with and adjacent the Brixton Hill frontage.

A similar picture is shown by LCC Revision map of 1935, but the houses were evidently demolished at some point thereafter. However, there is no record of bomb damage in the immediate area, so presumably this was a simple post-war redevelopment.

4. Archaeological Research Questions

4.1 The project presented the opportunity to address several site specific research questions:

- *Is there any evidence of the Roman road running along the line of Brixton Hill, occupation adjacent to it, or any archaeological remains dating to this period?*
- *Is there any evidence of land enclosure or field boundaries before the large-scale development of the late-19th century?*
- *Is there any evidence of the late 19th century development of the site including garden boundaries and features relating to terraced housing in the northern half of the site, or the carriage-drive to the south shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1916?*

5. The Archaeological Programme

5.1 Standards

The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*). Works also conformed to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used were directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

5.2 Fieldwork

5.2.1 Attendance

The basic watching brief required one archaeologist on site to monitor works and investigate and record archaeological remains. Adequate time was allowed for investigation and recording, although every effort was made not to disrupt the works programme.

English Heritage were advised beforehand of the on-site start date. The Client and English Heritage were also kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

5.2.2 Methodology

Archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and where appropriate finds dating and environmental evidence recovered.

Archaeological deposits and features were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* context sheets and/or drawn in plan or section, generally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance

Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by photography (35mm &/or digital).

6. Post-Excavation Work

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of this report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

6.1 Finds and Samples

Arrangements were in place for finds and samples to be treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London*'. In fact no significant remains were found, but where appropriate material was retained and examined off-site.

6.2 Report Procedure

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage, the local planning authority and the local studies library.

7. The Site Archive

The records from the archaeological project will be ordered in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be placed in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive as part of the ongoing programme of archive deposition. The integrity of the site archive was maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum.

8. The Archaeological Watching Brief

The following text describes the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the site of Rush Common, Brixton Hill during contractors' works as part of the Thames Water Utilities Ltd Coldharbour Lane Flood Alleviation Scheme. The Rush Common site was singled out for the location of a drive shaft and pumping station with an internal diameter of some 9m and sunk to a depth of c.24m. The works were part of a wider construction programme of a 520m storage tunnel for excess storm water. Initial topsoil stripping in the site compound area (A) to the north and works in area (B) to the south (see Figure 2 below) were monitored. The drive shaft was connected to the electronic control equipment housed in a control kiosk to the east, and a ventilation column to the west. Excavations for these works were observed as part of the archaeological watching brief.

Figure 2 below shows the location of the two sites A and B, which are described in sections 8.1 and 8.2. The later pipe excavation in area A is described in section 8.3, while pipe excavations in Area B are described in section 8.4 (control kiosk) and 8.5 (ventilation column). A further pipe trench in the southern part of Area B is described in section 8.6, and the drive shaft in section 8.7.



Figure 2: The location of areas A (north) and B (south), subject to initial topsoil strips and subsequent pipe trench excavations.

8.1 Area A

Initial topsoil stripping of the northern site area in advance of construction of the site compound and welfare facilities was observed on 6th April 2009.

8.1.1 Topsoil Strip

The exact area stripped during initial machining was located c.9.5m south of the northern site boundary, and measured approximately 38.5m (east-west) by 31.5m (north-south). The tarmac path running north-south across the park was left intact and stripping was undertaken either side. Between 50mm to 200mm of turf and topsoil [1] were removed across the area, exposing a very mixed made-ground deposit [2] below. The table overleaf lists the recorded contexts and features that were exposed during the stripping.

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Turf and topsoil, mid-grey/brown friable silt and clay, mainly sterile with occasional very modern finds including plastic, metal, concrete and brick.	Modern topsoil and turf.
2	Mixed dark grey/brown silt and clay with very frequent inclusions ranging from 19 th century to modern, including plastic, crisp packets, scrap metal, concrete, transfer-print pottery, glazed earthenware, clay pipe, animal bone.	Mixed made-ground deposit. Possibly contemporary with laying out of Rush Common after demolition of terraced house some time after 1935, or subsequent landscaping work.
3	Two parallel lines of moulded ceramic path edging approximately 1.6m apart, crossing Rush Common on an approximate NE to SW axis, perpendicular to the road.	Path edging, probably garden feature relating to the terraced houses shown on maps between 1890s and 1930s.
4	Two pairs of small sections of brickwork, each c.700mm square exposed in plan approximately 1.78m apart with areas of crushed yellow stock brick.	Possible brick bases/pads for garden features, possibly contemporary with 1890s to 1930s terraced houses.
5	Single line of red-brick headers exposed in plan for c. 1.7m on NE to SW axis perpendicular to road.	Possible remnant of garden feature contemporary with 1890s to 1930s terraced houses.

Made-ground deposit [2] was exposed in plan across the whole stripped area underlying c. 50mm to 200mm of topsoil [1]. The depth of this deposit is not known as further excavation or stripping was not undertaken. However, as the deposit overlay *in-situ* garden features [3] [4] [5] which were exposed in plan, the deposit is probably a thin spread of debris possibly contemporary with the demolition of the 1890s terraced houses and subsequent laying out of Rush Common. The features were not cut into deposit [2] but sealed by it.

8.1.2 Path Edging [3]

Two parallel lines of salt glazed stoneware moulded path edging tiles were exposed running across the stripped area perpendicular to Brixton Hill (see Figures 3-5 below). The two lines were c. 1.6m apart. The twisted design is known as ‘cable pattern’ and was produced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (see Figure 5). The distance that the lines were set apart seems to support the conclusion that they delineate a garden path, the original surface of which may well survive beneath made-ground [2]. Unfortunately, the heavily compacted nature of deposit [2] and lack of further machine stripping made deeper investigation impossible. It is likely that the path edging is contemporary with the terraced housing built to the east of the site in the late 19th century. These substantial properties had front gardens extending to the line of Brixton Hill to the west. The Ordnance Survey map of 25-inch map of 1916 shows these houses and front gardens, and when overlain the line of the path edging runs parallel with the boundary of one of the terraced properties (see Figures 5 and 6

below). It is likely that the path edging exposed during machining represented the line of the garden path leading from Brixton Hill to the front entrance of the late-19th century house.



Figure 3: Parallel lines of ceramic path edging, view south (1m scale).



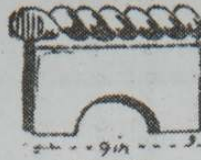
Figure 4: Detail of ceramic path edging (1m scale).

WILLIAM COOPER, 755, Old Kent Road, London, S.E.
HORTICULTURAL PROVIDER.

Garden Border Edging.



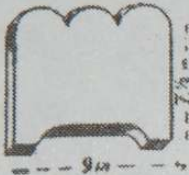
No. 538.
 Price per 100, 13s.



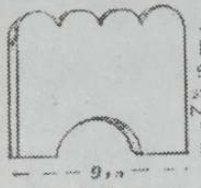
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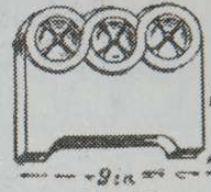
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 Price per 100, 12s.



No. 541.
 Price per 100, 12s.



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 Price per 100, 12s.

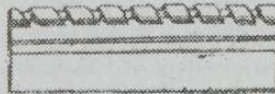


No. 543.
 Price per 100, 13s.

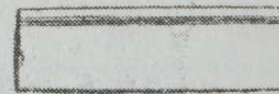
Stone Edging.



No. 544.
CABLE PATTERN.
 Prices per yard, 3s. 6d.,
 2s. 6d., 4s., 3s.



No. 545.
NULL PATTERN.
 Price per yard.
 Straight ... 2s. 6d.
 Curves ... 3s. 0d.



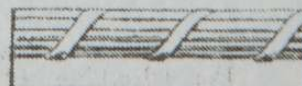
No. 546.
BOOK PATTERN.
 Price per yard.
 Straight ... 2s. 3d.
 Curves ... 2s. 6d.



No. 547.
EGG AND BAND PATTERN.
 Price per yard.
 Straight ... 5s. 6d.
 Curves ... 6s. 0d.



No. 548.
BASKET PATTERN.
 Price per yard.
 Straight ... 3s. 6d.
 Curves ... 4s. 0d.



No. 549.
REED AND BAND PATTERN.
 Price per yard.
 Straight ... 3s. 6d.
 Curves ... 4s. 0d.

All Orders Carefully Packed on Rail.

SPECIAL QUOTATIONS FOR LARGE QUANTITIES.

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Figure 5: Early 20th century advertisement for the London brown salt glazed stoneware edging tiles; No.544 is similar to the tiles found. Tiles such as these were manufactured by James Stiff at Lambeth, who had worked for Doulton and Watts before starting his own company, which was sold to Doulton in 1913.



Figure 6 Top: the Stripped Area A in relation to the Ordnance Survey map of 1916. Below: detail of the Ordnance Survey map of 1916 showing the parallel lines of path edging (blue) exposed during machine stripping.

8.1.3 Brickwork [4] [5]

Brick bases [4] recorded during machine stripping consisted of four c. 700mm square sections of red/orange soft bricks (some perforated) in two pairs. Each pair was c. 30mm apart, separated by patches of compacted earth and crushed yellow stock-brick and mortar. The pairs of brickwork were c. 1.78m apart (north-south). Figure 7 (below) shows the two pairs of brickwork and Figures 8 and 9 shows detailed shots of the individual pairs.



Figure 7: Pairs of square brick bases exposed during machine strip, view south (1m scale).



Figure 8: Southern pair of brick bases (1m scale).



Figure 9: Northern pair of brick bases (1m scale).

As with the path edging [3], there were no visible cuts associated with the brick bases, suggesting that the made-ground deposit [2] sealed them. The brickwork is then of an earlier phase of occupation, likely contemporary with the terraced properties shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1916 (see Figure 6 below). Although the location of the brick bases places it within one of the larger gardens of the terraced properties (in the southern most part of machine stripping), there are other buildings or structures shown on the map. The exact nature of the brick bases, or the larger structure/garden feature they were associated with is unknown.

A further small area of brickwork [5] was exposed in the northwest part of the stripped area and consisted of small section of a line red-brick headers, exposed in plan as a single course only. Figures 10 and 11 below show the location and close-up detail of this brickwork. Again, the location of the brickwork places it within the front gardens of the late-19th century terrace properties, and although no structures beyond the site boundaries are shown, it is likely that the brickwork represents surviving remains of garden wall. The alignment, although only partially exposed, seems to be parallel with the gardens shown.



Figure 10: Section of brickwork exposed during machine strip, view northwest (1m scale).

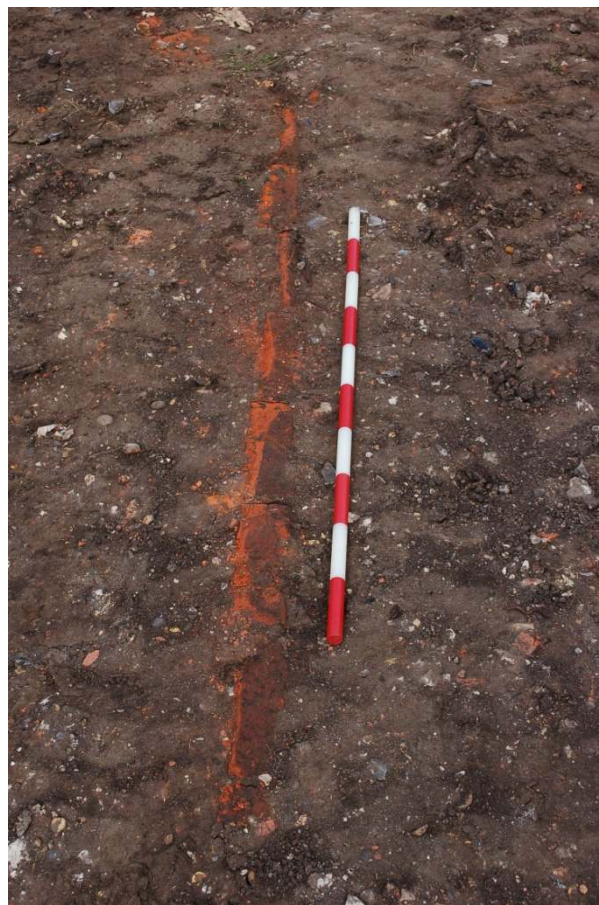


Figure 11: Close-up of linear section of degraded brickwork (1m scale).

8.2 Area B

In the southern part of the site an area measuring c. 28m (northwest to southeast) by 50m (north-south), roughly triangular in plan between two existing paths was stripped of turf and topsoil (see Figure 12). Between 30mm and 60mm of turf with underlying topsoil was removed, exposing underlying made-ground. Several small pits for upright supports of wooden site hoarding had been excavated around the site perimeter; these were examined and recorded as part of the archaeological monitoring programme.



Figure 12: Machine stripping in Area B (red) and the perimeter of the site compound (blue).

8.2.1 Topsoil Strip

Between 30mm and 60mm of mid-grey brown topsoil [6] was removed across the site, exposing a mixed made-ground [7] below. Deposit [7] was exposed across the whole stripped area and contained modern inclusions of brick and concrete, similar to deposit [2] recorded in Area A. No archaeological finds or features were exposed in the stripped area.

Context	Description	Interpretation
6	Turf and topsoil, mid-grey/brown silt and clay with frequent modern inclusions including brick, concrete and plastic.	Turf and modern topsoil.
7	Made-ground, dark-grey/brown silt and clay with modern inclusions of brick and concrete.	Made-ground possibly contemporary with demolition of 19 th century terraced houses and subsequent landscaping of Rush Common.



Figure 13: Topsoil stripping in northern half of Area B.

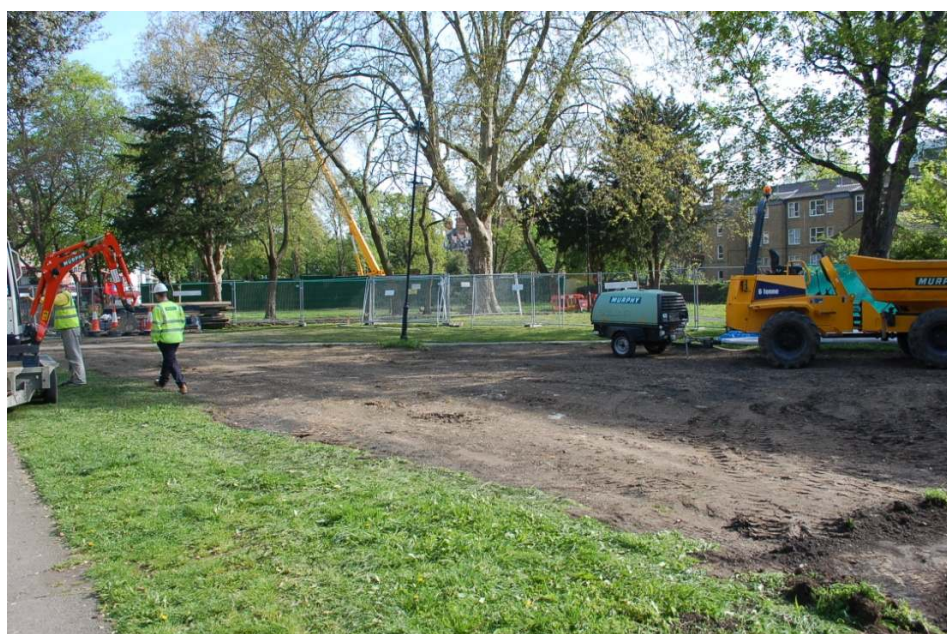


Figure 14: Topsoil stripping in southern half of Area B.

8.2.2 Post Hole Excavations

During the construction of wooden hoarding around the site perimeter, 33 holes were excavated for the placing of upright supports. The holes were typically excavated at 1.5m intervals (although this varied slightly), and excavated to an average depth of 0.5m below the existing ground level.

Hole	Dimensions			Recorded Deposits
	L	W	D	
A	0.8	0.4	0.55	Gravelly topsoil (0.3m) over dark brown ashy silt (0.1m) over mid-grey/brown silt and clay with rooting and occasional gravel (0.2m).
B	0.6	0.6	0.50	Tarmac path and rubble base with mixed made-ground deposit (0.3m) over orange/grey clay with occasional gravel (0.2m).
C	0.8	0.4	0.50	Topsoil to base except in cut and fill of modern black cable.
D	0.8	0.4	0.60	Topsoil (0.4m) over orange/grey silt and clay (0.2m)
E	1.0	0.4	0.60	Compact mid-grey/brown topsoil (0.34m) over orange/grey silt and clay (0.26m).
F	0.7	0.4	0.55	Compact mid-grey/brown topsoil (0.3m) over orange/grey silt and clay (0.2m).
G	0.7	0.4	0.50	Compact mid-grey/brown topsoil (0.25m) over orange/grey silt and clay (0.25m).
H	0.7	0.4	0.50	In fill of modern orange corrugated pipe trench.
I	0.7	0.4	0.50	In fill of modern orange corrugated pipe trench.
J	0.7	0.4	0.50	In fill of modern orange corrugated pipe trench.
K	0.8	0.4	0.50	Tarmac base and wooden path revetment (0.25m) over orange/grey silt and clay (0.25m).
L	0.6	0.6	0.60	Tarmac path on sand and concrete bedding (0.19m) over mixed dark-grey made-ground (0.23m) over orange/grey silt and clay (0.18m).
M	0.8	0.4	0.50	Topsoil (0.13m) over grey gravel (0.12m) over dark grey silt and clay with brick (0.3m).
N	0.8	0.4	0.55	Mixed topsoil and madeground.
O	1.0	0.4	0.60	Mixed topsoil and madeground.
P	0.7	0.4	0.55	Mixed topsoil and madeground.
Q	0.7	0.4	0.50	Mixed topsoil and madeground.
R-G1	-	-	-	BACKFILLED

The post excavations exposed a broad sequence of modern topsoil over made-ground in varying degrees of thickness and composition. An orange/grey silt and clay deposit exposed in the base of a number of the excavation may have the top of natural clay deposits, or redeposited natural clay. No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the observation of post excavations. Figures 15-17 below show examples of post hole excavations.



Figure 15: Post hole excavation A (0.6m scale).



Figure 16: Post hole excavation B (0.6m scale).



Figure 17: Post hole excavation L (0.6m scale).

8.3 Pipe Trenching in Area A

A shallow section of pipe trenching measuring approximately 21m was observed in Area A on 15th March 2010. The trench ran on a northwest to southeast alignment on the west side of the existing tarmac path and to the east of the boundary wall. The trench measured between 0.5m and 0.6m in width and was excavated to between 0.4m (north end) and 0.5m (south end) in depth.

Context	Description	Interpretation
8	Turf and topsoil, mid-grey/brown silt and clay with frequent modern inclusions including brick, concrete and plastic.	Turf and modern topsoil.
9	Made-ground, dark-grey/brown silt and clay with modern inclusions of brick and concrete.	Made-ground possibly contemporary with demolition of 19 th century terraced houses and subsequent landscaping of Rush Common.
10	Orange/brown to yellow clay.	Natural clay.

Topsoil [8] was observed for the full length of the trench overlying a similar deposit of made-ground [9], both of which contained modern inclusions and extended to around 0.4m in depth. Below this point orange/brown silty clay gave way to thicker yellow clay natural. The top of natural deposits was noted to be higher in the southern end with a greater depth of overlying made-ground to the north. No archaeological finds or features were observed during monitoring.



Figure 18: Pipe trench in Area A, view north towards Brixton Hill (0.5m scale).

8.4 Connection Trenching with Control Kiosk

Trenching on the eastern side of the main shaft, in the northern part of Area B, was observed on 18th and 19th January 2010. The trenching was undertaken during works to connect the electronic control station with the main drive shaft. Two sections of trenching were observed, one by the site of the control kiosk outside the compound area and adjacent to steps leading to the Camsey House, the second trench was a continuation of the first inside the site compound (see sketch plan in Figure 18 below).

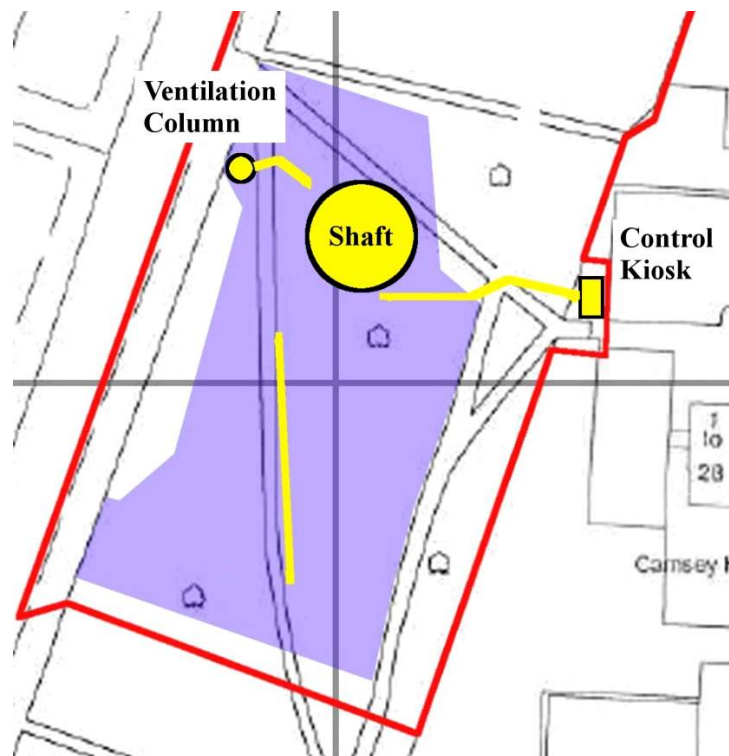


Figure 19: Sketch location plan of the main drive shaft, control kiosk, ventilation column and associated trenches in Area B.

The first trench was observed from the external side of the compound to the control kiosk and measured approximately 5.6m in plan. The trench measured between 2.1m (west) and 1.1m (east) in width and was excavated to a depth of between 2.4m (west) and 1m (east).

Context	Description	Interpretation
11	Turf and topsoil, mid-grey/brown loose silt and clay with modern inclusions.	Turf and topsoil.
12	Tarmac path on bed of pink MOT Type 2 crushed gravel and makeup rubble.	Path and bedding.
13	Mixed bands yellow, brown and grey silt and clay with occasional gravel.	Bands of redeposited natural deposits.
14	Mid-yellow/brown clay with silt and sand, and occasional rounded pebbles.	Natural clay.

Existing turf and topsoil deposits [11] were observed with tarmac path and bedding [12] to a depth of up to 0.2m below the existing ground surface. Mixed layers of redeposited natural were observed to a depth of between 0.4m and 1.1m below the existing ground level. Natural clay occurred from a depth of 1.1m in the east and at a higher level c.05m in the west. No archaeological finds or features were observed during monitoring.



Figure 20: Connection trenching between the control kiosk and drive shaft outside the site compound (1m scale).

Trenching continued inside the site compound for approximately 13m at a general width of between 0.45m and 0.55m, except at the east end where it measured 1m in width. The trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.8m.

Context	Description	Interpretation
15	Dark silt and clay topsoil.	Probable imported topsoil observed in the east of the trench.
16	Crushed stone and terram.	Site hardstanding from 2009 works exposed in west end of trench.
17	Dark silty friable soil with occasional pebbles and CBM.	Reworked or truncated topsoil.
18	Mid-dark brown sandy silt with some root disturbance.	Subsoil.
19	Light yellow/brown clay.	Natural clay

The sequence of exposed deposits in this trench changed c.1.2m inside the compound fence line. In the east end c. 0.3m of imported topsoil [15] was observed directly overlying clean natural clay [19]. In the west end of the trench the soil profile was substantially deeper and more graduated. 0.35m of hardstanding [16] was observed (remaining surface laid by 2009 works) overlying truncated topsoil [17] which in turn overlay subsoil deposit [18] to a depth of 1.05m below the existing ground surface. From this depth natural clay [19] was observed continuing to the base of excavations.

The sharp drop in the profile of natural deposits in the first trench may relate to line of terraced house constructed in the late 19th century. In the second trench the shift to a graduated soil profile from east to west may represent the carriage-drive shown on the 1916 Ordnance Survey map and adjacent garden soils (represented by initial shallow profile of drive to deeper soil profile of garden soils).



Figure 21: Section of trenching inside the compound (0.5m scale).

8.5 Connection Trenching with Ventilation Column

Trenching between the main drive shaft and ventilation column in the western part of Area B (see Figure 19 above) was monitored on 15th April 2010. The trench measured approximately 8m in plan at a width of around 1.2m and was excavated to 1.7m below the current ground surface. Contexts described below were recorded from the depth of reduced ground level.

Context	Description	Interpretation
20	Mid-grey/brown silt, sand and clay with brick and chalk inclusions.	Reduced topsoil and made-ground.
21	Mid orange/brown clay with silt and sand, occasional pebble inclusions.	Reworked natural clay.
22	Orange/brown clay with occasional chalk flecking.	Natural clay.

Reduced topsoil and made-ground [20] was observed to a depth of 0.3m overlying reworked natural clay for approximately 0.3m. Natural clay was observed for the remaining depth of excavation. No archaeological finds or features were observed.



Figure 22: Trenching between the ventilation column and drive shaft (1m scale).

8.6 Pipe Trenching in Area B

A 31.8m length of trench was observed in the southern part of Area B (see Figure 19), orientated northwest to southeast and terminating c. 10m from the southern compound boundary. The trench was excavated at an average width of 0.5m and to a depth of 0.4m.

Context	Description	Interpretation
23	Mid-grey/brown silty clay with modern inclusions of brick, metal and plastic.	Topsoil and made-ground.
24	Orange/brown clay with occasional chalk flecking.	Natural clay.

Topsoil and made-ground deposits [23] were observed directly overlying natural clay [24] which appeared in the base of the trench around 0.4m below the existing ground surface. No archaeological finds or features were observed during monitoring.



Figure 23: Pipe trenching in Area B (0.5m scale).

8.7 Drive Shaft Excavations

The sequence of deposits exposed in the shaft were broadly the same as that exposed during adjacent works – topsoil and made ground deposits were exposed overlying reworked natural and natural clay deposits. Figures 24 and 25 below show excavation of the main shaft in progress.



Figure 24: Excavation of the main drive shaft.

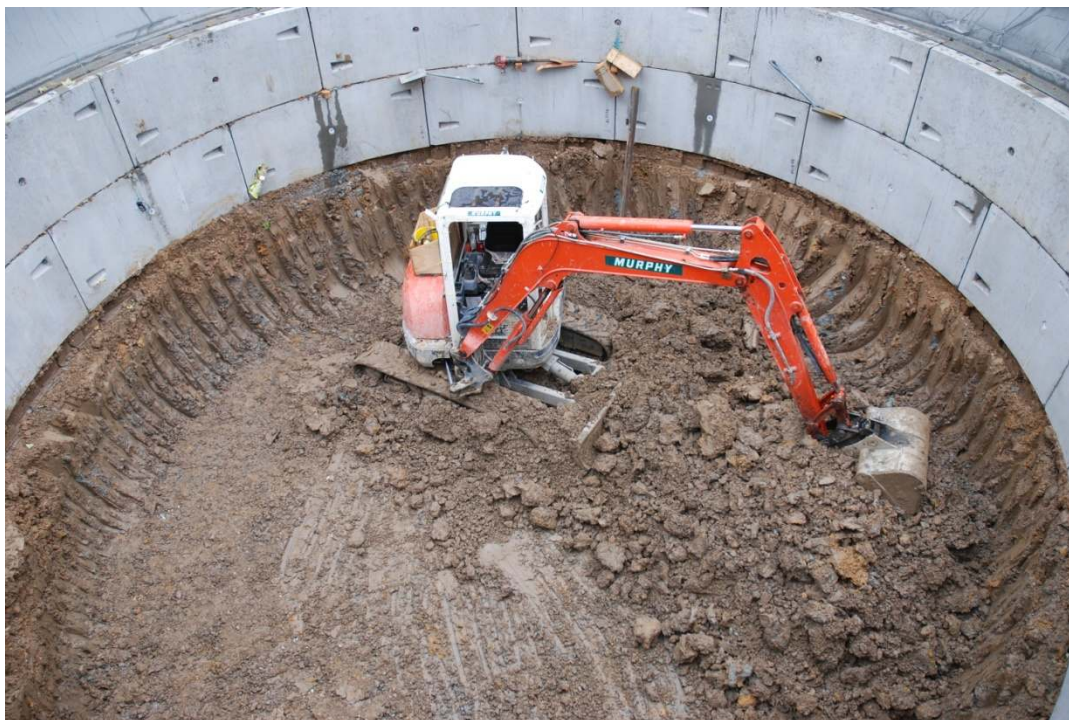


Figure 25: Excavation through natural clay in the main drive shaft.

9. Archaeological Research Questions

9.1 The work at Rush Common presented an opportunity to answer several site specific research questions:

- *Is there any evidence of the Roman road running along the line of Brixton Hill, occupation adjacent to it, or any archaeological remains dating to this period?*

No evidence for the Roman or associated remains were recorded during the archaeological watching brief.

- *Is there any evidence of land enclosure or field boundaries before the large-scale development of the late-19th century?*

No evidence pre-dating the late 19th century was recorded.

- *Is there any evidence of the late 19th century development of the site including garden boundaries and features relating to terraced housing in the northern half of the site, or the carriage-drive to the south shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1916?*

Garden soils and features including brickwork and ceramic path edging were recorded in the north part of the site. These are thought to be contemporary with the 19th century terraced housing.

10. Summary and Conclusions

10.1 Archaeological monitoring in Rush Common during works associated with the Thames Water Utilities Coldharbour Lane Flood Alleviation Scheme recorded varying sequences of deposits across the site. In general, modern topsoil and made-ground deposits were observed overlying either reworked natural clay deposits or deposits probably associated with the gardens and driveways of late 19th century properties built to the east of the site.

10.2 Soil profiles thought to represent a carriage drive and adjacent garden were recorded in the southern Area B, while in the northern part of the site, Area A, a section of ceramic path edging and several fragments of brick feature were observed. These latter features align with the boundaries of the gardens attached to the terraced properties that were demolished some time after 1935.

10.3 There was no evidence associated with the Roman road along Brixton Hill to the west, or of any period before the 19th century. In general, no archaeological finds or features of great significance were recorded during the archaeological watching brief.

11. Bibliography

Compass Archaeology. 2008. *Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Coldharbour Lane Flood Alleviation Scheme, Rush Common Site, Brixton Hill, London Borough of Lambeth. Written Scheme of Investigation for an enhanced programme of archaeological monitoring.*

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Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-78759

Project details

Project name	Thames Water Utilities Ltd Coldharbour Lane Flood Alleviation Scheme, Rush Common Site, Brixton, LB of Lambeth
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring recorded layers of topsoil and modern made-ground overlying reworked natural deposits and natural clays: there were no significant finds. Deposits and features probably associated with the line of terraced houses constructed to the east of the site in the late 19th century were recorded in both the northern and southern site areas.
Project dates	Start: 06-04-2009 End: 15-04-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PATH Post Medieval
Monument type	DEPOSIT Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK FEATURE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LAMBETH BRIXTON Rush Common, Brixton
Postcode	SW2
Study area	025 ha.
Site coordinates	TQ 3091 7493 51.4576874689 -0.115521561713 51 27 27 N 000 06 55 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	Rosie Cummings

Type of sponsor /funding body	Water utility
Name of sponsor /funding body	Thames Water Utilities

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography' , 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes', ' Plan', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Thames Water Utilities Coldharbour Lane flood alleviation scheme, Rush Common Site, Brixton Hill SW2, London Borough of Lambeth: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cummings, R
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, SE1 1RQ
Description	28-page bound report

Entered by	Rosie Cummings (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	25 June 2010

Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address: Rush Common Site, Brixton Hill, SW2, London Borough of Lambeth

Project type: Watching brief

Dates of Fieldwork: 6th April 2009 – 15th April 2010

Site Code: TZU09

Supervisor: Rosie Cummings

NGR: TQ 3091 7493

Funding Body: Thames Water Utilities Ltd

Archaeological monitoring recorded layers of topsoil and modern made-ground overlying reworked natural deposits and natural clays. Deposits and features probably associated with the line of terraced houses constructed to the east of the site in the late 19th century were recorded in both the northern and southern site areas. In the northern part of the site ceramic path edging was recorded which ran parallel with garden boundaries shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1916. Sections of brick were also recorded in this area and are thought to be the remains of contemporary garden features. In the southern area graduated and changing soil profiles are thought to represent a large carriage drive and adjacent gardens belonging to the late 19th century houses.