

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
240 & 252 Camberwell Road
London Borough of Southwark**

NGR: 532390 177040

**ASE Project No: 6777
Site Code: CBW 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014163
OASIS ID: archaeol6-179307**



By Ian Hogg and Gary Webster

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July 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 240 & 252 Camberwell Road, London Borough of Southwark.

The work comprised the monitoring of five geotechnical test pits located within the basements of standing buildings, and six boreholes and 1 test pit, mainly through building floors. Natural gravels were recorded in the footprint of the basements, overlain by modern backfill and the concrete basement slab. The boreholes saw post-medieval made ground overlying the Langley Silt Member. The construction of the basements had severely truncated that area of the site. No archaeological remains were observed.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during site investigation works at 240 & 252 Camberwell Road, London Borough of Southwark (NGR 532390 177040; Figures 1 and 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology of the Study Area is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014) as London Clay, overlain by superficial deposits of the Langley Silt member in the east of the site and Kempton Park Gravels in the west. The site lies at around 4.2m OD.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The potential development involves the demolition of the current buildings and the construction of a mixed use development. An archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2014) was compiled to inform on the archaeological potential of the site and assist with the planning application.
- 1.3.2 This phase of monitoring work will also help to inform on any potential mitigation required during the redevelopment. A written scheme of investigation (ASE 2014) was compiled as a detailed method statement for the work.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the investigation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits

1.4.2 The specific aims of the investigation were:

- To determine the presence or absence of remains relating to the later Saxon settlement thought to have been located near to the site
- Is there any evidence for the development of the site during the post-medieval period?

1.4.3 The investigation will also seek to inform on the relevant research areas set out in *A Research Framework for London Archaeology* (Mol 2002), specifically:

- Studying data from Southwark, in order to be able to characterise the nature of the settlement there (Mol 2002, 49).

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the site between the 14th May and 26th June 2014 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2014). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Archaeologist) and Gary Webster (Archaeologist).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Desk based assessment

2.1.1 The archaeological background is set out in the Desk Based assessment (DBA) prepared for the site by CgMs Consulting Ltd.(CgMs 2014) and is not fully repeated here.

2.2 Summary

2.2.1 The DBA (CgMs 2014) identifies: a low potential for palaeolithic and later prehistoric finds; a low to moderate potential for the Roman period based on unstratified finds and finds from a ditch to the south and south east of the site at Camberwell Green. There is an unknown potential for the Saxon period given that whilst a later Saxon settlement is known to have existed in the area its precise location is unclear and only a single sherd of pottery from the period has been recovered within 750m of the site. There is low to moderate potential for the medieval period.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.1.1 The work comprised the hand excavation of six geotechnical test pits, and six boreholes across the site. All of the test pits, with the exception of test pit 7 were located within existing basements.
- 3.1.2 Spoil from the test pits was visually scanned for finds.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only.
- 3.1.4 A digital photographic record was taken of the work.

3.2 Constraints of Methodology

- 3.2.1 Test Pit 3 was not excavated due to the presence of asbestos and a nearby power cable.
- 3.2.2 Another test pit was excavated, though was not monitored. The excavation stopped at a concrete slab, and so was not archaeologically significant.
- 3.2.3 There was a large borehole being excavated in the north of the site. At the time of visit to site it was in excess of 15m deep, and so was not monitored.

3.3 The archive

- 3.3.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) before the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	41
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	45 Digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Six geotechnical test pits (TP's 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7) were monitored. Three window samples boreholes were monitored (BH's 18, 20 and 21). Three terrier rig boreholes were also monitored (BH's 3a, 17 and 19).

4.2 Test Pits 1, 2 and 4 (Monitored on 14-05-2014 and 16-05-2014)

4.2.1 Test Pits 1, 2 and 4 were located in the north-west of the site. They measured between 0.95m x 0.75m and 0.35m x 0.25m in size and were between 0.64m and 0.77m deep. All pits displayed the same stratigraphic sequence.

4.2.2 Natural Kempton Park Gravels [002] were overlain by the concrete basement slab [001] which was between 0.14m and 0.32m thick.

4.2.3 No archaeological remains were recorded in these pits.

Test Pit	Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.95	0.75	0.19
1	002	Layer	Natural gravels	0.95	0.75	-
2	001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.80	0.60	0.14
2	002	Layer	Natural gravels	0.80	0.60	-
4	001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.35	0.25	0.32
4	002	Layer	Natural gravels	0.35	0.25	-

Table 4: Test Pits 1, 2 and 4. List of recorded contexts

4.3 Test Pit 5 (Monitored on 16-5-2014)

- 4.3.1 Test Pit 5 was located in the north of the site. It measured 0.75m x 0.45m in plan and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m.
- 4.3.2 Natural orange Kempton Park Terrace Gravels [5/003] were overlain by loose grey sand [5/002] with concrete and brick inclusions, interpreted as backfill during the basement construction, the deposit was 0.32m thick. The backfill was overlain by the reinforced concrete basement slab [5/001] which was 0.16m thick. No archaeological remains were recorded in this pit.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
5/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.75	0.45	0.16
5/002	Layer	Construction backfill	0.75	0.45	0.32
5/003	Layer	Natural gravels	0.75	0.45	-

Table 3: Test Pit 5. List of recorded contexts

4.4 Test Pit 6 (Observed on 16-5-2014)

- 4.4.1 Test Pit 6 was located in the north of the site. It measured 0.30m x 0.22m in plan and was excavated to a depth of 0.84m.
- 4.4.2 Natural orange Kempton Park Terrace Gravels [6/003] were overlain by soft mid brown [6/002], with occasional brick and concrete inclusions, interpreted as backfill during the basement construction, the deposit was 0.35m thick. The backfill was overlain by the reinforced concrete basement slab [6/001] 0.14m thick. No archaeological remains were recorded in this pit.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
6/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.30	0.22	0.14
6/002	Layer	Construction backfill	0.30	0.22	0.35
6/003	Layer	Natural gravels	0.30	0.22	-

Table 4: Test Pits 6. List of recorded contexts

4.5 Test Pit 7 (Observed on 26-06-2014)

- 4.5.1 Test Pit 7 was located in the south-west of the site, in an open yard area. It measured c.0.7m x 0.7m in plan, and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m.
- 4.5.2 It was excavated down onto a concrete slab, which appeared to have a service running beneath it. This was overlain by a sandy made ground [7/002], which contained brick and concrete. This was capped with a concrete slab [7/001].
- 4.5.3 The natural geology was not encountered.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
7/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.7	0.7	0.20
7/002	Layer	Construction backfill	0.7	0.7	0.7
7/003	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.7	0.7	-

Table 5: Test Pit 7. List of recorded contexts

4.6 Borehole 3a (Observed on 26-06-2014)

- 4.6.1 Borehole 3a was located just south of the centre of the site, within a building. It was excavated to a depth of more than 2m.
- 4.6.2 The highest natural deposit reached was the Langley Silt Member [3a/004] at a depth of 1.15m. This was overlain by a redeposited natural layer [3a/003], which was a mottled brown sandy clay, containing occasional gravel. This was overlain by a made ground [3a/002], which was a greenish brown, silty sandy clay, which contained charcoal and brick fragments. It was capped with a concrete slab [3a/001].

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
3a/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.4
3a/002	Layer	Made Ground	0.5
3a/003	Layer	Redeposited Natural	0.25
3a/004	Layer	Langley Silt Member	0.45
3a/005	Layer	Natural Sand	0.8

Table 6: Borehole 3a. List of recorded contexts

4.7 Borehole 17 (Observed on 26-06-2014)

- 4.7.1 Borehole 17 was located in the north-west of the site, inside a single storey building.
- 4.7.2 The excavation reached the natural clay [17/007] at 1.99m depth. This was overlain by made ground [17/006] a stiff greyish brown silty sandy clay, containing ash and degraded brick. This is overlain by made ground [17/005] a light brown slightly clayey silt sand with occasional flint gravel. Above this was [17/004] a brown silty sandy clay made ground, with brick and chalk fragments. This was overlain by made ground [17/003], a brown clayey silty sand, with occasional fine brick fragments. The final layer of made ground, above this, was [17/002], a brown silty sandy clay with occasional flint gravel. The sequence was capped by a concrete slab [17/001].
- 4.7.3 The variations in the made ground are not significant, and probably do not represent several phases of re-levelling the area.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
17/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.19
17/002	Layer	Made Ground	0.3
17/003	Layer	Made Ground	0.16
17/004	Layer	Made Ground	0.14
17/005	Layer	Made Ground	0.7
17/006	Layer	Made Ground	0.5
17/007	Layer	Natural	0.7

Table 7: Borehole 17. List of recorded contexts

4.8 Borehole 18 (Observed on 26-06-2014)

- 4.8.1 Borehole 18 was located in the south-east of the centre of the site, within a building.
- 4.8.2 The excavation reached the natural at 1.6m. The natural mottled brown clay [18/004] was overlain by a redeposited natural [18/003], which contained occasional CBM fragments. This was overlain with [18/002], a made ground of brown silty sand clay. It contains charcoal, CBM and bone. The sequence was capped with a concrete slab [18/001].

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
18/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.4
18/002	Layer	Made Ground	1.1
18/003	Layer	Redeposited Natural	0.1
18/004	Layer	Natural	+

Table 8: Borehole 18. List of recorded contexts

4.9 Borehole 19 (Observed on 26-06-2014)

4.9.1 This borehole was located to the south of the site, within a building.

4.9.2 The natural was not reached in this borehole. The lowest encountered context was [19/004] a concrete slab. Overlaying this was a dark brown silty clayey sand made ground [19/003], with occasional brick fragments and concrete. This was overlain by made ground [19/002], a dark brownish grey silty sandy clay, which contained brick fragments and occasional gravel. A concrete slab [19/001] was the top of the sequence.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
19/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.5
19/002	Layer	Made Ground	0.3
19/003	Layer	Made Ground	0.5
19/004	Masonry	Concrete slab	+

Table 9: Borehole 19. List of recorded contexts

4.10 Borehole 20 (Observed on 26-06-2014)

4.10.1 This borehole was located to the south-east of the site, within a building.

4.10.2 The Langley silt member [20/003] was encountered at 1.68m, and was the highest natural layer identified. This was overlain by a made ground [20/002], a greyish brown silty sandy clay, which contained brick fragments and metal waste. This was overlain by a concrete slab [20/001].

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
20/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	0.21
20/002	Layer	Made Ground	1.47
20/003	Layer	Natural	1.03
20/004	Layer	Natural	0.9 +

Table 10: Borehole 20. List of recorded contexts

4.11 Borehole 21 (Observed on 26-06-2014)

4.11.1 This borehole was located to the south-west of the site, just to the north of test pit 7, in an open yard area.

4.11.2 The natural Langley silt member [21/002] was the highest natural deposit encountered at a depth of 0.8m. This was overlain by made ground [21/001] which was a brown silty sand, containing occasional brick fragments.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
21/001	Layer	Made Ground	0.8
21/002	Layer	Natural	0.7
21/003	Layer	Natural Gravel	0.1
21/004	Layer	Natural Black Sand	0.1
21/005	Layer	Natural Gravel	+

Table 11: Borehole 21. List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Natural Kempton Park Gravels were recorded in the basement area tested by test pits 1 – 6. In the easternmost two test pits (5 and 6) the natural deposits were overlain by modern deposits probably associated with backfilling during the construction of the basement. All test pits were sealed by the concrete basement slabs.
- 5.2 The basements within which the test pits were located were between 2.50m and 3.50m below current ground level. The construction of these basements will therefore have resulted in the removal of any archaeological deposits which may have previously existed in this area.
- 5.3 The areas investigated outside of the footprint of the basements saw made ground coming directly down onto the Langley Silt Member. The made ground was found directly underneath the concrete slab which formed the floor over the majority of the site. The made ground contained CBM and degraded brick. It is likely associated with a levelling of the site, before previous phases of construction.
- 5.4 No archaeological finds, deposits or features of any date were identified during the monitoring.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank the Hadley Group, for financing the project, CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout and Dr, Chis Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer, Southwark, for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	CBW 14					
Identification Name and Address	240 & 252 Camberwell Road					
County, District &/or Borough	Southwark					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3239 7704					
Geology	Kempton Park Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6777					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban✓	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 14-05-2014 to 26-06-2014	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other None		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 240 & 252 Camberwell Road, London Borough of Southwark.</p> <p>The work comprised the monitoring of five geotechnical test pits located within the basements of standing buildings, and six boreholes and 1 test pit, mainly through building floors. Natural gravels were recorded in the footprint of the basements, overlain by modern backfill and the concrete basement slab. The boreholes saw post-medieval made ground overlying the Langley Silt Member. The construction of the basements had severely truncated that area of the site. No archaeological remains were observed.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-179307

Project details

Project name	240 & 252 Camberwell Road
Short description of the project	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 240 & 252 Camberwell Road, London Borough of Southwark.</p> <p>The work comprised the monitoring of five geotechnical test pits located within the basements of standing buildings, and six boreholes and 1 test pit, mainly through building floors. Natural gravels were recorded in the footprint of the basements, overlain by modern backfill and the concrete basement slab. The boreholes saw post-medieval made ground overlying the Langley Silt Member. The construction of the basements had severely truncated that area of the site. No archaeological remains were observed.</p>
Project dates	Start: 14-05-2014 End: 26-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CBW 14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	6777 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK CAMBERWELL AND DULWICH 240 & 252 Camberwell Road
Postcode	SE5 0DP
Study area	9000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3239 7704 51.4763062864 -0.0934387744958 51 28 34 N 000
05 36 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report"

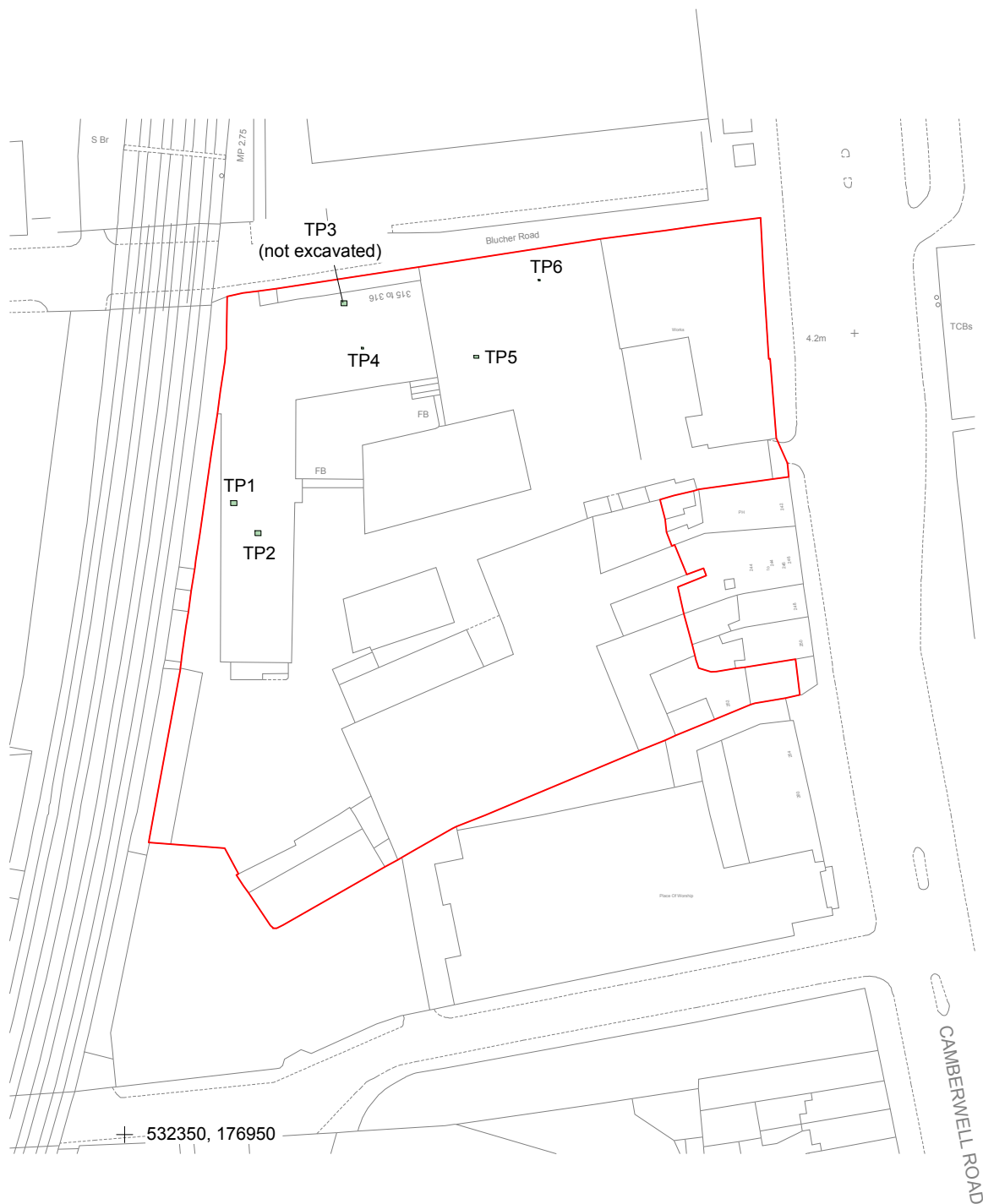
Entered by	Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	20 May 2014



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© Archaeology South-East		240 & 252 Camberwell Road, Southwark	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6777	May 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014163	Drawn by: RHC		

+ 532350, 177150



■ Test Pit



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© Archaeology South-East		240 & 252 Camberwell Road, Southwark		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6777	May 2014	Monitored test pits		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: AR			



TP1 facing east



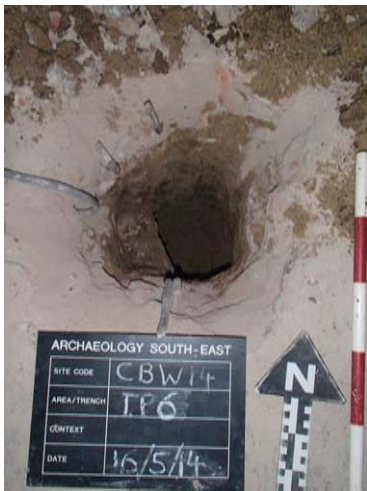
TP2 facing north



TP4 facing north



TP5 facing north



TP6 facing north

© Archaeology South-East		240 & 252 Camberwell Road, Southwark	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6777	May 2014	Photographs	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

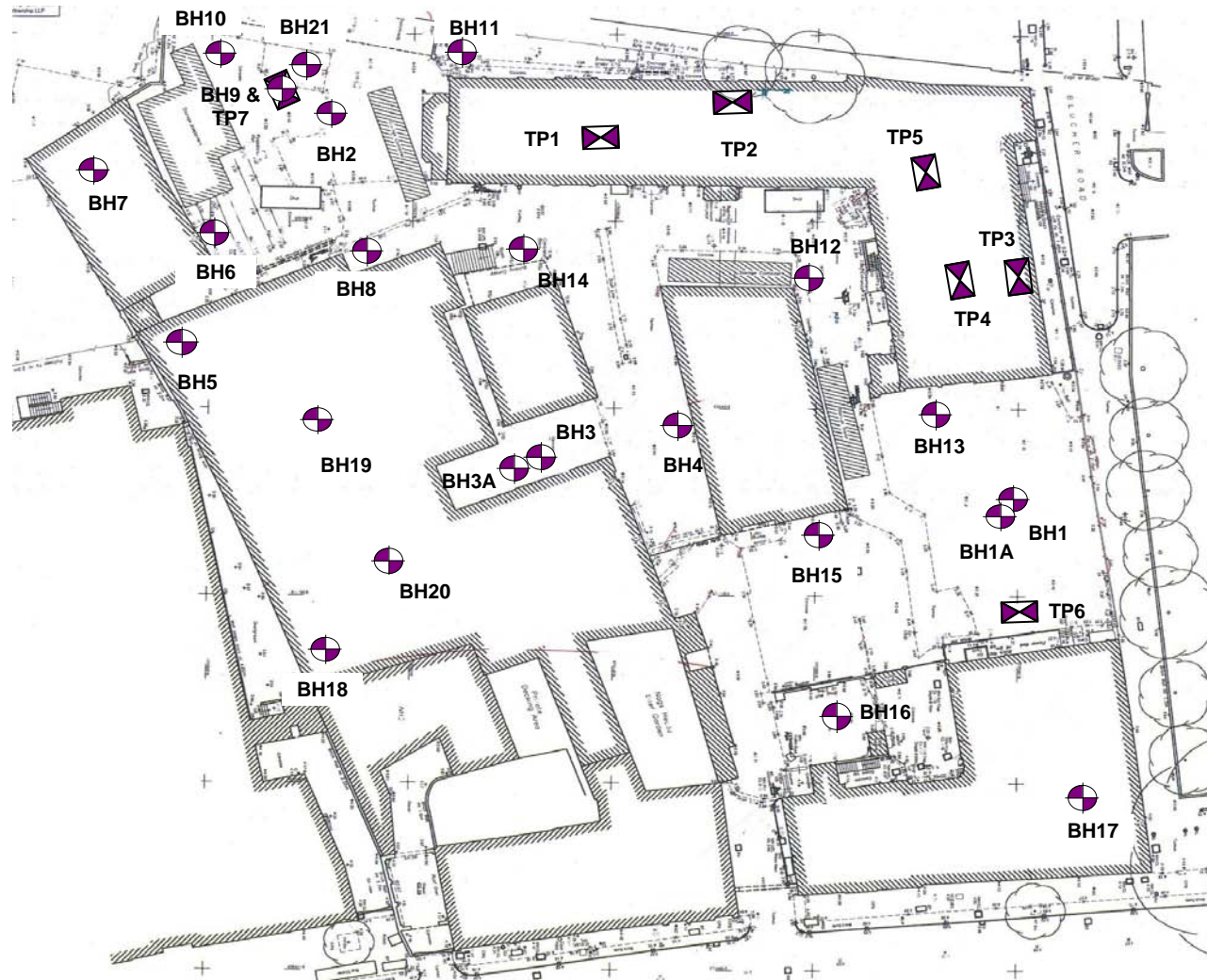
Site 240 & 252 Camberwell Road, London, SE5 0DP

Client Camberwell Property

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Job Number
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Sheet
1 / 1



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