Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation at 103-106 Shoreditch High Street

NGR 533468 182538

Project No:3063
Site Code: SDQ08

ASE Report No. 2008165
OASIS id:48622

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Abstract

Archaeology South East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, GlenKerrin Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 103-106 Shoreditch High Street. The work was carried out between 13th of May and the first of September 2008, in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site.

A total of four trenches were excavated across the site to a depth of approximately 13.40m OD. These trenches revealed a sequence of potentially Roman quarry pitting and ditches, medieval pits and ditches and 16th and 17th century soils, pits and masonry structures.

Truncation was limited to the western extent of the site in the areas within the footprint of the current buildings. Where truncation did occur it only involved the removal of later 17th and 18th century ground raising deposits.

Overall the archaeology identified on the site can be regarded as of local significance but with the potential to answer questions relating to the development of the area from the Roman to the pot-medieval periods.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of their client Glenkerrin(UK) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of Land at 103-106 Shoreditch High street in the London Borough of Hackney, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (Fig. 1). The fieldwork was carried out between 13th of May and 1st of September 2008 in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site.

1.1.2 The site is bounded to the west by Shoreditch High Street to the south by the Crown Plaza hotel and to the north and east by commercial and residential properties.

1.1.3 The modern ground surface on the road adjacent to the site was *c.*15.90m OD

1.1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken by David Jamieson (Senior Archaeologist), Sarah Doherty, Nicola kalimeris and Chiz Harward (Archaeologists). The project was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, Post Excavation).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies upon the Hackney gravels to the east of spur of higher gravel respecting the line of Shoreditch High Street. To the west of this spur was a tributary of the Walbrook Channel. Street level adjacent to the site lies at a height of approximately 15.90m OD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The site is located within an Area of Archaeological Priority, as shown in the London Borough of Hackney's Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map.

1.3.2 This led to the production of an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of the site (CgMs 2007), which outlined the site's archaeological potential. The proposed site was identified to have a good potential for the Palaeolithic period, moderate potential for the Mesolithic and low potential for all subsequent periods of activity.

1.3.2 Following the production of the Desk Based Assessment, David Divers (GLAAS), acting as the Archaeological Advisor for the London Borough of Hackney, instructed that an Archaeological Evaluation be conducted as a condition of planning consent. In response to this, CgMs Consulting Ltd produced a Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation (CgMs 2007), which was agreed by David Divers (GLAAS).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 Three Principal aims were set out in the Specification (CgMs 2007). These were:

1) To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits

2) Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.

3) Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background is summarised in Specification for an archaeological evaluation and DBA for land at 103-106 Shoreditch High Street (Cgms 2007). In summary the site is located on the line of Roman Ermine Street and is located toward the northern and eastern edge of the medieval settlement of Shoreditch and some 300m northeast of Holywell Priory. The area around the site probably underwent rapid change during the post-medieval period due to the increasing population of London. The site is currently the site is occupied by three basemented residential properties.

2.2 The DBA identified the sit has having the following archaeological potential:

- A good potential for significant Roman remains including burials, roadside ditches and quarrying.
- A good potential for survival of medieval remains
- A low potential for post-medieval remains

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 A total of four trenches were excavated across the site (Fig. 2). The trenches were of varying lengths and targeted to assess the degree of archaeological survival and truncation across the site. The trenches were broken out and the overburden was removed by machine under archaeological supervision. Archaeological deposits were then hand cleaned and recorded. One of the trenches, (known as the crane base), was fully excavated to natural deposits in order to clear the area of archaeology in advance of construction works.

3.2 The trenches were excavated, under constant archaeological supervision, by a tracked excavator using a smooth edged 1.8m wide grading bucket.

3.3 The tarmac surface was broken by machine and 'modern' overburden was removed by machine under archaeological supervision down to archaeological deposits.

3.4 A watching brief was carried out on underpinning works in the north western corner of the sites.

3.5 Any archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification (CgMs 2007) using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn at 1:20 for plans and 1:10 and 1:20 for sections. The colours of the deposits were established by visual inspection.

3.6 A photographic record was kept of the archaeological deposits and features. This will form part of the site archive. The site archive is held at Archaeology South-East's office in Portslade, prior to being offered to a suitable local repository.

Number of Contexts	102
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	10
Bulk Samples	2
Photographs	40
Bulk finds	2-3boxes
Registered finds	1 box
Environmental flots/residue	11

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3-5)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
25	Layer	Garden soil	Tr	Tr	0.70m	14.07
26	Fill	Fill of 28	>8.40	Tr	>0.90m	13.30
27	Layer	Slumping deposit	0.30m	Tr	>0.90m	13.37
28	Cut	Quarry pit?	>8.40	Tr	>0.90m	13.30-12.43
29	Layer	Natural gravel and sand	Tr	Tr		13.30-13.46
30	Timber	Piles	0.13	0.13	0.65	13.55
31	Fill	Fill of (32)	2.00m	2.60m	0.55	13.46
32	Cut	Linear feature	2.00m	2.60m	0.55	13.46-12.91

Table 2: Trench 1 contexts

Summary

4.1.1 This trench measured 9.00m by 2.00m. The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was natural sands and gravels [29] encountered between 13.30m OD and 13.46m OD. This was cut through toward the east of the trench by [28] a large steep sided cut. This cut measured 2.40m by 2.00m and was not bottomed at a depth of 12.43m OD. The earliest fill identified within this feature was a slumping deposit of gravel, [27], identified on the western edge of the cut. This was overlain to a height of 13.30m OD by a mid to dark blueish grey brown clayey silt, [26]. This deposit contained peaty lenses toward it base. It is probable that this feature represents quarrying and subsequent infill and silting.

4.1.2 Driven thorough these fills from an unknown height was a series of four timber posts, [30]. These were roughly hewn and box quartered. One of these posts was tapered at its base. The posts probably represent later piling for ground consolidation. The top of these posts lay at *c.*13.55m OD

4.1.3 Towards the west of the trench, cutting the natural gravel was a large, cut linear feature, [32]. This feature was cut to a depth of 2.91m and measured 1.90m east west and 2.00m north south. It was filled by a homogeneous mid orange brown clayey sandy silt, [31] which did not produce any finds. Given its size and alignment, this feature potentially represents a roadside ditch. This feature was cut to a depth of 12.91m OD from a height of 13.46m OD

4.1.4 Sealing these features was a mid grey brown clayey sandy silt, [25]. The top of which lay at 14.07m OD. This deposit was up to 0.65m thick and probably represents a garden soil horizon. Overlying this was the modern basement slab.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figs 3, 6 and 7)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
8	Masonry	Culvert	2m	0.60	0.80m	14.14-13.54
9	Layer	Garden soil	Tr	Tr	2.00m	13.34-15.40
10	Cut	Linear	2.0	1.0m	0.30	13.64
11	layer	makeup		0.40m	0.10m	13.49
12	layer	Demolition		0.70	0.13	13.50
13	layer	dumping	Tr	Tr	0.48	13.63
14	layer	dumping	Tr	1.30	0.20m	13.07
15	layer	Demolition	Tr	1.30m	0.28m	13.09
16	Cut	Pit		0.80	0.60	13.49
17	Layer	Garden soil?	Tr	0.95	0.25	13.56
18	layer	Dumping/occupation	Tr	Tr	0.12	13.34
19	layer	Dumping	Tr	Tr	0.20m	13.24
20	Layer	Dumping/occupation				13.20
103	Layer	Natural Gravel	Tr			12.84-13.07

Table 3: Trench 2 contexts

Summary

4.2.1 The base of this trench measured 2.00m by 1.90m. The earliest deposit identified in this trench was natural gravel, [103], encountered between 12.84m OD and 13.07m OD. This was overlain toward the east of the trench by a light brown sandy clay, [15], containing fragments of 16th – 18th century peg tile. This deposit measured 1.30m east west and was over 2m north south. This deposit was 0.28m thick and probably represents a demolition or consolidation deposit. Overlying this layer to the west, was a mid greenish greyish brown sandy clay dump deposit, [14]. This deposit measured 1.30m east west and was 0.20m thick. These layers were overlain by a mixed greenish to greyish brown sandy silty clay dumping deposit, [13], which contained pottery dating to the 16th and 17th centuries. The top of this dumping lay at 13.63m OD.

4.2.2 Overlying these deposits, toward the centre of the trench, was a dump or demolition deposit comprising a pale yellowish brown silty sand with frequent mortar flecks, [12]. This layer contained pottery dating to the 16th and 17th centuries and measured 1.00m wide by 0.13m thick. Layer [12] was cut by a north south aligned linear feature, [10]. This feature measured 1m in width and was 0.30m thick. The earliest fill of this feature comprised a mid yellowish brown clean silty clay [11]. This deposit probably represents redeposited brickearth natural. The primary function of linear cut [10] was to carry an arched brick culvert, [8], which occurred between 14.14m and 13.54m OD. This structure comprised early 17th century brick unfrogged

brick constructed in the English bond, bonded with a soft cream sandy lime mortar. This culvert was 0.80m in width and was 0.60m high and extended the width of the trench. Overlying / packed around this structure during construction, was a homogeneous deposit, [9], comprising a dark greyish brown fine sandy silt with occasional oyster shell, flint gravel, charcoal fleck and cbm fragments. Pottery and tile from this deposit dated to the 16th and early 17th century although residual medieval and Roman tile was also recovered. This deposit extended across the entire trench and was 2.00m thick. This layer probably represents post medieval garden soil. This soil was overlain by demolition material. A similar but more complex sequence was observed in the west facing section of this trench. This section appeared to be to show that a deposit undifferentiated from [9] was filling a potential pit cut [16]. This cut was cutting a deposit of pale green silty sand [17] containing early post medieval pottery and tile and a single 13th to 14th century gazed floor tile. This deposit can be seen as potentially equivalent to deposit [13] this in turn overlay a series of three dumping deposits, ([18],[19],[20]), broadly equivalent to [14]. Context [20] contained 15th and 16th century CBM. These deposits sat on top of natural gravel, [103].

4.3 Trench 3

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
1	Fill	Pit fill	2.00m	1.10	>0.40m	12.72-13.14
2	Cut	Pit	2.00m	1.10	>0.40m	12.72-13.14
3	Fill	Organic channel fill	>2.00m	2.40m	1.00m	13.42-12.82
4	Cut	Ditch cut	>2.00m	2.40m	1.00m	13.62-12.82
5	Deposit	Consolidation deposit	>2.00	3.10m	0.70m	13.62
6	Deposit	Garden soil	Tr	Tr	0.30m	13.62-13.92
7	Deposit	Garden soil	Tr	Tr	2.20m	13.92-16.10
104	Deposit	Natural Brickearth / gravel	Tr			12.72

Table 4: Trench 3 contexts

Summary

4.3.1 The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was the natural brickearth and gravel, [104] which occurred at 12.72m OD. This was cut by a pit [2] this pit was subcircular in shape and measured 1.10m by 2.00m and was at least 0.30m deep. This was filled by a greyish brown sandy silty clay, [1] containing two sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery. This was in turn cut to the east by a linear north south aligned cut, [4]. This cut measured 2.40m wide and was 1.00m deep its length is unknown. Context [4] probably represents a drainage ditch. This ditch was filled by a waterlogged mid

greyish brown silty clay with organic lenses, [3], which contained fragments of 16th and 17th century building material. This fill was overlain by a deposit of mixed gravel and brickearth up to 0.70m thick, [5] which probably represents ground consolidation over the backfilled waterlogged ditch. Above this deposit was a o.20m thick mid greenish brown cessy garden soil, [6]. This in turn was overlain by a mid to dark brown garden soil up to 2.20m thick, [7]. This soil contained building material dating to the 16th to 18th centuries and occurred between 13.92m and 16.10m OD.

4.4 Crane base

4.4.1 In addition to the three evaluation trenches the footprint of a crane base was excavated in advance of construction works. The footprint of the crane base measured 6m x 4m but was stepped out to allow for safe excavation at depth. This resulted in the existing southern party wall being used as the southern limit of the area and an area approximately 3m x5m being exposed and recorded to the east of the footprint of the crane base'

4.4.2 Modern made ground was excavated by a tracked excavator using a bladed ditching bucket from the area east of the former basement to a depth of approximately 14.75m OD. Post-medieval ground raising dumps were then removed by machine to the first significant archaeological deposits, features present at that level were excavated, and the area of the crane base further reduced by machine to the next identifiable horizon.

4.4.3 The crane base lay partially within the area of the former basements at the front of the site, which had been infilled during demolition works. This infilling was removed down to the basement slab which lay at 13.90m OD, and the 19th century eastern basement retaining wall demolished down to the slab level. The basement slab was broken out once excavation of the eastern part of the crane base had reached a level below the slab.

4.4.4 The excavation was continued until natural gravel was reached at the north of the trench, after which slots were hand excavated through the remaining features.

4.4.5 For health and safety reasons a tracked excavator was used to demolish and remove post-medieval walls and structures within the area of the crane base under archaeological watching brief conditions.

4.4.6 During this watching brief a machine slot was dug through the crane base area to assess the deepest surviving features (which had not been hand excavated due to safety considerations regarding the depth of the trench).

4.4.7 The area to the east of the crane base was included in the overall trench in order to maintain a safe excavation. Archaeological remains in this area were cleaned, recorded and where possible, brick samples taken from structures. The archaeological remains were then covered and the area backfilled to piling mat level.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	m. AOD
33	Fill	Fill	0.9m	0.3m	0.9m	15.09m
34	Masonry	Soakaway	1.2m	0.5m	0.9m	15.09m

35	Cut	Cut	1.2m	0.5m	0.9m	15.09m
36	Layer	Garden soil/dump	0.5m	0.3m		14.48m
37	Masonry	Culvert	0.9m	0.42m	0.3m	14.48m
38	Cut	Trench	0.9m	0.42m	0.3m	14.48m
39	Fill	Fill	1.48m	1.62m		13.83m
40	Masonry	Cesspit/silt-trap	1.85m	1.88m		13.83m
41	Cut	Cut	1.85m	1.88m		13.83m
42	Masonry	Culvert	2.60m	0.8m	1.2m	15.03m
43	Cut	Cut	2.60m	0.8m	1.2m	15.03m
44	Masonry	Culvert	11.5m	0.35m	1.55m	14.11m
45	Masonry	Culvert	8.5m	0.2-0.39m	1.56m	14.12m
46	Cut	Pit	1.0m	0.8m	0.2m	14.03m
47	Fill	Fill	1.0m	0.8m	0.2m	14.03m
48	Cut	Pit	2.0m	0.5m	0.72m	14.75m
49	Layer	Ground raising dump	6.0m		0.45m	14.75m
50	Layer	Ground raising dump	4.0m		0.07m	14.30m
51	Layer	Soil horizon	6.2m	2.5m	0.36m	14.18m
52	Fill	Fill	2.0m		0.45m	14.75m
53	Fill	Fill	1.90m		0.25m	14.60m
54	Fill	Fill	1.70m		0.40m	14.43m
55	Fill	Fill	5.7m	1.1m	1.54m	14.03m
56	Fill	Fill	5.7m	1.1m	1.54m	14.03m
57	Cut	Trench	6m	2,80m	1.54m	14.03m
59	Masonry	Culvert	4.40m	0.22m	2.0m	14.57m
60	Masonry	Culvert	0.83m	0.22m	0.22m	14.27m
61	Masonry	Culvert	1.2m	0.22m	0.20m	14.25m
62	Fill	Fill	8.0m	1.60m	0.96m	14.03m
63	Cut	Ditch	8.0m	1.60m	0.96m	14.03m
64	Cut	Pit	0.6m	0.35m	0.2m	13.73m
65	Fill	Fill	0.6m	0.35m	0.2m	13.73m
66	Cut	Fill	0.68m	0.50m	0.15m	13.78m
67	Fill	Pit	0.68m	0.50m	0.15m	13.78m
68	Cut	Pit	0.76m	0.70m	0.15m	13.78
69	Fill	Fill	0.76m	0.70m	0.15m	13.78
70	Layer	Soil horizon	6m	2.5m	0.55m	13.78m
71	Cut	Pit	1.60m	1.55m	0.89m	13.78m
72	Fill	Fill	1.60m	1.55m	0.89m	13.78m
73	Masonry	Wall	5.1m	0.25m	0.35m	15.95m
74	Masonry	Wall	6.1m	0.34m	1.4m	15.15m
75	Masonry	Wall	6.0m	0.34m	1.17	14.75m
76	Masonry	Wall	2.20m	0.40m	1.09m	14.35m
77	Cut	Linear	1.90m	0.45m	0.17m	13.31m
78	Fill	Fill	1.90m	0.45m	0.17m	13.31m
79	Cut	Linear	2.20m	0.55m	0.29m	13.33m
80	Fill	Fill	2.20m	0.55m	0.29m	13.33m
84	Cut	Pit	1.6m	1.85m	1.1m	13.76m
85	Fill	Fill	1.6m	1.85m	0.4m	13.76m
86	Fill	Fill	1.6m	1.85m	0.7m	13.36m
87	Cut	Linear	6m	1.28m	0.3m	13.37m
88	Fill	Fill	6m	1.28m	0.3m	13.37m
89	Fill	Fill		0.8m		
90	Fill	Fill		0.8m		

91	Fill	Fill	6m	2.1m	1.2m	12.80m
92	Fill	Fill		0.9m	0.35m	13.30m
93	Fill	Fill		0.78m	0.4m	13.15m
94	Fill	Fill		0.5m	0.24m	12.90m
95	Cut	channel	6m	2.1m	1.2m	12.80m

Table 5 : Crane Base Contexts

4.4.8 The area of the crane base measured 6m by 4m. Natural mid-orange sandy gravels were recorded across the trench with a surface level of 13.34m OD.

4.4.9 The earliest feature recorded was a large channel or pit [95] (not shown on plan) apparently aligned east-west. The base of the feature lay at 11.60m OD, and the feature was at least 2.10m wide (north-south). It had been truncated at the south by the hotel retaining wall and the southern limit or edge was not observed. The feature was excavated by machine under a watching brief due to the depth of the trench, samples were taken of the fill, [94], an anaerobic bluish-grey silty clay with organic remains including twigs and leaves. The fill had stained the underlying gravels a bluish hue and had a strong 'foreshore' smell. (Fig 10 and Fig 13, Interpretative Section).

4.4.10 Gravelly-silty fills, [92-4], recorded in a hand-excavated slot through a later ditch may relate to fills of [95]. Alternately they may be fills of an early east-west aligned ditch. The feature may represent a natural water channel, or a very large quarry pit that subsequently developed into a pond and gradually silted up. (Fig 10 and Fig 13, Interpretative Section).

4.4.11 A shallow linear feature, [87], truncated the channel, it was 1.28m wide and 0.3m deep, and had been truncated to the south by a later ditch, [57]. The feature was aligned east-west and may be a later incarnation or recut of feature [95]. The fill, [88], was a plastic orange-brown clay with frequent stones, and contained abraded Romano-British ceramic building material. (Fig 10 and Fig 13, Interpretative Section).

4.4.12 Context [77], an east-west aligned, round based, linear feature truncated [91]. 0.45m wide and 0.17m deep, it was filled with [78], a gravelly clayey silt. It was truncated by a further linear, [79] northeast-southwest aligned, which was 0.29m deep and filled with a similar gravelly clay silt. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill [80]. (Fig 10).

4.4.13 Sealing all these features was [70], a compact homogenous mid orange-brown silty clay with frequent stones. The layer extended across the trench except where truncated and is interpreted as a post-Roman soil or subsoil. The surface of the layer was at 13.78m OD. There was a fairly sharp contact between the base of the layer and the underlying natural gravels, this and the homogenous nature of the layer indicates that it had been extensively reworked, possibly by agricultural activity. It is highly likely that the reworking of the layer removed the original level from which features 79, 77, 87 and 95 were cut. (Figs 11 and 13).

4.4.14 A series of pits truncated layer [70]: [64], [66] and [68]. These were small pits under 1m square and between 0.15 and 0.2m deep. Ceramics from the pits dated 16th to mid 17th centuries. (Fig. 11 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section).

4.4.15 A large pit, [84] was excavated at the west of the crane base. Measuring over 1.6m by 1.85m, it extended beyond the excavated area to the north and west. The base of the pit was not reached in the sample area excavated, but the lowest fill, [86], was a plastic blue-grey silty clay with moderate quantities of pebbles. The deposit appeared to be anaerobic in nature and may have been laid under waterlogged conditions within the pit, possibly being left open as a pond. A later infilling of the open pit [85] contained cockles and oyster shells. Ceramic building material from This fill indicates a 16th or 17th century date. (Fig 11 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section).

4.4.16 Cutting [85] to the east was a further pit, [71], which was vertically sided and measured 1.6m by over 1.55m north-south. The pit was 0.89m deep and had been infilled with [72], a dark grey brown sandy-silty clay with numerous inclusions of brick and tile, oyster, whelks and mussel shells, chalk fragments and ceramics dating to the late 15th or early 16th century.. The pit is interpreted as a rubbish pit. (Fig 11 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section).

4.4.17 Sealing the pits was a homogenous garden soil: [51]. The layer was machined to a level of 14.05m OD, however inspection of the sections indicate the surface lies at 14.18m OD. The deposit is interpreted as being a cultivation soil, the presence of a good upper surface is consistent with being the context forming the ground surface for some time. (Fig 12)

4.4.18 A small pit truncated the surface of [51]: Pit [46] was probably cut from higher in the sequence. Ceramics from the pit date to the later 16th to 17th century. (Fig 12).

4.4.19 An east-west aligned ditch, [63] was dug along the line of the earlier probable channel [95]. The ditch may respect the line of the earlier feature, or be coincidental. The ditch was truncated to the south by a later culvert, but was at least 1.60m wide, and was at least 0.96m deep. Two hand-excavated slots 1.2m wide were excavated through the ditch. The fill, [62], was a fairly homogenous mid slightly greenish brown slightly silty clay containing moderate quantities of stones. Also within the fill were several bones from ox or horse sized animals, probably discarded into the ditch. The lack of a primary silt fill may suggest the ditch was deliberately backfilled, however it is possible that some of contexts [92-94] are in fact primary silts of this ditch, and not upper fills of [95]. The sloping profile of the top of the ditch fill [62] also suggests that the ditch was filling up gradually rather than being infilled rapidly, although it is clear from the bones and bricks that material was thrown into the ditch for disposal. The ditch may well have marked the boundary between two properties, and may have also carried rainwater from the road into the gardens and cultivated spaces to the rear of the properties. (Fig 12 and Fig 13, Interpretative Section).

4.4.20 To the south of the ditch, masonry wall [76] had been built. The wall was aligned east-west, parallel to ditch [63], although the stratigraphic relationship to the ditch had been removed by a later culvert. (Figs 10 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section 13 Section 5).

4.4.21 Wall [76] was constructed of poorly coursed roughly hewn ragstone blocks bonded with a pale yellow soft sandy mortar. There were occasional small

fragments of chalk 30mm by 30mm within the build, and very occasional orange-red brick fragments. A thin coat of very hard off-white lime render had later been applied to the northern face which obscured much of the build detail. (Figs 10 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section 13)

4.4.22 The wall had been severely truncated by modern underpinning associated with the adjacent hotel, however the structure was intermittently recorded over a length of some 2.2m, and further stretches may survive to the east of the crane base. The wall survived to a consistent height of 14.35m OD and this *may* have been the original top of the wall. It is however possible that the existence of later rebuilds above this point indicates that wall [76] was merely demolished to this level prior to its rebuilding in brick: it is worth noting that contemporary ground surface would have been approximately 14.18m OD at this time.(Figs 10 and Fig 13)

4.4.23 The base of the wall, which offset some 0.14m to the north, was at 13.26m OD giving a total height of 1.09m. The wall was approximately 0.4m thick, although this may have been affected by later truncation from the underpinning. It does appear that the true western end of [76] may have survived on site, as there was a near-vertical butt joint between [76] and a later wall, [75] that appeared to not be a truncation. This may indicate that wall [76] returned to the south, or terminated, at this point. Wall [76] would probably have acted as the revetment of the southern side of ditch [63].(Figs 10 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section 13)

4.4.24 Wall [76] may be late medieval in origin although there were orange-red bricks within the build that would appear to indicate a 16th century date. No bricks could be recovered during the demolition of the wall by machine.(Figs 10 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section 13)

4.4.25 Wall [76] was either demolished to 14.35m OD, or any timber superstructure was stripped off to allow for rebuilding in brick. Peg tiles (140 x 12 x 210mm) were used to create a flat surface for the construction of 75: a brick wall aligned east-west, reusing [76] in part as a foundation, although slightly offset from its northern face by approximately 0.08m. [75] was observed over a length of approximately 6m east-west, with a base at 13.58m OD, and a maximum height of 14.75m OD. The wall was built of hand-made orange-red unfrogged bricks laid in an English bond, bonded with a soft-medium hard yellow cream sandy lime mortar. The bricks measured (BTL) 102 x 45-52 x 220mm and appear to be 16th century in date. (Figs 10 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section 13)).

4.4.26 A drain had been integrally built into the wall, the drain was a 0.19m high rectangular aperture through the body of the wall. The base of the drain aperture was at 13.99m OD, just below contemporary ground surface. The presence of the drain reinforces the interpretation that wall [75] revetted the south side of ditch [63], with water flowing through the aperture into the ditch. The wall may have been a property boundary as there was no render or whitewash, which would suggest an internal face, was found on the southern face of the wall. It does however appear to have taken drainage from both north and south.(Figs 12 and Fig 13)

4.4.27 Contemporary with or slightly after the construction of [75], the north face of [76] was rendered. The render was carried over the top of [76] and was laid

against the base of [75] where that wall was founded on [75]. The intention appears to be of waterproofing the wall to prevent damp rising from the ditch [63]. No render however was applied to the lower portion of brick wall [75].

4.4.28 Following the partial infilling of ditch [63], a trench was dug, [57] along the length of the ditch to take a new, brick, culvert. The trench appears to have cut down the side of the walls [75] and [76] to the south, and through the ditch on the north. The trench appears to have been dug from the ground surface of [51] at approximately 14.10m OD, although this cannot be stratigraphically demonstrated. The trench was dug to a base at 12.56m OD and was approximately 2.8m wide at the top, although the lower metre of the trench was very steep sided and only approximately 2m wide. (Figs 12 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section 13).

4.4.29 Within the trench a brick culvert was constructed. The southern wall, [45], was built flush against [75] and [76] for much of its length, before diverging slightly to the north creating a slight kink in the alignment. The northern wall, [44], was parallel to the southern wall, creating a culvert 0.8m wide internally. The walls were founded on the base of the trench [57], at 12.56m OD. There was no floor to the culvert, although other examples from London have elm baseplates beneath the walls to prevent subsidence. The walls originally arched over to form a full arch over the culvert, however this had mostly been truncated during the modern insertion of a concrete drain into the culvert. The arch sprung from a height of 14.29m OD and was formed of stretchers on edge, the top of the arch would have been at approximately 14.60m OD. The top of the brickwork would therefore been at approximately 14.70m OD based on a brick's breadth of approximately 100mm. (Figs 12 and Fig 13 Interpretative Section 13 Section 4).

4.4.30 The trench was backfilled ([55] and [56]) with soil and refuse including brick rubble against the culvert to make the area flat and to support the side walls. It is probably at this point that the ground raising dumps [36] and [49]-[50] may have been imported: the culvert representing the construction of site drainage infrastructure necessary prior to the whole scale raising of the ground surface and consequent burial of the culvert. (Fig 13, not shown on plan).

4.4.31 A new wall was constructed on top of [75]. Wall [74] was constructed on the same alignment as [75], but the north face was offset slightly to the north. The base of the wall was generally at 14.75-14.68m OD, but locally at the west end was deeper . The wall was well built on a foundation course of headers on edge, above this were three courses that may also be foundation –a slight change of pointing and very slight offset indicates superstructure may have begun at 13.98m OD. The wall was built in well coursed purplish-orange red bricks (BTL 102 x 63 x 215mm) in mostly English bond, with hard grey lime flush pointing and mortar. The wall was 0.34m wide and was observed over a length of 6.1m. Bricks from the wall date late 18th to 19th centuries. (Not shown on plan Fig13 Elevation1).

4.4.32 At the west end of [74] a ceramic pipe was laid to take water from the adjacent, southern, property through the wall-line and run it into the culvert (or possibly into the ditch although this is unlikely). The pipe was laid in a trench cut through wall [75], and the foundation of [74] was extended to fill

this breach and to make good the foundation around the void within which the pipe lay. To this end a course of headers on edge were laid in a slight arch to carry the wall over the slot for the pipe, the foundation was then continued upwards as normal, however the builder clearly realised the implications of the void below, and built a well-executed arch within the wall to help carry the load over the weakness. The execution of the arch, with the surrounding bricks cut to shape, indicates a level of craftsmanship and care during construction. The insertion of this drain into the culvert may be associated with repairs to the arch.(Fig 13)

4.4.33 During demolition the south face of [74] was observed to be without whitewash or render, suggesting it may have been an external property boundary wall, rather than the north wall of a building to the south.

4.4.34 Wall [74] was rebuilt, although the rebuild had been badly damaged by demolition works; the wall, founded at 15.15m OD, was of purplish-red slightly frogged bricks (Fig 13).

4.4.35 Sealing the surface of deposit [51] was a thin dump, [50], 70mm thick, containing ash and refuse, including quantities of charcoal. The deposit is external and may be represent occupation on top of the ground surface of [51], however it may be the first in a series of ground raising dumps that raised the ground surface to at least 14.75m OD (context [49]). A further dump [36] on the south of the culvert is interpreted as part of this process. This technique of raising street levels around existing buildings was widespread throughout the Shoreditch and Spitalfields area in the 17th and 18th centuries as road levels and back yards were raised, creating basements without the expense of digging out the cellar. (Figs 12 and 13).

4.4.36 A pit was dug from the raised ground surface. Recorded in section, pit [48] was at least 2.0m wide, and had been backfilled with a sequence of rubbish and refuse deposits ([52]-[54]) containing domestic waste dating to the 18th century. The pit may represent 18th century pitting within the rear yards of the properties fronting Shoreditch High Street, although by this date the area would have been becoming increasingly suburban in character and the digging of pits would have been on the decline, replaced by more formalised methods of waste disposal (N. Holder *pers. comm*.).(Figs 12 and 13 and Interpretive Section13)

4.4.37 The arch to the main east-west culvert ([44] and [45]) was repaired on at least three occasions ([37], [59]-[61]). Repair [59] was the most extensive, apparently being incorporated into the Victorian basement retaining wall to the north. Within build [59] was a rendered down-chute, feeding into the drain on its south side. The chute may have fed from a down-pipe on the party wall between properties. (Figs 12 and 13).

4.4.38 To the north of the culvert's north wall, and possibly integrally built a rectangular brick-lined tank was constructed ([40] in cut [41]). The structure lay outside of the crane base so was not excavated, however a brick sample was taken, the bricks were red and unfrogged (BTL 100 x 60 x 220mm). The tank measured 1.62m north-south by 1.48m east-west internally. The bricks were poorly bonded with a hard creamy sand lime mortar. The structure may be a cesspit, or a silt-trap associated with the east-west culvert. The structure was filled with a soft fine grey waterlain silt

[39] which was not excavated. (Fig 12).

4.4.39 Overlying, and possibly cut through [40] was north-south aligned culvert [42]. The culvert dropped from the north to the south, where it would have entered the main east-west culvert. The insertion of a modern inspection chamber had removed this area of the site. The culvert was smaller than the east-west culvert, 0.6m wide internally, with an arched brick top. It appeared that the base of the culvert was of bricks laid on bed, although it is possible that the culvert was circular in cross-section, and the bricks on bed were merely supporting the main structure. A concrete drain had been inserted into the culvert in the later 20th century, obscuring detail, and truncating the upper structure. The culvert appeared to slump into the underlying cesspit [40], and it is not clear how the east wall of the culvert tied into the east wall of the cesspit. (Fig 12).

4.4.40 Circular brick lining [34] within cut [35] is interpreted as a soakaway. Such features are common within 17th and 18th century properties in London. The base of the soakaway was at 14.48m OD, and the feature had been infilled with [33], a dark sandy silt containing ceramics dating to the 19th century. The soakaway was truncated by the culvert repair [37], which may have been inserted to rebuild the culvert roof after the insertion of the culvert [42]. The siting of the soakaway over the culvert indicates that the exact location of the culvert was unknown at the time, although when the repair was necessary to the culvert arch this assumed priority over the soakaway. (Fig 12).

4.4.41 Machine demolition revealed that the main east-west culvert ([44] and [45]) was filled by a primary silt, [90]: a black sandy silt with occasional fragments of brick and charcoal. This was sealed by a thicker deposit, [89], which contained quantities of Victorian ceramics. [89] was sealed by a concrete drain dating to the later 20th century, the insertion of which had destroyed the culvert arch. (Fig 13 and Interpretive Section Fig 13).

4.4.42 At the extreme east of the trench, adjacent to the batter up to piling mat level was a truncated area of complex brickwork. It was not possible to do more than roughly clean the area and give it a brief record but it is clear that some of the brickwork relates to the east wall of the culvert [42], and some may correspond to the east wall of cesspit [40], however it appears that there may be further drains and earlier builds within the brickwork that cannot be understood without exposing and dismantling the structures more fully.

4.5 Underpinning pit 1

4.5.1 This pit located at the northwest corner of the site measured 1.00m east west and 1.40m north south. Natural gravel was observed approximately 0.70m below the footings of the basement wall this was overlain by up to 0.20m of patchy brick earth. Overlying this deposit in turn was 0.50m of mid greenish brown soil sloping toward the west. (Fig. 3).

4.6 Underpinning pit 2

4.6.1 This pit located toward the eastern extent of the basement of 106. measured approximately 1.2m by 1.2 m. Up to 1.5m of a loose dark brown garden type soil was identified overlying natural gravel at a height of

*c.*13.00m OD. (Fig 3).

4.7 Underpinning pit 3

List of Recorded Contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	m. AOD
96	Deposit	Natural gravels	1.7m	N/A	0.9m	
97	Cut	Ditch or pit	0.9m	N/A	0.7m	
98	Fill	Homogenous fill of 97	0.9m	N/A	0.7m	
99	Deposit	Soil horizon	1.7m	N/A	0.7m	
100	Deposit	Soil horizon	1.7m	N/A	0.3m	
101	Deposit	Dump	1.7m	N/A	0.3m	
102	Masonry	Brick wall	1.7m	N/A	0.35m	

Table 6: Underpinning pit 3 contexts

4.7.1 An underpinning pit on the northern party wall-line was monitored on 11th August 2008. The underpin was 1.7m wide and approximately 3.5m deep. An additional area in front of the underpin was also excavated by contractors to allow the pin to be dug. No levels could be taken on deposits within the underpin, however measurements were taken relative to structural steelwork and will be calculated relative to Ordnance datum during future site works.

4.7.2 Natural gravels [96] were observed across the width of the underpin, truncated by a pit or ditch [97] at the east of the pin. This feature was 0.7m deep and observed for a maximum length of 0.9m east-west. The western edge of the feature was observed as a steep slope with a gradual break of slope at the base. The feature was filled by a homogenous mid grey brown sandy silt [98].

4.7.3 Sealing the feature was a homogenous mid grey brown sandy silt [99]. This soil was observed over a depth of 0.7m, although it was progressively darker towards the top of the deposit. The deposit would appear to be an acretionary soil horizon.

4.7.4 Above the homogenous soil was a darker soil layer, [100], 0.3m deep. This is likely to be a garden or cultivation soil.

4.7.3 A layer of dark grey silty sand, [101] containing frequent oyster shells and peg tile fragments overlay the dark soil horizon, [100]. This is likely to be a dumped deposit.

4.7.4 A foundation and wall, [102], of red/orange unfrogged hand made bricks (BTL 100x55x200mm), was founded on the previous dump. The wall was later incorporated into the party wall, 102 originally returned to the south at a change in angle of the party wall, although this wall had been demolished. The wall probably dates from the mid 17th to early 18th century.

4.8 Party Wall Watching Brief

4.8.1 A watching brief on the breaking down of the southern party wall on 11th August 2008 revealed further evidence of the previous structures along the line of the southern party wall. The phases of red brick wall [21]-[24] seen to the east were seen to continue west for a further 0.8m, where they had been truncated by a 20th century brick and concrete pier. The base of the historic walls was not probed and should survive.

4.8.2 The 'Tudor' wall [23] was seen to be approximately 0.4m wide (north-south).

4.8.3 During demolition the south face of the 18th century rebuild [24] was seen to be rendered and whitewashed indicating an internal basement to the south.

4.8.4 The southern party wall (18th/19th century basement wall [21]) was observed to be 0.47m wide, projecting north of the concrete wall behind.

4.9 Pile probing

4.9.1 Two pile locations adjacent to the crane base were probed using a tracked excavator with a 2' bladed trenching bucket on 26th August 2008.

4.9.2 The probing removed a concrete drain run inserted into an earlier brick culvert [40] (recorded in crane base excavation, above), and a sequence of archaeological deposits, probably cultivation soils were exposed. Natural gravels were not exposed. The trench was backfilled with selected fill.

5.0 THE FINDS

A medium-sized assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavations at Shoreditch. A summary table can be found in Appendix 1.

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The archaeological work recovered a relatively small assemblage of pottery from 17 individually numbered contexts (see Table in Appendix 1: Finds quantification). The material is generally in good condition, with only a few sherds showing signs of abrasion. Sherd sizes are variable from small (20mm across) to large (150mm across). The assemblage contains primarily medieval and early post-medieval material though the latter is by far the most numerous.

5.1.2 The earliest medieval pottery is of the 12th to early 13th centuries. Two small, slightly abraded, well-fired fine sand and shell tempered cooking pot sherds were recovered from context [1]. A further sherd of sand and shell tempered pottery was recovered from context [61]. This piece, consisting of part of a roughly squared club rim from a well fired cooking pot, is notably less abraded. Context [91] produced a medium sand tempered London-type ware sparsely glazed jug strap handle of probable mid 12th- to early 13th-century date. This sherd also only exhibits signs of slight abrasion.

5.1.3 The majority of the pottery is of the early post-medieval period. The earliest securely dated group is from context [72], which produced the single largest assemblage from the site. The majority of this assemblage consists of hard-fired early post-medieval redwares (with oxidized and reduced surfaces), sometimes including thin/sparse internal glazing. Most of these are undiagnostic bodysherds but large parts of two lid-seated jars are present, along with pieces of tripod pipkins and the strap handle from a pitcher. The group also contains two sherds of white-slipped early post-medieval redware, five Coarse Borderware sherds and three fragments of Tudor Green cup/bowl. Imported material is confined to German stonewares, including a single Sieburg drinking bowl fragment and six sherds from Raeren mugs. A date between the late 15th and mid 16th centuries appears likely though the ceramic building material from [72] suggests the latter end of the range.

5.1.4 Many contexts produced only one or two local coarseware sherds making precise dating difficult - the local medium/hard-fired unglazed/sparsely glazed post-medieval redwares continue in use as far as the 17th century, though they become less dominant as the Borderware products increase from the mid 16th century. Local early high-fired post-medieval redwares were recovered from a number of contexts (eg in [8], [13], [17], [67] and [69]) and appear alongside lower fired sandy redwares, some with internal glazes on the vessel bases (ie [8], [9], [13]). Very few feature sherds are present in these small assemblages to help refine dating though the sooted foot of a tripod pipkin is present in [12] and an unglazed sandy redware ?pitcher base with thumbed feet is present in [15]. The only other ware represented in these small context groups consists of two small sherds of Raeren-type stoneware from [17]. It is likely the majority of these deposits are from the first half of the 16th century (ie [17]) though some may be of the

second half of the 16th century, or early in the 17th century. This fact is highlighted by the presence of a larger group from [55], dated to the later 16th to mid 17th centuries. This group consists of a number of different fabrics, though it is dominated by local glazed and unglazed high-fired post-medieval redwares, some with white slip. Jars, bowls and tripod pipkins are represented as well as a handled mug in black glazed redware. In addition there are a number of Borderware sherds, both red and white (green/yellow glazed) and three sherds of early tin-glazed earthenware plate, decorated with blue and with a lead exterior glaze. Imported material is confined to a possibly old fragment from a Martincamp-type stoneware flask and two sherds of Frechen stoneware.

5.1.5 The latest material from the site includes very late 18th- to 19th- century pieces from [33] and [74], including post-medieval redware, yellow ware [33] as well as late creamware and flow blue [74].

5.1.6 Although a larger assemblage may alter the picture it appears that some very limited activity in the 12th to early 13th centuries was occurring at the site. However, the main onset of activity began in the first or second quarter of the 16th century. This appears to have lasted until the middle of the 17th century after which activity quickly declined with only very low refuse disposal occurring between the mid/late 17th and 19th centuries. The current assemblage is too small to warrant detailed further analysis on its own though if more ceramics are recovered from the site it should be studied in conjunction with the new material. Contexts [55] and [72] are by far the most interesting assemblages and also contain several sherds which could be illustrated.

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a relatively large assemblage of ceramic building material (see Table in Appendix 1: Finds quantification). On the whole the material is in good condition with little signs of abrasion. A number of complete brick samples are present along with a complete peg tile from [55].

5.2.2 The earliest tile from the site consists of a few somewhat abraded pieces of Roman date. The most diagnostic of these consists of two thick tegula flanges in a medium sand tempered fabric from context [88]. Another 'possible' tegula fragment was recovered from [72] (though this could be from a medieval flanged tile) and a heavily abraded undiagnostic piece was located in context [17].

5.2.3 There is a little late medieval tile present, though it all appears to be residual in later deposits. Context [72] contains the majority of this material – five pieces of well fired moderate medium sand tempered peg tiles, some with patches of green glazing. A mid 14th- to 15th- century date is possible for these pieces. The same deposit also produced a fragment of yellow Flemish-type brick (95mm wide by 34mm high) which is likely to be of similar date. Probable 15th- century roof tile, tempered with medium sand and sparse chalk/shell to 0.5mm, was also found residual in context [20].

5.2.4 The vast majority of the ceramic building material can be placed in a 16th- to

17th- century date bracket. Numerous whole and fragmentary red frogless bricks and peg tiles are present. The bricks are in a number of closely related fabrics: moderate to abundant fine/medium sand often with rare to sparse inclusions of flint pebbles (to 7mm), chalk pellets (to 3mm) and/or sparse iron oxides to 2mm. Generally they are quite crudely made, often with internal voids, and are low to medium fired. Sizes are slightly variable predominantly due to the hand-made nature of the bricks (see Table **). Although some bricks are notably thinner than others, possibly hinting at a 16th-, rather than 17th- century date, brick dimensions are notoriously unreliable as a close dating tool and historical data would be needed to confirm sub-phasing.

Context	Brick size	Comment
8	230 x 105 x 65mm	Dull yellow sandy lime mortar with moderate flint pebbles to 5mm
34	220 x 110 x 64mm	No mortar evident
40	223 x 100-110 x 58mm	Mid grey sandy lime mortar with abundant flint pebbles and chalk to 5mm
44	228 x 108 x 61mm	Mid grey sandy lime mortar with abundant flint pebbles and chalk to 5mm
45	225 x 109 x 60mm	No mortar evident. Edge burnt/sooted
47	222 x 105 x 64mm	Mid grey sandy lime mortar with moderate/abundant flint pebbles and chalk to 3mm
55	? x 108 x 55mm ? x 105 x 54mm	Two half bricks associated with later C16th – mid 17th pottery
56	? x 110 x 52mm ? x 118 x 58mm	Two half bricks
72	? x 106 x 52mm ? x 104 x 51mm ? x 105 x 51mm	Three half bricks associated with late C15th – mid 16th pottery. Similar to bricks in [55]
75	 210 x 100 x 47mm 213 x 103 x 54mm 222 x 104 x 55mm	No associated pottery Off-yellow sandy lime mortar with moderate flint and chalk pieces to 4mm Off-yellow sandy lime mortar with moderate flint and chalk pieces to 4mm

Table 8. Summary of measurable dimensions of 16th- to 17th- century bricks

5.2.5 The peg tiles of the early post-medieval period are also crudely finished and tend to be medium to hard-fired. Tile thickness range between 10 and 14mm and most peg holes (two per tile and always crudely made) tend to be circular (Contexts [9], [47], [55] and [72]) though rarer square shaped (Context [15]) and diamond-shaped (Contexts [55]) peg-holes were noted in similar fabrics/contexts. Context [55] produced a number of complete dimensions including a whole tile measuring 262 x 150 x 12mm with two crude circular peg holes, a similar tile with a width of 147-160mm and thickness of 14mm and another measuring 151mm wide but with diamond peg holes. The same context produced part of a ridge tile. The tile fabrics are closely related, though there is some variation to be seen. All are tempered with sparse fine (occasionally medium) sand with, in a variety of combinations, rare to sparse inclusions of flint pebbles to 3mm, chalk pellets to 2mm, iron oxides to 2mm, clay pellets to 5mm and rarely white clay streaks.

5.2.6 The precise dating of the early post-medieval ceramic building material is not always certain. Certainly the ceramics, for example in context [72] would suggest some of the bricks are as early as at least the second quarter of the 16th century, though such types would be equally happy in the 17th and even early 18th centuries. However, very few pieces of ceramic building material definitely post-dating the 17th century are present. Examples include well/hard-fired moderate fine sand tempered (rare flint pebble inclusions to 5mm) pan tile fragments from context [54] which are probably of the 18th century and a few later bricks. The latter, although not numerous, include notably different fabrics from the earlier bricks. A near complete well fired probable 18th- century frogless example from context [73], measuring 160+ x 100 x 64mm, is crudely made and tempered with sparse fine sand and moderate iron oxide and slag inclusions to 6mm. A complete frogless example from context [74], measuring 225 x 104 x 65mm, is again crudely made and tempered with moderate fine/medium sand with abundant yellow flecks and sparse flint pebble inclusions to 7mm. The same context, dated to the late 18th to early/mid 19th centuries, produced a large fragment of wheel-thrown 195mm diameter well fired moderate fine/medium sand tempered drain with rare chalk and iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. There is also a single fragment of a tin-glazed earthenware wall tile from context [54] depicting a man with two oxen, painted in purple. It is quite probable this is of early/mid 18th- century date.

5.2.7 The current ceramic building assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for detailed further analysis unless good historical sources can be obtained to closely date the different building phases on the site. If such documentation is located the material should be subjected to limited further analysis in an attempt to correlate the different sizes and fabrics in the assemblage with absolute dates.

5.3 **The Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A small assemblage of metalwork was produced by the excavations. Four general purpose iron nail fragments were recovered from [61], a context dated by the pottery to the 12th to early 13th century. The same context also contained a small iron sheet fragment. Another sheet fragment was recovered from [85].

5.3.2 A copper alloy sheet fragment with one visible rivet hole was contained by [72], which dates to the late 15th to mid 16th century.

5.3.3 In addition, two object have been assigned a unique registered finds number (RF <00>). A flat circular iron button (RF <1>) with copper alloy plating was recovered from [45]. Ceramic building material from this context has been dated to the mid 16th to early 18th century. The button (2g) however appears to be later and dates to the late 18th to 19th century. An iron ferrule fragment (RF <2>; 72g) with square sectioned rod or nail fragment corroded to it has been recovered from [61].

5.3.2 The metalwork assemblage is too small to be of any potential for further analysis. No further work is required.

5.4 **Other Finds** by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A total of 25 plain clay tobacco pipe stem fragments was recovered from [54]. These are all of late 18th- to 19th- century date, apart from one, which dates to the late 17th to mid 18th century. A single piece of pale green window glass was recovered from [55] and dates to the late 17th to 18th century.

5.4.2 A fragment of the lower valve of an oyster shell has been recovered from [61]. Context [7], the ceramic building material of which dates to the later 16th to early 18th century, contained two wooden board fragments. In addition, two charcoal fragments were recovered from [7] and [9].

5.4.3 The assemblage is too small and heterogeneous to have any potential for further analysis. No further work is required.

5.5 **Animal bone** by Lucy Sibun

5.5.1 Nine contexts produced just over 12 kg of bone. The bone was in a good state of preservation with many large identifiable fragments present. The table below shows the number of identified specimens (NISP) count for each context.

Context	Date	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Other
61	C12-13th	1	1	-	8	
7	Post-medieval	1	2	-	-	
47		2	1	-	-	
55		3	-	-	2	
56		4	-	1	2	
72		76	41	2	1	Bird x 3
85		1	3	-	-	
80	Undated	1	-	-	-	
86		2	-	-	-	

Table 9: NISP count for each context

5.5.2 The earliest assemblage was recovered from 12th to 13th century [61]. The majority of fragments were horse longbones representing at least two adult individuals. A single fragment of juvenile cattle ulna and sheep innominate were also present.

5.5.3 The post-medieval period was represented by six contexts [7], [47], [55], [56], [72], [85]. Of these, [72] produced the vast majority of fragments. The post-medieval assemblage includes a minimum of five cattle represented by all parts of the skeleton. At least one juvenile is present.

5.5.4 Sheep are also represented by most skeletal elements and at least three adult animals are present. The three pig fragments are adult scapulae and one juvenile longbone, representing a minimum of three animals. Two horses were also evident, represented by longbones and a single rib fragment.

5.5.5 Butchery marks are present on fragments of cattle and sheep from the post-medieval period and these include evidence for skinning, splitting of the carcass, dismemberment and food preparation.

5.5.6 The assemblage has been fully recorded for the archive and holds no potential for further analysis

5.6 **Residue Bone** by Gemma Driver

5.6.1 Six samples from datable contexts contained animal bone in their residue. Sample 11, dated to the C12th, produced one fragment of bird coracoid and 9 unidentifiable fragments. This medieval assemblage is in poor condition with only small, weathered fragments remaining

5.6.2 The remaining samples are dated to the 16th and 17th century. Cattle, sheep, pig, rabbit and small mammal bones were recovered. Generally the fragments are small and in poor condition. Identifiable bone includes rib and vertebrae fragments from cattle and sheep. The pig assemblage includes juvenile tibia and metatarsal. One fragment of cattle sized rib displays a small knife mark.

5.6.3 This assemblage does not hold any potential for further analysis.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

6.1 11 bulk soil samples were taken from several pit and ditch fill contexts during archaeological investigations at Shoreditch to assist with the retrieval of environmental remains and to reveal information regarding Medieval and post-Medieval land use at the site.

6.2 All samples were processed using tank flotation, the flots and residues were retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves and each fraction sorted. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope and their contents recorded. Preliminary identifications have been given for the botanical remains with reference to comparative material and reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006). This report focuses on the macrobotanical remains. Bone, leather and other artefacts have been incorporated in the finds report.

6.3 Results

6.3.1 The flots from all samples were dominated by uncharred botanical remains although wood charcoal, charred macrobotanicals, bone, and shell were also noted in small quantities. Wood charcoal fragments were present throughout the samples. The residues from sample <1>, humic silt deposit [51]; sample <7>, pit fill context [85]; and sample <6>, pit fill [72] were particularly rich in fragments >4mm. Some round wood specimens were noted in context [85]. Sample <2>, which was taken from the systematic backfill of ditch fill context [55] produced moderate quantities of coke/coal as well as charcoal.

6.3.2 *Sambucus nigra* (elder), *Rubus* sp. (brambles), *Chenopodium album* (fat hen) and Apiaceae (carrot family) dominate the uncharred botanical assemblage. In addition, sample <10> from context [90] the basal fill of a 16th-17th century brick lined culvert produced a broad range of taxa including several *Prunus* species (prune, cherry, sloe etc), *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell fragments, *Juglans regia* (walnut) shell fragments, *Vitis vinifera* (grape) seeds and Rosaceae (rose family) seeds (1 with adhering fruit). All of these may have been grown locally and may be remnants derived from the 16th-17th century garden soils.

6.3.3 Charred macrobotanicals were scarce but include occasional *Triticum* sp. (wheat) caryopses, a possible *Hordeum* sp. (barley) caryopses and poorly preserved weed seeds. Sample <9>, context [89] the secondary fill of the culvert produced several amorphous charred bodies that are thought to be parenchyma or tubers.

6.3.4 Very few macrobotanical remains were present in the remaining contexts. Interestingly of the two contexts, [86] and [91] noted as waterlogged uncharred macrobotanicals were present in context [86] only and these were very poorly preserved.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 Macrobotanical remains retrieved from this site are generally well preserved

and the majority are uncharred. A few of the deposits were considered waterlogged, however, uncharred remains within these were more poorly represented than in the non-waterlogged deposits. It is possible that the uncharred remains are intrusive however such evidence should be visible within the deposits. All the uncharred botanical remains recovered are consistent with plants that may have been grown in the 16th-17th century garden or that may have grown naturally (such as the elder) in the site vicinity. Several of the *Prunus* sp. seeds from context [90] retain possible gnaw marks which suggests that some (if not all) of the larger fruits and seeds/nuts within sample <10> derive from rodent cashes rather than from human waste deposits. This interpretation also helps explain the prominence of these larger fruits and nuts within this context and their absence in all others. The charred cereals provide evidence for wheat and possibly barley being brought into the area, however, they are present in such small numbers that they are unlikely to represent primary cereal using activities. All contexts contain charred and uncharred seeds that could have been introduced naturally, by wind or water, or as a result of human land use.

6.4.2 All Flots and residues have been retained.

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 A fairly homogeneous sequence was recorded throughout all the interventions. This comprised natural sands and gravel recorded at a height of 13.30m OD in Trench 1, 13.56m OD in Trench 2, 13.14m OD in Trench 3 and 13.34m OD within the area of the crane base.

7.2 The potentially earliest features were indentified within the crane base area. The natural gravel was cut by a large pit or channel and a series of east west aligned linear features of unknown date although one did contain abraided Roman tegula. These features were sealed by a potentially post Roman subsoil deposit.

7.3 In the other areas natural gravels were cut by a number of features across the site. Within Trench 1 the gravels were cut by a large undated linear feature and a large potential quarry pit. It is possible that the linear feature represents a roadside ditch although no dating evidence was recovered.

7.4 Cutting the natural gravel in Trench 3 was a pit containing 12th and 13th century pottery and a north south aligned drainage ditch backfilled some time in the 16th and 17th century.

7.5 Within the crane base area a series of 16th and 17th century pits were recorded.

7.6 This pitting and ditching across the site probably represents quarrying superseded by backyard-type or sub domestic activity. The top of this deposit was recorded at between 14.00m OD and 14.10m OD. Overlying these features was a homogeneous garden soil with cessy staining. This soil was cut by post medieval pits in Trench 2 and within the crane base. An east west aligned drainage ditch was also recorded in this trench

7.7 Contemporary to these features was a series of ragstone and brick walls at the southern extent of the crane base. The earliest of these comprised roughly hewn ragstone blocks and was rendered on its northern face this wall survived to a height of 14.35mod overlying this wall was a series of 16th century brick rebuilds. These walls survived to a height of 14.75m OD. A east west aligned brick drain or culvert was built up against walls along the line of the earlier ditch. A north south aligned a brick culvert was also indentified in trench 2 to a height of14.15m OD.

7.8 The timber piles recorded in Trench 1 may well be contemporary with this phase of building and represent the eastern extent of the roadside properties.

7.9 All the trenches, with the exception of Trench 1, (where it had been truncated by later basementing) were then sealed by a further post-medieval dump to a height of up to *c.*16.00mod. This deposit is probably related to ground raising activities common in the area during the 17th and 18th centuries.

7.10 Overall the sequence identified across the site comprises early quarrying and drainage features, potentially dating to between the Roman and late

medieval periods, followed 16th and 17th century domestic rubbish pits. These were sealed by garden soil. Yard structures were identified within the crane base dating to the 16th and 17th centuries. These potentially represent a medieval or post medieval property boundary. Brick built drainage features were also constructed during this period to replace earlier open ditches.

7.11 Subsequent to this phase of construction the site underwent a period of ground raising.

7.12 Later truncation on the site was only apparent toward the western extent of the site within the footprint of the modern basements. It is likely that this truncation will be confined to 17th and 18th century deposits.

7.13 The site has potential for the survival of Roman through to medieval cut features and soils representing drainage, quarrying and domestic activities and for early post medieval soils and structures.

7.14 The demolition material identified within Trench 2 also suggests the possibility that medieval domestic buildings may be present on site.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 In conclusion the evaluation has shown that only limited truncation of the archaeology has occurred on the site mainly in the western basemented area. The sequence recorded on the site shows the potential for Roman to post medieval survival and can be characterised as:

1) potential Roman quarrying and ditching.

2) Medieval pitting and ditching. Post medieval garden soils pits, ditches and brick built structures.

8.2 The sequence has the potential to answer questions relating to the Roman, medieval and post medieval development of the area.

8.3 The proposed development will involve the removal of all archaeological features within the footprint of the scheme through the construction of a double basement.

8.4 Overall the features and deposits recorded on the site can be regarded as of local significance.

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Jacomet, S. (2006) Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites. 2nd ed. *Archaeobotany laboratory, IPAS, Basel University,* Unpublished manuscript.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank Suzanne Gailey and Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting Ltd, Chris Bell of Glenkerrin Ltd and David Divers of GLAAS.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SDQ08					
Identification Name and Address	103- 106 Shoreditch High Street					
County, District &/or Borough	Hackney					
OS Grid Refs.						
Geology	Gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3063					
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.** 10th may 2008-1st Septembe r 2008	Excav.	W**B.**	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Cgms					
Project Manager	Jon sygrave					
Project Supervisor	David Jamieson Chiz Harward					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	**RB**
	AS	**MED**	**PM**	Other Modern		

Archaeology South East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, GlenKerrin Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 103-106 Shoreditch High Street. The work was carried out between 13th of May and the first of September 2008, in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site.

A total of four trenches were excavated across the site to a depth of approximately 13.40m OD. These trenches revealed a sequence of potentially Roman quarry pitting and ditches, medieval pits and ditches and 16th and 17th century soils, pits and masonry structures.

Truncation was limited to the western extent of the site in the areas within the footprint of the current buildings. Where truncation did occur it only involved the removal of later 17th and 18th century ground raising deposits.

Overall the archaeology identified on the site can be regarded as of local significance but with the potential to answer questions relating to the development of the area from the Roman to the pot-medieval periods.

OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: archaeol6-48622

Project details

Project name	103-106 Shoreditch High street
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was carried out on behalf of Cgms consulting Ltd. Trenching revealed an archaeological sequence dating from the Roman to post-medieval period. The sequence identified across the site comprises early quarrying and drainage features, potentially dating to between the Roman and late medieval periods followed 16th and 17th century domestic rubbish pits. These were sealed by garden soil. Yard structures were identified in the crane base dating to the 16th and 17th centuries. These potentially represent a medieval or post medieval property boundary. Brick built drainage features were also constructed during this period to replace earlier open ditches. Subsequent to this phase of construction the site underwent a period of ground rising. Later truncation on the site was only apparent toward the western extent of the site within the footprint of the modern basements. It is likely that this truncation will be confined to 17th and 18th century deposits. The site has potential for the survival of Roman through to medieval cut features and soils representing drainage, quarrying and domestic activities and for early post medieval soils and structures. The demolition material identified within trench 2 also suggests the possibility that medieval domestic buildings may be present on site.
Project dates	Start: 10-05-2008 End: 01-09-2008
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SDQ08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	QUARRYS Roman

Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY 103-106 Shoreditch High street
Postcode	E1
Site coordinates	TQ 533468 182538 50.9427290829 0.183007546121 50 56 33 N 000 10 58 E Polygon
Height OD / Depth	Min: 13.40m Max: 13.40m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Chiz Harward
Name of sponsor/funding body	Glenkerrin

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Matrices','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

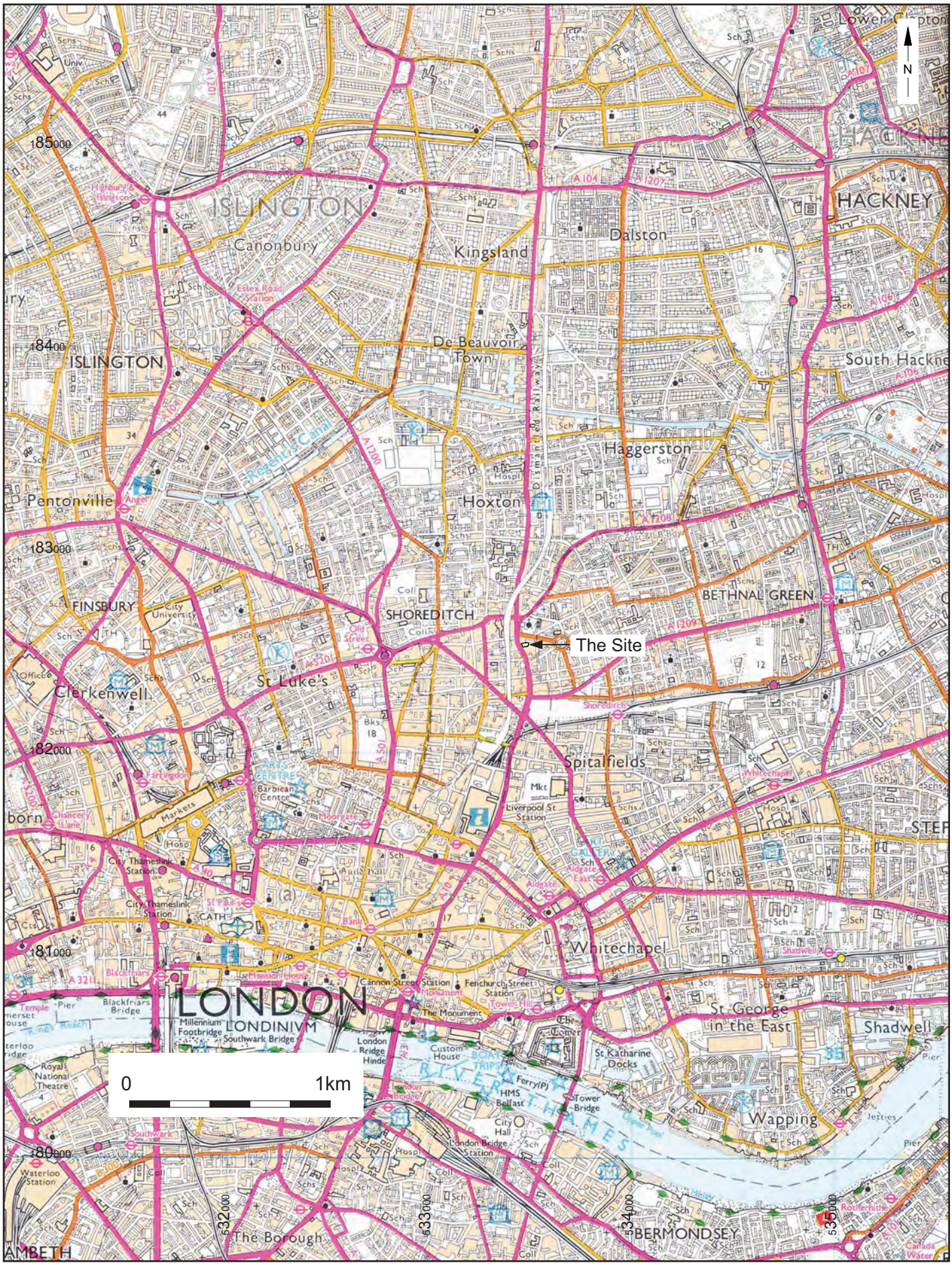
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological evaluation at 103-106 Shoreditch High street
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jamieson, D Harward,C
Date	2008
Description	Grey literature

Entered by	David Jamieson (d.jamieson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	22 September 2008

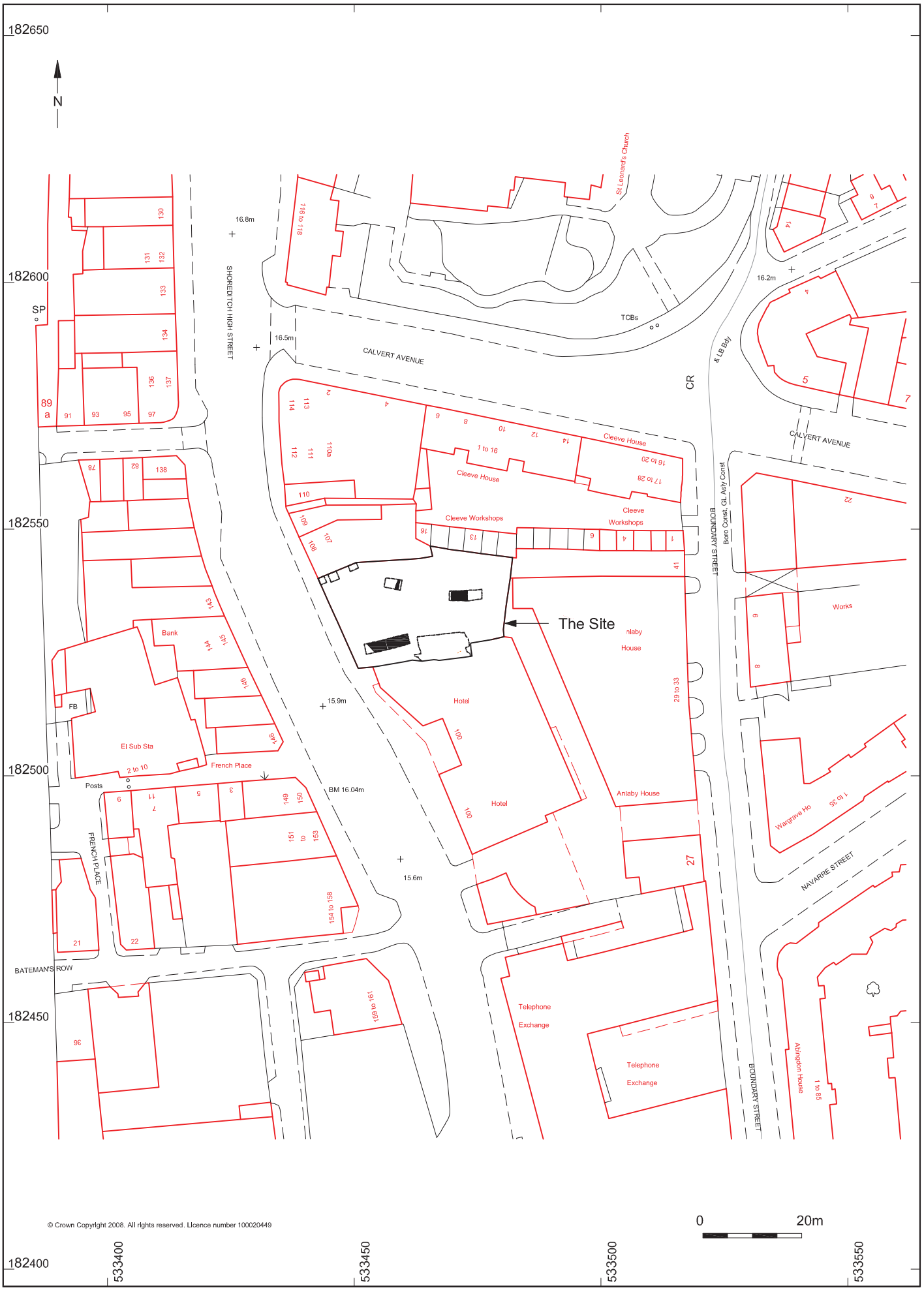
APPENDIX 1

Table 7. Quantification of the finds from 103-106 Shoreditch High Street

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	Shell	wt (g)	Fe	wt (g)	Cu.Al.	wt (g)	Charcoal	wt (g)	Wood	wt (g)	Glass	wt (g)	CTP	wt (g)
1	2	8	1	8																
3			9	150																
7			8	490	4	160							2	<2	2	134				
8	2	26	1	2812																
9	1	10	10	404									1	<2						
12	1	54																		
13	2	12																		
15	1	106	7	722																
17	3	10	4	44																
20			3	82																
26			3	218																
33	2	242																		
34			1	2770																
40			1	3070																
44			1	2604																
45			1	2558																
47	4	50	31	4268	4	38														
54	2	20	3	806															25	56
55	34	898	9	4864	5	2034											1	6		
56			2	3218	7	1670														
61	1	16			18	3373			5	52										
67	1	24																		
69	2	26	1	10																
72	62	1788	21	6112	127	4652	1	<2			1	8								
73			1	1684																
74	2	18	2	6262																
75			3	6910																
80					1	42														
85	1	10	21	1134	4	122			1	12										
86					3	184														
88			2	152																
91	1	54																		
Total	124	3372	146	51352	173	12275	1	<2	6	64	1	8	3	<2	2	134	1	6	25	56



© Archaeology South-East		103-106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		103-106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Site location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

© Archaeology South-East		103-106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Plan of excavated areas	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

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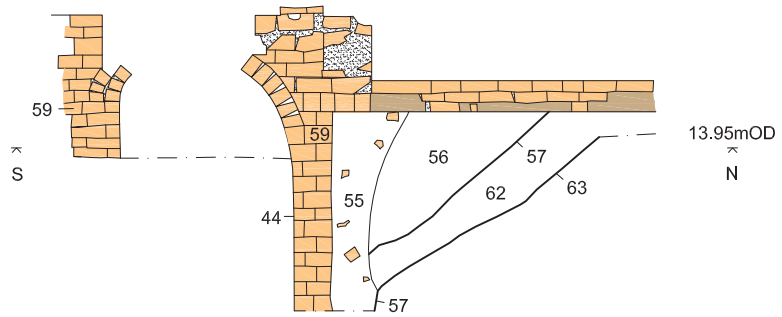
Section 4



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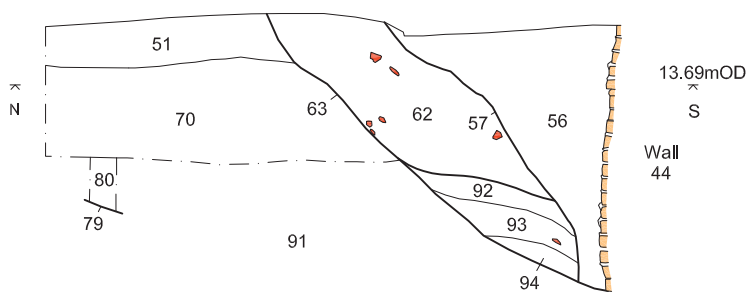

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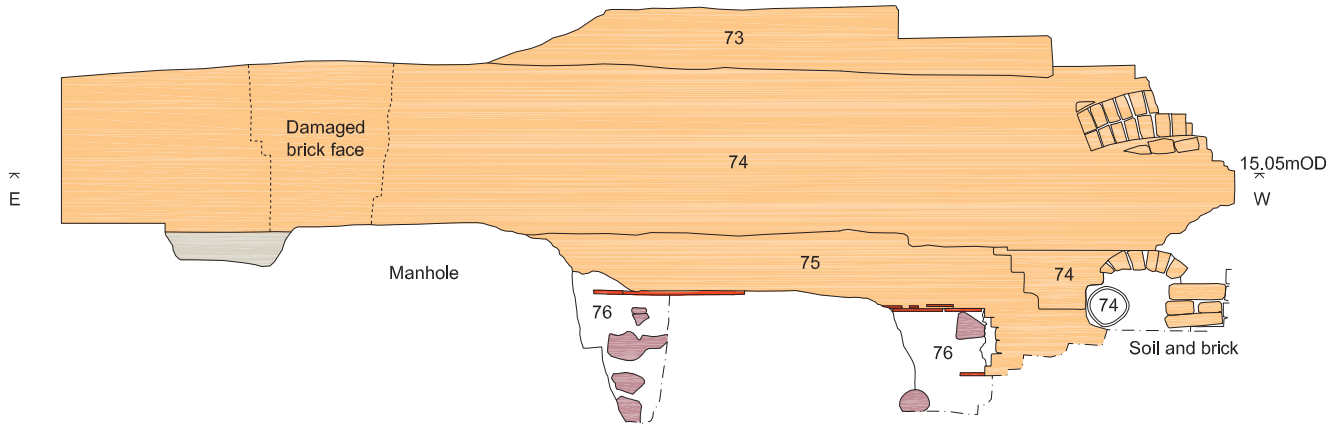
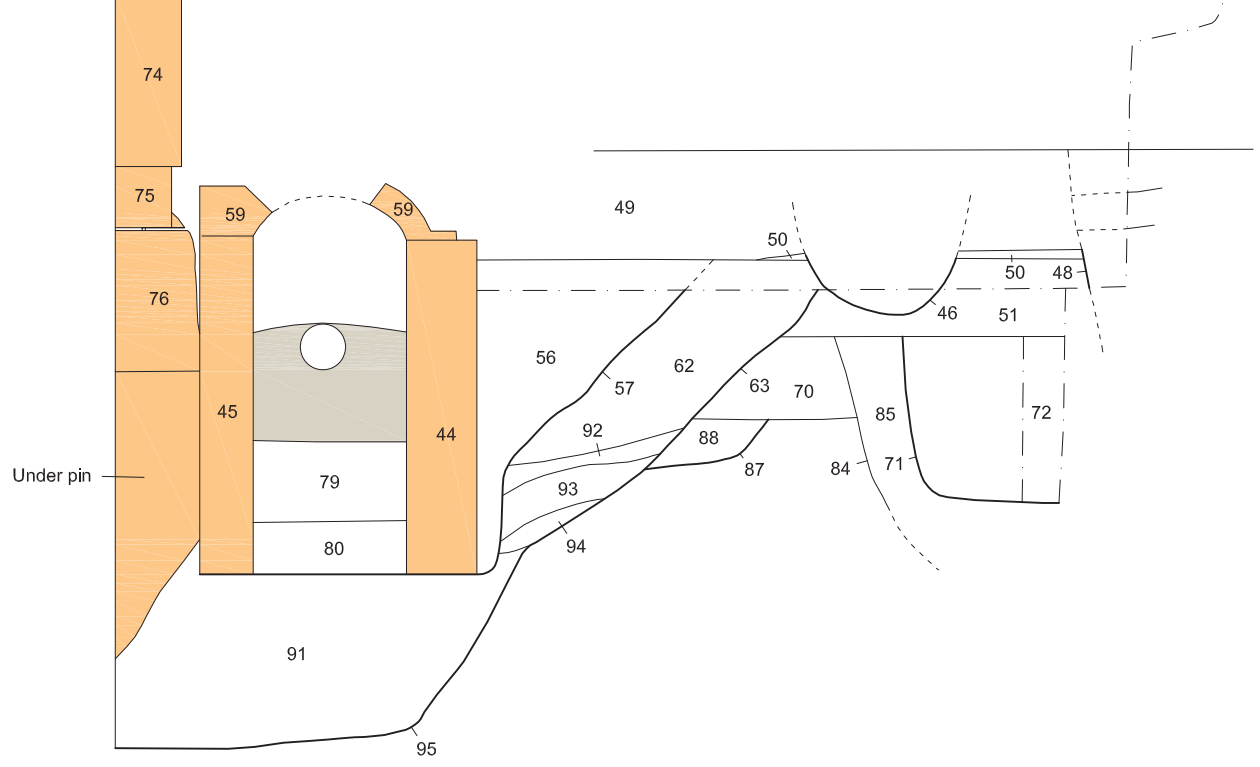
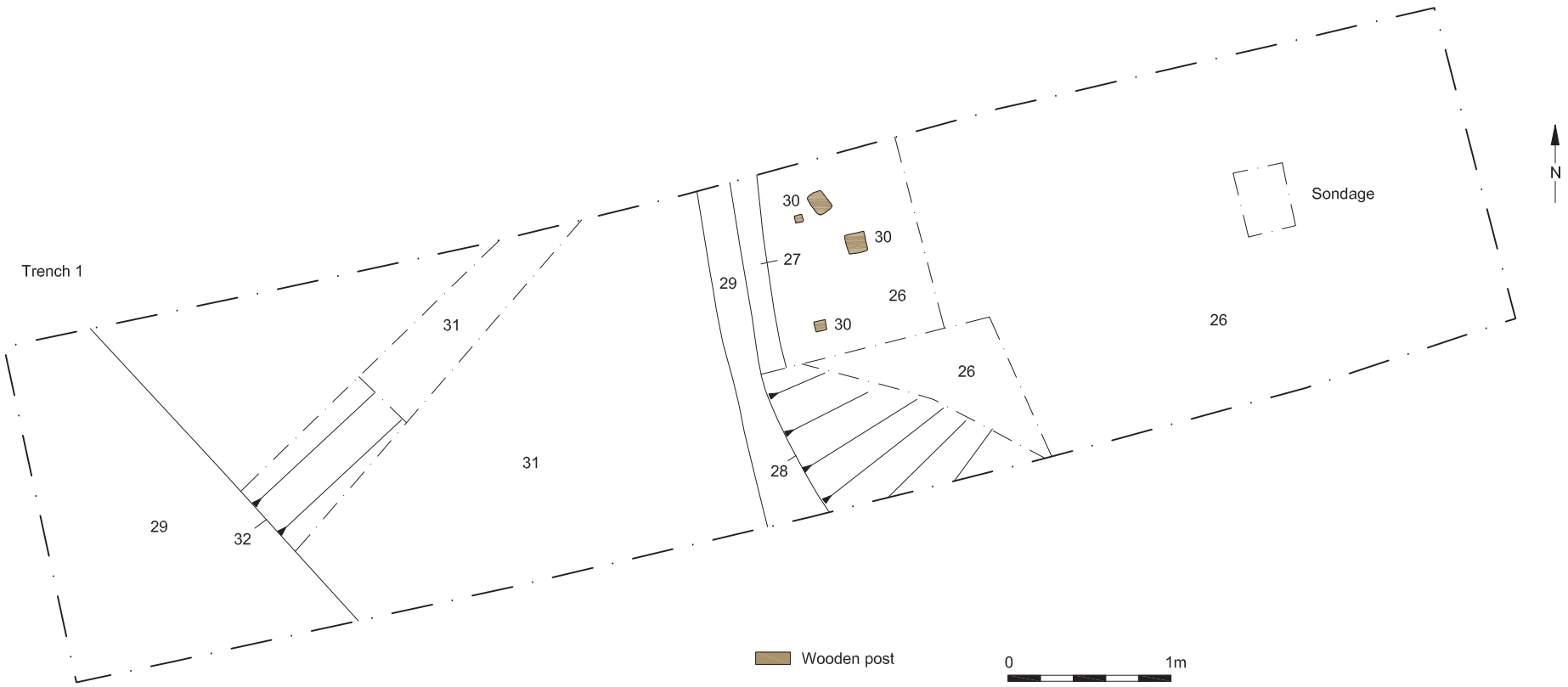




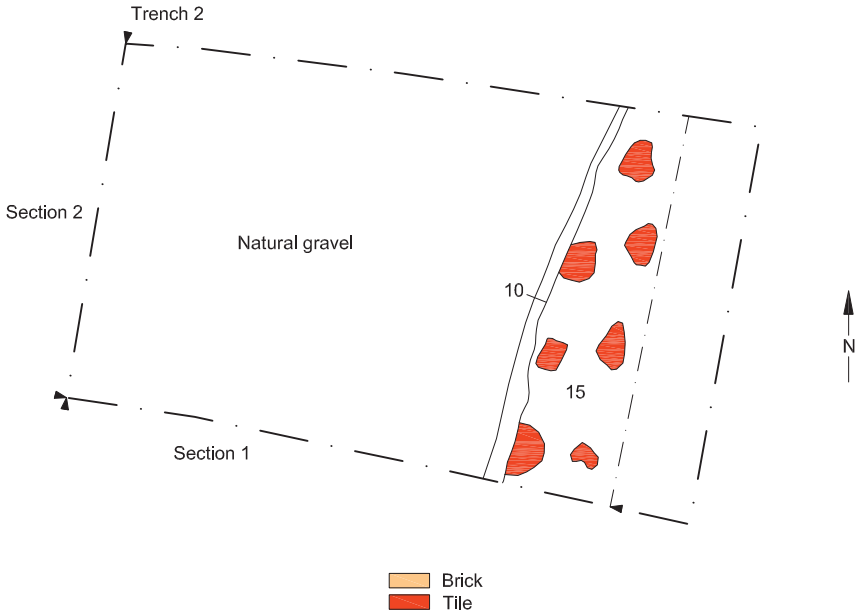
Interpretative section

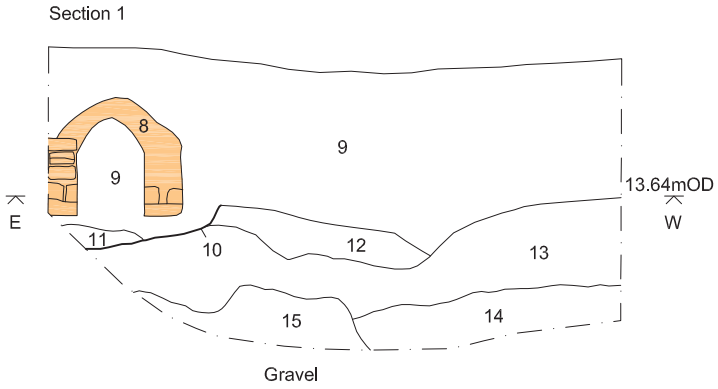
© Archaeology South-East		103 106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 13
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Crane base sections/elevations	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

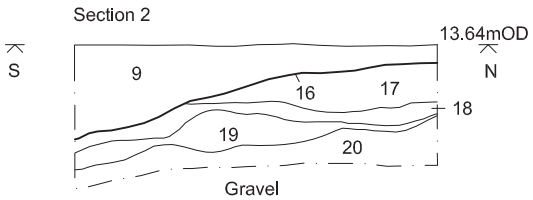


© Archaeology South-East		103-106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Plan of Trench 1	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

© **Archaeology South-East**		103-106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Trench 1, looking south-west	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		







© Archaeology South-East		103-106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Plan and sections of Trench 2	
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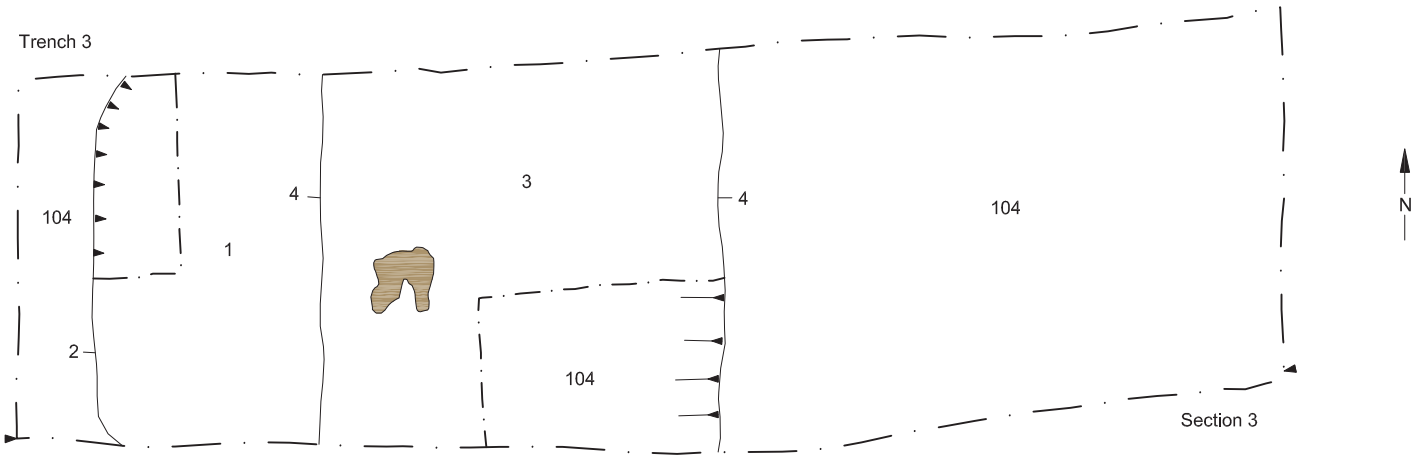
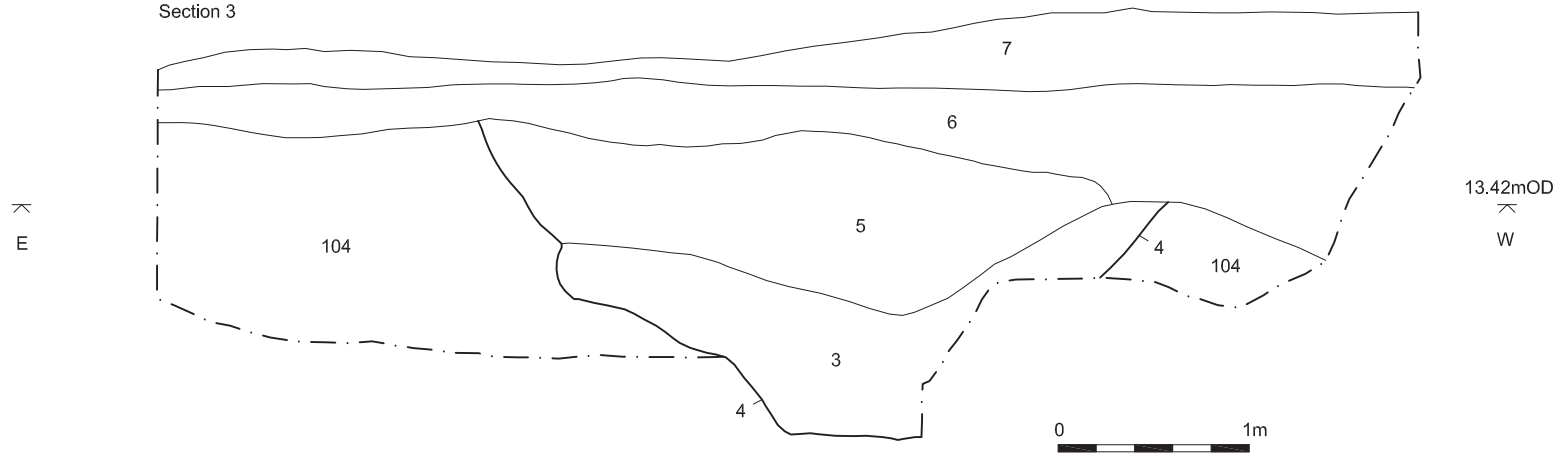
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Trench 2, looking east	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



Timber



© Archaeology South-East		103-106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Plan and section of Trench 3	
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© **Archaeology South-East**		103-106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Trench 3, looking south-west	
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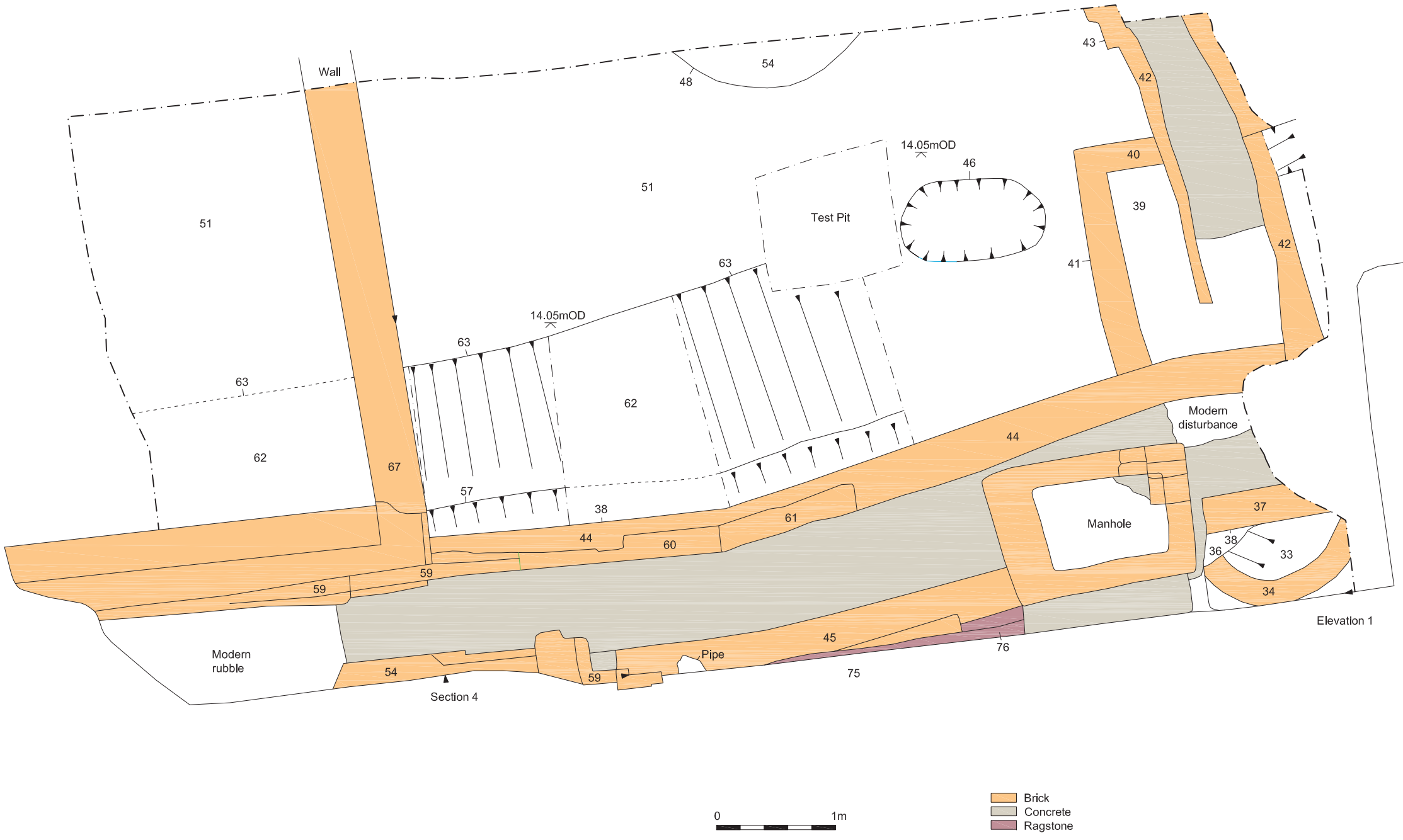
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Plan of archaeological remains	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

© Archaeology South-East		103-106 Shoreditch High Street	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Plan of archaeological remains	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 3063	Sept 2008	Post excavation shot of crane base, looking east	
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