

**An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief  
St George's Tavern Site, 63 Camilla Road  
London borough of Southwark SE16 3NL**

**NGR 53461 1789597  
(TQ 3461 7895)**

**Project No: 4535  
Site Code: CQM10**

**ASE Report No. 2010233  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-95638**

**Diccon Hart**

**March 2011**

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## **Abstract**

*Archaeology South East was commissioned by Wilmington Construction LLP to undertake an archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief on land at 63, Camilla Road, London Borough of Southwark in advance of the redevelopment of the site.*

*The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trial trenches on the site totalling some 31.80 square metres of trenching, with the subsequent watching brief conducted across the remainder of the site, with the exception of areas of prior truncation and where services were present. The natural geology, consisting of fine yellow sand was encountered between 0.63m and 0.36m AOD. a sequence of two undated intercutting ditches on a NNW-SSE orientation were cut into the natural geology to north of the site while to the south a thin band of incipient peat formation overlay the natural sand. Neither the ditches nor the peat layer produced any finds, although a prehistoric or roman date is considered likely on the basis of their position towards the base of the recorded sequence. Both the ditches and peat horizon were sealed by a layer of alluvium, over which a subsoil horizon formed. Two ditches of later post-medieval date were cut into this subsoil horizon and sealed by a layer of topsoil.*

*A layer of imported garden soil overlay the topsoil horizon and was in turn sealed by a thick layer of made ground related to the 20<sup>th</sup> century redevelopment of the site.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) a division of the UCL Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by Wilmington Construction LLP to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at the St. Georges Tavern site, 63, Camilla Road, London Borough of Southwark in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The site is centred on NGR TQ 3461 7859 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is located on river terrace gravels of the London Basin, close to the junction between the Hackney Gravel deposit situated between the Lynch Hill and Taplow Gravel Terraces, overlying London Clay. The gravel terrace is overlain by brickearth.

1.2.2 The site lies on the river terrace gravels of the London Basin, close to the junction of the river terrace gravels and the Woolwich and Reading beds. The levels of the terrace gravels across Southwark, particularly in Bermondsey, are known to fluctuate creating islands or 'Eyots' of higher ground, with alluvial and peat sequences in the lower lying deposits.

1.2.3 The site is bound by Camilla Road to the west, Hambley House to the north, Tenda Road to the east and Holford House to the south.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission for the development was granted by Southwark Council (Application Reference Number: 10-AP-1355), subject to conditions. Condition 9 required the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation works to supply the necessary archaeological information to ensure suitable mitigation measures could be implemented if required.

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* outlining the requirements and scope of the archaeological evaluation was duly prepared by Archaeology South-East and approved by the Senior Archaeologist at Southwark Council (ASE 2010). The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in December 2010 and consisted of the excavation of two trial trenches within the footprint of the proposed development (Trenches 1 and 2; Fig. 2). The evaluation works revealed archaeological features of possible prehistoric date, including a ditch and a layer of incipient peat, both situated towards the base of the recorded sequence and sealed by alluvium and 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground. As a consequence of these findings, the Senior Archaeologist at Southwark Council requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during ground reduction works associated with the redevelopment of the site. This was required under Condition 10 of the permission which states that:

*"Before any work hereby authorised begins, the applicant shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."*

REASON: In order that the details of the programme of works for the archaeological mitigation are suitable with regard to the impacts of the proposed development and the nature and extent of archaeological remains on site in accordance with policy 3.19 of the Southwark Plan 2007.

- 1.3.3 A further *Written Scheme of Investigation* outlining the requirements and scope of the archaeological watching brief was also prepared by Archaeology South-East and approved by the Senior Archaeologist at Southwark Council (ASE 2011). Both the evaluation and watching brief were carried out in accordance with the relevant *Written Schemes of Investigation* and with the appropriate *Standards and Guidance* papers issued by GLAAS and the Institute for Archaeologists (GLAAS 2009; IfA 2008; IfA 2009).

## 1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation were set out in the relevant *Written Schemes of Investigation* (ASE 2010 and 2011) and are herewith reproduced in full.

- 1.4.2 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development
- To determine the extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any archaeological remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological remains
- To report on the results of the archaeological evaluation

- 1.4.3 The specific aims of the evaluation trenching were:

- To determine the presence of any remains of prehistoric activity on the site.
- To determine the presence of any Roman remains on the site
- To assess the geoarchaeological potential of the site and how this can inform on the general development of the Bermondsey Eyot.

- 1.4.4 The principal aim of the watching brief was to further expose, excavate and record the ditch discovered during the evaluation trenching, with the objective of defining its date, character and function. Any associated archaeological remains were also to be recorded during this phase of work.

- 1.4.5 The general aims of the watching brief were:

- To record and sample-excavate all archaeological remains within the watching brief area
- To inform the Senior Archaeologist for Southwark Council and the client in the event that significant archaeological remains are encountered.
- To make public the results of the archaeological investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of both the preliminary archaeological evaluation and the subsequent watching brief on the site. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 by Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologist), Lesley Davidson (Surveyor) and Chis Killeen (Archaeologist). The subsequent watching brief was carried out between 31<sup>st</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 by Chris Killeen. Project Management was undertaken by Jon Sygrave (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation management). The illustrations were prepared by Justin Russell.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The archaeological background of the site was outlined in the Written Schemes of Investigation (ASE 2010; ASE 2011) and is reproduced here in full.

### **2.2 Prehistoric (500,000BC – 43AD)**

2.2.1 Early prehistoric remains in Southwark are represented primarily by spot finds and general scatters of finds. The Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods are represented as such although it is probable that the wetland landscape of the area would have been attractive for early prehistoric settlement also. It is possible that the general lack of evidence for settlement activity for these periods is due to the build-up of alluvial and/or peat deposits subsequent to abandonment.

2.2.2 Peat and alluvial sequences provide excellent conditions for the preservation of organic material; evidence for Bronze Age trackways and related activity have been found around Southwark and, more specifically, the Bermondsey area, where they would have been used to traverse the still boggy ground. Trackways have been found at Bramcote Green and at the Bricklayers Arms junction (Cook Associates 2010).

2.2.3 During the Iron Age previously inaccessible land was increasingly utilised and evidence for activity is more widespread, with structural remains such as post holes identified at Southwark Street and pits with associated pottery at Grange Road and St Thomas' Street (Cook Associates 2010). A large possible enclosure ditch associated with a roundhouse structure was also found at the Courage Brewery Site.

### **2.3 Roman (43AD – 410AD)**

2.3.1 The main settlement of London, *Londinium*, was established following the Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43. This was centred in the modern day City of London, to the north of the site. The Old Kent Road is known to have roughly followed the Roman Road, Watling Street, although it has been suggested that Watling Street was in fact further south than the Old Kent Road. Adjacent to this road, small rural settlements would have developed both as markets and producers to the capital.

2.3.2 A suburb of Londinium is known to have developed to the south of the river and its immediate environs but further archaeological investigation has demonstrated that the Roman occupation of Southwark covered a greater area, dictated to some extent by the foreshore topography of the time. Even where no recognisable Roman occupation deposits or features have been identified, ditches are a common feature across the area, more recently found at Spa Road approximately 500m to the northwest of the site.

2.3.3 There is considerable evidence for Roman funerary activity in Southwark, predominantly focused around the Borough area although evidence has also been found along Long Lane, Grange Road and the Old Kent Road.



2.3.4 Industrial activity during the Roman period is well represented in Southwark, with workshops and approximately 70 hearths found at the Courage Brewery site excavated by MoLAS (MoLAS 2003). Most industrial activity was, however, centred on the Borough area leading up to the bridge and evidence for structural remains on the Bermondsey Eyot itself is sparse, represented mostly by building material retrieved from pits and ditches, rather than features.

## **2.4 Saxon and medieval**

2.4.1 Saxon London, *Lundenwic*, was located in modern day Covent Garden to the northwest and there is little evidence for Saxon occupation within the vicinity of the site. However, Saxon remains have been found to the southeast of the site in Deptford (Gaimster 2005) and Bermondsey itself is derived from the Saxon *Byeormund's Ey*. A ditch excavated below Bermondsey Abbey contained sherds of Ipswich ware and chaff-tempered ware dating to the Middle Saxon period. Throughout the medieval period Bermondsey Abbey dominated the area.

## **2.5 Post-Medieval**

2.5.1 Large swathes of Southwark remained undeveloped farmland throughout the post-medieval period. Development began in earnest along the Old Kent Road with Rocque's map of 1746 showing occasional buildings fronting onto the street. Side streets lined with town houses began to spread out in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century although the area maintained its industrial character with the presence of workshops and tanneries (such as that recently excavated at Spa Road, AOC 2008).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Archaeological Evaluation Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The methodology comprised the mechanical excavation, under constant archaeological supervision, of two trial trenches (Trenches 1 and 2; Fig. 2), measuring 4.03m by 3.44m and 5.70m by 3.15m respectively.
- 3.1.2 Both trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying natural substrate, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.
- 3.1.3 Some revision to trench locations was necessary due to existing site conditions and obstructions. Any significant revisions were made with the agreement of Waterman and GLAAS.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. Test pits were recorded on plastic drawing film at appropriate scales.
- 3.1.5 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.6 Trenches were backfilled and compacted by machine but no further reinstatement was undertaken.

#### **3.2 Watching Brief Methodology**

- 3.2.1 All machine excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Excavation continued to the level of archaeological features, or the underlying natural geology, whichever was higher. Site constraints such as the presence of services and truncation by existing basements imposed some limitation on the total area subject to archaeological monitoring. The area subject to archaeological monitoring is shown in Figure 2
- 3.2.2 Where new excavations revealed significant archaeological remains, sufficient time was allowed for the appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works in order to extract archaeological and environmental information.
- 3.3 The spoil from the excavations was also inspected by the attendant archaeologist to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and routinely scanned with a metal detector.
- 3.2.3 A full photographic record (digital, colour slide and black and white) was made.
- 3.2.4 All contexts were recorded on standard pro forma recording sheets.

### 3.3 Quantification of Archive

Number of Contexts	27
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	6
Bulk Samples	1
Photographs	1 roll, b/w, 1 roll colour, 12 digital
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	none
Environmental flots/residue	1 box

Table 1: Site archive quantification

#### 4.0 RESULTS (Figs. 3 and 4)

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
Evaluation Trench 1						
1/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.60m	1.39
1/002	Fill	Fill of ditch 1/007	Tr.	0.30m	0.20m	0.75
1/003	Layer	Alluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	0.75
1/004	Layer	Peat horizon	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	0.41
1/005	Layer	Mineral panning	Tr.	Tr.	0.01m	0.36
1/006	Layer	Natural sand	Tr.	Tr.	-	0.36
1/007	Cut	Ditch cut	Tr.	0.30m	0.25m	0.75
1/008	Fill	Fill of ditch 1/007	Tr.	0.30m	0.08m	0.65
Evaluation Trench 2						
2/001	Layer	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.60m	1.58
2/002	Layer	Imported garden soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m	1.27
2/003	Layer	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m	1.13
2/004	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13m	0.94
2/005	Layer	Alluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.11m	0.81
2/006	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	0.63
2/007	Fill	Fill of ditch 2/008	2.50.	1.15m	0.09m	0.60
2/008	Cut	Ditch	2.50m	1.15m	0.20m	0.60
2/009	Fill	Fill of 2/011	-	0.66m	0.15m	0.94
2/010	Fill	Fill of 2/011	-	0.82m	0.07m	0.94
2/011	Cut	Pit?	-	0.82m	0.21m	0.94
Watching brief						
101	Cut	Ditch cut	2.10m	1.30m	0.25m	0.65
102	Fill	Fill of ditch 101	2.10m	1.30m	0.25m	0.65
103	Cut	Ditch cut	2.10m	0.62m	0.08m	0.65
104	Fill	Fill of ditch 103	2.10m	0.62m	0.08m	0.65
105	Cut	Ditch cut	2.10m	0.41m	0.05m	0.65
106	Fill	Fill of ditch 105	2.10m	0.41m	0.05m	0.65
107	Cut	Modern truncation	-	-	-	-
108	Layer	Natural	Site	Site	-	0.65

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts

#### 4.1 Natural geology

4.1.1 The natural geology of the site, comprising a fine mid yellow was encountered at a maximum height of 0.63m AOD at the far northern end of the site (Trench 1, falling away to a minimum of 0.36m AOD to the south (Trench 2).

#### 4.2 Period 1: Undated

##### *Groups 1 and 2: Undated ditch sequence*

4.2.1 A sequence of two inter-cutting ditches on a NNW-SSE orientation was recorded in the far north of the site in evaluation Trench 2 and during the subsequent watching brief (Figs 2 and 4). The earliest of the ditches [103], Group 1 consisted of a shallow ditch with rounded profile filled with mid yellowish brown silty sand [104]. This ditch was partially truncated by a further ditch [2/008] / [101], Group 2, also with a rounded profile and filled with a stiff mid grey clay [2/007] / [102]. No finds were recovered from either ditch, though their position towards the base of the recorded sequence and their shallow

rounded profiles suggests the possibility of a prehistoric or Roman date.

*Group 3: Incipient peat horizon*

- 4.2.2 A shallow layer of mid brown organic clay recorded in the south of the site, in Trench 1 ([1/004], Group 3; Fig. 3) represents an accumulation of incipient peat formation within a natural depression in the underlying geology in this area of the site. A thin band of mineral panning recorded at the base of the incipient peat deposit attests to the poorly drained character of the site in this area that presumably contributed to peat formation here. Analysis of an environmental sample recovered from the deposit [1/004] (see Section 5.6 below) identified a variety of comminuted plant remains that reflect a range of habitats from wet grassland species such as silverweed to those that prefer drier environments such as creeping cinquefoil.

*Groups 4 and 5: Alluvium and subsoil formation*

- 4.2.3 Both the Groups 1 and 2 ditch sequence recorded to the north of the site and the Group 3 peat horizon [1/004] recorded to the south were sealed by a layer of light brown silty clay alluvium [1/003] / [2/005], Group 4; Figs. 3 and 4, attesting to an episode of inundation across the site. The deposition of this alluvium effectively levelled the site to between 0.75m AOD (Trench 1) and 0.81m AOD (Trench 2). No dating evidence was recovered from this deposit but, as with the undated ditches above, the position of this peat horizon at the base of the sequence is suggestive of a prehistoric or Roman date.
- 4.2.4 A layer of mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil [2/004], Group 5 was recorded overlying the Group 4 alluvium (Fig. 4). Interestingly, this deposit could only be identified in the northern half of the site and it is assumed that later landscaping or development, perhaps associated with the construction of St. Georges tavern on the site had effectively removed this subsoil horizon in the southern half of the site.

**4.3 Period 2: Post-medieval (c. 1540-1900)**

*Groups 6 and 7: Post-medieval ditches*

- 4.3.1 An east-west aligned ditch [1/007], Group 6 was recorded in the far south of the site (Figs 2 and 3). This ditch was straight sided and flat –bottomed. Two fills were recorded in this ditch; a primary fill of dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks [1/008] overlain by a fill of soft blackish brown sandy silt [1/002] that probably represents the backfilling of the feature. Finds recovered from this fill include glass, pottery and CBM, ranging in date from 17<sup>th</sup>-late19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as occasional oyster shells. The ditch was aligned perpendicular to Camilla Road just c. 1.50m north of the current southern boundary to the site and in all probability represents an earlier incarnation of this boundary.
- 4.3.2 A further north-south aligned ditch [105] / [2/011], Group 7 was cut into the Group 5 subsoil horizon in the north of the site (Figs 2 and 4). The feature comprised a straight-sided and flat-bottomed ditch cut with primary fill of mid brown silty clay [102] / [2/010] overlain by a fill of mid yellowish brown coarse sand [2/009]. Though undated, the similarity in profile to the Group 6 ditch, as

well as its position immediately beneath the Group 8 topsoil horizon [2/003] suggests a post-medieval date for the feature.

*Groups 8 and 9: Post-medieval topsoil and imported garden soil horizons*

- 4.3.3 The Group 7 ditch described above was sealed by a layer of mid brown silty clay topsoil of post-medieval date [2/003], Group 8; Fig. 4, in turn sealed by a dumped layer of dark blackish brown silt clay garden soil [2/002], Group 9 that appears to have been imported onto the site. As with the Group 5 subsoil horizon, these layers were conspicuous by their absence from the southern half of the site and later landscaping or development associated with the construction of the St. Georges Tavern on the site is assumed to have removed any evidence of these deposits

**4.4 Period 3: Late post-medieval and modern**

*Group 10: Later post-medieval made ground and modern demolition deposits*

- 4.4.1 The latest deposits recorded on the site comprise a thick layer of dark greyish brown silty clay made ground [1/001] / [2/001], Group 10; Figs. 3 and 4) observed across the entire site that probably represents landscaping associated with the construction of the St. Georges Tavern. This was in turn sealed by a layer of modern demolition debris representing the recent demise of the tavern.

## 5.0 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation; all from ditch fill [1/002]. These were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate, after which they were counted, weighed and bagged by material and by context. No further conservation was required. An overview of the assemblage can be found in Table 3.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
1/002	1	12	1	80	2	12	1	<2

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

### 5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A single sherd of post-Roman pottery was recovered from the site. This consists of the base from an internally glazed post-medieval redware (PMR) vessel with signs of external sooting (context [1/002]). The sherd is probably of 17<sup>th</sup>- to mid 18<sup>th</sup>- century date.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A single fragment (80g) of peg tile in an orange fabric with moderate fine quartz and sparse black iron rich and cream silt inclusions was recovered from context [1/002]. The fragment is of 12mm thickness and of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### 5.4 The Glass by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 Two fragments were recovered from [1/002]. Included is a pale green window pane fragment retaining a straight cut edge and dating to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The second fragment consists of a colourless, ribbed window pane fragment of late 19<sup>th</sup>- to mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century date.

### 5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 Only one clay tobacco pipe (CTP) fragment was recovered during the archaeological work. The piece consists of a plain stem fragment dating to the mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century.

## 5.6 The Environmental Sample by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.6.1 A single bulk soil sample was extracted from a dark brown organic firm clay deposit 'peat deposit' [1/004] to recover environmental remains such as wood, macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca. The sample consisted of 40litres, 35litres for bulk processing and 5litres to be retained for the recovery of other environmental indicators pending the results of the initial investigations. The organic clay deposit, which overlay a panning formation, could represent the initial development of a peaty soil horizon.
- 5.6.2 Thirty-five litres of the sample were processed in a flotation tank, the residue and flot were captured on 500µm and 250µm meshes, respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. The residue was passed through graded sieves (4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 4). The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and its content recorded (Table 5). Abundance and preservation of the macrobotanicals have been recorded and preliminary identifications were made for the macrobotanical remains by comparing them with specimens documented in reference manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).
- 5.6.3 The small flot (40ml) contained a high proportion (96% of the total flot volume) of uncharred, perhaps waterlogged botanical remains consisting principally of a combination of broken down plant matter such as small fragments of monocotyledon, fruiting structures and fine roots. Infrequent, uncharred wild/weed seeds were also recorded. Seeds of cinquefoils (*Potentilla* sp.) were best represented with knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.) and probable pale persicaria/redshank (*Persicaria* cf. *lapathifolia/maculosa*) also noted.
- 5.6.4 Sampling produced very few charred macrobotanical remains, limited to infrequent wood charcoal fragments only all of which measured <4mm in size. No other classes of biological remains, such as mollusca or fragments of uncharred wood were noted.
- 5.6.5 When a deposit remains sufficiently moist, uncharred vegetation can be preserved in an anaerobic environment. The organic clay deposit [1/004] was sealed by a layer of clay alluvium [1/003] and it overlay a panning formation [1/005] which would certainly have helped in maintaining moist and perhaps anaerobic environment. These conditions appeared suitable for a certain degree of preservation of waterlogged remains. Unfortunately very few identifiable remains survived in this organic clay deposit and the number of seeds recorded was small. This could be due to a low or fluctuating water table and/or past drainage activities. While species of cinquefoils such as silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) are common in wet grassland, other species such as creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) are associated with drier habitats. Although it may be possible to obtain species identifications for the recovered taxa, the overall assemblage is too limited to provide significant information about the local vegetation. It is also interesting to note that no waterlogged wood fragments were recorded which may also support the suggestion that ground water conditions had been subject to change over time.
- 5.6.6 There was a scarcity of charred plant remains, and sampling confirmed the presence of only a few small wood charcoal fragments. No identifications have been undertaken as this assemblage is too limited to provide significant information about fuel use or the local woody vegetation. In addition, these fragments were not found in the primary context, in which they became charred, or in association with significant



quantities of other charred botanical remains further restricting any interpretations provided.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)
1	1/004	Organic clay deposit [1/004]	40	35			*	<2

Table 4: Residue Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred/ waterlogged?	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	1/004	8	40	96	4	** <i>Potentilla</i> sp., * <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., * <i>Persicaria</i> cf. <i>lapathifolia/maculosa</i>		*	

Table 5: Flot Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief on the site has succeeded in identifying archaeological features on the site, including an undated ditch sequence and peat horizon, both sealed by alluvium, as well as post-medieval activity in the form of ditches and horizons of imported garden soil and made ground. Though an absence of dating evidence, particularly from the earlier elements of the excavated sequence does little to aid an accurate assessment of the significance of the results, several general observations are possible.

### **6.2 Topography**

6.2.1 The site lies approximately 200m north of the southern edge of the Bermondsey Eyot, as defined by excavations at the Bricklayers Arms Railway Depot (Girardon and Heathcote, 1988; Girarden and Heathcote 1989). Certainly, the absence of the deep peat sequences that characterised shore-side sites such as the Bricklayers Arms Railway Depot supports the notion that the subject site lay some distance inland. However the site appears to be relatively low-lying nonetheless, with natural geology recorded between 0.36m and 0.63m AOD and overlain by a thin band of incipient peat formation and an alluvial horizon (Groups 3 and 4) that attests to at least one episode of inundation. Elsewhere on the island, the level of the natural gravels generally lies above c. 1.20m AOD (Heard 1996, 74) and thus one may surmise that the subject site lies within a localised depression in the natural topography, perhaps representing the evidence for a small inlet or similar topographic feature. Although both the peat and alluvial horizons recorded on the site remain undated it is possible that they represent additional evidence for a rise in river levels noted elsewhere in the Southwark area during the late pre-Roman period (e.g. Cowan *et al* 2009, 10).

### **6.3 Possible prehistoric or Roman activity**

6.3.1 Though the Group 1 and 2 ditches remain undated, a possible prehistoric or Roman date has already been suggested on the basis of their position towards the base of the recorded sequence, sealed by alluvium. In the absence of any dating evidence this remains entirely conjectural but is by no means an untenable assumption. There is a growing corpus of data to indicate occupation of the Bermondsey Eyot from the Bronze Age onwards; at least two Bronze Age trackways associated with the island are now known from the Bricklayers Arms site and from Bramcote Green and Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation has been identified at various sites across the island including Alscot Road, Bermondsey Abbey, Abbey Street, Neckinger and Grange Road to name but a few (Heard, 1996, 78; Allen *et al* 2005, 74). There is also ample evidence for Roman settlement on the island from a variety of sites and the presence of ditches on a number of these sites suggests an extensive network of land division on the island (Heard *ibid.*). It is certainly possible that the Group 1 and 2 ditches excavated on the subject site might form part of such a network.

## **6.4 Post-medieval activity**

- 6.4.1 The available dating evidence indicates that post-medieval activity on the site is of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date. These include the Group 6 and 7 ditches, as well as the Group 8 and 9 topsoil and garden soil horizons and, in all probability are related to the suggested development of terraced housing in the area during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The absence of any medieval or early post-medieval activity on the site may be taken to indicate that the site remained undeveloped prior to the construction of terraced housing during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The absence of actual evidence for such terracing on the site is interesting to note but it is possible that any such remains were effectively obliterated during the 20<sup>th</sup> century redevelopment of the site for the construction of the St. Georges Tavern on the site.

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Accessed 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT AND GROUP REGISTERS

**Table 1: Context register**

Context	Context type	Feature type	Parent context	Subgroup	Group	Period	Period no
101	C	D	101	7	2	UNDATED	1
102	F	D	101	7	2	UNDATED	1
103	C	D	103	4	1	UNDATED	1
104	F	D	103	4	1	UNDATED	1
105	C	D	105	10	7	PMED	2
106	F	D	105	10	7	PMED	2
107	C	XX	-			MOD	3
108	L	N	108	3		N/A	
1/001	L	ED	1/001	17	10	MOD	3
1/002	F	D	1/007	16	6	PMED	2
1/003	L	AO	1/003	15	4	UNDATED	1
1/004	L	NM	1/004	5	3	UNDATED	1
1/005	L	NM	1/005	5	3	UNDATED	1
1/006	L	N	1/006	1		N/A	
1/007	C	D	1/007	16	6	PMED	2
1/008	F	D	1/007	16	6	PMED	2
2/001	L	ED	2/001	14	10	MOD	3
2/002	L	ED	2/002	13	9	PMED	2
2/003	L	NS	2/003	12	8	PMED	2
2/004	L	NS	2/004	9	5	UNDATED	1
2/005	L	AO	2/005	8	4	UNDATED	1
2/006	L	N	2/006	2		N/A	
2/007	F	D	2/008	6	2	UNDATED	1
2/008	C	D	2/008	6	2	UNDATED	1
2/009	F	D	2/011	11	7	PMED	2
2/010	F	D	2/011	11	7	PMED	2
2/011	C	D	2/011	11	7	PMED	2

**Table 2: Group Register**

Group no	Description	Period
1	Undated ditch	UNDATED
2	Undated ditch - recut of gp 1 ditch	UNDATED
3	Peat horizon	UNDATED
4	Alluvial horizon	UNDATED
5	Subsoil horizon	UNDATED
6	East west aligned ditch	PMED
7	North-south aligned ditch	PMED
8	Buried topsoil horizon	PMED
9	Imported garden soil horizon	PMED
10	Made ground	PMED

**Appendix 2: SMR AND OASIS SUMMARY FORMS**

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	CQM10					
Identification Name and Address	63, Camilla Road, London borough of Southwark. SE16 3NL.					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Southwark					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3461 7859					
Geology	Sand and gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number						3809
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. 21-23.12.10	Excav.	WB. 31.01.11-02.02.11	Other		
Sponsor/Client						
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Diccon Hart					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other undated		
<p>Archaeology South East was commissioned by Wilmington Construction LLP to undertake an archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief on land at 63, Camilla Road, London Borough of Southwark in advance of the redevelopment of the site.</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trial trenches on the site totalling some 31.80 sqm of trenching, with the subsequent watching brief conducted across the remainder of the site, with the exception of areas of prior truncation and where services were present. The natural geology, consisting of fine yellow sand was encountered between 0.63m and 0.36m AOD. a sequence of two undated intercutting ditches on a NNW-SSE orientation were cut into the natural geology to north of the site while to the south a thin band of incipient peat formation overlay the natural sand. Neither the ditches nor the peat layer produced any finds, although a prehistoric or roman date is considered likely on the basis of their position towards the base of the recorded sequence. Both the ditches and peat horizon were sealed by a layer of alluvium, over which a subsoil horizon formed. Two ditches of later post-medieval date were cut into this subsoil horizon and sealed by a layer of topsoil.</p> <p>A layer of imported garden soil overlay the topsoil horizon and was in turn sealed by a thick layer of made ground related to the 20th century redevelopment of the site.</p>						

## OASIS SUMMARY FORM

**OASIS ID: archaeo16-95638**

### Project details

Project name	Eval and WB at Camilla Rd, Southwark
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East was commissioned by Wilmington Construction LLP to undertake an archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief on land at 63, Camilla Road, London Borough of Southwark in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trial trenches on the site totalling some 31.80 sqm of trenching, with the subsequent watching brief conducted across the remainder of the site, with the exception of areas of prior truncation and where services were present. The natural geology, consisting of fine yellow sand was encountered between 0.63m and 0.36m AOD. a sequence of two undated intercutting ditches on a NNW-SSE orientation were cut into the natural geology to north of the site while to the south a thin band of incipient peat formation overlay the natural sand. Neither the ditches nor the peat layer produced any finds, although a prehistoric or roman date is considered likely on the basis of their position towards the base of the recorded sequence. Both the ditches and peat horizon were sealed by a layer of alluvium, over which a subsoil horizon formed. Two ditches of later post-medieval date were cut into this subsoil horizon and sealed by a layer of topsoil. A layer of imported garden soil overlay the topsoil horizon and was in turn sealed by a thick layer of made ground related to the 20th century redevelopment of the site.
Project dates	Start: 20-12-2010 End: 02-02-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CQM10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CTP Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process      After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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**Project location**

Country                      England  
Site location                GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK St George's Tavern Site, 63 Camilla Road  
  
Postcode                    SE16  
  
Study area                  1000.00 Square metres  
  
Site coordinates            0 0 534534 00 00 N 178707 00 00 E Point  
  
Height OD / Depth        Min: 0.36m Max: 0.63m

---

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation      Archaeology South-East  
  
Project brief originator    GLAAS  
  
Project design originator    Archaeology South-East  
  
Project director/manager    Jon Sygrave  
  
Project supervisor          Diccon Hart  
  
Type of sponsor/funding body      Client  
  
Name of sponsor/funding body      Wilmington Construction LLP

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient      LAARC  
  
Physical Archive ID            CQM10  
  
Physical Contents              'Glass','Ceramics'  
  
Digital Archive recipient        LAARC  
  
Digital Archive ID              CQM10  
  
Digital Contents                'Ceramics','Glass','Stratigraphic','Survey'  
  
Digital Media available        'Survey','Text'  
  
Paper Archive                  LAARC



recipient

Paper Archive ID CQM10

Paper Contents 'Ceramics','Glass','Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Report','Section','Survey '

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hart, D

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No. 2010233

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher ASE

Place of issue or publication Portslade

Description bound grey lit rep

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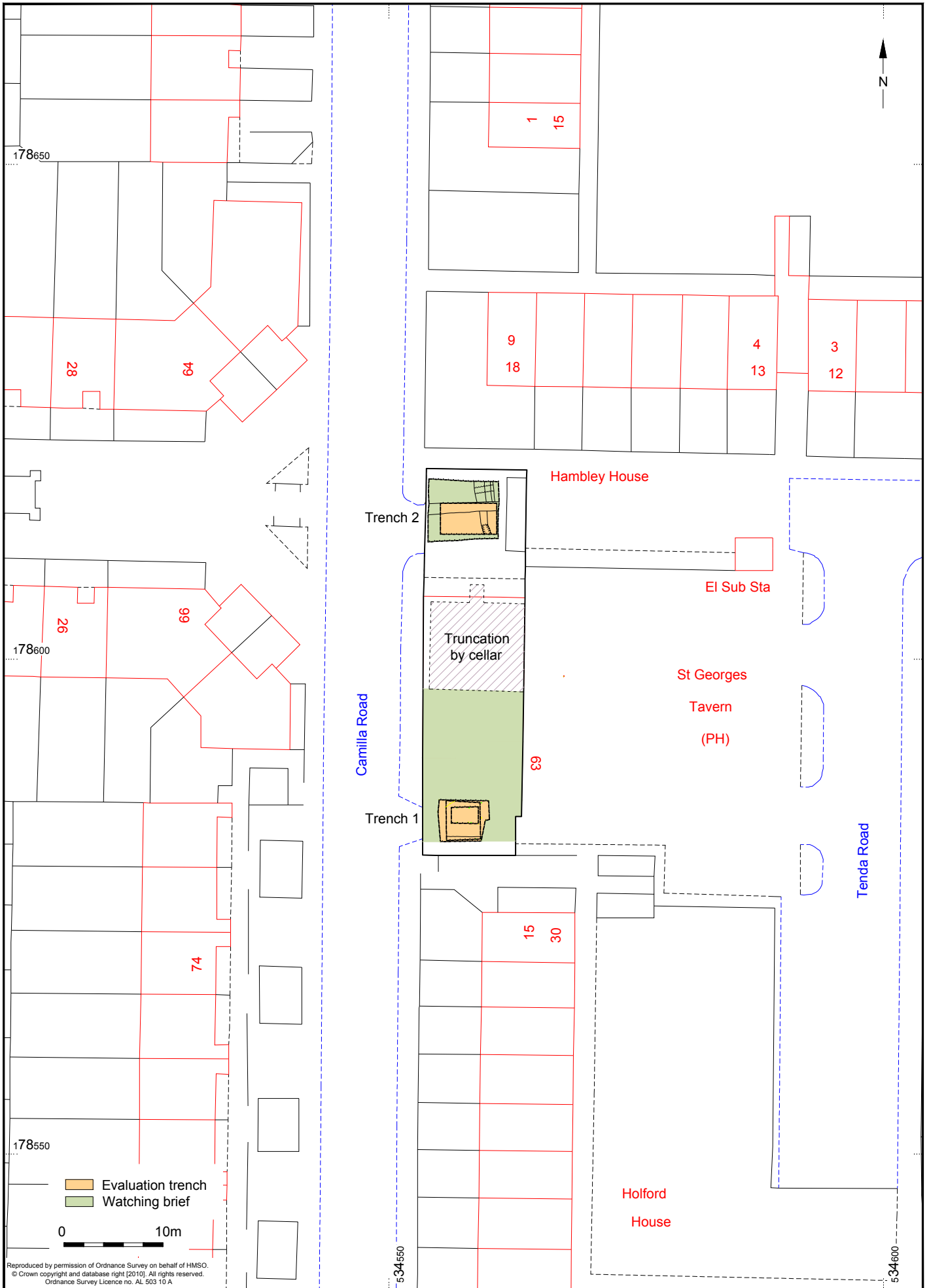
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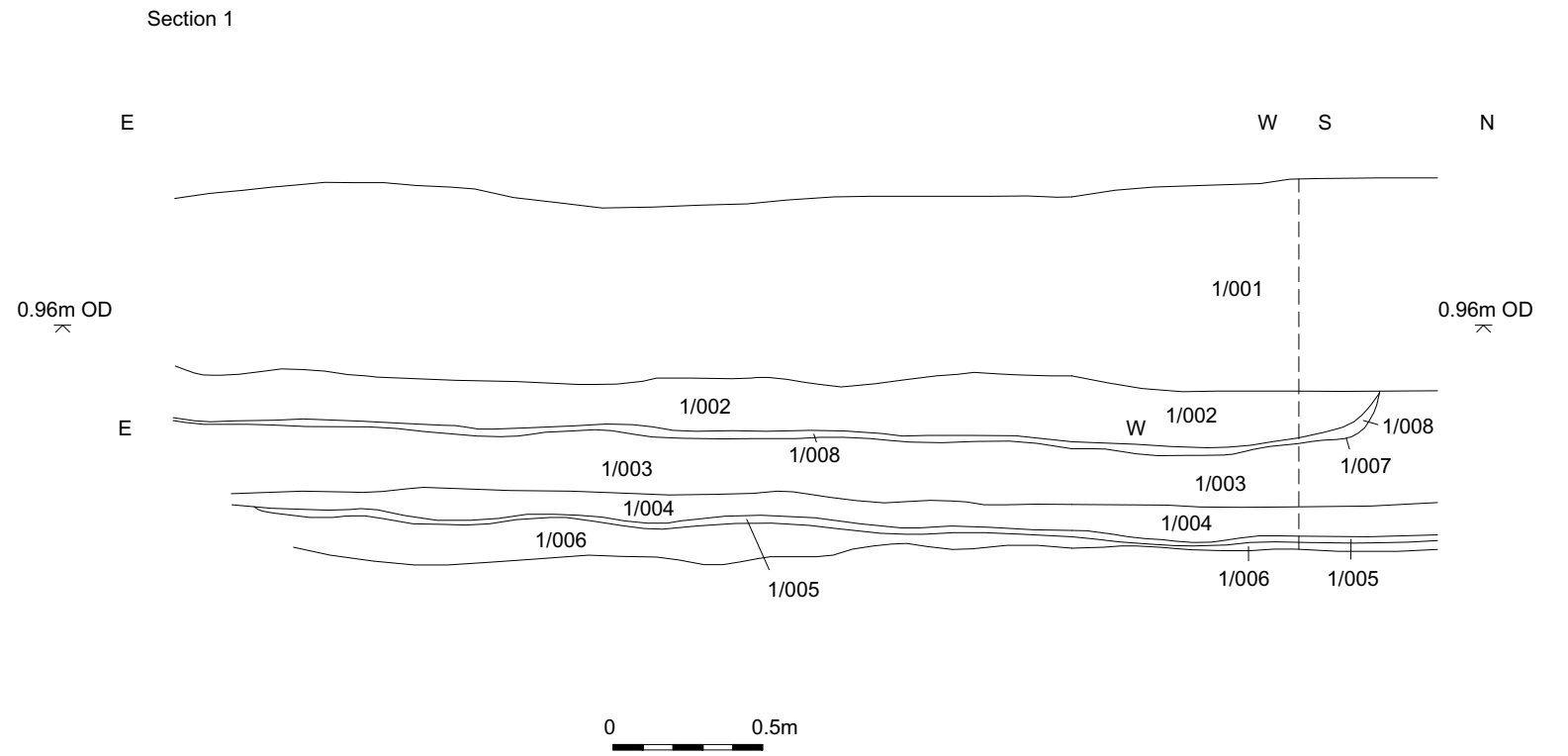
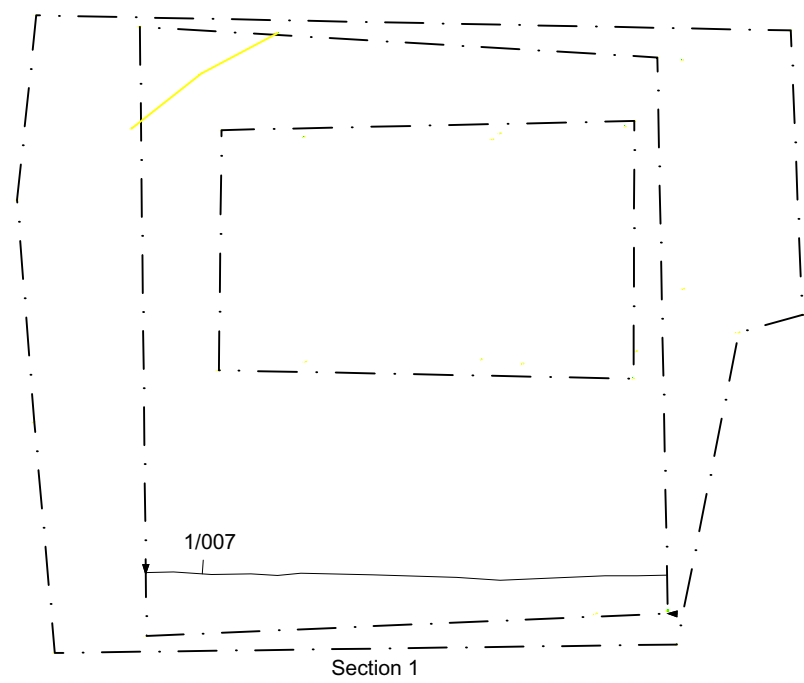


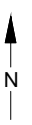
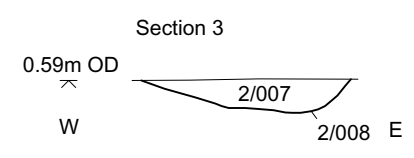
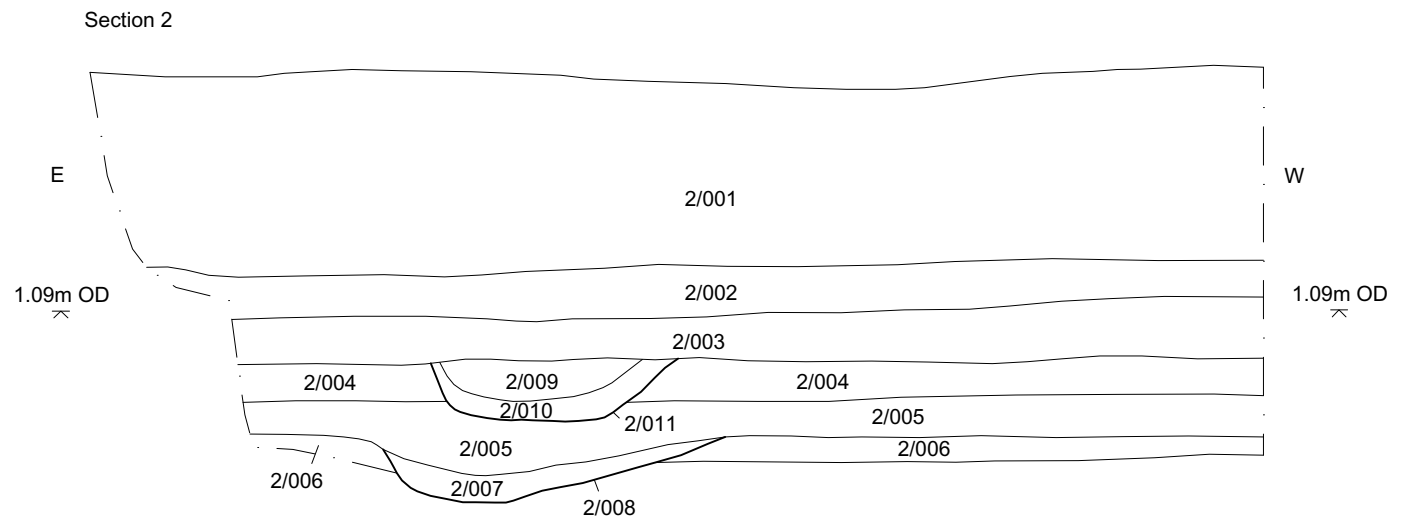
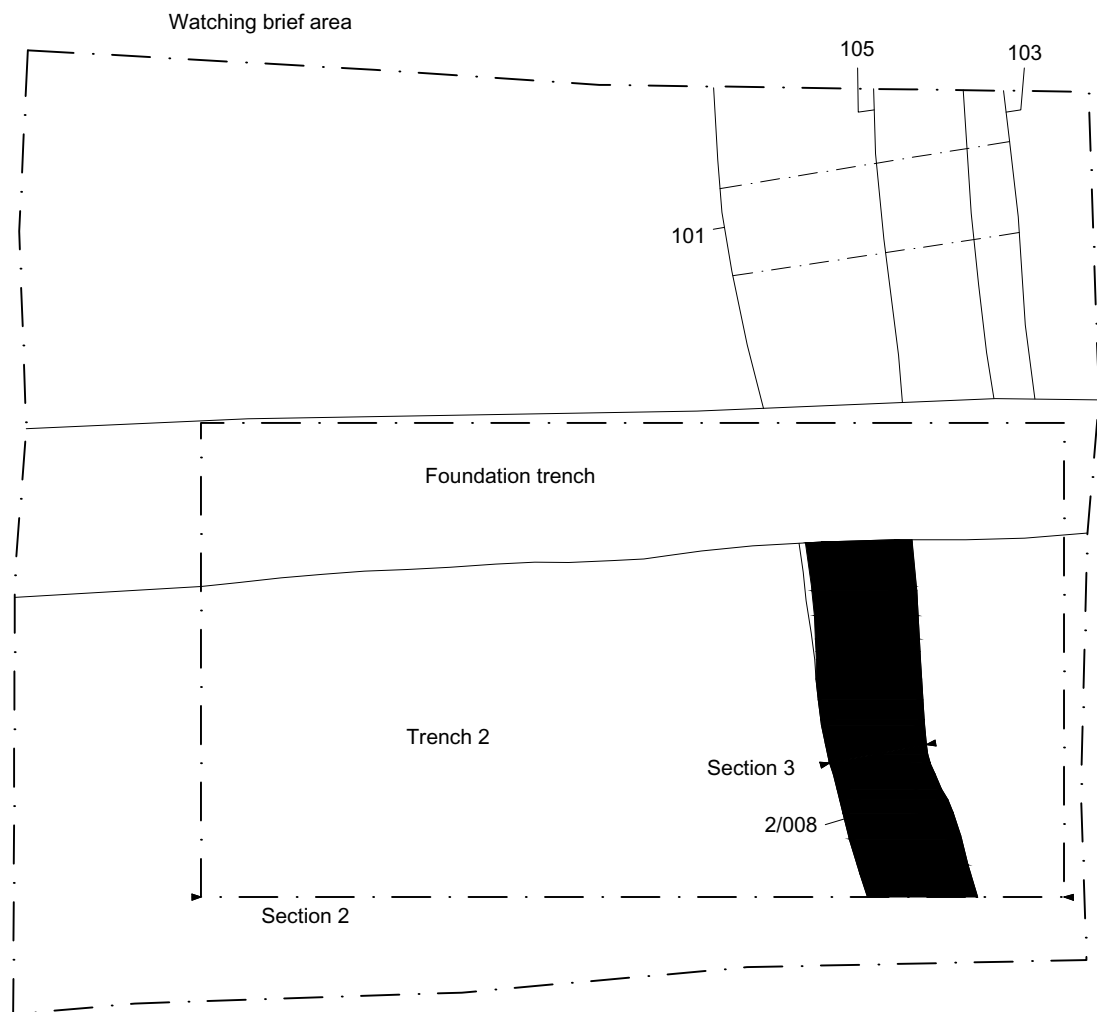
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Project Ref: 4535	Feb 2011	Site location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		63 Camilla Road, Southwark	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4535	Feb 2011	Site plan showing areas of investigation	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		





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