



Archaeological Evaluation at Styles House Southwark SE1 March 2023

Report No. 1

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**Archaeological Evaluation
at Styles House
Southwark SE1
March 2023**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Figures

Table of Plates

Table of Appendices

Abstract

1. Introduction

2. Site Background

3. Aims

4. Methodology

5. Results

6. Finds

7. Summary and Conclusions

8. Archive

9. Acknowledgments

Sources Consulted

Figures

Plates

Appendices

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location - General

Figure 2 - Site Location - Detailed

Figure 3 - Trench Locations

TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1: West-facing working shot showing section of Trench 1.

Plate 2: North-facing shot of Trench 1.

Plate 3 - South-west-facing shot showing a representative section of Trench 2.

Plate 4: Working shot showing recording of Trench 3.

Plate 5: South-facing shot of remains of wall 30006 in Trench 3.

Plate 6 - South-west-facing shot showing a representative section of Trench 3.

TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Context Register

Appendix 2 - Oasis Form

Abstract

An Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken in November 2022 and March 2023 by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) at Styles House, Southwark, SE1. This report has been prepared by Francesca Southon and Joseph Berry of MOLA on behalf of London Borough of Southwark.

The archaeological work was conducted as part of the application process for the demolition of all structures on the site apart from the extant tower block. Following this, a multi-storey residential block with basement, TMO (Tenant Management Organisation) office, and associated landscaping works will be constructed.

The Archaeological Evaluation aimed to assess for the presence of potential archaeology within the development area. Specifically, works monitored for the presence of palaeoenvironmental evidence relating to the Prehistoric, Roman, or Medieval periods, and any structural remains from the Post Medieval period. However, the three archaeological trenches yielded no archaeological materials or deposits. No deposits suitable for sampling organic remains were identified.

This report seeks to satisfy the research aims as stipulated within the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), with a view to assessing the archaeological potential of the site prior to redevelopment. The results of the archaeological works indicate that there is low potential for archaeological remains within the site boundary. The work provided a representative sample of the site's stratigraphy, but cannot rule out the presence of archaeological remains entirely.

1.Introduction

- 1.1. This report has been prepared by Francesca Southon and Joseph Berry of MOLA on behalf of London Borough of Southwark (LBS). The fieldwork was carried out by Francesca Southon and Elli Petrocheilou on the 31st October and 1st November 2022. The final trench was excavated on the 7th March 2023.
- 1.2. The area of investigation (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’) is centred on (NGR) 531535, 180006 covering approximately 0.27ha of land bounded by Hatfields to the West, The Cut to the south, Joan Street to the east, and Isabella Street to the north (FIGURE 1, FIGURE 2).
- 1.3. This report presents the results of an Archaeological Evaluation carried out to satisfy an archaeological condition stipulated in planning application 20/AP/0969, and adhering to the scope and methodology set forth in the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (CARTY 2023). The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is London Borough of Southwark (LBS) who take archaeological advice from Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), Historic England’s London and South-East service.
- 1.4. The site code assigned by Museum of London is SHX21.

2.Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

2.1.1.Archaeological conditions were applied to the site of the proposed demolition of structured apart from the extant tower block, and the erection of a single block of eight residential apartments with associated landscaping.

2.1.2.The site was granted planning permission under application 20/AP/09691.

2.1.3.The following archaeological condition was applied to the application by London Borough of Southwark (LBS):

24 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTING:

Within one year of the completion of the archaeological work on site, an assessment report detailing the proposals for the off-site analyses and post-excavation works, including publication of the site and preparation for deposition of the archive, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and the works detailed in the assessment report shall not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with any such approval given. The assessment report shall provide evidence of the applicant's commitment to finance and resource these works to their completion.

Reason: In order that the archaeological interest of the site is secured with regard to the details of the post-excavation works, publication and archiving to ensure the preservation of archaeological remains by record in accordance with Strategic Policy 12 – Design and Conservation of The Core Strategy 2011, Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

30 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:

Before any work hereby authorised begins, the applicant shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation 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 applicants supply the necessary archaeological information to ensure suitable mitigation measures and/or foundation design proposals be presented in accordance with Strategic Policy 12 – Design and Conservation of The Core Strategy 2011, Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

31 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION:

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 Strategic Policy 12 – Design and Conservation of The Core Strategy 2011, Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

2.1.4. This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken to fulfil the scope set forth in the WSI (CARTY 2022) and to satisfy the above planning condition.

2.2. GEOLOGY

2.2.1. An examination of data held by the British Geological Survey shows that the bedrock is London Clay formation with superficial deposits of alluvium (BGS 2022). The stratigraphy recorded is that of made ground to depths between 1.5-3.4m below ground level (BGL), which overlaid alluvium containing frequent thin layers of peat to depths between 6-7m BGL, followed by Kempton Gravel Member to depths between 10.2-11m BGL where London Clay was encountered (CARTY 2023) (THOMSON 2020: 31–32).

2.3. TOPOGRAPHY

2.3.1. The site is located in the London Borough of Southwark in Inner London, approximately 500m south of the River Thames at Blackfriars Bridge.

2.3.2. The site is immediately surrounded by a dense urban landscape containing a mix of residential and commercial properties as well as train lines serving London Waterloo East and Southwark Underground Station running east-west to the north of the site boundary.

2.3.3. There is a slight incline moving south to north across the site from 3.5m OD to 3.7m OD.

2.4. SITE CONDITIONS

2.4.1. Works were conducted during October and November 2022, and March 2023. Conditions were generally good with some light rain in October and November.

2.5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.5.1. The following background is summarised from the WSI (CARTY 2023). For a full archaeological and historical background please refer to the WSI.

PREHISTORIC

2.5.2. During the early Prehistoric periods, patterns of activity and settlement in Greater London were focused along the Thames and the river valleys of its tributaries, as they provided easily accessible supplies of food and other resources. Populations would have been largely mobile following the movements of large game and leaving scant evidence of their activity beyond their stone tools. Such tools are often found on gravel terraces, which formed between 10,000-300,000 years ago and frequently acted as foci of Prehistoric activity (MERRIMAN 1990: 12). As gravel deposits have been recorded by borehole surveys on the site, there could be elevated potential for early Prehistoric findspot evidence to be present within the site boundary.

2.5.3. The potential for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic evidence to be present on the site is low. The significance of any finds recovered from site would depend upon their nature, extent and whether or not they were preserved *in situ*, the latter being of high significance but very rare.

2.5.4. Patterns of occupation began to shift during the later Prehistoric periods, as dense forests were cleared over time in favour of permanent settlements and agricultural practices (MERRIMAN 1990: 22, 29). However, the floodplain area around central London would have been unattractive to prolonged occupation due to the general instability of the geology (SIDELL ET AL. 2002: 22).

2.5.5. There is also evidence for ritualised activity along the Thames across Southwark, represented by an early Bronze Age ring ditch near present-day Fennings Wharf and a burnt mound at Phoenix Wharf Road, both to the east of the study area (SIDELL ET AL. 2002).

ROMAN

2.5.6. Shortly after founding the city of *Londinium* on the north bank of the River Thames (c.50AD), the Romans also settled in Southwark after presumably constructing a bridge near present-day Stoney Street, just over 1km northeast of the site (MALDEN 1912: 125; WEINREBB & HIBBERT 2008: 855). Roman Southwark was primarily concentrated along the waterfront between Southwark and London Bridges and along Borough High Street, roughly 1-1.3km northeast of the site.

2.5.7. However, the Roman settlement east of the study area continued to expand through the use of land reclamation over the 1st-2nd centuries AD, suggesting the river level had dropped sufficiently to allow increased development (Cowan et al. 2009: 17-25). It is also generally believed that this suburb was somewhat wealthy and likely quite busy, as evidence of fine stone houses with wall paintings and a range of businesses have been identified (MALDEN 1912: 125; ROBERTS & GODFREY 1950: 1; SIDELL ET AL. 2000: 65).

2.5.8. *Londinium* and its suburb would have been connected to other settlements across Roman Britain through a network of roads, two of which cross through Southwark: Stane Street, roughly following the route of Newington Causeway approximately 825m southeast of the site, and Watling Street, roughly following the Old Kent Road (A2) approximately 1km southeast of the site. These roads probably converged near the settlement at Southwark before proceeding north across the Thames (MARGARY 1973; WEINREBB & HIBBERT 2008: 855).

EARLY MEDIEVAL & MEDIEVAL

2.5.9. During the Early Medieval period, the Olaf Sagas record a battle between the Danes and the Saxons suggesting that Southwark was used as for its defensive positioning before becoming a Great Chipping (or market) Town. Apart from this, there is limited archaeological evidence that attests to Early Medieval occupation and activity in the area (Weinrebb & Hibbert 2008: 855-856; Malden 1912: 125-126).

2.5.10. Southwark is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD, following the Norman Conquest, as being within the Hundred of Brixton and held by Bishop of Bayeaux. No population is recorded (which does not necessarily

indicate it was unpopulated) but the presence of a church is noted (POWELL-SMITH 2021).

2.5.11.The site would have been located within the Manor of Paris Gardens, which is recorded by the 12th century as being granted first to the Abbey of Bermondsey in 1113 and subsequently to the Knights Templar. A survey of the manor undertaken in 1308 recorded it as comprising primarily meadows with a few acres of arable land, which were both ditched and walled. It also noted that one house, three cottages, and a number of mills were present, most of which were described as being dilapidated and in need of repair (ROBERTS & GODFREY 1950: 95).

2.5.12.The only other Medieval evidence contained within the GLHER data for the study area is a findspot of a pendant and bar for a purse (MLO1547).

POST MEDIEVAL AND MODERN

2.5.13.During the early Medieval period, the land covered by the Manor of Paris Gardens largely coincided with the Parish of St. Saviour, which was established in 1541. The site itself would have been located in the far southwestern corner of this parish and approximately 325m south of Christ Church, built in the early 17th century.

2.5.14.The Manor of Paris Gardens remained with the Knights Templar until it was surrendered to Henry VIII in 1536, after which it was held by the Crown until 1578 (ROBERTS & GODFREY 1950: 95). In the mid 17th century, the manor was recorded as containing ten small estates, 80 cottages, 20 tofts, 20 gardens, 20 orchards, ten acres of arable land, 50 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and one acre of woodland, all of which was leased to various tenants (ROBERTS & GODFREY 1950: 98). Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, the areas of Southwark outside the concentrated patterns of settlement to the northeast of the study area remained as open space. While, it was recorded that Paris Gardens became a popular site for theatres and bear-baiting at this time, these were likely concentrated along the riverfront in the northern and northeastern extents of the district (MALDEN 1912: 134).

2.5.15.The study area and its environs is recorded as remaining as low-lying marshland subject to flooding until 1809 when a new drainage system was implemented across the city of London. This landscape is reflected in the

2.5.16.The site was severely impacted by bombings during WWII, with a majority of the buildings being totally destroyed or damaged beyond repair (WARD 2015).

3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the evaluation included the following:

- ◆ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits of remains.
- ◆ To assess the character, date, location, and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site, with comment on the quality and significance of the remains.
- ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.
- ◆ To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, if required. Any such strategy could consist of further fieldwork followed by a programme of post excavation analysis, reporting and possible publication and dissemination.

3.2. The specific aims of the evaluation included the following:

- ◆ To test for the presence of palaeoenvironmental evidence relating to the Prehistoric, Roman, or Medieval periods.
- ◆ To test for the presence of structural remains from the Post Medieval period.

4.Methodology

- 4.1.1.For full details of the methodology, refer to the WSI (CARTY 2023).
- 4.1.2.The Archaeological Evaluation comprised the excavation of one 2m x 10m trench, one 2m x 4m trench, and one 2m x 2m trench (FIGURE 3).
- 4.1.3.The Archaeological Evaluation works took place on the 30th October and 1st of November 2022, and the 7th March 2023. The works were supervised by Francesca Southon. Other staff members present on site were Elli Petrocheilou (Archaeologist). All works were done in accordance with the guidelines set out in the WSI (CARTY 2023).
- 4.1.4.The trenches were opened by appropriately sized mechanical excavator. This was a 1.5 tonne, 360 degree tracked excavator with a 1m wide toothless bucket. Excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.
- 4.1.5.The trench locations were accurately surveyed during excavation and related to the National Grid using a DGPS system.
- 4.1.6.Examination and cleaning of all potential archaeological deposits was done by hand using appropriate hand tools. Representative sections were recorded for each test pit.
- 4.1.7.All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's (CIfA) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (CIfA 2020).

5. Results

5.1. INTRODUCTION

5.1.1. The Archaeological Evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches (FIGURE 3). Structural remains of a brick wall were observed in trench 3, which was likely associated with earlier foundations (FIGURE 3). No other significant archaeological materials or deposits were encountered.

5.1.2. A standardised system is used to denote different types of archaeological features [square brackets] refer to cut features, those within (round brackets) refer to deposits and fills.

5.1.3. All levels used in this report are referred to in either metres below ground level (m BGL) or as metres Ordnance Datum (m OD).

5.2. STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE

5.2.1. The stratigraphic sequence was fairly consistent across the site, with each trench offering a window into a similar broad stratigraphic sequence. This can be characterised by orange-brown sandy subsoil atop grey-brown silty rubble deposits. The natural geology was not reached.

5.2.2. A full context register is included in APPENDIX 1.

5.3. TRENCHES

TRENCH 1

5.3.1. Trench 1 was located to the north-east of the site within the boundary of Platform Southwark, and measured 10m by 2m (Plate 1, 2). Pre-excavation, this area was covered by a substantial amount of waste which had to be cleared by the machine. Trench 1 was topped by a layer of rubble (10001) c. 0.7m in thickness. Below this was a similar deposit of orange-brown sandy rubble (10002), which reached a depth of c. 1.5m BGL. Below this was a compact, dark brown-grey silty/rubble deposit (10003). This was observed at the base of the trench at c. 2m BGL.

TRENCH 2

5.3.1. Trench 2 was located to the south-east of the site in the gardens of the tower blocks, and measured 2m by 2m (Plate 3). The trench was topped by a layer

of turf (20001) and partially by a line of paving slabs forming a garden path. The underlying topsoil (20002) reached a depth of c. 0.34m BGL. The subsoil below this (20004) reached a depth of 0.66m BGL and comprised an orange-brown sandy soil, similar to that found in Trench 3. A lens of compact concreted material (20003) was encountered partially atop the subsoil which measured 0.05m in thickness. This was likely a dump deposit of surplus building material associated with the construction of the existing buildings and garden features. Below (20004), a dark grey-brown rubble deposit (20005) was observed. This was the same as the deposit (30005) encountered near the base of Trench 3, and is likely a Post Medieval levelling deposit.

TRENCH 3

5.3.2. Trench 3 was located to the south of the site in the gardens of the tower blocks, and measured 4m by 2m (Plate 4-6). The trench was topped by a layer of turf (30001). The underlying topsoil (30002) reached a depth of 0.24m BGL. Below this was an orange-brown sandy subsoil (30003) which reached a depth of c. 1m BGL. The subsoil contained a localised thin grey, chalky lens (30004). Below (30003) was a dark grey-brown rubble deposit (30005), which likely represents a Post Medieval levelling deposit.

5.3.3. The remains of a brick wall 30006 running roughly north to south was observed during excavations in Trench 3 (Plate 5). Although heavily degraded, this was thought to be constructed with Flemish bonding and to be of Post Medieval origins. The bricks were bonded with white-grey chalky/sandy mortar. The wall measured c. 0.4m in width.

5.3.4. Trench 3 was excavated to a level of 1.5m BGL.

6.Finds

6.1. No significant archaeological finds were encountered during excavations at Styles House.

7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1.** The Archaeological Evaluation at Styles House revealed limited archaeological materials or deposits. However, a brick wall of likely Post Medieval origin was encountered in Trench 3. Post Medieval levelling deposits were encountered at the base of all three trenches.
- 7.2.** The three excavated trenches revealed windows into broadly the same stratigraphic sequence across the site, which can be characterised by orange-brown sandy subsoil atop likely Post Medieval rubbly levelling deposits. The lowest level of excavation was 2m BGL.
- 7.3.** The Archaeological Evaluation has indicated a limited potential for the presence of archaeological remains of any period to be present on the site. The trenches were well spaced across the site in order to provide a representative sample into the site's stratigraphy, but cannot rule out the presence of archaeological remains entirely.
- 7.4.** Based on the Archaeological Evaluation results, no further archaeological work is currently recommended for the site of Styles House and the archaeological condition may be discharged. However, further archaeological work in future may be required. This might take the form of an Archaeological Watching Brief to monitor intrusive ground works.

8. Archive

8.1. The site archive comprises a digital archive.

8.2. Items included in the digital archive:

- ◆ 86 x photographs in jpeg format.
- ◆ 1 x context register
- ◆ 3 x trench sheets (PDF)
- ◆ 3 x context sheets
- ◆ 1 x photographic register.
- ◆ 1 x GIS site shapefile.
- ◆ 1 x Risk Assessment Document.
- ◆ 1 x Archaeological Evaluation Report.

- ◆ 1 x Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation.

8.3. The digital archive will be deposited with Museum of London.

9.Acknowledgments

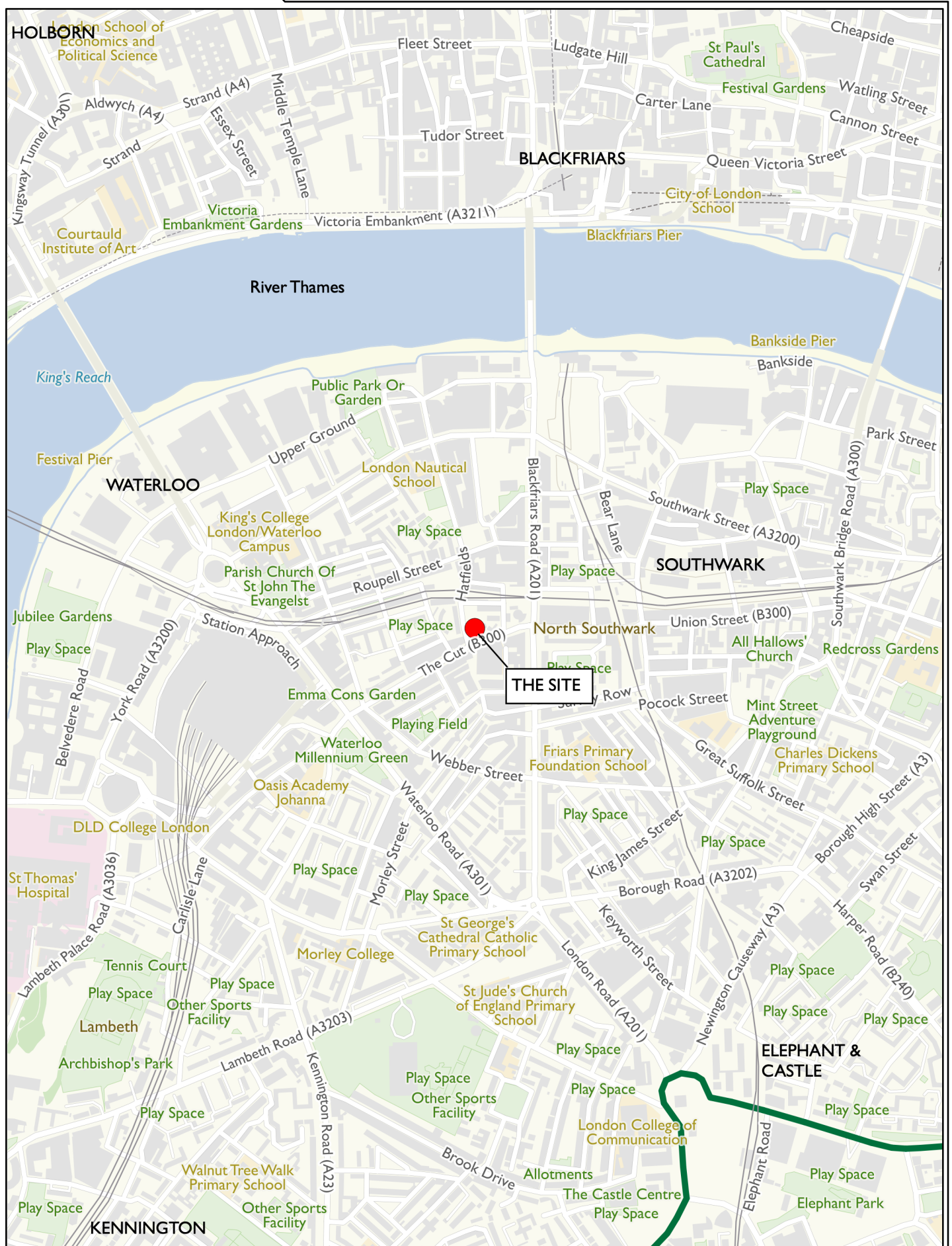
- 9.1. MOLA would like to thank London Borough of Southwark (LBS) for commissioning the work and allowing access to the site, and for their support and advice. MOLA would also like to thanks Transport for London for permitting access to Platform Southwark for the excavation of Trench 1.
- 9.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Francesca Southon with the assistance of Elli Petrocheilou. Project Management was assisted by Tom Swannick.

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FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location - General



0 500 m



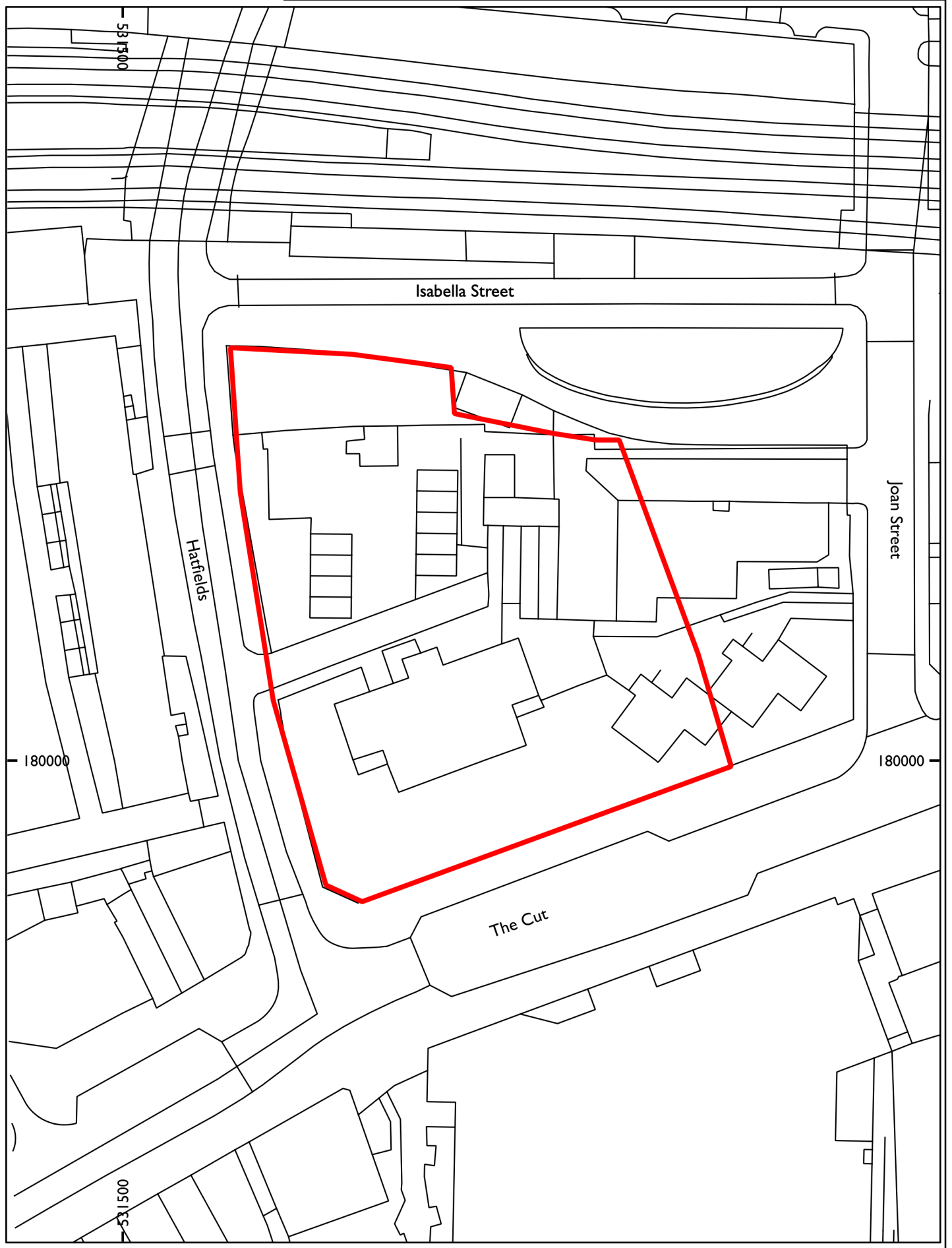
PROJECT // 3864L - Styles House, Southwark

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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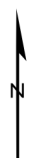
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FIGURE 2 // Site Location - Detail



 Site Boundary

0  30 m



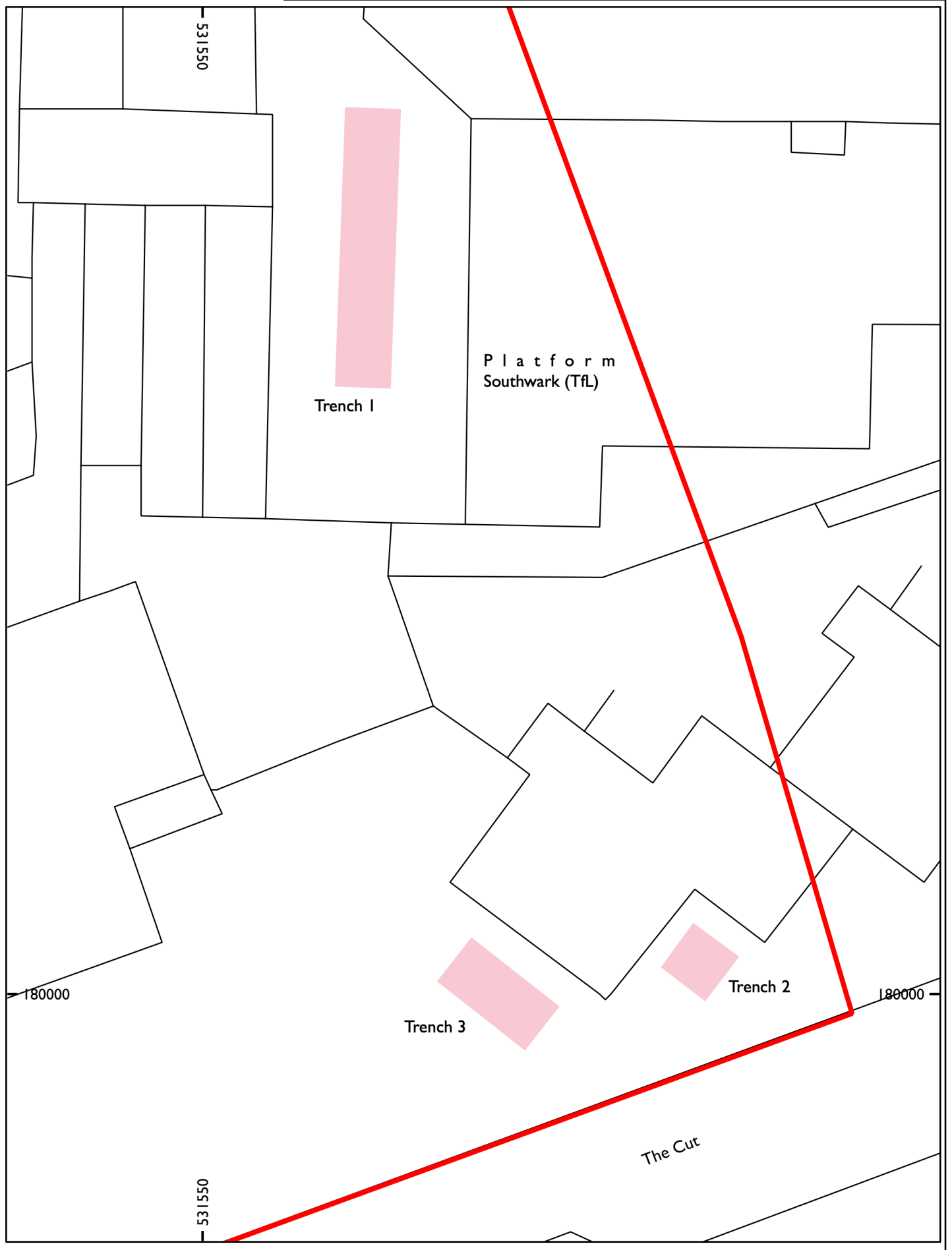
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FIGURE 3 // Trench Locations



-  Site Boundary
-  Trench (Excavated)

0 10 m



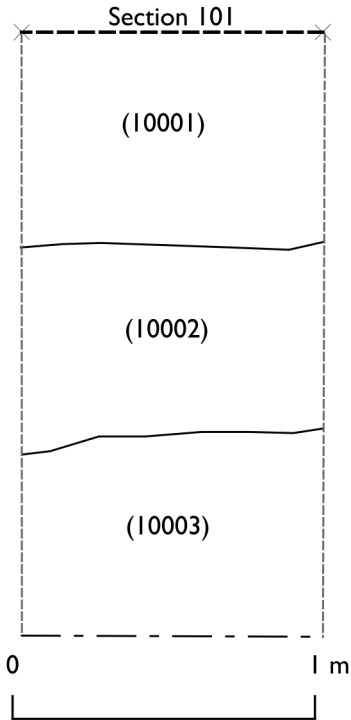
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DESCRIPTION // Trench Locations

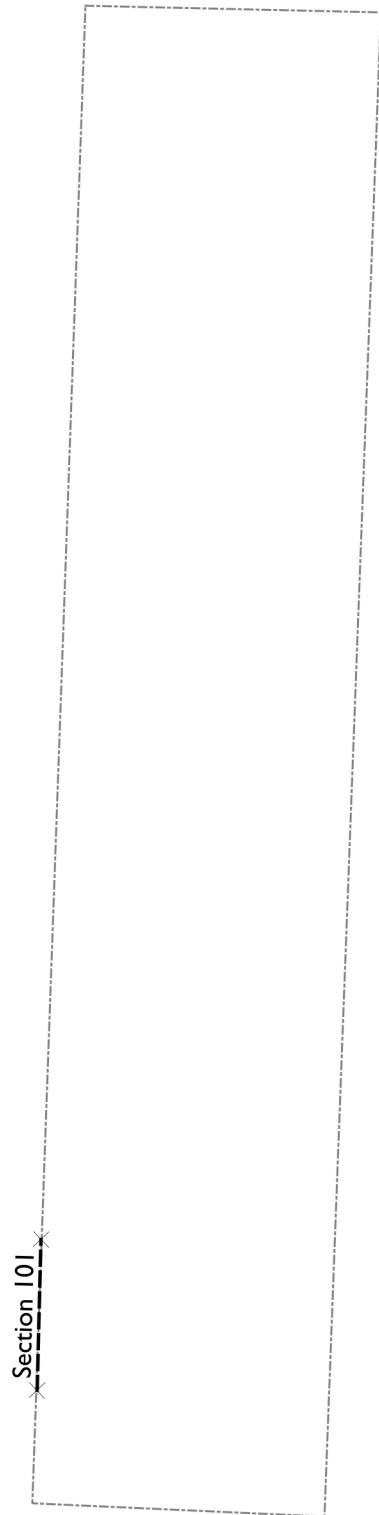
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East-facing representative section of Trench I, showing crush (10001), orange-brown sandy silt (10002), and dark brown rubbly silt (10003).



Trench I



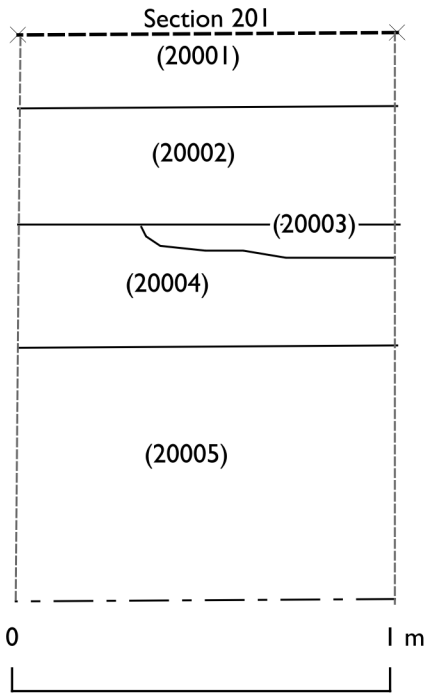
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DESCRIPTION // Plan and Section of Trench I

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South-east facing representative section of Trench 2, showing turf layer (20001), topsoil (20002), thin concrete lens (20003), orange-brown sandy subsoil (20004), and dark brown rubbly deposit (20005).



Section 201

180000.000

180000.000



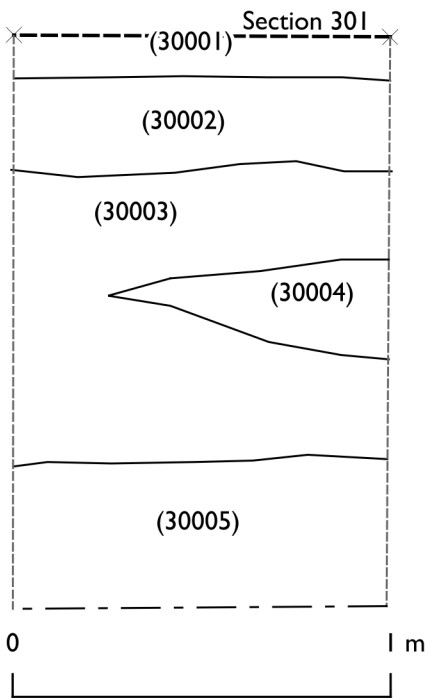
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DESCRIPTION // Plan and Section of Trench 2

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South-west facing representative section of Trench 3, showing turf (30001), topsoil (30002), orange-brown sandy subsoil (30003), grey sandy lens (30004), and dark brown rubbly deposit (30005).

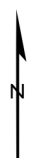


Brick wall 30006

Section 301

180000.000

180000.000



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DESCRIPTION // Plan and Section of Trench 3

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PLATES



Plate 1: West-facing working shot showing section of Trench 1.



Plate 2: North-facing shot of Trench 1.



Plate 3 - South-west-facing shot showing a representative section of Trench 2.



Plate 4: Working shot showing recording of Trench 3.



Plate 5: South-facing shot of remains of wall 30006 in Trench 3.



Plate 6 - South-west-facing shot showing a representative section of Trench 3.

APPENDIX 1

CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Trench	Type	Description
10001	1	Deposit	Loose sandy rubble deposit.
10002	1	Deposit	Orange-brown sandy rubble deposit.
10003	1	Deposit	Dark brown-grey silty rubble deposit.
20001	2	Deposit	Turf.
20002	2	Deposit	Topsoil
20003	2	Deposit	Lens of concreted material.
20004	2	Deposit	Orange-brown sandy subsoil.
20005	2	Deposit	Dark brown-grey silty rubble deposit.
30001	3	Deposit	Turf.
30002	3	Deposit	Topsoil.
30003	3	Deposit	Orange-brown sandy subsoil.
30004	3	Deposit	Localised thin grey chalky lens.
30005	3	Deposit	Dark brown-grey silty rubble deposit.
30006	3	Masonry	N-S brick wall with Flemish bond and white-grey sandy chalky mortar.

APPENDIX 2

OASIS FORM