

Archaeological Evaluation Report

40 RUSHWORTH STREET

For Kim Sangster Associates

By Cornelius Barton BA AIfA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

40 RUSHWORTH STREET

Client: Kim Sangster Associates

Local Authority: London Borough of Southwark

NGR: 531865, 179750

Planning App: 08/AP/0351

Author(s): C. Barton

Doc Ref: LPI004L-AER-v.1.4

Site Code: RKB10

Date: July 11

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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 and Environmental Sampling
7. Discussion
8. Summary and Conclusions
9. Archive

Sources Consulted

Figures

Appendices

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Site Location Detail and Trench Plan

Figure 3 - Plan Trench 1

Figure 4 - Plan trench 2

Figure 5 Sections 1 and 2

TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1 Trench 2 showing relict channels. Facing north, 1m scale

TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Oasis Record

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 40 Rushworth Street, in the London Borough of Southwark. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Kim Sangster Associates.

The site is located in the north-west of the Borough, outside the areas known to have been settled in the Roman and medieval periods. The site area is believed to have been reclaimed from marshland during the 17th century.

The objectives of the evaluation were determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and to evaluate the nature, depth, extent and significance of any remains found.

Most of the material recovered was of post-medieval date. Below the post-medieval material were the remains of relict channels in the natural drift geology.

Given the nature of the results, an archaeological watching brief may be required on future development.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Kim Sangster Associates (KSA).
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Kelly Madigan of L – P : Archaeology between 11th and 15th July 2011.
- 1.3. The site is located in at 40 Rushworth Street, within the London Borough of Southwark (LBS)(FIGURE 1). The NGR is 531865, 179750.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by Museum of London London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) is RKB10.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with a specification of works prepared by Cornelius Barton of L – P: Archaeology (BARTON 2011).

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. The works were carried out as part of a condition imposed on planning permission. The application reference is 08/AP/0351.
- 2.1.2. The site does not contain, nor is it adjacent to, any listed buildings.
- 2.1.3. The site does not lie within an archaeological priority zone as defined by London Borough of Southwark Unitary Development Plan.
- 2.1.4. When considering an application, LBS is bound by local policy 3.19 within the Unitary Development Plan (adopted 2007) regarding archaeology and planning. As such, the following condition was attached to the development:
- No development shall take place within the proposed development site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to the local planning authority and approved in writing.
- 2.1.5. KSA and LBS have agreed the methodology for these works in the specification of works (BARTON 2011). The specification was based on a brief provided by Dr Christopher Constable, Senior Archaeological Officer of LBS.

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey Geindex for the site records the superficial (drift) deposits as geologically recent alluvium in the form of sand, silt and clay overlying Kempton Park river terrace gravel. The solid geology consists of London Clay. ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geindex)).
- 2.2.2. The results of the evaluation confirm the presence of natural coarse sand at a depth of 1.75m OD (2.10m below present ground level).

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located at Newspaper House, Rushworth Street in the London Borough of Southwark (FIGURE 1). The total area is approximately 800 square

metres.

2.3.2. The site is bounded by Kings Bench Street to the north west and north east, by Rushworth Street on the south west and Webber Street on the south east (FIGURE 2).

2.3.3. The site is generally flat, at a height of 3.85- 3.90m OD.

2.3.4. The local topography in this area of north Southwark was distinctly different in the past from that seen today. From the end of the last ice age, this area would have been made up of a series of low lying sand islands or eyots, separated by a series of natural channels and creeks.

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.4.1. The site is currently occupied by single-storey brick building. It is proposed to demolish this building and replace it with a mixed residential and commercial development with associated car-parking. The new development will involve deep piling across the entire site area.

2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

2.5.1. No prehistoric material has been encountered in the immediate vicinity of the site. There has been some evidence for prehistoric activity on the gravel islands within Southwark. Finds including worked flint and pottery have been recovered from north Southwark, suggesting activity from the Mesolithic and Neolithic. This was most likely seasonal exploitation of resources rather than permanent settlement (ALLEN ET AL 2005).

2.5.2. Evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity in north Southwark is sparse. There are a small number of isolated burials, and some findspots. This may possibly reflect the rises in sea-level which took place during the Iron Age and early Roman periods (MILNE ET AL 1983).

2.5.3. In the Roman period, a significant settlement developed in north Southwark, in the vicinity of the original London Bridge, some 500m to the east of the development site. This settlement would have extended as far south as the modern Southwark Bridge Road. However, the low lying, regularly flooding

area of the development site is likely to have precluded settlement activity in the immediate vicinity of the site, and the area probably lay under low level cultivation (MCKINLEY 2006)

- 2.5.4. There is no record of Early Medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 2.5.5. Occupation in the Medieval period was focussed some 600m north east of the development site, closer to the river. Evidence closer to the site is limited to isolated spot finds.
- 2.5.6. From the 17th century onwards, this area of Southwark was gradually reclaimed from marshland. Morden and Lea's map of 1682 shows the first development in the immediate vicinity. Although the site itself remains an open field, Great Suffolk Street to the east and Union Street to the north have been laid out and developed.
- 2.5.7. John Rocque's map of London 1746 shows the site area to be under cultivation, to the north of Turnpike Road. The 1896 OS map shows the site has been developed with Kings Bench Walk and Rushworth Street laid out. The latter was originally called Green Street and changed to Rushworth Street by the time of the 1915-1920 OS survey.
- 2.5.8. The standing building on the site is the subject of a separate Historic Building Report (POOLE 2011).

3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.

3.2. The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation, as defined in the specification, were:

- ◆ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ 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.

3.2.1. The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the specification of works (BARTON 2011).
- 4.2. A sample of 5% of the site area was excavated. This involved the excavation of two trenches, Trench 1 measuring 14m by 2m, and Trench 2 measuring 6m by 2m. (FIGURE 2).
- 4.3. Trench 2 was to be placed outside the main building in the original specification, but could not be excavated in this position. This was due to the presence of underground fuel tanks, which were only visible after breaking out of the concrete hardstanding. After consultation with Dr Constable the trench was moved to the indoor location shown on FIGURE 2.

5. Results

5.1. Results are given below trench by trench. Trench is abbreviated below to Tr. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. All heights given are m OD unless stated otherwise.

5.2. TRENCH 1

5.2.1. Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 1.89m OD (see FIGURE 3 and FIGURE 5). Below the concrete hard-standing floor were a series of modern make-up deposits (101), and (102). These were layers of crushed building rubble, brick, building sand and mortar. Both contained material of 20th century origin, and were presumably laid down immediately prior to the construction of the building in the 1930s (POOLE 2011). (101) and (102) both extended across the full width of the trench.

5.2.2. Below (102) was a deposit of compacted dark grey silty clay (103). This deposit also extended across the whole trench. (103) contained sherds of glazed post-medieval pottery in a variety of styles.

5.2.3. Below this was a deposit of coarse yellow-brown sand with patches of gravel (106). This deposit represented the uppermost level of the drift geology. Within the sand were two dark deposits of dark grey silty clay. These were irregular in shape and contained gravel and shell fragments, and appeared to be remnants of the fills of relict channels. No artefacts were present in either deposit.

5.3.TRENCH 2

5.3.1. Trench 2 was dug to a maximum depth of 1.4m OD (FIGURE 4 and FIGURE 6). The stratigraphic sequence was very similar to that of Tr. 1. Below the concrete floor was a layer of building rubble (201) extending across the entire trench area. This was of early 20th century origin, and of a similar nature to



Plate 1: Trench 2 showing relict channels. Facing north, 1m scale

(101) and (102).

5.3.2. Below (201) was another layer of building rubble (202). This contained crushed brick, building sand and fragments of late 19th and early 20th century pottery, along with glass, plastic and other debris. This appeared to be a demolition layer associated with the removal of the building which previously occupied the site.

5.3.3. Within (202) were a remnant brick floor (203) and a large square brick structure (204). These were both of 19th century date, and appeared to be the remnant of a building footing. Neither structure was within a recognizable construction cut, and had clearly been severely disturbed during the demolition.

5.3.4. Below these deposits was a layer of very dark grey silty clay with gravel and shell inclusions (207). The deposit appeared to consist partially of decayed organic matter, and perhaps represented either a dumping layer or a remnant garden soil. The deposit contained sherds of glazed late medieval and post medieval pottery, and a small bone object, SF 001. This was identified as a post-medieval lace-makers bobbin. A sample of (207) was collected for possible future analysis.

5.3.5. Below (207) was a natural deposit of dark yellow coarse sand with gravel patches similar to (106). Two irregular linear features were observed running NW-SE at an oblique angle to the trench (see FIGURE 3 and PLATE 1). These were filled with a mixture of silty clay and sand, and appeared to be of natural origin, probably formed by braided channels in the drift geology.

6. Finds and Environmental Sampling

6.1.POTTERY

6.1.1. Six sherds of 19th century glazed pottery were recovered from context (103)

6.1.2. Two large sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from (207). These were of a coarse, thick red fabric with a green lead-glaze, probably of 16th or 17th century origin.

6.2.OTHER

6.2.1. Also in (207) was a small bone object SF001. The object was lathe-turned and of fine construction, and appears to be a lace-making bobbin. It is of post-medieval date, probably 17th or 18th century origin (M. Marshall, pers. comm).

6.3.ENVIRONMENTAL

6.3.1. A single sample was recovered from context (207). The sample has not been processed to date.

7. Discussion

7.1. The stratigraphic sequence of the site appears relatively straightforward. Below the remains of the demolished 19th century buildings was a deposit of dark grey silty clay containing decayed organic material, shell, bone and broken pottery (**107**) and (**206**). This appears to have been either the remains of a garden soil or possibly field middening. The material in the dark deposit, of early post-medieval date, is consistent with the reclamation of the Southwark marshland in the 17th century.

7.2. The relict channels in the natural sand below the organic deposits are not particularly noteworthy in themselves. However the presence of undisturbed natural deposits at a relatively shallow depth indicates there may be some potential for the survival of prehistoric material on the site.

8. Summary and Conclusions

- 8.1. A site at Rushworth Street, London is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves the demolition of the existing building, and its replacement with a new mixed residential and commercial property.
- 8.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.
- 8.3. The results of the evaluation appear consistent with what was previously known about this area of Southwark. Below the present building were the remains of the 19th century buildings which previously occupied the site. Underlying the 19th century deposits were middening deposits of 16th or 17th century origin, probably laid down during land reclamation.
- 8.4. It appears that the proposed development will have a limited impact on the archaeological record. There may be some potential for the survival of prehistoric material, and a watching brief on below-ground works may be considered appropriate.

9. Archive

9.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 8x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 12x Context sheets

9.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x box artefacts as described in Section 6 (all materials).

9.3. The archive is to be deposited at the Museum of London

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FIGURES

Figure List:

- FIGURE 1 - SITE LOCATION GENERAL
- FIGURE 2 - SITE LOCATION DETAIL AND TRENCH PLAN
- FIGURE 3 - PLAN TRENCH 1
- FIGURE 4 - PLAN TRENCH 2
- FIGURE 5 – SECTIONS 1 AND 2

Appendix List:

- APPENDIX 1 - OASIS RECORD

FIGURE I // Site Location General



PROJECT // 1004L- Newspaper House, Rushworth Street

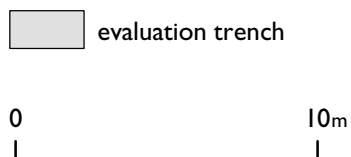
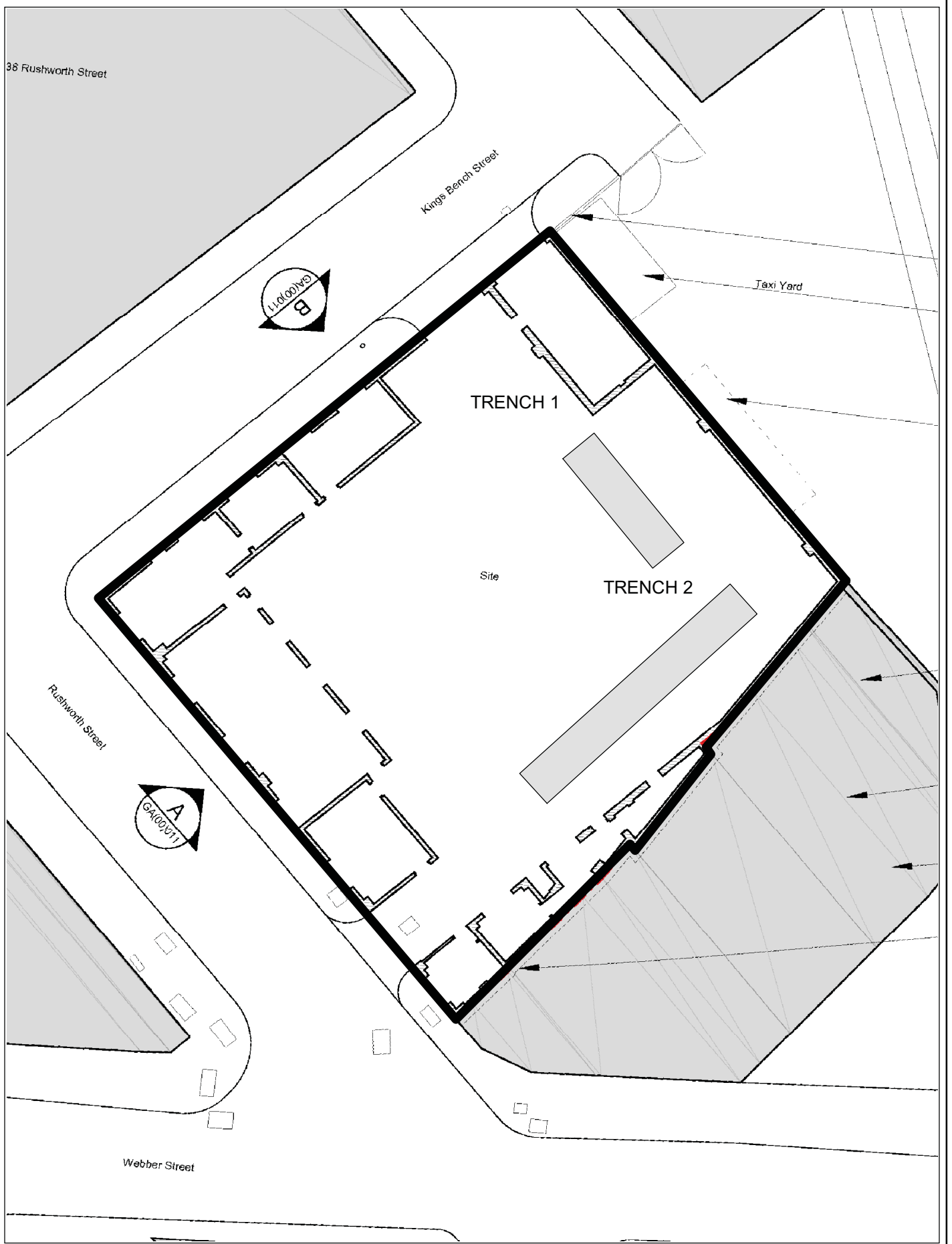
DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

Drawing provided by Loates-Taylor Shannon Architects Ltd

DOC REF: LPI004L-AER-v1.0

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



PROJECT // 1004L- Newspaper House, Rushworth Street

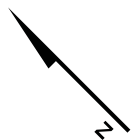
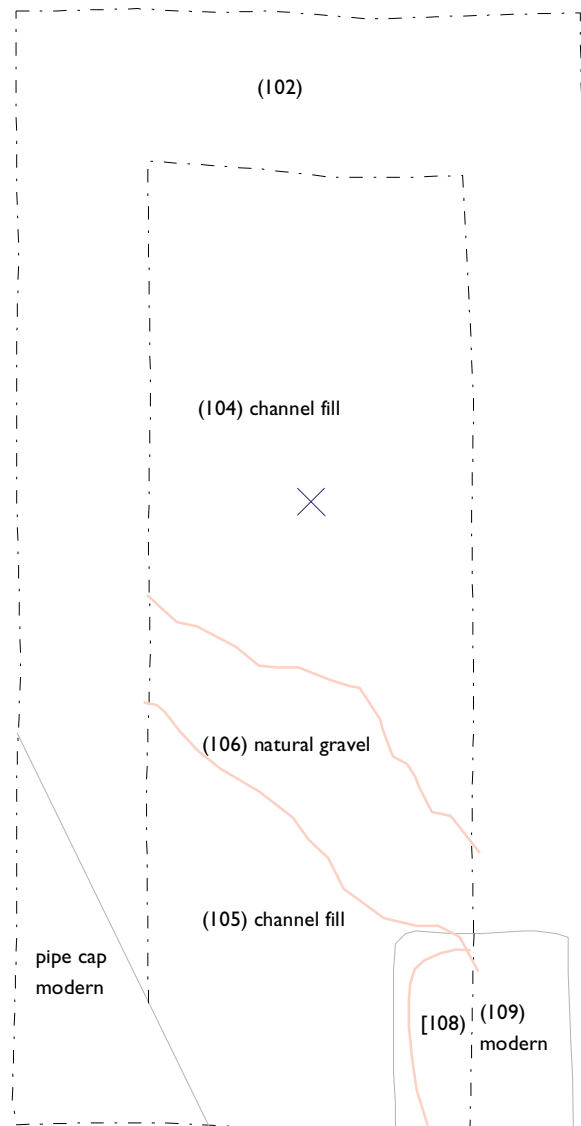
DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail

Drawing provided by Loates-Taylor Shannon Architects Ltd

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FIGURE 3 // Plan of Trench I



0 0.75m

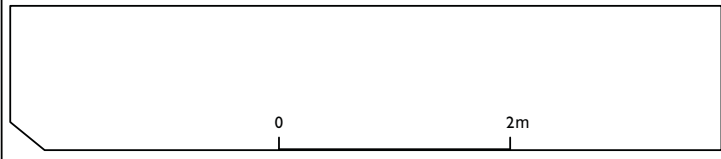
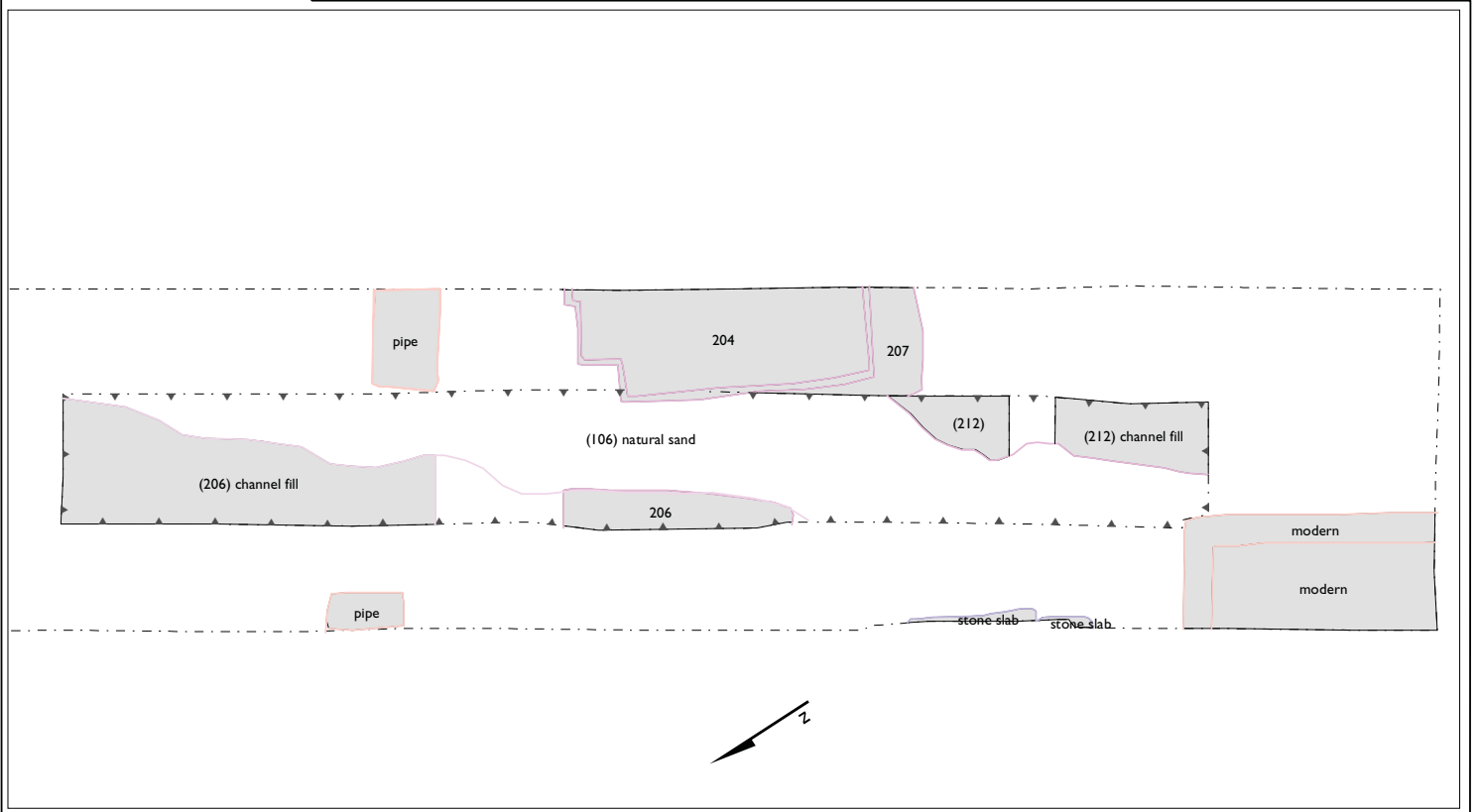
PROJECT // 1004L- Rushworth Street

DESCRIPTION // Plan of Trench I showing natural sand with relict channels

DOC REF: LPI004L-AER-v1.0

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FIGURE 4 // Plan of Trench 2



PROJECT // 1004L- Rushworth Street

DESCRIPTION // Plan of Trench 2 showing relict channels

DOC REF: LP1004L-AERv1.0

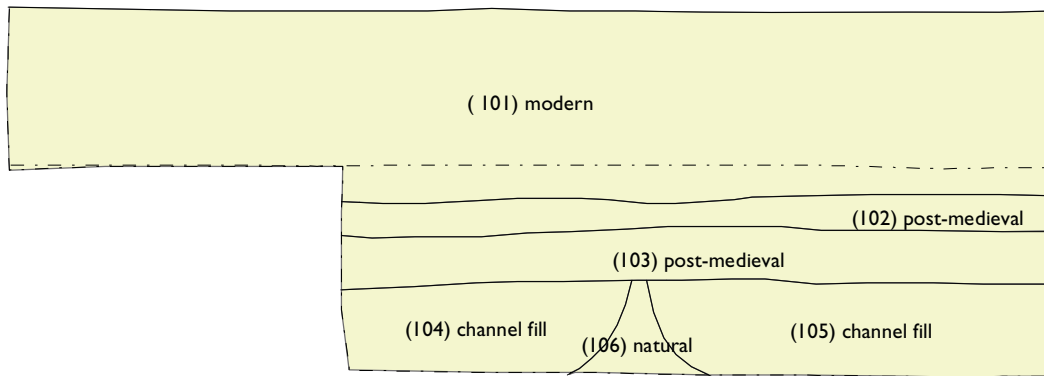
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FIGURE 5// Trench I section

SW

NE

3.99m OD



0 1m

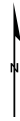
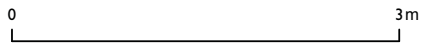
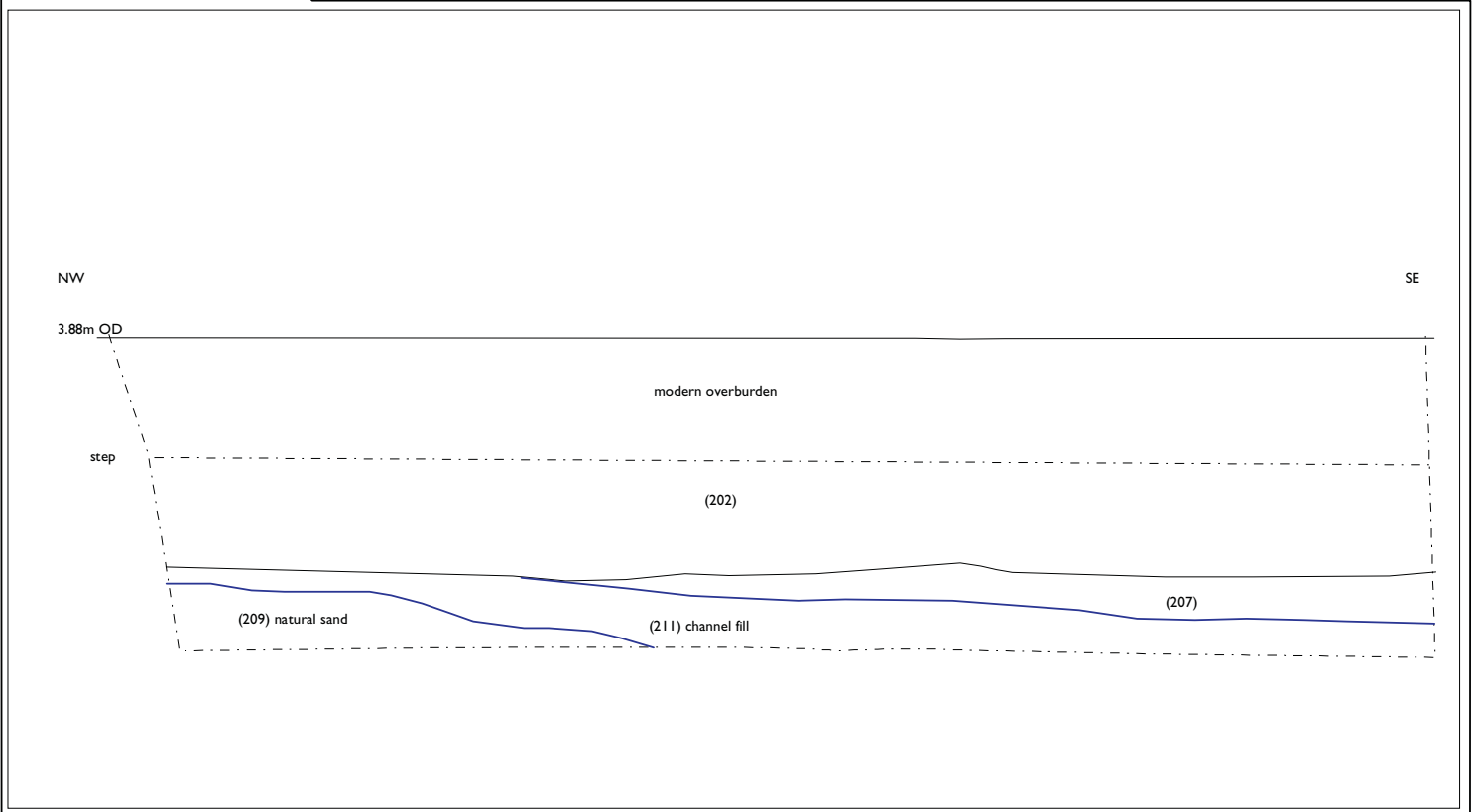
PROJECT // 1004L- Rushworth Street

DESCRIPTION // Southwest facing section of Trench I

DOC REF: LPI004L-AER-v1.0

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FIGURE 6 // Section Trench 2



PROJECT // 1004L- Rushworth Street

DESCRIPTION // South west facing section Trench 2

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APPENDIX I

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OASIS ID: lparchae1-105795

Project details

Project name	Newspaper House, Rushworth Street
Short description of the project	Trench Evaluation of small urban site in Southwark
Project dates	Start: 11-07-2011 End: 15-07-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RKB11 - Site code
Any associated project reference codes	1004L - Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	LACEMAKING BOBBIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
---------	---------

Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK Newspaper house, Rushworth Street
Postcode	SE1 0RB
Study area	800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 531865 179750 50.9402662883 0.180610061965 50 56 24 N 000 10 50 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.89m Max: 1.91m
Project creators	
Name of Organization	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Cornelius Barton
Project supervisor	Kelly Madigan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Martin Lav ell Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Archive ID	RKB11
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked bone'
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	RKB11
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked bone'
Digital Media available	'GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked bone' 'Context
Paper Media available	sheet','Diary','Drawing','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublish ed Text'
Entered by	Cornelius Barton (archaeological)
Entered on	25 July 2011

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