

Archaeological Evaluation Report

237 LONG LANE SOUTHWARK

For W N Developments Ltd

Author Cornelius Barton BA AIfA

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

237 LONG LANE SOUTHWARK

Client: W N Developments Ltd

Local Authority: London Borough of Southwark

NGR: 533148,179457

Planning App: 08 AP 0573

Author(s): C. Barton

Doc Ref: LP0957L-AER-v1.4

Site Code: LGX10

Date: April 10

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A trading name of the L – P : Partnership Ltd.

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 237 Long Lane, 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 WN Developments.

The Southwark area lies on the southern bank of the Thames. The palaeotopography of the area consists of sand and gravel islands in tributary streams and braided channels. The area has been exploited since the Mesolithic period, with evidence of permanent settlement since the Late Neolithic. Long Lane is known to have been constructed in the late 12th century, and previous excavations have found evidence of Medieval and early Post-Medieval buildings along the Lane.

The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on site, and to determine the nature, age and extent of any such remains as were present.

Specifically, the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence

of the remains of Medieval or Post-Medieval building footings.

No significant archaeological were present in the trench excavated.

The deposits exposed consisted of 19th century garden soils, with 19th and 20th century brick features.

It is recommended that any further works on site would take the form of a watching brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of WN Developments Ltd.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Cornelius Barton and Greg Crees of L - P : Archaeology between 4th and 5th of March 2010.
- 1.3. The site is located in at 237 Long Lane, London SE1 4PX within the London Borough of Southwark (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 533148, 179457.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by the Museum of London is LGX10.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the Specification prepared by Greg Crees of L-P Archaeology (CREES 2010).
- 1.6. This report should be read in conjunction with the Specification of Works LP0957L-SAE 1.4 (CREES 2010).

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

2.1.1. Planning consent has been granted for the re-development of the car park at 237 Long Lane to provide 9 (nine) x 2 bedroom apartments over part 3/4/5 storeys, with replacement parking for Blue Lion residents, along with cycle parking, refuse storage and landscaping. Planning consent was granted following a successful appeal by WN Developments Ltd. The planning application reference is 08 AP 0573 and the appeal reference is APP/A5840/A08/2082289NWF.

2.1.2. The site is in an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the Southwark Plan as adopted 2007. The site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings,

2.1.3. When considering an application, SBC is bound by local policies Policy 3.19 regarding archaeology and planning. As such, the following condition was attached to the development.

10. No development shall take place within the proposed development site until a programme of archaeological evaluation and a programme of archaeological mitigation works has been undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

11. Within 6 months of the completion of archaeological site works the appellants or successors in title will supply an assessment report detailing the proposals for post-excavation work, publication of site details and preparation of the archive.

2.1.4. W N Developments and Southwark Borough Council (SBC) have agreed the methodology for these works in the Specification of works (CREES 2010). The Specification was based on a brief provided by Dr. Chris Constable, archaeological advisor to SBC.

2.1.5. This document seeks to partially satisfy the conditions by describing the results of the evaluation and clarifying the status and location of the project archive.

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The known geological sequence for the area is of alluvial clays and silts interspersed with horizons of localised peat formation, above Kempton Park Terrace/Shepperton Gravels which in turn overlie London Clay (PULLEN 2008).
- 2.2.2. Previous excavations have established that the basic palaeotopography of Southwark and Bermondsey area consists of sand and gravel islands eroded and dissected by braided channels and tributaries of the Thames producing a landscape of low-lying islands or eyots separated by mudflats, marshes and tidal watercourses. Archaeological investigation of nearby sites on Long Lane suggest that the site is positioned in an area straddling the northern edge of the Bermondsey eyot to the south (at Long Lane), and a prehistoric channel (the Neckinger floodplain) to the north (PULLEN 2008).
- 2.2.3. A borehole survey conducted on site revealed ground conditions comprising made ground between 2.50m and 3.30m thick above River Terrace Gravel followed by deposits typical of London Clay (SAS 2000).

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located to the eastern end of Long Lane, bounded to the north by Blue Lion Court, to the east by the Simon Tanner public house and to the west by a building at 219 Long Lane (FIGURE 2).
- 2.3.2. The site is about 800m south of from the south bank of the River Thames. The site is flat and ground height is approximately 18.00m AOD (FIGURE 1)

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.4.1. The site is currently in use as a car park and waste management area. The site is covered by a mix of paving stones and concrete hard standing.

3. Archaeology and History

3.1. A summary of the archaeological background is presented below. For a more detailed account of the archaeology and history please refer to the desk-based assessment (PULLEN 2008), from which the above information has been summarised.

3.2. EARLY PREHISTORY

3.2.1. The gravel islands are known to have been a focus for prehistoric activity. Pottery and worked flints found in north Southwark suggest that the area was frequented from the Mesolithic period onward. Mesolithic and Neolithic material has been found at Butler's Wharf, Three Oak Lane and Marlborough Grove.

3.3. BRONZE AGE

3.3.1. From the end of the Neolithic period and into the Bronze Age, the area became a focus of more permanent settlement. Excavations in Borough High Street and Union Street have uncovered evidence suggesting the area was in agricultural use during this period.

3.4. IRON AGE

3.4.1. There is little evidence for Iron Age activity in the area, possibly reflecting the rise in sea level which took place during the Iron Age and subsequent Roman period.

3.5. ROMAN

3.5.1. The Roman presence in Southwark was extensive and well documented. The Roman Road (known as Stane Street) ran from London Bridge southward, approximately along the line of Borough High Street.

3.5.2. The site itself was not within the main Roman settlement, and was probably under low-level cultivation during the Roman period.

3.6.MEDIEVAL

- 3.6.1. Bermondsey Abbey was founded in 1086. The route now followed by Long Lane was established by the late 12th century, providing a causeway across the marshes connecting the Abbey with the settlement at Borough. The site area lay to the east of the Abbey, outside the precinct walls.
- 3.6.2. Several sites excavated along Long Lane have uncovered evidence of medieval activity, mainly in the form of pits, post-holes and ditches. The site area appears to have remained in agricultural use during this period.

3.7.POST-MEDIEVAL

- 3.7.1. During the Post-Medieval period Long Lane flourished as a centre of small scale industry. Businesses recorded on the street include several tanners and curriers, a hat-maker and a tin and zinc works as well as several warehouses.
- 3.7.2. Excavations at 211 Long Lane, very close to the site, uncovered horn-core and barrel lined pits associated with tanning processes, and a revetted roadside ditch containing a variety of Post-Medieval vessels.

4. Aims

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

4.2. The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation, as defined by 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, and to comment on the quality and significance of any remains found.
- ◆ 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.

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

5. Methodology

- 5.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the Specification (CREES 2010).
- 5.2. Guidance from Southwark Borough Council stated a requirement for two test trenches, one 5m x 2m and the other 3m x 3m, to be set out across the site in order to meet a required 5% evaluation sample of the site area. Due to the restricted space available Trench 2 was altered slightly to allow full excavation and still covered the same area set out in the Specification (CREES 2010).
- 5.3. In the event only one trench (Trench 2) could be excavated. This was due to the presence of a concrete slab beneath the area of Trench 1. The slab was at least 0.20m thick, and extended over the entire trench area. Restrictions of space meant that it was not possible to bring in a large enough excavating machine to break out the slab, and after on-site consultation with Dr. Chris Constable, of SBC, it was agreed that the trench would have to be abandoned.
- 5.4. Modern overburden was removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits was undertaken by hand using appropriate hand tools.
- 5.5. All archaeological remains were recorded on appropriate recording sheets, in accordance with the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (SPENCE 1994 3RD EDITION). A Harris Matrix diagram was constructed from the stratigraphy within the trench. All archaeological deposits were recorded both in plan and section.
- 5.6. A photographic record was made of all archaeological deposits using black-and-white prints and colour transparencies. A record was also made using digital photography.
- 5.7. All works were carried out in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2002). Accordingly the project was conducted according to the IFA's code of approved practice and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) guidance papers (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2009).

6. Results

6.1. Results are given below. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Levels given are measured against Ordnance Datum (OD).

6.2. TRENCH 1

6.2.1. This trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a thick concrete slab. (see SECTION 5.3).

6.3. TRENCH 2

6.3.1. Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 2.10m (see FIGURES 3 AND 4). Below the modern hard standing was a thick deposit (05) consisting of dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt. The deposit contained a variety of artefacts including brick and tile fragments, pottery sherds, clay pipe fragments, iron nails etc. The material recovered was all of 19th or 20th century date, and (05) appeared to be a remainder of an old garden soil. Cut through (05) were a number of brick structures.



Plate 1 - Trench 2 from the north

6.3.2. The first of these was a brick cellar wall. This was observed in the western side of the trench (PLATE 1). The wall was constructed of yellowish-grey froged bricks in a stretcher bond. The mortar was rough and unfinished, and the

exposed wall appeared to be the external face of the cellar wall. The construction appeared of 19th or early 20th Century date.

6.3.3. Also observed in the trench was a circular brick construction 08 (PLATE 2). This was set in a rough foundation [09] which was cut down through the garden soil (05). The structure was loose, roughly coursed and unbonded. The bricks were a mixture of different types, being mostly unfroged. The structure appeared to be a soakaway; material from within the fill of the foundation cut (07) identified it as being 19th century in date.

6.3.4. Finally, a roughly square structure of late 19th or early 20th century was observed at the south side of the trench. Only one edge of this structure could be seen in the trench; it probably represents a brick footing for a shed or outhouse.

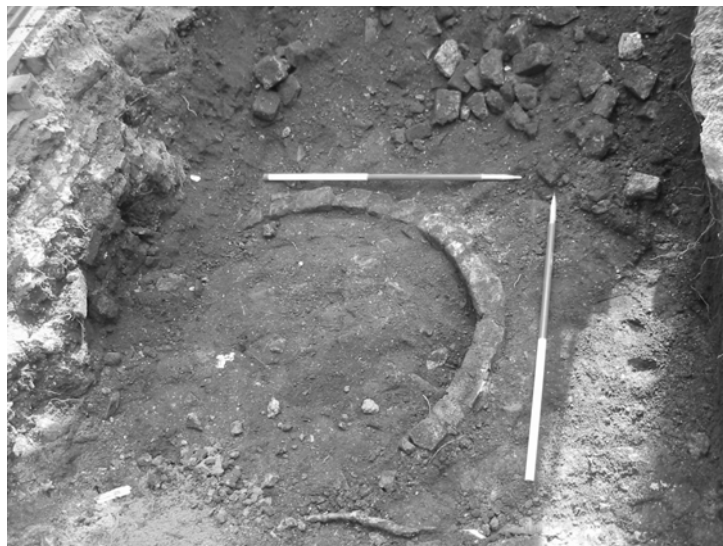


Plate 2 - Soakaway 08

6.3.5. Below the garden soil deposit, at a depth of 2.10m was a deposit of deep yellow-brown sandy clay brickearth (10), the natural drift geology. No archaeological features were observed.

7. Finds

7.1. The majority of the artefacts recovered from the excavated trench were of 19th or 20th century origin. These have been retained for the purpose of reporting, but will probably not be deposited with the archive..

7.2. A sample of bricks from the 19th century soakaway have also been retained at the request of SBC.

7.3. CONTEXT (05)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE	DECORATION/NOTES	Quantity	DATE
Ceramic	Tile	0.11m	Roof tiles	3	19 th C
White Clay	Pipe	0.10m	No decoration	4	18 th /19 th C
Animal bone		0.15m		2	?
Ceramic (pottery)	Sherds	0.08m	Various types inc. willow pattern	6	19 th /20 th C

Table 1: Finds from (05) remnant garden soil

7.4. CONTEXT (07)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE	DECORATION/NOTES	Quantity	DATE
Ceramic	Tile	0.07m	Roof tiles	1	19 th C
White Clay	Pipe	0.06m	No decoration	2	18 th /19 th C
Ceramic (pottery)	Sherds	0.08m	Various types inc. willow pattern	3	19 th /20 th C

Table 2: Finds from (07) - construction cut for soakaway

8. Environmental Sampling

8.1.No organic or waterlogged deposits were present in the trench, and therefore no environmental samples were taken.

9. Summary and Conclusions

- 9.1. A site at 237 Long Lane is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves the construction of nine new apartments with related services and landscaping.
- 9.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings.
- 9.3. Long Lane is known to have been constructed around the late 12th century. Excavations elsewhere on Long Lane have uncovered evidence of medieval and early post-medieval buildings.
- 9.4. The findings of the evaluation however have indicated that the site of 237 Long Lane has been disturbed by later activity. The area of Trench 2 in the eastern car park contains a remnant garden soil dating from the 19th century. The area to the west of the trench appears to be occupied by a brick cellar of 19th or 20th century origin. Below these is the natural brickearth; it does not appear that any part of the earlier timber-framed structures have survived in this part of the site.
- 9.5. The western area of the site could not be investigated due to the presence of an excessively thick layer of concrete which could not be broken out.
- 9.6. Given the limited options for further investigation of the site, it is recommended that if any further archaeological works on site are considered necessary that these be limited to a watching brief on any intrusive works.

10. Archive

10.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 1x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1x Photographic Register
- ◆ 21 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 3 x Context Register
- ◆ 10x Context sheets

10.2. The finds archive consists of:

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

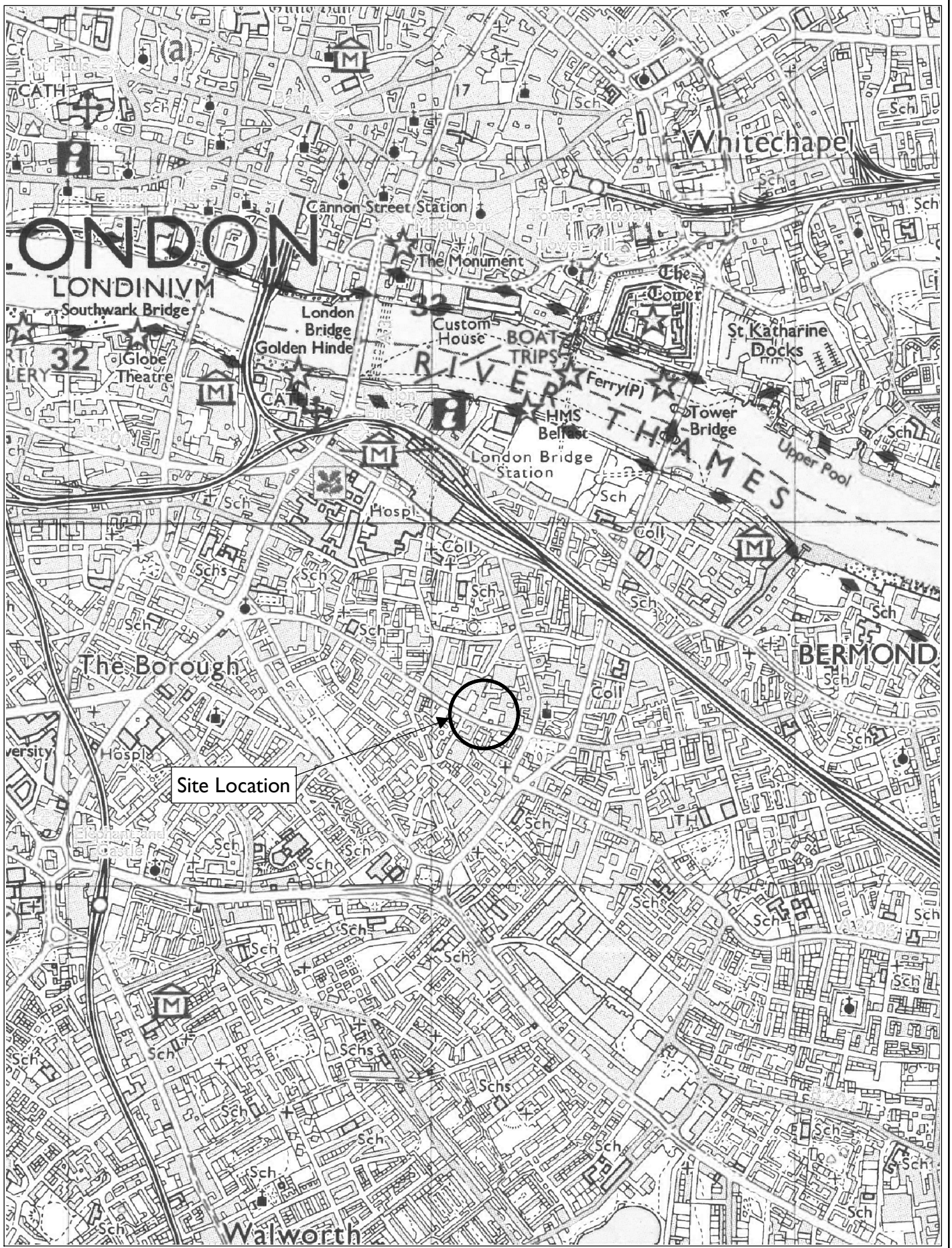
10.3. The archive is to be deposited at the Museum of London.

11. Sources Consulted

- British Geological Society Geology Map (Sheet 270 South London)
- CREES G. 2010. *Specification of Archaeological Works for Land at 237 Long Lane, Southwark*. L – P : Archaeology. Unpublished report.
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- SPENCE C. (3RD ED.) 1994. *Archaeological Site Manual*, 3rd edition . Museum of London.

FIGURES

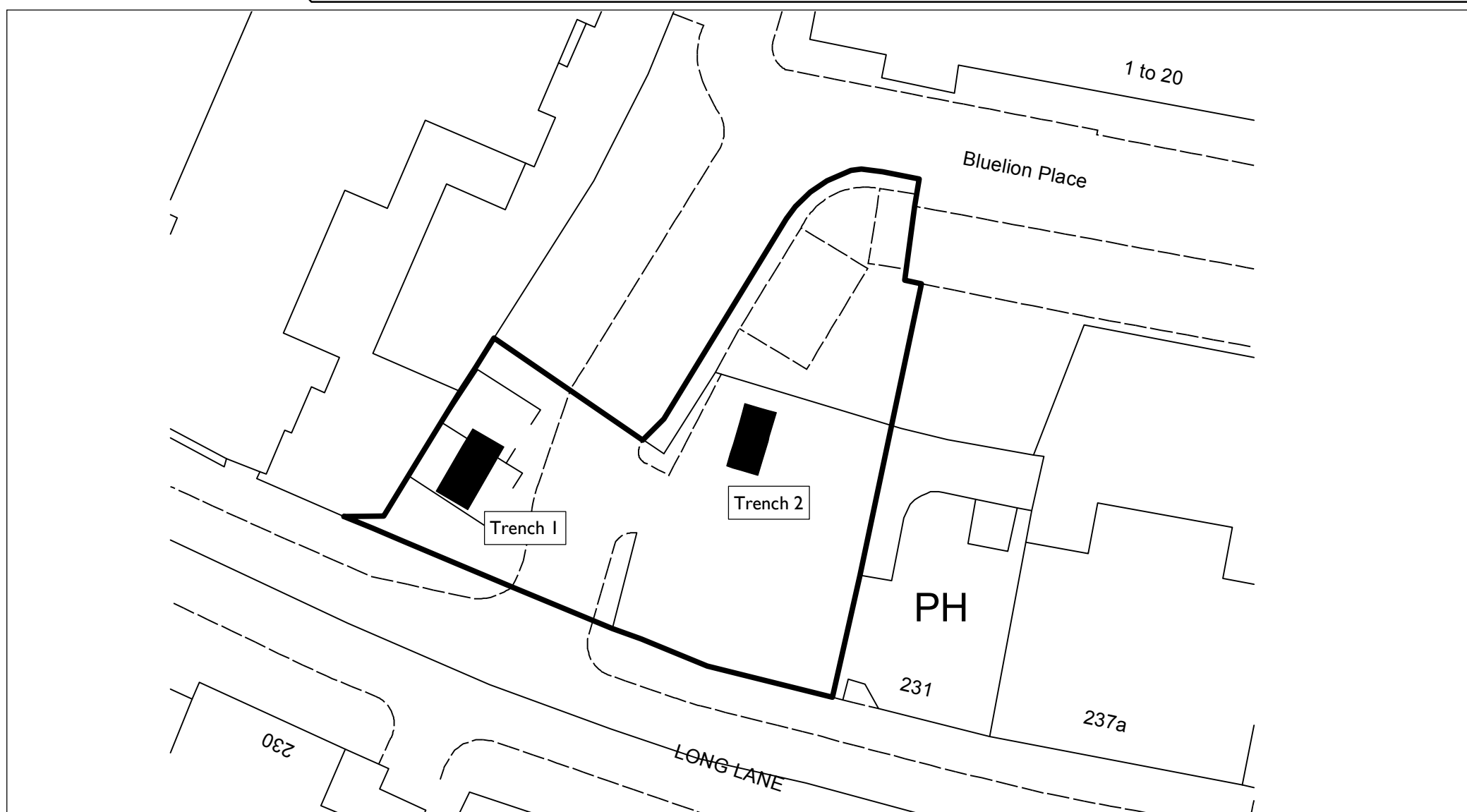
FIGURE I // Site Location General



PROJECT // 0957L - 237 Long Lane Southwark
DESCRIPTION // Site Location General
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DOC REF: LP0957L-AER-v1

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FIGURE 2 // Trench Location



— Site Boundary

0 10m



PROJECT // 0957L - 237 Long Lane, Southwark

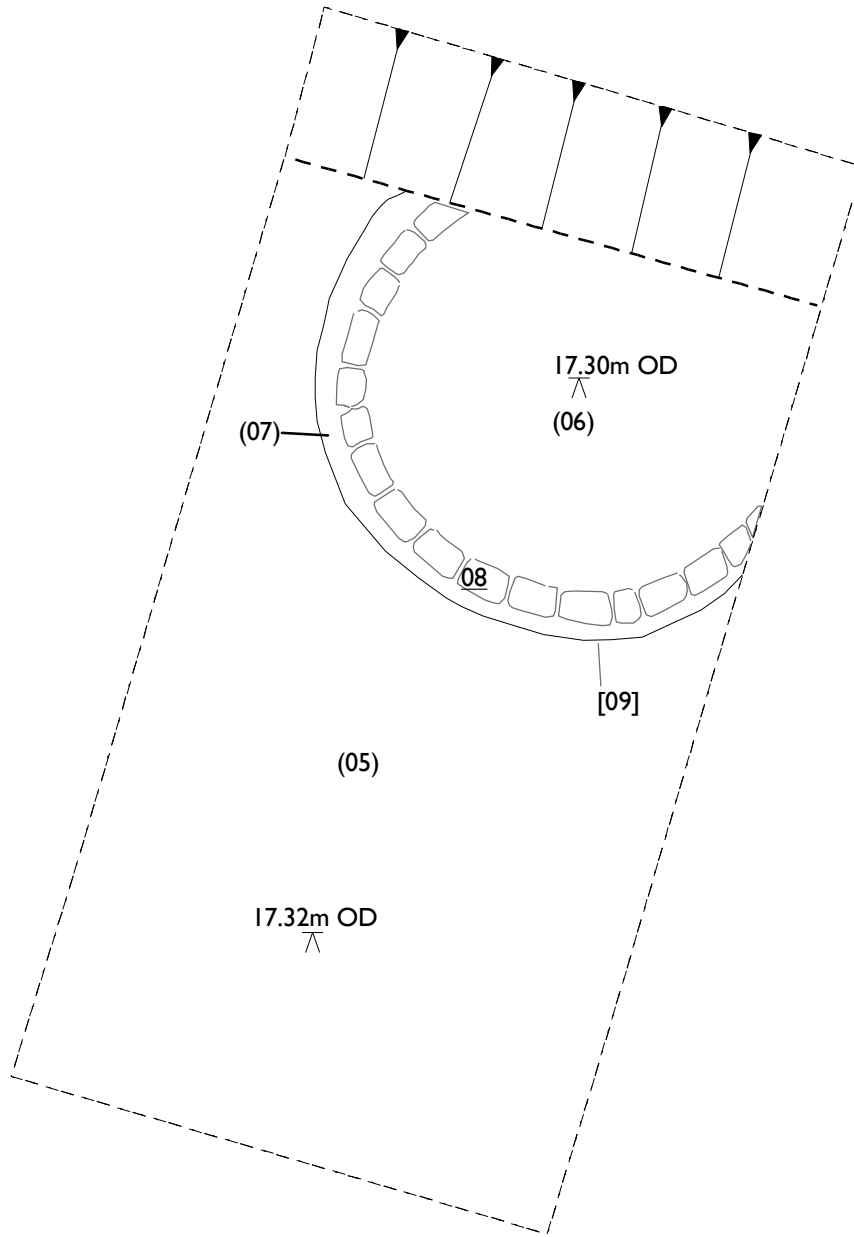
DESCRIPTION // Detailed site location with evaluation trenches

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FIGURE 3 // Trench 2



0 1m



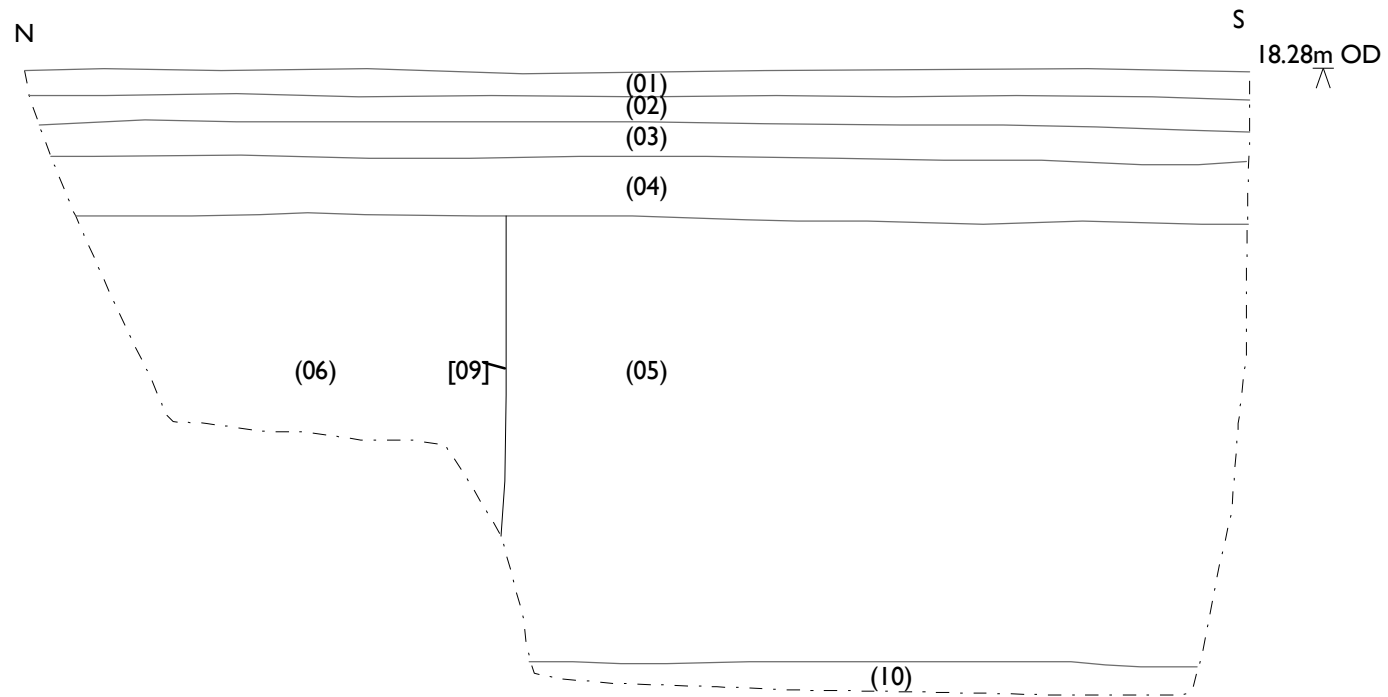
PROJECT // 0957L - 237 Long Lane Southwark

DESCRIPTION // Plan of evaluation trench 2

DOC REF: LP0957L-AER-v1

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FIGURE 4 // West facing section of Trench 2



0 2m

PROJECT // LP0957L- 237 Long Lane, Southwark

DESCRIPTION // West facing section of Trench 2

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OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-73897

Project details

Project name	237 Long Lane Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on site, and to determine the nature, age and extent of any such remains as were present. Specifically, the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of the remains of medieval or post-medieval building footings. No significant archaeological were present in the trench excavated. The deposits exposed consisted of 19th century garden soils, with 19th and 20th century brick features.
Project dates	Start: 04-03-2010 End: 05-03-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LGX10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	08 AP 0573 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	APP/A5840/A08/2082289NWF - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
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 237 Long Lane
Postcode	SE1 4PX
Study area	0.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 533148 179457 50.9399687803 0.182422665554 50 56 23 N 000 10 56 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 18.00m Max: 18.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Chaz Morse
Project supervisor	Cornelius Barton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	W N Developments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Archive ID	LGX10
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	LGX10
Digital Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Media available	'GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	LGX10
Paper Contents	'Ceramics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Other bibliographic details	LP-0957-AER-V1.0
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