

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# 1 - 9 FARNHAM PLACE SOUTHWARK

---

For Allies and Morrison

---

Author Cornelius Barton BA AIfA

---

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# 1-9 FARNHAM PLACE SOUTHWARK

---

Client: Allies and Morrison

---

Local Authority: London Borough of Southwark

---

NGR: 531938, 180222

---

Planning App: 09-AP-2591

---

Author(s): C. Barton

---

Doc Ref: LPI029L-AER-v1.2

---

Site Code: FAPI0

---

Date: November 10

---

**L~P:ARCHAEOLOGY**

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

The Truman Brewery | 91 Brick Lane | London, E1 6QL | +44 [0]20 7 770 6045 | +44 [0]20 7 691 7245

**[www.lparchaeology.com](http://www.lparchaeology.com)**

# 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

*Sources Consulted*

*Figures*

*Appendices*

# TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Trench location

Figure 3 - Plan and section

# TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1 - Trench I6. South facing section showing garden w

# TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix I - Oasis Record

# Abstract

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 1-9 Farham Place, 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 Allies and Morrison.*

*The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains on the site. Specifically, the aims of the evaluation were to look for evidence of the Bankside Channel and any associated archaeological deposits, and to look for remains of Post Medieval construction known from documentary sources. One Post Medieval ditch was exposed by the evaluation, but appeared severely truncated. No other remains of any significance were present. The site appears to have been severely disturbed as a result of bombing during WWII and subsequent redevelopment.*

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Allies and Morrison Architects. The fieldwork was carried out by Cornelius Barton and Greg Crees of L – P : Archaeology between 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010.
- 1.2. The site is located at 1-9 Farnham Place in the London Borough of Southwark, (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 531938, 180222.
- 1.3. The site code allocated by London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre is FAP10.
- 1.4. The work was carried out in accordance with the specification prepared by Michael Bamforth of L – P: Archaeology (BAMFORTH 2010).

## 2. Site Background

### 2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. Planning permission has been granted for redevelopment of the site. The application reference is 09-AP-2591
- 2.1.2. The site is within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined in the Southwark Plan UDP (adopted 2007). The site is adjacent to the Grade II listed building 89 Southwark Place (MONUMENT ID MLO92375).
- 2.1.3. The Local Planning Authority is the London Borough of Southwark (LBS). On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment, LBS take impartial advice from the Borough's Senior Archaeological Advisor Dr. Christopher Constable.
- 2.1.4. When considering an application, LBS is bound by local policies **3.19** regarding archaeology and planning. As such, the following condition was attached to the development:

#### **Condition 6: Archaeology**

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

- 2.1.5. Allies and Morrison and LBS have agreed the methodology for these works in the specification of works prepared by L – P: Archaeology (BAMFORTH 2010). The specification was approved by Dr. Constable before work commenced.

### 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. This data is at relatively low resolution and the index does not

give site specific information.

2.2.2. Soil investigations on the adjacent site of 83-87 Southwark street confirm this deposit model. However, deposits were overlain by up to 3m of recent made up ground within former cellars on the site (QUEST 2000).

2.2.3. In addition, two boreholes located near the western boundary of the site recorded alluvial deposits some 1.3-1.5m thick, overlying gravel at c. -0.95m OD, some 4m below existing ground level (COMPASS 2007).

### **2.3.TOPOGRAPHY**

2.3.1. The site is situated approximately 350m to the south of the River Thames (FIGURE 1), between Southwark Street to the north and Farnham Place to the south (FIGURE 2).

2.3.2. The site is irregular in shape, measuring c. 23m north south by 38m east west. The northern third of the site is occupied by an extant listed building dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This is a four storey by eight bay warehouse and office, now wholly used as offices. The construction is of grey brick with red brick decorative courses and stone detail.

2.3.3. The site is roughly flat, lying at an elevation of approximately 3.35 AOD.

### **2.4.SITE CONDITIONS**

2.4.1. When the evaluation was carried out the site area was under hard standing, and in use as a car park.

2.4.2. Geotechnical investigation of the site has revealed high levels of lead and hydrocarbons in the soil (KF GEOTECHNICAL 2000).

### **2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

2.5.1. No previous archaeological excavations have been undertaken on the site. A desk-based assessment was carried out by Compass Consulting in 2007 (COMPASS 2007).

2.5.2. 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.

- 2.5.3. Previous archaeological investigations and bore hole surveys indicate that the development site is located over one of these now extinct channels. Known as the 'Bankside Channel', it flowed in a north easterly direction, through the development site to the Thames (COMPASS 2007).
- 2.5.4. Although prehistoric activity is widespread in the surrounding area, no prehistoric material has been recovered from the site or its immediate environs, possibly due to the proximity of the Channel.
- 2.5.5. Roman settlement of the area extended as far as Southwark Bridge Road, approximately 200m to the east of the site, but no evidence of Roman occupation has been found on or around the site area; again probably a result of the proximity of the channel and resultant flooding (COMPASS 2007).
- 2.5.6. There is no record of or evidence for Early Medieval activity on the site. The earliest known description of the site, from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, lists it as part of the manor of the Bishop of Winchester. Although the Bankside Channel had largely silted up by this point, the area was still low-lying and prone to flooding (CARLIN, 1996).
- 2.5.7. From the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, this area of Southwark was gradually reclaimed. The site itself was not developed until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the Golden Lyon Inn was constructed on the south side of the site. On a map from 1813 the site was still referred to as Golden Lyon Yard, but the inn has been replaced by a large 'L' shaped building of unknown use – possibly a warehouse (COMPASS 2007).
- 2.5.8. The Winchester Park Estate plans of c. 1860 show the site area developed with a row of nine terraced houses fronting onto Farnham Place present on the site. The terrace occupied the site until December 29<sup>th</sup> 1940, when the area was heavily bombed and the terrace damaged beyond repair. The site was subsequently cleared and has remained empty since (COMPASS 2007).



### 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 evaluate the evidence that survives from the previous three phases of construction and demolition in the southern area of the site.
- ◆ To evaluate the extent to which the three known phases of construction and demolition in the southern area of the site have truncated any earlier deposits.
- ◆ To evaluate the presence and completeness of the alluvial deposits expected to be encountered related to the Bankside Channel.
  - ◆ To evaluate the environmental potential of any alluvial deposits related to the Bankside Channel that may be encountered.

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 (BAMFORTH 2010).
- 4.2. A single trench measuring 10m by 2m was originally planned. This was dug by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision.
- 4.3. The length of the trench was shortened due to the presence of services running across site area, consisting of a BT cable and a possible sewer pipe (FIGURE 2). As a result the final trench measured 8m x 3m at top and 6m x 1m at base.

## 5. Results

5.1. Results are given below. Context numbers are listed in **bold**. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets].

### 5.2. TRENCH 1

- 5.2.1. The trench was excavated to a depth of 2.5m below ground level, 0.85m OD. The great majority of the stratigraphic sequence consisted of material of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century origin.
- 5.2.2. The upper part of the sequence consisted of a series of leveling deposits, (1) – (5), (8) and (9). These were composed of varying quantities of brick rubble, hardcore and building sand, and were of clear 20<sup>th</sup> century origin. A modern service pipe had been cut through the lower of the deposits (see FIGURE 3).
- 5.2.3. Below these deposits, to a depth of 2.45m below ground level (0.90m OD) was a deep layer of made ground (10) composed of a mixture of dark, humic garden soils mixed with broken brick and other building rubble. (10) also contained 20<sup>th</sup> century material, including post-war ceramics and plastic fragments. Some material of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century date was present in this deposit, notably fragments of clay pipe, but this was clearly residual and of little significance.
- 5.2.4. At a depth of 2.5m below ground level, a deposit of clean blue clay (13) was exposed. A machine-dug sondage at the eastern end of the trench showed that this deposit was present to a depth of at least 3m below ground level (0.35mOD); this was maximum safe depth for machine excavation. (13) was uniform in appearance, contained no artefactual or other material and appeared to be a natural clay deposit.
- 5.2.5. Cut into (13) was a shallow ditch, [12] – see FIGURE 3. The ditch was 0.64m wide, 0.21m deep and dug on an approximate northwest – southeast alignment. The cut was not visible in the deposit above the clay.
- 5.2.6. The cut was filled with a single deposit (11) containing sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and fragments of other ceramic materials including clay pipe-stems and pieces of brick.

5.2.7. The material found in the stratigraphic sequence is entirely consistent with the demolition date of 1940-1944 recorded in the desk-based assessment. If any below ground structural remains such as cellars were ever present on the site they were presumably destroyed either during or after the bombing in December 1940.



*Text 1: Plate 1-Evaluation trench from west, 2x1m scale*

## 6. Finds

### 6.1.POTTERY

6.1.1. Very little of the material found has been retained. Present in all the deposits with the exception of the natural clay (13) were pottery fragments dating to the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and centuries. Also present were a large quantity of clay pipe fragments. However due to the unremarkable nature of the material recovered, and to the soil contamination (notably lead and hydrocarbons) known to be present on the site, there are no plans to process the finds further.

## 7. Summary and Conclusions

7.1. A site at 1-9 Farnham Place in the London Borough of Southwark has been approved for redevelopment. The redevelopment involves refurbishment and extension of the existing building.

7.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain or lie adjacent to any Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The building 89 Southwark Street, immediately to the north is a Grade II listed structure (MONUMENT ID MLO9237).

7.3. There is very little evidence of occupation on the site or its immediate surroundings before the post-medieval period. The two main aims of the evaluation were:

- 1. To assess the potential for survival of remains of the three phases of building known to have taken place on the site since the mid 1700s
- 2. To look for alluvial deposits associated with the Bankside Channel.

7.4. No remains of archaeological significance were found during the evaluation. The stratigraphic sequence indicates that the site was heavily disturbed, with material of modern origin present directly over what appear to be natural deposits. This suggests severe truncation, and appears consistent with documentary evidence that the site was heavily bombed during World War II, and was subsequently redeveloped.



## 8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

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

8.2. The finds archive consists of:

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

8.3. The archive is to be deposited at the Museum of London, with the exception of the finds which are to be disposed of in accordance with COSHH regulations.

# SOURCES CONSULTED

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC**

- BAMFORTH M 2010. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation at 1-9 Farnham Place, Southwark*. L – P: Archaeology, London
- CARLIN M 1996. *Medieval Southwark*. Hambeldon, London.
- COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED 2007. *89 Southwark Street and Land Adjoining Farnham Place, London Borough of Southwark, SE1 0HX. An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*. Compass Archaeology unpublished report, London.
- K.F. GEOTECHNICAL 2000. *Ground Investigation at 1-7 Farnham Place, Southwark, London Ref 08/0906/001*
- QUEST ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY LIMITED 2000. *Environmental site assessment and Monitoring Well Installation, 83-87 Southwark Street, London, SE1*.

---

# FIGURES

---

# OASIS FORM

## APPENDIX I

Figure List:

FIGURE 1 - SITE LOCATION GENERAL  
FIGURE 2 - TRENCH LOCATION  
FIGURE 3 - PLAN AND SECTION

Appendix List:

APPENDIX 1 - OASIS RECORD

FIGURE I // Site location general



■ site area

0 500m



PROJECT // 1029L- 1-9 Farnham Place

DESCRIPTION // Site location general

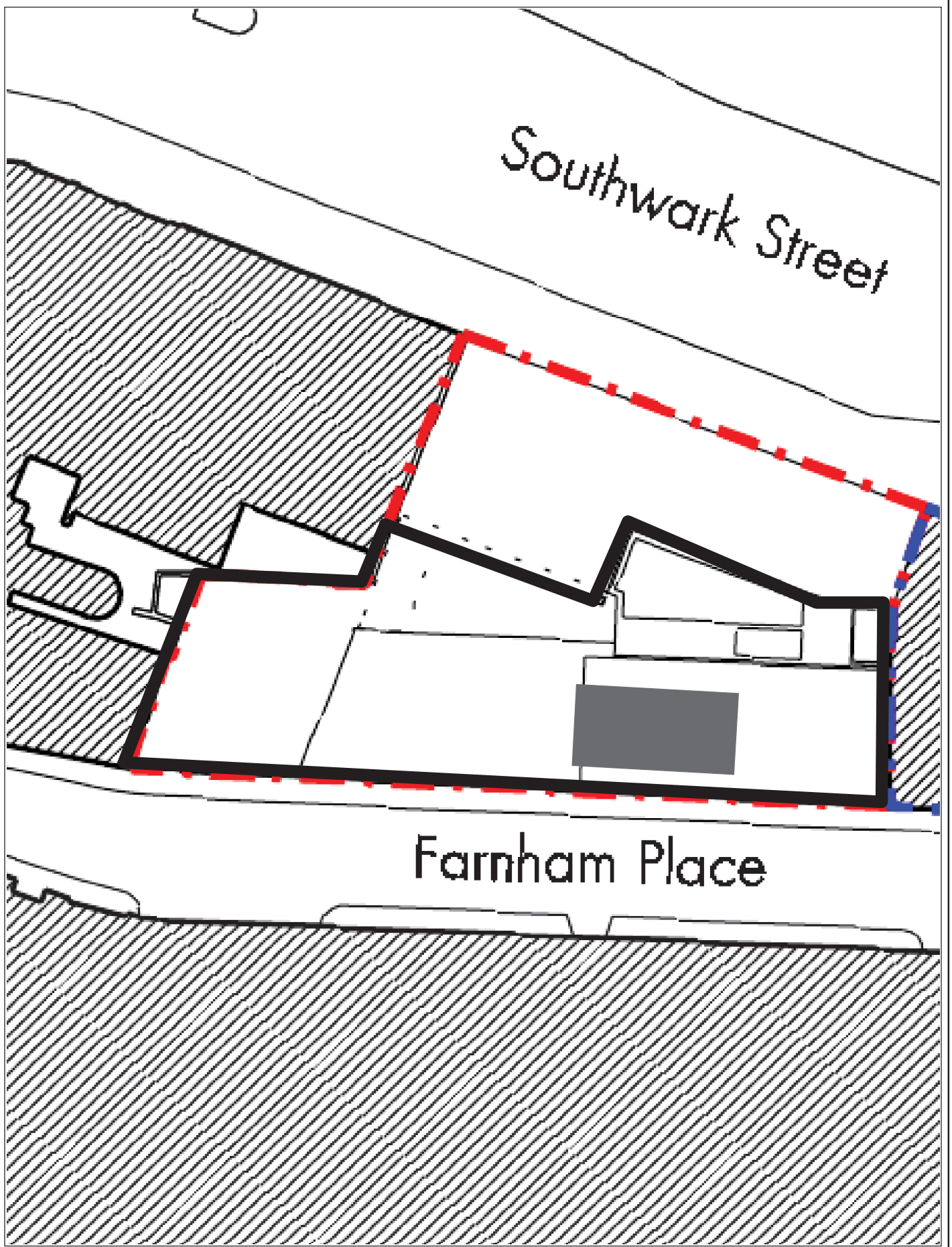
Reproduced by permission of the controller of HMSO, Licence AL5291A


DOC REF: LPI029L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY



FIGURE 2// Trench location



 Trench location  
 Development area

0 20m

PROJECT // 1029L- 1-9 Farnham Place

DESCRIPTION // Trench location

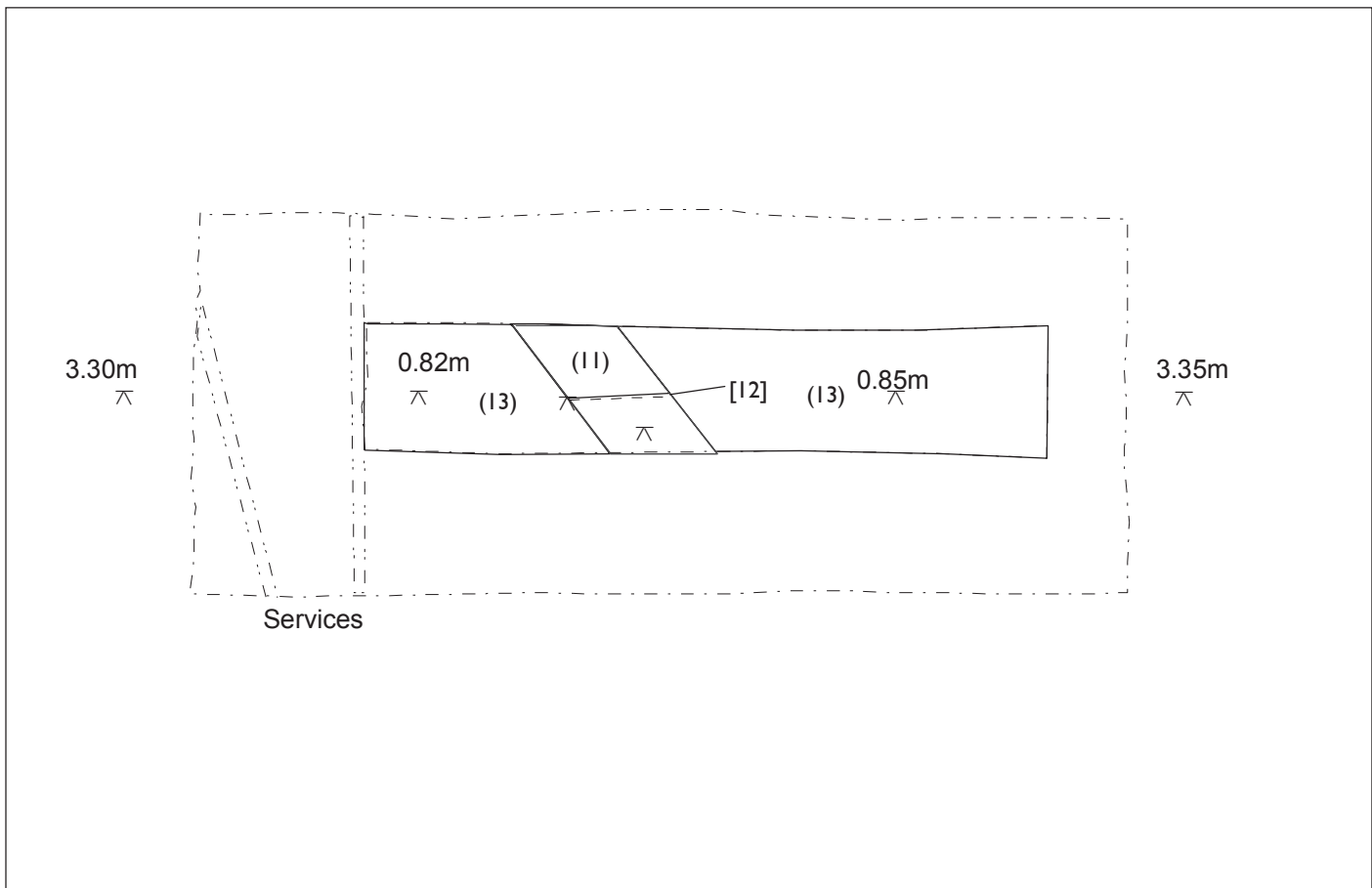
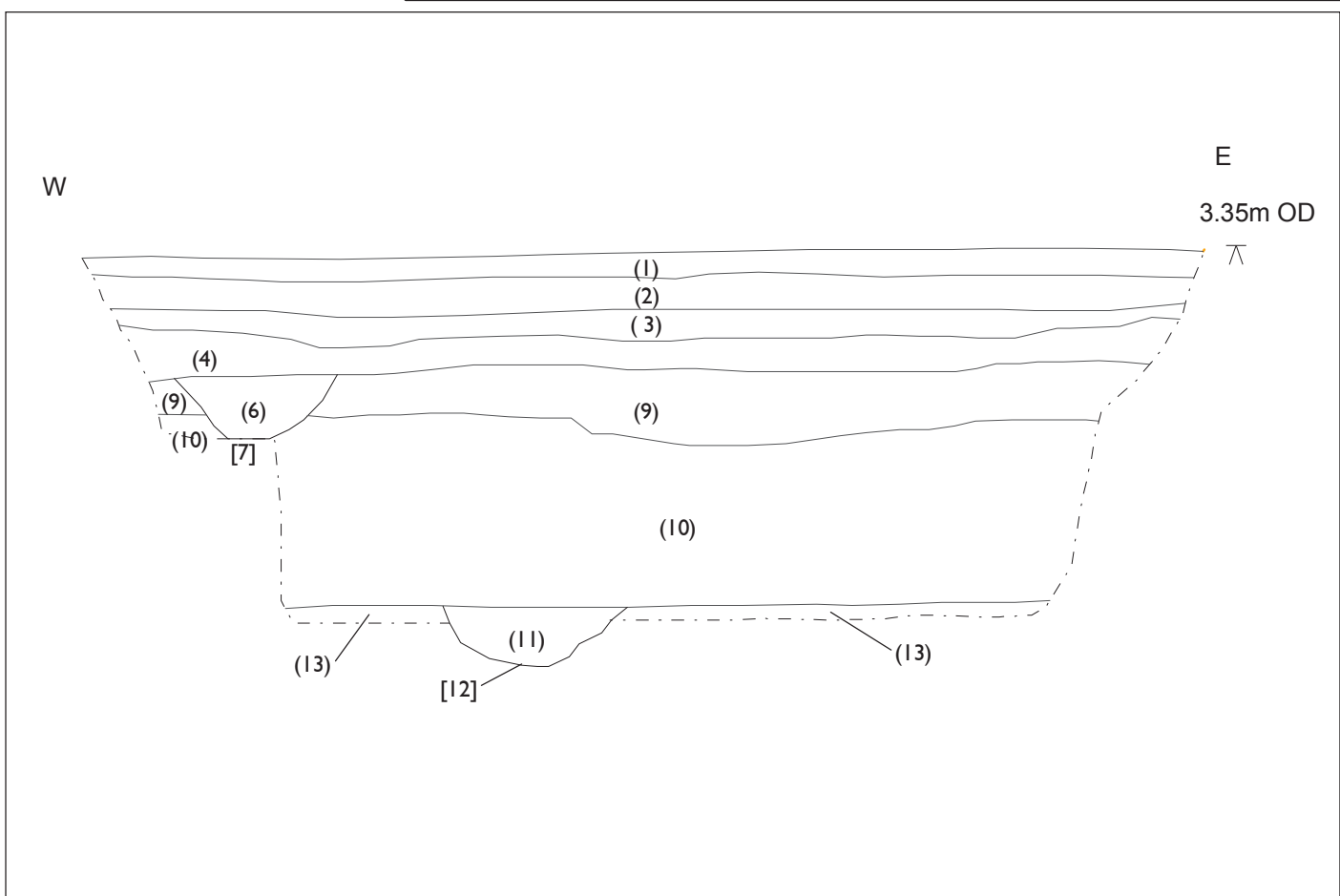
Reproduced by permission of the controller of HMSO, Licence AL5291A

DOC REF: LPI029L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY



FIGURE 3 // Section and plan



0 1m



PROJECT // LPI029L 1-9 Farnham Place

DESCRIPTION // Section and plan views of evaluation trench

Scale 1:50

DOC REF: LPI029L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY