



430–432 OLD KENT ROAD London SE1

London Borough of Southwark

Report on an archaeological excavation



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**430–432 OLD KENT ROAD
London SE1**

Site Code OKR12

Report on an archaeological excavation

National Grid Reference: 533955 178095
Site Code OKR12

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on the site of 430-432 Old Kent Road, London, SE1. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Mulalley and Company Ltd

Following the recommendations of the Archaeology Officer of Southwark Council an excavation was carried out on the northern area of the site, part of which was previously investigated in 1995.

Work took place between 19–30 March 2012 and concentrated in areas which had not been affected by the petrol tanks of the garage which had been on the site..

A series of five Roman ditches were found, including part of the ditch identified in 1995. No evidence of the Roman road was found and it is therefore most likely that all the ditches found represent field boundaries or parts of a drainage system.

Table of contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Site background	4
1.2	Planning and legislative framework	6
1.3	Planning background	6
1.4	Origin and scope of the report	7
1.5	Research aims and objectives of excavation	7
1.5.1	<i>Natural topography and the prehistoric environment</i>	7
1.5.2	<i>Prehistoric</i>	7
1.5.3	<i>Roman</i>	7
1.5.4	<i>Medieval</i>	7
1.5.5	<i>Post-medieval</i>	7
2	Topographical and historical background	8
2.1	Topography	8
2.2	Prehistoric	8
2.3	Roman	8
2.4	Medieval and post-medieval	9
3	The excavation	10
3.1	Methodology	10
3.2	Results of the excavation	12
3.2.1	<i>Excavation Area (Trench 4)</i>	12
3.2.2	<i>Extension of evaluation area</i>	14
3.3	Site archive: finds and environmental, quantification and description	16
3.3.1	<i>The pottery</i>	16
3.3.2	<i>The building material</i>	18
3.3.3	<i>Animal bone</i>	19
3.3.4	<i>Conservation</i>	20
4	Potential of archaeology	21
4.1	Realisation of original research aims	21
4.1.1	<i>Natural topography and the prehistoric environment</i>	21
4.1.2	<i>Prehistoric</i>	21
4.1.3	<i>Roman</i>	21
4.1.4	<i>Medieval</i>	21
4.1.5	<i>Post-medieval</i>	21
4.2	Discussion of the archaeological potential	23
4.2.1	<i>Roman pottery</i>	23

4.2.2	<i>Post-medieval pottery</i>	23
4.2.3	<i>Building material</i>	23
4.2.4	<i>Animal bone</i>	24
4.3	Significance of the data	25
4.3.1	<i>Roman pottery</i>	25
4.3.2	<i>Post-medieval pottery</i>	25
4.3.3	<i>Building material</i>	25
5	Revised research aims	26
5.1	Pottery	26
5.1.1	<i>Post-medieval</i>	26
6	Publication and archiving	27
7	Conclusions	27
8	Acknowledgements	27
9	Bibliography	28
10	NMR OASIS archaeological report form	30
11	Appendices	32
11.1	Appendix 1 Context List	32
11.2	Appendix 2 Dating evidence	33
11.3	Appendix 3 Specialist tables	34

List of illustrations

<i>Front cover: The east end of the site, showing ditches [20], [22] and [24]</i>		
Fig 1	Site location	5
Fig 2	Trench location plans	11
Fig 3	Location of archaeological features	13
Fig 4	Profile of ditches	15

List of tables

Table 1	Finds and environmental archive general summary	16
Table 2	Building material	18
Table 3	Preliminary list of sherds from cesspit fill [13] suitable for reconstruction and photography with drawn sections	23
Table 4	Roman pottery data	34
Table 5	Post medieval pottery data	36
Table 6	Building materials data	36

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The excavation took place at 430-432 Old Kent Road, London, SE1 5AG. The site is bounded on the north-east by the Old Kent Road (A2 road), to the south-east by 434-440 Old Kent Road and to the south-west by Glengall Road. The OS National Grid Ref. for centre of site is 533955 178095. Modern ground level across the site varied between 2.18m OD and 2.34m OD. The site code is OKR12.

A desk-top *Archaeological desk-based assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (MOLAS, 2009). The *assessment* document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

Two trenches in this part of the site were excavated in 1995 and an *Evaluation report* written on the results of this exercise (MoLAS, 1995). An evaluation, consisting of three trenches in the southern part of the development area, was carried out in February 2012, (also site code OKR12) which revealed a section of Roman ditch, running north-south in trench 1, to the south of the previously excavated area. The archaeological finds within the fill gave a date between AD 240–400 (MOLA 2012).

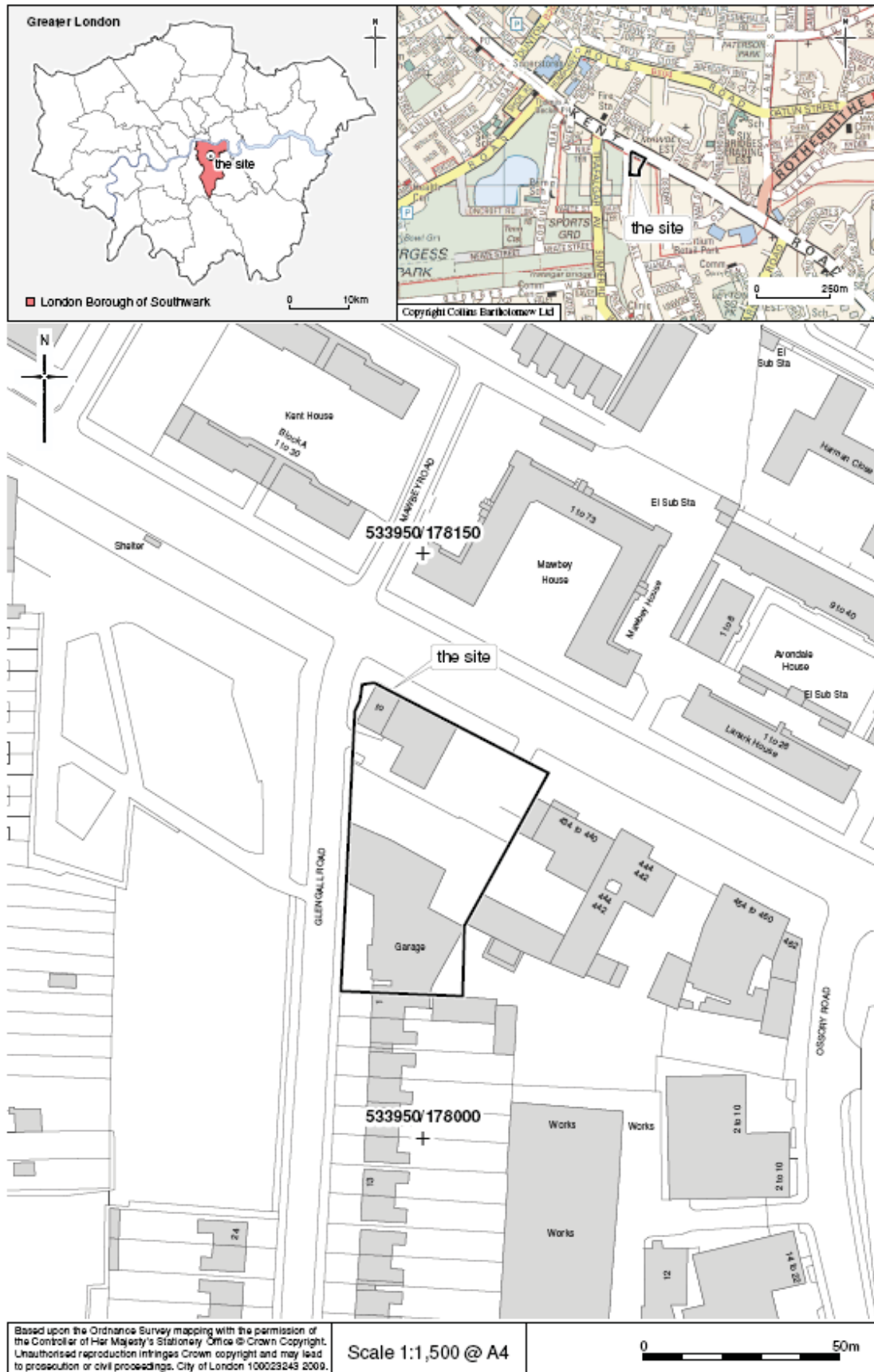


Fig 1 Site location

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* which formed the project design for the excavation (see Section 1.3, MOLA, 2011).

1.3 Planning background

Planning Consent was given to the proposed redevelopment in April 2011. (Registered Plan No. or Planning Reference No. 11/AP/-138). The following condition(s) (conditions 2 to 5) relating to archaeology were attached to the consent, these are:

2) 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 shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with any such approval given.

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 (Draft) Core Strategy 2011 and Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007.

3) 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. The development shall not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with any such approval given.

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 (Draft) Core Strategy 2011 and Saved policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007.

4) Within six months of the completion of archaeological site works, an assessment report detailing the proposals for post-excavation works, publication of the site and preparation of the archive shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and that the works detailed in this assessment report shall not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with any such approval given

Reason

In order that the archaeological interests of the site are 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 (Draft) Core Strategy 2011 and Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007

5) Before any work hereby authorised begins, a detailed scheme showing the complete scope and arrangement of the foundation design and all ground works shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the development shall not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with any such approval given.

Reason

In order that details of the foundations, ground works and all below ground impacts of the proposed development are detailed and accord with the programme of archaeological mitigation works to ensure the preservation of archaeological remains by record and in situ in accordance with Strategic Policy 12 - Design and conservation of the (Draft) Core Strategy 2011 and Saved Policy 3.19 Archaeology of the Southwark Plan 2007

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Mulalley and Company Ltd and produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The report analyses the results of the excavation carried out on the site between 19–30 March 2012 and refers back to the 1995 report on the same site and the 2012 evaluation on the southern area.

1.5 Research aims and objectives of excavation

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002*

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.1):

1.5.1 Natural topography and the prehistoric environment

Does the untruncated surface of natural gravels survive across the middle and south of the site?

1.5.2 Prehistoric

If prehistoric activity is present, what is its date and nature and how does it relate to that already known in the site vicinity?

1.5.3 Roman

Does further evidence of the Roman ditch excavated in 1995 survive at the north of the site?

Is there other evidence for the Roman road observed at other sites in the area? How does the evidence from this site modify our understanding of this road and its usage?

Does other evidence of Roman road-side activity, such as boundary ditches, burials etc survive on the site?

1.5.4 Medieval

Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site?

1.5.5 Post-medieval

What evidence is there for the first development of the site during the post-medieval period and when does it date to?

Does evidence of the late 18th/early 19th-century terraced housing and mid 19th-century houses shown on historical mapping survive?

2 Topographical and historical background

The Archaeological evaluation and excavation report (MoLAS 1995) and Archaeological desk-based assessment (MOLA 2009) set out the results of the archaeological field evaluation/excavation and more recent assessment of the site.

These reports should be read for the results of these investigations and research, although they can be quickly summarised as follows:

2.1 Topography

Data obtained from the previous archaeological excavation on the site (site code OLK95) in 1995 and the borehole survey conducted by Ian Farmer Associates in 2006 (Ian Farmer Associates 2006, 7) has demonstrated that natural gravel is likely to be found beneath the site at generally c 1m OD, or c 1m to 1.5m below ground level on the site. Archaeological and ground investigations in the 1990s in the northern area suggest natural gravels area generally higher, ie c 1m below ground level. However these deposits may be generally lower or truncated in the southern area as boreholes sunk in this area recorded made ground deposits of between c 0.80m to 2.5m overlying sand and gravel at the south of the site (Ian Farmer Associates 2006, boreholes logs 2 to 6A) although the majority of the boreholes recorded sand and gravel between c 1.40m to 1.5m below the ground level at the south.

2.2 Prehistoric

Prehistoric material has been recorded in the vicinity of the site although no prehistoric material was recovered from investigation on the site itself in 1995. Evaluation and excavation in 1990 at Old Kent Road, Bowles Road, SE1 (site code BAQ90) revealed, in all areas examined, weathered sand directly overlying natural sands and gravels and containing prehistoric flint tools, burnt daub and bone, and worked sandstone. Two areas produced large concentrations of flint, one of them amounting to about 1780 pieces. Many of the flint fragments could be reassembled, indicating the local manufacture of tools, and the assemblages date to the Early Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods.

2.3 Roman

The Old Kent Road is known to follow a major Roman road, Watling Street, which was constructed along the edge of the high ground, in the mid 1st century AD. It ran from Londinium to Richborough (Rutupiae) on the Kent coast.

In 1995, MoLAS (now named MOL Archaeology) conducted an archaeological evaluation and excavation in the northern third of the area of development ahead of planned changes to the existing Shell petrol station, particularly the installation of additional tanks and the relocation of the sales building to the western part of the site. Initially two trenches were excavated on the locations of expected maximum impact, both of which revealed a large Roman ditch running NW-SE across the site, parallel to the line of the present road. These trenches were subsequently expanded over the course of the excavation. Made ground was observed during the evaluation and excavation between 0.4m and 0.8m deep and the Roman deposits were found below c 1.50m OD in Trench 1 and c 1.6m OD in Trench 2. The base of the ditch was recorded at 0.67 to 0.7m OD (Trench 1 and Trench 2 respectively) and the top of the ditch was exposed at a height of c 1.25m OD in Trench1 and c 1.5m OD in Trench 2.

The ditch was 3m wide and 0.6m deep and thought to date to the AD 4th century and contained diagnostic period pottery and also contained building rubble characteristic of a small, low prestige farm building somewhere in the immediate vicinity, possibly south of the ditch line. The ditch lies on a similar alignment of the road recorded elsewhere just south of the Old Kent Road, and it cannot therefore be discounted that this is the roadside ditch, possibly re-dug in the 4th century. In addition to the main ditch, a small north-south orientated ditch was found in the south of the excavation which may be part of a system of smaller drainage or boundary ditches joining up with the larger ditch to the north. There is also a potential for associated activity in the form of roadside settlement and burials. A significant early find on the site was the discovery in 1690 of part of a marble statue of a two-headed Janus, a god associated with boundaries. This sort of sculptured stone might have been associated with a religious building or gateway although the building fabric recovered from the ditch does not corroborate this. It is possible the statue served as a boundary marker.

Evidence of Roman activity, perhaps typical of rural settlement or other low-level activity, has been found in the study area in the past. Most notably is site BAQ90, located c 350m to the south-east a substantial gravel road with roadside ditches was recorded.

Nos 343- 352 Old Kent Road, adjacent to the site have also been archaeologically excavated (site code ODT05, investigated in 2005 and site code ODK11 investigated in 2011). The 2005 investigations recorded natural gravels cut by four Roman ditches running at right angles to Old Kent Road, and by two pits. Results of the 2011 investigation are not yet available.

An evaluation on the southern part of the present development area in February 2012 (also site code OKR12) revealed a section of Roman ditch, running north-south in trench 1, to the south of the present excavation area. The archaeological finds within the fill gave a date between AD 240–400.

2.4 Medieval and post-medieval

The Old Kent Road continued as a major road in the medieval period. For much of the history of the site, the site itself and the surrounding area would have been open fields. This largely agricultural landscape is still shown in existence on John Rocque's map of 1746; with the site mainly open ground with a property possibly on the site at the north-west. Horwood's map of 1799 shows two semi-detached houses with front and back gardens having been built in the north-west corner of the site. Other than this, the majority of the site is shown as meadow or pasture. The 1875 the Ordnance Survey map of 1875 shows that a large proportion of the site has been built upon, with terraced housing running along the Old Kent Road face, with large gardens behind. Investigation adjacent to the site (site code ODK05) recorded ploughsoil cut by a 19th-century well, a cesspit and a pit containing a wooden barrel, both dated to the 19th century. To the north a series of 19th-c features included a pipe trench sealed by a brick floor surface and a basement.

The garage building along Glengall Road dates from between 1938 and 1951. More modern alterations to the site include the removal of the terraced housing, which survived until at least 1952 and the construction of a petrol station with canopy by 1978. The outline of the site remained the same until c 1998 when the existing petrol station was remodelled, additional tanks put in and a new sales area created in the north-west corner of the site.

3 The excavation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the excavation was done in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2011) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

The slab and tarmac was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA control. Trenches were excavated to the top of significant archaeological deposits by machine under archaeological control. All archaeological features were excavated by hand by members of staff from MOLA

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by MOLA surveying team. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MOLA site recording manual (MOLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated from a detailed site survey (Dwg 2743_D102, Levitt Bernstein) and by the use of the MOLA geomatics team 3D GPS survey equipment.

Where relevant, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20; numbered contexts were allocated where appropriate.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; 20 context records; 6 section drawings at 1:10; and 61 photographs. In addition 3 boxes of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code OKR12 in the MoL archive.



Fig 2 Trench location plans

3.2 Results of the excavation

A single excavation area was opened up, measuring c 47m by 19m although the extensive truncation caused by the garage tanks meant the undisturbed area was significantly smaller (see Fig 2).

A brief description of the archaeological deposits follows below. For all feature locations see Fig 3. This figure also shows the location of the previous 2012 evaluation trenches and the location Roman features that have been recorded on the site.

3.2.1 Excavation Area (Trench 4)

Natural deposits were found between 1.04m OD and 1.33m OD. The nature of the natural deposits varied with sands, gravels and brickearth all being found.

Cut into the natural deposits were a series of five Roman ditches.

The largest of these was the east-west aligned ditch, part of which was excavated in 1995. Two sections of this survived, at the east and west of the site. The western section [6] was truncated to the east and south by modern activity and to the west by the limit of excavation. The surviving section measured 2.5m long by 1.9m wide by 0.5m deep (base at 0.63m OD). The fill [5] was a very homogenous mid grey silty sand with pottery dated 270-400.

The eastern section [20] was truncated to the west and south by modern activity and to the east by the limit of excavation. The surviving section measured 3.4m long by 2.7m wide by 0.55m deep (base at 0.65m OD). The fill [19] was a very homogenous mid grey silty sand with pottery dated AD50-160

To the north of ditch [20] and running roughly parallel to it, was a ditch/gully [10] and [12], the two segments separated by modern truncation. The eastern section [10] measured 8.3m long by 0.95m wide by 0.3m deep, while the western section [12] measured 6.2m long by 1.0m wide by 0.2m deep. This western section was slightly truncated to the south by modern activity, as was the western end of the eastern section. The fill was a mid grey silty sand which contained very occasional pieces of abraded brick and tile dated AD 50–160.

The other three ditches were all apparently running into the main ditch [5]/[20].

Ditch [8] in the south western area of the site was aligned north east – south west and the surviving portion measured 7.0m long by 1.4m wide by 0.2m deep. It was truncated to the north and south by modern activity and also in places along its length by modern drains. No dating evidence was recovered. Although the truncation meant that this ditch could not be seen to run into ditch[5]/[20], it seems most likely that it would have done.

Ditch [22] in the south eastern part of the site was aligned north – south, the surviving portion measuring 2.7 long m by 0.55m wide by 0.6m deep. It was truncated to the south and west by modern activity. This ditch runs into the main ditch [5]/[20]. Although the precise relationship was uncertain due to the similarity of the fills, it appeared to be later. The pottery dates are too wide (AD50–400) to clarify this.



Fig 3 Location of archaeological features

Ditch [24] in the south eastern part of the site was aligned north west – south east, curving at its north end, where it met ditch [5]/[20]. The surviving portion measured 4.3m long by 1.0m wide by 0.3m deep. It was truncated to the east by the limit of excavation. This ditch runs into the main ditch [5]/[20]. Although the precise relationship was uncertain due to the similarity of the fills, it appeared to be later. Although the pottery dates (AD50–170) indicate that it is earlier, the material is from a small sample.

The latest features recorded on the site were two brick built cess pits, one in red brick [18] and the other in frogged yellow stock bricks [15]. The latter of these produced a good group of 19th century domestic pottery. This mainly consisted of transfer-printed table wares, dated to the 1830s and into the 1840s.

3.2.2 Extension of evaluation area

Two further trenches were excavated to determine the line of the ditch found during the evaluation (see Fig 2).

The projected line of the ditch [2] was transferred to the site by MOLA Geomatics and the trenches dug at c 20m south and c10m south of the segment found in Trench 1 of the evaluation.

<i>Trench 5</i>	
Location	c20m south of evaluation Trench 1, aligned east-west
Dimensions	16.3m by 1.8m by 1.4m deep
Modern ground level	2.6m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	2.1m OD
Level of base of trench	1.2m OD
Natural observed	1.35m OD

Natural coarse gravels were found at 1.2m OD, above which was a layer of natural brickearth. A layer of post-medieval (17th-19th century) ploughsoil lay above this, between 1.3m and 2.1m OD.

No evidence of the ditch found in the evaluation was uncovered, nor were any other archaeological features or deposits present.

<i>Trench 6</i>	
Location	c10m south of evaluation Trench 1, aligned east-west
Dimensions	16.4m by 5.7m by 1.4m deep
Modern ground level	2.6m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	2.1m OD
Level of base of trench	0.83m OD
Natural observed	1.28m OD

Natural coarse gravels were found at 1.2m OD, above which was a layer of natural brickearth. A layer of post-medieval (17th-19th century) ploughsoil lay above this, between 1.3m and 2.1m OD.

A 12.2m long section of ditch [26] was found in the north side of this trench, aligned east-west, continuing beyond the west end of the trench. However, at its east end, it reached a terminus. A 5m slot was extended on the north side to determine the full width and profile of the ditch.

This revealed that it was 1.95m wide and 0.45m deep, which was very similar to the dimensions of ditch [2] from the evaluation.

It is possible that this is a return of the ditch found during the evaluation, used to enclose an area. The dating evidence (AD50–400) gives the same broad range as the evaluation.

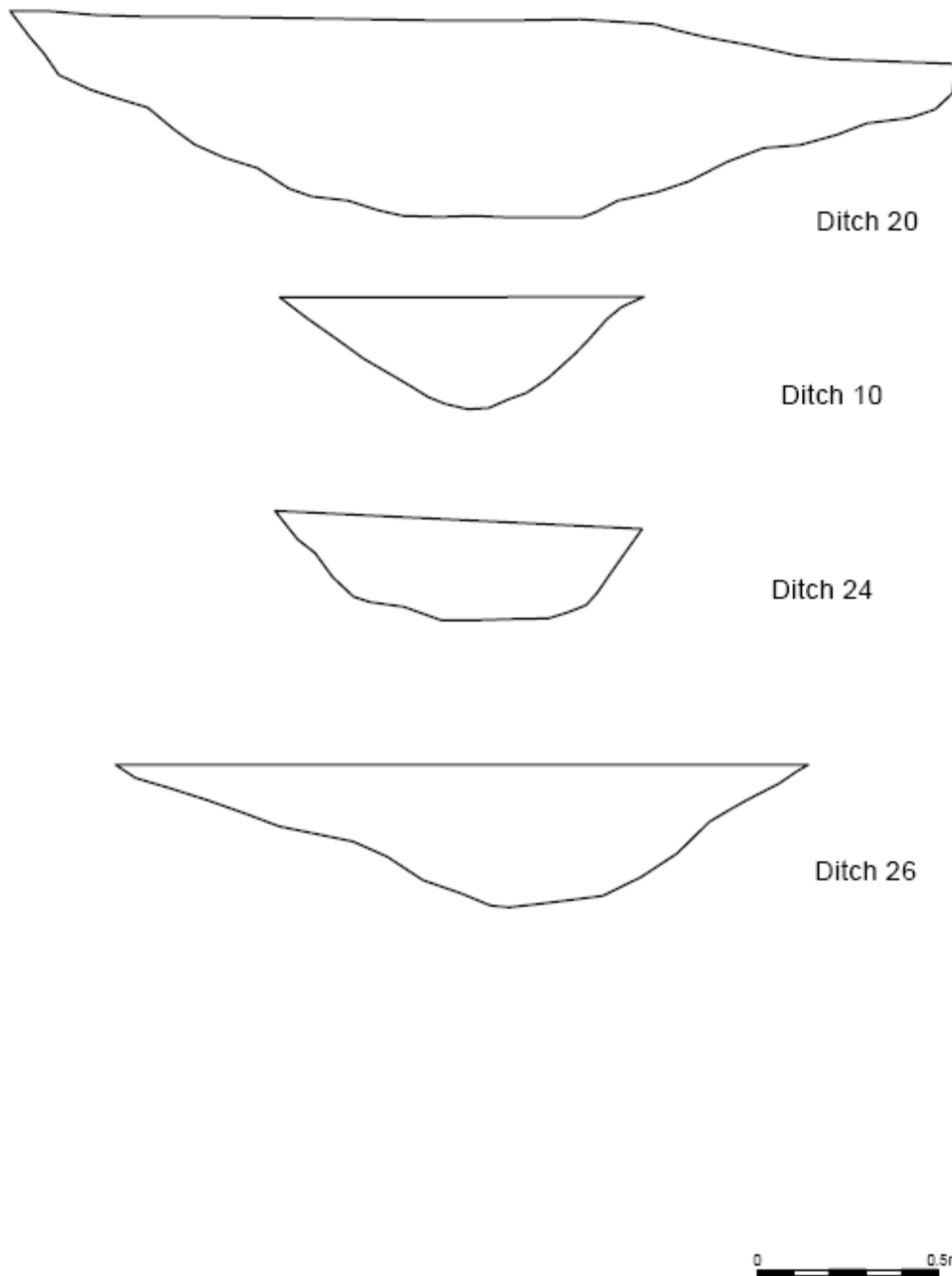


Fig 4 Profile of ditches

3.3 Site archive: finds and environmental, quantification and description

Stratified Roman pottery	22 sherds. Weight 792g
Post-Roman pottery	243 sherds, 46 ENV, 3.713 kg
Building material	One shoebox of ceramic building material (all material discarded after assessment). Total 2.25kg
Animal bone	3 pieces, 0.450 kg

Table 1 Finds and environmental archive general summary

3.3.1 The pottery

3.3.1.1 Roman pottery

Amy Thorp

3.3.1.1.1 SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

There are 22 sherds of Roman pottery from four contexts. These are all small groups totalling a few sherds each respectively. The material is frequently abraded to the extent where colour-coats and decoration are now absent on some sherds. The relatively poor condition of the material means that no items have been selected for illustration or photography.

3.3.1.1.2 METHODOLOGY

The pottery was spot-dated using standard MOLA methods. It was quantified by sherds, weight and estimated number of vessels (ENV). The resulting data has been entered into the MOLA Oracle database.

3.3.1.1.3 DISCUSSION

The material from the four contexts is consistent with that expected for Southwark sites. The high proportion of unsourced fabrics means that contexts [21] and [25] can only be dated to a generic Roman range of AD 50–400. However, two sherds from an unsourced grog-tempered ware jar (GROG 2) in context [25] should be noted as a distinctive fabric which may be paralleled in the future. Context [5] is late Roman dated AD 270–400 by a severely abraded sherd from an Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware bowl (OXRC 4), sherds of two further late Roman fabrics are consistent with this dating. Finally context [23] contained a single sherd of Baetican early Dressel 20/Haltern 70 fabric (BAETE) dating AD 50–170.

3.3.1.2 Post-medieval (c 1500–1900)

Lyn Blackmore

3.3.1.2.1 SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

The post-medieval pottery assemblage from this excavation amounts to 243 sherds (46 ENV, 3.713kg), all from cesspit fill [13] and of 19th-century date. Sherd size is variable but generally large and several fragmented but substantially complete vessels are present.

3.3.1.2.2 METHODOLOGY

The sherds were examined macroscopically and were separated and bagged together for ease of reference in the future. They were recorded on paper and computer using standard Museum of London codes for fabrics, forms and decoration. The numerical data comprises sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight. The data can be accessed on the Oracle database and also in an excel spreadsheet.

3.3.1.2.3 FABRICS AND FORMS

As listed in Table 5, the pottery comprises a homogenous group of transfer-printed table wares, mostly in the later form of transfer-printed ware which uses the stipple and line technique, some in pearl ware (PEAR TR2), others in refined whiteware (REFW, TPW2, TPW6) and one in bone china (BONE). The forms are summarised by decoration type, starting with oriental designs and moving through Italianate designs to English ones; plates are noted first, followed by other forms. Unless otherwise stated all are decorated in blue on a white or blue-white ground.

Oriental designs

The most distinctive of the oriental designs is 'The hog deer at bay' – one of the Indian Sporting Series made by Spode (Coysh and Henrywood 1984, 177, col pl 12). This is represented by a complete plate (diam 185mm), with transfer prints on the back giving the design name in capitals (on the base) and also the word Spode and the letter B (on the underside of the rim); the back is also stamped with 'SPODE' and the number '5'. Sherds from another plate of the same size and others from a slightly larger one were also found.

The Willow Pattern motif is the most common design, with six plates of different sizes (diameters 167, 210, 220, 230, 240mm) are represented, plus one oval plate and two flat rectangular plates/dishes with moulded rims.

The 'Two temples', or 'Brosely' pattern, produced by a number of different potteries between c 1817 (Wedgwood) and c 1880 (Davenport; Coysh and Henrywood 1984, 372; 1989, 200), is seen on a matching cup and deep saucer, both near complete and stamped 'Stone China', and on two less complete shallower saucers, one also with the transfer 'Stone China' on the underside. A temple design also appears on another cup made of bone china.

In addition there is a pair of dessert plates, one more complete than the other, which combine the 'Chinese marine' motif (temple on island, tree and fence in foreground) with a gadrooned border and cabled rim (Coysh and Henrywood 1984, 82–3; 1989, 54).

An unusual design, used on a large bowl, one side of which appears to show an open air bath under a ?banyan tree with a temple or walled city in the background; on the whole the style of architecture appears to be Indian rather than Chinese. Inside there is a leaf/floral border below the rim, with a building and trees inside the base.

Continental landscapes

Two vessels show Italian-style landscapes. The first, c 60% complete, is a plate showing a castle/gatehouse surrounded by trees within a floral and geometric border; the second is a sauce boat. A small plate or saucer showing a boat on water with a walled building in the background, possibly a castle, probably also falls within the Continental category, although only a small part remains.

English landscape

A range of forms belong to this category, including two dessert plates with floral borders, one showing a cottage on cliff by the sea/a river with a boat in distance, the other showing a cottage by a river crossed by a hump-backed bridge, with a town in distance. A rim with floral decoration, from a larger plate, and the base of a London-style cup probably also belong to this group.

Other table wares comprise the greater part of a sauce boat, a rim from another one and the rim/body of a small tureen. The former is substantially complete but missing the handle and lip; it shows a castle on a hill overlooking a river with two fishermen in the foreground. The geometric decoration around the rim of this piece resembles that on the Italianate plate noted above, but the other rim has the more common floral border. The tureen has a blue lug handle, English landscape decoration on the body and a rose leaf border around the rim, both inside and out; it is unclear whether the form was originally round or oval.

A large bowl or chamber pot represented by the base only, is of the Village Church design, showing a church with square tower in the background, cottage in the foreground to the right and two men talking by a fence on the left (Coysh and Henrywood 1984, 386; 1989, 207). A substantially complete chamber pot has the same motif on the outer wall and inside the base, showing a man on a donkey, with another donkey, in an English landscape with a church ruin in the distance. It is likely that this scene is derived from a historical novel or well known tale, although it has not yet been identified.

Finally there is a broken but complete paste pot (for Gentleman's Relish or similar) with part of the lid. The latter is decorated with a transfer print in the style known as Prattware (TPW6) showing part of a female figure on a terrace with balustrade and classical column; trees and castle towers can be in the background. This could show Victoria at Windsor or a similarly important figure in a similar setting.

Other designs

This group comprises a range of other forms in TPW2, including sherds from a pair of salts with all over floral/plant decoration, and the bowl of a ladle (Coysh and Henrywood 1984, 207; 1989, 211) with floral decoration around the rim, the inside of which shows a classical urn with flowers; the outside is plain. The rim of another ladle is also present. Other forms comprise a substantially complete small pear-shaped jug with all over floral decoration in the form of tendrils, and a saucer and chamber pot with sponged decoration.

3.3.1.2.4 DISCUSSION

This is an excellent group that can be dated to the 1830s and into the 1840s, although the Prattware pot lid could be of mid to later 19th century date.

3.3.2 The building material

Ian M. Betts

Material	Count	Count as % of total	Weight (kg)	Weight as % of total
Roman ceramic	12	92.31	2.05	91.11
Total	12		2.05	

Table 2 Building material

3.3.2.1 *Introduction/methodology*

All the building material has been recorded using the standard recording forms used by the Museum of London. This has involved fabric analysis undertaken with a x10 binocular microscope. The information on the recording forms has been added to an Oracle database.

3.3.2.2 *Roman ceramic building material*

3.3.2.2.1 FABRICS

Early Roman fabrics

Fabric group 2815, fabric 3028

Undated fabric

2459

3.3.2.2.2 FORMS

Roofing tile

Fabric group 2815, fabrics 2459, 3028

There are five fragments of definite Roman tegula roofing tile, and a further three fragments which could be either roofing tile or brick. One tile (context [19]) has a signature mark in the form of a two finger semi-circle on the upper surface.

Brick

Fabric group 2815

There are four Roman brick fragments from the site. One (context [9]) measures 31–34mm in thickness suggesting it is of bessalis, pedalis or lydion type (Brodrigg 1987, 3).

3.3.3 *Animal bone*

Alan Pipe

3.3.3.1 *Introduction/methodology*

This report quantifies, describes and interprets the hand-collected animal bone from OKR12 Roman deposit [19], provisionally dated as AD50-250.

Hand-collected animal bones were washed, air-dried at room temperature and then bagged and labelled as a context group. Each identifiable bone fragment was then described and recorded directly onto the MOLA animal bone Oracle post-assessment database and interpreted with reference to site stratigraphic data; all database records are available for consultation on request.

Each identifiable fragment was recorded in terms of species, skeletal element, body side, age, sex and fragmentation. Species and skeletal element were determined using the MOLA animal bone reference collection together with Schmid 1972. Fragmentation was recorded using a numerical zone method devised at MOLA. Each bone fragment was assigned to species and skeletal element and recorded as an individual database entry.

3.3.3.2 *Preservation and quantification*

Fill [19] of OKR12 produced 0.450 kg of animal bone, three fragments, with maximum lengths of at least 75 mm. These bones were extensively eroded, fragmented and friable, with surface condition too poor to allow identification of any tool marks or gnawing. There was no evidence for burning, pathological change or any other modification.

3.3.3.3 *The assemblage*

Each of the three fragments derived from limb long bones of adult cattle *Bos taurus* from the fore-leg, fore-foot and hind-leg; skeletal elements indicative of butchery and consumption of good and poor quality beef.

The assemblage included a right-side distal humerus ('elbow' articulation of the upper fore-leg); a right-side distal metacarpal ('wrist' articulation of the fore-foot) and left-side proximal femur ('hip' articulation of the upper hind-leg). Epiphysial fusion indicates that these bones derived from animals in respectively, at least the second, third and fourth years of life; all could have come from the same animal.

3.3.4 **Conservation**

Liz Barham

3.3.4.1 *Introduction/methodology*

The following assessment of conservation needs for the accessioned and bulk finds from the excavations at 430-432 Old Kent Road, encompasses any requirements for finds analysis, illustration, analytical conservation and long term curation. Work outlined in this document includes conservation necessary to produce a stable archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1992) and the Museum of London's Standards for archive preparation (Museum of London 1999).

Conservation is carried out under the guiding principles of minimum intervention and reversibility. Whenever possible preventative rather than interventive conservation strategies are implemented. Procedures aim to obtain and retain the maximum archaeological potential of each object: conservators therefore work closely with finds specialist and archaeologists.

All conserved objects are packed in archive quality materials and stored in suitable environmental conditions. Records of all conservation work are prepared on paper and on the Museum of London collections management system (Multi MIMSY) and stored at the Museum of London.

3.3.4.2 *Finds analysis/investigation*

There were no registered finds and therefore no investigative work required.

3.3.4.3 *Work required prior to photography*

The pot was reviewed with reference to the assessments by Amy Thorpe and Lyn Blackmore. Nine items of post-medieval pot were identified as worthy of reconstruction and surface cleaning for photography for any future publication as may follow (see Table 3):

3.3.4.4 *Preparation for deposition in the archive*

The finds from this site are stable and appropriately packed for the archive.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

4.1.1 Natural topography and the prehistoric environment

Does the untruncated surface of natural gravels survive across the middle and south of the site?

Significant truncation of the natural gravels was found in the centre of the excavation area, caused by the petrol tanks of the garage, which had previously been on the site.

4.1.2 Prehistoric

If prehistoric activity is present, what is its date and nature and how does it relate to that already known in the site vicinity?

No evidence for prehistoric features was found during the excavation.

4.1.3 Roman

Does further evidence of the Roman ditch excavated in 1995 survive at the north of the site?

Two segments of the Roman ditch excavated in 1995 were found during the excavation, both to the east and west of the previously excavated sections. No evidence was found of the line of the ditch in the centre of the site, due to the truncation caused by the petrol tanks.

Is there other evidence for the Roman road observed at other sites in the area? How does the evidence from this site modify our understanding of this road and its usage?

No evidence of the Roman road was found during the excavation.

Does other evidence of Roman road-side activity, such as boundary ditches, burials etc survive on the site?

Three other Roman ditches, aligned roughly north-south, were found, which contained pottery giving a general Roman date between AD 50–400. A gully, north of and parallel to the Roman ditch excavated in both this phase of work and in 1995 was also found during the excavation. These probably represent boundary or drainage ditches.

4.1.4 Medieval

Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site?

No evidence of medieval activity was found during the evaluation.

4.1.5 Post-medieval

What evidence is there for the first development of the site during the post-medieval period and when does it date to?

The only post-medieval deposit found during the evaluation was an agricultural ploughsoil, indicating that the site was largely open ground until the construction of the present buildings on the site.

Does evidence of the late 18th/early 19th-century terraced housing and mid 19th-century houses shown on historical mapping survive?

Two brick-built cess pits were found, which may relate to the terraced housing, but no evidence of associated buildings was found within the excavation area. One of these cess pits produced an assemblage of pottery dated to the 1830s and 1840s

4.2 Discussion of the archaeological potential

4.2.1 Roman pottery

The Roman pottery assemblage is small and therefore has limited potential for refinement of dating once integration with the stratigraphic sequence is complete. Selected vessels (see discussion text) are appropriate for inclusion within a chronological narrative if they are securely phased to the Roman period rather than residual finds.

4.2.2 Post-medieval pottery

The post-medieval assemblage is large and can certainly be used to address the research questions; while mapping might suggest that the area was first developed in the late 18th century, the pottery is all of mid 19th-century date. Unfortunately, while all is from a single cess pit that must be related to a nearby property, no evidence of associated buildings was found within the excavation area.

Although the range of fabrics is limited and only table wares are represented, it nonetheless offers a useful resource for the study of 19th-century household groups (Jeffries et al in prep). While the finds may not form the main research topic of the post-excavation analysis for the present project, they merit a proper report (based on the above) and can be compared with similar groups from other sites in the area. Several pieces merit illustration (Table 3), either as a groups shot or individually; this would be helped by some reconstruction work.

Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Sherds	Comment
13	PEAR TR2	CUP LOND	TMPL	8	PAIR WITH DEEP SAUCER
13	PEAR TR2	PLATE	HUNT	8	COMPLETE 'THE HOG DEER AT BAY' SPODE ORIENTAL SERIES
13	PEAR TR2	PLATE	LANDC	13	60% COMPLETE, MOST JOINING; CASTLE/GATEHOUSE IN TREES
13	PEAR TR2	SAUC	TMPL	9	DEEP FORM, PAIR WITH CUP; STONE CHINA
13	TPW FLOW	JUG	FLOR	24	PROFILE, PEAR-SHAPED; H=150MM; CROWN AND 'A 27' ON BASE
13	TPW2	BOWL	VIEW	6	VILLAGE CHURCH DESIGN INSIDE BASE
13	TPW2	BOWL	LANDO	8	PALACE/TEMPLE WITH BATH SCENE UNDER BANYAN TREE
13	TPW2	CHP2	VIEW	28	PROFILE, MOST JOIN; MAN ON DONKEY WITH ANOTHER DONKEY; RUINS IN BACKGROUND
13	TPW2	LADL	FLOR	4	URN WTH FLOWERS INSIDE; FLORAL BORDER

Table 3 Preliminary list of sherds from cesspit fill [13] suitable for reconstruction and photography with drawn sections

4.2.3 Building material

Most of the Roman building material was probably made in the London area around AD50–160. A solitary tegula in a slightly silty fabric (type 3028), which originates from an unknown production centre, is of similar date. Some of the tegulae roofing tile and brick is in fine sandy fabric type 2459. The colour and texture of these tiles suggest they are likely to be of 2459B type which date to AD120–250. Tiles in this fabric are believed to have been made at a tiliary located somewhere in north-east London or south Essex.

4.2.4 Animal bone

This very small and poorly-preserved group does not merit further study. All fragments have been recorded onto the post-assessment Oracle database and are therefore available for inclusion into a future integrated report with respect to all stratigraphic data.

4.3 Significance of the data

Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

4.3.1 Roman pottery

The Roman assemblage has limited local significance as it indicates a Roman presence in the area and continues knowledge of Roman Southwark.

4.3.2 Post-medieval pottery

The post-medieval pottery is in itself of local significance, but could be of wider significance if considered as part of a historical or socio-economic study of the later development of the Southwark area; the potential of such work has been demonstrated in two recent papers, which include case studies in Regent Street, Limehouse and Sydenham (Jeffries et al 2009); Owens et al 2010).

4.3.3 Building material

The building material is of local significance in that it suggests building activity sometime in the 1st–mid 2nd century, which perhaps further activity into the mid 3rd century. There is no high status material such as flue or voussoir tiles, tesserae or wall plaster, although this may be the result of the small sample size. If these are genuinely absent then it suggests the roofing tile and brick may derive from a lower status building or tiled structure. This may not necessarily have been close by, as some of the tile and brick is abraded, suggesting it may have been brought on to the site from elsewhere.

5 Revised research aims

Should subsequent excavations within the vicinity merit further publication, the data from this site could be included. If so, then the following research questions may be relevant.

5.1 Pottery

5.1.1 *Post-medieval*

- The main research aim would be to see if it is possible, using cartographic and documentary evidence, to relate the pottery from cesspit fill [13] to a specific property and identify the possible owners of the discarded material in order to place the finds in a socio-economic context. From this a number of further research aims can be added, as suggested for the late 19th-century finds from Keeley Street (Jeffries 2005) and enlarged on in other papers (Jeffries et al 2009; Owens et al 2010):
- If the documentary evidence identifies the inhabitants of the tenements, does the pottery match their socio-economic status and what does it suggest of their purchasing patterns?
- Do the ceramics represent a clearance group? What were the associated finds?
- Can any further parallels be found for the transfer-printed designs?
- Can any of the pottery be assigned to a specific factory and/or more closely dated?
- What other contemporary groups are there from Southwark and how do the pottery assemblages compare? with
- How does all of the above relate to the known social history of the Victorian period in the area?

Other industry-specific questions might be asked by a specialist in late post-medieval finewares as part of an in-depth study of the assemblage, but this needs to wait until the format of the final publication has been decided.

6 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic research into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2011) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 4.2.1 – 4.2.4) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 4.3) it is suggested that a short note on the results of the excavation should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

7 Conclusions

The suggestion from the 1995 excavation that as the main ditch lies on a similar alignment of the Roman road recorded elsewhere just south of the Old Kent Road, it could not be discounted as the roadside ditch seems not to be the case. Although it is clearly Roman, the lack of any evidence for the road itself seems to rule out this possibility.

A substantial stretch of the road itself was found in 1990, 350m south east of the site, further down Old Kent Road, also on the south side. This provided evidence of its location and alignment at that point, where it was up to 14m wide and 0.60m thick, with the metalled gravel flanked by two ditches on a NW-SE alignment, parallel to the current Old Kent Road but 30m to the south. Nothing similar to this was found during the work at 430 Old Kent Road.

In addition to the main ditch, the smaller ditches found during both the excavation and the earlier evaluation were probably part of a system of smaller drainage or boundary ditches joining up with the larger ditch to the north.

8 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank George Randall of Mulalley and Co for his help during the evaluation and Chris Constable, the Archaeology Officer of Southwark Council.

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10 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

1 OASIS ID: molas1-128975

Project details

Project name	430-432 Old Kent Road, London, SE1 - excavation
Short description of the project	Following a previous evaluation on the site in 2012 an excavation was carried out on the northern area of the site, part of which was also previously investigated in 1995. A Roman road is thought to follow the approximate line of Old Kent Road which lies adjacent to the site. Work concentrated in areas which had not been affected by the petrol tanks of the garage which had been on the site. A series of five Roman ditches were found, including part of the ditch identified in 1995. No evidence of the Roman road was found and it is therefore most likely that all the ditches found represent field boundaries or parts of a drainage system.
Project dates	Start: 19-03-2012 End: 30-03-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	OKR12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	GULLY Roman
Monument type	CESS PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	POLUGHSOIL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK 430-432 Old Kent Road, Southwark, SE1
Postcode	SE1 5AG
Study area	1800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 33955 78095 51.4854187844 -0.070514487041 51 29 07 N 000 04 13 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.00m Max: 1.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Southwark Archaeologist
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Derek Seeley
Project supervisor	Adrian Miles
Type of sponsor/funding body	Contractor
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mulalley and Company Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	430-432 Old Kent Road, London, SE1, London Borough of Southwark, Report on archaeological excavation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Miles, A
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	MOLA A4 client report on results of site excavation

Entered by	Pat Miller (pmiller@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	25 June 2012

11 Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 Context List

Context	Description/type	Trench
1 – 4	Evaluation	1 – 3
5	Fill of 6	4
6	Ditch cut	4
7	Fill of 8	4
8	Ditch cut	4
9	Fill of 10	4
10	Gully cut	4
11	Fill of 12	4
12	Gully cut	4
13	Fill of 14	4
14	Cut for cess pit 15	4
15	Cess pit	4
16	Fill of 17	4
17	Cut for cess pit 18	4
18	Cess pit	4
19	Fill of 20	4
20	Ditch cut	4
21	Fill of 22	4
22	Ditch cut	4
23	Fill of 24	4
24	Ditch cut	4
25	Fill of 26	6
26	Ditch cut	6

11.2 Appendix 2 Dating evidence

Index of dating evidence of various types

Context	TPQ	TAQ	Dateable type	Assemblage Date	Assemblage Date	Assemblage Size	Comments
5	270	400	RPOT	270	400	S	
9	50	160	BM	50	160	S	
13	1830	1840	PMPOT	1830	1840	L	could be up to c 1860
19	50	160	BM	50	160	S	possible later = AD120-250
21	50	400	RPOT	50	400	S	
23	50	170	RPOT	50	170	S	
25	60	160	BM	60	160	S	
25	60	160	RPOT	50	400	S	

11.3 Appendix 3 Specialist tables

Context	Fabric	Form	Décor	State	Sher count
5	AHFA	-	-		2
5	BBS	-	-		1
5	NVCC	-	-		1
5	OXRC	4	-	A	1
5	SAND	1	-	B	3
5	SAND	-	-		1
21	SAND	-	-		5
23	BAETE	8DR20	-		1
25	FINE	-	ROD	A	1
25	GROG	2	-	A	2
25	SAND	-	-		3
25	SAND	2/3	-		1

Table 4 Roman pottery data

Context	Fabric	Form	Décor	Sherd count	ENV	Comments
13	BONE TR2	CUP	LAND O	4	1	RIM
13	PEAR TR2	CUP LOND	TMPL	8	1	PAIR WITH DEEP SAUCER
13	PEAR TR2	PLATE	HUNT	16	3	8X1 COMPLETE, 5X1; 3X1; ALL 'THE HOG DEER AT BAY' SPODE ORIENTAL SERIES
13	PEAR TR2	PLATE	LANDC	13	1	60% COMPLETE, MOST JOINING; CASTLE/GATEHOUSE IN TREES
13	PEAR TR2	PLATE	WILL	23	3	9X1 JOINING, WITH '8' STAMP ON BACK; 8X1 JOINING; 6X1 JOINING
13	PEAR TR2	PLATE DESS	WILL	7	2	6X1 65% COMPLETE, ALL JOINING
13	PEAR TR2	PLATE DIN	WILL	1	1	BASE
13	PEAR TR2	SAUC	TMPL	14	4	9X1 DEEP FORM, PAIR WITH CUP; 3X1, 2X1; ALL STONE CHINA
13	REFW	JAR SCYL	-	9	1	COMPLETE; FITS POTLID
13	REFW SPON	CHP	-	15	1	RIMS, BASE, BODY
13	REFW SPON	SAUC	-	2	1	RIMS
13	TPW FLOW	JUG	FLOR	24	1	PROFILE, PEAR-SHAPED; H=150MM; CROWN AND 'A 27' ON BASE
13	TPW2	BOWL	VIEW	6	1	VILLAGE CHURCH DESIGN INSIDE BASE
13	TPW2	BOWL	LAND O	8	1	PALACE/TEMPLE WITH BATH SCENE UNDER BANYAN TREE
13	TPW2	CHP2	VIEW	28	1	PROFILE, MOST JOIN; MAN ON DONKEY WITH ANOTHER DONKEY; RUINS IN BACKGROUND
13	TPW2	CUP LOND	LANDE	1	1	FOOTRING BASE
13	TPW2	LADL	FLOR	5	2	URN WTH FLOWERS INSIDE; FLORAL BORDER
13	TPW2	PLATE	-	5	4	MISC PLATE/SAUCER
13	TPW2	PLATE	FLOR	3	1	RIM
13	TPW2	PLATE DESS	GADR	8	2	TWO TEMPLES PATTERN
13	TPW2	PLATE DESS	LANDC	5	1	BOAT ON RIVER
13	TPW2	PLATE DESS	LANDE	14	2	11X1 COTTAGE ON CLIFF BY WATER WITH BOAT; 3X1 COTTAGE BY RIVER WITH BRIDGE
13	TPW2	PLATE OVAL	WILL	2	1	RIMS

Context	Fabric	Form	Décor	Sherd count	ENV	Comments
13	TPW2	PLATE RECT	WILL	4	2	2X1; RX1; ALL RIMS
13	TPW2	SALT	FLOR	5	2	PAIR; 4X1 PROFILE; 1 RIM
13	TPW2	SAUC	-	4	1	RIMX3; FLORAL AND LATTICE BORDER
13	TPW2	SBOAT	-	4	1	PROFILE, C 40%; FISHERMEN BY RIVER, BLUE HANDLE; GEOMETRIC BORDER
13	TPW2	SBOAT	FLOR	1	1	RIM
13	TPW2	TURN	VIEW	2	1	RIM; BLUE LUG HANDLE, FLORAL BORDER
13	TPW6	POTLID	-	2	1	PRATTWARE, WOMAN ON BALCONY; FITS JAR SCYL

Table 5 Post medieval pottery data

Context	Fabric	Form	Form Cert?	Weight	Amount	Corners	Comments
9	2815	BRIC		110	1	0	slightly abraded
9	2815	TEG		220	1	0	slightly abraded
19	2815	-	?	50	1	0	tegula or brick
19	3101	-		200	1	0	hard pale grey sandy mortar, pmed?, from between tiles/bricks? (see sheet)
19	3500	BRIC		140	2	0	2459 (no sanding remaining), very abraded
19	3500	TEG		350	1	0	2459 (no sanding remaining), abraded, 2 finger sig mark (see sheet)
25	2815	BRIC		180	1	0	
25	2815	TEG		160	1	0	
25	3028	TEG		60	1	0	

Table 6 Building materials data



Fig 3 Location of archaeological features