



405 OLD KENT ROAD London SE1

London Borough of Southwark

Watching brief report

March 2014



**OLD KENT ROAD FIRE STATION
405 Old Kent Road
London SE1**

Site Code OKN11
NGR 533855 178230
OASIS reference: molas1-174882

Report on an archaeological watching brief

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Summary

This interim report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on the site of the Fire Station, 405 Old Kent Road, London, SE1. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Kier Construction. The work included monitoring of the excavation of foundation pads, service trenches, a lift pit and a new drill tower.

A total of 40 trenches were excavated throughout the site. A significant number of Roman quarry pits were found between the centre and the west side of the yard. These were cut into the natural gravel at depth of c. 1m OD. They were usually sealed by a yellow gravelly deposit, which was overlaid by a thick post-medieval agricultural/garden soil. Above this was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt just below modern ground surface which is at approximately 2.50m OD. The features in this area suggest an open area landscape that was exploited in the Roman period for quarrying to extract material including sand and gravel alongside Watling Street.

Sporadic evidence of 19th urban development was also observed. Remains of a red brick wall foundation were uncovered to the south west corner of the yard, parallel to Old Kent Road and towards the centre of the site. Also, a red brick well of similar date was identified along the eastern edge of the site

Only two sherds of Roman pottery and a single fragment of building material were recovered from one of the trenches, both dated to AD 50-400.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 The watching brief took place at 405 Old Kent Road Fire station, London SE1, hereafter called the 'the site'. It is located on the north side of Old Kent Road and is bounded by Old Kent Road to the south, Cooper's Road to the east, and neighbouring properties to the north (Clare House and Stafford House) and west (Wessex House). The centre of the site lies at National grid references 533855 178230. The site code is OKN 11). Work was carried out between the 07-01-2014 and the 10-03-2014.
- 1.1.2 A desk top *Archaeological Assessment* (HEA) was previously prepared which covers the whole area of the site (MOLA 2008). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.
- 1.1.3 Field evaluation was carried out by MOLA in two different phases. The first one took place in May 2011 and the second one in November 2013. An *Evaluation Report* was written on the results (MOLA, 2014).
- 1.1.4 Further to the condition on Planning Consent a *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared by MOLA (See Section 1.2, MOLA 2014a).

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the watching brief took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (see Section 1.2, MOLA, 2014a).
- 1.2.2 The watching brief was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by Southwark Council (Consent reference 12/AP/2897; Condition number 15).

1.3 Scope of the watching brief

- 1.3.1 This report was commissioned by Kier Construction and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2009).
- 1.3.2 The purpose of the archaeological brief was essentially limited to established where, if at all, archaeological deposits may have been survived (presence/absence), recording where necessary, and to ensuring that the proposed groundwork would not involve the destruction of any archaeological deposits of national significance. A number of more site-specific research aim and objects were

established in the preceding *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the watching brief (see Section 2.1, MOLA 2014).

- 1.3.3 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002.

2 Topographical and historical background

- 2.1.1 A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier Archaeological Desk based assessment (MOLA 2008).

2.2 Archaeology

- 2.2.1 A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier Archaeological desk-based assessment (MOLA 2008) and the interim and evaluation reports (MOLA 2012 and MOLA 2014). A summary of the results of the evaluation on the site (site code OKN11) is provided below.
- 2.2.2 Following the recommendations of the desk-based assessment, five evaluation trenches were excavated on the site in two stages. Three evaluation trenches (Trenches 1 to 3) were excavated around the existing building, one to the rear and two to the front in May 2011. Two further evaluation trenches (Trenches 4 and 5) were excavated to the rear of the existing building in November 2013. Evidence of Roman quarrying was found in all five trenches excavated.
- 2.2.3 Archaeological evaluation Trench 1 was located at the front of the present building, in the western part of the area, adjacent to the pavement. Within this trench was a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil, below which was a deep post-medieval feature, almost certainly a quarry pit. Due to space restrictions, this pit was not bottomed, but it was at least 2.3m below ground level (0.0m OD). Also within this trench was a small part of a pit of undetermined shape, which produced Roman pottery, ceramic building material and a Roman copper-alloy coin of Constantine I dated to AD 296-317.
- 2.2.4 Archaeological evaluation Trench 2 was located at the front of the present building, at the east, adjacent to the pavement. Within this trench was a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil, below which was a deep post-medieval feature, almost certainly a quarry pit. This was cut into an earlier quarrying feature, which produced a collection of Roman pottery, ceramic building material and a copper alloy coin of Theodosius I dated to AD388-402. The quarry pit continued to a depth of 2.4m below ground level (-0.1m OD).
- 2.2.5 Archaeological evaluation Trench 3 was located to the rear of the existing building, towards the north-west corner of the yard. Within this

trench was a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil, below which was a deep quarry pit, which contained a small collection of Roman ceramic building material. Due to space restrictions, this pit was not fully excavated, but was at least 2.7m deep (-0.2m OD).

- 2.2.6 Archaeological evaluation Trench 4 was located to the rear of the existing building, towards the centre of the yard. Below the tarmac surface and underlying the concrete slab, a crushed brick layer sealed general made ground, to a depth of 0.60m (1.65m OD). The upper archaeological deposit within this trench was a post-medieval subsoil. Below this was a deep cut feature, possibly a quarry pit, the backfill of which produced a small assemblage of Roman pottery dated to AD 50-160.
- 2.2.7 Archaeological evaluation Trench 5 was located to the rear of the existing building, toward the centre of the yard. Below the tarmac surface and underlying the concrete slab a crushed brick layer sealed general made ground, to a depth of 0.45m (1.70m OD). Archaeological deposits within the trench comprised a subsoil that contained pottery of 17th-19th century date. This sealed two quarry pits, one which produced a fragment of ceramic building material of Roman date (AD 50-160) and one which produced a single sherd of pottery also dated to AD 50-160. Both features were cut into natural gravels and the base of the pits was recorded at the depth of 2.98m below the ground level (-0.43m OD).
- 2.2.8 The Roman features found related to quarrying rather than direct evidence of the road, although the quarries may have been supplying material to repair the road. Overlying the Roman quarries was a layer of ploughsoil/garden soil, dated to the 17th to 19th century, representing the latest archaeological deposits on the site.
- 2.2.9 The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces on the site is moderate and that there is also potential for survival of cut features. Natural sand and gravels were found at 1.0m OD at its highest and 0.35m OD at its lowest on the site with ground levels lying at between 2.4m to 2.5m OD. The average depth of archaeological deposits/features where they do survive is likely to be c 2m with further cut features likely to be encountered.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 The slab was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. The trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.
- 3.1.2 The location of the trenches was set out by the developers and subsequently located by one of their surveyors. The heights of the observations and archaeological remains were recorded relative to the Ordinance Datum. Levels were also supplied by the developer.

3.1.3 Archaeological excavation of features was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA, 2014).

3.2 Recording methodology

3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA, 2014).

3.3 Site archive

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Number of trench record sheets | 40 |
| Number of overall location plans | 1 |
| Number of Context sheets | 123 |
| Number of photographs | 90 |
| Number of Plan sheets | 10 |
| Number of Sections | 6 |

4 Results of the watching brief

For trench locations see Fig 2.

The watching brief trenches were numbered 6-46 (there is no Trench 19-number not allocated) following on from the Evaluation which consisted of trenches 1-5.

4.1 Trench 6

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Location | To the west of the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2m by 4m by 1.5m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.24m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.84m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural | 1.06m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.78m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.80mOD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.74m OD |

4.1.1 The trench was located to the west of the centre of the yard, adjacent to Wessex House. Below the modern made ground (0.4m thick), was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt overlying a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil of similar depth. Underneath this, there was a gravelly deposit [58] of similar date. This sealed a rectangular pit [39] cut into loose orange gravel mixed with grey sandy silt [40], which was probably the fill of a big quarry pit. Due to the predetermined size of the trench, the features were not fully exposed and not fully excavated.

Natural gravel was seen in section at 0.80m OD. No finds were recovered.

4.2 Trench 7

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Location | To the west of the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.20m by 2.60m by 4m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.24m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.84m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 2.52m OD |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | -0.68m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.14m OD |
| Level of base of trench | -1.76m OD |

4.2.1 The trench was located to the west of the centre of the yard, adjacent to Wessex House. Below the modern made ground (0.42m thick), was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt sealing a deposit of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil. Below this was a gravelly deposit [59] of similar date overlying two circular cut features [43] and [45]. These were almost certainly two quarry pits cut into the natural orange gravel and subsequently filled with gritty clayey silt. Due to the width of the trench the pits were not fully exposed, but the base of the features was recorded at – 0.68m OD. No finds were recovered.

4.3 Trench 8

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Location | To the west of the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 0.90m/1.50m by 14.80m by 1.10m depth |
| Modern ground level/top of slab | Not found |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 2.10m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.15m OD |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.95m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.95m OD |

4.3.1 The trench was located to the west of the centre of the yard, adjacent to Wessex House. Within the trench was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt sealing a deposit of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil 0.30m thick. Below this was a gravelly deposit [57] of similar date overlying three circular cut features [48], [54] and [56]. These were almost certainly quarry pits cut into the natural orange gravel and subsequently filled with gritty clayey silt. A fourth pit was found towards the north of the trench, but contained 19th century pottery and building material. Due to the predetermined size of the trench, the quarry pits were not fully exposed and not fully excavated. No finds were recovered

4.4 Trench 9

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | In close proximity of the south-east corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2.40m depth |
| Level of top of trench | 2.55m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.14m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.14m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.15m OD |

4.4.1 The trench was located in close proximity of the south-east corner of the yard, parallel to Cooper's road. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench to a depth of 1.14m, where natural orange gravel was present. No deposits of any archaeological interest were seen. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 2.40m below the ground level (0.15m OD).

4.5 Trench 10

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Location | In the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.30m by 2.40m by 1.16m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.24m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.98m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.90m OD |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 1.08m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.18m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 1.08m OD |

4.5.1 The trench was located in the centre of the yard. Below the modern made ground, which was 0.24m thick, were the remains of 19th century red brick wall. The wall was cut into a deposit of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil overlying a gravelly deposit of similar date [64]. Below this, two circular cut features were found [66] and [68]. As observed throughout the site, they were almost certainly quarry pits cut into the natural orange sandy gravel and subsequently filled with gritty clayey silt. Due to the predetermined size of the trench, the quarry pits were not fully exposed and not fully excavated. No finds were recovered.

4.6 Trench 11

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Location | To the west of the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 6m by 8.20m by 2m depth |
| Level of top of trench | 2.25m OD |

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.25m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.90m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.35m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.25m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.35m OD |

4.6.1 The trench was located to the west of the centre of the yard, adjacent to Wessex House. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench to a depth of 1.25m where natural orange sandy gravel was observed. This was cut by three quarry pits, two rectangular [87] and [89], one subcircular [90]. The base of the three cut features was not reached and the bottom of the trench was recorded at depth of 1.90m OD below the ground level (0.15m OD). No finds were recovered.

4.7 Trench 12

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Location | In the south-east corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3.30m by 2.80m by 3m depth |
| Modern ground level/top of slab | Tarmac 2.40m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.70m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.70m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 1m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1m OD |
| Level of base of trench | -0.60m OD |

4.7.1 The trench was located in the south-east corner of the yard, where Cooper's Road meets Old Kent Road. Below tarmac, was a layer of modern made ground which was 0.60m thick. Underneath this, was a sequence of three sandy silt deposits of agricultural/garden soil containing post-medieval pottery and fragments of building material. Beneath this, natural sandy gravel was observed to a depth of 1.40m below ground level (1m OD).

4.8 Trench 13

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Location | In the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 1.20m/3.60m by 8.60m by 1.80m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.22m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.92m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.10m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.82m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.82m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.42m OD |

- 4.8.1 The trench was located in the centre of the yard. Below modern made ground, was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt, which was 0.50m thick. Underneath this, was a deposit of garden/agricultural soil containing post-medieval pottery and fragments of building material. This sealed natural sandy gravel, which was observed to a depth of 1.40m (0.82m OD) to the west side of the trench. The base of the trench was recorded at 0.42m OD.

4.9 Trench 14

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Location | In the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 0.90m/2.20m by 3m by 1.80m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.32m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 2.02m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.20m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.82m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.82m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.80m OD |

- 4.9.1 The trench was located in the centre of the yard. Below the modern made ground, which was 0.42m thick, was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt sealing a deposit of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil. Below this, was a gravelly deposit [79] of similar date overlying two circular cut features [82] and [84]. These were two quarry pits intercutting each other into the natural sandy gravel and subsequently filled with gritty clayey silt. Due to the predetermined size of the trench, the quarry pits were not fully exposed and not fully excavated. No finds were recovered.

4.10 Trench 15

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Location | In the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.70m by 2.70m by 1.80m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.40m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 0.60m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | None was seen |
| Level of base of trench | 0.60m OD |

- 4.10.1 The trench was located in the centre of the yard, to the east of trench 17. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench. No natural deposits were observed. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 1.80m below the ground level (0.60m OD).

4.11 Trench 16

| | |
|---|--|
| Location | To the south of the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.70m by 2.70m by 1.80m depth |
| Made ground | 2.40 m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 2.20m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.60m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.60m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | N/A |
| Level of base of trench | 0.60m OD |

4.11.1 The trench was located to the south of the centre of the yard, parallel to Old Kent Road. The trench was heavily truncated. Only a small portion of the deposit sequence survived to the south of trench, c. 0.70 m in length. Below the modern made ground, was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt sealing a deposit of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil. Below this, was a gravelly deposit [93] of similar date overlying a deposit of grey sandy silt [94], which was possibly the fill of a quarry pit. No natural deposits were observed. Due to the predetermined size of the trench, the quarry pit was not fully exposed and not fully excavated. No finds were recovered.

4.12 Trench 17

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Location | Towards centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.70m by 2.70m by 1.80m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.40m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.96m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.66m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.60m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.80m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.60m OD |

4.12.1 The trench was located towards centre of the yard, to the west of trench 15. The trench was partially truncated, only the deposit sequence of the east and north facing section survived. Below the modern made ground, was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt sealing a deposit of post medieval garden/agricultural soil. Below this, was a yellow gravelly deposit [95] overlying a deposit of grey sandy silt [96], which was possibly the fill of a quarry pit. Natural gravel was observed at 0.80m OD. The feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered.

4.13 Trench 18

| | |
|---|--|
| Location | To the south of the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.70m by 2.70m by 1.80m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.40m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.90m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.30m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.60m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.60m OD |

4.13.1 The trench was located to the south of the centre of the yard, parallel to Old Kent Road. The trench was heavily truncated, only the deposit sequence of the north facing section survived. Below the modern made ground, which was 1.10m thick, was a yellow gravelly deposit [97]. This sealed a quarry type feature [99] cut into the natural gravel and filled with a grey silty deposit. The feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered.

4.14 Trench 20

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the southern edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 0.90m by 26m by 2.50m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 2.30m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 2.30m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.00m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | c. 1m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.00m OD (Maximum depth recorded) |

4.14.1 The trench was located along the southern edge of the yard, parallel to Old Kent Road. Below the modern made ground, was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt sealing a deposit of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil. Below this, was a gravelly deposit of similar date overlying three quarry pits. These features were cut into the natural orange gravel at regular intervals throughout the trench. Due to the predetermined size of the trench, the features were not fully exposed and not fully excavated. No finds were recovered.

4.15 Trench 21

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Location | To the east of the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.50m by 2.5m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 0.50m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy | N/A |

| | |
|---|----------|
| above natural (if any) | |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | N/A |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.15.1 The trench was located to the east of the centre of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench. No natural deposits were observed. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 2m below the ground level (0.60m OD).

4.16 Trench 22

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the western edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3.80m by 3.8m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 0.50m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | N/A |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.16.1 The trench was located along the western edge of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench. No natural deposits were observed. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 2m below the ground level (0.50m OD).

4.17 Trench 23

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Towards the south-east corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3.50m by 4.2m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 2.10m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.60m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.50m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.30m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.17.1 The trench was located towards the south-east corner of the yard, parallel to Old Kent Road. The trench was heavily truncated. Only a small portion of the deposit sequence survived to the south of trench, c. 2m in length. Below the modern made ground, was a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil, which was 0.60m thick. Underneath this, was a gravelly deposit of similar date overlying three sub-circular

quarry pits [101], [103] and [104]. These were filled with a grey sandy silt deposit and cut into the natural sandy gravel [105]. Two sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of building material of similar date were recovered during the excavation of pit [101]. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 2m below the ground level (0.50m OD).

4.18 Trench 24

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Location | To the south-west corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3.80m by 3.8m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 0.50m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | Not seen |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.18.1 The trench was located to the south- west corner of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench. No natural deposits were observed. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 2m below the ground level (0.50m OD).

4.19 Trench 25

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the eastern edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 1m by 25m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 2.20m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.40m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.80m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.80m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.19.1 The trench was located along the eastern edge of the yard, parallel to Cooper's Road. The trench was heavily truncated. Only a small portion of the deposit sequence survived at the south end of trench, c. 2.20 m in length. Below the modern made ground, was a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil, which was 1.20m thick. Below this was a gravelly deposit of similar date overlying natural orange gravel. No finds were recovered.

4.20 Trench 26

| | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the western edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2m depth |

| | |
|---|----------|
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 0.50m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | N/A |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.20.1 The trench was located along the western edge of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench. No natural deposits were observed. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 2m below the ground level (0.50m OD).

4.21 Trench 27

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the eastern edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.9m by 2.5m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.80m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.75m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.05m |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.21.1 The trench was located along the eastern edge of the yard, parallel to Cooper's Road. The west half of the trench was heavily truncated to a depth of 1.50m below ground level (1m OD). Only part of the deposit sequence survived to the east side of the trench, c. 1.30m in width. Below the modern made ground, were the remains of a 19th century brick well [110] trench-built up against construction cut [109]. This truncated a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil and the underlying natural orange gravel. The full depth of the well was not determined as it continued below the base of the trench.

4.22 Trench 28

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Location | In the south-west corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.5m by 2.5m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.85m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.10m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.75m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.75m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.22.1 The trench was located in the south west corner of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench to a depth of 1.50m below ground level (1m OD). Only a 19th century foundation wall survived along the southern edge of the trench. This was cut into the natural orange gravel at 0.75m OD.

4.23 Trench 29

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the western edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 0.50m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | Not seen |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.23.1 The trench was located along the western west edge of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench. No natural deposits were observed. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 2m below the ground level (0.50m OD)

4.24 Trench 30

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Location | In the south-west corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2.5m by 2.80m by 1.8m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.90m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.90m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 1m |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.24.1 The trench was located in the south-west corner of the yard, parallel to Old Kent Road. The trench was truncated along the western edge, c. 0.70m in width. To the east of the truncation, below the modern made ground, was a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil overlying a deposit of natural brickearth to a depth of 1.50m below the ground level (1m OD). Natural orange gravel was observed immediately below it. No other deposits of any archaeological interest were found within the trench.

4.25 Trench 31

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the eastern edge of the yard |
|----------|------------------------------------|

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.80m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.90m OD |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.90m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.90m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.25.1 The trench was located along the eastern edge of the yard, parallel to Cooper's Road. Below the modern made ground, was a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil overlying a deposit of natural brickearth to a depth of 1.60m below the ground level (2.50m OD). This sealed natural orange gravel at 0.60m OD. No other archaeological deposits were found within the trench.

4.26 Trench 32

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Towards the south-east corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 0.50m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.50m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.26.1 The trench was located toward the south-east corner of the yard. Modern disturbance was encountered throughout the trench to a depth of 2m below the ground level (0.50m OD), where natural orange gravel was observed.

4.27 Trench 33

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Along the eastern edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.30m OD/0.50m OD (maximum depth reached) |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.80m (maximum depth observed) |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.50m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.50m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.27.1 The trench was located along the eastern edge of the yard. Modern disturbance was encountered throughout the trench to a maximum depth of 2m below ground level (0.50m OD). This truncated a layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil, which overlay the natural orange gravel observed at the base of the trench at 0.50m OD.

4.28 Trench 34

| | |
|---|--|
| Location | To the south of the eastern edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 0.9m by 21m by 1.5m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.50m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | N/A |
| Level of base of trench | 1m OD |

4.28.1 The trench was located along the western edge of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench. No natural deposits were observed. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 1.5m below the ground level (1m OD).

4.29 Trench 35

| | |
|---|--|
| Location | Along the eastern of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 0.50m OD (it continues below the base of the trench) |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | N/A |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.29.1 The trench was located along the eastern edge of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench. No natural deposits were observed. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 2m below the ground level (0.50m OD).

4.30 Trench 36

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Location | To the south of the western edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |

| | |
|---|----------|
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.10m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.60m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 1.10m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.10m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.30.1 The trench was located to the south of the western edge of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench to a depth of 1.40m below ground level (1.10m OD). Underneath this, a circular quarry pit [115] was cut into the natural orange gravel in the north-east corner of the trench.

4.31 Trench 37

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Location | In the south-west corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 5.6m by 4m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.85m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1.10m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.75m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.75m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.31.1 The trench was located in the south-west corner of the yard, to the east of trench 28. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench to a depth of 1.50m below ground level (1m OD). Only a 19th century foundation wall [117] survived along the southern edge of the trench. This was cut into the natural orange gravel at 0.75m OD. Almost certainly it was the continuation of the foundation wall observed in trench 28.

4.32 Trench 38

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the western edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 6m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 0.50m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | N/A |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.32.1 The trench was located along the eastern edge of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench to a depth of 2m below ground level (0.50m OD). No natural deposits were observed. The base of the trench was recorded at depth of 2m below the ground level (0.50m OD).

4.33 Trench 39

| | |
|---|--|
| Location | In the south-east corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2m by 2m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.80m OD/1m OD (Maximum depth reached) |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.90m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 0.90m OD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 0.90m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.33.1 The trench was located in the south-east corner of the yard, parallel to Cooper's road. Modern made ground was encountered almost throughout the trench to a maximum depth of 1.5 below the ground level (1m OD). Only the deposit sequence to the south-west corner of the trench survived. Below the modern made ground, was a thick layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil. This lay directly over the natural orange gravel. No other deposits of archaeological interest were found within the trench.

4.34 Trench 40

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | In the south-east corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 2m by 2m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.2m OD/ 1.40m OD (maximum depth reached) |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.20m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.34.1 The trench was located in the south-east corner of the yard, parallel to Cooper's road. Modern made ground was encountered throughout the trench to a maximum depth of 1.4 below the ground level (1m OD). This truncated a layer of natural brickearth, which lay directly over the natural orange gravel. No deposits of any archaeological interest were found within the trench.

4.35 Trench 41

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Along the eastern edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.30m OD (to the south-west corner of the trench) |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.30m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.35.1 The trench was located along the eastern edge of the yard. Modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench to a depth of 2m below ground level (0.50m OD). Natural deposits were only observed in the south-west corner of the trench to a depth of 1.20m below the ground level (1.30m OD). The base of the trench was recorded at 0.50m OD.

4.36 Trench 42

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the southern edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 0.90m by 24m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.90m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.90m OD |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 1m OD (Not fully excavated) |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | N/A |
| Level of base of trench | 1m OD |

4.36.1 The trench was located along the southern edge of the yard. Below the modern made ground, was a thick layer of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil to a maximum depth of 1.20m below the ground level (1.30m OD). This overlay a yellow gravelly deposit of similar date. No natural deposits were seen.

4.37 Trench 43

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Location | In the centre of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 5m by 3m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 2.20m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 2.30m OD |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | -0.10m OD |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.20m OD |
| Level of base of trench | -0.50m OD |

4.37.1 The trench was located in the centre of the yard. Below the modern made ground 0.20m thick, was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt sealing a deposit of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil. Below this was a gravelly deposit of similar date overlying one circular cut feature [122], located in the south-west corner of the trench. This was almost certainly a quarry pit cut into the natural orange gravel and subsequently filled with gritty clayey silt [121]. The pit was not fully exposed, but the base of the feature was recorded at -0.10m OD. No finds were recovered.

4.38 Trench 44

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the eastern edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 2.20m OD (maximum depth reached) |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 1m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 1.20mOD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.20m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.38.1 The trench was located along the eastern edge of the yard, parallel to Cooper's Road. Below the modern made ground, was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt sealing a deposit of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil. This overlay a deposit of natural brickearth to a depth of 1.10m below the ground level (1.60m OD). Underneath this, the natural orange gravel was observed at 1.10m OD.

4.39 Trench 45

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Location | Along the eastern edge of the yard |
| Dimensions | 3m by 3m by 3.60m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 1.50m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | N/A |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | N/A |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.50m OD |
| Level of base of trench | -0.90m OD |

4.39.1 The trench was located along the eastern edge of the yard, parallel to Cooper's Road. Modern made ground was encountered throughout the trench to a maximum depth of 1m below the ground level (1.5m OD). This truncated a layer of natural brickearth, which lay directly over the natural orange gravel. No deposits of any archaeological interest were found within the trench.

4.40 Trench 46

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Towards the north-east corner of the yard |
| Dimensions | 6.60m by 6.60m by 2m depth |
| Modern ground level | 2.50m OD |
| Base of modern fill/slab/turf | 2.10m OD |
| Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any) | 0.60m |
| Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed | 1.50mOD |
| Top of surviving natural observed at | 1.50m OD |
| Level of base of trench | 0.50m OD |

4.40.1 The trench was located towards the north-east corner of the yard, parallel to Cooper's Road. Below the modern made ground, was a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt sealing a deposit of post-medieval garden/agricultural soil. This overlay a deposit of natural brickearth to a depth of 1.10m below the ground level (1.60m OD). Underneath this natural orange gravel was observed.

5 The finds

During the watching brief only four sherds of Roman pottery and a single fragment of building material were recovered.

| Context | Material | Sherds/ Fragments | Period | Scan date | Brief Comments |
|---------|------------------|----------------------|--------|---------------|--|
| 100 | ROMAN CBM | 1 | Roman | AD 7- 120 | <i>Tegula</i> , Fabric 3023. |
| 100 | ROMAN POTTERY | 4 | Roman | AD 50- 400 | 4 sherds from a bowl or dish. Reduced ware, possibly late Roman? |

6 Archaeological potential

6.1 Answering original research aims

What is the nature and level of natural topography?

Natural sand and gravels were found at +1.3m OD at its highest.

What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest deposits found dated to the Roman period

Is there any evidence of Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age frequentation of the area for the exploitation of the marshes, as found to the north-east of the site?

No evidence was found

Is there any evidence of any Roman roadside activity, such as ditches, associated with Watling Street, located to the south of the site?

The Roman features found related to quarrying rather than direct evidence of the road, although the quarries may have been supplying material to repair the road.

Is there any evidence of any Roman settlement activity?

No direct evidence of Roman settlement was found

Is there any evidence of the early 19th century urban development along Old Kent Road?

Sporadic evidence of 19th urban development was observed throughout the site. Remains of a red brick wall foundation were uncovered to the south west corner of the yard, parallel to Old Kent Road and towards the centre of the site. Also, a red brick well of similar date was identified along the eastern edge of the site.

What are the latest deposits identified?

Overlying the Roman quarries was a layer of ploughsoil/garden soil, dated from 17th – 19th century, representing the latest archaeological deposits on the site.

6.2 Answering new research aims

- 6.2.1 The result of the watching brief has not raised any new research questions.

6.3 Significance of the data

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

7 Publication and archiving

- 7.1.1 The results of the evaluation and watching brief will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.
- 7.1.2 The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA, 2014a) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.
- 7.1.3 In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 6) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 6.3) it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-174882

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Old Kent Road Fire Station |
| Short description of the project | A total of 40 trenches were excavated throughout the site. A significant number of Roman quarry pits were found between the centre and the west side of the yard. These were cut into the natural gravel at depth of c. 1m OD. They were usually sealed by a yellow gravelly deposit, which was overlaid by a thick post-medieval agricultural/garden soil. Above this, a layer of ashy loose 19th century silt just below the made ground (2.50m OD was present). The features in this area suggest an open area landscape that was exploited in the Roman period for activities such as quarrying to extract material including sands and gravel. |
| Project dates | Start: 07-01-2014 End: 10-03-2014 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | OKN11 – Site code |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) |
| Current Land use | Community Service 1 - Community Buildings |
| Monument type | QUARRY PITS Roman |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Roman |
| Significant Finds | BUILDING MATERIAL Roman |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches" |
| Development type | Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.) |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination |

Project location

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Country | England |
| Site location | GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| | ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK Old Kent Road Fire Station |
| Postcode | SE1 |
| Study area | 200.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 33855 78230 51.4866558167 -0.0719028190503 51 29 11 N 000 04 18 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: -0.68m Max: 1.30m |

Project creators

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | MOLA |
| Project brief originator | Southwark Archaeologist |
| Project design originator | MOLA |
| Project director/manager | Derek Seeley |
| Project supervisor | Serena Ranieri |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Kier Construction |

Project archives

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Physical Archive recipient | LAARC |
| Physical Archive ID | OKN11 |
| Digital Archive recipient | LAARC |
| Digital Archive ID | OKN11 |
| Paper Archive recipient | LAARC |
| Paper Archive ID | OKN11 |

Project bibliography 1

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Old Kent Road Fire Station: Report on an archaeological watching brief |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Ranieri, S |
| Date | 2014 |

Issuer or publisher MOLA

Place of issue or
publication London

Entered by serena ranieri (sranieri@mola.org.uk)

Entered on 17 March 2014

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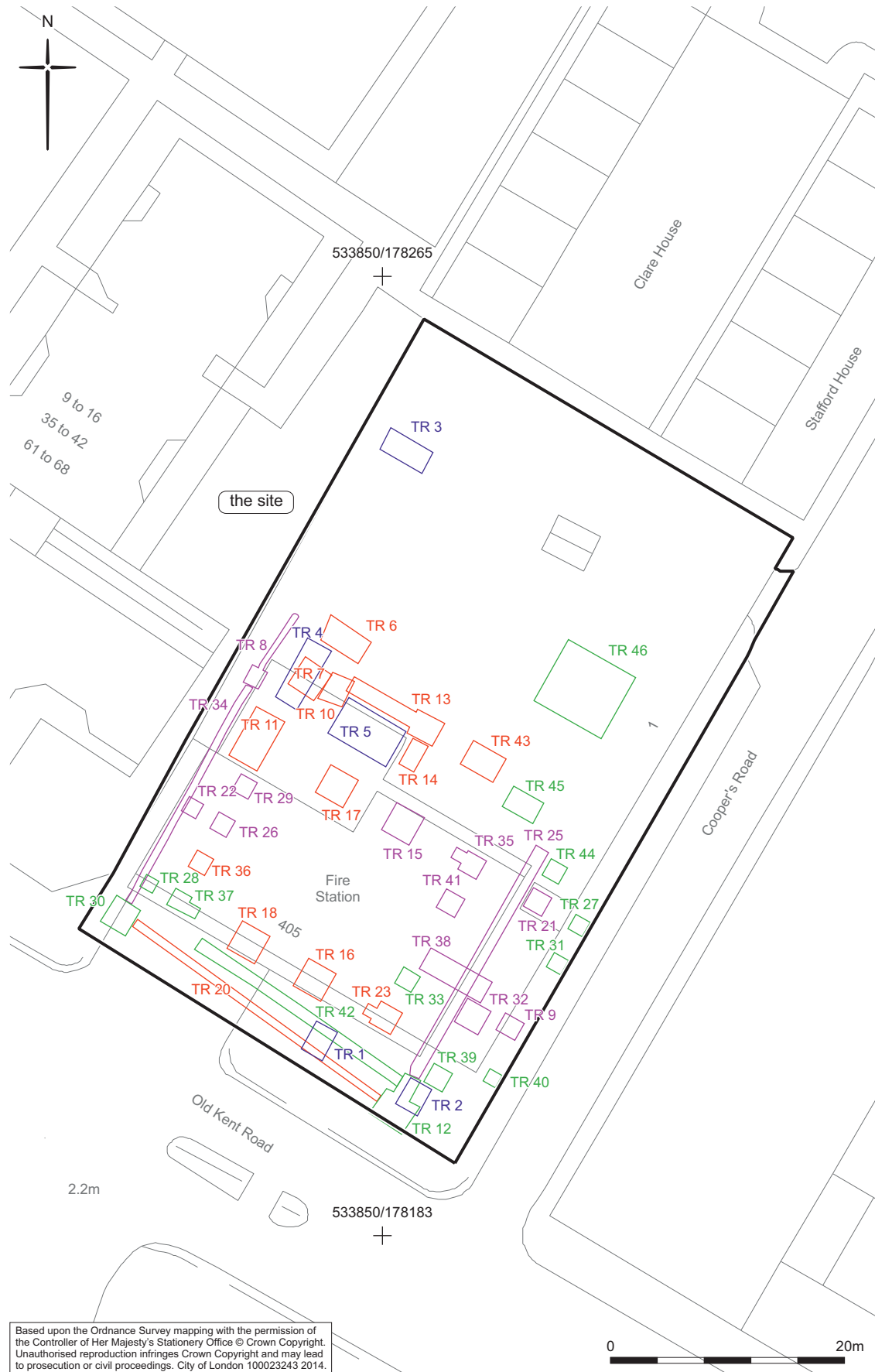


Fig 2 Evaluation and Watching brief trench locations

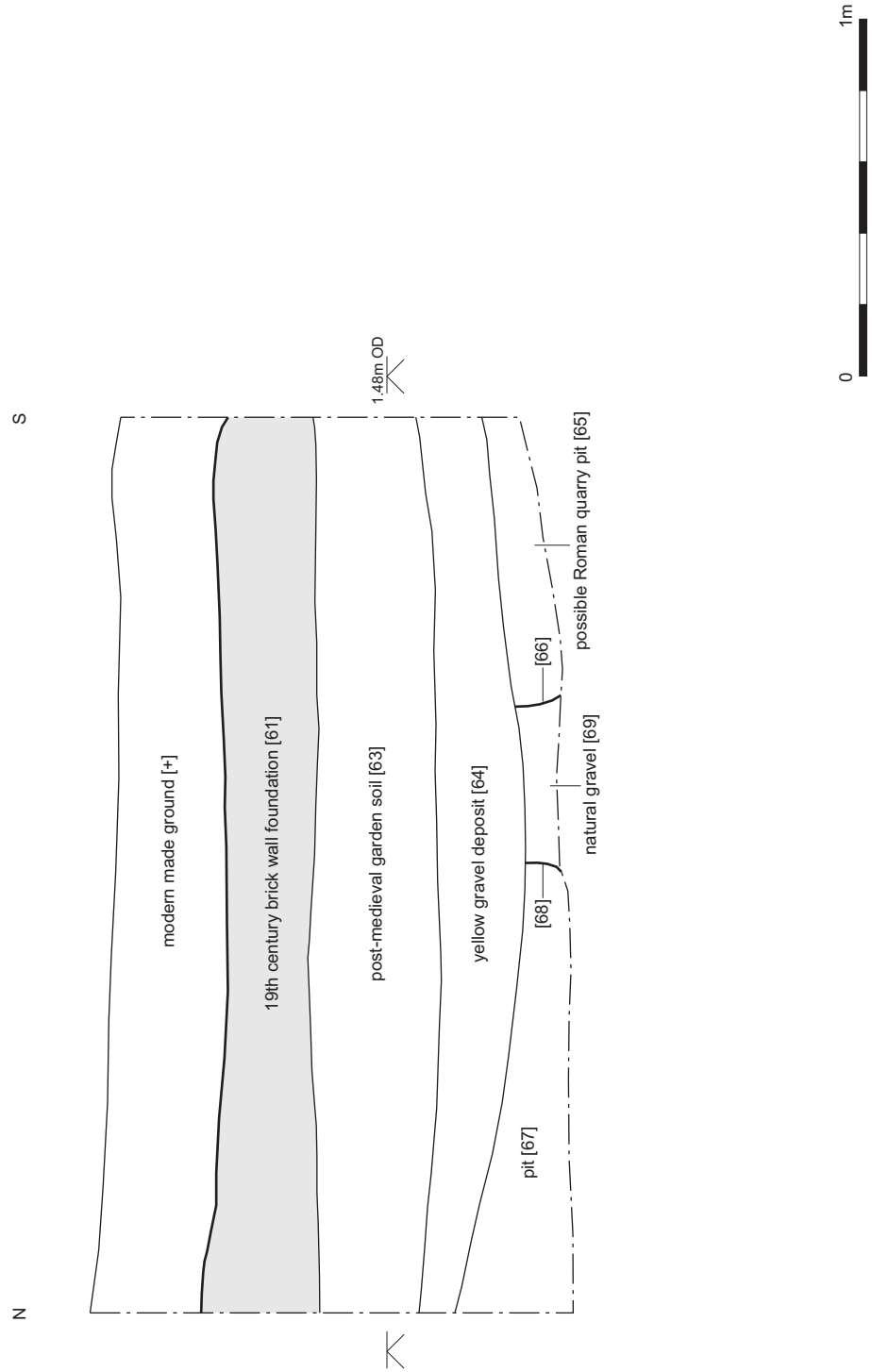


Fig 3 Trench 10: West facing section drawing

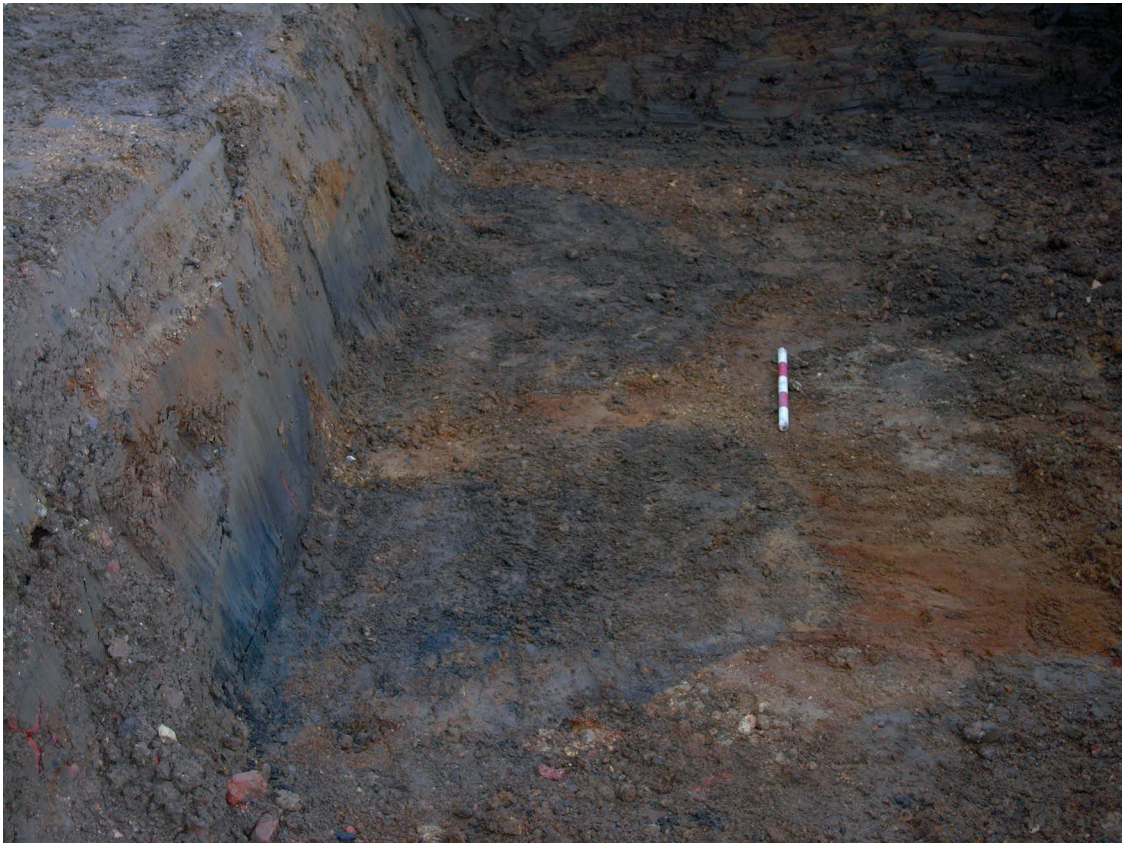


Fig 4 Trench 6: East facing section



Fig 5 Trench 10: West facing section