

STOCKWELL PARK SCHOOL
Lambeth
SW9

London Borough of Lambeth

An archaeological evaluation report

February 2008



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

STOCKWELL PARK ROAD
Lambeth
SW9

London Borough of Lambeth

An archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: SKP08
National Grid Reference: 530719 176593

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of Stockwell Park School, Stockwell, London, SW9. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by Willmott Dixon Construction.

Following the recommendations of a previous Archaeological Assessment (MoLAS 2006) three evaluation trenches were excavated on the site. A further three trenches will be excavated later in the year during demolition.

The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. In Trench 2 a brick wall was observed but this was the only evidence of previous structures on the site. It may be the foundations of a garden wall from the early 20th century period, when there were terraced houses along Clapham Road with large gardens to the rear. There were no remains found in trench 1, and trench 3 contained modern disturbance to a depth of 2.70m below ground level.

In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes the impact of the proposed redevelopment in the areas evaluated so far will be minimal and there is not any significant archaeology in these areas.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at Stockwell Park School, hereafter called ‘the site’. The site comprises a school complex, constructed in the later 1950s. It is bounded on the north-east by houses fronting Stockwell Park Road, on the northwest by Clapham Road, on the south-west by Stockwell Gardens and on the south-east by the gardens associated with housing tenements and Somerville Hastings House, that front onto Stockwell Park Crescent. The OS National Grid Ref. for centre of site is 530719 176593. The ground slopes down from the east end of the site at 7.30m OD to 6.00m OD at the western end adjacent to Clapham Road. There are no known basements. The site code is SKP08.

A desk-top *Archaeological assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (MoLAS, 2006). 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. The western part of the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area (centred around the Stane Street Roman road), as defined by the London Borough of Lambeth.

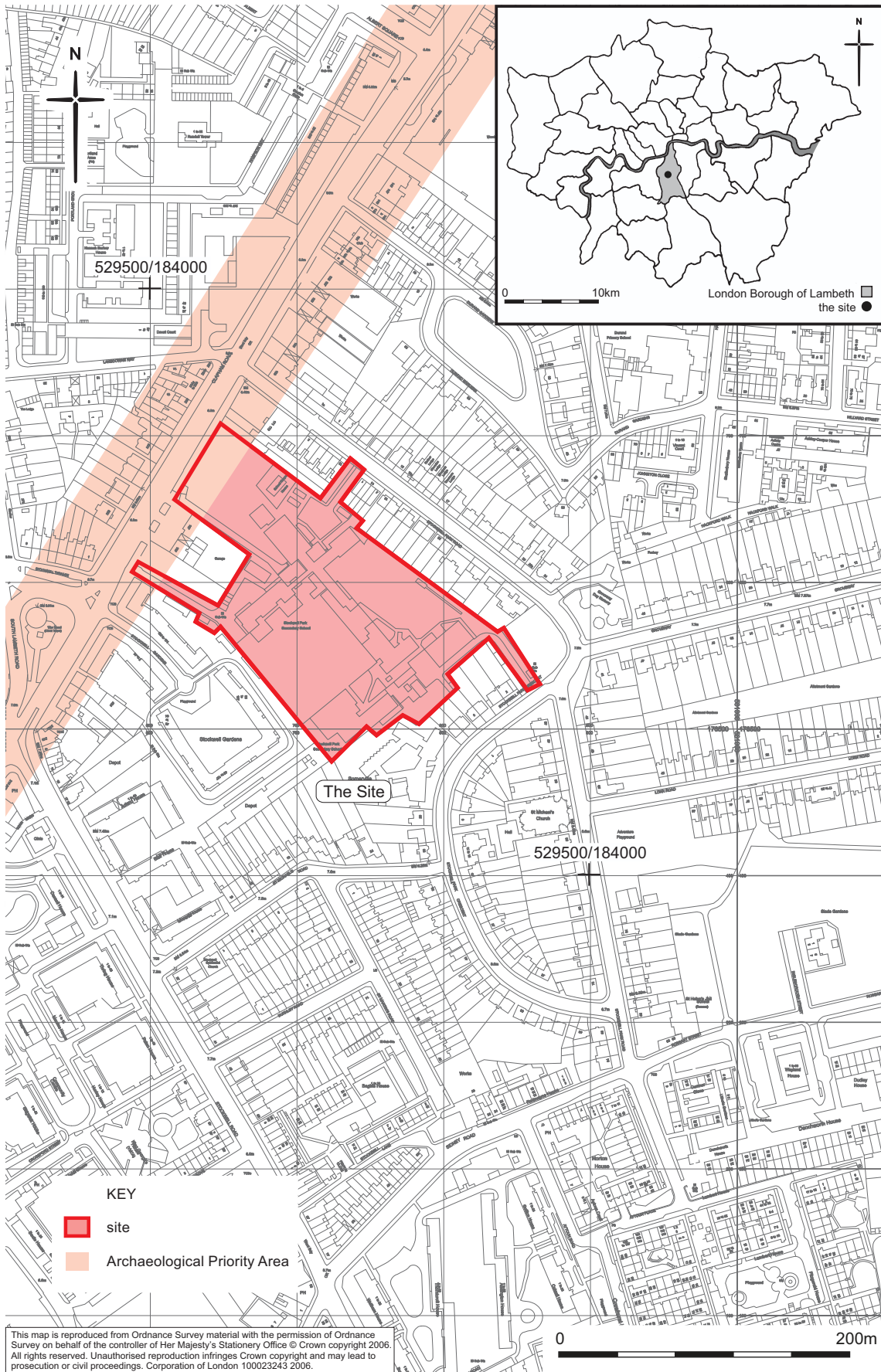


Fig 1 Site location

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 evaluation (see Section 1.2, MoLAS, 2008).

1.3 Planning background

The archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site to fulfil the requirements of a planning condition placed upon the development.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Construction and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.5 Aims and objectives

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

The limited nature of the proposed works and the archaeological evaluation made it unreasonable to establish many specific archaeological research objectives. The archaeological brief was essentially limited to establishing the levels and nature of surviving archaeological deposits, and to ensure that the digging of evaluation trenches did not involve unnecessary destruction of such deposits. Nevertheless, in addition, a few broad research questions were outlined:

- The topographic survival of the natural deposits
- Is there any evidence of any human settlement or other activity pre-dating the first known development on the site, dating to the early and mid 19th century?
- Is there any evidence for the Roman road, Stane Street, in the western part of the site?
- Are there any surviving remains of Stockwell Orphanage?

2 Topographical and historical background

A full background to the site was given within the Archaeological Assessment (MoLAS 2006) so only a brief summary is presented here.

2.1 Topography

The ground level slopes down from the east end of the site at 7.30m OD to 6.00m OD at the western end adjacent to Clapham Road. The underlying geology consists of a bedrock of London Clay, above which lies the second terrace Pleistocene gravels of the River Thames.

2.2 Prehistoric

There are no known prehistoric sites or finds on or within the vicinity of the site.

2.3 Roman

The line of Clapham Road, which forms the western border of the site, follows the line of Stane Street, one of the three main roads that ran southwards from Londinium. Stane Street is the basis for the local authority's Archaeological Priority Area and the western side of the proposed development site falls within this Area. As a major line of communication the road is likely to have attracted roadside settlement, although there is no evidence of such in the vicinity of the site.

2.4 Saxon

There are no known sites or finds dated to the Saxon period within the site or surrounding area.

2.5 Medieval

There are no known sites or finds dated to the medieval period within the site or surrounding area.

2.6 Post-medieval

Rocque's map of 1746 shows the site to the north of the main settlement at Stockwell, within an area of pasture at the side of the main road. Stanford's map of 1862 shows the considerable Victorian development of the area, primarily to the north and east of the site. The map shows a row of terraced houses fronting Clapham Road in the western part of the site, with large gardens to the rear.

In the late 1860s, Charles Spurgeon, a church minister, established Stockwell Orphanage on the site, to the rear of the tenements fronting Clapham Road. Between 1867 and 1883, the institution accommodated 500 children. The buildings consisted of 12 houses for boys and girls, play halls, infirmaries, a library, kitchen bakery, a memorial hall and staff houses arranged around a courtyard.

The orphanage remained in use until after the Second World War, despite minor bomb damage to buildings in the eastern and north-east part of the site. In the late 1950s it was replaced by the present Stockwell School. The school was constructed on the same footprint as the 19th century orphanage, with additional land taken up on the north-western side, originally the site of tenements fronting onto Clapham Road.

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2008), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Three evaluation trenches were excavated across the western and northern parts of the site, two in the grassed area fronting onto Clapham Road and the third in a car park at the north.

The ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The locations of evaluation trenches were recorded by MoLAS Geomatics using satellite locating equipment. 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 MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by traversing a temporary Bench Mark across to the site from a Bench Mark on the corner of Clapham Road and Stockwell Park Road.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; 12 context records and 3 section drawings at 1:20 and 1:10. No finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code SKP08 in the MoL archive.



Fig 2 Trench locations

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2.

<i>Evaluation Trench 1 (Fig 3)</i>	
Location	Grassed area at west of site
Dimensions	10m by 1.8m by 1.90m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	6.55m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	6.27m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.88m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	4.65m OD (base of trench)
Natural observed	5.01m OD

Below the turfline [001] in trench 1 were two deposits. To the north was a make-up layer [002] and to the south a thin mortary demolition layer [004]. These were either side of a brick wall [003] running east-west across the trench. This formed a foundation, and the demolition deposit had been formed by the destruction of the structure that stood above ground on this foundation. To the north the deposits [002] and [005] below it related to a tarmac surface and associated make-up. This had presumably been the external area to the north of the foundation. Below the make-up and demolition deposits was an imported subsoil [006], containing building material fragments and other relatively modern finds, probably a garden soil from the gardens of the terraced houses along Clapham Road. This had been banked up against the foundation [003], so was deposited after the foundation had been constructed. The wall may represent a garden wall, dating from the 19th and 20th centuries when there were terraced houses fronting onto Clapham Road with large gardens behind them (fig 6, MoLAS 2006). It appears to be too far west to be related to the Orphanage.

Below the imported subsoil was an in-situ subsoil [008] and this was on top of natural- an orangey grey gravelly clay [007].

<i>Evaluation Trench 2</i>	
Location	Grassed area at west of site
Dimensions	5m by 1.80m by 1.98m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	6.57m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	6.27m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.48m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	4.57 m OD (base of trench)
Natural observed	5.20m OD

Below the turfline [001] in trench 2 was the same make-up layer as seen in the northern part of trench 1. This was directly on top of the imported subsoil [006]. The in-situ subsoil [008] was below this, with the natural gravelly clay [007] at the base, seen at 5.20m OD.

<i>Evaluation Trench 3 (Fig 4)</i>	
Location	Car park at north of site
Dimensions	5m by 1.80m by 2.40m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	6.25m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	3.85m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None seen
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	3.85m OD (base of trench)
Natural observed	Not observed

Below the modern tarmac surface [009] in trench 3 was a loose rubble backfill deposit [010]. This was 1.60m deep and was on top of a solid concrete surface [011], seen at 4.65m OD. This may be a floor to a cellar previously on the site or alternatively the lining for a service duct. Below this floor was a loose modern sandy fill deposit [012], which was not bottomed but was seen to a depth of 0.70m. No archaeological remains were observed.

3.3 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation ‘in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy’. In the case of this site the evaluation trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed building and were ranged across the site. There are three more outstanding trenches to be excavated at a later date so this phase of evaluation need not be considered definitive as a greater sample of potential buried remains will be taken when the second phase is undertaken. However the trenches excavated during this phase were excavated to depths at which archaeology would have been encountered and the information they yielded is sufficient to be able to draw conclusions about the site in their locations.

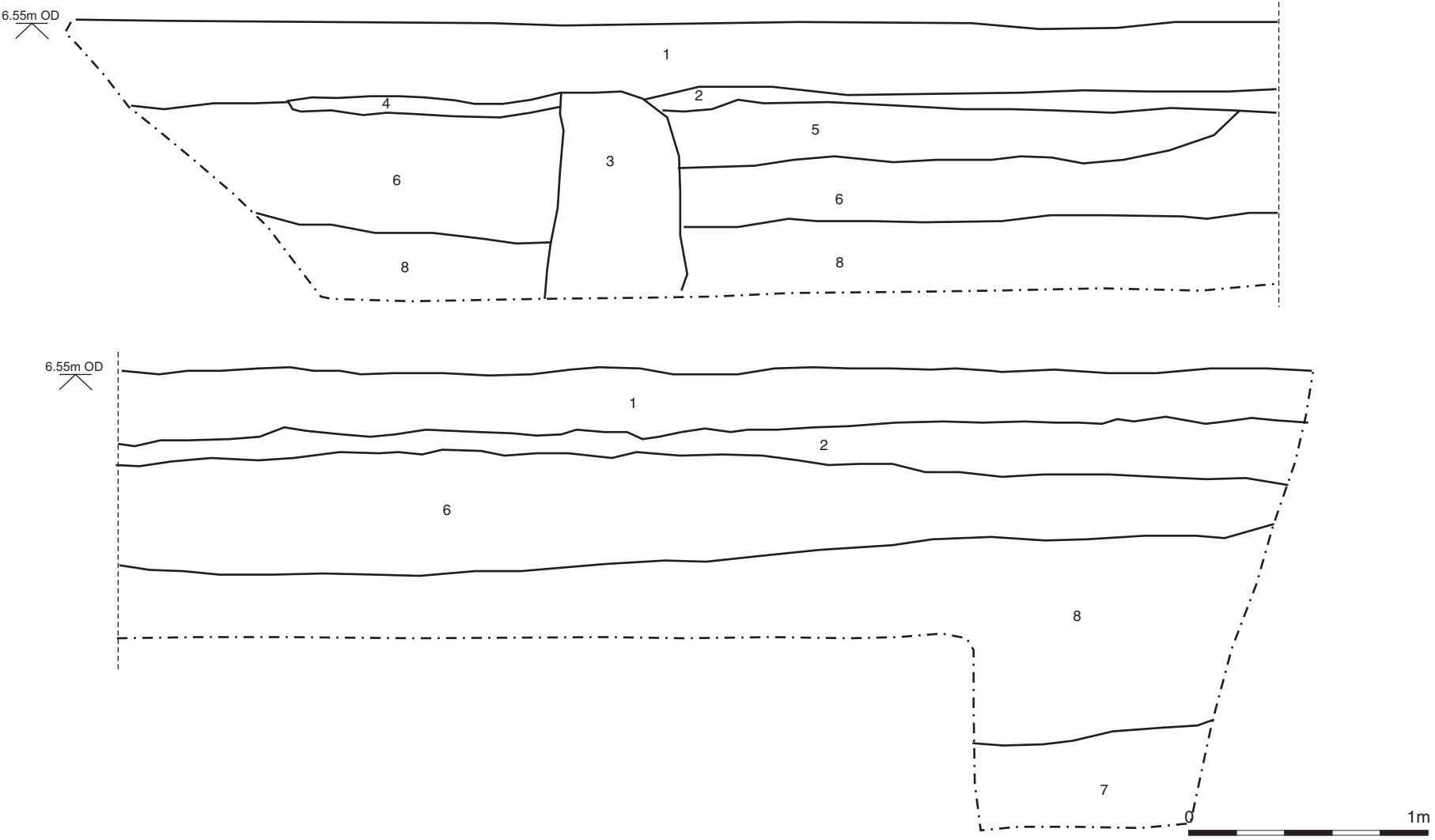


Fig 3 East facing section Trench 1

6.25m OD

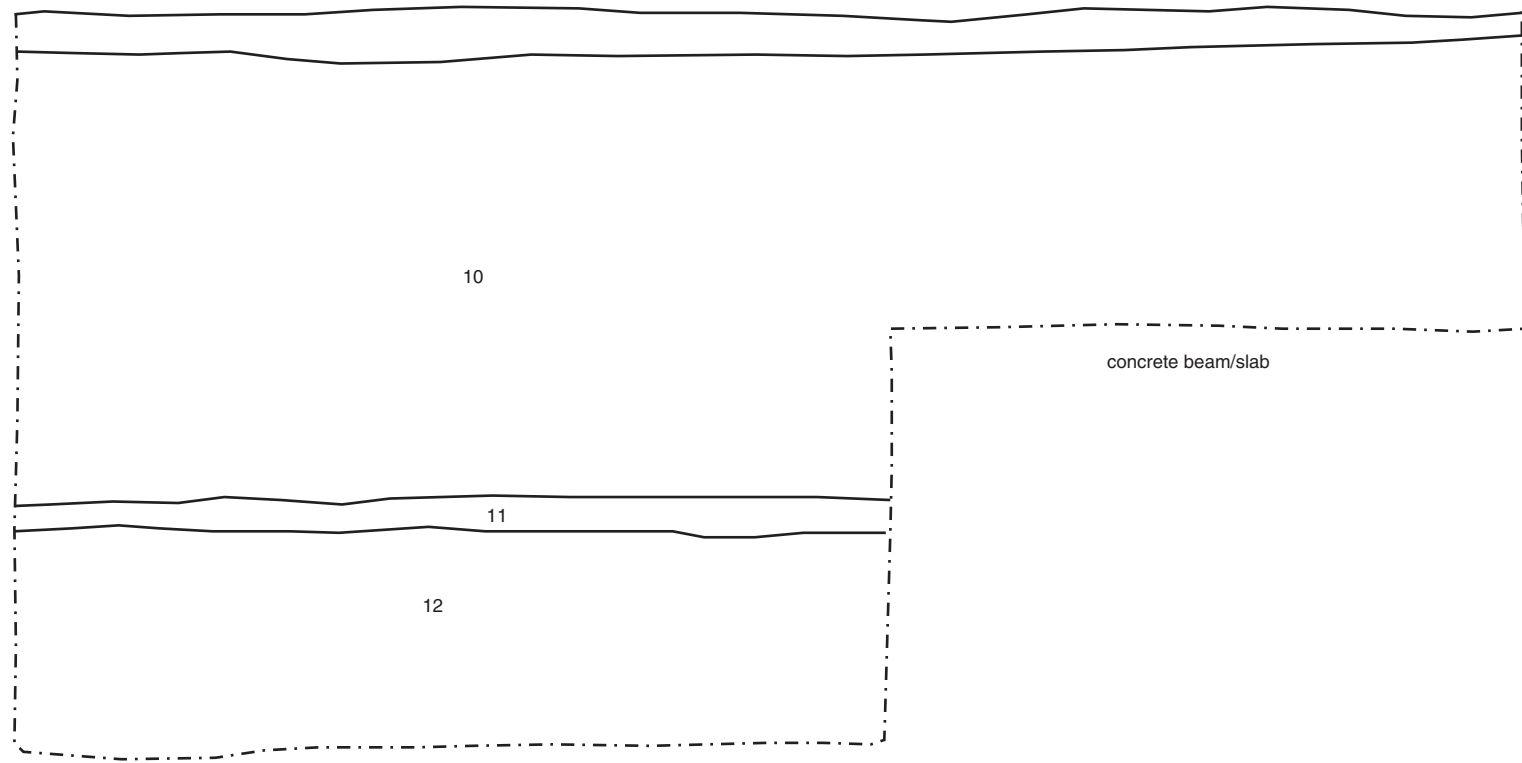


Fig 4 North facing section Trench 3

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

- *The topographic survival of the natural deposits*

The level and nature of natural deposits were recorded in trenches 1 and 2. The natural was gravely clay, seen at 5.01m OD in trench 1 and 5.20m OD in trench 2. The ground surface is 6.50m OD in this part of the site, so there is *c* 1.50m of made ground and other deposits before natural is encountered here. Natural was not observed in trench 3, as modern truncation was to a level of 3.85m OD.

- *Is there any evidence of any human settlement or other activity pre-dating the first known development on the site, dating to the early and mid 19th century?*

No evidence was found on the site for any settlement or activity relating to the period before the mid-19th century.

- *Is there any evidence for the Roman road, Stane Street, in the western part of the site?*

No evidence was found on the site for Stane Street.

- *Are there any surviving remains of Stockwell Orphanage?*

The small section of brick wall seen in trench 1 may relate to the period of use of Stockwell Orphanage, built in the late 1860s, although there is no building shown to be in this location on the maps of the Orphanage (fig 6, MoLAS 2006). The wall may in fact be later than the Orphanage and relate to other activity on the site. It does seem more likely that it relates to a garden wall behind the terraced houses along Clapham Road, which were on the site until the 1950s.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is limited. There is also little potential for survival of cut features. This is largely due to truncation by modern activity.

4.3 Significance

The archaeological remains are not of any local significance, nor is there anything to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at Stockwell Park School involves the demolition of the existing school buildings and the construction of a new school complex. The impact of this on the surviving archaeological deposits will be to effectively truncate anything within the east, west and northern parts of the site. Other groundworks and excavations would impact upon any buried archaeological remains within the remainder of the site.

The assessment above (Section 4) does not suggest that preservation *in situ* would be the appropriate mitigation strategy. It will be more appropriate to make a judgement on the impact of the development when the second phase of evaluation takes place, but the first trenches did not reveal anything of great note archaeologically and the results do not suggest that any further mitigation to protect or record any archaeological remains will be necessary.

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed within Stockwell Park School rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor. In addition, any conclusions regarding a mitigation strategy should be postponed until the second phase of evaluation is undertaken and a more complete picture of any buried archaeological remains on the site is available.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Adam Worrall of Willmott Dixon Construction for his help during the fieldwork. MoLAS would also like to thank Gerard Hugenin and his team from G.E.H. Groundworks Specialists for their assistance. The excavation team were Sadie Watson and Peter Cardiff, the trenches were surveyed by Neville Constantine and Mark Burch of MoLAS Geomatics. Harry Matthews provided logistical support. Stewart Hoad was the contracts manager.

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-37332

Project details

Project name Stockwell Park School

Short description of the project Evaluation in advance of development of site.

Project dates Start: 31-01-2008 End: 03-02-2008

Previous/future work No / Yes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type GARDEN WALL Post Medieval

Methods & techniques 'Targeted 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 (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location	GREATER LONDON LAMBETH BRIXTON Stockwell Park School
Postcode	SW9
Study area	10.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 530719 176593 50.9374596628 0.178847332011 50 56 14 N 000 10 43 E Point
Height OD	Min: 5.01m Max: 5.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Stewart Hoad
Project supervisor	Sadie Watson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Willmott Dixon Construction
Name of sponsor/funding body	Willmott Dixon Construction

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'GIS'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Survey ','Context sheet','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Stockwell Park School- An archaeological evaluation report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Watson, S

Other bibliographic details 2008

Date 2008

Issuer or publisher MoLAS

Place of issue or publication MoLAS

Description short grey literature report

Entered by sadie watson (sadies@molas.org.uk)

Entered on 5 February 2008
