

**Blows Yard  
15 Winchester Walk  
Southwark  
London  
SE1**

A report on the watching brief  
Site code: BYZ09  
*Author Ken Pitt*

## **Summary (non-technical)**

*This report has been commissioned by Clink Street Properties Ltd in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at Blows Yard, 15 Winchester Walk, Southwark, London SE1*

*Work on four geo-technical pits was monitored on the 18th August 2009 at the above address.*

*Archaeological deposits consisting of 18th century brick foundations and drains. were recorded in three of the test pits. The fourth contained only modern deposits. The highest survival of archaeological deposits was between 3.69m OD and 3.95m OD.*

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## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Site background**

The watching brief took place at Blows Yard, 15 Winchester Walk, Southwark, London SE1, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is located at the junction of Stoney Street and Winchester Walk (see Fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 532555 180330. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is 4.15m OD. The site code is BYZ09.

The site was subject to a historic building assessment in 2002 (Schofield/Museum of London 2002). Part of the northern area of the site, where the sub-station is located, has previously been subject to archaeological investigation. An archaeological evaluation by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) in 2003 (site code BYI03) recorded a substantial sequence of untruncated early Roman deposits and immediately outside the eastern boundary of the site a medieval wall was recorded (Jamieson/MoLAS 2003). A method statement for an archaeological excavation was subsequently produced (Grainger/MoLAS 2003) and an archaeological excavation revealed further evidence of Roman activity and remains of a medieval building, most probably an extension to the western range of Winchester Palace (MoLAS BYI03 site archive). Medieval and post-medieval remains were recorded within c 0.50m of the ground surface.

### **1.2 The 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 watching brief (see Section 1.2, MOL Archaeology, 2009)

### **1.3 Planning background**

Work on the site is required to be archaeologically monitored under the archaeological planning condition placed on the development.

### **1.4 Origin and scope of the report**

This report was commissioned by Clink Street Properties Ltd and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOL Archaeology). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (section 2.2), and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

## 1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

What was the level of natural topography?

What are the earliest deposits identified?

What environmental and topographical data exists which may inform on the nature of the early land use?

Is there any evidence of prehistoric features or artefacts?

Is there any evidence for early attempts reclaim land on the edge of the island or prevent flooding of the area?

Do Roman buildings, other structures, or deposits survive?

If so how do they relate to the Roman remains identified at the north of the site and at adjacent sites?

What further evidence for the extent, alignment and form of the medieval walls identified at the north of the site and associated with the west range of Winchester Palace exists?

Can other evidence for the west range of Winchester Palace or any auxiliary buildings be identified?

Does the site lie within the Winchester Palace Gardens or do earlier Palace structures exist on the site?

Can any other medieval structures, features or deposits be identified?

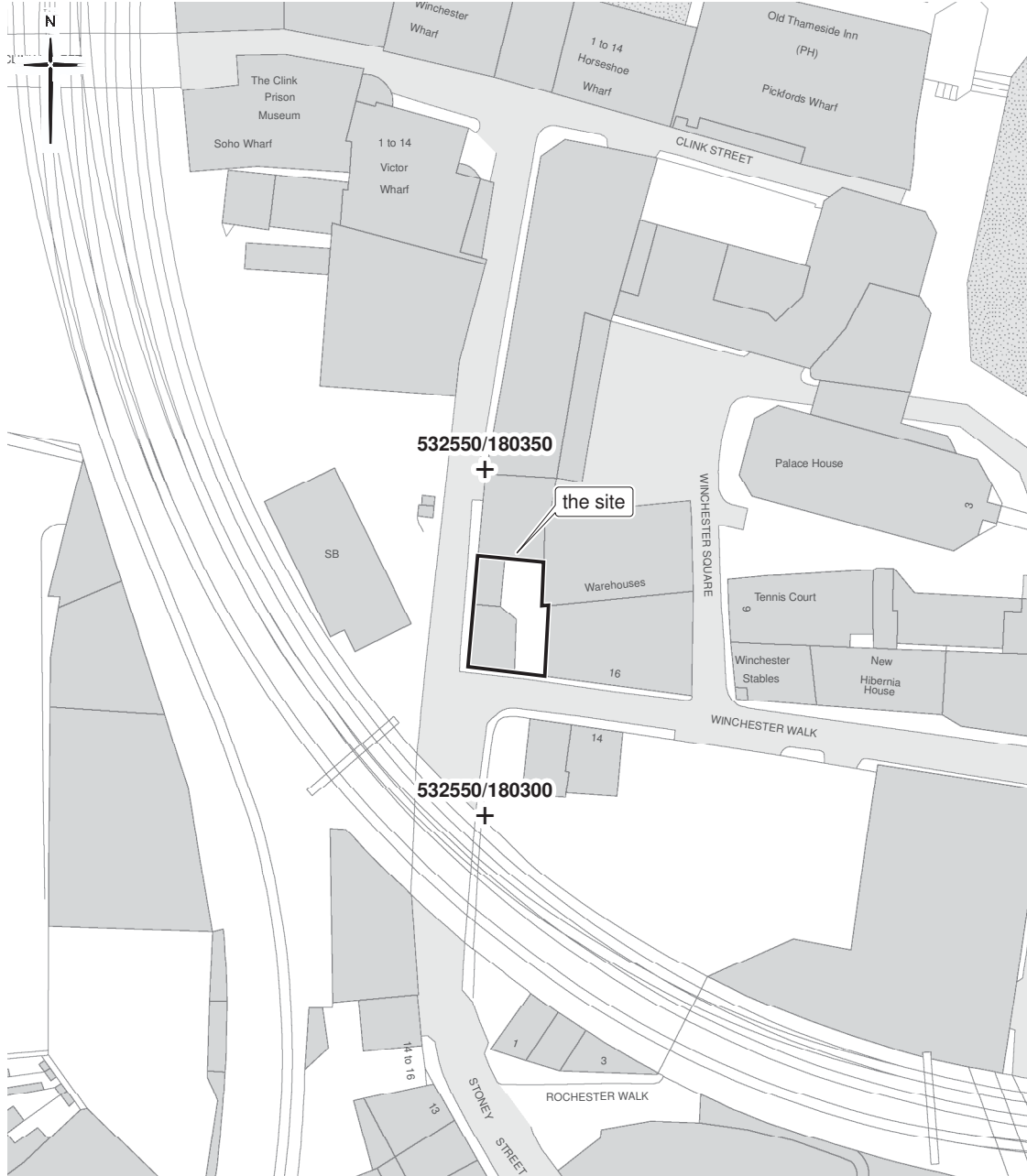
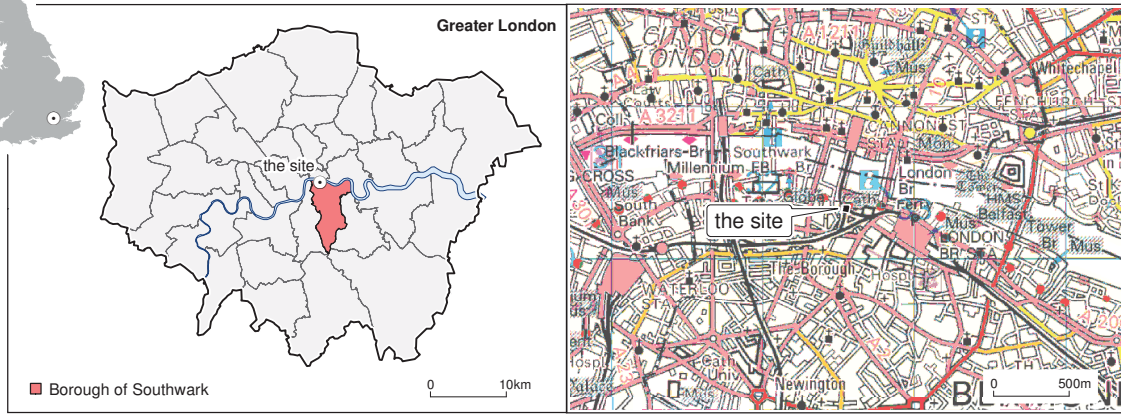
Is there evidence for the reuse/continued use of the medieval structures on the site?

Is there any evidence for the sub-division of the medieval garden to the west of the Palace into building plots in the 17th century and subsequent construction on them?

Can any other post-medieval structures, features or deposits be identified?

What are the latest deposits identified?

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



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Scale 1:1,000 @ A4

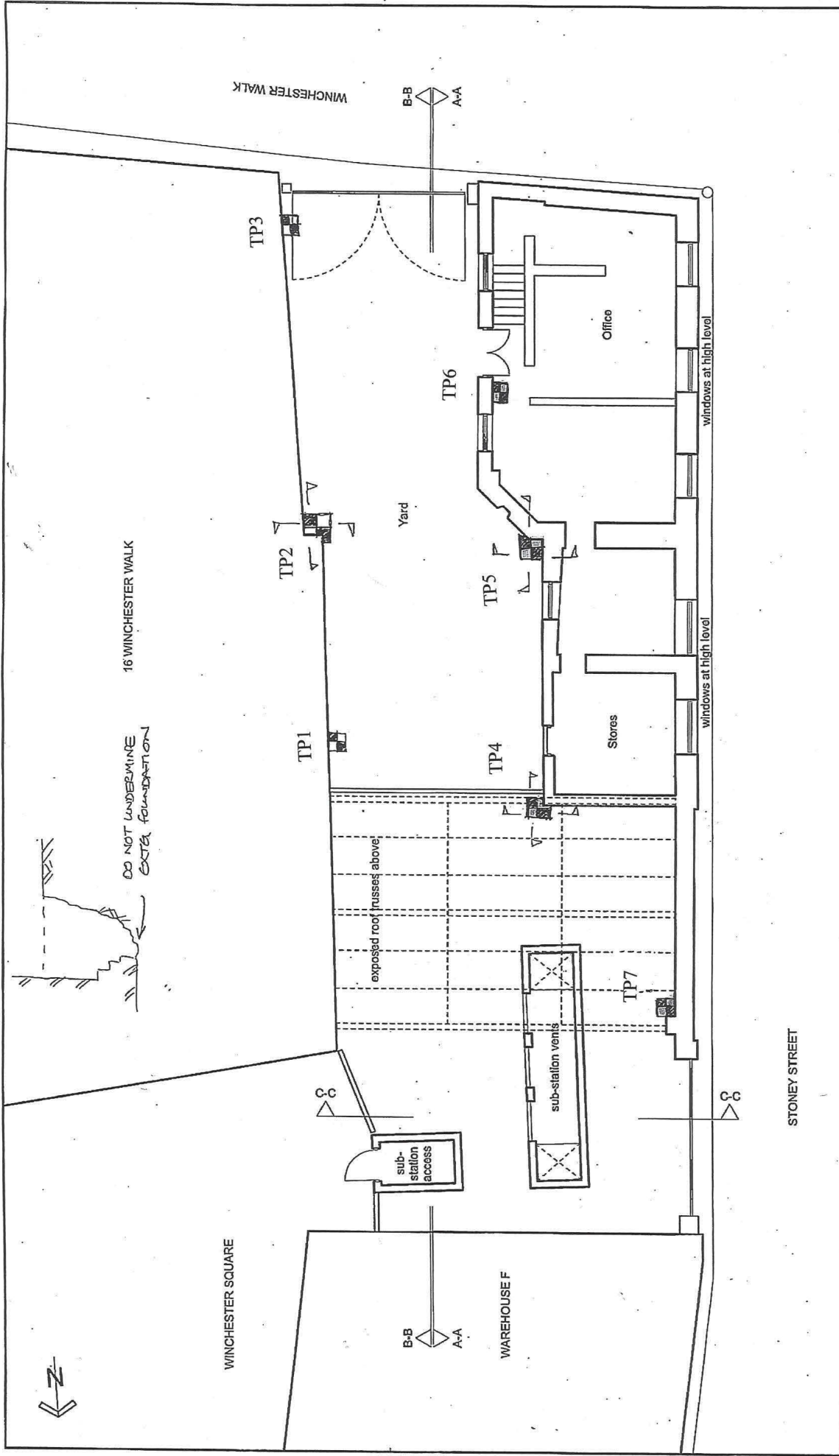
0 50m

Fig 1 Site location

## **2 Topographical and historical background**

This was covered in Section 1.3 of the Method statement and the reader should refer to this document.





Revision	EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN				Drawn	JGJ
	BLOW'S YARD, 15 WINCHESTER WALK, LONDON, SE1 9AG				Date	28.1.09
					Scale @ A3	1/100
					Drawing No.	502
					Job No.	BY
					MASON & PARTNERS ARCHITECTS 15 WINCHESTER WALK, LONDON, SE1 9AG	
					Tel: 020 7862 2800 Fax: 020 7862 2801 Email: info@mason.co.uk	

Fig 2 Location of Trials Pits

### 3 The watching brief

#### 3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MOL Archaeology, 2009) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

The test pits were excavated by hand by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOL Archaeology.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted on to an Existing ground floor plan (Drg. No. BY S02 Malcolm Pawley Architects). This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to developer plan (Blows Yard, ground plan by Laser Surveys, March 2002).

Where relevant, sketch sections were drawn.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; 3 A4 sheets of site notes, 39 digital photographs.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code BYZ09 in the MoL archive.

#### 3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, four separate interventions (Test pits) were made for the purposes of determining the depths of the foundations of the existing buildings. These have been numbered TP4–7 consecutively. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For all trench locations see Fig 2

##### *Watching Brief Test pit 4*

<i>Watching Brief Test pit 4</i>	
Location	External to north-east corner of building
Dimensions	1.14m by 1.10m
Modern ground level/top of slab	4.14m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	3.57m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.34m
Level of base of deposits observed	3.23m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit 4 was L – shaped and located external to the north-east corner of the standing building, it had maximum dimensions 1.14m east–west by 1.10m north–south and was 0.84m deep. The footings of the building extended out 0.36m to the north and 0.31m to the east. These consisted of a concrete base 0.34m deep in the east and 0.16m in the north with two stepped bricks above, height 0.14m. Under the northern section of the concrete footing of the building was a red brick wall whose

east limit was 0.37m from the north-east corner and it was set back 0.19m under it. The bricks in this wall were 100mm wide and 60mm deep and bonded with a buff coarse lime mortar. At the southern limit of the trench was another red brick wall aligned east–west, this had been truncated along its western edge by the concrete footing. It was built in red brick 110x65x220mm bonded with a hard grey mortar with inclusions of mod chalk/lime flecks and occasional charcoal flecks. Abutting this wall and the other wall in the base of the test pit was a concrete slab which is assumed to be the roof of the basement of the electricity sub-station. Over this was brick rubble. Above the southern wall was 0.35m of rubble and a thin concrete slab, 0.10m thick top at 4.14m OD.

#### *Watching Brief Test pit 5*

<i>Watching Brief Test pit 5</i>	
Location	External to the eastern wall of the building
Dimensions	See below
Modern ground level/top of slab	4.15m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	3.89m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.9m
Level of base of deposits observed	3.00m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit 5 was located external to the eastern wall of the building approximately half way along at the junction of two walls. It was a shallow V-shaped 1m wide in the north and 0.8m wide in the south. The western side measured from north to south 1.18m then it returned 0.4m east then south-east 0.73m, the eastern edge was 0.74m then 0.62m south-east. Its depth was 0.9m in the north and 1.15m in the south. In the north of the test pit the remains of a possible drain were found built in red brick bonded with a grey mortar with moderate flecks of chalk/lime. To the south there was some evidence that the drain may have original continued on but had been destroyed by later activity, similar brick work was observed under the footings of the standing building. The area where to drain had been removed was backfilled with brick rubble in a grey soil matrix with frequent inclusions of buff mortar and occasional clay pipe stems. In the north-east corner the drain survived to 0.26m below modern ground level. This drain had been truncated by the footing of the standing building. Along the north–south section of wall these extended 0.35m out from the wall face and 0.36m down from ground level were two stepped bricks overall height 0.12m these were over 0.28m of concrete base. The north-west–south-east section there were three brick steps, overall depth 0.19m, 0.34m below ground level. These were again founded on concrete 0.32m deep, the brick and concrete footing extended 0.33m out. Modern ground level at 4.15m OD, consisted of a smooth concrete slab 0.07m thick over rough concrete bedding that varied in thickness from 0.13–0.19m.

#### *Watching Brief Test pit 6*

<i>Watching Brief Test pit 6</i>	
Location	Internal just to the north of the main entrance
Dimensions	1.1m by 1m
Modern ground level/top of slab	4.40m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	3.73–4.05m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.75m

Level of base of deposits observed	3.20m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit 6 was located internally just to the north of the main entrance to the building. It measured 1.1m by 1m and had a maximum depth of 1.2m. The earliest deposit found in the test pit was a layer of moderately compact dark grey brown silt with occasional inclusions of buff mortar flecks, fine brick fragments and flecks and very occasional fine pebbles, fine chalk fragments and charcoal flecks. Along the southern limit was a red brick structure possibly part of a drain or wall foundation. The brick used in its construction were 110mm wide and 60mm thick bonded with a soft buff mortar. This was still going down at the limit of excavation and it survived to a height of 0.47m. Another wall was seen above the western edge of this structure running north–south. This was built in red brick, 100mm wide by 60mm thick, bonded with a grey mortar with moderate inclusions of chalk/lime flecks. This wall was 0.4m deep and survived to 0.45m below slab level. The footing of the standing building was along the eastern edge of the test pit and founded on a concrete base 0.31m thick the top of which was 0.67m below the top of the slab. Above the concrete was three brick steps, overall height 0.21m and this footing extended out 0.35m. Over this footing were rubble infill and a rough concrete slab whose thickness varied from 0.24m to 0.37m. A smooth slab 60mm thick sealed this and the top of this was at 4.40m OD

#### *Watching Brief Test pit 7*

<i>Watching Brief Test pit 7</i>	
Location	East side of boundary wall
Dimensions	1.65m by 0.85m
Modern ground level/top of slab	4.14m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	3.34m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None seen
Level of base of deposits observed	3.34m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit 7 was located along the east side and near the northern end of the western boundary wall of the site. It was orientated north–south and had dimensions of 1.65m by 0.85m its maximum depth was 0.80m. At this depth a concrete slab was found that ran up to the foundations of the boundary wall. This slab is assumed to be the roof of the basement for the electricity sub-station. The footings for the boundary wall extended out 0.52m and consisted of a concrete base 0.44m deep with three stepped brick courses above, height 0.19m, supporting the main part of the wall. The concrete slab and footings were buried under brick rubble surface at 4.14m OD.

## **4 Potential of archaeology**

### **4.1 Original research aims**

Only the last two research aims are relevant giving the depth of the test pits.

Can any other post-medieval structures, features or deposits be identified?

18th century foundations and drains were observed.

What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposits were the foundations of the standing building.

### **4.2 New research aims**

No additional research aims can be identified at this time.

### **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.

## **5 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 researches 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* (MOL Archaeology, 2009) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

A short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*

## **6 Conclusions**

Of the four geo-technical test pit recorded, three had 18th century brick foundations and drains. The level of survival of these varied from 3.69–3.95m OD.

## 7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Clint Street Properties Ltd for funded this watching brief.

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## 9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

### OASIS ID: molas1-63531

#### Project details

Project name	Blows Yard, 15 Winchester Walk, SE1
Short description of the project	Four geo-technical test pits were monitored. Three revealed 18th century brick foundations and drains surviving to a level of 3.69 - 3.95m OD. Natural deposits were not seen.
Project dates	Start: 18-08-2009 End: 18-08-2009
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	BYZ09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK Blows Yard 15 Winchester Walk
Postcode	SE1
Study area	198 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 32555 80330 51.5058364604 -0.0898282516901 51 30 21 N 000 05 23 W Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Derek Seeley
Project supervisor	Ken Pitt
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Clink Street Properties Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	BYZ09
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	BYZ09
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Microfilm","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Survey "

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Blows Yard 15 Winchester Walk Southwark SE1: A report on the watching brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pitt, K.
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	MOL Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 client report

Entered by	Vince Gardiner (vgardiner@mola.org.uk)
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