

Archaeological Evaluation Report

81-88 Beresford Street, Woolwich, SE18 6BG

Prepared with: **PCA**
Pre-Construct Archaeology

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21/3143/F, Site Code: BEO23
Archaeological Evaluation
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 81 – 88 Beresford Street, Royal Borough of Greenwich, London, SE18 6BG. It was carried out over five non-consecutive days between the 15th and 23rd November 2023. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 37100 8448.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised three exterior test pits along the north-east wall of the building and two internal test pits within the basement of the former Catholic Club.
- 1.3 The earliest deposit encountered was the natural geology of the Thanet Sand Formation, which was recorded in two basement test pits at between 7.35m to 7.55m OD. The sand appeared to have been truncated horizontally where prior construction work required for the basement had removed the overlying Head deposits of river terrace gravels and likely the top of the Thanet sands as well, within the footprint of the entire building. The Head deposits had been only recorded in July 2023 in the geotechnical borehole located outside the building.
- 1.4 Natural deposits were not encountered in test pits located outside the existing building where modern made ground and several services were found.
- 1.5 A short section of wall was recorded in basement Test Pit 6, composed of orange-grey and yellow stock bricks. It was aligned north-west to south-east, laid in English Cross and had a three-course stepped foundation. The wall dated to the 19th century and could be associated with one of the terrace houses which once stood at Beresford Street backing to Rope Yard Rails.
- 1.6 A single pottery sherd from the backfill of the construction cut was dated to the post-medieval period (19th century).
- 1.7 No archaeological layers were reached in the exterior test pits due to presence of numerous live services. Despite numerous attempts to find suitable locations for the pits only modern made ground layers were exposed likely related to the construction of the former Catholic Club building.
- 1.8 No further archaeological deposits or structures were recorded or observed during the course of the evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd prior to the proposed redevelopment of the site located at 81 – 88 Beresford Street, Woolwich, Royal Borough of Greenwich, London, SE18 6BG (Figure 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 43684 78905.
- 2.2 The site comprises a building of the former Woolwich Catholic Club (now abandoned) and the area to its rear which was used as a storage and parking area (Figure 2). The area to the rear of the Catholic Club premises comprised a small rectangular plot of land measuring approximately 120m². Three exterior test pits were excavated in this area to the rear of the building with two internal test pits within the basement of the building itself.
- 2.3 The proposed redevelopment was granted planning permission under the unique reference 21/4216/F, which included provisions for the demolition and redevelopment of the former Woolwich Catholic Club site to provide student accommodation.
- 2.4 A project specific desk-based assessment report for this site was produced by Oxford Archaeology Ltd (OA 2021). It concluded that the site had a potential mainly for the Iron Age, Romano – British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.
- 2.5 The on-site investigations were carried out on the 15th, 16th & the 21st - 23rd November 2023. This follows on from the recording of Test Pit 1 and Borehole 1 in July of 2023 (PCA 2023a).
- 2.6 The work was supervised by Wayne Perkins and project managed by Zbigniew Pozorski of PC. Idom Merebrook Ltd provided the necessary site investigation expertise. The work was commissioned by RPS Group.
- 2.7 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- *81-88 Beresford Street, Woolwich: Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Evaluation* (PCA 2023b)
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE; Historic England 2015)
 - Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (HE GLAAS 2015);
 - *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists ClfA 2020)
- 2.8 The completed archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (MLAA) identified by the unique site code BEO23.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning permission has been granted (Planning Ref: 21/4216/F) for redevelopment of the site comprising: the demolition and redevelopment of the former Woolwich Catholic Club site, to make way for a new building including a purpose-built student accommodation and associated amenity space (Sui Generis) and flexible community use (Use Class F1/F2) at part ground floor level, together with ancillary plant and servicing; and associated enabling works (Figure 3).

3.2 Advice was sought by the applicant from Historic England's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), archaeological advisors to the LPA, who recommended a staged programme of archaeological works. The advice was reflected within the archaeological planning conditions attached to the consent issued on 4th August 2022:

Condition 10 - Archaeology

A) No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a program of geo/archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing and a report on that evaluation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing.

B) Under Part A, the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) shall implement a program of geo/archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation.

C) No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a program of archaeological mitigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing and a report on that evaluation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing.

D) Under Part C, the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) shall implement a program of archaeological mitigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation.

E) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post-investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the program set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Parts (A and C), and the provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason 10: Heritage assets of archaeological interest may survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of appropriate archaeological investigation, including the publication of results, in accordance with Section 12 of the NPPF.

Condition 11 - Archaeology Community Engagement

No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until details of the public engagement framework pertaining to the site's archaeological program of work have been submitted and approved in writing by the local planning authority in consultation with Historic England. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason 11: The planning authority wishes to secure public value in respect of the site's geo/archaeological interest in accordance with the NPPF.

- 3.3 It was agreed between RPS and GLAAS that the monitoring of the intrusive site investigation works should be carried out in the first instance. This work has been carried out in July 2023 (PCA 2023a). To fulfil the requirements of the condition an archaeological evaluation in form of test pits was also to be carried out. Subsequently, a relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2023b) was prepared and approved by GLAAS.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey Viewer (BGS 2023) records the underlying bedrock geology as the Thanet Formation, a sand-based, sedimentary bedrock dating from the Paleogene Period as confirmed by the BGS recording for boreholes.
- 4.2 The site is recorded as lying on a superficial geological deposit of mixed Head clay, silt, sand, and gravel deposits formed in the Quaternary period (BGS 2023, OA 2021).
- 4.3 Earlier ground investigation on the site (Ground Risk 2022) revealed that Head deposits were present at 8.35m OD beneath layers of modern made ground and reworked natural deposits. Thanet sands were recorded at 7.26m – 7.64m OD. During the watching brief on the site (PCA 2023a) sandy gravel layers of Head deposits were located at c. 8.50m OD.
- 4.4 The site is located c. 305m south of the River Thames.
- 4.5 The site is bounded along its southwest perimeter by Beresford Street (A206), to the northwest by the Beefeater restaurant and to the north, northeast and southeast, by student accommodation accessed via Warren Lane and Beresford Street (Figure 2).
- 4.6 The area of the site under investigation lay to the rear of the Catholic Club building (abandoned since April 2010), measures approximately 120m² and the modern ground level was recorded at between 10m and 11m above Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 4.7 There are no natural watercourses within the immediate vicinity of the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 A site-specific DBA was produced for this project (OA 2021), using a 500m search radius (the “study area”), from which the following summary is derived. For a full and complete breakdown of the historic background including references to Historic Environment Records (HERs), bibliographic entries and maps, please consult this DBA.

Prehistoric Period (500 000 BP – AD 43)

5.2 Topography, landscape, drainage, and climate of the Greater London area underwent various changes during this long range of time. Significantly, the Thames changed its course, and at c. 7000 BC, sea levels rose to cut Britain off from the Continent. Knowledge of the Mesolithic period is currently dominated by early Mesolithic sites and surface finds.

5.3 It is likely that due to higher sea levels during this period, that the northern half of the site would have been submerged.

5.4 A Mesolithic paleochannel is recorded c. 420m north of site, along with peat deposits uncovered during TFL works at the Woolwich-Arsenal DLR station which are known to have formed during the late Mesolithic and Bronze Age in the wetter, waterlogged conditions.

5.5 The River Thames itself would have provided an attractive opportunity for prehistoric peoples in that the interface between high ground, river and well drained gravels would have provided fertile soils, hunting prospects and easy navigation routes. The southern shore, located c. 305m north of site, is particularly associated with this period.

5.6 Several linear ditches and a multi-phased roundhouse were recorded c. 220m northwest of site. An additional set of three Iron Age ditches c. 50m east of site are also possibly related to that site. It was speculated that the site may have contained Iron Age oppidum, but the theory had not been proved during the subsequent excavations.

Romano-British Period (AD 43 – 410)

5.7 The Roman town of Londinium was founded on the eastern hill to the north of London Bridge in the 1st century AD (Morris 1982, 74–5). As the settlement grew the strategic proximity of the River Thames and its various, easily navigable tributaries proved to be vital. The presence of traded goods, waterfront structures, and vessels along the River Thames indicates the importance of London as a port during this period (MoLA 2000,124). Evidence found at Erith and Rainham suggest that the post-Roman rise in river level may have buried other Thames-side settlements in the later marsh at Woolwich (MoLA 2000, 156). Economic activity within the area is suggested by evidence of salt production at Charlton and at sites on the waterfront (MoLA 2000,154).

5.8 There is evidence of Roman material in the area directly east of the site, mainly located within the Royal Arsenal West (AHAP). A Roman cemetery, containing at least 140 graves, was excavated c. 150 to the east of site. A Roman cremation cemetery and other cremation findspots were found in proximity of the site c. 50m southwest.

- 5.9 Due to this documented funerary activity, it is assumed that there will be a high potential for Roman remains to have survived within the immediate area, c. 100m east of site, however it is also very likely that much of this will have been removed by later activity.
- 5.10 A watching brief conducted 30m northeast of site did not uncover any Roman funerary material.
- 5.11 Within the area of the Iron Age oppida site, features of Roman date, postholes, pits, and a possible gully were found near the Iron Age ditches. The large number of Roman coins found in one of these Iron Age ditches suggests a continuity of occupation in the area. Although definite evidence of Roman inhabitation of the oppidum has not yet been found, the continued use of oppida sites during the Roman period is well attested.

The Anglo - Saxon Period (AD 410 – 1066)

- 5.12 The Thames Estuary was used as one of the principal routes by which the Anglo-Saxons entered England, and it remained a vital routeway for commerce and raiding. The Saxon inhabitation of this area is confirmed by the suffix of the name, as 'wich' or 'wic' means fortified settlement (or sometimes market) so the name originally meant 'fortified Wool town' (Woolwich Conservation Area Character Appraisal SPD 2022: 43). However, there is little evidence of archaeological remains dated to this time within the 500m study area.
- 5.13 The first historiographic evidence of Woolwich is in a charter dated AD 918, where it is mentioned by its Saxon name Vuluvic, as part of a gift given by King Alfred's daughter, Aelstrudis, to the Abbey of St Peter in Ghent (Weinreb et al. 2008, 1030). This might suggest that Woolwich was a significant settlement at the time. However, there has been only one certain recorded findspot within the study area dated to this period, an Anglo-Saxon coin recovered during excavations at the power station.
- 5.14 Coins dated very broadly to between 410 AD and 1065 AD were found on the southern shore of the River Thames c. 250m northwest of the site.
- 5.15 Settlement in the area is poorly attested through documentary or other means. The former church of St. Lawrence (now St. Mary Magdalene) lies c. 550m west of site and is mentioned in 11th century sources. It is likely that it would have served as a focal point for a burgeoning community and that the later medieval settlement would have evolved from this origin (VCH Essex vol.6).

The Medieval Period (AD 1066 – 1550)

- 5.16 The medieval town of Woolwich was likely situated along the High Street c. 250m northwest of site, above the marshy environs to the north. In fact, early maps of Woolwich, for instance Andrews and Drury's 1769 map show that in the 18th century the settlement was in that location, meaning that the medieval settlement was likely to have been in the same area. In the Domesday Book (1086), Woolwich is only recorded as a settlement within the Hundred of Greenwich and the county of Kent, with no recorded population. During this period, a greater

degree of urbanisation and human activity occurs and has thus left more of a mark in the historic record.

- 5.17 At this time the marshy lands north of site were transformed by the creation of irrigation, sea defences and reclamation dated to the 13th century AD (Mills and Whipp 1995). This would have had the effect of boosting economic prospects via increasing the amount arable/pasture lands available. A 12th – 14th century AD paleochannel was excavated in 2012 and contained medieval pottery sherds at the base, as well as later pottery of post-medieval and modern origin in its upper fills, showing the depth of use-life and necessity for such drainage features.
- 5.18 A ferry service from Woolwich has been in operation since the 14th century (Weinrab et al. 2008: 1030).
- 5.19 The town of Woolwich later developed into a hub of industry initially associated with the production of tiles by 1440 AD and of pottery by the end of the century. The Royal Dockyard was established in 1513 AD further bolstering trade links and evidence of both pottery and tiles kilns have been found at Ferry approach c. 330m northwest of site. Additional kilns and associated 15th – 16th century AD wasters were recorded within the historic ‘teardrop’ area of settlement near the former Royal Arsenal.
- 5.20 Henry VIII established a dockyard, ‘the King’s Yard’, at Woolwich in 1512 AD located 500m north-northwest of site. The area that comprised the future Royal Arsenal was previously a manorial estate with an associated Tudor manor house which likely stood c. 135m north of site. Several estate features including a rabbit warren, pond as well as riverside embankment were located in the grounds.
- 5.21 Other Tudor features found at the Royal Arsenal include structural elements, a garderobe and building set within a cellar structure with a number of pits and ditches also noted.

Post-Medieval Period (1550-1900)

- 5.22 Throughout this period the Royal Dockyard the largest industrial complex in the world (and later the Arsenal), continued to dominate the area east and northeast of site. In addition to the pottery and tile kilns previously mentioned, industrial activity in the area was further augmented by an earthenware and glassworks (17th century AD) c. 280m northwest of site wherein a significant amount of material related to both activities was recorded.
- 5.23 Between 1573-65, a ropeyard was built on the western edge of Woolwich as seen on Rocque’s 1749 map of London and Barker’s 1749 map of Woolwich and would have encroached on the southwestern portion of the site. A description of the facilities (Hogg 1963) includes a 600ft by 30 ft cable house, a 300ft by 20ft way-house (with stairs and adjoining house for yarn), a 300ft by 7ft structure, 60ft by 21ft tar-house, a 55ft by 6ft hemp-house (with two little houses at each end and shed along the entire length of the hemp-house), a 60ft by 21ft storehouse ‘by the water’ (with a 27ft by 21ft cellar) and a 10ft by 8ft ‘pryvie’ (with a vault of stone and boarded floor).

- 5.24 The ropeyard was further expanded in 1614 and throughout the 17th century AD until it was partially destroyed by fire in 1759 and ceased operations in 1813. It was demolished in 1835.
- 5.25 The Crown acquired the area east of the site, formerly the Tower Place estate and turned it into a storage facility which would become the Royal Arsenal. En masse production of munitions began in 1696 and artillery pieces in 1717 when the Grade 1 Listed Royal Brass Factory was created c. 30m east of site. Elements of the former brass factory were uncovered in 2018.
- 5.26 During the 19th century further works included a new wharf and a complex of warehouses, whilst land to the east on Plumstead Marshes was annexed to the facility (Guillery 2012). Elements of the 1777 rebuilt west gable as well as a 19th century quadrangle and other structures related to the Officer's Quarters were recorded during excavations conducted on site.
- 5.27 Beresford Street, Square and Rope Yard Rail appear on cartographic sources after 1835.
- 5.28 The site occupies what used to be terraced housing and gardens, specifically for Beresford Place and Windsor Place. In 1895-96, the Baptist Tabernacle was built, which could seat 2,000 people and was run by John Wilson and is visible on the OS map of 1916.

Modern

- 5.29 In the middle of Beresford Square there was a circular ornamental urinal that was joined in 1890 by an iron toll house (Guillery 2012, 226). In that same place, public lavatories are shown on the 1916 Ordnance Survey map. It seems that there were also two open permanent shelters, built in 1923 (Guillery 2012, 227). On the National Grid maps of 1958 and 1971 this structure is labelled as 'Lavatory Shelter'. Another lavatory shelter is shown to stand in front of Holy Trinity Church. It is not clear if it was located underground. A structure with public lavatories is currently standing in the same place, and possibly also overlapping with part of the former location of the church.
- 5.30 The greater Woolwich area experienced a period of development and urbanisation from the 20th century which did not impact the site until after WWII when due to the threat of Luftwaffe bombing, several air-raid shelters are recorded c. 30 north and northeast of the site.
- 5.31 The tabernacle sustained minor damage, however the townhouses surrounding the site to the northwest were obliterated.
- 5.32 Bomb damage is in the 1956 National Grid Map of Woolwich which shows these areas now given over to car parks and open spaces.
- 5.33 The site including the tabernacle remained mostly unchanged until it was replaced by the Woolwich Catholic Club in 1979 – 80. Though it underwent minor changes, the extant Woolwich Catholic Club was visible on the 1986-88 National Grid Map in much the same form. The site fell into disrepair sometime around 2009 though the surrounding area continued to upgrade as part of Berkeley Homes' development (Guillery 2012).

Relevant Previous Site Investigation Work

- 5.34 A site investigation was conducted in April 2009 (Idom Merebrook 2023: 90) during the Crossrail project where a single borehole was excavated c. 24m north of the current BH1. The sequence as found consisted of thick layer 20th century made ground from c. 10.18m OD, River Terrace Gravels from 7.13m OD, Thanet Sand Formation from 6.33m OD and Chalk from -8.27m OD. Only the presence of the River Terrace Gravels differs from the current investigation's findings and shall be discussed in Chapter 8.
- 5.35 In 2022 ground investigation has also taken place within the site (Ground Risk 2022). Deeper interventions comprised 6 boreholes. Four of them reached Thanet sands encountered at 7.26m – 7.6m OD. Above were Head deposits found at 8.35m OD and capped by various deposits of made ground. No River Terrace Gravels were seen during that investigation.
- 5.36 In July 2023 a watching brief was carried out by PCA during a geotechnical site investigation on the site (PCA 2023a). The watching brief found evidence of 20th century services as well as a made ground layer that likely relates to the construction of the former Catholic Club Building. Natural strata were observed from c. 8.50m OD. This took the form of two sandy gravel layers of Head deposits over and an example of Thanet Formation sands.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 A detailed methodology for the archaeological evaluation was set out in the WSI (PCA 2023b).
- 6.2 A total of 5 below ground excavations were conducted and consisted of three exterior test pits (TP 2 - 4) and two internal test pits (TP 5-6).
- 6.3 Test Pits 2 -4 were excavated, in general, to a depth of 0.50 – 0.90m BGL using a mechanical excavator and breaking equipment but halted due to strong 'live' signals being received from the service runs present within the pits.
- 6.4 Test Pits 5 & 6 located in the basement were broken out using a remote excavator and then hand dug to a depth of 1.48m BGL (6.57m OD) and 2.16m BGL (5.89m OD) respectively.
- 6.5 All below ground excavation was carried out under the supervision of the attendant archaeologist.
- 6.6 All observed works were hand planned to scale of 1:20 (Figure 3) and all sections were recorded at a scale of 1:20 (Figure 4).
- 6.7 Artefactual remains, where possible, were recovered for dating. All archaeological deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets, and a full photographic record was kept.
- 6.8 The recording system adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those developed from the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now presented within PCA's Site Manual (Taylor 2009, updated 2018). The site archive was organised to be compatible with other archaeological archives produced within the London Area.
- 6.9 The OD heights, where available, of all principal strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections and were calculated using topographic data provided by the geotechnical contractor.
- 6.10 In this report all context numbers (cuts, layers and fills etc) are written in squared brackets [].
- 6.11 The completed archive produced during the watching brief, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will eventually be deposited with MLAA identified with the unique site code BEO23.

7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Below is a description of the phased archaeology as encountered on site and compiled from the archive produced on site.

7.1.2 All artefacts that were recovered were analysed and individual assessments produced which are available in the appendices at the end of this report.

7.2 Phase 1: Natural

Test Pit 5

7.2.1 The natural geology of Thanet Sand (16) was recorded at 7.35m OD but clearly in a truncated state following the excavations required for the present basement. It was directly sealed by made ground comprising crushed and fragmentary CBM. There was no sign of the capping Head deposits of sandy gravels recorded in the prior Geotechnical Watching Brief (Quadir 2023) (Plate 1, Section 15, Figures 3, 4).

7.2.2 Test Pit 6

7.2.3 The natural geology of Thanet Sand (19) was recorded at 7.55m OD, also in a truncated state as described above. It was also sealed by made ground comprising fragmentary CBM (Plates 2-4, Section 14, Figures 3, 4).

7.2.4 The levels at which the sand was exposed is commensurate with prior investigations as illustrated by the table below.

Report	date	Investigation	Head (sand & gravel)	Thanet sand
Oxford Archaeology	2021	DBA	-	-
Ground Risk	2022	Ground investigation	8.35m OD	7.26 – 7.64m OD
Watching Brief	2023	Test Pit 1	-	-
		BH1	8.35	6.95m OD
Evaluation	2023	Test Pit 2	-	-
Evaluation	2023	Test Pit 3	-	-
Evaluation	2023	Test Pit 4	-	-
Evaluation	2023	Test Pit 5	Absent	7.35m OD
Evaluation	2023	Test Pit 6	Absent	7.55m OD

7.3 Phase 2: 19th century

Test Pit 5

7.3.1 A brick-built wall [15], oriented north-west to south-east was uncovered following the removal of the concrete floor and made ground. The wall had been built in construction cut [18] and rubble [17] backfilled against the wall. The brick sample taken from the wall dated to 1800-

1900 (Appendix 4).

7.3.2 A sherd of pottery was recovered from the backfill (Plates 2-4, Section 14, Figures 3,4). The pottery was a single fragment of Yellow ware bowl with banded slip decoration (Appendix 3).

7.3.3 The wall had been laid upon three courses of stepped foundations and survived to 1.16m in height, having been constructed in English Cross (opposing header and stretcher courses).

7.3.4 Bricks were mottled orange-grey, hand-made and showed a number of imperfections. A mix of bricks had been used, suggesting recycling as a number of yellow, stock bricks were also present. On average, the bricks measured 220mm x 96 x 66mm, whilst the bonding material was a hard, light grey coloured cement.

7.4 **Phase 3: 20th Century/Modern**

7.4.1 TP's 2-4

7.4.2 Only modern surfaces and made ground layers were exposed prior to their abandonment for safety reasons (Plates 5-7, Sections 11,12 & 13, Figures 3,4)

TP 5 & 6

7.4.3 The wall in Test Pit 5 and the geology in Test Pit 6 had both been sealed by made ground c.0.36m thick covered by the basement concrete floor c. 0.32m thick. The made ground contained construction debris and occasional chalk large fragments.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The majority of the layers on the site are of modern date and relate to the construction of the Catholic Club in 1979-80 and the insertion of 20th century services.
- 8.2 The excavation of Test Pits 2 to 4 was halted due to the presence of numerous live services which, until disconnected and completely removed, would have blocked the area for excavation.
- 8.3 There was no evidence for the river terrace gravels previously recorded in the borehole 2009 borehole (Idom Merebrook 2023: 90) located close to the north of the site. The gravels may have not reached the current site as a downwards slope in topography south-north towards the Thames was likely suggested, starting at 7.41m - 7.64m OD in the south portion of the site, 6.95m in the north-eastern part of the site and 6.33m OD further to the north, as showed by the previous investigations (PCA 2023a: 8, 17).
- 8.4 It is believed the Head deposits were removed when the basement was constructed, likely within the footprint of the entire building, first that of the 1895/96 Baptist Tabernacle and then the Catholic Club. The Head deposits were encountered outside of the building (in boreholes) at 8.35m OD where the ground would be lower following the slope described above whilst the current basement floor level is at c. 8m OD where the Head deposits would be expected at c. 8.50m OD or above, which suggests the truncation had taken place.
- 8.5 During the current evaluation natural Thanet Sand deposits were recorded at between 7.35 and 7.55m OD in Test Pits 5 and 6 but may have been truncated horizontally at the top as only modern made ground capped by a concrete floor (0.50-0.65m thick in total) were present above.
- 8.6 The area of proposed basement and the remainder of the site within the building seem to have the overlying deposits removed with only truncated Thanet sand capped by modern deposits present. It is believed no archaeological remains have survived within the building.
- 8.7 The area to the northeast of the building was also severely truncated but due to modern services present in that narrow area the details could not be verified. It is also understood that this area was at least partially affected by the construction of the modern club building, in a similar way as shown in TP 6 where deep vertical truncation related to the building wall was present.
- 8.8 A short section of wall [15] was recorded in Test Pit 5. It was on the same north-west to south-east orientation as the present building, whose orientation, in turn, had been defined by the foregoing the 19th century buildings. All later construction on the site had been constrained by the setting out of the 18th century Rope Yard Rails as depicted on the Rocque Map of 1746 (OA 2021:76) and have therefore all had since retained the same orientation. The wall dated to the 19th century upon assessment of the brick sample and the pottery sherd recovered from the wall backfill [17] also dated to the 19th century. The wall could be associated with one of

the terrace houses which once stood at Beresford Street backing to Rope Yard Rails and survived construction of the Tabernacle to the immediate north in the 1890s.

- 8.9 The remaining layers of made ground, concrete and tarmac surfaces were all of the 20th century date and contained mostly modern construction debris. The made ground also contained some crushed chalk which may have been remains of some earlier structures but this could not be determined due to fragmentary state of the material with no visible trace of work on it.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank RPS Group for commissioning the archaeological works.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for project managing the programme of works and editing this report and Malgorzata Malecka for the CAD illustrations.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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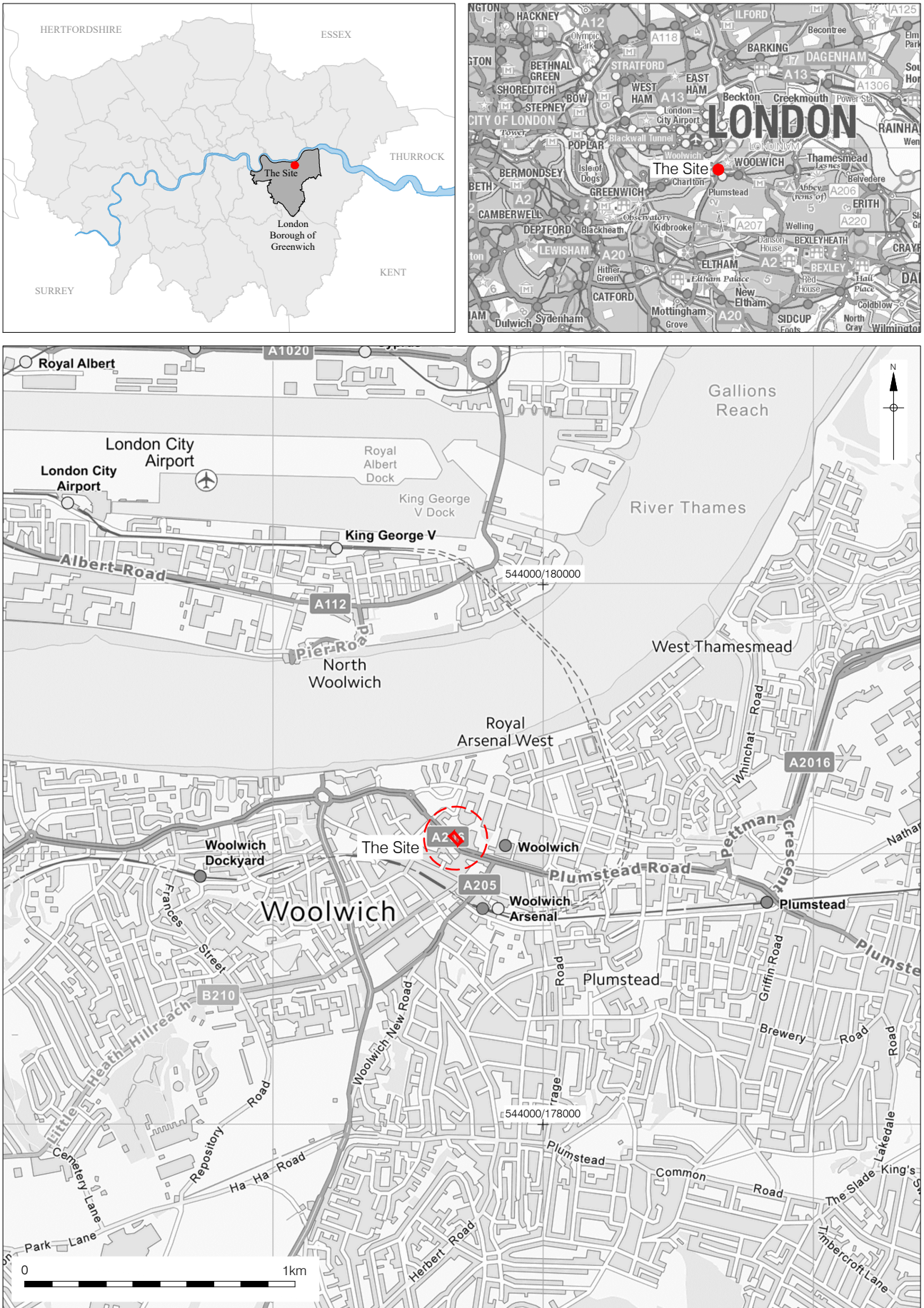
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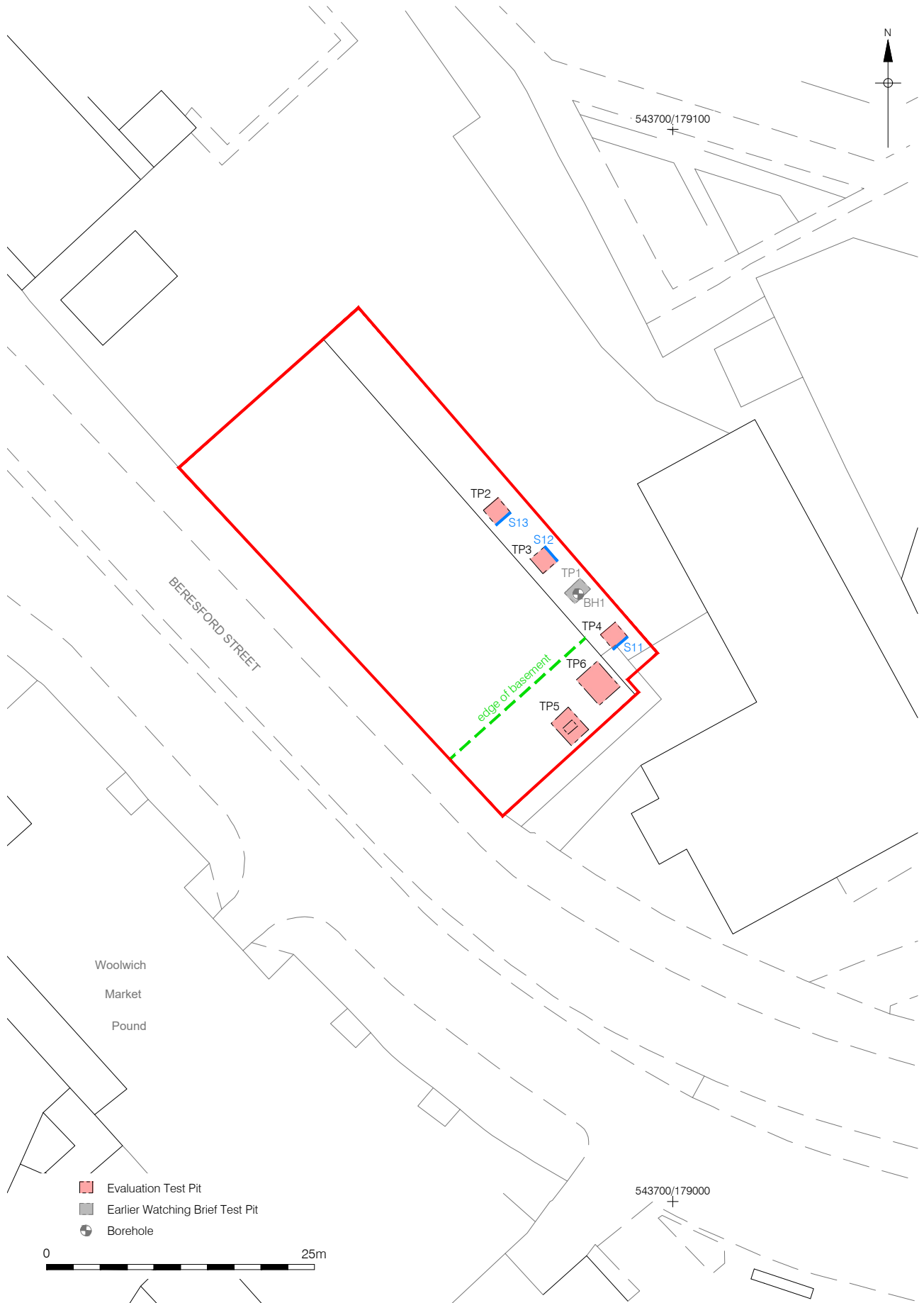
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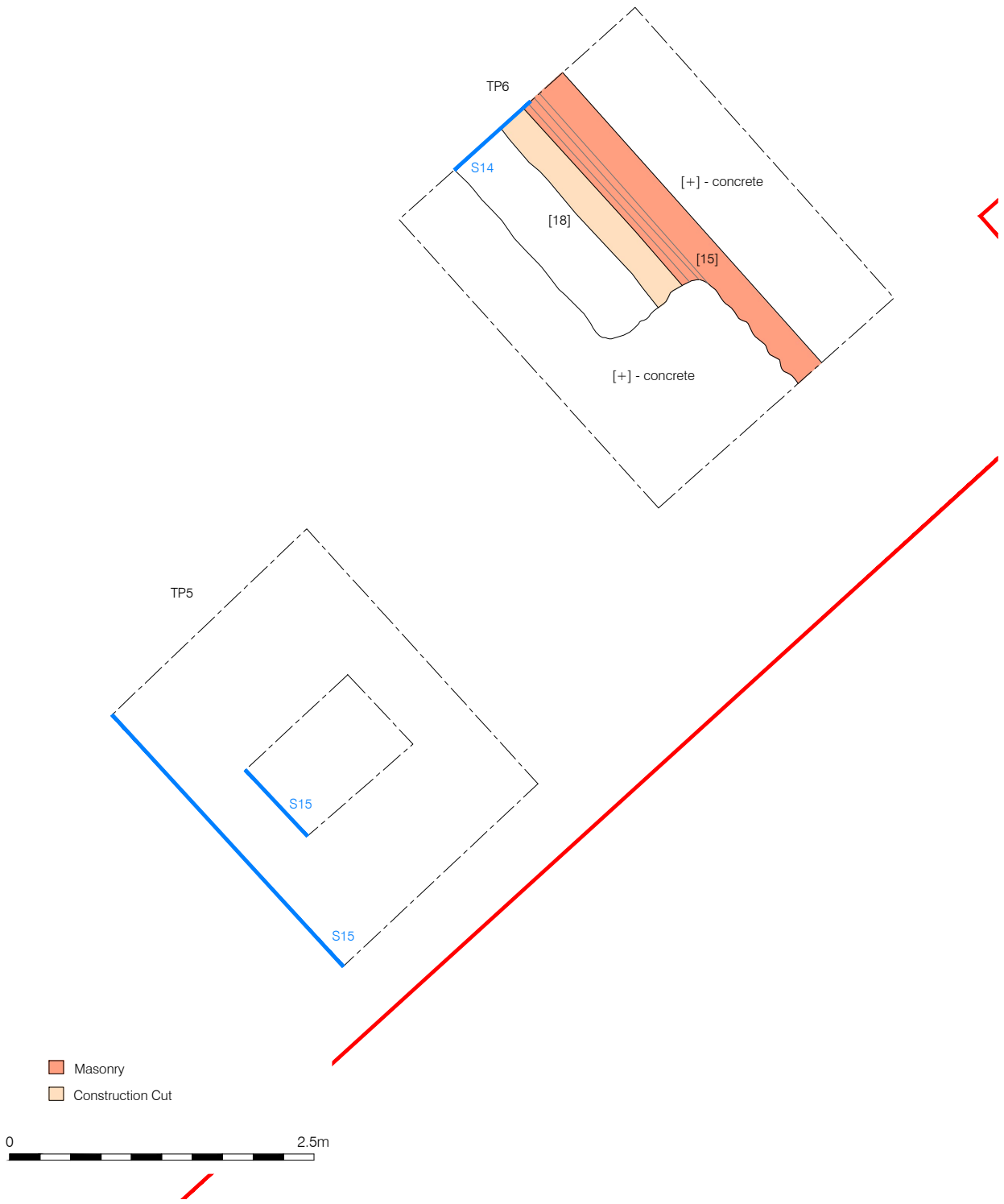
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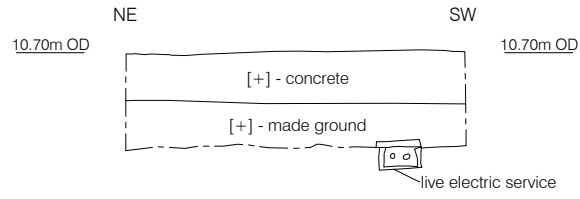
Online Resources:

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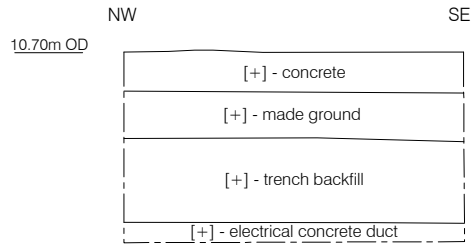




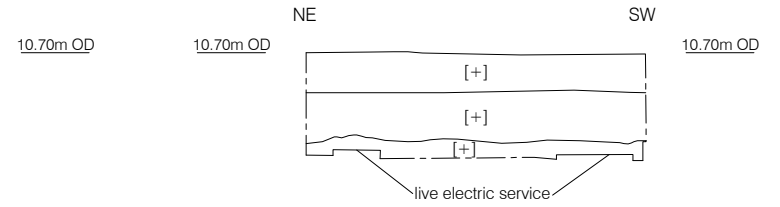




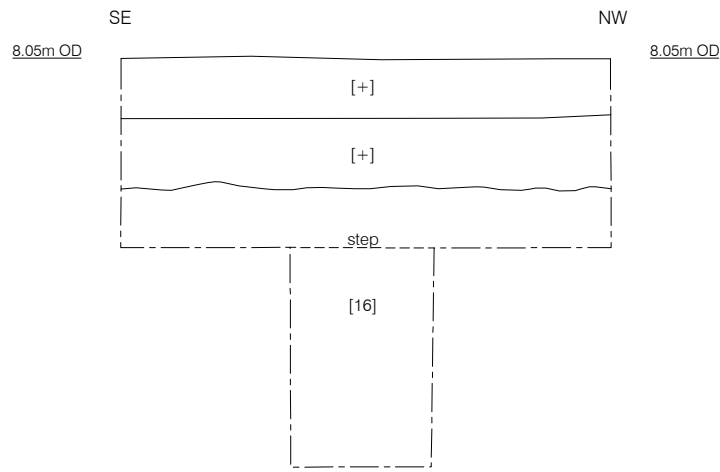
Section 11
Northwest Facing
Test Pit 4



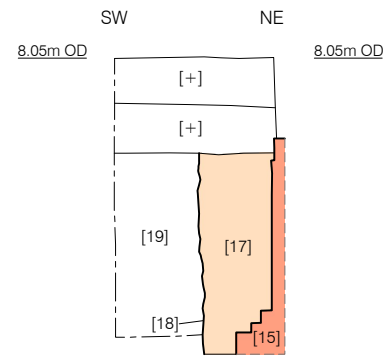
Section 12
Southwest Facing
Test Pit 3



Section 13
Northwest Facing
Test Pit 2



Section 15
Northeast Facing
Test Pit 5



Section 14
Southeast Facing
Test Pit 6

- Masonry
- Construction Cut



PLATES



Plate 1: TP 5, Section 15, scale 1m, view to south-west. Thanet Sand [16] directly below made ground.



Plate 2: TP6, Section 14, scale 1m, view to north-west.. Wall [15] on right, Thanet sand [19] cut by construction cut [18].



Plate 3: TP6, Section 14, scale 1m, view to north-west. Wall [15] with stepped foundations.



Plate 4: TP6, Section 14, scale 1m, view to north-west.



Plate 5: TP2, Section 11, scale 1m, view to south-east. Halted due to live services.



Plate 6: TP3, scale 1m, view to south-east. Halted due to live services. Concrete conduit cap to right of photo.

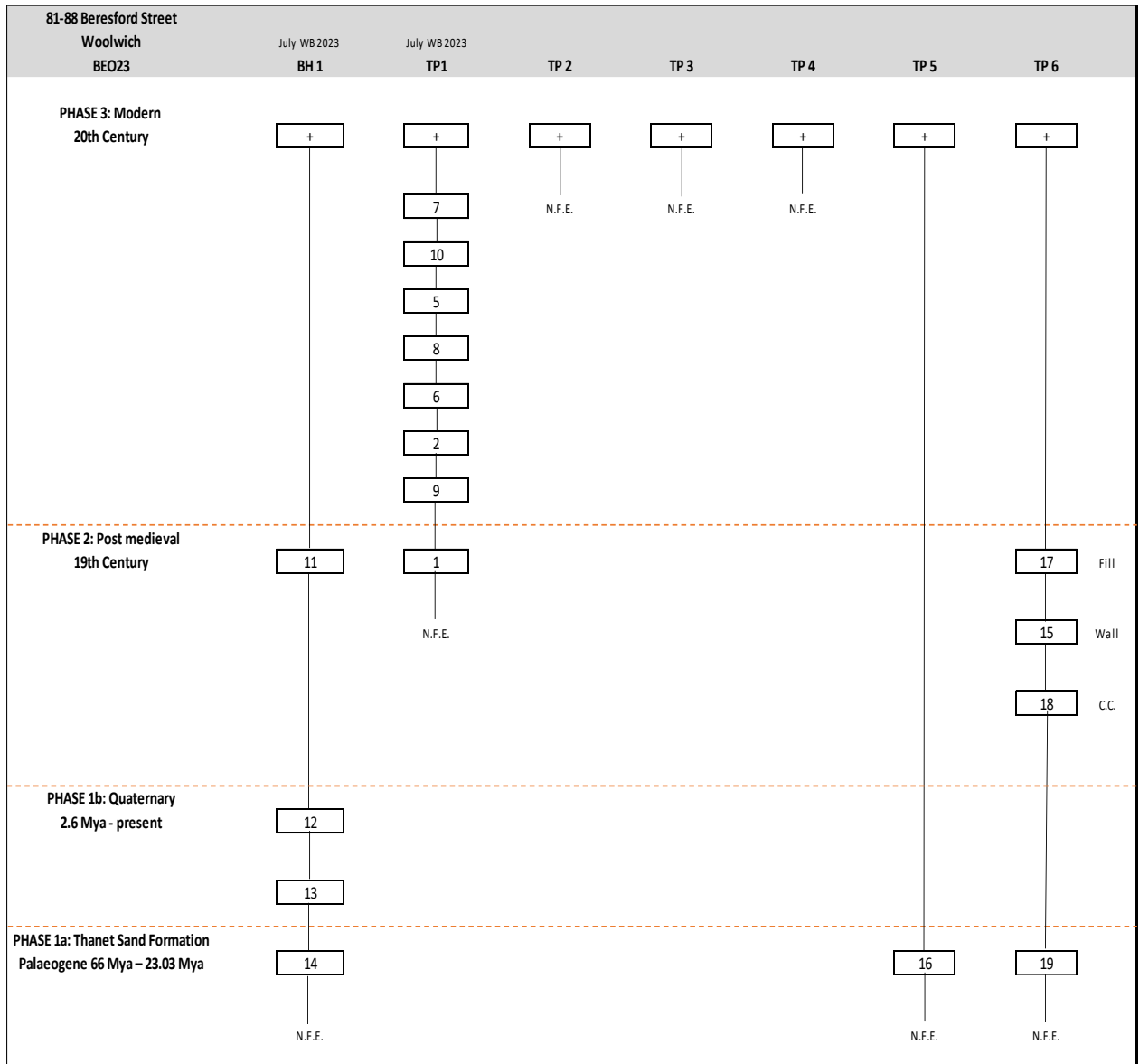


Plate 7: TP4, Section 13, scale 1m, view to south-east. Halted due to live services.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Phase	Period	Section	Plan	Description	Length	Width	Depth/Thickness	Levels High	Levels Low
15	Masonry	2	Post medieval	14	TP5	Wall: red brick & stock brick	3.2	0.44	1.14	7.55	7.55
16	Layer	1	Palaeogene 66 Mya – 23.03 Mya	15	TP5	Thanet Sand Formation	-	-	-	7.35	7.35
17	Fill	2	Post medieval	14	TP6	Fragmentary CBM & rubble	1.99	0.25	-	7.55	7.55
18	Cut	2	Post medieval	14	TP6	Construction cut	1.99	0.25	-	7.55	7.55
19	Layer	1	Palaeogene 66 Mya – 23.03 Mya	14	TP6	Thanet Sand Formation	-	-	-	7.55	17.55

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: POTTERY

By Berni Sudds

A single simple rim sherd from a mass-produced Yellow ware bowl with banded slip decoration (YELL SLIP) was recovered from the backfill of a construction cut [17], dating from c. 1820 to 1900. Yellow ware represents a well-paralleled type in London and beyond, comprising a commonplace utilitarian kitchen and sanitary ware.

As during the earlier phase of investigation on site, other than providing dating for the deposit from which it was recovered, the sherd has little intrinsic merit (Jarrett 2023). No further work is recommended, and the sherd is deemed suitable for discard.

Jarrett, C., 2023. 'Appendix 3: Pottery' in O. Quadir '81 – 88 Beresford Street, Woolwich, SE18 6BG: Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Site Investigation. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Report No. R15516.

APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Amparo Valcarcel

The brick sample taken from wall [15], is comprised of a post great fire fabric (3032), measuring 211x100x64mm. The shape of the brick, with sharp arises, suggest an AD1800-1900 date. This wall probably is related to terraced housing and gardens within the site. No further work is recommended on these materials.

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date
15	3032	Post-great fire brick	1	1666	1900	1666	1900	1800-1900

APPENDIX 5: OASIS REPORT

OASIS Summary for preconst1-521124

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-521124
Project Name	Evaluation at 81-88 Beresford Street, Woolwich
Sitename	81-88 Beresford Street, Woolwich
Sitecode	BEO23
Project Identifier(s)	BEO23
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	22/3143/F
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	15-Nov-2023 - 23-Nov-2023
Location	81-88 Beresford Street, Woolwich NGR : TQ 43678 79057 LL : 51.492208879680895, 0.068203334813267 12 Fig : 543678,179057
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Greenwich Local Authority District : Greenwich Parish : Greenwich, unparished area
Project Methodology	Evaluation of 3 exterior test pits and two internal test pits
Project Results	<p>Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation at 81 – 88 Beresford Street, Royal Borough of Greenwich, London, SE18 6BG. It was carried out over five non-consecutive days on the 15th, 16th & the 21st to 23rd November 2023. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 37100 8448.</p> <p>The evaluation comprised three exterior test pits along the north-east wall of the building and two internal test pits within the basement.</p> <p>The natural geology of the Thanet Sand formation was recorded in both of the basement test pits at between 7.35m to 7.55m OD but had been truncated horizontally. Prior construction work required for the basement had removed the Head deposits of river terrace gravels which had been recorded during the monitoring of a geotechnical borehole in July of 2023.</p> <p>In basement Test Pit 6, a short section of wall was recorded, composed of orange-grey and yellow stock bricks. It was oriented north-west to south-east, laid in English Cross and had a three-course stepped foundation. A brick sample was taken which showed that the bricks were hand-made and were dated to the 19th century.</p> <p>A single pottery sherd from the backfill in the construction cut was dated to.....</p> <p>No archaeological layers were reached in the exterior test pits 2-4 as live services were encountered. Therefore, excavation was halted at between 0.35 and 0.50m below ground level. The made ground layers in these test pits related to the construction of the former Catholic Club Building.</p> <p>No further archaeological deposits or structures were recorded or observed during the course of the evaluation.</p>

Keywords	Boundary Wall - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ceramic - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Brick - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Educational institution Greenwich
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Zbigniew Pozorski
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Museum of London;

Report generated on: 30 Nov 2023, 11:00



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