Archaeological Watching Brief

434-452 Old Kent Road

Southwark

Greater London

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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1	Mike Sims Project Supervisor	Katrina Anker Project Manager	Edward Biddulph Senior Project Manager	E. Biddulph

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Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: +44 (0) 1865 263800 e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net
f: +44 (0) 1865 793496 w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

434-452 Old Kent Road,Southwark, Greater London

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Mike Sims and Jim Mumford

and illustrated by Julia Collins

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Summary

Between August and December 2012 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief at 434-452 Old Kent Road, Southwark, Greater London (NGR: 534002-178073). The watching brief observed a truncated continuation of the Roman ditch encountered on an adjacent site in 1995 together with evidence for possible associated Romano-British boundary ditches.

An undated layer of probable ploughsoil was observed within part of the site sealing the ditches.

Evidence of 19th/20th century habitation in the form of rubbish and cess pits together with truncated foundations was also observed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), was commissioned by RSK Environment Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief at the site of a proposed housing development at 434-452 Old Kent Road, Southwark, Greater London (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The development comprised the construction of a six storey building and basement with a footprint of 283m^2 fronting onto Old Kent Road, with a series of five storey residential buildings to the south and a four storey residential building to the south-east fronting Ossory Road. Construction also involved intrusive groundworks for a sunken courtyard and basement car parking.

1.1.3 The watching brief was maintained during the removal of existing foundations and the subsequent intrusive groundworks.

1.1.4 This work was undertaken in order to discharge a condition of Planning Permission granted by Southwark Council (Planning Reference no: 11-AP-1180).

1.1.5 The work was undertaken in accordance with local, regional and national planning policies including the Southwark Plan (2007) and the London Plan 2011.

1.1.6 Oxford Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) showing how it would meet the requirements to discharge the condition (OA, 2011a)

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is located on the southern side of Old Kent Road (A2) and is bounded to the west by Glengall Road, to the east by Ossory Road, and to the south by commercial premises (centred on NGR 534002,178073). The site covers an area of 4,570m^2 and prior to development was occupied by commercial premises comprising a VW car dealership which incorporated an 1850s villa fronting onto Old Kent Road.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development is located on the edge of the flood plain gravel terrace and lies 140m south of the Thames alluvial floodplain. The underlying geology is shown as Thanet sand with drift deposits of Kempton Park Gravel and Thames River Terrace deposits. The Thanet sand is underlain by the Upper Chalk (British Geological Survey Sheet 9N.E.)

1.2.3 During a watching brief at the south-east of the development area conducted in 2005 by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), natural gravels were recorded, sealed by a yellow

brickearth and subsequently by ploughsoils of medieval/post-medieval date, which were overlain by modern dumped deposits (Baxter, 2011).

1.2.4 The area of proposed development lies at between 2.53m OD and 2.63m OD and is relatively level.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A full and detailed desk based assessment has been produced for this site (Baxter, 2011). The details of which are summarised in paragraphs 1.3.2 to 1.3.12 below.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 The site is situated approximately 350m SE of the southern edge of Bermondsey Lake, a focal point for hunter-gatherer activity at the end of the last ice-age.

1.3.3 Mesolithic activity has been evidenced through the recovery of flints between Rowcross Street and Humphrey Street, *c* 320m NW of the site, Marlborough Grove, *c* 270m to the NE and at Olmar Street, *c* 340 SE of the site.

1.3.4 Neolithic flint production was also evidenced in the area of Olmar Street. A brushwood platform (possibly a landing stage) dated to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age is situated approximately 470m NW of the site, in the area of the former Bricklayers Arms railway depot.

1.3.5 Bronze Age activity is suggested through the recovery of an axe within the 500m study area. A number of peat deposits, dated to the earlier prehistoric period, have been identified north of the site around the area of the Bermondsey eyot.

1.3.6 No Iron Age activity has been recorded within the study area.

Romano-British

1.3.7 The Old Kent Road runs along a section of Watling Street which would have had small associated settlements along its route. Watling Street itself is dated to the 1st Century AD while dating evidence from adjacent field systems indicate a 2nd to 3rd Century AD date (PCA, 2005).

1.3.8 Excavations carried out by MoLAS in 1995 at 430-432 Old Kent Road, demonstrated that the underlying natural gravels were cut by a Roman ditch interpreted as a roadside ditch associated with Watling Street.

1.3.9 Inhumations of probable Roman date were located to the southeast of the site at Old Kent Road/Marlborough Grove, *c* 258m ESE of the site.

Medieval

1.3.10 The area is referred to in the Doomsday book as Pecheham (Peckham) within the parish of Ca'brewelle (Camberwell) but no artefactual evidence for the early medieval period have been recovered thus far.

1.3.11 Tax records from the 13th Century describe the area as fairly prosperous with farming being the main activity. By the 14th Century the site was recorded as being within the manor of Peckham in the Borough of Southwark which was incorporated into the City of London in 1550. Records show that by the 16th Century it was a popular residential area with extensive market gardens.

Post-Medieval/Modern

1.3.12 Historical maps show the site continued to be primarily a residential area with terraced housing constructed between 1851 – 1874 and surviving until 1952. The site appears not to have been affected by bomb damage during WWII, although significant damage did occur to property in the nearby area and immediately to the south of the site. From the 1950s onwards the site was used for commercial purposes and most of the existing terraced housing removed, with the exception of the current 1850s villa. Photographic evidence demonstrates that a VW dealership was present on-site by 1973.

Previous archaeological investigations

1.3.13 In 2005, PCA carried out a watching brief at the rear of the site during excavations for the foundation trench of a valet and car-wash. At the SE corner of the site, trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.6m. A large Roman ditch, running perpendicular to Old Kent Road was discovered. This ditch was interpreted as a property boundary and contained three fragments of abraded Roman pottery. Three other smaller ditches, also running perpendicular to Old Kent Road were also recorded and these too are likely to be Roman. A 19th-early 20th century well was observed in the NE side of the foundation trenches and also a 19th century basement to the north. A modern 20th century tank was observed to the north of the exposed area.

Potential

1.3.14 Although significant prehistoric activity has been recorded within the study area, there is low potential of prehistoric remains within the site. The PCA watching brief site resulted in the recovery of a single residual flint (PCA, 2005).

1.3.15 There is high potential for remains dating to the Romano-British period. A number of sites have been identified in the DBA study area including Roman inhumations and excavations on a neighbouring plot revealed a roadside ditch associated with Watling Street (Baxter, 2011). Four ditches were recorded during the PCA watching brief located at the SE corner of the development. These ditches may survive within the development area, although they are likely to have been truncated away further to the north by the basements associated with the former terraced housing and more recent construction.

1.3.16 There is low potential for early to late medieval remains as no significant artefactual or structural evidence has been identified within the site or study area.

1.3.17 There is high potential for post-medieval deposits; especially relating to the terraced structures.

1.3.18 Prior to the commencement of the current phase of development the buildings originally occupying the site, particularly the 1850s villa were subject to a historic building survey (Oxford Archaeology, 2012) a summary of which is reproduced below.

1.3.19 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by RSK Environment Ltd to carry out historic building recording to English Heritage level 1 - 2 on a former car dealership and garage at 434-452 Old Kent Road, Southwark, London. The main focus of the recording were the remains of of an 1850s villa. The buildings consist of a car showroom and offices facing onto the Old Kent Road as well as storage space and a large workshop behind. A separate two bay garage is also situated to the rear of the site. The buildings are in the main modern in appearance with the only external visual evidence suggesting an older date being the double pitch mansard roof forming a small second floor to the main dealership building. The remains of the 1850s villa are limited to the first and second

floor of the north eastern block of this range of buildings. Externally this is visible in the roof line and second floor of the building facing onto Old Kent Road, internally the evidence can be seen in the timber staircase to the second floor, lath and plaster walls and ceilings and the moulded cornicing and door frames. Some opening up revealed a blocked fireplace on the first floor and storage areas and lath and plaster work on the second floor.

1.3.20 The buildings at 434-452 Old Kent Road demonstrate the multi-use and multi-phase activity of this site which was for a long period residential accommodation in the form of terraced houses in the 19th century and then a car dealership/garage in the 20th and early 21st century. The later demolition and rebuilding removed almost all evidence of the former 19th century accommodation, particularly at ground and first floor level.

1.3.21 The buildings were photographed with appropriate scale and written notes were taken providing an archive record of the structure which were to be demolished to make way for new housing.

2 Project Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

General

2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were to:

(i) preserve by record any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered during the course of any ground intrusions;

(ii) seek to establish the extent, nature and date of any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered within the scope of the ground intrusion;

(iii) secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site;

(iv) disseminate results through the production of a unpublished client (grey literature) report.

Specific Aim and Objective

2.1.2 The specific aim and objective of the watching brief was to complete a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operations on site that may disturb or destroy archaeological deposits. The programme will result in the preparation and dissemination of a report and ordered archive.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The watching brief was conducted as a series of site visits during those works which had the potential to disturb or destroy archaeological deposits or features. These works included removal of existing foundations, service trenching, ground reduction and excavation of foundation and groundbeam trenches.

2.2.2 All these excavations were accomplished using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket where practical.

2.2.3 Any material was removed in spits until the required depth was achieved, and during these operations the base and sides of the excavations were closely observed for archaeological evidence.

2.2.4 Where such evidence was observed it was hand cleaned and sampled sufficiently to characterise and date the remains in accordance with the project objectives.

2.2.5 All spoil generated during these excavations was examined for the presence of archaeological artefacts.

2.2.6 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established OA practices, in addition, all work complied with the following relevant best practice guidance (and any subsequent revisions):

- Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) – Standards for Archaeological Work (External Consultation Draft July 2009)
- Draft Southwark Archaeology Policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance

2.2.7 Bulk finds were collected by context. Black-and-white negative photographs and a digital photographic record was taken of all excavations, general settings and archaeological sections.

2.2.8 A site plan showing the location of any excavations and any recorded sections was maintained (Fig. 2). Section drawings of features and sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 Work at the site was undertaken in three main phases. The preliminary work consisted of the removal of the existing foundations and a reduction in ground level prior to the laying down of a piling mat.

3.1.2 Subsequent to the piling, excavations for a ground beam linking the tops of the piles was undertaken together with excavations for the basement below the building fronting the Old Kent Road.

3.1.3 During the third phase of groundwork, the ground levels around the footprints of the new buildings in the south and south-east of the site were reduced.

3.1.4 Each of these three phases of work will be described separately followed by a overall discussion and conclusion.

Foundation Removal and Ground Reduction

3.1.5 During these works the ring beams and foundation pads associated with the VW dealership which previously occupied the site were removed, and the ground level reduced by approximately 0.3m in order to accommodate the piling mat.

3.1.6 The concrete ring beams measured approximately 0.8m in depth. As the beams were removed it could been seen that they were wholly contained within a deposit of mixed grey-brown clayey silt (2) which contained lenses of yellow-brown sandy silt, numerous fragments of brick, mortar, charcoal flecking and post-medieval detritus.

3.1.7 The foundation pads measured up to 1.2m in depth. Following their removal a deposit of a clean orange-yellow brown sandy clay silt (3) was exposed within the base of the excavations. Continuations of layer 2, up to 1.2m in depth, formed the remainder of the section.

3.1.8 Following the removal of the foundations the site underwent an overall ground reduction measuring between 0.3m and 0.4m in depth. These excavations were conducted entirely within the upper level of layer 2 and no further contexts were exposed.

3.1.9 The piling mat consisting of a layer of geo-textile ("Terram") covered by a layer of crushed concrete and brick 0.3m in depth (1) was laid over the reduced area.

Ground Beam and Basement Excavations

3.1.10 Over a two month period a continuous line of concrete piles were constructed around the perimeter of the site. The tops of these piles were linked by a concrete ground beam cast *in situ*. To provide clearance for the shuttering, a trench measuring 0.8m deep and 3.4m wide was dug along the line of the piles (Fig. 2). This was excavated through the piling mat and into the upper level of layer 2. Again no further contexts were exposed.

3.1.11 When the ground beam along the northern and western edges of the site was completed, excavations for the basement beneath the building fronting the Old Kent Road were started. This covered an area measuring 57m x 22m.

3.1.12 This was undertaken in two stages, firstly any overburden was removed down to the level of the natural deposits and secondly the natural deposits were reduced down to the finished level. Each stage of work was undertaken in spits with the material exposed closely examined and any observed archaeology recorded.

3.1.13 The underlying natural, a brickearth composed of orangey yellow-brown sandy clay silt (3) was encountered at a depth of between 1.2m and 1.4m below ground level (Fig. 3, Sections 1- 5). On the immediate western edge of the site this deposit could be seen to be cut by a 2m wide and 0.2m deep flat based linear feature (9) with shallow sloping sides (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, Section 5). This feature ran north-west to south-east across the site, roughly parallel to the Old Kent Road, for approximately 5m before becoming indeterminate. Filling the feature was a light grey clayey silt (11). This was a clean deposit with no dating evidence recovered.

3.1.14 Also visible cut into the surface of layer 3 was a vertical sided linear feature, 0.55m deep and 0.65m wide (6) (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, Section 2). This could be seen to run parallel to the Old Kent Road for 20.4m before turning through 90° and running out of the northern edge of the site. Observed within this feature were the truncated remains of a brick wall (5). This had been built using a dark red hand moulded brick, 0.225m x 0.108m x 0.068m in size, a lime mortar and laid using English Stretcher bond. Only four courses of brickwork remained.

3.1.15 As the excavation proceeded a series of eight rectangular pits each measuring approximately 1.7m by 1.2m and up to 0.7m in depth were observed cut into the surface of layer 3. These features ran in a rough line parallel to the Old Kent Road. The features and their fills were similar and a sample description can be applied to all eight.

3.1.16 The sides of the pits were vertical with the base either flat or very slightly dished (11). Filling the cut was very dark grey clayey silt (10). This context contained inclusions of charcoal, ash and yellow-brown sandy clay and produced many fragments of yellow hand moulded bricks (probably London Stocks) together with domestic refuse such as transfer printed pottery, stoneware and bottle glass.

3.1.17 In approximately the centre of the basement excavation, a lens of very dark grey clayey silt containing mortar flecks, soot and ash together with numerous yellow brick

fragments was observed. This measured roughly 5m in diameter and up to 0.35m in depth (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, Section 4).

3.1.18 Sealing the pits, the linear features, lens 7 and layer 3 was the thick deposit of a mixed grey-brown clayey silt (2) observed previously. This measured up to 1.4m in depth and produced fragments of stone, brick and concrete together with post-medieval finds similar to those recorded before. During this phase of work this deposit could be seen to be very mixed in nature with inclusions of lime mortar, gravel and yellow-brown clayey sand noted. The piling mat 1 had been laid directly above this.

3.1.19 During the reduction of the basement down to finished level the layer of brickearth, 3, could be observed to be up to 0.5m in depth and to overlie the reddish orange terrace gravel (4).

Ground Reduction within the South-East and South of the Site

3.1.20 Following the completion of the ground beam around the south-east and south of the site these areas were reduced in level by approximately 1m.

3.1.21 This operation exposed a layer of light reddish yellow-brown sandy clay silt (25) at this depth. This was a clean deposit and was very similar to, and a probable continuation of, layer 3.

3.1.22 Cut into the surface of this deposit were two linear features, one running north-west to south-east and the second running south-west to north-east (Fig. 2 and Fig. 4). The first linear (15) measured 1.7m wide and 0.4m deep (Fig. 3, Section 6) and had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It could be observed for a length of 37m before its south-eastern extent became indistinct due to later disturbances.

3.1.23 Covering the base and the northern edge of the cut was a 0.14m deep layer of grey-brown silty clay which produced charcoal flecking (16). Filling the remainder of the ditch was a 0.35m deep layer of light reddish brown silty sand loam (15). This deposit also produced charcoal flecking together with bone and a single sherd of pottery.

3.1.24 Running perpendicular to 15 was a 1.6m wide by 0.4m deep feature (20) (Fig. 3, Section 7). This had steeply sloping sides and a flat base similar to 15. A 18m length could be clearly observed before both its southern and northern ends became unclear due to later disturbances.

3.1.25 The base of the cut was covered by a 0.16m thick layer of dark grey silty clay loam containing charcoal flecks (21). The remainder of the cut was filled with a light grey-brown silty clay loam which contained charcoal flecking and produced a shard of pottery.

3.1.26 The relationships between 15 and 20 is unclear due to later disturbances, but the similarity in profiles and fills suggest that they are probably contemporary.

3.1.27 Sealing the ditch fills and layer 25 elsewhere was a layer of dark brown silty sand loam measuring between 0.25m and 0.3m in depth (24). Two post-medieval features wee observed cutting this deposit. In the south-west corner of the area a 1m diameter brick lined shaft (18) was observed (Fig. 2). The lining was constructed using a dark yellow hand moulded brick 0.23m x 0.11m x 0.07m in size. The lining was 2.2m deep with the top metre bonded with a light brown sandy mortar. The interior had been backfilled with a very dark brown silty sand and red brick fragments (27).

3.1.28 Within the south-west corner of the area a sub-circular feature measuring 2.4m by 2.1m and 2.5m deep (26). This had near vertical sides with a flat or slightly concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of very dark greyish brown silty sand loam (19). This

produced numerous fragments of red brick, charcoal, ash and cinders together with fragments of 19th century pottery.

3.1.29 These features together with layer 24 was a layer of grey-brown clayey silt containing fragments brick, concrete and other demolition debris (23). This measured up to 0.7m in depth. Its composition is similar to layer 2 recorded elsewhere.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 Numerous fragments of brick were recovered. The sizes and physical composition observed suggest a date range from the late 18th century to the middle of the 20th.

3.2.2 The majority of the pottery recovered also covers the period from the late 18th century to the beginning of the 20th. The mixture of vessels and different fabrics recorded suggest that they all were deposited as domestic refuse. The fragment of clay pipe stem recovered has also been dated to the 19th century.

3.3 Environmental remains

3.3.1 The deposits observed during the course of the watching brief were considered to have been too contaminated by later activity to be suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling.

4 Discussion and conclusions

4.1.1 The underlying natural deposits of the area are represented by layers 3 and 25, both probable brickearths, and layer 4, terrace gravel.

4.1.2 The location and alignment of the truncated ditch (9) observed on the western edge of the development area suggests it to be a continuation of the Romano-British ditch encountered to the west in 1995. Its eastwards extent, together with its relationship to the other ditches observed within the development area, has been destroyed by modern activity.

4.1.3 The ditches (15 and 20) observed within the southern part of the development area are most likely Romano-British boundary ditches dividing the area up into plots. The absence of any associated features or the paucity of residual finds within their fills may indicate that these were agricultural in nature rather than domestic or industrial. It is probable that Ditch 20 is the same as Ditch 71 encountered by PCA in 2005 (Fig. 4). The single fragment of pottery recovered from their fills has been dated to the late 19th century. However, its location within the upper fill of ditch 20 may indicates that this is intrusive, possibly the result of later cultivation.

4.1.4 The alignment of these ditches particularly when considered in association with earlier discoveries, suggest that the area had been systematically divided up following the alignment of Watling Street.

4.1.5 Along the relatively undisturbed southern and south-eastern part of the site a buried soil horizon, 24, has survived sealing the earlier features. This layer is probably the result of agricultural or horticultural activity, but no dating evidence was recovered to place it within the timeline.

4.1.6 The truncated foundations (5) probably relate to one of the earlier developments on the site, most likely Upper Sussex Place shown on the Greenwood map of London in 1830 (Baxter, 2011).

4.1.7 The line of rectangular pits observed running parallel to the Old Kent Road are probable domestic rubbish pits. Their alignment appears to respect the rear boundary of a later development of terraced houses replacing Upper Sussex Place and other houses as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1871 (Baxter, 2011).

4.1.8 The bricked lined shaft 18 was probably constructed as a well, but may have been later reused as a soak-a-way. The bricks used for the well lining suggest a date ranging between the first part of the 19th century and the middle of the 20th century. Pit 26 located in the south-west corner of the site, is a probable cess pit. These both occur on what was shown as open land until the inter-war period when a row of back to back houses appear on the maps.

4.1.9 The depth and mixed nature of the modern soil layer 2, together with the absence of intervening soil horizons between it and the underlying natural suggest that the area of the site fronting the Old Kent Road has been heavily disturbed, probably by the successive redevelopment of the site between the first part of the 19th century and the 20th century and also potentially by bomb damage during the Second World War. The absence of truncated foundations (other than 5) or of cellar walls within this area may indicate that this area has been comprehensively cleared and then reinstated, possibly prior to the construction of the VW dealership.

4.1.10 This activity has resulted in the truncation of Ditch 9 within this area, the small section surviving may have been deeper at that point.

4.1.11 Along the southern edge of the site the ground has been much less disturbed, being shown as open ground or rear yards on the maps. This has resulted in the survival of the ploughsoil horizon 24. Layer 23 is very similar to, and is probably the result of, the same phase of activity as layer 2.

4.1.12 Other than the undated ploughsoil horizon, 24, no evidence of activity between the Romano-British and late post-medieval periods was observed.

Appendix A. Archaeological Context Inventory

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Length	Comments	Finds	Date
1	Layer	0.3m	> 20m	> 20m	Piling mat	Brick, concrete	C21st
2	Layer	Up to 1.4m	> 20m	> 20m	Modern disturbed/ made ground	Brick, stone, pottery, glass, iron	C19th/ C20th
3	Layer	0.3m to 0.45m	> 20m	> 20m	Natural deposit, probable brickearth	-	-
4	Layer	> 1.8m	> 20m	> 20m	Terrace gravel	-	-
5	Wall	0.4m	0.45m	> 25m	Truncated foundations	Brick	C19th
6	Cut	0.55m	0.65m	> 25m	Foundation trench	-	C19th
7	Lens	0.25m	5m	5m	Spread of possible demolition debris	Brick	C19th/ C20th
8	Fill	0.18m	2m	5m	Fill of ditch 9, silting deposit	-	-
9	Cut	0.18m	2m	5m	Truncated base of a ditch. Probable continuation of the roadside ditch observed to the west	-	-
10	Fill	0.7m	1.4m	1.2m	Backfill of rubbish pit 11	Brick, pottery, glass	C19th
11	Cut	0.7m	1.4m	1.2m	Rubbish pit	-	C19th
15	Cut	0.4m	1.7m	> 47m	Probable boundary ditch	-	-
16	Fill	0.14m	1m	-	Primary fill of ditch 15	-	-
17	Fill	0.4m	1.7m	-	Upper fill of ditch 15	Bone, pottery	-
18	Structure	2.2m	1m	1m	Brick lined soakaway or wellshaft	Brick	C19th/ C20th
19	Fill	2.1m	2.4m	2.5m	Fill of cess pit 26	Pottery	C19th

20	Cut	0.5m	1.6m	> 18m	Probable boundary ditch	-	-
21	Fill	0.16m	1m	-	Primary fill of ditch 20	-	-
22	Fill	0.35m	1.6m	-	Upper fill of ditch 20	Pottery	Late C19th
23	Layer	Up to 0.7m	> 15m	> 20m	Modern disturbed/ made ground similar to 2	Brick, stone, glass, iron	C19th/ C20th
24	Layer	0.25m to 0.3m	-	-	Buried soil horizon, probable ploughsoil	-	-
25	Layer	0.2m to 0.25m	-	-	Subsoil, probable brickearth similar to 3	-	-
26	Cut	2.1m	2.4m	2.5m	Large cess pit	-	C19th
27	Fill	2.2m	1m	1m	Backfill of the interior of 18	Brick	C19th/ C20th

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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Appendix C. Assessment of the Pottery

by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

C.1.1 A total of 23 sherds of pottery weighing 3132g. were excavated. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation.

C.1.2 Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). The range of wares and vessels forms present is detailed in the spot-dates spreadsheet and is only summarised here.

Date and nature of the assemblage

C.1.3 The pottery assemblage is in a fresh though mainly fragmentary condition with many large sherds present and two complete vessels. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. All the pottery is of 19th-century date and probably all before c 1870. This mostly comprises tablewares and kitchenwares in the mass-produced whitewares of the Staffordshire/Midlands potteries, as well as modern English stoneware blacking bottles etc. Some of the whiteware vessels bear maker's marks (see spreadsheet) including one that can probably be dated to 1840 (Ctx 19). There is also a sherd of red terracotta flowerpot of broadly similar date. No further work on the assemblage is recommended.

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
10	c1820-1840	19	2240g	Min 11 vess. Late transfer-printed Pearlware (PEAR TR) and/or early transfer-printed whiteware (TPW). Incl 3x plates with 'wild rose' borders. Profile TPW chamberpot - nearly complete - with blue countryside scene with church & sheep & wild rose dec rim etc. TPW ?jug base with printed mark 'OPAQUE CHINA'. Profile Ironstone China bowl with Imari dec in blue & orange c1813+. Complete modern stoneware blacking bottle (LONS). Half-profile LONS pitcher with reeded neck. Creamware handle. 1x PMR sooted pipkin base. All large fresh sherds
19	c1840-1865	3	875g	3 vessels. Base of a modern stoneware bottle/jar with off white Bristol-type glaze (1835+). Pad base large TPW chamberpot or jug with printed mark of John Ridgeway of Shelton, Staffordshire (c1830-41), a crowned garter with the inscription "Stoneware J.R. And the design name "SCAGLIOLA/N" on ribbon, plus small impressed number "40" (probably for the year 1840) and small printed mark "03". Near complete plain white earthenware (REFW) cylindrical preserve/marmalade jar with corduroy sides and impressed mark under "Maling, Newcastle" and small batchmark (?) "G", probably mid 19th century, possibly an early Dundee marmalade jar?
22	c1750-	1	17	Bodysherd from wheel-thrown red-brown terracotta flowerpot

	1900			(PMR). Prob 19C. Ext surface v weathered
TOTAL		**23**	**3132g**	

Appendix D. Summary of Site Details

Site name:	434-452 Old Kent Road,Southwark, Greater London
Site code:	OLD12
Grid reference:	Centred on 534002-178073
Type of watching brief:	Machine excavation of foundation and service trenches, ground reduction
Date and duration of project:	Between August and December 2012, 3 months
Area of site:	4570m^2
Summary of results:	The watching brief observed a truncated continuation of the Roman ditch encountered on an adjacent site in 1995 together with evidence for possible associated Romano-British boundary ditches. Evidence of 19th century habitation in the form of rubbish and cess pits together with truncated foundations was also observed. No evidence of medieval or early post-medieval activity was encountered during the course of the watching brief.
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at Janus House and will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the Accession Number: OLD12

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Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

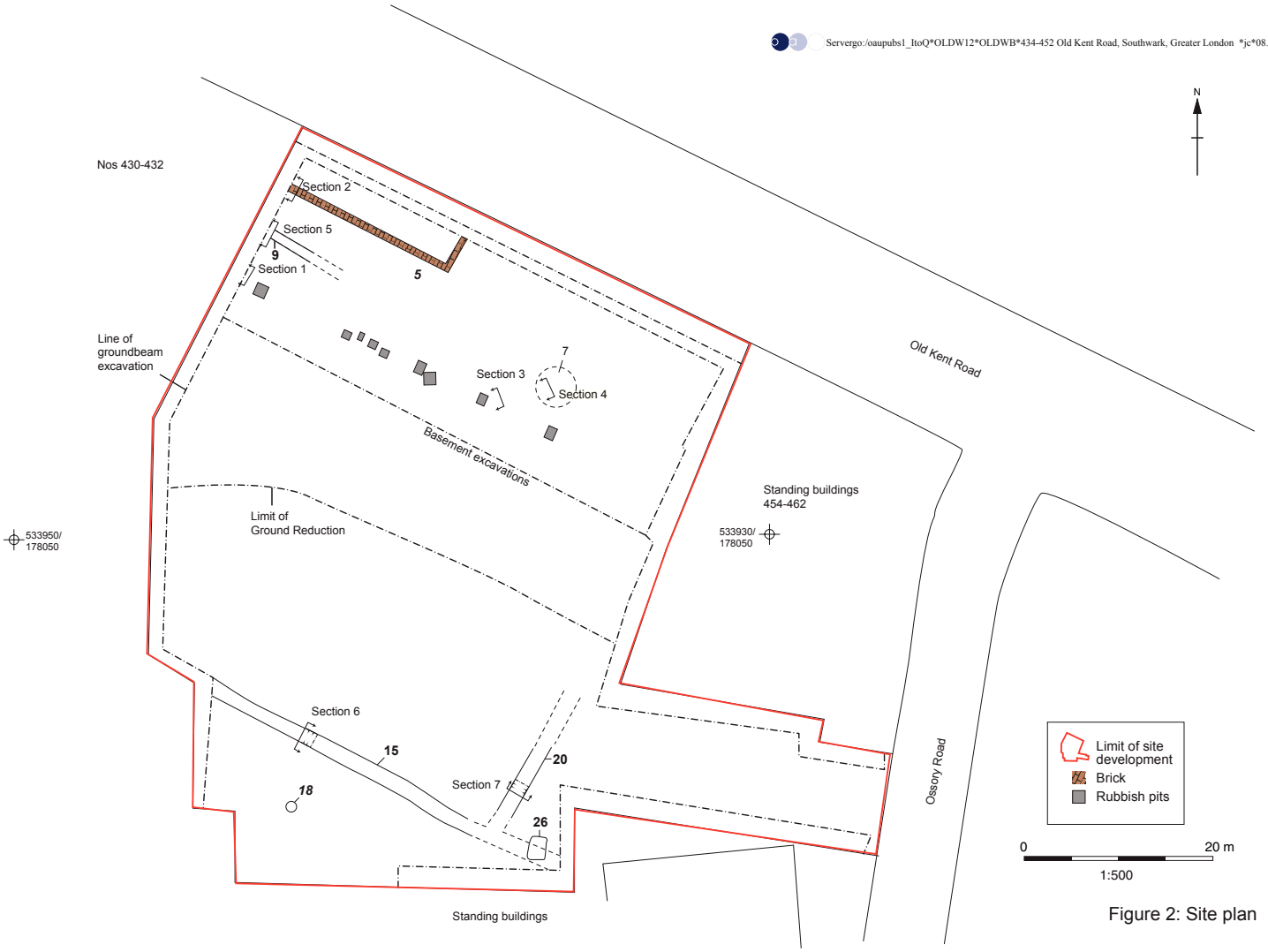

Figure 2: Site plan

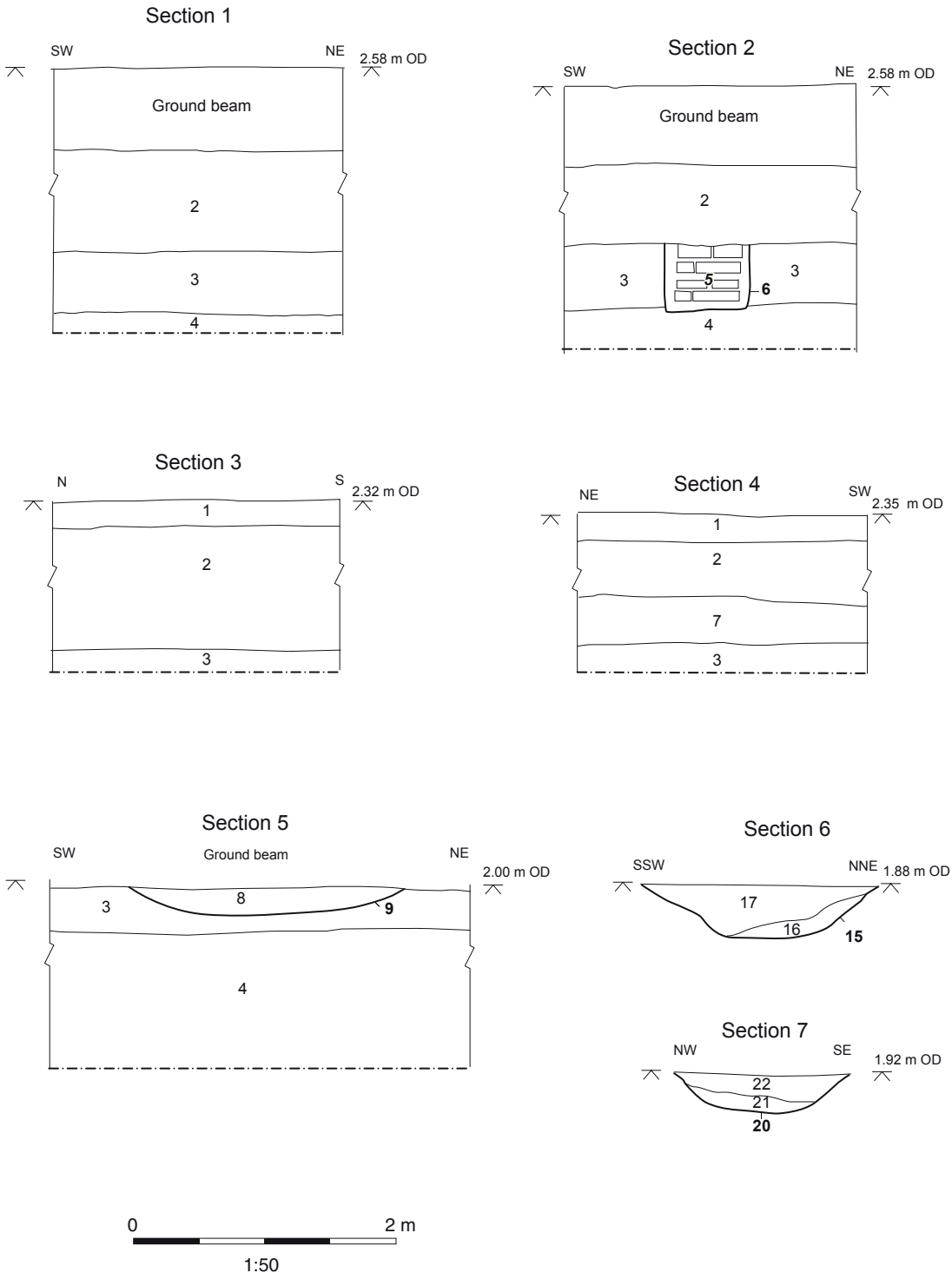

Figure 3: Sections

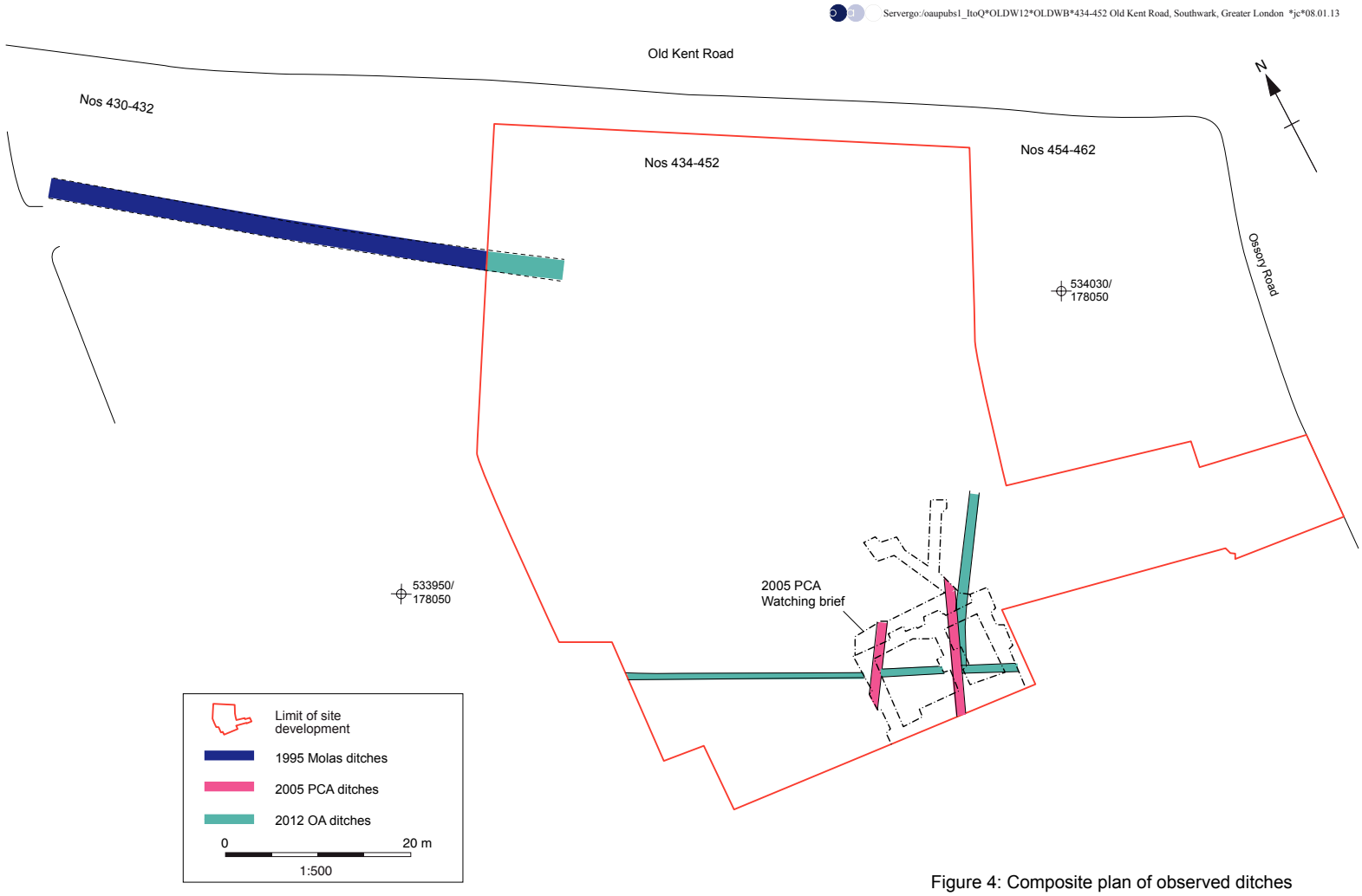

Figure 4: Composite plan of observed ditches

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Plate 1: Ditch 15

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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