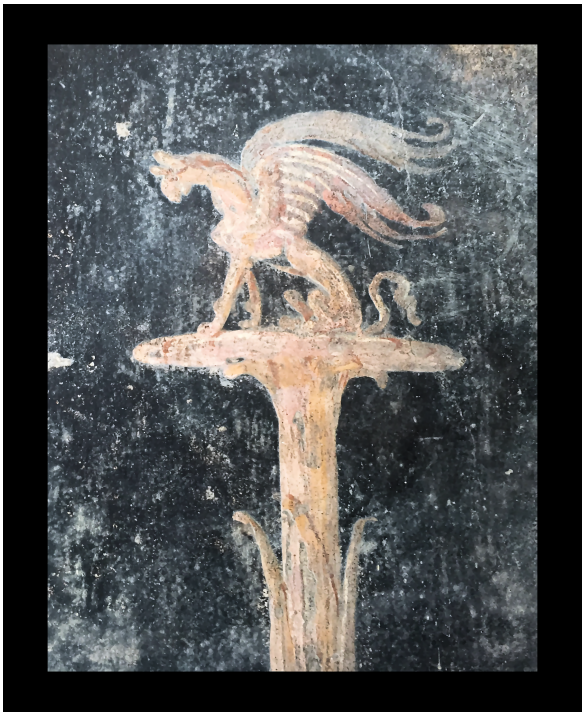
# Archaeological Evaluation Report

## Trial Trenching at The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, Bermondsey, SE1 2BS



TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

January 2018

**Report on archaeological evaluation**

The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, Bermondsey, SE1 2BS

Site Code: MLO17

NGR: TQ 33930 79664

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London Borough of Southwark

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**Summary (non-technical)**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Touchstone Archaeology on the site of The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, Bermondsey SE1 2BS (Fig.1-2). A pre-application enquiry in April 2015 regarding a proposed annexe at the site, initiated a response in which Southwark Council recommended a desk-based assessment and an archaeological evaluation. The archaeological work was commissioned by St Ann's Gate Architects on behalf of the client and will form part of a planning application for a proposed annexe.*

*Touchstone Archaeology completed the desk-based assessment in March 2017 and in accordance with the written scheme of investigation that followed, two evaluation trenches of 11m x 1.2m x 1.6m deep and 1.1m x 1.2m x 0.9m deep were excavated on 11th December 2017. Both trenches were situated within the garden area of the church; one on the grass area to the west and the other to the east, within a flowerbed surrounded by a tarmacadam surface (Fig.3). The aims of the evaluation were to establish the impact of the development on archaeological remains and to assess the nature of such remains.*

*The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. The trenches consisted of the brick foundations of demolished post- medieval buildings to the west at a depth of 2.9m OD and the floor surface and brick foundation of the 1839CE convent building to the west at 2.6m OD (Fig.4). Natural London Clay was observed in both trenches at a depth of 1.56m OD in Trench 1 and 2.16m OD in Trench 2 (Plates 1-17).*

*In light of the revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes that the impact of the proposed redevelopment is likely to affect the surviving post-medieval archaeology below 2.9m OD, however, a good area of the site was sampled and the archaeology corroborated the layout of buildings on the 1916CE OS map, therefore Touchstone Archaeology considers that any further intrusive work would pose logistical difficulties and provide limited archaeological information.*

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Site background

**1.1.1** A Desk-based Archaeological Assessment was prepared in March 2017 (*Touchstone Archaeology 2017*), which covers the whole area of the site. The assessment document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

**1.1.2** An archaeological evaluation was carried out on 11th December 2017 by Touchstone Archaeology at The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, Bermondsey, hereafter called 'the site' (*Fig.1-2*). The site code is MLO17 and this document is the report on that work.

## 1.2 Planning background

**1.2.1** In a pre-application enquiry in April 2015 Southwark Council made the following comments:

*The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead is located in the borough Bermondsey and Rivers Archaeological Priority Zone. In the immediate area of the church are significant and nationally important remains of bronze-age field systems. To the south of the modern line of the Jamaica Road remains of a bronze age burnt mound have been identified and other sites in the vicinity have revealed remains of prehistoric settlement. The archaeology of this area is also characterised by post-medieval settlement dating from the 17th century onwards. The applicants are advised to commission a desk-based assessment, as a first stage and should consider commissioning an archaeological evaluation of the site.*

**1.2.2** The legislative and planning framework in which the evaluation took place was set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation,* which formed the project design for the evaluation (*see Section 1.1, Touchstone Archaeology 2017*).

**1.2.3** The preceding Desk Based Assessment (*Touchstone Archaeology, 2017*) and this evaluation report will form part of the planning application.

## 1.3 Scope of the evaluation

**1.3.1** This report has been prepared in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*IFA, 2001*).

**1.3.2** All work was undertaken within the research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the evaluation (*Section 3.0*).

- to determine the date, character, function, extent, significance and condition of the archaeological remains and deposits within their cultural and environmental setting.

- to determine if there is any evidence of the Post-Medieval construction (including the Methodist church and School for girls) to the west of Arnold Road and the original convent to the east and if it can provide any further information on the development of Southwark.

- To determine whether or not any archaeology survives beneath the post-medieval structures and deposits

**1.3.3** English Heritage guidelines (*English Heritage, 1998*) require the field evaluation and the associated report to provide information about the fieldwork and the archaeological resource encountered in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or

- the formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or

- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

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

## 2 Topographical and historical background

Below is a brief topographical and historical background. A more detailed account can be found in the Desk Based Assessment that preceded this evaluation (*Touchstone Archaeology, 2017*).

### 2.1 Topography

**2.1.1** The site is located in the on the south bank of the river Thames, between Tower Bridge at Southwark and Rotherhithe. It is situated on a corner plot bounded by Parkers Row to the east, Jamaica Road to the west and Dockhead to the north. The OS National Grid Reference for centre of site is TQ 33930 79664 (*Fig.1-2*). The level of the grass area adjacent to Trench 1 is 3.16m OD and the modern tarmac surface adjacent to Trench 2 is 3.06m OD (*Fig.3*).

**2.1.2** Bermondsey is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Bermundesy and Buermundesye. 'Beornmund' is an Old English personal name and 'ey' or the Old English 'eg' can mean 'island', 'piece of firm land in a fen' or 'place by a stream or a river'. All of these descriptions apply to the historic landscape of the area, as Bermondsey was largely flooded from at least the Roman period through to the 16th century, which greatly influenced the development of the area.

**2.1.3** The natural deposits in the area of Dockhead are alluvial clay, silt, peat and sand overlying London Clay Formation and silt deposits laid down during the last Ice Age (*British geology Survey 2015*).

Glacial erosion caused the formation of eyots or gravel islands capped with sand.
The western Thames foreshore was located further west than its current position; silts and clays originated during periods of flooding and peat was formed when the flooding receded and these deposits survive beneath later, modern horizons.

**2.1.4** The site is located c.300m west of the present bank of the Thames, c.100m south of the tidal creek of St Saviours Dock and c.100m north of the Neckinger stream.

**2.1.5** A borehole commissioned within the church grounds by Messer's. Goodhart-Rendel & Partners in 1952CE in advance of the construction of the church encountered sand and gravel at 4.4m below the ground surface, overlain by blue silty clay at 3.3m, peat at 2.4m and brown clay at 1.5m beneath a fill of earth and stone (TQ3395 7964/TQ37NW274).
A second borehole carried out nearby on the Dockhead By-pass in 1965, encountered brown and grey silty clay with bands and pockets of clayey peat at 1.5m overlain by a fill of brick, rubble, ash and clay (TQ37NW421/TQ33907964).

## 2.2 Prehistoric

An excavation at Tooley Street c.250m NW of the site provided flint evidence from the middle Palaeolithic (MLO74994). The Neolithic period is represented by ard marks in plough soil, flint knapping, stake holes and wattle and daub impressions at Wolseley Street c.90m NE of the site (MLO60630. MLO99256) and Tooley Street again provided evidence of Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery (MLO64469). Bronze age cultivation soil was found beneath river deposits at Jamaica Road c.80m SW of the site, along with flints, pottery, post holes and spade marks (MLO19940/MLO45153).
A natural sand and gravel bank or island known as Horselydown Eyot on the now modern Bermondsey Square located c.700m west of the site, rose above the surrounding marshland and was exploited during the Iron Age for hunting and fishing. Excavation works at Tooley Street, c.250m NW, have uncovered Iron Age pits, ditches, post-holes, stake holes and a gully with struck flint, complete pot and pottery sherds (50-160CE) and a C1st pennanular brooch (ELO10654, ELO4737, MLO64469, MLO74994, MLO59439, MLO59446).

## 2.3 Roman

During the Roman period the area was largely flooded or marshland. A river crossing was constructed at the lowest crossing point downstream of modern London Bridge and three converging military roads lead to a military base (50CE) and by the 2nd century a substantial suburban settlement. The settlement seems to have reduced following the construction of the wall around Londinium.

A thick layer of gravel suggesting encroachment from the south of the site to the north, containing two pottery sherds were found at Abbey Street c.200m S (ELO15783) and an excavation at Tooley Street recovered pottery, iron needles and a flute from this period at Butlers Wharf c.250m NW (MLO4340).

## 2.4 Saxon

The flooding continued through the Saxon period of which there is little evidence of substantial occupation before C9th. The Domesday Book of 1086, refers to a monastery probably in existence before the Norman invasion, and later rebuilt as the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie, the current site of Southwark Cathedral and a late Saxon mint (SMR Ref 090549) was discovered on Borough High Street c.1.3km west. The destruction of a bridge over the Thames is mentioned in Olaf's saga. The bridge was later re-opened and therefore must have existed prior to its opening in *c.*914CE.

## 2.5 Medieval

Bermondsey Abbey was founded in 1082, close to the tidal inlet that ran from the Thames, the south bank of which was set back as far as Jacob's Street. The monks began to change the landscape, cultivating the land, taming the waterways and building a dock and a mill. The abbey was a retreat for the Royal family and the area became popular with the wealthy and ecclesiastical and people settled around the dock area where an industrial area spread outwards from the river. A moated site existed at Mill Street c.150m N (MLO13491) and a Manor house and towered hall of the Knights of St John from which the remains of imported goods relating was docks were recovered was located c.180m NW (MLO13489). A windmill that belonged to the Abbey is recorded c.240m N at Spa Road (MLO8725).

## 2.6 Post-medieval

The Thames south foreshore was historically set as far back as Jacob Street and there were still wetland areas through to the 16th Century. The tidal creek that served the medieval Abbey became St Saviour's Dock, The dock flourished and a port was built, attracting new residents and industry; an area that was predominantly market gardens became, over time, suburban. The streams provided a water supply for the tanning industry to flourish and St Saviour's became a busy dock and industrial area. The tanning industry was notoriously unhealthy, which drove out the wealthier residents and created a slum. The site is located within c.100m of St Saviours Dock and the infamous Jacob's Island. The river Neckinger that passes within c.100m of the site supplied the tanners with water but was closed over in the 1850's following a cholera outbreak. In cartographic evidence from C17th, the site is depicted in an area of market gardens. By the C18th there may have been some encroachment on the north boundary from buildings in the dock area and part of the site may have served as a yard, however, by the Fire and Insurance map of 1889CE the church is the only building noted on the map beyond the dock.

Excavations have uncovered pottery manufacture and a tanning pit at Wolseley Street c.90m NE (MLO99257). Several warehouses and mills survive from both the 17$^{th}$ and 18$^{th}$ centuries around the dock area.

The Catholic Relief Act of 1829CE lifted an injunction on Convents that had been in place since the reformation and in 1834CE an area of ground was selected on the ancient Bermondsey Abbey lands that later served as a tan yard supplied with water from the Neckinger tide-stream and Reverent Peter Butler (1799 -1848CE) assisted financially by the Baroness Montesquieu, erected a new church on the site of the old presbytery (other historical accounts claim the land came from the Commercial Docking Company). Sampson Kempthorne a British architect who specialized in the design of workhouses is attributed with the design of the new church, however, the convent records that the first stone of the Church of the Holy Trinity was laid in 1834CE by Dr. Bramston, and Father Butler, who took particular satisfaction from his carpentry work on churches, acted as architect, builder and clerk of works.

The Church was dedicated in 1836CE to the Most Holy Trinity and was the first catholic

building to be built on a public highway since the reformation and the first to be built in the Gothic Style.

A school was administered in the much-ruined Old Chapel-House and the gallery, divided into cells, became a dormitory for nuns of the order of the Sisters of Mercy founded by Mother Catherine McAuley (1778-1841CE). In 1839CE the erection of a convent began, designed by A W N Pugin, in the Gothic style and housed between 30-40 inmates. The convent received a new laundry in 1850CE and in 1876CE a new wing and chapel were built.

Mrs. B Holmes documented a Roman Catholic Burial Ground associated with this church at Parkers Row:

*'The land was given for the purpose in 1833 or 1834. The ground between the church and the road measures about 300 square yards, and was very much overcrowded. It is closed and untidy, with no tombstones. Burials also took place in the garden, which is used as a recreation ground for the schools, and is neatly kept.' (Holmes, 1897)*

Records confirm that burials continued until 1853CE suggesting that the burial ground could not be located beneath the buildings of the church, convent or laundry, which were both constructed within the burial grounds period of use and it is unlikely that the Priest or the Reverend Mother would have built the new chapel and wing over the burial ground which was still within very short living memory (23 years). There are few areas that are not taken up by the church and convent buildings. The area is described as 'between the church and the road' and the 'recreation ground for the schools'. The current priest confirmed that the graves of the nuns were discovered to the east of the site, close to the priests house when the new church was being constructed and that they were exhumed and reburied in the vaults of Bermondsey Abbey and later in St Mary's cemetery, Kensal Green.

The area was much improved by the demolition and redevelopment of the slums. Tower Bridge Road was opened in 1894CE providing a direct connection with the city of London. In 1888CE it was included in the county of London and in 1899CE the Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey was created.

A Methodist Chapel and Girls School were constructed to the west of Arnold Place, the site of the former church and the convent.

**2.7 Modern**

Bermondsey docks were a prime target of Nazi Germany during the Second World War. The warehouses were filled with goods that would keep the population of Britain fed and support the war effort.

The Boy Scouts became an integral part of the local war effort and one of their duties was to watch for and report fires during air raids and contain incendiary devices by covering them with sand.

On 8th December 1940CE a local scout, Frank Davis aged 17 from 6 Parker Row and a member of the 11th Bermondsey and Rotherhithe (St James) Scout Group, was on duty. His post was at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead. Frank had wanted to become a doctor and had joined the scouts to take his First Aid Course. When the war began he joined St John Ambulance Brigade and like his father who was an air raid warden, he became a part-time warden. There are several conflicting reports, but it appears that Frank, after rescuing a friend or neighbour from the first wave of bombs earlier that evening, was killed in the blitz that damaged the church, when returning to his post. He received the posthumous award of a Scout's Bronze Cross.

On 2nd March 1945 a V2 rocket landed on Parker's Row, destroying the church, convent and priests house and killing three of the priests who were inside. One priest and the housekeeper were trapped in the building. Ted Heming, one of the Heavy Rescue Squad, was lowered upside down into the ruins, working for some considerable time to release them. He was awarded the George Cross.

The V2 Log reports on 2/3/1945 at 23.10pm:

*'55-60 & 54 Parkers Row 6 shops and flats demolished. 30 shops and flats and 60 houses, a fire station, badly damaged. Holy Trinity Church Dockhead, which had been previously*

*blitzed, was demolished. There was a relatively shallow crater but damage extended 500 yards in each direction. The 3 dead were priests who were in the priest's house of the church. It was also reported that one of the rescuers worked upside down at great peril to himself for some hours whilst he tried to free victims from the demolished buildings.'*

The damage caused to the nearby buildings provided an impetus for the reconstruction of the area and following WWII the area was redeveloped. A new church and presbytery, designed by Architect Harry Stuart Goodhart-Rendel of Goodhart-Rendel, Broadbent & Curtis were built to the west of the former church and convent. Bishop Cowderoy laid the foundation stone of the church in 1957CE and the convent was completed in 1958CE.

## 3 Methodology

**3.1** All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Written Scheme of Investigation* (*Touchstone Archaeology, 2017*).

**3.2** Two trenches were mechanically excavated and monitored by Touchstone Archaeology staff and an independent archaeologist with MCIfA status. Trench 1 was not hand excavated due to its instability caused by its depth and loose fill and was recorded form outside of the trench. Trench 2 was hand excavated. In both cases the natural geology of the trench was viewed and recorded by the archaeologists but was partly concealed in photographs by falling debris from the section. A balk of 1.5 x 1.2m was left in the centre of Trench 2 to assist with surveying the drainage and to support the trench wall. The church and surrounding area had been bombed during WWII and as a precaution an ordnance specialist from 1st Line Defence was in attendance performing a watching brief on the evaluation trenches.

**3.3** The locations of the areas of excavation and heights of observations and archaeological remains were recorded by GPS. OSTM02 transformation was used to link measured positions with the national coordinate system of GB.

Trenches were drawn in plan at 1:50 and where relevant sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20; numbered contexts were allocated where appropriate.

The site has produced: 1 x 1:200 trench location plan; 33 context records; 1 x 1:50 plan; 3 x 1:20 section drawings; 17 photographs. In addition 1 clay pipe was recovered.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code MLO17 in the MoL archive.

## 4 Results of the evaluation

Here follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits recorded. For trench locations see Fig.3.

### 4.1 Trench 1 (*Fig.3-6*)

| **Evaluation Trench 1** | |
|---|---|
| Location | E-W along the south side of the church building |
| Dimensions | 11m E-W by 1.2m wide and 1.7m deep with balk of 1.5m left in the centre at a depth of 0.6m. Side extension to south of balk 1.7m x 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep. |
| Modern ground level | 3.16m OD |
| Base of modern fill | 1.68m OD |
| Depth of archaeological deposits | 0.26m 18th Century brick foundation |
| Level of base of trench | 1.56m OD |
| Natural observed | 1.56m OD |

On the day prior to the evaluation London and the Home Counties had seen heavy snowfall and on the day of the evaluation it continued to rain and snow for the best part of the day, which contributed to the instability of Trench 1.

A 1.2m wide linear trench was mechanically excavated from the west in three divisions for a total of 11m. The first division was excavated to the reach of the mechanical excavator. Natural was encountered at 1.6m depth of a firm, dark brown, London Clay [102]. To the north (Section 1) of the trench it was overlain by a 1.0 thick alluvium layer of firm, dark, bluish grey clay, with concentrations of charcoal flakes [103]. Above this was a fairly even, 19th century levelling layer of firm, dark brownish, grey, silty clay with moderate large brick fragments, frequent small fragments of brick, mortar, chalk, coal and occasional clay pipe fragments 0.6m in depth [104].

This was followed by deposits of demolition [105] and a re-deposited fragment of a brick wall [106] of 0.54m to the east side (Section 1) was a 0.7m leveling layer of firm, dark brown, clayey silt with frequent brick, mortar, charcoal, coal flakes and occasional large brick fragments and flint [107] to the west side of the section, all post 1950's.

To the south (Section 2) of the trench the alluvium layer was not present. Towards the west of this section, sitting on the natural geology was the corner of a 19th century wall [117], probably English bond with lime mortar, 1.36m high. To the west of the wall was a fairly level layer (0.9m) of demolition deposit of firm, black, clayey silt with occasional large brick fragments, moderate brick and mortar flakes [115] overlain by an even 1.0m of demolition deposit of firm, black, clayey silt with frequent flint cobbles, large brick fragments, brick and mortar flakes and a large fragment of square brick pillar with concrete foundation [116]. To the east of the wall was an undulating layer of demolition deposit, between 0.3m and 0.8m thick of firm, black, clayey silt with occasional large brick fragments, moderate brick and mortar flakes [112]. This was overlain to the east by a 1.0m thick demolition deposit of firm, black, clayey silt with frequent large brick fragments, brick and mortar flakes [113] and to the west by 1.0m of modern backfill of firm, black, clayey silt with frequent large curved yellow ceramic fragments and large brick [118]. Following this was a fairly level 0.5m 1950's demolition layer of firm compaction, black, clayey silt with frequent large brick fragments, brick and mortar flakes [119]. A small section of pavement survived at this level to Section 3 [114]. All contexts were sealed with 0.27m of landscape leveling layer of firm, dark brown,

sandy silt with mid brown, sand lenses and occasional brick fragments and mortar [108]. Topsoil was a medium, black loam of 0.1m [101].

Two drainpipes were contained within context [104] and it was uncertain whether or not they were still functioning as drainage for the church. In order to determine this the next division was excavated to the depth of the drainage pipe (0.6m) to ascertain its direction and the extent to which it continued within the trench. It was confirmed that the drainage took a diagonal route through the trench and to avoid any further damage, the decision was taken to excavate to the south of the current trench, however, at 0.3m a substantial tarmac pavement [114] and brick foundation wall [120] were uncovered and so this plan was abandoned.

The original trench was continued in a west to east direction but a 1.5m balk was left in situ to protect the drainage and support the trench. The drainage level was reached again and this time a more thorough investigation was possible and it was confirmed that the pipe was dry and silted and no longer in use and was therefore removed. The contexts continued as before with the exception of a 1.2m high 19$^{th}$ century NNW-SSE aligned, brick and half thick wall, in probable English bond with soft, white lime mortar [110] and a small deposit of 0.2m thick post 1950 demolition of firm, dark brown silty sand with frequent tiles, occasional mortar and bricks [109].
In the east section there was a 1.3m high, WSW-ESE aligned 19$^{th}$ century, brick and a half thick wall, in English bond with white soft lime mortar [111]. One clay pipe was recovered.
It appears that wall [117] was a continuation of [111] and both are contemporary with [110]. Comparison with the 1896 OS map suggests that they are the walls of the former Wesleyan Methodist Church (*Fig.8*).

### 4.2 Trench 2 (*Fig.3, 4 &7*)

| **Evaluation Trench 2** | |
|---|---|
| Location | In a flower bed adjacent to the entrance gate to the convent |
| Dimensions | 1.1m by 1m wide and 1.0m deep |
| Modern ground level/top of slab | 3.06m OD |
| Base of modern concrete kerb | 2.76m OD |
| Depth of archaeological deposits | 3.0m 18th century floor |
| Level of base of trench | 2.16m OD |
| Natural observed | 2.16m OD |

Trench 2 was located adjacent to the convent gate providing access for the nuns through the church grounds; therefore, with the agreement of the local authority archaeologist, the trench was reduced in size and excavated as a small trial pit.

Natural firm, dark brown, London Clay was encountered at 0.9m [202]. The alluvium layer was not present. To the north side of the trench the natural was truncated by a W-E aligned foundation trench [204] with steep sides back-filled with firm, black loam with small stones mixed with clay and gravel [205]. The foundation trench [204] was cut for the N-S aligned wall in English bond with white mortar [212] that continued east and west beyond the scope of the trench walls and below the base of the trench.

To the south of the trench the natural geology was overlain by a 0.3m deposit of buried 19th century top soil of firm, black loam with small stones [203]. To the east side of the trench a thin 0.3m sloping layer of white mortar fragments mixed with black soil [206] was followed by a 0.6m post 1950's leveling layer of firm, dark grey clay mixed with rubble, occasional mid brown sand lenses and some plastic [207].

To the west side of the trench were several layers of floor construction beginning with 0.15m of large brick fragments surfaced with white lime mortar [208], a second layer of 0.14m of large brick fragments surfaced with white lime mortar [209] and 0.13m of compacted large fragments of dressed stone with yellow coarse sand [210]. A small deposit of black humic soil was within these layers [211].

The south section was finished with two courses of modern tiles [201B] and to the west with light brown bricks and occasional red brick [201C] both to a thickness of 0.12m forming a base for a modern kerb edging [201A]. All contexts were sealed with medium, black loam with occasional small hardcore within which was planted a bush and small tree [201]. No finds were recovered. The wall [212] probably formed part of the former convent (Fig.8).

### 4.3 Finds

| Context | Material | Sherds/Fragments | Period | Date | Brief Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 104 | Clay pipe | 1 | P-Med | Late 17th C | 1 pipe bowl |

**4.3.1** One piece of clay pipe was recovered with no visible makers mark. The shape of the bowl and the foot indicate a date of late 17th century. The clay pipe was in a context of 19th century levelling layer containing moderate large brick fragments, frequent small fragments of brick, mortar, chalk and coal and is probably redeposited.

### 4.4 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (*English Heritage, 1998*) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'.

**4.4.1** The church and convent wall, that form the perimeter of the garden, are both listed and the space within is accessed by a narrow gate that dictated the size of the mechanical excavator. The entire area has been developed several times in the past century and the trenches targeted the post medieval buildings to the west and the site of the former convent to the east, avoiding the position of Arnold Road through the centre. Beyond this there is little accessible area for further trenches without impact to either the church or wall foundation. The area affected by the proposed annexe is c.250sqm and the total area of evaluation trenches was 16.32sqm or 6.5%. Natural was reached in both trenches.

## 5 Archaeological potential

### 5.1 Realisation of original research aims

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the evaluation (Section 3.2).

**5.1.1** *Site-specific research objectives may be able to determine if there is any evidence of the Post-Medieval construction (including the Wesleyan Methodist church and School for girls) to the west of Arnold Road and the former convent to the east.*

Post-medieval deposits were observed in both trenches, consisting of dump layers at 2.26m OD, brick foundations at 2.9m OD and a pavement at 2.85m OD in trench 1 and a foundation wall and floor surface at 2.76m OD and the foundation trench fill at 2.46m OD in trench 2. Pre 18th century alluvium was discovered at 1.66m OD and natural at 1.56m OD and 2.26m OD. The brick foundations in situ corroborate the cartographic evidence from the 1916CE OS map and appear to relate to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel building and the former convent (*Fig.8*).

**5.1.2** *In addition, the objective was to establish whether archaeological remains or deposits survived below the post medieval buildings.*

Alluvium was recorded at 1.66m OD in the northwest area of trench 1 but was not present in Trench 2. Boreholes taken in 1952 recorded a 0.9m layer of peat at 0.76m OD. Survival of pre 19th century archaeology is likely to be extremely limited due to the level of disturbance seen on the site during the 19th and 20th century from construction and bomb damage.

### 5.2 New research aims

There are no new research aims that would benefit from investigation based on the results of this watching brief.

### 5.3 Significance of the data

**5.3.1** The archaeological remains of the former convent have local, regional and national importance as the former Church of the Most Holy Trinity was the first catholic building to be built on a public highway since the reformation and the first to be built in the Gothic Style and the convent was directly connected to the church and built only three years later, however, both the church and convent have been rebuilt in the modern period by the renowned architect H S Goodhart-Rendel and have Listed status, therefore the site retains its local, regional and national importance in the new buildings.

**5.3.2** The archaeological remains of the post-medieval buildings to the west are undoubtedly of local significance, however, there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

**5.3.3** The archaeology confirms what is already known of the site from historical and cartographic records and this information is collated in the desk-based assessment that preceded the evaluation.

## 6 Proposed development impact and recommendations

**6.1** The proposed construction of a new annexe to link the Church of the Most Holy Trinity and the Convent of Our Lady of Mercy will be sited within the church garden. The impact of this on the surviving archaeological deposits would affect those surviving below 2.9m OD.

**6.2** The demolished remains of the west side of the Convent building (1839CE) located to the east of Arnold Road and the post medieval buildings located to the west of Arnold Road were uncovered during the evaluation; the remains confirmed the layout of the buildings shown on the OS map of 1916CE, therefore there is limited potential for any new archaeology on the site. Monitoring the excavation of the foundations may identify more

archaeological deposits but the evidence suggests that this process will probably only confirm further wall layouts.

**6.3** The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

## 7 Conclusion

The evaluation revealed that the foundations of the western buildings and the former convent were cut into the natural geology and when the church and convent were bombed in the blitz of 1945CE, the foundation walls and pavements survived and were left in situ. The layout of the walls mirrored that of the 1916CE OS map therefore this evaluation did not provide any new information. The site was almost entirely developed through the 19th and 20th century and the trenches sampled both areas where the post-medieval buildings were located. A stretch of garden between the trenches that remained unsampled was the location of Arnold Road.

## 8 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank St Ann's Gate Architects LLP for commissioning the evaluation on behalf of the client. Gillian King BA (Jt Hons) MCIFA FSA (Scot), Senior Planner Archaeology for her help and advice throughout and prompt response. David Britchfield of Ravelin Archaeological Services for Project Management, Bartosz Cichy for the GPS Survey, Graphics and his assistance on site, 1st Line Defence for the Ordnance Watching Brief, Pawel Michalak for operating the mechanical excavator and Samuel Schofield for his general assistance.

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## 10 NMR OASIS archaeological report form OASIS ID: zoeschof1-305072

**OASIS ID: zoeschof1-305072**

**Project details**

| | |
|---|---|
| Project name | The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, Bermondsey SE1 2BS |
| Short description of the project | Archaeological Evaluation |
| Project dates | Start: 11-12-2017 End: 11-12-2017 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | CMHT17 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | MLO17 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | Listed Building |
| Current Land use | Other 4 - Churchyard |
| Monument type | MLO91771 Modern |
| Monument type | MLO107341 Modern |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Methods & techniques | '''Targeted Trenches''' |
| Development type | Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.) |
| Prompt | Planning condition |

| | |
|---|---|
| Position in the planning process | Between deposition of an application and determination |

**Project location**

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead |
| Postcode | SE1 2BS |
| Study area | 450 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 33930 79664 51.499525948373 -0.070278874627 51 29 58 N 000 04 13 W Point |
| Lat/Long Datum | Unknown |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 0.9m Max: 1.6m |

**Project creators**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Organisation | TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY |
| Project brief originator | Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body |
| Project design originator | Zoe Schofield |
| Project director/manager | Zoe Schofield |
| Project supervisor | Zoe Schofield |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Diocese |

## Project archives

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | MOLA |
| Physical Archive ID | MLO17 |
| Physical Contents | ''Ceramics'' |
| Physical Archive notes | 1 clay pipe bowl |
| Digital Archive recipient | MOLA |
| Digital Archive ID | MLO17 |
| Digital Contents | ''none'' |
| Digital Media available | ''Images raster / digital photography'',''Text'' |
| Paper Archive recipient | MOLA |
| Paper Archive ID | MLO17 |
| Paper Contents | ''none'' |
| Paper Media available | ''Context sheet'' |

## Project bibliography 1

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological evaluation at The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, Bermondsey SE1 2BS |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Schofield, Z |
| Date | 2018 |
| Issuer or publisher | Touchstone Archaeology |

| | |
|---|---|
| Place of issue or publication | www.touchstonearchaeology.com |
| Description | PDF |
| URL | www.touchstonearchaeology.com |
| Entered by | Zoe Schofield (zoeschofield1@touchstonearcaheology.com) |
| Entered on | 15 January 2018 |

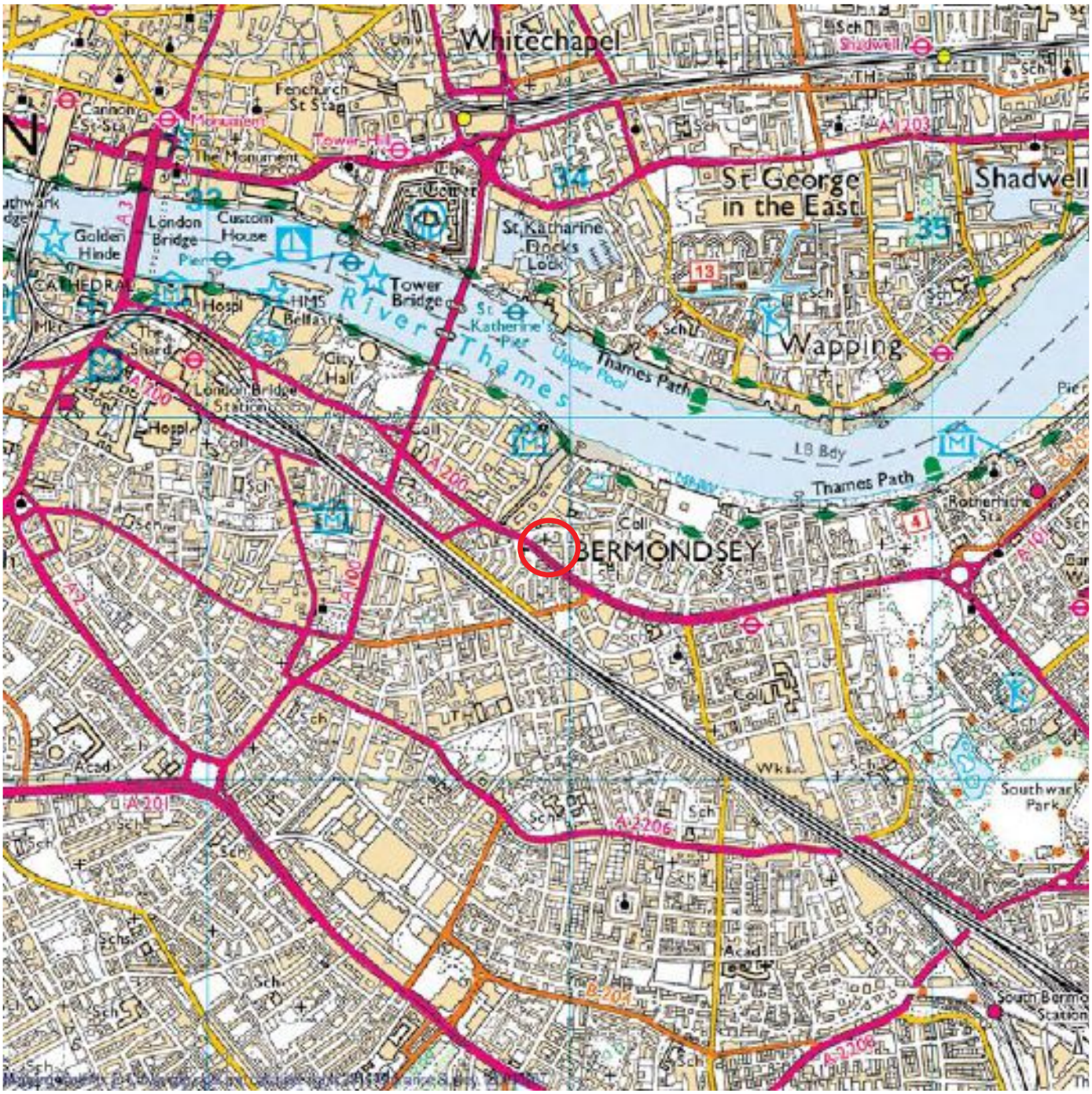



**Fig.1. OS Explorer Map 1:25,000**


Scale: 1:1250 | Area 2Ha | Grid Reference: 533925,179680 | Paper Size: A4

**Fig.2. Planning Submissions: Location Plan 1:1250**

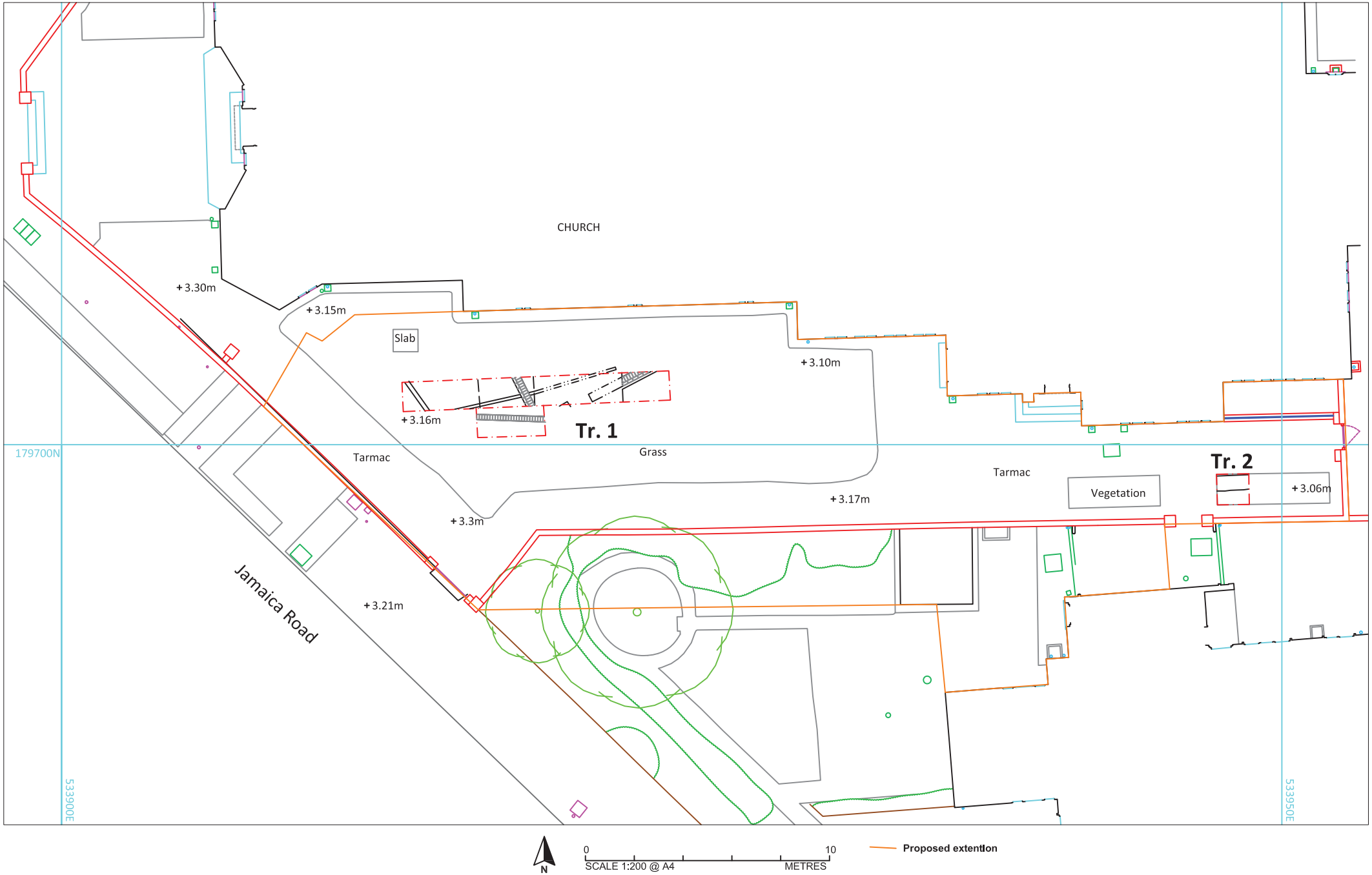



Figure 3: Trench location, scale 1:200

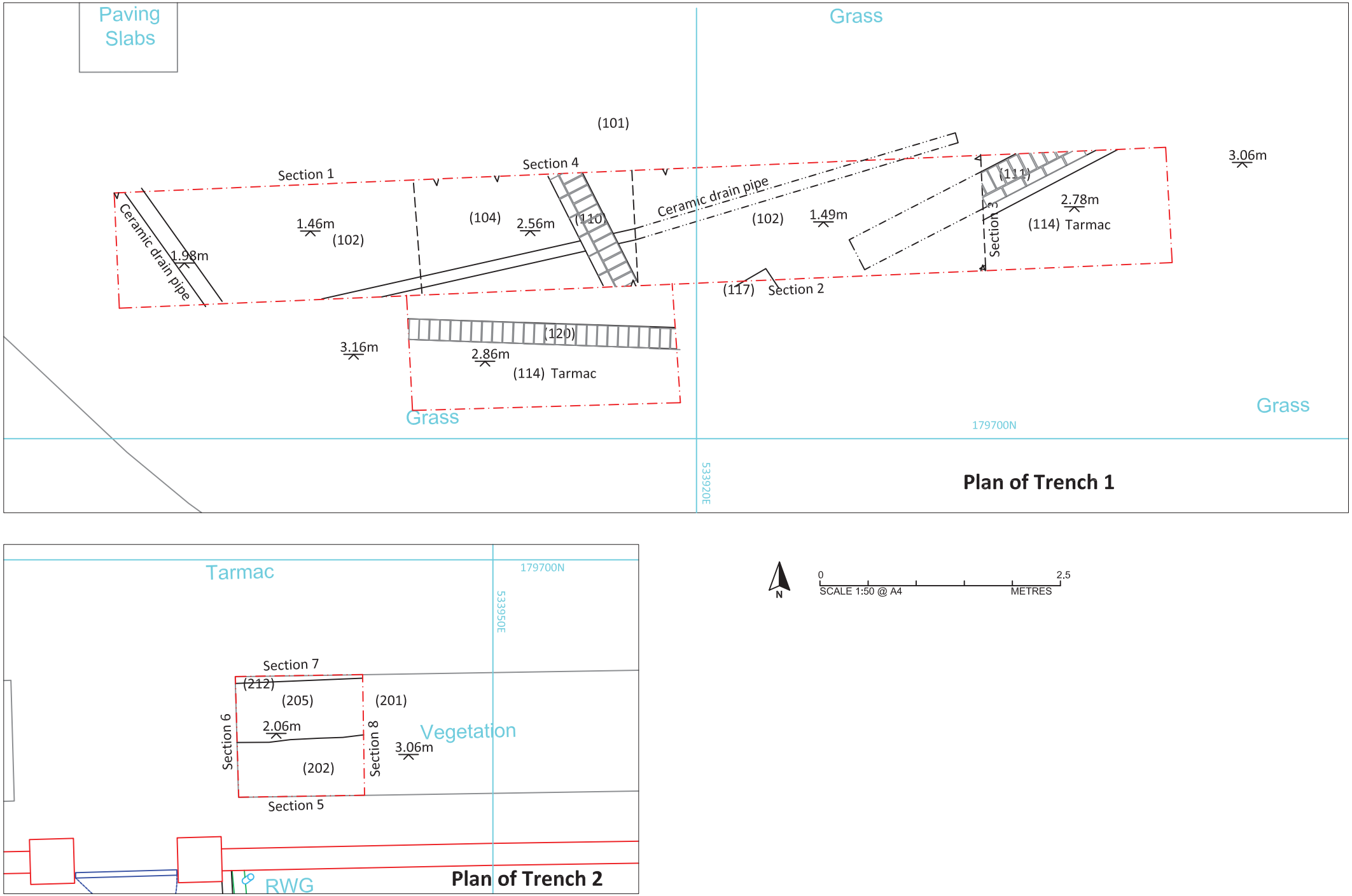



Figure 4: Trench plans, scale 1:50

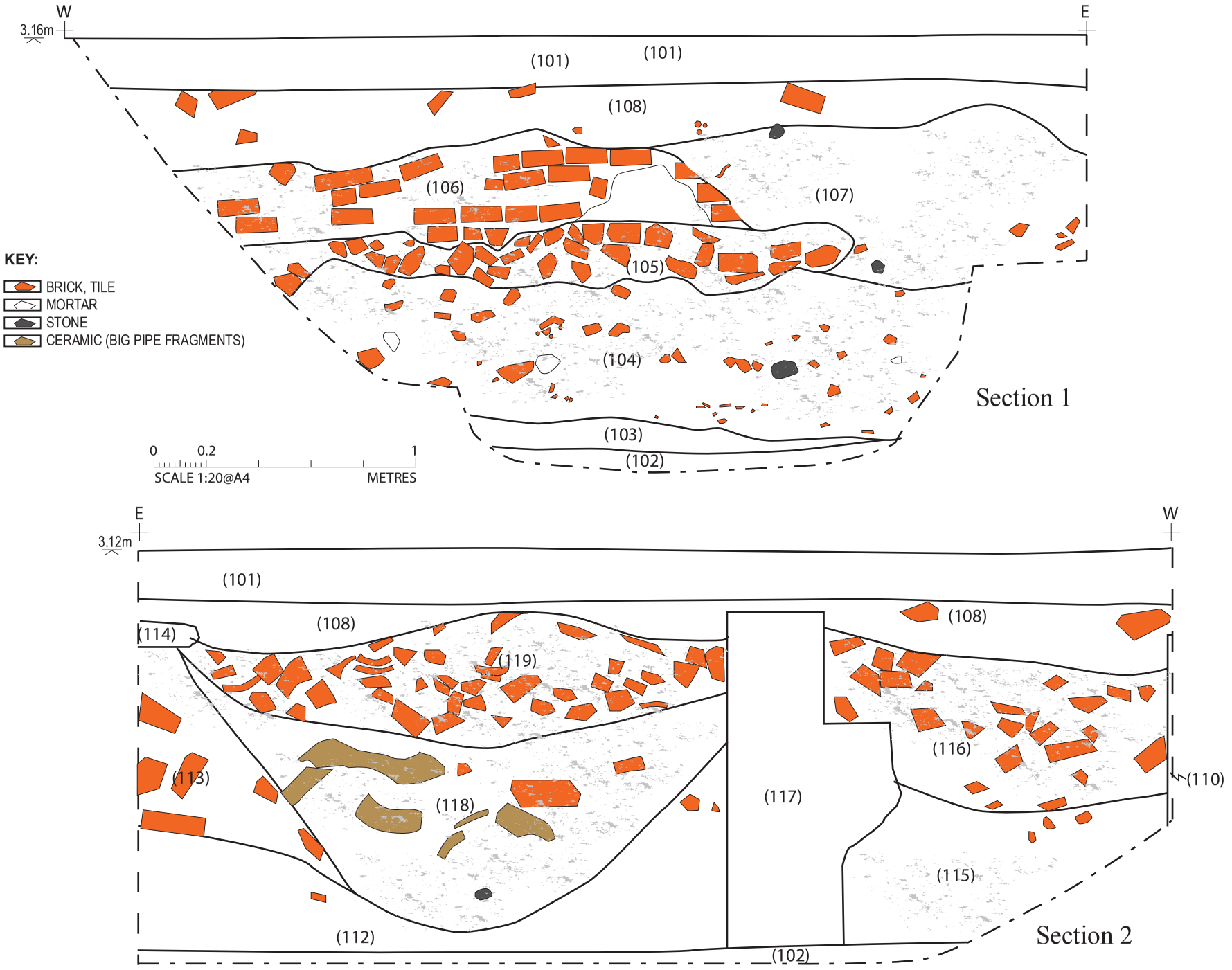
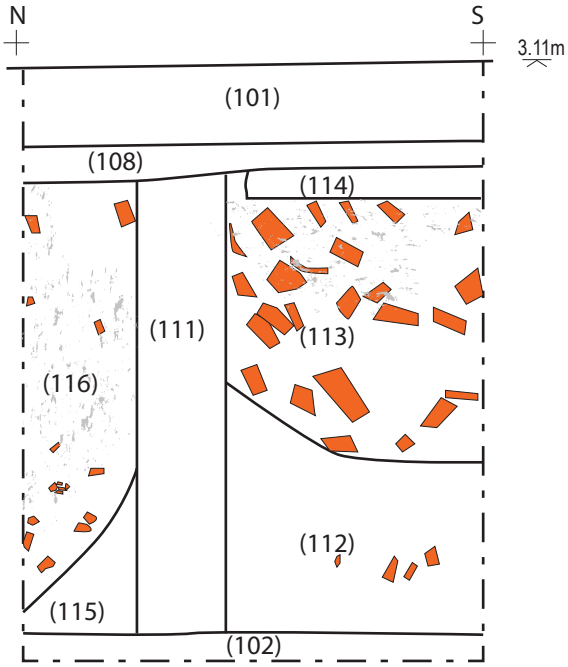
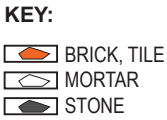



*Figure 5: Sections of Trench 1*

Section 3








Section 4

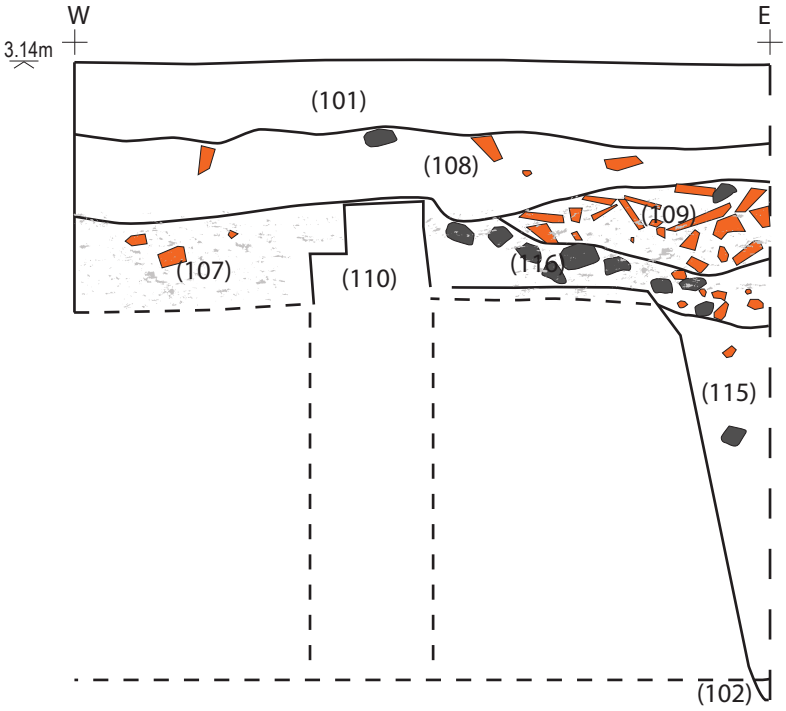



*Figure 6: Sections of Trench 1*

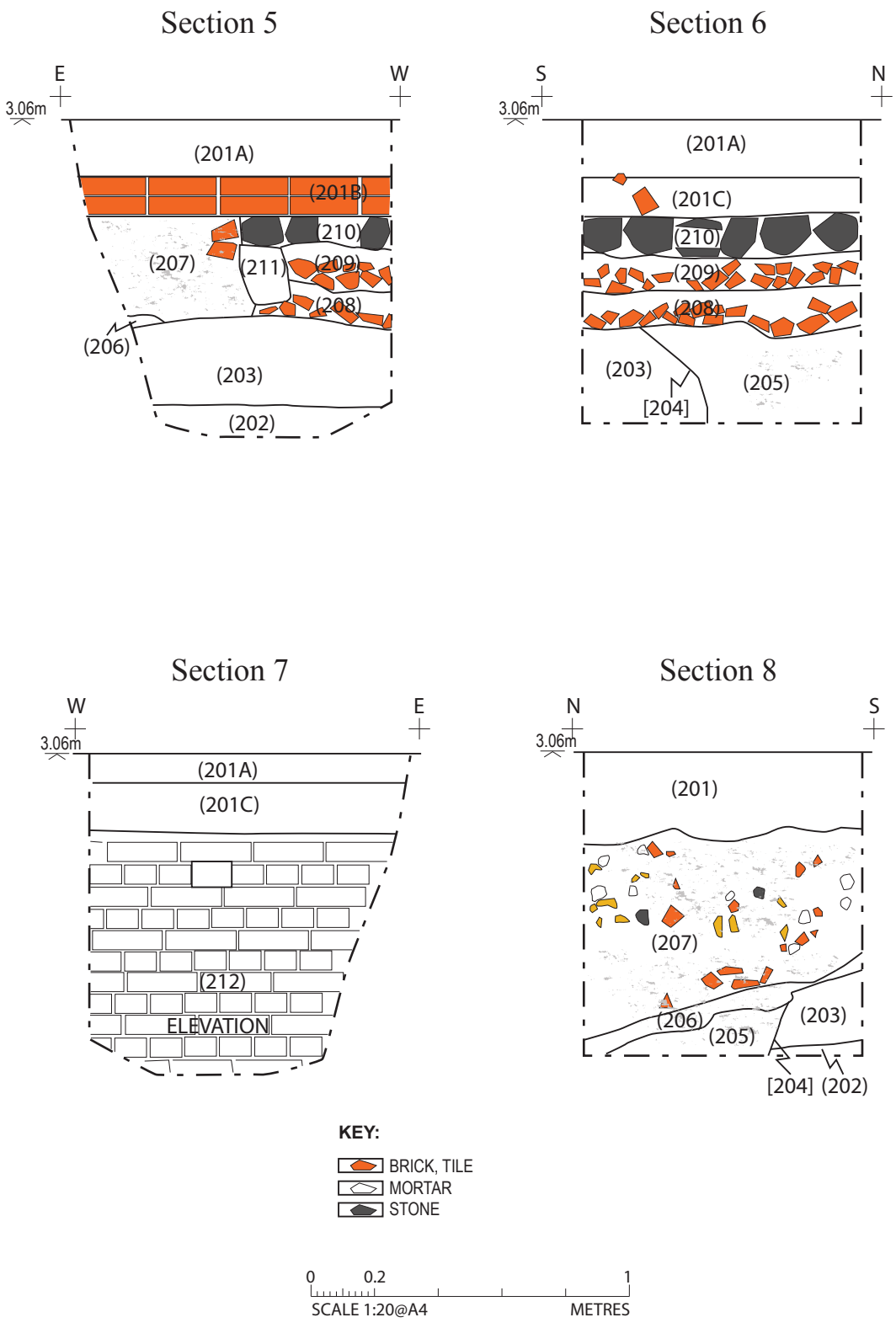



*Figure 7: Sections of Trench 2*

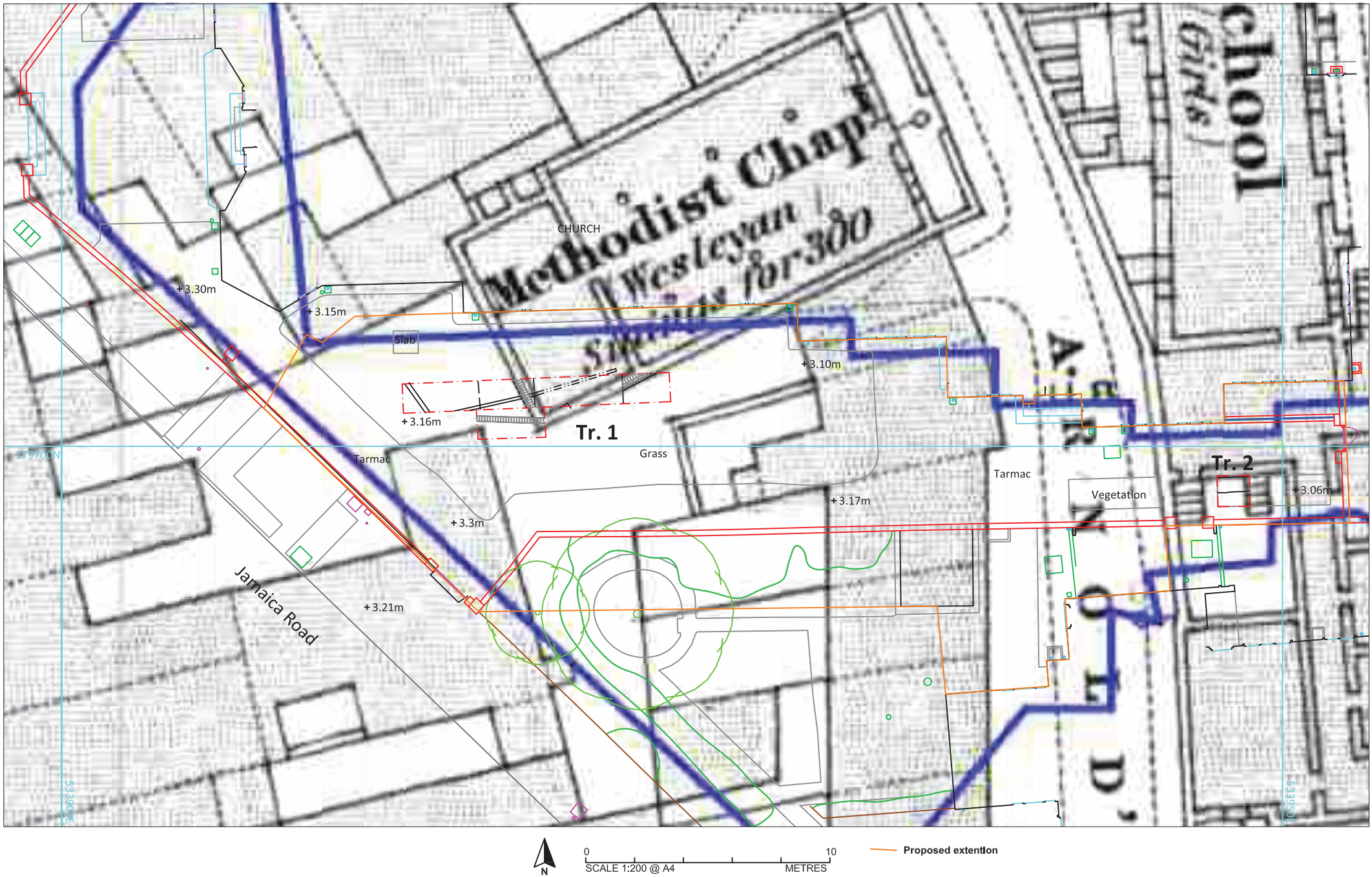



Figure 8: Trenches superimposed on OS map from 1872, scale 1:200

Plate 1: Site overview looking east

Plate 2: Trench 1 looking east

Plate 3: Trench 1 looking west

Plate 4: Trench 1 Section 1 looking north

Plate 5: Trench 1 Section 2 Looking south – wall (111)

Plate 6: Trench 1 Section 3 looking east - wall (111)

Plate 7: Trench 1 south extension looking east - wall (120)

Plate 8: Trench 1 Section 4 and balk looking north

Plate 9: Trench 1 balk in plan looking north - wall (110)

Plate 10: Trench 2 site overview looking east

Plate 11: Trench 2 looking south west

Plate 12: Trench 2 in plan looking south at paved floor (210)

Plate 13: Trench 2 looking southwest

Plate 14: Trench 2 Section 5 looking south

Plate 15: Trench 2 Section 6 looking west

Plate 16: Trench 2 Section 7 looking north – wall (212)

Plate 17: Trench 2 Section 8 looking east

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England



Printable version

## OASIS ID: zoeschof1-302833

### Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| Project name | The Church of the Most Holy Trinity |
| Short description of the project | Trial Trenching at The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Bermondsey in advance of a planning application for a new community centre. |
| Project dates | Start: 11-12-2017 End: 15-12-2017 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | MHO17 - Sitecode |
| Any associated project reference codes | CMHT17 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | 17AP3960 - Planning Application No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | MLO107341 - LBS No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | MLO91771 - LBS No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | MLO20154 - Related HER No. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | Listed Building |
| Current Land use | Community Service 1 - Community Buildings |
| Monument type | MLO20154 Post Medieval |
| Monument type | MLO20154 Post Medieval |
| Monument type | MLO107341 Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | SN Post Medieval |
| Methods & techniques | "'Sample Trenches"' |
| Development type | Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.) |
| Prompt | Listed Building Consent |
| Position in the planning process | Pre-application |

### Project location

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | England |

| | |
|---|---|
| Site location | GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK The Church of the Most Holy Trinity |
| Postcode | SE1 2BS |
| Study area | 0.45 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TQ 33930 79664 51.499525948373 -0.070278874627 51 29 58 N 000 04 13 W Point |
| Lat/Long Datum | Unknown |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 5m Max: 5m |

## Project creators

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Organisation | TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY |
| Project brief originator | Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body |
| Project design originator | Zoe Schofield |
| Project director/manager | Zoe Schofield |
| Project supervisor | Zoe Schofield |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Diocese |

## Project archives

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | MOLA |
| Physical Archive ID | MLO17 |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics" |
| Physical Archive notes | Clay pipe fragment |
| Digital Archive recipient | MOLA |
| Digital Archive ID | MLO17 |
| Digital Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography" |
| Paper Archive recipient | MOLA |
| Paper Archive ID | MLO17 |
| Paper Contents | "Ceramics" |
| Paper Media available | "Aerial Photograph","Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section" |

## Project bibliography 1

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological Trial Trenching at The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, Bermondsey SE1 2BS |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Schofield, Z |
| Other bibliographic details | Final Report |
| Date | 2017 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuer or publisher | Touchstone Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | Danbury. Essex |
| Description | PDF File |
| URL | www.touchstonearchaeology.com |

**Project bibliography 2**

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological Evaluation of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Schofield, Z |
| Date | 2018 |
| Issuer or publisher | Touchstone Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | Danbury, Essex |
| Description | PDF |
| URL | www.touchstonearchaeology.com |

| | |
|---|---|
| Entered by | Zoe Schofield (zoeschofield1@gmail.com) |
| Entered on | 15 October 2018 |

# OASIS:

# Touchstone Archaeology Ltd

## Historic Environment Record

## Summary Sheet

## Appendix I

| | |
|---|---|
| Site Name/Address: The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, Bermondsey, SE1 2BS | |
| Parish: Southwark | District: Greater London |
| NGR: TQ 33930 79664 (centre) | Site Code: CMHT17 |
| Type of Work: Trial Trenching | Site Director/Group: Zoe Schofield, Touchstone Archaeology |
| Date of Work: December 2017 | Size of Area Investigated: 500m radius |
| Location of Finds/Curating Museum: GLHER | Funding source: Owner |
| Further Seasons Anticipated? No | Related HHER No's: - |
| Final Report: Schofield, Z., Final Report, Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Southwark, Touchstone Archaeology Ltd., 2016 | OASIS number: zoeschof1 - 305072 |
| Periods Represented: None | |
| Summary of Fieldwork Results:<br><br>An Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead has concluded the proposed development is likely to affect the surviving post-medieval archaeology. | |
| Previous Summaries/Reports: None | |
| Author of Summary: Zoe Schofield | Date of Summary: December 2017 |

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