

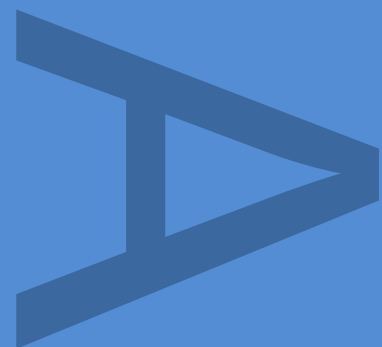
**THE REMOVAL OF TREES AT THE  
TOWER OF LONDON**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**PCA REPORT NO: 11199**

**SITE CODE: TOL117**

**MARCH 2012**





**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

# THE REMOVAL OF TREES AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd		
	Project Number	K2705
	Report Number	R11199

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# **The Removal of Trees At The Tower Of London**

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**Site Code:** TOL117

**Central National Grid Reference:** TQ33658058

**Written by:** Ian Cipin  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, March 2012

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**Commissioning Client:** Historic Royal Palaces

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**March 2012**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Tower of London in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (Figure 1) during the removal and grinding down of three tree stumps. The work was undertaken in order to observe and record anything of archaeological significance.
- 1.2 The Tower of London is a World Heritage Site and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Greater London No. 10).
- 1.3 This report should be seen as an addition to the watching brief carried out in March and April 2011 wherein a number of trees were removed, which was supervised by Rebecca Haslam of PCA and detailed in her subsequent report (2011). Much of the contextual information here is directly reproduced from that report.
- 1.4 The investigation was conducted over four days on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012, and was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces. The watching brief was supervised by Ian Cipin and was managed by Chris Mayo, all of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The archaeological works were inspected and monitored by the Tree and Wildlife Conservation Manager of Historic Royal Palaces, Nicholas Garbutt under the direction of the Curator of the Tower of London, Jane Spooner also of Historic Royal Palaces.
- 1.5 The watching brief monitored the removal of two trees between the inner and outer walls at the southern end of the site and one tree in the centre of the grassed area to the south of the White Tower (Figure 2). All three trees were due to be reduced to ground level and the stumps subsequently ground out with a mechanical stump grinder to a depth sufficient to allow top soiling and re-turfing.
- 1.6 Prior to mechanical stump grinding a ring trench of approximately 0.30m width was dug around each tree stump to the required depth of 0.15m in order to establish the likelihood of archaeology being present. This resulted in three trenches that were numbered Trenches 18-20. No archaeological features or deposits were noted in any of these trenches.
- 1.7 Trenches 18 and 19 were situated in a grassed area just south the Inner Wall approximately half way between Wakefield Tower and Langthorn Tower. They were each approximately 2m x 2m and were excavated to a depth of 0.15m.
- 1.8 Trench 20 was situated in the centre of the grassed area to the south of the White Tower. This trench was approximately 3.00m x 3.00m and was excavated to a depth of 0.15m.
- 1.9 The central National Grid Reference for the site is TQ33658058.
- 1.10 The site archive was allocated the unique site code TOL117. The completed archive comprising written and photographic records from the excavation will be deposited with Historic Royal Palaces at the Tower of London.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 General**

- 2.1.1 The Archaeological and Historical Background is from PCAs previous report on similar work at the site (Haslam 2011).

### **2.2 Roman**

- 2.2.1 During the Early Middle Roman Period (c.200 AD) *Londinium* was protected by a defensive wall, and the site of the future Tower of London lay within the southeast corner of the Roman city defences (Parnell. 1993, 13-16).

### **2.3 Medieval**

- 2.3.1 With the arrival of the Normans, William The Conqueror (1066-1087) consolidated his authority over Saxon London by establishing a motte and bailey castle utilising the surviving Roman city walls to the south and east and adding defensive ditches to the north and west. During the last decade of William's rule, the building that was to form the core of the Tower of London, the White Tower, was constructed (Parnell. 1993, 17-22).
- 2.3.2 The first significant expansion of the defences of the Tower date to the end of the 12th century in the reign of Richard I (1157-1199). During this period the fortifications extended west to encompass the positions later occupied by the Bell and Beauchamp Towers (12th and 13th centuries respectively).
- 2.3.3 During the reign of Henry III (1216-1272), the Tower of London underwent extensive alterations and expansions (Parnell. 1979, 322).

### **2.4 Post-Medieval**

- 2.4.1 In the post-medieval period, specifically the late 17th century, the Tower began to be used as an armoury, and as a result underwent numerous alterations to adapt it from its medieval form. By the 19th century, as architectural trends reverted back towards those of the medieval period, many of the post-medieval constructions were removed to reinstate the earlier vistas.
- 2.4.2 The Tower suffered damage during World War II which necessitated its restoration. It is currently one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country.

### **3 SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Trench 18**

- 3.1.1 Once the tree stump was reduced to ground level a hole approximately 0.30m wide was dug around the tree to a depth of 0.15m. The only deposit seen was topsoil which contained some small pieces of pottery of a mixed date, CBM, plastic, rubber hoses and modern glass.
- 3.1.2 The remaining tree stump was then ground down using a mechanical stump grinder also to a depth of 0.15m creating a hole of approximately 1.95m north-south by 1.90m east-west.
- 3.1.3 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed (Plate 1).

#### **3.2 Trench 19**

- 3.2.1 Once the tree stump was reduced to ground level a hole approximately 0.30m wide was dug around it to a depth of 0.15m. The only deposit seen was topsoil which contained some small pieces of pottery of a mixed date, CBM, plastic, foil sweet rappers, rubber hoses and modern glass.
- 3.2.2 The remaining tree stump was then ground down using a mechanical stump grinder also to a depth of 0.15m creating a hole of approximately 1.95m north-south by 2.10m east-west.
- 3.2.3 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed (Plate 2).

#### **3.3 Trench 20**

- 3.3.1 Once the tree stump had been reduced to ground level a trench approximately 0.30m wide was dug around it to a depth of 0.15m. The only deposit seen was topsoil which contained some small pieces of pottery, fragments of modern drainpipe, some CBM and some modern glass.
- 3.3.2 The remaining tree stump was then ground out using a mechanical stump grinder also to a depth of 0.15m creating a hole of approximately 3.14m north-south by 3.00m east west.
- 3.3.3 No archaeological features of deposits were revealed (Plate 3).

*Plate 1: Trench 18*



*Plate 2: Trench 19*





*Plate 3: Trench 20*



## **4 CONCLUSIONS**

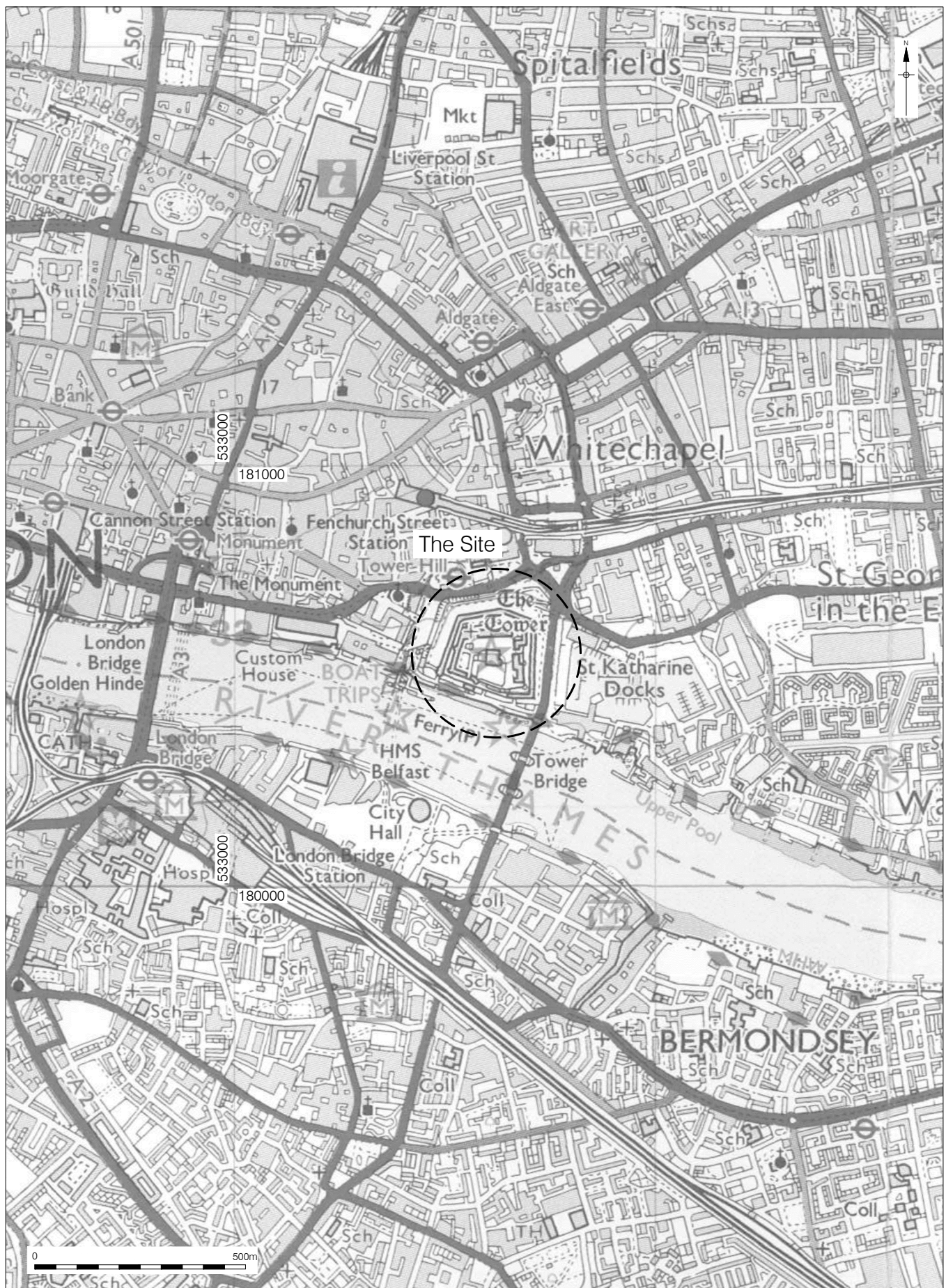
- 4.1 None of the excavations in any of the trenches, to a maximum depth of 0.15m BGL, reached deposits below the topsoil.
- 4.2 No archaeological deposits or features were revealed in any of the trenches.

## **5 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- 5.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Nicholas Garbutt of Historic Royal Palaces for commissioning this project and Jane Spooner for monitoring it.
- 5.2 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for his project management and editing, Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations and lastly Rebecca Haslam for preparation of the initial report.

## **6 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:12,500 at A4

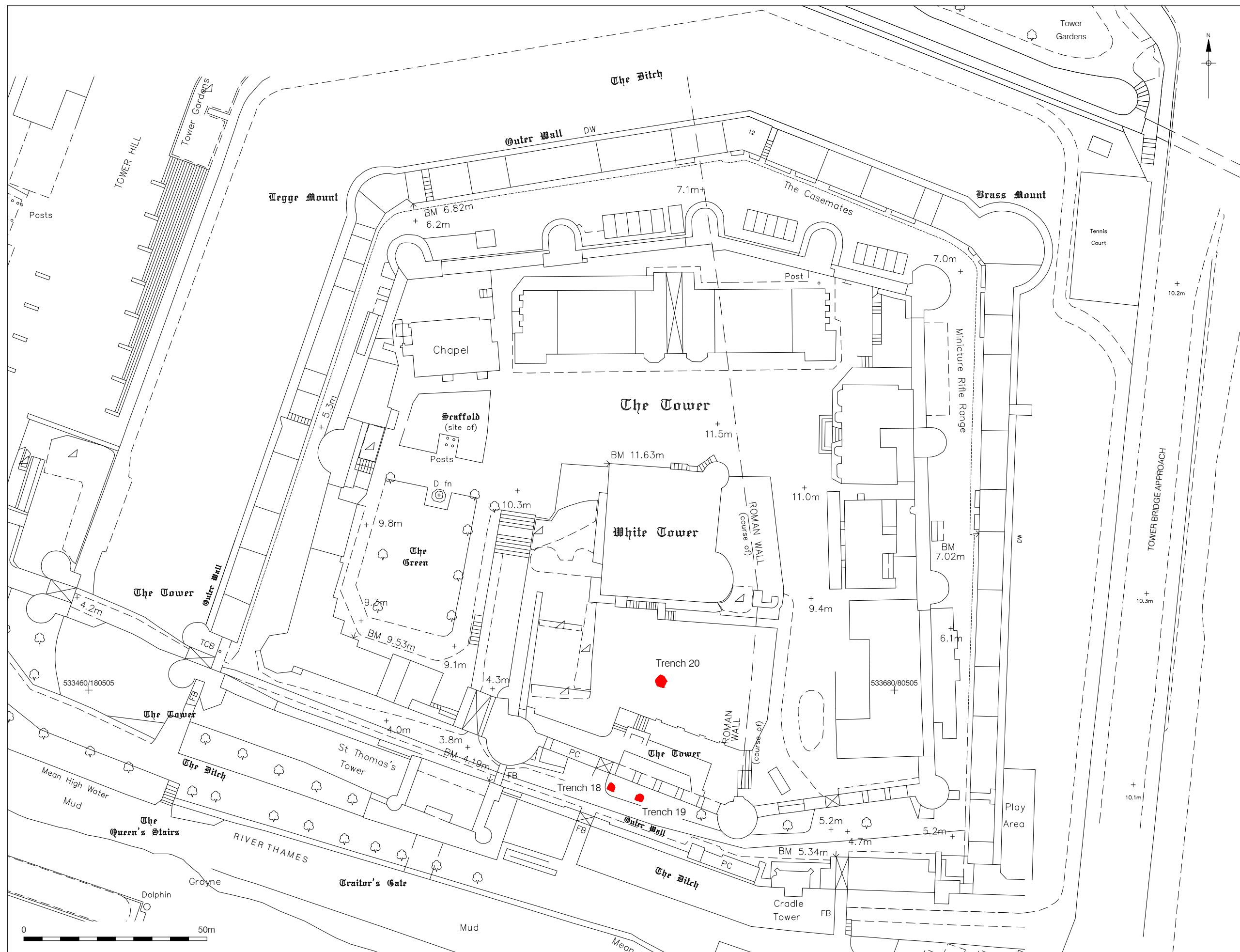


Figure 2  
Trench Locations  
1:1,000 at A3

## APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-122691**

### Project details

Project name	The Removal of Trees at The Tower Of London: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	The watching brief monitored the removal of two trees between the inner and outer walls at the southern end of the site and one tree in the centre of the grassed area to the south of the White Tower. No archaeological features or deposits were noted in any of these trenches.
Project dates	Start: 17-01-2012 End: 25-01-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ToL117 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	World Heritage Site
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS TOWER HAMLETS The Tower of London
Postcode	EC3N 4AB
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3365 8058 51.5078248308 -0.07396363075320 51 30 28 N 000 04 26 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Self (i.e. landowner, developer, etc.)
Project design originator	Historic Royal Palaces
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Ian Cipin
Type of sponsor/funding body	Public body
Name of sponsor/funding body	Historic Royal Palaces



### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Tower of London
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Tower of London
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Section'

### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Removal of Trees at The Tower Of London: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cipin, I.
Other bibliographic details	R11199
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