

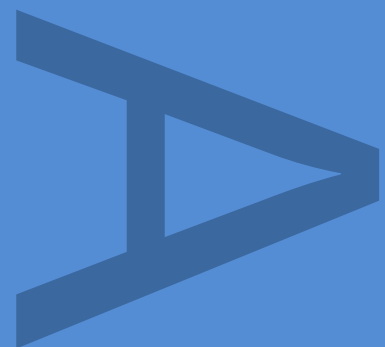
**NEW POWER SUPPLY FOR THE
NEW WHARF CAFE,
TOWER OF LONDON**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

PCA REPORT NO: 11285

SITE CODE: TOL124

AUGUST 2012



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

New Power Supply for the New Wharf Cafe, Tower Of London

An Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: ToL124

Central National Grid Reference: TQ33738046

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 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 excavation of a cable trench for the new cafe on Tower Wharf. 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 The investigation was conducted over two days on 23rd and 24th May 2012, and was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces. The watching brief was supervised by Phil Frickers and was managed by Chris Mayo, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The archaeological works were monitored by Jane Spooner of Historic Royal Palaces.
- 1.4 The watching brief monitored the excavation of a trench (Trench 1) 15m in length in the south east corner of the moat (Figure 2), immediately adjacent to the western face of Tower Bridge Approach. Trench 1 was 0.40m in width and averaged 0.65m in depth. Further to the south the cable was to be inserted into an existing service duct.
- 1.5 The central National Grid Reference for the site is TQ33738046.
- 1.6 The site archive was allocated the unique site code ToL124. The completed archive comprising written and photographic records from the project will be deposited with Historic Royal Palaces at the Tower of London.
- 1.7 No archaeological features were found during the works. The observed sequence was a very straight-forward one of ground-raising and levelling layers. Natural ground was not observed.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Archaeological and Historical Background is from PCAs previous report on similar work at the site (Haslam 2011).
- 2.2 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 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).
- 2.4 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).
- 2.5 During the reign of Henry III (1216-1272), the Tower of London underwent extensive alterations and expansions (Parnell. 1979, 322).
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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 1

- 3.1.1 The excavation of Trench 1 revealed a number of make up layers in section (Plates 2 and 3, Figure 3).
- 3.1.2 The earliest deposit seen was a light grey brown silty clay [6], extending throughout the base of the trench. The surface of the layer was at an upper height of 2.27m OD, and it was at least 0.30m thick.
- 3.1.3 Above this was a layer of dark grey silty clay [5] which sloped down from 2.53m OD in the south to 2.26m OD in the north. This context was up to 0.40m thick and faded out toward the northern end of the trench.
- 3.1.4 Sealing this layer towards the north were a number of thin make-up layers: a dark brown sandy silt [4], a light yellow brown sandy clay [3], and a dark brown sandy silt [2]. These layers raised the height in this area to 2.55m OD.
- 3.1.5 Overlying all the layers was a deposit of deep orangey brown sandy gravel [1] with an upper height of 2.61m OD. This context acted as a base to the present surface of gravel chippings.
- 3.1.6 All of the layers produced brick fragments and had the appearance of post-medieval ground-raising, although no definitive dating evidence was recovered. No archaeological features were revealed.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The watching brief recorded successive layers of made ground, interpreted as either post-medieval or later in date. No artefacts or dating evidence were recovered.
- 4.2 No archaeological features were revealed in the trench excavated.
- 4.3 Natural ground was not observed.

5 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 5.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Alex Attelsey of Historic Royal Palaces for commissioning this project and Jane Spooner for monitoring the work.
- 5.2 The author would like Tony Adams of Sykes and Son for his assistance.
- 5.3 The author would also like to thank Chris Mayo for his project management and editing, and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Parnell, G. 1993 *The Tower of London*. B.T. Batsford / English Heritage. London.



Plate 1: View NE of area of Trench 1 adjacent to Tower Bridge Approach



Plate 2: View NE of Trench 1 under excavation

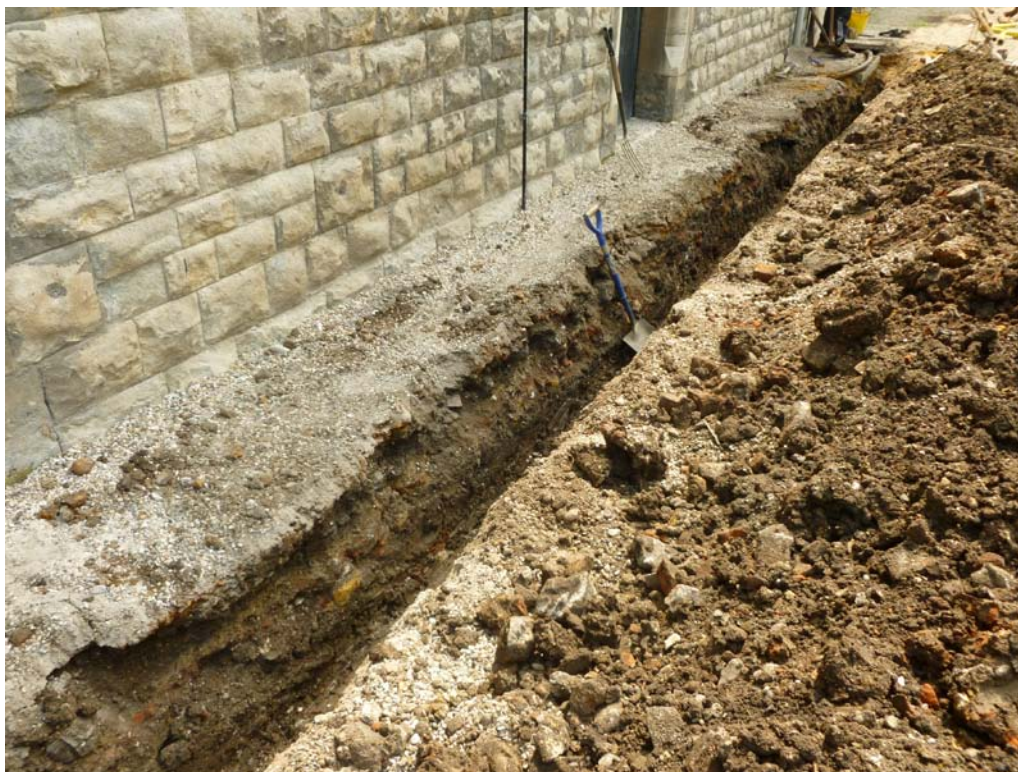
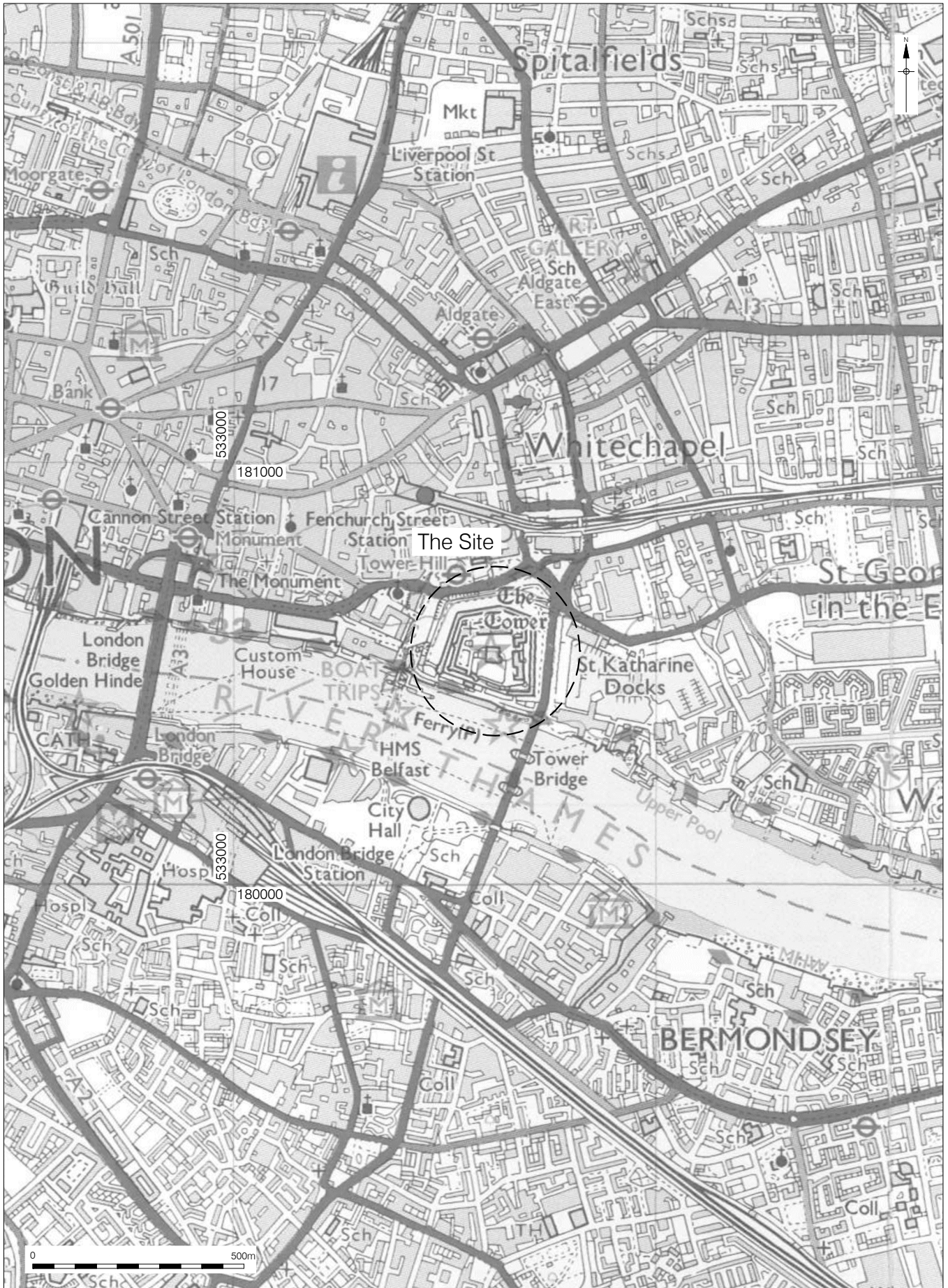
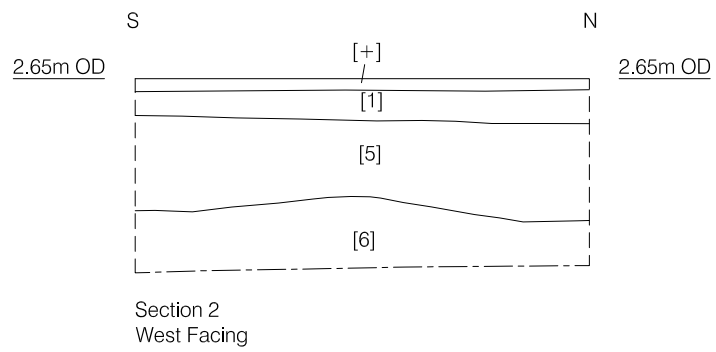
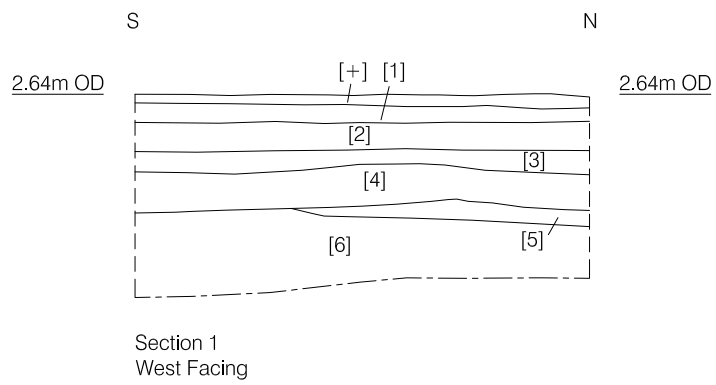


Plate 3: View SE of Trench 1, west facing section



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:12,500 at A4



0 1m

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Figure 3
Sections 1 and 2
1:25 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

| Site Code | Context No. | Trench | Section / Elevation | Type | Description | Date | Height |
|-----------|-------------|--------|---------------------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|
| TOL 124 | 1 | 1 | 1, 2 | Layer | Gravel Base | 20thC | 2.61m |
| TOL 124 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Layer | Make up | Post med | 2.55m |
| TOL 124 | 3 | 1 | 1 | Layer | Make up | Post med | 2.46m |
| TOL 124 | 4 | 1 | 1 | Layer | Make up | Post med | 2.42m |
| TOL 124 | 5 | 1 | 1, 2 | Layer | Make up | Post med | 2.53m |
| TOL 124 | 6 | 1 | 1, 2 | Layer | Make up | Post med | 2.27m |

APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-127283

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | A New Power Supply for the New Wharf Cafe at The Tower of London: An Archaeological Watching Brief |
| Short description of the project | A watching brief monitoring the excavation of a trench for a new power supply to the New Wharf cafe. The trench was 15m in length by 0.40m wide and 0.65m deep. A series of make up layers were revealed. No archaeological features were encountered. |
| Project dates | Start: 23-05-2012 End: 24-05-2012 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | ToL124 - 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 Tower Of London |
| Postcode | EC3N 4AB |
| Study area | 7.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 3373 8046 51 0 51 30 24 N 000 04 22 W Point |
| Lat/Long Datum | Unknown |

Project creators

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

Project archives

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
|--------------------------|----|

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Digital Archive recipient | Historic Royal Palaces |
| Digital Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Historic Royal Palaces |
| Paper Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Section" |

Project bibliography 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | New Power Supply for the New Wharf Cafe, Tower Of London: An Archaeological Watching Brief |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Frickers, P. |
| Date | 2012 |
| Issuer or publisher | Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited |
| Place of issue or publication | London |
| Description | A4 client document with blue cover |

| | |
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| Entered by | Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com) |
| Entered on | 29 August 2012 |

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