

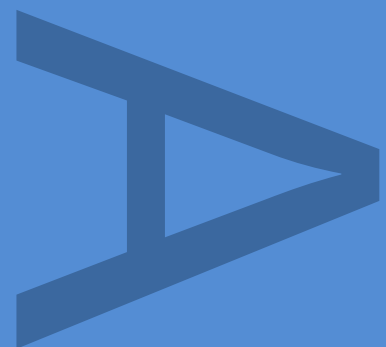
**JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL,
CITY ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
EC1Y 1AU**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SEPTEMBER 2013

PCA REPORT NO: R11503

SITE CODE: JWC13




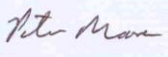
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL, CITY ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON EC1Y 1AU

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited			K3087
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Richard Humphrey		16 th August 2013
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		23 rd August 2013
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		23 rd August 2013
Project Manager Sign-off:	Peter Moore		11 th September 2013

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

**John Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London Borough of Islington EC1Y 1AU:
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

Local Planning Authority: Islington

Planning Application Number: P2012/0360/FUL

Site Code: JWC13

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3261 8002

Written by: Richard Humphrey
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, September 2013

Project Manager: Peter Moore

Commissioning Client: Coniston Limited on behalf of Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

E-mail: pmoore@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

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September 2013**

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CONTENTS

1	Abstract.....	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Planning Background.....	6
4	Geology And Topography.....	9
5	Archaeological And Historical Background	10
6	Archaeological Methodology	16
7	Archaeological Sequence	18
8	Conclusions	23
9	Acknowledgments.....	26
10	Bibliography	27

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context Index	34
Appendix 2: Stratigraphic Matrix.....	36
Appendix 3: OASIS Archaeological Report Form.....	38

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site Location.....	27
Figure 1: Site Location.....	28
Figure 2: Trench Location.....	29
Figure 3: Multi-context plan of burials, cuts and coffins	30
Figure 4: Sample section	31

PLATES

Plate 1: Excavation area.....	32
Plate 2: Working shot showing burials [6] [14] [16]	33

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in the cemetery of John Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London Borough of Islington, EC1Y 1AU, during groundworks associated with the widening and extension of the existing stepped access to the eastern end of the crypt. The archaeological investigation was conducted between 15th April and 10th May 2013 and was commissioned by Coniston Limited on behalf of Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission and was monitored by the archaeological advisor to Islington, Sandy Kidd, of English Heritage (GLAAS).
- 1.2 The works comprised the excavation of a square trench that measured approximately 5m², excavated to a maximum depth of approximately 2.7m below ground level. It was positioned across the footprint of the proposed works extending east from the eastern end of the crypt.
- 1.3 Naturally-occurring deposits were not observed during the works. The lowest archaeological horizon observed was interpreted as a post-medieval ground raising horizon through which graves from the late 18th to mid 19th century were cut. As well as articulated human remains observed within this horizon, fragmentary disarticulated remains were also seen, presumably as a result of disturbance following the rotting and slumping of wooden coffins. This horizon was overlain by a layer of disturbed ground that contained no articulated human remains but considerable quantities of disarticulated bone. It is suggested that this horizon represents disturbance dating from historical landscaping works to the cemetery, when it is possible some burials were removed.
- 1.4 Sealing this layer of suggested mid-twentieth century disturbance was another ground-raising deposit that dated to the 1980s when it is known that substantial landscaping works were enacted across the cemetery¹. A cast iron pipe on a concrete foundation was seen at the base of this deposit and proposed to serve the new development to the north of the cemetery. Within this layer were also observed crisp wrappers and plastic drinks lids as well as disarticulated human remains. Modern landscaping comprising of flower beds, turf and a pathway completed the archaeological sequence.
- 1.5 Only those burials effected by the formation level for the construction of new staircase were excavated and all those burial below that level, and to the sides, remain *in situ*, as licensed by the Ministry of Justice. Remains which were exhumed will be reinterred in the cemetery once the Privy Council Office have issued a variation of the cemetery's closure order.
- 1.6 The construction of the new staircase was also archaeologically monitored to prevent accidental damage to the burials that remain *in situ* at the base of the trench between 15th July to 13th August 2013.

¹ Kent, R., *pers. comm.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in the cemetery of John Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London Borough of Islington, EC1Y 1AU (Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the widening and extension of the existing stepped access from the eastern cemetery to the eastern end of the crypt (Figures 1 and 2). The cemetery is currently landscaped with some still extant gravestones, a brick path and flower beds. John Wesley's tomb stands at the eastern end of the site before the cemetery drops off eastwards via a series of steps towards Tabernacle Street.
- 2.2 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Islington Unitary Development Plan (2002).
- 2.3 The investigation was conducted between 15th April and 10th May 2013, and was commissioned by Coniston Limited on behalf of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission. The watching brief was supervised by Richard Humphrey and managed by Peter Moore, of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The archaeological works were monitored by the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Islington, Sandy Kidd, of English Heritage. All work was undertaken following the appropriate English Heritage (GLAAS) guidance.
- 2.4 This phase of the chapel was started in 1777 and the associated graveyard was open until 1853. An archaeological desk-based assessment² concluded that while the new development was in an area close to the Chapel used intensively for burials there was a low potential for any significant archaeological remains of other periods to have survived due to grave digging. However recent work by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the nearby Ironmonger Row Baths showed unexpected survival of 11th to 14th century archaeology 4m below ground level, raising the potential for more archaeological remains to be present at such depths in the area³.
- 2.5 Some burials within the site, but not at the trench location, were removed and reinterred in Streatham in the 1980s⁴.
- 2.6 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation⁵ which was approved by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS). The WSI posed the following research objectives:
- What is the nature and extent of survival of the natural topography?
 - Is there any evidence for prehistoric to medieval activity in the vicinity?
 - Is there any survival of early post-medieval activities, including settlement and burials?
 - Are there any human remains or evidence of burial practice associated with the Wesley Chapel?

² Stephenson (2013)

³ Humphrey (2012)

⁴ Ross Milbourne, *pers. comm.*

⁵ Peter Moore (2013)

- 2.7 The watching brief monitored the excavation of a square trench which extended from the eastern end of the John Wesley's Chapel crypt over the footprint of the proposed staircase. It also monitored the excavation of a trial hole which confirmed the location for reintering the human burials removed as part of the works.
- 2.8 The central National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 3261 8002.
- 2.9 The site was allocated the unique site code JWC13.
- 2.10 The completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will be deposited with LAARC.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Guidance: Planning Policy Framework NPPF

3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Guidance: The London Plan

3.2.1 The proposed development is subject to the considerations of policy 7.8 from The London Plan (2011):

Historic environment and landscapes

Policy 7.8 Heritage assets and Archaeology

Strategic

A London's historic environment, including natural landscapes, conservation areas, heritage assets, World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and memorials should be identified, preserved and restored.

B Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present, the site's archaeology.

Planning decisions

C Development should preserve, refurbish and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.

D New development in the setting of heritage assets, and conservation areas should be sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources and significant memorials. Where the artefact or memorial cannot be moved from the site without damaging its cultural value, the assets should where possible be made available to the public on-site.

LDF preparation

F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and increase the contribution of built heritage to London's environmental quality and economy while allowing for London to accommodate change and regeneration.

G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying and protecting heritage assets scheduled ancient monuments, archaeological assets, memorials and natural landscape character within their area.

- 3.3 Local Guidance: Archaeology in the London Borough of Islington: The Unitary Development Plan
- 3.3.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of The London Borough of Islington, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Borough adopted its' Unitary Development Plan on 28th June 2002. The Plan contains the following saved policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE**
- D43 THE COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE BOROUGH AND ITS INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION TO THE PUBLIC. IN PARTICULAR IT WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS ARE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED.
- IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**
- D44 THE COUNCIL WILL ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS WITHIN THE BOROUGH, WHETHER THESE ARE DESIGNATED AS 'SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS' OR NOT. IT WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO SAFEGUARD THE BOROUGH'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE THROUGH THE PLANNING PROCESS AND WILL NORMALLY REFUSE PLANNING PERMISSION FOR APPLICATIONS WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECT IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OR THEIR SETTINGS
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**
- D45 WITHIN THE 'ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS' SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, ALL PLANNING APPLICATIONS LIKELY TO AFFECT IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE SCHEME ON THE BOROUGH'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE. THIS SHOULD BE COMMISSIONED BY THE APPLICANT FROM A SUITABLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION ACCEPTABLE TO THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL MAY ALSO REQUIRE AN ASSESSMENT TO BE SUBMITTED FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, WHERE IT IS CONSIDERED THAT IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS MAY BE PRESENT. SMALL SCALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK TO DETERMINE THE ACTUAL DEGREE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVIVAL ON A SITE, (AN 'EVALUATION') MAY BE REQUIRED AS PART OF THE ASSESSMENT.
- PRESERVATION IN SITU OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**
- D46 WHERE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND / OR EVALUATION HAS DEMONSTRATED THE SURVIVAL OF IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, THERE WILL BE A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THEIR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION IN SITU. THE COUNCIL WILL REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED, AND WILL CONTROL DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT AND FOUNDATION DESIGN ACCORDINGLY.
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND RECORDING**
- D47 WHERE PHYSICAL PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IS NOT JUSTIFIED, THE COUNCIL WILL ENSURE THAT NECESSARY MEASURES ARE TAKEN BY THE APPLICANT TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF THEIR PROPOSALS, THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK TO INVESTIGATE AND RECORD REMAINS IN ADVANCE OF DEVELOPMENT WORK, AND SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS. THIS WILL USUALLY BE SECURED THROUGH SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS.
- 3.3.2 The proposed development of the site is subject to the Council's Archaeology Policy.

- 3.3.3 The Borough Council's Core Strategy (adopted 2011) also contains policies guiding the consideration of heritage assets in the borough.
- 3.3.4 The site lies within the Bunhill Fields/Finsbury Square Conservation Area and within an Archaeological Priority Area.
- 3.4 Planning Permission
- 3.4.1 The proposed scheme has received full planning permission from the London Borough of Islington (application number P2012/0360/FUL).

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The underlying solid geology of the site comprises the Lower Eocene deposits of the London Clay. Overlying this are the Pleistocene Thames River Terrace Gravel deposits. The site itself is over deposits of the Hackney Gravel formation whilst the Taplow Gravels, which are slightly younger geologically, begin c 250m to the southeast. Both of these deposits are products of the Wolstonian Age succession of glaciations⁶.

4.1.2 Borehole data is available from two British Geological Survey (BGS) online borehole logs for the Old Street tunnel which were dug very close to the western, City Road, edge of the site in 1966. The results show made ground (4.9m and 3.6m-thick) as undated and potentially containing deposits of archaeological interest. The original report was commissioned for engineering rather than archaeological purposes but in all likelihood, the undated made ground comprised modern material and it was recorded as containing brick rubble. The gravel deposits in these logs are variously described as medium and coarse gravel and fine and medium sands with occasional bands of clayey silt and occasional pebbles⁷.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 Ground level at the western edge of the site on City Road is at 18.5 to 18.6 m OD (above Ordnance Datum). The area is generally fairly flat. There is a slight rise to the west to a high point of c. 20m OD near Goswell Road after which there is a drop down to the west into the valley of the Fleet. Ground level also drops very gradually down to the east towards the Walbrook valley and to the south towards the Thames. At the north end of Moorgate, c 500m to the south, ground level is at c 14.3 m OD⁸.

⁶ Stephenson, 2013

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The following is taken from the Desk Based Assessment⁹.

5.2 Prehistoric period (800,000 BC–AD 43)

5.2.1 The Lower (800,000–250,000 BC) and Middle (250,000–40,000 BC) Palaeolithic saw alternating warm and cold phases and intermittent perhaps seasonal occupation. During the Upper Palaeolithic (40,000–10,000 BC), after the last glacial maximum, and in particular after around 13,000 BC, further climate warming took place and the environment changed from steppe-tundra to birch and pine woodland. It is probably at this time that England first saw continuous occupation. Erosion has removed much of the Palaeolithic land surfaces and finds are typically residual. There are no known finds dated to this period within the study area.

5.2.2 The Mesolithic hunter-gather communities of the post-glacial period (.c10,000–4000 BC) inhabited a still largely wooded environment. The river valleys and coast would have been favoured for providing predictable sources of food from hunting and fishing, water, and a means of transport and communication. Evidence of activity is characterised by flint tools rather than structural remains. There are no known finds dated to this period within the study area.

5.2.3 The Neolithic (4000–2000 BC), Bronze Age (2000–600 BC) and Iron Age (600 BC– AD 43) are traditionally seen as times of technological change, settled communities and the construction of communal monuments. Farming was established and forest cleared for cultivation. An expanding population put pressure on available resources and necessitated the utilisation of previously marginal land. There have been no finds from any of these periods within the study area.

5.3 Roman period (AD 43–410)

5.3.1 During the Roman period the site lay beyond the Roman provincial capital of *Londinium*, c 700m to the north of the city wall. It was not particularly close to any of the known major roads with the Roman forerunner of Old Street being the nearest, running north-east to south-west c 200m to the north of the site.

5.3.2 There is a little evidence of Roman period activity in the vicinity of the site. Some residual Roman pottery was recovered during test work at the site immediately to the north and another group of potsherds were found in Bonhill Street, c 120m to the south-east in 1976. No Roman settlement sites or structures have been identified in the study area.

5.4 Early medieval (Saxon) period (AD 410 – 1066)

⁹ *Ibid*

- 5.4.1 Following the withdrawal of the Roman army from England in the early 5th century AD much of the south-eastern part of the country fell into an extended period of socio-economic decline. The trading port of Lundenwic developed in the area now occupied by Aldwych, the Strand and Covent Garden, c 2.5km to the south-west of the site¹⁰. St Paul's Cathedral was consecrated in AD 604. The Roman city walls and gates were re-built following the reoccupation of the city by King Alfred in the 9th century in response to devastating Viking raids which forced the abandonment of Lundenwic.
- 5.4.2 Archaeological investigations have revealed evidence for early Saxon dispersed settlement and small-scale industry or craft working in the Clerkenwell area¹¹ on the eastern side of the River Fleet, which followed the route of modern Farringdon Road. There is no evidence that the area within the Roman town walls continued to be inhabited. The tributaries of the upper Walbrook had begun to silt up and form the wet, marshy area outside the city walls latterly known as Moorfields. The Walbrook flowed southwards from the Finsbury area to the Thames, roughly following the line of Curtain Road, c 400m to the east of the site.
- 5.4.3 In the 9th and 10th centuries, the Saxon Minster system began to be replaced by local parochial organisation, with formal areas of land centred on nucleated settlements served by a parish church. The site originally lay within the parish of St Giles without Cripplegate, which was served by a Saxon church located just outside the City, probably on the site of the present church within the Barbican Centre, c 700m to the south-west of the site.
- 5.4.4 No significant archaeological remains have been recovered from the study area dated to this period, and the site probably lay in open, possibly marshy, land.
- 5.5 Later medieval period (AD 1066–1485)
- 5.5.1 Throughout much of this period the site was located to the north of the medieval city, in open fields used for market gardening or dairy pasture and with scattered homesteads. Much of the area around the Walbrook valley and modern Moorfields remained boggy and marginal. Aldersgate Street, c. 770m to the west of the site, on the western boundary of the parish, and Old Street, c. 200m to the north of the site, extending east-west through the centre of the parish, continued in use in this period¹² and are likely to have attracted roadside settlement.
- 5.5.2 The GLHER locates the site of the medieval 'manor house of St Luke's' on the site of the current 18th-century church of St Luke's, c 480m to the north-west of the site. It is unclear on what evidence this is suggested by the GLHER, as there are no references to a manor house or a settlement here in the later medieval period, from either written sources or cartographic evidence.

¹⁰ Cowie and Blackmore 2008

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Weinreb and Hibbert 2008

- 5.5.3 In 1411 the first attempts were made to drain the Moorfields marsh lying between the site and the city walls c 700m to the south, apparently with little success, with further attempts taking place between 1412 and 1415¹³. It was not until 1527 that the area was finally drained¹⁴. The drier areas were used for recreation, including archery, for the grazing of stock on rough pasture, and as tenter-grounds (for stretching and drying newly finished cloth). There were also a number of windmills¹⁵. In 1414 the 'Moor Gate' was built through the city wall so the residents of the City could access the Moorfields more easily¹⁶.
- 5.5.4 A road from Moorgate extended northwards to Finsbury Court, on the southern boundary of the parish. The dog kennels for the City of London Hunt were located in the south-east corner of the parish, just north of Finsbury Circus, c 550m to the south of the site, and are shown as a "Dogge House" on the Copperplate map of 1553–9 (not reproduced). Evidence of possible medieval animal pens and enclosures was found at 122–128 Old Street (Site codes OLS94, ODI06), whilst in the study area a large post-medieval pit was found to contain many dog skeletons at 18–30 Leonard Street, c 60m to the north of the site, and was thought to be further evidence of the City Huntsman's activities. A few residual medieval finds have also been found in quarry and rubbish pits nearby.
- 5.6 Post-medieval period (AD 1485–present)
- 5.6.1 In the early 17th century the site lay on the edge of the city and is shown in the Faithorne and Newcourt map of 1658 (not reproduced) as being part of a large walled tenter-ground, with drying plots running parallel to each other on an east-west alignment. A row of six windmills is shown to the south of the site giving rise to the later street name of Windmill Hill, now Tabernacle Street.
- 5.6.2 The plot of land to the west of the site is labelled as Bunhill. The name is thought to derive from a corruption of Bonehill, although the exact explanation is unclear as the name predates the first recorded use of the area for dumping bones from the Charnel House in St Paul's Churchyard in 1549¹⁷.
- 5.6.3 Moorfields became a place of refuge during the Great Plague (1665) and Great Fire of London (1666), with people setting up camps on the vacant land. In 1665 the Corporation of London, which had leased Bunhill Fields since 1315, decided to make a new cemetery there for plague victims although it is not clear that it was ever used as such. The cemetery was not consecrated and was used extensively for non-conformists and was called Tyndall's Burial Ground for a while, the name which appears on the John Rocque map of 1746 (not reproduced).
- 5.6.4 By the early 18th century the area was a densely populated suburb and was granted its own church by an Act in 1711, which allowed for the building of fifty new churches in London. Land was bought from the parish of St Giles Cripplegate in 1718, and the church of St Luke's built in 1727–33, c 480m to the north-west of the site.

¹³ Tames 1999

¹⁴ Weinreb and Hibbert 2008

¹⁵ Tames 1999.

¹⁶ Weinreb and Hibbert 2008

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

- 5.6.5 During this period the site itself appears to have continued to be used as a tenter ground as appears on the Rocque map (not reproduced) where the drying plots and houses fronting on to the east side of City Road, then known as Royal Row, and their associated buildings can still be identified. By this time the first "Methodist" society had been formed as a result of a split with the Moravian Christian and missionary movement in 1740¹⁸ and a building labelled as "Methodist Meeting (*Hall*)" appears at the north-east corner of the 1746 Rocque map detail on Windmill Street, the predecessor of the modern Tabernacle Street.
- 5.6.6 By the 1770s the Methodist movement was drifting away from the Church of England and the decision was taken to build a new chapel, prompted partially by the looming expiry of the lease on the Moorfields "Foundry" building, the original meeting place. Following a nationwide appeal, the foundation stone of the new building was laid in 1777, with the architect being George Dance the Younger, the City of London Surveyor, and the opening service took place in 1778. This Grade I listed building is now the centrepiece of the large group of listed structures on the site.
- 5.6.7 Wesley's Chapel appears on the Richard Horwood map of 1799 (not reproduced) along with the Chapel-Keeper's House (Grade II listed) and John Wesley's House (Grade I listed) at the south-west of the chapel and the earlier versions of the Manse and Benson Building at the north-west, which were rebuilt in the 19th century. The burial ground is also labelled and had been opened in 1779. It functioned until it was closed by Order of Council of 1854, after 5450 burials had taken place there¹⁹. There is evidence that such Orders were not always followed to the letter²⁰ and some burial may have taken place afterwards as the London Metropolitan Archive has a transcript of burial registers up till 1858 for the site, whilst the National Archives holds the original burial registers.
- 5.6.8 The layout of the buildings on the site did not change significantly between 1799 and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1874–5 (not reproduced), although by that time the graveyard was labelled as disused.
- 5.6.9 The graveyard was mostly sited at the east end of the Chapel, although burials also took place in groups on its south and west sides. Burials on the west side of the Chapel were confined to two strips between the buildings at the edges of the plot and the central access route to the western door, to which a new porch had been added in 1814–1815. Some burials also took place within the chapel itself with grave slabs lain horizontally in the floor.
- 5.6.10 The chapel was damaged by fire in 1780 and again in 1879, when a large part of the roof was destroyed. It was decided to refurbish the chapel in 1890 in time for the centenary the following year of John Wesley's death and extensive renovations were carried out accordingly for much of the 1890s.

¹⁸ Vickers 2012

¹⁹ Connell and Miles 2006

²⁰ *Ibid.*

- 5.6.11 Before the renovations of the 1890s Elijah Hoole, the architect, produced a “Plan of City Road Chapel and Graveyard showing its condition before restoration” (not reproduced). The details on this plan are directly relevant to the works proposed at the east end of the Chapel in the graveyard area. Large numbers of gravestones are shown as having been lain horizontally, whilst others are shown as still vertically upright. The plan shows approximately 450–500 individual burials marked by either drawn gravestones or plot reference numbers, with some slight uncertainty in the numbers of burials represented by the lines of upright headstones. The highest density of burials appears to have taken place, unsurprisingly, close to the eastern end of the Chapel
- 5.6.12 Looking at the south-east corner, most of the graves are shown aligned west to east in north–south rows in a typically orderly post-medieval fashion (as can be seen at Bunhill Fields) with reference numbers to their right, and there is also a group at a slightly oblique angle parallel to Tabernacle Street with reference numbers on their left. Further along Tabernacle Street the graves are shown continuing on the same alignment at right angles to the street at a roughly north-west to south-east angle.
- 5.6.13 The north-south rows continue on broadly the same alignments in the part of the graveyard to the north of the curving path that runs from the south-eastern corner of the Chapel to Tabernacle Street, but to the north of this path and beside the north-eastern corner of the Chapel the majority of stones are shown as having been laid flat over their individual grave cuts as they run in three parallel north-south lines parallel to the east wall of the Chapel. Most of these have the characteristic headstone shape and are aligned west to east with the curved head end to the west.
- 5.6.14 There is also a large number of reference numbers along the northern boundary wall of the graveyard which presumably indicate plaques on the wall, possibly also defining the positions of individual grave shafts.
- 5.6.15 There is a group to the north of John Wesley's tomb aligned north-south with their heads to the north. These may have been displaced and reset in a pattern which does not reflect the underlying burials, although not necessarily so, as variations in orientation have often been recorded particularly in contemporary dissenters' graveyards, for example at the Quaker burial ground at Kingston-on-Thames²¹. Towards the north-east of the graveyard the density of burials looks less, although this may only reflect that the stones have been moved in that area.
- 5.6.16 The area around the apse at the east end of the Chapel appears to have been laid out with gravestones and possibly smaller markers chosen to fit into the required space around the curving wall, with some of them oriented north–south and others west–east. It can similarly be seen that some stones have been lain at angles to follow the northern edge of the curving path. Even so, it can be seen that the majority of the stones in this area follow a west–east alignment.

²¹ Cherryson , Crossland and Tarlow 2012

- 5.6.17 Some of the gravestones are shown in more detail than others, so that as well as the more common headstones apparently laid flat, there are several shown with double lines around them depicting chest or table tombs, in some cases clearly and in others probably. There is also a substantial proportion of rectangular markers presumably representing stone slabs designed to be lain horizontally on the ground. All of the burials shown marked in the western part of the graveyard (i.e. to the west of the Chapel), perhaps one of the more preferred and prestigious locations alongside the approach to the main entrance to the Chapel, are shown as of the rectangular types. The groups inside the crypt itself and to the south of the Chapel are also shown as composed entirely of the rectangular types. In the eastern part of the graveyard there are several chest tombs shown, as well as the mausoleum of the Wesley family. "Coffin" tombs, with horizontal stone markers laid on the ground in the shape of a coffin are also shown in places in the eastern half of the graveyard, with five shown in the south-eastern corner area.
- 5.6.18 Typically burials took place in wooden coffins during this period but lead coffins are also quite common or coffins made of a combination of the two materials²². Lead coffins are very heavy and difficult to exhume, which would tend to deter people from digging them up unless absolutely necessary.
- 5.6.19 The overall impression given by Hoole's plan, made c. 35 years after the closure of the cemetery, is that it has been landscaped by laying down a large number of previously upright headstones, to make relatively flat areas with a few chest tombs and vault markers left upstanding. New paths and open areas had been lain out in the intervening period. A few stones may have been shifted to give neater edges to these areas but the majority were probably not moved far and lines of upright headstones had been left in the eastern and south-eastern parts of the graveyard.
- 5.6.20 Extensive renovation work to the Chapel took place in the 1890s but it is not clear whether this included cutting the present access route from the apse at the eastern end of the crypt to steps up to ground level in the eastern graveyard. One access route to this part of the graveyard in the late 19th century involved going through gates on the southern side of the Chapel (Fig 7)²³ and this access was blocked off to the general public by buildings across the route shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1896 (not reproduced). These buildings can still be seen in the aerial photograph of 1946–7 (not reproduced). The other access route was from a doorway at the eastern end of the southern aisle of the Chapel.
- 5.6.21 During 1934 the Wesley's Chapel Renovation Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Chapel recorded that, whilst work was going on at John Wesley's House, "Other absolutely necessary repairs had been executed by Messrs Taverners on the Chapel roof, the forecourt, the graveyard, the Chapel-keeper's house and the superintendent's house. It was thought that much extra expense had been saved by having these things done while the workmen were about." (LMA/4197/L/Acc/2330/024). The *ad hoc* nature of the arrangement possibly accounts for the fact that no further detail about the work in the graveyard was recorded. Funds were also granted for the renovation of Wesley's tomb in 1946.

²² Cox 1996

²³ Stephenson 2013

- 5.6.22 By the time of the aerial photograph of 1946–7 the eastern part of the graveyard had apparently been cleared of most of the smaller grave markers, although the larger chest tombs and the Wesley family mausoleum are still visible. Footpaths can be seen to have been laid out through it on slightly different alignments to the pre-1890 layout. The photograph has been taken with the sun to the south-west so that the area immediately to the east of the chapel is in deep shadow, although there is a lighter area at right angles to the west side of one of the paths through the graveyard opposite the apse, which would have been at approximately the position of the top of the modern steps between the crypt and Wesley's tomb. This may imply that the steps had been built by that date.
- 5.6.23 In 1952 the Reverend Ronald Spivey, as chairman of the Building Committee, "reported the need for renovations of the vestibules, the preservation of the external stonework, the consideration of interior decoration to the morning Chapel, the repair and waterproofing of the Morning Chapel roof and the beautifying of the gardens and surrounding ground of the Wesley Tomb, all of which must soon engage the attention of the Trust" (LMA/4197/Accounts). It is clear that by the time of the Ordnance Survey map of 1952–3 (not reproduced) the steps up from the crypt into the graveyard had been built, as they can be seen on it with the new arrangement of footpaths in the graveyard. In 1959 the Building Committee was advised that the paths in the graveyard behind the chapel would soon have to be repaired and in 1964 Reverend Spivey reported that "the tomb was now in excellent repair through the generosity of the Beaverbrook Foundations (LMA/4197/Accounts)."
- 5.6.24 By the 1970s several of the buildings on the site were falling into disrepair again and a fundraising drive was organized to address the problem, whilst the decision was taken to develop the eastern end of the graveyard fronting on to Tabernacle Street. The Chapel was reopened in 1978 following an extensive repair programme and further repair works continued on the other buildings on the site.
- 5.6.25 Whilst this work was taking place the eastern part of the graveyard (outside the site) was sold and developed as an office block with the main elements at the Tabernacle Street end being supported on columns and housed at first floor level and above with an open space beneath (Fig 11).²⁴ This part of the graveyard was cleared of buried human remains which were reinterred in accordance with an Act of Parliament in Streatham Cemetery in 1980 (Museum of Methodism: Design and Access Statement, 2012). At the same time proposals were being developed for a Museum of Methodism in the crypt of the Chapel, which was duly opened in 1984. The current proposals are for this Museum to be refurbished to improve its layout and accessibility.

²⁴ Ibid

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring of groundworks was carried out in accordance with a methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation²³.
- 6.2 The proposed excavation area, measuring approximately 5m² was centred on the doorway and existing staircase at the eastern end of the apse of the Chapel crypt (Figure 2). Before committing to the complete excavation of the proposed area and the demolition of the existing staircase, it was decided that trial excavation across the area would ascertain if there existed any *in situ* articulated remains near to the cemetery ground level. If these were observed, the decision to progress with the works may have been reconsidered.
- 6.3 Hand excavation was undertaken in spits of approximately 100mm at a time under constant archaeological supervision.
- 6.4 Excavation continued downward until archaeological levels were reached. Towards the very southern side of the trench, articulated remains were observed approximately 1.25m below ground level, in a burial plot where the modern family relatives were known and had expressed a keen interest in the works. These remains were considerably higher than those seen elsewhere at the base of the trench and they were then covered, secured and kept *in situ*.
- 6.5 Elsewhere in the trench the tops of articulated remains of several individuals, representing stacked burials, were observed in the base of the trench, at a depth of approximately 2.10m below ground level. Ground reduction ceased at this point.
- 6.6 A Ministry of Justice Licence was obtained for the excavation of the human remains and it is intended that they will be reinterred on site at a later date when the appropriate Privy Council permission is granted. Archaeological excavation and recording of the human remains ceased upon reaching the impact level of the proposed development. Any partially exposed remains of articulated skeletons seen above this height were also removed in entirety. The preserved horizon was marked and sealed, and all works at this location from the end of the archaeological excavation to the pouring of the concrete foundations were monitored by the author to prevent any accidental damage.
- 6.7 An archaeological watching brief was also undertaken on the excavation of a trial hole testing a location for the proposed reintering of the human remains from the main works. This was positioned to the north of the new development in an area of ground raising in front of the north eastern window of the Chapel. Following Ministry of Justice guidelines, it measured approximately 1m² and was excavated to a depth of 1.22m (4ft) beneath ground level. No human or archaeological remains were encountered in this trial hole.

²³ Peter Moore (2013) Written Scheme of Investigation at the John Wesley Chapel, City Road, London Borough of Islington, EC1Y 1AU. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report."

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

7.1.1 Natural stratigraphy was not observed during the works. However during the excavation of later grave fills, small balls of orange-brown soft, pliable clay were observed. Although not an *in situ* deposit, it is possible that they represent excavation of the grave cuts extending into a natural deposit.

7.2 Phase 2: 18th Century Ground Raising

7.2.1 Layer [33] represented the lowest level of archaeological stratigraphy excavated to during the works (Fig. 4). Its downward removal ceased at approximately 16.72m OD- the impact height of the new development. In some places, it was necessary to remove more of this layer in order to fully remove articulated burials extending above the formation level. Its maximum height was recorded at 17.32m OD, giving the layer a thickness of greater than or equal to 0.60m.

7.2.2 The layer was composed of silty-sand and included some disarticulated human remains and a lot of coffin nails and pins suggesting that this soil represented a redistribution of soil within the cemetery. No cut for the foundations of the Chapel were observed made through this layer, suggesting it had been dumped up against them following its construction. Ground raising in this area is typically substantial with several metres often recorded.

7.2.3 This layer is significant as it represents an undisturbed burial horizon within the cemetery. As graves were cut through this layer, and the layer was deposited after the foundations were built in 1777, it is likely they date from the 19th century. All the burials were on an east-west alignment and in neat north-south rows, with each grave consisting of stacked burials, representative of family plots.

7.2.4 The northernmost burial removed was that of a child (Fig. 3). Skeleton [10] was seen in grave cut [13]. It was recorded at a height of 16.89m OD. The coffin, [11] measured approximately 1.00m long by 0.32m wide at the head although was severely degraded and only visible as a faint stain in the soil. The remains were removed in entirety and stored for reinterment.

7.2.5 To the south of skeleton [10] was a sequence of stacked adult burials (Fig. 3). These appeared as laying flat on top of each other rather than slumping downwards towards their pelvises, giving rise to questions relating to time frames between individual burials being made and possible reburial. Coffins of this stack also appeared to have been lowered into a single cut ([22]), as opposed to recutting the plot every time a new burial was made. The lowest burial observed in this stack was recorded as skeleton [41]. The head of this individual was recorded at a height of 16.64m OD. As this was below the impact height of the proposed works, and no other elements of the skeleton were above, it was covered and remains *in situ*.

7.2.6 Still in grave cut [22] and above skeleton [41] was the poorly preserved coffin [36] for skeleton [27], measuring approximately 1.84m in length. This was an adult skeleton seen at heights between 16.80m OD and 16.52m OD. A bone button was retrieved from the fill [35] and suggested to have belonged to a funeral gown or the burial clothes of the individual. The remains were removed in entirety and stored for reinterment.

- 7.2.7 The uppermost individual seen in this stack was represented as adult skeleton [14]. The top of the skull was seen at a height of 16.85m OD- the skull was placed immediately on top of [27] with little soil between the two. As with the two adult individuals beneath this one, preservation of the skeleton was good although the coffin, [21], had all but rotted and decomposed completely. Where seen, the coffin measured 1.64m in length and was 0.30m wide at the head and 0.16m wide at the foot. Deposit [20] was recorded as backfilling this grave and was of a very similar composition and appearance as layer [33], suggesting that the material excavated when the grave was dug was immediately thrown back into the grave when burials were made.
- 7.2.8 Partially overlying grave cuts [22] and [13] were the articulated remains of a leg, recorded as skeleton [1] (Fig. 3). These were recorded at a height of between 17.01m OD and 16.86m OD. There was no sign of a grave cut or coffin lining. The bones were removed in entirety for later reinterment.
- 7.2.9 Cutting backfill [20] and the south side of grave cut [22] was grave cut [39]. This represented the middle stack of burials seen in the western column of the works. These burials had their heads at the western end and were positioned almost immediately outside the access to the crypt. Unlike the burials seen in cut [22], the individuals of this plot appeared to have been buried in individually cut graves, albeit in the same plot location. Also of note in this plot is the presence of multiple child burials and significant slumping towards the pelvises in the older individuals, suggestive of collapse of coffins beneath this height.
- 7.2.10 The lowest burial removed that would have been partially impacted on by the new development in this plot was skeleton [34] within cut [39] (Fig. 3). This was of a child and was contained within coffin [38]. The coffin was severely degraded and measured approximately 1.04m in length. The body was slumped downward from west to east, suggesting collapse into coffins beneath this one- an unexcavated skeleton was observed following the removal of [34] that being beneath the impact height remains *in situ*. Heights of this interment ranged from 16.82m OD on top of the skull to 16.31m OD on the pelvis. The grave was backfilled by deposit [37] which contained 19th century pottery. The skeletal remains of [34] were removed in entirety for storage off site before reinterment back in the cemetery.
- 7.2.11 An unexcavated infant/neonate burial, [42], was seen to the immediate south of the legs of burial [34] (Fig. 3). This was recorded as being made within cut [43] although both burial and cut were not excavated as they were beneath the impact height of the proposed development- the height on the skull was recorded at 16.43m OD. Therefore, this burial remains *in situ*.
- 7.2.12 Overlying the eastern end of the legs of burial [34] was grave cut [30] and the degraded remains of coffin [29] of infant/neonate burial [26] (Fig. 3). The bones of this burial became increasingly fragmentary as exposed and it is postulated that the child was very young at time of death. Heights were recorded between 16.60m OD and 16.38m OD. Coffin [29] measured 0.64m in length, was 0.32m high and 0.07m across. Deposit [28] filled this grave. The bones of the skeleton were excavated and stored for reinterment.
- 7.2.13 Skeleton [6] represents one of the uppermost burials to be observed in this specific grave plot. Coffin [24] housed the bones that were buried within cut [25] (Fig. 3). Burial [6] was of a child with

the head recorded at a height of 16.94m OD and the eastern end of the legs at 16.45m OD. As with burial [34] beneath it, the body was slumped downwards towards the legs and pelvis. Although again badly degraded, the coffin measured approximately 1.00m in length, suggesting the individual was older than burials [26] and [42] but perhaps of a comparable age to burial [34]. It was filled with deposit [23]. The bones were removed in entirety for reinterment at a later date.

7.2.14 At heights of between 16.97m OD and 16.89m OD, infant/neonate skeleton [2] was observed towards the east of the end of cut [25] (Fig. 3). It was positioned over the legs of burial [34] within approximately the same burial plot. The dimensions of the cut for the burial, [4], were recorded as being 0.40m by 0.30m and 0.20m deep, although this has been crushed and distorted from its original size. The bones were incredibly fragmented and surmised to be from a neonate or baby. They were collected for later reinterment in the cemetery.

7.2.15 The southernmost burial plot, to the immediate south of cut [39], was recorded as cut [18] (Fig. 3). This contained collapsed coffin [17] and the skeleton of an adult, [16]. Although this was the only burial to be removed from this plot, it is notable that the skeleton was significantly slumped downwards suggesting, as before, that multiple burials within collapsed coffins lay beneath. A burial was observed following the removal of skeleton [16] though as it was beneath the impact height of the proposed development, was left *in situ*. Coffin [17] was poorly preserved and fragmentary although where seen measured 1.36m in length by approximately 0.20m wide. It is likely to have collapsed and been crushed. Heights on top of [16] measured 16.85m OD at its western end down to 16.28m OD on its pelvis, reflective of considerable slumping. There appeared to be considerable bowing of the lower legs in the individual- symptoms commonly caused by conditions such as rickets. Skeletal elements were removed in entirety for reinterment. The soil [15] filling this grave contained residual Roman and Medieval finds but most finds were dated to the 18th century.

7.2.16 Cut [19] for burial [8] was made between cut [19] to the south and cut [25] to the north (Fig. 3). Homogeneity between burial horizon [33] and the backfill of these cuts may have lead to misinterpreted stratigraphic relationships- this instance may be one such example. Skeleton [8] was the severely degraded remains of a child measuring approximately 0.40m in length. The skull was seen at 16.66m OD whilst one of the arms was at 16.72m OD. Coffin [9] was again almost entirely decomposed and only visible as a stain in the soil, occasional coffin furniture and fragments of wood. No slumping of this burial was evident although that may have been owing to its position between two burial plots. All bones retrieved were stored for later reinterment. Pottery from the fill [7] of this grave were dated to 1720-1780.

7.2.17 Another row of burials was seen to the east of the above (Fig. 3). Towards the centre of the excavation area, burial [44] was seen within cut [40] at a height of approximately 17.04m OD. Owing to the presence of a cast iron pipe on a concrete footing that covered this burial at a higher level, the proposed foundation design of the new stepped access to the crypt was amended. Therefore, these burials were below the impact height of the new development and did not need to be removed. It is noteworthy that burial [44] is also likely to have been part of a stacked arrangement as accidental collapse occurred to the soil around the western end of the grave to

reveal a considerable void.

7.2.18 To the immediate north of burial [44], grave [45] was partially exposed before being immediately recovered. It remains undisturbed and *in situ*.

7.3 Phase 3: Disturbed ground

7.3.1 Sealing the burial horizon [33] was a layer of made ground [32]. This measured approximately 0.60m thick and was seen at a height of approximately 17.92m OD (Fig. 4). It was composed of silty-sand and contained occasional inclusions of animal bone, pottery, clay pipe, gravel and ceramic building material. There were also considerable inclusions of disarticulated human remains. These were collected and retained for later reinterment on site. It is proposed that this layer represents disturbance to the cemetery soil following its closure in the mid 19th century. Historical records point to landscaping following the closure but this could have been from the later 19th century works or limited burial removal prior to the construction of the recently demolished staircase in the mid 20th century.

7.3.2 As part of the later works, a banked cut for concrete and brick steps was made through this layer. This was deeper at the western end of the trench and angled up towards the east at approximately 45°. The backfill of this cut was seen in the south-facing section as being filled by modern material.

7.3.3 Of note is the observation of an articulated skull and spine at the very top of this layer (approximately 17.92m OD) in the south-west corner of the works (Fig. 3). Although much higher than the burials seen within what has been interpreted as burial horizon [33], the articulated nature of the spine and skull strongly suggest these remains are close to their original burial location. The observation of these remains and their approximate location in relation to the doorway at the end of the crypt and the east end of the Chapel apse, led Mr Ross Milbourne to identify this as being the location of the burial plot of his ancestors. In accordance with Mr Milbourne's wishes, the remains were immediately covered, secured and preserved *in situ*.

7.4 Phase 4: 1980s landscaping

7.4.1 Considerable landscaping works were conducted in the graveyard in the 1980s. These were apparent in the archaeological sequence as an approximately 1.20m thick layer of modern made ground [31] (Fig. 4). The top of the layer was seen at c. 19.12m OD towards the western end of the works and sloped downward to the east. As with the underlying layer [32], disturbance to human burials was seen as frequently occurring charnel remains. These were collected for later reinterment. Smashed headstones from the cemetery were also observed and retained. Also seen within this layer were plastic drinks lids and crisp wrappers, confirming its suggested date.

7.4.2 A cast iron drain pipe built on a concrete base was seen extending north to south towards the eastern end of the trench at the base of this layer. This was most likely built when the cemetery was disturbed in the 1980s and confirms the depth to which landscaping extended. The function of this drain was not immediately clear- it could have been from the office block to the immediate north of the cemetery or from the drain pipes on the northern side of the chapel. It was left in place.

7.4.3 The stratigraphic sequence was completed by approximately 0.30m of garden soil from the herbaceous borders of the cemetery. To the north and east of the trench, a reinforced concrete

pathway was removed in order for the works to proceed.

- 7.4.4 A 1m² test pit was dug and archaeologically monitored to a depth of 1.22m (4ft) below ground level in front of the north eastern window of the end of the chapel and designed to see if this was a suitable location for reintering the excavated human remains. No articulated remains or archaeologically relevant materials were encountered and therefore this location has been chosen for reinterment.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 London Clay, the naturally occurring geology of the area, was not seen during the works. Redeposited clay, perhaps as a result of grave cuts extending down to a depth where natural geology was present, was seen in some grave cut backfills. Excavation stopped in the trench at a height of approximately 16.72m OD. This represents the impact height/formation level of the new development. Where articulated human remains were seen above this height and extending beneath it, it was necessary to remove them in entirety, sometimes beneath the impact height.
- 8.2 The natural topography of the area was not observed during these works. The site's position between the Walbrook and Fleet valleys, and the Thames to the south was not investigated further as the works did not progress to such a depth where observations might have been possible. The dumped horizons that are known to have been widespread across the area were not seen. Ground raising through which the burials were made is that which was thrown up against the Chapel foundations following its construction and dated to the late 18th century.
- 8.3 There was no observation of occupation evidence from the prehistoric periods through to the medieval period. Residual and abraded Roman and medieval pottery was seen combined within the made ground soil horizon that covered the Chapel foundations: this is likely to have been transported from elsewhere. There remains the potential to observe occupation evidence from these periods at depths lower than those extended to as part of these works.
- 8.4 The earliest remains seen date to the post-medieval period. This was observed as a ground-raising or dumped horizon that was deposited up against the eastern end of the Chapel- no construction cut was seen as being made through this layer. It was also observed that the pointing on the outside of the foundation brickwork was tidy and well presented; as if it had been exposed in a trench excavation when first made then later covered. The ground raising layer contained pottery, animal bone, clay pipe and some disarticulated human remains and is likely to date from the late 18th century.
- 8.5 Post-medieval activity observed during the works was solely human burials: no other archaeological features were observed.
- 8.6 Burials of human remains associated with the Wesley Chapel were evident throughout the base of the trench. These were observed as burial plots that contained stacked burials, presumably of individuals from the same family. The burials were all aligned west to east, with their heads at the western end, in a typical Christian arrangement. Burial plots were then ordered so as to extend in rows to the north and south. Where a burial plot finished, a new one started to the east. Ten burials were removed in total- four adults and six non-adults. The cemetery is known to have had a high percentage of non-adult burials, reflective of high infant mortality in the 18th and 19th centuries. Several more burials were identified below the formation level that remained *in situ* and undisturbed. The skeletal remains of those burials removed were collected in entirety for temporary storage off-site before permission for reinterment in the cemetery is granted.
- 8.7 Differences in burial practice were observed from the remains seen here. Slumped burials of adult and non-adult burials were apparent as the downward sloping of the spine towards the pelvis. This is as a result of the collapse of underlying coffins in the stack. A burial would have been made in

the plot, reburied then the plot re-excavated when another burial was to be made. Slumping observed was significant, suggestive of multiple burials still existing beneath the depths excavated to in these works. One burial plot defined by cut [22] saw adult skeletons lying more flat than slumped. Little soil between the bones and the coffins being in a single cut suggests the possibility that several burials may have occurred at the same time, rather than reopening the grave plot or the bodies have been moved. This gives rise to questions regarding whether all the burials in a stack were from the same family or not.

- 8.8 All of the coffins seen here were timber. It was always severely degraded and fragmentary with no possibility of retaining any for sampling. Coffin furniture was seen as iron nails and studs with occasional corroded grips. Two small finds of bone buttons may have been from the clothes worn by the deceased at the time of burial. No lead coffins were observed.
- 8.9 There is no osteological examination of the remains planned- they will be reinterred when approval is granted. With regards identification of the individuals and the family burial plots, a study undertaken by Stevenson in 1871 that identified the burial plots in the cemetery²⁴ offers limited assistance. Two plots immediately outside the access to the crypt are recorded as being unidentified. Stevenson suggests these may have been moved from the areas of plots that were disturbed by the new pathway made through the cemetery. To the north are the burial plots of the Windsor, Barnett and Robinson/Love families. The Windsor family plot has more adults in it whilst the Barnett plot has three adults and seven children. The Robinson/Love plot has only two adults. To the south of the unknown plots are the Kruse and Fuchs family graves. The Kruse grave is recorded as having two adults and two non-adults whilst the Fuchs plot has three non-adults only. These family plots are not absolute and there is potential for more burials than recorded to have been made in the cemetery.
- 8.10 In accordance with the wishes of the deceased when they were alive, the bodies will be reinterred in the graveyard following approval from the Privy Council. It is hoped this respects the dual considerations of the dead in being buried both close to the altar in the Chapel as well as close to the tomb of John Wesley.
- 8.11 Above the burial horizon, a layer of disturbed ground was observed. Disarticulated human bone seen in this layer may have been the product of disturbance of the underlying burial horizon or from historical attempts at burial removal.
- 8.12 A semi-articulated burial seen at the top of this layer was observed in the southwest corner of the works and identified by Mr Ross Milbourne as being positioned approximately in the known family burial plot of his ancestors. In accordance with the requests of Mr Milbourne, the burial was recovered and secured and not disturbed any further. The burial will not need to be disturbed as part of the proposed works.
- 8.13 The archaeological sequence was completed by a thick layer of late twentieth century ground raising and landscaping.

²⁴ Stevenson, G. (1871) *City Road Chapel and its Associations, Historical, Biographical and Memorial*.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission for commissioning the works, but also all the staff there, especially Robin Kent for his kindness and generosity during the works. We would also like to thank Peter Tobin, Steve Clarke and Pat Shamji from Coniston, as well as all their site staff, for their assistance on the project and on site.
- 9.2 The author thanks Jennifer Simonson for the figures and to Peter Moore for editing this report. Thanks also to Joe Brooks, Ireneo Grosso, Jim Heathcoate and Alexis Haslam for their help on site.

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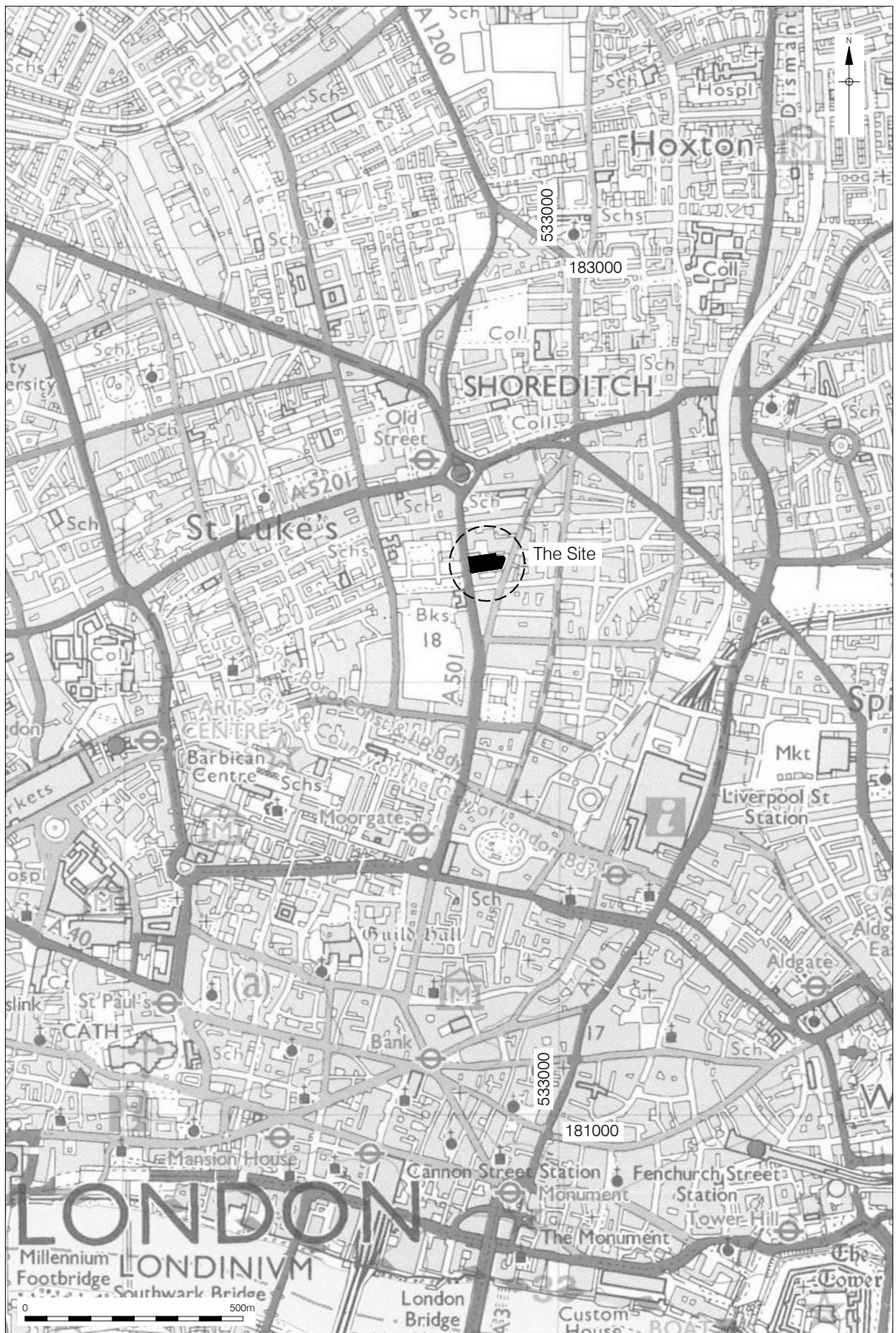
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:12,500 at A4



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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:400 at A4

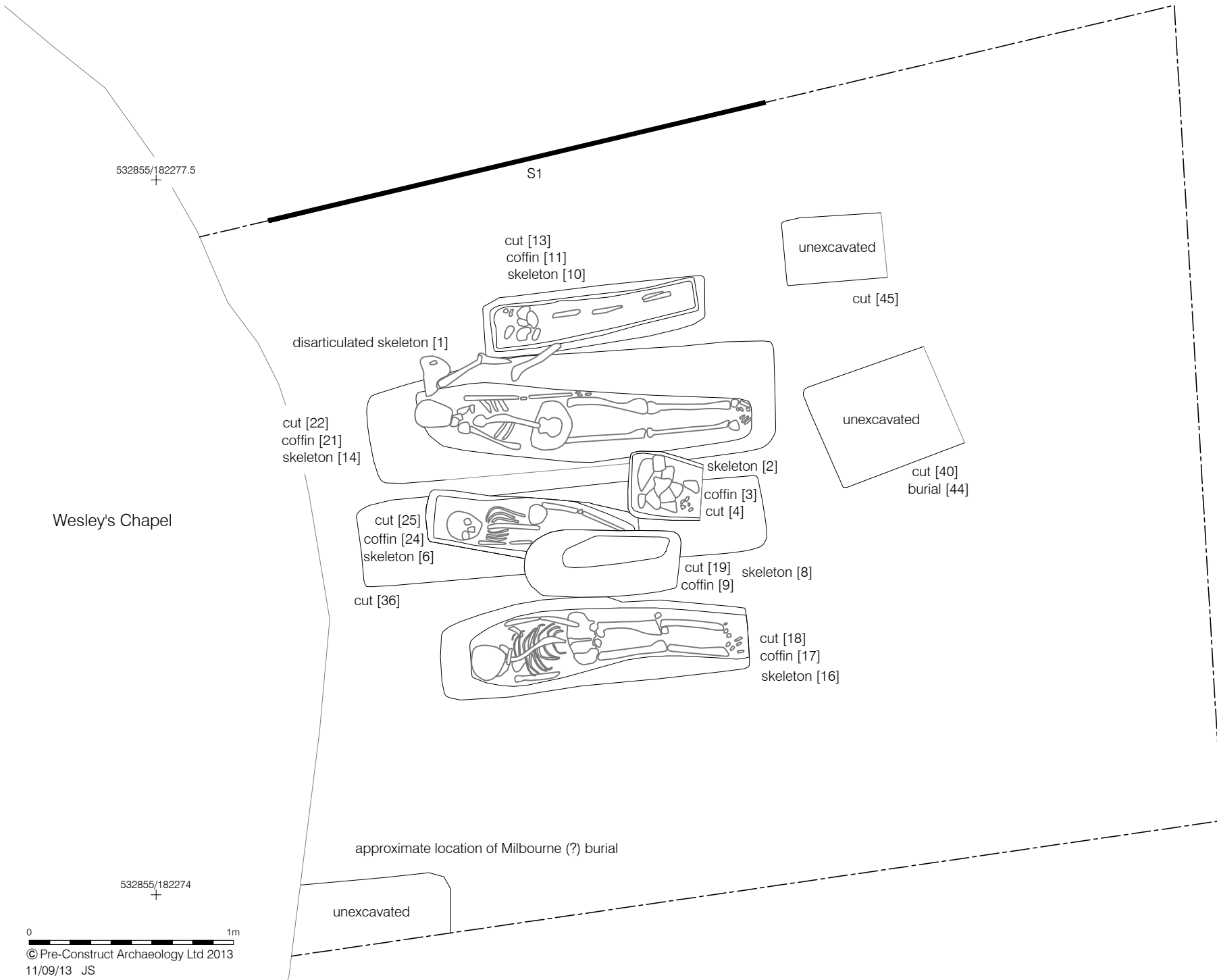
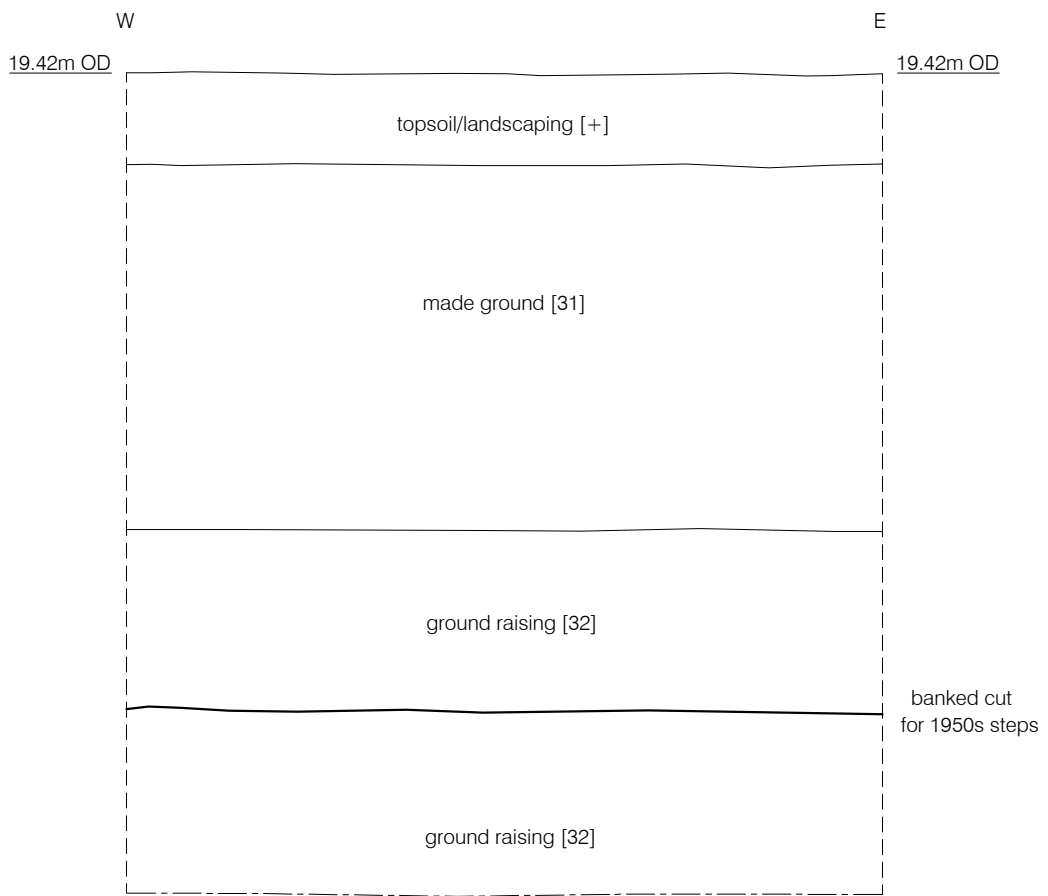


Figure 3
Plan of Burials
1:25 at A4



Section 1
South Facing

0 1m

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Figure 4
Section 1
1:25 at A4

Plate 1: Excavation area



Plate 2: Working shot showing burials [6] [14] [16]

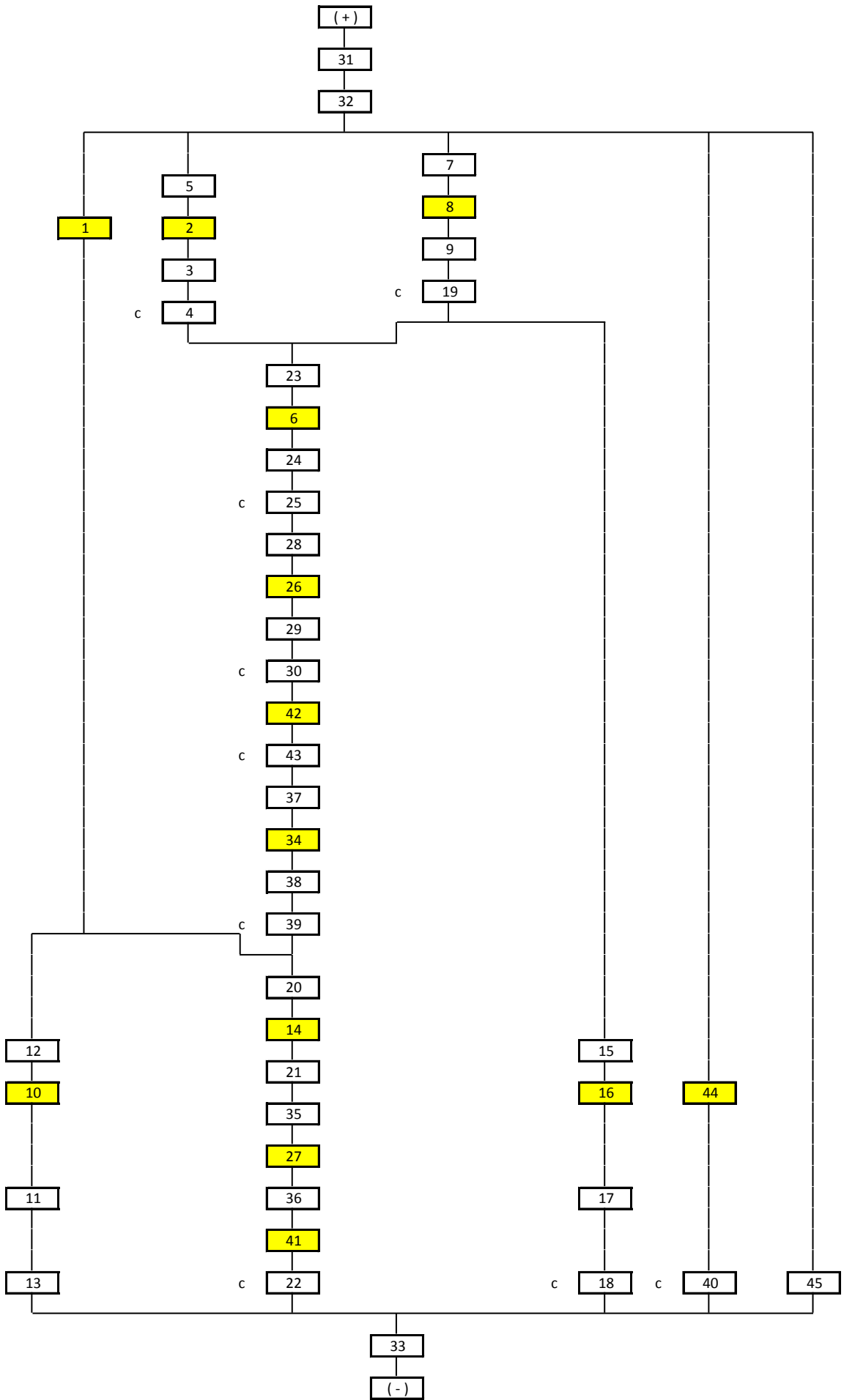


APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

No.	Type	Trench	Date	Name	Comments
1	Skeleton	1	01/05/2013	AH	Skeleton - remnants
2	Skeleton	1	01/05/2013	IG	Skeleton - child
3	Coffin	1	01/05/2013	IG	Coffin for [2]
4	Cut	1	01/05/2013	IG	Grave cut for [2]
5	Fill	1	01/05/2013	IG	Fill of grave cut [4]
6	Skeleton	1	01/05/2013	AH	Child skeleton
7	Fill	1	02/05/2013	JSH	Fill within coffin [9]
8	Skeleton	1	02/05/2013	JSH	Child skeleton
9	Coffin	1	02/05/2013	JSH	Coffin for Sk [8]
10	Skeleton	1	02/05/2013	IG	Child skeleton
11	Coffin	1	02/05/2013	IG	Coffin for [10]
12	Fill	1	02/05/2013	IG	Fill of [11]
13	Cut	1	02/05/2013	IG	Grave cut for Sk [10]
14	Skeleton	1	03/05/2013	JB	Adult skeleton
15	Fill	1	03/05/2013	JSH	Over coffin [17]
16	Skeleton	1	03/05/2013	JSH	Adult skeleton
17	Coffin	1	03/05/2013	JSH	Coffin for [16]
18	Cut	1	03/05/2013	JSH	Grave cut for Sk [16]
19	Cut	1	03/05/2013	JSH	Cut for Sk [8]
20	Fill	1	03/05/2013	JB	Fill of [22]
21	Coffin	1	03/05/2013	JB	Coffin within [22]
22	Cut	1	03/05/2013	JB	Cut for coffin [21]
23	Fill	1	07/05/2013	JB	Fill of [25]
24	Coffin	1	07/05/2013	JB	Coffin within [25]
25	Cut	1	07/05/2013	JB	Grave cut
26	Skeleton	1	08/05/2013	JB	Neonate skeleton
27	Skeleton	1	08/05/2013	JSH	Adult skeleton
28	Fill	1	08/05/2013	JB	Backfill of grave
29	Coffin	1	08/05/2013	JB	Childs coffin for Sk [26]
30	Cut	1	08/05/2013	JB	Grave cut for Sk [26]
31	Layer	1	08/05/2013	RH	80s disturbed ground
32	Layer	1	08/05/2013	RH	50s disturbed ground
33	Layer	1	08/05/2013	RH	Burial horizon
34	Skeleton	1	08/05/2013	JB	Child skeleton
35	Fill	1	08/05/2013	JSH	Fill over Sk [27]
36	Coffin	1	08/05/2013	JSH	Coffin for Sk [27]
37	Fill	1	09/05/2013	JB	Backfill of [39] Sk [34]
38	Coffin	1	09/05/2013	JB	Coffin for Sk [34]
39	Cut	1	09/05/2013	JB	Grave cut for Sk [34]
40	Cut	1	09/05/2013	JSH	Unexcavated grave cut
41	Skeleton	1	09/05/2013	JSH	Unexcavated adult skeleton
42	Skeleton	1	09/05/2013	RH	Unexcavated child skeleton

43	Cut	1	09/05/2013	RH	Unexcavated grave cut for [42]
44	Skeleton	1	09/05/2013	RH	Unexcavated Sk in [40]
45	Cut	1	09/05/2013	RH	Unexcavated grave

APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-150650

Project details

Project name	John Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London Borough of Islington EC1Y 1AU
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in the cemetery of John Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London Borough of Islington, EC1Y 1AU during groundworks associated with the widening and extension of the existing stepped access to the eastern end of the crypt. The investigation was conducted between 15th April and 13th August 2013 and was commissioned by Coniston on behalf of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission and monitored by the archaeological advisor to Islington, Sandy Kidd, of English Heritage. The archaeological remains observed confirm the presence of an untruncated burial horizon at a depth of approximately 2.10m below ground level that contained multiple articulated human burials. These were made in timber coffins that have decayed to a state where they are irretrievable. Remains entirely or partially exposed above the impact height of the new development were exhumed following the issue of a licence from the Ministry of Justice will be reinterred in the cemetery. The disarticulated remains were reburied at the base of the new works. Previous disturbance in the mid-twentieth century may have included limited burial removal as well as the cutting of a banked excavation for the removed staircase. Further disturbance was seen to the cemetery dating from the works that occurred in the 1980s.
Project dates	Start: 15-04-2013 End: 13-08-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	JWC13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Site status	Conservation Area

Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	BURIALS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ISLINGTON ISLINGTON John Wesley's Chapel
Postcode	EC1Y IAU
Study area	25.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3261 8002 51 0 51 30 10 N 000 05 20 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore

Project supervisor	Richard Humphrey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Museum
Name of sponsor/funding body	Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	John Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London Borough of Islington EC1Y 1AU:

Author(s)/Editor(s) Humphrey, R.

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or publication London

Description Client report

Project
bibliography 2

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Description Client report.

Entered by Peter Moore (pmoore@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 11 September 2013

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE
STAPLEFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

