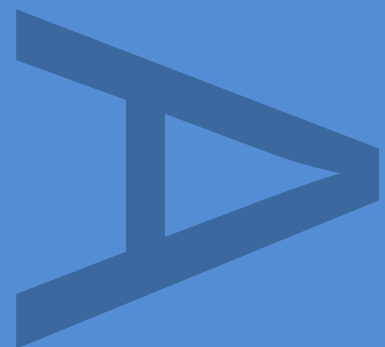


**FORMER MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL  
ANNEX, CLEVELAND STREET,  
LONDON W1T 4JU**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PCA REPORT NO: R11748**

**JUNE 2014**




**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

FORMER MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL ANNEX,  
CLEVELAND STREET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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**Former Middlesex Hospital Annex, Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JU  
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Central NGR:** TQ 2927 8182

**Local Planning Authority:** London Borough of Camden

**Planning Reference:** 2013/4591/PRE

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**June 2014**

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## CONTENTS

1	Abstract .....	3
2	Introduction.....	4
3	Planning Background .....	5
4	Geology and Topography.....	7
5	Archaeological and Historical Background.....	8
6	Archaeological Methodology .....	10
7	Archaeological Sequence.....	11
8	Conclusions .....	17
9	Acknowledgements .....	18
10	Bibliography.....	19

## Figures

Figure 1 – Site Location .....	20
Figure 2 – Test Pit Location .....	21
Figure 3 – Test Pits 2, 3 & 5.....	22

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Context Register .....	23
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. during the excavation of test pits at the former Middlesex Hospital Annexe, Cleveland Street, London Borough of Camden, W1T 4JU.
- 1.2 The fieldwork was carried between 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2014 and consisted of an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of test pits ahead of the redevelopment of the site (Figure 2). The work was commissioned by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting.
- 1.3 The watching brief did not encounter natural horizons. A number of buried structural remains of the former workhouse buildings were uncovered as was a brick feature packed with disarticulated human bone.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) during works necessitated by the proposed redevelopment of the former Middlesex Hospital Annexe, Cleveland Street, London Borough of Camden, W1T 4JU.
- 2.2 The site is located within the London Borough of Camden, and centred at National Grid Reference TQ 2928 8182. The site occupies the site of the former Middlesex Hospital Annexe along Cleveland Street. To the north, south and east the site is bordered by existing buildings and to the southwest it is fronting onto Cleveland Street.
- 2.3 PCA was commissioned for the watching brief by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting, principally in order to determine the presence absence of burials on the site. The site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Camden. The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments. However, the southwestern part of the site is occupied by a former workhouse building dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This building is Grade II listed.
- 2.4 The project was undertaken in accordance with a Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2014) prepared in accordance with all relevant English Heritage and IfA Guidelines.
- 2.5 The watching brief was conducted between 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2014.
- 2.6 The project was managed for PCA by Tim Bradley. The watching brief was supervised by the author.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 National Planning Policy Framework**

3.1.1 The development of the site is subject to planning guidance and policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), The London Plan and policies of The London Borough of Camden, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which it is the custodian.

3.1.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In summary, current national policy provides a framework which protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets and their settings, in appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions regarding the historic environment and provides for the investigation by intrusive or non-intrusive means of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.

#### **3.2 The London Plan**

3.2.1 The London Plan, published July 2011, includes the following policy regarding the historic environment in central London, which should be implemented through the Local Development Framework (LDF) being compiled at the Borough level:

##### **POLICY 7.8 HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

###### **Strategic**

- A London's heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.
- B Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

###### **Planning decisions**

- C Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.
- D Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.
- E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.

###### **LDF preparation**

- F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.

### **3.3 London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework**

3.3.1 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is the London Borough of Camden whose Local Development Framework (LDF) was adopted on 8 November 2010. The LDF consists of the Core Strategy and Development Policies. The following Development Policy relates to Archaeology:

#### **DP25 Conserving Camden's Heritage**

##### **Archaeology**

The council will protect remains of archaeological importance by ensuring acceptable measures are taken to preserve them and their setting, including physical preservation, where appropriate.

3.3.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefields or Historic Wrecks within the development site or in its immediate vicinity though the site does lie within the Charlotte Street Conservation Area as defined by The London Borough of Camden.

### **3.4 Research Design**

3.4.1 The investigation will aim to address the following primary objectives:

- To establish the presence of otherwise of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity.
- To establish the environmental context of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern activity.
- All seven test pits are targeted with particular reference to the potential for human remains relating to the former eighteenth – nineteenth century workhouse cemetery.
- Evaluate the impact of past land use and development.
- Provide information working towards developing an archaeological mitigation strategy.



## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

4.1.1 Geologically the site is situated atop the Lynch Hill gravel terrace of the Quaternary Thames (British Geological Survey 2014). It is believed that the Lynch Hill terrace aggradation occurred during an interglacial period roughly 337,000-300,000BP (Oxygen Isotope Stage 9) during the Wolstonian stage (Bridgland 1994). The Lynch Hill Gravel is described by the British Geological Survey as resting uncomfortably on the blue-grey London Clay lining the London Basin. This clay lining of the London Basin was the sedimentary result of marine transgression occurring throughout the Ypresian stage (roughly 56,000,000-47,800,000BP) of the Eocene (British Geological Survey 2014).

4.1.2 A Borehole (BGS Reference: TQ28SE372) carried out in 1950 along Howland Street to the north of the site recorded the top of the Lynch Hill Gravel at 22.65m OD. Here the upper part of the deposit was described as sandy clay and gravel giving way to coarse gravel towards the base of the deposit. Underlying the Lynch Hill Gravel at approximately 19.35m OD was a 1.00m thick deposit of brown clay (presumably weathered London Clay) which was underlain by the more characteristic stiff blue London Clay at 18.83m OD. Another borehole (BGS Reference: TQ28SE981) carried out in 1963 along Riding House Street to the southwest showed a similar sequence, albeit with the London Clay occurring significantly lower. Here the top of the Lynch Hill Gravel was encountered at a height of 24.69m OD and London Clay at 14.33m OD. To the southeast of the site, along Goodge Place a borehole (BGS Reference: TQ28SE982) showed the top of the Lynch Hill Gravel at 19.51m OD and the underlying London Clay at 17.98m OD (British Geological Survey 2014). The thin nature of the gravel deposit in this borehole is perhaps suggestive of post depositional truncation. Taking into account the OD heights of the Lynch Hill Gravel seen in the three boreholes it seems likely that the untruncated top of the gravels should occur at a level of approximately 22.65m OD - 24.70m OD with the underlying London Clay at roughly 17.98m OD - 19.35m OD. However, these estimates remain speculative as neither the Lynch Hill Gravel nor the London Clay deposits were encountered during the current investigation.

### **4.2 Topography**

4.2.1 Currently the ground level within the site is at c. 27m OD although this is likely due to the construction of the buildings presently occupying the site rather than reflective of natural ground levels. However, boreholes carried out in the vicinity of the site in the 1950s and 1960s showed that the natural topography (based on the levels of the untruncated natural gravel) was mostly level sloping down only slightly towards the east.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 Prehistoric**

5.1.1 A number of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds have been recorded in the vicinity of the current site. These have been recovered from Oxford Street, Princes Street and John Princes Street to the southwest, Great Chapel Street to the south, Tottenham Court Road to the southeast, Gower Street and Taviton Place to the northeast, Great Portland Street to the west and Malet Street to the east. A few finds of Neolithic date have been recovered from Gower Street to the northeast and Great Russell Street to the southeast while there has been a complete lack of evidence for Bronze Age and Iron Age activity within a 750m radius of the study area (Meager 2013).

### **5.2 Roman**

5.2.1 A number of the roads in the vicinity of the site are thought to follow the alignment of Roman roads. These include Oxford Street to the south, Theobald Road to the southeast and Tottenham Court Road to the east. While some artefactual evidence has been found along Great Portland Street to the northwest it is believed that the study site was located away from the centres of settlement during the Roman period (Meager 2013).

### **5.3 Anglo Saxon and Medieval**

5.3.1 Evidence for Saxon and Medieval settlement has been found in the area of Wigmore Street and Welbeck Way to the southwest of the site as well as along Euston Road to the northeast. The site of Tottenham Hall Manor House was located along Euston Road to the northeast of the current site and the site of another medieval manor house has been identified by Great Russell Street to the east. Other evidence dating to the medieval period includes a late medieval brewhouse which is known to have existed at the junction of Tottenham Court Road and St Giles High Street (Meager 2013).

### **5.4 Post Medieval**

5.4.1 In 1775 an act of parliament was passed (Public Act, 15 George III, c. 50) which enabled the inhabitants of the parish of St Paul Covent Garden to erect a new workhouse for the reception and employment of the poor of the parish and for providing an additional burial ground for the use of the parish. A plot of land comprising the current study site was chosen as the location for the new workhouse. At this time the study area comprised open fields although development surrounding the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Queen Anne's Square to the west had by this time reached the west side of what is now Cleveland Street. By the time *Bowles's Reduced New Pocket Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster with the Borough of Southwark, Exhibiting the New Buildings to the year 1775* (not reproduced here) was published, Ogle Street and Foley Street (then known as Little Queen Ann Street) to the west and southwest respectively were already in existence.

- 5.4.2 By 1778 construction of the new Covent Garden Workhouse was complete and the workhouse fully operational. The new institution consisted of a central block on a parallel alignment to Cleveland Street with two wings projecting towards the back of the property (Roberts and Godfrey 1949). While the wings of the building were later substantially altered or altogether rebuilt the central block largely retains its original architectural integrity and received a Grade II listing in March of 2011 (National Monuments Record (NMR) Listed Building System (LBS) UID # 510966). Richard Horwood's 1792 *Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster* (not reproduced here) shows the Covent Garden Workhouse occupying the southwest portion of the property. The area surrounding the study site had by this time been subjected to extensive development.
- 5.4.3 In 1788 the freehold for the site was obtained from the fifth Duke of Bedford so that burial ground mentioned in the 1775 act could be consecrated. Two years later the ground was consecrated and the burial ground brought into use (Sheppard 1970). The burial ground continued in use until 1853 when it was closed by an Order of Council (Higginbotham 2014).
- 5.4.4 During Dr Joseph Rogers' tenure as the Medical Officer from 1856 to 1886 the laundry was removed from the basement beneath the entrance hall to the rear yard of the workhouse. The new laundry and wash house are shown on the 1872 Ordnance Survey along with various other outbuildings and the extended wings of the central workhouse building. During the excavations for the new laundry a large number of skeletons were uncovered. Allegedly the excavation extended to a depth of twenty feet before solid ground was reached (Higginbotham 2014).
- 5.4.5 The Desk Based Assessment concluded that "The potential of the study site for the Post Medieval and Modern periods is entirely invested in its use and function as a workhouse from the late eighteenth century, together with its subsequent hospital use. Unfortunately research to date has not indicated whether the consecrated burial ground has been either de-consecrated, or cleared, save for the reference to nineteenth century building work disinterring human remains in the northeastern corner of the site. The presence of human remains associated with the former burial ground can therefore be anticipated." (Meager 2013).

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2014), prepared in accordance with all relevant English Heritage and IfA Guidelines, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken. This consisted of the hand excavation of four test pits (Test Pits 2, 3, 4 and 6) and the excavation by machine of two test pits (Test Pits 1 and 5). All of the test pits measured approximately 1.5m by 1.5m in plan and were excavated to a depth of 2m or to the depth where obstructions prevented further excavation. The excavation was monitored by the attendant archaeologist until archaeological deposits or features or natural stratigraphy was encountered.
- 6.2 The test pits and exposed sections were, if necessary, cleaned by hand, recorded and photographed. Recording of the deposits was accomplished using the Single Context Recording Method on proforma context and planning sheets, as presented in PCAs Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009). Contexts were numbered and are shown in this report within squared brackets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 6.3 The archaeological interventions were located by means of measured survey.

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Test Pit 1

- 7.1.1 This test pit was excavated in order to inform on the depth of the footing for an existing basement in the southeastern part of the site. It was excavated to a size of 1.90m northeast-southwest by 1.00m northwest-southeast by 1.80m in depth.
- 7.1.2 Natural gravel was not reached during the excavation of this pit. The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of construction rubble [1] likely related to the construction of the southeast wing of the hospital annexe during the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It comprised loose brick rubble in a matrix of dark grey mortar rich silty sand with frequent small concrete fragments, charcoal flecks and chalk flecks.
- 7.1.3 The construction layer, [1], was cut by the construction cut, [2], for a brick light well, [3], which had been built against the southeast wall of the southeast wing of the hospital annexe. Only the northeast side of the cut was seen during the excavation of the test pit. The excavated side was almost vertical with a sharp break of slope at the top; the base was not reached. Three sides of the light well survived to a maximum height of approximately 26.70m OD. It had been constructed using yellow stock bricks set in a hard mid-grey cement mortar. The concrete base of the light well sloped from 26.20m OD in the northeast to 25.90m OD in the southwest. When the use of the light well was discontinued it was backfilled with a deposit of light- to mid-grey silty sand with frequent brick and concrete fragments before it was sealed under the current tarmac surface.



*Brick light well, TP1*

## 7.2 Test Pit 2

- 7.2.1 Originally the proposed location of this test pit was at the southwest end of the light well between the northeast and central wings of the hospital annexe. However, the test pit was moved to the room at the northeast end of the central wing in the belief that this was outside the 19<sup>th</sup> century wash house and therefore more likely to evaluate whether or not human remains were still present within the site. However, the test pit revealed only the brick and concrete footings of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century building.
- 7.2.2 The structural remains uncovered in Test Pit 2 consisted of the southeast corner of a brick building, [4]. It rested on a concrete footing and had been constructed using yellow stock bricks set in hard mid-grey cement mortar. To the southeast what seemed like a yellow brick buttress, [5], had been built against the southeast side of the building. Like the building itself the buttress had been constructed on a concrete footing.



*NW Shot of TP2*

## 7.3 Test Pit 3

- 7.3.1 This test pit was excavated in the northern corner of the site within the light well between the northeast and central wings of the hospital. The 1872 Ordnance Survey shows there to have been a wash house in this vicinity at this time.

- 7.3.2 The earliest deposit encountered within the test pit was a layer of soft mid-brownish grey silty clay, [9], with frequent fine sub-rounded pebbles, occasional CBM flecks and chalk flecks. It was only exposed within a sondage in the northeastern part of the test pit where it was first encountered at a height of approximately 25.35m OD. The deposit extended beyond the excavated limits of the sondage in all directions.
- 7.3.3 It was sealed by a 0.59m thick layer of friable mid-brown sandy silt, [11], with frequent CBM flecks and occasional charcoal flecks. Like the underlying deposit this layer was also only seen within the excavated sondage. It was first encountered at 25.94m OD and extended beyond the limits of the sondage.
- 7.3.4 The top of deposit [11] had been cut by the construction cut, [10], for brick floor [8] and walls [6] and [7]. Only the lower 0.12m of the cut survived; the upper part was likely destroyed during the demolition of walls [6] and [7]. The construction cut was aligned roughly northwest-southeast and extended beyond the northwest and southeast limits of the test pit. Only one side of the cut was exposed and this was almost vertical with a sharp break of slope at both the top and base. Brick floor [8] had been laid within the cut and consisted of two courses of red bricks set in moderately hard light grey lime mortar. The top of the brick floor was at approximately 25.94m OD. Built directly on top of the brick floor were two red brick walls constructed using the same type of bricks and mortar as used for constructing the floor. The bricks of both wall [6] and wall [7] had been laid in English Bond with a wall thickness of 0.46m. It is likely that the two wall sections represent the continuation of the same wall and that the gap between them functioned as a doorway. This is suggested by the fact that the opposing sides of the wall sections were faced. At the highest point the walls survived to a height of 26.19m OD.



*NW Shot of TP3*

#### **7.4 Test Pit 4**

7.4.1 This test pit was excavated to inform on nature and condition of the footing of the southeast wall of the central wing of the hospital annexe and, due to the presence of the brick footing and extensive services, did not produce any archaeological data.

#### **7.5 Test Pit 5**

7.5.1 This test pit was excavated at the northeast end of the light well between the central and southeastern wing of the hospital annexe.

7.5.2 The earliest deposit encountered in this test pit was a layer of soft mid-brownish grey silty clay, [12], with frequent fine sub-rounded pebbles, occasional CBM flecks and chalk flecks. It was very similar in nature to deposit [9] recorded within Test Pit 3. In Test Pit 3 the silty clay deposit had been encountered at a height of 25.35m OD while in Test Pit 5 it was first seen at 25.20m OD.

7.5.3 Sealing the silty clay deposit, [12], was a 0.70m thick layer of friable mid-brown sandy silt, [14], with frequent CBM flecks and occasional charcoal flecks. It was first encountered at 25.90m OD. A similar deposit, [11], was recorded in Test Pit 3.

7.5.4 Following the excavation of Test Pit 5 part of the southwest section of the pit collapsed, revealing a 0.60m wide and 0.50m high roughly northwest-southeast aligned vaulted brick lined feature, [13], set back approximately 0.16m from the limits of the excavation. At the highest point of the vaulting the brick feature was recorded at 25.90m OD. The interior of the feature had been filled with disarticulated human bone. Sealing the brick feature was a layer of brick and mortar rubble, [+].



*NE Facing Shot of TP5*





*SSW Facing Shot of TP5 Showing Disarticulated Human Remains Within Brick Culvert*

## **7.6 Test Pit 6**

- 7.6.1 This test pit was located within the basement of the 18<sup>th</sup> century building at the southwestern end of the site. It was excavated between the northeast wall of the building and a modern service channel running parallel to it.
- 7.6.2 The test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.00m when a concrete slab was encountered. This was likely associated with the service channel immediately northwest of the test pit. No deposits of archaeological interest were exposed during the excavation of the test pit.



*SW Facing Shot of TP6*

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

### 8.1 Response to original research objectives:

- *To establish the presence of otherwise of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity.*

There was no evidence for prehistoric, Roman or Medieval activity within the site. This is perhaps reflective of the areas use as agricultural fields throughout much of its history. The investigation did record buried 19<sup>th</sup> century structural remains related to ancillary workhouse buildings.

- *To establish the environmental context of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern activity.*
- All seven test pits were monitored with particular reference to the potential for human remains relating to the former eighteenth – nineteenth century workhouse cemetery. Human remains were only encountered in Test Pit 5 where a brick lined feature was densely packed with disarticulated human bone.
- *Evaluate the impact of past land use and development.*

Impact from past land use was significant across the site. The majority of the site has been developed through construction of the original workhouse buildings and later additions to the rear. In the restricted open areas outside the buildings significant numbers of service routes are present. As well as restricting the scope of the investigations, these impacts will have had a significant impact at least on the upper levels of potential archaeological horizons. In Test Pit 1 truncation by both the existing basement and a now extinct light well extended to a depth of 1.8m below the current ground level at c. 27m OD. In Test Pits 2 and 3 the construction of ancillary workhouse buildings during the 19<sup>th</sup> century had cause truncation to a depth of at least 1.1m below slab level (at approximately 27m OD).

- *Provide information working towards developing an archaeological mitigation strategy.*

The fact that disarticulated human remains were observed in Test Pit 5 suggests that the cemetery was never entirely cleared after it fell out of use in the 1850s. When the wash house was constructed in the northeastern part of the site contemporary documents mention that hundreds of skeletons were removed although no indication is given to whether these were reburied on site or elsewhere. While both Test Pit 2 and 3 contained structural remains of the former workhouse buildings there is no guarantee that burials do not remain below these structures.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for archaeological consultancy during the project and for commissioning the work.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Neil Hawkins for supervising the first day of the fieldwork, Tim Bradley for project management and editing, and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations.

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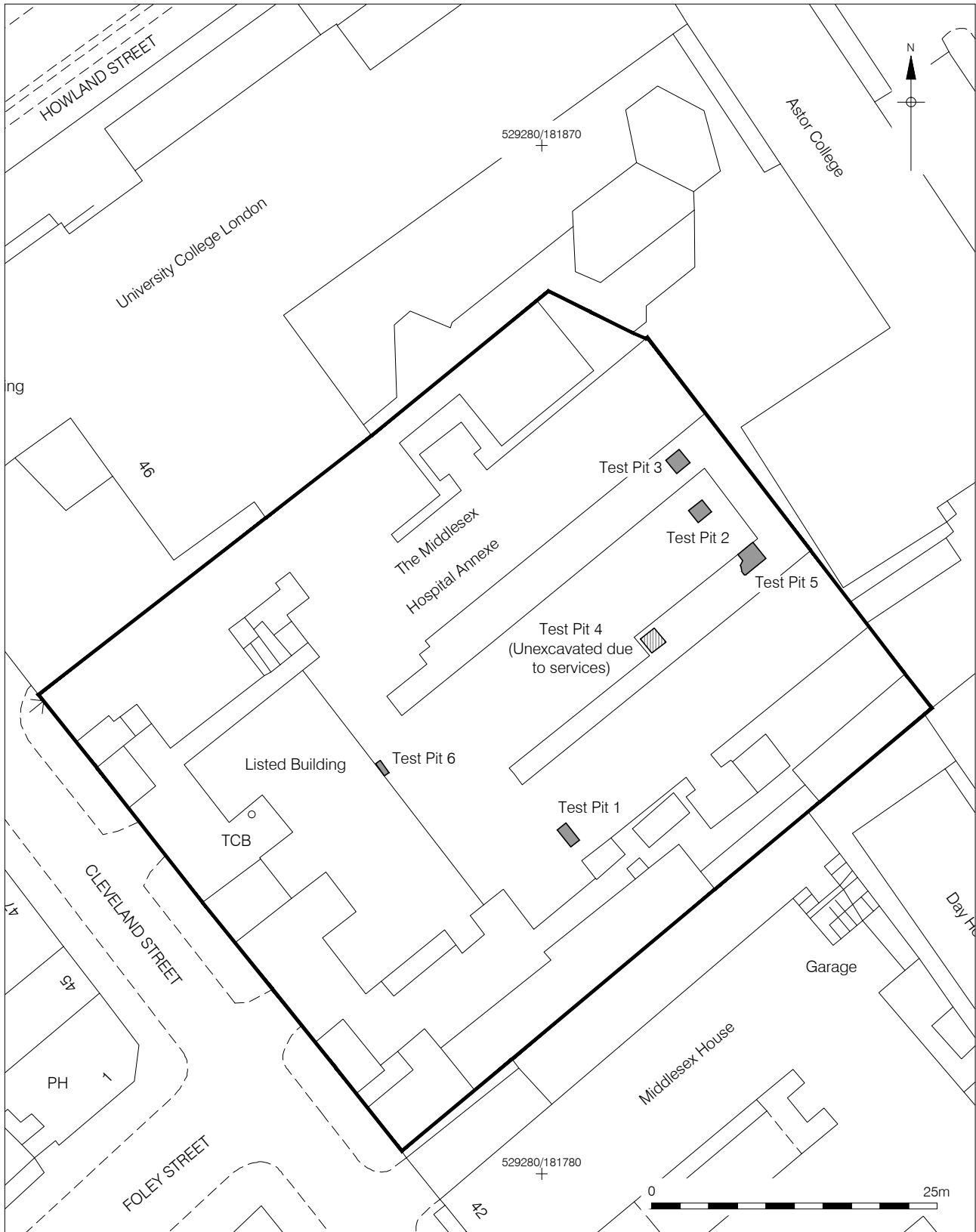


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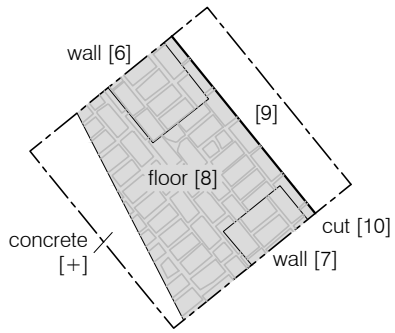
Figure 1  
 Site Location  
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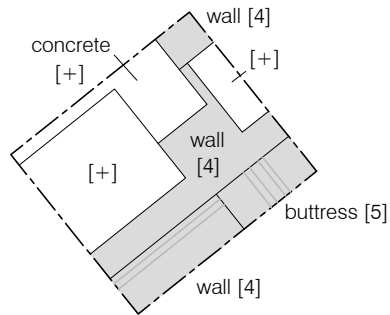
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Figure 2  
 Test Pit Location  
 1:500 at A4

Test Pit 3



Test Pit 2



Test Pit 5

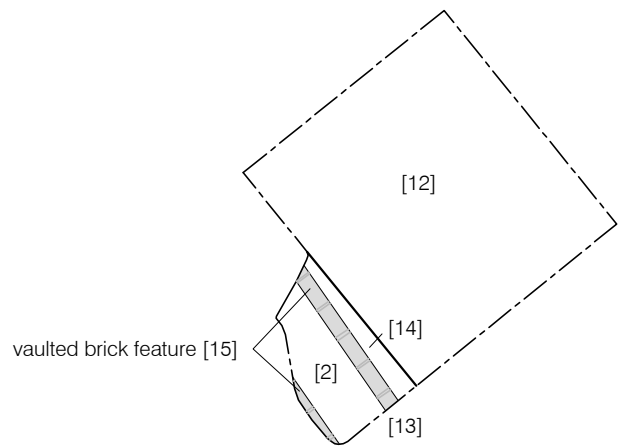


Figure 3  
Test Pits 2, 3 & 5  
1:50 at A4



## Appendix 1: Context Register

Site Code	Context	Trench	Type	Description
N/A	1	TP1	Layer	Construction rubble
N/A	2	TP1	Cut	Construction cut for [3]
N/A	3	TP1	Masonry	Brick light well
N/A	4	TP2	Masonry	Brick wall
N/A	5	TP2	Masonry	Brick buttress
N/A	6	TP3	Masonry	Brick wall
N/A	7	TP3	Masonry	Brick wall
N/A	8	TP3	Masonry	Brick floor
N/A	9	TP3	Layer	Silty clay horizon - same as [12]
N/A	10	TP3	Cut	Construction cut for [8]
N/A	11	TP3	Layer	Sandy silt horizon - same as [14]
N/A	12	TP5	Layer	Silty clay horizon - same as [9]
N/A	13	TP5	Masonry	Vaulted brick feature
N/A	14	TP5	Layer	Sandy silt horizon - same as [11]
N/A	15	TP5	Cut	Construction cut for [13]

# PCA

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