DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

Ropemaker Street, Islington, London EC2.

Type of project

Watching Brief

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K1272
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	James Langthorne		10/11/06
Graphics Prepared by:	Dave Harris		7/11/06
Graphics Checked by:	Peter Moore		10/11/06
Project Manager Sign-off:	Peter Moore		15/11/06

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ROPEMAKER STREET, ISLINGTON, LONDON EC2.

Site Code: RMZ 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3266 8193

Written and Researched by James Young Langthorne
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, November 2006

Project Manager: Peter Moore

Commissioning Client: Keltbray

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

CONTENTS

Appendices

Illustrations

1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Ropemaker Street, Islington, London EC2. The central National Grid reference for the site is TQ 3266 8193. The watching brief was undertaken between the 14th September 2006 and 25th October 2006. The work was commissioned by Keltbray.

1.2 The watching brief was undertaken on thirty-three bays (probing holes in advance of the insertion of secant piling) excavated around the edges of a small area of the southeast corner of the site (representing a previous cellar), which is to be reduced to the same basement level as the main part of the site of the site.

1.3 Archaeological deposits were found to survive in three of the bays, consisting of traces of peaty clay, probably representing the remains of the Moorfields marshland which covered the site until the late 16th century, and a possible medieval or post-medieval rubbish pit. All other potentially archaeological deposits had been truncated by modern features in the other bays.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at Ropemaker Street, Islington, London EC2 (fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken between the 14th September 2006 and 25th October 2006. The work was commissioned by Keltbray.

2.2 The site consists of a block of land located on the north side of Ropemaker Street with Moor Lane to the west, Finsbury Street to the east, and Chiswell Street to the north (Fig 1).

2.3 Much of the site has already been basemented and the current works were in the corner of Finsbury Street and Ropemaker Street, the south-eastern corner of the site, where a cellar is to be reduced to the same basement level as elsewhere on the site. The area is to have secant piling installed prior to the main ground reduction and the archaeological watching brief reported here was on the pile probing excavations.

2.4 The watching brief was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. by Peter Moore and carried out by James Young Langthorne and Des O'Donoghue. The site was monitored by Kathryn Stubbs of the Corporation of London, and Richard Hughes, ARUP Associates. All works were undertaken to the specification by Richard Hughes (Hughes 2006) and method statement by Peter Moore (Moore 2006).

2.5 The completed archive comprising written and drawn records will be stored by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. until their eventual deposition in the Museum of London.

2.6 The site code is RMZ 06.

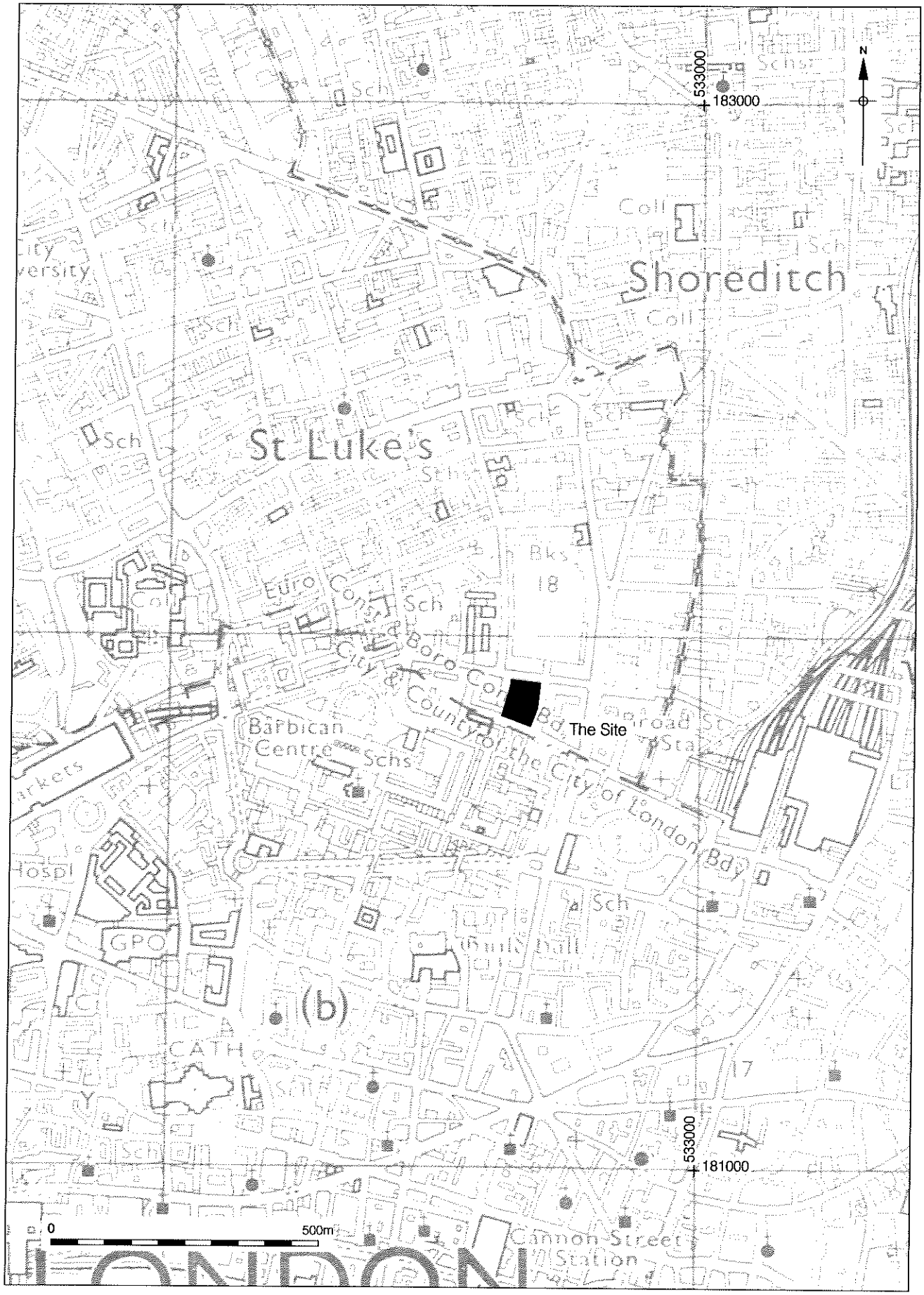
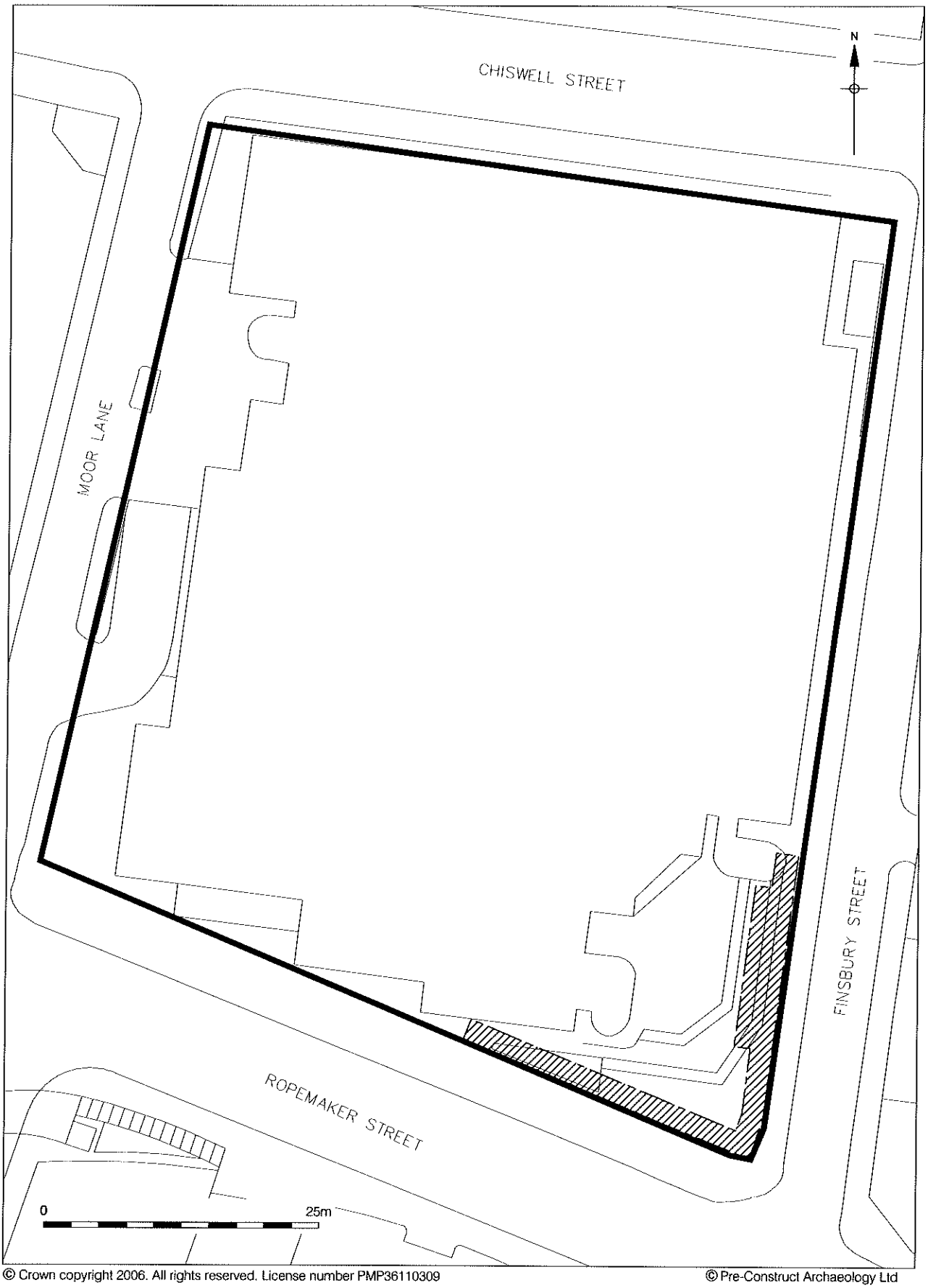


Figure 1
Site Location
1:10,000 at A4



Area of excavation

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The area around Moorgate has been subject to several archaeological investigations. A recent one by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Moorhouse has just been published as a Pre-Construct Archaeology Monograph (Butler 2006) and it's archaeological and historical background for this area has been summarised below.

3.2 Roman

3.2.1 The Roman city of *Londinium* was founded about AD 50 clustered around a crossing point of the River Thames in the area of present day London Bridge which made a 'T' junction with a main east-west road. After being destroyed in the Boudiccan revolt of AD 60-61 the settlement was rebuilt and grew in size (Milne 1995, 42-48). Between AD 90-120 land within the upper Walbrook valley to the east of the present site was begun to be reclaimed on a large scale. This led to the valley being more intensively exploited and settled in with roads being laid out and buildings constructed (Maloney & de Moulins 1990). The western of the two roads which were established on the western side of the Walbrook valley just to the east of present day Moorgate may have been a continuation of a north-south aligned road probably established after AD 61 which was revealed during excavations at No. 1 Poultry (Burch *et al* 1997, 129-131 & figs. 13, 14 & 17; Rowsome 1998, 41 & fn. 19).

3.2.2 The site at Ropemaker Street would appear to have always been just outside the city limits. It is probable that the boundaries of *Londinium* in the late 1st century AD were defined by a ditch marking the Flavian *pomerium*. Where evidence of the feature has been found it would appear to roughly follow the area defined by the later city wall.

3.2.3 The fort at Cripplegate was established in *c.* AD 125 to the west of the site probably during a reorganisation after a fire in the Hadrianic period which although it did not reach the northern limits of the town nevertheless had a devastating affect (Lakin & Howe 2004, 50). Although there has been speculation that the area may have been the focus of military activity or even an earlier predecessor to the fort before this (Perring 1991, 39-40;Howe & Lakin 2004, 48-50). The establishment of the fort was part of the expansion of the settlement during the first half of the 2nd century AD. There is some evidence that *Londinium* suffered a serious decline in the later 2nd century AD with evidence of dark earth and no remains of buildings of that date in certain areas of the city (Perring 1991, 76-89). However, although the fort may have

become disused by the end of the 2nd century AD (Lakin & Howe 2004, 51) there is evidence of continued building and settlement on some sites such as No.1 Poultry (Burch *et al* 1997, 133-136) and later truncation and soil formation processes may be distorting the evidence for the later Roman period.

3.2.4 Between AD 190 and 225 a defensive wall 2.4m thick and two miles long, encircling the landward side of the city, was constructed from ragstone and mortar with tile bonding courses at regular intervals and a red sandstone plinth at ground level on its external face. This wall continued to be developed into the 4th century (Maloney 1983). The site lies outside the city walls which were located some 230m to the south of the site and a fragment of the wall still survives within the car park beneath London Wall.

3.2.5 As the Romans were forbidden from burying their dead within the city limits, from the earliest days burials were placed along the main roads leading from the settlement. The cemeteries became formalised with the construction of the city wall and were grouped into three main areas outside the city walls, to the west, north and east (Barber & Hall 2000, 102-120). The northern cemetery occupied an area from Bishopsgate in the east to Finsbury Circus in the west, which extended to the east of the present site on the east side of present day Moorgate.

3.2.6 The construction of the city wall impeded the flow of the Walbrook down to the Thames and from the 3rd century AD the area to the north of the city between Cripplegate and Bishopsgate became waterlogged. The abandonment of the walled city in the early part of the 5th century AD at the end of the Roman period probably exacerbated the process as any drainage ditches that were in place were neglected.

3.3 Saxon

3.3.1 The Anglo-Saxons established their town along the Thames to the west in the trading settlement of *Lundenwic*, in the Strand/Covent Garden area (Malcolm *et al* 2003; Leary *et al* 2004). By the time that Alfred in 886 re-occupied the old Roman walled city, which had been re-established as a fortified town (burgh) in response to Viking raids on London in 841, 851 and 871, a great marsh had formed to the north of the city walls. It would appear that by *c.*890 the Saxons had to a large extent moved from *Lundenwic* back within the former Roman walled city (Vince 1990, 20). There is evidence from sites at Cripplegate (Milne 2001) and Aldercastle (Butler 2001, 52) that as part of the refortification the old city ditch was redug with the upcast earth piled up against the crumbling city walls to block gaps in the defences.

3.4 Medieval

3.4.1 During the medieval period the walls and ditch were continually repaired and maintained (Grimes 1968, 80-81, 86; Maloney & Harding 1979, 350-353) and bastions were added to the western circuit at this time. Stow in his Survey of London written in 1598 records repairs to the walls and re-excavation of the ditch between the 13th and 16th centuries. From at least the 15th century it is known that the area was provided with a gate, known as Moorgate, which was situated to the southeast of the present site. It is possible that this gate was only the enlargement of a postern that had occupied the site since Roman times.

3.4.2 The site lay throughout this period within the great marsh known as Moorfields. During the medieval period the area was largely unsettled but was occupied by certain trades such as tanners and brick makers, which could exploit the natural resources of the region.

3.5 Post-medieval

3.5.1 The expansion of London led gradually to the marsh from the late 16th century being drained and the area being built upon until by the middle of the 17th century it was part of the spreading northern suburbs of the metropolis of London (Butler 2006).

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The site lies within the London (or Thames) Basin consisting of a bed of chalk covered by marine sands, gravels and clays (i.e. Thanet Sands and Woolwich and Reading Beds), over which London Clay formed.

4.1.2 The drift geology of the site itself is shown on the British Geological Survey North London map as Floodplain River Terrace gravels overlying the London Clay.

4.1.3 The drift geology was encountered at 6-8 Bouverie Street, where natural sands and gravels were encountered in the north of the site at between 0.50-0.70m below basement level. These sands were approximately 1.0m thick and overlay London Clay. In the south of the site redeposited gravel overlay a black alluvial deposit which gave way to London Clay (Schofield, J. & Maloney, C., 1998).

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site lies 1.12 km to the north of the present bank of the River Thames and lies within the upper valley of the River Wallbrook.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological watching brief was conducted on the pile probing works undertaken prior to the insertion of a contiguous secant piled wall around an area in the southeast of the site. The pile probing consisted of the excavation of individual test pits (bays) around the perimeter of that area (representing a previous cellar). Each bay typically measured approximately 2.00m N-S by 2.00m E-W, with a depth of 4.50m. In total thirty three bays were excavated.

5.2 All the bays were excavated by machine and all obstructions were removed. These obstructions consisted of concrete structures (e.g. manholes or slabs), reinforcement bars and remains of sheet piling. After all obstructions were removed the bays were backfilled with cement. All excavation works were monitored by an archaeologist.

5.3 Bay 1, northernmost of the bays running parallel with Finsbury Street was abandoned when it quickly became apparent that it was entirely composed of reinforced concrete to a depth exceeding 3m.

5.4 Bays 2 – 14 formed a continuous north-south trench measuring 28.00m parallel with Finsbury Street. The maximum width of the trench at base was 3.50m east-west, the maximum depth excavated to was 8.85m OD, though the average depth in the trench was 10.05mOD. This trench overlapped the ESE-WNW running trench composed of bays 20-33 at its southernmost bay (14).

5.5 Bays 20 – 33 formed a continuous ESE-WNW trench parallel with Ropemaker Street. This trench measured 28.00m ESE-WNW, with a maximum width at base of 2.00m NW-SE and the maximum depth excavated to 8.35m OD, though the average depth in the trench was 10.10m OD. This trench overlaped the north-south running trench composed of Bays 2-14 at its easternmost bay (20).

5.6 Archaeological recording was limited to observation from the top of the trench edges, but plans and sections were drawn of the revealed deposits and all deposits were recorded on pro-forma context sheets.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

6.1 Bay 2 (figs 3 and 4)

6.1.1 No archaeological deposits were found in Bay 2.

6.1.2 Modern concrete [+] formed the entire fill of the bay.

6.1.3 Natural soil was not seen at the base of the bay.

6.2 Bays 3, 4, and 5 (figs 3 and 4)

6.2.1 No archaeological deposits were found in Bays 3, 4, or 5.

6.2.2 Beneath the paving slabs was 2.50m of modern made ground, a fairly loose and friable mid greyish /brown sandy silt with moderate concrete, brick and rebar inclusions [2] into which, in Bay 3, a modern manhole had been cut [+]. Under this made ground was a concrete slab approximately 0.50m thick [+], which revealed a 0.50m thick layer of levelling sand [1]. The sand sealed a north-south line of sheet piles [8]. In all the bays the sheet piles encountered had dimensions of 5.00m (length) X 0.60m (width) X 0.02m (thickness). The sheet piles had been driven into natural London clay [7].

6.2.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 11.05mOD.

6.3 Bay 6 (figs 3 and 4)

6.3.1 An archaeological deposit was revealed in Bay 6. It appeared to be part of a heavily truncated layer of peaty clay that was part of the marshland that once covered the site. No finds were recovered.

6.3.2 Underneath the paving slabs was 2.50m of modern made ground [2]. Under this made ground was a concrete slab approximately 0.50m thick [+], which revealed a 0.50m thick layer of levelling sand [1]. The sand sealed a north-south line of sheet piles [8]. The sheet piles had been driven into a 0.20m- 0.30m thick archaeological deposit consisting of firm mid brownish-grey clay/peat with occasional-moderate small angular gravel and pea grit, occasional ironstone and decomposed wood inclusions [4]. This truncated layer sealed the natural London clay [7].

6.3.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 10.80mOD.

6.4 Bay 7 (figs 3 and 4)

6.4.1 No archaeological deposits were found in Bay 7.

6.4.2 Beneath the paving slabs was 2.50m of modern made ground [2]. Sealed by this made ground was a concrete slab approximately 0.50m thick [+], which revealed a 0.50m thick layer of levelling sand [1]. The sand covered a north-south line of sheet piles [8] which had been driven into natural London clay [7].

6.4.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 11.00mOD.

6.5 Bay 8 (figs 3 and 4)

6.5.1 An archaeological deposit was discovered in Bay 8. It appears to be part of a heavily truncated layer of peaty clay that was part of the marshland that once covered the site. No finds were recovered.

6.5.2 Beneath the paving slabs was 2.50m of modern made ground [2] into which a modern manhole had been cut [+]. Under this made ground was a concrete slab approximately 0.50m thick [+], which revealed a 0.50m thick layer of levelling sand [1]. The sand sealed a north-south running line of sheet piles [8] which had been driven into a 0.25m thick archaeological deposit consisting of firm mid brownish-grey clay/peat with occasional-moderate small-medium sized angular gravel and pea grit, occasional ironstone and decomposed wood inclusions [5]. This truncated layer sealed the natural London clay [7].

6.5.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 10.80mOD.

6.6 Bays 9 and 10 (figs 3 and 4)

6.6.1 No archaeological deposits were found in Bays 9 and 10.

6.6.2 Beneath the paving slabs was 2.50m of modern made ground (2). This layer was approximately 2.50m thick. Under this made ground was a concrete slab approximately 0.50m thick [+], which revealed a 0.50m thick layer of levelling sand [1]. The sand sealed a north-south line of sheet piles [8] which had been driven into natural London clay [7].

6.6.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 11.05mOD.

6.7 Bays 11 and 12 (figs 3 and 4)

6.7.1 No archaeological deposits were found in Bays 11 and 12.

6.7.2 Beneath the paving slabs was 2.50m of modern made ground [2]. In this bay the concrete cellar retaining wall which was exposed as the made ground was removed on the eastern side of the bay, was partly broken revealing the stretcher built yellow stock brick foundation of the pavement outside the LOE of the site [3]. Under this made ground was a concrete slab approximately 0.50m thick [+], which revealed a 0.50m thick layer of levelling sand [1]. The sand sealed a north-south line of sheet piles [8] which had been driven into natural London clay [7].

6.7.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 11.05mOD.

6.8 Bay 13 (figs 3 and 4)

6.8.1 No archaeological deposits were found in bay 13.

6.8.2 Beneath the paving slabs was 3.50m of modern made ground [2]. A modern manhole [+] had been cut into this made ground. No concrete slab or levelling sand was visible in this bay, however near the northern edge of the bay were traces of red brick masonry, presumed to be remnants of an internal wall subsequently demolished, details were difficult to collect due to the depth of the bay and the quantity of made ground surrounding the structure. The concrete cellar retaining wall seen on the eastern face of bays 3-12 and bays 21 –33 was also no longer visible although the yellow stock brick pavement foundation was. It was therefore concluded that bays 13,14, and 20 lie outside the cellar. The made ground sealed the north-south line of sheet piles [8] which had been driven into natural London clay [7].

6.8.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 10.00mOD.

6.9 Bays 14 and 20 (figs 3 and 4)

6.9.1 A sizeable archaeological deposit was discovered in Bays 14 and 20. This layer is of a different character to those found in Bays 6 and 8 and could be a large medieval or post-medieval rubbish pit rather than peaty marshland. However the limited

dimensions of the bay mean that this was unverified. Fragments of CBM and pieces of shoe leather were found within the deposit.

6.9.2 Beneath the paving slabs was modern made ground [2] which reached an approximate depth of 3.50m. The made ground sealed the sheet piles, which could be seen turning from a north-south direction to east-west course in the north-western corner of Bay 14. The piles had been driven through a 1m thick layer [6], which consisted of a compact black slightly peaty clay with occasional animal bone, snail and oyster shell, CBM and leather shoe fragments, and very occasional grey sand and small sub-rounded flint pebble inclusions. This may have been a layer of marshland or the fill of a large rubbish pit. The dimensions of the bay made clarification uncertain. This layer was directly over the natural clay [7].

6.9.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 9.15mOD.

6.10 Bays 21, 22, and 23 (figs 3 and 4)

6.10.1 No archaeological deposits were found in Bays 21, 22, and 23.

6.10.2 Beneath the paving slabs was 3.00m of modern made ground [2]. Under this made ground was a concrete slab approximately 0.50m thick [+], which revealed a 0.50m thick layer of levelling sand [1]. The sand sealed natural London clay [7].

6.10.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 10.35mOD.

6.11 Bays 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 (figs 3 and 4)

6.11.1 No archaeological deposits were found in Bays 24 - 30.

6.11.2 Below the paving slabs was 3.00m ofmodern made ground (2). Under this made ground was a concrete slab approximately 0.50m thick [+], which revealed a 0.50m thick layer of levelling sand [1]. The sand sealed an east-west line of sheet piles [8] which had been driven into natural London clay [7].

6.11.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 10.35mOD.

6.12 Bay 31 (figs 3 and 4)

6.12.1 No archaeological deposits were seen in Bay 31.

6.12.2 The upper surface of this bay was a concrete flower bed [+] which formed the upper part of a large concrete wall, which extended to a depth of approximately 3.50m. Below the concrete was a layer of levelling sand [1], this was estimated to be 0.50m thick. The levelling sand sealed natural London clay [7].

6.12.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 10.35mOD.

6.13 Bay 32 (figs 3 and 4)

6.13.1 No archaeological deposits were seen in Bay 32.

6.13.2 Beneath the paving slabs was 3.50m of concrete [+]. Below the concrete was approximately 0.50m of levelling sand [1]. This sand sealed natural London clay [7].

6.13.3 Natural clay was seen at an approximate depth of 10.35mOD.

6.14 Bay 33 (figs 3 and 4)

6.14.1 No archaeological deposits were seen in Bay 33.

6.14.2 Modern concrete [+] formed the entire fill of the bay.

6.14.3 Natural clay was not seen at the base of the bay.

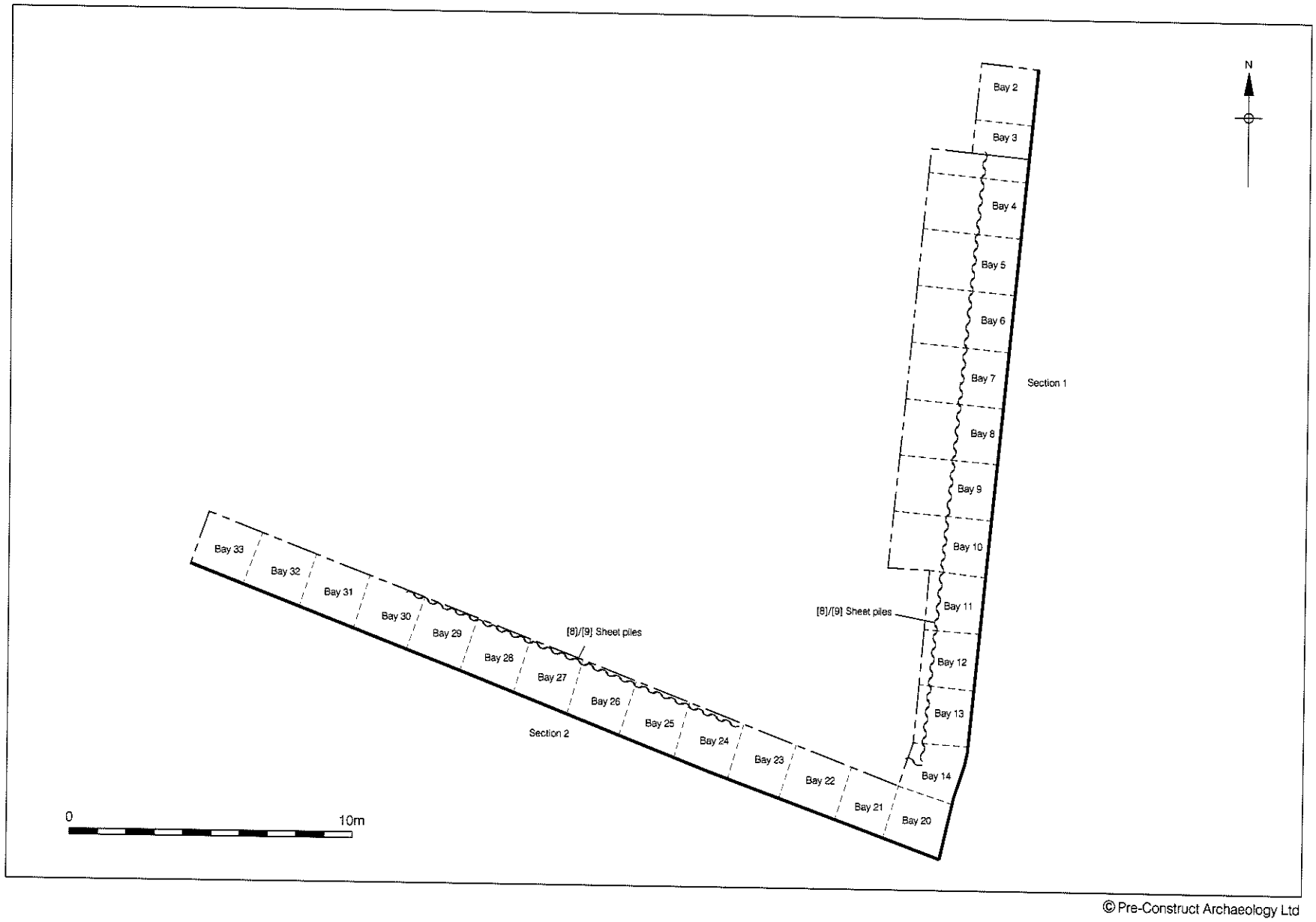
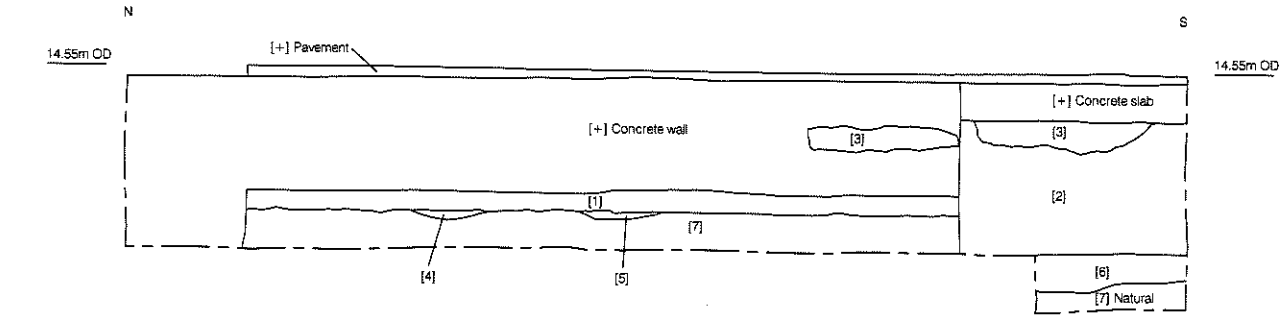
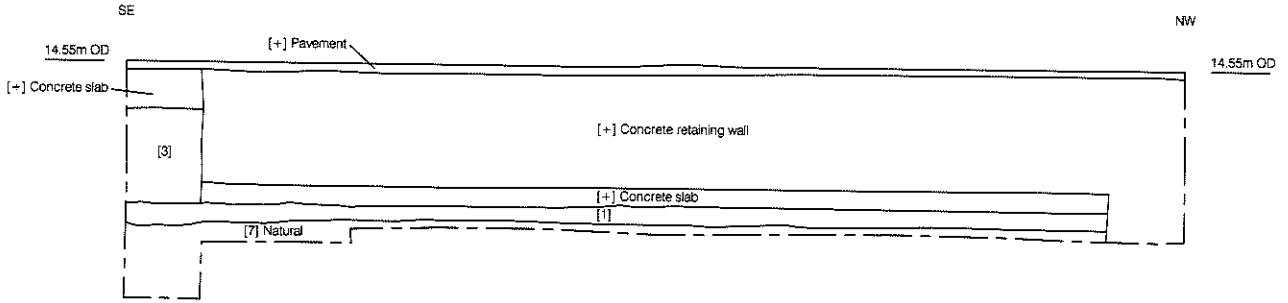


Figure 3
Trench plan
1:200 at A4



Section 1
West facing
Bay 14



Section 2
Northeast facing
Bays 20 to 26

Figure 4
Sections 1&2
1:200 at A4

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Although the bays were of limited dimensions, the watching brief of limited scope, and although the works took place only along the heavily truncated site boundary, it is fairly clear that within this south-east corner of the Ropemaker Street site there is still some archaeological potential.

7.2 The greatest area of archaeological potential within the south-eastern corner of the site occurred where there was no concrete slab beneath the made ground, as demonstrated in Bays 14 and 20 where a metre of archaeological material was observed.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barber, B. & Hall, J., 2000 Digging up the people of Roman London:Interpreting evidence from Roman London's Cemeteries. In: I. Haynes, H. Sheldon & L. Hannagan (eds.) *London Under Ground, the archaeology of a city*. Oxbow Books. Oxford, 102-120.

Burch, M., Hill, J., Jones, S., Lees, D., Rowsome, P. & Treveil, P., 1997 Number 1 Poultry – the main excavation: Roman sequence. *London Archaeologist* 8, 127-136.

Butler J., 2001 The City Defences at Aldersgate. *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* 52, 41-112.

Butler, J., 2006 *Archaeological Excavations at Moorhouse*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Monograph 7.

Grimes, W. F., 1968 *The Excavations of Roman and Medieval London.*

Howe, E. & Lakin, D., 2004 *Roman and medieval Cripplegate, City of London: archaeological excavations 1992-8.* Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph 21.

Hughes, R. 2006 *Ropemaker Place Development: Archaeological Watching Brief Specification - 1155.* Arup Associates. Unpublished Report. Revision A

Leary, J., with Brown, G., Rackham, J., Pickard C. & Hughes, R., 2004 *Tatberht's Lundenwic: Archaeological Excavations in Middle Saxon London*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Monograph 2.

Malcolm, G. & Bowsher, D. with Cowie, R., 2003 *Middle Saxon London: Excavations at the Royal Opera House 1989-99.* Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph 15.

Maloney, J., 1983 Recent work on London's defences. In: J. Maloney & B. Hobley (eds.) *Roman Urban Defences in the West*. Council for British Archaeology Research Report 51, 97-117.

Maloney, J. & Harding, C., 1979 Dukes Place and Houndsditch: the medieval defences. *London Archaeologist* 3, 347-354.

Maloney, C., with de Moulins, D., 1990 *The Archaeology of Roman London Volume 1: The Upper Walbrook in the Roman period.* Council for British Archaeology Research Report 69.

Marsden, P., 1980 *Roman London.*

Milne, G., 1995 *Roman London.* Batsford/English Heritage. London.

Milne, G., 2001 *Excavations at Medieval Cripplegate, London: Archaeology after the Blitz, 1946-68.* English Heritage Archaeological Reports. Swindon.

Moore, P., 2006 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Ropemaker Place (Southeast Corner), London Borough of Lewisham.* Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Unpublished Report.

Perring, D., 1991 Roman London.

Rowsome, P., 1998 The Development of the Town Plan of Early Roman London. In: B. Watson (ed.) *Roman London: Recent Archaeological Work.* Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series no.24. Portsmouth, Rhode Island, 35-46.

Schofield, J. with Maloney C. (eds.), 1998 *Archaeology in the City of London, 1907-91: a guide to records of excavations by the Museum of London.* Museum of London.

Vince, A., 1990 *Saxon London.* Seaby.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Hughes of Arup Associates for instigating the project, Anthony Walsh of Keltbray for commissioning the work and, Kathryn Stubbs of the Corporation of London for monitoring the project.

9.2 The author would like to thank Peter Moore for project managing the watching brief and editing the present report, David Harris for the illustrations, Des O'Donoghue for his work on site, and Jon Butler for help with the archaeological and historical background of the area.

APPENDIX 1

Context Descriptions

SITE	CONTEXT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
RMZ 06	1	Layer	Levelling sand
RMZ 06	2	Layer	Modern made ground
RMZ 06	3	Masonry	Pavement foundation
RMZ 06	4	Layer	Peaty deposit
RMZ 06	5	Layer	Peaty deposit
RMZ 06	6	Layer	Black clay/Peat deposit
RMZ 06	7	Natural	London clay natural
RMZ 06	8	Fill	Modern Sheet piles
RMZ 06	9	Cut	Cut for modern sheet piles

APPENDIX 2

OASIS Report form

9.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-19912

Project details

Project name	Watching Brief at Ropemaker Street, Islington, London EC2
Short description of the project	Watching brief on secant pile probing works at Ropemaker Street. This involved the excavation of 33 bays running along the line of the cellar wall in the south -east corner of the site. The bulk of any archaeological evidence had been truncated either by piling or the cellar itself. However traces of the peaty clay presumed to be dating from the period when the area was the Moorfields marsh were found in 2 of the bays and a possible medieval or post-medieval rubbish pit was found in 1 of the bays.
Project dates	Start: 14-09-2006 End: 25-10-2006
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	RMZ 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	RUBBISH PIT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Secant pile probing
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the	Not known / Not recorded

planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ISLINGTON ISLINGTON Ropemaker Street, Islington, EC2
Postcode	EC2
Study area	4180.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 326 818 51.5190374547 -0.08862715513020 51 31 08 N 000 05 19 W Point
Height OD	Min: 10.00m Max: 12.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Arup Associate
Project design originator	ARUP
Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	James Young Langthorne

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive	LAARC

recipient	
Paper Archive ID	RMZ 06
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	A forthcoming report
Title	A Watching Brief at Ropemaker Street, Islington, London EC2
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Langthorne, J. Y.
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 Softcover unpublished report
Entered by	Archivist (archive@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	31 October 2006