

**BAYNARD HOUSE FORESHORE**

**DISCHARGE POINT**

**RELOCATION, WHITE LION**

**HILL, CITY OF LONDON, EC4V**

**3AL**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**WATCHING BRIEF**

**SITE CODE: WTL15**

**REPORT NO: R12078**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**BAYNARD HOUSE FORESHORE DISCHARGE POINT RELOCATION, WHITE LION  
HILL, CITY OF LONDON, EC4V 3AL  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Museum of London Site Code:** WTL 15

**Local Planning Authority:** City of London

**Central NGR:** TQ 3190 8082

**Commissioning Client:** Capita on behalf of British Telecommunications Plc (BT)

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, March 2015

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**March 2015**

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**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**Site Name**


**BAYNARD HOUSE FORESHORE DISCHARGE POINT RELOCATION,**

**WHITE LION HILL, CITY OF LONDON, EC4V 3AL**

**Type of project**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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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 relocation works for a discharge point on the Thames foreshore adjacent to Baynard House, City of London, EC4V.
- 1.2 The fieldwork was carried out 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. This consisted of an initial inspection of the interior of the coffer dam once the area had been drained of water, followed by a watching brief on excavation works to enable the repositioning of the discharge point (Figure 2). The work was commissioned by Capita.
- 1.3 The watching brief identified the natural river bed as comprising coarse sandy gravel, at elevations of between c.-2.8m OD and c.-6m OD. This is consistent with previously recorded borehole investigations in the general vicinity. Natural London Clay was not observed during the excavations. Overlying the river bed was a fine layer of sediment, containing variable amounts of organic debris, which was overlain in turn by a modern accumulation of detritus. The latter contained a combination of modern refuse and historic artefacts dating largely from the late 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 1.4 Modern intrusions within the northern third of the area comprised the existing discharge point. This concrete structure was set into the river bed.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) during works necessitated by the repositioning of a discharge point on the Thames foreshore adjacent to Baynard House, City of London, EC4.
- 2.2 The site was located within the City of London, and was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 3190 8082. The site comprised a temporary coffer dam adjacent to Baynard House, on the northern bank of the Thames foreshore. As such the area is bound to the north by White Lion Hill and on all other sides by the River Thames. Blackfriars Bridge and the Millennium Bridge lie to the west and east respectively, and the site lies roughly north of the Tate Modern on the opposite bank of the Thames (Figure 1).
- 2.3 PCA was commissioned for the watching brief by Capita on behalf of the City of London in order to fulfil an archaeological Planning Condition. The site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the City of London. The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 2.4 The area under observation was located within the footprint of a temporary coffer dam on the northern bank of the Thames foreshore, adjacent to Baynard House. The works comprised an initial inspection following the area being drained of water followed by monitoring of machine excavation works. Excavation was necessary to firstly install the base shoring level, and then to level the area in advance of the installation of a second discharge point.
- 2.5 The project was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2014).
- 2.6 Following the completion of the project the site archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) identified by the unique code WTL 15.
- 2.7 The watching brief was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and on 1st April 2015.
- 2.8 The project was monitored by Kathryn Stubbs on behalf of the City of London and Jane Siddell on behalf of Historic England, and project-managed for PCA by Helen Hawkins. The watching brief was supervised by the author and Fergal O'Donoghue.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

- 3.1.1 In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), replacing Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) 'Planning for the Historic Environment' which itself replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning'. It provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of heritage assets.
- 3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance the NPPF, by current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

#### **3.2 Regional Guidance: The London Plan**

- 3.2.1 The over-arching strategies and policies for the whole of the Greater London area are contained within the Greater London Authority's London Plan (July 2011).

#### **3.3 Local Guidance: City of London**

- 3.3.1 The relevant Local Development Plan framework is provided by the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted 2002. The Plan contains the following 'saved' policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features.

#### **Requirement for Assessment and Evaluation of Sites of Archaeological Potential**

##### **POLICY ARC 1**

**To require planning applications which involve excavation or groundworks on sites of archaeological potential to be accompanied by an archaeological assessment and evaluation of the site including the impact of the proposed development.**

#### **Preservation in Situ and Recording of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Remains**

##### **POLICY ARC 2**

**To require development proposals to preserve in situ, protect and safeguard important ancient monuments and important archaeological remains and their settings, and where appropriate, to require the permanent public display and/or interpretation of the monument or remains.**

##### **POLICY ARC 3**

**To ensure the proper investigation, recording of sites, and publication of the results, by an approved organisation as an integral part of a development programme where a development incorporates archaeological remains or where it is considered that preservation in situ is not appropriate.**

3.3.2 The City of London Local Plan, adopted January 2015, also contains the following core strategic policies of relevance to the study site:

**Policy CS9: Thames and the Riverside**

**To ensure that the City capitalises on its unique riverside location, sustaining the river's functional uses in transport, navigation and recreation, whilst minimising risks to the City's communities from flooding, by:**

- 1. Designating the Thames Policy Area and preparing and keeping under review an area appraisal which identifies the attributes of the area and gives guidance on development within this area.**
- 2. Ensuring that buildings and spaces on or near the riverside contribute to sustainable economic growth and further the aims of the Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy, particularly through:**
  - (i) protecting public access and river views along the riverside walk and securing completion of the riverside walk at Queenhithe;**
  - (ii) improving access to the river and riverside walk from the rest of the City and the Thames bridges;**
  - (iii) improving the vibrancy of the riverside by encouraging a mix of appropriate commercial uses and promoting office-led commercial development, whilst preserving privacy, security and amenity for residents, businesses and other stakeholders;**
  - (iv) improving opportunities for biodiversity, in line with the City of London Habitat Action Plan for the Thames foreshore.**
- 3. Supporting and safeguarding sites for the construction of the Thames Tideway Tunnel, including connection of the Fleet combined sewer outflow, resulting in reduced storm water discharges into the River Thames and improved water quality.**
- 4. Promoting the functional uses of the River Thames and its environs for transport, navigation and recreation, particularly through:**
  - (i) retaining Walbrook Wharf for waterborne freight traffic;**
  - (ii) encouraging the use of the River Thames for the transport of construction and deconstruction materials and waste;**
  - (iii) retaining Blackfriars Pier, and access to Tower Pier, and encouraging the reinstatement of Swan Lane Pier and the use of these facilities for river transport. Applications to remove these facilities will be refused unless suitable replacement facilities of an equivalent or higher standard are provided;**
  - (iv) maintaining London Bridge, Tower Bridge, Blackfriars Bridge, Southwark Bridge and the Millennium Bridge;**
  - (v) refusing development on or over the River, except for structures which specifically require a waterside location for river-related uses;**
  - (vi) resisting the permanent mooring of vessels; if moored vessels are exceptionally permitted they must be of national importance, have a special connection with the City and the River Thames, be used for a river-related purpose and not have a detrimental impact on navigation, river regime or environment;**



- (vii) **maintaining access points to the River Thames foreshore, from both land and water, for public or private use as appropriate, subject to health and safety and environmental safeguards.**

**Policy CS12: Historic Environment**

To conserve or enhance the significance of the City's heritage assets and their settings, and provide an attractive environment for the City's communities and visitors, by:

1. **Safeguarding the City's listed buildings and their settings, while allowing appropriate adaptation and new uses.**
2. **Preserving and enhancing the distinctive character and appearance of the City's conservation areas, while allowing sympathetic development within them.**
3. **Protecting and promoting the evaluation and assessment of the City's ancient monuments and archaeological remains and their settings, including the interpretation and publication of results of archaeological investigations.**
4. **Safeguarding the character and setting of the City's gardens of special historic interest.**
5. **Preserving and, where appropriate, seeking to enhance the Outstanding Universal Value, architectural and historic significance, authenticity and integrity of the Tower of London World Heritage Site and its local setting.**

- 3.3.3 In terms of designated heritage assets, as defined above, no Scheduled Ancient monuments, Historic Wreck sites or Historic Battlefields lie within the immediate vicinity of the site. The site does not lie within an Archaeological Priority Area as designated by the City of London.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

- 4.1.1 The British Geological Survey shows the site to be underlain by the London Clay formation, a clay, silt and sand horizon formed during the Palaeogene Period. These are expected to be overlain by superficial deposits of alluvium (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 4.1.2 Borehole investigations prior to the installation of the earlier discharge outlet illustrated a sequence of gravel underlain by London Clay with several claystone horizons. A borehole to the south of the study site commenced at a ground level of -7.21m OD, with London Clay recorded from -8.41m OD ([http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi\\_scans/boreholes/1065036/images/12530496.html](http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi_scans/boreholes/1065036/images/12530496.html)). A second borehole ([http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi\\_scans/boreholes/1065035/images/12530494.html](http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi_scans/boreholes/1065035/images/12530494.html)) in the northerly extent of the study site revealed a comparable sequence of sandy gravel at the level of the river bed, underlain by London Clay. The river bed was recorded at -4.16m OD, with the gravels extending to a thickness of 3.95m, and London Clay at -8.11m OD. The differences in elevation reflect the underlying profile of the river bed.

### **4.2 Topography**

- 4.2.1 The area of the site lay entirely within the footprint of the River Thames, on the northern bank of the foreshore. The height of the river wall in this location lay at c.5.7m OD. The profile of the river bed dropped from c.-2.20m OD to -6.22m OD from the north to south of the study site. The water level in this area varies between 3.88m OD (mean high water springs) and -2.67m OD (mean low water springs).
- 4.2.2 The existing discharge outlet positioned in the northern third of the site was recorded at an elevation of -3.88m OD.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 No site specific archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was prepared for the subject site. However, the River Thames foreshore is the location of many archaeological and historical features ranging from prehistoric timber circles to post-medieval jetties. Areas where the foreshore has not been heavily modified, or the river heavily dredged have the potential to yield important remains which may make a valuable contribution to knowledge. Furthermore, river defences themselves are often of historic importance, in addition to the potential for archaeological remains immediately behind them.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 In accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2014), an archaeological monitoring exercise was undertaken. This consisted of an initial assessment of the internal area of the coffer dam following de-watering. The 12m x 26m area was first assessed to establish whether a walk over of the interior of the coffer dam was safe to do. Access to the northern and southerly limits of the coffer dam was gained via a crane with man rider, with only the northerly limits deemed suitable for a walk over given the depth of soft alluvial deposits in the south.
- 6.2 Due to the extensive coverage of made ground/accumulated detritus on the river bed in the northern limits of the site, it was determined to maintain a watching brief during excavation works. Approximately 1-2m of detritus was machine excavated around the existing discharge point in the north of the coffer dam. The machine was fitted with a ditching bucket, and all excavation was carried out under archaeological observation from a vantage point on the top frame of the coffer dam until archaeological deposits or features, or natural stratigraphy was encountered.
- 6.3 A second phase of watching brief was carried out on the central part of the coffer dam during the excavation of accumulated alluvial silts. Similarly the machine was fitted with a ditching bucket, and observation was carried out from the top frame of the coffer dam for safety reasons, i.e. away from machines and beyond the path of overhead lifting operations.
- 6.4 The trench was, 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 PCA's Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009). Contexts were numbered and are shown in this report within squared brackets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:100, due to the nature of excavation within the coffer dam, no sections were visible.
- 6.5 The areas monitored were located by means of measured survey.
- 6.6 The completed archive, comprising all written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre under the unique Site Code WTL 15.

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **7.1 Phase 1: Natural**

7.1.1 The earliest horizon encountered during the watching brief was a loose, mid yellow brown natural sandy gravel [3] which extended across the base of the coffer dam. This was interpreted as the underlying river bed and was observed from c.-2.8m OD in the north, dropping with a concave profile to c.-6m OD at the southerly limits of the area. This was overlain by a fine layer of clay-silt [2] which extended between 0.10m and 0.15m in thickness. The deposit was generally clean of inclusions and interpreted as a natural accumulation of sediment on the river bed. In some areas lenses of organic debris were observed, and included small pieces of timber or branches. These were interpreted as natural debris, and no evidence of structural material was identified.

### **7.2 Phase 2: Modern**

7.2.1 Overlying the northerly limits of the coffer dam was a mixed deposit of loose, grey-brown clay silt containing frequent inclusions of brick rubble and animal bone, and occasional to moderate inclusions of pottery sherds and clay tobacco pipe stems. A quantity of modern refuse, plastic bottles etc, was also observed within this layer. The pottery and clay tobacco pipe stems recovered dated between 1580 and 1740 and 1540 and 1700 respectively, with an additional heavily abraded fragment being of potentially Roman date (Jarrett, 2015, pers comm.). The animal bones recovered were largely metapodials, of both cattle and horse (Reilly, 2015, pers comm.), and all appeared heavily abraded and stained black in colour. This horizon was interpreted as accumulated detritus extending from the northern bank of the River Wall and covered an observed area of 12m (east-west) by c.8.5m (north-south) from an uppermost elevation of c.-4m OD.

Plate 1: North-east facing shot of coffer dam with associated barge to east



Plate 2: South facing shot of coffer dam interior



Plate 3: Plan view (to north) illustrating debris [3] following de-watering, with extant discharge point visible in foreground



Plate 4: East facing shot of sediment [2] overlying river bed [3]



## 8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The natural river bed, comprising sandy gravels was observed across the entirety of the base of the coffer dam with a slightly concave profile. This was recorded from c.-2.80m OD at the northerly limits of the coffer dam, dropping to c.-6m OD in the south. The profile is broadly consistent with the results of earlier borehole investigations in this part of the river. This was overlain by a fine deposit of alluvial sediment.
- 8.2 Overlying the northerly limits of the coffer dam was a layer of accumulated detritus containing a mix of both modern refuse and historic artefacts. Fragments of pottery and clay tobacco pipe stem largely dated from the late 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a single heavily abraded piece of a possible Roman vessel. It was assumed that, given the presence of modern refuse, all such pieces represented secondary deposition and therefore the deposit was modern in date.
- 8.3 The only significant modern intrusion observed within the study site was the existing discharge point which covered an area approximately 6.2m by 6.2m, and had been cut directly into the river bed. However, dredging works both prior to and post this installation cannot be entirely ruled out.
- 8.4 The study site lies within an area where the projected mean high and low water springs varies between 3.88m OD and -2.67m OD. It can therefore be assumed that the footprint of the coffer dam is continuously overlain by the River Thames, even at low tide.



## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Damien Nixon of Capita Consulting for commissioning the fieldwork on behalf of British Telecommunications (BT) and the team from BAM Nuttall on site. Thanks also go to Kathryn Stubbs and Jane Sidell for monitoring the work on behalf of the City of London and English Heritage respectively.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for project management and editing, and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations.

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hawkins, H, 2014, 'Method Statement for Archaeological Recording at Baynard House Foreshore Discharge Point Relocation, White Lion Hill, City of London, EC4V 3AL'

Taylor, J. with Brown, G. 2009. *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Internet Sources:

British Geological Survey map viewer:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

British Geological Borehole Data:

BGS ID: 1065035

[http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi\\_scans/boreholes/1065035/images/12530494.html](http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi_scans/boreholes/1065035/images/12530494.html)

BGS ID: 1065036

[http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi\\_scans/boreholes/1065036/images/12530496.html](http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi_scans/boreholes/1065036/images/12530496.html)



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:12,500 at A4

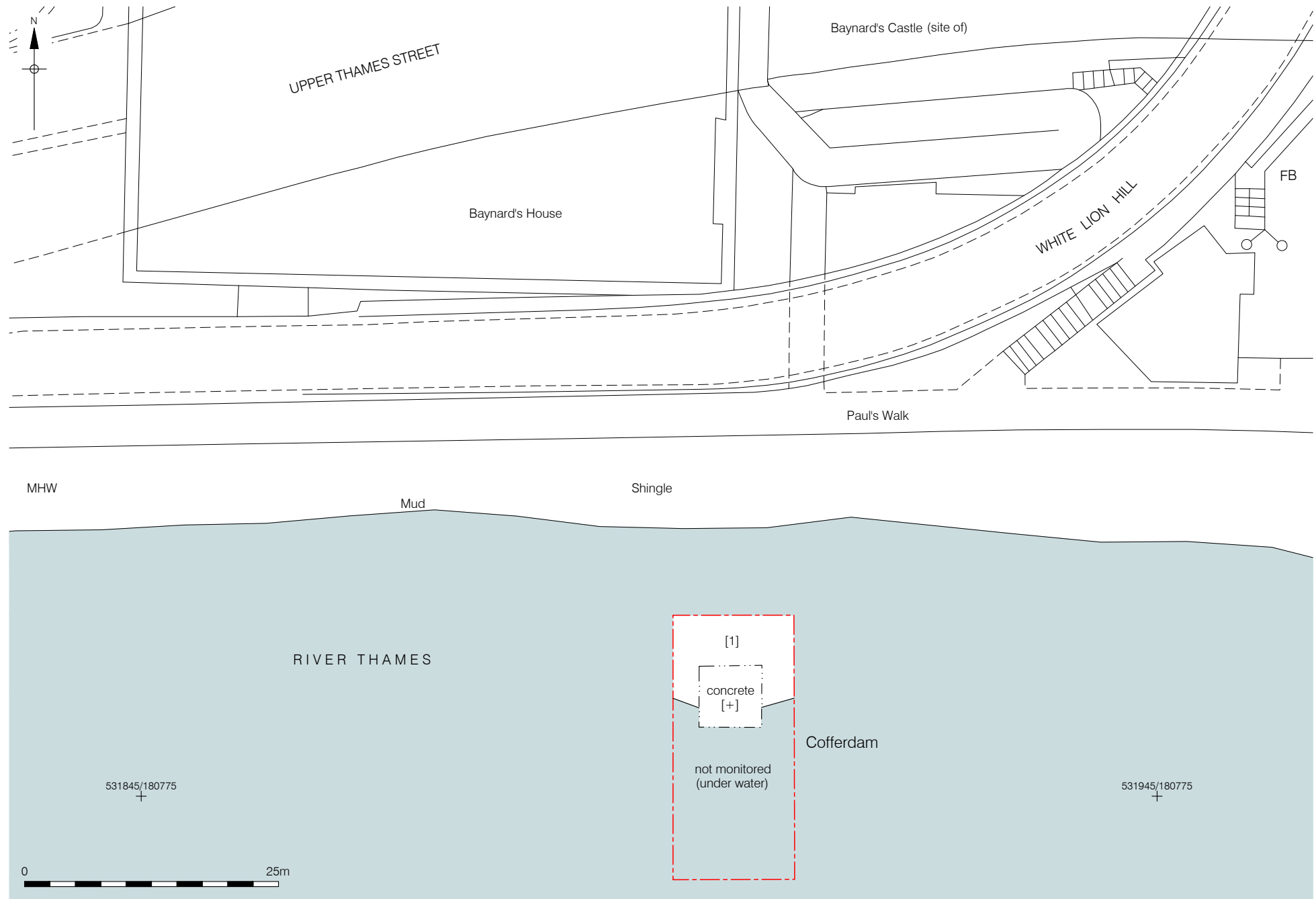
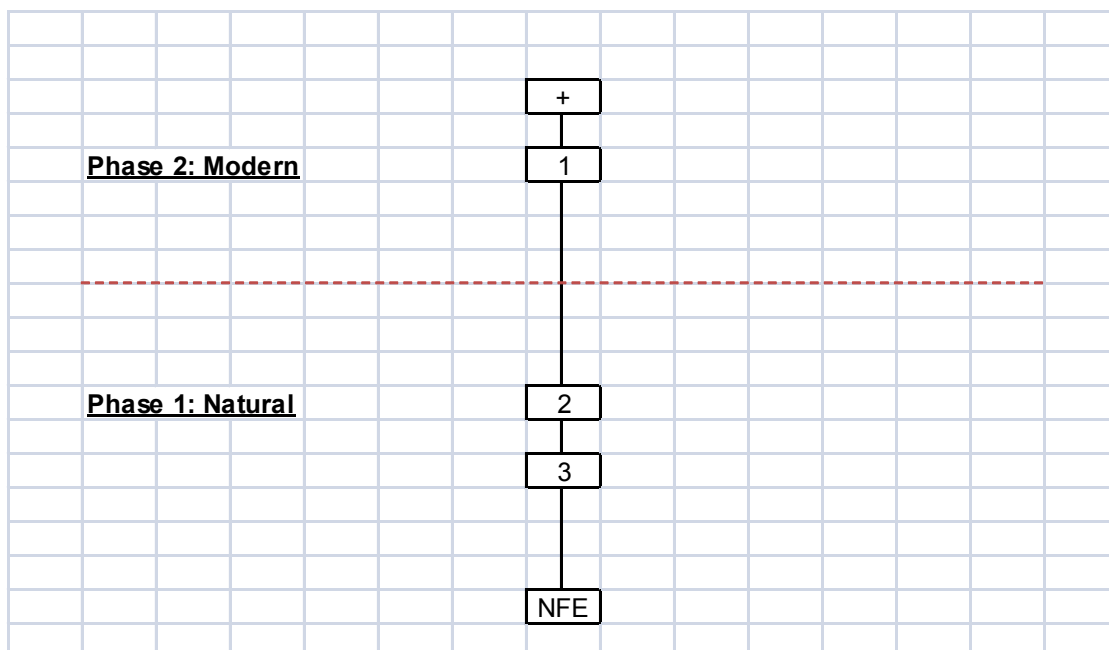


Figure 2  
 Cofferdam Location  
 1:500 at A4

## APPENDIX 1: PHASED MATRIX



## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
WTL-15	1	1	n/a	Layer	Overburden/accumulated debris	Modern	2
WTL-15	2	n/a	n/a	Layer	Alluvial sediment	Natural	1
WTL-15	3	post-ex	n/a	Layer	Gravel river bed	Natural	1

## APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1**

### Project details

Project name Archaeological Recording at Baynard House Foreshore Discharge Point Relocation, White Lion Hill, City of London, EC4V

Short description of the project An archaeological survey and watching brief was carried out following the installation of a temporary coffer dam c.46m south of the northern foreshore of the River Thames, adjacent to Baynard House. This entailed an initial survey following de-watering of the dam, followed by an archaeological watching brief on excavation works necessary to allow the installation of a second discharge point. Accumulated detritus of modern date, but containing early post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe was recorded. This sealed a natural deposit of sediment and the river bed.

Project dates Start: 23-03-2015 End: 24-03-2015

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes WTL-15 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Open Fresh Water 1 - Running water

Monument type LAYER Modern

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT Roman

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Baynard House Foreshore Discharge Point relocation, White Lion Hill, City of London, EC4V 3AL

Postcode EC4V 3AL

Study area 312.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3190 8082 51.5103939441 -0.0990781535806 51 30 37 N 000 05 56 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: -6.00m Max: -2.88m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Project brief originator Capita Symonds  
Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Project director/manager Helen Hawkins  
Project supervisor Amelia Fairman  
Type of sponsor/funding body British Telecommunications  
Name of sponsor/funding body British Telecommunications

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC  
Physical Archive ID WTL-15  
Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"  
Digital Archive recipient LAARC  
Digital Archive ID WTL-15  
Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient LAARC  
Paper Archive ID WTL-15  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Map","Matrices","Report","Survey "

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Baynard House Foreshore Discharge Point Relocation, White Lion Hill, City of London, EC4V 3AL  
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