

**33 KING WILLIAM STREET,
CITY OF LONDON, EC4:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**SITE CODE: KIW15
REPORT NO: R12131**

JULY 2015



**PRE-CONSTRUCT
ARCHAEOLOGY**

33 KING WILLIAM STREET, CITY OF LONDON, EC4:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Museum of London Site Code: KIW 15

Local Planning Authority: City of London

Central NGR: TQ 3280 8075

Commissioning Client: Mills Whipp Projects on behalf of HB Reavis and Core LLP

**Written and Researched by: Amelia Fairman
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2015**

Project Manager: Helen Hawkins

**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

Email: hhawkins@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

June 2015


© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name
33 KING WILLIAM STREET, CITY OF LONDON, EC4

Type of project
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4024
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	A Fairman		8.07.15
Graphics Prepared by:	J Simonson		8.07.15
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	13.07.2015
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		13.07.2015

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	3
2	INTRODUCTION	4
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	5
4	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	8
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND.....	9
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	13
7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE (FIGURE 3 AND PLATES 1-3)	14
8	INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.....	17
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	19
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	19

PLATES

Plate 1: West facing shot of natural cut feature [5] backfilled by [4].	15
Plate 2: West facing shot of half sectioned cut feature [2]	15
Plate 3: Plan view (to east) illustrating depth of modern overburden and concrete within trench.	16

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location	20
Figure 2: Detailed Site and Trench Location	21
Figure 3: Trench 1 plan and section	22

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Phased Matrix	23
Appendix 2: Context Index	24
Appendix 3: OASIS Report Form	25

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. following demolition works and prior to construction of a new office building at 33 King William Street, City of London, EC4.
- 1.2 The fieldwork was carried out between 26th May and 12th June 2015. This consisted of an archaeological watching brief on ground reduction works within a northerly part of the site not previously investigated during earlier archaeological investigations. Monitoring was carried out until archaeological or natural horizons were identified. The work was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects on behalf of HB Reavis and Core LLP.
- 1.3 The watching brief identified natural river gravels, including a potential palaeochannel running roughly parallel to the present course of the River Thames. The uppermost horizon of gravel was identified at 5.62m OD, which compares well to earlier investigations that recorded gravel at an uppermost elevation of 6m OD. A single undated feature of indeterminate function was observed to truncate the gravel. The sterile alluvial fill contained no cultural material with which to refine this further.
- 1.4 Modern intrusions were identified along the southern limit of excavation in the form of the construction cut for the extant diaphragm wall, and to the west in the form of corbelled brick footings associated with the former building. The trench was also overlain by a concrete slab, over which was a further 3.20m thickness of made ground and demolition material. It is likely that the concrete slab indicates horizontal truncation to a depth of around 5.40m BGL or to c. 6.02m OD.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) prior to piling works necessitated by a new development at 33 King William Street, City of London, EC4.
- 2.2 The site is located within the City of London, and centred at National Grid Reference TQ 3280 8075, and comprises a large irregularly shaped plot of land along King William Street, City of London. The site is bound by King William Street and Arthur Street to the east and north/west, and the southern boundary defined by Upper Thames Street.
- 2.3 PCA was commissioned for the watching brief by Mills Whipp on behalf of HB Reavis and Core LLP in accordance with archaeological Planning Condition 5 (11/00933/FULMAJ) which was granted on 17th January 2013. The site is not immediately adjacent to any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 2.4 The majority of the site was occupied by the footings for the previous octagonal structure, the footprint of which was subject to archaeological excavations in the 1920s and again in 1979. The part of the site under investigation comprised a small triangular plot at the far northern limits of the development area which was not previously examined or investigated. The works comprised an archaeological watching brief upon the removal of modern deposits until natural or archaeological horizons were identified. Due to the depth of these horizons, these deposits were examined within a trench box for health and safety reasons.
- 2.5 The project was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2015).
- 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 KIW 15.
- 2.7 The watching brief was conducted between 26th May and 12th June 2015.
- 2.8 The project was managed for PCA by Helen Hawkins. The watching brief was supervised by the author.

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) which includes the following statement relating to archaeology.

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.

G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

3.3 Local Guidance: City of London

3.3.1 The relevant Local Development Plan framework is provided by the City of London Local Plan adopted 2015. The Plan contains the following policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features.

Core Strategic 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.**

Policy DM 12.1 Managing change affecting all heritage assets and spaces

- 1. To sustain and enhance heritage assets, their settings and significance.**
- 2. Development proposals, including proposals for telecommunications infrastructure, that have an effect upon heritage assets, including their settings, should be accompanied by supporting information to assess and evaluate the significance of heritage assets and the degree of impact caused by the development.**
- 3. The loss of routes and spaces that contribute to the character and historic interest of the City will be resisted.**
- 4. Development will be required to respect the significance, character, scale and amenities of surrounding heritage assets and spaces and their settings.**

- 5. Proposals for sustainable development, including the incorporation of climate change adaptation measures, must be sensitive to heritage assets.**

Policy DM 12.4 Ancient monuments and archaeology

- 1. To require planning applications which involve excavation or ground works on sites of archaeological potential to be accompanied by an archaeological assessment and evaluation of the site, including the impact of the proposed development.**
- 2. To preserve, protect, safeguard and enhance archaeological monuments, remains and their settings in development, and to seek a public display and interpretation, where appropriate.**
- 3. To require proper investigation and recording of archaeological remains as an integral part of a development programme, and publication and archiving of results to advance understanding.**

3.12.18

All of the City is considered to have archaeological potential, except where there is evidence that archaeological remains have been lost due to deep basement construction or other groundworks. The City Corporation will indicate the potential of a site, its relative importance and the likely impact on archaeology at an early stage so that the appropriate assessment and design development can be undertaken.

3.12.19

Planning applications that involve excavation or ground works must be accompanied by an archaeological assessment and evaluation of the site, including the impact of the proposed development. An evaluation should include trial work in agreed specific areas of the site to provide more information and inform consideration of the development proposals by the City Corporation.

- 3.3.2 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 however lie c.90m away from the Monument, meaning that any development is also subject to core strategic policies CS13 and CS14 concerning protected views and tall buildings.

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 in the central and southern extent of the site and the Taplow Gravel formation of sand and gravel in the north of the site (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The intersection between these two deposits is projected to extend in a roughly north-west south-east alignment across the northern part of the site.
- 4.1.2 Previous investigations prior to the construction of the extant building recorded London Clay with patches of gravel at an uppermost elevation of 6m OD.

4.2 Topography

- 4.2.1 The area under investigation lies at the northernmost point of the development area approximately 150m from the northern bank of the Thames.
- 4.2.2 The underlying topography, as recorded in earlier archaeological investigations, exhibits a downward slope to the south from a slight plateau to about 3.5m OD then a steeper slope to about 1m OD. The natural then sloped gently to -2m OD then more deeply to -3m OD with a deepest level of -4.4m OD.
- 4.2.3 Ground level immediately adjacent to the investigation area was recorded at 11.42m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND

5.1 Research into the archaeological and historical background of the site has previously been carried out as part of a desk-based assessment of the site (Mills Whipp 2011). The following represents a summary of the background as presented in that report:

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 The subject site lay partially in the late prehistoric River Thames. The modern river now lies some 100m south of the site boundary. The high tide in the late prehistoric period was about 1m OD and low tide about 0m OD.

5.2.2 Since the Palaeolithic period human groups have been present intermittently in the London area leaving flint tools in deposits along the former course of the Thames. Dense woodland covered much of the London area during prehistoric periods which may have deterred long term occupation. The woodland was however exploited for hunting and fowling and would have provided fuel.

5.2.3 Excavations at Peninsular House c.150m east of the site identified a marsh environment dated to the Mesolithic period, c.7000 BC. The cooler climate was also drier as the last glaciers of the Ice Age melted and retreated northwards, with the Thames laying some 3km further south, and gradually meandering northwards. It is proposed that the river did not reach the subject site until 500 BC (Milne 1985).

5.2.4 Little prehistoric material has been recovered in the area of the City. Near Bishopsgate/Cornhill, traces of Bronze Age ditches and pits indicate the presence of a farmstead. However, to date, no evidence has been uncovered demonstrating the presence of prolonged settlement prior to the Roman invasion of 43 AD.

5.2.5 Whilst there were probably transient prehistoric populations in the vicinity of the subject site there is no indication of a permanent prehistoric presence.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 After the invasion in 43 AD Roman military engineers built a bridge across the Thames linking the low-lying mud flats and eyots of Southwark to the higher gravel hills of the future City. The location of this bridge is not precisely known but was probably near the later Roman bridge identified during excavations east of the site.

5.3.2 By about 50 AD, a settlement had grown up centred on the bridgeheads, with coin evidence suggesting that the southern bridgehead was initially the primary settlement (Rhodes 1991). The northern bridgehead *Londinium* was soon a thriving mercantile centre.

5.3.3 Extensive excavations within the study site have allowed the detailed identification of the Roman development of this part of the settlement. The earliest Roman features dated between 50 and 60 AD and comprised a number of quarry pits. The Roman high tide is believed to have reached 1m OD at this date.

- 5.3.4 Other foreshore excavations have yielded lines of piles, a possible landing stage of flint and chalk and a gravel bank to retain the high tide.
- 5.3.5 By the late 1st century AD the Roman shoreline had been transformed with the erection of a substantial quayside which protected the waterfront c.15m into the Thames. The quayside comprised a large artificial terrace retained by a timber framework. The surface of the quayside was identified at 2m OD, with later additions raising this level to 3m OD.
- 5.3.6 At least six buildings were identified in close proximity to the quayside, one to the east and a group of five to the west. The latter extended southwards from a thick masonry wall which defined the terrace and provided a retaining wall for the next higher terrace to the north. The eastern building was a substantial masonry construction which had a canalised stream forming a drainage feature and extended to at least 35m in length. The base of a possible bridge pier dated to c.80 AD (Milne 1985) was also identified in the east of the site.
- 5.3.7 Part of the site was burnt in a fire during the early 2nd century. One building was seriously damaged and the large eastern structure scorched then extensively rebuilt with the drain replaced. By this date the waterfront had advanced some 15m southwards, with one property enlarged and additional warehouses constructed,
- 5.3.8 The eastern quay was rebuilt again during the mid to late 2nd century and additional elaborate buildings constructed. The earlier western buildings were demolished and a general site clearance was also undertaken during this period.
- 5.3.9 A period of decline is suggested archaeologically in the 3rd century. New clay and timber buildings were erected over the footprints of some of the earlier structures. The large eastern property had its drain infilled at this time, and the floors were raised with a new doorway established. This building survived into the 4th century whereas the other properties fell into disuse.
- 5.3.10 Limited evidence for the 4th century occupation and use of the site survived later truncation. However, where this did exist, it indicated that the area became decayed and run-down with signs of dereliction. Other than small scale industrial workings, other industry ceased and buildings were abandoned.
- 5.3.11 As Roman buildings went out of use in the 3rd and 4th centuries, their remains were covered with a thick layer of dark earth, which represents the desertion of Roman London for a period of some centuries.

5.4 Saxon

- 5.4.1 The City was abandoned in the early 5th century soon after the withdrawal of the Roman army in 410. Gradually, Saxon settlers moved up the Thames valley but the nearest Early Saxon settlement was near the Strand/Covent Garden area. This settlement, *Lundenwic*, became a major northern European trading entrepot, expanding to some 150 acres.

- 5.4.2 However, the City was not entirely empty. In 604 Mellitus established the Bishopric of London at St Paul's cathedral, although it has recently been suggested that the first St Paul's church lay outside the City (McCourt 2010). Earkenwald, Bishop of London, rebuilt the northern Roman City gate (now Bishopsgate) in the late 7th century, c.500m east of the subject site. This presupposes a need to defend a population. Further east lay Aldgate (i.e. the 'Old Gate'), so named in the 10th century which may suggest earlier viable defences. It is possible that there was a limited Middle Saxon (7th to 9th century) occupation near the City gates but there is no evidence that there was a presence on the subject site.
- 5.4.3 Following an assertive thrust against Viking power, Alfred had obtained control of London by 877 and rapidly established the walled City as part of his defensive network of burhs (Haslam 2010). According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle Alfred ordered the reoccupation of the old walled Roman City in 886 and the general abandonment of *Lundenwic*. By the 10th century the City was largely repopulated. A new wooden bridge was built across the Thames during the 9th century, but damaged by a Viking raid in 1014.
- 5.4.4 As part of the re-occupation strategy a new grid of streets running through the City from the Thames was established. It is likely that Miles Lane was one of these new streets (Haslam 2010). Houses were established on either side with yards to the rear. Excavation on the subject site revealed the truncated bases of later Saxon pits (Miller 1980) demonstrating occupation within the site boundary in the later Saxon period.

5.5 Medieval

- 5.5.1 In 1091 the old wooden bridge was swept away in a gale. Subsequently rebuilt, it burnt down in 1136 and again was rebuilt. The first bridge was begun by Peter of Colechurch in 1176.
- 5.5.2 In the medieval period the area around the bridgehead was densely occupied by warehouses and houses. The subject site was bounded on the west by Saint Martins Orgar Lane, to the south by Tamesstrete (Stokfishmongerowe at this point in the 16th century), and was traversed from north to south by Saynte Migheles Lane. The east boundary passed through tenements and yards. To the north stood Leaden Porch.
- 5.5.3 Excavation revealed a number of medieval features. Gravel surfaces of this date relating to Miles Lane were found together with traces of tenements lining the lane. To the rear of those houses cess pits were found.

5.6 Post Medieval

- 5.6.1 The earliest contemporary map of the area, dated 1553-1559 showed the site as densely occupied by buildings and lanes. Between the site and the Thames lay a block of buildings and a lane heading to *The Golden Swane* and river stairs. Similarly, Agas in 1562 showed a crowded urban landscape. Faithorne and Newcourt in 1658 showed the area in stylised form.

- 5.6.2 The study site lay near the heart of the Great Fire of 1666 and was entirely burnt. However, within 10 years the whole area was rebuilt. In 1746 the area is shown as being crossed by lanes and courts. To the north of the site lay St Michael's Church, and to the north-west an Independent Meeting House. In 1799 the site was shown in greater detail with the houses and courtyards between St Martin's Lane and Miles's Lane and similarly in 1813.
- 5.6.3 In 1831 a new London Bridge was opened upstream of the old bridge. This defined the eastern side of the subject site. A new road, Arthur Street was built curving around from King William Street to Upper Thames Street. This defined the curtilage of the subject site.
- 5.6.4 In 1873 the study site was depicted in more accurate detail. The northern end of Miles Lane had stairs linking it with Arthur Street. New buildings were erected on the King William Street frontage, the eastern side of Miles Lane, on Arthur Street and Upper Thames Street. The western side of Miles Lane was left untouched. In 1884 powers were granted to allow the City of London & Southwark Subway to build a cable traction railway from King William Street to the Elephant and Castle. The station lay just north of the site and the tunnels ran down Arthur Street. The station opened in 1890 and by 1894 redevelopment of Miles Lane had taken place. By 1913 the north-eastern part of the site fronting King William Street had been redeveloped. Extensive redevelopment occurred from 1921 to 1926 when construction revealed extensive Roman timber quayside elements and a masonry building.
- 5.6.5 In 1979 the whole block bounded by King William Street, Arthur Street and Upper Thames Street was redeveloped by Land Securities. This entailed the removal of Miles Lane. On the eastern side of Miles Lane a controlled excavation took place while on the remainder of the site an extensive Watching Brief was undertaken.
- 5.6.6 The new basement was defined by a diaphragm wall. The foundations comprised 161 piles under a pile cap raft (SWK 1980). Details of the pile locations are not available but the details of the raft are known. The foundation report (SWK 1980) states the intention to remove all soil down to the River Gravel, where present, or to the London Clay and all old foundations. A small area on the north of the site and another on the south-west of the site lay outside the new basement but within the previous basement of King William Street House.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 In accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2015), an archaeological monitoring exercise was undertaken on the removal of all modern make up material until archaeological or natural horizons were observed. It was originally intended that the entirety of the study area, a triangular tract of land, would be reduced under archaeological supervision.
- 6.2 Extensive deposits of modern made ground however, and the presence of an underlying concrete slab prevented the complete removal of overburden without undermining the adjacent footpath, risking potential collapse and damage to live services. It was therefore proposed to utilise a trench box which would support the footpath and services, while allowing excavation beyond the concrete slab to investigate potential archaeological horizons. The trench box had an internal area of c.2.10m by c.3.50m and was aligned roughly east-west within the investigation area.
- 6.3 All excavation of modern overburden took place under archaeological supervision with a machine fitted with a ditching bucket.
- 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 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.
- 6.5 The areas monitored were located by means of a Total Station.
- 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 KIW 15.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE (FIGURE 3 AND PLATES 1-3)

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 Natural gravels [6] were encountered across the study area from 5.62m OD. This deposit of loose, sandy gravel exhibited a noticeable southern declination towards the River Thames and is comparable to the finds from earlier investigations which documented outcrops of gravel at the uppermost elevation of 6m OD in the north of the site.
- 7.1.2 Linear cut [5] truncated the upper horizons of [6] and followed a roughly east-west alignment with irregular sides and a concave profile. The feature was traced to a length of 2.5m by over 1.10m width (as seen) by 0.55m depth but had been truncated to the west and south by modern intrusions. Loose deposits of dark brown black coarse sandy-silt and gravel [4] had backfilled the feature naturally. The sterile nature of the backfill and irregularity of the cut suggested this to be a natural feature, potentially a palaeochannel.
- 7.1.3 Sealing fill [5] was a secondary gravel horizon of loose yellow-grey sandy gravel. Layer [3] was identified at 5.50m OD and extended across the southern limits of the trench with a maximum thickness of 0.20m. This was considered contemporary to, but stratigraphically separated from, a 0.10m thick deposit of red sandy gravel [7] identified at 5.72m OD in the north of the trench.

7.2 Phase 2: Undated

- 7.2.1 Truncating the upper limits of gravel [4] was a small sub-rounded cut feature. Cut [3] extended to a maximum diameter of 0.50m with a steep/irregular sides to a concave base at 5.18m OD. This had been backfilled, potentially naturally, with fine sandy silts [1] containing occasional sub-rounded gravels. The fill was clean of dateable material, and the function or date of the feature therefore remains unclear.

Plate 1: West facing shot of natural cut feature [5] backfilled by [4]



Plate 2: West facing shot of half sectioned cut feature [2]



Plate 3: Plan view (to east) illustrating depth of modern overburden and concrete within trench



8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Interpretations:

- 8.1.1 Natural river gravels were identified across the trench from 5.62m OD sloping down towards the south. Two gravel horizons were recorded, divided stratigraphically by a possible palaeochannel which extended across the study area on a roughly east-west alignment. The southerly declination of the deposits fits the profile of the river terraces as identified within earlier excavations. The elevations of the gravel are also comparable to previous investigations which recorded outcrops of gravel from 6m OD.
- 8.1.2 Truncating the upper gravel horizon was a small rounded feature of indeterminate date or function. No cultural material was recovered from the backfill which is likely to represent a natural accumulation of alluvium.
- 8.1.3 Modern intrusions were evident to the west and south of the trench in the form of brick and concrete footings respectively. The depth of the concrete slab would also suggest extensive horizontal truncation of any underlying archaeological horizons.

8.2 Research Objectives:

8.2.1 The archaeological investigations sought to address the following research questions:

- What is the nature of the archaeological remains surviving on the site?
Only a single, very tentative, feature of potential archaeological interest was identified on the site. It is likely that significant horizontal truncation has impacted upon the investigation area, meaning that only the bases of deep cut features are likely to survive.
- What are the nature and depth of the underlying natural deposits?
Natural gravels were identified across the entirety of the trench and were recorded to a maximum depth of 0.60m. The levels these were encountered were roughly comparable to earlier investigations. The slightly lower level of 5.62m OD by comparison to 6m OD may however reflect a degree of horizontal truncation. London Clay was not observed.
- What is the nature and date of the Roman occupation of the site?
No identified features, horizons or residual artefacts of Roman date were encountered during the investigations.
- Can the nature of the Roman structural deposits recorded during the 1979 excavation/watching brief be further elucidated? How does the activity on this site fit in with that known from the surrounding area?
n/a
- Does any evidence for Saxon occupation survive on the site?
No traces of Saxon occupation were identified on the site.
- Can further medieval features be identified to augment the 1979 findings? What is the nature of the activity?
No traces of medieval activity were encountered on the subject site, either in the form of archaeological features/horizons or residual artefacts.

- What evidence is there for the nature of the later 18th and early 19th century development of the site?
No traces of the later 18th or 19th century development were identified.
- What impact did the construction of the existing building's basement have on the archaeological deposits?
The construction cut for the existing basement was identified across the base of the trench. This would therefore have had a significant impact upon any surviving archaeological features or horizons. A corbelled brick wall running obliquely across the trench would also have had an impact, as this was observed to have been founded directly over natural gravels. Furthermore, a substantial concrete slab was identified across the study area. This was identified at c.3.20m BGL and extended to a thickness of at least 2.10m. The installation of this slab is likely to have been associated with the construction of the adjacent walls, and was observed to post date the installation of the diaphragm wall along the southern limit of excavation. Levelling activity prior to the pouring of the slab would have impacted upon any surviving archaeological horizons.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Peter Mills of Mills Whipp Projects for commissioning the fieldwork on behalf of HB Reavis and Core LLP. Thanks also go to Kathryn Stubbs for monitoring the work on behalf of the City of London.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for project management and editing, and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bradley, T, 2015, 'Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Investigation at 33 King William Street, City of London, EC4', Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

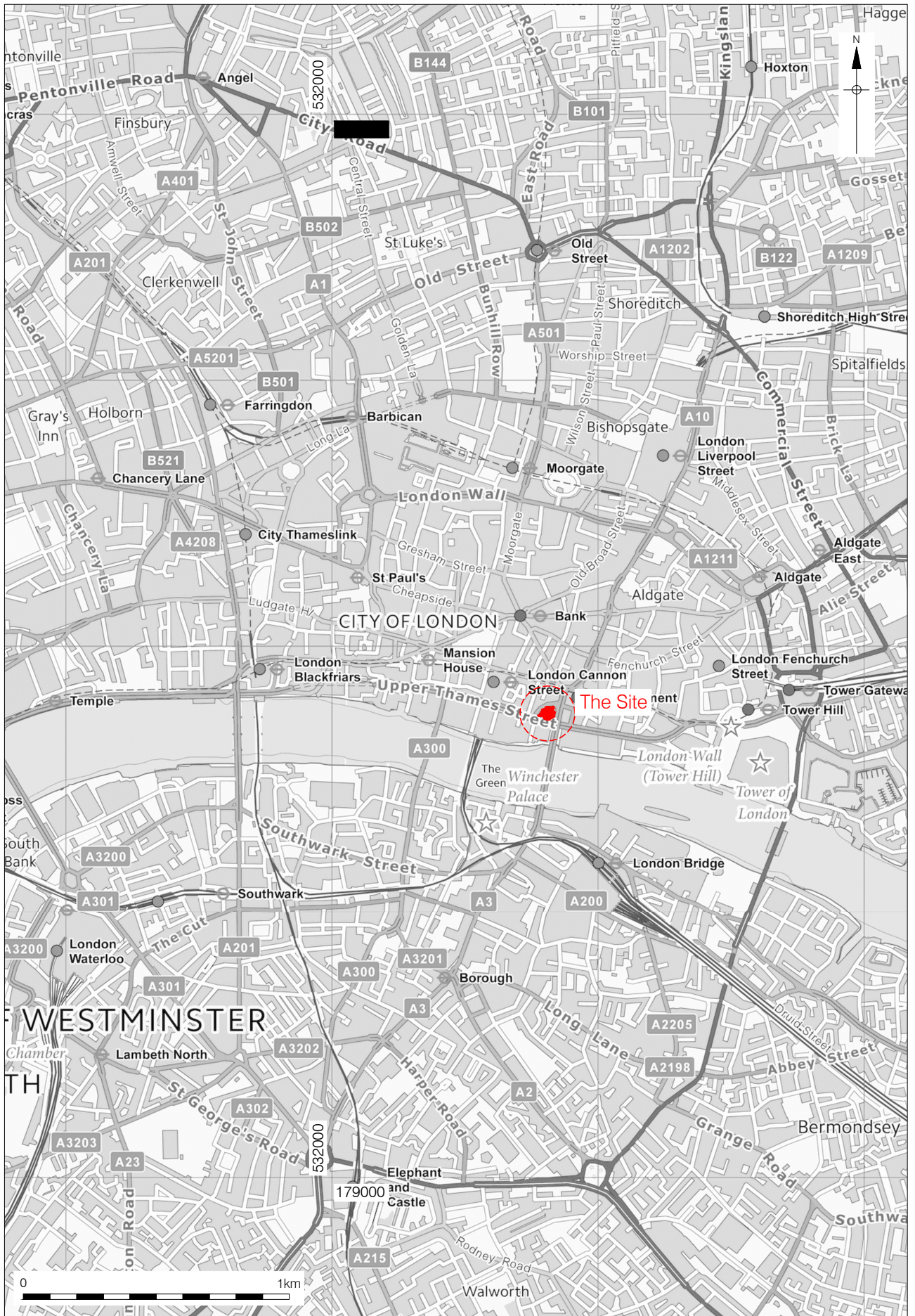
Mills, P, 2015, '33, King William Street, London EC4: Archaeological Excavation Written Scheme of Investigation', Mills Whipp Projects

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>

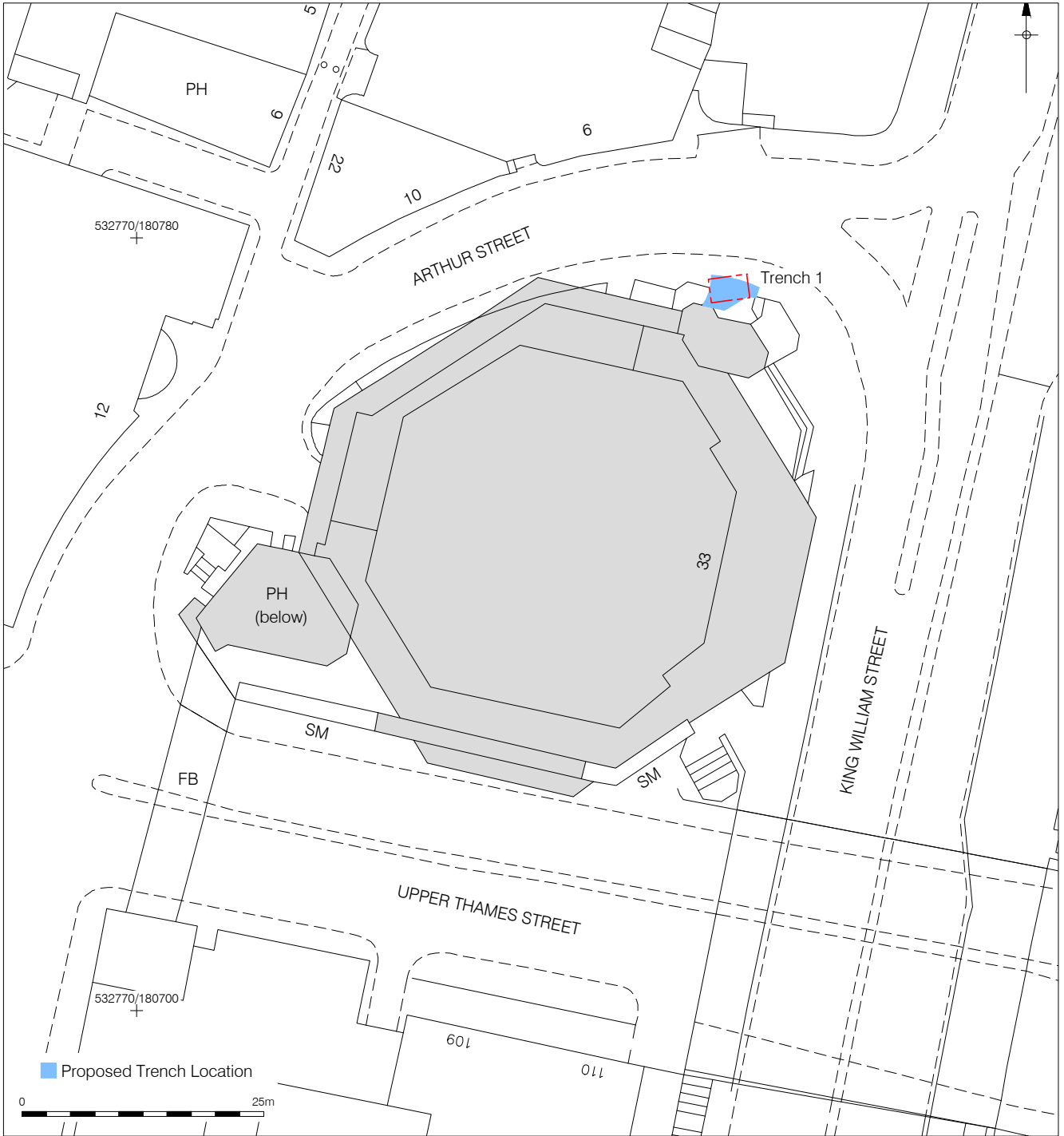


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015

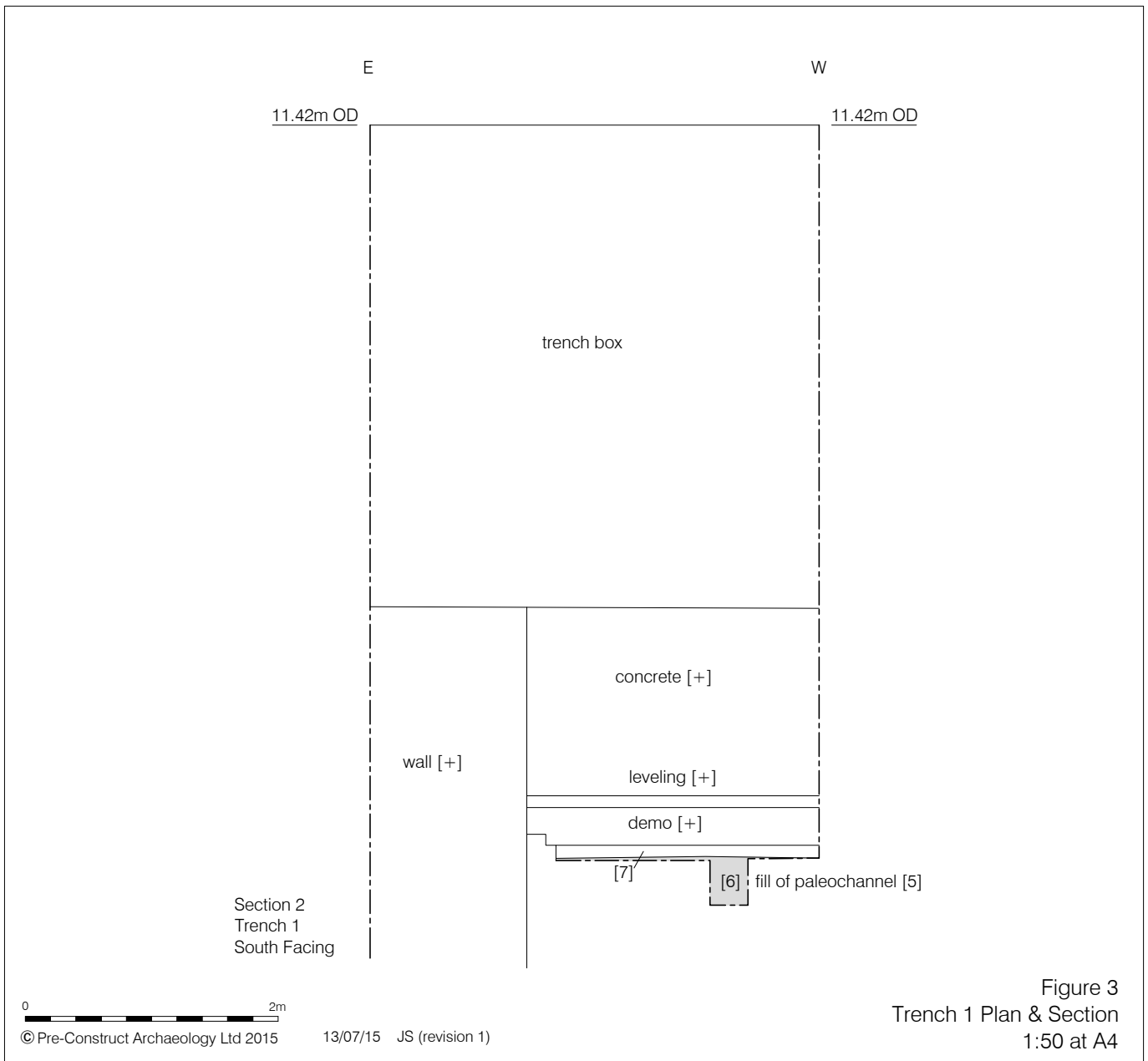
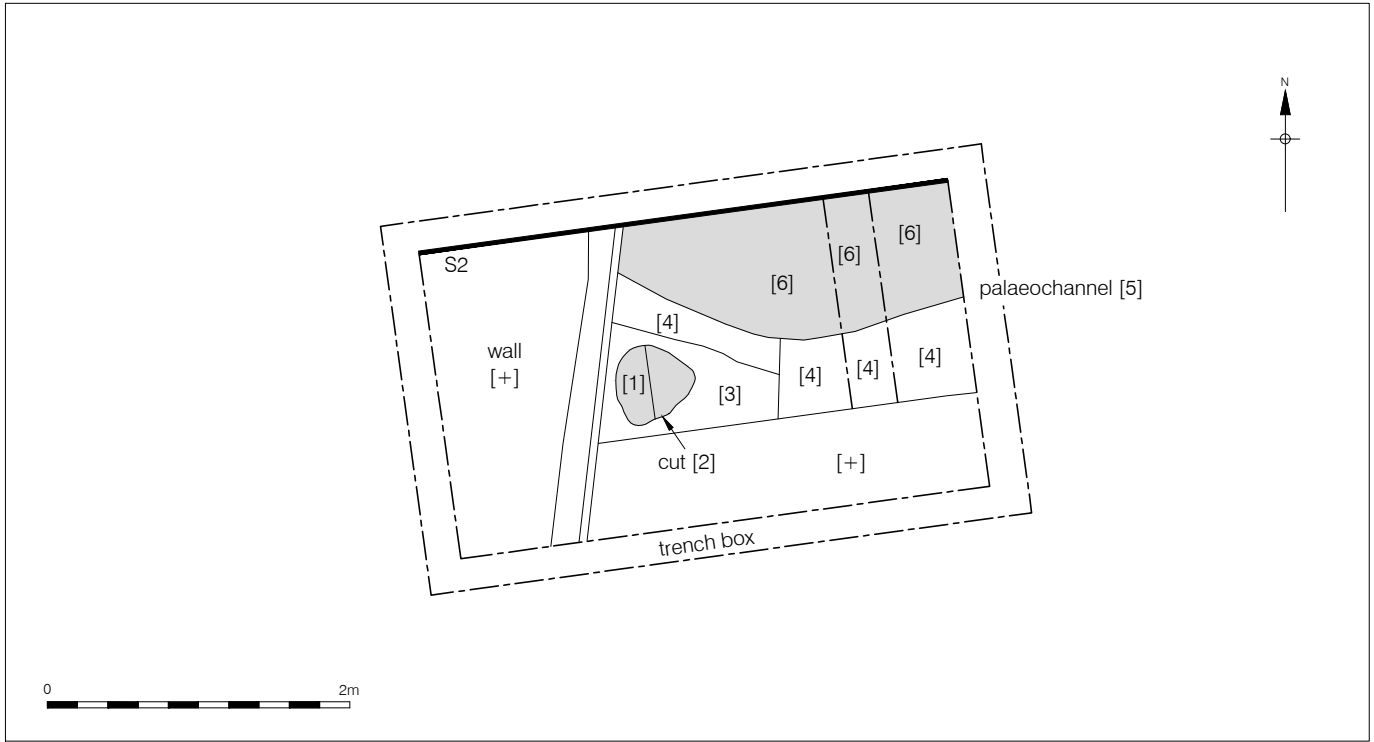
13/07/15 JS

Figure 1
Site Location
1:12,500 at A4

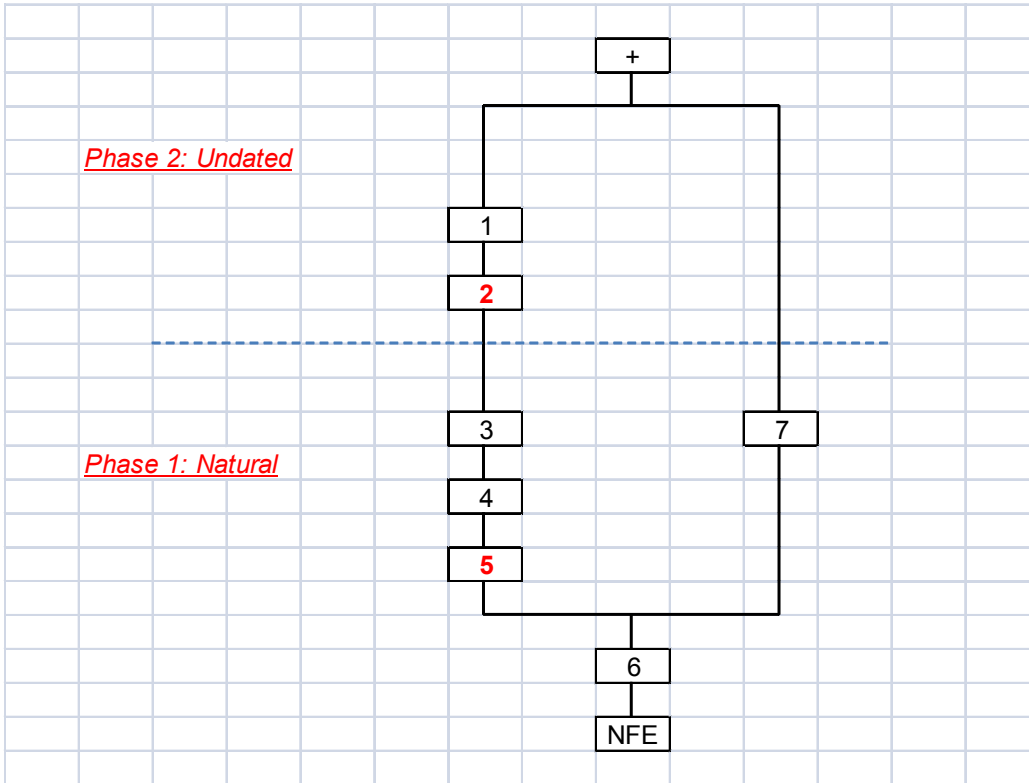


© Crown copyright 2015. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015
 13/07/15 JS

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4



APPENDIX 1: PHASED MATRIX



APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
KIW-15	1	Post-ex	-	Fill	Fine sandy silt fill of possible pit [2]	Undated	2
KIW-15	2	Post-ex	-	Cut	Sub-rounded cut with concave sides	Undated	2
KIW-15	3	Post-ex	-	Layer	Loose yellow grey sandy gravel	Natural	1
KIW-15	4	Post-ex	-	Fill	Brown-black sandy gravel fill of palaeochannel [5]	Natural	1
KIW-15	5	Post-ex	-	Cut	Linear cut with steep sides: Palaeochannel	Natural	1
KIW-15	6	Post-ex	2	Layer	Loose yellow brown sandy gravel	Natural	1
KIW-15	7	-	2	Layer	Loose reddish yellow gravels	Natural	1

APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-215399

Project details

Project name	33 King William Street, City of London, EC4
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 33 King William Street, City of London, EC4. It was intended that the entirety of a roughly triangular tract of land would be investigated under watching brief conditions, until archaeological or natural horizons were observed. This lay at the northern limit of the subject site, and represented an area not previously investigated by archaeological excavations in 1979 which identified extensive evidence for the Roman occupation and development of the site. Extensive modern intrusions and overburden were identified within the area of investigations. A small sub-rounded cut of uncertain date was observed to truncate underlying natural gravels which sealed a potential palaeochannel. No other features or finds of note were encountered during the investigations.
Project dates	Start: 26-05-2015 End: 12-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KIW15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ILA79 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	WATERCOURSE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Part Excavation","Recorded Observation","Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON 33 King William Street, City of London, EC4
Postcode	EC4R 9AS
Study area	12.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3280 8075 51.5095535452 -0.0861416165343 51 30 34 N 000 05 10 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.50m Max: 5.62m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Mills Whipp Projects
Project design originator	Mills Whipp Projects
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Amelia Fairman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	HB Reavis and Core LLP

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	KIW15
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	KIW15
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	KIW15
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Diary","Drawing","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	33 King William Street, City of London, EC4: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fairman, A
Date	2015

Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 folio
Entered by	Amelia Fairman (afairman@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	23 June 2015

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

