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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 8 South Audley Street, City of Westminster, London W1K 1HF

Site Code: AUD 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2845 8038

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at 8 South Audley Street, City of Westminster, London W1K 1HF, during geotechnical trial pitting for proposed Officers' apartments. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 2845 8038. The project was commissioned by Salma Barwani of Axis Mason on behalf of The High Commission of India and Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook the fieldwork between 1st and 15th November 2006.
- 1.2 The area of development consists of a square plot, measuring approximately 16m x 20m, currently being used as a car park. The watching brief entailed the observation of ground reduction during the breaking out of six geotechnical trial pits.
- 1.3 Each trial pit measured between 1-2m square and were excavated to a maximum depth of 3.75m onto natural clays and gravels, or until sufficient data was gleaned regarding building foundation depths.
- 1.4 The watching brief identified late 19th century masonry in Trial Pit 7, possibly relating to the former ornamental gardens. Other possible late 19th century features included masonry in Trial Pit 2 which could relate to previous residential structures, documented from cartographic sources. Other trial pits revealed a series of made ground layers over gravels and clays suggesting the site has been severely truncated, possibly by quarrying.

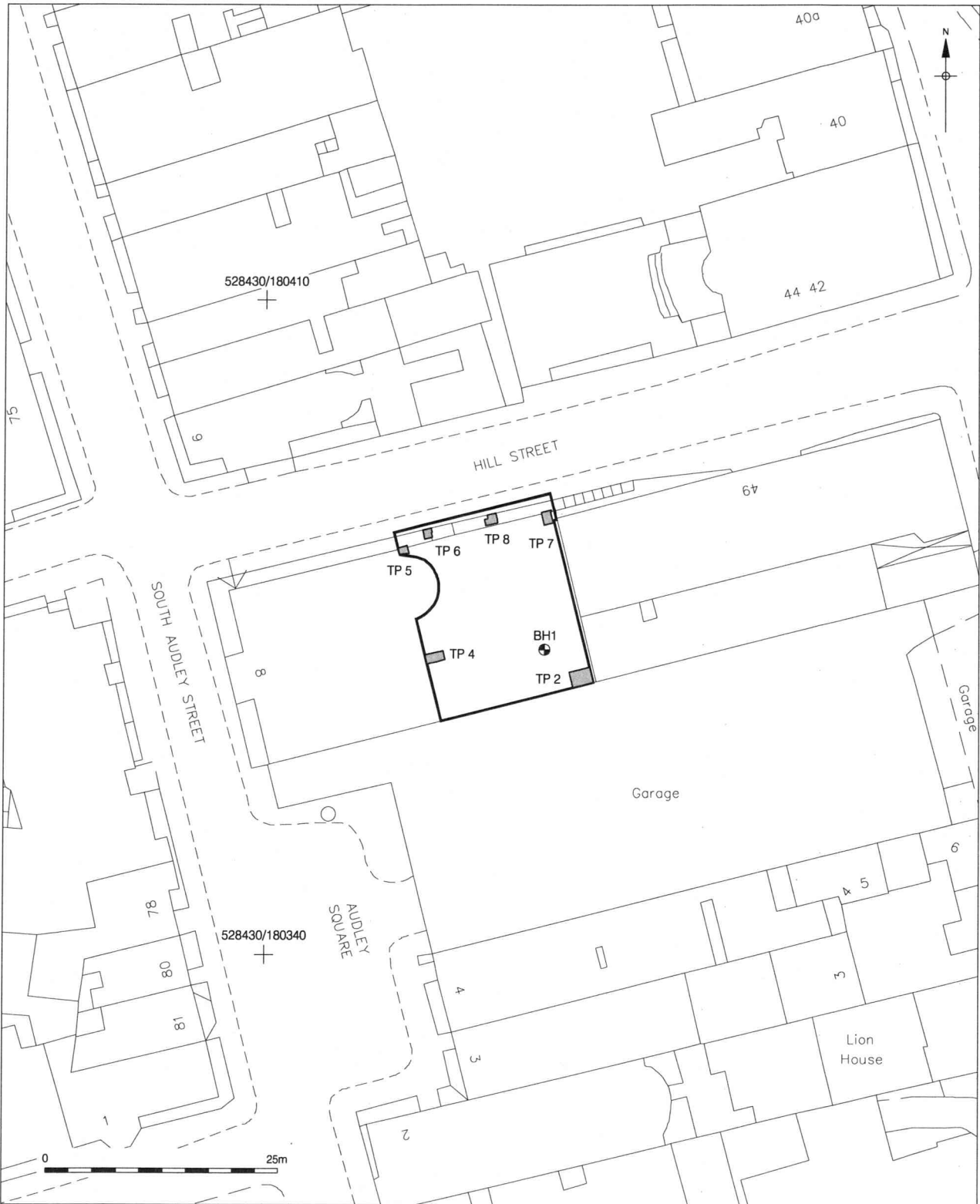
2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief, following on from a desk based assessment report¹, was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 8 South Audley Street, London, W1, between 1st and 15th November 2006, during geotechnical trial pitting investigations. The work was commissioned by Salma Barwani of Axis Mason on behalf of The High Commission of India. The site was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Peter Moore and supervised by the author.
- 2.2 The site is bounded to the east by 8 South Audley Street, to the north by Hill Street, to the south by a multi-storey car park and to the west by 49 Hill Street, 'The Ascott' flats.
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 2845 8038
- 2.4 The site was assigned the code AUD 06.
- 2.5 The maximum depth of ground reduction varied between 1m and 3.8m in each trial pit, the latter down to natural clays and gravels. The area under development consists of a square plot measuring approximately 16m x 20m. A total of 6 trial pits were investigated.

¹ Sadarangani, 2005.



Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning" providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.
- 3.3 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the City of Westminster District Plan (1982). The adopted Unitary Development Plan states:

"POLICY DES 18:

SAFEGUARDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS:

- 9.103 The Council will use its available powers to ensure that potentially significant archaeological remains and data are properly safeguarded when sites are redeveloped.
- 9.104 Archaeological remains constitute important evidence of the city's past and are a finite and fragile resource very vulnerable to modern development and land use. Once removed that part of Westminster's past is lost forever. The City Council considers that the archaeology of Westminster is a national as well as a local asset and that its preservation is a legitimate objective, against which the needs of development must be carefully balanced and assessed. The destruction of such remains should be avoided wherever possible and should never take place without prior archaeological excavation and record.
- 9.105 The City Council wishes to further public appreciation of Westminster's archaeological heritage and to encourage its effective management as an educational, recreational and tourist resource.
- 9.106 Strategic Planning Guidance for London (SPG paragraph 71) indicates that Boroughs should take account of the desirability of preserving ancient monuments and their settings. It draws attention to the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice, which encourages cooperation among landowners, developers and archaeological organisations. The Department of the Environment has also issued comprehensive guidance (Planning Policy Guidance 16,

'Archaeology and Planning', November 1990). The most important archaeological remains may merit protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

- 9.107 There are in Westminster a wide variety of archaeological sites of national, regional and local importance. In consultation with the Museum of London, the City Council has identified certain areas as being of particular archaeological importance. These Areas of Special Archaeological Priority are shown on the Proposals Map and Maps 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, and consist of Lundenwic and Thorney Island; Paddington and Lillestone Villages; Marylebone Village; Tyburn Settlement and Ebury Village. The archaeological data produced by the Museum of London and English Heritage provide more detailed information, including further sites and areas of archaeological significance and potential within Westminster.
- 9.108 The City Council will seek professional archaeological advice as appropriate and will encourage applicants proposing development to do the same. Where development may affect land of archaeological significance or potential, the City Council will expect applicants to have properly assessed and planned for the archaeological implications of their proposals. In this way the Council and the applicant will have sufficient information upon which an informed planning decision, incorporating appropriate archaeological safeguards, may be based. Such safeguards normally consist of design measures to ensure the permanent preservation of archaeological remains in situ or, where that is not appropriate, archaeological rescue investigations in advance of development. The results and finds from archaeological investigations also need to be analysed, interpreted, presented to the public and curated for future use. Attention is drawn to the advice contained within the Code of Practice prepared by the British Archaeologists' and Developers Liaison Group.
- 9.109 The preservation of Westminster's archaeological heritage is a material planning consideration and applicants will need to show that proposed development is compatible with the objectives of the City Council's archaeological policy. The Council will wish to implement that policy under relevant legislation and statutory guidance and by means of legal agreements and planning conditions.

(A) THE CITY COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF WESTMINSTER AND ITS INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION TO THE PUBLIC. WHERE DEVELOPMENT MAY AFFECT LAND OF KNOWN OR POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE, THE CITY COUNCIL WILL

EXPECT APPLICANTS TO PROPERLY ASSESS AND PLAN FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR PROPOSALS. THE POLICIES IN (B) AND (C) BELOW MAY APPLY ELSEWHERE WHERE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THIS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

(B) WITHIN THE CITY COUNCIL'S AREAS OF SPECIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY A WRITTEN ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT (ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATEMENT) WILL NORMALLY BE REQUIRED AS PART OF THE DOCUMENTATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE A PLANNING APPLICATION, WHENEVER IT IS PROPOSED TO CARRY OUT ANY EXCAVATIONS OR OTHER GROUND WORKS.

(C) WITHIN THE AREAS OF SPECIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY THE CITY COUNCIL MAY REQUEST, WHERE NECESSARY INFORMATION CANNOT BE SUPPLIED BY OTHER MEANS, THAT AN ON-SITE ASSESSMENT BY TRIAL WORK (ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION) IS CARRIED OUT BEFORE ANY DECISION ON THE PLANNING APPLICATION IS TAKEN.

(D) THE CITY COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS ARE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED IN SITU AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ARE GIVEN STATUTORY PROTECTION. IN SUCH CASES, IF PRESERVATION IN SITU IS BOTH DESIRABLE AND FEASIBLE, THE CITY COUNCIL WILL NORMALLY REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT DESIGN TO ACCOMMODATE THIS OBJECTIVE.

(E) WHERE THE PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN SITU IS INAPPROPRIATE, THE CITY COUNCIL WILL REQUIRE THAT NO DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE ON A SITE UNTIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY A REPUTABLE INVESTIGATING BODY. SUCH INVESTIGATIONS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DETAILED SCHEME TO BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL."

4 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey Map 256 of the area (1:50,000 series) indicates that Lynch Hill Gravel underlies the site. Archaeological investigations to the north and south of the site indicated that Langley Silt (Brickearth) was also expected, overlying the Gravel.

- 4.2 The site lies at the junction between South Audley Street and Hill Street in a sunken car park at around 22m AOD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

The archaeological desk based assessment² indicated a low potential for the Prehistoric, Saxon and medieval periods, and moderate potential for Roman and mid 17th to early 18th century remains. A high potential was suggested for mid 18th to late 20th century remains.

5.2 PREHISTORIC

- 5.2.1 Three find spots of Paleolithic remains represent the only evidence of Paleolithic activity within a 600m radius of the study site. These remains consisted of a side scraper and two handaxes (SMR 081117-9).
- 5.2.2 An archaeological evaluation at Curzon Gate identified a late Neolithic/early Bronze age pit containing pottery and worked flint (SMR 083688). Investigations at Yarmouth Place yielded further evidence of Bronze Age activity, recovering a bronze socketed axe (SMR 081142).

5.3 ROMAN

- 5.3.1 The site is positioned close to the juncture of two significant Roman roads. If the line of Watling Street is projected from just east of Down Street to the top of Park Lane, then Watling Street can be expected to pass extremely close to the site, if not through it. The site will therefore have lain in close proximity to roadside occupation, or funerary activity.
- 5.3.2 It is speculated that two earthworks, (SMR 082766) to the north-west of the site, are the vestiges of the west and south walls of the earth and timber fort, which preceded Cripplegate Fort.
- 5.3.3 Excavations within Hyde Park, approximately 1.6km west of the site identified at least three phases of Roman activity. This included two parallel curving ditches dating to the early to mid 4th century. Finds suggested that a Roman house or farm once stood in the immediate vicinity.

² Ibid.

5.3.4 A water channel was identified in 1924 (SMR 081173) utilising blocks of Kentish Ragstone on the stream's right bank. The stream crossed Piccadilly, 200' east of Down Street and measured 80' wide.

5.4 SAXON

5.4.1 No SMR entries were found within a 600m radius of the study site.

5.4.2 The Tyburn, a stream, is noted flowing south from Hampstead to the west of Marylebone Lane and is thought to run to the east of the site. The first known documentary reference to the Tyburn derives from Edgar's Charter of 951AD.

5.4.3 The site lies approximately 1.5km west of the known extent of Saxon London.

5.5 MEDIEVAL

5.5.1 During the medieval period, it is likely that the site was occupied by open or wooded land under the ownership of Westminster Abbey, and as such may have been used for agricultural activities. There is therefore potential for the remains of ploughsoils, drainage ditches and field boundaries.

5.6 POST-MEDIEVAL

5.6.1 London, as the parliamentary capital in the Civil War of 1642-6, was fortified by a 17km circuit of bank and ditch, straddled intermittently by batteries. If a line is projected between the two Civil War forts at Mount Row and Hyde Park Corner, the defences can be expected to pass extremely close, if not through the site itself.

5.6.2 There was extensive quarrying within the vicinity of the study site due to the presence of brickearth. Investigations in the form of archaeological evaluations and geotechnical pits uncovered quarry pits potentially dating to late 17th/early 18th century (SMR 084783, SMR 083454). Test pits excavated at 1-4 Curzon Street identified a 17th/18th century clay deposit sealing a hollow, thought to also be a brickearth quarry (SMR 083425).

5.6.3 Cartographic sources indicate that the site functioned as an ornamental garden from at least 1741. Its layout and design appeared to have changed by 1862 with steps leading out from Earl House (8 South Audley Street) into an open area surrounded by foliage. It is therefore possible that cut features, such as ponds, will have survived from this period.

5.6.4 A terraced structure replaced the ornamental gardens by 1894-6, with an H-shaped courtyard at its center. Later maps reveal that there was little alteration to the site in the 20th century, appearing unchanged up to 1963.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The areas to be reduced were lain out by the groundwork contractors in accordance with the proposed development plan. The ground-reduction for the proposed residential development were all machine excavated by the contractors.
- 6.2 The attendant archaeologist monitored all ground-reduction so that any archaeological deposits could be excavated and recorded stratigraphically.
- 6.4 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and / or exposed were entered onto pro-forma single context recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10.

7 SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 TRIAL PIT 1

7.1.1 Sufficient data was recovered from other trial pits to abandon Trial Pit 1.

7.2 TRIAL PIT 2 (see Figs. 3 & 4)

7.2.1 Natural was reached at a depth of 20.27m OD, and continued down to a depth of 2.12m at the limit of excavation, with the water table reached at around 18.38mOD. This layer consisted of friable orange/reddish yellow coarse sandy gravel [11], with a narrow band of bluish clay forming the upper part. Intruding into the gravels was a concrete underpin for the east boundary wall, which appeared to have been cut through from the opposite side (possible during the construction of 'The Ascott' to the east).

7.2.2 Sealing natural was layer [10], a firm, mid greyish brown sandy, clayey silt containing moderate amounts of small sub-angular pebbles. This was found at 20.98mOD, was 0.67m thick and was interpreted as sub-soil. Cutting [10] to the east was [13], a linear cut extending down 1.70m to the limit of excavation from 20.95mOD. This was interpreted as the construction cut for the eastern boundary wall and stepped out from the face of the wall 0.17m with steep sides. Filling [13] was a loose dark brownish black deposit of fine sandy silt [12], with an ashy consistency but no dating evidence or finds.

7.2.3 Overlying [10] were layers [6] to the east and [9] to the west. Both layers consisted of indurated yellowish grey concrete containing small to medium ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. They were therefore interpreted as representing what was initially one bedding layer for the masonry above, which had been truncated, possibly during the construction of the car park. Their respective thicknesses vary slightly however, [6] measuring 0.14m from 21.10mOD and [9] measuring 0.17m from 21.10mOD.

7.2.4 Above layer [6] was a masonry wall [7], which abutted the eastern boundary wall to a length of 1.52m north-south and then returned, abutting the southern boundary wall to a length of 2.00m east-west, with a consistent thickness of 0.32m and depth of 0.27m from 21.45mOD. The bottom two courses of bricks stepped out to a maximum thickness of 0.34m. The wall contained a mixture of red and yellow bricks measuring 110-220mm x 70mm and were observed in section. The coursing appeared to be irregular, the bricks bonded with an indurated grey sandy

mortar. The irregular coursing and appearance suggested that [7] represented the truncated footing of a larger construction and may relate to the late 19th century building depicted in the Ordnance Survey map of 1894. Abutting [7] and overlying layer [9] was wall [8]. Measuring 1.06m north-south by 0.20m east-west, with a thickness of 0.35m, the wall appeared to extend beyond the limit of excavation to the north. This north-south wall respected the line of wall [7] but did not appear to be bonded into it. The coursing again appeared to be irregular with the bottom two brick courses stepping out to a maximum thickness of 0.48m. The brickwork consisted of red and yellow stock bricks measuring 230mm x 100mm x 70mm; between four and five courses of brickwork survived in parts. If wall [7] does represent part of the late 19th century construction, wall [8] may correspond to an internal wall as part of the same construction.

7.2.5 Overlying both [7] and [8] was layer [5]. This consisted of firm mid grey-pinkish brown, coarse sandy silt, measuring 0.51m thick from 21.45mOD and containing moderate small to medium CBM fragments and frequent small angular pebbles. This was interpreted to be a dumped/leveling layer for the above concrete, possibly during the construction for the present car park.

7.2.6 Covering all the trial pits was a layer of concrete identified as [1]. In this trial pit [1] measured approximately 0.60m thick and showed signs of at least 3-4 different resurfacings. The concrete extended from 22mOD, and within this at 21.70mOD appeared to be a tiled layer with concrete both above and below. Anecdotal evidence suggested squash courts used to occupy the site, and if this is the case, these tiles may indicate the former location of changing rooms.

7.3 TRIAL PIT 3

7.3.1 Sufficient data was gleaned from Trial Pit 2, therefore this pit was abandoned.

7.4 TRIAL PIT 4 (see Figs. 3 & 4)

7.4.1 Natural bluish grey clay [34] was reached at a depth of 19.94mOD, measuring 0.10m thick to the limit of excavation. This was overlain by a compact dark reddish orange coarse sand layer, 0.06m thick from 20.01mOD, and was also interpreted as natural.

7.4.2 Overlaying natural was layer [32], a firm mid orangish yellow coarse sandy gravel. Measuring 0.47m thick from 20.45mOD, this layer contained no finds or dating evidence. However as a concrete pin was discovered, (underpinning for 8 South

Audley Street) during the excavation, layer [32] was interpreted as backfill relating to the insertion of the pin.

7.4.3 Layer [31] sealed [32] and consisted of a loose, dark brownish grey, coarse silty sand. It contained frequent small to medium CBM fragments (brick and tile) and angular pebbles, moderate amounts of modern glass fragments and occasional metal (iron nail) fragments. The layer measured 1m in thickness from 21.30mOD, and was interpreted as 20th century made ground.

7.4.4 Stone slab [29] overlay layer [31]. This measured 1.90m east-west x 0.54m north-south and was 0.10m thick at 21.08mOD. Incorporated into the slab was a small raised step following the southern and western lines of the trial pit, measuring 0.10m square. Resting on the slab was a small wall [28], measuring 1.36m east-west x 0.23m north-south x 0.47m thick from 21.55mOD. [28] abutted the eastern wall of 8 South Audley Street and contained red and yellow stock bricks bonded with indurated pink mortar, no regular coursing was visible. Appearing below a disused drainpipe, [29] and [28] were interpreted to be the remains of 20th century disused services.

7.4.5 Overlaying [28] to the north was deposit [27], which consisted of a firm mid pinkish-brownish grey, coarse silty sand with clayey silt patches. This contained frequent amounts of small angular pebbles and medium to large CBM fragments. Moderate amounts of medium to large glass fragments were also found within this layer. Measuring 0.25m thick from 21.50mOD, the layer was interpreted to be made ground and part of the same dump as [26] which lay to the south of [28]. Layer [26] measured 0.45m thick from 21.60mOD and consisted of a firm mid pinkish grey coarse silty sand. It contained frequent amounts of small angular pebbles and medium CBM fragments.

7.4.6 Above [26] and [27] was concrete layer [1], already described above. In this trial pit the concrete measured 0.40m thick from 21.85mOD, but unlike Trial Pit 2 contained no traces of a former tiled layer.

7.5 TRIAL PIT 5

7.5.1 Natural was not reached in this trial pit.

7.5.2 The lowest deposit, [3] consisted of a strongly cemented mid orange brown silty sand containing lumps of concrete and frequent large fragments of CBM (brick and

tile). It measured 0.88m thick from 21.66mOD and extended below the limit of excavation. This was interpreted to be 20th century backfill.

7.5.3 Above [3] lay stone slab [2], measuring 0.08m thick from 21.74mOD. This unidentified grey stone was interpreted to be either the remains of a previous ground level, or related to modern services as it abutted the eastern face of 8 South Audley Street, directly below the present day lightning conductor. Sealing [2] was concrete layer [1] measuring 0.14m thick from 21.88mOD and previously described.

7.6 TRIAL PIT 6

7.6.1 Natural was not reached in this trial pit.

7.6.2 The lowest deposit reached was layer [4] and consisted of a weakly cemented mid orange brown, coarse, silty sand containing large concrete fragments and frequent medium to large CBM fragments (red frogged bricks and tile). It measured 0.82m thick from 21.62mOD, continuing below the limit of excavation, and was interpreted to be 20th century made ground. Overlying [4] was a 0.18m thick layer of concrete [1], starting from 21.80mOD and described above.

7.7 TRIAL PIT 7 (see Figs. 3 & 4)

7.7.1 Natural gravel [25] was reached at 19.56mOD, measuring 0.95m thick to the limit of excavation. This consisted of firm dark orange brown coarse sandy gravel and was overlain by layer [24]. This comprised a firm light bluish grey clay containing frequent small to medium rounded pebbles. It measured 0.18m thick from 19.76mOD and was also interpreted to be natural. Overlying [24] was layer [23], a mid pinkish brown coarse clayey sand containing pockets of small angular pebbles. Measuring 0.70m thick from 20.34mOD and containing no anthropogenic material, this was also interpreted to be a natural layer.

7.7.2 A modern pipeline truncated the length of the trial pit, making the relationship between features or layers found either side impossible to determine. The natural layers lay to the west. However masonry wall [30] appeared at the lower level of 19.21mOD to layer [25], it is probable that [30] cut [25] but modern truncations made any signs of a construction cut difficult to determine. The masonry measured 1.55m north-south (extending beyond the limit of excavation to the south) x 0.46m deep and was only viewed in section. Approximately 3-4 courses of brickwork were visible with unclear coursing. Brickwork comprised red and yellow bricks, the red bricks sized between 110-210mm x 60mm with very occasional 110mm x 60mm yellow bricks. These were identified as stock frogged 3032's inferring a mid

18th to mid 19th century date. The bricks were bonded with a cemented greyish yellow mortar containing occasional small angular pebbles. This was interpreted to possibly represent the footings for gateposts to the former ornamental gardens. The full depth of [30] was not ascertained and the top courses were severely truncated by concrete underpinning/footing [35].

7.7.3 Layer [35] comprised a 0.50m thickness of concrete from 19.71mOD containing frequent medium fragments of brick. This appeared to abut made ground layer [37] which consisted of a weakly cemented dark brownish orange, coarse sandy gravel, measuring 0.53m thick from 19.71mOD. Concrete [35] was interpreted to be the footing for masonry [17] appearing above. [17] was a square shaped portion of brickwork extending west from the boundary wall 0.60m x 0.36m thick and returning north 1.08m x 0.24m thick. Approximately 15 courses were visible from 21.14mOD, 1.65m deep. The brickwork incorporated red and yellow frogged bricks measuring 100-200mm x 60mm x 90mm (red) and 100-220 x 100 x 60mm (yellow) and were bonded in English style with an indurated greyish yellow sandy mortar containing small angular pebbles. This was interpreted to be the remains of abandoned services/inspection cover and was filled by [16], loose dark greyish brown coarse sandy silt. Fill [16] contained frequent medium to large CBM fragments of brick and tile and frequent fragments of concrete suggesting deliberate back filling.

7.7.4 To the west of [17] and sealing [23] was a 0.36m thick layer [22] at 20.70mOD. This comprised a friable mid orange brown coarse sand with frequent amounts of small to medium rounded to sub angular pebbles. This layer contained no modern material or dating evidence, so may represent a natural layer, this is however uncertain.

7.7.5 Layer [21], above [22], consisted of a weakly cemented mid brownish yellow sand with frequent small angular pebbles. This layer also contained bands of both pinkish and black sand, but no finds. Measuring 0.46m thick from 21.16mOD, the layer was interpreted to be made ground and was sealed by [20]. Layer [20] comprised a firm mid greyish brown fine sandy silt with moderate small to medium angular pebbles and moderate amounts of small CBM fragments. The layer measured 0.34m thick from 21.51mOD and was interpreted as made ground. Sealing [20] and [16] was concrete layer [1], previously described, measuring 0.55m thick from 22.06mOD. Similarly to Trial Pit 2, a tile layer was visible at 21.72mOD.

7.8 TRIAL PIT 8 (see Figs. 3 & 4)

- 7.8.1 An additional trial pit was excavated in order to investigate the footings of former coal hole/cellars along the northern boundary of the site. Natural was not reached.
- 7.8.2 The lowest deposit was layer [19], a loosely cemented mid reddish grey sandy silt containing frequent medium to large CBM fragments (brick). Layer [19] measured 0.18m thick from 20.39mOD and was interpreted to be made ground.
- 7.8.3 Overlaying [19] was layer [18]. This comprised an indurated grey concrete 0.07-0.12m thick from 20.52mOD and was overlain by a further made ground layer [15]. Layer [15] measured 0.27m in depth from 20.79mOD, consisting of a loosely cemented mid pinkish grey silty sand. It contained frequent medium to large CBM fragments (degraded red brick), occasional modern glass fragments and very occasional iron nails. Also within this layer was one large fragment of a stone lintel. Sealing layer [15] was a second concrete layer, [14], measuring 0.04m thick from 20.84mOD and was the floor surface of the coalhole.

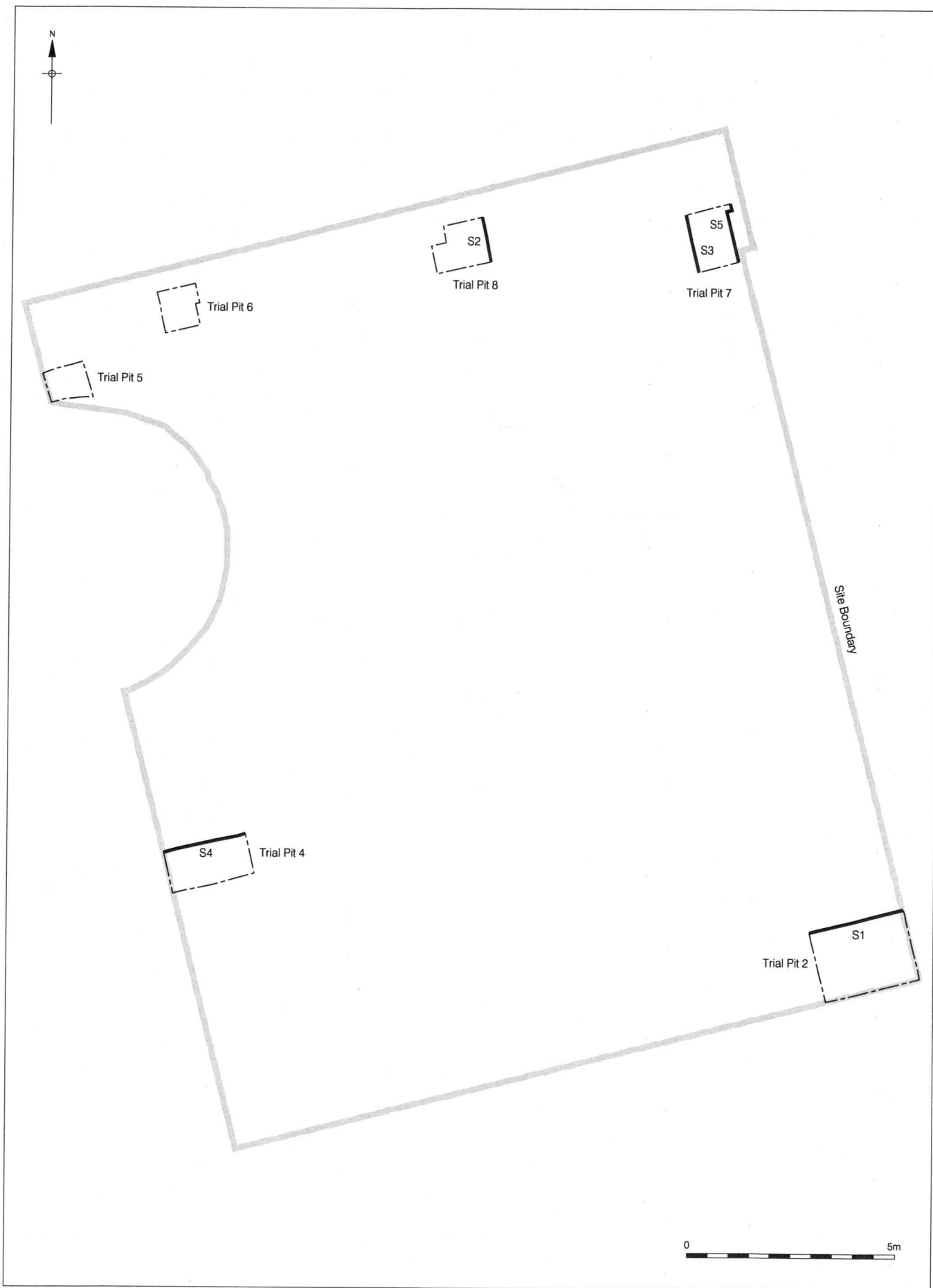
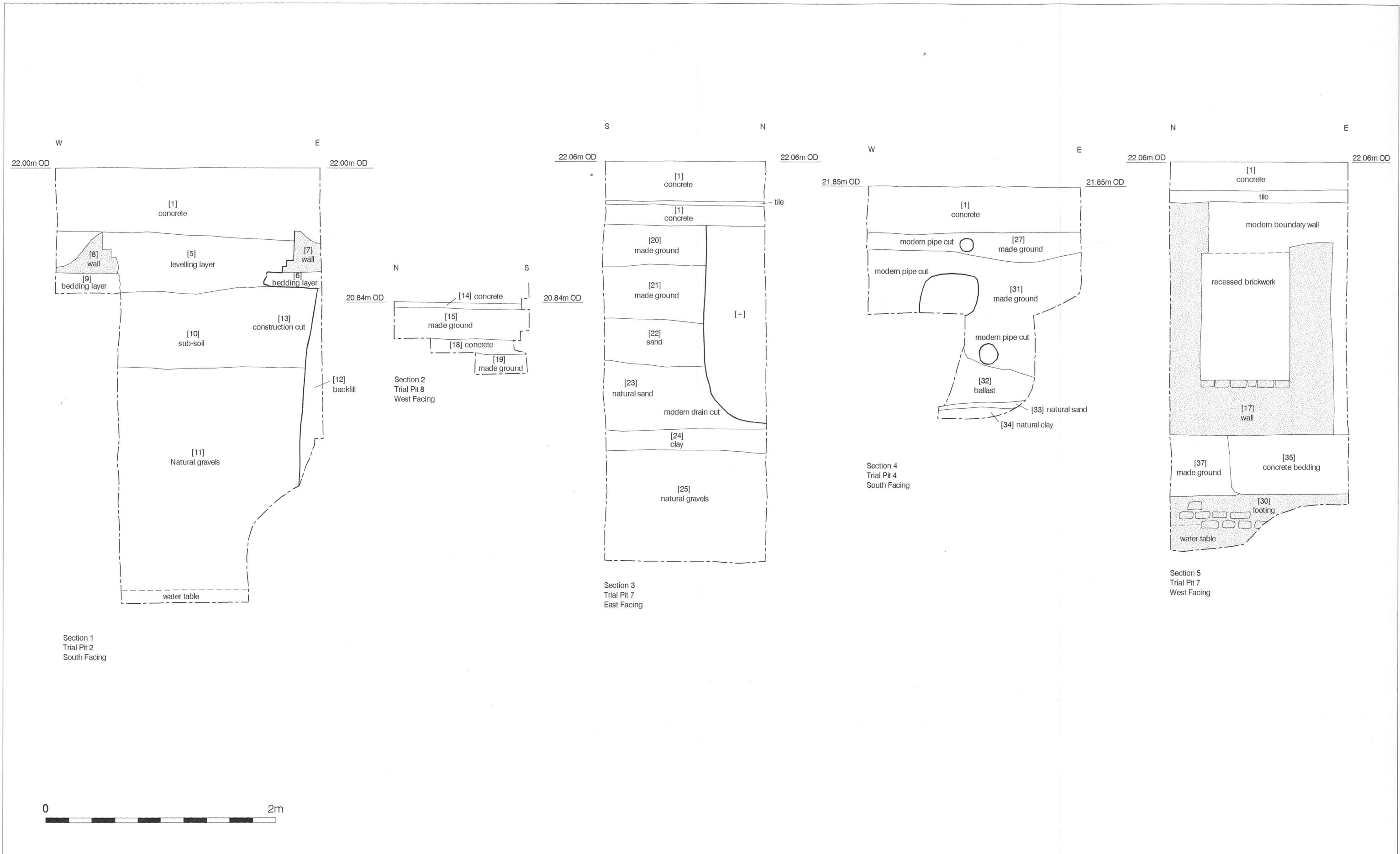


Figure 3
Section Location
1:125 at A4



8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The watching brief was intended to identify and record archaeological material during geotechnical trial pitting before redevelopment of land for officer's apartments, servant's quarters and car park. The principal objective was to determine the presence or otherwise of any archaeological activity on site, or the presence of previous works which may have truncated the potential archaeology.
- 8.2 The natural on site was found in Trial Pits 2, 4 and 7, consisting of sandy gravel and clay layers. Gravel was observed as deposits [11] and [25] in Trial Pits 2 and 7. Sand and clay layers were observed as deposits [33] overlying [34] and [23] overlying [24] in Trial Pits 4 and 7 respectively.
- 8.3 Possible 19th century remains were noted in Trial Pits 2, 7 and 8. Trial Pit 2 yielded brick footings [7] and [8] which may relate to the late 19th century buildings depicted in Ordnance Survey maps of 1894. These footings respected the still extant boundary walls to the east and south of the study site and lay beneath 20th century made ground. Both walls rested on a concreted layer, identified as deposits [6] and [9] (underlying walls [7] and [8] respectively). This represented an initially single bedding layer, which had been severely truncated. Remains of a mid 18th to mid 19th footing [30] were visible at the base of the eastern limit of Trial Pit 7, but was not fully exposed. This may represent the truncated footing for gateposts to the former ornamental gardens. Additional remains from this period derived from Trial Pit 8. Made ground and concreted layers [14], [15], [18] and [19] were observed from the floor level of one of the remaining coalholes lining the northern perimeter of the site.
- 8.4 The site appears to have been severely impacted upon by possible quarrying, modern services, and underpinning for 8 South Audley Street. Not only is brickearth to be expected in this area (and not found on this site), but Trial Pits 2, 5 and 6 revealed a number of 20th century made ground/leveling layers (quarry fills?), and the levels of surviving natural were very similar to those found at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial site to the north, where natural was found underneath a quarry.³ Abandoned services and further 20th century made ground layers were observed in Trial Pits 4 and 7. Overlying all trial pits, except 8, was a thick concrete layer [1] surfacing the car park. There is therefore little potential for this site to have any surviving archaeology.

³ Brown, 1995

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Salma Barwani of Axis Mason for commissioning the work on behalf of The High Commission of India.

- 9.2 The author would like to thank Hayley Baxter for the illustrations, David Lewis of Adige (UK) for his help and assistance on site and Peter Moore for his project management and editing.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

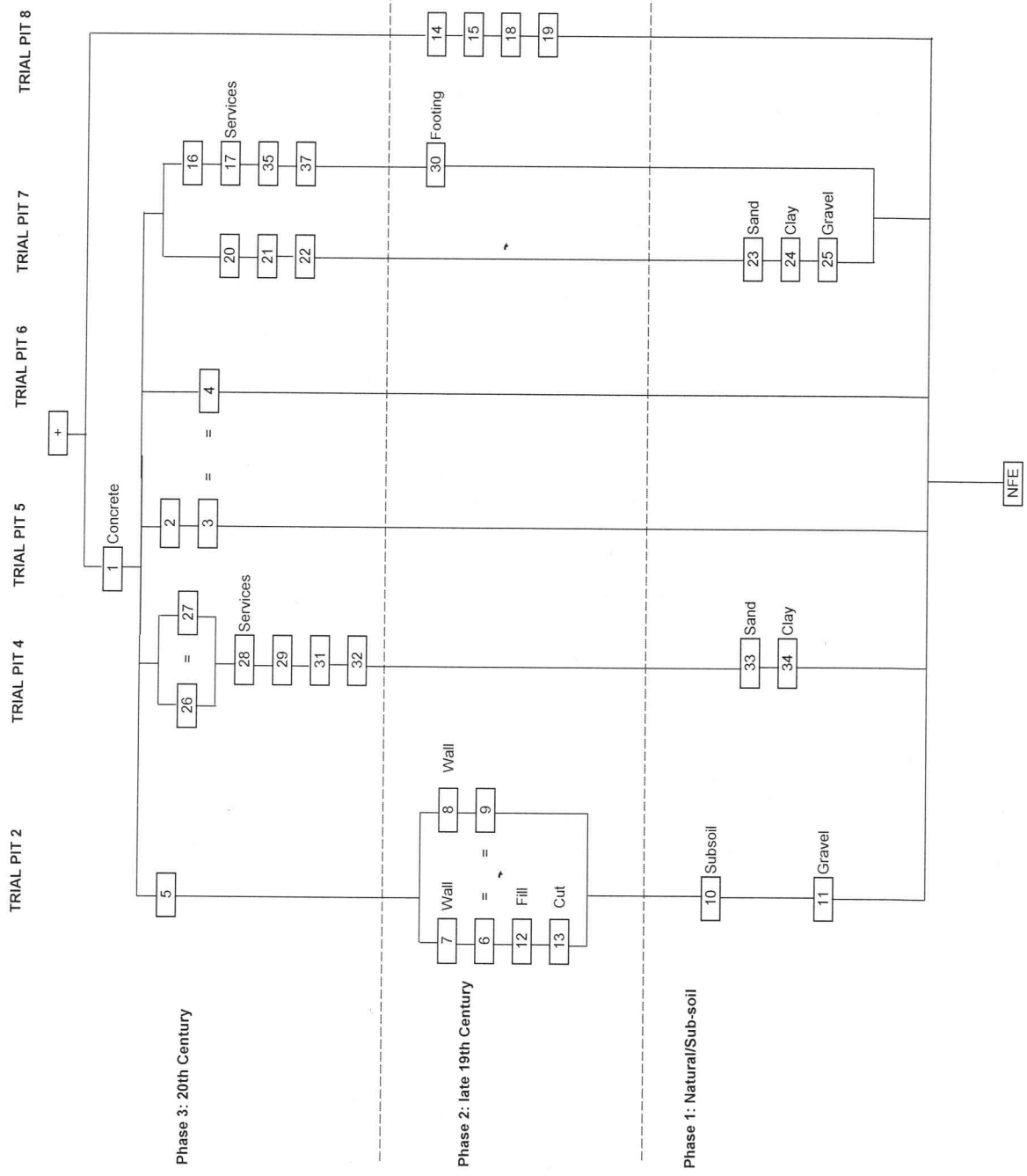
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Sadarangani, F. *"Archaeological Desktop Assessment of Proposed officers' Apartments, 8 South Audley Street, London W1K 1HF"* Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report, January 2005.

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Trench	Plan Number	Section Number	Phase	Type	Description	Highest	Lowest
1	TP2-7	TP2,4-7	1,2,3,4,5	3	Layer	Concrete	22.06	
2	TP5			3	Layer	Stone slab	21.74	
3	TP5			3	Layer	Dump/levelling layer	21.66	
4	TP6			3	Layer	Dump/levelling layer	21.62	
5	TP2		1	3	Layer	Dump/levelling layer	21.45	
6	TP2	TP2	1	2	Layer	Concreted surface	21.1	
7	TP2	TP2	1	2	Masonry	Truncated footing	21.45	21.1
8	TP2	TP2	1	2	Masonry	Truncated footing	21.5	21.1
9	TP2	TP2	1	2	Layer	Concreted surface	21.1	
10	TP2		1	1	Layer	Sub-soil, grey/brown sandy/clay/silt	20.98	
11	TP2		1	1	Layer	Natural Gravel	20.27	
12	TP2		1	2	Fill	Fill of [13], dark brown/black sandy/ashy/silt	20.95	
13	TP2		1	2	Cut	Construction cut for eastern boundary wall	20.95	19.25
14	TP8	TP8	2	2	Layer	Concrete Floor	20.84	
15	TP8		2	2	Layer	Made Ground, pink/grey silty sand	20.79	
16	TP7	17		3	Fill	Backfill of [17], grey/brown sandy silt	21.14	
17	TP7	17	5	3	Masonry	C20th Services	21.14	19.71
18	TP8	TP8	2	2	Layer	Concrete	20.52	
19	TP8	TP8	2	2	Layer	Made Ground, pink/grey sandy silt	20.39	
20	TP7		3	3	Layer	Made Ground, grey/brown sandy silt	21.51	
21	TP7		3	3	Layer	Dump/levelling layer, brown/yellow sand	21.16	
22	TP7		3	3	Layer	Poss levelling orange/brown sand	20.7	
23	TP7		3	1	Layer	Natural Sand	20.34	
24	TP7		3	1	Layer	Natural Clay	19.76	
25	TP7	TP7	3	1	Layer	Natural Gravel	19.56	
26	TP4			3	Layer	Made Ground pink/grey silty sand	21.6	
27	TP4	28	4	3	Layer	Made Ground pink/grey silty sand	21.5	
28	TP4	28		3	Masonry	East-west wall, C20th services	21.55	21.08
29	TP4	28		3	Masonry	Stone slab	21.08	
30	TP7		5	2	Masonry	Late C19th footing	19.21	18.71
31	TP4		4	3	Layer	Made Ground brown/grey silty sand	21.3	
32	TP4		4	3	Layer	Ballast orange/yellow sandy gravel	20.45	
33	TP4		4	1	Layer	Natural Sand	20.01	
34	TP4		4	1	Layer	Natural Clay	19.94	
Context Number	Trench	Plan Number	Section Number	Phase	Type	Description	Highest	Lowest
35	TP7		5	3	Layer	Concrete bedding	19.71	
36						VOID		
37	TP7		5	3	Layer	Made Ground/Backfill brown/yellow sandy gravel	19.71	

APPENDIX 2 – SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3 – OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst1-21763

Project details

Project name 8 South Audley Street

Short description of the project Watching brief on geotechnical trial pits found evidence of quarrying and 18th to 19th century g

Project dates Start: 01-11-2006 End: 15-11-2006

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes AUD 06 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation

Monument type WALL Post Medieval

Methods & techniques 'Documentary Search', 'Test Pits'

Development type Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER MARYLEBONE ST JOHNS WOOD AND MAY
South Audley Street
Postcode WIK 1HF
Study area 672.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 2845 8038 51.5072358715 -0.148931060703 51 30 26 N 000 08 56 W Point
Height OD Min: 18.15m Max: 20.27m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service
Project design originator Peter Moore
Project director/manager Peter Moore
Project supervisor Amelia Fairman
Type of sponsor/funding body Embassy
Name of sponsor/funding body The High Commission of India

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Manuscript','Map','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
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OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](mailto:English_Heritage@English_Heritage.org) for OASIS help and advice

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