

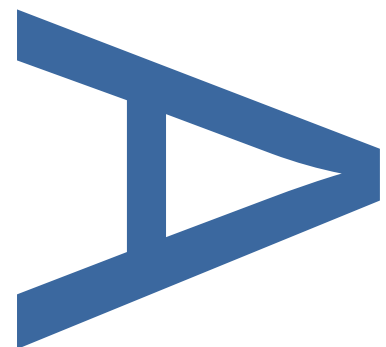
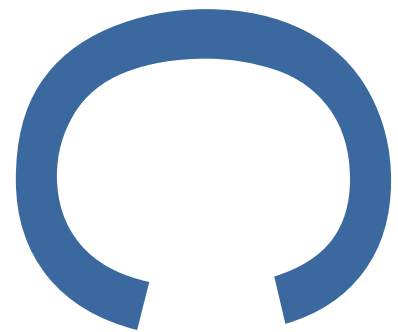
**RALEIGH GREEN,  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AL**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**SITE CODE: RLG16**

**PCA REPORT NO: R12700**

**OCTOBER 2016**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**



**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**RALEIGH GREEN, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AL**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Quality Control

<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd</b>	
Project Number	K4766
Report Number	R12700

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**RALEIGH GREEN, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, WHITEHALL,  
LONDON SW1A 2AL**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Site Code: RLG16**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 30201 79975**

**Written and Researched By: Alexis Haslam**  
**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited**  
**October 2016**

**Project Manager: Chris Mayo**

**Commissioning Client: CBRE Facilities Management FM - Integrated**

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**October 2016**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at Raleigh Green within the curtilage of the Ministry of Defence building (MoD), Whitehall, London SW1A 2AL. The watching brief was commissioned by CBRE Facilities Management FM – Integrated, in advance of the installation of a new service duct upon Raleigh Green. The Green is located to the immediate west of the Ministry of Defence Building and was bordered to the north by Banqueting House, to the west by Whitehall (A3212) and to the south by Richmond Terrace. The works took place between the 18th and the 20th of October 2016.
- 1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo, 2016) was prepared prior to the watching brief, outlining the methodology and research objectives of the investigation, and approved by Laura O’Gorman of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), Historic England, in her capacity as the Archaeology Advisor to the City of Westminster. The watching brief involved archaeological monitoring of the excavation of a new service trench. The trench was excavated from a manhole in the north-western portion of the Green up to the wall of a subterranean ramp which formed part of the MoD complex.
- 1.3 The works were undertaken by Mitside Construction working on behalf of the client, and the trench was excavated by hand following the careful removal of the overlying turf. Beneath the turf was a layer of gravel which in turn overlay a layer of redeposited clay containing brick rubble and large stones. The trench extended to the required formation level, 0.60m deep.
- 1.4 No archaeological remains were encountered, with no evidence of occupation on the site prior to the 20th century. It seems likely that rather than an absence of archaeology however, the trench was simply not deep enough to reach archaeological horizons.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Raleigh Green, to the west of the MoD building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AL. The works took place between the 18th and the 20th of October 2016.
- 2.2 Raleigh Green is an area laid to lawn within the curtilage of the MoD Building, on its western side. The site was bounded to the north by Banqueting House, to the west by Whitehall (A3212) to the south by Richmond Terrace and to the east by the Ministry of Defence Building itself. The groundworks involved the excavation of a new service trench, which extended from a manhole along the western edge of the green along a north-west south-east aligned axis up to the western wall of the MoD building.
- 2.3 A detailed proposal for archaeological monitoring during the watching brief was included in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2016), which was prepared prior to the fieldwork commencing and approved by Laura O’Gorman of GLAAS.
- 2.4 The site is located within an Area of Special Archaeological Priority as defined by the City of Westminster in the Strategic Policies Map of 2013. The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 30201 79975
- 2.5 The project was given the unique code RLG16, issued by the Museum of London.
- 2.6 The project was monitored for the local planning authority by the archaeology advisor to the City of Westminster at GLAAS. The watching brief was undertaken by the author, Alexis Haslam, under the project management of Chris Mayo.



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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The work is being undertaken as Permitted Development to install a new service duct for the Ministry of Defence building.
- 3.2 The proposed scheme and archaeological project has been designed with consideration to statutory policies at national (National Planning Policy Framework), regional (the London Plan) and local (Westminster City Plan) levels.
- 3.3 The site is located within an Area of Special Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the City of Westminster in their Strategic Policies Map dated January 2013, covering Lundenwic and Thorney Island.
- 3.4 In advance of the project a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by PCA (Mayo 2016) and approved by GLAAS. It proposed the following research objectives:
- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation.
  - To assess where appropriate the ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.
  - To investigate the presence or absence of remains relating to the Privy Gardens or indeed Whitehall Palace.



## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

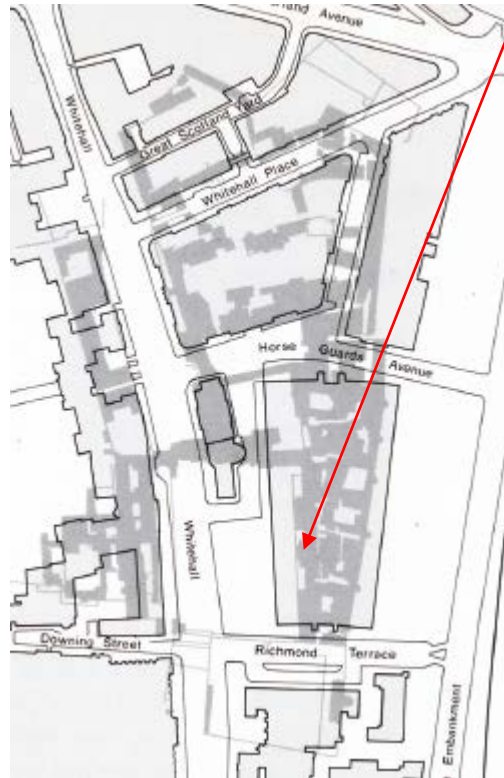
- 4.1 According to the British Geological Survey Map of South London (1:50,000 Series – England and Wales Sheet 270), the site is underlain by a small outcrop of Langley Silt, with Kempton Park River Terrace Gravels situated to the north and alluvium to the south.
- 4.2 Raleigh Green comprises a flat and even lawn surface to the immediate west of the Ministry of Defence building. This land was consistent at a level of c. 4.42m OD.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The following historical background to Whitehall is summarised from a Desk-Based Assessment (Atkins Ltd 2006) which was prepared in advance of archaeological mitigation works by PCA to the Whitehall Streetscape Project between 2007 and 2010.
- 5.2 The site is one of extreme archaeological sensitivity, being located within the area of the Privy Gardens to Whitehall Palace which stood between the middle of the medieval period and the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century to 18<sup>th</sup> century largely within the area now occupied by the MoD Building.
- 5.3 Several famous and historic buildings on Whitehall are Grade I Listed, including the Banqueting House (A No 144), the Admiralty (A Nos 159 and 160), Dover House (A No 138) and Horseguards (A Nos 147 and 148). Several listed statues or memorials are situated in the centre of the road, including the Grade I Listed Cenotaph (A No 117).
- 5.4 During the sixteenth century Whitehall Palace was bisected by the street which it continued to straddle, which separated the main living quarters along the river from the park and recreation area. The road was divided into three sections: the first part was from the present-day Trafalgar Square to what is now Dover House and was about as wide as it is today; the second part, from Dover House to Richmond Terrace, known as 'The Street' like the first part, was a public right of way through the Palace precincts. 'The Street' was very narrow, with the Holbein and King Street Gates erected in the early 1530s. The third part of the road, leading to Westminster Palace and known as King Street was slightly wider with houses on both sides. After numerous road improvement and widening schemes both gates were demolished in the eighteenth century; the King Street Gate was pulled down in 1723 and the Holbein Gate survived until 1759.
- 5.5 Over the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Whitehall underwent massive alterations, from a rambling palace with numerous tiny buildings to a street faced with elegant Georgian and more elaborate Victorian structures. The idea of concentrating public offices in one place had been outlined by Inigo Jones in the seventeenth century and was taken up again in the nineteenth century by Sir Charles Barry and other contemporary architects in their designs for a new Whitehall. The nineteenth century plans extended well into the next century before they were finally brought to fruition, and the Victorian ethos survived until the First World War; indeed the classic designs of the first decade of the twentieth century form a major part of the character of the street we know today.
- 5.6 A 1670 plan of Whitehall Palace overlaid onto a modern map of the area (Plate 1) shows that although the present-day road follows quite closely to the seventeenth century route, parts of the Palace were on the site of the modern road. The King Street Gate was situated approximately at the modern-day entrance to Downing Street close to the Cenotaph, the Holbein Gate was sited in front of Dover House, with the Privy Garden and The Street occupying the area of Whitehall between the sites of the two gates. At the present-day entrance to Richmond Terrace, the western half of the Bowling Green extended south into Parliament

Street.

*Plate 1: Whitehall Palace in 1670 overlaid on a modern map of the site and wider area*



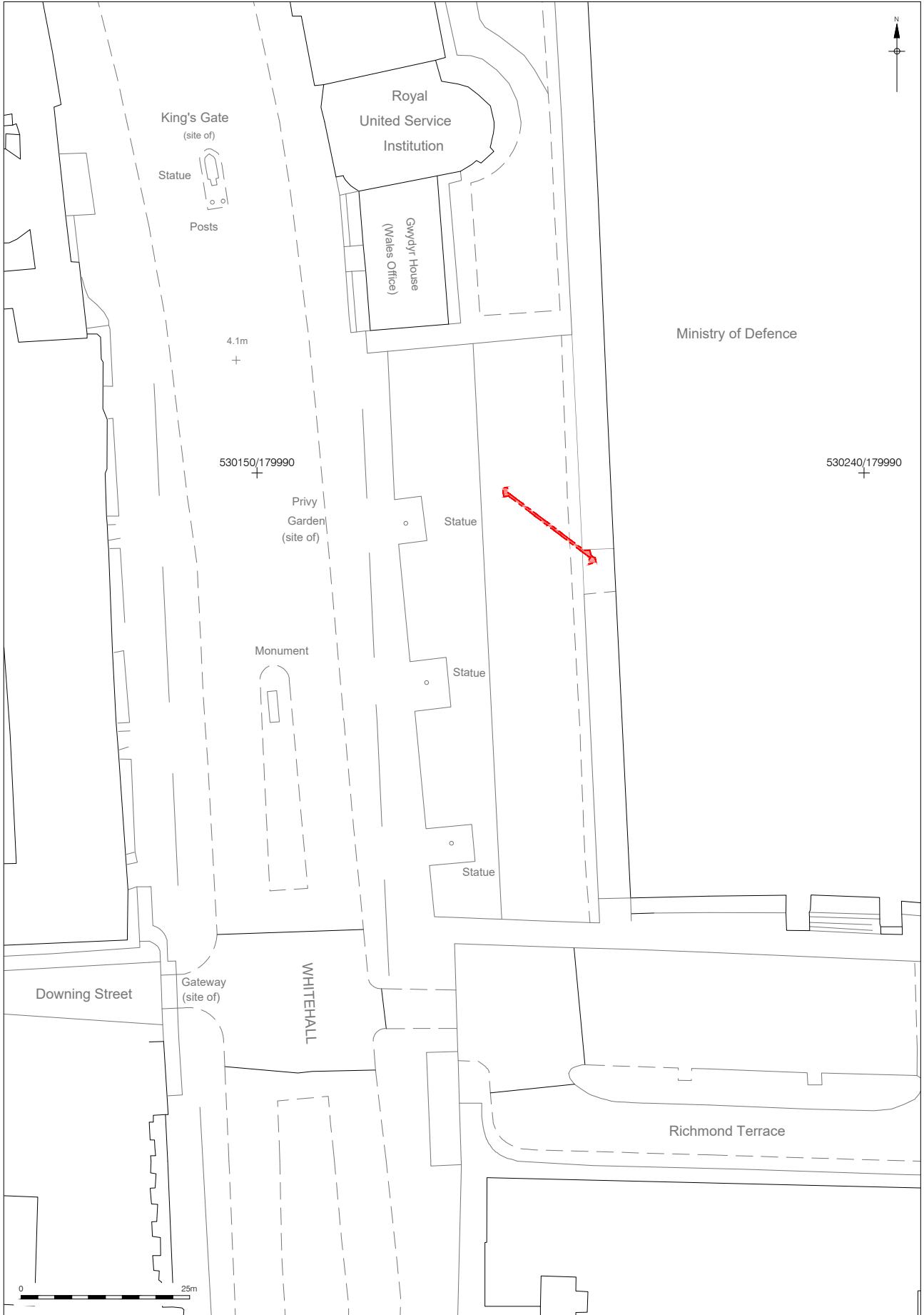
- 5.7 Extensive archaeological mitigation works by PCA accompanied the implementation of the Streetscape Project (Jorgensen 2011 and 2013); those trenches near to Raleigh Green revealed evidence for east-west aligned brick walls (immediately to the west of Gwydyr House) which were considered to be boundary walls within the Pri0vy Garden and, most relevantly to the current work, garden paths built of 17<sup>th</sup> century bricks laid on bed abutted by a brick-built drain – within trenches approximately 20m from the new service trench. These paths were found at heights between 2.79m OD and 2.86m OD.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, the groundworks were excavated by the contractors under archaeological supervision. The trench itself extended 17.4m in length, 0.36m in width and 0.60m in depth. It ran from the earth inspection pit on the north-western side of Raleigh Green along a north-west south-east axis to the wall of an external ramp associated with the MoD building. Here the wall was to be diamond drilled and the cable extended across the ramp to the building itself. Turf was initially removed by spade and stored so that it could be re-laid following the completion of the works. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by pick and shovel.
- 6.2 At the north-western end of the trench a rectangular hole measuring 1.38m by 0.64m and 0.60m in depth was excavated next to the earth inspection pit in order to allow access for the diamond drilling operation. A similar hole was excavated at the south-eastern corner of the trench for the same reason, with this access pit measuring 1.10m by 0.90m and 0.60m in depth.
- 6.3 The objective of the watching brief was to allow an archaeologist to identify, record and retrieve (as far as possible) any archaeological remains uncovered in the course of the development programme. The attendant archaeologist monitored the nature of the *in situ* and removed soils whilst checking for features and finds and recording the results.
- 6.4 The single context recording system was used during the watching brief. Plans were recorded at a scale of 1:20 and sections were drawn at 1:10. A Digital SLR camera was used by the attendant archaeologist to take photographs as appropriate.
- 6.5 Levels were calculated using an average height of 4.42m OD. This was a spotheight on top of manhole cover on the earth inspection pit.



Plate 2: Trench, looking south-east



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Figure 2  
 Detailed Site Location  
 1:800 at A4

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Phase 1: Post-Medieval

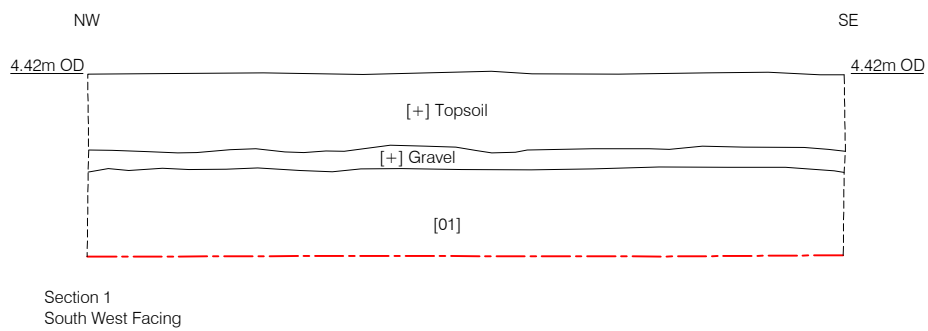
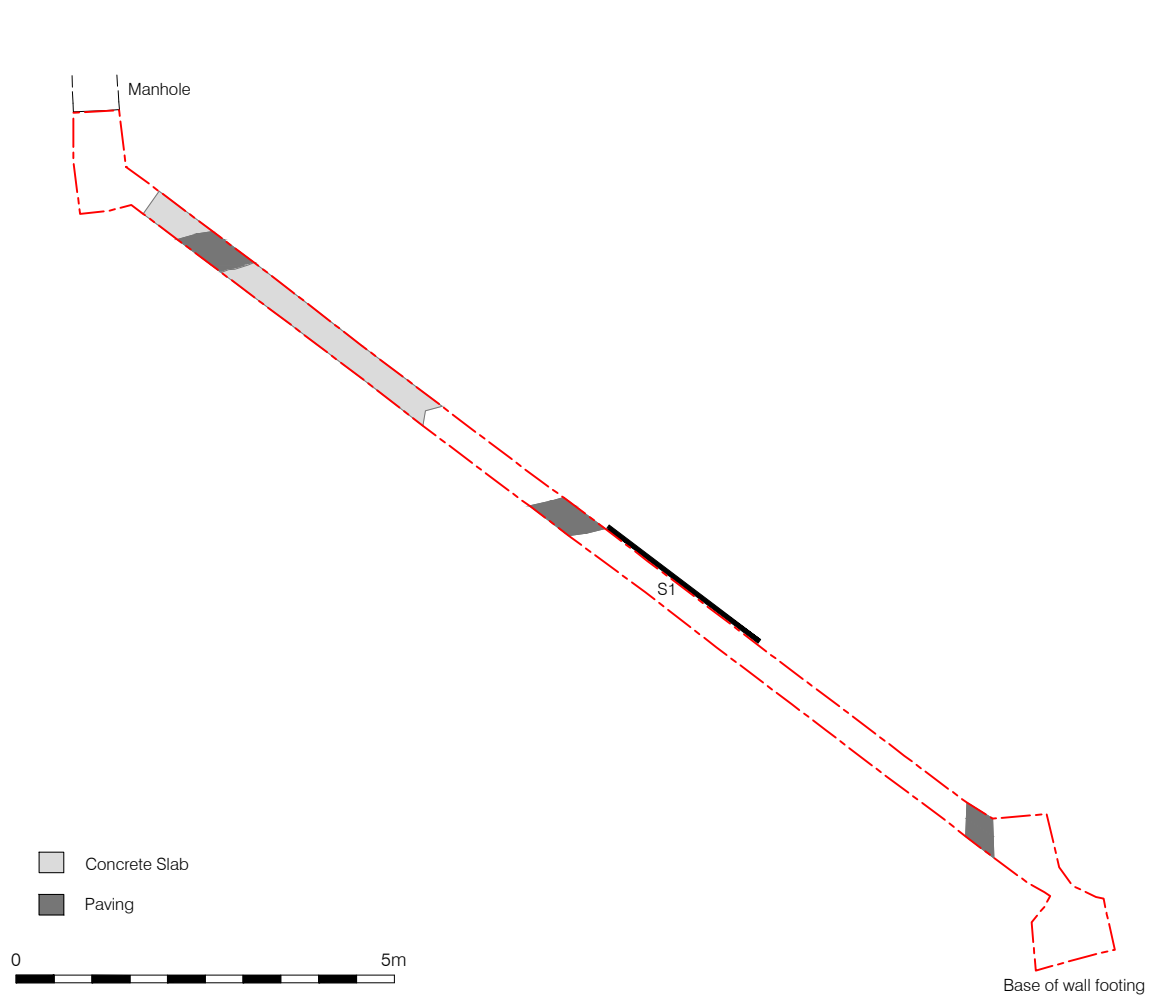
7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trench was layer [1], a grey deposit of dumped clay which contained numerous fragments of brick and stonework. This deposit was not fully excavated but was at least 0.30m thick at 4.12m OD. Finds recovered from this deposit included a metal fork and a fragment of lead.

### 7.2 Phase 2 – Modern

7.2.1 At the north-western end of the trench a large concrete slab [+] was discovered at 4.07m OD. The function of this slab was unclear, but a decision was made to extend the pipe over the top of the concrete rather than attempt to remove this large modern feature. To the south-east of the slab, context [1] was sealed by a deposit of modern gravel [+] which was 0.12m thick at 4.18m OD. This gravel was a bedding and drainage deposit for the topsoil [+] which was 0.35m thick at 4.42m OD. The south-eastern end of the trench extended into a modern path which abutted the ramp wall. All of the deposits beneath the path were associated with the make up for the paving slabs.



*Plate 3: Access pit at south-eastern end, looking north*



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Figure 3  
Trench Plan and Section  
1:100 and 1:25 at A4

## **8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 One of the principal objectives of the archaeological watching brief was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period. No archaeology was encountered on the site, with no evidence of human occupation prior to the 20th century. The earliest deposit comprised a layer of redeposited clay which is likely to relate to the construction of the MoD buildings between 1938 and 1959. Natural deposits were not reached.
- 8.2 Based upon map regression, Raleigh Green is located within the former Privy Gardens of Whitehall Palace. Evidence of these gardens was revealed during mitigation works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology during the Whitehall Streetscape Project (Jorgensen 2013), and took the form of boundary walls and garden paths. These features were however revealed at c. 2.80m OD. The base level of the earthing cable trench on Raleigh Green was at c. 3.82m OD. This therefore suggests that, rather than the trench proving an absence of archaeology; it simply did not reach the underlying archaeological horizons.
- 8.3 The site will be published as an entry in the annual Fieldwork Round-Up of the *London Archaeologist*. The completed archive will be deposited with LAARC under site code RLG16.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank James Frost of CBRE Facilities Management FM – Integrated for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Laura O' of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the site on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also extended by the author to the groundcrew of Mitside Construction for all of their assistance during the watching brief process.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Charlotte Faiers for the illustrations and Chris Mayo for his project management and editing.



## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## APPENDIX 1 – OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-266500**

### Project details

Project name	Raleigh Green, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by PCA upon Raleigh Green, MoD, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AL. The works involved monitoring the hand excavation of a new service trench across the Green and was undertaken between the 18th and 20th of October 2016. The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of made ground most probably associated with the construction of the MoD buildings between 1938 and 1959. At only 0.60m the trench was not deep enough to reach any potential underlying archaeological horizons.
Project dates	Start: 18-10-2016 End: 20-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RLG16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FORK Modern
Significant Finds	LEAD Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER Raleigh Green, MoD, Whitehall, London
Postcode	SW1A 2AL
Study area	6.26 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 30201 79975 51.503194292659 -0.12386171041 51 30 11 N 000 07 25 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Alexis Haslam
Type of sponsor/funding body	Government Agency
Name of sponsor/funding body	CBRE Facilities Management FM - Integrated

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	RLG16
Physical Contents	"Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	RLG16
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"

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Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	RLG16
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

#### **Project bibliography**

**1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Raleigh Green, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AL: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Haslam, A.
Other bibliographic details	PCA R12700
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