

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

Ropemaker Street, Islington, London EC2.

Type of project

Watching Brief

Quality Control

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**A SUPPLEMENTARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
ROPEMAKER STREET, ISLINGTON, LONDON EC2.**

Site Code: RMZ 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3266 8193

**Written and Researched by James Young Langthorne
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2007**

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between the 21st February 2007 and 28th February 2007 a further archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at Ropemaker Street, Islington, London EC2 complementing the work undertaken during September and October 2006¹ (RMZ 06).
- 1.2 The watching brief was to monitor works undertaken at the corner of Finsbury Street and Ropemaker Street, the south-eastern corner of the site, where a cellar was reduced to the same basement formation level as already reached elsewhere on the site.
- 1.3 This watching brief has the site code RMZ 06.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The archaeological watching brief was conducted on a roughly triangular area of former cellar covering approximately 210 square metres (Fig. 1). This area was defined on its eastern and southern sides by the pile probing works in the southeast corner of the site undertaken in 2006. The area was first reduced to the top of the cellar's concrete slab at a depth of 3.20m, and then that slab was broken out to reveal London Clay.
- 2.2 All obstructions, consisting the remnants of an interior cellar wall and some concrete overspill from the piling probe operations in 2006, were also removed. Once London Clay was reached no further ground reduction occurred. All ground reduction work was carried out by machine under archaeological supervision.
- 2.3 Archaeological recording was again limited to observation from the top of the trench edges, and consisted of drawing a plan of the revealed deposits at 1:50 and recording all deposits on pro-forma context sheets.

¹ Langthorne, J Y 2006 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Ropemaker Street, Islington, London EC2* Pre-Construct Archaeology Unpublished Report.

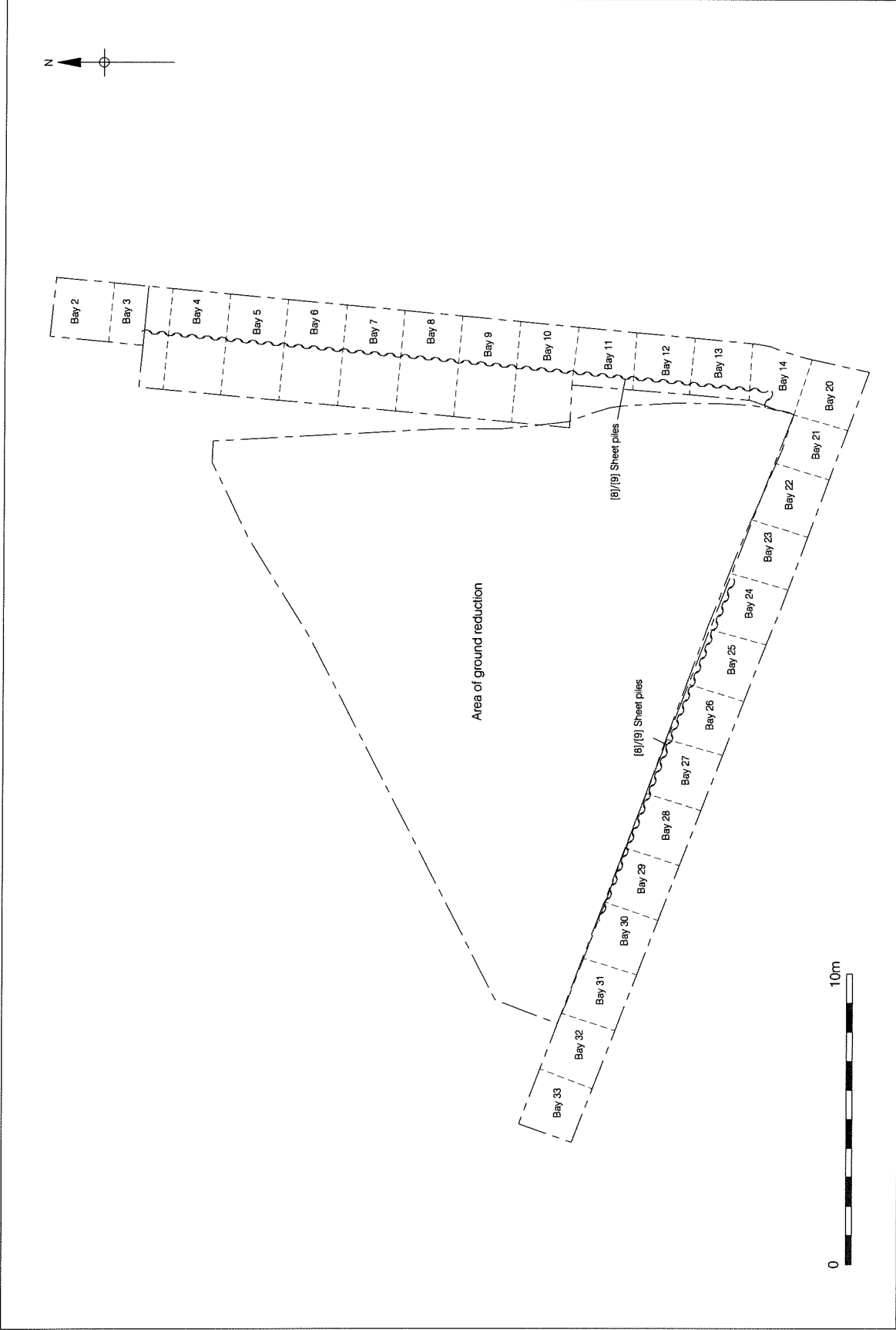
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 The earliest deposit seen was natural London Clay [11] a fairly compact, orange/brown clay with no discernible inclusions. This was encountered across the base of the excavated area at a maximum height of 9.85m OD
- 3.2 Layer [11] was sealed by a concrete slab, which varied between 0.50m and 1.00m thick. This slab had formed the floor of a cellar in a modern building previously occupying the site.
- 3.3 Overlying the concrete slab was a thick layer of modern made ground [10]. A fairly loose, mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate concrete and brick fragment and rebar inclusions. This layer covered the entire reduced area and was approximately 3.15m – 3.65m thick. The made ground was encountered at a maximum height of 14.00m OD.
- 3.4 No archaeological deposits were found within the excavated area.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 It can be concluded that any potential archaeological deposits within the excavated area had been truncated by the concrete slab, which formed part of the cellar of the previous building. This accorded with the conclusions which resulted from the 2006 watching brief².

² Langthorne, J Y 2006 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Ropemaker Stree, Islington, London EC2* Pre-Construct Archaeology Unpublished Report.



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Figure 1
 Supplementary Watching Brief Plan
 1:200 at A4

APPENDIX 1

1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

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1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: preconst1-27201

Project details

Project name Supplementary watching brief at Ropemaker Street, London Borough of Islington

Short description of the project Additional watching brief on ground reduction works identified London Clay beneath an modern basement slab.

Project dates Start: 21-02-2007 End: 28-02-2007

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes RMZ 06 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON ISLINGTON FINSBURY Ropemaker Street

Postcode EC2

Study area 210.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3266 8193 51.5201917035 -0.087713849588 51 31 12 N
000 05 15 W Point

Height OD Min: 9.35m Max: 9.85m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Arup Associate

Project design originator Peter Moore

Project director/manager Peter Moore

Project supervisor James Young Langthorne

Type of sponsor/funding
body Keltbray

Name of sponsor/funding
body Keltbray

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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RRIFF AT ROPFMAKFR STRFFT ISI INGTON LONDON

EC2.

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2 OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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