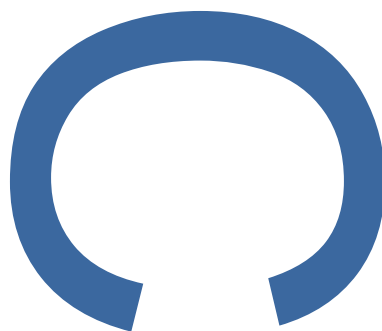


**ROYAL MINT COURT,
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS, EC3N 4QN**

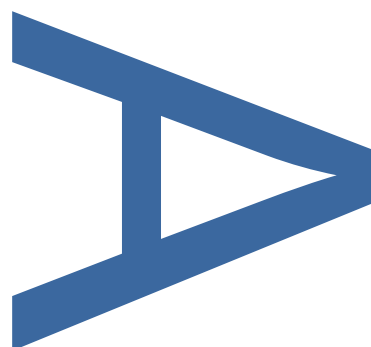


ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**



**SITE CODE: RMC17
MAY 2017**



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Monitoring Report, Royal Mint Court, London Borough of Tower Hamlets EC3N 4QN

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 33886 80710

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Planning Application No.: PA/16/00479

Site Code: RMC17

Written and Researched by Phil Frickers

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Commissioning Client: CGMS Consulting

PCA Report Number: R12882

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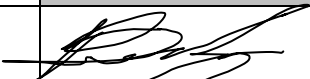
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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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Quality Control

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of monitoring of site investigation works at Royal Mint Court, London Borough of Tower Hamlets EC3N 4QN. The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of RMC LH Co. Ltd. The site investigation consisted of five boreholes, six windowless sample holes, twenty four observation pits and twenty three trial pits
- 1.2 Site Ordnance Datum levels values were close to 12.50m on the north side of the site. The ground floor level of the present development was built up to similar levels further south using modern material and with extra basement floors countering the natural fall of the land towards the River Thames, south of the site. Post-medieval to modern made ground thicknesses varied between 1m and 4m across the site.
- 1.3 Layers of natural gravels and modern made ground were present beneath the foundations of the present standing buildings and in the majority of the holes and pits excavated. This reflected the clearing of the site which took place in the 1980s. In some interventions, the concrete was located directly over the gravel, in others there were thicknesses of made ground up to 4m thick.
- 1.4 In the western part of the site boreholes and windowless sample holes were driven through an area which was not archaeologically excavated in 1988. In these holes a full sequence of layers of post-medieval made ground overlay traces of burials known to date to the 14th century.
- 1.5 There were also isolated instances of the recovery of human bone in the north-west of the site and a post-medieval wall was found in the south-west of the site, showing archaeology still survives in some other areas of site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to monitor site investigation works at Royal Mint Court, London Borough of Tower Hamlets EC3N 4QN (Figure 1). This work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2017).
- 2.2 The site was located on the north bank of the River Thames. It was bounded to the west by Tower Bridge Approach and Mansell Street; to the north by Royal Mint Street; to the east by housing and Cartwright Street, and to the south by East Smithfield. The Tower of London stands 50 metres to the west of Royal Mint Court. The site covered an area of c. 2.0 hectares and is centred at NGR TQ 33886 80710.
- 2.3 The site investigation works consisted of five boreholes, six windowless sample holes, 24 observation pits and 23 trial pits. The location of these investigations is given on the attached tables (Figures 3 – 5).
- 2.4 The work was carried out between 17th March and 25th April 2017. Fieldwork was supervised by Neil Hawkins, Alexis Haslam, Phil Frickers and Mike Tunnicliffe, and the project was managed by Tim Bradley, all of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).
- 2.6 This archaeological fieldwork was given the unique site code RMC17.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The site specific research aims and objectives of the monitoring exercise, as outlined in the WSI (CgMs 2017) were as follows:

- The monitoring exercise will seek to understand the context of the findings in relationship to the wider settlement pattern, landscape, economy and environment;
- The interpretation of locally distinctive or regionally/nationally significant archaeological features;
- How has the site's topography influenced past activity and settlement?
- To understand the survival and extent of any remains associated with the Black Death Cemetery;
- To understand the survival and extent of any remains associated with the Cistercian Abbey;
- What has been the impact on the site by previous development since the 18th century?

3.2 Planning Background

3.2.1 Policy in the 2015 Consolidated London Plan relevant to archaeology at the study site includes the following:

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. BOROUGHSHOULD, 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. BOROUGH, 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.**

3.2.2 Planning Consent has been granted for the redevelopment of the site, with the following archaeological planning conditions attached:

4. No demolition or development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (wsi) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land in archaeological zone 1 (as identified by Greater London Archaeological Advisory response to the borough of 13th April 2016) no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and:
- A. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.
- B. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI

The written scheme of investigation will need to be prepared and implemented by a suitably qualified professionally accredited archaeological practice in accordance with Historic England's guidelines for archaeological projects in Greater London.

Reasons: heritage assets of archaeological interest survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation followed by the subsequent recording of significant remains prior to development in accordance with policy sp10 of the Tower Hamlets core strategy 2010 and NPPF.

5. No demolition or development shall commence within or in immediate vicinity of archaeology zone 2 (as identified by Greater London Archaeological Advisory response to LBTH of 13 April 2016) until details of fencing, signage and other control measures to protect archaeological remains in-situ in [archaeological zone 2] have been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority. for land that is included within [archaeological zone 2] no ground-works shall take place without both making appropriate provision for archaeological mitigation measures and the prior written consent of the local planning authority. the approved programme must be implemented in accordance with the approved details and maintained for the duration of operational works.

Reasons: the planning authority wishes to secure the physical preservation of the site's archaeological interest in accordance with the NPPF and the borough's heritage policies.

4 GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 The following geological and topographical background summarises the information in the Desk Based Archaeological Impact Assessment undertaken for the site by CgMs Consulting (CgMS 2016).

4.2 Geology

4.2.1 The solid geology of the site is formed of London Clay. Overlying the London Clay is a series of gravel terraces deposited during periods of glacial and interglacial conditions.

4.2.2 The archaeological excavations undertaken within the site during the 1980s revealed gravel deposits overlying London Clay. Prior to redevelopment, natural gravels survived to 9.70m OD centrally on the site. Further to the south the top of the gravels had values of 8.20m OD, and to the west 8.50m.

4.3 Topography

4.3.1 Street levels at the northern edge of site were in the order of 12.50m OD. The natural ground sloped down from here to the south towards the river, but the slope has been truncated by previous developments, and was then further truncated by the present development. Present street levels on East Smithfield, south of the site, are 11.00m OD to the south west and 8.40m OD further to the east. On site the ground had been built up using redeposited material and extra basement levels.

4.3.2 The River Thames flows west to east 300m south of the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 In terms of relevant designated heritage assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Wrecks or Historic Battlefields lie within the study site.
- 5.2 Several listed building designations lie within the study site boundary.
- 5.3 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

5.4 Introduction

- 5.4.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been fully covered in the Desk Based Archaeological Impact Assessment undertaken for the site by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2016). This can be summarised as follows:

5.5 Prehistoric

- 5.5.1 Undiagnostic flintwork was identified during the 1980s excavations at the Royal Mint site. It can be anticipated that the unexcavated areas of the site are likely to reveal further residual, prehistoric artefacts.

5.6 Roman

- 5.6.1 In the Roman period, London developed as an urban centre and later became the provincial capital at the centre of Roman Britain's communication system. The site lies to the east of the Roman City wall, and to the south of the known extent of the so called eastern cemetery.
- 5.6.2 Truncated pits containing small amounts of Roman pottery were identified during the excavation of the Cistercian Abbey within the site. These pits were interpreted as evidence for quarrying for sand and gravel. It can be anticipated that the unexcavated areas of the site are likely to provide further evidence of Roman quarrying.

5.7 Early Medieval

- 5.7.1 After the Roman period the urban centre of London moved to the west to "Lundenwic" based around the Covent Garden area.
- 5.7.2 The archaeological potential of the study site for the Saxon period is anticipated to be generally low.

5.8 Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern

- 5.8.1 The site is known to have a significant potential for the medieval, post-medieval and Modern periods. Archaeological excavation work undertaken prior to redevelopment during the 1980s revealed extensive, nationally significant archaeological remains including a medieval Black Death cemetery and Cistercian Abbey. This was followed by a Royal Navy Victualling Yard, subsequent warehousing, and the Royal Mint complex which occupied the site into the twentieth century.
- 5.8.2 Archaeological remains relating to the abbey identified during the 1980s are preserved *in situ* beneath the south-western and central/eastern parts of the site. Areas within the western part of the site remain unexcavated and are anticipated to contain nationally significant archaeological remains similar to those previously recorded.
- 5.8.3 Within the footprint of the existing 1980s buildings present on the eastern, northern, north-western and south-eastern parts of the site, it is understood that archaeological remains have been fully excavated, recorded and removed.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the drilling of boreholes and windowless sample holes, coring of holes through concrete foundations and the excavation of observation and trial pits,
- 6.2 The boreholes were excavated by a standard drilling rig, the windowless sample holes by a terrier drilling rig. The top 1.20m of both boreholes and windowless sample holes were cleared manually beforehand. Coring through concrete slabs in many of the observation pits was achieved using a diamond tipped mechanical coring machine. The trial pits were excavated by hand.
- 6.3 The monitoring was attended by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. Sections and plans were measured and drawn, descriptions of ground noted on proforma sheets, and a digital photographic record of the site kept.
- 6.4 Levels were taken from a topographical plan of the site at a scale of 1:250 scale supplied by the client. This covered the ground floor only.
- 6.5 All relevant health and safety legislation, CDM and COSHH regulations and codes of practice were respected.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The interventions are shown on Figure 3 and have been overlain on the potential archaeology layout on Figure 4 (as provided by CgMs).
- 7.2 The interventions used in this monitoring exercise have been separated into the different methods employed.

7.3 Boreholes

- 7.3.1 The boreholes (BH) excavated were broadly similar in profile, four were 35 metres in depth and one was 15 metres. Below the archaeological levels were natural gravels and below that was London Clay.
- 7.3.2 BH 01 and 04 were both started from basement level, and in these holes natural gravels were quickly reached. In BH 04 natural gravel was directly below the modern concrete and make up. BH 01 had a shallow concrete slab (0.25m), below that a layer of disturbed gravel, probably created during the building of the present development, covered the natural deposits.



Plate 3: Excavation in the basement BH 01

- 7.3.3 BH 02 was in the south-west corner of the site. The level at the top of the natural gravels was 6.81m OD, a considerable reduction from the level present in 1988 (8.50m OD). This was overlain by a layer of disturbed gravel 0.90m thick. Over this was a layer of potentially medieval made ground which was possibly disturbed and redeposited. This layer was 2m thick and was sealed by 3m of modern made ground. The modern made ground reflected the fact that the area was built up considerably during the construction of the present complex.
- 7.3.4 BH 03 was drilled in the north-east corner of the site and found the truncated top of the natural gravel at a level of 5.88m OD. This was overlain by a concrete footing with modern material for 5m above it.
- 7.3.5 BH 05 was excavated through the grassed area near the western gates. This part of the site remained unexcavated in 1988. Natural gravels were seen at 8.00m OD. Above the natural gravel was a layer which produced fragments of human bone, including teeth, at a height of 8.45m OD. similar level to the north east under the Registry, a 14th "black death" cemetery

was excavated in 1988. This layer was 0.40m thick and was overlain by a 1.5m thick layer of browner, more gravelly soil. This was sealed by 2.5m of modern made ground and concrete.

7.4 Window Samples

- 7.4.1 The windowless sample holes (WS) were much shallower. Originally designed to be five metres in depth, only one (WS 03A) achieved this depth (5.20m), others stopping short for a variety of reasons.
- 7.4.2 WS02 and 04 (Plate 1) were drilled on the southern edge of the site. WS 02 was stopped at a depth of 3.20m below ground level, having hit natural gravels at a height of 5.66m OD. The gravel was overlain by 2.66m of modern made ground. This would seem to be another example of truncation relating to the 1988 redevelopment.



Plate 1 Preliminary excavation of WS 04

- 7.4.3 WS 04, further to the west along East Smithfield, was more interesting archaeologically. There the sample hole refused at 1.75m below the current ground level after encountering fragments of yellow stock bricks at 1.50m (7.80m OD). This is likely to be a fragment of the Royal Mint Wall, which originally surrounded the site in the 19th century, still surviving *in situ*. The bricks date to this period (Appendix 2: CBM report).
- 7.4.4 WS 05 was close to BH 03. The hole refused at 1.60m below ground level (8.81m OD) as it was obstructed by a large piece of concrete in the modern backfill, as also seen in BH 03.
- 7.4.5 WS 01, further to the south, was a continuation of Trial Pit 07. This hole found disturbed natural gravels below the deep concrete slab present and then cleaner natural gravels below that. The natural gravels here had a height of 6.40m OD, again suggesting the area had been stripped to a low level during the 1980s building works.
- 7.4.6 WS 03 was positioned on the western grassed area near the entrance. It was abandoned after hitting a water pipe in the topsoil and replaced by WS 03A slightly further to the north. WS 03A produced a complete sequence similar to BH 05. The first feature seen in this hole was a void, up to 1m in depth, of which the base was not seen. The purpose of this feature remains unclear, possibly it forms part of a vault. Above the void, at a depth of 3.50m below ground level (9.40m OD) the hole was cored through a brick feature up to 700mm in depth. It was at the same depth as the burial material seen in BH 05, but the brick was dated to the

early post-medieval period (Appendix 2: CBM Report). The brick was sealed by post-medieval and modern made ground.



Plate 5 The cores for WS 03A

7.5 Observation Pits

- 7.5.1 Twenty-four observation pits (OP) were excavated on this site; sometimes consisting of a cluster of holes bored through concrete basement slabs.
- 7.5.2 The purpose of a number of the observation pits (OPs 01, 04 (Plate 2), 06, 07, 08A) was to find the depth of basement concrete slabs. As these OPs were all drilled from low levels in basements, no OD heights could be given. Disturbed natural gravels were present directly below the concrete in OPs 06 and 07. In OP 01 was a very thick layer of concrete while in OP 08A, natural gravels were present directly below the concrete. OP 04 also found truncated gravel directly under concrete.

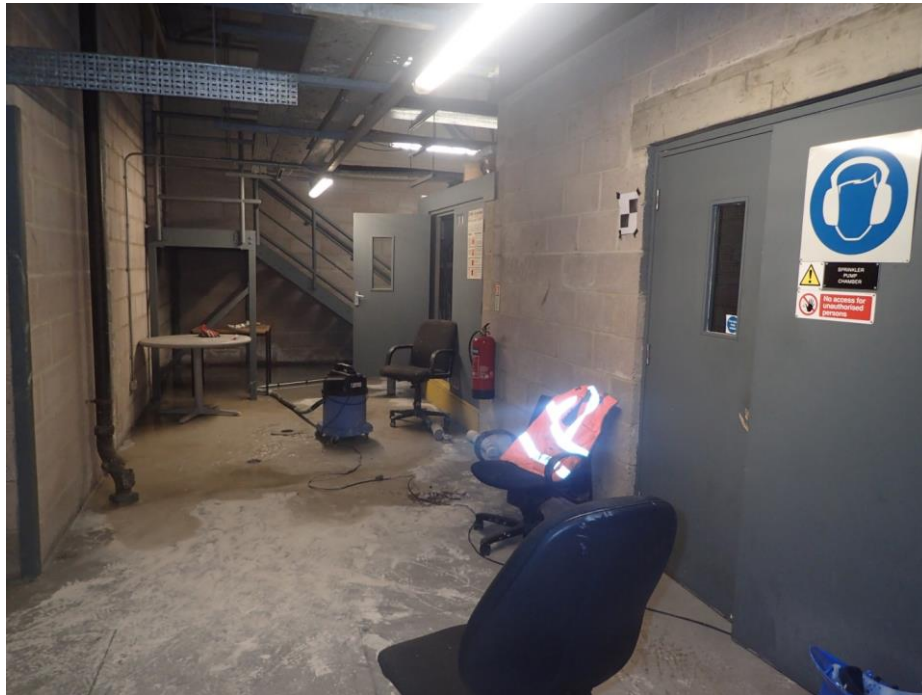


Plate 2 Excavation in the basement OP 04

- 7.5.3 OP 08 was excavated in advance of, and near to, OP08A. It was abandoned after hitting steel reinforcing rods.
- 7.5.4 OP 12, to the north of the Johnson Smirke building, and OPs 15, 15A and 16 were all excavated in basements, and abandoned because of problems with concrete.
- 7.5.5 OP 17, to the south of the Johnson Smirke building, was abandoned after hitting electric cables.
- 7.5.6 OP09 was excavated halfway down a ramp leading to a basement car park in the northern part of the site. It produced only modern made ground. Further work took place in this area, and a hole was excavated at the base of the car ramp (OP 09A). This also revealed only modern material.
- 7.5.7 OPs10 and 13 were both placed in the small open area between the Johnson Smirke building and The Registry. They both produced only modern material. Although each was over one metre in depth, they were dug from a high level and showed the infilling which took place between buildings reused in the present development. OP 18, excavated on the western side of the Johnson Smirke building, produced similar modern material.
- 7.5.8 OPs 11 and 14 were excavated in the basement of The Registry. The facade of this building was retained in the 1980s development, although the internal walls and archaeology were removed. OP 14 had a clay made ground like deposit towards the base, and in OP11 fragments of human bone were uncovered at a level of c.8.85m OD in a similar clay made ground deposit.
- 7.5.9 The final observation pit excavated was OP 21 adjoining the north/south access road on the eastern side of the site. This revealed only concrete and modern material and was abandoned in favour of further excavation in OP 07.
- 7.5.10 OPs 02, 03, 05, 19 and 20 were all cancelled.

7.6 Trial Pits

- 7.6.1 Twenty-three trial pits were excavated of different sizes and depths.
- 7.6.2 TPs 01, 11, 12, 12A, 13 were all excavated in the south-west corner of the site from a lower level. They were located in the vicinity of the remains of the Abbey as previously found. TP

01 and 13 were placed against concrete columns and revealed only further concrete and modern rubble. TP 12A was similar, with a layer of redeposited made ground around a concrete footing. TP 11 was a shallow slit trench 0.80m in depth. This trench was oriented north-south and measured 3.50m x 0.40m, featuring compacted gravel at 0.30m below ground level, overlain by topsoil.

- 7.6.3 Perhaps better illustrating the archaeological potential of the area was TP 12, sited further to the west. This trial pit was oriented south-west north-east, and measured 4.10m in length by 0.40m. A brick wall, thought to be 18th century in date, was identified 0.30m below ground level (Plate 6). To the north of the wall was a backfill of post-medieval material which was 1.4m deep and may suggested that the feature formed a backfilled cellar. The wall was sealed by modern backfill and concrete. The southern part of the trench contained only concrete. 0.44m below ground level.



Plate 6 Post-Medieval wall in TP 12

- 7.6.4 TPs 02 and 03 were excavated in the basement of the Johnson Smirke building. TP 02 was located adjacent to a column base and found only concrete. It was abandoned at 0.70m below ground level.



Plate 4 Human bone recovered from TP 03

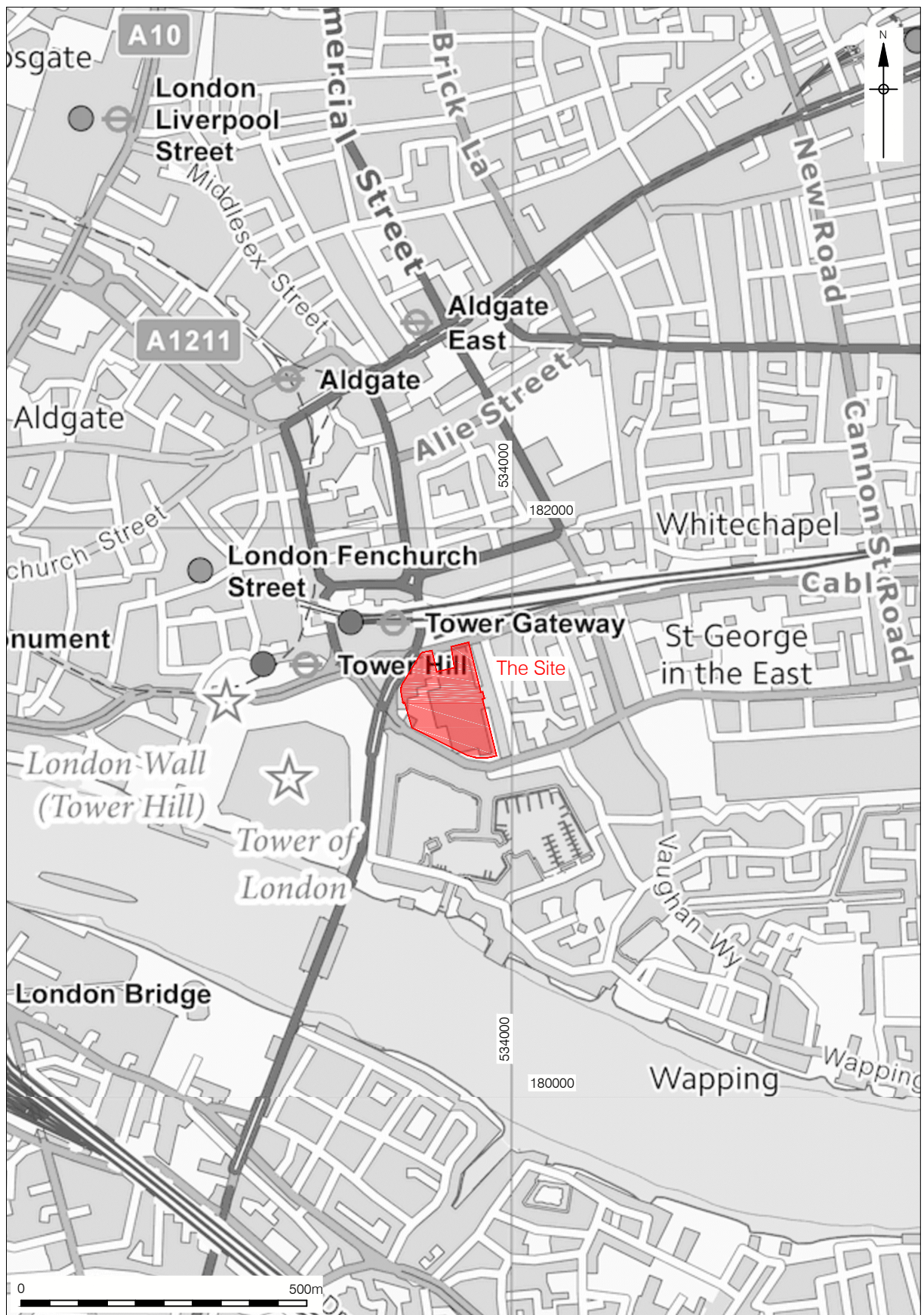
- 7.6.5 Trial Pit 03 was excavated at the base of an underground tunnel. The earliest material found in TP03 comprised a layer of made ground which produced a human skull and a jawbone. This material was found at a height of 9.03m OD (0.50m below ground level) and was sealed below flooring and make up layers, and by the tunnel. The Johnson Smirke building was retained in the present development and the area to the west of the building was unexcavated. The position of this test pit on the north-west corner of the Johnson Smirke building was in a position bordering areas preserved and areas excavated in 1988. Perhaps this shows how uncertain this border remains. The bones were later reburied in accordance with the burial licence.
- 7.6.6 TP 04, further to the south on the west wall of the telephone exchange, was abandoned after hitting electric cables. TP 05, on the north-western corner of the telephone exchange, produced only concrete and modern material, and was abandoned when it hit a modern drain.
- 7.6.7 TP 07 was excavated at basement level east of the north south access road on the east side of the site. It produced concrete and modern material and WS 01 was later cored through the concrete slabs exposed.
- 7.6.8 TP 08 was situated to the north of the Johnson Smirke building and featured only concrete and modern deposits. TPs 15 and 19, abutting respectively the west and south walls of The Registry, contained similar material.
- 7.6.9 TP 14 was excavated on the western grassed area, but as it only had a depth of 1.20m it did not penetrate very far into the undisturbed made ground known to be present there. The top of the made ground was at 12.30m OD (0.60m below ground level) and the deposit contained mortar and peg tile. It had the appearance of demolition material. BH 05 and WS 03 were drilled close by.
- 7.6.10 TP 18 was excavated to the north of the southwestern group and south of TP14 from the higher level. The pit was 1.10m deep and featured only make up and type 1 material in this area built up as part of the present development.
- 7.6.11 TPs 31, 32 and 33 were a series of pits situated to the west of the Johnson Smirke Building. All three trial pits were excavated to a depth of 1m below ground level. All featured made ground similar to that seen further to the west on the grassed area. The made ground comprised a mixture of sandy silt with mortar, broken unfrosted red bricks, peg tile and chalk, all well compacted. This again suggests a demolition layer. In TP 31, the top of the layer was

at 12.26m OD. In TP32, the made ground was at 12.07m OD and in TP 33, it was at 12.37m OD. The layer was sealed below cobbles and a layer of concrete.

7.6.12 TPs 06, 09, 10, 16 and 17 were all cancelled.

8 CONCLUSIONS

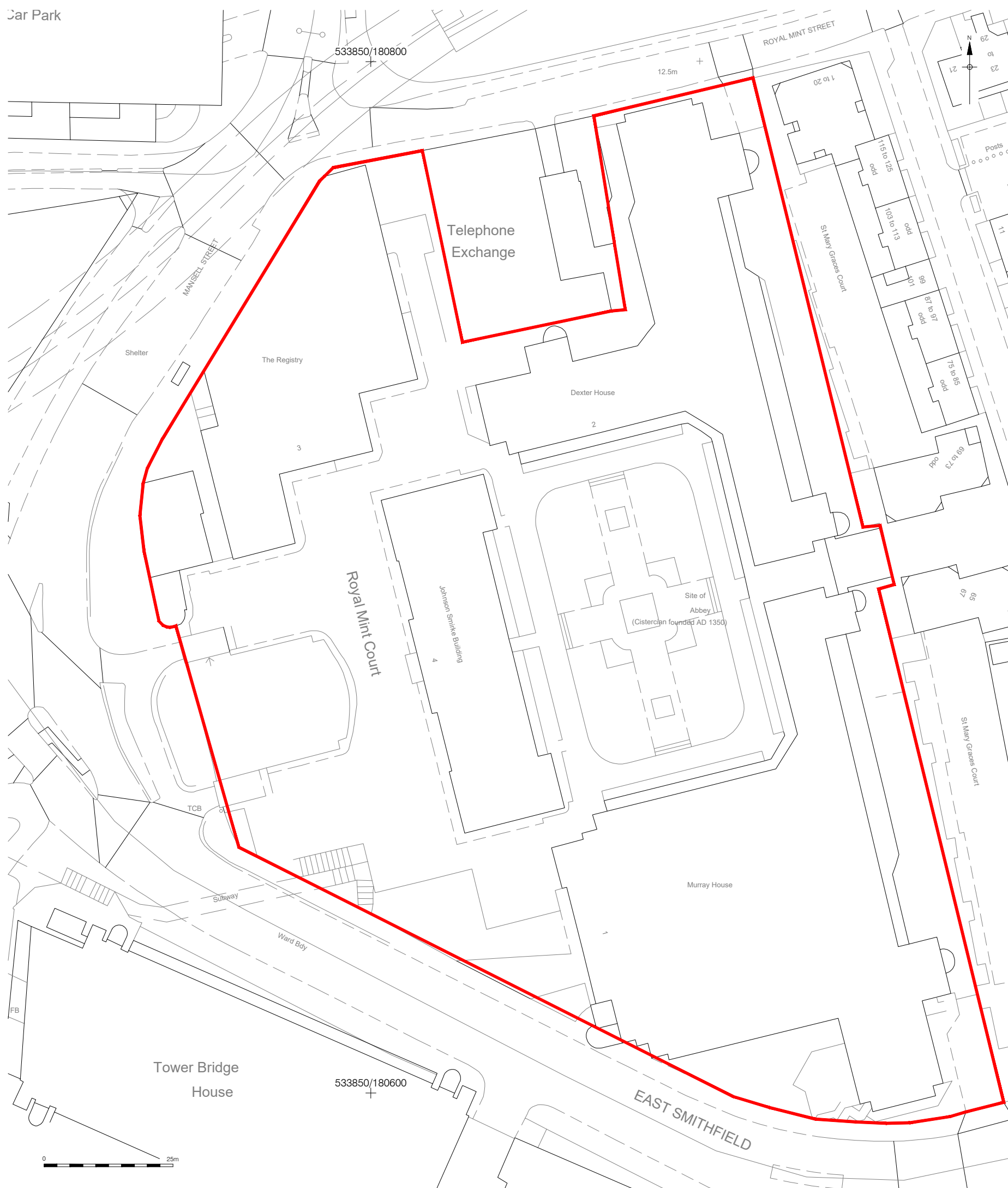
- 8.1 Many of the excavated pits were too shallow to show anything except concrete and modern material, or were excavated adjacent to modern footings and so had been truncated by construction. Some of the cored holes and pits excavated from basement level and on the eastern side of the site confirmed that areas excavated in 1988 had been cleared of archaeology, down to natural gravel levels before redevelopment began.
- 8.2 Natural gravel was identified in all of the interventions that were taken deep enough. The levels of the gravel were truncated in many instances.
- 8.3 However, a number of the interventions did identify archaeological remains. The earliest remains were present in BH2 and BH 5, OP11, OP14, TP03 and WS03, all of which found deposits probably relating to the cemetery. All of these interventions were located in or directly adjacent to the predicted area of unexcavated archaeological remains (Figure 4). WS03 found a void which may represent a vault or other such structure.
- 8.4 TPs 14, 31, 32 and 33 were all relatively shallow, but did identify the second archaeological phase on the site, comprising demolition material of probable medieval/early post-medieval date, which included peg tile.
- 8.5 WS02 and TP 12, both located outside the area of predicted archaeology, both found yellow brick walls, which may relate to the Royal Mint building.
- 8.6 Human bone was identified in three interventions; OP11 (8.85m OD), TP03 (9.02m OD) and BH05 (8.50m OD).
- 8.7 The watching brief illustrates that archaeological remains relating to the cemetery were identified on the site, and that the archaeological sequence has survived in these areas. Outside the expected areas, extensive truncation caused by the construction of the current buildings has taken place.



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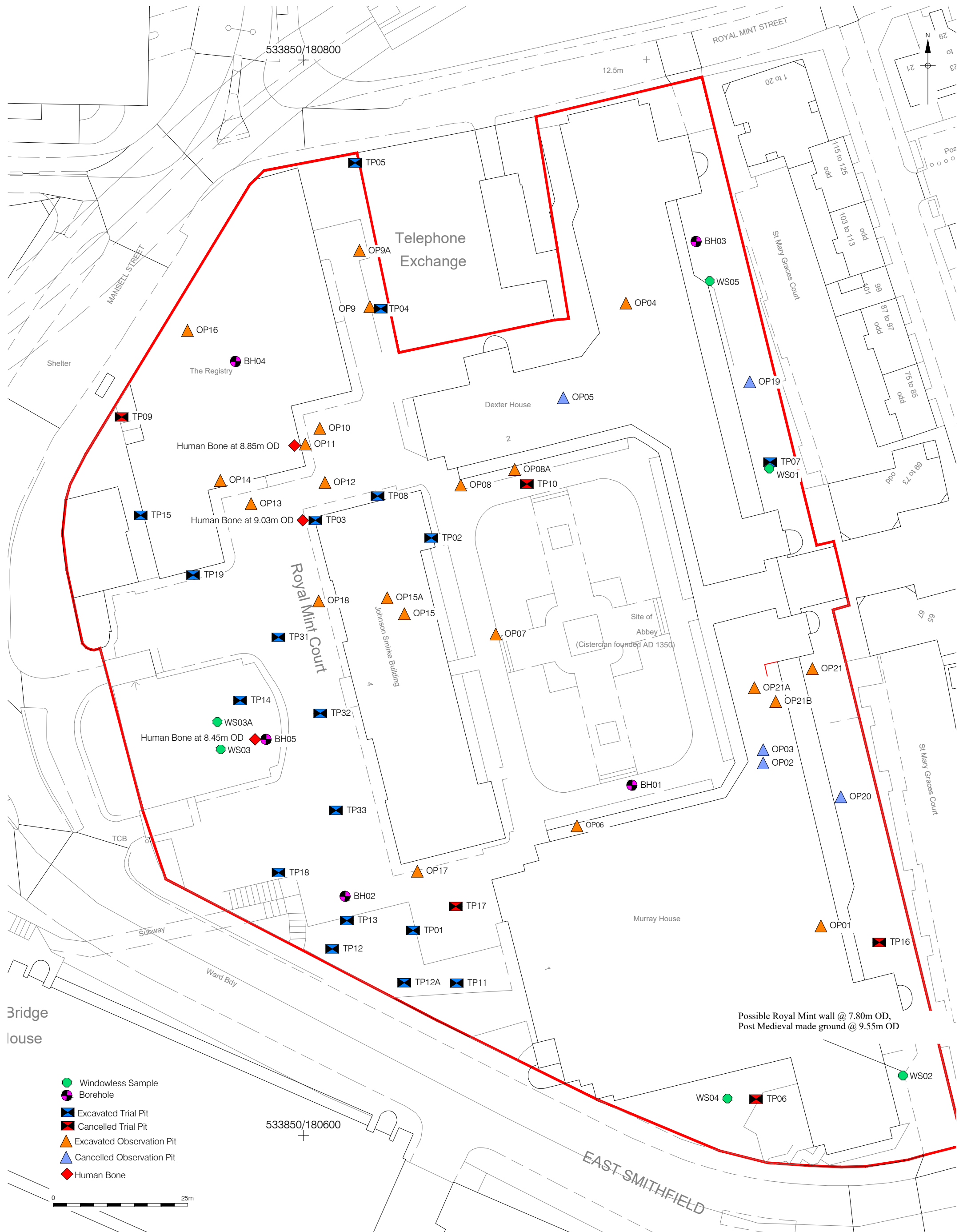
Figure 1
 Site Location
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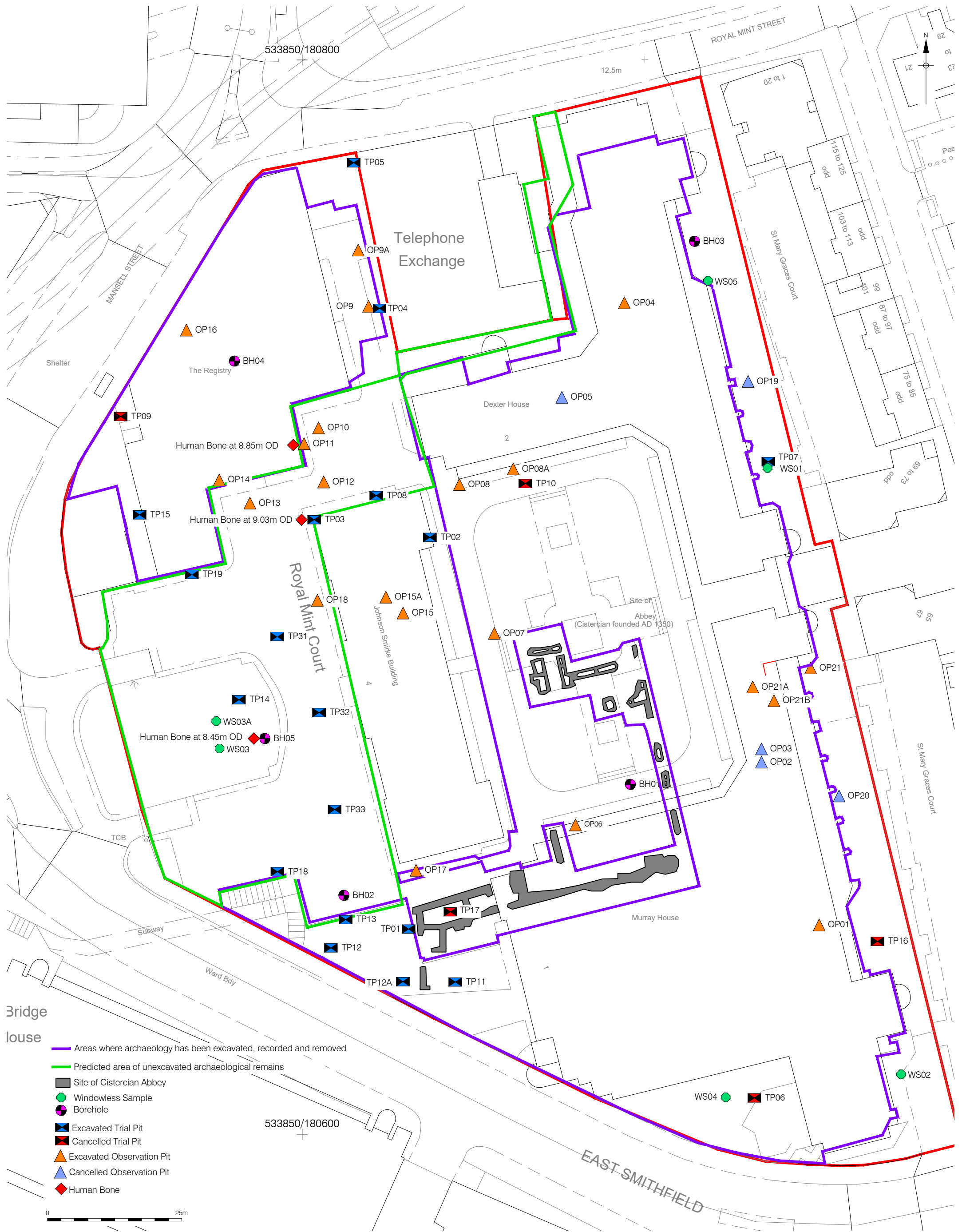
Car Park

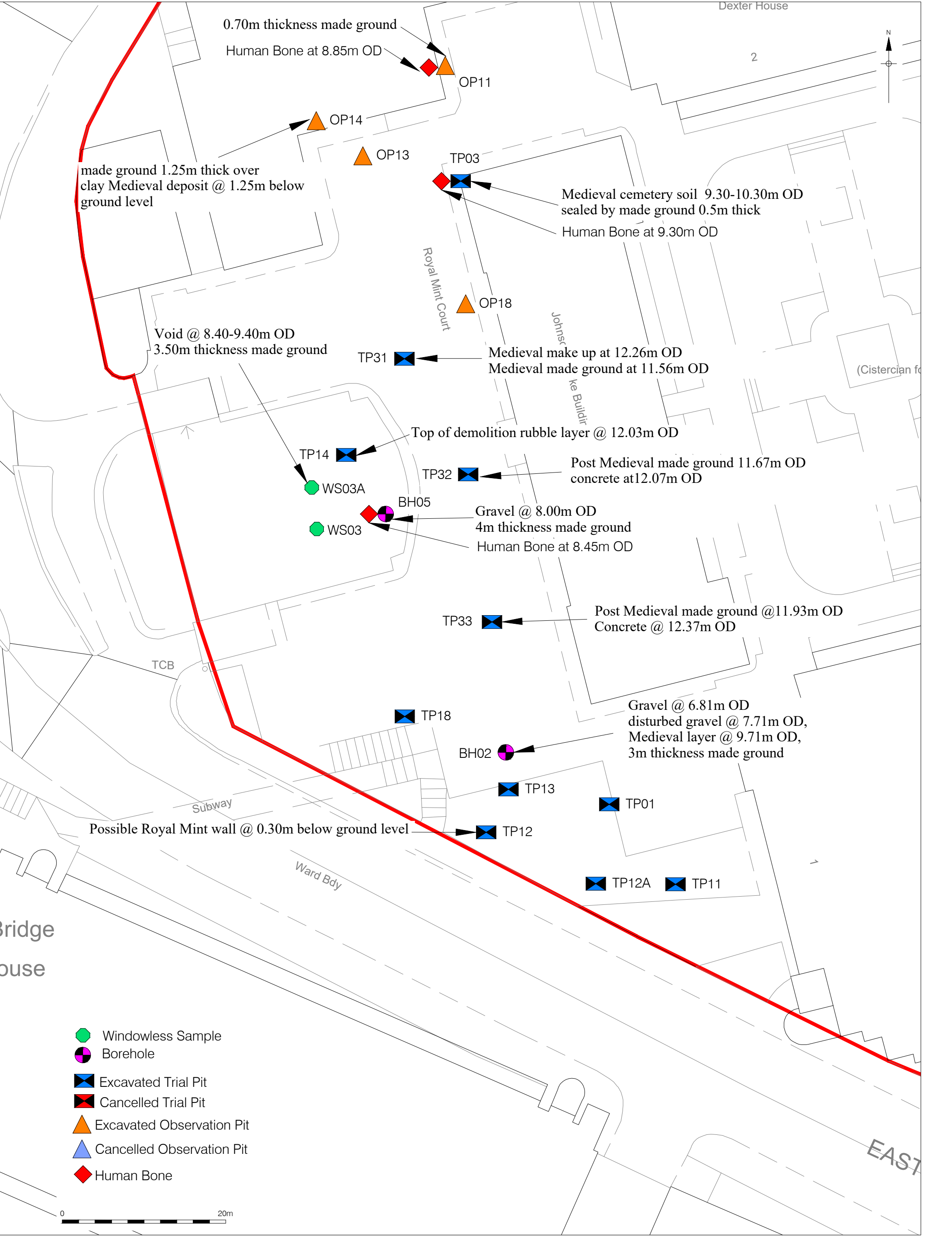


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11/05/17 RM

Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:800 at A3







9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

CgMs Consulting February 2016 *Royal Mint Court, London Borough of Tower Hamlets: A Desk Based Archaeological Impact Assessment.*

CgMs Consulting February 2017 *Royal Mint Court, London Borough of Tower Hamlets: A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation and Recording during site investigation works.*

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning this archaeological monitoring work, and to Jose Periera and the team from Concept for their on-site assistance.
- 10.2 The author would like to Tim Bradley for his project management and editing of this report and thanks to Ray Murphy for the illustrations. Also thanks to Alexis Haslam and the other supervisors that took part in this project

APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-284712

Project details

Project name	A Report on the Monitoring of Site Investigation Works, Royal Mint Court, London Borough of Tower Hamlets EC3N 4QN.
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to monitor site investigation works at Royal Mint Court. These consisted of 5 boreholes; 6 windowless sample holes, 24 observation pits and 23 trial pits. The boreholes extended down into the underlying London Clay. Most of the sample holes and pits revealed concrete and modern material relating to the 1980s redevelopment. A few, excavated in basements, exposed natural gravels. Human bone was recovered from two pits and one of the boreholes. These bones were later reburied.
Project dates	Start: 17-03-2017 End: 25-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RMC17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	!4TH C. PLAGUE CEMETERY Medieval
Monument type	ST. MARY GRACES ABBEY Medieval
Monument type	17TH C. ROYAL NAVY VICTUALLING YARD Post Medieval
Monument type	19TH C. THE ROYAL MINT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS TOWER HAMLETS Royal Mint Court
Postcode	EC3N 4QN
Study area	2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 33886 80710 51.508937197072 -0.070515325496 51 30 32 N 000 04 13 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.7m Max: 8m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Richard Meager
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Alexis Haslam and Phil Frickers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	RMC LH Co. Ltd.

APPENDIX 2: Ceramic Building Material Report

Two brick samples were collected from cores in Royal Mint Court. An example of local post Great fire brick (3034 fabric) from WS 04 suggests a late post-medieval occupation of the site. One example of sandy red brick fabric was identified (3033 fabric) from WS 03A. This fabric was manufactured for city use from local London brick clay between 1450 and 1700. However, the fabric continued to be used outside of the confines of the City of London, where local brickearth was exploited until 1900 (Ken Sabel pers. comm.) This example is bonded with a white lime mortar mixed with small glass fragments, probably dated 1650-1800.

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