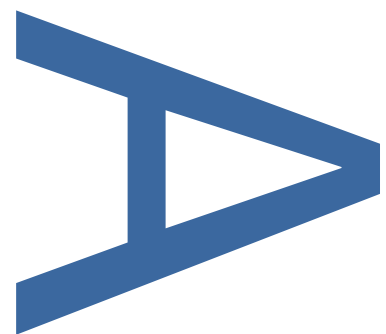
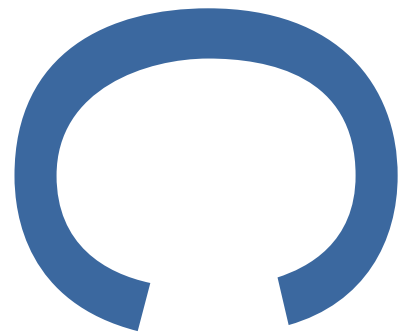


**NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY,
CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON
WC2H 0HE
SUMMARY OF AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
CITY OF WESTMINSTER**

JANUARY 2019



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON WC2H 0HE
SUMMARY OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CENTRAL NGR: TQ 2998 8058

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: Mills Whipp Projects

WRITTEN BY: Rosemary Banens
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

PROJECT MANAGER: Helen Hawkins
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

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January 2019

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON

WC2H 0HE

Type of project

SUMMARY OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5963
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	R Banens		24.1.19
Graphics Prepared by:	M Steel		24.1.19
Graphics Checked by:	M Roughley	M Roughley	24.1.19
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins	H Hawkins	24.1.19

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of an inspection trench for assessment of tree roots on land at the National Portrait Gallery, WC2H 0HE. The trench was excavated over a period in January 2019 as an exercise to inform upon ground conditions and constraints in advance of submitting planning permission for proposed future development.
- 1.2 The site consisted of the forecourt on the northern side of the National Portrait Gallery, centred at TQ 2995 8057. The site was located within a Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area (APA 1.2: Lundenwic and the Strand) as defined by the Historic England APA appraisal.
- 1.3 The inspection trench was excavated by hand by the arboriculturist's contractor and monitored by an archaeologist from Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), following a methodology outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2019).
- 1.4 A section of the trench was drawn at 1:10, showing the location of all archaeological features. All deposits were recorded on pro-forma context sheets.
- 1.5 PCA were commissioned for the work by Mike Hutchinson of Mills Whipp Projects, the project was managed for PCA by Helen Hawkins and supervised by Rosemary Banens.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 2.1.1 The earliest deposit exposed within trench was a rubble demolition layer, [1]. A loose light-mid grey brown sandy silt, it contained frequent brick rubble and mortar fragment; a brick recovered from this layer has been spot dated to 1780-1900 (pers. comm. A. Valcarcel). Recorded in section at a maximum depth of 0.55m below ground level (BGL), the layer measured at least 0.35m thick, continuing down below the limit of excavation. It is likely that this layer relates to the demolition of St. Martin's Workhouse in 1871.
- 2.1.2 Sealing this layer was a loose mid-dark grey silty sand layer [2]. Although it contained occasional pottery, glass, and animal bone, concrete fragments were also recorded in this levelling layer. Both the pottery and the glass were spot dated to the mid-late 19th century, while the bones were identified as likely from a sheep (pers. comm C. Jarrett; pers. comm. K. Rielly). This 0.25m thick layer was only recorded in section and encountered at 0.30m BGL.
- 2.1.3 Sealing the trench and overlying [2] was a 0.30m thick layer of topsoil [1]. A friable mid-grey brown sandy clayey silt this layer only contained occasional small stones. The topsoil was capped by turf.

Plate 1: General view of trench, looking south-east



Plate 2: South-west facing section of trench



Plate 3: North-east facing section



Plate 4: Backfilled portion of trench, looking south-east



Plate 5: North-east facing section of trench, with measuring tape for scale



3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 Although an archaeological horizon was encountered at the base of the trench in the form of a demolition deposit, no remains earlier than the late 19th century were recorded. This layer appears to be associated with the demolition of St. Martin's Workhouse in 1871. St. Martin's Workhouse was built on the site in 1724, occupying the site until its removal to make way for an extension of the National Gallery.
- 3.2 Overlying this demolition layer was a levelling layer containing animal bone, mid-late 19th century pottery and glass, and fragments of concrete; it is likely that this layer relates to the alteration of the road layout surrounding the site in the late 19th century. The trench was capped by a layer of sterile topsoil.
- 3.3 Tree roots observed within the trench were primarily located within the late 19th century levelling layer, though in one instance a tree root was recorded extending down into the base of the trench.
- 3.4 The natural geology underlying the site was not reached, as the trench only extended a maximum of 0.90m below ground level. Remains pre-dating the late 19th century were not encountered, and it is unlikely that earlier archaeological horizons would be present within the proposed 0.70m impact depth.

4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hawkins, H. 2019. *National Portrait Gallery, Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HE: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Pre-Construct Archaeology: unpublished report

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 5.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to Mike Hutchinson of Mills Whipp Projects for commissioning the project and to the team excavating the trench for their cooperation.
- 5.2 Thanks are also given to Helen Hawkins for her project management, Mick Steel for the illustrations, Chis Jarrett for the pottery and glass spot dates, Kevin Rielly for the animal bone comments, and Amparo Valcarcel for the CBM.





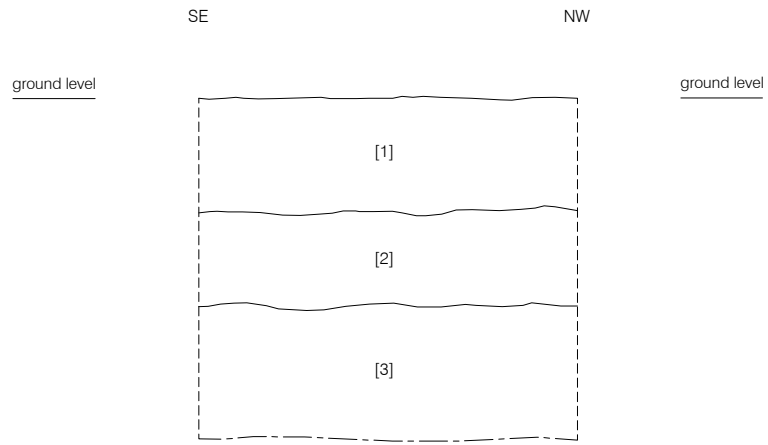
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24/01/19 MR

Figure 2
Detailed Site and Trench Location
1:250 at A4



Section 1
Northeast Facing



APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-340618

Project details

Project name	National Portrait Gallery
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring undertaken in January 2019 during hand excavation of an inspection trench for assessment of tree roots prior to the submission of planning permission for proposed development of the forecourt on the northern side of the National Portrait Gallery. The earliest deposit encountered was a demolition layer associated with the demolition of St. Martin's Workhouse in 1871; this was sealed by a late 19th century levelling layer, which in turn was capped by topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 22-01-2019 End: 22-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER CITY OF WESTMINSTER National Portrait Gallery
Postcode	WC2H 0HE
Study area	0 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 2998 8058 51.508682813909 -0.126821369289 51 30 31 N 000 07
36 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project design originator Helen Hawkins

Project director/manager Helen Hawkins

Project supervisor Rosemary Banens

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Mills Whipp Projects

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAA

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","other"

Digital Archive recipient LAA

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient LAA

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Section"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	National Portrait Gallery, Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HE: Summary of an Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Banens, R.
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
<hr/>	
Entered by	archive (archive@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	23 January 2019

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Context Type	Thickness	Maximum Height	Minimum Height	Interpretation
1	Layer	0.30m	-	-	Topsoil
2	Layer	0.25m	0.3m BGL	0.4m BGL	Levelling Layer
3	Layer	0.35m	0.55m BGL	0.65m BGL	Demolition Layer