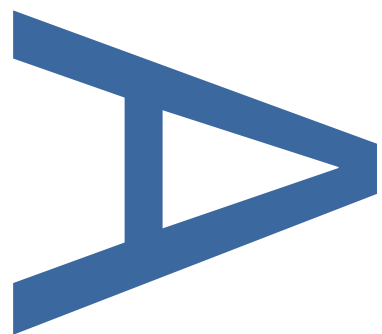
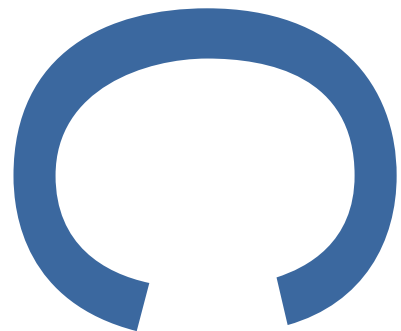


**24 LAWRENCE STREET,
CHELSEA,
LONDON,
SW3 5NF**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

SITE CODE: WRC19

JUNE 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY


DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

24 LAWRENCE STREET, CHELSEA, LONDON, SW3 5NF

Type of project

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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An Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: WRC19

Planning Application Number: DC/14/089534

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 27119 77705

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2019**

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June 2019

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at 24 Lawrence Street, Chelsea, London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, SW3 5NF. The area of the investigation was located within the basement of the property and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 27119 77705.
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted between November and April 2019. The work was commissioned by West Hill Projects Ltd.
- 1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Stevenson, 2016) and was commissioned in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to full planning permission for the proposed scheme (application number DC/14/089534).
- 1.4 The works comprised of the reduction of post-medieval backfill and brickwork within the basement of the current residential structure.
- 1.5 Natural gravel was seen across the area at a maximum height of 2.66m below finished floor level.
- 1.6 No anthropogenic activity predating the 17th century was observed. The monitoring revealed structure of most likely 19th century basement and its later, post WWII backfill.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Monmouth House, 24 Lawrence Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5NF. The site is located within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 27119 77705.
- 2.2 The work was conducted in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to full planning permission for the proposed scheme (LB Kensington and Chelsea Planning Ref. DC/14/089534).
- 2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned for the watching brief by West Hill Projects Ltd. A Written Scheme of Investigation for the watching brief was prepared by PCA and approved by the archaeology advisor to the local planning authority, Mark Stevenson of Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.4 The site comprises a rectangular plot of land currently occupied by a domestic residence. The site is bounded by Lawrence Street to the west, and adjacent properties to north, east and south.
- 2.5 Site records were compiled using the unique site code WRC19. Following the completion of the project the site archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under that code.
- 2.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- *Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Watching Brief at Monmouth House, 24 Lawrence Street, Kensington and Chelsea* (PCA Limited 2016)
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016)
 - *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service HE GLAAS 2015)
 - *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014).
 - *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual*, (Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited; Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009).
- 2.7 The project was managed for PCA by Zbigniew Pozorski. The watching brief was supervised by the author.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 3.1 According to the British Geological Survey of England and Wales (BGS) the solid geology on the site comprises London Clay Formation - clay and silt. The superficial deposits are listed as Kempton Park Gravel Formation - Sand and Gravel (river terrace gravels).

Topography

- 3.2 The topography of the surrounding area is relatively flat and pavement level near the site is thought to lie at c. 7m above Ordnance Datum (OD). Lawrence Street itself slopes gradually towards the River Thames, roughly 200m to the south of the site.
- 3.3 The site comprises a rectangular plot of land currently occupied by a domestic residence. The site is bounded by Lawrence Street to the west, and adjacent properties to north, east and south.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 4.1 Isolated finds of prehistoric date have been recovered from excavations in the vicinity, mainly as stray finds in later deposits, but two pits excavated at All Saints Church (site code OCU00), c 100m to the south of the site, are thought to be of prehistoric date. Previous archaeological work in the vicinity indicates that the site has some potential for the discovery of in situ archaeological prehistoric remains. Residual prehistoric material was recovered from excavations at 36A Glebe Place (site code GBE12) located c 30m to the north of the site.

Roman

- 4.2 While the site is located some distance from the nearest Roman road, it is located close to the bank of the Thames, which would have been a major route way used in the Roman period. Archaeological remains from the Roman period have been recorded in the immediate vicinity and might be found on site. In situ Roman features indicative of rural settlement were recorded including pits and ditches were found at All Saints Church (site code OCU00) and at 6–16 Old Church Street (site code OCR97), c 120m south of the site a Roman ditch was recorded containing 3rd century AD Roman pottery

Saxon

- 4.3 Archaeological remains from the Saxon period have been recorded in the immediate vicinity. The possible remains of Saxon structures were recorded at 6–16 Old Church Street to the south-west of the site (site code ORC97). The site is located on the presumed edge of the Saxon/medieval settlement, the core of which lay around the old church, but these limits have not been confirmed archaeologically.

Medieval

- 4.4 There is documentary evidence for a church at Chelsea in 1157, but the first specific record of the church is in 1290. The Old Church was originally dedicated to All Saints but became St Luke's in the 17th century and is located c 120m to the south of the site. The settlement by the church and the river remained the heart of the known area of settlement in the parish. The site is likely to have been either within or on the fringes of the medieval settlement, which is thought to have extended to the north of Lawrence Street, which seems to have formed the edge of manor house's boundary. The manor house appears to have been located towards the southern end of Lawrence Street. The site is thought to be located on the presumed limits of the medieval settlement and evidence of medieval activity may well be present on the site, possibly associated with agricultural or industrial activity.

Post-medieval

- 4.5 Hamilton's map of Chelsea, drawn between 1664 and 1717, shows settlement clustered around the church and radiating out along the waterfront to the east and west, and along Church Lane, the modern-day Old Church Street, to the north. Lawrence Street is shown on this map and although areas of Lawrence Street had been developed by this date the site would appear to have not as yet been built on.
- 4.6 Chelsea manor house stood near the church. According to a 1717 parish map it was in Lawrence st, which runs behind the present church. Lawrence st was so named after a family that once inhabited the manor house. in the reign of Edward the confessor, the manor of Chelsea was given to the abbot and convent of Westminster by Thurston, who held it from the king (although it is possible that the document stating this is a forgery.) the old manor house was bought by sir Thomas Lawrence from henry viii. after the Lawrence's sold it, it changed hands many times, but still existed in the late 17th century. It was demolished by 1704.
- 4.7 Excavation at 36A Glebe Place (site code GBE12) revealed evidence of a building most probably dated to the late 17th century at the west of the site.
- 4.8 Roque's map of 1746 shows further development around the site, buildings had appeared on the south side of Upper Cheyne Row, and a right-angled road called Cook's Ground, later renamed Glebe Place, and had been laid out. Greenwoods 1824 map shows the row of terraces including no. 18 on the eastern side of Lawrence Street. The row of terraces was most probably constructed in the early 19th century and this area of Lawrence Street is shown as relatively unchanged in the later 19th century and early 20th century. The London County Council bomb damage maps shows the site as suffering general blast damage (not structural) during World War II.
- 4.9 Monmouth House itself was originally occupied by the Duchess of Monmouth, later occupants included the writer Tobias Smollett and Nicholas Sprimont, owner of the famous Chelsea China factory from 1747 to 1769. Part of the building was also used as a showroom for the porcelain works. The building was demolished in 1835 to create Upper Cheyne Row.

- 4.10 The site of the factory has been located at the west side of the river end of Lawrence Street. Faulkner says it was at the corner of Justice Walk, a portion of the river frontage running east from Lawrence Street to Church Street, and that it 'occupied the houses to the upper end of the street,' i.e. Lawrence Street. Part of the works was situated in Cheyne Row West, where large quantities of broken figures and bases were found during some excavations in 1843. Sometime between 1750 and 1754 a warehouse was opened in Pall Mall for the sale of the Chelsea ware, and by February 1757 the warehouse had removed to Piccadilly. The Chelsea China Works have been deemed of national importance.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The proposed methodology of the archaeological work was detailed in the site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2016). The watching brief was carried out to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development, and to assess and record the nature and extent of archaeological remains.
- 5.2 Reduction of subfloor deposits and structures were conducted under the supervision on the attendant archaeologist. The basement area was excavated sequentially. Any potential archaeological features or deposits encountered within the excavation area were cleaned and investigated by hand and recorded by the attending archaeologist. However, investigation of the archaeological features and deposits was restricted due to a nature of the backfill where the excavated parts of the basement had to be immediately secured due to a loose rubble backfill.
- 5.3 All recording systems adopted during the investigation were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea; presented in PCAs *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor & Brown 2009, updated 2018). A selective section of each test pit was drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10 in order to illustrate the observed sequences, modern disturbance and current ground level. In addition to a series of digital photographs recording the encountered deposits a written record of each deposit was also produced. Location of the section drawing was located by offsetting from the internal walls and plotted onto OS mapping data by CAD.
- 5.4 Following the completion of all phases of fieldwork and reporting the project archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) with the unique site code WRC19.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 6.1 No prehistoric, or Roman, or Medieval activity was present in the areas monitored over the course of the watching brief. Any archaeology present above natural deposits would have been truncated during the construction of the housing currently occupying the site.
- 6.2 The earliest deposit observed was a natural yellow sandy gravel [102] recorded in one small test pit directly underlying basement level, at a maximum height of 2.66m below finished floor level.
- 6.3 The natural layer was sealed by the basement floor, which extended across the footprint of the study area. The basement floor was present at 2.55m below existing ground floor level.
- 6.4 A brick wall [100] with partitioning extensions believed to be cold storage units, was present 1.00m below the present finished floor level of the current structure. The partitions extended towards the south, with the latter part having been robbed out or otherwise removed. No continuation of the partitions was visible along the southern basement perimeter.
- 6.5 The brick wall and partitions, as well as the extent of the basement of the structure was entirely backfilled with a mid-brown sandy silt [101] up to the current floor level. Pottery fragments, animal bone, glass and clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the deposit, with the most recent sherd dating to the late 19th to 20th centuries (Pers, Comm. Jarret, C. 2019)



Plate 1: Basement backfill [101], looking north



Plate 2: Wall [100] and partitions, looking north-west



Plate 3: Wall [100], looking north-west



Plate 4: One of the excavated pits within the basement.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The watching brief has demonstrated that the construction of the current residential units has had a detrimental effect on any archaeological horizons which may have existed, causing horizontal truncation down to the natural deposits. The effect of this has been the total removal of any archaeological deposits or features that may have been present within the area of investigation.
- 7.2 The row of houses currently occupying the study area is believed to have been constructed in the early 19th or early 20th century. London County Council bomb damage maps show the site suffering blast damage during World War II (PCA 2016). The disuse and infilling of the basement area may have been an attempt to mitigate structural damage sustained during the bombing.
- 7.3 No archaeological finds or features predating the 17th century were seen within the area monitored. The latest artefact recovered dated the deposit to the late 19th-20th century, consistent with the dates of construction of the housing and WWII damaged in the area.
- 7.4 Once the project is deemed complete and this report approved by Historic England on behalf of the local planning authority, the completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will eventually be deposited by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited with LAARC under site code WRC19.
- 7.5 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the London Archaeologist 'Round Up'.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank West Hill Projects Ltd for commissioning the work.
- 8.2 The author would also like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for project management and editing, and Ray Murphey for the illustrations.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

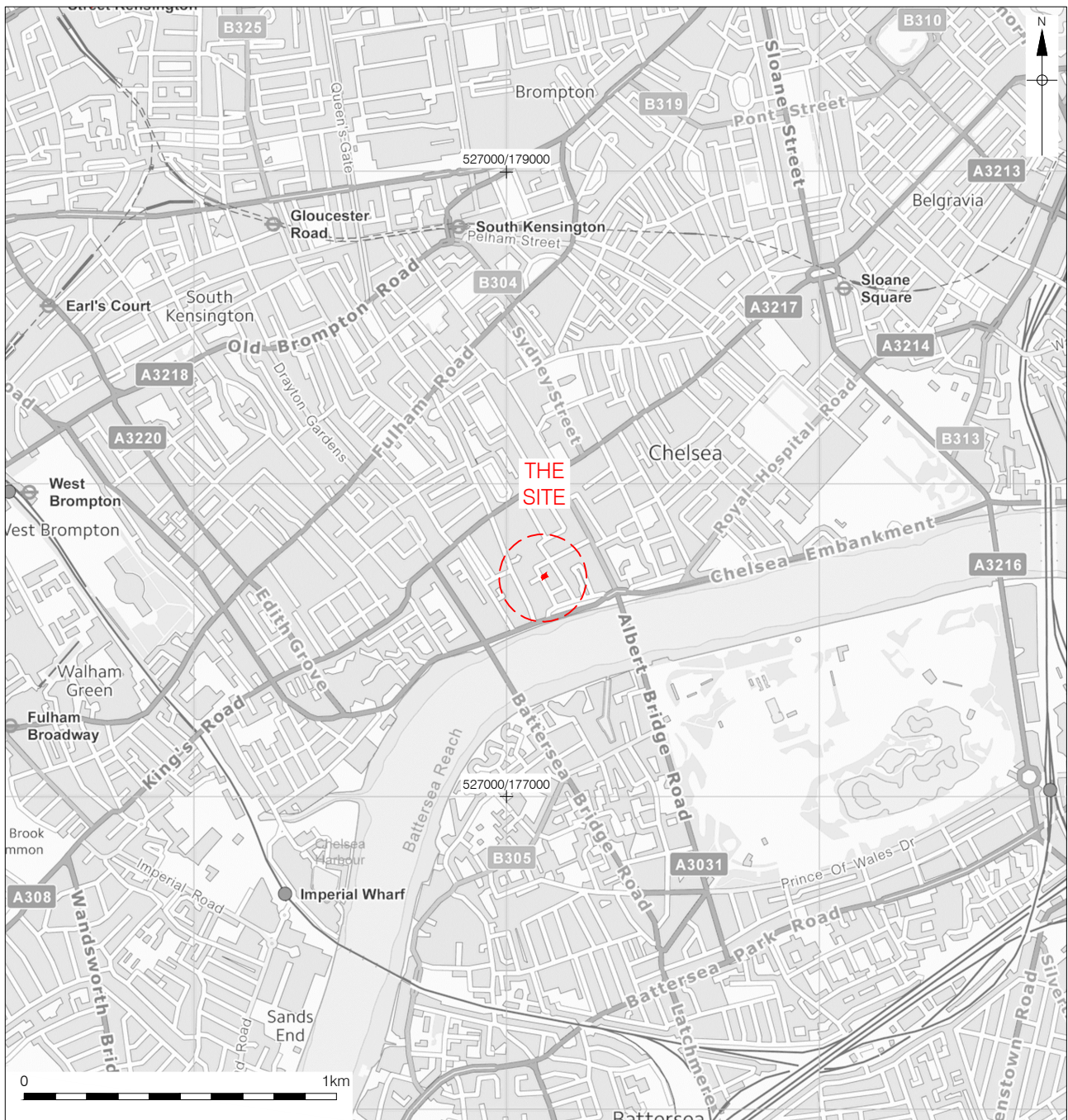
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10 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Context Type	Interpretation	Context Category	Height (m) BGL			
100	Masonry	Wall		1.00			
101	Fill	Levelling		1.00			
102	Layer	Natural		2.66			

11 APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-354107

Project details

Project name	Monmouth House, 24 Lawrence street
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in the basement of the property at 24 Lawrence Street, Chelsea, London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, SW3 5NF. The watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The earliest deposit observed was a natural yellow sandy gravel recorded in one small test pit directly underlying basement level, at a maximum height of 2.66m below finished floor level. No prehistoric, or Roman, or Medieval activity was present in the areas monitored over the course of the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 01-01-2019 End: 25-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WRC19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA CHELSEA Monmouth House, 24 Lawrence Street
Postcode	SW3 5NF
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 27119 77705 51.483494838186 -0.169065074252 51 29 00 N 000 10 08 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.66m Max: 2.66m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	PCA
Project design originator	Gemma Stevenson
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Chloe Sinclair

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Plan"

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Entered on 5 June 2019

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