

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

Rolls House and Arnold House, 4-6 Breams Buildings, City of London, EC4

Type of project

Watching Brief

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K1469
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Paul Morrison		23/5/08
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Graphics Checked by:	Peter Moore	<i>Peter Moore</i>	11/6/08
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**Rolls House and Arnold House, 4 – 6 Breams Buildings, City of London:
An Archaeological Watching Brief (3rd Phase)**

**Site Code: RLH 01
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3125 8132**

**Written by Paul Morrison
Project Manager: Peter Moore
May 2008**

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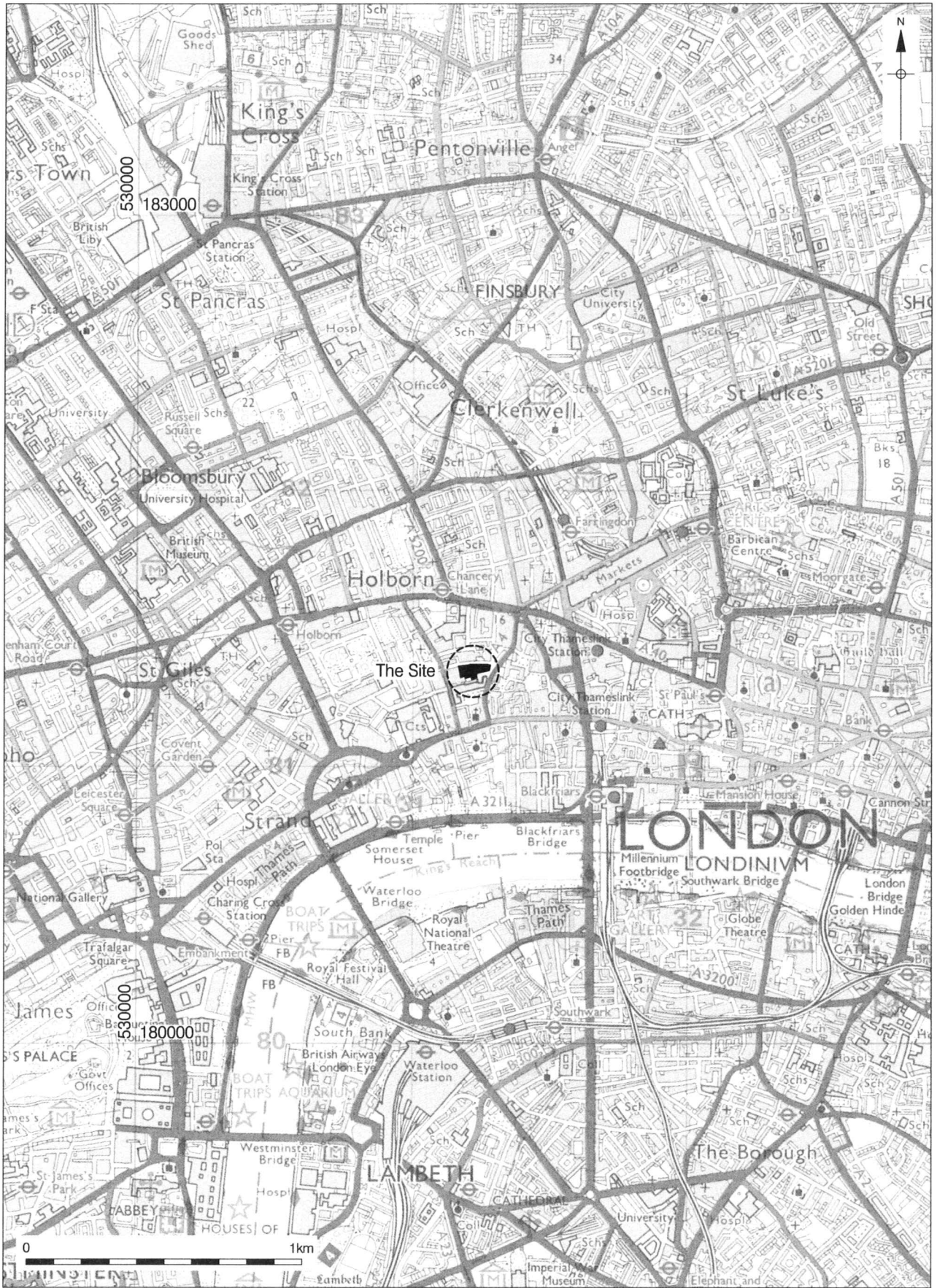
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of the final archaeological watching brief on ground works at the Rolls House and Arnold House, at Rolls Buildings and Breems Buildings, Fetter Lane, City of London EC4, undertaken intermittently from the 20th June 2007 to 29th of April 2008.
- 1.2 The works included monitoring pile probing, test pits, ground reduction and an attempt to take a soil sample using an archaeological auger.
- 1.3 The pile probing exercise revealed modern deposits while the test pits revealed footings for the northern wall of the basement of the Rolls Building. The ground reduction area revealed modern rubble deposits and a concrete basement foundation. As with the other three earlier archaeological investigations on the site no archaeological deposits or structures were found in any of the holes observed. The auger sampling failed to recover any archaeological or natural deposits due to extensive truncation.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A third phase of archaeological watching briefs was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the Arnold House, at Rolls Buildings and 4 – 8 Breams Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4, National Grid Reference TQ 3125 8132. These consisted of (1) the observation and recording of four areas of pile probing and the subsequent excavation of four test pits between the 20th and 27th of June 2007; (2) the archaeological monitoring, between the 20th of September 2007 and the 29th of April 2008, of the ground reduction in the eastern garden of the Arnold Building; (3) the attempt to sample peat previously seen towards the south of the site in Borehole 3 (see Appendix 4), but after several attempts to find a location without concrete inclusions, the auger failed to locate the peat.
- 2.2 The pile probing, test pits and ground reduction were archaeologically monitored to ascertain, and record, the extent of archaeological evidence within the study area.
- 2.3 This archaeological watching brief was the culmination of a long archaeological investigation undertaken at this site between 2001 and 2008. The first part of the investigation consisted of an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, written by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting (Chadwick 2001; summarised in Chapters 4 and 5 of this report), which set out the archaeological potential for the area and site.
- 2.4 This was followed by three archaeological investigations: a watching brief on boreholes in 2001 (see Appendix 2), a watching brief on a test pit and boreholes in 2004 (see Appendix 3) and an evaluation in 2005 (see Appendix 4).
- 2.5 The final stage of investigation (third phase of watching brief) reported here was preceded by a Method Statement for this Archaeological Watching Brief (Moore 2007), and was commissioned by Paul Chadwick, CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Delancey Arnold Company.
- 2.6 The watching brief was undertaken by the author, with augering works by ArchaeoScape and was project managed by Peter Moore. The site code is RLH 01.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The archaeological works (desk based assessment report, fieldwork watching briefs and evaluation, and post-excavation reporting) were undertaken towards satisfying an archaeological condition, imposed on the planning permission granted for the redevelopment of the site by the Corporation of London.

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The geological and topographical and archaeological background of the site and surrounding area has been detailed within an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment written by Paul Chadwick of CgMs (Chadwick 2001), and is summarised below.

4.2 Geology

4.2.1 The site is underlain by London Clay, above this lies a series of gravel terraces, which is capped by Brickearth.

4.2.2 In the vicinity of the site, the gravel terrace is classified as the Taplow / Mucking Terrace and is generally at approximately 11m to 15m OD.

4.2.3 The Brickearth capping the gravels is about 2m thick. However, it has frequently been truncated by quarrying, prehistoric and Roman agriculture and the construction of modern basemented buildings.

4.2.4 To the east of the study site, the thickness and extent of terrace gravel and Brickearth deposits have been modified by erosion from the River Fleet and its tributary streams.

4.3 Topography

4.3.1 The topography of the area suggests that it occupies part of a gently sloping gravel/brickearth terrace. At the junction of Breems Buildings and Fetter Lane the level is 17.9m OD. This level is constant to the west and to the south the level steadily drops to 13m OD on Fleet Street and to the north it rises to 18.5m at Holborn. To the east the level drops to 12m OD on Shoe Lane.

4.3.2 Past observations of the underlying gravels suggest that a tributary valley of the River Fleet extends into this area, and recent excavations have confirmed that a water feature, perhaps a fishpond, within a shallow valley occurs nearby.

4.3.3 The upper surface of the garden at the front of Arnold House slopes from 18.18mOD in the north to 17.98m OD in the south.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric occupation or artefactual evidence from the study site. However, excavations in the City of London regularly recover prehistoric artefactual remains.

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 The site lies outside the walls of the Roman City of *Londinium* and it is unlikely that core settlement or roads of this period are present. Recent research suggests that it is unlikely that cemetery remains are present either. However quarry pits associated with brickearth and gravel extraction may be present.

5.3 Saxon – Medieval

5.3.1 Neither Saxon nor early medieval structural or artefactual evidence are likely to be present as the site was thought to be open fields during this period.

5.4 Post-Medieval

5.4.1 During the Elizabethan period the area around the study site underwent a period of urbanisation due to increased prosperity.

5.4.2 By the mid 1600's the Holborn area was characterised by slums. During the Great Fire of London the buildings around Fetter Lane were blown up to provide fire breaks. Since then subsequent buildings have been demolished and built on the area of the site.

5.4.3 It is likely that much archaeological strata has been impacted upon by previous development of the site and existing buildings contain single or double basements (G. Brown 2001).

6 OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 To establish whether the ground has been impacted upon by 18th century or later basement cellars in areas external to the buildings.
- 6.2 If so, to determine whether any archaeological strata has survived below the cellar/basement levels in these areas and below the basement levels of the current buildings.
- 6.3 If possible to ascertain the nature of Roman land uses at the site.
- 6.4 If possible to ascertain the nature of Saxon and early medieval land uses at the site.
- 6.5 If possible to ascertain the nature of later medieval and post medieval land use.
- 6.6 To establish the main archaeological focus for the later medieval and post medieval periods where structural development for the area can be attested.
- 6.7 To try and recover and analyse a sample of the peat deposit seen in the south of the site.

7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The basement investigation area was within the existing basement at the Breams Buildings side of the development site. The pile probing area was located along the north side of the existing basement. Four areas of concrete were broken out to a maximum depth of 0.34m and the levels below were investigated and recorded.
- 7.2 Test Pit 1 was located at the northwestern corner of the basement pile probe investigation area, and it measured approximately 1.30m x 1.45m x 1.40m. Test Pit 2 was approximately 2m x 1m x 1.19m. Test Pit 3 was approximately 1.50m x 1.23m x 1.23m. Test Pit 4 1.10m x 1.48m x 0.92m . All the pits were hand excavated and were intended to locate the footings of the basement wall, but were not excavated down to the natural.
- 7.3 The ground reduction area was located within the garden at the Fetter Lane frontage of Arnold House where an area measuring 20m x 4m x 4.50m deep was machine excavated. The excavations themselves and all material brought to the surface were observed and the stratigraphic sequence and changes were recorded. This was the only area where natural soil was encountered.
- 7.4 An attempt to take an auger sample at the southern part of the site, to try and further define and sample a thin layer of peat that had been recorded in a previous borehole, was hampered by the severe truncation of the area by modern intrusions, concrete obstructions and basements. Where finally the auger sampling could be undertaken without obstructions it was found that no archaeological soils survived, but rather that a large truncation was filled with modern make-up material. No natural deposits were encountered either.
- 7.5 A Bench Mark with a value of 18.09m OD is located on the south side of Rolls Buildings. The basement floor level for the four test pits was found to be 16.65m OD

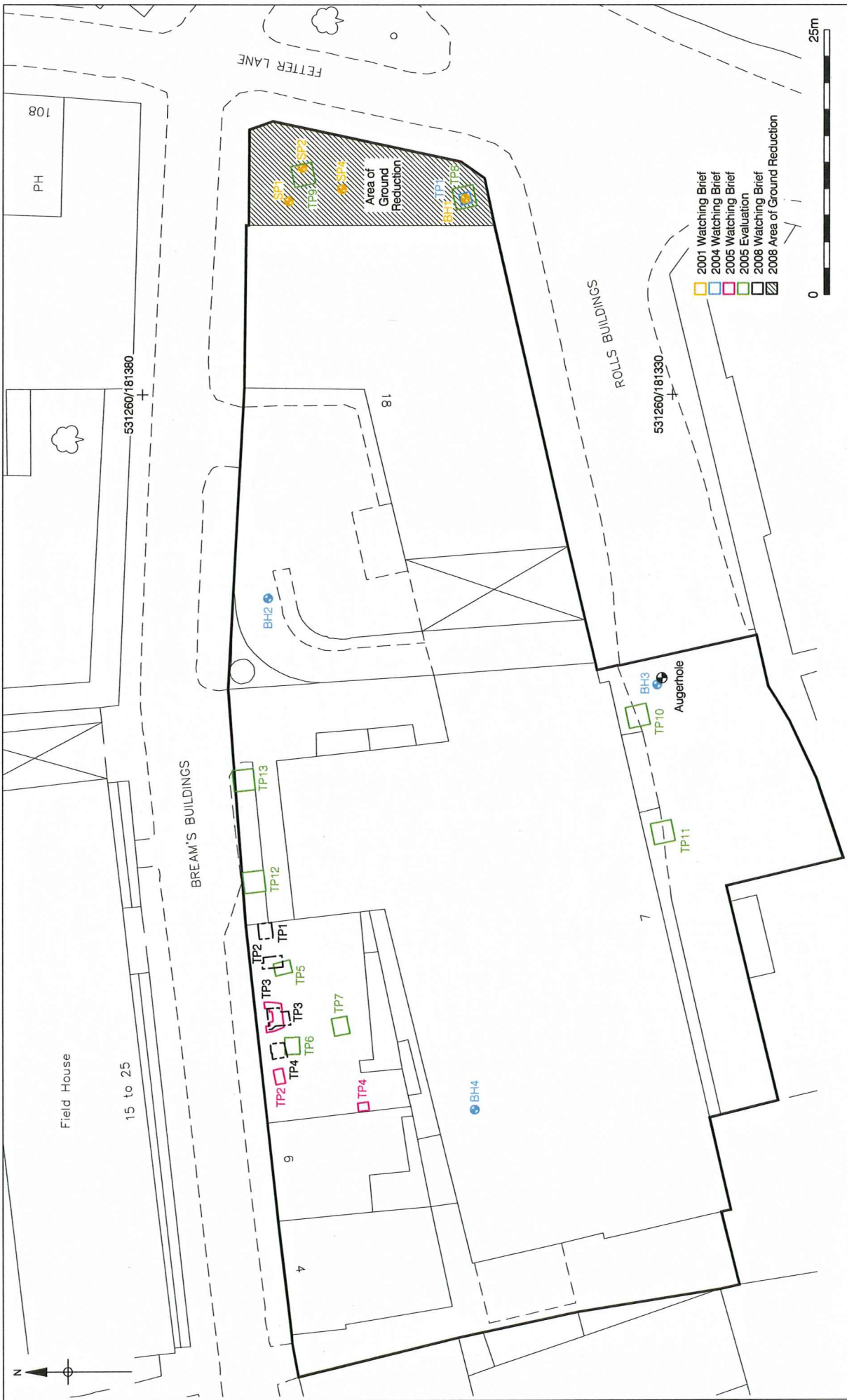


Figure 2
Area of Ground Reduction
and Test Pit Location
1:500 at A4

8 RESULTS

- 8.1 In Test Pit 1 (16.65m OD) the earliest deposit was a layer of mid brown sandy silt with moderate amounts of flint inclusions (1007) which was interpreted as a 19th century dump layer. Above this was a light orangey brown gravel layer (1006). Directly above that was a construction cut for the north wall foundation of the basement (1005). Wall footing (1016) had been back filled with a dark brown sandy silt layer (1004) that contained occasional oyster shell and animal bone inclusions. Above that was a mid brown silty layer, (1003) which was interpreted as a modern make up. Sealing these layers were two layers of concrete, (1002) and (1001) (See Figure 4, Section 1).
- 8.2 In Test Pit 2 (16.65m OD) the earliest deposit was a layer of mid brown sandy silt with occasional flint inclusions (1011), which was interpreted as a 19th century dump layer. Above this was a light orangey brown gravel layer (1010). Directly above that was a construction cut for the north wall foundation of the basement (1009). Wall footing (1016) had been back filled with a dark brown sandy silt layer (1008) which contained occasional angular and sub angular gravels with moderate amounts of animal bone and oyster shell inclusions. Sealing these layers were concrete layers (1002) and (1001) (See Figure 4, Section 2).
- 8.3 In Test Pit 3 (16.65m OD) the earliest deposit was a layer of mid brown silty sand (1014) with occasional flint inclusions (1011), it was interpreted as a 19th century dump layer. Directly above that was a construction cut for the north wall foundation of the basement (1013). Wall footing (1016) had been back filled with a dark brown sandy silt layer (1012) which contained occasional angular and sub angular gravels and contained moderate amounts of animal bone and oyster shell inclusions. Sealing these layers were concrete layers (1002) and (1001) (See Figure 4, Section 3).
- 8.4 In Test Pit 4 (16.65m OD) the footings of the basement wall (1016) and the backfill of the construction cut were visible in section, (1015) however the construction cut was not visible (See Figure 4, Section 4).
- 8.5 In the area where the ground reduction took place the earliest deposit was a layer of yellow gravels (1021) this was recorded as natural gravels, above this was a concrete basement floor (1020). Directly above that was a thick layer of rubble backfill (1019). A loose topsoil layer was recorded above this (1019).
- 8.6 An area of built up demolition rubble was also removed to formation level which was at 14.50 OD in the garden area of the Arnold building. This was reduced to the top of the natural gravels at 12.30mOD. No archaeological features were observed.

9 CONCLUSION

- 9.1 No archaeological deposits or structures were observed during these works. As predicted in the Desk-Top Assessment, wall footings and basements have removed the archaeological potential of the site, which has been confirmed by the various phases of watching brief.
- 9.2 This ties in with previous watching briefs made in 2004 that had established the garden of the Fetter Lane frontage of the Arnold House had recent material overlaying a solid barrier of modern date. (McCellen 2001, Maher, 2005 and Boyer 2004) Where natural gravels were exposed no features were located

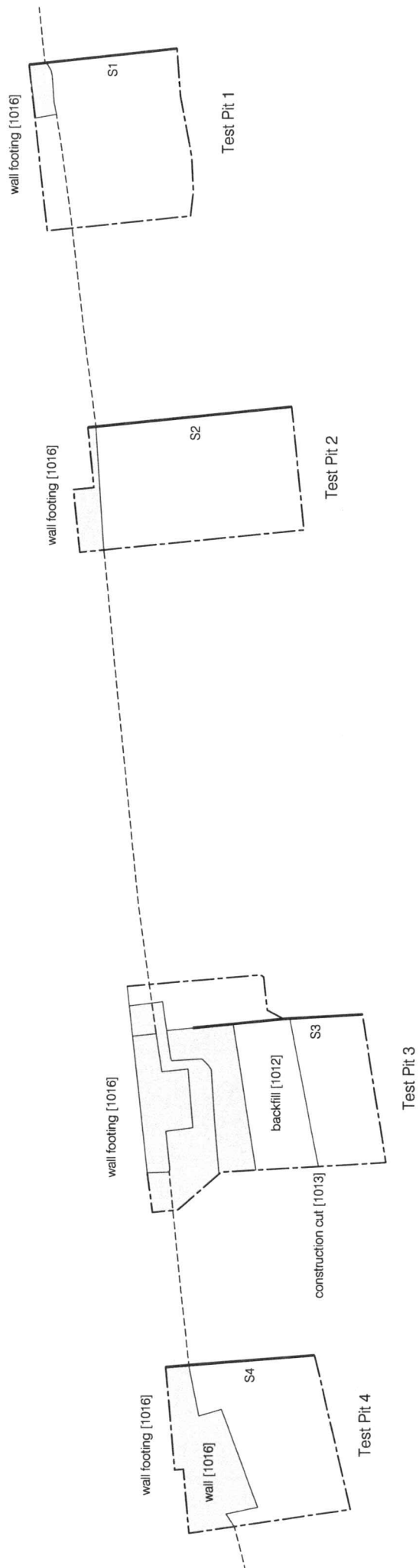
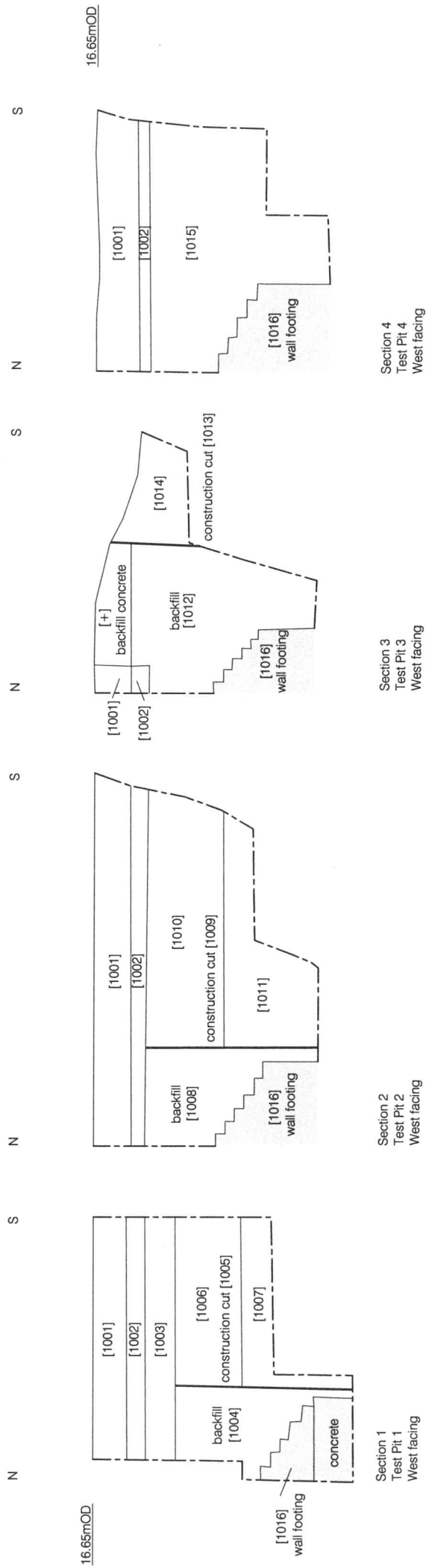


Figure 3
Plan of Test Pits 1 - 4
1:50 at A4



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Figure 4
Sections 1 - 4
1:30 at A4

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology and the author would like to thank Delancy Arnold Company for funding the watching brief, Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the works and his support throughout. The author would like to thank Peter Moore for project management and editing, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and ArchaeoScape for the auger work. Special thanks are due to Matthew Sulliman of Carillion for all his help and support on site.

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APPENDIX 1 - OASIS REPORTING FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst1-41625

Project details

Project name Rolls and Arnold House

Short description of the project Watching brief on pile probing, four test pits and an area of ground reduction at the Rolls House and Arnold House, at the Rolls Buildings and Breams Buildings, Fetter Lane, City of London EC4 intermittently from the 20th of June 2007 to the 29th of April 2008.

Project dates Start: 20-06-2007 End: 29-06-2008

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes RLH-01 - Sitecode

Type of project Watching brief

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Monument type BASEMENTS Modern

Methods & techniques 'Test Pits'

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Work the result of an archaeological planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Rolls and Arnold
Postcode	EC 4A
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3125 8132 51.5150394208 -0.108254160784 51 30 54 N 000 06 29 W Point
Height OD	Min: 14.30m Max: 14.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consultants Ltd
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	Paul Morrison
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC

Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Rolls House and Arnold House, 4-6 Breams Buildings, City of London:
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Morrison,P.
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 unpublished client report

Entered by	Peter Moore (pmoore@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	11 June 2008

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APPENDIX 2 – Report – D McLennan, “An archaeological watching brief of two engineering boreholes at Rolls House & Arnold House, 4-8 Breems Buildings City of London EC4”, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report, September 2001

An archaeological watching brief of two engineering boreholes at Rolls House & Arnold House, 4 - 8 Breems Buildings City of London EC4.

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3125 8132

Written by Dominic McLennan

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Project Manager: Gary Brown

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September 2001

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ABSTRACT

This report details the background and findings one exploratory borehole inserted by FES (Foundation and Exploratory Services) and four starter pits within an existing garden at the frontage of Arnold House on Fetter Lane in the City of London EC4 (Fig 1), on the 10th September 2001.

The borehole and pits were monitored to record evidence of surviving archaeological strata. Due to solid obstructions encountered at a relatively high level four starter pits were dug in order to find an area of soft ground. This proved to be difficult and only one borehole was augered to any depth (Borehole 1). Although no archaeology was found the material extracted by the rig indicates that a cellar or basement exists beneath the study area.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on the 10.09.01. The site is situated at the garden frontage of Arnold House, 4-8 Breams Buildings London EC4, National Grid Reference TQ3125 8132 (Fig 1).
- 1.2 The boreholes aimed to ascertain the extent of archaeological evidence within the study area. The borehole and starter pits were undertaken in advance of proposed redevelopment and to meet the requirements of Policy Planning Guidance16 (PPG16) and the London Unitary Development Plan (UDP).
- 1.3 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was written by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting and a Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief was written by Gary Brown of PCA.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:10,000

2.0 Planning Background

- 2.1 The work undertaken out by Pre-Construct Archaeology and FES conformed to the Department of the environment Planning Policy Guidance Notice 16 (PPG16). Which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 2.2 Furthermore, the work conformed to the requirements of the Development Plan policy framework provided by the City of London Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Details of the policies are contained within the CgMs Desk Based Assessment (Chadwick 2001).
- 2.3 The purpose of the investigation was to inform on the ground conditions at this location, and if possible, to extrapolate approximate stratigraphic horizons to other areas of the site.

3.0 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL

3.1 The geological and topographical background of the site and surrounding area has been detailed within an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment written by Paul Chadwick of CgMs, this report will summarise the information.

3.2 Geology

3.2.1 The site is underlain by London clay, above this lies a series of gravel terraces, which is capped by Brickearth.

3.2.3 In the vicinity of the site, the gravel terrace is classified as the Taplow / Mucking Terrace and is generally at approximately 11 to 15m OD.

3.2.4 The Brickearth capping the gravels is about 2m thick. However, it has frequently been truncated by quarrying, prehistoric and Roman agriculture and the construction of modern basemented buildings.

3.2.5 To the east of the study site, the thickness and extent of terrace gravel and Brickearth deposits have been modified by erosion from the River Fleet and its tributary streams (Chadwick 2001).

3.3 Topography

3.3.1 The topography of the area suggests that it occupies part of a gently sloping gravel/brickearth terrace. At the junction of Breams Buildings and Fetter Lane the level is 17.9m OD. This level is constant to the west and to the south the level steadily drops to 13m OD on Fleet Street and to the north it rises to 18.5m at Holborn. To the east the level drops to 12m OD on Shoe Lane.

3.3.2 Past observations of the underlying gravels suggest that a tributary valley of the River Fleet extends into this area, and recent excavations have confirmed that a water feature, perhaps a fishpond, within a shallow valley occurs here (Chadwick 2001).

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric

4.1.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric occupation or artefactual evidence from the study site. However, excavations at the City of London regularly recover prehistoric artefactual remains. No prehistoric evidence was found, as the rig could not penetrate through the relatively modern structures.

4.2 Roman

4.2.1 The site lies outside the walls of the Roman City of *Londinium* and it is unlikely that core settlement or roads of this period are present. Recent research suggests that it is unlikely that cemetery remains are present either. However quarry pits associated with brickearth and gravel extraction may be present. No evidence for Roman activities was found, as the rig could not penetrate through to the underlying strata.

4.3 Saxon – Medieval

4.3.1 Neither Saxon nor early Medieval structural or artefactual evidence are likely to be present as the site was thought to be open field during this period (Chadwick 2001). Once again no archaeological evidence was discovered due to the rig not being able to penetrate to the underlying strata.

4.4 Post Medieval

4.4.1 During the Elizabethan period the area around the study site underwent a period of urbanisation due to increased prosperity.

4.4.2 By the mid 1600's the Holborn area characterised by slums, during the Great Fire of London the area buildings around Fetter Lane were blown up to provide fire breaks. Since then subsequent buildings have been demolished and built on the area of the site.

4.4.3 It is likely that much archaeological strata has been impacted upon by previous development of the site and existing buildings contain single or double basements (G. Brown 2001).

4.4.4 No archaeological evidence was discovered, however it is likely that the obstruction that stopped the rig at 3.30m below surface was a basement/cellar floor, c 18th century or later.

5.0 OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 To establish whether, within the garden area, the ground has been impacted upon by 18th century or later basement cellars.
- 5.2 If so, to determine whether any archaeological strata has survived below the cellar/basement levels.
- 5.3 If possible to ascertain the nature of Roman land uses at the site.
- 5.4 If possible to ascertain the nature of Saxon and early medieval land uses at the site.
- 5.5 If possible to ascertain the nature of later medieval and post medieval land use.
- 5.6 The main archaeological focus for the later medieval and post medieval periods where structural development for the area can be attested.

6.0 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The investigation area consisted of an existing garden at the Fetter Lane end of Arnold House. Two boreholes were to be located at either end of the garden area.
- 6.2 At the location of each borehole a starter pit measuring approximately 0.5m x 0.5m in plan and to a depth of 1m was dug to prevent damage to any existing services. Once checked for obstructions the rig was set up and the ground workers had instructions to sample down to natural deposits, free of archaeology.
- 6.3 All material brought to the surface was observed and stratigraphic changes were recorded.

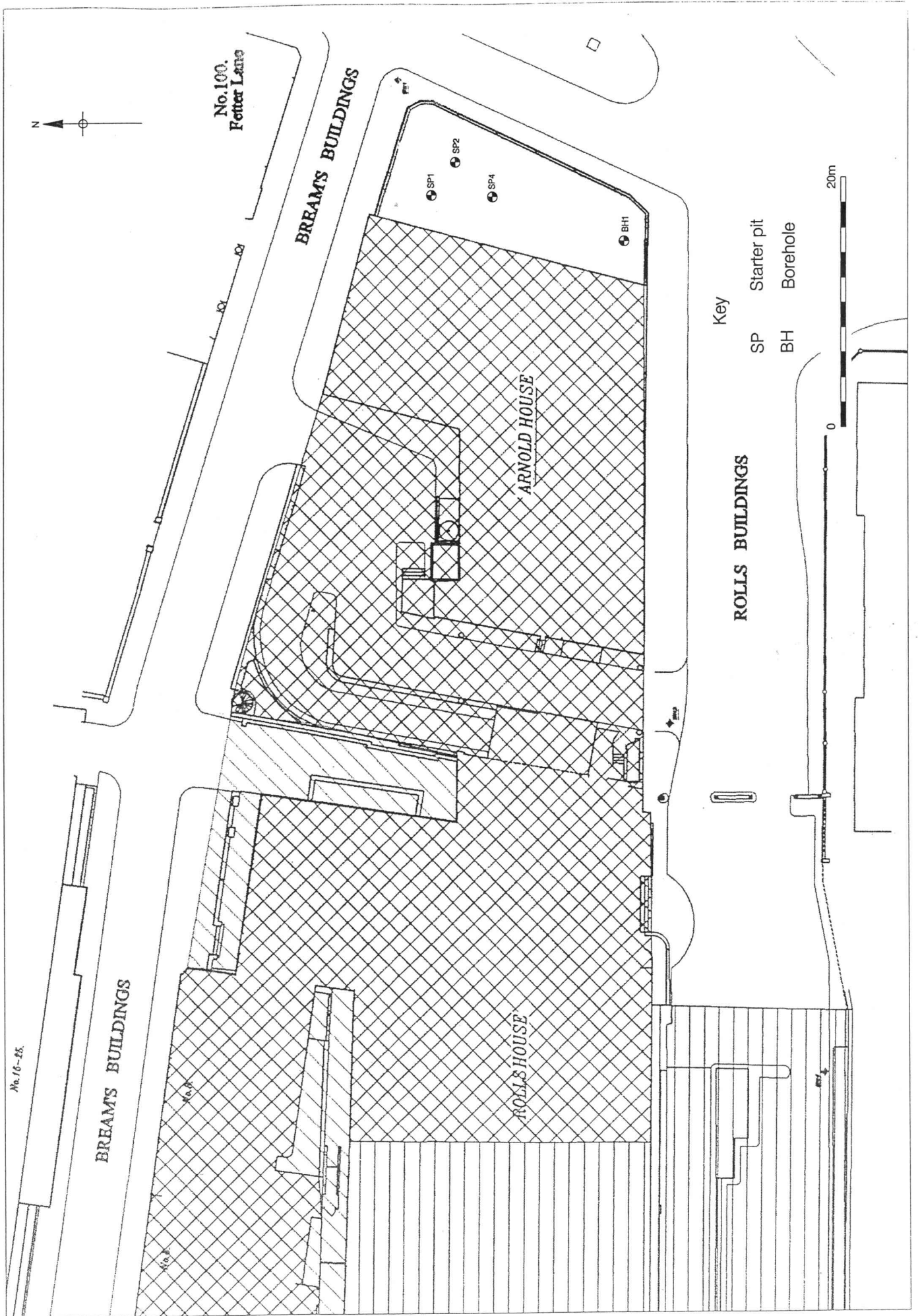


Figure 2
 Starter pit and borehole location
 1:400

7.0 RESULTS

- 7.1 Two boreholes were originally scheduled but due to local ground conditions only one was augered (Borehole 1). Four starter pits were dug to identify a suitable area to core, out of the four excavated only one (Starter Pit 3) was found to be viable and allow penetration of the underlying ground.
- 7.2 The starter pits demonstrated that at the north end of the garden, at approximately 0.63m below the surface concrete obstructions were encountered.
- 7.3 At the location of Borehole 1 (Starter Pit 3) located to the south of the garden the borehole penetrated to a depth of 3.3m below ground surface. The base itself was formed by a solid barrier presumed to have been a brick floor to a cellar or basement. Above this level the fill was composed of recent building materials.
- 7.4 As such the watching brief was of limited value in demonstrating the archaeological potential in this area of the site. It has proved that, as with other areas of the site, basements have reduced the archaeological potential considerably.

STARTER PIT AND BOREHOLE LOGS

Starter Pit 1

830mm deep. Starter pit revealed concrete obstruction, Borehole 1 was abandoned.

Starter Pit 2

630mm deep. Starter pit revealed concrete obstruction, Borehole 2 was abandoned

Starter Pit 3 & Borehole 1

Upper 400mm Soil

Next 3.1m Mixture of yellow brick and mortar and other building rubble.

3.5m below surface The rig stopped at this point due to an impenetrable obstruction thought to be brick/concrete.

Starter Pit 4

500mm Starter pit revealed concrete obstruction, Borehole 4 was halted

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-construct Archaeology and the author would like to thank Delancy Arnold Co for funding the watching brief, Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting for the desk based assessment and commissioning PCA to monitor the works, Gary Brown of PCA archaeological watching brief method statement, Josephine Brown for the illustrations, Frank Meddens and Gary Brown for their help with the report.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1 GLSMR

GLSMR/RCHME SMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation Excavation Watching brief
Other (please specify)

2. LOCATION

Borough: City of London

Site address: Rolls House Arnold House 4 – 8 Breams Buildings London EC4

Site name: Rolls House Arnold House

Site code: RLH01

Nat. Grid Refs:

Centre of site: TQ 3125 8132

Limits of site: a)N Breams Buildings

b)E Fetter lane

c)S Rolls Buildings

d)W Chancery Lane

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/ company/ society: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Address: Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre, 96 Endwell Road, Brockley London SE4 2PD

Site director/ supervisor: Dominic Mclellan

Project manager: Gary Brown

Funded by: Delancy Arnold Co

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started:10.09.01

Date finished:10.09.01

Field work previously notified?

YES/ NO

Fieldwork will continue?

YES/ NO/ NOT KNOWN

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic

Roman

Mesolithic

Saxon (pre-AD 1066)

Neolithic

Medieval (AD 1066 -1485)

Bronze Age

Post-Medieval *

Iron Age

Unknown

6. PERIOD SUMMARIES. Use headings for each period (Roman; Medieval; etc.), and continue on additional sheets as necessary.

A modern rubble fill was present within a backfilled basement.

7. NATURAL. (state if not observed; please DO NOT LEAVE BLANK)

Type: Not observed

Height above Ordnance Datum: - not recorded

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVES.

a) Please indicate those categories still in your possession:

Notes	Plans	Photos	Negatives
Slides	Correspondence	Manuscripts (unpub. reports etc.)	

b) All/-some records have been/ will be deposited in the following museum/ records office etc. :

c) Approximate year of transfer: 2001

d) Location of any copies:

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? ~~YES~~/ NO

If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? ~~YES~~/ NO

9. LOCATION OF FINDS.

a) In your possession? None Recovered

b) All/ some finds have been/ will be deposited with the following museum/ other body: N/A

c) Approximate year of transfer; 2002

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- Brown Gary : 2001 Method statement for an Archaeological watching Brief at Rolls House Arnold House and Breams Buildings City of London EC4.
- Chadwick Paul : 2001 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Rolls House Arnold House 4-8 Breams Buildings London EC4

SIGNED:

DATE: 14.09.01

NAME (Block capitals): DOMINIC MCLELLAN

Please return completed form to The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record, English Heritage London Region, 30 Warwick St., London W1R 5RD. Tel. 0171 973 3731/ 3779 (direct dial).

**APPENDIX 3 - Report – P Boyer, “Rolls House and Arnold House, 4-6 Breams
Buildings, City of London: An Archaeological Watching Brief
(2nd Phase)”, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report, June 2004**

**Rolls House and Arnold House, 4 – 6 Breams Buildings, City of London:
An Archaeological Watching Brief (2nd Phase)**

**Site Code: RLH 01
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3125 8132**

**Written by Peter Boyer
Project Manager: Peter Moore**

Commissioning Client: Delancey Arnold Company

**Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited,
Unit 54,
Brockley Cross Business Centre,
96 Endwell Road,
Brockley,
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**Tel: 020 7732 3925
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**E-mail: pmoore@pre-construct.com
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June 2004**

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

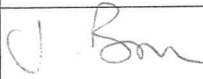

Site Name

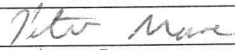
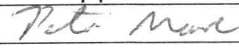
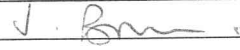
ROLLS HOUSE AND ARNOLD HOUSE, 4-6 BREAMS BUILDINGS, CITY OF LONDON

Type of project

WATCHING BRIEF (PHASE 2)

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K669
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Pete Boyer		
Text Checked:	Peter Moore		
Graphics Prepared by:			
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		18/5/04
Project Manager Sign-off:	Peter Moore		18/5/04

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
1:	21/6/04		
			

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
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Brockley Cross Business Centre
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London
SE4 2PD

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1 ABSTRACT

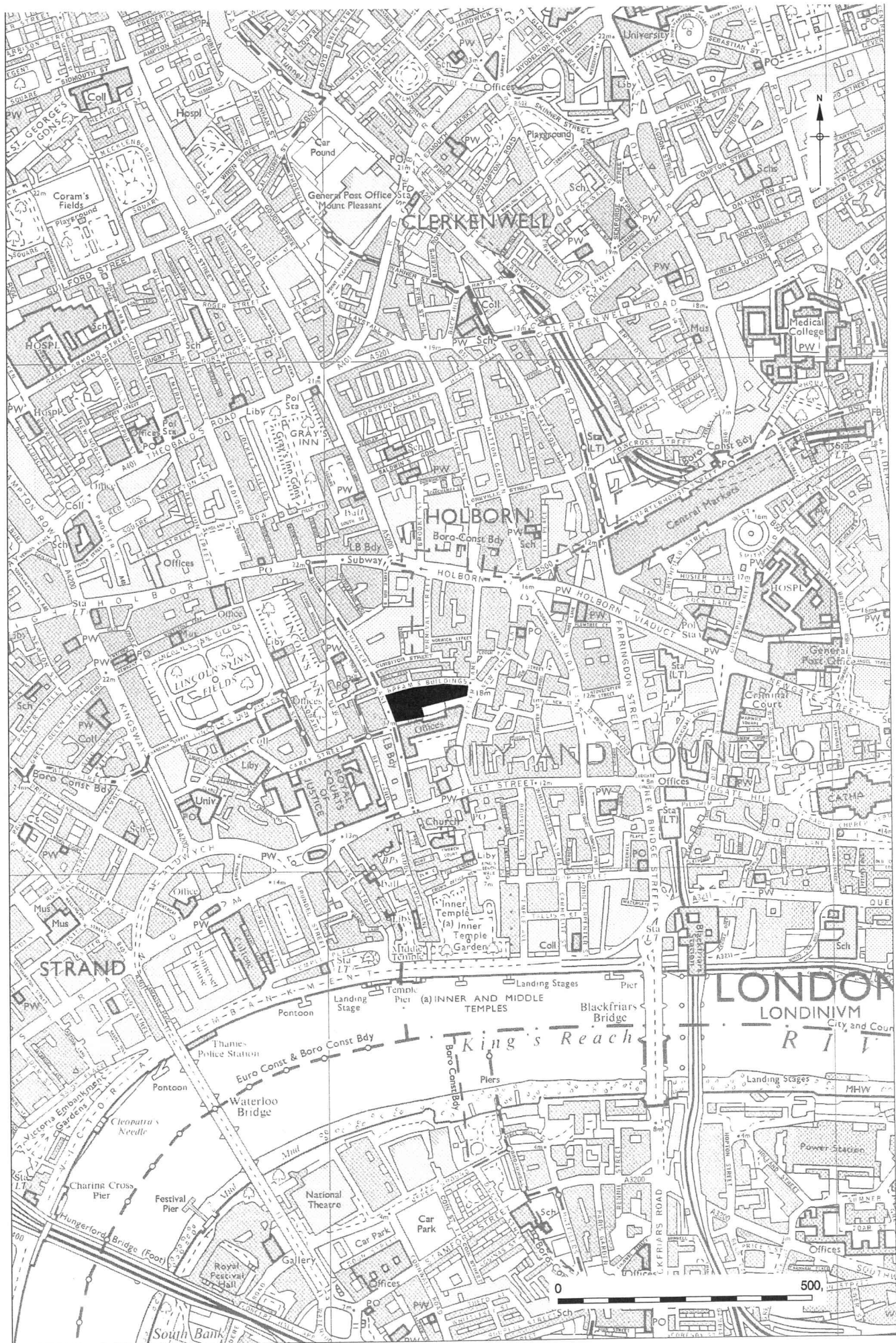
This report details the background and findings from one test pit and three exploratory boreholes inserted by Norwest Holst Soil Engineering Ltd. (NHSEL) at Rolls House and Arnold House, and sites external to the latter, at Rolls Buildings and Breems Buildings, Fetter Lane, City of London EC4 (Fig 1), intermittently from the 22nd March to the 2nd April 2004.

The pit and boreholes were monitored as the second phase of a watching brief to record evidence of surviving archaeological strata. The test pit was positioned at the same location as a previously excavated pit, recorded in 2001 in order to find a suitable location for coring.

The test pit and two of the boreholes revealed only modern deposits, but the third borehole revealed earlier deposits and a surviving natural peat layer.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between the 22nd March and the 2nd April 2004, on a test pit and three boreholes situated at Rolls House and Arnold House, and sites external to the latter, at Rolls Buildings and 4 – 8 Breams Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4, National Grid Reference TQ 3125 8132 (Fig 1).
- 2.2 The boreholes and test pit aimed to ascertain the extent of archaeological evidence within the study area. They were excavated in advance of proposed redevelopment and to meet the requirements of Policy Planning Guidance 16 and the London Unitary Development Plan.
- 2.3 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was written by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting (Chadwick 2001) and a Method Statement for the Archaeological Watching Brief was written by Peter Moore of PCA (Moore 2004). The work was commissioned by Paul Chadwick, CgMs Consulting on behalf of Delancey Arnold Company. The watching brief was undertaken by the author and Denise Mulligan, and was project managed by Peter Moore.
- 2.4 A previous watching brief (McClellan 2001) on a starter pit within the garden at the Fetter Lane frontage of Arnold House had established only that 3.3m of recent material overlay a solid barrier, probably a brick floor, to a cellar or basement of 18th century or later date.
- 2.5 The site code is RLH 01.



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 Pre-Construct Archaeology, Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre, 96 Endwell Road, Brockley, London SE4 2PD. ALD 51984A0001

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:10,000

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The work undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology and NHSEL conformed to the Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance Notice 16, which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 Furthermore, the work conformed to the requirements of the Development Plan policy framework provided by the City of London Unitary Development Plan. Details of the policies are contained within the CgMs Desk Based Assessment (Chadwick 2001).
- 3.3 The purpose of the investigation was to further inform on the ground conditions in specific areas, and if possible, to extrapolate approximate stratigraphic horizons to other parts of the site.

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The geological and topographical background of the site and surrounding area has been detailed within an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment written by Paul Chadwick of CgMs, this report will summarise the information.

4.2 Geology

4.2.1 The site is underlain by London Clay, above this lies a series of gravel terraces, which is capped by Brickearth.

4.2.2 In the vicinity of the site, the gravel terrace is classified as the Taplow / Mucking Terrace and is generally at approximately 11m to 15m OD.

4.2.3 The Brickearth capping the gravels is about 2m thick. However, it has frequently been truncated by quarrying, prehistoric and Roman agriculture and the construction of modern basemented buildings.

4.2.4 To the east of the study site, the thickness and extent of terrace gravel and Brickearth deposits have been modified by erosion from the River Fleet and its tributary streams (Chadwick 2001).

4.3 Topography

4.3.1 The topography of the area suggests that it occupies part of a gently sloping gravel/brickearth terrace. At the junction of Breams Buildings and Fetter Lane the level is 17.9m OD. This level is constant to the west and to the south the level steadily drops to 13m OD on Fleet Street and to the north it rises to 18.5m at Holborn. To the east the level drops to 12m OD on Shoe Lane.

4.3.2 Past observations of the underlying gravels suggest that a tributary valley of the River Fleet extends into this area, and recent excavations have confirmed that a water feature, perhaps a fishpond, within a shallow valley occurs here (Chadwick 2001).

4.3.3 The upper surface of the garden at the front of Arnold House slopes from 18.18mOD in the north to 17.98m OD in the south.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric occupation or artefactual evidence from the study site. However, excavations in the City of London regularly recover prehistoric artefactual remains.

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 The site lies outside the walls of the Roman City of *Londinium* and it is unlikely that core settlement or roads of this period are present. Recent research suggests that it is unlikely that cemetery remains are present either. However quarry pits associated with brickearth and gravel extraction may be present.

5.3 Saxon – Medieval

5.3.1 Neither Saxon nor early Medieval structural or artefactual evidence are likely to be present as the site was thought to be open fields during this period.

5.4 Post Medieval

5.4.1 During the Elizabethan period the area around the study site underwent a period of urbanisation due to increased prosperity.

5.4.2 By the mid 1600's the Holborn area was characterised by slums. During the Great Fire of London the buildings around Fetter Lane were blown-up to provide fire breaks. Since then subsequent buildings have been demolished and built on the area of the site.

5.4.3 It is likely that much archaeological strata has been impacted upon by previous development of the site and existing buildings contain single or double basements (G. Brown 2001).

6 OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 To establish whether the ground has been impacted upon by 18th century or later basement cellars in areas external to the buildings.
- 6.2 If so, to determine whether any archaeological strata has survived below the cellar/basement levels in these areas and below the basement levels of the current buildings.
- 6.3 If possible to ascertain the nature of Roman land uses at the site.
- 6.4 If possible to ascertain the nature of Saxon and early medieval land uses at the site.
- 6.5 If possible to ascertain the nature of later medieval and post medieval land use.
- 6.6 To establish the main archaeological focus for the later medieval and post medieval periods where structural development for the area can be attested.

7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The investigation areas consisted of an existing garden at the Fetter Lane end of Arnold House, a car parking area to the south of Rolls House, a basement car park below Arnold House and a sub-basement below Rolls House. The test pit (TP 1) was located in the garden area and the boreholes (BH 2 – 4) in the other locations (Fig. 2).
- 7.2 The test pit measured approximately 1m by 1m in plan and was hand excavated as deep as possible. At the other locations a coring rig was set up and coring taken down to 20m (BH 2 & 4) and 50m (BH 3).
- 7.3 All material brought to the surface was observed and stratigraphic changes were recorded until natural deposits were penetrated.
- 7.4 A Bench Mark with a value of 18.09m OD is located on the south side of Rolls Buildings. The upper ground surface of the garden was levelled and shown to slope from 18.18m OD in the north to 17.98m OD in the south.

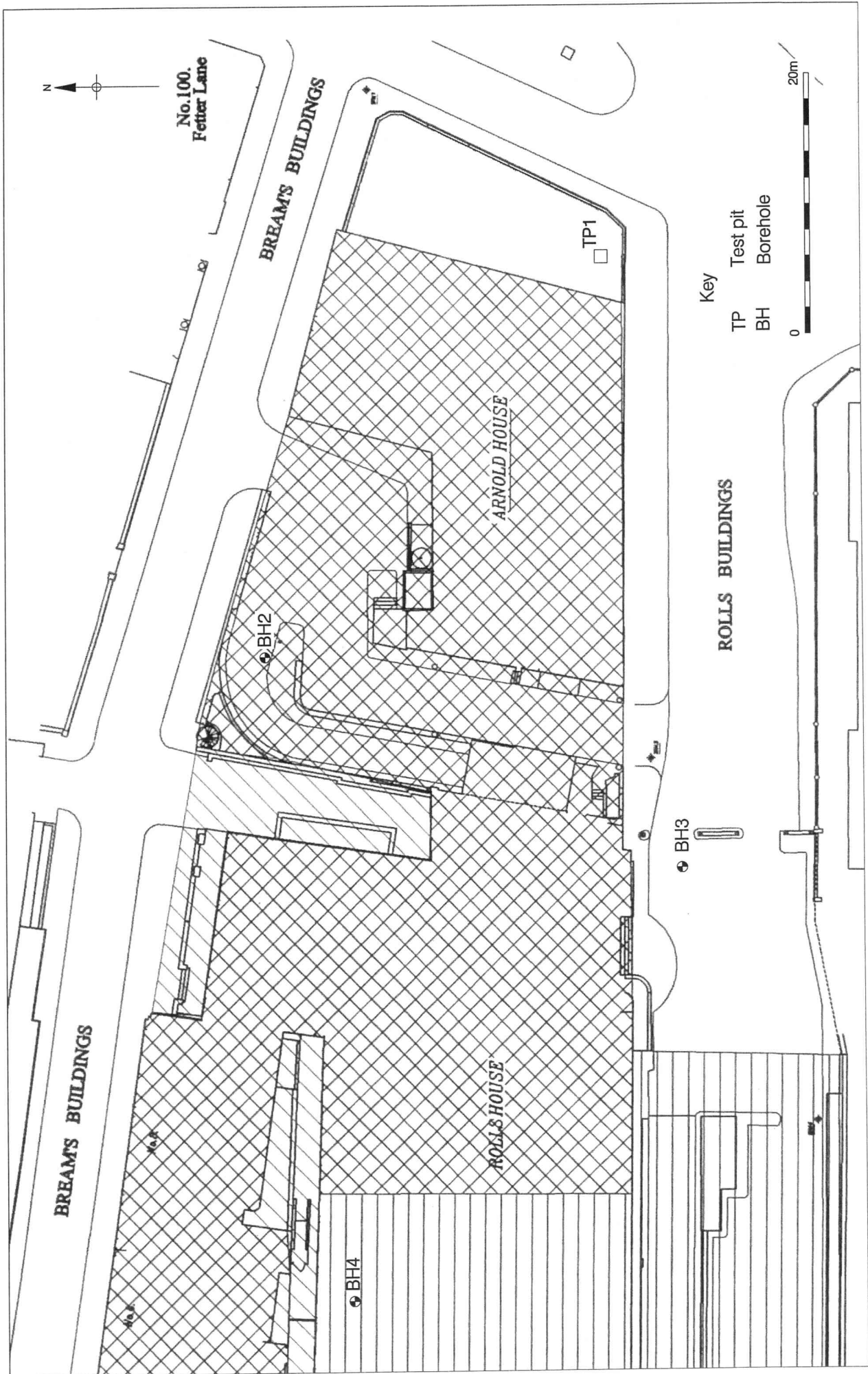


Figure 2
 Test pit and borehole location
 1:400

8 RESULTS

- 8.1 The excavation of the test pit revealed topsoil and subsoil overlying layers of modern concrete and demolition rubble down to a depth of 3.1m, where a solid concrete slab was encountered and excavation ceased.
- 8.2 In BH 2 the modern concrete slab directly overlay natural deposits and it was realised that any archaeological deposits in this area would have been truncated by the modern basement.
- 8.3 In BH 3 the modern tarmac overlay modern concrete and layers of demolition rubble. However the amount of rubble decreased with depth and earlier, unconsolidated deposits were encountered. These overlay a peat deposit, which in turn overlay natural gravel. The interface between the peat and gravel was at c. 3.5m below the surface.
- 8.4 It was decided that monitoring of BH 4 would be fruitless as it lay at a much lower level than BH 2, and therefore well below the level at which archaeological deposits would be expected to survive.
- 8.5 As such the watching brief was of value in demonstrating the nature of the archaeological potential of the site. It has proved that basements have reduced the archaeological potential considerably. However in the area to the south of the building it has proved that potential archaeological deposits do survive, as well as a layer of peat, which is of potential environmental interest.

9 TEST PIT AND BOREHOLE LOGS

9.1 Test Pit 1 (Surface = 17.98m OD)

0.00 – 0.23m	Topsoil
0.23 – 0.43m	Subsoil
0.43 – 0.88m	Demolition rubble
0.88 – 1.08m	Concrete
1.08 – 1.73m	Modern backfill
1.73 – 2.90m	Modern demolition rubble
2.90 – 3.10m	Modern rubble
3.10m +	Concrete slab

9.2 Borehole 2 (Surface = 14.00m OD)

0.00 – 0.60m	Modern concrete slab
0.60m +	Natural sand and gravel

9.3 Borehole 3 (Surface = 17.50m OD)

0.00 – 0.10m	Modern Tarmac surface
0.10 – 0.60m	Modern concrete
0.60 – 0.70m	Void
0.70 – 0.90m	Concrete
0.90 – 2.76m	Loose, mixed rubble in a dark brown, gravelly sand matrix. Iron pipes noted at 1.20m. Matrix gradually becomes more silty and darker, and the amount of rubble declines, eventually disappearing altogether. Sediment becomes very peaty and contains animal bone.
2.76 – 2.92m	Very dark grey to black, peaty clayey silt, containing occasional pottery (18 th – 19 th century stoneware) and animal bone.
2.92 – 3.12m	Very dark grey to black, organic-rich, peaty clayey silt, including plant macrofossils.
3.12 – 3.50m	Very dark grey to black organic peat with well-preserved botanic material.
3.50m +	Natural sandy gravel.

9.4 Borehole 4 (Surface < 10.5m OD)

Top of borehole started in sub-basement, below all archaeological levels. No archaeological deposits recorded.

17.50mOD

-0.10m

Modern Tarmac

Concrete

-0.60m

-0.70m

Void

Concrete

-0.90m

Loose, mixed rubble

-2.76m

Black peaty clay silt

-2.92m

Black organic peaty clay silt

-3.12m

Black organic peat

-3.50m

Natural sandy gravel

0

2m



Figure 3
Borehole 3 Stratigraphic Sequence
1:30

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology and the author would like to thank Delancy Arnold Company for funding the watching brief, Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting for the desk based assessment and commissioning PCA to monitor the works. The author would like to thank Peter Moore for project management, Josephine Brown for the illustrations, and Denise Mulligan for carrying out the watching brief between 29th March and 2nd April 2004.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, G., 2001 *Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Rolls House Arnold House and Breams Buildings City of London EC4*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpub. report

Chadwick, P., 2001 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Rolls House Arnold House 4-8 Breams Buildings London EC4*, CgMs Consulting, unpub. report

McLennan, D., 2001 *An Archaeological Watching Brief Report at Rolls House, Arnold House & 4 – 6 Breams Buildings, City of London*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpub. report

Moore, P., 2004 *Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Rolls House and 4 Breams Buildings, City of London, EC4*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpub. report

APPENDIX 1 GLSMR FORM

GLSMR/RCHME SMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation Excavation Watching brief

Other (please specify)

2. LOCATION

Borough: City of London

Site address: Rolls House Arnold House 4 – 8 Breams Buildings London EC4

Site name: Rolls House Arnold House

Site code:

Nat. Grid Refs:

Centre of site: TQ 3125 8132

Limits of site: a)N Breams Buildings

b)E Fetter lane

c)S Rolls Buildings

d)W Chancery Lane

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/ company/ society: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Address: Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre, 96 Endwell Road, Brockley London SE4 2PD

Site director/ supervisor: Peter Boyer

Project manager: Peter Boyer

Funded by: Delancy Arnold Co

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started:22.03.04

Date finished:02.04.04

Field work previously notified?

YES/ NO

Fieldwork will continue?

YES/ NO/ NOT KNOWN

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic

Roman

Mesolithic

Saxon (pre AD 1066)

Neolithic

Medieval (AD 1066–1485)

Bronze Age

Post-Medieval ✓

Iron Age

Unknown ✓

6. PERIOD SUMMARIES. Use headings for each period (Roman; Medieval; etc.), and continue on additional sheets as necessary.

Post-Medieval

Various recent layers comprising concrete slabs and demolition rubble were overlain by modern basement slabs, a tarmac surface and modern garden topsoil.

Unknown

To the south of Rolls House, natural gravels were overlain by a layer of peat, this was overlain by unconsolidated silty deposits of an archaeological nature, though of unknown date.

7. NATURAL. (state if not observed; please DO NOT LEAVE BLANK)

Type: Mid brownish orange, sandy gravel

Height above Ordnance Datum: c. 14.00m OD

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVES.

a) Please indicate those categories still in your possession:

Notes✓	Plans	Photos	Negatives
Slides	Correspondence	Manuscripts (unpub. reports etc.)	

b) All records will be deposited in the following museum: London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre, Museum of London, Eagle Wharf Road, London.

c) Approximate year of transfer: 2004

d) Location of any copies: PCA Ltd

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? YES/ NO

If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? YES/ NO

9. LOCATION OF FINDS.

a) In your possession? 1 sherd 18th – 19th century stoneware

b) All/ some finds have been/ will be deposited with the following museum/ other body: N/A

c) Approximate year of transfer: N/A

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Boyer, P., 2004 *Rolls House and Arnold House, 4 – 6 Breams Buildings, City of London: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report (2nd Phase)*, PCA Ltd., unpub. report

McLennan, D., 2001 *An Archaeological Watching Brief Report at Rolls House, Arnold House & 4 – 6 Breams Buildings, City of London*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpub. report

SIGNED:

DATE: 27/04/04

NAME (Block capitals): PETER BOYER

Please return completed form to The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record, English Heritage London Region, 30 Warwick St., London W1R 5RD. Tel. 0171 973 3731/ 3779 (direct dial).

**APPENDIX 4 - Report – S Maher, “Rolls House and Arnold House, 4-6 Breams
Buildings, City of London: An Archaeological Evaluation”, Pre-Construct
Archaeology Limited unpublished report, March 2005**

**Rolls House and Arnold House, 4 – 6 Breams Buildings, City of London:
An Archaeological Evaluation**

**Site Code: RLH 01
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3125 8132**

**Written and Researched by Shane Maher
March 2005**

Project Manager: Peter Moore

Commissioning Client: Delancey Arnold Company

**Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited,
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Brockley Cross Business Centre,
96 Endwell Road,
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6	Objectives
7	Methodology
8	Results
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3	Matrix

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Fig. 3	Plan and Section of Trial Pit 5
Fig. 4	Plan and section of Trial Pit 6
Fig. 5	Plan and Section of Trial Pit 7

1 ABSTRACT

This report details the background and findings from an archaeological field evaluation at Rolls Buildings and Breems Buildings, Fetter Lane, City of London EC4 (Fig 1), from the 7th February to 11th February 2005.

The evaluation was to comprise three trial pits in the basement of 8 Breems Buildings and six trial pits around the exterior of Rolls House and Arnold House (Fig 2). Previous watching briefs on the excavation of four trial pits and two boreholes found no archaeological deposits, while a third borehole found a deposit of peat.

The six exterior trial pits were not excavated due to the presence of live services, whilst the three basement trial pits revealed the presence of natural clayey sand and a series of post-medieval features.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between the 7th and 11th February 2005, on nine trial pits, 2m x 2m, situated at Rolls House and Arnold House, at Rolls Buildings and 4 – 8 Breams Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4, National Grid Reference TQ 3125 8132 (Fig 1). However due to the presence of live services the 6 exterior pits were not excavated.
- 2.2 The trial pits aimed to ascertain the extent of archaeological evidence within the study area. They were excavated in advance of proposed redevelopment and to meet the requirements of Policy Planning Guidance 16 and the London Unitary Development Plan.
- 2.3 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was written by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting (Chadwick 2001) and a Method Statement for the Archaeological Evaluation was written by Peter Moore of PCA (Moore, 2004). The work was commissioned by Paul Chadwick, CgMs Consulting on behalf of Delancey Arnold Company. The evaluation was undertaken by the author, and was project managed by Peter Moore.
- 2.4 Previous watching briefs (McClellan 2001, Boyer 2004, Maher 2005) on four trial pits and 3 boreholes revealed no archaeological deposits whilst a third borehole found a deposit of peat.
- 2.5 The site code is RLH 01.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:10,000

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology aimed to gather further information on the ground conditions in specific areas, and if possible, to extrapolate stratigraphic horizons to other parts of the site, in order to assist design mitigation measures to accompany the redevelopment of the site for which planning permission has recently been granted.

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The geological and topographical background of the site and surrounding area has been detailed within an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment written by Paul Chadwick of CgMs, this report will summarise the information.

4.2 Geology

4.2.1 The site is underlain by London Clay, above this lies a series of gravel terraces, which is capped by Brickearth.

4.2.2 In the vicinity of the site, the gravel terrace is classified as the Taplow / Mucking Terrace and is generally at approximately 11m to 15m OD.

4.2.3 The Brickearth capping the gravels is about 2m thick. However, it has frequently been truncated by quarrying, prehistoric and Roman agriculture and the construction of modern basemented buildings.

4.2.4 To the east of the study site, the thickness and extent of terrace gravel and Brickearth deposits have been modified by erosion from the River Fleet and its tributary streams (Chadwick 2001).

4.3 Topography

4.3.1 The topography of the area suggests that it occupies part of a gently sloping gravel/brickearth terrace. At the junction of Breems Buildings and Fetter Lane the level is 17.9m OD. This level is constant to the west and to the south the level steadily drops to 13m OD on Fleet Street and to the north it rises to 18.5m at Holborn. To the east the level drops to 12m OD on Shoe Lane.

4.3.2 Past observations of the underlying gravels suggest that a tributary valley of the River Fleet extends into this area, and recent excavations have confirmed that a water feature, perhaps a fishpond, within a shallow valley occurs nearby (Chadwick 2001).

4.3.3 The upper surface of the garden at the front of Arnold House slopes from 18.18mOD in the north to 17.98m OD in the south.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric occupation or artefactual evidence from the study site. However, excavations in the City of London regularly recover prehistoric artefactual remains.

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 The site lies outside the walls of the Roman City of *Londinium* and it is unlikely that core settlement or roads of this period are present. Recent research suggests that it is unlikely that cemetery remains are present either. However quarry pits associated with brickearth and gravel extraction may be present.

5.3 Saxon – Medieval

5.3.1 Neither Saxon nor early Medieval structural or artefactual evidence are likely to be present as the site was thought to be open fields during this period.

5.4 Post Medieval

5.4.1 During the Elizabethan period the area around the study site underwent a period of urbanisation due to increased prosperity.

5.4.2 By the mid 1600's the Holborn area was characterised by slums. During the Great Fire of London the buildings around Fetter Lane were blown up to provide fire breaks. Since then subsequent buildings have been demolished and built on the area of the site.

5.4.3 It is likely that much archaeological strata has been impacted upon by previous development of the site and existing buildings contain single or double basements (G. Brown 2001).

6 OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 To establish whether, within the footprint of the gardens, the ground has been impacted upon by 18th century or later basement cellars.
- 6.2 If so, to determine whether any archaeological strata has survived below the cellar/basement levels.
- 6.3 To sample and assess the palaeo-environmental potential of the peat deposit south of Rolls Building.
- 6.4 If possible to ascertain the nature of Roman land uses at the site.
- 6.5 If possible to ascertain the nature of Saxon and early medieval land uses at the site.
- 6.6 If possible to ascertain the nature of later medieval and post-medieval land uses at the site.
- 6.7 To define the levels of truncation within the Breams Building and that of 19th century basements now outside the standing footprint.

7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Method Statement (Moore, 2004).
- 7.2 Trial pits 5, 6 and 7 (2m x 2m) were excavated in the basement of Breams Building. Trail pits 8 to 13 could not be excavated due to the presence of live services (Fig. 2).
- 7.3 Concrete in the designated area of excavation was broken out by jackhammer under archaeological supervision.
- 7.4 All faces of the trial pits that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels was done by hand.
- 7.5 For each trial pit a photographic record was made (colour and black & white), a plan was drawn at 1:20, a section was drawn at 1:10, and context descriptions recorded on pro-forma sheets.
- 7.6 All trial pits were located to ordnance survey data and a datum of 16.65m OD was established on the concrete floor of the basement in Breams Buildings.

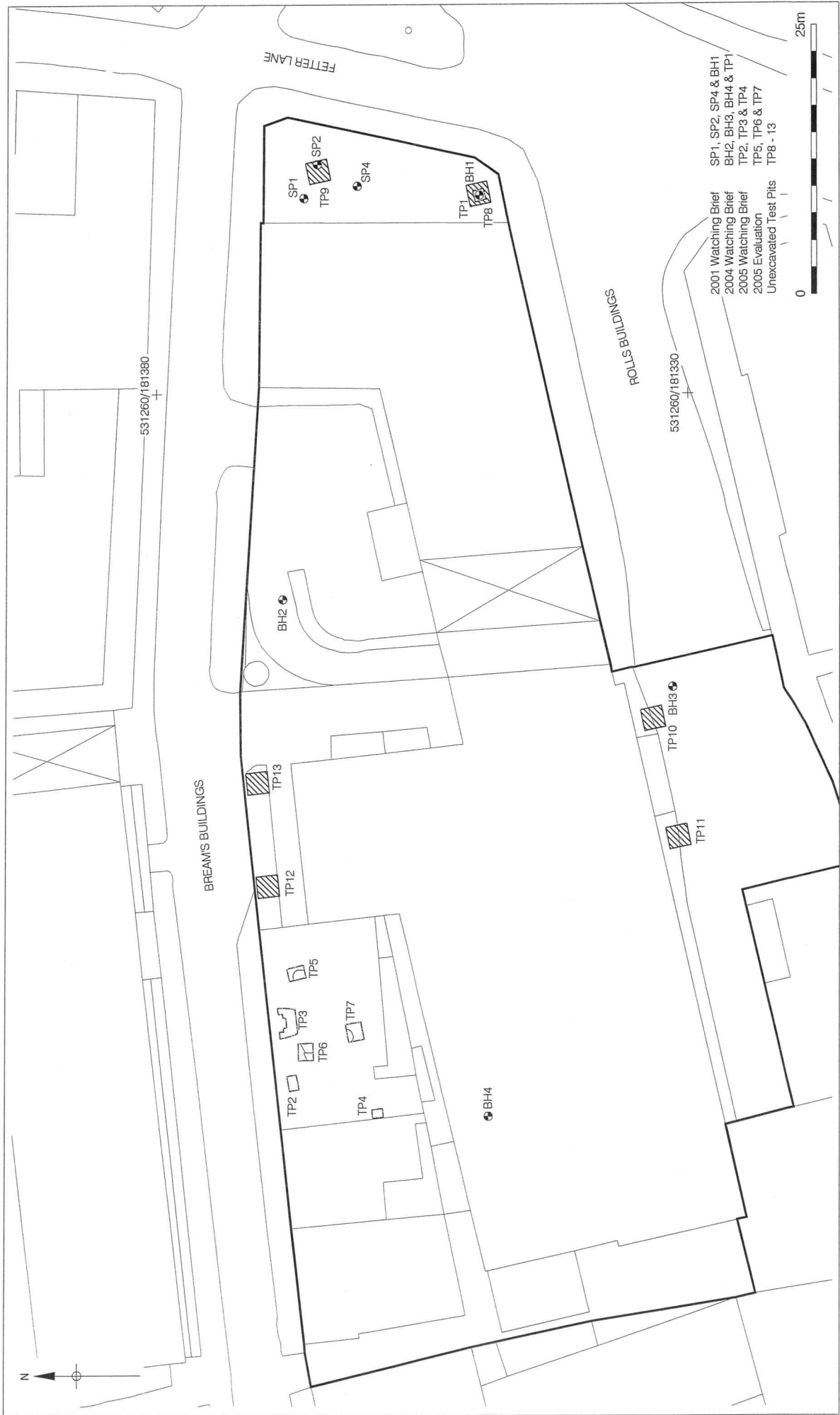


Figure 2
 Test Pit, Borehole and Starter Pit Location
 1:500

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

8.1 Trial Pit 5

- 8.1.1 The earliest deposit observed was natural clayey sand at a level 16.25mOD (Fig 3).
- 8.1.2 Cutting this on the north and east of the trial pit was a near vertically sided feature, 1.29m deep and a minimum width of 0.74m. The primary fill [7] a dark grey brown sandy silt with a thickness of 130mm, this contained pottery sherds spot dated to between 1480 and 1550. The secondary fill [6] had a thickness of 290mm and was found to contain pottery with dates between 1550 and 1600. The remaining fills [1], [3], [4] and [5] were all found to contain pottery dated between 1480 and 1600. A clay pipe dated to between 1610 and 1640 was retrieved from context [1] and a slab of Purbeck Marble 0.52m x 340mm x 80mm was retrieved. A thin deposit of whitish grey sandy silt [2] was observed between [1] and [3] this contained no finds.

8.2 Trial Pit 6

- 8.2.1 Natural clayey sand [15] was the earliest deposit observed, at 16.15mOD (Fig 4).
- 8.2.2 Cutting this the northern edge of a near vertical sided feature [14] was observed between 16.15mOD and 14.84mOD extending beyond the southern limit of excavation of the trial pit. The primary fill [13] was found to contain post-medieval pottery sherds spot dated to between 1480 and 1550. Fills [10], [11] and [12] were all found to contain post-medieval pottery these were dated to between 1480 and 1600.

8.3 Trial Pit 7

- 8.3.1 Natural sandy gravels [29] were observed at 16.15mOD (Fig 5).
- 8.3.2 Cutting this a heavily truncated feature [28] was observed between 16.15mOD and 14.59mOD. A dark grey brown sandy silt deposit [27], 260mm deep, was the primary fill. Overlying this were fills [25] and [26], pottery sherds spot dated to between 1480 and 1600 were retrieved from [26].
- 8.3.3 Tertiary fill [25], a dark grey brown silty sand was found to be cut by feature [24] between 16.15mOD and 14.57mOD, in the south of the trial pit. Deposit [22], 150mm deep, was the primary fill, overlying this were fills [18], [19], [20] and [21]. Pottery dated to between 1480 and 1600 was retrieved from [18] and [21]. Animal bone was recovered in [21].

8.3.4 Feature [17] was observed between 16.15mOD and 15.50mOD cutting deposit [18] in the north of the trial pit. This was filled by [16], a light to mid grey brown silty sand, containing post-medieval pottery dated to between 1480 and 1550.

8.4 Trial Pits 8,9,10,11,12,13

8.4.1 Not excavated due to live services

8.5 Trench Summary

Trial Pits	Boreholes	Features Recorded
1		None
	2	None
	3	post-medieval peat deposit observed at 14.74mOD
	4	None
2		None
3		None
4		None
5		post-medieval cut [8] observed at 16.25mOD
6		post-medieval cut [14] observed at 16.15mOD
7		post-medieval cuts [17], [24], [28] were observed at 16.15mOD
8		not excavated
9		not excavated
10		not excavated
11		not excavated
12		not excavated
13		not excavated

9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 Natural clayey sand and sandy gravels were encountered 16.25mOD and 14.48mOD.
- 9.2 A series of post-medieval features, most likely 16th century gravel extraction pits, were found below the basement of 8 Brems Buildings. To the south of the buildings a peat deposit with post-medieval pottery was observed.
- 9.3 No other archaeological deposits were observed outside the building. This is most likely truncation by modern basements (see trench summary).

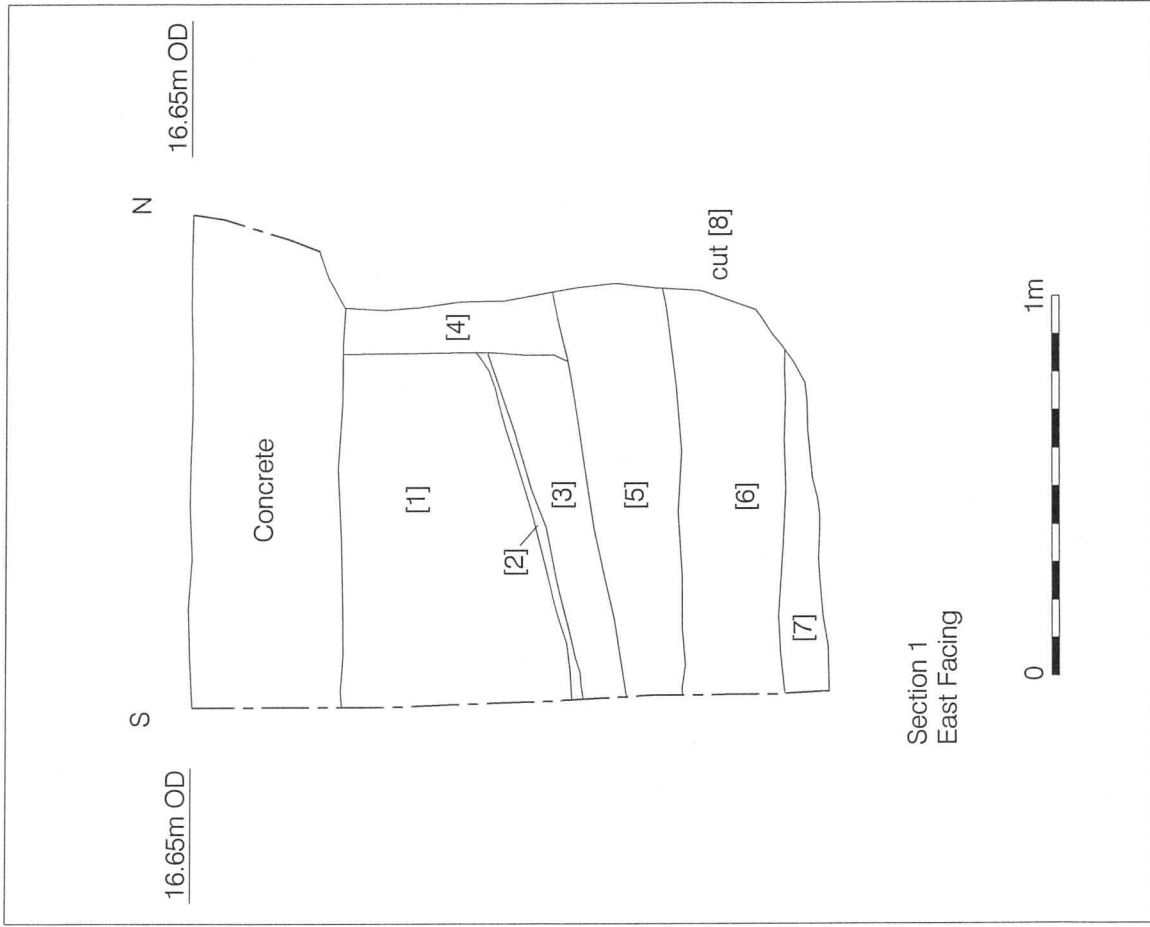
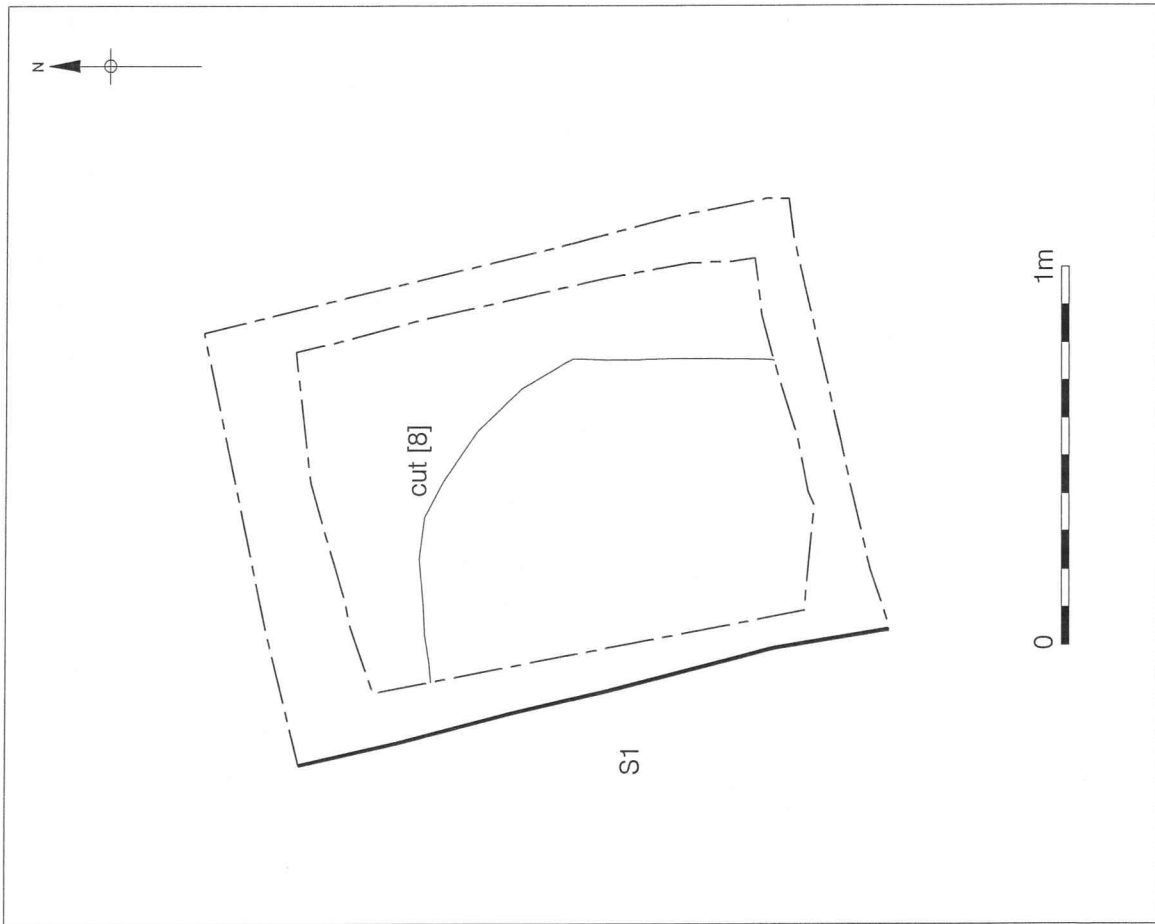


Figure 3
 Test Pit 5: plan and section
 1:20

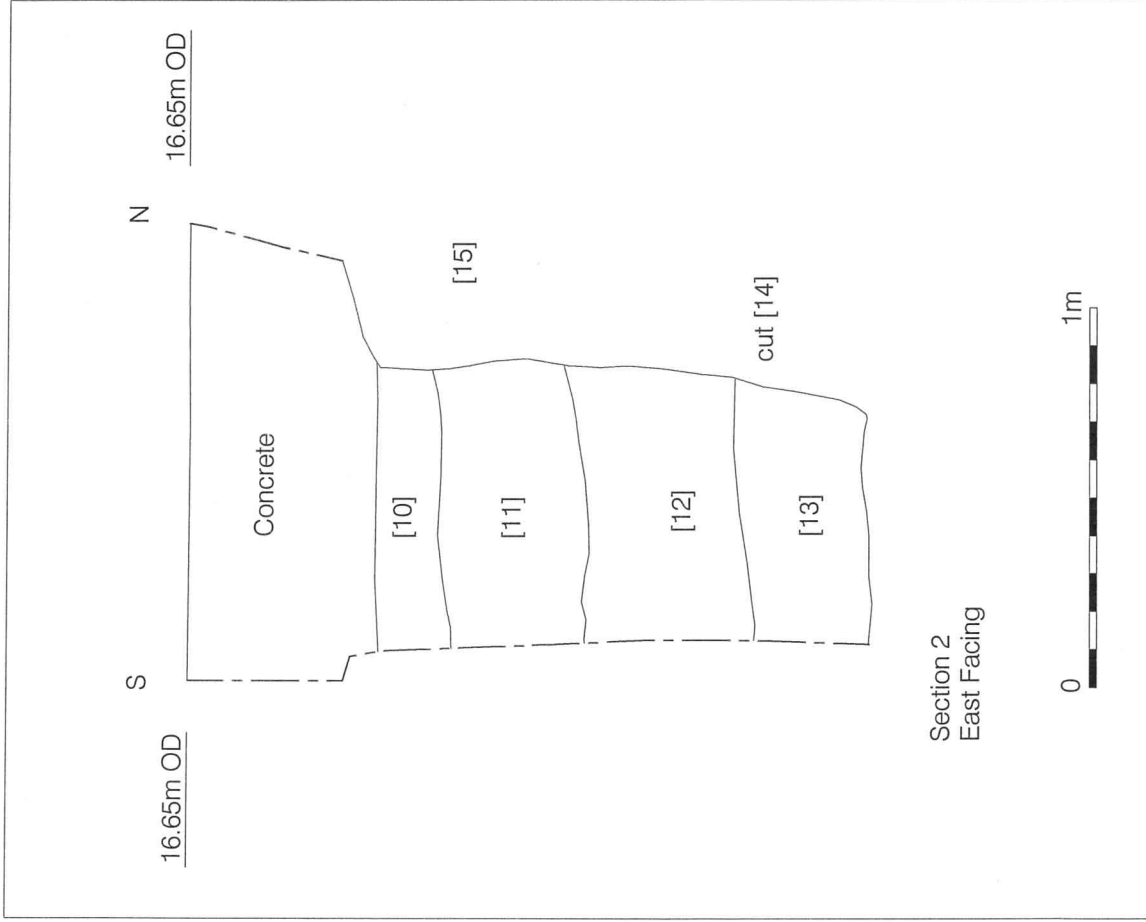
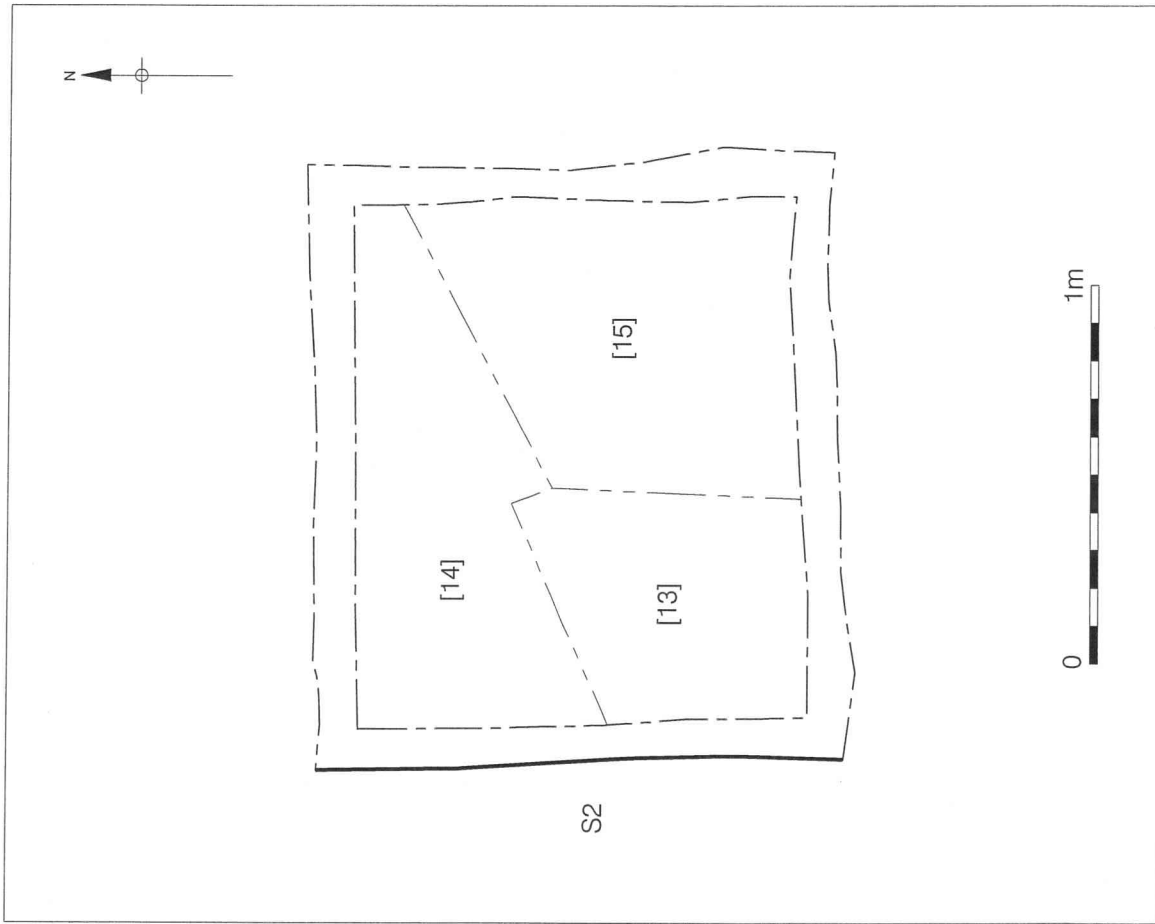
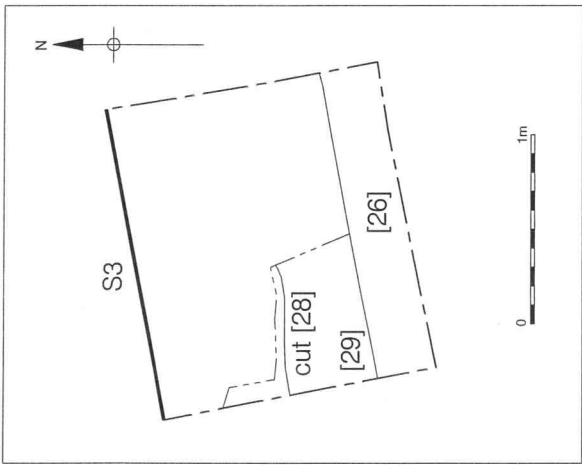
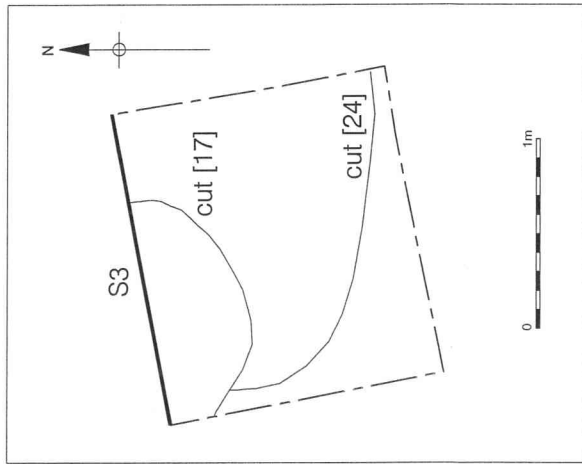


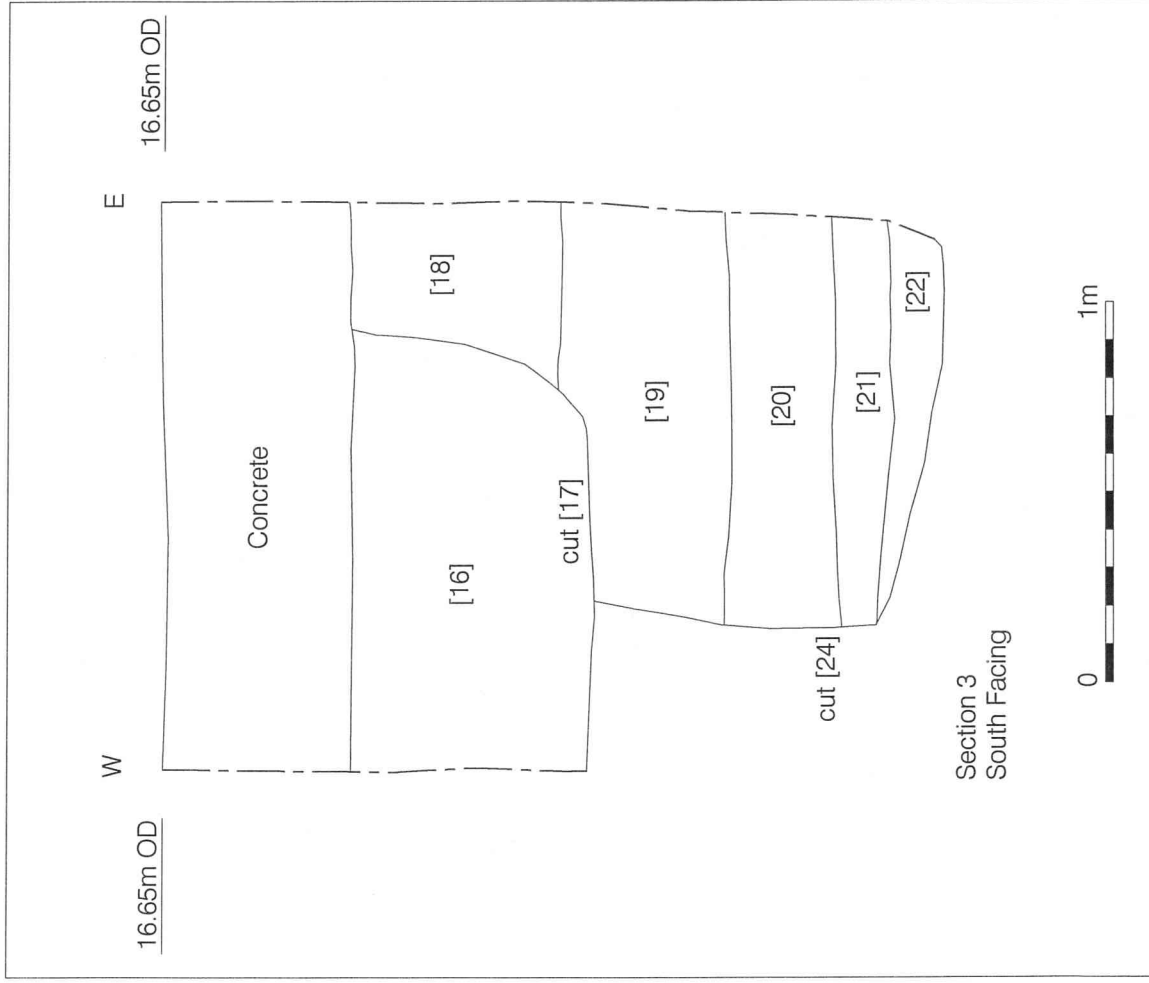
Figure 4
 Test Pit 6: plan and section
 1:20



Phase 1 of Test Pit 7



Phase 2 of Test Pit 7



Section 3
South Facing

Figure 5
Test Pit 7: plans and section
1:40 / 1:20

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology and the author would like to thank Delancy Arnold Company for funding the watching brief, Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting for the desk based assessment and commissioning PCA to monitor the works. The author would like to thank Peter Moore for project management and Adrian Nash for the illustrations.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1 OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

[List of Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: preconst1-7383

Project details

Project name	Rolls House and Arnold House 4-6 Breams Buildings, London
Short description of the project	Archaeological Evaluation
Project dates	Start: 07-02-2005 End: 11-02-2005
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Rolls House and Arnold House, 4-6 Breams Buildings, City of London
Postcode	EC4
Study area	12 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3125 8132 Point
Height OD	Min: 16.15m Max: 16.25m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consultants Ltd
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	Shane Maher
Sponsor or funding body	Delancey Arnold Company

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
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Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey'
Digital Archive Exists?	Yes
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Map','Plan','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive Exists?	Yes

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Rolls House and Arnold House, 4-6 Breems Buildings, City of London: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Shane Maher
Date	2005
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	Bound unpublished report
Entered by	Peter Moore (pmoore@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	18 March 2005

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APPENDIX 2 CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Type	Description	Test Pit
1	Fill	Fill of [8]	5
2	Fill	Fill of [8]	5
3	Fill	Fill of [8]	5
4	Fill	Fill of [8]	5
5	Fill	Fill of [8]	5
6	Fill	Fill of [8]	5
7	Fill	Fill of [8]	5
8	Cut	Pit	5
9	Layer	Natural	5
10	Fill	Fill of [14]	6
11	Fill] Fill of [14]	6
12	Fill	Fill of [14]	6
13	Fill	Fill of [14]	6
14	Cut	Pit / Ditch	6
15	Layer	Natural	6
16	Fill	Fill of [17]	7
17	Cut	Pit	7
18	Fill	Fill of [20]	7
19	Fill	Fill of [20]	7
20	Fill	Field boundary/drainage ditch	7
21	Fill	Fill of [22]	7
22	Cut	Possible cursus ditch	7
23	Void		7
24	Cut	pit	7
25	Fill	Fill of 28	7
26	Fill	Fill of 28	7
27	Fill	Fill of 28	7
28	Cut	Pit	7
29	Layer	Natural	7

APPENDIX 3 MATRIX

