DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

7-7 HYDE PARK MEMORIAL
CITY OF WESTMINSTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Quality Control

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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7-7 Hyde Park Memorial: An Archaeological Evaluation of Geotechnical Investigations

Site Code: HYH08
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2829 8018

Written by Sarah Barrowman
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, September 2008

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CONTENTS

1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results and working methods of archaeological evaluation of during geotechnical investigations in the southeastern corner of Hyde Park, near Curzon Gate. The evaluation, commissioned by The Royal Parks, was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited during the geotechnical investigations undertaken between 27th and 28th August 2008, in advance of the construction of a permanent memorial in Hyde Park for the victims of the 7th July 2005 terrorist attack on public transport in London.

1.2 The investigations found evidence for natural terrace gravels overlain by a sequence of natural clayey-sand and sand deposits, possible relict topsoil layers, and made ground and landscaping layers of late post-medieval to modern date across the trenches. The only feature observed was a late post-medieval field drain [37] in Trench 1, and only finds from the late post-medieval (19th century) to modern period were encountered in the layers of made ground.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. in the southeastern corner of Hyde Park, near Curzon Gate. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken during the geotechnical investigations undertaken between 27th and 28th August 2008, in advance of the construction of a permanent memorial in Hyde Park for the victims of the 7th July 2005 terrorist attack on public transport in London.

2.2 The investigation encompassed 4 geotechnical test pits and 2 archaeological trial trenches (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by The Royal Parks. The groundworks contractors were Geotechnics.

2.3 The proposed site of the 7-7 Memorial is located in the southeast corner of Hyde Park, near Curzon Gate, between Lovers Walk to the southwest and Park Lane to the northeast (Fig. 2).

2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 2928 8018.

2.5 The site code is HYH 08.

2.6 The evaluation was supervised by Sarah Barrowman of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and monitored by Richard Hughes and Raj Agnihotri of Arup, and Diane Walls, English Heritage (GLAAS). The project was managed by Tim Bradley for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

..... Proposed Location for the 7/7 Hyde Park Memorial

TP Test Pit

TT Trial Trench

Figure 2
Trench and Test Pit Location
1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The planning background for this site has been comprehensively detailed in an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment prepared for the study area[1] and as such only a brief outline is included in this report.

3.2 The work was undertaken in response to requirements from consultation between Arup, the Royal Parks and English Heritage (GLAAS). The archaeological works followed the programme stipulated in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared for the site,[2] following recommendations set out in the Desk Based Assessment.

3.3 Hyde Park falls within a City of Westminster Conservation Area, and no Scheduled Ancient Monuments are present on the site.

[1] Arup, 2008.

[2] Bradley, 2008.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 A comprehensive archaeological and historical background to this site has been detailed in the Desk Based Assessment prepared for this site[3], and consequently only a brief summery is included in this section, based on information revealed on a 300m radius search of the Greater London SMR.

4.2 **Prehistoric.**

4.2.1 There are no records for any finds or features from the prehistoric period recorded within the vicinity of the study site.

4.3 **Romano-British.**

4.3.1 There are no records for any finds or features from the Romano-British period within the immediate vicinity of the study site.

4.4 **Anglo-Saxon and Medieval**

4.4.1 There are no records for any find or features from the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods recorded within the vicinity of the study site.

4.5 **Post-Medieval**

4.5.1 The evidence indicates that Hyde Park was in open rough land until the 16th century. The Park was then used for royal hunting prior to being opened up to the public. The Memorial site then lies in area characterised by 18th and 19th century landscaping used for entertainment with this character being maintained in the 20th century. The Park was used for burying plague victims and much later on the general area of the Memorial was affected by WWII bombing. The history of the site suggests that the shallow ground conditions may be complex probably resulting from quarrying and then from landscaping. The bund of about 1.5m high, found immediately to the east of the Memorial site, would appear to be not too old, probably a landscape feature providing a sense of enclosure – masking the hustle and bustle of Park Lane from the tranquillity of the Park.

[3] Arup. 2008.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Four geotechinical test pits were undertaken by Geotechnics. These ranged in size from 1.50m x 0.60m to 2.20m x 0.90m, and were excavated to a depth of 3.00m to 3.10m.

5.2 Two archaeological evaluation trenches were also undertaken. Trench 1 measured approximately 4.00m x 1.60m, was aligned northeast-southwest, and was *c*.2.75m deep. Trench 2 measured approximately 4.00m x 1.60m, was aligned northwest-southeast, and was *c*.3.10m deep.

5.3 All test pits and trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision in *c*.0.10m spits.

5.4 Levels and co-ordinates for the site work were calculated using a GPS by the contractor's site surveyor.

5.5 Site records were complied in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10. All written data was entered on *pro-forma* sheets following standard recording methods, and a photographic record using digital format, colour slide and monochrome 35mm film was made as appropriate.

5.6 The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines.[4]

[4] English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 1998.

6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

6.1 Investigations at the site revealed the presence of natural terrace gravels encountered at between 20.26m OD and 20.95m OD.

6.2 The site has a downwards gradient due to landscaping features towards the south and southwest. The ground level within the site varies between 22.64m OD and 23.69m OD.

6.3 The northeastern part of the site is parallel with Park Lane, and the southwestern edge is parallel with Lovers Walk.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Trial Trench 1

Phase 1

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered from 20.68m OD was a layer of mid yellowish-orange sandy-gravels [40] identified across the base of the Trial Trench. Sealing this was a layer of mid yellowish-orange clayey-sand with gravels [39] which has a maximum thickness of 0.48m and was encountered at 21.16m OD. This was overlain by a layer of mid brownish-orange clayey-sand with gravels [35] that was encountered at 21.75m OD. The final natural deposit was a layer of mid brownish-orange sand [34] that measured 0.29m in thickness and was encountered at 22.04m OD.

Phase 2

7.1.2 Cutting through the uppermost of the natural deposits was a linear cut [38] for a north-south orientated ceramic field drain pipe [37] that extended beyond the limits of excavation. The cut was 0.38m wide x 0.40m deep, and was encountered at 22.01m OD, with a basal level of 21.61m OD. The pipe was *c*.0.10m in diameter, 0.015m thick, and encountered at 21.73m OD. The pipe was covered by a mid orangish-brown sandy-silt [36] that was used as backfill and was encountered from 22.01m OD.

7.1.3 Overlying the backfill [36] of the field drain was a layer of mid yellowish-brown silt [33], which was encountered at 22.28m OD and represents the first deposit in the sequence of made ground of modern date. Sealing this was a layer of mid-dark brownish-grey sandy-silt [32] with inclusions of ceramic building material (CBM), and chalk flecks, which was encountered at 22.36m OD. Overlying this was a layer of light brownish-grey silty-gravelly-mortar/CBM [31] that was encountered at 23.43m OD. Sealing layer [31], and encountered from 22.62m OD, was a layer of light-mid yellowish-brown silty-gravelly-sand [30] with inclusions of CBM and mortar. Above this was a layer of mid-dark greyish-brown silt [29] which was encountered at 22.69m OD with inclusions of gravel. Overlying this and encountered at 23.10m OD was a layer of mid brownish-orange gravelly-sand [28] with inclusions of CBM. Finally at 23.43m OD and sealing the sequence was a modern topsoil layer of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt [27] with gravel inclusions, which was topped by the turf layer which covered the surrounding area.

7.2 Trial Trench 2

Phase 1

7.2.1 The earliest deposit observed in the sequence, from 22.34m OD, was a layer of mid-dark reddish-orange clayey-sand [47] with gravel inclusions. This was overlain by a layer of mid yellowish-orange clayey-sand [46] with gravel inclusions which was encountered at 21.79m OD. Above this was the final natural deposit of mid yellowish-brown clayey-sand [45] encountered at 22.04m OD and contained gravels.

Phase 2

7.2.2 The earliest of the made ground deposits was a layer of mid greyish-brown silt [44] which was encountered at 22.32m OD and may represent a layer of relict topsoil. Sealing this was a layer of light-mid yellowish-brown silty-gravels [43] that was encountered at a highest level of 23.08m OD and had inclusions of CBM, animal bone, timber, and glass, and appeared to be of modern date. Overlying this was a layer of mid brownish-orange gravelly-sand [42] with inclusions of concrete and tarmac pieces, often of a notable size, recorded at a highest level of 23.53m OD. Capping deposit [42] and sealing the trench was a modern layer of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt [41] with gravel inclusions with a highest level of 23.69m OD, topped with the turf that is seen across the vicinity.

7.3 Test Pit 1

Phase 1

7.3.1 The earliest deposit exposed was a layer of mid orange-brown clay [26], interpreted as London Clay, encountered at 20.04m OD. A layer of mid yellowish-orange sandy terrace gravels [25] overlay the clay, recorded at a highest level of 20.84m OD. Sealing this at a highest level of 21.24m OD was a layer of mid yellowish-orange clayey-sand [24] with inclusions of gravels. The latest of the natural deposits [23] was encountered at a highest level of 21.49m OD, which was a layer of mid yellowish-orange clayey-sand with gravel inclusions.

Phase 2

7.3.2 Sealing the natural was a layer of mid orange-brown silt [22] with gravel inclusions that was encountered at 22.04m OD and possibly represents a layer of relict topsoil. Above this from 22.64m OD and sealing the sequence was a layer of modern topsoil topped with turf [21], the same as that seen across the area.

7.4 Test Pit 2

Phase 1

7.4.1 The earliest deposit exposed was natural layer of mid reddish-orange coarse clayey-sand [14] that was encountered at 20.97m OD. Sealing this and forming the latest natural layer, was a layer of light-mid yellowish-reddish-orange sand [13] with gravel inclusions, encountered at a highest level of 21.97m OD.

Phase 2

7.4.2 Encountered at 22.27m OD and sealing the natural deposits was a layer of mid greyish-brown silt [12], interpreted as a possible relict topsoil. Overlying deposit [12] was a layer of light brownish-grey silt and crushed mortar [11] with inclusions of timber and gravels, recorded at 22.91m OD - this deposit appeared to be modern in date. Overlying this was a layer of light-mid greyish-brown silt [10] that contained CBM, glass, stone and gravels, and was encountered at 22.97m OD. Sealing layer [10] at 23.37m OD was a layer of mid brownish-orange gravelly-sand [9] containing modern CBM fragments. Sealing the trench from 23.67m OD was a layer of modern mid greyish-brown clayey-silt topsoil [8], as seen across the whole site.

7.5 Test Pit 3

Phase 1

7.5.1 The earliest deposit was a layer of mid yellowish-reddish-orange sandy-gravel [7]. This was encountered at 20.95m OD and represented further terrace gravel observed in other trenches/pits on the site. This was overlain by a layer of mid yellowish-reddish-orange clayey-sand [6] that was encountered at 21.60m OD.

Phase 2

7.5.2 Sealing the natural deposits from 21.95m OD was a layer of loose mid brownish-orange silty-sand [5] with inclusions of clay tobacco pipe stem and CBM. Sealing this was a layer of loose light-mid orangish-brown sandy-silt [4] with CBM and gravels that was encountered at 22.25m OD. A crush layer [3] composed of light brownish-grey mortar and CBM with inclusions of metal and glass was above this at a highest level of 22.35m OD. This was overlain by a layer of mid brownish-orange gravelly-sand [2] with inclusions of CBM that was encountered at 22.95m OD. Capping layer [2] and sealing the trench was a layer of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt topsoil [1], which was topped with the turf that was seen across the surrounds, and encountered from 23.15m OD.

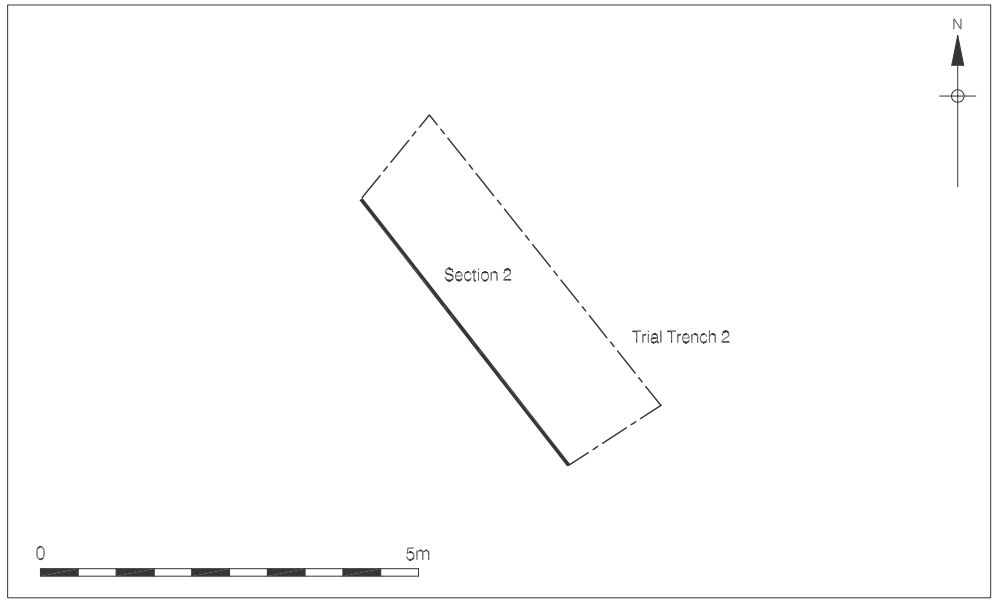
7.6 Test Pit 4

Phase 1

7.6.1 The earliest deposit exposed was mid yellowish-orange sandy-gravel [20] recorded at a height of 20.26m OD. This was overlain by a layer of mid yellowish-orange clayey-sand [19] that was encountered at 21.46m OD.

Phase 2

7.6.2 Sealing the natural strata was a layer of mid orangish-brown sandy-silt [18] with gravel inclusions, which was encountered at 21.96m OD. This was overlain by a layer of loose mid-dark greyish-brown sandy-silt [17] with inclusions of CBM and gravel, which was encountered at 22.16m OD. Above this was a layer of mid brownish-orange gravelly-sand with often large pieces of concrete and tarmac rubble [16], this was encountered at 22.76m OD. Capping layer [16] and sealing the trench was a layer of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt topsoil [15] recorded at a height of 22.96m OD and topped with the turf that was seen across the area.



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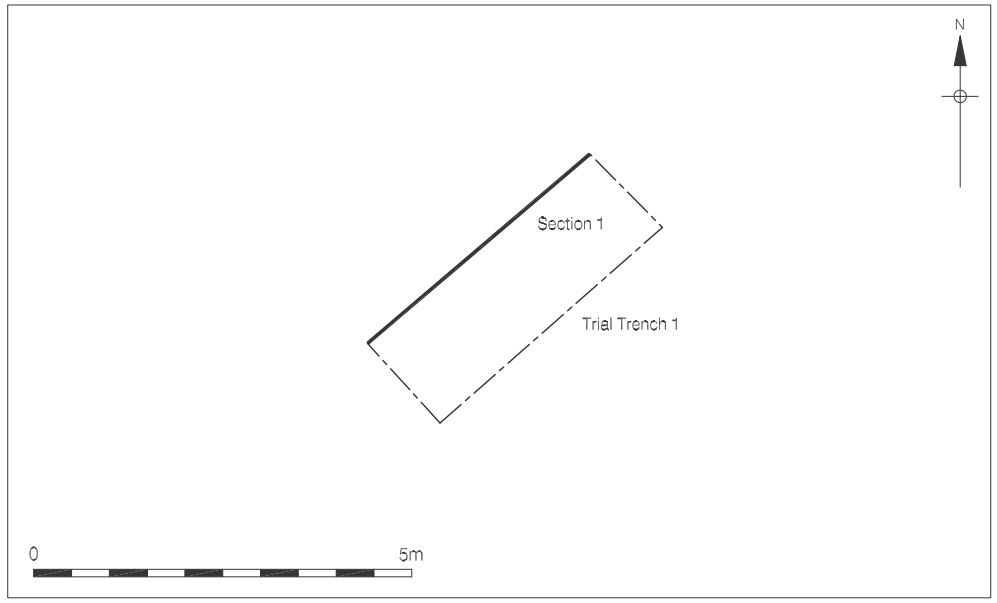

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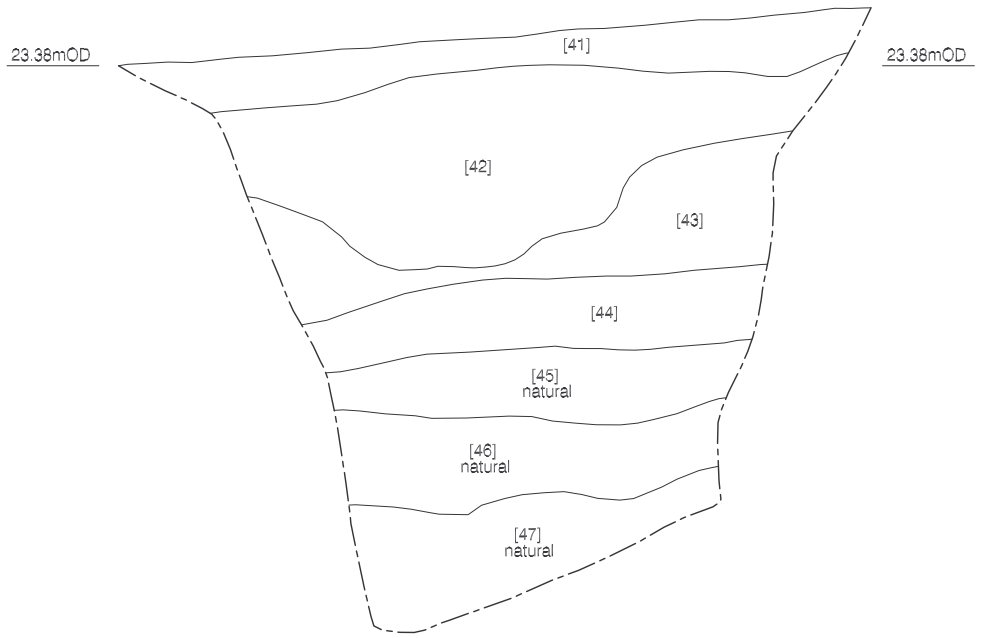
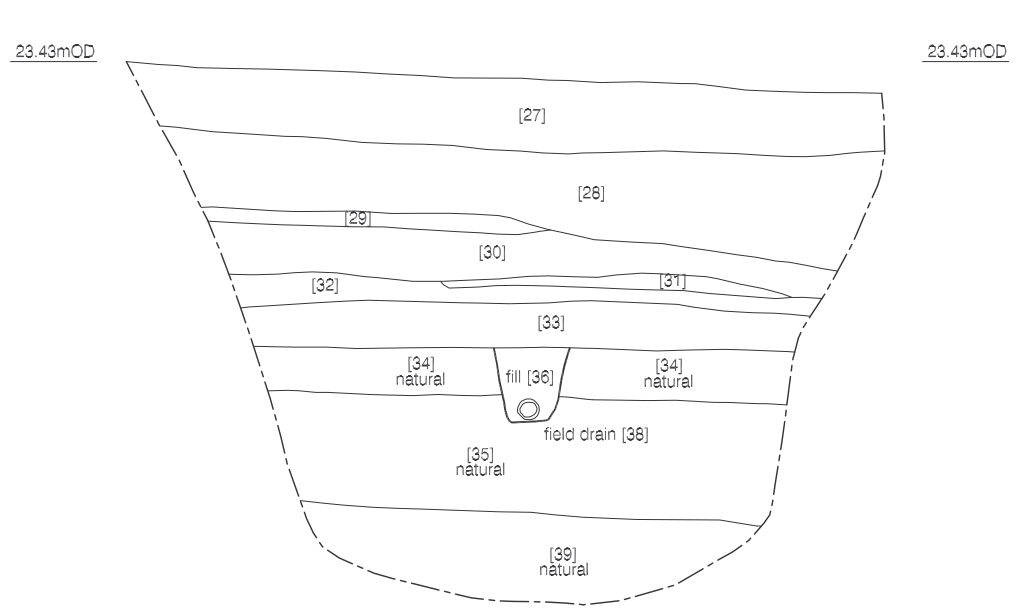


Section 6
Trial Trench 2
North East facing



Section 5
Trial Trench 1
South East facing

0 2m

1:40

Figure 3
Sections 1 & 2
Trenches 1 & 2

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The natural geology of terrace gravels [7], [20], [25], and [40] was observed across the area of the proposed development at heights of between 20.26m OD and 20.95m OD.

8.2 The only feature observed during the investigations consisted of the late post-medieval field drain [37] observed in Trench 2.

8.3 All trenches contained layers of made ground dating from the late post-medieval (19th century) to modern periods. It is likely that these layers relate to the landscaping of the area with such deposits being used to alter the ground level and build up the bunding seen in the area of the site.

8.4 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were identified during the investigations.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank The Royal Parks for commissioning the work. The author would also like to thank the contractors of Geotechnics for their assistance, to Richard Hughes and Raj Agnihotri from Arup for their assistance, and Diane Walls, English Heritage (GLAAS) for monitoring the work. Thanks also go to the Hayley Baxter of the PCA CAD department who produced the drawings, and to Tim Bradley who undertook the project management and editing.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bradley, Tim. 2008. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Investigations for the 7 – 7 Hyde Park Memorial*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. Unpublished Report, August 2008.

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 1998:
Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations.

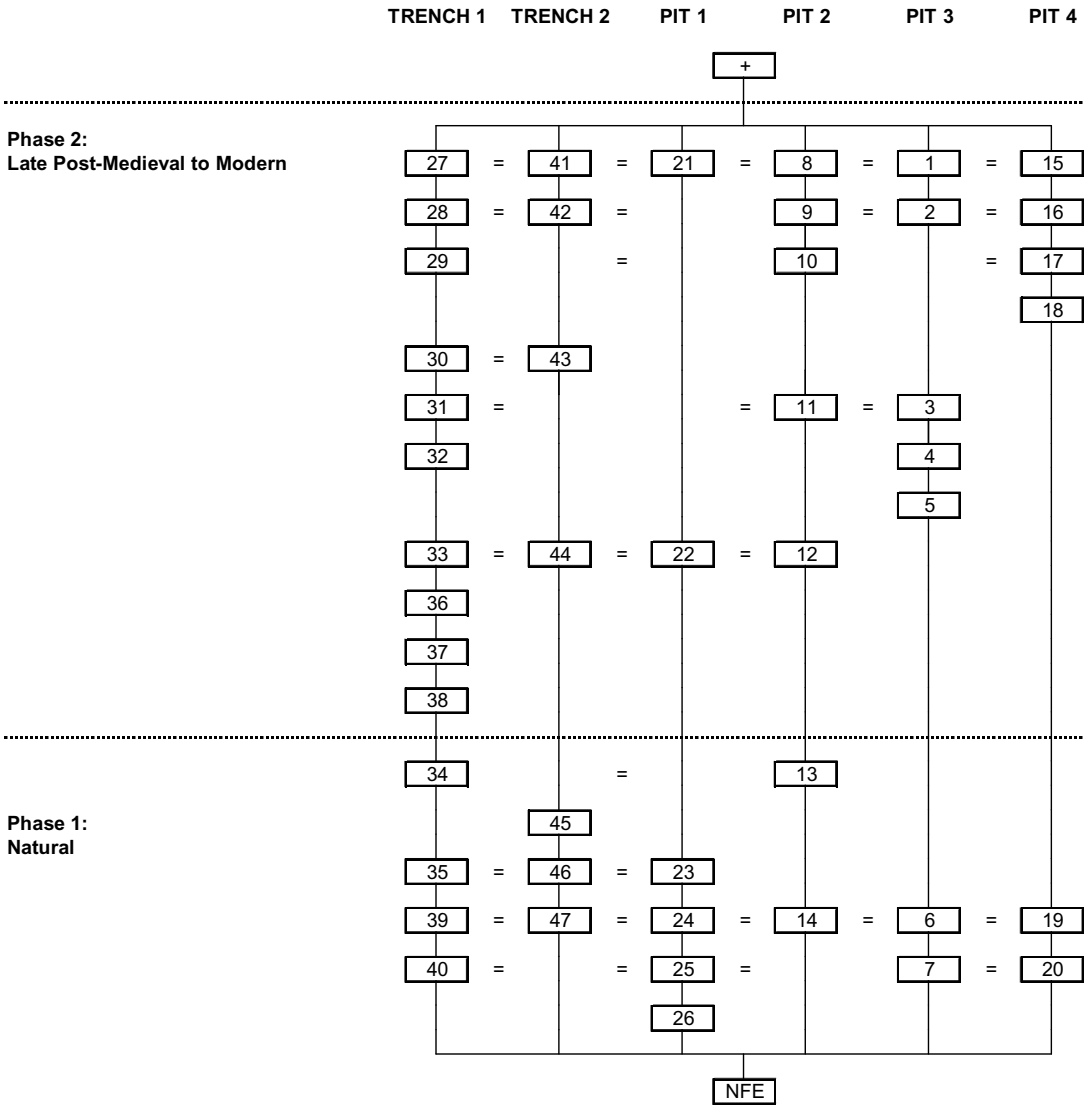
Hughes, Richard. 2008. *7 – 7 Hyde Park Memorial: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.* Arup. Unpublished report, June 2008.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Date
1	Layer	Test Pit 3	Topsoil	Modern
2	Layer	Test Pit 3	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
3	Layer	Test Pit 3	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
4	Layer	Test Pit 3	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
5	Layer	Test Pit 3	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
6	Natural	Test Pit 3	Clayey-Sand	-
7	Natural	Test Pit 3	Sandy-Gravels	-
8	Layer	Test Pit 2	Topsoil	Modern
9	Layer	Test Pit 2	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
10	Layer	Test Pit 2	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
11	Layer	Test Pit 2	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
12	Layer	Test Pit 2	Relict Topsoil	Late Post-Medieval
13	Natural	Test Pit 2	Sand	-
14	Natural	Test Pit 2	Clayey-Sand	-
15	Layer	Test Pit 4	Topsoil	Modern
16	Layer	Test Pit 4	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
17	Layer	Test Pit 4	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
18	Layer	Test Pit 4	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
19	Natural	Test Pit 4	Clayey-Sand	-
20	Natural	Test Pit 4	Sandy-Gravels	-
21	Layer	Test Pit 1	Topsoil	Modern
22	Layer	Test Pit 1	Relict Topsoil	Late Post-Medieval
23	Natural	Test Pit 1	Clayey-Sand	-
24	Natural	Test Pit 1	Clayey-Sand	-
25	Natural	Test Pit 1	Sandy-Gravels	-
26	Natural	Test Pit 1	Clay	-
27	Layer	Trench 1	Topsoil	Modern
28	Layer	Trench 1	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
29	Layer	Trench 1	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
30	Layer	Trench 1	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
31	Layer	Trench 1	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
32	Layer	Trench 1	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
33	Layer	Trench 1	Relict Topsoil	Late Post-Medieval
34	Natural	Trench 1	Sand	-

35	Natural	Trench 1	Clayey-Sand	-
36	Fill	Trench 1	Fill of [38]	Late Post-Medieval
37	Masonry	Trench 1	Field Drain Pipe in [38]	Late Post-Medieval
38	Cut	Trench 1	For Field Drain Pipe [37]	Late Post-Medieval
39	Natural	Trench 1	Clayey-Sand with Gravels	-
40	Natural	Trench 1	Sandy-Gravels	-
41	Layer	Trench 2	Topsoil	Modern
42	Layer	Trench 2	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
43	Layer	Trench 2	Made Ground	Late Post-Medieval
44	Layer	Trench 2	Relict Topsoil	Late Post-Medieval
45	Natural	Trench 2	Clayey-Sand	-
46	Natural	Trench 2	Clayey-Sand	-
47	Natural	Trench 2	Clayey-Sand	-

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

View of the site location, looking northwest.

View of section S5, showing field drain [37], in Trench 1 looking northwest.

View of work on Trench 2, looking west.

View of work on Test Pit 2, looking southwest.

APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-47685

Project details

Project name	7-7 Hyde Park Memorial
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken during geotechnical investigations in the southeastern corner of Hyde Park, near Curzon Gate, on August 27th-28th 2008, in advance of the construction of a permanent memorial in Hyde Park for the victims of the 7th July 2005 terrorist attack on public transport in London. The investigation found evidence for natural terrace gravels overlain by a sequence of natural clayey-sand and sand deposits, possible relict topsoil layers, and made ground and landscape creation layers of late post-medieval to modern date across the site. The only archaeological feature observed was a late post-medieval field drain in Trench 1, and only finds from the late post-medieval to modern period were encountered in the layers of made ground.
Project dates	Start: 27-08-2008 End: 28-08-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HYH 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland

Monument type	FIELD DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Not recorded
Development type	Memorial

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER 7-7 Hyde Park Memorial
Postcode	W2 2
Study area	435.20 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2829 8018 51.5054747346 -0.151308269977 51 30 19 N 000 09 04 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 21.49m Max: 22.04m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Arup Associate
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Sarah Barrowman
Type of sponsor/funding body	The Royal Parks

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	HYH 08
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	HYH 08

Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	HYH 08
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Entered by	Sarah Barrowman (sbarrowman@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	2 September 2008