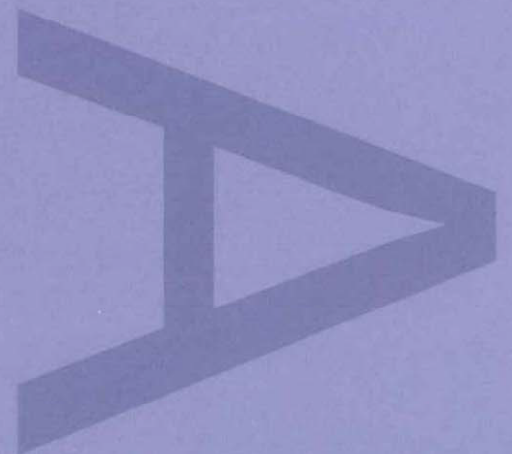
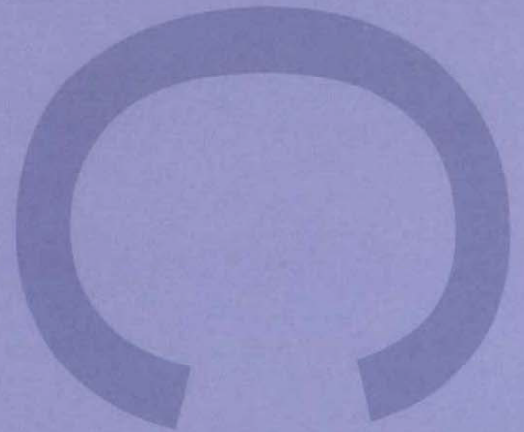
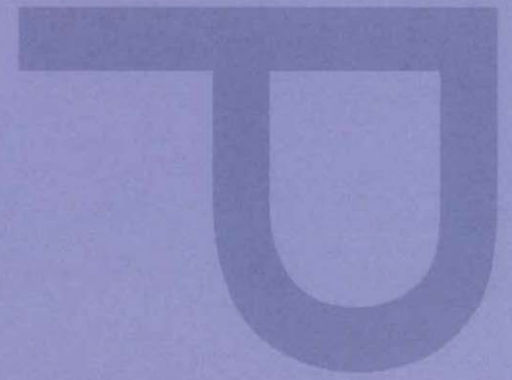


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF AT
PLOTS J, Q1, Q2, AND R2,
KING'S CROSS CENTRAL,
LONDON BOROUGH OF
CAMDEN**

SITE CODE: KXH 07

SEPTEMBER 2008



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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London Borough of Camden

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Plots J, Q1, Q2, and R2
King's Cross Central, London Borough of Camden**

Site Code: KXH 07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3031 8363

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September 2008**

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief for geotechnical trial pits and boreholes carried out at Plots J, Q1, Q2, and R2, King's Cross Central as part of a geotechnical investigation. The watching brief was commissioned by King's Cross Central General Partner Limited. The project took place between, 11th April 2008 and 16th May 2008 and represents one of a series of watching briefs intended to support the designs of King's Cross Central, in response to the London Borough of Camden planning requirements.
- 1.2 Four geotechnical test pits, one window sample and thirteen boreholes were carried out across the site. All were monitored by an archaeologist.
- 1.4 19th century concrete footings, stepped brick foundations and walls were recorded in some of the test pits and probably represent the remains of the Potato Market which was present on the site until the 1950s. A 20th century made ground/levelling deposit was found to be sealing the test pits. A cobbled road was also identified in some of the boreholes, again presumed to be associated with the Potato Market and the use of the site as part of the Eastern Goods Yard.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief of geotechnical trial pits was undertaken between 11th April 2008 and 16th May 2008 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Plots J, Q1, Q2 and R2, King's Cross Central .The project represents one of a series of watching briefs intended to support the designs of King's Cross Central, in response to the London Borough of Camden planning requirements.
- 2.2 The site was bounded by York Way to the east, Wharf Road to the south, the Eastern Handyside Canopy to the west and an open area to the north.
- 2.3 The site is located at National Grid Reference TQ 3031 8363.
- 2.4 The work was commissioned by IHCM on behalf of Kings Cross Central General Partner Limited. The fieldwork was managed for PCA by Helen Hawkins and supervised by the author.
- 2.5 The site was assigned the code KXH 07.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning" providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.
- 3.3 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Camden Replacement Unitary Development Plan (2006) which states:

B8 – ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS

A – SITES AND MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE:

WHEN CONSIDERING DEVELOPMENT CLOSE TO SITES AND MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE, INCLUDING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS, THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK THE PHYSICAL PRESERVATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND THEIR SETTINGS.

B – SITES AND MONUMENTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE:

THE COUNCIL WILL ONLY GRANT CONSENT FOR DEVELOPMENT WHERE ACCEPTABLE MEASURES ARE UNDERTAKEN TO PRESERVE REMAINS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND THEIR SETTINGS. DEVELOPERS SHOULD ADOPT MEASURES THAT ALLOW SUCH REMAINS TO BE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED IN SITU. WHERE THIS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED, NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE UNTIL SATISFACTORY EXCAVATION AND RECORDING OF THE REMAINS HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT.

- 3.4 Also of relevance is local policy KC11:

KC11 - HERITAGE

THE COUNCIL WILL GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE KING'S CROSS OPPORTUNITY AREA, WHICH SEEK TO ENSURE THAT:

- A) PRESERVE LISTED BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES AND THEIR SETTING**
- B) PRESERVE OR ENHANCE BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND OTHER FEATURES OF CHARACTER AND HISTORIC INTEREST, AND THEIR SETTING, WITHIN THE CONSERVATION AREAS**
- C) PRESERVE THE REMAINS OF SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND THEIR SETTINGS.**

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey map 256 of the area (1:50,000 series) indicates that the King's Cross site is underlain by London Clay. This is underlain by the Woolwich & Reading Formation, Thanet Formation and Upper Chalk.
- 4.2 The site is relatively flat and is located at levels ranging from 24.13m to 25.52m.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

- 5.1.1 A specialist archaeological report was prepared by heritage consultancy IHCM for Argent (King's Cross) prior to the archaeological fieldwork. The following represents a summary of the archaeological and historical background to the site, as represented within this document.

5.2 PREHISTORIC (450,000 BC – AD 43)

- 5.2.1 The King's Cross Central site is generally located on London Clay. The poorer drainage associated with this soil would therefore have not been as conducive to occupation by early settlers as in surrounding areas. Furthermore, any gravel deposits likely to yield material such as flint axes of this date, as have been produced elsewhere in London, have eroded away. No SMR entries relating to this period were noted in the vicinity.

5.3 ROMAN (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 5.3.1 The study site lies approximately 2km north-west of *Londinium*. Founded within a decade of the arrival of the Romans in AD 43, the city flourished during the 1st and early 2nd centuries. The city contracted in the 3rd and 4th centuries, becoming much less densely populated, inhabited by the wealthy and influential, and was finally abandoned in the early 5th century following the Roman withdrawal from Britain.
- 5.3.2 A number of finds relating to this period are noted in the proximity of the site. These include a road [SMR 080540] to the eastern boundary along York Way, and finds of an iron urn [SMR 080365], and a tombstone [SMR 080382], deriving from Wharfdale road to the south-east of the study site.

5.4 EARLY-MID SAXON (AD 410 – 9th Century)

- 5.4.1 Little evidence pertaining to the general character of the area in this period exists. A possible settlement [SMR 082063] is documented from the Old St Pancras graveyard, in addition to a 6th or 7th century altar [SMR 081792] from the same location. These, however, lay some way to the south of the study site.

5.5 LATE SAXON-MEDIEVAL (10th Century– AD 1485)

- 5.5.1 The 9th and 10th centuries saw the city becoming increasingly reoccupied, with a presumed farming expansion in north London and therefore most probably into King's Cross. Such activities however, may only leave ephemeral traces in the landscape. The present boundaries of the London boroughs were virtually reached by the 13th centuries, with rural villages existing at St Pancras and Islington. The site itself, according to the *Domesday*, lay within the Ossulstone Hundred; with the land to the west of York Way being in the Prebendal Manor of St Pancras. The medieval settlement around St Pancras church also lay to the west of the study site. The former manorial and parish boundaries correspond with the present York Way, a portion of the King's Cross Central site laying within the manor of Barnsbury, a property held by Hugh de Berners, from the Bishop of London.
- 5.5.2 Structures from this period were predominantly constructed from timber. High status buildings however, such as churches [e.g. SMR 082053], often utilised more durable materials such as masonry. Such structures may be used to infer the location of past settlements. No such buildings however are documented from the study site itself, the above entry deriving from the south of the site at St Pancras.

5.6 POST-MEDIEVAL (1485–1750)

- 5.6.1 The general layout of London did not significantly change during this period, the population however quadrupled in size. Neighbourhoods around Islington, Shoreditch and Clerkenwell began to be occupied by the poor, as the suburbs began to consume districts between the commercial areas and those beyond the city walls.
- 5.6.2 Documentation from this period denotes small pox and fever hospitals, north of the Great Northern Hotel. Other structures of note include the Brill settlement [SMR 080447], under St Pancras station, and three burial grounds under the former Goods depot to the west of St Pancras, partly excavated by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2004.

5.7 INDUSTRIAL (1750-1900)

- 5.7.1 Further expansion to the west of the station became necessary as railway system was developing. Terrace houses found in the area previously were demolished and replaced by dock sidings for horses, milk and carriages.
- 5.7.2 The previously open landscape of the study area during the C18th altered drastically with the urbanisation of London. The King's Cross area began to be utilised for quarrying and the manufacture of brick and tile; plus the construction of the Regent's Canal in 1820 facilitated yet further commercial development. A major gas manufacturing works was constructed to the south of the canal, with additional terraced housing and smaller commercial properties. Further industrialisation derived from the construction of railway termini at King's Cross, completed in 1852, and St. Pancras completed c1868, with associated hotels, sidings, maintenance depots and goods handling shed.
- 5.7.3 From the 1860s through to the 1950s, major commercial and industrial activities occurred on the site and immediate surrounding area. The most prominent feature during this period was the Potato Market, which served all of London until its demolition in the early 1950s.
- 5.7.4 The site is underlain by three gas works tunnels and two London Underground tunnels. The gas works tunnels were constructed during the period of 1849 to 1892.

5.8 MODERN (1900- PRESENT)

- 5.8.1 The Potato Market was demolished in the 1950s and most of the site has been resurfaced for use as temporary parking and construction haulage.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 The area to be investigated was laid out by the groundwork contractors in accordance with the proposed development plan. Both an archaeologist and the attendant geotechnical engineer monitored ground reduction.

6.2 The trial pits were excavated to investigate foundations of existing structures, determine ground conditions, determine character of foundations and soils of mid to late 19th century and locate any other unforeseen obstructions. Other objectives were to investigate:

- The character of the site and landscape prior to first phase industrial development including information about the rural topography with evidence of prehistoric to post-medieval land-use; the exploitation of soils for brick making; and the insertion of the Regent's Canal;
- The preparation, infilling processes and materials used for the mid 19th century railway facilities;
- Ground surface features of all ages exposed at the location of the investigations;
- The character of foundations and foundation materials of the Potato Market known from maps, documents, IHCM research, and PCA archives;
- Identification and documentation of newly discovered buried structural features;
- An evaluation of the investigated surface and below ground structures and made ground for inputting into ongoing heritage related studies;
- More generally, the archaeological watching brief will monitor the investigation works to reduce the chance of accidental damage occurring to any uncovered archaeological remains.

6.3 Ground reductions of the trial pits were observed as an archaeological watching brief.

6.4 No artefacts were identified or retained during the watching brief.

6.5 The dimensions of the trial pits (Figure 2) were:

TP1 - Originally, 1.50m (E-W) x 1.00m (N-S) x 1.20m (depth), – extended to the south east 2.6m, by 0.95m NW/SE, and to the west 1.10m by 1.30m N-S, 2.50m (depth). A borehole was dug in the central part of the test pit (depth 3.40m)

TP2 - Originally, 1.50m (E-W) x 1.05m (N-S) x 1.37m (depth) - extended to the south-west 0.90m by 1.20m SW/NE, 1.20m (depth).

TP3 - Originally, 1.40m (E-W) x 1.00m (N-S) x 0.97m, - extended to the south-west 1.25m by 1.00m N/S, 1.02m (depth).

TP4 - Originally, 1.80m (N-S) x 1.10m (E-W) x 1.10m (depth), - extended to the west 1.10m by 0.90m N-S, 1.57m (depth). A borehole was dug in central part of the test pit (2.40m depth).

- 6.6 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and/or exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. The recording system used was "single context".
- 6.7 The proposal follows IFA guidelines, and the methodologies set out in English Heritage (GLAAS) Guidance Papers for standards and practices in archaeological fieldwork watching briefs and assessments and evaluation.

7 SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Test Pit 1.

- 7.1.1 Test Pit 1 was located in plot Q1. One section was drawn (south-west facing). Test Pit 1 was excavated to a depth of 3.40m and was located at a level of 25.23m OD.
- 7.1.2 The earliest deposit observed was a 19th or 20th century bitumen surface [90], this deposit was found at the bottom of an observation pit, which was dug in north-east part of the test pit. The deposit was found at 21.83m OD
- 7.1.3 Above surface [90] modern made ground layer [89] was found. This consisted of medium greyish brown sandy clay and contained a large number of small to large fragments of CBM. It measured 2.60m (E-W), 1.30m (N-S), 0.95m (thick) and was found at 22.78m OD.
- 7.1.4 Layer [24] was encountered above the made ground [89] and was of a similar date. The layer consisted of medium brown silty sand, containing large number of large fragments of CBM (red and yellow bricks). The layer [24] can be interpreted as a modern levelling layer. Dimensions of the deposit [24] were; E-W 1.00m x 0.80m thick. The deposit was found at 24.83m OD.
- 7.1.5 Modern tarmac [23] was uncovered at 24.92m OD. It measured E-W 1.00m x 0.09m thick.
- 7.1.6 Deposit [22] was 0.20m thick and was interpreted as a modern levelling layer for modern concrete surface [21]. It was made of sandy gravel and was found at 25.12m OD.
- 7.1.7 Modern concrete surface [21] was found to seal the layer [22]. It was 0.11m thick and was found at 25.23m OD. The concrete surface is being used as a car park.

7.2 Test Pit 2

- 7.2.1 Test Pit 2 was located in the central part of plot Q2 and was excavated to a depth of 1.25m.
- 7.2.2 The earliest deposit observed in Test Pit 2 was a 19th century brick foundation [44], which was stepped (three steps) and placed on a concrete base made of 19th century concrete [33]. The brick foundation was aligned S/W-NE and was made of unfrogged red bricks (average dimensions; 110mm/220mm/65-70mm) with hard medium greyish yellow sandy mortar. It measured N/E-S/W 1.20m, N/W-SE 0.42m, and approx. 0.28 high. Dimensions of the concrete base were: 1.30m N/W-S/E, 1.20m N/E-S/W. It was interpreted as a 19th century wall, probably part of the Potato Market. The construction cut for the wall was not observed due to the small dimensions of the test pit.
- 7.2.3 Concrete base [33] was truncated by a 19th or 20th century pipe cut [43] for a ceramic pipe, and backfilled with loose medium greyish silty sand containing very occasional small flecks of CBM fragments [42]. Deposit [42] was 0.07m thick.
- 7.2.4 Above the brickwork [44] and the service pipe, modern made ground was found. This comprised two layers, [40] at 24.71m OD and 0.38m thick, and [41] at 25.09m OD and 0.33m thick. Deposit [83], which was found in the southern part of the test pit, is the same as deposit [41].

7.2.5 Above modern made ground [40], [41], three modern layers were found. Tarmac [39] at 25.15m OD and 0.06m thick, levelling layer [38] at 25.26m OD and 0.11m thick Layer [38] was a levelling layer for the concrete surface [37] which was found at 25.36m OD and which was 0.10m thick. The concrete surface [37] is being used as car park.

7.3 Test Pit 3

7.3.1 Test Pit 3 was located in plot Q2 and was excavated to a depth of 1.10m.

7.3.2 The earliest deposit observed in Test Pit 3 was a 19th century brick foundation [57]. The foundation was aligned E-W and was constructed of unfrogged red bricks (average dimensions: 110mm/220mm/70-65mm) with hard medium yellowish grey sandy mortar. It measured 1.60m E-W and 0.70m N-S, was 0.32m high and was located at 24.92m OD. It was interpreted as a 19th century wall probably associated with the Potato Market. The construction cut for the wall was not observed due to the small dimensions of the test pit.

7.3.3 Next to the brick foundation [57] was a 19th century wall [85] which was probably part of the same structure. The wall was found at 25.15m OD in the western part of the test pit. It measured 0.74m N-S, 0.36m E-W, 0.32m high, and was made of red and yellow unfrogged brick (average dimensions: red brick- 110mm/220mm/65mm, yellow brick: 220mm/110m/70mm). The wall was interpreted as a part of a structure (possibly a cellar), associated with the 19th century Potato Market. The construction cut for the wall was not observed due to the small dimensions of the test pit.

7.3.4 Above wall [85] and wall [57] in the eastern part of the test pit, two layers of 19th century redeposited clay [55] and [56] were uncovered. These two layers were interpreted as 19th century made ground or as backfill of a 19th century brick structure. Layer [55] measured 0.20m N-S x 0.10m thick, and layer [56] measured 0.43m N-S x 0.10m thick. These deposits were found at the same level of 24.92m OD.

7.3.5 Above wall [85] in the western part of the trench modern made ground [86] was found. It consisted of medium yellowish grey sandy rubble. The deposit was found at 24.50m and measured 0.96m N-S x 0.42m E-W.

7.3.6 In the western part of Test Pit 3, above the made ground [84] modern concrete was found at 24.90m OD.

7.3.7 In the eastern part of Test Pit 3, 19th century wall [57] was truncated by modern cut [88] at 24.92m OD and backfilled with a loose medium yellowish grey rubble [87] 0.56m thick.

7.3.8 Above deposit [87] modern hardcore [54] was uncovered at 24.98m OD. This layer consisted of medium brownish grey sandy rubble, containing very frequent small to large fragments of CBM (yellow and red bricks). The deposit was interpreted as a levelling layer for modern tarmac [53] which was 0.09m thick.

7.3.9 Modern made ground [52] comprising medium grey sandy gravel 0.24m thick was found above the tarmac [53] at 25.31m OD.

7.3.10 Two deposits were found to seal Test Pit 3. Deposit [51] was located at 25.42m OD and consisted of medium brownish grey sandy gravel 0.11m thick which can be interpreted as a modern levelling layer. Layer [50] comprised a layer of concrete located at 25.52m OD and was 0.10m thick.

7.4 Test Pit 4

7.4.1 Test Pit 4 was located in plot J and was excavated to a depth of 1.10m.

- 7.4.2 The earliest deposit observed in Test Pit 4 was a 19th century brick foundation [32], which was stepped (two steps). The brick foundation was aligned E-W and was constructed of unfrosted red bricks (average dimensions: 110mm/220mm/65mm) bonded with hard, medium greyish yellow, sandy mortar. It measured 2.02m E-W and 0.76m N-S x 0.44m high and was found at 24.15m OD. It was interpreted as a 19th century wall probably associated with the Potato Market. The construction cut for the wall was not observed due to the small dimensions of the test pit.
- 7.4.3 Next to the 19th century brick foundation [32], a probable 19th century wall [49] was uncovered, which may have been a part of the same structure as the brick foundation [32]. The wall was found at 24.14m OD in the eastern part of Test Pit 4. It measured 1.80m N-S, 0.16m E-W x 0.73m high, and was made of red unfrosted brick (average dimensions 110mm/220mm/65mm). The wall can be interpreted as a part of a structure associated with the 19th century Potato Market. The construction cut for the wall was not observed due to the small dimensions of the test pit.
- 7.4.4 Above walls [32] and [49] was deposit [48], comprising medium greyish brown sandy clay containing very frequent small to large fragments of CBM fragments (red bricks). The deposit was found at 24.13m OD, was 0.73m thick, and was interpreted as a backfill within the two walls (possibly backfill of a cellar) or as 19th century made ground. It measured 1.05m E-W.
- 7.4.5 Above deposit [48] was a layer of modern made ground [47] consisted of medium brownish grey sandy gravel, containing very frequent small to large fragments of CBM (red and yellow bricks). The layer was uncovered at 24.35m and it measured 1.05m E-W x 0.22m thick.
- 7.4.6 Sealing the modern made ground [47] a layer of tarmac [45], and concrete [46] were observed. The tarmac was uncovered at 24.47m OD and was 0.04m thick. The concrete was located at 24.51m OD, was 0.12m thick and forms the surface of the current car park.

7.5 Window Sample 1

- 7.5.1 Window Sample 1 was located in the central part of plot R2.
- 7.5.2 The earliest deposit observed was a layer [28] of redeposited clay (medium yellowish brown clay), measuring 0.23m thick and located at 23.61m OD.
- 7.5.3 A medium greyish red layer [27] made of brick crush was uncovered above the redeposited clay [28] at 23.81m OD measuring 0.20m thick. The layer was interpreted as a 19th century levelling layer.
- 7.5.4 Above layer [27] two modern deposits [26] and [25] were found to seal Window Sample 1. Modern made ground [26] consisted of medium brownish grey silty-sand, gravel and rubble, containing very frequent, small to large fragments of CBM fragments (yellow and red bricks), at 24.31m OD and 0.50m thick. Modern concrete [25] at 24.41m OD, and 0.10m thick comprised the current car park surface.

7.6 Boreholes

- 7.6.1 Borehole 1 was located in the central part of plot R2.
- 7.6.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 1 was a layer [3] of redeposited clay (medium yellowish brown), measuring 0.32m and found at 23.26m OD.
- 7.6.3 A 19th century cobbled surface [5], was uncovered above the redeposited clay [3] at 23.41m OD (c.1m below ground level). The surface was made of sandstone and granite cobbles (average dimensions: sandstone sett: 100mm/110mm/110mm,

granite sett: 120mm/120mm/110mm). The setts were bonded with grey, hard sandy mortar. The surface can be interpreted as a 19th century road, probably associated with the 19th century use of the Eastern Goods Yard.

- 7.6.4 Above the 19th century surface [5], a layer [4] was found at 23.71m OD and 0.30m thick. The layer consisted of silty/sand, flint pebbles and small lumps of concrete and can be interpreted as a modern deposit.
- 7.6.5 Two modern deposits [1] and [2] were found to seal Borehole 1. Modern made ground [2] consisting of medium brownish grey silty-sand, containing occasionally flecks of CBM, was found at 24.31m OD, and was 0.50m thick. Modern concrete [1] uncovered at 24.41m OD and 0.10m thick is still being used as car park.

7.7 Borehole 2

- 7.7.1 Borehole 2 was located in the southern part of plot J.
- 7.7.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 2 was a layer [10] of redeposited clay (light grey), measuring 0.20m and found at 23.74m OD.
- 7.7.3 Above the layer [10] a concrete surface [9] was found at 23.94m OD which was 0.20m thick. Probably the concrete was used as a base (bedding layer) for a 19th century cobbled surface [8].
- 7.7.4 A 19th century cobbled surface [8], was uncovered above the concrete layer [9] at 24.08m OD. The surface was made of granite setts (average dimensions 140mm/100mm/90mm). The setts were bonded with grey hard sandy mortar. The surface was interpreted as a 19th century road, which could be associated with the Potato Market.
- 7.7.5 Above the 19th century surface [8], layer [7] was found at 24.58m OD and was 0.40m thick. The layer consisted of silty/sand, flint pebbles and small lumps of concrete and was interpreted as a modern deposit.
- 7.7.6 Modern made ground [6] was found to seal Borehole 2 at 24.68m OD. The layer was 0.10m thick.

7.8 Borehole 3

- 7.8.1 Borehole 3 was located in the southern part of plot Q2.
- 7.8.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 3 was a layer [16] of redeposited clay (medium yellowish brown), measuring 0.30m in thickness and found at 24.40m OD.
- 7.8.3 Above layer [16] a concrete surface [15] was found at 24.65m OD and was 0.25m thick. The concrete was used as a base (bedding layer) for a 19th century cobbled surface [14].
- 7.8.4 A 19th century cobbled surface [14] was uncovered above the concrete layer [15] at 24.75m OD and was 0.10m thick. The surface was made of granite setts (average dimensions 140mm/100mm/90mm). The setts were bonded with grey hard sandy mortar. The surface was interpreted as a 19th century road which was associated with the Potato Market.
- 7.8.5 Modern made ground comprising two modern deposits [13] and [12] was found above the 19th century surface. The layer [13] was uncovered at 24.90m OD, was 0.15m (thick), and consisted of medium grey, sandy/gravel. Layer [12] was uncovered at 25.10m OD, was 0.20m thick and consisted of sandy/gravel, containing occasional flecks of CBM.

7.8.6 Above the modern made ground layers [12] and [13], a concrete layer was found to seal Borehole 3. The concrete was found at 25.30m OD, was 0.20 thick and comprises the surface of the current car park.

7.9 Borehole 4

7.9.1 Borehole 4 was located in plot Q1.

7.9.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 4 was layer [20] consisting of dark grey sandy/gravel. The layer can be interpreted as a levelling or bedding layer for the modern concrete [19]. The deposit was uncovered at 23.82m OD and was 0.30m thick.

7.9.3 Modern concrete [19] was found at 24.02m OD and was 0.20m thick.

7.9.4 Above the modern concrete two deposits [17] and [18], which can be interpreted as a modern made ground, were found. Deposit [18] was uncovered at 24.37m OD, measured 0.35m in thickness and consisted of medium greyish yellow sandy/rubble containing very frequent large fragments of yellow bricks. Deposit [17] was found at 24.57m OD, measured 0.20m in thickness, and consisted of medium brownish grey sandy gravel.

7.9.5 Modern concrete was found to seal Borehole 4 at 24.72m OD, and was 0.15m thick.

7.10 Borehole 5

7.10.1 Borehole 5 was located northwest of plot R2.

7.10.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 5 was modern made ground [30], consisting of medium brownish grey silty/sand, rubble and flint pebbles, containing frequent small fragments of CBM. The deposit was found at 24.95m, measuring 0.10m thick.

7.10.3 Modern concrete was found to seal Borehole 5 at 24.95m OD. The concrete was 0.10m thick.

7.11 Borehole 6

7.11.1 Borehole 6 was located in the northern part of plot R2.

7.11.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 6 was modern made ground made of two layers [60] and [61]. Layer [61] was located at 24.55m OD and was 0.50m thick. It consisted of medium brownish grey gravelly clay, containing very occasional small fragments of tarmac, occasional small fragments of CBM, and small subangular flint pebbles. Layer [60] was found at 25.00m OD and was 0.45m thick. It consisted of medium brownish grey sandy/gravel clay, containing occasional small to large CBM fragments.

7.11.3 Above the modern made ground two modern deposits were found, tarmac [58] at 25.25m OD, measuring 0.10m thick, and concrete [59] at 25.10m OD, measuring 0.15m thick.

7.12 Borehole 7

7.12.1 Borehole 7 was located in the northern part of plot R2.

7.12.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 7 was modern made ground [64], consisting of medium greyish brown sandy/gravel clay, containing occasional small to large fragments of CBM. The deposit was found at 24.75m, and was 0.90m thick.

7.12.3 Above the modern made ground two modern deposits were found, tarmac [62] at 25.05m OD, measuring 0.15m (thick), and concrete [63] at 24.90m OD, measuring 0.15m (thick).

7.13 Borehole 8

7.13.1 Borehole 8 was located in plot R2.

7.13.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 8 was modern made ground comprising two layers [68] and [67]. Layer [68] was uncovered at 24.51m OD and was 0.70m thick. It consisted of dark greyish brown sandy/gravelly clay, containing occasional small fragments of CBM, and occasional small subangular flint pebbles. Layer [67] was found at 24.81m OD and was 0.30m thick. It consisted of dark greyish brown clay/gravelly sand, containing very occasional small fragments of glass.

7.13.3 Above the modern made ground two modern deposits were found; tarmac [65] at 25.01m OD, measuring 0.10m (thick), and a concrete [66] at 24.91m OD, measuring 0.10m (thick).

7.14 Borehole 9

7.14.1 Borehole 9 was located in the central part of plot R2.

7.14.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 9 was modern made ground made of two layers [72] and [71]. Layer [72] was uncovered at 23.43m OD, and was 0.40m thick. It consisted of medium greyish brown sandy/gravelly clay, containing occasional small to large fragments of CBM. Layer [71] was found 24.03m OD, was 0.60m thick and consisted of dark reddish brown gravelly/sand containing very frequent, small fragments of CBM (CBM crush).

7.14.3 Above the modern made ground two modern deposits were found; tarmac [69] at 24.23m OD, measuring 0.08m (thick), and concrete [70] at 24.15m OD, measuring 0.12m (thick).

7.15 Borehole 10

7.15.1 Borehole 10 was located in the southern part of plot R2.

7.15.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 10 was modern made ground made of two layers [76] and [75]. Layer [76] was uncovered at 23.65m OD and was 0.50m thick. It consisted of medium brownish red sandy/gravelly clay, containing very frequent small fragments of CBM. Layer [75] was found at 24.05m OD and was 0.40m thick. It consisted of dark greyish brown/red gravelly/sand, containing very frequent small fragments of CBM (CBM crush).

7.15.3 Above the modern made ground two modern deposits were found, tarmac [73] at 24.35m OD, measuring 0.10m (thick), and concrete [74] at 24.25m OD, measuring 0.20m (thick).

7.16 Borehole 11

7.16.1 Borehole 11 was located in the southern part of plot R2.

7.16.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 11 was modern made ground [79], consisting of medium reddish brown gravelly/sand, containing very occasional small lumps of tarmac, very frequent small fragments of CBM (CBM crush) and small fragments of wood. The deposit was found at 23.80m and was 0.80m thick.

7.16.3 Above the modern made ground two modern deposits were found, tarmac [77] at 24.10m OD, measuring 0.05m thick, and concrete [78] at 24.05m OD, measuring 0.25m thick.

7.17 Borehole 12

7.17.1 Borehole 12 was located in the south-east corner of plot R2.

7.17.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 12 was modern made ground [82], consisting of dark brownish grey gravelly/sand, containing occasional, small to large fragments of CBM, and occasional small fragments of wood. The deposit was found at 24.01m OD, measuring 0.90m thick.

7.17.3 Above the modern made ground two modern deposits were found, tarmac [82] at 24.31m OD, measuring 0.20m (thick), and concrete [80] at 24.21m OD, measuring 0.10m (thick).

7.18 Borehole 13

7.18.1 Borehole 13 was located to the east of plot J.

7.18.2 The earliest deposit observed in Borehole 13 was brickwork [36], which was found at 24.62m OD. Due to the small size of the borehole, the function of masonry [36] could not be interpreted and could not be measured, but given its location probably relates to the Potato Market.

7.18.3 Above the brickwork [36] modern made ground was found at 24.87m OD. The layer was 0.25m thick, and it consisted of medium grey sandy/gravel.

7.18.4 A layer of concrete was found to seal Borehole 13 at 25.12m OD, and was 0.25m thick.

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Results from the test pits, which were dug out in plots Q1, Q2, R2 and J indicate that the foundations of the Potato Market survive beneath the modern concrete surface which is being used as a car park. Remains of the Potato Market are represented by 19th century walls, foundations and concrete. The walls and the stepped foundations (consisting of two or three steps) were uncovered in Test Pits 2, 3, and 4. The concrete base was observed only in Test Pit 2, and was interpreted as a part of a 19th century foundation. The cobbled surface made of sandstone and granite setts was revealed in Boreholes 1, 2 and 3 and probably represents roads relating to the use of the Eastern Goods Yard. No deposits dating to earlier than the 19th century were found. Due to the small dimensions of the test pit and boreholes further interpretation was not possible. All 19th century features were sealed by modern made ground, concrete and tarmac.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank IHCM and King's Cross Central General Partner Limited for commissioning the project, and Soil Mechanics who carried out the onsite work. Thanks to the digging crew who undertook the excavation of the pits and the safe maintenance of them.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for her project management and the geotechnical crew for their on-site co-operation. Illustrations were produced by Hayley Baxter.

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Appendix 1 Context Register

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Type	Description	Date	Phase
KXH 07	1	B.H 1	deposit	concrete	28.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	2	B.H 1	layer	made ground	28.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	3	B.H 1	layer	redeposited clay	28.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	4	B.H 1	deposit	made ground	28.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	5	B.H 1	masonry	cobbled surface	28.03.2008	19th century
KXH 07	6	B.H 2	layer	make up layer	28.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	7	B.H 2	layer	made ground	28.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	8	B.H 2	masonry	cobbled surface	28.03.2008	19th century
KXH 07	9	B.H 2	deposit	concrete	28.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	10	B.H 2	layer	redeposited clay	28.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	11	B.H 3	deposit	concrete	07.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	12	B.H 3	layer	made up layer	07.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	13	B.H 3	layer	made up layer	07.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	14	B.H 3	masonry	cobbled surface	07.04.2008	19th century
KXH 07	15	B.H 3	deposit	concrete	07.04.2008	19th century
KXH 07	16	B.H 3	deposit	made ground	08.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	17	B.H 3	layer	leveling layer	08.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	18	B.H 3	layer	dump layer	08.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	19	B.H 3	deposit	concrete	08.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	20	B.H 3	layer	leveling layer	08.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	21	T.P 1	deposit	concrete	08.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	22	T.P 1	layer	leveling layer	08.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	23	T.P 1	deposit	tarmac	08.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	24	T.P 1	layer	made ground	08.03.2008	20th century
KXH 07	25	W.S 1	deposit	concrete	09.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	26	W.S 1	layer	made ground	09.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	27	W.S 1	layer	made up layer	09.04.2008	20th

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Type	Description	Date	Phase
07						century
KXH 07	28	W.S 1	layer	redeposited clay	09.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	29	B.H 5	deposit	concrete	09.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	30	B.H 5	layer	made ground	09.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	31	B.H 4	deposit	concrete	10.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	32	T.P 4	masonry	wall (foundation?)	10.04.2008	19th century
KXH 07	33	T.P 2	layer	concrete	10.04.2008	19th century
KXH 07	34	B.H 13	layer	concrete	11.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	35	B.H 13	layer	hard core leveling	11.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	36	B.H 13	masonry	wall(foundation)	11.04.2008	19th century
KXH 07	37	T.P 2	deposit	concrete	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	38	T.P 2	layer	made ground	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	39	T.P 2	layer	tarmac	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	40	T.P 2	layer	made ground	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	41	T.P 2	layer	hard core leveling	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	42	T.P 2	fill	backfill of cut 43	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	43	T.P 2	cut	pipe cut	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	44	T.P 2	masonry	wall(foundation)	28.04.2008	19th century
KXH 07	45	T.P 4	deposit	tarmac	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	46	T.P 4	layer	concrete	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	47	T.P 4	layer	made ground	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	48	T.P 4	deposit	poss backfill?	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	49	T.P 4	masonry	wall(foundation)	28.04.2008	19th century
KXH 07	50	T.P 3	deposit	concrete	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	51	T.P 3	layer	leveling layer	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	52	T.P 3	layer	made ground	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	53	T.P 3	layer	tarmac	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	54	T.P 3	layer	hard core leveling	28.04.2008	20th century

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Type	Description	Date	Phase
KXH 07	55	T.P 3	deposit	redeposited clay	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	56	T.P 3	deposit	redeposited clay	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	57	T.P 3	masonry	wall(foundation)	28.04.2008	19th century
KXH 07	58	B.H 6	layer	tarmac	28.04.2008	20th century
KXH 07	59	B.H 6	layer	concrete	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	60	B.H 6	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	61	B.H 6	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	62	B.H 7	layer	tarmac	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	63	B.H 7	layer	concrete	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	64	B.H 7	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	65	B.H 8	layer	tarmac	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	66	B.H 8	layer	concrete	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	67	B.H 8	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	68	B.H 8	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	69	B.H 9	layer	tarmac	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	70	B.H 9	layer	concrete	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	71	B.H 9	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	72	B.H 9	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	73	B.H 10	layer	tarmac	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	74	B.H 10	layer	concrete	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	75	B.H 10	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	76	B.H 10	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	77	B.H 11	layer	tarmac	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	78	B.H 11	layer	concrete	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	79	B.H 11	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	80	B.H 12	layer	tarmac	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	81	B.H 12	layer	concrete	29.04 2008	20th century
KXH 07	82	B.H 12	layer	made ground	29.04 2008	20th

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Type	Description	Date	Phase
07						century
KXH 07	83	T.P 2	layer	made ground	12.05.2008	20th century
KXH 07	84	T.P 3	layer	concrete	12.05.2008	20th century
KXH 07	85	T.P 3	masonry	wall(foundation)	12.05.2008	19th century
KXH 07	86	T.P 3	layer	made ground	12.05.2008	20th century
KXH 07	87	T.P 3	fill	fill of the cut 88	12.05.2008	20th century
KXH 07	88	T.P 3	cut	cut of ?	12.05.2008	20th century
KXH 07	89	T.P 1	layer	made ground	14.05.2008	20th century
KXH 07	90	T.P 1	layer	tarmac	14.05.2008	20th century

Appendix 2 OASIS Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-48399

Project details

Project name Archaeological Watching Brief at Plots J, Q1, Q2, and R2 King's Cross Central NW1

Short description of the project Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits and boreholes was carried out at Plots J, Q1, Q2 and R2, King's Cross Central, London Borough of Camden. Remains of the 19th century Potato Market and roads associated with the use of the site as a railway goods yard were found.

Project dates Start: 11-04-2008 End: 16-05-2008

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes KXH07 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type WALLS Post Medieval

Monument type ROAD Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CAMDEN HOLBORN King's Cross Central

Postcode N1 0LW

Study area 1.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 530310 183630 50.9437945850 0.178561255346 50 56 37 N 000 10 42 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation IHCM

Project originator brief IHCM

Project design originator Richard Hughes

Project director/manager Helen Hawkins

Project supervisor Tomasz Mazurkiewicz

Type of sponsor/funding body Commercial Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body King's Cross Central General Partner Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID KXH07

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Spreadsheets', 'Text', 'Database'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID KXH07

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at Plots J, Q1, Q2, and R2 King's Cross Central, London Borough of Camden

Author(s)/Editor(s) Tomasz Mazurkiewicz

Date 2008

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or publication London

Description bound grey literature report

Entered by Helen Hawkins (hhawkins@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 16 September 2008

Appendix 3 Potato Market Photos of Trial Pits



Plate 1-Test Pit 2 looking west



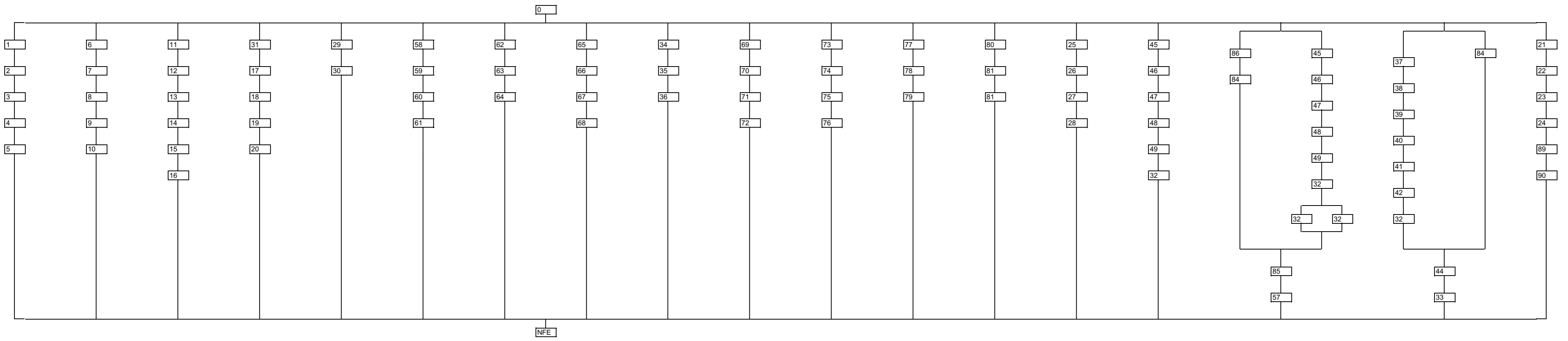
Plate 2-Test Pit 2 pipe and footings looking south-east

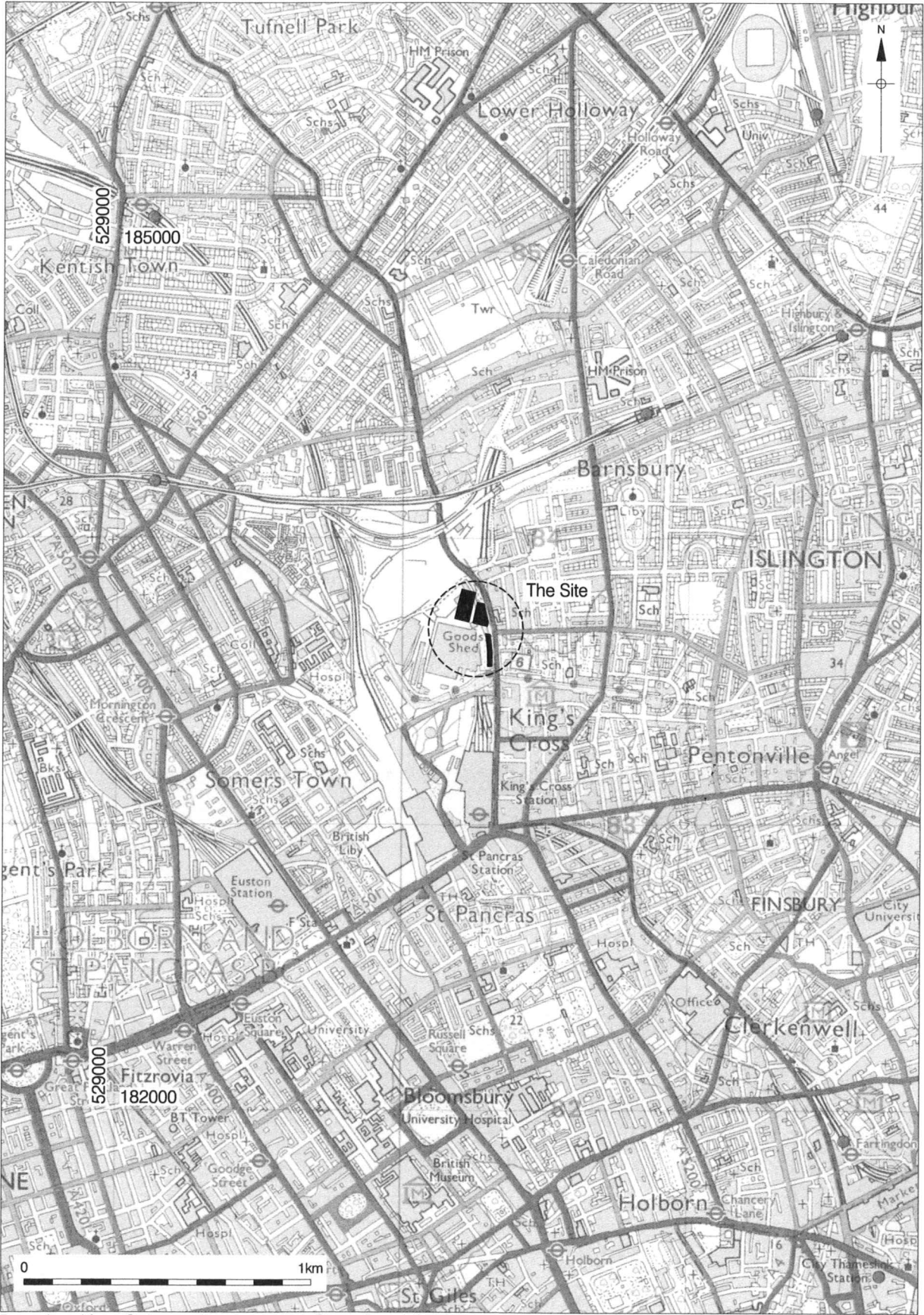


Plate 3-Test Pit 3 looking north-west



Plate 4-Test Pit 4 looking east

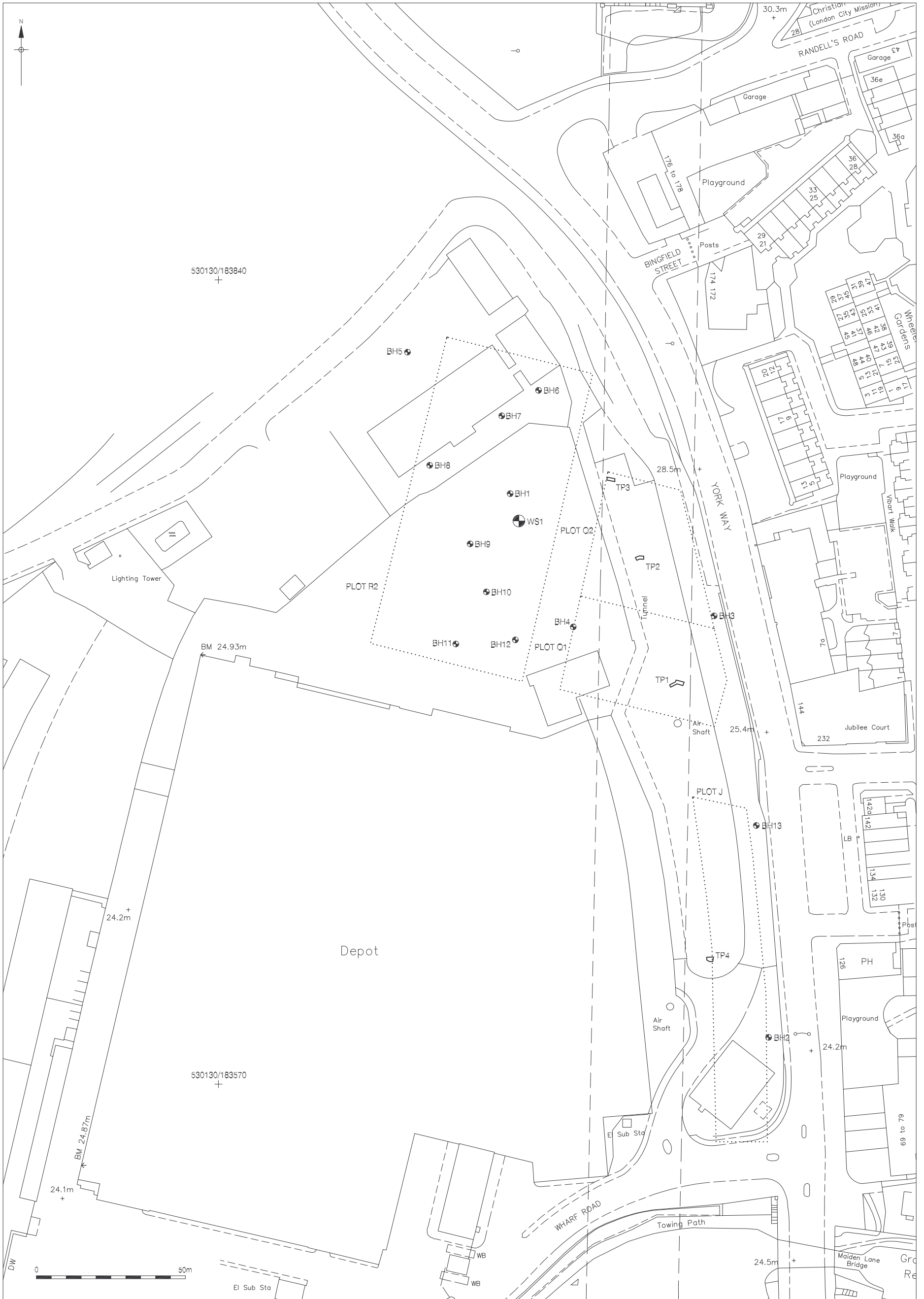




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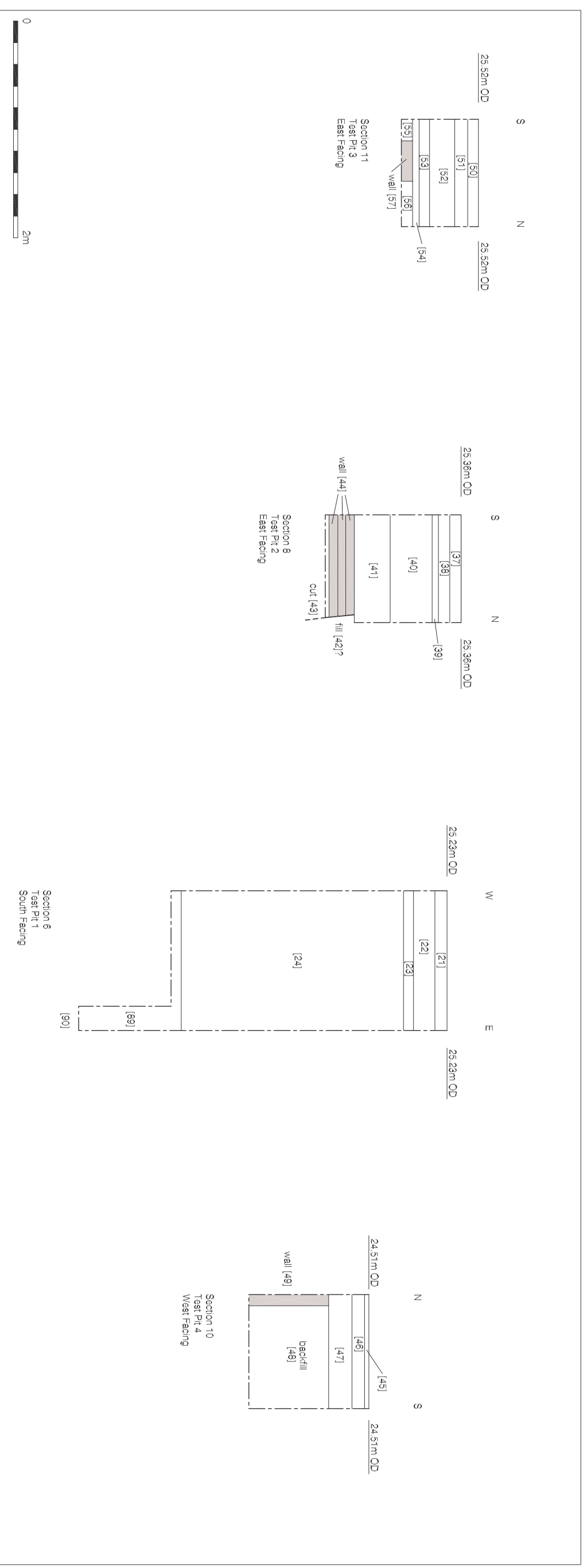
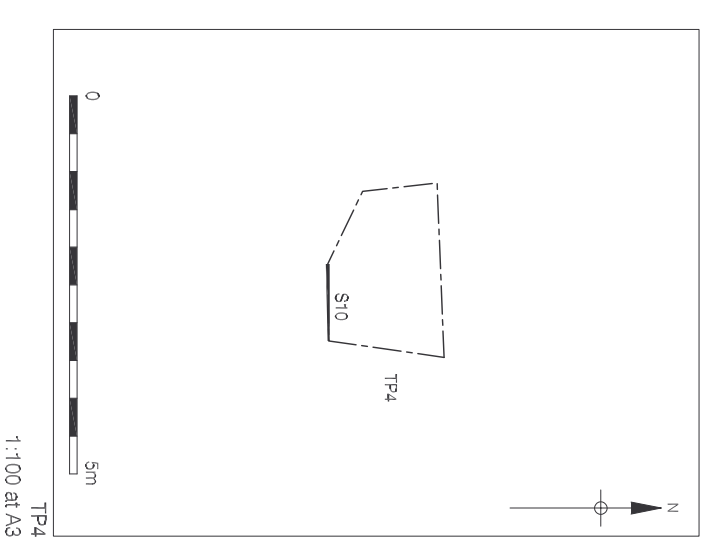
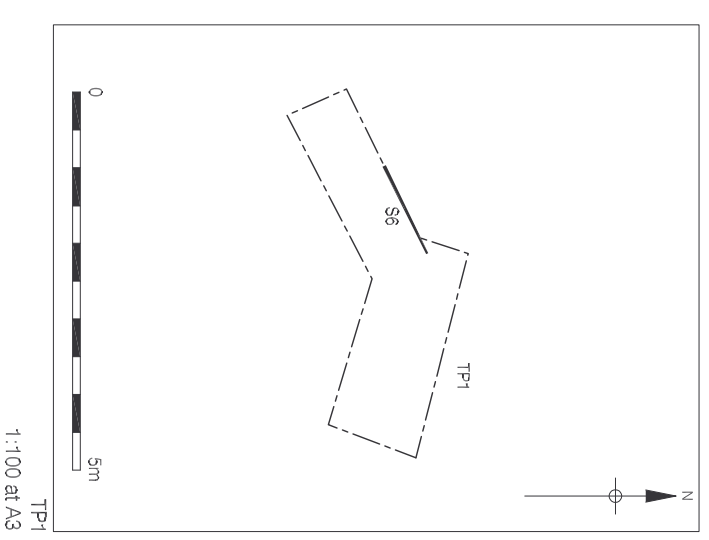
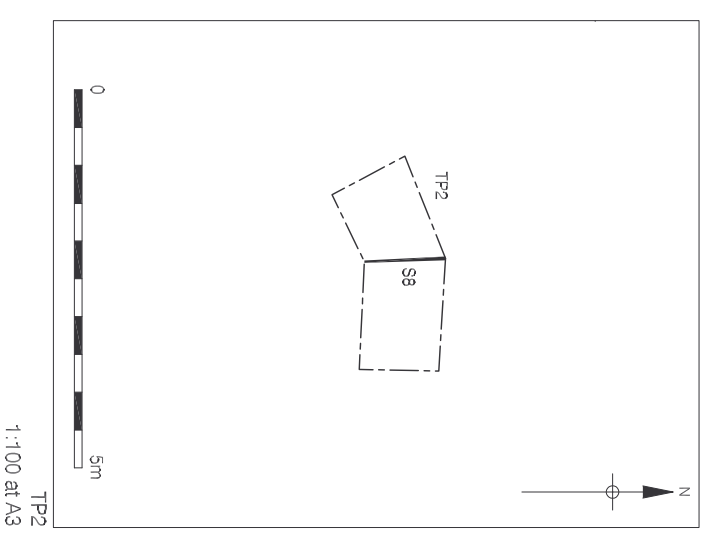
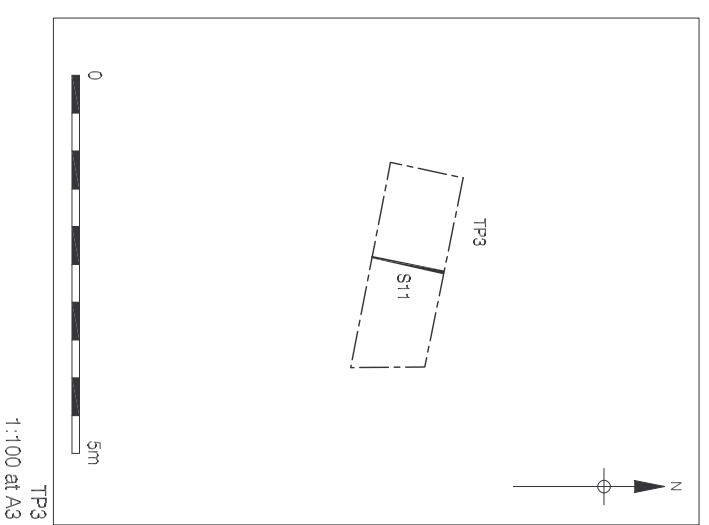
Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Kings Cross Potato Market
 Test Pit and Borehole Location
 1:1,250 at A3



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Figure 3
Sections 1, 2, 3 & 4
1:40 at A3

P C A

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