

**HORSE GUARDS AVENUE,
CITY OF WESTMINSTER,
LONDON**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF DURING THE
EXCAVATION OF A SERVICE
TRENCH**

SITE CODE: HRS 09

JANUARY 2010



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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TRENCH

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief During the Excavation of a Service Trench,
Horse Guards Avenue, City of Westminster, London**

Site Code: HRS 09

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3021 8011

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, January 2010

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a BT service trench along Horse Guards Avenue and Whitehall, City of Westminster. The watching brief, commissioned by COLT, was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited in March and April of 2009.
- 1.2 During the excavation of the trench numerous walls, surfaces and bedding layers were recorded. These range in date from the late medieval to early post-medieval period to the late 19th to early 20th century.
- 1.3 The earliest structural remains encountered may form part of the late medieval to early post-medieval palace, whilst structural remains observed in the eastern and western halves of the trench are likely associated with the mid post-medieval palace complex. Evidence for subsequent remodellings of the palace complex were also seen, attributable to the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the methodology and results of an archaeological watching brief conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd during the excavation of a service trench along Victoria Embankment, Horse Guards Avenue and Whitehall, City of Westminster (Figure 1). The watching brief was undertaken in March and April of 2009.
- 2.2 The work was commissioned by Colt, and the groundworks were undertaken by McNichols. The watching brief was supervised by Rebecca Lythe and Paw Jorgensen and project-managed by Chris Mayo for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 2.3 The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3021 8011.
- 2.4 A unique site code, HRS 09, was assigned by the Museum of London.
- 2.5 The site lies within the Whitehall Conservation Area.



Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

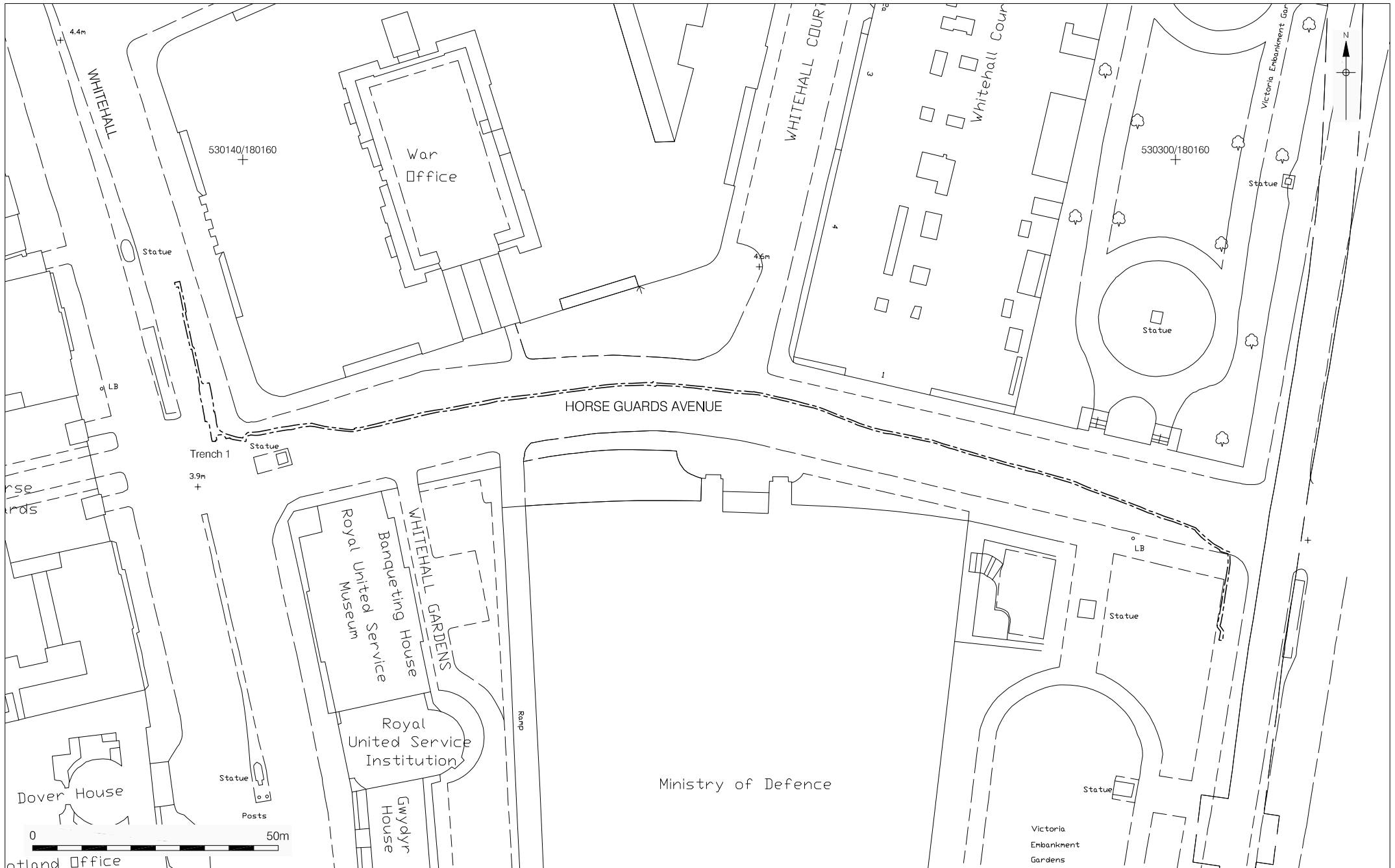


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the City of Westminster, which fully recognize the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning'. It provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 The site is located within the Whitehall Conservation Area.
- 3.3 The Council's Archaeology Policy, as defined in the City of Westminster's Unitary Development Plan adopted 24 January 2007, is as follows:

DES 11: SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS, AREAS AND SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AND POTENTIAL

Aim

- 10.147 To identify archaeological remains of national and local importance, conserve them in their settings, and provide public access to them. Where new development is proposed on sites of archaeological potential, to ensure adequate archaeological impact assessment, followed by appropriate provision for preservation or investigation, recording, and publication.

POLICY DES 11: SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS, AREAS AND SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AND POTENTIAL

(A) Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Permission for proposals affecting the following Scheduled Ancient Monuments, or their settings, will be granted providing that their archaeological value and interest is preserved:

- 1) the Chapter House and Pyx Chamber in the Cloisters, Westminster Abbey
- 2) the Jewel Tower.

(B) Areas and Sites of Special Archaeological Priority and Potential Permission will be granted for developments where, in order of priority:

- 1) all archaeological remains of national importance are preserved in situ
- 2) remains of local archaeological value are properly, evaluated and, where practicable, preserved in situ
- 3) if the preservation of archaeological remains in situ is inappropriate, provision is made for full investigation, recording and an appropriate level of publication by a reputable investigating body.

Policy application

- 10.148 There are three categories of archaeological remains. In order of importance they are:
- a) Scheduled Ancient Monuments: nationally important remains which are scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
 - b) Areas of Special Archaeological Priority: areas rich in archaeological remains, where ground works are likely to reveal archaeological remains
 - c) Sites of Archaeological Significance and Potential: areas where archaeological remains are known or thought likely to exist.
- 10.149 These locations are listed in the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The Areas of Special Archaeological Priority are Lundenwic and Thorney Island; Paddington and Lillestone Villages; Marylebone Village; Tyburn Settlement and Ebury Village. The archaeological data produced by the Museum of London and English Heritage provide more detailed information, including further sites and areas of archaeological significance and potential

- within Westminster. Areas of Special Archaeological Priority are illustrated on Maps 10.3-10.7. Information on these and other sites of archaeological priority and potential are available from the Greater London sites and monuments record maintained by English Heritage.
- 10.150 In considering applications for development of land with archaeological potential, the City Council will require an archaeological assessment detailing the potential impact of development upon surviving archaeological remains. Should archaeological evaluation and investigations be required, it must be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the City Council. The Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service provides guidance papers detailing these procedures. With respect to policy DES 11 B (3), investigation may include a watching brief and, or, a full excavation.
- 10.151 The City Council will seek professional archaeological advice as appropriate and will encourage applicants proposing development to do the same. Where development may affect land of archaeological priority or potential, the City Council will expect applicants to have properly assessed and planned for the archaeological implications of their proposals. In this way the Council and the applicant will have sufficient information upon which an informed planning decision, incorporating appropriate archaeological safeguards, may be based. Such safeguards normally consist of design measures to ensure the permanent preservation of archaeological remains in situ or, where that is not appropriate, archaeological rescue investigations in advance of development. The results and finds from archaeological investigations also need to be analysed, interpreted, presented to the public and curated for future use. Attention is drawn to the advice contained within the code of practice prepared by the British Archaeologists' and Developers Liaison Group.
- Reasons
- 10.152 Archaeological remains are important evidence of the City's past and are a valuable historical, educational and tourist resource. They are finite and fragile; once lost, they cannot be recovered. The City Council considers that the archaeology of Westminster is a national as well as a local asset and that its preservation is a legitimate objective, against which the needs of development must be carefully balanced and assessed. The destruction of such remains should be avoided wherever possible and should never take place without prior archaeological excavation and record.
- 10.153 The most important archaeological remains are scheduled and are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Where works to such sites and their setting are proposed, including repair, scheduled ancient monument consent is required.
- 10.154 The London Plan states at Policy 4.C.10 that boroughs "should give careful consideration to the relationship between new development and the historic environment including archaeological areas, including tidal foreshores...". National planning guidance is set out in PPG16: Archaeology and Planning, issued in November 1990.
- 10.155 The preservation of Westminster's archaeological heritage is a material planning consideration and applicants will need to show that proposed development is compatible with the objectives of the City Council's archaeological policy. The Council will wish to implement that policy under relevant legislation and statutory guidance and by means of legal agreements and planning conditions.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 Geologically, the site lies on the alluvial clay of the Thames. Historically the area was always poorly drained and prone to flooding. Queen Anne's Steps, on the eastern side of the MoD, marks the edge of the historical riverfront prior to the construction of the Victoria Embankment in the 1860s.
- 4.2 Topographically there is little variance within the site. The current ground surface in the vicinity of the trench is approximately 4.60m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The earliest mention of the Whitehall area occurred in 1158 when the land was sold to Gerin, an administrator in the service of Henry II. By the early 1240s the property had fallen into the hands of Walter de Grey, Archbishop of York, who renamed it York Palace. In 1246 the palace was granted to the archdiocese of York and described as “all our houses in the street of Westminster with the rents, gardens, vivaries and all other appuntenances” (Everest 2009).
- 5.2 The Ralph Agas map, published ca. 1560, depicts the area of the study site as being part of “The Court”, a large trapezoidal yard occupying the northeast corner of the palace. A range of buildings is shown along the riverfront to the east and along Whitehall to the west. According to the 1560 map a gatehouse, “The Court Gate”, stood in the southwest corner of “The Court”. A wall separating it from a more secluded courtyard to the south defined the southern boundary of the yard.
- 5.3 During the reign of Elizabeth I “The Court” was divided into three courtyards. The study area was located within the southernmost of these courts, which was later to be renamed “Whitehall”. By 1593, a range of buildings had been constructed, forming the northern boundary of this court. The Queen also commissioned the construction of three temporary banqueting houses, the last of which stood for about 25 years before being replaced by a “very strong and statelie” banqueting house commissioned by King James I in 1606 (Atkins 2007).
- 5.4 During the reign of James I the palace had fallen into disrepair and in 1619 fire swept through Whitehall destroying many of the buildings within it. Following the fire Inigo Jones, who had designed and built the Banqueting House in 1606 (completed in 1609), was entrusted to design a new palace. The new palace was to have consisted of “... four fronts, each with an entrance between two towers. Within these were to have been a large central court and five smaller ones, and between two of the latter a handsome circus, with an arcade below, supported by pillars in the form of caryatides (Thornbury 1878)”. However, due to a lack of funds the new palace was never realised. In stead the burnt out shells of the old dilapidated buildings were restored and/or rebuilt.
- 5.5 A retrospective engraving of Whitehall Palace dating to 1670 shows the area of present day Horse Guards Avenue being occupied by a roughly east-west aligned rectangular courtyard named “The Court”. At the western end of the courtyard, and abutting the Banqueting House to the south, stood a gatehouse leading from Whitehall to “The Court”. The area to the south of the yard was occupied by the great hall and to the north and northeast by the kitchen block of the palace. Lining the courtyard to the north was a range of auxiliary buildings associated with the kitchens. By the time of the engraving Whitehall Palace had evolved into the largest palace in Europe. Because the palace had evolved rather than been planned the plan of the complex shows the palace as a series of rambling buildings sprawling around numerous courtyards with no coherent system.
-

- 5.6 In 1691 fire once again swept through the northeastern part of the palace, destroying the great hall and much of the kitchen block. While the fire of 1691 was limited to a small part of the palace another conflagration in 1698 incinerated most of what remained of the palace on the east side of Whitehall. Following the latter fire the duc de Saint Simon commented in his diary that “a fire destroyed Whitehall, the largest and ugliest palace in Europe” (Everest 2009).
- 5.7 During the early 18th century several private residences were erected in the area which is now occupied by Horse Guards Avenue. These include: Cadogan and Cromwell houses, Vanburgh House, and Fife House. The majority of these buildings were demolished in the mid- to late 19th century because the site had been chosen as the location for new government buildings (Atkins 2007).
- 5.8 Several archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken in the area; most were associated with the construction of the Ministry of Defence building along the south side of Horse Guards Avenue. These revealed the south wall of the Great Hall of the palace.
- 5.9 During the delayed construction of the Ministry of Defence building, in 1950, it was discovered that the wine cellar (dated ca 1530) protruded at ground level from the Horse Guards Avenue façade of the new block. A decision was made to move the cellar laterally on staging, lowering it by 19 feet (Atkins 2007).
- 5.10 Allegedly human remains were encountered in 1900 during the excavation of the foundations of the Old War Office building along the north side of Horse Guards Avenue (Everest 2009).

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 One service trench for the installation of new telecom cabling was excavated by McNichols. The trench was aligned N-S along Victoria Embankment, then W-E along Horse Guards Avenue and finally-N along Whitehall (Figure 2). The trench measured approximately 273m long by varying widths between a minimum of 0.5m and a maximum of 2.3m. It was excavated to an average depth of 0.80m below ground level.
- 6.2 The trench was excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision in c.100mm spits.
- 6.3 Levels and co-ordinates for the site work were calculated from a TBM established next to the trench by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 6.4 Site records were compiled in plan at a scale of 1:50 and in section at a scale of 1:10. All written data was entered on proforma sheets following standard recording methods, and a photographic record using digital format, colour slide and monochrome 35mm film was made as appropriate.
- 6.5 The work was undertaken following English Heritage guidelines (GLAAS1998).

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The archaeology revealed within the trench was characterised by segments of wall interspersed with levelling and ground deposits.
- 7.1.2 Two walls, aligned northeast-southwest (Group 1), were unearthed. As this orientation does not respect that of the east-west extant street or its post-medieval predecessor, the walls are thought to pre-date the establishment of this alignment. They may form part of Whitehall Palace.
- 7.1.3 Five walls and a floor remnant (Group 2) were aligned north-northwest, south-southeast. They therefore form approximate right-angles with Horse Guards Avenue and presumably with its post-medieval predecessor. They are therefore thought to post-date the walls that form Group 1 and probably form part of a later phase of the palace.
- 7.1.4 Late 18th to early 19th century deposits and masonry structures associated with post-palace buildings were encountered. These were orientated north north-east south south-west, on an alignment similar to that of the modern street (Groups 3 and 4).
- 7.1.5 A masonry surface was also unearthed in the western half of the trench (Group 6). This surface was probably external, forming part of the courtyard known as “White Hall” or “The Court”. The stratigraphy encountered suggests that it was most-likely created in the late 18th to early 19th century when the courtyard was resurfaced.
- 7.1.6 The entire trench was sealed by a layer of demolition debris, presumably created between the last decade of the 19th century and the first two decades of the 20th century.
- 7.1.7 The nature of the groundworks was such that only rapid recording of exposed remains was possible, preventing detailed investigation of relationships between walls and layers. As a result of this the determination of stratigraphic relationships between contexts, and therefore phasing was limited.

7.2 Phase 1: Late Medieval to Early Post-Medieval (Group 1)

- 7.2.1 The walls described below were aligned northeast-southwest and are therefore interpreted as being part of the same phase. Together they form Group 1.
- 7.2.2 Wall [40] was seen in the western portion of the trench near the junction of Horse Guards Avenue and Whitehall. It consisted of four parallel courses of unfrogged red fabric header bonded bricks set in a friable lime mortar. The wall had been heavily truncated to the northeast and southwest by modern intrusions. As such, only a 0.75m by 0.70m segment remained intact.
- 7.2.3 A rag stone and Portland stone wall, [35], was unearthed to the east. It had been constructed using 250mm long by 240mm wide by at least 100mm thick roughly hewn blocks of stone.
- 7.2.4 The Group 1 structures described above presumably formed part of Whitehall Palace. Map regression suggests that Horse Guards Avenue and its predecessor, “White Hall” or “White Court”, were aligned roughly east-west from at least 1670 and probably earlier (Atkins, 2006).

This is clearly shown for the first time on Fisher's plan of Whitehall Palace, compiled in 1670; it may also be shown on Norden's map of 1593 (although this cannot be accurately interpreted due to the degree of artistic licence that no doubt went into its compilation). As the orientations of the Group 1 walls do not respect this layout, it is thought that they may be relatively early features, aligned to a street plan that pre-dates these maps. It therefore seems likely that the Group 1 walls form part of a late medieval or early post-medieval phase of the palace.

7.3 Phase 2: Early to Mid Post-Medieval (Group 2)

- 7.3.1 The following Group 2 walls run north-northwest south-southeast or north-south and are therefore interpreted as being part of the same phase.
- 7.3.2 Walls [1] and [2] were observed in the western portion of the trench. They appeared to run parallel with one another and had been constructed from the same materials. Unfrogged, red fabric bricks measuring 230mm by 110mm by 55mm were used to build the walls, which were cemented with lime mortar. They may form a corridor with an internal width of 0.75m.
- 7.3.3 Wall [16] was recorded 110.20m to the east of wall [2] and had been built with large limestone or sandstone blocks laid in a friable silty sandy lime mortar. The majority of the wall was obscured by demolition layer [16], so its dimensions could not be determined. It ran parallel with walls [1] and [2].
- 7.3.4 To the immediate east of wall [16] a limestone wall or foundation [17] was observed. It was 1.70m wide and was at least 0.10m thick. Directly to the east was [19], a 0.45m wide, at least 0.55m thick red fabric brick wall. It was constructed using unfrogged half bricks laid in a silty lime mortar, dating to 1450 to 1700. Both walls were abutted by a plaster surface, [18], which is presumably internal. The walls and plaster floor may form part of a room, the internal width of which was 2.90m.
- 7.3.5 The Group 2 features described above most likely formed part of a later phase of Whitehall Palace constructed after the east-west road alignment had been established. They presumably belonged to a series of buildings that bordered the western and eastern edges of "The Court" or "White Hall". Walls [1] and [2] were probably associated with a building situated on the western edge of the courtyard, whilst [16], [17] and [19] were located on the opposite side. They may appear on Fisher's plan of 1670 (Atkins, 2006) as a series of buildings can be seen in their approximate locations. Although these structures are not clearly shown on earlier maps, it should be remembered that early post-medieval cartographic depictions are subject to unquantifiable degrees of artistic licence and it remains plausible that the walls may be older than the maps suggest.

7.4 Phase 3: 18th to 19th Century (Groups 3, 4, and 5)

- 7.4.1 A layer of silty clayey sand, [27] / [38] (between 4.05m OD and 3.90m OD), was found at the base of the sequence in the eastern end of the trench. The deposit was probably created during a phase of land reclamation, undertaken in order to salvage land from the river. Indeed, a new tract of land can be seen in its approximate position on Horwood's map of 1792. Rocque's map of 1746 and earlier maps suggest that this area was submerged within the Thames during earlier periods, suggesting that land reclamation took place between 1746 and 1792.
- 7.4.2 Masonry structures forming Group 5 were recorded in the eastern end of the trench. This included masonry wall, [36], which was 0.30m wide and orientated approximately north-south. Unfrogged yellow fabric stretcher bonded bricks set in silty lime mortar were used in its construction. The wall must post-date the ground reclamation episode that probably occurred between 1746 and 1792 as it would otherwise have been situated within the Thames. The feature may therefore form part of a building or an external boundary wall, constructed at some point after 1746. The latter interpretation may be more likely, as the structure was abutted on both sides by masonry surface [20] / [25] / [36], which probably represents an external surface - recorded between 4.13m OD and 3.85m OD.
- 7.4.3 The surface mentioned above consisted of red fabric bricks and oolitic limestone nodules set in a layer of mortar bedding [23] / [24] / [26] between 4.00m OD and 3.90m OD. The thickness of the masonry and bedding varied between 90mm and 150mm. A thin layer of mortar, [28] at 4.12m OD, sealed the masonry in places, perhaps in order to create a more presentable, even surface. This spread probably represents an external surface, which extended 22.14m or more from east to west. It must post-date the creation of the made ground associated with the episode of land reclamation, which it seals. Consequently, it is thought that the surface was created in the late post-medieval period, at some point after 1746.
- 7.4.4 The buildings around the courtyard known as "The Court" or "White Hall" also appear to have been fully or partially rebuilt around this time. This episode may be represented in the archaeological record by the following structural remnants, all of which were aligned roughly east-west or north-south, either parallel or at an approximate right-angle to the modern road. The following structural remnants form Group 3 and are positioned on the western side of "The Court" or "White Hall".
- 7.4.5 Aligned roughly north-south, wall [41] was located in the western end of the trench. At a right angle to this was wall [3] / [5] / [6], which had been truncated in two places by modern services. The walls were both constructed from unfrogged purple and red fabric header bonded bricks set in firm lime mortar. Cartographic evidence suggests that they may form the southern and western external walls of a roughly square building constructed between 1746, when Rocque's map was compiled, and 1792, when Horwood's map was published. The latter map suggests that this building was situated at the western end of the courtyard on the northern side of the entrance that
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lead from the main street, also known as “White Hall” at this time.

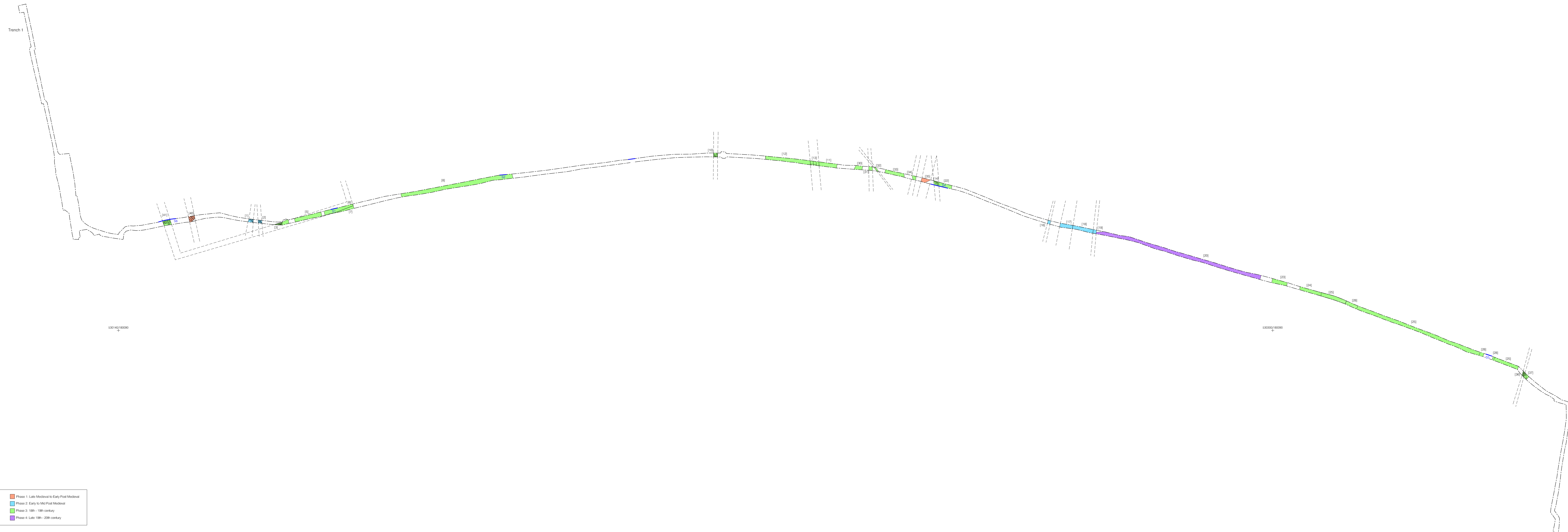
- 7.4.6 A series of potentially contemporary structural remnants were found approximately 63.50m to the east of the Group 3 walls described above. These form Group 4 and were probably situated along the eastern edge of “The Court” or “White Hall”. All were aligned approximately north-south.
- 7.4.7 Wall [13] was 1.24m wide and over 0.20m thick and had been built with dry laid sandstone blocks, over 0.60m long and 0.35m wide. Abutting [13] on the east side was brick floor [11] / [30]. The floor was composed of unfrogged red fabric half bricks laid in an irregular pattern and set in friable light pinkish grey lime mortar. It may represent an internal surface, between 3.94m OD and 3.90m OD.
- 7.4.8 Approximately 6.75m to the east of wall [13], another wall segment [31] was observed. This was 0.50m wide and had been constructed from a mixture of 255mm long by 190mm wide Reigate blocks and unfrogged red fabric half bricks. Brick samples suggested that the feature had been constructed between 1666 and 1750.
- 7.4.9 A wall or floor surface, [33], was found to the east of wall [31] at 4.15 m OD. It had been constructed from the same materials as [33] and may therefore be contemporary with it. The wall or floor measured 2.79m east-west by at least 0.55m north-south and was of unknown thickness.
- 7.4.10 Further east, and following the same approximate north-south alignment, was wall [34]. Like wall [33] this was identical in its construction to [31] and was 1.05m wide. Brick within its fabric had a date range from 1700 and 1850.
- 7.4.11 Brick wall [14] was observed to the east of wall [34]. It was built from unfrogged red fabric half bricks and was 0.74m wide and over 55mm thick. Plaster surface [22], which was at least 1.85m wide, abutted the wall on the eastern side. The plaster may represent an internal surface and was recorded at 3.85m OD.
- 7.4.12 Group 6 consisted of a brick surface, [7] / [8] / [10], situated in the west-central section of the trench, between the Group 3 and Group 4 masonry structures. It was found at heights ranging from 3.90m OD to 3.80m OD. The surface consisted of irregularly coursed unfrogged red fabric half bricks set in sandy lime mortar [12]. Although the masonry and bedding had been truncated by numerous modern intrusions and was partially sealed in places by modern overburden, it is thought that the surface extends 63.50m from the Group 3 masonry in the east to the Group 4 masonry in the west. No other walls were found between these, suggesting a large expanse of empty ground. As previously explained, wall [3] / [5] / [6] was probably constructed between 1746 and 1792; wall [13] probably dates to a similar period. The surface must therefore post-date these walls, which it abuts, and must therefore have been created at some point after 1746. The map regression exercise suggests that the surface extends across the middle of “The Court” or “White Hall”. The layer may therefore represent late post-medieval resurfacing of this courtyard.

7.5 Phase 3-4: 18th to late 19th Century

7.5.1 Masonry structure [32], orientated northeast-southwest and at an upper height of 4.05m OD, was recorded to the immediate east of wall [31]. The masonry consisted of two parallel rows of purple fabric, unfrogged bricks in a light yellowish grey lime mortar. It was over 0.11m wide and 0.12m thick. The structure had a slight camber, suggesting it once formed an arch. It was therefore interpreted as the top of an arched culvert that formed part of a drain. The bricks used in its construction suggest a late post-medieval date.

7.6 Phase 4: Late 19th to 20th Century

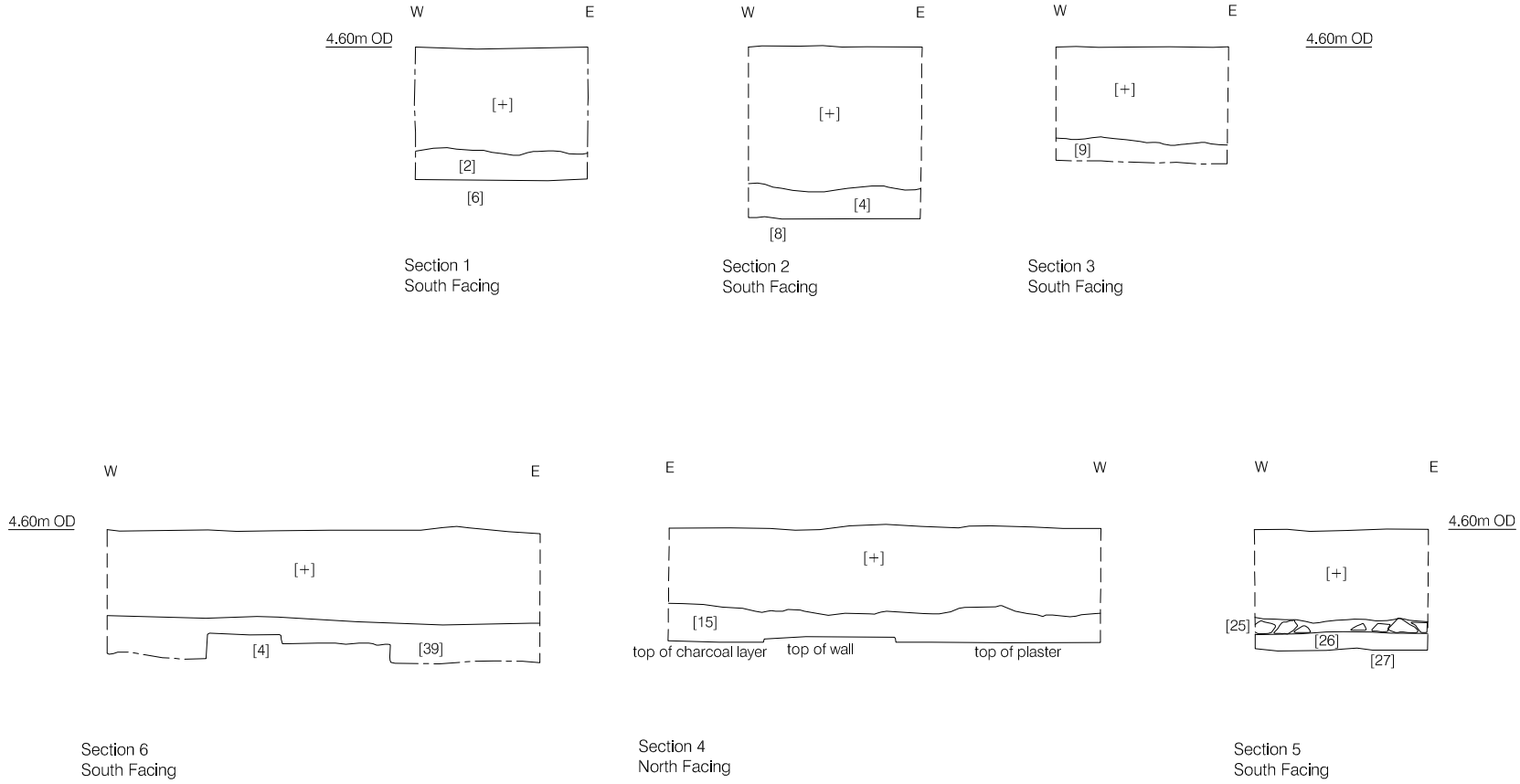
7.6.1 A layer of demolition debris [4] / [9] / [15] / [21] / [29] / [39] / [42], between 50mm and 250mm thick, sealed the entire trench. The layer was probably created in the late 19th to early 20th century, when the buildings that formerly occupied the area were demolished to make way for the government complexes that occupy the area today. The layer was recorded at heights ranging from 4.16m OD to 3.85m OD.



- Phase 1: Late Medieval to Early Post Medieval
- Phase 2: Early to Mid Post Medieval
- Phase 3: 18th - 19th century
- Phase 4: Late 19th - 20th century

0 10m
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Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1 Showing All Features
1:200 at A0



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Figure 4
Sections 1 - 6
1:40 at A4

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 During the excavation of the trench numerous walls, surfaces and bedding layers were recorded. These range in date from the late medieval to early post-medieval period to the late 19th to early 20th century.
- 8.2 The earliest structural remains encountered (Group 1) may form part of the late medieval to early post-medieval palace. As such a limited section was exposed, a more detailed discussion is impossible at this stage.
- 8.3 Structural remains observed in the eastern and western halves of the trench (Group 2) are likely associated with the mid post-medieval palace complex housing the pantry, privy buttery, the cofferer's cellar, chapel royal and the great hall. This complex was located at the east end of the courtyard, referred to as "The Court" or "White Hall" in this document (also known as "Whalebone Court", "Whitehall", and "Whitehall Court"). According to Fisher's plan of Whitehall Palace this complex was situated between the palace kitchens to the north and the apartments of Lady Arlington, Countess of Falmouth, and Lady Silvis to the south. The entire complex was allegedly destroyed by the conflagration of 1698 and never rebuilt. Unfortunately, due to the limited size of the trench, the structural remains cannot be attributed to specific buildings within the complex. Additionally, the accuracy of Fisher's 1670 plan has been debated as the details shown are not consistent with Stukeley's 1718 groundplot of the ruins of Whitehall.
- 8.4 Following the fire the land immediately east of Whitehall Court was left as "waste grounds" until it was leased by Mrs. Dunch in 1718 and converted into a garden (Gater and Wheeler 1935). The stratigraphy encountered suggests that the courtyard was then resurfaced at some point after 1746 (Group 6). The buildings on its eastern and western edges also seem to have been rebuilt at this time (Groups 3 and 4).
- 8.5 Cartographic evidence suggests that the garden area described above was extended to the east in the late 18th century, hence the presence of the made ground in the eastern end of the trench. The external surface and the possible boundary wall (Group 5) may therefore have formed part of this extension.
- 8.6 The area was rebuilt in the late 19th to early 20th century, when a series of grandiose government buildings were erected. The layer of demolition debris that sealed the trench was probably created at this time.
- 8.7 Whilst the assessment of the remains recorded during this watching brief are regrettably limited, owing largely to the very small-scale impact of the work, it is hoped that the larger-scale project which is currently underway by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd as part of the Whitehall Streetscape Improvement Scheme (WSIP) may, in combination with these results, afford a greater interpretation of the remains. It is intended that the archaeology within this service trench along Horse guards Avenue be considered for inclusion with the analysis and publication of the archive from the wider WSIP.
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9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank COLT Telecom Group Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to the staff at McNichols who undertook the work.
- 9.2 We also thank Diane Walls of English Heritage, Archaeology Advisor to the City of Westminster, for monitoring the work.
- 9.3 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for his project management, and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations.

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11 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Site Code	Context No.	Type	Description	Trench	Plan & Baseline Number	Section Number	Spot Date	Phase
HRS 09	1	Masonry	Red Brick Wall	1	1	N/A	N/A	2
HRS 09	2	Masonry	Red Brick Wall	1	1	N/A	N/A	2
HRS 09	3	Masonry	Purple Fabric Wall = (5)/(6)	1	1, 2, 3	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	4	Layer	Demolition Debris / Levelling Layer	1	1	1, 2	1780-1940	4
HRS 09	5	Masonry	Same as (3) and (6)	1	2	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	6	Masonry	Same as (3) and (6)	1	2	1	N/A	3
HRS 09	7	Floor Surface	Gravel Bedding (Same as (8))	1	2	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	8	Floor Surface	Same as (7)	1	2	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	9	Layer	Demolition Debris / Levelling Layer	1	3, 4	3	1700-1850	4
HRS 09	10	Masonry	Same as (12)	1	4	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	11	Masonry	Red/Purple Brick. Possibly Floor	1	4, 9	N/A	1666-1850	3
HRS 09	12	Masonry	Crushed Loosely Coursed Brick Bedding	1	4	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	13	Masonry	Sandstone Wall	1	4	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	14	Masonry	Red Brick Wall	1	5	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	15	Layer	Demolition Debris / Levelling Layer	1	5	4	N/A	4
HRS 09	16	Masonry	Stone Wall	1	5	N/A	N/A	2
HRS 09	17	Masonry	Stone Wall	1	5	N/A	N/A	2
HRS 09	18	Floor Surface	Plaster Bedding	1	5	N/A	N/A	2
HRS 09	19	Masonry	Red Brick Wall	1	5	N/A	1450-1700	2
HRS 09	20	Masonry	Yellow and Red Brick Bedding Layer	1	5, 6	N/A	N/A	5
HRS 09	21	Layer	Demolition Debris / Levelling Layer	1	5, 9	N/A	N/A	4
HRS 09	22	Floor Surface	Plaster Surface	1	5	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	23	Floor Surface	Plaster Surface	1	6	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	24	Floor Surface	Plaster Surface	1	6	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	25	Masonry	Limestone and Red Brick Surface	1	6, 7, 8	5	N/A	3
HRS 09	26	Floor Surface	Mortar Bedding Layer	1	N/A	5	N/A	3
HRS 09	27	Layer	Clay Layer: Made Ground	1	8	5	N/A	3

Site Code	Context No.	Type	Description	Trench	Plan & Baseline Number	Section Number	Spot Date	Phase
HRS 09	28	Floor Surface	Plaster Surface	1	7	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	29	Layer	Demolition Debris / Levelling Layer	1	9	N/A	N/A	4
HRS 09	30	Masonry	N-S Aligned Red Brick Wall	1	9	N/A	1666-1700	3
HRS 09	31	Masonry	N-S Aligned Red Brick and Green Sandstone Wall	1	9	N/A	1666-1750	3
HRS 09	32	Masonry	NW-SE Aligned Purple Fabric Brick Wall	1	9	N/A	1666-1800	3
HRS 09	33	Masonry	E-W Aligned Brick Wall or Floor	1	9	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	34	Masonry	Red Brick Wall	1	9	N/A	1700-1850	3
HRS 09	35	Masonry	"L" Shaped Ragstone Wall	1	9	N/A	N/A	1
HRS 09	36	Masonry	Yellow Brick Wall	1	10	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	37	Masonry	Red Brick Floor	1	10	N/A	N/A	3
HRS 09	38	Layer	Made Ground	1	10	N/A	19th-20th Century	3
HRS 09	39	Layer	Demolition Debris / Levelling Layer	1	12	6	N/A	4
HRS 09	40	Masonry	Possible Early Post-medieval Wall	1	12	N/A	N/A	1
HRS 09	41	Masonry	Possible Mid/Late Post-medieval Wall	1	12	6	N/A	3
HRS 09	42	Layer	Demolition Debris / Levelling Layer	1	12	N/A	N/A	4

12 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-71015

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief in Horse Guards Avenue, London Borough of Westminster
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted by PCA during the excavation of a BT service trench along Horse Guards Avenue and Whitehall, City of Westminster. The watching brief, commissioned by COLT, was undertaken in March and April of 2009. During the excavation of the trench numerous walls, surfaces and bedding layers were recorded. These range in date from the late medieval to early post-medieval period to the late 19th to early 20th century. The earliest structural remains encountered may form part of the late medieval to early post-medieval palace, whilst structural remains observed in the eastern and western halves of the trench are likely associated with the mid post-medieval palace complex. Evidence for subsequent remodellings of the palace complex were also seen, attributable to the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.
Project dates	Start: 12-03-2009 End: 28-04-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HRS09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	WALLS Medieval
Monument type	WALLS Post Medieval
Monument type	FLOORS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	General structure plan/local plan/minerals plan guidance

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER Horse Guards Avenue
Postcode	SW1A 2EX
Study area	214.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3021 8011 51.5044055490 -0.123682251961 51 30 15 N 000 07 25 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Rebecca Lythe

Project supervisor Paw Jorgensen
Type of sponsor/funding body Utility Company
Name of sponsor/funding body COLT Telecom Group Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC
Physical Contents 'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient LAARC
Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient LAARC
Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title An Archaeological Watching Brief During the Excavation of a Service Trench, Horse Guards Avenue, City of Westminster, London
Author(s)/Editor(s) Jorgensen, P. and Lythe, R.
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