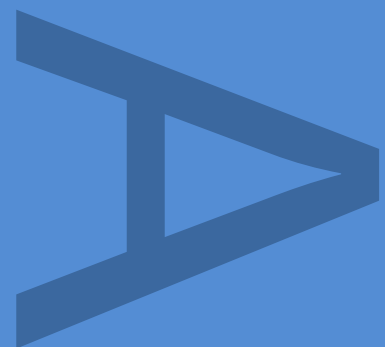


**NEW ACCESSIBLE TOILET,  
TOWER OF LONDON, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF TOWER  
HAMLETS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**SITE CODE: ToL110**

**JULY 2010**



**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**NEW ACCESSIBLE TOILET, TOWER OF LONDON,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Quality Control

| Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited |                   |           | K2191     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                   | Name & Title      | Signature | Date      |
| Text Prepared by:                 | Paw Jorgensen     |           | July 2010 |
| Graphics Prepared by:             | Jennifer Simonson |           | July 2010 |
| Graphics Checked by:              | Josephine Brown   |           | July 2010 |
| Project Manager Sign-off:         | Chris Mayo        |           | July 2010 |

| Revision No. | Date | Checked | Approved |
|--------------|------|---------|----------|
|              |      |         |          |
|              |      |         |          |
|              |      |         |          |

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
London  
SE4 2PD

# **An Archaeological Watching Brief at the New Accessible Toilet, Tower of London, London Borough of Tower Hamlets**

**Site Code: TOL 110**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3365 8049**

**Written by Paw Jorgensen**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2010**

**Project Manager: Chris Mayo**

**Commissioning Client: Historic Royal Palaces**

**Contractor:**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
Brockley  
London SE4 2PD**

**Tel: 020 7732 3925**

**Fax: 020 7732 7896**

**E-mail: [cmayo@pre-construct.com](mailto:cmayo@pre-construct.com)**

**Web: [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)**

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**July 2010**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Tower of London, London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was necessitated by the excavation of a foundation trench (Trench 1) and service trench (Trench 2) during the construction of a new accessible public toilet within an arcade set into the northern side of the curtain wall between the Salt and Lanthorn Towers, adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth II Arch.
- 1.3 Both trenches encountered deposits of 19th century made ground, which in Trench 1 included fragments of re-used 18th century worked stone as dumped demolition rubble.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd within the south eastern area of the Tower of London, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London EC3 (Figure 1), prior to the construction on new accessible public toilets.
- 2.2 The watching brief was conducted between 21<sup>st</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010, and was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces, Tower of London.
- 2.3 Two trenches were hand dug by contractors from CWO Ltd to a maximum depth of 0.50m within a paved floor surface of an open-fronted arcade and adjacent sidewalk. The arcade was set into the northern side of the south-eastern section of the inner curtain wall of the Tower of London, between the Salt and Lanthorn Towers and adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth II Arch.
- 2.4 The central National Grid Reference of the investigation was TQ 3365 8049.
- 2.5 The site was given the unique code TOL 110.
- 2.6 The watching brief was undertaken by the author and the project was managed by Chris Mayo for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.
- 2.7 The Tower of London is a World Heritage Site and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Greater London No. 10).
- 2.8 Because of the archaeologically sensitive nature of the Tower of London, it was a condition of the works that a program of observation and recording (namely an archaeological watching brief) should be undertaken to assess and record any surviving below ground archaeological remains and to ensure that the excavation was undertaken with due care and sensitivity to the historic fabric of the Tower of London.



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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:10 000

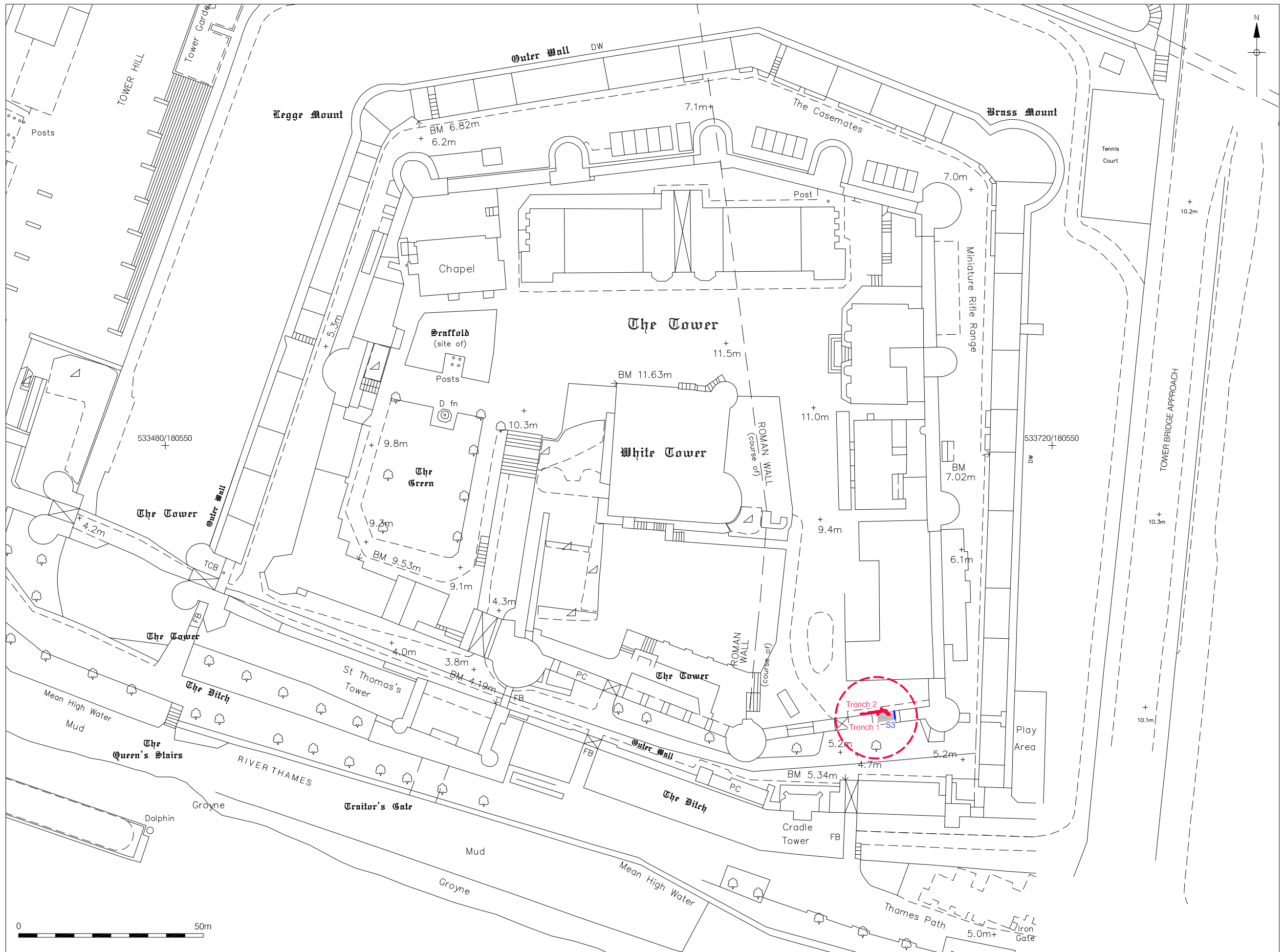


Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:1,000 at A3



### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 256 (North London) indicates that the site is likely to be underlain by Quaternary Post-diversionary Thames River Deposits, known as 'Taplow Gravel'. However, due to the limited depth of the excavations (maximum 0.50m below the current ground level) no natural formation levels were reached.
- 3.2 The site is located within the complex of the Tower of London, which occupies an elevated position, overlooking the River Thames. In the area of the study site the current ground level is estimated at approximately 5.3mOD.

### **4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Numerous studies have been conducted at the Tower of London, therefore this section seeks only to provide a very brief historical summary of the site. The following background was largely compiled during an earlier watching brief necessitated by the excavation of two test pits within the current study area (Watson 2009).

#### **4.2 Roman**

- 4.2.1 During the Early Middle Roman Period (c.200 AD) Londinium was protected by a defensive wall, and the site of the future Tower of London lay within the southeast corner of the Roman city defences (Parnell 1993, 13-16).

#### **4.3 Medieval**

- 4.3.1 With the arrival of the Normans, William The Conqueror (1066-1087) consolidated his authority over Saxon London by establishing a motte and bailey castle utilising the surviving Roman city walls to the south and east and adding defensive ditches to the north and west. During the last decade of William's rule, the building that was to form the core of the Tower of London, the White Tower, was constructed (Parnell 1993, 17-22).
- 4.3.2 The first significant expansion of the defences of the Tower date to the end of the 12th century in the reign of Richard I (1157-1199). During this period the fortifications extended west to encompass the positions later occupied by the Bell and Beauchamp Towers (12th and 13th centuries respectively).
- 4.3.3 During the reign of Henry III (1216-1272), the Tower of London underwent extensive alterations and expansions (Parnell 1979, 322).

#### **4.4 Post-Medieval**

- 4.4.1 In the post-medieval period, specifically the late 17th century, the Tower began to be used as an armoury, and as a result underwent numerous alterations to adapt it from its medieval form. By the 19th century, as architectural trends reverted back towards those of the medieval period, many of the post-medieval constructions were removed to reinstate the earlier vistas. During this “re-medievalization” of the fortress many of the original medieval features were damaged or entirely removed.
- 4.4.2 The Tower suffered damage during World War II which necessitated its restoration. It is currently one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, and to minimize the impact on those remains should they be encountered during the program of works
- 5.2 Two trenches were hand excavated by contractors from CWO Ltd and the work was monitored by Paw Jorgensen of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Trench 1 measured 2.10m N-S by 4.90m E-W and was excavated to depth of 0.58m below current ground level. Trench 2 measured 1.00m N-S by 7.18m E-W and was excavated to a depth of 0.60m below current ground level.
- 5.3 All archaeological features (stratigraphic layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded in plan and in section using standard recording methods. A digital photographic record was made as appropriate.
- 5.4 The worked stones observed within the archaeological strata were photographed on site.
- 5.5 All levels were estimated from data indicated on Ordnance Survey maps.
- 5.6 The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines (1998) and monitored by Jane Spooner, Curator, and Alexandra Attelsey, Conservation Building Surveyor, both of Historic Royal Palaces, Tower of London.

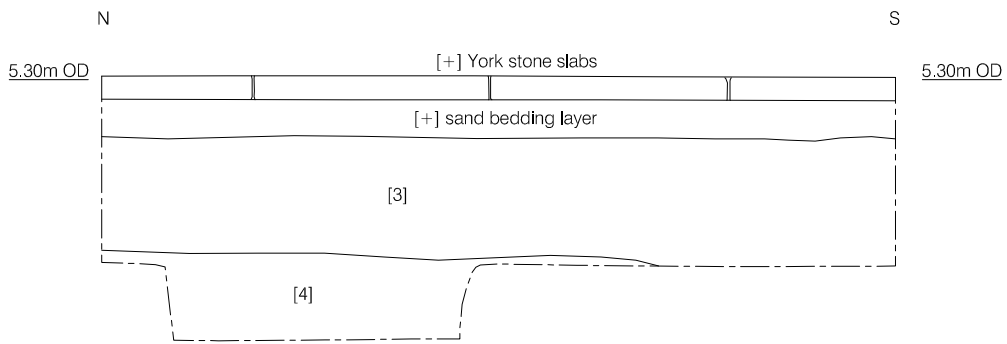
## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **6.1 Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 3)**

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was located entirely within the arcade set into standing curtain wall.
- 6.1.2 The lowest feature encountered was layer [4], a light greyish white mortar rich sandy deposit with moderate small sub-angular pebbles and fragments of ceramic building material. This layer is interpreted as 19th century made ground or demolition layer. The top of this layer was recorded at c. 4.84mOD and was sealed by layer [3] (recorded as [1] and [2] during the monitoring of the excavation of two Test Pits in November of 2009).
- 6.1.3 Layer [3] comprised mid- to dark brownish grey sandy silt containing very occasional charcoal and chalk fragments and moderate sub-rounded pebbles. In addition the layer also contained occasional worked stone, not *in situ* but as dumped demolition debris. The majority of the worked stone fragments observed were made from Portland stone, which post dates the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century although its use did not become widespread until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is therefore likely that layer [3] represents a phase of demolition with the debris being used to raise the ground level in this area of the site. The layer was first observed at a height of 5.16mOD and was sealed by successive layers of modern hardcore, concrete and paving slabs, the top of which formed the modern ground surface at c. 5.50mOD.

### **6.2 Trench 2 (Figures 2 & 3)**

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 was located along the north face of the curtain wall to the north of Trench 1 and extending west thereof. A small portion of the trench overlapped with the northwestern portion of Trench 1 to the south.
- 6.2.2 As with Trench 1 the lowest feature encountered was layer [4] described above. In Trench 2 this layer was sealed by layer [5], a dark greyish brown slightly sandy silt deposit containing moderate small rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and very occasional tarmac fragments. It was first observed at a height of 5.09mOD and was sealed by successive layers of modern hardcore, concrete and paving slabs, the top of which formed the modern ground surface at c. 5.50mOD. Layer [5] is interpreted as 20<sup>th</sup> century made-ground.



Section 3  
Trench 1  
West Facing



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Figure 3  
Section 3  
1:20 at A4

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 No *in situ* structures or features relating to the any phase of occupation of the Tower of London were encountered during this watching brief.
- 7.2 The archaeological sequence in both trenches suggests that the ground within this portion of the site was built up/raised sometime during the 19th century. Material recovered from Trench 1 included blocks of Portland stone likely dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century although the majority of the pottery dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This could suggest that the deposition of material was a result of the “re-medievalization” of the Tower of London in the mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.3 The remodelling of the fortress was started by Anthony Salvin in the 1850s and continued under John Taylor in the 1870s. During this program part of the inner curtain wall to the west of the Lanthorn Tower (the area of the study site) was reconstructed. This phase of the remodelling was started in 1885 utilising a ‘crazy paving’ style stone façade, topped with wall-walks set over arcades. While the purpose of the program was to make the Tower of London more medieval in appearance this was often done at the expense of the original medieval structure (Parnell 1993).

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Alex Attelsey, Historic Royal Palaces, Tower of London, for commissioning the work and Jane Spooner, also of Historic Royal Palaces, Tower of London for monitoring it.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Jennifer Simonson for producing the illustrations, and Chris Mayo who undertook the project management and editing.

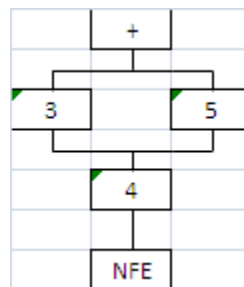
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## 10 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| <b>Site</b> | <b>Context</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Trench</b> | <b>Description</b> | <b>Date</b>  |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|
| TOL110      | 3              | Layer       | TR 1          | made ground        | 19th century |
| TOL110      | 4              | Layer       | TR 1, 2       | made ground        | 19th century |
| TOL110      | 5              | Layer       | TR 2          | made ground        | 20th century |

## 11 APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



## 12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-80231**

### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | An Archaeological Watching Brief at the New Accessible Toilet, Tower of London  |
| Short description of the project       | Two trenches were hand dug by during the construction of a new accessible public toilet. This included a foundation trench excavated within an arcade set into the south eastern curtain wall of the Tower between the Salt and Langthorn Towers. The second trench was excavated through the adjacent sidewalk. During the excavation 19th century deposits of made ground containing fragments of 18th century worked stone were recorded. These were sealed by successive layers of modern hard-core, concrete and paving slabs. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 21-06-2010 End: 25-06-2010   |
| Previous/future work                   | Yes / Yes   |
| Any associated project reference codes | TOL 110 - Sitecode  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project   |
| Site status                            | World Heritage Site   |
| Current Land use                       | Other 14 - Recreational usage   |
| Significant Finds                      | WORKED STONE Post Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | POT Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | CBM Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | CTP Post Medieval   |
| Investigation type                     | 'Watching Brief'  |
| Prompt                                 | Scheduled Monument Consent  |

### Project location

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Country          | England   |
| Site location    | GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS TOWER HAMLETS Tower of London                |
| Postcode         | EC3   |
| Study area       | 17.47 Square metres   |
| Site coordinates | TQ 3356 8057 51.5077562837 -0.07526362647950 51 30 27 N 000 04 30 W Point |

### Project creators

|                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name of Organisation         | Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd |
| Project brief originator     | Historic Royal Palaces        |
| Project design originator    | Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd |
| Project director/manager     | Chris Mayo                    |
| Project supervisor           | Paw Jorgensen                 |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Historic Royal Palaces        |

### Project archives

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Physical Archive recipient | Historic Royal Palaces |
|----------------------------|------------------------|



|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Physical Contents         | 'Ceramics','Metal','other'                            |
| Digital Archive recipient | Historic Royal Palaces                                |
| Digital Media available   | 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector' |
| Paper Archive recipient   | Historic Royal Palaces                                |
| Paper Media available     | 'Context sheet','Plan','Section','Unpublished Text'   |

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**Project bibliography 1**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)   |
| Title                         | An Archaeological Watching Brief at the New Accessible Toilet, Tower of London, London Borough of Tower Hamlets |
| Author(s)/Editor(s)           | Jorgensen, P.   |
| Date                          | 2010  |
| Issuer or publisher           | Pre-Construct Archaeology, Ltd  |
| Place of issue or publication | London  |
| Description                   | Unpublished client report   |

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|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Entered by | Paw Jorgensen (pjorgensen@pre-construct.com) |
| Entered on | 27 July 2010                                 |

# PCA

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 020 7732 3925 020 7639 9091

FAX: 020 7639 9588

EMAIL: [info@pre-construct.com](mailto:info@pre-construct.com)

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED (NORTHERN OFFICE)

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: [info.north@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.north@pre-construct.com)

