

40 Upper Brook St, City of Westminster

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

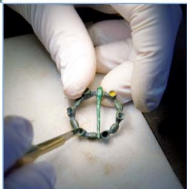
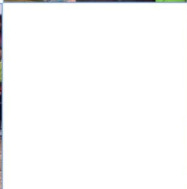
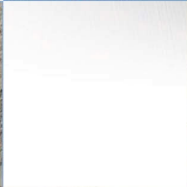
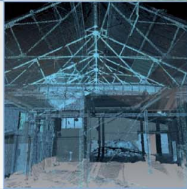
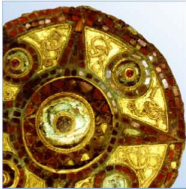
Planning Reference: 07/10486/FULL

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 2800 8070

AOC Project No: 30125

Site Code: UBS 09

Date: February 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

40 Upper Brook Street, City of Westminster: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Commissioned by: **Craigtown Properties Ltd.
c/o Earlcrown Ltd.
5th Floor Leconfield House
Curzon Street,
London
W1J 5JA**

National Grid Reference (NGR): **TQ 280 807**

AOC Project No: **30125**

Prepared by: **Catherine Edwards**

Illustration by: **Jonathan Moller**

Date of Fieldwork: **23rd July 2009 to 18th August 2010**

Date of Report: **February 2011**

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Approved by: Alan Ford Date: February 2011

Draft/Final Report Stage: Date: February 2011

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Non-Technical Summary

Between the 23rd July 2009 and 18th August 2010 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief at 40 Upper Brook Street, City of Westminster. The watching brief was commissioned by Craigtown Properties Limited. The work comprised the recording of ground reduction and the excavation of underpinning pits.

Natural sands and gravels were observed in all works on site. These natural deposits were overlaid by modern builders' sand and truncated by modern concrete and brickwork footings. No intermediate deposits were recorded, which suggests that the construction of the modern building, still located on site, truncated and removed any potential archaeological deposits. No prehistoric activity or finds were recorded on site.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief at 40 Upper Brook Street, City of Westminster.
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 2800 8070, and is bounded by Upper Brook Street to the north, other residential properties to the east and west, and Culross Street to the south (see Figures 1 and 2).

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The Local Planning Authority is the City of Westminster Planning and City Development Authority. Archaeological advice to the council was provided by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.2 The proposed scheme was for a residential development involving the external and internal alteration of an existing property to create a single family dwelling.
- 2.3 Planning consent to undertake the proposed development was granted in 2007 (REF07/10486/FULL) subject to conditions. Condition 13 of that consent states:

“You must apply to us for approval of a written scheme of investigation for a programme of Archaeological work. This must include details of a suitably qualified person or organisation that will carry out archaeological work.”

“You must then carry out the archaeological work and development according to this approval of a written scheme of investigation and findings, showing that you have carried out the archaeological work and development according to the approved scheme.”

- 2.4 This was in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE 1990), which was valid policy at the commencement of the works in July 2009. This was replaced in March 2010 by *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS 5) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).
- 2.5 The site is located within a Conservation Area but does not contain any Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings.
- 2.6 No desk-based assessment was prepared for the site. In accordance with the planning consent, a Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2008) was prepared as a method statement for the archaeological investigation under the reference 08/09070/ADFULL. This WSI was approved by Diane Abrams of GLAAS.

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The development site (c. 520m² in size) is currently occupied by a five storey building situated between Upper Brook Street and Culross Street. The road at nearby Park Lane to the west of the site lies at around 27.00m AOD, whilst Grosvenor Square lies at around 26.00m OD to the east of the site.
- 3.2 The solid geology of the site is London Clay (BGS 1998, Sheet 270). The superficial geology within the limits of the site is shown as Lynch Hill Gravels, a Thames River Terrace deposit comprising gravel and sand, lain down in the Pleistocene.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 Prehistoric (c.500,000 BC to AD 43)

- 4.1.1 There are no known prehistoric settlement sites in the immediate vicinity of the development, however, numerous artefacts have been found nearby. Three Palaeolithic hand axes, retouched flint flakes and a Palaeolithic scraper were found at three locations within a 1km radius of the site. A Neolithic arrowhead was found in a pit to the west of the site and a Bronze Age axe was recovered from the Thames River Gravels to the east of the site.
- 4.1.2 Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pottery and lithics were found in a pit at Curzon Gate, approximately 700m to the southwest of the site. Bronze Age pottery was also found in a shallow pond or channel at the same site.

4.2 Roman (c. AD43-450)

- 4.2.1 A number of Roman roads, including Watling Street, Stane Street and Akeman Street are known in the area, the nearest being the northwest-southeast aligned Waitling Street, located just to the east of Upper Brook Street. None crosses the development site and there are no known settlement sites in the immediate vicinity.

4.3 Saxon and Medieval (AD 410 to c 1550)

- 4.3.1 There is no known Saxon activity in the immediate vicinity, and other than remains of St James Hospital (1.5km southeast of the site) there are no recorded medieval remains in the vicinity.

4.4 Post-Medieval (c. AD 1486-modern)

- 4.4.1 Fort Number 13 of London's Civil War defences, known as Sergeant's Fort, and later as Oliver's Mount (NMR-1395388), built between 1643-1649 and is located approximately 200m to the east of the site. It represents the earliest known post-medieval construction within the area.
- 4.4.2 Historic maps show that besides the construction of Civil War defensive works, the area was largely un-developed until the late 18th century when the first buildings were constructed on the site. The GLSMR records that Charles Gouyn was producing 'Girl-on-a-Swing' pottery on the north side of nearby Brick Street in the mid 18th century. The record states there were kilns and clay-working, although the exact location is unknown.

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the Watching Brief are defined as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To enable EH GLAAS to make an informed decision on the status of the planning condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

- 5.2 The specific objectives of the Watching Brief are to:

- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the presence of prehistoric activity.
- To determine the presence of Roman activity related to the Roman roads that run to either side of the site.

- To determine the presence/absence of post-medieval structures related to London's Civil War defences.
 - Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the late post-medieval and modern activity on the site.
- 5.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 The watching brief was carried out between 23rd July 2009 and 18th August 2010 and was focussed on the monitoring of ground reduction and the excavation of underpinning pits within the basement area of the existing building on the site as part of the structural reinforcing works (Figures 3 & 4).
- 6.2 An archaeologist was not present during the excavation of two underpinning pits (TR1 & 2).
- 6.3 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 1994).
- 6.4 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998).
 - English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 2008).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
 - Rescue/United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1998).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).
- 6.5 Archaeological recording consisted of:
- Limited hand cleaning of archaeological sections and surfaces sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence exposed.
 - The collection of dating evidence from in-situ deposits and spoil scans.
 - A scaled photographic recording of representative exposed sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the groundworks.
 - A record of the datum levels of archaeological deposits, where obtainable.
- 6.6 A unique site code, **UBS 09**, was obtained from the Museum of London prior to the commencement of fieldwork. This was used as the site identifier on all records.

- 6.7 During the course of the works all Ordnance Datum measurements were established based on the main contractor's survey data.
- 6.8 The watching brief was undertaken by Paul Harris, Paul Fitz and Stella Bickelmann, under the overall direction of Melissa Melikian; Operations Director. The work was monitored by Diane Abrams on behalf of GLAAS.

7 Results

7.1 Trench 3 (Figure 3 & 4)

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
302	0.10m	5.16m – 5.06m	Red loose builder's sand.
303	0.30m	5.06m – 4.76m	Mid light grey brown silty sand.
304	0.10m	4.76m – 4.66m	Mid orange sand. Natural sand.
305	0.03m	4.66m – 4.63m	Mid to dark grey gravelly sand. Natural sand.
306	0.38m	4.63m – 4.25m	Light yellow sand. Natural sand.
307	0.05m	4.25m – 4.20m	Mid grey clay sand. Natural sand.
308	0.36m	4.20m – 3.84m+	Mid yellow gravelly sand with occasional flint. Natural flint and sand.

- 7.1.1 Trench 3 was located in the main basement and measured 1.50m x 1.50m, (Figure 3)
- 7.1.2 The bulk of the deposits recorded within Trench 3 have been interpreted as banding within the natural sand and gravel horizons. The lowest deposit in the sequence was recorded as (308), a layer of mid yellow gravelly sand with occasional flint. The full depth of this deposit was not observed as no further excavation was carried out. Overlying (308) were five layers of sand, silty sand or gravelly sand, (307), (306), (305), (304) and (303). The deposits varied in thickness from 0.03m to 0.38m and were recorded between 4.20m-5.06mOD in height. Overlying the upper deposit of natural sands, was layer (302), a 0.10m thick deposit of loose red builders sand which is interpreted as relating directly to the construction of the current building on site. Cutting into layer (302) was [301] a 0.56m deep concrete footing overlaid by two courses of red bricks measuring 220mm x 90mm x 70mm. These modern footings are associated with the current building.
- 7.1.3 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 3.

7.2 Trench 4 (Figure 3 & 4)

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
402	0.10m	5.36m – 5.26m	Red loose builder's sand.
403	0.23m	5.26m – 5.03m	Mid light grey brown silty sand.
404	0.90m	5.03m – 4.13m	Mid light orange yellow sand. Natural sand.
405	0.22m	4.13m – 3.91m	Dark green black gravel and coarse sand. Natural.
406	0.16m	3.91m – 3.75m	Mid orange yellow sand. Natural sand.
407	0.20m	3.75m – 3.55m	Mid yellow gravelly sand. Natural gravelly sand.
408	NFE	3.55m+	Mid orange yellow sand. Natural sand

- 7.2.1 Trench 4 was located in the main basement and measured 1.50m x 1.50m in plan (Figure 3).
- 7.2.2 The bulk of the deposits recorded within Trench 4 have been interpreted as banding within the natural sand and gravel horizons. The lowest deposit in the sequence was recorded as (408), a layer of mid orange yellow sand recorded at an upper height of 3.55mOD. Overlying (408) was a similar sequence to those observed in Trench 3. These were recorded as five layers of sand, silty sand or gravelly sand, (407), (406), (405), (404) and (403). The deposits varied in thickness from 0.16m to 0.90m and were recorded between 3.55m-5.26mOD in height.
- 7.2.3 Overlying the upper deposit of natural sands, was layer (402), a 0.10m thick deposit of loose red builders' sand interpreted as relating directly to the construction of the current building on site. Cutting into layer (402) was [401] a 0.56m deep concrete footing overlaid by two courses of red bricks measuring 220mm x 90mm x 70mm. These modern footings are associated with the current building.
- 7.2.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 4.

7.3 Trench 5 (Figure 3 & 4)

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
502	1.00m	5.36m – 4.36m	Mid orange yellow gravely sand. Natural.

- 7.3.1 Trench 5 was located in the main basement and was orientated northwest-southeast; the trench measured 6.00m x 2.00m (Figure 3).
- 7.3.2 The excavation of Trench 5 was only taken to 1.00m deep; as such only one deposit was observed. This was recorded as (502), a 1.00m+ thick layer of mid orangey yellow gravely sand recorded at an upper height of 5.36mOD. No banding was observed within this deposit. Cutting into (502) was [501] a 0.59m thick concrete footing overlaid by two courses of red bricks measuring 220mm x 90mm x 70mm. These modern footings are associated with the current building.
- 7.3.3 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 5

7.4 Trench 6 (Figure 3 & 4)

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
602	1.00m	4.76m – 3.76m	Mid brown yellow sand with gravel inclusions. Natural.
603	0.26m	3.76m – 3.50m	Dark orange brown gravel with frequent pebble and flint. Natural.
604	1.14m+	3.50m – 2.36m+	Mid orange yellow sand with frequent pebbles. Natural.

- 7.4.1 Trench 6 was located in the main basement, was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 6.00m x 2.00m (Figure 3).
- 7.4.2 The bulk of the deposits recorded within Trench 6 have been interpreted as banding within the natural sand and gravel horizons. The lowest deposit in the sequence was recorded as (604), a layer of mid orange yellow sand with frequent pebble inclusions recorded at an upper height of 3.50mOD. Overlying (604) were two further layers of natural gravely sand deposits recorded as (603) and (602). The layers measured 0.26m and 1.00m thick respectively and were recorded at an upper height of 4.76mOD.
- 7.4.3 Cutting into layer (602) was [601], a 0.56m deep concrete footing overlaid by two courses of red bricks measuring 220mm x 90mm x 70mm. These modern footings are associated with the current building.
- 7.4.4 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 6.

8 Finds and Environmental Samples

- 8.1 No finds or environmental samples were observed or collected during the watching brief works.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 During the course of the watching brief on site the nature and extent of the archaeological potential was observed. A truncated sequence of deposits was recorded in site showing the modern madeground directly overlying the natural horizon, indicating horizontal truncation. .
- 9.2 Natural was identified in all trenches and was recorded as bands of sand, silty sand and gravely sand. No London clay was observed. The variation in the deposits, formed bands of naturally forming deposits. No overlying undisturbed deposits were recorded suggesting that the construction of the current property and the creation of the basement had completely removed such deposits and with them, any archaeological potential. No prehistoric activity or finds were recovered from any of the natural deposits.
- 9.3 Overlying the natural was a discreet layer of builders' sand thought to be associated with the construction of the current property on the site. Also relating to the modern construction were the intrusive concrete and brickwork foundations.
- 9.4 The aim of the archaeological work on site was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on site. No archaeological remains were present on site.

10 Publication and Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in the London Archaeological Round Up, and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 10.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, finds and digital records will be deposited with the LAARC.

Site Location Within London



Figure 1: Site Location

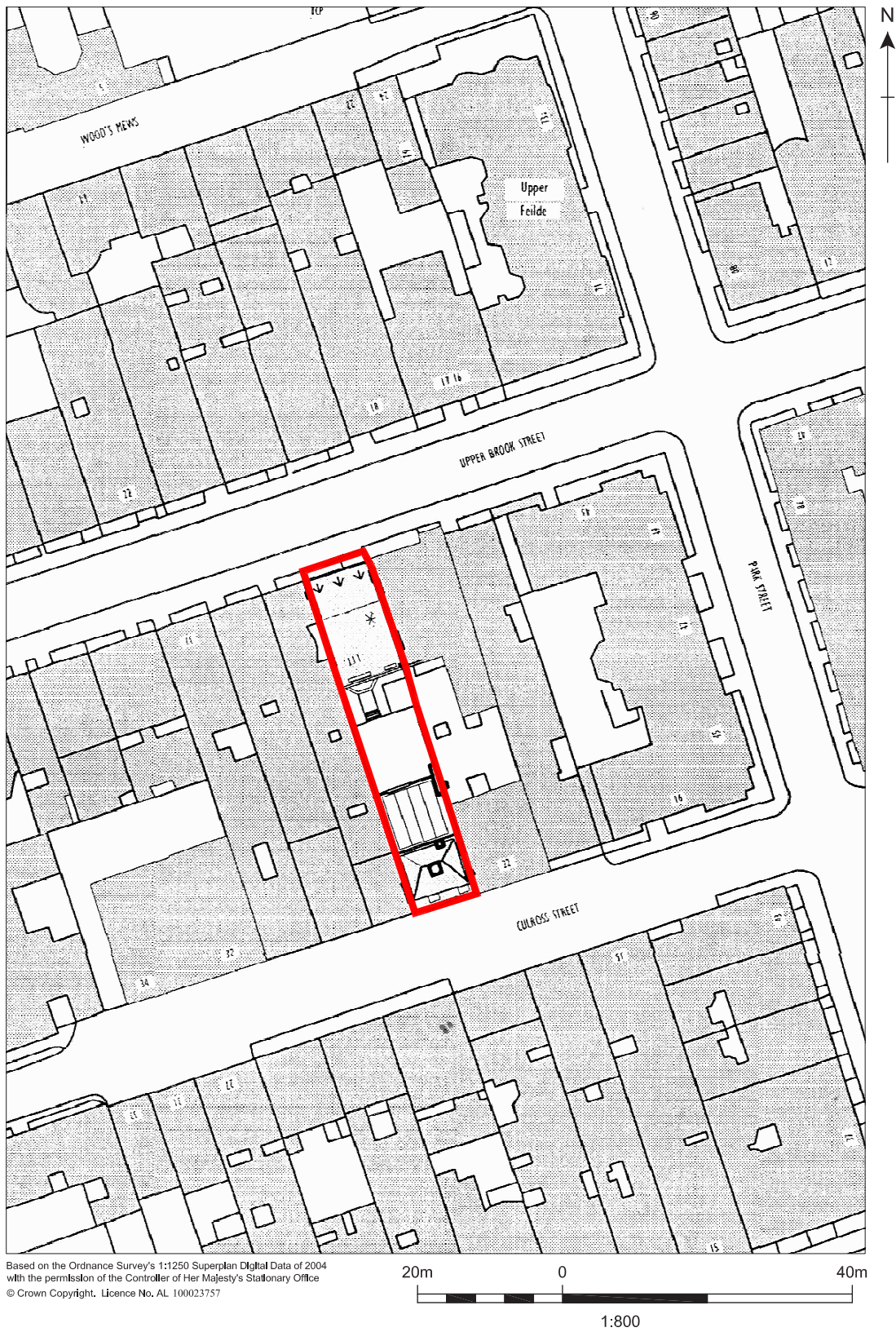


Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

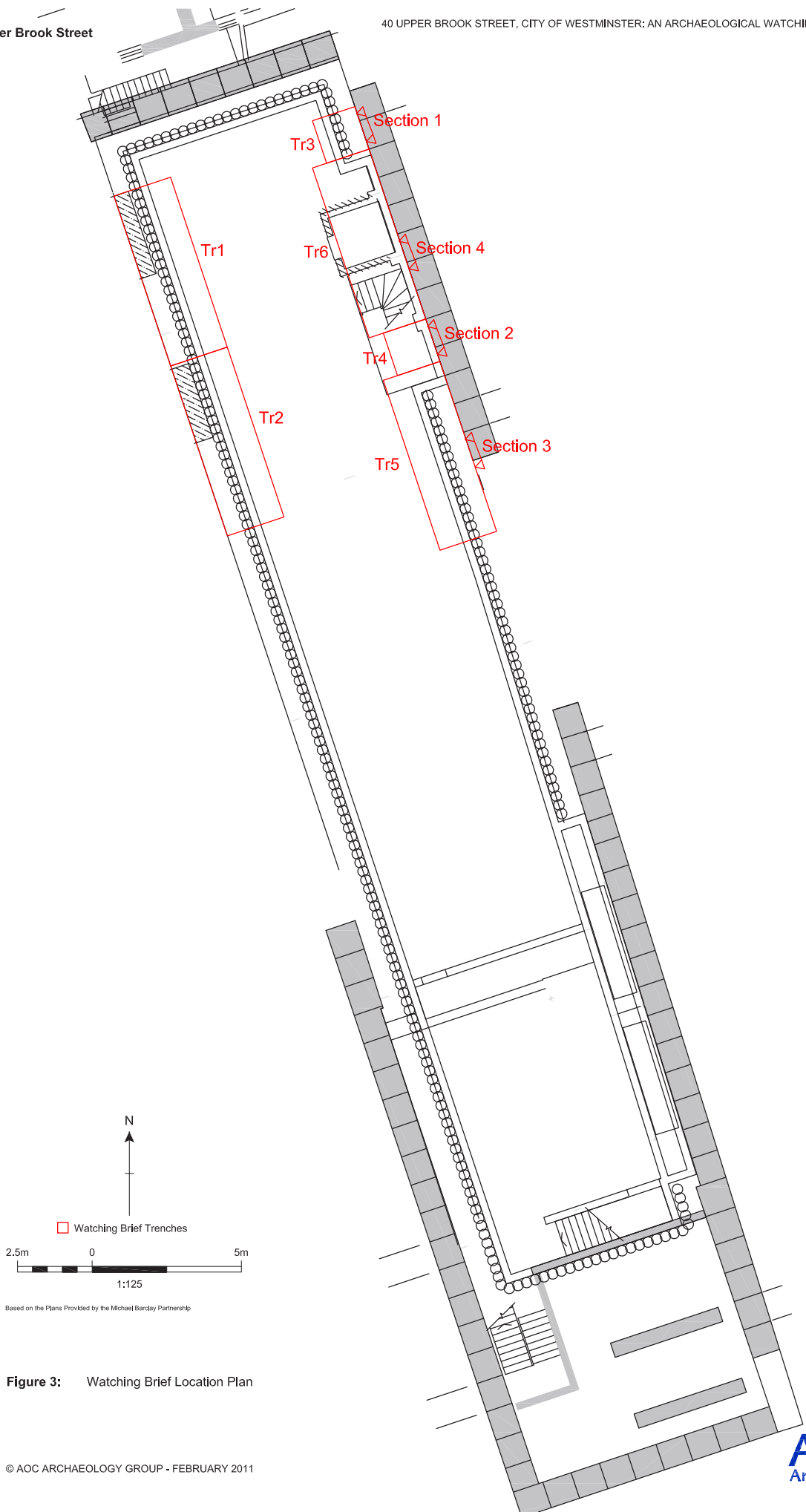


Figure 3: Watching Brief Location Plan

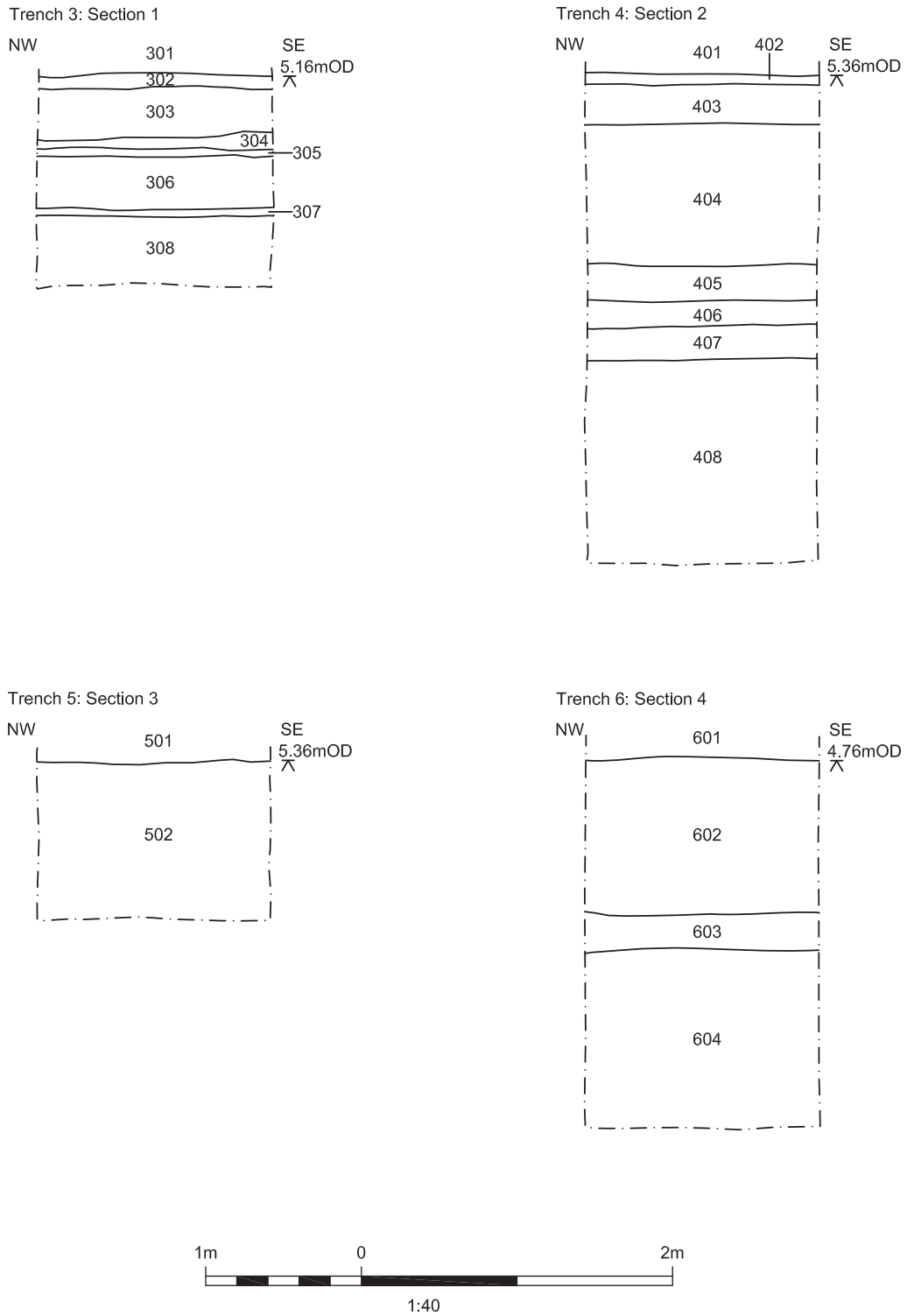


Figure 4: Sample Sections

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Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
301	Concrete and brick footing	1.50m	1.50m	0.59m
302	Builders Sand	1.50m	1.50m	0.10m
303	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.30m
304	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.10m
305	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.03m
306	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.08m
307	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.05m
308	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	1.50m
401	Concrete and brick footing	1.50m	1.50m	0.59m
402	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.10m
403	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.23m
404	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.90m
405	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.22m
406	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.16m
407	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	0.20m
408	Natural Deposit	1.50m	1.50m	NFE
501	Concrete and brick footing	6.00m	2.00m	0.59m
502	Natural Deposit	6.00m	2.00m	1.00m
601	Concrete and brick footing	6.00m	2.00m	0.59m
602	Natural Deposit	6.00m	2.00m	1.00m
603	Natural Deposit	6.00m	2.00m	0.26m
604	Natural Deposit	6.00m	2.00m	1.14m

Appendix B – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-70624

Project details

Project name 40 upper Brook Street

Short description of the project A watching brief was conducted by AOC Archaeology during various ground works and underpinning from July 2009 to August 2010. No archaeological remains were present. Natural bands of sand and gravels were recorded on site truncated by modern concrete and brick footings.

Project dates Start: 23-07-2009 End: 19-08-2010

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 30125 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes UBS09 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type BUILDING Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER 40 Upper Brook Street

Postcode W1K 2AJ

Study area 520.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 280 807 51.5102142956 -0.155296124109 51 30 36 N 000 09 19 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 2.36m Max: 5.36m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology Group
Organisation

Project brief EH GLAAS
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology Group
originator

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Paul Harris

Project supervisor Fitz

Project supervisor Stella Bickelmann

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Craigtown Properties
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Contents 'other'

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Contents 'none'

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

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
available

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 40 UPPER BROOK STREET, CITY OF WESTMINSTER: AN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, C

Date 2011

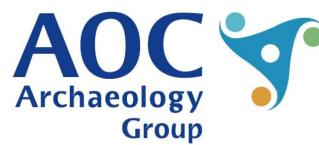
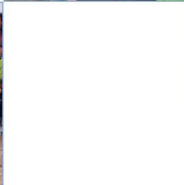
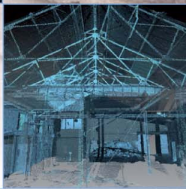
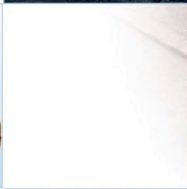
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