

## 31-33 SCARBOROUGH STREET, WHITECHAPEL E1, LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

### *Archaeological Watching Brief*



**31-33 SCARBOROUGH STREET  
WHITECHAPEL, EC1  
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

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Museum of London Site Code: **SBZ 06**

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**March 2006**

**31-33 SCARBOROUGH STREET  
WHITECHAPEL, EC1  
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS  
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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## **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology (London) was commissioned by Archer- Hoblin Ltd to carry out an archaeological Watching Brief at 31-33 Scarborough Street, Whitechapel E1 (NGR 533980/181056). This was further to an earlier desk-based assessment which had noted the presence of a Romano-British cemetery close by (Broadway Malyan Cultural Heritage 2005).

The Watching Brief was undertaken during the sinking of six piling shafts and attendant works. No evidence of surviving Romano-British remains was noted.

## **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff of Archer Hoblin Ltd for help and co-operation during the project.

Lawrence Pontin managed the project for Wessex Archaeology. Cornelius Barton undertook the fieldwork and prepared this report with illustrations prepared by Mark Roughley

**31-33 SCARBOROUGH STREET  
WHITECHAPEL, EC1  
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Archer Hoblin Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief during the construction of a new building at 31-33 Scarborough Street, Whitechapel EC1 (the Site) centred on NGR 533980/ 181056.
- 1.1.2 The Site consisted until recently of a three storey office block with no basement level. The external walls of this building were designed for foundations down to about 4.26 metres depth below the existing ground level, and were constructed on a 1 metre deep concrete raft (confirmed by geotechnical investigations).
- 1.1.3 The construction of the new building includes piling along the western side of the Site whilst the rest of the development will incorporate the existing ground slab and foundations (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.4 The archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken after consultation with the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 1.1.5 The archaeological works and the preparation of this report was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology, 2005) which was approved in advance by (GLAAS).
- 1.1.6 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, arrangements were be made with the Museum of London for deposition of the archive and finds, and a Museum of London Site code was allotted (SBZ 06).
- 1.1.7 All field work was undertaken and this report has been prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (as amended 2001), *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London* (GLAAS, 1998, Archaeological Guidance Paper 3) and *Archaeological Reports*. (*Ibid.* Archaeological Guidance Paper 4)).
- 1.1.8 The fieldwork was carried out between 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2006.

**1.2 Archaeological Background**

- 1.2.1 A summary of the archaeological background for the area is provided in the Desk Based Assessment of the Site (BMCH2005) upon which the archaeological potential of the area was originally predicted.

- 1.2.2 The Site lies a short distance from the city walls of Roman *Londinium*. A large Roman cemetery is known to have existed to the west and south of the Site.

## **2 METHODS**

### **2.1 Objectives**

- 2.1.1 Since only the western side of the Site would be disturbed the Watching Brief was confined to this area.
- 2.1.2 The objective of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits uncovered as a result of the piling, with a particular view to determine whether or not the Roman cemetery extended within the Site, and whether any such remains would be damaged by the current development.

### **2.2 Fieldwork**

- 2.2.1 The fieldwork strategy is described in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2006).
- 2.2.2 In order to accomplish this, the piling excavations were monitored by an archaeologist and the upcast material examined for artefactual material.

## **3 RESULTS**

- 3.1.1 No archaeologically significant material was recovered from the six monitored pilings. In all cases the piling excavations showed that there were levelling deposits of made ground consisting of mixed soils and building rubble to a depth of approximately 0.5m across the Site.

### **3.2 The Finds**

- 3.2.1 A small quantity of material recovered, all of late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century origin was noted. This has not been retained.

## **4 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1.1 The Watching Brief demonstrated that no archaeologically significant deposits are likely to be damaged by the current development.

## **5 ARCHIVE**

- 5.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in London, under the site code reference 62190 (MoL SBZ 06) and will be deposited with the appropriate authority in due course.

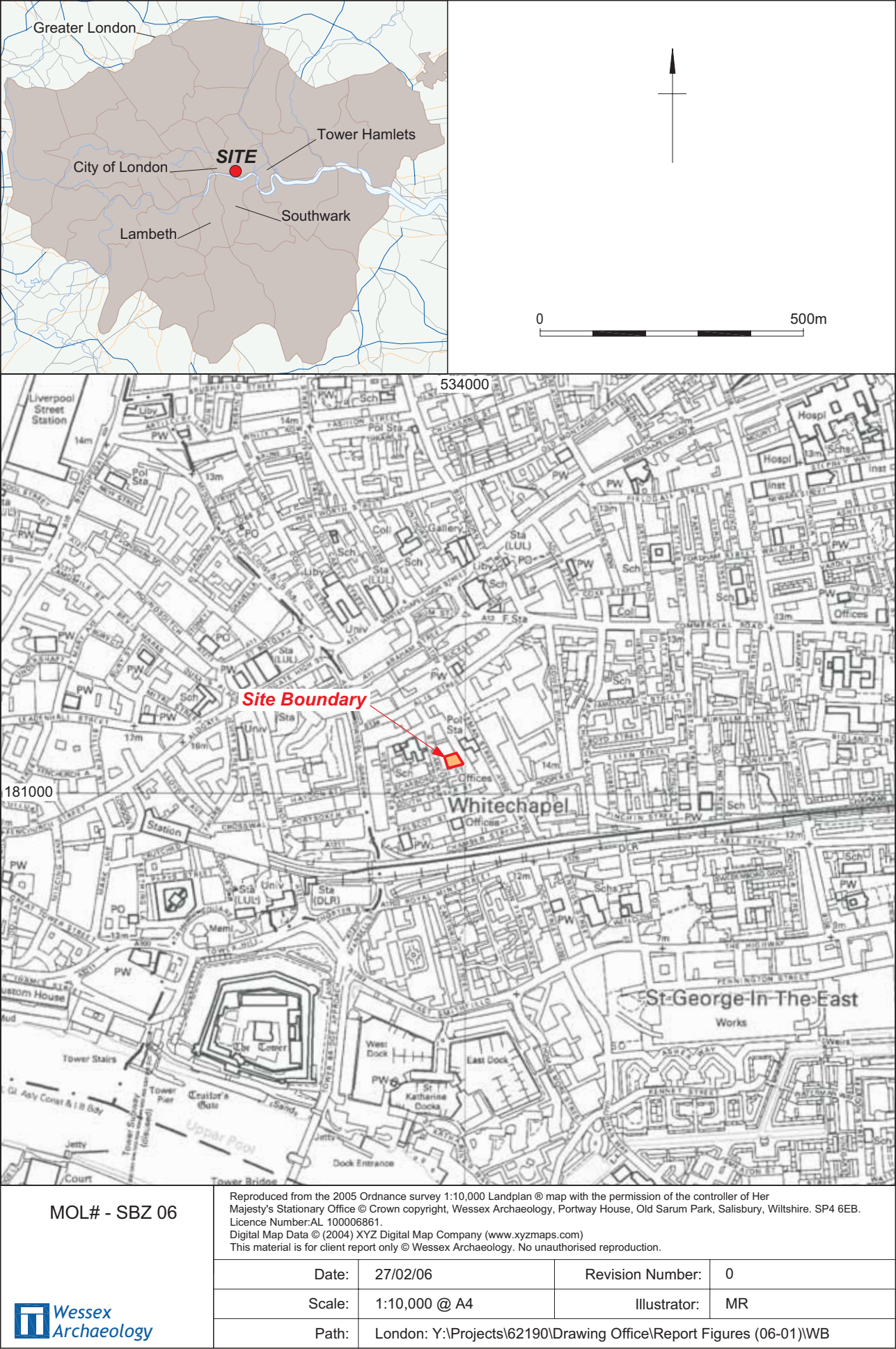
## **6 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Broadway Malyan Cultural Heritage *A Desk-based Archaeological Assessment of 31-33 Scarborough Street, Whitechapel E1* (Unpublished Desk Based Assessment)

Wessex Archaeology, 2006, *31-33 Scarborough Street Whitechapel E1 Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief*, ref: T8648 (Unpublished Project Design)









Piling Locations



Approximate location of  
Geotechnical Test Pits

MOL# - SBZ 06

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Revision Number:	0
Illustrator:	MR
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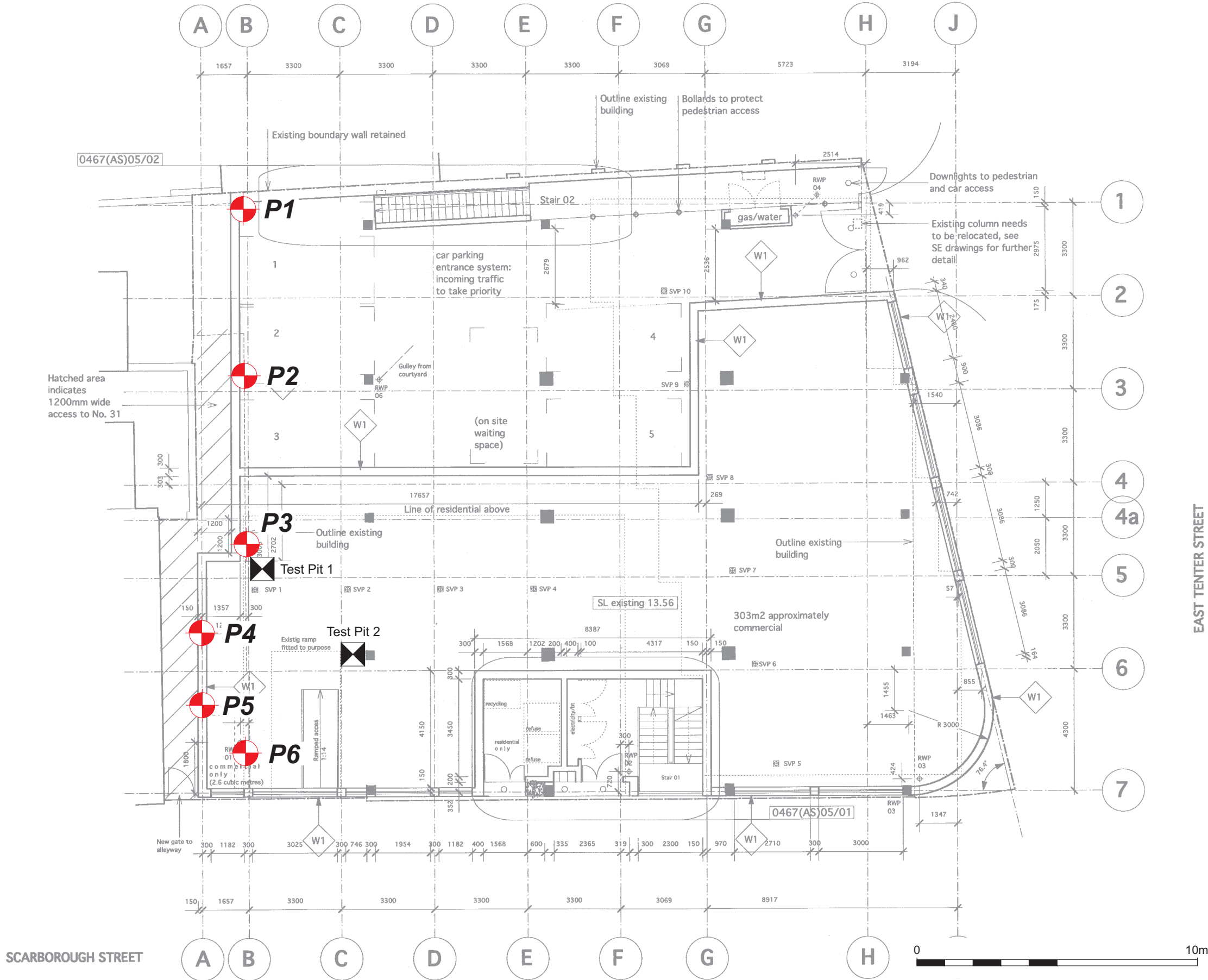


Figure 2