

**SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET,
WHITECHAPEL STORE,
1 CAMBRIDGE HEATH ROAD,
LONDON, E1 5SD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

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NGR: TQ 3485 8195	Report No. 3511
District: Tower Hamlets	Site Code: SFU 10
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3673
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET Project details			
Project name	<i>Sainsbury's Supermarket, Whitechapel Store, 1 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E1 5SD</i>		
<p><i>In March 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at No. 1 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E1 5SD (NGR TQ 3485 8195). The monitoring was commissioned by RG Group, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new atrium to the superstore and temporary deck car park.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located in highly urbanised area to the east of the City of London. Until early 1990s the site was occupied by early 19th century buildings of Albion Brewery. The site's main potential for post-medieval archaeological remains associated with local developments. The site is also the purported location of a 17th century plague pit containing human burials.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed 19th century building remains, likely associated with the former brewery. Wall M1022 (Tr.4) was directly comparable to the former brewery entrance which fronts Whitechapel Road and is the only remaining part of the brewery. The possible basements revealed in Trenches 5 and 6 may relate to the production blocks of the brewery. No human remains or any other evidence of the 17th -century plague pit was found, and the site had clearly suffered significant truncation in the past.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>2nd – 4th March 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>3673</i>	Site code	<i>SFU 10</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Superstore car park</i>		
Planned development	<i>New atrium for the store and deck car park</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>19th century walls</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>London Borough of Tower Hamlets</i>	<i>Bethnal Green/ Stepney</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>GLSMR</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>E1 5SD</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 12000m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 3485 8195</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 12m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>RG Group</i>		
Full title	<i>Sainsbury's Supermarket, Whitechapel Store, 1 Cambridge Heath Road, Whitechapel, London, E1 5SD. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3511</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2010</i>		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In March 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at No. 1 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E1 5SD (NGR TQ 3485 8195). The monitoring was commissioned by the RG Group, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new atrium to the superstore and temporary deck car park.

The site is located in highly urbanised area to the east of the City of London. Until early 1990s the site was occupied by early 19th century buildings of Albion Brewery. The site had main potential for post-medieval archaeological remains associated with local developments. The site is also the purported location of a 17th century plague pit containing human burials.

In the event the monitoring revealed 19th century building remains, likely associated with the former brewery. Wall M1022 (Tr.4) was directly comparable to the former brewery entrance which fronts Whitechapel Road and is the only remaining part of the brewery. The possible basements revealed in Trenches 5 and 6 may relate to the production blocks of the brewery. No human remains or any other evidence of the 17th -century plague pit was found and the site had clearly suffered significant truncation in the past.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at No. 1 Cambridge Heath Road, Whitechapel, London, E1 5SD (TQ 3485 8195; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by the RG Group on behalf of Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new atrium to the foodstore and temporary deck car park, to be created to compensate for an area of the current car park lost to the development of the Crossrail Project (London Borough of Tower Hamlets Planning Ref. PA/09/02421). The monitoring was undertaken during the groundworks for foundations of the new deck car park.

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated

02/02/2010), and approved by EH GLAAS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001). It also conformed with the EH GLAAS Guidance Papers (in particular No. 5 *Evaluations* and No. 3 *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*).

1.3 The principal objective of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording was to establish the presence or absence of human remains derived from a possible plague pit. The monitoring also aimed to establish the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains *in situ*. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located in Tower Hamlets, to the east of the City of London. The site is situated at No.1 Cambridge Heath Road, just to the north of Whitechapel Road, which at this point becomes Mile End Road, and is enclosed by Brady Street to the west, Cambridge Heath Road (A107) to the east, and Mercer Street and Darling Road to the north (Fig. 1). The southern boundary is demarcated by a series of commercial properties, including the Grade II Listed Albion Brewery Entrance Block (MLO93016), fronting onto Whitechapel/ Mile End Road.

2.2 The site occupies an irregularly shaped plot of land covering an area of c. 1.2 hectares (Fig. 2). It is currently occupied by a supermarket store with a

covered walkway leading from Whitechapel Road and associated car parking area.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies within an urban location, to the east of the City of London, and about 2km north of the River Thames. It is located on relatively flat land which rises very gradually towards the north and is at a height of c. 12.5m AOD.

3.2 The solid geology of the site is London Clay, but given the urban location of the site, its soil types remain unsurveyed (SSEW 1983). A previous evaluation on the site (MLO64323) revealed brickearth quarrying, showing that the site lies on the river terrace and is underlain by terrace gravels/brickearth deposits.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared (Tweedie 2009). In summary:

The site has a moderate or high potential for archaeological remains dating from the post-medieval period onwards, but only a low potential for prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon or medieval remains. As the site is set back from the frontage of Whitechapel Road and its frontage with Cambridge Heath Road (formerly Dog Row) will have been significantly truncated through the construction of the petrol station, the potential for medieval buildings, including the remains of the almshouses which formerly fronted onto Cambridge Heath Road is significantly reduced. From the post-medieval period onwards the site has been subject to numerous episodes of construction and demolition. The proposed development will take place in the southern area of the site, which is currently an area of hard-standing and in use as a car park. Little recent truncation is likely to have occurred here, although the extent of brickearth quarrying is unknown, and it is therefore possible that remains of the former Albion Brewery and its related buildings may remain.

4.2 Development on the site has been varied but has primarily composed dwellings to the northern end of the site and the establishment and gradual expansion of the Albion Brewery beginning in the southern half of the site and gradually extending to cover the whole site. The Albion Brewery must have been founded by 1807, when it appears on Horwood's Great Survey as a small building in the south-eastern sector of the site. Other documentary sources suggest that the brewery was founded in 1808 by Richard Ivory who was the landlord of the adjoining tavern The Blind Beggar. By 1889 the brewery was well-established and respected enough to gain a chapter in Barnard's "Noted Breweries of Great Britain and Ireland". The entrance block built at this time, remains today as a Grade II Listed building (MLO93016), and partially encloses the site to the south. During the Second World War several

bombs are recorded as having fallen close to the site, including at the junction of Whitechapel Road and Cambridge Heath Road, and another where the extant entrance block of the former Albion Brewery fronts Whitechapel Road. In 1958 the company merged with Watney, Combe & Reid Ltd. Co., London, to form Watney Mann limited and continued to brew until 1979 when the Albion Brewery was closed. In 1993 the site was redeveloped for use as a Sainsbury's superstore, fuel station and adjoining car parking facilities. A limited evaluation of the site carried out in 1993 (MoLAS 1993) prior to redevelopment, revealed a major late 18th/early 19th century sewer and brick quarries in the northern part of the site. In the area of the petrol filling station, deep modern disturbance was recorded. No evidence of the purported Roman road traversing the site was identified. The evaluation report, and also further advice from EH GLAAS, noted references to a plague pit being dug in the central part of the site in c.1665, with its location planned by Sir Christopher Wren in 1673 (Lyson, 1811, p694).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological monitoring of all the pad foundations that corresponded with the purported location of the 17th century plague pit, was carried out with the specific aim of characterising the presence of any human remains within the pad foundations.

5.2 The principal elements monitored were the mechanically-excavated trenches for the new pad foundations for a deck car park. The monitored trenches were located in the central part of the site and lay within the area of a possible location of the plague pit (Fig. 3). Trenches 1 – 3 measured c.2.50 x 2.50m; Trench 4 measured 4.70 x 2.20m, Trench 5 4.90 x 3.20m, and Trench 6 3.00 x 2.90m. Three pads remain to be excavated at a later date once access to this part of the site becomes available.

5.3 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 2; DP 10-11)

<i>Trench 1, Sample Section 1 (DP 11), NW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 11.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Tarmac. Surface of the car park.
0.08 – 0.36m	L1001	Base layer for tarmac. Light grey, compact, concrete with yellow sand.
0.36 – 1.00m	L1002	Demolition rubble. Loose concrete fragments, CBM and debris.
1.00 – 1.40m	L1003	CBM rubble. Loose red and yellow bricks fragments.
1.40 – 2.00m	L1004	Light grey, loose, ash.
2.00 – 2.15m	L1005	Dark grey, compact, clayey silt.
2.15 m+	L1006	Natural. Greenish mid yellow, loose, sand.

Description: The trench contained remains of Wall M1007.

M1007 (DP 10) was visible in the northern corner of the trench and was located beyond the trench limits; the collapsing sides of the trench revealed its remains. The wall was a part of an arch/ceiling, the corner of a basement. It was constructed of dark red bricks and survived to a depth of c. 1m below ground level. The wall directly underlay concrete, L1001.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2; DP 12-13)

<i>Trench 2, sample section 2 (DP 13), NW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 11.88m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.10 – 0.18m	L1008	Base layer for tarmac. Black, compacted gravel with brown silty sand.
0.18 – 0.80m	L1009	Light brown, friable, silty sand with CBM.
0.80 – 0.92m	M1010	Floor. Light grey, compact, concrete.
0.92 – 2.70m	L1011	Made ground. Dark grey, compact, clayey silt with gravel and CBM.
2.70m+	L1006	Natural sand. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained Wall M1012 and the remains of a floor, M1010.

Wall M1012 (0.75 x 1.90m; DP 13) was recorded in the south-eastern section of the trench. It was aligned north-west/south-east and traversed the trench. It was present at c. 0.80m below existing and was constructed of red bricks with some cream-coloured stock bricks. It was bonded with a dark grey mortar.

To the immediate north of the wall was the remains of a possible floor, M1010 (1+ x 0.12m; DP 13) comprising a layer of light grey concrete.

A substantial layer of made ground (L1011) was located within Trench 2. It was located below Floor M1010 at c. 1m below ground level and continued to a depth of c.2.70m. The layer consisted of a dark grey, compact, clayey silt with gravel and occasional CBM.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2; DP 14-15)

<i>Trench 3, Sample Section 3 (DP 15), SE facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 11.78m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.08 – 0.30m	L1008	Base layer for tarmac. As above, Tr. 2.
0.30 – 1.60m	L1013	Demolition rubble within interior of a basement.
1.60 – 2.10m	L1014	Black, loose, ash within interior of a basement.
2.10 – 2.15m	M1015	Floor. Light grey, compact, concrete.
2.15m+	L1006	Natural sand. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained the remains of a basement (M1015 and M1018) and a service run (M1019).

Wall M1018 (2+ x 0.25 x 1.60m; DP 15) was part of a basement exposed within the trench. The wall was constructed of pale red bricks bonded with a light grey mortar, and was present c. 0.60m below existing ground level. It was partially demolished during the excavation. The interior of the basement was filled with CBM rubble and debris (L1013) overlying a layer of black ash (L1014) which overlay a concrete floor (M1015). The floor was present at c.2.10m below ground level.

M1019 (0.90 x 0.75m; DP 14) was recorded in south-eastern section of the trench and it was partially demolished during the excavation. It was linear and shallow (c. 0.75m), aligned north-west/south-east. It was constructed of red bricks bonded with light grey mortar. It contained debris (L1024), and M1019 was likely a service run.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2; DP 16-20)

<i>Trench 4, Sample Section 4 (DP 17), SE facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 11.76m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.12 – 0.80m	L1020	Light brown, friable, silty sand with CBM.
0.80 – 1.20m	L1021	Dark grey, clayey silt mixed with yellow, loose, sand.
1.20m+	L1006	Natural sand. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: Trench 4 contained Wall M1022 and its foundation base, M1023.

M1022 (4.50+ x 1.30 x 0.80m; DP 16, 19) was aligned north-east/south-west turning to the north-west. It was constructed of yellow, and occasionally red

and dark grey bricks, bonded with a light grey mortar. It was based on a solid concrete foundation M1023 (1m deep; DP 19). An adjoining wall was present (DP 18). The latter was constructed of red bricks with a light grey mortar.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2; DP 21-22)

<i>Trench 5, sample section 5 (DP 22): NW side, SE facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 11.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.14 – 0.23m	L1025	Light brown, friable, silty sand with CBM.
0.23 – 0.49m	L1026	Greyish white, compact, chalk.
0.49 – 2.50m	L1027	Demolition rubble with rubbish.
2.50 – 2.70m	M1028	Floor. Light grey, compact, concrete.
2.70m+	L1006	Natural sand. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: Trench 5 contained Concrete Floor M1028.

The trench was located within a basement. At c.2.50m below existing a concrete floor, M1028, was revealed. It overlay the entire base of the trench. It was composed of a light grey concrete, c.0.20m deep, and directly overlay the natural sand, L1006.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2; DP 23-24)

<i>Trench 6, Sample Section 6 (DP 24), NE facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 11.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.12 – 0.30m	L1008	Base layer for tarmac. As above, Tr. 2.
0.30 – 1.00m	L1030	Backfill of modern service trench. Yellow, loose, sand.
1.00 – 2.50m	L1031	Demolition rubble with rubbish.
2.50 – 2.70m	M1032	Floor. Light grey, compact, concrete.
2.70m+	L1006	Natural sand. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: Trench 6 contained Concrete Floor M1032.

Trench 6 was located in a similar area to Trench 5, and was also probably located within a former basement. Concrete Floor M1032 was present c. 2.50m below ground level and overlay the entire base of the trench. It comprised a light grey concrete, c.0.20m deep, directly overlay the natural sand (L1006).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was overlain by tarmac, L1000, which was removed only from the location of the trenches. Below the tarmac and its base layer (L1008) deposits of miscellaneous building materials and debris were present (L1002 & L1003 (Tr. 1), L1009 (Tr.2), & L1020 (Tr.4). These were remains of buildings demolished in 20th century. The basements recorded in Trenches 3, 5 and 6 were backfilled with similar rubble.

8.2 Within Trench 2 Made Ground L1011 was recorded, and it was contemporary with the construction of M1012.

8.3 When the ground levels were preserved the natural was present c.1.20m below existing (Trench 4). Elsewhere, and in the main, it was recorded at depths of 2.15- 2.70 below substantial building remains and basements.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Until the early 1990s the site was occupied by the early 19th century buildings of the Albion Brewery. It had the potential for post-medieval archaeological remains associated with local developments. The site is also the purported location of a 17th century plague pit containing human burials.

9.2 In the event the monitoring revealed 19th century building remains almost certainly associated with the former brewery. Wall M1022 (Tr.4) was directly comparable to the former brewery entrance which fronts Whitechapel Road and is the only remaining part of the brewery. The possible basements revealed in Trenches 5 and 6 may relate to the production blocks of the brewery.

9.3 No human remains or any other evidence of the 17th -century plague pit was found, which may be in part due to the previous truncation of the site.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archives and Resource Centre (LAARC). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank RG Group for commissioning and funding the works on behalf of Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd (in particular Mr Jon Lee and Mr Neil Connell for their assistance).

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr David Lawal of Henry Riley LLP.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr David Divers of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Sainsbury's Store, Whitechapel. View WNW from Cambridge Heath Road.



DP 2. Central part of the site with trenches for foundation pads. View SW.



DP 3. Excavation of Trench 1. View SE.



DP 4. Trench 2. View S.



DP 5. Excavation of Trench 5. View W.



DP 6. Excavation of Trench 6. View NW.



DP 7. Trench 6. View W.



DP 8. E part of the site. View N.



DP 9. E part of the site. View NNE.



DP 10. Trench 1. View N.



DP 11. Trench 1, section SE. View SE



DP 12. Trench 2, section SW. View SW.



DP 13. Trench 2, section SE. View SE.



DP 14. Trench 3, section SE. View SE.



DP 15. Trench 3, section NW. View NW.



DP 16. Trench 4. View SW.



DP 17. Trench 4, section NW. View NW.



DP 18. Trench 4. View NE.



DP 19. Trench 4. View E.



DP 20. Trench 4 with foundation pad. View S.



DP 21. Trench 5. View E.



DP 22. Trench 5, section NW. View NW.



DP 23. Trench 6. View N.

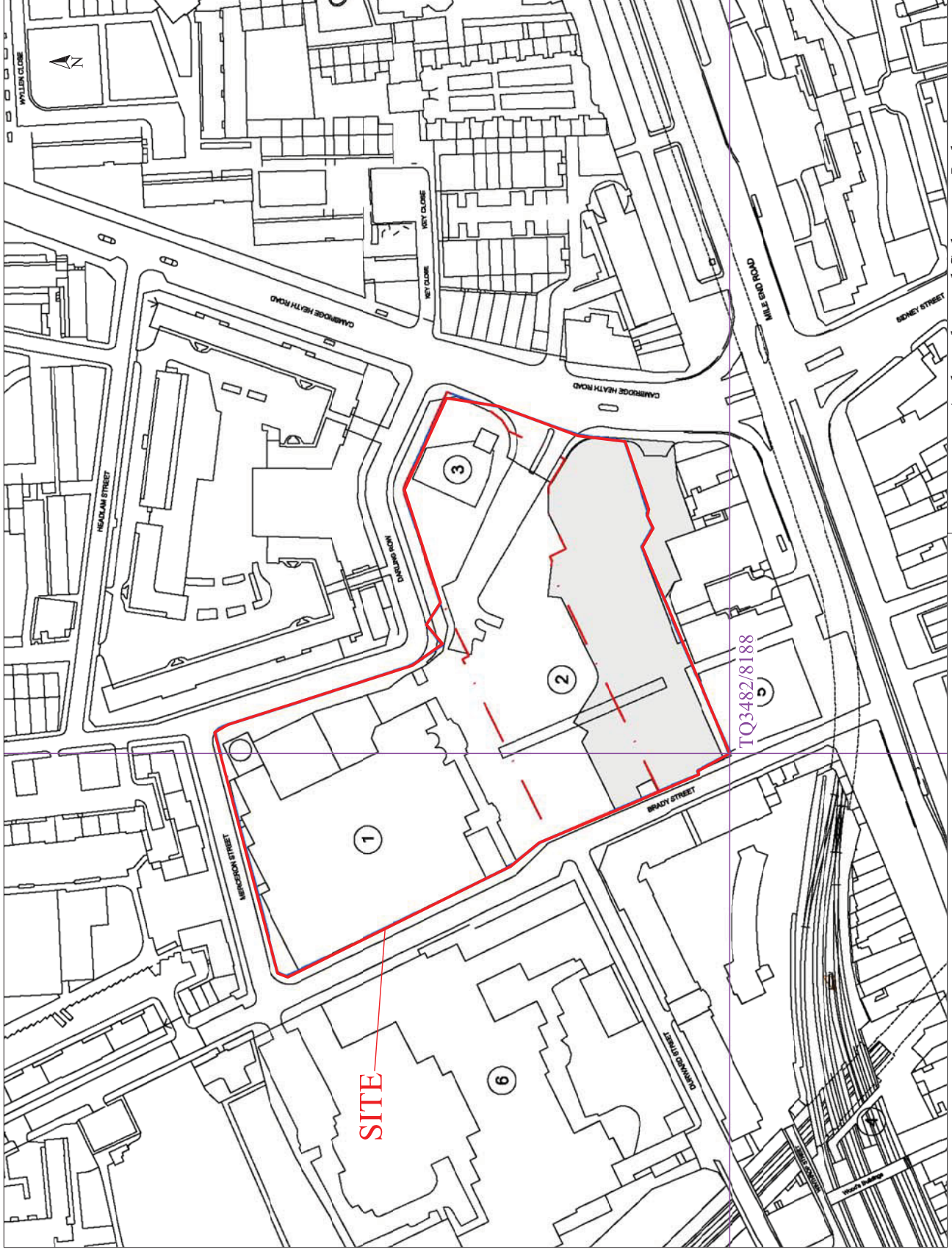


DP 24. Trench 6, section SW. View SW.



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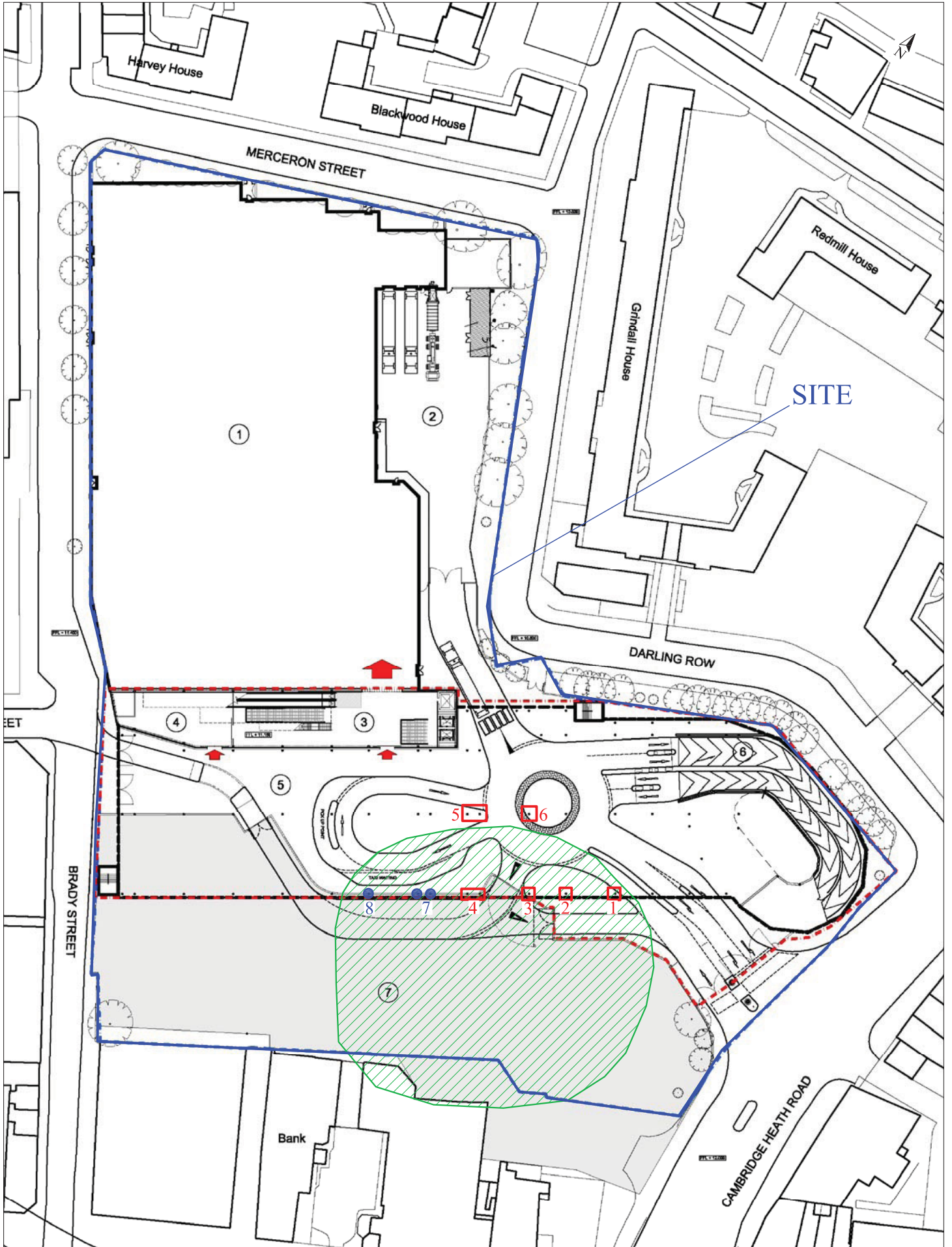
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

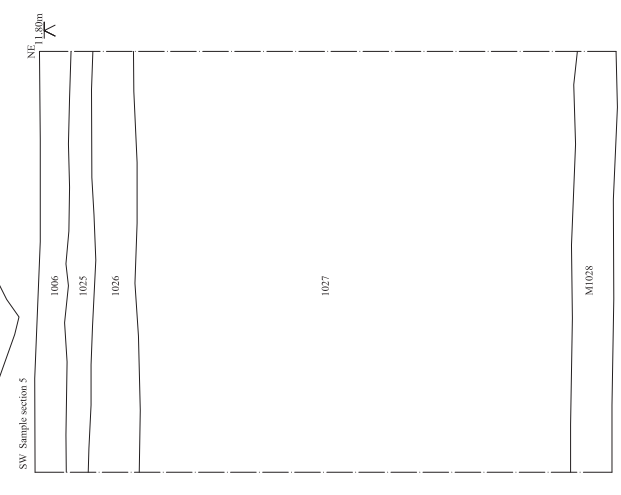
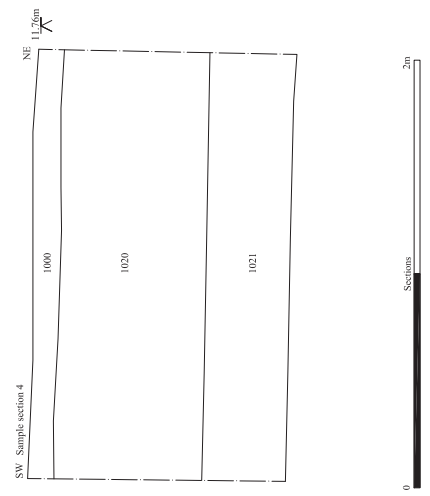
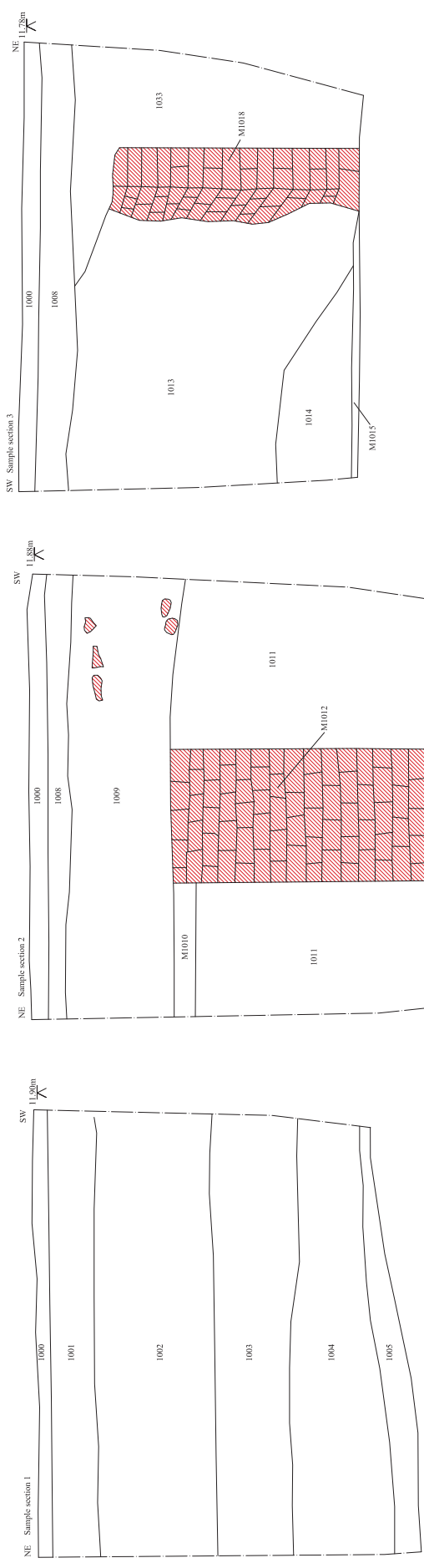
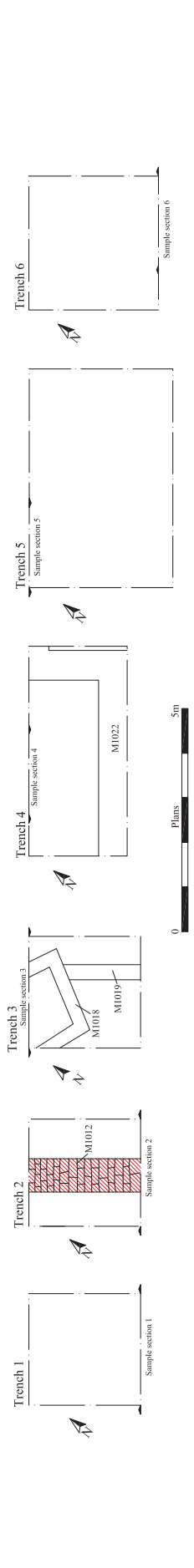
Scale 1:2000 at A4



- Monitored foundation pads
- Unmonitored foundation pads
- Plague pit

0 50m

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Fig. 3 Area of monitored foundation pads
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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Fig. 4 Plans and sections
 Scale plans at 1:100 & sections at 1:25 at A3