

77 South Audley Street London W1

Site Code STA11
NGR 528410 180360
OASIS reference molas1-119957

Planning reference Westminster11/00612/FULL
Condition Number 15

Report on an archaeological watching brief

Sign-off History:

Issue No.	Date:	Prepared by:	Checked/ Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	03.05.14	Portia Askew	Michael Smith	
2	23.05.14	Portia Askew	Michael Smith	Correction of date in text
3	16.11.15	Michael Smith	Michael Smith	Up-date.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was proposed on the site, following the evaluation work carried out in 2012 (MOLA 2012a). This document is the Report on the watching brief.
- 1.1.2 A desk top *Archaeological desk-based assessment* was previously prepared which covers the whole area of the site (MOLA 2007). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site (and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential).
- 1.1.3 Field evaluation was carried out by MOLA in February 2012. An *Evaluation Report* was written on the results (MOLA 2012a).
- 1.1.4 Further to the condition on Planning Consent a *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared by (MOLA 2012b).

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the watching brief took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA May 2012). To summarise here:
- 1.2.2 The watching brief was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by Westminster Local Authority (Consent reference 11/00612/FULL ; Condition number 15).

1.3 Scope of the watching brief

- 1.3.1 An archaeological watching brief is normally a limited fieldwork exercise. It is not the same as full excavation, though individual features may be fully excavated.
- 1.3.2 The watching brief was scheduled to be carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2008).
- 1.3.3 All work was to have been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002
- 1.3.4 All work was to have been undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the watching brief (Section 2.2)
 - What is the nature and level of natural topography?
 - Is there any evidence for prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity associated with the ancient ground surface/s identified during the evaluation?

- Is there any evidence for structures pertaining to London's Civil War defences?
- What is the evidence for the post-medieval development of the site?
- What further information is there for the walls and deposits observed during the evaluation?

2 Topographical and historical background

- 2.1.1 Information regarding the topographical and historical background can be found in the Archaeological desk-based assessment (MOLA 2007) and Update addendum (MOLA 2011)

3 Results of the watching brief

- 3.1.1 Following the evaluation on the site in March 2012, a watching brief was designated as a follow-up, in order to recover further evidence for post-medieval brick walls and any other archaeological survival. Several visits to the site were made by MOLA over a period of two years to establish the programme of engineering work with a view to confirming a start date for the watching brief. However, due to a misunderstanding the ground level was reduced at some time between 21st and 31st March 2014 without an archaeologist in attendance. A site visit on 1st April 2014 by the MOLA archaeologist showed that the area of the proposed watching brief had been reduced to a depth of 2 metres below the basement slab to approximately 19.6m OD, exposing the natural sandy gravel. The site engineer confirmed that he had not seen any brick structures during the level reduction.

4 Bibliography

DCLG [Department of Communities and Local Government], 2012 National Planning Policy Framework

English Heritage, 1991 Exploring Our Past, Strategies for the Archaeology of England

English Heritage, 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, June 2009 Archaeological Guidance Papers 1-5

Institute for Archaeologists (IFA), 2008 By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute for Archaeologists, Standard and guidance: watching brief

Institute for Archaeologists (IFA), supplement 2008, By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute for Archaeologists: Standards and guidance the collection, documentation conservation and research of archaeological materials

MOLA 2007: *Archaeological desk-based assessment; 77 south Audley Street, London W1*. MOLA unpub report.

MOLA 2011: *Archaeological assessment update addendum; 77 south Audley Street*. MOLA unpub report

MOLA 2012a: *Report on an archaeological evaluation; 77 South Audley Street, London W1*. MOLA unpub report

MOLA 2012b: *Written scheme of investigation for a watching brief; 77 South Audley Street*. MOLA unpub report

Museum of London, 2002 A research framework for London archaeology 2002

5 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

5.1 OASIS ID: molas1-119957

Project details

Project name	77 South Audley Street, London W1
Short description of the project	Four trenches were evaluated in the basement of the building, only two of which, on the north side of the site revealed in situ archaeological remains. Natural gravel was recorded on the northern side of the site at c 21.00m OD sloping down to 20.52m OD on towards the east. Above the gravel a sandy silt, similar to topsoil, represented the top of rural open land predating post- medieval urban development and could be Roman or medieval in date. .At the base of the deposit at the junction with the gravel, very friable fragments of animal bone were present, though they are undated as no dateable finds were found in conjunction with it. It was noticeable that very small fragments of red tile/brick were occasionally found within the soil. A single course of a red brick wall, possibly of 17th/18th century date, aligned ESE/WNW had survived in one of the trenches and represent the earliest evidence for post-medieval development on the site. Further development was evidenced by an east -west wall dated to the mid 19th century and a brick pier base on late 19th/early 20th century. A watching brief, scheduled for March 2014 on the site did not take place as the engineering team carried out wholesale ground reduction.
Project dates	Start: 20-02-2012 End: 02-03-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	STA11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	BRICK WALLA Post Medieval
Monument type	BURIED SOIL Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
 Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER CITY OF WESTMINSTER 77 South Audley Street
 Postcode W1K 1JG
 Study area 670.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TQ 28 80 51.5039228227 -0.155550253208 51 30 14 N 000 09 19 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation MOLA
 Project brief originator MoL Archaeology Project Manager
 Project design originator MOLA
 Project director/manager Beliz Tecirli
 Project supervisor Portia Askew
 Type of sponsor/funding body Rodeo Developments Limited
 Name of sponsor/funding body Rodeo Developments Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient LAARC
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient LAARC
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Manuscript", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	A forthcoming report
Title	77 South Audley Street - An archaeological evaluation report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Portia Askew
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Entered by	portia askew (paskew@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	9 May 2014

6 OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page



Fig 1 Site location

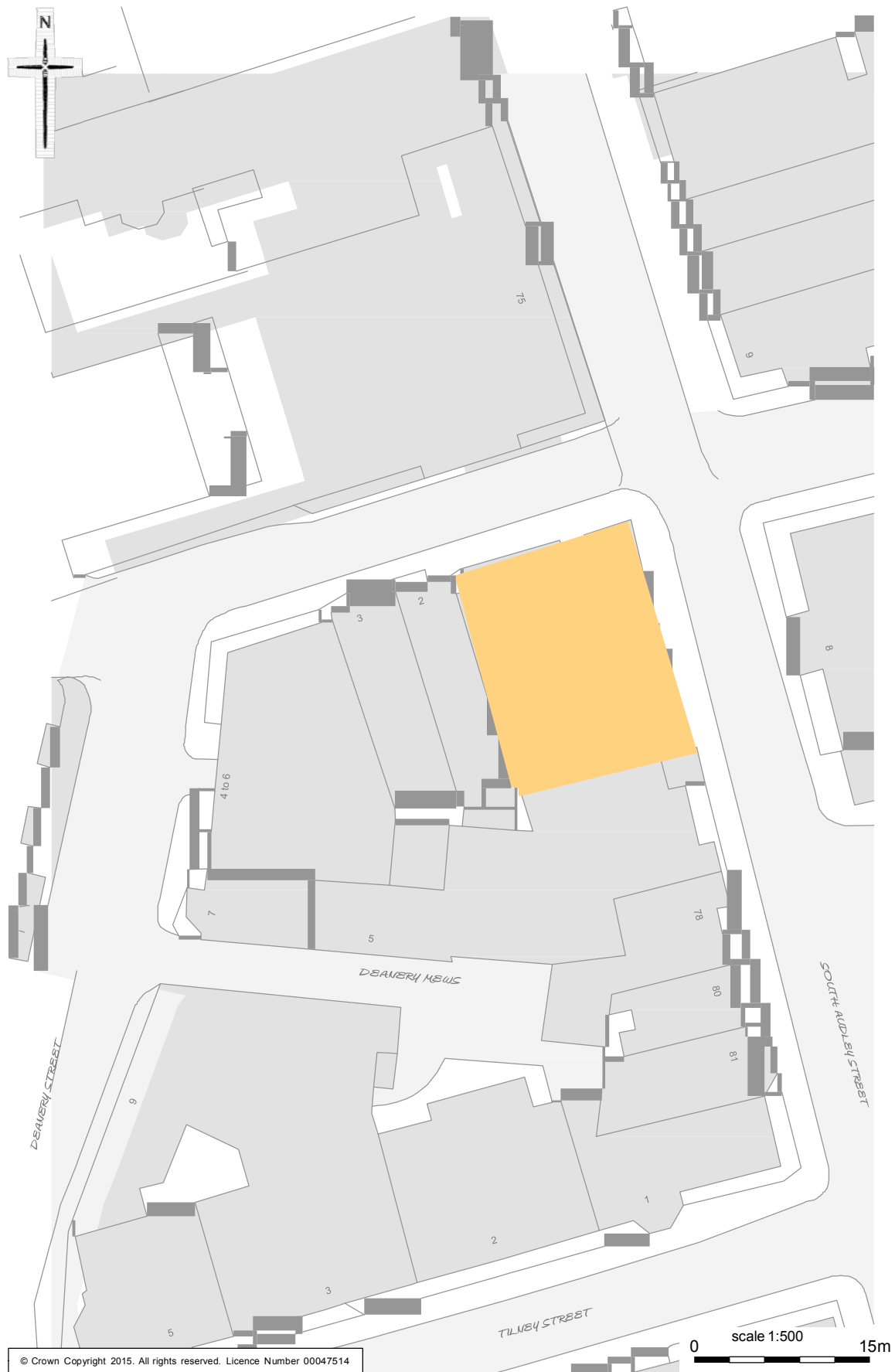


Fig 2 Area of proposed watching brief