

37-43 GREEN LANES
Stoke Newington
NI6

London Borough of Islington

An archaeological watching brief report

August 2006



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

37-43 GREEN LANES
Stoke Newington
N16

London Borough of Islington

An archaeological watching brief report

Site Code: GNK06

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by Mansell Construction Services Limited on behalf of the client Unite in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at 37-43 Green Lanes, Stoke Newington.

Work was monitored between the 9th of February and the 4th of May 2006 during conversion of the former petrol filling station to a ground floor convenience store with residential units on four upper floors.

Archaeological deposits were recorded in section in trenches. Truncated natural ground was observed at 21.20m OD, and above this was made ground. Ground level was at 26m OD.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at 37-43 Green Lanes, Stoke Newington, London N16, hereafter called 'the site' (see Fig 1). The site is located at the southern end of Green Lanes, bounded to the north by Green Lanes, to the south by Poet's Road and to the west by Leconfield road (see fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 532686 185482. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is 26.2m OD. The site code is GNK06.

A Method Statement was previously prepared by MoLAS, which covers the whole area of the site (MoLAS, 2006). 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.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 1.2, MoLAS, 2006)

1.3 Planning background

The watching brief was carried out in response to an archaeological condition attached to planning application PO50529 for the demolition of the existing petrol station and the erection of a 5 storey mixed use development.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Mansell Construction Services Limited and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such

remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (2.2.), and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

What was the level of natural topography?

What are the earliest deposits identified?

Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity at the site?

Is there any evidence for the mediaeval village located around Newington Green?

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002*

2 Topographical and historical background

The site is located on the north edge of Archaeological Priority Area (APA83) Newington Green Hamlet, which is of medieval or earlier origin and alongside Green Lanes, which is contemporary with the hamlet. No previous archaeological work has taken place on the site. The most likely archaeological remains that might be represented on the site are buildings, pits and ditches of medieval or later origin that lie alongside the medieval route now represented by Green lanes.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MoLAS,2006) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS, 1994).

Two fuel-tank pits in the extreme south east of the site (see Fig 2) were exposed by the removal of the fuel tanks and designated T1 and T2 (Trench 1 and Trench 2). A section was recorded in each trench by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The heights of observations and archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum by measuring down from ground level.

The two sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan and two 1:20 section drawings.

The site records can be found under the site code GNK06 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, 2 separate interventions (trenches) were made for the purposes of removing the fuel tanks. These have been numbered consecutively. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For all trench locations see Fig 2

<i>Watching Brief Trench 1</i>	
Location	South east corner of site
Dimensions	13m east west by 8m north south
Modern ground level	26.m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	24.90m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.30m
Level of base of deposits observed	23.60m OD
Natural observed	N\A

A section was recorded in the middle of the western limit of excavation that measured 1.60m across by 2.60m deep. The concrete slab was 0.25m thick, with 1.05m of modern levelling and made ground beneath. This overlay 1.30m of clayey silts of indeterminable age. The only inclusions were occasional charcoal flecks and occasional oyster shells. Natural was not visible in this section.

<i>Watching Brief Trench 2</i>	
Location	Extreme south east corner of site
Dimensions	9m east west by 6m north south
Modern ground level/top of slab	26.m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	24.60m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1m
Level of base of deposits observed	23.60m OD
Natural observed	N/A

A section was recorded in the middle of the northern limit of excavation that measured 1.20m across by 2.60m deep. The concrete slab measured 0.25m deep, with 1.60m of levelling and made ground beneath. This overlay 1.00m of clayey silts of indeterminable age. The only inclusions were occasional charcoal flecks. Natural was not visible in this section.

The piling was through modern made ground. Monitoring of boreholes revealed that the site had previously been subject to significant truncation during previous development of the petrol station. Truncated natural gravel was observed at 21.20m OD. Natural brickearth was not observed during the monitoring.

A 19th century wall was photographed (see Fig 2 for location and Fig 4 for photograph)

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

What was the level of natural topography?

Truncated natural gravel was at 21.20m OD.

What are the earliest deposits identified?

No deposits earlier than 19th century were positively identified.

Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity at the site?

There is no evidence of prehistoric activity on the site.

Is there any evidence for the mediaeval village located around Newington Green?

There is no evidence for the mediaeval village located around Newington Green.

4.2 Significance of the data

Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2006) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the very limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 4.2) it is suggested that no further archaeological work is necessary.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: Mansell Construction Services Limited and Unite.

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-16660

Project details

Project name	watching brief
Short description of the project	recording pile holes
Project dates	Start: 09-03-2006 End: 04-05-2006
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated reference codes	project GNK06 - Site code
Any associated reference codes	project GNK06 - Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	SHOPS Uncertain
Monument type	SHOPS Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE Uncertain

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ISLINGTON ISLINGTON 37-43 Green Lanes
Postcode	N16
Study area	158.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 32686 85482 Point
Height OD	Min: 21.20m Max: 21.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Derek Seeley
Project supervisor	P. Cardiff
Sponsor or funding body	Mansell

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	watching brief at 37-43 Green Lanes

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cardiff, P
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	MoLAS
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Description	Unpublished report for client

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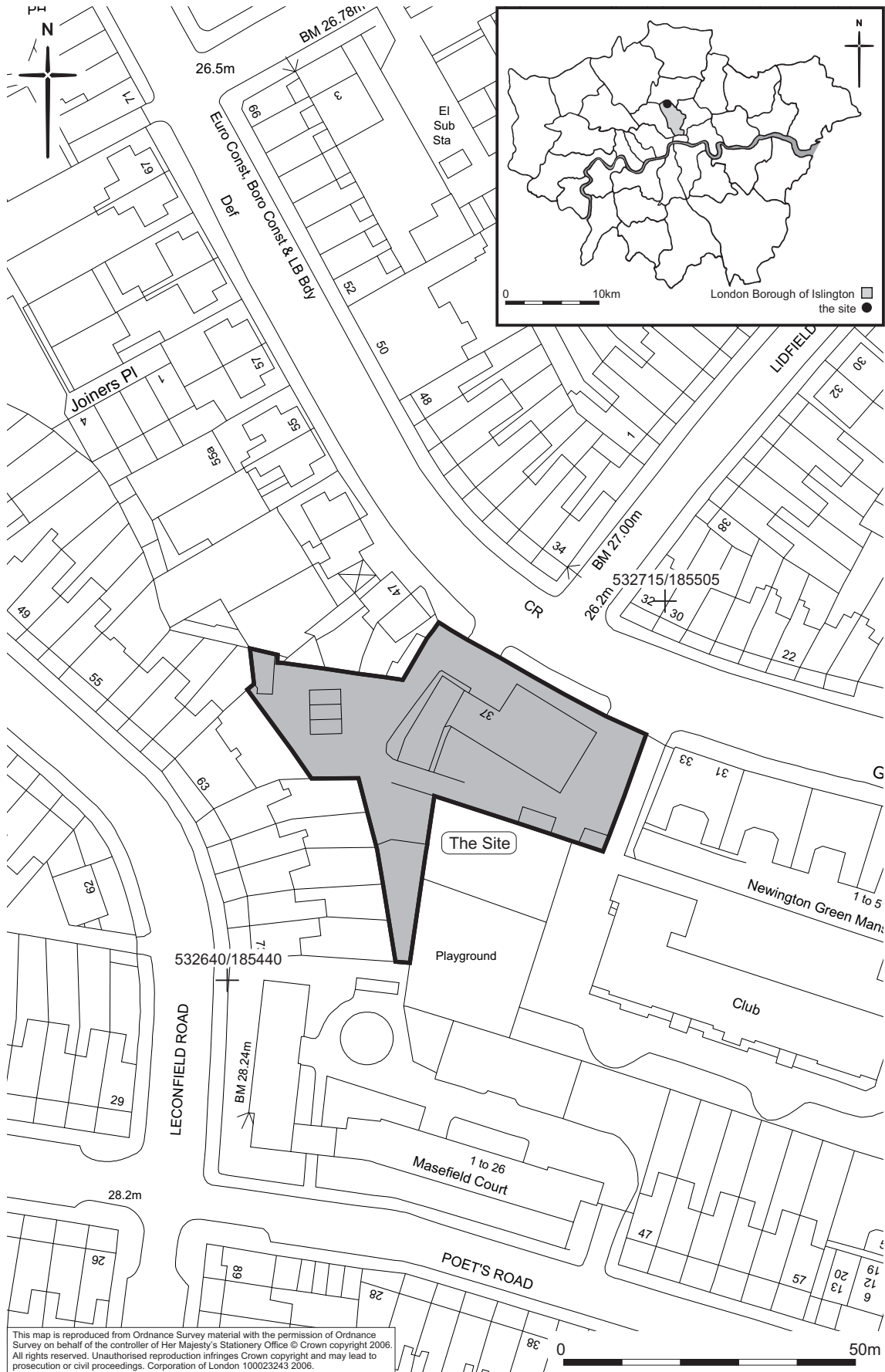
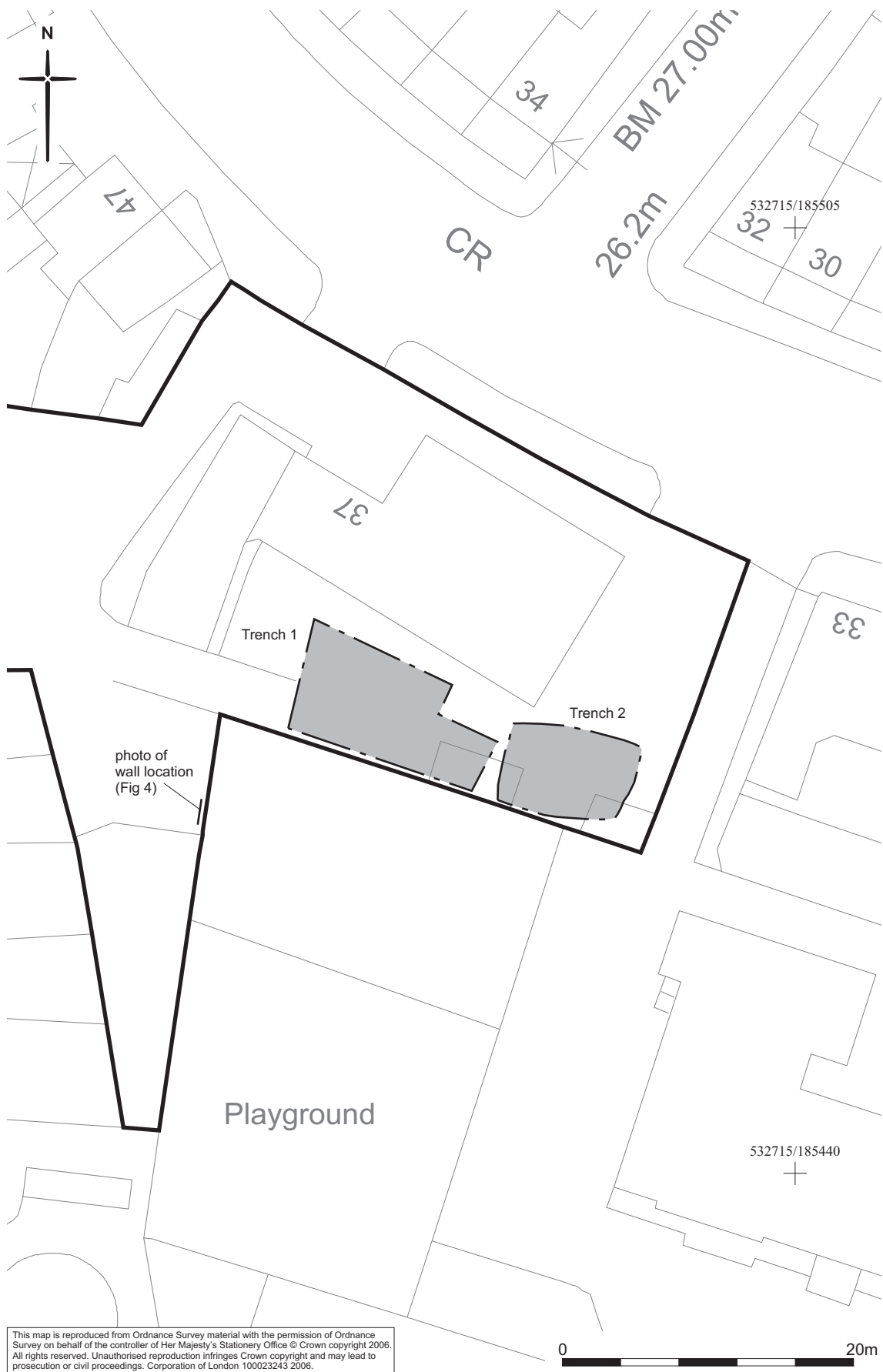


Fig 1 Site location



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Fig 2 Trench location

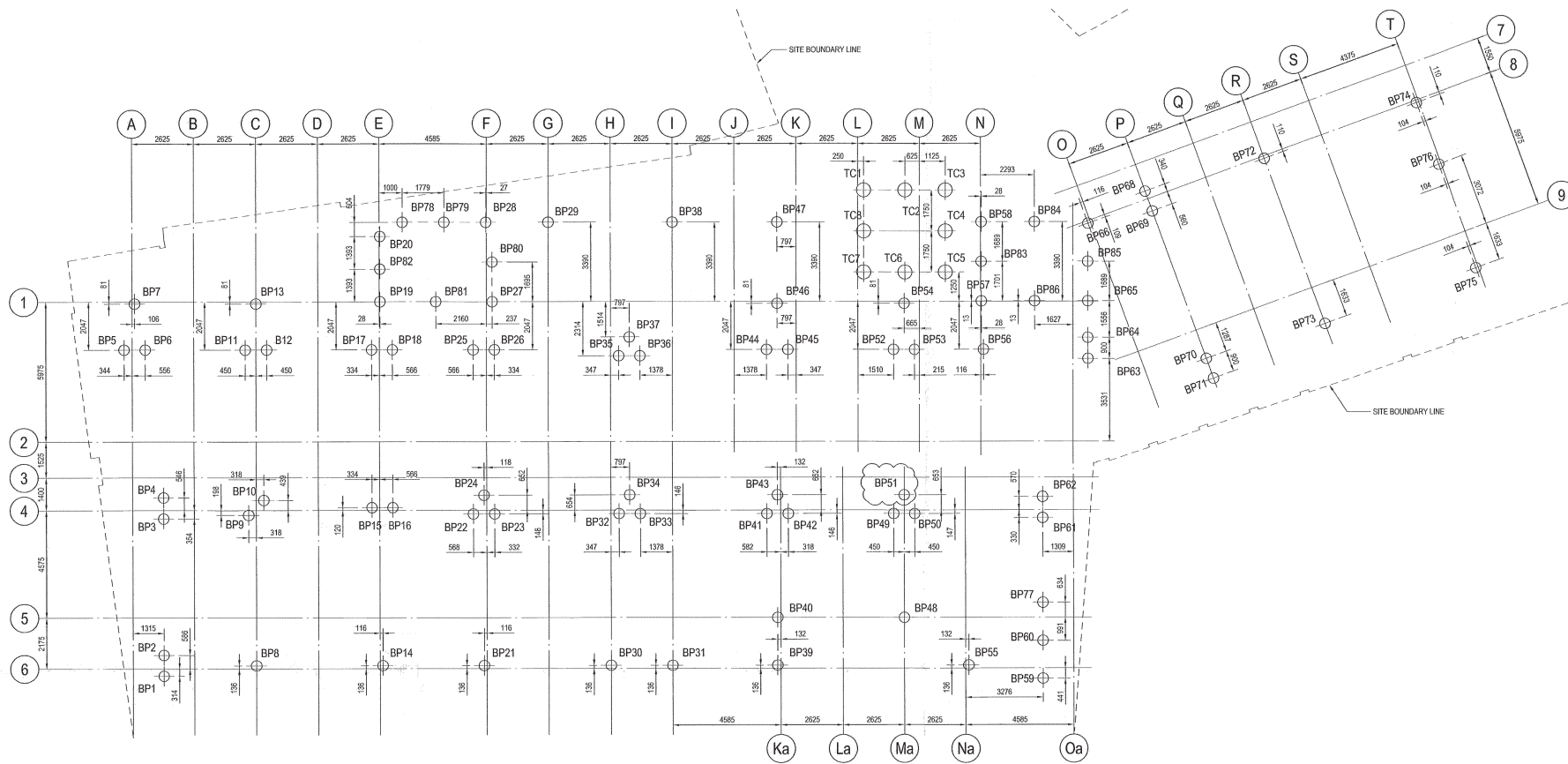


Fig 3 Pile holes location



Fig 4 Photograph of 19th century wall