



28 – 29 ST GEORGE STREET
and 40 – 44 MADDOX STREET
London
W1

City of Westminster

An archaeological watching brief report

July 2005



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

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An archaeological watching brief report

National Grid Reference: 528967 180953

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at of 28–29 St George Street and 40–44 Maddox Street, London, W1, City of Westminster.

Ground reduction was monitored between 28th April and 18th May during redevelopment of the site.

The specific reason to monitor the site was because of a possibility, identified in a desk-based archaeological assessment of the site that the large ditch forming part of the 17th-century Civil War defences of London survived as a truncated feature. A series of natural deposits were observed across the site and neither the Civil War ditch, nor any other archaeological feature, was found.

No further work is recommended on this site.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at 28–29 St George Street and 40–44 Maddox Street, London, W1, City of Westminster, hereafter called ‘the site’. The site is situated at the junction of St George Street and Maddox Street (see Fig 1). The centre of the site lies at National Grid reference 528967 180953.

A desk-based *archaeological impact assessment* was previously prepared by MoLAS, which covers the whole area of the site (Cowie 2003). 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. This document informed the design (*Method Statement*) for the watching brief which was eventually carried out (Malcolm 2005).

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological impact assessment* (see Section 2, *op cit*).

1.3 Planning background

Planning permission was granted on 17/05/2004, 04/02296/ADFULL, and details of archaeological work pursuant to condition 9 (partial) of planning permission dated 10/03/2004 (RN: 03/04024).

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Trehearne Architects on behalf of MDDT Nominees S.A. and Wolfe Nominees Ltd, the client, 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*, 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):

- The archaeological brief was essentially limited to establishing where, if at all, archaeological deposits may survive (presence/absence), recording where necessary, and to ensuring that the proposed groundworks do not involve the destruction of any archaeological deposits of national significance.
- Is there evidence for the Civil War defensive ditch crossing the site? If so a profile of the feature should be recorded and some dating evidence collected to confirm its interpretation.
- Other features are not expected to survive under the existing basement but they may be present in the small unbasemented areas of the site. If any are revealed during the development works a record of them will be made

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



Fig 1 Site location

2 Topographical and historical background

A description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the previous Archaeological assessment report (Cowie 2003). A brief resume is provided here.

2.1 Prehistoric

Previous archaeological work in the vicinity indicates that the site has very little potential for the discovery of in situ archaeological prehistoric remains

2.2 Roman

No evidence has been found in the immediate vicinity of the site for Roman settlement, although limited evidence for a field system was found during excavations at Tenterden Street.

2.3 Early Medieval

Archaeological features and artefacts earlier than the 13th century are not found in the vicinity of the site.

2.4 Medieval

The potential for structural evidence of this period must be considered low as no known medieval buildings can be placed in the vicinity of the site. The site is, however, close to the route of one of the medieval conduit that carried water from the Tyburn to the City of London.

2.5 Post-medieval

Cartographic and historical sources suggest that before the early 18th century the site was undeveloped farmland. Buildings were probably first constructed at the site shortly after 1714, and it is possible that remnants of these structures survive beneath the present property. It is possible that a ditch relating to London's English Civil War defences may cross the site. Plotting the Vertue map of the defences onto the present day street pattern suggests the ditch runs through or near to the site. It should be pointed out, however, that this is a schematic map, drawn on a very small scale, long after the earthworks had been levelled and filled in. Any remains of Civil War defences would be of considerable local and regional significance. The possible presence of the Civil War ditch is the main archaeological potential at the site and as such provision for recording its position and profile are the main aims of the watching brief.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

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

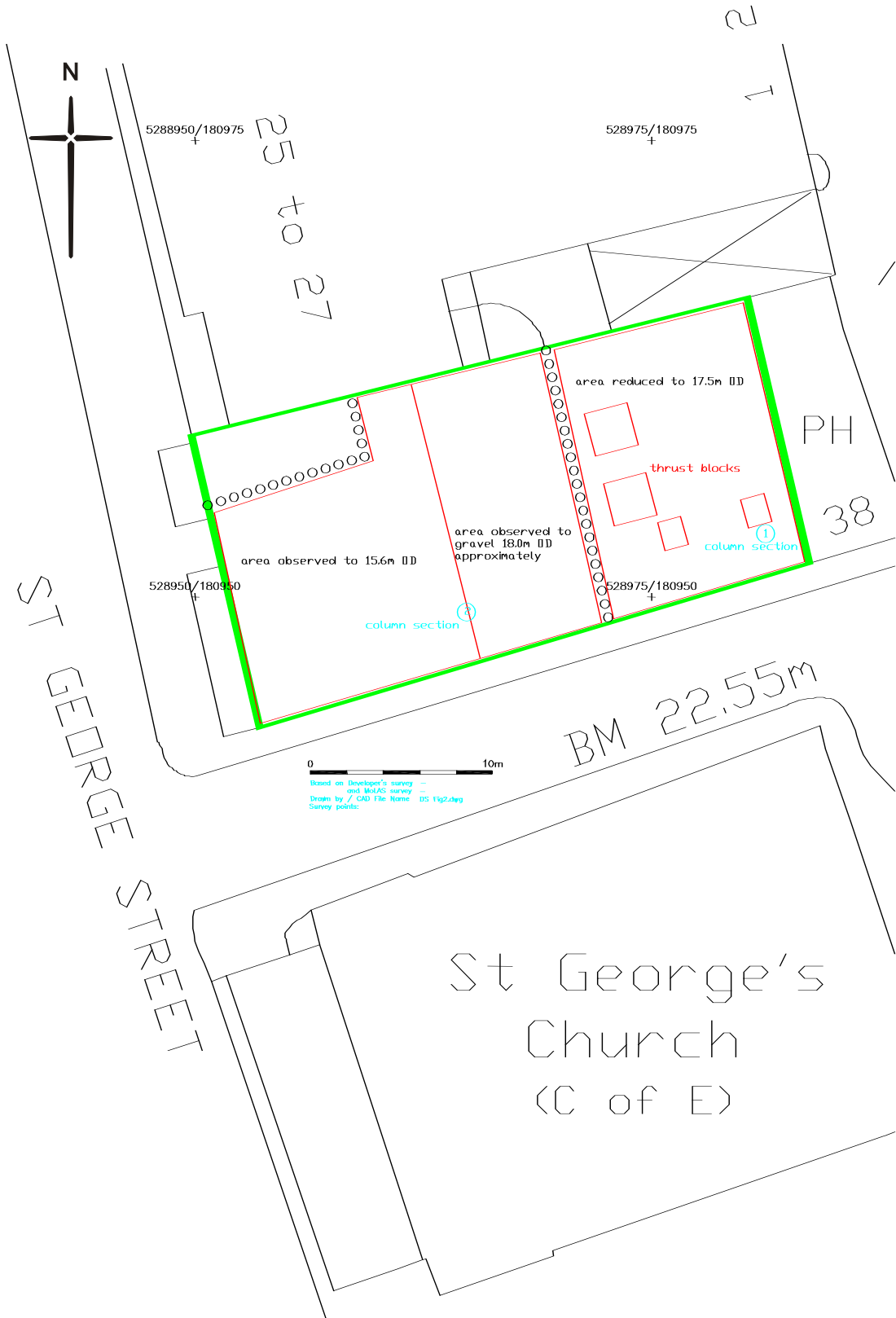
The site was divided into two separate watching brief areas separated by a pile wall. To the east of the pile wall was the 'Lower Ground Floor' of the new development, reduced to 17.5m OD and west of the pile wall was the new basement with a proposed 650mm slab at 14.549m OD (and further intrusions such as a tower crane and lift pit).

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. Ground reduction was by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS. Areas were reduced to allow temporary support structures; walings, thrust blocks, raking and horizontal struts. Then the remaining areas were reduced. The eastern – shallower – side was reduced first, from a central ramp. It was reduced to a general construction level of 17.4m OD with a berm of gravel and modern concrete to Maddox Street. Thrust blocks had previously been inserted into this area to support the neighbouring public house to the east. Two new thrust blocks were dug into natural clay and the berm reduced. The area west of the central ramp was cleared to 18.5m OD. The ramp was then moved east of the pile wall and general ground reduction took place concurrently with the insertion of temporary waling and horizontal struts. The ground reduction was observed until the whole of this area had exposed natural deposits, London Clay or natural gravels directly beneath previous cellar floors. Archaeological monitoring ceased when no archaeological remains were exposed after modern obstructions were cleared. The site was inspected by Diane Walls, the English Heritage archaeological planning adviser to the City of Westminster, and with her agreement further ground reduction was not monitored.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted on to the OS 1:1250 map.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum via measurement to street level – and comparison with topographic levels for building control.

Two column sections, the most vertical exposures of the longest sequences were recorded.



based on P:\west\1301\na\field\Fig2_2000.dxf

Fig 2 Plan of observations

3.2 Results of the watching brief

No archaeological remains were observed.

A sequence of natural Terrace Gravel deposits overlying London Clay was recorded throughout the area of the site, including the area formerly used as a ramp. Two detailed column sections were recorded:

<i>Column Section 1</i>		<i>Column Section 2</i>	
Column Section 1 was recorded on the south side of the eastern of two thrust block pits excavated, whilst a berm retaining Maddox Street was in place. Consequently it provides a section from an existing vault slab to the base of the thrust block pit. It lay east of a deeper general basement and is the longest continuous sequence. Levels are taken from the formation level 17.5m OD approximately.		Column Section 2 was recorded during ground reduction on the west side of the site, following the insertion of walings and cross-struts. Ground reduction had reached 6.4m below road level allowing measurement from a topographic level at 21.8m OD.	
Level m OD	Description	Level m OD	Description
20.2	Yellow-brown sandy gravel	18.3	Yellow-brown sandy gravel
19.7	Buff laminar – horizontally bedded – sand		
19.2	Yellow-brown sandy gravel		
17.4	Brown weathered London Clay	16.8	Brown weathered London Clay
16.8	Blue-Grey stiff London Clay	16.5	Blue-Grey stiff London Clay
16.3	Limit of observations	15.6	Limit of observations

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

- *The archaeological brief was essentially limited to establishing where, if at all, archaeological deposits may survive (presence/absence), recording where necessary, and to ensuring that the proposed groundworks do not involve the destruction of any archaeological deposits of national significance.*
No archaeological remains were observed
- *Is there evidence for the Civil War defensive ditch crossing the site? If so a profile of the feature should be recorded and some dating evidence collected to confirm its interpretation.*
No Civil War ditch or defensive feature was observed
- *Other features are not expected to survive under the existing basement but they may be present in the small unbasemented areas of the site. If any are revealed during the development works a record of them will be made*
No remains were observed in the unbasemented areas of the site. Natural gravels were observed up to 20.2m OD

4.2 New research aims

There are no new research aims.

4.3 Significance of the data

Information on the levels of natural deposits help model the local landscape in the past and may aid prediction of the possibility of remains on future sites.

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.

In view of the limited potential of the material it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*

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7 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-8524

Project details

Project name	28-29 St George Street, 40/44 Maddox Street, W1
Short description of the project	Ground reduction on the site was monitored as the line of the Civil War defensive ditch around London was projected through the site. No evidence of the ditch was found and only archaeologically sterile natural deposits were observed below modern truncation. Terrace Gravels were at 20.2m OD
Project dates	Start: 28-04-2005 End: 19-05-2005
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GMX05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Monument type	NONE None
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 CITY OF WESTMINSTER 28-29 St George Street, 40/44 Maddox Street
Postcode	W1
Study area	453 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2897 8095 51.5122401962 -0.141233133148 51 30 44 N 000 08 28 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.6m Max: 20.2m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
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Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Gordon Malcolm
Project supervisor	David Sankey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	MDDT Nominees S.A. and Wolfe Nominees Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	GMX05
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	GMX05
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence", "Microfilm", "Report", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	28-29 St George Street and 40-44 Maddox Street W1: an archaeological watching brief report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sankey, D.
Date	2005
Issuer or publisher	MoLAS

Place of issue or
publication London

Description Unpublished client report

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