

5 HANOVER SQUARE
Westminster
London W1

City of Westminster

Watching brief report addendum

July 2011



5 HANOVER SQUARE
London
W1

An addendum to the archaeological watching brief report
Site code: HVQ08
Author Ruth Taylor

Sign-off History:

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1	25.07.11	Ruth Taylor	Louise Davies	First draft

Museum of London Archaeology

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at 5 Hanover Square, London W1, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is located at the northern corner of Hanover Street, where it meets the eastern side of Hanover Square (see Fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 528950 180095. The level of the basement slab is approximately 21.00m OD. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is 23.70m OD. The site code is HVQ08.

A desk top *Archaeological (impact) assessment* has been previously prepared by MoLAS, which covers the whole area of the site (MoLAS 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.

A *Method Statement* for the archaeological monitoring of geotechnical pits was prepared by MoLAS (MoLAS 2008). Most of the pits were opened in July 2008 (MOLA 2009). A later phase of investigation took place in October 2008; this included breaking through the existing 1960s concrete basement retaining wall and opening an area in the centre of the site for underpinning (MOLA 2009). These works were monitored by MOLA and a *Watching brief report* was produced (MOLA 2009). This document is an addendum to the earlier report.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which this archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological impact assessment*, which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 3, MoLAS 2007)

1.3 Planning background

This archaeological watching brief was undertaken as a condition of planning consent.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Stanhope Plc and produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA); as previously stated, this document represents an addendum to an earlier watching brief report (MOLA 2009). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of this 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.

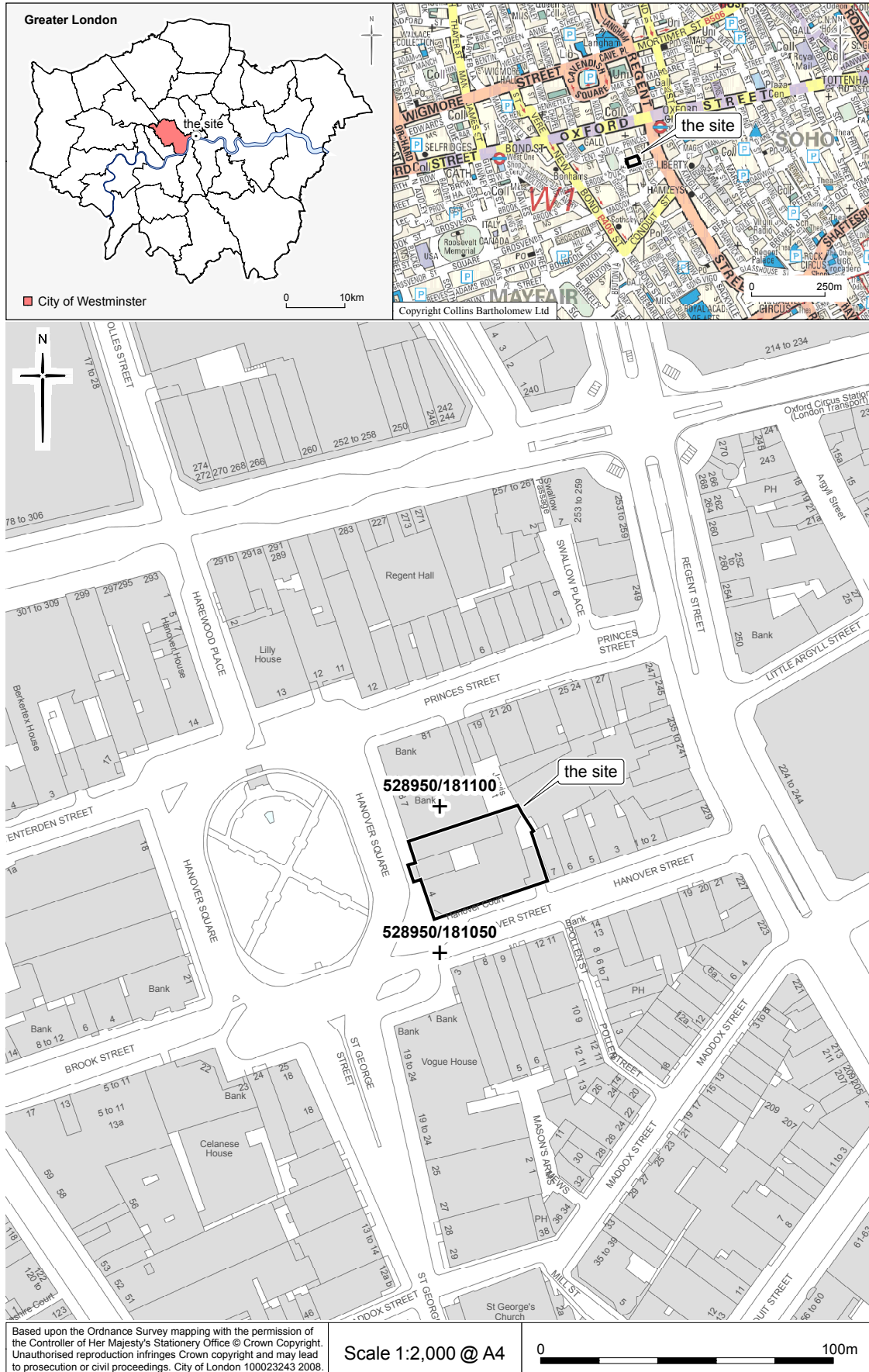


Fig 1 Site location

1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (MoLAS 2008, Section 2):

- What is the level of truncation caused by earlier basements in this area?
- What is the nature and significance of the surviving archaeological remains?
- What are the levels of natural deposits and how do these compare to adjacent sites?

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

For a more detailed description of the site's topographical and historical background, please see the *Archaeological (impact) assessment* (MoLAS 2007) and the *Watching brief report* (MOLA 2009). A brief account is given here.

The site lies on the Lynch Hill terrace gravels. In places, this is capped by brickearth (also named Langley Silt complex), a fine-grained deposit believed to have been deposited by a mixture of wind and colluvial processes at c 17,000 BP. Although it may once have covered the gravel terrace, much has been removed through quarrying and modern development.

The main potential for the site was for post-medieval remains. Until the mid- 18th century the site is thought to have been located in unoccupied countryside. The site is located within 25m of the projected line of London's Civil War defences. The exact line of these defences has not been established with any certainty and it cannot be ruled out that these crossed the site. By the middle of the 18th century the whole of the area referred to as Mayfair had been covered by shops, houses, mews, stables, and coach houses. Hanover Square was laid out from 1713 for the first Earl of Scarborough. The building which occupied the site in the 18th century is shown on contemporary engravings (front cover). This was a concert hall called the Hanover Square Rooms, later also the Queen's Concert Rooms, built probably in 1774 by Sir John Gallini (1728–1805). Concerts were given here until 1875, when the building became the Hanover Square Club. The concert rooms were demolished in 1900. The site was redeveloped in the first decade of the 20th century and the present building dates from 1963–6.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological recording during the watching brief was completed in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MoLAS 2008) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS 1994).

The basement slab and associated modern foundations were broken out and cleared by contractors (McGee) under MOLA supervision. The entire site was then reduced to a foundation level of c 18.75m OD, with the proposed location of the tower crane base being reduced to c 17.25m OD (Fig 2). MOLA also observed the infilling and underpinning of the brick vaults identified during the watching brief in 2008 with concrete (Fig 3). A MOLA Senior Archaeologist visited the site between the 9th November and the 1st December 2010.

Demolition contractors McGee provided MOLA with a Basement Survey (Drg. No. 4590s001, Ramboll 2007), and observations and archaeological remains were recorded relative to the basement slab levels detailed on the survey.

This phase of watching brief has produced site notes and sketches on two sheets of drafting film, and 15 digital photographs. These records can be found with the rest of the archive under the site code HVQ08.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

Truncated natural Terrace gravels (loose mid yellowish-orange sandy gravels) were recorded at 18.98m OD. Occasional lenses of pale green sand were also observed within the natural gravels at this level.

At 19.85m OD, in the west of the site, a layer of fairly compact, light yellowish-grey silty coarse sand was recorded, containing medium sub-angular gravels. This may have represented a make-up layer or weathered natural deposits. Sealing this deposit was a brick wall, recorded at 20.48m OD (in section), and measuring: 0.80m east–west and 0.63m high. This masonry was composed of red and purple unfrosted bricks (70mm thick) in an English bond and bonded with a fairly soft, light pinkish-grey, coarse sandy lime mortar. The northern side of this masonry was coated with a soft and sticky, dark brownish-black clayey silt, containing small to medium fragments of clinker. This masonry probably dated to the 18th century. The alignment of this structure could not be ascertained, as it had been heavily truncated by reinforced concrete foundations.

Sixteen brick-lined vaults were observed running east–west beneath Hanover Street, in the south of the site. In the west of the site, beneath Hanover Square, four vaults were observed. As discussed in the previous watching brief report (MOLA 2009), the sixteen vaults along the south of the site (Hanover Street) are thought to date to the late 19th or early 20th century, whilst those along the western side of the site (Hanover Square) are thought to be 18th century in date.

Reinforced concrete foundation beams had run north–south along the western side of the site, and east–west through the centre of the site and along the south of the site; in alignment with the columns supporting the previous 1960s building. These foundations

were c 2.20m wide and had truncated the natural gravel down to 18.98m OD. Modern make-up (0.64m thick) and a concrete slab (0.27m thick) sealed these foundations.



Fig 2 Ground reduction monitoring



Fig 3 Infilled brick vaults

3.3 Potential of the archaeology

See MOLA's previous *Watching brief report* (MOLA 2009) for a detailed discussion of the original research aims and the site's potential.

3.4 Original research aims

- What is the level of truncation caused by earlier basements in this area?

The 18th-century brickwork observed in the west of the site would have truncated any earlier archaeology down to 19.85m OD, whilst the foundations of the vaults running along the south of the site would have truncated any archaeology down to 20.42m OD. The current floor level of the vaults observed along the south and west of the site was similar to the basement concrete slab (c 21.00m OD).

- What is the nature and significance of the surviving archaeological remains?

The surviving archaeological remains had been heavily truncated by reinforced ground beams associated with the 1960s building at the site. No deep cut-features were observed, and the archaeological remains were limited to a possible make-up layer and an 18th-century brick structure; these, along with the vaults observed along the western side of the site may have been associated with an 18th-century house fronting onto Hanover Square. As discussed in the previous watching brief report (MOLA 2009), the vaults observed along Hanover Street (to the south of the site) are thought to have been associated with the early 20th-century redevelopment of the site after the Queen's Concert Rooms were demolished in 1900 (MOLA 2009).

- What are the levels of natural deposits and how do these compare to adjacent sites?

Truncated natural gravel was recorded at 18.98m OD. There was no evidence of the natural brickearth which would have once capped the gravel in this part of Westminster.

3.5 New research aims

The results of this phase of watching brief have not raised any additional research aims.

3.6 Significance of the data

The archaeological remains observed during this phase of watching brief are of local significance.

4 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the watching brief 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 will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MoLAS 2008) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the limited potential of the material and the limited significance of the data (Section 3.6) 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*.

5 Bibliography

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6 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

6.1 OASIS ID: molas1-86983

Project details

Project name	5 Hanover Square
Short description of the project	Watching brief monitoring basement slab removal and ground reduction; a continuation of works carried out in 2008. Truncated natural Terrace gravels were recorded at 18.98m OD. Eighteenth-century masonry was recorded at 20.48m OD in the west of the site. Brick vaults were also observed running beneath Hanover Street to the south of the site (vaults probably 19th/20th century in date) and Hanover Square to the west of the site (vaults probably 18th century in date).
Project dates	Start: 09-11-2010 End: 01-12-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HVQ08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	molas1-45504 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	CELLAR Post Medieval
Monument type	CELLAR Modern
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'
Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER MARYLEBONE ST
JOHNS WOOD AND MAYFAIR 5 Hanover Square
Postcode W1
Study area 1153.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 528950 180095 50.9406539180 0.176478241688 50 56 26 N 000
10 35 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 18.98m Max: 18.98m

Project creators

Name of Organisation MoL Archaeology
Project brief originator MoL Archaeology Project Manager
Project design originator MoL Archaeology
Project director/manager Louise Davies
Project director/manager Sophie Jackson
Project supervisor Ruth Taylor
Type of sponsor/funding Stanhope

body

Name of sponsor/funding body Stanhope Plc

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID HVQ08

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID HVQ08

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 5 Hanover Square, London W1, A report on the watching brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Knight, H.

Date 2009

Issuer or publisher MOLA

Place of issue or publication London

Description unpub client report

Project bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 5 Hanover Square, Archaeological desk-based assessment

Author(s)/Editor(s) Schofield, J.

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher MoLAS

Place of issue or publication London

Description unpub client report

Project bibliography 3

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 5 Hanover Square, Method Statement for an archaeological watching brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Jackson, S.

Date 2008

Issuer or publisher MoLAS

Place of issue or publication London

Description unpub method statement

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