KING CHARLES STREET
London
SW1

City of Westminster

An archaeological watching brief report

August 2005

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MUSEUM OF LONDON
Archaeology Service

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Site Code: KCS05
National Grid Reference: 530057 179799

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by BLB Architects on behalf of the client, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at King Charles Street and Horse Guards Road, SW1.

As part of the development, which includes the installation of bollards at either end of King Charles Street and a security wall running along Horse Guards Road, five trenches were excavated and recorded between 11/04/2005 and 3/05/2005. Two trenches produced archaeological remains. The cellar walls in trench 5 may be associated with buildings located on the western side of Duke Street, before the extension of King Charles Street and the construction of Horse Guards Road. A metalled surface in Trench 6 may have been a previous surface of Horse Guards Parade or a gravelled pathway along the eastern boundary of St James's park.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at King Charles Street, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is bounded by Parliament Street to the east and Horse Guards Road to the west (see Fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 530057 179799. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is *c* 5.0m OD. The site code is KCS05.

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, Howe 2005).

1.3 Planning background

The then Department of the Environment published its *Archaeology and planning: a consultative document*, Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16), in November 1990. This set out the Secretary of State's policy on archaeological remains on land, and provided recommendations many of which have been integrated into local development plans.

Planning consent for the bollards was given by Westminster City Council and a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief formed part of the consent.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Foreign and Commonwealth Office 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):

This statement sets out the methods used and approaches taken in dealing with the archaeological resource of the site. The detailed methodology is set in the context of the methods and approaches which are considered most appropriate for an Archaeological Watching Brief on sites in Greater London, in accordance with the advice contained in the English Heritage (GLAAS), *Archaeological Guidance Papers 1–5* (revised 1998).

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

The limited nature of the proposed works and the watching brief upon them makes it unreasonable to establish many specific archaeological research objectives. The archaeological brief is 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. Nevertheless, in addition, a few research questions can be outlined:

1. Can the level of natural topography be established and the character of the area in relation to Thorney Island to the south?

2. Is there any evidence for the prehistoric occupation known to have occurred on Thorney Island to the south?

3. Little Roman activity has been recorded in the area, however, is there evidence of Roman activity on the site?

4. Where does the site sit in relation to the medieval route connecting Charing Cross to Westminster?

5. Extensive remains of the Tudor Whitehall Palace have been recorded to the north and east at Treasury Green and the MoD. What evidence is there for Whitehall Palace on the site?

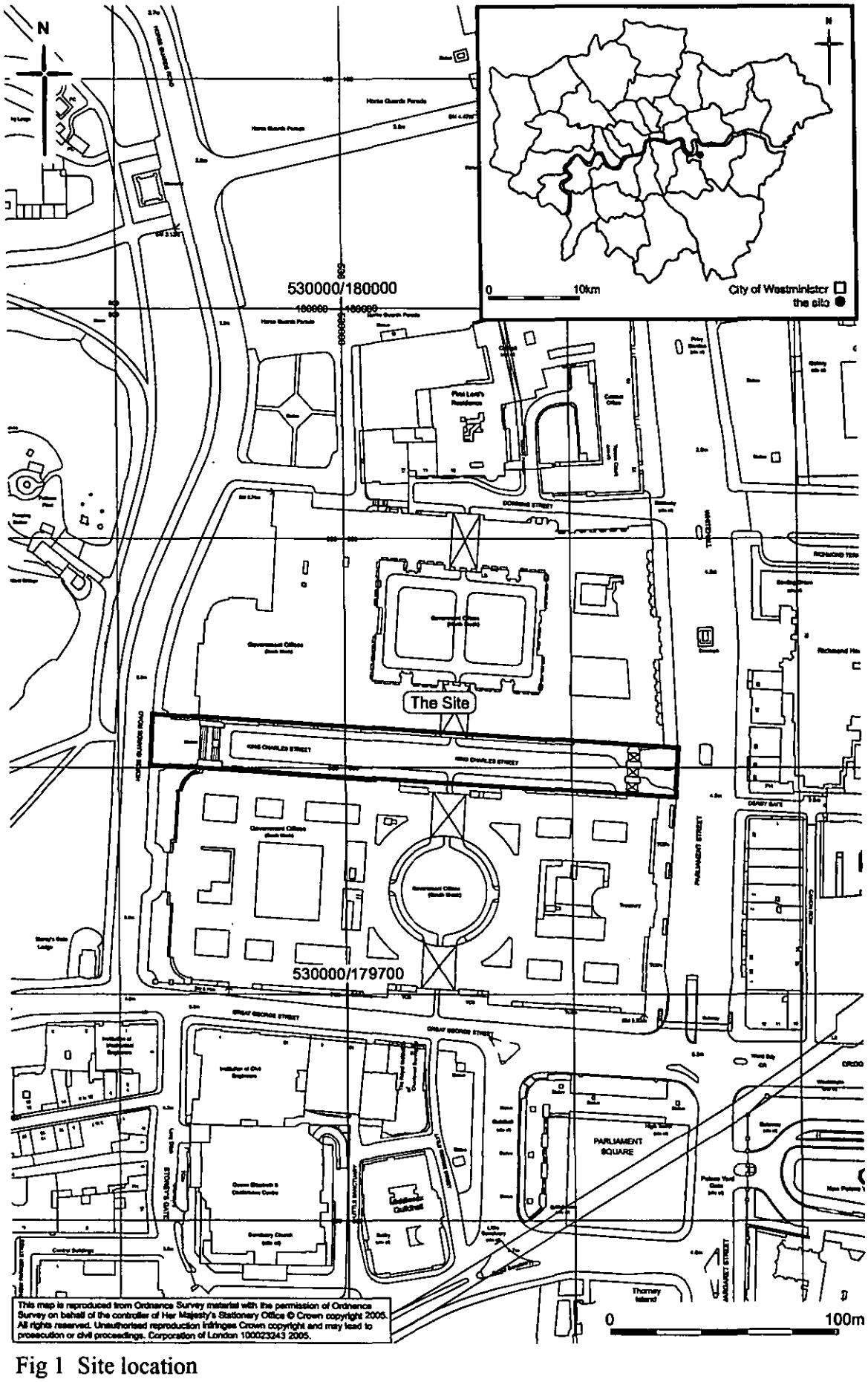

Fig 1 Site location

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

To the south of the study site, the main historic focus of Westminster, around the Abbey and Palace of Westminster, lies over an eyot known as Thorney Island which was formed by the division of the River Tyburn as it flowed into the Thames. The island probably measured about 400m north–south and 200m east–west, although it varied, dependant on sea and river level. Its northernmost edge lies along the line of Great George St, approximately, with its southernmost edge immediately to the south of Westminster Abbey. The island was formed after the last glaciation about 12,000 years ago and its uppermost natural geological stratum is mostly sand and gravel. The highest point recorded on the gravel is under the Abbey at about 2.14m OD. Under the centre of Parliament Square it lies at about 1.2m OD. The area between Parliament Square and Downing St has a lower level of natural gravel; consequently there is an alluvial yellow sand or sandy clay which seals it.

At Treasury Green the gravels sloped down from north to south, being between -0.85m OD and -1.05m OD to the north, and *c* -2.30m OD to the south. Evidence of the Tyburn channel was found where a sequence of alluvial deposits, peat and foreshore deposits raised the ground level to *c* 1.15m OD.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1.1 Mesolithic

There are a number of poorly provenanced chance finds from the area including a Mesolithic antler adze from New Scotland Yard (LAMAS 1961, 134) and a tranchet flint axe from the Thames (Lacaille 1961, 134). Probable Mesolithic microliths were found at Cromwell Green along with Neolithic and Bronze Age residual material (Mills 1980, 27–8). Diagnostic flints of a Mesolithic character have been found during work on the Jubilee Line Extension Project at Westminster Station (CNW97 and CWW97) while possible Mesolithic flints have also been found at Storey's Gate during an evaluation.

2.2.1.2 Neolithic

Prehistoric finds of Neolithic date have been found in the area. Thirty struck flints were found in a silt layer above the natural sand at Westminster Hall (Whipp and Platts 1976, 353), redeposited material was found at Treasury Green (Green and Thurley, in prep). A poorly provenanced Neolithic axe was also found at Westminster

Bridge and prehistoric flint flakes have been found at St Stephen's House (Cowie 1992, 13)

2.2.1.3 Bronze Age

Little Bronze Age material has been found in the area, although some of the flints recovered cannot be confidently assigned to particular periods and may date from the Bronze Age. A very degraded peat layer found under St Stephen's Chapel between -0.50m OD and -0.65m OD may have been formed as a result of the Tilbury IV (low-water) regression or its effects during the end of the second millennium BC. Alternatively this may be a localised peat associated with the filling of a stream channel. Bronze Age postholes have been excavated to the north of Bridge Street.

2.2.1.4 Iron Age

In contrast to earlier periods, there are features, which can be confidently assigned to the Iron Age. Ditches, gullies and other features were found at Cromwell Green which probably date to the Iron Age period (Mills 1980, 22–3) and two pits and a posthole cutting the natural sand were found at 37 Parliament St which may have been of Iron Age date due to their position at the bottom of the archaeological sequence (Thomas 1987, 23–4). Closer to the study site, at Richmond Terrace, part of a timber revetment with a single radiocarbon date of 540 ± 70 BC uncalibrated, was located immediately to the north of the northern branch of the Tyburn (Andrews and Merriman 1986, 18).

A large pit, with one possible Iron Age sherd of pottery was found in Parliament Square (Thomas 1993, 15), whilst two sherds of pottery dating to the late Iron Age or early Roman period were recovered from dump layers in Whitehall (Turner 2005, 19). Elsewhere in the vicinity several pits and stakeholes found under St Stephen's Chapel may be of Iron Age date. These finds strongly suggest Iron Age occupation on and around Thorney Island.

2.3 Roman

No definite Roman features have been located on recent controlled archaeological excavations on Thorney Island, although residual finds have occurred on most sites, including Treasury Green. Roman building material was certainly used in the construction of Edward the Confessor's Church (Tanner and Clapham 1933) and a fragment of Roman brick has been noted in the foundations of St Stephen's Chapel (Thomas 1993a).

Earlier antiquarian discoveries include a Roman coffin, found on the north side of Westminster Abbey, although it is described as being only 2ft below ground level (now at about 4.6m OD) (Arch J 1870, 119–28), and is thought to have been reused during the Saxon period. Roman walls and mosaic flooring were reported underneath the nave of Westminster Abbey (Westlake 1923, 2), and to the south of the cloister (RCHM 1925).

It has been suggested that the alignment of Roman roads on both sides of the Thames indicates Westminster to be the site of a ford, onto Thorney Island, perhaps the original military crossing point in AD 43. The number of finds and antiquarian discoveries does suggest a Roman presence on the island.

2.4 Saxon

Despite the strong documentary sources, so far little archaeological evidence of Saxon occupation has been found on Thorney Island. The establishment of a monastic community is implied by a charter of Offa, *c* AD 785 '...St Peter and the people of the Lord dwelling in Thornea at...Westminster'. The name Westminster differentiates the church of St Peter at Thornea from St Paul's, the eastern minster church founded in the 7th century within the old Roman city of Londinium.

Westminster Abbey was founded by St Dunstan in *c* AD 960 possibly on the site of the earlier minister church. Residual pottery and a coin of Ecgberht (*c* AD 825–28) from excavations in the undercroft suggest some activity in the area (Mills 1995 65–124). Evidence of the late Saxon foundation may have been found in 1975 in the sub-vault of the Misericorde of the Abbey (Black 1976, 141–2). Immediately to the north of the island at least four phases of a substantial timber hall with associated pits dating from the late 8th and 9th centuries were found during the 1960s excavations at Treasury Green.

A number of chance finds have also been made, including a sword from just to the south of the Victoria Tower and a group of finds from Westminster Bridge (Cowie 1988, 40).

2.5 Medieval

After Edward the Confessor had established his palace at Westminster, Thorney Island grew in importance. Both the Abbey and Palace were rebuilt and this was consolidated when Henry II established Westminster as the principal court. Much of Westminster remained prone to flooding throughout the medieval period and it is recorded that Westminster Hall flooded so badly on some occasions that boats were needed to get from one end to the other. On the lower laying ground such as New Palace Yard and further north along Parliament St successive attempts were made to reclaim this land by digging drainage ditches and dumping soil, to consolidate the edge of the island.

In the 1520s and 1530s Henry VIII moved the Royal Court to Whitehall Palace. Westminster Palace became solely the home of Parliament with one of the former Royal apartments used as the House of Lords and St Stephen's Chapel used as the House of Commons. The fire of 1834 destroyed much of the Palace excepting Westminster Hall and some of St Stephen's Chapel and its cloister. Much of the rest was demolished to make way for the new Palace designed by Charles Barry and Augustus Pugin.

The study site lies north of the ecclesiastical and royal precincts at this period, adjacent to the King's Street to the west, the principal highway from Westminster

Palace to the City of London. This probably originated as a causeway across the marshy ground of the northern Tyburn channel and by the end of the thirteenth century much of the highway was lined with buildings (Rosser 1989). At Treasury Green 9th–12th century river silts were overlain by land surfaces and the area must have been progressively reclaimed throughout the medieval period.

Westminster increased in importance during the later medieval period with the principal domestic structures laying outside the Abbey and Palace precincts, along King St and Tothill St. The study site may lie over buildings on the east side of King Street. An annual fair was also held in October, in the northern part of the Abbey precincts. The Woolstaple, one of the principal wool markets, lay immediately to the north of New Palace Yard.

2.6 Post-medieval

In the 1530s, the King's Palace was moved from Westminster to Whitehall and the former Palace of Westminster became the seat of Parliament. Whitehall itself expanded and the land between King St and the Thames became crowded with buildings and as a result more land was reclaimed from the Thames.

The origins of Whitehall Palace were in York Place, a medieval property between Whitehall and the Thames. Richard FitzNigel, Bishop of London (1189–98) had a house with court and stables here on a site which belonged to the Abbey of Westminster. Just before his death, Richard sold the house to his cousin, William of Ely, who transferred it to the Abbey sometime before 1221. In 1223 the house was leased to Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, after whose death his houses in the parish of St Margaret were sold to the Dominican Friars. They, in turn, disposed of them to Walter Gray, Archbishop of York who granted them to the See of York on 21 May 1245. For the next 300 years this was the London Inn of the Archbishops of York. The house was extensively altered and extended by Cardinal Wolsey between 1519 and 1529, who bought adjoining land and built the Great Hall. In May 1528 it was stated that 'the hall of York Place with other edifices there being now in building, my lord's grace intending most sumptuously to repair and furnish the same'.

On October 22 1529, Wolsey pleaded guilty to the charge of praemunire (resorting to a foreign jurisdiction) and surrendered all his property to the King. A few days after the indictment Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn moved in and on 7 February 1530 York Place was formally conveyed to the King.

York Place was to become the nucleus of a new Whitehall Palace and Henry carried out an extensive rebuilding programme; a turreted gateway, known as Whitehall Gate was built in 1531–2, which gave access to the palace from the street, and two new sets of stairs led down to the river.

The new buildings were connected to the old by two more gates, the Holbein Gate and the King Street Gate, which spanned the street. The extension of the palace on the west side resulted in travellers from Charing Cross to Westminster having to pass through the palace complex. The original Banqueting House was erected in 1581.

The main palace was damaged by fire in 1691 and was then completely burnt down in 1698. The Banqueting House was subsequently rebuilt, the only part of a new palace design by Inigo Jones that was actually constructed. At this time the park side buildings were taken by civil servants, who used the buildings as offices. The origins and development of the present buildings surrounding the site are dealt with in greater detail in the *Survey of London, Vol XIV: The Parish of St. Margaret, Westminster Part III* (Neighbourhood of Whitehall, Vol. II).

Commonly, with other suburban areas, Westminster expanded during the 17th and 18th centuries and much of the marshland on the fringes was drained and built upon. The River Tyburn, had by this period, become known as the Long Ditch along the west side of the former Island and was probably little more than a culvert. Numerous streams are shown on late 17th century maps crossing the northern part of the area and probably entering the Thames a little to the north of modern day Derby Gate.

Until the middle of the 18th century the only highway from Whitehall to Westminster was the ancient thoroughfare of King Street. The original Act for the construction of Westminster Bridge, passed in 1735, contained no provision for extensive approaches, but an amending Act passed three years later, provided that the Bridge Commissioners should have "full power and authority, not only to widen and render more convenient the several ways, streets and passages now leading to and from the intended bridge, but also to make, open, design, assign or lay out such new ways, streets and passages, as they shall find proper to be opened and made."

As a result the Commissioners acquired nearly the whole of the properties lying between King Street and the Thames, pulled them down and remodelled the entire district. The courts and alleys leading from King Street disappeared and in their placed was formed a new north-south thoroughfare, parallel to, but straighter and wider than, King Street. The new street was named Parliament Street and first appears in the ratebook for the year 1750.

By the mid 18th century Downing Street has been laid out, north of Axe Yard, together with the open yard giving access to the new Treasury building, completed in 1736.

Recent works at the Ministry of Defence in Horse Guards Avenue have revealed evidence of Whitehall Palace only 0.50m below modern ground surface (Howell 2003; Sankey 2005). Other excavations in the area of Whitehall have produced the possible location of the Kings Street gate and associated structures (Turner 2005, 19).

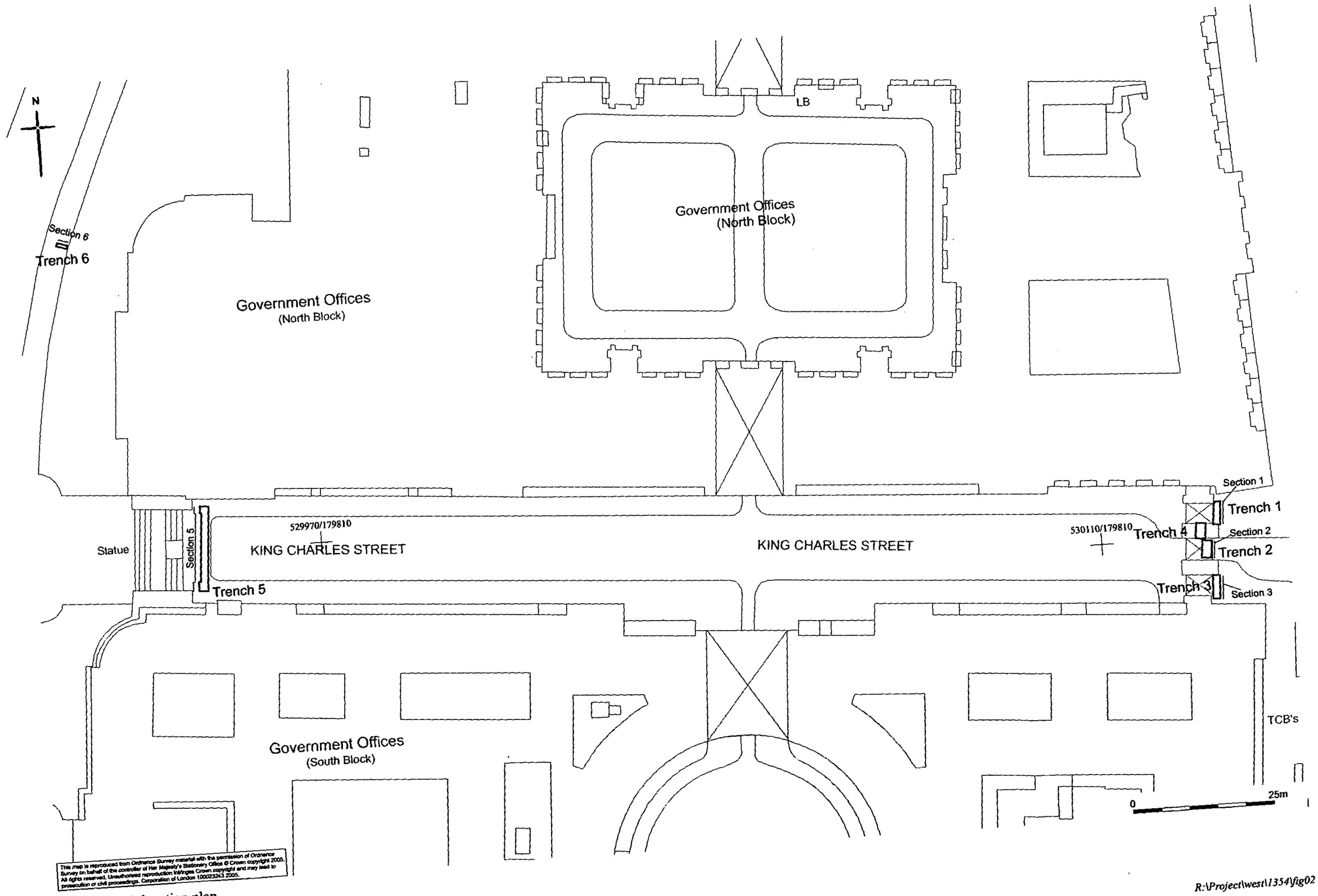

Fig 2 Trench location plan

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (Howe 2005) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS 1994).

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by a MoLAS surveying team offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted on to a plan (fig 2). This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum via a traverse to the OS benchmark on the corner of Parliament Street and the A3214.

Where relevant, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20; numbered contexts were allocated where appropriate.

The site has produced: one trench location plan; 22 context records; eight 1:20 section drawings; 10 photographs. No finds were recovered from the site.

The site records can be found under the site code KCS05 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, five separate interventions (trenches) were made for the purposes of installing bollards (Fig 2). These have been numbered 1–5 consecutively. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For all trench locations see figure 2.

3.2.1 Trench 1(Fig 3)

Watching Brief Trench 1	
Location	Northern arch eastern end
Dimensions	3.80m by 1.20m
Modern ground level/top of slab	4.60m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	3.60m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	3.60 m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Trench 1 was located at the eastern end of King Charles Street beneath the northern pedestrian archway. At the base of the northern extent of the trench, running along the south facing section, was a layer of dark bluish-grey tarmac [19]. The surface of this deposit was at 3.86m OD and it extended below the base of the trench. A deposit of modern made ground 0.80m thick ([18]) consisting of a very loose mid reddish-orange brick rubble containing large fragments of flagstones, complete yellow stock, red builder's and engineering bricks and crushed mortar sealed [19] and extended across the trench. This layer was heavily truncated by three modern services running east–west across the trench and a manhole, which was observed in the eastern section. The whole area is sealed by modern paving with a sand bedding layer which makes up the present street surface at *c* 4.60m OD.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in Trench 1.

3.2.2 Trench 2 (Fig 4)

Watching Brief Trench 2	
Location	Central arch eastern end
Dimensions	3.20m by 1.80m
Modern ground level/top of slab	4.40m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	2.60m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	2.60m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Trench 2 was located at the eastern end of King Charles Street underneath the central archway. At the base of the trench was a modern made ground deposit [17] of very loose light greyish-brown sandy silt 0.95m thick, which contained frequent whole bricks, crushed concrete and medium sized rounded flints. It also yielded at least 10m

of coiled steel hawser probably from a drag-line or crane. This deposit extended below the base of the trench and was sealed by modern make up comprising of mid reddish-orange brick rubble and mortar containing whole yellow stock and builders red bricks and fragments of paving slabs [16]. This layer was sealed with concrete slab that forms the present tarmac road at *c* 4.40m OD.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in Trench 2.

3.2.3 Trench 3 (Fig 5)

Watching Brief Trench 3	
Location	Southern arch eastern end
Dimensions	3.10m by 0.90m
Modern ground level/top of slab	4.60m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	3.60m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	3.60 m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Trench 3 was located at the eastern end of King Charles Street under the southern pedestrian archway. In the centre of the trench, running from east–west at 4.10m OD, was a concrete slab covering a modern 11 kV electrical mains cable. This was excavated around, as was the concrete basement wall for 1 Parliament Street, which was encountered at the southern extent of the excavation.

At the base of the trench was a layer of made ground [21] 0.50m thick consisting of loose dark yellowish-grey sandy silt. The deposits comprised frequent large fragments of engineering and yellow stock brick, moderate amounts of crushed mortar and medium sized fragments of Kentish ragstone. Cutting into this layer were three modern services south of the concrete slab running east–west. Above deposit [21] was a modern levelling layer 0.40m thick of very loose mid yellowish-grey silty sand with frequent inclusions of small fragments of brick and mortar and moderate amounts of small flint pebbles [20]. This layer contained a further three more modern services running across the trench east–west, and was sealed in turn by a bedding layer of sand for the present paving at 4.60m OD.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in Trench 3.

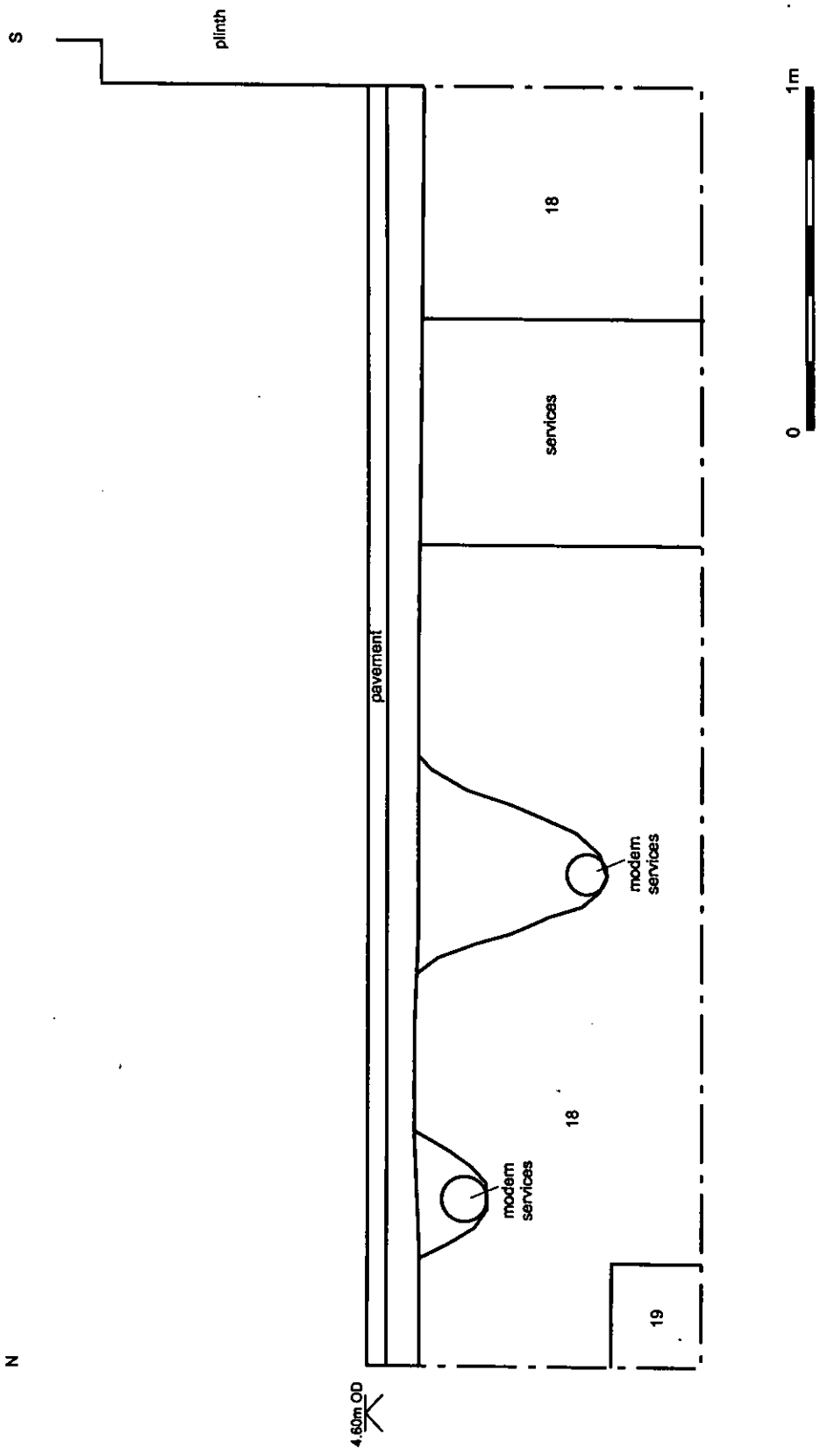

Fig 3 West facing section trench 1

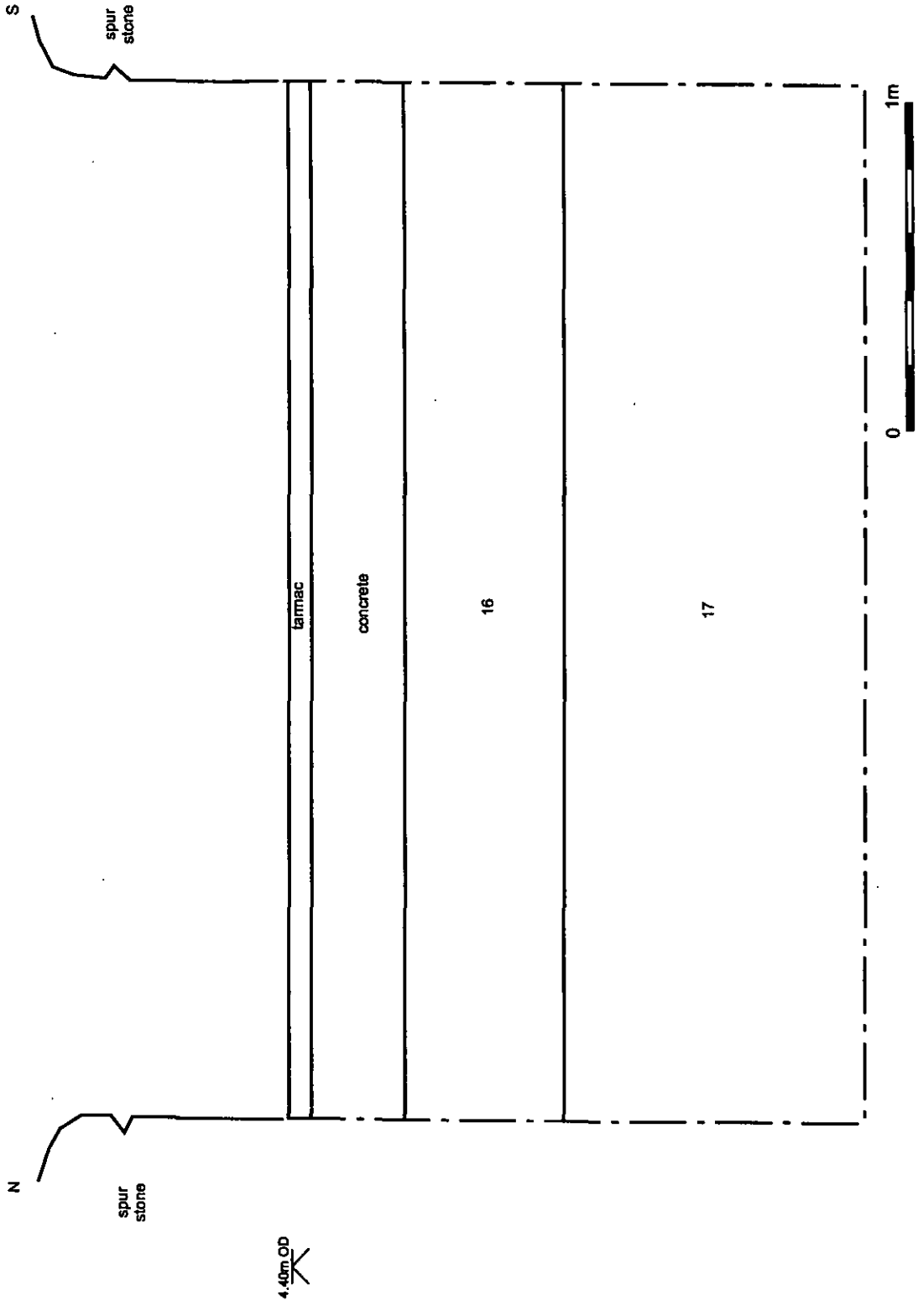

Fig 4 West facing section trench 2

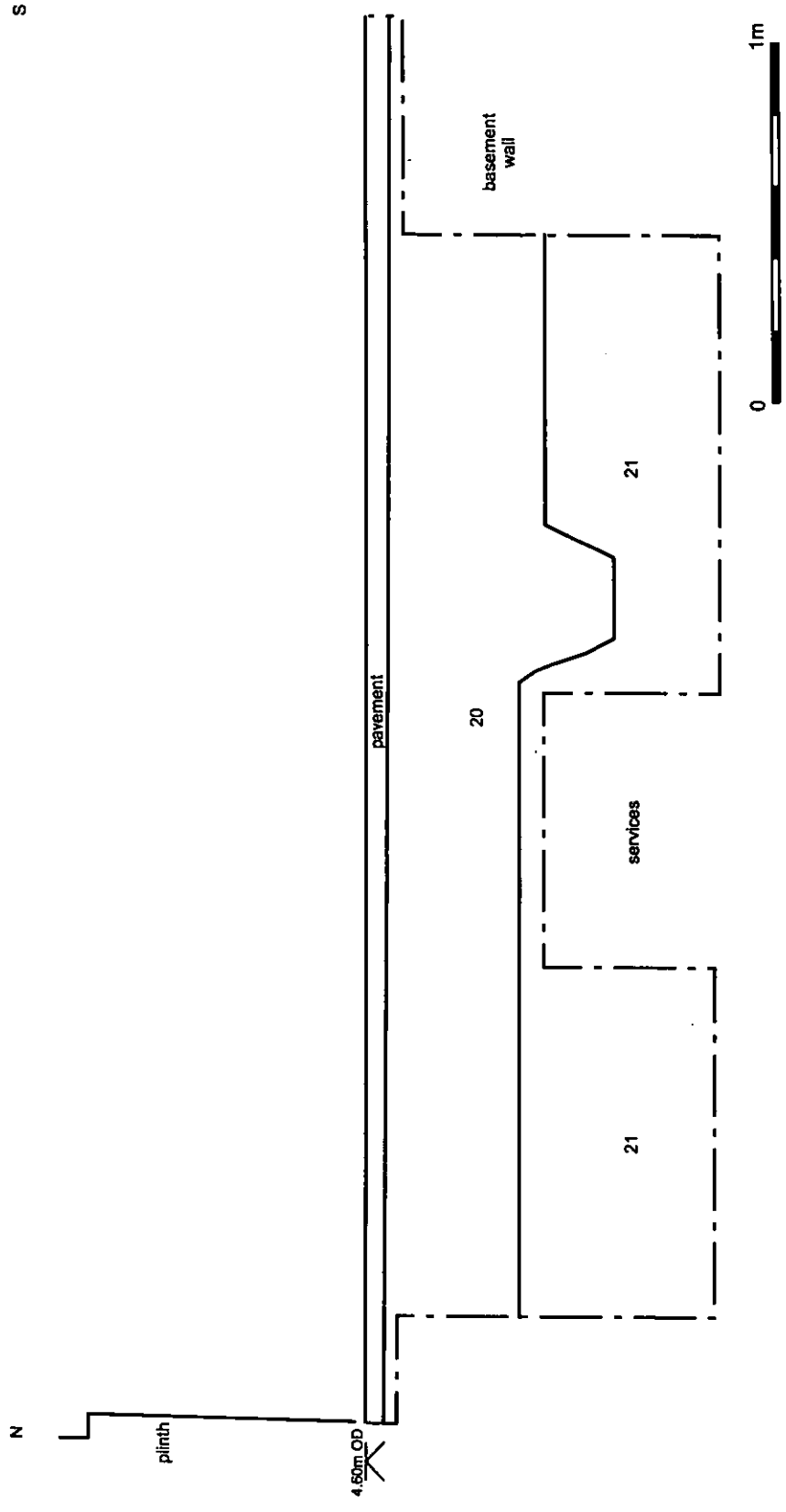

Fig 5 West facing section trench 3

3.2.4 Trench 4

Watching Brief Trench 4	
Location	North of central arch eastern end
Dimensions	2.70m by 1.80m
Modern ground level/top of slab	4.50m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	N/A
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	N/A
Natural observed	N/A

Trench 4 was not excavated as it was deemed unnecessary, as an existing service duct was re-used for the control systems to the rising bollards.

3.2.5 Trench 5 (Fig 6)

Watching Brief Trench 5	
Location	Clive Steps, King Charles Street, SW1
Dimensions	17.0m by 1.0m
Modern ground level/top of slab	5.69m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	5.59m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.90m
Level of base of deposits observed	4.69 m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Trench 5 was situated at the western end of King Charles Street at the top of the steps behind the Clive monument. Three *c*18th–19th-century cellar walls ran east–west across the trench starting at 5.39m OD and excavated down to 4.69m OD. The first wall [7] observed was constructed with yellow stock brick in an English bond 0.52m wide, with light greyish-white flush mortar pointing. A second cellar wall [8] ran parallel to wall [7]. It was of a red brick and an English bond construction, 0.36m wide with light greyish-white flush mortar pointing. This wall was bonded to [7] on its southern face with a mortar fill [11] of light greyish-white mortar containing a moderate amount of small to medium sized fragments of brick. The wall was rendered on its north facing side with a light greyish yellow cement/mortar 10mm thick with soot staining on its surface [10]. The third wall [9] running across the trench 0.55m to the north of wall [8] was constructed of yellow stock brick 0.30m wide, English bond with light greyish-white flush mortar pointing.

The cellars were backfilled with demolition rubble. Cellar wall [7] on its southern side had a backfill 0.70m thick of loose mid greyish-orange silty sand with large quantities of brick, tile and occasional small fragments of chalk and mortar [13]. Between walls [7] and [8] was a backfill of very loose light greyish-yellow, crushed mortar and brick rubble with large voids, 0.70m thick and 0.55m wide [12]. The remainder of the trench north of wall [8] is another fill of loose mid greyish-orange silty sand with large quantities of brick and tile and occasional small fragments of chalk and mortar [6].

At the base of the southern extent of the trench at 4.69m OD was a layer of polystyrene sheeting. This was part of the modern works associated with the Cabinet War Rooms basement. Covering this layer was a modern fill 0.90m thick of mid yellowish-orange, medium sand containing frequent medium sized rounded/sub-angular flints [14]. This fill extended from the southern edge of the trench 4.0m and truncated cellar backfill [13]. A modern service (150mm diameter pipe containing a 100mm diameter SWA cable) ran north to south along the eastern side of the trench truncating all features down to 4.89m OD. This cable turned east into the section at the Cabinet War Rooms basement. The whole of the trench is sealed by a layer of loose dark greyish-yellow, fine silty sand containing a moderate amount of small brick fragments and occasional small rounded flint pebbles [15] which is the levelling deposit for by the present day paving slabs at 5.69m OD.

The cellar walls recorded in Trench 5 may relate to buildings fronting onto Duke Street.

3.2.6 Trench 6 (Fig 7)

Watching Brief Trench 6	
Location	Horse Guards Road
Dimensions	2.20m by 0.60m
Modern ground level/top of slab	2.70m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	2.35m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.05m
Level of base of deposits observed	1.30m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Trench 6 was located across the pavement on Horse Guards Road. At the base of the trench was a deposit [5] 0.30m thick of loose to friable dark greyish-brown, fine grained, silty sand, which contained a frequent amount of charcoal flecks. This deposit extended beyond the base of Trench 6. Gradually diffusing into this deposit was a metalled surface [4] of very compact dark greyish-brown, silty sand which contained frequent amounts of well-sorted small sub-angular flint gravels and charcoal flecks. Above this layer was a modern made ground deposit [3] 0.20m thick consisting of mid yellowish-orange, medium sand with occasional small sub-angular flints. This deposit was in turn sealed by another modern make up layer [2] 0.20m thick comprising of compact, mid greyish-brown, silty sand containing frequent large fragments of modern brick and crushed concrete. A modern service (50mm diameter pipe) at the eastern end of the trench truncated layers [2] and [3]. A final levelling layer 0.30m thick of mid greyish-orange, medium grained silty sand, containing moderate amounts of small rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles sealed the trench [1] with the current paving covering the area at 2.70m OD.

The metalled surface may have been an earlier surface of Horse Guards Parade or a part of a gravelled pathway along the boundary of St James's Park.

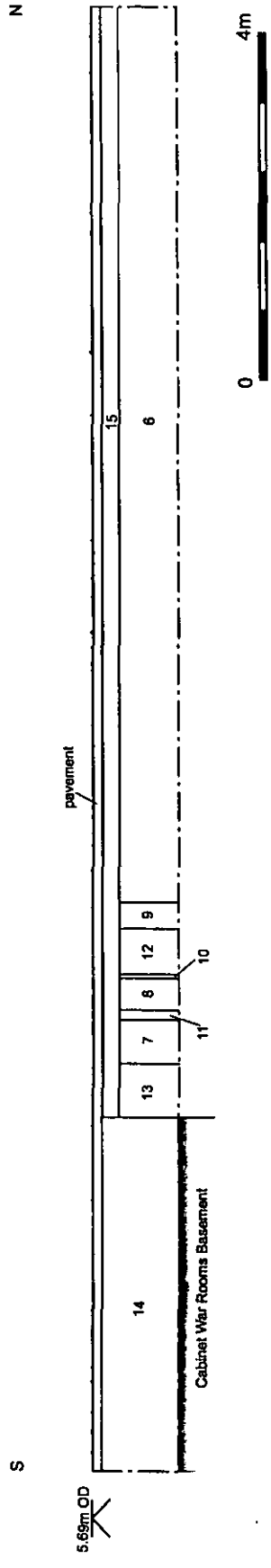

Fig 6 East facing section trench 5

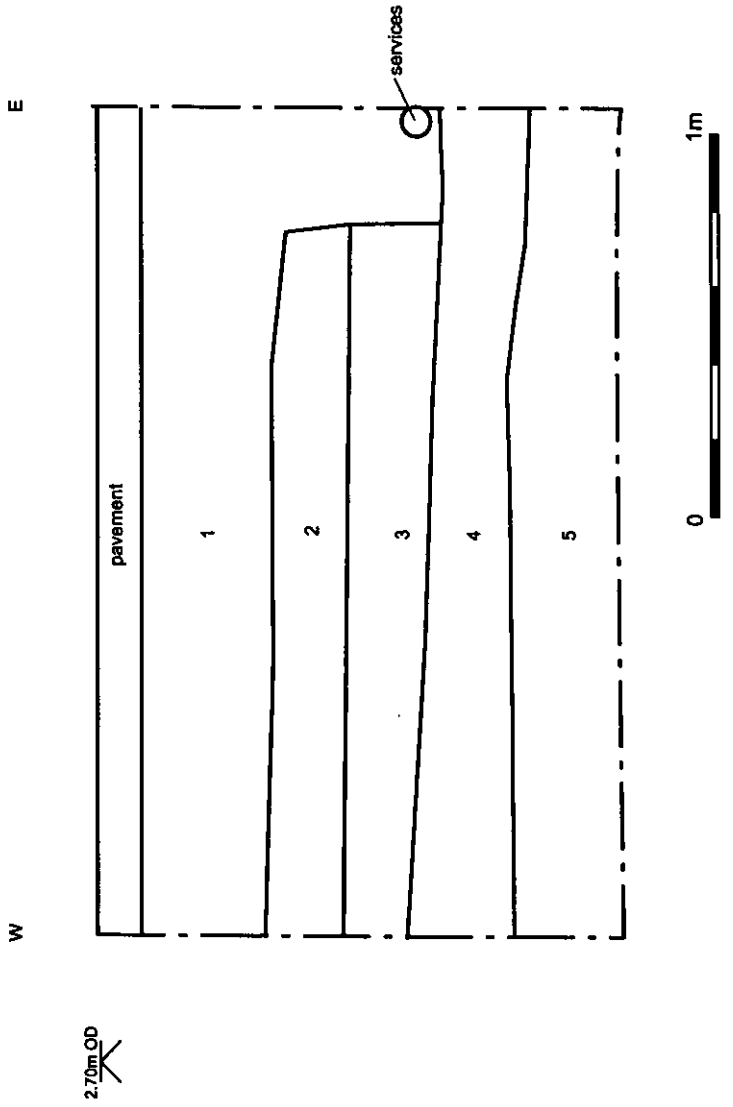

Fig 7 South facing section trench 6

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

Can the level of natural topography be established and the character of the area in relation to Thorney Island to the south?

Natural deposits were not encountered in any of the excavated trenches.

Is there any evidence for the prehistoric occupation known to have occurred on Thorney Island to the south?

No archaeological features or finds relating to Thorney Island were observed in the trenches.

Little Roman activity has been recorded in the area, however, is there evidence of Roman activity on the site?

No archaeological features or finds relating to Roman activity were observed in the trenches.

Where does the site sit in relation to the medieval route connecting Charing Cross to Westminster?

King Charles Street is known as 'Charles Street' in Rocque's map of 1746 and is shown to lead off Parliament Street and across the medieval route of Kings Street and joining Duke Street to the west (Fig 8).

Extensive remains of the Tudor Whitehall Palace have been recorded to the north and east at Treasury Green and the MoD. What evidence is there for Whitehall Palace on the site?

No archaeological features or finds relating to Whitehall Palace were observed in the trenches.

4.2 Significance of the data

Whilst the archaeological remains of *c*18th–19th-century cellar walls belonging to buildings running along the western side of the road formally known as Dukes Street 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* (Howe 2005) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 4.2) there is no immediate risk to the archaeology in the area and it is suggested that no further investigations will be necessary.

A short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

6 Conclusions

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 produced made ground probably deposited during the construction of the present day government buildings flanking King Charles Street. The cellar walls in trench 5 are most likely the remains of some of the buildings that ran along the western side of Duke Street, as seen on Rocque's map of 1746 (Fig 8), before the extension of King Charles Street and the construction of Horse Guards Road. Trench 6 produced a metalled layer, which may have been a previous surface of Horse Guards Parade or a gravelled pathway along the eastern boundary of St James's park shown again in Rocque's map of 1746 (Fig 8).

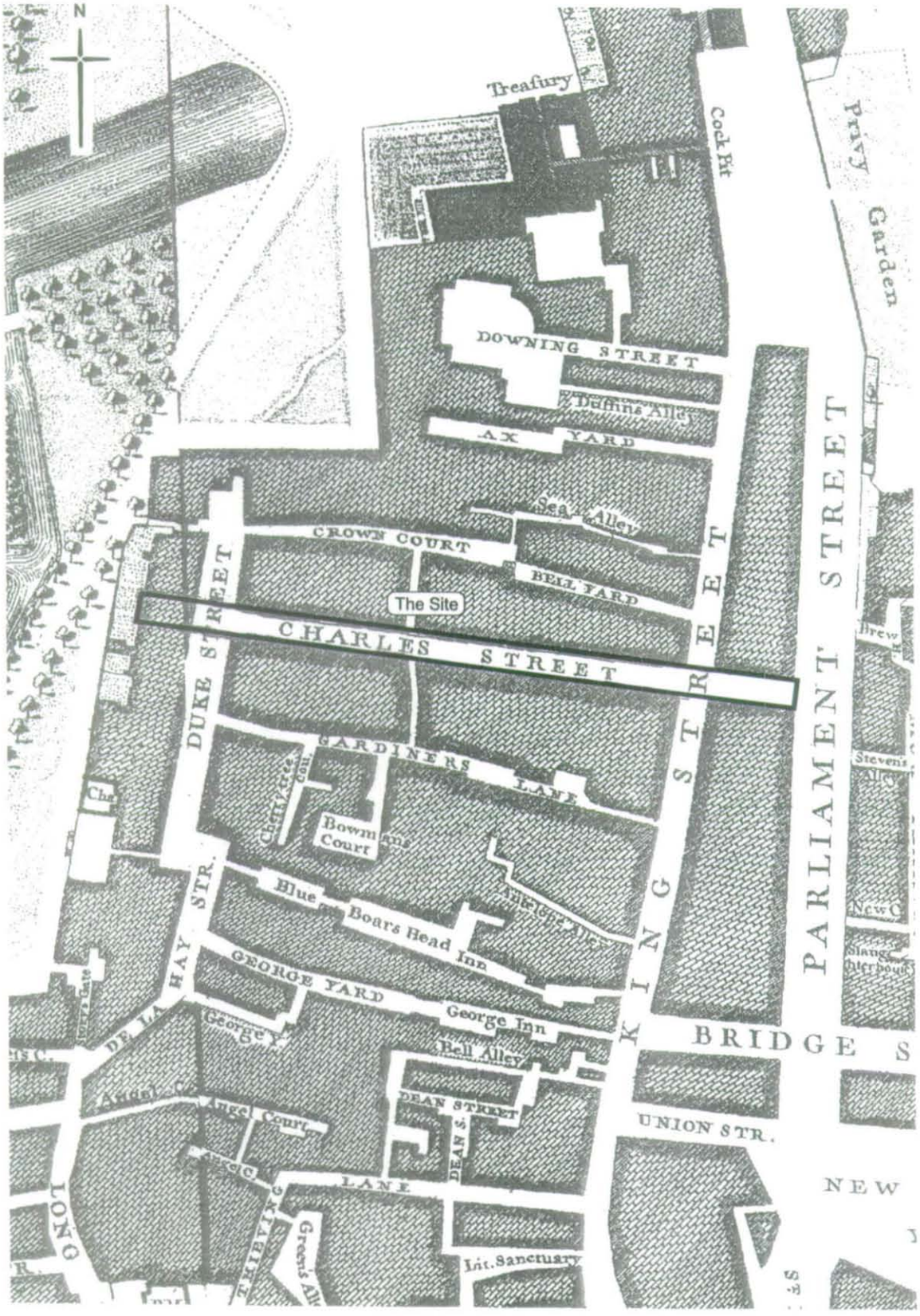

Fig 8 Detail of Whitehall area from Rocque's map of 1746

7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report:

BLB Architects
The Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Allen Fencing

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

9.1 OASIS ID: molas1-9765

Project details

Project name	King Charles Street, London SW1
Short description of the project	Watching brief during the installation of security bollards at either end of King Charles Street and a test pit in Horse Guards Road. Three trenches were excavated at the eastern end of King Charles Street under the archway several layers of modern made ground down to 2.60m OD was encountered in all trenches beneath the present footpath and road c 4.40m OD. At the western end of King Charles Street at the top of Clive Steps a fourth trench was excavated down to 4.69m OD. This trench revealed the remains of three c18th–19th-century cellar walls with associated cellar backfills and made ground beneath then modern footpath at c 5.69m OD. Horse Guards Road test pit produced a metalled surface at 1.65m OD probable previous gravelled pathway in St James' Park beneath made ground and modern paving at 2.70m OD.
Project dates	Start: 11-04-2005 End: 03-05-2005
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	KCS05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	CELLAR Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER Kln g Charles Street
Postcode	SW1Y 6XX
Study area	31.43 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 53005 17979 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Elizabeth Howe
Project supervisor	Stephen Turner
Sponsor or funding body	Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Entered by	Stephen Turner (molas.archive@museumlondon.org.uk)
Entered on	22 August 2005