

109 & 110 Old Broad Street
London EC2

Addendum

Archaeological Test Pit Report

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

May 1995

OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2

ADDENDUM

109 & 110 OLD BROAD STREET ODT95

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PIT REPORT.

INTRODUCTION

Subsequent to the archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MOLAS), and the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) in the basements of 111-115 Old Broad Street EC2, a further series of three exploratory test pits were called for, to be excavated in the basements of 110 and 109, which were also part of the proposed development.

AIMS

The evaluation and investigation had demonstrated that, where not destroyed by modern activity, archaeological deposits relating to the medieval precinct of the Austin Friars survived beneath the present basement floor, at a height of 10.80 m O.D.

The additional series of test pits were intended to establish whether a similar degree of archaeological preservation existed to the N of the known deposits.

METHODOLOGY (Fig 1)

The test pits, measuring 2 m x 1 m in area, were initially excavated by the contractor down to the nearest significant archaeological horizon, or to a depth of 1.0 m, whichever came first. The OAU monitored the final stages of excavation on May 23rd 1995, and inspected the exposed deposits in plan and section. The pits were also inspected by Dr Peter Wardle, Retained Archaeological Consultant to Adam Brothers Contingency Ltd.

RESULTS

Test Pit 1: (109 Old Broad Street) Floor Level 10.34 m OD.

Directly beneath a thin concrete slab was natural coarse flinty gravel. In the SE corner of the Test Pit a 0.15 m deep cut was identified, in section approximately 0.50 m wide with a dark brown sandy silt fill. One oyster shell fragment was recovered from the fill.

Test Pit 2 : (110 Old Broad Street) Floor Level 10.54 m OD.

Test Pit 3 : (110 Old Broad Street) Floor Level 10.89 m OD.

Beneath the concrete floor slab, a modern dumped layer of crushed mortar, sand, gravel and brick fragments, extended beyond the depth limit of excavation. A small sondage was excavated in the bottom of each trench to an additional depth of 0.30 m, that is a total depth of at least 1.30 m below the floor level in each trench, but did not reach the bottom of the dumped layer.

No archaeological deposits or artifacts were noted or recovered.

DISCUSSION

The floor level in the basement of 109 (Test Pit 1) is approximately 0.90 m lower than that in Nos 111-115. Clearly the present basement has removed all archaeological deposits with the exception of the bottoms of deep features, one of which was noted in section, although not dated.

The depth of modern disturbance in Test Pits 2 & 3, arguably the result of the infilling of a modern cellar, suggests that no earlier archaeological deposits survive in this area.

IMPLICATIONS

The evidence from the Test Pits gives no indication that substantial Medieval and/or Roman deposits survive to the N of 111 Old Broad Street. It would therefore be reasonable to argue that there is no justification for further archaeological investigation in the area of the proposed development.

Alan Hardy (AIFA)

OAU

May 1995

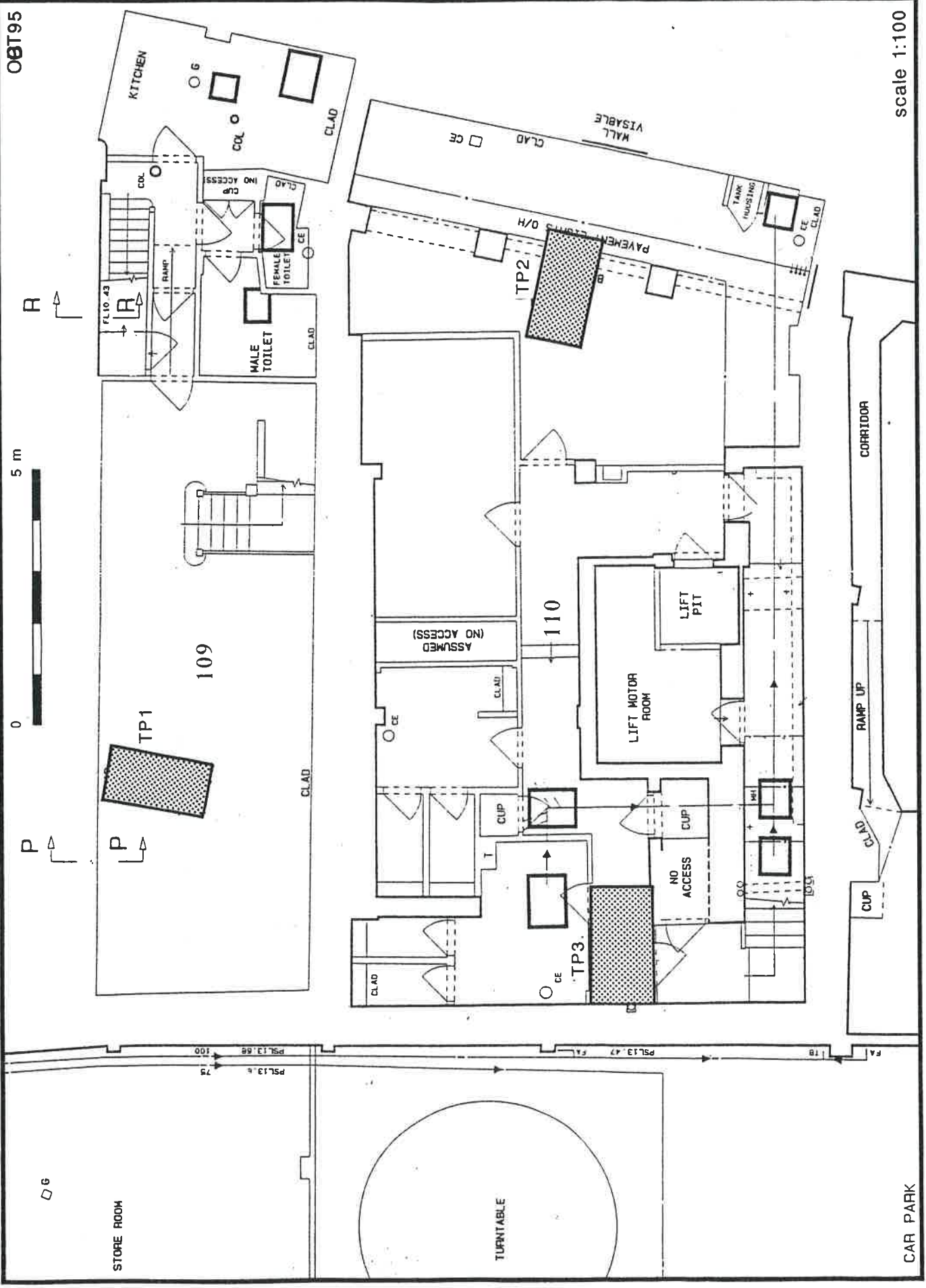


figure 1

08T95



R

P

109

110

CORRIDOR

RAMP UP

scale 1:100

CAR PARK

STORE ROOM

TURNTABLE

KITCHEN

MALE TOILET

FEMALE TOILET

VISIBLE MALL

PAVEMENT LIGHTS 0/H

LIFT MOTOR ROOM

LIFT PIT

TP2

TP3

FL10_43

RAMP

CLAD

CLAD

CE

CLAD

CE

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CLAD

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OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EP

Head Office Tel: 01865 243888 Fax: 01865 793496

Post-Excavation Tel: 01865 204642 Fax: 01865 204637



Director: David Miles B.A., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

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