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TRAIN AND KEMP

8 Barton Street, Westminster, London, SW1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

TQ 301793

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May 2000

Train and Kemp

8 Barton Street, Westminster, London, SW1

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OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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Summary

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a watching brief at 8 Barton Street, Westminster, London SW1 on behalf of Train and Kemp. The watching brief recorded the presence of a possible sewer, thought to be part of the original construction of the building, and a thick clay-silt deposit, thought to be reclaimed marsh land.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

In May 2000 the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a watching brief at 8 Barton Street, Westminster, London SW1 (Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken at the request of Train and Kemp after the discovery of possible archaeological deposits found during the excavation of engineering pits. Robert Whytehead, of English Heritage, was consulted and it was agreed that the Oxford Archaeological Unit would undertake the watching brief.

2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were as follows:

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence of archaeological remains within the development area, and determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, date, and depth below ground surface of any such remains.
- 2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork, methodology and recording

A total of three trenches, within the proposed impact area (Fig. 2), were hand excavated by the contractor. The observation and recording of the trenches took place after they had been excavated. The trenches measured up to c 2 m in length, up to c 1.30 m in width and up to 2.40 m in depth.

All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The entire area was covered in a thick layer of concrete. The soil was a well drained clay-silt that contained a low frequency of broken ceramic building material (CBM).

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

The only structure identified was a possible sewer, located in Trench 3. The significance of the thick clay-silt deposit is uncertain as it was only seen in section.

4.3 Presentation of results

The description of the trenches are presented below. A summary of the contexts is presented in the archaeological context inventory (Appendix 1).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Description of the deposits

A layer of clay-silt was identified in all three trenches. The layer was a friable, clay-silt that contained a low frequency of CBM and gravel.

5.1.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

The trench measured 1.10 m in length, 1 m in width and was excavated to a depth of 2.40 m. Clay-silt layer 12 was overlain by mixed rubble layer 11, which was sealed by concrete (10). No archaeological features were identified in this trench. The trench was not excavated to a sufficient depth to observe the natural geology.

5.1.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

The trench measured 1.20 m in length, 1.05 m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.70 m. The clay-silt layer (23) was cut by a trench into which the foundation (22) of the present wall was built. The mixed rubble deposit (21) butted the wall and was sealed by the concrete floor (20). No archaeological features were identified in this trench. The trench was not excavated to a sufficient depth to observe the natural geology.

5.1.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

The trench measured 2 m in length, 1.30 m in width and, when viewed, was excavated to a depth of 1.20 m. A brick-built structure, thought to be a sewer, was identified.

The structure (33) measured 0.80 m in length, 0.61 m in width and was excavated to a depth of *c* 0.80 m. The structure comprised two elements, the base wall measured 0.38 m in height and was bonded with a light-grey mortar that contained quartzite gravel inclusions. No coursing or bond was discernible as the structure was partially covered in a thick layer of mortar, suggesting that it was constructed in a trench. The bottom

of the foundation was not identified during the watching brief. The lower element was capped by a brick structure, however, the shape of the upper element was masked by a thick mortar spread.

It appeared that structure 33 cut into clay-silt layer 34, however, the cut was not clearly identified during the watching brief. The structure was overlain by the foundation (32) for the present wall, which was sealed by rubble deposit 31 and the concrete floor (30). The trench was not excavated to a sufficient depth to observe the natural geology.

5.2 FINDS

Only layer 34 contained finds, which comprised two sherds of glazed pottery and two clay pipe bowls; the latter have been tentatively dated to the early part of the 17th century.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of the field investigation

As only one service was identified, it can be suggested that the level of truncation across the site is limited.

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 *Summary of the results*

The only feature identified comprised a brick-built structure that was probably contemporary with the present building, which was built in 1910. The finds from layer 34 suggest a 17th century date for the clay-silt deposit.

6.2.2 *Summary*

The results of the watching brief produced data of limited archaeological significance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wilkinson, D. 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual, (First edition, August 1992)

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctx	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
1	10	Layer			Concrete layer	-		1910
	11	Layer			Rubble layer		-	1910
	12	Layer			Clay-silt			Undated
2	20	Layer			Concrete layer			1910
	21	Layer			Rubble layer			1910
	22	Structure			Foundation			1910
	23	Layer			Clay-silt			Undated
3	30	Layer			Concrete layer			1910
	31	Layer			Rubble layer			1910
	32	Structure			Foundation			1910
	33	Structure			Sewer			Post-med
	34	Layer			Clay-silt			Post-med C 17th

APPENDIX 2 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Watching Brief

2) LOCATION

Borough:

Site address: 8 Barton Street, Westminster, London, SW1

Site Name: ' Site Code: ^{WSP} ~~WPS~~ 00

Nat. grid Refs: TQ 301793

3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Oxford Archaeological Unit

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES

Site director/supervisor: Adam Brossler

Project manager: Greg Pugh

Funded by: Train and Kemp

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started Date finished: 04/05/00

Fieldwork previously notified? NO

Fieldwork will continue? NOT KNOWN

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Post-Medieval

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES

The post-medieval activity comprised a sewer and a layer containing clay pipe dating to the 17th century.

7) NATURAL

Type: Not identified

Height above Ordnance datum: N/A

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

- a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

NOtes *12 context sheets* PLans *1 site plan* Photos *7* Ngtives -
1 plan register *1 section*
1 context register
2 photographic registers
1 watching brief record


SLides *7* Correspondence - MScripts (unpub reports, etc) -

BULK finds ¹ *1 sherd of pottery* Small finds - SOil samples -
2 clay pipe fragments

Other -

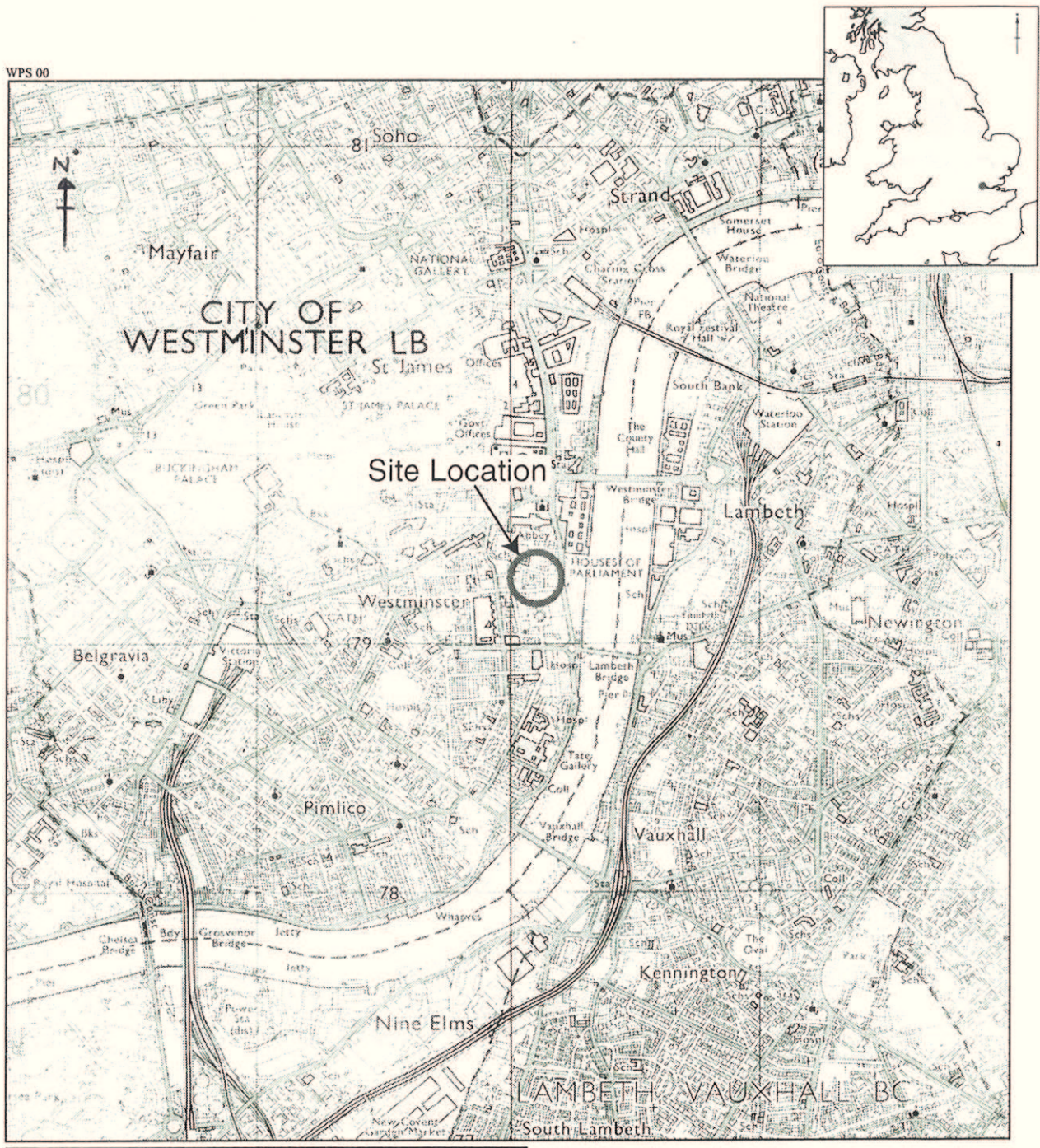
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c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: NO

10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

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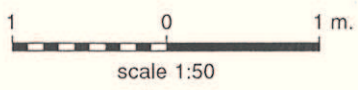
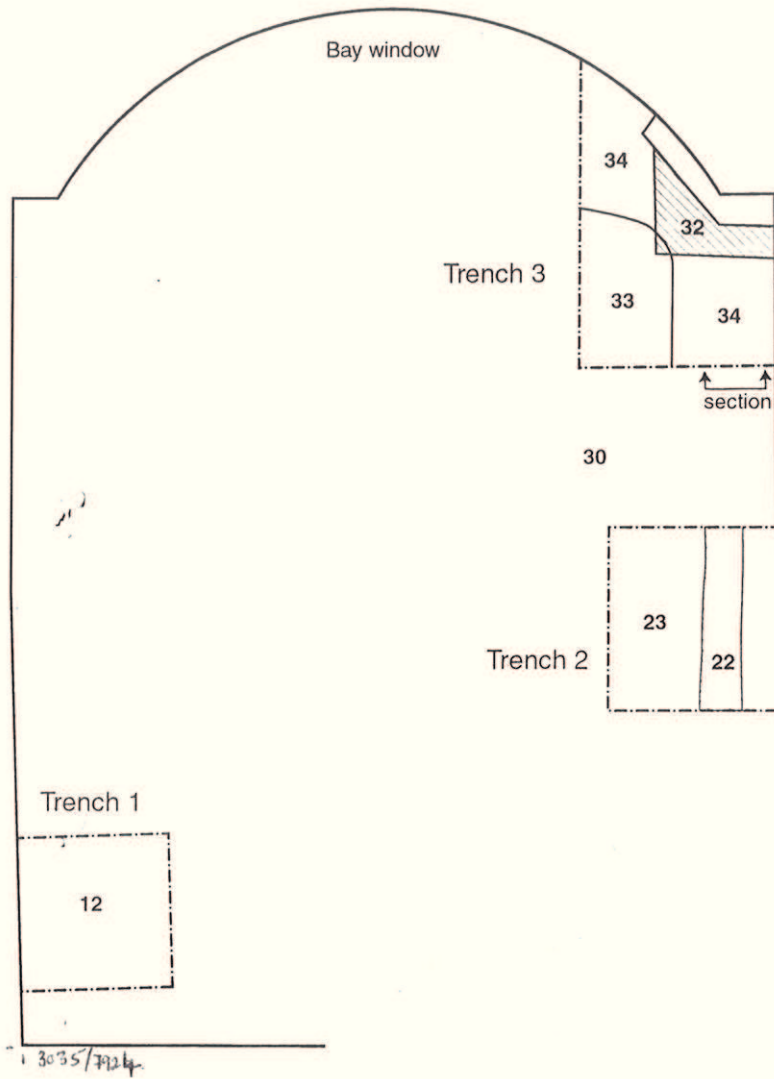
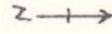
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Figure 1: Site Location.



Trench 3
Section

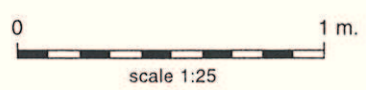


Figure 2: Trench plan and section through Trench 3.



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