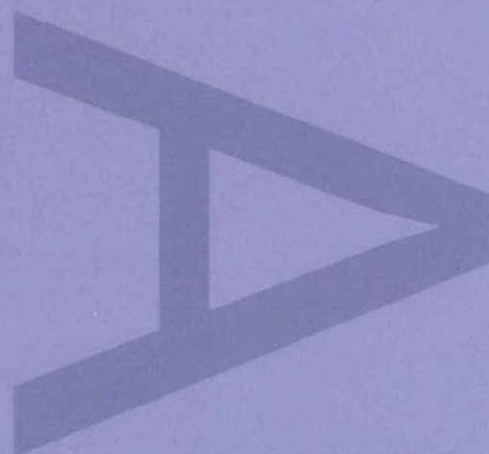
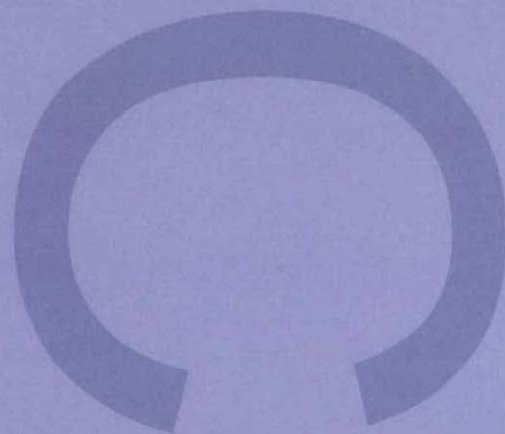
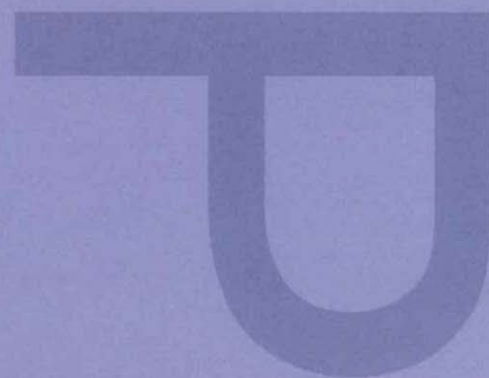


**WRITTEN SCHEME
OF INVESTIGATION
FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION AT
THE
BRITISH MUSEUM
WORLD
CONSERVATION
AND EXHIBITION
CENTRE, LONDON
BOROUGH OF
CAMDEN**



Revised 19th January 2010

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

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**Written Scheme Of Investigation For An Archaeological Excavation At The British
Museum World Conservation and Exhibition Centre, London Borough of Camden.**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 The following is a Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at the British Museum World Conservation And Exhibition Centre, London Borough of Camden (Figure 1). The development is to consist of the demolition of a number of buildings, sheds and temporary accommodation which have grown organically and construct a new purpose-built research, storage and exhibition facility.
- 1.1.2 The proposal will follow the methodologies set out in the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service Guidance Papers¹, and all work will abide by the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct.
- 1.1.3 The site currently comprises No.1 & 2 Montague Place, a sub-station on Montague Place but at a sunken level, the Conservation Department to the south of the sub-station, former workshops at the western end of the Bindery Building and sheds and lean-to's attached to western side, the Bindery Building, a two storey workshop along the Museum's western boundary, the stone conservation building, and roads and narrow open spaces linking all the above (Figure 2).

1.2 Previous Archaeological Work at the Museum

- 1.2.1 Previous archaeological investigations were undertaken in 1997, 1999 and 2000 in the centre and south of the Museum site as part of the Great Court Project, by the British Museum and Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.² The PCA investigations were focused on the location and remains of Montagu House, the forerunner of the current building. They showed that there is a considerable depth of overburden and archaeological structures, and even with investigation going down to circa 2.5m below present ground level no natural deposits were encountered. The British Museum staff undertook evaluations and watching briefs on excavations within the Great Court project and Pleistocene gravels of the Lynch Hill formation, one of a series of gravel terraces formed between 297,000 and 130,000 years ago, were found and recorded. This terrace stretches into west London and beyond, and has the greatest concentration of human artefacts of all the terraces. Several axes have been found within the immediate vicinity and several flint tools were discovered in the watching briefs.³

¹English Heritage, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, "Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations", Revised June 1998.

² Tony Spence, "British Museum Great Court Redevelopment – an archaeological evaluation and excavation strategy", The British Museum unpublished report, revised December 1997.

Peter Boyer, "An Archaeological Evaluation at the Forecourt: Great Court Project, The British Museum, London Borough of Camden", Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report 2005.

³ Sites and Monuments Reference EL0337.

AOC Archaeology Limited. 1995. "British Museum Millennium Project – The Great Court And Main Forecourt; An Archaeological Assessment", unpublished report.

1.3 Archaeological Work At The Proposed British Museum World Conservation And Exhibition Centre Site

- 1.3.1 An Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed project has been prepared.⁴ Further archaeological investigations (watching brief on geotechnical investigations⁵, evaluations in within the footprint of the proposed site⁶, historic building recording of structures within the proposed footprint⁷ and watching brief and building recording on the site of a new sub-station⁸) have been undertaken to the north of the main Museum (Figure 2) so as to inform mitigation strategies, fulfil condition requirements granted planning permissions and pre-empt any further planning permission condition requirements. The nature, scale, and scope of these works so far undertaken have been discussed, agreed and the subsequent fieldwork monitored with Kim Stabler of English Heritage (GLAAS) and Bethany Arbery and Victoria Fowlis of the London Borough of Camden.
- 1.3.2 Initially the evaluation of the northwest corner of the site was to assess the potential for London Civil War defences to cross this part of the site. A map regression exercise by Tony Spence⁹ showed that a wall and semi-circular “bastion” extended northwards from the line of the rear of the Montagu House estate, and westward from a star-shaped artillery fortification at Southampton House, could be traced to the lines of the current buildings, and may represent the Civil War defences. However the first phase of evaluation showed that the bastion wall dated to the 1670’s and that therefore it was the northern garden wall of Montagu House and the bastion was a contemporary garden landscape feature. However the first phase of evaluation also showed two areas with extensive survival of archaeological deposits and features and one extensive area where little or no survival of archaeological deposits can be expected because of previous construction works. Kim Stabler stated that English Heritage would be recommending to the London Borough of Camden that a strategy of archaeological mitigation should be required across the footprint of the proposed development. Ms Stabler also stated that English Heritage would also be recommending that the archaeological mitigation issues be dealt with as conditions on any granted planning permission for the scheme, namely for the Written Scheme of Investigation, the Fieldwork and the Post-Excavation works (assessment, analysis, publication and archiving).

⁴ Waterman Energy, Environment and Design, ‘*The British Museum North West Development Environmental Statement Volume 1*’, April 2009, Ref. E7357.R.4.1.1.RB.

⁵ Peter Moore, “Written Scheme Of Investigation For An Archaeological Evaluation At The British Museum Northwest Development, London Borough of Camden”, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report (UK112 2007 11 07 P-CA BritMuseumNWCornerWSI rev 3a, 29/4/08).

Peter Moore, “Written Scheme Of Investigation For A Phase 2 Archaeological Evaluation At The British Museum Northwest Development, London Borough of Camden”, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report 16/6/09.

Malcolm Gould, “An Archaeological Evaluation and Building Recording Investigation at The British Museum North West Development, Bloomsbury, London. WC1”, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report September 2009.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Malcolm Gould, “Historic Building Recording of the Bindery and 1-2 Montague Place, British Museum, North West Development Project, London Borough of Camden.” Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report 2009.

⁸ Op. cite in Note 4.

Sandy Pullen, “An archaeological Watching Brief on a Geotechnical Trial Pit at the Proposed Location of an EDF Substation at the British Museum, London Borough of Camden.” Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report 2009.

⁹ Op. cite. in Note 4, Moore 29/4/08 Appendix 1.

1.3.3 A second phase of archaeological evaluation was then undertaken¹⁰ to further expand the coverage of the evaluation trenches so as to better understand the extent and nature of the surviving archaeological deposits and structures as well as further defining where they do not survive given some of the subsequent development works on the site.

1.4 Summary of Results

1.4.1 The nature of the archaeology found in the evaluation can be considered as being of regional importance due to the large scale of site and largely intact long post-medieval rural to urban sequence, and can be summarised as follows:

- The evaluation of this part of the museum site did not find any trace of the Civil War defences, and in all likelihood they may have crossed the Museum site further south. However traces of possibly sixteenth and definitely early seventeenth century activities were found across the site. These features, such as ditches, gullies, slots, and pits, and deposits are widespread but not concentrated, and may relate to agricultural and other ad hoc peripheral activities north of the St Giles village.
- The northern boundary wall of the 1670's constructed Montagu House garden was found surviving just below floor level in the Bindery Building, and its subsequent extension westwards some time before 1725 was found in the stone conservation building, and it has associated construction and late 17th to mid 18th century garden features and deposits, especially in the very south of the development. Contemporary activities were found to the north of the extension wall and again probably represent the continuation of agricultural and other ad hoc settlement-peripheral activities.
- The late eighteenth century and early 19th saw the development of town houses around the western and northern boundaries of the museum site, which required the loss of the pre-1725 western garden extension. Each of these gardens are likely to reflect individual town garden designs, structures and usage. In particular the extensive garden known as Lord Eldon's Walk, roughly corresponding to the footprint of the Bindery Building, has been shown to have had at least two phases of garden layout. These gardens in turn suffered a process of reduction in size as the now Museum re-extended its boundaries westward and northward to construct many workshops.
- The 19th and early 20th century workshops and buildings showing the growth and historical development of the Museum into one of the world's foremost museum institutions.

¹⁰ Op. cite. in Note 4, Moore 16/6/09.

1.5 Preservation and Mitigation

1.5.1 The archaeological deposits were present from a relatively shallow surface cover of circa 0.3m down to a depth of between 1.4 and 1.7m across the site though a large deep feature was detected towards the north of the site and is interpreted as an early post-medieval quarry pit (Figure 3). The proposed British Museum World Conservation and Exhibition Centre incorporates several stories of basements across the entire building footprint. Given the depth of the proposed new formation level and nature of the archaeology as being of regional but not national importance, there is no scope for preservation in situ of any archaeological structures or deposits. Rather a programme of archaeological excavation is the appropriate archaeological mitigation. This Written Scheme of Investigation sets out the archaeological works proposed to be undertaken at this site in anticipation of archaeological planning conditions being imposed on any permissions granted.

1.6 Zonal Description of Archaeological Deposit Model

1.6.1 The nature of the archaeology, the level of truncation and the nature of the survival can be viewed and summarised in an archaeological deposit model which is shown on Figure 4 and described, together with the proposed works, below.

1.6.2 Archaeology Zone 1

1.6.2.1 Areas of significant, if not total, archaeological truncation generally lie along the northern, north eastern, eastern and south eastern boundaries, and a central service corridor, of the proposed development site. Along the northern boundary the current sub-station and the assumed foundations of the 1-2 Montague Place six storey building (constructed in the 1970's and therefore believed to be founded in natural soils) are assumed to have removed the archaeology. The construction of the main walls and the construction space for the light well retaining wall (as seen in Trenches 4 and 8, have totally removed the archaeological horizon. The lowering of the ground level at the east end of the Bindery Building to allow traffic to pass under the link bridge between the main Museum building and the King Edward VII Gallery, and the underlying services have been shown in Trench 4 to have removed the archaeology. A basement is situated on the south side of the south eastern corner of the Bindery Building, between it and the foundation of the main Museum building which again will have totally removed the archaeology. A densely packed corridor of electric cables and inspection chambers snakes south and then eastward from the current sub-station to the road between the Bindery and main Museum buildings. The chambers showed the services down to circa 1.2m below ground level with construction space of circa 0.3m thereby almost certainly removing most if not all archaeology. The base of the original Montagu House western garden wall may survive beneath the level of truncation by the services between the southwest corner of the Bindery Building and the northeastern corner of the stone conservation building. It is proposed that no archaeological work is appropriate or required in this zone except where the original 1670's western garden wall may survive beneath the road services. It is proposed that a watching brief on the ground reduction works in this area would be sufficient to locate and record any surviving remains.

1.6.3 Archaeology Zone 2

1.6.3.1 This zone is defined to the south by the 1670's Montagu House garden northern wall and its associated construction features and deposits. It contains evidence of 16th and early 17th century features and deposits. The zone roughly equates with the Lord Eldon's Walk late 18th century garden and comprises most of the interior of the Bindery Building and a slither of ground to the north. The deposits in the Bindery Building were found to be excellently preserved, deep and stratified. It is likely that several garden layouts are extant within this area with episodes of landraise in between achieved with

made ground and topsoil. It is likely that the excavation of this area can be achieved with the judicious use of plant to removed large homogenous deposits, in between horizons of activity. Features dating to pre-late seventeenth century activities have been shown right across this area, including part of a possible quarry pit in the northwest corner. It is proposed that this area is hand excavated with appropriate use of plant where possible to removed large homogenous deposits. The southeastern wall of the building may incorporate at least evidence for the upstanding boundary wall and bastion. The existence of this wall and scar will be tested during these excavation works so that any further mitigation recording can be undertaken during demolition works.

1.6.4 Archaeology Zone 3

1.6.4.1 The archaeology of this zone mostly relates to activities to the rear of properties facing onto Montague Place. It is also likely that the early (pre-late seventeenth century) quarry pit extends over much of the southern half of this area beneath these gardens. It is proposed that this area is hand excavated, but that given the size of the probable quarry pit, it is recommended that this feature is sampled only, to prove its nature and date. If it or its contents prove to be significant then a strategy of either further excavation, or watching brief on the general ground reduction, can be agreed and implemented with English Heritage. There is an eastern extension to this zone which represents a narrow survival of the line of the northern wall of Lord Eldon's Walk and an approximate 1m width of deposits north and south of this wall. Given the significantly larger excavations of the gardens to the north and south of this wall elsewhere in Area 3 and in Area 2, it is proposed that work in this area be limited to a watching brief in the ground reduction works.

1.6.5 Archaeology Zone 4

1.6.5.1 The archaeology of this zone relates to the construction and use of the properties along Bedford Square and then the subsequent piecemeal inclusion of those gardens into the museum site. Again evidence for the individual construction and multiple use of Victorian workshops is likely to be well preserved in this area. The early possible quarry pit also extends into this area. It is proposed that this area is hand excavated. Depending on the results of the sampling of the quarry pit in Zone 3, an additional strategy of either further excavation, or watching brief on the general ground reduction, can be agreed and implemented with English Heritage as appropriate.

1.6.6 Archaeology Zone 5

1.6.6.1 The archaeology of this area has been shown in Trenches 1, 2 and 12 to be complex in that there may be pre-late seventeenth century activity, there is definitely activities happening outside the Montagu House gardens and then there are different activities that have taken place in different properties along Bedford Square. The area may also have been used for dumping domestic and industrial waste just before the construction of Bedford Square. Laterly, the extension of the museum into the gardens will have left considerable traces of the workshops built in the nineteenth century. It is proposed that this area is hand excavated.

1.6.7 Archaeology Zone 6

1.6.7.1 This zone is defined by the northern boundary wall of the pre-1725 extension to Montagu House garden. Almost certainly there will be pre-garden features, Montagu House garden features, then the late eighteenth century construction of the Bedford Square town gardens, then the nineteenth century expansion of the museum back over the gardens with further workshop constructions. It is proposed that this area is hand excavated

1.6.8 Archaeology Zone 7

1.6.8.1 This zone lies between the stone conservation workshop and the western wall of the main Museum building. Its western boundary reflects the original alignment of the Montagu House garden, and while there are some services here and a lowered area the surrounding area trenches indicate that there will be surviving archaeology relating to this first garden. It was originally thought that the services and reduced stepped entrance may have removed archaeology, but it is now believed that there will be significant survival between and under these truncating features. It is therefore proposed that this area is hand excavated.

1.6.9 Archaeology Zone 8

1.6.9.1 This is a thin zone lying between the Montagu House northern boundary wall to the north and the southern Bindery Building wall to the south. It contains the structural remains of many workshops which were individually constructed against and on the Montagu House wall in the 19th century. It had been expected that associated services, as found in Trench 3 would have truncated all further archaeology, however the features found associated with the wall in Trench 7 were deeper and therefore some survival of early features can be expected in this zone. It is therefore proposed that this area is hand excavated.

1.7 Work in a Listed Building Environment

1.7.1 It is recognised that the proposed archaeological works will be taking place in a Listed Building environment after planning permission is granted. The archaeological works will take place after the Bindery Building has been demolished. The Bindery Building will not be demolished until after English Heritage and London Borough of Camden formally recognise that the planning conditions relative to Historic Building Recording matters have been satisfied and that demolition can proceed.

2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

2.1 The overall aims and objectives of the archaeological excavation are to find and record (preservation by record) archaeological features, structures, deposits, ecofacts or artefacts, and then assess, analyse and disseminate the results of that fieldwork. Particular reference is made to the Regional Research Framework¹¹ and where possible regional research objectives are linked to site specific ones.

2.2 In particular the work will try to address the following questions:

- Is there further evidence of a palaeolithic activity horizon or was the recent find of an axe on the site the result of a stray deposition or post-deposition movement? The British Museum intends to use the opportunity of the excavation to make a study of the underlying sands and gravels for the presence of Palaeolithic activity, topographical and environmental evidence. This will tie in with Regional Research Framework Objectives P2, especially modelling the Pleistocene geomorphology and ecology for this area as well as helping to establish a chronology for this area into which the other local sites and finds can be tied.
- Can the precise dating of these lower Palaeolithic terraces be established and is there any survival of environmental information?
- Is there any evidence for any prehistoric to medieval activity on the site?
- What rural and settlement-peripheral activities took place on the site before Montagu House was constructed? This links in with Framework Objectives L2 in understanding the effect the metropolis had on the lives of people living and working in the immediate vicinity. This site has evidence of activities being undertaken prior to the construction of the landed estate of Montagu House in 1675, and subsequent to its construction to the north of the estate garden for the next 100 years. It may be possible to establish the early activities being undertaken and what changes the growth of the large estates had on them before the area was completely developed as a prosperous suburb.
- Are any of the early 17th century features, deposits or artefacts on the site attributable to the Civil War use of the site?
- Is there any evidence of any activity associated with the construction, occupation or demolition of Montagu House?
- What rural and settlement-peripheral activities took place north of Montagu House after it was constructed? Could there have been market gardening activities here in the 16th and 17th centuries, as asked in Framework Objective L8?
- Can this site be used to establish artefactual and environmental assemblage “signatures” for those people living on Bedford Square as asked in Framework Objective L3, and any changes brought about by the encroachment of the museum?
- Can the animal husbandry activity indicated by the animal bone assemblages be traced to the locality or to an economic indicator of imported animals?

¹¹ Museum of London, A Research framework for London Archaeology 2002, London 2002.

- Can the nature and layout of the original 17th century gardens and pre-1725 extension gardens be defined? The L2 Framework Objectives wish to see our understanding of gardens and their significance and value better understood. This site has a unique sequence of large landed garden, variously sized town gardens, the changes demanded of those spaces as a consequence of the expanding museum and the change of the private Montagu House garden to the public museum garden, to be able to examine these questions with a significant database.
- What was the extent of brickearth quarrying in this part of the museum site and when did it take place?
- Can the layout and design of the period gardens, namely the late 17th century extensive Montagu House garden, the late 18th century town gardens, the late 18th/early 19th century Lord Eldon's Walk garden, and the 19th century adaptations of the western and northern gardens to continuous shrinkage, be discerned and traced?
- Can the evidence of metalworking in Trenches 10 and 12 be linked to artisan activity at the construction sites of the landed estates, to opportunistic dumping or other local activities?
- Can the nature, usage and development of the Museum's workshops be discerned from the archaeological remains?

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Scope of Works for British Museum World Conservation and Exhibition Centre Project Excavation:

- Zone 1 – Watching brief on area of Montagu House western garden wall only.
- Zone 2 – Excavation of area circa 62m x 8m.
- Zone 3 – Excavation of area circa 25m x 16m, plus a 35m x 2.5m eastward extension.
- Zone 4 – Excavation of area circa 35m x 15m.
- Zone 5 – Excavation of area circa 35m x 15m.
- Zone 6 – Excavation of area circa 22m x 20m.
- Zone 7 – Excavation of area circa 27m x 6m.
- Zone 8 – Excavation of area circa 48m x 2m.

3.2 Non-Archaeological Method Statement & Requirements

3.2.1 Pre-Start Agreement

3.2.1.1 Prior to the start of the site works the location, sequence of works and methods to be used will be agreed with the Museum site security and facilities managers. All service drawings will be provided to the archaeological team and they will be compared with trench locations. Access to on site office, tool storage, washing and toilet facilities will be agreed. Locations of spoil storage areas will be agreed. Where stored materials need to be moved this will be agreed and implemented.

3.2.2 Watching Brief On Slab Breaking and Removal

3.2.2.1 While an archaeological watching brief will not be maintained in general on demolition works a watching brief will be undertaken on all breaking out of slab, floors and removal of made ground to maximise the movement and disposal of non-archaeological deposits prior to archaeological investigation. In addition a watching brief will be undertaken on the demolition of the south-eastern wall of the Bindery Building to see if any upstanding portions of the 1670's Montagu House wall were incorporated into the Bindery walls.

3.2.3 Mobilisation And Site Set-up

3.2.3.1 Where excavation is to take place services (within the British Museum) will be cut off but each area will also be CAT scanned in case there are unknown live cables prior breaking of ground. Where excavation is to take place after demolition then the main contractor will ensure that services are cut off before slab is broken. Ground will be broken using a mechanical excavator or hand breaker as appropriate. Concrete and rubble will be kept and stored separately from excavated soils for separate disposal.

3.2.3.2 The site will be excavated in a series of areas which will be defined within existing standing buildings in areas after demolition of temporary/low level structures and after the demolition of the Bindery Building (Figure 5). In addition there will be limited archaeological investigations of targeted areas during demolition/ground reduction works.

3.2.4.1 Eight areas have been identified as being relatively open and having the potential to be accessed by at least small mechanical plant, for breaking and ground reduction.

- Excavation Area 1 – this area comprises the relatively open area of the northwest of the Conservation Department. This area includes the location of a former vault safe which may have massive reinforced concrete foundations and this will not be broken out.
- Excavation Area 2 – this area comprises a relatively clear corridor in the western third of the part of the 1 & 2 Montague Place being excavated. It is proposed that this would be a suitable location for the sample excavation across the possible quarry pit, which could be stepped in for safe basal access.
- Excavation Area 3 – this area comprises the external space between the rear of 1 & 2 Montague Place and the northwest side of the Bindery Building.
- Excavation Areas 4-6 & 13 – these areas comprise the footprint of the Bindery Building and a small strip outside it on the northern side. It is proposed (see Appendix 1) that they are excavated after the demolition of the Bindery Building, but, depending on spoil storage facilities, are to be excavated in three phases.
- Excavation Area 9 – this area comprises the central portion of the stone conservation building and the external space to the east.

3.2.4.2 Two areas have been identified as consisting of many small rooms where the breaking out works and ground reduction will only be possible using hand breakers.

- Excavation Area 7 – this area comprises the eastern two-thirds of the part of the 1 & 2 Montague Place being excavated and consists of store rooms and corridors.
- Excavation Area 8 – this area comprises a number of varying sized workshop rooms which have undergone much alteration. The evaluation of Trench 9 showed that archaeology survived in between and sometimes under wall divides and structures.

3.2.4.3 Three areas have been identified as requiring the demolition of wooden sheds, temporary stores and the single storey stone conservation building, which would then open large areas for large mechanical plant access.

- Excavation Area 10 – this area comprises sheds and lean-to's against the western end of the Bindery Building workshops. If these are demolished a clear north-south aligned space will be available. The western side of this area may need trench support.
- Excavation Area 11 – this area consists of the two storey workshop and a narrow strip of land to the west. The strip is too narrow to allow the stepped approach the boundary wall currently proposed. The demolition of this building would create a very large area available for excavation and other usage. The southern boundary of this area is currently defined as the northern edge of the road so that this area could operate before the road is closed.
- Excavation Area 12 – this area comprises the northern and southern rooms of the stone conservation lab, some external cabins and the road and pavement spaces to the west and north. It is assumed that this road will be kept active for as long as possible. Demolition of the building and cabins and the closure of the road and few services will create a very large area to be excavated.

3.2.4.4 One area have been identified as being suitable for a watching brief during the major demolition/ground reduction works.

- Watching Brief Area 14 – this area comprises a corridor across the line of the east-west access road and main electrical service route. A watching brief will be undertaken to try and find any remains of the 1670's gardens western wall which may survive truncation by the services.

3.2.5 Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology

3.2.5.1 There is some limited potential for finding in situ evidence of a Lower Palaeolithic occupation horizon, or at least some contemporary environmental evidence within the sands and gravels of the site. A programme of sampling the natural deposits at the site for Palaeolithic landscape, topography and human activity will be agreed between Nick Ashton of the British Museum and the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor Rachel Ballantyne but will include the following: (1) It is expected that across the site the sands and gravels will be revealed in plan and partially in section by historical cuts, and all of these will be examined for Palaeolithic activity. (2) In Excavation Area 2 significant sections of natural deposits will be revealed by the sampling of the possible quarry pit. (3) Where necessary additional machine cut localised excavations can be undertaken on the advise of the British Museum, to create suitable, and stepped, sampling locations across the site. Throughout the fieldwork there will be close co-ordination between PCA and the museum to ensure that the locations chosen for sampling will be the most suitable. (3) The potential for understanding the dating and environmental potential of these deposits in relation to the above project research aims

will be assessed. This may include taking samples for lithological analysis, OSL dating and assessing sands/gravels for micro-fauna and pollen. (4) The results of the sampling and analysis will be included in the assessment and publication reports as appropriate.

3.2.6 Programme

3.2.6.1 See Table 1 for the programme of archaeological fieldwork.

3.2.7 Site Access

3.2.7.1 Vehicular traffic will access the evaluation area by the security barrier at the northeast Museum entrance on Montague Place, and all project personnel, will report to the contractor security desk at the southeast corner of the Museum on Great Russell Street..

3.2.8 Visitors

3.2.8.1 A list of bona fide British Museum staff connected to the project will be provided by Tony Spence, British Museum Archaeologist, to the PCA site supervisor so as to allow reasonable access onto site. All other museum staff wishing access onto the site will be referred to Tony Spence for access arrangements.

3.2.8.2 All other visitors to the site will make arrangements through the PCA project manger.

3.2.9 Backfilling and Reinstatement

3.2.9.1 On completion of the archaeological excavation in any area the area will be used for storing the spoil from other excavation areas so that bulk removal can be effected by the main demolition contractor. Areas will only be reinstated if the British Museum World Conservation And Exhibition Centre Project does not proceed.

3.2.10 Public Archaeology

3.2.10.1 The British Museum is currently examining options as to how it can inform and/or engage the public during and after the archaeological fieldwork.

3.3 Archaeological Method Statement

3.3.1 The fieldwork, reporting and archiving will follow the methodologies set out in the following English Heritage's (GLAAS) archaeological guidance papers and standards, guidelines and laws:

- Archaeological Archives Forum (Duncan H. Brown), "Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, completion, transfer and collection" 2007
- Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981
- English Heritage, "Management of Archaeological Projects" (MAP 2), 1991.
- English Heritage, "Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment" (MoRPHE), 2006.
- English Heritage (Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service), "Archaeological Guidance Papers:
 - (1) Written Schemes of Investigation
 - (2) Desk-Based Assessments
 - (3) Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London
 - (4) Archaeological Reports
 - (5) Evaluations
- Institute of Field Archaeologists "Guidelines"
- Museum and Galleries Commission, "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections", 1992
- Museum of London, "Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be Permanently Retained by the Museum of London"
- Society of Museum Archaeologists "Selection and Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections", draft 1992
- Treasure Act 1996
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, "Conservation Guidelines No.2

3.3.2 Groundworks

3.3.2.1 The groundworks contractors will remove all overburden under archaeological supervision until natural or archaeological soils are encountered. At this point the relevant areas will be cleaned by hand and excavation of the areas will proceed using the appropriate hand tools.

3.3.2.2 Following fill clearance, all faces of the exposed area that require examination or recording will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section. Judicious use of mechanical excavators will be used on large

homogenous deposits, especially those of garden soils and made-ground between horizons of activity. Where machining is undertaken a sample of the layer will be hand excavated to ensure sufficient dating material is collected.

3.3.2.3 Human remains are present in the vicinity. In the event of burials being uncovered, the Museum and the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Camden will be informed. If human remains are found they will be left unexcavated until a Ministry of Justice (Coroners Department) Licence is obtained. The client is particularly sensitive to the issue of human remains, and attempts will be made to fully excavate, record and preserve any material that is uncovered.

3.3.2.4 All gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. Notification will also be made to the client and Finds Liaison Officer for London (Kate Sutton, Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer, Museum of London).

3.3.3 Access and Safety

3.3.3.1 Reasonable access to the site will be granted to representatives of the London Borough of Camden and other representatives of the client who wish to be satisfied, through site inspections, that the archaeological works are being conducted to proper professional standards and in accordance with the agreements made.

3.3.3.2 All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be respected.

3.3.4 Recording Systems

3.3.4.1 A unique-number site code system has been agreed with the Museum of London: MPB 09.

3.3.4.2 The recording systems adopted during the investigations will be broadly compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in the Borough. Where there is any doubt as to the appropriate recording technique the Museum of London recording manual will be used.

3.3.4.3 The site archive will be organised so as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the Borough. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed will be entered onto prepared *pro-forma* Context Sheets. If complex stratigraphy or structures are encountered *pro-forma* Single Context Recording Sheets will be used. Sample recording sheets, sample registers, findings recording sheets, accession catalogues, and the photography record cards will follow the Museum of London equivalents. This requirement for archival compatibility extends to the use of computerised databases.

3.3.4.4 A 'site location plan' indicating the site north and based on current Ordnance Survey data (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. The location of the OS bench marks used and the site TBM will also be indicated.

3.3.4.5 Some record of the full extent in plan of any archaeological deposits encountered will be made; these plans will be on polyester based drawing film, will be related to the site grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. 'Single context planning' will be used on deeply stratified sites. Where possible the information should be digitised for eventual CAD application.

3.3.4.6 Sections will be drawn to scale of the trench sides if accessible.

3.3.4.7 The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

3.3.4.8 If the site complexity is such as to justify its use the 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagram will be used to record stratigraphic relationships. This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavations.

3.3.4.9 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. The transparencies will be mounted in suitable frames.

3.3.5 Treatment of Finds & Environmental Samples

3.3.5.1 Different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the deposit or feature under investigation. Close attention will be given to sampling for date and structure. Sample size should take into account the frequency with which material is likely to occur. In the evaluation a total of 58 standard London archive boxes of artefacts were recovered from a total excavated soil volume of circa 180 m³. It is calculated that the total volume of soil to be excavated will be 3200 m³, giving a total potential number of 1030 boxes artefacts if all the soil was hand excavated. Where machining is maximised circa one third of that material will be collected.

3.3.5.2 All finds retrieval policies of the Museum of London will be adopted and all identified finds and artefacts will be retained unless the Museum of London policy states otherwise.

3.3.5.3 All finds will be treated in a proper manner and will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's '*Conservation Guidelines No.2*' and the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be Permanently Retained by the Museum of London*'. All metal objects will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation.

3.3.5.4 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, animal bone and human burials) will be developed in consultation with our Environmental Consultant, Quest, and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor Rachel Ballantyne in accordance with guidance given in *Model Clauses on Environmental Archaeological Science for Briefs and Specifications* (English Heritage, 2000) and will be detailed in a separate paper and are summarised below. The soil samples taken during the archaeological field evaluation, and assessed for their potential to have preserved environmental flots and residues, proved to be extremely poor in environmental remains. Therefore:

- Further environmental sampling should therefore be limited to contexts with good integrity and a clear depositional history.
- It is likely that the depositional sequence of separate horizons of gardens and activities in the area of the Bindery Building will lend itself to a clear sampling strategy.
- It is unlikely that the complex stratigraphical and intercutting sequence of gardens and museum expansion will be suitable for a clear sampling strategy.
- The field evaluation and environmental sampling undertaken so far has show little potential for the survival of organic plant remains. Therefore the focus of the environmental sampling will be on pollen analysis, as the presence of

animal-borne pollen, rather than wind-blown, will be significantly greater in a sequence of gardens. The potential for soil morphological analysis to address the research questions will also be assessed.

- Where individual feature have the potential to address the research questions, for example if anaerobic deposits or culturally rich deposits are found, then they will be sampled and their environmental potential assessed.

3.3.5.5 Sampling should aim to address the research questions set out above especially with reference to:

- Establishing the nature of pre-garden landscape activities.
- Establishing the nature of landscape activities external to the gardens.
- Establishing the husbandry, use and economy of animals as seen in the animal bones.
- The use, layout and changes of the gardens over time.

3.3.5.6 A high priority will be given to sampling any river and other anaerobic deposits, such as peat, where organic materials may be preserved.

3.3.5.7 Organic samples will be subject to appropriate specialist analysis. There may well be a requirement to submit timbers to dendrochronological analysis and to process some samples to provide Carbon 14 dating. Other forms of specialist analysis may also be appropriate. Strategies for determining the sampling procedures of organic samples, including timber, will be developed in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor for the area. These strategies will follow advice given in *Model Clauses on Environmental Archaeological Science for Briefs and Specifications* (English Heritage, 2000).

3.3.4 Post-Excavation

3.3.4.1 The British Museum will fund the post-excavation part of this project according to MAP 2 and MoRPHE. In the event of the British Museum World Conservation And Exhibition Centre Project being delayed or cancelled the British Museum undertakes to fund the assessment, analysis, publication and archiving of the archaeological excavation undertaken.

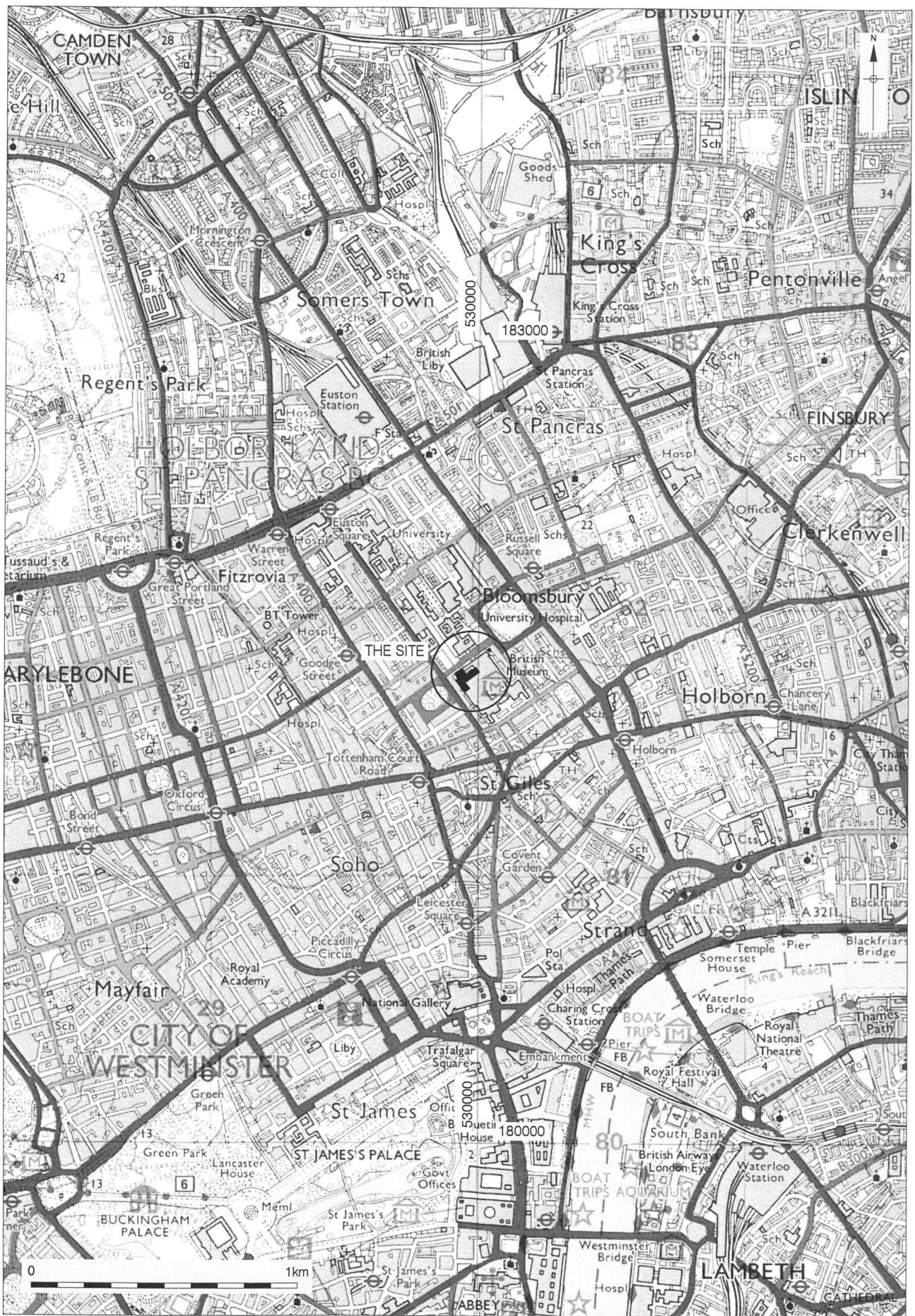
3.3.4.2 Post-Excavation Archive Completion

3.3.4.3 Once fieldwork is completed the processing (washing, marking, bagging, labelling, boxing and registering) of the artefacts will be completed. Those environmental soil samples going forward for processing at this stage will be washed and sorted. The paperwork, plans and photographs resulting from the excavation will be checked and cross referenced. A phased context index, a phased matrix and a summary report will be completed and distributed to the finds and environmental specialists in order to facilitate their individual assessment reports. The phased summary will be distributed to the client, representatives, English Heritage and London Borough of Camden.

3.3.4.4 Assessment Report

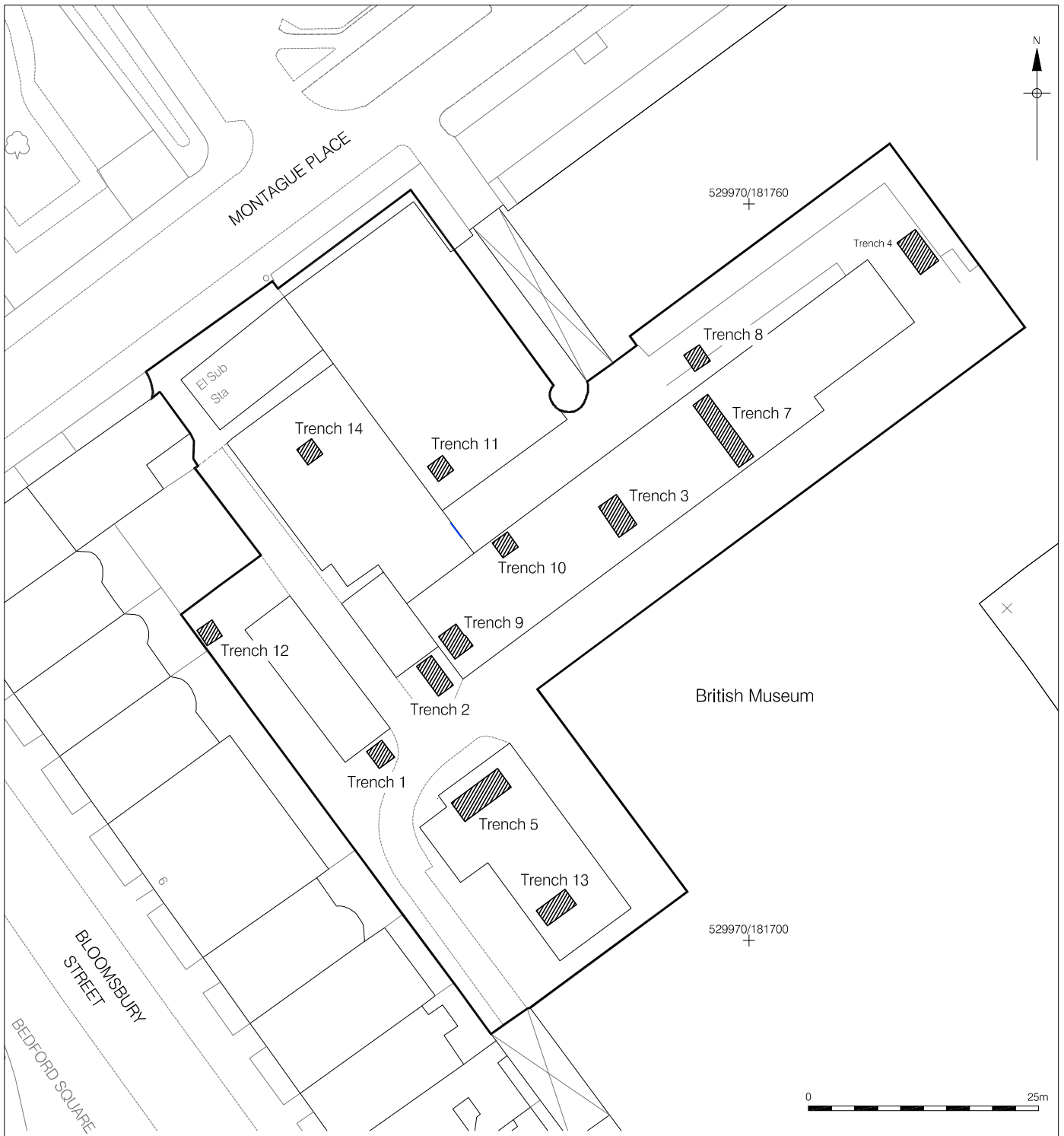
3.3.4.5 An Assessment Report on the findings of the archaeological investigation will be prepared which will report on the assessment of the nature and importance of the archaeological, environmental and artefactual archive in terms of the original research questions and any new research themes that developed as a result of the fieldwork or initial post-excavation work.

- 3.3.4.6 The report will incorporate the historical, archaeological and geological background of the site, the assessment of the archaeological stratigraphy and the assessments of the finds and environmental samples. Initial assessment conclusions as to what was found, and what can be found in the archive, will be set out as well as the recommendations for the analysis required to achieve these objectives. The aim of the assessment is to target those parts of the archive which can best address the old and new project research questions by the use of further analysis. The assessment report will set out the costed and resourced path for undertaking the analysis and proposed publication.
- 3.3.4.7 Further Analysis & Publication
- 3.3.4.8 A short summary of the results of the work will be submitted to the Greater London SMR and OASIS (using the appropriate archaeological report forms), and for publication in the appropriate academic journals including the 'Excavation Round-Up' of the **London Archaeologist**. Such publications will meet the minimum requirements set out in Appendix 7, '**Management of Archaeological Projects**' 1991, and derive from a 'phase 2 review' as defined in the same document. The analysis of the archaeological archive resulting from the assessment of the archive investigations will result in the production of a publication. At this point in time it is not clear whether the results of the investigations will warrant a monograph, or article in a regional or national journal. It is anticipated that the assessment report will set out the proposed publication path.
- 3.3.4.9 Archive Deposition
- 3.3.4.10 The integrity of the resultant site archive will be maintained and deposited at the British Museum where the finds and records will be available for public consultation. The British Museum depositional requirements will be followed as well as the appropriate guidance set out in the Museum and Galleries Commission's '**Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections**' (1992), the Society of Museum archaeologist's draft '**Selection and Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections**' (1992) and Archaeological Archives Forum (Duncan H. Brown), '**Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, completion, transfer and collection**' (2007).
- 3.3.4.11 The written, digital and photographic archive will be donated to, and the finds are to be retained and archived by, the British Museum.
- 3.3.4.12 The minimum acceptable standard for the site archive is defined in the '**Management of Archaeological Projects 5.4**' and '**Appendix 3**'. It will include all materials recovered, (or the comprehensive records of such materials as referred to above) and all written, drawn, and photographic records relating directly to the investigations. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent before transfer to the Museum of London. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 3.3.4.13 United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) will be followed.



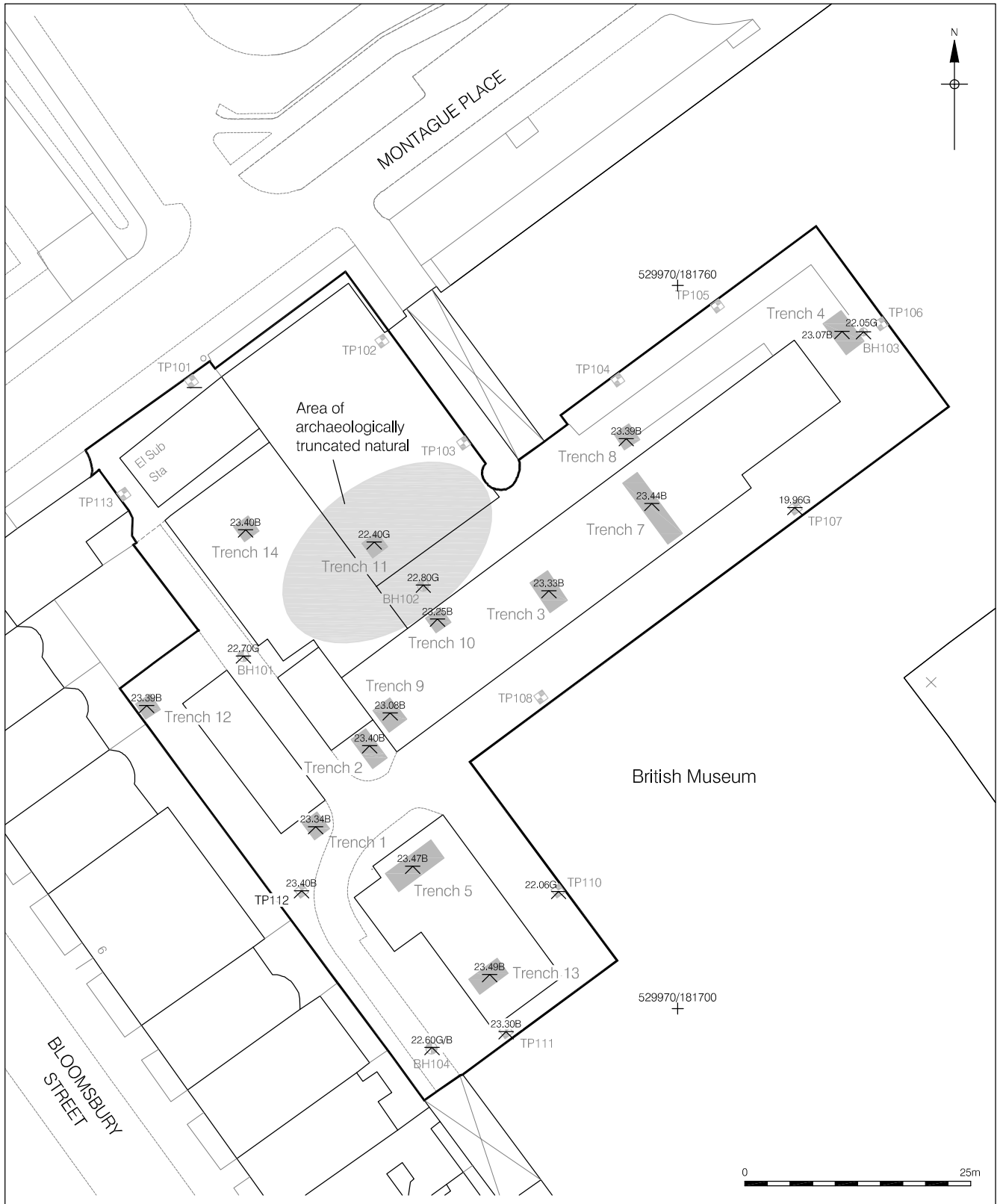
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



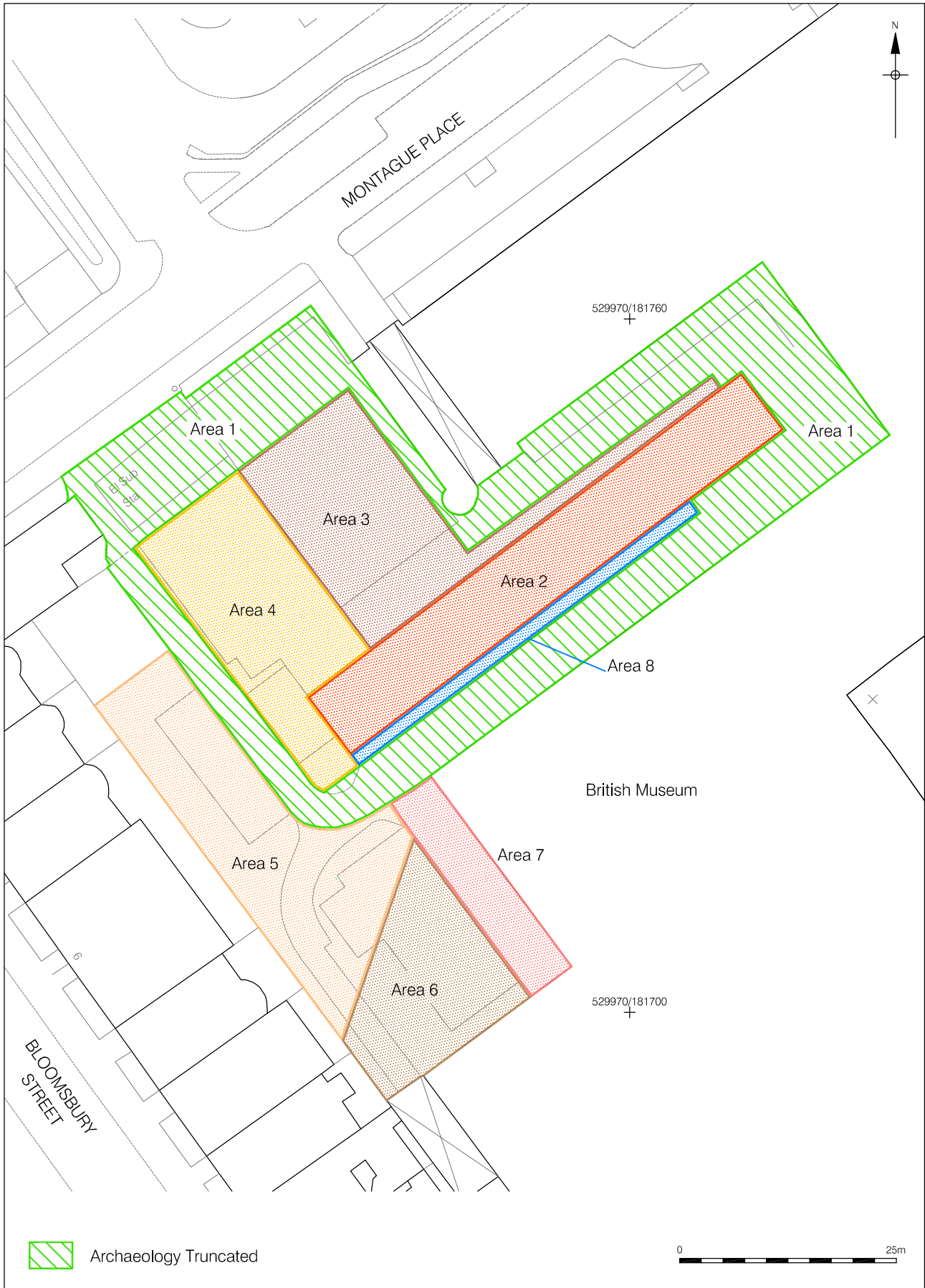
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Figure 2
 British Museum World Conservation and Exhibition Centre
 Area and Evaluation Trench Locations
 1:625 at A4



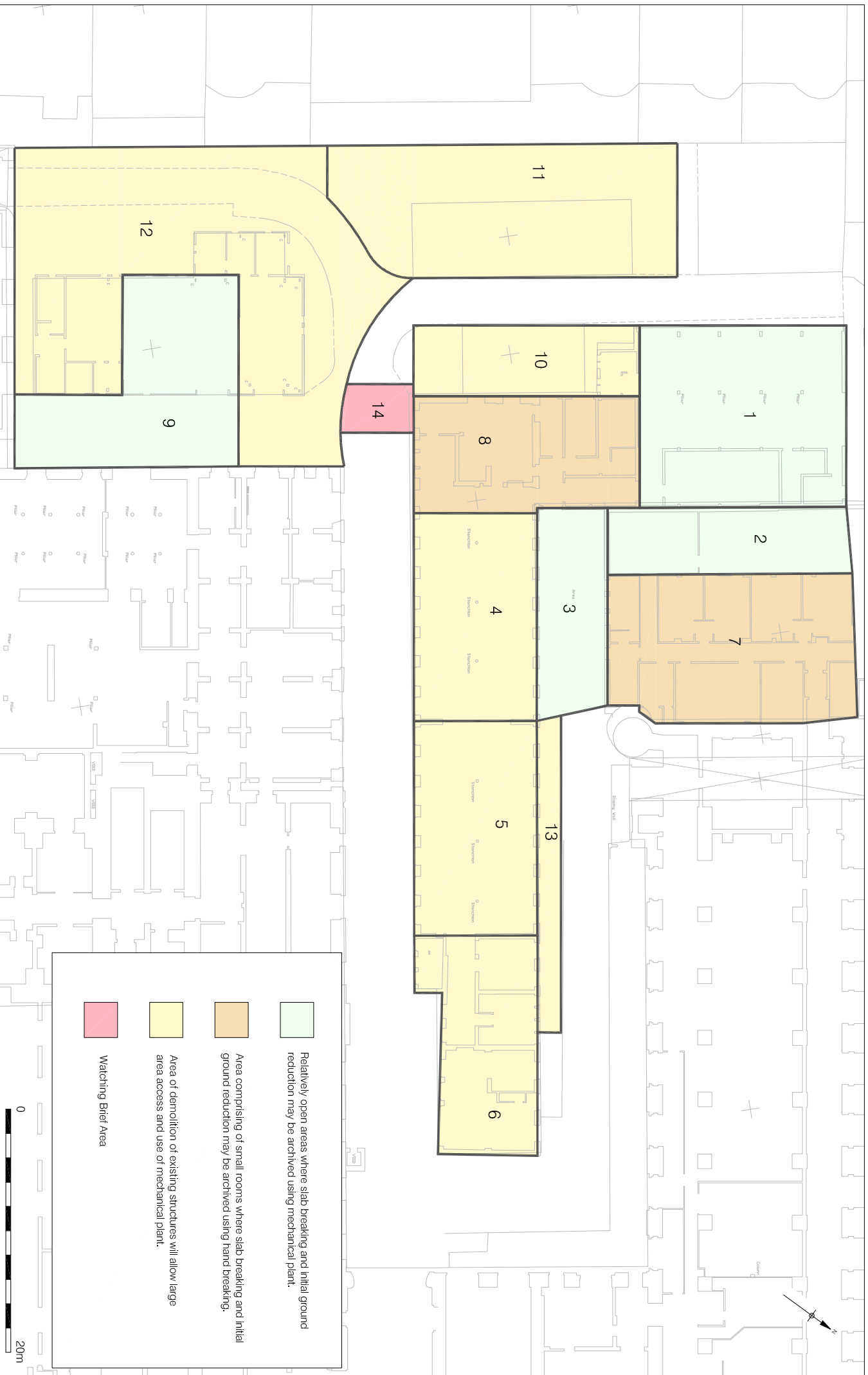
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Figure 3
 Site Plan Showing the Levels of Natural Soil
 1:625 at A4



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Figure 4
 Archaeological Deposit Model
 1:625 at A4



| | |
|---|--|
|  | Relatively open areas where slab breaking and initial ground reduction may be archived using mechanical plant. |
|  | Area comprising of small rooms where slab breaking and initial ground reduction may be archived using hand breaking. |
|  | Area of demolition of existing structures will allow large area access and use of mechanical plant. |
|  | Watching Brief Area |

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