# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

## **155 GRAY'S INN ROAD**

CAMDEN



PAUL CHADWICK BA FSA MIFA

**APRIL 2010** 

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

155 GRAY'S INN ROAD CAMDEN

PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

PLANNING REFERENCE: 2003/0791/P & 2003/0792/C

SITE CENTRED AT: TQ 30750 82320

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by CgMs Consulting in order to meet the requirements of a planning condition on a consent to redevelop the site at 155 Gray's Inn Road.
- 1.2 The WSI has been prepared following two phases of archaeological monitoring of geotechnical pits (MoLAS undated note and PCA April 2009) and following discussions with the planning authority's archaeological advisor, Ms Kim Stabler of English Heritage.
- 1.3 The WSI comprises three components; this introduction and programme, a Construction Method Statement (at Appendix 1) and Written Scheme for a Watching Brief by Pre-Construct Archaeology (at Appendix 2).

## 2.0 PLANNING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission was granted on appeal. Appeal B for Conservation Area Consent (Ref 2003/0792/C) contained two conditions relating to heritage.
- 2.2 Condition 3 states that 'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local authority'.
- 2.3 Condition 4 states that ' No works shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of recording and historic analysis, which considers building structure, architectural detail and archaeological evidence. This shall be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted by the applicant and approved by the local authority'.
- 2.3.1 The building recording work required by Condition 4 has been completed by the Museum of London to the satisfaction of English Heritage (in their role as specialist advisor to the planning authority). As a result, English Heritage wrote to the London Borough of Camden (letter 12 November 2007) recommending that Condition 4 was discharged.
- 2.4 Accordingly, this WSI details the programme of archaeological work required by Condition 3.
- 2.5 The geological, archaeological and historic background to the site is provided in Appendix 2. In short, the site does lie within an Archaeological Priority area. However, English Heritage has identified the possibility that the Civil War defences around London may cross east-west through the site.

## 3.0 PROGRAMME

- 3.1 Following approval of this WSI by the planning authority, it is anticipated that demolition work will commence immediately. The Construction Method Statement (Appendix 1) indicates that several activities take place before the archaeological watching brief (Appendix 2) commences.
- 3.2 The programme will therefore follow the phased programme set out at Appendix 1, with off-site post-excavation work following immediately after the completion of site work.

**APPENDIX 1**: Construction Method Statement

#### Construction Method Statement

Project:155 Grays Inn RoadScope of Works:Foundations and Basement ExcavationContractor:J R PickstockProgramme:8 Weeks

#### Methodology

- 1. Obtain approval of Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation and all other precommencement conditions
- 2. Inform English Heritage and PCA that ground works are to commence on site.
- 3. Mark out the positions of the piled basement wall and with a 360 excavator remove from the ground any obstructions (accompanied by watching brief).
- 4. Once the ground is cleared of obstructions mark the exact position of the piles and commence piling in the marked locations (no archaeological attendance required).
- 5. Piles will be sequenced such that on any one day no two piles will be within 2 diameters of each other (450mm diameter).
- 6. Following the completion of the piling a trench (1200mm wide by 500mm deep) will be excavated each side of the pile and blinded with concrete (no archaeological attendance required).
- 7. The tops of the piles will then be cropped to allow the ring beam to be constructed (no archaeological attendance required).
- 8. The ring beam will be a reinforced steel cage tied to the reinforcement projecting form the pile.
- 9. Upon the steel reinforcement being in place, the ring beam will be formed by shuttering in the steel in plywood boxes and filling them with concrete and vibrating to ensure compaction (no archaeological attendance required).
- 10. Upon satisfaction of the ground beam having cured properly, by the testing of concrete cubes the shutters will be removed and excavation will commence (no archaeological attendance required)...
- 11. The basement excavation will be completed in three phases. The first phase being the south half of the site, which will be excavated down to the top of the archaeological horizon (at approximately 20.5mAOD) under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation will then continue in spits up to 0.25m thick by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under direct archaeological supervision, with an opportunity to record any archaeological features exposed. An archaeological method statement prepared by PCA will detail the sampling strategy and objectives of this work.
- 12. In parallel with the reduction in the south of the site, the second phase in the north will be excavated to the predetermined level (top of the archaeological horizon) and then reduction in spits will commence (under continuous archaeological supervision). Archaeological monitoring will continue until undisturbed insitu natural geological deposits are encountered. Machine excavation will then continue down to formation level.
- 13. Upon the completion of the archaeological work on site, the third phase of the excavation will recommence to completion, where upon piled foundations will be installed as per items 3. 4. 5. 6.7. & 8. above.

**APPENDIX 2:** PCA Project Design for Watching Brief 155 GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF





**APRIL 2010** 

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY** 

## WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT 155 GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

Site Code: GIC09 Central National Grid Reference: TQ 30750 82320

Client: Paul Chadwick, CgMs Consulting

Written by Chris Mayo Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, April 2010 Project Manager: Chris Mayo

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## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology has been commissioned by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting to conduct an archaeological watching brief at 155 Gray's Inn Road, London Borough of Camden WC1X 8UE (Figure 1). This report comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation for the site work. The site is located at central NGR TQ 30750 82320.
- 1.2 The site has previously been the subject of two phases of archaeological watching brief during geotechnical investigations. Firstly the archaeological monitoring of Test Pits A, B and C, undertaken in 2007, recorded sandy silt 'garden soil' measuring 0.85-1.5m in thickness beneath the hardstanding in all locations. Alluvial clay, redeposited natural, and organic clayey silt respectively was exposed in the base of each trench.
- 1.3 In 2009 PCA monitored another site investigation which comprised a further four geotechnical test pits It recorded natural strata below possible redeposited natural and a possible channel. Sealing these horizons were deposits of 18th century topsoil with varying thicknesses, and structural remains dating from the 19th century.
- 1.4 A report from the first site investigation, compiled by Lewis Howdle Limited, Consulting Structural Engineers (2007) includes a map regression from 1851 to 2005. The street outlines, but not individual properties are illustrated on the 1851 map. The 1878 Ordnance Survey map shows a 'U-shaped' building along the east, south and west sides of the site boundary. By 1896, this building has been deleted and replaced with the structure that still stands in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- 1.5 It is considered that the site may sit on or very close to the remains of some Civil War defences (Chadwick pers comm, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010). One main aim of this new project is to investigate this possibility.
- 1.6 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 256 (North London) indicates that the site is likely to be underlain by sand and gravel of the 'Hackney Gravel Formation'.
- 1.7 The site is located 1.5km to the north of the River Thames at a height of c.20.9mOD. The site is approximately flat, with some 75% of the site occupied by a 3 storey building comprising a warehouse on the ground floor and offices above.
- 1.8 The groundworks necessitated at the site by the proposed development will include pile-probing prior to the installation of new piles, followed by bulk ground reduction for a new basement. Both of these high-impact items of work will be archaeologically monitored.
- 1.9 The proposal will follow the methodology set out in:
  - 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", 1991.
  - English Heritage(Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service), "Archaeological Guidance Papers:

- a) Written Schemes of Investigation
- b) Desk-Based Assessments
- c) Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London
- d) Archaeological Reports
- e) 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
- 1.10 Pre-Construct Archaeology will undertake the archaeological fieldwork under the terms of the 'Code of Practice' of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is a 'Registered Archaeological Organisation' with the IFA.
- 1.11 The site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined in the Unitary Development Plan of the London Borough of Camden. The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

## 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The aims and objectives of the fieldwork are to identify, characterise and record any archaeological deposits and features present on the site.
- 2.2 Specific objectives and research questions comprise:
  - Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site?
  - Is there any evidence of Roman activity on the site?
  - Is there any evidence of Saxon activity on the site?
  - Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site?
  - Is there any evidence for possible Civil War defences which are suggested to have been located in the vicinity of the site?
  - Are there any post-medieval remains on the site?
  - To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The groundworks at the site can be segmented into two distinct items which require archaeological attention, as follows:
  - Pile-probing using a 360° excavator, which will include the clearance of any obstacles encountered.
  - Basement excavation within the secant piled wall once the groundbeams and pile caps have been installed. This will be undertaken using the following suggested methodology:
    - The first phase being the south half of the site, which will be excavated down to the top of the archaeological horizon (at approximately 20.5mAOD) under archaeological supervision.
      Machine excavation will then continue in spits up to a maximum of 0.25m thick under direct archaeological supervision, with an opportunity to record any archaeological features exposed.
    - ii. In parallel with the reduction in the south of the site, the second phase in the north will be excavated to the predetermined level (top of the archaeological horizon) and then reduction in spits will commence (under continuous archaeological supervision). Archaeological monitoring will continue until undisturbed *in situ* natural geological deposits are encountered. Machine excavation will then continue down to formation level.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological features which are exposed during the course of the work will be investigated and recorded. The exception to this will be remains which are demonstrably of late 19<sup>th</sup> century date, which will be rudimentarily photographed and mapped prior to removal. Once recorded, the machine will be brought back to conduct further ground reduction, proceeding in this way until the formation level for the development is reached.
- 3.1.3 All machining above the level of natural strata must take place using toothless ditching buckets.
- 3.1.4 Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trench that require examination or recording will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The majority of the investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section.
- 3.1.5 Archaeological work may require work by 'pick and shovel' or occasionally by further use of the machine. Such techniques will be used only for the removal of homogeneous and 'low grade' layers where it can reasonably be argued that more detailed attention would not produce information of value. They will not be employed on complex stratigraphy, and the deposits to be removed must have been properly recorded first.
- 3.1.6 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) will be evaluated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Photographs will also be taken as appropriate.
- 3.1.7 If exposed during the work, the strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures will be developed by PCA in consultation with CgMs, the Archaeology Advisor to the LPA and the English Heritage Regional Archaeological Science Advisor.
- 3.1.8 If exposed during the work, the removal of human remains can only take place following the issuing of

appropriate licenses from the Ministry of Justice.

3.1.9 If exposed during the work, all gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the 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.

#### 3.2 Access and Safety

- 3.2.1 CgMs will notify the Archaeology Advisor to the LPA in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork.
- 3.2.2 Reasonable access to the site will be granted to the Archaeology Advisor to the LPA and other representatives of the Council who wish to be satisfied, though site inspections, that the archaeological works are being conducted to proper professional standards and in accordance with the agreements made. Full access is also provided for the Client and its agents.
- 3.2.3 All relevant health and safety legislation, CDM, COSHH regulations and codes of practice will be respected. This requirement constitutes one of the non-archaeological requirements on the excavation design.
- 3.2.4 There is a duty of care for the applicant to provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before site works commence. At the time of writing PCA have not been supplied with a contamination report, although it is not considered that ground contaminants may be present based on historical usage of the site. PCA have not been supplied with a service plan showing the presence of known services at the site.
- 3.2.5 PCA will use existing on-site welfare and accommodation facilities provided by the client's on-site contractors.
- 3.2.6 PCAs Health and Safety Policy will be followed at all times. A Risk Assessment will be prepared by PCA. All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be respected.
- 3.2.7 All machine movements onto and within the site will be monitored by an assigned banksman.
- 3.2.8 PCA have not been informed that there are any listed buildings, areas of ecological importance public rights of way or trees protected by TPOs on the site.
- 3.2.9 The client, or his agent, will be responsible for the provision of site perimeter fencing and all signage.

## 4 RECORDING SYSTEMS

#### 4.1 Site Code

4.1.1 A unique-number site code was obtained from the Museum of London for the most recent site investigation in 2009, GIC09. It is expected that the same code will be retained for use by PCA during the forthcoming site works.

#### 4.2 Site Records

- 4.2.1 The recording systems adopted during the investigations will be fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in the London Borough of Camden, that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS 1994). No alternative recording system will be adopted without the prior agreement with the Archaeology Advisor to the LPA.
- 4.2.2 The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed will be entered onto prepared *proforma* recording sheets which include the same fields of entry as are found on the recording sheets of the Museum of London. Sample recording sheets, sample registers, finds 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.
- 4.2.3 A 'site location plan' indicating the site north and based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the investigation area and National Grid Reference. All sections should be located on plan with OS coordinates. The location of the OS bench marks used and the site TBM will also be indicated.
- 4.2.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits as revealed in the investigation 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 site, and the information will be digitised for eventual CAD application.
- 4.2.5 At least one long section will be drawn or a representative part including a profile of the top of the natural deposits if exposed (extrapolated from cut features etc., if the trench has not been fully excavated). Other sections, including the half-sections of individual layers or features may be drawn as appropriate to 1:10 or 1:20.
- 4.2.6 The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

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#### 4.3 Stratigraphic Matrix

4.3.1 A '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.

#### 4.4 Photographic Record

- 4.4.1 A full 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 investigation. The transparencies will be mounted in suitable frames for long-term curation in preparation for deposition with the archive.
- 4.4.2 Digital shots of the excavation areas will also be taken in order to provide a quick and easily accessible visual record of the site.

## 5 TREATMENT OF FINDS AND SAMPLES

- 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, structure and environment. Sample size should take into account the frequency with which material is likely to occur. Bulk sieving should be employed both for recovery of environmental evidence to ensure that complete samples of artefactual evidence are collected for significant deposits.
- 5.2 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, pollen, diatoms, animal bone and human burials) will be developed in consultation with the GLAAS advisor for the LPA. Subsequent on site work and analysis of the processed samples and remains will be undertaken by, or in consultation with the Museum of London Finds and Environmental Service.
- 5.3 A high priority will be given to sampling river and other anaerobic deposits, such as peat, where organic materials may be preserved.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 All finds retrieval policies of the Museum of London will be adopted and all identified finds and artefacts will be retained according to the stated selection retention and retrieval policy appropriate to the material type and date. No finds will be discarded without the prior approval of the nominated representative of the LPA.
- 5.6 All finds will be treated in a proper manner and to standards agreed in advance with the recipient museum. They 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 (except in those cases where the nominated representative of the LPA agrees that this will not be necessary).

- 5.7 Ceramic (pottery, clay tobacco, building material fabric and brick form) reference collections, housed at the Museum of London should be referred to for descriptive and analytical purposes in order to ensure that terminology is consistent.
- 5.8 Before commencing the watching brief the archaeological organisation responsible for the works will confirm in writing to GLAAS that arrangements are in hand to cover all necessary processing, conservation, and specialist analysis and storage of finds and samples.

## 6 **REPORTS AND ARCHIVES**

#### 6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. The finds and records will be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance is set out in the Museum and Galleries Commission's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1992) and *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive. The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for Use in England, Northern Ireland Scotland and Wales* (SMA 1995). For deposition with the Museum of London (LAARC), the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* will be followed.
- 6.1.2 If the finds are not to be donated to the appropriate Museum (LAARC), arrangements will be made for a comprehensive record of all relevant materials (including detailed drawings, photographs and descriptions of individual finds), which can instead constitute the archaeological archive.
- 6.1.3 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, including a copy of all reports relating to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent before transfer to LAARC. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 6.1.4 United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) will be followed.
- 6.1.5 A short summary of the results of the work, even if negative, will be bound into the client report for submission to the LPA and the Greater London SMR along with the GLSMR report form as soon as possible after the completion of archaeological works.
- 6.1.6 Minimum requirements for public dissemination is for OASIS report forms to be submitted to the OASIS Project as soon as possible of within 6 months of completion of fieldwork, and the provision of a short paragraph summary of the results for publication in the *London Archaeologist: Excavation Round-Up*. 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.

There is a need to format reports so that the details of the proposed development impact can be separated from the information and enable all archaeological information to be made available to the GLSMR within 6 months of the completion of fieldwork. A copy of the client report will be sent to the Local Studies Library.

6.1.7 Where the mentioned 'phase 2' review indicates the need for further assessment and analysis the recommendations set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects 1991 will be followed.

#### 6.2 Report

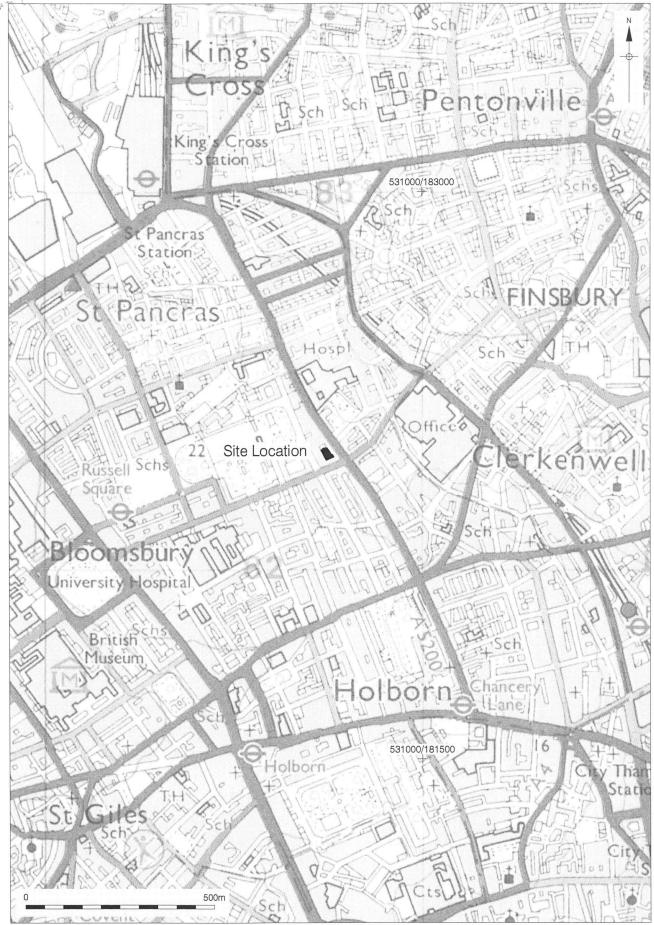
- 6.2.1 Not withstanding details included above all fieldwork and results will be fully recorded and an Watching Brief Report prepared. Copies of the report will be forwarded to CgMs Consulting for appropriate distribution, except to the local studies library and HER, which PCA will take responsibility for.
- 6.2.2 The report will include the following items:
  - Non-technical summary;
  - Introduction;
  - Planning Background;
  - Archaeological and historical background;
  - Topography of the site;
  - Research objectives;
  - Methodology;
  - The results of the monitoring exercise and their significance;
  - An assessment of the results against original expectations and a review of the effectiveness of the evaluation strategy;
  - Statement of potential of the archaeology;
  - Conclusions;
  - Bibliography;
  - Acknowledgements;
  - OASIS form.
- 6.2.3 It is intended that PCA will provide CgMs with a draft copy of the watching brief report for comment within 3 weeks of the completion of the watching brief, to then be provided to the Archaeology Advisor to the LPA.

## 7 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

- 7.1 The day to day direction of the fieldwork will be undertaken by a member of staff who has considerable experience of working in the urban environment and with an understanding of the landscape issues associated with this site.
- 7.2 The archaeological team will be selected from current staff and will primarily be a supervisor, with a back-up team of additional supervisors, archaeologists, surveyor and photographer as necessary.
- 7.3 The duration of the fieldwork is expected to last over a period of up to 4 weeks, during which time it is expected that there will be 2 weeks of continuous presence followed by 2 weeks of ad hoc presence. A start date has yet to be agreed.
- A standard working day is 08.00 16.30. A morning and afternoon tea break and 45-minute lunch break are included within this period. Any workings outside of these times are considered to be overtime.
  Overtime rates are 150% Monday-Friday & all day Saturday, 200% Sunday and Bank Holidays.
- 7.5 Provision for accommodation and full welfare facilities for the attendant archaeologist team will be provided by the client.
- 7.6 The fieldwork will be monitored by Kim Stabler, Archaeology Advisor to the LPA.
- 7.7 The Health and Safety policies of Pre-Construct Archaeology will be followed and in accordance with all statutory regulations. Acknowledgement will be made to existing site policies and procedures.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

 Holden, S, 2009. 'Monitoring of Geotechnical Pits at 155 Gray's Inn Road, London Borough of Camden', unpub rep for PCA
 Lewis Howdle Limited 2007 Site Investigation Unpublished client report



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Figure 1 Site Location 1:10,000 at A4



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