

THE OLD DAIRY, WAKEFIELD STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN WC1

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

CENTRAL NGR: TQ 3040 8247

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: WX Investments Limited

PREPARED BY TIM BRADLEY, PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

12th December 2014

Version 2

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	2
2	BACKGROUND	2
3	RESEARCH DESIGN.....	3
4	SITE METHODOLOGY	4
5	RECORDING SYSTEMS.....	6
6	TREATMENT OF FINDS AND SAMPLES	7
7	ARCHIVES AND REPORTS	8
8	SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF EXCAVATION TEAM.....	9
9	PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.....	9
	Figure 1: Proposed Trench Locations.....	10

Contractor:

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7733 7896

Email: tbradley@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
December 2014**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited has been commissioned by WX Investments Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 7a Wakefield Street, Bloomsbury, London Borough of Camden, WC1.
- 1.2 This document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing the methodology by which the evaluation will be undertaken. This is the first stage of archaeological investigation. If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified then a further stage of investigation will be specified in an additional written scheme of investigation.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by Tim Bradley of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA), to detail a methodology by which an archaeological evaluation will be undertaken on land at The Old Dairy, Wakefield Street, London Borough of Camden.
- 2.2 The site is currently occupied by the Old Dairy, previously a distribution warehouse, currently being used as an art centre. The site is located at 7 Wakefield Street and covers 0.2 hectares. Its boundaries are defined by St George's Gardens to the east and south, Georgian terraced housing fronting the south side of Regent Square to the north and the Buddhist centre and a new building fronting Wakefield Street to the west. The National Grid Reference for the study site is TQ 3040 8247.
- 2.3 An archaeological desk based assessment of the site has been carried out by PCA¹. A summary of the archaeological potential as presented in that report is reproduced below:

General

- *The evidence of archaeological, cartographic and documentary evidence suggests that the study site has only been subject to changing land usage during the post-medieval period and archaeological remains of earlier dates are not anticipated to be greatly represented, if at all, on the study site.*

Prehistoric

- *The GLHER search revealed an absence of prehistoric find spots within the 250m search radius and whilst this may simply be a consequence of prehistoric archaeology not being encountered or recognised to date, it is probable that prehistoric archaeology should not be encountered on site. As a consequence the archaeological potential for the prehistoric periods is considered **low**.*

Roman

- *The GLHER search revealed an absence of Roman find spots within the 250m search radius and the site lay some distance outside closest major settlement of Londinium. As a consequence the archaeological potential for the Roman period is considered **low**.*

Saxon & Medieval

- *The GLHER revealed no medieval deposits within a 250m radius of the study site and documentary evidence is indicative of the site lying within an undeveloped rural landscape during the Saxon and medieval periods. Therefore the archaeological potential for the Saxon and medieval periods is considered **low**.*

Post-Medieval

- *Cartographic and archaeological evidence has demonstrated that the site was developed from the end of the 18th century as it became part of the expansion of London. Initially used for gravel and*

¹Langthorne, J. 2010 *An Archaeological Desktop Assessment of 7 Wakefield Street, Bloomsbury, London Borough of Camden WC1*
PCA unpublished report

brick clay extraction, the site eventually encompassed gardens, a mews, two separate church halls and finally an electricity sub-station and a large milk bottling depot and distribution warehouse (latterly known as the Old Dairy). It should also be noted that boundaries for graveyards can sometimes vary during their operational lifespan and due to the proximity of the St George's burial grounds there is a slight possibility that human remains may be encountered on the site. The potential for the post-medieval period is considered to be **high**.

- 2.4 The redevelopment of site will provide a mixed residential/commercial development in 2 blocks. This written scheme of investigation covers the archaeological trial trenching for the site in accordance with Condition 20 of the planning permission (2011/6032/P).
- 2.5 It is proposed to undertake the trial trench evaluation of the site prior to demolition, as the site is currently a warehouse with generally good internal access. It is also proposed to augment the results of the evaluation with archaeological monitoring of the geotechnical investigations, which are proposed to dovetail with the trial trench evaluation (Figure 1). An evaluation report will be submitted to LB Camden and GLAAS. If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified then a further stage of investigation will be specified in an additional written scheme of investigation. All works will be undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- 2.6 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- This Written Scheme of Investigation (pending approval from the Archaeology Advisor to the Local Planning Authority)
 - Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: *Standards for Archaeological Work* (February 2014)
 - *MoRPHE* (English Heritage, 2008). Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: *Standards for Archaeological Work* (February 2014)
 - *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1990).
- 2.7 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (number 23) with the Institute of Archaeologists and will operate within the Institute's 'Code of Practice'.
- 2.8 PCA has the following accreditations:
- ISO9001 registration
 - ConstructionLine registration
 - Achilles registration
 - CHAS registration

3 RESEARCH DESIGN

- 3.1 This archaeological evaluation is designed to determine the presence or absence of surviving features at the site and, if present, to assist in formulating an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy.
- 3.2 The evaluation will aim to address the following objectives:
- To determine the natural topography of the site.
 - To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity, whether settled occupation or artefact scatters.
 - To establish the presence or absence of Roman activity on the site.
 - To establish the presence or absence of Medieval activity on the site.
 - To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site. Is there any evidence for burials extending into the area of the site?
 - To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site.

- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource, particularly relating to gravel and brick clay extraction suggested on historical mapping.

4 SITE METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 Five trenches will be excavated during the evaluation of the site, two measuring 10m x 1.8m at base, one measuring 12m x 1.8 at base, one measuring 15m x 1.8m at base, and one measuring 20m x 1.8m at base. The trenches have been positioned to provide even spatial coverage of the site. They will be excavated to attain the top of the natural deposits. The archaeological machining will be undertaken using a mechanical excavator. The mechanical excavator will use a toothless ditching bucket to remove modern overburden under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil will be mounded at least 2m from the edges of the trench.
- 4.1.2 Machine excavation will continue in spits of 100mm at a time until either significant archaeological strata are found or natural ground exposed.
- 4.1.3 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.
- 4.1.4 Archaeological evaluation 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.
- 4.1.5 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.
- 4.1.6 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures will be developed by PCA as necessary. If appropriate, the English Heritage Archaeological Advisor and the English Heritage Regional Archaeological Science Advisor will be consulted.
- 4.1.7 The results of the evaluation trenches will be augmented by the monitoring of geotechnical investigations, which will comprise the excavation of 10 test pits and 3 boreholes as well as window samples.
- 4.1.8 The removal of human remains can only take place following the issuing of appropriate licenses from the Ministry of Justice. Should the removal of human remains not pose a risk to the completion of the evaluation, and should further archaeological mitigation be necessary at the site, then any remains will be left in situ, with the agreement of the English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Camden.
- 4.1.9 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.

4.2 Access and Safety

- 4.2.1 The client will arrange access to the site on the notified start date.
- 4.2.2 PCA will notify English Heritage GLAAS in writing of the commencement of fieldwork in advance.
- 4.2.3 Reasonable access to the site will be granted to the English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Camden and other representatives of the Local Authority 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. Full access is also provided for the Client and its agents.

- 4.2.4 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.
- 4.2.5 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 or service plan.
- 4.2.6 Upon completion of the archaeological trenches and approval from the English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Camden, they will be backfilled using the same excavated material.
- 4.2.7 Provision will be made by PCA for on-site for welfare, tool storage and office facilities.
- 4.2.8 PCA's Health and Safety Policy will be followed at all times. A Risk Assessment will be prepared by PCA.
- 4.2.9 All machine movements onto and within the site will be monitored by an assigned banksman.
- 4.2.10 All trench locations will be surveyed by a suitably qualified person provided by PCA using a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation. Should services be encountered during excavation, it will be the assumption of PCA that they are live and will be avoided at all costs. This may require the abandonment or repositioning of trenches in order to accommodate them safely.
- 4.2.11 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.

5 RECORDING SYSTEMS

5.1 Site Code

- 5.1.1 A unique-number site code will be obtained from the Museum of London and notified to English Heritage GLAAS prior to the commencement of works.

5.2 Site Records

- 5.2.1 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 English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Camden.
- 5.2.2 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 *pro-forma* 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.
- 5.2.3 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 co-ordinates. The location of the OS bench marks used and the site TBM will also be indicated.
- 5.2.4 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.
- 5.2.5 At least one long section will be drawn or a representative part including a profile of the top of the natural deposits (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.
- 5.2.6 The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

5.3 Stratigraphic Matrix

- 5.3.1 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. Spot dating should be incorporated where applicable during the course of the excavation.

5.4 Photographic Record

- 5.4.1 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.
- 5.4.2 Digital shots of the evaluation trenches will also be taken to augment the above record.

6 TREATMENT OF FINDS AND SAMPLES

6.1 General

6.1.1 All processing will take place at PCA's Brockley premises, or, if appropriate, those of our environmental consultants.

6.2 Environmental

6.2.1 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.

6.2.2 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 English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Camden, and if necessary, the English Heritage Regional Archaeological Science Advisor. Subsequent on site work and analysis of the processed samples and remains will be undertaken by our own consultants and specialist sub-contractors.

6.2.3 A high priority will be given to sampling river and other anaerobic deposits, such as peat, where organic materials may be preserved. Organic samples will be subject to appropriate specialist analysis.

6.2.4 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 English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Camden.

6.2.5 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 English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Camden agrees that this will not be necessary).

6.2.6 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.

6.2.7 Before commencing the excavation the archaeological organisation responsible for the works will confirm in writing to the English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Camden that arrangements are in hand to cover all necessary processing, conservation, and specialist analysis and storage of finds and samples.

7 ARCHIVES AND REPORTS

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 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.
- 7.1.2 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.
- 7.1.3 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.
- 7.1.4 United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) will be followed.
- 7.1.5 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 HER along with the GLHER report form as soon as possible after the completion of archaeological works.
- 7.1.6 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.
- 7.1.7 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.

7.2 Report

- 7.2.1 Notwithstanding details included above all fieldwork and results will be fully recorded and an Evaluation Report prepared. Copies of the report will be forwarded to the client for submission prior to determination of the planning application.
- 7.2.2 The evaluation report will include the following items:
- Non-technical summary;
 - Introduction;
 - Planning Background;
 - Previous archaeological work relevant to the evaluation;
 - Topography of the site;
 - Research objectives;
 - Methodology;
 - The results of the evaluation 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 (and recommendations following consultation with the Council);
- Bibliography;
- Acknowledgements;
- OASIS form.

7.2.3 The project resource agreed between PCA and the client provides 5 days for the production of an evaluation report, to include CAD illustrations and artefact assessment as necessary.

8 SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF EXCAVATION TEAM

8.1 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.

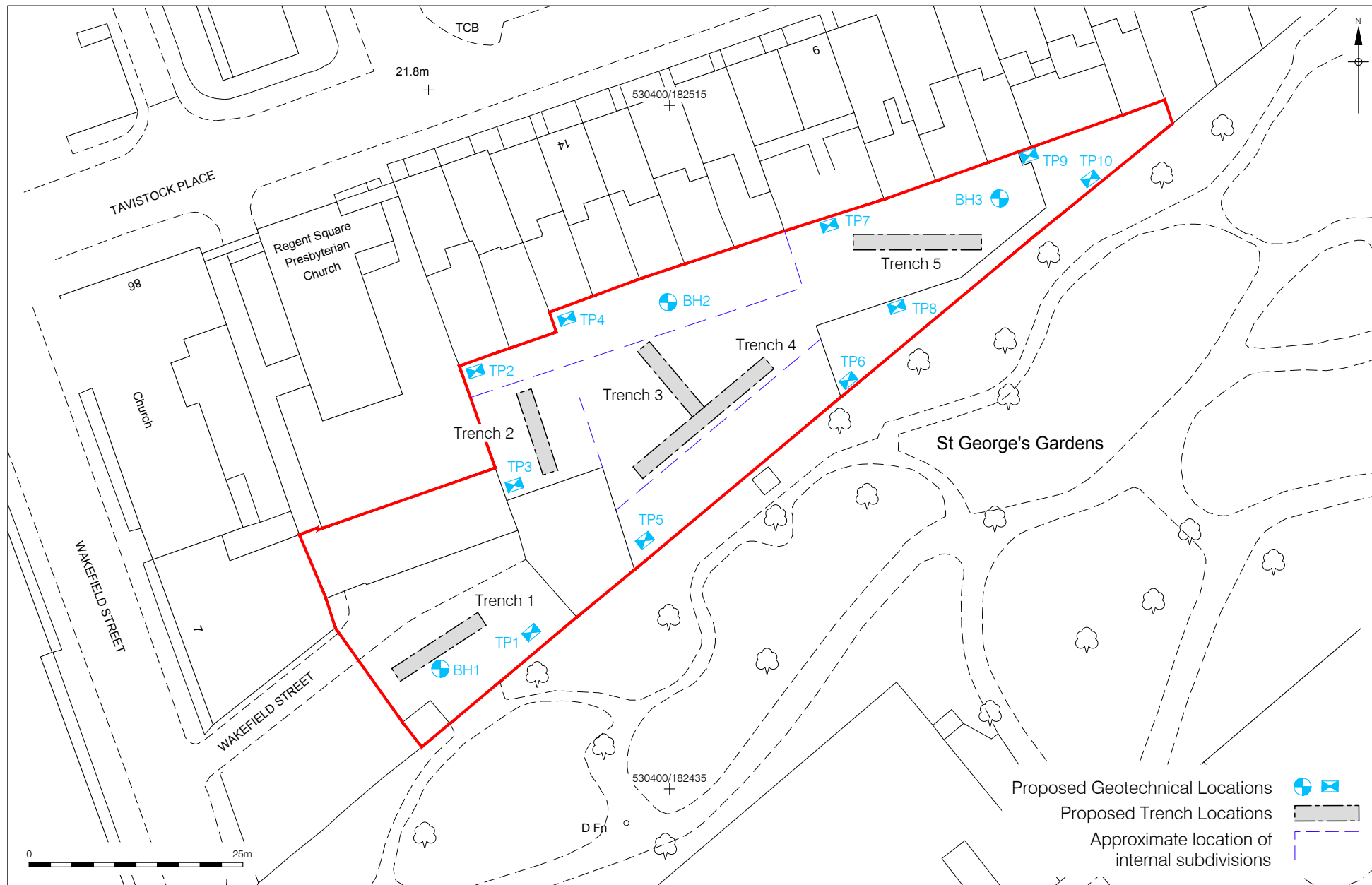
8.2 The excavation team will be selected from current staff and will total the supervisor and up to two archaeologists. The on-site archaeological fieldwork is programmed to take an anticipated maximum of 7 days to complete. Machinery will be provided by the PCA.

8.3 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.

9 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

9.1 Should significant archaeological remains be present and further archaeological mitigation subsequently be required then this mitigation will include provision for public engagement and the dissemination of appropriate information to the local and wider community.

9.2 The Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd website (www.pre-construct.com), particularly the 'News' section therein, can be used to bring rapid visual and textual updates into the public domain.



© Crown copyright 2014. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014
 27/11/14: updated 12/12/14 HB

Figure 1
 Proposed Trench & Geotechnical Locations
 1:625 at A4