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Archaeological Works at Bond Street Station
Event Code XSC10
 Archaeological Interim Report
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SUMMARY

In June-July 2010, Oxford Archaeology/Gifford (OAG) carried out a field evaluation at 65 Davies Street, Westminster, London. The fieldwork was undertaken on behalf of Crossrail in advance of the demolition of the building and subsequent construction of a Western Ticket Hall within the area. The evaluation revealed a channel infilled with alluvial deposits associated with the Tyburn River valley system as well as Late 16th-17th century and 18th- to 20th-century deposits and structures.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 In June to July 2010 Oxford Archaeology/Gifford (OAG) carried out a Test Pit Evaluation in the basement of 65 Davies Street, Westminster, London.
- 1.1.2 A Site Specific Written Scheme of Investigation (SSWSI) for the work was produced by Ian Barnes of WSP (Document No: CR-SD-BOS-EN-OT-00001 (VER. 7.0, 24 NOV 09)). In response OA produced an Archaeology Method Statement (OAG AMS 2010) which was approved by the Crossrail Contract C254 Project Manager.
- 1.1.3 This report is an Interim Statement, rapidly produced following the completion of site works in order to quickly disseminate the outline results of the investigation. The detail of its contents are commensurate with the limited timeframe of its production. A full evaluation report will be produced for the works in due course.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 This data is summarised and taken from the Detailed Desk-Based Assessment (DDBA) undertaken for Bond Street Station (Document reference: CR-SD-BOS-EN-SR-00001).
- 1.2.2 The ground surface topography for the study area reflects the infilled Tyburn River valley. A river valley once ran in a general north-to-south alignment towards the River Thames. The topographical trend is one of a slope downwards towards the south and the river. The river terrace deposits, laid down over centuries of Thames river activity, vary across the site and are absent in places due to later natural and human activities. At the Davies Street site the alluvium-filled former valley of the Tyburn River has eroded through the terrace gravels into the London Clay.
- 1.2.3 The River Tyburn has now been culverted along South Molton Lane. Information based on exploratory boreholes demonstrate that made ground across the study area is between 3m to 5.3m thick at 118.3m to 122.1m ATD and is underlain by Terrace Gravels, varying between 0.0m to 3.5m thick at 115.05m to 117.90m ATD.
- 1.2.4 The Bond Street Station SSWSI contains a deposit survival model. This suggests that Tyburn alluvium will be encountered where it hasn't been truncated by basement and foundations.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The following outline is taken from the DDBA undertaken for this stage of the assessment.

- 1.3.2 There is evidence that the locality of the Bond Street investigation area has been extensively occupied by various peoples throughout time. The River Tyburn formerly ran through the study area, and it is likely that the rich resources associated with this watercourse would have encouraged prehistoric peoples to settle and forage along its banks. A number of Palaeolithic axes have been located in the area surrounding the site to support this.
- 1.3.3 There have been suggestions of a Roman settlement located around Bond Street, where Oxford Street crossed the Tyburn, probably via a bridge. This remained in use for years, and part of a medieval bridge has been recorded. A settlement was located to the north centred around the parish church of St John the Evangelist. Whilst the churchyard may have extended south below Oxford Street the area remained largely rural as evidenced in field ditches located near Wigmore Street and Tenterden Street. This settlement eventually declined and people moved north-west around Marylebone.
- 1.3.4 The area south of Oxford Street was known as Conduit Meadow from 1589 onwards. Conduit Street itself reflects the diversion of a rising spring in the 15th century and implies a low density of population. In 1926 the River Tyburn was diverted from near Oxford Street to the City via a number of conduits. This route is still visible in the street patterning around Bond Street.
- 1.3.5 The civil war defences constructed in 1642/3 and in existence until at least 1647 undoubtedly cross the line of the River Tyburn at some point between Oxford Street and Piccadilly Street. Although the presence of forts close to Wardour Street linked with a possible fort at Mount Row (to the south of the site) is likely, the location of the line of earthworks between these can only be speculative.
- 1.3.6 Urbanisation in the area gathered pace in the 17th century. In 1737 a new Tyburn Bridge was built to replace the medieval one, and it is likely that by this stage much of the river had been diverted into culverts. The street patterning surrounding the study area is Georgian, and rectilinear in form.
- 1.3.7 The area to the immediate north of the Davies Street Box has been defined as an Archaeological Priority Area, covering the predicted area of the Roman settlement, Tyburn River Crossing and settlement around the church of St John the Evangelist.

1.4 Map Regression

- 1.4.1 A historic map regression exercise was undertaken as part of the DDBA for Bond Street. This is summarised below.
- Mordern and Lea's map of 1690 shows the area already developed and the Tyburn entering a conduit head in open fields north of the Tyburn Road (Oxford Street).
 - The 1746 Roque map shows that the area of Bond Street has been extensively built up by this stage. Expansion occurred in a westward pattern from the Strand and Aldgate area, branching outwards. Both the Hanover Square site and Davies Street site have developments on them. These are likely to have shallow foundations.
 - The 1824 Greenwood map indicates a building facing Hanover Square, and Brook St, with an open space at the rear of these buildings. The Davies Street area appears to be completely built on.

- The 1862 Stanford map shows the study area and marks the Hanover Square site as the location of the Oriental Club. The map clearly shows the street of Davies Mews and Haunch of Venison yard.
- The 1870 OS map shows the individual buildings and landmark features. The Hanover Square site shows the Oriental Club facing to the north now, and depicted several buildings in the site. There are two gardens to the rear of the buildings fronting onto Hanover Square. The Davies Street site shows a number of thin long buildings which front Robert Street to the north and Cock Yard to the south. South of Cock Yard there are several more private gardens.
- The 1889 Booth poverty map shows that the study area appears to be pink and light blue, indicating poor to fairly comfortable people lived here, with some red-coded inhabitants facing the streets.
- The later 1914 OS map depicts a number of the buildings which appear to have been redeveloped or extended to the rear in the Hanover Square site. Certainly redevelopment is the case for the Davies Yard site where there are now two main buildings with the eastern one being St Anselms Church. Cock Yard is later renamed after this church. There is a school on the corner of Gilbert Street and Cock Yard.

1.5 Conclusions of the desk top study

1.5.1 Generally, it was concluded within the desktop study that there was:

- low potential for the recovery of Palaeolithic remains from the Lynch Hill Terrace gravel in the area of the Hanover Square Box and eastern grout shafts. Such features, if they survive, are likely to be of low importance if they are redeposited but possibly of high importance if they remain *in situ*;
- moderate potential for alluvium from the River Tyburn, which would have important environmental indicators in the area of the Davies Street Box. This area is also located to the immediate south of an Archaeological Priority Area. This will have a moderate to high importance for environmental information; and
- moderate to high likelihood of locating post-medieval remains associated with localised dumping and ground build-up across the Bond Street site (where new build basements have not truncated these deposits). Trench monitoring carried out in these areas has indicated that archaeological features of limited significance, relating to this post-medieval urbanisation process, survive. These are likely to be of low to moderate importance.

1.6 Field works prior to the DDBA

1.6.1 An evaluation was undertaken by MOLAS in April-May 1992 on behalf of Crossrail and included test pits excavated between Soho Square and Charing Cross Road (TQ29748127). In St Anselm's Place (TQ28528099), natural brickearth was overlain by a peg tile surface apparently associated with a brick wall; a backfilled post-medieval cellar was also located (London Archaeologist Round-up 1992).

1.7 Recent field works subsequent to the DDBA

1.7.1 A Test Pit Evaluation was undertaken at 65 Davies Street by Wessex Archaeology in May 2010. The TPE consisted of the excavation of a series of trial pits and the examination, recording and sampling of the archaeological and geo-archaeological deposits. The following pits were excavated:

- Test Pit 1: comprising a 4m x 4m x 2m deep test pit and
- Test Pit 2: comprising a 4m x 4m x c. 2m deep test pit.

1.7.2 Wessex Test Pit 1 revealed post-medieval deposits in the form of surface layers, dumping and subsequent levelling deposits. A north-west to south-east aligned wall and two parallel red brick drains, possibly dating to the 19th century, were also revealed. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered. These included post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), clay tobacco pipe, glass, metalwork, bone and oyster shell. The pottery was of 17th- to early 18th- century date, whilst the glass demonstrated later activity dating to the late 18th century or later date for the deposits below the brick wall and drains. The report recorded 'Natural' London Clay at 116.23 m ATD.

1.7.3 No archaeological remains or artefacts were revealed in Wessex Test Pit 2. Additional observations were possible on a third test pit (Wessex Test Pit 3), which was excavated by the demolition contractor as part of their works. No archaeological features or artefacts were noted in TP3.

1.8 Investigation Methodology

1.8.1 In adherence to the SSWSI an investigation area (OAE1, see plan Fig.1) was set out as a southern extension to Wessex Archaeology Test Pit 1 (WATP1). The trench measured 12m x 4m. Trench OAE2 was set out between OAE1 and Wessex Test Pit 2 (WATP2). This measured 4m x 4m.

1.8.2 Both trenches had their concrete slab removed by the Principal Contractor for Bond Street (McGees) and then had modern slab preparation deposits removed by mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision.

1.8.3 Trench OAE1 was excavated to a depth of 1m below existing slab level. A further sondage was excavated to the centre of the trench (2m below existing slab level) to investigate the deeper underlying sequence.

1.8.4 Trench E2 was excavated to a depth of 1.56m below existing slab level to the depth of natural deposits (brickearth/Langley silts).

1.9 Aims

1.9.1 The stated archaeological fieldwork priorities for the test pit works were to recover data that addresses the following research objectives:

- To record the landscape development (i.e. land construction) through assessment of the soil stratigraphy;
- To define the location of the Tyburn River alignment, where it survives, in connection with the TPE at 65 Davies Street (WTH – Davies Street box);
- To define levels of landscape change due either to environment and climate or human interaction; and

- To define levels of truncation in relation to adjacent past archaeological investigations and geotechnical works, providing a clear deposit model to inform further development works in the area.

1.10 Trench-specific Aims

- 1.10.1 OAE1 : Provide additional information with regard to the brick-built features which had tentatively been identified as dating to the late 19th century;
- 1.10.2 Provide additional information with regard to the earliest level of archaeological deposits identified in WATP1 (tentatively identified as Tudor); and
- 1.10.3 Provide information with regard to the potential for survival of deposits dating to periods earlier than the Tudor period.
- 1.10.4 OAE2: Characterise the potential archaeological deposits in the eastern half of the central basement area, relating the change in deposit survival from WATP1 (in the single basement) to WATP3 (in the double basement area).

1.11 Finds

- 1.11.1 Pottery, clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material, bone, slate and an iron object were retrieved from the test pits. These have not yet been processed and reported on for this interim report. The presence of clay tobacco pipe, where present, serves to give a TPQ for the deposits.

2. RESULTS

2.1 Trench extension OAE1

- 2.1.1 Trench OAE1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m within a sondage at the southern end of the trench. Alluvial silt (1018) infilled a north-west to south-east aligned channel (1019) cut into the 'brickearth' natural (Langley silts) at 116.3 m ATD. This equates to the alluvial material interpreted as London Clay in WATP1. No finds were retrieved from the alluvium. A single vertical line of black organic material at the top of context 1018 may represent a completely degraded wooden stake.
- 2.1.2 Deposit 1018 was overlain by a 0.30m deep band of mixed deposit contexts (1016 and 1015) which displayed swirling interleaved thin deposits characteristic of soil formations derived from accumulations of silt, dumped deposits and decayed organic material (leaves etc) effected by occasional flooding episodes and the associated disturbance of the soils.
- 2.1.3 These deposits were cut to the west by an approximately north-to-south aligned ditch cut (1019) filled at the base with a peaty deposit (1014) overlaid by silty-sand deposits (1012 and 1013).
- 2.1.4 Fill deposit 1012 was sealed by a context 1009, a layer of dumping containing large quantities of crushed brick and limestone fragments. This in turn was overlaid by a 0.30m thick dump deposit (1006) which was recorded throughout the trench.
- 2.1.5 North-to-south aligned modern brick drain runs 1002 and 1003 were cut through deposit 1006.

- 2.1.6 In addition, the north-to-south aligned brick foundations (surviving to a depth of 0.40 m – 0.90 m below existing slab level) to a substantial building (context 1001) were revealed in the east-facing section of the trench. These almost certainly represent the eastern elevation of a building which once fronted Weighhouse Street.



Plate 1: Trench OAE1 North-facing sondage section showing alluvial fill at the base of the trench and brick earth channel edge to the east (left) of the trench. Drainage ditch 1019 is visible in section to the west (right) of the photo.

2.2 Trench OAE2

- 2.2.1 Trench OAE2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.56m below existing slab level (116.37 m ATD). Brick earth 2013 (Langley silts) was revealed at the base of the trench. These deposits were initially characterised as a possible flooring deposit, but later excavation precluded this possibility. A possible posthole (2014) cut the brickearth in the north-eastern corner of the trench and plough scars were also visible in the 'natural'.
- 2.2.2 The brickearth was overlain by a thick sequence of dump deposits (2011, 2012, and 2006) the upper context, 2006, of which contained a fragment of brick dating to the late 16th to 17th centuries.
- 2.2.3 The dump deposits were overlain by a brick surface 2004 containing brick dating to the late 16th or early 17th centuries and cut by a brick soakaway (2005). Overlying deposits were modern.

2.3 Discussion and Interpretation

- 2.3.1 The topography of the area (see Plate 2), the results of the Wessex Archaeology investigations, and those in Test Pit OAE1, together with the data from surrounding geotechnical investigations (see Desk-Based Assessment (DDBA) Document Reference no. CD-SD-BOS-EN-SR-0001. Section 2.4 deposit survival) confirms the presence of an infilled channel associated with Tyburn River valley running below the Davies Street building. This can be visualised through cross-sections of the site using the available data (see Figure 2 and 3 - sections are located on Figure 1).



- 2.3.2 **Plate 2:** View from Gilbert Street looking west-northwest along St Anselm's Place. The topographic slope down towards the infilled channel revealed in Trench OAE1 is clearly apparent.
- 2.3.3 The date of the infilling of the lower part of this channel is unknown. However, all dating evidence from this and the Wessex Archaeology investigation indicate a period of final drying/reclamation of the channel during the late 16th and early 17th centuries.
- 2.3.4 Structural evidence dating to the same period was recorded in Trench OAE2 in the form of a brick surface. The brick foundations in OAE1 probably represent the remains of buildings constructed during the later post-medieval or early modern development of the area.

3. RESULTS IN RELATION TO INVESTIGATION AIMS

- 3.1.1 E1 : Provide additional information with regard to the brick-built features which have tentatively been identified as dating to the late 19th century;

These are largely interconnecting north-to-south aligned drains runs utilising (and possibly surviving due to) the lower contours of the infilled channel below the Davies Street building. Other brick structures relate to post-medieval or early modern development of the area, and will

be related to structures known from cartographic evidence during the preparation of the evaluation report.

- 3.1.2 Provide additional information with regard to the earliest level of archaeological deposits identified in WATP1 (tentatively identified as Tudor); and

The main alluvial infills of the channel observed in Trench OAE1 appear sterile and are undated. However, the final reclamation of the channel appears to date to the late 16th or early 17th centuries.

- 3.1.3 Provide information with regard to the potential for survival of deposits dating to periods earlier than the Tudor period.

There was no evidence from test pits OAE1 and OAE2 of human occupation pre-dating the Tudor period.

- 3.1.4 Characterise the potential archaeological deposits in the eastern half of the central basement area, relating the change in deposit survival from WATP1 (in the single basement) to WATP3 (in the double basement area).

Archaeological deposits in OAE1 and OAE2 are preserved within the wider contours of an infilled river channel valley, and the lower levels of this valley may have been beneficial to their survival. However WATP3 is also within the wider range of this topographical feature and the lack of archaeological deposits within WATP3 is probably a consequence of the deeper impact of basement construction here.

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1

Context No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1001	Structure			Wall		
1002	Structure			Drain		
1003	Structure			Drain		
1004	Fill			Fill of Drain 1002		
1005	Fill			Fill of Drain 1003	Clay pipe Pot bone	
1006	Layer			Make up layer	Bone Slate Pot	
1007	Layer			Concrete slab		
1008	Layer			Rubble make up		
1009	Layer			Make up layer		
1010	Layer			Make up layer		
1011	Layer			Make up layer		
1012	Fill			Alluvial silt	Bone pot, slate FE object	
1013	Fill			Alluvial silt		
1014	Fill			peat		
1015	Layer			Dump mixed with alluvial silt		
1016	Layer			Dump mixed with alluvial silt		
1017	Fill			Post		
1018	Layer			Alluvial silt		
1019	Cut			Channel		

Trench 2

Context No	Type	Width (m)	Thick . (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2000	Layer			Concrete slab		
2001	Layer			Sandstone rubble		
2002	Layer			Concrete		
2003	Layer			Rubble and silt		
2004	Structure			Brick surface	CBM/brick	Brick late 16 th early 17 th
2005	Structure			Brick soakaway		
2006	Layer			Make up layer	CBM Bone Pot Clay pipe	
2007	Cut			Cut for 2005		
2008	Fill			Construction cut fill for 2007	CBM, Bone	
2009	Cut			Cut of sewer trench		
2010	Fill			Fill of sewer trench		
2011	Layer			Compact soil dump		
2012	Layer			Dump deposit		
2013	Layer			Brick earth/Langley silt		
2014	Cut			Posthole		
2015	Fill			Fill of 2014		
2016	Layer			Crushed brick dump	CBM/brick	Brick late 16 th early 17 th

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Crossrail		Desk-Based Assessment (DDBA) (Document Reference no. CD-SD-BOS-EN-SR-0001).
Crossrail	2010	C132 – Bond Street Station - Site-Specific Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation Document Number: C132-WSP-T1-RGN-C125-00009
OAG	2010	<i>Bond Street Station Archaeology Method Statement. Crossrail document reference pending</i>
Wessex Archaeology		65 Davies Street, Bond Street Station (Western Ticket Hall), Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation (PMI/C262/010, WA Document Number: 72215.06)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Client name: Crossrail

Site name: Bond Street Test Pits

Site code: XSC10

Grid reference: 78845/35811 **LSG**

Type of evaluation: Test pit

Date and duration of project: 28th June 2010. One week

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.

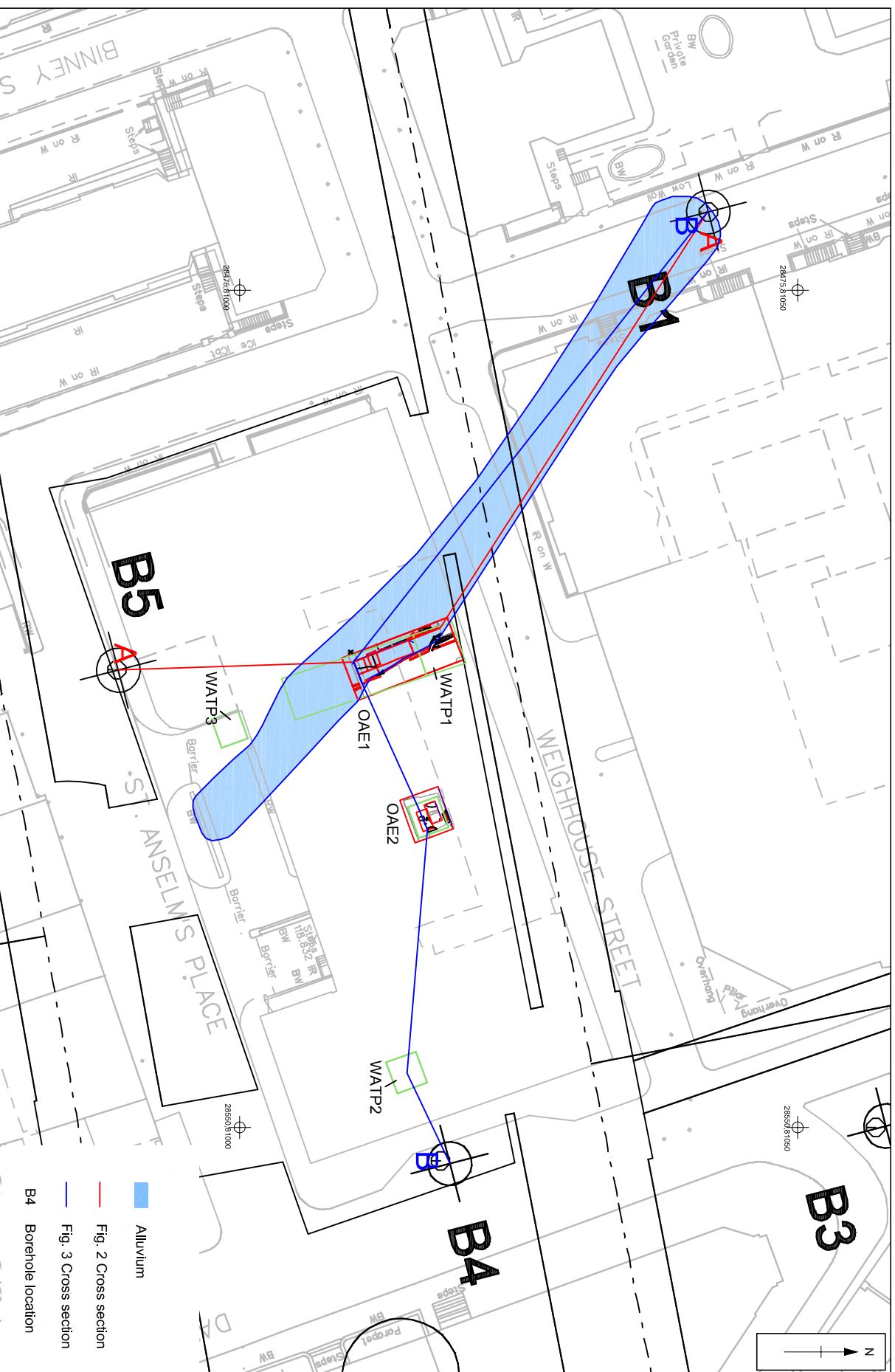


Figure 1 Site Location, evaluation trenches and borehole data

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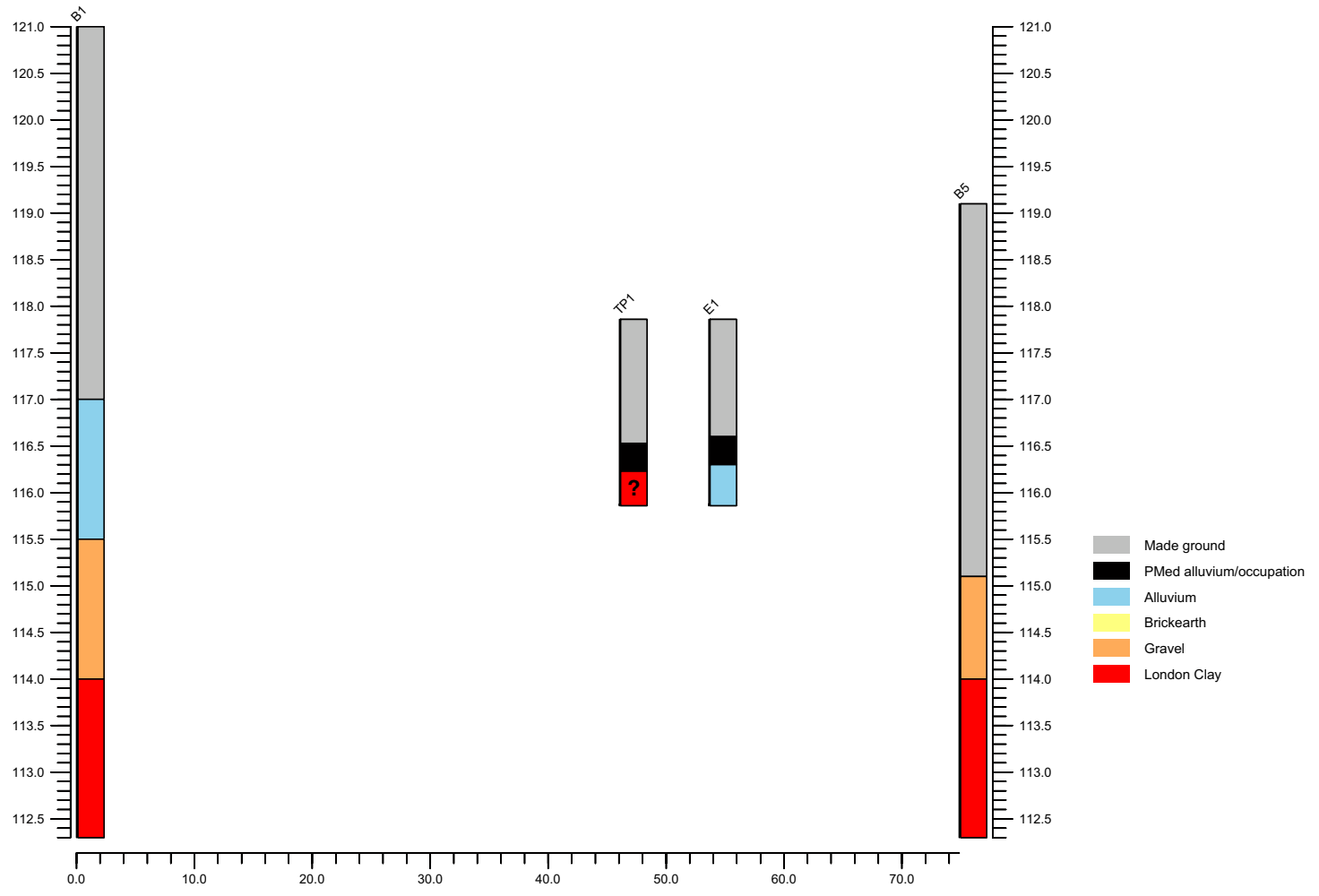


Figure 2: Cross section A - A

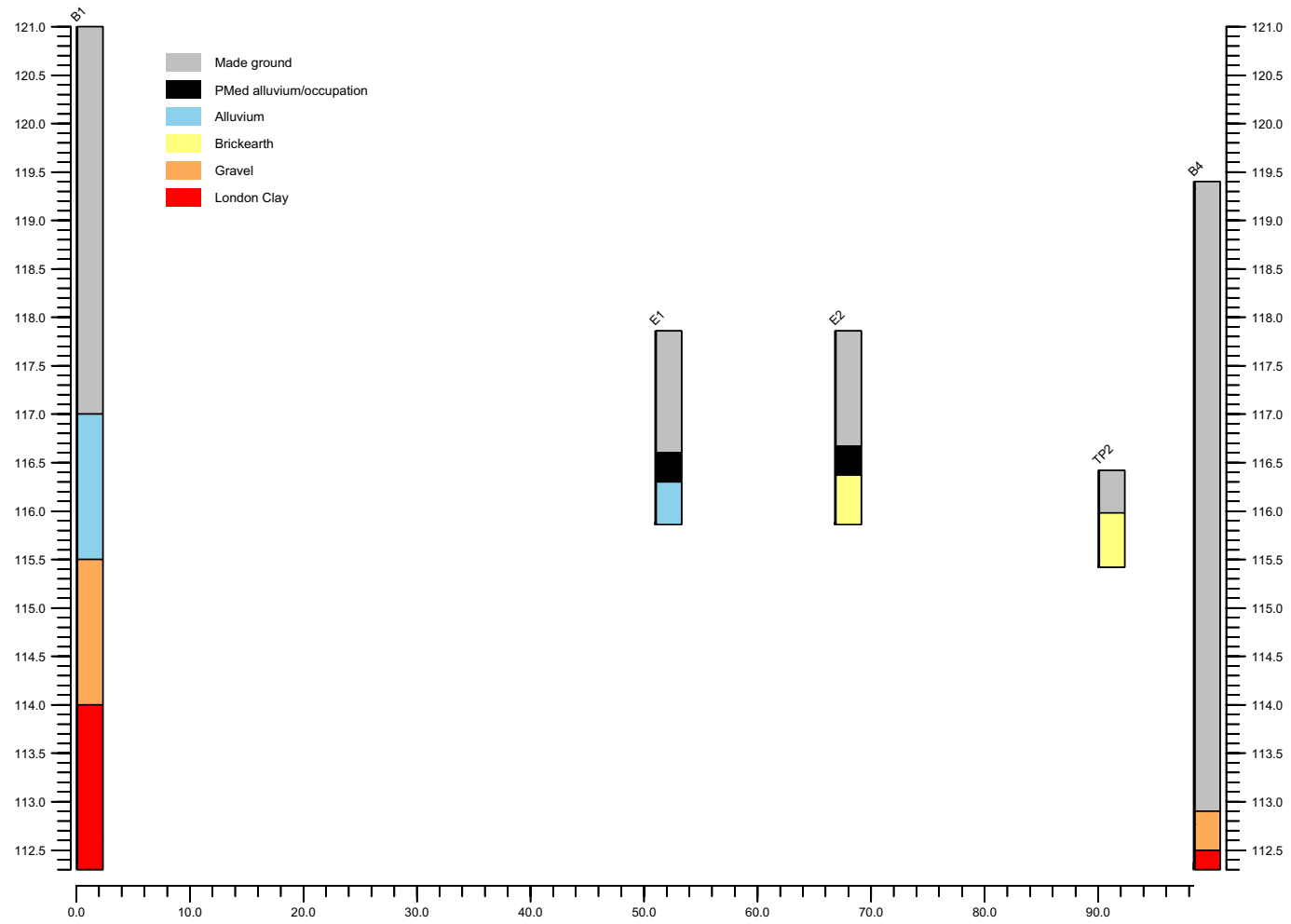


Figure 3: Cross section B - B