



CENTRE POINT
101–103 NEW OXFORD STREET
London WC2

London Borough of Camden

Standing building survey

January 2009



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London WC2**

London Borough of Camden

Standing building survey

Site Code: GCI08

National Grid Reference: 529848 181345

Project Manager

Authors

Graphics



**Museum of London Archaeology
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SUMMARY

The Museum of London Archaeology Service was commissioned by Transport for London to analyse and record structures in front of Centre Point, a 35-storey office block constructed in 1963–7 at 101–103 Oxford Street, London WC2. These structures comprised a ground-level plaza and ornamental pool, a set of steps leading from the plaza to the mezzanine floor of Centre Point, and a pedestrian subway, public lavatories and snooker club situated below the plaza. These ancillary structures are, like the office block, statutorily listed (grade II). The structures are to be demolished in order to enlarge Tottenham Court Road Underground station, and their archaeological investigation and a subsequent report were required as a condition of planning consent for this. The investigation took place in October 2008 and January 2009.

When Centre Point was designed by Seifert and Partners, the intention was to create a conspicuous, modernist landmark at the junction of New Oxford Street, Charing Cross Road, St Giles High Street and Tottenham Court Road, in the middle of a large roundabout at street level. The offices partly oversailed the eastern arm of the roundabout, and were to be entered at mezzanine level by sets of steps on the east and the west. The latter steps rose from a plaza in front of the building, also accessible from the underground station. In the event, the roundabout was used only by buses and the offices remained empty until the 1970s. In refurbishment in the 1990s, the main entrance was relocated to the ground floor, the surface of the plaza being reduced in level slightly to give more headroom.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The structures surveyed were situated on the south-eastern corner of the junction of New Oxford Street and Charing Cross Road (Fig 1; Ordnance Survey national grid reference to the approximate centre of the site: 529848 181345). These structures comprise a pedestrian plaza at street level in front of Centre Point, a 35-storey office block which faces the north end of Charing Cross Road on the east side of the street, together with a subway, public lavatories and a snooker club underneath the plaza, an ornamental pool in the plaza, and steps from the plaza up to the mezzanine floor of Centre Point. Ground level at the bottom of the ornamental pool is at 25.27m OD. The Museum of London site code, by which the records are indexed and archived, is GCI08.

1.2 Planning background and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in a Project Specification and Method Statement which formed the project design for the survey (Crossrail 2008).

Centre Point is located within Denmark Street Conservation Area, designated by the local planning authority, the London Borough of Camden, and is also located in an Archaeological Priority Zone.

The proposed extension of Tottenham Court Road Underground Station, in connection with the construction of the Crossrail railway line, will entail demolition of the plaza and ornamental pool in front of Centre Point, on the west, as well as the pedestrian subway, public lavatories and snooker club underneath the pool and plaza, and the set of steps leading from the plaza to a former entrance on the mezzanine floor of Centre Point.

1.2.1 Statutory listing

Centre Point is statutorily listed as a building of special architectural or historic interest, grade II. The listing description is as follows:

Offices with shops and residential maisonettes, including pond to front. 1961–66. Richard Seifert and Partners (George Marsh designer). Reinforced concrete, that to the ground floor of the tower clad in ceramic mosaic and polished granite; that to the tower and rear block clad in high quality pre-cast panels. Flat roof.

EXTERIOR: 35-storey tower block facing on to Charing Cross Road, with raised glazed link at first floor level to rear block containing shops, offices and flats. Tower of slender form with slightly convex sides. Ground floor glazed entrance hall set back behind expressed piers of angular waisted form. Open-tread staircase leading from the left up to projecting entrance platform. First floor with vertical concrete 'brise soleil' with integral hexagonal terminations to top and bottom, set to left side of facade. The right side of this floor and the remaining storeys have precast external mullions of inverted and faceted 'Y'-shape, which are partially load-bearing and diminish in thickness from bottom to top. Above the top storey is an unglazed viewing gallery beneath a 'cornice' which projects to the building edge and has a faceted edge which answers that of the structural frame below. Words 'CENTRE POINT' in capital letters are set within. Metal-framed windows. Sculpted bronze panel relief attached to wall by entrance. Original patterned floor to entrance hall. Light, single-storied glazed link to rear block at first-floor level with narrower link above (the latter of one bay in width) with full-height armour-plate glazing. Rear block is glazed to ground floor, with 'brise soleil' to first and second floors, forming irregular rectangular pattern in front of windows. Above, 36 cross-over maisonettes on six levels with three 'banks' of projecting balconies and otherwise metal-framed

curtain-wall glazing with opaque glass panels beneath the windows. Bank facing New Oxford Street retains original frontage and internal mosaic decoration by Jupp Dernbach-Mayen.

SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: linked to front of building is a pool, its sides clad in blue mosaic and with concrete fountains set within, whose sculptural 'Y'-shaped form reflects that of the tower mullions above.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Centre Point was one of the most important speculative office developments of its period in Britain. It is an early example of off-site pre-casting, the panels being hung from the frame without the use of scaffolding.

(*The Builder*: London: 1968-: 99-105; *New Society*: Banham R: An Added Modern Pleasantness: London: 1966-: 13-14).

The protection afforded by statutory listing extends to ancillary structures around the building, including in this case the plaza and the other structures surveyed.

Centre Point has been written about in a number of publications about modern architecture and architecture in London, including the relevant volume of *The Buildings of England*, (Cherry & Pevsner 1998).

1.3 Origin and scope of this report

The archaeological work of analysis and recording, and the production of this report, were commissioned from the Museum of London Archaeology Service, since renamed Museum of London Archaeology, by Transport for London.

The work was carried out in accordance with the Project Specification and Method Statement (Crossrail 2008).

The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2001). In accordance with the specification for standing building recording at Centre Point, received and approved by the London Borough of Camden, the pool and plaza were recorded to 'Level 3' and the subway and structures below the plaza were recorded to 'Level 2' in the applicable English Heritage specifications, *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2006).

This report presents the results of an analytical survey carried out on the site for an aggregate total of six days in October 2008 and January 2009, combined with the available results of documentary research.

Within the limitations imposed by dealing with historical material and maps, the information in this document is, to the best knowledge of the authors and MOL Archaeology, correct at the time of writing. Further archaeological investigation or more information about the nature of the buildings may require changes to all or parts of the document.

1.4 Research aims and method of work

The research aims of this archaeological work were defined in the Method Statement (MOL Archaeology 2008), in conformity with applicable planning policies and English Heritage guidelines (Archaeological Guidance Paper No. 3, revised June 1998).

The overall aim of the programme of work was to secure 'preservation by record' of those aspects of the standing building and the site that were of architectural, archaeological and historical interest. The work was 'to provide a detailed record and account of the historical development of this site prior to its loss by demolition, to establish its significance and record its survival'. The following research aims and objectives were specified in the Method Statement:

- Investigate specific fabric of the affected buildings, before and possibly during demolition, with the aim of elucidating its structural and historic significance by appropriate archaeological methods.

- Make a suitable record of the fabric and the buildings concerned, mainly by means of photography and drawings connected to an existing accurate survey of the buildings.
- Scan documentary sources for the history of the buildings and carry out a limited amount of documentary research, to interpret their fabric and understand their construction and use, and any subsequent modifications in structure and use.
- Report the results in suitable form, publish a summary of the results, submit a pro forma report to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), copy the summary, report and records to the National Monuments Record (NMR), and archive the records. In this case suitable reporting includes (a) a single comprehensive report or possibly different reports for different buildings and (b) publication of selected results in a suitable form, possibly in a journal or in a volume in the MOL Archaeology studies series.

All archaeological analysis and recording during the investigation on site was done in accordance with the Method Statement (MOL Archaeology 2008), the Museum of London *Archaeological site manual* (1994) and MOL Archaeology *Health and safety policy* (2008). The location and exterior of the standing building was determined in outline on the modern Ordnance Survey plan.

A digital survey of the site was undertaken by MOL Archaeology, resulting in plans of the Centre Point plaza and pool (Fig 2), the subway, public lavatories and the Centre Point Snooker Club (Fig 3) and the sub-basement of the snooker club (Fig 4) and an elevation of the cantilevered staircase from the plaza to the mezzanine floor of Centre Point (Fig 5). These have been supplemented by hand-drawn dimensioned sketches of details (reproduced in Figs 28–31).

The site records comprise site drawings, the digital survey data, photographic images in digital format, site notes and notes on the documentary evidence. No objects or samples were collected, except as noted below. The site records will be deposited and indexed in due course in the Museum of London archaeological archive under the site code GCI08.

The investigation satisfied the research aims, and it was determined that it would not be necessary to investigate the structures further during demolition.

1.5 Organisation of this report and conventions used

All dimensions are given in metres or millimetres, except possibly for certain brick and timber sizes, and heights are given where appropriate in metres above Ordnance Datum (mean sea level), abbreviated 'm OD'.

Table 1: abbreviations used in this report

BGS	British Geological Survey
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport
DoE	Department of the Environment
EH	English Heritage
GLAAS	Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service
LCC	London County Council
LMA	London Metropolitan Archives
MOL Archaeology	Museum of London Archaeology
OD	Ordnance Datum (mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall)
OS	Ordnance Survey
PFA	pulverised fly ash
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England
RSJ	rolled steel joist
VCH	Victoria County History

2 Topographical and historical background

The site, which comprises the pool and plaza to the west of Centre Point, a staircase from the plaza to an entrance on the mezzanine floor of Centre Point, and a subway, snooker club and men's and ladies' public lavatories below the pool and plaza, lies to the south of New Oxford Street, on the eastern side of Charing Cross Road. The site is bounded to the south by Andrew Borde Street and to the east by St Giles High Street.

2.1 Early history of the site

St Giles High Street, like Oxford Street, follows closely the route of a road which crossed London during the Saxon period. The area where the site stands, to the south-east of St Giles Circus, has been inhabited since medieval times and was initially occupied by part of a leper hospital erected in 1117–1118 by Queen Maud, wife of Henry I. The hospital stood until its dissolution in 1539 and the area was parcelled into smaller portions to be developed with residential buildings just before 1600.

The area in which Centre Point and its pool and plaza are located was part of the St Giles Rookery. The Survey of London describes this as follows (Gomme & Riley 1914, 145–6):

It was one dense mass of houses, through which curved narrow tortuous lanes, from which again diverged close courts—one great mass, as if the houses had originally been one block of stone, eaten by slugs into numberless small chambers and connecting passages. The lanes were thronged with loiterers; and stagnant gutters, and piles of garbage and filth infested the air. In the windows, wisps of straw, old hats, and lumps of bed-tick or brown paper, alternated with shivered panes of broken glass, the walls were the colour of bleached soot, and doors fell from their hinges and worm-eaten posts.

A parish map of 1720 (Fig 6) and another of 1815 (Fig 7) both show that the layout of the area was originally very different: narrow rows of terraced houses were built along the main and secondary roads and formed small 'islands' with small yards or gardens at the rear.

The construction and widening of two main arteries, Charing Cross Road (formerly Hog Lane) and New Oxford Street was crucial for the reshaping of the area in the 19th century.

New Oxford Street was built, along with Cranbourn Street and Endell Street, under acts of parliament of 1839 and 1840 (Fig 8). In August 1838 the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Metropolitan Improvements had drawn attention to the need to improve transport and communications in the vicinity of Leicester Square. The Committee had noted that the main arteries of communication from the West End to the City, namely Oxford Street, Piccadilly and Coventry Street, ended abruptly at their eastern end; much of their report was concerned with proposals for remedying this situation.

The Committee suggested that Oxford Street should be extended to Holborn, and submitted other proposals for new streets east of the City, in particular in Spitalfields. It recommended that all these improvements should be carried out by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests under the supervision of the Treasury. The Committee hoped that, whatever Parliament might decide, 'no objection or difficulty will be interposed to prevent the early adoption of that part of the plan which relates to the opening from Coventry-street through Leicester-square. The present obstruction at that point ought not to be permitted to continue longer' (Gomme & Riley 1914, 145–6).

Charing Cross Road was built, together with Shaftesbury Avenue, by the Metropolitan Board of Works under powers granted by the Metropolitan Street Improvements Act of 1877 (later amended), and was opened in 1886–7, improving communication from north to south between the existing main west–east routes across central London (Fig 9).

The proposed line of Charing Cross Road and Shaftesbury Avenue ran through some of the most poverty-stricken areas of London; the construction of the new roads would abolish some of the worst slums in London, and over 3,000 people would have to be re-housed. The Metropolitan Board of Works provided artisan's dwellings for over 2,000 people along both sides of Charing Cross Road, south of Cambridge Circus.

Despite such attempts, early in the 20th century the area now occupied by Centre Point was still the site of one of the worst slums in London and after the Second World War the London County Council (LCC) decided to redevelop it in an attempt to improve the area (Fig 10–Fig 14).

2.2 Development, function and occupants of the standing building

In the late 1950s the developer Harry Hyams commissioned the architect Richard Seifert to design a tall office block, a nine-storey housing development, both linked by a glazed block, to be built at the junction of New Oxford Street, Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road, St Giles High Street and Charing Cross Road (*Sunday Times*, 5 November 1967). London was going through a period of immense change, with the redevelopment of bombed sites; the LCC was committed to improving the city and traffic circulation (Fig 15 & Fig 16). In July 1956 the LCC approved a plan to re-organise the road layout at the junction of Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road, New Oxford Street, St Giles Circus and Charing Cross Road. Hyams and Seifert were allowed to construct Centre Point in return for providing this new road junction (Fig 17).

According to the Dictionary of National Biography (*Guardian*, 4 January 2005), Seifert did not design Centre Point himself but left it to his second partner at the time, George Marsh, while successfully managing the project background and the relations with the LCC.

The LCC accepted the proposals in 1959, regarding Seifert's project as crucial to the road scheme; in 1958 the Ministry of Transport had issued a grant of £627,000 towards the road improvement (*Architectural Design* 3/69).

Centre Point was constructed between 1963 and 1967 using modern technology that aimed to have minimal impact on the use of the land around it. Centre Point was built without using scaffolding, and instead telescopic cranes were located on the inside of the tower. The exterior was clad with a pre-cast concrete frame made up of Y-shaped components, which were partially load-bearing; Seifert was able to build one storey every five days. At ground level the building was raised up on *piloti* or pillars, a characteristic Modernist architectural device much promoted by Le Corbusier, for instance, which gave a building the appearance of being a free-standing sculpture (*Independent*, 21 February 1990).

The concrete floors were pre-cast, pre-stressed and cantilevered off four central columns. Lift towers and service ducts were placed at the north and south ends of the building to leave an undivided floor area, 50ft (15m) by 90ft (27m), and to provide wind-bracing. The load of the tower was transferred, via first-floor concrete raft and mosaic-faced Y-supports to six primary supports.

The planned roundabout turned out to be unusable as originally hoped, and was used only by buses; the Ministry of Transport changed the road system and Tottenham Court Road and Charing Cross Road became one-way roads.

Hyams wished to let the building to a single tenant, who would then take on responsibility for maintaining and insuring the building. Such a tenant could not immediately be found and the building stood empty for many years. In January 1974 a number of homeless campaigners took over the building, protesting that such a large empty building should be used to house those in need; their actions gave a name to a charity for the homeless in Soho, 'Centrepint'.

Centre Point was eventually let out floor-by-floor and was statutorily listed, grade II, in November 1995, as being one of the most important speculative office developments of its period in Britain (Fig 18).

3 The standing building survey

3.1 Centre Point plaza, pool and steps

The pedestrian plaza and pool with fountains are located on the western side of Centre Point, and act as the roof of a pedestrian subway, public lavatories and the Centre Point Snooker Club (Fig 19-Fig 21). The ornamental pool is located on the western edge of the site, adjacent to Charing Cross Road, immediately south of its junction with New Oxford Street. The pool is constructed of concrete and the side walls are lined with blue and grey mosaic tiles. A raised circular platform at the southern end of the pool accommodates five fountains of varying height, which take the form of sculptural Y-shapes, reflecting the pre-cast concrete mullions used in the construction of Centre Point. The fountains are constructed from fibreglass, textured and painted to give the appearance of concrete; each is identical in dimensions, apart from the central supporting columns, which are of varying height (Fig 32).

The pedestrian plaza provides a formal entrance to Centre Point, and is to the east of the pool. The plaza is paved with concrete slabs and several concrete planters have been placed on it, each incorporating the Y-shaped motif used by the fountains.

An open-tread staircase, cantilevered from its base, leads from the north-eastern corner of the plaza to a projecting entrance platform at the level of the mezzanine in Centre Point. The two flights of steps, separated by a lower landing, are supported by a slender ramped mass of reinforced concrete, cast *in situ*, with glass and stainless steel side panels and a central steel and stainless steel handrail (Fig 22). The upper landing above the steps leads at right angles into the office building, and is similarly supported by a slender reinforced concrete slab cantilevered out from the nearest primary supporting column in the building. All the steps are angled slightly with respect to the axis of the staircase, and the underside of the concrete supports are V-shaped in profile, at shallow angles, reflecting the angularity of the primary supports, the concrete 'brise-soleil' and external mullions, and the overall plan of the building.

3.2 Subway and Public Lavatories

Stairs in the north-eastern corner of the Centre Point plaza and to the south of Centre Point lead down to a subway beneath the plaza. The subway is orientated approximately north-south, and runs underneath Andrew Borde Street, with a third set of stairs leading down to the subway on the southern side of this street and on the east side of Charing Cross Road (Fig 23). At the northern end of the subway is an entrance to Tottenham Court Road Underground Station, the ticket hall for which is located beneath the junction of Tottenham Court Road, Oxford Street, Charing Cross Road and New Oxford Street. The entrance to the Centre Point Snooker Club is also located at the northern end of the subway, on its west side; on the east side is a cafe. The northern end of the subway has tiled walls and floors, and the east wall of the subway, adjacent to the snooker club, has a tiled mural depicted a snooker cue and balls.

The décor of the southern end of the subway is plainer, with painted concrete walls, and the steel frame which supports Andrew Borde Street above is exposed to view. Double-leaf doors at the southern end of the subway lead to the men's lavatories on the west side, and the ladies' lavatories on the east side.

The ladies' lavatories are entered by double-leaf steel doors opening into an entrance vestibule, where a second set of doors, constructed of timber and glass, lead into the lavatories (Fig 24). These lavatories have concrete floors, tiled walls and suspended ceilings, the last concealing the structural steel framework supporting the street above. The lavatory cubicles, with laminated timber partitions and doors, are arranged along the eastern wall, and the wash basins and a drinking fountain are placed against the western wall. The rest of the space is divided into four rooms which contain baby-changing

facilities, two store-rooms and a room for the preparation of cleaning equipment. Each of these rooms is illuminated by way of windows with one-way glass. The men's lavatories on the western side of the subway are nearly identical (Fig 25).

3.3 Centre Point Snooker Club

The Centre Point Snooker Club is situated below the pool and fountains, on the west side of the subway. The snooker club is on two levels; the main basement level is a single large room with a bar at the north end and area for seating on the west side (Fig 26). An office is situated in the north-west corner. The large room has a suspended ceiling and ventilation ducts for air conditioning; like the lavatories, the snooker club has no natural ventilation. The area which contains tables for snooker and pool is at a slightly lower level, with a smoked glass partition dividing this lower level into two halves, with pool tables to the north and snooker tables to the south. The area containing the snooker tables has imitation wood panelling on the walls. Door openings in the east wall of the club suggest that the original intention may have been for a number of small retail units to occupy this site; these are now used as fire escapes out into the pedestrian subway (Fig 27). The southern half of the west wall of the snooker club forms a curve, reflecting the shape of the ornamental pool directly above.

Stairs lead from the pool table area adjacent to the bar down to a sub-basement, which contains more snooker tables. The walls of this sub-basement are covered with imitation wood panelling and ladies' and men's lavatories are located at its east end. A staircase in the north-east corner of the sub-basement leads to the sub-basement below Centre Point.

4 Conclusions

4.1 Research aims and publication

It has proved possible to reconstruct the history of the Centre Point pool and plaza, subway, public lavatories and Centre Point Snooker Club, both from archaeological investigation of their fabric and from documentary sources. More documentary evidence may exist for the early history of the site and for the subsequent development of Centre Point.

4.2 Archiving

Information on the results of the survey will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the Project Specification and Method Statement (Crossrail 2008) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the survey.

In view of the potential of the material and the relatively limited significance of the data it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round-up of archaeological sites in *London Archaeologist*

4.3 Salvaged fixtures, fittings and materials

There was no archaeological requirement to salvage any of the materials or fittings during the compilation of this report. A separate methodology for dismantling, storing and reinstating the staircase from the plaza to the mezzanine level of Centre Point is set out in the Crossrail Heritage Method Statement (HAG-N105-8742-PMG-X-CNS-X-00701-05).

4.4 Copyright

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 MOL Archaeology retains the copyright to this document, and grants Transport for London a licence to reproduce the text and original illustrations in connection with the present development, provided that their origin is credited. Modern Ordnance Survey maps and plans are reproduced in this report under licence and remain Crown copyright.

5 Acknowledgements

The archaeological survey and this report were commissioned by Transport for London, whom the project manager and authors wish to thank. They are grateful especially to [REDACTED] of Transport for London, for facilitating access to the building and supplying plans and photographs, and to the manager of the Snooker Club for giving access. They also thank the staff of the London Metropolitan Archives and Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre for their help in finding documents.

Archaeological analysis and recording, and pencil drawings, were by [REDACTED], and photographs were by [REDACTED]. The digital survey of the building was undertaken by [REDACTED], who also produced the CAD drawings.

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Appendix 1: list of archaeological photographs

Image number	Description
37508001	Centre Point pool and Astoria, looking south-west
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37508018	Cubicles in ladies' public lavatories, looking east
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37508020	Ladies' public lavatories, looking south
37508021	Ladies' public lavatories, looking north
37508022	Baby-changing room in ladies' public lavatories, looking north-west
37508023	Baby-changing room in ladies' public lavatories, looking north-west
37508024	Baby-changing room in ladies' public lavatories, looking north-west
37508025	Ladies' public lavatories, looking west
37508026	Storage room in ladies' public lavatories, looking south
37508027	Storage room in ladies' public lavatories, looking south
37508028	Storage room in ladies' public lavatories, looking south
37508029	Storage room in ladies' public lavatories, looking north
37508030	Storage room in ladies' public lavatories, looking north
37508031	One way glass in the ladies' public lavatories, looking north-west
37508032	Door to the subway from the ladies' public lavatories, looking west
37508033	Door to the subway from the ladies' public lavatories, looking west
37508034	Detail of the structural steelwork supporting the road deck above the subway and public lavatories, looking north-west
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37508036	Cubicle door in the ladies' public lavatories, looking west
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37508039	Entrance to the ladies' public lavatories from the subway, looking east
37508040	Subway under Centre Point plaza and Andrew Borde Street, looking north
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37508043	Subway under Centre Point plaza and Andrew Borde Street, looking south
37508044	Subway under Centre Point plaza and Andrew Borde Street, looking south
37508045	Subway under Centre Point plaza and Andrew Borde Street, looking

	south
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37508047	Tiled snooker themed mural in the subway, looking north-west
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37508049	Signs for a café and gym applied to the tiled wall on the eastern side of the subway, looking south-east
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37508051	Men's public lavatories, looking south
37508052	Toilet cubicles in the men's public lavatories, looking west
37508053	Urinals in the men's public lavatories, looking east
37508054	Urinals in the men's public lavatories, looking north-east
37508055	Storage room in the men's public lavatories, looking east
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37508059	Interior of the store room in the men's public lavatories, looking south
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37508061	Interior of the store room in the men's public lavatories, looking north
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37508066	Doors from the men's public lavatories to the subway, looking east
37508067	The fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking north
37508068	The fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking north-west
37508069	The fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking south-west
37508070	The fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking south
37508071	The fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking south
37508072	The fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking south
37508073	The fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking south
37508074	The fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking south
37508075	Detail of the fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking south
37508076	Detail of the fountain in the Centre Point pool, looking south-west
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37508088	Steps to the pedestrian subway on the southern side of Andrew Borde Street, looking east
37608002	Centre Point pool and Charing Cross Road, looking west
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37608005	Centre Point pool and Charing Cross Road, looking west
37608006	Stairs from the mezzanine level of Centre Point to the plaza, looking north-west
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37608008	Stairs from the plaza to the mezzanine level of Centre Point, looking south-east
37608009	Stairs from the plaza to the mezzanine level of Centre Point, looking north
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37608012	Centre Point plaza, looking east
37608013	Centre Point, looking east
37808001	Entrance to the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking north
37808002	Sign above the entrance to the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking north
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37808004	Detail of the sign above the entrance to the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking north
37808010	The bar in Centre Point Snooker Club, looking north
37808011	The bar in Centre Point Snooker Club, looking west
37808012	The seating area in the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking south-west
37808013	The pool hall in Centre Point Snooker Club, looking south-east
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37808016	The snooker hall in Centre Point Snooker Club, looking south-east
37808017	The snooker hall in Centre Point Snooker Club, looking east
37808018	The snooker hall in Centre Point Snooker Club, looking south
37808019	The snooker hall in Centre Point Snooker Club, looking north
37808020	The sub-basement of the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking east
37808021	The sub-basement of the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking west
37808022	The sub-basement of the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking east
37808023	The sub-basement of the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking south-west
37808024	The sub-basement of the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking west
37808025	The ladies' lavatory in the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking east
37808026	The men's lavatory in the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking west
37808027	The sub-basement of the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking east
37808028	The sub-basement of the Centre Point Snooker Club, looking west

Appendix 2: NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-53406

Project details

Project name	Centre Point, 101-103 New Oxford Street: Standing Building Survey Report
Short description of the project	The Museum of London Archaeology Service was commissioned by Transport for London to analyse and record The Centre Point pool and plaza, a set of steps that led from the plaza to the mezzanine level of Centre Point, and the subway, public lavatories and Centre Point Snooker Club that were located below the pool and plaza, at 101-103 New Oxford Street, London WC2. The pool and plaza, steps, and the below ground subway, public lavatories and snooker club will be demolished in order to expand Tottenham Court Road Underground station, and the archaeological investigation and a subsequent report were required as a condition of planning consent for the redevelopment. The investigation took place in October 2008. The pool, plaza, subway, public lavatories and the premises now occupied by the snooker club were constructed along with Centre Point between 1963 and 1967, as part of the redevelopment of the junction of New Oxford Street, Charing Cross Road and St Giles High Street; the original intention of the development was to construct a new road junction and one-way system, but these plans did not come to fruition. The Centre Point office block remained empty until the late 1970s.
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2008 End: 31-10-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GCI08 - Site code
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	FOUNTAIN Modern
Monument type	SNOOKER HALL Modern
Methods & techniques	'Measured Survey', 'Photographic Survey', 'Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15

Project location

Country England
 Site location GREATER LONDON CAMDEN HOLBORN Centre Point, 101-103 New Oxford Street, London WC1
 Postcode WC1
 Study area 800.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates 529848 181345 529848 00 00 N 181345 00 00 E Point
 Lat/Long Datum Position derived from charts

Project creators

Name of Organisation MOL Archaeology
 Project brief originator Transport for London (TfL)
 Project design originator MoL Archaeology
 Project director/manager [REDACTED]
 Project supervisor [REDACTED]
 Type of sponsor/funding body Transport for London (TfL)
 Name of sponsor/funding body Transport for London

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive LAARC

recipient

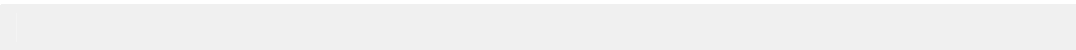
Digital Archive ID GCI08

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Survey'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID GCI08

Paper Media available 'Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Report'



Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Centre Point, 101-103 New Oxford Street, London WC1: a Standing Building Survey Report

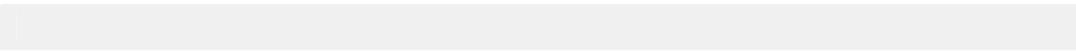
Author(s)/Editor(s) [REDACTED]

Date 2009

Issuer or publisher MOL Archaeology

Place of issue or publication London

Description A4 report for standing building survey



Entered by [REDACTED]

Entered on 6 January 2009

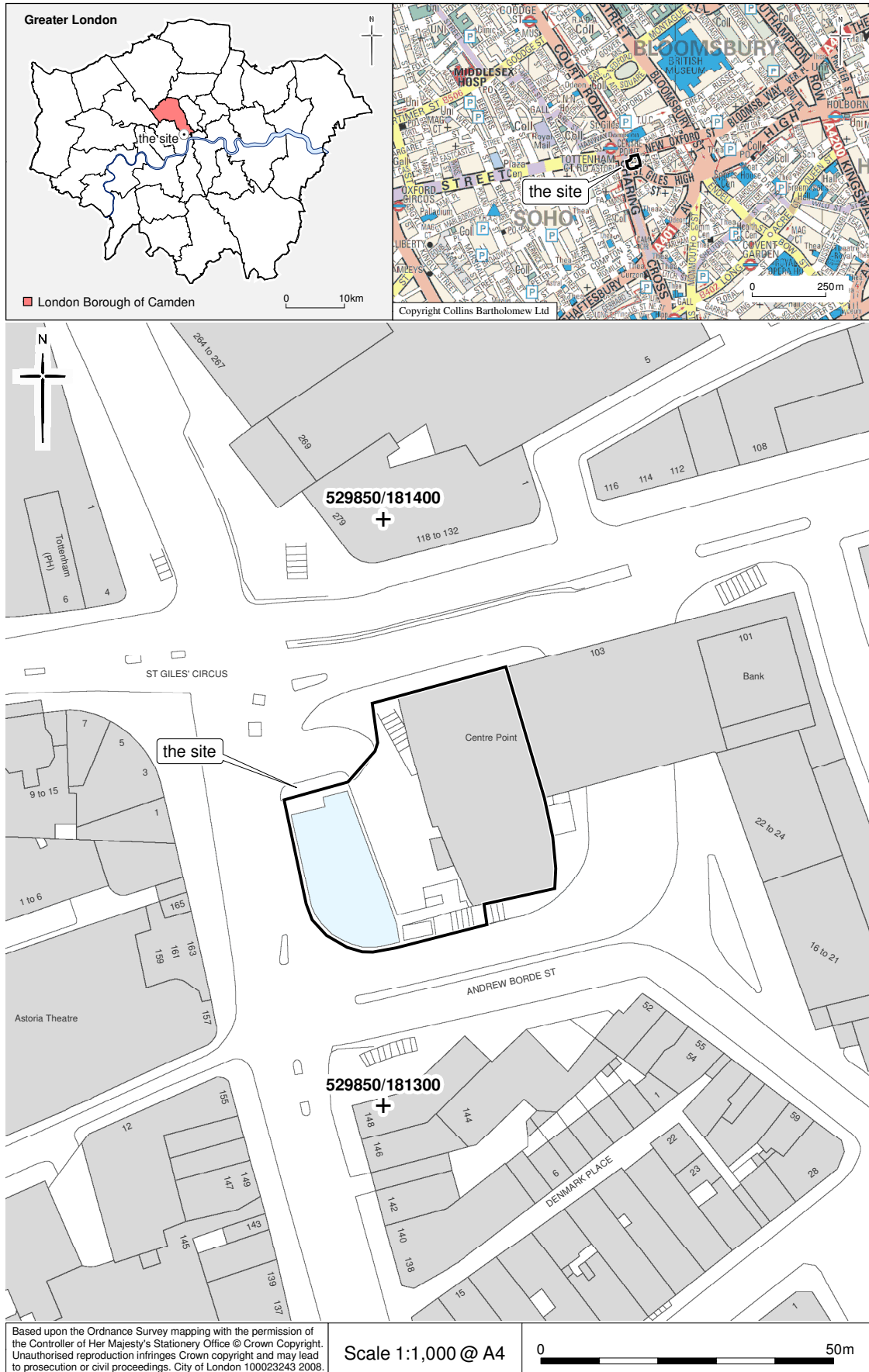


Fig 1 Site location

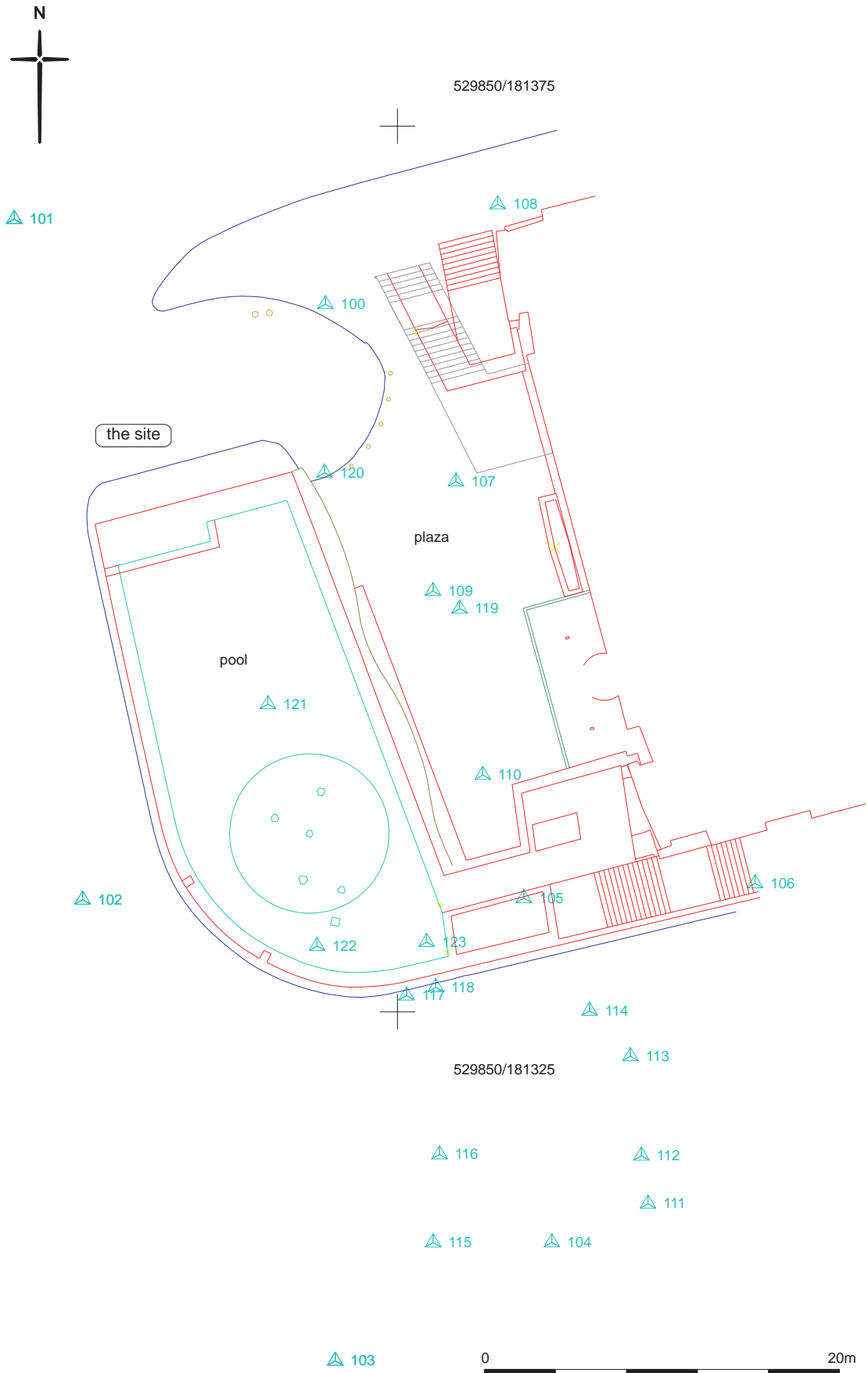
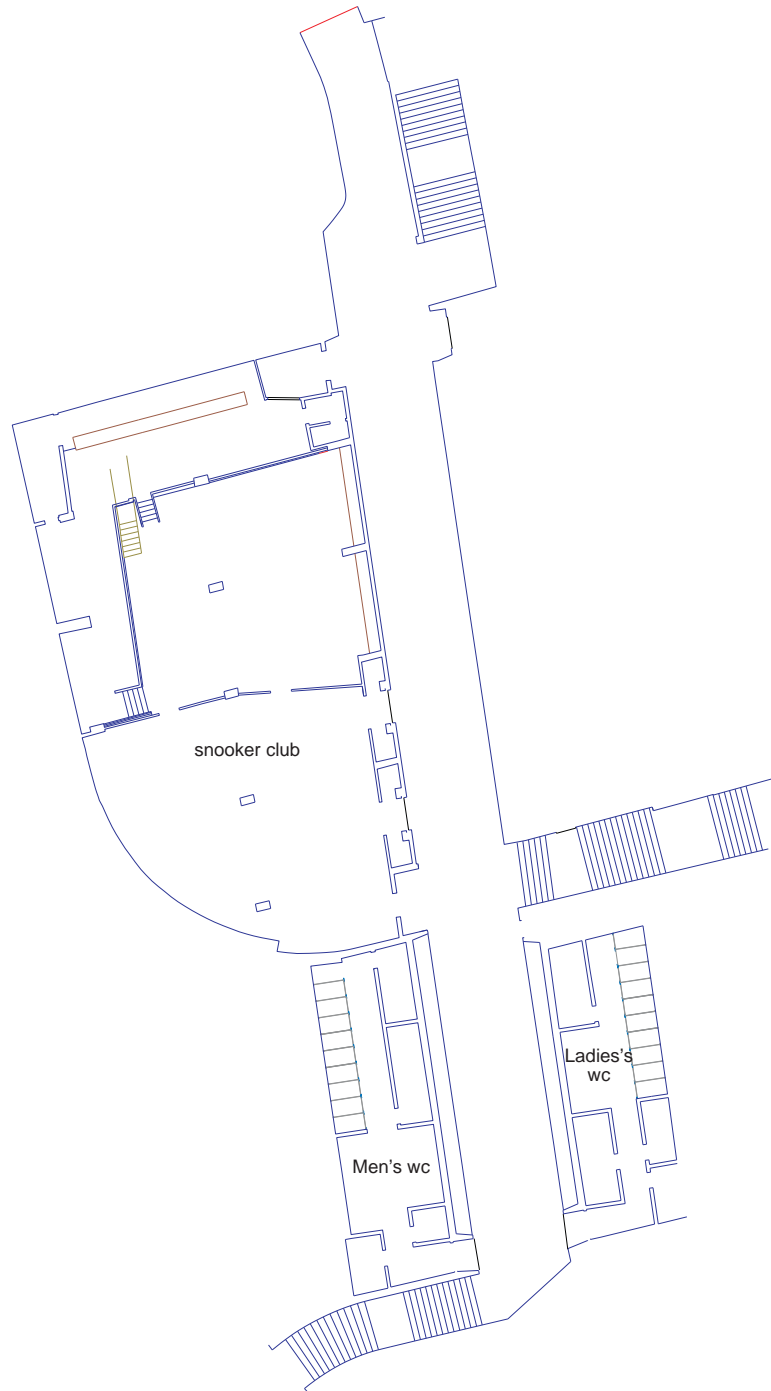


Fig 2 Plan of the Plaza and pool



529850/181380
+



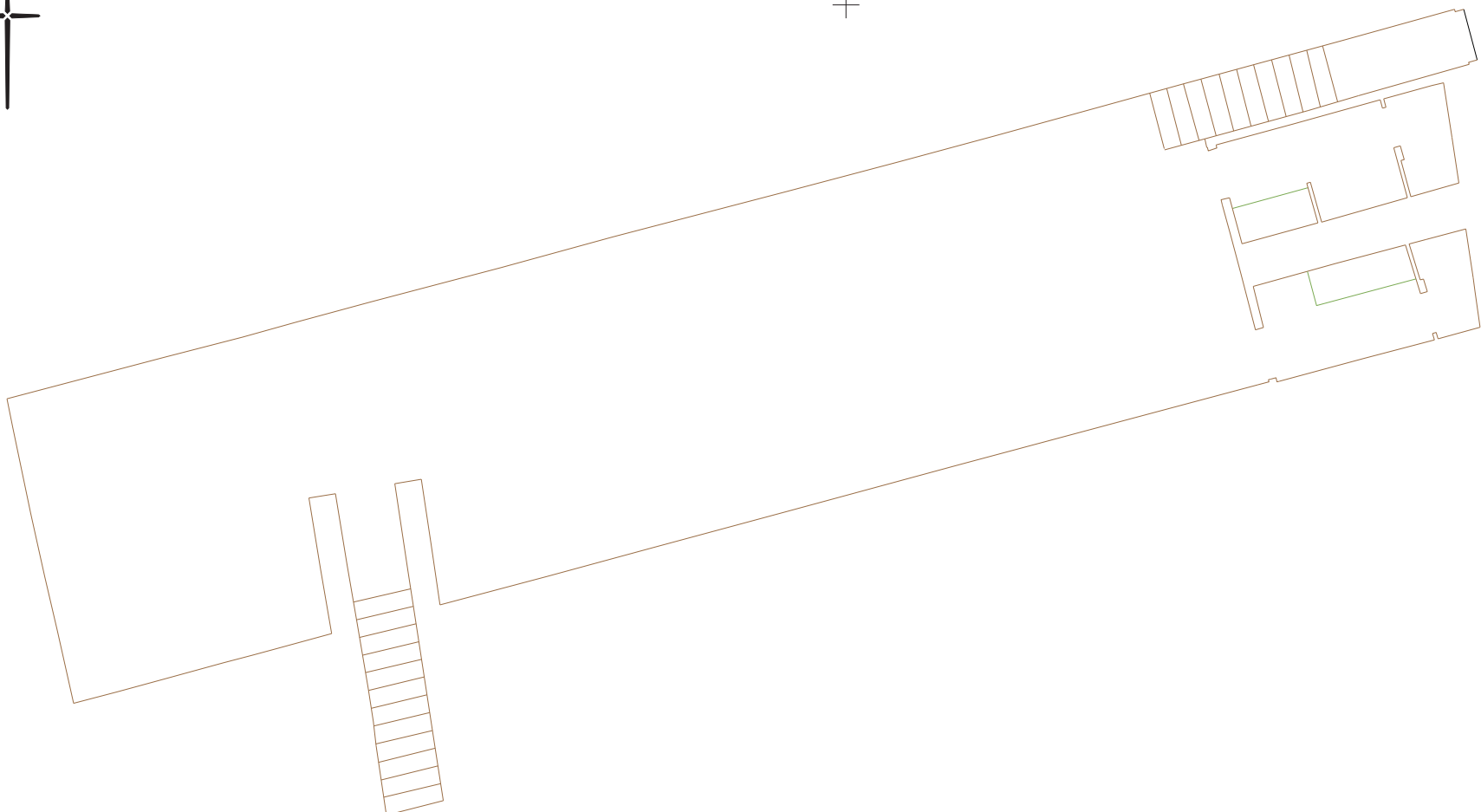
529850/181300
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Fig 3 Plan of the underpass and Snooker Club



529846/181358
+



529846/181345
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CAMD1144SBR09#04

GCI08 Centre Point Standing Building Survey © MOL Archaeology 2009

Fig 4 Plan of the sub-basement under the Snooker Club

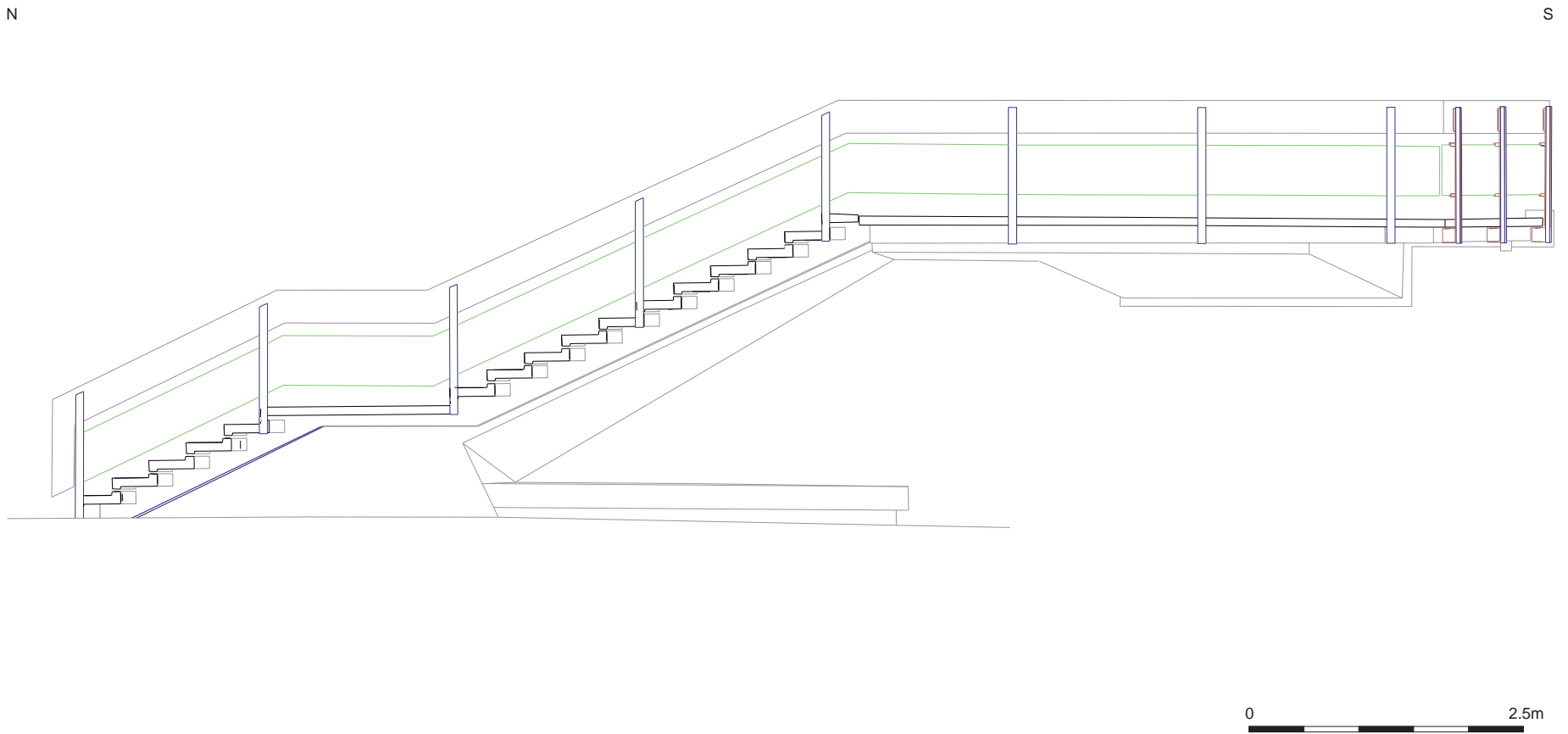


Fig 5 Sectional Elevation of the external stairs



Fig 6 Parish map of 1720

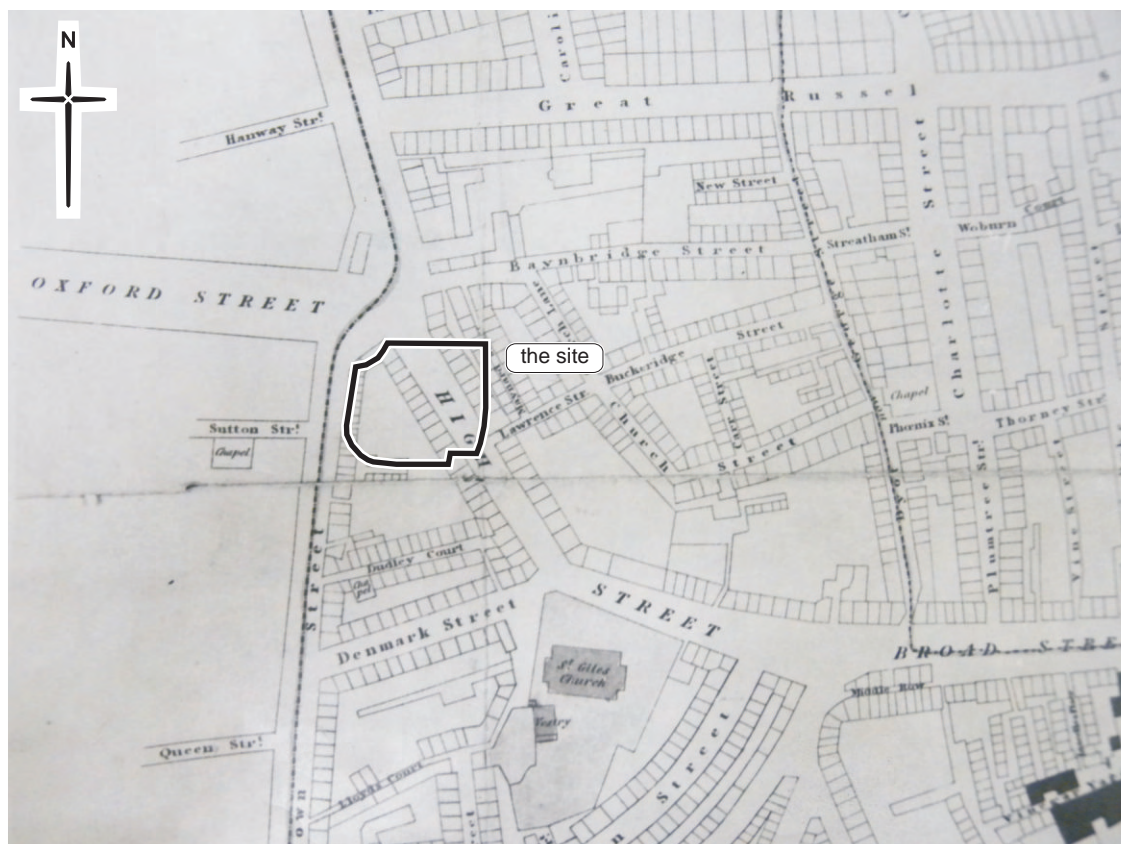


Fig 7 Plan of the parish division of St. Giles in the fields, 1815

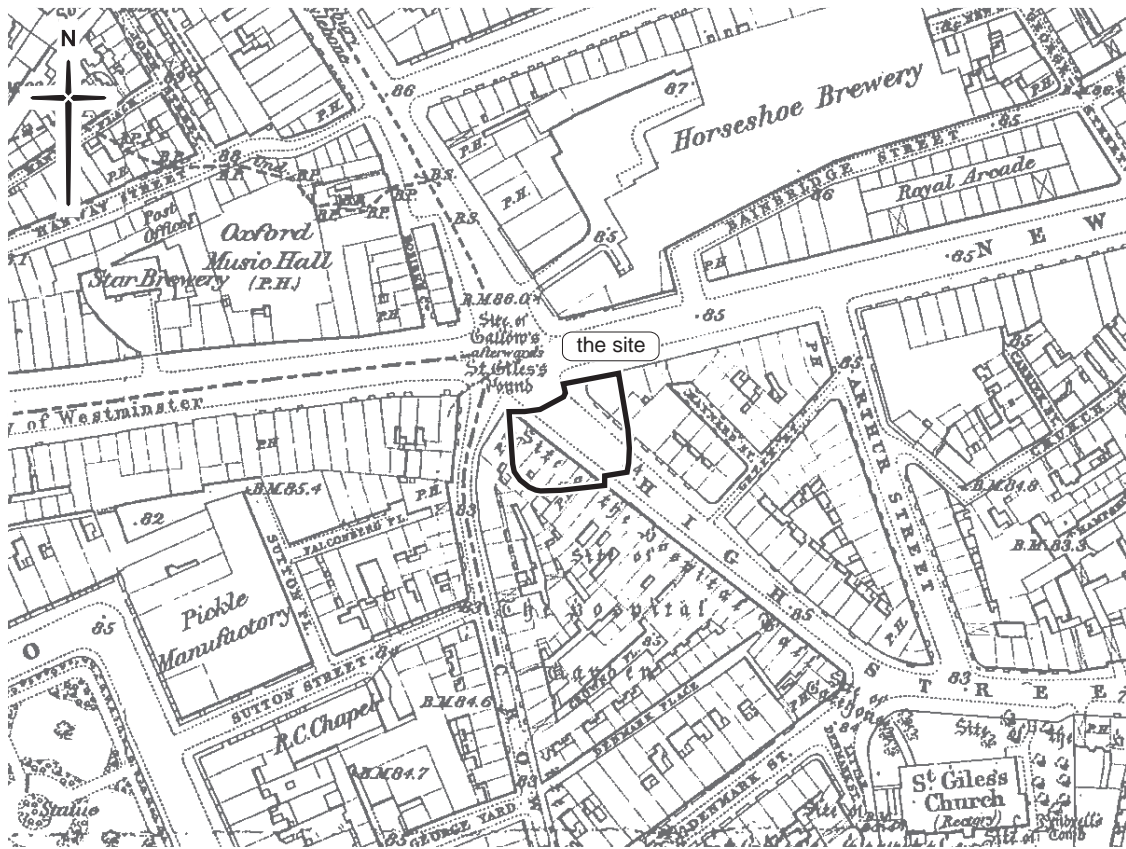


Fig 8 OS map of 1871

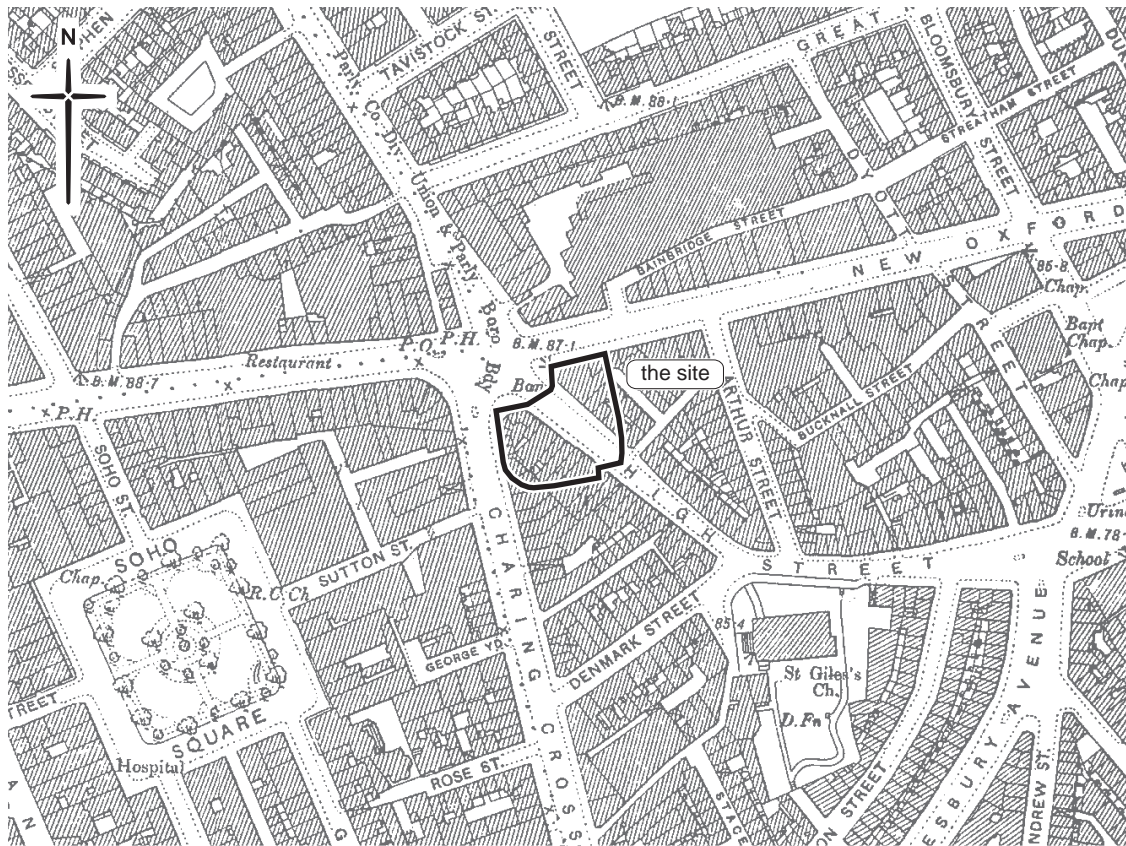


Fig 9 OS map of 1894-96

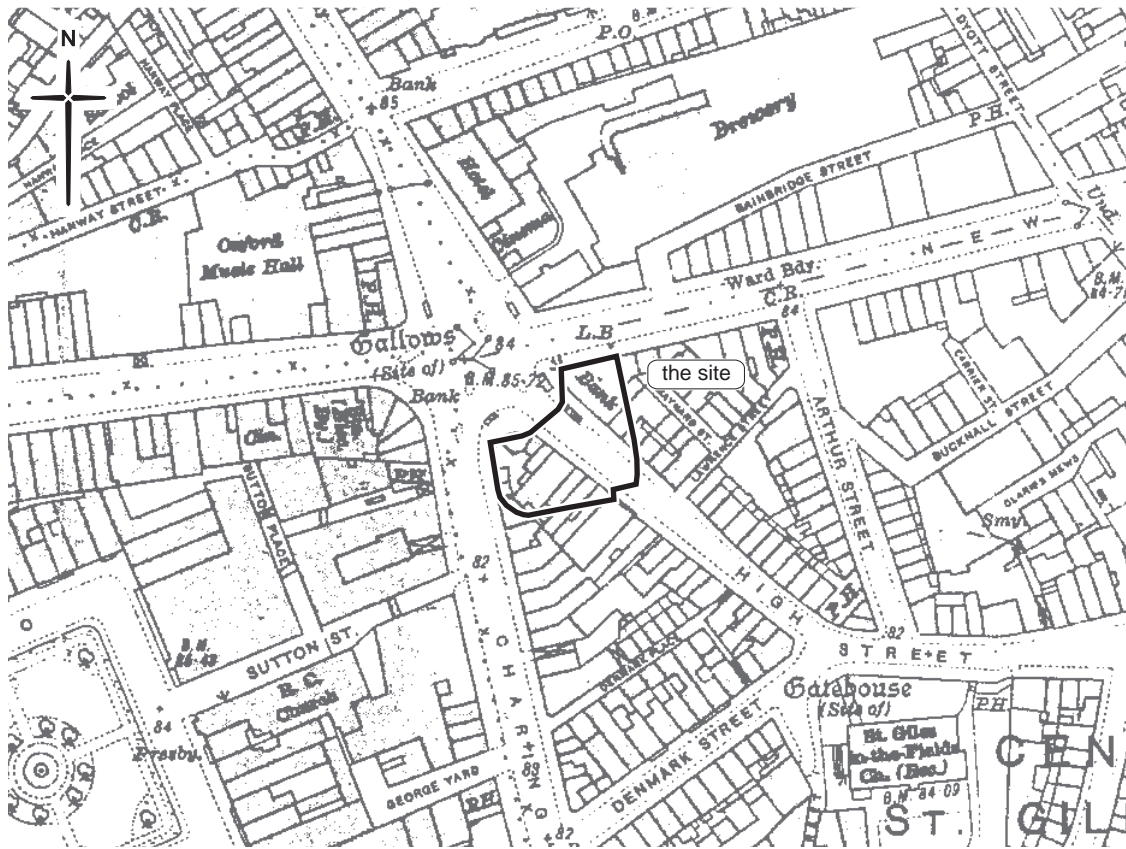


Fig 10 OS map of 1914



Fig 11 OS map of 1951



Fig 12 Sketch drawing of High Street St. Giles, corner of Oxford Street and Crown Street



Fig 13 Lawrence Place, ca 1950s, looking north



CAMD1144SBR09#14

Fig 14 New Oxford Street 95-111, ca 1950s, looking south-east



Fig 15 Suggested roundabout working St. Giles Circus, 1954



Fig 16 Road improvements, St. Giles Circus, S-E sector

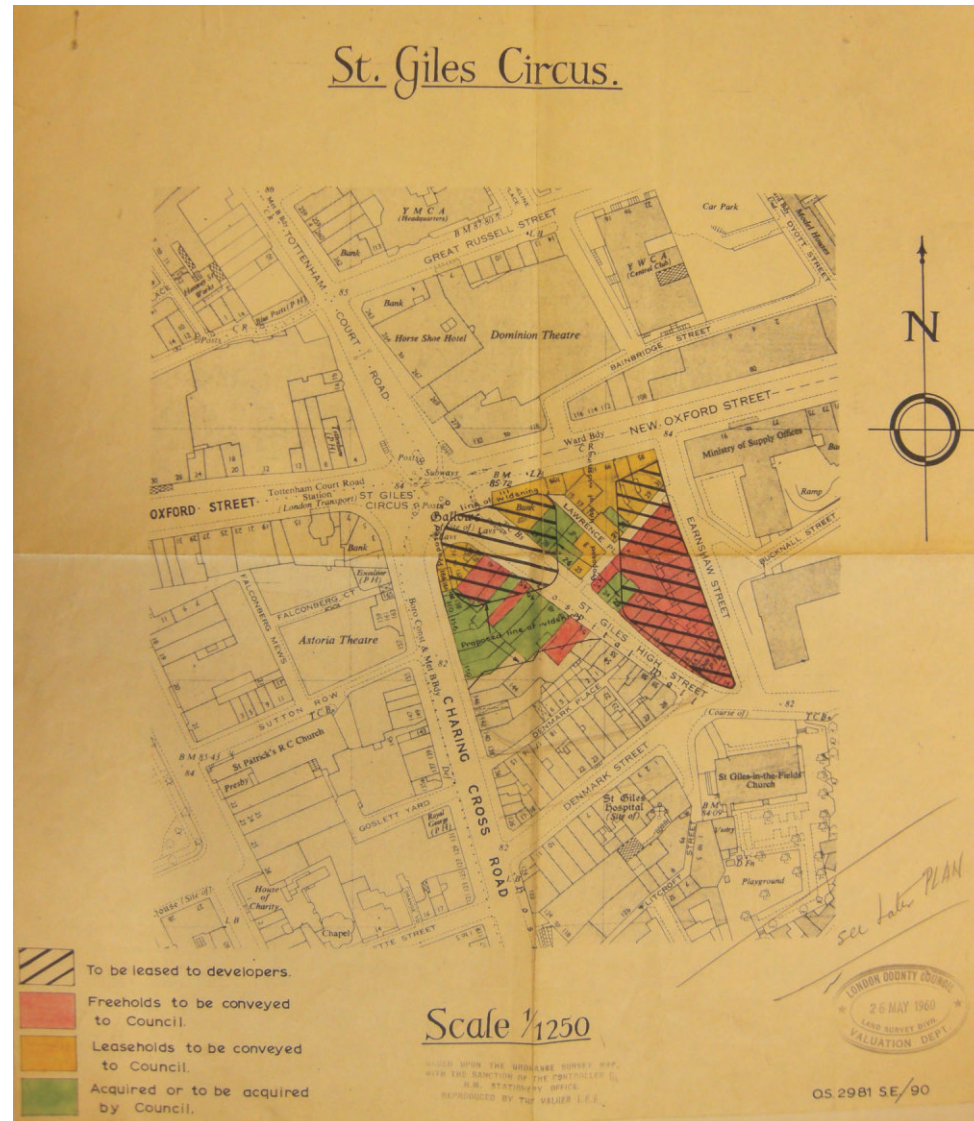


Fig 17 St. Giles Circus, the area of the development, 1960



Fig 18 General view of the tower from Soho Square, looking east



Fig 19 The pool to the west of the Centre Point tower, looking west



Fig 20 View of the tower from the east end of Oxford Street, looking east



Fig 21 Aerial view of the development area and junction



Fig 22 The staircase from the Plaza to the mezzanine level of Centre Point



Fig 23 subway and the entrance to the Centre Point Snooker Club



Fig 24 The Ladies public lavatories



Fig 25 The Men's public lavatories



Fig 26 The bar and pool tables at the Centre Point Snooker Club



Fig 27 The snooker tables at the Centre Point Snooker Club

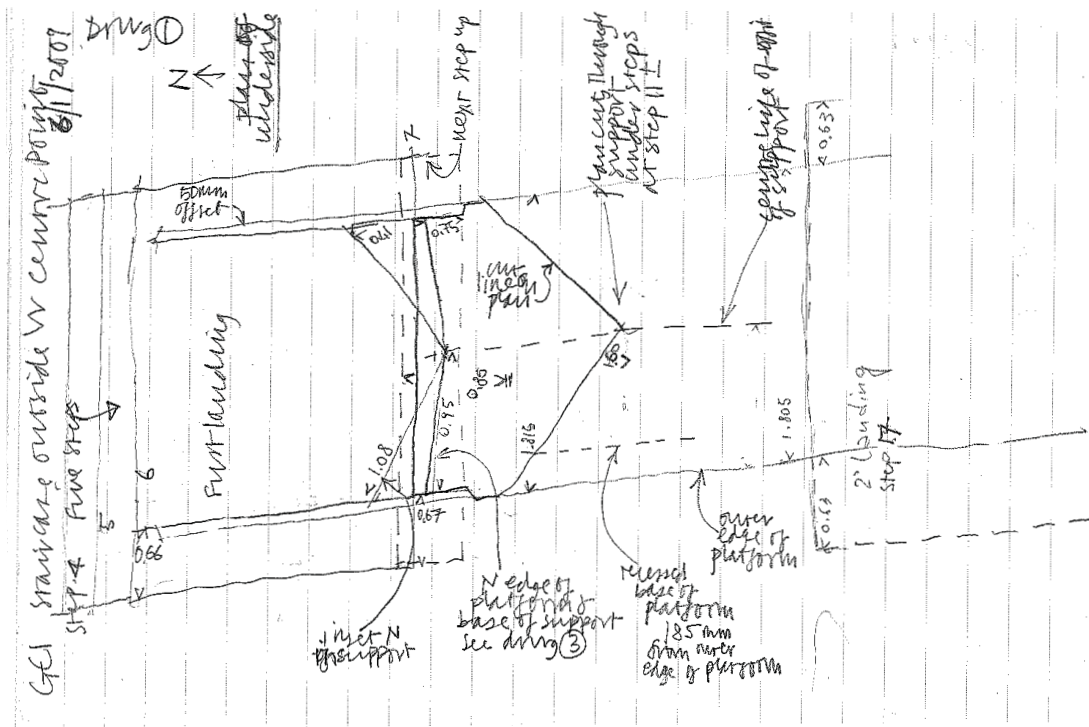


Fig 28 Site working drawing (1): dimensioned sketch plan of the steps, at the lower landing

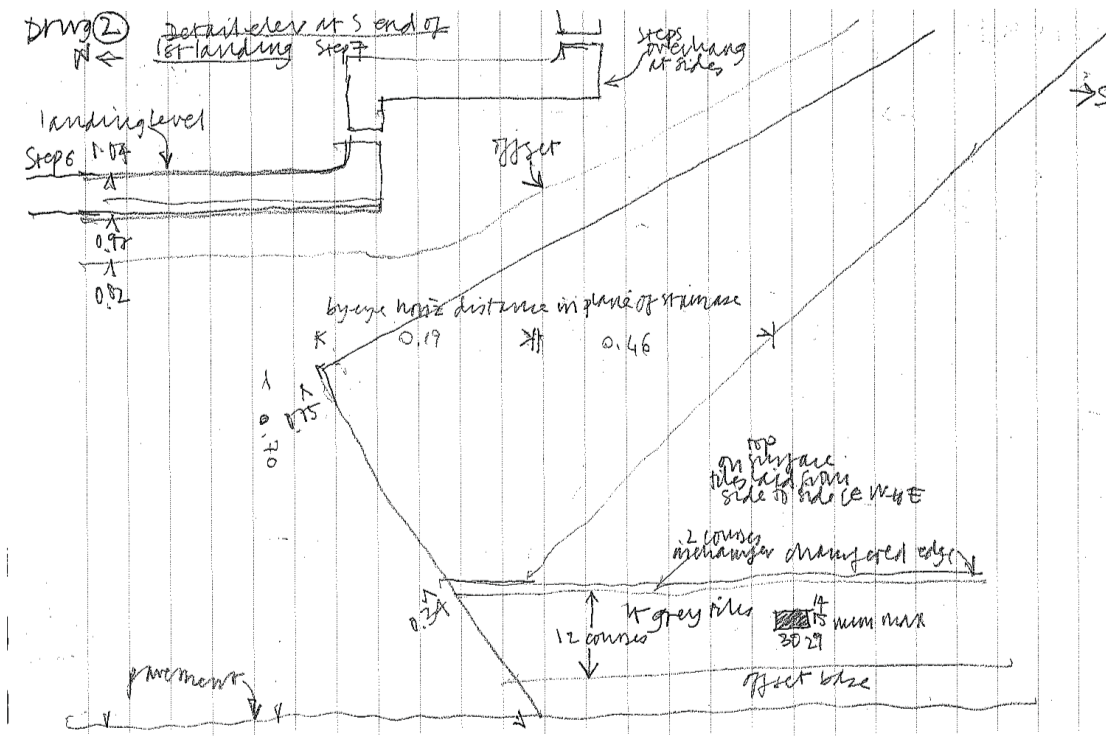


Fig 29 Site working drawing (2): dimensioned sketch elevation of the underside of the steps at the lower landing

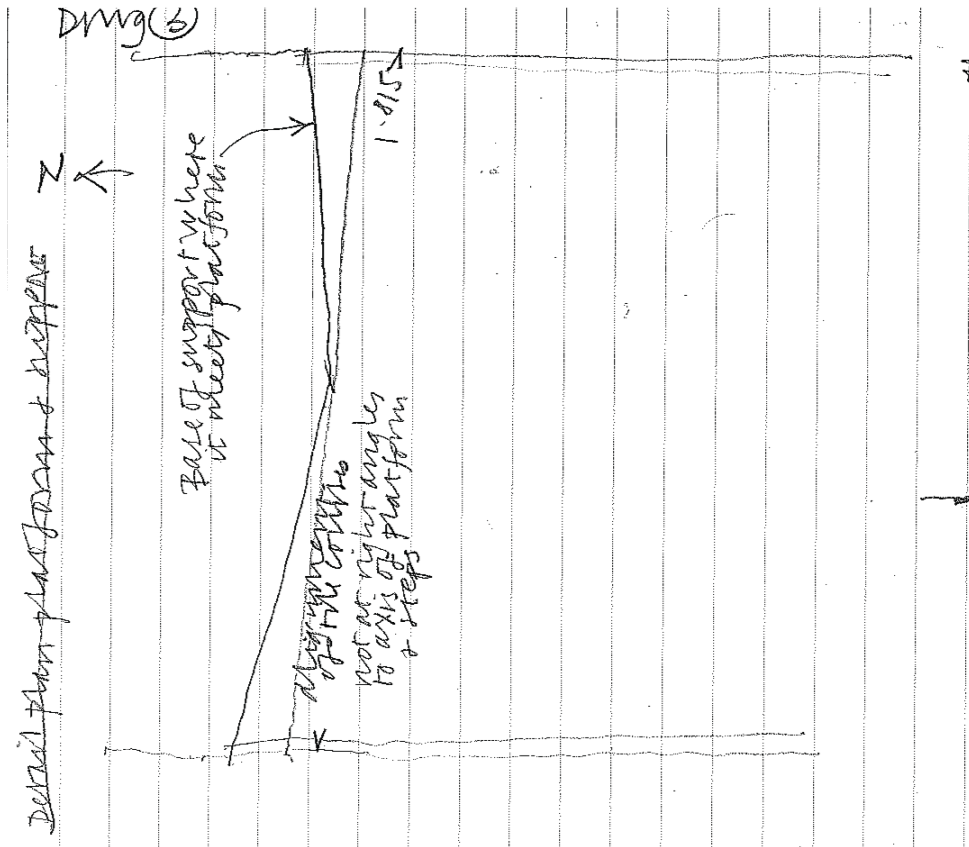


Fig 30 Site working drawing (3): dimensioned sketch plan of a detail of the ramped concrete support under the second flight of steps

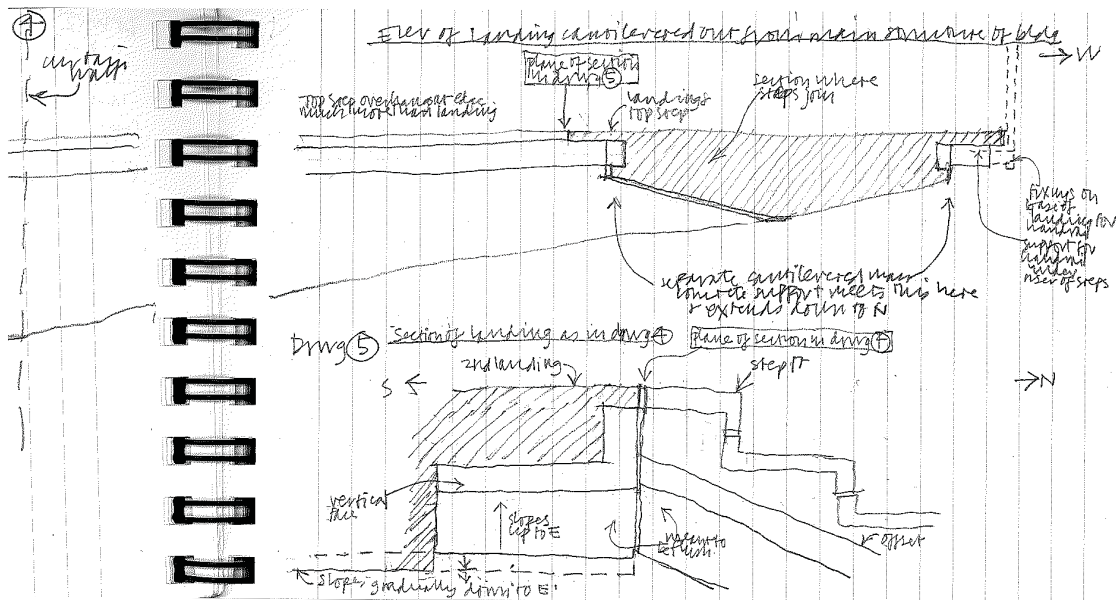
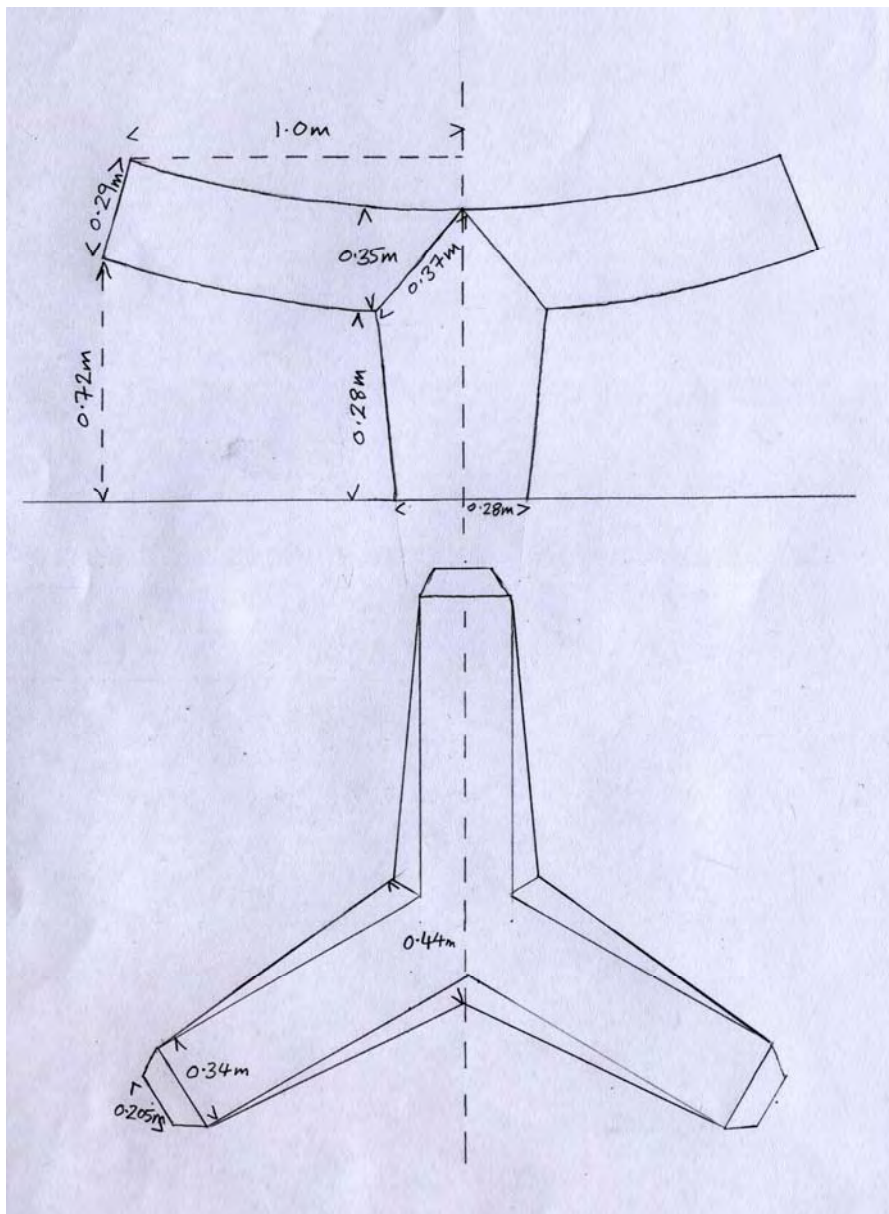


Fig 31 Site working drawings (4) and (5): dimensioned sketch sectional elevations of the junction of the second flight of steps and the upper landing

Fig 32 Elevation and plan of one of the fountains in the Centre Point pool

Not to scale

Each fountain is identical, although the heights at which they stand vary. This measured sketch shows one of the fountains ('B', in the table below).



Fountain	Distance from ground to bottom of projecting arm – next to central column (metres)	Distance from ground to tip of projecting arm (metres)
A	1.12	1.59
B	0.28	0.72
C	1.292	1.773
D	0.921	1.372
E	0.703	1.153