

Study for Oxford Street Building Site

By Frank Auerbach, born in 1931

Graphite, squared with red chalk, about 1958



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Auerbach made numerous drawings recording the rebuilding of London after the devastation of the Blitz during World War II. The curved corners of the paper indicate that this drawing is from a sketchbook. It was made at a construction site on Oxford Street, now the location of the John Lewis department store.

Before he began sketching, Auerbach laid down a grid in red chalk, which he would later use to help transfer the subject to a larger painted surface. Notice Auerbach's written observations of colours, made when sketching on site.

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