



C261 Archaeology Early East
Stepney Green Shaft
SUMMARY REPORT

Archaeological Watching Briefs at Stepney
Green Shaft, Stepney City Farm and
Community Excavation (XRV10)

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1 Summary for London Archaeologist

TOWER HAMLETS

Stepney Green Shaft and Stepney City Farm Site, E1 TQ 3578 8164 MOLA (David Sankey) watching briefs Feb to Sep 2012 community excavation Jul 2013 XRV10

Work continued from 2011 (LA13, Supp.1 (2011) 37-8). Archaeological monitoring of Thames Water trenches and a new fire main in Garden Street and the area of the former King John Street at the junction with Stepney Green Road revealed walls constructed from 2-inch thick Tudor-style bricks. These may include remnants of the perimeter wall and surrounding moat of Worcester House, a late medieval and Tudor moated manor house which was also known as King John's Court or Palace, and included walled gardens and a park. A watching brief for a new soakaway at Stepney City Farm partially exposed a brick culvert of similar date which aligned with culvert remains found near Stepney High Street in the 1970s. The community excavation took place on the north side of Stepney City Farm, to the west of the now-demolished King John Street. A floor of (potentially re-used) 2-inch thick bricks set on a bedding layer of pantiles suggested a *terminus post quem* of around 1630, and was probably also associated with Worcester House. The floor had survived in an undisturbed area of ground which would have been at the rear of 19th-century houses which were demolished in the 1960s. The remains of the cellars of these buildings overlain by demolition rubble completed the sequence. Monitoring in Stepney Green Road also revealed a water pipe made from a tree trunk (probably of 18th-century date) and an 18th/19th-century brick culvert. In all areas apart from the City Farm the archaeological deposits were sealed by modern material, tarmac and concrete.

2 Summary for Britannia

Not required

3 Summary for Medieval Archaeology

TOWER HAMLETS

STEPNEY GREEN SHAFT AND STEPNEY CITY FARM SITE, (TQ 3578 8164) D Sankey (MOLA) carried out archaeological monitoring of activities in the Crossrail Worksite following an earlier excavation as well as Stepney Green Road and Stepney City Farm, also supervised a Community Excavation at Stepney City Farm (OASIS ID: molas1-111939). The remains observed included walls made with 2-inch thick Tudor-style bricks. They may include remnants of the surrounding moat and perimeter wall of Worcester House (a late-medieval and Tudor moated mansion, also known as King John's Court, or Palace, with walled gardens or park). They also include a partial exposure of a brick culvert of similar date, which aligned with culvert remains found in the 1970s, near to Stepney High Street. **Oasis ID molas1-158943**



4 Summary for Post Medieval Archaeology

TOWER HAMLETS

STEPNEY GREEN SHAFT AND STEPNEY CITY FARM SITE, (TQ 3578 8164) D Sankey (MOLA) carried out archaeological monitoring of activities in the Crossrail Worksite following an earlier excavation as well as Stepney Green Road and Stepney City Farm, also supervised a Community Excavation at Stepney City Farm (OASIS ID: molas1-111939). The remains observed included walls made with 2-inch thick Tudor-style bricks. They may include remnants of the surrounding moat and perimeter wall of Worcester House (a late-medieval and Tudor moated mansion, also known as King John's Court, or Palace, with walled gardens or park). They also include a partial exposure of a brick culvert of similar date, which aligned with culvert remains found in the 1970s, near to Stepney High Street. Further water management structures included a whole-tree trunk pipe and an 18th-/19th-c brick culvert in Stepney Green Road. The Community dig exposed a floor of (potentially re-used) 2-inch thick bricks set on a bedding layer of pantiles, providing a TPQ of 1630. (**Oasis ID molas1-158943**)