

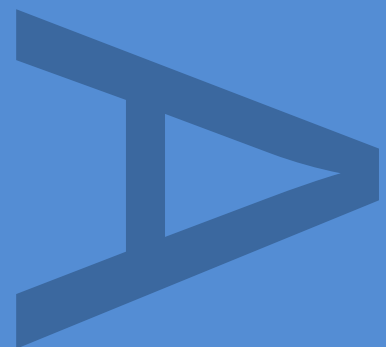
**ST. MARY ABCHURCH
ABCHURCH LANE
LONDON EC4N 7BA**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PCA REPORT NO: R11463

SITE CODE: ABC13

JULY 2013




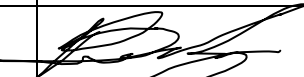
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at St. Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at St. Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA

Site Code: ABC13

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3275 8092

Written and researched by Douglas Killock

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2013

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at St. Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA. The watching brief monitored two test pits which were opened in two of the crypts which are located below the church. These test pits were to have formed parts of a more extensive scheme of works designed to examine the foundations of the church but Test Pits 2 and 4 could not be excavated, the results of the two small interventions undertaken are reported on here. The church is bounded by Abchurch Lane to the east, Abchurch Yard to the south, Sherborne Lane to the west and office buildings to the north. This location, situated in the heart of the city, has great archaeological potential particularly for the Roman period, whilst the church itself is a Grade I listed structure which originally dates to the 12th century. The church was restored or substantially rebuilt in 1611 but this building did not survive the Great Fire. The present structure was designed by Wren and built between 1681 and 1687.
- 1.2 The purpose of the test pits which were opened was to locate the bases of the walls which define the crypts that are located below the church, although in the case of Crypt 1 this actually extends beyond the southern wall of the church below Abchurch Yard. Test Pit 3, located in the northeast corner of Crypt 1, was excavated to a maximum depth of 450mm. Test Pit 1 was located in the southwest corner of Crypt 2 which had a brick floor. Once the bricks had been lifted it became apparent that the base of the wall had already been exposed and that further excavation was therefore unnecessary.
- 1.3 Although the interventions undertaken were limited in size and depth they demonstrated considerable archaeological potential, particularly Test Pit 3 in Crypt 1. Large quantities of Roman roof tile were evident which suggested that a Roman building of some importance is located in the vicinity of this part of the church.
- 1.4 Archaeological survival can also be expected below Crypt 2 where a brick floor which may date to the 18th century sealed earlier deposits.
- 1.5 The full complexity and extent of the archaeological resource present on the site was not demonstrated by the two small test pits which were opened but natural deposits were not reached in either area. Remains of the earlier church structures and the deposits they cut through might be expected across the entire footprint of the standing building.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited in the crypts of St. Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, City of London, London EC4N 7BA. The work was carried out on the 18th of February 2013. Two test pits, Test Pit 1 and Test Pit 3, were excavated in two of the crypts located below the church (Figure 2). The purpose of the test pits was to reveal the depths of the walls that formed the crypts. In Test Pit 3 the base of the walls was revealed at 450mm below the present floor level of the crypt, which is formed of earth. Test Pit 1 was located in Crypt 2 which was furnished with a brick floor. The lifting of the bricks which formed the floor demonstrated that the walls did not extend any lower than the floor itself. The very limited nature of these interventions meant that a very small part of the archaeological sequence likely to be present was evident in the test pits opened. Archaeological deposits extended below the depth of the test pits and no natural deposits were evident in either location.
- 2.2 The church is bounded by Abchurch Lane to the east, Abchurch Yard to the south, Sherborne Lane to the west and office buildings to the north. The footprint of church measures 485m² in total.
- 2.3 The central National Grid Reference for the area evaluated is TQ 3275 8092.
- 2.4 The site was given the unique Museum of London site code ABC13.
- 2.5 The watching brief was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited by Tim Bradley and conducted by the author.



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12/07/13 HB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:12,500 at A4

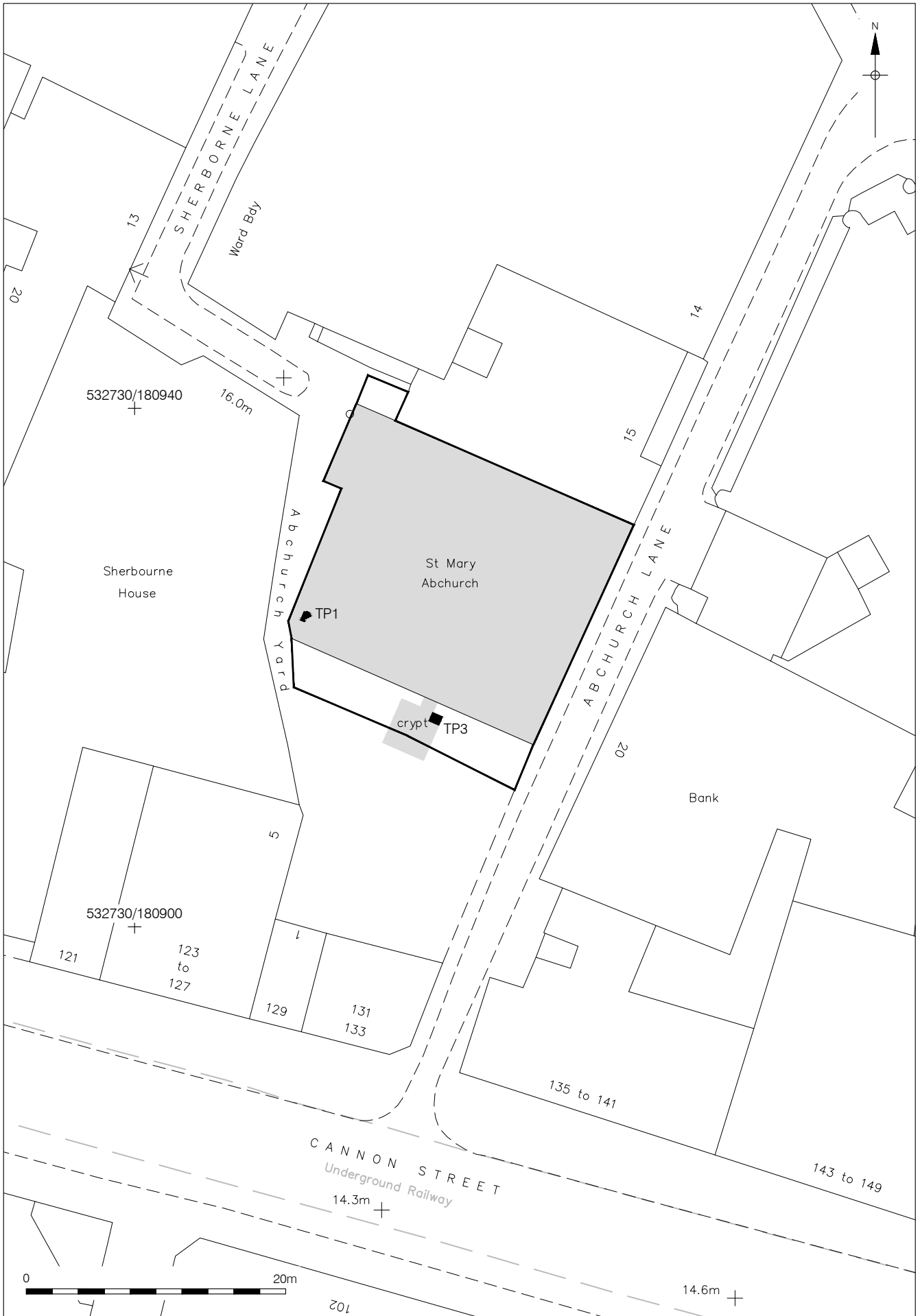


Figure 2
 Test Pit Location
 1:400 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 St Mary Abchurch is a Grade I Listed Building. Listed Building legislation for churches is administered by the Dioceses under the Ecclesiastical Exemption (the provisions of which can be found in The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) Order 2010). Prior to any work being carried out the equivalent of listed building consent must be obtained from the Diocese of London. In the first instance, the Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary has been consulted to see whether a formal 'faculty' is required. As part of that consultation process a Scoping Document was produced setting out the scope of the archaeological work which will be undertaken to minimise and mitigate the impact of the trial pits so that a faculty may be granted on the understanding that these measures are undertaken.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The underlying natural geology is the Taplow Gravel Formation which consists of sand and gravel which was laid down in the Middle Devensian (45000 to 30000 BP). The gravel seals the London Clay Formation. The gravel is locally capped by deposits of the Langley Silt complex, commonly referred to as brickearth.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site lies to the east of the Walbrook stream which once ran on a roughly north-south alignment from the area of Cannon Street station through modern Bank station and further north near to Moorgate and Thogmorton Avenue. The upper part of the stream was formed by numerous tributaries which fanned out and covered the area from Moorgate to Liverpool Street and beyond. The stream separated two low gravel hills which became the focus of the Roman city. St Paul cathedral now dominates the western hill summit of which lay at about 13 m OD. To the west the hill was defined by the River Fleet. The eastern hill rose to around 12m OD and lay between the Walbrook and the Lorteburn stream, a lost river which passed close to the Tower of London before joining with the Thames. The eastern hill was formerly occupied by the Roman forum and basilica which were located in the area presently known as Leadenhall Market.

4.2.2 The church is located on ground that slopes gently from north to south. This presumably reflects the effects of the Thames which is today located some distance to the south but would have lain much closer to the site in earlier periods. The Roman river bank has been excavated in numerous locations and in the area to the west of London Bridge roughly follows the line of Lower Thames Street.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 There has been relatively little evidence for prehistoric activity recorded in the City of London. Although more recent excavations may suggest that some scattered farmsteads existed in the area prior to the establishment of the Roman city there is no evidence that a nucleated settlement developed in London prior to the establishment of the Roman city. The archaeological evidence for prehistoric communities in central London is sparse and even by the later Iron Age evidence of settlement is more likely to be found on the gravel terraces of west and east London rather than in the Thames basin itself¹.

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 The Roman city of *Londinium* was located in what is today the City of London. The Roman city was connected to the south bank by a bridge that spanned the Thames from the north bank around Fish Street Hill to the more northerly of the two large islands that projected into the river and are now covered by modern north Southwark. It is probable that following the Roman invasion of AD 43 and the decisions required to create a road system that centred on London much of the early work carried out in the city related to the establishment of a robust infrastructure. To the west of the site at No 1 Poultry major roads were being laid before or very soon after AD 50, one timber from a roadside timber revetment has been dated to AD 47².

5.2.2 The bridge was probably built to link the main settlement with Southwark at around the same period. Southwark developed into a major Roman waterfront town during the 1st century AD. A foundation date of AD 50-55 has been suggested for the suburb on the basis of pottery and coins recovered³. At its peak Roman Southwark extended over an area up to 45 acres in size, approximately 15% of the size of the City⁴. The rapid growth of Roman Southwark in the AD 50s would support the proposed early date of the bridge⁵.

5.2.3 The Roman city expanded and was consolidated despite early setbacks such as the Boudiccan revolt of AD 60/61 when much if not all of the city north of the Thames and the suburb in Southwark were burned. Extensive port facilities were built along the Thames embankment and London became a major distribution centre for goods imported into the Roman province. The city also became an administrative capital and was furnished with a defensive wall in the mid third

¹ Greenwood, P 1997 *Iron Age London: some thoughts on Current Knowledge and Problems 20 years on* London Archaeologist 8 No 6 153-161

² Rowsome, P 1998 Heart of the City, Excavations at No 1 Poultry

³ Sheldon, H 1978 The 1972-74 excavations: their contributions to Southwark's history in Bird et al

⁴ Reilly, L 1998 Southwark: An Illustrated History

⁵ Cowen, C et al 2009

century. However, Britain lay of the periphery of the Roman world and the Western Empire was itself in serious decline throughout the fourth century. By AD 410 the Roman army had deserted Britain and though forms of Romanised life probably continued in some areas into the middle of the fifth century the cities of Roman Britain had almost certainly been abandoned by this time.

5.3 Saxon

5.3.1 Following the collapse of the Western Empire the walled Roman city fell in to ruins and by the mid to late seventh century the focus of Saxon occupation had shifted westwards to the Strand and Covent Garden⁶. A new system of beach markets was adopted where trading was conducted directly from boats pulled up on the foreshore rather than goods being landed at a quay or wharf. Even when these markets relocated eastward in to the old Roman city, trading was still initially carried out from the beach itself, rather than from the quayside⁷.

5.3.2 The settlement around the Strand was almost certainly abandoned by the middle of the ninth century as the pressure of Viking raids increased. Direct attacks upon London were recorded for AD 842, 851 and 872. It is also probable that the trading networks which had helped Lundenwic flourish were themselves declining by the middle of the ninth century, partially at least as a result of the disruption to sea borne trade caused by piracy⁸. From the late ninth century onwards Saxon settlement shifted to the old walled Roman city. A small ecclesiastical community had probably existed following the establishment of St. Pauls in 604 and documentary evidence points to the existence of a Mercian palace within the City. The wholesale relocation of the Saxon settlement could have formed part of the planned Alfredian re-occupation and reorganisation of the old Roman city. The first market and harbour to be developed in the City was at Queenhithe, as mentioned in charters of 889 and 899. A large paved open area, possibly a market, was already developed at No 1 Poultry by the end of the ninth century and continued in use throughout the late Saxon and early Norman period⁹. Thus within the space of half a century Lundenwic had become Lundenburgh.

5.4 Medieval and Post-Medieval

5.4.1 The first church on the site dates back to at least the 12th century (it is mentioned in the The Cartulary of Holy Trinity, Aldgate 1197-1221). After the reformation Archbishop Parker persuaded Elizabeth I to grant the church to his college Corpus Christi Cambridge and the college has

⁶ Cowie, R and Whytehead, R 1989 *Lundenwic: The archaeological evidence for Middle Saxon London* Antiquity 63 pp706-18

⁷ Milne, G and Goodburn, D 1990 *The Early Medieval Port of London AS 700-1200* Antiquity 64 pp629-630

⁸ Hodges, R and Whitehouse, D 1983, Mohammed, Charlemagne and the origins of Europe p163

⁹ Treveil, P and Burch, M 1999 *Number 1 Poultry and the development of medieval Cheapside* Trans of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society 50 pp55-56

appointed the incumbent ever since. It was restored and beautified in 1611 then destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. The GLHER holds no records of these two earlier versions of the church. The current St Mary Abchurch is a Grade I Listed Building. It was designed and built by Sir Christopher Wren between 1681 to 1687.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of two test pits which were designed to provide information on the depths of the foundations walls of the crypts that are found below the church. Once the bases of the walls had been exposed excavation ceased. In the case of Test Pit 1 no excavation took place as the base of the walls was exposed as soon as the brick floor had been lifted. Test Pit 1 was very irregular in shape as the limits were formed by lifting elements of the brick floor; it measured a maximum of 0.80m north-south by 0.60m east-west. Test Pit 3 measured 0.70m north-south by 0.80m east-west; it was excavated to a maximum of 450mm deep. These test pits were to have formed parts of a group of trial holes located around the church but Test Pits 2 and 4 could not be excavated.
- 6.2 The fieldwork was carried out according to the relevant methodologies, as follows:
- Archaeology in the City of London: Archaeology Guidance: Planning Advice Note 3 (City of London 2004);
 - GLAAS Archaeological Guidance Papers: *Standards for Archaeological Work* (GLAAS 2009);
 - The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008);
 - Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Reports (GLAAS 1998);
- 6.3 All recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London; that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by Museum of London Archaeology (MoLAS 1994). Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being at scale of 1:20.
- 6.4 A photographic record of the investigations was made using digital format only.
- 6.5 The complete site archive including site records, photographs and finds will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre (LAARC) under the site code ABC13.

7 EXCAVATION RESULTS

7.1 Test Pit 3

7.1.1 The largest intervention undertaken consisted of the excavation of Test Pit 3 which measured 0.70m north-south by 0.80m east-west and was a maximum of 450mm deep. The Test Pit was located in the northeast corner of Crypt 1 adjacent to the arched passageway entrance. The eastern wall of Crypt 1 had a slightly deeper foundation than the wall to the north; the eastern part of the test pit was excavated to a greater depth in order to expose the base of the eastern foundation.

7.1.2 The date of the fabric which makes up the eastern wall is unknown but the base of the wall consisted of relatively modern bricks that probably represent a repair to the original fabric. The northern wall was almost entirely covered in render which meant that very little of the fabric was exposed. The only visible parts of the northern wall consisted of modern repairs in bricks that appeared to be identical to those exposed in the base of the eastern wall.



Plate 1: Test Pit 3 facing east
Scale 0.50m

- 7.1.3 A mixed but relatively homogenous layer, context [1], that consisted principally of demolition debris was excavated within Test Pit 3. This material mainly consisted of crushed mortar mixed with fine medium gravel which was a light grey colour often with a pinkish hue; these components were mixed with patches of darker grey silt. The excavated deposit also contained an elevated quantity of chalk blocks and fragments of ceramic building materials, some of which were quite large.
- 7.1.4 The building material fell into two categories. Some of it was clearly of late date and consisted of large fragments of roof tile (pan tile) that are typical of building constructed after the Great Fire. These were not collected or presented for assessment. One element that undoubtedly represents later post-medieval activity was a frogged brick dated c.AD 1750-1900. This brick came from the upper levels of the test pit and appeared very similar to those used in the repairs to the walls of the crypt. No post-medieval or medieval pottery was recovered from the excavation of the test pit.
- 7.1.5 A considerable quantity of Roman roof tile was obvious throughout the excavation of Test Pit 3 and it appeared that the frequency of this material increased toward the base of the excavated area. Although some of this material had clearly been redeposited it is possible, in fact probable, that the Roman tile had not been moved a great distance but had been disturbed in the course of levelling for building work within the crypt or possibly the construction of the church. The pinkish hue characteristic of layer [1] probably resulted from an extensive fire. It is not possible to demonstrate whether the fire occurred in a relatively modern era or was a more distant Roman event.
- 7.1.6 Detailed examination of the roof tile demonstrated that although in some cases it had been re-used the Roman roof tile was in very good condition, indicating that it had not been frequently disturbed or broken up (see Appendix 2). A single fragment of pottery was recovered from layer [1]; this consisted of a sherd of Black Samian ware which has been dated c.AD 50-150. The frequency of the roof tile, the size and condition of the fragments examined and the presence of Roman pottery strongly suggest that a Roman building of considerable importance is located very close to Crypt 1 if not directly below it.
- 7.1.7 A small quantity of human bone was also identified in layer [1]. These fragments almost certainly represent the remnants of burials that had been cleared from the crypt.

7.2 Test Pit 1

- 7.2.1 A much more limited intervention was made in Crypt 2 where Test Pit 1 was opened. However, no excavation took place in this area as the bases of the crypt walls were exposed immediately by the lifting of the brick floor of the crypt. The lifting of the bricks produced a very irregularly

shaped test pit (see Plate 2 below) which measured a maximum of 0.80m north-south by 0.60m east-west, Test Pit 1 was located in the southwest corner of Crypt 2



Plate 2: Test Pit 1 facing west
Scale 0.50m

- 7.2.2 The bricks that were removed from the floor could not be sampled for analysis as they were presumably going to be reinstated. The date of the floor was therefore unknown but if this is the original floor of the crypt it should date to the 18th century. A stone which forms part of the fabric of the eastern wall by the original entrance to the crypt carries a dedication to the family of William Westbrooke who had the crypt built in 1719. The crypt has been cleared of burials and at present is utilised as a boiler room.
- 7.2.3 The lifting of the brick floor exposed layer [2] which consisted of a light yellowish brown mix of sand, silt and crushed mortar. This matrix contained an elevated quantity of crushed chalk fragments and some larger chalk blocks up to 15cm in diameter along with fragments of charcoal and ceramic building materials. Only the surface of this deposit was exposed as no excavation was required to expose the base of the walls. No finds were recovered from layer [2] so its deposition date is unknown. As none of the layer was excavated it is difficult to speculate on what

this deposit represents but given that it lies directly below the floor it is most likely that layer [2] represents a levelling deposit which was a preparation for the floor.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The results of the watching brief demonstrated, unsurprisingly, that there is likely to be considerable archaeological survival below the floors and crypts of the church, even if the fabric of the standing structure is excluded from what are defined as archaeological remains. Although the interventions were extremely limited due to the shallowness of the foundations found in the crypts, archaeological survival was evident in both Test Pits 1 and 3.
- 8.2 The most significant archaeological potential was demonstrated in Test Pit 3 where the frequency of large fragments of Roman roof tile suggested that a Roman building of some size and importance lay close to if not directly below Crypt 1. Some of the Roman material had been redeposited but this may represent little more than localised levelling for the building of the crypt.
- 8.3 No excavation was required in Crypt 2 but if the brick floor which was lifted is original the deposits which are located below it all pre-date the first half of the 18th century.
- 8.4 Natural deposits were not exposed in either of the test pits and the extent and complexity of archaeological survival on the site has yet to be demonstrated.

9 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

9.1 Original Research Questions

9.1.1 The broad research aims posed in the Written Scheme of Investigation were¹⁰:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation. This watching brief would seek to gain further knowledge about the dates and types of deposit in the immediate vicinity of St Mary Abchurch.
- In terms of specific research aims practically any or none of the regional research aims might apply. For example it seems quite possible that opportunities might arise to investigate further the nature of deposits associated with the Great Fire of 1666 and its immediate aftermath. Similarly, if post-medieval human remains are found an opportunity would arise to investigate post-medieval burial practices and the diet, pathology and other qualities that are deductible from post-medieval skeletal human remains.

9.2 Research Questions:- Watching Brief Results

9.2.1 The very limited nature of the interventions carried out precluded the formulation of an overview of the archaeological remains present in the area of the site. However, the elevated quantities of Roman building materials and presence of Roman pottery strongly suggested that a major Roman building is located in the near vicinity of the church, possibly directly below the standing structure.

9.2.2 Limited evidence was found for the presence of burials in the form of disarticulated human bones. These are likely to represent the remains of disturbed burials that have been cleared from Crypt 1.

9.3 New Research Questions

9.3.1 The presence of a possible Roman structure is of particular importance in this area of the City. Any further excavation should seek to clarify whether a Roman building was present and if so, what was its function and extent.

¹⁰ Hyder Consulting UK Limited 2012 *Bank Station Capacity Upgrade Archaeology-Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished Hyder Consulting document

9.3.2 Further trial work, should it take place, should also attempt to provide an overview of the extent, depth and complexity of the archaeological sequence which is located below the church.

9.4 New Archive

9.4.1 The archive compiled during the evaluation consists of:

- 2 context sheets
- 3 plans
- 22 digital photographs
- 1 fragment of pottery
- 1 box of building material

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited for commissioning the work on behalf of London Underground.

10.2 The author would like to thank:

- Tim Bradley for project managing the watching brief and editing this report
- Mark Roughley for the CAD illustrations
- Berni Sudds for reporting on the building materials and pottery
- Sophie White and her team who processed the finds
- Site photography was undertaken by the author.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: Oasis Data Entry Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-154800

Project details

Project name	St Mary Abchurch
Short description of the project	Watching brief carried out on two geotechnical test pits located in the crypts below the church. Although the test pits were of limited size and depth a considerable quantity of Roman roof tile suggested that a substantial Roman building had stood on the site of the church. A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was also observed.
Project dates	Start: 18-02-2013 End: 18-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ABC 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	LAYER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON St Mary Abchurch
Postcode	EC4N 7BA
Study area	485.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3275 8092 51 0 51 30 39 N 000 05 12 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Hyder Consulting
Project design originator	Jim Hunter
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Douglas Killock
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hyder Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	ABC 13
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Killock, D
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	PCA
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Description	A4 Blue cover

An Archaeological Watching Brief at St. Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA

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Entered by Tim Bradley (tbradley@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 16 July 2013

APPENDIX 2: POTTERY AND CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL REPORT

By Berni Sudds

A small quantity of pottery and ceramic building material was presented for assessment, all collected from context [1]. The assemblage is catalogued and quantified below in Table 1 following the London system of classification. Examples of the fabrics can be found within the Museum of London (LAARC) and at the offices of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Description	No	Wg (g)	Date range
Black Samian, lower body sherd from bowl form, plain	1	24	c.AD 50 - 150
Tegula, local (2459a; 3006), some reuse	3	1089	c.AD 50 – 160+
Tegula, Kent (2454), burnt	1	136	c.AD 50 – 80
Tegula, Hertfordshire (3023; 3060), some reuse	3	1502	c.AD 50 – 120+
Imbrex, local (3006)	1	618	c.AD 50 – 160
Frogged post-Great Fire brick (fabric 3032), reused	1	814	c.AD 1750 - 1900

Table 1: The pottery and ceramic building material from context [1]

The majority of the assemblage dates to the Roman period and although re-deposited is in very good condition. The single fragment of frogged post-medieval brick would suggest deposition post dates the mid 18th century.

The single sherd of Roman pottery is from a Black Samian ware bowl. Though not unknown, Black Samian represents a relatively uncommon find in Londinium (K. Anderson pers comm.).

The Roman ceramic building material is comprised of roofing tile in fabrics typically found in the City, sourced from local kilns and from both Kent and Hertfordshire. Some of the tile has evidently been reused, potentially extending the date ranges given.

The post-medieval brick is a clinker rich 3032 type, representing one of the most commonly occurring post-Great Fire bricks in London. The example is stock-moulded and frogged to the sanded side, indicating it was made during the mid/late 18th to 19th century.

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