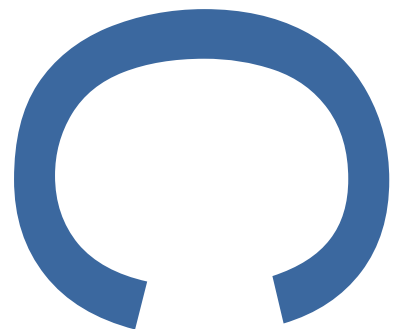


**THE OLD DEANERY, FRONT WALL,  
CITY OF LONDON: AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

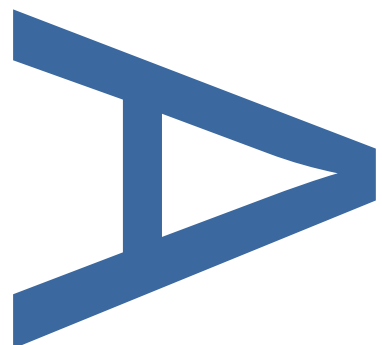


**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: CITY OF  
LONDON**



**SITE CODE: ODN17**

**NOVEMBER 2017**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

# **The Old Deanery, Front Wall, City of London, EC4**

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief during Ground Investigations**

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**Site Code:** ODN17

**Central National Grid Reference:** TQ 3193 8106

**Written and researched by:** Amelia Fairman  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, November 2017

**Project Manager:** Amelia Fairman

**Commissioning Client:** Caroe Architecture Limited on behalf of the Church  
**Commissioners**

---

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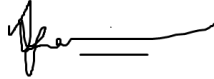
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**November 2017**

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**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**  
**Old Deanery, Front Wall, City of London**  
**Type of project**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**  
**Quality Control**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K4999	
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	A Fairman		9.5.2017
Graphics Prepared by:	R Murphy		9.5.2017
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown		10.5.2017
Project Manager Sign-off:	A Fairman		10.5.2017

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
1 KS comments	23.5.17	HH	CM
2 KS comments	22.11.17	AF	CM

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## **1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief commissioned by Caroe Architecture Limited on behalf of the Church Commissioners, and conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the Old Deanery, City of London, EC4. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a single trench running perpendicular to the front boundary wall to locate and expose services in advance of propping works.
- 1.2 This location has archaeological potential, situated as it is in the heart of the City and in extremely close proximity to St Paul's Cathedral. Numerous archaeological interventions within the immediate area, including Fleet Street and Blackfriars, suggest that the potential for archaeological features and horizons dating from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods exists at the study site.
- 1.3 Trial pit 1 was entirely located within the footprint of the pavement east of the extant front boundary wall. The trial pit was excavated to establish the presence or absence of services prior to the installation of propping to secure the boundary wall. The latter was in danger of becoming de-stabilised due to pressure from tree rooting. As such the excavation of the trial pit was intended as a precursor to a secondary phase of geotechnical investigations.
- 1.4 If archaeological remains did survive, the watching brief objectives were also to record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of archaeological remains affected by the investigation and to assess, where appropriate, the ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.
- 1.5 No archaeological deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were revealed during the excavation works. These comprised a truncated fragment of masonry relating to a property prior to the installation of the extant boundary wall and early and later post-medieval levelling horizons.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Old Deanery, City of London, EC4 (Figures 1 and 2). The work was carried out on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 on behalf of Caroe Architecture Limited.
- 2.2 The extant boundary wall associated with the Old Deanery was observed to lean as a result of subsidence caused by large London Plane trees growing to the rear. The Highways authority therefore required a section of pavement to be opened to establish the presence or absence of services prior to propping works to stabilise the wall.
- 2.3 A single trial pit (TP1) was excavated in front of and running up to the extant boundary wall. No archaeological deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were encountered. Natural horizons were not observed.
- 2.4 The works were monitored for the Corporation of the City of London by Kathryn Stubbs (Assistant Director at the City of London's Department of the Built Environment).
- 2.5 The central National Grid Reference for the area monitored is TQ 3193 8106.
- 2.6 The site was given the unique Museum of London site code ODN17.
- 2.7 The watching brief was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and conducted by the author.

### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

#### **3.1 Geology**

3.1.1 The underlying natural geology is the Langley Silt Member, commonly referred to as brickearth, and consists of clay and silt laid down during the Devensian Age. This clay and silt seals the London Clay Formation<sup>1</sup>.

#### **3.2 Topography**

3.2.1 The site lies c.280m north of the Thames, although it would have lain much closer to this river in earlier periods. The site also lies to the west 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 Throgmorton Avenue. The stream separated two low gravel hills which became the focus of the Roman city. St Paul's 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, a now subterranean river which would have lain to the west of the site.

3.2.2 The single trench occupied an area of flat paving immediately adjacent to the boundary wall of the Old Deanery. The road on which this is situated, Dean's Court does however exhibit a significant declination towards the south (towards the river Thames).

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<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey, 2017

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of a single trench (TP1) which was positioned perpendicular to the extant boundary wall of the Old Deanery. The trench was intended to locate and expose services in addition to examining the nature and extent of the foundations associated with the boundary wall.
- 4.2 TP 1 was 'T' shaped in plan, extending to a total length of 2.60m east west by 1.40m width immediately adjacent to the wall, narrowing to 0.58m in the eastern limits. The pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m BGL or 14.38m OD in the western limits (corresponding with the depth of the foundations for the boundary wall) and 0.50m BGL or 14.78m OD in the eastern limits.
- 4.3 The fieldwork followed the relevant methodologies, as follows:
- Archaeology in the City of London: Archaeology Guidance: Planning Advice Note 3 (City of London 2004);
  - This Method Statement (pending approval from Corporation of London)
  - Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London (GLAAS, Historic England 2015)
  - Institute for Archaeologists Codes, Standards and Guidelines Papers (IfA, various dates)
  - MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2008).
  - The Treasure Act (1996).
  - The Burial Act (1857).
- 4.4 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 and sections being at scale of 1:20.
- 4.5 A photographic record of the investigations was made using digital format only.
- 4.6 The complete site archive including site records and photographs will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive (LAA) under the site code ODN17.



## 5 EXCAVATION RESULTS

### 5.1 TP 1

- 5.1.1 The earliest deposits identified within the trench were observed in the deeper areas of excavation only, at the western limits. Deposit [3] appeared to extend below the extant wall from 14.44m OD, and comprised a loose layer of yellow brown sandy silt. The layer contained very occasional fragments of pottery with a date range of 1550 to 1700, small chalk fragments and gravels. This was interpreted as an early post-medieval levelling horizon.
- 5.1.2 Sealing layer [3] was a section of masonry, observed in section only. Wall fragment [1] was observed for a total length of 0.82m by 0.60m height (6 courses). The wall utilized red and purple bricks sized 240mm by 115mm by 70mm, bonded with a soft, white chalky mortar. The bonding was not clear due to localized damage and exuding mortar, which might suggest the brickwork originally returned to the south (now removed).
- 5.1.3 Observed within the eastern limits of the trench, and assumed to seal wall [3] was dump layer [2]. This comprised red-brown sandy silt with moderate inclusions of small CBM fragments, and occasional oyster shell, ragstone and clay tobacco pipe fragments. The latter dated between 1700 and 1740. This deposit was identified from 15.04m OD with an observed thickness of 0.28m, the full extent and depth remains unknown.
- 5.1.4 Sealing the entirety of TP1 were made ground deposits (0.16m thickness) which in turn were capped with paving slabs (100mm thickness).



*Plate 1: TP1 view to west of boundary wall foundations*



*Plate 2: South-facing section TP1, wall [1]*



*Plate 3: East facing section of wall foundation with central gate to south*

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*Plate 4: Google Streetview image showing wall. Trial Pit was located to north of central pedestrian door*



*Plate 5: Photo taken facing west showing extent of Trial Pit*

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The results of the watching brief demonstrated that in situ masonry pre-dating the construction of the extant boundary wall of the Old Deanery may potentially survive immediately below the paving slabs. The remaining deposits of potential interest comprise early post-medieval levelling horizons below the level of the extant foundations and later post-medieval dumping/ground raising. However, given the small area of exposure, these conclusions may change following any further work.
- 6.2 No significant archaeological horizons were impacted upon as a result of the excavation of the trial pit.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Patricia Forero-Senior of Caroe Architecture Limited for commissioning the work on behalf of the Church Commissioners. We also thank Kathryn Stubbs, Department of the Built Environment, City of London, and the Highways Management team for carrying out the excavations.
- 7.2 The author would also like to thank Ray Murphy for the CAD illustrations.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

British Geological Survey, 2017, Geology of Britain viewer. Online source.

Fairman, A., 2017 'Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief During Ground Investigations at the Old Deanery, City of London EC4'. PCA, unpublished document.



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10/05/17 RM

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4





Figure 2  
 Detailed Site Location  
 1:500 at A4

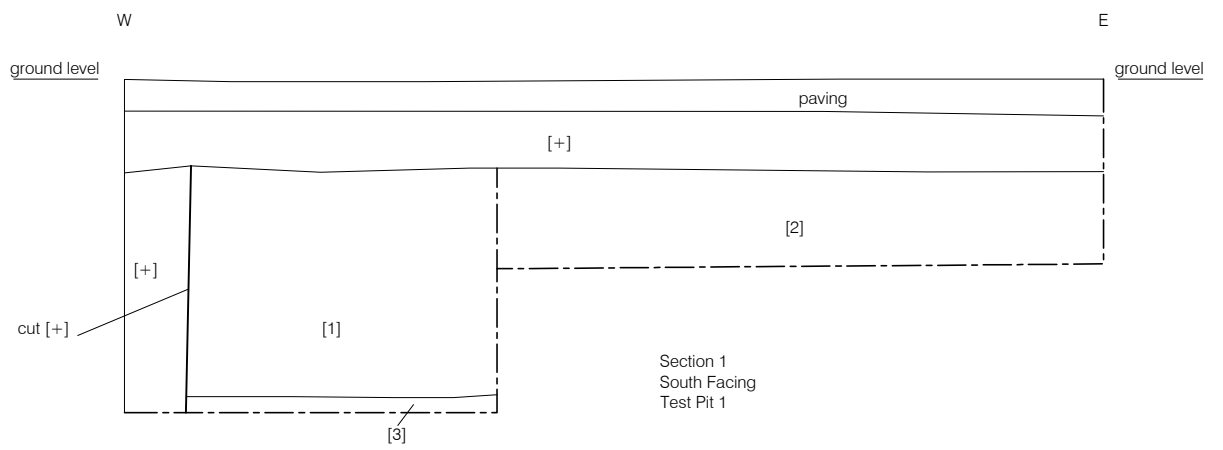
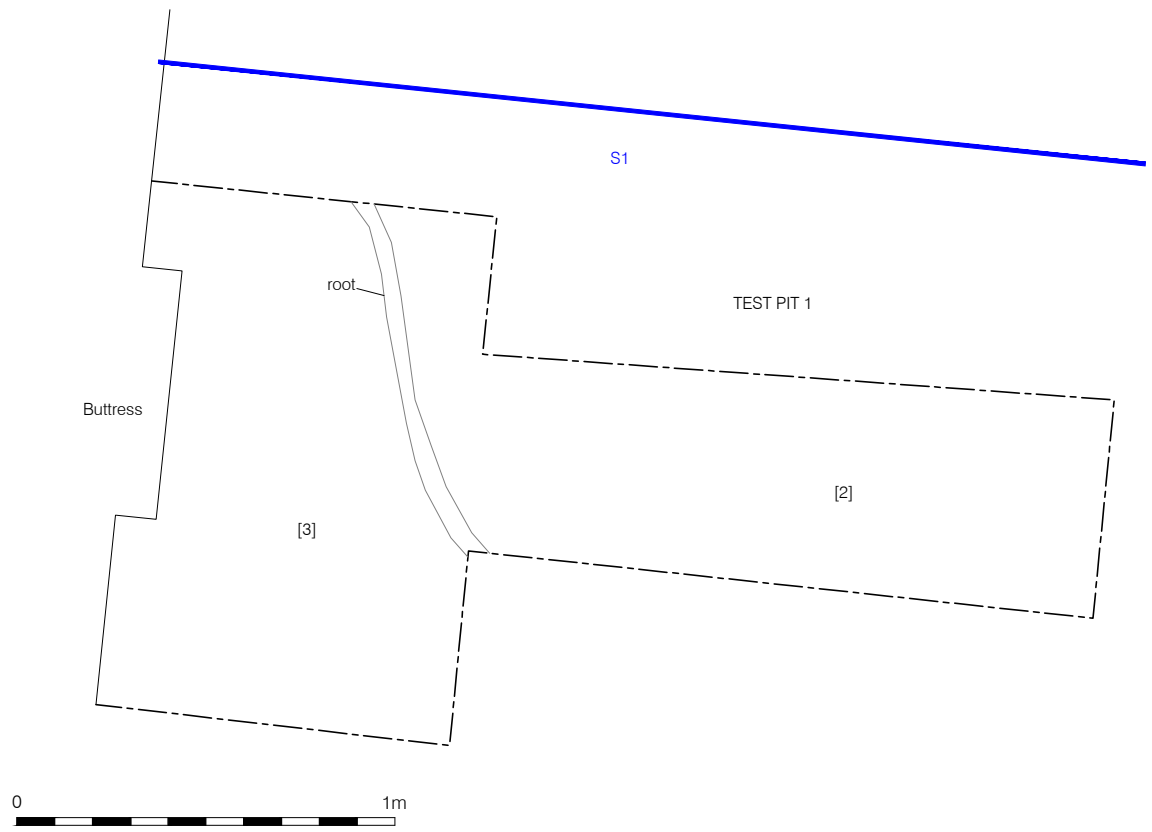
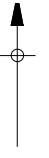


Figure 3  
Plan and Section of Test Pit 1  
1:20 at A4

## APPENDIX 1: OASIS DATA ENTRY FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-283862

---

### Project details

Project name The Old Deanery, Front Wall, City of London, EC4

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was carried out on a single trial pit excavated against the eastern face of the extant front boundary wall of the Old Deanery. The excavations were carried out to assess the presence/absence and extent of services below the pavement prior to propping works to prevent further subsidence to the boundary wall. Post-medieval levelling deposits and heavily truncated masonry were identified.

Project dates Start: 25-04-2017 End: 25-04-2017

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes ODN17 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Other 11 - Thoroughfare

Monument type WALL Post Medieval

Monument type LEVELLING Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

---

### Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Old Deanery,  
City of London, EC4

Postcode EC4V 5AA

Site coordinates TQ 3193 8106 51.512543929145 -0.098556226973 51 30 45 N 000 05 54 W  
Point

---

### Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Organisation

Project originator brief Caroe Architecture Limited

Project originator design Amelia Fairman

Project director/manager Amelia Fairman

Project supervisor Amelia Fairman

Type of Church  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name of Church Commissioners  
sponsor/funding  
body

---

## Project archives

Physical recipient      Archive      LAARC

Physical Archive ID      ODN17

Physical Contents      "Animal Bones","Ceramics"

Digital recipient      Archive      LAARC

Digital Archive ID      ODN17

Digital available      Media      "Text"

Paper recipient      Archive      LAARC

Paper Archive ID      ODN17

Paper available      Media      "Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

---

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title      The Old Deanery, Front Wall, City of London, EC4

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Fairman, A

Date      2017

Issuer or publisher      Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or London  
publication

Description            A4 folio

---

Entered by            Amelia Fairman (afairman@pre-construct.com)

Entered on            28 April 2017

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Site code	context	type	description
ODN-17	1	MASONRY	E-W wall in section
ODN-17	2	LAYER	dump layer
ODN-17	3	LAYER	dump layer

### APPENDIX 3: MATRIX

		+		
		2		
		1		
		3		
		NFE		



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