An Archaeological Evaluation of Geotechnical Investigations at 3 Lovat Lane, City of London, EC3

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Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3306 8078

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1 Abstract (figs 1 & 2)

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations at 3 Lovat Lane, City of London, EC3. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 8806 8078.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations, consisting of test pits, window samples and boreholes, demonstrated that limited stratified horizontal archaeological deposits, possibly dating to the Roman and post-medieval periods, survive *in situ* in the north, south and west of the site at heights ranging between c.11.10m OD c.11.70m OD.
- 1.3 Archaeological observations indicated a varied pattern of survival across the site. In the west of the site possible brickearth slab foundations were found. In the centre of the site two cut features were observed, the dating material recovered indicating a Roman or possibly post Roman date. In the east possible natural deposition or undated quarry pits were revealed.
- 1.4 The removal of the geotechnical window samples indicated that a natural brickearth horizon, overlying natural gravel, is present at heights ranging between c.11.00 and c.10.37m OD.
- 1.6 The archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations has demonstrated the survival of deposits of Roman/post Roman date on the site. As such the undertaking of any ground works, associated with the redevelopment of the site, intrusive beyond the heights given above will impact on the *in situ* archaeological sequence.

2 Introduction (figs 1 & 2)

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations was undertaken at 3 Lovat Lane, City of London, EC3 between the 28th 29th April 2008 with subsequent investigation conducted on the 1st May, 20th May and the 29th May 2008. The archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations monitored the excavation of five test pits, five window samples and two boreholes.
- 2.2 The commissioning client was Lovat Lane Ltd and the archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) under the supervision of the author. Tim Bradley (PCA) project managed the fieldwork.
- 2.3 The site is located on the west side of Lovat Lane and is bound to the north by a building occupying no. 1 Lovat Lane, to the east by Lovat Lane itself, to the south by a building occupying nos. 4-5 Lovat Lane and nos. 6-9 Botolph Alley and to the west by no. 16 Eastcheap. The Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 3306 8078.
- 2.4 Prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations, an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) had been compiled for the site (Thompson 2008). The DBA indicated that whilst the construction of basements during the 19th and 20th centuries would have undoubtedly impacted on pre-existing archaeological deposits, the site nonetheless had a high archaeological potential for the Roman and post-medieval periods, a moderate to high potential for the Saxon and medieval periods and a low to moderate potential for the prehistoric periods.
- 2.5 However, the subsequent site investigations have shown that horizontal archaeological deposits have been truncated by previous development on the site, with limited archaeological survival, possibly dating to the Roman and post-medieval periods, surviving *in situ* at depths ranging between c.11.70 and c.11.10m OD whilst the natural brickearth horizon was encountered between c.11.00m OD and c.10.37m OD.
- 2.6 As a consequence of the results of the evaluation of geotechnical investigations it can be considered that any ground works associated with the redevelopment of the site, and intrusive beyond the height of *in situ* horizons, will impact on the *in situ* archaeological sequence.

2.8 The site was recorded using the site code LVA08 and on the eventual completion of all archaeological work the complete archive will be deposited at LAARC.

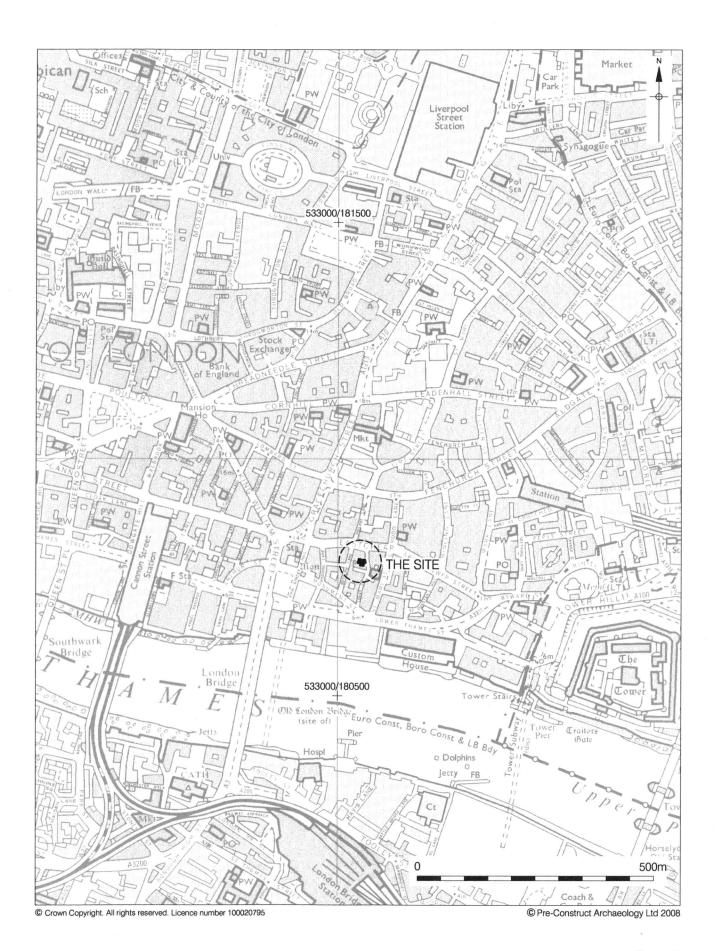
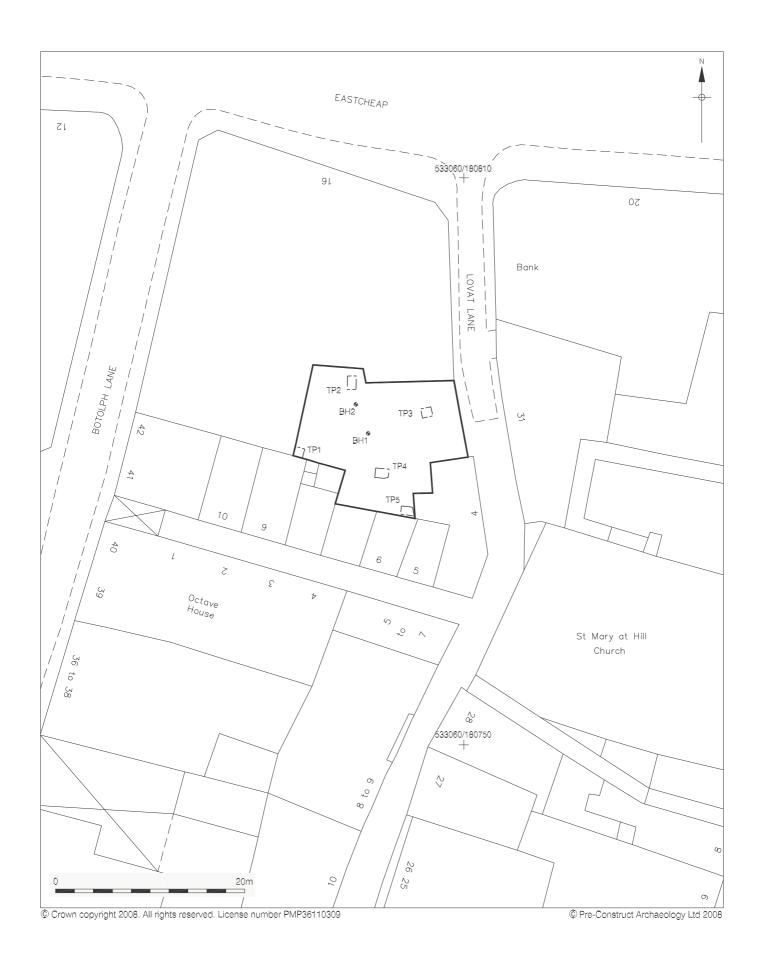


Figure 1 Site Location 1:8,000 at A4



3 Planning Background

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Prior to the commencement of the recently undertaken archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations, an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was compiled for the site (Thompson 2008). The DBA indicated that whilst the construction of basements during the 19th and 20th centuries would have undoubtedly impacted on pre-existing archaeological deposits, the site nonetheless had a high archaeological potential for the Roman and post-medieval periods, a moderate to high potential for the Saxon and medieval periods and a low to moderate potential for the prehistoric periods. This view has been modified in light of geotechnical evaluation, which has revealed limited stratified horizontal archaeological deposits, possibly dating to the Roman and post-medieval periods, in the area of the site.
- 3.1.2 As part of the compilation of the DBA the planning requirements pertinent to the protection and treatment of archaeological deposits placed at risk during the redevelopment of the site were detailed. The planning background given in the DBA is shown below.

3.2 Planning Policy Guidance (PPG16)

- 3.2.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16) 'Archaeology and Planning', which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.3 Archaeology in the City of London and the 2002 Unitary Development Plan (UDP)

3.3.1 The application site is located within an Area of Archaeological Potential, as defined by the City of London Unitary Development Plan, 2002. Development of the site is subject to the following policies, each of which has been 'saved' in accordance with Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004:

Requirements for Assessment and Evaluation of Sites of Archaeological Potential

POLICY ARC 1

To require planning applications which involve excavation or groundworks on sites of archaeological potential to be accompanied by an archaeological assessment and evaluation of the site including the impact of the proposed development.

11.12. All of the City is considered to have archaeological potential unless it can be demonstrated that archaeological remains have been lost, due to basement construction or other groundworks. The Corporation will indicate the potential of a site, its relative importance, and the likely impact to a developer at an early stage so that the appropriate assessment and design development can be undertaken. Map 11.2 indicates areas of archaeological potential and this information will be updated periodically.

11.13. On sites of archaeological potential, which may be affected by development schemes or groundworks, an archaeological assessment will be required to be submitted with the application. This will set out the archaeological potential of the site and impact of the proposals. Where appropriate, this should be supplemented by evaluation, carrying out trial work in specific areas of the site to provide more information and inform consideration of the development proposals by the Corporation, prior to a decision on that application.

Preservation in situ and Recording of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Remains

POLICY ARC 2

To require development proposals to preserve in situ, protect and safeguard important ancient monuments and important archaeological remains and their settings, and where appropriate, to require the permanent public display and/or interpretation of the monument or remains.

POLICY ARC 3

To ensure the proper investigation, recording of sites, and publication of the results, by an approved organisation as an integral part of a development programme where a development incorporates archaeological remains or where it is considered that preservation in situ is not appropriate.

11.14. On sites where important monuments or archaeological remains exist, development proposals should take this fully into account and be designed to

enhance physical preservation and avoid disturbance or loss. This can be done by the sympathetic design of basements, raising ground levels, site coverage, and the location of foundations to avoid or minimize archaeological loss and securing their preservation for the future, although they remain inaccessible for the time being.

- 11.15. The interpretation and presentation of a visible or buried monument to the public and enhancement of its setting, should form part of the development proposals. Agreement will be sought to achieve reasonable public access. The Corporation will consider refusing schemes which do not provide an adequate assessment of a site or make no provision for the incorporation, safeguarding or preservation in situ of nationally or locally important monuments or remains, or which would adversely affect those monuments or remains.
- 11.16. In some cases, a development may reveal a monument or archaeological remains which will be displayed on the site, or reburied. Investigation and recording of those features will be required as part of a programme of archaeological work to be submitted to and approved by the Corporation. Where the significance of the remains is considered, by the Corporation, not sufficient to justify their physical preservation in situ and they will be affected by development, archaeological recording should be carried out. A programme of archaeological work for investigation, excavation and recording, and publication of the results, to a predetermined research framework, by an approved organisation, should be submitted to and approved by the Corporation, prior to development. This will be controlled through the use of conditions and will ensure the preservation of those remains by record.
- 3.3.2 Planning Advice is contained within the Corporation of London's Planning Advice Note 3: Archaeology in the City of London, Archaeology Guidance (CoL 2004).
- 3.3.3 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) within the boundaries of the application site; however two are situated within or immediately adjacent to the 100m radius of the study area. These include a SAM at the Watermen and the Lightermen Hall at no. 16-18 St Mary at Hill, approximately 75m to the south-east, and the Roman 'Billingsgate Bath House', preserved beneath no. 100 Lower Thames Street.
- 3.3.4 There are no Listed Buildings within the boundaries of the site.
- 3.3.5 The site lies within the Lovat Lane Conservation Area as designated by the City of London.

4 Geology and Topography

- 4.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50,000 scale map of the area (Sheet 256, 'North London') indicates that the site is underlain by the sand and gravel of the Pleistocene Taplow Gravel Terrace, which in turn overlies London Clay. Three deep boreholes have been sunk by the BGS in the nearby vicinity, suggesting the following local ground profile in areas where basements do not exist:
 - Fill/made ground between 3m and 4m thick
 - Natural Sand and Gravel
 - London Clay
- 4.2 Archaeological and geotechnical investigation at sites in the vicinity have indicated that a natural brickearth horizon, of the Langley Silts complex, overlies the gravel terrace. Natural brickearth deposits was encountered at 11.75m OD at 13-21 Eastcheap and 12.08m OD during excavations at the church of St Mary-at-Hill.
- 4.3 No. 3 Lovat Lane is situated towards the midpoint of the steep downslope of the Thames river terrace, c.175m north of the present northern embankment of the River Thames.
- 4.4 The site of no. 3 Lovat Lane is presently occupied by a six-storey 1970s office building, which partly incorporates structural elements of a c.late 19th century building and covers an irregularly shaped area of c.0.02 ha. The existing building includes a single-level basement, the floor slab of which is present at a height of c.12.05m OD with a raised area in the southern stairwell present at c.12.53m OD. A series of six columns extend through the basement slab to foundation pads below, which will have caused additional disturbance below the basement slab. Modern ground level beyond the basement is estimated at c.14.00m OD.

5 Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Prior to the commencement of the archaeological assessment of geotechnical investigations, and forming the initial phase of archaeological assessment of the site, a Desk-based Assessment was compiled (Thompson 2008). The Desk-Based Assessment assessed the archaeological and historical background of the site through the examination of all archaeological entries in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) within a 100m radius of the site and reference to relevant archaeological, documentary and cartographic evidence. The following archaeological and historical background is an abridged version of the information contained in that document (for the full archaeological and historical background of the site see Thompson 2008).

5.2 Prehistoric (450,000 BC – 43 AD)

- 5.2.1 Whilst no archaeological evidence of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic activity has been discovered in the 100m radius of the site archaeological investigations further to the south-west have recorded the fragmentary remains of prehistoric land surfaces, buried beneath later Roman stratigraphy. These have included a truncated Mesolithic marsh at Peninsular House, extensive Neolithic and later prehistoric peat deposits at the site of the former Suffolk House on Upper Thames Street and a peat marsh horizon at Arthur Street (Brigham & Woodger 2001: 13-14; Swift 2008: 11).
- 5.2.2 Excavations to the south-east of the site, beneath the nave of the church of St Mary-at-Hill, recorded a prehistoric soil horizon, encountered at 12.08m OD and a shallow, east-west aligned linear feature dated to the Bronze Age period (GLSMR 042837; 042836). Similarly dated gullies and pits were discovered at St Martin Ongar churchyard and at 55-58 Gracechurch Street, suggesting that Bronze Age activity existed between Monument and Tower Hill (Jeffrey et al 1992: 193; MoLAS 2000: 94-95).
- 5.2.3 Evidence for Iron Age activity is limited within Greater London and evidence in the City is largely restricted to residual material (MoLAS 2000: 114). Included in this material is a small bronze helmet crest, of Iron Age date, recovered from an unrecorded location on Eastcheap (GLSMR 041176).

5.3 Roman (43 – 410 AD)

5.3.1 1st century

- 5.3.1.1 Early Roman waterfront consolidation and revetting has been found at Regis House (c. AD 52), Miles Lane and Arthur Street (c. AD 54-5) whilst contemporary gravel extraction pits, probably associated with road construction, have been recorded at Botolph Lane (Blair & Sankey 2007: 7) and Eastcheap (GLSMR 044922; MLO97823). At these sites the gravel extraction pits were post-dated by a phase of extensive terracing/ground levelling and evidence of Early Roman levelling layers have been identified on the north side of Eastcheap (GLSMR 044804) and on the west side of St Mary-At-Hill (Jeffrey et al 1992: 193; GLSMR 044133).
- 5.3.1.2 Following the construction of the terraces, timber warehouses and timber-framed structures were erected. Whilst archaeological evidence of this early phase of structural development has been found in the Eastcheap area, as evidenced by the presence of brickearth, gravel and plank floors (GLSMR 043004; 043005; 043006; 043007; 043008; 044615; 044616; 044617; 044618), no evidence of mid-1st century buildings has been identified on the terrace slope of Lovat Lane.
- 5.3.1.3 The Early Roman settlement was destroyed during the Boudican revolt of AD 60-1 and evidence of the event, e.g. the destruction horizon, has been recorded during excavations in the Eastcheap area (GLSMR 043009; 044619).
- 5.3.1.4 Following the revolt a short-lived fortification was established south-east of Cornhill at Plantation Place (Blair & Sankey 2007: 3; Swift 2008: 20) and a north-south aligned 6m long ditch recorded at 21 Eastcheap may be associated with this encampment (Blair & Sankey 2007: 55). Contemporary quarry pits, recorded at Monument House, indicate activity in the area at this time (*ibid*: 7).
- 5.3.1.5 During the AD 70s work commenced on new public buildings and the construction of new structures replacing those that had been destroyed in the revolt. Evidence of these buildings have been found at nos. 13-21, 23-29, 41 Eastcheap and at Monument House (GLSMR MLO75875; 043010; MLO77926; 044082; Blair & Sankey 2007: ibid).

5.3.2 Late 1st/2nd century

5.3.2.1 During the final decade of the 1st century and the early decades of the 2nd century the growth of Londinium accelerated and phases of late 1st and early 2nd century occupation has been found at Philpot Lane (GLSMR 044520; 044521; 044523) whilst evidence of timber framed buildings fronting an east-west aligned street have been found around Eastcheap (GLSMR 04251; 044520; Merrifield 1965: 280-281). It is possible that the east-west aligned street may cross the northern part of Lovat Lane.

5.3.2.2 During the mid-120s the "Hadrianic Fire" destroyed much of the western half of the city and also caused widespread destruction in the south and east. Archaeological evidence indicates that whilst the level of destruction was less intense in the east of the city it nonetheless impacted on the vicinity of the site with early 2nd century destruction horizons recorded at 13-21 and 41 Eastcheap (GLSMR 044924). It would appear that following the fire, in the vicinity of the site, rebuilding was undertaken relatively promptly with clay and timber (Jeffrey et al 1992: 193; GLSMR 042839; MLO7580; 044133) and masonry structures (GLSMR 085044; Blair & Sankey 2007: 58) recorded in the vicinity.

5.3.3 <u>Late 2nd/3rd/4th centuries</u>

5.3.3.1 The later 2nd and 3rd centuries were typified by a period of both settlement contraction and construction of substantial private and public masonry urban buildings (Milne 1995: 75). Whilst it is possible that the presence of features backfilled in the 3rd century and a lack of 4th century material generally may indicate an contraction of settlement in the vicinity of the site during the late 3rd century (Greenwood & Maloney 1996: 8; GLSMR 085046) it is nonetheless possible that an absence of Late Roman deposits may be a consequence of later truncation to these levels. Indeed, observation of substantial *in-situ* Roman masonry remains during the 19th century (Merrifield 1965: 281; GLSMR 041019; Weeks 1979: 7; GLSMR 041078; Merrifield 1965: 295; GLSMR 041077; Harben 1918), the discovery of a late 2nd/3rd century subterranean building at 41 Eastcheap (GLSMR MLO97823) and a 3rd century masonry building at Monument House (GLSMR 044912) suggest that several high status buildings, of Late Roman date, existed in the vicinity of the site.

5.4 Early medieval/ Saxon (410 – 1066 AD)

5.4.1 Following an extended period of contraction and decline during the 4th century it is likely that the city was abandoned in the early 5th century (Milne 1995: 89). A heavily truncated accumulation of 'dark earth' that sealed demolition debris associated with the 3rd century masonry building at Monument House had been cut by robber trenches, possibly dug towards the end of the Roman period or shortly afterwards (Blair & Sankey 2007: 22; GLSMR 044913; 044914). A shift in settlement is evident at this time with archaeological evidence demonstrating that occupation during the Early and Middle Saxon periods was largely focused to the west of the city walls, known as Lundenwic, in the Covent Garden area (Milne 1995: 89; MoLAS, 2000: 182).

- 5.4.2 The reoccupation of London began in the mid-9th century, when King Alfred established a defensive *burh* behind the Roman walls in response to the Viking threat. The earliest phase of settlement developed around a grid of streets laid out in the late 9th century, which extended north from a landing place on the Thames (Queenhithe) towards Cheapside, via Garlick Hill/ Bow Lane and Bread Street (Dyson 1989: 22; MoLAS 2000: 192-3). It is likely that this early settlement was fairly small, and it was not until the second half of the following century that the intramural area once again became the site of a major town (MoLAS 2000: 191).
- 5.4.3 By the end of the 10th century a number of lanes on the alignments of present-day Botolph Lane, Lovat Lane, St Mary-at-Hill and possibly St Dunstan's Hill extended northward from the Thames towards Eastcheap and thence towards the major axial route of Fenchurch Street via Philpot, Rood and Mincing Lanes (Blair & Sankey 2007: 17; MoLAS 2000: 193). Archaeological evidence of Late Saxon development, a cellared building dated to *c*. 1050-60, was discovered at Monument House (Blair & Sankey 2007: 23; GLSMR MLO76728), the truncated remains of 11th century pits were recorded at nos. 24-25 Lovat Lane (Gadd 1983: 171-2; GLSMR 043421) and a wicker-lined pit and the bottom of a timber-lined 11th century well were found at the Billingsgate Buildings site (GLSMR 042177; 042178).

5.5 Medieval (1066 - 1539)

- 5.5.1 Whilst the Norman Conquest appears to have had little immediate impact upon Late Saxon London it has been suggested that a hoard of several hundred Late Saxon/Early Norman coins found buried beneath the east side of Love/Lovat Lane may have been concealed by a local merchant during the failed 'revolt of the three earls' of 1075 (Weeks 1979: 8; GLSMR 041868). The hoard was discovered in 1774 near the church of St Mary-at-Hill, possibly 28 Love Lane, at a depth of approximately 14-15ft (4.25-4.55m) beneath the 18th century ground surface (Guildhall Library MS 10967 30/11/1852).
- 5.5.2 The parish church of St-Mary-at-Hill was first documented towards the end of the 12th century (Schofield 1994b: 119), although it is likely to have been founded before this date, possibly as early as the Late Saxon period (Jeffrey *et al* 1992: 194) and excavations within the church have identified a number of burials under the foundations of the 13th century church, possibly part of the extra-mural cemetery of an earlier church (GLSMR 042840; 041810).
- 5.5.3 A significant number of streets were laid out in the city during the 12th century, encouraging new building in previously vacant areas (Thomas 2002: 20) with Thames

Street (present Lower Thames Street) created to facilitate access to the riverside sites at Queenhithe, Vintry, Dowgate and Billingsgate (Dyson 1989: 23; Thomas 2002: 21). Archaeological evidence of medieval development along Thames Street was discovered at no. 100 Lower Thames Street during the 19th century (GLSMR 041849; 041850) and at the junction of Lower Thames Street and Monument Street (GLSMR 042908). As the volume of trade increased during the 12th and 13th centuries the tenements that lined the pre-Conquest lanes to the north of Thames Street became increasingly sought-after by those whose business depended upon Thames trade (Blair & Sankey 2007: 17). However, the presence of extensive basements to the north side of Eastcheap has ensured that archaeological traces of the tenements is restricted to rubbish pits (GLSMR 033011; MLO97824), wells (GLSMR 042516), cellars (GLSMR 042519) and chalk foundations (GLSMR MLO78123).

5.5.4 The earliest recorded mention of Love Lane is dated to 1394, when it was noted that the lane had formerly been known as 'Roppelane' (or 'Roperlane' according to a document of 1349), presumably in honour of the trade of former residents (Harben 1918). The origin of the name Love Lane has been the subject of some debate: John Stow claimed in 1598 that it was a corruption of 'Lucas Lane', while Harben argued that it may have been renamed after a local property owner called Reynold Love in the 1370s, whereas more recent authorities maintain that it was so-named as it had been a haunt of prostitutes in the Middle Ages (Stow 1994: 216; Harben 1918; Weinreb & Hibbert 1983: 500).

5.6 Post-medieval and modern (1539 to present)

- 5.6.1 The area appears to have remained prosperous during the 16th and 17th centuries, and archaeological evidence has been discovered of the rebuilding of at least two high status properties during the period. Both nos. 9/ 9½ Lovat Lane (undercroft and vault remodelled *c*. 1620; Gadd 1982: 18) and a substantial high status tenement on the east side of Botolph Lane were at least partially rebuilt, the latter featuring brickbuilt cellars and the remains of an ornate Reigate stone mantelpiece (Blair & Sankey 2007: 32-34; GLSMR 044917).
- 5.6.2 Documentary and archaeological evidence indicate that following the destruction caused by the Great Fire of 1666 the vicinity of the site was largely rebuilt within the next ten years. Contemporary maps depict a small courtyard at the site of the present no. 3 Lovat Lane substantial structures, probably warehouses, on two sides and to the south by the rear of two rebuilt tenements in Botolph Alley. It is also possible that the lane was one of nearly 150 that were compulsorily widened (to at least 14ft) in accordance with the Rebuilding Act of 1667.

- 5.6.3 The church of St Mary-at-Hill was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren between 1670 and 1676. Wren retained the tower and west wall in addition to elements of the north and south walls, but completely rebuilt the interior and east end of the church (GLSMR 200804). Subsequent works included the rebuilding of the tower in brick during the 1780s, and extensive alterations to the roof and windows in the 1820s (Jeffrey *et al* 1992: 198).
- 5.6.4 On Horwood's map of 1813 no. 3 Love Lane is shown occupied by an L-shaped range set back from the street overlooking a courtyard and a street directory of 1817 indicates that the building was the premises of McCarthy & Brown, wine & beer merchants (Johnstone's London Commercial Guide and Street Directory 1817).
- 5.6.5 The depth and extent of truncation since the early 19th century has ensured that archaeological evidence of 18th and 19th century activity is confined to cut features, including cesspits (GLSMR MLO76718; 085048; 042517; 043424), rubbish pits (GLSMR 044805; MLO78124) and cellars (GLSMR 085049; 044135).
- 5.6.6 By the early 1840s four businesses traded from premises at no. 3 Love Lane, including two merchants, a Custom House agent and a wholesale druggist (Robson's London Directory 1843). Between 1835 and 1873 the courtyard of no. 3 had become obsolete and by the early 1870s the four buildings at no. 3 Lovat Lane were used by a wholesale tea merchant, a commission agent, a Custom House agent, a wine cooper and an unspecified merchant (Kelly's Post Office Directory 1871). The Ordnance Survey of 1894 shows that by this time the earlier buildings on site had been demolished and a new building, covering almost the entire footprint of no. 3 and built with a basement, had been erected. By 1900 seven businesses, a collection of agents, merchants and importers, traded from no. 3 (Kelly's Post Office Directory 1890 & 1900). The buildings on site survived the Second World War unscathed and remained largely unchanged until the 1970s when the existing buildings were constructed.

6 Methodology (fig 2)

- 6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology archaeologically evaluated the investigation of five geotechnical test pits located within the basement, and adjacent to the foundations, of the current structure occupying no. 3 Lovat Lane.
- 6.2 In all test pit locations the modern concrete basement slab was broken out with a hand-held mechanical breaking implement and, thereafter, the removal of non-archaeological deposits was undertaken by hand under the observation of an attendant archaeologist.
- 6.3 Excavation of the geotechnical test pits continued until a depth of c.1.00m was attained or until a significant archaeological horizon was reached. The dimensions of the test pits are listed below:

```
Test Pit 1: 1.00m n/s x 1.00m e/w x 0.80m max. depth
Test Pit 2: 1.40m n/s x 0.90m e/w x 0.90m max. depth
Test Pit 3: 1.00m n/s x 1.10m e/w x 0.65m max. depth
Test Pit 4: 1.00m n/s x 1.40m e/w x 1.05m max. depth
Test Pit 5: 0.90m n/s x 1.40m e/w x 1.15m max. depth
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6.4 With the exception of Test Pit 4 archaeological horizons were reached during the excavation of all of the remaining test pits. The depth of the uppermost archaeological horizon beneath the basement slab (a), a proposed Ordnance Datum height ((b); extrapolated from Engineer Drawing 3170-SK01-T3) and a proposed date of deposition (c) and are listed below:

```
Test Pit 1:
                (a) 0.65m;
                                 (b) c.11.40m OD;
                                                          (c) Roman
Test Pit 2:
                (a) 0.85m;
                                 (b) c.11.20m OD;
                                                           (c) Roman
                                                           (c) early 18<sup>th</sup> century
Test Pit 3:
                                 (b) c.11.70m OD;
                (a) 0.35m;
Test Pit 5:
                                 (b) c.11.10m OD;
                                                           (c) Roman (?)
                (a) 0.95m;
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Plans of the test pits were recorded on pro-forma sheets at a scale of 1:20 and an applicable section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. The single context recording system was applied to all non-20th century deposits and, where possible, finds were retrieved to assist in dating any archaeological sequences recorded. Test pits were located utilising the footprint of the existing building and proposed Ordnance Datum heights were extrapolated from Engineer Drawing 3170-SK01-T3 (see above).

6.6 Following the excavation and recording of the test pits a "window sample", sited within the boundary of the test pits, was extracted by the geotechnical sub-contractor under the observation of an attendant archaeologist. The window samples were located relative to the earlier test pit plans and the depositional sequence of each sample was fully recorded using the single context recording system. The proposed Ordnance Datum height (as extrapolated from Engineer Drawing 3170-SK01-T3) of the uppermost, definite, natural horizon is listed below:

> Window Sample 1/Test Pit 1: c.11.00

Window Sample 2/Test Pit 2:

c.7.80m OD (truncated)

Window Sample 3/Test Pit 3:

c.10.78

Window Sample 4/Test Pit 4:

c.8.77m OD (truncated)

Window Sample 5/Test Pit 5:

c.10.37m OD

6.7 Subsequent to the archaeological evaluation of geotechnical test pits and window samples was the evaluation of two geotechnical boreholes. The boreholes were located between Test Pits 2 and 4, with Borehole 1 being the more southern of the two. Whilst the loose material extracted from each borehole was archaeologically assessed the necessitated methodology restricted detailed analysis of the depositional sequence. The proposed Ordnance Datum height (as extrapolated from Engineer Drawing 3170-SK01-T3) of the generalised depositional sequence within the boreholes is listed below:

> Borehole 1: Natural gravel c.10.00m OD

> > Natural/redeposited brickearth c.11.60m OD

Borehole 2: Natural gravel c.10.40m OD

Natural/redeposited brickearth c.11.60m OD

6.8 The archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations forms the initial phase of archaeological work to be undertaken on site. Following the completion of all phases of archaeological work, which at present are not fully defined, the complete archive comprising paper, digital, photographic and artefactual material will be deposited with LAARC under the site code LVA08.

7 The archaeological sequence

7.1 Test Pit 1/Window Sample 1 (fig 3)

- 7.1.1 A loose, mid brown yellow, naturally deposited, sandy gravel horizon [14] was seen during the removal of Window Sample 1 (located in the north-east corner of Test Pit 1) and was encountered at c.10.16m OD. This was overlain by a 0.84m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, naturally deposited, sandy brickearth horizon [13], encountered at c.11.00m OD.
- 7.1.2 Post-dating the natural brickearth, and again recorded during the removal of Window Sample 1, was a 0.10m thick, firm, mid brown yellow, silty brickearth [12] encountered at c.11.09m OD and a 0.08m thick, firm, dark brown grey, silty brickearth [11], encountered at c.11.17m OD. Fragments of Roman pottery dated to the late 1st/2nd century were retrieved from the deposits and it is possible they may represent internal brickearth floor slabs of Roman clay and timber buildings.
- 7.1.3 A subsequent, firm, mid brown yellow, brickearth layer [5]/[10] was recorded in the base of Test Pit 1 and in Window Sample 1. The firm, mid brown yellow, brickearth layer measured 0.08m in thickness and was encountered at c.11.25m OD. Fragments of late 1st/2nd century pottery were contained within the deposit and, once again, it is possible that the context may represent an internal brickearth floor slab associated with a Roman clay and timber building.
- 7.1.4 The upper brickearth slab was sealed by a firm, mid grey brown, sandy brickearth layer [6] which contained frequent fragments and flecks of charcoal and is possibly representative of a demolition layer or a further internal brickearth floor slab associated with a Roman clay and timber building. The deposit measured 0.15m in thickness and was encountered at c.11.40m OD, an Ordnance Datum level that reflects the limit of late 19th/20th century horizontal truncation in this part of the site.
- 7.1.5 The remainder of the trench was comprised of late 19th/20th century deposits including a 0.25m thick, silty brick rubble layer, trench built concrete footings associated with, and projecting between 0.45m and 0.55m from, the existing walls of the standing building and a 0.40m thick concrete basement floor slab encountered at c.12.05m OD.

7.2 Test Pit 2/Window Sample 2 (fig 4)

- 7.2.1 A loose, mid brown yellow, naturally deposited, sandy gravel horizon [8] was seen during the removal of Window Sample 2 (located in the south-west corner of Test Pit 2) and was encountered at c.7.80m OD.
- 7.2.2 The natural horizon had been truncated by a 3.40m deep cut-feature [9] possibly indicating the presence of a deep pit or well. The cut-feature contained a firm/spongy, dark brownish blackish grey, humic silt fill [4]/[7], recorded in the base of Test Pit 2 and in Window Sample 2, the upper parts of which contained lenses of redeposited brickearth. The fill contained seven small fragments of pottery dating to the early 2nd century and was encountered at c.11.20m OD, an Ordnance Datum level that reflects the limit of late 19th/20th century horizontal truncation in this part of the site.
- 7.2.3 The remainder of the trench was constituted by late 19th/20th century deposits including a 0.55m thick, silty brick rubble layer, trench built concrete footings associated with, and projecting between 0.55m and 0.60m from, the existing walls of the standing building and a 0.30m thick concrete basement floor slab encountered at c.12.04m OD.

7.3 Test Pit 3/Window Sample 3 (fig 5)

- 7.3.1 A loose, mid brown yellow, naturally deposited, sandy gravel horizon [20] was seen during the removal of Window Sample 3 (located in the south-west corner of Test Pit 3) and was encountered at c.10.52m OD. This was overlain by a 0.26m thick, firm, mid yellow orange, naturally deposited, sandy brickearth horizon [19], encountered at c.10.78m OD.
- 7.3.2 Overlying the naturally deposited brickearth, and again seen during the removal of Window Sample 3, were a series of deposits which may represent natural deposition but may equally represent an undated archaeological sequence (see Test Pit 5). The deposits were comprised of a 0.10m thick, soft, light white yellow, fine sand [18] encountered at c.10.88m OD, a 0.10m thick, firm, mid brown orange, brickearth [17] encountered at c.10.98m OD, a 0.15m thick, soft, light grey yellow, fine sand [16], containing fragments of possible charcoal, encountered at c.11.12m OD and a 0.25m thick, firm, light yellow grey, sandy brickearth [15] encountered at c.11.37m OD.
- 7.3.3 Sealing the upper deposit, and recorded in the base of Test Pit 3 and in Window Sample 3, was a 0.05m thick, compact, mid yellow brown, brickearth and gravel layer

- [3] encountered at c.11.42m OD. The compaction of the layer suggests it may represent a roughly lain, gravel surface.
- 7.3.4 Sealing the earlier horizon was a 0.28m thick, friable, dark black brown, ashy silt layer [2] which contained fragments of clay pipe and tin glazed pottery dated to between 1700-1720. The layer was encountered at c.11.70m OD, an Ordnance Datum height that reflects the limit of late 19th/20th century horizontal truncation in this part of the site
- 7.3.5 The remainder of the trench was constituted by late 19th/20th century deposits including a 0.05m thick, 20th century silty brick rubble layer, a trench built concrete footing associated with, and projecting 0.60m from, the existing wall of the standing building and a 0.32m thick concrete basement floor slab encountered at c.12.06m OD.

7.4 Test Pit 4/Window Sample 4 (fig 6)

- 7.4.1 A loose, mid brown yellow, naturally deposited, sandy gravel horizon [28] was seen during the removal of Window Sample 4 (located in the east of Test Pit 4) and was encountered at c.8.77 m OD.
- 7.4.2 The natural horizon had been truncated by a 1.80m deep, cut-feature [27] possibly indicating the presence of a deep pit or well. The cut-feature contained a firm/spongy, dark brownish blackish grey, humic silt fill [26] and was encountered at c.10.57m OD, an Ordnance Datum level that reflects the limit of late 19th/20th century horizontal truncation in this part of the site no finds were recovered from the feature. Archaeological deposits were not seen in plan during the excavation of Test Pit 4 as a consequence of late 19th/20th century truncation.
- 7.4.3 The remainder of the trench was constituted by late 19th/20th century deposits including 1.20m thick silty brick rubble layer, a north-south orientated trench-built concrete footing and a 0.30m thick concrete basement floor slab encountered at c.12.06m OD.

7.5 Test Pit 5/Window Sample 5 (fig 7)

7.5.1 A loose, mid brown yellow, naturally deposited, sandy gravel horizon [24] was seen during the removal of Window Sample 5 (located in the north-west corner of Test Pit 5) and was encountered at c.10.04m OD. This was overlain by a 0.33m thick, soft, mid orange yellow, naturally deposited, silty sand horizon [23], encountered at

c.10.37m OD. It is probable that this deposit represents the lower section of the natural brickearth horizon recorded in Test Pits 1 and 3 which was seen to exhibit a notably higher sand content towards the base of the deposit.

- 7.5.2 Overlying the upper natural horizon, and again seen during the removal of Window Sample 5, were a series of deposits which may represent natural deposition but may equally represent an undated archaeological sequence (see Test Pit 3). The deposits were comprised of a slightly loose, mid grey brown, silty sandy gravel [22] encountered at c.10.60m OD, a firm, mid yellow orange, sandy brickearth [21] encountered at c.10.83m OD and a firm, light brown grey, sandy brickearth layer [1] encountered at c.11.10m OD. The latter deposit was seen in Window Sample 5 and the base of Test Pit 5 and the Ordnance Datum height of the layer reflects the limit of late 19th/20th century horizontal truncation in this part of the site.
- 7.5.2 The remainder of the trench was constituted by late 19th/20th century deposits including a stepped, yellow stock brick foundation projecting 0.40m from the existing wall of the standing building, a 0.65m thick, 20th century silty brick rubble layer and a 0.30m thick concrete basement floor slab encountered at c.12.04m OD.

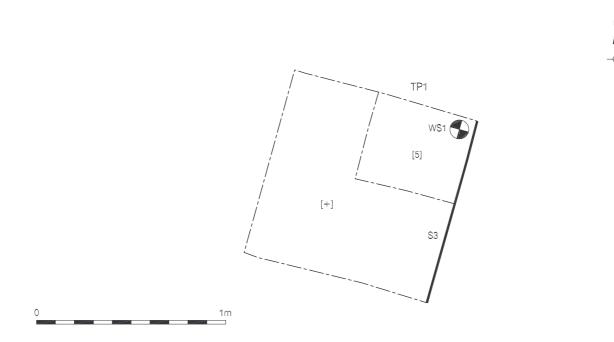
7.6 Borehole 1

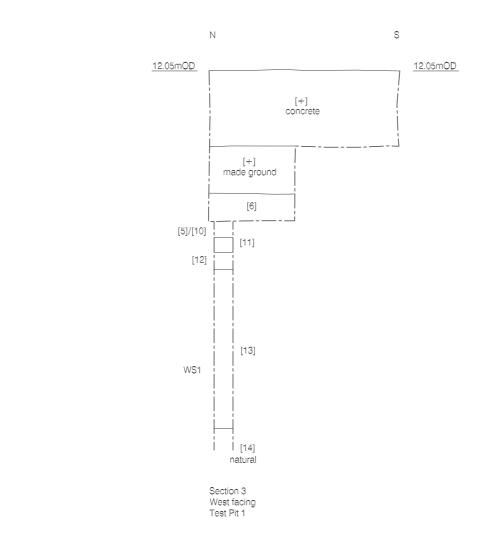
- 7.6.1 A loose, mid brown yellow, naturally deposited, sandy gravel horizon [30] was seen during the removal of Borehole 1 and was encountered at c.10.00m OD.
- 7.6.2 This was overlain by a c.1.60m thick, firm, mid yellow brown to mid yellow orange, sandy silt clay layer [29] encountered at c. 11.60m OD. The deposit was not observed in situ however the loose material exhibited a range in colour and it is thought probable that the context represents a composite of both natural and redeposited brickearth.
- 7.6.3 The remainder of the trench was constituted by a c.0.20m thick, late 19th/20th century silty brick rubble layer, which was overlain by 0.25m thick concrete basement floor slab encountered at c.12.05m OD.

7.7 Borehole 2

7.7.1 A loose, mid brown yellow, naturally deposited, sandy gravel horizon [32] was seen during the removal of Borehole 2 and was encountered at c.10.40m OD.

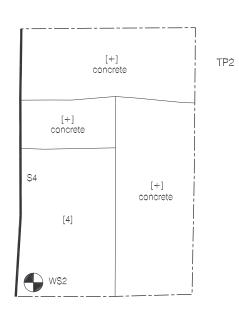
- 7.7.2 This was overlain by a c.1.20m thick, firm, mid yellow brown to mid yellow orange, sandy silt clay layer [31] encountered at c.11.60m OD. The deposit was not observed in situ however the loose material exhibited a range in colour and it is thought probable that the context represents a composite of both natural and redeposited brickearth.
- 7.7.3 The remainder of the trench was constituted by a c.0.20m thick, late 19th/20th century silty brick rubble layer, which was overlain by 0.25m thick concrete basement floor slab encountered at c.12.05m OD.



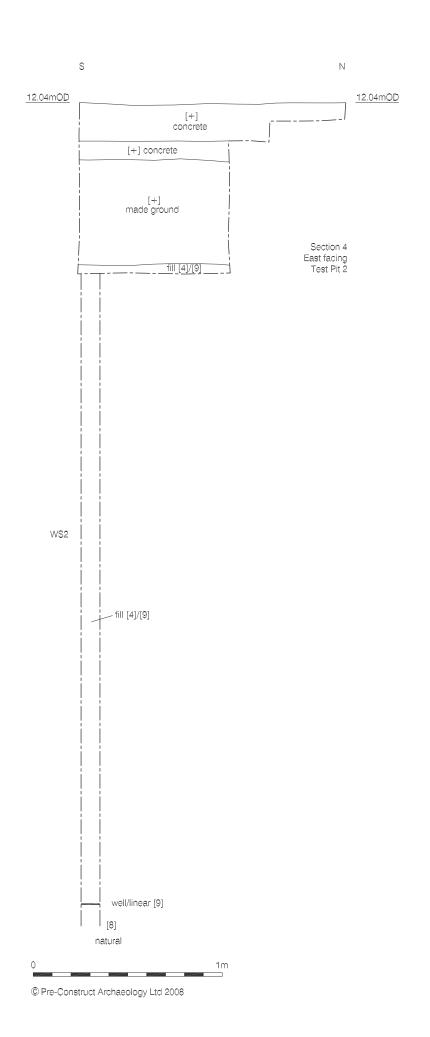


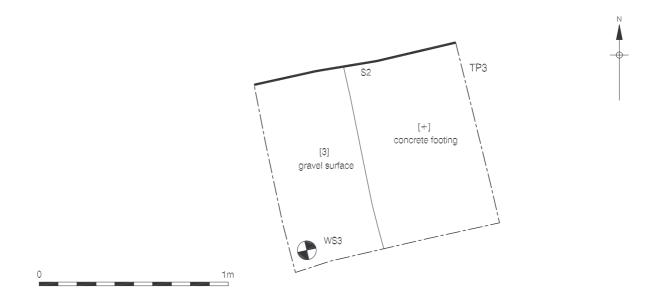


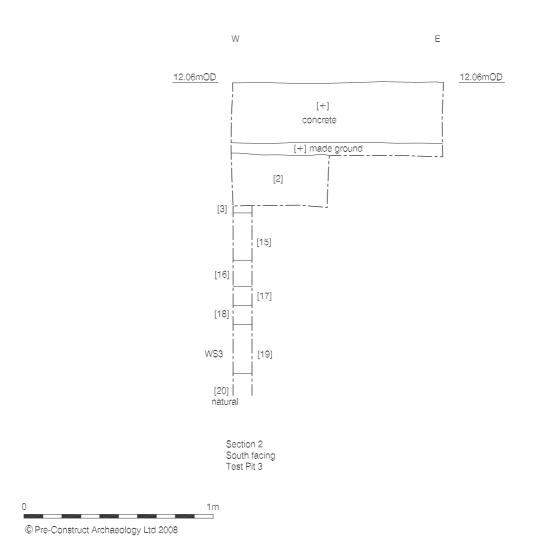


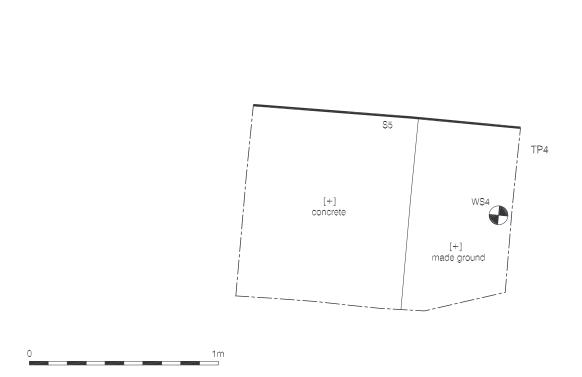


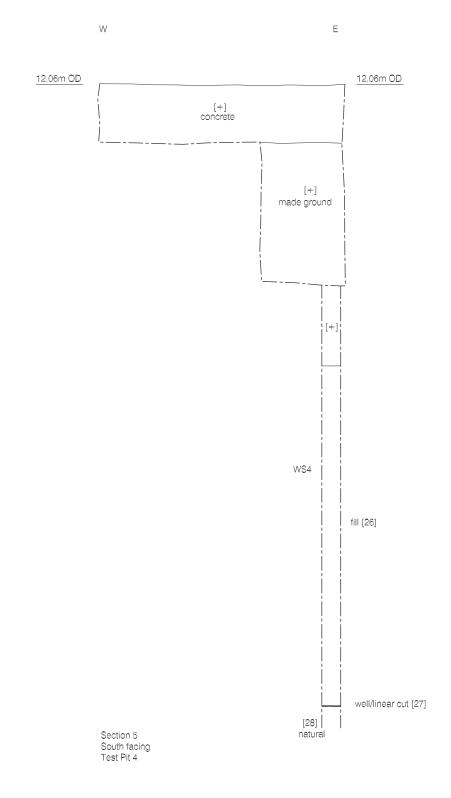




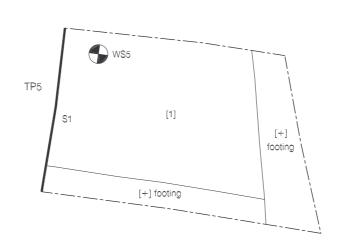






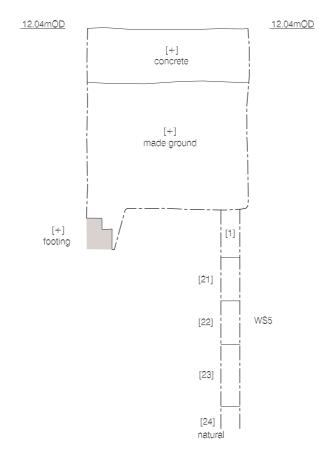








S N



Section 1 East facing Test Pit 5



8 Conclusions

8.1 Phase 1

- 8.1.1 The removal of window samples within all of the test pits enabled the observation of the naturally formed stratigraphic sequence on site. This sequence can be typified as natural gravel, encountered at untruncated heights varying between c.10.16m OD and c.10.52m OD in the northern half of the site to c.10.04m OD in the south, overlain by a sandy brickearth horizon, encountered at untruncated heights varying between c.11.00m OD in the north to c.10.37m OD in the south.
- 8.1.2 Ordnance Datum heights on the natural gravel horizon indicate that a gradual drop from east to west exists whilst in contrast Ordnance Datum heights on the natural brickearth indicate the reverse with higher ground apparently located in the west. Indeed, a notable difference to the natural brickearth was evident between the western and eastern parts of the site with the thickness of the layer recorded as 0.84m in the west and 0.26m in the east (see Appendix 1).

8.2 Phase 1/2

- 8.2.1 Archaeological evaluation of the removal of geotechnical boreholes indicated that a brickearth horizon was present at a height of c.11.60m OD. Whilst the lower parts of the deposit were clearly the product of natural deposition the methodology employed was such that it could not be discounted that the upper parts may have represented Roman brickearth floor surfaces.
- 8.2.2 With regards the test pits and window samples, whilst the natural brickearth was overlain by deposits of obvious archaeological character in the west, the depositional nature of the overlying stratigraphic sequence in the east was impossible to determine. Whilst the presence of culturally sterile sand, brickearth and gravel deposits post-dating the natural brickearth in the east may be a consequence of variable fluvial action within an undulation in the natural topography, it is also possible that the deposits may be archaeological in nature e.g. backfill of a quarry pit.

8.3 Phase 2

8.3.1 In the west of the site the removal of Window Sample 1 demonstrated that archaeological deposits, potentially representative of multiple brickearth slabs, exist *in situ*.

- 8.3.2 The excavation of Test Pit 2/Window Sample 2 demonstrated that a cut-feature, 3.30m in depth and containing a humic silt fill containing seven small fragments of 2nd century pottery, whilst a similarly deeply cut feature was also recorded in Window Sample 4. Boreholes 1 and 2, situated between these two features, have demonstrated that these represent deep cut pits or wells rather than a linear feature.
- 8.3.3 As discussed above, the archaeological evaluation of the removal of geotechnical boreholes indicated that a brickearth horizon was present at a height of c.11.60m OD in Boreholes 1 and 2. Whilst the lower parts of the deposit were clearly the product of natural deposition it could not be discounted that the upper parts may have represented brickearth slabs.
- 8.3.4 Further interpretation of the these deposits and features as a whole is essentially impossible at this early stage of investigation, however, fragmentary remains of horizontally lain archaeological deposits and deep cut-features exist *in situ* on site.

8.4 Phase 3

8.4.1 The presence of an early 18th century burnt deposit overlying a roughly lain gravel surface in the east of the site indicates that in some areas archaeological material post-dating the Roman deposits survives *in situ*. However, it is unclear as to whether the 18th century deposits represent a horizontally lain archaeological sequence or, as should probably be anticipated, are contained within a subterranean feature.

8.5 Late 19th/20th century

8.5.1 The archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations has demonstrated that whilst truncation to archaeological deposits during the late 19th/20th century was extensive it was not comprehensive. With the exception of the foundation encountered in Test Pit 5, which was brick built within a construction cut, the remainder were typified as trench built concrete foundations, which had caused isolated impact to the surviving archaeological sequence.

9 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Lovat Lane Ltd for commissioning and funding the archaeological work.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Hayley Baxter for compiling the illustrations that accompany the report, Chris Jarrett for providing dates for the post-medieval ceramic material and James Gerrard for providing dates for the Roman pottery. In addition the author offers her thanks to Jon Butler for his advice regarding the archaeology on site and Tim Bradley for project managing the fieldwork and editing the report.

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Appendix 1 Context Register

Context No	Sect/elev No	Trench	Prov date	Туре	Description	Phase	N-S	E-W	Depth	High
1	S.1	Test Pit 5	natural/Roman?	Layer	Redeposited/natural brickearth	1/2	0.68	1.12	n/a	11.10
2	S.2	Test Pit 3	P.Med	Layer	Burnt horizon	3	1.00	0.50	0.28	11.70
3	S.2	Test Pit 3	P.Med	Layer	Gravel surface	3?	1.00	0.50	n/a	11.42
4	S.4	Test Pit 2	Roman	Fill	Fill of [9]	2	0.80	0.54	n/a	11.20
5	S.3	Test Pit 1	Roman	Layer	Brickearth floor slab	2	0.46	0.54	n/a	11.25
6	S.3	Test Pit 1	Roman	Layer	Brickearth floor slab/dump	2	0.46	0.54	0.15	11.40
7	S.4	Test Pit 2/WS 2	Roman	Fill	Fill of [9]	2	n/a	n/a	3.30	11.10
8	S.4	Test Pit 2/WS 2	Natural	Layer	Natural gravel	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.80
9	S.4	Test Pit 2/WS 2	Roman	Cut	Well/pit?	2	n/a	n/a	3.30	11.10
10	S.3	Test Pit 1/WS 1	Roman	Layer	Brickearth floor slab	2	n/a	n/a	80.0	11.25
11	S.3	Test Pit 1/WS 1	Roman	Layer	Brickearth floor slab	2	n/a	n/a	80.0	11.17
12	S.3	Test Pit 1/WS 1	Roman	Layer	Brickearth floor slab	2	n/a	n/a	0.10	11.09
13	S.3	Test Pit 1/WS 1	Natural	Layer	Natural brickearth	1	n/a	n/a	0.84	11.00
14	S.3	Test Pit 1/WS 1	Natural	Layer	Natural gravel	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.16
15	S.2	Test Pit 3/WS3	Natural/Roman?	Layer	Redeposited/natural brickearth	1/2	n/a	n/a	0.25	11.37
16	S.2	Test Pit 3/WS3	Natural/Roman?	Layer	Levelling layer/natural sand	1/2	n/a	n/a	0.15	11.12
17	S.2	Test Pit 3/WS3	Natural/Roman?	Layer	Redeposited/natural brickearth	1/2	n/a	n/a	0.10	10.98
18	S.2	Test Pit 3/WS3	Natural/Roman?	Layer	Levelling layer/natural sand	1/2	n/a	n/a	0.10	10.88
19	S.2	Test Pit 3/WS3	Natural	Layer	Natural brickearth	1	n/a	n/a	0.26	10.78
20	S.2	Test Pit 3/WS3	Natural	Layer	Natural gravel	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.52
21	S.1	Test Pit 5/WS5	Natural/Roman?	Layer	Redeposited/natural brickearth	1/2	n/a	n/a	0.27	10.83
22	S.1	Test Pit 5/WS5	Natural/Roman?	Layer	Levelling layer/natural gravel	1/2	n/a	n/a	0.23	10.60
23	S.1	Test Pit 5/WS5	Natural	Layer	Natural sand	1	n/a	n/a	0.33	10.37
24	S.1	Test Pit 5/WS5	Natural	Layer	Natural gravel	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.04
25				VOID						
26	S.5	Test Pit 4/WS4	Roman	Fill	Fill of [27]	2	n/a	n/a	1.80	10.57
27	S.5	Test Pit 4/WS4	Roman	Cut	Well/pit?	2	n/a	n/a	1.80	10.57
28	S.5	Test Pit 4/WS4	Natural	Layer	Natural gravel	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.77
29	S.6	Borehole 1	Natural/Roman?	Layer	Redeposited/natural brickearth	1/2	n/a	n/a	1.60	11.60
30	S.6	Borehole 1	Natural	Layer	Natural gravel	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.00
31	S.7	Borehole 2	Natural/Roman?	Layer	Redeposited/natural brickearth	1/2	n/a	n/a	1.20	11.60
32	S.7	Borehole 2	Natural	Layer	Natural gravel	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.40

Appendix 2 Matrix

Appendix 3 OASIS Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-41760

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation of Geotechnical Investigations at 3

Lovat Lane, City of London, EC3

Short description of the The archaeological evaluation of geotechnical investigations,

project

consisting of test pits, window samples and boreholes, demonstrated that stratified archaeological deposits possibly dating to the Roman and post-medieval periods survive in situ in the north, south and west of the site at heights ranging between c.11.10m OD - c.11.70m OD (as extrapolated from Engineer Drawing 3170-SK01-T3). The archaeological evaluation demonstrated that a sequence of brickearth slabs are present in the west of the site and deeply cut features of possible Roman date exist in the north and south. In the east of the site an early 18th century burnt horizon overlay a sequence of deposits which may be archaeological in nature. A natural brickearth horizon, overlying natural gravel, is present at heights ranging between 11.00m OD and 10.37m OD.

Project dates Start: 28-04-2008 End: 29-05-2008

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project LVA08 - Sitecode

reference codes

Any associated reference codes

project 07/00945/FULL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Monument type BRICKEARTH FLOORS Roman

Monument type CUT FEATURES Roman

Monument type GRAVEL SURFACE Post Medieval

Monument type BURNT HORIZON Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Methods & techniques 'Augering','Test Pits','Vibro-core'

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning After full determination (eg. As a condition)

process

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON 3

Lovat Lane, City of London, EC3

Study area 0.02 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 8806 8078 51.4940878666 0.709442188467 51 29 38 N 000

42 33 E Point

Height OD Min: 10.37m Max: 11.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Pre-Construct Archaeology

Project director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor Joanna Taylor

Type of sponsor/funding Lovat Lane Ltd

body

Name of sponsor/funding Lovat Lane Ltd

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