

Crossrail – Moorgate and Finsbury Circus

Site code: XSP10 & XRZ10

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Conservation post-excavation assessment

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1 Quantification and assessment

1.1 Conservation

	Material	No. registered	No. conserved	No. to be treated
Inorganics	Ceramic	10	0	0
	Glass	1	0	0
	Stone	1	0	0
Metals	Copper alloy	3 (0 coins)	0	1
	Iron	4	0	0
	Lead alloy	1	0	0
Organics	Bone	3	0	1
	Leather	1 + bulk	1 + bulk	0

Table 1 Summary of conservation work

Introduction

The following is an assessment of conservation needs for the registered and bulk finds from the Crossrail excavations at Moorgate and Finsbury Circus in accordance with currently accepted standards of best practice (as defined in MAP2, now incorporated within MoRPHE) for the transfer of the assemblage to the receiving organisation. It also incorporates conservation tasks needed to fulfil the requirements laid out in the Museum of London's Standards for archive preparation (Museum of London 2009).

Conservation support at the time of the excavation was provided by conservators working for the Museum of London Archaeology. Records of conservation carried out at the fieldwork stage are held in the conservation department of the Museum of London.

Methodology

Treatment of objects at the fieldwork stage includes the stabilisation of vulnerable materials and composites, cleaning of coins for dating purposes and investigative cleaning and conservation according to archaeological priorities. Treatments are carried out under the guiding principles of minimum intervention and reversibility. Whenever possible preventive rather than interventive conservation strategies are implemented. Procedures aim to obtain and retain the maximum archaeological potential of each object: conservators will therefore work closely with finds specialist and archaeologists.

All leather was pre-treated with glycerol, freeze dried to stabilise it and then packaged for long term storage.

All conserved objects are packed in archive quality materials and stored in suitable environmental conditions. Records of all conservation work are prepared on paper and on the Museum of London collections management system (Mimsy XG) and stored at the Museum of London.

Finds analysis/investigation

The registered finds were assessed by visual examination of both the objects and the X-radiographs, closer examination where necessary was carried out using a binocular microscope at high magnification. The registered and general finds were reviewed with reference to the finds assessments by Beth Richardson (registered finds, leather and glass), Ian Betts (CBM), Jacqui Pearce (CTP), Nigel Jeffries (Post Roman pot) and Amy Thorpe (Roman pot).

A Roman copper alloy nail cleaner and bone needle were identified as requiring conservation input to clarify detail.

Work required for illustration/photography

No items were identified as requiring conservation input to prepare them for illustration and photography.

Preparation for deposition in the archive

The small finds from this site are appropriately packed for the archive, no further work is necessary for transfer into the archive.

Remedial work outstanding

There is no remedial work outstanding.

2 Publication project: aims and objectives

2.1 Conservation method statement

Task 1 Analysis and investigative work 0.75 pd

Total Conservation 0.75 pd

Finds analysis/investigation

The following items were identified as requiring investigative conservation to clarify form and decoration and assist with identification; unless otherwise stated, this consists of removal of surface corrosion and soil under the microscope, and surface treatment if necessary.

XSP10 [124] <3> copper alloy, nail cleaner – clarify if decorated 0.5 pd

XSP10 [48] <14> bone, needle – clarify detail round eye of needle 0.25 pd

Total finds and investigative conservation 0.75 pd

3 Bibliography

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*

English Heritage, 1997 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavations.*

Museum of London 2009 *General standards for the preparation of archaeological archives deposited with the Museum of London* <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections-research/laarc/standards-deposition/>