



# C257 ARCHAEOLOGY CENTRAL




## Interim Statement


### Archaeological Evaluation

### 91 to 109 Moorgate – XSP10

**Document Number: C257-MLA-X-RGN-CRG02-50028**

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*(in Annex 1 at back of document)*

*Fig 1 Location of Evaluation Trench 6*

*Fig 2 Section of Evaluation Trench 6*

## 1 Introduction

This document is an interim statement of the results of an archaeological evaluation on one test pit (in the original location of trench 6) through the basement of 91–109 Moorgate (pre-demolition of the building) prior to a fieldwork evaluation being carried out post-demolition of the building. Continuation of the fieldwork evaluation is provisionally scheduled in February/March 2011 (the date and scope of works of is to be confirmed).

The archaeological evaluation of one test pit was carried out by C257 Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). It was conducted between 25/11/10 to 01/12/10 and supervised by Robert Hartle (MOLA Supervisor).

The event code (sitecode) is XSP10.

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with:

- A Crossrail **Site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation** (SS-WSI): *Liverpool Street Station Design Package 138*, Doc. No C138-MMD-T1-RST-C101-00001, Version 2, April 2010
- An **Addendum to the WSI**: Package C138 – *Liverpool Street Station, Addendum to Written Scheme of Investigation: Moorgate Shaft*, Doc. No: C138-MMD-T1-TCP-C101- 0001, Revision 2.0, July 2010.
- An **Archaeological Method Statement**: MOLA, *C257 Archaeology Central Method Statement Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Briefs (C138) Moorgate Shaft*, Doc. No: C257-MLA-T1-GMS-CR088-00003, Version 2, 24/11/10.

## 2 Aims and Objectives

These are defined in the SS-WSI and are reproduced below.

### 2.1 Research Aims

Evidence relating to the Walbrook, its tributaries and Moorfields Marsh deposits may provide data relevant to the following themes:

- Understanding London's hydrology, river systems and tributaries and the relationship between rivers and floodplains;
- Understanding how water supply and drainage provision were installed and managed;
- Refining our understanding of the chronology and function of the landward and riverside defences and extramural evidence of defensive or military structures in the Roman period;
- Understanding the relationships between urban settlements and royal villas or religious estates;
- Examining the proposal that there was an ideological polarity between town and anti-town systems: Roman towns did not so much fail as were discarded;
- The end of the Roman occupation: developing explanatory models to explain socio-political change and considering the influence of surviving Roman structures on Saxon development; and;
- Examining the use in any one period of materials from an earlier period (eg Saxon use of surviving Roman fabric) and the influence on craftsmanship, manufacture and building techniques.

## **2.2 Fieldwork Objectives**

The overall objectives of the trial trench evaluation were to establish the nature, extent and state of preservation of any surviving archaeological remains that will be impacted upon by the development.

Specifically, the archaeological investigations had the potential to recover:

- Artefacts of prehistoric date re-deposited in later deposits.
- Remains of Roman extra-mural activity, potentially including burials.
- Waterlain deposits from the Roman to medieval Moorgate Marsh, with the potential for organic preservation and palaeoenvironmental evidence.
- Late medieval and post-medieval drainage ditches, rubbish dumps and remains associated with the reclamation of Moorfields Marsh.
- In areas not truncated by later activity: remains of mid 17th-century or earlier buildings on the western side of Moorfields, and late 17th/early 18th-century or later buildings across the whole site.

### 3 Provisional Results

See Fig 1 for trench location

#### 3.1 Trench 6



*Evaluation Trench 6  
looking south, showing archaeological layers [1],[2]and [3] in section and probably natural brickearth [6] at  
the base of the test pit and in small test hole.*



*Natural brickearth in the base of trench 6, looking west*



<b>Trench 6 (see Fig 2)</b>	
Location	91 to 109 Moorgate (in south of basement)
Dimensions	1.90m north-east to south-west and 1.85m north-west to south-east x 1.40 to 1.84m deep
Centre of test pit: London Survey grid co-ordinates	83058.872 / 36310.961
Modern Ground Level/top of the slab	110.05m ATD (10.05m OD)
Modern subsurface deposits	Small area of mixed silt and clay with modern rubble (0.6m–0.8m deep) - modern levelling/demolition deposits
Level of base of archaeological deposits observed and/or base of trench	Base of trench: 108.65m ATD (8.65m OD, 1.4m bGL)
Natural observed	Brickearth [6] at 108.65m ATD (8.65m OD, 1.4m bGL), overlaying natural Brickearth layer [7] at 108.43m ATD (8.43m OD, 1.62m bGL) and natural Brickearth layer [8] at 108.21m ATD (8.21m OD, 1.84m bGL)  Brickearth truncated by modern concrete features Natural gravel not seen
Extent of modern truncation	110.05m to 108.65m ATD
<b>Archaeological remains</b>	<b>Dating Evidence, Finds, and Samples</b>
Mixed clay and brickearth levelling dump [3]	Pottery: Roman sherds, AD 150–200 Animal bone fragments
An unidentified shallow rectangular cut [5] truncating layer [3] and overlain by layer [2]	Potentially AD 100–200, given it's position relative to dated layers [2] and [3]. No finds.
Mixed clay and brickearth levelling dump [2]	Pottery: Roman sherds, including black-burnished wares and samian, AD 150–200, with one sherd of re-deposited late Iron Age flint-tempered ware.  Ceramic building material: undated Roman (AD 40–400)  Animal bone fragments  Monolith from context [2] in south-east section (Sample No. {1}).
Dark brown organic silt layer [1], overlaying [2]	Undated – no dating evidence, assumed to be late Roman or early medieval  Monolith and slab samples (8 litres) (Sample Nos. {2},{3} and {4}) from context [1] in south-east section.
<b>Interpretation and summary</b>	

Brickearth layer [6], although likely be natural, could potentially be re-deposited, given it's position immediately below layer [3]. However, there is no evidence to support or disprove this. However, Layers [7] and [8] can be confidently interpreted as natural.

Layers [2] and [3] are certainly Roman in date and are dump or levelling layers, although [3] had been truncated by an unidentified cut [5]. These layers are probably preparation for Roman extra-mural activity.

Layer [1], while undated, is presumably late Roman or early medieval, given its position in the sequence, and, while not a waterlain deposit, appears to have been perhaps partially waterlogged. This layer may represent the early formation of the Moorgate Marsh.

## 4 Significance of Results (provisional)

### 4.1 Summary of Fieldwork Results

- Concrete basement slab was 0.6 to 0.8m thick (minimum/maximum)
- Modern truncation was a minimum of 0.6m deep from the floor level but in places extended into the natural.
- Probable natural brickearth [6] found at 108.65m ATD (8.65m OD), certain natural brickearth [7] at 108.43m ATD (8.43m OD).
- The trench has shown that Roman and potentially medieval deposits survive beneath the basement of 91 to 109 Moorgate.
- Archaeological remains overlaying the natural brickearth [6], [7] and [8] included a Roman dump/levelling layer [3]. Truncating this layer was an unidentified shallow rectangular cut, overlain by another Roman dump/levelling layer [2]. Over layer [2], at 1.2–1.3m below the floor level, was a potentially late Roman or Early Medieval organic silty clay layer [1], itself truncated by the basement concrete floor and foundations.
- Analysis of pollen, molluscs, diatoms and plant macro fossils within monolith and bulk samples taken from contexts [1] and [2] will potentially provide further detail about the local environment and ground conditions.

### 4.2 Importance of Resources

The archaeological remains identified in the fieldwork are provisionally assessed as being of low to moderate importance. However, they do suggest the potential survival of Roman and medieval deposits in this area, which could be of greater interest.

### 4.3 *Provisional* Assessment of Results against Aims and Objectives

One sherd of prehistoric date (Iron Age) was found re-deposited in a later layer.

Several layers represent Roman extra-mural activity, but there was no evidence in this limited area for occupation, structures, or burials.

No true waterlain deposits from the Roman to medieval Moorgate Marsh were identified. However, layer [1] seems at least to have been partially waterlogged at some point and may originally have been semi-terrestrial. This could perhaps represent the early stages of the Moorgate Marsh or be the fill of a more localised feature, for example, a ditch or pit.

Late medieval and post-medieval drainage ditches, rubbish dumps and remains associated with the reclamation of Moorfields Marsh have presumably been truncated, if they were ever originally present. The trench also confirms that no post-medieval deposits survive in this immediate area.

### 4.4 *Provisional* conclusions for future work

- There is good archaeological survival of early Roman horizons and partial survival of archaeology of a potentially late Roman to medieval date, which may be the Moorgate Marsh.
- Further evaluation trenches (post demolition of the building) may inform the nature of Roman activities which took place on the area levelled with mixed brickearth, and whether the overlaying deposits are from the Moorgate Marsh or another more localised feature.



- Future assessment of samples has potential to inform interpretation of the possible Marsh deposit.

## 5 Future Deliverables

The remaining deliverables for the site, and their delivery dates as specified by *Crossrail, Archaeology, Specification for Evaluation & Mitigation (including Watching Brief, Doc. No. CR-PN-LWS-EN-SP-00001, v. 0.3, 26.06.09)*, are:

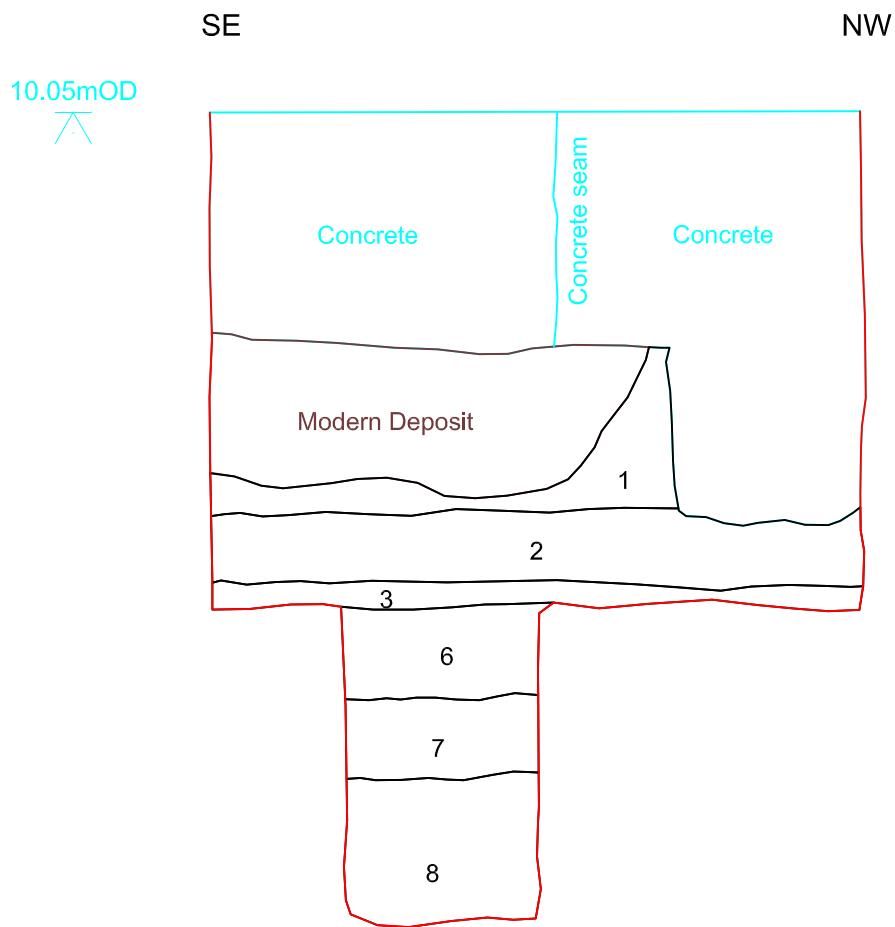
- **Survey Report** for the one test pit (in the area of trench 6) prior to the demolition of the building (sent 16.12.10)
- Further evaluation trenches will be excavated post demolition of the building at 91–109 Moorgate.
- A further Interim Statement, Survey Report, Fieldwork/Oasis Report, and Summary reports will be delivered concluding completion of the remaining evaluation trenches.

## **6 Annex 1 – Trench Location Plan and Section**

*Fig 1 Location of Evaluation Trench 6*

*Fig 2 Section of Evaluation Trench 6*





North-East Facing Section

## Trench 6



Limit of Excavation



Archaeological deposits



Site TBM (derived from Crossrail existing basement survey: su42b952.dgn)

Print scale 1:20 @A4  
0 1m

Event code / Site code:

XSP10: FIG 2

Site Address:

Crossrail: C136 Moorgate Shaft  
91-109 Moorgate, London, EC2M 6SL

Type of fieldwork:

Evaluation Test Pit