



C257 Archaeology Central Summary Report

Archaeological Watching Briefs on Sewer Diversions at Moorgate Shaft (XSP10)

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1 Summary for London Archaeologist

City of London

Crossrail Moorgate Sewer Diversions and OSD, EC2 TQ 3270 8163 MOLA (Sam Pfizenmaier) watching brief Feb–Jun 2012 Crossrail XSP10

The diversion of a large N–S aligned 19th-century sewer and the insertion of 4 manholes, as well as general ground reduction in the north-western area of the site, were monitored. In the southern part of the site natural gravels were overlain by either the base of a heavily truncated pit or a Roman deposit modified by the formation of the Moorfields marsh. Overlying this were Roman or medieval marsh deposits. A single adult human bone recovered from the marsh may be from a Roman inhumation, given the lack of known medieval cemeteries in the immediate vicinity, and was probably washed into the site by Walbrook tributaries and/or the marsh formation process. This was sealed by a thin soil horizon, representing the drying or drainage of the marsh and probably dating to the 15th to 16th-centuries. In the southernmost part of the site, 19th-century timber shoring for the cut-and-cover sewer construction was found *in situ* and had truncated all earlier deposits to 4.1m below ground level. The sewer itself, designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette (1819–1891), measured 1.5m wide and was constructed in an innovative inverted egg-shaped design. In the northern part of the site, the natural gravels were heavily truncated by 20th-century foundations for Moorgate London Underground station. The foundation piers for the station were set at least 6m beneath ground level, well below the level of archaeological survival.

2 Summary for Britannia11

City of London

Crossrail, Moorgate Sewer Diversions and OSD, EC2 (TQ 32706 81635) watching brief by Sam Pfizenmaier for Crossrail (XSP10)

In the southern part of the site, sewer diversions revealed natural gravels overlaid by either the base of a heavily truncated pit or a Roman deposit modified by the formation of the Moorfields Marsh. Overlying this were extensive Roman or medieval marsh deposits. A single adult human bone recovered from the marsh may be from a Roman inhumation, given the lack of known medieval cemeteries in the immediate vicinity, and was probably washed into the site by Walbrook tributaries and/or the marsh formation process.

3 Summary for Medieval Archaeology

CROSSRAIL, MOORGATE SEWER DIVERSIONS AND OSD, EC2 (TQ 3270 8165) S Pfizenmaier (MOLA) carried out a watching brief on sewer diversions and general ground reduction

In the southern part of the site, the Roman and medieval marsh sequence identified as the Moorfields Marsh was sealed by a thin soil horizon, representing the drying or drainage of the marsh and probably dating to the late medieval period/15th-/16th-centuries.

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4 Summary for Post Medieval Archaeology

City of London

CROSSRAIL MOORGATE SEWER DIVERSIONS AND OSD (TQ 3270 8163) S Pfizenmaier (MOLA) carried out a watching brief between February and June 2012 on the diversion of a large N–S aligned 19th-century sewer and the insertion of 4 manholes, as well as general ground reduction in the north-western area of the site. In the southern area of the site, a thin soil horizon representing the drying or drainage of the marsh and probably dating to the 15th to 16th-centuries was recorded. In the southernmost part of the site, 19th-century timber shoring for the cut and cover sewer was found in situ, and had truncated all earlier deposits to a depth of 4.1m below ground level. The sewer itself, designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette (1819–1891), measured 1.5m wide and was constructed in an innovative inverted egg-shaped design that allowed consistent flows with comparatively low volumes of water. The foundation piers for the Moorgate underground station to the north were set at least 6m beneath ground level, well beyond the level of archaeological survival. **OASIS ID - molas1-136735**