

NATASHA POWERS AND CHARLOTTE BOSSICK (MOLA): A VISIT FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

July 11, 2014 MOLA Day of Archaeology 2014, Museum Archaeology, Public Archaeology Archaeological Survey of India, ASI, cake, Commercial archaeology, India, LAARC, London, Mola, Museum of London Archaeology, project planning

This week we are really excited to have met archaeological and museum colleagues from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), India's foremost organisation for archaeological research and protection of cultural heritage. Dr B. R. Mani and his party are spending a few days in London on a trip coordinated by the British Museum and were accompanied on their visit to MOLA's offices at Mortimer Wheeler House by Professor Michael Willis and Rachel Brown. The visit involved a tour of MOLA's London office and our neighbours the Museum of London's Archaeological Archive, whose status as the largest archaeological archive in the world definitely impressed.



Dan Nesbit of the Museum of London's Archaeological Archive explains how the collections have been acquired and displays a few special objects



Fiona Seeley, MOLA Head of Finds and Conservation, shows Dr B R Mani and colleagues how MOLA record and analyse Roman pottery.

There was a great deal of practical discussion: how we plan archaeological features, what pro-formas we use, how we digitise our data and how we store objects efficiently.



Admiring the stone from St Mary Spital priory – and the expanding racking system which enables us to load pallets using a forklift.

This was all followed by a Q&A session with MOLA Chief Executive Taryn Nixon and Professor Willis from the British Museum which focused particularly on comparing the planning process and way in which projects are funded and sites protected in Britain and India. We also heard how objects from Britain's colonial past turn up on Indian archaeological sites and are looking forward to helping to identify some recently uncovered ceramics and glass manufactured in London. And of course enjoyed some goodies!



East meets West – Brick Lane’s finest Indian sweet selection and British cream buns!