



# Archaeological General Watching Brief: C136 Farringdon Station, Eastern Ticket Hall, 33-37 Charterhouse Square.

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## Issue and Revision Record

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## 1 Introduction

This document reports briefly on the results of archaeological monitoring of five structural test pits to determine the extent of foundations for 33-37 Charterhouse Square. The work zone was situated in the basement of 33-37 Charterhouse Square, in the City of London. The National Grid reference (NGR) coordinates for the approximate centre of the site are **531950 181810**. This report does not include a location plan, and should be read in conjunction with the pre-excitation location plan (Intrusive Survey Location Plan, East Ticket Halls Survey C136-SWN-G-DDA-M123\_1-00001, Ref. P01.1, appended to this report).

The fieldwork was carried out in February 2011. The five test pits were intended to investigate the foundations 33-37 Charterhouse Square. Archaeological monitoring of the pit excavations was carried out in order to investigate and record any archaeological remains or burials, if present.

The archaeological background to the site is covered in Section 1.3 of the Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Briefs Method Statement: *Method Statement for Evaluation and Watching Briefs Farringdon Eastern Ticket Hall (C136)*. That document's discussion of potential is supplementary to the description of the general potential of the Farringdon area as presented in the Crossrail Environment Statement Specialist Technical Report (STR): *Crossrail, Assessment Of Archaeology Impacts, Technical Report, part 2 of 6, Central Section 1E0318-C1E00-00001, February 2005*.

## 2 Aims and objectives

This report was commissioned by Crossrail, and was produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The primary aim of the archaeological watching brief was to provide an opportunity to investigate and record any archaeological remains or burials that may have been present (ie preservation by record) and to determine the extent of modern truncation.

Specific research objectives were:

RA1: To identify and record any archaeological remains or burials that are exposed in the structural test pits.

## 3 The watching brief

### 3.1 Methodology

On-site archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Crossrail Farringdon Station, Site-Specific Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (Document Number: CR-SD-FAR-EN-SY-00001).

The five test pits were hand excavated by Constructive Evaluation, and were monitored and recorded by a MOLA senior archaeologist. They were TP/H1; TP/H2; TP/H3, TP/H4 and TP/H5. The five pits were roughly square or rectangular in plan, the smallest being 0.9 x 0.58m and the largest 1 x 1m, and were excavated to a depth of between 1.1m and 1.4m.

The pits were recorded using the methods in the Museum of London *Archaeological Site Manual* (1994). To summarise, descriptions of the pits, and of the deposits observed, were entered onto proforma trench record sheets by the monitoring archaeologist. In addition, plans and sections were drawn relative to recognised surrounding features. Archaeological context numbers were also assigned where appropriate. The level of observed structures and deposits was recorded by measuring down from the ground surface (adjacent to each pit) to significant interfaces. **Ground levels....**

### 3.2 Results of the watching brief

The interpreted results of each starter pit are tabulated as an appendix attached to this report.

In summary:

- Structural elements were observed and recorded for the 33-37 Charterhouse Square.
- No burials or human bones were discovered.
- It appears that the basement of 33-37 Charterhouse Square has truncated the archaeologically sterile river terrace gravels [37] and largely removed all earlier archaeological remains. However, there is some limited archaeology surviving toward the centre of the building.
- Probable London Clay was reached at between xxxx OD (4.5m below ground level), overlain by river terrace gravels [37].

## 4 Conclusions

The location and extent of foundations were discovered in all test pits. No burials or human bone were discovered in any of the pits, window samples or borehole.

No archaeological remains pre-dating the construction of the 33-37 Charterhouse Square were identified in pits TP/H1, 2, 3 or 4. However, two deposits were discovered, truncated by the buildings foundations, which contained post medieval pot, peg tile fragments and animal bone. These deposits can be dated from c. 16th to 18th Century and could perhaps be the remains of pit fills. This suggests pocket of untruncated archaeology still survive at least around the centre of the building.

## Appendix 1: interpreted watching brief results

Note: in this report, depths m bGL (below ground level) refer to the levels of the floor slab adjacent to the trial pits.



TP/H1	
Location	33-37 Charterhouse Square, north-west corner of the eastern basement room.
Dimensions	0.85m (N-S) x 0.85m (E-W) at top x 1.1m deep (max)
Modern Ground Level (adjacent to pit)	xxxx OD
Modern subsurface deposits	0–0.26m bGL - Concrete floor slab 0.26-0.8m bGL – Brown orange clay sand [35]
Level of base of archaeological deposits observed and/or base of pit	Base of pit: xxxx OD
Natural geology observed (truncated/not truncated ?)	River terrace gravels [37]: loose red orange gravelly sand at xxxx OD (0.8m bGL);truncated
Extent of modern truncation	Up to 1.05m deep
Archaeological remains	
None	N/A
Pit interpretation and summary	
<p>Foundations of the basement wall [36] consisted of brick corbelling (4 steps, 280mm high and extending 240mm from the face of the wall) sitting on a concrete pad (450mm thick and extending 500 to 750mm from the face of the wall). The base of the foundations: xxx OD</p> <p>No archaeological remains, burials or human bone were present within the limits of the pit.</p>	



TP/H2	
Location	33-37 Charterhouse, north-west corner of the pillar in the eastern basement room.
Dimensions	0.9m (E-W) x 0.58m (N-S) at top x 1.4m deep
Modern Ground Level (adjacent to pit)	xxxx OD
Modern subsurface deposits	0–0.2m bGL – Concrete floor slab  0.2–1.26m bGL – Brown orange clay sand [35]
Level of base of archaeological deposits observed and/or base of pit	Base of pit: xxxx OD
Natural geology observed (truncated/not truncated ?)	River terrace gravels [37]: loose red orange gravelly sand at xxxx OD (1.26m bGL);truncated
Extent of modern truncation	Up to 1.4m deep
Archaeological remains	Date
None	N/A
Pit interpretation and summary	
<p>Foundations of the basement pillar base [38] consisted of brick corbelling (2 steps, 0.58m high and extending 180mm from the pillar footing) sitting on a concrete pad (0.65m thick and extending 300mm from the pillar footing). The base of the foundations: xxx OD</p> <p>No archaeological remains, burials or human bone were present within the limits of the pit.</p>	



TP/H3	
Location	33-37 Charterhouse Square, south-west corner of the eastern basement room.
Dimensions	1m (N-S) x 1m (E-W) at top x 1.25m deep (max)
Modern Ground Level (adjacent to pit)	xxxx OD
Modern subsurface deposits	0-0.26m bGL - Concrete floor slab  0.26-0.8m bGL – Brown orange clay sand [35]
Level of base of archaeological deposits observed and/or base of pit	Base of pit: xxxx OD
Natural geology observed (truncated/not truncated ?)	River terrace gravels [37]: loose red orange gravelly sand at xxxx OD (0.8m bGL);truncated
Extent of modern truncation	0.8 to 1.05m deep
Archaeological remains	Date
None	N/A
Pit interpretation and summary	
<p>Foundations of the basement wall [36] consisted of brick corbelling (4 steps, 280mm high and extending 240mm from the face of the wall) sitting on a concrete pad (450mm thick and extending 500 to 750mm from the face of the wall). The base of the foundations: xxx OD</p> <p>No archaeological remains, burials or human bone were present within the limits of the pit.</p>	





<b>TP/H4</b>	
Location	33-37 Charterhouse Square, north-west corner of the eastern basement room.
Dimensions	0.85m (N-S) x 0.95m (E-W) at top x 1.3m deep (max)
Modern Ground Level (adjacent to pit)	xxxx OD
Modern subsurface deposits	0-0.2m bGL - Concrete floor slab  0.2-0.6m bGL – Mid red orange gravelly sand with building material fragments [39]
Level of base of archaeological deposits observed and/or base of pit	Base of pit: xxxx OD
Natural geology observed (truncated/not truncated ?)	River terrace gravels [37]: loose red orange gravelly sand at xxxx OD (0.6m bGL);truncated
Extent of modern truncation	Up to 1.3m deep
<b>Archaeological and built heritage remains</b>	<b>Date</b>
None	N/A
<b>Pit interpretation and summary</b>	
<p>Foundations of the basement wall [40] consisted of brick corbelling (2 steps visible) sitting on a concrete pad (700mm thick and extending 500mm from the face of the wall). The base of the foundations: xxx OD</p> <p>No archaeological remains, burials or human bone were present within the limits of the pit.</p>	





<b>TP/H5</b>	
Location	33-37 Charterhouse Square, at the approximate centre of the basement.
Dimensions	0.7m (N-S) x 1m (E-W) at top x 1.30m deep (max)
Modern Ground Level (adjacent to pit)	xxxx OD
Modern subsurface deposits	0–0.22m bGL - Concrete floor slab
Level of base of archaeological deposits observed and/or base of pit	Base of pit: xxxx OD
Natural geology observed (truncated/not truncated ?)	River terrace gravels [37]: loose red orange gravelly sand at xxxx OD (1.08m bGL);truncated
Extent of modern truncation	Up to c.1.30m deep
<b>Archaeological remains</b>	<b>Date</b>
0.22-0.56m bGL – [41] dark grey brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, oyster shell fragment and flecks, CBM fragments (peg tile), animal bone fragments and the occasional small sub-angular stone – possible pit fill?	c.17th to 18th century
0.56-1.08m bGL – [42] mid brown clay silt with moderate small sub-angular stones (flint) and occasional charcoal flecks.	
<b>Pit interpretation and summary</b>	
<p>Foundations of the basement walls [43] consisted of a concrete pad (800mm thick and extending 350mm from the face of the wall). The base of the foundations: xxx OD</p> <p>Some archaeological deposits survive of probably post-medieval date and have been truncated by the building's foundations. No burials or human bone were present within the limits of the pit.</p>	



## **Appendix 1:**

### **Test Pit Pre-Excavation Location Plan**

Intrusive Survey Location Plan, East Ticket Halls Survey C136-SWN-G-DDA-M123\_1-00001, Ref. P01.1