



# C257 Archaeology Central Summary Report

## Archaeological Targeted Watching Brief on Charterhouse Square Grout Shaft (XTE 12)

**Document Number: C257-MLA-X-RGN-CRG03-50051 v. 2**

**Document History:**

Version:	Date:	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Authorised by:	Reason for Issue:
1.0	02.07.13	Sam Pfizenmaier	Nicholas Elsdon	Elaine Eastbury	For CRL Review
2.0	12.11.13	Sam Pfizenmaier	Nicholas Elsdon	Elaine Eastbury	Revised from Crossrail Comments
		<i>Sam Pfizenmaier</i>	<i>Nicholas Elsdon</i>	<i>Elaine Eastbury</i>	

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## 1 Summary for London Archaeologist

### City of London

**Crossrail Charterhouse Square Grout Shaft, Charterhouse Square, EC1 TQ 3658 8229** MOLA (Sam Pfizenmaier) watching brief February–March 2013 Crossrail XTE12

A 4.5m diameter shaft was monitored to 4m below ground level and exposed terrace gravels overlaid by a thick deposit of naturally deposited brickearth. A layer of compacted gravel overlay this, into which 11 NE–SW aligned burials had been cut. Ten were adult supine inhumations, one was possibly buried in or on a timber coffin or board. The single subadult was apparently buried in a coffin. The backfill of the graves contained pottery dated to 1270–1350, but some, possibly all of this may be residual. These burials were sealed by a dumped deposit into which a further two adult individuals, also aligned NE–SW, were cut. Both had been disturbed and truncated by a third phase of burials, which consisted of 12 E–W aligned burials, all apparently adult supine inhumations. Two were buried together in a double grave and two were stacked one above the other. In total 25 skeletons were recovered, none displaying obvious trauma, and all provisionally interpreted as 14th-c plague victims, although the change in grave orientation in the final phase may relate to the post-plague Outer Cemetery of Charterhouse, dating to the 1370s. A thick deposit dating to between 1600 and 1800 sealed the graves. It may be that later burials have been entirely truncated by this post-medieval activity, or that there were simply no later burials in this location. Nineteenth-century deposits included a brick footing and garden soil horizons, these were probably associated with domestic dwellings to the west which were subsequently demolished to make way for the Metropolitan line in the 1860s. These were sealed by modern make up and tarmac. **OASIS ID - molas1-147733**

## 2 Summary for Britannia

Not required

## 3 Summary for Medieval Archaeology

CROSSRAIL, CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE GROUT SHAFT, CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE, FARRINGDON EASTERN TICKET HALL EC1 (TQ 3658 8229) S Pfizenmaier (MOLA) carried out a watching brief on a 4.5m diameter grout shaft. A 200mm thick band of compacted gravel (possibly naturally formed) had 11 NE–SW aligned burials cut into it. A layer of compacted gravel overlay this, into which 11 NE–SW aligned burials had been cut. Ten were adult supine inhumations, one was possibly buried in or on a timber coffin or board. The single subadult was apparently buried in a coffin. The backfill of the graves contained pottery dated to 1270–1350, but some, possibly all of this may be residual. This first phase of burials was sealed by a dumped deposit 300mm thick. A further two adult individuals also aligned NE–SW were cut into this deposit. Both had been disturbed and truncated by a third

phase of burials that consisted of 12 E–W aligned burials, all apparently adult supine inhumations. Two were buried together in a double grave, whilst there was also an unusual burial consisting of two adults stacked one above the other. In total 25 articulated skeletons were recovered, none displaying obvious trauma, and all provisionally interpreted as 14th-c plague victims, although the change in grave orientation in the final phase may relate to the post-plague Outer Cemetery of Charterhouse, dating to the 1370s onwards. A thick mixed deposit dating to between 1600 and 1800 sealed the graves. It may be that later burials have been entirely truncated by this post-medieval activity, or that there were simply no later burials in this location. **OASIS ID - molas1-147733.**

## **4 Summary for Post Medieval Archaeology**

### **City of London**

CROSSRAIL CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE GROUT SHAFT (TQ 3658 8229) S Pfizenmaier (MOLA) carried out a watching brief between February and March 2013. A 4.5m diameter shaft was monitored to 4m below ground level and exposed three phases of medieval cemetery, sealed by a thick amorphous dump, containing large fragments of ceramics dating to between 1600 and 1800. This deposit was overlaid by later post-medieval dumps, as well as a brick footing and garden soil horizons associated with domestic dwellings to the west, subsequently demolished to make way for the Metropolitan line in the 1860s. These were sealed by modern make up and tarmac. **OASIS ID - molas1-147733.**