



**C257 Archaeology Central**  
**LIVERPOOL STREET**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**Evaluation and Watching Brief**  
**Liverpool Street Worksite (XSM10)**

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## 1 Summary for London Archaeologist

### CITY OF LONDON

**Crossrail: Liverpool Street Work site, EC2** TQ 3305 8161 MOLA (Robert Hartle) evaluation, watching brief Feb–Jul 2011 Crossrail XSM10

A watching brief and an evaluation carried out in the roadway and on the pavements of Liverpool Street revealed natural terrace gravels overlain by weathered natural deposits of alluvial clay and brickearth. These were sealed by Roman dumped layers which were cut by or overlain by features of 1st to 3rd-c date including drainage ditches, pits, further dumped layers, a beam slot and several ground or floor surfaces. A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was present in the Roman deposits but no *in situ* burials were discovered. The Roman sequence was overlain by marsh and refuse deposits, containing medieval to early 16th-c finds, which were sealed by reclamation dumps, deliberately laid down to establish the Bethlehem Burial Ground (1568 to c. 1720). A total of 244 *in situ* burials were identified and recorded within the burial ground, which was sealed by a horizon comprised of disturbed cemetery soil, containing human bone, and consolidation dumps associated with the urbanisation of the area in the mid-late 18th century. The cemetery and overlying deposits contained a large and unusual assemblage of worked animal bone and ivory waste, as well as other industrial debris such as glass slag. Post-cemetery features included several brick structures, likely to be remains of buildings seen on 18th-c maps. A previously unknown disused mid-late 19th-c brick sewer or culvert was also discovered running E–W, tunnelled through the burial ground and all underlying archaeology. In all of the trenches, modern make up and paving, concrete or tarmac completed the sequence. A watching brief in the basement of the 1870s Railway Tavern pub revealed that all archaeological deposits had been truncated by the construction of the present building.

## 2 Summary for Britannia

### CITY OF LONDON

**Crossrail: Liverpool Street Worksite, EC2M** (TQ 3305 8161) evaluation and watching brief by Robert Hartle for Crossrail (XSM10)

An archaeological watching brief and evaluation was carried out in the roadway of Liverpool Street. Evidence was found for several phases of Roman extra-mural activity and possible occupation from the 1st to 3rd-century AD. Roman features including dump layers, four E–W aligned ditches, one N–S aligned ditch, a timber building beam slot, ground/floor surfaces and a pit were recorded. The dumped deposits probably represent reclamation or consolidation dumps which were then cut by ditches designed to drain water away westwards towards the Walbrook. The presence of buildings and floor surfaces may be the first indications of industrial and domestic occupation of the site and therefore the reason why the area was being kept dry. In one trench at the N end of the site, evidence for up to three phases of activity was observed. A silted up Roman ditch sealed by dumping was overlain by a possible timber building, indicated by the present of a beam slot and a possible internal floor surface. This in turn was sealed by an external gravel surface with a *terminus post quem* in the form of a silver denarius of Severus Alexander (AD228 to 230). Although the site lies within the general area of the northern cemetery of Roman London, no *in situ* burials have been found. However, several finds of the type commonly found in graves were recorded, including an almost complete Highgate Wood ware C poppy-head beaker (AD120 to 160) and a fragment of a late Roman copper alloy bracelet with notched zigzag decoration. These, together with several disarticulated human bones, probably represent residual material washed along drainage

channels from nearby burials. The Roman sequence was overlain by medieval and later marsh deposits and dumping.

### 3 Summary for Medieval Archaeology

#### CITY OF LONDON

CROSSRAIL: LIVERPOOL STREET WORKSITE (TQ 3305 8161) An evaluation and watching brief were undertaken by R Hartle (MOLA). Overlying Roman extra-mural activity were remains of the Moorfields Marsh, the earliest deposits of which were formed sometime after the 3rd century AD. These were overlain by dump deposits, which contained a variety of medieval to early 16th-century finds. A small amount of well-preserved leather was also recovered, including shoe fragments, which may be of a medieval date. Also, two bone skates found at the base of the post-Roman deposits have been provisionally interpreted as medieval (8th to 13th-century). Within the confines of the evaluation trenches, no cut features were observed relating to attempts to drain the marsh, which would likely have remained waterlogged through the medieval period. **OASIS ID: molas1-111282**

### 4 Summary for Post Medieval Archaeology

#### CITY OF LONDON

CROSSRAIL: LIVERPOOL STREET WORKSITE (TQ 3305 8161) Watching brief and evaluation undertaken by R Hartle (MOLA) in Liverpool Street. Marsh and refuse deposits, containing medieval to early 16th-century finds, which were sealed by reclamation dumps, deliberately laid down to the establish the Bethlehem Burial Ground of 1568 to c 1720. A total of 244 *in situ* burials were identified and recorded within the burial ground. The burial ground was sealed by a horizon comprised of disturbed cemetery soil, containing disarticulated human bone, and consolidation dumps, associated with the urbanisation of the area in the mid-late 18th century. The cemetery and overlying deposits contained a large and unusual assemblage of worked animal bone and ivory waste, as well as other industrial debris such as glass slag. Post-cemetery features include several brick structures, likely to be remains of buildings seen on 18th-century maps. A previously unknown disused mid-late 19th-century brick sewer or culvert was also discovered running E to W, tunnelled through the burial ground and all underlying archaeology. No archaeology was found during a watching brief on a trial trench in the basement of the Railway Tavern pub, suggesting all archaeology there was truncated by the construction of the building in the 1870s. **OASIS ID: molas1-111282**