

# **THAMES WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS**

**City Interim Report 33: CROUCH HILL 59,  
(November 2010-August 2011)  
including  
Remains of Moorgate on the junction of  
London Wall and Moorgate,  
&  
Remains of Aldersgate on the junction of  
Aldersgate Street and St.Martin's-le-Grand**



**October 2011**



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City Interim Report 33: CROUCH HILL 59,  
(November 2010-August 2011)  
City of London EC2

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Remains of Moorgate on the junction of London Wall and  
Moorgate,

&  
Remains of Aldersgate on the junction of  
Aldersgate St. and St.Martin's-le-Grand

NGR: 3270 8153 (Moorgate remains)  
3215 8146 (Aldersgate remains)

Site code: TMM06 (Moorgate & other parts of CH59)  
TXQ11 (Aldersgate)

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October 2010

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## ***Abstract***

*This document forms an interim report for the monitoring of Thames Water mains replacement works within the Crouch Hill 59 area between November 2010 and August 2011. In most areas these groundworks exposed little in the way of significant archaeology, revealing occasional remnants of arched ceilings interpreted as 19<sup>th</sup> century coal cellars, and accumulated post-medieval made-ground deposits.*

*During the course of the 5th February 2011 within the City of London EC2, at the junction of Moorgate and London Wall, a large block of brickwork was exposed and upon investigation interpreted as part of a corner spur of the gate which once stood there and gives the road its name. This survived 0.8m below the existing ground surface and may represent the rebuild of 1672 .*

*Three days later a series of walls and associated deposits, thought principally to relate to the 17<sup>th</sup> century rebuilding of Aldersgate, were uncovered in trenching on the eastern side of the junction between with Aldersgate Street and St.Martin's-le-Grand. After archaeological investigation and recording the remains were left in situ.*

*This report details those excavations and attempts to place the findings within their historical and cartographic context, as well as giving a summary of works and observations elsewhere in CH59.*

<b>Contents</b>		Page
<b>I Remains of Moorgate on the junction of London Wall and Moorgate</b>		
1	Introduction	1
2	Archaeological and Historical Background	2
3	Methodology	13
4	Results	14
5	Conclusions	18
6	Bibliography	18
	Appendix A: Pottery Report by <i>Paul Blinkhorn</i>	19
	Appendix B: London Archaeologist Summary	20
<b>II Remains of Aldersgate on the junction of Aldersgate St. and St.Martin's-le-Grand</b>		
7	Introduction	21
8	Archaeological and Historical Background	22
9	Methodology	34
10	Results	35
11	Conclusions	41
12	Bibliography	42
	Appendix A: Pottery Report by <i>Paul Blinkhorn</i>	43
	Appendix B: C.B.M Report by <i>Sue Pringle</i>	44
	Appendix C: OASIS data collection form	45
	Appendix D: London Archaeologist Summary	48
<b>III Interim report: Crouch Hill 59, (November 2010-August 2011)</b>		49

## List of Figures

Front Cover – *Remains of Aldersgate exposed in trenching along St.Martin’s-le-Grand, facing to the South*

		Page
Fig. 1	<i>Location of Trench and remains of Moorgate using OS Map provided by Thames Water</i>	1
Fig. 2	<i>Copperplate map, dated sometime between 1553-59, one of the earliest depictions of Moorgate.</i>	4
Fig. 3	<i>The ‘Agas Map’ of 1562</i>	5
Fig. 4	<i>Extract from John Leake’s Survey of the Post-Fire City, 1667</i>	6
Fig. 5	<i>Extract from Morgan’s Survey of London 1682</i>	7
Fig. 6	<i>Moorgate as depicted by John Strype in 1720</i>	8
Fig. 7	<i>Moorgate from an engraving, frontage on to Moorgate Pavement</i>	8
Fig. 8	<i>Extract from Rocques Survey of 1746</i>	8
Fig. 9	<i>Extract Horwood’s plan of 1792-99 post demolition of Moorgate</i>	9
Fig. 10	<i>Greenwood’s Map of London, 1827</i>	10
Fig. 11	<i>Extract from 1860s 25-inch OS Map</i>	11
Fig. 12	<i>Extract from Charles Booths Descriptive Map of London Poverty, 1889</i>	12
Fig. 13	<i>Trench in southern carriageway of junction with London Wall and Moorgate, facing NE</i>	14
Fig. 14	<i>Remains of Moorgate as observed in Trench</i>	15
Fig. 15	<i>Brickwork of former Moorgate exposed at northern end of Trench facing NE</i>	16

Fig. 16	<i>Brickwork of former Moorgate exposed in Trench, facing S</i>	16
Fig. 17	<i>Brickwork of former Moorgate in Trench facing NNW</i>	17
Fig. 18	<i>Location of observed remains of Aldersgate</i>	21
Fig. 19	<i>Roman London from a wood engraving dated 1879</i>	22
Fig. 20	<i>Aldersgate as it is thought to have looked in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD</i>	23
Fig. 21	<i>Roman City Walls and turret</i>	23
Fig. 22	<i>Extract from a map of London and Westminster in the 1520s, (drawn in 1855 using original sources by William Newton)</i>	25
Fig. 23	<i>Extract from the 'Agas' Map of London c.1562</i>	26
Fig. 24	<i>Extract from Leake's Survey of the Post-Fire City, 1667</i>	27
Fig. 25	<i>North frontage of Aldersgate after rebuilding in 1672</i>	28
Fig. 26	<i>Extract from Strype's Survey, 1720</i>	29
Fig. 27	<i>Extract from Rocque's Survey of London 1746</i>	30
Fig. 28	<i>Extract from Horwood's plan of London 1792-1799</i>	31
Fig. 29	<i>Extract from the First Edition 25-inch OS Map of London</i>	32
Fig. 30	<i>Extract from Victorian Pocket map dated 1900</i>	33
Fig. 31	<i>The remains of Aldersgate facing South</i>	35
Fig. 32	<i>Contexts [3], [4] &amp; [5] in northern half of trench facing S</i>	36
Fig. 33	<i>Brickwork [4] abutting stonework [3] facing West</i>	37
Fig. 34	<i>Context [5] in centre of frame and [4] in the foreground, facing S</i>	37
Fig. 35	<i>Walls [6], [7], &amp; [8] in southern half of trench facing W. Deposit (10) in foreground</i>	38
Fig. 36	<i>Context [7] with contexts [6] and [8] in the background, facing NNW</i>	39

Fig. 37	<i>Plan of Trench containing remains of Aldersgate</i>	40
Fig. 38	<i>Highlighted area reflecting possible location of the remains of Aldersgate found in trenching</i>	41
Fig. 39	<i>Basinghall Street 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Section through trench facing NE</i>	50
Fig. 40	<i>Coleman Street, 11<sup>th</sup> January, facing N</i>	51
Fig. 41	<i>Coleman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> September. West facing section in SE corner of L-shaped pit</i>	51
Fig. 42	<i>London Wall, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011. Facing NW</i>	52
Fig. 43	<i>Lothbury 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, facing SE</i>	53
Fig. 44	<i>Love Lane 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010, facing NE</i>	54
Fig. 45	<i>Princes Street 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011, facing S</i>	55
Fig. 46	<i>St.Martin's-le-Grand 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Facing NNW</i>	56
Fig. 47	<i>Wood Street 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011, Facing S</i>	57

*OS maps (figs. 1 and 18): Reproduced from OS data with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO. © Crown Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd., licence no. AL 100031317*

# I REMAINS OF MOORGATE ON THE JUNCTION OF LONDON WALL AND MOORGATE

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report focuses on the excavation and recording of the remains of Moorgate uncovered on the 5th February 2011. The site lies on the southern side of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, (L026P), which reflects the line of the wall and site of Moorgate.

The groundworks formed part of the programme carried out by Optimise on behalf of Thames Water and fell within the Victorian Mains Replacement area Crouch Hill 59, the City of London, EC2. The remains were located within a pit on the south-west corner of the junction between London Wall and Moorgate, (fig.1).

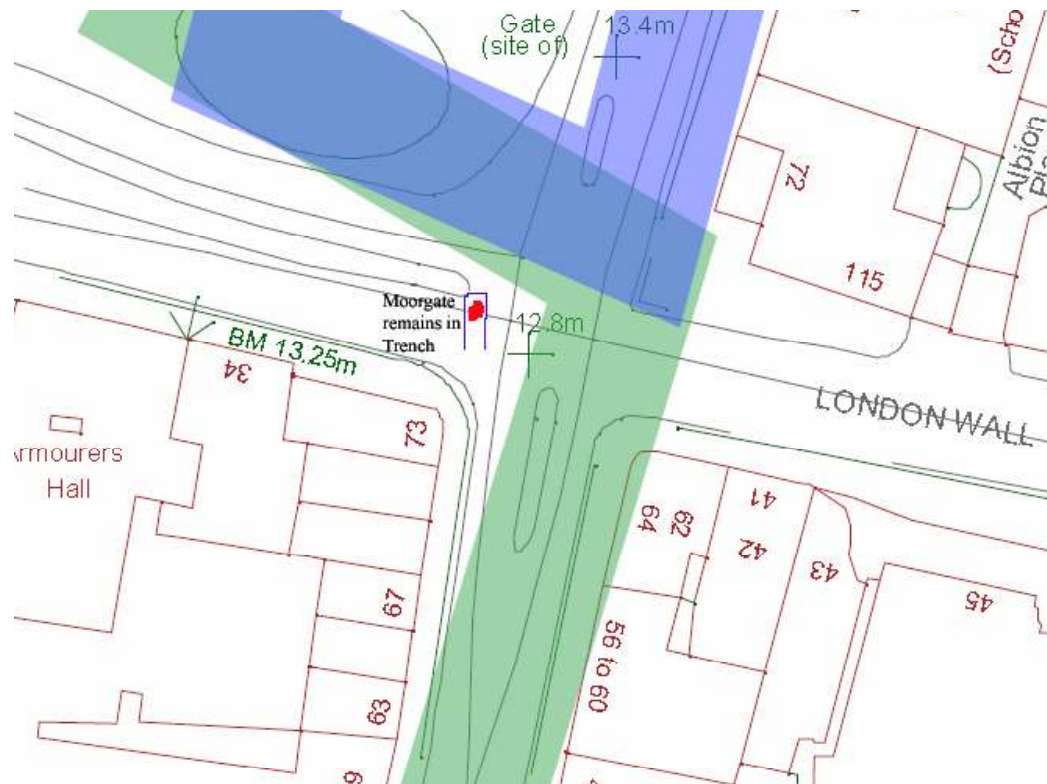


Fig.1: Location of Trench and remains of Moorgate using OS Map provided by Thames Water



## 2 Archaeological and Historical Background<sup>1</sup>

- 2.1 The earliest excavated remains in the immediate vicinity are elements of the original London Wall, exposed on several occasions in the last 150 years. This wall enclosed the original garrison town of Londinium, established in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and formed the City's main defence up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1882 a surviving section of wall was investigated at the junction with Moorgate and London Wall measuring 9ft 2" thick and surviving 4ft above the ground surface; it was then excavated up to a further 8ft below the ground. This same section was exposed again along with 45ft of rubble core, (site code GM108).

Further evidence of Roman activity includes extensive occupation along Moorgate and Coleman Street revealed in numerous excavations by MOLAS, AOC and DUA. A north-south aligned road dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century was uncovered beneath 8-10 Moorgate, with roadside occupation dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries, (AOC Site code MGE96). At 56-61 Moorgate and 75-79 Coleman Street evidence of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century glass working was uncovered within one of the rooms inside a timber/brick/earth based building, (DUA Site code MGT87). This site also revealed evidence of the local population having attempted to manage a tributary of the nearby Walbrook using timber revetting and storage tanks, perhaps for associated industrial purposes. Further 2<sup>nd</sup> century occupation was identified at 43-53 Moorgate and 72-74 Coleman Street. A metalled alley/road and boundary fences surrounding wattle and daub structures and a tiled pathway were excavated, (DUA Site code MOG88).

A single Roman inhumation was unearthed at Moorgate Hall in 1988, and further disarticulated bone, hinting at a possible extramural burial ground outside the city walls, (DUA Site code M0H88).

Many of these features were later sealed beneath a layer of water laid deposits or 3<sup>rd</sup> century reclamation dumps, evidence of the marshy nature of the area at the time.

- 2.2 The site of the Roman town was largely abandoned during the Saxon period, when the main settlement of Lundenwic was established further west, in the modern day Aldwych, Strand, Covent Garden area. It was not until the Viking raids, and English reconquests, of the 9<sup>th</sup> century that Alfred the Great re-established 'Lundenburh' within the neglected Roman city walls. Alfred's grandson Athelstan permitted 8 royal mints to be established here in the 10<sup>th</sup> century indicating its subsequent wealth and development.

However, only one sherd of residual late Saxon pot has been recovered from the southern end of Moorgate, nos.8-10, (AOC Site code MGE96), reflecting the earlier hiatus in occupation.

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<sup>1</sup> All site codes are taken from the online London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC).

**2.3** The medieval settlement of London was a thriving hub of trade with a growing population and in 1415 Thomas Falconer a London mercer built a postern gate in the city wall “for the ease of the citizens to walk that way upon causeys towards Iseldon and Hoxton” into the so-called Moorfields, which had “continued a waste and unprofitable ground a long time”<sup>2</sup>. It is from these fields that the name Moorgate was derived<sup>3</sup>.

The fields were later accessed through the ‘Little Moorgate’ which was demolished in 1755 but gave its name to a street created on its location, much like Moorgate itself.

The original postern was soon rebuilt, incorporating a large wooden gate that could be closed at night. This work was undertaken in 1477 under the orders of the Mayor of London Ralph Jocelin in response to a Kentish rebellion that had only been checked at Aldgate and must have caused concern over the city’s defences. Brickearth was quarried from Moorfields to provide building material<sup>4</sup>. In 1980 an excavation conducted by DUA on a GPO Tunnel went through the brick foundations of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Moorgate, (Site code MOO80)

John Strype’s survey writes of Aldersgate; ‘In the Year also 1511, the Third of Henry 8. Roger Achely Maior, caused Dikes and Bridges to be made, and the Ground to be levelled, and made more commodious for Passage. Since which time the same hath been heightened so much, that the Dikes and Bridges are covered; and it seemeth to me that if it be made Level with the Battlements of the City Wall, yet will it be little the dryer, such is the Moorish Nature of that Ground. Thus it was in Mr. Stow's Time; but we see what an Alteration Time, Pains and Expencc have made for the better. For these Fields, before an unhealthful Place, in Sir Leonard Halliday's Maioralty, were turned into pleasant Walks, set with Trees for Shade and Ornament; compassed with Brick Walls, made convenient with Vaults under Ground for Conveyance of the Water, which stood the City in 5000l. or thereabouts.’<sup>5</sup> (Compare figs.2 and 4 for a view of the changes described above).

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<sup>2</sup> From: 'Moorfields and Finsbury', Old and New London: Volume 2 (1878), pp. 196-208. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=45091> Date accessed: 08 September 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Schofield, J, The Building of London from the Conquest to the Great Fire, pg.110

<sup>4</sup> Schofield, J, The Building of London from the Conquest to the Great Fire, pg.129

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/strype/TransformServlet?page=book1\\_017&display=normal](http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/strype/TransformServlet?page=book1_017&display=normal)

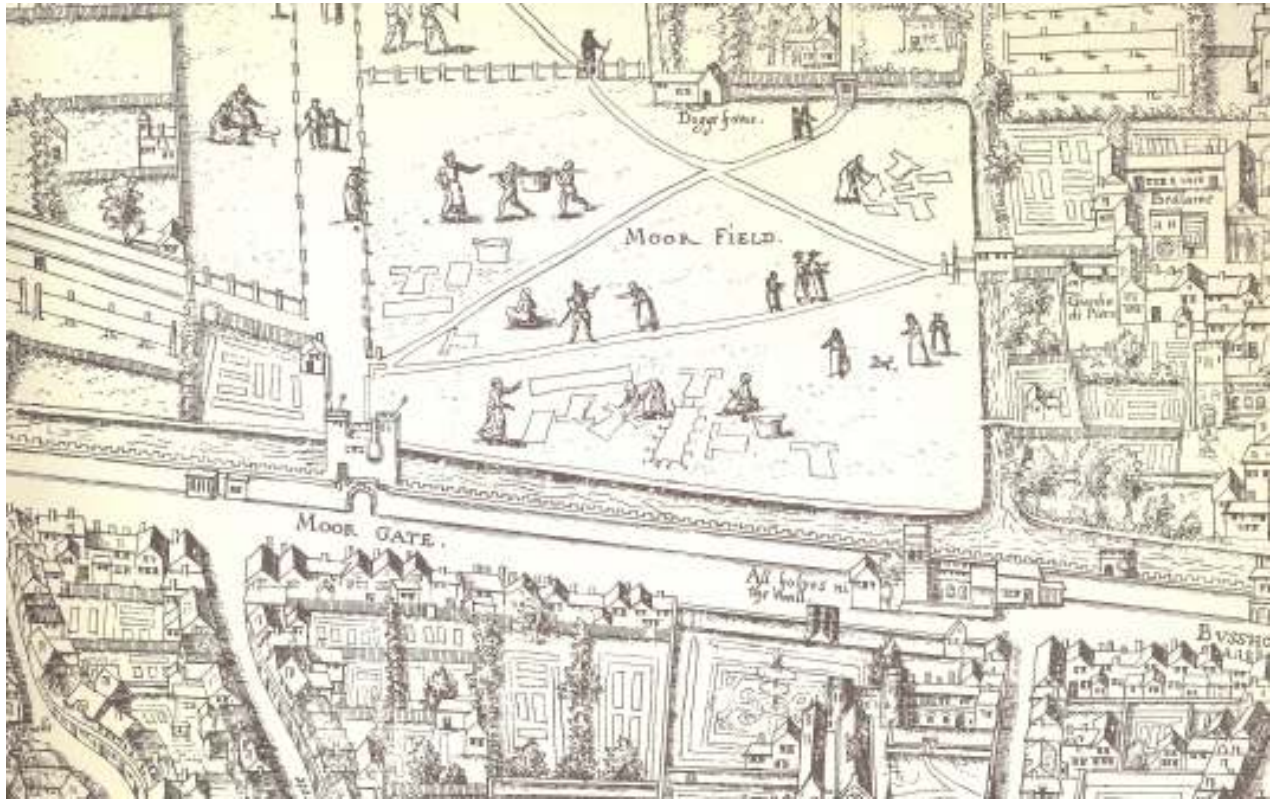


Fig.2: Copperplate map, dated sometime between 1553-59, one of the earliest depictions of Moorgate.

In the map above Moorgate is shown, as is the ditch dug around the outer face of the city wall. Locals are laying out their washing to dry within the 'Moor Field'. The site of modern day Moorgate is seen as being built upon with houses. Gardens are shown behind many properties, laid out in beds and in one case in a grand design incorporating a fountain, (centre right foreground). Excavations along Moorgate have revealed evidence for 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century properties, including hearths and floors, and some wattle-lined structures (MOLAS Site code MGA00) and also 14<sup>th</sup> century glass-working, (AOC Site code MGE96).

The original 'Bedlame', a priory and hospital for the nuns of the Order of the Star of Bethlehem which began treating small numbers of mentally ill patients in 1357 is also depicted in the top right of the frame. It became a 'Royal' Hospital in 1547 under the control of the City of London.



Fig.3: The 'Agas Map' of 1562 depicting similar scenes as the Copperplate map of a few years earlier, suggesting it was based upon the former.

- 2.4 Moorgate was not damaged in the Great Fire of 1666, which stopped several properties away on Coleman Street, but refugees from the burning city set up camp on the Moorfields outside the city. Many eventually chose to settle there rather than return to their devastated homes.

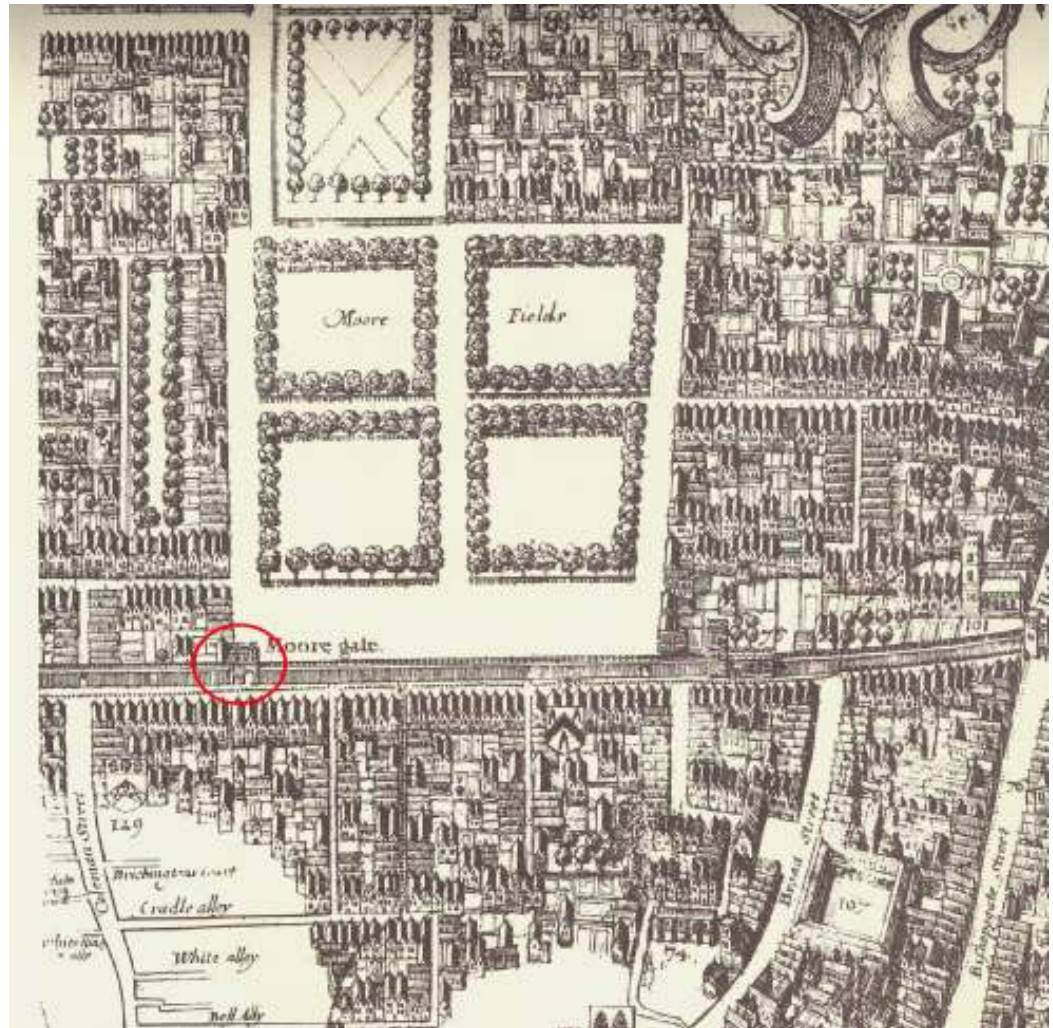


Fig.4: Extract from John Leake's *Survey of the Post-Fire City, 1667* showing the extent of the damage forming a curve in the bottom left of the frame. Moorgate is circled in red, the medieval ditch surrounding the city walls has been filled in, reflecting the Londoners' lust for land reclamation in a growing population.

In 1672 Moorgate was rebuilt in a new, baroque, design, by Thomas Cartwright, part of this 17<sup>th</sup> century rebuild was uncovered in the DUA excavation in 1980, (Site code MOO80).



Fig.5: Extract from Morgan's Survey of London 1682

Morgan depicts the new Moorgate in the city wall as well as the New Bethlehem Hospital as built by Robert Hooke in 1676. The new Hospital encroached onto the southern edge of Moorfields. It also makes reference to 'Little Moor Fields' site of the secondary gate into the open grounds.

# Moorgate



Fig.6: Moorgate as depicted by John Strype in 1720



Fig.7: Moorgate from an engraving, frontage onto Moorgate Pavement

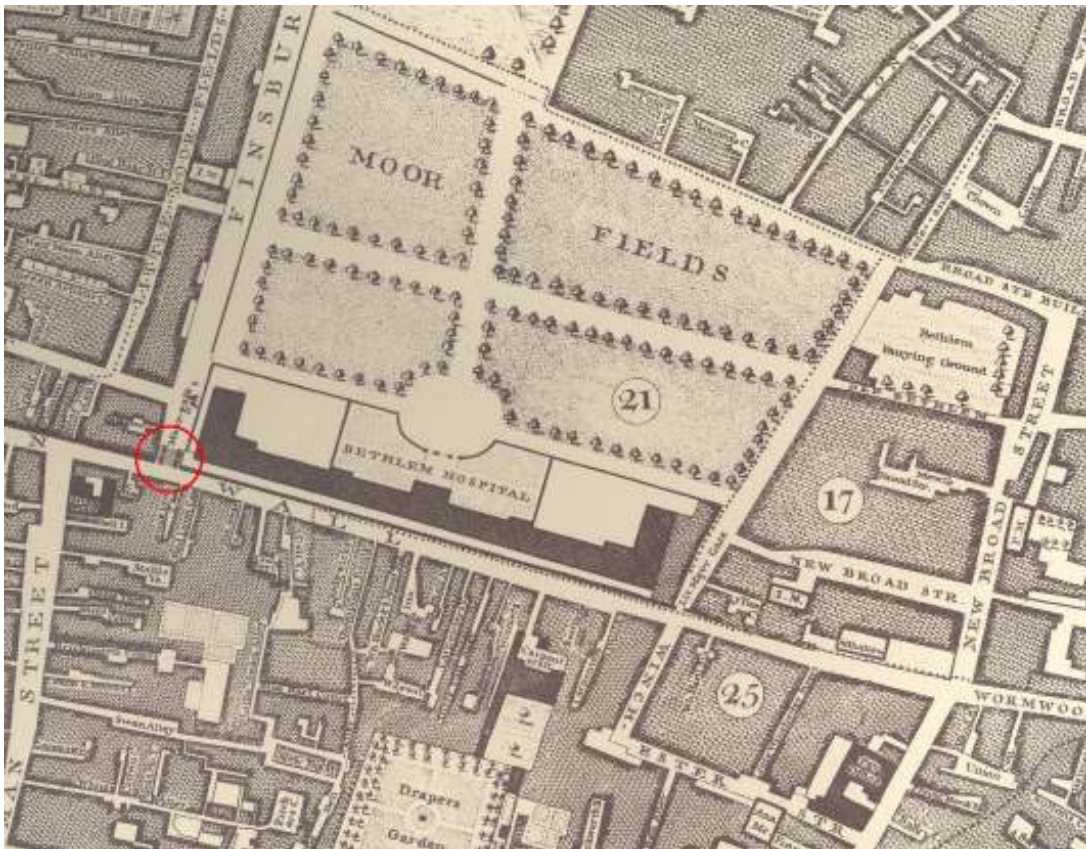


Fig.8: Extract from Rocque's Survey of 1746. Note Moorgate facing onto Finsbury Pavement, along the west side of Moorfields. This area would later be developed into Finsbury Circus and Park.

Moorgate did not last another 100 years, and was demolished in 1762 along with the other 6 city gates to ease traffic flow into the flourishing capital. The stone was sold off for £166 to the Corporation of London to help build the new starlings around the central piers of London Bridge.

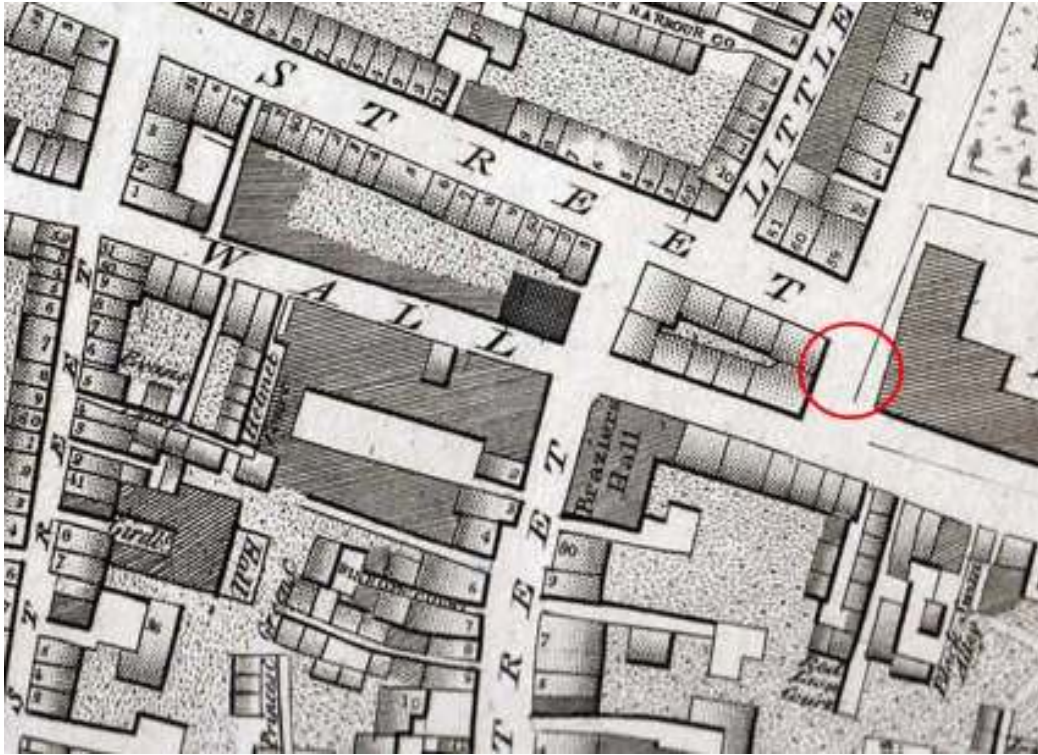


Fig.9: Extract Horwood's plan of 1792-99 post demolition of Moorgate, now a blank spot on the corner of Bethlehem Hospital and London Wall





Fig.10: *Greenwood's Map of London, 1827*

The 'Bedlam' Hospital was relocated in 1815 to the site in Southwark known as St. George's Fields, part of which survives as the Imperial War Museum. The former site was in a state of disrepair and so was torn down and redeveloped, along with the remaining open space of Moorfields, and became Finsbury Circus, a purpose built elliptical square providing housing for solicitors, merchants and other professionals.



Fig.11: Extract from 1860s 25-inch OS Map showing the new layout of the Moorgate area post construction of the street known as Moorgate. Surveyed 1873

In 1846 the street known as Moorgate was constructed, intended to act as a new N-S approach road from the City to London Bridge. This project entailed the demolition of a corridor of properties opposite the junction of Finsbury Pavement and London Wall continuing southwards to link up with Lothbury at the far end.

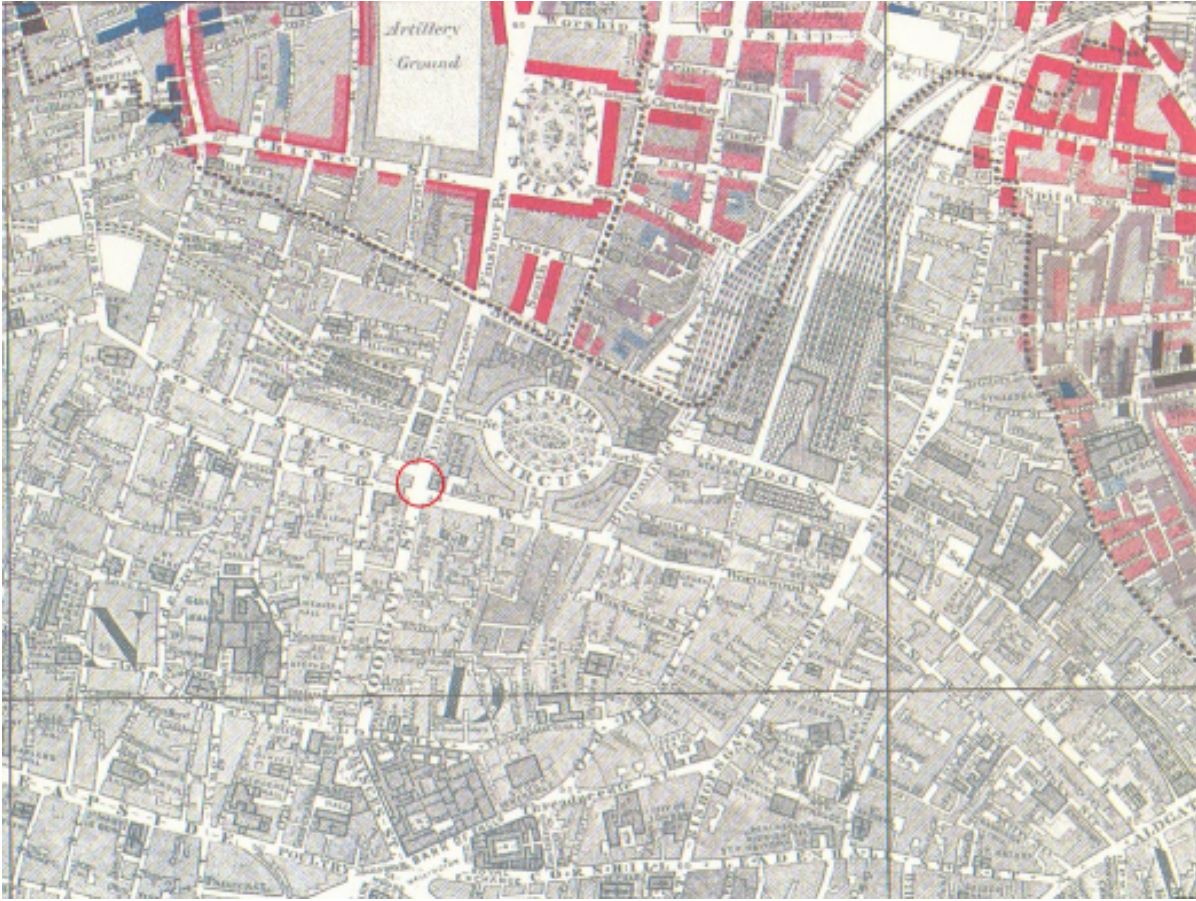


Fig.12: *Extract from Charles Booth's Descriptive Map of London Poverty, 1889*

Booth's map does not directly address the Moorgate area, but it does depict the new railway stations of Moorgate Street northwest of the junction between Moorgate and London Wall, opened 1865, and Liverpool Street, northeast of Finsbury Circus, opened 1874. Little has changed since then in regards to the Moorgate, London Wall junction.

### **3 Methodology**

#### **3.1 Standards**

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*), and to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists ('IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs'). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork**

Archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and where appropriate finds and other dating evidence recovered. Archaeological deposits and features were recorded as appropriate on *proforma* trench sheets, and drawn in plan with measured sketches taken of sample sections. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by digital photography.

#### **3.3 Post-excavation works**

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

Finds were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London*'. Finds and artefacts were retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record. Assessment was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff.

A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended to this report, (Part II Appendix B), in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

#### 4 Results

An open-cut trench was recorded between the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011, located in the southern carriageway of the Moorgate/London wall junction and measuring approximately 3.4m by 1.66m wide and up to 1.6m deep.

The stratigraphy comprised 0.10m of tarmac representing the existing road surface atop a concrete base, 0.34m thick. This overlay up to 0.96m of sandy-clay-silts mixed with rubble representing service cut backfills.

In the northern end of the trench a large block of red-brick masonry was exposed c.0.80m below the modern ground level. The bricks were bonded with a yellow sand-based mortar and measured 23cm in length x 10.5cm wide and up to 6.5cm thick. They formed part of a block measuring at least 2.45m N-S x 1.2m E-W and continuing into the unexcavated section to the north. The brickwork was not bottomed but survived to at least 14 courses, approximately 1.09m in height. Only a partially surviving faced surface was observed on the north-eastern corner of the masonry block for about 0.5m: to the south of this the brickwork appears to turn a corner to the east, although it is then broken away by modern intrusions. A possible further faced surface is represented by a small section of partly detached brickwork at the south end of the structure. Brick samples taken were examined and dated to c.1600-1700AD (fabrics 3039 and 3033)<sup>6</sup>. A clay tobacco pipe bowl was recovered from surrounding overburden material, and, being rouletted around the rim and of a squat bulbous shape with a thick stem attached, interpreted as a Type 17, datable to c.1640-70<sup>7</sup>



Fig.13: *Trench in southern carriageway of junction with London Wall and Moorgate, facing NE*

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<sup>6</sup> Taken from Ceramic building materials analysis conducted by Sue Pringle.

<sup>7</sup> Identified using Adrian Oswalds typology, *BAR 14*, (1975)

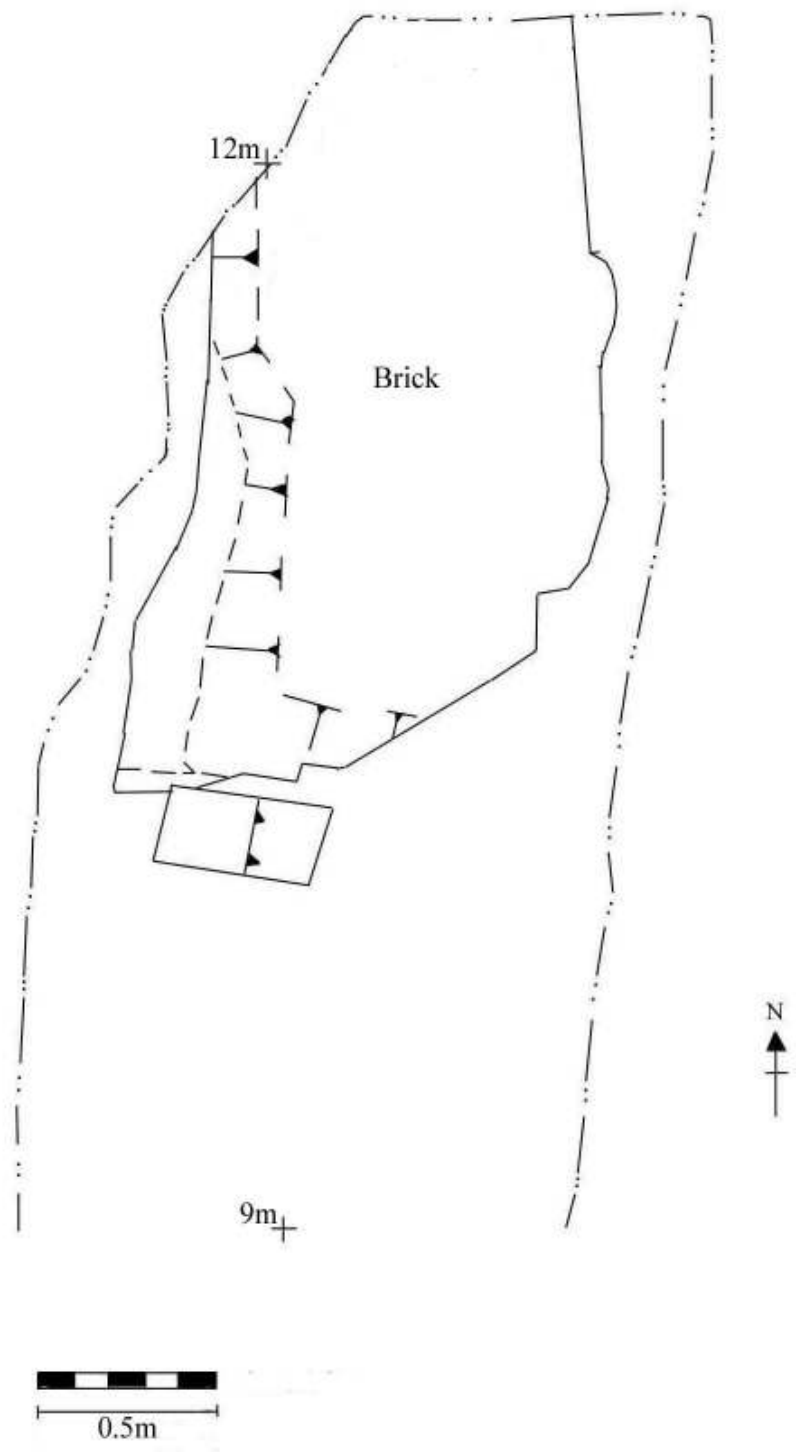


Fig.14: Remains of Moorgate as observed in Trench, (scale 1:20)



Fig.15: *Brickwork of former Moorgate exposed at northern end of Trench facing NE, (0.6m scale)*



Fig.16: *Brickwork of former Moorgate exposed in Trench, facing S, (0.6m scale)*



Fig.17: *Brickwork of former Moorgate in Trench facing NNW, (0.6m scale)*



## 5 Conclusions

A substantial portion of masonry remains was recorded during the groundworks on Moorgate. It is thought that the brickwork may relate to an element of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Moorgate, but whether it forms part of the foundations of a spur projecting from the front of the gate, or for properties built into the body of the gate itself, is still uncertain. It may have been part of the base for the western pedestrian passageway of the gate itself as depicted on fig.6. Nevertheless it proves that elements of important archaeology still survive in the area and relatively close to the modern ground surface.

At the time of writing, there are further plans to open trenches in the northern carriageway, where further remains are expected to be exposed. However, no official works programme has been decided upon as of yet. For this reason no OASIS form has been completed at this stage, although a London Archaeologist summary is included below.

## 6 Bibliography

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## APPENDIX A: Pottery from Moorgate (Site TMM06)

*Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 7 sherds with a total weight of 56g. It was recorded using the fabric codes of the Museum of London post-Roman type-series (Vince 1985), as follows:

BORDG: Green-glazed Border ware, 1550-1700. 1 sherd, 3g.  
CHINA: 'Ironstone' china, 1800-1900. 4 sherds, 11g.  
LMSR: Late-medieval/transitional sandy redware, 1480-1600. 1 sherd, 7g.  
MPUR: Midlands purple ware, 1400-1500. 1 sherd, 35g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The fabric types are all well-known in London.

The earliest pottery from the site dates to the late medieval period, probably the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is all generally in fairly good condition, other than the unstratified sherd of BORDG. The sherd of MPUR is from a jar, a typical product of the tradition, with the rest of the pre-19<sup>th</sup> century material comprising bodysherds.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in grams) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	LMSR		MPUR		BORDG		CHINA		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
U/S			1	35	1	3	3	7	U/S
100	1	7							L15thC
101							1	4	19thC
Total	1	7	1	35	1	3	4	11	

## Bibliography

Vince, AG, 1985 The Saxon and Medieval Pottery of London: A review in *Medieval Archaeology* **29**, 25-93

## Appendix A: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address: Thames Water DMA Crouch Hill 59, City of London,  
with specific mention of Moorgate, EC2  
Project Type: Watching Brief

Dates of Fieldwork: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011-10-05  
Site Code: TMMO6  
Site Supervisor: Compass Archaeology

NGR: TQ 3270 8153

Funding Body: Optimise

An open-cut trench was observed in February 2011, located in the southern carriageway of the Moorgate/London Wall junction and measuring approximately 3.4m by 1.66m wide and up to 1.6m deep. The site lies on the southern side of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, (L026P), which reflects the line of the wall and site of Moorgate.

The stratigraphy comprised 0.10m of tarmac representing the existing road surface atop a concrete base, 0.34m thick. This overlay up to 0.96m of sandy- clay-silts mixed with rubble representing service cut backfills.

In the northern end of the Trench a large block of red-brick masonry was exposed c.0.80m below the modern ground level. The bricks were bonded with a yellow sand-based mortar and measured 23cm in length x 10.5cm wide and up to 6.5cm thick. They formed part of a block measuring over 2.45m N-S x 1.2m E-W and survived to at least 14 courses, approximately 1.09m in height. Only a partially surviving faced surface was observed on the north-eastern corner of the masonry block. Brick samples taken were examined and dated to c.1600-1700AD (fabrics 3039 and 3033).

It is thought that the brickwork may relate to an element of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Moorgate. Whether it forms part of the foundations of a spur projecting from the front of the gate, or for properties built into the body of the gate itself, is still uncertain due to the limited scope of the trenching works. Nevertheless it proves that elements of important archaeology still survive within the immediate area and relatively close to the modern ground surface.

At the time of writing, there are further plans to open trenches in the northern carriageway of London Wall, where further remains are expected to be exposed, though no official works programme has been decided upon as of yet.

## II REMAINS OF ALDRSGATE ON THE JUNCTION OF ALDRSGATE ST. AND ST.MARTIN’S-LE-GRAND

### 7 Introduction

This report focuses on the excavation and recording of the remains of Aldersgate uncovered on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The site lies wholly within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No.26330), covering the site of the Roman to post-medieval City gate.

The groundworks formed part of the programme carried out by Optimise on behalf of Thames Water and fell within the Victorian Mains Replacement area Crouch Hill 59, the City of London, EC2. The remains were located within a stretch of open-cut trench on the eastern side of the junction of Aldersgate and St.Martin’s-le-Grand, (fig.18)

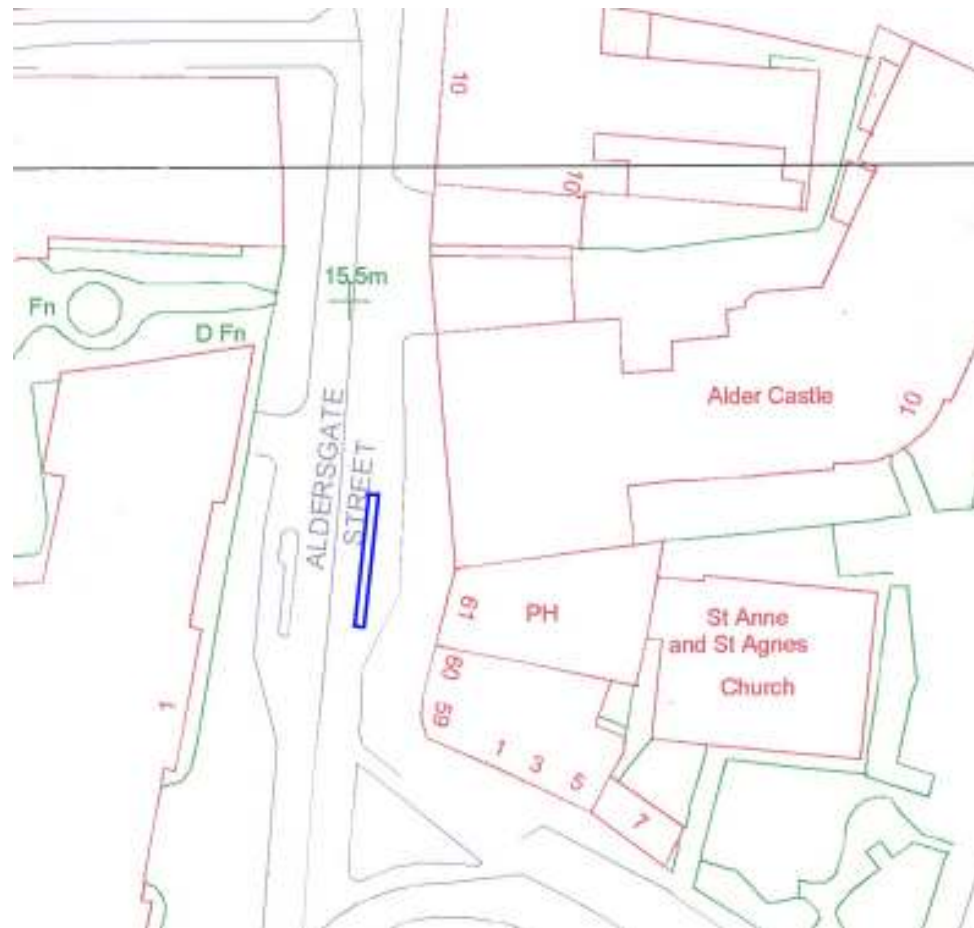


Fig.18: *Location of observed remains of Aldersgate*

## 8 Archaeological and Historical background<sup>8</sup>

- 8.1 The earliest known archaeology associated with Aldersgate dates back to the original founding of the Roman City when the site became an important garrison town and trade post. Aldersgate was one of the original 6 gates into the city and gave access to the Great North road.

There has been considerable archaeological work done in the Aldersgate area, and evidence for Roman activity is plentiful.

In 1995 a watching brief in the street of Little Britain, just NW of the site of the original Aldersgate recorded several large pits, associated with quarrying activity, and several smaller pits all returned Roman finds. These features cut into disturbed brickearth and water lain deposits suggesting the area outside the city was still quite marshy at this point. In 1999 MOLAS exposed possible remains of a Roman road, laid using brickearth, on the west side of the junction with Little Britain, and a truncated posthole.

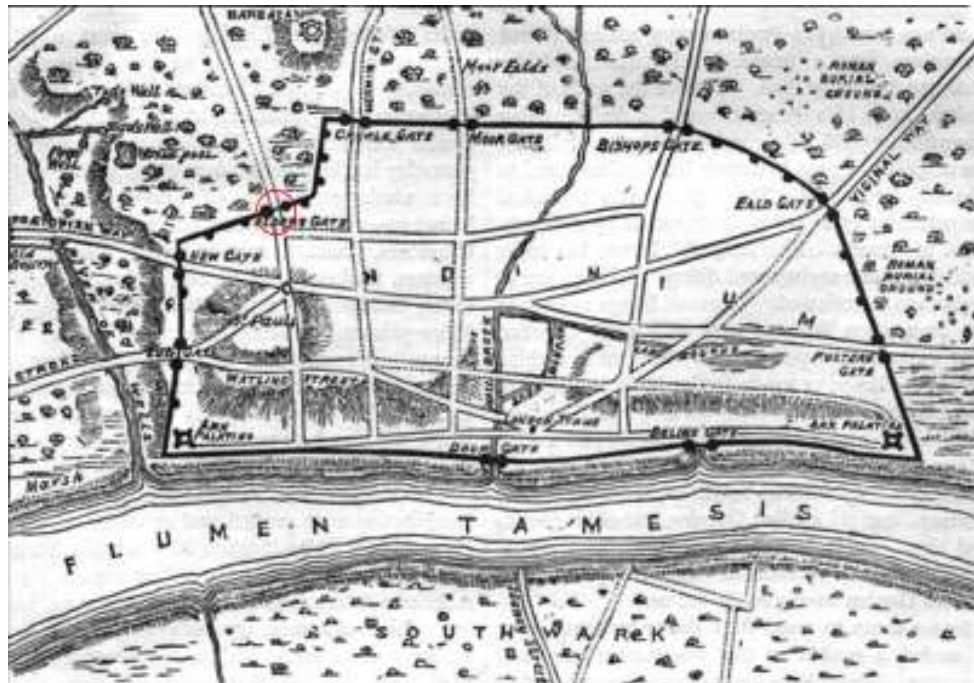


Fig.19: Roman London from a wood engraving dated 1879.  
Aldersgate circled in red

<sup>8</sup> All references to archaeological works are taken from the LAARC online database unless otherwise stated

In 1939 GM works along Aldersgate Street discovered large portions of ragstone masonry projecting north of the City Walls which were interpreted as foundations for piers supporting a double arched gateway and part of a tower, (see artists impression below).

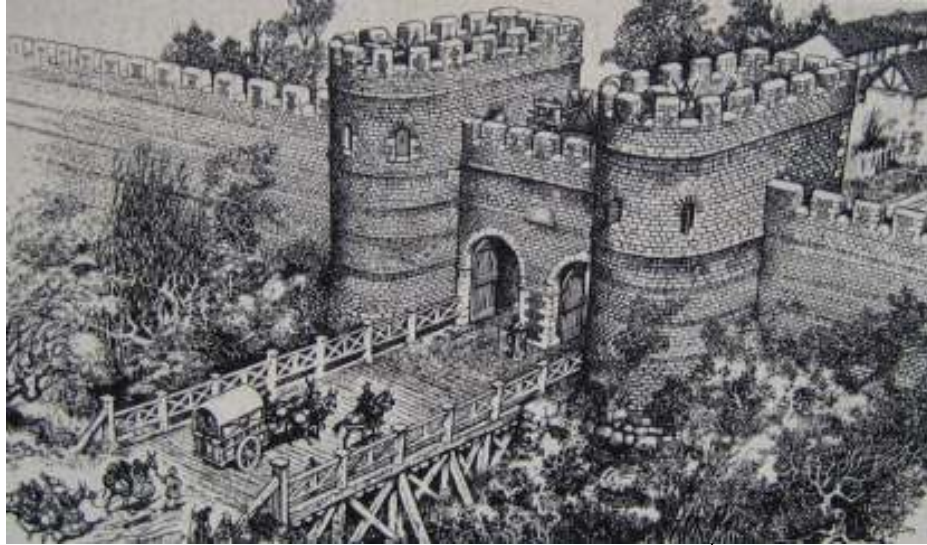


Fig.20: Aldersgate as it is thought to have looked in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD

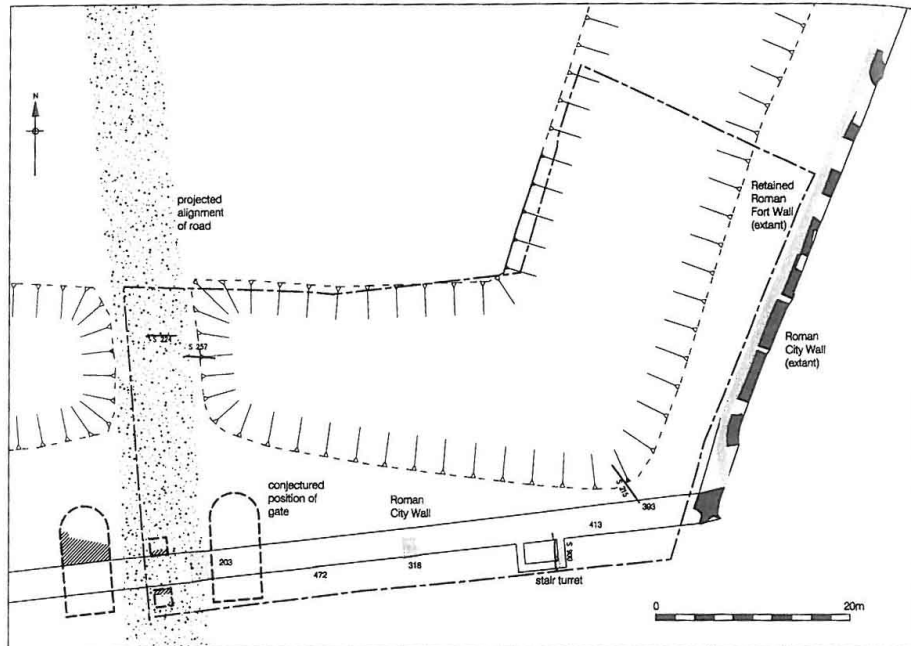


Fig.21: Roman City Wall and turret, Aldersgate to bottom left of picture<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> The City Defences at Aldersgate, *Trans. LAMAS* 52, pgs.41-11,2 (2001)

**8.2** Evidence of Medieval Aldersgate is even more abundant. The name Aldersgate is thought to have derived from the individual who ordered the rebuilding of the gateway in the 9<sup>th</sup> century when the Saxon population resettled within the City walls, though this cannot be verified. Others have said it was due to the Alder trees that grew outside the city walls at this point<sup>10</sup>.

Aldersgate Street was consolidated during this period, evident from the 1m thick deposit of banded gravels, exposed in watching briefs around the Little-Britain and Aldersgate junctions in 1985, (DUA), 1986-87, and 1999, (MOLAS). These represented the successive episodes of re-surfacing that occurred during the years.

The City ditch which ran along the exterior face of the walls has been located in sections around Little Britain/Aldersgate,(1995), and Alder House, in (1996). The former contained deposits dated to the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> centuries and had large wooden stakes driven into the city side of the ditch suggesting some form of defensive works on the berm below the walls.

The 1986-7 watching Brief around Aldersgate/Little Britain also exposed 3 medieval wells one of which was barrel-lined. These were associated with medieval stone walls and wattle and plank lined pits some of which contained silk embroidered textiles and leatherwork, suggesting some sort of workshop.

Several powerful churches developed in the Aldersgate area during the period 1000-1500AD including St.Botolphs to the NW of Aldersgate itself which was founded during the reign of Edward the Confessor as a Cluniac priory and hospital. St.Martin's-le-Grand was founded around a similar time, and its privileges confirmed by a royal charter from William I in 1086. St.Martin's tower housed the bell which rang the curfew signalling the closure of the City gates.

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<sup>10</sup> Thornbury, W, *Old and New London: Volume 2*, (1878)

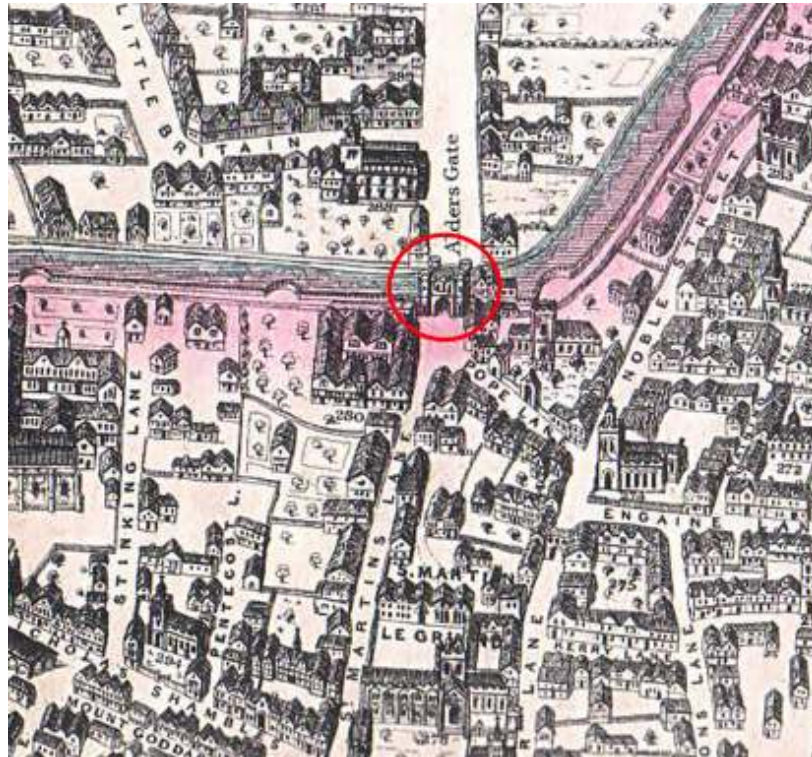


Fig.22: Extract from a map of London and Westminster in the 1520s, (drawn in 1855 using original sources by William Newton). St.Botolph's is shown in the centre top and St.Martins to the bottom of the frame

St.Martin's was passed to Eustace of Boulogne after the Conqueror's death and through patronage and royal privileges prospered, and was even granted possession of St.Botolph's in the early 1100s. By holding the right of sanctuary St.Martin's gained a reputation as a nest of corruption, with the illicit trade of stolen goods and other felonies taking place unchallenged within the monastic precincts. This reputation made it easier to dissolve during the Reformation.





Fig.23: Extract from the 'Agas' Map of London c.1562

The 'Agas' Map shows Aldersgate tucked in towards the NW corner of the city walls, St. Botolph's is the church just beyond the gate on the other side of the city ditch. St. Martin's-le-Grand has, however, disappeared. The church and monastery were dissolved in 1542 by Henry VIII and the church demolished in 1548. The land was developed into housing, (as it is now depicted), and residents claimed to exercise similar rights over sanctuary as the church had.

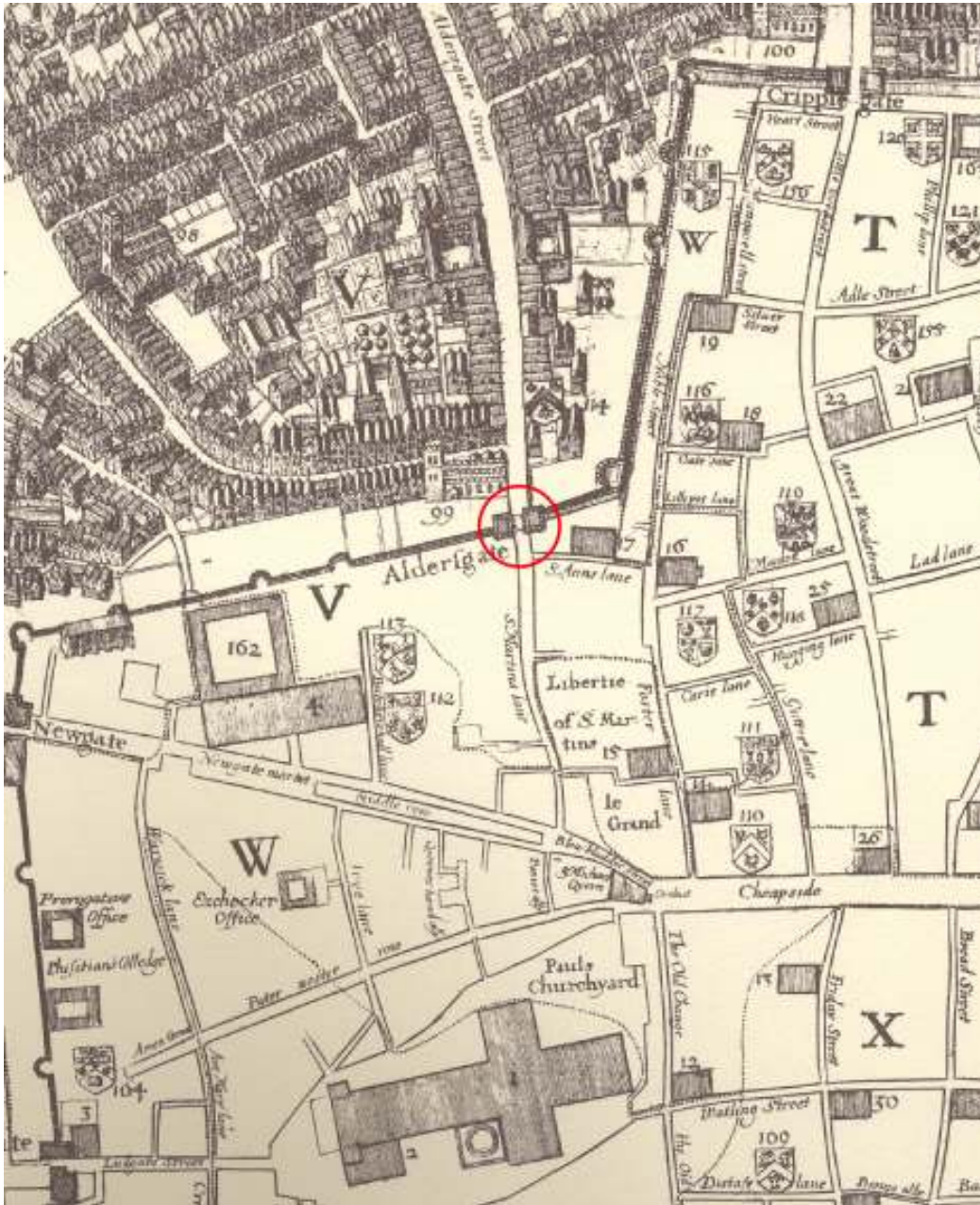


Fig.24: Extract from Leake's Survey of the Post-Fire City, 1667, the blank space denotes fire damage.

**8.3** Aldersgate had become rather dilapidated by 1617 and was torn down and rebuilt using money specially set aside by William Parker, a merchant tailor, in his will. The gate was sometimes used as a prison during this time, there being none within the locality, and Samuel Pepys wrote on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1660; 'I saw the limbs of some of our new traitors set upon Aldersgate...A bloody week this and the last has been, there being ten hanged, drawn and quartered.'<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.pepys.info/1660/1660oct.html>. The 'new traitors' refers to executions of individuals by Charles II upon his restoration in revenge for his father's execution in 1649.

This new gate was short-lived, for in 1666 during the Great Fire, Aldersgate and the surrounding area suffered severe damage. As a result and along with other major city gates Aldersgate was rebuilt in 1672. The design by Gerard Christmas paid tribute to James I, the first of the Stuart monarchs. James had entered the City via Aldersgate after travelling down from Scotland to claim the throne in 1603. On the north frontage, above the central arch, designed for traffic, was an image of King James in high relief. Above the eastern pedestrian arch sat a statue of the prophet Jeremiah and his prophecy; “Then shall enter into the gates of this city kings and princes, sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall remain for ever”. Above the western arch was a statue of Samuel and the inscription; “And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that you said unto me, and have made a king over you”<sup>12</sup>.

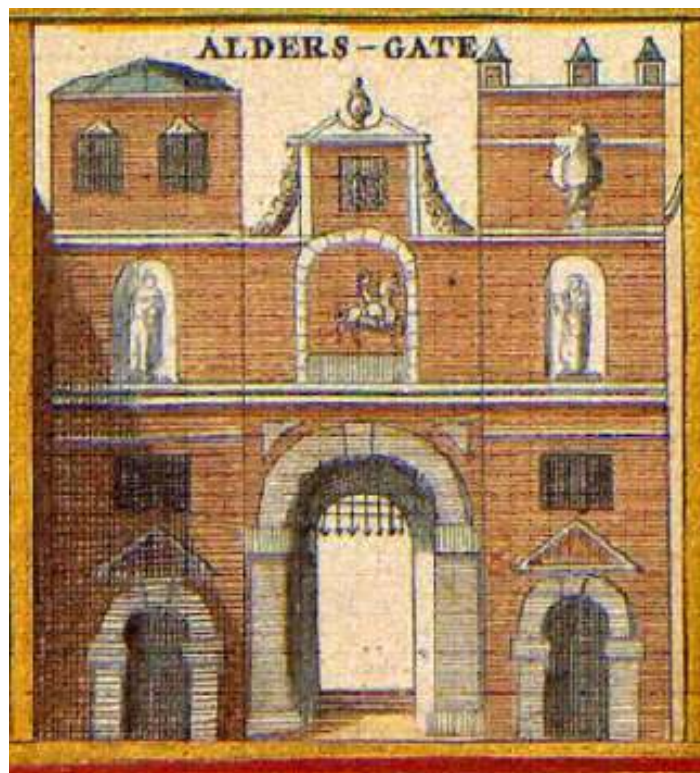


Fig.25: *North frontage of Aldersgate after rebuilding in 1672. Were elements of the left-hand, (eastern), pedestrian arch revealed in trenching?*

<sup>12</sup> From: 'Aldersgate Street and St Martin-le-Grand', Old and New London: Volume 2 (1878), pp. 208-228. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=45092> Date accessed: 09 September 2011.

In John Strype's survey of the City in 1720 he wrote of Aldersgate; 'This is the Fourth Principal Gate, and hath at sundry times been increased with Buildings; namely, on the Southside, or Innerside, a great Frame of Timber hath been added and set up, containing divers large Rooms and Lodgings. Also on the East Side is the Addition of one great Building of Timber, with one large Floor, paved with Stone or Tile, and a Well therein, curbed with Stone, of a great Depth, and rising into the said Room, two Stories high from the Ground; which Well is the only peculiar Note belonging to that Gate; for I have not seen the like in all this City, to be raised so high. John Day, Stationer, a late famous Printer of many good Books, in our time dwelled in this Gate, and builded much upon the Wall of the City, towards the Parish Church of St. Anne'<sup>13</sup>.

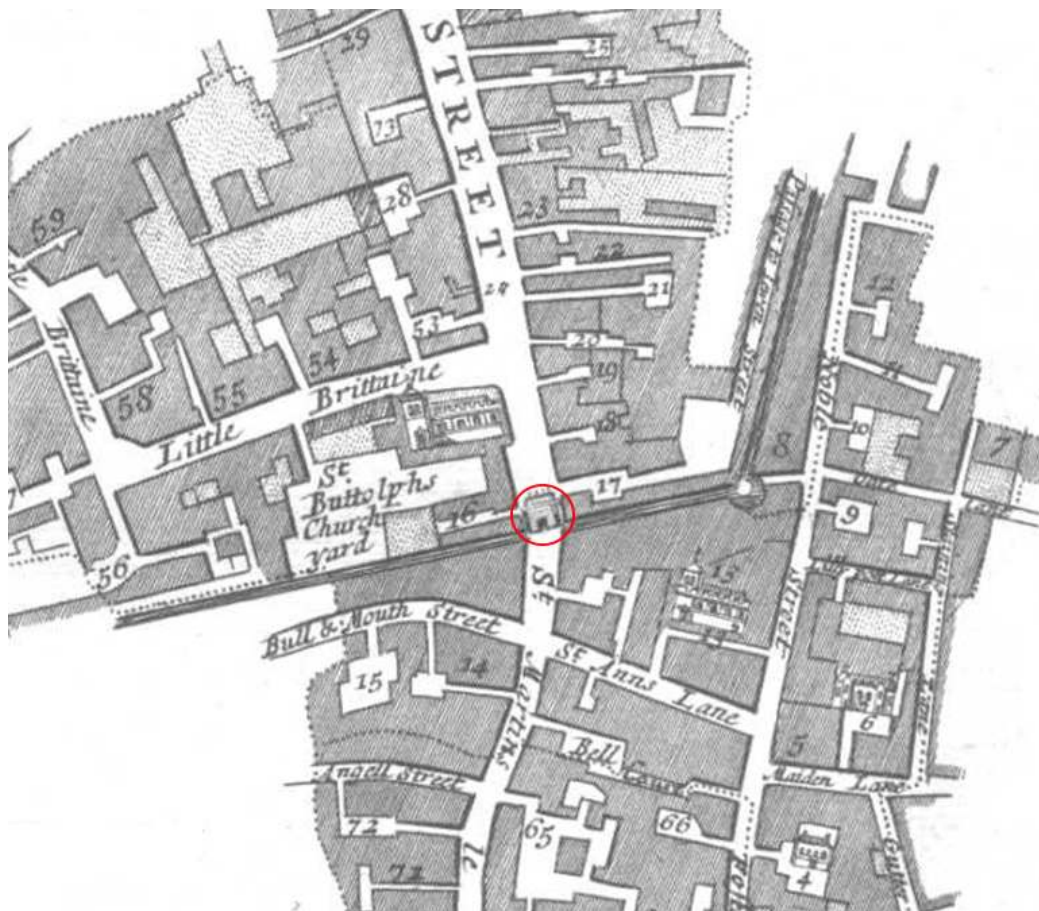


Fig.26: Extract from Strype's Survey, 1720

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/strype/TransformServlet?page=book1\\_018&display=normal](http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/strype/TransformServlet?page=book1_018&display=normal)



Fig.27: Extract from Rocque's Survey of London 1746

In 1762 along with the other City gates Aldersgate was demolished to ease traffic flow in the capital. The form of the street changed slightly, in that it was widened at the site of the former gate where it had previously created a bottleneck. Apart from this it had more or less remained the same since medieval times.

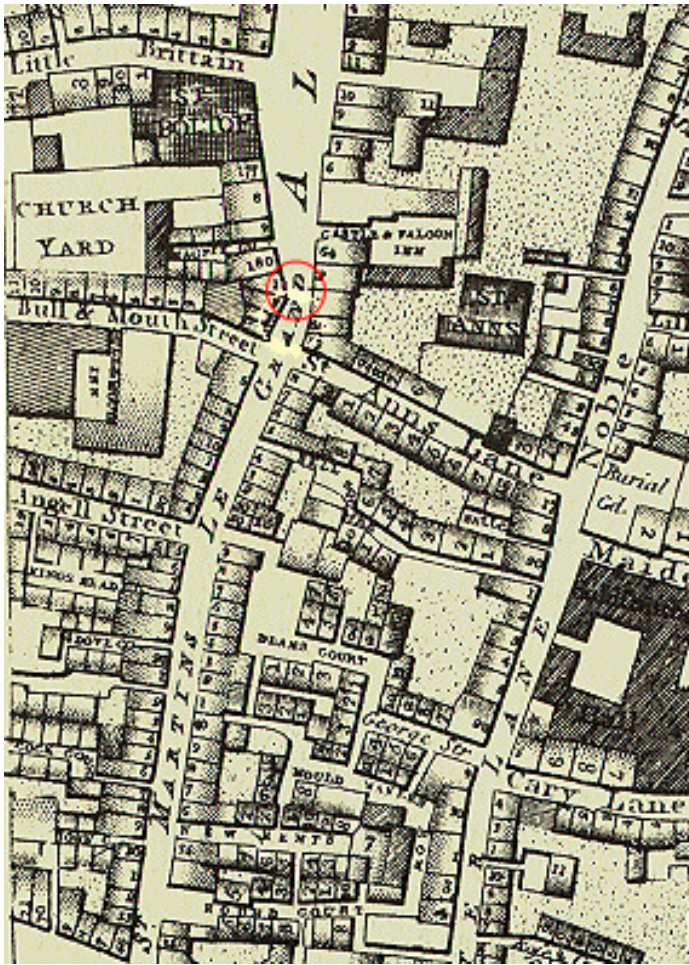


Fig.28: Extract from Horwood's plan of London 1792-1799



Fig.29: Extract from the First Edition 25-inch OS Map of London. Surveyed 1873

A major change to the surrounding area that occurred after the demolition of Aldersgate was the construction of the General Post Office sorting office on the site of the former St. Martin's-le-Grand monastery. This began in 1824 and was completed 5 years later on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1829. A second wing was added between 1868-74 to cope with the huge rise in usage during the intervening years. Other than this Aldersgate Street remains similar to the present day.



Fig.30: Extract from Victorian Pocket map dated 1900



## **9 Methodology**

### **9.1 Standards**

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*), and to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists ('IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs'). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

### **9.2 Fieldwork**

Archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and where appropriate finds and other dating evidence recovered. Archaeological deposits and features were recorded as appropriate on *proforma* trench sheets, and drawn in plan with measured sketches taken of sample sections. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by digital photography.

### **9.3 Post-excavation works**

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

Finds were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London*'. Finds and artefacts were retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record. Assessment was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff.

A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended to this report using the OASIS data collection form and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

## 10 Results

An open-cut trench aligned N-S east of the centre line on Aldersgate Street was observed and recorded between the 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> of February 2011. It measured approximately 12.78m long x between 0.36-0.66m wide and up to 1.18m deep. Two shorter branches were cut 2.18m from the north end and 1.06m from the southern end, extending eastwards for approximately 1.24m and 1.06m respectively although these did not reveal any significant remains. The following discussion details the archaeological observations made and should be read in conjunction with the trench plan, (fig.36).



Fig.31: *The remains of Aldersgate facing South*

The overlying stratigraphy comprised the existing tarmac road surface on a bed of reinforced concrete measuring 0.52m thick. At times the concrete directly overlay modern services cut along the western edge of the trench, 0.5m below the ground, and a large service crossing the trench NE-SW 5.5m from the southern end and up to 0.55m below the ground surface.

Below this modern overburden was context (11), a layer of compacted, mid to dark grey/brown sandy-silt containing frequent fine gravels and measuring approximately 0.15m thick. It produced several residual sherds of medieval pottery ranging from the late-12<sup>th</sup> to the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>14</sup> and sealed all subsequent archaeology. This context was largely excavated by machine before arrival of the archaeological field staff.

In the far northern end of the trench was a layer of mixed stone and yellow mortar rubble within a silty subsoil deposit, extending for c6.75m southward across the width of the trench and for 0.5m into the northernmost eastern extension. It was interpreted as rubble collapse from a part of Aldersgate. Adjoining this was roughly mortared in situ stonework with standing remnants of the structure thought to be represented by contexts [3] and [4] approximately 2m further to the south. This comprised mixed stone and poured yellow-mortar footings, overlain by a single course of square-cut blocks of mainly Reigate ragstone and one of limestone. To the east of these were several floor tiles, the remains of an interior surface. Due to the confines of the trench it was hard to assess which component of the gate this stonework may have formed.



Fig.32: Contexts [3], [4] & [5] in northern half of trench facing S

<sup>14</sup> Appendix A: Pottery report, *Paul Blinkhorn*, pg.48

Context [3] was abutted by brickwork [4] immediately to the south and this brickwork also overlay the stone blocks of [3] at the southernmost end. On the southern end of the brickwork was mortared a large square slab of limestone, possibly forming a corner stone. The brickwork may represent the main façade of the gate, whereas [3] may be the foundations, or internal face onto which the brickwork facade is erected. In turn the stone slab at the far southern end may form part of a ‘monumental’ facing onto one of the street frontages. However, due to the spatial confines of the trench it was hard to prove either way.



Fig.33: *Brickwork [4] abutting stonework [3] facing West (0.5m scale)*

Around 0.4m further south of slab [4] aligned E-W across the trench was a fragmentary section of wall [5]. It was comprised of roughly worked Kentish ragstone rubble bonded with a soft, sandy lime-mortar. It survived to 0.35m in height from the base of the trench, (continuing down for an unconfirmed depth), was 0.45m wide, and appeared to have been robbed out on its eastern side. Its function is unknown, but may have been an element of the earlier medieval gate, destroyed in 1617. It as sealed by the deposit [12], which in turn underlay and abutted the stone slab [4].



Fig.34: *Context [5] in centre of frame and [4] in the foreground, facing S (0.5m scale)*

0.18m south of [5], aligned NE-SW in the western edge of the trench a wall of red brick was present [6]. This was abutted by a NW-SE red-brick wall [8] at its northern end joining it at a right-angle. They were both bonded with a greyish lime-mortar, but while [6] was at least several courses thick, [8] was only 2 bricks wide. It is thought that these two walls may have formed the corner of some sort of brick-lined pit, this is further suggested by the dark-grey sandy-silt mix, (10), that was contained within a roughly square area south of wall [8]. It contained a substantial amount of charcoal and occasional CBM and mortar fragments, was excavated to a depth of 0.5m and continued below the limit of excavation. This deposit produced pottery sherds dating from 1550-1700AD, which is contemporary with the later, 17<sup>th</sup> century gate<sup>15</sup>, and a clay tobacco pipe bowl decorated with the British Royal Coat of Arms and conforming to Type 21 (1710-40)<sup>16</sup>. Either side of the spur were the initials P.S.



Fig.35: Walls [6], [7], & [8] in southern half of trench facing W. Deposit (10) in foreground

Deposit (10) appears to have been truncated further south and west at a later date and brick wall [7] inserted, abutting next to the south-eastern face of wall [6]. A construction cut, [13], was possibly identified behind the face of the wall, to the west. It may be that deposit (10) was redeposited around the newly constructed wall as the boundary of the fills were very unclear. The purpose of this addition is unknown, but may represent later repair work or an extension to wall [6] and its associated property. The construction cut appeared to truncate deposit (14), an orange-brown compacted sandy gravel 0.16m thick which was only observed south of wall [8] and east of wall [7]. This could imply that (14) represents an exterior surface and (9) an interior dump/surface.

<sup>15</sup> Appendix A: Pottery Report, *Paul Blinkhorn*, pg.48

<sup>16</sup> Type 21 refers to the Adrian Oswald typography as published in BAR 14, 1975

Both brick and stonework structures [4] and [8] overlay layer (12), which was 0.45-0.50m thick. This was a dark brown, sandy-silt, mixed with large stones up to 5cm big and medium gravels and fine pebbles, the uppermost 10cm of which had considerably more finely crushed mortar. From it were retrieved a range of pot sherds datable from 975AD German imported ware to English tin-glazed ware from anytime between 1600-1800AD<sup>17</sup>. This would probably suggest either imported dump material containing earlier pottery, or a episode of intense ground disturbance which brought the earlier pottery to the surface, possibly the demolition and levelling of the site prior to the redesigning of the medieval gate in 1617.



Fig.36: Context [7] with contexts [6] and [8] in the background, facing NNW, (0.5m scale)

Deposit (12) in turn overlay context (9) which was observed in a small area between masonry [4] and [5] and comprised a mid to light brown silty-sand containing fine gravels and frequent stone chippings. Its depth was never gauged as it was only exposed in plan.

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<sup>17</sup> Appendix A: Pottery report, *Paul Blinkhorn*, pg. 40

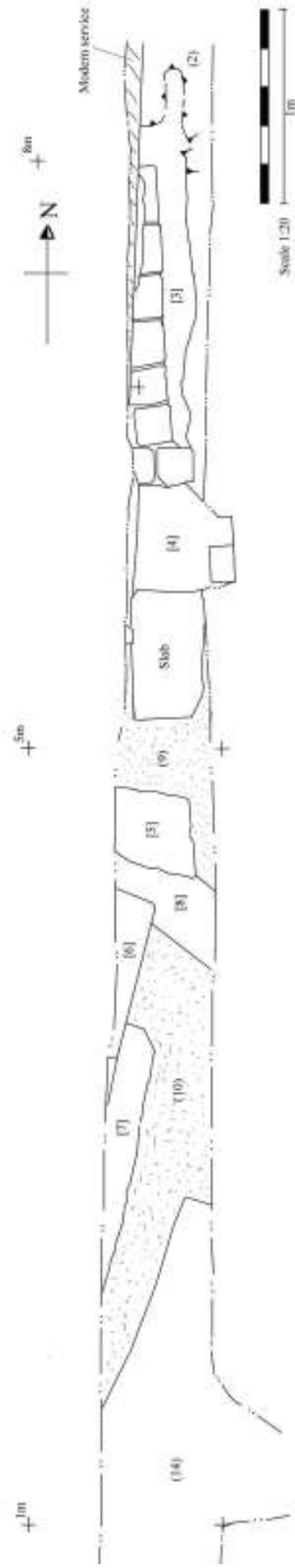


Fig.37: Plan of southern part of trench located on figure 18 containing remains of Aldersgate

## 11 Conclusions

Significant remains associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century rebuilding of Aldersgate were exposed and recorded during groundworks. These included structural elements of the gate itself as well as associated surface deposits. Masonry [3]-[4] could represent the south-east corner of a room adjacent to the eastern pedestrian arch of the Gate with a tiled floor, (see fig.37). Walls [6]-[8] would more likely be associated with domestic properties immediately adjacent to the gate on St.Martin's-le-Grand, as it is on a different alignment, reflecting the kink in the road depicted in early maps (see fig.22).

Deposits (9), (10), (12), and (14) probably represented episodes of dumping during the construction and occupation of the site and context (11) demolition and sealing of the site post 1762.

Unfortunately, due to the limited dimensions of the trench any such wider context and conclusions must be considered conjectural rather than concrete.

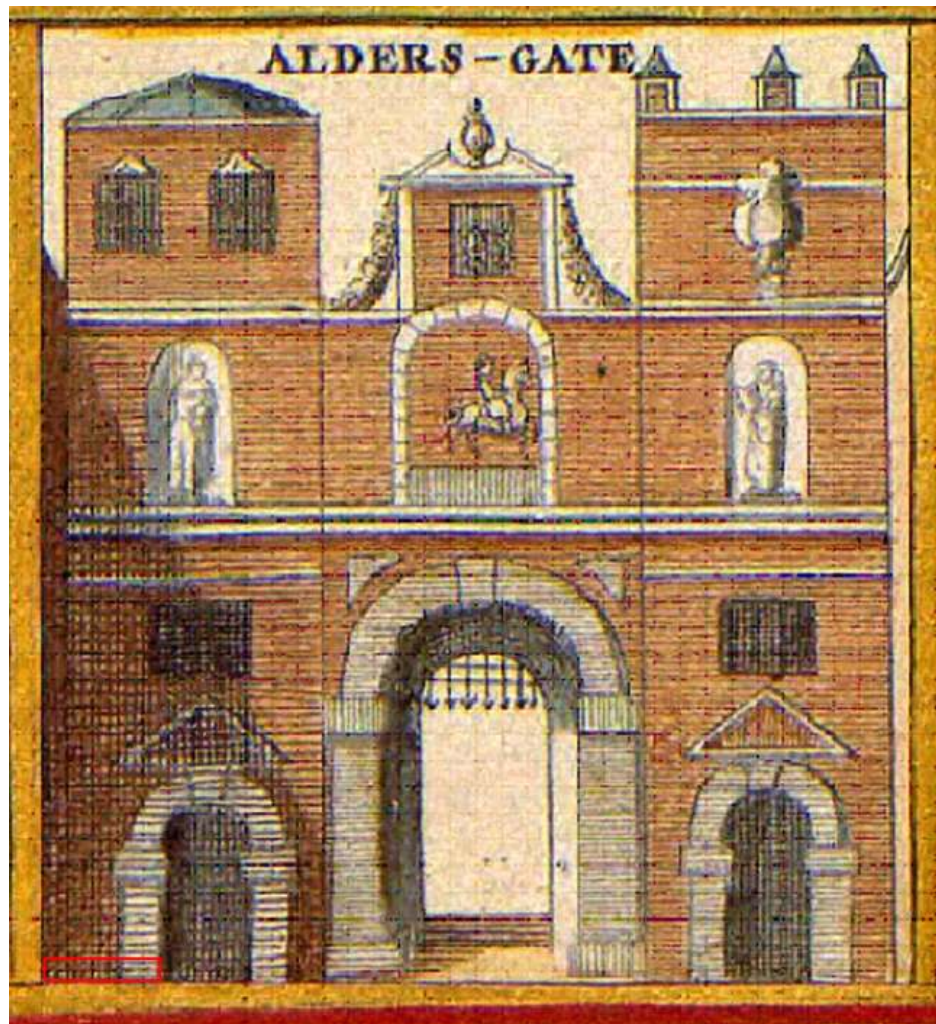


Fig.38: *Highlighted area reflecting possible location of the remains of Aldersgate found in trenching*



## 12 Bibliography

Baker, TM, *London-Rebuilding the City after the Great Fire* (2000)

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Thornbury, W, *Old and New London: Volume 2*, (1878)

<http://www.pepys.info/1660/1660oct.html>.

## APPENDIX A: Pottery from (Site TXQ11)

*Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 8 sherds with a total weight of 134g. It was recorded using the fabric codes of the Museum of London post-Roman type-series (Vince 1985), as follows:

BORDY: Yellow-glazed Border ware, 1550-1700. 1 sherd, 83g.  
ESUR: Early Surrey Coarseware. Mid 11<sup>th</sup> – late 12<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 19g.  
LOND: London-type ware, 1080-1350. 2 sherds, 11g.  
REDP: Red-painted German import, 970-1250. 1 sherd, 4g.  
SHER: S. Herts./Limpsfield grey wares, 1170-1350. 1 sherd, 10g.  
TGW: English tin-glazed ware, 1600-1800. 2 sherds, 7g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The fabrics are all types which are known in London and its hinterland. The range of material indicates that there was activity at the site from possibly around the time of the Norman Conquest, if not earlier, through to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, although most of the medieval material is redeposited in a post-medieval context. The wide chronology of the earliest pottery does however mean that the assemblage could be late 12<sup>th</sup> century or later. The assemblage comprised entirely bodysherds, and is in generally good condition..

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in grams) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	REDP		ESUR		SHER		LOND		BORDY		TGW		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
10									1	83			M16thC
11					1	10							L12thC
12	1	4	1	19			2	11			2	7	L16thC
Total	1	4	1	19	1	10	2	11	1	83	2	7	

## Bibliography

Vince, AG, (1985), The Saxon and Medieval Pottery of London: A review, *Medieval Archaeology* **29**, 25-93

**APPENDIX B: Ceramic Building Material analysis**

*Sue Pringle*

Site code	Context no.	Context date	Context/ cbm	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight	Comments	Fabric notes
TXQ11	4	1450-1700		3033	BU	2	2643	conjoin. Over-fired. Indented margins. Top surface slightly worn, perhaps used in floor	
TXQ11	4	1450-1700		3033	BU	3	2530	conjoin. Top surface abraded - flooring brick?	
TXQ11	5	undated		stone	rubble	1	1531	Kentish Ragstone rubblestone - looks worn.	
TXQ11	6	1450-1700		3033	BU	1	2362	breadth varies 110-115mm. Indented margins; grass marks on upper face	
TXQ11	6	1450-1700		3033	BU	1	2244	Indented margins surface partly obscured by mortar with coal flecks, but indented margins visible.	
TXQ11	7	1700-1900		3033	BU	1	2490	Possibly vitrified.	
TXQ11	7	1700-1900		3033	BU	1	2327	thickness varies due to effects of burning. Mortar on base contains charcoal.	
TXQ11	7	1700-1900		3047	BU	1	1307	small amount mortar, mainly on headers/stretchers	
TXQ11	7	1700-1900		3047	BU	1	836	small amount mortar, mainly on headers/stretchers	
TXQ11	8	1450-1700		3033	BU	2	2181	conjoin; indented margins	
TXQ11	8	1450-1700		3033	BU	1	2130	heat-distorted. Indented margins. Fabric vitrified but just identifiable	
TXQ11	10	1450-1800		2271	Roof tile	1	173	fine moulding sand	Late 2271/early 2276?
TXQ11	11	1480-1800		2276	Roof tile	1	119	Heavily mortared. No nail-holes visible, but probably peg tile	
TXQ11	11	1650-1800		3032?	B	1	1876	Under-fired fabric? Contains numerous very coarse lumps of slag or cinder	
TXQ11	12	1770-1940		3035	B	1	203	Flake of yellow Kentish stock brick Unglazed floor tile, bevelled sides. Worn on top and bottom, so re-used.	
TXQ11	12	1770-1940		3075?	Floor tile	1	363	Thickness suggests dates c. 1600-1700.	Fabric ID not secure.
TXQ11	12	1770-1940		2276	Roof tile	1	138	No nail-holes present	Probably Flemish
TXQ11	?	1750-1800		3032	BF	1	2049	60-65mm thick. Shallow moulded frog c. 130 x 50 x 8mm. Limy version of fabric.	

## APPENDIX C: OASIS data collection form

**OASIS ID: compassa1-111314**

### Project details

Project name	Remains of Aldersgate revealed at junction of Aldersgate Street and St.Martin's-le-Grand
Short description of the project	An open-cut trench aligned N-S east of the centre line on Aldersgate Street was observed on the 5th-8th of February 2011. It measured approximately 12.78m long x between 0.36-0.66m wide and up to 1.18m deep. Significant remains associated with the 17th century rebuilding of Aldersgate were exposed and recorded during groundworks. These included structural elements of the gate itself as well as associated surface deposits. Masonry [3]-[4] represented the south-east corner of a room adjacent to the eastern pedestrian arch of the Gate with a tiled floor. Walls [6]-[8] were more likely to have been associated with domestic properties immediately adjacent to the gate on St.Martin's-le-Grand, as they were on a different alignment, reflecting the kink in the road depicted in early maps. Deposits (9), (10), (12), and (14) represented episodes of dumping during the construction and occupation of the site and context (11) demolition and sealing of the site post 1762. After archaeological investigation and recording the remains were left in situ.
Project dates	Start: 05-02-2011 End: 08-02-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	STONE WALLS Medieval
Monument type	BRICK WALLS Post Medieval
Monument type	TILED FLOOR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY SHERDS Early Medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY SHERDS Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY SHERDS Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Junction of Aldersgate Street and St.Martins-le-Grand
Postcode	EC1A 4ER
Study area	6.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3215 8146 51.5160873996 -0.09523736768660 51 30 57 N 000 05 42 W Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment &
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	Compass Archaeology
Type of sponsor/funding body	Water Utility/ Contractor

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
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Physical Contents	'Ceramics','other'
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'other'
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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	City Interim Report 33: Crouch Hill 59, (November 2010-August 2011)
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street
Description	Report of the results of the watching brief. Includes historical and archaeological background of the site, details of the methodology used, photographs and descriptions of all trenches monitored, and brief conclusions reached. Contains detailed sections on remains of Aldersgate and Moorgate exposed in trenching in February 2011

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Entered on	5 October 2011

## **APPENDIX D: London Archaeologist Summary**

Site Address: Remains of Aldersgate on the junction of Aldersgate Street and St.Martin's-le-Grand, City of London, EC1  
Project type: Watching Brief  
Dates of Fieldwork: 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
Site Code: TXQ11  
Site Supervisor: Compass Archaeology  
NGR: TQ 3215 8146  
Funding Body: Optimise

An open-cut trench aligned N-S east of the centre line on Aldersgate Street was observed in February 2011. It measured approximately 12.78m long x between 0.36-0.66m wide and up to 1.18m deep. Significant remains associated with the 17th century rebuilding of Aldersgate were exposed and recorded during groundworks. These included structural elements of the gate itself as well as associated surface deposits. Masonry [3]-[4] represented the south-east corner of a room adjacent to the eastern pedestrian arch of the Gate with a tiled floor. Walls [6]-[8] were more likely to have been associated with domestic properties immediately adjacent to the gate on St.Martin's-le-Grand, as they were on a different alignment, reflecting the kink in the road depicted in early maps. Deposits (9), (10), (12), and (14) represented episodes of dumping during the construction and occupation of the site and context (11) demolition and sealing of the site post 1762. After archaeological investigation and recording the remains were left in situ.

### **III INTERIM REPORT: CROUCH HILL 59, (November 2010-August 2011)**

Archaeological monitoring has continued on all mains replacement works across Crouch Hill 59 in the City of London. Regular visits have been made to all sites where groundbreaking has occurred, and a standard written and photographic record taken where applicable. The vast majority of sites have exposed nothing of archaeological significance, usually consisting of road makeup layers, intrusive service backfill and made-ground deposits.

This interim report follows on from Interim 31, which covers all archaeological monitoring undertaken in CH59 the City of London from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

#### ***Aldersgate (excluding detailed report II)***

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February a 7m open-cut trench was investigated opposite the arched entrance to Nomura House, and measured 0.5m wide by up to 1.1m deep. The existing tarmac road surface overlay a reinforced concrete base and electricity cables up to 0.9m below the modern ground surface. In the centre of the trench there were the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century culvert or drainage structure sealed within a heavily reworked silty soil. No other archaeology was observed on this occasion, and due to adverse weather conditions no photographs taken.

#### ***Basinghall Street***

15m of open-cut trenching along the south-side of Basinghall Street running east from the junction with Aldermabury was observed on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The trench measured 0.50m in width and up to 0.9m in depth. The depth was limited by the presence of a former basement floor, and so little of archaeological significance was seen. The stratigraphy comprised the modern tarmac road surface atop a base of concrete overlying a dumped deposit of crushed brick and pebble within the basemented area along the whole length of the trench.

A further 22m of open cut trench were observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. The trench extended from the eastern end of Basinghall Street and on to Basinghall Avenue, round the corner onto the south-eastern kerb. A large pit was dug in the SE corner of the turn. Stratigraphy included 0.38m of tarmac and concrete making up the existing road surface over up to 0.9m of made ground and service backfill, ranging from a grey-pink aggregate to a sandy clay, containing frequent CBM and gravels.





Fig.39: *Basinghall Street 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Section through trench Facing NE*

A pit was monitored on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, measuring 3.5m E-W, by 4.5m N-S and roughly 0.8m deep. The pit was located in the centre of Basinghall Street, opposite no.80 Basinghall street, approximately 10m west of the footbridge. It contained no archaeology being a mass of modern service cuts and associated backfills.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> July another pit aligned NE-SW on the corner of the junction between Basinghall Avenue and Basinghall Street revealed a similar stratigraphy as on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. Tarmac on a concrete base overlay service cuts backfilled with MOT Type 1 aggregate which overlay a dirty, mid-brown silty sand with large fragments of brick rubble and rounded pebbles. The pit was approximately 5m long (NE-SW) by 1.9m wide (NW-SE) and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m deep.

### ***Coleman Street***

On the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 a 25m stretch of open-cut trenching was observed adjacent to the eastern kerb along Coleman Street between Kings Arms Yard and Great Bell Alley. The trench measured 0.5m wide by up to 0.6m deep and contained no archaeologically significant deposits, being purely backfill material around the existing service pipes, below 0.3m of tarmac and reinforced concrete. A similar sequence was observed in a pit dug opposite the Institute of Marine Science and Technology further to the north. This area was revisited on the 20<sup>th</sup> January to observe a further 12m of trench south of the pit. The same sequence of existing road surfaces over service backfill.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January approximately 15m of trenching were opened on the corner of Coleman Street and London Wall. The stratigraphy comprised 0.50m of tarmac on a concrete bedding overlying up to 0.75m of greyish-brown silty-clay containing frequent gravels. This was interpreted as relatively recent made ground and of little archaeological significance.

A large L-shaped pit was observed just north of White Horse Yard on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011, measuring 4.3m long x 0.9m wide by 1.2m deep, (N-S arm), and 5.9m long x 1.45m wide x 1.3m deep, (E-W arm). The below ground deposits were heavily disturbed by modern services criss-crossing the trench and their associated backfills. Where earlier deposits were observed, mainly on the eastern side of the N-S arm, they comprised a grey silty-clay containing frequent CBM and gravels up to 3cm big representing post-medieval made-ground.



Fig.40: Coleman Street, 11<sup>th</sup> January, facing N



Fig.41: Coleman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> September. West facing section in SE corner of L-shaped pit

### ***Gresham Street***

A trench measuring 6.1m long by 0.7m wide and 1m deep was visited on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011. It was located on the north side of Gresham Street, extending east from the junction with St.Martin's-le-Grand and the stratigraphy observed was up to 0.5m of tarmac over bedding concrete which overlay loose mid-brown silty-sand with pebble and CBM inclusions representing made-ground deposits.

### ***London Wall***

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 trenching aligned along the southern side of London Wall eastwards from the corner with Aldersgate revealed little archaeologically significant material. It measured 10m long by 0.5m wide by 0.8m deep made up of the modern pavement surface overlying an orange-brown gravelly-sand deposit.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> May a further 7m of trenching measuring 0.6m wide by 0.8m deep was inspected revealing paving slabs over made ground to the south and a concrete slab to the north, which may have been associated with the nearby underground car park. Another visit to the site revealed the same sequence in 10m of trenching further eastwards on the 7<sup>th</sup> June.



Fig.42: *London Wall, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011. Facing NW*

No archaeologically significant deposits were observed in any of the trenches despite their proximity to the Roman and Medieval City walls, this is however, probably more down to the limited excavation depth of the service trenching rather than the lack of existing archaeology.

## *Lothbury*

A small area of open cut trenching on the eastern end of Lothbury at the junction with Princes Street was examined on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011. It measured 5m E-W by 3.5m N-S and up to 1.5m in depth. The stratigraphic sequence included 0.4m of tarmac over a bed of concrete and lots of service cuts and associated backfills.

In the SE corner of the pit a fragmentary section of brick-built wall and top of a spring-vaulted ceiling associated with former 19<sup>th</sup> century properties that stood on the site prior to the widening of Lothbury was revealed. Due to the depth of the excavations and truncation of deposits by services no samples were taken.

The site was revisited on the 9<sup>th</sup> August to monitor trenching from the centre of Princes Street towards the eastern kerb, 20m north-west up to the centre of Lothbury junction and extending a further 17m south-west down Lothbury street. No further 19<sup>th</sup> century remains were observed. Instead, made ground comprised of a mid-brown silty sand containing small fragments of CBM, pebble and mortar pockets underlay the existing road surface, possibly representing a leveling/demolition spread post widening of Lothbury itself.



Fig.43: *Lothbury 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, facing SE*

### *Love Lane*

Love Lane was visited on two occasions in December 2010.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> a 27m length of trenching was observed aligned E-W on the northern side of the carriageway at the junction with Aldemanbury, 0.47m from the kerb. It was 0.49m wide and up to 0.9m deep in places, comprising an existing tarmac road surface 0.25m thick over a previous surface 0.45m thick. Below these recent layers was a contiguous mixed subsoil of silty-loam mixed with mortar and brick fragments, representing re-worked upper service fills as seen over much of the city trenches.

The second visit on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, saw 24m of trenching, containing 0.6m of tarmac and concrete overlying service backfill at the western end of Love Lane. It was approximately 0.56m wide by 0.8m deep. A fragment of purple-brick constructed wall was observed 11m from the west end of the trench and at 0.4m below the ground surface, immediately below the concrete bedding of the road. It is thought to perhaps have been associated with the cellar wall of the existing police station directly opposite.



Fig.44: Love Lane 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010, facing NE

### ***Noble Street***

Noble Street was visited on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, and 4m of trenching, 0.6m wide by 0.8m deep was inspected. Modern paving slabs, 0.1m thick overlay a concrete bedding surface 0.3m deep which was sealing 0.5m of service backfill comprised of mixed gravels and crushed brick rubble.

No archaeologically significant deposits were observed.

### ***Princes Street***

35m of trenching, 0.6m wide and 1.05m deep was monitored along the east side of Princes Street and the Bank of England on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011. 0.45m of tarmac and concrete road surface overlay an existing service present along the whole length of the western section, and a loose, mixed brown silty-sand deposit containing CBM and a layer of brick-dust in the eastern section.

A return visit on the 26<sup>th</sup> August revealed a similarly sterile stratigraphy within a stretch of trench 32.8m long. A large water pipe present within the trench had been subject to pipe burst and in consequence the trench could not be accessed to record in full.



Fig.45: *Princes Street 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011, facing S*

### ***St.Martin's-le-Grand***

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 an open-cut trench was monitored adjacent to the eastern kerb of St.Martin's-le-Grand, between No.16 at the southern end and No.2 Gresham Street at the northern end. The trench measured a total of 33m in length by 0.6m wide and up to 0.9m deep. The whole length and depth of trenching was along the line of the existing service cut and so was a mixed clayey-soil backfill of little archaeological significance.



Fig.46: *St.Martin's-le-Grand 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Facing NNW*

At the northern end of St.Martin's-le-Grand, near the junction with London Wall, a 10m length of trenching was observed on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The trench was between 0.6-1.0m wide by up to 1.0m deep, comprising 0.38m of existing tarmac and concrete, overlying up to 0.45m of dark-red/black re-deposited sand and gravel representing made ground.

No archaeologically significant deposits were revealed.

## ***Wood Street***

On the various occasions that Wood Street was visited no archaeologically significant deposits were observed.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 a pit on the NW corner of the junction of Wood Street and Monkwell Square revealed modern paving slabs atop a concrete base overlying mixed, predominantly light-brown silty-sand and gravels representing a recent made ground deposit. The pit measured 3.3m E-W by 1.9m N-S and a maximum of 1.10m deep.

On 21st July, near the junction with London Wall on the western side of the road another pit, 4.1m N-S and 3.2m E-W was inspected. It was excavated up to 0.92m deep, the stratigraphy including 0.39m of tarmac road over concrete and made ground deposits comprised of MOT Type 2 and various, mixed, sandy-silts and gravels.



Fig.47: *Wood Street 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011, Facing S*

A stretch of trench was monitored on the 27<sup>th</sup> July running down the centre of the carriageways for c.14m. It was up to 0.46m wide and in places 1.35m deep. However it followed the old path of the existing Victorian water main and so the contents of the trench was purely backfilled yellow-brown silty-sand, and grey-brown gravels.

A further 21m of trench continuing northward was inspected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, and the same stratigraphy was recorded.