

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Wardrobe Place, City of London, EC4 5AH



Site Code: WAP12

NGR centre: TQ 3188 8102

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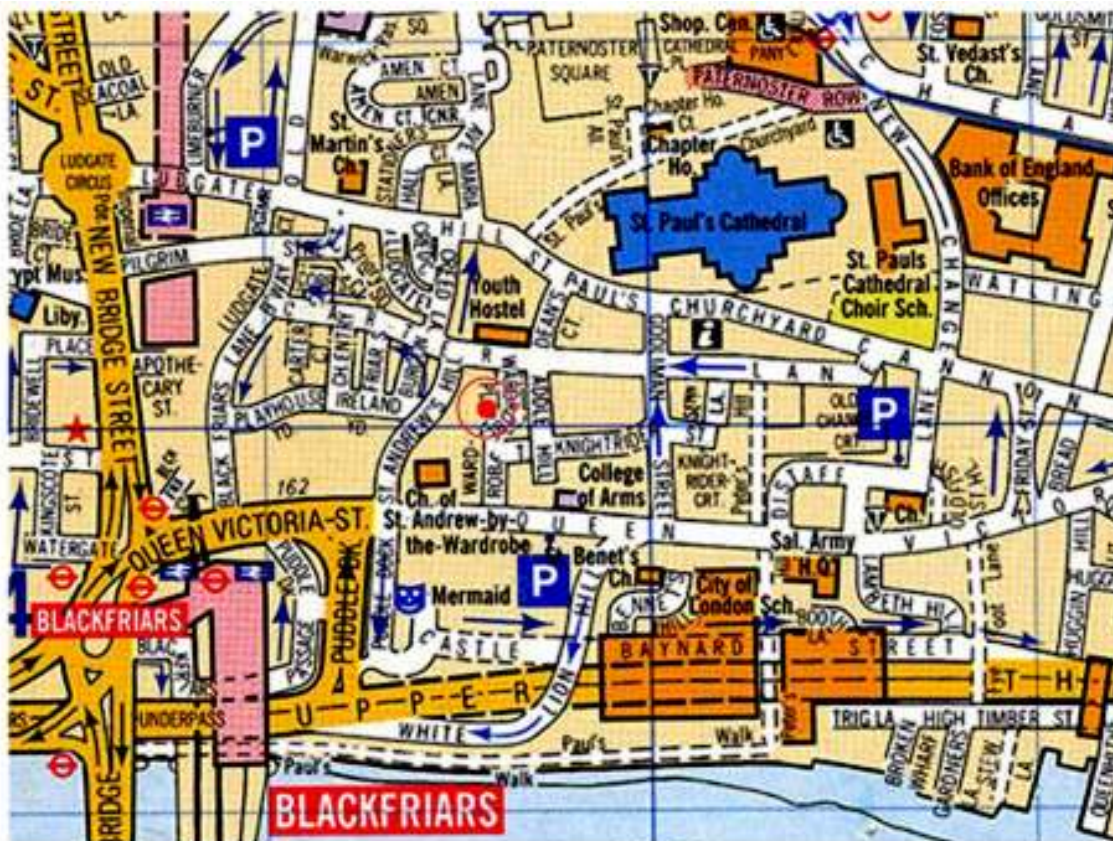
This document forms a summary of a watching brief which took place between 17th and 24th January 2012 in Wardrobe Place, City of London, EC4V 5AH. The work entailed excavating a planting hole for a replacement tree towards the SW corner of the courtyard. The works were commissioned by the Corporation of the City of London, Open Spaces Department.

The watching brief was carried out during contractors groundworks and in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards for Archaeological Work*, July 2009) and to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). The site record will be deposited within the Museum of London Archive under the code WAP12. 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*.

The planting hole was located opposite No.4 Wardrobe Place and measured approximately 1.2m² and was hand excavated to a depth of 0.95m below the present courtyard level. The presence of the root ball of the former tree meant that the underlying deposits had been heavily disturbed and no archaeologically significant deposits were observed. Stratigraphy comprised the existing cobbles bonded with coarse grey mortar overlying a double layer of concrete. The uppermost was relatively recent as it was easily broken up by pick, whereas the lower layer was reinforced with thin steel rods, and the two were separated by a thin layer of loose gravels. These layers amounted to approximately the topmost 350mm of the pit. Below the reinforced concrete was a dark-brown / grey clay-silt deposit representing a mix of backfilled material around the tree and disturbed ground due to substantial root action. A cast-iron water pipe was present aligned N-S in the eastern section of the pit, and a more modern gas service pipe was present aligned E-W along the northern section of the pit.

No deposits associated with the former King's Wardrobe that once stood on the site, or The Great Fire that destroyed it, were encountered. This is probably due to the location of the pit; in that it has already been subject to substantial disturbance through the placing of the Victorian water pipe, previous tree, and modern electricity cable. Such activity would have likely destroyed or at least heavily truncated any earlier deposits. Elsewhere within the immediate surrounding area medieval deposits may still survive *in situ*, and has been shown to be the case on the other side of the courtyard.

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Fig.1: A-Z location map with site ringed in red



Fig.2: Location plan of tree pit



Fig.3: General location shot of tree pit, (left centre of frame). Wardrobe Place facing N



Fig.4: *Exposed roots within the pit, mid excavation, facing N*



Fig.5: *South facing section of pit, showing concrete layers and backfilled services along with tree roots*

Appendix I: OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: compassa1-118342

Project details

Project name	A Watching Brief in Wardrobe Place, City of London, EC4V 5AH
Short description of the project	Between 17th and 24th January 2012 an archaeological watching brief was conducted at Wardrobe Place, monitoring the excavation of a planting hole for a replacement tree opposite No.4. The pit measured 1.2m square by 0.95m deep, and revealed the existing cobbles overlay a double bed of concrete 350mm thick, under which was a dark-brown / grey clay-silt material representing backfill around the tree base and disturbed ground due to root activity and the laying of water and gas utilities. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 13-01-2012 End: 24-01-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WAP12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from City of London Archaeological Advisor

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Wardrobe Place
Postcode	EC4V 5AH

Study area	1.20 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3188 8102 51.5121961273 -0.09929139307260 51 30 43 N 000 05 57 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.95m Max: 0.95m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	City Archaeologist
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Type of sponsor/funding body	City of London Corporation
Name of sponsor/funding body	Open Spaces Department

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Physical Contents	'none'
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive

Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Unpublished Text','Correspondence'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Wardrobe Place, City of London, EC4
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street
Description	Short report of the results of the watching brief. Includes details of the methodology used, photographs and descriptions of all trenches monitored, and brief conclusions reached.
Entered by	James Aaronson (james.aaronson@gmail.com)
Entered on	1 February 2012

Appendix II: London Archaeologist summary

Site Address: Wardrobe Place, City of London, EC4V 5AH
Project Type: Watching Brief

Dates of fieldwork: 17th-24th January 2012

Site Code: WAP12

Site Supervisor: James Aaronson

NGR: TQ 3188 8102

Funding body: Corporation of the City of London

Between 17th and 24th January 2012 an archaeological watching brief was conducted at Wardrobe Place, monitoring the excavation of a planting hole for a replacement tree opposite No.4. The pit measured 1.2m square by 0.95m deep, and revealed the existing cobbles overlay a double bed of concrete 350mm thick, under which was a dark-brown / grey clay-silt material representing backfill around the tree base and disturbed ground due to root activity and the laying of water and gas utilities. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.