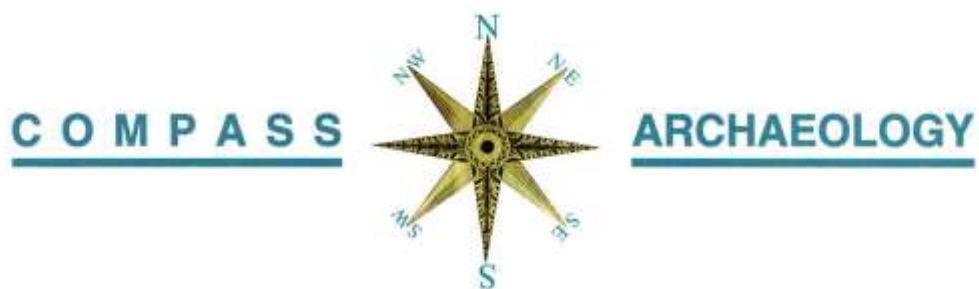


**A SERIES OF TRIAL PITS ASSOCIATED WITH
THE ALDAGTE HIGHWAY CHANGES AND
PUBLIC REALM PROJECT
EC3A**

An Archaeological Evaluation & Watching Brief



February 2014



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PUBLIC REALM PROJECT
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An Archaeological Evaluation & Watching Brief

Site Code: DKE13
Site NGR, (centre): TQ 336 812

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February 2014

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Abstract

In July 2013 Compass Archaeology were commissioned to conduct an archaeological evaluation on the line of the Roman / medieval City wall surrounding London from the 2nd century, and standing until the later 18th century. A single evaluation trench was opened on the western side of Duke's Place, by the John Cass Primary School, in order to ascertain the survival and line of the wall, and its potential for incorporation within the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project, (AHCPRP).

The evaluation exposed remains and the western face of the Roman wall, and revealed that it had been truncated so that coal cellars could be constructed for overlying later-18th century properties. It verified the accuracy of the projected wall line and examples of 2nd century Roman and 18th century post-medieval pottery were recovered from several contexts.

This initial evaluation was followed by a series of test pits elsewhere within the AHCPRP, monitored under Watching Brief conditions. All but one of these revealed no archaeological deposits at all. A single test pit dug in a flower bed outside of St Botolph without Aldgate revealed a very compact deposit overlain by an apparent metalled surface which may represent an earlier, possibly medieval incarnation of Houndsditch. Below this surface was a potential truncated Roman land surface.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation followed by an archaeological watching brief which took place between 29th of July 2013 and 21 of January 2014 in the area around the Aldgate gyratory system and covered by the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project, (AHCPRP).

1.2 The initial evaluation was conducted in order to ascertain the level of survival, and depth of, the remains of the City wall in the area of the new public square to the west of St Botolph without Aldgate. It was at one point envisioned that any remains of the wall would be incorporated into the final design. Thus a single trench was dug across the line of the Scheduled Monument.

The watching brief that followed was focused around six trial pits dug as part of investigative works in preparation for the AHCPRP. The pits were dug for various reasons, including ascertaining the condition of buried structures and service boxes as well as confirming the eligibility of locations for CCTV stations, tree pits, and new soakaways.

1.3 The archaeological investigations were commissioned due to the fact that the area of works covers several sites of historic and archaeological importance and potential, including the Roman and medieval City wall and gate at Aldgate, the former boundary of the medieval church of St Botolph, and possible earlier street frontages along the lines of Aldgate, Duke's Place and Houndsditch.

2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The works programme covered a large area, extending from the junction of Leadenhall and Fenchurch Street in the west to Middlesex Street in the east. The northern extent was the junction of St Botolph Street and the southern extent was the southern pavement along Aldgate High Street with the addition of a single pit on the junction of Minories and Goodman's Yard. The approximate site centre for the works was TQ 336 812.

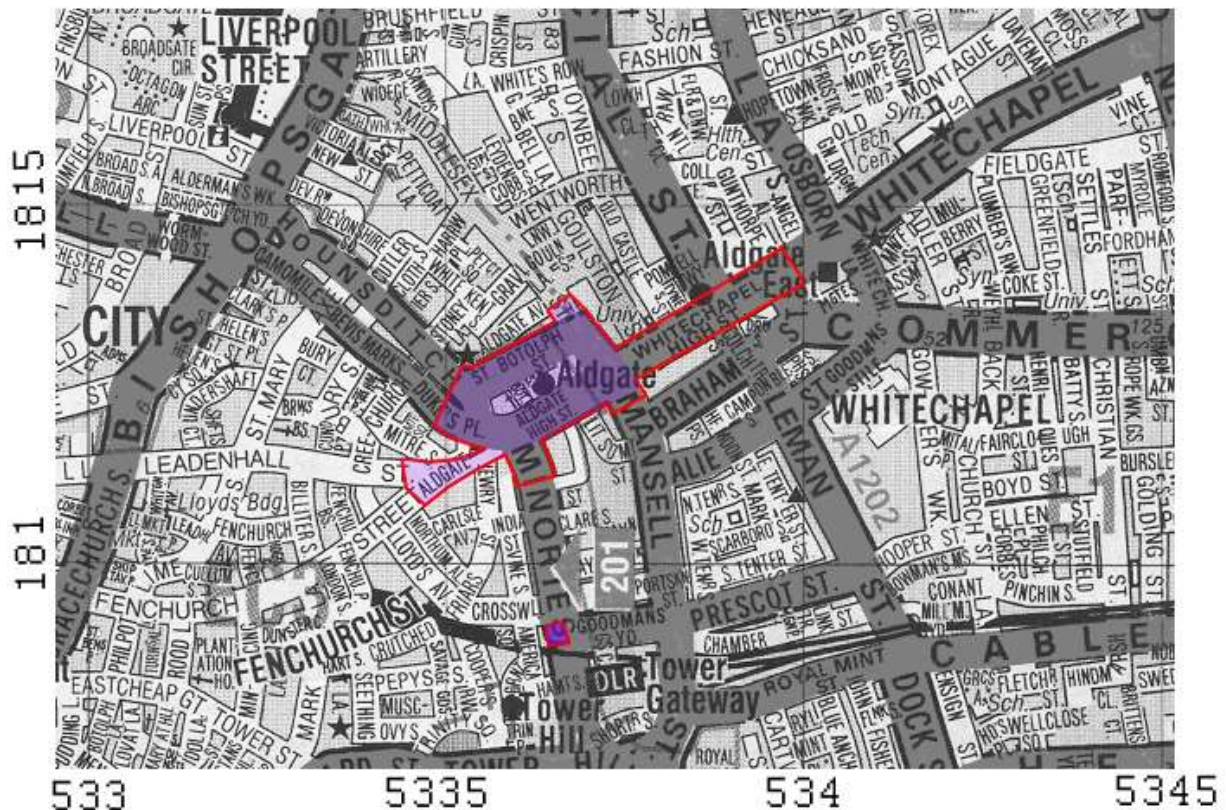


Fig.1: Site location showing the area of the AHCPRP, (red outline), and the area covered by the watching brief, (blue)

The area of the archaeological works lies within the City of London, which has policies on archaeological remains and development; ‘Planning Advice Note 3’ (2002) covers archaeological work within the City. This document stresses the need for archaeological work when development has the potential to impact upon archaeological remains.

The evaluation trench fell within the Scheduled Monument, relating to the remains of the Roman wall running between Sir John Cass College and Bevis Marks (LO26K). Therefore ‘Scheduled Monument Consent’ was applied for when groundworks took place within this particular area, (Ref: 00060305).

- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 256: North London), the study site overlies Langley Silt, (a brickearth deposit), over Kempton Park Gravels. The brickearth deposit is generally found at $c12.2 - 12.3\text{mOD}$ along Aldgate High Street, $c2.75\text{m}$ beneath the present ground-surface.

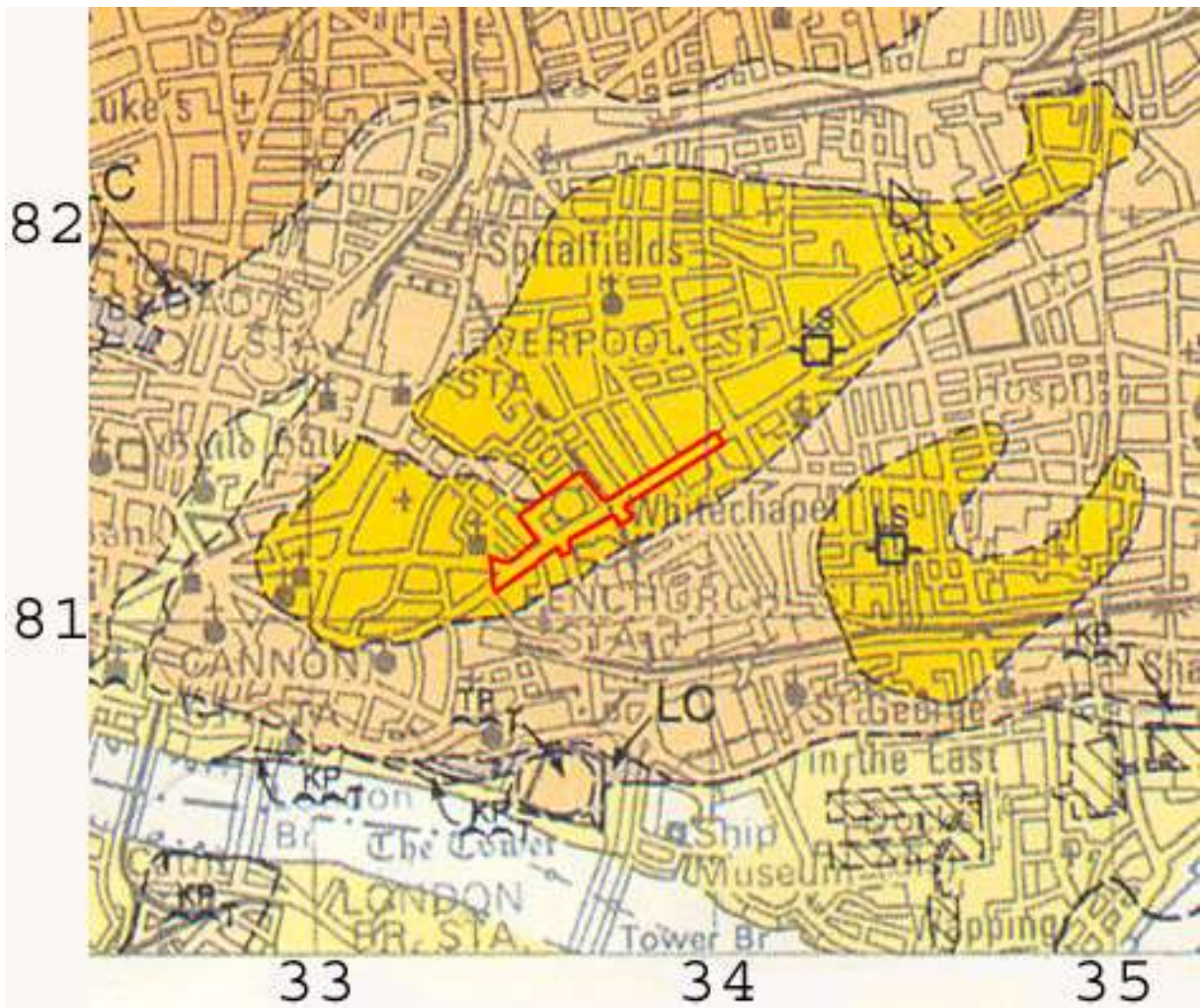


Fig.2: The site of the AHCPRP in relation to the British Geological Survey Sheet 256

2.3 The site of the AHCPRP lies on a spur of high ground which crosses Aldgate. The land slopes by just over 1.1m from east to west, with a level of *c*16.2m at its western end, falling to *c*15.1mOD at its eastern end, and also drops away north to south, from *c*16.1mOD to *c*15.8mOD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The historical and archaeological background to this area has been extensively discussed in the desk-based assessment, (Compass Archaeology, 2013a). Here, a brief summary of any relevant archaeological monitoring and discoveries in the direct vicinity of each of the test pits is provided.

3.1 Evaluation trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated on the western side of Duke's Place on the pavement outside of Sir John Cass Primary School. The main eastern gate leading from the Roman City was constructed in *c*AD200, alongside the City wall and ditch, some 50m south of the trial trench. An excavation in 1971 on Duke's Place, (TQ 3352 8120), uncovered part of the early Roman defensive ditch and the remains of a bastion, and a long stretch of wall was apparently uncovered during the widening of Duke's Place in 1887, (TQ 3352 8120). The remains of this Roman wall and gate have often survived at relatively shallow depths below the existing land surface, as little as 0.65m in MoLAS' recent work on Aldgate High Street, (site code: AHH12).

Later medieval activity mainly took place within the City walls, and several cess-pits, ditches and yard surfaces have been observed within the vicinity of the proposed trial trench. These include the precinct associated with the Priory of the Holy Trinity, established in the early 12th century, and continuing in existence till the mid 16th century, during work on the site of Sir John Cass School. The 1971 excavation on Duke's Place (TQ 3352 8120) also uncovered a medieval ditch and cess-pit.

The Roman City wall, gate, and ditch were still in existence throughout the medieval period. Some minor changes were made to the wall, including the addition of bastions on its eastern side, and the city ditch appears to have been recut on several occasions. In particular, excavations at 2-7 Duke's Place (TQ 3350 8121) revealed a portion of the city wall with a blocked doorway and passage, plus evidence for the recutting of the city ditch.

Cartographic evidence shows that this area was developed, and that Duke's Place existed, from at least the mid-16th century, (as shown in the 1562 Agas Map of London), with the line of the wall running along the eastern side of Duke's Place at this date. Aldgate and the City wall were destroyed in the later-18th century, although Duke's Place appears to follow the same line until the later-1960s century, when the Aldgate gyratory system was constructed and the southern part of Duke's Place diverted to the east to join up with Houndsditch.

3.2 Pit 2

Pit 2 was positioned at the north-western corner of St Botolph's Church. This church was initially constructed in the 10th century, and evidence for early activity has been found in the general vicinity of the church. The pit itself is positioned just to the west of the churchyard boundary, and the western boundary of the church does not appear to have changed since at least the 16th century (based on cartographic evidence). The only difference being that until the 1960s the church was directly bounded by the line of Houndsditch, until the creation of the gyratory system. However, the remains of a probable

medieval boundary wall of St Botolph's Churchyard was discovered during archaeological work by MoLA in 2012 at the south-western corner of the churchyard, (AHH12). This was aligned north-south, on approximately the same line as or just to the east of pit 1, and so it is possible that further parts of this could be uncovered in pit 1.

3.3 Pit 3

Pit 5 was positioned in the large triangular flowerbeds between Duke's Place and Houndsditch. This was within an area of buildings until the 1960s changes associated with the construction of the gyratory system. There appear to have been buildings in this area from at least the 17th century, as depicted on Faithorne and Newcourt's Map, and so it is possible that parts of these could be uncovered, as long as the later (Victorian coal cellars etc.), buildings have not truncated any earlier remains. However, the pit partly overlies the pedestrian subway – it is possible that the construction of this may have heavily disturbed any earlier archaeology over the entirety of the pit, although some surviving deposits / features could potentially exist outside of the area of the subway itself.

3.4 Pit 4

Pit 4 was positioned on the northern side of Aldgate High Street, on the southern boundary of the Sir John Cass School. This is just to the west of the Roman and medieval city wall and gate, just within the City and therefore in an area of extensive past activity. The line of the street-frontage in this area used to be further to the south, until the changes made to this area in the 1960s. This means that it may be possible that archaeological remains associated with earlier buildings could be uncovered, although also means that any earlier archaeological remains may have been truncated by Victorian coal cellars, etc. Archaeological monitoring of the carriageway just to the south of this during Thames Water mains replacement works in 2011, uncovered nothing of archaeological interest, (simply service backfill, etc.), with the remains of Victorian coal cellars uncovered along the southern side of the road.

3.5 Pit 5

Pit 5 was positioned within the Roman / medieval city, just to the west of the gate at Aldgate. As such it has potential for a range of archaeological remains to be uncovered, particularly evidence for Roman, Saxon, and medieval activity. It is not believed that any archaeological work has been done in this specific location (i.e. on the traffic-island), however archaeological monitoring has taken place of Thames Water mains replacement works either side of this (along the northern and southern carriageways). No finds or features of archaeological interest were uncovered in the trenches along the northern carriageway (with these being generally disturbed by services), and only Victorian brick coal cellars were uncovered along the southern carriageway. Nonetheless, the fact that this pit is positioned in a potentially archaeologically sensitive area, with no known modern disturbance, means that archaeological features could be encountered within the pit.

3.6 Pit 6

Pit 6 was located in approximately the centre of Middlesex Street. Middlesex Street appears to have been a medieval road, first depicted on Faithorne and Newcourt's Map of London (1658). Archaeological monitoring along this road during the Thames Water mains replacement works uncovered nothing of archaeological significance, with the observed stratigraphy simply consisting of modern road make-up overlying service backfills. However evidence for early activity has been found in excavations on the eastern side of Middlesex Street (site code WCP99), where medieval cess pits, quarry pits, part of a chalk-lined cellar, and 17th – 18th century building and occupation layers, were uncovered. It was therefore possible that archaeological remains could be uncovered in this pit, as it has not been disturbed by any modern activity (tube, subways, etc).

3.7 Pit 7

Pit 7 was positioned on the southern side of Aldgate High Street, just to the east of the junction with Minories. Aldgate High Street preserves the line of the Roman London-Colchester road, and evidence for Roman roadside activity, plus evidence for occupation and other activity from the medieval period onwards, has been found along it. During the archaeological monitoring of Thames Water mains replacement works in 2011, a section of red brick and rubble masonry was observed c0.9m beneath the modern ground-surface, in approximately the same position as pit 10. This was part of a north-south wall base, and was exposed for a length of 0.7m projecting into the road. Samples taken from this structure were dated 1450-1700, and cartographic evidence suggests that the southern side of Aldgate High Street remained relatively stable since at least the 16th century. This suggests that this wall-base may have been part of a later medieval structure – when the southern line of Aldgate High Street was slightly further north. It therefore seemed possible that archaeological remains associated with this, or similar to this, could be uncovered in pit 10.

3.8 Pit 8

Pit 8 is positioned to the south of the other pits, on the western side of Minories at the junction with Goodmans Yard. Monitoring of Thames Water mains replacement works along Minories uncovered nothing of archaeological interest in this area, however excavations at 15-16 America Square in the 1980s, (some 50m to the north-east of the proposed pit), uncovered a 32m-stretch of the City wall, plus part of the outer ditch, internal construction road, and medieval drains cut through the wall. It is therefore possible that other evidence for the Roman / medieval city wall and/or ditch, or associated activity, could be uncovered in this pit. However, the fact that the pit is positioned relatively close to the underground line means that the ground could have been disturbed in the immediate area.

4 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 Within the AHCPRP substantial landscaping works are proposed. This involves the removal of the gyratory system and replacing it with two-way traffic on Aldgate High Street and St Botolph Street. This will also involve changing the kerb lines and crossing points in this area.

The proposed redevelopment also involves the construction of two new public spaces – a square on the western side of the Aldgate gyratory, between St Botolphs Church and the Sir John Cass Primary School; and another smaller space on the eastern side of the gyratory. Planned features within these squares include a community arts space and café, an amphitheatre performance space, new gardens / planting, and seating. The ‘concept panels’ for these two squares, created by Atkins Architects Ltd, are shown below (figs.3 and 4).

This project will mean that some of the pedestrian subways will become redundant. There is the opportunity to remove some of these, and others may be reused for other functions.



Fig.3: *Concept design for the AHCPRP*



Fig.4: Artists impression of west end square near to Duke's Place

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The works programme presented the opportunity to answer the following specific research questions:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity in the area? What form does this take?
- Is there any evidence of Roman occupation? Is this related to the City wall / ditch or Aldgate or extra mural activity along the Roman Road exiting the City?
- Is there any evidence of medieval occupation? Is this related to the City wall / ditch or Aldgate, or is it domestic?
- Is there any evidence of earlier street lines or frontages? Can this be related to the surviving cartographic evidence?
- At what level does archaeology and natural geology survive across the site?

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Standards

6.1.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards for Archaeological Work, June 2009*) and to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists, (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Institute.

6.1.2 Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team held valid CSCS Cards (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme), and wore hi-visibility jackets, hard-hats, and steel-toe-capped

boots during monitoring and mitigation works. All members of the fieldwork team also followed the contractors' health and safety guidelines.

6.1.3 The Client and the Assistant Director of the Historic Environment, City of London, were kept informed of the progress of fieldwork and any finds.

6.2 Fieldwork

6.2.1 In total, 8 pits were excavated during the works programme. As and when appropriate the pavement / road slab was first cut with a circular saw and removed using handheld mechanical breakers. All pits were then excavated by hand using shovels, picks or other appropriate tools.

6.2.2 The evaluation entailed a single archaeologist to monitor initial ground reduction. Upon exposure of archaeological deposits two archaeologists took part in the hand excavation and recording of remains.

The watching brief involved one archaeologist on site to monitor the excavation of the trial pits and to investigate and record any archaeological remains.

6.2.3 Archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and where appropriate, finds dating recovered

6.2.4 During excavation, spoil from archaeological levels was deposited separately, in such a way as to facilitate archaeological examination.

6.2.5 Archaeological remains were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and where necessary drawn in plan and/or section, generally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan, and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by photography, (35mm &/or digital).

6.2.6 Levels were taken on all the pits and any archaeology as appropriate, derived from an OSBM located on the SE corner of St Botolphs Church, Aldgate, with a value of 18.48mOD.

6.2.7 All finds and samples were treated on-site in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds*'. All identified finds and artefacts were retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although certain classes of building material may be discarded if an appropriate record has been made.

6.3 Post-excavation work & report procedure

The fieldwork was followed by a programme of off-site processing and assessment; by compilation of a post-excavation report; and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

6.3.1 Assessment and, where appropriate, conservation of finds and samples was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff.

6.3.2 This report provides details of methodology and of archaeological remains and finds, plus an interpretation of the deposits investigated, and includes a series of scale drawings, photographs and context descriptions.

A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended using the OASIS Report Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client, and Curator of the City of London, and local studies library, (LMA).

There is no provision for further analysis or publication of significant findings. Should these be made the requirements would need to be discussed and agreed with the Client beforehand.

6.4 Archive

Following the issue of the report and any further work that may be agreed, an ordered, indexed and internally consistent site archive will be compiled in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives*.

It is proposed that the archive will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive under the site code DKE13. The integrity of the site archive should also be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum.

7 RESULTS

There follows a discussion of the various trial pits in consecutive order. Reference should be made to fig.5 throughout for general location of the individual pits.

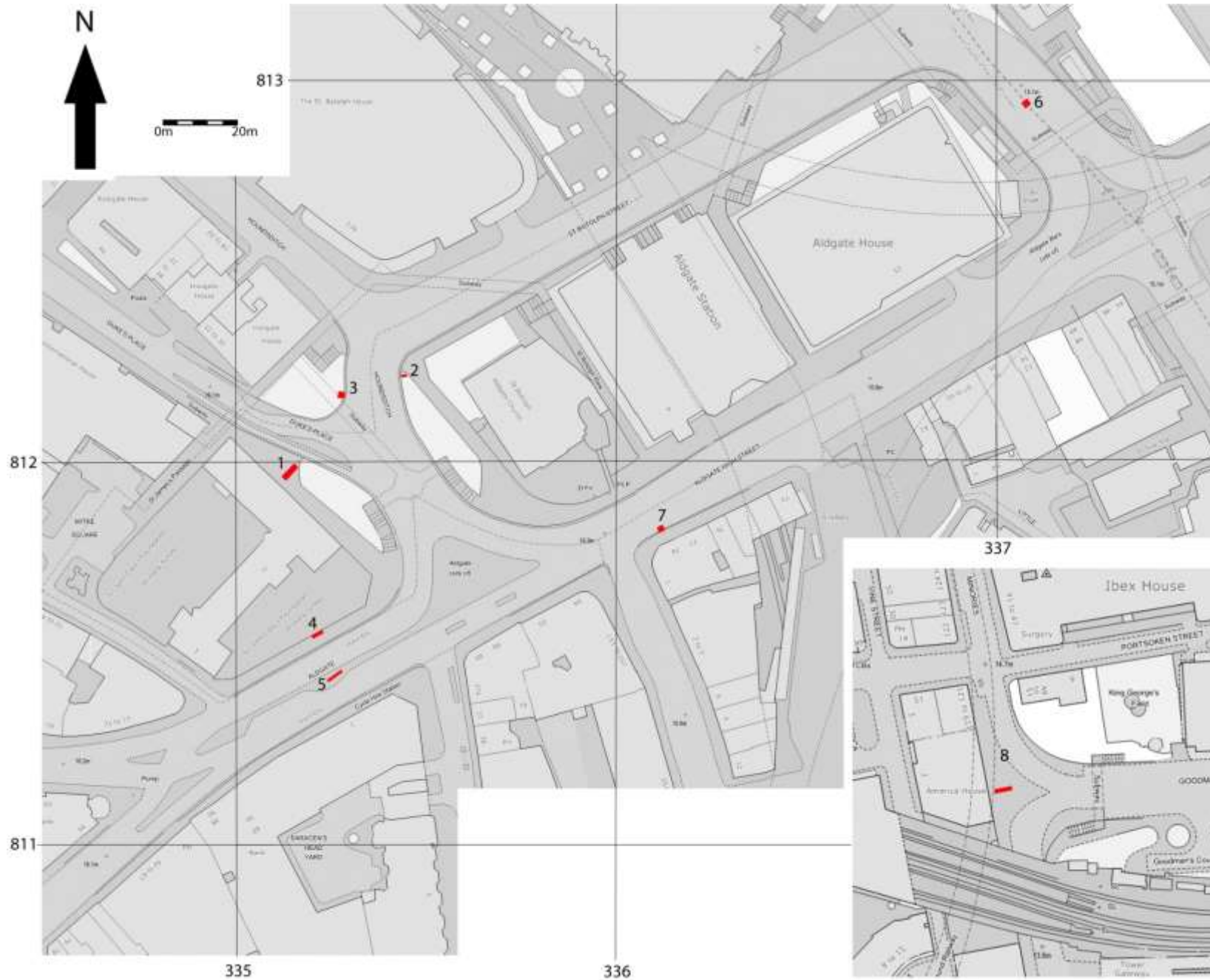


Fig.5: Plan showing the locations of the various trial holes, (red), during the evaluation and watching brief

7.1 TRENCH 1

7.1.1 The excavation of the trial trench on Duke's Place between the 29th July and 5th August 2013 revealed archaeological remains spanning nearly 2000 years of London's history.

7.1.2 It revealed an 18th century brick built structure, (group number [6], comprised of [7]-[9]), believed to have been a coal cellar/chamber, with a brick floor, surviving in the centre of the trench. This was comprised of two elements; to the east a small part of the main cellar, and to the west a narrower vaulted chamber apparently built beyond the front line of the building which would have included a coal hole to allow direct access from the street. This chamber was open to the main cellar, (to the east), and measured approximately 1.20m+ wide, (N-S), by 1.11m deep, (E-W), and survived to a maximum height of 1.70m, (on its southern side). The full width of the structure and its northern side were not exposed in excavation. The walls were constructed from similarly formed un-frogged red bricks bonded with a fairly soft, buff, gritty lime mortar, in no particular coursing pattern.



Fig.6: *The brick-built chamber, [6], facing SW. Note the springing for an arch to the left of the frame. The rear wall, against which the 1m scale rests probably represents the furthest extent of the chamber. The corner of the wall in the left foreground was probably on a line with the early street frontage*

The southern wall, [7] incorporated the springwork for an arch which would have extended north, spanning the roof of the chamber. The springwork began c800mm, (11 courses), from the floor level and the vertical wall face continued for a further 12 courses beyond to the east and into the area of the main cellar. The springwork was at least 6 courses high, but broke off at this point. The springwork for an adjacent arch extending southwards was seen in the southern section, presumably to a similar coal-hole structure nearby.

The western wall, [8], forming the far wall of the chamber was of similar brickwork construction to the southern wall, but contained a section of roughly hewn chalk blocks. As far as was visible in the facework, it was not keyed into the southern wall to form a strong corner, but abutted it instead. This said there is no reason to assume that they are not part of the same build, but is rather a cosmetic observation.

The floor of the structure, [9], was also of brick construction, a single course thick, with no obvious bonding material between the bricks. The bricks were laid lengthways in an irregular fashion, (E-W), with the far eastern extent of the southern wall and the floor in the main cellar defined by a single line of bricks set at right angles to the rest of the floor either way. The floor extended 2.20m from the western wall of the chamber to the eastern extent of excavation, (at which point it continued beneath later wall [5]). The eastern part of the floor was in poorer condition, perhaps indicating a division between the main cellar and area directly below the coal-hole to the west. The floor was covered by a thin layer of firm, dark grey / black silt, possibly representing the final usage of the cellar before it was backfilled.

The situation of the chamber preserves the earlier street line and the southernmost wall probably represents the 18th century street frontage.

- 7.1.3** The main backfilled material within the chamber, (3), contained numerous sherds of post-medieval pottery including a near complete Spanish olive jar, green-glazed border ware chamber pot, and a London stoneware jug incised with the initials 'TH Ady' and the date 1754. The primary fill of the chamber, (4), contained several Staffordshire slipware vessels including a posset cup and half a circular press-moulded dish. Together these contexts were dated to c1720-1780, predating and almost contemporaneous to the demolition of the City wall. However, due to the fact that the pottery is related to the disuse and backfill of the cellar it must all be residual, and significantly earlier than the deposit from which it was recovered.



Fig.7: Green-glazed border ware chamber pot from context (3), 10cm scale



Fig.8: The Spanish Olive Jar found in in the backfill of the cellar, pieced together, and the interior, (20cm scale)



Fig.9: London stoneware jar incised with the date 1754 from the main backfill of structure [6]



Fig.10: Staffordshire slipware dish and posset cup from context (4), primary fill of brick structure, [6]. (10cm scale)

7.1.4 In the late-19th century the street frontage appears to have been shifted east and been redeveloped, this is evident by the presence of a later, N-S aligned wall at the eastern end of the trench, [5], and in cartographic sources; between the first edition 1873 and first revision 1896 OS maps for example. This wall was built over the easternmost section of exposed floor [9], and was of frogged, red-brick set in off-white lime mortar with the eastern, internal, face having been rendered. It is presumed that the brick floor would have originally continued eastwards into the cellar, but the new street frontage separated the two spaces from one another.



Fig.11: Wall [5] facing E, (1m scale). This represents the later-19th century street frontage

7.1.5 In order to construct the coal chamber and cellar the whole of the medieval/Roman City wall appears to have been robbed out in its entirety to a depth of 2.40m below modern ground level, (13.87mOD), and the structure built directly abutting, *not* over, the remnants of the wall. To the east the brick floor was then laid down over rubble layer (11) which sealed the solid masonry plinth of the City wall, [15]. Below the brick floor of the coal chamber the robber cut for this event was visible in plan and section, (as cut [14], base of which is at 13.64mOD), aligned along the western face of the surviving wall, [15]. The cut contained backfilled material including several fragments of Roman brick, dated predominantly from between 50-250AD, and large quantities of 2nd century pottery. This material was presumably debris from the demolition of the city wall. The robber cut, as well as abutting the west face of the City wall also partially truncated, and cut into, a deposit containing several sherds of 2nd century Roman pot, (c120AD and later)¹. This potentially represented an undisturbed former Roman land surface accumulated against the

¹ See appendix I for a more detailed analysis of the Roman pottery

inside of the City wall, (16), dating to the 2nd century. This surface was present at 13.97Mod, beneath a thin layer of sterile clay, (12).



Fig.12: Coal Cellar facing SW, post removal of brick floor. The 50cm scale rests within the robber cut [14]. Also on top of, and, adjacent to Roman deposit, (16). The remnants of the City wall, [15], are visible as a block of buff-coloured mortared masonry in the bottom left of frame.



Fig.13: Roman pottery recovered from fill of robber cut [14], (13). Note the Nene Valley Ware with stag (second from right, top), probably part of a 'hunting cup' so-named because of the motif. Other pieces include the rim of a Highgate Wood Jar, (top left), and black burnished ware type 2, (top right and centre top). (10cm scale)



Fig.14: Sherd from a Nene Valley Ware 'Hunting cup', later 2nd to later 3rd century, (detail)

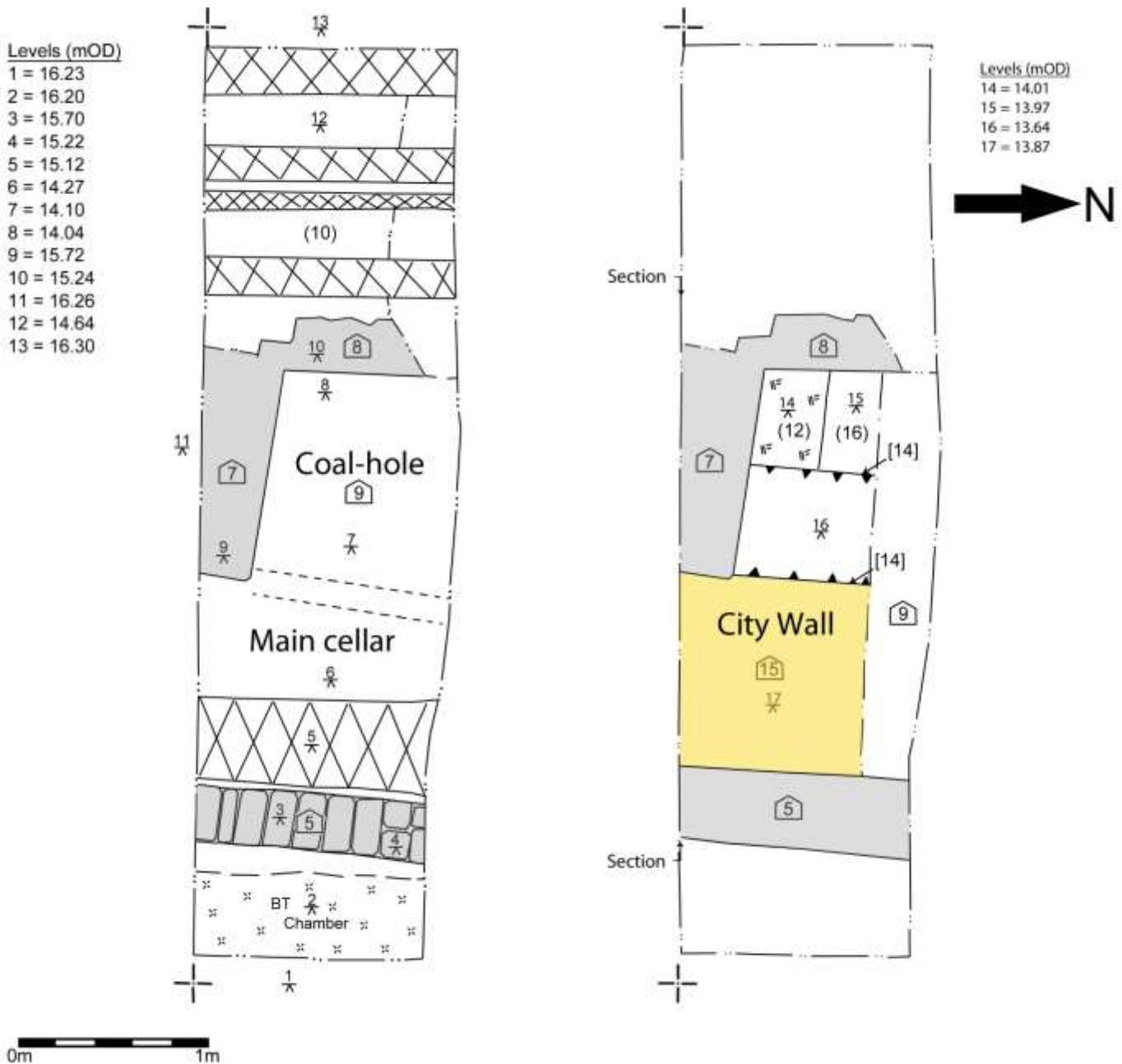


Fig.15: Plan showing the upper, (left), and lower, (right), levels of archaeology in pit 1, cross-hatched lines in the left-hand plan denoting modern services

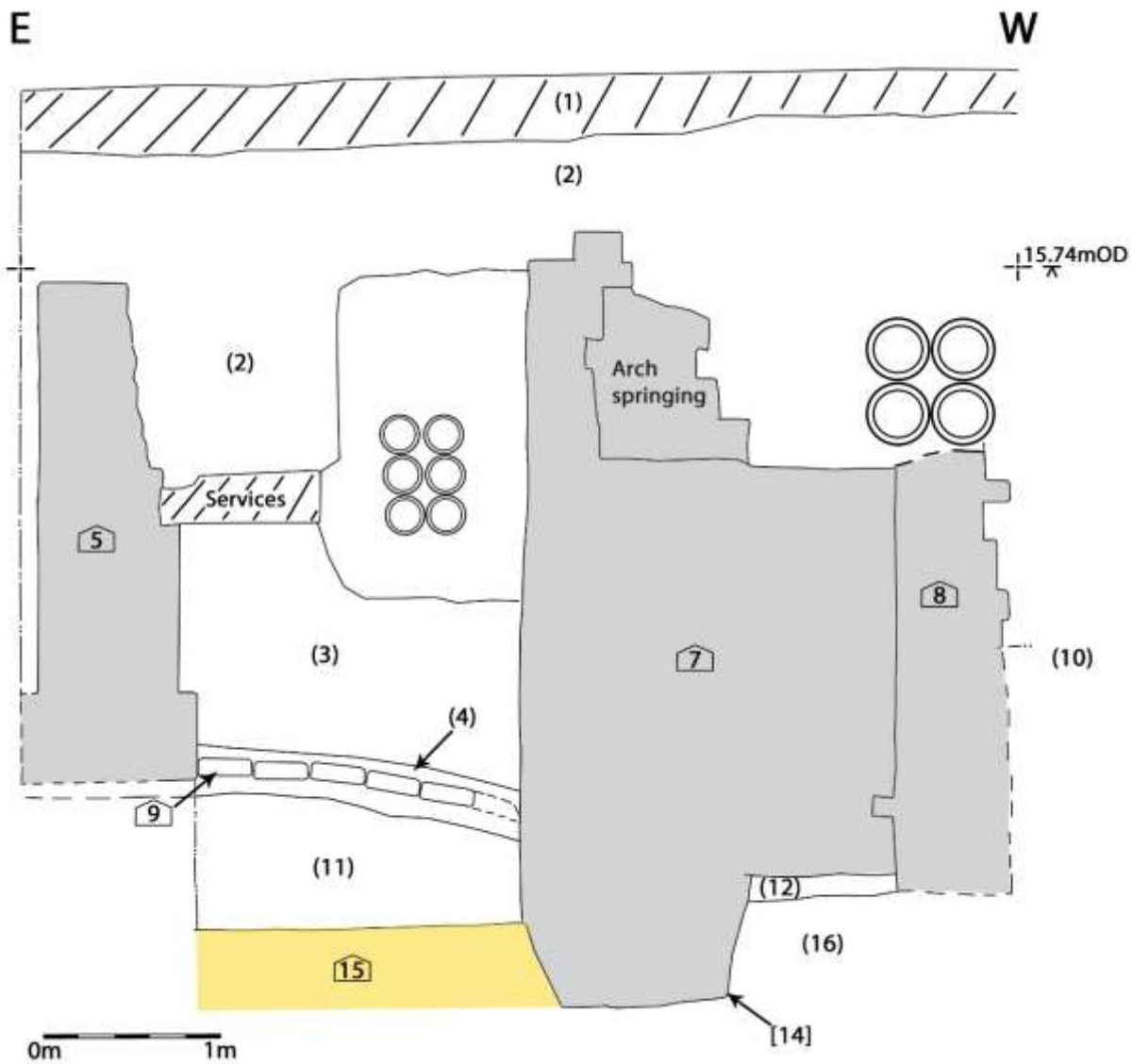


Fig.16: Section along south side of Pit 1

The western part of Pit 1 beyond wall [8], did not produce any significant archaeology. There was a largely undifferentiated deposit, (10), which may represent backfill over a deep sewer or similar constructed feature down the line of the road in the 19th / earlier-20th century.

7.1.6 The following map shows the trial trench, including exposed remains in relation to the inferred line of the City wall taken from the 1873 OS map. It shows how closely the projected City wall, and the exposed wall match up.

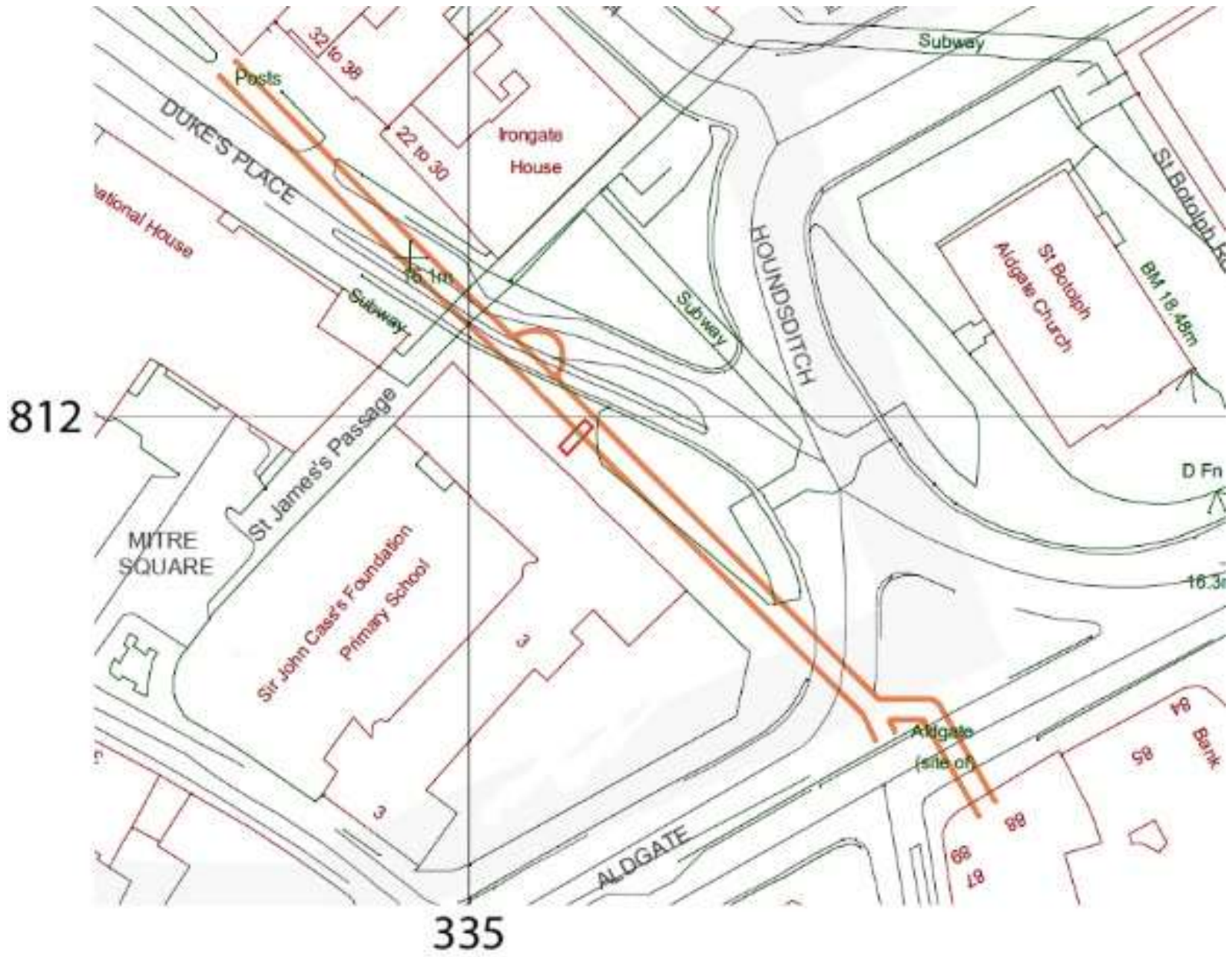
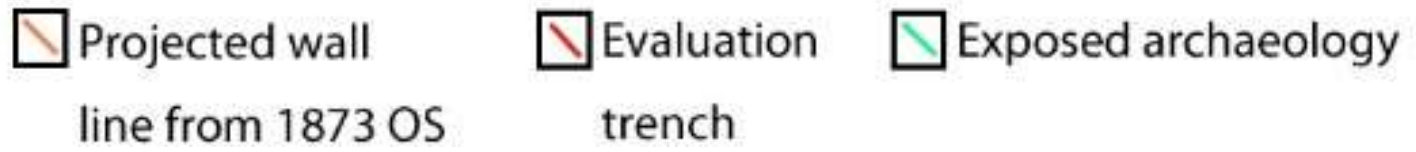


Fig.17: Plan of the exposed City wall, central green line, in relation to the inferred wall line based on the 1873 OS map, in relation to modern OS map



7.2 PIT 2

Pit 2 was dug between the 18th of November and the 20th of November 2013. This pit was dug within the planter area on the eastern side of Houndsditch adjacent to St Botolphs Church. It measured approximately 1.5m long, (NW-SE), by 0.88m wide, (NE-SW).

Below the fill of the planter, (approximately 0.20m below street level), there was a 300mm concrete slab sealing two N-S aligned iron pipes and associated service backfill. The larger pipe was just over 1.0m below street level and the eastern present from 0.70m below ground level.

A narrow slot of material between the two pipes, (equating to approximately 600mm wide), was dug to a maximum depth of 2.0m. Material below the pipework, (18), was of a dark and silty nature with occasional burnt daub, and one fragment of medieval roof-tile showing signs of having been glazed and a thick fragment of Roman roof tile, (part of a tegula), suggesting heavily disturbed ground.

At c1.55 below modern ground surface was a very compacted layer, up to 200mm thick and containing a high percentage of burnt material such as daub and charcoal, along with crushed tile. The surface was relatively level, with a very thin layer of compacted gravel overlying it to the west, (19), perhaps representing original metalling. This was interpreted as possible make-up / surfacing on the original medieval line of Houndsditch, passing the side of St Botolph's Churchyard.



Fig.18: *Pit 2 facing W*, (50cm scale)



Fig.19: *Detail of the potential road make-up on the medieval line of Houndsditch. 50cm scale*

Beneath this compacted surface was a fairly dark, rather clayey-silt deposit, extant to the base of excavations, (20). Six pot sherds were recovered from this, all of which appear Roman, but with a wider date range than deposits found in Pit 1; 1st-4th century². It may therefore represent the level of the Roman land surface truncated by the later road construction, hence a mixture of dating evidence.

The pit was terminated at 2m below modern ground level and backfilled, (13.94mOD).



Fig.20: *Roman pottery from context (20), 3rd-4th century Farnham Ware, (left); imported flagon sherd 1st-2nd century, (middle); and 3rd-4th century style cooking jar body sherd, (right). 10cm scale*

² See Appendix I for more detailed analysis

7.3 PIT 3

Pit 3 was located within the flowerbeds on the west side of Houndsditch. It measured approximately 1.5m square, and was excavated to a depth of c3.00m, (13.36mOD). The pit was dug between the 21st and 25th of November 2013.

The pit required reduction of the planter fill by up to 800mm, below this was a series of deposits of backfilled / reworked material of a silty-clay nature, containing frequent fragments of broken brick, concrete and gravels. This deposit extended to a depth of 2m below the level of the flower bed.



Fig.21: Pit 3 at a depth of approximately 1.8m showing the layers of made ground. Facing NE

At approximately 2.00m below planter level a layer of concrete, up to 200mm thick, was reached. This layer was interpreted as overspill material laid down during the construction of the pedestrian subway. The roof of the subway was encountered in the southwestern corner of the pit at a depth of 2.20m below ground.

A sondage was dug down the face of the subway to a depth of 2.6m below ground level revealing six courses of brick and the concrete capping. The surrounding deposit differed little from those found in the upper 2m of the pit, and took a similar form; a dark silty-clay containing frequent gravels and brick. Several large blocks of mortared brick rubble were seen overlying the roof of the subway.



Fig.22: *View of the roof of the pedestrian subway in the SW corner of Pit 3, (1m scale). Note the large blocks of brickwork used as backfill, probably derived from earlier buildings that once stood on site*

The deposits within the pit were interpreted as re-deposited material thrown up when the subway was created in the 1960s / 70s, including large amounts of masonry from properties which once occupied the site from the mid-17th century, but were demolished as part of the creation of the Aldgate gyratory system, or possibly from very heavy bomb damage during the Second World War and its resultant clearance.

Essentially no archaeologically significant deposits were observed during the excavation of the trial pit, as they had been severely truncated by the extensive development of the site from the 19th century onwards and imposition of the gyratory system.

7.4 PIT 4

On the 4th December a trial pit 1m wide by 3m long was excavated on the north side of Aldgate, hard up against the southern boundary wall of the Sir John Cass School. This pit revealed cantilevered mass concrete foundations for the boundary wall from 400mm below the existing tarmac pavement. As such it answered the City of London's queries as to the nature of the wall and the pit was terminated.

7.5 PIT 5

A monitoring visit was made on the 12th of December to view trial pit 5 on the central reservation in Aldgate opposite Sir John Cass School. The hole was approximately 4.6m long by 0.7m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of c1.2m, (14.90mOD).

The upper 700-800mm was rough concrete overlain by a thin layer of tarmac. Below this were three cast iron service runs, the top of the pipes between 0.96m to 1.08m below ground level, one running N-S at the eastern end of the trench and two parallel pipes at the western end. These were surrounded by modern backfill; undifferentiated dark sandy-silt with frequent gravel and pebble inclusions.



Fig.23: Pit 5 facing E, (1m scale)

No archaeologically significant deposits were encountered.

7.6 PIT 6

Pit 6 was dug IN Middlesex Street on the 6th of December to ascertain ground conditions for a new security camera base and utility ducting. In the event the trial pit found nought but solid concrete to a depth of 800-900mm. This was deemed sufficient for the proposed security camera and so the pit was backfilled and reinstated.

7.7 PIT 7

Pit 7 was begun in early January 2014 on the south side of Aldgate High Street, but aborted at a depth of *c*500mm due to the presence of recently laid Thames Water mains, (previously monitored by Compass Archaeology). No Archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the top 500mm. The pit measured 1.5m². The modern tarmac road surface overlay a solid concrete road base.

7.8 PIT 8

On the 21st and 22nd of January 2014 Pit 8 was excavated on the west side of the Minories to a depth of *c*800mm below ground level, exposing 300mm of tarmac and modern concrete road base overlying a further 500mm of solid concrete. Imbedded in the lower concrete were various utilities and modern service cuts. The pit was terminated at this depth and deemed sufficient for the City's purposes. The final dimensions of the pit were 5m (E-W) by 1.15m N-S.



Fig.24: Pit 8 facing WSW

8 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation was a success in that it exposed remains and western side of the City Wall, provisionally dated to the later 2nd century AD. The trench established that in this area the wall had been severely truncated by the insertion of basements / coal cellars, at some point in the 1760s-80s soon after its demolition. Of intrinsic interest was the collection of post-medieval pottery from within the backfill of these cellars, although its 18th century date means that it is clearly residual, being significantly earlier than expected.

The watching brief proved less significant in that the majority of test pits revealed no archaeological deposits at all. Most pits encountered modern made ground deposits, services or simply the concrete road base and existing tarmac surface. The exception was Pit 2 which exposed a compacted deposit and overlying metallised surface, which may represent an earlier medieval incarnation of Houndsditch. This in turn sealed and truncated a potential later Roman deposit.

The works programme thus spanned nearly 2000 years of history in this area of the City, and helped establish more accurately the location of the City wall line.

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APPENDIX I ROMAN POTTERY BY *Mike Hammerson*

The pottery assemblage comprised 19 sherds with a total weight of 176g. It was quantified using the chronology and typology identified by Geoff Marsh and Paul Tyers, (1978), (M&T).

The following is a key to the fabric codes used below:

BB I: Black Burnished ware Type-I

BB II: Black Burnished ware Type-II, 8 sherds, 48g

FAR: Farnham Ware, 2 sherds, 48g

GW: Greyware, 1 sherd, 12g

HWJ: Highgate Wood Ware, 3 sherds, 26g

OTHER: Miscellaneous unidentified fabrics, 4 sherds, 26g

NVW: Nene Valley Ware, 1 sherd, 14g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is given in the table below. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the London Area, and consists of largely domestic wares.

The most interesting and diagnostic group was from context (13), the backfill of robber cut [14]. Although residual, the relatively close dating of the pottery from this context would suggest that the deposit through which it was cut, (16), was an undisturbed 2nd century layer. The most recognisable piece was the Nene Valley Ware sherd, with its coloured slip and stag motif. This would suggest it was a body sherd from a 'hunting cup', so-called due to the hunting scenes often depicted on them. This represents a more formal, decorative item, used in communal activities or as a centrepiece for entertaining.

The two sherds of pottery recovered from context (16) would appear to corroborate the theory that the layer dates to the 2nd century, as they are also of 2nd century date.

The pottery from context (20) has a wider date range, anywhere from 90-300AD. This would suggest that a certain level of truncation or other disturbance has occurred within this deposit. The fabric types are fairly typical for a London site, and even has evidence of at least one sherd of imported Spanish / North African ware from a large flagon.

CONTEXT	DATE	FABRIC	FORM	COUNT	WEIGHT (g)	COMMENTS
(13)	c.120-200	BB II	2x bowl 2x dish 1x jar	5	40	All of similar style, M&T IV.H
(13)	2 nd -3 rd century	FAR	Jar	1	16	Farnham ware copy of a BB I style jar, M&T II.F
(13)	Later 2 nd century	GW	Jar	1	12	Greyware copy of a BBII style jar, M&T II.F.8
(13)	c.90-130	HW	Jar	2	22	1 base fragment from M&T II.E or G type
(13)	Later 2 nd - later 3 rd century	NVW	Beaker	1	14	Colour coated vessel, with applique stag decoration, 'Hunting cup'
(16)	Later 2 nd century	BB II	1x jar 1x rim of unknown vessel	2	4	A rim and body sherd, with cross-hatched decoration, reminiscent of Farnham Ware
(20)	3 rd to 4 th century	BB II	Jar	1	4	
(20)	3 rd to 4 th century	FAR	Jar	1, (broken in three)	32	
(20)	c.90-120	HW	Beaker	1	4	White-slipped neck sherd
(20)	1 st -4 th century	OTHER	1x flagon 3x jar	4	26	1 x Sherd from a large flagon, probably imported from Spain or N.Africa
TOTAL				19	174	

APPENDIX II POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY ANALYSIS BY *Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 108 sherds with a total weight of 10,417g. It was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

BORDG: Green-Glazed Border Ware, 1550-1700. 1 sherd, 1,035g
CBW: Coarse Border Ware, 1270 – 1500. 2 sherds, 79g.
CHPO: Chinese porcelain, 1580 -1900. 4 sherds, 38g.
CREA: Creamware, 1740-1830. 5 sherds, 34g.
LONS: London Stoneware, 1670 – 1900. 4 sherds, 1,147g.
NGDT: North Devon Gravel-Tempered Ware, 1600-1800. 1 sherd, 26g
OLIV: Spanish Olive Jar, 1550-1750. 1 sherd, 4,027g.
PMR: Post-medieval redware, 1580 – 1900. 11 sherds, 1,855g.
STSL: Staffordshire slipware, 1650 – 1800. 3 sherds, 953g.
SWSG: Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware, 1720-1780. 16 sherds, 566g.
TGW: English tin-glazed ware, 1600-1800. 60 sherds, 657g.

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 range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the London area, and consists of two fairly large groups of well-preserved domestic wares, and also a near-complete Spanish Olive Jar.

Context 3 included a Spanish Olive jar which was nearly complete other than for the neck and rim. The body has a slightly tapered profile and an exterior white slip, and is typical of James's Form 1 (ibid. Fig. 5). Such pots are known from ship-wrecks of the early 18th century, and appear to have largely been used for the transportation of olives or pitch (ibid. 49). Examination of the inner surface of the vessel suggests it originally held the former. Another near-complete vessel is a well-worn chamber pot in green-glazed Border Ware. It has a wide, flat rim typical of Holling's Type 2, and of late 17th century date (Pearce 1988, Fig. 13), so it was quite old when disposed of. The most significant piece is a London stoneware jug. The pot has the neck missing, but the waist of the pot is incised with a name; either "T Ady" or "H Ady", or even a compound of the two; "TH Ady", perhaps representing Thomas or something similar. This is followed by the date 1754. This fits very well with the date of the rest of the pottery in the assemblage, which the presence of small quantities of Creamware suggests to be 1760 – 1780. The assemblage of SWSG included large fragments of a moulded, shell-edged soup-plate, a chamber pot and two tea-bowls, as well as 'stray' sherds from other vessels. Fragments of two further tea-bowls were noted in CHPO and CRW. The TGW assemblage consisted largely of residual sherds from painted vessels, although a large fragment of a plain chamber-pot was present, and is likely to be contemporary. Other utilitarian pottery took the form of large sherds of PMR from a number of jars and/or storage vessels, but also a shallow 'dog dish', a colander, and a small pipkin with heavy sooting on the base.

The group of pottery from context 4 includes a near-complete Staffordshire Slipware posset cup, and about half of a large circular press-moulded dish. Small fragments of a number TGW painted vessels were also present, including a plate with polychrome decoration. The lack of Creamware, and the presence of Staffordshire Slipware suggests a date of around 1720 – 1750.

The small group of pottery from context 10 appears to be of a similar date to that from context 4, but includes two residual and somewhat abraded sherds of medieval CBW.

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

Cntxt	CBW		NDGT		PMR		BORDG		TGW		STSL		CHPO		OLIV		LONS		SWSG		CREA		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3					10	1774	1	1035	39	413			2	36	1	4027	4	1147	14	555	5	34	M18thC
4					1	81			20	208	3	953	2	2					1	4			E18thC
10	2	79	1	26					1	36									1	7			E18thC
Total	2	79	1	26	11	1855	1	1035	60	657	3	953	4	38	1	4027	4	1147	16	566	5	34	

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APPENDIX III CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ANALYSIS BY Sue Pringle

Key: *A = abraded; M = mortar; PM = post-medieval R = Roman; Rd = reduced; Res. = residual; S = sooted; V = vitrified*

Context	Date of CBM / Context	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (g)	L	B	T	Condition	Comments
[7]	1550-1700	PM	3033	Brick	1	2171	190+	113	65	M	Unfrogged - 17 th century
[7]	1550-1700	PM	3033	Brick	1	2137		110	63	M	Unfrogged; indented margins; 17 th century
[9]	1600-1700	PM	3039	Brick	1	2032		103	63	A, Rd	Worn base
[9]	1600-1700	PM	3039	Brick	1	2225		102	60-73	Rd, V	Probably heat distorted; indented margins; worn top surface
[9]	1600-1700	PM	3039	Brick	1	2303	225-230	102	60-73	A, M, Rd, V	Heat distorted; indented margin; worn top surface. Fabric is quite fine – vitrified or late 17 th century type
(13)	120/140 - 250	R	2454	Brick	1	192			36	M	All surfaces mortared; thick layer on top surface containing sparse coarse cbm chips
(13)	50 - 160	R	2459A	Brick	1	588			40	M	
(13)	50 - 160	R	3006	Brick	1	1998			40	M	Lime mortar with fine pebbles on surfaces
(13)	50 – 160	R	3006	Brick	1	0			c45	M	
(13)	120/140 - 250	R	2459B	Brick	1	484			33	M	Fine moulding sand; fabric near to 2452
(13)	50 -400	R	Vitrified	Brick	1	684			43	M, Rd	Conjoin. Fabric completely reduced; medium grade moulding sand
(18)	1140-1400	M	2271	Peg tile	1	15					Traces of yellow glaze on upper surface
(18)	140-255	Res. R	3061	Tegula	1	144				A, Rd, S	Tegula flange; external height c.49mm Sooted on external flange. Fabric uncertain (reduced); orange-red matrix similar to MoL fabric 2815 group, micaceous; common/abundant fine to medium iron-rich inclusions. Appears to have part of a finger-impressed tally mark on upper surface. Coarse moulding sand.
(19)	1200-1500	M	3090	Peg tile	1	23				A, M	

APPENDIX IV OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: [compassa1-171140](#)

Project details

Project name	A SERIES OF TRIAL PITS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALDAGTE HIGHWAY CHANGES AND PUBLIC REALM PROJECT EC3A
Short description of the project	In July 2013 Compass Archaeology were commissioned to conduct an archaeological evaluation on the line of the Roman / medieval City wall surrounding London from the 2nd century, and standing until the later 18th century. A single evaluation trench was opened on the western side of Duke's Place, by the John Cass Primary School, in order to ascertain the survival and line of the wall, and its potential for incorporation within the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project, (AH CPRP). The evaluation exposed remains and the western face of the Roman wall, and revealed that it had been truncated so that coal cellars could be constructed for overlying later-18th century properties. It verified the accuracy of the projected wall line and examples of 2nd century Roman and 18th century post-medieval pottery were recovered from several contexts. This initial evaluation was followed by a series of test pits elsewhere within the AH CPRP, monitored under Watching Brief conditions. All but one of these revealed no archaeological deposits at all. A single test pit dug in a flower bed outside of St Botolph without Aldgate revealed a very compact deposit overlain by an apparent metalled surface which may represent an earlier, possibly medieval incarnation of Houndsditch. Below this surface was a potential truncated Roman land surface.
Project dates	Start: 29-07-2013 End: 21-01-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	DKE13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	CITY020 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden

Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	CELLAR Post Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Post Medieval
Monument type	CITY WALL Roman
Monument type	STREET SURFACE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Road scheme (new and widening)
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Prompt	City Archaeologist and English Heritage
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Aldgate Gyratory System
Postcode	EC3A
Study area	26.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 336 812 51.5134088643 -0.0744487671618 51 30 48 N 000 04 28 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage

Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body	City of London Corporation
Name of sponsor/funding body	Dept of the Built Environment

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London archaeological archive
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
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"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	A SERIES OF TRIAL PITS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALDAGTE HIGHWAY CHANGES AND PUBLIC REALM PROJECT EC3A An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street SE1 1RQ
Description	Summary report of the results of the evaluation / watching brief. Includes historical, archaeological, geological and topographical background of the site, details of the methodology used, photographs and descriptions of all areas monitored, and brief conclusions reached.

APPENDIX V LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST SUMMARY

Site address: Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realms Project, EC2
Project type: Watching brief

Dates of fieldwork: 29th July 2013 – 21st January 2014
Site code: DKE13
Site supervisor: Geoff Potter

NGR: TQ 33626 81241 (centre)

Funding body: City of London Corporation

In July 2013 Compass Archaeology were commissioned to conduct an archaeological evaluation on the line of the Roman / medieval City wall surrounding London from the 2nd century, and standing until the later 18th century. A single evaluation trench was opened on the western side of Duke's Place, by the John Cass Primary School, in order to ascertain the survival and line of the wall, and its potential for incorporation within the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project, (AHCPRP).

The evaluation exposed remains of the western side of the Roman wall, and revealed that it had been truncated so that later coal cellars could be constructed for overlying later-18th century properties. It verified the accuracy of the projected wall line and examples of 2nd century Roman and 18th century post-medieval pottery were recovered from several contexts.

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