

**NEW BT DUCTWORK OUTSIDE 37 SPITAL SQUARE TO
JUNCTION OF BISHOPSGATE,
LONDON, E1 6DY**

**REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
WITHIN THE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT OF
ST MARY SPITAL (LO162)**

NGR: TQ 33402 81912 (approx. centre)



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March 2016

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 23rd and 24th January 2016 on the pavement outside 37 Spital Square to the junction of Bishopsgate to monitor the groundworks as part of a new BT duct installation (Site Code SSE16). The site lay within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital (LO162), bounded to the east by Steward Street and Elder Street and to the west by Norton Folgate.

The groundworks comprised 25m of trenching running from east to west along the pavement, to a depth of 400mm, with an additional 200mm of cover for the short 3m distance across the carriageway into Spital Yard (16.18mOD). The trench measured between 0.26 and 0.32m in width.

The deposits in the trench consisted of a series of yellow, and orange-pink sandy gravels typically arranged as follows: angular cobbles and cement pavers 70mm in thickness, above a concrete base measuring 120-130mm in thickness; gravel/rubble c250mm in thickness above clean sand continuing below the level of excavation. Some commingling of deposits was noted. These layers are taken to be backfill from previous work on the services, encountered at a depth of c0.45m, (16.53mOD), below the level of excavation.

No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document forms a summary of the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken between the 23rd January and 24th January 2016 on the pavement outside 37 and 38 Spital Square to the junction of Bishopsgate, London, E1 6DY (Site Code SSE16). The works involved monitoring one 28m trench in preparation for the laying of a BT duct for a new fibre service.



Figure 1: Site location (red) along pavement and carriageway.

- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief was commissioned on recommendations by Historic England and was undertaken in accordance with the Scheduled Monument Consent (ref: S00119664).
- 1.3 The site lies within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital (LO162), bounded to the east by Steward Street and Elder Street and to the west by Norton Folgate. The site was granted Scheduled Ancient Monument status in 1987 on the basis of excavations by MoLA between 1982 and 1991¹.

¹ Thomas, C., Sloane, B. and Phillpotts, C. (1997) *Excavations at the Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital, London*. Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph 1

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Fieldwork

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

The paving stones to the east and west of Spital Yard and cobbles forming the road were removed by hand and the remaining depth excavated using shovels and spades.

Adequate time was given for investigation and recording of the trench. The archaeological work included an on-site photographic, drawn, and written record. A *pro forma* Trench Record sheet was completed for the trench; recording the nature of exposed deposits and details of any archaeological finds and features. No finds were recovered during the watching brief. Photographs, recording representative trench sections and general site locations, were also taken. Levels were derived from a benchmark on The Friends of Christ Church, Fournier Street (18.48mOD).

Both the Client and Iain Bright, Historic England Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments (London), were kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

2.2 Post-excavation work

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

Copies of this report have been supplied to the Client and Historic England. A short summary of the fieldwork will be appended to this report using the OASIS Data Collection Form.

3 RESULTS

The trench measured 28m in length, dug from east to west, to a depth of approximately 400mm throughout. This was increased to 600mm to provide extra cover when the duct crossed beneath the carriageway into Spital Yard. The width varied throughout the length between 0.26 and 0.32m. The kerbstones were left *in situ* during the groundworks.

The east end of the trench was located 0.6m north of number 38 Spital Square and ran almost parallel to the building. Towards the west, at the junction with the Spital Yard carriageway the trench was 0.75m north of number 38. At the east end the trench was connected to an existing inspection chamber measuring 1.40 x 0.7m in size.

The stratigraphy comprised a c120-30mm concrete base for the existing paving above c200mm of orange-pink gravel and a minimum of 50mm of coarse yellow sand which

continued below the level of excavation. On the east side of Spital Yard the stratigraphy comprised mostly grey-rubble rubble with some coarse yellow sand flecking throughout. This measured a minimum of 240mm and is taken to continue below the level of excavation. The material exposed is taken to be modern backfill from existing services.

The ground rose slightly from 16.90mOD at the east end to 16.98mOD at the west end of the trench, with the carriageway being at a lower level of 16.78mOD. The pavement was sloped on both sides to facilitate this change in height.



Figure 2: Location of completed trench (red). Scale in metres.



Figure 3: East end of the trench. Facing ENE from the entrance to Spital Yard. Scale 0.4m.



Figure 4: Detail of north facing section. Facing SE. Scale 0.4m.



Figure 5: Exposed services below the level of excavation, east of Spital Yard. Scale 0.2m.



Figure 6: Rubble and road make up beneath cobbled surface. Facing N. No scale.



Figure 7: Section of trenching crossing Spital Yard. Facing E. No scale.

4 CONCLUSION

The archaeological watching brief undertaken along the pavement outside 37 Spital Square revealed a series of modern deposits. These included sand and gravels fills relating the previous backfilling events contemporary with the services uncovered approximately 50mm below the level of excavation.

No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the groundworks. Natural ground was not encountered during the watching brief.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

5.1 Digital Sources

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Greater London Historic Environment Record. GLHER@english-heritage.org.uk

London Archaeological Archive & Resource Centre (LAARC) database. <http://archive.museumoflondon.org.uk/laarc/catalogue/>

5.2 Bibliography

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Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-244402

Project details

Project name	37 SPITAL SQUARE TO JUNCTION OF BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E1 6DY
Short description of the project	A watching brief was conducted to monitor a single 28m trench to install a BT duct for a new fibre service. The trench ran east-west along the pavement outside nos. 37-37 Spital Square, crossing the carriageway of Spital Yard. The groundworks were completed to a depth of 400mm (extended to 600mm below the carriageway for additional cover). The stratigraphy comprised a concrete base for the street level paving above orange-pink gravels and coarse yellow sand. These layers were taken to be backfills from modern services encountered 50mm below the level of excavation. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 23-01-2016 End: 24-01-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	LO162 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	SSE16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	ROAD JUNCTION Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON OUTSIDE 37 SPITAL SQUARE TO JUNCTION OF BISHOPSGATE
Postcode	E1 6DY

Study area	30 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 533407 181917 50.942172629057 0.18289462934 50 56 31 N 000 10 58 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Historic England
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	City of London

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Media available	"Plan", "Report", "Photograph"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Title	NEW BT DUCTWORK OUTSIDE 37 SPITAL SQUARE TO JUNCTION OF BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E1 6DY. REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF WITHIN THE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT OF ST MARY SPITAL (LO162).
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Archer, H.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1RQ
Description	Short summary of watching brief completed in January 2016. Report comprises an introduction, site location map, trench plan, summary of results including photographs, concluding remarks and bibliography.

Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address: 37 Spital Square, London, E1 6DY

Project Type: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of Fieldwork: 23/01/2016 – 24/01/2016

Site Supervisor: Geoff Potter

Site Code: SSE16

NGR: 33402 81912

Funding Body: City of London Corporation

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between January 23rd and January 24th 2016 on the pavement outside 37 Spital Square to the junction of Bishopsgate to monitor the groundworks as part of a new BT duct installation. The work comprised a single trench aligned east-west along the pavement of Spital Square, and carriageway of Spital Yard, measuring 28m in length x 0.26-0.32m in width x 400-600mm in depth.

The stratigraphy in the area of the pavement consisted of 70mm concrete pavers with a 120-30mm concrete base, above c250mm of coarse yellow sand and orange-pink gravel continuing below the level of excavation. The stratigraphy of the carriageway comprised angular cobbles above c320mm of grey-brown rubble. The layers observed are taken to be backfills from previous services which were encountered approximately 50mm below the level of excavation.

No archaeological finds or features were recorded.