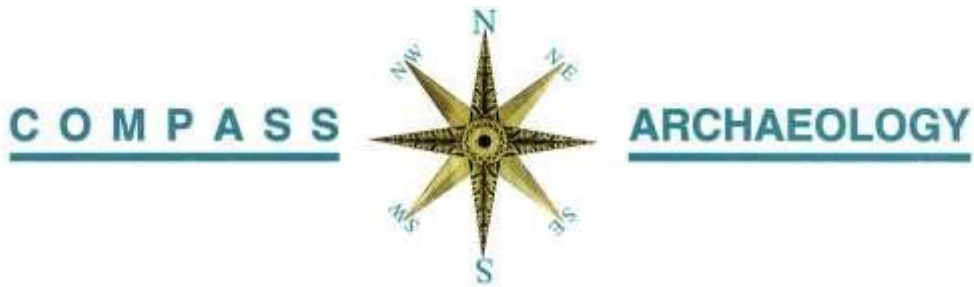
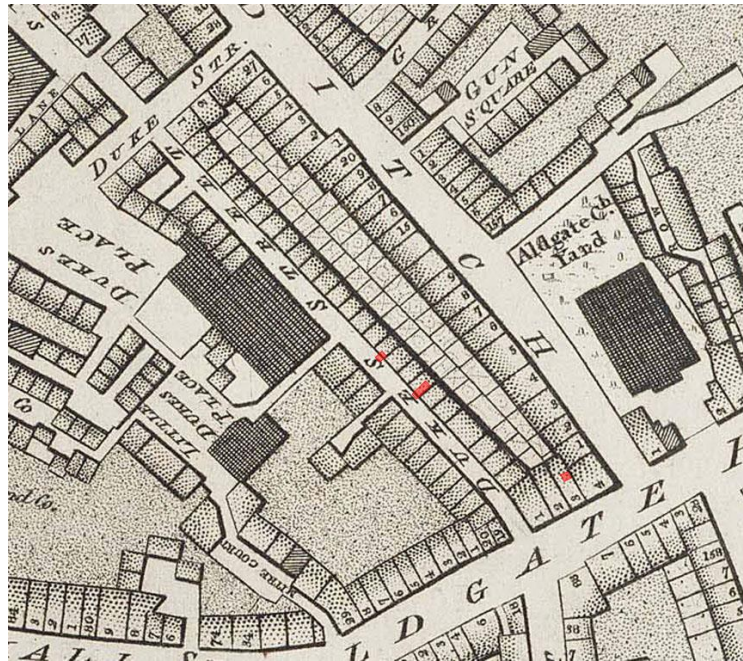


# Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project

## An Archaeological Evaluation Report On Proposed Tree Pits



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August 2016

# Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project

## An Archaeological Evaluation Report On Proposed Tree Pits

Site code: DKE13

NGR: north end TQ 33505 81208  
south end TQ 33562 81168

SMC Ref: S00104103

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## ***Abstract***

*Between November 2015 and June 2016 an archaeological evaluation was conducted at Aldgate, London, E1, as part of the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project (ACHPRP). The works comprised three evaluation trenches located along the line of proposed tree planting trenches in the southern and western parts of the site. The programme of evaluation followed recommendations from Historic England's Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments (London), and the Assistant Director of the Historic Environment at the City of London, due to the fact that the proposed planting scheme lay within, and close to, the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman city wall, bastions and gate at Aldgate, (SAM LO26K).*

*The first trench was located within the former traffic island at the southern part of the gyratory system and measured 2.20m in length x 2.0m in width x 1.4m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised a mix of post-medieval rubble disturbed by three modern services running E-W along the southern side of the trench, and a fourth running NE-SW partially along the trench base. The trench base was encountered at 14.65mOD. No features of archaeological interest were encountered and the stratigraphy was attributed to post-medieval demolition backfill, disturbed by later groundworks. No features associated with the Roman wall, bastions, or gate were observed.*

*The second trench was located in the north-western part of the site, along Duke's Place, adjacent to the Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School and measured 5.40m in length x 1.90-2.15m in width x 1.6m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised modern gravel and clinker above a thick deposit of loosely compacted soil. A number of post-medieval standing walls were recorded, taken to be remains of basements of buildings fronting the former line of Duke's Place. At least two phases of building were observed. Natural deposits were not encountered at the trench base was recorded at 14.28mOD.*

*The third trench was located to the north of Trench 2 and measured 2.0m in length x 1.2-1.4m in width x 1.3m in depth. The stratigraphy and features were similar to that recorded in Trench 2, comprising post-medieval and modern backfill surrounding 2 sections of brick wall. These were taken to be associated with the basement features observed in previous investigations. The base of the trench was recorded at 14.92mOD.*

*All features observed in the evaluation trenches are consistent with post-medieval occupation associated with buildings fronting the former line of Duke's Place prior to post-war redevelopment. No features relating to early activity, the Roman and medieval city wall and gate in particular, were observed. It is therefore felt that the proposed tree planting in the trenches undertaken will have little further impact upon the archaeology recorded and the mitigation has been adequately met.*

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document forms a summary of results for an archaeological evaluation conducted in advance of tree planting as part of the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project (AHCPRP) located within the former gyratory system along Aldgate High Street, London, E1. The work took place between November 2015 and June 2016.



Figure 1: Site location, marked in red.

- 1.2 The programme of archaeological investigation was commissioned following recommendations from Historic England’s Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments (London), and the Assistant Director of the Historic Environment at the City of London, due to the site being located in close proximity to features of significant archaeological interest (*cf* Scheduled Monument Consent S00104103).
- 1.3 Specifically, the proposed line of the tree planting scheme lies within, and close to, the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman city wall, bastions and gate of Aldgate from 17 Bevis Marks to India Street (SAM LO26K) (fig.2).
- 1.4 The archaeological evaluation comprised three trenches located in the southern and western parts of the site, within the former traffic island at the junction of Aldgate High Street and Minories, and adjacent to the Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School respectively (fig.3).



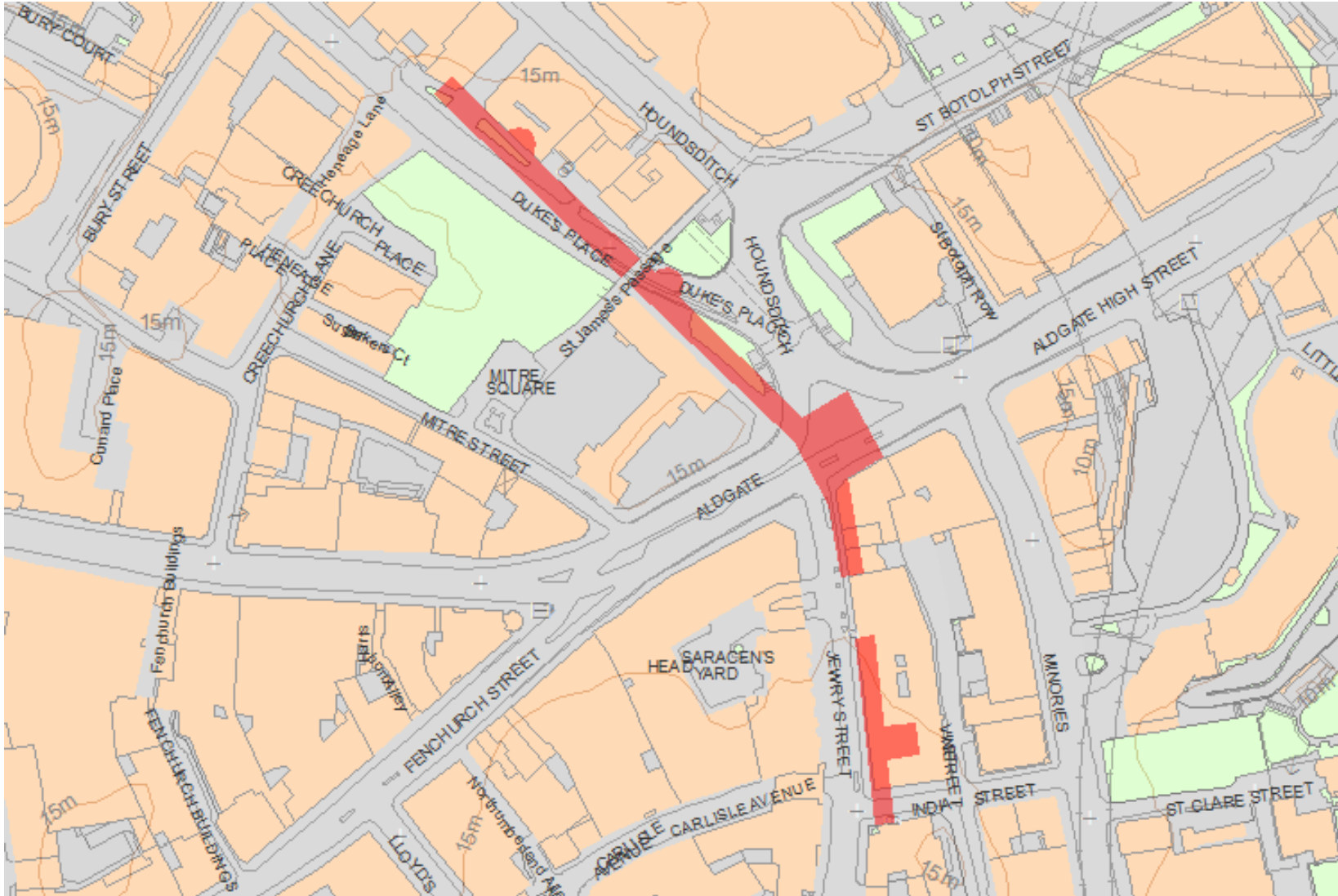


Figure 2: Projected line of the Scheduled Ancient Monument LO26K.

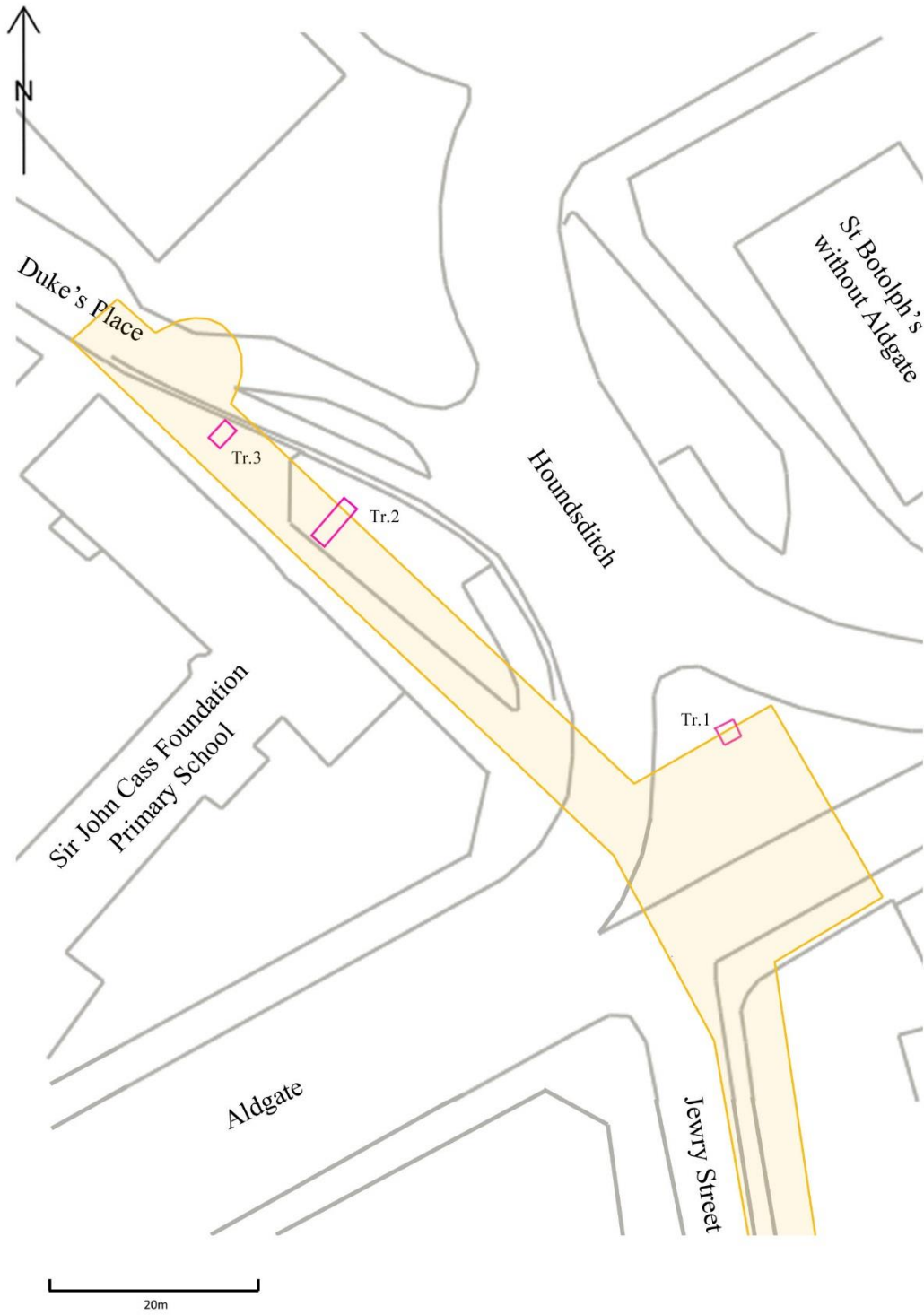


Figure 3: Location of evaluation trenches (pink) in relation to the Scheduled Ancient Monument (yellow).



## **2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.1** At the time of the works undertaken, the northern half of the evaluation area was pavement, and partly situated within a large planting bed on the western side of Duke's Place / Houndsditch opposite the Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School. The southern half lay within the traffic island at the junction of Aldgate, Houndsditch and Aldgate High Street.
- 2.2** Both of these areas lie within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman wall, bastions and gate of Aldgate. The central area of proposed tree planting largely falls within an area of existing pedestrian subway, and as such is deemed to be archaeologically sterile based upon observed groundworks in similar locations on the opposing side of Houndsditch.
- 2.3** Between Trenches 1 and 2 being dug in November 2015, and Trench 3 being completed in June 2016 the site underwent considerable changes. All traces of the former gyratory system and associated paths and planters had been removed and the entire site was covered in a thin layer of MOT Type 1. As of August 2016 the western side of the site has been repaved with stone slabs and kerbstones whilst the southern area remains open.
- 2.4** According to the British Geological Survey, (Sheet 256: North London), the site overlies Langley Silt, (a brickearth deposit), over Kempton Park Gravels. The brickearth deposit is generally found at c12.2 – 12.3mOD along Aldgate High Street, c2.75m beneath the present ground-surface.
- 2.5** The present ground-surface is relatively level, at c16.2mOD

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

The historical and archaeological background to this area has been extensively discussed in the desk-based assessment, (Compass Archaeology, November 2014) and shall not be reproduced at length. A brief summary of the major historical periods has been included below.

### **3.1 *Prehistoric***

Almost no prehistoric archaeology has been recorded in the immediate area of the proposed groundworks, this may be because either there is none to be found and the focus of such activity was further south towards the River Thames, or that later, intensive, human activity has truncated any remains that may have been left behind.

### **3.2 *Roman***

The Romans quickly established a river-crossing in the approximate position of modern-day London Bridge, after the invasion of 43AD, with initial settlement focused around this important bridgehead.

A number of roads were soon constructed linking London with the surrounding countryside, including one which led out east to the colonial town of Colchester. The

route of this road is believed to be preserved in the line of modern-day Aldgate and Aldgate High Street and remains of previous road surfaces may survive below ground.

In c200AD the Romans constructed the circuit of the city wall, broken by 4 gates, one of which, Aldgate, was situated somewhere along the southern boundary of the AHCPRP near the junction of Aldgate and Jewry Street. The walls had an external V-shaped ditch, as a further line of defence, and an internal bank of earth mounded up against it. The walls and ditch broadly followed the line of Duke's Place and Jewry Street in the western part of the site and parts of its circuit, along with several bastions, have been observed along both these streets at varying levels as recently as 2013 by MoLA and Compass Archaeology: **See section 4.**

Within the city walls domestic and small scale industrial processes are known to have occurred, and roadside cemeteries and larger quarry pits have been found outside of the City to the east.

### **3.3 Saxon**

The widely accepted view is that the City was largely abandoned during the early Saxon period, with settlement being concentrated in the area around the Strand and Aldwych. The entry for the year 856 in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records "*King Alfred occupied London...and then entrusted the burgh (fortified place) in the keeping of the Ealdorman Ethelred*". It has been suggested that this may refer to the City, (the 'fortified place' referencing the area surrounded by the Roman city walls), and that it was, therefore, reoccupied by the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

Scant evidence for occupation has been found in the vicinity of the AHCPRP, but we know that St Botolph's was founded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century by the Knighten Guild. Elements of this 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century foundation have been observed alongside cess-pits and 17 east-west burials within the present Church grounds.

### **3.4 Medieval**

There was intensive settlement and activity within the City in the medieval period. This is reflected in the number of cess pits, yard surfaces and wells found in the western part of the study area. Beyond the city walls industrial activities such as quarrying, and bell-casting have been recorded east of Jewry Street.

St Botolph-without-Aldgate continued to be an important church throughout the medieval period. It was given to the Priors of the Holy Trinity in 1115, and rebuilt at least once before the Reformation. Excavations on the site have uncovered an earlier eastern boundary wall of the churchyard, dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and an earlier southern aisle of the church, along with a potential western boundary along the pavement by Houndsditch. It should be noted that the medieval church was aligned east-west, (as opposed to the unconventional north-south orientation of the present day church), and was positioned closer to the road than it is today.

A number of roads in the surrounding area were established during the medieval period, as the city began to develop. These included Duke's Place and Houndsditch, both within

the immediate area of the groundworks. Some of these former road surfaces have been observed during previous archaeological investigations, such as along the eastern side of Houndsditch<sup>1</sup>.

The city walls and ditch were maintained and even improved upon during the medieval period, with the walls being heightened and gate rebuilt and strengthened. The ditch was partially filled in and then re-cut, wider and further from the wall.

### **3.5 *Post-medieval***

From the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards the evaluation site developed exponentially to form the densely occupied area it is today. Both domestic and industrial processes began to occupy similar spaces and the distinction between the City and surrounding areas blurred, until the ditch was completely filled in in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the gate and walls demolished by the late-18<sup>th</sup> century.

St Botolph's although surviving the Great Fire of 1666 was rebuilt by Wren in 1744; it is this church that stands today. The churchyard was converted into a public garden in 1892.

The area was subject to considerable bomb damage during the Second World War and subsequent clearance, especially in the central area between Duke's Place and Houndsditch. The area was then partly rebuilt and redesigned to incorporate the present gyratory system and pedestrian subways sometime in the 1970s. The construction of the subways will have led to discrete areas having been subject to considerable truncation of underlying deposits, including the central area of proposed tree planting.

## **4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

- 4.1** Previous archaeological work at Aldgate has uncovered evidence of both the post-medieval occupation of the area and earlier medieval and Roman fortifications. In 2012 MoLA exposed segments of the Roman Aldgate and the city wall as close as 0.63m below present ground surface on the traffic island at the junction of Aldgate High Street and Houndsditch<sup>2</sup> (fig.4). Most recently Compass Archaeology found the sandstone plinth of the wall alongside a potential Roman land surface at approximately 2.40m below ground level on Duke's Place (13.87mOD) (fig.5). The wall in this area had been truncated to plinth level to accommodate 18<sup>th</sup> century cellars associated with properties on the former west side of Duke's Place<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Compass Archaeology, (February 2014)

<sup>2</sup> MoLA, (2012)

<sup>3</sup> Compass Archaeology, (February 2014)



*Figure 4: Remains of Aldgate exposed by MOLA during TfL works in December 2012.*



*Figure 5: Brick structure exposed by Compass in 2014, facing SW, post removal of brick floor. The 50cm scale rests within the robber / construction cut for structure [6]. The remnants of the City wall, [15], are visible as a block of mortared masonry in the bottom left of frame. The scale rests on top of, and adjacent to Roman deposit (16), towards the corner of the later structure.*

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

**5.1** The evaluation presented the opportunity to answer the following general and more specific 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 the structure of Aldgate itself?
- Is there any evidence of medieval occupation? Is this related to the City wall / ditch, the structure of Aldgate?
- 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 field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (*Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work, 2015*). Works also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, 2014*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute.

**6.1.2** Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team have valid CSCS (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme) cards, and wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, steel-toe-capped boots, etc., as required. All members of the fieldwork team also followed the contractors' health and safety guidelines.

**6.1.3** The Client, Historic England and the Assistant Director of the Historic Environment at the City of London, were kept informed of the progress of fieldwork at the earliest possible opportunity during the evaluation.

### **6.2 Fieldwork**

**6.2.1** The evaluation involved the excavation of 2 trial trenches covering the northernmost line of trees along Duke's Place and 1 trial pit within the existing traffic island at the junction of Aldgate High Street and Houndsditch. Trench 1 was located within the former traffic island at the southern part of the gyratory system and measured 2.20m in length x 2.0m in width x 1.4m in depth. Trench 2 was located in the north-western part of the site, along Duke's Place, adjacent to the Sir John Cass Foundation Primary



School and measured 5.40m in length x 1.90-2.15m in width x 1.6m in depth. Trench 3 was located to the north of Trench 2 and measured 2.0m in length x 1.2-1.4m in width x 1.3m in depth. The trenches were positioned to provide the best coverage of the proposed tree planting trench and also to provide the best chance of encountering remains associated with the City Wall, defining its orientation, dimensions and level of survival. The trench positions and dimensions are constrained by the presence of large number of services and the presence of existing railings, planting beds, rootballs and highways, but provided sufficient coverage nonetheless.

- 6.2.2** Initial clearance of the trial trenches was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, working under archaeological supervision.

During excavation the spoil was deposited separately and subject to a basic archaeological examination to determine the presence of finds.

- 6.2.3** A number of modern services were encountered in the upper layers of Trenches 1 and 3 however they did not affect the work to an extent that the trench locations/alignments needed to be altered.

- 6.2.4** Following initial clearance archaeological deposits and features were excavated, cleaned and recorded by hand, in stratigraphic sequence.

- 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 by digital photography, in .jpeg and RAW formats.

- 6.2.6** Levels were taken on the top of all trenches and features of archaeological interest, derived from an OSBM located on the southeast corner of St Botolph-without- Aldgate, with a value of 18.48mOD.

- 6.2.7** No additional techniques, such as environmental sampling, were utilised in this instance. Samples of brickwork were taken for specialist analysis.

- 6.2.8** The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used will be directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

- 6.2.9** No human remains were encountered during the watching brief.

- 6.2.10** No finds identified as treasure under the Treasure Act (1996) and the Treasure (Designation) Order (2002) were observed during the watching brief.

### **6.3 Post-excavation**

- 6.3.1** Assessment of finds will be undertaken by appropriately qualified staff and included as appendices in the final report. Finds and samples were treated in accordance with the

appropriate guidelines, including CIfA's '*Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*' (2014).

**6.3.2** All identified finds and artefacts have been retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although certain classes of ceramic building material and 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> century material, were discarded after an appropriate record was made. Sensitive artefacts will be properly treated, in line with the appropriate Standards as stated above.

## **6.4 Report and Archive**

**6.4.1** Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client, (City of London), Historic England, the local planning authority, and local studies library.

**6.4.2** The report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations are included as appropriate. A short summary of the project has been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form.

**6.4.3** At present there is no provision for publication of significant findings. Should these be deemed necessary the requirements would need to be discussed and agreed with the Client and with Historic England.

**6.4.4** Once the project is completed an ordered indexed and internally consistent archive will be compiled in line with CIfA standards and guidance, (CIfA 2014b), and will be deposited in a local archive. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner(s) will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the appropriate local museum.

It is proposed that the archive will be deposited under site code DKE13 in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive.

## **7 RESULTS**

### **7.1 Trench 1**

**7.1.1** The pit was located towards the northern edge of the traffic island, formerly located at the south of the gyratory system, at the junction of Aldgate High Street and Minories. The trench measured 2.20m in length x 2.0m in width x 1.4m in depth. The top layer of tarmac and concrete was removed using a machine and the remaining depth completed by hand. The upper fill consisted of a mix of concrete, mortar, sand, gravel, and brick fragments (130). At a depth of approximately 0.5m the fill became more abundant with soil, but still rubble abundant (131).

The area had been heavily disturbed by three modern services running E-W along the southern side of the trench, and a fourth running NE-SW partially along the trench base.



Figure 6: Evaluation Trench 1. Facing W. Scale 1m.

- 7.1.2** A single course of bricks was observed on the trench base, running in an N-S alignment; wall [132]. The feature measured approximately 1.2m in length x 0.3m in width and was at least one course deep. The bricks were frogged, and bonded to the edge of the concrete (which can be seen beneath the scale bar in fig.6 above). Due to the limited section exposed its purpose was unclear, however it was taken to be a relatively modern intrusion.
- 7.1.3** The remainder of the trench comprised services surrounded by backfill, dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century to the late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The base of the trench was recorded at a depth of 1.4m (14.65mOD).
- 7.1.4** The only find recovered from the trench was a single brick which is notable for its maker's mark. It is a semi-circular edged brick with a white glaze finish, and reads 'FARNLEY IRON CO. LD. LEEDS. ENGLAND'. The Farnley Iron Company was established in 1844 and produced iron and brick products, eventually becoming part of the Leeds Fireclay Company in 1889 (Grace's Guide 2014).

**7.1.5** No further finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded, and despite the trench being located over the supposed Aldgate, no traces of Roman masonry were observed.

## **7.2 Trench 2**

**7.2.1** The second evaluation trench was located on the western side of the site, at the southern end of Duke's Place, adjacent to the Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School, falling almost wholly within the eastern edge of the Scheduled Ancient monument. The trench was aligned approximately NE-SW, measuring 5.40m in length x 1.90m in width, increasing to 2.15m at the west end, x 1.60m in depth.

The stratigraphy in the upper 0.35-0.45m comprised a soily layer abundant with clinker and angular gravels (1) taken to be modern made ground laid down during previous groundworks.



*Figure 7: Overview of Trench 2. Traces of basement walls can be seen to the left of the frame, along the trench base and in the western section. Facing W. Scale 1m.*

- 7.2.2** This layer (1) capped a large deposit of very loosely compacted soil, containing frequent tree roots, ceramic building material and mortar fragments, measuring approximately 1.3m in thickness (3).
- 7.2.3** Significantly, several sections of standing masonry were uncovered in this trench, relating three distinct phases of activity. The first phase comprised a single wall, seen primarily in a void behind an existing BT duct.





*Figure 8: Western end of the trench, showing a late post-medieval wall towards the top of the frame, above a concrete BT duct and services (beneath scale bar). The wall [12] is towards the trench base. Facing W. Scale 1m.*

- 7.2.4.** Wall [12] was aligned N-S and was observed in the east facing section, partially obscured by concrete and modern services. The recorded section comprised unfrogged red bricks bonded with a fairly soft, buff, gritty lime mortar, with no clear uniform pattern. The mortar was relatively thick in places. The observable section measured approximately 0.75m in length x 0.4m in height, damaged at the top by the BT duct, and was taken to continue to both the north and the south.





*Figure 9: Section of red brick wall [12] seen in void. Facing W. Scale 0.5m.*

**7.2.5** The second phase of building comprised at least one section, [4] which had been badly truncated by later services and survived to a height of two courses along the trench base (higher beneath the services as shown in fig.9). This wall was aligned E-W and comprised dark red bricks bonded with a gritty mortar. The feature measured 1.48m in length x 0.24m in width x 0.10-0.4m in height and was observed at a depth of c1.55-1.6m (14.36mOD). The wall had been badly truncated by several ceramic ducts running approximately NW-SE through the trench, extending from the south facing section.



*Figure 10: Remains of wall [4] beneath ceramic ducts. Facing E. Scale 0.5m.*

- 7.2.6** This wall is thought to potentially be associated with a small section of wall extending from the south facing section towards the centre of the trench. The pad, [5] was made of red bricks bonded with a gritty mortar. In its entirety the feature measured 0.32m in length x 0.35m in width x 0.26m in height.





*Figure 11: Truncated section of red brick wall [5] observed in the south facing section. Facing N. Scale 0.5m.*

- 7.2.7** The small section was stylistically similar to the wall observed along the trench base and could have extended southwards to form a corner with [4]. The top of the feature was recorded at 14.62mOD.
- 7.2.8** The third and final phase of post-medieval activity was recorded at the east end of the evaluation trench. A low section of pinkish brick wall was observed in the west facing section running in an E-W direction, with a white brick inner face [7].



Figure 12: Late post-medieval activity observed at the eastern end of Trench 2. Facing E. Scale 1m.

**7.2.9** This section measured 0.43m in width x 0.40m in height and was observed at a depth of 1.2m (14.81mOD). The white brick inner face comprised a line of headers, neatly finished with a pale mortar. This E-W section was taken to once adjoin the N-S section described below.

**7.2.10** The second part of this feature was uncovered extending from the north facing section, 0.4m west of the above mentioned wall [6]. Unlike the wall observed in the west facing section, the inner white brick face had been separated from the outer pinkish brick wall by a thick layer of mortar and black weatherproofing material. This section measured 1.0m in height x 0.45m in width, however the top of the west face had been badly truncated.

It is proposed that these two sections would have formed the corner of a building. The relationship between the yellow stock brick wall observed in the west facing section to this building is unclear, as a gap of only 0.4m between this and the section further west seems inadequate to manoeuvre.

This structure was demolished, not long after its construction and backfilled with a deposit of coarse sandy gravel (2), most likely occurring as part of the redevelopment to create the gyrotory system in the 1970s.

**7.2.11** The evaluation trench produced a small quantity of post-medieval pottery, animal bone and ceramic building material. Much of the material was disturbed. This was taken to be a result of previous archaeological investigations which had taken place in the same



location as this evaluation trench (supported by a Museum of London Department of Urban Archaeology finds label which was recovered from context (3)).

### 7.3 Trench 3

7.3.1 The third evaluation trench was located on the western side of the site, along the line of Duke's Place, 11.6m NW of Trench 2. It was aligned NE-SW, measuring c2.0m in length x 1.2-1.4m in width x 1.3m in depth, being roughly rectangular in plan. This trench was positioned to fall entirely within the Scheduled Area.

The stratigraphy comprised a thick deposit of mid brown soily backfill abundant with brick rubble and stone fragments, filling the trench entirely.



Figure 13: Overview of Trench 3. Facing W. Scale 1m.

7.3.2 The majority of the trench had been heavily disturbed by the installation of numerous services and a large chamber (seen to the left in fig.13), however two surviving sections of masonry were recorded.

7.3.3 The first, a red brick wall [61] was observed on the western side of the trench, running in an N-S direction. The wall measured 1.16m in length x 0.24m in width x a minimum of 0.75m in height and comprised red bricks bonded with a gritty grey mortar, with a limewash finish on the eastern face. The bond was obscured with the exception of a row of easily identifiable headers. The main body of the wall was encountered at a depth of 0.55m (15.59mOD).



Figure 14: Detail of wall [61] beneath modern service. Facing W. Scale 1m.

- 7.3.4** The form of the wall is consistent with those observed during previous archaeological investigations relating to 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century basements belonging to buildings which fronted Duke's Place prior to post-war redevelopment and on a similar alignment to the section partially exposed in Trench 2.
- 7.3.5** The second section of masonry uncovered in Trench 3 comprised a yellow stock brick wall observed on the eastern side of the trench [62]. The wall was aligned N-S and exposed at a depth of c0.9 (15.29mOD). It comprised yellow stock bricks bonded with a coarse messy mortar, and measured 1.10m in length x 0.36m in width x 0.10m in height.





*Figure 15: Detail of wall [62] observed on the eastern side of the trench. It is abutted by two metal services. Scale 1m.*

- 7.3.6** The southern end of the wall is taken to be an edge, rather than a truncation to accommodate the chamber, however it is unclear as to how far the wall continues in a northern direction.
- 7.3.7** No further features of archaeological interest were uncovered in this evaluation trench.

## 8 DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

8.1 All features of archaeological significance recorded during the evaluation works are consistent with the sequence of post-medieval development along Duke's Place. The three phases are useful in illustrating the alterations to the road layout between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

8.2 The first phase, comprising wall [12] seen in the western section of Trench 2 is consistent in form and alignment with a section of 18<sup>th</sup> coal cellar wall recorded in a previous investigation (Compass Archaeology 2014) and is believed to be part of the same structure. The cellar consisted of a large chamber to the east, and to the west a narrower vaulted chamber, apparently built beyond the front line of the building. This cellar belonged to a row of houses/buildings fronting the east side of Duke's Place, with the coal cellar extending out towards the road, to provide access to a coal hole, often located within the front path.

Comparison of trench plans from the 2014 and 2015-16 evaluations suggests the wall observed in Trench 2 (2015) corresponds with the westernmost wall of the vaulted coal cellar structure (See **Appendix II fig.21** for a detailed plan). Both walls were similar in form and appearance, and a projected line across the two trenches would suggest they are part of the same structure, or from the same row of buildings at least. Finds recovered from the 2013 evaluation were dated to between 1720 and c1780, with one pottery sherd being inscribed '1754'. Due to the location of the wall exposed in 2015 and localised disturbance, few finds were recovered, however it is logical to suggest a similar date of early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century for this context.

8.3 Post-medieval cartographic sources (Horwood 1792-99 in particular) shows a row of roughly square buildings fronting Duke's Place, with yards to the rear, and a symmetrical system to the east, fronting Houndsditch. It is likely that the buildings shown on this plan correspond with the remains encountered during the evaluation.



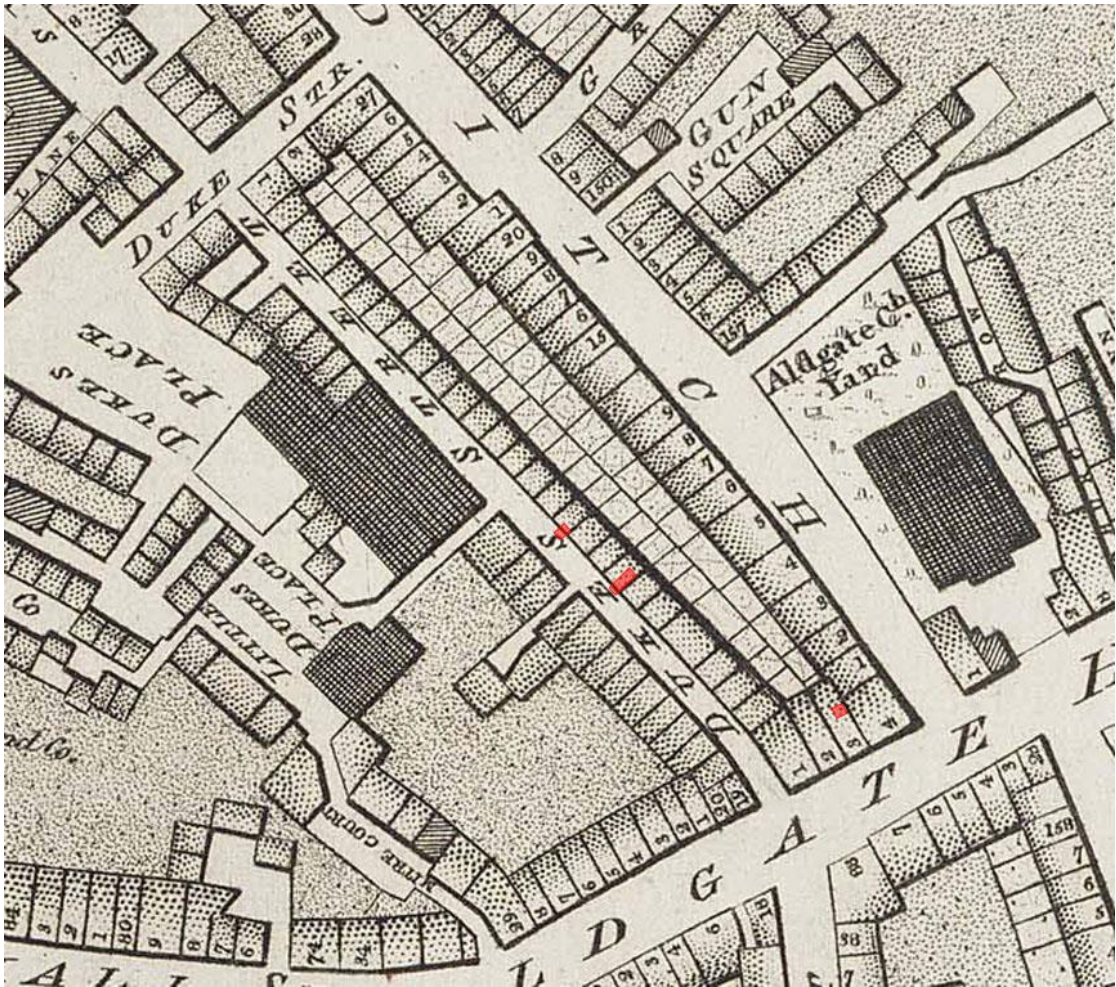


Figure 16: Extract from Horwood - London, Westminster and Southwark (1st ed) 1792-99. Evaluation trenches marked in red (from top to bottom: Trench 3; Trench 2; Trench 1).

These buildings appeared not long after the demolition of the city wall and are likely to represent the first stage of redevelopment in the area. This layout was relatively short lived, with the buildings standing for approximately a century before the Duke's Place (then Duke Street) was widened.

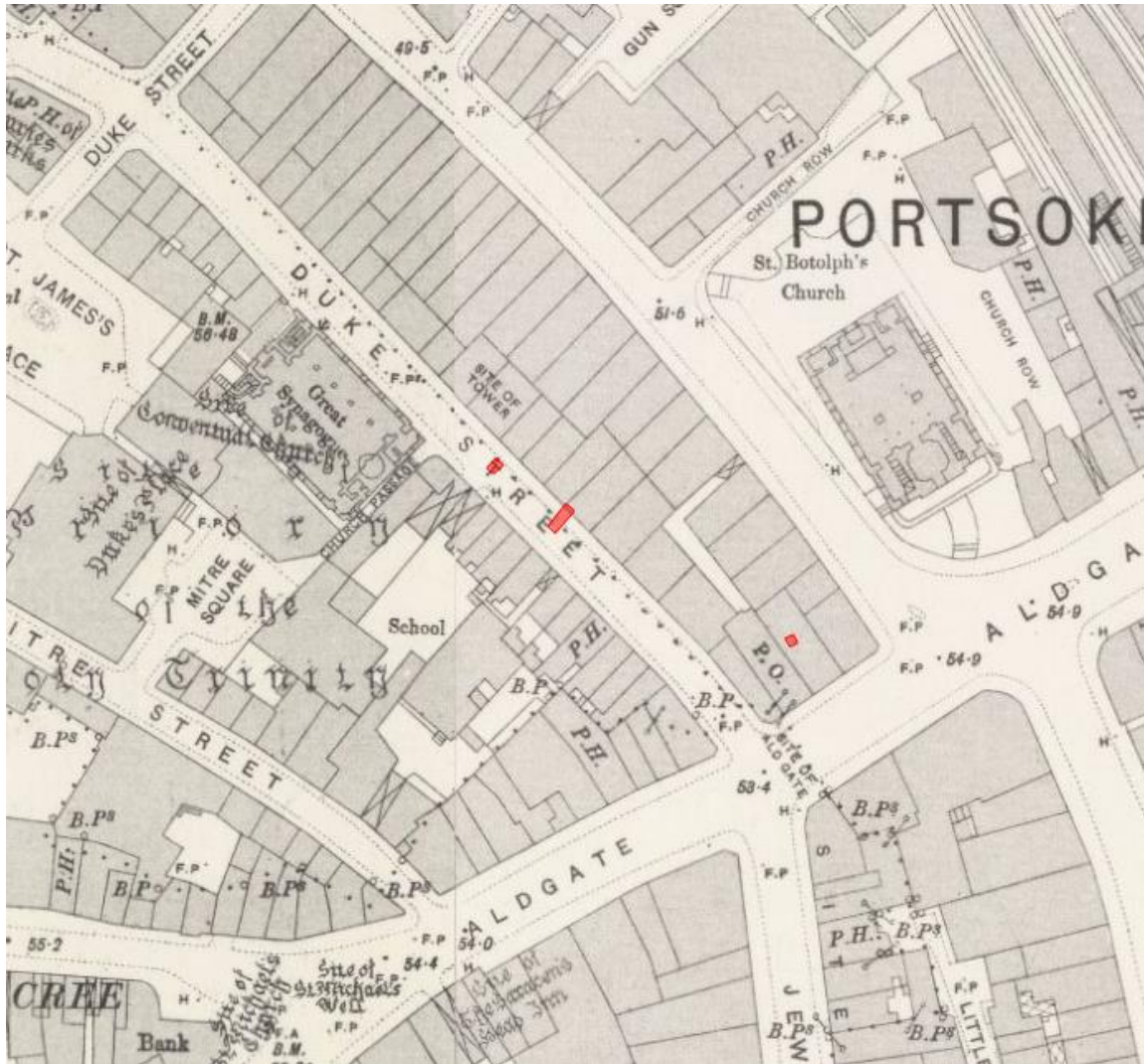


Figure 17: Extract from the 1896 OS Map, five feet to the mile, showing the newly altered layout fronting Duke's Place after the road widening. Evaluation trenches marked in red (from top to bottom: Trench 3; Trench 2; Trench 1).

The eastern side of Duke Street was moved further eastwards in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the line of the city wall now lying in the main carriageway. It is plausible that the masonry seen in 2014, context [5] and 2015, context [5] (and potentially [4]) seen on the eastern side of both evaluation trenches, relates to this event, presenting evidence for this second phase of development.

Finally, the sections of more modern looking masonry recorded in Trench 2, [6], [7] and [8] are taken to be a short lived phase of building in the post-war period.



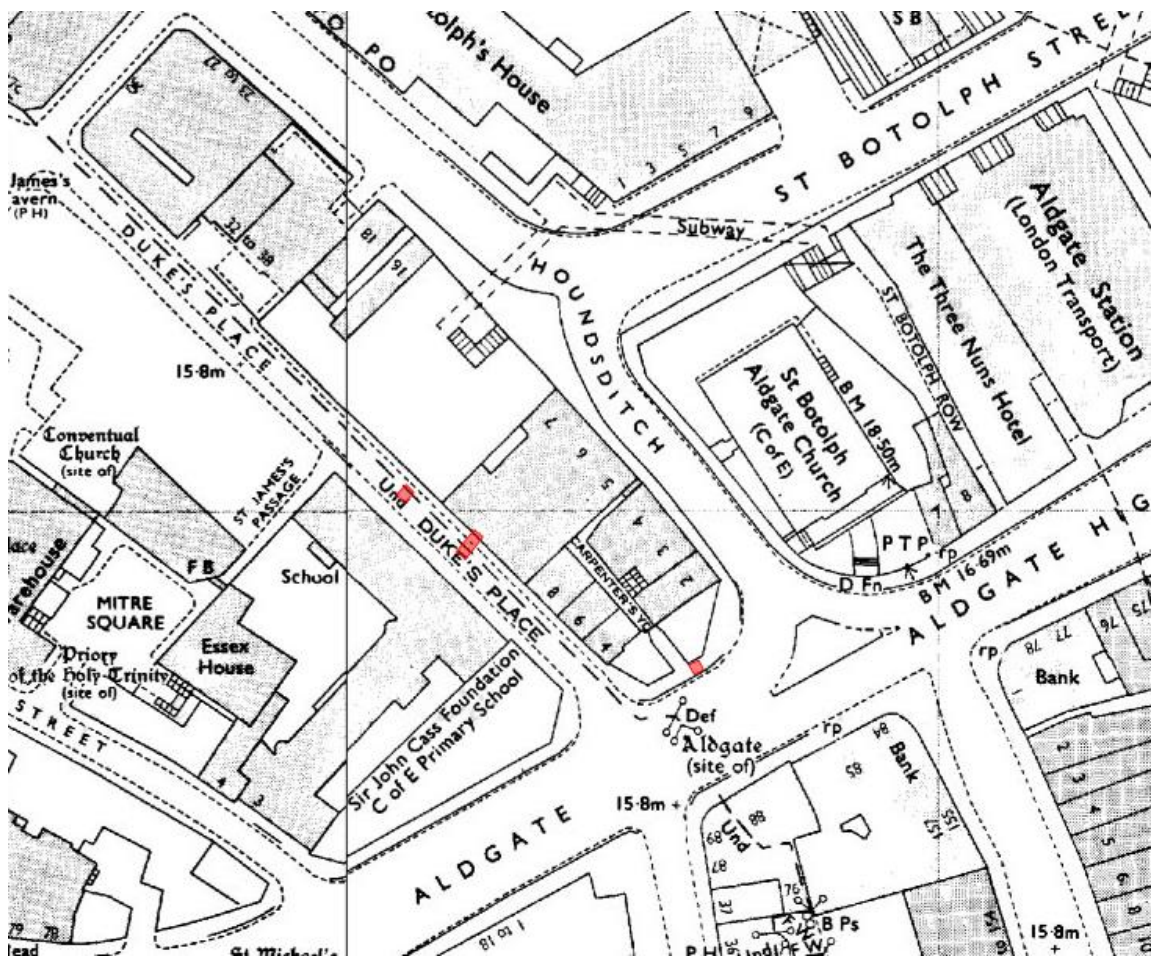


Figure 18: Extract from the 1971 OS Map, showing the early phase of the modern gyratory system. The row of buildings seen on the 1894 edition has been amalgamated to form one large property, with numbers 5, 6 and 7 remaining on the east side. Evaluation trenches marked in red (from top to bottom: Trench 3; Trench 2; Trench 1).

Many of the properties bounded by Duke's Place and Houndsditch were badly damaged during the Second World War. According to the London County Council Bomb Damage Maps (1939-1945) much of the area was classified as 'damaged beyond repair', particularly in the north-western part of Duke's Place, shown as blank in fig.18. At least two high explosive bombs are known to have detonated in the immediate vicinity of St Botolph's Church (Bomb Sight Online 2016).

However, no structure which would correspond with the post-war building observed in Trench 2 can be seen on the map – either its layout is different to that shown above, or it was so short-lived it was not recorded in cartographic format. The map above is also useful in charting the progress of the gyratory system and the level of truncation which occurred to the southern end of Duke's Place and Houndsditch.

## 9 CONCLUSION

The following section provides a summary of the work undertaken with reference to the original research questions set out in the WSI.

### 9.1 *Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity in the area? What form does this take?*

No evidence of prehistoric activity was uncovered in any of the evaluation trenches. The lowest recorded deposits, in Trench 2 at 14.28mOD, produced only post-medieval material, much of which was associated with the widespread basementing along Duke's Place and subsequent demolition.

### 9.2 *Is there any evidence of Roman occupation? Is this related to the City wall / ditch, or the structure of Aldgate itself?*

No evidence of Roman occupation/activity was uncovered in any of the evaluation trenches. This was most likely due to a combination of the relatively shallow depths of excavation – whilst MoLA recorded sections of the wall at a depth of 0.63m below ground level, recent groundworks associated with the highway changes and disturbances from services had truncated most of the archaeological stratigraphy – and additional truncation by post-Roman occupation. The upper layers of stratigraphy across much of the Scheduled Area was subject to post-medieval basementing, in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, which most likely removed any earlier features present.

### 9.3 *Is there any evidence of medieval occupation? Is this related to the City wall / ditch, the structure of Aldgate?*

No evidence of medieval occupation/activity was uncovered in any of the evaluation trenches. The finds and features recorded during the archaeological investigation date exclusively from the post-medieval period. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century the city ditch was partially backfilled, and by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the walls had been demolished, creating space for redevelopment. It is therefore likely that the archaeological features encountered during the evaluation have no association with the structure of Aldgate.

### 9.4 *Is there any evidence of earlier street lines or frontages? Can this be related to the surviving cartographic evidence?*

As demonstrated in **section 8** the archaeological evidence is thought to date from three different incarnations of Duke's Place. Firstly, the 18<sup>th</sup> century masonry, taken to be part of a series of coal cellars, was situated along the eastern frontage of Duke's Place and illustrates what is likely to be the first phase of building after the demolition of the city wall in c1760-1. The eastern side of Duke's Place was then widened in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and a second phase of redevelopment occurred, as supported by the sections of masonry revealed in Trench 2, aligned N-S, set further east the earlier wall. Finally, there appears to have been a very short-lived period of activity in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century when a post-war building was constructed or restored, and then demolished less than 30 years later to make way for the gyratory system, bringing the road late up to its present day layout.



**9.5** *At what level does archaeology and natural geology survive across the site?*

Archaeological features, predominantly standing sections of masonry were encountered at a fairly consistent depth of between 0.29 and 1.43m below ground level (15.79-14.36mOD) across all three evaluation trenches. Several of the sections of masonry displayed varying degrees of truncation, particularly in the upper courses of brickwork, due to the installation of services and related groundworks over the past four decades specifically since the creation of the gyratory road system. Natural geology was not observed in any of the trenches.

**9.6** In summary, the archaeological features uncovered and recorded during the evaluation date exclusively from the post-medieval period and constitutes a series of phases which contribute to the understanding and charting the development of Duke's Place, particularly over the past 300 years. It should also be noted that parts of the stratigraphic sequence had already been disturbed by the installation of modern services and certain features truncated.

No evidence relating to either the medieval or Roman incarnations of the city wall or gate were observed.

**9.7** It is understood that the proposed trees to be planted will be contained within a barrier to contain the roots and prevent unrestricted growth, surrounded by medium grade washed sand. As a result, it is unlikely that the trees will have any further impact upon the areas under investigation. It is therefore felt that as the trenches in which the trees will be placed have been subject to a thorough evaluation, the archaeological mitigation has been adequately met.

## 10 SOURCES

<http://bombsight.org/#17/51.51477/-0.07785>

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2014a). *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2014b). *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

Communities and Local Government (2012). *National Planning Policy Framework*

Compass Archaeology (February 2014). *A series of trial pits associated with the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project EC3A: An Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Compass Archaeology (November 2014). *Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Project: The Western Plaza, City of London, An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.*

Grace's Guide. (2014). *Farnley Iron Co.* Retrieved Nov. 15 from [http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Farnley\\_Iron\\_Co](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Farnley_Iron_Co).

Historic England (2015). *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

## APPENDIX I: CONTEXT LIST

### Trench 1

Number	Description
(130)	Upper fill of post-medieval debris
(131)	Lower fill – soil/rubble mix
[132]	Masonry: modern brick wall at base of trench

### Trench 2

Number	Description
(1)	Soily layer abundant with clinker and gravels
(2)	Orangey yellow sandy gravel at east end of trench
(3)	Loose soil – demolition/backfill layer
[4]	Masonry: E-W wall through trench centre at west end
[5]	Masonry: wall pad on north side of trench
[6]	Masonry: orangey-pink wall seen in north facing section
[7]	Masonry: corresponding corner of [6] seen in west facing section
[8]	Masonry: yellow stock brick wall at west end of trench
[12]	Masonry: cellar wall at west end of trench
(133)	Demolition rubble at east end of trench

### Trench 3

Number	Description
[61]	Masonry: red stock brick wall
[62]	Masonry: yellow stock brick wall
(63)	Rubble abundant backfill

## APPENDIX II: TRENCH PLANS AND LEVELS

### Evaluation Trench 2

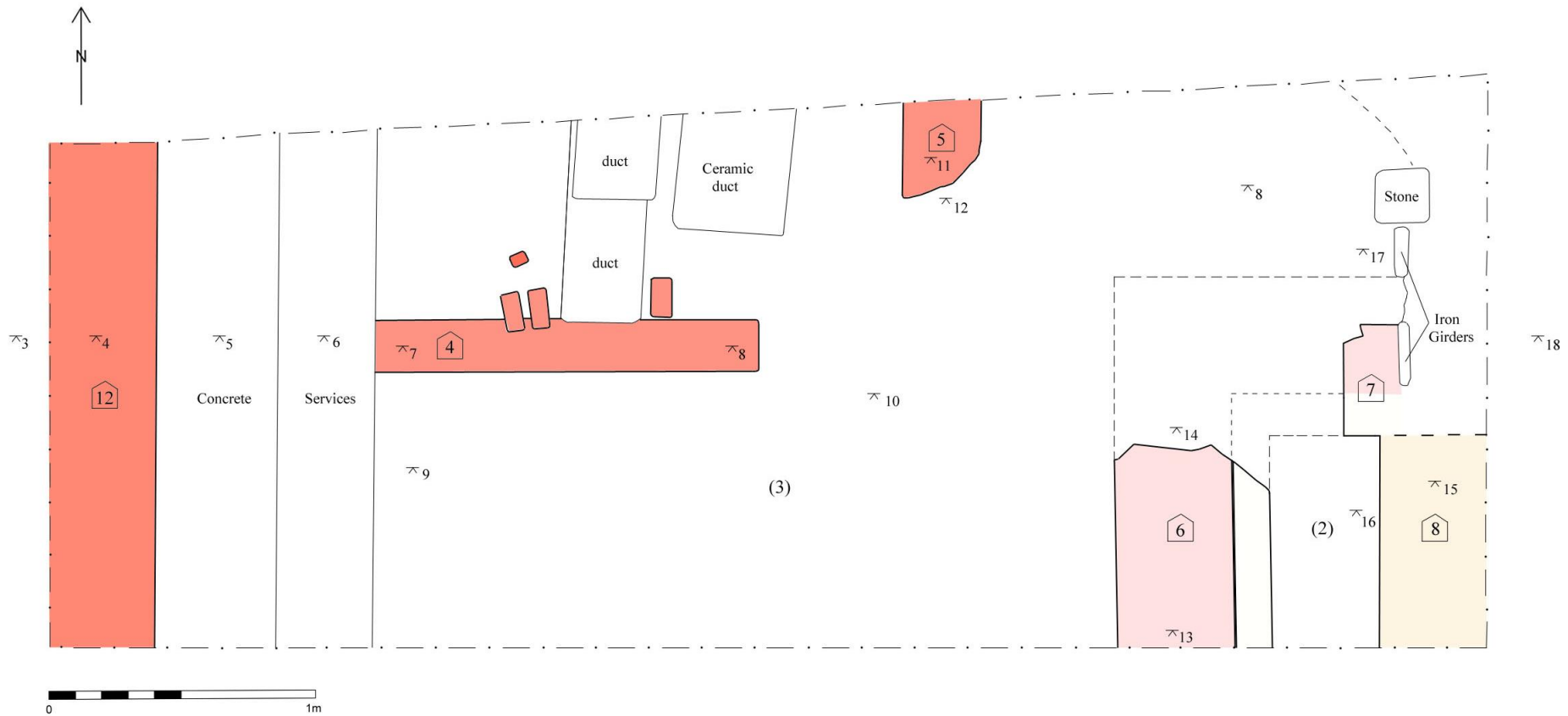


Figure 19: Plan of Trench 2. The projected continuation of walls [6] and [7] is shown as a dashed line. Original drawn at 1:20.

### Evaluation Trench 3

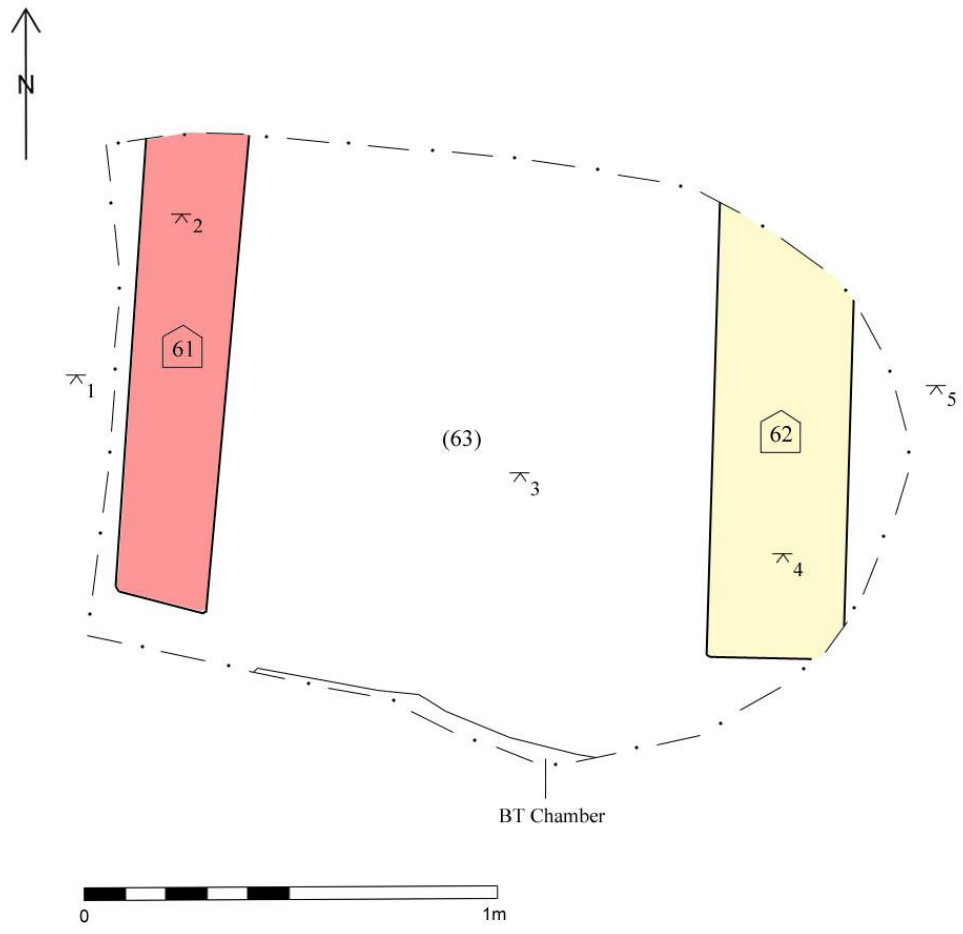


Figure 20: Plan of Trench 3. Original drawn at 1:20.



Site levels by trench. All values given in metres above ordnance datum, (mOD).

<b>Trench 1*</b>		<b>Trench 2</b>		<b>Trench 3</b>	
<b>No.</b>	<b>mOD</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>mOD</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>mOD</b>
<b>1</b>	16.09	<b>3</b>	16.08	<b>1</b>	16.07
<b>2</b>	14.65	<b>4</b>	15.79	<b>2</b>	15.48
		<b>5</b>	15.25	<b>3</b>	14.95
		<b>6</b>	14.90	<b>4</b>	15.29
		<b>7</b>	14.78	<b>5</b>	16.00
		<b>8</b>	14.36		
		<b>9</b>	14.28		
		<b>10</b>	14.38		
		<b>11</b>	14.62		
		<b>12</b>	14.37		
		<b>13</b>	15.47		
		<b>14</b>	14.37		
		<b>15</b>	15.07		
		<b>16</b>	14.36		
		<b>17</b>	14.41		
		<b>18</b>	16.01		

\* Levels refer to points taken at the top of the trench and at the base of the trench (no plan shown).

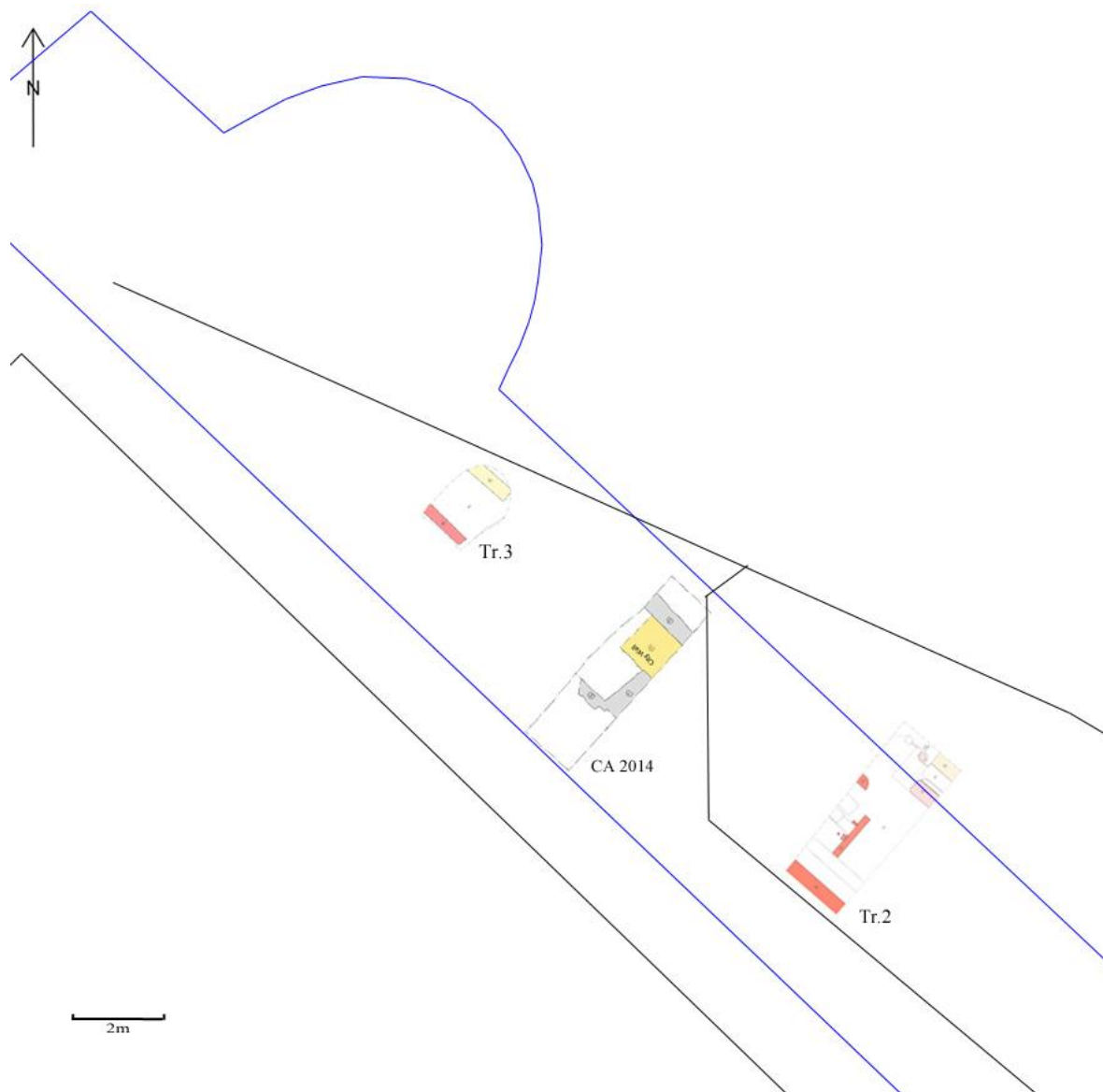


Figure 21: Composite plan of 3 evaluation trenches undertaken between 2014 and 2016, showing locations of recorded masonry. Scheduled Area is shown in blue.

## APPENDIX III – OASIS Recording Form

OASIS ID: [compassa1-261562](#)

### Project details

Project name	Aldgate AHCPRP Tree Pit Evaluation
Short description of the project	Between November 2015 and June 2016 an archaeological evaluation was conducted at Aldgate, London, E1, as part of the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realms Project (ACHPRP). The works comprised three evaluation trenches located along the line of proposed tree planting trenches in the southern and western parts of the site. The work uncovered features consistent with post-medieval development of Duke's Place in three distinct phases: expansion after the demolition of the city wall; redevelopment and widening of the eastern frontage of Duke's Place; post-war building and subsequent demolition prior to the installation of the gyratory system. Earlier medieval and Roman deposits were not encountered, and natural geology was not observed.
Project dates	Start: 01-11-2015 End: 01-06-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	DKE13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	CELLAR Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Road scheme (new and widening)
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country England  
Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Aldgate/Duke's Place  
Postcode EC3A 7LP  
Study area 0.2 Kilometres  
Site coordinates TQ 533521 181195 50.941520741174 0.183026389577 50 56 29 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 Heidi Archer  
Type of sponsor/funding body City of London Corporation  
Name of sponsor/funding body City of London Department of the Built Environment

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London archaeological archive  
Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Animal Bones"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realms Project: An Archaeological Evaluation Report.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Archer, H.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, London SW11 3SJ
Description	Report summarising the findings of an archaeological evaluation. Comprises an introduction and basic site information, archaeological and historical background and fieldwork methodology. Results include text, photographs and drawn plans and sections relating to each trench. Report is completed by an analysis and discussion of results and concluding remarks.