

**LONDON WALL PLACE SCHEME DRAINAGE WORKS
FORE STREET, CITY OF LONDON
EC2Y 5EJ**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

APPROX. SITE CENTRE: TQ 32550 81631



November 2016



London Wall Place Scheme Drainage Works
Fore Street, City of London
EC2Y 5EJ

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Site code: FST16
Site NGR (centre): TQ 32550 81631

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Abstract

Between the 19th and 21st of October 2016 Compass Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief for drainage works located on Fore Street, City of London, EC27 5EJ, as part of the London Wall Place scheme.

A single drop shaft, measuring approximately 2m by 2m and aligned NE-SW was excavated.

Overall, the drop shaft can be interpreted as having an upper sequence of post-medieval made ground layers cut into by post-medieval services [4] and [9], as well as [9] cutting into (7) and (8), the former potentially an instance of medieval dumping and the latter a disturbed Roman dumping deposit. These two layers sealed the natural deposits (12) and (13). (7), (8) and (12) were cut into by the potential medieval brickearth quarrying pit [10]/(11) which produced a piece of Roman Purbeck Marble cornice moulding.

Though no Roman features were found, several finds from that period were discovered, specifically in contexts (7), (8) and (11). In particular, (7) and (8) contained Roman brick and tile as well as medieval material which at least in the former case may suggest that the Roman building material was re-used and then dumped in the medieval period. Four pieces of Roman pottery, roughly dated between the 1st and 4th century AD were found in context (8). Context (7) only produced one piece of medieval peg tile and one Roman imbrex. Unlike (8), it did not produce Roman pottery indicative of primary deposition therefore it is theorised that this is a later medieval dumping deposit with residual Roman material.

The 19th century brick structure [4] and associated ceramic pipe, as well as the disused 18th/19th century sewer/culvert [9] both relate to the post-medieval development of Fore Street, the latter specifically being associated with an 18th century culvert previously recorded during a watching brief east of the site on Fore Street conducted in 1993 by MoLAS. [4] was first seen at a level of c.11.45mOD and [9] at c.10.47mOD.

The natural geology within the drop shaft was discovered in the form of two different deposits; the later of the two was (12), an orangey clay (with some gravel towards the top) that was first encountered at a level of 9.75mOD in the NE section of the drop shaft. Below (12) was (13), a natural deposit of gravels and sand (likely Taplow Gravel) and first appeared at a level of 9.32mOD in the NW section of the drop shaft.

Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
2 Site location, geology, and topography	2
3 Archaeological and historical background	4
4 Archaeological research questions	10
5 Methodology	11
6 Results	12
7 Conclusion and interpretation	23
8 References	25
Appendix I Context List	26
Appendix II Brick, CBM and masonry report by <i>Sue Pringle</i>	27
Appendix III Pottery report by <i>Heidi Archer</i>	38
Appendix IV OASIS data collection form	42

List of figures

Front cover: View of NW section of the trench and lower stratigraphical sequence of the drop shaft, facing NW, 1m scale

		Page
Figure 1	Site location	1
Figure 2	Location of drop shaft on Fore Street	3
Figure 3	Extract from the 'Agas' Map, c1561	6
Figure 4	Extract from Ogilby and Morgan's Large Scale Map of the City as Rebuilt by 1676	6
Figure 5	Extract from Rocque's map of London, Westminster and Southwark 1746	7
Figure 6	Extract from Goad's Insurance Plan	9
Figure 7	Extract from the OS 1971 1:1250 map	10
Figure 8	View of the location of the drop shaft on Fore Street, facing NW	13
Figure 9	View of yellow stock brick wall, facing SW	14
Figure 10	View of services cut into (6), facing SWW	14
Figure 11	View of SW section of the drop shaft and relationship between (7), (8) and (9), facing SW, 1m scale	15
Figure 12	View of bottom of BT chamber and associated cut [5]/(6) without scale, facing SE	16
Figure 13	View of bottom of BT chamber as seen on the 20 th of October, facing SE, 0.8m scale	16
Figure 14	View of SE corner of NE section with brick structure [4], facing NE, 6m scale	17
Figure 15	View of NE corner of NW section showing isolated mortar deposit, facing NNW, 0.6m scale	18
Figure 16	Top of disused red stock brick sewer/culvert [9], facing NE, 1m scale	19
Figure 17	Wider view of disused red stock brick sewer/culvert [9] in NE section, facing NE, 1m scale	19
Figure 18	View of SW corner of NW section and top of pit [10]/(11), facing SW, 0.8m scale	20

Figure 19	View of NW section of the trench and lower stratigraphical sequence of the drop shaft, facing NW, 1m scale	21
Figure 20	Detail of NW section of the trench and lower stratigraphical sequence of the drop shaft, facing NW, 1m scale	22
Figure 21	Brick from structure [4], 0.2m scale	27
Figure 22	Cross-section of brick from structure [4]	28
Figure 23	Fragments of Roman imbrex and medieval peg tile from (7), 0.1m scale	28
Figure 24	Roman brick with finger arc signature from (8), 0.2m scale	29
Figure 25	Medieval peg tile showing decayed glaze from (8), 0.1m scale	30
Figure 26	Medieval peg tile from (8), 0.1m scale	30
Figure 27	Fragment of Roman imbrex from (8), 0.1m scale	31
Figure 28	Rounded fragment of Kentish ragstone from (8), 0.1m scale	31
Figure 29	Brick from [9] of 18 th /19 th century type, 0.2m scale	32
Figure 30	Cross-section of 18 th /19 th century brick from [9]	32
Figure 31	Brick from [9] of 17 th century fabric, 0.2m scale	33
Figure 32	Cross-section of 17 th century brick with 'cleaner' fabric from [9]	33
Figure 33	Piece of Purbeck marble veneer from (11), 0.2m scale	34
Figure 34	Piece of Purbeck marble veneer from (11), showing flat surface, 0.2m scale	35
Figure 35	Fragment of WCWS from (8), 0.1m scale	40
Figure 36	Fragment of Dressel-type ware from (8), 0.1m scale	40
Figure 37	Two fragments of a possible unsourced buff ware jar from (8), 0.1m scale	41

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document forms a summary of the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken between the 19th and the 21st of October 2016 for drainage works located on Fore Street, City of London, EC27 5EJ, as part of the London Wall Place scheme (fig.1). This entailed the monitoring of a single drop shaft.



Figure 1: Site location, marked in red. Fig.1 reproduced from OS data with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO ©Crown Copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd, licence no. AL100031317.

- 1.2 The watching brief has been commissioned by Jessica Frith, on behalf of the City of London Department of the Built Environment due to the site lying within an area of archaeological sensitivity, specifically, being situated north of London Wall Scheduled Ancient Monument (26325 London Wall: section of Roman and medieval wall at St Alphage Garden, incorporating remains of St Alphage's Church; 434987 2, Moorfields, 118A, London Wall; 26326 London wall: site of the Roman and medieval gateway of Cripple Gate).

2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1** The site was located towards the eastern end of Fore Street, just east of the junction with Moor Lane. The drop shaft was within the main carriageway, adjacent to Wework Moorgate office space to the north, and Willoughby House to the west. The area of investigation is approximately centred at NGR TQ 32550 81631.
- 2.2** According to the British Geology Survey (sheet 271, Dartford, 1998) the site lies on the border between a large expanse of Taplow Gravel, overlying river alluvium, and a smaller pocket of London Clay and Langley Silt.
- 2.3** The site sites at approximately 13.6mOD, at the base of a significant slope from 15.2mOD in the west to 13.4mOD in the east, along Moorgate. The land continues to slope to the east, away from the site, plateauing at Finsbury Circus, before rising again at London Wall/Wormwood Street.

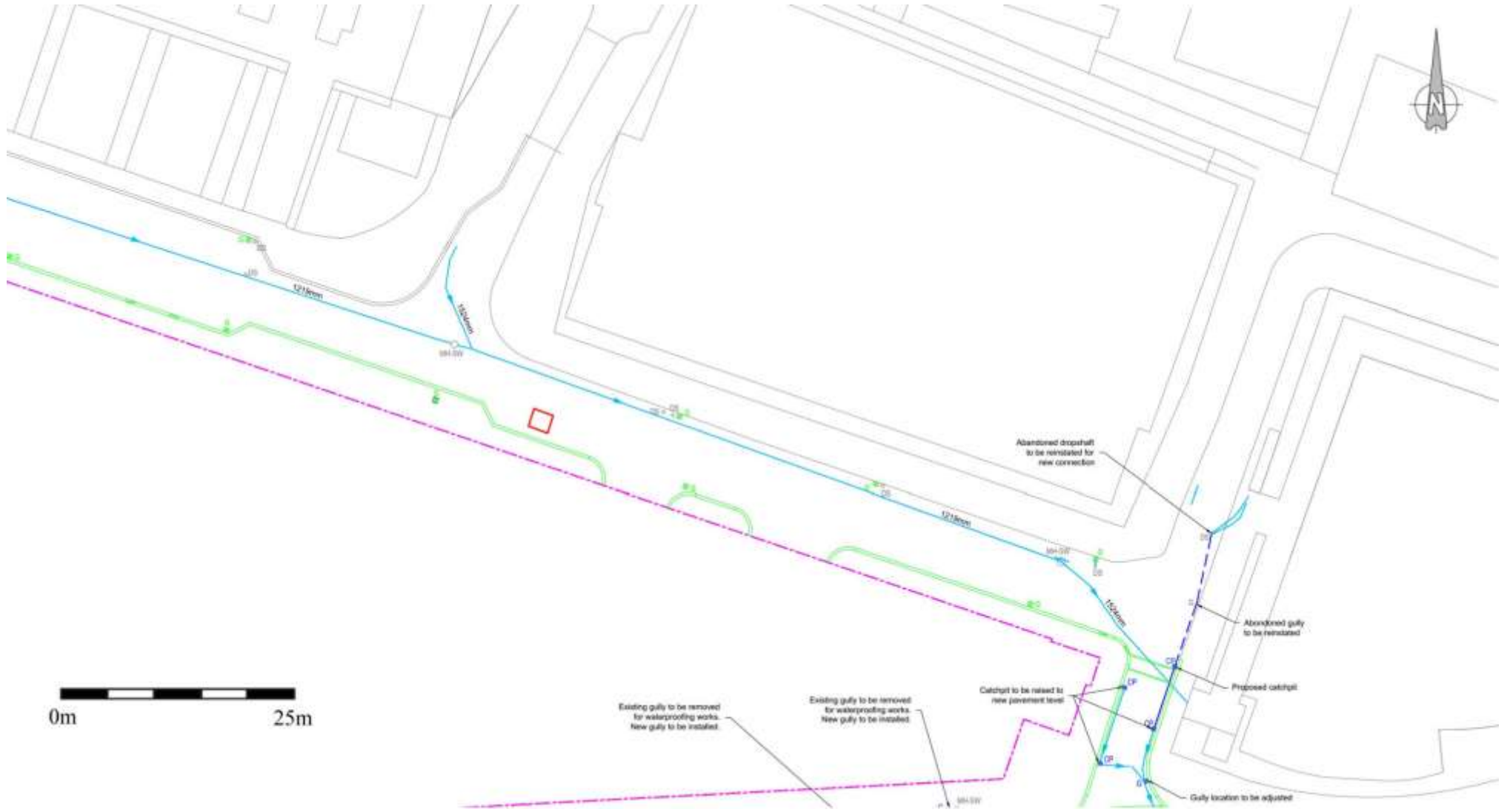


Figure 2: Location of drop shaft on Fore Street (marked in red), original plan provided by City of London Department of the Built Environment and amended

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been discussed at length in the previous Written Scheme of Investigation (Compass Archaeology, 2016), produced and so will not be reproduced at length. Only the most pertinent points will be repeated below.

3.1 *Prehistoric*

The site lies within the Upper Walbrook Valley, a floodplain traversed by a number of tributaries of the River Walbrook (a now subterranean river running through the city from Shoreditch, past Cannon Street to the Thames). The river runs approximately 350m east of the site through Finsbury Circus. One such identified tributary was identified on Copthall Avenue, south-east of the site location. An excavation undertaken by the DUA in 1987 at 7-11 Finsbury Circus uncovered a few fragments of Late Iron Age pottery below a naturally formed stream bed. A Neolithic stone axe is recorded as been found in the vicinity of 12-16 Finsbury Circus, in addition to 2 flint flakes. Isolated finds have been recovered from the area surrounding the site, indicative of activity but not of established settlement, most likely because the area was marshland and unsuitable for permanent occupation.

3.2 *Roman*

The site lies immediately north of London Wall, the historical northern limit of the walled city of *Londinium*, lying between Cripplegate and Moorgate. London Wall was constructed in the late 2nd or early 3rd century, enclosing the city from Ludgate Hill in the west to Tower Hill/Aldgate in the east. During the Roman occupation the Walbrook was used for transport, whilst supplying fresh water from the north and allowing waste to travel south to the Thames. An extensive series of excavations undertaken in the area surrounding Moorgate and Finsbury circus have revealed substantial evidence of occupation (see 16-18 Finsbury Circus, MoLAS 2003; 12-15 Finsbury Circus, MoLAS 1998; 20-28 Moorgate, MoLAS 1998-2000; 8-10 Moorgate, MoLA 2012), including a series of inhumations and cremations relating to the nearby cemetery to the north-east side of the present day Circus. Significantly, at the site of Moor House, less than 100m east of the site, large numbers of specific disarticulated human remains were uncovered, skulls in particular, suggesting a deliberate system of interment rather than disturbed burials (Butler 2006, 38-41). The archaeological evidence seems to suggest that although the area was marshy, the water levels were being successfully managed.

The defensive nature of much of the Wall's circuit was strengthened by an external ditch, with the exception of those areas where the marshland around the Walbrook acted as a natural defensive feature. The ditch, or series of ditches as it was, comprised an earlier V shaped cut which was later recut with a wider, shallower profile in the 4th century, indicating its transition to a less defensive, more functional feature. It is likely therefore that the site is situated in what would have been space between the wall itself and any outer defences. To the south-west of the site, at St Alphage Garden, work by the Guildhall Museum in 1960 revealed a section of the ditch, containing brick and ragstone within its fill. A substantial section of the wall survives in the Garden, adjacent

to the proposed site location. In addition, the current Roman House, opposite the site stands on the site of the north gateway of the fort (Cripplegate), demolished in 1760-1.

3.3 *Saxon*

The Saxon occupation of London from the 5th century comprised a settlement located west of the site location, known as *Lundenwic*, centred on the area which is the Royal Opera House. In spite of this, the Roman wall remained intact, but there is no evidence of redevelopment. The most compelling evidence for Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site relates to a previous incarnation of St Giles without Cripplegate Church, which is located to the west of Moor Lane. Cripplegate, or 'Creplegate' meaning a covered or underground passageway, may have come into existence during the Saxon period, however, the original church does not appear to be evidence of substantial occupation in the area. Archaeological evidence is scant, comprising a pit and two small gullies recorded at Aldermanbury, which contained several fragments of late Saxon pottery.

3.4 *Medieval*

Throughout the medieval period the area surrounding Fore Street underwent few major changes. The unsuitable ground discouraged large scale building and although several attempts were made to improve drainage, this was not successful until the early post-medieval period. During the medieval period, the city walls were expanded and redeveloped, and a series of arches added to strengthen the existing wall in 1477. In order to improve access to the city and reclaim the land the original Roman postern in the city wall was replaced in 1415 with a brick structure; Moorgate. The gate continued in use, with a few renovations, until its demolition in 1671/2 and the stone reused to widen London Bridge.

To the south-east of the site, evidence of tanning pits dating from the 12th and 13th centuries was uncovered during excavations at 119 London Wall (PCA 1998-2002) and analysis of an assemblage of deer antler supports the hypothesis that this area was used for industrial purposes. In 1365 the Pelterers Guild ordered that leatherworkers should inhabit the area of the Walbrook and evidence of later tanning pits has been revealed. Further west, St Giles-without-Cripplegate church was replaced in 1090 by a Norman church under Alfune, Bishop of London. The building was later renovated in 1394, surviving parts of which are visible in the cellar, in the perpendicular gothic style.

Between the 14th and 17th century the area was used for quarrying brickearth, and to the east Moorgate became an open area used for recreation and drying cloth (the 'Agas' map of c1561 shows several people laying out garments in the fields (fig.3)). The area surrounding Fore Street is shown as quite densely populated in the vicinity of St Giles, with open spaces of cultivation to the east of Grub Street (fig.4). The quarrying left large open pools of standing water, eventually resulting in the deterioration of the area.

Fore Street is first mentioned in 1331, as 'le Forestrete' traversing Coleman Street Ward and Cripplegate Ward Without. The name appears to have derived from the literal sense of the street being 'before' the wall, approaching from the north, heading south into the city.

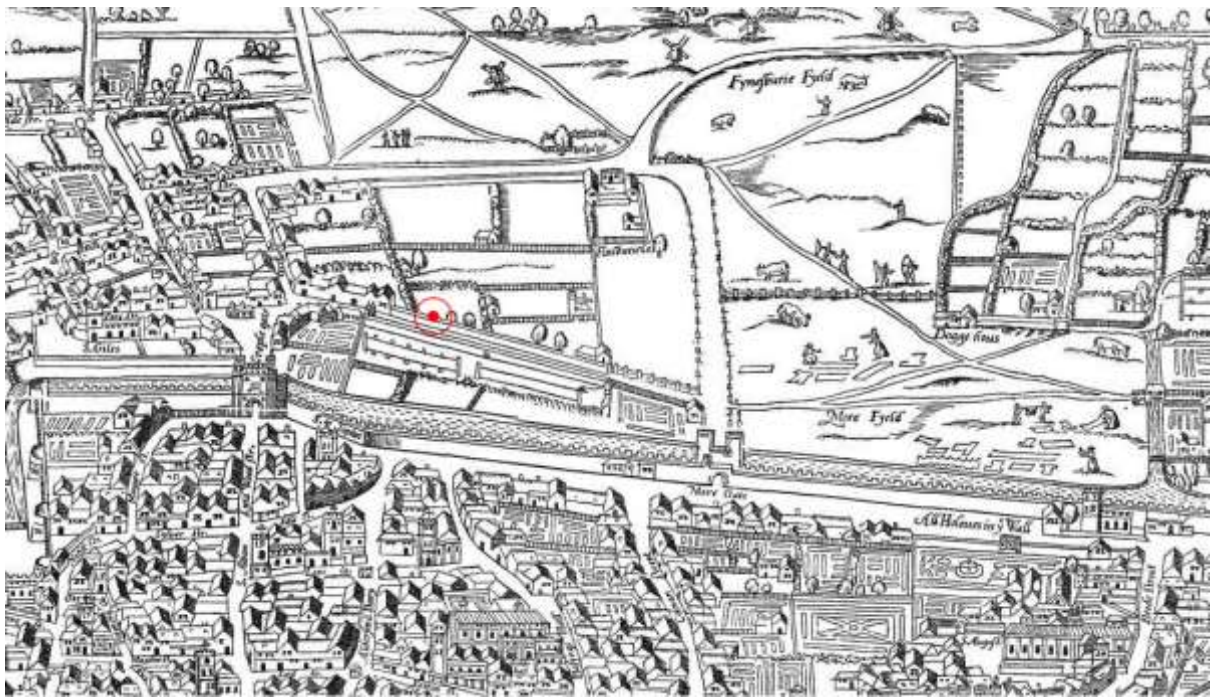


Figure 3: Extract from the 'Agas' Map, c1561, showing the approximate site location between Cripplegate and Moorgate.



Figure 4: Extract from Ogilby and Morgan's Large Scale Map of the City as Rebuilt by 1676, showing the location of the drop shaft in red.

3.5 *Post-medieval*

By the post-medieval period, effective water management systems had been established, enabling the formerly marshy areas of the Walbrook plain to be developed in earnest. Ogilby and Morgan's Large Scale Map (1676 fig.4) shows a series of buildings on both sides of Moor Lane. At the time of the map's creation, the east end of Fore Street was known as The Posterne, because according to Stow in his Survey of London 'it hath a door at eyther end to be shut at night'¹. The site was bounded by Lower Moorfields to the east and Grub Street (the northern end of which now exists as Milton Street) to the west. There was little change over the next century, with a similar layout of buildings shown on Rocque's map of 1746 (fig.5), created shortly before the demolition of Moorgate in 1762. By this time The Posterne was known in its entirety as Fore Street and the Lower Moorfields contained two large buildings.

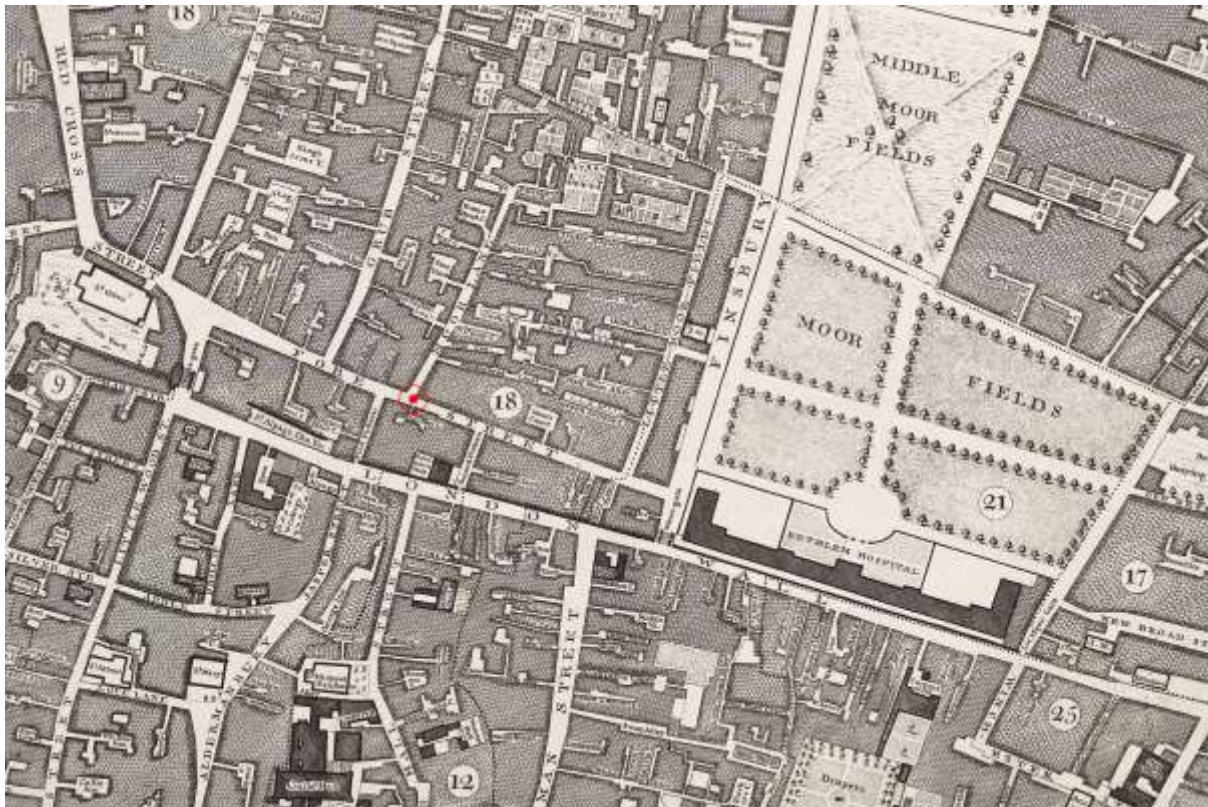


Figure 5: Extract from Rocque's map of London, Westminster and Southwark 1746, with site location marked in red.

¹ Harben, H. (1918). *A Dictionary of London*.

To the south-east, excavations by W F Grimes on Wood Street, cut a north-south section across the city ditch, revealing deposits dating to c1600 and a well of 1720-60. Further archaeological work by MoLAS in 1993 recorded two 19th century brick built arched vaults on the south side of Fore Street. Over the last two centuries, the buildings in the immediate vicinity of the proposed drop shaft location have been extensively redeveloped. Goad's Insurance plan of 1886 (fig.6) shows the building east of the shaft as a public house, The Grapes (demolished in the 1930s) with an Oil and Colours shop and Restaurant opposite. A Division Police Station was relocated to the west side of Moor Lane in the late 19th century, where it remained until it was destroyed by a parachute mine on the 29th December 1940. It is also acknowledged, on a plaque currently located on Roman House, that 'on this site at 12:15am of the 25th August 1940 fell the first bomb on the City of London in the Second World War'.

As a result of the bomb damage, the area was extensively re-landscaped in the post-war period, indeed the 1950s OS Map (not shown) illustrates only one building along the entire length of Fore Street. Andrewes House and Willoughby House, to the west, were constructed between 1969 and 1971 as part of the Barbican Estate. The drop shaft itself is located within the main carriageway of Fore Street, bounded by pavement to the north. Until 2013, with the construction of the present 1 Fore Street, the shaft was bounded by a raised island and parking layby for the previous Ministry of Works Telephone Exchange (fig.7).



Figure 6: Extract from Goad's Insurance Plan (vol. 1 sheet 23) with approximate site location marked in red.

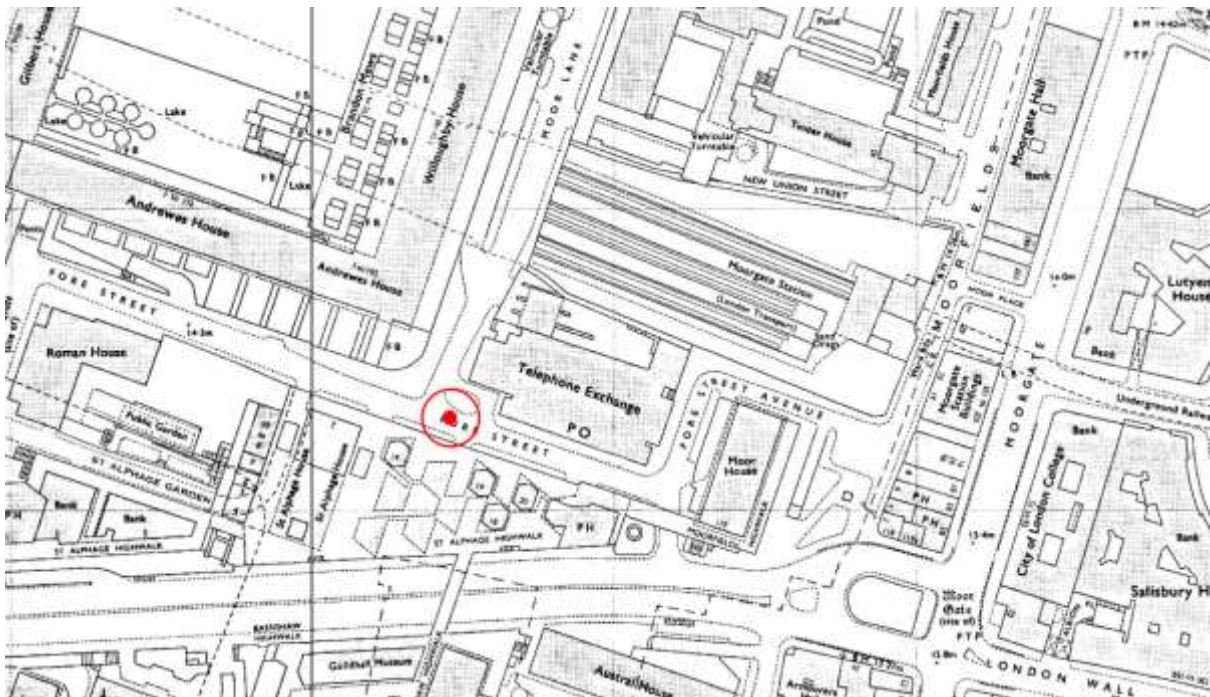


Figure 7: Extract from the OS 1971 1:1250 map, with site location marked in red. Reproduced from OS data with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO ©Crown Copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd, licence no. AL100031317.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

4.1 The watching brief presented the opportunity to answer the following general and more specific questions.

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity, relating particularly to the utilisation of the Walbrook? If so what form does this take?
- Are there any finds or features associated with the Roman wall and ditch? What form do these take and at what level do these occur?
- Is there any evidence of the medieval expansion and quarry pitting taking place in the area?
- Are there any remains of the pre- and post-war developments previously fronting Fore Street and Moor Lane?
- If encountered, what is the natural geology and at what level does it exist across the site?

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Standards

- 5.1.1** 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.
- 5.1.2** 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.
- 5.1.3** The Client and Historic England were kept informed of the progress of fieldwork at the earliest possible opportunity during the watching brief.

5.2 Fieldwork

- 5.2.1** The watching brief involved the excavation of a drop shaft approximately 2m² aligned NE-SW.
- 5.2.2** The excavation of the drop shaft involved the breaking and removal of the present carriageway surface, by mechanical breaker, and digging to a depth of c2m, within the reach of a mechanical excavator. Works were undertaken using a toothless bucket. The remaining depth was completed by hand.
- During excavation the spoil was deposited separately and subject to a basic archaeological examination to determine the presence of finds.
- 5.2.3** 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.
- 5.2.4** A level was taken for the drop shaft at road surface level, derived from an OSBM located on St. Giles' Church, with a value of 15.97mOD.
- 5.2.5** No additional techniques, such as environmental sampling, were utilised in this instance. Samples of brickwork were taken for specialist analysis.
- 5.2.6** 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.

5.2.7 No human remains were encountered during the watching brief.

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

5.3 Post-excavation

5.3.1 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).

5.3.2 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 20th / 21st 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.

5.4 Report and Archive

5.4.1 Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client and Historic England.

5.4.2 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.

5.4.3 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.

5.4.4 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 FST16 in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive.

6 RESULTS

6.1 The shaft was located at the eastern end of Fore Street (see figures 2 and 8). It measured approximately 2m² and was oriented roughly NE-SW. It was investigated to a maximum depth of 11.40m OD on the 19th of October 2016, to a maximum depth of 9.63mOD (SE section) on the 20th of October 2016 and c.9.20mOD on the 21st of October (SW section). The top of the drop shaft was at a level of 13.60mOD.



Figure 8: View of the location of the drop shaft on Fore Street, facing NW

6.2 Upper level of the drop shaft

On the 19th of October, constituting the first visit to the drop shaft, a yellow stock brick wall [1] was observed running NW-SE along the full length of the south-west section of the drop shaft. This first appeared at a depth of 350mm below ground level (c.13.25mOD) underneath the existing tarmac road surface and concrete road base which extended down this far (see figure 9). Abutting this was a red stock brick and concrete structure seen on the SE side of the drop shaft which was an old BT chamber. Red bricks seen in the SW section of the drop shaft are also related with this structure. As can be seen in figures 9 and 10, [1] is associated with a dark beige-brown clay-silt deposit (2).

The BT chamber and other modern services were cut into a mid-brown-beige silty made ground deposit (3), which appeared approximately 350-700mm below ground level, as well as the mid brownish-grey layer (7) with moderate CBM and gravel inclusions. This layer appeared below (3) and could be seen down to the then absolute depth of excavation, which was 2.2m.

The yellow stock brick structure was potentially part of a modern inspection chamber, and it extended down to at least a depth of 2.2m below ground level (11.40mOD).

Unfortunately, later shuttering which was required due to safety concerns prevented the full extent of this structure to be observed.



Figure 9: View of yellow stock brick wall, facing SW. Unfortunately no direct access to the drop shaft was attainable at this time due to safety concerns



Figure 10: View of services cut into (6), facing SW

6.3 Drain and deposits of made ground

6.3.1 On the 20th of October, two separate visits were made to the site. During the initial visit, the mid-brownish grey clay deposit (3) could be seen in the SW section of the drop shaft (see figure 11), observed at a depth of 3-3.15m below ground level. The presence of a cut [5] containing a dark beige-brown fill (6), which likely represents the same deposit as (2) at the SW end of the SE section at a depth of 2.15-3m below ground level would seem to suggest that (2)/(6) cut into (3) and will have appeared above it in the SW section of the drop shaft (see figures 11 and 12).

In the SW section, below (3) was an orangey-yellow silty clay layer (7) which extended down to a depth of approximately 3.4m. This deposit contained moderate CBM inclusions, including tile, as well as animal bone. Below this was the dark grey-brown silty layer (8) which also had occasional CBM inclusions and was seen at this point down to a maximum depth of 4m below ground level.



Figure 11: View of SW section of the drop shaft and relationship between (3),(7) and (8), facing SW, 1m scale



Figure 12: View of bottom of BT chamber and associated cut [5]/(6) without scale, facing SE

6.3.2 Returning to the SE section, by the 20th of October, the bottom of the aforementioned BT chamber could be seen. This extended down to a depth of approximately 2.8m. As mentioned previously, a cut [5] could be seen in the SW corner of the section, extending out to the NE by 290mm and a discernible depth of approximately 2.15-3m. This cut is likely to be associated with the construction of the BT chamber, especially as it extends down to a similar depth and appeared to contain some concrete. Below the BT inspection chamber, the dark brownish-clay layer (3) was seen to a depth of approximately 3m. Due to the bottom of the drop shaft not having been fully dug out at this point, the SE was observed to a shallower depth than the SW section.



Figure 13: View of bottom of BT chamber as seen on the 20th of October, facing SE, 0.8m scale

6.3.3 In the NE section, a disused ceramic pipe and associated red stock with yellow speckling brick structure [4] was first seen at a depth of approximately 2.15m below ground level (c.11.45mOD) in the SE corner of the section. The drain itself had a diameter of 230mm and a height of at least 260mm, whilst what remained of the brick structure was approximately 230mm wide and 460mm high. Both the drain and [4] were heavily disturbed and most likely had at least in part been truncated by the BT chamber to the SW. There appeared to be a 200mm gap between [4] and the ceramic pipe, with [4] slightly curving round in line with the pipe itself in alternating header and stretcher formation with a grey mortar. [4] and the drain cut into (3) which extended in the NE from 2.15m-3m below ground level. Below this the orangey-yellow clay silty layer (7) could be seen down to a depth of approximately 3m. A brick sample was taken from [4] (see Appendix III) which indicates that the structure was 19th century in date which correlates with its relatively shallow depth within the drop shaft.



Figure 14: View of SE corner of NE section with brick structure [4], facing NE, 6m scale

6.3.4 In the NE corner of the NW section, there was an isolated deposit of light-whitish-grey mortar with a thin band of charcoal above and below it which appeared within context (3). In this corner (3) could be seen down to a level of 2.47m below ground level, above the upper layer of charcoal which was 30mm, the mortar deposit which was

approximately 200mm thick and the lower layer of charcoal which was 50mm in thickness. Due to the location of this feature in the corner of the drop shaft and shuttering across the NW section it is difficult to ascertain its exact nature and extent. (3) was seen up to 150mm below the lower band of charcoal (2.9m below ground level). As was the case with the SE section, the NE section was at this point seen at a shallower depth than the SW section due to the way in which the drop shaft had been dug out.



Figure 15: View of NE corner of NW section showing isolated mortar deposit, facing NNW, 0.6m scale

6.4 Disused sewer/culvert

By the afternoon of October 20th, the top of what is thought to be a red stock brick disused sewer or culvert [9] could be identified in the NE section of the drop shaft. It first appeared at level of 3.13m below ground level (10.47mOD) and extended out from the SE corner of the section by 1.06m and was visible at a height of 420-840mm; this constituted at least 8 stretcher courses of brick visible. The sewer/culvert was aligned roughly NW-SE thus it ran at an angle into the NE section, impeding visibility. No obvious construction cut for [9] was visible, though it does appear to cut into the orangey-yellow silty clay layer (7), which was seen in the NE section down to a maximum depth of 3.38m below ground level. [9] also cut into the brown-grey silty clay layer (8) which could be seen down to a depth of 3.78m below ground level, and was also deposited up against [9]. Below this was (12), an orangey-clay natural deposit, which at this point was first observed at 9.82mOD down to a depth of c.3.88m below ground level, and into which the lower part of [9] was cut.

A brick sample was taken from this structure (see Appendix III), which indicates that it dates to the 18th or 19th century, but that given one of the bricks taken dates to the 17th century, it was also composed of some re-used material.



Figure 16: Top of disused red stock brick sewer/culvert [9], facing NE, 1m scale



Figure 17: Wider view of disused red stock brick sewer/culvert [9] in NE section, facing NE, 1m scale

6.5 Top of pit [10]/(11)

A similar stratigraphical sequence was seen in all sections of the drop shaft at this point, apart from in the SW corner of the NW section of the drop shaft where the top of pit [10]/(11) could be seen cutting into the made ground deposits (7) and (8). This was first seen at a depth of 2.83m below ground level (10.77mOD) in this SW corner as shown in figure 18, down to 3.63m below ground level. (7) produced a piece of Roman and a piece of medieval tile, whilst (8) produced a piece of battered Roman brick, a Roman imbrex tile, a medieval peg tile and an undated fragment of Kentish Ragstone (see Appendix III). This was the only context to produce Roman pottery; one piece of Verulamium region coarse white-slipped ware, one fragment of Dressel ware from an amphora and two sherds of unsourced buff ware potentially from a jar were found (see Appendix IV). The survival exclusively of coarse wares would seem to suggest that this is a domestic assemblage. The degree of ware on the pieces would seem to indicate that this is the primary deposition site for the pottery, however the piece of medieval tile found within it does complicate this picture.

The fill of the pit (11) was a dark grey-brown silt with some moderate chalk inclusions. A piece of Purbeck marble cornice was discovered in this fill. This is likely a residual piece dating to the Roman period (see Appendix III), with the pit perhaps representing a later medieval feature cutting into (7) and (8).



Figure 18: View of SW corner of NW section and top of pit [10]/(11), facing SW, 0.8m scale

6.6 Lower stratigraphical sequence in the drop shaft

On the 21st of October a final visit was made to the site in which the lower stratigraphical sequence of the drop shaft, including natural deposits, was observed. Figures 19 and 20 show the NW section which was cleaned and recorded as a representative sample (the top of this was viewed the previous day and can be partly seen in figure 18).

The orangey-brown silty clay layer (7) could be seen at this point extending down from at least 2.93m below ground level to 3.49m below ground level. Below this was the dark grey-brown silty clay layer (8) which extended down to 3.85m below ground level. Below these two layers of made ground the natural orangey clay (12) was seen, first appearing in the SW section at a level of 9.75mOD and extending down to 4.28m below ground level.

The pit [10]/(11) cut into (7), (8) and (12), extending down at the SW extent of the section to approximately 4.05m below ground level. As can be seen in figure 19 this pit included charcoal as well as chalk inclusions.

Below (12) was a natural deposit of gravels and sand (13) (most likely Taplow Gravel) which extended down to the limit of excavation observed at c.9.20mOD.



Figure 19: View of NW section of the trench and lower stratigraphical sequence of the drop shaft, facing NW, 1m scale



Figure 20: Detail of NW section of the trench and lower stratigraphical sequence of the drop shaft, facing NW, 1m scale

7 CONCLUSIONS AND INTERPRETATION

7.1 The research questions set out in the original WSI will now be considered in terms of the results of the watching brief.

7.2 *Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity, relating particularly to the utilisation of the Walbrook? If so what form does this take?*

No prehistoric finds or features were discovered during the course of the watching brief.

7.3 *Are there any finds or features associated with the Roman wall and ditch? What form do these take and at what level do these occur?*

Though no Roman features were found, several finds from that period were discovered, specifically in contexts (7), (8) and (11). In particular, (7) and (8) contained Roman brick and tile as well as medieval material which at least in the former case may suggest that the Roman building material was re-used and then dumped in the medieval period. Four pieces of Roman pottery, roughly dated between the 1st and 4th century AD were found in context (8). The predominance of Roman material in this earlier layer, combined with the fact that the degree of ware on the pottery was consistent with this being its potential primary deposition site, indicates that the context may represent an incidence of dumping outside of the city wall during the Roman period that was later disturbed during the medieval period. Later brickearth quarrying activity potentially represented by [10]/(11) and the disused 18th/19th century sewer/culvert [9] cutting in to (8) may have caused this disturbance.

Context (7) was the later context and was first encountered at a level of 2.83m below ground level (10.77mOD). Fill (11) of pit [10] produced a piece of Purbeck Marble cornice moulding which is likely a residual piece of Roman masonry that was dumped into [10]/(11).

7.4 *Is there any evidence of the medieval expansion and quarry pitting taking place in the area?*

Context (7) only produced one piece of medieval peg tile and one Roman imbrex. Unlike (8), it did not produce Roman pottery indicative of primary deposition therefore it is theorised that this is a later medieval dumping deposit with residual Roman material. (7) was also distinct from (8) in that it produced several animal bone fragments, one with a cut mark. Excavations at 119 London Wall to the south-east of the site provided evidence of tanning pits in the 12th and 13th centuries;² no direct link should be made with the activities at this site but it is at least indicative of wider industrial activity involving animal products in the area specifically in the medieval period.

² Compass Archaeology. (2016b). *A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief Fore Street, City of London, EC2Y 5EJ*.p.4

(7) was cut into by [10]/(11) which may be associated with medieval brickearth quarrying activity between the 14th and 17th century which occurred in the area.³ The fact that the feature cuts into the natural orangey-brown brickearth natural (12) adds more weight to this hypothesis. It was potentially this later activity which may have introduced medieval material into context (8).

7.5 *Are there any remains of the pre- and post-war developments previously fronting Fore Street and Moor Lane?*

The brick structure [4] and associated ceramic pipe, as well as the disused sewer/culvert [9] both must relate to the post-medieval development of Fore Street. In 1993, the Museum of London Archaeology Service conducted a watching brief on the south side of Fore Street and discovered the top of a brick-built culvert at the east end of the trench (TQ 3253 8163) which was dated to the 18th century⁴ -it is likely that [9] was associated with this structure. [4] dated to the 19th century and is likely contemporary with two 19th century brick-built arched vaults that were found at the west end of Fore Street during the same watching brief.⁵

7.6 *If encountered, what is the natural geology and at what level does it exist across the site?*

The natural geology within the drop shaft was discovered in the form of two different deposits; the later of the two was (12), an orangey clay that was first encountered at a level of 9.75mOD in the NE section of the drop shaft. Below (12) was (13), a natural deposit of gravels and sand (likely Taplow Gravel) and first appeared at a level of 9.32mOD in the NW section of the drop shaft.

Overall, the drop shaft can be interpreted as having an upper sequence of post-medieval made ground layers cut into by post-medieval services [4] and [9], as well as [9] cutting into (7) and (8), the former potentially an instance of medieval dumping and the latter a disturbed Roman dumping deposit. These two layers sealed the natural deposits (12) and (13). (7), (8) and (12) were cut into by the potential medieval brickearth quarrying pit [10]/(11).

³ Compass Archaeology. (2016b). *A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief Fore Street, City of London, EC2Y 5EJ*.Pp4-5

⁴ Gostick, T. J. (1993) 'Fieldwork Round-up.' *LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY 1992-3*. Online: < http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-457-1/dissemination/pdf/vol07/vol07_08/07_08_197_218.pdf> [Accessed: 08.11.16]

⁵ Ibid

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APPENDIX I Context list

Context No.	Description
[1]	Yellow stock brick wall
(2)	Dark beigey-brown made ground
(3)	Mid brown-beige silty clay with moderate CBM and gravel inclusions
[4]	Red and yellow stock brock structure associated with ceramic pipe
[5]	Cut associated with BT chamber
(6)	Dark grey clayey fill of [5]
(7)	Orangey-yellow silty clay
(8)	Dark grey-brown silt with occasional CBM inclusions
[9]	Red stock brick disused sewer/culvert
[10]	Cut of pit in SW corner of trench
(11)	Dark silty clay fill of [10] with moderate chalk and charcoal inclusions
(12)	Orangey-brown clay (natural)
(13)	Mid beige-brown gravels and sand

APPENDIX II: Brick, CBM and masonry report⁶

Sue Pringle

Summary

In the table below there are 11 entries of brick, CBM and masonry which in total also constitutes 11 individual elements recovered from the drop shaft on Fore Street. These range from Roman to post-medieval in date.

Context [4]

A brick sample was taken from the structure associated with a ceramic pipe observed in the SE corner of the NE section. The two bricks constituting the sample were dated roughly to the 20th century, which is consistent with their relatively shallow depth at 2.15m below ground level. They were of a dark red fabric with yellow speckling on the surface.



Figure 21: Brick from structure [4], 0.2m scale

⁶ Material analysed and table produced by Sue Pringle and summary written by Florence Smith Nicholls



Figure 22: Cross-section of brick from structure [4]

Context (7)

In the orangey silty clay deposit (7) two tile fragments were found; one an imbrex dated to the Roman period and the other a medieval peg tile dating roughly to the period 1200-1500. This would suggest that the Roman piece is residual, thus the context can tentatively be classed as a medieval deposit.

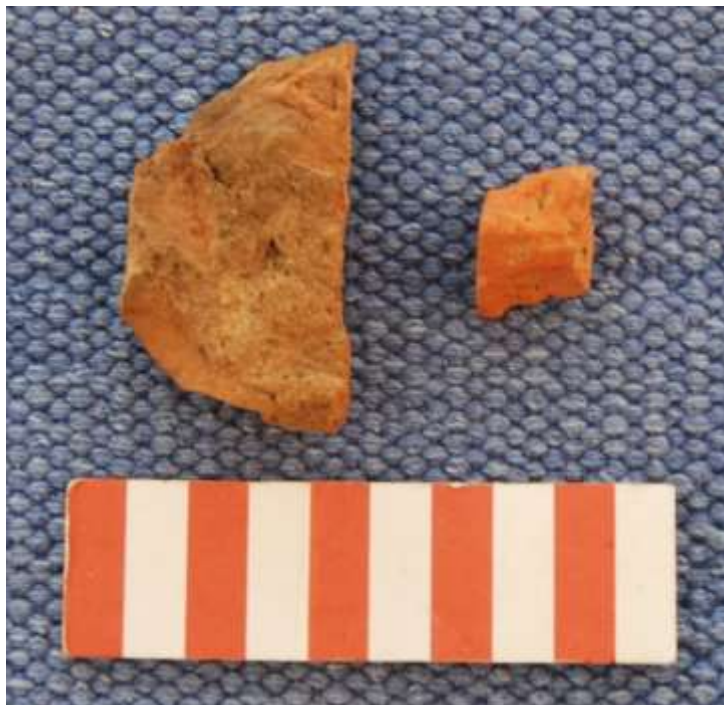


Figure 23: Fragments of Roman imbrex and medieval peg tile from (7), 0.1m scale

Context (8)

Four individual elements came from the dark grey-brown silty deposit (8) which was sealed by (7). This included a battered Roman brick with a finger arc signature; the exact function of such signatures is not known but they could represent trade-marks or perhaps served as an indicator of quality.⁷ This context also produced a Roman imbrex, another medieval peg tile and a small piece of undated Kentish Ragstone. It is possible that this latter fragment may have come from the London Wall itself as it is known to have been principally built from this stone.⁸



Figure 24: Roman brick with finger arc signature from (8), 0.2m scale

⁷ McComish, J.M. (2015) *A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials*. York Archaeological Trust Web Based Report. Report Number 2015/36. p.8

⁸ British Geological Survey. (n.d) 'Building stones of London.' Online: <
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/buildingStonesLondon/home.html>> [Accessed: 03.11.16]



Figure 25: Medieval peg tile showing decayed glaze from (8), 0.1m scale



Figure 26: Medieval peg tile from (8), 0.1m scale

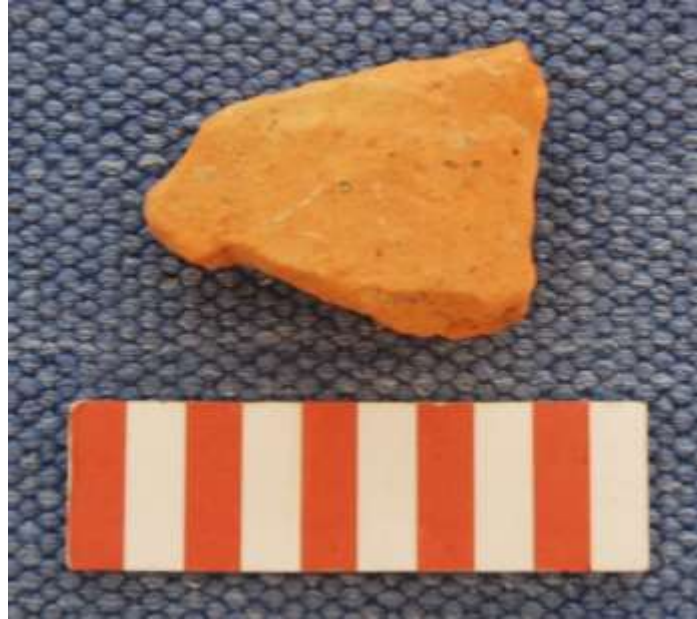


Figure 27: Fragment of Roman imbrex from (8), 0.1m scale



Figure 28: Rounded fragment of Kentish ragstone from (8), 0.1m scale

Context [9]

The brick sample from the disused sewer/culvert [9] proved interesting in that the two bricks examined are thought to originate from different post-medieval periods based on the inclusions in the fabric. As can be seen in figures 30 and 32, though the bricks have the same general fabric type one is cleaner and thus can be dated to the earlier 17th century, with its counterpart being representative of an 18th/19th century type. This would suggest that the 17th century example was reused in the later 18th-19th century structure.

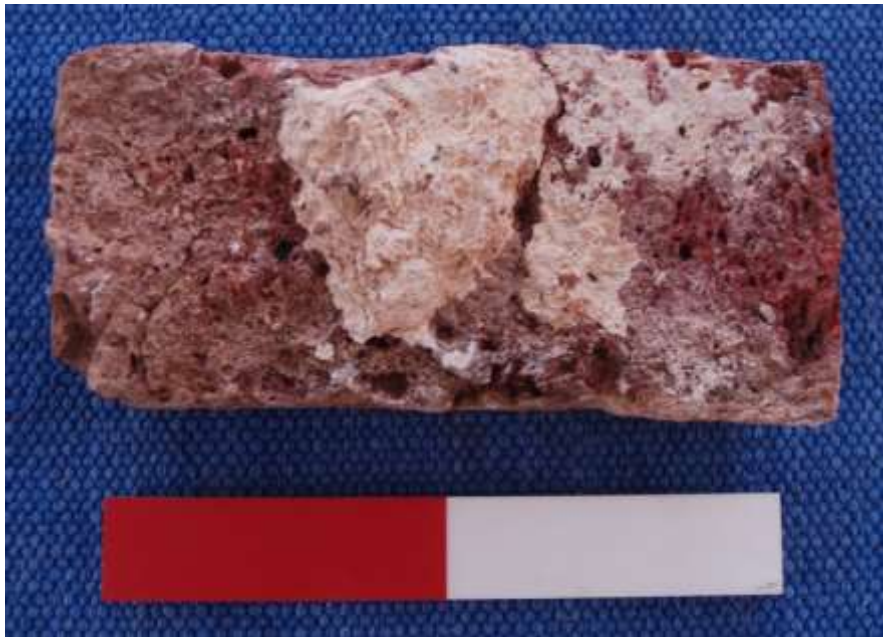


Figure 29: Brick from [9] of 18th/19th century type, 0.2m scale



Figure 30: Cross-section of 18th/19th century brick from [9]



Figure 31: Brick from [9] of 17th century fabric, 0.2m scale



Figure 32: Cross-section of 17th century brick with 'cleaner' fabric from [9]

Context (11)

Context (11), forms the dark clay-silt fill of presumed pit [10] seen in the SW corner of the NW section of the drop shaft, first appearing at a depth of 2.83m below ground level and cutting into (7), (8) and the natural clay (12). A section of Purbeck Marble cornice moulding which was decayed and very abraded was found within this context. Dated generally to 50-400AD, this piece appears to be heat-cracked and is very similar to a fragment of Purbeck marble moulding which represented a facing from the superstructure of Roman London's amphitheatre from the 1992-9 excavations at the Guildhall⁹ (only c.226m away from the site). A piece of Purbeck marble veneer of late 1st century type was also found in a midden near the remains of an excavated timber building at Leadenhall Court; given that veneers of this type were used to line the walls of masonry buildings it is not thought to have come from the timber and brickearth buildings on that site.¹⁰ Similarly, this piece of Purbeck Marble most likely originally came from a masonry structure elsewhere in the area, potentially even the amphitheatre itself.



Figure 33: Piece of Purbeck marble veneer from (11), 0.2m scale

⁹ Getty Images. (n.d.) 'Roman Amphitheatre Excavation.' Online: < <http://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/news-photo/fragment-of-purbeck-marble-moulding-representing-facings-news-photo/485455367#fragment-of-purbeck-marble-moulding-representing-facings-from-part-of-picture-id485455367> > [Accessed: 03.11.16]

¹⁰ Milne, G. and Wardle, A. 1993. 'Early Roman development at Leadenhall Court, London and related research.' *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* 44.p41

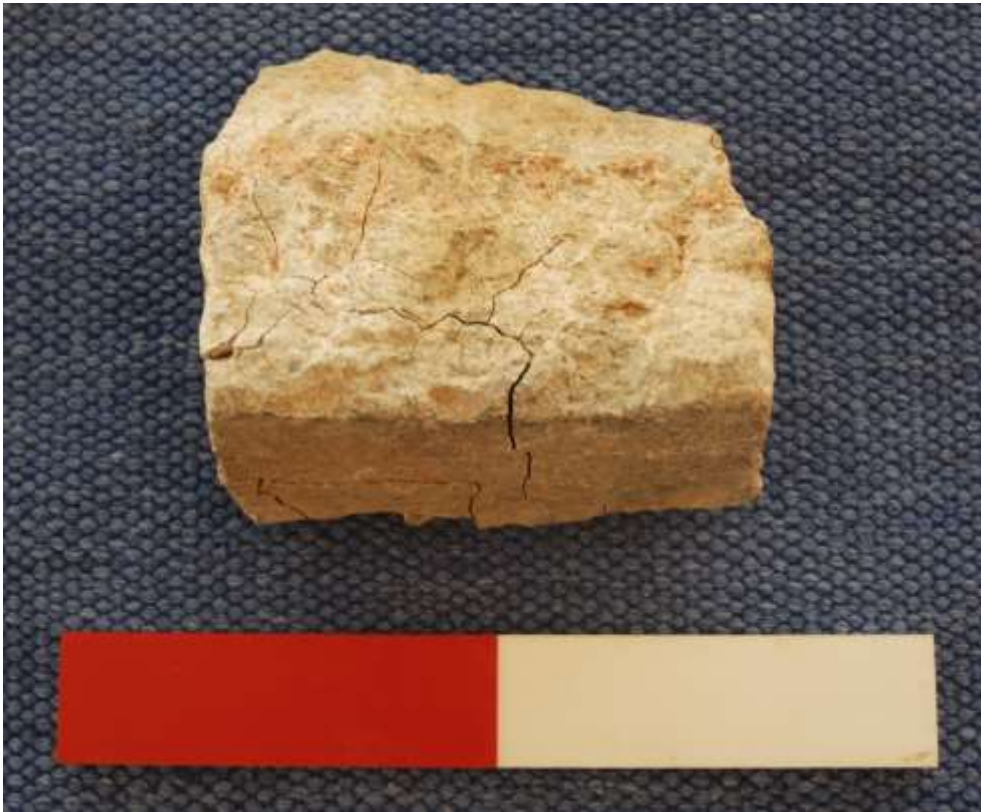


Figure 34: Piece of Purbeck marble veneer from (11) showing smooth flat surface, 0.2m scale

Overview

Overall, the results of the brick, CBM and masonry analysis indicate that [4] was a 20th century structure, [9] was an 18th/19th century structure with some re-used 17th century material. The pieces from (7) and (8) are mostly tile, with a single piece of brick and Kentish ragstone from both respectively. It is possible that the Roman material was re-used and then dumped, especially in the case of the later context (7).

The nature of [10]/(11) remains elusive as it was only partially observed in the drop shaft-given that it cuts (7) and (8) it must be later. The presence of a piece of Purbeck Marble cornice within it may also represent some Roman material that was re-used and then disposed of during the medieval period. It is possible that the heat fractures in the marble were created by the event that led to its eventual deposition in the dark fill (11), but this is purely conjecture.

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Site code	Site	Date excav	Context	Type	Fill of	Context cbm date	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight	L	B	T	Condition	Comments	Fabric notes	Illustrate	Keep	e date for type	l date for type
FST16	Fore Street	2016	4	Structure associated with ceramic pipe		1800-1900	PM	3032	brick	1	2108	228	107	66		Frog, c. 15 x 5.5 mm, shallow with stamp 'A' or 'V'. Flat sides, sharp arrises. Diagonal pressure mark on stretcher		?	x	1800	1900
FST16	Fore Street	2016	4	Structure associated with ceramic pipe		1800-1900	PM	3032	brick	1	2244	235	105	67		Shallow frogged base stamped 'A' or 'V'/ Overfired and distorted.		?	x	1800	1900
FST16	Fore Street	2016	7	Orangey-yellow silty clay		1200-1500	M	2271	peg	1	29	0	0	0	A, Rd			x	x	1200	1500
FST16	Fore Street	2016	7	Orangey-yellow silty clay		1200-1500	R	2815	imb?	1	5	0	0	17		Thin tile, no features		x	x	50	400
FST16	Fore Street	2016	8	Dark grey-brown silt		1200-1500	R	2815	brick	1	694	0	0	40	A, M	Battered Roman brick with part 1 side edge and part 2-finger arc signature		x	x	50	160
FST16	Fore Street	2016	8	Dark grey-brown silt		1200-1500	R	2815	imb	1	70	0	0	0	A			x	x	50	160
FST16	Fore Street	2016	8	Dark grey-brown silt		1200-1500	M	2271	peg	1	176	0	0	0	Rd	Part lower end peg with trace of decayed glaze		x	x	1200	1500
FST16	Fore Street	2016	8	Dark grey-brown silt		1200-1500	?	3105	rubble	1	125	0	0	0		small rounded fragment of Kentish Ragstone		x	x	50	1900
FST16	Fore Street	2016	9	Disused sewer		1700-1900	PM	3032	brick	1	1685	220	102	65	M	Unfrogged. Lime mortar on bedfaces and 1 stretcher. 18th/19th century type		x	x	1660	1900
FST16	Fore Street	2016	9	Disused sewer		1700-1900	PM	3032	brick	1	2125	220	105	61	M, Ru?	Unfrogged. Sides creased but flat. 2 lime mortars on both bedfaces: 1) cream/light brown with fairly coarse aggregate, overlain by 2) grey with charcoal flecks. 17th c?	Fairly fine, clean fabric, typical of London brick in 17th c.	x	x	1660	1900
FST16	Fore Street	2016	11	Fill of pit in SW corner	10	50-400	R	3112	mold	1	1109	120+	105+	60+	A, M, H	Section of Purbeck Marble cornice moulding, decayed and very abraded. 1 smooth flat surface appears to be heat-cracked. Traces of very fine light orange opus signinum mortar on 1 roughly tooled face		?	x	50	400

Table 1: Quantification and description of brick, CBM and masonry from the Fore Street drop shaft

APPENDIX III: Pottery report

Heidi Archer

The Roman pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds, weighing a total of 252g, consisting solely of coarse wares. All fragments were catalogued in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and sorted by context. Details of the form, fabric, date, use and wear were noted, along with any notable features.

The assemblage consisted of a range of artefact types, all in coarse wares, recovered from context (8). Several sherds displayed a degree of wear consistent with being in the ground for a considerable period of time, suggesting they were recovered from their primary deposition site, whilst one sherd was noted to have been accidentally scratched. Broadly, the assemblage covers the entire Roman period, from the later 1st to the 4th century, with a potential peak around the 1st-2nd century.

Summary of material

FABRIC	SHERD TOTAL
<i>Verulamium Region coarse White-slipped ware (VCWS)</i>	1
<i>Dressel?</i>	1
<i>Un sourced buff ware</i>	2
	4

The assemblage comprised coarse ware domestic vessels, including a fragment of neck and handle from a Verulamium Region coarse White-slipped ware flag (type 1B), which displayed several scratches on the exterior, deep enough to penetrate the fabric. Two sherds of heavily laminated buff vessel were recovered, taken to be from a storage jar or similar large vessel. Rills, from the wheel-throwing process are visible on the interior surface, suggesting a large, flat base. Finally, a small body fragment from a straight walled amphora was recovered from the same context. Taken to be one of the Dressel fabrics¹¹ although this cannot currently be confirmed.

No fine wares or decorated fragments were recovered, suggesting the assemblage is more indicative of domestic waste, rather than a deliberate deposition or funerary assemblage. It is likely, that due to the location of the site, the fragments may well have been discarded outside of the city wall.

¹¹ Dressel, H. (1899). Taken from the *Corpus Incriptionum Latinarum*, band XV.

Context	Fabric	Form	Count	Comments	Weight	Date
8	Verulamium Region coarse White-slipped ware (VCWS)	Flagon	1	Most likely of the ring necked variety (IB). Accretion on interior surface	46g	Mid-1st - Mid-2nd
8	Dressel	Amphora	1	Fragment of straight sided wall. Taken to be one of the Dressel fabrics, but potentially Late Roman Amphora (LRA)	36g	1st-4th century
8	Un sourced buff ware	Jar?	2	Large basal and wall fragments of a shallow/globular jar or similar. Potentially Verulamium White Ware (VER WH) fabric	170g	1st - 4th century

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



Figure 35: Fragment of WCWS from (8), 0.1m scale



Figure 36: Fragment of Dressel-type ware from (8), 0.1m scale



Figure 37: Two fragments of a possible unsourced buff ware jar from (8), 0.1m scale

APPENDIX IV: Oasis data collection form

OASIS ID: compassa1-267981

Project details

Project name	London Wall Place Scheme Drainage Works Fore Street: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	Between the 19th and 21st of October 2016 Compass Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief for drainage works located on Fore Street, City of London, EC27 5EJ, as part of the London Wall Place scheme. A single drop shaft, measuring approximately 2m by 2m and aligned NE-SW was excavated. Overall, the drop shaft can be interpreted as having an upper sequence of post-medieval made ground layers cut into by post-medieval services [4] and [9], as well as [9] cutting into (7) and (8), the former potentially an instance of medieval dumping and the latter a disturbed Roman dumping deposit. These two layers sealed the natural deposits (12) and (13). (7), (8) and (12) were cut into by the potential medieval brickearth quarrying pit [10]/(11) which produced a piece of Roman Purbeck Marble cornice moulding. The 19th century brick structure [4] and associated ceramic pipe, as well as the disused 18th/19th century sewer/culvert [9] both relate to the post-medieval development of Fore Street. [4] was first seen at a level of c.11.45mOD and [9] at c.10.47mOD. The natural geology within the drop shaft was discovered in the form of two different deposits; the later of the two was (12), an orangey clay that was first encountered at a level of 9.75mOD in the NE section of the drop shaft. Below (12) was (13), a natural deposit of gravels and sand which first appeared at a level of 9.32mOD in the NW section of the drop shaft.
Project dates	Start: 19-10-2016 End: 21-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FST16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	SEWER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Roman
Significant Finds	DRESSED STONE Roman
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON FORE STREET
Postcode	EC2Y 5EJ
Study area	4 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 532550 181631 50.941938455474 0.181663550187 50 56 30 N 000 10 53 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.85m Max: 4.4m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Florence Smith Nicholls
Type of sponsor/funding body	City of London Corporation

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London archaeological archive
Physical Archive ID	FST16
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive ID	FST16
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID	FST16
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Fore Street, City of London: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Smith Nicholls, F.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, Battersea, London, SW11 3SJ
Description	A summary of the watching brief detailing site background, known history, research objectives, methodology, and description of archaeological deposits and features recorded supplemented by illustrations and photographs.
Entered by	Florence Smith Nicholls (florence@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	9 November 2016