

**THAMES WATER ENGINEERING WORKS
ADJACENT TO N°. 86 LEADENHALL STREET, EC3A**

CITY OF LONDON

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

January 2009



C O M P A S S



ARCHAEOLOGY

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CITY OF LONDON

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**SITE CODE: TZF 08
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Abstract

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during Thames Water repair works to a 16" trunk main near the junction of Creechurch Lane and Leadenhall Street, City of London. The document forms a response to recommendations made by the Senior Planning and Archaeology Officer of the City of London for a watching brief to take place during the groundworks. A single trench was excavated and monitored between 18th and 20th December 2008.

The site was located on the northern side on Leadenhall Street and immediately east of the entrance to Creechurch Lane, at a present surface level of approximately 16.35m OD and located at TQ 33380 81127. This also lies within a designated Area of Archaeological Potential, close to several Roman buildings and roads, just to the south of the medieval Holy Trinity Priory and immediately south of the present Church of St Katherine Cree.

The trench measured c 2.8m x 1.9m in plan and was excavated below the present road surface and adjacent to the northern kerb of Leadenhall Street. The excavation was relatively shallow, reaching a maximum depth at the existing trunk main of 1.31m. There were no significant archaeological deposits or finds. Within the trench and below road make-up recent backfills were exposed around a profusion of service pipes, beneath which lay the water main. The backfill deposits were mainly sand-based with some gravel inclusions, and were all heavily reworked and mixed.

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Fig 1: A view looking west down Leadenhall Street with the trench in the foreground.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document forms a response to recommendations made by the Senior Planning and Archaeology Officer of the City of London for an archaeological watching brief, to be undertaken during excavation of a single trench at the junction of Leadenhall Street and Creechurch Lane, EC3A, City of London (Figure 3).
- 1.2 Compass Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to carry out the watching brief, acting on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd.
- 1.3 Archaeological observations were carried out from the 18th to 20th December 2008, during contractor's works to affect repair of a 16" trunk main. Coverage was determined by the length of the engineering works and the nature and extent of the exposed deposits.
- 1.4 The level of subsequent off-site reporting was determined by the site record and finds, and comprises this illustrated report with appended Oasis Data Collection Form and publication note for the *London Archaeologist* annual round-up. The site record will be deposited within the Museum of London Archive: there were no retained finds.

2. Acknowledgements

The archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Claudia Innes of the Ecology and Heritage Team, Thames Water Utilities Ltd., and the onsite works were undertaken by Morrison Utility Services. Kathryn Stubbs (Senior Planning and Archaeology Officer, Corporation of London) recommended the watching brief.



Fig 2: An overview of the site showing its relation to Creechurch Lane and Leadenhall Street. The Church of St Katherine Cree stands to the right of the picture, with the trench just to the south

3. Site Location and Geology

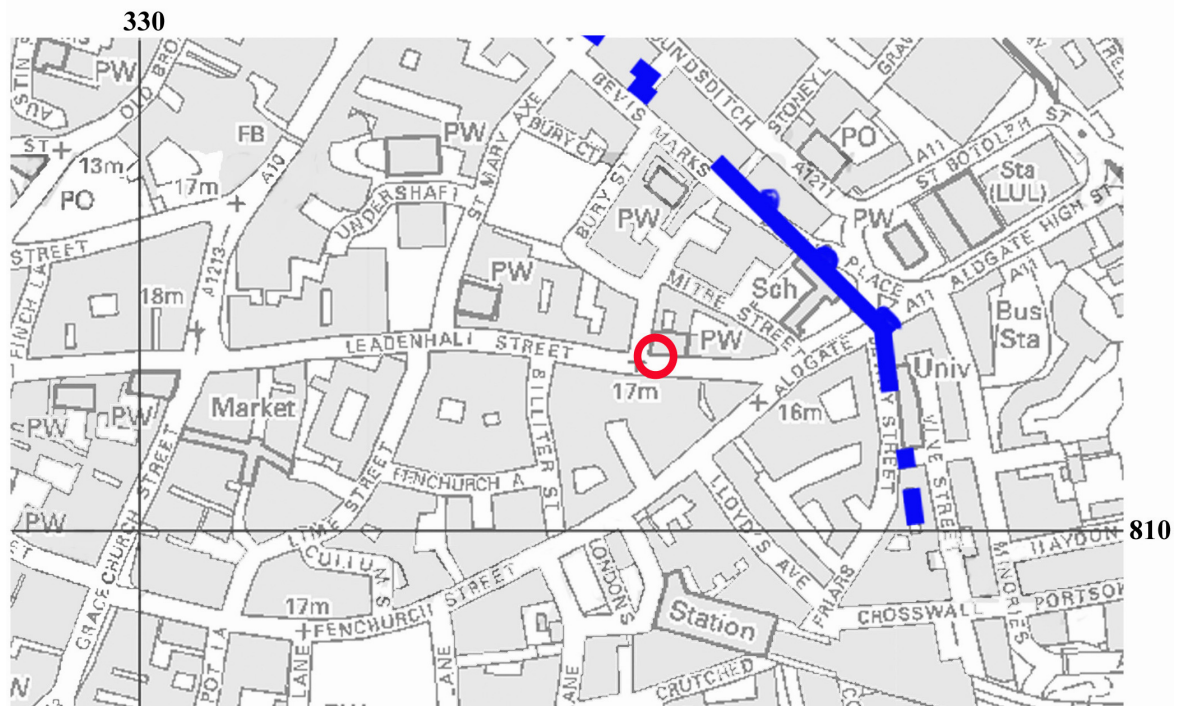


Fig 3: The site (red) in relation to the Scheduled Ancient Monument Areas covering the London City Walls (blue) – based on the Ordnance Survey 1: 5000 map.

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- 3.1** The site was located on the northern side of Leadenhall Street, just east of the junction with Creechurch Lane and outside the Church of St Katherine Cree. The existing ground surface is at a level of approximately 16.5m OD, and the trench was approximately centred at NGR TQ 33380 81127.
- 3.2** The natural ground surface in this area is recorded as geologically recent River Terrace Gravel, overlain by brickearth (British Geological Survey Sheet 256, 1994).
- 3.3** Previous archaeological investigation at 5 Billiter Street (some 75m to the west of the site location) revealed natural brickearth at just over 10m OD (site record BIC00).



Fig 4: Approximate site location in relation to the Copperplate Map of c. 1553-59.

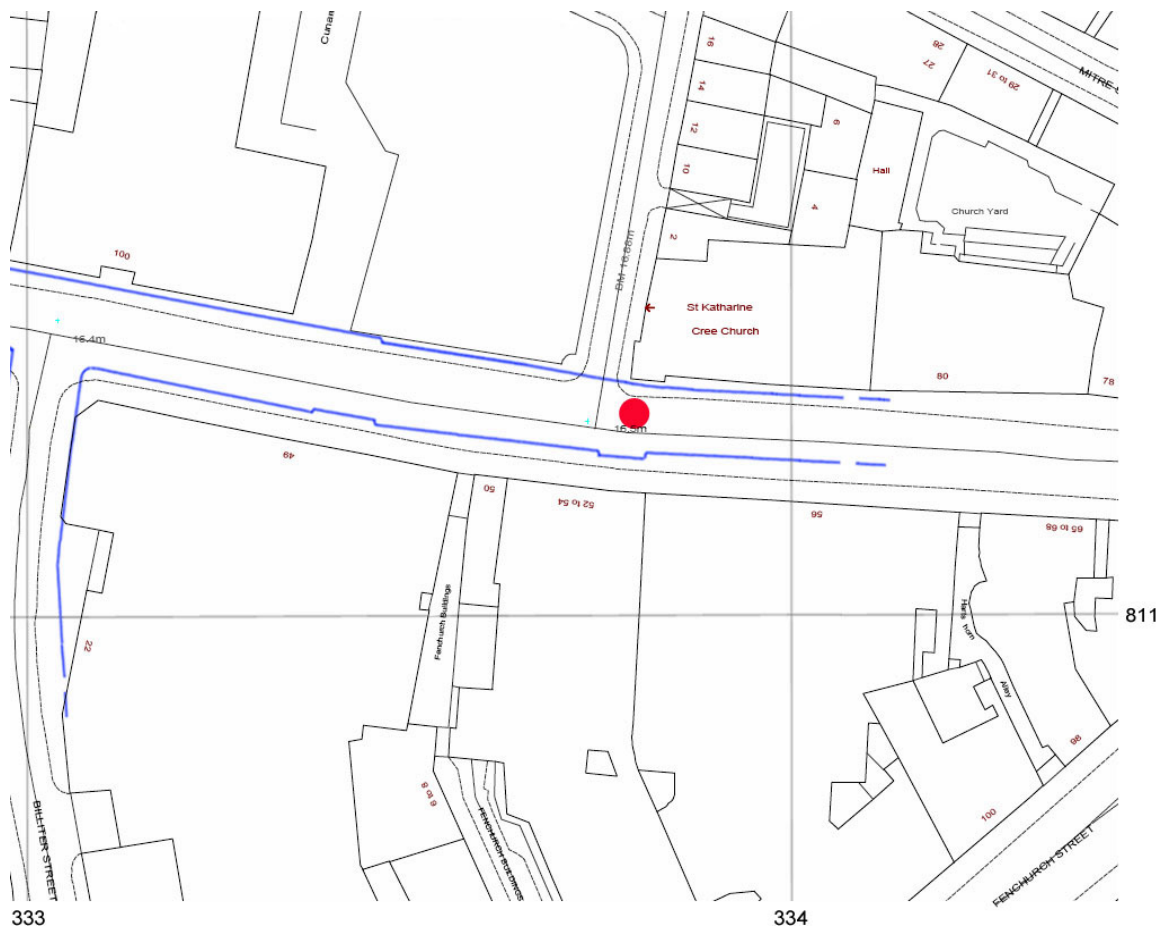


Fig 5: The site (red) in relation to the 19th century line of Leadenhall Street (blue).

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4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1** The site lies within an area of Archaeological Potential as defined by the City of London Unitary Development Plan, 2003, and near the site of the Holy Trinity Priory. It also lies some 180m west of the remains of part of the City Wall, designated a Scheduled Monument by English Heritage. The proximity to these remains, along with the City gate at Aldgate (to the east) and the Roman road leading to Aldgate, places the site within an area of significant archaeological potential.

The trench was to be excavated to the existing 14" trunk water main, through road makeup layers and at least some modern backfill deposits. The archaeological potential is therefore summed up in relation to nearby archaeological investigations, major sites of historic interest and the location of the site in relation to historic roadway.

4.2 Roman

The site lay within the eastern part of the Roman city, to the northeast of the Forum and Basilica, within the City walls and west of the easternmost gateway at Aldgate. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site have produced a variety of evidence for Roman occupation. Excavations at 34-39 Leadenhall Street and 22-28 Billiter Street (AFR73), some 50m southwest of the study site exposed two phases of Roman buildings, one of which contained a mid-2nd century tessellated floor. Approximately 40m to the northeast at 2-20 Creechurch Lane/Arbitration Hall (CRH85) c 0.8m of Roman dumped material and surfacing were revealed.

Major excavations at 80-84 Leadenhall Street (LAH88) and 78-79 Leadenhall Street (LHN89), both c 60m east of the study site, produced evidence for substantial structures and two adjoining roads of Roman date. Both sites recorded evidence for several phases of building construction and occupation, with successive phases of alteration, burning and collapse. Of the roads, the first ran on an east-west orientation just to the north of the modern Leadenhall Street, with a ditch to the south and two distinct phases of construction. The second road was orientated northeast-southwest with a timber lined drain to the west.

4.3 Medieval

The groundworks were located just south of the site of the medieval Holy Trinity Priory, founded c 1107-1108. This was the first religious house to be established inside the City walls following the Norman Conquest, and one of the earliest Augustinian houses in England. It was also the earliest religious house to be dissolved in 1532 by Henry VIII and eventually passed into the hands of the Duke of Norfolk in the later 16th century. The only surviving standing remains of the Priory buildings are located on the corner of Mitre Street and Aldgate, arches incorporated into the structure of a modern office building. Major excavations were undertaken on the site by the Museum of London between 1977-1990, recording a wealth of structural remains and associated deposits. The precinct is thought to have extended just north of Leadenhall Street to Aldgate; the existing Mitre Street and Mitre Square lie in the approximate positions of the nave and cloister of the priory church.

The works were also located immediately outside the Church of St Katherine Cree, which traces its history back to that of the Priory itself and stands in the original churchyard. Records show that the Church was appropriated by the priory before the end of the 12th century by order of Pope Innocent III. The name 'Cree' derives from a corruption of 'Christ', traceable back to at least 1280 when St Katherine Cree was used by the local parishioners as an alternative the main Priory Church, and in 1414 it became a parish in its own right. The present structure was largely built between 1628-1631, with only the tower pertaining to an earlier phase (possibly as early as 1504). The Church survived both the Great Fire of 1666 and the bombings of the Second World War and remains one of the only examples of a Jacobean church in London. Alterations were undertaken in 1805 and a long period of restoration in the 1960s.

Archaeological investigations in the area have produced evidence for numerous medieval foundations and burials associated with Priory and Church (LAH88, LHN89). Various domestic rubbish pits and other occupational debris of the period have also been recorded (AFR73, CRH85).

4.4 Post-medieval

A survey of historic maps from the mid 16th century through to the late 19th shows little apparent change in the road layout. A significant change took place in the 20th century with the widening of Leadenhall Street to the south (*cf.* Figure 5). Thus the trench (which is now in the northern carriageway) can historically be placed more nearly within the centre of the road.

5. Objectives of the watching brief

The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address several research questions:

- Potential evidence for Roman activity, including building remains/demolition material as well as residual material.
- Evidence for post-Roman activity or development preceding the establishment of Leadenhall Street.
- Evidence for activity associated with the Holy Trinity Priory and St Katherine Cree Church.
- Deposits relating to the establishment and maintenance of the road, which could include earlier surfaces and make-up levels. There may also be some evidence for contemporary drains, sewers, *etc.*

6. The Archaeological Programme

6.1 Background

The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*). Works also conformed to the standards of the

Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). A full Member of the Institute undertook overall management of the project.

6.2 Fieldwork

6.2.1 Attendance

The archaeological watching brief took place during the contractor's excavation and involved one archaeologist on site to monitor the groundworks and to investigate and record any archaeological remains. On-site work was undertaken from the commencement of groundworks on 18th December 2008 through to 20th December. The Senior Planning and Archaeology Officer was advised beforehand of the on-site start date.

6.2.2 Methodology

A Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief was agreed prior to commencement of the fieldwork. The groundworks were monitored and recorded in accordance with procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual: by agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum. The fieldwork was supplemented as appropriate by photography, and individual elements were recorded as drawings and on *pro-forma* record sheets.

6.3 Post-Excavation Work

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of this report.

6.3.1 Finds and samples

The exposed deposits were quite recent, and there were no retained finds or samples.

6.3.2 Report procedure

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client and to the Corporation of London (Senior Planning and Archaeology Officer & Guildhall Library). The level of reporting was determined by the results of the fieldwork. A short summary is also appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

6.3.3 The site archive

The records from the archaeological project will be ordered in line with Museum of London *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAARC).

7. The Archaeological Watching Brief



Fig 6: View orientated west at the top of the picture, showing the trench during excavation (*0.5m scale*).



Fig 7: This picture is orientated to the south, the trunk main lying beneath the services that are visible in the foreground.

Groundworks within the contractor's trench adjacent to the northern kerb of Leadenhall Street were monitored by an archaeologist from the 18th December 2008. The level of recording was determined by the nature of the exposed deposits beneath the road makeup layers, and as these were all negative for archaeological material a simplified recording method was employed. During monitoring exposed deposits and extensions to the trench were recorded under a set of required elements on a 'Trench Record Sheet' and supplemented with a location plan and photography. The standard recorded elements constituted length, width and depth of excavations (in metres), location, orientation, brief description and dimensions of exposed deposits, and methods/conditions. Detailed photographs were taken with an appropriately sized scale, and in general covered a section shot, overall trench shot and where appropriate wider location views.

The initial excavation consisted of a single trench measuring 2.6m x 1.9m, later extended to 2.8m x 1.9m in order to access the trunk main through the large number of services that lay above it. Initial monitoring of the site revealed road makeup layers, tarmac and concrete hardcore to a depth of 0.38m. Beneath the road makeup were various sandy backfill deposits, heavily reworked with gravel and concrete rubble inclusions prevalent throughout the trench. The trench was on average 0.74m deep, although around the actual water main excavation reached a maximum of 1.31m below the present ground surface. No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered during the course of excavation.



Fig 8: Detail of the northern part of the trench looking north: the trunk main lies at the base of the picture, and was the only area excavated to a depth of 1.31m (0.5m scale).

8. Assessment of the Results of the Watching Brief

8.1 The archaeological watching brief provided an opportunity to address the site-specific objectives defined within the preliminary Method Statement. The responses to these are outlined below:

- *Potential evidence for Roman activity, including building remains/demolition material as well as residual material?*

Throughout the watching brief no evidence for Roman activity was recovered, either *in situ* features or residual finds.

- *Evidence for post-Roman activity or development preceding the establishment of Leadenhall Street.*

There was no evidence for post-Roman activity preceding the establishment of Leadenhall Street.

- *Evidence for activity associated with the Holy Trinity Priory and St Katherine Cree Church.*

During the watching brief no evidence was uncovered relating to the Holy Trinity Priory or St Katherine Cree Church.

- *Deposits relating to the establishment and maintenance of the road, which could include earlier surfaces and make-up levels. There may also be some evidence for contemporary drains, sewers, etc.*

There was no evidence for the development or maintenance of the street, other than 20th century make-up/levelling over existing services. The services were themselves quite recent – apparently all 20th century – and there were no earlier drains, *etc.*

8.2 Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or remains were found in the trench, due mainly to the shallow depth of the water main (c 1.3m). Nor was any earlier residual /redeposited material seen, although elsewhere significant remains – particularly masonry – have occasionally been found to survive at a high level. However, it was also clear that the trench area had been heavily truncated and reworked during the 20th century, as evidenced by the large number of pipes and other services.

9. References

City of London. 2003 *Unitary Development Plan*.

Schofield, J & Lea, R, 2005 *Holy Trinity Priory, Aldgate, City of London: An archaeological reconstruction and history*. MoLAS Monograph 24.

Schofield, J, with Maloney, C (eds) 1998 *Archaeology in the City of London 1907-91: a guide to records of excavations by the Museum of London and its predecessors.....*

On-Line Sources

London Archaeological Archive & Research Centre (LAARC) archive catalogue.

Victoria Country History. 1909. *A History of the County of London: Volume 1*. British History On-Line.

Historic maps consulted

The Copperplate Map, c 1553-59 (Fig 4)

The ‘Agas’ map, c 1562

Faithorne & Newcourt, 1658

Ogilby & Morgan, 1676

Rocque, 1746

Horwood/ Faden revision, 1799 & 1813

Ordnance Survey 5 inch: mile map, 1st & 2nd Eds 1873 and 1894-96

Appendix I: Oasis Data Collection Form

OASIS ID

Project details

Project name	Thames Water Engineering Works Adjacent to No. 86 Leadenhall Street, City of London
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief took place in Leadenhall Street during repair works to a 16" trunk main. The site was located on the east side of the junction with Creechurch Lane and immediately south of St Katherine Cree Church. The trench was quite shallow (<1.3m) and heavily disturbed by previous services: no significant archaeological finds or features were observed.
Project dates	Start: 18-12-2008 End: 20-12-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TZF 08 – Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 – Highways and road transport

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Thames Water Repair Works Adjacent to No. 86 Leadenhall Street, City of London
Postcode	EC3A
Study area	5.3 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 533380 181127 50.9414641566 0.182830117698 50 56 29 N 000 10 58 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.04m Max: 16.35m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Senior Planning & Archaeology Officer, Corporation of London
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Jonathan Henckert
Type of sponsor /funding body	Thames Water Utilities

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? Yes

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London archive

Digital Archive ID TZE08

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive Exists? Yes

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London Archive

Paper Archive ID TZE08

Paper Contents 'stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','General Notes','Plan','Report'

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Thames Water Engineering Works Adjacent to No. 86 Leadenhall Street EC3A, City of London. An Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Henckert, J

Date 2009

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Description 13 page bound report detailing archaeological watching brief.

Entered by Jonathan Henckert (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 28 January 2009

Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address:	Roadway adjacent to No. 86 Leadenhall Street, City of London EC3A
NGR:	TQ 33380 81127
Supervisor:	Jonathan Henckert
Project type:	Watching Brief
Dates of Fieldwork:	18 – 20 December 2008
Funding Body:	Thames Water Utilities Ltd.
Site Code:	TZF 08

A watching brief was undertaken during repair works to a 16" trunk water main on the northern side of Leadenhall Street, just east of the junction with Creechurch Lane and immediately south of St Katherine Cree Church. No significant archaeological remains were found in the trench due to the shallow depth of the water main (c 1.3m) and to extensive disturbance of surrounding deposits by previous services.