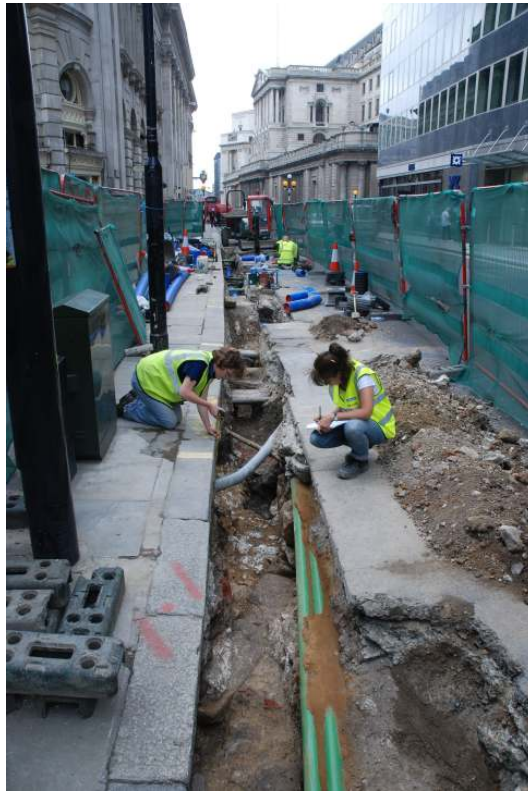


THAMES WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS

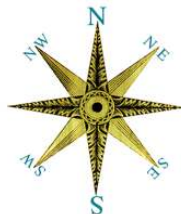
DETAILED REPORT ON THE CHURCH OF ST BENET FINK,
THREADNEEDLE STREET, CITY OF LONDON, EC2

CITY OF LONDON INTERIM REPORT NO. 32: CROUCH HILL
60 (JUNE 2009 – APRIL 2010)



December 2010

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THAMES WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS

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December 2010

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Abstract

In the course of the archaeological watching brief for the Thames Water Victorian Water Mains Replacement Project (VMR) within the area 'Crouch Hill 60' a significant archaeological discovery was made in Threadneedle Street. One section of the Thames Water trench, just to the north-east of the Royal Exchange, was investigated and recorded in July 2009. This uncovered a number of significant archaeological remains of the Church of St Benet Fink, which were subsequently recorded and left in situ (with the exception of a few brick, stone and mortar samples, stone, and some key finds).

The remains of three possible construction phases of the southern wall of the Church of St Benet Fink were uncovered. These may relate to the earliest (possibly Norman or late Saxon) Church, the 13th Century rebuild by Robert Finke, and the late 17th Century 'Wren' rebuild following the Great Fire.

The following report discusses these archaeological discoveries, in reference to their documentary and cartographic background, and the excavations themselves. The interim report for all archaeological monitoring works undertaken in Crouch Hill 60 from June 2009 to April 2010 is also included, although it should be noted that relatively few groundworks took place during the first half of 2010 and that none are taking place at the present time.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms an interim summary of the results of the archaeological monitoring work undertaken to date in Crouch Hill 60 in relation to the Thames Water mains replacement works. This report includes both a summary of all monitoring work undertaken in Crouch Hill 60 during the interim period of 8th June 2009 to 16th April 2010 (see section II), and a more focused discussion of the results of excavations in Threadneedle Street, principally on the site of the Church of St Benet Fink, in July 2009, including discussion of the documentary and cartographic sources and the excavations themselves.
- 1.2 Threadneedle Street is located in the City of London, running west off Bishopsgate and north of Cornhill. It falls within Thames Water Victorian Mains Replacement Programme Area Crouch Hill 60. The trench investigated was on the southern side of Threadneedle Street, just to the north-east of the Royal Exchange Buildings. (fig. 1)
- 1.3 On-site work took place in July 2009 following the discovery of a medieval wall during archaeological monitoring for the digging of a long trench for the replacement of the water mains.
- 1.4 The archaeological work was undertaken on behalf of Thames Water Utilities. Thanks must also go to John Brown, for his specialist assessment of the Ceramic Building Material, and Stephen Freeth, for documentary research.

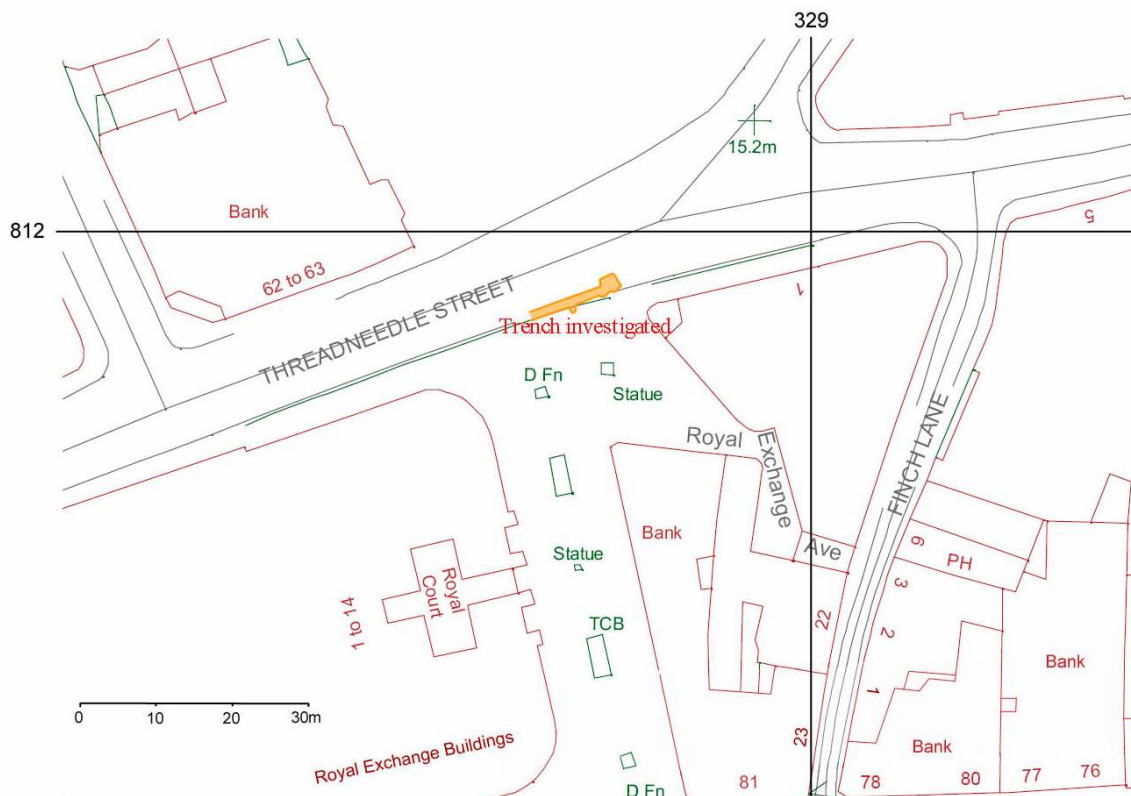
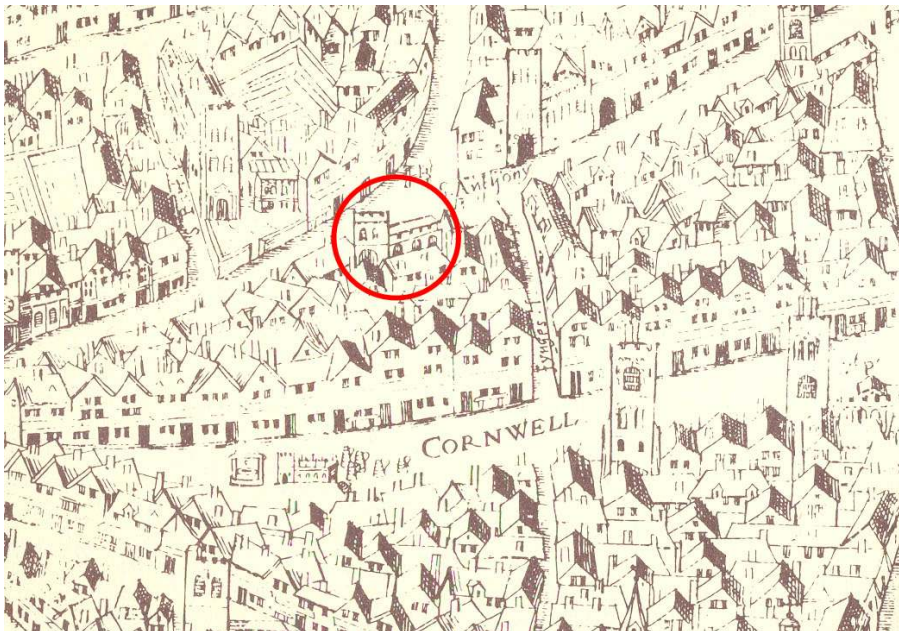


Fig. 1: Location of trench on modern OS Map

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1 The earliest evidence for occupation on this site comes from the 1854 excavation on the site of St Benet Fink Church, which uncovered a large deposit of Roman debris. This included Roman tiles, glass, and fragments of Samian ware.
- 2.2 The discovery of a 10th – 11th Century grave-slab in the graveyard of St Benet Fink suggests that the church itself may have had Saxon origins. This would explain the dedication of the church to “St Benet” – either referring to St Benedict of Nursia (the 6th Century founder of Western monasticism), or Benedict Biscop (the 7th Century founder of Wearmouth-Jarrow).
- 2.3 The earliest documentary reference to the church, however, is in 1216. In 1291, the church was referred to as “St Benedictus Fink”. The ‘Fink’ part of the name derives from the Finke family, who, according to John Stow, lived in the nearby ‘Finch Street’, in the 12th – 13th Century. Robert Finke supposedly rebuilt St Benet Church in the 13th Century, explaining the addition of ‘Fink’ to the church’s name.
- 2.4 Little is known about the church before the Great Fire. John Stow reports that it was repaired in 1433, at a cost of £400, although it is not known specifically how this was undertaken. Furthermore, the Churchwardens’ Accounts of St Benet Fink (1610-1699) provide some clues about the layout of the pre-Fire Church. The accounts up to 1621 mention a nave, two aisles (with lead roofs), some pews, a gallery, a stone tower with battlements plus bells, a porch with a lead roof, what sounds like a smaller porch of wood on the south side, two water tanks outside each aisle for rainwater, and a churchyard wall with a pentice attached to it, under which was stored fire-fighting kit. This suggests that the pre-fire church may have had a relatively conventional shape and layout. The early ‘Copperplate Map’ (fig. 2) depicts a rectangular-shaped church with a tower at its south-west end, with Leake’s plan (directly after the Great Fire) showing that the church had a rectangular ground-plan (fig 3).



*Fig. 2:
Copperplate Map,
1553-59
(with
church
circled)*

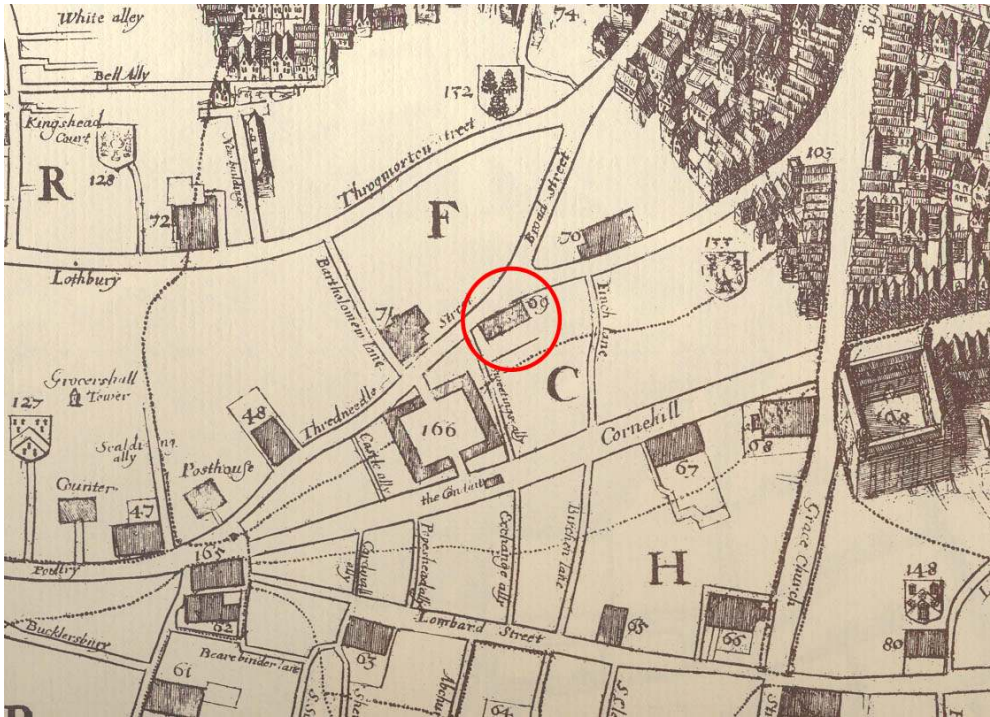


Fig. 3: Leake's Plan, 1676 (with church circled)

- 2.5 The church was destroyed in the Great Fire, in 1666.
- 2.6 The church was then rebuilt after the fire. The decision to begin this was taken by the parish vestry on the 26 April 1670. The foundation stone was laid on 1 December 1670, with the whole church being completed by 1681.
- 2.7 The church was rebuilt by Thomas Cartwright, reputedly using Christopher Wren's design. It is possible, however, that a design by Hooke was used, because of the Dutch elements incorporated into the design.
- 2.8 It was a slightly unusual design for a Wren church, particularly in its shape. It was an elongated decagon, with internal measurements of 19.46m by 12.65m. This unusual shape may have been because the curve of the street necessitated this, and because the earlier north-west corner of the church had been taken for road widening. The east-west orientation of the church also changed slightly, rotating counter-clockwise. A hexagonal barrel-vaulted nave was placed within the church, with a square stone tower (110 feet) located at the west end, surmounted by a dome and cupola. The whole church was constructed of brick and rubble and was faced with Portland stone.

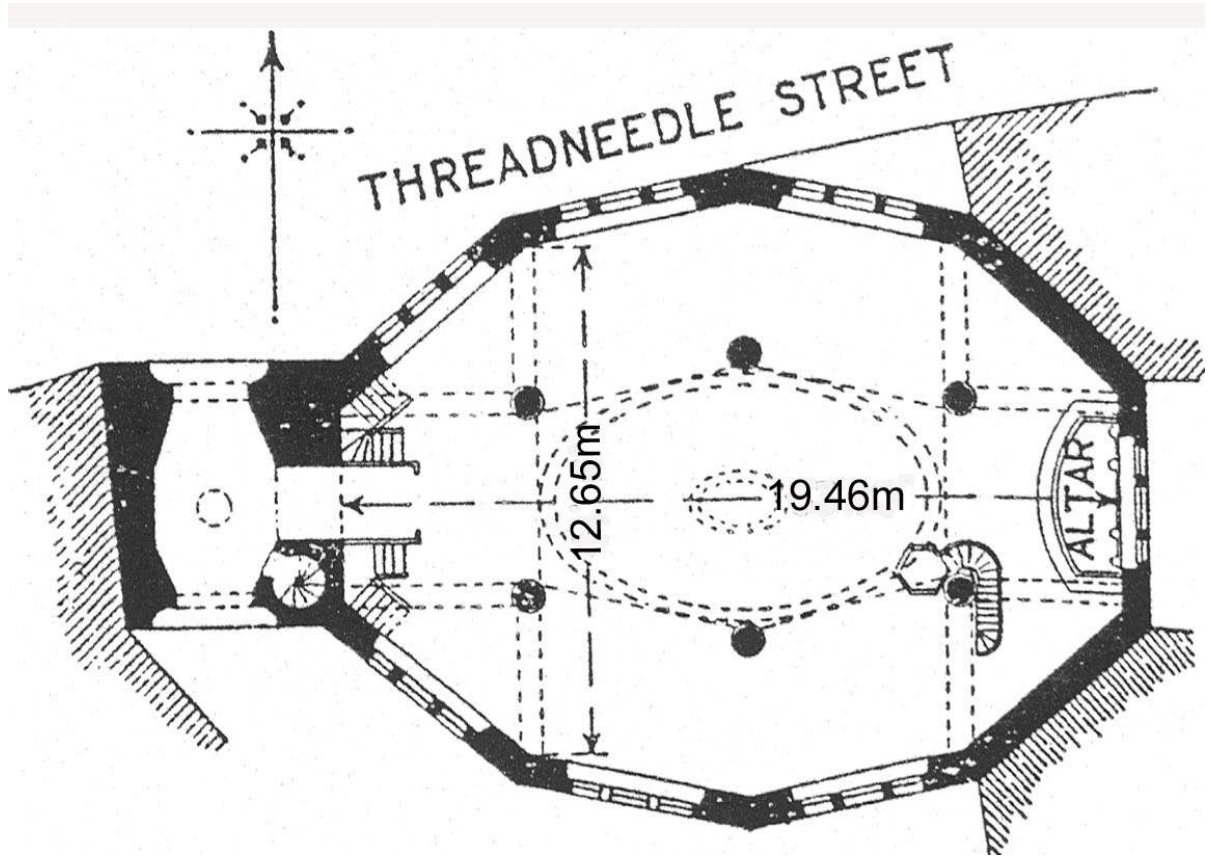


Fig. 4: Ground-plan of St Benet Fink (the 'Wren Church') (from Fletcher, B, 'A History of Architecture') (with measurements changed to metres)



Fig. 5: Ogilby's Map, 1676 (with church circled)



Fig. 6: Morgan's Map, 1682 (with church circled)

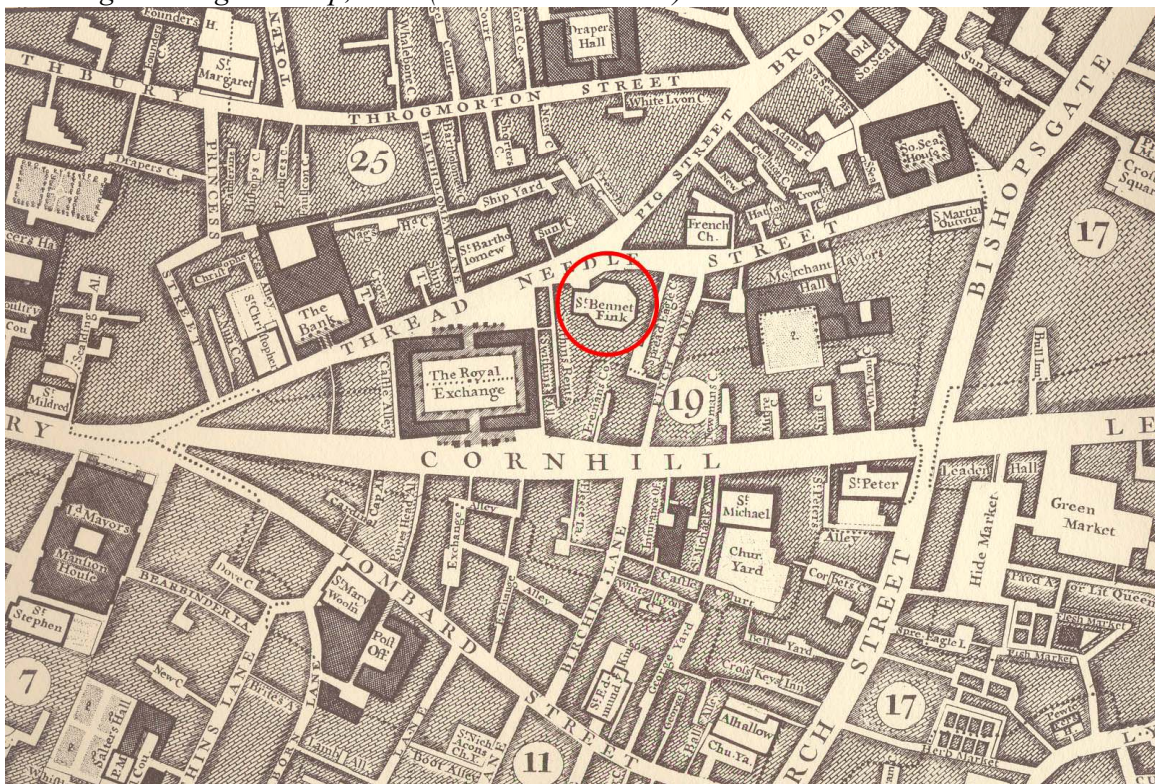


Fig. 7: Rocque's Map, 1746 (with church circled)

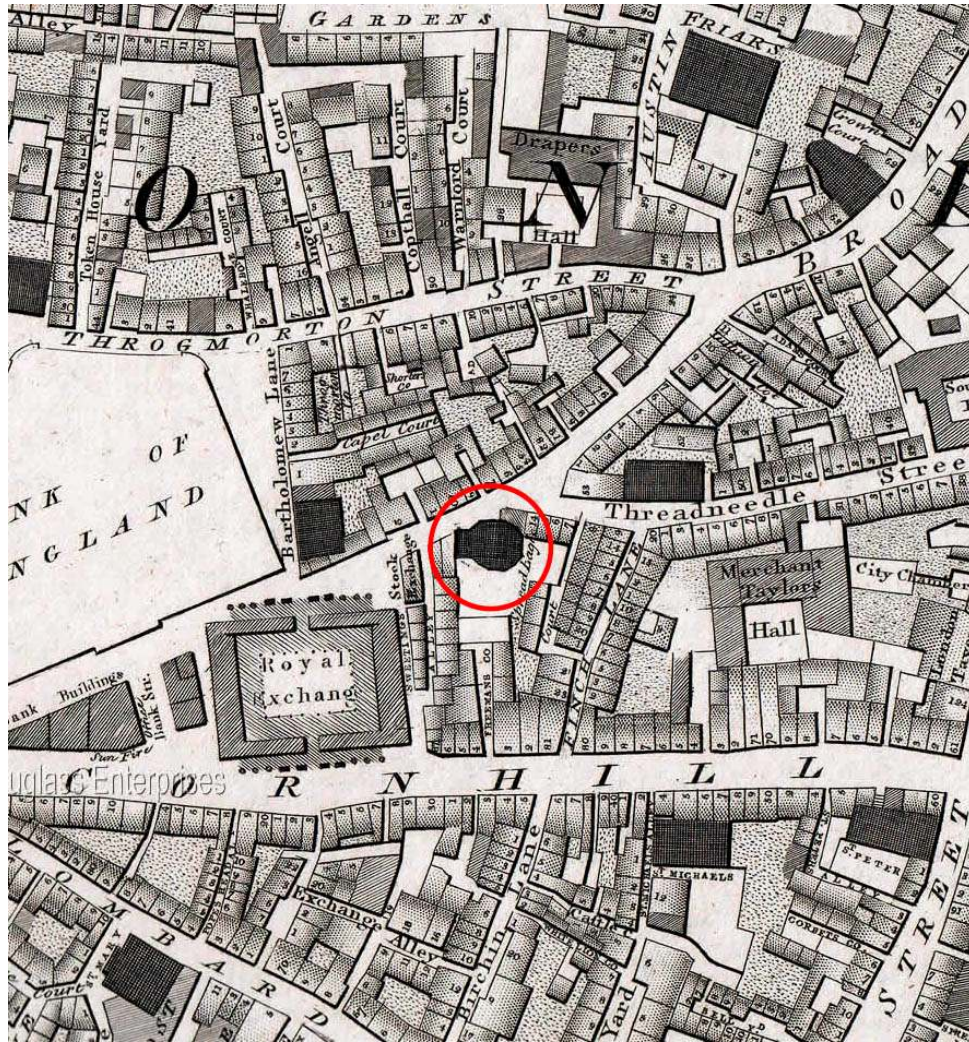
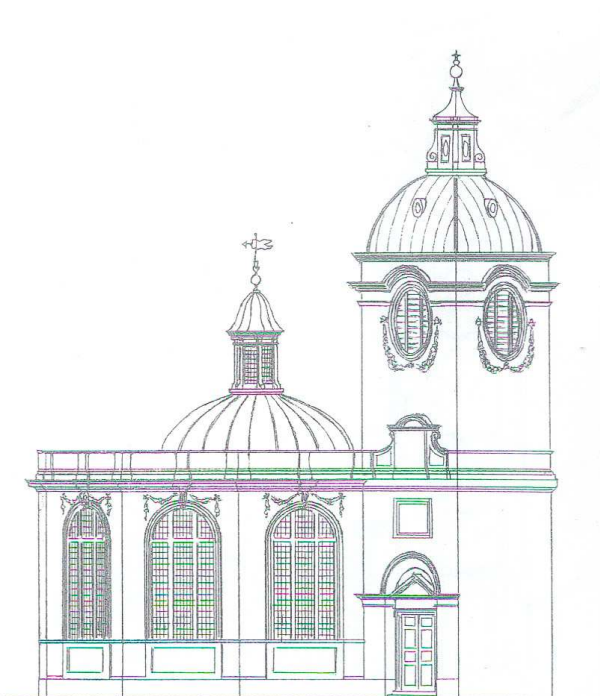


Fig. 8: Horwood's Map, 1792-99



St Benet Fink: Threadneedle Street frontage (diagonal view)

Fig. 9: Diagonal view of Threadneedle Street frontage, showing St Benet Fink (the 'Wren Church')

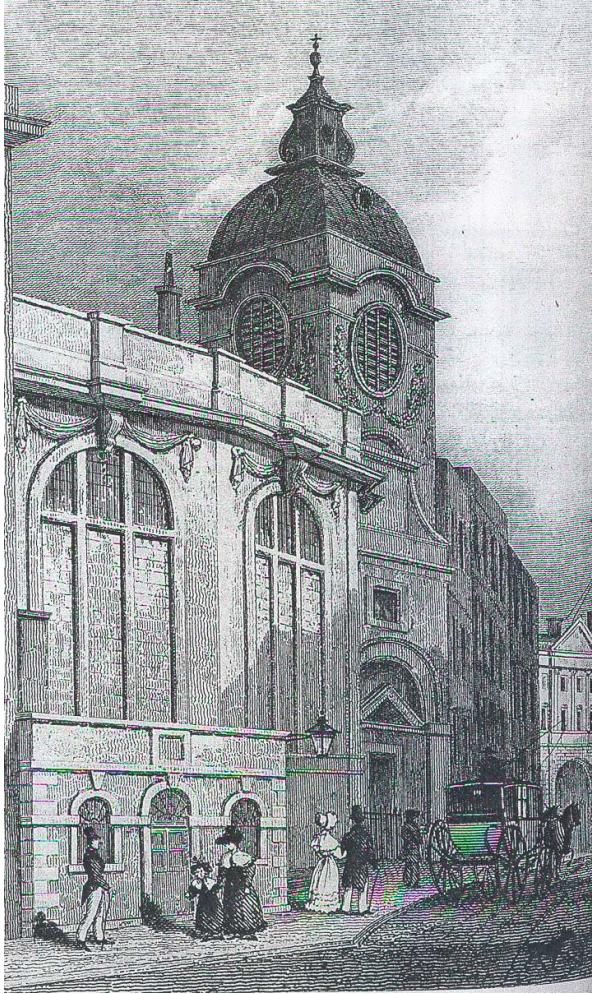


Fig. 10: Drawing of St Benet Fink (the 'Wren Church'), Shepherd 1829

- 2.9** The total cost of rebuilding the church was £4129. The parish deposited £500 with Chamber of London, with the interior being adorned with the help of a gift from George Holman (a Roman Catholic) of £1000.
- 2.10** In 1838 a fire destroyed Royal Exchange. The plans for the rebuilding of this led to the destruction of the church of St Benet Fink. At first the Corporation obtained parliamentary approval to take part of the churchyard and demolish the steeple, which led to the west wall acting as a new entrance. This did not last long, and an 1846 Act of Parliament empowered the Corporation to demolish the rest of the building. This was partly because of the desire to widen the road, which accompanied the building of the new Royal Exchange.
- 2.11** The parish was then united with St Peter le Poer. From part of the proceeds of the sale a new church of St Benet Fink was erected in Tottenham. The furniture and other items of the church were auctioned off at a public auction with the location of many items now unknown (an exception being the paintings of Moses and Aaron which are now at Emmanuel School in Wandsworth).

3. The Archaeological Programme

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 for Archaeologists ('IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs'). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute. The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual.

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 Methodology

Exposed deposits were recorded and cleaned in stratigraphic sequence. The principal groundworks were described on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and related to the general site plan and to the OS grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by digital photography.

3.2 Post-Excavation

3.2.1 The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment of finds and samples, and by compilation of this report.

A short summary of the project is appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

4. The Archaeological Investigation

The results of the investigation are described below:

4.1 Trench 1

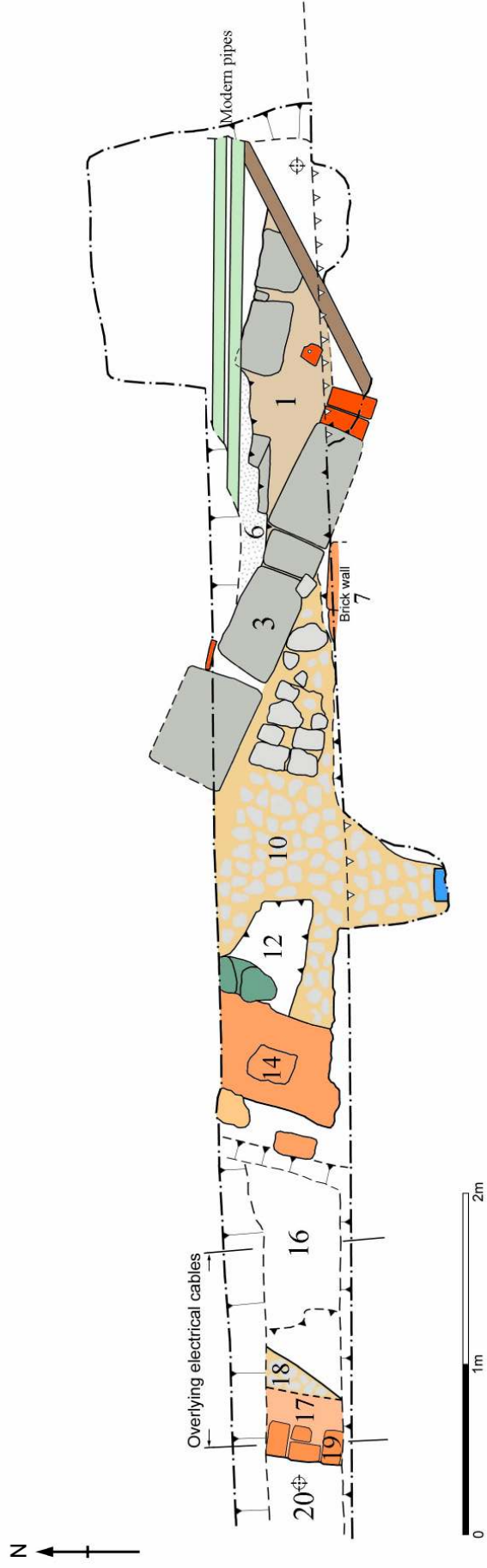


Fig. 11: Plan of trench

This trench was located on the southern side of Threadneedle Street, to the west of Finch Street and just north-east of the Royal Exchange. The investigated section of the trench was approximately 8m long (east-west) by 1m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.5-0.75m.

The archaeological contexts encountered in this trench are described in the table below:

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Mortar and stone rubble wall-core. Set within yellow mortar with lime fragments. Large fragments of tile with opus signinum on tile faces (identified by brick specialist as Roman in date). One decorated flue tile (sooted effect consistent with use in a hypocaust; clam-scoring with 7 teeth on the external face). Brick fragments (identified by brick specialist as Roman in date). Large flint nodules. Large flat-topped greensand block. Large roughly-hewn fragments of ragstone (c.45cm in length) on eastern edge. Roughly parallel to wall (3).	Possibly part of the earliest southern wall of the church of St Benet Fink, which re-used Roman material (as the mortar on the Roman tiles, ID15, show that they were re-used). Part of the same construction as wall (3), with large ragstone fragments possibly forming the northern (internal) edge of the wall.
2	Cut for 1. Only visible on eastern side.	Shows that context 1 (wall-core) is contemporary with wall (3) and part of the same construction.
3	Large limestone-faced wall-footing. At least four large blocks visible (average size = 60cm). Single course. Set on string bed of reused Roman tiles (identified by brick specialist) (visible in deeper cut to the east). Large greensand block (11) overlay northern ragstone block, although probably not <i>in situ</i> .	Possibly part of the external facing of the southern wall of the earliest church of St Benet Fink. Part of the same construction as wall-core (1). Re-used Roman material.
4	Small modern cut. Containing 19 th Century fill. Removal of fill revealed second course of wall (3).	Cut possibly relates to nearby cast-iron pipe.
5	Cut line of wall (3).	
6	Chalk rubble block wall-core. Large chalk blocks in a concreted grey/cream lime mortar with very occasional black flecks. Overlies (1). Mainly recorded in section.	Possibly part of southern wall-core of the early church of St Benet Fink. Although different in construction (stone and mortar) to wall-core (1), it may still have been contemporary to this and part of the same construction.

7	Brick wall. Bright red and orange handmade bricks, with sunken margins and uneven bases. Approximately 110mm (width) by 65mm (thick). Rough courses. Very occasional large flint inclusions (0.5-1cm). Set within a mottled grey-lime mortar with large frequent lime inclusions, ash and brick dust, and large fragments of charcoal and flint. One oyster shell and one poultry bone uncovered. Overlies chalk wall (6).	Later brick wall (brick specialist suggests late 17 th – early 18 th Century date). Only seen in southern section. Bricks may have been re-used in the 19 th Century and associated with services.
8	Dark earth pit fill. Overlies wall (7).	
9	Crushed chalk layer. Overlies chalk blocks (10).	Part of same construction as wall-core (10).
10	Large soft chalk blocks. Generally rectangular blocks, measuring approximately 26cm X 16cm. Set within yellow coarse lime-sand mortar. A bit of this overlies northern limestone of wall (3). A large quernstone fragment (possibly Roman) was uncovered.	Apparently part of southern wall-core of the church of St Benet Fink. Part of a later extension / change in layout of church, from contexts 1 / 3 / 6? Possibly 13 th Century rebuild by Finke? Brick-specialist dates the mortar to a medieval – Tudor date.
11	Large greensand block, from chalk rubble wall (6).	Not <i>in-situ</i> , and unlikely to relate to any specific phase of church construction. Possibly part of 19 th Century demolition, and associated refilling.
12	Dark brown pit fill (silty soil with occasional roof tile, mortar, residual Roman amphora fragment, floor-tile dating from 1330-1390, and ceramic building material flecking).	Possibly a later cut into wall-core (10). Alternatively, it may have been contemporary in date to wall-core 10, as is relatively regularly rectangular in shape, with no obvious indications that it was cut through the chalk wall-core (10). May have originally held a timber post?
13	Cut for rectangular pit (12).	
14	Brick structure. Up to 1.07m wide (east-west). Falls c.20cm, and on either side continues below the limit of excavation.	Brick specialist dates bricks to c.1730-1830. Bricks may have been re-used, and been part of a north-south 19 th Century vaulted brick drain.
15	Cut for brick wall or drain (14).	

16	Disturbed and reworked demolition debris deposit with modern inclusions to west of brick wall or drain (14). Consists of chalk flecks, mortar, pebbles, sand, brick fragments, brick dust, ceramic building material, yellow mortar chunks, bone, concrete, iron pipe.	Modern demolition debris. Truncates archaeology in this area – possibly truncates contexts 10 and 18.
17	Chalk and occasional brick rubble. Set within loose sandy mortar, with occasional charcoal flecks.	Probably associated with brick wall (19). Brick-specialist dates bricks to late 17 th – early 18 th Century.
18	Chalk rubble in soft yellow sandy mortar	Possibly continues to east of trench (under 16, which truncates earlier deposits) – possibly the same as 10 – possibly part of southern wall-core of church of St Benet Fink from later (13 th Century?) rebuild? Brick-specialist dates the mortar to a medieval – Tudor date.
19	Red brick wall. At least 5 courses. Rough facing.	Later than 10/18. Possibly part of the western wall of the Wren rebuild of the church of St Benet Fink (17 th Century)?
20	Demolition rubble type fill to west of brick wall (19). Within yellow sandy mortar and white lime mortar. Large broken fragments of flint, ragstone, ceramic building material, tile. Cuts through all archaeological deposits to west of wall (19).	Modern demolition debris, surrounding a large service chamber slightly further to the west.

4.1.1 The eastern wall-core (1) is part of the same construction as wall (3), with the large roughly cut ragstone fragments uncovered on the north side of wall-core (1) possibly forming the parallel edge to (3). This is because these fragments are located approximately 0.75m to the east of wall (3) and are on the same alignment. The limestone-facing of wall (3) was far more obvious than the fragments uncovered in wall-core (1), but it is possible that (1) was part of the internal wall line, and less obvious because of this.

Earlier Roman material was reused in the construction of this wall. A string of Roman tiles was uncovered beneath the limestone blocks of wall (3). Similarly, tiles with opus signinum adhered to their faces were uncovered in wall-core (1). The reuse of such Roman material suggests an early, possibly pre-Norman, date for the construction of this part of the church.

The chalk rubble-block wall-core (context 6) uncovered in the north-eastern part of this trench, just behind wall (3) and above and to the north of (1) is

subtly different to the wall-core (1) which forms the rest of the interior of this wall. It consists of large chalk blocks in a concreted grey-cream lime mortar, in contrast with wall-core (1), which consists of stone rubble within a yellow mortar. This does not, however, necessarily suggest that it was part of a different phase of construction of the wall. It is possible, instead, that slightly different building materials or methods were used in the construction of the same wall at the same time.

Both wall-core (1) and (6), however, are distinctly different from that on the western side of the limestone wall-facing (3) (context 10). This consists of large chalk blocks set within a coarse yellow sandy mortar. This suggests that wall-core (10) is of a different construction phase to wall-core (1) and (6). Moreover, (10) abuts what must have been the originally exposed southern face of the limestone blocks (3).

It is possible that, together, wall-core (1), wall-core (6), and the limestone wall-facing (3), may have formed the southern wall of the church of St Benet Fink. This may have been part of the earliest church, before the 17th Century Wren rebuild, and possibly even before Robert Finke's 13th Century rebuild. When the approximate layout and location of the pre-17th Century Church (taken from Leake's 1676 plan) was overlaid onto the modern OS Plan and compared with the location of features within the trench, it would appear that this corresponds most closely with the southern wall of the pre-17th Century church of St Benet Fink. Care must, however, be taken with this conclusion as error may have occurred in this, both when undertaking the map regression, and in the compilation of Leake's 1667 Map.



Fig. 12: Approximate location of pre-17th Century Church (taken from Leake's 1667 plan) and trench on modern OS Map.



Fig. 13: View of wall (1) and (3) in the foreground, and context (6) looking west



Fig. 14: Close-up view of wall-facing (3) and context (6) looking west

4.1.2 Wall-core (10) consists of chalk blocks set within a coarse yellow sandy mortar. A layer of crushed chalk (9) was recorded overlying this.

The differing characteristics of the wall-core uncovered on the western side of the limestone wall-facing (3) (context 10), and those on the eastern side (contexts 1 and 6), suggest that they were constructed at different times. A small part of wall-core (10) was visible overlying the northern-most limestone block of (3), suggesting that wall-core (10) was later in date to the wall-facing (3) and associated wall-cores (1) and (6), and followed removal of most of the original facing down to the basal course represented by (3).

Furthermore, a similar type of material was uncovered at the western end of the trench, just to the east of the brick wall (context 18). This consisted of similar chalk blocks in a yellow coarse sandy mortar. It seems likely, therefore, that contexts 10 and 18 were originally part of the same feature. This was probably truncated at a later date by a variety of features, including the probable brick-drain (context 14), and the modern demolition debris (context 16), which appears to truncate all of the archaeology in this area.

Within wall-core (10) was a patch of darkish pit-fill (12). This may have been cut at a later date. Alternatively, the fact that it was relatively regularly rectangular in shape, with no obvious indications that it had been cut through the chalk wall-core (10), suggests that it may have been contemporary to the construction of the wall-core (10) itself. If so, this would suggest the existence of some form of pit or posthole in the centre of the wall-core. The possible function or reason for this is unknown.

It is possible that feature (10/18) was also part of the southern wall of the pre-17th Century Church of St Benet Fink, as its location and alignment also fits with Leake's 1667 plan as plotted onto the modern OS Map (fig. 12), and because the mortar is dated to a medieval – Tudor date. It is possible that this was part of a later widening of the southern wall, added onto the earlier wall (contexts 1, 3 and 6). This is supported by the fact that part of the later wall-core (10) was recorded as overlying part of the limestone wall-facing (3), suggesting that the original wall may have been incorporated into the later wall when it was widened. This widening may have been part of Robert Finke's 13th Century rebuild of the church. It could be postulated, furthermore, that the widening of the southern wall was because it formed part of the foundation of the church tower (which, according to early maps such as the 1550s Copperplate Map, fig. 2, was located at the south-western end of the church).



Fig. 15: View showing contexts 17-20 (foreground) and 10, looking east along trench



Fig. 16: View of context 10, showing it being truncated by brick-drain (context 14)



Fig. 17: View showing difference between contexts 1 (foreground) and 10

- 4.1.3** A small red brick wall facing was uncovered at the western end of the trench, at least 5 courses deep, and running north-south across the trench (context 19). Directly to the east of this, and associated with it, is a patch of chalk and brick rubble, set within a loose sandy mortar (context 17). This abuts context 18.

It is probable that this wall (19) and associated chalk and rubble patch (17) is later in date than context 18, thought to have been part of the pre-17th Century extension of the southern wall of the church of St Benet Fink. Context 17 and 19 may therefore have been constructed after the destruction of the pre-17th Century Church in the 1666 Great Fire, as otherwise would have been located within the church or crossing the southern wall on an unexpected alignment.

It can be postulated, therefore, that this brick wall may have been part of the late 17th Century ‘Wren-rebuild’ of the church, following the Great Fire. This is supported by the dating of bricks from context 19 to the late 17th – early 18th Century. When the approximate layout and location of the Wren Church (taken from Rocque’s 1746 Map and Horwood’ 1792-99 Map) was overlaid onto the modern OS Plan and compared with the location of features within the trench, it would appear that the brick wall (19) could have been the western wall of this later Church, at its south end. Care must, however, be taken with this conclusion as error may be present in this, both in the map regression exercise, and particularly in the compilation of Rocque’s and Horwood’s Maps.

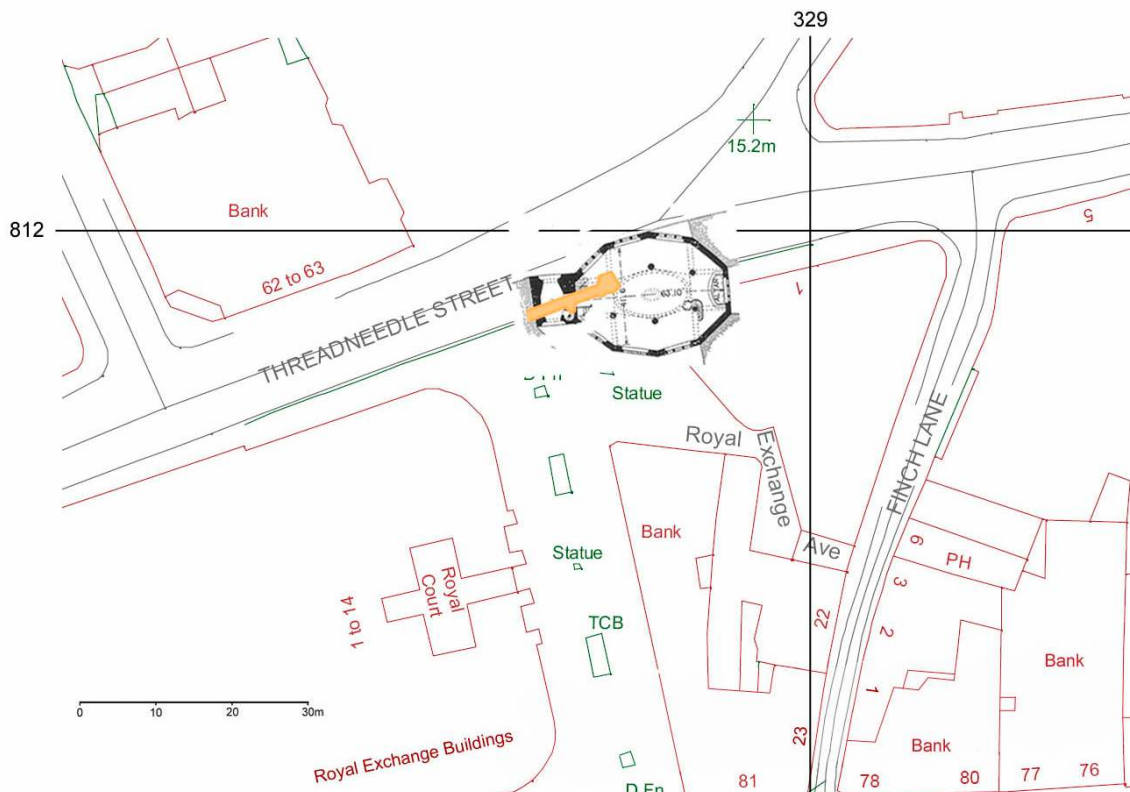


Fig. 18: Approximate location of Wren Church (taken from Rocque's 1746 Map and Horwood's 1792-99 Map) and trench on modern OS Map.



Fig. 19: View of brick wall (19) looking east

4.2 Trench 2:

4.2.1 Another trench was recorded to the west of trench 1, on the southern side of Threadneedle Street and just to the north-west of the Royal Exchange and opposite the Bank of England. This uncovered a red-orange brick wall set within an off-white lime-sand mortar, running north-south at a slightly oblique angle to the western front of the Royal Exchange, uncovered approximately 0.62m below the pavement. This wall measured approximately 0.88m wide and 1.09m deep, although the base was not exposed during excavation. It consisted of at least 15 courses.

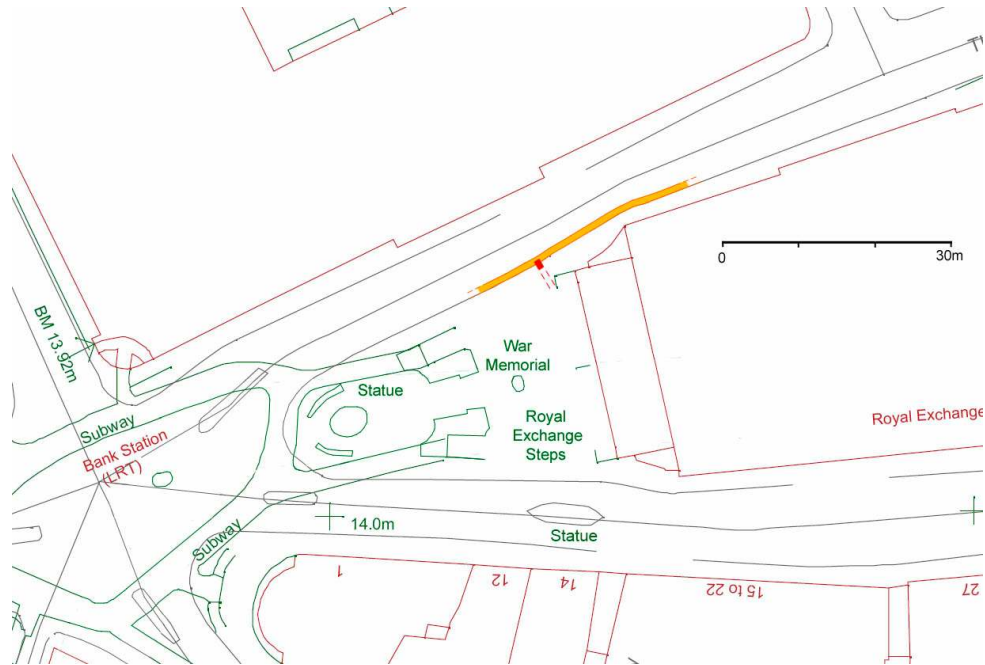


Fig. 20: Location of second trench recorded on modern OS Map.



Fig. 21: Photo of wall in trench 2

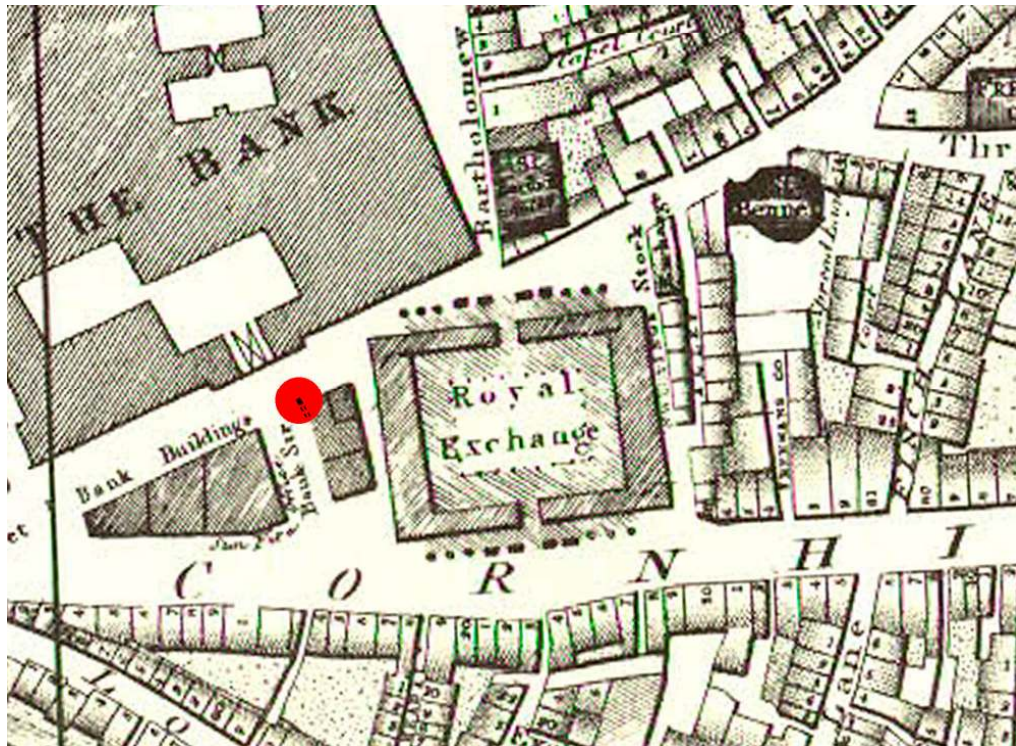


Fig. 22: Location of second trench and wall on Horwood's Map, 1792-1799.

4.2.2 The structure is likely to be part of a basement/external wall. Examination of brick samples by a specialist (John Brown) suggest that they consisted of fabric 3034, and date from the late-17th to mid-18th Century. Contemporary map evidence (fig. 22) indicates that the associated structure was part of the block adjacent to the Sun Fire Insurance offices and immediately to the west of the old Royal Exchange.

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1 The watching brief and subsequent investigation revealed a number of significant archaeological deposits, all of which were appropriately recorded and left *in situ*.

The investigations revealed evidence for the probable southern wall of the church of St Benet Fink. It is possible, furthermore, that these investigations revealed evidence for three different phases in the construction of this church – the pre 13th Century Church (contexts 1, 3 and 6), Robert Finke's 13th Century rebuild (contexts 10 and 18), and the 17th Century 'Wren' rebuild (contexts 17 and 19). This therefore covers three important phases in the church's life, and reflects how the earliest, possibly Saxon, Church was rebuilt and extended, possibly to include the construction of a tower, in the 13th Century, and how the layout of this Church was substantially changed after the Great Fire with the 'Wren rebuild'. This theory cannot be definitively 'proved' due to the lack of dating evidence and the difficulties associated with the map-regression process, but it does fit with all of the documented evidence.

6. Bibliography

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Appendix I - London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address: Threadneedle Street, EC2
Project type: Watching brief and Field Investigation
Dates of Fieldwork: July 2009
Site Code: TZL 09
Supervisor: Geoff Potter
NGR: TQ 3280 8110
Funding Body: Thames Water Utilities

An investigation of a section of a trench along the southern part of Threadneedle Street was undertaken in July 2009 after the discovery of a medieval wall during a watching brief of the area, undertaken in relation to the Thames Water Victorian Water-Mains Replacement Programme.

This uncovered the remains of the southern wall of the Church of St Benet Fink, possibly relating to three different phases in the construction of the church. The earliest remains may date from before the 13th Century, followed by evidence for possible 13th Century widening of the wall undertaken by Robert Finke, and then evidence for the 17th Century 'Wren rebuild' following the Great Fire, when the church was constructed on a different alignment and in a different shape.

Appendix II – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: compass1-82113

Project details

Project name	St Benet Fink
Short description of the project	An investigation of a section of a trench along the southern part of Threadneedle Street was undertaken in July 2009 after the discovery of a medieval wall during a watching brief of the area undertaken in relation to the Thames Water Victorian Water-Mains Replacement Programme. This uncovered the remains of the southern wall of the Church of St Benet Fink, possibly relating to three different phases in the construction of the church. The earliest remains may date from before the 13th Century, followed by evidence for possible 13th Century widening of the wall undertaken by Robert Finke, and then possible evidence for the 17th Century 'Wren rebuild' following the Great Fire, when the church was constructed on a different alignment and in a different shape.
Project dates	Start: 02-07-2009 End: 06-07-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Early Medieval
Monument type	WALL Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	QUERNSTONE Roman
Significant Finds	BONE Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CHALK Medieval
Significant Finds	LIMESTONE Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON St Benet Fink, Threadneedle Street
Study area	8.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 328 811 51.5126991537 -0.08600975753750 51 30 45 N 000 05 09 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Development Manager-Historic Environment, City of London
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Name of sponsor/funding body	Thames Water Utilities

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London archaeological archive
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Map','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Detailed Report on St Benet Fink, Threadneedle Street; Interim Report on Crouch-Hill 60 (June 2009 - April 2010)
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jeffery, E
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5 - 7 Southwark Street, SE1 1RQ
Description	Detailed report on excavations on the site of St Benet Fink, Threadneedle Street. Round-up of all archaeological monitoring work undertaken in the area Crouch-Hill 60 during Thames Water Mains Replacement Project.

Entered by	Emma Jeffery (emma.jeffery@ukonline.co.uk)
Entered on	7 December 2010

Appendix III: Ceramic Building Material Report (John Brown)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Weight (in grams)</i>	<i>Dimensions (in mm)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Other comments</i>
1	19	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	1502	109 (width) X 55 (depth)	Late 17 th – early 18 th Century	Overfired
2	19	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick with sunken margins	1506	59 (depth)	1450-1700	Possibly bedded on straw
3	10	3101		Mortar (yellow-grey lime-sand mortar)			Medieval - Tudor	
4	18	3101		Mortar (brown-yellow lime-sand mortar)			Medieval - Tudor	
5	3	2815	Roman	Tile (3 pieces)	2275		Re-used Roman tile, in medieval wall?	Re-used Roman, as tile has lime-sand mortar on it
6	12		Roman	Amphora			Roman (residual)	
7	12	1811	Medieval	Glazed floor-tile - abraded Penn fabric	78		1330-1390	
8	7	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick, with sunken margins and an uneven base	3230	226 (length) X 108 (width) X 63 (depth)	Late 17 th – early 18 th Century	
9	7	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	1974	106 (width) X 62 (depth)	Late 17 th – early 18 th Century	Mortar includes bottle-glass fragment
10	3	2815	Roman	Tile (2 pieces)	2740		Re-used Roman tile	Re-used Roman, as tile has lime-sand mortar on it

11	3	2815	Roman	Tile (2 pieces)	64			Re-used Roman tile	Comb-scored curvilinear signature mark or key pattern
12	14	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	788	105 (width) X 68 (depth)	c.1730-1830		
13	14	3032	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick	724	65 (depth)	c.1730-1830		
14	14	3033	Post-Medieval	Unfrogged brick (2 pieces)	2605	104-110 (width) X 60-63 (depth)	Second half of 18 th Century		Earlier fabric but with later mortar (re-used in later structure?)
15	1	2815	Roman	Tile (7 pieces)	3270		Re-used Roman tile		Re-used Roman, as tile has lime-sand mortar on it
16	1	2815	Roman	Brick (2 pieces)	1308		Roman		
17	1	2815	Roman	Box-flue tile (2 pieces)	864		Roman		Sooted effect is consistent with use in a hypocaust; external face has clam-scoring with seven teeth

II: CITY INTERIM REPORT CROUCH HILL 60 (8TH JUNE 2009 – 16TH APRIL 2010)

Archaeological monitoring has continued on all mains replacement works across Crouch Hill 60 in the City of London. Regular visits have been made to all sites where groundbreaking has occurred, and a standard written and photographic record taken where applicable. The vast majority of sites have exposed nothing of archaeological significance, usually consisting of road makeup layers, intrusive service backfill and made-ground deposits.

This interim report follows on from Interim 29, which covers all archaeological monitoring undertaken in the City of London from 9th March – 7th June 2009, although it should be noted that relatively few groundworks took place during the first half of 2010, and none at the present time. What is described below does not include anything in Crouch-Hill 60 after the 16th April 2010, and specifically not the remains of the church of St Bartholomew in Bartholomew Lane because this is yet to be completed. A report on this will be completed in due course after work has recommenced.

Threadneedle Street (excluding detailed report on site of St Benet Fink etc above):

Approximately 24m of trenching was observed on the south side of Threadneedle Street, running east-west outside No.1 Threadneedle Street. The trench measured an average of 0.58m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.02m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying brown sandy backfill-deposits, with frequent gravel inclusions and moderate ceramic building material inclusions. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Another 11m of trenching was observed on the south side of Threadneedle Street, running east-west between No.26 and No.28 Threadneedle Street. The trench measured an average of 0.58m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.02m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying silty brown made-ground deposits with frequent gravel and ceramic building material inclusions. No archaeological finds or features were observed.



Fig. 23: View of Threadneedle Street trench (made-ground deposits under road-surface)

18m of trenching was observed on the south side of Threadneedle Street, running east-west between No.29 Threadneedle Street and No.34 Royal Exchange. The trench measured an average of 0.7m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.98m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying pink crushed gravel (MOT Type 1). No archaeological finds or features were observed.

A further 35m of trenching was observed on the north side of Threadneedle Street, running east-west between No.62 and No.63 Threadneedle Street. The trench measured an average of 0.7m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.98m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying sandy grey-brown made-ground deposits, with frequent gravel inclusions. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Eldon Street:

Approximately 17.5m of trenching was observed on the north side of Eldon Street, running east-west across Finsbury Avenue. The trench measured 0.74 - 3m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.53m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying dark-brown silty made-ground deposits, with moderate gravel inclusions and being cut by sandy yellow service-backfill. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

A further 25m of trenching was observed on the north side of Eldon Street, running east-west, west of the junction with Finsbury Avenue. The trench measured 0.8 – 1.2m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.2 – 1.4m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, along with paving slabs, overlying clay-silt made-ground deposits, with frequent ceramic building material inclusions, and yellow sandy service-backfill. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

12m of trenching was observed on the north side of Eldon Street, running east-west outside No.60 Eldon Street. The trench measured an average of 0.7m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.4m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying grey-brown sandy made-ground deposits, with occasional ceramic building material and gravel inclusions. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Throgmorton Street:

14m of trenching was observed on the north side of Throgmorton Street, running east-west opposite No.29 Throgmorton Street. The trench measured an average of 0.62m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.7 – 1.2m below the existing road surface. Paving bricks and a concrete hardcore was exposed, overlying dark-brown sandy made-ground deposits, with frequent gravel and ceramic building material inclusions, and being cut by sandy yellow service-backfills. No archaeological finds or features were observed.



Fig. 24: View of Throgmorton Street trench (made-ground deposits cut by services under road-surface)

Another 12m of trenching was observed on the north side of Throgmorton Street, running east-west between No.30 Throgmorton Street and Angel Court. The trench measured an average of 1.6m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.97m below the existing road surface. Paving bricks overlying a sand and concrete bedding was exposed, overlying mid-brown sandy made-ground deposits, with frequent gravel inclusions and moderate ceramic building material inclusions, and having been cut by both Victorian and modern services. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

23m of trenching was observed on the north side of Throgmorton Street, running east-west across Angel Court. The trench measured 0.8 - 3m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.4m below the existing road surface. Paving bricks over a sand and concrete bedding was exposed, overlying sandy grey-brown made-ground deposits, with frequent gravel inclusions and having been cut by services. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Approximately 14m of trenching was observed on the north side of Throgmorton Street, running east-west from No.67 Throgmorton Street to Throgmorton Avenue. The trench measured an average of 0.78m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.06m below the existing road surface. Paving bricks overlying a sand and concrete bedding was exposed, overlying mid-brown made-ground deposits with gravel and ceramic building material inclusions. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Approximately 1.2m of trenching was observed on the north side of Throgmorton Street, running east-west opposite Throgmorton Avenue. The trench measured 1.2 – 1.5m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying made-ground deposits with service-backfills. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

3.8m of trenching was observed on the south side of Throgmorton Street, running east-west opposite No.30 Throgmorton Street. The trench measured an average of 1.4m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying made-ground deposits with service-backfills. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Austin Friars:

Approximately 8m of trenching was observed on the west side of Austin Friars, running north-south outside No.27 and No.28. The trench measured an average of 0.8m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.2m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying grey-brown made-ground deposits, with frequent gravel inclusions and having been cut by services. No archaeological finds or features were observed.



Fig. 25: View of Austin Friars trench (made-ground deposits cut by services under road-surface)

A further 2.3m of trenching was observed on the south side of Austin Friars, running east-west outside No.29. The trench measured an average of 0.5m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.87m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying sandy brown made-ground deposits, with gravel and ceramic building material inclusions. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Wilson Street:

3m of trenching was observed on the west side of Wilson Street, just north of the junction with Lacrington Street. The trench measured an average of 2.4m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.8m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying made-ground/service-backfill deposits with a relatively modern brick-drain. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

A further 2.8m of trenching was observed on the east side of Wilson Street, running north-south outside No.36 Wilson Street. The trench measured an average of 0.6m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.35m below the existing road surface. Paving slabs overlying a sand and concrete bedding was exposed, overlying pink crushed stone (MOT Type 1). No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Angel Court:

A single pit on the east side of Angel Court, approximately mid-way along the court, and measuring approximately 4m in length, 2m in width, and 1.65m in depth, was observed. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Old Broad Street:

Three areas of open-cut trenching, in the form of connection pits, at the north end of Old Broad Street, adjacent to the east kerb, were observed. They measured approximately 10.5m X 0.56m X 0.87m. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying made-ground and modern services. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Another 10.5m of trenching was observed at the junction with Wormwood Street, on the east side, running north-side. It measured 0.56m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.87m below the present road-surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying made-ground and modern services. No archaeological finds or features were exposed.

Copthall Avenue:

Several small pits on the west side of Copthall Avenue were observed. Three at the north end had been backfilled, whereas two others were being opened. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Token House Yard:

20m of trenching was observed on the west side of Token House Yard. The trench measured an average of 4m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.8 - 1m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying silty made-ground deposits, with gravel and ceramic building material inclusions, and having been cut by services. No archaeological finds or features were observed.



Fig. 26: View of Token House Yard trench, looking towards the Bank of England

Cornhill:

Approximately 6m of trenching was observed on the northern side of Cornhill, at the junction with Finch Lane. The trench measured an average of 0.7m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1m below the existing road surface. Tarmac and existing hardcore was exposed, overlying modern deposits and road make-up. No archaeological finds or features were observed.