

**An Archaeological Evaluation and Geotechnical Watching
Brief at
11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 8JT**

**NGR: 53026 18094
(TQ 3026 8094)**

Pre-Application

**ASE Project No: 7155
Site Code: FLO 15**

**ASE Report No: 2015054
OASIS id: archaeol6-203784
LAARC, Accession No: FLO 15**

**Author
Sarah Ritchie
With contributions by Gemma Ayton & Elke Raemen
Illustrations by Justin Russell**

February 2015

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Capital and Counties to undertake the archaeological evaluation and geotechnical watching brief at 11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, Westminster, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site pre planning application.

The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of 5 Archaeological Pits (AP) and 6 Geotechnical Test Pits (TP). Archaeological remains were observed within AP5, in the form of the base of a post medieval red brick wall and the base of a deep cut post medieval pit.

Natural sands and gravels were located within the north-west of the site (TP4) at 19.42m OD. Overlying the sands and gravels was natural Brickearth, horizontally truncated by the existing building, which was observed at 19.49m OD within the north-east corner of the site (TP3), rising up to 20.15m OD within the north-west of the site (TP4). The Brickearth was also observed in AP5 at a height of 20.01m OD and TP5 at 20.06m OD.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Capital and Counties to undertake a pre-application archaeological evaluation and geotechnical watching brief at 11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, Westminster (Figure 1, NGR: TQ 3026 8094).

1.1.2 The site comprised a sub-rectangular plot bounded by pavements lining Floral Street to the north, Numbers 10 and 13 Floral Street to the east and west and 41-43 King Street to the south.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The geology comprised Hackney Gravel formation capped by Brickearth. Four key sites were used for modelling the level of the natural Brickearth on the site: 35 King Street, Cubitt's Yard, 33 Floral Street and St Paul's churchyard. 35 King Street and Cubitt's Yard confirm that the natural ground surface slopes gradually from 19.75 m OD in the northeast to 19.25 m OD in the southwest, whereas the slope northwest to southeast – following the river terrace down to the Thames – is more dramatic, from 20.30 m OD in 33 Floral Street down to 17.60 m OD in St Paul's churchyard. At 35 King Street, the Brickearth sloped from c. 19.4 m OD in the north of the site down to c. 18.2 m OD in the south, giving a slope of approximately 1:30. These levels are affected by Middle Anglo-Saxon occupation, but not by subsequent truncation, and together they imply that the natural Brickearth at 11-12 Floral Street would have lain at between 19 and 20m OD, sloping from the northwest of the site down to the southeast. This corresponds to the truncated natural Brickearth encountered at 40-42 King St, at 18.28 m OD.

1.2.2 Ground level on the south side of Floral Street is located at c. 22.87m OD, sloping south to King Street at c. 21.25m OD. The ground floor of Nos. 11 and 12 Floral Street is located at c. 23.10m OD. No. 11 has a basement floor level which varies between 18.80 and 20.09m OD. No. 12 Floral Street's basement is located at c. 20.31 m OD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment (ASE 2013) identified high potential for the survival of Saxon and post-medieval deposits, which, although likely truncated by the existing basements, had the potential to survive for up to a metre below them. Consequently it was concluded in consultation with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken, and any geotechnical works be monitored by an archaeologist, in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological material. These works were carried out prior to the planning application being submitted.

- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation was also prepared (ASE 2014) and was approved by the Gillian King of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) on behalf of the local planning authority. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2013) GLAAS (GLAAS 2014) and English Heritage (English Heritage 2008).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation and geotechnical watching brief carried out on the site between the 20th January and 5th February 2015. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2014).
- 1.4.2 The site work was carried out by Sarah Ritchie and Richard Krason, and was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological information is drawn from the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ASE 2013).

2.2 Listed Buildings

2.2.1 There are 70 Listed Buildings within the study area, including 12 Floral Street itself (Grade II listed).

2.3 Conservation Areas

2.3.1 The site is located within the Covent Garden conservation area as designated by Westminster City Council.

2.4 Areas of Archaeological Potential

2.4.1 The site lies within the Lundenwic and Thorney Island area of special archaeological priority as defined by the City of Westminster's Unitary Development Plan (Policy DES 11). This notes the importance of remains relating to the mid Anglo-Saxon trading settlement centred on what is now Covent Garden.

2.5 Archaeological Background

2.5.1 The area surrounding the site has so far yielded sporadic evidence for prehistoric activity, mainly consisting of isolated finds. Although one probable prehistoric settlement site is known c. 160m to the southeast of the site, most evidence for this period is likely to have been removed by later activity.

2.5.2 An un-retouched Lower Palaeolithic flake is known from Floral St, 50m northeast of the site

2.5.3 The line of the River Thames was established at the end of the Palaeolithic period. At this time, the site would have consisted of a lightly wooded area to the north of the Thames. Although erosion has removed much of the land surface relating to this period, two palaeochannels are known from the vicinity.

2.5.4 The site is located 1.5km from the Roman city of *Londinium*, from which main Roman roads ran west several hundred metres to the north and south of the site. However, only isolated Roman finds have been found in the vicinity of the site, in re-deposited contexts.

2.5.5 The site encompasses the northern part of the middle Anglo-Saxon settlement of *Lundenwic*, the population and economic centre of London from the 7th to the 9th centuries AD. Rich archaeological evidence for buildings, industrial activity, traded goods, pits and road surfaces has been found immediately adjacent to the site on Floral Street and King Street. This material is of central importance for our understanding of the development of

London and of the emergence of, and links between, similar trading settlements ('wics') across England and north-western Europe in the early medieval period.

- 2.5.6 The majority of the sites within the vicinity of the site have been rich in middle Anglo-Saxon archaeology, particularly those around Covent Garden Piazza and the Royal Opera House, c. 200 m from the site, which was bounded to the north by a large v-shaped ditch in the 9th century (Malcolm and Bowsher 2003). Long Acre, a similar distance northeast of the site, has also revealed significant evidence for Middle Anglo-Saxon occupation, and is likely to have been a major east/west route through the settlement. Excavations on Floral Street and King Street have produced similarly rich archaeology, including building, industrial activity, traded good, pits and road surfaces.
- 2.5.7 The abandonment of *Lundenwic* towards the end of the 9th century is commonly marked in the archaeological sequence by a layer of 'dark earth', which represents the decay of the old settlement and subsequent agricultural activity in the Late Anglo-Saxon period (Cowie and Blackmore 2012, 113, 209-10). Dark earth is present at several sites within the area, including at 36 King Street, adjacent to the site.
- 2.5.8 Following the abandonment of *Lundenwic*, the Covent Garden area was used for agricultural purposes until its enclosure by the Convent of St Peter. Floral Street marked the northern boundary of the Convent Garden, within which the site lay. It contained arable land, orchards, meadow, pasture and market gardens, and was leased out by the Abbey to a succession of private individuals from 1465 until it came into the hands of the king after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 (Sheppard 1970).
- 2.5.9 Covent Garden was rapidly and intensively developed from the mid-17th century onwards, with the piazza and surrounding streets – including what is now Floral Street – laid out by Inigo Jones between 1630 and 1641, and St Paul's church constructed. Hollar's 1650 view of the site and Morgan's 1682 map (not reproduced) show these new houses fronting onto King Street and Floral Street behind, with open gardens or yards in between. Structures related to this development have been identified in several locations adjacent to the site, although the standing buildings in the immediate vicinity of the site are of 18th and 19th century date. This was the first planned housing scheme in London, and was to be enormously influential upon the layout and Classical architecture of much of Georgian and Regency London (Summerson 1962). Initially a wealthy and fashionable area, the establishment of the market in the garden of Bedford House in 1656, which then occupied the south side of the Piazza, and its subsequent growth, was a factor in the desertion of Covent Garden for new planned streets and squares in St James' during the later 17th century.
- 2.5.10 Floral Street was known as Elm Street until the 18th century, after the Mercers' property at adjacent Elm Close, and subsequently Little Hart Street, until it gained its present name in 1895. Its northern side was defined by a brick wall erected c. 1610 to bound the development area; its southern side was formed by the mews properties of King Street. In 1720, John Strype described it as 'not over well built or inhabited; the South Side being for the

greatest part taken up by Coach-houses and Stables belonging to the Houses in Covent Garden' (Strype 1720, 93). It is therefore likely that the site originated as the stables of nos 41-41 King Street, although there would have been a house on the site of no. 12 by 1751 when a schoolmaster is recorded as its resident (Sheppard 1970, 180-2). John Roque's 1746 map (not reproduced) shows the site in a schematic fashion, but Horwood's map of 1799 shows the house at no. 12 Floral Street, and that the yards and gardens between the buildings on King Street and Floral Street were still open at this time.

2.5.11 In the 1820s a school for the parish of St Paul's, Covent Garden, was established at 12 Floral Street, presumably in continuation of the schoolmaster's premises recorded there in 1751. The premises was rebuilt in 1838 in an Italianate style to the designs of E. H. Brown of Beaufort Buildings, and the school operated until the expiry of its lease in 1899. Thereafter, until 1919, it was used as 'St Paul's Institute', a club for Covent Garden market workmen (Sheppard 1970, 180-2; Donald Insall Associates 2013).

2.5.12 The 1875-9 first edition OS map of the site shows dense building on the site, which by then had filled in much of the former yards and gardens, cutting off the old arrangement of residential streets with linked mews behind. The school at 12 Floral Street is shown, as is the 'Covent Garden Hotel' extending back from 43 King Street.

2.5.13 The 1916 map of the site shows the establishment of St Paul's Institute in place of the school at number 12, and the conversion of 43 King Street from a hotel to a club. The site was unaffected by bombing during the Second World War (Saunders 2005), and during the 1950s its buildings had changed in use to the warehouse of Monro's Ltd, a banana importer who operated in the adjacent market.

2.5.14 In the late 1970s number 12 was converted into a spa known as 'The Sanctuary', which was renovated in 1985; a dance centre occupied the upper floors of the building in the 1960s to the 1980s (Donald Insall Associates 2013).

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The over-riding objective of this phase of work was to demonstrate the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development (or potential for survival), specifically with regard to the Saxon and post-medieval periods.

2.6.2 Further to the above the general aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- To determine the nature and level of natural deposits, should they be encountered.

- To enable the archaeology advisor at GLAAS to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work.

2.6.3 This phase of work was deliberately designed to avoid unnecessary excavation of archaeological remains which would be better understood during a mitigation phase. However, specific research aims and objectives that may be considered for future work, with reference to the research framework for London archaeology (MoL., 2002) were:

- *S3 Understanding the size and character of Lundenwic, in relation to the wider region (para 1).*
- *S4 Addressing the gap in the 9th century in the ceramic dating typologies of Lundenwic and Lundenburgh to understand the process of transition between the two settlements (para 7).*
- *S6 Defining the role of women in the social and economic organisation of both urban and rural life. Whether they were present in Lundenwic at all has been questioned previously (para 9).*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of 5 Archaeological Pits (**AP**) and 6 Geotechnical Test Pits (**TP**). AP3 was moved south, as the basement in which it was originally located was still in use.
- 3.1.2 The pits were broken out with a hand held hydraulic hammer and the concrete removed. The pits were then excavated by hand, the geotechnical pits to the base of the existing structural footings, the archaeological pits to the top of the archaeological deposits encountered, or until the top of the underlying natural sediments were reached.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only.
- 3.1.4 Trenches were located by measuring off existing walls which are already on plan, and levelled using existing survey data, and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 3.1.5 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 ASE informed the LAARC prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	25
No. of files/paper record	17
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	62
Bulk finds	11

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figs 2 - 6)

4.1 Archaeological pit 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Wood Floor	1.30m	0.98m	0.04m	23.41m OD
1/002	Layer	Pebbles	1.30m	0.98m	0.40m	23.37m OD
1/003	Layer	Concrete	1.30m	0.98m	0.25m	22.97m OD
1/004	Tank	Water overflow tank	1.30m	0.98m	NFE	22.72m OD

Table 2: AP1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 AP1 was located on the ground floor within the south-west area of 11 Floral St. The pit was reduced from 2m x 2m to 1.30m x 0.98m due to structural constraints.

4.1.2 AP1 revealed a modern water overflow tank [1/004] at 22.72m OD encased by a concrete slab [1/003] 0.25m thick. This was sealed by 0.40m of large pebbles [1/002], presumably a decorative element of the spa, beneath 0.04m of wooden flooring [1/001].

4.1.3 No archaeological features were observed, and natural was not reached.

4.2 Archaeological pit 2

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Wooden Floor	2.42m	2m	0.08m	23.55m OD
2/002	Layer	Concrete Slab	2.42m	2m	0.26m	23.47m OD
2/003	Layer	Rubble	1.71m	2m	0.58m	23.21m OD
2/004	Mas	Breeze block wall	2m	0.12m	0.54m	23.47m OD
2/005	Bath	Bath/pool	2m	0.70m	0.30m	23.21m OD
2/006	Slab	Concrete slab	2m	0.79m	NFE	22.63m OD
2/007	Slab	Concrete slab	2m	0.71m	NFE	22.93m OD

Table 3: AP2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 AP2 was located on the ground floor within the south-eastern area of 11 Floral St. The pit measured 2.47m x 2m x 0.92m. Overlying concrete slabs [2/007] and [2/006] was marble spa bath [2/005], assumed to be part of the 1970's spa. This was truncated to the west by breezeblock wall [2/004]. To the east of wall [2/004] the pit was backfilled with 5.58m of rubble [2/003], which included brick and concrete fragments, and above that was 0.26m of concrete slab [2/002]. The whole trench was sealed by 0.08m of wooden floor [2/001].

4.2.2 The base of the pit was located at 22.63m OD. No archaeological features

were observed, and natural was not reached.

4.3 Archaeological pit 3

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Concrete	3m	1m	0.30m	19.16m OD
3/002	Layer	Rubble	3m	1m	0.40m	18.86m OD
3/003	Steps	Stairs	1.30m	1m	NFE	18.70m OD

Table 4: AP3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 AP3 was situated within the basement of 11 Floral St at 19.16m OD, and measured 3m x 1m x 0.64m deep. The trench revealed a set of stairs [3/003], orientated north-south within the centre of the trench. It is highly likely these were associated with the swimming pool to the south of AP3, and represent an earlier layout of the basement of the spa. The highest stair was located at 18.70m OD, and they stepped down to 18.40m OD. The whole trench was filled with rubble backfill [3/002] which consisted of redeposited sands and gravels with frequent crushed brick, concrete and wood inclusions. [3/002] also included a pair of brown socks and the horoscope page from the Daily Mirror, dated Thursday February 22nd, 1979. AP3 was sealed by 0.30m of concrete slab [3/001].

4.3.2 The base of the pit was located at 18.40m OD. No archaeological features were observed, and natural was not reached.

4.4 Archaeological pit 4

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Concrete	0.50m	0.50m	0.40m	18.89m OD

Table 5: AP4 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 AP4 was situated within the base of the basement swimming pool. Reinforced concrete slab [4/001] was broken out to a depth of 18.49m OD but proved too hard and thick to break out by hand, and thus the trench was abandoned.

4.5 Archaeological pit 5 (Fig. 6)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
5/001	Layer	Concrete	2.18m	2m	0.22m	20.31m OD
5/002	Layer	Demo	2.18m	2m	0.23m	20.09m OD
5/003	Mas	Wall	1.10m	0.20m	0.28m	20.15m OD
5/004	Concrete	Pour	2m	0.64m	NFE	19.86m OD
5/005	Cut	Cut of 004	2m	0.64m	NFE	19.86m OD
5/006	Mas	Wall	1.24m	0.40m	0.25m	20.12m OD
5/007	Mas	Wall	0.40m	0.26m	0.20m	20.09m OD
5/008	Cut	Cut for 006	1.24m	0.40m	0.25m	20.12m OD
5/009	Cut	Cut for 007	0.40m	0.26m	0.20m	20.09m OD

5/010	Fill	Fill of 011	0.50m	0.25m	0.30m	20.12m OD
5/011	Cut	Cut of pit	0.50m	0.25m	0.30m	19.82m OD
5/012	Layer	Natural Brickearth	-	-	-	20.01m OD

Table 6: AP5 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 AP5 was situated within the basement of 12 Floral Street and measured 2m x 2.18m x 0.50m deep. Natural Brickearth [5/012] was observed at 20.01m OD, cut into which were red brick walls [5/006] and [5/007]. Both walls were made of unfrogged red bricks measuring 100mm x 60mm x 200mm, with a soft grey-white mortar and are of a late 18th-19th century date. Both survived to a depth of 0.25m, and are likely to be part of the same structure.

4.5.2 Also cut into the Brickearth was pit [5/011]. Heavily truncated, [5/011] measured at least 0.50m by 0.25m and 0.30m deep, and was filled with firm black silt [5/010] with occasional Ceramic Building Material (CBM), animal bone and oyster shell inclusions. Fragments of brick and roof tile from this pit date it to the 18th-19th century, although it also contained an early post-medieval roof tile fragment and a clay tobacco pipe stem dating to c. 1640-1660, both of these early finds are presumably residual. The base of this pit was observed at 19.82m OD.

4.5.3 Features [5/006], [5/007] and [5/011] were all truncated by cut [5/005], an 'L' shaped linear feature with concrete [5/004] within its base. It is uncertain what this cut was for, although it is possible it once housed piping or ducts. Overlying [5/005] was [5/003], a late post-medieval east to west orientated wall made of dark red frogged bricks with a hard white mortar bond. It is possible that this was a support for the existing floor.

4.5.4 The whole pit was covered by c.0.28m of dark brown sandy-silt demolition rubble with frequent brick and mortar fragments [5/002]. This layer also filled cut [5/005] to a depth of c.0.50m. The pit was sealed with 0.22m of concrete slab with red brick inclusions. Existing ground level was located at 20.31m OD.

4.6 Geotechnical Test Pit 1

4.6.1 TP1 was located against the western external wall of 12 Floral Street, within the basement of the existing building. The test pit measured 0.70m x 0.60m and 0.80m deep, and revealed a sequence of crushed demolition rubble with crushed brick, mortar and very occasional animal bone inclusions, located at 19.61m OD. This was underlying a concrete slab 0.26m thick. Over the slab was another layer of rubble containing brick and mortar fragments measuring 0.24m thick. The sequence was sealed by a 0.20m thick concrete slab and tile floor located at 20.31m OD.

4.6.2 The base of the pit was located pit ended at the base of the existing wall foundations (19.51m OD). No archaeological features were observed, and natural was not reached.

4.7 Geotechnical Test Pit 2

4.7.1 TP2 was located within the western side of the basement of 12 Floral Street at 20.31m OD, and measured 0.52m x 0.58m. The wooden flooring was lifted to reveal a crushed red brick levelling deposit. At the same time the plasterboard was removed from the adjacent wall. This revealed that the wall was, in fact, a side sliding metal fire door. The trench was therefore abandoned at 20.11m OD.

4.7.2 No archaeological features were observed, and natural was not reached.

4.8 Geotechnical Test Pit 3

4.8.1 TP3 was located on the eastern external wall of 11 Floral Street, towards the north of the building, and measured 0.60m x 0.70m. Brickearth was observed at 19.49m OD, overlying this was a concrete slab 0.20m thick. Above the slab was 0.36m of rubble backfill with brick, York stone, concrete and breezeblock fragments. Sealing the trench was a concrete slab 0.10m thick, located at 20.51m OD.

4.8.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

4.9 Geotechnical Test Pit 4

4.9.1 TP4 was located within the north-eastern corner of 12 Floral St at 20.31m OD. The TP measured 1.20m x 0.90m x 1.50m. Natural sands and gravels were observed at 19.42m OD, overlying which was 0.20m of mixed clay, sand and gravel. Sealing this was 0.53m of Brickearth, located at 20.15m OD. The sequence was sealed by 0.16m of concrete slab.

4.9.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

4.10 Geotechnical Test Pit 5

4.10.1 TP5 measured 1.20m x 1.5m x 1m, and was located within the north of 12 Floral St. The TP revealed natural gravel at its base (19.46m OD) overlying 0.60m of Brickearth, located at 20.06m OD. Sealing this was a 0.25m thick concrete slab, located at 20.31m OD

4.10.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

4.11 Geotechnical Test Pit 6

4.11.1 TP6 was located at street level to the west of 12 Floral St at 21.93m OD. The TP revealed 0.39m of concrete sealed by 0.06m of brick paving. The TP was abandoned at 21.48m OD.

4.11.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed, natural deposits were not reached.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at 11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden (Table 7). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. Finds were all packed and stored according to IFA guidelines (2008). None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	CBM	Wt(g)	Bone	Wt(g)	Shell	Wt(g)	CTP	Wt(g)
5/006	1	512						
5/010	2	162	6	48	1	34	1	4
Total	3	674	6	48	1	34	1	4

Table 7: Quantification of the finds

5.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Elke Raemen

5.2.1 The archaeological work produced two brick and one flat roof tile fragment. The former ([5/006] and [5/010]) are in an orange fabric with abundant fine sand, rare quartz to 1mm and rare slag to 4mm. They are of late 18th- to 19th-century date. An abraded flat roof tile fragment was recovered from [5/010] and is in an orange fabric with common fine/medium quartz and rare very coarse ?chalk to 1.5mm. It is of probable early post-medieval date.

5.3 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragment was found in [5/010]. The piece dates to c. 1640-1660.

5.4 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.4.1 Just six fragments of bone were recovered from a single context, [5/010]. The specimens are small and fragmented; the identifiable bones include a fragment of sheep/goat skull and two medium-mammal sized ribs. No evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology has been noted.

5.5 The Marine Shell by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 Context [5/010] contained the left valve of a mature oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). The valve displays minor traces of parasitic activity.

5.6 Summary

5.6.1 Small quantities of CBM, CTP, animal bone and marine shell were recovered during the evaluation. The assemblage is too small to be of significance and lacks finds of inherent interest. Therefore as it stands, it is not considered to be of potential and finds are recommended for discard.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

6.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of natural sands and gravels, located within TP4 at 19.42m OD. Overlying the sands and gravels was natural Brickearth, horizontally truncated by the existing building, which was observed at 19.49m OD within the north-east corner of the site (TP3), rising up to 20.15m OD within the north-west of the site (TP4). The Brickearth was also observed in AP5 at a height of 20.01m OD, and TP5 at 20.06m OD.

6.1.2 Cut into these natural deposits were post-medieval walls [5/006], [5/007] and pit [5/011], all of which were located within AP5. The walls survived at a height of c.20.12m OD and survived to a depth of 0.25m. Pit [5/011] was bottomed at 19.82m OD.

6.1.3 APs 2 and 3 revealed evidence of an earlier phase of the existing Spa's layout, with the stairs in AP3 being recorded to a depth of 18.40m OD. This suggests that earlier deposits will have been truncated by this phase of construction.

6.1.4 The whole site is sealed with demolition rubble and concrete slab floors of varying heights, ranging from 20.15m OD in the north-east of the site, to 20.31m OD within the west of the site. The slab within which AP3 was opened was located at 19.16m OD.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.1 The existing basement slabs are located c.2.59m lower than current ground level on Floral Street (c.22.90m OD). This truncation has resulted in the archaeological survival being limited to the very bases of cut features and masonry, where they survive beneath the existing building. The only archaeological remains observed during this phase of investigation were located within AP5, within the north-western area of the site.

6.3 Consideration of research aims

- *To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any archaeological remains.*

6.3.1 Archaeological remains were encountered within AP5. These consisted of the remains of masonry and deep cut features within the natural Brickearth.

- *To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.*

6.3.2 The archaeological remains observed were all of post-medieval date, and are of local interest only.

- *To determine the nature and level of natural deposits, should they be encountered.*

6.3.3 Natural sands and gravels were located within TP4 at 19.42m OD. Overlying the sands and gravels was natural Brickearth, horizontally truncated by the existing building, which was observed at 19.49m OD within the north-east corner of the site (TP3), rising up to 20.15m OD within the north-west of the site (TP4). The Brickearth was also observed in AP5 at a height of 20.01m OD, and TP5 at 20.06m OD.

- *S3 Understanding the size and character of Lundenwic, in relation to the wider region (para 1).*
- *S4 Addressing the gap in the 9th century in the ceramic dating typologies of Lundenwic and Lundenburgh to understand the process of transition between the two settlements (para 7).*
- *S6 Defining the role of women in the social and economic organisation of both urban and rural life. Whether they were present in Lundenwic at all has been questioned previously (para 9).*

6.3.4 No Saxon remains were observed on the site.

6.4 Conclusions

6.4.1 Evidence of archaeological survival consisted of the bases of deep cut post-medieval features and masonry foundations, which were isolated within the western side of the site. This suggests that, while there is the potential for archaeological remains within the rest of the site, the survival of such will depend on the depths of the existing basements and any modern truncation beneath them (such as in AP3).

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Capital and Counties for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Gillian King, Archaeological Advisor for Greater London for her guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	FLO 15					
Identification Name and Address	11-12 Floral St, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 8JT					
County, District &/or Borough	Westminster					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: TQ 3026 8094					
Geology	Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7155					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. Jan-Feb 2015	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Capital and Counties					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Ritchie					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Capital and Counties to undertake the archaeological evaluation and geotechnical watching brief at 11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, Westminster, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site pre planning application.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of 5 Archaeological Pits (AP) and 6 Geotechnical Test Pits (TP). Archaeological remains were observed within AP5, in the form of the base of a post medieval red brick wall and the base of a deep cut post medieval pit.</i></p> <p><i>Natural sands and gravels were located within the north-west of the site (TP4) at 19.42m OD. Overlying the sands and gravels was natural Brickearth, horizontally truncated by the existing building, which was observed at 19.49m OD within the north-east corner of the site (TP3), rising up to 20.15m OD within the north-west of the site (TP4). The Brickearth was also observed in AP5 at a height of 20.01m OD, and TP5 at 20.06m OD.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-203784

Project details

Project name	11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 8JT
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Capital and Counties to undertake the archaeological evaluation and geotechnical watching brief at 11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, Westminster, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site pre planning application. The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of 5 Archaeological Pits (AP) and 6 Geotechnical Test Pits (TP). Archaeological remains were observed within AP5, in the form of the base of a post medieval red brick wall and the base of a deep cut post medieval pit. Natural sands and gravels were located within the north-west of the site (TP4) at 19.42m OD. Overlying the sands and gravels was natural Brickearth, horizontally truncated by the existing building, which was observed at 19.49m OD within the north-east corner of the site (TP3), rising up to 20.15m OD within the north-west of the site (TP4). The Brickearth was also observed in AP5 at a height of 20.01m OD, and TP5 at 20.06m OD.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2015 End: 05-02-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FLO 15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Conservation Area Consent
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER 11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London,
Postcode	WC2E 8JT
Study area	90.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3026 8094 51.5118537511 -0.122655508567 51 30 42 N 000 07 21 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 19.49m Max: 20.15m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Sarah Ritchie
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Sarah Ritchie
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Capital and Counties

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	FLO 15
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	FLO 15
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	FLO 15

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation and Geotechnical Watching Brief at 11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 8JT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ritchie, S.
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	London
Entered by	Sarah Ritchie (s.ritchie@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	13 February 2015






© Archaeology South-East		11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7155	Feb 2015	Site location		
Report Ref: 2015054	Drawn by: JLR			

+ 530250, 180980



+ 530250, 180880

-  Archaeological trial pit
-  Geotechnical investigation trench
-  Area with no basement

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11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London

Project Ref: 7155

Feb 2015

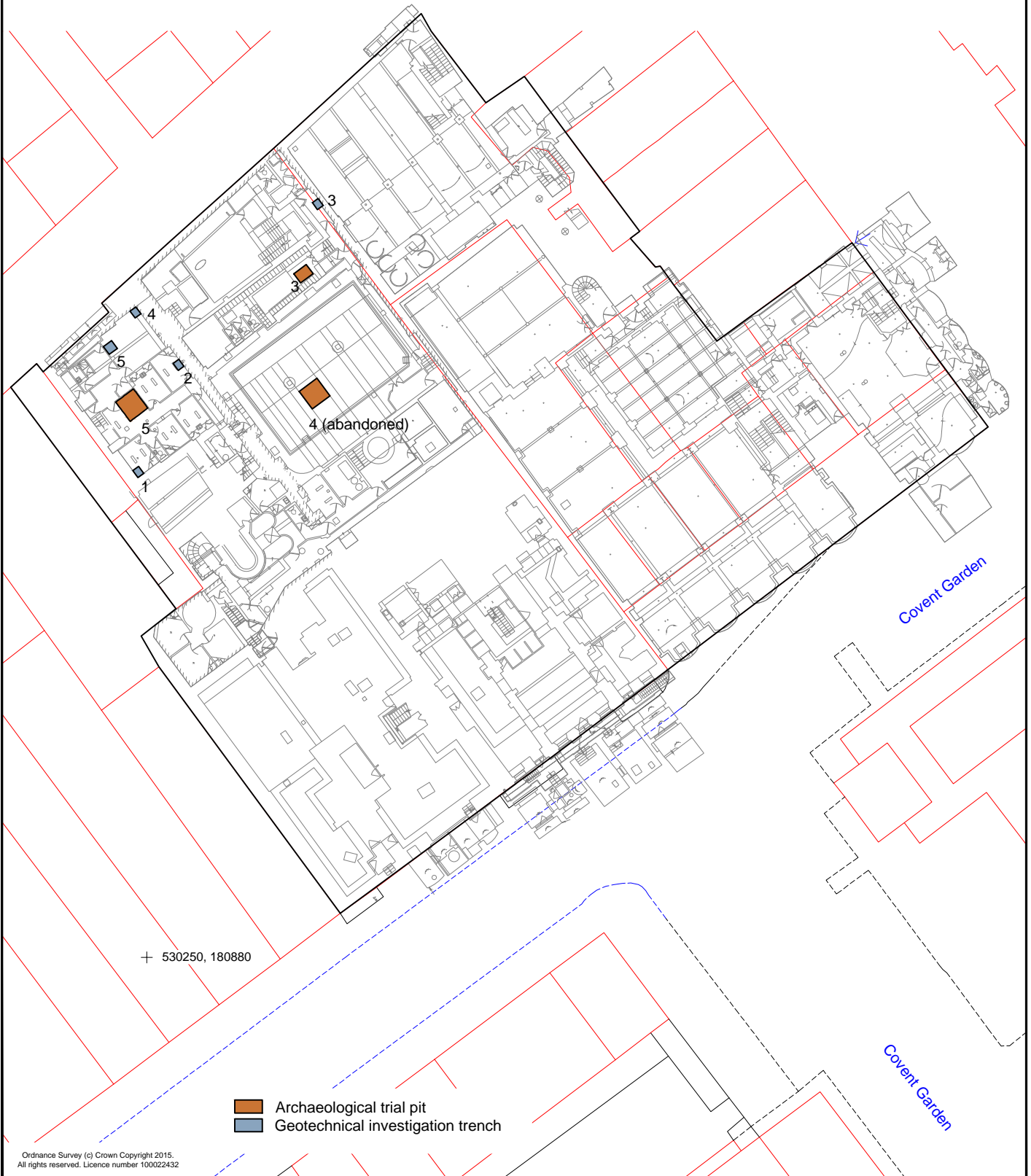
Geotechnical and archaeological pits on the ground floor

Report Ref: 20150540

Drawn by: JLR

Fig. 2

+ 530250, 180980



- Archaeological trial pit
- Geotechnical investigation trench

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© Archaeology South-East		11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7155	Feb 2015	Geotechnical and archaeological pits on the basement floor	
Report Ref: 20150540	Drawn by: JLR		



GTP 1



GTP 2



GTP 3



GTP 4



GTP 5



GTP 6

© Archaeology South-East		11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 7155	Feb 2015	Photographs of geotechnical test pits 1-6	
Report Ref: 2015054	Drawn by: JLR		



AP1



AP2



AP 3



AP 4

© Archaeology South-East		11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 7155	Feb 2015	Photographs of archaeological pits 1-4	
Report Ref: 2015054	Drawn by: JLR		



Archaeological Pit 5



Close up of [5/011]



Close up of wall [5/006]



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© Archaeology South-East		11-12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 7155	February 2015	Archaeological pit 5: plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 20150540	Drawn by: RHC		

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