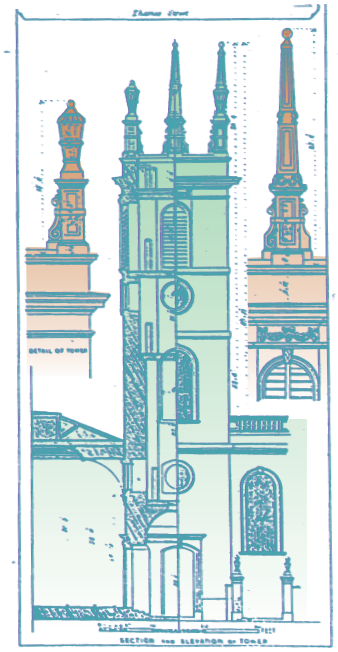

TOWER OF ST MARY SOMERSET
Lambeth Hill
EC4

City of London

An archaeological evaluation report

November 2005

MUSEUM OF LONDON
Archaeology Service

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An archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: SYO03

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of the tower of St Mary Somerset, Lambeth Hill, London, EC4. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by Boyarsky Murphy Architects on behalf of their client.

The evaluation was required as a condition of planning consent for conversion of the church tower to residential accommodation (ref: 05/00194/FULL, dated 12 May 2005). Evaluation pits were excavated to the north of and within the tower. A further test pit which was excavated for a borehole was monitored to the east of the church.

The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. Foundations of the south wall for the 17th century church as rebuilt by Wren were observed to the east of the church at 0.25m below ground level. The structure continued below the limit of excavation at 1.40m below ground level. Foundations of the tower itself were observed to a depth of 3.95m and extended c1.00m to the north of the tower's plinth.

Within the tower remains of what has been interpreted as a disturbed east-west aligned foundation were recorded at 0.75m below floor level. The feature was constructed of large blocks of chalk, ragstone and flint, and may represent remains of the foundation for the original 12th century church.

Evaluation pits to the north of the tower revealed truncation of archaeological deposits to between 1.90m and 2.00m below ground level by 19th century warehouses. A chalk and ragstone feature was observed in pit 1 at the limit of excavation.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place on the site of the tower of St Mary Somerset, Lambeth Hill, London, EC4, hereafter called 'the site'. The site comprises the garden and remaining tower of St Mary Somerset Church and is bounded by Lambeth Hill on the north side, and Castle Baynard Street to the south (See Fig 1). The centre of the site lies at National Grid reference 532163 180880. Modern pavement level near to the site lies at *c* 8.56m OD. The existing ground floor slab within the church tower lies at approximately 7.30m OD. The site code is SYO03.

The church tower is a Grade 1 Listed Building.

A method statement was previously prepared, (Aitken, 2005). The document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

An archaeological field evaluation was subsequently carried out by means of a series of test-pits around the outside of the tower and one within the tower.

A previous watching brief was carried out on the site by MoLAS in 2003 and involved monitoring of excavation of new drain runs and soakaways around the gardens.

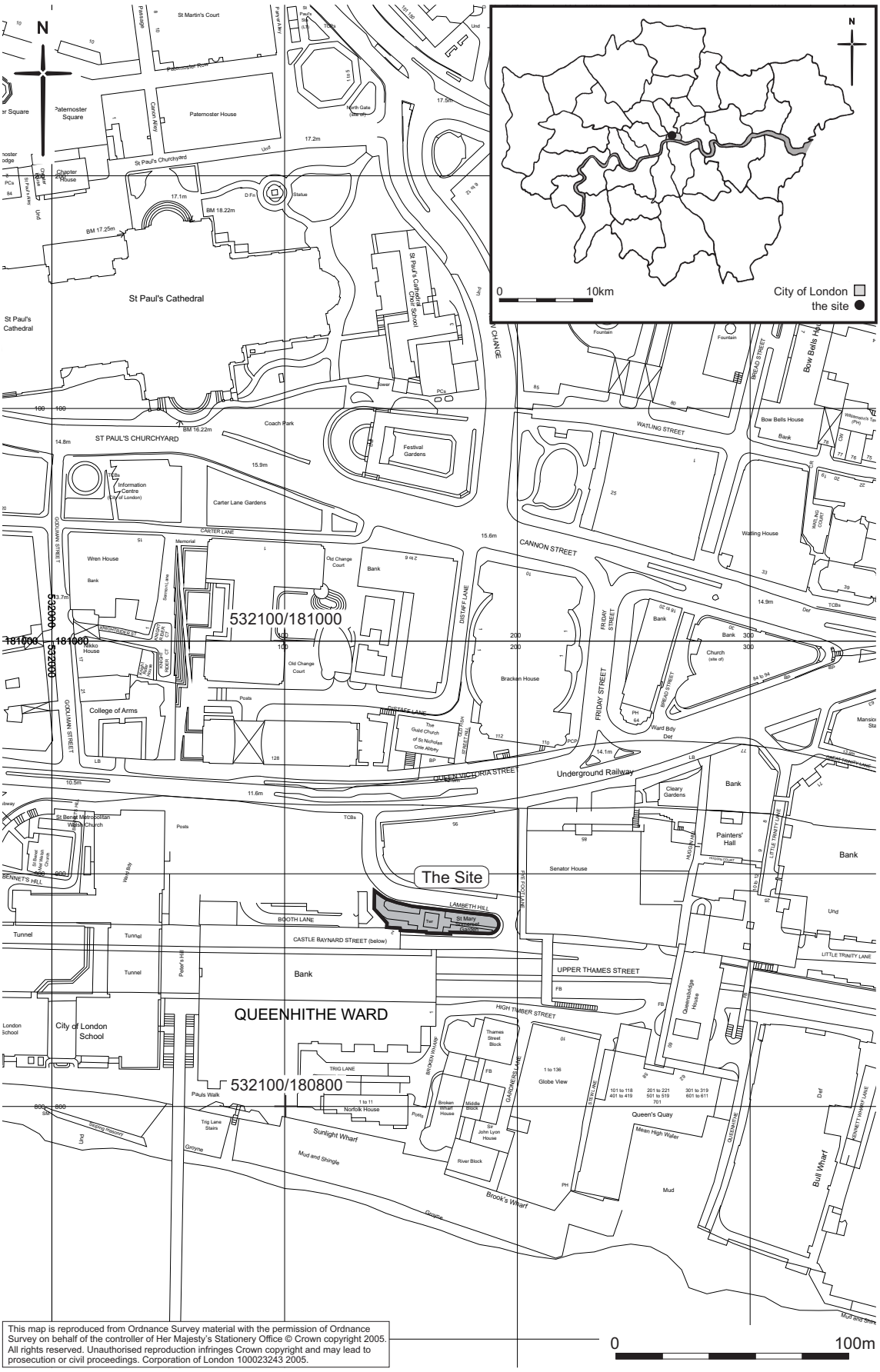

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Fig 1 Site location

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement which* formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, Aitken, 2005).

1.3 Planning background

The work was carried out pursuant to a condition of planning consent. The proposed redevelopment involves the conversion of the St. Mary Somerset Tower for residential use, and extension of the tower to the north. The works described in this document include the excavation of two trial pits to the north of the tower. A borehole to the east of the tower and an internal trial pit within the tower were also monitored (see Fig 2 for trench locations).

These works provided information on the level and nature of the present foundations, earlier church foundations, the extent of horizontal truncation and the nature and depth of surviving archaeological deposits.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by *Boyarsky Murphy Architects* and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.5 Aims and objectives

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2):

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- Is there any evidence of Roman structures or associated layers?
- Do any Roman deposits remain on site?
- Are there any remains, structural or otherwise, associated with the Medieval St. Mary Somerset Church (founded *c.*1153 and demolished during the 1666 Fire of London)?
- Are there any remains of the foundations or floor levels of the St. Mary Somerset Church building as rebuilt by Wren (and demolished in 1872)?
- What is the nature and depth of the foundations of the Tower of St Mary Somerset?
- What is the nature and depth of floor levels within the Tower of St. Mary Somerset?
- Are there any *in situ* human remains present on site? If so are they a part of the churchyard cemetery or are they located within the Tower?
- Are there any disarticulated remains present on site? If so, do they form part of a cemetery soil? Or have they been re-deposited within the later deposits associated with either the clearance and demolition of the church and churchyard, or the 1960's redevelopment of the area?
- Is there any evidence of post-medieval warehouses surviving on site? If so, any remaining walls retain some of the earlier masonry from the church?
- What are the latest deposits identified?

2 Topographical and historical background

Information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site has been set out in the *Method Statement* (Aitken, 2005). A brief summary of this information is detailed below.

2.1 Topography

The estimated level of the surface of the natural gravel is *c* 4.5m OD to the north of St Mary Somerset. It falls away rapidly to the south towards the river.

2.1.1 Roman masonry structures

Excavations in the area immediately around the site have revealed a series of monumental Roman masonry structures occupying the gravel terraces leading down to the river. These include the Huggin Hill Baths complex immediately to the east, part of which lies beneath Senator House. This was constructed in the later 1st century, and was extended several times prior to being demolished, possibly before the end of the 2nd century. To the north-west, under the site of the Salvation Army building, a series of Roman foundations were found. These were probably part of a temple precinct constructed on earlier rammed chalk terraces. Beyond that at Peter's Hill, a series of structures which may include the unfinished palace of the imperial pretender, Allectus, were begun and abandoned in the last decade of the 3rd century. Immediately south of these was the riverside wall, built in *c* AD 270.

A watching brief conducted at the site in 2003 revealed evidence of a Roman building and floor layers (Soakaway B, Fig 2) at *c*.4.63m OD (2.6m below the current ground surface). The remains included a burnt timber beam/baseplate and brickearth sills.

2.2 The Medieval street plan and churches

Many of the streets in the area probably had their origins in the late-Saxon period, but are not recorded in any surviving documentary sources until later. The medieval street plan was retained after the 1666 Great Fire, but was lost following post-war redevelopment.

Old Fish Street Hill (*Oldefisshestretlone* by 1345; *Baggardeslane* in 1274) formerly cut through the site. On the west side of Old Fish Street Hill, to the north-west of the site, was the church and churchyard of *St Mary Mounthaw* first recorded in 1150 which may originally have been a private chapel of the Mounthaut family from Norfolk. A large messuage, originally owned by the Mounthauts, was adjacent to the church, perhaps on the north side.

To the north-east of the site, and opposite *St Mary Mounthaw*, was the *Old Fishmongers' Hall*. This was in use by the Fishmongers' Company by 1398–9, but was abandoned in favour of the present site near London Bridge in 1503–4. Passing

the north side of the Hall was *Finimore Lane* (*Finamoureslane* in 1316, also known as *Five foote lane* in the 16th century, present Fye Foot Lane). Thames Street to the south was probably in place in the late 11th or early 12th century as the main riparian road stretching across the City on the line of the collapsed late Roman riverside wall.

The earliest references to St Mary Somerset are in the 12th century. Somerset is probably derived from Somershithe, a nearby wharf (Weinreb and Hibbert 1995, 765). The church was founded *c.*1153 and demolished following the 1666 Fire of London. It is unknown if any remains from the medieval build of the church remain on site.

2.3 Post-medieval

The buildings in the Lambeth Hill and surrounding area were destroyed during the Great Fire of 1666. The nearby church of *St Mary Mounthaw* was not rebuilt after the fire, instead its parish was amalgamated with St. Mary Somerset.

St. Mary Somerset church was rebuilt by Wren from 1686–95 (see Fig 3). It consisted of an east-west aligned church with tower built at the south-eastern end, and a burial ground contained within the surrounding church yard.

The main body of the church of St Mary Somerset was demolished as a result of the Union of Benefices Act in 1872 following deconsecration in 1867. The tower was preserved as a memento and remains, free-standing today. Remnants of the nave of the church lie beneath the present Lambeth Hill, with the north wall possibly under the pavement adjoining Walker House. Previous archaeological investigations (MoLAS 2003) indicate that the rubble from the demolition of the church is present to a depth of *c.* 1.60 m. Disarticulated human remains were retrieved from the rubble in the area of proposed trial trench excavation (Drain Run 1 Fig 2) indicating that some cemetery clearance occurred at this time.

The church was replaced by warehouses which appear to follow its wall lines, and these may even have retained some of the earlier masonry from the church. The remains of the footings of the southern wall and where the body of the church connected with the tower may were proven to remain in the northern section of the development area (see Fig 3). The Tower of St Mary Somerset was restored in 1956 following wartime damage.

Changes to the immediate area since the Second World War such as the construction of the Salvation Army Headquarters, Walker House, and Dominant House (now all redeveloped), led to the realignment of streets to the south of Queen Victoria Street. Lambeth Hill was moved from further east to curve around Walker House, although Fye Foot Lane remained on its original site as an elevated walkway leading to a footbridge across Thames Street. The latter was widened on the south side with the addition of an extra carriageway, and now passes beneath several buildings constructed across the road in the 1980s, including the City of London Boys' School.

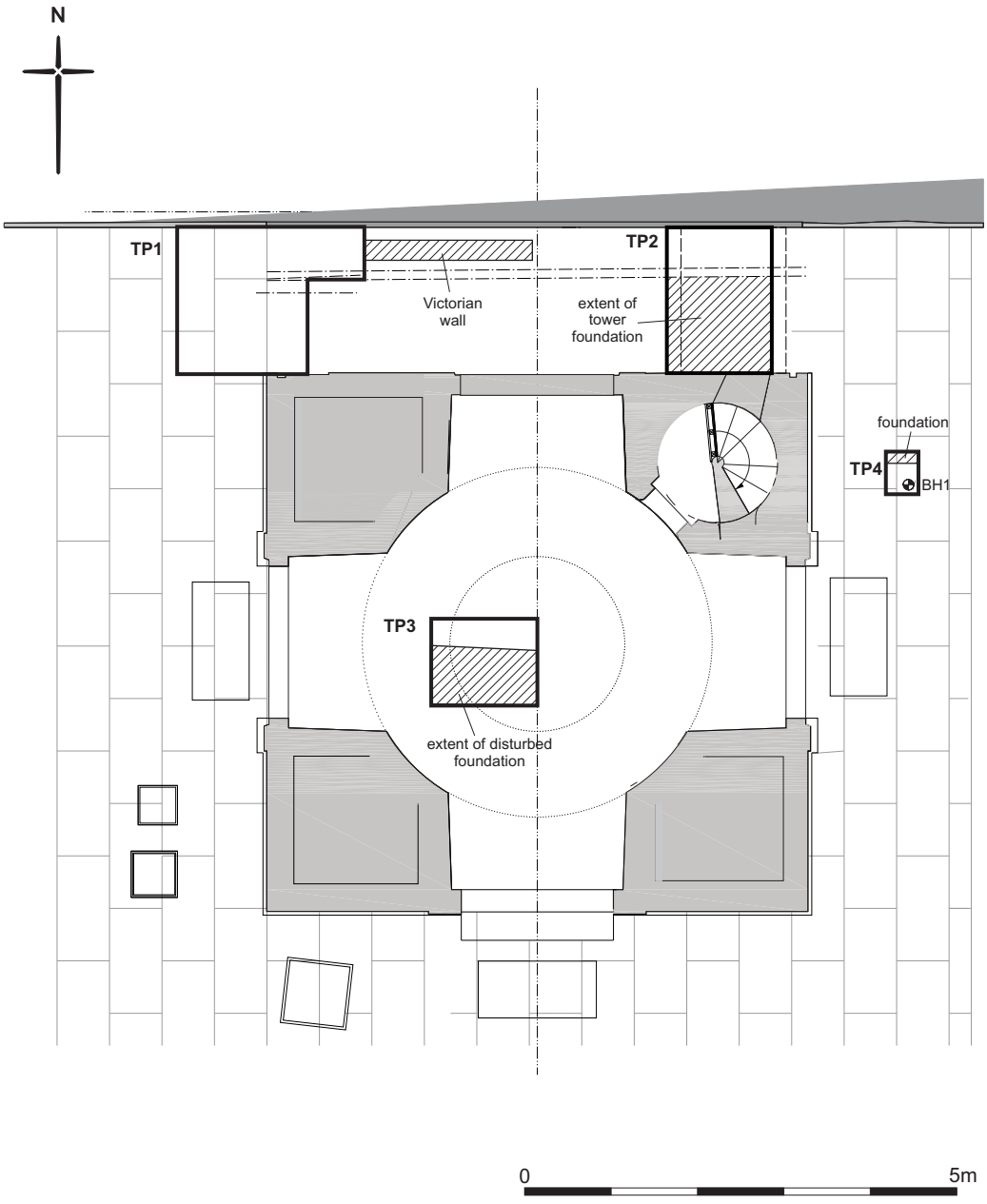

Fig 2 Areas of evaluation and archaeological features

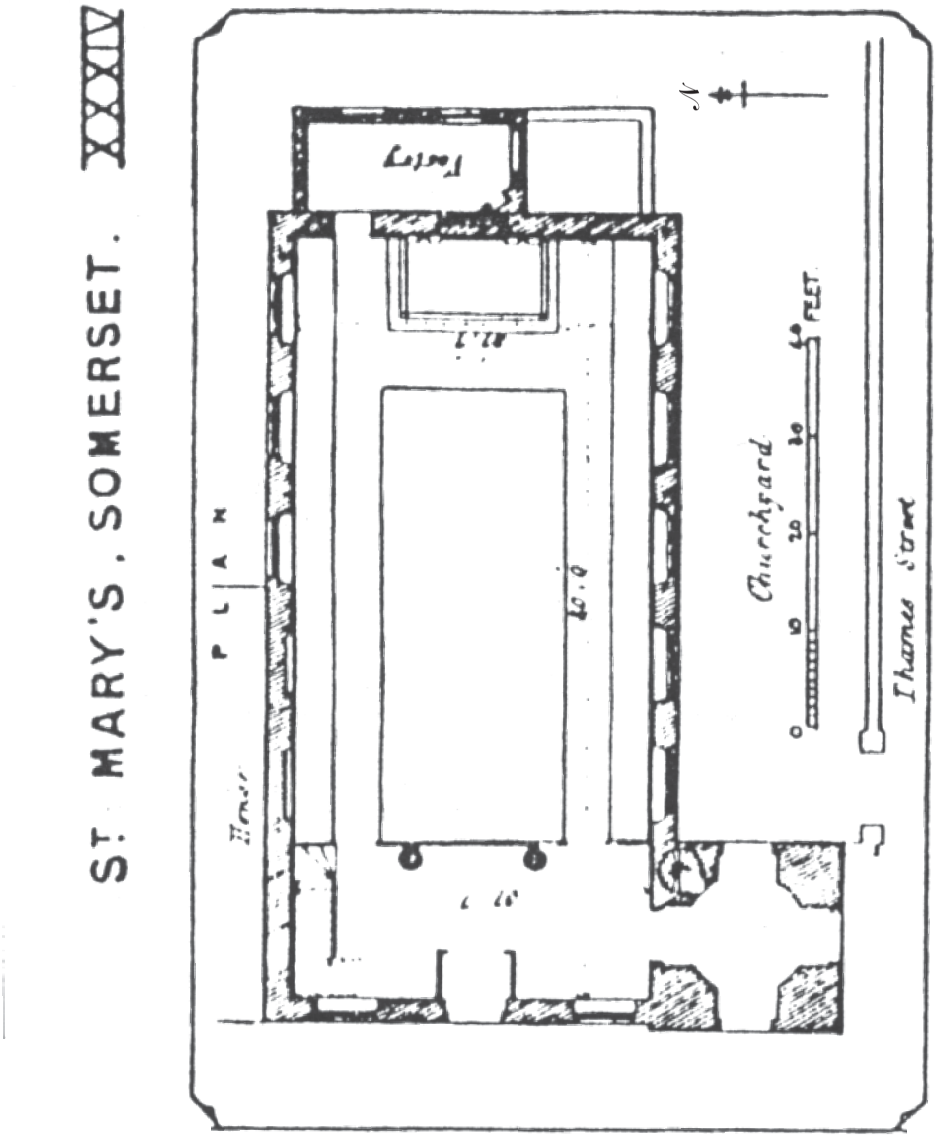

Fig 3 The Wren tower of St Mary Somerset

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (Aitken, 2005), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Four evaluation pits were excavated on the site. Two along the northern perimeter of the site to establish the depth of a retaining wall and foundations of the tower. One within the tower to establish floor depth and truncation levels and a further test pit was excavated to the east of the tower to check for services before a borehole and to establish the depth of foundations for the tower.

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. Pits were excavated by hand by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The locations of evaluation trial pits were recorded by offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted on the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by hand measuring down from ground level.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; 4 trench sheets; 1 section drawing and 2 photographs.

The site records can be found under the site code SYO03 in the Museum of London archive.

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For pit locations see Fig 2.

3.2.1 Evaluation pit 1

Location	North of the tower (west end)
Dimensions	1.53m (extension to 2.13m along northern edge) x 1.55m (extension measuring 0.58m) x 1.90-2.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	*c*7.30m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	*c*6.60m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.20m
Level of base of deposits observed	*c*5.40m OD
Natural observed	N/A

A test pit was excavated at the western extent of the northern frontage of the tower measuring 1.53m x 1.55m x 1.90m. At 0.30m below pavement level an east–west aligned drain was revealed hindering deeper excavation over the majority of the area. Excavation continued in the northern area of the trial pit where a concrete foundation was observed in the north-east area. Further excavation continued in the north-west in an area measuring 0.56m x 0.42m. The foundation for the modern retaining wall on the northern limit of the pit continued to a depth of 1.5m and consisted of loose concrete and mortar rubble. A dark greyish brown clay silt backfill containing frequent CBM, occasional pottery, occasional chalk fragments, occasional charcoal, occasional building material and moderate amounts of disarticulated human bone was recorded to a depth of 1.90m below ground level. The building material appeared to be of mainly 19th century date. The bones had presumably been gathered from graves destroyed during construction of the warehouses, and then dumped rather than reburied in new graves. The bones were collected and bagged for reburial within the site limits.

Below this deposit chalk blocks were revealed set into a sandy silt, orangey yellow mortar, containing charcoal flecks and chalk flecks. The size of the area being excavated hindered more detailed examination and it was decided to halt at this point. The feature appeared to be structural and is interpreted as the possible remains of a truncated foundation of unknown date.

The trial pit was later extended eastwards in order to establish the extent of the concrete found in the north-eastern part of the pit. The concrete was recorded as measuring 0.35m x 0.58m x 2.00m and appeared to be on a north-south alignment, continuing beyond the limits of excavation in both these directions. East of the concrete, a similar backfill material to that found to the west was recorded to a depth of 2.00m at which point a chalk foundation set into a similar material as that found to the west was revealed. To the east end of the extended pit the chalk and ragstone feature was set into a mid brown clay silt and contained ragstone blocks, one of which measured 0.27m x 0.24m x 0.10m. East of the ragstone block the feature had been

truncated by an east-west aligned yellow stock brick wall which continued to a depth of at least 2.20m. The wall is of late-Victorian date and is probably part of a basement, associated with a warehouse. The earlier foundation appeared to continue beneath this brick wall. Excavation in this part of the pit was halted at this point. Ground slabs were removed to the east revealing that the brick wall continued in an easterly direction for 1.98m, east of which lay modern concrete rubble.

3.2.2 Evaluation pit 2

Location	North of the tower (east end)
Dimensions	1.00m x 1.20m x 1m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	*c*7.30m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	*c*7.025m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	2.80m
Level of base of deposits observed	*c*4.50m OD
Natural observed	N/A

A test pit was excavated at the eastern end of the north frontage of the tower in order to establish the depth of foundations for the tower. Demolition material was revealed beneath the modern slab and make up at 0.25m below pavement level. The sandy silt contained frequent CBM, including yellow stock brick, occasional clay pipe, occasional pottery, occasional metal, frequent disarticulated human bone and occasional animal bone. The deposit continued to a depth of 1.60m below pavement level and is interpreted as material associated with the 19th century demolition of the church.

At 1.60m below ground level a dark grey clay silt contained frequent disarticulated human bone, occasional animal bone, occasional CBM, occasional pottery and occasional clay pipe. This is thought to represent backfill of the foundation trench for the tower during the 17th century.

The foundation for the tower was revealed in the southern section of the trial pit and seen to step out to the north at intervals. Excavation of the pit was temporarily halted at 2.80m in order to extend the pit in order to establish the most northern extent of the foundation.

Due to the confined nature of the area to the north of the church and the extent to which the foundation stepped out northwards, the base of the foundation was located using a torch and pole pointed down a narrow part of the pit.

At its greatest extent the foundation of the tower stepped out 1.00m north of the plinth at the base of tower and 3.95m below pavement level.

3.2.3 Evaluation pit 3

Location	Within the tower
Dimensions	1.00m x 1.20m x 1m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	*c*7.30m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	*c*7.025m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.725m
Level of base of deposits observed	*c*6.30m OD
Natural observed	N/A

A test pit was excavated inside the tower in order to establish the depth of floor slabs and any associated material. Removal of the floorboards measuring 0.025m in depth revealed concrete slabs measuring 0.42m in width divided by wooden joists measuring 0.05m in width. These slabs were broken out by jackhammer and a 0.15m void was recorded below.

An early modern manhole lay on the western extent of the test pit and associated truncation was revealed below the floor slabs in the southern and western part of the test pit. Associated concrete was broken out and all associated material removed to reveal the depth of truncation.

Layers truncated by this material to the north consisted of a loose dump material containing frequent CBM and moderate amounts of clay pipe, suggesting the dump was associated with the 17th century rebuild of the church.

Below the cut for a drain (0.75m below floor level) a ragstone, chalk and flint foundation was revealed (Fig 4). Dump material to the north was subsequently removed in order to establish the nature and extent of this foundation material. Excavation revealed the feature lay on a roughly east-west alignment. The largest blocks were of unfaced chalk, measuring c 0.30 x 0.30 x 0.15m and smaller ragstone blocks of 0.20m x 0.15m x 0.10m were mainly unfaced, although two were noted as being faced on at least two sides. There were also occasional flint nodules within the structure.

The foundation appeared to have been heavily disturbed and was in a fragile state, probably due to construction of the 19th century drain above and possibly also to the earlier activity associated with dumps to the north. The feature was not dated and no excavation of the material took place. No cut was evident and the observed remains may represent a partially or completely collapsed, or redeposited feature. However the extent of any disturbance could only be confirmed by further excavation of the surrounding deposits. The alignment of the feature suggests it may represent remains of the original 12th century church.

3.2.4 Evaluation pit 4

Location	East of tower
Dimensions	0.40m x 0.50m x 1.40m depth (services pit)
Modern ground level/top of slab	*c*7.30m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	*c*7.05m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.15m
Level of base of deposits observed	*c*5.90m OD
Natural observed	N/A

A test pit was excavated to the east of the tower in order to check for services before drilling for a borehole.

Removal of the modern slab and associated make up of 0.25m depth revealed demolition material in a greyish brown sandy silt matrix containing frequent CBM and occasional disarticulated human bone. The deposit continued to the limit of excavation at 1.40m. The material was dumped against an east–west aligned stone foundation which ran across the northern part of the pit. The foundation consisted of large ragstone and chalk blocks of *c* 0.25m width and height and occasional flint nodules. The feature was observed to a depth of 1.40m and continued beyond the limit of excavation.

The foundation aligns with earlier drawings of the south wall of the church (see Fig 3) and confirms that masonry survives just below the modern made ground.

3.2.5 Borehole 1

Location	East of tower, within test pit A
Dimensions	0.15m diameter
Modern ground level/top of slab	*c*7.30m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	*c*7.05m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	4.75m
Level of base of deposits observed	*c*2.30m OD
Natural observed	*c*2.30m OD

A borehole was drilled within test pit 4 to the east of the tower. The position of the borehole was moved to the south east corner of test pit 4 in order to avoid the east-west foundation observed in the test pit and any potential foundation stepping out eastwards from the tower.

Between 1.40m and 2.50m a dark greyish brown sandy silt deposit containing moderate CBM, moderate morter, occasional chalk flecks and very occasional bone was recorded. Between 2.50m and 3.70m a brownish grey, sandy silt contained moderate CBM, occasional bone and occasional chalk chips. At 3.75m chips of ragstone and chalk were recorded to 4.00m. A grey clay silt containing moderate

CBM flecks continued below to a depth of *c*5.00m at which point lay a deposit of silty gravel c 0.30m deep. Natural London clay was revealed below.

3.2.6 Reburial of disarticulated human bone

The disarticulated human bone recovered from the excavation of the drain runs and soakways has been labelled and reburied on site, in accordance with the Home Office Burial Licence. The location of the reburial was within testpit 3.

Fig 4 Foundation in test pit 3 looking south-east

3.3 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'.

It is suggested here that the evaluation pits were of sufficient quantity to provide a representative sample of the expected archaeological survival on site in respect of the planning consent.

The evaluation demonstrated the presence of archaeological deposits/features in all areas of the site. The following represents an archaeological summary of the archaeological deposition encountered.

3.3.1 Period 1: Natural ground

Natural ground was encountered in Borehole 1 at approximately 5.00m below ground level (c 2.30m OD) in the form of a silty gravel deposit. The gravel was no more than 0.30m deep and lay over natural London clay. During excavations by the Guildhall Museum in 1961 the base of gravel was recorded at a similar height of 2.44m OD to the east of Lambeth Hill.

3.3.2 Period 2: Undated

A chalk and ragstone feature was revealed at the base of pit 1 at depths of between 1.90m and 2.00m. The masonry was set into a creamy yellow sandy mortar or cement throughout the feature, apart from the most easterly area revealed. Here, a ragstone block was set into a brown clay silt, however the feature was truncated at this point by a yellow stock brick wall and the change in material may represent disturbance relating to this truncation.

No dating evidence was recovered as excavation halted at the top level of the feature. As only a narrow east-west area of the feature was uncovered it is not possible to say with any certainty whether this feature was part of a foundation or other deposit. It is possible that it relates to earlier construction of the church. There is a further possibility that this relates to structures of the Roman period found to the west of the site at the Salvation Army Headquarters (GM91) and Sunlight Wharf (SUN86).

During excavation of a pit within the tower a disturbed ragstone, chalk and flint foundation was revealed (Fig 4). The foundation lay on a roughly east-west alignment. The largest blocks were of unfaced chalk, measuring *c* 0.30 x 0.30 x 0.15m and smaller ragstone blocks of 0.20m x 0.15m x 0.10m were mainly unfaced, although two were noted as being faced on at least two sides. There were also occasional flint nodules within the structure.

The foundation appeared to have been heavily disturbed and was in a fragile state, probably due to construction of the 19th century drain above and possibly also to the earlier activity associated with dumps to the north. The feature was not dated and no excavation of the material took place. No cut was evident and the observed remains may represent a partially or completely collapsed, or redeposited feature. However the extent of any disturbance could only be confirmed by further excavation of the surrounding deposits. The alignment of the feature suggests it may represent remains of the original 12th century church which is known to have existed on this site.

3.3.3 Period 3: St Mary Somerset Church, 17th century

During excavation of test pit 4, an east–west aligned stone foundation which ran across the northern part of the pit was observed. The foundation consisted of large ragstone and chalk blocks of *c* 0.25m width and height and occasional flint nodules. The feature was observed to a depth of 1.40m and continued beneath the limit of excavation.

The foundation aligns with earlier drawings of the south wall of the church (see Fig 3) and confirms that masonry survives just below the modern ground.

The foundation for the tower was revealed in the southern section of pit 2 and steps out to the north at intervals. The structure consisted of large ragstone blocks with occasional layers of tile between the courses. At its greatest extent the foundation of the tower stepped out 1.05m north of the plinth at the base of tower and 3.95m below pavement level.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?
  Truncated natural sandy gravels were recorded in the borehole to the east of the tower at c 5.00m below ground level (c 2.30m OD)

- What are the earliest deposits identified?
  The earliest deposits identified were a chalk and ragstone feature revealed at the base of pit 1 at depths of between 1.90m and 2.00m. The masonry was set into a creamy yellow sandy mortar or cement throughout the feature, apart from the most easterly area revealed. Here, a ragstone block was set into a brown clay silt, however the feature was truncated at this point by a yellow stock brick wall and the change in material may represent disturbance relating to this truncation.

  No dating evidence was recovered as excavation halted at the top level of the feature. As only a narrow east-west area of the feature was uncovered it is not possible to say with any certainty whether this feature was part of a foundation or other deposit. It is possible that it relates to earlier construction of the church. There is a further possibility that this relates to structures of the Roman period found to the west of the site at the Salvation Army Headquarters (GM91) and Sunlight Wharf (SUN86).

  During excavation of a pit within the tower a disturbed ragstone, chalk and flint foundation was revealed (Fig 4). The foundation lay on a roughly east-west alignment. The largest blocks were of unfaced chalk, measuring c 0.30 x 0.30 x 0.15m and smaller ragstone blocks of 0.20m x 0.15m x 0.10m were mainly unfaced, although two were noted as being faced on at least two sides. There were also occasional flint nodules within the structure.

  The foundation appeared to have been heavily disturbed and was in a fragile state, probably due to activity related to the 19th century drain above and possibly also to the earlier activity associated with dumps to the north. The feature was not dated and no excavation of the material took place. No cut was evident and the observed remains may represent a partially or completely collapsed, or redeposited feature. The alignment of the feature suggests it may represent remains of the original 12th century church which is known to have existed on this site.

- Is there any evidence of Roman structures or associated layers?
  There was no evidence dated to the Roman period, however it is possible that the chalk and ragstone feature revealed at the base of pit 1 could date to the Roman period.

- Do any Roman deposits remain on site?
  No deposits observed were dated to the Roman period.

- Are there any remains, structural or otherwise, associated with the Medieval St. Mary Somerset Church (founded *c.*1153 and demolished during the 1666 Fire of London)?
  A ragstone, chalk and flint foundation was recorded in the southern part of TP3 within the tower. The foundation lay on a roughly east-west alignment. The largest blocks were of unfaced chalk measuring 0.30 x 0.30 x 0.15m and smaller ragstone blocks of 0.20m x 0.15m x 0.10m and were mainly unfaced, although two were noted as being faced on at least two sides. There were also occasional flint nodules within the structure.

  The foundation appeared to have been heavily disturbed and was in a fragile state, probably due to activity related to the 19th century drain above and possibly also to the earlier activity associated with dumps to the north. The feature was not dated and no excavation of the material took place. No cut was evident and the observed remains may represent a partially or completely collapsed, or redeposited feature. However the extent of any disturbance can only be confirmed by further excavation of the surrounding deposits. The alignment of the feature suggests it may represent remains, possibly the foundation of the south wall, of the original 12th century church which is known to have existed on this site.

- Are there any remains of the foundations or floor levels of the St. Mary Somerset Church building as rebuilt by Wren (and demolished in 1872)?
  During excavation of a service test pit for borehole 1, at 0.25m below ground level, a substantial ragstone foundation was recorded in the north section aligned east-west. The foundation continued down beyond the limit of excavation at 1.40m below ground level and its nature and position suggests that it is the foundation for the south wall of St Mary Somerset Church building as built by Wren.

- What is the nature and depth of the foundations of the Tower of St Mary Somerset?
  The foundation for the tower was revealed in the southern section of pit 2 and seen to step out to the north at intervals. The structure consisted of large ragstone blocks with occasional layers of tile between the courses. At its greatest extent the foundation of the tower stepped out 1.05m north of the plinth at the base of tower and 3.95m below pavement level.

- What is the nature and depth of floor levels within the Tower of St. Mary Somerset?
  Floorboards measuring 0.025m in depth revealed concrete slabs measuring 0.42m in width divided by wooden joists measuring 0.05m in width. These slabs were broken out by jackhammer and a 0.15m void was recorded below.

- Are there any *in situ* human remains present on site? If so are they a part of the churchyard cemetery or are they located within the Tower?
  No in situ human remains were observed during the evaluation.

- Are there any disarticulated remains present on site? If so, do they form part of a cemetery soil? Or have they been re-deposited within the later deposits associated with either the clearance and demolition of the church and churchyard, or the 1960's redevelopment of the area?
  Disarticulated human remains were found within pit 1 and during excavation of the service test pit for BH1. In both instances the remains were found within deposits associated with the clearance and demolition of the churchyard.

  Further disarticulated human remains were recorded in two deposits in pit 2. The latest represented 19th century disturbance relating to the clearance of the demolition of the church. The earlier deposit may have represented material disturbed during the 17th century and used as backfill for the foundation trench of the tower.

- Is there any evidence of post-medieval warehouses surviving on site? If so, any remaining walls retain some of the earlier masonry from the church?
  A yellow stock brick wall was observed in pit 1 aligned east-west, 0.30m below ground level and is interpreted as a basement wall of the post medieval warehouses which housed the site. The wall continued 2.00m below ground level and truncated an earlier east-west aligned feature which appeared to continue beneath the brick wall.

- What are the latest deposits identified?
  The latest deposits identified were 19th century demolition dumps relating to the demolition and clearance of the church during this period. The deposits varied in depth from 1.6m to 2.00m below ground level.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is low. There is a higher potential for survival of cut features. However such survival is likely to be extremely limited in certain areas because of truncation by 19th century warehouses. The average depth of archaeological deposits where they do survive is likely to be 1.50m below ground level.

4.3 Significance

Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Assessment by EH criteria

The recommendations of the GLAAS 1998 guidelines on *Evaluation reports* suggest that there should be:

'Assessment of results against original expectations (using criteria for assessing national importance of period, relative completeness, condition, rarity and group value) .....' (Guidance Paper V, 4 7)

A set of guide lines was published by the Department of the Environment with criteria by which to measure the importance of individual monuments for possible Scheduling. These criteria are as follows: *Period*; *Rarity*; *Documentation*; *Survival/Condition*; *Fragility/Vulnerability*; *Diversity*; and *Potential*. The guide lines stresses that 'these criteria should not...be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case'.[1]

In the following passages the potential archaeological survival described in the initial Assessment document and Section 3.2 above will be assessed against these criteria.

Criterion 1: period
The archaeological deposits appear to span the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Criterion 2: rarity
There is nothing to suggest that any of the likely archaeological deposits are rare either in a national or regional context.

Criterion 3: documentation
There are no surviving documentary records for remains in the area from the Roman period. Whilst there may be considerable contemporary documentation for the later medieval period from *c* 1300 on, the truncated and fragmentary nature of archaeological remains from this period will render most of this information unusable/ it is unlikely that any of this will be specific enough to relate to individual features. Documentation for the post medieval period is more conclusive and evidence recording the layout and position of the 17th century church as built by Wren has helped to identify foundations recorded during the evaluation.

Criterion 4: group value
The stone foundations appear to relate to either the medieval or post-medieval church.

Criterion 5: survival/condition
Results above have demonstrated that archaeological remains will be horizontally truncated to fairly consistent levels along the northern frontage of the tower. 19th

[1] Annex 4, DOE, Planning and Policy Guidance 16, (1990). For detailed definition of the criteria see that document. Reference has also been made to Darvill, Saunders & Startin, (1987); and McGill, (1995)

century activity has removed archaeological deposits to between 1.65m and 2.00m in this area.

Archaeological remains appear to survive to a higher level within the tower where less disturbance has occurred. 17th century deposits may survive beneath the current floor level with isolated areas of 19th century truncation.

Criterion 6: fragility
Experience from other sites has shown that isolated and exposed blocks of stratigraphy can be vulnerable to damage during construction work. The foundation recorded in test pit 3 was in a disturbed and fragile state and further work in the surrounding area may cause more damage.

Criterion 7: diversity
Clearly, taken as a whole, the archaeological deposits which are likely to be found in the site represent a group of archaeological remains of all types and periods of medieval and post medieval. There is no reason to suggest that the diversity *per se* has any particular value which ought to be protected.

Criterion 8: potential
The evaluation has shown that there is the potential for remains of the original 12th century church to remain in a truncated form. The position of this church is not currently known with any certainty and further works may confirm the location, alignment and date of the former church.

6 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment involves conversion of the St Mary Somerset Tower for residential use, including extension of the tower to the north. The impact of this on the surviving archaeological deposits will be to remove all such remains to the new formation levels. Mini piles are also proposed along the northern frontage of the tower which will remove all archaeological deposits in these localised areas.

The assessment above (Section 5) does not suggest that preservation *in situ* would be the only appropriate mitigation strategy. MoLAS considers that the remaining archaeological deposits should be recorded and excavated in advance of any further ground reduction (ie preservation by record).

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed within rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Graham Ling, Borsky and Murphy Architects and Gerard Huguenin for their assistance in the production of this report.

8 Bibliography

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

9.1 OASIS ID: molas1-10921

Project details	
Project name	Tower of St Mary Somerset
Short description of the project	Foundations for the south wall of the 17th century church as rebuilt by Wren were observed to the east of the church at 0.25m below ground level. The structure continued below the limit of excavation at 1.40m below ground level. Within the tower remains of what has been interpreted as a disturbed east-west aligned foundation were recorded at 0.75m below floor level. The feature was constructed of large blocks of chalk, ragstone and flint, and may represent remains of the foundation for the original 12th century church. Evaluation pits to the north of the tower revealed truncation of archaeological deposits to between 1.90m and 2.00m below ground level by 19th century activity. A chalk and ragstone feature was observed in pit 1 at the limit of excavation.
Project dates	Start: 12-10-2005 End: 24-10-2005
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SYO03 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	CHURCH Post Medieval
Monument type	FOUNDATION Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON St Mary Somerset
Postcode	EC4
Study area	50.00 Kilometres
National grid reference	TQ 32163 80880 Point
Height OD	Min: 2.30m Max: 2.30m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	MoLAS project manager
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Sophie Jackson
Project supervisor	Emily Burton
Sponsor or funding body	Boyarsky Murphy

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	SYO03
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	SYO03

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Tower of St Mary Somerset Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Burton, E
Date	2005
Issuer or publisher	MoLAS
Place of issue or publication	MoLAS
Description	A4 bound report