



FLOWER CELLARS BUILDING
39–41 Wellington Street and 1 Russel Street
London WC2E

City of Westminster

Watching brief report

November 2011



**Flower Cellars Building
39-41 Wellington Street and 1 Russell Street
London WC2E**

Site Code WEL11

A report on the archaeological watching brief

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Museum of London Archaeology

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by Gardiner & Theobald on behalf of the client Capital & Counties CG Ltd in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at Flower Cellars Building, 39-41 Wellington Street and 1 Russell Street, London WC2E.

Work on a new drainage runs and a lift pit was monitored between May 2011 and July 2011 during redevelopment of the building. The site code for the archaeological works on the site is WEL11.

An early archaeological deposit of redeposited brickearth was recorded in the north-east area of the site. The base of a cut feature, thought to date to the Middle Saxon period, was recorded at the west of the site. A large fragment of chaff-tempered ware pot was recovered from the fill of this pit, possibly a cauldron foot or the base of a pedestal lamp which dates to the Middle Saxon period (AD 650-850). Later post-medieval deposits, probably early 19th century in date were recorded at the north-west of the site and relate to activity pre-dating the existing building.

What is thought to be natural brickearth, probably truncated, was observed at 16.40m OD at the west of the site, and truncated gravels were recorded at 15.86m OD in lift pit excavations at the east of the site. The highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at 16.40m OD.

The watching brief has indicated that below the depth of the existing basement slab the remains of a cut feature of probable Saxon date survive. This would suggest that other deep cut features may survive in other areas of the site.

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Front cover: Detail of John Strype's 1720 map of 'The City of London as in Queen Elizabeth's time'

Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Location of excavations monitored

Fig 3 Probable Middle Saxon pit seen in excavations for Manhole 31

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at Flower Cellars Building, 39-41 Wellington Street and 1 Russell Street London WC2E, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is located at the basement level of the block at the eastern corner of Covent Garden Markets bounded by Russell Street, Wellington Street, Tavistock Streets and Covent Garden. The block is currently occupied by a number of properties including the Theatre Museum and London Transport Museum (Fig 1). The site however is mainly occupied by the Theatre Museum which takes up the majority of the basement level in this block. The National Grid Reference is 530472 180911. There are a variety of current basement slab levels across the site ranging from c 16m OD to 16.50m OD. The site code for the archaeological works on the site is WEL11.

The site falls within the Lundenwic and Thorney Island Area of Special Archaeological Priority as designated by the City of Westminster.

The proposed development involved ground reduction in some parts of the basements on the site, however the majority of the archaeological monitoring relates to drainage excavation to a depth of 0.5m below the top of existing basement slab and the excavation of a lift pit at the east of the site.

A desk top archaeological desk-based assessment report (Historic Environment assessment) was carried out which covered the archaeological and historic background for the whole area of the site (MOLA 2010). This document was carried out in relation to a proposed scheme for the installation of an open ground loop source heat pump system at basement level and not in relation to the works monitored in the recent watching brief. However the baseline information contained in that report is covers and is relevant to the site. This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was previously prepared by MOLA (MOLA, 2011). This document informed the design for the watching brief that was carried out on the site.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the Historical Environment Assessment (see Section 8, MOLA, 2010).

1.3 Planning background

Work has been undertaken as a condition of planning. Planning Consent was given to the proposed redevelopment and the following conditions (conditions 20(a), 20 (b) and 20(c) relating to archaeology were attached to the consent.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Capital & Counties CG Ltd and produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding Written Scheme of Investigation, and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

1.5 Aims and objectives

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

The limited nature of the proposed works and the watching brief upon them makes it unreasonable to establish many specific archaeological research objectives. The archaeological brief is essentially limited to establishing where, if at all, archaeological deposits may survive (presence/absence), recording where necessary, and to ensuring that the proposed groundworks do not involve the destruction of any archaeological deposits of national significance. Nevertheless, in addition, a few research questions can be outlined:

What is the level of natural topography ?

What are the earliest deposits identified?

Is there any evidence for Saxon occupation on this site and how does it compare with the deposits recorded on the adjacent sites?

What are the latest deposits identified?

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

2 Topographical and historical background

Full details of the topographical and historical background are provided in the Historic Environment Assessment (MOLA 2010) but a résumé and relevant information to the findings of the watching brief has been included:-

2.1 Topography

The present street levels adjacent to the site lie at c 20.40m OD in Covent Garden and Wellington Street, c 21.10m OD in Russell Street and c 20.15m OD in Tavistock Street. To the north of the site the ground rises up James Street towards a ridge along Long Acre and south of the Market the ground slopes down towards the Strand and on to the River Thames. It appears the current topography of the Market masks a more marked north–south slope in the underlying natural topography.

The site is situated on an interface between the Lynch Hill Gravel and the Hackney Gravel river terraces which slope down from north to south with the narrow Taplow (Strand) terrace with a further substantial down-cutting slope into the modern Thames channel. At the Royal Opera House excavations a slope of about 2:1 in the underlying gravels from the Lynch Hill Gravel to the earlier Hackney Gravel was located on the southern part of the site, the line of the break in slope running across the main excavation area from south-west to north-east. Across the main excavation area the level of the gravels sloped to the south from 18.6m OD to 15.4m OD.

The gravel terraces are overlain by a c 0.50–3m thick capping of ‘brickearth’, a sandy silt which formed towards the end of the Devensian stage (32,000–10,000 BP) as a result of a combination of aeolian and alluvial processes. Archaeological investigations at the London Transport Museum revealed that brickearth deposits were recorded at 16.90m OD at the north of this site and 16.55m OD at the south of the site and overlay natural gravel (AOC Archaeology Group 2009).

2.2 Prehistoric

There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the Covent Garden area. Nearby chance finds include Palaeolithic flints from Floral Street and James Street, but these are likely to have been redeposited in the river terrace gravels. A Neolithic stone axe from Long Acre, to the north of the site and a flint assemblage from Bedfordbury to the south may represent *in situ* deposition.

Excavations to the south of the Piazza at Southampton Street revealed a number of flint flakes associated with archaeological features, including construction slots and postholes. Nearby excavations at Exeter Street also produced evidence of prehistoric activity with an occupation surface that contained a struck flint and an Iron Age pottery sherd.

2.3 Roman

The evidence for Roman occupation in the vicinity of the site is limited to occasional stray finds. As with some of the prehistoric finds most of the Roman finds in the area are found in later Middle Saxon deposits. Archaeological excavations at nearby sites have produced residual Roman finds such as beads, coins and pottery. Some Roman material was re-used or recycled by the Middle Saxon inhabitants such as Roman tile for the construction of hearths.

It is likely that the area, which had light, well-drained soils and was within a network of roads with easy access to Londinium, contained farms and field systems at this period. To date the only excavated features which may be interpreted as traces of Roman settlement or agriculture lie well to the north-east of the study area, for example a ditch at 66–68 Great Queen Street (Holder 2000), ditches and a gravel surface at Aviation House, Kingsway (Barber 2000). More recent work at St Martin-in-the-Fields has also revealed the presence of Roman activity to the south-west.

2.4 Saxon

The main focus of the Saxon settlement was a busy trading port further to the west around Aldwych, the Strand, and Covent Garden, in an area known as Lundenwic. This settlement seems to have thrived as a major market. Bede described it in the 8th century as an 'emporium of many nations coming by land and sea', with a port on the river embankment (the Strand) and an urban centre developing behind this, producing marketable goods to be traded for luxuries from the Continent.

It appears that Covent Garden may have lain to the north of the earliest Middle Saxon settlement concentrated along the river embankment with a contemporary dispersed inhumation cemetery in the to the north in the area of the Covent Garden Piazza. To date burials have been recorded in King Street, the Royal Opera House, 28–30 James Street and 67–68 Long Acre. At this latter site one burial was dated by a 6th- or 7th-century belt buckle. Excavations at 41–47 Floral Street produced six burials, one containing a composite disk brooch of 7th-century date; most of the known burials are thought to date to the 7th century.

Nine to ten cremation burials and two inhumations were also excavated at the London Transport Museum in 2005 directly adjacent to the site to the south-west (AOC Archaeology Group 2005, AOC Archaeology Group 2009, site code LTM03) when the London Transport Museum extended its basement for new shop and gallery space. Two cremations were located in the north half of the site but the rest were concentrated in the south-west corner; all cut the natural brickearth deposits. One of the inhumations recorded at the south of the site was in a grave cut c 0.46m deep (AOC Archaeology Group 2005), the base of this grave lay at c 16.09m OD. The burials date to the 6th to early 7th century and included grave goods. Residual human remains have also been recovered from a number of other sites in the area. The cemetery was subsequently abandoned and a thick dump layer, containing large quantities of animal bone, overlay the burials and covered much of the site. Cutting through this dump were several wells and large rubbish pits and later activity including surfaces dating to up to the mid 9th century (*ibid*).

The evidence for Lundenwic excavated in the general vicinity of the site consists of remains of timber buildings, streets, pits and yard/alley surfaces along with finds and environmental remains. The largest excavation so far within Lundenwic was carried out at the adjacent Royal Opera House redevelopment. At this site a major north–south aligned road first laid out in the late 7th century was excavated. Several phases of buildings, yards and alleyways gradually developed either side of this road forming an irregular but gridded plan (Malcolm *et al* 2003). Long Acre seems to have formed an important axis through the settlement with the line of the current street following a natural ridge which was densely occupied in the 8th century.

Towards the middle of the 9th century Lundenwic was abandoned. Excavations at the Royal Opera House revealed that sealing the Middle Saxon deposits was a homogenous deposit known as 'dark earth' surviving to a height of 20.92m OD. This deposit represents the abandonment of the settlement with the area becoming open

land once more (Malcolm *et al* 2003). On these sites the dark earth was overlain by the later post-medieval surfaces of the piazza.

2.5 Medieval

In the medieval period the site was part of the garden of the Convent of St Peter's, Westminster (hence 'Covent Garden' today), first referred to in a document attributed to the reign of King John (1199–1216). The garden was divided into orchard, arable, meadow and pasture land. Some of the garden's produce supplied the monastery, and the remainder was sold. It is assumed that these activities, consistent with open land and agricultural/market gardening activity contributed to the accumulation of the soil deposits ('dark earth') which overlie the remains of the preceding Saxon town (such as found at many sites such as the Royal Opera House).

2.6 Post-medieval

The Dissolution of the Monasteries resulted in many church lands passing into private ownership. In 1552 John Russell, the first earl of Bedford, was granted the former convent garden, most of which continued to be used as pasture until the 17th century.

The Covent Garden Piazza and surrounding streets were developed between 1630–41 by Francis Russell, the fourth earl of Bedford, as the first planned housing scheme in London. Inigo Jones, Surveyor to Charles I, was responsible for the layout of an Italian style Piazza which subsequently became Covent Garden Market. King Street (named after Charles I) and Henrietta Street (after the queen) and St Paul's Church were built at this time and remain part of the present day street plan. Evidence of Inigo Jones development has been recorded at a number of nearby sites. Foundations and vaults of the original Piazza arcade and original surfaces associated with the Piazza were recorded at the Royal Opera House excavations.

Following an Act for the improvement and regulation of the market a new market place designed by Charles Fowler was built, opening in 1831. The new market buildings consisted of three rows of shops with space between for stalls. Between 1874 and 1889 the buildings were roofed over by Thomas Cubitt with a structure of iron and glass. The first Ordnance Survey map of 1873 shows the new market with three rows of buildings partially covered by a roof. To the east the Flower Market is shown surrounded by smaller properties fronting Russell, Wellington and Tavistock Streets. The market continued to expand throughout the 19th century. The Floral Hall to the south of the Royal Opera House opened in 1860; the Flower Market building was constructed in 1871–87 by W.R Rodgers of W. Cubitt & Co opened in 1871; and the latest of the market buildings, Jubilee Hall, opened in 1904. The Ordnance Survey map of 1914 shows the market completely roofed and the site generally in a similar layout as today.

The former Flower Market building was restored and converted in 1978–80 for the London Transport Museum. Sections of the building were adapted for the Theatre Museum in 1984–87 and the building now houses the London Transport Museum and the National Theatre Museum.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA, 2011) and the Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS, 1994).

Work on a new drainage runs and lift pit was monitored between May 2011 and July 2011 during redevelopment of the building. The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Trenches were excavated by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted on to a Basement Survey of the site supplied by the client. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum using levels provided by the contractor for the drainage works that listed the slab height adjacent to each manhole.

Where relevant, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20; numbered contexts were allocated where appropriate.

The site has produced: a monitoring location plan; 5 context records; 6 trench sheets, two section drawings at 1:20 scale, one section drawing at 1:10 scale and 14 digital photographs. In addition 0.25 boxes of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code WEL11 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

Separate interventions were excavated for the purposes of drainage. These have been numbered using the numbering applied to the drain runs by the contractor. A lift pit area was also investigated. Slab reduction was not undertaken. Manhole/drain run excavation was c 0.50m in depth and the lift pit c 2m in depth.

The majority of the drain runs and manholes (MH) monitored occurred in the north-east corner of the site in the basement area (MH 1, MH 2, MH 3, MH 3A and drain runs). A further manhole/drain run (MH 30 and MH 31) was excavated at the west of the site in the basement area. The lift pit excavation monitored was located at the east of the basement.

Generally the majority of the monitoring exercise revealed modern made ground below the slab to the depth of the excavation. MH 31 revealed the remains of a pit that extended beyond the limits of the manhole/drain run. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For all excavation locations monitored see Fig 2.

Manhole 1, including IC-1A, IC-1B

<i>Watching Brief Trench MH 1</i>	
Location	North-east basement
Dimensions	14.60m x 0.50m wide by c 0.50m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	16.06m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	15.86m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None
Level of base of deposits observed	NA
Natural observed	N/A

Made-ground, consisting of medium brown sands and gravels with frequent red brick fragments was observed below the slab.

Manhole 2

<i>Watching Brief Trench MH 2</i>	
Location	North-east basement – south of MH 1
Dimensions	0.50m wide 10m seen to 0.50m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	16.06m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	15.86m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None
Level of base of deposits observed	NA
Natural observed (brickearth)	15.86m OD

Made-ground consisting of medium brown sands and gravels was present below the slab for the majority of this run. A deposit of pinkish-brown clay, probably truncated brickearth, was recorded below the slab in two areas of the trench, IC-2A and Y shaped trench at IC-2C. The clay, where present, extended below the base of the trench.

Manhole 3

No archaeological deposits were observed in this excavation, with all areas below the slab containing modern made ground.

Drain run IC-3B

No archaeological deposits were observed in this area, with all areas below the slab containing modern made ground.

Manhole 3A

<i>Watching Brief Trench MH 3A</i>	
Location	North-east basement - south of MH 2
Dimensions	10m section 0.5m x 0.5m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	16.06m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	15.86m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.13m
Level of base of deposits observed	15.56 m OD
Natural observed	NA

Modern made ground was recorded in all but a 1m section c 7m west of MH 3. Here a truncated grey clay deposit, 130mm deep, containing occasional degraded charcoal [2] was observed below a 170mm depth of modern made ground at the base of the trench. No dating evidence was recorded.

Drain run IC3E/3F

In this area the concrete slab measured 0.6m deep and no other deposits were observed.

Trench including Manholes 30-31

<i>Watching Brief Trench MH 30 and MH31</i>	
Location	North-west corner basement
Dimensions	10m by 0.5m wide 0.5m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	16.64m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	16.40m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.50m
Level of base of deposits observed	15.94Mod
Natural observed (brickearth)	16.40m OD

Two features were recorded during monitoring for the manhole excavations. The first consisted of the truncated remains of a pit, cut [4], fill [3] c 1.1m in diameter cut into an underlying brickearth/clay deposit [1]. The feature was recorded in the south-east corner of MH 31 in the south and west facing sections and in the east facing section of trench directly opposite, suggesting a sub-circular shape (Fig 3). Some brickearth was observed although it is uncertain if this was a natural deposit or redeposited.

The cut had sloping sides which extended at least 0.5m below the slab, but the base was not observed. The fill of the feature consisted of a dark cassy fill containing occasional burnt bone and frequent burnt daub. A large fragment of chaff-tempered ware pot was recovered from the fill, possibly a cauldron foot or the base pedestal lamp which dates to the Middle Saxon period (AD 650-850) (Lynne Blackmore, MOLA Saxon Finds Specialist pers comm.).

The second feature, close to an original drain, consisted of a 2m section of the trench which contained an east-west timber beam and building debris including a lump of quartz-like stone, sandstone lumps, brick-work with lime mortar and an area of mortar/grey clay soil. As no other evidence of buildings had been seen in the area it is likely that this represents a 'made ground' deposit on the site when the original drains were laid.

Lift pit

<i>Watching Brief Lift pit</i>	
Location	Lift pit south of MH 1,2,3, 3A – east basement area
Dimensions	2.5m by 2.5m by 2m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	16.06m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	15.86m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None
Level of base of deposits observed	15.06m OD (due to water ingress)
Natural observed (Truncated gravels)	15.86m OD

A 2.5m square excavation up to c 2m deep was undertaken for a new lift pit. Deposits below the concrete slab consisted of coarse yellow sand with flint gravels. No archaeological deposits were observed. There was water ingress c 1m below the slab level which restricted observation of deeper levels of the excavation.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

What is the level of natural topography?

Truncated brickearth deposits were recorded directly below the basement slab in the areas of MH 2 at the north-east of the site at a height of 15.86m OD and MH 30 to the west of the site at a height of c 16.40m OD. It is unclear if these were natural deposits or redeposited. Archaeological investigations at the London Transport Museum adjacent to the site revealed that brickearth deposits were recorded at 16.90m OD at the north of this site and 16.55m OD at the south of the site and overlay natural gravel (AOC Archaeology Group 2009). Comparison with levels of natural brickearth recorded in other archaeological excavations in the area would suggest natural brickearth would occur within these levels and the deposit observed in MH 2 and MH 30 were most likely to be natural deposits of brickearth.

Truncated deposits of gravel were encountered at c 15.86m OD during the lift pit excavations.

What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest deposit represented consisted of an undated charcoal flecked brickearth-like deposit in MH 3A, the date of this deposit was not conclusively established. A truncated Saxon pit, probably dating to the Middle Saxon period, was recorded in MH 31 (see Fig 3).

Is there any evidence for Saxon occupation on this site and how does it compare with the deposits recorded on the adjacent sites?

The pit recorded in MH 31 in the west area of the basement had been truncated by the existing slab. The upper section of the pit was observed below the slab at a height of c 15.85m OD. The total depth of the pit was not established but it was at least 0.50m or greater in depth. A large fragment of chaff-tempered ware pot was recovered from the fill of this pit, possibly a cauldron foot or the base of a pedestal lamp which dates to the Middle Saxon period (AD 650-850).

Middle Saxon deposits, cremation burials and inhumations were excavated at the London Transport Museum (site code LTM03) directly adjacent to the site to the south-west. At this site a thick dump layer, containing large quantities of animal bone, overlay the burials. Cutting through this dump were several wells and large rubbish pits dating to up to the mid 9th century (AOC Archaeology Group 2005). It is probable that the pit revealed at the watching brief at the Flower Cellars Building may be contemporary with such activity. A large fragment of chaff-tempered ware pot was recovered from the pit in the area of MH 31 and although a definitive date for the pit from a single find cannot truly be established, it is likely that the pit is roughly contemporary with the Middle Saxon activity recorded previously at the London Transport Museum excavations adjacent to the site (site code LTM03). The evidence for Lundenwic excavated in the general vicinity of the site, particularly at the Royal Opera House excavation to the north of the site (Malcolm *et al* 2003) consists of remains of timber buildings, streets, pits and yard/alley surfaces along with finds and

environmental remains. The feature exposed in MH 31 is likely to be the remains of Middle Saxon pit similar to those revealed to the south-west and north of the site.

What are the latest deposits identified?

An area of post-medieval made ground predating the existing slab was recorded adjacent to MH 30; this is thought to be early 19th century in date.

4.2 New research aims

The large fragment of chaff-tempered ware pot recovered from the fill of the pit, possibly a cauldron foot or the base of a pedestal lamp which dates to the Middle Saxon period, is an unusual find and may merit further analysis.

4.3 Significance of the data

The site has produced evidence of probable middle-Saxon activity in the form of a cut feature, most probably a pit, corresponding to those found on nearby sites. Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA, 2011) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 4.3) it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

6 Conclusions

An early archaeological deposit of redeposited brickearth was recorded in the north-east area of the site. The base of a cut feature thought to be the remains of a Middle Saxon pit was recorded at the west of the site. A large fragment of chaff-tempered ware pot was recovered from the fill of this pit, possibly a cauldron foot or the base pedestal lamp which dates to the Middle Saxon period (AD 650-850). Later post-medieval deposits, probably early 19th century in date, were recorded at the north-west of the site and relate to activity pre-dating the existing building.

What is thought to be natural brickearth, probably truncated, was observed at 16.40m OD at the west of the site, and truncated gravels were recorded at 15.86m OD in lift pit excavations at the east of the site. The highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at 16.40m OD.

The original Historic Environment Assessment that covered the site (MOLA 2010) stated that:-

'Given the archaeological background of the area and the results of excavations immediately adjacent to the site it is possible that features relating to the Middle Saxon trading settlement of Lundenwic could survive on the site. These features may include pits, wells and ditches or other deep cut features. Excavation adjacent to the site indicates there is potential for the discovery of deep cut features and possibly inhumation burials or cremations. However it is likely that only the bases of such features would survive.'

The remains of the pit exposed in MH 31 appears to be just that predicted in the Historic Environment Assessment, the base of a deep cut feature of probable Middle Saxon date roughly contemporary to activity recorded to adjacent to the site to the south-west.

The watching brief has indicated that below the depth of the existing basement slab the remains of a cut feature of probable Saxon date survived. This would suggest that other deep cut features may survive in other areas of the site.

7 Acknowledgements

MOLA would like to thank Gardiner & Theobald for their assistance during the project and the client Capital & Counties CG Ltd for commissioning this report.

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

10 OASIS ID: molas1-112666

Project details

Project name	Flower Cellars Building, Covent Garden, WC2E
Short description of the project	Work on a new drainage run and lift pit was monitored by MOLA at the Flower Cellars Buildings, Wellington Street, Covent Garden between May 2011 and July 2011 during redevelopment of the building. An early archaeological deposit of redeposited brickearth was recorded in the north-east area of the site. The base of a cut feature, probably a pit dating to the Middle Saxon period, was recorded at the west of the site. A large fragment of chaff-tempered ware pot was recovered from the fill of this pit, possibly a cauldron foot or the base of a pedestal lamp which dates to the Middle Saxon period. Later post-medieval deposits, probably early 19th century in date, were recorded at the north-west of the site and relate to activity pre-dating the existing building. What is thought to be natural brickearth, probably truncated, was observed at 16.40m OD at the west of the site, and truncated gravels were recorded at 15.86m OD in lift pit excavations at the east of the site. The highest survival of archaeological deposits occurred at 16.40m OD.
Project dates	Start: 02-05-2011 End: 22-07-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WEL11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	SHERD Early Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER Flower Cellars Building, 39-41 Wellington Street and 1 Russell Street, Covent Garden London WC2
Postcode	WC2E
Study area	3000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 30472 80911 51.5115440886 -0.119612604964 51 30 41 N 000 07 10 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.85m Max: 16.40m

Project creators

Name of	MOLA
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Organisation	
Project brief originator	MOLA
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Derek Seeley
Project supervisor	Gabby Rapson
Project supervisor	Matthew Ginnever
Project supervisor	Greg Laban
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Capital & Counties CG Ltd

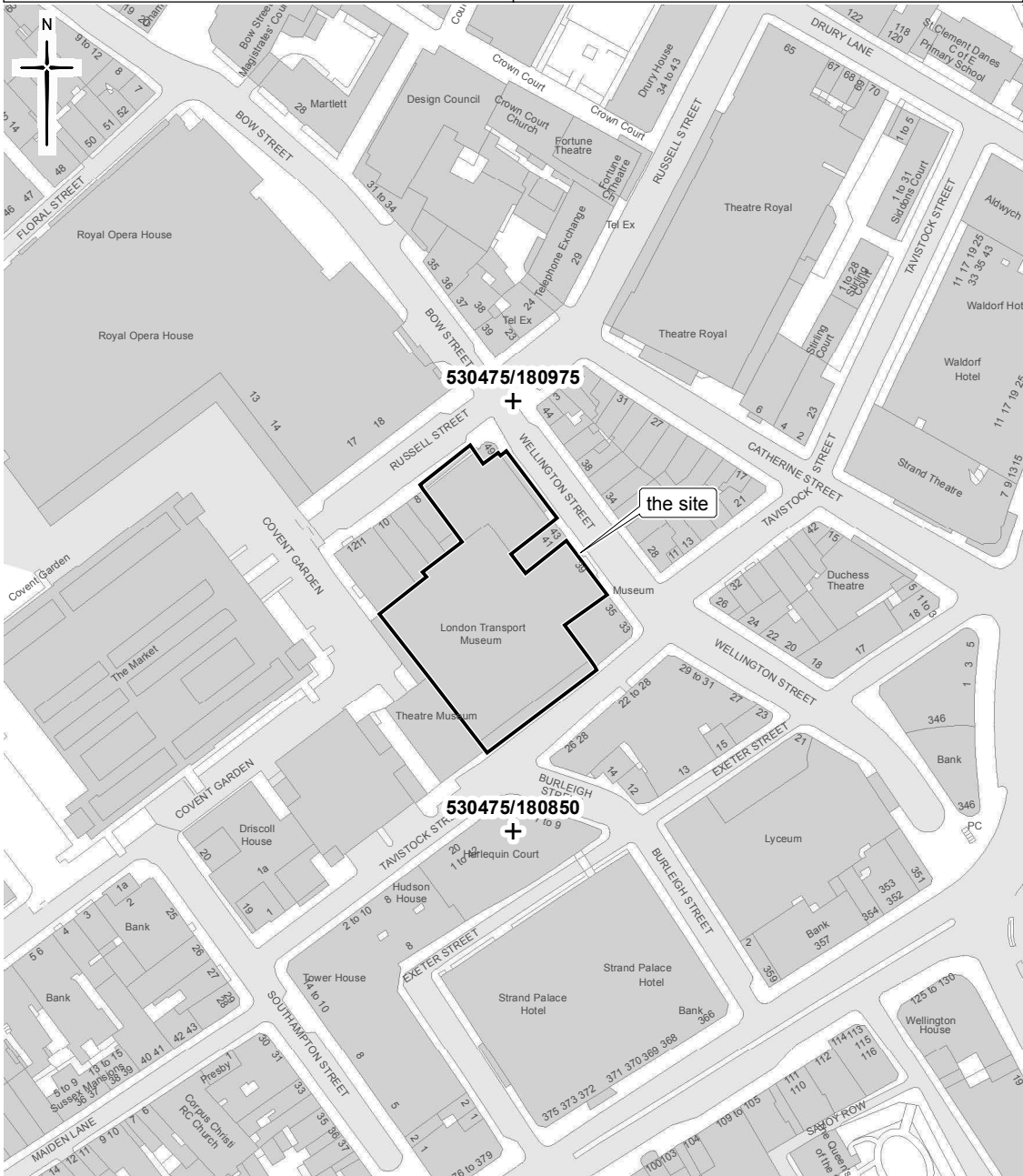
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Flower Cellars Building, 39-41 Wellington Street and 1 Russell Street, London WC2E, An archaeological watching brief report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Miller, P and Rapson, G
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	Unpublished A4 client report - Archaeological watching brief report

Entered by	Pat Miller (pmiller@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	26 October 2011



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Scale 1:2,000 @ A4

0 50m

Fig 1 Site location

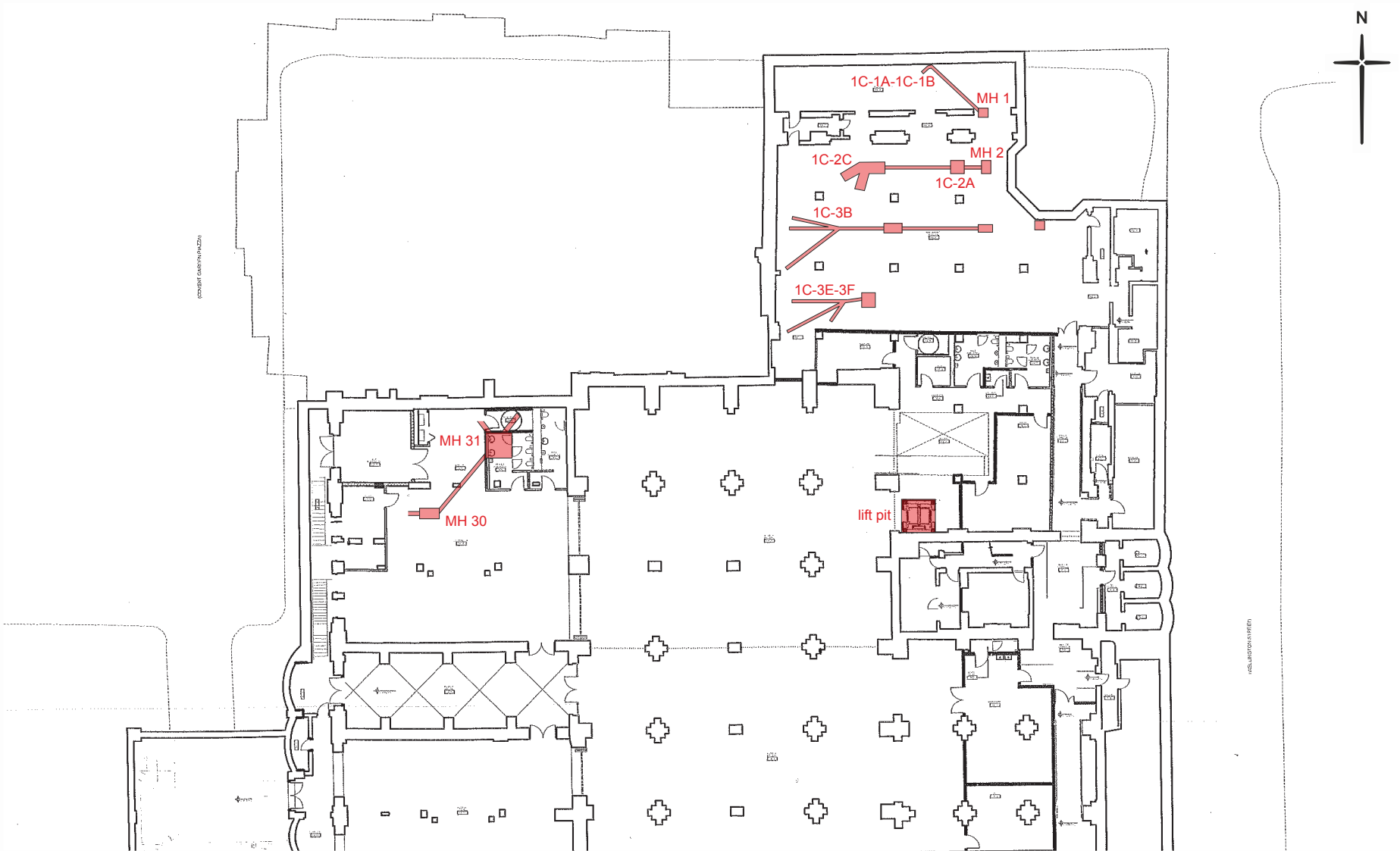


Fig 2 Locations of excavations monitored

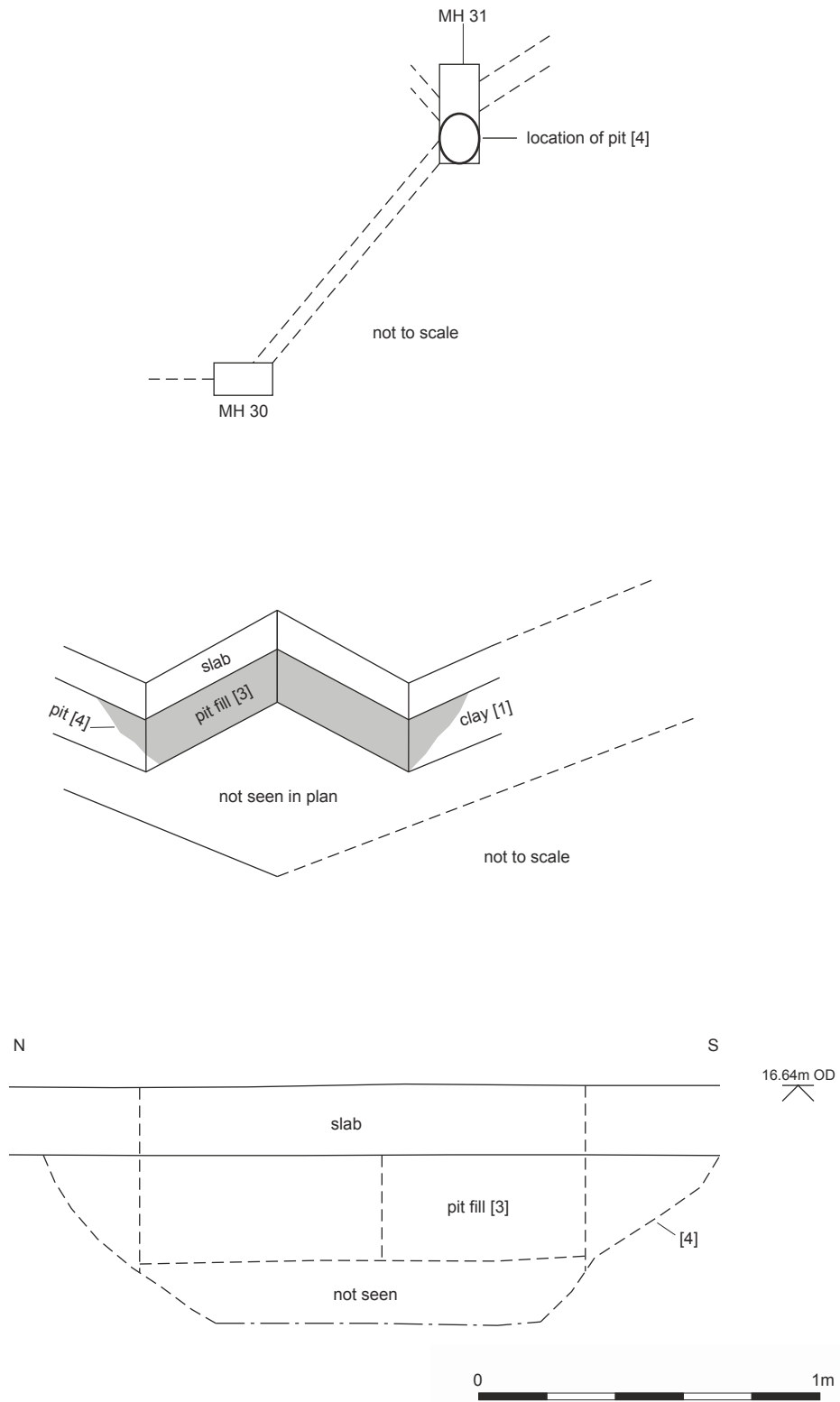


Fig 3 Location and section of probable Middle Saxon pit recorded in excavation for MH 31