

## 20 ST MARY AT HILL London EC2

City of London

Evaluation report

May 2012



# 20 St Mary at Hill London EC2

Site Code MYT12

Report on the archaeological evaluation and watching brief

## Sign-off history:

Issue No.	Date:	Prepared by:	Checked/ Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	22-05-12	Tony Mackinder	Beliz Tecirli	First issue

Graphics: Juan Jose Fuldain

© Museum of London Archaeology

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED  
tel 0207 410 2200 fax 0207 410 2201 email [generalenquiries@mola.org.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@mola.org.uk)

## **Summary (non-technical)**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on the site of 20 St Mary at Hill, London, EC2. The report was commissioned from MOLA by GVA Second London Wall on behalf of the client Marco Propco 1 Ltd.*

*Following the recommendations of the Local Planning Authority, three evaluation trenches were investigated on the site.*

*The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. The depth of the basement slabs and modern deposits has meant that no archaeological deposits were encountered. In light of this revised archaeological understanding of the site, the report concludes that the proposed redevelopment will not impact any archaeological deposits.*

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	Site background	4
1.2	Planning and legislative framework	4
1.3	Planning background	4
1.4	Origin and scope of the report	4
1.5	Aims and objectives	5
<b>2</b>	<b>Topographical and historical background</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>The evaluation</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Methodology	6
3.2	Results of the watching brief and evaluation	7
3.3	Assessment of the evaluation	8
<b>4</b>	<b>Archaeological potential</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1	Realisation of original research aims	8
4.2	General discussion of potential	8
4.3	Significance	8
<b>5</b>	<b>Proposed development impact and recommendations</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>NMR OASIS archaeological report form</b>	<b>11</b>

## List of illustrations

*Front cover: Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 5":mile map 1875*

*Fig 1 Site location*

*Fig 2 Areas of investigation*

*Fig 3 Trench 2*

*Fig 4 Trench 3*

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at 20 St Mary at Hill, London EC2, hereafter called 'the site'. The site comprises an existing office building bounded by St Mary at Hill to the west, St Dunstan's Lane to the north, the churchyard of St Dunstan in the east with a shared courtyard (St Marys Court) and buildings fronting onto Lower Thames Street to the south. The OS National Grid reference for centre of site is 533110 180700. The level of the basement slab varied between 5.60m and 6.20m OD. The site code is MYT12.

A desk-top *Historic Environmental Assessment* (MOLA 2011) was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site. The *assessment* 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.

A watching brief and an archaeological evaluation, in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2012) was subsequently carried out on a series of test-pits within the site between April to May 2012.

### 1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Historic Environment Assessment* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 9, MOLA, 2011).

### 1.3 Planning background

Registered Plan No. or Planning Reference No. 11/00916/FULL.

### 1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by GVA Second London Wall 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).

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 *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2012, Section 2.3 MOLA 2012):

- Will archaeological remains be affected during the excavation of new lift pits and other works associated with the new development, and if so what are the date and significance of these archaeological deposits?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- What are the latest deposits identified?

## 2 Topographical and historical background

A description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the previous *Historic Environmental Assessment* (MOLA, 2011, Sections 3 & 4).

## 3 The evaluation

### 3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Written scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2012), and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

The Watching Brief was undertaken for a series of boreholes and three evaluation trenches.

The slab was broken out using a concrete corer; any modern deposits were removed by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.

The locations of evaluation trenches were recorded by MOLA offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted on to a Basement Survey (basement plan 10-3710\_29 Peter Dann Limited). This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MOLA site recording manual (MOLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated using information supplied by the site engineers.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; no context records; no section drawings and 8 photographs. No finds were recovered from the site.

The site records can be found under the site code MYT12 in the MoL archive.

### 3.2 Results of the watching brief and evaluation

The watching brief was of a series of 150mm diameter cores taken to ascertain the thickness of the modern basement slab in areas for geotechnical trial pits or locations for later archaeological evaluation trenches. Cores taken in the TP1 location showed that the concrete was 0.16m thick; in the Evaluation Trench 2 location the concrete was 0.46m thick and in the Evaluation Trench 3 location the concrete was 0.16m thick (see Fig 2). Both TP1 and TP2 were not opened because the concrete proved too strong to break out and the archaeological evaluation trenches would provide no archaeological information.

<b>Evaluation Trench 1</b>	
Dimensions	N/A
Top of modern slab	5.60m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	>1.40m
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	N/A
Natural observed	N/A

This evaluation trench was to be located in the area of a lift; however initial coring to establish the thickness of the basement slab encountered over 1.40m of concrete. As this exceeds the depth required for the proposed development, the evaluation trench was not opened.

Results: no archaeological deposits were encountered.

<b>Evaluation Trench 2</b>	
Dimensions	1.5m x 1.5m
Top of modern slab	6.20m OD
Base of modern slab	c 5.74m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	c 5.20m OD
Natural observed	N/A

This evaluation trench was moved slightly from its original position. The modern concrete slab was 0.46m thick and lay over a lean mix of concrete deposit 0.50m thick. This mix was removed to expose another concrete slab at c 5.20m OD. The final trench depth was 1.0m deep; the proposed reduction in this area is to be 0.70m in depth.

Results: no archaeological deposits were encountered.



<b>Evaluation Trench 3</b>	
Dimensions	1.5m x 1.5m
Top of modern slab	6.20m OD
Base of modern slab	6.04m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	c 5.38m OD
Natural observed	N/A

The modern concrete slab was 0.16m thick and lay over a modern sand and brick rubble deposit, which was 0.66m thick. The rubble deposit was removed to expose another concrete slab at c 5.38m OD; the second layer of concrete was cored yet appeared to be up to 0.50m thick. This slab may be a foundation, pile cap or ring beam associated with the existing building.

Results: no archaeological deposits were encountered.

### **3.3 Assessment of the evaluation**

The existing building was constructed in the late 1970's or early 1980's, and appears to have impacted any potential archaeology within this site. The thickness of the basement slab(s) encountered in the areas of the proposed evaluation trenches has meant that no further archaeological work was required.

## **4 Archaeological potential**

### **4.1 Realisation of original research aims**

No archaeological deposits were encountered in the two evaluation trenches (Trenches 2 and 3), or in the proposed location of Trench 1.

### **4.2 General discussion of potential**

While the recent evaluation has not reached any archaeological deposits, the site probably still has a low to medium potential to contain Roman remains. Significant archaeological remains, including the nearby Billingsgate Roman house and bath, have been recorded in the immediate vicinity. It should be noted that the lowest excavation depth reached in this evaluation was c 4.20m OD in Trench 1, and the north wing of the Roman house had a mortar floor at 4.7m OD.

There is a low potential for medieval or post-medieval remains for this site due to the high levels of truncation from the existing building.

### **4.3 Significance**

The significance of any archaeological deposits on the site remains unknown.

## **5 Proposed development impact and recommendations**

The proposed redevelopment at 20 St Mary at Hill involves the refurbishment of the existing building. The impact of this refurbishment will be negligible to any surviving archaeological deposits as the proposed levels of excavations will remain above the expected depths of archaeological deposits.

Based on the results of the recent evaluation, MOLA recommends that no further archaeological work is carried out in the area of the evaluation trenches. The decision on the appropriate archaeological response rests with the Assistant Director Historic Environment for the City of London.

## **6 Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Jim McKeown of General Demolition, Peter Chapman of Peter Dann, Jonathan Benson of GVA Second London Wall, and Beliz Tecirli of MOLA for assistance during the evaluation.

## 7 Bibliography

Corporation of London Department of Planning and Transportation, 2004 *Planning Advice Note 3: Archaeology in the City of London, Archaeology Guidance*, London

Cultural Heritage Committee of the Council of Europe, 2000 *Code of Good Practice On Archaeological Heritage in Urban Development Policies; adopted at the 15th plenary session in Strasbourg on 8-10 March 2000* (CC-PAT [99] 18 rev 3)

Dept. of Communities and Local Government 2010, *Planning Policy Statement 5, Planning for the Historic Environment*

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2009 *Archaeological Guidance Papers 1-5*

Institute for Archaeologists, (IFA), 2001 *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute for Archaeologists*, (rev. 2001), *Standard and guidance: field evaluation*

Institute for Archaeologists (IFA), supplement 2001, *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute for Archaeologists: Standards and guidance – the collection, documentation conservation and research of archaeological materials*

MOLA 2011 *20 St Mary at Hill, London EC2. Historic environment assessment December 2011* MOLA unpub report

MOLA 2012 *20 St Mary at Hill, London EC2. Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief and evaluation January 2012* MOLA unpub report

MoLAS, 2002. *St Mary at Hill City of London, EC2. Archaeological impact assessment.* MOLA unpub. report

Museum of London, 1994 *Archaeological Site Manual 3rd edition*

Museum of London, 2002 *A research framework for London archaeology 2002*

## 8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

**OASIS ID: molas1-126874**

### Project details

**Project name** 20 St Mary at Hill, London, EC2

**Short description of the project** Three evaluation trenches were investigated and only modern basement slabs and deposits associated with the current building were found. No archaeological deposits were found in the areas to be redeveloped.

**Project dates** Start: 19-03-2012 End: 18-05-2012

**Previous/future work** No / No

**Any associated project reference codes** MYT12 – Site code

**Type of project** Field evaluation

**Site status** None

**Current Land use** Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

**Methods & techniques** 'Targeted Trenches'

**Development type** Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration

**Prompt** Planning condition

**Position in the planning process** Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

**Country** England

**Site location** GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON  
20 St Mary at Hill, London

**Postcode** EC2

<b>Study area</b>	<b>1000.00 Square metres</b>
<b>Site coordinates</b>	<b>TQ 33110 80700 51.5090310684 -0.08169559213370 51 30 32 N 000 04 54 W Point</b>
<b>Project creators</b>	
<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>MOLA</b>
<b>Project brief originator</b>	<b>Corporation of London</b>
<b>Project design originator</b>	<b>MOLA</b>
<b>Project director/manager</b>	<b>Beliz Tercirli</b>
<b>Project supervisor</b>	<b>Tony Mackinder</b>
<b>Type of sponsor/funding body</b>	<b>Developer</b>
<b>Name of sponsor/funding body</b>	<b>GVA Second London Wall</b>
<b>Project archives</b>	
<b>Physical Archive Exists?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Physical Archive recipient</b>	<b>LAARC</b>
<b>Digital Archive recipient</b>	<b>LAARC</b>
<b>Paper Archive recipient</b>	<b>LAARC</b>
<b>Paper Media available</b>	<b>'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes'</b>

**Project bibliography  
1**

<b>Publication type</b>	<b>Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>20 St Mary at Hill, London, EC2. An Archaeological evaluation report</b>
<b>Author(s)/Editor(s)</b>	<b>Mackinder, T</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Issuer or publisher</b>	<b>MOLA</b>
<b>Place of issue or publication</b>	<b>London</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>unpublished client report</b>
<b>Entered by</b>	<b>tmackinder (tmackinder@mola.org.uk)</b>
<b>Entered on</b>	<b>21 May 2012</b>



Fig 1 Site location

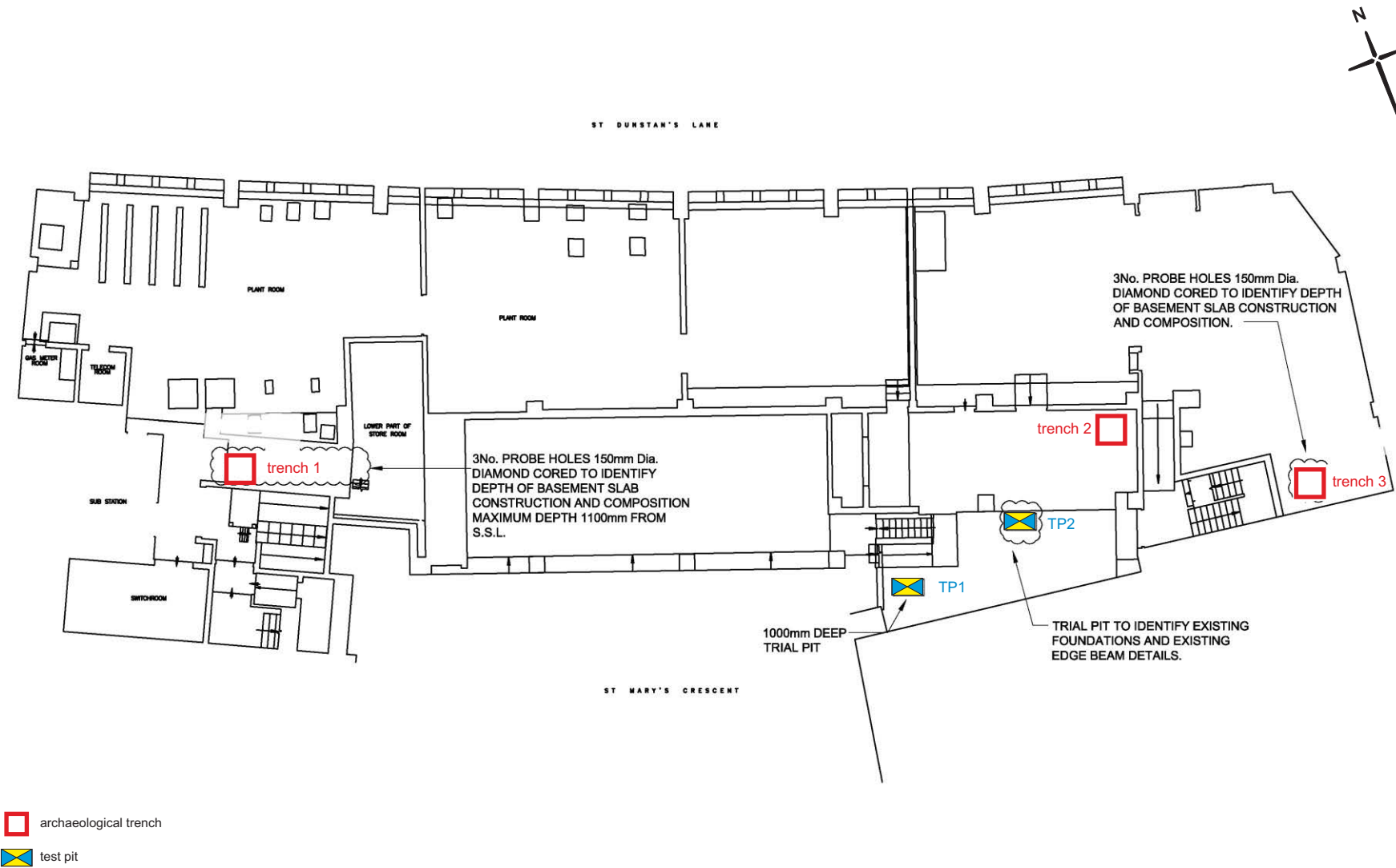


Fig 2 Areas of investigation





Fig 3 Trench 2



Fig 4 Trench 3