

CHURCHYARD OF ST BOTOLPH WITHOUT BISHOPSGATE London EC2

City of London

Watching brief and excavation report

November 2010





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Site code: SBQ10

National Grid Reference: 533187 181482

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by Kevin Stevenson Associates, on behalf of their client St Botolph's Church, in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at the churchyard of St Botolph without Bishopsgate, Bishopsgate, London EC2.

Work on three trenches was monitored between 21/10/2010 and 9/11/2010 during the development of new disabled access to the church and church hall. Three brick vaults - a burial vault, a half-vault and a barrel vault - and nine redeposited grave stones and markers were uncovered in Trenches 2 and 3. The highest survival of archaeological features occurred at 15.88m OD, on top of the half-vault. Natural ground was not encountered.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place within the churchyard of St Botolph without Bishopsgate, City of London EC2, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is bounded by Alderman's Walk and the church and church hall of St Botolph without Bishopsgate to the north; Bishopsgate, a main road, to the east; the rear boundaries of 9–26 Wormwood Street to the south; and walkways behind 69 Old Broad Street and Broad Street House to the west. The site does not include the tennis court in the southern part of the churchyard. The site falls within the historic parish of St Botolph Without Bishopsgate, in the City of London (Fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 533180 181480. The level of the Yorkshire slabs varied between 13.62m OD in a sunken courtyard and 16.14m OD in the churchyard. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is 15.7m OD. The site code is SQB10.

An Archaeological and built heritage impact assessment was previously prepared by MOLA, which covers the whole area of the site (Holloway, 2008). 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 watching brief was carried out by MOLA between 18/03/2009 and 20/03/2009, when two trenches were observed during works to an existing gas main: An Archaeological desk-based assessment (Rodenbuesch & Westman, 2009) was prepared in advance of those works and a Watching brief report was written on the results (Wroe-Brown, 2009). The results of this previous archaeological work and the Archaeological and built heritage impact assessment have informed the design (Method Statement) for the watching brief (MOLA, 2010) the results of which are reported here in this report.

1.2 The 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 watching brief (Section 3, MOLA 2010).

1.3 Planning background

The work was carried out as a condition of planning consent. Planning permission was granted for the development (09/00661/FULL) on 29 April 2010 with the following condition relating to archaeology:

Condition 3: No development shall take place within the site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Kevin Stevenson Associates, on behalf of their client St Botolph without Bishopsgate Church, 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 *Method Statement* (Section 2.2, MOLA 2010), 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, MOLA 2010):

- What was the level of natural topography?
- Is there any Roman or medieval deposits in the lift-pit excavation (Trench 1), and what can these tell us about these periods?
- Is there any evidence for the medieval church or burial practices?
- Is there any evidence for the graveyard use during the post-medieval period?
- Is there any evidence for the buildings that occupied the church hall part of the site during the post-medieval period?
- What are the latest deposits identified and what is the nature of 'modern' disturbance?

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

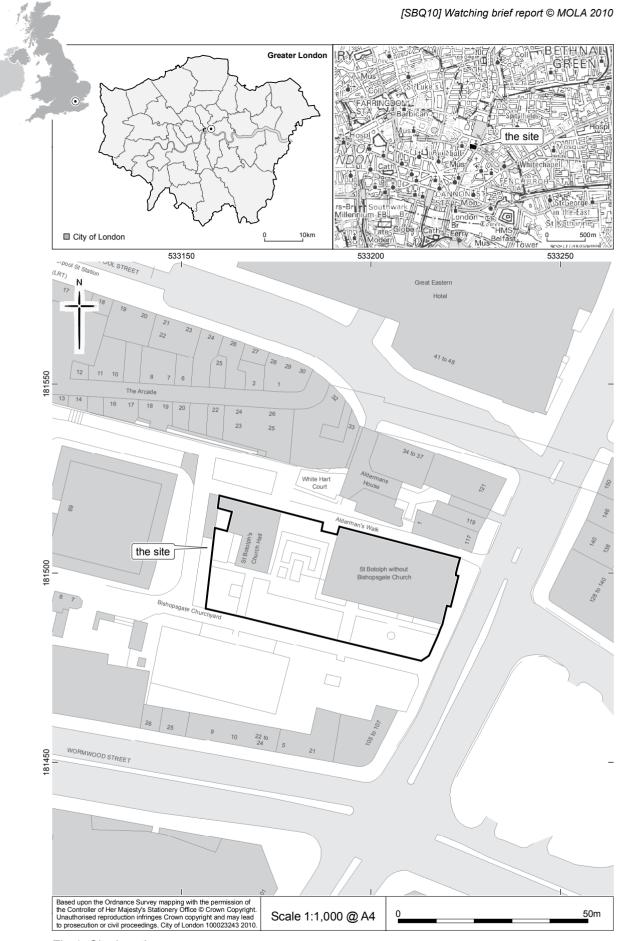


Fig 1 Site location

2 Topographical and historical background

A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site has been provided in the earlier *Archaeological desk-based assessment* (Holloway, 2008). A brief outline is provided here:

St Botolph without Bishopsgate is located immediately outside of the Roman and medieval City of London, just to the north of the City wall and ditch. A geophysical survey of part of the churchyard in 1977 identified an anomaly that could be a bastion of the City wall.

The church stands on the site of an earlier church first recorded in 1212, but it may have been founded in the late Saxon period. The ground to the south and west of the church, including the area of the proposed disabled access improvements, was intensively used as a burial ground from at least 1553 while the area to the west of the church appears to have been gardens during the post-medieval period.

The area to the south of the main east-west path through the churchyard was consecrated for burials in 1617 and became known as the South Churchyard and both burial grounds were used for a while. By the later 17th century, the churchyard extended as far south as the City wall when the site of the current church hall was partially occupied by houses.

The church itself was rebuilt in 1725–8 apparently on the same footprint but square in plan unlike the preceding buttressed building with a tower at its west end, while the churchyard was one of the first in the City to be made into a public garden in the 1860s followings its closure of new burials (MOLA 2010).

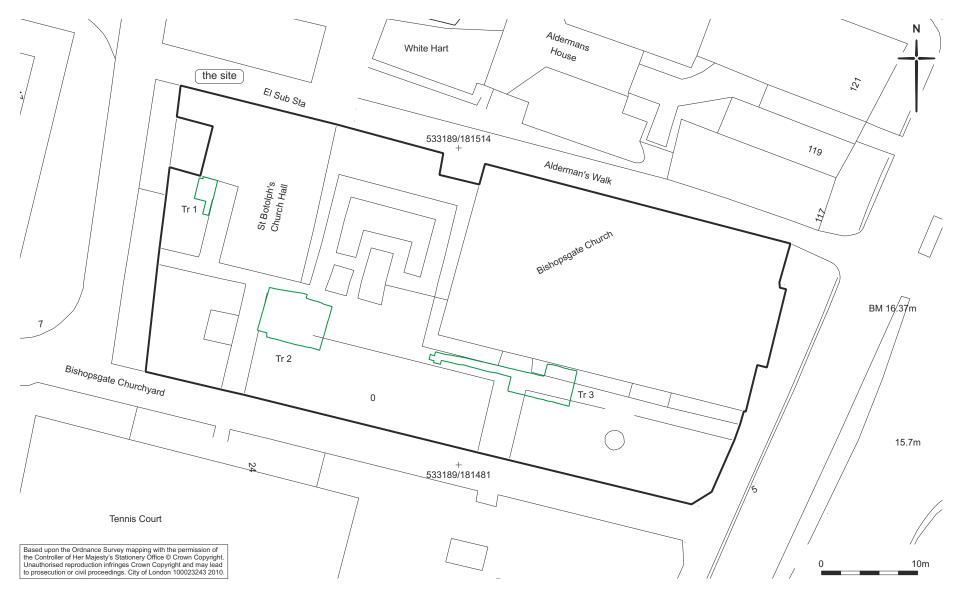


Fig 2 Trench locations

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3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2010) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

The Yorkshire slabs were removed by contractors under MOLA supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by the MOLA surveying team and plotted on to a CAD drawing (p:\CITY1000\1170\na\DO\fig02). This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

The heights of observations and archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum via a traverse to the OS benchmark on the eastern wall of St Botolph's, which was recorded at 16.37m OD.

The site has produced: 3 trench location plans; 3 trench record sheets; 8 context sheets; 9 burial memorial sheets and 105 digital photographs.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code SQB10 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, three separate interventions (trenches) were made for the purpose of developing disabled access into the church and church hall. These have been numbered Trenches 1-3 consecutively. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For all trench locations see Fig 2.

Watching Brief Trench 1	
Location	West of church hall
Dimensions	max 3.7m length by 1.96m width by c 1m max depth
Modern top of Yorkshire slabs	13.62m OD
Base of modern slab	13.56m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None seen
Level of base of deposits observed	12.5 m OD
Natural observed	N/A

The trench was excavated by the contractors to a maximum depth of c 1m. This exposed a slightly damp, modern sandy-silt backfill/levelling layer, which was recorded at 13.3m OD and was at least c 0.8m thick, although it continued below the base of the trench (12.5m OD). The layer contained red bricks, mortar, charcoal and oyster shell debris, some of which may have been churned up from original archaeological deposits which had been truncated away by this activity. Disarticulated human bone was also recovered and returned to the care of the church.

Three modern ceramic drains cut through the levelling layer and the trench was sealed by a thin mortar/concrete crush, 80 – 150mm thick, on which Yorkshire slabs had originally been situated.

Natural deposits were not encountered.

Watching Brief Trench 2		
Location	South-west of church and immediate	
	south-east of church hall	
Dimensions	5.6m length by 5.4m wide by <i>c</i> 1.10m	
	max depth	
Modern top of Yorkshire slabs	16.07m OD	
Base of modern slab	16.01m OD	
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None; made-ground was max 1m depth	
Level of base of deposits observed	14.94m OD	
Natural observed	N/A	

Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of c 1m, with a foundation trench running along its perimeter on the west, south and eastern sides. The foundation trench was 0.8m wide, c 0.4m deep and the base was recorded at 14.94m OD. A modern sandy-silt levelling layer, for the current churchyard garden levels, spread across Trench 2. It was recorded at 15.64m OD and to a maximum depth of c 0.6m.

Seven redeposited stone grave markers and slabs were found within the levelling layer (Fig 3, Fig 4). One was a memorial slab ('A'), two were grave markers ('B' and 'G') and the remainder were plain grave slabs (Section 10). Memorial slab 'A' was dedicated to the family burial of the kin of W. Rogers, one of St Botolph's most notable past rectors (Fig 5). It is likely that these markers had been reburied within the layer as part of the levelling process for the current churchyard and gardens when the graveyard was cleared of tombs and monuments. Memorial slab 'A', which partially overlay grave marker 'B' (Fig 5) was redeposited at the highest level in Trench 2, recorded at 15.67m OD. The remaining slabs and markers were recorded variously between 15.26m OD (grave slab 'C') and 15.5m OD (grave slabs 'E' and 'F'). In Trench 3, grave slabs 'H' and 'l' were found at a height of 15.22m OD and 15.44m OD respectively, although slab 'l' had been found laying unevenly on its side within the trench.

Disarticulated human bone was also recovered and returned to the care of the church.

A late post-medieval frogged yellow stock and red brick wall was located running east-west in the south-eastern corner of Trench 2. Its alignment respected that of grave slab 'F', suggesting it may have been constructed after the slab had been redeposited in the levelling layer. Above the levelling layer and redeposited markers was the garden soil of the current churchyard and public gardens, recorded at 16.05m OD.

Natural deposits were not encountered.

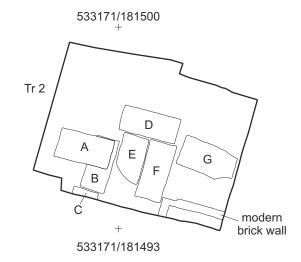
Watching Brief Trench 3	
Location	Outside southern church entrance
Dimensions	15.2m length by 3.8m max width by 1.2m
	max depth
Modern top of Yorkshire slabs	16.14m OD
Base of modern slab	16.08m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	c 1m max depth
Level of base of deposits observed	14.93m OD
Natural observed	N/A

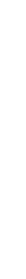
Two unfrogged orange and red brick burial vaults were uncovered at the eastern end of Trench 3, orientated east-west (Fig 8). Burial vault [1], the southernmost of the two, survived intact (Fig 6). It was situated on a slightly different alignment to St Botolph's church, suggesting it is of pre-1725 date, the year building of the present church began. The vault was 4.16m in length and recorded to a maximum width of c 1.04m, although it continued beyond the southern trench limits (Fig 8). The north-south orientated barrel vault [1] was contained within a number of brick walls which formed part of the structure; two north-south walls, [2] and [3] ,and east-west wall [4]. The top of the vault arch was at a height of 15.44m OD.

A second tomb was constructed with a half-vault [6] sprung from wall [8], constructed along the southern edge of the church, to wall [5] built along side the northern wall of the earlier vault; the space between forming burial vault [6] indicating that it post-dates the 1725 church (Fig 7 & 8). The east -west orientated vault arch was c 5.7m in length by c 1.4m wide and was recorded at a height of 15.88m OD. At the eastern end of the half vault was a north-south orientated barrel vault [7] that abutted the church at its northern end but it is not clear if this vault was part of the same structure as the half vault to its west. It was also not possible to establish if the N-S vault could be accessed directly from the church crypt as there was no evidence for an opening in this location inside the crypt.

An east-west ceramic drain that cut through the top of the half vault continued running through the western end of the trench, where two redeposited grave slabs ('H' and 'l') were located (Fig 3). Both slabs continued beyond the southern limits of the trench and 'l' was situated unevenly on its side, suggesting it had either been thrown back into the modern levelling layer, or it had been dislodged by the construction of the ceramic drain. The modern levelling layer sealed all the features in Trench 3 and was recorded at 15.96m OD and to a maximum depth of c 0.9m. Disarticulated human bone was also recovered and returned to the care of the church. It was similar to the modern layer found in Trench 2, and both had been constructed as part of the ground levelling process for the current churchyard and gardens.

Natural deposits were not encountered.





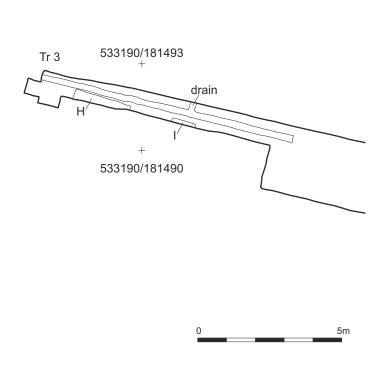


Fig 3 Redeposited grave markers and slabs in Trenches 2 and 3 $\,$



Fig 4 Grave markers and slabs in Trench 2 (west facing)



Fig 5 Memorial slab 'A', grave marker 'B' and grave slab 'C' (east facing)



Fig 6 Burial vault [1], with walls [4] and [5] situated respectively behind it, Trench 3 (north-west facing)



Fig 7 Burial half-vault [6], Trench 3 (east facing)

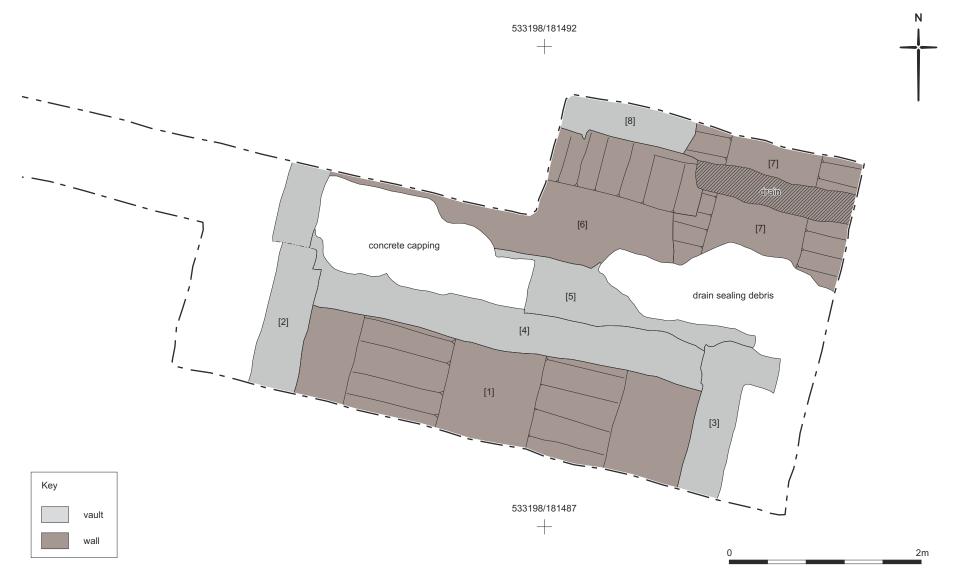


Fig 8 Structural features in Trench 3

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4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

What was the level of natural topography?

Natural deposits were not encountered on site.

• Is there any Roman or medieval deposits in the lift-pit excavation (Trench 1), and what can these tell us about these periods?

No Roman or medieval deposits were encountered in Trench 1; only modern crush and levelling deposits were present.

• Is there any evidence for the medieval church or burial practices?

No evidence for the medieval church or medieval burial practices were encountered.

• Is there any evidence for the graveyard use during the post-medieval period?

The graveyard size was reduced in size during the mid-20th century to its current form. A brick burial vault [1] probably dating from the 17th century, and a half vault [6] and barrel vault [7] of 18th century date, were located to the immediate south of the church, in Trench 3. Nine grave markers and slabs were also found, redeposited in make-up deposits in Trenches 2 and 3, as part of the ground levelling process for the current churchyard and gardens.

• Is there any evidence for the buildings that occupied the church hall part of the site during the post-medieval period?

No buildings were encountered in Trenches 1 or 2, located in the church hall area of site; all deposits were modern backfill or levelling layers.

• What are the latest deposits identified and what is the nature of 'modern' disturbance?

Modern truncation on site was caused by the installation of drains in Trench 1 and Trench 3, the latter including an east-west running drain cut through the top of half-vault [6]. The vaults in Trench 3 were sealed by a modern make-up deposit and the grave slabs and markers in Trench 2 had been redeposited in a similar modern make-up layer.

4.2 New research aims

No new research aims have been implemented.

4.3 Significance of the data

The brick vaults located in Trench 3, burial vault [1], half-vault [6] and barrel vault [7] (Fig 8), are undoubtedly of local and regional significance, although there is nothing to suggest that they are of national importance. The grave markers and slabs are of local significance and six have been relocated into St Botolph's graveyard where they can viewed by the public (Section 6, see also *Front cover*).

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 *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2010) 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* and the *Post-Medieval Archaeology* journal. No further work for this project is required.

6 Conclusion

The brick vaults uncovered in Trench 3 are of particular significance, as they represent *in situ* evidence of late post-medieval church burial structures associated with St Botolph without Bishopsgate which are of archaeological, historic and architectural interest.

Six of the nine redeposited grave markers and slabs ('A,' 'B', 'D', 'E', 'F' and 'G') uncovered in Trench 2 were carefully removed by crane and placed within the current graveyard of St Botolph without Bishopsgate, orientated north-south (see front cover). They can be viewed by the public from the gardens south of the church, although the graveyard itself is fenced off from public access. The remaining grave slabs, 'C', located in Trench 2, and 'H' and 'I' in Trench 3, have remained *in situ* and will not be affected by the disabled access works.

7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and assistance: Kevin Stevenson Associates, Ian Trant and the Kirkman and Jourdain's on-site team, Paul Gibson from St Botolph's church, Sarah Jones and Gideon Simons from the MOLA geomatics department and Judit Peresztegi for producing the report figures. The project manager is David Divers and Kathryn Stubbs is the Senior Planning and Archaeology Officer of the Corporation of London.

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-85337

Project details

Project name St Botolph's without Bishopsgate, London EC2

> Three trenches were monitored in the churchyard of St Botolph's, within the vicinity of the church and the

church hall, as part of the development of disabled Short description of access into the two buildings. Three brick vaults – a the project burial vault, a half-vault and a barrel vault – were

uncovered in Trench 3, and nine redeposited grave slabs/markers were uncovered in Trench 2 and Trench

3.

Project dates Start: 21-10-2010 End: 05-11-2010

Previous/future

work

Yes / Not known

Any associated

project reference

codes

SBP09 - Sitecode

Field evaluation Type of project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Other 4 - Churchyard

Monument type **BURIAL VAULT Post Medieval**

Significant Finds GRAVE SLABS/MARKERS Post Medieval

Methods &

'Targeted Trenches' techniques

Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical Development type

centre, law courts etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 Position in the planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF

LONDON St Botolph without Bishopsgate

Postcode EC2M 3TL

Study area 150.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 33175 81475 51.5159809705 -0.08046659340710

51 30 57 N 000 04 49 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation

MOL Archaeology

Project brief originator

City of London

Project design originator

MoL Archaeology

Project

director/manager

David Divers

Project supervisor Hana Lewis

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

Yes

Digital Archive

Exists?

Yes

Paper Archive

recipient

LAARC

Paper Media available

'Context sheet','Plan','Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Churchyard of St Botolph's without Bishopsgate,

London EC2: A watching breif report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Lewis, H

Date 2010

Issuer or publisher MOLA

Place of issue or

publication

MOLA

Description Standard watching brief report, following MOLA

template

Entered by H Lewis (hlewis@museumoflondon.org.uk)

Entered on 29 October 2010

10 Appendix I: The redeposited grave markers and slabs from Trench 2

Burial Ground St Botolph without Bishopsgate	Site SQB10	Memorial A
Type Memorial slab Decoration None	Length 1.84m Width 1.02m	Λ
Inscription	Thickness 120mm Height 15.67m OD	
NEAR TO THIS SPOT LIES THE FAMILTY GRAVE OF W. ROGERS [not legible]	Other Characteristics Has a beading edge	S
	Photograph P:CITY1000\1170\na\	Field\WBPhotos2010
	Digital photos number 2199, 2200, 2205, 222	s: 25, 2227
Comments and Sketch Redeposited memorial slab within made-up W. Rogers was one of St Botolph's most no See 'A' on Trench 2 plan		ırd.
Initials and date HL 1/11/2010	Checked	

Burial Ground St Botolph without Bishopsgate	Site SQB10	Memorial B
Type Grave marker Decoration None Inscription	Length 1.86m Width 0.8m Thickness 130mm Height 15.35m OD	
In memory of MR WILLIAM WILLIAMS Who died June 27th 1801 Aged 69 Years Also MRS ELIZABETH CHISNALL Daughter of the Above Who died January 26th 1812 Aged 36 Years ALSO MR WILLIAM WILLIAMS Her Brother Who died January 1st 1811	Other Characteristics The grave marker corr grave marker 'G') Photograph P:CITY1000\1170\na\l Digital photo numbers 2199, 2200, 2201, 220	ners are curved (as is Field\WBPhotos2010 :
Aged 61 Years Also MRS MARY WILLIAMS Wife of the above MR WILLIAMS Son Who died September 10th 1843 Aged 90 Years		
Comments and Sketch Redeposited grave marker within made-up ground of the churchyard. See 'B' on Trench 2 plan		
Initials and date HL 1/11/2010	Checked	

Burial Ground St Botolph without Bishopsgate	Site SQB10	Memorial C
Type Grave slab Decoration None Inscription None visible	Length 0.26m visible (continued beyond L.O.E) Width 0.86m Thickness 120mm Height 15.26m OD Other Characteristics N/A Photograph P:CITY1000\1170\na\Field\WBPhotos2010 Digital photo numbers: 2199, 2200, 2204, 2227	
Comments and Sketch Redeposited grave slab within made-up gro See 'C' on Trench 2 plan		
Initials and date HL 1/11/2010	Checked	

Burial Ground St Botolph without Bishopsgate	Site SQB10	Memorial D
Type Grave slab Decoration None Inscription N/A	Length 2m Width 0.86m Thickness 160mm Height 15.49m OD	
	Other Characteristics N/A	S
	Photograph P:CITY1000\1170\na\l	Field\WBPhotos2010
	Digital photo numbers 2206, 2213, 2214	:
Comments and Sketch Redeposited grave slab within made-up gro See 'D' on Trench 2 plan	ound of the churchyard.	
Initials and date HL 1/11/2010	Checked	

Burial Ground St Botolph without Bishopsgate	Site SQB10	Memorial E
Type Grave slab Decoration None Inscription N/A	Length c max 1.62m Width 0.88m Thickness 130mm Height 15.5m OD Other Characteristics The slab was partially truncated	
	Photograph P:CITY1000\1170\na\f	Field\WBPhotos2010
	Digital photo numbers: 2206, 2207	:
Comments and Sketch Redeposited grave slab within made-up gro See 'E' on Trench 2 plan	ound of the churchyard.	
Initials and date HL 1/11/2010	Checked	

Burial Ground St Botolph without Bishopsgate	Site SQB10	Memorial F
Type Grave slab Decoration None Inscription N/A	Length 2m Width 0.94m Thickness 120mm Height 15.5m OD	
	Other Characteristics N/A	S
	Photograph P:CITY1000\1170\na\l	Field\WBPhotos2010
	Digital photo numbers 2206, 2209	:
Comments and Sketch Redeposited grave slab within made-up gro See 'F' on Trench 2 plan	ound of the churchyard.	
Initials and date HL 1/11/2010	Checked	

Burial Ground St Botolph without Bishopsgate	Site SQB10	Memorial G
Type Grave marker Decoration None Inscription Here lies the remains of MR AMBROSE STONE Citizen* and Brazilian ? years an inhabitant of this Parish Who departed this life Oct 31st 1781 Aged 51 Years Also MRS SARAH STONE Wife of the above MR AMBROSE STONE Who departed this life August 6th 178_? Aged 18 Years Also MISS JUDITH STONE Youngest Daughter of the above AMBROSE and SARAH Who departed this life Oct 27th In her 18th Year Also MR EDWARD STONE Who died Oct 28th 1796 Aged 27 Years Also MR AMBROSE STONE Son of the above; who died May 8th 1836 Aged 65 Years	Length 1.9m Width 1.06m Thickness 130mm Height 15.45m OD Other Characteristics The grave marker corners are curved (as is grave marker 'B') Photograph P:CITY1000\1170\na\Field\WBPhotos2010 Digital photo numbers: 2215, 2218, 2219, 2234	
* Armourer?/ Almoner?/ Alderman?		
Comments and Sketch Redeposited grave marker within made-up ground of the churchyard. See 'G' on Trench 2 plan		
Initials and date HL 1/11/2010	Checked	

Burial Ground St Botolph without Bishopsgate	Site SQB10	Memorial H
Type Grave slab Decoration None Inscription N/A	Length c 1.9m (continued beyond L.O.E) Width 0.45m (continued beyond L.O.E) Thickness 130mm Height 15.22m OD Other Characteristics Only partially observed as continued beyond L.O.E	
	Photograph P:CITY1000\1170\na\	Field\WBPhotos2010
	Digital photos: 'Grave slab H south facing 1' 'Grave slab H south facing 2' 'Grave slab H south facing 3'	
Comments and Sketch		
Redeposited grave marker within made-up ground of the churchyard. See 'H' on Trench 3 plan		
Initials and date HL 10/11/2010	Checked	

Burial Ground St Botolph without Bishopsgate	Site SQB10	Memorial
Type Grave slab Decoration None Inscription N/A	Length c 0.84m (continued beyond L.O.E) Width 140mm (continued beyond L.O.E) Thickness 130mm Height 15.44m OD Other Characteristics Only partially observed as continued beyond L.O.E Photograph P:CITY1000\1170\na\Field\WBPhotos2010	
	Digital photos: 'Grave slab l'	
Comments and Sketch Redeposited grave marker within made-up ground of the churchyard. See 'I' on Trench 3 plan		
Initials and date HL 10/11/2010	Checked	