

**250 City Road
London
EC1**

Site code CFO14
NGR 532220 182790
OASIS reference 218371

Planning reference P2013/1089/FUL
Condition number 31

Post-excavation assessment interim no 1

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Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED tel 0207 410 2200
2 Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN3 8BE tel 01604 700493
email generalenquiries@mola.org.uk

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with company registration number 07751831 and charity registration number 1143574.
Registered office: Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED

Executive summary

This report is intended to inform the reader of the results of second phase of archaeological evaluation and the first phase of excavation work at 250 City Road, London EC1: what was found on the site; what post-excavation analysis work has been done so far; what work still needs to be done and why; and how and where the results of the excavation should be made public. The report is written and structured in a particular way to conform with the standards required of post-excavation analysis work as set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 and 1997).

All field work and subsequent assessment was carried out further to the *written scheme of investigation* (MOLA 2014a).

Following an earlier evaluation (MOLA 2014b) in 2014 that located the canal basin indicated on 19th century OS maps, further evaluation work (Trenches 4 and 5) and a mitigation area (Trench 7) were investigated. A series of cut features including possible ditches were recorded; these were poorly dated though one appears to be 16th or early 17th century in date. Nothing could be positively identified as the English Civil War defensive ditch, which was dug around London in 1642–43 and was thought to possibly cross the southern part of the site.

These features are possibly the remains of quarrying, as evidence of brick making was recovered from one of the cuts. The features were sealed by 18th century ground raising dumps including a possible garden soil dump suggesting horticulture/cultivation was taking place.

In places several brick walls were found belonging to the 19th century City Road basin that was built in the early 1820s as part of the Regents Canal. There were also brick walls of warehouses built alongside the canal and some brick culverts.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

Further evaluation work and an excavation took place at 250 City Road, London EC1 (see Fig 1). The site is bounded by City Road to the north, Macclesfield Road to the west, Dingley Road to the south and properties fronting Dingley Road to the east. The centre of the site lies at National Grid reference 532220 182790 (Fig 1) and the site code is CFO14. The site was occupied until recently by a 1980s low density business park, comprising 13, two to three storey, self-contained buildings arranged around a central landscaped courtyard, with underground car parking, areas of hardstanding and limited areas of soft landscaping. Levels across the site lie at 19.64m OD in the north-western section of the site dropping to 18.67m OD in the central southern part of the site. There is an existing basement at the north and central area of the site.

The site is being developed to create four new blocks ranging from seven to nine storeys plus two residential towers of 42 and 36 storeys and hotel with public open spaces, cycle provision and car parking. The proposals include a basement level across the majority of the site.

1.2 Planning background

The legislative and planning framework in which the evaluation took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MOLA 2014a) along with an *Addendum to the Written Scheme of Investigation* (CgMs 2015).

The excavation was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by the Local Authority (Consent reference P2013/1089/FUL; Condition number 31).

1.3 Scope of the excavations and report

The project covers one site (site code CFO14) and this is the second and third phases of archaeological work, commissioned by CgMs Consulting. Following an initial archaeological evaluation that took place in November 2014 (MOLA 2014b) (comprising Trenches 1–3, and 5–6), further work (mitigation) was required to fulfil the planning condition. This involved completing two evaluation trenches (Trenches 4 and 5) that were not fully investigated previously and the stripping a larger area (Trench 7).

1.4 Circumstances and dates of fieldwork

There were two phases of work; investigation of Trench 5 and excavation of the mitigation trench (Trench 7) which took place between 08/04/15 and 23/04/15, this was followed by the investigation of Trench 4 between 27/05/15 and 03/06/15.

Features and deposits in the mitigation trench (Trench 7) were fully recorded in plan, with partial excavation taking place in the evaluation trenches (Trench 4 and 5).

1.5 Organisation of the report

The principles underlying the concept of post-excavation assessment and updated project design were established by Historic England (then English Heritage) in the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (MAP2), (1991) and further developed in *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavations* (1997). Historic England

guidance for the London region stresses that the main difference between this and any other report (eg an evaluation report), is 'the inclusion of an Updated Project Design, which puts forward proposals for analytical work necessary to bring the site to publication' (English Heritage, 2014).

The report below contains the historical and archaeological background of the site in Section 2, followed by the original research aims that guided the project in Section 3. An account of the archaeological remains recovered, ordered by period is provided in Section 4. This is followed by specialist reports that quantify and assess the finds recovered during the excavation in Section 5. An assessment of the potential of the data from the site to answer the existing research aims and contribute to additional research questions is covered in Section 6, and the significance of the site is discussed in Section 7.

2 Topographical, historical and archaeological background

The topographical information and archaeological background information to the site was presented in the *Desk-Based Assessment* (CgMs 2013, Sections 3 and 4) and is summarised below:

2.1 Topography

The site is underlain by Hackney Gravels. A recent geotechnical investigation was undertaken at the site and boreholes and window sample recorded were reproduced in the Archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013, Appendix 1). Borehole records indicated levels of between 2m and 3.6m of made ground across the site. The gravels were most probably truncated and were recorded at levels of between 13.10m OD (BH6) and 17.14m OD (BH5A) but were generally encountered at between c 16m to c 17m OD.

A topographic survey of the site gives the highest level as 19.64m AOD in the north-western part of the site and the lowest level as 18.67m AOD in the central southern part of the site. City Road formerly bridged the City Basin so rises to 21.90m AOD in the centre of the northern boundary.

2.2 Archaeology

There are recorded finds from the prehistoric period recorded on the Greater London Historic Environment Records (GLHER) within the site vicinity, these comprise of two Palaeolithic axes (GLHER 22624) and a spearhead dating from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (GLHER 36579).

The line of Clerkenwell Road, which continues as Old Street c 400m to the south of the site, is thought to follow a Roman road. Another possible Roman road is indicated on the GLHER, running north/south, possibly along Goswell Road to the west of the site. Additionally there are isolated finds, such as Roman coins and pottery recorded in the vicinity of the site.

There is no known early medieval (Saxon) activity close to the site. During the later medieval period the site probably lay in open land north of Old Street. Its position c 300m to the south-west of the moated site of Wenlock's manor house (Wenlock's Barn) suggests the site lay in the agriculture landscape potentially associated with the manor house.

During the Civil War (1642–6), the Common Council undertook a comprehensive scheme for protecting the City, Liberties and outlying parishes against the Royalist forces. This included the construction of a 17km long line of defences in 1642–43, part of which possibly cross the site. The approximate circuit of the bank and ditch earthworks has been reconstructed by Vertue on the only historic map that shows the defences, entitled '*A Plan of the City and Suburbs of London fortified by Order of Parliament in the Years 1642 & 1643*', and this dates from c 1738.

The exact location of the greater part of the Civil War defences is uncertain and has not fully been determined archaeologically, although evidence of the ditch has been recorded south of Whitechapel station in 1998, at excavations for the new wing of the British Museum in 2010 and possibly in evaluation trenches at the Imperial War Museum in 2012. The possible course of the defences has been projected by MOLA, largely based on the work of Sturdy, Smith and Kelsey and Flintham (Sturdy 1975, 336; Smith and Kelsey 1996, 117–148; Flintham 1998, 233–35) and two of the conjectured routes of the defensive ditch cross the southern area of the site.

Plague pits (GLHER 397 and 11098) are reputed to lie to the east and the southwest of the site. According to William Pink's '*History of Clerkenwell*' (Pink 1881) by December 19th 1665 it was

estimated that 1377 residents of Clerkenwell had died of the plague and the majority were buried in the Mountmill Pit to the south–west of the site.

A map by Rocque in 1746 shows the site as lying within open ground. City Road was constructed in 1761 (Fig. 4; VCH, 1985 p.3). By the time of Horwood's 1799 map, development had spread along the City Road, though the study site remained open ground and labelled as 'Garden Ground Belonging to Wenlock's Barn Prebendary'.

Construction of Regents Canal began in 1812 and it opened in 1820. An act of parliament in 1819 authorised the City Road extension and this presumably included the City Road basin. Greenwood's map of 1827 shows the City Basin cutting through the centre of the site with a side wharf to the east and a number of buildings around the wharves. The 1871 Ordnance Survey map does not show the side dock, but it may have been under the cover of warehouse buildings rather than filled in as the site is filled with wharves alongside the City Basin. Many of the buildings front Macclesfield Street South or York Road (now Dingley Street) with open yards to the rear next to the Basin. By 1894 more buildings had been constructed within the site. By 1921, the southern part of the City Basin had been filled in and additional warehousing constructed over it. The rest of the basin south of City Road had been filled in by 1945; one source saying this had taken place in the 1930s (London Canal Museum website accessed 24/7/15). The 1954 Ordnance Survey map shows the site to be occupied by a transport depot.

Between 1988 and 1999 the transport depot buildings were demolished and replaced by the existing buildings.

2.3 Personnel

In the document below the following terms should be understood:

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company registration number 07751831 and charity registration number 1143574. Registered office: Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED.

Project Manager - CgMs Consulting office based manager who is the overall client's principal point of contact and who has overall responsibility for the project budget and delivery

Field Team Manager - MOLA office based manager responsible for allocation of staff and supply of equipment and resources.

Site Supervisor - MOLA site based manager who was responsible for the direction of the field team. Site supervisors on larger sites will tend to be Project Officers in grade, whilst on other sites they will be Senior Archaeologists. On some sites there may be both a Project Officer and/or one or more Senior Archaeologists.

Archaeologists - MOLA excavation staff responsible on site for archaeological excavation.

Health and Safety Compliance Manager – The MOLA manager with sole responsibility for site inspections, reporting and issuing of recommendations for the Site Supervisor and Project Manager to implement. Reports directly to CgMs Consulting and MOLA CEO.

3 Original research aims

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

Specific research aims were also established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the excavation (MOLA 2014a, section 1.7) and Addendum to the Written Scheme of Investigation for the excavation (CgMs 2015 section 2.2.2).

- What is the nature and level of natural topography and have these deposits been truncated?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- What are the latest deposits identified?
- Is there significant potential for prehistoric or Roman remains on the site?
- Are there any human remains on the site, and if so of what date?
- Are there any remains associated with the Civil War defences on the site?
- Are there any remains associated with the 19th century canal basin and associated structures?
- Does the canal basin wall survive as an intact structure?
- What is the character, extent, state of preservation, and significance of buried archaeological remains across the site? Specifically, could any features merit preservation in-situ?
- What is the extent of modern disturbance and overburden?

Also;

- to assess the survival of canal-side structures, and where they exist to investigate and record them
- to investigate the possibility of scuttled vessels or deliberate deposition of items in the base of the canal
- to investigate the survival of archaeological deposits pre-dating the canal

4 Site sequence: interim statement on field work

4.1 Introduction

See Fig 2

Three trenches were investigated in this phase of work; Trench 4 and Trench 5 were the two final evaluation trenches that could not be included in the earlier evaluation report (MOLA 2015), and Trench 7 (also referred to as the mitigation trench) which was a larger area that was stripped to expose the 19th century canal basin.

4.2 Evaluation trench 4

See Fig 3

Location	South of site over conjectured line of Civil War defensive ditch to evaluate impact of present building
Dimensions	14.0m NW/SE x 2.0m SW/NE x 4.17m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	19.02m OD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	18.37m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	1.90m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	15.00m OD
Top of surviving natural observed at	15.90m OD
Level of base of trench	15.57m OD

Due to the proximity of a neighbouring property, Trench 4 was not located where it is indicated on the *written scheme investigation* (MOLA 2014). It was moved somewhat to the west.

Truncated natural sand [107] was encountered, the highest level was 15.90m OD and there was no brickearth surviving. The natural was cut by a series of linear features running SW to NE. Two, [106] and [104], appear to be quarry cuts and were backfilled with mixed clay deposits. The bottom of [106] was not reached and it continued beyond the trench limit. A stratigraphically later cut [97] may be the English Civil War defensive ditch that is predicted to cross the site in this area. The highest survival was at 16.30m OD and it was flat bottomed at 15.30m OD. One of its backfills was an organic silt [95] that included a leather shoe. To its south, there was another cut [98] whose fill [91] contained brick fragments that were evidence of local brick making (and may be the same as a feature seen in Trench 5 further to the west).



Photo1: Trench 4 features [104] and [106] cut into natural looking east

These features were sealed by a series of three horizontal dump layers; [90], [89] and [88]. There was also a thin band of peaty material [87] followed by dumps [86] and [85]. In total these deposits were 1.0m thick. Finally there was a deposit of garden soil, [74] and [69] that was up to 1.20m thick. The only dating was a large fragment of imported Chinese porcelain Imari ware 1680-1900 in [69].

Cutting through the garden soil deposits was a brick culvert [80] running NW/SE (17.82m OD) to SW/NE (17.70m OD). This was joined by a smaller east-west culvert (not contexted), which was also seen to run across Trench 5 further to the west where it was recorded as [58].

A layer sealing this [67] was dated by fragments of Isleworth slipware and creamware to the late 18th – mid 19th century (1760–1830.) At the top of the sequence there was a fairly modern cast iron pipe [84] running the length of the trench, with another modern pipe [82] that was only seen in one section of the trench.

Sealing this trench was a 0.50m thick modern levelling layer and a further c 0.20m of concrete.



Photo 2: Trench 4 brick culvert [80] and its smaller culvert looking north

4.3 Evaluation trench 5

See Fig 3

Location	South of site over conjectured line of Civil War defensive ditch in area of path between existing buildings
Dimensions	11.0m N/S x 6.0m E/W x 3.50m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	c 19.0m OD
Base of modern fill	c 18.20m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	2.0m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	15.50m OD
Top of surviving natural observed at	16.80m OD
Level of base of trench	15.50m OD

Trench 5 was positioned between two buildings constructed in the 1980s (now demolished) in the south–central part of the site, and was partially investigated in the earlier evaluation (MOLA 2015b).

The natural gravels [65] were encountered at c 16.80m OD; these were overlain by a dirty brickearth deposit [64] that was 0.20m thick. A cleaner brickearth deposit [61] seen in the south western area of this trench was a natural deposit.

The earliest feature was an east-west cut [63], whose depth c 1.50m suggests this was a ditch or deep pit. The highest survival was at 17.00m OD and the base was at c 15.50m OD. The fill [66] included a large amount of burnt clay and bricks some with a glassy glaze. The depth of this feature meant the fill was removed by machine and examined on site. A brick may be 16th century in date or early to mid-17th century in date. A similar fill [62] had been partially hand-dug before the machining took place; bricks dated 1480-1600 were recovered and may be evidence of local brick-making. This may be the same feature seen in Trench 4 to the east and recorded as [98]. The English Civil War ditch is predicted to possibly run across this area of the site. This ditch feature was sealed by a possible waterlain dump [60], that contained some pottery dated 1720-80/1800, which was overlain by another dump [57] that had pottery dated 1760-1780.

A north-south brick wall [59] with highest survival at 18.64m OD is probably 19th century in date and may be a continuation of the City Road canal basin (see below). Later a rough hole was broken in the western face to accommodate an east-west brick culvert [58]. This culvert is probably a continuation of brick culvert [80] that was found in Trench 4 further to the east.

Sealing this trench was a 0.50m thick modern levelling layer and a further c 0.30m of concrete/road surface deposits.



Photo 3: Trench 5 possible ditch [63] looking east

4.4 Trench 7 (mitigation trench)

Natural and topography

Natural sand and gravel was recorded at 16.95m OD, only slightly higher than in Trench 5 further to the south where it was at 16.80m OD. In the mitigation trench no brickearth was found.

Post-medieval City Road canal basin

See Fig 4

The east side of the canal basin was defined by two brick walls [45] and [53]. There was a gap between the two lengths of wall formed by a side dock that ran to the east (see below). The highest survival was at 18.14m OD and the base was at 17.00m OD. To the west the rest of the canal basin has been lost through later truncation when an underground car park and its ramp were constructed. In this area there is also a brick wall [56] that is 20th century in date. There was no sign of a return to form the southern end of the basin; the wall here may have been lost through later truncation or survive further to the south.

On the eastern side of the canal basin there was an inlet or smaller dock that was 6m wide. This was formed by two east-west brick walls [48] and [51]. The west end of wall [51] butted against the east face of wall [53]. The relationship between walls [48] and [45] had been removed by later disturbance. An area of brick floor [46] at 16.92–17.03m OD respects the opening into the inlet. Brick recovered was 18th or 19th century in date. Nearby there was a horizontal timber beam [47] that also respects this opening.

The canal inlet was probably blocked off with something as a vertical slot 0.15m wide and 0.10m deep was noted in wall [51] that coincided with timber [47], unfortunately if there was a corresponding slot in the opposite wall it had been lost through later truncation. Whether this blocking was permanent or something temporary like a gate or baulks of wood is unknown.

A nearby line of decayed timber piles [55] may also have had something to do with this blocking. A temporary barrier may have been required when the inlet was been constructed as it seems on map evidence, to have been added after the main canal basin was dug.

The inlet was quite long stretching eastwards almost to the site boundary where a wall was found in the evaluation work (MOLA 2014b). At some point in the late 19th century the inlet was reduced in size as a north-south brick wall [50] was added blocking the inlet and this brickwork was 19th century in date. This blocking may suggest the inlet was infilled in stages, though no difference in the backfills either side of [50] was noted.

The infilling deposit [54] was a mix of yellow clay, black silty and rubble. This took place in the early 20th century, possibly the 1930s. The pottery recovered from [54] is dated to after 1820, and two glass bottles are dated to after 1886 and after 1894. There was also a stoneware bottle recovered.

Brick warehouses

A brick wall [52] with three openings possibly for doors or open arches was added to form large buildings on the south side of the inlet and parallel to the main canal basin. The only evidence of a brick floor was found in an adjacent section to the east of [52], and this was at 17.30m OD.

The infilling of the warehouse area was different to that of the canal inlet and comprised mainly black silt and some brick rubble. No dateable finds were recovered from this deposit.



Photo 4: Trench 7 canal basin wall [53] looking north east



Photo 5: Trench 7 slot in canal wall [51] looking south



Photo 6: Trench 7 line of piles [55] looking west with timber beam [47] in background



Photo 7: Trench 7 warehouse wall [52] looking east

4.5 Conclusions

Trench 4 and 5 both show linear cuts that are on the expected trace of the English Civil War ditch, though none of the small number of finds recovered can be used to positively identify it as such. Further excavation may be necessary to look at a larger area to clarify their form and function and to confirm these are the same feature (a ditch) as based on their fills these are not the same feature. Also further excavation could recover more finds, currently these features and elsewhere on site, are poorly dated due to a general lack of finds.

The English Civil War ditch by all accounts appears to have been open for only a short time (5 to 10 years), so unlike the late medieval defensive ditch around the City of London, which was open for a long time and was redug several times, this did not have time to accumulate deposits or an abundance of finds. Its size and location around the edges of the settled area must also have had an influence on the type of fills accumulating in it. Evidence from the few excavated examples of the civil war ditch suggests backfilling was a local event with whatever was at hand. In this case the debris from brick making, an activity expected to be found located outside the settled area.

The other deposits found are a mixture of ground raising deposits ('dumps') and 'garden soil' deposits suggesting horticulture or market gardening was taking place before the area was finally built up in the 19th century as the suburbs expanded. These deposits predated the digging of the canal basin and the side dock.

In the mitigation trench (Trench 7) brick walls belonging to a post-medieval canal basin and the warehouses adjacent to it were investigated and recorded.

The City Road basin was built in the early 1820s as part of the Regents Canal. The southern section of the canal basin was infilled by 1921 and the final part south of City Road was infilled in 1930s. The small number of finds recovered gives an earlier date but this probably means the material brought in as backfill was already mixed.

A side dock coming off the City Road basin appears on the Greenwood map 1827 and had disappeared by 1871 being replaced by more warehouses. This side dock was 6m wide and c 30m long as it was also seen further to the east in Trench 3 of the earlier evaluation (MOLA 2014b) where its top was at 18.57m OD and this must be close its end near to City Road.

5 Quantification and assessment

5.1 Post-excavation review

The following were carried out for this post-excavation assessment:

- site matrix checked
- plans digitised
- all photographs cross referenced and indexed
- all provisional ceramic dating done

The following needs to be done at the next step of analysis (if needed);

- subgrouping
- establish final group structure
- establish land use sequence and diagrams

5.2 The site archive and assessment: stratigraphic

Type	Description	Quantity	Notes
Contexts		63	Total number
Plans		7	Total sheets
Sections	'A4'	11	Total sheets
Matrices	paper	8	Total sheets
Photographs	digital	145	Trench 4, 5 and 7

Table 1 Stratigraphic archive

5.3 Site archive and assessment: finds and environmental

Category	Description	Weight
Building material	Two small crates of ceramic building material (bulk of material discarded after assessment) Four brick samples (not weighted)	2.4kg
Medieval pottery	2 sherds	22g
Post-medieval pottery	55 fragments (44 ENV)	1.861kg
Accessioned finds	2 finds	
Clay pipes	Currently unknown	
Animal Bone	Currently unknown	

Table 2 Finds and environmental archive general summary

5.4 The building material

Ian M. Betts

Introduction/methodology

All the building material has been recorded using the standard recording forms used by the Museum of London. This has involved fabric analysis undertaken with a x10 binocular microscope. The information on the recording forms has been added to an Oracle database.

Roman building material

Fabric group 2815

A fragment of *tegula* roofing tile was recovered with a post-Roman peg roofing tile in context [22]. This is in a London-area fabric and dates to AD50-160.

Medieval building material

Fabric: not recorded

Definite medieval peg roofing tile, almost certainly London-made, was recovered from context [28]. This has a general 1180-1480 date. Peg tile of probable similar date was recovered from context [27].

Post-medieval ceramic building material

Fabrics 3032, 3033, 3046 (bricks), not recorded (roofing tile)

Peg roofing tile

London-made post-medieval roofing tile was recovered from contexts [36] and [46]. These probably date to the period 1480-1800. Another fragment of roofing tile (context [22]) could be either medieval or post-medieval.

Brick

There are a number of dark red overfired and partly vitrified bricks (fabrics 3033, 3046) from context [62]. None have mortar attached suggesting they may be wasters from brick manufacture, perhaps using clamps rather than permanent brick kilns. Their size would suggest a 1480-1600 date, although it is more likely they relate to pre-1550 brickmaking.

An orange pre-Great Fire brick was recovered from context [66]. This is more likely to be 16th century, although an early-mid 17th century date is also a possibility.

Dark red post-1666 bricks were recovered from contexts [46], [50] and [53]. The brick from context [[50] has a deep frog in the base suggesting a 19th century date, the bricks from contexts [46] and [53] could be either 18th or 19th century. The brick from context [50] has two different mortar layers attached to the surface suggesting reuse from an earlier brick structure.

Assessment work outstanding

The building material from the earlier evaluation work (MOLA 2014b) still needs to be fully recorded.

5.5 The pottery

Lyn Blackmore

The pottery from CFO14 was examined in two stages. The evaluation finds (contexts [9] to [40]) were scanned in December 2014 and counted but not weighed; brief comments on each context were noted on a proforma sheet. These and the 2015 finds (contexts [54]–[62]) have now been recorded directly onto the MOLA Oracle database, in accordance with current MOLA procedure, using standard codes for fabric, form, decoration and condition and noting the number of sherds, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight in grams. The finds were bagged separately according to period.

The medieval pottery

Only two definite medieval sherd were found; one is of coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware and was from context [40] in the evaluation (see MOLA 2014b). Another sherd is a highly micaceous oxidised earthenware, possibly from Hedingham, Essex, a fabric rarely found in London.

The post-medieval pottery

Taking both groups together, a total of 55 sherds of 17th- to 19th-century pottery were recovered from nine contexts in five trenches. All sherds are domestic in character, mainly fragmented but including a complete stoneware beer/lemonade bottle from [54], the only displayable piece from the site. Taking all finds together, Surrey-Hampshire border wares are the most common by sherd count and in second place by weight (12 sherds, 12 ENV, 222g), while London-area post-medieval redwares are the most common by weight (10 sherds, 7 ENV, 444g). Non-local yellow ware totals 11 sherds, but these are from only 5 vessels (204g); industrially made finewares are slightly more common, with nine sherds from eight vessels (also 204g). Other English ware types comprise stonewares, Essex fine post-medieval redware, tin-glazed ware, and three imports (all Chinese porcelain).

Distribution

In all, 23 sherds (23 ENV, 239g) were recovered from the evaluation and 34 sherds (23 ENV, 1.644kg) from the excavation. All groups are small, the largest being 21 sherds from [54]. In terms of dating, medieval activity is not well represented, with only two sherds. That from the gravel/brickearth [22] in Trench 2 could be stratified, but the other, from garden soil [40] in Trench 1 is residual.

Of the post-medieval deposits, the ditch fill [62] in Trench 5 is potentially the earliest context, although with only one sherd and a broad date range of 1580–1900. Five contexts date to the 18th century, probably all to between c 1750–80: ditch fill [36] in Trench 1 (1700–1800); garden soil [13] in Trench 2, and waterlain dump [60] in Trench 7 1720–1780/1800); garden soil [9] in Trench 5 (1740–80), and dump [57] in Trench 5 (1760–1780). The silty made ground [20] in Trench 3 dates to c 1780–1820, while the latest groups are from garden soil [27] in Trench 6 and canal infill [54] in Trench 7, the pottery from both of which dates to after 1820 (see below, bulk glass).

5.6 The bulk glass

Lyn Blackmore

Two complete bottles (767g) were recovered from the canal infill deposit [54] in Trench 7 and recorded directly onto the Oracle database using standard MOLA codes for colour, form and other attributes; numerical data comprises fragment count, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight. The first is a green glass cylindrical bottle for beer/lemonade, sold by R White; the relief moulded lettering across the top reads 'R.W. & S. L^d', shows that the bottle dates to after 1894 when this firm was incorporated. The second is an amber-coloured necked jar with oval body, made for Bovril Limited, which should date to after 1886, when the product was branded and patented.

5.7 The accessioned finds

Lyn Blackmore

	Roman	Medieval	Post-med	Not known	Total	Comments
Iron			1		1	
Copper alloy			1		1	Copper alloy object
Total			2		2	

Table 3 Summary of accessioned finds by material and period

Two accessioned finds were recovered from the canal infill deposit [54] in Trench 7 and recorded on the MOLA Oracle database, using standard MOLA codes for material and object type, with photographs and catalogue entries including dimensions and weight where appropriate.

Iron

Context [54] contained a near complete large enamelled iron sign with white lettering on blue ground advertising the 'Booking Office for Carter Paterson & Co Ld / London and Suburban Express Carriers', measuring 410 x 300mm, plus a return of 40mm along the right side with two slots for suspension.

The enamelled iron sign was identified as requiring conservation input to prepare it for illustration and photography (Liz Goodman).

Copper alloy

Copper alloy object <1> is worn and illegible with squared edges. Its function is unknown.

Assessment work outstanding

The pottery from work in 2014 remains to be located and recorded on the Oracle database.

List of objects for investigative conservation - none.

List of objects for illustration

The sign <2> and the glass and stoneware bottles could be photographed as a group. The glass ointment pot <21> could also be photographed.

6 Potential of the data

6.1 Realisation of the original research aims

The following research questions can be answered;

- *What is the nature and level of natural topography and have these deposits been truncated?*

The natural was sand and gravels, the untruncated levels varied from 15.90m OD in trench 4 to 16.95m OD in trench 7. In places these deposits have been truncated by later activity.

- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

Potentially the earliest context [62], is from a possible ditch in Trench 5, although this is only one sherd with a broad date range of 1580–1900. A 16th century date for this feature is also supported by several bricks recovered from another of its fills, although an early-mid 17th century date is also a possibility. Five contexts date to the 18th century, and are probably all dated to c 1750–80. Overall the dateable finds are limited.

- *What are the latest deposits identified?*

The latest deposits are late 19th/early 20th century in date and relate to the infilling of the canal basin.

- *Is there significant potential for prehistoric or Roman remains on the site?*

There appears to be little or no potential for prehistoric or Roman remains on the site.

- *Are there any human remains on the site, and if so of what date?*

There are no human remains on the site.

- *Are there any remains associated with the Civil War defences on the site?*

It does not appear any of the remains found can be associated with the Civil War defences predicted to cross the southern part of the site.

- *Are there any remains associated with the 19th century canal basin and associated structures?*

There are remains mainly comprising brick walls that are the 19th century canal basin and adjacent warehousing, though there are no floor levels surviving.

- *Does the canal basin wall survive as an intact structure?*

Although truncated in places by later activity such as services, the canal basin wall survives largely intact.

- *What is the character, extent, state of preservation, and significance of buried archaeological remains across the site? Specifically, could any features merit preservation in-situ?*

There is evidence of quarrying, possible brick making, land raising events ('dumping') and brickwork relating to the 19th century canal basin and its associated warehouses. Parts of the

canal basin wall could be preserved *in situ*. However, its level of significance does not necessitate preservation *in situ*.

- *What is the extent of modern disturbance and overburden?*

Generally, there are between 1.0 and 1.50m of modern or disturbed deposits across the site before archaeological remains are encountered.

- *To assess the survival of canal-side structures, and where they exist to investigate and record them*

The only canal-side structure found was a brick-built warehouse that was recorded in Trench 7. Only the foundation levels survived, with possible evidence of a brick floor at 17.30m OD (and only found in a section).

- *To investigate the possibility of scuttled vessels or deliberate deposition of items in the base of the canal*

There were no scuttled vessels or evidence for deliberate deposition of items within the canal.

- *To investigate the survival of archaeological deposits pre-dating the canal*

In the area of the canal (Trench 7) no deposits pre-dating the building of the canal were identified.

6.2 General discussion of potential

The small size of the ceramic brick assemblage means it has relatively little potential to contribute to the understanding of the site, although the bricks may help with the dating and interpretation of any brick structures.

The medieval pottery is of interest in that it may derive from the Wenlock Manor, but there is little or no potential for further work. Also the amount of post-medieval pottery is limited and it is scattered across a number of trenches, so the main potential is as a dating tool and economic indicator, reflecting the development of the area over time and availability of imported material

The bulk glass is of importance for dating the canal infilling deposit [54] to the late 19th century, though the final infilling the canal basin is historically dated to the early 20th century, and for its display potential.

The Carter Paterson sign <2> is of some interest. The firm was founded in 1860 and became a limited company in 1887 and was a rival to the Pickfords removal company. By 1870 there was a depot in Goswell Road, and opened another in Central Street, just to the east of Goswell Road in 1890; by this time there were 700 horses in the Goswell Road depot, and presumably more in Central Street. An office is indicated on GOAD plans to the south of the trenches. The date of the sign fits with that of the glass and it can add directly to the local history of the area.

7 Significance of the data

If it could be proved, by further excavation or analysis, the apparent ditch-like feature(s) identified in trenches 4 and 5 are the English Civil War defensive ditch dug around this part of London, this site would be of regional or possibly national significance. At present the 19th century canal and the earlier features found here are only of local significance.

The building material is only of limited local significance. The Roman building material would be of more importance if it can be linked with any trace of Roman occupation on or near the site. The evidence for what appears to be brick manufacture is worthy of note. It would be useful to look at other evidence for late 15th-16th century brick manufacture in the same area. The other bricks could be of significance in the dating of brick built structures on the site.

The medieval pottery, post-medieval pottery and glass and the enamelled sign are of local significance only.

8 Publication project: aims and objectives

As further excavation and watching brief work will probably be required on the site, and further areas of the site may need to be evaluated or become the subject of watching briefs when they become available during the course of the redevelopment of the whole site, it is not possible at present to suggest if further reporting such as a publication will be required.

At present, this phase of archaeological work will be reported as a short note in the next annual *London Archaeologist* round-up and any other relevant journals (*Post-medieval Archaeology*).

At a later date, if publication is deemed necessary to further report on the site, a publication project outlining any further post-excavation work (or analysis) to satisfy the current planning condition will be completed by MOLA or CgMs.

9 Acknowledgements

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In addition Aidan Hayes (surveyor - Laing O’Rourke/Expanded Ltd) for assistance with Trench 4.

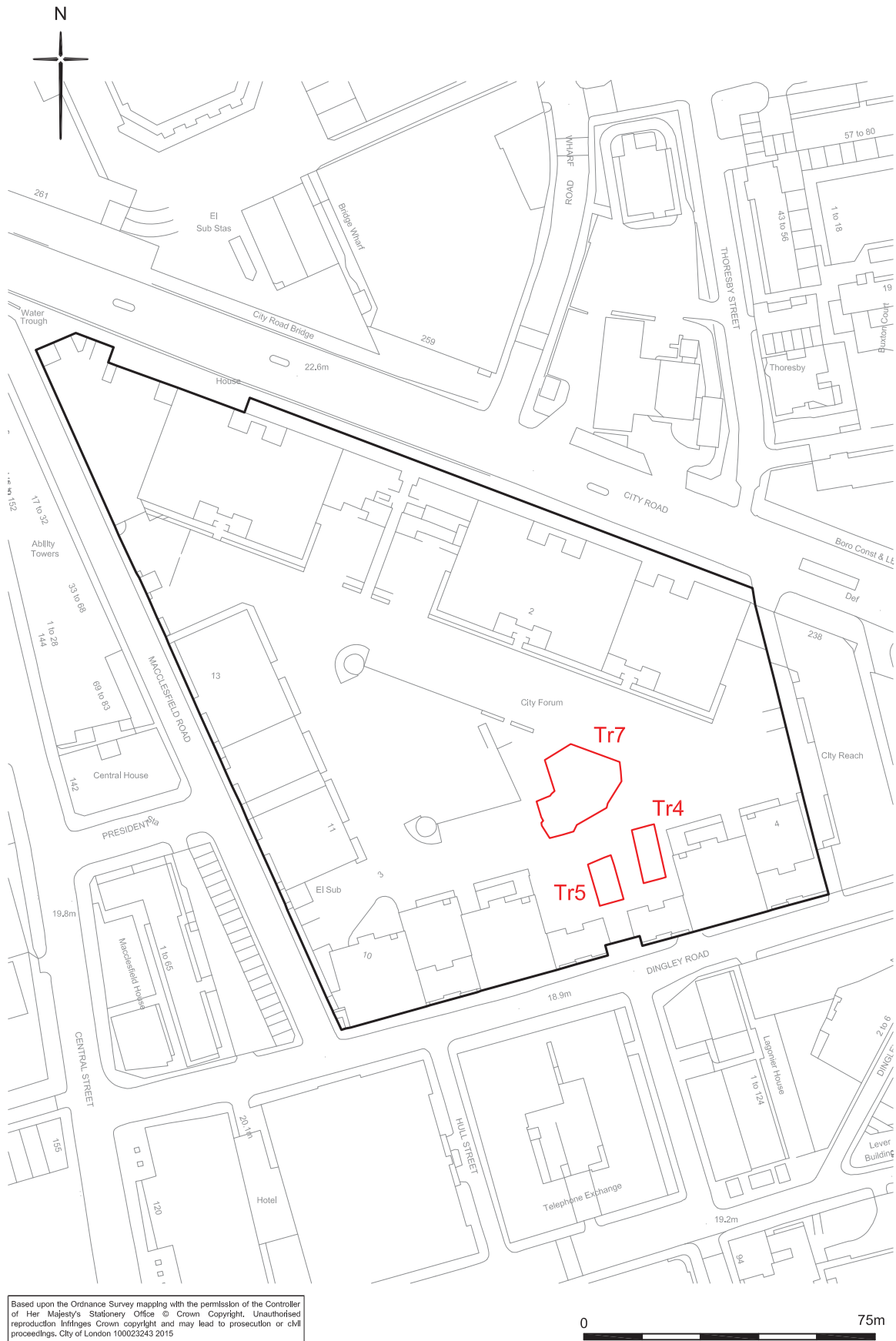
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Fig 1 Site location



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Fig 2 Areas of investigation

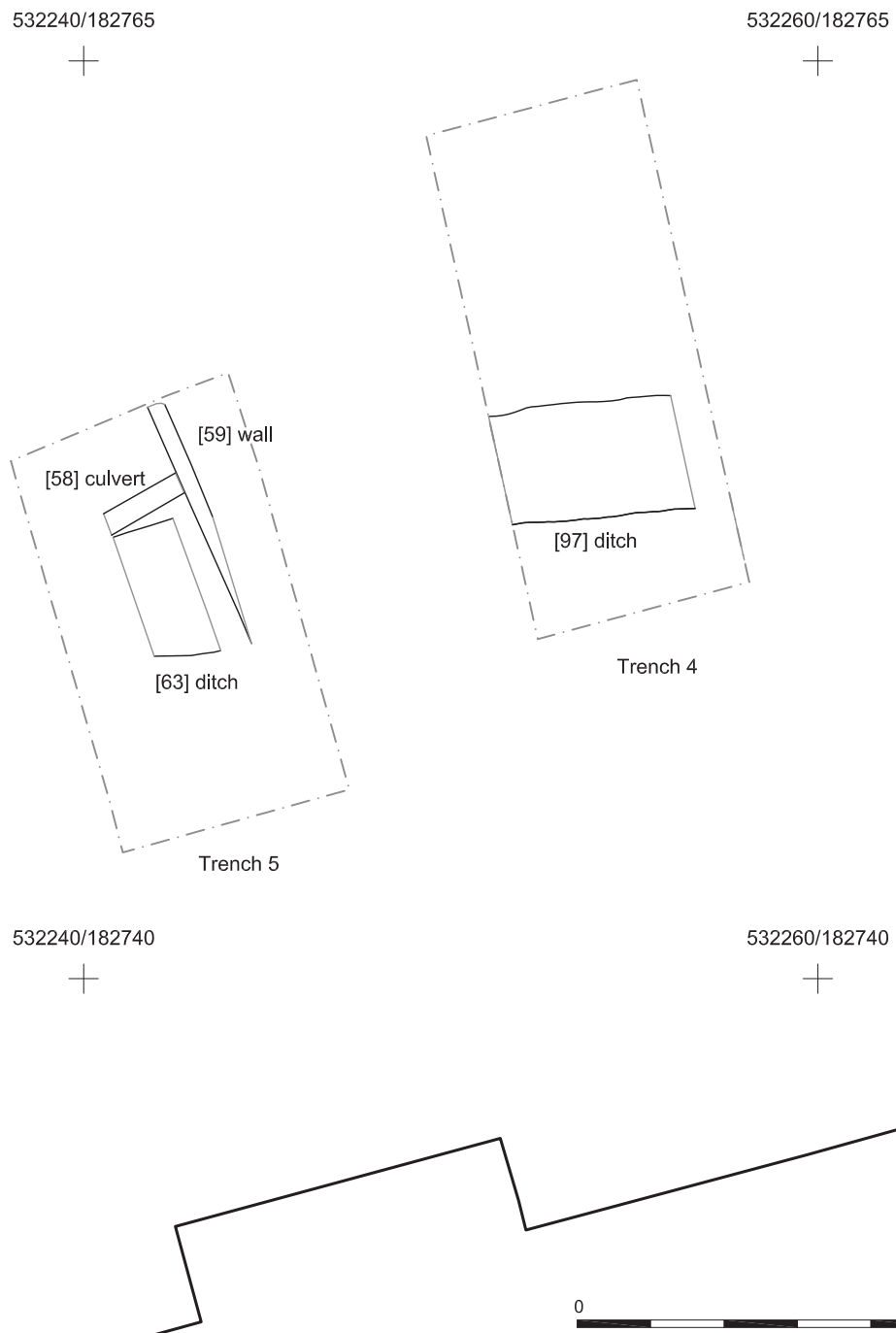


Fig 3 Trenches 4 and 5, showing possible ditches

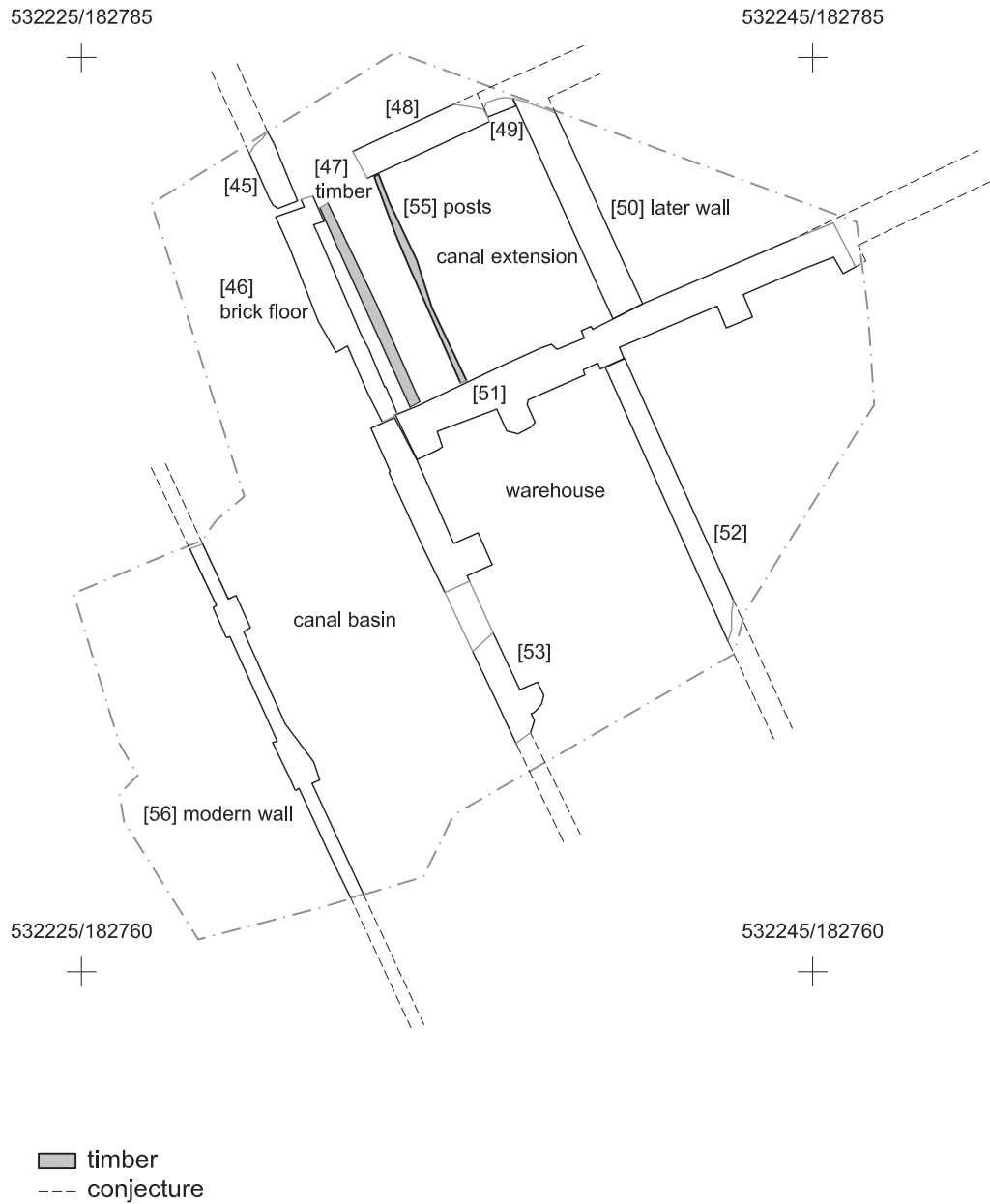


Fig 4 Trench 7, City Road canal basin features

11 OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-218371

Project details

Project name	250 City Road, London EC1
Short description of the project	Following an earlier evaluation in 2014 that located the canal basin indicated on 19th century OS maps, further evaluation work (Trenches 4 and 5) and a mitigation area (Trench 7) was carried out. A series of cut features including possible ditches were recorded; these were poorly dated though one appears to be 16th or early 17th century in date. Nothing could be positively identified as the English Civil War defensive ditch, which was dug around London in 1642-43 and was expected to cross the southern part of the site. These features are possibly the remains of quarrying, as evidence of brick making was recovered from one of the cuts. The features were sealed by 18th century ground raising dumps including a possible garden soil dump suggesting horticulture/cultivation was taking place. In places several brick walls were found belonging to the 19th century City Road basin that was built in the early 1820s as part of the Regents Canal. There were also brick walls of warehouses built alongside the canal and some brick culverts.
Project dates	Start: 08-04-2015 End: 03-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	CFO14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	CANAL BASIN Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ISLINGTON FINSBURY 250 City Road, London
Postcode	EC1
Study area	1.97 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 32220 82790 51.5280243295 -0.0937298217574 51 31 40 N 000
05 37 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 15.90m Max: 16.95m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	CgMs
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Michael Smith
Project supervisor	Tony Mackinder
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Berkeley Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	CFO14
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Leather","Worked bone"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	CFO14
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	CFO14

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	2509 City Road, London EC1
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mackinder, T

Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 client report with figs
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Entered on	20 July 2015