



100 BISHOPSGATE  
London  
EC1

City of London

An archaeological evaluation report

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**MUSEUM OF LONDON**

Archaeology Service

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## Summary (non-technical)

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of 100 Bishopsgate in the City of London, EC2. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by the client Great Portland Estates.*

*Following the recommendations of previous Archaeological desk-based assessments, five evaluation test pits were excavated on the site. The test pits were spaced around the site, both within the present buildings' basements and in the open areas outside the buildings, in an attempt to assess varying levels of archaeological survival and where the impact of the proposed new basements levels were considered to be greatest. A series of drilled core samples and window sample replaced a final test pit within the car park basement in the north-west of the site, due to the thickness of concrete slab.*

*The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. The surface of natural terrace gravels was recorded between 11.8m OD and 12.1m OD, overlain by brickearth in the centre of the site. The brickearth had been truncated by later activity to a height of 12.96m OD in TP 2 and 12.48m OD in TP 1. The heavily truncated interface between brickearth and natural gravel was recorded beneath the basement of Ellerman House, in TP 7, at a height of c 12.0m OD. With the exception of TP 6 in present day Clerk's Place, the natural deposits were truncated by quarry pits dating to the Roman, medieval and post medieval periods. Test pit 6 was excavated by hand to a depth of 14.0m OD, approximately 2m below ground level. Due to the limitations of trench space the underlying deposits were sampled by hand auger, which recorded natural sand at c 11.4m OD beneath a sequence of probable medieval soil layers.*

*The soil layers in TP 6 were truncated by the construction cut for a medieval–early post-medieval cellar, within which the north-eastern corner of the masonry cellar wall survived with its surface truncated to 14.75m OD. The cellar had been backfilled with redeposited brickearth and construction debris. The cellar may reflect building activity related to the Parish Clerks Company, known to occupy the site from the late medieval period onwards. A post-medieval robber trench truncated both the wall and made ground deposits overlying it in section. The archaeological sequence was truncated horizontally by live services to a depth of c 15.0m OD. Post-medieval masonry also survived basement truncation within TP 6 and further post-medieval foundations were present in the centre of the site in TP 1 (Leathersellers Hall kitchen courtyard), TP 2 (car park behind 12-20 Camomile Street) and TP 7. The greatest survival of archaeological deposits was recorded in TP 6 at a height of 14.8m OD, while the lowest survival was recorded at c 12.9m OD in TP 7 (beneath the basement slab of Ellerman House).*

*In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes that the impact of the proposed redevelopment will be to remove any surviving archaeological deposits and features within the proposed basement footprints; it is also likely that there will be further truncation of archaeological material beyond the footprints associated with the construction of pile caps and secant walls. The report further suggests that the remaining archaeological deposits should be excavated archaeologically in advance of any further ground reduction (i.e.*

*preservation by record). The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed within the site rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.*

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at 100 Bishopsgate (comprising the properties 1–9 & 12–20 Camomile Street, 61 St Mary Axe, 15–16 St Helen’s Place and 80–86 & 88–90 Bishopsgate), hereafter called ‘the site’. It is located in the north-east of the City of London, and lies at the junction between Bishopsgate and Camomile Street. The OS National Grid Reference for centre of site is 533243 181372. The level of the basement slab varied between 14.34m and 13.14m OD. Outside the basement ground level was recorded at 14.5m OD at the base of the access ramp from St Mary Axe and to 15.78m at the top of the ramp. Ground level within Clerks Passage was recorded at *c* 16.1m OD. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the north-east of the site in Camomile Street is at *c* 14.80m OD. To the west of the site on Bishopsgate the street level is at 15.5m OD, while further south-west Bishopsgate rises to 15.8m OD. The modern street levels correspond with the rise in the levels of the underlying natural deposits. The site code is BMX07.

An *Archaeological desk-top assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (Lyon 2005). The original *assessment* was updated to a later scheme of development and the site outline altered, as shown in the *Supplement to Archaeological assessment 1* (Chandler 2006) and *2* (Clark 2006). The *assessment* documents 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.

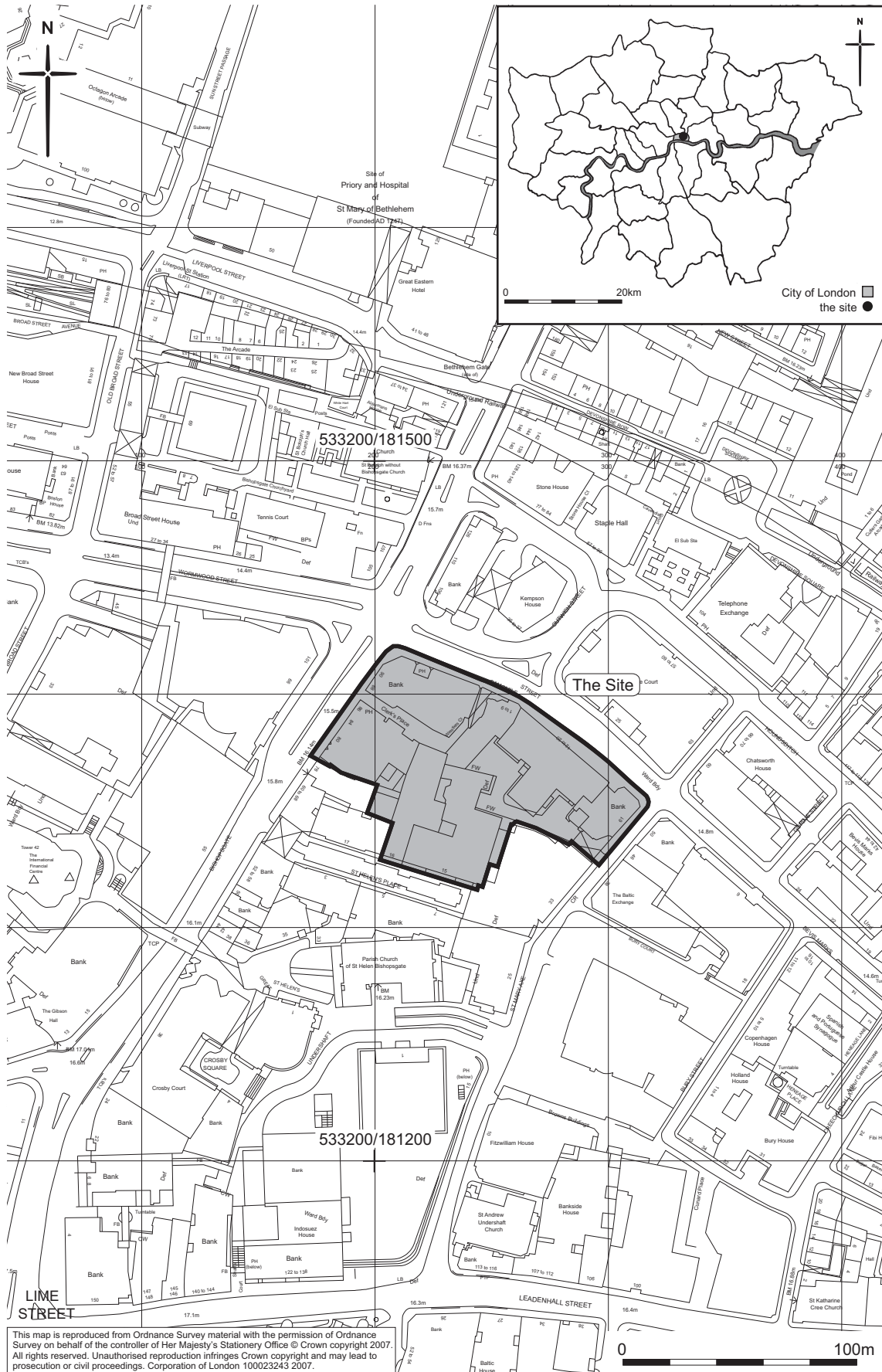


Fig 1 Site location



## 1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological desk-based assessment* (Lyon 2005, Section 2).

## 1.3 Planning background

The archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to, and in support of, an application for planning consent for proposed development. The evaluation was initiated in response to recommendations made in the previous Archaeological Impact Assessment (Lyon 2005, Section 6) for the site, which informed the *Method statement for archaeological evaluation* (Bateman 2006).

## 1.4 Origin and scope of the report

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

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

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

## 1.5 Aims and objectives

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

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Bateman 2006, Section 2.2):

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?
- What evidence is there for early Roman occupation in the area?
- Is there any evidence for early Roman burials here?

- What evidence is there for early Roman defensive works or other indications of the limits of the contemporary City?
- What evidence is there for the origins and later development of Ermine Street (later Bishopsgate)? Is there evidence for the development of buildings flanking that road?
- What evidence is there for the construction of the nearby City Wall and ditch? Is there evidence for any intramural road and/or related activity?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon reuse of the area? For the road or the defences?
- What evidence is there for early medieval redevelopment of the area?
- Is there any evidence for buildings related to the Fraternity of Parish Clerks and or the Inn of the Earl of Oxford?
- What evidence is there for the post-medieval and early modern development of the area?

## **2 Topographical and historical background**

### **2.1 Introduction**

A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier *Archaeological assessments* (Lyon 2005, section 3 and Clark 2006). What follows below is a brief summary of the historical background to the site.

### **2.2 Topography**

London occupies part of the Thames Basin, a broad syncline of chalk filled in the centre with sands and clays. Above this ‘bed-rock’ are fluvial deposits of the River Thames arranged in flights or gravel terraces. These terraces represent the remains of former floodplains of the river. Within the City, the gravel terraces are sealed by a sandy silt complex known as ‘brickearth’.

Archaeological investigations in the immediate vicinity of the site recorded brickearth at *c* 11.00m OD–11.92m OD to the south at 25–51 St Mary Axe and 9 St Helen’s Place; in the Bishopsgate road to the south-west of the site rising from 11.15m OD at the north to 11.75m OD to the south-east and at 11.73m OD to the south-east of the site at St Mary Axe. Levels of natural sand and gravel were recorded at 10.26–10.54m OD to the north of the site at 27–29 Camomile Street. The level of natural topography gradually rises from the north to the south and south-east

### **2.3 Prehistoric**

Evidence for prehistoric activity on, or close to, the site is limited to isolated and possibly redeposited finds, including a Neolithic arrowhead from 38 Bishopsgate Street and a Bronze Age axe from St Mary Axe. Sherds of residual Iron Age pottery were recovered from excavations at the former Baltic Exchange to the east of the site and at St Mary Axe to the south-east.

Late Bronze Age–early Iron Age pits and surfaces were recorded at 41–63 Bishopsgate Street to the south-west of the site. These were sealed by redeposited brickearth containing struck flints and pottery fragments of similar date.

### **2.4 Roman**

The western extent of the site lies adjacent to the ancient frontage of Roman Ermine Street, which ran approximately along the line of modern day Bishopsgate. Ermine Street ran from the city gate, which was situated at the south-west corner, or west, of 106 Bishopsgate, south-westwards towards the site of the forum.

The northern extent of the site fronts Camomile Street, which lies immediately to the south of the line of the later Roman city defences, constructed *c* AD 185–225. The

line of the Roman city wall runs north-west to south-east across the southern extent of properties at 106 Bishopsgate, Kempson House (35–37 Camomile Street), 23 and 25 Camomile Street, situated directly opposite the site. Fragments of the Roman city wall and medieval rebuilds, including Bastion 10, survive as Scheduled Ancient Monuments at 38 Camomile Street (SAM 26N) and 24-25 Camomile Street (SAM 26M). Outside the city, and parallel to the Roman wall, lay two phases of defensive ditch, the remains of which were located at 27–29 Camomile Street, 58–60 Houndsditch and 63–71 St Mary Axe.

A late Roman cemetery was situated outside the city wall in this area and numerous inhumations were excavated at 58–60 Houndsditch. Roman law forbade the burying of the dead within the city walls, and the cemeteries of *Londinium* tend to be concentrated along roads leading out of the city. Isolated burials have been found within the limits of the Roman city: e.g. a late 4th-century inhumation was excavated at Trafalgar House, 22, 30-32 St Mary Axe (the former Baltic Exchange to the east of the site), indicating a retraction of *Londinium* in the later Roman period.

In the vicinity of the site, archaeological excavations have recorded quarry pits, possible early Roman boundary ditches, substantial masonry foundations of buildings fronting onto Ermine Street and mid to late Roman timber-framed buildings. Later Roman activity in the area is limited to quarrying and rubbish disposal.

## 2.5 Saxon

The main focus of the early- and mid-Saxon settlement was a busy trading port further to the west around Aldwych and Covent Garden, in an area known to Bede in the 8th century as *Lundenwic*. Occupation of the City of London was re-established under King Alfred in AD 886. There is no evidence in the vicinity of the site indicating occupation or activity at this time.

## 2.6 Medieval

There are a large number of documentary sources for the area around Camomile Street in the medieval period, and these facilitate a reasonable appreciation of the character of the neighbourhood (Harben 1918). At the beginning of the medieval period the defensive City circuit fortification was rebuilt. The renovations mainly comprised the repair of the former Roman wall, the addition/rebuilding of bastions and the digging of a wider defensive ditch. Fragments of the City ditch were excavated to the north and north-east of the site at 23–29 Camomile Street, 27–29 Camomile Street, 63–71 St Mary Axe and St Mary Axe House (56–60 St Mary Axe, 1–3 Goring Street).

By the 12th century the area in which the site is located had many religious houses, notably the parish church of St Mary Axe, to the east; St Helen's Priory founded immediately to the south of the site in 1212, and used both as a parish church and nunnery. The 13th-century church of St Ethelburga, situated outside the south-eastern boundary of the site, originally belonged to St Helen's Priory.

The western area of the site was occupied by the Hall of the Fraternity of Parish Clerks, first documented in 1274, which fronted Bishopsgate Street. Stow wrote that the brotherhood lost the Hall during the reign of King Edward VI and it was given to

Sir Robert Chester, who pulled it down. The previous existence of the Hall on the site is alluded to in the modern street plan, by the small alley named Clerk's Place.

The central part of the site was occupied by the Inn of the Earl of Oxford, built by 1348, and held by the Earls of Oxford until *c* 1550. By the end of the 16th century, the house was in ruins. It had been let out to poulterers for the stabling of horses and keeping of poultry, and a number of small tenements had been built on some of the land. Most of the eastern part of the site was open land at this time.

Evidence for the medieval period from nearby sites consists of intensive pitting, recorded at 76–86 Bishopsgate and 28–32 Bishopsgate (Crosby Court) to the south of the site, 41–63 Bishopsgate to the south-west and 13–16 Bevis Marks to the north-east. Masonry foundations have also been recorded in the site vicinity including wall foundations and chalk-built cellars. Archaeological excavation at 25–51 St Mary Axe and 9 St Helen's Place, directly south of the site, uncovered wall foundations and chalk cellars, which probably formed part of the 13th-century Priory of St Helen's. The excavations at Trafalgar House 22, 30–32 St Mary Axe and 19-21 Bury Street (BAX95) produced a large amount of archaeological evidence for the later medieval period, including wall foundations and two chalk-built cellars. A large amount of industrial waste was also discovered at the site, which was derived from the casting of copper-alloy bells and vessels, dated to the 13th–15th centuries (Howe 2002).

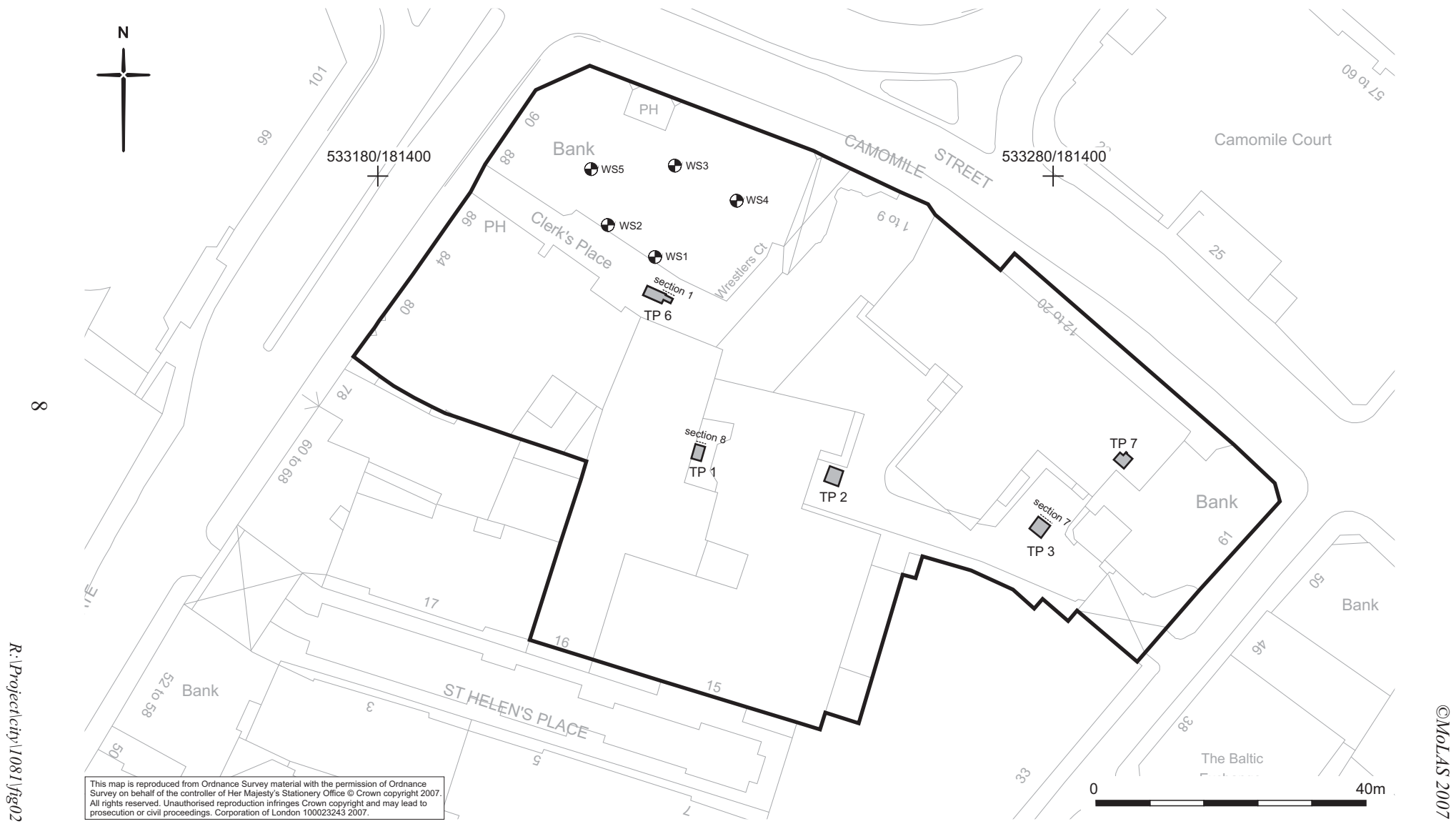
## **2.7 Post-medieval**

The Great Fire of 1666 is a major event that changed the face of early Post medieval London. In the rebuilding that followed, properties were established, the broad outlines and positions of which remained the same right up to the beginning of the present century. The immediate area surrounding the site was unaffected by the Great Fire, as it is believed that a large masonry building at Leadenhall restrained the fire in to the south (Milne 1986).

By the end of the 17th century the southern part of Camomile Street was occupied by tenements and houses, with small yards and squares leading off the main street. At this time Wrestlers Court and Clerk's Place came into existence to the west of the site. 'Clarks Alley' was so named because it led to the common hall of the Parish Clerks. This was later replaced by an Almshouse for Parish priests, their wives and widows.

St Helen's Priory church survived both the Tudor dissolution of the monasteries and the Great Fire, and the associated street formerly known as 'Little St Helen's' was realigned and rebuilt to form St Helen's Place, which occupied the site of the old Hall of the Priory, which was subsequently purchased by the Leathersellers Company.

By the end of the 18th century Camomile Street was lined with properties stretching back from the street frontage. These remained much the same until after the Second World War, when the area changed significantly. In the late 19th to early 20th centuries, the buildings occupying the southern part of Camomile Street consisted mainly of warehouses and offices, although two public houses and at least one restaurant remained within the site. Following redevelopment in the post-War period, the warehouses and small properties were replaced by large office blocks.



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Fig 2 Location of archaeological test pits

## 3 The evaluation

### 3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (Bateman 2006), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Of the eight evaluation test pits (TPs), five were excavated within the site and the final test pit (TP 8) was replaced with a series of five drilled core window samples due to the depth of reinforced concrete slab encountered below the car park. Test pit 4, originally scheduled provisional to the results of TP 7, was not undertaken. No access was available for excavation of TP 5 in the north-west of the site. Excavation of TP 6 was severely limited by the scale and character of (live) services encountered beneath Clerk's Place. The majority of deposits within the trench were truncated by services to a depth of *c* 1.3m, between modern basement walls and inspection shafts, which were considered likely to have truncated most, if not all, underlying deposits. A narrow extension was excavated at the east end of the test pit where survival of in situ deposits was greatest. Due to the limits of the trench hand excavation was conducted to *c* 2.2m depth, with the deeper deposits being investigated by hand auger to the top of natural.

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. The test pits were excavated by hand by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS, until archaeological deposits were encountered. Excavation and recording of the archaeological deposits was then carried out by MoLAS archaeologists in accordance with the method statement. Photographs were taken and section drawings were made of each trench.

MoLAS surveyors recorded the locations of evaluation trenches and sections. This information was then plotted onto the OS National Grid by recording known OS mapping topography relevant to the site.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by establishing a site Temporary Benchmark (TBM) by transferring the OS level from an adjacent Benchmark located at the east side of the south entrance to church of St Helen Bishopsgate. The value of the benchmark was set at 16.23m OD and the site TBM was 14.81m OD.

The site has produced: one trench location plan; 60 context records; 9 section drawings at 1:10; and 25 digital photographs. In addition 10 boxes of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code BMX07 in the MoL archive.

### 3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2.

<i>TP 1</i>	
Location	Kitchen courtyard, Leathersellers Company, approximate centre of site
Dimensions	2.2m north–south by 1.7m east–west by 2.1m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	<i>c</i> 14.34m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	<i>c</i> 14.1m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	2m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	12.1m OD
Natural observed	12.48m OD (brickearth)

Firm, light brown, natural brickearth was encountered at the base of the trench at 12.20m OD. The brickearth was also seen in section to a maximum height of 12.48m OD. Where later features had truncated through the brickearth the surface of natural gravel was present at 12.08m OD. The brickearth was cut into by a Roman quarry pit [24] in the north-east corner of the pit which was truncated in turn by a possible Roman pit [33] in the north-west corner of the test pit. The pits (and associated fills) were recorded in section and survived to a height of *c* 13.0m OD (see Fig 3). Another possible Roman quarry pit [26] was present at the south end of the test pit. Only single edges of the pits were seen in plan within the limits of the Test pit (see Fig 4), although pit [24] appeared of rectangular construction while pits [33] and [26] had curving edges indicative of circular construction.

A very small fragment of a pit [36] survived truncation by later features at the trench base. The pit and its fill shared similar characteristics to the other pit bases recorded above. The pit was cut into by the construction trench [34] of a brick wall footing/cellar wall [31]. The wall within the cut measured 0.2m east–west by 0.48m north–south and survived to a height of 0.62m. The surface of the brick footing lay at 12.90m OD. The footings comprised mostly half bricks of mid-red hue, with original dimensions of 100mm width by 60mm thickness and a possible 200mm length. The bricks were bonded by a soft, yellow–white sandy mortar containing occasional fine grit and charcoal flecks.

A layer of post medieval soil dumps [29], comprising dark grey-brown clay silts with frequent inclusions of mortar, ceramic building material (CBM) and oyster shell, was present above the pits and brick footing. The dump layer was cut into by, or lay beneath, a sequence of post-medieval brick walls, dated broadly to the late 17th to late 18th century, aligned mainly north–south surviving to a height of *c* 14.0m OD. A 20th century pipe trench, aligned north-east – south-west across the centre of the test pit, truncated the structures and deposits to a depth of *c* 12.6m OD. The foundations to the present property to the west (16 St Helen's Place) truncated all deposits into natural in the west half of the test pit (see Fig 4). Modern made ground supporting the concrete slab of the courtyard sealed the sequence to a height of *c* 14.35m OD.



<i>TP 2</i>	
Location	Car park area at base of access ramp, adjacent to emergency exit at rear of 88 Bishopsgate
Dimensions	2.3m north–south by 2.1m east–west by 2m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	<i>c</i> 14.5m OD to 14.4m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	<i>c</i> 14.2m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	2.2m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	11.9m OD
Natural observed	12.94m OD (brickearth)

Truncated natural brickearth was recorded in plan and section at the base of the trench at 12.94m OD. Where later pitting had completely punctured the brickearth the surface of untruncated gravels was recorded at 11.9m OD. The northern edge of a large, sub circular quarry pit [16] truncated the brickearth at the base of the trench. The fill of the pit [15] survived to a height of 13.4m OD and comprised a firm, dark grey-brown silty clay that contained moderate inclusions of peg tile fragments, horn cores and animal bone and occasional occurrences of pottery and redeposited brickearth. The pottery was characteristic of medieval date. The pit was truncated to the south by the northern edge of a later rubbish pit [14] seen mainly in section. The pit was cut from a height of *c* 13.0m OD and completely cut through the quarry pit [16] into natural gravel deposits.

The pits were sealed by a layer of compacted soil dumps [10] measuring *c* 0.45m thick. The layer comprised mid-brown/grey silty clay and contained occasional inclusions of oyster and mussel shells and moderate amounts of CBM and gravels. Occasional fragments of pottery, indicative of medieval date, were also recovered from the layer. The layer was truncated to the north by the south-west corner of a rubbish pit [12] also of possible medieval date. The pit itself was mostly reduced by later post-medieval cess pits [6] and [9]. Pit [6] was rectangular and oriented east–west along the north half of the test pit and contained lenses of decayed organic matter interspersed with soil dump layers of mid-grey clay, sandy-silts containing CBM fragments, oyster shells, mortar debris, animal bone and charcoal flecks and fragments. Pit [9] shared similar characteristics and lay on a north–south orientation. A third cess pit [18] was recorded in section only along the south face of the test pit. Cess pit [6] cut the north edge of pit [9] which cut the north edge of pit [18]. The cess pits seem to have been excavated and backfilled within a relatively short period of time.

Brick footings [4] were laid ‘on bed’ above pit [6] within the western half of the test pit. The brick footing consisted of mainly incomplete bricks estimated to measure 100mm in breadth by 60mm in thickness by up to 230mm in length. No bonding material had been used for the brick coursing, which had slumped at the north end into the underlying pit. The brick footing was aligned north–south for 1.34m although a return to the west was noted at the north end, surviving to *c* 0.3m in length. The loose construction and shallow nature of the masonry precludes interpretation of any

substantial structure or building. The bricks may have been laid to support or level a temporary low structure or possible open area /garden feature. The footings were truncated to the south by a square foundation pad of Victorian construction [2]. Further brickwork [1] was present above [4] in the northern half of the test pit, with what appeared to be a perimeter course running east–west and two north–south aligned wall footings springing perpendicular to the east-west masonry and running into the northern face of the test pit. The masonry comprised frogged stock and red bricks bonded with a firm, whitish mortar that contained occasional flecks of charcoal and grit inclusions. Some of the in situ brickwork exhibited evidence of scorching when examined in section. The function of the structure/foundations remains unknown.

Modern made ground and concrete slab capped the sequence, with present ground level at between 14.4m OD to 14.5m OD.

<i>TP3</i>	
Location	Car park area at top of access ramp, adjacent to rear of 1 Camomile Street
Dimensions	1.85m east–west by 1.15m north–south by 3.5m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	c 15.5m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	c 13.3m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	c 1.2m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	11.9m OD
Natural observed	Natural not reached

Natural deposits were not seen within the limits of the trench. The earliest stratigraphical deposit recorded was a soil layer of compact, mid-brown sandy clay [21] containing moderate amounts of gravel and redeposited brickearth fragments, and occasional fragments of animal bone and oyster shell. A single fragment of abraded pottery, tentatively medieval in date was also recovered. The character of the deposit is broadly consistent with quarry pit fill, which might explain the absence of natural deposits within the trench, despite reaching a depth of 11.9m OD.

The soil layer was truncated by the base of a pit [20], seen mainly in section (see Fig 5). The pit contained a fill of mid grey-brown silty, sandy clay into which were incorporated fragments of shell, animal bone, peg tile and charcoal [19]. The fill was bifurcated by a north-west-to south-east aligned concrete drain, the cut for which was recorded at a height of c 13.5m OD. The sequence was sealed by a series of road surfaces and modern made ground c 2m thick, beneath the concrete slab of the present access ramp.

*TP 4 was only provisionally part of the evaluation dependent upon the results of TP7. The character of deposits within TP 7 did not warrant further investigation outside the basement to the north.*

*TP 5 was not carried out due to access issues to the relevant basement.*

<i>TP 6</i>	
Location	Clerk's passage, at west side of site
Dimensions	4.2m east–west by 1.5m north–south by 2.2m (max) depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	<i>c</i> 16.1m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	<i>c</i> 14.8m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	4.0m deep ( <i>c</i> 2.0m depth in plan and section)
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	14.0m OD
Natural observed	<i>c</i> 11.40m OD (sands recorded in hand auger from trench base)

The surface of soft, yellow, natural sand was encountered at *c* 11.4m OD by hand auger. A layer of sticky, dark greenish-grey, sandy silt [54] overlay the natural sand to a thickness of *c* 1.5m. The deposit was overlain in turn by a layer of compact, dark grey-brown, sandy silt [53]. Small fragments of CBM (tile), animal bone, yellow white mortar, chalk and shell were present in occasional to moderate frequency. The layer was interpreted as a dump layer of medieval date and character. The dump layer [53] was truncated to the west by the rectangular construction cut [52] of the probable north-east corner of a chalk, flint and tile cellar wall [49] (see Fig 7). The cellar wall measured 1.06m east–west, turning to the south to run 0.66m north–south, and measured 0.28m in width by 0.4m in height. The masonry survived to a height of 14.72m OD. Examination of the masonry revealed that tiles had been used to level up the stone courses and that large nodules of chalk were used as the main construction material, faced internally. Cobbles of flint appeared to have been squared to face the external faces of the wall. The masonry was bonded by a mid-yellow, sandy chalk/lime mortar, containing small amounts of grit and fine crumbs of chalk. The internal space within the cellar walls was backfilled by a layer of soft grey-brown clay silt [51] with frequent inclusions of mortar fragments, chalk flecks, CBM fragments and occasional inclusions of oyster shell and charcoal flecks. The layer was further sealed by a layer of firm, mid-brown sandy silt (redeposited brickearth) and demolition/construction debris [50], measuring 0.15m in thickness. The deposit appears to have been beaten level and tile fragments within the layer had been laid flat. Both layers [50] and [51] had been used to fill and level the cellar floor either as floor consolidation or backfilling during a later phase of use/demolition.

A layer of dumped soil [55] appeared to overlie the masonry in section (see Fig 6). The soil was barely distinguishable from the underlying deposit [54], with the difference being a change in texture and density of inclusions: [55] having greater amounts of CBM, mortar and chalk and a slightly coarser mix of silt and sand. The soil dump was sealed by a layer of dark grey silt [60] containing frequent gravel inclusions and fragments of CBM, mortar and charcoal. This deposit formed the highest part of the sequence at 15.4m OD, truncated horizontally by later service trenches and to the west by probable robber trench activity [57]. The robber trench appeared to correspond to the lower lying masonry [49] and was filled with a sequence of tile debris, mortar demolition and a backfill of sandy silt containing

further fragments of construction rubble [56]. The base of the robber cut truncated the internal levelling deposits of the cellar [50] and [51]. The trench was further truncated to the west by the edge of cut [59] although very little of the cut was seen it contained lenses of tile debris and sand [58], probably derived from fill [56].

The remainder of the trench was heavily truncated and disturbed by modern services including high voltage electric cable, telecoms cables and drainage/water supply pipes, some of which had attendant concrete casings. The south face of the trench was truncated by the northern wall of a present basement and its construction trench. A window sample was dug down the side of the basement to inspect depth of construction and survival of archaeological deposits. Only construction backfill to the trench was encountered however. A narrow fragment of redbrick masonry [48] survived at the west edge of the basement, partly truncated by and keyed into the brickwork of, the basement wall. The brick masonry measured 0.48m in length by 0.38m in width and measured 1.1m in height, the top of which was recorded at 14.98m OD. The brickwork appeared to be late 18th to mid 19th century in character.

Modern made ground and concrete slab supporting present day Clerk's Place footpath capped the sequence, with present ground level at between 16.0m OD to 16.15m OD.

<i>TP 7</i>	
Location	Basement of Ellerman House, north-east part of site
Dimensions	2.0m east-west by 2.0m north-south by 2.0m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	<i>c</i> 13.14m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	<i>c</i> 12.90m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	<i>c</i> 1.3 to 3.0m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	11.5m OD
Natural observed	11.8m OD (interface of sandy gravel and heavily truncated brickearth)

The surface of natural sandy gravel was encountered at 11.80m OD. Fragments of weathered and disturbed brickearth overlay the gravels to a thickness of *c* 0.1m although the depth was uneven due to the extent of truncation by later pits. The brickearth/gravel interface was cut into by a possible beam slot [47]. The beam slot was 0.25m wide in plan and was present to a length of 0.5m and had a maximum depth of 0.18m. The cut had a square profile although slumping had caused distortion of the feature. The cut followed a north-east–south-west alignment and overlay a possible posthole base. The latter feature was highly ambiguous as only the square outline was visible, with very poor definition of sides and base in the excavated cut. The beam slot was filled by soft, mid-brown, humic sandy silt [46] containing occasional inclusions of CBM flecks, fine gravel and charcoal flecks. The beam slot was sealed by a 0.10m thick deposit of firm, mottled, yellow-brown silt [45] representing a fragment of truncated fill or redeposited soil. Both the slot [47] and the soil layer [45] were interpreted as Roman in date due to the stratigraphical sequence and character of fills.

The soil layer was truncated by the (partial) side and base of a quarry pit [44]. Only the east side was visible between later quarry pits. The top of the cut survived to a height of 12.18m OD and was 0.3m deep. The fill [43] was a compacted mid-yellow brown, mottled sandy silt derived from redeposited brickearth and contained occasional flecks of charcoal, CBM and oyster shell and occasional fine grit and gravel. Although undated the pit fill contained fragments of tegula (Roman roofing tile) indicating a possible Roman date. The pit and fill were mostly truncated by later pit [40] to the west and pit [42] to the east. Pit [42] was rectangular in plan and measured 0.8m east–west by 0.6m north–south and 0.7m deep, from a height of 12.56m OD, in the south-east corner of the Test pit. The base of the pit halted at the surface of natural gravel, indicating a primary use for quarrying of brickearth. The fill [41] was a firm compacted, dark brown silt containing occasional fragments of oyster shell, charcoal, tile and animal bone, occasional small to medium sized pebbles. Pottery recovered from the fill indicates a medieval date for the feature and its use/disuse.

Quarry pit [40] was present in the western part of the test pit, was rectangular in shape and measured 1.8m north-south by 1.0m east-west; the excavated depth measured 1.4m, from a height of 12.56m OD, although it is noted that the cut proceeded at depth below the Test pit base. The pit was filled with a series of tip lenses comprising mainly firm dark brown, sandy silts with a lens of loose yellow gravel and sand, and lenses of charcoal, burnt shell and ash. The fill [39] contained occasional CBM fragments, shell fragments and chalk fragments; occasional inclusions of pebbles, angular stones and gravel; pottery fragments and animal bones (major domesticated species). The pottery was medieval in date.

Both pits [40] and [42] were truncated to the north by pit [38]. Within the limits of the Test pit the cut measured 1.76m east–west by 1.24m north–south by *c* 2.1m depth (the pit fill was excavated to the trench base at 11.18m OD with the remaining fill probed by hand auger to a further depth of 0.65m). The cut was rectangular in plan, although only the south-west quadrant was present within the Test pit. The top and sides of the pit were sharply defined, with near vertical sides. Filling the pit was a homogenous, dark brown, fine sandy silt [37], containing frequent fragments of oyster shell, moderate inclusions of charcoal flecks, animal bones and occasional fragments of pottery, CBM (peg tile), chalk and occasional small to medium pebbles and gravel. Occasional lenses of ash and charcoal were also present, presumably a result of tipping hearth waste. The depth and character of the pit suggests extensive quarrying of gravel and brickearth followed by a gradual backfilling with domestic refuse.

The pits were sealed by a 0.35m thick layer of mid-brown, sandy silt [22] yielding fragments of medieval and post medieval pottery, CBM, animal bone and fine flecks of charcoal and small pebbles. The layer was cut by a square Victorian foundation pad of concrete, supporting offset stock brick footings in the north-east corner of the trench. The east, south and west sides of the Test pit were constrained by deep concrete foundations at least 2.0m deep, truncating into natural gravels. Modern basement floor slab, measuring 0.3m thick sealed the deposit sequence from a floor level of 13.14m OD.

*TP 8 was replaced by a series of drilled window sample cores spread across the car-park in the north-western area of the site, monitored by the supervising archaeologist.*

*The level of the car park floor slab was recorded at 13.39m OD. The results of the window sampling follow below:*

### ***3.2.1 Window Sample 1***

The Window Sample was located in the south side of the car park. Car park slab measuring 0.75m in thickness sealed soft, dark grey, slightly sandy silt containing occasional fine gravels and eroded brickearth. The deposit contacted sharply with mid-yellow brown, silty sands (natural brickearth) at a depth of *c* 1.67m below the floor of the car park (*c* 11.72m OD). The nature of the deposit and the definition of the contact suggest the presence of a deep cut feature and its fill. Natural gravels were observed at the base of the sample, *c* 1.9m below ground level (at *c* 11.49mOD).

### ***3.2.2 Window Sample 2***

Window Sample 2 was located in the south of the car park, at the south-west corner parking bay. Deposits of natural sand and sandy gravels were recorded at 2.25m below the car park floor (at *c* 11.14m OD), truncated by modern concrete slab.

### ***3.2.3 Window Sample 3***

Window Sample 3 was located in the north of the car park. Natural sandy gravels were present at the base of the sample *c* 1.8m below the car park floor (at *c* 11.59m OD). Natural brickearth overlay the gravels to a thickness of *c* 0.4m, truncated to a depth of 1.53m (*c* 11.86m OD) below floor level by modern made ground. The made ground deposits were sealed by concrete slab measuring 1m thick.

### ***3.2.4 Window Sample 4***

Window Sample 4 was located in the north-east of the car park. Concrete slab, measuring 2.15m in depth, truncated natural sandy gravel.

### ***3.2.5 Window Sample 5***

Window Sample 5 was located at the west end of the car park. Approximately 3m depth of concrete was encountered within the sample, before eventual rejection of the auger.

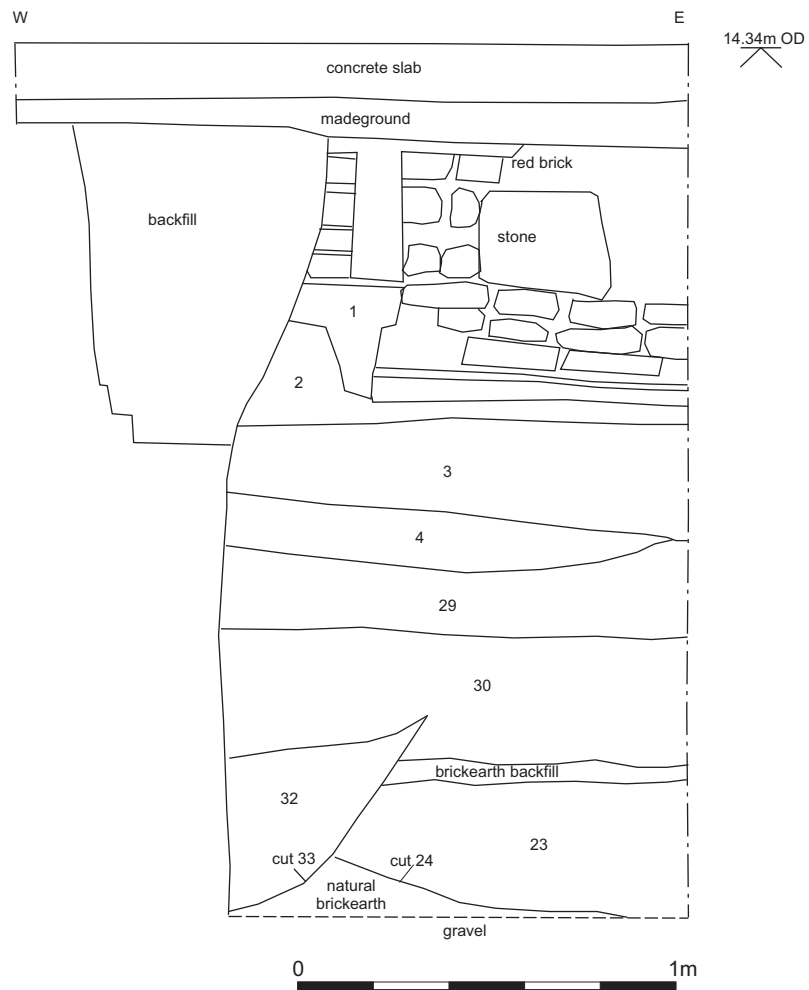


Fig 3 Section 1 south facing section of TP1



Fig 4 South facing view of TP 1

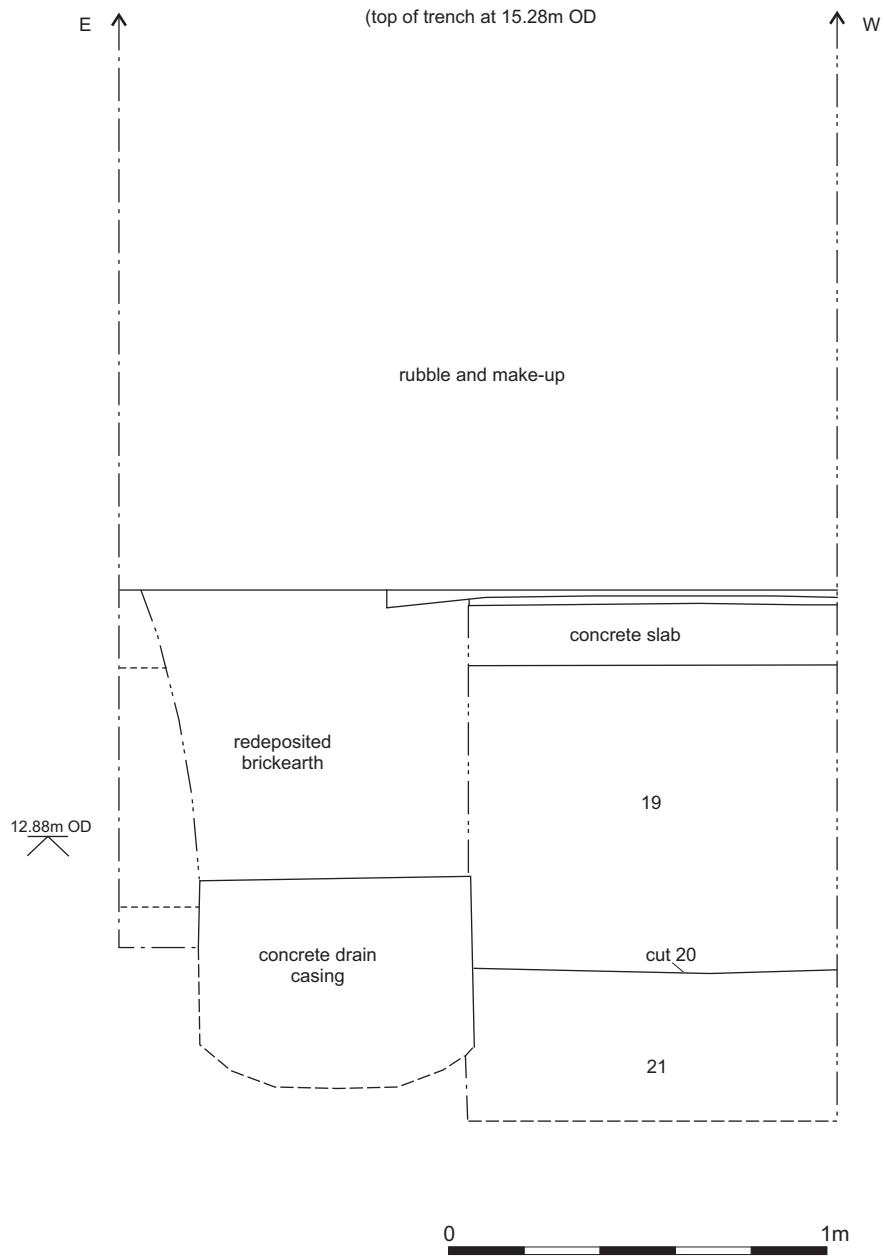


Fig 5 South facing section of TP3



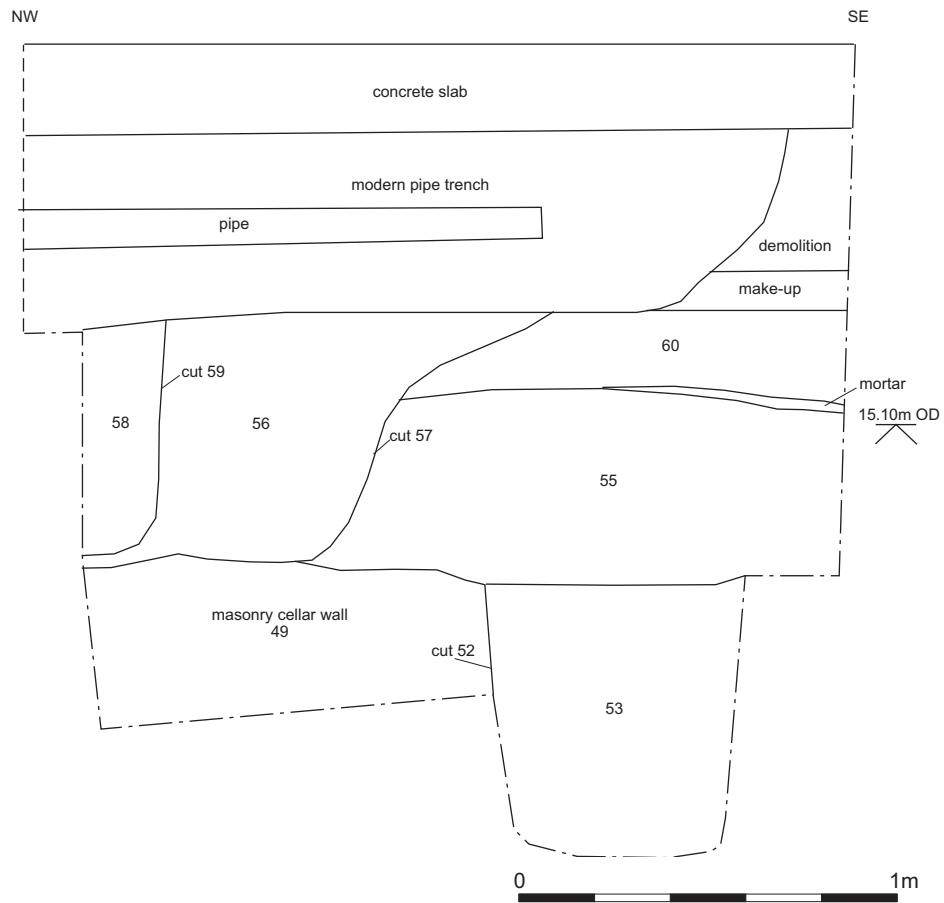


Fig 6 South facing section of TP6



Fig 7 Overhead view of masonry in TP6, looking south

### 3.3 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation ‘in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy’. In the case of this site, the evaluation has shown that there is potential for archaeological deposits and features surviving to varying levels across the site.

The evaluation allowed for hand digging of deposits to the surface of natural where possible, with the surface of untruncated terrace gravel present from *c* 12.1m OD to 11.8m OD. The highest survival of (truncated) brickearth was recorded in TP 2 at 12.94m OD, in the approximate centre of the site, while brickearth deposits were also encountered towards the west of the site in TP 1 at *c* 12.5m OD.

The majority of test pits have shown that the area of the site evaluated remained as open ground until the post medieval period. Such open area activity is demonstrated by the amount and character of pitting – such as quarry pits dug to recover ballast and brickearth in the Roman and medieval periods and their use or reuse as refuse pits. A single possible beam slot of Roman date was recorded in the base of TP 7 in the north-east of the site. Although the interpretation is insecure, the feature may indicate survival of Roman structural features to a depth of *c* 12.0m OD within the site. Pitting was also recorded in the post-medieval phases, particularly associated with cess or tanning waste. A fragment of late medieval to post medieval cellar was recorded in TP 6, within the present day Clerk’s Place, indicating probable structural remains outside modern basements. Later post-medieval brick walls and structures were also present within TP1 and TP2.

Evidence of horizontal activity is limited to TP 2 and TP 6 where the greatest survival of archaeological deposits was recorded. The horizontal strata comprised mainly homogenous soil dumps, overlain/truncated by brick footings. The test pits within the present basements have shown that deep cut features such as quarry pits survive below the present basement slab and foundations, possibly to below *c* 11.0m OD.

## 4 Archaeological potential

### 4.1 Realisation of original research aims

*What is the nature and level of natural topography?*

The surface of (untruncated) natural sandy gravel was recorded in TP 1 at 12.08m OD and TP 2 at 11.94m OD. Truncated sandy gravel was recorded in TP 7 at c 11.80m OD. Potentially natural sand was recorded at c 11.4m OD within an auger hole taken in the base of TP 6. Truncated brickearth was also present in two test pits, with the highest survival recorded in TP 2 at 12.94m OD, whereas in TP 1 the brickearth survived to a maximum height of 12.48m OD.

Truncated natural gravel was recorded in the north-west of the site at c 1.8m below the level of the car park floor. It is noted that the concrete slab beneath the car park was not of uniform depth. Natural brickearth also survived beneath the car park slab at a height of c 1.5m below floor level.

*What evidence is there for early Roman occupation in the area?*

Observation of Roman activity within the site was limited to possible quarry/rubbish pits recorded in the base of TP 1 and residual ceramic finds in TP2 and 3. A possible Roman beam slot was recorded truncating the natural deposits in the base of TP 7, although both the date and interpretation are far from secure.

*Is there any evidence for early Roman burials here?*

There was no evidence of Roman burials within the site

*What evidence is there for early Roman defensive works or other indications of the limits of the contemporary City?*

There is no evidence in support of early Roman defensive activity within the site, although the pits seen in TP 1 suggest that the site occupied mainly open and waste ground at this time.

*What evidence is there for the origins and later development of Ermine Street (later Bishopsgate)? Is there evidence for the development of buildings flanking that road?*

There is no evidence in support of Roman activity associated with the development of Ermine Street in the Roman period.

*What evidence is there for the construction of the nearby City Wall and ditch? Is there evidence for any intramural road and/or related activity?*

There is no evidence in support of Roman activity in relation to the nearby City Wall and Ditch, nor any associated infrastructure.

*Is there any evidence for Saxon reuse of the area? For the road or the defences?*

The evaluation recorded no evidence of Saxon activity or occupation within the site.

*What evidence is there for early medieval redevelopment of the area?*

Medieval rubbish, cess, quarry and possible tanning pits accounted for the majority of features recorded within the evaluation. The pitting activity doubtlessly reflects the largely open area character of the site at this time. The digging of quarry pits indicate the site was used as a resource for both brickearth and gravel, with the pits being reused as waste receptacles, possibly containing rubbish from the earlier halls of the Parish Clerks and the Earl of Oxford's Inn.

*Is there any evidence for buildings related to the Fraternity of Parish Clerks and or the Inn of the Earl of Oxford?*

A fragment of late medieval–early post-medieval masonry cellar was recorded in TP 6, in Clerks Place. The cellar may be associated with buildings contemporary to the Fraternity of Parish Clerks.

*What evidence is there for the post-medieval and early modern development of the area?*

Brick footings of post medieval date were recorded in TP 1, TP 2 and TP 6. Victorian pad foundations consisting of concrete blocks supporting offset courses of frogged stock bricks were recorded in TP 2 and TP 7.

## **4.2 General discussion of potential**

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is low to moderate (low within the footprints of the present basements, moderate outside the present buildings). There is also high potential for survival of deep cut features, mainly pits. The average depth of archaeological deposits where they do survive is likely to be *c* 2m–4m. Structural features (comprising medieval to late post-medieval cellars and walls) are likely to exist in the areas of highest deposit survival (the yard to the rear of Ellerman House, Clerk's Place and the unbasemented areas of 15 St Helen's Place. The presence of a possible beam slot of Roman date in TP 7 is anomalous and the interpretation is far from secure. If the feature is of structural origin, the implication is that Roman structural remains (walls, clay and timber buildings, floors and occupation) may persist at lower levels than originally estimated (Lyon 2006, section 6). The find of an isolated and residual Neolithic flint scraper from TP 2 also indicates potential for the site to yield prehistoric artefacts.

The thickness of the floor slab beneath the car park in the north-west of the site varied between 0.75m and 3m in depth. With the exception of Window Sample 1, the concrete slab truncated natural deposits, or overlay modern made ground. The base and fill of an undated feature (probably a pit) was recorded in Window Sample 1, surviving immediately below the base of the slab at a height of *c* 12.64m OD.

## **4.3 Significance**

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

## 5 Assessment by EH criteria

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

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

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

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

### *Criterion 1: period*

Taken as a whole, archaeology in the Application site is not characteristic of any particular period. The Evaluation indicates a multi period site, with remains and features dating to the Roman, Medieval and post-medieval periods. In addition a residual Neolithic flint tool was recovered from the site.

### *Criterion 2: rarity*

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

### *Criterion 3: documentation*

There are no surviving documentary records for remains in the area from the Roman period. Whilst there may be considerable contemporary documentation for the later medieval period from c 1300 on, due to the truncated and fragmentary nature of archaeological remains from this period, it is unlikely that much of this will be specific enough to relate to individual features, the exceptions being building remains possibly relating to the Fraternity of Parish Clerks and the Earl of Oxford's Inn.

### *Criterion 4: group value*

None of the likely archaeological deposits are associated with contemporary single Monuments external to the site.

### *Criterion 5: survival/condition*

The evaluation test pits above have demonstrated that archaeological remains will be horizontally truncated to dramatically different levels. In Clerk's Place

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

deposits/features surviving below services and outside basements survived to c 15.00m OD.

*Criterion 6: fragility*

Experience from other sites has shown that isolated and exposed blocks of stratigraphy can be vulnerable to damage during construction work.

*Criterion 7: diversity*

Clearly, taken as a whole, the archaeological deposits which are likely to be found in the site represent a diverse and heterogeneous group of archaeological remains of all types and periods. However, this diversity is in itself the product of a random process of vertical and horizontal truncation and separation. There is no reason to suggest that the diversity *per se* has any particular value which ought to be protected.

*Criterion 8: potential*

The deposits found within the site have the potential to contribute to land use in the north-east part of the city of London in the Roman, medieval and post medieval periods. The features present within the site also have potential to contribute to the settlement patterns and character of such land use as well as provide detail to the known documentary sources available for the site (notably activity, diet and lifestyle of occupants at the Earl of Oxford's Inn and the Parish Clerks Hall). There is also potential to address the physical development of the site in the post medieval period through recording of in situ cellars and masonry structures.

## 6 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed works include the demolition of the current properties and the construction of new offices, although the frontage to St Helen's Place is likely to be retained. The works involve the construction of deep basements with associated piles and pile caps, drains and other services; lift pits, pre-piling obstruction removal, etc. Recent details on the levels of the proposed basements show that two basement footprints are planned, with a level of *c* 7.27m OD for an upper basement and *c* 1.5m OD for a lower basement (Clark 2006, 2.3). The impact of this will be the complete removal of archaeological deposits and features within the proposed basement footprints. Further proposed foundation plans also show additional truncation outside the proposed basement levels, with any archaeological deposits being removed within the footprints of the proposed pile caps and secant walls.

The evaluation has shown that levels of natural ground lie at a higher level than previously thought, from *c* 13m OD for truncated brickearth and *c* 12.0m OD for underlying terrace gravels. The levels for test pits within the basements of both Ellerman House (12–20 Camomile Street) and the Leathersellers Company Hall (15 St Helen's Place) appear to be markedly different than previously supplied. Floor level within 12–20 Camomile Street basement was recorded at 13.14m OD (opposed to 11.86m OD, see Clark 2006, 3), whereas at 15 St Helen's Place the floor levels were recorded at *c* 14.34m OD (recorded in the assessment supplement as 13.16m OD, *ibid*). Within the car park in the north-west of the site floor level lay at *c* 13.39m OD and slab thickness varied between 0.75m and 3m. Although archaeological deposits were recorded in one of the Window Samples (WS 1), the remaining Window Samples showed that the slab or modern activity truncated the underlying natural deposits, present at a height of *c* 11.8m OD. The external space and access ramp behind 12–20 Camomile Street was recorded sloping down from *c* 15.5m OD at the east to *c* 14.4m OD to the west. Thus survival of archaeological deposits was greater than originally estimated.

The assessment above (Section 5) does not suggest that preservation *in situ* would be the only appropriate mitigation strategy. MoLAS considers that the remaining archaeological deposits should be recorded archaeologically (watching brief/excavation) in advance of any further ground reduction (i.e., preservation by record).

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

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## 8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

### 8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-23751

#### Project details

Project name	100 Bishopsgate
Short description of the project	An evaluation of 5 test pits with further drilled core and window samples within the basements of numerous properties at the junction of Camomile Street with Bishopsgate. Natural gravel was encountered in several Test pits at 11.8m OD to 12.1m OD, beneath varying thickness of truncated brickearth, which survived to a maximum height of 12.96m OD. In most cases natural ground was truncated by Roman, Medieval and Post medieval pits, mainly for gravel and brickearth extraction and later backfilled with domestic refuse. Possible evidence of tanning industry was recorded within the centre of the site, while a fragment of medieval-early post medieval cellar survived at c 14.7m OD below present day Clerk's Place. Later post medieval brick footings also survived across the site, some may relate to known development of the site at this time (Earl of Oxford's Inn and Parish Clerks Hall).
Project dates	Start: 17-02-2007 End: 22-02-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	BMX07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Roman
Monument type	STRUCTURAL CUT Roman
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Medieval
Monument type	CELLAR Medieval
Monument type	CESS/TANNING PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval
Methods techniques	& 'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	In support of planning consent
Position in the	Pre-application

planning process

**Project location**

Country England  
 Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON 100 Bishopsgate  
 Postcode EC2  
 Study area 7250.00 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TQ 33243 81372 51.5150391967 -0.07952600250870 51 30 54 N 000 04 46 W Point  
 Height OD Min: 11.80m Max: 12.96m

**Project creators**

Name of MoLAS  
 Organisation  
 Project brief Corporation of London  
 originator  
 Project design MoLAS  
 originator  
 Project director/manager Nick Bateman  
 Project supervisor Raoul Bull  
 Type of Development Corporation  
 sponsor/funding body  
 Name of Great Portland Estates  
 sponsor/funding body

**Project archives**

Physical Archive LAARC  
 recipient  
 Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'  
 Digital Archive LAARC  
 recipient  
 Digital Media 'Survey','Text'  
 available  
 Paper Archive LAARC  
 recipient  
 Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'  
 Paper Media 'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Notebook -  
 available Excavation',' Research',' General  
 Notes','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	100 Bishopsgate, London EC2: a report on the evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bull, R.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	MoLAS
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 spiral bound paper document, colour cover, plain text, approx 40 pp with illustrations
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