



CITY OF LONDON INFORMATION CENTRE
CARTER LANE GARDENS
ST PAULS'S CHURCHYARD
London
EC4

City of London

Watching Brief Report

July 2008



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

CITY OF LONDON INFORMATION CENTRE
CARTER LANE GARDENS
ST PAULS'S CHURCHYARD
London
EC4

City of London

Watching Brief Report

Site Code: TIC05
National Grid Reference: 532020 181065

Project Manager	Lesley Dunwoody
Author	David Sankey
Graphics	Judit Peresztegi

Museum of London Archaeology Service
© Museum of London 2008
Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1
7ED
tel 020 7410 2200 fax 020 7410 2201
email molas@molas.org.uk
web www.molas.org.uk

Summary (non-technical)

The report has been commissioned from MoLAS by Skanska, on behalf of the City of London Department of Technical Services in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out on construction of the new City of London Information Centre at Carter Lane Gardens, EC4. It follows earlier phases of evaluation work carried out in September 2005 (Davis 2005) and January 2006 (Telfer 2006).

Work was monitored between January 22nd and August 29th 2007 and comprised the excavation of starter pits for geothermal piles, piling, new foundation trenches, service trenches, geothermal pile connections trench and a soakaway.

Throughout these interventions the remains of pre-WWII warehouses, or the building rubble filling their basements, were observed.

The only archaeological remains of any significance exposed were those of a chalk wall foundation, at 900mm below the modern ground surface (c 13.8m OD), observed in the trench linking geothermal piles at the east edge of observations.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Site background	1
1.2	The planning and legislative framework	1
1.3	Planning background	1
1.4	Origin and scope of the report	1
1.5	Aims and objectives	2
2	Topographical and historical background	4
3	The watching brief	7
3.1	Methodology	7
3.2	Results of the watching brief	7
4	Potential of archaeology	10
4.1	Original research aims	10
4.2	New research aims	10
4.3	Significance of the data	10
5	Publication and archiving	11
6	Conclusions	12
7	Bibliography	13
8	NMR OASIS archaeological report form	14

List of Illustrations

Cover illustration: An aerial view of the area of the site, with St Paul's Cathedral, in 1950 (courtesy of English Heritage, National Monuments Record)

Fig 1 Site location	3
Fig 2 Location of watching brief observations	6

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place within Carter Lane Gardens, hereafter called ‘the site’. The gardens are bounded by St Paul’s Churchyard to the north, Godliman Street to the west, with Carter Lane to the south and east (Fig 1). The Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference for centre of site is 532020 181065. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is 15.90m OD. The site code is TIC05.

A desk-top *Archaeological impact assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (Drew 2003). The *assessment* document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.

Two phases of archaeological evaluation were previously carried out by MoLAS on the site. Two trenches were excavated in September 2005 (Davis, 2005); these were located in the eastern area of grass within the gardens. A third trench was located in an area of shrubbery immediately to the south-east of the previous City of London Information Centre in January 2006 (Telfer 2006). The evaluation reports, and the previous *Assessment*, informed the design (*Method Statement*) for the watching brief which was eventually carried out (MoLAS 2007).

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological impact assessment* (Drew 2003, section 2)

1.3 Planning background

The watching brief was carried out in response to the archaeological planning condition (condition 12) placed on the development (Planning reference 06/00111/FULLR3).

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Skanska 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).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were

established in the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLAS 2007, 5), and are outlined in the following section.

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

1.5 Aims and objectives

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

Does any of the demolition material identified during the evaluation work represent backfilling of 19th/20th century basements? Do any basement/cellar walls survive?

What was the nature and level of natural topography?

What are the earliest deposits identified?

What are the latest deposits identified?

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

2 Topographical and historical background

The topographical and historical background to the site was presented in the previous *Archaeological impact assessment* (see Section 3, Drew 2003), along with a gazetteer of adjacent or relevant archaeological sites. The reader is referred to that document.

Amongst the notable finds on or nearby the site was that of a gravestone carved with typically Norse curvilinear animal design (*Ringerike*-style), thought to have been from the time of Cnut (King “Canute”), when England formed part of a Norwegian Empire in the early 11th century. It was associated with a burial 20 feet (6.1m) below ground level.

A summary of the results of the previous evaluation trenches is provided below.

Evaluation Trench 1 (not illustrated)

Trench 1 was located at the southernmost part of the site, adjacent to Carter Lane. The contemporary ground level at the top of Trench 1 was recorded at *c* 15.90m OD.

No natural deposits or archaeological horizons were encountered during the excavation of this trench. Generally the fill removed comprised a single deep mixed deposit of loose concrete, brick rubble, mortar and sand that was recorded directly underlying the subsurface deposits of topsoil. This deposit is thought most likely to have derived from the demolition of the 19th century (and possibly earlier) buildings in the area that had been severely bomb damaged during the Second World War. No finds were recovered during excavation of the trench.

Evaluation Trench 2 (not illustrated)

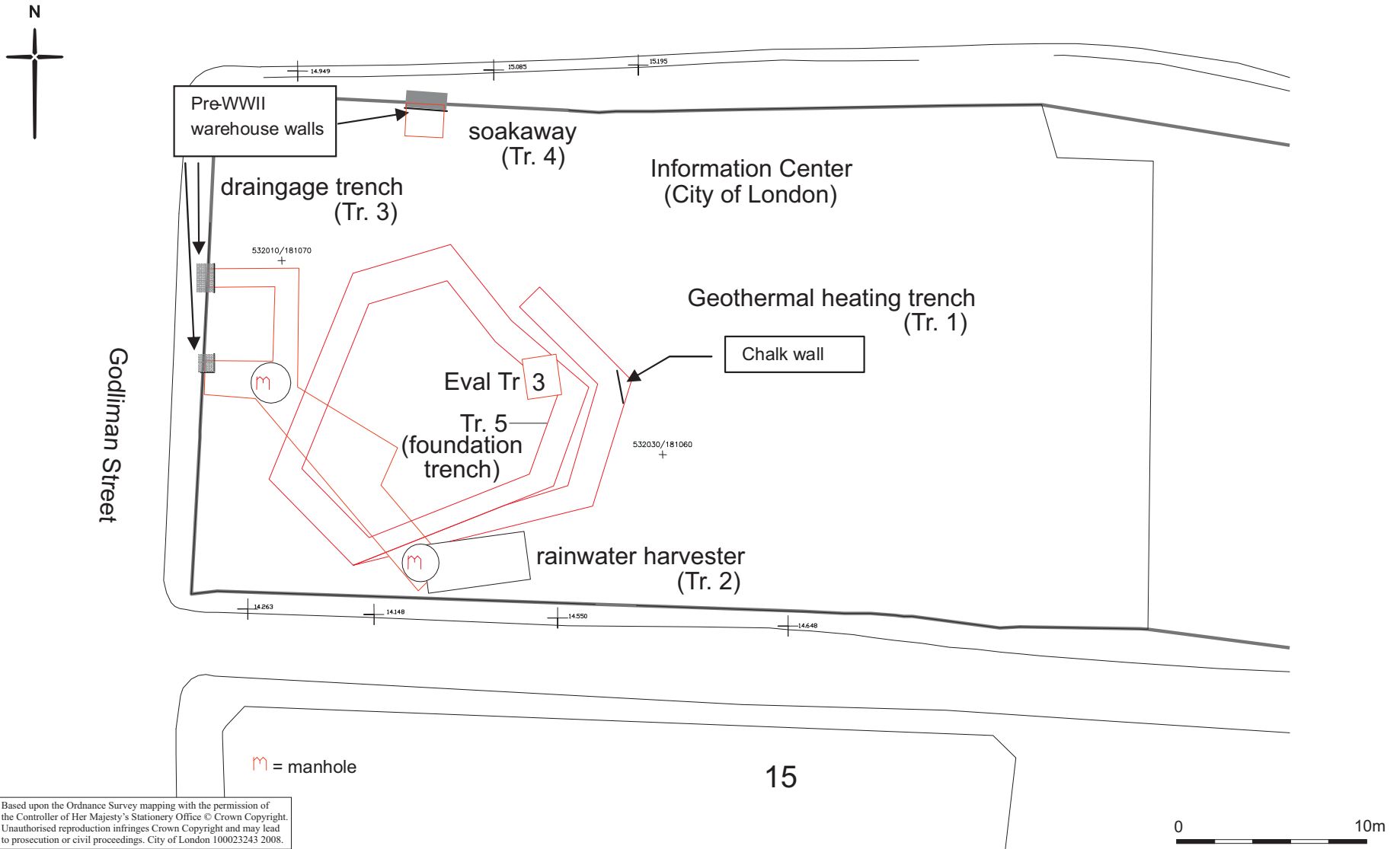
Trench 2 was located a little to the north of Trench 1 at the northern end of the site, adjacent to St Paul’s Cathedral coach park. Trench 2 also measured 1.75m long by 1.25m wide and was excavated to a depth of *c* 1.40m. The contemporary ground level at the top of Trench 1 was recorded at *c* 15.87m OD.

The nature of deposition within this trench was found to be virtually the same as in Trench 1. The upper deposits within the trench appeared to be more compact and layered however these overlaid a thick deposit of demolition material that extended to the base of the evaluation trench. No archaeological features were recorded within this intervention and no finds or datable material was recovered during the excavation.

Evaluation Trench 3 (location see Fig 2)

Trench 3 was located immediately to the south-east of the former information centre. The trench measured 2.10m (N-S) by 1.80m (E-W) and was excavated to a depth of *c* 1.55m. The contemporary ground level at the top of Trench 3 was recorded at *c* 15.00m OD.

The latest deposit was topsoil: this overlies a fairly narrow band (depth 0.22m) of mid yellow brown silty subsoil (see Fig 3). Both of these layers are thought to have formed/been deposited in the last twenty years; they sealed the top of a brick wall, aligned north-south. This was constructed with frogged red bricks, in Flemish bond, and dated to 1983 (A. White *pers. comm.*). Lower subsoil appeared contemporary with the wall. This was mid grey brown silt and 0.80m in depth. The subsoil overlay a thin band of yellow sand and gravel, probably re-deposited natural deposits. The gravel overlay a dump of brick rubble: the base of this was not reached, but a depth 0.40m was recorded during the excavation. This deposit is thought to have derived from the demolition of the 19th century (and possibly earlier) buildings in the area that had been severely bomb damaged during the Second World War. No natural deposits or archaeological horizons were encountered and no finds were recovered during excavation of the trench.



Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. City of London 100023243 2008.

Fig 2 Location of watching brief observations

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MoLAS 2007) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS 1994).

The ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by offsetting from features that were located on the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to ground level. The ground at any one point was calculated by its location on the slope between topographic levels around the site perimeter (Make Architects, Setting Out Plan, Dwg No.700 Rev D, dated 26/10/06).

The site has produced: 1 digital trench location plan and 5 trench sheets.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code TIC05 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, 5 separate interventions (trenches) were made and have been numbered consecutively. There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For all trench locations see Fig 2.

<i>Watching Brief Trench 1 (geothermal heating trench)</i>	
Location	South and east side of the new building
Dimensions	1.3m x 23m
Modern ground level	14.7m OD
Base of modern fill	14.0m OD (approx)
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	300mm
Level of base of deposits observed	13.5m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Throughout most of the trench below about 700mm of imported soil, was the rubble backfill of warehouse cellars constructed in the 1850s and demolished following

bomb damage in World War II. At the extreme eastern corner of the trench, where a geothermal pile was located, a fragment of chalk foundation was observed.

The foundation is near to a party wall between 19th-century warehouses, which may have preserved remains at a relatively high level. Equally, it may have just touched within the area of a warehouse that did not have a basement, as indicated on the 1903 Goad fire insurance map (see Drew 2003, 31)

<i>Watching Brief Trench 2 (rainwater harvester)</i>	
Location	South of the new building
Dimensions	2.5m x 5.4m
Modern ground level	14.5m OD
Base of modern fill	13.2m OD (approx)
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	12.5m OD
Natural observed	N/A

The top 300mm was imported topsoil, overlay 800mm of general imported silty soil and a further 200mm of ashier soil at the base (to 13.2m OD). Below this level was building rubble of both yellow stock bricks and soft red bricks to the limit of excavation at 2.2m deep.

<i>Watching Brief Trench 3 (drainage trench)</i>	
Location	South and west of the new building
Dimensions	2–4m x 24m
Modern ground level	14.5m OD
Base of modern fill	13.7m OD (approx)
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	12.5m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Throughout the trench, building rubble including yellow stock bricks was recorded below 800mm of post-World War II imported soil. It is thought likely that bomb-damaged mid-19th century warehouses were collapsed into their basements.

<i>Watching Brief Trench 4 (soakaway)</i>	
Location	North site perimeter, 10m from the Godliman Street footpath
Dimensions	2.5m x 5.4m
Modern ground level	15m OD
Base of modern fill	14.5m OD (approx)
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	13.3m OD
Natural observed	N/A

The top 500mm was imported topsoil. Below this level was building rubble of both yellow stock bricks and soft red bricks to the limit of excavation at 1.7m deep.

<i>Watching Brief Trench 5 (foundation trench)</i>	
Location	Around the edge of the new building
Dimensions	45m x 1.6m
Modern ground level	14.5m OD
Base of modern fill	13.7m OD (approx)
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of deposits observed	12.8m OD
Natural observed	N/A

Throughout the trench, building rubble including yellow stock bricks was recorded below 800mm of post-World War II imported soil. It is thought likely that bomb-damaged mid-19th century warehouses were collapsed into their basements.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

The original research objectives were addressed as follows:

No remains of national significance were exposed.

Does any of the demolition material identified during the evaluation work represent backfilling of 19th/20th century basements? Do any basement/cellar walls survive?

The demolition material exposed in evaluation trenches represents the remains of 19th- or 20th-century basements. They comprised predominantly yellow stock or soft red bricks with pronounced frogs (generally frogged bricks date to 1840 or later). Cellar or lightwell walls survive around the perimeter of the site, and some may do through the areas not investigated.

What was the nature and level of natural topography?

Natural ground was not observed.

What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest deposits are those of a chalk wall foundation. As a building material chalk is too soft for external surfaces and was used for the core of walls, foundations and cellar walls. It was predominantly used in the later Middle Ages but occasionally was used as foundation material into the 18th century.

What are the latest deposits identified?

The last generally acknowledged archaeological deposit is the chalk wall foundation (13th- to 18th-century). However, in the future the remains of the City that was bombed during WWII may be regarded as “archaeological”.

4.2 New research aims

There are no new research aims.

4.3 Significance of the data

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

5 Publication and archiving

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

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MoLAS 2007) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

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

6 Conclusions

The results of the watching brief indicate that there is potential for archaeological remains on the site from a relatively shallow depth below ground level, east of the new Information Centre. The *Ringerike*-style gravemarker found in 1852 was found associated with a skeleton 6.1m below ground level, at which depth it is likely to have been below the level of 19th-century basements.

7 Bibliography

- Corporation of London Department of Planning and Transportation, 2004 *Planning Advice Note 3: Archaeology in the City of London, Archaeology Guidance*, London
- Cultural Heritage Committee of the Council of Europe, 2000 *Code of Good Practice On Archaeological Heritage in Urban Development Policies; adopted at the 15th plenary session in Strasbourg on 8-10 March 2000* (CC-PAT [99] 18 rev 3)
- Davis, S 2005 Carter Lane Park, Carter Lane, St Paul's Churchyard, London, EC4, An archaeological evaluation report, MoL unpub rep
- Department of the Environment, 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance 16, Archaeology and Planning*
- Drew, C 2003 City Information Centre, St Paul's Churchyard, London, EC4, An archaeological impact assessment, MoL unpub rep
- MoLAS 2007 City Information Centre, St Paul's Churchyard, London, EC4, method statement for an archaeological watching brief, MoL unpub report
- English Heritage, May 1998 *Capital Archaeology. Strategies for sustaining the historic legacy of a world city*
- English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*
- English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, May 1999 *Archaeological Guidance Papers 6*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 2001 *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists* (rev. 2001), *Standard and guidance: watching brief*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), supplement 2001, *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists: Standards and guidance – the collection, documentation conservation and research of archaeological materials*
- MoLAS 2005 City Information Centre, A method statement for an archaeological evaluation, MoL unpub report
- MoLAS 2007 City Information Centre, St Paul's Churchyard, London, EC4, method statement for an archaeological watching brief, MoL unpub rep
- Museum of London, 1994 *Archaeological Site Manual 3rd edition*
- Museum of London, 2002 *A research framework for London archaeology 2002*
- Telfer, A, 2006, Carter Lane Park, St Paul's Churchyard, An archaeological evaluation, MoL unpub rep

8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-30899

Project details

Project name City of London Information Centre, London EC4

Short description of the project Monitoring construction of new information centre, comprising foundations, geothermal piles/trench, drainage, rainwater harvester and soakaway, exposed rubble from 19th- and 20th-c warehouses bombed in WWII with walls at the site perimeter. On the eastern extremity of the area exposed was a fragment of chalk foundation, preserved in a party wall or in an area that previously remained without basements. Natural deposits were not exposed.

Project dates Start: 22-01-2007 End: 29-08-2007

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes TIC05 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Other 15 – Other

Monument type WALL Uncertain

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON
City of London Information Centre, London EC4

Postcode EC4

Study area 600.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3202 8106 51.5125228598 -0.09725986857250 51 30 45
N 000 05 50 W Point

Project creators

Name of MoLAS
Organisation

Project brief Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from
originator County/District Archaeologist)

Project design MoLAS
originator

Project Dunwoodie, Lesley
director/manager

Project supervisor David Sankey

Type of Local Authority
sponsor/funding body

Name of City of London
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
available

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Media 'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General
available Notes','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title City of London Information Centre, Carter Lane Gardens , St
Paul's Churchyard,LONDON EC4

Author(s)/Editor(s) Sankey, D.

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher Museum of London

Place of issue or London
publication

Description A4 report

Entered by David Sankey (DSankey@museumoflondon.org.uk)

Entered on 30 August 2007