



GUILDHALL YARD AND SURROUNDING AREA: SECURITY London EC2V

City of London

Report on an archaeological watching brief

November 2018



**Guildhall Yard and Surrounding
Area: Security
London
EC2V**

Site Code GUY17
NGR 532483 181395
OASIS reference molas1-342304

Scheduled Monument Consent S00179302

Report on a phase 2 archaeological watching brief

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Summary

This report presents the results of a 2nd phase of archaeological watching brief on trial pits carried out by MOLA in the vicinity of the Guildhall Yard, London EC4V. The work was carried out to augment the results of a first phase of trial pits, which were carried out in November 2017, and which were previously reported upon (MOLA 2018). Both phases of work were carried out to provide information for the installation of new security features around the Guildhall Area. The 2nd phase watching brief and report were commissioned from MOLA by the City of London.

In accordance with the works detailed in the addendum to the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA, 2018), an intermittent watching brief was carried out on the site on selective weekends between 2 June 2018 and 15 September 2018. Twelve test holes, the majority no deeper than 0.3m, were excavated to investigate the locations for planned security bollards.

The site area includes two Scheduled Ancient Monuments: SAM 13201 Roman Amphitheatre, Guildhall Yard and SAM LO 26 X London Wall: remains of Roman fort wall and east gate under Aldermanbury. Four of the trial trenches were located within one of these Scheduled Ancient Monuments: SAM 13201 which corresponds to the Roman Amphitheatre.

The majority of the trenches only revealed concrete slabs or modern made ground beneath the existing paving slabs, with two exceptions: Pit 1B and Pit 2A. In Pit 2A adjoining the south-west corner of St Lawrence Jewry church, soft deposits were exposed where a small section of the concrete slab had been broken out. Though clearly post medieval in date it could constitute a fill or dumped make-up deposit. Given the very limited view of this deposit, it could also represent former archaeological deposits that had been disturbed and redeposited.

The other pit where anything other than modern concrete slabs or foundations were exposed, was in the deeper Pit 1B on the north side of the existing security bollards at the south entranceway into Guildhall Yard. All the excavated material from the trench was composed of bulk backfill and included what is likely to have been former archaeological deposits that had been disturbed and redeposited. It is clear that this disturbed material constitutes the bulk backfilling of the construction cut for a deep level (N-S) 19th century sewer heading, recorded in the adjoining (GUD99) excavation trench.

Natural deposits were not encountered during the watching brief.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA at the Guildhall Yard and Surrounding Area ('the site') on selective weekends between 2 June 2018 and 15 September 2018. This document is the Report on that work.
- 1.1.2 These works are detailed in the addendum to the *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (MOLA, 2018). All archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with that *WSI*. The original *WSI* (MOLA, 2017) 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).

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the watching brief 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 2017). To summarise here:
- 1.2.2 The watching brief was carried out according to a brief set by the City of London (and to fulfil conditions of the Scheduled Monument Consent given by the Secretary of State (Consent reference S00179302) and according to the terms of the Burial Licence (OPR/072/152, 16th Oct 2017).

1.3 Scope of the watching brief

- 1.3.1 An archaeological watching brief is normally a limited fieldwork exercise. It is not the same as full excavation, though individual features may be fully excavated.
- 1.3.2 The watching brief was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA, 2014).
- 1.3.3 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002.
- 1.3.4 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the watching brief (MOLA 2017, Section 2.2).

2 Topographical and historical background

- 2.1.1 The topographical and historical background to the area, has been detailed in the original watching brief report (MOLA 2018) which should be consulted for further information, and is consequently not duplicated here.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 The ground surface (in all cases either consisting of stone blocks or stone paving slabs) was carefully lifted by hand by the contractors under MOLA supervision. Trenches were excavated by hand by the contractors and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological investigation was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2017).
- 3.1.3 Each of the test holes was planned at a scale of 1:20 employing an 'offset methodology', and a photographic record made.
- 3.1.4 Where levels are referenced in this report (eg '13.45m OD'), these levels relate to OS Ordnance Datum.

3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2017).
- 3.2.2 Each of the test holes was planned at a scale of 1:20 and a photographic record made, with proximate surface levels to each of the pits derived from information provided by the Department of the Built Environment, City of London Corporation.
- 3.2.3 The site code is GUY17.

3.3 Site archive

Number of overall location plans	1 (in this report)
Number of Context (SU) sheets	2
Number of photographs	100
Number of Plan sheets	3
Number of Sections	-

4 Results of the watching brief

For trench locations see Fig 2.

For trench 1B location and detail relative to GUD99 trench see Fig 3.

4.1 Trench 1A

Location	On (W) side of existing sub-surface bollards at (S) entranceway into Guildhall Yard
Dimensions	1m (N-S) by 0.40m (E-W) by 0.20m depth
Modern ground level	14.45m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	14.25m OD

- 4.1.1 The paving slabs in the trench footprint were lifted to reveal a loosely compacted concrete bedding screed. This had been spread over a 25mm thick mesh and rubberised membrane laid across an underlying concrete raft. The paving slabs were 0.07m thick.



Test hole 1A looking north (0.2m scale)

4.2 Trench 1B

Location	On (N) side of existing sub-surface bollards at (S) entranceway into Guildhall Yard
Dimensions	1.90m (N-S) by 1.58m (E-W) by 1.95m depth
Modern ground level	14.53m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	Approx 12.58m OD

- 4.2.1 Trench 1B was located immediately outside of the north side of the original (GUD99) archaeological trench for the existing bollards. The rear face of the shoring for this trench (which looks to have been left in situ) was partially defined along the west and south side of the evaluation pit. This shoring consisted of sheet piles to the west, with vertical close boarding exposed at a lower level to the south.
- 4.2.2 All of the excavated material from the trench was composed of loosely compacted modern bulk backfill [6] which included what is likely to have been former archaeological deposits that had been disturbed and redeposited.
- 4.2.3 With reference to the sequence recorded in the earlier excavation, it is clear that this disturbed material constitutes the bulk backfilling of the construction cut for the deep level (N-S) 19th century sewer heading, that was recorded across the central portion of the GUD99 trench (*Fig 3*).



Trench 1B showing reverse of sheet piles at side of GUD99 excavation trench, with bulk backfill [6] in modern sewer construction trench in foreground (looking west)

4.3 Trench 1C

Location	On (E) side of existing sub-surface bollards at (S) entranceway into Guildhall Yard
Dimensions	2.60m (E-W) by 1.26m (N-S) by 0.16m depth
Modern ground level	14.49m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	14.33m OD (surface of concrete raft) 13.99m OD (base of concrete raft)

- 4.3.1 The paving slabs in the trench footprint were lifted to reveal a compacted concrete bedding screed. This had been spread over a 25mm thick mesh and rubberised membrane laid across an underlying concrete slab or raft. The pavement slabs were 0.07m thick.
- 4.3.2 In order to investigate the extent and depth of the concrete raft, the trench was extended to east and west and the concrete cored. The core showed the concrete to be 0.34m thick with Type 1 material defined below.
- 4.3.3 The paving slabs were 0.07m thick.



Test hole 1C prior to being extended looking east (0.5m scale)



Test hole 1C after being extended looking west (0.5m scale)

4.4 Trench 2A

Location	Adjoining (S/W) corner of St Lawrence Jewry
Dimensions	0.95m (N-S) by 0.50m (E-W) by 0.48m depth
Modern ground level	15.27m OD
Base of modern deposits	14.99m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy seen	0.20m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	14.79m OD
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	14.79m OD

- 4.4.1 Pit 2A adjoining the south-west corner of St Lawrence Jewry church, was one of only two trial holes where soft deposits were exposed after a section of the overlying concrete slab had been broken out.
- 4.4.2 Seen at a depth of 0.28m–0.48m (14.99m OD –14.79m OD), the deposit was composed of loosely compacted light brown sandy silt with frequent gravel and small-medium fragments of red brick and tile [7]. Although it also contained small fragments of concrete, these may be derived from its disturbed surface, and the deposit could therefore be post medieval in date and constitute a fill or dumped make-up deposit.
- 4.4.3 Given the very limited view of this deposit, it could also represent archaeological deposits that have been previously disturbed and then redeposited.

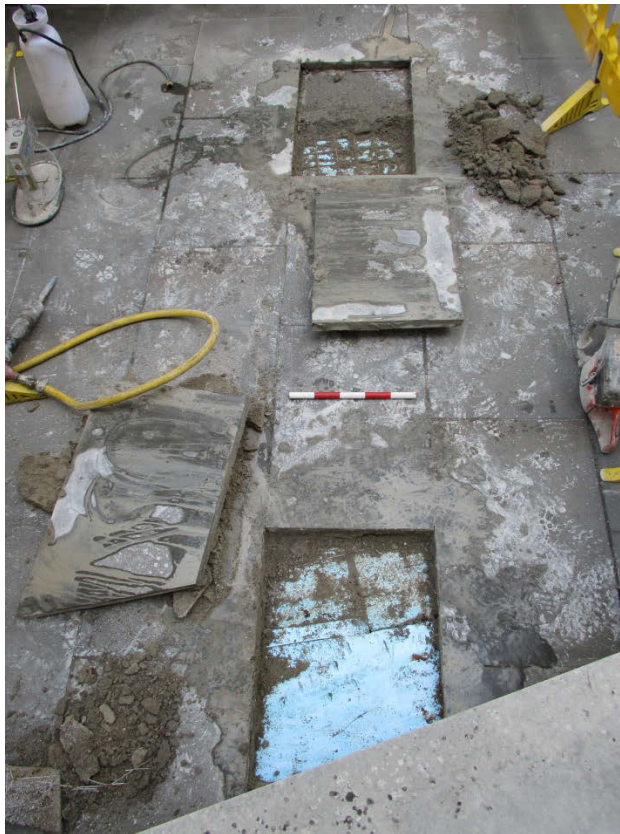


Test hole 2A showing soft deposits [7] exposed beneath concrete slab looking east (0.2m scale)

4.5 Trench 5B

Location	Outside (N/W) entranceway steps of Guildhall North Wing
Dimensions	3.63m (N-S) by 0.60m (E-W) by 0.10m depth
Modern ground level	14.48m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	14.26m OD

- 4.5.1 The paving slabs in the trench footprint were lifted to reveal a loosely compacted lightly reinforced concrete bedding screed, capping a 120mm thick layer of blue polystyrene foam. This extensive insulation layer was laid directly over the surface of an extensive concrete slab, assumed to be the roof of an underlying basemented area or carpark.
- 4.5.2 The paving slabs were 0.07m thick.



Test hole 5B looking north (0.5m scale)

4.6 Trench 6D

Location	On (W) edge of Basinghall Street pavement at foot of steps to yard of Guildhall North wing
Dimensions	0.90m (N-S) by 0.40m (E-W) by 0.18m depth
Modern ground level	13.71m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	13.53m OD

- 4.6.1 The paving slabs in the trench footprint were lifted to reveal a lightly reinforced (100mm thick) concrete bedding screed. The screed capped what appeared to be a more robust concrete slab or raft, which was exposed in a small hole in the base of the pit.
- 4.6.2 The paving slabs were 0.05m thick.



Test hole 6D looking south (0.2m scale)

4.7 Trench 6E

Location	Outside (N/E) entranceway steps of Guildhall North Wing
Dimensions	0.70m (N-S) by 0.60m (E-W) by 0.20m depth
Modern ground level	13.89m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	13.69m OD

- 4.7.1 The paving slabs in the trench footprint were lifted to reveal a loosely compacted lightly reinforced (100mm thick) concrete bedding screed. The screed capped a much harder reinforced concrete slab, which was exposed in a small hole in the base of the pit adjoining an existing steel bollard.
- 4.7.2 The paving slabs were 0.06m thick.



Test hole 6E looking north (0.2m scale)

4.8 Trench 8A

Location	In pavement outside entranceway porch of 71 Basinghall Street
Dimensions	1.94m (E-W) by 0.40m (N-S) by 0.28m depth
Modern ground level	13.98m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	13.70m OD

- 4.8.1 The paving slabs in the trench footprint were lifted to reveal a loosely compacted layer of fragmented brick and concrete rubble in a mixed silt matrix, which was clearly disturbed modern made ground over underlying utilities or service runs.
- 4.8.2 The paving slabs were 0.07m thick.



Test hole 8A looking west (0.2m scale)

4.9 Trench 9A

Location	Outside (S/E) doorway into 80 Basinghall Street, (E) end of Guildhall Buildings
Dimensions	1.00m (E-W) by 0.60m (N-S) by 0.45m depth
Modern ground level	13.76m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	13.31m OD

- 4.9.1 The paving slabs in the trench footprint were lifted and a section of the underlying concrete bedding screed removed, to reveal the surface and east face of the offset foundation of the adjoining 80 Basinghall Street basement. The external face of the footing had a waterproof tanking to its face.
- 4.9.2 Dumped against its external face, was a loosely compacted layer of fragmented brick and concrete rubble in a mixed sand and mortar matrix with frequent voids, representing the bulk backfill within the wider construction cut after the foundation had been constructed.
- 4.9.3 The paving slabs were 0.07m thick.



Test hole 9A looking west (0.2m scale)

4.10 Trench 9B

Location	(E) end of Guildhall Buildings roadway adjoining Basinghall Street
Dimensions	1.70m (N-S) by 0.60m (E-W) by 0.21m depth
Modern ground level	13.90m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	13.69m OD

- 4.10.1 The paving slabs in the trench footprint were lifted to reveal a (100mm thick) concrete bedding screed. The screed capped a much harder concrete slab, whose surface was defined at a depth of 0.21m at c 13.90m OD.
- 4.10.2 The paving slabs were 0.07m thick.



Test hole 9B looking east (0.5m scale)

4.11 Trench 9D

Location	(E) end of Guildhall Buildings roadway adjoining (N/E) corner of The Mayor's and City of London Court
Dimensions	0.60m (N-S) by 0.60m (E-W) by 0.22m depth
Modern ground level	13.95m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	13.73m OD

4.11.1 A single paving slab over the trench footprint was lifted to reveal a loosely compacted (50mm thick) concrete bedding screed. The screed capped a waterproofed concrete slab at a depth of 0.22m at c 13.73m OD. This slab represents the roof of the basement of the adjoining Mayor's and City of London Court.

4.11.2 The paving slabs were 0.05m thick.



Test hole 9D looking south-west

4.12 Trench 10A

Location	At (S) end of entranceway into Guildhall Yard from Gresham Street (E) of St Lawrence Jewry
Dimensions	1.00m (N-S) by 1.00m (E-W) by 0.19m depth
Modern ground level	14.50m OD
Base of modern deposits	N/A (base of modern deposits not reached)
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	14.31m OD

- 4.12.1 The paving slab in the trench footprint was lifted to reveal a loosely compacted (100mm thick) concrete bedding screed. The screed capped a concrete slab whose surface was defined at a depth of 0.19m at c 14.31m OD.
- 4.12.2 Cut into the concrete slab on the north side of the pit, was a plastic conduit for an east-west aligned service run, assumed to contain cabling.



Test hole 10A looking north (0.5m scale)

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering original research aims

5.1.1 The limited nature of the proposed works and the watching brief upon them made it unreasonable to establish any specific archaeological research objectives. Nevertheless a few research questions were outlined:

- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

Pit 2A adjoining the south-west corner of St Lawrence Jewry church, was one of only two trial holes where soft deposits were revealed. Though clearly post medieval in date it could constitute a fill or dumped make-up deposit [6]. Given the very limited view of this deposit, it could also represent archaeological deposits that have been disturbed and then redeposited.

The other pit where anything other than modern concrete slabs or foundations were exposed, was Pit 1B on the north side of the existing security bollards at the south entranceway into Guildhall Yard. All the excavated material from the trench was composed of bulk backfill [7] and included what is likely to have been former archaeological deposits that had been disturbed and redeposited. It is clear that this disturbed material constitutes the bulk backfilling of the construction cut for a deep level (N-S) 19th century sewer heading, recorded in the adjoining (GUD99) excavation trench.

- *Are there any medieval surfaces or features present in the trial trenches?*

There were no medieval surfaces or features defined in any of the shallow trial trenches.

- *Are there any post-medieval surfaces or features present in the trial trenches?*

The only trial trench where post-medieval deposits were possibly present, was in Pit 2A adjoining the south-west corner of St Lawrence Jewry church, where a fill or dumped make-up deposit [6] was defined in a small sondage cut through the existing concrete slab.

- *What are the latest deposits identified?*

The latest deposits revealed were defined immediately below the pavement slabs in trench 8A in Basinghall Street, composed of a loosely compacted layer of fragmented brick and concrete rubble in a mixed silt matrix. This deposit was clearly disturbed modern made ground over underlying utilities or service runs.

- *What is the extent of modern disturbance?*

The majority of the trenches were not excavated to a depth greater than 0.4m, with most excavated to no more than 0.3m depth and several being excavated to less than 0.15m depth due to the presence of concrete slabs just below the

pavement and pavement bedding. As a result of this, in the majority of the trenches only modern subsurface structures or deposits were exposed.

5.2 Answering new research aims

- 5.2.1 No new individual research aims beyond those outlined in the original *Written Scheme of Investigation* have been raised during the course of the watching brief.

5.3 Significance of the data

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

6 Publication and archiving

- 6.1.1 The results of the watching brief 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 the City of London.
- 6.1.2 The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2017) with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.
- 6.1.3 In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 5) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 5.3) 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*.

7 Acknowledgements

7.1.1 The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report:

- Jessica Frith, Senior Project Engineer at the City of London Department of the Built Environment
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- Jane Sidell, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England
- Jo Lyon, Project Manager at MOLA
- Catherine Drew of MOLA Geomatics
- Judit Peresztégi of MOLA Drawing Office

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9 OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-342304

Project details

Project name	Guildhall Yard and Surrounding Area: Security
Short description of the project	Twelve test holes, the majority no deeper than 0.3m, were excavated to investigate the locations for new security bollards. The work augmented the results of an earlier phase of trial pits, undertaken in November 2017. The site area includes two Scheduled Ancient Monuments: SAM 13201 Roman Amphitheatre, Guildhall Yard and SAM LO 26 X London Wall: remains of Roman fort wall and east gate under Aldermanbury. Four of the trial trenches were located within one of these Scheduled Ancient Monuments: SAM 13201 which corresponds to the Roman Amphitheatre. The majority of the trenches revealed concrete slabs or modern made ground beneath the existing paving slabs, with two exceptions. In Pit 2A adjoining the south-west corner of St Lawrence Jewry church, soft deposits were exposed in the base of the pit. Although most likely a post medieval fill or dumped make-up deposit, it could also represent archaeological deposits that had been disturbed and redeposited. The other pit where anything other than modern concrete slabs or foundations was exposed was in the deeper Pit 1B on the north side of the existing security bollards at the south entranceway into Guildhall Yard. All the excavated deposits from the trench consisted of bulk backfill, incorporating archaeological material that had been disturbed and redeposited. It is clear that this material constitutes the bulk backfilling of the construction cut for a deep level (N-S) 19th century sewer heading, recorded in the adjoining (GUD99) excavation trench. This pit was subsequently subsumed within the area of the (GUY17) excavation trench in December 2018, following the removal of the existing deep level security bollards.
Project dates	Start: 02-06-2018 End: 15-09-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	GUY17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	molas1-307140 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	molas1-339915 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure

Monument type DUMPS Post Medieval

Project location

Country England
 Site location GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Guildhall Yard and Surrounding Area: Security
 Postcode EC4V
 Study area 21593.67 Square metres
 Site coordinates TQ 32483 81395 51.515425045379 -0.09046492265 51 30 55 N 000 05 25 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation MOLA
 Project brief originator City of London
 Project design originator MOLA
 Project director/manager Jo Lyon
 Project supervisor Ian Blair
 Type of sponsor/funding body Local authority
 Name of sponsor/funding body City of London

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive
 Digital Archive ID GUY17
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive
 Paper Archive ID GUY17
 Paper Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Matrices", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Guildhall Yard and Surrounding Area: Security. Report on a phase 2 archaeological watching brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Blair, I
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 bound client report

Entered by	Ian Blair (iblair@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	11 February 2019

10 Figures



Fig 1 Site location

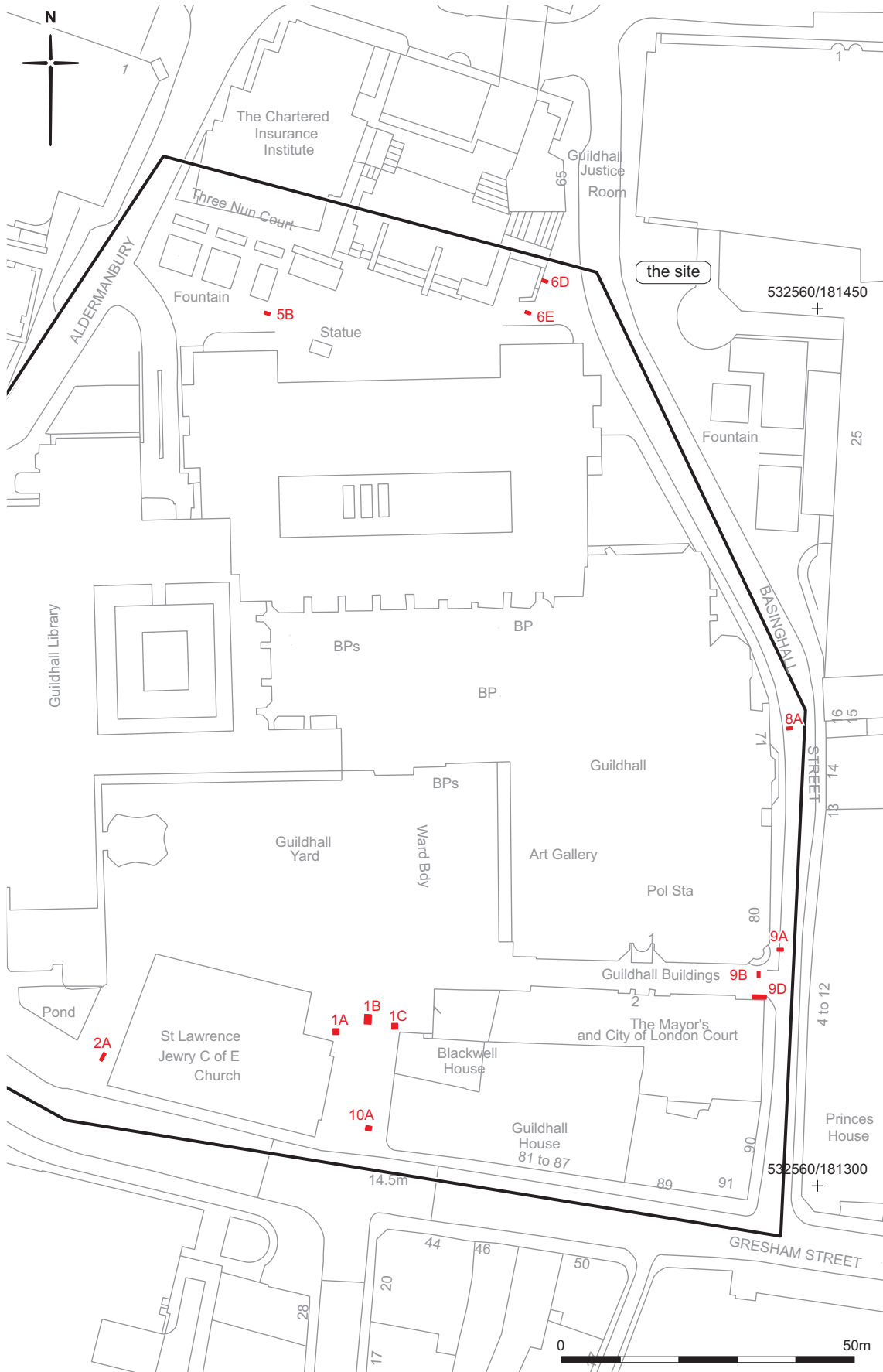


Fig 2 Trench locations

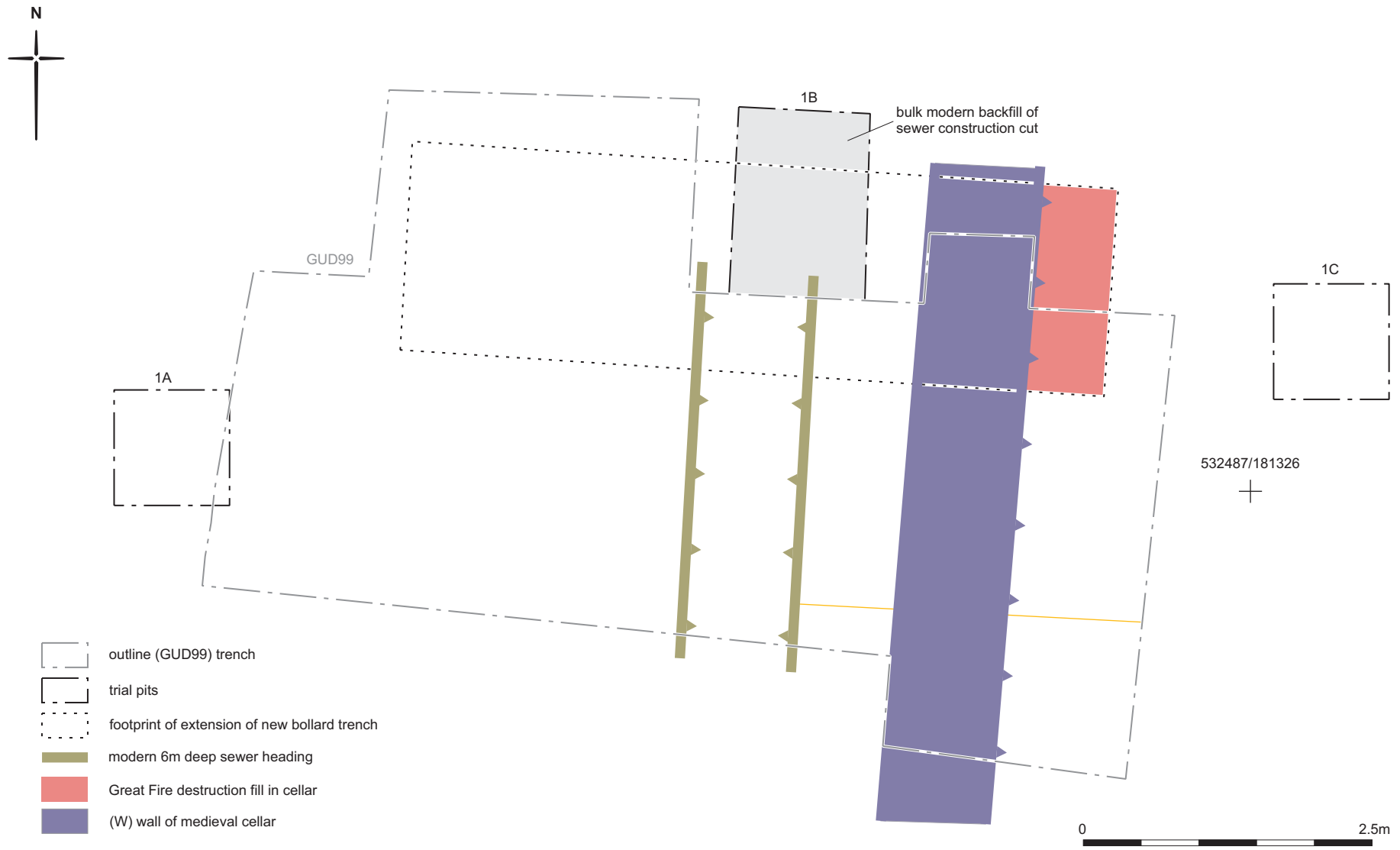


Fig 3 Location of Trench 1B relative to the adjoining GUD99 excavation trench for the existing security bollards