

2 GREYSTOKE PLACE
London
EC4

City of London

An archaeological watching brief report

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MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

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An archaeological watching brief report

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by Marldon in order to record and assess the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 2 Greystoke Place, London EC4.

Work on new pathways located in a former graveyard for St Dunstan in the West was monitored between 22nd and 30th September 2004.

No archaeological deposits were found as the graveyard appears to have been capped with soil and gravel, possibly when it was used as a school playground in the early 20th century. Several disarticulated human bones were found suggesting earlier works, possibly associated with the construction of the boundary walls, had disturbed several burials.

The natural ground deposits were not reached.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at 2 Greystoke Place, London EC 4, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is located on the north side of Bream's Buildings, with Oyez House to the east and Mac's Place to the north (see Fig 1). The centre of the site lies at OS National Grid reference 531244 181390. The site is currently an open space, which was formerly an additional burial ground for St Dunstan in the West. Modern pavement level near to the site lies at *c* 18.0m OD. The site code is GYS04.

Following advice from the Corporation of London a *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2004) was prepared for the watching brief, which was carried out between 22nd and 30th September 2004.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement*, which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 1.2, MoLAS, 2004)

1.3 Planning background

The proposed work involves the laying of stone paving, relaying of the grassed area and the construction of new access steps. The planning consent (Application number 03-3561S) for the work required an archaeological watching brief on the site.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Marldon 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 site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (Section 2.2), 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 research aims and objectives established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2.2) are:

- Do any burial monuments (tombs, headstones, etc) survive immediately below present ground level?
- Do any disarticulated human remains survive?

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

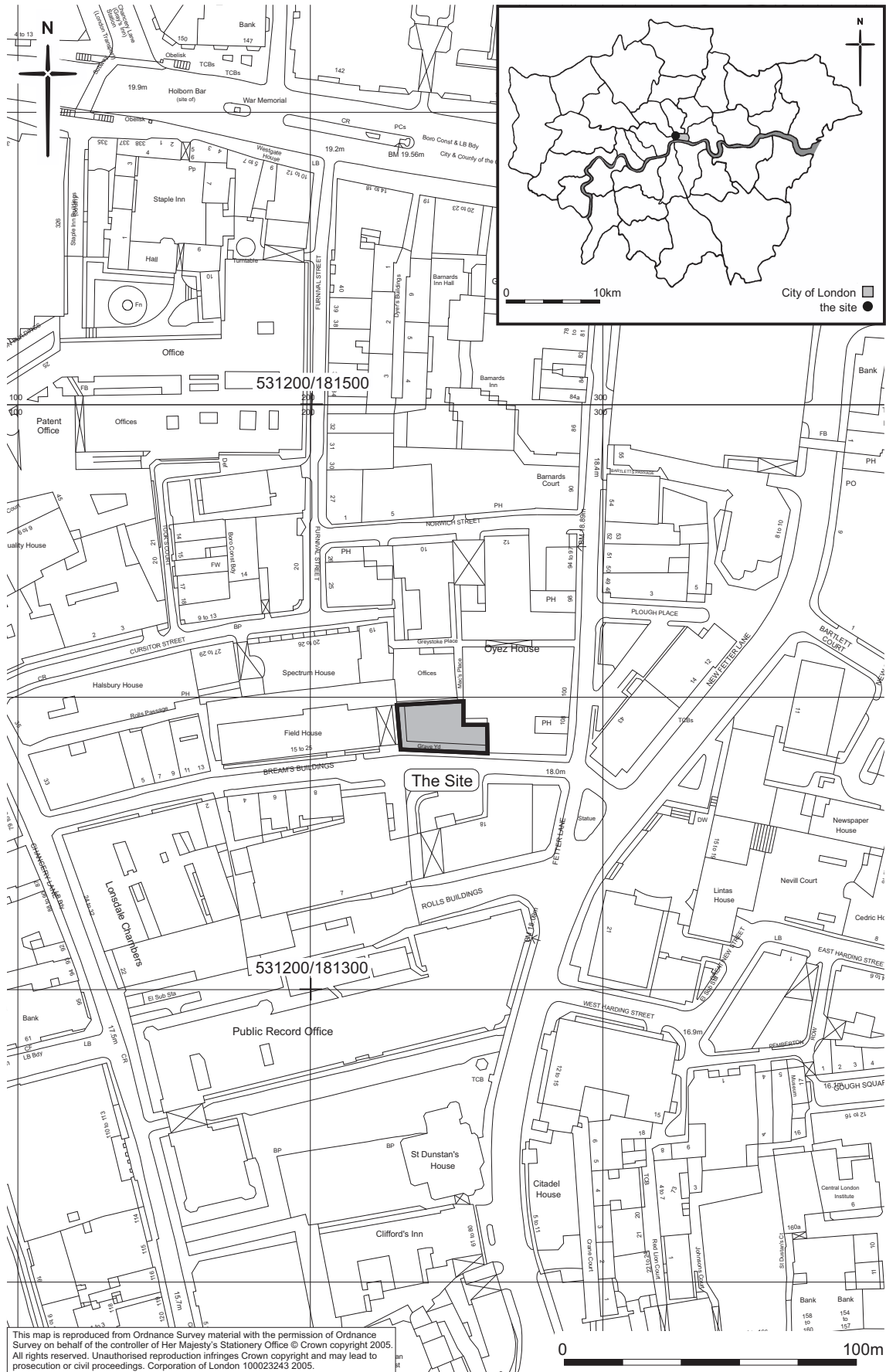


Fig 1 Site location

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

Natural deposits in this part of the City are gravels, on neighbouring sites they were recorded as truncated between 18.5m and 19.0m OD. At the nearby Patent Office site (FUV01) undisturbed gravels were at 17.5m OD. The site is approximately a metre higher than the surrounding streets, which are at c 18.0m OD.

2.2 Prehistoric

Little prehistoric material has been found in this part of the City, one Palaeolithic hand axe has been recovered in Chancery Lane.

2.3 Roman

The site is located outside the walls of the Roman city of *Londinium*. In extra-mural areas, Roman burials and other cemetery structures have been found. In nearby Fetter Lane, Roman finds including a cremation jar have been found (SMR 040168).

2.4 Medieval

The area became more developed in the medieval period with several large houses being built along the main roads between the City and Westminster. The area around Chancery Lane became well known for lawyers with the Inns of Court nearby. Quarries and dumps have been found in the area dated to the late medieval and early post-medieval periods.

2.5 Post-medieval

By the 17th century the area was built up. The site was used as an additional burial ground for the parish of St Dunstan in the West. On the Roque map of 1746 the burial ground is quite large. On the Horwood map of 1799, part of it was built over. The burial registers for the parish are held in the Guildhall Library and are complete from 1669–1856; other records survive back to 1516.

Following the Burial act of 1853 the graveyard was closed. In the early 20th century the site was asphalted and used as a playground for the Greystoke Place Board School. Later tombstones were cleared; some remain in an enclosure at the western edge of the space. One tombstone is laid flat, apparently *in situ*, in the east of the burial ground. Currently the burial ground is grassed over.

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, 2004) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS, 1994).

The locations of the areas disturbed by the ground works are on Marldon Dwg 1295/22 (see Fig 2). Contractors cleared the ground by hand to a maximum depth of 30mm. MoLAS made several visits to the site to observe this operation.

The heights of observations were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum.

Where relevant, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20; numbered contexts were allocated where appropriate.

The site consists of 1 location plan and 1 sheet of notes; there were no context records, plans, sections, no finds were retained or photographs taken.

The site records can be found under the site code GYS04 in the Museum of London archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

For the location and depths of the ground works see Fig 2.

The only deposits found were a mix of gravel and clay of fairly modern origin (plastic cups were noted) suggesting the burial ground had been capped before landscaping. In the north-west corner several disarticulated human bones were found in a small area suggesting they had been deliberately gathered up and reburied during previous ground works. The bones were left *in situ* and not removed from the site.

There was also a horizontal stone slab in the north west. This is probably a fallen tombstone and as it would not be disturbed it was left *in situ* below the new path.

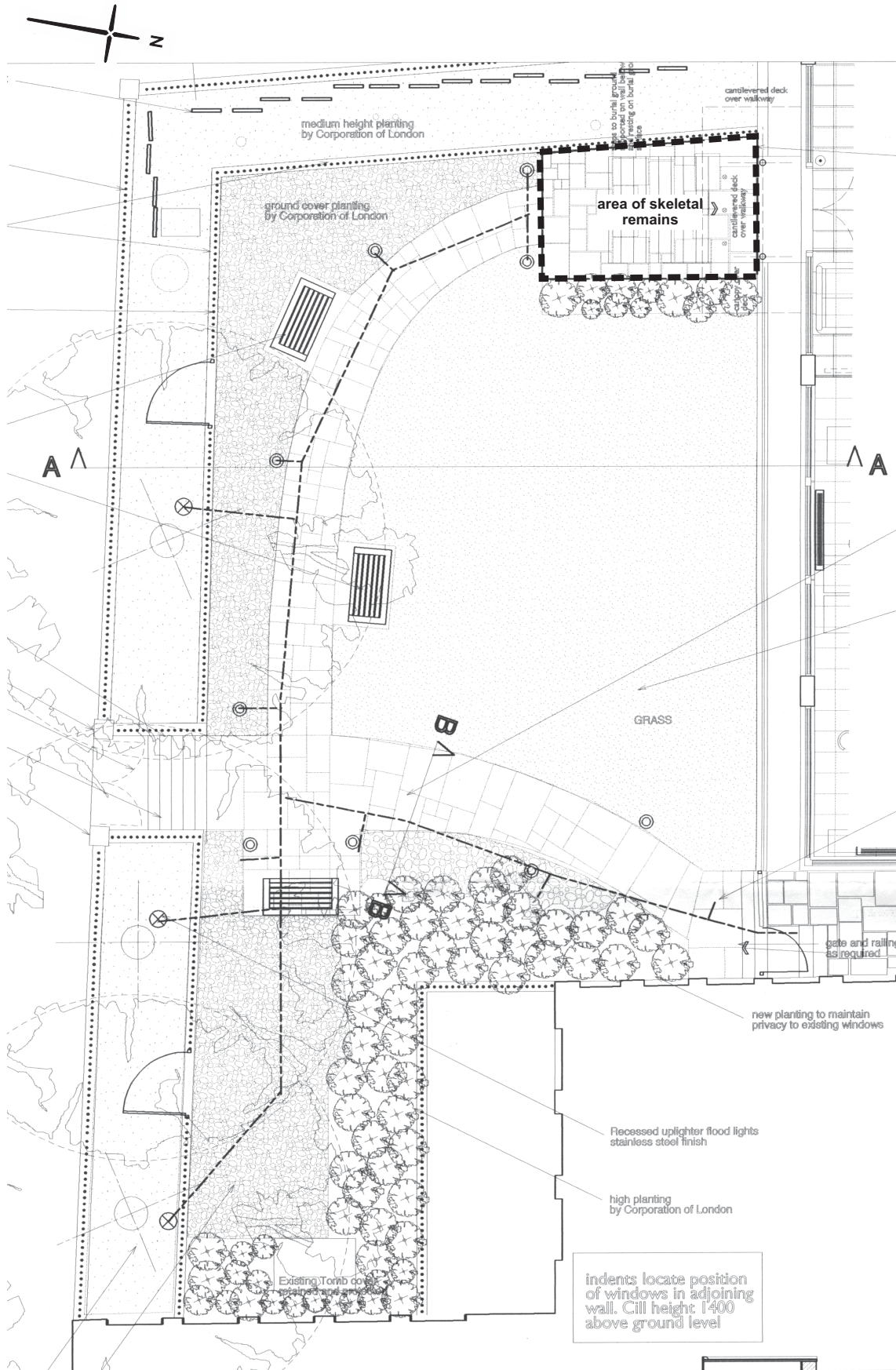


Fig 2 Area of watching brief

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

The natural subsoil was not observed and although one possible tombstone was noted no tombstones were disturbed. The only human remains found were disturbed, disarticulated bone, which appeared to have been collected together and deposited in one corner of the burial ground. It is not known when this disturbance took place.

4.2 Significance of the data

The limited observations taken during the watching brief are only of local interest.

5 Publication and archiving

Information on 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 London.

The site archive containing the field records will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2004) with the Museum of London within 3 months of the end of the watching brief.

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 4.2) 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 Bibliography

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7 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-4183

Project details

Project name	2 Greystoke Place, EC4
Short description of the project	Following the redevelopment of the current building to residential units, work on new pathways located in a former graveyard for St Dunstan in the West was monitored. No archaeological deposits were found as the graveyard appears to have been capped with soil and gravel, possibly when it was used as a school playground in the early 20th century. Several disarticulated human bones were found suggesting earlier works, possibly for the enclosing walls, had disturbed several burials. The natural ground deposits were not reached.
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2004 End: 30-09-2004
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GYS04 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status (other)	disused graveyard
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	GRAVEYARD Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON 2 Greystoke Place, London
Postcode	EC4
Study area	324.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 31244 81390 51.5156699472 -0.108314520692 51 30 56 N 000 06 29 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
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Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Sophie Jackson
Project supervisor	Tony Mackinder
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Marldon

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	GYS04
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	GYS04
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Microfilm","Report","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	2 Greystoke Place, London EC4: An archaeological watching brief report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mackinder, T.
Date	2005
Issuer or publisher	MoLAS
Place of issue or publication	London

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