

Site monitoring at 60 New Broad Street (Capel House), EC2M – CPV09

Site - 60 New Broad Street (Capel House), London, EC2M, City of London

Site code - CPV09

NGR – 533016 181493

Senior Archaeologist - Ruth Taylor

Contract Manager – Derek Seeley

Client – Lancaster Investments Ltd

The site is located at Capel House which lies adjacent to the church of All Hallows on the Wall. Following the discovery of human bone during excavations for an earth rod, GVA Second London Wall contacted Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). A site visit by MOLA on the 06/05/09 confirmed the presence of human bone (a radius and two humeri). A burial licence was obtained by MOLA Project Manager Derek Seeley.

A MOLA Senior Archaeologist monitored further excavation works on the 12/05/09, including a test pit dug in the steeply sloping basement garden of 60 New Broad Street measuring: 0.78m north-south, 0.88m east-west and between 0.40m to 1.15m deep. The test pit was located to the south of 60 New Broad Street, and was parallel to the south-western wall of the building.

The test pit revealed a sequence of post-medieval dump and demolition layers overlain by the current rubble-rich garden soil which is dumped against the northern wall of All Hallows on the Wall church. Of particular note was a 10mm thick layer of burnt timber towards the bottom of the sequence, which was sealed by a 70mm thick demolition layer containing broken peg tile and friable, light pinkish-yellow coarse sandy mortar. The brick rubble in these post-medieval layers probably dated to between the 16th and 18th century.

The earliest deposit observed was a mid greenish-grey clayey silt containing: moderate small to medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, and occasional peg tile fragments and charcoal flecking. This was recorded 0.78m below the highest point of the current garden soil ground level, and may represent a fill of the city ditch.

No further human bone was discovered, and the approximate location of where the humeri and radius were found (as indicated by the contractor Interior Dimensions Contracts Limited), suggests that the human bone was associated with the construction backfill of a 20th century wall footing to the west, and not with any surrounding stratigraphy.

The human bone was most probably redeposited and was not able to be dated. The location of the site in relation to All Hallows Church would initially suggest the bone may be medieval or post-medieval in date. However the site's position close to Roman London Wall and the plotted location of a number of Roman inhumations to the north in the vicinity of New Broad Street and Old Broad Street may indicate an earlier date. The human bone will be sent for reburial in the future.