



WATLING STREET DROPSHAFT AND TOILET PLACEMENT London EC4

City of London

Watching brief report

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Project Manager
Author
Graphics

Rosalind Aitken
Andy Daykin
Judit Peresztegi

Museum of London Archaeology
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Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED
tel 020 7410 2200 fax 020 7410 2201
MOLAGeneralEnquiries@museumoflondon.org.uk
www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk

Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by the City of London's Department of Planning and Transportation in order to record and assess the results of two watching briefs carried out at Watling Street Dropshaft and Toilet Placement, London EC4.

The excavation of a new dropshaft and gully was monitored between 15/3/2010 and 8/4/2010. A subsequent watching brief on the excavation of a construction trench for a toilet placement was monitored between 10/1/2011 and 17/1/2011.

Most of the dropshaft was truncated by a basement of not earlier than 19th century construction. Excavation of the construction trench for the toilet placement was of limited depth and although larger than the dropshaft was entirely within the extent of the previously identified basement.

A sequence of dumped deposits was recorded on the north side of the dropshaft. This sequence of deposits extended beneath Watling Street and was partially removed during excavation of a new gully.

The maximum depth of survival of archaeological deposits in the dropshaft was just over 4m. The earliest archaeological deposits were of late Roman date c AD 250-400. Overlying deposits were dated to the medieval period c AD1270-1350.

Natural deposits were not observed during the watching briefs.

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	3
2.1	Geology and topography	3
2.2	Prehistoric	3
2.3	Roman	3
2.4	Saxon	4
2.5	Medieval	5
2.6	Post-medieval	5
3	The watching brief	7
3.1	Methodology	7
3.2	Results of the watching brief	8
3.2.1	<i>Dropshaft</i>	8
3.2.2	<i>Toilet placement</i>	9
4	Potential of archaeology	10
4.1	Original research aims	10
4.2	Significance of the data	11
5	Publication and archiving	12
6	Acknowledgements	13
7	Bibliography	13
8	Appendix 1: Roman pottery	14
9	Appendix 2: Medieval and post-medieval pottery	15
10	Appendix 3: Building materials	16
11	Appendix 4: Conservation report	17
11.1	Quantification and assessment	17
11.1.1	<i>Conservation</i>	17
12	NMR OASIS Archaeological report form	18

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18

Table of figures

Front cover: Photograph of dropshaft

Fig 1 Site location	21
Fig 2 Dropshaft and toilet placement location	22
Fig 3 Plan of dropshaft	23
Fig 4 Section 1	24
Fig 5 Photograph of dropshaft during excavation	25
Fig 6 Photograph of excavation of toilet placement	25

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

Two watching briefs were maintained on a new dropshaft and subsequent construction trench for a retractable toilet in Watling Street, hereafter called 'the site' (see Fig 1). The dropshaft was located on the pavement and beneath the road surface immediately north of St Mary Aldermary Church, at the eastern end of Watling Street. Work on the construction trench for the toilet placement involved re-excavation of the top of part of the dropshaft and further expansion of the excavated area. The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 532411 181050. Pavement level on the site was calculated at 14.5m OD. Modern road level south of the site at the junction of Queen Victoria Street and Cannon Street is 14.0m OD, whilst north of the site at the junction of Queen Street and Cheapside modern road level is 15.1m OD. The site code is WAJ10.

A method statement was previously prepared by MOLA, which covers the whole area of the site (MOLA, 2010). This 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. The method statement also detailed the project design and methodologies used for the watching brief.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The planning and legislative framework was detailed in the method statement for the watching brief (Section 1.2).

1.3 Planning Background

The works were 'permitted works' not requiring a planning condition. The watching briefs were conducted at the request of the City of London's Department of Planning and Transportation.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by the City of London's Department of Planning and Transportation and produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for 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 any such remains. A number of research aims and objectives for this dropshaft watching brief at Cornhill 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 following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

- *What was the level and character of the natural topography*
- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*
- *Are there any prehistoric deposits present on site?*
- *Are there any Roman deposits present on site?*
- *Are there any structural remains from the Roman period on the site?*
- *Is there any evidence for Roman road surfaces or roadside features, associated with known Roman road alignments close to the dropshaft locations.*
- *Is there any evidence for archaeological deposits relating to the Saxon period?*
- *Are there any medieval deposits on the site?*
- *Are there any structural remains from the medieval period on the site?*
- *Do medieval and post-medieval road deposits survive on the site, or has the area been encroached by basements?*
- *What is the character and nature of post-medieval deposits present?*
- *At Watling Street is there any indication for the construction of the undercroft recorded during the watching brief at 34 Watling Street.*
- *What are the latest deposits identified?*
- *What is the nature and characterisation of modern truncation in this area?*

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

2.1 Geology and 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' lie the fluvial deposits of the River Thames arranged in flights or gravel terraces. These terraces represent the remains of former floodplains of the river.

Only three of the terraces are relevant in the area encompassed by the City. The second terrace, known as the Wolstonian Mucking Gravel (367,000-128,000 BC) is that upon which most of the City is built. Data obtained from numerous archaeological sites in the City indicate that the surface level of this terrace lies at between c 9–11m OD.

In the area of the City the second terrace is overlain by sandy silt termed 'brickearth' which formed in the late Devensian stage (32,000-10,000 BP). This brickearth is considered to be a combination of *loess* and waterlain deposits. The upper horizon of brickearth is generally found at a level of between 10.5m and 12.5m OD.

The topography of the immediate locality slopes fairly steeply downwards from north to south and from west to east. Excavation of a previous dropshaft in Watling Street, c.90m to the west of this location, recorded the upper horizon of natural brickearth at 10.55m OD.

2.2 Prehistoric

Most of the prehistoric finds in the City have constituted residual worked/burnt flints and prehistoric pottery fragments, although occasional archaeological features have also been found in the city, for instance at 31–45 Gresham Street (Garrard House, GAH95) and 90–91 and 100 Wood Street (WOO97). These discoveries give some indication that prehistoric occupation was probably taking place in the area.

Recent work at New Change (NCZ07), circa 250m to the northwest of the dropshaft location, recorded evidence for a possible pre-historic land horizon containing both struck and burnt flint. Residual struck flint was also recovered from later features on the site. This would suggest that some prehistoric occupation formerly took place in this area of the city.

2.3 Roman

The Roman Army landed in AD43, and the city of *Londinium* had been founded by AD 50. The main focus of early Roman London was centered on a junction of major roads. A north south orientated road crossed the Thames in the vicinity of modern day London Bridge meeting an east-west road bisecting the city.

The embryonic town was burnt down in c 60 AD, during the Boudican revolt, but soon after this Imperial rule was re-established in the province during AD 61. It appears that a decision was taken to either rebuild or replace infrastructure in London. This work included the construction of a massive port facility built of oak timbers felled during the winter or spring of AD 63.

Recent work at Plantation Place (FER97) has found further evidence for a military presence at Cornhill at about this time. At several sites in the city there is evidence that the infrastructure of roads and drains was repaired, but that the decade saw an extended hiatus in rebuilding of domestic properties.

Roman London quickly recovered from its first destruction. In c AD 70 an earth and timber amphitheatre was constructed. It was replaced by a masonry structure in c AD 125. The Roman settlement prospered and expanded during the latter half of the 1st century and large areas of this boomtown were densely occupied, with shops and dwellings constructed of clay/brickearth and timber.

Much of Roman London was subsequently destroyed by a second conflagration, the Hadrianic Fire in c AD 120-30.

The landward walls of the Roman city were constructed between c AD 180-225 and the riverside wall added during c AD 255-275. The construction of the river wall implies that the port, which had generated much of the city's wealth had either closed, moved downstream or lost most of its business. From the 3rd century onward it is clear from the evidence of abandoned sites within the walled city that both population density and prosperity were in decline.

At the Guildhall Yard site the latest phases of the amphitheatre had fallen out of use by this time, though some external activity continued until the end of the 4th century as well.

The dropshaft location lies on the projected east-west orientated alignment of Roman Watling Street. In 1998 an evaluation to the north of the site at 40-43 Bow Lane, 67-69, 70-71 Watling Street, (BWL98), recorded part of the Roman road as well as Roman clay and timber buildings sealed by fire debris dating to the 1st - 2nd century.

Excavations a short distance to the west of the site at 11-14 Bow Lane, 39-53 Cannon Street, 19-28 Watling Street (WAT78) recorded evidence for early Roman quarrying and numerous burnt down 1st and 2nd century Roman buildings, some of which had opus signinum and tessellated floors. Building remains were overlain by dark earth deposits.

Previous excavation of a dropshaft approximately 100m to the west of the site on Watling Street (WGW04) located successive Roman road surfaces and roadside ditches sealed by dark earth deposits.

2.4 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. The earliest re-occupation of the city is thought to have concentrated on the riverfront at Queenhithe, slightly upstream of the modern Southwark Bridge. The street pattern of the Saxon city then developed northwards from the waterfront advancing up to and beyond Cheapside, which seems to have adopted its modern alignment by the early 10th century. By the mid-11th century most of the Roman walled city had been re-occupied and the pace of development was such that suburbs were beginning to grow up on the roads leaving the city to the north and east.

Excavation of surrounding sites has produced evidence for late Saxon activity.

Excavations at 11-14A Bow Lane, 39-53 Cannon Street, 19-28 Watling Street, and EC4 (WAT78) to the east of the site recorded rubbish pits dating to the late 9th-early 11th century to the west of Bow Lane, and north of medieval Basing Lane. The excavations also located remains of sunken-floored timber buildings dating to the 11th century. Recent excavations at the Watling Street end of Bow Bells House (BBB05) located remains of pits containing loom weights, lava quern stones and bone combs, typical of Saxon activity. A recent dropshaft excavation beneath the south end of Queen Street (QUO09) has located evidence for consolidation of the ground level during the Saxo-Norman period.

The church name of St Mary Aldermary is generally taken as evidence that the church to the south of the site predates St Mary Le Bow founded in the 11th century.

2.5 Medieval

After the Norman Conquest in 1066, the defences of the city were strengthened and the city walls rebuilt. By the 13th century the city of London boundaries extended almost to their present limits. In the early period most early medieval buildings in the city were still in timber, although masonry structures, particularly churches, were built from the 12th century onwards.

Excavations immediately north of the site at 40-43 Bow Lane, 67-69, 70-71 Watling Street (BWL98), located a series of medieval pits as well as remains of two chalk and ragstone footings. At 11-14A Bow Lane, 39-53 Cannon Street, 19-28 Watling Street (WAT78), remains were found of 12th century masonry buildings as well as medieval cesspits. A watching brief on a dropshaft (WGW04) to the west of the site located external surfaces which may have been part of medieval street surfaces. These surfaces were cut by the construction of a chalk wall, possibly part of All Hallows Bread Street. A later wall may also have been part of a rebuild of the church.

A large undercroft has been located at 34 Watling Street. This was previously the subject of a programme of recording during a watching brief (WTS86) c.25m to the east of the study site. A single vault springer was stylistically dated to 1350-1500. The report on the watching brief suggested that the undercroft may survive extensively underneath Watling Street and Queen Victoria Street and that truncating Victorian cellars may lie over a thick accumulation of undercroft floors.

2.6 Post-medieval

Henry VIII dissolved the powerful monasteries during the early 16th century, appropriating their income and seizing their assets. The Tudor period was a period of great expansion with the population of London quadrupling in size, though the medieval layout of the City remained much the same. The City remained the commercial centre of London and Westminster the political centre. The Great Fire of 1666 devastated most of the city destroying 87 churches, 44 livery halls and some 13200 houses. A vast program of rebuilding was undertaken between 1666 and 1672. Cartographic sources show that the city was rebuilt on the medieval street layout.

The church of St Mary Aldermary was rebuilt during the 15th and 16th centuries. The church was burned down during the Great Fire of 1666 and then rebuilt by Wren in 1681-2 with the tower completed in 1702-4. The church was subsequently restored on two occasions, once in the late 19th century and again after the Second World War when it was bomb damaged.

Faithorne and Newcourt's map of 1658 show the surrounding area as completely built up with the street pattern well established. Ogilby and Morgan's map of 1674 clearly shows the extent of St Mary Aldermary church and Yard, with several properties fronting onto the south side of Watling Street. Horwood's map of 1799 shows very little change with much the same pattern of properties shown as on Ogilby and Morgan.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching briefs were carried out in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2010) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

For the dropshaft the pavement was broken out and cleared by contractors prior to MOLA attendance. Underlying deposits were initially broken out by hand, but a JCB was used to partially remove infilled concrete in the top 3m of the excavation. Thereafter the shaft and gully were entirely excavated by hand using a remote controlled hoist to remove spoil.

The construction trench for the toilet placement was almost entirely excavated using a JCB. This trench was less deep than the dropshaft, but involved some re-excavation of the area of the dropshaft, as well as expansion of the excavated area.

Both watching briefs were conducted as a series of monitoring visits, with the archaeologist allowed access to the excavations on request. The archaeologist was also able to hand inspect spoil removed from the excavations and retrieve artefactual material.

The locations of the dropshaft and construction trench were recorded by the archaeologist, offsetting from adjacent standing walls and roadside features. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid by MOLA Geomatics.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to pavement level which was calculated by reference to Ordnance Survey spot heights in Watling Street and adjacent streets.

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

The site has produced: 2 trench location plans; 7 context records; 2 section drawings at a scale of 1:20 and 25 digital photographs. In addition a single box of finds was recovered from the site. All of these finds were recovered during the dropshaft excavation.

The analysis phase of post-excavation was based around the creation of a matrix of the contexts and information from finds specialists.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code WAJ10 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

A single dropshaft and gully was initially excavated in preparation for the positioning of the retractable toilet (see Fig 2).

3.2.1 Dropshaft

<i>Dropshaft</i>	
Location	East end of Watling Street
Dimensions	2.1m x 2m x 5.3m deep
Modern pavement level	14.5 m OD
Base of modern make up for pavement	13.96 m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	4.1m
Level of base of deposits observed	9.2m OD
Natural observed	Not observed

The dropshaft was excavated in the paved area in front of St Mary Aldermary church. Part of the east side of the dropshaft and the connecting gully extended northwards underneath the existing road surface. The gully was 1m wide and 1.2m high extending to a length of 1.5m, in order to make the connection with the existing sewer.

Most of the dropshaft was entirely truncated by an infilled basement of not earlier than 19th century date. This basement extended to the full depth of the shaft and was entirely backfilled with concrete. The northern extent of the basement was defined by a brick wall [3] (see Fig. 4). The truncated top of this wall was identified at 1.2m below the existing pavement level. Part of an additional brick wall [4], built onto the north face of wall [3], and was recorded on the eastern side of the shaft. Horizontal metal girders were observed in the top of the basement. These girders appeared to be integral to the structure of the basement and were possibly used for manoeuvring heavy materials.

Outside the basement a horizontal sequence of deposits was observed on the north side of the dropshaft. In this area, at the bottom of the excavation, 0.9m depth of dumped deposits [6] were recorded. These deposits consisted of mid grey-brown sandy silts containing domestic food waste, including oyster shell and animal bone. These deposits extended into the area of the tunnelled gully on the north side of the shaft. Deposits at the north end of the tunnelled gully were given a separate context number [7], as it was not possible to see clearly whether they were contaminated by material within the construction cut for the main sewer. The deposits contained a small amount of pottery (12 sherds) and building materials dated overall to the later Roman period AD250-400.

The pottery assemblage comprised six different pottery types. Most common types were; Alice Holt/Farnham ware (4 sherds) dated to AD250-400 and unsourced sand tempered-wares (4 sherds) dated to AD50-400. There were also sherds of; Baetician early Dressel20/Haltern 70 fabric (AD50-170), Camulodunum 186 amphora fabric (AD50-140), Central Gaulish samian (AD120-250) and Nene Valley colour coated ware (AD150-400). The Roman building material comprised one piece of Roman brick. A piece of peg tile was interpreted as intrusive.

Deposit [6] was overlain by 1.6m depth of dark grey brown clay sandy silt [5] containing a fairly large amount of animal bone (not kept) as well as pottery and building materials. Deposition was attributed to the late 13th-mid 14th century (AD1270-1350) based on the dating of 5 sherds of pottery. All the pottery was in domestic forms consisting entirely of jugs and jars. Altogether 3 different pottery types were represented, these were; London-type ware (AD1080-1350), Mill Green ware (AD1270-1350) and south Hertfordshire-type Greyware (AD1170-1350).

Deposit [5] was sealed by 1m depth of dumped deposits [2] consisting of fairly compact dark grey brown sandy silt containing domestic food waste including animal bone and oyster shell.

Deposit [2] was in turn sealed by 0.6m depth of gravelly sandy silt [1] containing post-medieval brick fragments and a small amount of pottery (3 sherds). The latest sherd of pottery was a piece of creamware with industrial slip decoration, dated to the late 18th-19th century (AD1775-1830). A sherd of Midlands purple ware was also present dated to AD1480-1750 as well as a sherd of Saxo-Norman/early medieval sandy ware dated to AD970-1100.

An 18th-19th century date for deposition of deposit [1] gave further confirmation of a "not earlier than" 19th century date for the basement occupying most of the shaft.

In the top of the shaft a number of modern services and deposits were located at between 0.4m and 1.2m below the existing pavement level (see Fig. 5). These were sealed by 0.2m depth of concrete beneath 0.2m depth of paving.

3.2.2 Toilet Placement

<i>Toilet Placement</i>	
Location	East end of Watling Street
Dimensions	2.7m x 2.9m x 1.47m deep
Modern pavement level	14.5 m OD
Base of modern make up for pavement	13.96 m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	None observed
Level of base of trench	13.03m OD
Natural observed	Not observed

The construction trench for the retractable toilet placement was of limited depth involving re-excavation of part of the previously infilled dropshaft, as well as further excavation of part of the paved area on the south side of Watling Street. Further evidence for the previously observed late basement was observed. This included a supporting RSJ within the concrete. There was no further excavation of the archaeological deposits observed during the dropshaft excavation as the new trench didn't extend as close to or under the kerb.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

- *What was the level and character of the natural topography*

Natural deposits were not observed during any of the excavations.

- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

The earliest deposit identified was a horizontal layer at the bottom of the sequence. This deposit was dated to the later Roman period.

- *Are there any prehistoric deposits present on site?*

No evidence for prehistoric deposits was recorded during the excavations.

- *Are there any Roman deposits present on site?*

Pottery retrieved from the earliest deposits was dated overall to the mid 3rd to 4th century (AD250-400).

- *Are there any structural remains from the Roman period on the site?*

No in-situ structural remains from the Roman period were recorded in the dropshaft or gully. A very small amount of Roman building material was present within the Roman deposits.

- *Is there any evidence for Roman road surfaces or roadside features, associated with known Roman road alignments close to the dropshaft locations.*

No evidence was found for any Roman road surfaces. Neither was any evidence found for any features or deposits whose character was suggestive of direct association the Roman road alignment.

- *Is there any evidence for archaeological deposits relating to the Saxon period?*

No evidence was found for any deposits relating to the Saxon period. A single sherd of residual Saxo-Norman pottery was present within a later deposit.

- *Are there any medieval deposits on the site?*

Dumped deposits towards the bottom of the stratigraphic sequence were dated to the late 13th to 14th century.

- *Are there any structural remains from the medieval period on the site?*

No in-situ structural remains from the medieval period were found on the site. A small amount of building material of probable medieval date was retrieved.

- *Do medieval and post-medieval road deposits survive on the site, or has the area been encroached by basements?*

No specific evidence was found for road deposits on the site.

- *What is the character and nature of post-medieval deposits present?*

A sequence of horizontal dumped deposits was found on the site during the dropshaft excavation. There was very little dating evidence from these deposits, but the latest deposit was dated to the late 18th-19th century.

- *At Watling Street is there any indication for the construction of the undercroft recorded during the watching brief at 34 Watling Street.*

No evidence was found for the construction of the previously recorded nearby undercroft. Most of the excavated area comprised a basement backfilled entirely with concrete. The amount of concrete used to backfill the basement may reflect some instability in underlying deposits and features, but without deeper excavation this is just speculation.

- *What are the latest deposits identified?*

The latest deposits identified were dumped deposits at the top of the stratigraphic sequence. These deposits contained dating evidence from the late 18th-19th century.

- *What is the nature and characterisation of modern truncation in this area?*

Most of the dropshaft was completely truncated by a basement of not earlier than 19th century construction. This basement was further exposed during excavation of the construction trench for the toilet placement. The external wall of this basement was just inside the existing pavement line. The area north of the basement beneath Watling Street was truncated by modern services and road make up to a depth of 1.2m. The main sewer is tunnelled and lies 1.5m to the north of the dropshaft at circa 4.5m below road level.

4.2 Significance of the data

The results of the watching briefs are of local significance only. Earliest deposits were dated to the Roman period with some overlying medieval dumps. There was no evidence for any early medieval\ Saxo-Norman ground consolidation. A small amount of artefactual material was retrieved from the site, but this has limited potential to further increase our knowledge of the development of the area during the Roman and medieval periods.

5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavations 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* (MOLA, 2010) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the very 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 briefs should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*. Short period summaries for the Roman, Medieval and post-medieval periods will also be provided for relevant publications.

6 Acknowledgements

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8 Appendix 1: Roman pottery

By Amy Thorp

Context [7] contained the entire assemblage of Roman pottery from the dropshaft. Thirteen sherds were present in total and a date of AD 250–400 is based on four sherds of Alice Holt/Farnham ware (AHFA). Condition of the sherds was average for a City site.

9 Appendix 2: Medieval and post-medieval pottery

By Nigel Jeffries

The few sherds of medieval and later pottery from this site were retrieved in contexts [1] and [5]. Context [1] contained both medieval (one sherd of early medieval sandy ware) and post-medieval pottery suggesting this deposit witnessed some disturbance; it is nevertheless dated to the late 18th century by the creamware with slip decoration teapot. The condition of the medieval pottery, though generally fragmented, provides a consistent date of the late 13th to mid 14th century to context [5], with London-type wares dominating (fabric code LOND).

10 Appendix 3: Building materials

By Ian Betts

A total of ten fragments of building material were recovered from WAJ10 (contexts [1], [5] and [7]). These comprise peg roofing tile and one piece of Roman brick.

The building material from WAJ10 has been fully recorded and the information added to the Oracle database.

Listed below is a summary of the building material from each context:

Context	Fabric	Type	Context date
[1]	2271, 2276, 2586	Peg	1180–1480
[5]	2271, 2816	Peg	1180–1800*
[7]	2271, 2586	Peg	1180–1800
[7]	2815	Roman brick	

* associated pottery is medieval

Discussion

The only Roman building material present is a small fragment of brick dating to AD50–160. This brick measured 29–36mm in thickness suggesting it is a *bessalis*, *pedalis* or *lydion* brick.

The rest of the assemblage comprises poorly dated peg roofing tile. However, there is definite medieval peg roofing tile in context [1].

11 Appendix 4: Conservation report

By Liz Barham

11.1 Quantification and assessment

11.1.1 Conservation

11.1.1.1 *Introduction/methodology*

The following assessment note of conservation needs for the accessioned and bulk finds from the excavations at Watling Street Dropshaft, encompasses any requirements for finds analysis, illustration, analytical conservation and long term curation. This includes any needed to produce a stable archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1992) and the Museum of London's Standards for archive preparation (Museum of London 1999).

Treatments are carried out under the guiding principles of minimum intervention and reversibility. Whenever possible preventative rather than interventive conservation strategies are implemented. Procedures aim to obtain and retain the maximum archaeological potential of each object: conservators will therefore work closely with finds specialist and archaeologists.

All conserved objects are packed in archive quality materials and stored in suitable environmental conditions. Records of all conservation work are prepared on paper and on the Museum of London collections management system (mimsy XG) and stored at the Museum of London.

11.1.1.2 *Finds analysis/investigation*

There were no accessioned finds for analysis/investigation.

11.1.1.3 *Work required for illustration/photography*

No further work was anticipated prior to any illustration/photography.

5.14.3 *Preparation for deposition in the archive*

The finds from this site are appropriately packed for the archive. No further work is necessary for transfer.

11.1.1.4 *Remedial work outstanding*

None

12 NMR OASIS Archaeological report form

12.1 OASIS ID: molas1-76961

Project details

Project name	Watling Street (Dropshaft in Pavement Outside St Mary Aldermary Church), EC4
Short description of the project	A single dropshaft was initially excavated in the pavement north of St Mary Aldermary in 2010. Most of the trench was truncated by a 19th or 20th century basement but a horizontal sequence of deposits was seen in section under Watling Street. these contained finds from the Roman to medieval periods. Excavation of a subsequent construction trench for a retractable toilet in 2011 further exposed the 19th\20th century basement.
Project dates	Start: 15-03-2010 End: 17-01-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WAJ10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	DEPOSIT Medieval
Monument type	DEPOSIT Roman
Significant Finds	SHERD Medieval
Significant Finds	SHERD Roman
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Permitted Works

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON Watling Street (Dropshaft in Pavement Outside St Mary Aldermary Church)
Postcode	EC4
Study area	4 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 32411 81050 51.512341283341 -0.091631686411 51 30 44 N 000 05 29 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Ros Aitken
Project supervisor	Andrew Daykin
Type of sponsor/funding body	Local Authority
Name of sponsor/funding body	City of London Department of Planning and Transportation

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Physical Archive ID	WAJ10
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive ID	WAJ10
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID	WAJ10
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Watling Street Dropshaft and Toilet Placement, London EC4,

Watching brief report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Daykin, A.

Date 2011

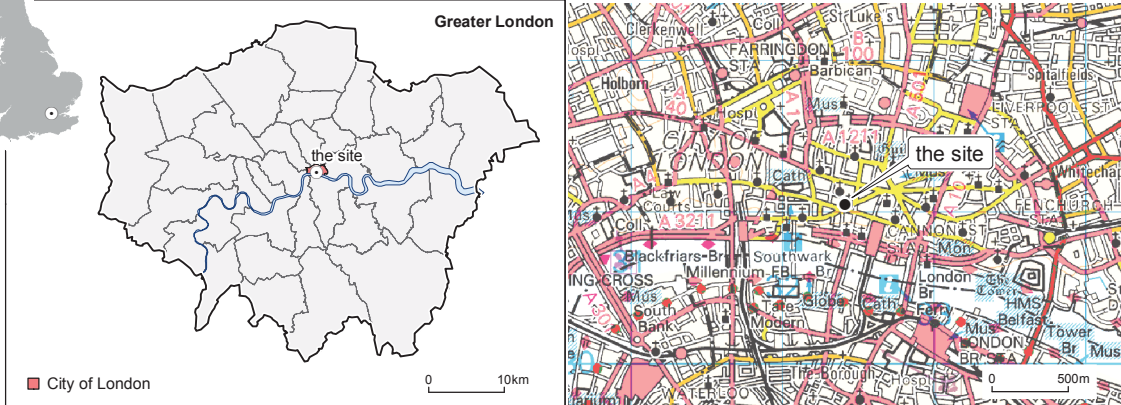
Issuer or publisher MOLA

Place of issue or publication London

Description Unpublished client report

Entered by Vince Gardiner (vgardiner@mola.org.uk)

Entered on 15 August 2017



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Scale 1:1,000 @ A4

0 50m

Fig 1 Site location

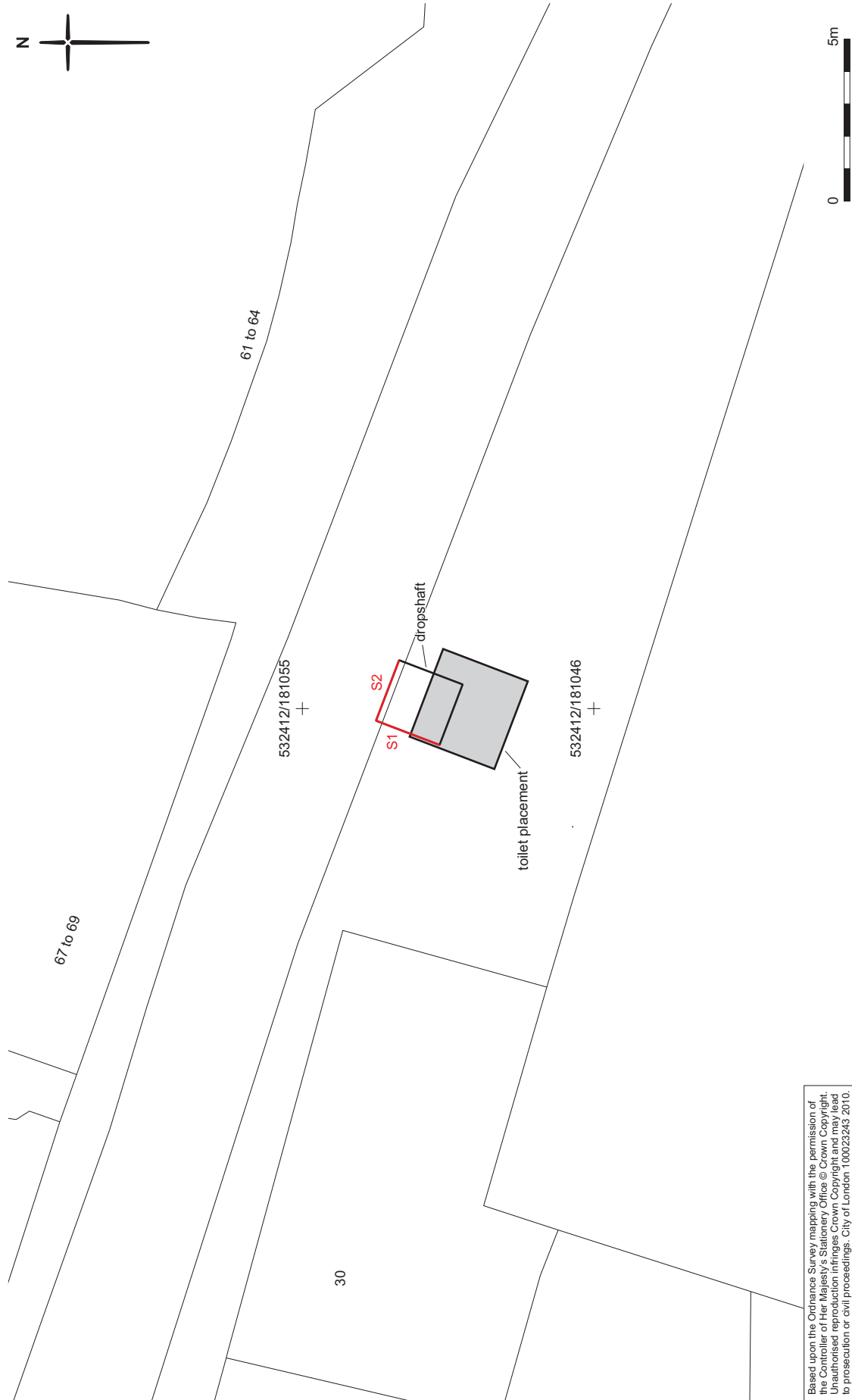
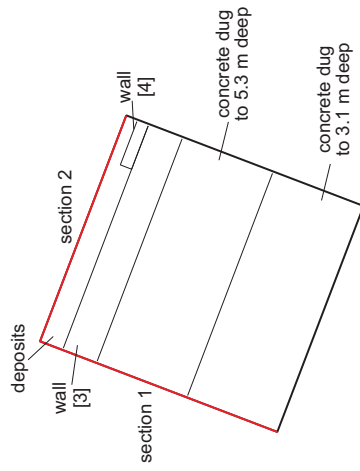


Fig 2 Dropshaft and toilet placement location



532410/181056



532410/181048



Fig 3 Plan of dropshaft

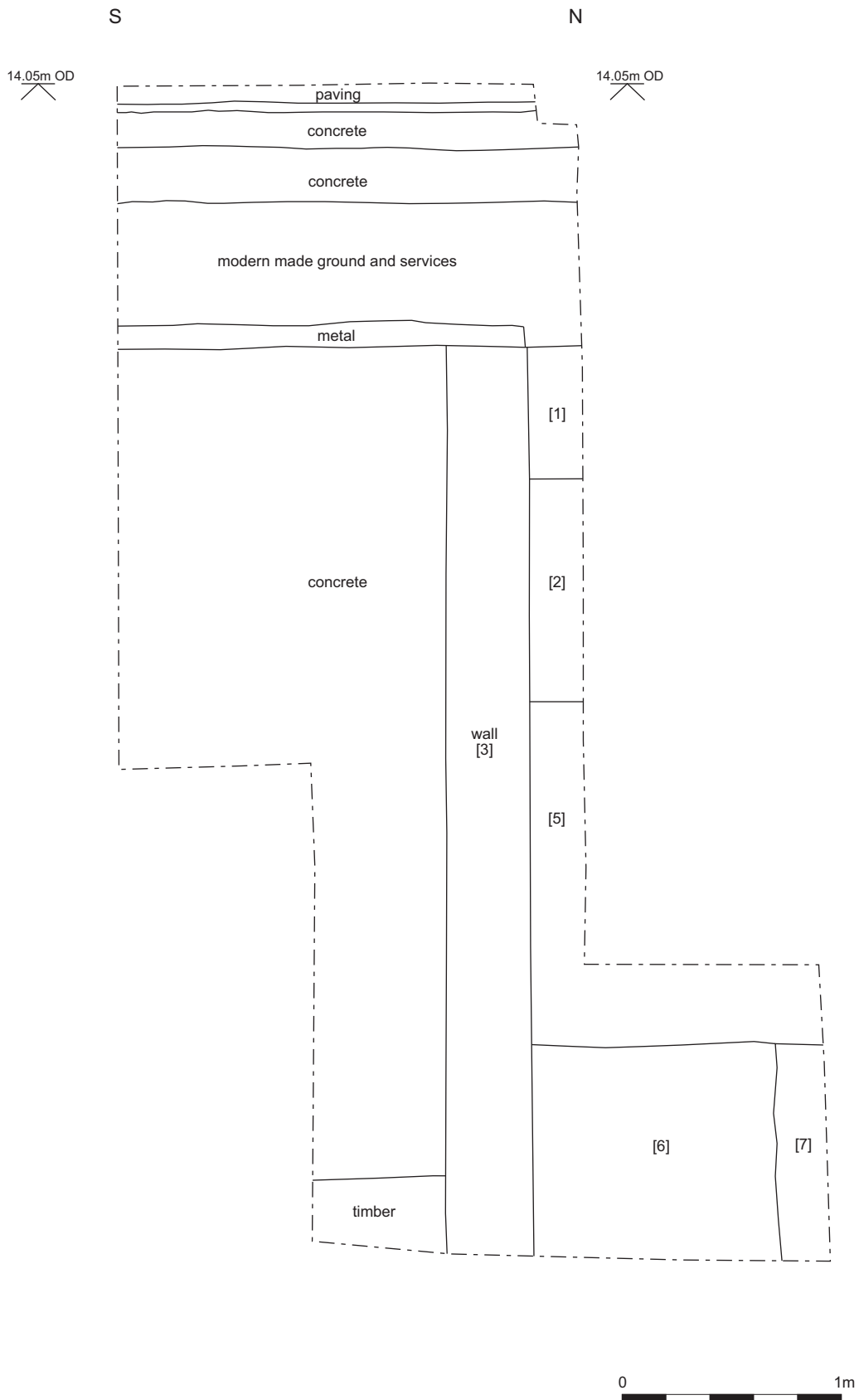


Fig 4 Section 1



Fig 5 Photograph of dropshaft during excavation



Fig 6 Photograph of excavation of toilet placement