

REDEVELOPMENT AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL London ECI

City of London

An archaeological evaluation report, (Stage | interim)

April 2005





MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

REDEVELOPMENT AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL London ECI

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An archaeological evaluation report, (Stage | interim)

Site Code: BPB05

National Grid Reference: 531970 181510

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of St. Bartholomew's Hospital London, EC1. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by Skanska Innisfree and the London Joint Venture.

Following the recommendations of the Archaeological impact assessment (MoLAS April, 2003) a Method Statement for archaeological evaluation was submitted (MoLAS May 2004) in which ten test pits were proposed throughout the development area in order to provide greater information on the nature, depth and survival of archaeological remains in the area under proposed redevelopment within the grounds of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The proposed Hospital redevelopment is to be carried out in three phases of construction activity. The current use of the Hospital buildings in the proposed redevelopment area necessitates that a programme of archaeological works runs concurrently with the three proposed phases, resulting in four distint stages of evaluation.

This report presents an interim report on the investigations carried out as part of the Stage 1 Preliminary Phase, where immediate access was possible. Three out of the ten test pits that make up the full archaeological evaluation programme were investigated.

The results of this field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

In the currently external area to the north east of the King George V Block medieval cut features (cellar walls and quarry pits) and post-medieval deposits survive from a height of 15.69m OD. These will be affected by the construction of the proposed basement in this area.

In the northern end of the light well for the current Queen Mary's Wing, the redevelopment area contains both modern drainage services, and the substantial foundations for the hospital building itself. Beyond this, the extent, nature and survival of any archaeology remaining in this area could not be assessed.

The medieval city ditch is present, running in an east—west direction, in the southern area of the site, at a height of 13.39m OD. The surviving archaeological deposits will be subject to disturbance from the construction of the proposed Energy Centre, to be built in this area, to a depth of 13.15m OD.

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N.B. For Fig 8 and Fig 9 modern site outlines have been superimposed on historic maps on a 'best-fit' basis.

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place on the premises of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, EC1. Within the hospital grounds, the area for development comprises the major portion of the Queen Mary Wing, the rear parts of the King George V Block and the Outpatients block, including the Horder Wing. These buildings form an irregular-shaped plot in the southern half of the overall hospital site, bounded to the east by Little Britain and to the south by Queen Isabella Way, the remainder of the hospital complex lies to the north and west (See Fig 1).

Within this report the area under discussion is known as 'the site'.

The Ordnance Survey National Grid reference for the centre of the site is 531970 181510.

The level of the basement slab varied between 15.69m OD and 13.97m OD. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is varies between 16.2m OD in the west and 17.2m OD in the East.

The site code is BPB05.

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

Following the recommendations of the previous assessment report (MoLAS April 2003), it was proposed (MoLAS 2004) to sink ten archaeological evaluation pits (TPs) in the development area (Fig 2). These are to be carried out in 4 distinct Stages of work. They are intended to provide information on the level and nature of the present foundations, the extent of horizontal truncation and the nature and depth of surviving archaeological deposits; in particular where they under threat from specific elements of the development proposals. Because there is a general intention not to lower the current basement levels, they are limited, in the main, to areas of piling, pilecaps and new stair/lift cores.

Due to the nature and continued use of the present buildings, is not possible to carry out all these works at the same time, and a phased evaluation programme has been proposed, to run concurrently with development phases (MoLAS, 2004). The following is intended as an interim report on the results of the excavation of three evaluation Test Pits, carried out during March and April 2005, during the preliminary stages of the development works.

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological impact assessment* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 2, MoLAS, April 2003).

The site lies within the Smithfield Conservation Area as set out in the City of London Unitary Development Plan.

1.3 Planning background

The field evaluation was undertaken in support of a planning application for the redevelopment of the King George V Block and surrounding buildings of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to be made by Skanska Innisfree and the St Barts and the Royal London NHS Trust.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Skanska Innisfree 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).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.5 Aims and objectives

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

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2, MoLAS, 2004) and are based on the recommendations highlighted in the Archaeological impact assessment (MoLAS, April 2003):

• Is the surface of the underlying geological deposit horizontal? Or is there evidence for any slope down into possible palaeochannels?

- Has the development area been subject to Roman quarrying and subsequent consolidation?
- Are any Roman burials present at the site? Even if not positively found, can one predict that they may survive elsewhere on the site?
- Is there evidence for any medieval land use in the site area?
- Are there any remains from the 1190 burial ground?
- Do any remains of medieval buildings survive?
- Does the City ditch survive on the site? If so what are its dimensions? And what is the date of its backfilling?
- Is the any evidence for the later buildings depicted on the 1617 map of the hospital precinct?

2 Topographical and historical background

The previous Archaeological impact assessment (MoLAS, April 2003) should be referred to for a more detail archaeological and geological background.

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2004), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Two of the three evaluation Test Pits proposed for Stage 1 were investigated: TP1a and TP3. It was not possible to arrange continuity of vehicle access for the third pit, TP 2, which will therefore have to be undertaken at a later stage.

On the other hand early access was obtained to TP 9. Natural deposits were not reached in this, but planned future augering, to be monitored by MoLAS in this and the surrounding area, will inform upon the depth, nature and extent of natural deposits in this area. For the third trench (TP 3) boreholes were augered along two cross-sections to gain a profile of sub surface deposits after the presence of thick concrete prevented the full excavation of the trench (see Fig 2).

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

The locations of evaluation Test Pits were recorded in 3D by MoLAS surveyors and plotted on to a Basement Survey (Drg. No. 4213/ENG/B/10, (Revision B) by Skanska Construction Group Ltd). This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994).

The site has produced: 1 Test Pit location plan; 9 context records; 2 section drawings at 1:20 and 1:10; and 24 photographs. In addition 1 box of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code BPB05 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For Test Pit locations see Fig 2

Evaluation Test Pit 1a				
Location	Within the ambulance bay north-east end			
	of the King George V Block			
Dimensions	2.50 by 3m			
Modern ground level/top of slab	16.79m OD			
Base of modern fill/slab	15.69m OD			
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.10 m			
Level of base of deposits observed	13.39 m OD			
Natural observed	13.79m OD			

A light reddish yellow silty clay deposit remained at the base of this Test Pit at a depth of 3.10m below the ground surface. This is thought to be the remnants of the natural brickearth that caps the Hackney gravels in this area. It was viewed in the side of a modern truncation and was not excavated. The deposit was redder towards the top where iron had leached down from the thin (0.10m thick) band of gravels above it. These gravels may have been natural also but they were only seen in section and could have been a reworked natural deposit. There were no finds in either of these deposits. A quarry pit had been dug into the top of these deposits. At the base of the cut there was evidence of more iron leaching from where the feature had been cut through the above-mentioned gravel layer. The pit had been backfilled with a dark grey homogenous deposit (context [07], Fig 3), the finds from this included pottery and building materials characteristic of the 13th and 14th century.

At some point during the medieval period (context [04], Fig 3) a wall had been built into the pit backfill (context [03], Fig 3). This wall ran east—west across the southern half of the Test Pit, until truncated by a modern construction cut at the western end. It was faced with roughly hewn limestone blocks on its northern side, down to its foundation level. To the south, behind the limestone the wall's infill was made from a chalk rubble and sandy mortar and built up against the pit deposits. This implies that the original land surface would have been at a higher level and that this may have been the southern wall of a cellar (see Fig 3 and Fig 4).

The wall had been robbed out to different depths across the Test Pit, but the highest courses of the wall had been robbed of their limestone block facing, leaving just the infill remaining (Fig 3).

After the cellar wall had been robbed out, demolition deposits were dumped over the area to the south of the wall. These deposits included a thick layer of mortar and building material that may have represented the remains of the rest of the cellar, or even the building that the cellar was associated with. At the western end of the wall an 18th century red-brick wall ran north-west—south-east, at an acute angle to the medieval wall, until being truncated by a modern cut in the north. This may have been the remnant of a property boundary, as seen on one on the post-medieval maps of this area (Fig 9). Modern truncations had destroyed the relationship between this wall and the post-medieval demolition deposits.

Severe truncations had destroyed the area directly to the north and west of these walls where any deposits associated with either of the walls would have otherwise survived. The modern cut was excavated out to a depth of 3.41m below the ground surface in order to provide a window into the archaeological deposits below the level of the medieval cellar wall foundation. The base of this truncation was not reached during this evaluation exercise. The remains of a disused red brick (Victorian) culvert or drain, lay at the depth reached, but further probing established that the truncation extends 0.65m below this. The archaeology survived in the south-eastern quarter of the test pit and was preserved *in situ*.

Evaluation Test Pit 3				
Location	Light well to the east of the Queen			
	Mary's Block			
Dimensions	1.50m by 1.50m			
Modern ground level/top of slab	13.97m OD			
Base of modern fill/slab	N/A			
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A			
Level of base of deposits observed	12.57 m OD			
Natural observed	N/A			

A series of boreholes were drilled through the diagonals of the Test Pit to gain a profile of the sub-surface deposits. The concrete slab in this area, in places proved to be 1.50m deep (12.57m OD). A service trench ran through the area at this depth. This Test Pit was subsequently terminated by agreement with the Corporation of London's Senior Planning and Archaeology Officer.

Evaluation Test Pit 9				
Location	Within the Medical Records office to the west of the development area.			
Dimensions	1.50m by 1.50m			
Modern ground level/top of slab	15.69m OD			
Base of modern fill/slab	13.39m OD			
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.70m			
Level of base of deposits observed	13.69m OD			
Natural observed	N/A			

The trial pit reached a depth of 2m, the deposits at the base of this trench consisted of gravel and sand mixed with brown sandy silt. This deposit also contained flecks of shell, charcoal and ceramic building material. The southern edge of a linear feature cut, east—west, across this deposit. Up to 0.60m of the northern part of the Test Pit was taken up by this feature. The fill of the cut was silt, with organic debris contained within it. No finds were retrieved from the contexts within this Test Pit, but both deposits are likely to be medieval fills of the city ditch, the linear feature possibly being a late re-cut of the main ditch.

3.3 Assessment of the evaluation

There follows an assessment of the success of the evaluation in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information, which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy.

In the case of this site the Test Pits were placed in order to inform upon the level and nature of the present foundations, the extent of horizontal truncation and the nature and depth of surviving archaeological deposits in the areas which are specifically affected by the proposed development scheme. These are limited, in the main, to areas of piling, pilecaps and new stair/lift cores (for the location of test pits and the impacts from the proposed development see Fig 7).

It was intended that three of the proposed ten trial pits were to be excavated during this, the preliminary stage, as access allowed.

Test Pit 1a was positioned within the footprint of the proposed building basement, in the location of a pile cap and its associated disturbance (for the locations of all proposed pile caps, see MoLAS, April 2003, Fig 13). Natural brickearth deposits were found at the base of this Test Pit, at 13.69m OD but were seen in section only and not excavated. Medieval archaeology was revealed in the form of a cellar wall and a quarry pit at a depth of 15.69m OD (1.10 m below ground surface). These are within the Precinct boundary of the Hospital (See Fig 8).

The horizontal stratigraphy remaining was post-medieval in date and probably represents the demolition of the Precinct properties, after the Reformation. The smaller red-brick wall may represent the location of a post-medieval, external, property boundary but not enough was seen to be able to interpret this wall fully.

Much of the Test Pit was taken up with deep, modern, vertical truncations, which were used as windows into the archaeology survived as an isolated block.

Test Pit 1b was not excavated, therefore no information about the potential survival of archaeology below the current basement levels at the north-east end of the King George V building.

As Test Pit 2 was not excavated during this phase of works, no archaeological information could be gained on the area to the south-west end of the King George Block.

Test Pit 3 was located in the area of the eastern light well that skirts the rim of the eastern hospital building, in an area of a proposed stair core. The Test Pit was not fully excavated, but the cores of the boreholes drilled in the location indicate that modern concrete is present to a depth of at least 1.40m from basement slab level (12.57m OD), that a drainage tunnel is present at that location, and that this may follow the route of the light well.

Test Pit 4 located below the basements of the central area of the King George V building was not excavated during this phase of works.

Test Pit 5 was not excavated during this phase of works and as a result no archaeological information could be gained from the external area between the King George V Surgical Block and the Queen Mary Wing.

Test Pit 6 is located in the area along the southern boundary of the proposed redevelopment area and was not excavated during this phase of works.

Test Pit 7 was also not excavated during this phase of works and similarly to Test Pit 6 no information was gained about the archaeology present along the southern boundary of the development area.

Test Pit 8 was also located along the southern boundary of the site and was not excavated during this phase of works.

Test Pit 9 was located in the Medical Records Room in the south-western corner of the site, in the basement of the current Horder Building. This area is to be redeveloped as part of the new Energy Centre. Natural deposits were not reached in this Test Pit, the base of which was at 13.69m OD. The decision not to implement augering during this stage, was based on the fact that further borehole works, due to be monitored by MoLAS, are programmed to occur during later stages of the archaeological evaluation. The trench established that the medieval city ditch is located here, as predicted in the previous archaeological assessment of the area (see the Archaeological impact assessment (MoLAS, April, 2003)).

Test Pit 10 was also located in the area of the basement of the proposed New Energy Centre. The pit was not excavated during this phase of investigations.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

The research aims and objectives (below) were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2, MoLAS, 2004). The extent to which the research questions can be answered, is directly dependant on the number and location of the test pits excavated. To date only three test pits have been investigated.

- Is the surface of the underlying geological deposit horizontal? Or is there evidence for any slope down into possible palaeochannels?

 Comparisons of the natural deposits found in Test Pit 1a should be compared with those found in subsequent stages of the evaluation.
- Has the development area been subject to Roman quarrying and subsequent consolidation?

No Roman remains were seen during this stage of the evaluation.

- Are any Roman burials present at the site? Even if not positively found, can one predict that they may survive elsewhere on the site?
- No Roman remains were seen during this stage of the evaluation.
- Is there evidence for any medieval land use in the site area?

 The presence of a pit in Test Pit 1a indicates that this area may have been used for quarrying, within the Precinct of St. Bartholomew's Church.
- Are there any remains from the 1190 burial ground?

 No evidence could be derived concerning the 1190 burial ground from this phase of the evaluation.
- Do any remains of medieval buildings survive?

The remains of a medieval wall, possibly the remnants of a cellar were found in Test Pit 1a, overlying the medieval quarry pit dating to the 13th to 14th century. The wall remains are similar to and contemporary with those found in the nearby Catering Block during an archaeological watching brief in the mid 1980's (MoLAS April 2003). This fact and the presence of this cellar wall, in an area previously used by the Hospital for quarrying, may be evidence of a period of development within the Hospital precinct, fairly late on in its' history (after the 14th century).

• Does the City ditch survive on the site? If so what are its dimensions? And what is the date of its backfilling?

The City ditch does survive on site, at a depth of 1.70m below the basement level of the Medical Record Office (13.39m OD) below the south east corner of the development area. No finds were retrieved during this evaluation, so dating the backfill was not possible at this stage in the evaluation programme. The ditch deposits took up the entirety of the trench (1.50m by 1.50m), as no edges could be seen, the whole width of it could not been discerned from this trench.

• Is the any evidence for the later buildings depicted on the 1617 map of the hospital precinct?

A possible, red brick, a wall was picked up in the western end of Test Pit 1a, and this may have been a remnant of a 17th century property boundary, however not enough was exposed was to allow a clear, definitive interpretation.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is fair in the areas looked at. However the limitations of this first phase of evaluation should be noted.

The presence of 14th century quarry pitting below the (possibly)15th century medieval wall implies that the activities carried out within the Hospital Precinct changed and developed over time. It is likely that there is a good potential for survival of the deeper remnants of an earlier (c. 12th, 13th or 14th century) sequence of land-use within the boundary of the medieval Hospital Precinct. In trench TP1a, the earlier land-use is the quarrying, but it is likely to be different in different areas of the Precinct. For example, the hospital garden that, in 1252, was located near the southern side of the current hospital square, between the development area and Little Britain (see Section 3.3.4, MoLAS, April 2003) would represent a different land-use.

Another such land-use is the medieval City ditch. This is present in the south of the redevelopment area and runs in an east-west direction. It was found to survive below the hospital basement level, at a height of 13.39m OD and is likely to be encountered elsewhere on site.

The survival of the 15th century cellar (in other words, below ground level) wall in Test Pit 1a indicates that the actual ground surface was higher during the medieval period, and that post-medieval demolition and development on the land is responsible for much of the truncation of the 15th and 16th century medieval deposits in this area. In terms of cut features, cellar or other similar *below ground* level walls are likely to survive.

The post-medieval truncation in the area is difficult to date but is likely to represent a clearance of the Hospital Precinct buildings some time after the Dissolution of the Monasteries Act in 1539. The landscape in the area from this point is likely to correlate with that depicted on the maps of 1617 (Fig 9).

NB such survival may be limited to isolated blocks due to the severity of the modern truncation. The average depth of archaeological deposits in the external areas, where they do survive is likely to be c. 13.40m OD.

4.3 Significance

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

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed scheme involve the demolition of Queen Mary's Wing, the King George V building and the eastern corner of the Horder Wing and the construction of a new, single block.

Impacts from the proposed development in the areas studied for this report will be from each of the following, discussed below:

- Secant pile wall
- New basement floor slab
- New foundation piles and pile caps
- Crane bases
- Stair/lift cores

See the Archaeological Impact Assessment (MoLAS, April 2003) for a detailed list.

A secant pile wall will surround the new scheme. This will have a maximum impact on the area around TP1a. The width of this wall is not yet determined, but all archaeological deposits and features will necessarily be removed along the alignment of the piling wall (Fig 7).

The proposed building extends across areas which appear to be currently unbasemented: i.e. the basement of the proposed building has a greater extent than the existing basements. Test Pit 1a partially lies in such an area.

Levels on the basement floor of the new building will be 12.80m OD (Skanska drawing 4213//ENG/B/30). Allowing for the thickness of the new basement slab and the layer of associated blinding layer, truncation levels of 12.30m OD and 11.55m OD are expected: lower than any of existing buildings. For areas such as the external area near TP1a where no basements are currently present and where current external ground levels is c 17.30m OD, a greater depth of material will need to be excavated to reach the proposed truncation level (see Fig 7).

The insertion of new foundation piles and pile caps will also remove archaeological deposits and features in areas such as that of TP 3. For details of the proposed new piling arrangement see the *Archaeological impact assessment* (MoLAS, April, 2003). Pile caps will have base levels of 11.30m OD and will be 3.90m². All archaeological deposits and features will be removed by the insertion of piles (Fig 7). Any pre-piling obstruction removal, undertaken around pile and pile cap locations before the insertion of new foundations, will also disturb any archaeological deposits and features.

The construction of the new Energy Centre where TP 9 lies, involves the deepening the existing single basement beneath the current basement by c. 1.75 m and where there is no basement by c. 4.75 m below ground level, to a new foundation level of 13.15 m OD.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Stav Fournaris from Skanska Innisfree, Jim Omeara and the ground crew from Avondale and the Corporation of London's Senior Planning and Archaeology Officer Kathryn Stubbs. Additional thanks to Dave Sankey, Maggie Cox, Joseph Severn and Cordelia Hall for on-site, photographic and survey support.

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NMR OASIS archaeological report form

Project details

Project name

St. Bartholomew's Hospital

the project

Evaluation of three test pits within the Hospital grounds showed Short description of evidence for the medieval city ditch, a cellar(?) wall and quarry pit within the Precinct of Medieval St Barts. Producing Interim **Evaluation Report**

Project dates

Start: 02-03-2005 End: 14-04-2005

Previous/future work

Yes / Yes

Any project

associated

reference

WTM01 - Sitecode

codes

Any associated

project

reference KGV03 - Sitecode

codes

Type of project

Field evaluation

Site status

Conservation Area

Current Land use

Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type

CITY DITCH Medieval

Monument type

ST. BARTS PRECINCT ACTIVITY Medieval

Monument type

RED-BRICK PROPERTY BOUNDARY Post Medieval

Methods techniques

Test Pits'

Development type

Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law

courts etc.)

Prompt

Conservation Area Consent

Position in planning process

Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country

England

Site location

GREATER LONDON CITY OF LONDON CITY OF LONDON St.

Bartholomew's Hospital

Postcode

EC1

Study area

21600.00 Square metres

National

reference

grid

TQ 31978 81497 Point

Height OD

Min: 13.79m Max: 13.79m

Project creators

Name

Organisation

of **MoLAS**

Project originator brief

MoLAS project manager

Project

originator

design

MoLAS

Project

director/manager

Nick Bateman

Project supervisor

Rosalind Aitken

Sponsor or funding body

Skanska Innisfree

Project archives

Physical

Archive

recipient

LAARC

Physical Contents

'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics'

Physical

Exists?

Archive

No

Digital

recipient

Archive

LAARC

Digital Contents

'Survey'

Digital available

Media

'Text'

No

Digital Exists?

Archive

Paper

recipient

Archive

LAARC

Paper Contents

'Stratigraphic'

Paper

Media

'Notebook - Excavation','

Research','

General

available

Notes','Photograph','Plan'

Paper

Archive

Exists?

No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title

St. Bartholomews Hospital An evaluation report

Author(s)/Editor(s)

Rosalind Aitken

Date

2005

Issuer or publisher

MoLAS

Place of issue or

publication

London

Description

Interim Evaluation report

Entered by

Rosalind Aitken (molas.archive@museumoflondon.org.uk)

Entered on

19 April 2005

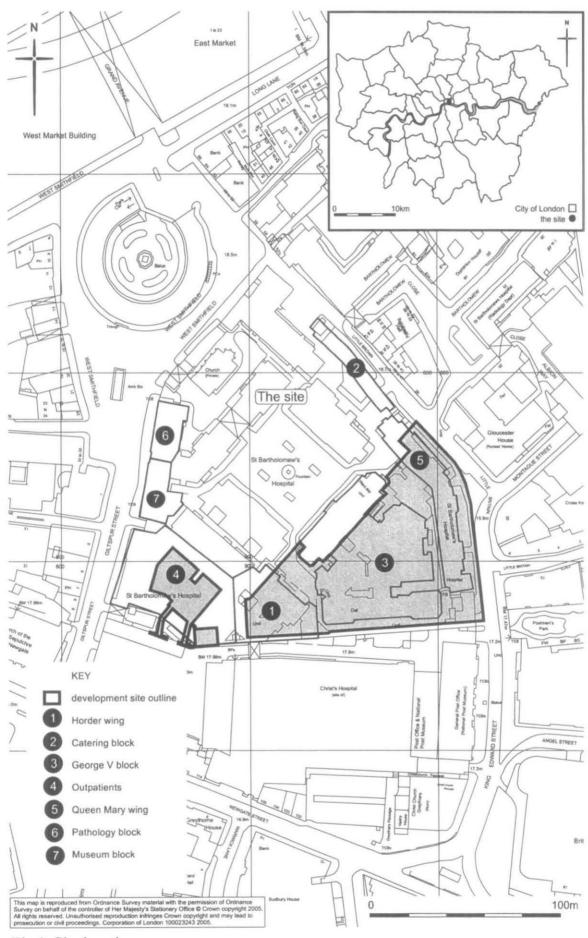


Fig 1 Site location



Fig 2 Location of evaluation Test Pits

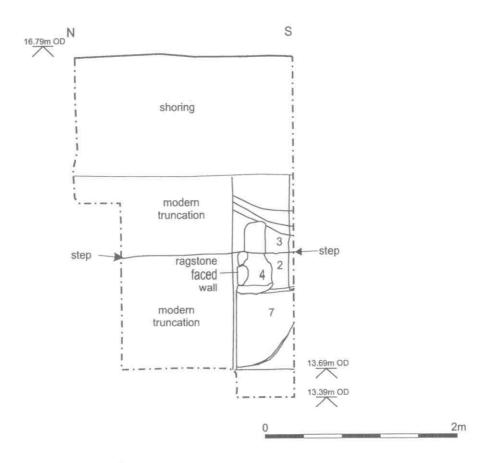


Fig 3 North west facing section of TP1a

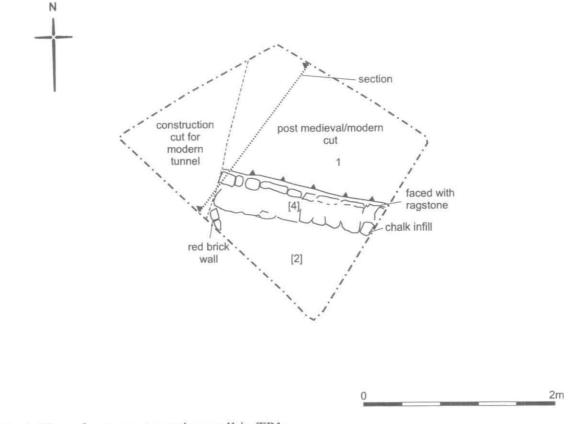


Fig 4 Plan of east-west running wall in TP1a

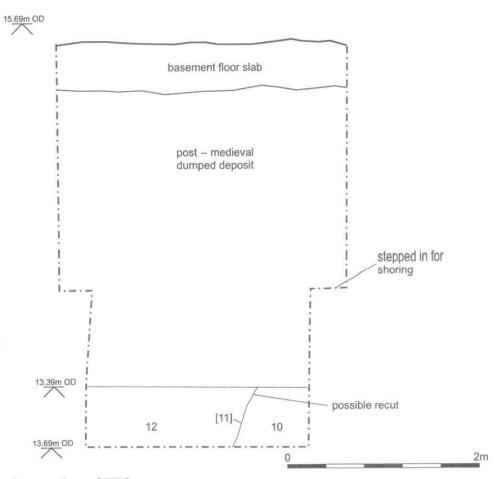


Fig 5 East facing section of TP9

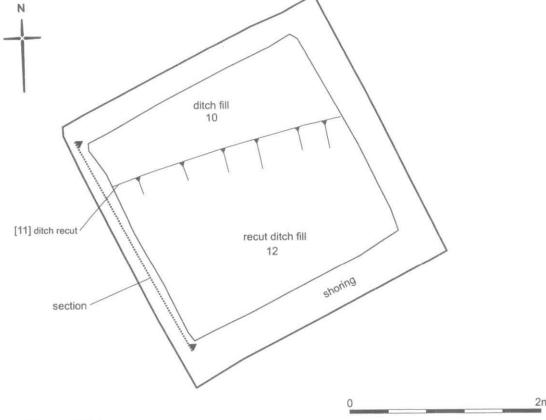


Fig 6 Plan of TP9



Fig 7 Impacts from proposed development on areas of potential archaeological survival

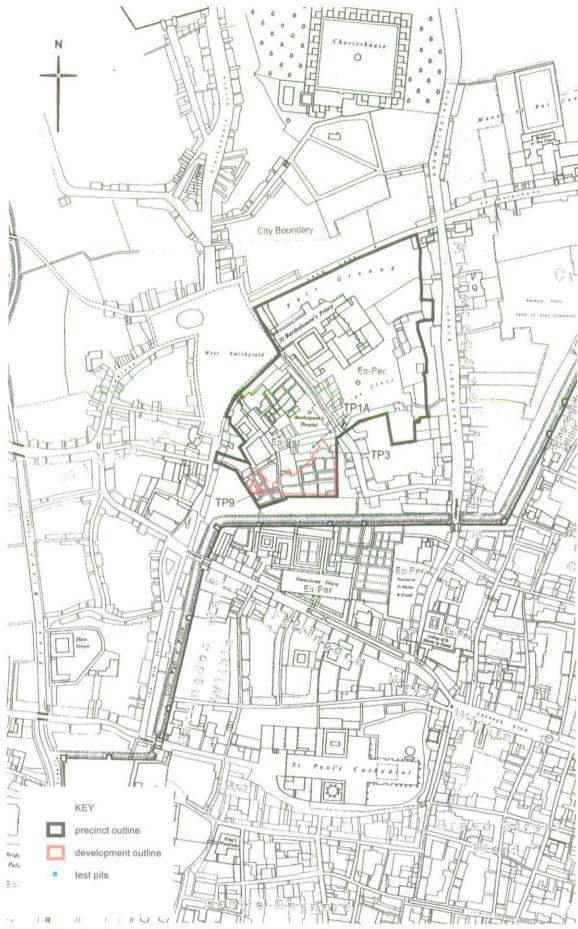


Fig 8 The development area c 1520

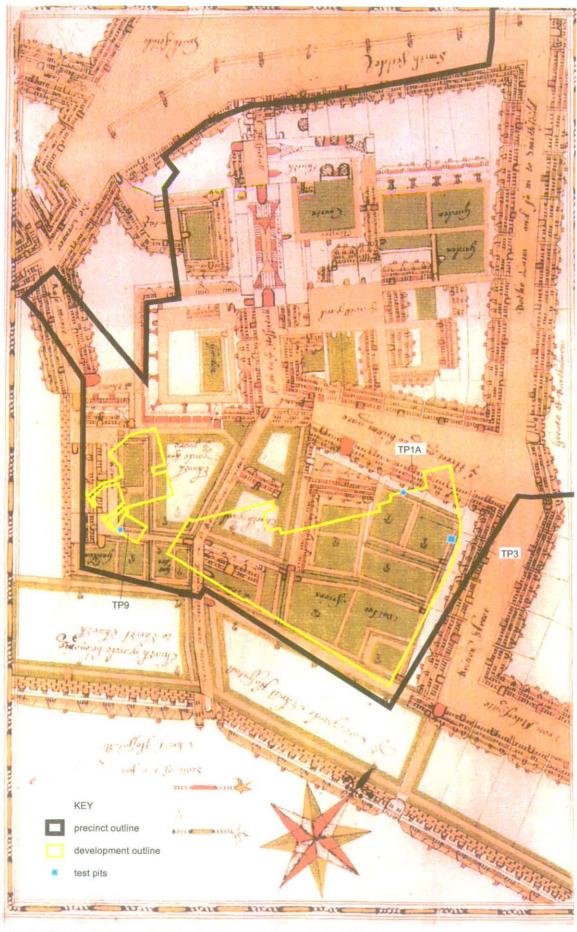


Fig 9 The buildings of St Bartholomew's Hospital c 1617