

8 Moorgate and 17 Tokenhouse Yard
London EC2

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Report on an archaeological watching brief

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Results

For trench locations see Figure 2.

<i>Test Pit 3</i>	
Location	Basement in 8 Moorgate
Dimensions	1.5m x 2m
Modern ground level/top of slab	Approx. 10.05 OD
Base of modern fill/slab	8.75m
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	8.75m OD (concrete slab)
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit three was located in the basement at 8 Moorgate, on the west of the site, where it was hoped to observe the projected eastern edge of the Roman road (see fig. 3 in the Archaeological impact assessment). The basement slab was at 10.05m OD and the test pit measured 2m x 1.5m at the surface. The slab was 0.20m - 0.3m thick and overlay modern made ground. At approximately 8.95m OD another concrete slab was observed. As the natural brickearth deposits were predicted to lie between 8.90m to 9.40m OD in this area, it was decided not to break out the second slab as this was already below the level of horizontal archaeological stratigraphy.

<i>Test Pit 4</i>	
Location	Basement in 8 Moorgate
Dimensions	1.5 m x 2m
Modern ground level/top of slab	Approx. 10.05 OD
Base of modern fill/slab	8.75m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	8.75m OD (concrete slab)
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit four was located in 8 Moorgate, at the extreme north west of the property, where it was hoped to observe the projected eastern edge of the Roman road (see fig. 3 in the Archaeological impact assessment). The basement slab was at approximately 10.05m OD and the test pit measured 1.5m x 2m at the surface. The slab was 0.20m – 0.30m thick and overlay modern made ground. At 8.95m OD another concrete slab

was observed. As the natural brickearth deposits were predicted to lie between 8.90m to 9.40m OD in this area, it was decided not to break out the second slab as this was already below the level of horizontal archaeological stratigraphy.

<i>Test Pit 5</i>	
Location	Basement in 8 Moorgate
Dimensions	1m x 1.5m
Modern ground level/top of slab	Approx. 10.05 OD
Base of modern fill/slab	8.75m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	8.75m OD (concrete slab)
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit five was located in the north of 8 Moorgate. The basement slab was at approximately 10.05m OD and the test pit measured 1.5m x 1m at the surface. The slab was 0.20m – 0.30m thick and overlay brick rubble made ground. At 8.95m OD another concrete slab was observed. As the natural brickearth deposits were predicted to lie between 8.90m to 9.40m OD in this area, it was decided not to break out the second slab as this was already below the level of horizontal archaeological stratigraphy.

<i>Test Pit 1</i>	
Location	Basement in 8 Moorgate
Dimensions	1m x 1.20m
Modern ground level/top of slab	Approx. 10.05 OD
Base of modern fill/slab	8.75m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	8.75m OD (concrete slab)
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit one was located in the corner of 8 Moorgate, at the extreme south west of the site, where it was hoped to observe the projected eastern edge of the Roman road (see fig. 3 in the Archaeological impact assessment). The basement slab was at 10.05m OD and the test pit measured 1m x 1.20m at the surface. The slab was 0.20m – 0.3m thick and overlay modern made ground. At 8.95m OD another concrete slab was observed. As the natural brickearth deposits were predicted to lie between 8.90m to 9.40m OD in this area, it was decided not to break out the second slab as this was already below the level of horizontal archaeological stratigraphy.

<i>Test Pit 6</i>	
Location	Basement in 8 Moorgate
Dimensions	1m x 1.20m
Modern ground level/top of slab	Approx. 10.05 OD
Base of modern fill/slab	8.75m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	8.75m OD (concrete slab)
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit six was located towards the south east of 8 Moorgate, where it was hoped to observe the projected eastern edge of the Roman road (see fig. 3 in the Archaeological impact assessment). The basement slab was at approximately 10.05m OD and the test pit measured 1m x 1.20m at the surface. The slab was 0.20m – 0.30m thick and overlay modern made ground. At 8.95m OD another concrete slab was observed. As the natural brickearth deposits were predicted to lie between 8.90m to 9.40m OD in this area, it was decided not to break out the second slab as this was already below the level of horizontal archaeological stratigraphy.

<i>Test Pit 2</i>	
Location	Basement in 8 Moorgate
Dimensions	2m x 1.20m
Modern ground level/top of slab	Approx. 10.05 OD
Base of modern fill/slab	8.75m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	8.75m OD (concrete slab)
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit two was located to the west side of 8 Moorgate, where it was hoped to observe the projected eastern edge of the Roman road (see fig. 3 in the Archaeological impact assessment). The basement slab was at approximately 10.05m OD and the test pit measured 2m x 1.20m at the surface. The slab was 0.20m – 0.30m thick and overlay modern made ground. At 8.95m OD another concrete slab was observed. As the natural brickearth deposits were predicted to lie between 8.90m to 9.40m OD in this area, it was decided not to break out the second slab as this was already below the level of horizontal archaeological stratigraphy.

<i>Test Pit 8</i>	
Location	Basement in 17 Tokenhouse Yard
Dimensions	2m x 1.20m
Modern ground level/top of slab	Approx. 10.32m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	0.65m below surface
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	1.60m below surface
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit eight was located to the east of site in the basement of 17 Tokenhouse Yard and was excavated to a depth of 1.6m. The basement slab was at approximately 10.32m OD and the test pit measured approximately 2m x 1.20m.

At the base of the trench was a layer of very loose, fine grain silty sand with frequent small rounded stones (5mm maximum). This deposit was excavated to a depth of 50mm, the bottom of this deposit was not located. Above this was a firm light brown silty clay layer. It contained moderate amounts of charcoal pieces; however no datable material was recovered. This deposit was approximately 0.13m thick. Sitting above this was a thick deposit of dark brown, black peaty clay. This contained frequent dark organic deposits and shells of varying species. Also found were fragments of pottery, CBM and animal bone. This deposit was 0.28m thick where the base was located in a slot dug into the base of the trench. In the northern section

deposits of firm, mid orange clay were observed in this deposit. At approximately 1m below surface loose mid yellow sandy gravel was observed. This extended across the whole trench and was 0.16m thick. Within it were fragments of clay pipe stem.

The archaeological deposits were sealed by modern concrete and overburden to the south and west, a granite block to the north and red brick footings to the east. These footings were associated with the buttress for No. 17 Tokenhouse Yard, located to the north east side of the trench and date to the 1880s.

The basement slab here was 0.20 – 0.40m thick.

<i>Test Pit 9</i>	
Location	Basement in 17 Tokenhouse Yard
Dimensions	2m x 1.20m
Modern ground level/top of slab	Approx. 10.32m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	8.75m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	8.75m OD (concrete slab)
Natural observed	N/A

Test pit nine was located at the east of the site, in the north east corner of No. 17 Tokenhouse Yard. The basement slab was at approximately 10.32m OD and the test pit measured 2m x 1.20m at the surface.

Excavated to a depth of 1.35m the horizontal archaeology had been removed due to a drainage shaft that was at the south west corner of the trench. However the south and west facing sections showed *in situ* stratigraphy.

The earliest deposit was a dark brown, black peaty deposit. The base of this layer was not found. This contained frequent dark organic deposits, fragments of pottery and animal bone. The depth of this layer as seen was a maximum of 0.8m in the south facing section. It had been truncated to the east and west by modern construction leaving only a thin deposit between two phases of the modern building.

Above this was 0.65m of modern concrete and a 0.33m concrete slab.

Conclusions

The properties at 8 and 10 Moorgate appear to have been built on a concrete raft located at approximately 8.98m OD. This raft was cored during the archaeological evaluation carried out previously on the site and was shown to be 0.90m thick, taking the general truncation level down to 8.08m OD. This level is significantly below the predicted level of natural brickearth of between 8.90m and 9.40m. It is very unlikely that features associated with the Roman Road will survive anywhere, or any associated structures and ground surfaces as the raft covers the whole area. The bases of deep cut features such as quarry or rubbish pits may survive in localised areas.