



C257 ARCHAEOLOGY CENTRAL Built Heritage Recording Report Farringdon Station Shunters' Rooms

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1 Introduction

Crossrail is a new cross-London Rail Link project which will provide transport routes across the south-east of England and London. The route will link Maidenhead and Heathrow in the west with Shenfield in the north-east and Abbey Wood in the south-east. In central London, from Royal Oak in the west to Pudding Mill Lane and Royal Victoria Dock in the east, Crossrail will consist of a tunnelled section with seven new stations linked to the existing transport network.

The new Crossrail Farringdon station will be constructed between Farringdon Road and Lindsey Street. Two new ticket halls will be constructed at either end of the deep, tunnel-level, platforms: one at Farringdon Road, to the west (Western Ticket Hall, to be built by Thameslink), and one at Lindsey Street to the east (Eastern Ticket Hall, to be built by Crossrail). This report is concerned with works which lie between the two ticket halls.

This fieldwork report describes the results of the standing building recording that was carried out beneath Smithfield Market, on the structure called the 'Shunters' Rooms', by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), under Crossrail contract C257 Archaeology Central

The site, as part of the Crossrail Farringdon Station worksite, is currently undergoing major redevelopment works due to the construction of a new cross-London link by Crossrail, and the works will mostly affect the Hammersmith and City Underground Lines and related structures. The area investigated for the purpose of this report, lies on the north-east side of the site, along the northern wall (TQ 3190 8183).

The sidings beneath Smithfield Market are statutorily listed (List entry Number: 1285241) and the site is located underground, across the boundary of the Smithfield Conservation Area which was first designated by the local authority in 1971 as the St Bartholomew's Conservation Area and subsequently extended several times; the east building of Smithfield Central Market was included in the Smithfield Conservation Area in 1981.

Listed assets in the vicinity of the site are: the eastern building of the Smithfield Market, located to the West of Lindsey Street above the sidings beneath Smithfield Market', is a Listed Building to Grade II* (List entry Number ID 1285241).

1.1 Scope

The Short Change Notice (MOLA, 2013) advises on the methodology and requirements of the survey:

- Level 2 survey of the Shunters Rooms below Lindsey Street bridge, including a condition survey of any removable items, and observation of two hand-dug 0.5 x 0.5 x 0.25m test pits.
- It is understood the Shunters Rooms comprise four or five small rooms or cabins, each approximately 2m square (Jay Carver, Crossrail Project Archaeologist, *pers comm* 18.02.13).

See Fig 1, below, for location.

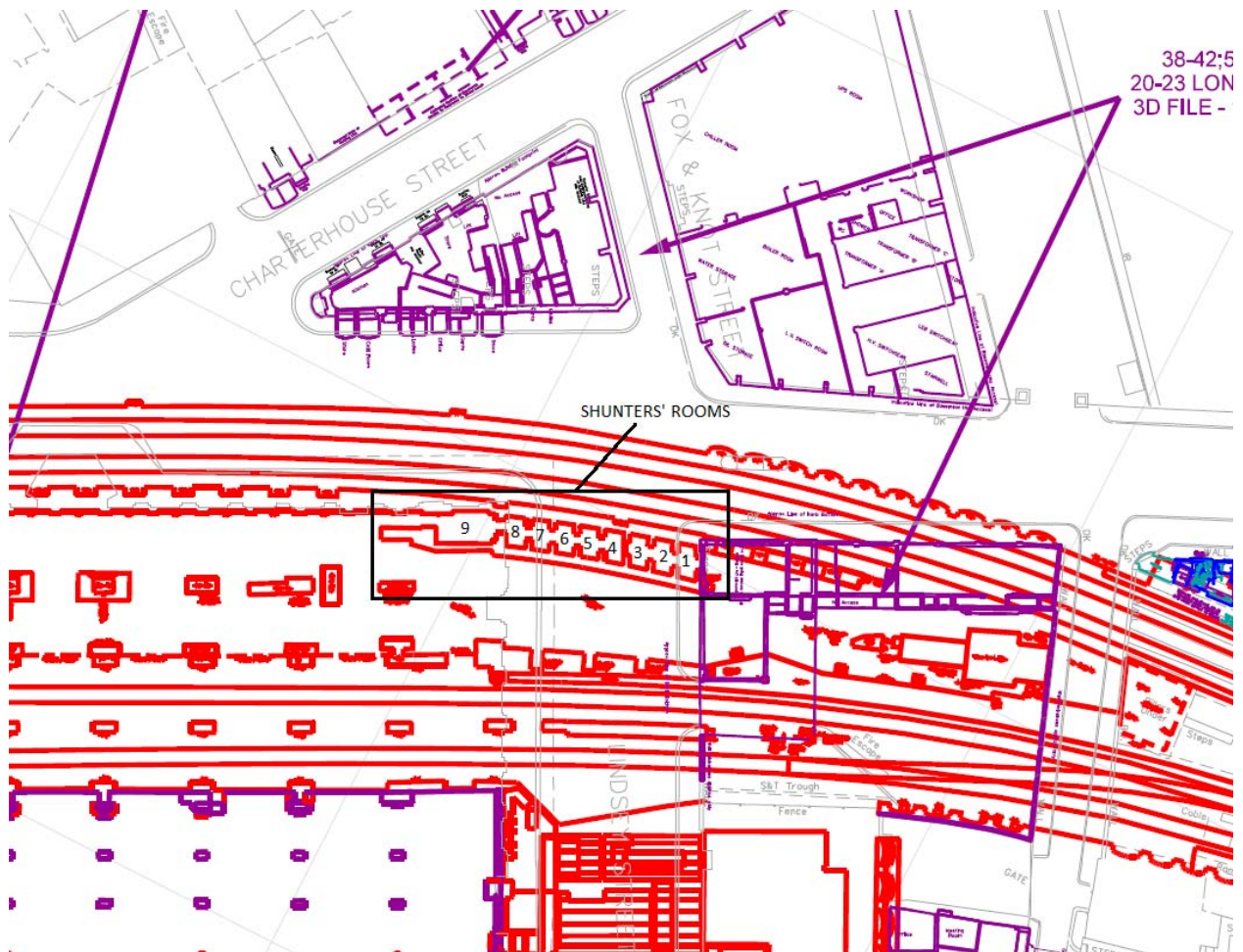


Fig 1 Site location plan (Extract from Crossrail drawing no. 1|100-C1P00-S02-A-50018)

1.2 Purpose

The investigation of the development site was undertaken to Level 2 of the English Heritage specifications (English Heritage, 2006).

A Level 2 investigation is a descriptive record and comprises the internal (where possible) and external survey of the structure and a limited amount of documentary research. The record typically consists of sketch drawings, photography and notes made on site and presents conclusions regarding the structure's development and use.

The survey of the structures on the development site took place prior to the commencement of the alteration works.

The fieldwork recording of the structure to Level 2 consisted of:

- annotated and measured sketches made during an on-site analysis of the structure, with attention paid to areas of alteration.

- a photographic record including general and detailed shots taken by the MOLA photographic team, as well as photographs taken by the Standing Buildings team as an aid to off-site analysis.

Note that this recording is *not* intended to provide sufficient information for any salvage and reconstruction of structures, but is limited to the works instructed by Crossrail .

A minimum amount of interventions into the fabric of the structure was required which entailed the removal of a section of the wooden floor present in Room 9 in order to investigate the wooden floor and the ground surface below.

1.3 Fieldwork Objectives

The overall objective and aims of the recording were to create a record of the Shunters Rooms prior to alteration. This was to achieve Level 2 records in accordance with the specification set out in the English Heritage Guidelines (EH 2006). The fieldwork undertaken and the office based off-site work have produced the requisite results in the form of this report and the associated archive.

The objectives of the investigation were identified as follows:

- To investigate the fabric of the structure before alteration or refurbishment, with the aim of elucidating its structural history, and record and analyse the resulting evidence for this history using applicable archaeological methods.
- To make a record of the existing building in its present condition, by means of photography, measured survey where necessary and annotated sketches.
- To carry out a minimum level of documentary research in order to give a written account of the structure.
- To report the results in suitable form in accordance with Crossrail requirements, and archive the records.

This report gives a brief written and illustrated description of the structure, analysis of its fabric, its history and use with site photographs and sketch drawings reproduced. This report and the site drawings and photographs will be archived under the site code XTE12.

2 Documentary sources for the history of the station

The documentary research undertaken by the author for the purposes of a previous Crossrail report on the site (Farringdon Smithfield Basement TP Watching Brief Fieldwork Report, XSF10, C257-MLA-X-RGN-CRG02-50136) was reused and augmented in this report.

3 Analytical description and archaeology of the Shunters' Rooms

The following description of the structure on site should be read in conjunction with the selected historic plans and photographs (Fig 2 to Fig 12), and the site plan (Fig 1) on which each room is numbered.

3.1 Building description

The series of small rooms called the Shunters' Rooms runs underground, below Lindsey Street and to the south of the former northernmost wall of the sidings beneath Smithfield Market. The structure abuts the northern wall to the station to the north and can be accessed from the yard to the east of the former railway tracks (Fig 5) and from inside the station.

The stock brick structure is formed by a succession of smaller rectangular rooms, with barrel vaulted ceilings, ending with a larger room to the west. The height of the smaller rooms is c 6.80m and their length varies between 1.68m and 1.88m. The series of small rooms/cabins ends to the west with a bigger rectangular room with fireplace provided with its own access to the sidings and tracks.

Between Room 3 and Room 4 a brick infill or partition, one brick length wide, was subdividing the structure at the time of the first recording session. This was removed by contractors between the two sessions. The infill was made of poor quality yellow and red stock bricks (with inclusions and impurities), amongst the bricks some frogged examples were observed. The frog was not V-shaped in profile, but very shallow, typical of Victorian bricks.

The eastern section of the Shunters' Rooms (comprising Rooms 1, 2 and 3), to the east of the infill, was most likely used as a store, accessed from the yard (Fig 6). On the buttresses located between Room 2 and Room 3, 4 holes (0.02m in diameter) might indicate the location of a former store counter, isolating Room 3 from the rest of the structure. Room 3 was originally whitewashed; the walls are now badly blackened by the smoke, pollution or generally poor air circulation.

Room 3 still retains a fireplace provided with some of its metal features: an iron plate which forms a chimney bar is present above the fireplace, while the original grill and the side iron plates are still visible inside the fireplace (Fig 6). The fireplace is built at an angle with the southern wall and projects for 0.63m on the west side and 0.84m on the east side; the total height of the fireplace to the bottom of the chimney is 0.91m from ground level. The chimney breast, in very poor condition, is formed of 10 brick courses on the lower part and the surmounting chimney flue extends for c 0.84m the structure as a whole has cracks and visible signs of damage.

Rooms 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are all similar in construction and finish, with small differences in the width and length; they are separated by openings surmounted by arches at the top and inverted arches of similar size and construction at the bottom. The floor of metalled soil and/or gravel is

aligned with the lower internal level of the inverted arches and a step and wooden door and door frame to the west of Room 8 give access to Room 9 (Fig 10); the opening is 2.21m high.

Room 9, the largest room in the range, was originally whitewashed and is provided with a fireplace and wooden floor (Fig 11). The north wall of the room presents two buttresses with projecting cornices at the top (Fig 10 and Fig 12) which is evidence for the Shunters' Rooms being a later addition to the depot; on the same wall a double stepped plinth projecting for 0.24m was also observed. The floor of Room 9, with the exception of the western end of the room where a rectangular concrete slab probably covers a later drain, was lined with reused wooden sleepers; the length of the sleepers varied from 2.38m to 2.82m as they were cut to fit different parts of the room. The width of the sleepers was consistently 1 foot and the thickness 5 inches (0.30m and 0.127m respectively). Under the sleepers the ground was composed of metalled soil and gravel. The fireplace in Room 9, projecting from the south wall for 0.56m, is not bonded with the wall and retains the iron plate which forms a chimney bar above the fireplace. The structure is c 2.20m high, with the inclusion of the chimney breast, the height to the iron chimney bar is 0.82m, the width of the fireplace is 1.02m.

3.2 Development of the standing structure

The sidings beneath Smithfield Market, designed to link to the existing railway lines for the purpose of transporting meat more directly into the meat market, was completed in 1868. Although the first documentary evidence observed for the development of the structure dates to 1878 (Fig 2), it is clear from the physical evidence that the Shunters' Rooms were not part of that first phase of construction of the station, but were built at a later stage, between 1868 and 1878. The structure included originally an uninterrupted succession of 8 cabins/storage rooms and a larger rectangular room to the west. Between 1868 and 1878, the series of rooms was also subdivided by the infill located between Room 3 and 4 (see Fig 1), and the two fireplaces in Room 3 and Room 9 were probably added.

The evidence for a counter (scars left on the buttresses between Room 3 and 2) and the square pattern shelves – now removed but originally resting against the infill between Room 3 and 4 and bearing the words 'washers' 'screws' and 'bolts' – confirm the use of Room 3 as supply store for the railway workers.

Room 9 is thought to have been an unofficial mess room, not identified as such on the plans of the site, or small canteen used by the shunters, joiners or for the general use of the railway workers. The wooden floor in Room 9, made of reused railway sleepers, was laid after the 10th July 1963, evidence for this terminus-post-quem was given by an almost-disintegrated page of the Evening Standard recovered from under the sleepers.

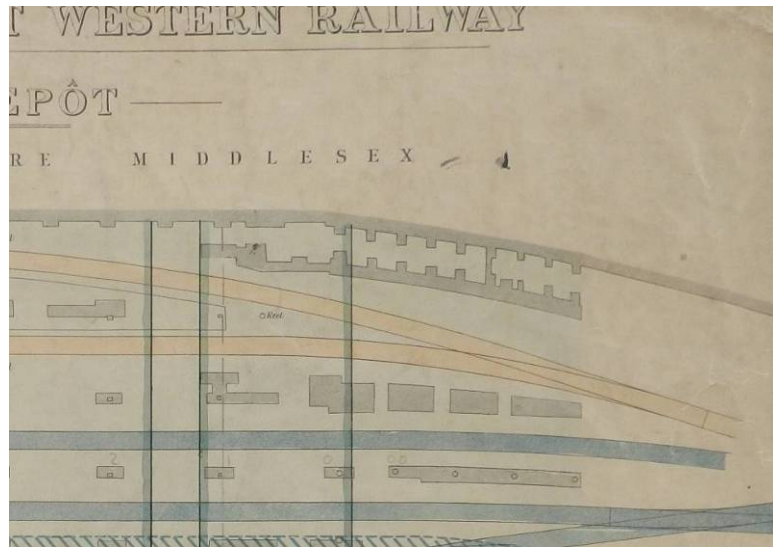


Fig 2 Extract from colour-coded plan of the terminus, 1878 (London Metropolitan Archives, ref.COL/PLD/PL/02/LCM/SUN/030)

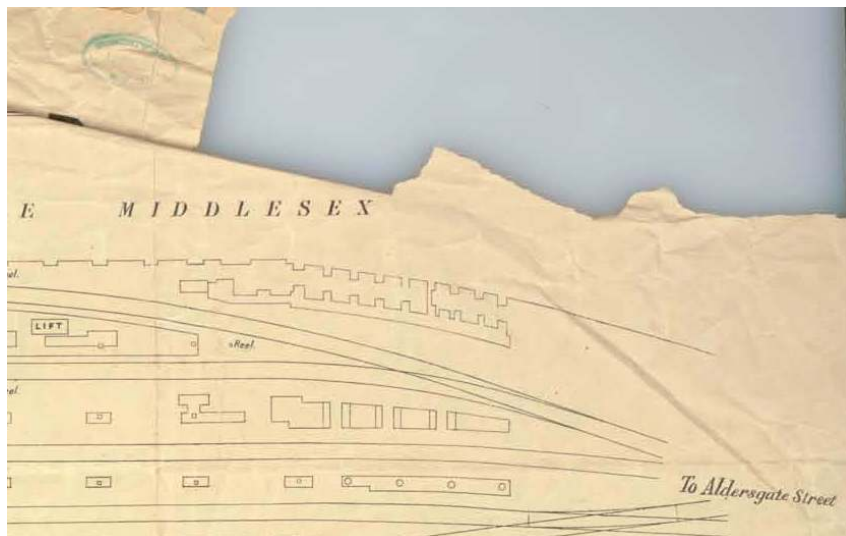


Fig 3 Extract from plan of the terminus, 1931 (London Metropolitan Archives, ref.COL/PLD/PL/02/LCM/SUN/028)

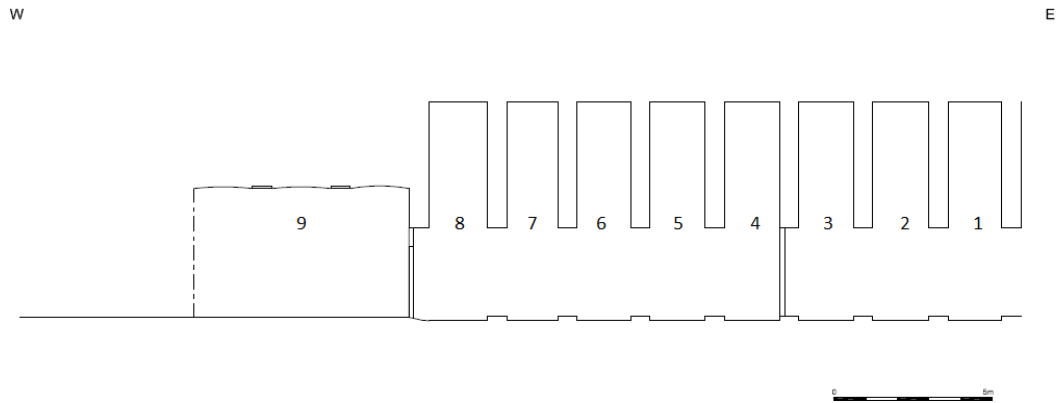


Fig 4 CAD west-east section elevation of the Shunters' Rooms (MOLA)



Fig 5 The eastern entrance into the Shunters' Rooms, looking west



Fig 6 View of the eastern fireplace and infill (Room 3), looking west



Fig 7 Detail of the barrel vault above the eastern fireplace



Fig 8 The eastern fireplace, looking south



Fig 9 The infill, looking east



Fig 10 View of the eastern door to the mess room (Room 9) and five storage cabins (Rooms 8, 7, 6, 5 and 4), looking east



Fig 11 View of the western fireplace (Room 9), looking south east



Fig 12 The corridor to the west of the west of Room 9

4 Conclusions

4.1 Original research aims

The programme of archaeological investigation has enabled an appropriate record of the structures to be produced, to English Heritage Level 2 (see 1.1), prior to their alteration.

The initial objectives of the investigation were satisfied as follows:

- The fabric of the selected structures has been investigated prior to loss. It has been possible to make a record of the selected structures. The structures have been recorded to Level 2 by measured survey and annotated sketches, and all accessible areas have been included in the survey.
- It has been possible to carry out an appropriate minimum amount of documentary research and to provide a written account of the structure.
- The results are here reported in a suitable form in accordance with Crossrail requirements, and the archiving of the records is detailed below.

4.2 Archiving

A copy of this report and all of the photographic images taken on site can be found under the site code XTE12 in the MOLA archive. They will be stored there pending a future decision over the longer-term archive deposition and public access process for the wider Crossrail scheme.

4.3 Publication

The results of the survey will initially be disseminated via this report and the supporting site archive of finds and records (including digital data). Any publication proposals will be considered at a later stage in relation and also the wider context of archaeological potential and results across the Crossrail scheme.

This report will be made available from The London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) in due course.

A summary report will be published in the London Archaeologist excavation round up, and also deposited with the LAARC.

4.4 Acknowledgements

The archaeological survey and this report were commissioned by the Crossrail and the Project Archaeologist, [REDACTED], whom MOLA wish to thank. They are grateful especially to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for facilitating access to site, and to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for their help.

The Built Heritage Survey was carried out and the report produced by [REDACTED], professional photographs were taken by [REDACTED], and the graphics in this report were prepared by [REDACTED]. The MOLA Contracts Manager was [REDACTED].

5 Reference Documents

This list includes works consulted as well as those cited in the text.

English Heritage, 1991, Management of archaeological projects (2nd edition)

English Heritage (Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service), 1998, Archaeological guidance papers

English Heritage, 2006, Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice (Swindon: English Heritage)

English Heritage, 2008, Conservation principles: policies and guidance

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Museum of London, 1994 Archaeological site manual (3rd edition)

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MOLA [Museum of London Archaeology], 2013, C257 Archaeology Central Short Change Notice Shunters Rooms SBR Farringdon Eastern Ticket Hall Lindsey Street Moorgate Spur C257-MLA-X-GMS-M123-50003 v1 19.2.13

RCHME [Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England], 1996, Recording historic buildings: a descriptive specification

Smithfield Conservation Area Character Summary, 1996, The Corporation of London