



**C257 ARCHAEOLOGY CENTRAL**  
**Interim Statement**  
**Archaeological Watching Briefs and**  
**Evaluation**  
**Finsbury Circus shaft XRZ10**

**Document Number: C257-MLA-X-RGN-CRG02-50012**

**Document History:**


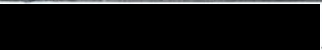
Revision:	Date:	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	08.04.11	██████████ (MOLA)	██████████ (MOLA)	██████████ (MOLA)	eg, For PDP Approval, For Review, etc.
2	04.05.11	██████████ (MOLA)	██████████ (MOLA)	██████████ (MOLA)	Revised from Crossrail comments
		██████████	██████████	██████████	

**CROSSRAIL CENTRAL (PDP) REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE STATUS**

Document uncontrolled once printed. All controlled documents are saved on the CRL Document System

© Crossrail Limited

RESTRICTED

This decal is to be used for submitted documents requiring acceptance by Crossrail Central.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Code 1. Accepted. Work May Proceed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Code 2. Not Accepted. Revise and resubmit. Work may proceed subject to incorporation of changes indicated
<input type="checkbox"/>	Code 3. Not Accepted. Revise and resubmit. Work may not proceed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Code 4. Received for information only. Receipt is confirmed
Reviewed/Accepted by:(signature)	
Print Name:	 Date: 30/11/12
Acceptance by Crossrail Central does not relieve the designer/supplier from full compliance with their contractual obligations and does not constitute Crossrail Central approval of design, details, calculations, analyses, test methods or materials developed or selected by the designer/supplier.	

**This document contains proprietary information. No part of this document may be reproduced without prior written consent from the chief executive of Crossrail Ltd.**

Document uncontrolled once printed. All controlled documents are saved on the CRL Document System

© Crossrail Limited

RESTRICTED

C257 Finsbury Circus Eval & WB XR210 Interim Statement v2 04-05-11.doc

## Contents

<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Site Methodology and fieldwork objectives .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Evaluation methodology and sampling method .....	4
2.2 Watching brief methodology.....	5
2.3 Fieldwork objectives.....	5
<b>3 Provisional Results .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 General Watching briefs on Eastern and Western Grout Shafts at Finsbury Circus.....	6
3.2 Trench Evaluation, temporary access shaft Finsbury Circus.....	9
<b>4 Summary and conclusions (<i>provisional</i>) .....</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Summary of Fieldwork Results.....	11
4.2 <i>Provisional</i> conclusions for future work: .....	12
<b>5 Future Deliverables .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Annex 1 – Location Plan .....</b>	<b>14</b>

## Figures

(in Annex 1 at back of document)

Fig 1 Location of Evaluation trench and watching brief areas

## 1 Introduction

This Interim Report covers three phases of archaeological excavation and watching brief carried out at the location of the Finsbury Circus Shaft by the C257 Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA).

All fieldwork was conducted between 23/02/11 to 4/04/11 and supervised by Sam Pfizenmaier and Dave Sankey (MOLA Supervisors), and included:

- A General watching brief on grout shaft exploratory trial trenches on 23/2/11 and 28/2/11.
- Evaluation Trench 1 from 14/3/11 to 4/4/11.

The event code (sitecode) is XRZ10.

This document is an interim statement of the results of the fieldwork completed at Finsbury Circus shaft. More extensive background, results, and conclusions will be included in the Fieldwork Report which will be submitted within six weeks of the end of fieldwork (Crossrail, *Archaeology, Specification for Evaluation & Mitigation (including Watching Brief, Doc. No. CR-PN-LWS-EN-SP-00001, v. 0.3, 26.06.09)*).

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with:

- The Crossrail **Generic Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeology Generic Written Scheme of Investigation**, Doc No. CR-PN-LWS-EN-SY-00001, 2009.
- A Crossrail **Site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (SS-WSI): Liverpool Street Station**, Doc No. CR-SD-LIV-EN-SY-00001, Revision 7.0, 20/11/09.
- An **Addendum to the WSI: Trial Trench Evaluation, Watching Brief & Detailed Excavation – Finsbury Circus (XRZ10)**, Doc No. C138-MMD-T1-RST-C101-00006, August 2010.
- An **Archaeological method Statement** MOLA, C257 Central section for Archaeological watching briefs and Evaluation at (C138)Finsbury Circus, Doc No: C257-MLA-X-RGN-CR092-50001, Version 2, 4/02/11.

## 2 Site Methodology and fieldwork objectives

### 2.1 Evaluation methodology and sampling method

Modern overburden was removed by the Principal Contractor (J B Riney) by machine under archaeological supervision by a MOLA Senior Archaeologist exposing marsh deposits at a depth of 3.6m bGL (below ground level). The marsh deposits were then removed by the Principal contractor (J B Riney) by machine under archaeological supervision, exposing earlier archaeological horizons sealed by the marsh.

Following the removal of the overburden and the marsh deposits, the underlying archaeological deposits, cut into and immediately overlying the terrace gravels, were excavated and recorded by MOLA staff to identify the survival, extent and significance of the archaeology. The marsh deposits were recorded in section and sampled by a MOLA geoarchaeologist using continuous monolith tins and bulk samples.

## **2.2 Watching brief methodology**

The two X-shaped grout shaft exploratory trial trenches were excavated to depths of 1.3m and 1.7m, respectively, by Principal Contractor JB Riney under archaeological supervision, and the deposits exposed were recorded.

## **2.3 Fieldwork objectives**

The objectives of the archaeological investigations, as stated in the addendum to the WSI (Crossrail 2010), are set out below.

1. Trial Trench Evaluation will refine the extent and significance of the archaeological resource and inform further mitigation measures.
2. Mitigation in the form of archaeological [excavation and] watching briefs to excavate and record archaeological deposits for analysis and dissemination.

Archaeological investigations within Finsbury Circus worksite have the potential to recover:

- Archaeological remains of Roman date relating to extra-mural activity, including burials and roadside development;
- Late medieval and post-medieval rubbish dumps and remains associated with the reclamation of Moorfields Marsh; and
- Waterlain deposits with the potential for organic preservation and palaeoenvironmental remains [Moorgate Marsh, and potentially Walbrook deposits]

### 3 Provisional Results

See Fig 1 for locations

#### 3.1 General Watching briefs on Eastern and Western Grout Shafts at Finsbury Circus.



South facing: Finsbury circus Western Grout shaft

West Grout Shaft	
Location	Finsbury Circus roadway, West Grout Shaft: Outside 30 Finsbury Circus. Adjacent to curb edge.
Dimensions	5.65m north to south and 4.34m east to west x 1.70m deep. Cross shaped.
Modern subsurface deposits	0.45–0.55m of tarmac for concrete road surface
Level of base of archaeological deposits observed and/or base of trench	Base of trench: 1.70mb GL
Natural observed (truncated/not truncated ?)	Not observed
Extent of modern truncation	0.55m bGL

Archaeological remains	Dating Evidence, Finds, and Samples
Light grey sandy silt [3], containing oyster shell, tobacco pipes, ceramic building material, charcoal, pottery and animal bone	Provisional 18th or early 19th-century pottery
Dark brownish grey sandy silt [4], containing tile, tobacco pipes, pottery and metal	Provisional 18th-century pottery and tobacco pipe
Light creamy grey coarse silty sand [5], containing tobacco pipe, roof tile, ceramic building material, chalk and mortar	Provisional 18th-century pottery and tobacco pipe
Interpretation and summary	
Context [3] appears to be a levelling deposit formed of imported (probably household) waste. This overlies a silty soil horizon [4], and demolition rich deposit [5] which it seals, both could be landfill laid prior to the park's layout, or dumps or pit fills from activities taking place in Moorfields.	

<b>Eastern Grout Shaft</b>	
Location	Finsbury Circus, Eastern Grout Shaft: Outside (roadway) Finsbury Circus. 0.2m from curb edge.
Dimensions	4.90m north to south and 6.0m east to west x 1.32m deep. Cross shaped
Modern subsurface deposits	0.45m of tarmac for concrete road surface
Level of base of archaeological deposits observed and/or base of trench	Base of trench: 1.32m bGL
Natural observed (truncated/not truncated ?)	Not observed
Extent of modern truncation	0.9m bGL
<b>Archaeological remains</b>	<b>Dating Evidence, Finds, and Samples</b>
Dark grey Coal-ash sandy silt deposit [1] containing oyster shells, animal bone and wine (onion) bottles	Probably 18th-century
Firm dirty brickearth [2], with frequent mortar, pebbles. Consistent with demo debris.	Provisional 18th-century
<b>Interpretation and summary</b>	
Context [1] appears to be made up of predominantly household waste that was probably brought on to site to be used as part of a landfill/levelling deposit. Likewise [2] appears to be a similar all be it earlier deposit in the landfill sequence.	



### 3.2 Trench Evaluation, temporary access shaft Finsbury Circus.



*Trench 1: North facing section showing late medieval/early post-medieval reclamation dumps overlying Moorfields Marsh deposit.*



*Trench 1: South facing. Roman quarry pits cutting natural gravel, post excavation.*

<b>Evaluation Trench 1</b>	
Location	Finsbury Circus bowling green, Immediately east of Victorian basement.
Dimensions	5.9m north to south and 2.65m east to west x 5.7m deep.
OS National grid coordinates	532867 181583
Modern Ground Level/top of the slab	113.70 ATD (13.70m OD)
Modern subsurface deposits	0.4m of rubble crush levelling
Level of base of archaeological deposits observed and/or base of trench	107.92 ATD (7.92m OD)
Natural observed (truncated/not truncated ?)	Untruncated gravels at 108.48m ATD (8.48m OD). Truncated to 107.92m ATD (7.92m OD) at Northern end.
Extent of modern truncation	0.4m bGL = 113.20 ATD (13.2m OD)
<b>Archaeological remains</b>	<b>Dating Evidence, Finds, and Samples</b>
Contexts [6],[7],[8] & [9]. A dark brownish black sandy silt deposit [6] at 113.36m ATD (13.36m OD) containing ceramic building material, charcoal, chalk and pottery overlying a grey brown consolidation deposit [7], containing mortar and complete frogged bricks. These sealed a brownish grey sandy clay deposit [8] containing frogged bricks and tile. A further mid brown silt deposit [9] at 112.26m ATD (12.26m OD) appeared part of the same sequence also containing brick fragments, animal bone, chalk and oyster shell.	Provisional 19th-century pottery found throughout contexts. 19th-century frogged brick also from [6] and [9]. 19-century (wine) bottle fragments.
A grey chalky post-medieval dump deposit [10] at 111.9m ATD (11.9m OD), becoming thicker at the northern end of the trench, overlay a very mixed sandy deposit [11] consistent of demolition material.	Provisional 17th-century Tin glazed ware
At 110.52m ATD (10.52m OD) a thin but consistent band of dirty Brickearth [12] with frequent inclusions of gravel at its base overlay a moist sandy clay deposit [13], with inclusions of mortar, animal bone, ceramic building material, oyster shell and chalk fragments that appears to have been a levelling deposit.	Deposit [13] contained pottery provisionally dated as late medieval or early post-medieval.
Upper Moorfields marsh deposit [14] at	Pottery predominantly Roman in date

109.6m ATD (9.6m OD). Dark blackish brown peaty deposit.	(Samian) with the odd sherd of medieval. One medium bag of well preserved medieval leather (predominantly shoes). Continuous monolith and bulk samples taken
Marsh deposit [15] at 109.14m ATD (9.14m OD), mid brown soft silt consisting very well preserved plant remains, little else.	Continuous monolith and bulk samples taken
Light grey-blue coarse sandy silt deposit [16], sealed by marsh.	Pottery, Provisionally Roman in date. Monolith sample taken.
A large feature [19] at 110.48m ATD [10.48m OD] cut into natural gravels extended over the northern area of the trench. Probably a quarry pit. Secondary fill [17] consisted of grey gravelly sterile clay, with one CBM fragment (ceramic building material, eg Tile or brick). Primary fill [18] silty gravel.	Small CBM fragment, provisionally dated as Roman
A cut feature [21], possibly a shallow ditch extended across the southern part of the trench beyond the LOE truncating a pit [23] of which the majority lay beyond the southern LOE.	No finds.
<b>Interpretation and summary</b>	
The site's recent use as a park is demonstrated by contexts [6]–[9], which were 19th-century garden horizons interspersed with levelling/landfill layers. These overlay post-medieval dumps [7]–[11], that appear to have been deposited progressively to consolidate the underlying Moorfields Marsh. Context [12] immediately sealing the marsh is potentially mediaeval in date. The Moorfields Marsh appears to have been deposited under two significantly different environments. Context [14] is quite peaty and may be the result of separate, yet consistent flooding events. This overlays a highly organic spongy brown layer [15] more recognisable as a marsh. There is evidence for Roman activity in the form of a possible quarry pit [19], a ditch [21] and an earlier pit [25], all of which are cutting natural gravels at a maximum depth of 107.92m ATD (7.92m OD)	

## 4 Summary and conclusions (*provisional*)

### 4.1 Summary of Fieldwork Results

- Natural geology was only encountered in evaluation Trench 1, at a maximum height of 108.48m ATD (8.48m OD). This consisted of a loose reddish brown sandy gravel. Fine greyish yellow sand was recorded at a maximum depth of 107.92m ATD (7.92m OD) at the base of quarry pit cut [19].
- Provisionally dated Roman features in the form of a quarry pit, ditch and earlier pit were recorded cutting natural gravels and sand at a maximum height of 108.58m ATD (8.58m OD) in evaluation Trench 1. One fragment of CBM (ceramic building material, probably tile)

was recovered from the secondary fill [17] of pit cut [19], the primary fill [18] along with the fills of cut features [21] and [25] were quite sterile, yielding no dateable finds.

- Analysis of monolith and bulk samples from Moorfields Marsh can provide further details of the conditions under which it was deposited. Analysis of the finds will date this sequence, and the shoe leather illustrate industries in the surrounding area, or possibly a shoe lost in the marsh? Pottery (predominantly Roman in date, with the occasional medieval sherd) was recovered from the marsh itself, as well as a medium bag of well preserved medieval leather.
- 19th-century frogged bricks, ceramic building material (CBM), (wine) bottle fragments and post medieval pottery were collected from deposits overlying Moorfields Marsh. The Grout shaft watching brief deposits were generally untruncated and finds (Tobacco pipes, pottery and CBM) were all of mid to late post medieval in date.
- Modern 20th-century made ground, consisting of concrete and tarmac averaged 0.4m in thickness on the general watching briefs. Rubble crush was laid 0.35m thick across the surface of the bowling green.

#### **4.2 Provisional conclusions for future work:**

The consistent survival of archaeological deposits below 0.4m bGL in the gardens, and 0.45–0.55m bGL in the road suggests that there is high potential for the survival of stratigraphy outside the initial watching brief and trial pit locations. However it is unlikely to be of high archaeological significance.

All archaeological remains encountered have been accurately recorded and sampled (where necessary), within evaluation trench 1, there are no remains that require further examination within the trench footprint. Spot-dating and rapid assessment of the finds and samples will contribute to the analysis, and understanding of the conditions under which the sequence was deposited.

These results will be used by the C138 Design Archaeologist to refine the mitigation strategy for Crossrail works at Finsbury Circus

## **5 Future Deliverables**

The remaining deliverables for the site, and their delivery dates as specified by *Crossrail, Archaeology, Specification for Evaluation & Mitigation (including Watching Brief, Doc. No. CR-PN-LWS-EN-SP-00001, v. 0.3, 26.06.09*, are:

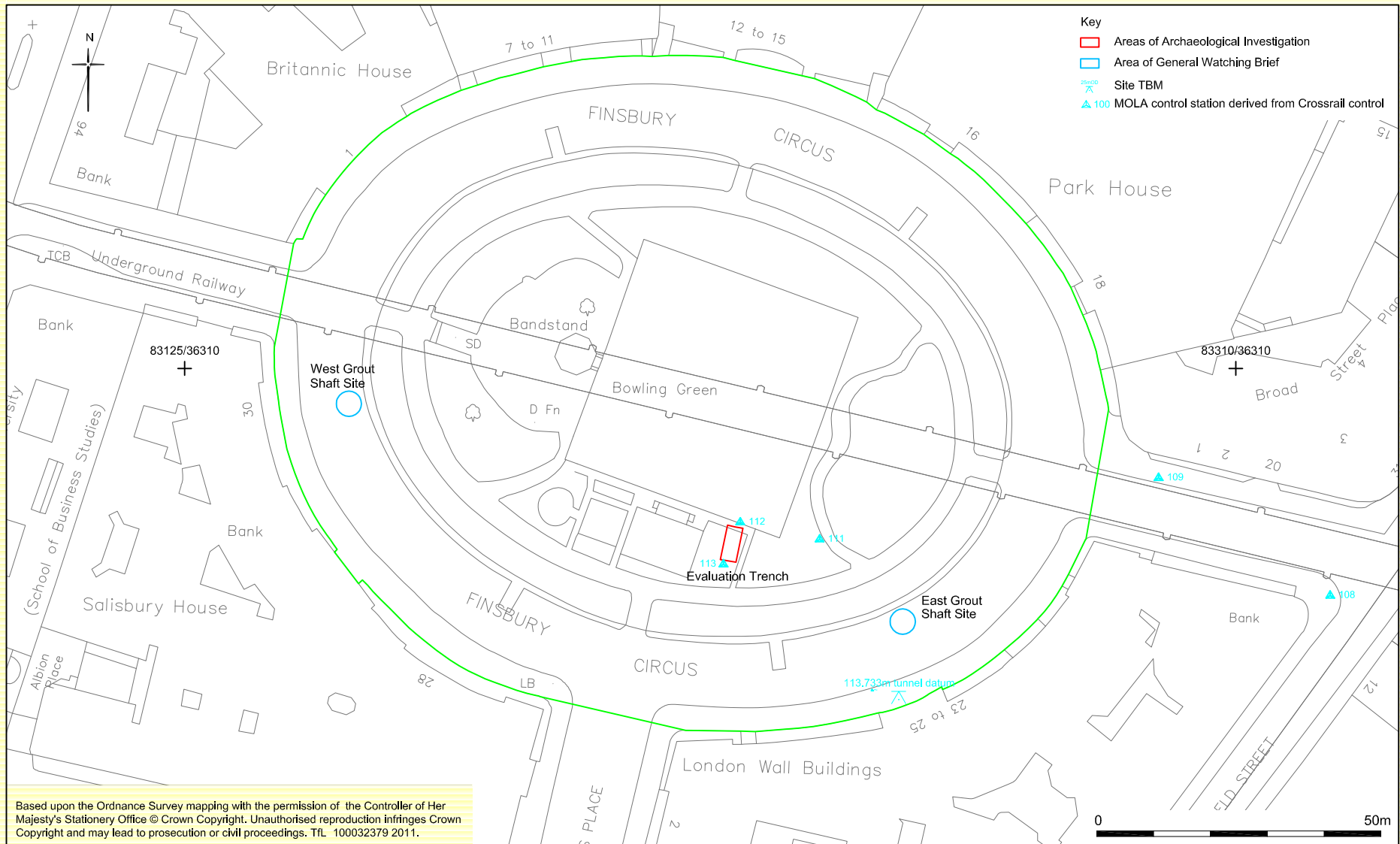
- **Survey Report** by 18 April
- **Fieldwork Report** (including OASIS Summary Sheet) by 16 May
- **Summary Report** by 31 May



## **Annex 1 – Location Plan**

*Fig 1 Location of Evaluation trench and watching brief areas*

*(to be inserted in the PDF version of this document)*



Event code / Site code:

XRZ10: FIG 1 Location of Evaluation Trench and Watching Brief Areas

Site Address:

Crossrail: Finsbury Circus, City of London

TWB / Evaluation