



**C257 Archaeology Central Farringdon
 Eastern Ticket Hall Fieldwork Report
 Archaeological Targeted Watching
 Brief RBS Trial Trench
 23–28 Charterhouse Square,
 Farringdon (XSF10)**

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Non technical summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological targeted watching brief carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on the site of the RBS trial trench, 23–28 Charterhouse Square, Farringdon, London EC1, in the City of London. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Crossrail Ltd. This work is being undertaken as part of a wider programme of assessment to quantify the archaeological implications of railway development proposals along the Crossrail route.

The worksite (under Crossrail contract C257 Archaeology Central) is located at the junction of the north-west corner of Charterhouse Square and Charterhouse Street. One trench measuring 2.6m by 2.7m was monitored to a depth of 3.4m below ground level.

Natural geology was encountered in the form of river terrace gravels at 2.3m beneath ground level. The earliest archaeological feature surviving was a cess pit formed from re-used bricks cut into natural sandy gravels, located in the centre of the trench. Within the structure tobacco pipes and pottery were recovered of a type in widespread circulation during the 18th century. This masonry construction survived in relative isolation, but appears to be from a gatehouse on western side of Charterhouse Square, seen on historic maps.

Immediately above this pit, a substantial deposit of mixed debris over 1m thick survived. It appears to have been formed during the 19th century, probably as a result of nearby construction related activities, and subsequent landfill. Within this horizon a small amount of human remains were recovered. These bones, all lower limbs are probably the remains of previously-disturbed medieval burials, from the outer cemetery of Charterhouse.

A later 19th-century brick construction (probably drainage/sewage related) had been constructed immediately on top of this deposit

It is concluded that this localised area has low potential for the preservation of Roman and medieval features and in situ burials. There is high potential for the survival of post-medieval remains. The results from Farringdon are assessed as being of low significance, and will be incorporated by the design archaeologist into future strategies for work in the area.



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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 one to the west at Farringdon Road (Western Ticket Hall, to be built by Thameslink), and one to the east at Lindsey Street (Eastern Ticket Hall, to be built by Crossrail). This report is concerned only with works which form part of the Eastern Ticket Hall.

The Crossrail mitigation response to archaeology is described in the Crossrail Generic WSI (Crossrail 2009) and the detailed desk based assessment (DDBA; Crossrail 2008), and can be summarised as follows:

- In the event that intact and important archaeological remains are identified at Crossrail worksites through this process, it may be preferable, where practicable, to preserve these where they are found (ie preservation in situ).
- However, because of the nature of major works projects such as Crossrail, experience of other similar projects suggests that preservation by record is usually the most appropriate method of dealing with archaeological finds.
- Following an extensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) supporting the Crossrail Bill, and the production of site-specific DDBAs, appropriate mitigation measures were scoped and specified in detail in individual project designs (site-specific WSIs – Written Schemes of Investigation) which were prepared in accordance with the principles set out in the Generic WSI, and developed in consultation with the relevant statutory authorities.
- Archaeological information that is gained from fieldwork will be followed by analysis and publication of the results and will be transferred to an approved public receiving body.

This fieldwork report describes the results of an archaeological targeted watching brief carried out on a structural trial trench adjacent to the RBS building (Figure 1), 23–28 Charterhouse Square, London borough of Islington, London EC1 by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) under Crossrail contract C257 Archaeology Central.

The trench was located at the junction of the north-west corner of Charterhouse Square and Charterhouse Street. The centre of the site is at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 53189 18189.

The site is located on Charterhouse Street, approximately 10m to the west of Charterhouse Square.

All levels in this document are quoted in metres Above Tunnel Datum (m ATD). To convert Tunnel Datum to Ordnance Datum subtract 100m, ie 1m OD = 101m ATD.

All fieldwork was conducted between 22/9/11 and 27/09/11, supervised by Sam



Task	Principal Contractor	Provisional Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Targeted Watching Brief on structural trial trench adjacent to RBS building, 23–28 Charterhouse Square, Farringdon	C430 Laing O'Rourke / Strabag jv	Started 22 September 2011, Completed 27 October 2011

Table 1 Site details

The event code (sitecode) is XSF10.

2 Planning background

The legislative and planning framework in which all archaeological work took place was summarised in the Site Specific Written Scheme of Investigation and addendum – C138-MMD-T1-RST-C101-00001, which should be referred to for further detail. A brief summary is included here:

The overall framework within which archaeological work will be undertaken is set out in the Environmental Minimum Requirements (EMR) for Crossrail (<http://www.crossrail.co.uk/therailway/getting-approval/parliamentary-bill/environmental-minimum-requirements-includingcrossrail-construction-code>). The requirements being progressed follow the principles of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 on archaeology and planning (1990). Accordingly the nominated undertaker or any contractors will be required to implement certain control measures in relation to archaeology before construction work begins.

Schedules 9, 10 and 15 of the Crossrail Bill (2005) concern matters relating to archaeology and the built heritage and allows the dis-application by Crossrail of various planning and legislative provisions including those related to listed building status, conservation areas and scheduled ancient monuments (Schedule 9). Schedule 10 allows certain rights of entry to English Heritage given that Schedule 9 effectively dis-applied their existing rights to the Cross Rail project, and Schedule 15 allows Cross Rail to bypass any ecclesiastical or other existing legislation relating to burial grounds.

Notwithstanding these disapplications, it is intended that agreements setting out the detail of the works and requiring relevant consultations and approvals of detail and of mitigation arrangements will be entered into by the nominated undertaker with the relevant local planning authorities and English Heritage in relation to listed buildings and with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and English Heritage in relation to Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs).



3 Origin and scope of the report

This report has been commissioned from Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) by Crossrail Ltd. The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001). It considers the significance of the fieldwork results (in local, regional or national terms) and makes appropriate recommendations for any further action, commensurate with the results.

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

4 Previous work relevant to archaeology of site

The principal previous Crossrail studies are as follows:

- Crossrail, February 2005a *Environmental Statement*
- Crossrail, February 2005b *Assessment of Archaeology Impacts, Technical Report. Part 2 of 6, Central Route Section, 1E0318-C1E00-00001*, [Specialist Technical Report (STR)]
- Crossrail SS-WSI - Farringdon Station, Site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation, Crossrail November 2009, Doc. No. CR-SD-FAR-EN-SY-0001 Version 6.0
- An Addendum to the WSI: Package C136 – Farringdon Station, Addendum to Written Scheme of Investigation: Trial Trench Evaluation, Watching Brief & Detailed Excavation – Eastern Ticket Hall (XSF10), Doc. No. C136-SWN-T1-XAP-M123_WS098-00001 Revision 2.0, 05.07.11
- Interim Statement: C257 Archaeology Central Interim Statement Archaeological Targeted Watching Brief 23–28 Charterhouse Square, Farringdon. Version 1.0, 5.10.11

5 Geology and topography of site

The drift geology consists of Pleistocene river terrace gravels (Hackney Sands and Gravels) shaped by erosion caused by glacial meltwater following the last ice age. The archaeological potential of the terrace gravel deposits is considered to be very low. These overlie London Clay, found across London and dating to around 50 million years before present.

The topography of the West Smithfield area is dominated by the former River Fleet, the main channel approximating to the line of Farringdon Street and Farringdon Road. The Fleet is the largest of London's lost rivers (Barton 1992), now confined to a sewer beneath Farringdon Street and New Bridge Street. The steep east bank of the Fleet is still in evidence today, falling from 16.50m OD (16.50m ATD) in West Smithfield to 7.90m OD (107.9m ATD) in Farringdon Street.

Tributaries flowing from east–west were also present in the area. The site roughly corresponds with the northern channel edge of one of these tributaries, lying on the margins of the Fleet Valley. It has been suggested that the Faggesswell Brook flowed east–west somewhere between Cowcross Street and Charterhouse Street. A reconstruction map of Roman London by MOLA (2011, *Londinium*), and recent evaluation results (Crossrail (MOLA), C257 Archaeology Central, Fieldwork Report, Archaeological Evaluation, Farringdon Eastern Ticket Hall (XSF10), Doc No. C257-MLA-X-RGN-CRG02-50060 v2, 28.02.12) also suggest that this may have flowed across the Eastern Ticket Hall evaluation site, c 100m to the south of the RBS trench.

5.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

The RBS trial trench site is situated approximately 450m to the north of the line of the Roman and medieval city wall. The site appears to have been outside the nearest known Roman burial ground, which lay more than 100m to the south. The nature of Roman activities in this extra-mural area has not yet been determined, but would appear to have been at a low intensity.

It is possible that part of the outer cemetery of Charterhouse (a Carthusian monastery founded in 1370, and closed in 1537) extended as far west as the site (Crossrail EIA BG207). It is understood that victims of the Black Death (1349–50) were buried in mass graves in the Charterhouse Square area, but the exact extent of these mass graves is uncertain. A single undated skeleton, assumed to be from this burial ground, was excavated by MoLAS within the gardens of Charterhouse Square in 1998 (sitecode CSQ98).

John Stow in c 1600 stated that more 150,000 victims of the Black Death were buried here. According to Stow, initially there was a burial ground here known as 'No Man's Land' which the Bishop of London Ralph Stratford had established in 1348, which was subsequently used to bury over 50,000 victims of the Black Death. This mass burial ground was served by a mortuary chapel built in 1481, which by Stow's time had been converted into a house.

On the Agas map of c 1570, the general vicinity of the site is shown as an area of gardens with the remains of Charterhouse to the north and east. Historic mapping generally shows that the majority of the surrounding area was probably undeveloped until the 17th century, but the RBS trial trench site was occupied by a road,



XSF10, RBS Targeted Watching Brief, Farringdon, fieldwork report

Charterhouse Lane (Faithorne & Newcourt, 1682) now Charterhouse Street, and probably a gatehouse leading to the square to the east.

From the late 17th century to the present, development in the area was limited to domestic buildings and gardens following the alignment of Charterhouse Street.



6 Research objectives and aims

6.1 Objectives of the fieldwork

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

The overall objectives of the investigation are to establish the nature, extent and state of preservation of any surviving archaeological remains that will be impacted upon by the development.

The task-specific aims and objectives from the Addendum to the WSI (Doc. No. C136-SWN-T1-XAP-M123_WS098-00001, see section are:

- Mitigation in the form of archaeological targeted watching brief to excavate and record archaeological deposits for analysis and dissemination.

Specifically, the archaeological investigations have the potential to recover:

- Remains of Roman extra-mural activity, potentially including field systems
- Burials from the Outer Cemetery of medieval charterhouse, and other associated features
- Medieval occupation features, and possibly buildings, from the expansion of extra-mural settlement in the West Smithfield area following the establishment of the livestock market
- Post-medieval buildings and occupation features representing the creation and expansion of the extra-mural suburbs

6.2 Research Aims

The original aims and objectives were listed in the SS- WSI Farringdon Station (Doc. No. CR-SD-FAR-EN-SY-0001, and stated that 'Archaeological investigation and mitigation within the Crossrail worksites for Farringdon Station have the potential to contribute to the research themes set out below':

Evidence for burials and/or features associated with the Charterhouse burial ground may contribute to the following research aims:

- Understanding life expectancy, origins and belief, seen through studying health, diet and disease, and preparing models for future research;
- Considering the relationship between cemeteries and major or minor roads, in terms of symbolism, status, privacy and convenience; and
- Understanding the differences, if any, between burial practices in the city and outlying cemeteries.

Archaeological remains associated with post-medieval extra-mural development may contribute to the following aim:

- Contributing to our understanding of the creation of the London suburbs with direct contribution to today's aspirations for an urban regeneration.

7 Methodology of site-based and off-site work

All archaeological excavation and recording during the targeted watching brief was carried out in accordance with:

- Crossrail WSI (Doc No. CR-SD-LIV-EN-SY-00001, 2009)
- Crossrail WSI Addendum (Doc No. C136-SWN-T1-XAP-M123_WS098-00001, v2, 2011)
- MOLA *Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Briefs at Farringdon Eastern ticket Hall* (Doc. no. C257-MLA-T1-GMS -CRG02-00001, revision 6.1 09.08.2011), which was developed between MOLA and the principal contractor
- Museum of London *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoL 1994)
- English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, June 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Papers 1–5*
- English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, May 1999 *Archaeological Guidance Papers 6*
- English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, June 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Papers 1–5*
- English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2009 *Archaeological Guidance Papers 1–5* (consultation draft) [1. Desk-Based Assessments, 2. Written Schemes of Investigation, 3. Fieldwork, 4. Reporting, dissemination and publication, 5. Popular dissemination and communication of archaeology]

The site finds and records can be found under the site code XSF10 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.

- MOLA received a burial licence from the authority to exhume human remains for archaeological purposes for the TWB (Licence number 11-0062, 19th May 2011). This was forwarded to the Design Archaeologist and Project Archaeologist for distribution to the Principal Contractor and any others who required them. A copy was kept on site with the MOLA site supervisor.

7.1 Targeted watching brief methodology

The C430 Principle Contractor (Laing O'Rourke) removed and numbered cobblestones overlying the trench allowing for their accurate re-laying post excavation. Modern overburden was then removed by a vacuum excavation down to the first significant archaeological deposit under supervision of a MOLA (C257) Senior Archaeologist. The principle contractor installed the required shoring before the MOLA Senior Archaeologist entered the trench at a depth of 1.1m bGL, to record a late post-medieval wall (Photo 2) and associated dump deposit. These features



XSF10, RBS Targeted Watching Brief, Farringdon, fieldwork report

were deemed to be of low archaeological importance and, therefore, the Principle Contractor was instructed to remove the underlying dump in 300mm spits, again by vacuum excavation. Within this deposit disarticulated human remains were identified and recovered for further analysis, in accordance with MOJ license number 11-0062. Following the removal of this deposit, MOLA again entered the trench to record the exposed features (a brick-lined cess pit), Figure 1, Figure 2 which were cutting exposed natural gravels, at which time the trench was handed back to the Principal Contractor.. A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the Museum of London site recording manual (MoL 1994).

8 Results and observations including stratigraphic report and quantitative report

8.1 Trench 1



Photo 1 RBS trial trench looking north. Natural sandy gravels exposed between 2.9 and 4m bGL

Trench 1: Targeted watching brief trench	
Location	North side of RBS building, 23–28 Charterhouse Square, Farringdon,
Dimensions	2.7m north to south and 2.7m east to west x 2.9m deep
LSG grid coordinates	82253 36603
OS National grid coordinates	531897 181890
Modern Ground Level/top of the slab	116.99m ATD
Modern subsurface deposits	Concrete foundation and modern backfill protruding 1.68m from southern edge of trench to 1.50m bGL (115.49m ATD)
Level of base of archaeological deposits	Archaeology recorded at maximum depth



observed and/or base of trench	of 2.90m bGL (114.09m ATD)
Natural observed truncated	Untruncated orange sandy gravels at 2.30m bGL (114.69m ATD)
Extent of modern truncation	Truncation cut associated with current RBS building to the south extends 1.5m from southern edge to a depth of 1.6m bGL. Modern levelling and previous road works truncate to 1m bGL
Archaeological remains	Dating Evidence, Finds, and Samples
[68] Inorganic fill of brick-lined cess/rubbish pit [69]. Constructed from reused unfroged whole red bricks measuring 0.96m by 0.98m and 0.9m high. [70] - Construction cut for structure truncates natural between 2.30 and 2.90m bGL (114.69–114.09m ATD)	[68]: pot 1730–1750, tobacco pipe stem 1700–1770 [69]: 4x brick samples 1600–1750 (probably 1666–1700)
[71] Rubble rich silty sand deposit between 1.2 and 2.30m bGL. (115.79–144.69m ATD)	[71]: Disarticulated human remains comprised of two adult right femora and a tibia. Brick fragments consistent with 19th-century construction (not retained)
[67] brick wall aligned east–west, truncated by modern cut at western edge. 0.95m bGL (116.04m ATD) Continues beyond eastern trench edge.	Late 19th-century
Interpretation and summary	
<p>Natural geology in the form of Pleistocene river terrace gravels (Hackney Sands and Gravels) was recorded at 2.30m bGL (114.69m ATD) at the southern area of the trench. Sloping gently down to the north at a maximum depth of 2.45m bGL (114.54m ATD). Coarse sandy gravel overlay slightly laminated fine sandy lenses at 2.70m bGL (114.29m ATD). The deepest natural recorded was at 2.90m bGL (114.09m ATD) at the base of construction cut [70] for a brick cess pit [69] in the centre of the trench at 2.30m bGL. Bricks (dated 1600–1750, more likely 1666–1700) point to a construction date of sometime during the 17th century, although the variety in brick sizes suggests the latter date. Finds, including pottery and tobacco pipes form [68] dated 1730–1750 suggest the structure went out of use and was backfilled sometime in the mid 17th century, or perhaps later. No related structures survive within the vicinity of the trench. This is probably a domestic cess pit.</p> <p>Sealing this was a extensive deposit of mixed silty sand [71] over 1m thick. This would appear to be a demolition/levelling deposit facilitating later 19th-century masonry constructions, of which [67] is an example. The small amount of disarticulated human remains recovered from within [71], which comprised a minimum number of two individuals, is tantalising evidence for the western extremity of the known Charterhouse burial ground. Potentially it may have reached this far west, and subsequent truncations entirely removed any evidence of in situ burials. However, the small quantity of human remains found would suggest that they are equally likely to have been deposited from construction works undertaken a short</p>	

distance to the east.

Twentieth-century intrusions fill the top 1.2m of the trench, with the RBS building's (c 1960s) construction cut truncating [71] to around 1.6m bGL (115.29m ATD) in the southern most end of the trench, and culminating 1.3m from the RBS basement wall (the southern boundary of the trench sheeting).

Table 2 RBS Trench



Photo 2 RBS structural trench looking east. 19th-century wall remnant [67]



Photo 3 RBS structural trench looking west. Brick cess pit [69] truncating natural terrace gravels between 2.30 and 2.97m bGL.

9 Assessment of results against original research aims

The original research objectives were met as follows; information was recovered on:

- No archaeological remains of prehistoric or Roman date relating to occupation of the area.
- Evidence for burials from the Outer Cemetery of medieval Charterhouse, was identified in the form of redeposited human remains.
- Archaeological remains of post-medieval deposits recorded relating to the development and occupation of the area '*representing the creation and expansion of the extra-mural suburbs*'.

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require 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'. The recommendations suggest that there should be:

Assessment of results against original expectations (using criteria for assessing national importance of period, relative completeness, condition, rarity and group value) (Guidance Paper V, 4 7)

Department of the Environment guidelines for assessing the importance of individual monuments for possible Scheduling include the following criteria: *Period; Rarity; Documentation; Survival/Condition; Fragility/Vulnerability; Diversity; and Potential*. The guidelines stress that 'these criteria should not be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case'.

Corporation of London guidelines (CoL 2004) also require an 'Assessment of results against original expectations (using criteria for assessing national importance of; period, relative completeness, condition, rarity, and group value) and review of evaluation strategy.'

9.1 Assessment criteria

Criterion 1: Period

The Remains fall into the following groups,

- No Prehistoric features.
- No roman remains.
- Redeposited human remains, assumed to be medieval
- Post-medieval brick structures, probably domestic in use.
- 19th-century structural remains.

Criterion 2: Rarity

Although finding redeposited medieval human remains is not unexpected in this area given the proximity of the known Charterhouse burial ground, only one body has been excavated previously. However, utilities diversion work also associated with the Crossrail project have exposed further remains to the south of the site, at the junction



of Charterhouse Square and Hayne Street (Crossrail/MOLA Farringdon utilities watching brief report, in prep).

The human remains for the RBS trench thus have some rarity value, raising what might have been a minimal importance for redeposited remains to low (conversely, see also Group Value).

The Post-medieval masonry structures recorded are of a type and character in widespread use during the last five hundred years.

Criterion 3: documentation

The importance of the redeposited human remains is increased by Stow's reference to the Black Death cemetery that became the Outer Cemetery of Charterhouse (see 5.1).

That of the brick cess pit and drainage structure is also somewhat enhanced by the presence of the gatehouse and other houses on historic maps (see 5.1), with which they may be associated.

Criterion 4: Group Value

The minimal importance of the redeposited human remains is again increased by the recent recovery of similar remains from the nearby utilities watching brief (Crossrail/MOLA in prep), as well as the skeleton previously excavated in Charterhouse Square

Criterion 5: Survival/condition

The area seen in this trench was heavily truncated, but those remains which did survive were in reasonable condition given their degree of truncation and age. The human remains were disarticulated and redeposited, heavily limiting their interest and importance.

Criterion 6: Fragility

The vulnerability of the majority of archaeological remains are similar to that seen in other sites across London.

Criterion 7: Diversity

The two in situ features show little diversity, both being post-medieval in date, and relating to occupation. A second period (medieval) is represented only by disarticulated and redeposited human remains. There is this only limited diversity in these results.

Criterion 8: potential

Whilst the area around the RBS trench has potential to contain further remains similar those seen in the watching brief (and to a lesser extent, remains predicted but



not found, see sections 5 & 6), all archaeological remains have been removed from the footprint of the trench itself.

Comparison of the human remains with those from the utilities watching brief (Crossrail/MOLA in prep), along with negative evidence from the evaluation (Crossrail/MOLA 2012) and the records from Charterhouse Square has potential to provide a little further information about the burial ground.

9.2 Research aims

The original research objectives were met as follows; information was recovered (or not) on:

- No archaeological remains of prehistoric or Roman date relating to occupation of the area.
- Limited evidence for burials from the Outer Cemetery of medieval Charterhouse, was identified in the form of redeposited disarticulated human remains.
- Post-medieval features and deposits recorded relating to the development and occupation of the area '*representing the creation and expansion of the extra-mural suburbs*'.

10 Statement of potential archaeology

The targeted watching brief has demonstrated that the vicinity of the RBS trial trench site has the following potential:

- Low potential for Roman and in situ medieval remains.
- Moderate potential for redeposited disarticulated human remains, probably from the medieval outer cemetery of Charterhouse.
- High potential for post-medieval remains from the later post-medieval development of the area.

10.1 Importance of Resources

The archaeological remains identified in the fieldwork are provisionally assessed as being of low importance, as the post-medieval features identified are of common everyday use and of widespread construction methods and materials.

11 Conclusions

11.1 Geology

The drift geology consists of Pleistocene river terrace gravels (Hackney Sands and Gravels) which was exposed and truncated at 2.30m bGL (114.69m) immediately adjacent to the southern trench edge. This sloped gently down to the northern end of the trench at a maximum depth of 2.45m bGL (114.54m ATD). Here coarse sandy gravel overlay slightly laminated fine sandy lenses at 2.70m bGL (114.29m ATD). The deepest natural geology observed was at 2.90m bGL (114.09m ATD). No evidence for brickearth was present.

11.2 Medieval remains

Residual human remains representing at least two individuals were retrieved from within levelling layer [71] between (115.79–114.69m ATD). The two adult femurs and a tibia were recovered in good condition, with preservation of cortical bone and joint surfaces. All the bones displayed evidence of post mortem breakage, most likely resulting from later disturbance. It is most likely therefore that these are redeposited from the outer cemetery of Charterhouse, a 14th-century Black Death burial ground whose boundaries are uncertain, and might have extended across this site, or have been confined to Charterhouse square to the east. Evidence for which was found during previous fieldwork (MoLAS 1998), that identified a juvenile burial 1.5m bGL in Charterhouse Square Gardens (CSQ98).

Given the degree of truncation that appears to have occurred prior to the deposition of demolition debris layer [71], any burials at similar depths to that seen in Charterhouse Square Gardens (at 116.5m ATD) would have been removed. This evidence is, therefore, equivocal as to whether this trench lay within or outside the burial ground.

11.3 Post-medieval remains

Post-medieval activity on the site truncated natural sandy gravels down to 114.09m ATD. The earliest feature was a brick lined cess pit [69], constructed from probably re-used bricks dated 1666–1700, which appears to have been in use until at least 1730–50. This appears to be located within the gate house to the western entrance to Charterhouse Square (or possibly an adjacent dwelling) on the junction of Charterhouse Square and Charterhouse Lane, which is visible on the earliest available map (Agas, c 1562), and on later maps up to Rocque's map of 1746. The gate house does not appear on Horwood's survey of c 1799, suggesting that it was demolished between these dates, which correspond with the pot date for the backfill and disuse of the cess pit.

The substantial layer sealing this feature [71] may represent the residue from a large demolition or landfill event that occurred sometime in the 19th century.

The 19th-century wall uncovered between 0.98 and 1.4m bGL, and aligned east–west, is evidence for the continuing alterations undertaken in the area. Its alignment is not reflected by contemporary maps, suggesting that it may be the remnant of a manhole or sewage related structure.



12 Publication and dissemination proposals

The Targeted Watching Brief results will initially be disseminated via this report and the summary in the annual round up published in London Archaeologist and on the London Archaeological Archive and Research centre (LAARC) website. The results and supporting site archive of finds and records (including digital data) will be included in the wider post-excavation assessment for the Crossrail scheme. Any publication proposals will then be considered in relation to later fieldwork on the Farringdon Eastern Ticket Hall site, and also the wider context of archaeological potential and results within the Crossrail scheme.

13 Archive deposition

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored temporarily with MOLA pending a future decision over the longer-term archive deposition and public access process for the wider Crossrail project.



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The targeted watching brief was supervised by the author. Other MOLA staff involved included Gideon Simons (geomatics), Ian M Betts (Building Material) and Lyn



XSF10, RBS Targeted Watching Brief, Farringdon, fieldwork report

Blackmore (pottery and clay pipes). The fieldwork was managed by MOLA Assistant Contracts Manager Nicholas Elsdon and Contracts Manager Elaine Eastbury.



16 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-112600

Project name	Crossrail RBS Building 23-28 Charterhouse Square
Short description of the project	The targeted watching brief was undertaken in one trench at the junction of the NW corner of Charterhouse Square and Charterhouse Street. Natural geology was truncated by 17-18th-century remains in the form of a cess pit. Constructed from reused (1666-1700) bricks, and filled with refuse (ceramic fragments and tobacco pipes dated 1730-50) it is most likely associated with either the gate house at the western entrance to Charterhouse Square or dwellings on the junction of Charterhouse Square and Charterhouse Lane visible on the Agas, c 1562 to Rocque's map of 1746. The gate house does not appear on Horwood's survey of c 1799, suggesting that it was demolished between these dates, which correspond with the pot date for the backfill and disuse of the cess pit. Disarticulated human remains were found within a substantial demolition layer deposited in the 19th century. The two femurs and a tibia, representing at least two individuals, are thought to have been redeposited from the outer cemetery of Charterhouse, used as a Black Death burial ground in the 14th century and possibly later. This evidence is, however, equivocal as to whether this trench lay within or outside the burial ground. A brick wall aligned east-west represents 19th-century activity, possibly associated with drainage
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2011 End: 27-09-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	BRICK PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PIPE (SMOKING) Post Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Medieval
Site location	GREATER LONDON LB Islington RBS Building, 23-28 Charterhouse Square
Postcode	EC1
Study area	7.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	LL - 0 0 (decimal) LL - 531964 00 00 N 181791 00 00 E (degrees) Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 14.29m Max: 14.69m
Name of Organisation	MOLA



XSF10, RBS Targeted Watching Brief, Farringdon, fieldwork report

Project brief originator	Crossrail
Project design originator	Crossrail
Project director/manager	[REDACTED]
Project supervisor	[REDACTED]
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Crossrail
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Human Bones'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Human Bones','Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report'
Title	C257 Achaological Targeted watching brief, Trial trench at 23-28 Charterhouse Square
Author(s)/Editor(s)	[REDACTED]
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Museum of London
Place of issue or publication	LONDON
Description	A4 Report

17 Appendices:

17.1 Pottery and Clay pipes

Introduction

Three sherds from three vessels (28g) were recovered from context ([68]). The sherds were examined macroscopically and using a binocular microscope (x 20), and recorded on paper and computer using standard Museum of London codes for fabrics, forms and decoration. The numerical data comprises sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight. The data can be accessed on the Oracle database and also in an excel spreadsheet. In addition there are three undiagnostic fragments of clay pipe from the same context.

Description

One sherd of pottery is from the base of a Surrey-Hampshire border redware pipkin, while another is from an 18th-century tin-glazed plate. The third is from the rim of a Chinese porcelain bowl with floral decoration in blue. The clay pipe comprises two fragments of stem and an unmilled bowl (form uncertain, but probably Atkinson and Oswald type 25 (1700–70)).

Discussion

Taking the finds together a date of c 1730–50 can be suggested for context [68], and this is not inconsistent with the clay pipes. It is not possible at present to comment on the stratigraphic location of the finds.

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17.2 Building Material

Four brick samples were collected from context [69]. These are all of similar size and are in the same fabric (fabric 3032), although slight variations in clay were observed (one is near fabric 3033, another near fabric 3046). The bricks, three of which are orangey-red in colour, measure 216–c 226 x 104 x 60–67mm. A fourth brick is slightly overfired and warped. This is dark red with a black core and as some yellow coloured moulding sand.

Date

The dating of these bricks is a little difficult. Three out of four bricks have sunken margins which are normally a feature of pre-1666 brickwork; however, the fabric would suggest a post-1666 date. In general the bricks from context [69] can be given a broad 1600–1750 date, but are more likely to date to around 1666–1700.

17.3 Human Bone

An evaluation was conducted on the human skeletal remains recovered during archaeological investigations in September 2011 by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). These works were carried out as part of an archaeological targeted watching brief at the site of the proposed Crossrail Farringdon Eastern Ticket Hall. All disarticulated remains were examined following Museum of London Archaeology standards (Powers unpublished).

One context of human bone [71] was recovered from RBS TWB Trench 1 to the north side of the RBS building. This comprised two adult right femora (upper leg) and one adult left tibia (lower leg). The bone was in good condition with preservation of cortical bone and joint surfaces. All the bones displayed evidence of post mortem breakage, most likely resulting from later disturbance. The disarticulated bone (not in normal anatomical position) represented a minimum number of two adult individuals present (*Table 3*).

Previous archaeological works within the area have revealed evidence of human burial (Barber and Thomas 2002, 12–14). The possible association with the Charterhouse burial ground suggests that the human bone from context [71] most likely relates to the redeposition of remains due to later disturbance of medieval burials within the vicinity.



Site code	Context	Body area	Elements present	Age	Sex	Pathology	MNI	Comments
XSF10	71	Lower limb	R. femur	Adult	Undetermined	None	1	Post mortem breaks to proximal shaft, Iron stains
XSF10	71	Lower limb	R. femur	Adult	Undetermined	None	1	Missing proximal and distal ends
XSF10	71	Lower limb	L. tibia	Adult	Undetermined	None	1	Missing distal end
						Total MNI	2	

Table 3 Summary of human bone from context [71]

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82253/36606



16.99mATD



section 1

brick cess pit




[69]

Trial Trench

82253/36601



Fig 2 Cess pit [69] in RBS trial trench

-  trench edge
-  archaeological features
-  TBMs

1:25 @ A4
0 1m

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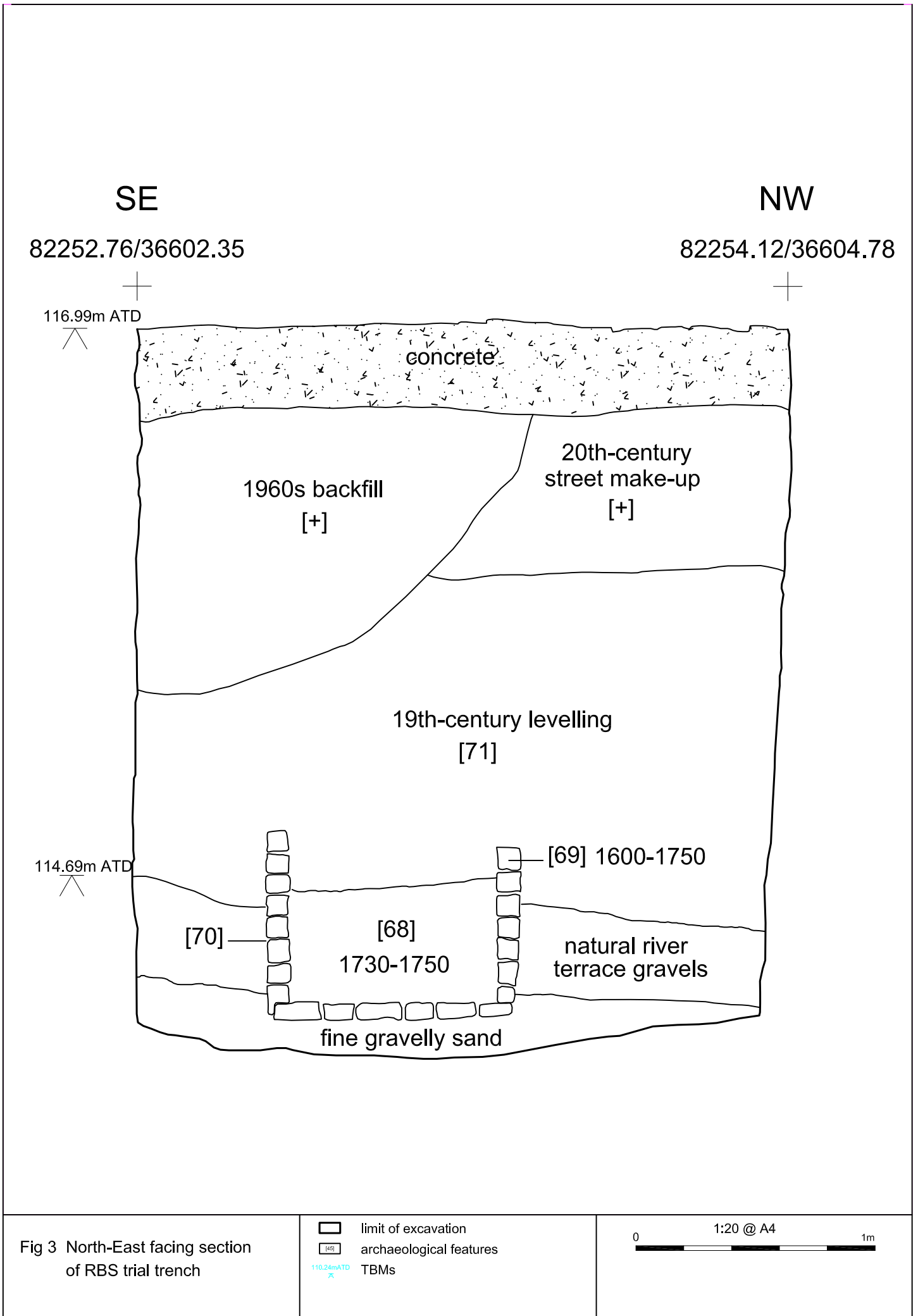


Fig 3 North-East facing section of RBS trial trench

- limit of excavation
- archaeological features
- 110.24mATD
▲ TBM

0 1:20 @ A4 1m