

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF SITE INVESTIGATION WORKS

The Hop Exchange 22-24 Southwark Street London SE1 1TY

Project
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The Hop Exchange 22-24
Southwark Street London
SE1 1TY
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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by MOLA at The Hop Exchange, 22-24, Southwark Street, London, SE1 1TY. The report was commissioned, from MOLA, by RPS on the behalf of the Client.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, (MOLA, 2020), an archaeological watching brief was carried out on the site between the 5th and 7th of October 2020. The focus of the project was upon twelve small hand excavated Trial Pits; these pits were undertaken as elements of a wider Geo-technical investigation.

The interventions revealed natural river terrace sandy gravel at c.-0.10m OD, c.0.50m below the existing lower basement floor. Above that there was a post-medieval soil sequence over and against the footings of the Hop Exchange; this was beneath the existing floor of the lower basement, at c.0.40m AOD and the floor of the coal cellar passageway which was at a higher level, at c.2.30m AOD. Disarticulated human remains were present within these soil deposits in TP's 1 and 8. It was assumed that they had originally been interred in the St. Saviour's Almshouse burying ground. If so, disturbance would likely have taken place when the Hop Exchange was built.

No evidence for in situ archaeological deposits was found.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA at the Hop Exchange, 22-24 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1TY, ('the site') between the 5th and 7th of October 2020, (see Fig 1). This document is the Report on that work.
- 1.1.2 The site is fully occupied by the Grade II listed Hop Exchange built in 1866. It is bounded by a railway viaduct, Southwark Street and Stoney Street. The centre of the site lies at NGR 532556 180169. Modern pavement level near to the site lies at c 4.7m OD.
- 1.1.3 Recently a desk top Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, (DBA), has been produced, by RPS, in which an initial redevelopment proposal covers the whole area of the site, (RPS, 2020). This document should be referred to for information concerning the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site; as well as the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.
- 1.1.4 Previous archaeological fieldwork had been undertaken upon the site by MoLAS. An Evaluation Report concerning those results was produced by MoLAS in 2002.
- 1.1.5 The current work is being undertaken, at the request of the Client, in advance of a planning application: development proposals include the construction of a 6 storey extension to the west end of the building with deepening and extension of the existing lower ground floor basement within the area of the lightwell. Details of the new foundations are yet to be confirmed, but an initial proposal can be found on the site DBA report, (RPS, 2020).
- 1.1.6 Further to the Pre-Planning Consent requirements a *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared by MOLA, (MOLA, 2020). All of the archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with that WSI.
- 1.1.7 It was anticipated that human remains might be encountered upon this site. In case it was required a Licence for the removal of human remains was obtained, in advance, from the Ministry of Justice; this was in accordance with section 25 of the Burial Act 1857, (20 & 21 Vic., cap.81). The Licence Number is 20-0140; it was granted on the 22 July 2020. The expiry date of that Licence will be the 21 July 2025.

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The Planning and legislative background regarding the site has been adequately summarised in Section 2 of the previous Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, (RPS, 2020).

1.3 Scope of the watching brief

- 1.3.1 An archaeological watching brief is normally a limited fieldwork exercise. It is not the same as full excavation, although individual features may be fully excavated.
- 1.3.2 The watching brief was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (CIFA, 2014).
- 1.3.3 All of the work has been undertaken in accordance with the research priorities established in *A Research Framework for London Archaeology*, (Museum of London, 2002).
- 1.3.4 The work was also undertaken with due consideration for the objectives that had

been established, within Section 2, of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the watching brief, (MOLA, 2020).

2 Archaeological background

2.1 Archaeological background

- 2.1.1 The site lies within the current bounds of the Tier 1 North Southwark and Roman Roads Archaeological Priority Area, (APA), as defined by the London Borough of Southwark.
- 2.1.2 Specific information regarding the archaeology, as well as the geology and topography was comprehensively covered in the *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, (RPS, 2020); a briefer precis extracted from the *Written Scheme of Investigation*, (MOLA, 2020), has been included below.
- 2.1.3 The study site lies within the Roman settlement that developed in north Southwark during the 1st century AD and continued into the later Roman period. The course of Stane Street, the Roman Road from London to Chichester, follows Borough High Street to the east.
- 2.1.4 Excavation and monitoring immediately north of the Hop Exchange buildings revealed a stratified archaeological sequence c.1.87m thick, encountered from c.3.30m AOD. Within this sequence, timber buildings were identified, possibly destroyed by fire c.60-61AD during the Boudican revolt, replaced with several phases of buildings aligned on a north-south thoroughfare, including evidence of smithing in the late 1st Century AD. Subsequent mid-2nd Century AD rebuilding included masonry buildings on piled foundations with marble floors and stone columns indicating a high status use. Immediately to the east of the study site, excavation works revealed an archaeological sequence c.3.70m thick, commencing at 4.95m AOD and comprising a similar sequence: 1st Century AD timber buildings, a burnt horizon, followed by 2nd Century AD masonry structures (RPS 2020).
- 2.1.5 The crucial factor for this site is the apparent truncation of archaeological remains across the site to a probable level of c.1.20m OD. Current archaeological knowledge of the area suggests that natural sand and gravel pertaining to the eyot or island known to have existed here, is at approximately the same level as the existing basement. However, a watching brief at Borough Market (MoLAS, 2001) revealed Roman and medieval features surviving below this level, the lowest recorded depth being 0.85m BOD. The interpretation of these features is uncertain, and they may represent cut features into the natural island surface.
- 2.1.6 The area of the study site continued to be occupied and developed throughout the Medieval period. Excavation and monitoring immediately to the north of the Hop Exchange buildings revealed a stratified archaeological sequence c.1.87m thick, encountered from c.3.3m AOD. Within this sequence, evidence of 12th Century AD pits was identified, including high status pottery (RPS, 2020, ref. 57). Immediately to the east of the study site, excavation works revealed an archaeological sequence c.3.70m thick, commencing at 4.95m AOD, including evidence of a large building possibly the Abbott of Waverley's townhouse, together with multiple large pits (RPS ref. 57).
- 2.1.7 During the post-medieval period the site became partially occupied by the Cure's College burial ground, also known as St Saviour's Almshouse ground. This can be seen on both the Rocque map of 1746 and the Horwood map of 1813 (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4). If the latter map is overlaid over the current street pattern it can be seen that the burial ground extended under the Hop Exchange (see Fig. 5). This may well be the source of the disarticulated human bone recovered during the evaluation (MoLAS, 2002).
- 2.1.8 Between 2010 and 2011, MOLA undertook an excavation and monitoring to the

north of the Hop Exchange buildings at Park Street, as part of the work for the Thameslink Project. This recorded 332 individual skeletons dated c.1730-1860, together with buildings possibly associated with an almshouse in Soap Yard (RSP, 2020).

- 2.1.9 The Hop Exchange was built by RH Moore in 1866 as the commercial centre for the English hop trade (MoLAS, 2002). The construction of this building must have removed the majority of the burials below it, although the author has as yet found no record of this having occurred. Mrs Basil Holmes's 1896 survey 'The London Burial Grounds' states that it was ~ acre in size and that the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway goes over it on arches. At that time it was the store yard of Messrs. Stone and Humphries, builders and most of it was roofed in. This is the area that is currently the yard at the back of the Hop Exchange.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 Twelve Trial Pits were excavated and cleared by hand by the Contractors. Archaeological monitoring was maintained, by MOLA, during all of this work.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological recording was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation*, (MOLA, 2020).
- 3.1.3 The Trial Pit locations were individually plotted on plans provided by the Client using an “offset methodology”. Subsequently that information was tied to the OS grid by MOLA Geomaticians.
- 3.1.4 Where referred to in this report, for example 0.40m OD, levels relate to OS Ordnance Datum. Where appropriate these values have been included as AOD or BOD, to respectively indicate “above” or “below” OD.
- 3.1.5 During the earlier evaluation, (MoLAS, 2002), levels were determined from an Ordnance Survey spot height at pavement level in Southwark Street. The value of that was 4.80m AOD; measurements were taken from that to establish the height of the lower basement floor slab level which was 0.4m AOD. During the current watching brief measurements were taken from the top of this same floor slab. The coal cellar passageway floor, where three of the current Trial Pits were located, was at a slightly higher level, at c.2.30m AOD.
- 3.1.6 Due to the nature of the fieldwork it was not possible to accurately measure/calculate OS OD levels for all of the deposits that were recorded; however, relative depth levels have been provided, where it was possible to measure them, for example, “approximately 0.5m below basement floor level”.

3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 A written, drawn and photographic record of all of the archaeological deposits that were encountered was generated in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation*, (MOLA, 2020).

3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	12
Number of overall location plans	1
Number of Context (SU) sheets	0
Number of photographs	34
Number of Plan sheets	0
Number of Sections	0

4 Results of the watching brief

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The location of each of the twelve individual Trial Pits is shown on Fig 2. A series of fourteen photographs, *Photo 1 to Photo 14*, has been provided, at the back of the report, in support of the written descriptions.

4.2 Trial Pit 1

Location	Access passageway to the coal cellars
Dimensions	0.77m by 0.35m by 0.70m maximum depth
Top of cellar passageway floor slab	c.2.30m AOD
Base of modern slab	c.2.18m AOD, 0.12m below the cellar passageway floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	c.0.60m minimum
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	c.1.60m AOD, at least 0.70m below the cellar passageway floor
Top of surviving natural observed at	c.1.70m AOD, uncertain at 0.60m below the cellar passageway floor
Level of base of trench	c.1.60m AOD, 0.70m below the cellar passageway floor

- 4.2.1 An orange sandy deposit was seen at c.1.70m AOD, at a depth of c.0.60m below the surface of the existing cellar passageway floor level. Due to the restricted nature of the current intervention it could not be established if it was an *in situ* or redeposited natural material. Above that there was a greyish brown sandy silt deposit, at a depth of 0.40m below the floor, it was of c.0.25m in thickness; within this soil there were several small fragments of disarticulated human bones. It was all construed to be construction backfill over and against the footings of the Hop Exchange. The human remains were most likely disinterred from the St. Saviour's Almshouse burying ground; this was known to have extended into the site as well as parts adjacent.
- 4.2.2 Subsequently a utility trench had been cut into this deposit; it contained a concrete encased drainage pipe, the top of the 0.40m diameter casing was noted at c.2.04m AOD, at a depth of 0.26m below the centre line of the cellar passageway floor. It was on an east-west alignment, parallel to the walls of the passage. Presumably it was 19th or 20th century in origin. Stock brick rubble and sandy silt infill lay over and against the concrete casing; within the soil there was another fragment of a disarticulated human bone. This material had been levelled off and capped by the existing concrete floor, at c.2.30m AOD, which was 0.12m in thickness.
- 4.2.3 No further impact was made at this location. Apart from brick fragments archaeological artefacts were not present. The disarticulated human remains that were encountered were not removed from the site; they were covered over again.

4.3 Trial Pit 2A

Location	Lower basement
Dimensions	0.45m by 0.40m by 0.65m depth
Top of lower basement floor slab	0.40m AOD

Base of modern slab	0.30m AOD, 0.10m depth below the floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	0.55m
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	0.15m BOD, c.0.55m depth below the floor surface
Top of surviving natural observed at	0.15m BOD, 0.55m depth below the floor surface
Level of base of trench	0.25m BOD
Water saturation	0.15m BOD, 0.55m depth below the floor surface

- 4.3.1 In this intervention natural sandy gravel appeared to be at c.0.15m BOD, at a depth of 0.55m below the lower basement floor slab of the Hop Exchange; it was overlain by a dark greyish brown silt at c.0.10m AOD; it was of c.0.25m in thickness. It was unclear if this deposit was cut by the construction trench of the Hop Exchange or if it was within it. Certainly the next overlying material, consisting of dark greyish brown sandy silt, at c.0.30m AOD, lay over and against the concrete beam and stepped brickwork footing; the backfill, contained orange red and pinkish red brick fragments which were of 17th to earlier 19th century in date. Above that was the existing floor slab at 0.40m AOD.
- 4.3.2 No further impact was made at this location. Apart from brick fragments archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.4 Trial Pit 2B

Location	Lower basement corridor
Dimensions	0.90m by 0.35m by 0.50m depth
Top of lower basement floor slab	0.40m AOD
Base of modern slab	0.28m AOD, 0.12m depth below the floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	0.38m
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	0.10m BOD, c.0.50m depth below the floor surface
Top of surviving natural observed at	0.10m BOD, c.0.50m depth below the floor surface
Level of base of trench	0.10m BOD, 0.50m depth below the floor surface
Water saturation	0.08m BOD, 0.48m depth below the floor surface

- 4.4.1 In this intervention natural sandy gravel was seen at c.0.10m BOD, at a depth of 0.50m. It had been cut by the construction trench for the footings of the Hop Exchange. The footings consisted of a concrete beam which supported stepped brickwork. The construction backfill consisted of greyish brown sandy silt, at c.0.28m AOD, was of 0.38m in thickness; within it there were a few orange red brick fragments. The brick fragments were presumed to be of 17th century to earlier 19th century in date. The deposit was overlain by the existing 0.10m thick concrete floor slab which was itself beneath a 0.02m thick bitumastic layer at 0.40m AOD.
- 4.4.2 No further impact was made at this location. Apart from brick fragments archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.5 Trial Pit 3

Location	Lower basement
Dimensions	0.45m by 0.40m by 0.55m depth
Top of lower basement floor slab	0.40m AOD
Base of modern floor slab	0.30m AOD, 0.10m depth below the floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	0.45m
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	0.05m BOD to 0.15m BOD, c.0.45m to 0.55m below the floor surface
Top of surviving natural observed at	Possibly 0.05m BOD to 0.15m BOD, c.0.45m to 0.55m below the floor surface
Level of base of trench	0.15m BOD, 0.55m below the floor surface
Water saturation	0.00m OD, 0.40m below the floor surface

- 4.5.1 The top of a concrete beam was discovered at c.0.15m BOD, 0.55m below the lower basement floor; the beam lay beneath the water saturation point at 0.40m beneath the floor. It was assumed that the footing had been set into natural sandy gravel. The beam supported the stepped brick footings of the Hop Exchange.
- 4.5.2 Over and against the footing there was a construction backfill deposit of greyish brown sandy silt, at 0.30m AOD. It contained orange red and purplish red brick fragments as well as decayed chalk. The brick fragments were presumed to be of 17th century to earlier 19th century in date. Above that was the 0.10m thick concrete floor of the existing lower basement of the Hop Exchange at 0.40m AOD.
- 4.5.3 No further impact was made at this location. Apart from brick fragments archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.6 Trial Pit 4

Location	Lower basement
Dimensions	0.35m by 0.30m by 0.50m depth
Top of lower basement floor slab	0.40m AOD
Base of modern floor slab	0.17m AOD, 0.23m depth below the floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	0.22m
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	0.05m BOD, c.0.45m depth below the floor surface
Top of surviving natural observed at	0.05m BOD, c.0.45m depth below the floor surface
Level of base of trench	0.10m BOD, 0.50m depth below the floor surface
Water saturation	0.05m BOD, c.0.45m depth below the floor surface

- 4.6.1 In this intervention sandy gravel was seen at c.0.05m BOD, at a depth of 0.45m beneath the lower basement floor slab. A concrete pier base footing, part of the Hop Exchange, had been cut into it; the top of the footing was immediately below the floor slab. Against the footing there was brown silt, at 0.17m AOD, it was of 0.20m in thickness; within that there were frequent small fragments of bricks, including pieces of 19th century yellow stocks. The deposit was overlain by the concrete floor slab, at 0.40m AOD, which was 0.23m in thickness.
- 4.6.2 No further impact was made at this location. Apart from brick fragments

archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.7 Trial Pit 5

Location	Lower basement
Dimensions	0.60m by 0.40m by 0.50m depth
Top of lower basement floor slab	0.40m AOD
Base of modern floor slab	0.17m AOD, 0.23m depth below the floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	None were seen
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	0.10m BOD, c.0.50m depth below the floor surface, all modern concrete
Top of surviving natural observed at	Probably c.0.10m BOD, c.0.50m depth below the floor surface
Level of base of trench	0.10m BOD, 0.50m depth below the floor surface
Water saturation	0.08m BOD, 0.48m depth below the floor surface

- 4.7.1 In this intervention a concrete footing, part of the Hop Exchange, was seen at 0.17m AOD, immediately below the 0.23m thick concrete floor slab. Several metal bars and angle iron were incorporated on the edge of the footing, possibly once serving as rudimentary supports for shuttering. Water was encountered at a depth of 0.48m. It was thought that sandy gravel was present, at c.0.10m BOD, at a depth of 0.50m.
- 4.7.2 No further impact was made at this location. Archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.8 Trial Pit 6

Location	Lower basement
Dimensions	0.60m by 0.40m by 0.70m depth
Top of lower basement floor slab	0.40m AOD
Base of modern floor slab	0.34m AOD, 0.06m depth below the floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	c.0.45m
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	0.12m BOD, c.0.52m depth below the floor surface
Top of surviving natural observed at	0.12m BOD, c.0.52m depth below the floor surface
Level of base of trench	0.30m BOD, 0.70m depth below the floor surface
Water saturation	0.12m BOD, c.0.52m depth below the floor surface

- 4.8.1 The location of this intervention was within the footprint of a modern service trench.
- 4.8.2 Natural sandy gravel was thought to lie at c.0.12m BOD, at a depth of 0.52m beneath the floor, coincidentally at the water saturation point. The top of a concrete beam was located, at 0.10m BOD, at a depth of 0.50m; this supported the stepped brickwork footing of the Hop Exchange. A greyish brown sandy silt, at 0.34m AOD, lay over and against the footings. This deposit had recently been cut into by the modern service trench. The floor had been patched afterwards with concrete, at 0.40m AOD.

- 4.8.3 No further impact was made at this location. Archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.9 Trial Pit 7

Location	Lower basement
Dimensions	0.50m by 0.30m by 0.65m depth
Top of lower basement floor slab	0.40m AOD
Base of modern floor slab	0.30m AOD, 0.10m depth, below the floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	0.40m of modern infill
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	0.10m BOD, 0.50m depth below the floor surface
Top of surviving natural observed at	0.10m BOD, c.0.50m depth below the floor surface
Level of base of trench	0.25m BOD, 0.65m depth below the floor surface
Water saturation	0.10m BOD, 0.50m depth below the floor surface

- 4.9.1 The location of this intervention was within the footprint of a previous trial pit; possibly that had undertaken on the behalf of Network Rail.
- 4.9.2 Natural sandy gravel was thought to lie at c.0.10m BOD, at a depth of 0.50m beneath the floor, coincidentally at the water saturation point. The top of a concrete beam was at the same depth; this supported the stepped brickwork footing of the Hop Exchange. The soil and rubble backfill of the previous trial pit lay over and against the footings. The floor had then been roughly patched with concrete at 0.40m AOD.
- 4.9.3 No further impact was made at this location. Archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.10 Trial Pit 8

Location	Lower basement
Dimensions	0.70m by 0.40m by 0.84m depth
Top of lower basement floor slab	0.40m AOD
Base of modern floor slab	0.32m AOD, 0.08m depth below the floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	Over 0.25m
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	Below 0.15m BOD, over 0.55m depth below the floor surface
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	0.44m BOD, 0.84m depth below the floor surface
Water saturation	0.15m BOD, 0.55m depth below the floor surface

- 4.10.1 In this intervention a dark greyish brown silt was seen at c.0.05m AOD, at a depth of 0.35m below the floor, it was over 0.25m in thickness and extended below the level of water saturation at 0.15m BOD, at a depth of 0.55m beneath the floor. It was unclear if this deposit was backfill against the Hop Exchange footings or if it had been cut by them. Disarticulated human remains were present in this material. The

human remains were most likely to have been disinterred from the St. Saviour's Almshouse burying ground. It was known to have extended into the site as well as parts adjacent. Above the silt there was brown sandy silt, at c.0.32m AOD, at a depth of 0.08m. It was c.0.27m in thickness; within it there were fragments of orange red and brownish red bricks, these were thought to be 17th century to earlier 19th century in date. The material was construction backfill over and against the Hop Exchange Footings. It lay beneath the existing concrete floor of the lower basement, at c.0.40m AOD.

- 4.10.2 No further impact was made at this location. The disarticulated human remains that were present were covered up, they did not leave the site. Apart from brick fragments archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.11 Trial Pit 9

Location	Lower basement
Dimensions	1.80m by 0.25m by 0.70m depth
Top of lower basement floor slab	0.40m AOD
Base of modern floor slab	0.17m AOD, 0.23m depth below the floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	0.37m
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	c.0.15m BOD to 0.20m BOD, c.0.55m to 0.60m depth below the floor surface
Top of surviving natural observed at	c.0.15m BOD to 0.20m BOD, 0.55m to 0.60m depth below the floor surface
Level of base of trench	0.30m BOD, c.0.70m depth below the floor surface
Water saturation	0.08m BOD, 0.48m depth below the floor surface

- 4.11.1 In this intervention the natural sandy gravel was thought to be at c.0.15m BOD to 0.20m BOD, at a depth of c.0.55m to 0.60m below the existing concrete floor slab. It could only be estimated as it lay beneath the water saturation point which was 0.08m BOD, at a depth of 0.48m beneath the floor.
- 4.11.2 The top of a concrete beam was noted, at c.0.10m BOD, at a depth of 0.50m beneath the floor; it supported the stepped brickwork footings of the Hop Exchange. A greyish brown sandy silt deposit, at 0.17m AOD, lay over and against the footing. The deposit was c.0.37m in thickness, within it there were small fragments of orange and orange red bricks; these were believed to be 17th century to 19th century in origin. Above it was the existing floor slab of the lower basement, at c.0.40m AOD.
- 4.11.3 No further impact was made at this location. Apart from brick fragments archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.12 Trial Pit 10

Location	Access passageway to the coal cellars
Dimensions	0.40m by 0.30m by 1.40m depth
Top of cellar passageway floor slab	c.2.30m OD
Base of modern floor slab	c.2.20m OD, 0.10m depth below the cellar passageway floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	At least 1.00m
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	c.0.90m AOD, at least 1.40m depth below the cellar passageway floor surface

Top of surviving natural observed at	Either c.1.20m AOD, 1.10m depth below the cellar passageway floor surface or N/A
Level of base of trench	c.0.90m AOD, 1.40m depth below the cellar passageway floor surface

- 4.12.1 In this intervention orange sand was seen at c.1.20m AOD, at a depth of 1.10m below the cellar passageway floor; it lay adjacent to a concrete wall footing of the Hop Exchange. Although the sand, which was over 0.40m in thickness, was seemingly natural it was unclear, due to the limited nature of the investigation, if it was *in situ*, disturbed or redeposited. Above the sand there was a greyish brown sandy silt deposit, at c.2.20m AOD, which was of c.1.00m in thickness; within it there were fragments of orange red and pinkish red bricks, typical of the 17th century to earlier 19th century in date. This material was construction backfill lying over and against the footings of the Hop Exchange. It lay beneath the 0.10m thick concrete floor of the cellar passageway, at c.2.30m AOD.
- 4.12.2 No further impact was made at this location. Apart from brick fragments archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.13 Trial Pit 11

Location	Access passageway to the coal cellars
Dimensions	0.90m by 0.40m by 1.05m depth
Top of cellar passageway floor slab	c.2.30m AOD
Base of modern floor slab	c.2.22m AOD, 0.08m depth below the cellar passageway floor surface
Depth of soil deposits above natural	Over 0.98m
Level of base of lowest deposits observed	Below c.1.25m AOD, over 1.05m depth below the cellar passageway floor surface
Top of surviving natural observed at	N/A
Level of base of trench	c.1.25m AOD, 1.05m depth below the cellar passageway floor surface

- 4.13.1 In this intervention the top of a concrete beam footing was seen, at c.1.25m AOD, at a depth of 1.05m below the coal cellar passageway floor; on one side it supported part of the brick wall footings of the Hop Exchange and on the other side the stepped brickwork footings of the associated coal cellars. Above the concrete footing, at c.2.22m AOD, there was greyish brown sandy silt of c.0.98m in thickness; within it there were fragments of orange red and pinkish red bricks, typical of the 17th century to earlier 19th century in date. This material was construction backfill lying over and against the footings of the Hop Exchange. It lay beneath the 0.08m thick concrete floor of the cellar passageway, at c.2.30m AOD.
- 4.13.2 No further impact was made at this location. Apart from brick fragments archaeological artefacts were not present.

4.14 The finds

- 4.14.1 Disarticulated human remains were seen to be present in Trial Pit 1 and Trial Pit 8. These are likely to have been associated with the former St. Saviour's Almshouse burying ground. In all likelihood more of this type of evidence may remain upon the site, beyond the limits of the current interventions. Indeed, the possibility cannot be ruled out that the site may still contain some survival of *in situ* human remains.

- 4.14.2 Apart from that there was a general absence of archaeological artefacts within the current interventions apart from brick fragments.
- 4.14.3 The post-medieval brick fragments were present in many of the Trial Pits. They were representative of 17th century to early 19th century stock types. These may all be evidence of demolition activity prior to or for the construction of the Hop Exchange. These artefacts, exclusively of post-medieval date, were of common types and did not merit retention.

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering the original objectives

5.1.1 The limited nature of the proposed works and the watching brief upon them made it unreasonable to establish many specific archaeological research objectives. Nevertheless a few research questions were outlined:

- *What is the nature and level of natural topography ?*
The nature and level of natural topography was water saturated river terrace sandy gravel at c.0.10m BOD.
- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*
The earliest deposits that were identified consisted of post-medieval soil deposits.
- *Is there any evidence of Roman activity?*
There was not any evidence of Roman activity.
- *Is there any evidence of Medieval activity?*
There was not any evidence of Medieval activity.
- *Is there any evidence of post-medieval deposits? If so, can these be associated with St Saviour's Almshouse burial ground?*
- *Is there any evidence of human remains? if so, can these be associated with St Saviour's Almshouse burial ground?*
Disarticulated human remains were seen to be present in two of the Trial Pits. It is not unreasonable to suppose that they may once have been directly associated with St. Saviour's Almshouse burial ground.
- *What are the latest deposits identified?*
The latest deposits that were identified within the current interventions were 19th and 20th century in origin; these were directly associated with the footings of the Hop Exchange.
- *What is the extent of modern disturbance?*
The extent of modern disturbance is consistent with activity associated with the original construction of the Hop Exchange. Subsequently localised adaptations repairs and remedial works have been periodically required within the premises; some of those later events have taken place comparatively recently.

5.2 Answering new research objectives

5.2.1 No further individual research objectives have been raised beyond those that were established in the original *Written Scheme of Investigation*, (MOLA, 2020).

5.3 Significance of the data

5.3.1 Whilst the archaeological remains discovered during the watching brief are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance

5.4 Conclusions

- 5.4.1 Despite the limited nature of the small Trial Pits a successful result has been achieved. The current investigation has demonstrated that disarticulated human remains are present upon the site, within post-medieval deposits.
- 5.4.2 Planning permission has yet to be sought for the development; an application will be submitted at a future date, to the local planning authority, the London Borough of Southwark.
- 5.4.3 The future development design will have an impact upon any surviving archaeological deposits, including human remains. As a result of the presence of disarticulated human remains in some of the trial pits it is recommended that any future groundworks should be monitored to ensure human remains are treated in accordance with the legal requirements when human bones are present, specifically the Burial Acts of 1852, 1853 and 1857, the Disused Burial Grounds Act of 1884 and the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act of 1981.
- 5.4.4 The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed rests with the Southwark Borough Archaeologist.

6 Publication and archiving

- 6.1.1 The results of the watching brief will be made publicly available by means of a database, in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.
- 6.1.2 The site archive containing original records and will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Written Scheme of Investigation*, (MOLA, 2020), with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive, within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.
- 6.1.3 In view of the limited potential of the material, (Section 5), and the relatively limited significance of the data, (Section 5.3), it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the London Archaeologist.

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 The author would like to thank the following individuals:
- 7.1.2 Richard von Kalinowski-Meager, Director of RPS Consulting, UK and Ireland for commissioning the Project, from MOLA, on the behalf of the Client, as well as his involvement in discussion and comments on site.
- 7.1.3 Dr. Chris Constable, the Archaeological Advisor, of the London Borough of Southwark who provided advice on and off site.
- 7.1.4 Katherine Marsland of Geotechnical and Environmental Associates, (GEA), Limited who facilitated access to the site for the Archaeologist in attendance.

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9 OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-405633

Project details

Project name	The Hop Exchange, 22-24 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1TY
Short description of the project	an archaeological watching brief was maintained upon the hand excavation of twelve small Geo-technical Trial Pits. They were located in the lower basement and at a higher level in the coal cellar passageway of the Hop Exchange. a limited view of post-medieval deposits and water saturated sandy gravel was gained. Disarticulated human bones were present, possibly originally from the St. Saviour's Almshouse burying ground. The bones were not removed from site.
Project dates	Start: 05-10-2020 End: 07-10-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EXS20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	DEPOSITS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Pre-Determination Planning

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK The Hop Exchange, 22-24 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1TY
Postcode	SE1 1TY

Study area 180 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 32556 80169 51.504389240725 -0.089874372622 51 30
15 N 000 05 23 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: -0.15m Max: -0.05m

Project creators

Name of Organisation MOLA

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator MOLA

Project director/manager Derek Seeley

Project supervisor Richard Hewett

Type of sponsor/funding body client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Entered by R. Hewett (rhewett@mola.org.uk)

Entered on 15 October 2020



Fig 1 Site location



Fig 2 Location of test pits investigated during the watching brief



Photo 1 TP 1, in the coal cellar passageway, between the footings, looking eastwards



Photo 2 TP 2A, against a footing in a room in the lower basement, looking north-eastwards



Photo 3 TP 2B, against footings in the central passageway in the lower basement, looking north-eastwards



Photo 4 TP 3, against footings in the corner of a room in the lower basement, looking eastwards



Photo 5 TP 4, against a central pier base in a room in the lower basement, looking south-eastwards



Photo 6 TP 5, against a footing in a room in the lower basement, looking eastwards



Photo 7 TP 6, against a footing in a room in the lower basement, looking southwards



Photo 8 TP 7, against a footing in a room in the lower basement, looking eastwards



Photo 9 TP 8, against a footing in a room in the lower basement, looking south-westwards



Photo 10 TP 9, against footings in the corner of a room in the lower basement, looking south-westwards



Photo 11 TP 10, in the coal cellar passageway, against a footing, looking northwards



Photo 12 TP 11, in the coal cellar passageway, between the wall footings, looking eastwards



Photo 13 The coal cellar passageway, looking eastwards, from the stairwell, past TP 10



Photo 14 The coal cellar passageway, looking westwards from the stairwell towards TP 1



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