



Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Avenue, London Borough of Camden

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



Planning Ref: 2018/0575/P
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Avison Young, on behalf of the Theatre of Comedy Company ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation and excavation prior to below ground works associated with a basement extension to The Shaftesbury Theatre. The archaeological investigations were carried out at The Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Avenue, London Borough of Camden WC2H 8DP, centred on NGR 530132 181352. The evaluation was undertaken between the 6–8 January 2021, while the excavation was carried out on an intermittent basis in line with the construction programme between 20 January and 12 March 2021.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trial trenches which identified archaeological remains and deposits across the site, including walls, a culvert, pits and a posthole dating to the 16th to 19th centuries; a single possible medieval feature was also identified. Multiple layers of made ground, measuring between 1.4 m and 2.54 m thick, suggested build up and alteration of the site. The earliest feature, a posthole that which contained medieval pottery, was investigated in trench 1. Two pits of 16th to 18th century date and two walls, one located high up within the made ground deposits and a second close to the natural geology, completed the sequence. Trench 2 exposed a 19th century brick culvert and a wall, surviving as a single course of unfrosted bricks, at the horizon of the natural geology. Trench 3 identified one brick wall, which had been cut by the foundations of the theatre close to the surface of the trench.

The subsequent excavation comprised the excavation of approximately 220 m² between the western wall of the theatre, the site boundary and Shaftesbury Avenue. The excavation identified additional remains including at least six drainage features, seven walls, a cess pit, five other unidentified structural features, two pits, a ditch and a robber trench dating between the 17th and 20th centuries.

Pottery recovered during the investigations suggest the post-medieval activity dates from the 16th to 19/20th centuries, broadly focused on the 17th–early 18th century. A pit found towards the centre of the site may represent an early phase of post-medieval activity and produced 16th to early 17th century pottery. A second pit and a brick-built cess pit found in close proximity probably date to the later 17th century to 18th century, suggesting gradual development of the area. Other earlier post-medieval elements include a drain, brick walls, and a floor. A large culvert truncated these earlier post-medieval structures, crossing much of the excavated area. Elsewhere, additional drainage structures, short sections of wall and a large trench which contained a possibly robbed out wall also form part of the post-medieval development of the site.

Later activity was represented by a probable Victorian culvert and a small pit, both found high in the sequence. The vault of the theatre's basement, dating to its construction in the early 20th century, occupied the northern end of the site, and remains in use by the theatre.

It is proposed that the results of the project should be summarised and presented, with suitable illustrations, for publication in the popular magazine *London Archaeologist* or via a suitable online platform.

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Shaftesbury Theatre 210 Shaftesbury Avenue London Borough of Camden

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Avison Young, on behalf of the Theatre of Comedy Company ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation and excavation prior to construction of a basement extension to The Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Avenue, London Borough of Camden, WC2H 8DP, centred on NGR 530132 181352 (Fig. 1). The development comprises: various alterations to theatre building (Class D2) including basement extensions, creation of new entrance fronting Princes Circus, replacement of external lighting to facade and plant at roof level, installation of pavement lights and delivery hatch as well as minor alterations to the façade and doors.

1.1.2 A planning application (2018/0575/P) submitted to Camden Council, was granted on 15 November 2018, subject to conditions. The following condition relates to archaeology:

Condition 7: No excavation shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no excavation shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

- A. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works*
- B. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication and dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*

Reason: Important archaeological remains may exist on this site. Accordingly, the Local planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and subsequent recording of the remains prior to development in accordance with the requirements of the Policy D2 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017.

1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed to undertake the evaluation and excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2020; 2021). The Archaeological Advisor for Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.4 The evaluation comprising three trial trenches was undertaken between 6–8 January 2021, with the excavation carried out between 20 January 2021 and 12 March 2021.



1.2 Scope of report

1.2.1 This report details results of the excavation and preceding evaluation, and assesses the potential to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for further work, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the results via publication and curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The evaluation and excavation were located at 210 Shaftesbury Avenue, on the southern and western sides of the Shaftesbury Theatre. The site lies 320 m west of Tottenham Court Road Underground Station, 425 m to the south-west of Holborn Underground Station and 230 m south of the British Museum.

1.3.2 The topography of the site is generally level with a very minor southward slope towards High Holborn Road with elevations of approximately 24 mOD. Local topography continues to slope southwards towards the River Thames.

1.3.3 The bedrock geology throughout the site has been identified through geotechnical investigations (RSK 2017), which have confirmed deposits shown on British Geological Society mapping (BGS 2023). These investigations have confirmed the presence of the London Clay Formation in the eastern section of the site which overlies the Lambeth Group deposits. Investigations in the southern and western areas have confirmed the presence of deposits of Lynch Hill Gravel Member overlying the London Clay Formation (ST Consult 2013; 2018).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA: Wessex Archaeology 2018), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 250 m study area of the development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Archaeological Priority Area

2.2.1 The site is located in the Archaeological Priority Area (APA) 'London Suburbs'. The area had been designated as an APA for the following reasons:

- *Roman occupation and cemeteries along the roads with Bloomsbury Way and New Oxford Street, known Roman Roads;*
- *The Saxon settlement of Ludenwic;*
- *The precinct of the Hospital of St Giles;*
- *The medieval suburb of Holborn;*
- *The Civil War forts and lines of communication; and*
- *Suburban growth of London in the 17th and 18th centuries.*



2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970,000 BC–700 BC)

- 2.3.1 The archaeological record for the prehistoric period within London varies. For the lower Palaeolithic, the London region is considered to be one of the most important in Europe with one of the best understood river sequences for the period (MOLA 2002, 19), whereas for the Upper Palaeolithic period London is barely represented except for a small number of *in situ* sites.
- 2.3.2 Geotechnical investigations within the development found deposits of Lynch Hill Gravels near to the proposed location for the basement extension. The Lynch Hill Gravels have the potential to preserve early Middle Palaeolithic archaeology, and in some cases environmental evidence. These gravels are part of the River Thames terrace sequence and were aggraded during MIS 8 (between 300 and 243 kya) and have produced archaeology and environmental evidence associated with the first Neanderthals in Britain (Scott 2006, 17). These gravels are regarded as high significance as they are usually associated with minimally disturbed/primary contexts. Based on the available information, there is potential for artefactual and faunal remains within the Lynch Hill Gravels located within the site.
- 2.3.3 Palaeolithic flints have been found within the vicinity of the development. Four Palaeolithic handaxes were found at the YMCA on Great Russell Street 250 m to the north-west (084209). Two of the handaxes were found at a depth of 2.5 m resting on London Clay in an area of Lynch Hill Gravel geology. A single Palaeolithic handaxe was also found 90 m to the north of the development, and, like those found at the YMCA site was also recovered from Lynch Hill Gravel deposits (MLO17688). The recovery of flints in close proximity to the site further indicates the potential for artefactual remains within the Lynch Hill Gravels.
- 2.3.4 Artefactual and environmental evidence has provided a good picture of the use and landscape of the Thames valley during the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age. During the Mesolithic, London would have been occupied by roaming hunter gathering communities who appeared to favour river valley and floodplains due to the easy procurement of food resources and mobility (MOLA 2000, 55). With the transition into the Neolithic period, these communities began to settle in locations permanently undertaking wide spread wood clearance and cultivation of crops by the 3rd millennium BC. The Bronze Age in the Lower Thames Valley is characterised by continued woodland clearance, by the Late Bronze Age evidence of several large settlements are recorded in the archaeological record for the Lower Thames Valley.
- 2.3.5 It is thought that the low lying riverside environment of the Strand would have provided an attractive area for settlement due to the availability of fresh water and good agricultural soils. Prehistoric pottery, weapons and tools have been found in the Lundenwic and Strand APA that suggest occupation just close to the development.
- 2.3.6 Only one investigation within 250 m of the site has found potential evidence of prehistoric occupation (ELO2573). During investigations at Shorts Gardens 190 m to the south a layer of barked willow twigs, possibly representing a prehistoric platform or fish trap was recorded (MOLA 2001). It was likely located on either the former tidal area of the Thames or on one of the many islands that are thought to have once existed within the river. Such structures are an indication of long-term occupation.

Iron Age and Romano-British (700 BC–AD 410)

- 2.3.7 Knowledge of the Iron Age period in London is dominated by the artefactual record, particularly the metalwork from the Thames and other water contexts have been interpreted as evidence of exchange networks and social relationships among elite groups (MOLA 2000, 111). The period also saw the construction of large defended hillforts in London, though the typical settlement type of the period was small farmsteads set among field systems.
- 2.3.8 Following the conquest of Britain by the Roman Empire in the 1st century AD a new settlement was constructed in London that came to be known as *Londinium*. The settlement was unusual to other towns as it was an entirely Roman creation rather than an existing Iron Age settlement. *Londinium* became the centre of Roman Britain's communication system and was important as a trading centre and for the movement of maritime traffic on the Thames.
- 2.3.9 The site is located approximately 2 km east of the western city walls of *Londinium*. Areas on the periphery of the city are thought to have been occupied by small farming communities similar to those dated to the Iron Age (MOLA 2002, 135). The Strand itself is thought to be based on a Roman road that led west from the Roman city and small satellite settlements and, farmsteads, cemeteries and small industrial sites may have been located close to the Roman road.
- 2.3.10 New Oxford Street is thought to follow the approximate line of a Roman Road (081766). The trajectory of the Newgate to Silchester road was first theorised by Ivan Margery in *Roman Roads in Britain* (1973), however no actual evidence of this road has been found close to the site to suggest this alignment. If the Roman road did pass along New Oxford Street it is highly likely that satellite settlements, cemeteries or small industrial sites would have been located close to the road.
- 2.3.11 A single Roman cist burial was recorded 45 m to the north of the development (081786). The circumstances that led to the discovery are not provided in the GLHER entry, but what was found included a lead cist containing burnt bones and two Denarii of Vespasian (69–79 AD). This may have been part of a larger site with the other sections possibly removed by post-Romano-British development in the area or may survive at depth in relatively undisturbed areas.
- 2.3.12 Another entry for the Romano-British period relates to a Roman finger ring discovered 240 m to the north of the site (081775).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066)

- 2.3.13 The transition into the Anglo-Saxon period saw the abandonment of *Londinium* with the Lower Thames Valley occupied by small dispersed farming communities. From the 5th century onwards the rising Saxon elite vied for power and control of the south-east and by the middle of the 6th century the south-east came under the control of the group known as the East Saxons, who established a new settlement in London known as *Lundenwic* (Cowie and Blackmore 2008). *Lundenwic* was described in the 730s as a 'metropolis' and as a well-developed trading emporium and was occupied well into the 9th century. The settlement was enclosed by a bank and ditch and covered an area of approximately 60 hectares with a peak population of 6000–7000. Some habitation still occurred within the Roman city walls but is thought to have been on a very minimal scale.
- 2.3.14 Both the London Suburbs APA and the Lundenwic and the Strand APA were designated for the potential for Anglo-Saxon remains. At present, the limits of *Lundenwic* have not

been found and it may have stretched from the Strand to Bloomsbury through both APAs. Based on current evidence it has been suggested that the settlement was split into several zones. Most of the residential area appears to have been to the north of the Strand. Iron smelting and butchery may have been confined to the northern and eastern peripheries of the settlement while quarrying for gravel on a large scale occurred to the west of the town. The location of the site would place it in the proposed main residential area.

- 2.3.15 Many questions still remain to be answered for the settlement of *Lundenwic*, from the reasons that led to its foundation, to the development and spatial arrangement of the settlement (MOLA 2002). It has been suggested that the routes of several major Roman roads were used in the presumed gridded street pattern of the settlement (*ibid*, 48). New Oxford Street may have been one of these roads used while there is potential that High Holborn could have originated in this period.
- 2.3.16 Following successive attacks by the Vikings in the 9th century, resettlement began to occur within the Roman city walls of *Londinium* (MOLA 2002, 49). The resettlement within the Roman city walls begun under Alfred the Great who consecrated the settlement *Lundenburgh* in AD 886. Resettlement is believed to have been a slow process at first and was centred between the Thames and Cheapside with the original Roman walls undergoing repair. By the 10th century *Lundenburgh* had developed into a major town. It has not been fully established whether *Lundenwic* was completely abandoned however modern consensus is that if it was still occupied it was considerably smaller in size and status than it had been before.
- 2.3.17 In 959 AD King Edgar granted land that lay to the south of the 'wide army street' of High Holborn to Westminster Abbey. The original name of Holborn comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *burna* meaning stream and *hol* meaning hollow. This would indicate the area contained a stream or former stream that was known to the inhabitants of the area.
- 2.3.18 An Anglo-Saxon occupation site was found 130 m to the south-east at Nos. 107–115 Long Acre (084637). A series of pits were dug at the site in the 7th century thought to be for quarrying of natural sand, gravel and brickearth (MOLA 1998). Sometime during the 8th century a gravel surface was laid on a south-east to north-west alignment. This would not be in use for long as by the 9th century a dumped layer was deposited over the road consisting of domestic rubbish and butchery waste. Dumped layers of waste and agricultural soils dating to the Anglo-Saxon period were also encountered during works at Nottingham House 190 m to the south (ELO226) and at Nos. 27–29 Macklin Street 245 m to the east (ELO5049).
- 2.3.19 Further evidence of small scale quarrying was found 240 m to the south-west of the site (MLO75820). Residual Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds were recovered from a feature during an evaluation at the former Phoenix Theatre which was thought to represent a backfilled quarry. No further finds or features were identified for the period with the majority of evidence for activity at Phoenix Theatre dated to the medieval period (see Section 4.4.30).
- 2.3.20 Building remains of Anglo-Saxon date were found 190 m to the south of the site (ELO2573). Thin surviving layers of dark soils were found overlying blue grey clay that contained butchered animal bones, oyster shell and tiny fragments of charcoal and burnt daub and a large complete loom weight (MOLA 2001). A series of beaten earth floors, beam slots and stake holes indicative of dwellings were found to the south of the soils along with an 8 m long collapsed wattle and daub wall as well as a domed hearth used for smithing.

- 2.3.21 A single Anglo-Saxon pit was encountered during archaeological works 180 m to the south-east of the site (ELO3218/ELO339). The pit was roughly circular in plan and thought to be the result of quarrying with animal bone recovered from the fill carbon dated to AD 432–608 (AOC 2001).
- 2.3.22 In summary, the archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period has found that several episodes of quarrying occurred close to the site. This would have been for both the extraction of gravels for road surfaces and for brickearth that would be used in the construction of wattle and daub, production of pottery and loomweights. It is possible that later habitation as part of the settlement of *Lundenwic* or as areas of dumping material and agriculture use.
- Medieval (AD 1066–1500)*
- 2.3.23 The nearest recorded medieval settlement lies at Tottenham (Court). The settlement was first recorded in the Domesday Book as eight households comprising four villagers and four smallholders. The settlement was lorded over by the Canons of St Paul, London who retained lordship following the Norman Conquest. Urban growth of London occurred along all the major roads beyond the six main gates into the city with the area known as the Strand located 700 m to the south-east of the site becoming the main land route to Westminster.
- 2.3.24 The Strand and Holborn became a popular area for grand aristocratic houses, religious institutions, the London homes of various bishops and the Inns of Court, and by the 14th century Holborn was considered London's legal quarter with lawyers often gathering in these 'Inns' for training and support. Most noted and prosperous of these Inn's include Grays Inn and Lincoln's Inn which were both former grand houses (MOLA 2000). By the 15th century High Holborn had developed into a major thoroughfare between the City of London and Westminster and in 1417 Henry V is said to have paid for High Holborn to be paved as the thoroughfare which is said to have been "*so deep and miry that many perils and hazards were thereby occasioned*" (Thornbury 1878).
- 2.3.25 In AD 1101, Queen Matilda, wife of Henry I, established the St Giles Hospital to care for people with leprosy (081798/06/00). The hospital was set within a large walled compound with some gardens and an acre of land with buildings including a chapel (082022/00/00), chapter house (081798/02/00) and various outbuildings. The original gatehouse to the compound was located 190 m to the west of the site (081798/06/00) with a section of the compound wall identified 205 m to the south-west (08798/07/00). A bull (public decree) written by Pope Alexander IV provided the hospital with papal protection and in 1299 the hospital was granted to the Order of St Lazarus. The Order of St Lazarus was part of military order founded in 1199 around a leper hospital in Jerusalem.
- 2.3.26 Remains of a medieval building located within the compound of St Giles Hospital were recorded 245 m to the west of the site at Nos. 1–6 Denmark Place (084733/00/000). Here, an east–west aligned stone and mortar foundation was recorded. The foundations are thought to have been part of an outbuilding associated with the Hospital of St Giles with tiles recovered dating the remains to the mid-13th century (MOLA 2008: 11).
- 2.3.27 The medieval village of St Giles began to grow up around the hospital from the 13th century with evidence of medieval occupation found within local area. The settlement is believed to have been located around Drury Lane (082023/00/00) and Bloomsbury Way (082022/00/00). During an archaeological watching brief at 1 Plough Place, 250 m to the north-east of the site, a cellar of a medieval building and dump layers were noted along with two barrel wells (MLO76468). Medieval occupation was also noted 40 m to the west

of the site (MLO98203), where a large ditch orientated north–south was recorded and is thought to be documented as Belmonde’s ditch that was dug to drain the area (MOLA 2008, 15). This may have allowed farming and quarrying to occur with several smaller drainage ditches and quarry pits noted, dating to the 12th to 14th centuries.

- 2.3.28 A series of investigations conducted on the site of Holborn Town Hall, located 230 m to the north-east of the site have found evidence of medieval occupation (ELO3590 and ELO9151). The area was first subject to an archaeological watching brief in 1998 to the rear of the Holborn Town Hall (MOLA 1999a). The investigation identified an undated linear feature along with evidence of post-medieval activity. The garage to the south-west of the site was subject to an archaeological evaluation. A north–south ditch was recorded that contained a rim of cooking pot dated between AD 1140–1300. The ditch was in turn sealed by a thick layer of agricultural soil, which produced two fragments of late medieval pottery (MOLA 1999b). A layer of gravel was later deposited over the soil along with post medieval dumps.
- 2.3.29 Three roadside taverns have been recorded by the GLHER. A brewhouse existed at the junction of Tottenham Court Road from at least 1452, 245 m to the north-west of the site (082023/00/00). A tavern is mentioned in a deed of Edward II south of High Holborn 100 m to the east of the site (082057/00/00). A public house had also been established by circa 1300, 140 m to the north (082001/00/00).
- 2.3.30 Following the abandonment of *Lundenwic*, areas around medieval London were reused for arable purposes. During an excavation 130 m to the south-east of the site cultivation soil was noted above previous Anglo-Saxon occupation (084638/00/00). Continued agricultural activity occurred well into the 17th century. Additional deposits of agricultural soils have been recorded at ELO2573 and ELO5049, 190 m and 245 m to the south and east of the site respectively.

Post-medieval (AD 1500–1800)

- 2.3.31 The development and growth of London is well documented both in the archaeological records and in documentary sources. London’s population grew rapidly during the post-medieval period with a recorded population of 120,000 in 1550 to just over a million by 1801 (MOLA 2002, 68). During the period London was split into three distinct areas: Westminster and The Strand (political and social area), the City and Fleet Street (commercial, financial and legal district and includes Holborn) and East End (industrial area).
- 2.3.32 The English Civil War had a profound effect upon London. A defensive bank and ditch interrupted by forts and batteries were constructed around the city having been completed in 1642–3. Part of the east–west aligned section of the ditch may have passed to the west of the site with two forts flanking Tottenham Court Road.
- 2.3.33 The Great Plague of 1665 also had an impact on the City (MOLA 2000, 275). As people flocked to London, the former quaint suburbs surrounding the city developed into crude, poorly built towns with very poor sanitation. St Giles was considered one of the worst areas and was blamed for the spread of the plague as it was overcrowded often with 50 people to a lodging house (*ibid.*). As a result, Holborn and St Giles would be one of the worst affected areas in London.
- 2.3.34 A large number of post-medieval building remains have been found close to the site. The cellars of four post-medieval buildings were located on the southern boundary of the St Giles churchyard 180–200 m to the south-west (MLO64140). Several walls were noted

during an evaluation at Phoenix Theatre thought to relate to a number of small domestic buildings (083259/00/00). Post-medieval cellar walls and floors were noted at No. 14 Stukeley Street (082575/00/00) and two domestic brick drains were recorded at 151–165 Shaftesbury Avenue (083629/00/00), both to the south-east and within 200 m of the site. Post-medieval building remains were recorded during upgrades to Tottenham Court underground station (ELO14554). Former remains of cellars were recorded at Nottingham House 190 m to the south of the site (ELO226).

- 2.3.35 During an archaeological watching brief to the rear of Holborn Town Hall a series of post-medieval cellars and a post-medieval wall were recorded (ELO3590; MOLA 1998). A Garage to the south-east of the Town Hall was also subject to an archaeological evaluation. Covering a deposit of medieval agricultural soil were a series of rubbish dumps that had been cut by a cellar wall of 17th century date (ELO9151; MOLA 1999b). The cellar is thought to have belonged to one of the buildings shown on a map of the area dated to the late 17th century when the site was known as Cole Yard. Directly north of the wall, a further pit contained 17th century pottery, animal bones and seeds from fruit. A late 19th century cesspit was also noted showing continued occupancy of the site.
- 2.3.36 A single linear feature was recorded during an evaluation at 61 Endell Street 100 m to the south, with pottery dating to the late 17th and early 18th century recovered (084070/00/00). The feature is thought to be a boundary or drainage ditch associated with a former building located on the site. Three brick lined pits and a rubbish pit were recorded 100 m to the north-east of the site (ELO14516) and a cess pit was noted during an excavation 65 m to the north-west (082078/00/00). A series of pits and ditches filled with 17th century domestic rubbish were identified 190 m to the east (MLO103549) and reclamation dumps dating to the 17th century were noted 240 m to the south-west of the site (083589/00/00).
- 2.3.37 Remains of the former Montagu House (predecessor to the current British Museum building) were found during an evaluation in the forecourt of the British Museum 200 m to the north of the site (ELO6388). Montagu House was constructed in the late 17th century as a grand mansion after the first house was destroyed by fire. Evidence of some of the internal walls were found to survive to a height of 0.3 m within the Great Court (PCA 2005). The evaluation noted that the mansion suffered from damp as a series of later drains and damp-proof walls were added to the property. Montagu House was sold to the British Museum in 1759 before being demolished to make way for the larger premises.
- 2.3.38 In 1730, the former chapel of St Giles Hospital was enlarged becoming the parish church for St Giles (081798/02/00). The churchyard associated with St Giles Parish Church was extended on numerous occasions and saw extensive use by poor Irish immigrants who came to settle in the area (202699/04/00). The churchyard eventually extended from High Holborn to Stacey Street (MLO103812). The churchyard was opened as a public park in 1871. A site visit was made to the church during refurbishment works that recorded post-medieval makeup deposits (082575/00/00).
- 2.3.39 Further activity was also encountered during investigations of St Pauls' Hospital 180 m to the south-east of the site (ELO3218/ELO339), 17th century quarry pits were identified in along with several contemporary linear features (AOC 2001). Deposits of soil occurred during the 18th century indicating evidence of agricultural activity. The site would later be used for small scale industrial use within a brick structure located in the south-east of the site with many copper pins recovered internally.



- 2.3.40 During a survey conducted by Basil Holmes, a former burial ground associated with a workhouse was noted 190 m to the south of the site (084031/00/00). Workmen later found discarded human remains on the spot in 1978 that remain undated (082912/00/00).

19th Century (AD 1800–1900) and Modern (AD 1900–present day)

- 2.3.41 Shaftesbury Theatre, originally known as the Princes Theatre, was designed by Bertie Crewe for the two brothers who established the theatre, Walter and Frederick Melville. The theatre was constructed on what remained of a city block, using a plot 30 m wide and 34 m deep and was one of the last of several theatres to be built on Shaftesbury Avenue with a capacity of 2,392. Bertie Crewe incorporated sections of foundations from the buildings that formerly occupied the site into the theatre.
- 2.3.42 Externally the theatre conformed to architectural style of the area. The theatre reached a height of three stories constructed from terracotta blocks interspersed with courses of brick in an elaborate Renaissance style. Both the ground and first floors used rusticated blocks (large blocks with sunk joints and roughened surfaces) with a canopy over the ground floor with much of the first floor covered by hoarding. The second floor has Diocletian windows and oculi in alternate bays. The design detailing and materials would have come at significant cost but reflect a desire by the brothers to make a clear statement about the quality and proprietary offered at the theatre. The theatre would later be sold in 1962 to EMI where its name was changed to Shaftesbury. The theatre would be sold again in 1983 to the Theatre and Comedy Company who remain the existing owners.

Map regression

- 2.3.43 The earliest depiction of the use of the site is shown on the 1572 Braun and Hogenburg map of London. St Giles, in 1572, was still a small village located to the north-west of the main urban areas of London. The village retained its rural setting and was spread along High Holborn. Though not specifically labelled, the road running off High Holborn is thought to be Drury Lane which is displayed on Hollars and Faithorne and Newcourt's maps both dated to 1658. This indicates that the site was either occupied by one of the buildings visible on the north side of High Holborn or was undeveloped land.
- 2.3.44 The 1658 maps produced by Faithorne and Newcourt show the site had been occupied by a range of two and three storey properties. By 1658, High Holborn had developed into a major thoroughfare that was lined with new buildings. St Giles still retained some of its rural character with agricultural land still visible to the south and north of High Holborn. However, by 1682 these areas were lost to new developments as London continued to expand. By 1682, Vine Street (currently Grape Street) had been constructed while the site appears to have been occupied by a single large irregular shaped building. High Holborn had also been expanded considerably on its south side which had removed a number of the buildings visible on the 1658 Hollars map.
- 2.3.45 By the late 18th century, the irregular shaped building had been cleared and replaced with a row of buildings that were either used as shops or townhouses. Plumtree Street, the forerunner to Bloomsbury Street, had also been constructed to the west of the site while a small alleyway ran through the centre of the site. By 1863, these buildings had been expanded as evident on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map with the alleyway running across the centre of the site removed. The majority of these buildings appear to have been residential. This is indicated by the 1880 Charles Booth Poverty Map. From 1880 to 1903, Charles Booth ran a major study on the everyday lives of Londoners recording addresses and social statuses of the community. The map indicates the buildings that were residential were occupied by 'well to do' middle class families. Shaftesbury Avenue located to the west of the site had been constructed between 1877 and 1886.



- 2.3.46 The 1888 Goad insurance plan of London gives a better indication of the use and function of the buildings located within the site. The plan records that the site was occupied by a total of five buildings. These included five shops (denoted by 'S') of three storeys in height, a public house, tobacco and fag store, a hay and straw warehouse and a seed warehouse. The seed warehouse is presumably associated with the Bloomsbury distillery located on the eastern side of Vine Street. The plan also shows that the buildings were constructed of brick. By 1911, these buildings had been demolished to make way for Princes Theatre. Between 1911 and 1932 the site and surrounding area remained much the same.
- 2.3.47 The 1938 Goad Insurance Plan provides a highly detailed layout of the Theatre indicating the location of the stage, seating galleries, bar and lounges and areas used by the actors and actresses. The Plan also highlights the former glass façade that ran around the building (denoted in blue) and the use of the buildings to the north of the site as shops and flats.
- 2.3.48 Later mapping shows the site remained the same while redevelopment of the surrounding area had begun to occur. By 1952, the former Rookery to the west had been removed and replaced with a large office building known as St Giles Court. Several former public buildings to the south of the site had also been replaced by 1952, with either office or residential buildings.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation and excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020; 2021) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014b), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation and excavation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- examine the archaeological resource within the site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource and place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and

- analyses and interpret the results of the excavation and make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2020 and 2021) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a and 2014b). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trial trenches and excavation area locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI (Fig. 1).

4.2.2 Three trial trenches, two measuring 5 m in length and 2 m wide and one measuring 2 m by 2 m, and an excavation area measuring approximately 220 m², were both excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, and under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where practicable, a sondage was excavated into each of the two 5 m trenches to test for Palaeolithic potential.

4.2.4 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation and excavation.

4.2.5 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

4.2.6 Trenches and areas completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Archaeological Advisor were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.7 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.8 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.9 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed

quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020; 2021). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Archaeological Advisor for GLAAS monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Archaeological Advisor.

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trial trenches and subsequent excavation area contained archaeological features and deposits, predominantly comprising structural remains and drainage features (Fig. 1). The finds and features covered a broad chronological range from the medieval to the 20th century, with the majority dating to the post-medieval period.

5.1.2 The following section presents the results of the investigations with the features and deposits discussed by intervention.

5.1.3 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 2 shows detailed phased plans of the excavation area. Figures 3 and 4 present the stratigraphic matrices of the site with broad phasing. Where limited specific phasing is possible this has been included.

5.2 Deposit sequence

5.2.1 The deposit sequence comprised layers of made ground above archaeological and natural deposits, which differed across the trenches and excavation areas. The following section provides an overview of the recorded sequences.

Trench 1

5.2.2 Trench 1 contained three made ground layers. The uppermost layer (0.9 m thick) was a dark grey silty sand, with sub-rounded flint gravels and rare patches of yellowish brown sandy clay, amongst the deposit were sparse amounts of ceramic building material (CBM) and clay pipe. Below this was a 0.55 m thick layer comprising multiple thin lenses of varying composition that included yellowish brown, dark greyish brown and very dark grey sandy silts, CBM was present throughout. A third layer of made ground, a greyish brown silty clay loam with rare CBM and charcoal flecks, measuring 0.3 m in thickness, was also recorded.

Trench 2

- 5.2.3 Trench 2 identified a single layer of dark grey silty sand made ground with rare patches of yellowish-brown sandy clay and sub-rounded gravels throughout, sparse amounts of CBM and clay pipe were also noted. The deposit had a maximum depth of 2.53 m.

Trench 3

- 5.2.4 Within trench 3, two layers of made ground were observed. The first (0.4 m deep) was predominately dark grey silty sand with sub-rounded flint gravels and rare patches of yellowish brown sandy clay; CBM, oyster shell and clay pipe were present within the deposit. A second layer of made ground that was up to 1 m thick was identified and comprised a dark grey silty sand with sub-rounded flint gravels, along with lenses of yellowish brown sandy clay, again CBM, oyster shells and clay pipe were noted.

Natural deposits

- 5.2.5 Natural geology was identified within both the evaluation trenches and excavation area (see Section 6), with test pit sondages also dug into the natural. The natural varied from a yellow brown to yellow grey sandy clay, with moderate to common flint gravels, its upper surface was identified at depths between 1.4–2.53 m below ground level (bgl). A second natural deposit was recorded within trenches 1 and 3, here a yellow to mid-yellow brown sand with moderate flint gravels continued beyond the limit of excavation (max depth of 2.9 m bgl).

5.3 Trench 1

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 (Figs 1–2) was located to the western edge of Shaftesbury Theatre. Excavation identified two brick walls, two pits and a posthole.

Phase 1 – Medieval

- 5.3.2 Posthole 113 (Fig. 2) possibly represents the earliest dated feature at the site. The small sub-oval posthole had moderate concave sides and a concave base, with an approximate diameter of 0.36 m, and a maximum depth of 0.12 m. The feature contained a single greenish brown sandy clay loam, interpreted as a deliberate backfill, that produced a single pottery sherd (3 g) dated to the 13th to 14th century. Although only a single, small sherd of pottery was recovered, this was the only find from the feature and it is of an early stratigraphic phase, cut into the natural and truncated by a 16th–17th century pit 111.

Phase 2 – Post-medieval

- 5.3.3 Towards the southern edge of the trench sub-rectangular pit 111 (Fig. 2) represents the earliest phase of post-medieval activity. The pit measured 1.1 m by 0.84 m with steep, concave sides and a flat base, and was 0.38 m deep, it was cut into probable medieval posthole 113. The single fill of pit 111, a loosely compacted deliberate backfilled dark greyish brown sandy clay silt, contained post-medieval pottery (20 sherds, 577 g), animal bone (1.1 kg), CBM (1.9 kg) and smaller quantities of shell and burnt flint. The fill also produced nine metal objects that comprised copper alloy buckles, a pin, a lace tag and small sheet fragment (ON 1–7), and iron knife and bar (ON 8–9). The pottery was dated to the 16th to early 17th century.
- 5.3.4 A second, slightly later pit lay 1.5 m to the north. Pit 107 (Fig. 2) was sub-rectangular in shape with steep, straight sides and a flat base, measuring 1 m by 0.6 m and 0.36 m deep. It was filled by three deliberate deposits; the first, a dark greyish brown sandy clay that contained two sherds of post-medieval pottery (178 g), animal bone (205 g), CBM (1 kg), oyster shells and an iron knife (ON 10). No finds came from its second mid-greyish

brown sandy clay fill, but a sherd of post-medieval pottery (56 g), animal bone (33 g) and CBM (182 g), as well as oyster shell (18 g) were found within the upper dark greyish brown sandy clay fill. The pottery dates to the 17th or 18th century. A layer of made ground sealed the upper layers of both pit 107 and 111, the grey brown deposit contained two fragments of clay pipe, a stem and partial bowl, with rare CBM and charcoal flecks also noted. The clay pipe dates to the late 17th century, but cannot be relied on to date the deposit.

- 5.3.5 An east-north-east to west-south-west aligned wall, 106 (Fig. 2) had been constructed above made ground 104, its upper surface was identified at 1.5 m bgl. A 2 m section of the wall was exposed, it was built of dark red unfrogged bricks in a running bond with mid-brown lime mortar and was 0.36 m wide and survived to a height of 0.34 m. A section of the wall crossed pit 107 and had subsided into the upper fills below, forming a concave shape. Further layers of made ground had been deposited above wall 106, and produced post-medieval pottery (four sherds, 332 g) and roof tile (457 g).

Phase 3 – Modern

- 5.3.6 Later activity was represented by wall 102 (Fig. 2), identified at approximately 0.81 m bgl and built on made ground layer 103. The linear wall was orientated north–south and extended for 3.85 m across the trench. It was constructed of unfrogged dark red bricks, laid in an English bond with a light yellowish-brown lime mortar and measured 0.4 m wide and 0.39 m high. The northern end of the wall continued beyond the limit of excavation, while its southern end may either turned to the east or was more likely truncated by later activity.

5.4 Trench 2

- 5.4.1 Trench 2 (Figs 1–2 and Plate 5) was located on the south-west side of Shaftesbury Theatre and identified two post-medieval brick-built structures.

Phase 2 – Post-medieval

- 5.4.2 The earliest of the two structures was identified within a sondage dug at the base of the trench. Wall 203 (Fig. 2) was recorded at 2.4 m bgl and set into the natural geology. Its construction cut (205) was visible for 1.1 m+ and was approximately 0.4 m in wide, a bedding of yellow sand was placed at the base with wall 203 constructed above. The wall was built from a single course of dark red unfrogged brick bonded with a light yellowish lime mortar.

Phase 3 – Modern

- 5.4.3 At the western side of the trench a later brick culvert 202 (Fig. 2) ran the length of the trench; orientated north to south, it measured 5 m+ in length, 0.5 m wide and survived to a height of 1.9 m. The structure had straight vertical sides and flat base, with an arched top forming a possible vaulted roof. It was constructed of yellow frogged bricks in an English bond with a grey mortar.
- 5.4.4 Both the base of culvert 202 and wall 205 were built at the same level, possibly suggesting that the ground was excavated to a certain depth to allow for the construction of the culvert, this may have truncated the earlier wall.

5.5 Trench 3

- 5.5.1 Trench 3 (Figs 1–2) was located to the southern boundary of Shaftesbury Theatre and identified a single post-medieval brick wall.

Phase 2 – Post-medieval

- 5.5.2 Brick wall 304, aligned broadly north to south, was identified at 0.4 m bgl, on the northern side of the trench and had been truncated by the foundations of Shaftesbury Theatre. The sub-rectangular construction cut (305) measured 1.5 m+ in length, 0.9 m+ wide and 1 m deep, had vertical straight sides and was cut into made ground 306. The wall (304; Fig. 2) was visible for 1.3 m and measured 0.7 m wide, and was formed of 11 courses of unfrogged bricks bonded with a pale grey lime mortar. Coursing was unidentifiable as the bricks were irregularly placed. The construction cut was deliberately backfilled with dark greyish brown sandy clay that contained rare oyster shell fragments.

6 EXCAVATION RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Following the results of the evaluation, the Archaeological Advisor for GLAAS requested additional work be undertaken along the western edge of the site, including locations within the footprint of trenches 1–2 (Figs 1–2). The excavations uncovered a number of post-medieval features, that spanned the 17th–19th centuries and an undated ditch, due to a lack of datable material, and likely mixing of deposits in this urban environment, only broad dates have been assigned to the remains.

- 6.1.2 The following section presents the results in stratigraphic sequence, where possible. Phased plans of the excavated remains are presented on Figure 2, while the site matrix is shown on Figure 4; Plates 1–4 and 6–13 provide illustrations of the recorded remains. Tabulated context data is included in Appendix 2.

6.2 Results

Deposit sequence

- 6.2.1 Overburden within the excavation area comprised multiple layers of made ground along the western boundary of the site; several are likely to have been related to, or the same as the deposits recorded in trenches 1 and 2.
- 6.2.2 The upper layer of made ground comprised dark grey brown sandy clay with post-medieval and modern materials including CBM, metal fragments and clay pipe. At various points additional made ground deposits, typically grey brown sandy silt clays or mid-grey brown silty sands, were present, while a dark brown silty sand was located at the southern end of the area.
- 6.2.3 Within the excavation area natural deposits (see section 5.2) were identified at depths of 2.97–3.1 m below ground level (approximately 20.5 m and 20.63 m OD).

Phase 2 – Post-medieval

- 6.2.4 The earliest post-medieval evidence of activity appears to date to the 17th–early 18th century; three features contained material dating to this period and additional features are also probably associated. Structures of this date were identified in the central part of the excavated area and comprise, walls, a floor, a cess pit, drain and a trench.
- 6.2.5 Just to the north of trench 1 a large cess pit 431 (Fig. 2; Pls 2 and 9) was located directly adjacent to the western boundary of the site. The sub-square cess pit measured 1.85 m by 1.66 m and was at least 0.6 m deep, it was constructed from red brick with a lime based mortar. The cess pit was filled with dark greenish grey waste material and contained two sherds of post-medieval pottery, CBM (2.6 kg), clay pipe (11 fragments)

and animal bone (30 g). The pottery and clay pipe fragments suggest a later 17th century date.

- 6.2.6 Approximately 5 m to the south, a group of walls, floor and a drain are thought to be of a similar date. The earliest structure in this group was a west-south-west to east-north-east aligned drain 403 (Fig. 2; 0.85 m wide), and extended from the theatre wall for at least 4 m. It contained a single dark grey brown silty sand backfill with rare small stones and crushed pieces of CBM. The drain channel (404) was constructed of grey brick with a cement based mortar and measured 0.4 m wide and had been truncated by later drainage culvert 409 (see Section 6.2.12).
- 6.2.7 Lying just to the south was brick wall 405 (Fig. 2; Pls 1 and 6). It extended 1.6 m from the theatre wall in a west-south-west to east-north-east alignment, before being cut by later culvert 409. Wall 405 was 0.5 m wide at least 0.54 m high and constructed of red brick with a lime based mortar. The wall continued to the south-west of culvert 409 as wall 406 for a further 1.8 m before turning 90 degrees and extending another 1.8 m to the south-east where it appeared to have been truncated by brick culvert 202 (see Section 5.5). A short north-western extension (0.8 m long) of the wall was apparent on the north side of wall 406, it was slightly offset from the south-east extension and its northern end had been disturbed.
- 6.2.8 Associated with wall 405 was brick floor 408 (Fig. 2; Pls 1 and 6). The floor was constructed from red brick and may have formed the floor for a structure associated with walls 405, 406 and possibly 407.
- 6.2.9 A large trench or pit like-feature (440; Fig. 2; Pls 2–3 and 10) of unclear function was located 1.5 m to the south-west. It measured at least 3 m long by 2.2 m wide and 0.84 m deep, 16th to 17th century material was recovered from its backfill. A small, north–south, section of possible wall foundation, 436 (Fig. 2; Pls 3 and 10), that measured at least 1.68 m long by 0.68 m wide had been built within backfilled trench 440. The wall foundation was constructed from chalk, brick and stone and survived to a height of 0.2 m. It had been truncated by possible robber trench 438, which appeared follow the alignment of wall 436 allowing parts to be removed. A later wall, 474, truncated both the robbed out wall foundation (436) and the large backfilled trench (440).
- 6.2.10 Wall 474, orientated north-west to south-east, was 11 m long and both ends turned to the west continuing to the edge of the excavated area. It had truncated trench 440 to the north and a collection of structural features towards the southern corner of the site (Pl. 4). The earliest structure in this group was a curvilinear drain 457 (Fig. 2 and Pl. 4). It extended from the southern edge of the excavation on an approximately north-west to south-east alignment, was 3 m long and at least 0.5 m wide. The drain was constructed of red brick with a lime based mortar and was at least 0.33 m deep, with straight, vertical sides and an irregular base. It had been backfilled with multiple deposits comprising mid-greenish grey sand clays and dark brownish grey silty sand, they contained CBM (1.8 kg), 18th century clay pipe fragments, a sherd of possibly intrusive modern pottery (5 g) and oyster shell. The drain was cut by wall 463 before continuing and curving to a more north-north-west to south-south-east alignment where it met wall 464.
- 6.2.11 Wall 464 (Fig. 2 and Pl. 4) extended from the southern boundary of the site running alongside, and possibly truncated by wall 474. Wall 464 was visible for 2.8 m and measured at least 0.2 m wide. It was constructed of red brick with a lime based mortar and may have been associated with drain 457, which possibly continued beneath the wall.

- 6.2.12 A later north-north-west to south-south-east wall had been built over drain 457 and formed a truncated L-shaped structure. Wall 463 (Fig. 2) ran to the north for at least 1.8 m where it was truncated, 2 m further north a continuation (460) was identified which turned to the west. Both sections of wall were constructed of red brick with a lime based mortar and measured 0.46 m wide, surviving to a height of at least 0.15 m.
- 6.2.13 In the same area of the site, a brick wall, 448 (Fig. 2), was recorded close to the south-western corner of the theatre building. Only a short segment of east–west aligned wall was recorded, which had been truncated by later disturbance at both ends. The wall was constructed of red brick with a lime based mortar within a narrow construction cut (447). A layer of very dark grey brown made ground was abutting the north-west side of the wall, possibly representing an internal floor foundation.
- 6.2.14 Also on the eastern side of the excavation area, some 5 m to the north, two structures and a pit may, based on stratigraphic relationships, form part of the earlier post-medieval phase of activity. A square brick structure, 443 (Fig. 2; Pl. 11), was exposed directly adjacent to the theatre wall. It was constructed from red brick with a cement based mortar and a red brick base, and may represent a cess pit similar to 430 although this is unclear. The structure had been backfilled with a dark brown grey silty sand with light grey patches and inclusions of chalk, flint, ash and charcoal. Finds noted in the field included pottery, CBM, animal bone and clay pipe. Structure 443 was truncated on its south-east edge by a later modern ceramic drainage pipe 445 (Pl. 11). The drain measured at least 2 m by 0.6 m and 0.55 m deep with straight vertical sides and an irregular base, and was backfilled with a dark brown grey silty sand with visible inclusions of chalk, flint and charcoal.
- 6.2.15 Further north a sub-circular pit 415 (Fig. 2; Pls 2 and 7) was recorded between brick culvert 409 and the theatre wall, directly south-east of brick drain 420. The pit measured 1.84 m long, at least 1.56 m wide and had straight, irregular sides and was excavated to approximately 1 m deep. A circular chalk block structure, 422 (Pl. 7), possibly a well, was identified at the base of the pit. It is possible that it was originally more substantial and had been robbed out, with pit 415 being cut to facilitate this. The pit was filled with five distinct deliberate backfills that contained a finds assemblage of approximately 1.1 kg. The pottery was predominately of medieval date (7 sherds, 113 g), although a sherd of post-medieval pottery was also recovered (13 g), additional finds include medieval CBM, animal bone, copper alloy, glass and an iron bar (possibly part of a horseshoe). Dating of this feature remains uncertain, the medieval pottery and CBM may be residual although they do provide the majority of datable material from the feature, no clear stratigraphic relationships with other features were established, apart from truncation by the theatre wall. The pit has been assigned a post-medieval phase but may belong to earlier phases of activity.
- 6.2.16 The second phase of post-medieval activity was represented by a broadly north-west to south-east aligned brick culvert, which truncated earlier structures (notably walls 405 and 406), and associated features. Brick culvert 409 (Fig. 2; Pls 1–2 and 6), ran through the excavated area for at least 13 m, and was 1.3 m wide and around 1 m in height. It was constructed from red brick with a lime based mortar and had a domed top and vertical sides, a narrow construction cut (411; 0.14 m wide) was visible on its south-western edge. The culvert appeared to cut through structural features along its length, although some drains (418 and 421) were clearly contemporary, and wall 407 was bonded into the culvert, possibly acting as a buttress. The culvert ran on approximately the same alignment as brick culvert 202 identified during the evaluation.

- 6.2.17 Wall 407 (Fig. 2; Pls 1 and 6) was recorded extending from culvert 409 on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment. The wall measured at least 1.4 m long and was 0.75 m wide; constructed of red brick with a pale lime mortar. The wall appeared to be bonded to culvert 409, and was constructed of similar bricks, possibly acting as a buttress. Wall 407 was roughly aligned with walls 405 and 406, and brick floor 408, and may have replaced an earlier structural feature relating to those structures.
- 6.2.18 Brick drain 418 (Fig. 2) was recorded to the south-east of pit 415, extending from the theatre wall on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment and draining into brick culvert 409. The drain was visible for 1.55 m and measured 0.43 m wide and survived to a height of 0.3 m; it was constructed from unfrogged red brick with a lime based mortar. The drain contained a dark grey brown silty fill that produced animal bone, clay pipe, glass and seven sherds of post-medieval pottery dating to the late 17th or early 18th centuries.
- 6.2.19 A second drain, contemporary with culvert 409, lay approximately 5 m to the north. Concrete and brick drain 421 (Fig. 2) was bonded into culvert 409 by a brick arch at its western end; the drain measured 0.83 m long, 0.50 m wide and was at least 0.2 m tall, and had been capped with concrete.
- 6.2.20 Within the northern half of the excavated area a large vault, associated with the construction of the theatre had truncated three brick structures. The northernmost rectangular brick structure, 466 (Fig. 2; Pl. 12), extended from the western edge of the vault, measuring at least 0.6 m long and 1 m wide, survived to a height of 1.3 m and was constructed of red brick with a lime based mortar. The structure may have represented a wall associated with an earlier structure or a foundation element of the vault.
- 6.2.21 A second section of wall was found immediately to the south of structure 466. Wall 469 (Fig. 2; Pl. 12) comprised three courses of red brick bonded with a lime based mortar, and measured at least 1.5 m long by 1 m wide and 0.3 m high. The wall was directly north of rectangular brick structure 472 (Fig. 2; Pl. 13). The red brick structure was 2.6 m long and 1 m wide and was at least 1 m high, with a central chamber that was filled by a dark grey black fill that contained five sherds of pottery (456 g), clay pipe, crushed CBM and charcoal flecks were also visible. The purpose of the structure was unknown, and its relationship with the vault was unclear.

Phase 3 – Modern

- 6.2.22 A small pit, 413 (Fig. 2) was identified close to the western edge of culvert 409. The pit was oval in plan with shallow concave sides and a concave base and measured 0.6 m by 0.49 m wide and 0.13 m deep. Its single dark grey sandy clay silt deliberate backfill contained material dated to the first half of the 19th century.
- 6.2.23 At the north-west corner of the site a subterranean vault extended into the eastern half of the excavated area. The vault, 470 (Fig. 2) is presumed to date to the construction of the theatre in the early 20th century.
- 6.2.24 A continuation of culvert 202 (Fig. 2; Pl. 1) was visible for 10 m, crossing the area from north-west to south-east. Although uncertain culvert 202 may have acted as a replacement for culvert 409, which held the same alignment some 2.5 m to the east.

Undated

- 6.2.25 An east–west aligned ditch, 428 (Fig. 2; Pl. 8) extended from the western boundary of the site. The ditch was traced for at least 2 m, and measured 1 m wide and 0.27 m deep, with shallow concave sides and a concave base. It contained a single secondary fill of light



brown grey sandy clay with pebble and flint inclusions that produced a small quantity of animal bone (8 g). The ditch was cut into the natural geology and had been physically truncated at its eastern end by culvert 409; no stratigraphic relationships were established with other features or structures but the ditch was identified below made ground layer 416, as such it remains undated but may pre-date the post-medieval activity.

7 FINDS EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Fieldwork on the site (three evaluation trenches and excavation) has produced a relatively small assemblage, very largely of post-medieval/modern date with a few medieval items; nothing dating earlier than medieval was recovered. The chronological focus seems to be on the period from 17th–early 18th century.

7.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1. Spot dates, based on pottery and clay tobacco pipes, are given in Table 2.

Table 1 All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Feature	Animal Bone	CBM	Clay Pipe	Metal	Pottery	Other Finds
EVALUATION TRENCHES							
101	Made ground	3/73		5/20			1 shell
102	Wall 102		1/2183				
103	Made ground		1/457			4/332	
104	Made ground			2/27			
106	Wall 106		1/1990				
108	Pit 107	11/205	9/1037		1 Fe	2/178	4 shell
110		2/33	3/182			1/56	2 shell
112	Pit 111	35/1110	27/1972		7 Cu; 2 Fe	20/577	1 burnt flint; 7 shell
114	Posthole 113			1/3		1/3	
201	Made ground			4/33		2/39	1 shell
202	Culvert 202		1/2650				
203	Brick path		2/3944				
304	Wall 304		1/1864				166g mortar
306	Made ground			1/20			
EXCAVATION							
401	Made ground			1/22			
414	Pit 413	8/267	2/64		1 Fe; 1 Pb	12/187	2 glass
419	Drain 418	5/27		4/24		7/95	1 glass
423	Const cut 415	1/17	1/35		1 Fe		
427	Const cut 415	3/95	16/748		1 Cu	8/126	
429	Ditch 428	2/8					
431	Cess pit 431		1/2658				
432	Const cut 430	1/31		11/59		2/291	
434	Const cut 433		2/77			1/9	
441	Trench 440	1/45	2/340	3/24	2 Cu	9/175	1 shell



Context	Feature	Animal Bone	CBM	Clay Pipe	Metal	Pottery	Other Finds
443	Cess pit 443		1/2310				
448	Wall 458		1/2091				
455	Const cut 453			1/8		2/24	
457	Drain 457		1/1845				
460	Wall 460		1/2334				
461	Const cut 456			5/8		1/5	1 shell
463	Wall 463		1/2483				
464	Structure 464		1/2296				
Total		72/1911	76/33560	37/245	10 Cu; 5 Fe; 1 Pb	72/2361	

CBM = ceramic building material; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron; Pb = lead

7.2 Pottery

7.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 72 sherds, weighing 2361 g. This includes eight medieval sherds; the remainder of the assemblage is post-medieval/modern. Condition is fair to good; most fabrics are relatively hard-fired and have therefore suffered only low levels of surface and edge abrasion. This is really only visible on sherds of tin-glazed earthenware, which are softer fired and tend to have ill-fitting glazes. Some conjoining sherds were noted, mostly on fresh breaks. Sherds are relatively large, and mean sherd weight overall is 32.8 g.

7.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context; Table 3 gives a quantified chronological breakdown of the assemblage by ware type, following the London type series for medieval and post-medieval wares. Note has been made of identifiable forms, and the presence of decoration, surface treatment and other salient features have also been noted. Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been used as the number of measurable rims is low; as an alternative means of quantification, the maximum Number of Vessels (MNV) has been used, counting each non-joining sherd as a separate vessel except where there is a high probability of a context containing same-vessel sherds (the fragmentation of the assemblage is reflected in the total MNV, which is 58). The level of recording accords with the 'basic record' advocated for the purpose of characterising an assemblage rapidly (Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5).

Medieval

7.2.3 The eight medieval sherds are in three ware types, two from the Surrey/Hampshire whiteware industry (KING and CHEA) and LOND for which one 14th-century source is known at Woolwich (Cotter 2008). The sherds of CHEA include a jug rim with a stabbed strap handle (Pearce and Vince 1988, fig.120, no 532), while the LOND sherd is from the rim of a jar. The latter very small sherd provides the only dating evidence for posthole 113 (in fact the only find from that feature); the other seven sherds were residual finds in pit 415.

Table 2 Dating evidence by context

Context	Feature	Pottery	Clay Pipe	Other finds	Spot date
101	Made ground		Stems only		CTP: C17
103	Made ground	FREC; METS JUG RND; PMBL; TGW DISH			1630–1700
104	Made ground		Bowl type 15		1660–80



Context	Feature	Pottery	Clay Pipe	Other finds	Spot date
108	Pit 107	PMR DISH; RBOR JAR RND			C16–C18
110		PMR LID			C16–C18
112	Pit 111	EBORD JAR RND; BORD DISH CARN2; PMR PIP, CHAF; PMSR; PMBL		4 buckles	Pot: C16–EC18 Metal: 1660–1720
114	Posthole 113	LOND JAR			?C13/C14
201	Made ground	CHPO BOWL HEM; TGW DISH	Heeled bowl; spur stamp		Pot: C17 CTP: EC18?
306	Made ground		Bowl type 15		1660–80
401	Made ground		Bowl type 20		1680–1710
414	Pit 413	CREA CUP, PLATE, CHP; PEAR TPW PLATE, SAUC; REFW SAUC, FIGU			First half C19
419	Drain 418	BORDG; PMR JAR; TGW OINT, BOWL; WEST JUG	Stems only		C17/EC18
427	Const cut 415	CHEA JUG; KING; CHPO			?C18
432	Const cut 430	FREC JUGBART (mask type VIII)	Bowl type 15		Pot: later C17 CTP: 1660–80
434	Const cut 433	PMR			?C16/C17
441	Trench 440	BORDG; TGW DISH (polychrome dec)	Bowl type 20		Pot: C17 CTP: 1680–1710
455	Const cut 453	CREA PLATE	Stem only		1740–1880
461	Const cut 456	PEAR PLATE FTH	Stems only		1770–1840

CTP = clay tobacco pipe; pottery fabric and form codes follow the London type series

Post-medieval

- 7.2.4 Post-medieval wares comprise the expected range for the period and area: a mixture of local coarsewares, mostly glazed (BORD, EBOR, PMR, PMBL, RBOR), occasionally slip-coated (PMSR) and in one case slip-decorated (METS); with imported German stonewares (FREC, WEST) and Oriental porcelain (CHPO), tin-glazed earthenwares almost certainly of London manufacture (TGW), and later refined wares (CREA, PEAR, REFW). Vessel forms also fall within the typical range, with nothing of intrinsic interest.
- 7.2.5 As shown in Table 2, the pottery suggests a date range of 16th to 19th/20th century, although some of the earlier dating is based on undiagnostic coarsewares which could equally well date later in the range. One context which did contain diagnostic 16th-century material is the fill of pit 111; sherds included an EBOR jar rim, and PMSR could be contemporary, although other sherds from the feature include BORD (flanged dish), PMR (pipkin, chafing dish) and PMBL which are more characteristic of the 17th or early 18th century. Metalwork from this feature also appears to be later (see below), although there are no clay pipes.
- 7.2.6 Several other features are either dated broadly as 16th–18th century, containing nothing more chronologically diagnostic (pit 107) or within the range of 17th–early 18th century, based partly on the absence of refined wares (these include drain 419, pit 415, construction cuts 430 and 433, and trench 440, as well as made ground deposits 102 and 201). A date in the second half of the 17th century for cut 430 is suggested by a FREC *Bartmann* jug with debased mask (Holmes 1951, type VIII). The presence of CREA, PEAR and REFW serve to date pit 413, and construction cuts 453 and 456, to the later 18th–19th century. It should be stressed that quantities of pottery are very low throughout

– the highest quantity from any feature was 20 sherds from pit 111, and most other contexts yielded less than ten sherds.

Table 3 Pottery totals by ware type (MNV = maximum number of vessels)

Row Labels	Fabric code	Date range	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	MNV
MEDIEVAL					
Cheam-type ware	CHEA	1480–1550	3	75	3
Kingston-type ware	KING	1230–1400	4	38	4
London ware	LOND	1080–1350	1	3	1
<i>Sub-total medieval</i>			8	116	8
POST-MEDIEVAL					
Black-glazed redware	PMBL	1580–1700	3	110	1
Border ware	BORD	1550–1700	8	106	8
Creamware	CREA	1740–1880	7	99	6
Frechen stoneware	FREC	1550–1700	2	474	2
Metropolitan slipware	METS	1630–1700	1	86	1
Pearlware	PEAR	1770–1840	6	70	5
Porcelain	CHPO	1580–1900	2	41	2
Post-medieval slip-coated redware	PMSR	1480–1650	4	96	4
Red Border ware	RBOR	1580–1800	4	243	3
Redware	PMR	1580–1900	9	362	9
Refined whiteware	REFW	1805+	2	47	2
Tinglazed earthenware	TGW	1570–1800	13	193	6
Westerwald stoneware	WEST	1590–1800	1	20	1
<i>Sub-total post-medieval</i>			62	1947	50
Overall Total			70	2063	58

7.3 Ceramic Building Material

7.3.1 This category includes roof tile, bricks and one floor tile. With one exception, the roof tile is all of similar type: fragments of handmade flat roof tile in coarse fabrics of medieval date. Fragments from pit 107 preserve both circular and square nail/peg holes. The exception is a single fragment from a glazed ridge tile, also medieval, from pit 415.

7.3.2 Brick samples were retained from 12 structural elements (walls 102, 106, 304, 458, 458, 460; culvert 202; path 203; cess pits 431,443; drain 457; structure 466). All but one of these samples are of similar type, and of similar dimensions: handmade, unfrosted bricks in coarse fabrics (L 210–230 mm; W 95–110 mm; Th 55–65 mm). The exception is a London Stock brick from wall 202. Two examples (walls 106 and 304) are particularly crudely made with irregular surfaces. At least three examples are overfired, and one of these (wall 460), with extra clay adhering to the surface, has the appearance of a ‘waster’ or second. Several other bricks show surface firing cracks. Essentially these are all poorer quality bricks designed for use in less visible locations. Most are mortared over at least part of the surfaces and one (path 203) appears to have been reused, as mortar covers damaged surfaces. The bricks would be consistent with a date in the 17th or 18th centuries but might more probably be associated with late 17th-century and later rebuilding on the site, at a time when the area was deteriorating into more crowded and poorer quality housing.



7.3.3 One small brick fragment, from a brick of unknown type, and a plain unglazed floor tile, were recovered from pit 111.

7.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

7.4.1 Of the 37 fragments of clay pipe recovered, 31 are stems. One of these is burnt (from 432), and one includes a spur with a relief maker's mark in the form of initials either side (I/W); there are at least three candidates for this mark in the early 18th century, including John Ward (1718) and James Webb (1721) (Atkinson and Oswald 1969, 215–6).

7.4.2 There are five complete bowls, and one partial heeled bowl. These have been assigned to London types (*ibid*, figs 1–2); the results are given in Table 4. All datable bowls are within the range of c. 1660–1710.

Table 4 Clay tobacco pipe by context

Context	No. stems	No. bowls	Bowl types	Bowl dates	Marks
101	5				
104	1	1	15	1660–80	
201	3	1 (heel only)	?20	?1680–1710	I/W spur mark
306		1	15	1660–80	
401		1	20	1680–1710	
419	4				
432	10	1	15	1660–80	
441	2	1	20	1680–1710	
455	1				
461	5				
Totals	31	6			

7.5 Glass

7.5.1 Three pieces of glass were recovered. Of most interest is a vessel fragment from drain fill 419, which is from the rim of a vessel in pale greenish soda glass, with oxidised and laminating surfaces. The rim, which is flame-rounded, is slightly distorted, but appears to be from an open vessel with a flared profile (at least in the upper part); the most likely identification is a hemispherical bowl (Willmott 2002, type 28). These bowls are rarely encountered but as Willmott points out, unless diagnostic fragments survive, they are difficult to identify when fragmentary. Their date range is thought to be limited to the first half of the 17th century and were probably an exclusively English product.

7.5.2 The other glass fragments include one of free-blown green bottle glass from a cylindrical form from the later 18th or early 19th century, and a piece of colourless window glass (19th-/20th-century), both from pit 413.

7.6 Metalwork

7.6.1 Metalwork includes objects of copper alloy (10), lead (1) and iron (5). These are listed in Table 5.

Table 5 Metalwork by context

Context	ON	Material	Object Type	Description
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Context	ON	Material	Object Type	Description
112	2	Copper alloy	Buckle	cast sub-rectangular buckle with pointed ends; leather attached around spindle
112	3	Copper alloy	Buckle	cast sub-rectangular buckle with pointed ends; leather attached around spindle
112	4	Copper alloy	Buckle	cast sub-rectangular buckle with pointed ends; leather attached around spindle
112	1	Copper alloy	Buckle	cast double-loop annular buckle (diam. 52 mm); c. 1350–1650
112	5	Copper alloy	Pin	2 fragments of shank
112	6	Copper alloy	Lace tag	lace end, very corroded, type 2/3
112	7	Copper alloy	Sheet	small sheet fragment, irregular
427		Copper alloy	Wire	2 short lengths of wire
441		Copper alloy	Pin	short dressmaker's pin, flat head
441		Copper alloy	Tack	small tack
108	10	Iron	Knife	scale tang knife with narrow parallel-sided blade, complete but in two fragments; L 140 mm, blade width 12 mm
112	9	Iron	Knife	scale tang knife; parallel-sided blade (broken, 50 mm surviving); with part of bone scale handle
112	8	Iron	Bar	bar fragment, heavily corroded
414		Iron	Bar	tapering bar
423		Iron	Horseshoe	curved tapering bar - part of horseshoe?
414		Lead	weight	weight (4 oz)

- 7.6.2 Seven of the copper alloy objects were found in pit 111 and consist largely of dress accessories. There are four buckles. Three of them (ON 2–4) are of the same form: cast two-piece rectangular buckles with pointed ends. All are corroded and any original decoration is indistinguishable. In all three cases mineral-preserved leather is wrapped round the spindle. These buckles are of a type used both for shoes and for fastening the breeches knee-band; they date c. 1660–1720 (Whitehead 1996, 96, no. 628). The fourth buckle (ON 1) is a cast double-loop annular form with a wide potential date range of c. 1350–1650 (*ibid.*, 44, no. 251), although the association with the other buckles, and other finds from the feature, suggest a date towards the end of that range, in the 16th or 17th century. Other copper alloy objects from the pit comprise a lace tag of 16th-/17th-century type (Margeson 1993, 22, type 2), a fragment of pin shank and a small sheet fragment of unknown function.
- 7.6.3 Other copper alloy objects comprise a short, flat-headed dressmaker's pin and a small tack (both from trench 440), and two short lengths of wire from pit 415.
- 7.6.4 Two of the five iron objects are knives. Both are scale tang knives, one a complete narrow-bladed example from pit 107, and the other an incomplete example (both blade



and tang broken) with a bone scale handle from pit 111. Part of a possible horseshoe came from construction cut 415. The other two objects are bar fragments of uncertain function; both are heavily corroded.

7.6.5 The lead object, from pit 413, is a 4-ounce weight.

7.7 Animal Bone

7.7.1 The quantity and provenance of the animal bones is provided in Table 1. The preservation condition is variable, but in general it is consistent within individual contexts.

7.7.2 Most of the animal bones came from seven cut features of post-medieval date, pit 111 was particularly rich in animal bone. Sheep/goat bones are common, they include both cranial and post-cranial elements from juvenile and adult animals. Several cattle post-cranial bones were also identified, they include a tibia and pelvis from a calf. Butchery marks are apparent on a number of bones, including two vertebrae that had been chopped down the mid-line (i.e., dorso-ventrally) of the vertebral body. This evidence indicates that mutton and beef carcasses were divided into sides during the butchery process. The other identified bones include four from pig and a horse tibia.

7.7.3 A few cattle and sheep/goat post-cranial bones and a domestic fowl tibiotarsus came from modern pit 413, and two unidentified fragments from ditch 428.

7.8 Other Finds

7.8.1 Other finds comprise a small quantity of mortar recovered from wall 304; a piece of burnt unworked flint (uncertain date and origin) from pit 111; and small quantities of oyster shell from seven contexts. The latter includes both right and left valves, i.e., both preparation and consumption waste.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1.1 No archaeological deposits or remains suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation and excavation.

9 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

9.1 Stratigraphic potential

9.1.1 The evaluation and excavation have been successful in their broad aims in that the archaeological resource has been investigated and recorded. The stratigraphic results have been described and assessed to a level commensurate with their significance. There is little potential for further information to be gained through additional work on the stratigraphic data.

9.1.2 The earliest evidence recovered from the archaeological works comprise a medieval pit and a residual assemblage of medieval pottery from a later pit. The majority of identified remains are associated with the post-medieval occupation and development of the site. Recorded remains include walls, a brick floor, a possible chalk-lined well, probable cess pits, drains, culverts and a large trench or pit-like feature.

9.1.3 The single medieval posthole (113) from trench 1 dates to the 13th–14th century, while residual medieval pottery sherds and CBM came from a later pit (415). The site is situated within an area of medieval activity, with the hospital of St Giles established in the 12th century approximately 190 m to the west of the site. The village of St Giles began to form

around the hospital in the 13th century, in particular in the area of Bloomsbury Way and Drury Lane, located approximately 50 m to the east of the site. Further medieval activity, in the form of Belmonde's ditch, was identified 40 m to the east of the site. The posthole could be associated with this medieval activity, but as an isolated feature provides little potential for further work.

- 9.1.4 Map regression shows that by 1682 the site of Shaftesbury Theatre was occupied by a single irregular shaped building which was cleared in the 18th century and replaced by a row of buildings used as shops or townhouses. Pottery recovered during the investigations suggest the post-medieval activity dates from the 16th to 19/20th centuries, broadly focused on the 17th–early 18th century. A pit found towards the centre of the site (111) may represent an early phase of post-medieval activity, the square pit produced 16th to early 17th century pottery. A second pit and a brick-built cess pit (431), found in close proximity probably date to the later 17th century to 18th century, suggesting gradual development of the area. Similar square brick structures were found to the north and south of the area, but could only be broadly phased. Other earlier post-medieval elements were found towards the centre of the excavation and include a broadly east to west drain, and parts of a structure, possibly a cellar, comprising brick walls (405/406) and a brick floor (408) that measured at least 2.5 m long and 1.5 m wide. This structure was truncated by a large culvert (409), which was associated with two other drains, finds from the backfill of the associated drains suggest they date to between the 17th and 19th centuries. Elsewhere, additional drainage structures, short sections of wall and a large trench, which contained a possibly robbed out wall, also form part of the post-medieval development of the site.
- 9.1.5 Later activity was represented by a probable Victorian culvert (202) recorded parallel to the south-west edge of the site and a drain (445). The culvert was the only structure built using London Stock Bricks, which entered common use in the 19th century. The latest recorded feature is probably pit 414, which contained the only significant quantity of modern material, other modern ceramics came from a drain towards the south of the area and may be intrusive, originating from neighbouring made ground deposits.
- 9.1.6 The brickwork used throughout the area was predominantly unfrosted and largely comprised handmade bricks in coarse fabrics, with several bricks clearly of considerably 'lower quality'. This does not necessarily mean that the bricks were physically poorer quality but would have meant they were more suited to construction in areas designed to be unseen, such as drainage, foundations or cess pits, indicating that at least some of the recorded structural features were below ground during their active use.
- 9.1.7 The 'extant' vault at the northern end of the site is still in use by the theatre, and the conversion of the interior of the vault is part of the plans for the renovation of the theatre. The vault itself is assumed to date to the construction of the theatre in the early 20th century.
- 9.1.8 The only undated feature within the excavated area was a shallow ditch (428), which was excavated directly into the natural geology and produced two animal bone fragments. Despite the lack of dating evidence, it is likely that the ditch represents one of the earliest recorded features on the site due to its depth below ground level (20.4 m OD), and relationship to later features (physically truncated by culvert 409 and 202, and below wall 406).
- 9.1.9 Overall, the stratigraphic records are well understood and there is little to be gained from further stratigraphic analysis. The potential of the site for further research stems from the

potential to relate the identified archaeological remains with historic mapping and documentary records. The identified remains may be associated with structural remains visible on 17th to 19th century maps, which were eventually replaced in 1911 by the existing theatre.

9.2 Finds potential

9.2.1 This is a relatively small assemblage of finds, containing a range of domestic refuse and structural material which is entirely typical of the area and the period. It provides dating evidence (mainly from pottery and clay tobacco pipes), but quantities of material per deposit are small, and their use for further interpretation of the site has been limited. There is little further research potential here.

10 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

10.1 Updated project aims

10.1.1 The aims of the project have largely been met, except for the need to disseminate the results. The following project specific aims are proposed in addition to the previous aims (see Section 3) and with due reference to *A Research Framework for London Archaeology* (Nixon *et al.* 2003):

- determine if the structural deposits identified during the archaeological fieldwork can be further phased with a detailed assessment of the construction methodology and materials;
- determine if any of the structural remains identified during the archaeological fieldwork corresponds with buildings shown on the historical mapping, or with other documentary records; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results.

10.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

10.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence of the site is well understood and is outlined above. Phasing has been determined based on stratigraphic relationships and, the somewhat limited, artefactual evidence, with the majority of the site assigned a general post-medieval date. Analysis of construction materials used may provide a more detailed sequence. This should then be combined with a comparison between the archaeological results, historic mapping and documentation of the site and surrounding area to place the archaeological remains within their wider context.

10.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

10.3.1 No further analysis of the finds is proposed. The information included in this report can be adapted for inclusion in the publication report as appropriate. Photographs of selected finds (e.g., pottery) may also be included.

10.4 Proposals for publication

10.4.1 It is proposed that the results of the excavation should be summarised and presented, with suitable illustrations, for publication in the *London Archaeologist*, a popular quarterly magazine. Alternatively (e.g., if the subject is not considered suitable by the editor of the *London Archaeologist*), the article will be published via an appropriate online platform, to be agreed in consultation with GLAAS.

- 10.7.3 The Project Manager will be assisted by the Senior Research Manager, who will ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

11 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

11.1 Museum

- 11.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Meopham. Museum of London has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **SAV20**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

11.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 11.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Museum of London (MoL), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014d; Brown 2011).
- 11.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code **SAV20**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 6 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
 - 1 files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

- 11.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

11.3 Selection strategy

- 11.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 11.3.2 The selection strategy (Appendix 3), which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

- 11.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 11.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

- Pottery (72 sherds): very small assemblage, consisting of common types entirely typical of the area and period; no items of intrinsic interest. Limited archaeological significance; limited further research potential. Retain all.
- Ceramic Building Material (76 fragments): very small assemblage, comprising common types and including bricks retained as samples. Limited archaeological significance (roof tile all appears to be residual); no further research potential. Retain none.
- Clay Tobacco Pipe (37 fragments): negligible quantity, with few datable bowls (all common types), only one maker's mark. Very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain bowls and marked pipe only.
- Glass (4 fragments): negligible quantity, but includes one item of intrinsic interest (early 17th-century vessel glass in unusual form). Retain this item only.
- Metalwork (16 objects): negligible quantity; poor condition (corroded and vulnerable to further deterioration); most objects identifiable, all comprising common object types. Limited archaeological significance; little or no further research potential. Retain non-ferrous objects only, in stable storage (iron objects should be X-radiographed to preserve record).
- Animal Bone (72 fragments) small assemblage of domestic food refuse, little detailed information available relating to age, biometrics or butchery. Very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.
- Marine Shell (17 shells): negligible quantity; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.
- Other Finds (166 g mortar; 1 burnt unworked flint): no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.

Documentary records

- 11.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 11.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality



and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

11.4 Security copy

11.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

11.5 OASIS

11.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 4). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Archaeological Advisor on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

12 COPYRIGHT

12.1 Archive and report copyright

12.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

12.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

12.2 Third party data copyright

12.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench No 1		Length 5 m	Width 2 m	Depth 2.88 m
				21.52 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Made ground	Dark grey silty sand with sub round gravels, some patches of yellowish-brown sandy clay with same gravels. CBM, clay pipe.	0–0.9
102		Wall	Linear wall aligned N–S with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red unfroged bricks and bonded with bonded with a light brown sandy mortar with small flecks of chalk. Maximum height: 0.39 m.	
103		Made ground	A thin lens at the top acting as a bedding agent for above structure 102. A variation of yellow sandy Clay's and black cobalt. Turning to a similar grey tithe top made ground with an abundance of tiles.	0.9–1.45
104		Made ground	Greyish brown silty clay loam with rare CBM and charcoal flecks	1.45–1.75
105		Natural	Greenish brown silt clay with flint gravels	1.75–2.88+
106		Wall	Linear wall aligned NE–SW with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red unfroged brick and bonded with dark yellowish mortar. built on top of older made ground. Maximum height: 0.34 m.	1.5
107	108, 109, 110	Pit	Sub-rectangular pit with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.00 m. Width: >0.60 m. Depth: 0.31 m.	1.75–2.07
108	107	Deliberate backfill	Dark brownish grey sandy clay with abundant CBM and small sub-angular flint stones inclusions	
109	107	Deliberate backfill	Mid-brownish grey clay sand	
110	107	Deliberate backfill	Dark greyish brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flint stones inclusions	
111	112	Pit	Sub-rectangular pit with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 1.10 m. Width: 0.84 m. Depth: 0.38 m.	1.75–2.13



112	111	Deliberate backfill	Dark brownish grey sandy clay with common small sub-angular flint stones inclusions	
113	114	Posthole	Sub-oval posthole with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.36 m. Width: >0.35 m. Depth: 0.12 m.	1.75–1.87
114	113	Deliberate backfill	Mid-brownish green loamy sand with common small sub-angular flint stones inclusions	

Trench No 2		Length 5 m	Width 2 m	Depth 3.30 m
				20.40m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Made ground	Dark grey silty sand with sub-rounded gravels, some patches of yellowish-brown sandy clay with same gravels. CBM, clay pipe.	0–2.53
202		Culvert	Linear culvert aligned NW–SE with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red and yellow well-preserved bricks, best preserved or of a superior and later quality at the top of the culvert. and bonded with light grey mortar with common limestone inclusions, less inclusions further down the culvert after the top 5 layers of brick. Maximum height: 1.90 m.	0.30–2.4
203	205	Walkway	Linear walkway aligned NE–SW with unknown sides and an unknown base. Constructed from dark red unfrogged bricks and bonded with light yellowish-brown mortar. yellow sand used as bedding agent (204).	2.4–2.6
204	205	Bedding agent / made ground	Reddish yellow sand	
205	203, 204	Construction cut	Linear construction cut with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >0.20 m. Width: 1.10 m. Depth: 0.10 m.	
206		Natural	Light greyish yellow. Sandy gravel.	2.53–3.30+



Trench No 3		Length 6 m	Width 2 m	Depth 2.50 m
				m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Made ground	Dark grey silty sand with sub round gravels, some patches of yellowish brown sandy clay with same gravels. CBM, oyster shells, clay pipe.	0–0.4
302		Deliberate backfill	Backfill inside wall. CBM and mortar crush, sub-round gravels. assumed structure filled in after disuse, possibly on construction of theatre? Revealed in plan.	
303	305	Deliberate backfill	Dark grey and mid brown sandy clay with sub round gravels 10–50 mm common	0.4–1.4
304	305	Wall	Sub-square wall with straight sides and an unknown base. Constructed from brick. unfrogged, roughly made. top few courses in fairly good condition but beneath quite degraded and bonded with mortar. pale grey lime mortar, frequent small limestone inclusions.	0.4–1.4
305	302, 303, 304	Construction cut	Sub-rectangular construction cut with vertical, straight sides. Length: >0.90 m. Width: >1.50 m. Depth: 1.00 m.	0.4–1.4
306		Made ground	Heterogeneous Lenses of dark grey silty sand with CBM, clay pipe, animal bone and oyster shell flecks with sub round gravels 30% 10 mm and mid-yellowish brown sandy clay with sub round gravels 10 mm 50%. Possibly layers to make up the ground level. Clay pipe retained	0.4–1.4
307		Natural	Alluvium. Mid-yellowish brown clayey sand. Very rare round gravel, ≤10 mm slightly mottled suggesting it is natural. Clear horizon above, diffuse below. Sterile of any finds. Little bioturbation	1.4–2
308		Natural	Mid-yellowish brown sand with sub round gravels 10–50 mm 40% clear horizons. slightly diffuse horizon above. Sterile of any finds. Little bioturbation.	2–2.5+



Appendix 2 Excavation context details

Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
401	Layer	Made ground	n/a
Dark greyish brown sandy clay			
402	Layer	Natural	n/a
Mid-yellowish brown sandy silt with 40% small sub-rounded gravels			
403	Cut	Drain	410
Linear drain aligned E to W Length: 4.00 m. Width: 0.85 m.			
404	Masonry	Drain	n/a
Linear drain aligned ESE to WNW. Constructed from grey brick and bonded with sand.			
405	Masonry	Wall	n/a
Linear wall aligned ESE to WNW. Constructed from red brick and bonded with mortar. pale grey lime mortar. frequent small limestone inclusions. Maximum height: 22.50 m.			
406	Masonry	Wall	n/a
L-shaped wall aligned ESE to WNW and NNE to SSW. Constructed from red brick and bonded with mortar. pale grey lime mortar. frequent small limestone inclusions. Maximum height: 0.54 m.			
407	Masonry	Wall	n/a
Wall aligned E to W. Constructed from red brick and bonded with mortar. pale grey lime mortar. frequent small limestone inclusions. Maximum height: 21.90 m.			
408	Masonry	Floor Surface	n/a
Square floor surface aligned N to S. Constructed from red brick and bonded with sand.			
409	Masonry	Drain	n/a
Linear drain aligned S to N. Constructed from red brick and bonded with mortar. pale grey lime mortar. frequent small limestone inclusions. Maximum height: 22.50 m.			
410	Fill	Deliberate backfill	403
Dark greyish brown silty sand with 3% small stones			
411	Cut	Drain	409, 412
Linear drain. Length: >9.40 m. Width: 1.30 m.			
412	Fill	Deliberate backfill	411
Dark greyish brown sandy silt with 3% stone			
413	Cut	Pit	414
Oval pit aligned NE–SW with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.60 m. Width: 0.49 m. Depth: 0.13 m.			
414	Fill	Deliberate backfill	413
Dark grey sandy clay silt with sparse (3%) small flint gravels			
415	Cut	Pit	422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427
Circular pit with irregular, straight sides and a sloping base. Length: 1.84 m. Width: >1.56 m. Depth: 1.01 m.			
416	Layer	Made ground	n/a
Greyish brown sandy silt clay with common (20%) flint gravels throughout			
417	Cut	Construction cut	418, 419
Linear construction cut with vertical, straight sides. Length: 1.55 m. Width: 0.30 m. Depth: 0.30 m.			
418	Masonry	Drain	417
Linear drain aligned E–W with concave sides and an unknown base. Constructed from unfrogged red brick and bonded with pale brown lime mortar with flecks of shell.			
419	Fill	Secondary fill	418
Dark greyish brown silt with sparse (2%) small fragments of flint and chalk			
420	Cut	Construction cut	421
Linear construction cut with steep, straight sides. Length: 0.83 m. Width: 0.60 m. Depth: 0.30 m.			
421	Masonry	Drain	420
Linear drain aligned E–W with concave sides and an unknown base. Constructed from concrete greyish in colour with white flecks and large fragments of red brick mixed throughout and bonded with grey concrete. Maximum height: 0.20 m.			
422	Masonry	Well	415
Incomplete well with straight sides and an unknown base. Constructed from chalk blocks and bonded with sandy chalky light grey mortar? Maximum height: 0.25 m.			



Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
423	Fill	Deliberate backfill	415
Mid-grey and white silty clay with abundant chalk inclusions			
424	Fill	Deliberate backfill	415
Dark greyish black silty clay			
425	Fill	Deliberate backfill	415
Dark grey silty clay with chalk, flint			
426	Fill	Deliberate backfill	415
Mid-brownish grey silty clay with very common chalk, moderate medium size flint			
427	Fill	Deliberate backfill	415
Dark greyish brown silty clay with rare chalk inclusions, occasional small to medium sized flint			
428	Cut	Ditch	429
Linear ditch with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth: 0.27 m.			
429	Fill	Secondary fill	428
Light brownish grey sandy clay with pebbles, flints			
430	Cut	Construction cut	431, 432
Square construction cut with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: 1.85 m. Width: 1.66 m.			
431	Masonry	Pit	430
Square pit with straight sides and an unknown base. Constructed from red brick and bonded with sandy chalky mortar. Maximum height: 0.60 m.			
432	Fill	Deliberate backfill	430
Dark greenish grey silty sandy clay with chalk, common small flints and pebbles			
433	Cut	Construction cut	434, 435, 436
Incomplete construction cut with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Depth: 1.09 m.			
434	Fill	Deliberate backfill	433
Mid-yellowish orange silty clay with small flints and pebbles			
435	Fill	Deliberate backfill	433
Dark brownish grey silty sand with chalk, flint, pebbles			
436	Masonry	Foundation	433
Linear foundation aligned N-S with irregular sides and an unknown base. Constructed from chalk, brick, stone and bonded with sandy chalky mortar. Maximum height: 0.20 m.			
437	Fill	Deliberate backfill	433
Dark brownish grey silty sandy clay with chalk, flint			
438	Cut	Robber cut	439
Incomplete robber cut with moderate, concave sides and an irregular / undulating base. Depth: 1.09 m.			
439	Fill	Deliberate backfill	438
Mid greyish brown silty clayish sand with chalk, flints			
440	Cut	Modern feature	441
Linear modern feature aligned E-W with steep, irregular sides and a flat base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth: 1.09 m.			
441	Fill	Deliberate backfill	440
Dark brownish grey silty sand and ash with chalk, flint			
442	Cut	Construction cut	443, 444
Square construction cut with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: 1.36 m. Width: >1.06 m. Depth: 0.55 m.			
443	Masonry	Pit	442
Square pit with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red brick and bonded with chalk sand mortar. Maximum height: 0.15 m.			
444	Fill	Deliberate backfill	442
Dark brownish grey with light grey patches silty sand with flint, chalk			
445	Cut	Utility trench	445
Linear utility trench aligned E-W with undercut, straight sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 0.60 m. Depth: 0.55 m.			
446	Fill	Deliberate backfill	445
Dark brownish grey silty sand with chalk, flint, lumps of clay			



Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
447	Cut	Construction cut	448, 449, 450
Curvilinear construction cut aligned E–W with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 1.45 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth: 0.24 m.			
448	Masonry	Wall	447
Linear wall aligned E–W with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red unfrogged bricks and bonded with greyish loose mortar with shell fragments. Maximum height: 0.18 m.			
449	Fill	Deliberate backfill	447
Greenish brown sandy clay loam with rare (1%) small sub-rounded flints			
450	Layer	Deliberate backfill	n/a
Very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam with rare (1%) small sub-rounded flints			
451	Cut	Construction cut	452
Irregular construction cut with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.13 m.			
452	Fill	Deliberate backfill	451
Greyish brown silty clay with moderate (8%) sub-rounded flints			
453	Cut	Construction cut	454, 455
Linear construction cut with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 1.68 m. Depth: 0.27 m.			
454	Fill	Deliberate backfill	453
Mid-greyish brown silty sand with pebbles			
455	Fill	Deliberate backfill	453
Dark brownish grey silty sand with pebbles, chalk			
456	Cut	Construction cut	457, 458, 461
Curvilinear construction cut with vertical, straight sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 0.30 m. Depth: 0.33 m.			
457	Masonry	Drain	456
Curvilinear drain aligned N–S with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red brick and bonded with ash mortar. Maximum height: 0.33 m.			
458	Fill	Deliberate backfill	456
Dark brownish grey silty sand with chalk, pebbles			
459	Cut	Construction cut	460
Linear construction cut with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.00 m. Width: 0.45 m. Depth: 0.20 m.			
460	Masonry	Wall	459
Linear wall aligned N–S with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red brick and bonded with chalky sandy mortar. Maximum height: 0.33 m.			
461	Fill	Deliberate backfill	456
Mid-greenish grey clayish sand with pebbles, rare chalk inclusions			
462	Cut	Construction cut	n/a
Linear construction cut with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.80 m. Width: 0.60 m. Depth: >0.15 m.			
463	Masonry	Wall	462
Linear wall aligned N–S with straight sides and an unknown base. Constructed from red brick (some frogged?) and bonded with grey ash mortar / light yellowish sand bedding. Maximum height: 0.15 m.			
464	Masonry	Structure	n/a
Linear structure aligned N–S with straight sides and an unknown base. Constructed from red brick and bonded with grey sand ash mortar. Maximum height: 0.08 m.			
465	Cut	Construction cut	466, 467
Rectangular construction cut with vertical, straight sides. Length: >0.60 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth: 1.30 m.			
466	Masonry	Wall	465
Rectangular wall aligned NW–SE with straight sides and an unknown base. Constructed from red brick and bonded with sand mortar? Maximum height: 1.30 m.			
467	Fill	Deliberate backfill	465
Dark brownish grey with black inclusions silt with flint, rare chalk			
468	Cut	Construction cut	469



Context Number	Type	Category	Fill of/Filled With
			Sub-square construction cut with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.70 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth: 0.60 m.
469	Masonry	Foundation	468
			Sub-square foundation with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red brick and bonded with sand mortar. Maximum height: 0.30 m.
470	Masonry	Vault	n/a
			Vault. Constructed from brick?
471	Cut	Construction cut	472, 473
			Rectangular construction cut with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: 2.60 m. Width: 1.25 m. Depth: >1.00 m.
472	Masonry	Structure	471
			Rectangular structure aligned NW–SE with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from brick and bonded with chalk mortar? Maximum height: 1.00 m.
473	Fill	Deliberate backfill	471
			Dark greyish black sandy silt with flint



Appendix 3 Selection Strategy

200671
Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Avenue, London
Borough of Camden
 version 1, March 2023

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management

Project Manager	Tom Wells
Archaeological Archive Manager(s)	Moira Taylor and Jessica Irwin
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)

Stakeholders

		Date Contacted
Collecting Institution(s)	Museum of London Archaeology Data Service	
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Andrew Souter Assurance: Tom Wells	N/A
Landowner / Developer	Theatre of Comedy Company	
Other (external)	Archaeological Advisor for Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS)	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breedon) WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process

Resources

Resources required

WA Finds and Environmental specialists; WA archives team

Context

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the ClfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
- *General standards for the preparation of archaeological archives deposited with the Museum of London, 2019* (MOL 2023, accessed online [Resources for archaeological research | Museum of London](#))

Relevant research agendas

- A research framework for London archaeology (Nixon, McAdam and Tomber 2003)

Finds

- *Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials* (CIFA, 2014)
- *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

Environmental

- *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015)
- *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains* (English Heritage 2008)
- *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010)
- *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018)

Research objectives of the project

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Nixon, McAdam and Tomber 2003), the research objectives of the excavation are to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- examine the archaeological resource within the site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource and place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- analyses and interpret the results of the excavation and make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results.

REVIEW POINTS

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of two project review points:

2. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
3. Archive compilation

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; Museum of London; Archaeological Advisor at GLAAS; ADS

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, ClfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	2, 3
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	2, 3
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	2, 3
Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	3

Photographic media (community engagement and other activities)	General shots, promotional videos, etc. None will be selected, unless images are generated that are not duplicated in the main site record, but which have specific archaeological value.	3
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	2, 3
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	2, 3
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	3

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Museum of London; Archaeological Advisor at GLAAS

Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of ClfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	2, 3
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	2, 3
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	3
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	3
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	3
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	3

De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	Section 3.	3.1
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Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; Museum of London; Archaeological Advisor at GLAAS; landowner

Selection

Note that human remains are not included in this selection strategy; their recovery and subsequent treatment and curation will be governed by a Ministry of Justice licence(s).

The on-site finds recovery strategy is given below; it is of necessity fairly generic. It is anticipated that this will be reviewed and updated at the project assessment stage, once all collected finds have been processed and quantified. Amendments may be made prior to that on site in the event of unforeseen discoveries necessitating adjustments to recovery or sampling strategies (e.g., production sites, large concentrations of building debris, 'burnt mounds').

Throughout the following section, 'stratified' is taken to include topsoil deposits, while 'unstratified' indicates anything completely separated from context e.g., spoilheap finds, or surface finds other than those directly associated with underlying features.

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Animal bone (72 fragments)	Small assemblage of domestic food refuse, little detailed information available relating to age, biometrics or butchery. Very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	2, 3
Ceramic building material (76 fragments)	Very small assemblage, comprising common types and including bricks retained as samples. Limited archaeological significance (roof tile all appears to be residual); no further research potential. Retain none.	2, 3
Clay tobacco pipes (37 fragments)	Negligible quantity, with few datable bowls (all common types), only one maker's mark. Very limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain bowls and marked pipe only.	2, 3
Glass (4 fragments)	Negligible quantity, but includes one item of intrinsic interest (early 17th-century vessel glass in unusual form). Retain this item only.	2, 3
Marine shell (17 shells)	Negligible quantity; little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	2, 3
Metalwork (16 objects)	Negligible quantity; poor condition (corroded and vulnerable to further deterioration); most objects identifiable, all comprising common object types. Limited archaeological significance; little or no further research potential. Retain non-ferrous objects only, in stable storage (iron objects should be X-radiographed to preserve record)	2, 3

Pottery (72 sherds)	Very small assemblage, consisting of common types entirely typical of the area and period; no items of intrinsic interest. Limited archaeological significance; limited further research potential. Retain all.	2, 3
Other finds (166 g mortar; 1 burnt unworked flint)	No archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	2, 3

De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Palaeoenvironmental material	Section 3.	3.2
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Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Officer; WA internal specialists; Museum of London; Archaeological Advisor at GLAAS

Selection

No archaeological deposits or remains suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation and excavation.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders



Appendix 4 OASIS record

Summary for wessexar1-502750

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-502750
Project Name	Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Avenue, London Borough of Camden: Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation
Sitename	Shaftesbury Theatre
Activity type	Evaluation, Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	200671
Planning Id	2018/0575/P
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	06-Jan-2021 - 12-Mar-2021
Location	Shaftesbury Theatre NGR : TQ 30132 81352 LL : 51.5161104171721, -0.125954700364699 12 Fig : 530132,181352
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Greater London District : Camden Parish : Camden, unparished area
Project Methodology	Three trial trenches, two measuring 5 m in length and 2 m wide and one measuring 2 m by 2 m, and an excavation area measuring approximately 220 m2. Archaeological excavation and recording to construction depth to the west of the theatre.

Project Results	<p>The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trial trenches which identified archaeological remains and deposits across the site, including walls, a culvert, pits and a posthole dating to the 16th to 19th centuries; a single possible medieval feature was also identified. Multiple layers of made ground were apparent, measuring between 1.4 m and 2.54 m thick, suggesting build up and alteration of the site. The earliest feature, a posthole that contained medieval pottery, was investigated in trench 1. Two pits of 16th to 18th century date and two walls, one located high up within the made ground deposits and a second close to the natural geology, completed the sequence. Trench 2 exposed a 19th century brick culvert and a wall, surviving as a single course of unfrogged bricks, at the horizon of the natural geology. Trench 3 identified one brick wall, which had been cut by the foundations of the theatre close to the surface of the trench.</p> <p>The subsequent excavation comprised the excavation of area between the western wall of the theatre, the site boundary and Shaftesbury Avenue, approximately 220 m². The excavation identified additional remains including at least six drainage features, seven walls, a cess pit, five other unidentified structural features, two pits, a ditch and a robber trench dating between the 17th and 20th centuries.</p> <p>Pottery recovered during the investigations suggest the post-medieval activity dates from the 16th to 19/20th centuries, broadly focused on the 17th–early 18th century. A pit found towards the centre of the site may represent an early phase of post-medieval activity and produced 16th to early 17th century pottery. A second pit and a brick-built cess pit found in close proximity probably date to the later 17th century to 18th century, suggesting gradual development of the area. Other earlier post-medieval elements include a drain, brick walls, and a floor. A large culvert truncated these earlier post-medieval structures, crossing much of the excavated area. Elsewhere, additional drainage structures, short sections of wall and a large trench which contained a possibly robbed out wall also form part of the post-medieval development of the site.</p> <p>Later activity was represented by a probable Victorian culvert and a small pit, both found high in the sequence. The vault of the theatre's basement, dating to its construction in the early 20th century, occupied the northern end of the site, and remains in use by the theatre</p>
Keywords	<p>Wall - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Culvert - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Cess Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Clay Pipe (Smoking) - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Weight - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Post Hole - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p>
Funder	
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A, Souter, J, Sanigar
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Museum of London;



- Site boundary
- Fire Escape Bridge
- Previous trench
- Area of Excavation
- Archaeology
- Structure
- Piling sheet

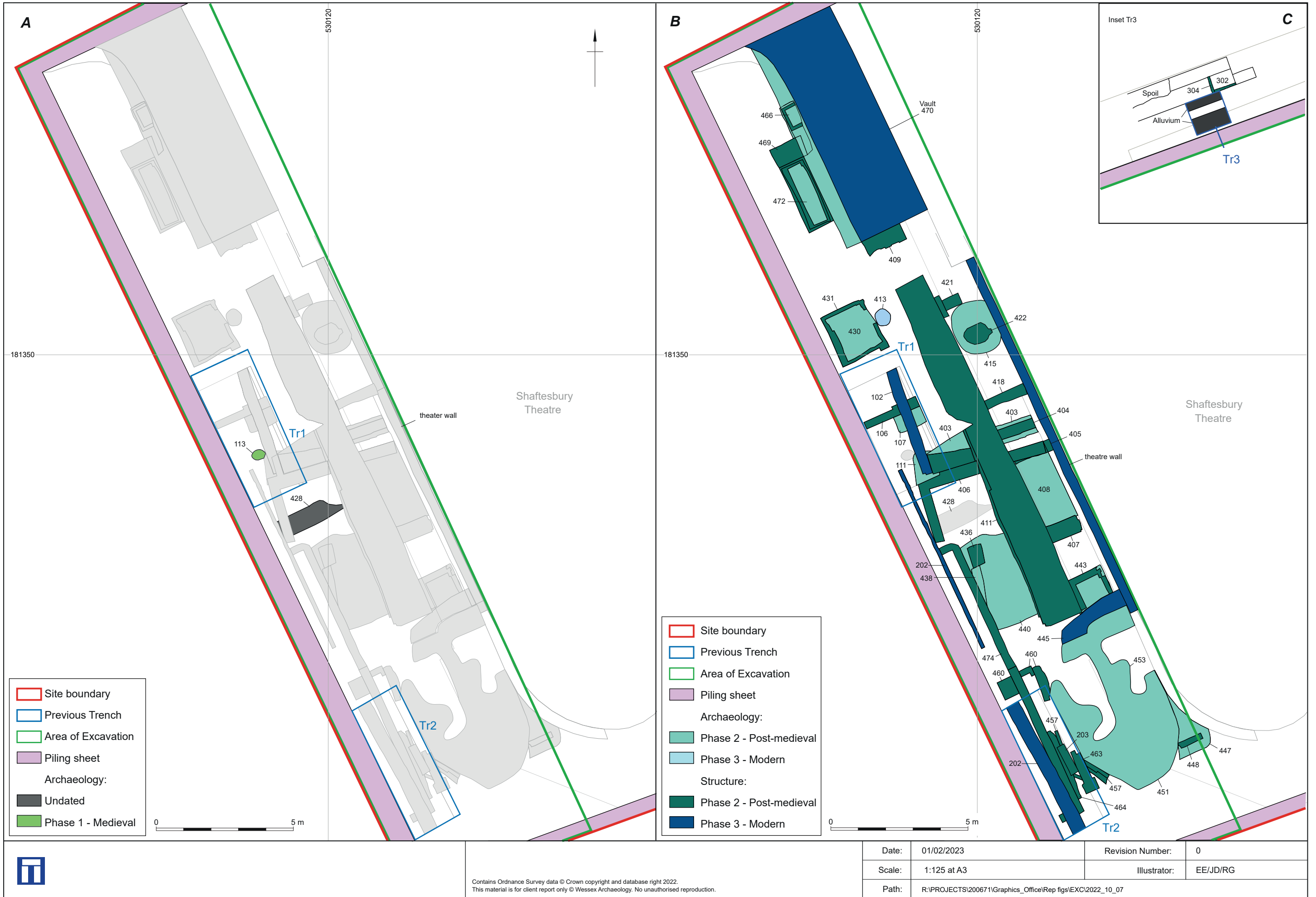
Coordinate system: OSGB36
 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023.
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Date:	31/01/2023	Revision Number:	1
Scale:	1:40,000; 1:10,000; 1:500 @ A4	Illustrator:	ND/EE/JD
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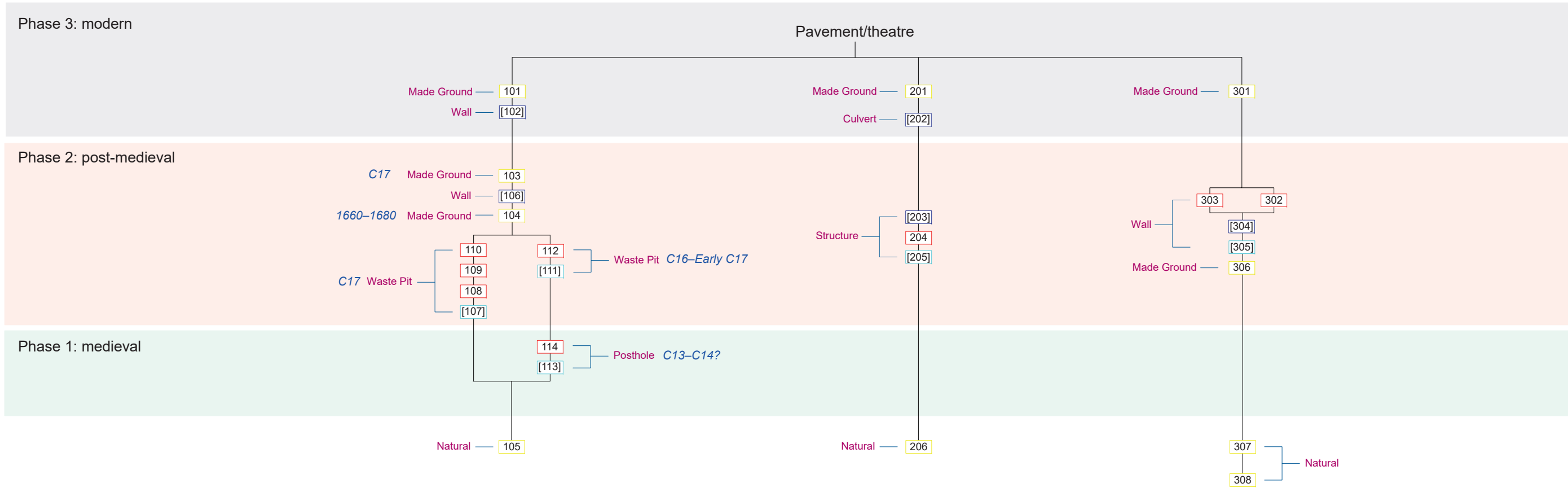
Site location plan

Figure 1



Phased plan, (A) undated and Phase 1: medieval, (B) Phase 2: post-medieval and Phase 3: modern

Figure 2



- Layer
- Structure
- Fill
- Deliberate backfill
- Cut



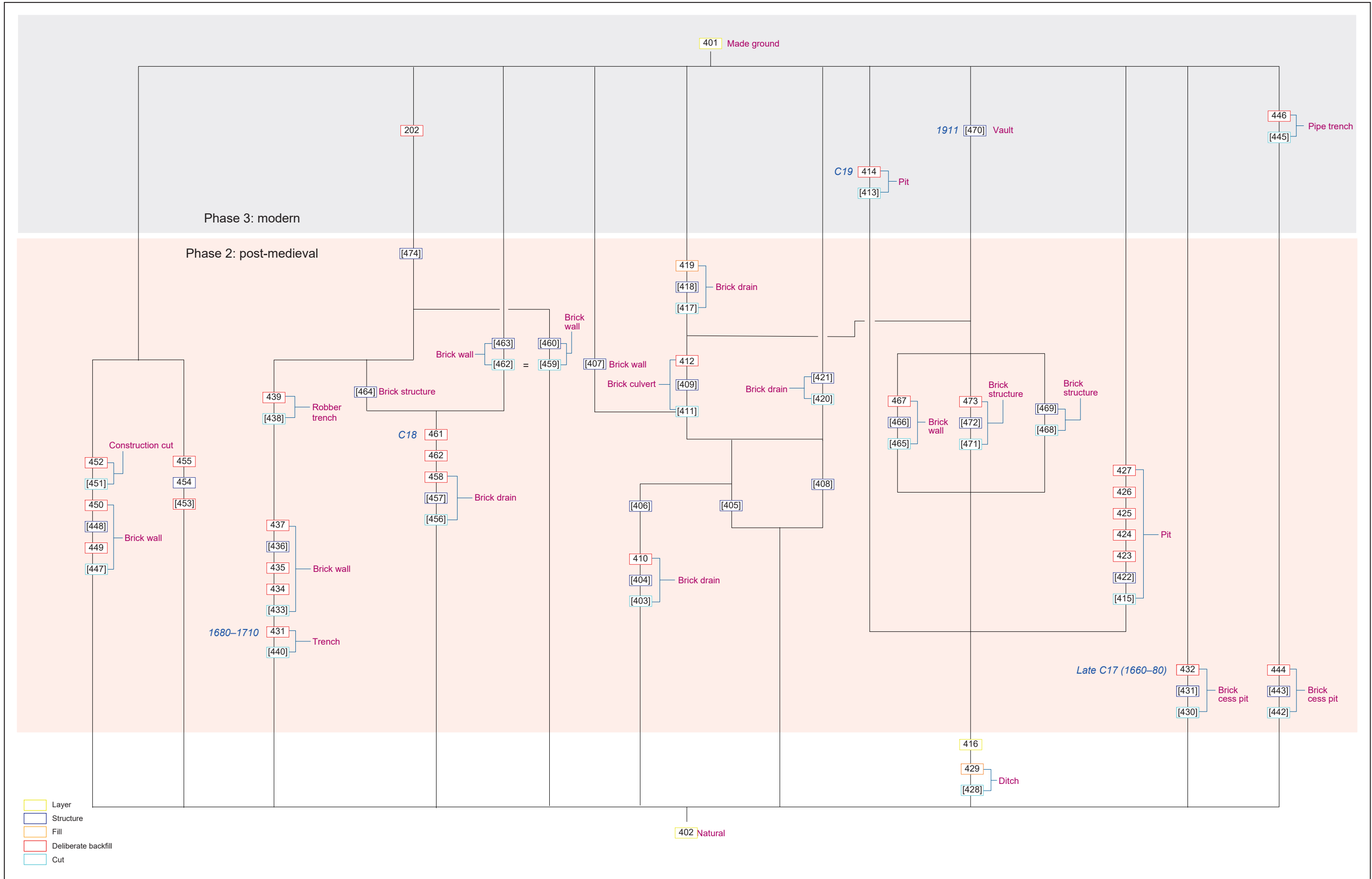
The structural remains are all of post-medieval to modern date. The phasing shown in these matrices is based on limited artefactual evidence and should not be taken as definitive dating. Due to the heavily disturbed nature of the ground and the urban setting of the site the recovered artefacts may be residual in origin and as such broad dating based on the structural remains is the most reliable method.

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Trenches 1 - 3 stratigraphic matrix

Figure 3



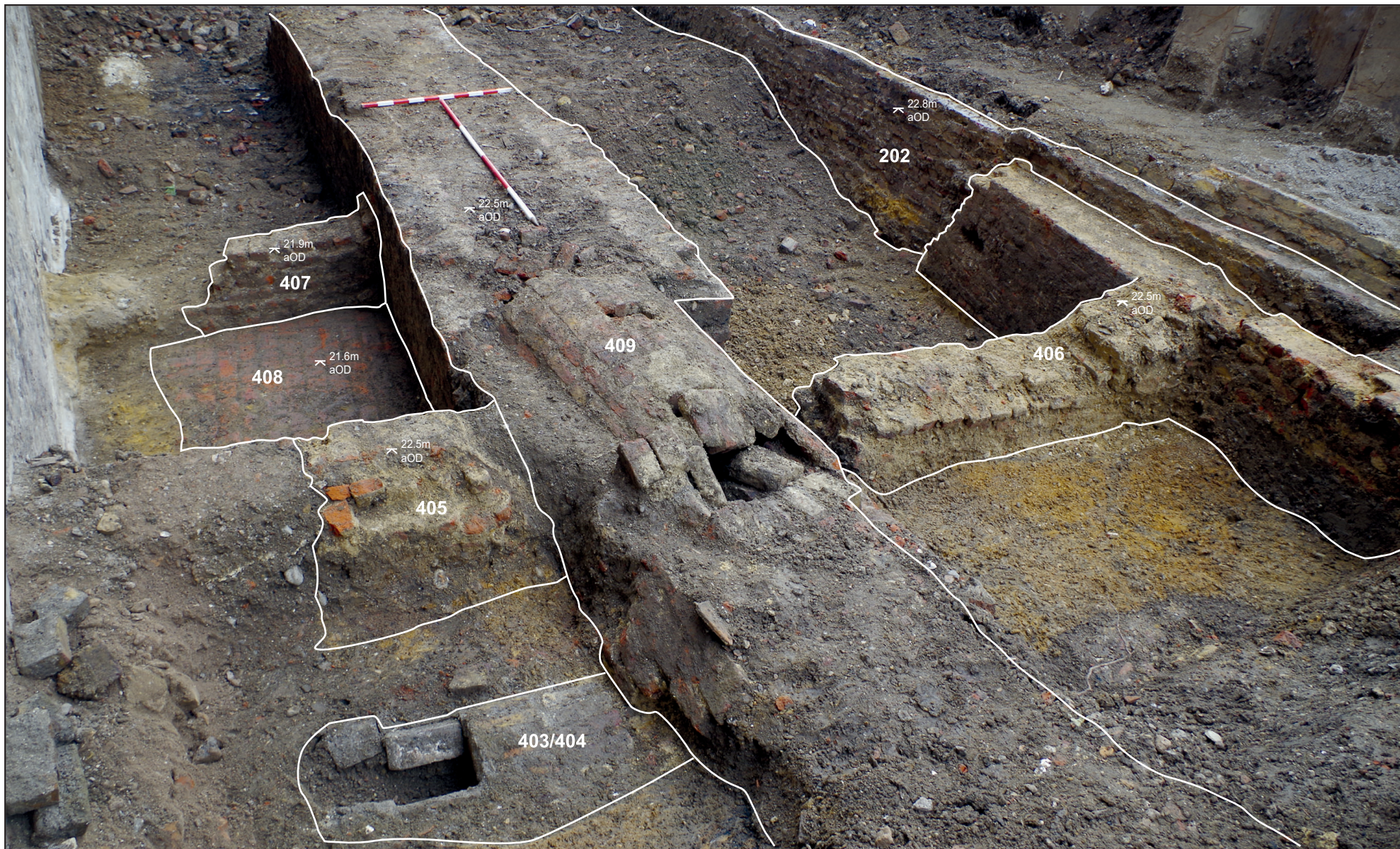
The structural remains are all of post-medieval to modern date. The phasing shown in these matrices is based on limited artefactual evidence and should not be taken as definitive dating. Due to the heavily disturbed nature of the ground and the urban setting of the site the recovered artefacts may be residual in origin and as such broad dating based on the structural remains is the most reliable method.

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Excavation stratigraphic matrix

Figure 4



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	Path: R:\PROJECTS\200671\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\EXC\2021_09_27	


Initial excavation, viewed from the north, scales: 1 and 2 m



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		Scale: NA	Illustrator: EE
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Reduced excavation, viewed from the south-east, scales: 1 and 2 m



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Reduced excavation, viewed from the north-west, scales: 1 and 2 m



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Structural remains in the south-east corner of the area, viewed from the south-east, scales: 1 and 2 m



Plate 5: Trench 2, viewed from the south-east, scales: 0.5 and 2 m



Plate 6: Walls 405 and 407, brick floor 408 and culvert 409, viewed from the south-east, scale: 2 m


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Plate 7: Pit 415 and chalk structure 422, viewed from the south-east, scale: 1 m



Plate 8: West-north-west facing section through ditch 428, scale: 0.5 m


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Plate 9: Cess pit 431, viewed from the south-east, scale: 1 m



Plate 10: Walls 436 and 474, robber trench 438 and trench 440, viewed from the north, scales: 1 and 2 m



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Plate 11: Brick structure 443 and drain 445, viewed from south, scale: 1 m



Plate 12: Structures 466 and 469, viewed from the west-north-west, scale: 1 m

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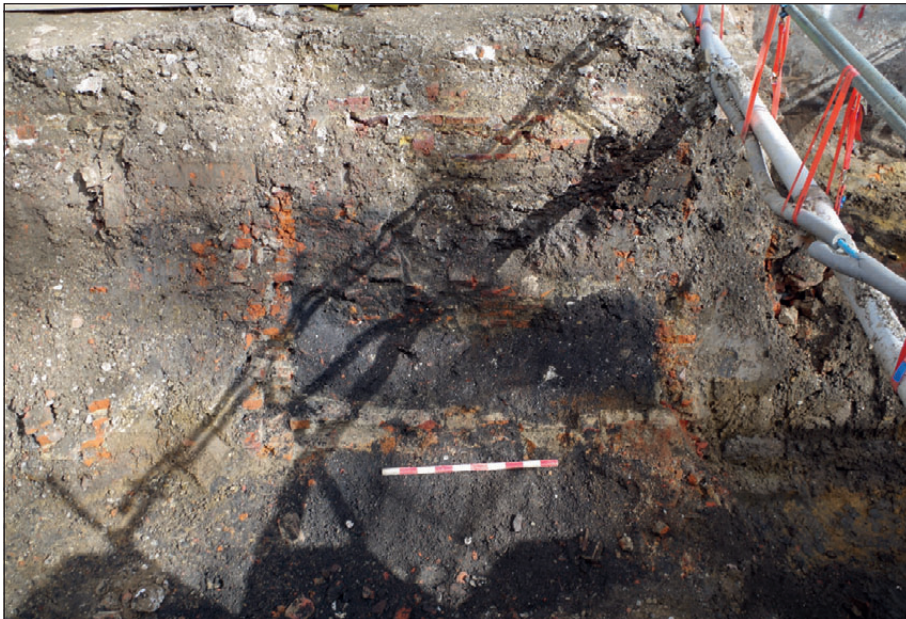



Plate 13: Structure 472, viewed from the west-south-west, scale: 1 m

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