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Crossrail archaeology

Bedlam Burial Project Design

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1 Project outline

1.1 Background:

The Bedlam burial ground or 'New Churchyard' was established in 1569 by Lord Mayor Thomas Rowe, as an 'overflow' cemetery to help the parishes in the City cope with the overcrowding of their churchyards, due to outbreaks of the plague. The burial ground is well-known, because it was located next to Bethlem hospital for the mentally ill. Even though the hospital moved to Moorgate in 1676, the burial ground remained in use until sometime in the first quarter of the 18th century. The present location of the burial ground is below the Western End of Liverpool Street (Fig. 2&3).

The Crossrail project is going to connect east and west London with a 21 km long train tunnel running underneath the city. A new Crossrail ticket hall at Liverpool Street will require an excavation of a large part of the Bedlam burial ground in the beginning of 2015. Parts of this burial ground have already been excavated in 1985 (Fig. 4) and more recently in 2012. The 2015 excavation shall be carried out by Crossrail working with Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA) and is expected to recover around 3000 interments from this post-medieval burial ground.

1.2 Aim of the project:

The identification of interred individuals is difficult, because the Bedlam burial ground was an extra-parochial burial ground and therefore did not have its own parish register and burial record. The individual parishes recorded the burial of their parishioners in their own records, even if they were buried somewhere else (Fig. 5). The excavations in 1985 and 2012 have also found few surviving grave markers or readable coffin plates to aid the identification process (Fig. 6). Hence, this project aims to compile a burial register for the Bedlam burial ground in order to find out who was buried there and where they came from. The knowledge generated from this project will be a useful source of reference for future excavation and research. Furthermore, this is a great opportunity for people to become involved in the archaeological excavations brought about by the Crossrail project.

1.3 Method:

The project is proposed to be a crowd-sourced volunteer project led by the archaeology team intern at Crossrail. The project will bring together people, who are interested and motivated to study the various parish records for references to the Bedlam Burial ground/New Churchyard. Working together will not only make the task less daunting, it will also give people the opportunity to learn from each other about relevant research areas such as history, archaeology, genealogy, palaeography etc.

Volunteers will not need any prior knowledge to participate in this research project, as they will receive guidance and introductory training on important aspects such as working with manuscripts, palaeography, the use of databases etc. There will be an online forum on the Crossrail website, where the volunteers can enter their findings into the database, discuss

issues and get in touch with each other.

(<https://comms.crossrail.co.uk/connect.ti/CrossrailBedlamBurialRegister>)

Excel forms and hardcopies of the database will also be available to the volunteers in case they would like to work offline. These can be posted to Marit Leenstra at Desk R1/15, Floor 29, 25 Canada Square, London E14 5LQ or e-mailed to maritleenstra@crossrail.co.uk.

It is envisioned that each volunteer will focus on a number of parish records, which he/she will study in detail for references to the Bedlam burial ground/New Churchyard. The parishes will be divided fairly in discussion with the volunteers, as some may want to experience working in the different London archives and others might prefer working from home using the Ancestry.com website.

The volunteers are encouraged to further explore the data and use it for additional research if they please eg. Trace ancestors, cross-reference the Bethlem hospital records with the bedlam burial database, study wills, Vestry minutes etc. The results can be sent to Crossrail where they can be used by the team who will analyse the excavation data to add valuable detail to the final reports.

1.4 Primary sources:

Most London parish records are held by the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) in Clerkenwell. It is free to apply for a history card to access the LMA. Moreover, the LMA cooperates with Ancestry.co.uk and has scanned most of its manuscripts. Ancestry.co.uk is available for free use on-site in the LMA and for a subscription fee off-site. For volunteers, who are not able to access the LMA, Crossrail will be able to fund a month's subscription to Ancestry, so that they can work from home as well. Manuscripts that have not been scanned are available on microfilm at the LMA.

The Harleian Society has transcribed and published many of London's parish records and some of these are now digitised and freely available online (<http://www.heraldry-online.org.uk/HarleianPublications2.htm>). The ones that have not been digitised are available in book form at the LMA in their reference section.

Some of the records for Westminster parishes are held by the Westminster Archive Centre (WAC) and are available on microfilm. It is also free to sign up for the Westminster Libraries and Archives. The burial records of the City of Westminster before 1800 have not been digitised and hence the manuscripts/microfilm can only be consulted from the WAC.

The LMA, Ancestry.com and WAC will be the main sources for accessing the parish burial records. The National Archives, British Library and Wellcome Trust might hold relevant information on burial practices and general background information on the site, but we will only consult these sources if the research leads there.

It is very important to consistently reference the sources we use, not only to make sure we can retrace and check our data, but also to give recognition to the libraries and archives that were used for this project.

1.5 Secondary Sources:

The volunteers are encouraged to read some secondary literature about the Bedlam burial ground to familiarise themselves with the topic of the project. A bibliography can be found below with important titles emphasised in bold. A very interesting and informative read is 'The Dead and the Living in Paris and London, 1500-1670' by Vanessa Harding. Two copies of her book are available in the reference section of the Guildhall library. Vanessa Harding is a professor specialising in London's History at Birkbeck College. She has also written several papers of interest to this project listed at <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history/our-staff/full-time-academic-staff/professor-vanessa-harding>.

1.6 The scope of the project:

The Bedlam burial ground was an extra-parochial burial ground, created to relieve the overcrowded parish burial grounds within the city. Hence, this means that the main focus of this project will be on the City of London's registers. However, parishes in the City of Westminster, the Covent Garden and Soho area may also have used this burial ground, as they were in need of more space to bury their dead.

Most parishes outside the walls such as those North of the walls (Clerkenwell, Hackney, Islington) and those South of the river (Southwark and Bermondsey), probably had enough space to bury their dead and were not in need of the Bedlam burial ground. However, we will look at some of these areas to see if this is correct.

Figure 1 is a map of the London parishes around 1664 and is a good guideline for this research. The list with all the parishes included in this study is presented below Fig.1. This list has been composed on the basis of the relevance of the location and burial records of the parishes. However, this list is also a guideline and the volunteers are welcome to add to this list if they think certain parish, church or workhouse records needs to be explored, as some non-conformist registers are also available from Ancestry.com, the LMA and WAC.

1.7 Outcome:

The outcome will be a comprehensive burial database of the Bedlam burial ground, accessible to anyone who is interested. The database will also be useful tool for MoLA during the excavation and post-excavation stage of the Bedlam burial ground. A successful outcome of this pilot crowd-sourcing scheme will possibly lead to more of these activities in the future.

2 Project management

2.1 Volunteer recruitment:

Volunteers will be recruited primarily through the Crossrail CSD database. This database holds the external, non-business contacts of Crossrail. Some contacts have already indicated that they are interested in hearing about new archaeology projects. Crossrail's archaeology team intern will draft up the announcement with the help of events co-ordinator and publication officer. Marit will manage the responses through an e-mail account, dedicated to the project. Crossrail head of Marketing and the events coordinator will aid her in these tasks.

2.2 Volunteer supervision:

The archaeology intern will oversee the project and is the primary contact person for the volunteers. The volunteers receive the training and information they need during a training session on the 4th of June in 25 Canada Square, Canary Wharf. Moreover, The archaeology intern will validate the volunteers' results by checking their sources and tracking possible mistakes/inconsistencies in the database. Office hours will be Monday to Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The intern will receive the assistance of Crossrail's events co-ordinator to organise meeting spaces for the training session and a final thank you event.

2.3 Overall Project management:

Crossrail's project archaeologist will oversee the progress of the project and will supervise the intern for the duration of the project. The project archaeologist is the primary contact person and in charge of insuring the project is run according to Crossrail's guidelines and regulations.

2.4 Data management and output:

The data collected by the volunteers needs to be managed and eventually published in an appropriate format. The archaeology intern will be in charge of verifying the data and the maintenance of the database. Sources will be referenced correctly in order to make the finished database publicly available online. Crossrail's new media officer will help to launch the database online in an appropriate format. The Bedlam burial database needs to be archived after the conclusion of the project; advice from MoLA and LAARC will be sought on this matter.

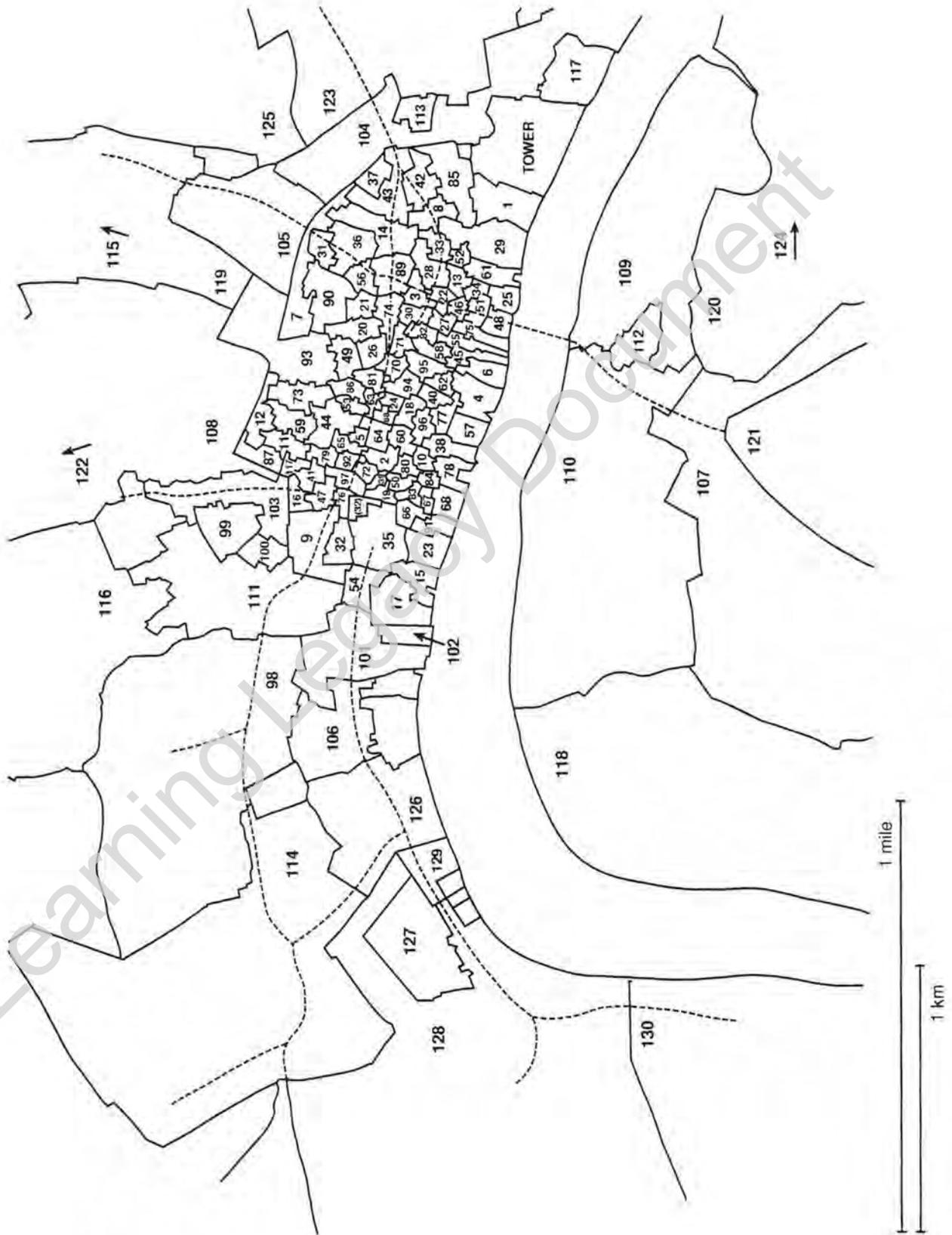
Project Design	5 Weeks	31 st of March '14	5 th of May '14	AI
Crowd sourcing Phase 1: contacting potential volunteers	2 Weeks	29 th of April '14	16 th of May '14	AI/PA/EC/PO
Crowd sourcing Phase 2: selecting volunteers	5 Days	17 th of May '14	21 st of May '14	AI/PA/EC
Preparing Volunteer Training	4 Weeks	12 th of May '14	4 th of June '14	AI
Volunteer Training Session	2 Hours	4 th of June '14 15:00	4 th of June '14 17:00	AI/PA
Project Execution	10 ½ Weeks	4 th of June '14	16 th of August '14	AI
Data Verification and Finalising Database	3 months	16 th of August '14	19 st of December '14	AI
Initial analysis of the data	4 Weeks	27 th of October '14	31 st of December '14	AI
Database launch	N/A	2 nd of February '15		MO
Thank You Event	2 hours	9 th of March '15		AI/PA/C502



Agents:

- Archaeology intern (AI)
- Project Archaeologist (PA)
- Events Co-ordinator (EC)
- Publications Officer (PO)
- Media Officer (MO)
- C502

Learning Legacy Document



3 List of Parishes

London parishes 16th and 17th century (based on John Strype's 'A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster' and Vanessa Harding's 'the Dead and the Living in Paris and London')

3.1 City of London

1. All Hallows Barking (by the Tower)
2. All Hallows Bread Street
3. All Hallows Gracechurch (Lombard Street)
4. All Hallows the Great
5. All Hallows Honey Lane
6. All Hallows the Less
7. All Hallows London Wall
8. All Hallows Staining
9. Grey Friars/Christ Church Newgate Street
10. Holy Trinity the Less
11. St Alban Wood Street
12. St Alphage
13. St Andrew Hubbard
14. St Andrew Undershaft
15. St Andrew by the Wardrobe
16. St Anne Aldersgate (St Anne and Agnes)
17. St Anne Blackfriars
18. St Antholin
19. St Augustine Watling Street
20. St Bartholomew Exchange
21. St Benet Fink
22. St Benet Gracechurch St
23. St Benet Paul's Wharf
24. St Benet Sherehog
25. St Botolph Billingsgate
26. St Christopher le Stocks
27. St Clement Eastcheap
28. St Dionis Backchurch
29. St Dunstan in the East (by the Tower)

30. St Edmund Lombard Street
31. St Ethelburga
32. St Faith
33. St Gabriel Fenchurch
34. St George Botolph Lane
35. St Gregory
36. St Helen Bishopsgate
37. St James Duke's Place
38. St James Garlickhithe
39. St John the Evangelist
40. St John Walbrook
41. St John Zachary
42. St Katherine Coleman Street
43. St Katherine Cree
44. St Lawrence Jewry
45. St Lawrence Pountney
46. St Leonard Eastcheap
47. St Leonard Foster Lane
48. St Magnus the Martyr
49. St Margaret Lothbury
50. St Margaret Moses
51. St Margaret Bridge Street (New Fish Street)
52. St Margaret Pattens
53. St Martin Ironmonger Lane
54. St Martin Ludgate
55. St Martin Orgar
56. St Martin Outwich
57. St Martin in the Vintry
58. St Mary Abchurch
59. St Mary Aldermanbury
60. St Mary Aldermary
61. St Mary at Hill
62. St Mary Bothaw
63. St Mary Colechurch
64. St Mary le Bow

65. St Mary Magdalen Milk Street
66. St Mary Magdalen Old Fish Street
67. St Mary Mounthaw
68. St Mary Somerset
69. St Mary Staining
70. St Mary Woolchurch
71. St Mary Woolnoth
72. St Matthew Friday Street
73. St Michael Bassishaw
74. St Michael Cornhill
75. St Michael Crooked Lane
76. St Michael le Querne
77. St Michael Paternoster (Royal)
78. St Michael Queenhithe
79. St Michael Wood Street
80. St Mildred Bread Street
81. St Mildred Poultry (Walbrook)
82. St Nicholas Acon
83. St Nicholas Cole Abbey
84. St Nicholas Olave
85. St Olave Hart Street (Crutched Friars, Mark Lane, by the Tower)
86. St Olave Jewry
87. St Olave Silver Street
88. St Pancras Soper Lane
89. St Peter Cornhill
90. St Peter le Poor
91. St Peter Paul's Wharf
92. St Peter Westcheap (Wood Street)
93. St Stephen Coleman Street
94. St Stephen Walbrook
95. St Swithin
96. St Thomas the Apostle
97. St Vedast Foster Lane

3.2 Without the City walls

98. St Andrew Holborn (Camden)
99. St Bartholomew the Great
100. St Bartholomew the Less
101. St Bride's Fleet St
102. Bridewell precinct
103. St Botolph Aldersgate
104. St Botolph Aldgate
105. St Botolph Bishopsgate
106. St Dunstan in the West
107. St George Southwark
108. St Giles Cripplegate
109. St Olave Southwark
110. St Saviour Southwark
111. St Sepulchre (Christ Church) Newgate
112. St Thomas Southwark
113. Holy Trinity Minories

3.3 Middlesex and Surrey

114. St Giles in the Fields (Camden)
115. St John at Hackney
116. St James Clerkenwell
117. St Katherine by the Tower
118. Lambeth parish
119. St Leonard Shoreditch
120. St Mary Magdalen Bermondsey
121. St Mary Newington
122. St Mary Islington
123. St Mary Whitechapel
124. Rotherhithe parish
125. Stepney parish

3.4 Westminster

126. St Clement Danes
127. St Paul Covent Garden
128. St Martin in the Fields
129. St Mary Lutheran Church of the Savoy
130. St Margaret Westminster

3.5 Other (not shown on the map)

St Anne Soho
St Mary le Strand
St Paul's Cathedral
St Peter ad Vincula (Tower)
St Pancras Old Church
Savoy Chapel
Temple

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5 Figures and Photos

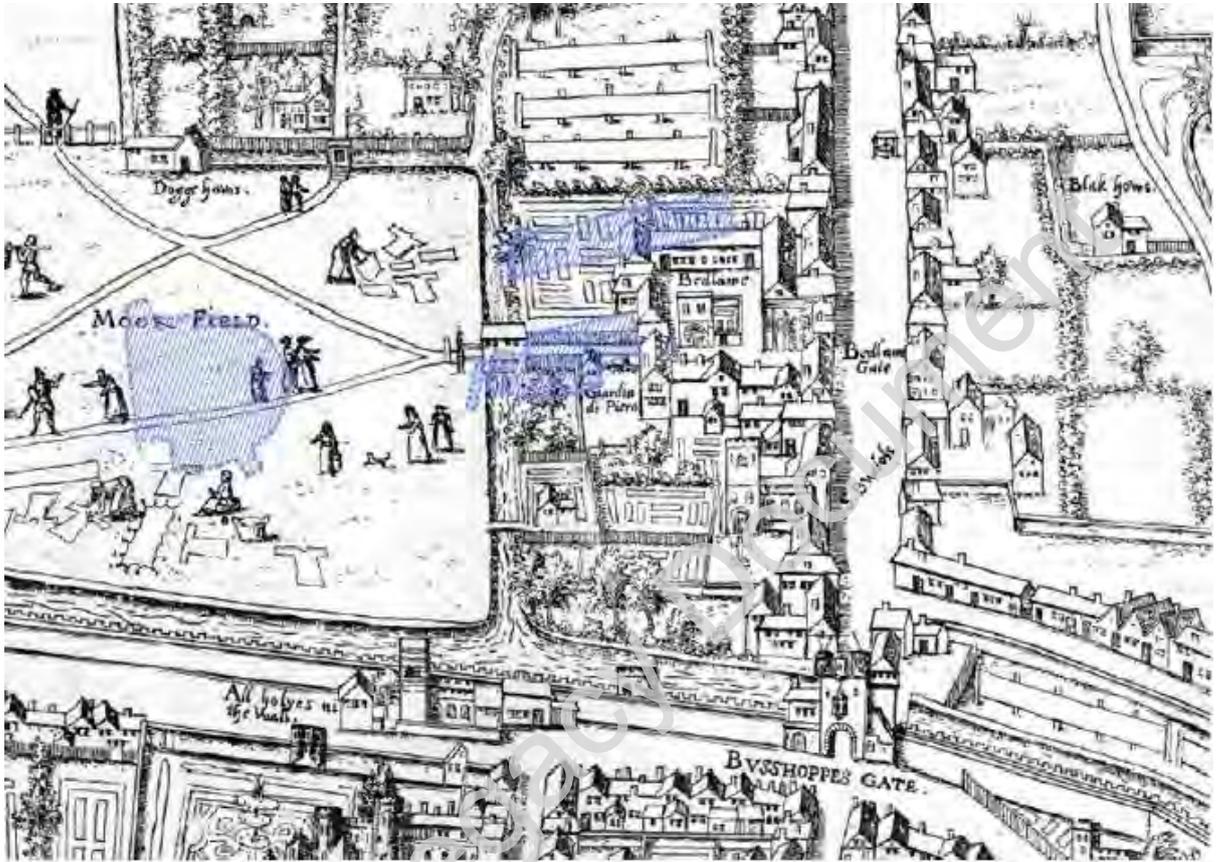


Figure 1: Extract Agas map of London 1553. Crossrail works are in blue. (Carver 2012, p.3)

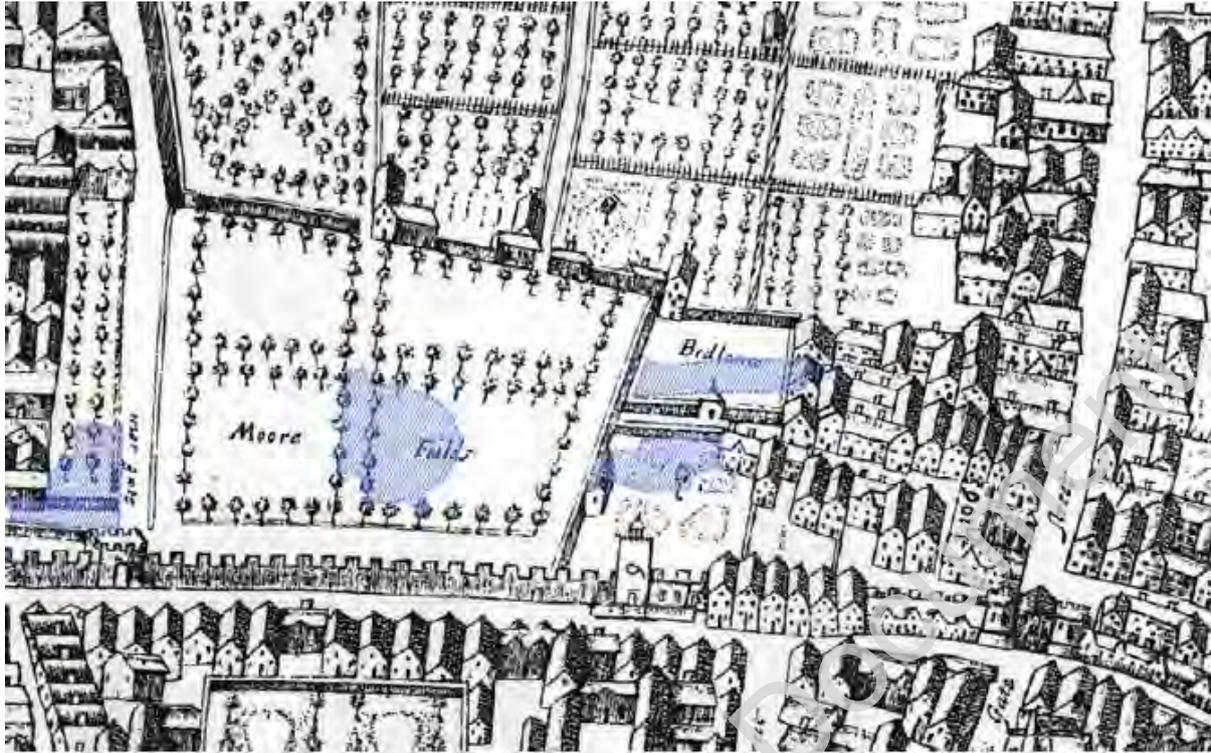


Figure 2: Extract of Fairthorne and Newcourt's map of London 1658. (Carver 2012, p. 4)



Photo 1: Burials found during the Liverpool Street excavations in 1985. Site code: LSS85. (MoLA)

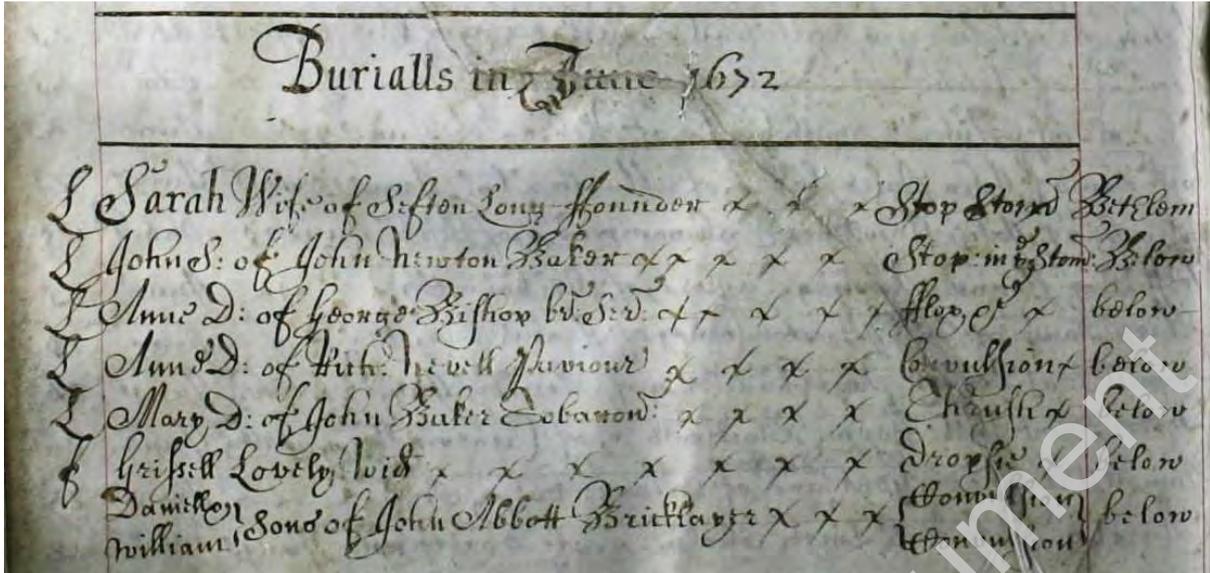


Photo 2: Record of Sarah Long's burial in the parish records of St. Giles Cripplegate (London Metropolitan Archives, St Giles Cripplegate, Composite register, 1667 - 1672, P69/GIS/A/002/MS06419, Item 007)



Photo 3: Gravemarker found during 2012 Liverpool Street Excavations. Sarah Long wife of Sefton Long died in 1672. (MoLA)

6 Appendices

The history of burial records from parishregister.co.uk:

(<http://www.pariahregister.co.uk/about/history>)

A burial record is any type of record or certificate that states the date and place an individual was buried. These records are available from 1538 onwards, and are recorded in Parish Registers. They are an invaluable resource for research because the census and official records of birth, marriage and death do not go back further than 1837.

History of Parish Registers

In 1538, Thomas Cromwell ordered that every baptism, marriage and burial should be recorded. As we have seen, both Civil Registration and Census Returns run out when you get back to 1837, and rarely provide information relevant before 1800. At this stage you need to turn to Parish Records; these date back to 1538 when Cromwell, at the Court of Henry VIII, ordered that every wedding, baptism and burial should be recorded.

Early records were made on paper but from 1558 parchment was used, and the older records were supposed to have been copied, although some never were and have been lost. From 1597 a second copy had to be made and sent to the Bishop - these transcripts are often in better condition and written more legibly.

There may be gaps in Parish Registers between 1553 and 1558 and the Catholic Mary Tudor was on the throne and between 1642 and 1660 during the English Civil War and Commonwealth.

Calendar Changes

Researchers of the 18th Century will probably come across the confusion caused by the change of dating system. In 1751 England and Wales were still using the old style, Julian calendar, which began each year on March 25th. Most of Europe has changed to the new style, Gregorian calendar, and so England also decided to change. This meant that 1751 commenced on March 25th and ended on December 31st, and was only nine months long. Many register entries before and during this period made between January 1st and March 24th have a double entry (e.g. Jan 1st 1750 may be shown as Jan 1st 1750/51.)

TimeLine

1500s

1538

Cromwell, from the court of Henry VIII, ordered that every wedding, baptism and burial was to be recorded.

1553

There may be gaps in Parish Registers between 1553 and 1558 and the Catholic Mary Tudor was on the throne.

1558

Although early records were made on paper, in 1558 parchment was used, and the older records were supposed to have been copied (although some never were and have been lost).

1597

A second copy of the records had to be made and sent to the Bishop.

1600s

1642

There may be gaps in the records during the English Civil War and Commonwealth (1642-1660), as records were poorly kept or hidden, and some have been lost.

1678

Between 1678 and 1814 an affidavit was required to be sworn that when buried, the deceased was buried in wool or a fine of £5 was given.

1700s

1751

Calendar changes - One calendar year became Jan 1st to 31st December, rather than having each year start on March 25th.

1783

A stamp duty of 3 pence was imposed on every entry, although paupers were exempt. Tax evasion naturally occurred, and the Act was repealed in 1794, and declared unsuccessful.

1800s

1812

Baptisms, marriages and burials were entered in separate, specially printed books, eight entries per page and including more information.

1837

Civil registration is introduced