



# C257 ARCHAEOLOGY CENTRAL Preliminary Documentary Research Report Broadgate Eastern Ticket Hall

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## 1 Purpose

To provide background information about the area of burials identified by MOLA excavation for Crossrail, now understood to be the burial ground established by Alderman Rowe in 1568/69 subsequently known as either 'Rowe's burial ground' or 'Bethlem/Bedlem burying ground' and provide some idea of the potential for further research once the excavation has been completed.

## 2 Scope

Two main archival areas were identified of primary interest, the archives of the modern St Bethlem Hospital, the 'descendent' of the original hospital, and the London Metropolitan Archives as the main repository of records from the City of London and Greater London.

## 3 Research Questions

A number of primary and secondary research questions have been determined by MOLA to a) provide initial background information; b) to help identify relevant archives for future research; and c) identify pertinent research aims that can be examined with the archaeological and historical data available.

### 3.1 Primary questions:

- 1) Does the modern Bethlem Hospital have records pertaining to the use of the burial ground identified?
- 2) What is the Starting date for this burial ground, can this be determined?
- 3) What is the end date for this burial ground, can this be determined?
- 4) Who is buried there?

### 3.2 Secondary Questions

- 1) Are there records indicating '**zoning**' of the burial ground: non-parochial burials c.f. inmates/staff of Bethlem Hospital?
- 2) Where did the non-parochial 'overflow' burials come from?
- 3) Are there records of any structures in the Burial Ground? (Pertinent to brick cellar/vault found in Tr 7).
- 4) Are there records of any other activities being carried out in the graveyard (eg the bone/antler/horn working waste found in the evaluations)?
- 5) Are there any historic maps/plans showing the Burial Ground in addition to those held by MOLA
- 6) When does the Bedlam move from Bishopsgate to London Wall/Moorfields ?
- 7) When they moved, did they carry on using the Burial Ground ?

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Introduction

Before providing the initial answers to the questions detailed above, it is important to note that until the Hospital's move to Moorgate, it was not meant to be a place of permanent stay. People committed to Bethlem were for the most part retained only for a year, and were then released back into society whether they were truly cured or not. It did not have its own burial ground.

If a person happened to die while in the Hospital, the body would be returned to the deceased's parish for burial. If the deceased's parish was not known then they would be buried in the local parish burial ground, which for Bethlem was St Botolph's without Bishopsgate.

When the Hospital moved to Moorgate in 1676, two wings of 50 rooms each for permanent stay were added, one for men and one for women, but this was done under pressure from the City of London authorities at the time. However, it did not create its own burial ground as a result of the construction of the two wings but continued to use the parish's burial grounds. This should be born in mind when considering while reading the answers so far to the above questions.

### 4.2 Primary Questions

- 1) The modern St Bethlem does not hold detailed information concerning the burial ground. It holds a range of administration records which does include the admissions register from 1683 (after the hospital had moved to Moorgate) and the minutes of the court of Governors. Much of the other material dates from the 18th and 19th centuries, after the period of use of the Broadgate Ticket Hall site.
- 2) The start date of the burial ground is detailed in John Stow's Survey of London. The date given is 1568, and it was built basically as a response to the high number of deaths from a plague epidemic that raged through the city during the early 1560s.
- 3) The end date of the burial ground is uncertain. No detailed evidence has been found as yet for the final date of interments. Evidence from the parish files for St Botolph's without Bishopsgate shows that in the 1820s, this parish at least was still in need of extra burial space (LMA ref MS19225).
- 4) Bethlem burial ground, also known as Rowe's burial ground, was established for use by initially the parish of St Botolph's without Bishopsgate and also as an 'overflow' for all other City parishes. Thus, if a person of the parish happened to die in Bethlem Hospital, they would be buried within the burial ground, for example '24th August 1649, a girl out of Bethlem, age 14' (St Botolph's without Bishopsgate burial register 1558-1657, MS4515/1). There is potential within these sources to examine the 'population' from the burial ground examining question such as age, diet and illnesses. It is possible that the Burial ground includes well known people from other parishes and it would be in their own register that they would appear. Such a task is likely to be quite intensive and require considerable resources.

### 4.3 Secondary Questions

- 1) No evidence relating to any particular zoning has been discovered from this task.
- 2) 'Strangers' and non-parishioners are noted in burial records. These are from all over the city, country, and overseas as well. Vanessa Harding in her article, *'And one more may be*

*laid there': the location of burials in Early Modern London* identified a number of parishes that used the burial ground, among them were the following:

- All Hallows, Honey Lane
- St Margaret Moses
- St Botolph Aldgate
- Holy Trinity, Minories (mainly from 1602)
- St Vedast Foster Lane (a large number recorded in 1650–59)
- St Olave Hart Street (1630s)
- St Lawrence Jewry
- St Mary Aldermary
- St Peter Cornhill
- St Peter Pauls Wharf (1625)
- St Benet Pauls Wharf (1665)

It is clear from this that the ground was well used by the City of London and adjacent areas, as suggested by Holy Tirnity, Minories which lies just outside the City Walls near the Tower. There are burials from Bethlem Hospital, for example '24th August 1649, a girl out of Bethlem, age 14' (St Botolph's without Bishopsgate burial register 1558-1657, MS4515/1).

- 3) Several plans from the late 18th century showing structures/buildings encroaching onto the burial ground area (see images below). They indicate that by the mid 18th century at least parts of the burial ground have been 'decommissioned' as burial ground. Once these maps have been correctly geo-referenced within the GIS, it will be possible to see if any line up with a wall of possible 18th century date identified during the excavation. It is possible that this wall relates to either Mr Hall's or Mr Boulter's properties as shown on COL/PL/01/076/D/005 – Bethlem Burying Ground, c 18th century.
- 4) There are no records discovered from this task which indicate if other activities were undertaken within the burial ground. However, a more in-depth study of the 18th-century people whose properties encroached on the burial ground may cast more light on this question.
- 5) Yes there are and these are held by the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) and their names, dates and LMA reference number are set out in Section 5.1.1, Primary Sources Reference Documents.
- 6) The Bethlem Hospital moves from Bishopsgate to London Wall/Moorfields in 1676. Although the need for expansion was identified as early as the Civil War, work could not begin until c 1660/70s.
- 7) The burial ground remained in use after Bethlem moved because as explained in 4.1 and 4.2.4) it was a parish burial ground which because the ground was once owned by Bethlem Hospital it was named after it.

#### 4.4 Further Work

During the research it has become clear that there are further sources available regarding this site, for example the Minutes of Board of Governors, General Admissions and the Court of Alderman's Minutes books, which all provide general details about the general running of the Hospital. Although these books do not date back to the early years of the original Bishopsgate

Bethlem Hospital, the Minutes of Board of Governors date back just prior to its move to Moorgate and the Court Alderman's Minutes book provides details on the use of the burial ground in the 1700s. The parish registers could only be briefly searched within the scope of this preliminary task, and there is potential within these sources to examine the 'population' from the burial ground. Research into the owners of the properties identified in the 18th-century plans will provide greater detail into the dates of the final use of the burial ground etc.

#### **4.5 Additional questions for future research**

The following questions have been highlighted by Crossrail, and should be addressed in future research for the site, eg at post-excavation assessment or publication work following the main excavation, when there will be additional questions arising from both current and future fieldwork results.

- Who managed/administered the burial ground ?
- Are there any records of people who worked at the burial ground ?
- With regards to the bone working waste found in the later cemetery deposits, what businesses were in the vicinity of the burial ground that could have led to that deposition ?
- In terms of the life of the burial ground we are also interested in what happened after it closed, is there any
- What information is there on the ownership and uses of the area after the burial ground closed ?

## 5 Reference Documents

### 5.1 Primary Sources

#### 5.1.1 London Metropolitan Archive

- CLA/065/01/004 – Extract and reference from “London in the Olden Time” by Wm. Newton, 1855, and Court of Alderman Minutes relative to Bethlem Hospital Burying Ground 1246–1720
- COL/PL/01/076/D/005 – Bethlem Burying Ground, c 18th century (see attached photo in section 5.3)
- COL/PL/01/076/D/006 – Bethlem Burial Ground, 1773 (see attached photo in section 5.3)
- COL/CCS/PL/02/089 – Bethlehem Burying Ground ‘Mr Hall’s Plan’ c 1767 (see attached photo in section 5.3)
- COL/CCS/PL/02/142 –Bethlem Burying Ground: ‘A Plan of Old Bethlem Burying Ground’, 3rd Sept 1767 (see attached photo in section 5.3)
- Guildhall MS4526/2-4 St Botolph Bishopsgate Vestry minutes.
- St Botolph Bishopsgate burial registers Guildhall 4515/1-3
- Guildhall MS19227 Diocesan parish files

#### 5.1.2 Bethlem Hospital archives

- ARA – General Admissions book, from 1683
- BCP – Minutes of Board of Governors, 1559-1955
- XGP – Maps and Plans of land Bethlem in Bishopsgate, London

### 5.2 Secondary Sources

Andrews, J, Briggs, A, Porter, R, Tucker, P and Waddington K, 1997, London, *The History of Bethlem*

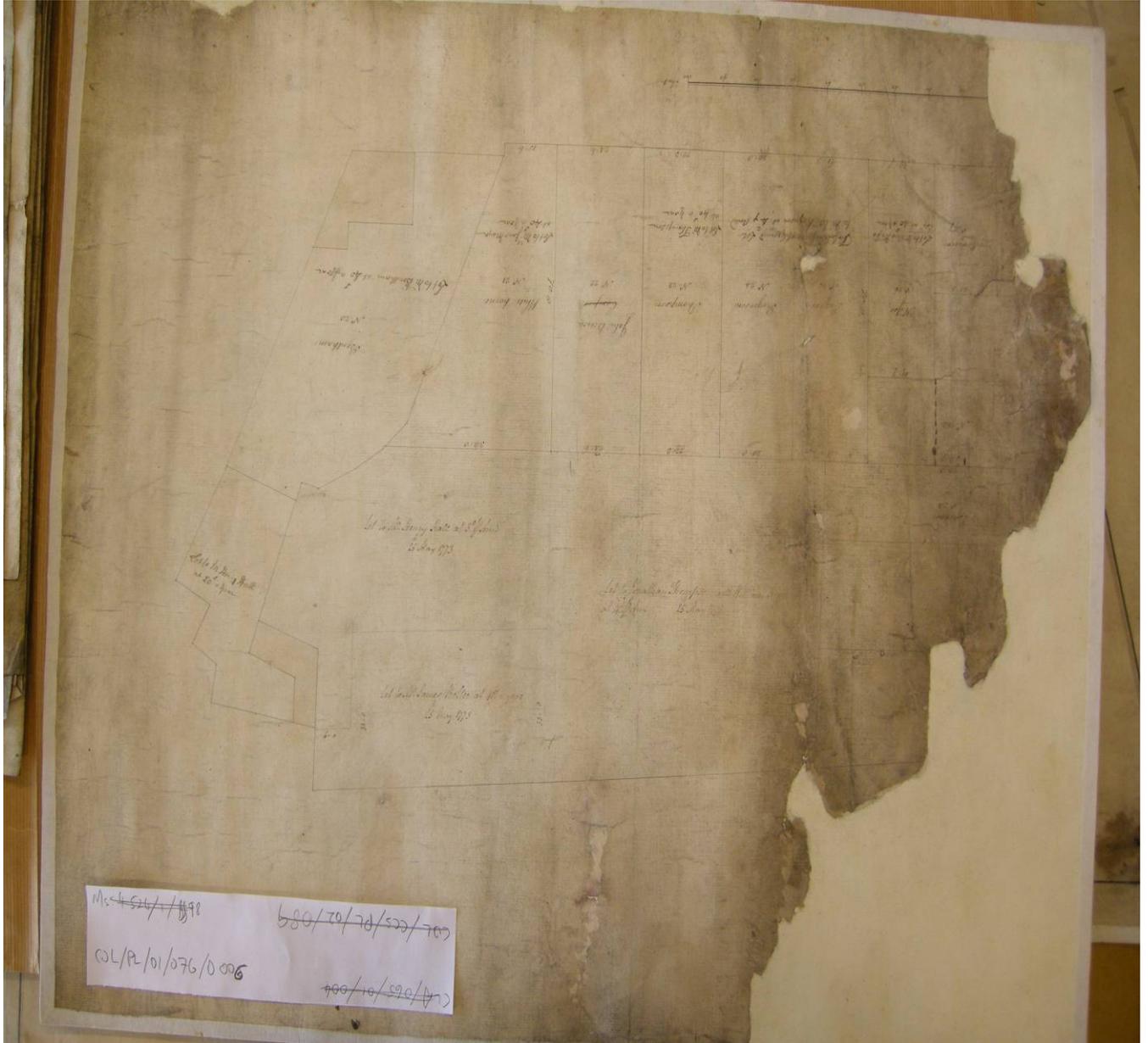
Bowen, Thomas, 1783, London, *An Historical Account of the Origins, Progress and Present state of Bethlem Hospital*

Harding, Vanessa, 'And one more may be laid there': the location of burials in Early Modern London, *The London Journal*, Vol 14 No2, 1989

O'Donoghue, Geoffrey, 1915, New York, *The Story of Bethlehem Hospital from its foundation in 1247*

### 5.3 Photographs of documents

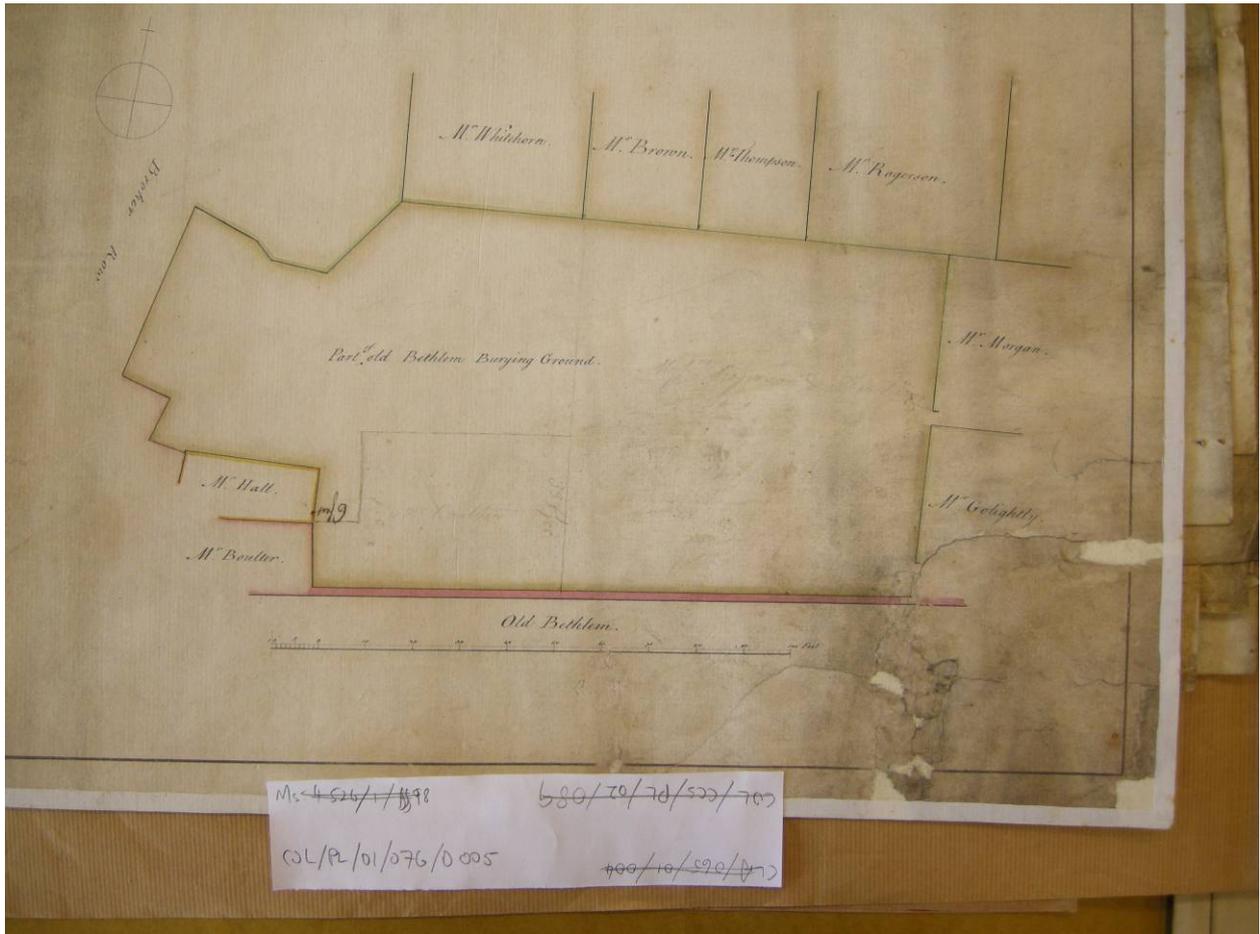
COL/PL/01/076/D/006



COL/CCS/PL/02/089 – Bethlehem Burying Ground 'Mr Hall's Plan' c 1767



COL/PL/01/076/D/005 – Bethlem Burying Ground, c 18th century



COL/CCS/PL/02/142 –Bethlehem Burying Ground: 'A Plan of Old Bethlem Burying Ground',  
3rd Sept 1767



CLA/065/01/004 – Extract and reference from “London in the Olden Time” by Wm. Newton,  
1855

