





Grout Shaft 5		
<p>Soho Square SE corner December 2011 – August 2012 Grout Shaft 5 XR10 GS5 See Fig.3</p>	 <p>Grout Shaft 5, location view, looking SE</p>  <p>Wall 5590, looking NW</p>  <p>Cellar 5586, looking NW</p>	<p>The Grout Shaft was excavated by hand and by mechanical means. The upper 1.2m of the trench was excavated using a 360 mechanical digger. The lower deposits within the shaft itself were excavated using a telescopic arm fitted with a clamshell bucket.</p> <p>The features and stratigraphy in this area were revealed to be highly involved demonstrating a complex development. The area around the Grout Shaft was expanded and an excavation took place.</p> <p>The summary of results showed that below the modern road and its various sub bases, makeup deposits and modern services the remains included: brick built structures; other cut features; sequences of layers related to brick production the remains of gravel extraction pits.</p> <p>At the top of the sequence, the substantial red brick wall, (5590) aligned NW-SE, was seen 0.8m bgl, running along the eastern end of the excavation area. The wall was built of unfrogged red bricks and measured over 1.6m x 0.9m x 0.4m.</p> <p>This wall truncated an E-W aligned brick vaulted cellar (5586). The cellar made of unfrogged dark red bricks bonded with hard sandy white lime rich mortar. The cellar was beneath the present pavement and would have been part of a structure, now demolished, on the eastern side of the square.</p> <p>The wall (5590) also truncated the earlier stratigraphy, as did the N-S aligned water/gas mains that ran through the trench. The intact deposits were to the west of the wall.</p> <p>There were a number of possible pit or uncertain features some of which intercut (5566, 5525, 6000, 5539, 5531, and 5753). The restricted nature of the surviving remains meant a full interpretation was difficult. The features were probably areas of disturbance and possible pits in the open area around the square.</p> <p>Predating a number of these features was a large linear construction trench (5572=5518) for a brick built conduit. This feature was aligned E-W, was 2m wide and 2.5m deep. It contained a number of grey-brown fills that were consistent with deliberate backfilling activity.</p> <p>This large feature (5572=5518) cut an earlier probable ditch (5550) on the same E-W orientation. The ditch had a single fill (5526) which appeared to result from waterlain material and discarded organic debris.</p> <p>The ditch (5550) was also truncated by pit (5539). The</p>



	 <p>Feature 5572, looking E</p>  <p>Layer 5579, looking E</p>  <p>Feature 5539, looking NE</p>  <p>Deposit 5579, looking N</p>	<p>pit was on the eastern side of the area and contained eight fills.</p> <p>Also truncated by the large feature (5572=5518) was a complex sequence of layers consisting of (5561, 5560, 5578, 5579, 5580, 5523, 5524, 5756, 5781, 6006 - (spot-dated 1650-1725), 6007, 6010, 5739, 5581, 5535, 6011, 5771 (spot-dated 1675-1750) 5800, 6013, 6009, 5740 (spot-dated 1700-1800), 5521 (spot dated 1620-1725), 5741 (spot dated 1550-1725 by pottery but with likely 17th century clay-pipe) 5743 and 5522).</p> <p>There were various interleaving deposits of darker sediments that were consistent with, activity layers, trample and general rubbish material, both dumped and accumulated (e.g.: 5522, 5561, 5567, 5570 (spot dated 1680-1710) and 5571).</p> <p>In addition to this were a number of discrete layers with different origins.</p> <p>Layer (5560) had a high frequency of charcoal indicating a deposit of fuel waste. Layer (5578) was redeposited brickearth with occasional red brick debris.</p> <p>Several layers had a high frequency of white plaster within the matrix including (5580), (6008) and (5781). Layer (5571) was a notable pale brownish white layer with a high frequency of plaster / mortar inclusions and the occasional tile fragments.</p> <p>Another key layer was (5579) which was a compact red layer comprised of crushed brick forming a sandy matrix within which were patches of brick fragments. The layer was preserved across most of the intact area and was a 0.35m thick. The brick fragments were of a soft/brittle fabric and none of the fragments had traces of mortar. This meant that the material was a waste deposit of unused bricks rather than demolition debris.</p> <p>There were other layers and lenses of similar brick waste including; (5546), (5581), (5782), layer (5743) had some suggestion of demolition material, but it may have been an incorporation of mortar in with brick debris. Brick waste was also seen within the fill of feature (5763).</p> <p>There were also dark ashy rich layers (5773) and (5741), which including high frequencies of charcoal flecking. These deposits appear to contain elements of fuel waste and indicate rake out or fire deposits. These may relate to hearths or kilns.</p> <p>Layers such as (5760) were thought to be deposits of 'nightsoil' either in situ or as dumped material.</p> <p>Several layers were highly mixed and partially uneven and were laid as makeup and levelling layers (5772),</p>
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