

## **The 'Boar's Head' at Middlesex Street, Whitechapel High Street and Goulston Street, Tower Hamlets**

**Site Type: Deep Urban**

**Fieldwork: MOLA (2019-20)**

**GLHER records: [Open Area Excavation at Middlesex Street, Whitechapel High Street and Goulston Street](#)**

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### **Proposed scheme**

The scheme involved redevelopment of a partially derelict site on the edge of the City of London of student accommodation, offices and an exhibition space.

### **Archaeological response**

The site lay just outside the Roman and medieval city walls, fronted onto the historic Whitechapel High Street and was known from documentary evidence to have been the site of the Boar's Head, an Elizabethan inn and playhouse. The site had suffered from modern disturbance from basements and an underground station.

Several phases of archaeological evaluation trenches sought to establish the survival of archaeological remains locating post-medieval foundation walls, some of which could be associated with the Boar's Head others with subsequent buildings. Evidence for clay tobacco pipe manufacture and residual or fragmentary Roman and medieval remains were also found.

The survival of large parts of the Boar's Head's courtyard playing space was considered highly significant. Elsewhere survival was poor or remains were less significant.

### **Outcome**

The remains were not sufficiently robust to be put on display but the development was substantially redesigned to both preserve the Elizabeth playing space beneath the new development and reflect it within the new build.

The resultant heritage community space was fitted out with archaeological displays and related art-work with Section 106 funding to support heritage-related activities. An anti-crime youth charity 'Streets for Growth' occupies the offices on a peppercorn rent and is developing heritage related activities to support their work with local disadvantaged young people.



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