

*Medieval Haywharf to 20th-Century Brewery: Excavations at Watermark Place, City of London*

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This monograph describes the excavations at Watermark Place on the former site of Mondial House, on the north bank of the River Thames. The excavations were undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MOLA) between 2005 and 2007 in an attempt to increase the understanding of the layout and development of the city waterfront from the 13th century through the 20th century. The research is comprehensive and includes detailed investigations into the timber revetments and waterfront structures of the 13th–16th centuries. The report is organized into two period chapters that combine excavation and documentary evidence and one chapter that discusses waterfront archaeology. The monograph is superbly illustrated, showing full color pictures of the uncovered waterfront features, tenement plans, and dock sketches.

According to the monograph, Watermark Place's history traces back to the reign of King Alfred, when the area was reoccupied and named Ethelredshyth. In the 10th and 11th centuries routes such as Haywharf Lane led from the marketplace to the Roman riverside wall. Thames Street was established in the second half of the 11th century, and along with Haywharf Lane extended south-

wards as recovery of the land from the river proceeded during the 12th and 13th centuries. The advancing of the waterfront through use of a sequence of wooden revetments was established by the 13th century. This process, undertaken by the owners of the tenements, was fragmentary and without a centrally directed policy. The 11th and 12th centuries witnessed the evolution of the city into small parishes that were based on groups of tenements and houses, including the church All Hallows the Great built on the south side of Thames Street in 1148. Watermark Place was also the location of the 14th-century mansion of Coldharbour owned by William de Hereford and subsequently by Sir John Pulteney. When Pulteney acquired Coldharbour he continued to reside in the nearby Pountney's Inn instead of the mansion. Pulteney likely rented the mansion to William de Montagu, Earl of Salisbury, in 1340.

Through the 14th century, the waterfront was regarded as residential housing owned by some of the city's wealthiest inhabitants, but by the 15th century it became a more industrially centered area including roping makers and breweries. This monograph is well written, outstandingly edited, and also contains a CD-ROM that includes full catalogs of the accessioned finds and tabular data for the botanical and dendrochronological samples. It contains quality documentary evidence and archaeological analysis of the contents of the site. The introduction is informative and leads the reader into the second and third chapters, which provide a chronological account of the remains from the Watermark excavation from the medieval period to the

present day. Chapter 2 covers the period from the 13th and 14th centuries when the land at the river was reclaimed using timber revetments. Chapter 3 continues with the description of the Watermark Place area from the 15th century to the 20th century. Chapter 4 contains essays addressing the assemblage of the remains recovered from the site including the waterfront carpentry and medieval pottery. Chapter 5 contains a summary of the results gathered from the evidence presented in the previous chapters. Chapter 6 encompasses the specialist appendixes, which include extensive

descriptions of the artifacts found during the excavation. The monograph's integration of historical and archaeological data is excellent and is enhanced by the color photography of the site and finds. The authors provide a bibliography of additional publications by the contributors and other resources for the reader. It is a wonderful addition to the MOLA publications.

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