

Pewter spoons, and a Measuring Jug

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The Museum of London in Docklands 'Tunnel' exhibition displays a large number of the artefacts discovered during one of the biggest archaeological digs in London's history that has been going on right under our feet for over a decade. As part of the Crossrail project, archaeologists have excavated from Reading to Woolwich, racing to uncover the city's past as the new Elizabeth Line was dug.

Finds from the Moorfields marsh

The area known as Moorfields, adjacent to the city of London, was waterlogged throughout the Middle Ages. Reclaimed in the 16th century, the area has now been excavated by Crossrail as tunnels for the new Elizabeth Line were driven through the ground underneath.

Many of the items recovered from the marshy ground, in particular from the Deep Ditch (the river Walbrook had been re-named the 'Deep Ditch'), dated from the 15th and 16th centuries. In particular, the deep ditch yielded these pewter spoons.

Finds included evidence of Roman settlement up to the construction of the wall in the 3rd century, and evidence of the medieval use of the area for leisure activities, including ice-skating and for dumping waste



Finds from the excavation of the Pudding Mill Lane portal.

One of the finds that came to light as the result of the Crossrail excavations was this pewter measure (dating to between 1850 and 1880). It holds a quart (a quarter of a gallon or 1.1 litres) and was made between 1850 and 1880. It is inscribed 'G. Kent / Albion / Old Ford', referring to the Albion public house on Old Ford Road. Its spout is missing.

A measure was used in public houses to ensure that accurate volumes were sold.

Links (photos from the relevant sites):

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands>

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/tunnel-developmental-archaeology-crossrail-docklands>

<https://archaeology.crossrail.co.uk/exhibits/pewter-jug/>

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The Pewterer, Volume 8, number 3. October 2017.

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