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This volume reports the part of MOLA’s Crossrail excavations which took place at Farringdon eastern ticket hall and Charterhouse Square, London and revealed part of the West Smithfield cemetery. Known previously from documentary records alone, this cemetery was the slightly earlier of two emergency burial grounds opened in response to the Black Death in 1348-9 (the other was the better-known and previously-excavated East Smithfield). The volume presents detailed investigation of the 25 14th- and 15th-century skeletons recovered and a suite of scientific analyses including the positive identification of Yersinia pestis, the pathogen responsible for plague. A second key finding was the large ditch marking the southern boundary of the cemetery, the remains of Faggeswell Brook which ran westward towards the Fleet. The fill of the brook produced a significant assemblage of 16th-century material culture, including fragments of silk cloth of Italian or Spanish origin and a wonderful selection of leather shoes, some of which belonged to children. The latter phases: encroachment of the nearby Spitalfield meat market; construction of the Metropolitan tube line and 1930s cellars bring the report to a close, and the present.

This volume is expertly produced and very well presented. It reflects MOLAs aims to bring their commercial work to a wide audience through their publication programme and has effectively tackled the challenge of being accessible to the non-expert and conveying the academic quality at the core of their work. Footnotes, for example, provide both extra technical detail for the researcher and explanations for the layperson where necessary. Section drawings are presented with photos of key finds placed in their stratigraphic context. I also particularly enjoyed the vignettes of contextual detail, for example forays into medieval medical theory and Tudor costume, but the brevity of wider contextualization of the evidence was a slight disappointment for me, as a researcher.

This is an archaeological site report for the digital age – a visually engaging, concise and accessible volume tied in to a web-based digital project report archive where the finer detail and raw data can be found. It provides a taster of every aspect of the project, and an effective route through which MOLA’s work can reach its very broad audience.
Charterhouse Square (or Yard) in centre, labelled Charterhouse; buildings of the Charterhouse above and Aldersgate Street to right. By contrast, ownership of the buildings surrounding the yard became fragmented after the Dissolution. At least one of the larger properties here had already been leased by the priory to laymen. The Victorian opening-up of the square followed hard upon the re-planning of Smithfield Market and the cutting-through of the railway (Ill. 338). In 1864-5 the Metropolitan Railway Co. bought the whole of the south side in order to construct an extension from Farringdon to Moorgate in a cutting immediately behind, where it built a station at first called Aldersgate Street, now Barbican. (fn. Charterhouse Square, London: Address, Charterhouse Square Reviews: 5/5. Europe. United Kingdom (UK). This square and its gardens are just round the corner from both the Barbican complex and the Smithfield Meat Market, but its true relevance goes back into mediaeval times when The Charterhouse was established as a Priory in 1371 and formed much of two sides of the square. This remains a private foundation, but can be visited by the public. The central gardens are fairly plain now, but were far more ornate in previous times. They were used as a burial ground for victims of the Black Death some twenty years before the establishment of The Charterhouse. Charterhouse Square is a garden square, a pentagonal space, in Smithfield, central London and is the largest courtyard or yard associated with the London Charterhouse, mostly formed of Tudor and Stuart architecture restored after the London Blitz. The square adjoins other buildings including a small school. It lies between Charterhouse Street, Carthusian Street and the main Charterhouse complex of buildings south of Clerkenwell Road. The complex includes a Chapel, Tudor Great Hall, Great Chamber, the