



Working on  
behalf of

HS2

# Update - Park Street burial ground

November 2018

## The archaeology of Park Street burial ground

Welcome to the Park Street archaeological excavation. Archaeologists from MOLA Headland Infrastructure, supported by LM, have started exploring the 19th century burial ground, a former overflow cemetery for the St Martin-in-the-Bullring church. We're exploring one of the largest 19th century burial sites outside of London, and this is just part of HS2's wider studies - the biggest archaeological investigation ever undertaken in the UK.

As we progress, we'll be sharing the stories unearthed here. We'll also discover how this area is linked to the history of Birmingham.

For now, read on to find out a little more about this fascinating corner of the city:

- The earliest map of this part of Birmingham was drawn by William Westley in 1731. It's reasonably accurate and shows that this area around Park Street site was previously orchards, formal gardens and ancillary buildings.
- By the time of the first edition Ordnance survey map, just over 150 years later this area of Birmingham had become heavily built up with back-to-back courtyard houses constructed around the Park Street site, tramways and railway lines



First edition Ordnance survey map of Birmingham, 1889

- The Park Street burial ground was open for 63 years from 1810 to 1873. When it was first opened it measured 10,581 meters square - roughly the equivalent of one and half football pitches



- It's not known exactly who was interred in the burial ground as the registers don't differentiate between those interred at Park Street, St Bartholomew's and St Martin's. Our specialist teams are keen to learn more about the lives of former Birmingham residents through these excavations.



**Grave markers at Park Street**

- Our experts (osteologists) are examining the remains we uncover, to learn more about the lives of these people at a time of great social change, including the diseases and injuries they suffered.



**Osteologist from MOLA Headland studies a skeleton uncovered during the HS2 programme**

- We anticipate uncovering well over 8000 burials. The archaeologists are working in a large temporary structure shielding their sensitive work from view and maintain our respect for those buried here.





### **MOLA Headland Infrastructure archaeologists examine 19th century burials**

- Once the human remains have been studied, they will be removed with appropriate dignity and respect, and reburied in consecrated ground in the Birmingham area



### **Excavating human remains is a careful, delicate process**

- The team hasn't just been uncovering human remains at Park Street; they're also finding artefacts relating to the people buried there, including clay tobacco pipes, glass bottles, crockery and buttons. We also hope to find evidence of the boundary and associated features of the Medieval Deer Park (Little or Over Park).



### **Clay tobacco pipes**

You can find out more about our archaeology work on social media with #HS2digs. For regular updates about these excavations, and how you could get involved, [come back to Commonplace](#), sign up for [updates](#) or visit [www.molaheadland.com](http://www.molaheadland.com).

