

# SH74

Courtesy of LAARC 1998

SH74 (and SH76)  
Seal House, 106–108 Upper Thames Street, EC4  
J Schofield

NGR: TQ 3278 8070  
SMR: 043440–2

This excavation was undertaken by arrangement with the Fishmongers' Company. It comprised a N-S trench 26m x 3m with a 14m by 1m extension to the N; the N end lay 1m S of the S side of Upper Thames Street. Subsequently in 1976 a watching brief was undertaken on the whole site. A 1m wide section of a Roman waterfront was recorded in the trench, but not excavated below the upper timbers, which included horizontal beams from a quay floor or possibly a building on the quayside. The waterfront was dated by dendrochronology to AD 171+, and early 3rd c material lay around it. Subsequent analysis and comparison of the structure with those recorded at Swan Lane to the E (SWA81) suggests that three separate Roman structures were recorded at Seal House (Brigham 1990, 107).

Excavations also located three successive medieval revetments (dated by dendrochronology to c 1140, c 1170 and c 1210) (Waterfronts I-III) and several periods of medieval buildings (Buildings A-G). In one of them was a damaged *in situ* floor of decorated medieval floor tiles, of late 13th c or early 14th c date. After the Great Fire a row of late 17th c houses (Buildings H and J) occupied the site; these are also known from a plan in the Fishmongers' Company archives. The watching brief on the site in 1976 (coded SH76) recorded more of the Roman quay and further medieval revetments to the south of the 1974 trench (Waterfronts IV-VIII).

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