

MGT87

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55–61 Moorgate, EC2
J Drummond-Murray

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SMR: 043995–4005

The site, excavated between May and August 1987, was funded by Pearl Insurance. A total of 3m of archaeological deposits were preserved. Nine trenches were excavated, varying in size between 8m x 4m and 2m x 2m.

The earliest features recorded on site were designed to control drainage. A timber-lined drain led to a timber-lined structure, possibly a tank. Two phases of post and plank revetment running N-S, were found, the later provisionally dated to AD 120–40. They appear to have revetted the banks of a Walbrook tributary. In the central area of excavation a brickearth and timber Roman building, provisionally mid to late 1st c, contained at least three rooms, in one of which was a timber tank. This feature may have an industrial function. After the abandonment of this building another, similar structure, in use until AD 120–40 was built on the same site. An important collection of Roman glassworking debris, including part of a 'tank' furnace was found associated with this building.

In the N part of one trench a large dump of Roman leather shoe making waste was found. The leather and glassworking material constitute a collection likely to provide considerable new insights into the industry of Roman Britain. The most spectacular individual find, associated with a metallised yard and timber tank, was a damaged stone statue of a god, possibly Mercury. The metallising has a provisional date of AD 100–200. S of the yard lay the robbed foundations of a large masonry building, which fell into disuse by AD 120.

The Roman occupation of this site finished with a phase of deep dumping in the late 2nd to early 3rd c. Evidence of medieval activity, truncated by the recent basements, consisted of a well and a series of wattle-lined pits. The pits appeared to lie along a property boundary parallel with the modern line of Nun Court. Several post-medieval features were also found.

For earlier work on this site, in 1929, see GM121.

London Archaeol, 5, 1988, 386; *Britannia*, 19, 1988, 463; *Medieval Archaeol*, 32, 1988, 248–9

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