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DUA

letter  
News

ISSUE No.1

October 1988



DUA ARCHIVE COPY

**THE NEW  
EXCAVATIONS  
OFFICE**

The move to the new Excavations Office is now largely completed, although not all of the furniture has yet arrived. Telephones have been installed and the Excavations Office staff can be found on the following numbers:-

Jessica Poole Annie Hodgson	- 306
Ron Fortt Mark Green	- 307
Taryn Nixon Rob Ellis	- 308
Susan Greenwood	- 309
Sue Riviere Andrew Westman	- 310
John Maloney	- 311
DUA Meeting Room	- 312
Simon O'Connor-Thompson Marie Nally	- 313

There will be an Open House from 4pm on Monday 10th October 1988, to enable staff to visit the Excavations Office and find out 'where-we-all-are' now.

The entrance to the Excavations Office is opposite the Milburns cafeteria in the Rotunda. No muddy boots please.

**JOB VACANCIES**

The following job vacancies have been advertised internally :-

**Assistant Excavations Officer**

2 posts, 1 an open ended contract, the other for 6 months - then to be reviewed.

Closing date - 1pm Monday 10th October 1988

Interviews - Wednesday 12th October 1988

**Assistant Post-excavation supervisor**

6 month post

Closing date - 1pm Tuesday 11th October 1988

Interviews - Thursday 13th October 1988

**Senior Archaeologist**

3 month contract for 69 Carter Lane/10 Friar Street

Closing date - 1pm Wednesday 5th October 1988

Interviews - Thursday 6th October 1988

**Senior Archaeologist**

2 month contract for 46 St Mary Axe

Closing date - 1pm Wednesday 5th October 1988

Interviews - Thursday 6th October

**NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF**

The DUA welcomes 7 new members of staff this week. They are :-

Gavin Oulton

Olivia Belle

Caroline Mamwell

who are working at Little Britain, and

Simon Pope

Ann Dick

Marc Adams

Jonathan Henderson

who are working at Cannon Street Station.

## **'NEW' STAFF INTERVIEWS**

There are nearly 70 members of Field Section II grade 3-4 with less than 2 year's service. We are interested in hearing new staff members' views of their experience working for the DUA, and the organisation of the Section, Department and the Museum. We would like to know how it compares with work experience elsewhere, suggestions for the training programme and any skills you already have which perhaps could be better utilised.

Members of the Excavations Office will in the course of the next 3-4 weeks be interviewing the staff members with under 2 year's service

This is not intended as an appraisal or evaluation of the work of these staff, but as a constructive discussion which could benefit the Section.

The relevant members of staff can expect to receive a memo giving details of the date and time of their interview, and the person carrying out the interview. Please contact the Excavations Office if there are any problems with the date or time.

## **STAFF LEAVING**

The following staff have left the Department this month:-

Annie Upson is returning to Jesus College, Cambridge, to continue her Architects course.

Dominik Kimmel is returning for a new year in a German University.

Angela Pertusini is going to Liverpool University to study English.

Candice Bell and Richard Stone have also left.

## PROGRESS OF NEW SITE MANUAL

- Craig Spence

Work on the new revised site manual was slightly delayed in July due to the need to compile an 'interim' version of the old Site Manual, including details about the new context sheets. (100 copies of this interim document were produced, they have now run out and a further temporary print run is being considered).

Since then the bulk of the text for the new manual has been produced, if only in initial draft form. The new manual contains not only sections explaining how to complete the new context sheets but also includes information about the recording and excavation of a large variety of commonly encountered urban archaeological 'features'. The manual also contains information concerning finds recovery, environmental work, surveying, stratigraphy and the matrix, together with logistical information about site engineering and health and safety advice.

An attempt has been made to treat the process of urban excavation as a fully integrated subject and hence each section of the text will include both direct comment and cross-reference to other parts of the manual. The text has been in part compiled by a number of different people from the department and therefore editing may take some time. There have already been some legitimate delays in producing text for certain subjects due to pressure of work, however some major parts of the manual still remain unwritten: ie. drawing, photography, masonry structures and building material; it is hoped that the four people concerned will soon write these sections since they are holding up the progress of the manual.

The future work programme for the site manual involves re-organising those parts of the text that have been received and incorporating the cross referencing. Once that has been completed work can begin on full editing and initial graphic design. However before this stage is undertaken I intend to circulate a number of copies of the draft manual which I hope will be read and 'constructively' criticised by ALL members of the Department.

## **TRAINING**

**- Susan Greenwood**

I was appointed as training co-ordinator for DUA Field Section II on 19th September. I am currently organising a series of induction lectures for staff who have joined the department since June. These will begin on the 17th October with Health and Safety and the Recording System. Subjects to be covered in subsequent weeks will be 'Finds - what happens to them?', Environmental, Conservation, pottery studies and surveying.

I am also drawing together ideas for more advanced training courses and the form these should take. If you have any constructive comments, ideas and criticism of training past, present or future, please let me know.

I am attempting to gather information from universities, archaeological units, museums and other relevant bodies, on any external courses, lectures and conferences that may be of interest to DUA staff. At the moment much of this information is obtained by chance, so I would be grateful if anyone would let me have details on anything they hear about.

I will circulate training notices via pigeon holes and the newsletter. The bottom right hand corner of the DUA noticeboard in the main museum building will carry training information.

As I become established, hopefully training will again become a regular feature in the Department.

## **FINDS SECTION**

**- Douglas Moir**

### **Staff**

September saw the arrival of 3 new faces to the finds Section of the DUA and the reshuffling of 3 not so new. Emma Stapley, Jane Stone and Fiona Pitt began work as Finds Assistants on the 3rd September whilst Jackie Keily has moved to work in the Building Material Section. Douglas Moir will leave at the end of the month for Bradford University to start a 6 month post-graduate diploma in Scientific Methods in Archaeology (returning in April), and Nigel Hariss will transfer to the Illustration Section at the beginning of October.

### **BBC Chronicle**

Thames Exchange was visited by the BBC Chronicle team who were filming for a documentary on urban archaeology. The previous month saw the same team at Whittington Avenue to record the lifting of the herring-bone tile floor.

### **Lectures**

Lynne Keys gave a series of 6 lectures on Medieval England, Chaucer and the Canterbury Tales for Saga Holidays, as well as conducting a visit to the sites in Canterbury associated with Thomas Becket's martyrdom and the subsequent pilgrimage.

### **Finds**

Finds of note recovered during the month include a complete ampulla - in the shape of a church and dedicated to Saint Thomas Becket - and a mace head, both from 13th century deposits at Thames Exchange. Whittington Avenue produced a copper alloy bowl handle with ends in the shape of swans' heads which was found beneath one of the 2nd century tessellated floor surfaces. This site also produced a previously unrecorded size of Roman brick approximately half the size of the tiles used in the herring-bone tile floor. Seething Lane produced a 10th century Scandinavian composite antler comb.

Some of the finds from Eagle House, 88-96 Cannon Street, are to form part of an exhibition about medicine in the 18th century gallery of the Museum. The display will use glass phials and a wet drug jar which were excavated from well deposits.

Finally, most vile finds of the month must surely be the dead cat at Ludgate Hill, dated by documentary evidence (ie. the newspaper it was still wrapped in) to 1967, with the medieval layer of squashed horses heads at Seething Lane a close second.

## SEPTEMBER SITES REPORT

### Sites completed in September

2-4 St Mary Axe  
Pilgrim Street

Vicky Ridgeway  
Jim Heathcote

### Sites on-going

Guildhall Yard  
1-7 Whittington Avenue  
Thames Exchange

Copper/Porter -?1989  
Brown/Pye -?25/12/88  
Milne/Tyler/Milne

Dominant House ph1  
2 Seething Lane  
Cannon Street Station

Mike Shea -7/10/88  
Sarah Gibson -10/10/88  
Stephenson/Bluer/  
Meddens/Hill/Burch

108 Cannon Street  
Little Britain

Nick Shepherd -?29/10/88  
Greig/Lakin -?1989

### Watching Briefs on-going

Daily Telegraph  
9-10 Angel Court  
18-25 Old Bailey  
9 Cloak Lane  
BT hole in Bishopsgate

Spence/Poole  
Dyson/Lawrence  
Bayliss/De Rosa  
Ayre/MacDonald/Dodwell  
Wooldridge/Greatorex/  
Shotliff

### Test Pits covered

158-164 Bishopsgate  
46 St Mary Axe

Wooldridge/Greatorex/  
Shotliff  
Killock/Churchill

Each month in addition to the work schedule a short report will be made on current and forthcoming projects. It is not intended that this will be comprehensive, but it is mainly to give a general background to what is going on.

### America Square

no further investigation until spring/summer 1989

### Guildhall Yard

while the excavation of the yard carries on - (Portland not without considerable problems - the future House) of the site and the amphitheatre remains, will be decided by a public enquiry which will commence in February 1989.



**CURRENT AND  
FORTHCOMING  
PROJECTS****Little Britain**

this is due to carry on for some time yet, both through excavation and watching brief. The whole site (427,000 sq ft) has been pre-let to Britain's largest firm of solicitors, Clifford Chance. The papers report that the client, Wimpeys, are expected to make £100 million profit on this site.

**Moorgate Hall**

The 4 week watching brief/ excavation has been put back 4 weeks because the demolition contractors - our old friends Gorst Clayton (ref 12 - 15 Finsbury Circus, 70 Fenchurch Street, 2 Seething Lane)- are apparently behind schedule.

**Dominant House**

The trial works have finished and show that the scheduled area is the only part of the site that (fortunately) contains any archaeology, bar possibly the southern limit. The nature of any further investigation is being determined. The client, Hammersons (ref River Plate House) will also be re-developing Brooks House due south of Dominant House c 1990.

**Thames Exchange**

The clients Kumagai Gumi (cf News of the World) are also re-developing Moss Bros in Covent Garden and 41- 51 Bishopsgate.

**Pilgrim Street**

Part of the City wall - C13th Blackfriars extension - has been uncovered including the entrance to a bastion.

**1-7 Whittington Avenue**

Problems relating to the southern part of the site have been resolved. This centred around further asbestos removal and demolition. The Roman archaeological deposits in this area are very little disturbed.

**68 Upper Thames Street**

Work is due to commence shortly. Part of the site though will not be available till November because of a bore hole at the north end which is being taken down to the chalk.

## **PROJECTS**

**(continued.....)**

### **Seething Lane**

After numerous problems with the demolition contractors ( see Moorgate Hall) the site is due to finish on time at the end of the week.

### **Ludgate Railway**

A hole in Ludgate Hill had a complete sequence of road from early Roman to the present day. The start date for the construction keeps on being put back - and is now due in May 1989.

### **Cannon Street Station**

A range of problems relating to health and safety have been encountered which have largely been dealt with, but because of the close proximity of contractors and DUA staff problems are likely to recur and vigilance will be needed. The archaeology is seriously underway and is proving of very great interest.

### **Forecast**

Currently the outlook in terms of available work looks good until the end of January. The danger would seem to be too many demands on our time rather than a shortfall. However, in or around January several major projects come to a close - Whittington Avenue, Thames Exchange and Cannon Street Station for example.

However, it looks hopeful that a number of sites in the offing will come on stream in the early New Year. Past experience indicates that while there may be the odd 'hiccup' in staffing requirements, eg weekend 31 October 1988, major lasting changes in staff levels take a long time to develop.

## SUMMARIES OF CURRENT EXCAVATIONS

### 1. Seething Lane

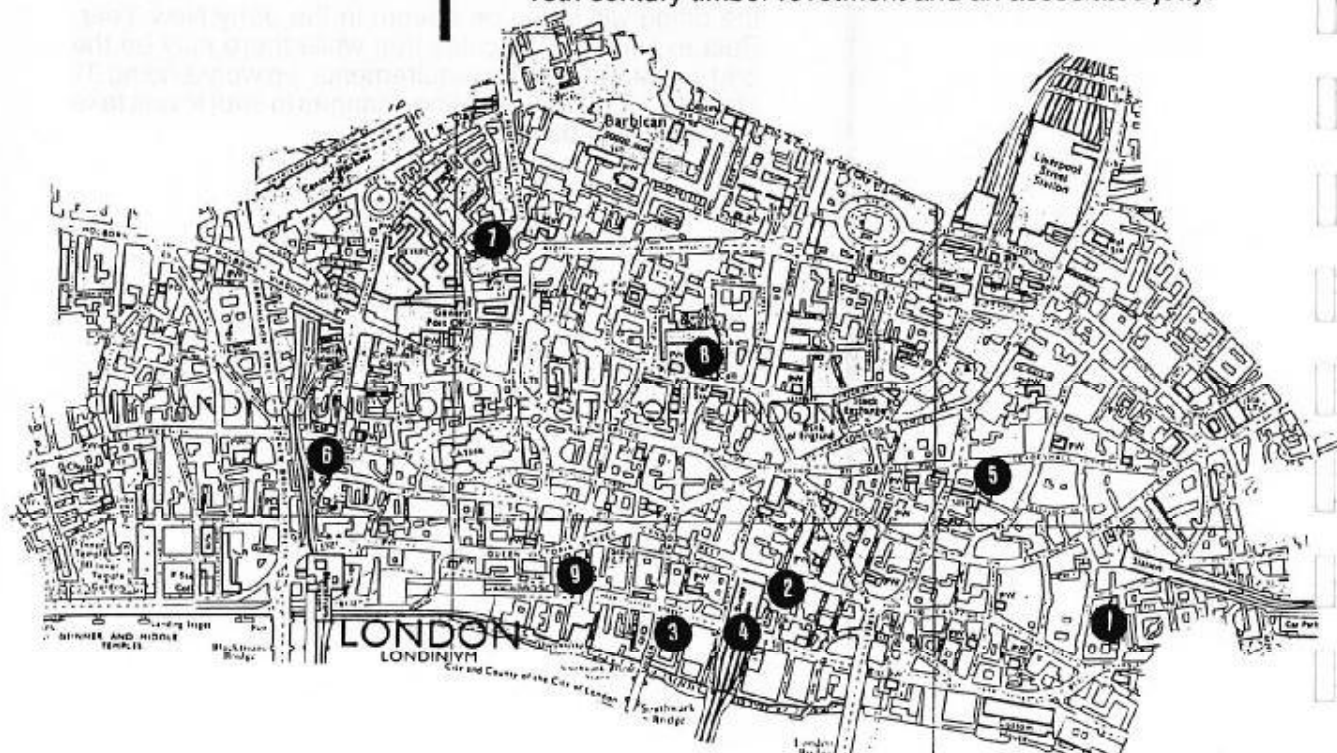
The site is situated in the east of the city and the areas of excavation have revealed a series of medieval intercutting pits and several post-medieval and medieval structures. A complete jug of the 16/17th century has been recovered from a backfilled cellar/cesspit of rag and chalk construction. A smaller cesspit with chalk walls has produced 14th century Venetian glass and a Viking bone comb has also been recovered from one of the pits.

### 2. Eagle House

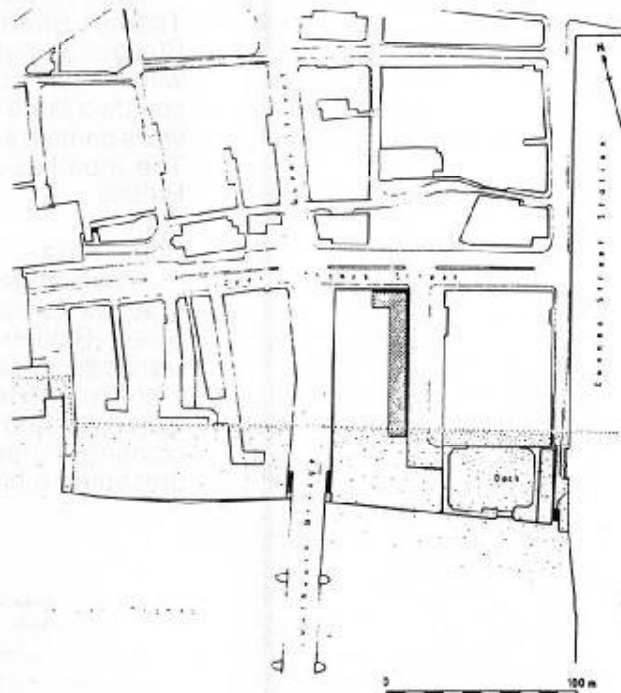
The site lies within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman Palace, but only traces of Roman structures were found. An extensive Roman gravel dump was identified across most parts of the site and may represent the preparation of the area for a single extensive development. A chalk lined well was excavated to a depth of more than 5 metres and produced early 18th century finds including wine bottles, some still containing liquid, and tin-glazed pharmaceutical jars, one of which was labelled 'Methredat' - a poison antidote.

### 3. Thames Exchange

The site lies immediately to the east of Southwark Bridge to the south of the Roman Riverside Wall. The excavation has revealed the post and plank front-braced 13th century timber revetment and an associated jetty.

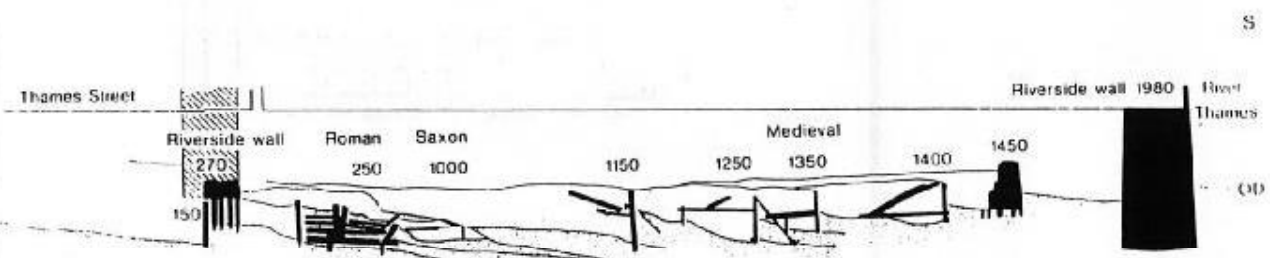


The back braces of an earlier waterfront are under excavation although the timber facing has been robbed. Other observations of waterfront structures have been



Plan showing the Thames Exchange Redevelopment & The Museum of London's excavations in relation to the 13th century waterfront

made across the site and finds include a papal bulla of Gregorius, 2 bells and evidence for bone and leather working.



Composite section showing reclamation of land southwards into the River Thames from the 1st century Roman quay to the modern river wall

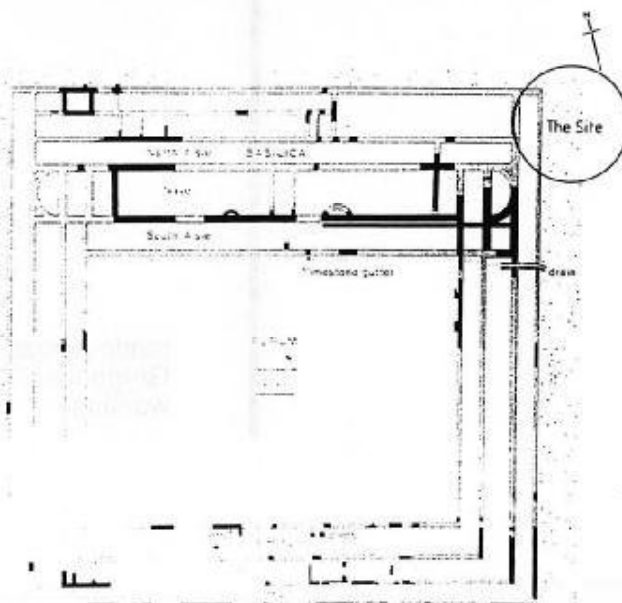
#### 4. Cannon Street Station

##### North Area.

This area of the site is located to the north of Upper Thames Street beneath the arches of Cannon Street Station. A large, probably 18th century brick floor lying within the bounds of refaced medieval chalk walls, covers a large part of the east of the site. The medieval walls contain several reused medieval moulded stones. The area lies directly over the location of the Roman Palace.

##### South Area.

The southern area is located to the south of Upper Thames Street, also beneath the arches of Cannon Street Station. Two walls of the early 14th century Hanseatic Guildhall have been uncovered, and although there was extensive cellaring between the walls at a later date, and some refacing, it is possible to see from courses of greensand blocks and tiles that it must have presented a highly decorative appearance.

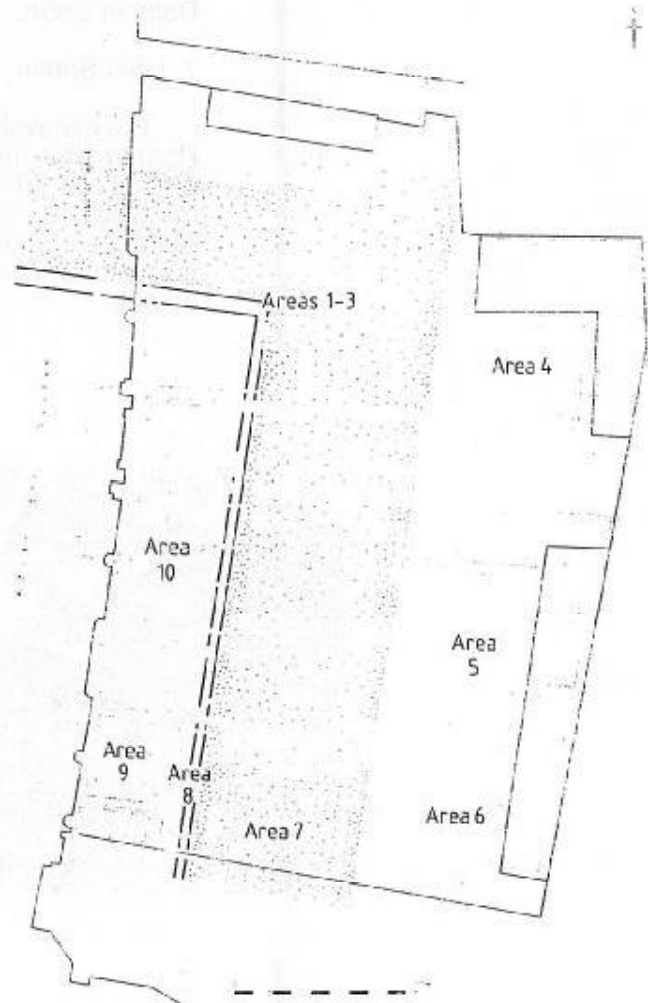


Plan of the site of the excavation of Cannon Street Station, London, showing the location of the site relative to the station.

#### 5. 1-7 Whittington Avenue

Excavations on the site started in June and have located the north-east corner of the Roman Basilica. The

surviving basilican floors are very thin and badly disturbed by later activity but a large area of Roman street gravels have been identified as the two roads running to the east and north of the Basilica. Buildings to the east of the road indicate a suite of several rooms with masonry walls superseded by brickearth and timber walls. The tessellated floors which covered at least three of the rooms have now been lifted as well, as a length of quarter round moulding, the Roman equivalent of a skirting board.



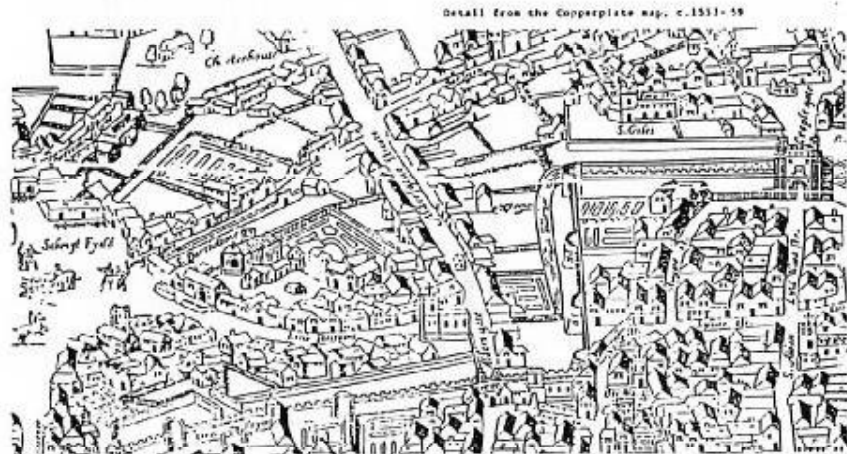
Plan of the basement walls at 1-7 Whittington Avenue, showing the location of the excavation trenches (Areas 1-10) and the position of the north-east corner of the Roman basilica and its associated roads.

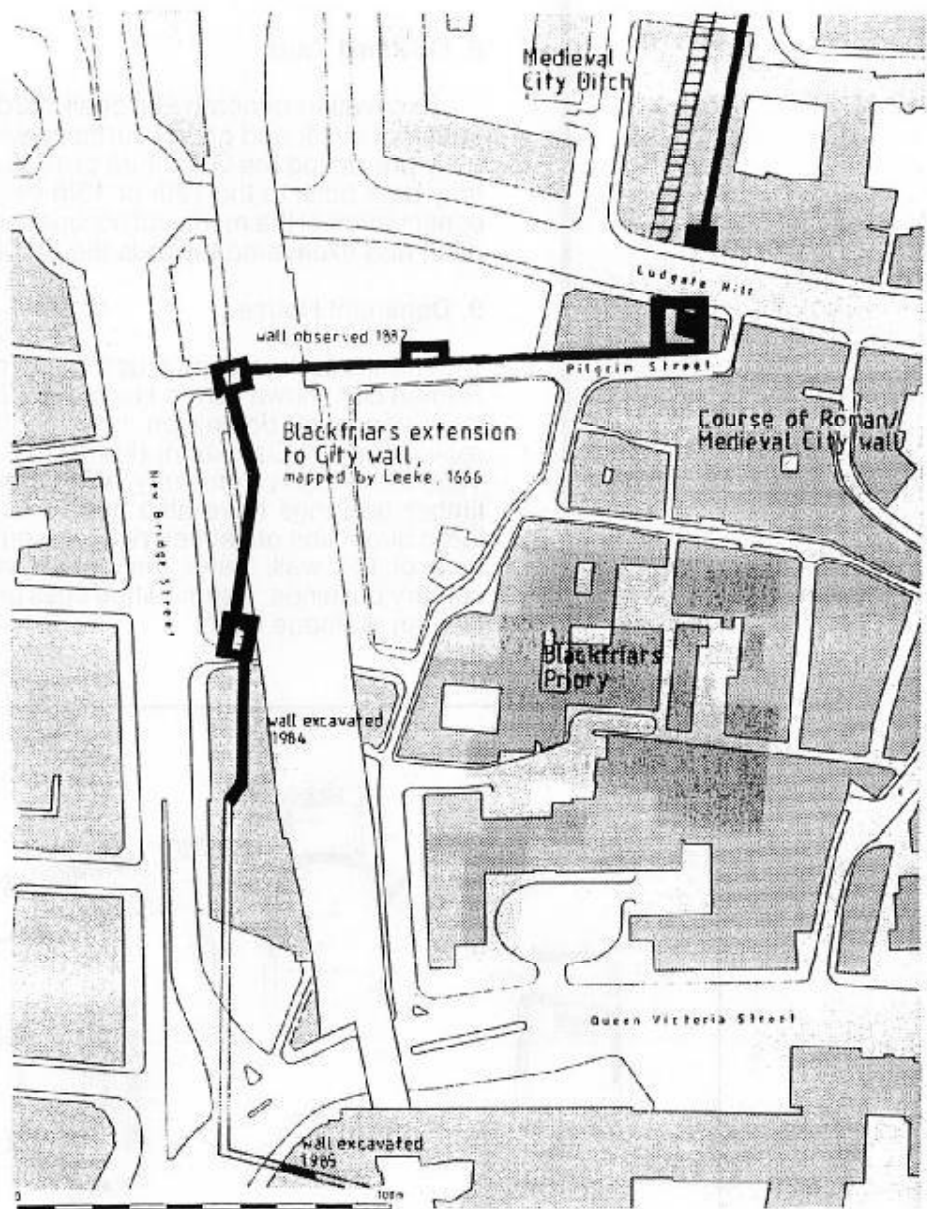
## 6. Fleet Valley

The redevelopment area runs from Blackfriars to Holborn to the east of the Railway Viaduct and excavations and observations have been carried out in several areas of the site. At the Old Bailey a Saxo-Norman timber-lined well was uncovered, and beneath Pilgrim Street a 20 metre long stretch of the medieval city wall still stands to a height of 2.7 metres. The entrance to a tower on the northern side of the wall has also been exposed, with the opening used as an alley way in the 18th and 19th centuries, linking Stonecutters Lane with Dolphin Court.

## 7. Little Britain

The excavation at Little Britain is located outside the Roman and medieval city walls and to the west of Aldersgate Street. The current work has revealed the remains of a medieval tenement building fronting on to Aldersgate Street, with a quantity of bronze-working waste. 16th century finds include glassware and linen off-cuts.





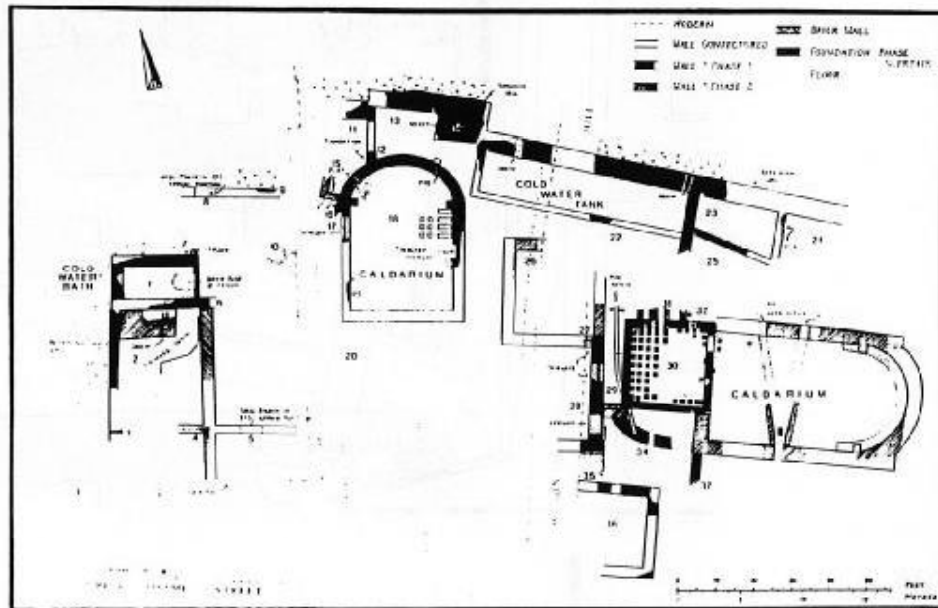


### 8. Guildhall Yard

Excavation beneath Guildhall Yard is uncovering a series of chalk and gravel surfaces which are immediately pre-dating the Great Fire of 1666. These surfaces may date back to the 12th or 13th centuries and are a continuation of the medieval occupation identified to the east, and excavated towards the end of last year.

### 9. Dominant House

The site at Dominant House is located on a part of the Roman city known as the Huggin Hill Baths. Trial work in advance of demolition has identified substantial remains of the Caldarium (hot room), observed in the 1960's, and other masonry. Well preserved clay and timber buildings have also been excavated including large quantities of painted plaster, some 'in situ' on the face of the wall. Later features have included 17th century buildings, a stone-lined cess pit and a large late Roman drainage ditch.



Plan of the bath buildings recorded in 1976

## Recent Press Coverage

THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 14 September 1988

# Medieval wharf sheds light on London's wine industry

A MEDIEVAL wharf which kept the City of London supplied with Bordeaux wine has been unearthed by archaeologists.

A 30ft section of quayside has been found, and a 9ft wide wooden jetty. It is likely that the wharf was used to import wine for King Henry III and that it belonged to John de Gisors, a thirteenth century Mayor of London whose family had come to England from what was then a major wine-growing area in northern France. The area where the Gisors and other wine importers lived and worked was known as the Vintry. A City ward still carries the name today.

Archaeologists from the Museum of London, who are excavating the site, have discovered 100 waterlogged timbers from the quay and jetty, and an assortment of broken French wine jugs.

Gisors was one of London's top wine importers in the thirteenth century and is known to have sold up to £250 worth of French wine annually to Henry III. It appears that he became the official royal wine buyer. Born in about 1200, he became Mayor twice, in 1246 and 1258, was Sheriff of London for a time and an alderman for 20 years.

The remains now being excavated were once part of a substantial family estate which stretched

By David Keys  
Archaeology Correspondent

between Thames Street and the waterfront and which included a large stone hall where a successor of Gisors is reputed to have fed food and wine to the kings of England, France, Scotland and Cyprus.

Most of the wines being landed at the Gisors' quay came from the territory of Gascony, then owned by the English, which included Bordeaux.

Gisors bought the wharf and adjacent estate from St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1240 for a down payment of £40 and an annual rent of £10 13s 4d — about 10 per cent of the value of a comparable modern rent.

The wine was sold in the capital's many taverns at 3d per gallon (about £25 in modern terms), or twice the price being charged today for comparable wine. Wine was mainly drunk by the middle or upper classes, with ale being the popular choice for most people.

Most of London's wine imports arrived at Gisors' quay or similar wharfs between October and December. Old stocks often had to be sold cheaply because the wine tended to spoil rapidly.

In most years between one and

two million gallons of wine were imported into London and the wine merchants became a powerful force in the City. At times during the thirteenth century, almost one London alderman in three was a vintner. The Vintry, where Vintners' Hall stands today, became a cosmopolitan quarter of the City, with more than half the wine being imported by foreign traders who lived in London.

Wine and ale were so popular in the City that Thomas à Becket's biographer, William FitzStephen, wrote in the late twelfth century that his only complaints about London were "the frequency of fires and the immoderate drinking of fools".

As well as shedding light on medieval wine imports, the quay is also revealing important information about medieval carpentry and building techniques. Many of the wharf timbers appear to have been the length of second-hand wood obtained from demolished twelfth century buildings.

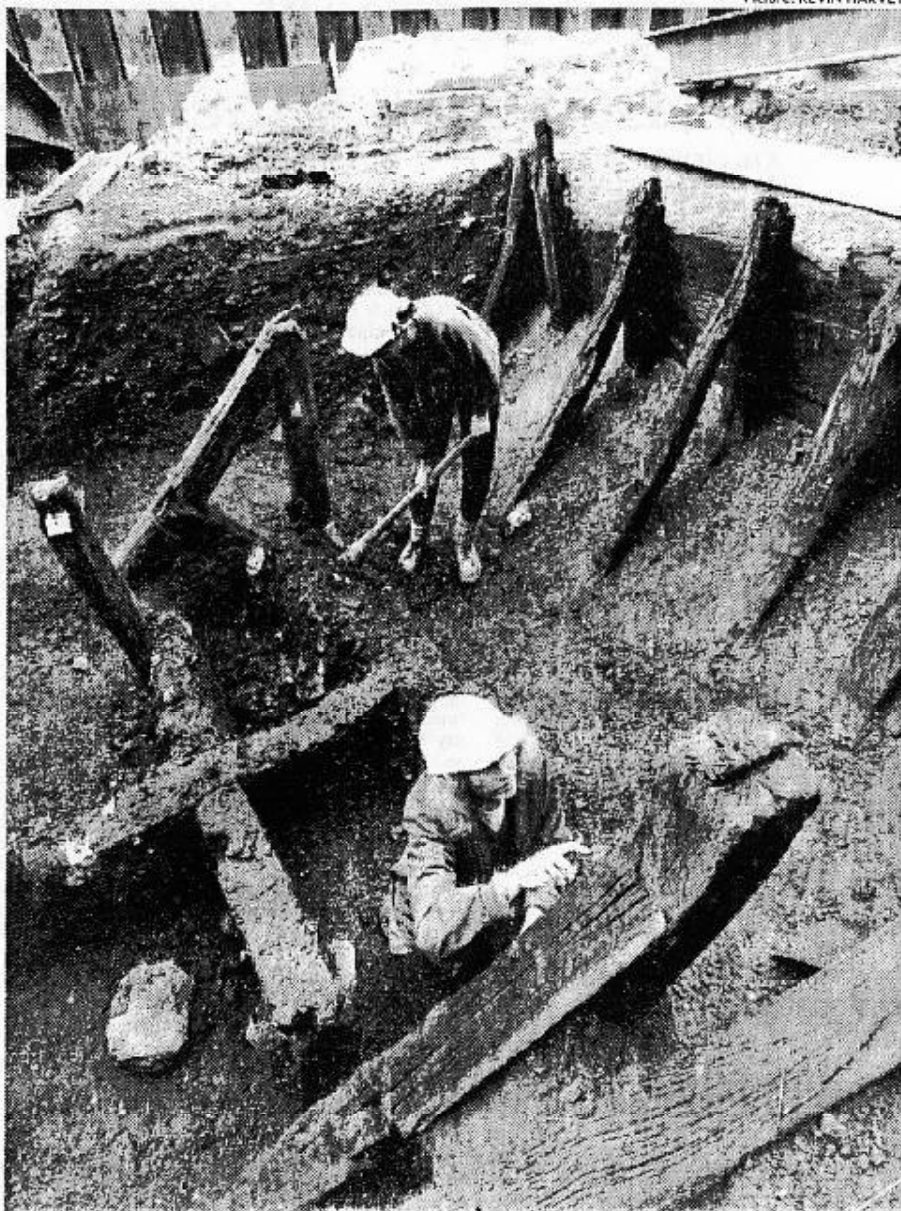
The period saw an architectural change from buildings constructed with earth-based uprights to those built on a timber frame. The re-used wood is a rare example of timbers once used in earth-based houses. The excavation is being led by Gustav Milne, Chrissie Milne and Kieron Tyler of the Museum of London.

GUARDIAN Friday 30th September 1988

© TONY NOREWOOD, JOHN MALONEY & DONNA MCPHAIL  
Two stand-ups, plus salient squawzebox and rhetoric from Maloney.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1988

Picture: KEVIN HARVEY



Archaeologists Chrissie Milne (foreground) and Jo Stevenson from the Museum of London, at work on the Vinry, a 13th Century wine wharf near Southwark Bridge. The Thames now flows nearly 100 ft from the site

## INTRODUCTION

This is the first issue of the regular monthly Departmental Newsletter for the DUA. The first issue does not represent the final format and content but should give an indication of the intentions and stimulate ideas for inclusion.

The aim of the Newsletter is for the regular dissemination of information throughout the Department. The content will include basic information such as might be circulated in a memo, notice of job vacancies, summaries of work on site and at least one feature per issue which could be on any field or topic related to the work of the Department.

There will be regular contributions from each of the Sections, and every member of the Department is encouraged to make contributions either in an article or by letter.

It will appear at the start of each month and so copy deadlines will be 2 working days before the end of each month. Please send copy to Sue Riviere who will compile and organise each issue. Abusive or misinformed contributions will be edited, but generally text will be printed as written. Final editorial control for each issue rests with Brian Hobley.

THE GUARDIAN  
Saturday October 1 1988

### Soccer Diary



**A**ND HERE HE IS. Unearthed in a recent Museum of London excavation near Liverpool Street station, the ancient forbear of today's lager-lout soccer yobbo. Museum officials are still labouring under the impression that the chappie on their mediaeval tile is the legendary Green Man. More enlightened scholars have grasped the truth of the matter, and debate now centres on whether this is a southern fan or a migrant from the north who failed to make it back to King's Cross.