

## LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST. 1973 vol 2.6

### **Blackfriars, Baynards Castle area. Guildhall (Mus. Dept. of Urban Archaeology (P. R. Marsden) .**

Excavations under the southern carriageway of the new riverside motorway revealed the SW multiangular tower of the Castle (-15th c). The limits of a 16th c. extension of the Castle were defined. The area west of the Castle was occupied by a stone-lined dock and by large deposits of domestic rubbish dumped for land reclamation and containing many well-preserved objects.

### **Bread Street, St. Milfred's Church. G.M., D. of U.A. (M. Guterres).**

The earliest features observed were connected with Roman (?Claudian) timber structures; several timber slots were seen in section and one posthole was exposed in plan. Overlying were the remains of an early Roman masonry building which contained an opus signinum floor. 5m. wide and which was constructed some time during the 1st c. and destroyed at the turn of the c. There was also part of a (?11th C.) hut pit; the hut had been constructed by setting the main posts directly into the natural gravel and the wall which was of clay, had been faced with planks. Fragmentary remains of the walls of the medieval church were visible under the Wren foundations.

### **Greyfriars (Christchurch). GM., D. of U.A. (R. Johnson).**

Part of the medieval east wall and three of the medieval Pillar bases were found below the foundations of Wren's church: the bases were linked by trench-built arches. Over 6m. of deposit still survives within the church.

### **Lower Thames Street, Old Custom House site. GM., D. of U.A. (T. W. T. Tatton-Brown).**

A Roman timber quay (?mid-2nd C.) was found; this was a large pre-fabricated structure and ran for at least 50m. across the site. The eastern section was of a boxed structure with tiers of wooden beams which had been dovetailed into the main quay wall (see next issue). Two successive medieval braced timber quays were also found, the first possibly dating to the 13th c.

## LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST. 1974 vol 2.10

### **All Guildhall Museum, Department of Urban Archaeology**

### **Angel Court, Throgmorton Street. TQ 3283 8136. (M. Guterres).**

A section was cut across the bed of a former tributary of the Walbrook which was canalised in the Roman period by revetting dumps of gravel and occupant on debris behind vertical piles and horizontal planks. The canal appears to have choked frequently, and it was necessary to raise the banks and renew the revetting periodically.

### **Billingsgate Baths, Lower Thames Street. TQ 3312 8065. (H. Pell).**

Two ragstone walls of the 1st c. were set into natural clay. To the west was an early phase of timber piles and planks and an area of natural hillside revetted to prevent landslip. Past-dating this was a 1st c. dump in which a timber-lined water tank with a hollow log pipe had been placed.

### **Harp Lane. TQ 3316 8067. (R. Jones).**

The excavation revealed two Roman buildings of different dates together with evidence of terracing on the waterfront side.

### **Ludgate Hill. TQ 3178 8118. (C. Hill).**

A flat bottomed ditch was located near the alleged position of a bastion and to the south the butt ends of two successive ditches were traced. There was no evidence of the gate.

### **Minories. TQ 3371 8118. (A. Thompson).**

The excavation disclosed a row of 17th c. cottages, a clay-pipe kiln and possible traces of buildings attached to a 16th c. convent.

### **New Fresh Wharf. TQ 3295 8066. (G. Clewley).**

A substantial Roman (?late 2nd C.) timber box-frame waterfront was disclosed. To the south were fragments of a boat reused as shuttering behind the vertical posts of a waterfront. Carbon 14 analysis of one of the silver birch posts has given a date of 760 a.d.

### **Seal House. TQ 3277 8067. (J. Schofield).**

Three medieval waterfronts, in a good state of preservation, of 12th, early 13th and late 13th c. date were uncovered. Above these, tenements of six major periods from the early 1c. were built. The 2nd c. Roman waterfront was also reached but not excavated this season. 14th c. were built. The 2nd c. Roman waterfront was also reached but not excavated this season.

### **Triangle. TQ 3301 8069. (D. Jones).**

A series of early 2nd c. oak revetments containing refuse deposits, which acted as terracing presumably supporting buildings, were found. There was evidence of subsequent stabilization in the form of piles and horizontal timber lacing. An east-west causeway of ragstone over piles was built, and fell out of use, in the 2nd c.

### **Trig Lane. TQ 3208 8086. (M. Harrison).**

The first phase of a large excavation has revealed a section of a 14th c. timber waterfront, consisting of a rear revetment in front of which a braced framework extended 15m. into the river. Further south again was found a 15th c. ashlar wall. W.C.

### **Upper Thames Street. (Baynards). TQ 3188 8093. (D. Jones).**

A trench 30m. east of the Mermaid trench disclosed two parallel east-west limestone walls, of which the southernmost was surmounted by brick facing with a rubble core to which a rectangular pier was attached. It is likely that the limestone walls represent the pre-1428 stone curtain wall of Baynard's Castle, and the brick wall and pier a post-1428 replacement.

**Upper Thames Street (Mermaid). TQ 3186 8093. (M. Millett).**

A trench was excavated across the original street line 20m. east of the Mermaid Theatre. There was evidence of dumping on the river edge from the late 3rd to late 4th c. A wall to check erosion post-dated this. The earliest road surface seems to date to the 11th or 12th c.

## **LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST 1975 Vol 2.14**

**All Museum of London, Dept. of Urban Arch.**

**50 Cannon St. TQ3244 8097 (A. Boddington).**

Salvage excavation produced five wood-lined Roman drains and part of a post-hole building.

**G.P.O., Newgate St. TQ 3205 8135 (A. Thompson).**

Bronze Age pottery and traces of (?) Roman and Saxon structures found at N end of site. At S end three distinct phases of St. Nicholas Shambles have been distinguished and over 200 skeletons removed for study. WC.

**New Fresh Wharf. TQ 3295 8066 (J. Schofield).**

A second trench 18m by 3m discovered a long length of the Roman water front, partly robbed in the mid-Saxon period and used as the basis for a rough bank of brushwood around pointed stakes, possibly defensive. The site has produced 5th/6th c. Palestinian amphorae so far unknown in Britain, and a notable group of German mortaria. The whole site (including the 1974 trench) is now approaching publication.

**5 Pilgrim St. TQ 3178 8112 (J. Schofield).**

A brick cellar produced a good group of early 17th c. pottery, imported glass and clay pipes.

**10 St. Swithin's Lane. TQ 3270 8098 (L. M. B. Miller).**

Boudiccan and Hadrianic fire levels succeeded by a ragstone building and possible road (all disturbed by later Roman pits and medieval and post-medieval tenements have been recorded).

**Trig Lane. TQ 3208 8086 (M. Harrison).**

Excavation to N of area detailed last year has disclosed an early 14th c. timber waterfront associated with masonry foundations, possibly for a crane, and further information on the early shore-lines WC.

## **LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST 1976 vol 3.2**

**All Museum of London, Dept. of Urban Archaeology.**

**Fenchurch Street. TQ 3306 8095 (A. Boddington).**

Salvage excavation on site of SE corner of Forum included three small areas indicating character and planning of the site. Four Roman periods were distinguished, the second and third separated by fire, probably Boudiccan.

**G.P.O., Newgate Street. TQ 3204 8135 (A. Thompson).**

Continuation of work has disclosed Bronze Age sherds, and flints and native sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman period. Above were two occupation phases, probably Flavian, and to the S, burnt material associated with Hadrianic fire. Work on St. Nicholas Church and cemetery has also continued. WC.

**2-3 Lombard Court. TQ 329 809 (J. Maloney).**

Salvage excavation produced deposits of c. 1st - 2nd C., including a fire deposit (probably not Boudiccan) and collapsed mock wall and a piece of tessellated floor. A 12th-13th c. pit cut through Roman deposits to gravels. One pit, containing 12th c. pottery, also included part of a mortarium with splashed green glaze and fractured edges.

**St. Margaret, Lothbury TQ 3278 8128 (A. Thompson),**

During repairs on the NE corner, an extension, probably of 15th C., was seen to have been carried over a NS culvert which channelled a branch of the Walbrook under the east end of the church. The earliest (?12th c) wall and its later extension served as the foundation for the Wren rebuild.

**Seal House, Upper Thames Street TQ 328 807 (J Schofield).**

Salvage excavation subsequent to full excavation in 1974 provided further details of Roman waterfront, dated by dendro. to 155 A.D. p/m 5. In the 12th and 13th c. three substantial timber waterfronts were built (c. 1125. 1160 p/m 5. 1220 p/m 5); with the last a series of quayside buildings could be discerned. In the early 14th c. the waterfront was again extended, as it was five more times before 1660.

**Trig Lane, Upper Thames: Street. TQ 326 308 (G Milne)**

The first phase of this excavation was completed in December 1976, and the final year concentrated upon elucidation of a sequence of eleven principal revetments dating from 13th to 16th C., each with different structural characteristics. Firm dates are expected from analysis of over 50 timber samples. WC.

**Upper Thames Street (Baynards Castle). TQ 310 809 C. Hill).**

A continuing watching brief on this site's W half produced further collapsed sections of the Roman riverside wall, and brought the total of sculptured stones to over 50.

## **LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST 1977 vol 3.6**

**All Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology.**

**GPO Newgate Street TQ 3204 8135 (S. Roskams and A. Thompson).**

Excavation continued for two months into the Hadrianic fire layers and partially into the scorched occupation surfaces of buildings beneath, on the west and south edges of the area. The main emphasis of 1977 was to complete the excavation (apart from the west wall) of the church of St

Nicholas in the Shambles. It comprised four phases: a short nave and chancel, with foundations largely made up of reused Roman masonry, probably late Saxon in date, a new chancel extension in a second phase, a north aisle in the third phase and a south aisle and squaring up in the fourth phase. The second and fourth phases are medieval in date, the church being demolished in 1547-52. Three hundred skeletons from the graveyard are being studied for evidence of health, diet, disease etc. WC.

**Milk Street. TQ 3235 8124 (A Boddington, S. Roskams and J. Schofield).**

Substantial wooden buildings of the late 1st century aligned on a road located on the west of the site were followed by several phases of subsequent building in the 2nd c., including a mosaic. Both Boudiccan and Hadrianic fires were examined and traced over parts of the site. The Saxon black earth above was carefully excavated and seems to be imported, perhaps for agriculture. A 9th c. hut with floor and porch was found on the edge of the Roman road, and off Milk Street (first documented 1140) a large stone house perhaps of the 11th c. Other medieval foundations and cesspits were recorded, and a late 17th c. house on Russia Court was recorded by the GLC Historic Building Division.

**Bastion 10A. TQ 3316 8154 (J. Schofield).**

A previously unrecorded bastion was noticed on Tudor maps in the churchyard of St. Botolph Bishopgate, half way between the Roman and medieval Bishopsgate and the (?) late Roman bastion under the vestry of All Hallows on the Wall. The new bastion, to be numbered IOA, can be traced in records in 1529 and was demolished by 1676. It is presumably one of the probable late Roman eastern series. A resistivity survey of its likely site in the churchyard was inconclusive.

**Cripplegate Wall. TQ 3227 8164. (D. Gadd).**

A short report on the remaining archaeology of the ditches outside the length of city wall between Bastions 12 and 14, which runs beneath the Museum viewing windows, was prepared. as part of first thoughts about restoration of the wall and ditches as an exhibit. About 4m of medieval ditch fill cutting away most of the Roman ditch can be expected with no more than sporadic survival of the Roman fort and city walls.

**Duke's Place. TQ 3551 8122 (J. Maloney).**

The Roman city ditch was also investigated at Duke's Place. Pottery in it here dates no later than 150 AD, whereas the wall is normally dated to around 200. Either this section of the wall is earlier, or the ditch, which was flat-bottomed is from the earlier earthen defences, so far never located but presumed to be on the line of the wall. The medieval city ditch was found to be at least 6.5m wide. A rubbish pit produced biscuit wasters from a kiln presumably in the area, together with a Bellarmine jug bearing a date of 1591. WC.

**Gracechurch Street tunnel. TQ 3305 8118 (P. Marsden and J. Maloney).**

A traverse of the Roman basilica and forum was made in a GPO tunnel dug 4.5m below Gracechurch Street. It crossed first the south wing of the forum and found the forum entrance; then the forum courtyard, with a structure, perhaps a decorative pool, near the middle; thirdly, the basilica floor in the hall and side aisles, South of the forum the road passed through three Roman roads, the frontages of several Roman buildings, a 15th c. conduit, and the west end of St. Benet Gracechurch.

**City foreshore. (G. Egan).**

A wide range of post-medieval artefacts have been recovered in the past year, both by the DUA and by members of the public with whom some rapport has been achieved. Projects on lead bale seals, marked knife-blades and other categories of artefacts are in progress. The legal problems concerning ownership and the licensing of searchers remain outstanding.

## **LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST 1978 vol 3.10**

**All Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology.**

**New Fresh Wharf. TQ 329 806. (L. Miller).**

Observation of the site during contractors' excavation led to the recording of more of the Roman waterfront found in 1974 and 1975 bringing it to 40m. (131ft.) in length. with a post and plank revetment to the N. 39m. (128ft.) of the late Roman riverside wall was also found under the S. side of Lower Thames Street. Further evidence of the Saxon embankments and medieval buildings was produced and two riverbank revetments, probably of the 12th and 13th c., were associated with the latter.

**Watling Court, Bow Lane, TQ 323 810 (D. Perring).**

Six-month excavation beginning in July 1978 produced evidence of timber-framed structures, aligned N-S, which were destroyed by fire, perhaps in AD60, and replaced by the end of the 1st c. by new buildings, and two alleys which followed the boundaries of the earlier structures. In places the new buildings survived to a height of 1m (3ft 3in). Most of the walls were plastered, and traces of eight mosaic/tessellated floors were found, five of them set in *opus signinum* matrix. They constitute the earliest series of mosaic from London. After destruction by fire in the early 2nd c., the site was rebuilt with less substantial buildings which again observed pre-existing boundaries, and which were destroyed by a third fire, possibly of Antonine date. The late Roman to mid-Saxon periods were represented by a thick layer of 'dark earth' into which three cellared buildings of the late Saxon period were erected. These seem to have been sunk some 2m (6ft 7in) below the contemporary ground surfaces. and were lined by planks supported by timber uprights and joists. The one complete example measured 13m x 5.5m (43ft x 18ft) and contained iron waste. All respected the line of an E-W alleyway known to exist in the 14th c., and which coincided with a Roman property boundary. The Saxon buildings were backfilled by the 11th c., when chalk founded walls were constructed. The location and alignment of individual properties was indicated by the regular distribution of cess pits, most of which lay along the E-W alley, to the rear of tenements fronting N on to Watling Street and S on to Basing Lane. A finely constructed chalk-lined well of the 14th c. was associated with these structures.

**G.P.O., Newgate Street. TQ 3204 8135 (S. Roskams).**

A period of cremations of Flavian date, currently being excavated, imply that this part of the City was outside the official urban area up to the end of the 1st c. The structures, which mark its subsequent assimilation within that area, comprised two substantial timber-framed buildings interpreted as commercial premises fronting on to the Roman Street bounding the site to the E. These are part of a coherent, planned development of the area which took place early in the 2nd c. The commercial premises were destroyed in the Hadrianic fire, but immediately replaced, attesting the resilience of the Roman economy in London at that time. WC.

**Dukes Place, Aldgate. TQ 335 812. (J. Maloney).**

The recording of a 30m (100ft) section across the defences revealed a sequence of activity from before 120 A.D. to the 17th c. The earliest dated feature was a shallow flat-bottomed ditch (probably a pre-wall boundary), the fill of which contained pottery of c. 120 A.D. and the remains of two human skeletons. The foundation trench for the city wall was cut through a deposit which yielded pottery of c. 180 A.D., as did the internal bank and deposits dumped against the external face of the wall. The wall survived to its full width of 2.7 m (8ft) and to a height of 1.7 m (5ft) above the plinth. A longitudinal section through the wall facilitated the recording of details of its construction: a singular feature was an off-set on its external face. A V-shaped ditch, 3.5 m (11.5ft) from the wall was possibly contemporary with its construction. A localised change in the construction of the wall proved to be the blocking of a doorway and passage, and it is likely that this medieval postern was a private thoroughfare for the incumbents of Holy Trinity Priory. Other features of the Priory recorded include a doorway and undercroft in the Dorter. An arched brick wall constructed parallel to and up against the internal face of the city wall is probably part of a medieval renovation. Two large medieval ditches and a ? Civil War ditch were cut into by a series of post-medieval pits which contained substantial groups of pottery including six pots (four containing paint), a stoneware sherd dated 1591, delftware wasters, kiln furniture and a vitrified brick. A stoneware "Bellarmine" jug containing the remains of pins is thought to have been a witch bottle.

**Upper Thames Street. TQ 3241 8084. (K. Flude).**

Sections were recorded through an E-W GPO Tunnel along the N carriageway of Upper Thames Street, from Dowgate Hill House west to Garlick Hill. Deposits recorded ranged from Early Roman river gravels to Medieval foundations. Among several timber constructions found were 2 box-type Quay Structures, presumably of Roman date. As yet unconnected, one at Garlick Hill has its main baulk aligned N-S. the other at St. James Garlick hythe is aligned E-W. They are the first such structures found west of the Walbrook, and are north of the presumed line of the River-side Wall. WC.

**Lloyds Insurance Building. TQ 3314 8104. (K. Flude).**

Excavation so far has concentrated on the cut features. Roman features investigated include early Roman pits predating post-holes. The post-holes consist of two types, 2 of each types having been investigated. The first are aligned E-W and are large square features with no sign of a post-pipe, the second are aligned slightly N of E-W, and contain a square post-pipe. Early medieval pits investigated include a rectangular soak-away, or well, a clay-lined pit, and a presumed rubbish pit containing a bone ice-skate. The latter post-dates a mortar lined feature with a charcoal and ash primary fill, also containing slag, suggesting an industrial use.

**Mason's Avenue. TQ 3258 8137. (P. Herbert).**

A N-S trench cut two open box drains, approx. E-W, dating to 2nd c. or later. Beneath them was a natural stream bed, silted up before the Roman period.

**Cutler Street. TQ 334 815. (A. Balfour-Lynn).**

Examination of trial holes in P.L.A. warehouses. Evidence for two phases of post-medieval occupation before the building of the warehouses c.1800, including a wall apparently built of earth and horn cores. WC.

## **LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST 1979 vol 3.14**

**All Dept. of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London.**

**GPO, Newgate Street. TQ 3204 8135 South End (S. Roskams).**

Excavations in the S of this site have now been completed. The first signs of activity are represented by a fragment of a circular hut bounded by a ditch to the N. Dating to the 50's AD., it may antedate the setting out of the Roman Street to the S. There are fragmentary traces of quarrying of the natural brick-earth further N on the site. Eventually two rectangular and several probably circular structures were built, aligning with the Roman Street and destroyed by fire, probably in the Boudiccan revolt. After a lull in activity, substantial industrial buildings were placed on the site in an extensive late-Flavian development, accompanied by a huge brickearth quarry with secondary organic backfill to the NE. The sequence above this has been described in previous round-ups.

**GPO, West Central area (P. Allen, I. Blair, J. Burke-Easton, M. Lee, C. Midgley and J. Norton).**

Early Roman activity in the form of intercutting pits for rubbish and brickearth extraction to the E, and a sequence on the W following the pattern established during earlier excavations to the rear of the properties fronting on to Newgate Street (see Excavation Round-up 1978) was sealed by a thick deposit of dark silts covering the whole area. A series of hearths, mostly of tile and brickearth construction, were concentrated in three separate areas of the site during the early medieval period, the W group probably being associated with a flimsy structure. These were followed on the E side by a series of large rubbish pits mostly of 13th c date, and by fragmentary remains of a building with chalk and ragstone foundations and associated with a chalk-lined well and cess pits to the W, the contemporary differences in land use probably relating to property boundaries across the site. Immediately below the level of the Victorian basement, a substantial stone founded building covering an area of 12 x 10m (40 x 33ft) is provisionally dated to 14th c.

**Well Court. TQ 3238 8108 (D. Perring).**

A sequence of 1st and 2nd c buildings fronting on to a Roman road have been examined. The earliest levels associated with the road await excavation but in its later stages the road was between 6 and 8m ((20-26ft) wide and aligned N-S. Traces of two major fire levels have been identified within the sequence of Roman deposits. Slots, postholes and stakeholes were cut into the debris of the second, possibly Antonine, fire. These have not yet been dated. A deposit of dark earth, 0.35-0.50m (14-20in) thick, sealed these intrusive features. Two ninth century walls of post in trench construction cut into the dark earth. They were probably associated with buildings which fronted on to Bow Lane, which forms the west limit of the, site. An early surface of Bow Lane has been tentatively identified. The line of , Bow Lane converged on that of the Roman road 3m (10ft) to its E. A series of sunken ovens were found within the buildings. One of these had a tile floor and a daubed timber, beehive shaped superstructure. Archeomagnetic samples were taken. Carbonised bread wheat grain was found within two of these ovens. Chalk foundations of medieval walls cut into the Roman and Saxon levels. WC.

**Miles Lane. TQ 3284 8075 (L. M. B. Miller).**

A Roman building with timber terracing to the S was observed in construction trenches for a building in 1920. The remaining archaeology was sealed beneath the slab of the previous 19th c building and this awaited an opportunity for excavation. The site was opened at the beginning of September 1979 and was available, from Land Securities Ltd., for four months. The medieval layers were truncated by the 19th c slab but the bottoms of several Saxon pits survived. The building observed by Frank Lambert (*Archaeologia*, 71, 62-72) in 1920 was found in two parts, with

the N end being completely of tile and the S of dressed rag with tile courses, Floors of opus *signinum* were found associated with the N part but very patchy mortar floors with the southern. An eaves drip gully ran down the outside of the W wall bordering a gravel pavement. A drain ran down the other side of this pavement. A fragment of timber lined drain over 6ft deep was found to the S of the building with plank and post sides and floor preserved below the water table. Of Hadrianic date, this cut through the timber terracing which ran parallel with and S of the front of the building. The timber boxes formed were then packed with dumps of mortars and clays. When this is taken out the timbers should be preserved below the water table and provide a good early series for dendrochronological analysis. WC.

**Mermaid Theatre. TQ 3182 8090 (P. Herbert).**

A small , excavation on the site of the N end of the Theatre and the adjacent Puddle Dock failed to find the Roman riverside city wall, which was found immediately to the E in 1974-6. The wall must turn to the NW, as probably did Upper Thames Street, at this point. Timber baseplates for a front and back braced revetment were found turning from the east side of the Dock, to form a frontage to the river, datable by dendrochronology to c. 1240. With this revetment were noted traces of buildings forming the first units of reclamation S of Thames Street.

**Peninsular House. TQ 3295 3340 (G. Milne and P. Thompson)**

D.U.A. with C.O.L.A.S. The foundations of one of the five Roman masonry structures recorded on the site was found to cut first century dumps which overlay a well-preserved sequence of water-laid deposits of pre- Roman date. A series of occupation surfaces with possible hearths or ovens, presumably associated with early medieval timber buildings, was found in the E of the site, and a brick cellar floor adjacent to Pudding Lane was shown to have been damaged by a fire in the late 17th c. WC.

**Crosswall. TQ 3360 8100 (J. Maloney).** See MOSAIC in Vol. 3, No. 13, 364.

The trench for the 'bastion foundation cut through the V-shaped ditch which is associated with the construction of the Roman wall. The berm was about 2.7m (8ft 9in) wide, and the V-shaped ditch was 2.0m (6ft 6in) deep and some 4.8m (15ft 9in) wide. Both the V-shaped ditch and the bastion were cut into by a ditch of medieval date. The V shaped ditch was also recorded in another area but there it was cut by a broad ditch of (?) Roman date, the backfill of which yielded a coin of c. 345-361 AD and part of a human skull. Bastion 4 was situated in this area and a dump of Roman building debris sealed by 17th c layers may be connected with its destruction. A token dated 1667 was found in the gravel packing around a well, the backfill of which contained a substantial quantity of material associated with glass-making in the late 17th/early 18th c. Each end of the Roman wall is defined by a brick cess-pit of 18th c date and these are presumably indicative of post-medieval property boundaries. There is also evidence of horn-core features in both areas.

**St. Barts Hospital. TQ 3186 8152 (D. Bentley).** See MOSAIC in Vol. 3, No. 13, 364.

**EXCAVATIONS AT ST. BARTS. HOSPITAL** (from Mosaic).

IN MARCH 1979 the Department of Urban Archaeology investigated an area within the precincts of St. Bartholomews Hospital known to have been part of a Roman burial ground. Evidence was found of late 2nd to 4th century burials, and also of a 1st to 2nd century building lying beneath the burials. The site is located north of the City Wall of c. 200, and the building is one of the first examples of a Roman suburban structure in London. Although the site was of limited extent, evidence suggests that this building represents at least three phases of activity. Several gravel and brickearth occupation surfaces dated to the 1st and early 2nd centuries were bounded by major and minor brickearth sills aligned east-west. A 2nd century *opus signinum* floor covered part of these internal surfaces. A destruction phase involving the digging of pits, removal of the building debris and the partial sealing of the area followed. The area was not intensively used for burials. However 16 east-west aligned inhumations were located and the existence of a further 6 indicated, in residual deposits, within a 29 sq. m. (300 sq. ft) area. The distribution of age-range, sex and cause of death suggests a civilian graveyard, and dating evidence from coins and pottery indicate late 2nd to mid 4th centuries, a range consistent with the Roman practice of inhumation. Fragments of iron nails surrounding some skeletons suggest the use of wooden coffins. Of note was one grave, a female inhumation containing a small bronze bell and a series of simply-decorated bronze armlets apparently placed on her chest. Several burials cut through the earlier structural deposits. One such was the grave of a two year old child set in the *opus signinum* floor. The entire area of burial-deposits was sealed by dark earth. DAVID BENTLEY

**Bull Wharf. TQ 3240 8075 (C. Milne).**

A watching brief conducted during the contractors' redevelopment of the site produced evidence of medieval and post-medieval riverfront reclamation incorporating both front braced timber revetments and stone river walls.

**Holy Trinity Priory. (Mitre Square) TQ 3345 8102 (J. Schofield).**

Excavations on the W side of Mitre Square revealed foundations of the range on the W side of the cloister of Holy Trinity Priory (founded 1108). Provisionally three main phases were identified: an initial building on the W side of the cloister, with burials to the S, some in chalk and mortar cists; a phase of adaptation at the time of new building to the S and E; and a third phase of later internal adaptation. Dating is scarce but it is suggested that the first phase is of the early 12th c, the second and third 14th c or later. Current work on the reconstruction of the Priory (with R. Lea) indicates that the second phase foundations were the W end of the conventual church, probably including a tower, as shown in the Symons plan of 1592. Beneath the priory foundations lay disturbed levels of humic silt and evidence of small scale digging for brickearth in the 1st and 2nd c. The watching brief on this site produced evidence of the 17th c Aldgate potter, including wasters.

**Cutler Street. TQ 3340 8150 (S. O'Connor-Thompson).**

At the former P.L.A.'s warehouses situated between Bishopsgate Houndsditch and Middlesex Street, approximately 200 sq m (2,000 sq ft) were excavated in plan and a watching brief was maintained on the remaining four acres. On the western of the two sites a number of human bones were recorded dating to the Roman period. Though no grave as such was discovered, it seems probable that these represent part of the Roman cemetery that is known to have existed outside Bishopsgate from the 1st c. The Saxon and medieval periods are uniformly represented by a thick deposit of dark earth which was recorded throughout the whole site. The only notable medieval feature was a pond which had silted up by 1500 to become a dumping ground for a variety of rubbish including a number of 15th c shoes. During the 16th c and first half of the 17th c the site saw an increased amount of activity, though it is probably safe to say that the land remained agricultural in its usage. By 1700 a large number of buildings had been erected of which substantial remains of at least 13 were recorded. Wells were sunk and cess pits constructed. The debris from numerous small scale industries e.g., clay-pipe making, bell-founding, glass making and horn working, was widespread. One industry whose function is as yet undetermined involved the use of pits lined with the bony cores of cattle horns; some dozen of these pits were found, varying in size from 1-16 sq m (10-160 sq ft).

**22-25 Farringdon Street. TQ 3165 8134 (A. Thompson).**

An E facing section orientated W-E, cut by the contractor, revealed this probable E embankment of the River Fleet. This was associated on its E side with a ditch-like feature of which a width of c. 5m (16ft) was examined. This feature was probably man-made, although the limited

evidence from the section may point to a natural linear feature connected with the river; only work on the environmental samples will clarify this.

## **LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST 1980 vol 4.2**

**CITY OF LONDON: all excavations by Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London. (Submitted by J. Schofield, Field Officer)**

### **Miles Lane TQ 3284 8075 (L. M. B. Miller)**

Subsequent excavation on the east side of Miles Lane showed that the substantial Roman building excavated in 1979/180 was Flavian in date, as was the timber drain to the south. A fragment of timber revetment of the same date was found beneath the Hadrianic terracing, consisting of boxes filled with organic dumps. During the watching brief following the demolition of King William Street House in 1980 the plan of the Flavian building could be completed. A brick-lined drain ran north-south underneath its floors for 23m. To the south of the building a timber pipe continued the line of this drain out over the Flavian quayfront. The quay differed from the timber revetment found earlier which may have formed a jetty. During the removal of Miles Lane three medieval road surfaces were recorded. There was some discontinuity between these and the recorded Roman road surfaces which were on a slightly different alignment. Under King William Street House the line of the Flavian quay front has been established. To the north the ground had been levelled with redeposited natural gravel prior to the construction of a second Roman building, probably also Flavian in date, on the west side of the site next to the modern Arthur Street. Its plan is not yet complete but covers an area 15m X 25m. Chalk foundations and cess pits of several medieval tenements have been recorded, some of which would have originally fronted on to Upper Thames Street and some on to St. Martins Lane on the west side of the site. WC.

### **Peninsular House TQ 3295 3340 (G. Milne).**

Monitoring of the contractors site enabled a c 15m length of a 1st century timber quay to be traced. It would have functioned with the earliest phase of the substantial masonry structure examined during the controlled excavation, just to the north. This building is now known to have continued in use with major modifications, into the late 4th century. Botolph Lane was sectioned and shown to have been laid out at the same time as the earliest of the 8th-9th century timber buildings recorded on the eastern side of the site. (see L.A. Vol 3, No. 16.)

### **24 & 25 Ironmonger Lane TQ 3250 8124 (J. Norton).**

A small site 1(8m X 8m) fronting on to Ironmonger Lane provided a chronological sequence of evidence for the setting out and alignment of an east-west Roman road north of Cheapside, and the subsequent development of roadside properties. The earliest road surfaces sealed a series of backfilled pits and irregular scoops, probably dug to extract the natural gravels, dated to the mid-1st century. Over twenty successive road surfaces and makeups were recorded, and a shallow roadside gully filled with loose pebbles and silts washed off the contemporary road surfaces provided a chronological sequence of datable pottery through to the 4th century. Part of six successive 1st/2nd century structures and an adjacent gravelled courtyard area along the northern edge of the road were found to respect the same alignment. The occupational surfaces and a series of superimposed hearths were bounded by slots to take a sill beam and timber uprights, and each successive slot encroached farther on to the roadside gravels fronting the buildings. There was widespread burning over the built-up area with collapsed sections of burnt daub, painted wall plaster and charred timbers. The remains of two oval interconnecting sunken Saxon structures, dug into the Roman road gravels to a depth of 1.30m were filled with 9th century debris which had accumulated on the floors and up against the gravelled walls of the structures. Nearby, a series of robber trenches of about the same date contained fragments of chalk and ragstone, suggesting that ruined Roman walls were still standing in the city up to 500 years after the Roman occupation. A series of truncated late Saxon/early medieval rubbish pits was excavated across the whole site. An almost complete skeleton of a male horse was recovered from the bottom of a deep cess pit and, following a preliminary examination by specialists, is considered to be a valuable find. The site was sealed by post-Fire basements (a brick floor and a gravelled surface) which had removed all traces of late medieval activity.

### **2-9, 13-16 Bevis Marks TQ 3335 8130 (C. Midgley).**

Site 1 (13-16 Bevis Marks): all horizontal stratigraphy had been destroyed by Victorian basementing. Surviving features included Roman rubbish and brickearth quarrying pits of the late 2nd to 4th centuries; 11th to early 13th century rubbish pits and two linear cuts running east-west, possibly marking a property boundary; a late 16th century brick and chalk lined well; and a late 17th century brick basement having at least three phases of use. Site 2 (2-9 Bevis Marks) (excavation in progress): machine-cut trenches along the front and down one side of the site have revealed a cut feature of possible late 3rd century date which is at least 40m long and 4m wide, running the length of the street frontage. Further trenching will establish whether or not this is a linear feature. To its south are a complex sequence of Roman and medieval pits and horizontal deposits. No structural remains survive. WC.

### **Cutler Street TQ 3340 8160 (S. O'Connor Thompson).**

A three-week watching brief in March recorded remains of three W-F aligned inhumation burials dating to the 3rd century. These overlay backfilled shallow brickearth quarries of 2nd to 3rd century date, and were in turn cut by early medieval dark earth filled pits.

### **Well Court TQ 3238 8108 (D. Perring with P. A. Cardiff and R. J. Millner).**

The early surfaces of the Roman road were examined and have been provisionally dated as Flavian. A timber lined drain ran along the west side of the road, beyond which a series of timber framed structures were examined. A fire destruction horizon, also possibly Flavian in date, was noted. A V-shaped ditch pre-dated the first road surface but its line was precisely followed by the west edge of that road. This feature has not been dated but may have been associated with the initial setting out of the area. The later sequence has been described in the 1979 Round-Up. Watching brief observations on the same site revealed two pre-Great Fire cellars surviving to street level. On topographical grounds these may have been 14th century in date.

### **62-4 Cannon Street TQ 3244 8095 (D. Perring, J. V. Price and P. Rowsome).**

Two trenches set in the basements of the properties cornering against Cannon Street, College Hill, and Cloak Lane were excavated to a depth of c 1m. In the trench along the College Hill frontage a sequence of late and post-medieval features were recorded. These had cut into an early medieval intrusive feature which contained clay and silt surfaces and an east-west beam trench. This may have been a sunken featured structure. An underlying fire destruction horizon, probably 2nd century, was recorded but not excavated. In the trench along the College Hill frontage two tile capped north-south dwarf walls were recorded. These have been provisionally dated to The fourth century on the basis of associated pottery.

### **Watling Court TQ 3235 8105 (D. Perring with P. A. Cardiff).**

Watching brief observations to the north of the excavated area (see 1978 R.U.) revealed a sequence of chalk footings to 13th century (and later)

structures fronting on to Watling Street, These had cut into a gravelled area, perhaps a yard, which underlay destruction debris on a similar level to the 'Hadrianic fire' excavated in 1978.

**60 Fenchurch Street TQ 3336 8097 (C. Guy and D. Perring).**

A first century (possibly Flavian) structure, probably of timber framed construction, was observed: its southern limit running east-west across the observed area. This building was replaced by a similar structure, possibly after its destruction by fire. In the late first or early second century a stone founded wall (represented by a mid-second century robber-trench) was constructed along the same line as the walls described above. The robbing activity post-dated an early second century fire horizon, presumably part of the 'Hadrianic Fire'. Later pits apparently respected the boundary indicated by these walls until at least the 3rd century, after which date the pits were apparently randomly distributed.

**86 Fenchurch Street TQ 3347 8110 (A. Upson).**

Excavation revealed a series of 1st and early 2nd century timber buildings, the earliest of which was possibly sub circular in plan, being replaced by a series of rectangular structures lying roughly parallel to the forerunner of Fenchurch Street. The earliest rectangular structure was destroyed by fire. Subsequent deposits clearly related to an east-west division, with a sequence of internal brickearth floors and occupation accumulations to the south, and a series of well surfaced exterior gravel courtyard or lane metallings to the north. The Roman sequence was cut along the east side of the site by a north-south line of early medieval pits.

**2-3 Jewry Street TQ 3356 8110 (D. Perring and P. Rowsome).**

Observations in the area adjacent to the site excavated in 1975 included second century structures associated with a fire destruction horizon. A sequence of surfaces beneath this were recorded in section and the relevant records are currently being studied in the hope of identifying structure. To the bottom of the sequence a series of regularly spaced postholes imply the presence of a substantial post-built building which was traced east-west for 9m. Amongst other intrusive features a late medieval chalk lined well was recorded.

**46-8 Fenchurch Street TQ 3335 8095 (M. Barker with D. Perring).**

Four sections were recorded on this site. One of these contained 1st/2nd century Roman structural remains including in situ fire debris (possibly Hadrianic). Post-fire Roman horizons were truncated and overlain by a further series of occupation levels, yielding pottery of medieval date. To the south a further series of 1st century Roman layers were recorded. These were cut by a pit containing fills with a high percentage of fire debris (possibly Hadrianic). The earlier Roman horizons were overlain by a further series of make-ups. These make-ups were in turn cut by an early medieval pit, a medieval chalk cess pit, and a 16th or 17th century brick foundation which can tentatively be identified with one of those shown on a plan of 1612 by Ralph Treswill, which property was granted to the Fullers' Company in 1520.

**174-176 Aldersgate. TQ 3214 8164 (M. Barker with D. Perring).**

A north-south section to the rear of this extra-mural property revealed a possibly Roman horizon of redeposited natural, overlain by a series of make-ups/dumps which in turn were cut by an east-west ditch. The ditch may have functioned as a property boundary. Pottery from its fills have been provisionally dated to the 12th/13th century. Gravel and silty clay dumps were laid across the site over the ditch fills. These were sealed by a medieval tile-based hearth which predated chalk block wall foundations. Post-medieval brick foundations were also noted.

**12-14 Nicholas Lane TQ 3280 8092 (D. Bowler and D. Perring).**

Substantial Roman wall footings and at least two fire destruction horizons were noted on this site but detailed recording work was not possible.

## **LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST 1981 vol 4.6**

**CITY OF LONDON: Excavations by Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London. (Submitted by J. Schofield, Field Officer.)**

**S.E. Corner Tower of Baynards Castle. (J. R. Burke- Easton).**

Four periods of medieval and post-medieval E-W river-frontages were recorded. Period I was timber; horizontal planks edge-on-edge were nailed to the back of large vertical posts which were supported on their front by angled struts jointed into them. Period II was represented by the construction of a stone rubble, ashlar faced wall whose front line was a little over 5m south of the previous structure. It was at least 2.3m wide at its base and partly founded on timber base-plates which were supported by piles set into the foreshore. Although the structure was extensively robbed; evidence of a n-s drain was recorded on the east of the area. It exited through an intact arch in the wall and timbers abutting it suggest some sort of sluice gate. Also recorded to the west during 1972/3, but outside this excavation, was a line of chalk rubble running north, similar to the remains of the e-w wall, perhaps suggesting a n-s return marking the western limit. Period III was the rebuilding of Baynards Castle, historically dated to 1428, of which only the SE corner tower was within the area. It was roughly an octagonal shape, had a diameter of c 8m, and survived to a maximum height of 2.5m (2.46m od). Built as integral features on the east end of the tower were, i) a garderobe, the sump of which was in situ, with evidence of a system of chutes which allowed disposal from three floors, and exited into the river through ii), an e-w riverwall which ran for at least 10m. An arch was also incorporated through the east end of the wall which allowed the flow of the Period II drain to continue, having been extended 6m. The tower, wall and drain were founded on large timber plank base-plates which were supported by piles. Although this part of the castle was pulled down in 1666, the lower area of river frontage stayed in use until much later, and was subject to a rebuild on the front of the tower, while the garderobe was blocked off and converted into a cess-pit. Period IV was the construction of a C19th brick built wall. Its back face was only 0.5m (20in.) south of the tower, but to its east cut through the period III riverwall.

**32 Clements Lane. TQ 3267 8095 (C. I. Evans).**

Excavations funded by Guinness Peat Properties Ltd. were conducted in east/west trench (15m x 3m) inside 32 Clements Lane. The initial occupation of the site, of Neronian date, consisted of slot trenches with associated stake-holes cut into a brickearth slab. There followed a sequence of 1st and early 2nd century interior and exterior surfaces. A sunken Flavian tile and ragstone stairway had been cut through these surfaces in the west of the site, and apparently led to a cellar which must have been situated immediately north of the site. One side of this stairway was incorporated into, and its alignment followed, the construction of a major north/south wall of mid 2nd century date. Associated with this later re-development was a parallel and corresponding wall and a tile drain. Throughout the site, in situ burning and collapse of an early to mid 2nd century fire was found. In the eastern portion there was a north/south alleyway or minor road which pre-dated this burnt horizon. The

western side of this thoroughfare was bordered by two successive ditches, the earlier being of Flavian date and the second of late 1st or early 2nd century date; in the later ditch was evidence of a plank-revetted drain. Only a narrow strip of 'dark earth' survived on the site and produced 3rd to 4th century pottery. While no Saxon features were found, a massive, early medieval, robbing shaft produced substantial quantities of late Saxon pottery. All post-Roman horizontal stratigraphy except two medieval cess-pits had been removed by the modern development of the site.

**19-20 College Hill. TQ 3250 8087 (M. Barker).**

From mid-January 1981 until the end of March a watching brief and excavation funded by Dundas Properties Ltd. was carried out on the site of the almshouses built c 1426 under the terms of Richard Whittington's will. The contractors excavated an L-shaped trench in the yard area to the W (rear) of 19-20 College Hill and carried out investigations of the foundations of the standing building of the former Mercers' School adjacent to the NW corner of St. Michael Paternoster Royal. The earliest layers exposed were a series of gravels, recorded in a N-S section, adjacent to the church, which may have represented a gravel alleyway or yard. These were overlain by a series of early medieval occupation surfaces with horizontal, spaced medieval tiles. At one horizon a wedge of burnt daub may have represented a hearth area. The uppermost of the occupation surfaces had a well built brickearth and green-glazed tile hearth. These layers had been cut into by burials contemporary with the Whittington almshouses. The L-shaped trench exposed two phases of medieval wall construction. An earlier E-W wall was probably contemporary with the occupation surfaces and was truncated by the later medieval burials. The later phase consisted of wall foundations probably of the almshouses c 1426. There were well constructed ragstone, sandstone and chalk walls forming part of a cellar, its inner walls faced with ashlar blocks and a scrim of whitewash. A carefully shaped greensand block showed evidence of being used for the pivoting of the door jambs leading down into the cellar, which had a fragmentary brick floor remaining. During further excavations adjacent to the S wall of 21 College Hill further truncated medieval walling was exposed, together with a flagstone walkway with one flagstone carved to form a slot into which a beam could be laid flat. The walkway appeared to be of a phase of alteration post-dating the almshouses. Most of the S area had been truncated by burials, probably of inmates of the almshouses, which probably continued until 1666.

**2-3 Cross Key Court, Cophall Avenue. TQ 3275 8148 (C. Maloney).**

Excavation here was generously funded by Commercial Union Properties Ltd. The earliest deposits on the site, located in the upper reaches of the Walbrook stream, are waterlain silts, contained within a bank of clay, which are thought to be Rood deposits of a tributary of the Walbrook; and a gravel surface, probably a road, bordered by a ditch. Above this surface was a N-S road constructed on a foundation of turves laid over a raft of twigs and branches set on to sand. Overlying the flood deposits, a series of organic dumps which levelled up the area for building contained pottery of mid 2nd century date. The building, set E-W, lay beside the road; it had three or more rooms and several modifications. Parallel to the E edge of the road was a timber drain. In the late 2nd/early 3rd century an embankment of clay and gravel, aligned E-W, was laid containing material possibly from a glass kiln. The latest known Roman features were two N-S ditches, one of which silted up by or in the 3rd century, possibly representing attempts at draining the area. There is little evidence of activity from the late Roman to early medieval periods except for a 10th century surface, a series of pits dating to the 11th/12th centuries, and a N-S ditch. A thick deposit of peat must represent the marsh which developed in this area from the Roman period onwards; the boggy nature of the ground was alleviated by the dumping of large quantities of clay in the 12th century. Into this clay tanks, possibly for the storage of shellfish, were cut in the 13th century. Large quantities of slag and crucibles and a mould for the casting of bronze buckles were found in 14th/15th century deposits, perhaps indicating metal working in the vicinity. 17th and 18th century deposits confirmed that the area of excavation formed gardens of properties fronting onto London Wall to the N; rarely for a City site, the building had no basement. WC.

**8-10 Crosswall. TQ 3360 8100 (J. Maloney).**

For work in 1981 and the recovery of a Roman tombstone fragment, see this issue, p168. LA Round Up – see 1979

**Miles Lane. TQ 3284 8075 (L. M. B. Miller).**

For further work in 1981 and conclusions see article in this issue, pp. 143-7. LA Round Up – see 1980

**Christchurch, Newgate St. TQ 3200 8137 (R. Lea).**

Observations in the north aisle and the E half of the remaining nave were made during the preparations for occupation by temporary offices. Stripping of the turf and levelling involving removal of Blitz debris revealed an arched brick vault 4.5m x 8m aligned N-S at least 3m deep below the Wren period floor in the NW corner of the church, Wren pier bases for the N arcade and one from the S, a brick pulpit base c 2m square set on the diagonal, centred about 1.5m N of the S arcade in the fourth bay from the W end, previously unrecorded and probably representing the position of the first pulpit in the Wren church. The arched brick vault was in a state of partial collapse and machine removal of its contents revealed about ten intact 18th century lead coffins stacked against the N wall. A blocked spiral staircase and a smaller vault cut through under the main N wall of the Wren church above were also observed. Fragments of the Wren font as photographed in RCHM and mouldings probably dating from the pre-Wren parish church were recovered from Blitz debris in the fill of the vault. The restoration of the fabric of the Wren walls of the church was also monitored.

**5 Philpot Lane. TQ 3312 8088 (F. Hammer).**

A watching brief recovered information from 17 holes for concrete piling, spread over an area of c 220 sq m to the W of Philpot Lane. The site lay about 60m S of the SE corner of the Hadrianic forum. The sections showed seven periods of activity. In Period I were quarries of brickearth and sand, later levelling of the area and a few traces of a flimsy structure in the E and some construction in the W; a spread of destruction material appearing at the fringe seemed to come from a fire to the S or E outside the site. Period II consisted of two buildings, of which the SW had substantial ragstone foundations and an inner flint foundation bonded with mortar. It seems to have survived into the late Roman period. The other, a timber and brickearth structure in the E running under modern Philpot Lane and having a gravelled area to the W, was extended in three phases until it reached a property boundary in the W marked by a stone foundation. After its destruction in Period III a new structure was built in the E with ragstone foundations and an *opus signinum* floor, also crossing the line of Philpot Lane. In Period IV dark earth and pit fills



provided evidence of Saxon occupation, although much cut away. Two ragstone and chalk walls of Period V survived at the W and S boundaries of the site; they were perhaps contemporary with the surviving 15th century vaulted undercroft S of the site. Evidence of post-medieval date (Period VI) consisted of two drains, a few portions of walls, a pit and a substantial levelling layer of destruction debris which was cut by Period VII Victorian stanchions.

**Pudding Lane. TQ 3294 8072 (G. Milne).**

The nine month excavation, funded by English Property Corporation and the National Provident Institution, was primarily designed to examine the development of the Roman waterfront. The north bank of the pre-urban river was located, into which a double row of piles had been driven. In the 1st c a substantial timber-framed waterfront structure was erected to the south (i.e. in what was the open river), and was itself later replaced by an infilled timber fronted quay, which survived to its full height of 2m. Contemporary working surfaces and warehouses with colonnaded frontage, stone walls and timber floors were also recorded. The development of these structures and associated drains was traced into the late Roman period, as was the history of a substantial masonry structure to the north. This incorporated a mosaic floor, hypocaust and an apsidal ended mosaic walled bath. The dark earth which sealed the Roman levels was cut by pits of 9th to 11th c date. The multi-phase remains of two sunken floored buildings were found, cut or sealed by later medieval features. Associated external surfaces, pits and two wells were also recorded.

**Fish Street Hill. TQ 3292 8071 (G. Milne).**

The five month excavation was funded by E.P.C., N.P.I. and the DoE, and was primarily designed to examine waterfront development near the suspected position of the Roman bridge. The discovery of a substantial timber framed structure erected in the open river in the mid 1st c close to the assumed line of the bridge led to the suggestion that it may be part of the sub structure of a bridge. Two phases of quay structure (the latest erected in 70-80 A.D.) seemed to post date its construction, and were similar to the structures examined on the adjacent Pudding Lane site to the east (see above). The subsequent development of the area in the 2nd c was also examined.

**St. Paul's Churchyard. TQ 3200 8112 (R. Lea).**

A trench 2m square and 1.3m deep was cut for tree planting in St. Paul's Churchyard 10m S of the S facade of the W transept and 20m E of the line of the W front. In the W half of the trench a brick structure at least 0.8m wide, possibly a burial vault, was observed running on a NNW-SSW axis about 0.45m below the present ground surface. A blocked round arch of four orders was found in its E face. Limestone blocks were used in the blocking and in the main structure itself, which was overlain by demolition debris including limestone, mortar, brick, tile and ash containing no finds.

**St Peter's Hill 223-5 Upper Thames St. TQ 3203 8091 (T. Williams).** Excavations conducted over an eight month period revealed a Roman to post-medieval sequence. There was little evidence of activity prior to a cutting of terraces into the hillside provisionally dated to the late 2nd or early 3rd century. The excavated area encompassed the lowest terrace and the retaining wall of a higher terrace, agreeing with the sequence found to the E by P Marsden underneath the present Salvation 4 building. On the lower terrace massive N-S and E-W foundations were constructed of oak piles, rammed chalk and limestone blocks. The N-S foundation was about 3.75m wide and the E-W foundation 8.5m wide. These formed the W and S segments of a massive structure for which the upper terrace wall formed the N element. The internal surface consisted of a good quality opus signinum floor while to the W gravels were dumped to make up an external surface. These gravels sealed a lattice of timber possibly associated with the construction phase. The probably 4th century riverside wall, which ran just to the S of the structure, was constructed after the monumental building was at least partially dismantled, though it may have utilised some of the latter's S-most parts. Evidence of a late Roman timber building with beaten earth floors was uncovered on the N half of the site, again possibly utilising parts of the monumental structure. Saxon activity survived only under Peter's Hill and Upper Thames Street, both of which were sectioned as part of the excavation. Under the former a sequence of structural and occupational activity was identified, yielding a quantity of grass-tempered pottery, but the area was too small to allow firm conclusions. Both streets appear to have been laid out in the 12th century, Upper Thames Street using the Roman riverside wall as its S boundary. Street surfaces survived on both streets from the 12th to 20th centuries. Various related medieval properties were excavated and although the pre-13th century material is fragmented the spatial distribution of the early pits suggests various properties. The W wall of St Peter's church, possibly of the 12th century, was examined in relationship to the development of Peter's Hill. A sequence of Great Fire deposits consisted of burnt brick cellars, the destruction of the church and subsequent substantial dumping over the whole area, agreeing with documented raising of street levels by the Thames. A rebuilt wall on the site of the church incorporated a large quantity of moulded stonework which should allow considerable insight into the appearance of the pre-Fire church. A marked continuity of street frontages and property divisions can be traced from the 13th century to the post-Fire period and this continuity only ceased with the construction of a Victorian warehouse on the site.

**Swan Lane/Upper Thames Street. TQ 3273 8070 (G. Egan).**

Excavation in the basement of the multi-storey car park at Swan Lane was made possible by a grant from the developers, Edger Investments, and through the cooperation of National Car Parks Ltd. Some worn timbers were found in situ at the edge of the River Thames in the Saxon period, immediately to the S of a consolidated surface of gravel and Roman building rubble. These features were overlain by an eroded late Saxon clay bank against which foreshore material had accumulated. To the S, 12th-13th century dumping reclaimed at least 18m of land from the river, probably in more than one operation, but any revetting structures, with the exception of a single cruciform timber back brace, had been removed. The first activity on this newly-made land was represented by a highly complicated series of at least 35 hearths, each constructed with a burning surface of mortar laid over vertically set roof tile fragments, surrounded by a key-hole shaped kerb of ragstone and horizontal roof tile fragments. These hearths included a vertical series of six superimposed burning areas (from which samples were taken for archaeological dating by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory), and up to five horizontal rows, though contemporaneity is difficult to demonstrate. The nature of this riverside industrial activity may be clarified by the analysis of samples recovered during excavation; these include some montmorillonite (fuller's earth) identified by the Mineralogy Dept. of the Natural History Museum. The hearths were truncated at the N by an early 13th century

undercroft, the stone-built entrance of which survived in detail, with the imprints from removed steps that would have led up towards medieval Thames Street to the N. After most of the usable building stone had been removed, the undercroft area had been backfilled with a series of dumps, including some substantial flints and a deposit of fine sandy material, perhaps from stoneworking. To the S the hearths were overlain by several later medieval stone, and post-medieval brick foundations. The implied N-S property boundaries seem to have shifted towards the end of the period represented in at least one area. Unusually for this part of London, no evidence of the Great Fire of 1666 was excavated. The latest feature uncovered was a brick-lined cistern, probably from the 18th or 19th century buildings on the site.

#### **9 The Arches, Crutched Friars. TQ 3350 8090 (R. Lea).**

During refurbishment a human skeleton was discovered aligned E-W, 1m E of a chalk foundation c 1.1m wide which ran N-S immediately below the modern cellar floor. The site falls within the NE corner of the precinct of the Crutched Friars.

#### **Apothecaries Wall, Water Lane. TQ 31 75 8105 (D. Bluer).**

A watching brief recorded human bones from trial holes in basements in advance of development. Two holes, each c 1m square, were examined. The first yielded eleven stratified but disarticulated bones of an adult, possibly male; the grave cut could not be discerned because of disturbance. The second hole contained two graves, only one of which contained stratified material: seven disarticulated bones and one skull, belonging to three individuals, an adult, an adolescent of 14-18 years and a child of ten. The grave fill was truncated by a pit containing building material and a sherd of Guy's Hospital ware, provisionally of 16th or 17th century date, of previously unrecorded form. The area of the trenches is known to have been the S aisle of the nave of the late 13th century church of the Blackfriars.

## **LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST 1982 vol 4.10**

**CITY OF LONDON: Excavations by Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London.**

#### **29 - 32 Clements Lane (TQ 3286 8094) (C. J. Evans).**

A watching brief funded by Guinness Peat Properties Ltd was conducted from April to December, and recorded. Evidence was found of Neronian timber buildings and of an early fire, apparently Boudiccan. These buildings were succeeded by brickearth sill, wattle and mudbrick structures; in one instance eleven courses of a scorched mudbrick wall survived. A sequence of drains, indicating a property division, was found to the E of Clements Lane. A large early 2nd c building was recorded on the part of the site beneath Plough Court. Here ragstone walls survived to a height of 0.80m (2.5ft) and the interior of this rectangular structure had been made-up to at least 0.90m (3 ft) above the exterior level. The base of a stairway leading up to the internal level was seen on its side. Mortar and red plaster surfaces covering its exterior faces would suggest that this structure may have formed part of an extensive courtyard-plan building, perhaps of public use. This structure was burnt in a 2nd c fire (Hadrianic) and contemporary burnt collapse was found across the site. Mid-2nd c ragstone and flint walls and foundations were found on both E and W sides of the site. Associated surfaces and floor make-ups were recorded and numerous fragments of a destroyed tessellated pavement were found in robbing trenches.

A late Saxon/early medieval rammed chalk and gravel foundation appears to have been laid out in relationship to Clements Lane. This was cut by medieval pits which riddled the central area of the site, where a keyed chalk lined well was also seen. Late medieval chalk and brick foundations, including an arched foundation, were recorded on the Clement Lane/Lombard Court corner. This building had been burnt in the fire of 1666 and subsequently re-built.

#### **Billingsgate Lorry Park, Lower Thames Street (TQ 3300 8065) (S. Roskams).**

The excavation in the Billingsgate market park is now nearing completion with the study of the late-Roman timber quay. This substantial feature, of tieback construction, represents a major reclamation in front of the first c quays found to the N of Thames Street at Pudding Lane, Peninsular House and Miles Lane. Its demise was represented by a series of features suggesting robbing. This may have taken place within the Roman period, and was itself followed by siltings both in front of, and behind, the quay which show that there was then a significant gap in occupation.

The first signs of new constructional activity are two contemporary Saxon features with an inlet in between. These were revetted by a very substantial stave built revetment up to 3m (10ft) high, put up in the late 9th or 10th century. Subsequently the Inlet was filled in but its position was preserved by a conspicuous property boundary, which ultimately divided the St Botolph's wharf and Billingsgate areas.

Throughout the 11th and 12th c the waterfront continued to advance to the S, this time with a series of front-braced revetments. These exhibited extensive signs of pre-fabrication in the form of carpenters' marks and also of the re-use of timber from both buildings and boats. In the 12th c, the revetments provided a tongue of land projecting into the river, the gravel metallings constituting St. Botolph's wharf. From the 13th c the waterfronts were off the site to the S, but the sequence of buildings behind them were examined, lying either side of the now formalised lane of St Botolph's. On the W side, it flanked the 12th c masonry walls of the church of St. Botolph. To its S buildings, probably warehouses, developed, their early 15th c versions including a well-preserved undercroft. In the mid-15th c, the church expanded to incorporate this previously domestic undercroft, with the open area between it and the church made into a private chapel, possibly a chantry. This plan continued through the 16th c, until the chapel was converted into the main S aisle of the church. Many high status burials were excavated from beneath the floors, of which the tiles were burnt in the Great Fire. The post-Fire buildings on the site of the church incorporated stones from it and were themselves incorporated into the foundations of the Victorian cellars on the site.

To the E of the lane, by contrast, commercial buildings continued in use from the 13th c onwards. Those of the 16th and 17th c contained substantial drains and culverts, perhaps suggesting an industrial function. After destruction in the Great Fire another thin strip-like mercantile building was constructed. Its associated cess-pit suggesting occupation into the 18th c. These levels, therefore, terminate a continuous horizontal sequence of stratigraphy from the late-Roman period onwards. WC.

### **23 - 32 Bishopsgate (TQ 3310 8124) (C. J. Evans).**

Excavations funded by the Standard Charter Bank took place in a 280 sq m (3,000 sq ft) L-shaped area. possible evidence of later prehistoric activity was seen in a few minor features which survived extensive Roman truncation of the brickearth natural; worked flint flakes and a substantial amount of fire-cracked flint were recovered from the re-deposited natural which covered the site.

The initial Roman development of this area (Neronian/ Flavian) was certainly planned as was evident in the continuous brickearth slab which was cut by hacking-out ditches; quarry pits were found in the E area of the site. Contemporary with this initial development was a major N/S road 7.50m (25ft) wide. Its projected alignment appears to be close to that of the first forum, running N from the approximate centre of the forum to the W of Bishopsgate, though it need not necessarily have been straight. Successive drains were excavated on either side of the road. Truncated post-holes from E/W aligned timber structures which fronted upon this road were found, as was an early pit which contained much scorched daub with wattle impressions. These structures were succeeded by more substantial, later 1st c, brickearth buildings which followed the earlier property lines. The interior surfaces of the later buildings survived in only a limited area where a baked clay hearth was found. A sequence of associated exterior surfaces in the E end of the site suggest rebuilding of these structures.

These buildings were destroyed or demolished probably in the early second c, for a horizon of large fragments of painted wall plaster and a large pit containing substantial quantities of building materials, some of which was scorched, were found. These were sealed by a thick brickearth dump perhaps arising from a re-development of the area. During the watching brief, a small portion of an *in situ* red tessellated floor was seen in the S/E corner of Crosby Square, and apparently dated from this re-development phase as it was bedded on similar brickearth deposits. In the E of the site a remarkable mid-second C pit was excavated which produced over 100kg (220lbs) of pottery and a large quantity of building materials and household goods. No later Roman horizontal stratigraphy survived on the site; fills from truncated roadside drains indicate that the road may have continued in use during the third c. Only a few later Roman pits were present and their distribution would suggest that the early property boundaries had been maintained.

One late Saxon pit and a number of 12 - 14th c cess-pits were excavated. Two standing late medieval vaults, which had been part of the Crosby Place buildings (built c. 1466) were examined and four main construction phases, were recognised, dating from the 14 - 17th c. A large brick vaulted cess-pit was found within one of the vaults which was contemporary with their later commercial use, A post medieval well and cess-pit were excavated.

### **2 - 3 Cross Key Court, Copthall Avenue (TQ 3275 8148) (C. Maloney).**

Above the natural Walbrook valley 'fills' were a series of deposits that may also have accumulated naturally but were the earliest to contain cultural material. Willow or poplar roots were found to have grown in these layers although they were apparently waterlogged at least on occasion. Ditches dug through these layers were presumably drainage channels. A dump of redeposited natural clays, dated to the late 1st - early 2nd c and sealing all these features, was clearly intended to raise the ground level. The clay dump was itself cut by ditches and gulleys, one of which was embanked and another served as a drainage ditch for the earliest road - see 1981 round up for all subsequent stratigraphy.

### **Finsbury House, 23 Blomfield Street (TQ 3283 8155) (C. Maloney).**

A section was recorded through some fine river gravels, probably part of the bed of the tributary of the Walbrook. Just to the E was a N-S line of timber posts driven into the natural clay which may represent the remains of revetting.

### **1-6 Old Bailey, 42-46 Ludgate Hill (TQ 3177 8119) (P. Rowsome).**

Excavation and observation between April and December 1982 produced evidence of the city wall and defensive ditch sequence. Of the 51.5m (170ft) stretch of the Roman city wall shown by trial holes to flank the E boundary the site, a 17.0m-(56ft) section has been revealed. This section was incorporated into the W wall of St Martin Ludgate in Wren's post-Fire rebuilding, and into the pre-Fire church also. The city wall was observed surviving up to 3.1m (10ft) above plinth level, the core having two double tile courses 0.7m (2ft 4in) apart, the lower of which was 0.7m (2ft 4in) above the top of the red sandstone plinth. The foundations of the wall were 0.95 - 1.0m (3ft - 3ft 3in) deep and 2.45m (8ft) thick. A 0.1m (4in) thick primary fill of silts in the base of the construction trench included tiles, chalk, ragstone, plaster, mortar, and *opus signinum* suggesting that a previous building may have been demolished to make way for defensive work. The plinth and facing survived over a length of 11.0m (36ft) and a height of 0.85m (2ft 10in). Random single tile courses, misplaced and broken plinth stones, two sandy limestone blocks, and various mortars all suggest a medieval reconstruction of the face of the city wall N of Ludgate. The core material and foundation, definitely of Roman date, produced a samian bowl provisionally dated mid to late 2nd c. Underpinning work has allowed the recording of a massive ragstone and mortar foundation underneath the Ludgate Hill pavement and 8m (26ft) W of the city wall which may well be the Roman gate.

Four separate areas of excavation on the site included three complete sections through the ditch sequence. The early Roman V-shaped ditch was not recorded, perhaps as a result of Victorian basement terracing into the Fleet Valley slope to a depth of 2.6m (8ft 8in) below the wall's plinth level, but Roman, Saxon, and medieval ditches survived in truncated form. Furthest to the W a late Roman flat-bottomed and wide ditch was recorded. The Roman ditch was recut slightly to the E in the late Saxon period and was in turn cut by a succession of three early medieval defensive ditches, each recut slightly to the east of its predecessor, the last being flat bottomed, the first two roughly V shaped. The latter, flat bottomed, medieval ditch seemed well maintained and regularly cleaned but retained a V-shape in the area 35m (115ft) N of Ludgate thereby leaving a 6.0m (20ft) wide margin outside the city wall for a possible early medieval bastion (B21). A wealth of finds dating to c 1300-1325 was preserved in backfilling of the ditch, including a large pottery group, horse skeletons and industrial waste suggestive of Fleet Valley industries, and a well-preserved wattle fence, perhaps representative of early suburban encroachment, crossing and blocking the ditch cut. The very early backfilling of the ditch N of Ludgate as excavated is supported by documentary evidence of encroachment by 1348. The excavation was funded by generous grants from Norwich Union Insurance Group.

### **Pudding Lane (& Fish Street Hill) (TQ 3294 8072) (G. Milne).**

The monitoring of the contractor's earth-moving activities on this Roman waterfront site (see 1981 Round-up) from August to December 1982 enabled a comprehensive picture of the natural topography to be drawn up. In addition, the outline of a second 25m (82ft) long range of 1st c "warehouse" buildings was observed to the W of the range recorded in 1979-81, together with the E side of a mid to late Roman "bath-house"; further details of the Roman quay; and the western side of the ?bridge pier base.

#### **Swan Lane/Upper Thames Street (TQ 3273 8070) (G. Egan).**

A 7 month watching brief on the 400 sq m (48,000 sq ft) site of the former Swan Lane car park, where there was a limited excavation last year (see 1981 Roundup), took place during the early stages of redevelopment. It was made possible by generous grants from the City of London Archaeological Trust and the Museum of London Trust Funds, and with the co-operation of the contractor. Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons Limited. The assistance and invaluable expertise of members of the Society of Thames Mudlarks and Antiquarians clearly demonstrated the advantages to be gained from the controlled use of metal detectors on a site of this kind by the recovery of the most extensive and varied collection of stratified metalwork from any London excavation. Dating provided by coins appears to be sufficiently accurate to give a more finely detailed framework for part of the medieval pottery sequence than has hitherto been possible from dendrochronology. The dates given below are however provisional, based on a preliminary examination of some of the finds.

A complicated sequence was recorded of some 30 wooden riverside revetment structures, marking successive phases of the reclamation of over 80m (260ft) of land from the Thames. At the N end of the site a well-constructed late 2nd c quay, built of large beams, was found to have been partially dismantled. It was succeeded by structures with a different technique of construction -- two post and plank revetments, and at last two other riverside structures which made secondary use of very large beams, but employed less sophisticated jointing than that in the earliest revetment. The alignments of these features apparently changed near the middle of the site, at a point where a N-S wooden drain was found. Deposits associated with these structures produced late Roman pottery. The subsequent late Saxon clay bank seen in 1981 was itself succeeded by a series of late 12th - mid 14th c post and plank revetments, braced on both the landward and on the river sites. There were several N-S lengths, which presumably mark property boundaries. Over 30m (100ft) of land was reclaimed during this period of intensive development in the waterfront area. It was not possible to make an adequate record in the part of the site where later 14th c reclamation might be expected, but to the S of this 15th c revetments appeared to have been constructed with thick vertical wooden beams and to have been braced only on the landward side. The latest, and most southerly, waterfront structure was a well-built later 15th c stone wall aligned N-S.

Several 12th-13th c industrial hearths with associated montmorillonite (fullers earth) were summarily recorded in a property to the E of the comparable hearths excavated last year (see 1981 Roundup). Other deposits apparently containing montmorillonite were recorded in later medieval pits, a 15th c foreshore, and mid 17th c leaden cloth seals, which may be connected with textile finishing trades in the area.

The revetment dumps produced vast quantities of finds from all phases represented. The significant Roman finds include complete iron shears, about 100 leather shoes and sandals, and a large late 2nd - early 3rd c samian group. The majority of the medieval finds are 13th c and of particular importance as they represent most aspects of medieval domestic and industrial life. Amongst the major groups there are about 1,000 leather shoes or fragments, over 300 lead tokens and a great variety of dress accessories including belts, buttons and over 250 buckles. There is also a complete curry comb, razor and several knives with their scabbards

#### **180-113 Fleet Street/140-148 Fetter Lane (TQ 3127 8118) (G. Guy)**

Excavation revealed the bottom of a late 14th c chalk-lined feature and the bottom of an 18th c brick-lined pit. The basement on this site had destroyed all other archaeological remains.

#### **14 Garlick Mill (Sugar Loaf Court) (TQ 3235 8087) (M. Barker)**

Excavations began on the site adjacent to the S side of the Hudson Bay Company's Beaver House in July 1982. At least two phases of early Roman timber structures have been recorded. Pottery associated with the construction make-ups was of Neronian type: some of the earliest Roman pottery from the City of London. The assemblage yielded an interesting group of fine wares together with an unusual red-oxidised coarse ware group.

The major part of the site was occupied by a large undercroft, the walls of which stood in places to a height of approximately 2m (6+ft); some of the springers for the vaulting were still *in situ*. During the 17th c a surface of London Clay was laid across the floor area of the undercroft to a depth of approximately 0.25m (10in) to form an impermeable barrier to water seeping up from the underlying spring line: evidence of a spring was found in early Roman horizons. A series of mortar and gravel floor surfaces occurred above the clay floor base. Within the undercroft a brick lined cess pit yielded an interesting assemblage of 17th c pot including a Westerwald jug. During the post-Fire period the undercroft was back filled with tile and timber debris showing much evidence of charring and burning.

To the west of the undercroft a late Saxon/early medieval alternating chalk and gravel foundation running E/W was seen in longitudinal section. A further series of make-up dumps lying to the W of the undercroft yielded pottery of up to 3rd c date and the earliest horizons in this area yielded further evidence of structural activity associated with early 1st c Roman pottery. WC.

#### **London Wall (TQ 3283 8152) (B. Pye)**

Observations were carried out during work on a telephone manhole in London Wall street opposite No. 57. A 2m (6.5ft) stretch of the Roman city wall was exposed and the full width of 2.5m (8ft) at plinth level. The internal face of the wall survived up to the second tile course, 2.1m (7ft) above the foundations. The bank, consisting of dark grey earth, also survived to this height. The external face of the wall only survived to two ragstone courses above the red sandstone plinth. The wall foundations were unusually deep (about 1.6m: 5ft 3in), consisting, of mortared ragstone footing, ragstone and puddled clay, with large unconsolidated ragstone at the bottom. In front of the wall to the N a ditch cut down to the natural gravels, and was filled with black peaty marsh deposits.

#### **9-9.5, 22-5 Lovat Lane (TQ 3305 8074) (D. Gadd)**

Over the winter of 1981-82 the Department carried out work on two sites in Lovat Lane; a small excavation at 22 Lovat Lane, and standing masonry was photogrammetrically recorded at 9, Lovat Lane. At the first site, horizontal stratigraphy survived beneath the cellar slabs: only the truncated bottoms of a dozen pits cut into the natural gravel. The pits dated from the 11th to the 18th c and the latest, a rectangular brick and tile lined cess-pit, produced an interesting group of artefacts. Examination of the standing walls around the site demonstrated that the chalk, rag and brick walls claimed by Marjorie Honeybourne to be those of the late 12th c Inn of the Abbot of Waltham were in fact later, almost certainly post-Fire rebuilds.

At 9, Lovat Lane the stripping of the rendering and tiling from the basement walls of No 95 showed that it concealed a well-preserved chalk undercroft lining measuring 10m x 4.5m (33 x 15ft). The squared chalk blocks (av. 30 x 20cm: 12 x 8in) were accurately laid with very narrow mortar gaps. The lining survived to street level at the E end fronting onto Lovat Lane, and was pierced by two blocked openings, interpreted as a central entrance and a window. The rear, W end wall survived even higher with the remains of a spiral staircase in the NW corner squared-off by later modifications. It was built using a combination of materials; chalk for the spiralling barrel vault and containing wall, the latter with a brick facing. The door jamb of the entrance into the staircase was in greensand and the treads of the surviving steps in hard Kentish rag. Alongside the entrance a recess had been cut into the W wall of the undercroft to house the door flush when it was swung right back.

The vault was replaced with a joist floor and the floor raised (by almost 1m: 3ft) in 1620, and the basement was finally tiled over and used as a tank for live eels when the premises above were converted for the production of jellied eel. No dating evidence was recovered in association with the undercroft, and the only indications of its date of construction are stylistic. The door recess is a feature known from other buildings of the 13th c while the brickwork of the staircase was of an early type, possibly 14th c or earlier.

#### **21 - 9 Mansell Street (TQ 3381 8119) (A. Upson).**

Excavation took place in January and February 1982. All evidence of the Roman burials anticipated due to the position of the site c. 150m (500ft) outside the Roman city wall at Aldgate had been removed by the digging of large quarry pits for the extraction of natural gravels of the river terrace. These pits had apparently been backfilled over the long periods of time between 1300 and 1700 AD, and the whole area had been sealed by dumps of clayey silt over a period in the 18th c.

These dumps were intruded upon by several pits and a brick-lined well before a major property boundary was established by means of an E-W brick built wall across the site. It formed the N wall of a brick-lined cess pit and another lay immediately adjacent to its south.

The area to the N of the property boundary had been used for the burial in excess of 100 bodies. These had mostly been buried in wooden coffins which had been stacked closely in rows to a maximum of nine per stack. Of the 74 whose ages it was possible to estimate, 57 were adult, 7 were children, and 10 infants. Documentary sources suggest that this had been a Non-Conformist burial ground in the 18th c.

The excavation was funded by a grant from A. Peachey and Company Ltd., the developers.

#### **119-121 Cannon Street, 1-3 Abchurch Yard, 14 Sherborne Lane. (TQ 3272 8091) (P. Rowsome).**

Contractors' excavations on a large site just E of Walbrook valley and N of Cannon Street required archaeological coverage in January and February 1982. Preliminary trial holes had correctly shown the S and W areas of the site to be devoid of archaeological deposits, but in the E 1.2m (4ft) of stratigraphy survived in a shallow basement area of 6 x 30m (20 x 100ft).

Earliest recorded features were a Roman well and two square, vertical sided cuts into natural. The well, to the extreme W of the site on the edge of the Walbrook valley, survived to 4.0m (13ft) below natural and contained in a box at its base a human skull with the skeletons of two dogs and many sherds of Neronian flagons and amphorae. The other square cuts were 2.0m (6.5 ft) square and 1.2m (4ft) deep. Sealing these cuts were extensive dumps of Neronian and early Flavian date. To the E a sunken floored masonry structure cutting down to natural was recorded. Its construction trench contained early to mid- Flavian pottery and the W wall was 6.5m (21ft) long and 1.0m (3ft 3in) thick, the N & S walls running E off the site. The walls were of ragstone and tile course construction in a matrix of hard cream mortar, faced on the inside. In a later phase of building a 3.0m (10ft) long addition was made to the N. The structure continued in use until the early 4th c, subsequently filling with thick deposits of waterwashed clayey silts which sealed a quantity of fine marble tiles scattered over the mortar floor. The structure may be part of a bath complex or water reservoir for the nearby governor's palace.

To the W evidence of timber building and sealing fire debris was recorded. A V-shaped ditch of 1st c date and cutting 2.5m (8ft) into natural ran across the mouth of the site towards the SE and elsewhere five medieval wells, three with chalk linings, were observed in the natural. A sequence of late medieval to 16th c pits in the E of the site produced fine collections of pottery and glass.

#### **68 Cornhill (TQ 3298 8113) (P. A. James).**

An area 6 x 7m (20 x 23ft) was excavated in plan, adjacent to the N side of the second Roman basilica, and four contractor's trenches were also monitored. In Period I a linear flat-bottomed ditch, 3m (10ft) wide by 0.6m (2ft) deep, ran for at least 9.5m (31ft) W-E across the site. To the N of it lay an area of accumulated tread with two small (? domestic) hearths. The ditch was infilled and the whole area levelled up with redeposited brickearth c 85 A.D. In Period II groups of stake-holes within rectangular cuts (c. 0.6 x 0.5m; 2ft x 1ft 8in) are thought to have been pile foundations for a timber building. The lack of survival of the Period II building remains is attributed to a large-scale horizontal truncation which marked the beginning of Period III. Immediately following this truncation the second Roman basilica was built. A previously unrecorded 3.5m (11.5ft) length of its north wall, part of an internal partition wall and an external buttress, were uncovered and destroyed by the contractors, and showed the foundations to have been 2.4m (8ft) deep. At the same time a metalled street, c. 5m (16.5ft) wide, was laid down along the N side of the basilica. This street had flanking drains on either side N-S, and fronting onto its N side were timber buildings. A sequence of five superimposed street surfaces, several drain recuts, and ? 4 phases of timber buildings to the N survived, dating from 85 to c. 120 A.D. The later Roman and post-Roman material had largely been truncated by Victorian-basements (Period V) but a late 3rd/early 4th drain in the same position as earlier ones on the N side of the Roman street provided for continuity of that street. Further N, however, the timber building remains had been cut through by two late Roman wells. The medieval period (Period IV) was represented only by a large refuse pit and part of a stone and brick built cellar.

#### **61-5 Crutched Friars, 1-12 Rangoon Street, (TQ 3352 8102) (D. Bowler).**

Commercial Union Properties generously funded a five month excavation on this site from May to September of 1982.

The natural river gravels were uncovered over most of the site. together with a small area of the brickearth cap along the northern edge of the site. The earliest manmade features on the site were pits and gullies of the Roman period, from the first century onwards, and seen in the N part of the site. The unusually large area of excavation made it possible to trace the alignment and fall of the gullies over long distances. These features produced much animal bone, pottery, and metal work. The Rangoon Street site lay just within the walls of the Roman City, and well

back from the main road (Fenchurch Street); it is likely that this area was taken up with gardens, or given over to industrial purposes, such as butchers' yards or even rubbish tips, as suggested by the plentiful animal bone and pottery. In the N part of the site, the Roman features were sealed by about 0.3m (1ft) of dark earth, deposited some time at the end of the Roman period, or later. It contained two human skeletons, buried together in the same grave, their heads to the north, the head of the upper (female) in the lap the lower (male?) These unusual arrangements suggest some pagan burial practice. Cut into the dark earth was a large medieval chalk-lined cess-pit, containing fragments of painted window glass, decorated with an heraldic lion and foliage patterns; and a pattern of small rectangular pits, filled with rammed chalk and gravel, perhaps post-pads of a timber-framed structure. South of Rangoon Street, the lower part of a timber-lined well survived, cut into the gravels and containing much 14th or 15th c pottery, including a watering-pot. The most conspicuous structure on the site was the East India Company's Tea and Drugs warehouse, built in 1796, whose massive brick and stone foundations covered most of the site. Surveyors' plans and elevations of this building survive in the India Office Archives. Associated with the warehouse, but not appearing on any surveyors' drawings, was an underground brick structure, identified as an ice-well. This consisted of a brick dome and cylinder, about 3m (10ft) deep altogether, set in the natural gravel, down to the top of London Clay. It may originally have been built before the warehouse, but was retained when the warehouse was constructed.

#### **7-10 Foster Lane (TQ 3220 8132) (I. Blair).**

A 2 month watching brief funded by Wates Developments Ltd. produced evidence of Roman and later periods from a small area of excavation and from a watching brief on building works. The earliest activity, recorded during the watching brief, consisted of quarry pits cut into the natural brickearth. Sealing the consolidation of at least one of these pits in the SE corner of the site was a succession of at least eight major road metallings, the earliest of Flavian date, of a NE/SW road. It seems likely that this originally formed the W boundary of an insula which was bounded on the E by the Roman road found at Milk Street in 1977.

Associated with the later road surfaces was a structure fronting directly onto the street to its W. This phase of activity was superseded by a series of linear roadside cuts which are interpreted as gullies. This means that subsequent buildings (which were not recorded) were pushed back behind the new lines of roadside ditches. In the main area of excavation the first series of buildings comprised four internal walls forming a room 3m x 2.5m (10 x 8.5ft), its axis parallel to the street, of brickearth sills probably for wattle and daub walls. This contained a domestic hearth similar to those on the GPO Newgate Street Site. The building was destroyed by fire in the mid to late second (the general date of the road widening) and was replaced by further structures which suffered the same fate in the early/mid third c.

Cutting through the later fire dumps the NE corner of a Roman masonry structure was recorded on the W side of the site, running under Foster Lane. A second masonry structure in the N of the site comprised one NS wall of rammed chalk, on the Roman alignment, which was not robbed until the early 11th c.

The dark earth was found slumped over 3rd c surfaces, though its relationship to the masonry buildings and to the road was not established. External surfaces and stakes of the 10th c suggest the establishment of Foster Lane. The medieval period was represented by two cesspits, which produced crucibles for metal working, in one case (datable to the 14th c), with traces of gold working upon it. For an important group of fragments of Venetian glass vessels from the 14th c backfill of one of the cesspits, see Mosaic, previous issue.

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**CITY OF LONDON: Excavations by Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London.**

#### **5-12 Fenchurch Street (TQ 3303 8093) (F. Hammer).**

Excavation on the S side of Fenchurch Street, between Gracechurch Street and Philpot Lane (by arrangement with Land Securities (Management) Ltd.) recorded 2m (6ft) of Roman stratigraphy in an area of c. 225 sq m (2400 sq ft). A number of sections along and beneath the two roads forming the sides of the site showed the whole sequence of layers from natural to modern. The area is situated immediately S of the main E/W road through the Roman city, opposite the SE corner of the Forum.

Evidence of buildings was found from earliest Roman times. One substantial structure had a tile drain leading to the W. In the centre of the site were traces of two successive buildings on the same alignment and two successive flimsier structures to the E, evidently industrial. They were probably open towards the S and were close to deposits and pits of ash, charcoal and traces of metal.

The earliest Roman occupation probably dated to the 50s A.D., and the associated ceramics were of a remarkably high quality, including many cups and beakers in Lyon ware and at least two mould-made South-Gaulish colour-coated cups of a type which is otherwise almost entirely absent from the City. The coarser wares include products of the Neronian industry identified amongst the kiln waste recovered from Sugar Loaf Court in 1982.

Little Boudiccan fire debris was found, as the area was carefully cleared for a major building in Flavian times. This was a big hall nearly 20m (66ft) long and at least 11m (36ft) wide built on deep gravel, mortar and stone foundations with plastered mudbrick walls. Buttresses strengthened the N wall. Piles inside the building may have supported its roof. Built on to it to the N lay a number of smaller rooms with many successive floors and partition walls of several phases, with little evidence of inhabitation. They seem to have been used as shops or workshops. On the E side a gravelled alleyway led from the main road to a side entrance with stairs. This was soon overbuilt: a room was found with a substantial *opus signinum* floor, divided by a plastered and polychrome painted brickearth wall from a kitchen. This included a hearth and shelf, where the pots were still in position when the building burnt down, probably together with the adjoining building to the west, producing a thick layer of debris.

Cutting into it, the succeeding building only survived as N/S partition foundations of chipped ragstone and a very substantial ragstone-mortar foundation, which was seen in section along the E part of the south frontage of Fenchurch Street and returned under Philpot Lane. No traces of a road were seen behind the wall under Philpot Lane at the Roman level. Evidence of the late 3rd c, came from two wells, constructed within one large pit in the NW; fire put them out of use when the charred timber construction collapsed into the shaft. One of these wells was thereafter used as a sump (see this issue, pp. 375-7).

A pit cut into the backfill of this well contained three unbroken pot, upside down, all of which contained charcoal and one an eroded coin. No building was found in association with this foundation deposit or offering, as the upper layers were truncated.

### **3-5 Bishopsgate (TQ 3303 8117) (G. Milne, C. Milne & N. Bateman).**

Archaeological excavations were conducted in six basement rooms of the standing building during an eight-week period in advance of redevelopment. The work was generously funded by London & Edinburgh Securities.

The natural brickearth surface had been truncated at C.+ 12.25m (40.2ft) and sealed by a redeposited brickearth slab at c. 12.50m (41.0ft) O.D. There was evidence to suggest that structural activity in the south of the site (Building 1) was burnt in the mid/late 1st c, and that brickearth quarries were subsequently dug to the N of two superimposed timber buildings (Buildings 2 and 3). Structural divisions, a doorway, *opus signinum* floors and a hearth were associated with the final phase of Building 3, which was superseded in the 2nd c by Building 5. Parts of the masonry foundations of the N wing of this substantial structure were found, associated with *opus signinum* and tessellated pavements in the final phase. To the N was a timber building, Building 4, which was replaced by timber Building 6. Both this and the masonry Building 5 were physically sealed by dark grey silts containing 3rd and 4th c pottery. These silts were cut by late Saxon features including a hearth, a cellared building, from which came three 11th or 12th c iron knives, and a backfilled well into which a sequence of eleven superimposed brickearth surfaces of a surface-laid building had slumped. Crucible fragments were associated with these floors. Provisional pottery analysis suggests that the site was occupied by the early 11th c, although the surface-laid building may not pre-date the Norman conquest.

### **Cophthall Avenue (TQ 3275 8150) (C. Maloney).**

Since September 1983 a watching brief covering an area 60 x 60m (200ft sq), fronting onto London Wall and Cophthall Avenue, has been in progress. The Roman road, recorded during the excavation of 1981-2, has been traced for a considerable distance, orientated N.N.E. S.S.W.; additional evidence of the associated timber framed building indicates that it was at least 12m x 3.8m (39 x 12.5ft). Series of posts, gravelled surfaces and various wooden structures, also Roman in date, have been recorded. In the north-east corner of the site, natural gravels of a maximum depth of 3m (10ft), gradually thinned towards the south, where waterlain deposits of the Walbrook stream directly overlie the London clay. During the Roman period the Walbrook was effectively controlled; thereafter the formation of peat indicates that this regulation was not maintained and the area became marshy.

### **St. Swithin's Lane (TQ 3270 8094) (M. Nally).**

Excavations generously funded by Haslemere Estates Ltd. were conducted in the basements of standing buildings at 18 and 20 St. Swithin's Lane. A trench 1m x 2m (3ft 3in x 6ft 6in) in No. 20 revealed only modern backfill on top of natural brickearth. A standing medieval vaulted structure parallel to the street frontage was recorded.

In No. 18 two trenches, 3.60m x 6.80m (11.8ft x 22.3ft) and 5.70m x 7.90m (18.7ft x 25.9ft), were excavated in plan. Two other smaller trenches were recorded in section. These disclosed a sequence of 1st and 2nd c Roman occupation, including a fence line, wood-lined drain and masonry foundation in the western trench. Foundation trenches had been cut into the natural sand and gravel in the E trench, but there was no evidence of associated occupation surfaces. A large rectangular cut had also been made into the natural, presumably for quarrying purposes. Later Roman activity included a sequence of make-up and floors associated with a collapsed wall.

Medieval walls were recorded running parallel to the street frontage in No. 18, on the same alignment as the standing walls in No. 20. These walls were also observed continuing through No. 19 and presumably represent a single structure. The construction trench of the W wall was dated 1150-1200. A robbed medieval wall was recorded 7m (23ft) to the W of this structure, on the same alignment.

A barrel-well and series of pits belonged to the post medieval period.

### **St. Bride's House, 10-12 Salisbury Square, 1-4 Dorset Buildings (TQ 3155 8109) (M. Nally).**

A watching brief funded by Legal & General Insurance Ltd. conducted at St. Bride's House revealed clay and gravel which sloped south from St. Bride's Church and was truncated by the modern basement level. A series of brick and masonry foundations were observed in a piling trench along the S edge of the site. Several chalk and ragstone foundations of more than one phase of medieval construction were recorded; they were too fragmentary to give coherent plans, Brick and ragstone cellar lining walls were recorded 3m (10ft) further W. No dating evidence was associated with these foundations. Construction materials of the brick foundation in the SE corner were dated 1500-1550. These brick foundations could be associated with Bridewell Palace, immediately to the south-east; the remainder more probably with the Inn of the Bishop of Salisbury to the west.

### **22-6 Blackfriars Lane (TQ 3175 8105) (R. Bluer).**

In spring 1983 a watching brief was funded by St Anselm Developments and the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries. A steep cut in the W part of the site was probably the W edge of an early medieval phase of the City ditch, which is known from documentary sources to have been abandoned and filled in in the late 13th c to accommodate the building of Blackfriars.

The backfill took the form of sandy gravels, which appeared as a deep horizon over the whole site, sealing natural gravels. Within the tipping sequence was a layer of black organic silt which was probably domestic rubbish. Cutting into these gravels were several substantial ragstone walls and masonry features.

A reconstructed ground-plan of the Friary (Clapham, *Archaeologia* 63, 1912) provided provisional identification of these features, despite the truncation of all occupational levels or floors. A 19m (62ft) length of the S wall and a portion of the W wall of the conventual church were recorded, as well as four ragstone foundation piers for the arcading of the S aisle.

At right angles to (and butted onto) the S wall was the E wall of the guest-house, which also served as the outer wall of the W cloister range. No burials were recorded, in contrast to those observed in trial holes previously. Several brick-lined cesspits and a well from the post-Dissolution period were also observed.

### **26-36 Cloth Fair, 62-7 Long Lane (TQ 3193 8173) (D. Bentley).**

During Spring 1983 a watching brief was carried out with a grant from Harbour Group Developments Ltd on this site immediately N of St. Bartholomew the Great church and within the precinct of the 12th century priory. The earliest recorded features were a ditch system perhaps of the Roman period, which fell into disuse. This was overlain by a large number of E/W aligned adult male burials of medieval date, confirming inference from documentary and archaeological sources that this was part of the site of the monastic cemetery. From the 14th c a succession of

extension but well-maintained gravelled yard surfaces covered the site, sealing the burials. A group of fifteen very worn Penn floor tiles, dating to 1330-1400, were incorporated in the early part of the yard sequence. The surfaces correspond with the suggested site of the medieval Bartholomew Fair. The first structural evidence observed was a row of houses built in the late 16th c. The cellars of several of these houses were constructed of greensand and brick with timbered floors; they cut through the latest gravelled surfaces, and fronted onto a metalled road (the origin of Cloth Fair) which was laid out across the S part of the site adjacent to the ex-priory church. This development was part of a larger scheme, known from documentary sources, involving all the land to the N of the church. It remained partially intact well into the 20th c.

#### **8 Telegraph Street (TQ 3271 8136) (P. Chitwood).**

The excavation, made possible by a generous grant from Phoenix Assurance, took place during July-August 1983 in a 2.3m x 2.5m (7ft 6in x 8ft 2in) area in the basement of a 19th c listed building on the youth side of what was formerly Great Bell Alley.

Initial Roman development consisted of a series of dumps, contained to the N by a timber pile and plank revetment, presumably an attempt to raise the ground level. Further raisings of ground surface followed, first with evidence for a late 1st/early 2nd c stone-founded building, open to the E towards the Walbrook and then with a more substantial 2nd c building with a sequence of interior floor surfaces. The raising dumps included fragments of leather garments and shoes. This building was probably demolished in the late 2nd or early 3rd c and its walls robbed (Period I).

The robber trenches were later cut by a ditch which may have served as a drainage channel (Period XI). A further series of dumps was followed by an 11/12th c timber building, possibly wattle-walled, with several phases of gravel and clay occupation layers. Evidence was found for a second structure in approximately the same position as the first, with several associated hearths above dumps levelling the entire area (Period III).

The uppermost activity was truncated by the modern basement (Period IV).

#### **79 Gracechurch Street (TQ 3302 8103) (A. Upson).**

A 3-month excavation was carried out in the area of the E range of the first (Flavian) Roman forum, by arrangement with Land Securities Management Ltd.

Excavation revealed some pre-Roman activity, although in the restricted area available no distinct structures could be identified. These deposits were bounded to the E by a steep-sided ditch which separated them from a sequence of well-surfaced gravel metallings, apparently representing a fragment of a N-S road.

The alignment established by these features was not respected by the subsequent building of the walls of the first (Flavian) forum. A N-S flint rubble wall foundation, capped by two tile courses, ran across the E of the site. Evidence from other sites suggests that it originally supported a continuous wall subsequently replaced by a series of square piers. These were used in conjunction with a new ragstone rubble foundation, capped by tiles, found in the present excavation approximately 2m (6.5ft) to the W of the flint foundation. This would seem to be an extension of the E range into the courtyard area; the space between the two walls was well surfaced with hard mortar.

The superstructures of these features were thereafter carefully dismantled and the area covered with a thick deposit of clean sand and gravel to form a raised base for the courtyard surfaces of the second (early 2nd c) forum.

Later features excavated include two pits of Saxon date, an early medieval coursed chalk foundation for a building with its axis perpendicular to Gracechurch Street, and a large early 19th c brick cesspit.

#### **154-6 Fenchurch Street, 15-16 Cullum Street (TQ 3313 8097) (C. Fenn, M. Reid and T. Williams) .**

A watching brief was conducted for about three months with funds from the Equitable Life Assurance Society. The earliest activity observed was a number of large gravel quarries (Period I) infilled prior to the first phase of structural activity; this consisted of a number of spatially isolated structures destroyed in a first fire (Boudican) (II). The area was subsequently levelled and a second, more extensive phase of structural activity took place: large masonry buildings with floors of opus *signinum* and plaster work (III). These were destroyed in a second widespread fire which was recorded in several areas immediately below modern basements.

Due to this degree of disturbance only intrusive features survived post-dating the second fire. A number of medieval foundations were recorded, mostly in underpinning holes, conforming to the existing property boundaries. Several wells, of a broad date range, were recorded (IV).

#### **14 Garlick Hill (Sugar Loaf Court) (TQ 3235 8087) (M. Barker).**

The second part of the Sugar Loaf Court (Beaver House) with a further grant from the Hudson's Bay Company, excavation took place between February and May 1983. Excavation continued of the trench opened in Sugar Loaf Court in October 1982, and in an extension to the S.

In the Sugar Loaf Court trench, evidence of pre-Flavian and Flavian structures was recovered with direct correlations to others found to the S, which in turn produced evidence of a substantial timber structure on the same alignment as structures excavated to the E in 1982. Again pottery of Neronian date was in association.

The Sugar Loaf Court trench produced evidence of Saxon/early medieval pits and an oven-like structure with a small group of pottery provisionally dated 850-1000. A chalk foundation with associated occupation surfaces followed; the pottery from this phase dated to the 12th c. This building went out of use in the late medieval period and was followed by a phase of pitting in the late 14th or 15th c. To the S of Sugar Loaf Court medieval surfaces were truncated by Victorian cellaring.



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CITY OF LONDON Excavations by the Department of Urban Archaeology. Museum of London.

## 7-12 Aldergate Street TQ 3216 8151 (G. Egan).

Four months' excavation on this extramural site was generously funded by Rush & Tompkins Developments plc. Dating is provisional, based on partial assessment of the finds.

The earliest Roman features recorded were a series of large flat-bottomed ditches, apparently aligned N-S, parallel to the City boundary (as defined by the later Wall) to the E. On the W side of the site, on a slightly differing alignment, was a heavily-cambered metalled road or track just over 2m (6.5ft) wide. The latest of three possible used surfaces bore grooves, interpreted as wheel ruts, c 1.20m (4ft) apart. The orientation of this early Roman way was the same as that of the wider and later road (located immediately to the W of the site) leading to the N from Roman Aldersgate. Structural evidence from the Roman period was limited to a much-truncated two phase stone building at the NW of the site. On the E was part of a large ditch, presumably that alongside the City wall. Substantial silt and clay deposits were dumped, or accumulated, over most of the site, sealing the ditches and making up some 2m (6.5ft) of ground from the 2nd c.

A series of mid 11th c pits were the earliest traced medieval features. These, with later medieval pits and foundations, presumably represent occupation on the site (three properties are attested from the 14th c by documentary evidence). One of the earliest pits produced a leaden disc ineptly multiple-struck with a die apparently for the obverse of pennies of Edward the Confessor, issued in 1052-3. The medieval (?13th c) City ditch was located at the E side of the site. Post-medieval brick cellars, foundations and drains and two chalk lined wells bore little obvious correlation with a detailed plan from 1610 of the buildings on the site. The lower part of a substantial 18th c oven, apparently operated at basement level, was uncovered. The fill of a late cellar produced a large assemblage of mid 19th c glass and ceramic vessels, including pot lids with multicoloured transfer-printed rural and other scenes.

## Billingsgate Lorry Park, Lower Thames Street TO 3308 8065 (G. Egan).

Agreement was reached with the developers at the end of January for access to the site for limited recording and observation, which was funded by DOE/HBMC. Museum of London Trust Fund and Museum of London Medieval Dept. Dating is provisional, based on limited examination of the finds.

No significant observation of Roman structures was possible. Riverine deposits of Roman date (bottomed only at the N) ran across the entire site, with no noticeable decrease in the frequency of finds from the N end (where an early 3rd c wharf had been erected - cf 1983 report) to the S end, some 70m (230ft) into the then river.

Limited recording was carried out of five probably successive post and plank timber revetments aligned E-W, located to the S of those recorded in 1982, and presumably marking successive phases of land reclamation from the river. Most, if not all five, of these structures were braced on the riverward side; the latest three at least appear to have been of 14th c date.

At the SE of the site, two opposed facing stone river walls aligned N-S probably represent a late medieval inlet some 6m (20ft) wide. There appears to have been no land reclamation in the area since the early 15th c.

The W end of the 15th c undercroft/vestry of the church of St Botolph (partly excavated in 1982) was recorded on the W boundary of the site. Survival here was to a higher level than at the E side of the structure, with possible evidence for a window in an upper storey; a lower window proved to be the same as that observed externally from the W on the adjacent New Fresh Wharf site in 1974, (at that time thought to have been of 17th c).

With the help of members of the Society of Thames Mudlarks and Antiquaries, Mepees Ltd and staff of GLC waste disposal services, apparently chronologically consistent assemblages of finds were recovered, both on and off the site. The Roman objects are the most varied series to have been recovered from the City for a generation, while the 14th c group has no parallel from London archaeological excavations.

From the Roman period are decorated dress fittings and pendants, leaden seals for merchandise (one example with a representation of Britannia), a brass seal matrix depicting a betrothed couple, several ear scoops/ligulae, and a flagon lid with a thumbpiece in the form of a duck. Medieval objects include series of pilgrims' and other badges, dress accessories, various tokens (one group has examples at different stages of manufacture, others have pornographic overtones), late 14th c cloth seals, a wooden buckler, various knives and tools, miniature vessels and other toys, mirror cases, a large group of shoes, and items of fishing equipment and weaponry. Of particular importance are a youth's sword of high quality with a decorated blade, and all four sections of a straight trumpet some 5ft 6in (1.68m) long when assembled.

## 4-6 Copthall Avenue TO 3278 8141 (C. Maloney).

A watching brief, funded by London and Paris Properties, is currently in progress on this upper Walbrook site. The first major Roman development was represented by a dump of distinctive blue clay which has been noted elsewhere in the filling and levelling up of channels of the Walbrook stream. On the W side of the site an NNE-SSW orientated road, bordered by a timber-lined drain, lay above further dumping. It seems to have fallen into disuse before the end of the Roman period. To the E of and level with the road, a W-E aligned drainage channel was banked and revetted with wattlework and raised the ground surface. Above, timber posts and piles were associated with internal and external surfaces. The ground surface was raised again and cut by a final drainage channel, truncated by the modern basement. WC.

## 27-29 Eastcheap TQ 3305 8084 (S. Riviere).

Excavation took place from November 1983 to January 1984 in the basement of a standing building by arrangement with Land Securities Ltd. The site covered an 'L'-shaped area roughly 8m x 8m (26ft x 26ft) and to a depth of just under 2m (6.5ft).

Natural gravels occurred at a height of c 11.0m (36ft) OD and were sealed by 0.2-0.3m (8-12in) of redeposited natural brickearth. There were four phases of Roman activity, none later than the mid 2nd c. The earliest consisted of several small rubbish pits (one of which contained four high quality intaglios of approx Neronian date) and trample surfaces, which were sealed by the first signs of a structure. This consisted of an E-W brickearth sill, a N-S slot with several associated brickearth, gravel and plank floors. This was sealed by 0.2m (8in) of partially *in situ* fire debris, probably Boudiccan, which scorched and burnt the plank floors. The fire debris was then levelled out to prepare for a 6m (20ft) long N-S beam slot with four regularly spaced groups of four post-holes cutting into it. This piled foundation had one associated floor surface but no

indication of the nature of the superstructure. The last structure was also a N-S slot with associated post-holes but no associated surfaces. Cutting into the Roman stratigraphy across the whole site was a sequence of medieval storage and rubbish pits, none earlier than 12th c. and a large 4.5m X 2.5m (14ft 9in X 8ft 2in) 15th c chalk lined cess pit; from which came a complete 15th c Italian Archaic Majolica jug. A 19th c cess pit and a brick arched sewer and modern drains complete the sequence.

#### **1-2 Gracechurch Street TQ 3303 8109 (T. Brigham).**

A watching brief, funded by the Trustees of the London Parochial Charities, was carried out in September to October 1984, on a small site adjacent to the church of St Peter Cornhill.

Some 3.5m (11ft 6in) of Roman stratigraphy were recorded in section beneath 4m (13ft) of 18th and 19th c make-ups. All the natural brickearth (normally 2m, 6ft, thick) had been removed during the 1st c AD, with no sign of natural gravels at the lowest point of excavation (10m, 33ft, OD). This indicates either local quarrying or, more likely, trenching for a subbasement of similar depth to one recorded by P. Marsden at Nos 3-6, within the first basilica.

The lowest recorded deposits were gravelly green silts dated AD 55-80 and sealed by a series of brickearth make-ups and slabs, with occasional thin mortar floors. These were divided centrally by a 0.3m (1ft) gravel feature, possibly a path or corridor. This sequence was then overlain by 1m (3ft 3in) thick brickearth slabs over the whole area, culminating in a thin fire horizon, probably of Hadrianic date (c AD 125). This destroyed the existing building, which was broadly contemporary with the nearby first forum. After clearance of fire debris, a 0.7m (2ft 3in) concrete floor, part of the larger second forum/basilica covered the site. This in turn was sealed by 0.5m (1ft 8in) of dark earth containing voussoir tiles from the collapsed basilica roof. All later deposits were destroyed by post-medieval activity.

#### **77-78 Gracechurch Street TQ 3302 8101 (B. Pye).**

Excavation by arrangement with Land Securities Ltd took place here in July 1984. A trench 17.5m (57.5ft) E-W x 1m (3ft 3in) wide was excavated by machine and hand, the chief evidence coming from sections.

The first phase of activity recorded above natural brickearth consisted of silty surfaces and brickearth slab layers, with gravel surfaces above, possibly part of an early Roman open area found on surrounding sites. In the E of the present site this was followed by the construction of two parallel N-S walls of ragstone and cobbles about 4.5m (14ft 9in) apart, probably part of the E wing of the Flavian forum. About 4m (14ft) to the W lay a third N-S foundation of ragstone 1.8m (6ft) wide; the W wall of the E wing was then demolished and 0.7m (2ft 3in) of sandy gravels laid on top of it. This suggests that the third foundation, used with the E of the two walls, constituted a doubling of the E forum range into the courtyard. The two walls of this second phase were subsequently demolished to foundation level, and covered with gravel, mortar and brickearth surfaces probably from the courtyard of the Hadrianic forum.

#### **91-100 Gracechurch Street, 1-6 Leadenhall Street, 2-12 Whittington Avenue (now Leadenhall Court), EC3 TQ 33060 81090 (S P O'Connor-Thompson, G Milne, T Brigham, G Brown and P Wootton).**

Between September 1984 and February 1985 various investigations were undertaken on this site in advance of major archaeological excavations and subsequent redevelopment. This part of the project was generously funded by Legal and General Assurance Society Ltd. The investigations revealed over 4m of Roman stratigraphy in an area which overlies the NE corner of the early 2nd c basilica. The earliest activity comprised brickearth quarrying succeeded by both industrial and domestic building deposits. These were superseded by the basilica of which at least three opus signinum floors were recorded. Following its demise the roof collapsed; this in turn was sealed by the fallen S wall of the nave and activity in the area appears to have ceased until the 10th c. Also recorded was the 14m high W wall of the mid-15th c Leadenhall. The foundations comprised a series of relieving arches, which themselves are partially founded on the Roman foundations of the basilica.

From October 1985 to September 1986 extensive excavations were conducted, in addition to the preliminary work reported above. This part of the project, funded by the Legal and General Assurance Society and English Heritage, was designed to examine a large area over and immediately N of the site of the suggested Roman basilica. The eleven trenches investigated below basements of the standing buildings on the S side of the site were supervised by P Wootton, and the three large external areas were supervised by T Brigham (S) G Brown (W) and G Milne (N) (Fig\*LCT).

Evidence was found for the initial clearance of tree cover, quarry pits, ditches, a building with earth-fast posts and a thick fire debris horizon. All these were sealed by six brickearth-walled buildings, pottery from which has been dated to c AD 60-80; the associated pits, wells, alleys and middens were also excavated. All these features were swept away by a major redevelopment of the site which saw the introduction of a large masonry public building extending beyond the S, W and E limits of excavation. A well-made road lay to its N, with brickearth and timber buildings beyond that. Major structural modifications to the masonry building were recorded, as was the sequence of development in many of the rooms, together with the complex pattern of demolition and robbing. The Roman finds were typical of a Roman civilian settlement: nothing of a military character has yet been identified on the site. The Roman pottery constitutes a large assemblage, early Flavian to 4th c in date, and including a great range of imports. There are very good examples of unusual types, for example hollow-foot amphora, Rhineland mortaria, and glazed ware from central Gaul and SE England. Glass vessels included chariot and athletes cups and a double-handed cup (scyphos). Several iron water-pipe collars were recovered.

The road was resurfaced some nine times, but a thick layer of silt sealed the latest surface, into which a series of Saxon pits and other features were cut. Much structural evidence survived of the 15th c Leadenhall market, as the trenches straddled the N part of the quadrangular market building, locating its truncated foundations. A fragment of the exterior wall of the W range survived to a height of 11.2m between modern buildings. It displayed evidence for an open ground floor for trade and, above, two floors for storage of wheat. Cellars built on the site of the N wing, after its demolition in 1795, incorporated over 100 dressed mouldings and blocks from the superstructure of the building (recording by M Samuel). Post-excavation work for the various published reports was funded by English Heritage and the City of London Archaeological Trust.

### **Leadenhall Street, 32-40 Mitre Street TQ 3348 8113 (S. Riviere).**

An excavation was carried out between July and November 1984, funded by Speyhawk Land and Estates Ltd. A cross-section of all periods from Roman to present day were examined including standing masonry of the priory of Holy Trinity Aldgate.

The Roman material suggested the presence of at least six successive 1st and 2nd c timber structures represented by lines of post-holes and slots which re-used the same E-W line. Very few associated surfaces were uncovered and nearly all appeared to be external. One of these timber structures was a piled foundation within linear cuts identified in two areas to give a total length of at least 8m (26ft), and consisting of deep timber piles, three to a row, supporting a masonry superstructure, which had been almost completely robbed out. In medieval contexts, large quantities of good quality painted plaster, *opus signinum*, tessera cubes and other building material suggested the presence of a fine building nearby, and it is possible that the piled foundation could have supported such a building. One of the fragments of Roman building material found in a medieval context was the unusual survival, intact, of the join between the top of a wall and the first tiles of a roof: two *tegulae*, sealed by an *imbrex* and held in place by a wedge-shaped piece of mortar, on top of the top tile of the wall, giving the correct angle for the slope of the roof.

Heavily truncating the Roman stratigraphy across the whole length of the site, (c 30m, 98ft), there followed a deliberate preparation for a ?late Saxon graveyard. No trace of an associated church was found. There were 42 articulated burials, of three basic types, buried within simple cuts, or within wooden coffins, or most commonly, within stone and mortar lined cists. To the W, the burials cut one into another causing a build-up of a sequence of at least 10 burials in one area. By contrast, the burials to the E were positioned carefully next to each other with very little disturbance. Unfortunately, the join between the areas was disturbed by later intrusions.

The site covered a portion of the S side of the church of the priory of Holy Trinity, Aldgate, founded in 1108. The 12th c foundations for the S wall of the church and the outline of almost the whole of the S transept foundations were excavated, together with foundations, and c 3.5m (11ft 6in) of superstructure, of a chapel with an apsidal E end on the outside of the NE corner of the transept. Part of the SW corner of a second chapel (to the E of the apsidal chapel), was recorded together with a later 14th or 15th c arch which formed the entrance from the church to the chapel. Only one small area of internal flooring survived; a series of mortar surfaces, possibly originally sealed by tiles; a small area of painted plaster inside the apsidal chapel remained on the wall. The apsidal chapel was squared externally and was founded on rough courses of chalk and mortar, with the superstructure of ragstone, flint, re-used Roman tile, and more unusually, blocks of limestone, and possibly Caen stone. About 0.4m (1ft 4 in) above floor level was a course, inside and outside, of chamfered stones and the corners were treated specially, with close-fitting ashlar blocks. Several architectural features both on the arch and the chapel have warranted the preservation of both within the new development.

An external area between the two chapels contained material contemporary with and later than the Priory. During the life of the priory it appeared to have no special status but received mixed dumps and some pitting, and may possibly have been associated with medieval properties fronting on Leadenhall Street, perhaps as a backyard. In 1532 the Dissolution was reflected in a change of use of the apsidal chapel in the 16th c to that of a cellar with a doorway and later a window knocked through the E wall. The external area to the E became covered with roof slates, probably from the church, and was then raised to a height level with the doorway in the chapel. A large timber structure was erected between the two still standing chapels, respecting their S limits, and a series of external metallings formed an alleyway or courtyard to the S of the chapels and timber structure. The apsidal chapel continued to be re-used, with several other additions into the 19th c, when a new series of basements and a cobbled courtyard finally truncated and sealed it. These buildings were dismantled after bombing in the second World War.

### **27-30 Lime Street TO 3312 3347 (T. Williams).**

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks on this site in August-November 1983, and excavations were carried out within the building under construction from April to September 1984. All work was generously funded by Trollope and Colls (City) Ltd.

The area of excavation was 20m x 3.5m (66ft x 11ft 6in) aligned approximately NE-SW, immediately E of the Hadrianic forum and on the N side of the 1983 excavations at 25-6 Lime Street. The first phases of activity comprised a brickearth slab, an E-W ditch and surfaces, and a subsequent timber building dating to c AD 50-60 with a cesspit containing some early Roman glass. Debris of the Boudiccan fire was followed by masonry structure after AD70, also destroyed by fire, probably in the late Flavian period (AD 80-96). This was replaced by a timber-strip building with painted plaster wall, destroyed in the Hadrianic Fire (AD c 125). A further masonry building followed: the foundations used piles and rammed chalk. The walls formed a substantial N-S range along the E side of the road bordering the forum; it was also recorded in the excavation at 25-6 Lime Street to the S, where it had an apsidal S end. A connecting E-W range suggests a building at least 30m (98ft) N-S and 25m (82ft) E-W. The function remains unclear.

A fragment of chalk and ragstone foundation at the NE corner of the site represented an early medieval undercroft aligned on Lime Street. On the evidence of this site, the establishment of post-Roman Lime Street cannot be dated earlier than the 12th-13th C.

### **43 London Wall TQ 3271 8153 (T Wilmott: archive report by D. Malt & C. Spence).**

The excavations, funded by Gleasons Ltd, were on the W edge of the Walbrook Valley just inside the line of the Roman City Wall E of Moorgate and immediately W of a N-S aligned Roman road. The site was completed in November 1984.

In the mid 2nd c the natural ground surface was truncated at 8.48m (27ft 10in) OD with large open ditches dug, aligned NW-SE and N-S, the later probably being part of the roadside ditch. The N-S ditch was replaced with a plank-lined drain, and on higher ground to the W of the road a post-built structure constructed. Occupation was brief and from the late 3rd c to the 11th c little activity was recorded. The drainage pattern was re-established in the 11th c by the cutting of an E-W aligned open ditch. No major development of the area is found until the post-medieval period. The complex drainage patterns of the site, essential for any development of the area, show the difficulty in maintaining a stable ground surface in this part of the Walbrook Valley. Until the post-medieval period this area, except for one short period of Roman development, can only be considered as marginal land within the City walls.

### **12-14 Mitre Street TQ 3342 8119 (B. Pye).**

A watching brief was carried out in May and June 1984 at a site within the precinct of Holy Trinity Priory. Only cut features remained as the basement had truncated natural brickearth at 11.7m (38ft 5in) OD. The earliest features were a series of large quarry pits backfilled in the 2nd c. In the E half of the site these had been truncated by a medieval graveyard, presumably belonging to Holy Trinity Priory. Two small chalk, rag

and greensand block foundations cut into the graveyard horizons. In the W half of the site the quarry pits were truncated by early medieval (1050-1150 AD) and 18th c rubbish pits; a brick cesspit produced a large group of early/mid 18th c domestic material.

#### **6-7 New Bridge Street, 21 Bride Lane TQ 3161 8112 (B. Pye).**

In February 1984 a watching brief funded by Taylor Woodrow Developments Ltd, was conducted on this site on the W side of the River Fleet. Natural deposits were recorded sloping down the valley side from W to E at c 1 in 11. These deposits changed from gravels in the W through brickearth in the middle to London Clay in the E.

The W end of the site included a brick built basement and cess pit truncating dumped deposits. These features were covered and filled by fire debris presumably on the pottery evidence from the Great Fire (1666). Towards the E end of the site, natural brickearth was overlain by medieval dumped material, possibly to raise the ground surface above the Fleet. These deposits had been truncated by a probably post-medieval brick and chalk block basement, with a decayed timber floor, and by two wells, one brick lined, the other lined with square chalk blocks. At the E end of the site were substantial chalk foundations with associated timber posts which overlay and were themselves overlain by dumped materials. Timber platform structures on top of natural were overlain by dumped material dated 1100-1150 AD. The purpose of these structures is uncertain, but they could be terracing of the Fleet Valley, probably of medieval date.

#### **35-38 New Bridge Street TQ 3167 8103 (P. Chitwood).**

During May-June 1984 a small excavation within machine cleared construction trenches produced evidence of early, probably Roman, development of the E bank of the Fleet, with 2 sequences of land reclamation extending the bank and stabilised with posts.

These dumps were truncated by the steep N-S construction cut for the Blackfriars City wall extension of between 1283-1320 which survives still in places to a height of 3.95m (13ft) OD. Generally 1.8m (6ft) wide, with a randomly coursed chalk core, a sudden step out on the E face and a gradual increase in width towards the N could suggest buttressing for the bridge to the 16th c Bridewell Palace (known to lie under Apothecary Street, immediately N of the site).

The W face of the wall changes character frequently along its length, ranging from well-dressed monumental rectangular ashlar blocks to small irregular crudely-worked ragstones with flints. Dressed blocks of chalk form the vertical E face, protected by constant backfilling during construction with steps-in corresponding very closely to changes in construction on the W side (ie foundation/batter/vertical).

In the S the wall changes dramatically in both construction and alignment (NE-SW). There is no evidence for the continuation in a straight line of the N-S wall, so this portion, with its arched brick drain and the inclusion of brick in the core, probably represents a later rebuilding of the wall, possibly during the 17th c construction of the Fleet canal. This later use of bricks is also apparent in repairs to the W face of the N-S wall and in additions such as drains.

The W face of the wall was eventually sealed by the mixed rubble dumps used to fill in the Fleet ditch in the 18th c.

#### **7-8 Philpot Lane TQ 3304 8088 (R. Lea and A. Westman).**

Recording work during underpinning of the medieval undercroft and refurbishment of 18th c buildings above was funded by the GLC and Wates Development Ltd.

The character of the sequence of natural gravels and brickearth, Roman dumps, surfaces, pitting and fire debris, followed by medieval pitting was similar to that found previously at 6 Philpot Lane to the N and 9-10 Philpot Lane to the S. Gravels and silts interpreted as Philpot Lane first appeared in the medieval period and pre-date the construction of the undercroft.

The undercroft is tunnel-vaulted in brick, divided into four bays by three transverse plain chamfered greensand vault ribs forming low three-centred arches which die into the walls without capitals. The walls, of chalk, rag, flint and yellow lime mortar, are roughfaced internally and set in construction cuts externally. Window embrasures in the two N bays opened eastwards into Philpot Lane and in the second bay from the N, westwards into Brabant Court. The window in the second bay from the N had moulded unglazed jambs, socketed to receive iron bars, and a chamfered cill at the springing height of the vault. The jambs were simply moulded with a large ogee curve and chamfer. Groin vault cells in the main vault arched over the window embrasures, and a larger vault cell in the third bay from the N on the E side was probably the main entrance. In the W wall of this bay is a large opening corresponding with a segmental brick relieving arch in the vault above. A curving wall face in the SE corner may have been part of a spiral staircase. The character of the undercroft would suggest a construction date in the 15th or 16th c. There were no internal floors dating from this period but externally the rise in the level of Philpot Lane was shown by a sequence of modifications to the window in the W wall of the undercroft in the form of brick and rendered light wells.

Probably in the late 17th c following the Great Fire, brickwork was set against the N and S walls and a brick floor laid. The vault in the NE corner was modified to give access to the ground floor and against the N wall, and in subsequent floors traces of timber stairs were found. The window, the possible entrance and passage were blocked, and doors were cut through the west wall giving access to two brick tunnel vaulted cellars over a brick vaulted cess pit reusing a well. A door was also cut through the N wall to a third brick tunnel vaulted cellar. At ground floor level parts of the S, W and N brick walls survived from a building above the undercroft. The ragstone arches now leading to Brabant Court probably also date from this period.

Probably in the mid to late 18th c the building at ground floor and above was radically reconstructed as two four-storey buildings fronting onto Philpot Lane and the undercroft below was correspondingly divided mid-bay. The Flemish bond brick facade of the two buildings was divided by horizontal bands of projecting brickwork corresponding to the floor levels. The party wall dividing 7 and 8 was of timber construction with brick infill. The first floor joists were modified and new floors constructed for the remaining floors. The first and second floors were panelled throughout with raised and fielded panelling in the principal rooms and arolo moulded and plain panelling in the lesser rooms. The staircases in the two buildings are identical, with carved tread ends and ramped handrails. Deep chimney breasts, some with original stone surrounds and fragments or traces of tiling survived in the above ground floors and in the ground floor of No 8.

#### **2-4 Skinners Lane TQ 3240 8088 (P. Rowsome).**

An excavation funded by Harbour Developments Ltd. was conducted from December 1983 to March 1984, and consisted of two separate areas of excavation: one within the basement of a standing building and the other in a courtyard to the N. Seven periods of activity were recorded

overlying natural deposits of sand, gravel and sandy-silt (brickearth) which survived to a truncated level of 6.30m (20ft 8in) OD. At the N of the site natural was cut by pits filled with redeposited natural, and sealed by a sequence of dumped deposits. These deposits were cut by a large ragstone foundation of late Roman date. The foundation was partially robbed and the robbing trench backfilled with a large quantity of roof tile, the backfill sealed by medieval pitting and dumping. A post-Great Fire sequence sealed the medieval deposits and consisted of dumping and levelling in the N, and of a building sequence in the S. In the S truncated natural was overlain by elements of a brick building with vaulted cellars which fronted onto Skinners Lane. A contemporary brick-built drainage system was situated at the back of the structures. Several phases of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> c rebuilding followed, all the building phases conforming to the same property boundaries; one incorporated a large group of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> c sugar refining pottery vessels as backfill.

**St. Ethelburga, Bishopgate TQ 3318 8136 (R. Lea).**

Parts of the external base of the E wall and E window of the medieval church were revealed during repair work to the roof of the vestry. The face of the wall was of uncoursed rag and sandstone. The sandstone S jamb and sill of the E window were only partially revealed. The hollow chamfer on the jamb suggested a similar type of moulding to the one recorded in the N wall in 1982. The window was blocked by post-Fire (probably 18<sup>th</sup> c) brickwork. Quoinwork in the E face of the wall of the SE corner of the medieval church was also observed.

**St Mary-at-Hill church TQ 3258 8076 (R. Lea).**

Part of the fabric of the medieval church of St Mary-at-Hill has surfaced during repairs to the roof timbers in the N aisle at the W end of the church. The work was funded by the GLC.

Parts of the medieval N wall, faced in well squared Kentish rag ashlar, and the heads of two pointed segmental arched windows were exposed when render and plaster were stripped from the external and internal elevations. Wren's circular window above the N door was centred in the W of the two windows. The E window was of same type. The hood mouldings had been broken off but traces of the moulding and stops remained. The jamb and arch mouldings were only partially visible and had apparently been rendered prior to the insertion of the Wren brickwork. Internally the face of the wall was rough coursed rag and chalk. Above the W window there were no traces of a wall rib or shoulder for the support of a vault, implying a timber roof in the N aisle at least in this bay. The medieval work would appear to be 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> c.

**St. Swithin Lane TQ 3271 8094 (K. Steedman).**

From mid-June to mid-August 1984 excavations, funded by Haslemere Estates, within the basement of a standing building, examined two contrasting sequences.

In the larger trench (Area I), fence remains and quarrying cut into natural gravel were sealed by surfaces within a lean-to or verandah associated with an E-W post and trench foundation. This activity was truncated by a gravel quarry pit backfilled with redeposited material, including fire debris. Above this, evidence for external activity was sealed by two successive internal surfaces without associated structural divisions. The latest of these had an AD 120 *terminus post quem*, while all earlier features contained 1<sup>st</sup> c AD pottery. Dumps of redeposited material truncated by features dated to after 1050 AD including part of an internal surface and a rubbish pit. Several medieval pits and a post-Fire cellar completed the sequence.

In Area II, four successive N-S external divisions were sealed by internal features with minor structural divisions, similarly aligned to early features in Area I, and with a 1<sup>st</sup> c AD *terminus post quem*. Evidence for further internal activity, but on a slightly different alignment and including some 2<sup>nd</sup> c pottery was truncated by the insertion of a medieval external surface overlain by dumping and pits. The finds generally indicated a normal Roman domestic assemblage.

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**CITY OF LONDON: Excavations by Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London.**

**7-12 Aldersgate Street TQ 3216 8151 (G. Egan).**

A watching brief on the remainder of this extra-mural site partially excavated in 1984 (see last year's Round-up). As last year, all work was generously funded by Rush & Tompkins plc. The largest ditch along the E side of the site was found to be of Saxo-Norman date. The fill of this presumably defensive feature produced a pattern-welded knife and Saxo-Norman pottery. This is apparently the first time a substantial ditch of this date has been recorded immediately outside the City wall. Two 14<sup>th</sup> c jugs, one of which was complete, were recovered from the fills of a medieval well. From the fills of a second chalk-lined well, which had been deepened with an addition to the shaft in brick in the post-medieval period, came an assemblage of finds datable to the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. The group includes a plain pewter bowl of unusual form. The latter well is thought to be the one depicted on a detailed plan of 1610 by the surveyor Ralph Treswell, where it is shown in a courtyard, and was presumably shared by two households.

**10 Arthur Street TQ 3280 8078 (P. Bethell).**

Excavations were funded] by London and Edinburgh plc for 3 weeks in April 1985. A Roman building with two successive floors of *opus signinum*, an external area and a ditch were recorded. A second building off the site to the N. from its demolition debris, had much painted wall-plaster. The first building was demolished and further occupation attested by an alignment of stakeholes, Medieval pits and post-medieval features were also recorded.

**4, 6 and 8 Creechurch Lane TQ 3340 8 11 6 (S. Riviere).**

A watching brief consisting of four test pits revealed 0.8m (21/2ft) of Roman dumps, make-ups and brickearth surfaces into which were cut three groups of medieval rubbish pits and a disturbed burial all of which were sealed by extensive make-up for the standing building.

### **6-7 Crescent TQ 3361 8082 (A. Westman).**

Excavations took place in April-July 1985 immediately E of. and outside. the city wall N of the Tower. funded by the site developer, Arundell House Securities Ltd. The Roman wall, the face of which survived up to 2.45m (8ft) in height, was associated with two successive ditches cut a short distance in front of it. The earlier, V-shaped in profile, was severely truncated by the later, flat-bottomed ditch. The backfill of the latter included debris which had tumbled from the wall. The berm in front of the wall was then reduced to the level to which most of the second ditch had been backfilled by the cutting of a third, more extensive flat-bottomed ditch which ran up to the face of the wall and initially exposed the upper courses of the foundations. The first deposits in this ditch were dated to the late 12th-13th c and suggested that the wall was reconstructed at that date. Later dumps of relatively clean gravel may have been upcast from cutting a fourth, much deeper ditch further E, the earliest fill of which was dated to 13th-mid 14th c. The city wall, including its upper medieval construction, survived to an overall height of nearly 11m (36ft). Its disuse as a defence was implied by the cutting of two successive pits in the backfill of the latest ditch. They were lined with horn cores. perhaps for an industrial purpose, and were constructed and back-filled in the late 17th c. The wall then served as support for structures such as a furnace built in brick against its face. A cellar floor, other brick foundations and a brick-lined well were probably associated with the latest building on the site, known to have been built in 1767-70 as part of an elegant redevelopment designed by George Dance the younger.

### **Fenchurch Street Station TQ 3345 8092 (S. P. O'Connor-Thompson).**

Between September 1984 and March 1985 a watching brief (funded by Norwich Union) was undertaken at this site. The redevelopment involved the sinking of 25 massive encaissoned concrete piles - up to 3m (10ft) in diameter and over 30m (100ft) deep - the shafts of which had to be hand dug. In the first six caissons it was possible to carry out some recording of the sections, but subsequently the introduction of different shoring techniques made that impossible. Excavation of the caissons was carried out 24 hours a day. Archaeologically it was shown that the pre-station alignment of streets and properties, as exemplified by French Ordinary Court which crosses the site, was in existence by at least the 15th c, and that activity in the area was minimal until the 18th c: perhaps by way of explanation it seems that at least the S fringes of the site were actually over the recently identified ancient valley in this part of the City. Certainly the quantity of water encountered in four adjacent caissons indicates that there is still a stream flowing underground.

### **37-40 Fish St Hill 16-20 Monument Street TQ 3292 8074 (N. Bateman).**

Between July and September 1985 an excavation was carried out in advance of redevelopment of the site by Speyhawk, who generously sponsored all archaeological investigation. The site comprised the remaining quarter of a block which had produced dramatic evidence for London's early Roman waterfront. excavated in 1981 (PDN 81). The area of excavation was c 20 x 15m (66 x 49ft) and lay immediately adjacent to the expected alignment of the approach roads to both Roman and medieval London Bridge. In the early 1st c. the hillside leading down to the Thames (+4.80m. 15ft 9in. OD at the N; +3.0m. 9ft 10in, OD at the S) was sealed by a series of dumped deposits to create a terrace upon which a substantial building was constructed. The W wall and the SW corner of this building were of masonry, but at least part of the S wall was probably timber framed. Internal brickearth surfaces in several large rooms and a corridor area along the W frontage were about 1.0m (3ft) higher than the contemporary external ground level to the S.

After a fire in the mid 1st c. possibly associated with the Boudiccan revolt, the building was reconstructed to a similar plan but with timber walls replaced by masonry. Later the SW corner was rebuilt, the S wall was strengthened and a deep E-W foundation, possibly reflecting the roof ridge alignment, was built across the site. In its latest form, the building was c 14.5m (47.5ft) wide E-W with a 7.2m (23.5ft) gap separating the S wall and the central bisecting E-W foundation. To the W of the building series of compacted gravel surfaces and of intercutting drains and gullies which led off to the S were found. The highest of these was backfilled with redeposited fire debris of the early to mid 2nd c. The development of the site after this date is not known in detail, since the horizontal sequence was truncated by a modern concrete slab. However, many cut features were recorded. Evidence of the two late Saxon/early medieval cellared buildings was found, cut through the underlying Roman deposits. One used earth-fast posts regularly spaced around the edge of a rectangular cut; the other had N and E walls of mortared rubble and an E wall represented by a probable robbed timber sill. Inside both buildings was a series of brickearth and beaten-earth floors. A group of c 30 pits, ranging in date from mid 10th to early 13th c, was found along the E side of the site. The concentration is presumed to reflect the close packing of properties along the early medieval predecessor of Fish St. Hill. A complete 17th c cellar, probably burnt in the Great Fire of 1666, was exposed, as well as a number of 17th, 18th and 19th c wells, cess-pits and wall foundations, which show the gradual evolution of the property boundaries until early 1985.

### **91-100 Gracechurch St, 1-6 Leadenhall St, 2-12 Whittington Ave (Leadenhall Court) TQ 3340 81 10 (S. P. O'Connor-Thompson).**

Between September 1984 and February 1985 investigations were undertaken in advance of major archaeological excavations and subsequent redevelopment. All work was generously funded by Legal and General Assurance Society Ltd. The investigations revealed over 4m (13ft) of Roman stratigraphy in an area which overlies the NE corner of the early 2nd c basilica. The earliest activity was brickearth quarrying succeeded by both industrial and domestic building deposits. They were superseded by the basilica of which at least three *opus signinum* floors were recorded. After it went out of use, the roof collapsed and was sealed by the fallen S wall of the nave. Activity in the area appears to have ceased until the 10th c.

Also recorded was the 14m (45 ft) high W wall of the mid 15th c. Leadenhall. The foundations comprised a series of relieving arches, which themselves are partially founded on the Roman foundations of the basilica. WC.

### **36-37 King Street (TQ 3246 8120) (P. Rowsome).**

The excavations took place from January to June 1985 before the demolition of buildings on the site. All the work was funded by the Mercers' Company.

Two areas of excavation forming a total area of 20 x 10m (66 x 33ft) were located just to the N of Roman Cheapside and to the E of the Cheapside baths. Two Roman roads crossed the excavated areas, one running NW-SE and the other NE-SW. The roads met to form a T junction or crossroads c 50-65 AD and were probably integral parts of the initial planning of that western part of the Roman town which lay on the high ground to the N of Roman Cheapside and to the W of Walbrook stream.

The alignment of the two roads, which differed from that of other roads nearby, may have been influenced by the presence of a western

tributary of the Walbrook. Evidence of a silt-filled streambed was found to the S of the road junction. The road aligned NW-SE may have converged with Roman Cheapside to form an early bridgehead at the Walbrook.

The earliest road metallings were associated with shallow road-side drains bordered by simple domestic timber buildings. These buildings were destroyed by a fire perhaps associated with the Boudiccan rebellion. The road seems to have fallen out of use for a short period at this time. Occupation was quickly re-established on the same alignments with timber and brickearth silled buildings and newly dug timber box drains lining remetalled road surfaces. The new buildings were more substantial, one Flavian building containing at least four rooms with plaster faced sills and an *opus signinum* floor.

All of the roadside properties saw modification and rebuilding until the crowded timber structures were destroyed in the Hadrianic fire (c AD 125). The tendency towards more substantial buildings was continued after the fire by a large structure with brickearth slabs and sills in one room containing a red tessellated floor measuring 5 x 5m (16 x 16ft). This Antonine building was also destroyed by fire and was part of the last recorded phase of roadside occupation.

Throughout the 1st and 2nd c the road alignments and widths (3.5 - 4m, 11.5 - 13ft) remained fairly constant with little roadside encroachment even though ground surfaces rose substantially and forced road levels to keep pace by regular resurfacing and drain replacement.

The permanent and perhaps sudden abandonment of the two roads was evidenced by the site-wide deposit of dark earth.

Within the dark earth directly over the NW-SE road was a structural slot and brickearth slab of a building on a different alignment and dated to the late 3rd or early 4th c.

Two late Saxon sunken buildings were recorded, one a small hut measuring 3 x 3m (10 x 10ft) and the other a much larger structure at least 10m (33ft) long. Both were cut into dark earth deposits and were situated in part over the buried NW-SE Roman road. Fragments of chalk foundations recorded may be related to medieval buildings fronting onto either Cheapside or Lawrence Lane.

#### **6 Laurence Pountney Hill TQ 3274 8082 (M. O'Shea).**

Excavations funded by Miller Buckley Ltd took place during November-December 1985 within a standing building and measuring 30m (100ft) E-W by 6-10m (20-30ft) N-S. The site lies immediately S of Cannon St on a relatively steep gravel slope down to the Thames, and its main importance is its location on or near the sites of the church of St Laurence Pountney and the early 14th c collegiate chapel of Corpus Christi, attached to the church in 1333/4. The site yielded evidence of Roman (N-S flint footings with a possible E-W return of a substantial building, a drain and sewer sequence and large pits, one possibly originally a well), medieval (chalk foundations, an area of burials and square pits) and post-medieval (foundations, walls and surfaces) periods.

#### **Leadenhall Street, 32-40 Mitre Street TQ 3348 8114 (R. Lea).**

Recording of the above ground remains of Holy Trinity Priory, Aldgate (here referred to as the Arch) continued during 1985 following excavation in 1984. The fabric, which is protected as a listed building, is to be incorporated in the new development. The medieval work is to be stabilised and where possible stripped of later brickwork. The DUA has advised on the interpretation of the remains and liaised with the developers, Speyhawk and the GLC Historic Buildings Division who have the responsibility for protecting the structure.

The Arch, originally part of the S choir aisle wall, gave access to a rectangular chapel to the S, traces of which were found during the excavation. As a pointed arch of two orders moulded in greensand with plain hollow chamfers which die into the jambs without capitals, it would appear to date from the 14th or 15th c. It was inserted into an earlier, probably 12th c arch, traces of which survive in the core observed in the N face of the E side of the Arch. Also observed in the mortar of the core were the impressions of diagonal vault ribs and the point from which they spring. Ashlar work below this springing point and contemporary with the earlier arch forms a return in which the broken off stems of a nook shaft are set in alternating courses. These broken-off stems also appear in the N face of the W jamb of the Arch and again in the bay to the E. The associated floor level at 14.52m (47ft 7in) OD, N of the Arch, is indicated by tiles set immediately below the lowest course of ashlar in the N face of the E jamb of the Arch. Although damaged, this stone probably represents a plinth. The courses of ashlar associated with the nook shafts vary between 120 and 220mm (5 and 9in) in height, but the pattern of variation is consistent across the two bays, strongly suggesting that the two bays are of one build. Traces of a window in the wall E of the Arch and a spiral staircase in the S face of the wall to the E of the Arch have also been observed. Recent work on antiquarian drawings from about 1800 has also provided the form of the vaults in the adjoining bays together with the capitals of the nook shafts. It is hoped that consolidation work on the Arch will involve reconstruction incorporating these discoveries.

#### **Broad St Station, Liverpool St (Broadgate development) TQ 3304 8167 (D. Malt).**

A series of excavations, cutting and drawing of sections and inspections of test-pits have been generously funded by Rosehaugh Stanhope plc. The earliest deposits were of a stream-bed, one of the channels of the upper Walbrook, seen as a naturally eroded surface of sands and gravels occupying a shallow, broad channel running NE-SW across the site. Within this main channel were series of smaller stream channels interspersed with washouts of pea gravel and fine waterlain silts. Brickearth and clay dumping during the Roman period on the E and W banks of the stream complement wooden revetments seen on other Walbrook sites to the S, implying control of the upper water course in the Roman period. Thereafter marsh and peat deposits up to 1.3m (4ft) thick within the Walbrook valley indicate part of the large marsh which accumulated in the area (later Moorfields) from the late Roman to the medieval period. A large 13th-14th c N-S linear feature, probably a ditch, corresponds with a ditch shown on the Copperplate Map (c 1558) and one previously recorded nearer the city wall to the S. Wooden revetments running E-W were recorded near the assumed line of the precinct of St Mary Bethlem hospital. Excavation is currently taking place of a burial ground in the SW corner of the site. Over 200 burials, some in coffins, have been recorded; the number of infants is notable. Pottery evidence from the graveyard suggests use in the 16th to 18th c, and documentary evidence suggests that it is part of the New Church Yard founded in 1569 in ground enclosed and donated by Sir Thomas Roe as a supplementary burial ground. It is possible that some burials are from the nearby post-medieval Bethlem Hospital. WC.

#### **44 London Wall TQ 3272 8153 (C. Maloney).**

Excavations were undertaken to locate and examine the W side of a Roman road first discovered in 1981 some 40m (130ft) to the S. The NNE-SSW orientated road was laid over the natural ground and was bordered by a timber-revetted drainage ditch. No construction date was obtained from this site but it had previously been dated to the late 1st-early 2nd century. The ditch had silted up and became waterlogged towards the 2nd half of the 3rd c but the road remained in use until at least the end of the century. Surfaces were relaid above dumped deposits which continuously raised the ground level, possibly as a measure against a rising water table. The disuse of the road was marked by a sequence of undated brickearth floors and occupation deposits above the latest surface.

#### **7 Ludgate Broadway TQ 3174 8108 (J. Hill).**

The excavation, sponsored by Guardian Exchange, took place between 19 June and 25 August 1985. The site lies between 28m and 43m (90 and 140ft) outside the Roman city wall. This wall line was followed until the later 13th c when it was demolished to make way for the Dominican Blackfriars. Reconstructions of the friary made from observed walls and documentary evidence suggested that the NW corner of the nave should lie within the area of the site. The site had been terraced by the insertion of post medieval cellars to a level at least 1.50m (5ft) below that of pre-Roman natural. The W edge of a substantial cut feature running N-S was recorded in three sections. There was little dating evidence from the backfill, but an absence of medieval finds, the size of the cut and the distance of the W edge from the line of the city wall (c 37m, 120ft) all suggested that it was the late Roman city ditch, recorded at other London sites. The backfilled ditch was overlain by the substantial masonry foundations of the NW corner of the nave of the Dominican Friary. The Lady Chapel suggested by Alfred Clapham in 1912 was not evident. Measurements from foundations observed during a watching brief in 1983 (APO 81) to those found at Ludgate Broadway indicate that dimensions quoted in a survey of 1551, hitherto regarded as external specifications, are in fact internal. The church is consequently larger than reconstructions to date have shown. A sequence of badly truncated late 17th/early 18th c brick and tile cellar floors and walls overlay the friary. Portions of foundations reusing moulded stone from the superstructure of the friary were incorporated within these brick features and are probably earlier, though reuse destroyed any dating evidence. Of particular interest were a large quantity of carved bone, ivory and tortoiseshell fan pieces of the late 17th/early 18th c found within material backfilling a cellar to the S of the site, and an extremely deep (3.2m, 10.5ft), vaulted cesspit. Also from this feature was a large assemblage of mid 17th/mid 18th c pottery and glass and a number of oyster shells used as paint palettes. This also showed evidence that its earliest phase was of stone robbed from the friary.

#### **Newgate Street, outside entrance to Central Criminal Court TQ 3182 8139 (S. Riviere).**

A watching brief in an LEB trench uncovered three fragments of the S half of Newgate. A 2m (6.5ft) length with a finished E face was constructed of chalk and ragstone and very heavily disturbed by later brick walls. The masonry can be fitted onto a plan of the known fragments of Roman and medieval Newgate. but the date of this fragment could not be established.

#### **Mansion House, Poultry TQ 3267 8109 (D. Bentley).**

A watching brief was carried out during August 1985 within trial trenches beneath the Mansion House. Natural gravels sloped down to the W, into the Walbrook valley. On the E side seven metalised surfaces representing a yard or street were sealed by late Roman debris. This dump was overlain by a chalk-mortar make-up which may have been associated with St Mary Woolchurch Haw which occupied part of the site in the medieval period. Further down the hill to the W a large accumulation of alluvial deposits overlay the natural gravels, containing undated industrial and domestic rubbish. These waterlogged levels were sealed by substantial clayey dumps. A Roman masonry structure in the immediate area is inferred from large fragments of semi-articulated building debris, which appeared to have collapsed or have been dumped over the sealing layers. This material may have derived from a Roman building recorded only 3m (10ft) to the S during earlier underpinning work in 1917. There was no dating associated with this material.

#### **1-3 St. Paul's Churchyard, 1-9 Ludgate Hill, 15 Creed Lane and 40 Carter Lane TQ 3188 8110 (B. Pye).**

During June-December 1985, a six week excavation inside standing buildings, followed by a watching brief during demolition and ground works, were funded by UK Providence. The excavation consisted of two areas. In the NW of the site, fronting onto Ludgate Hill (Area A), the truncated natural ground surface was directly beneath the concrete floor slab at 12.00m (39ft 4in) OD. However, above the slumped late 1st c backfill of a quarry pit was a much altered Roman timber post and clay sill constructed building of the early 2nd c. It was destroyed in the Hadrianic period (although there was no evidence of it being burnt down) and replaced by a building of similar construction in the mid 2nd c which was covered by a dump of 3rd c date. Other features recorded in this area include late Saxon to post-medieval pits and a 17th c brick-lined well. Fronting onto Creed Lane was the second area of excavation (B). Here the natural ground surface at 11.2m (36ft 9in) OD had been covered by a redeposited brickearth slab before a timber post and clay sill building was constructed in the late 1st c. This building was aligned N-S with a gravel "yard" to the S. It appeared to have been burnt down and replaced by a building of similar construction in the early 2nd c. When this building went out of use it was covered by a dump of 3rd c material.

In the watching brief the major feature recorded was a large ditch c 5m (16ft) deep and at least 15m (49ft) wide (truncated to the E), running N-S from the St. Paul's Churchyard frontage. It cut into a late 1st c quarry and was backfilled with Roman and medieval material. Other features recorded by section drawings include parts of Roman timber buildings with associated gravel "yards" and a small E-W running lane, and large pits of medieval to 19th c date. In the S part of the site, fronting onto Carter Lane, deep 19th c basements had destroyed all archaeological deposits except pits.

#### **167-77 Queen Victoria Street (TQ 3168 8091) (K. Steedman).**

At the confluence of the Fleet and Thames in the late 13th or early 14th c, a substantial E-W wall was erected on the foreshore. During or shortly after the construction of this wall large amounts of mixed deposits were dumped behind it to reclaim the land. Stairs were probably constructed to the top of the wall from the new ground level. At the front of the wall, beaches of compacted gravel were deliberately laid, presumably to facilitate the beaching or mooring of boats, and several mooring timbers were found. This deposition began soon after or during the construction of the wall, and continued until the 1st half of the 17th c when a set of wooden stairs was constructed from the top of the wall



down to the foreshore. During this period, the area to the N of the wall yielded only traces of dumping and possible external activity from the 14th and 15th c. The stairs to the S of the wall appear to have had a relatively short life. They were dismantled and riverlain deposits sealed them. The foreshore area appears to have been used less intensively after this and the area was itself reclaimed in the 2nd half of the 17th c, probably as part of the general redevelopment of this part of the City following the Great Fire of London in 1666. A sequence of brick cellars was constructed on this reclaimed land and use of the latest one dates from the mid to late 18th c. To the N of the wall the earlier dumping was sealed by, and perhaps partly truncated by, activity associated with a setting for probable ladder access to the wall. This, and the layers which sealed it, were of 18th c date. A brick cellar post-dated them. Modern activity truncated the sequence on both sides of the wall.

#### **St Stephen's Walbrook (TQ 3265 8103) (A. Westman).**

Groundworks during partial underpinning and refurbishment of the Church of St Stephen, Walbrook, were monitored in March-April 1985 by arrangement with the architects, Brandt Potter and Partners. Inside the church, beneath the floor, only brick burial vaults and brick rubble were observed. Outside, the chalk foundations of the medieval church were recorded up to 1.50m (5ft) E of the E face of the foundations and superstructure built by Wren.

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**CITY OF LONDON Excavations by the Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology.**

#### **Broad Street Station, Liverpool Street (Broadgate development) TO 3304 8167 (D. Malt).**

Excavations in the SW corner of the site were completed in April, revealing considerable dumping over the marsh deposits and producing a section through the E bank of the Walbrook. The bank in this part of the site was constructed of compacted gravel, clay and building rubble. Tentative dating evidence from ceramic material places its construction to 180-230. Some 400 post-medieval burials were excavated from an area within the boundaries of the new churchyard, founded in 1569 by the city to relieve the congestion occurring in parish burial grounds. The burials were found in high density - some 8 per m<sup>3</sup>. The cemetery was used up to at least 1720. Primary burials were mostly uncoffined but a large proportion of the later inhumations were coffined burials. A large brick vault contained six members of the Jenkes family, in lead coffins with highly decorated wooden inner coffins, dating from 1686 to 1714. Other finds included two Roman hipposandals and good groups of post-medieval pottery.

#### **76 Cannon Street TQ 3258 8092 (A. Stephenson).**

An excavation c 2.5m (8ft) square, funded by Peachey Properties, took place during September-November. The earliest deposits were of the stream-bed of the Lower Walbrook at a level of 3.10m (10ft 2in) OD. In the 1st c the E bank was consolidated with a N-S aligned revetment. Land to the W was subsequently reclaimed by further piling and dumping of organic material and brickearth to receive three successive Roman buildings, associated with glass- and iron-working. A 4th c timber box well cut the last of these and the 3m (10ft) of Roman stratification were sealed by 0.5m (1ft 8in) of dark earth filled pits. A large group of mid-late 4th c pottery was recovered.

#### **52 Carter Lane TQ 3182 8109 (B. Watson).**

The excavation, sponsored by Waterglade International Holdings Ltd, took place in September and October. The N side of a large, truncated ditch (2.6m. 8.5ft, deep) aligned NW to SE (the same alignment as the oblique N boundary of Nos 52 and 54/56 Carter Lane) was recorded. It can be estimated from test pits on the adjoining properties (PAL 86) that the ditch is about 13m (43ft) wide. The finds from the primary backfill of the ditch suggest it is of Norman or 12th c date; it may therefore be that of Montfitchet's Tower. The S part of the site was occupied by the foundations of a later 17th c building, fronting onto Carter Lane. Internal part to this building was a small, rectangular, brick built icehouse, with a vaulted roof.

#### **10-13 Carthusian Street TQ 3206 8188 (D. Bentley).**

A watching brief was carried out in July. It produced evidence of 13th c occupation, demonstrating the extent to which London's suburbs had grown by this date (the site lies 450m. ¼ mile, N of the City wall at Aldersgate). The earliest activity identified was a deposit of heavily pitted early medieval agricultural or garden soil, over which a large building provisionally of 13th c date was erected, with walls founded on arches of chalk and flint. This building was extended with the construction of shallow foundations extending 6m (20ft) to the W; associated chalk-lined pits and a well were found. The well was partially rebuilt, using carved medieval stonework which may have come from the chalk founded building.

In the 16th c a replacement brick building was erected, using the earlier foundations and following the same property boundaries. It too underwent development and extension to the W over what had become a large metallated yard. The associated rubbish pits produced many wine jars, bottles, cups and plates, and reinforces the 17th c documentary evidence that shows this to be the site of the Red Lion Inn which fronted onto Aldersgate Street 20m (66ft) to the E.

#### **16 Coleman Street TQ 3259 8147 (C. Spence).**

During February a watching brief was undertaken during ground works. Natural gravel was truncated to a level of 8.95m (29ft 4in) O.D. over the whole site; however, a number of pits were recorded. The earliest were rubbish pits of early 2nd c date. In the N-E corner of the site was a square wooden structure set within a pit, with an external clay packing. It was backfilled in the 3rd c and disturbed by a mid 4th c NW-SE gully. Pits of the 11th c to 17th c were recorded. A possible post-medieval cellar sequence was recorded at the E site limit.

#### **3-7 Dowgate Hill TQ 3257 8088 (C. Maloney).**

A watching brief of exploratory pits prior to refurbishment by Taylor Woodrow took place in February-March, revealing internal rooms of a heated Roman building. In one pit a tessellated floor was recorded, associated with a wall rendered with *opus signinum* and faced with thin slabs of Purbeck marble. In a nearby pit an internal corner of a room with a hypocaust was located. Two walls survived up to 2.45m (8ft) in height, composed of tiles rendered with *opus signinum*, the bottom of the wall being lined with vertically set tiles. It was constructed on a concrete floor

onto which *pilae* had been set and above which lay another concrete floor. In other pits a collapsed tile wall, ragstone walls and concrete floors were recorded.

#### **17-21 Farringdon Street TQ 3165 8132 (P. Durnford).**

Finds of the Roman, medieval and post medieval periods testify to the continuing interest shown in this valley site from an early period. Although a number of possibly medieval timbers and wall fragments were observed and plotted, only tentative building lines can be suggested. The earlier course of the river Fleet may have been further to the E, hence the presence of typical waterfront dumps and possible revetment features in the W of the site. Brick floor and wall fragments, together with several portions of post medieval drain or pit fill from 17th c contexts were also recorded. A drain or channel may formerly have existed in the centre of the site, feeding down the Fleet.

#### **94-97 Fenchurch Street TQ 3345 8110 (S. Riviere).**

Excavation took place here between October and December. The earliest feature on the site was a 26m (85ft) long Roman ditch, partly with the 'ankle-breaking' profile suggestive of a military function. It had a fairly short life and was backfilled and levelled over at one time, with the first indications of several flimsy timber structures sealing the levelling. These structures and a large domestic oven were themselves sealed by a further levelling up for the first of the more substantial buildings. These buildings, Building 1 and 2, were single storey, with wattle and daub walls supported by clay sills and roofed with thatch, and were confined to the E half of the site. To the W was an extensive external gravel area, possibly a courtyard, which covered an area at least 17 x 16m (56 x 53ft). The two buildings were completely destroyed by a major fire, probably Boudiccan. The new buildings and streets were deliberately laid out on a new alignment, at 45° to the preceding buildings, employing slightly different building techniques but producing basically timber, with wattle and daub, walls and thatched roofs. Each was subdivided into several rooms and was altered internally during its lifetime. They had in plan the shape of a fairly typical strip building and appeared to front onto the street running to the S and E. To the W of these buildings lay a street composed of bands of gravel heavily compacted to form a smooth surface with a slight camber. The sides were revetted with timber, and a succession of roadside ditches ran along both sides. The street was resurfaced at least three times and was in use well into the 2nd c AD. It must have met the street on which the buildings were fronting at an angle of less than 90°, suggesting that the street found on the excavation may have been only a side street. Any possible later Roman activity was destroyed by several 12th c and later rubbish pits, wells and three chalk lined pits.

#### **Guildhall House, 81-87 Gresham Street TQ 3251 8131 (K. Steedman).**

The excavation, funded by the Corporation of London, took place between December 1985 and March 1986. The earliest features were the robbed remains of 1st c Roman buildings in the centre of the site and to the W (on a slightly different alignment). Site-wide dumping of re-deposited brickearth followed. Truncation by the basements of the demolished building removed most deposits above this horizon. A sequence of surfaces of 1st-3rd c date surviving in the centre of the site were assumed to be associated with robbed structural features. They maintained the earlier alignment, as did a series of later robbing cuts to the E, the most significant of which represented a 1.5m (5ft) wide wall at least 16m (53ft) long (robbed in the 4th c). The sequence in the centre was capped by a 1.4m (4ft 7in) wide tile wall which ran NW-SE. Additions were made to its S side, the latest of which comprised a three-aisled building possibly 10m (33ft) long with two rows of large posts. It was aligned with the features to the W, rather than the large wall to the E. A layer of dark soil of 4th c date overlay some of the robbed remains. Pits of late Saxon date contained 4 bone trial pieces, one inscribed with a name, perhaps the artist's. Most of the site had pitting of 11th/12th c date succeeded for the most part by chalk or masonry walls on the modern N-S orientation, contrary to that of the Roman features. A well-built 12th c cellared feature, 1.6 x 1.2m (5ft 3in x 4ft), and several cess-pits survived. There were no medieval surfaces.

#### **Leadenhall Court; 91-100 Gracechurch Street; 1-6 Leadenhall Street; 2-12 Whittington Avenue TQ 3340 8110 (S. O'Connor Thomson & G. Milne).**

From October 1985 to September 1986 extensive excavations followed preliminary work reported in LA 5, no 6, 158. The project, generously funded by the Legal and General Assurance Society and HBMC, was designed to examine a large area over and immediately N of the site of the suggested Roman basilica. The eleven trenches investigated below basements of the standing buildings on the S side of the site were supervised by P Wootton, and the three large external areas were supervised by T Brigham (S) G Brown (W) and G Milne (N). Evidence was found for the initial clearance of tree cover, also quarry pits, ditches, a building with earth-fast posts and a thick fire-debris horizon. All were sealed by six brickearth-walled buildings, pottery from which has been dated to c AD 60-80; the associated pits, wells, alleys and middens were also excavated. All were swept away by a major redevelopment of the site which saw the introduction of a large masonry public building extending beyond the S, W and E limits of excavation. A well-made road lay to its N, with brickearth and timber buildings beyond that. Major structural modifications to the masonry building were recorded, as was the sequence of development in many of the rooms, together with the complex pattern of demolition and robbing. The Roman finds were typical of a Roman civilian settlement: nothing of a military character has yet been identified on the site. There was much Roman pottery from early Flavian to 4th c in date, including a great range of imports. There are very good examples of unusual types, for example hollow-foot amphora, Rhineland mortaria, and glazed ware from central Gad and S-E England. Glass vessels included chariot and athletes cups and a double-handed cup (scyphos). Several iron water-pipe collars were recovered.

The road was resurfaced nine times, but a thick layer of silt sealed the latest surface, into which a series of Saxon pits and other features were cut. Much structural evidence survived of the 15th c Leadenhall market, as the trenches straddled the N part of the quadrangular market building, locating its truncated foundations. A fragment of the exterior wall of the W range survived to a height of 11.2m (37ft) between modern buildings. It displayed evidence for an open ground floor for trade and, above, two floors for storage of wheat. Cellars built on the site of the N wing, after its demolition in 1795, incorporated over 100 dressed mouldings and blocks from the superstructure of the building. This information, coupled with the large body of documentary/ pictorial records preserved in the Guildhall, will make possible a detailed reconstruction of this unique medieval building.

### **2-5 Minorities TQ 3363 8116 (I. Blair).**

In the basement of No. 3, a trench 6 x 2.5m (20 x 8ft) was excavated over a two-week period before demolition. The earliest sequence, of Roman date, comprised a series of brickearth quarries, up to 2.5m (8ft) deep, which bottomed out at 3.50m (11.5ft) beneath the basement slab. Following their backfilling and consolidation, the area seems to have been given over to open fields during the medieval period and to have been extensively ploughed. This was evident by a well-sorted group of level-surfaced layers which extended across the entire trench.

Intruding through the plough horizons was a large circular cut c 1.70m (5.5ft) in diameter which seems to have been a bell-casting pit, and contained much smashed clay bell mould and some 14th c pottery.

### **32-4 Mitre Street TQ 3343 8116 (S. Riviere).**

A watching brief, funded by Speyhawk, was carried out in March and April, in an area which previously had been part of the graveyard of St Katherine Cree Church. The trench was 15 x 3.5m (49 x 11.5ft) with a survival of 6m (20ft) of stratigraphy. The natural brickearth was sealed by a series of patchy Roman surfaces and cut by a possible quarry pit, sealed in turn by a series of homogenous dumps. Cutting into the dumps were burials, in stone and mortar cists, probably a continuation of the late Saxon graveyard excavated to the east in LEA 84 (see 1985 LA summary) which were themselves disturbed by the construction of massive chalk foundations for the wall of the nave of Holy Trinity Priory. The ground level to the S of the nave rose, and further burials continued to be made. Three very large buttresses, (one of which was itself later enlarged) were added to the S of the S wall. Burials continued to be made, to give a rise of 2.6m (8.5ft) to the destruction horizon of the Priory from the construction level. Parts of the superstructure of the Holy Trinity Priory must have remained standing in the late 16th c. as a new N-S wall was constructed to abut the S wall of the nave, probably forming the new E boundary for the graveyard for the parish church of St Katherine Cree which lay to the S. The area continued to be used as a graveyard to the present day, with burials being made in wooden and lead coffins and the ground level rising steadily. The area was sealed by a layer of top soil.

### **49-53 Moorgate, 72-73 Coleman Street TQ 3267 8147 (C. Spence).**

Excavation took place between March and May funded by Wates City Ltd. Although most of the site was truncated by modern basements, a small area to the NE of the site retained horizontal stratigraphy. The natural gravels sloped down in this corner, but were truncated elsewhere on the site to 9.40m (30ft 10in) O.D. The earliest activity on the site was the cutting of a gravel quarry pit, backfilled in the early 2nd c. It was immediately S of a metal surface, possibly an alley or road, of the same date. In the NE corner of the site the downward slope of natural was levelled and a brickearth building constructed during the early 2nd c. The structure had at least three rooms and a narrow corridor; one room had a gravelled floor whilst the others used brickearth. The internal walls were of wattle and daub construction. The building, and an associated external area, with a wooden box-section drain and boundary fence, were occupied for a relatively short period as stages of disuse were dated to the mid 2nd c. By the late 2nd c a substantial NW-SE fence alignment ran across this area; to be followed in the early 3rd c by an E-W tile pathway. Late 3rd c dumping completed the horizontal sequence. A large number of truncated pits were recorded, with a date range of early 2nd c to c 1500. Of note were two very large square rubbish pits and a smaller wattle lined pit, probably at the rear of a property fronting Coleman Street, all dated to the 12th c. A medieval chalk well, backfilled in the 18th c, and other post-medieval activity completed the sequence. Finds included a notable group of post-medieval metalwork.

### **54-62 New Broad Street TQ 3304 8154 (I. Blair).**

During a ten-week period between January and March, seven N-S trenches were excavated across the line of the City ditches. The work was generously funded by Haslemere Estates. The earliest features, which were cut into natural gravels, were a series of stream and drainage channels running W towards the Walbrook. Following their natural silting and consolidation during the 2nd c, the ground level was raised across the N half of the site by 1.2m (4ft) or more, with the large-scale dumping of mainly gravel-based make-ups. Running parallel to, and lying 6m (20ft) from, the external face of the City wall (which formed the S boundary of the site) were the truncated remains of the associated early 3rd c V-cut defensive ditch. Cut into its berm was a solitary grave of Roman date which contained a single well-preserved male skeleton. During the 12th c the ground level was raised by a further 1.50m (5ft). The absence of any clear sign of a medieval ditch cut and the presence of a series of substantial dumped make-ups (which were waterlogged at the time of deposition) suggest that the marshy area around Moorfields precluded the cutting of a ditch during this period. Instead, it seems likely that a N bank was raised in order to delineate the line of the outer defensive circuit.

In the 16th c. a massive 50ft-wide City ditch (which survived to a depth of 2m (6.5ft), and extended E-W across the entire site) was cut into the reclamation dumps. The ditch was relatively short-lived and was backfilled by the middle of the 17th c. The fill contained a fine 16th c intaglio ring (see L.A. 5 no. 8 (1985) 192). Following its consolidation, a series of linear E-W horncore-filled land drains were cut into its uppermost fills. A large assemblage of 17th c pottery included delftware, Saintonge ware, bellarmine and other imported wares. The later encroachment of properties across the N edge of the ditch in the 18th c was indicated by a group of brick-lined wells and drains.

### **9 Northumberland Alley TQ 3347 8103 (A. B. Thomas).**

In July and August excavations funded by R. J. Kiln Co Ltd were carried out in the basement of a standing building. Excavations revealed a sequence of gully and ditch activity dated to the early Roman period, including a major NNE-SSW linear V-shaped ditch with an associated post pit alignment along its E side.

Later in the Roman period a gravel strip and post-built structure orientated NNE-SSW was recorded across the site. They were sealed by major dumps and later Roman pits, including a large assemblage of late 3rd/mid 4th c pottery.

Due to modern basements, medieval and later periods were reduced to truncated remains of a chalk lined well and a square cut pit. One pit produced a bone ? medieval coin balance.

### **7-8 Plumtree Court, 26-30 Holborn Viaduct TQ 3155 8150 (P. Durnford).**

Evidence ranging in date from the medieval to the post medieval period was recorded. The absence of finds and structures from the Roman period was marked. No Roman pottery was recovered and there was no sign of gravels or metallurgy which might be interpreted as the Roman road expected in the NW corner. The medieval remains consisted of several wall fragments and one or two cut features associated with medieval

pottery. Post-medieval structures in the form of walls, drains, floors and vaults were also recorded. In addition, the building lines of pre-Viaduct structures were clearly seen on the W side of the site, with associated drains running down to the N. Unfortunately, lack of time prevented recording of these structures. Traces of a timber structure, recorded on the N edge of the site, also appeared to be post medieval in date. A wide strip of greenish organic material, observed running N-S down from the NE corner, may be part of the original course of the river Fleet. Organic deposits were also seen in one section of a machine cut in the extreme SE corner, but no trace of timber revetments was recorded.

#### **St Albans House, Wood Street TQ 3228 8125 (P. Chitwood & J. Hill).**

Following the demolition of a post-war office building, an archaeological investigation between April and July, sponsored by Eagle Star Insurance, recorded 3 - 5m (10 - 16ft) of stratigraphy in two discrete areas, separated by a double basement.

In the E site an area of 300m<sup>2</sup> (3300sq ft) (area A) was excavated. Natural at 11.3-11.5m (37-38ft) OD was immediately overlain by 1st c structures. Following destruction by fire, and extensive quarrying, these buildings were replaced by a sequence including an *opus signinum* floored cellar associated with clay and timber wall lines. Much of the area appears to have been external with only the backs of buildings lying to the S intruding into the area of excavation.

Some later 2nd c surfaces survived, slumped over pit fills, but generally mid 2nd c Roman deposits were sealed by dark organic dumps and considerable pitting. A substantial (125m<sup>3</sup>, 44,000cu ft) quarry pit containing 11th/12th c pottery and a bone trial-piece was sealed by a ragstone foundation that still observed the Roman alignment. This was in turn cut by a 12th c foundation which ran at right angles to Wood St. and disregarded Roman alignments. Some surfaces associated with this later foundation were recorded to its S. To the NE medieval timber structures with patchy floorings were encountered.

To the W of the double basement an area of 75m<sup>2</sup> (800sq ft) was excavated (area X), and a similar area recorded in section (area B). Over natural, which was encountered at a level c 0.50m (1ft 8in) higher than on the E area, dumps and substantial pits analogous to the early activity in area A, were sealed by make-ups and surfaces, one of which was tessellated, associated with a ragstone dwarf wall. A substantial portion of the scorched and collapsed timber and clay superstructures of the wall was recorded *in situ*. Associated pottery suggested a 2nd c date. Later Roman and medieval horizontal stratigraphy was destroyed by extensive pitting.

#### **The City Wall at St Alphage Garden TQ 3245 8162 (A. Westman).**

An archaeological examination of a standing monument at St Alphage Garden EC2, formerly London Wall, was undertaken in March and September for the Corporation of London. The work included photogrammetry by the Department of Civil Engineering of the City University. The monument formed part of the NW sector of the city wall. The earliest elements were identified as two phases of Roman defences: the inner face of the N wall of the 2nd c fort, reinforced when this wall was incorporated in the defensive circuit built around the Roman city in about AD 200.

The dilapidated defences were then partly refaced to the N. This coarse refacing was slightly out of alignment with both the existing and with subsequent defences and may have been associated with the foundation on the city wall of the church of St Alphage, probably in the 11th c. The N wall of the church was rebuilt decoratively in the late 14th c. The adjoining city wall was reconstructed at least twice, culminating in brick crenellations, dated to 1477 by documentary evidence. The church was dismantled in 1535-6, when the dedication was transferred to a larger building to the SE. Remaining masonry was partly incorporated in walls of adjacent premises and was exposed and consolidated in 1951-3.

#### **St. Botolph, Aldgate TQ 3358 8122 (C. Maloney).**

During a watching brief in June and July - for which access was granted by the Rector and Parish Council of St. Botolph, Aldgate - excavations alongside the E boundary wall of the churchyard revealed that it was built on an earlier stone wall. It was composed of coursed limestone and yellow sandstone blocks on a foundation of sandstone and chalk. Above a moulded string course, the face of the wall had been set back. At least 1.1m (36ft) of its length and 1.1m (3½ft) of its height survives. Although all deposits relating to the wall had been destroyed, it can be dated to the 15th c, and it identified as the W wall of the Crowne Inn, a property dating back to the 12th c.

#### **St Margaret's Rectory, St Olave's Court, Ironmonger Lane TQ 3254 8123 (E. Shepherd).**

A watching brief and small area excavation were undertaken between October 1985 and June 1986, funded by the Church Commissioners. In the SW corner of the site natural gravels were quarried in the mid/late 1st c, prior to a sequence of Roman clay and timber buildings. These apparently fronted onto a road running E-W to the S and had an external area to the N. A severe fire during the 2nd c was indicated.

A similar sequence was evident over the rest of the site, although occupation was apparently less intensive to the N.

Later deposits were truncated by church structures. At the S end of the site was a small church (the surviving nave measuring c 7.50 x 8.00m, 24ft 7in x 26ft 3in) of 9th-11th c date on constructional details, with Roman tiles incorporated as quoins. The church was enlarged and altered throughout the medieval period, and was burnt down in the Great Fire of 1666. It was rebuilt in 1673-76 by Sir Christopher Wren, who added the surviving tower.

#### **56-60 St. Mary Axe TQ 3336 8134 (C. Maloney).**

One section was recorded at the E end of the site after the walls of a basement had been removed. It revealed a thick band of mortar and ragstone fragments, together with chalk, *opus signinum* and tile fragments. This is identified as the N-W extremities of Bastion 9, or possibly material associated with its destruction, since it was sealed by 16th c deposits.

#### **Stothard Place, Spital Square TQ 3341 8186 (C. Sparey Green).**

Excavations and a watching brief funded by County and District Properties Ltd. were conducted between April and July. The site lay 0.5 km (½ mile) from Bishopsgate, immediately S of the site of St Mary Spital, and in an area known to contain Roman cemeteries. The earliest activity was represented by a shallow brickearth quarry containing 2nd c material, to the W of which lay three wood-lined tanks set in the natural brickearth and containing occupation debris of similar date. Thereafter a group of between seven and nine extended and oriented inhumation burials in wooden coffins was bounded on the N and E by at least four phases of ditches; both burials and enclosure dating to the late 3rd or 4th c. One burial contained thirteen glass beads. In the early medieval period a timber structure 6.5 x 7m (21 x 23ft) was surrounded by a complex of

small pits and then succeeded by a group of large cesspits. In the late medieval period the W side of the site was occupied by a barrel-lined well and fragmentary gravel footings of timber buildings; the E side by cesspits. The E wall of an early post-medieval brick building had been incorporated in the rear of the existing E frontage of Bishopsgate, the coursed brick and chalk footings of which had previously been wrongly identified in the 19th c as of Roman site. This wall had later been incorporated into the terrace of the 18th c houses forming the S side of Stothard Place.

Thirty six fragments of moulded stone reused in the footings of this building included a richly moulded 14th c traceried and glazed window fragment, possible from the Priory and Hospital of St Mary; fragments of a plainer 14th c window, thirteen fragments from a 16th c oriel window and a second, plainer, 16th c window.

#### **Sunlight Wharf TQ 3210 8089 (K. Tyler).**

During July and August L.E.P. Ltd. sponsored the excavation of five areas at the N limit of the Sunlight Wharf building site, S of The Salvation Army World Headquarters. In the two W areas the SW corner of a substantial piece of Roman masonry was discovered. The element aligned E-W measured c 17m (56ft) E-W and 2m (6.5ft) N-S. The element aligned N-S measured c 2.8m (9ft) N-S and 6m (20ft) E-W. The masonry feature was built on a rammed chalk platform supported by a series of dumps and vertically piled timbers. The area E of this contained a masonry feature aligned N-S, butted by a masonry feature aligned E-W. They were constructed upon the same sort of platform, dumps and piles as the masonry feature to the W. The two areas to the N of this contained platform, dumps and piles only, with an isolated tile setting for a wooden pile. Dating evidence for the Roman features above will be obtained from dendrochronological samples of the piles. These Roman features may align with those recorded in 1981 at excavations at St. Peter's Hill; masonry recorded in 1961-2 during the construction of the Salvation Army Headquarters; and masonry recorded in 1841 by Roach Smith between the foot of Lambeth Hill and Queenhithe.

Post-Roman features included a series of N-S and E-W aligned masonry features at the N limit of the excavation. To their S a series of deposits interpreted as road surfaces aligned E-W were recorded. Still further S a substantial masonry feature aligned E-W was recorded. This series of features has been interpreted as buildings to the N and S sides of a road.

#### **19 Throgmorton Avenue 121 Austin Friars EC2 TQ 3289 8141 (P. Durnford).**

A limited excavation funded by MEPC was carried out in the S half of this large site from July to September. A short watching brief was carried out immediately afterwards when the piling contractors were on site. McGee (Demolition) provided help throughout the excavation. The main objective was to try to establish the line of the original channel of a Walbrook tributary which was known to have crossed the area. It was predicted that the Walbrook should traverse the SW quarter of the site from NE to SW. The depth of the double basements in the N of the site determined the eventual size of excavation. In the S half of the site, massive Victorian foundations also dictated the areas to be excavated. As modern footings crossed the site, E-W, three discrete areas of excavation were created.

Up to 2m (6.5ft) of stratigraphy was encountered over the S area of the site. Substantial remains of a timber revetment and part of a wooden trackway were uncovered. It proved possible to plot the probable alignment of the Walbrook tributary in the early Roman period. Finds included much Roman vessel glass, a group of Roman leather shoes and sandals, and a Roman wooden writing tablet in very good condition with writing (yet to be deciphered) on it.

#### **34 Watling Street TQ 3243 8103 (M. Samuel).**

A two-week programme of recording determined the position of a large undercroft known to exist at 34 Watling Street. Prior to partial destruction when Queen Victoria Street was laid out in the 19th c, it had been recorded to a high standard, but it was unclear how these records related to the single vault springer still visible. Study revealed that plastered recesses in the W wall of the modern cellar corresponded to window splay in the old drawings, making possible their orientation. This reveals that the undercroft possibly survives extensively under both Watling Street to the N and Queen Victoria Street to the S, and that the floor of the Victorian cellar lies on top of a thick accumulation of undercroft floors. Stylistically, the details of the vault suggest a date range of 1350-1500.

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**THIS ARTICLE has been prepared from reports submitted by individual site supervisors and collated by John Schofield. WC at the end of a report indicates that work continues.**

#### **Aldermanbury House, 58-63 Aldermanbury TQ 3243 8149 (G. Brown).**

After demolition of a post-war building on the S side of Aldermanbury Square, an archaeological investigation was funded by Heritable City Investments between June and mid-September 1987. 300 sq m (3200 sq ft) were excavated. Basement slabs had destroyed all archaeological features except for intrusions: pits, wall foundations, postholes and wells. The highest surviving fragment of natural brickearth was at 11.11m OD and this too had been truncated.

Intrusive features of various functions were recorded from Roman, medieval, and post-medieval periods; many of the medieval pits were cesspits. Foundations for two structures were also recorded, their alignments reflecting the pre-war street pattern. They appear to have been established after 1350. Several near-complete pottery vessels dating between 1550-1750 were recovered from the fills of a post-medieval well.

An extensive watching brief was conducted on underpinning holes around the N and E perimeters of the site. While features similar to those in the excavation trench were recorded, there was no evidence for the E defences, including the E gate of the Cripplegate Roman fort, thought to be located at this point on the perimeter.

#### **12 America Square TQ 3359 8090 (A. Stephenson).**

Preliminary excavation work, funded by Central and City Properties Ltd, underneath the railway viaduct leading out of Fenchurch Street Station was completed in the summer in two areas, each measuring c 25m<sup>2</sup> (270 sq ft), to a depth of 2-2.5m (6.5-8ft) below the warehouse basement slab.

In the S area the internal face of the Roman city wall was exposed immediately below the concrete slab, standing to a height of c 1.7m (5.5ft) to the top of its clay, flint and *opus signinum* foundations and showing the usual pattern of dressed ragstone blocks and tile courses. A series of

deposits of sand, gravel and brickearth, tipped from E to W, were banked against the wall. They represented the rampart formed from material upcast from the digging of the wall's foundations and external ditch, and contained pottery of mostly mid 2nd c date. Below the 1.5m (5ft) of rampart deposits was a layer of very hard rammed gravel containing ragstone chippings and pottery, up to 0.20m (8in) thick and with a distinct camber down towards the wall, presumably a road built either as part of the construction sequence of the defensive system or predating it. Below it lay a further 0.30m (1ft) of dumping containing earlier Roman pottery.

In the N area, the Roman wall's external face was exposed to a depth of slightly less than 2m (6.5ft) to foundation level. Above natural ballast lay a dump of material containing Roman tiles, chalk and ragstone fragments, through which a cut had been made to take the curving foundations of a later projecting bastion abutting the wall. The foundations were of gravel below undressed stone rubble, apparently built and mortared in very rough stepped courses, above which up to 1m (3ft) of relatively neat masonry superstructure survived. None of the masonry was dismantled, but it could be seen that the core of the bastion contained a coping stone and another partially moulded stone. Above this lay a series of dumps containing material dated to 1650-1800, through which was cut a bricklined cesspit abutting both wall and bastion and containing material provisionally dated to the same period.

In a large test pit in the adjacent car park to the N, the wall was shown to survive intact to a height of c 12.00m OD or 3.00m (10ft) above foundation level. Large-scale excavation is in progress. WC.

#### **2-6 Austin Friars TQ 3293 8133 (O. Beazley).**

Excavations inside the building in August and September, funded by Guardian Royal Exchange, recorded 0.50-0.70m (1ft 8in-2ft 4in) of stratigraphy in three areas.

Natural, consisting of river gravels to the W (areas A and B) and brickearth to the E (area C), was overlain by redeposited natural deposits. Residual finds of a significant number of flints from subsequent dumpings include blades and a fabricator and may suggest nearby prehistoric activity.

The paucity of structural or building evidence suggests that much of the site continued in use as an external area throughout the Roman period. Dumps and pitting representing the earliest activity across the site were sealed by deposits indicative of internal activity but only in Area B.

During the 2nd-3rd c an oven was constructed, replaced by possible surfaces, and thereafter overlain by a second oven/hearth.

Later Roman and medieval horizontal stratigraphy was truncated by recent activity. There were medieval pits in all areas; finds from them provide an 11th-14th c date range and include a bone skate.

#### **19-25 Birchin Lane TQ 3290 8106 (E. Shepherd and A. Westman).**

An excavation, funded by City Merchant Developers Ltd, was conducted during February - March 1987. The depth of archaeological deposits was considerably greater than anticipated. As the length of the excavation could not be extended, the site was excavated on a two shift system. No excavation was undertaken in Nos. 19-21, as the insertion of basements had removed all archaeological levels. The six trenches dug in Nos. 24-25 provided little information, also due to heavy truncation. Only a number of pits (of differing dates) and ragstone foundation (of unknown date) survived.

In contrast, archaeological deposits survived to a depth of over 3m (10ft) in Nos. 22-23. The earliest feature (mid 1st c) was a band of gravel 6m (20ft) wide (running E-W), retained within timber posts and planking. Its function is uncertain, although it may have formed an alleyway. It was flanked by external yards. A complex sequence of Roman clay and timber buildings followed, spanning the late 1st/2nd c. The discovery of two ovens and carbonised grain within the rooms of one of these buildings suggests that it was a bakery. It was destroyed by a major fire in the early/mid 2nd c. Late Roman buildings were truncated, although two pits and large masonry and piled foundations may have been of this date. Roman pottery included some rare types such as marbled samian, a glazed flagon, and a face pot. There was also a large Antonine group and a large, high quality group of mid/late 4th c wares. A shale platter of the late 2nd c century was also recovered. Later features, which were few, included cesspits, a chalk-lined well and a brick drain.

#### **St Helen, Bishopgate TQ 3321 8127 (R. Lea).**

Archaeological recording took place in December 1986 to February 1987, when the exteriors of the S wall of the nave and the W wall of the S transept were stripped of render and the mortar joints raked out before repointing.

Areas of early 13th c masonry were identified in both elevations. The masonry included wall facings, a lancet window and a relieving arch for a door in the S wall of the nave, together with facings and two lancet windows in the W wall of the S transept. The lancet windows correspond to those in the S wall of the S transept. Probably in the 14th or early 15th c, the elevations were altered by the addition of knapped flint at parapet level, probably replacing eaves. The easternmost lancet window in the S wall of the nave was blocked, and a two-light window was inserted at a low level. A wall, probably the churchyard wall, was constructed to abut the SW corner of the S transept and a two-storey building was constructed against the S half of the W wall of the S transept, ie in the SE corner of the churchyard. This building incorporated a piscina at first floor level and squints at ground and first floor level into the S transept.

The body of the church underwent major alteration late in the 15th c, when the nave was heightened and the walls were refenestrated with plain three-light windows moulded without cusping. The present S door, inscribed with the date 1633, was inserted on the site of the earlier door in the S wall of the nave. Various brick buildings were constructed against the W wall of the S transept in the 17th and later c. The S wall was rendered in the 19th c with Parker's Roman Cement.

#### **The Warehouse, Apothecaries Hall, Blackfriars Lane TQ 3173 8103 (B. Pye).**

A three-month watching brief in the basement during refurbishment of this Grade I Listed Building during February- April 1987 was followed immediately by a three-month standing building survey.

The site is also a scheduled Ancient Monument, as Apothecaries Hall was built on the site of the Dominican (Blackfriars) Friary. However, no buildings of medieval date were found under the Warehouse. This area, outside the Roman city wall, was used for digging of rubbish pits in the medieval period. The Society of Apothecaries purchased it in the 1630s, but their buildings were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. In the 1670s building work was carried out on the site, with the evidence of a smaller three-roomed basement with brick floors and associated brick

rubbish pits. This was recorded in the basement of the present building, which was built in 1783. Incorporated in this later building was a 17th c brick vaulted cellar under Playhouse Yard.

#### **43-44, Cloth Fair TQ 3191 8179 (D. Bentley).**

A watching brief was carried out during the refurbishment of this pair of late 18th c houses in June 1986. The internal timber structure, supported by an outer brick wall, showed no evidence for re-use of materials and no trace of decorative features *in situ*. The houses had similar plans and elevations; in both instances chimneys and staircases were located against flanking walls. Basement fire places were marked by modern blocking although in one instance a series of finely chamfered limestone fragments were used, which must have come from a grander structure, as must an unusually decorated block of Caen stone retrieved from the basement floor make-up and attributed on stylistic grounds to the 17th c.

#### **9-13 Crutched Friars TQ 3354 8099 (A. B. Thomas).**

Between December 1986 and March 1987 excavations funded by Hartstreet Properties Ltd were carried out at the site of 9-13 Crutched Friars, just inside the line of the Roman city wall.

Excavations suggested that the earliest activity on site was related to the construction of the defensive wall of c 200. The area appears to have been levelled with dumps, and later sealed by a compacted mixed mortar/gravel surface, aligned roughly N-S. To the E a small section of surviving Roman wall revealed in the main property boundary of the site gave clear indications that the gravel/mortar surface was constructed after the lower courses of the wall. Above this surface the internal bank survived to a height of c 1.4-5m (4.5-5ft), and a width of 8.5m (28ft). The bank was constructed using alternate dumps of brickearth/gravels, the tip lines of which suggested that the dumping sequence was from S to N; the bank tended to slope down from E to W. Apart from the defensive wall and bank little late Roman activity was noted.

By the medieval period the area of the bank was being encroached upon by a large foundation, aligned N-S, possibly for a stone building to the W. To the E of this building a series of post holes, aligned N-S, showed a possible lean-to structure or covered area between the building and the defensive wall. Once this timber structure went out of use, a yellow tile path was laid down between the building and the wall. In the post-medieval period the path was incorporated into a larger cobblestone surface which covered most of the excavated area. It is possible that by this period the defensive wall had been demolished, for in the cobbled surface were stone fragments similar to those noted in the Roman wall. Later a large red brick wall, aligned N-S, crossed the site. This building had internal rooms to the W, but still incorporated the yellow tile path and its cobblestone surrounds to the E.

#### **9-10 Cutler Street TQ 3341 8142 (S. Cole).**

A watching brief of October 1986-January 1987 revealed one crushed chalk inhumation, not datable, cut into natural brickearth, together with evidence of others disturbed by modern building works. Test pits and ground reduction showed extensive post-medieval pits sealed by a brick floor and foundations for the standing building.

#### **14-16 Dowgate Hill, Dowgate Hill House TQ 8082 3252 (M. Shea).**

A watching brief was conducted on site from the beginning of November 1986 until early February 1987 to oversee piling operations at Dowgate Hill House. A reasonably detailed survey of c 140 pile-borings was undertaken. It provided site-wide topographical information on the levels of the natural clay and subsequent siltings, as well as a 3-dimensional record of the position of the site. The latter operation included the retrieval of about 50 samples for dendrochronological purposes.

From late January to late March 1987, excavations, sponsored by London and Edinburgh Trust, were conducted in the NE area of Dowgate Hill House. In the proposed lift-shaft, c 8.5 x 5.5 x 5m (28 x 18 x 16.5ft). A natural streamlet or man-made channel cut through the N portion of the site, diagonally NE-SW. After this water-course had filled with successive sand and gravel deposits, probably in the early Roman period, the ground was terraced into a slightly sloping surface to allow construction to commence. A large E-W clay bank (possibly with timber lacing) was thrown up with a timber-piled channel running along its N flank; the latter fell into disuse and was superseded by a drainage-channel, aligned NE-SW, just S of it.

This apparent embankment of the Thames, with successive drainage-channels running along its N flank, later fell into disrepair and was bisected by a large erosion cutting, which ran diagonally (NE-SE) through the bank. Later, the site was completely sealed by a thick horizon of waterlain material; and the area witnessed the dumping of at least c 2m (7ft) of material, probably within a relatively short period (late 3rd-early 4th c).

This substantial dumping, very probably land reclamation, produced an exceptional collection of artefacts (even by Walbrook standards), including late Roman ceramic types. This apparently later Roman land reclamation could conceivably be associated with major public works in this area of the mouth of the Walbrook.

Later activity was represented by several cut features which may originally have been for masonry walls of building(s) running E-W across the site, and a circular group of cluster-piles which probably served as footing for an arched foundation. Environmental column samples were taken through the stratigraphy to complement the archaeological data.

Following the excavations, a second watching-brief was carried out between late April and the end of May 1987. It oversaw the reduction of the site to 2m OD to make way for pile-caps and the lift-shaft (-2.25m OD) of new British Telecom offices. The work largely entailed the recording of numerous sections of chalk and ragstone walls, often resting on timber piles and/or chocks, very likely representing medieval tenement buildings, running along the N side of the precursor of modern-day Upper Thames Street.

The excavations produced a large assemblage of finds of the late Roman period. Most of the material was recovered from dumping horizons. A large proportion of the pottery from the dumps dates from the late 3rd to early 4th c. Oxfordshire, Colchester and Nene Valley wares are present, along with sherds of late Roman glazed ware thought to be of eastern Mediterranean or Italian origin. Several crucible fragments of oxidised ware were also recovered. Of the 177 Roman coins found during excavations, 82% were recovered from the dumping levels. All the coins which have so far been identified date to the late 3rd c. The site also produced over 100 leather shoes and sandals, also of later 3rd c date. This assemblage is particularly important as it provides evidence for the continued use of one-piece shoes into the 3rd c, a style which was previously thought to have gone out of fashion by the end of the 2nd c. As well as nailed shoes and evidence for shoe-making there is a unique example of

the upper strapwork of a sandal. Other Roman finds include bone and jet pins and shale bracelets. Metalwork includes knives, locks, finger rings, a stylus and a fragments of a lead dish or platter.

#### **River Plate House, Finsbury Circus TQ 3283 8160 (P. Askew & D. Lees).**

During April 1987 an excavation funded by the Hammerson group took place inside a standing building. Its purpose was to investigate evidence of prehistoric activity, Walbrook tributaries, a Roman road, possibly the continuation of one found at Cophthall Avenue in 1980, any evidence of a Roman cemetery, a marsh deposition and later medieval and post-medieval dumping activity.

Similar sequences were recorded in all areas. Natural sands and gravels were located between 8.9-8.1m OD; a few fragments of late Iron Age pottery were found in one area. Immediately above lay brickearth, which showed evidence of naturally-formed silted up stream beds cutting into it. A brown fibrous organic marsh deposit c 0.2m (8in) deep containing freshwater snails had formed over the brickearth. This phase marks the last naturally-formed deposition and probably represents the Roman and medieval marsh deposits which had built up outside the N perimeter of the Roman wall in the 2nd c. The final sequence of deposits consisted of medieval and post-medieval dumps; in one of the dumps a few fragments of a Valencian Lustre Ware altar vase (1380-1650) were found, the form of which is quite rare in Britain.

During this phase of excavation six underpinning holes, 8m (26ft) to the S of the excavation and fronting onto Finsbury Circus, were investigated. Waterlogged black silts and organic material underlay the post-medieval dumping sequence; one hole bore certain evidence of a V-shaped channel 1.20m (4ft) wide filled with these waterlogged deposits, cut into brickearth and gravel. This was the only evidence of a possibly man-made channel cut to divert or drain one of the Walbrook tributaries in the vicinity.

A further excavation took place to the N of the first, fronting onto South Place. The same sequence of medieval and post-medieval dump deposits was located on top of the brown organic 'marsh' deposit as found earlier. In the area to the S, redeposited brickearth was found to overlie a cobbled and metalled surface consisting of gravel and coarse ragstone and chalk blocks with broken red tiles. A slight camber on the surface may indicate a road surface and it could possibly be the continuation of the Roman road found at Cophthall Avenue in 1980.

Unfortunately further investigation was not possible due to lack of time.

The area to the N contained three inhumations which had been truncated by the deep foundations, and a cremation within the underlying brickearth. Grave cuts were impossible to see, possibly because of later marsh flooding which had re-sorted the deposited brickearth. Associated with one of the burials was a Verulamium Region White Ware flask with bands of rouletted decoration around the rim, neck and shoulder which probably dates to the mid-late 2nd c. No other vessel of this type has been found in London.

#### **Cellar at Wine Office Court, 145 Fleet Street TQ 3144 8120 (A. Westman).**

An archaeological examination of a cellar adjoining The Old Cheshire Cheese public house, Wine Office Court. was made in December 1987 for the proprietors, Samuel Smith Brewery. The brick cellar, built with cast iron columns of early 19th c type supporting iron beams and shallow brick ceiling vaults, was added to the E of existing 18th c cellars and standing building, now occupied by the public house. Original entrances to the cellar were from the W and S; the latter, possibly leading to the ground floor, was later blocked and another doorway was inserted in the N wall, giving access to further cellars.

#### **40-41 Furnival Street TQ 3121 8154 (K. Tyler).**

Between May and July 1987 excavations were funded by Prudential Assurance plc. The earliest activity, of medieval or earlier date, was the quarrying of natural gravels. The quarry pits had been backfilled with brickearth. A series of 13th-15th c rubbish pits and chalk-lined cesspits post-dated them. The remains of the basement, ground floor and three upper storeys of a late 17th c L-shaped building were identified on the S half of the site. In the basement three brick vaults survived with fragments of brick flooring. One fireplace was recorded on the first floor, and two on the second. The original height of this building is unknown. N of it was a contemporary brick-lined well and the remains of a brick-lined cesspit.

#### **Guildhall Art Gallery, Guildhall Yard TQ 3251 8136 (N. Bateman).**

Following the demolition of the Guildhall Art Gallery in June 1987 an excavation was sponsored by the Corporation of the City of London. To date (January 1988) two large areas have been opened up; in the N, an E-W trench 22 x 6m (72 x 20ft) has been excavated to natural brickearth at about 10.5m OD; to the S an area of about 100 sq m (1100 sq ft) has been excavated to reveal natural at about 9m OD. The following is a provisional description of the sequence.

In the early to mid-Roman period, substantial cellared masonry buildings were constructed by cutting into the gently-sloping hillside to the W of one of the Walbrook tributaries. The site appears to lie at the junction of two different sets of topographic constraints since the buildings in the N were aligned NW-SE and those in the S were aligned E-W. A sequence of internal and external (?yard) surfaces were recorded.

In the SW of the site the earliest Roman feature is a substantial timber structure with a plank floor. It appears to overlie a tributary of the Walbrook. Only the edge of the structure has been observed, but it is hoped that the remainder will become available for controlled excavation after the developers' reduction of the rest of the site.

At an as yet unknown date in the Roman period, the masonry walls were robbed and the building remains sealed under about 1.5m (5ft) of dark earth which was itself sealed by a thick early medieval dump. This was penetrated by numerous early medieval pits of differing dimensions and orientation. A group of interconnecting medieval gullies and trenches in the S of the site may have been used for an industrial purpose. A number of substantial but isolated chalk foundations which may have been part of the buildings associated with the 15th c Guildhall Chapel were recorded; and substantial foundations of the Chapel itself, comprising the foundations of all four outer walls and of the N and S arcades, survived up to 3m (10ft) high. All contemporary ground levels, internal and external, have been truncated by the insertion of the 19th c basement of the former Art Gallery. WC.



**St Martin Orgar Churchyard, 24-32 King William Street TQ 3282 8082 (D. Power).**

In addition to pre- and post-excavation watching briefs, excavations were undertaken between February and May, funded by Lazard Property Unit Trusts. The use of the site as a churchyard since the Fire ensured the preservation of a rich variety of deposits.

In the NW area, cut into the natural brickearth, were two associated shallow features which were overlain by a deposit containing several LBA/Iron age pottery sherds and a number of flint flakes.

Site-wide levelling preceded a mid 1st c building to the SW. It was truncated by pits representing quarrying, and by a ditch running N-S through the W part of the site and containing the semi-articulated skeleton of a pony or mule. A rubbish dump associated with one phase in the sequence of later 1st c clay and timber structures that followed produced a bronze figurine of the Goddess Victory. In the E area, layers representing a similarly intense period of Roman building activity were sealed by a deposit of 0.30m (1ft) of dark earth. This was truncated by medieval pitting which was in turn sealed by a series of horseshoe-shaped tile and clay hearths, dated to the 13th c, and cut by insubstantial chalk foundations.

Deposits later than the Roman period to the W were destroyed by the E end of a church. The flint and gravel foundations of the E apse of a church of Saxo-Norman date were replaced in the 13th c by a square-ended building founded on arches of chalk and ragstone. A number of alteration and extensions on the S and E were made in the medieval period. Overlying a vaulted crypt in the area of the S chapel, a portion of the floor surface survived. It consisted of large lead[?]-glazed Flemish tiles arranged to form a chequer board design around a series of moulded greensand bases. The church was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

**Little Britain TQ 3210 8160 (M. Nally).**

Between October 1986 and January 1987 excavations, funded by Wimpey Properties Holdings, were undertaken following the first phase of demolition in the Little Britain development. Four areas were investigated, three along the Aldersgate frontage and one in the angle between Aldersgate and Little Britain.

Extensive truncation by modern buildings meant that in some areas only intrusive features dug into natural brickearth survived, including three medieval wells, one of which was barrel-lined. Effort was concentrated on the northernmost trench, where horizontal stratigraphy survived to a depth of up to 1m (3ft). Here two well-built chalk foundations were found. One of them formed the side of a cellar, the backfill of which contained a medieval glass urinal. Another prominent feature of this trench was the wattle and plank-lined pits which produced textile fragments and leatherwork, including one nearly complete shoe with decorative silk stitching down the central vamp. All or some of this N area may have been within the precinct of St Bartholomews Priory.

Despite the proximity of the site to the N-S Roman road along Aldersgate, the only potentially Roman features were two linear ditches running E-W and similar to the ditches found at Museum House to the N of the site in 1979.

Further work will take place at Little Britain after demolition to the N and W of the 1986 excavations. WC.

**Lombard Street near St Mary Woolnoth TQ 3278 8106 (P. Rowsome).**

The sinking of a sewer diversion shaft as preparatory work to the extension of the Docklands Light Railway allowed a small area excavation in March and April, funded by DLR, which recorded 4m (13ft) of stratified deposits.

Natural gravel at 10.00m OD was overlain by a sequence of 1st and 2nd c structures interpreted as clay and timber buildings aligned to the main E-W Roman street 36-40m (120-130ft) to the S. Towards the end of the 2nd c, extensive dumping of dark soil sealed the building sequence.

Masonry structures forming part of a later Roman building overlay the dumping and were sealed by further dumps of dark soil.

A series of street metallings of 9th to 12th c date may be part of Saxon Lombard St, an early E-W route across the city to the post-Roman crossing of the Walbrook. Street metallings of medieval date followed. There was no evidence of discontinuity in the street sequence, all of which were on a similar alignment to the present Lombard St.

**Lee House, London Wall TQ 3238 8159 (G. Brown).**

As part of the Lee House redevelopment a small trench was dug in the middle of Wood Street just to the N of the junction with London Wall. The contractors removed all material from the trench to the depth of the lowest modern service trench. An archaeological excavation for 4 weeks was funded by MEPC. The trench measured 7 x 3m (23 x 10ft), the E third having been totally truncated by a deep Victorian cellar.

Cutting through the natural brickearth was a very disturbed Roman sequence which included several elements of a timber structure. There was no evidence of a road leading to the N gate of the Cripplegate fort.

Overlying the Roman features was a deposit of dark earth. Directly over the dark earth was the first of at least seven building phases, represented within the trench by clay floors and occupation debris. Each floor surface had a hearth built on it in the N, more or less occupying the same position in each instance. The pottery from these surfaces had a date-range of c 1000-1150.

Constructed directly onto the final building remains was the first of a long sequence of road surfaces, the majority of which were recorded only in section because of the depth of the service trenches. However the earliest road levels were recorded in plan, and rut marks cut into the surface were orientated N-S. These were the earliest surfaces of Wood Street and pottery evidence shows it was established in the late 12th/early 13th c. The top of the section showed the tarmac of the modern road, and between the top and bottom were recorded the road surfaces of the intervening centuries.

**Billingsgate Roman Bathhouse, Lower Thames Street, St Mary at Hill TQ 3313 8069 (N. Jaffa).**

Recording and surveying of the Roman remains was carried out in August-September 1987 for the Corporation of London. The site, originally excavated in 1968, now lies in the basement of a modern building. Despite previous consolidation the Roman structures need restorative treatment. Recording was to prepare for this, and for possible eventual public display.

**41-43 Ludgate Hill, 8 Pilgrim Street TQ 3177 8114 (W. A. McCann).**

An archaeological investigation between September and November, sponsored by Crown Estate Commissioners, recorded 3m (10ft) of stratigraphy in three areas on the basement in this later 19th c building.

Natural sands and gravels survived to a maximum height of 7.16m OD. In the E, the truncated remains of a N-S oriented ditch were cut into

them. Flat-bottomed and 5m (10.5ft) wide, it seems to have been a re-cut of an earlier, possibly V-shaped, ditch. A small area of surviving primary fill contained 10th/11th c pottery.

In the S, a 7m (23ft) length of the N face of the E-W late 13th c extension of the City Wall around the Blackfriars was uncovered. It was constructed of faced ragstone blocks with occasional blocks of greensand and chalk and irregular tile courses, possibly re-used Roman material. An 0.25m (10in) -wide offset delimited the foundation from the wall, the latter surviving to a height of 9.12m OD, 0.9m (3ft) above the level of the offset. The foundation had a maximum depth of 1.9m (6ft) and had five irregular and narrow offsets. A foundation arch was used to carry the wall over the E bank of the earlier ditch, whose W bank lay outside the limit of excavation. Partial excavation of the arch showed the wall to be 3.12m (10ft 3in) wide.

No evidence of a ditch associated with this wall was found. However, a series of dumps, which contained late 13th c pottery and a complete jet chess piece, were laid so as to produce a steep incline from the Ludgate road to the base of the wall.

Evidence of later occupation consisted of the N, E and S chalk foundations of a medieval building. Associated with them were a small chalk-lined well and a chalk-lined cesspit which used the ragstone wall as its S limit. This occupation made substantial use of gravel dumping to eliminate the incline from Ludgate Hill to the city wall. A series of timber and brick foundations represented occupation on the site immediately before the construction of the present building.

#### **110-116 Middlesex Street TQ 3344 8165 (R. Brown).**

Following the demolition of the Salvation Army Hostel, an excavation and watching brief was conducted on the site in August and September 1987, funded by Amec. Five test pits and three areas of controlled excavation were investigated. There was apparently little activity in the area before the 3rd c, when the site was levelled with dumps of brickearth. The expected Roman extra-mural cemetery was represented by one 3rd c inhumation in poor condition, possibly indicating that the site was on the fringe of the main burial-ground. A series of parallel gullies running NW-SE across the W of the area and large pits and hollows to the E were succeeded by another site-wide levelling with a brickearth slab. Later, a second series of gullies of indeterminate date appeared in the E; they preceded post-medieval pit activity. There was no structural evidence of any period before the 19th c, and all the surviving material had been truncated by modern basements.

#### **118 Minorities TQ 3364 8092 (R. Brown for P. McCulloch).**

Archaeological investigation funded by Wimpey Property Holdings consisting of 5 test pits, one controlled excavation (c 10m x 10m, 33 x 33ft) and a watching brief were carried out between October and December 1986 in advance of redevelopment.

Natural deposits were recorded up to 8.8m OD; they were truncated by a large N-S medieval ditch which was backfilled and recut, probably in the 17th c, to accommodate a line of stakes. The fill of the second cut was itself truncated by a series of features which were succeeded by a humic ground surface. Later dumping and cut features were surmounted by another ground and dumping surface through which a large trench was cut. A timber structure housing a brick furnace was discovered in the trench. Backfilling over the destroyed furnace allowed another cut and fill phase.

Later shallow brick footings indicated the presence of at least one structure immediately preceding the Victorian basement of the latest building.

#### **Monument Street/Fish Street Hill TQ 3290 8079 (M. Burch & P Rowsome).**

A five week excavation sponsored by the Docklands Light Railway, was carried out from the end of August 1987, before work on a new station at Monument. The area had been an open space since the construction of King William Street (1831) and was used as parish burial ground until 1851.

The remains of 27 burials were removed for re-burial, and the site thereafter consisted only of features cut into the brickearth levelling on the gravel terrace. After two shallow brick-lined wells were excavated, the surviving features were mainly of early Roman date. Though very little of them remained, the pits, wells and foundations provided a clear record of properties associated with a frontage beneath the standing buildings on Fish Street Hill, the main access route from the Roman bridge to the Forum. There were at least two phases of building, and the pattern of square-cut wells aligned with the street to the E.

One of the wells was 6.5m (21ft) deep with some of the timber lining surviving at the bottom. The lining had partially collapsed and the well had quickly filled with rubbish. A coin of Vespasian AD 69-79 was found on the primary silting and the fills above contained glass and pottery from the Flavian period. One of the lower fills, 1.5m (5ft) in depth, consisted almost entirely of bird and fish bones.

The well also contained substantial parts of several glass vessels including a rare form of beaker and a very fine bowl; the largest group of 1st c glass to have been found in a single deposit in the city in recent years. It contains a mixture of utilitarian containers, tableware and fine decorative ware. The pottery assemblage includes Highgate ware (mainly bowls and lids), Verulamium wares (mainly flagons and large 2-handled jars), and large-necked jars from Alice Holt.

#### **55-61 Moorgate TQ 3268 8149 (J. Drummond-Murray).**

The site, excavated between May and August 1987, was funded by Pearl Insurance. A total of 3m (10ft) of archaeological deposits were preserved. Nine trenches were excavated, varying in size between 8 x 4m and 2 x 2m (26 x 13ft and 6.5 x 6.5ft). The earliest recorded features 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 120-140. They appear to have revetted the banks of a Walbrook tributary.

In the central area, a brickearth and timber Roman building, provisionally mid to late 1st c, had at least three rooms, in one of which was a timber tank, which may have had an industrial function. After the abandonment of this building another similar structure, in use until AD 120-140, 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 are 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 to the modern line of Nun Court. Several post-medieval features were also found.

**The City Wall, Noble Street TQ 3222 8149 (A. Westman).**

Archaeological examination of a standing monument W of Noble Street, EC2, part of the NW sector of the city wall, was undertaken in May-June 1987 for the Corporation of London. The W wall and SW corner of the 2nd c fort, with internal turrets, was reinforced when the city was enclosed by defences in about AD 200. The new city wall ran W from the corner of the fort over a tile-lined drain. The foundations of these features and portions of the medieval rebuild of the city wall, including a fragment of Bastion 15, excavated and identified 1949-63, were recorded in conjunction with a photographic survey by the Department of Civil Engineering of the City University.

**Poultry, Thames Water Authority Main TQ 3262 8111 and 3245 81 14 (D. Bentley).**

Observations were made during March-April 1987 in a service trench along Poultry and Cheapside by Thames Water. Archaeological deposits were recorded at two points; outside Mappin and Webb in Poultry and at the Queen Street junction with Cheapside. At the former site chalk foundations, probably representing buildings on the S frontage of Poultry, were interrupted by a substantial and very worn ragstone-lined culvert. Documentary sources show this to be a branch of the medieval Walbrook which is recorded as running beneath St Mildred Poultry immediately to the N. The culvert was found to cut 12-13th c road surfaces, while restoration of the fabric in the 17th and again in the 19th c show the important role that this stream played until fairly recently. Roman levels were not reached. At the N end of Queen Street a succession of seventeen road surfaces extended down to at least 4m (13ft) beneath Cheapside. The earliest of them were cobbled, re-using Roman building material and were accompanied by E-W roadside drains. They appear to represent an uninterrupted sequence of medieval Cheapside although the earliest surfaces produced exclusively Roman dating. To the S, several phases of medieval chalk walling cut through 12th c deposits, the earliest levels reached here. The walls represented a building which stood on the S side of Cheapside at the junction with Soper Lane before the construction of Queen Street in the 17th c.

**St Bartholomew's Hospital Catering Block TQ 3194 8161 (D. Bentley).**

A brief examination of this site on the W side of Little Britain in January 1987 revealed traces of cellared 15th-16th c chalk walled buildings within an area largely destroyed by modern foundations. These buildings probably fronted onto medieval Duck Lane and the earlier W continuation of Little Britain before their destruction in the 18th and 19th c. No evidence of Roman activity was found.

**Bible House, Queen Victoria Street TQ 3189 8097 (B. Pye).**

A six week excavation in November-December 1986 was followed by an intermittent watching brief during May-August 1987. Although all horizontal stratigraphy had been terraced away in the 1860s during construction of Queen Victoria Street, interesting cut features were recorded. The most important feature ran the entire length of the site N-S, 10.5m (34.5ft) wide E-W and 2.0m (6.5ft) deep with a base at 6.0m OD. It was filled with a series of waterlain silts; pottery from them has been provisionally dated to AD 1000-1100. This cut appears to be a drainage ditch running S to the Thames. (For further information see D. Bentley 'Western Stream reconsidered: an enigma in the landscape' *London Archaeol* 5, no 12, Autumn 1987).

Other features recorded included medieval, post-medieval and Victorian wells, Roman rubbish pits and the foundations of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe church to the W of the site.

**74-82 Queen Victoria Street TQ 8101 3239 (H. White).**

A small excavation and watching brief, funded by Rowntree Mackintosh, took place in February-March 1987.

In the W corner, the earliest activity recorded was a 1st c building with brickearth sills and a floor of *opus signinum*; an associated cesspit on its E side contained an assemblage of rare vessels, almost all complete, from c AD 55-70: a large two-handled flagon in Sugar Loaf Court ware, represented an early form of native grog-tempered ware made in or close to the City. Samian cups and plates included a rare example from the Montans kiln.

Later, a substantial masonry building was constructed. It comprised a N-S wall with a room to the E containing a concrete floor. In the external area to the W lay a robust platform of rammed gravels, mortar and ragstone overlain by tiles set in brickearth. Running E-W through it lay a scorched channel or furnace, suggesting that the platform could have supported a water tank. The furnace was rebuilt twice in a reduced form and inside a shelter. The furnace was later dismantled and part of the tile platform adapted into a small room.

After destruction by fire, a gully was built to the W. Its disuse, represented by spreads of mortar, may indicate robbing of the adjacent building. This was followed by pits and an accumulation of dark organic dumps. Medieval activity was represented by the base of a N-S chalk foundation.

**Former City of London Boys' School, Victoria Embankment TQ 3154 8092 (C. Spence).**

Between October 1986 and February 1987 excavations in the playground of the school were funded by the Morgan Bank. Natural deposits across the site consisted of alluvium; one contained eroded tile and pottery fragments of Roman date. The earliest well-dated material (12th c) was recorded at the N end of the site; it was composed of a series of dumps and naturally accumulated flood deposits. A gravel bank which ran from the NE to SW probably represents the confluence of the Fleet River and the Thames at this period.

In the main trench the earliest structural activity was dated to the mid 14th c. It consisted of a massive reclamation dump, associated with a Thames riverside wall constructed in chalk and built on the contemporary foreshore. The construction of the wall was aided by the digging of a shallow foundation trench which was shored with a large wattle fence. The dumping and the wall construction were of the same date. The reclamation activity extended the Thames waterfront towards the S by about 50m (165ft).

Sporadic features recorded on the top of the dumped deposits were sealed by a fire horizon of late 17th c date, probably the Great Fire. The area to the S of the site appeared to have been reclaimed around this period with a timber revetment recorded at the S limit of excavation. This

revetment and associated reclamation is thought to represent the construction of new quays during the post-Fire rebuilding of this area of the waterfront. The area behind the revetment was reclaimed and consolidated by the driving of more than 700 timber piles. The timbers were identified as being re-used and were thought to have come from one or more 17th/18th c vessels. Many of the timbers were painted and several were moulded.

On the reclaimed land a series of post-medieval brick walls, foundations and cellar floors was recorded. One later cellar floor included three brick built (baking?) oven bases. In the early 19th c the City Gas Works was constructed on the site; several structures associated with the gasworks were recorded. Completing the sequence was a forgotten Second World War public air-raid shelter.

Waterfront dumps produced several important groups of medieval organic material. The shoes and pattens are an important addition to the collection of medieval footwear from London. One of the shoes was stuffed with seeds of *cannabis sativa*. Scabbards, a glove and some highly decorated fragments from unidentified leather objects were also recovered. Copper alloy material appearing to come from a later medieval workshop included a coil and a rod, which may be the forms in which the metal was traded in the medieval period. An important related find was a pilgrim's badge of Saint Eloi, the patron saint of smiths and other metal workers. Pottery includes late medieval imports from Spain and the Southern Netherlands.

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**THIS ARTICLE has been prepared from reports submitted by individual supervisors and collated by John Schofield, Liz Shepherd and Andrew Westman. WC at the end of a report indicates that work continues.**

### **Navigation House, 1-18 Aldgate TQ 3353 8113 (D. A. Dunlop).**

Between May and July 1988 a post-demolition watching brief was carried out during development, funded by AMEC Properties Ltd. Natural deposits consisted of sand and gravel overlain by brickearth, located at c 11.9m OD. The earliest activity was extensive dumping of Roman date. Whilst there was some structural evidence of Roman occupation, widespread late medieval and post medieval truncation had occurred, although in one section a chalk wall running approx. E-W survived.

### **9-10 Angel Court TQ 3277 8133 (L. Dyson).**

A watching brief, funded by Prudential Assurance, took place between September and November 1988. Three sections were recorded, up to 7m (23ft) long. Natural deposits were not recorded in detail because of the inaccessibility of the sections.

Sections 1 and 2 showed similar sequences of alternating flood deposits and rubbish dumps. The dumps, which yielded a few Roman pot sherds, were probably laid to combat flooding from the Walbrook stream which flowed immediately to the N. The remains of a timber structure, possibly part of a channel revetment or hut foundation, were recorded in section 3. A dendrochronological date of AD 191 was obtained from one of the piles.

### **13-14a Austin Friars TQ 3292 8141 (L. Dyson).**

A series of sections was recorded in pile-probing trenches during July and August 1988. The work was funded by City Merchant Holdings Ltd and Friends Provident. The site lies c 15m (50ft) E of an upper Walbrook tributary. In the SW of the site the westwardly-sloping natural brickearth surface was overlain by a series of gravel and rubbish dumps. These were probably intended to raise the ground level, and were no earlier than late 1st c in date. In the NE of the site natural was truncated by a number of pits or ditches. Subsequently, phase of building construction was indicated by a brickearth floor.

Destruction dumps overlying the floor surface contained pot sherds from the late 1st-mid 2nd c, and were sealed by an external surface. Substantial site-wide dumps were deposited or accumulated during the late Roman or medieval periods.

### **192-200 Bishopsgate TQ 3336 8163 (R. Brown).**

Chase Property Holdings funded excavation of seven trenches within the basement of the standing building, conducted between March and May 1988.

After an initial site-wide levelling of the area in the early Roman period, three linear cuts and several brickearth or gravel quarries were dug. One ditch running N-S to the extreme W of the site, bordering the Bishopsgate frontage, may have had an association with the Roman road, Ermine Street, running N-S in the vicinity of the site to the W. In the centre of the site lay a badly truncated pebbled surface which was possibly a track or yard.

A second major phase of levelling followed, preparing the area for use as a cemetery. Eight definite inhumations were found along with two cremation pits and another eight possible graves. Severe truncation by the modern basement and pipe trenches meant that only one inhumation was complete; several other disturbed fragments of human bone were distributed throughout the area. The graves were, with one exception, aligned E-W; four displayed evidence of coffins, and two were chalk or plaster burials. A linear cut associated with the cemetery may have been a boundary ditch. After the cemetery fell into disuse the site seems to have been given over to agriculture punctuated by medieval rubbish pits and cesspits. This continued into the post-medieval period from which two wells and a brick-lined pit were recorded. WC

### **274-306 Bishopsgate TQ 3339 8187 (S. Gibson).**

Between November 1987 and February 1988 excavations took place, funded by County and District Properties Ltd. Two main trenches were opened up, one to the N of Stothard Place and the other to the S. It was anticipated that Roman burials would be discovered as the site is located beyond the boundary of the Roman city.

In the N area, post-medieval building activity had truncated the earlier deposits; all that remained was a possible early Roman ditch. In the S area, the larger of the two trenches, early Roman quarrying and levelling activity of the 1st and 2nd c was recorded. Five Roman burials, probably of the 4th c. were excavated in the E of the site, but subsequent medieval pitting had disturbed any others. A medieval chalk cesspit, possibly within the precinct of St Mary Spital, was found in the N of this trench. Foundations of post-medieval buildings were also located, some with discernible rooms and floors. One of the floors was made from re-used glazed and patterned medieval tiles.

This multi-period site produced much Roman material; many fragments of glass, including a basal fragment of a green phial and an assortment

of beads; and a complete Roman ceramic vase. Also recovered were many whole decorated medieval floor tiles, of varying designs, with one unique tile possibly depicting the tiler himself or a medieval 'green man'.

#### **27-29 Camomile Street TQ 3331 8141 (A. T Mackinder).**

In February-March 1988 six trenches were excavated within a standing building; the work was funded by Prudential Assurance. A NW-SE Roman ditch, at least 25m (82ft) long, and 12 Roman inhumations lay outside the projected line of the city wall. Deposits backfilling the medieval city ditch were recorded. A post-medieval brick wall 3.5m (11.5ft) deep was also excavated.

Finds from this site include a small amount of late medieval bone bead-making waste and a medieval copper disc mount.

#### **Eagle House, 86-96 Cannon Street 'IQ 3271 8087 (J.M. Oetgen ).**

Excavations were carried out in the basement of Eagle House during July and August 1988. The work was funded by MEPC.

The site lies within the scheduled area of the Roman governor's palace and, although the existing basements had truncated the stratigraphy to within 0.3m (1ft) of the natural brickearth, evidence for Roman foundations and more deeply-cut post-medieval features survived.

The brickearth was located at a depth of approx. 9.8m OD. The earliest phase of activity consisted of a site-wide levelling of homogeneous sandy gravel, capped with fine hard silty redeposited brickearth, which produced no finds but is assumed to be Roman. These layers were cut by the foundations of timber-framed structures and mortared flint-rubble footings. The extensive ground preparation and certain similarities of alignment suggest that the structures were elements of a single building. No floors survived, although a number of tesserae were recovered from intrusive contexts.

The building, or buildings, were succeeded by a series of rectangular shafts which could not be fully excavated as they were more than 2m (6.5ft) deep. They are interpreted as wells and were probably timber-lined, although no trace of timbers survived. The fills produced finds of predominantly Roman date.

Due to the depth of truncation, there was no evidence for early medieval activity. Later features consisted of a chalk-built cellar or cesspit, which contained finds of 15th-16th c date, and a chalk-lined well, over 5m (16ft) deep. The well was backfilled in the early 18th c and contained complete wine bottles and pharmaceutical jars in impressive quantities. A late medieval gold finger-ring was also recovered.

#### **108 Cannon Street TQ 3276 8085 (N. Shepherd).**

Between June and October 1988 a controlled watching brief funded by Speyhawk Mount Row Ltd, took place after demolition.

Two main areas were investigated and natural was found to be truncated at a height of 8.91-9.40m OD. Apart from a fragment of a possible surface only cut features survived. Gravel quarries and refuse-pits dating to the 12th and 13th c were observed, probably representing an open area to the S of buildings fronting onto Cannon Street. The only evidence for these buildings was a chalk and ragstone-lined cellar or cesspit, demolished after 1550.

#### **54-66 Carter Lane, 1-3 Pilgrim Street and 29-33 Ludgate Hill TQ 3180 8110 (M. R. Gavin & B. Watson).**

Excavations funded by Eagle Star Assurance and London and Paris Properties were undertaken in two phases during November 1987 to March 1988 and June to July 1988.

The earliest features were the truncated pits and portions of the ditches of a Norman period (1050-1200) fortress, (perhaps Montfichet's Tower). Two phases of ditch aligned broadly E-W were located along the N side of Carter Lane. Both ditches terminated along the line of Cobb's Court alley at the W side of the site, approx. on the line of the N-S Roman and Norman city wall. The earliest S ditch did not extend right across the site; it was over 7.0m (23ft) long, some 5.0m (16ft) wide and 1.2m (4ft) deep. The terminal at its E end may mark the position of an entrance into the fortress. The later S ditch (which presumably destroyed the rest of the earlier ditch), represents a re-alignment and widening of the defences. It was 16m (52ft) wide and over 4m (13ft) deep. This ditch has now been traced for 41m (135ft) to the E along Carter Lane (see Excavation Round-up 1987). The lowest excavated fills date to 1050 to 1200.

The N ditch was aligned E-W, parallel to the Ludgate Hill street frontage. The ditch was 6.8m (22ft) wide, 2.8m (9ft) deep and at least 11.5m (38ft) long; the W extent of the ditch is unknown, but it did not reach the line of the city wall line as it was not found during salvage recording at 37 Ludgate Hill (Trans *LAMAS* 22 pt. 3 (1970) 9). The dating evidence for these ditches was limited as only the later S ditch produced Norman material; the others produced only Roman finds. The great quantity of Roman material probably derived from the reduction of the earth bank behind the city wall.

Within the area between the two sets of ditches (the bailey) were a number of cess and rubbish pits cut into natural gravel and brickearth. Some of these pits contained Norman material, but many contained only Roman finds. This fortress was probably a motte and bailey complex on Ludgate Hill inside the city walls. The fortress was defended by ditches on three sides, approx. in line with modern streets (N, Ludgate Hill; E, probably Creed Lane; S, Carter Lane) and with the city wall on the fourth side. The existence of a motte, towards the E side of the fortress, can be postulated from the volume of material the excavation of the ditches would have produced.

It is documented that the fortress was in ruins by 1272, and in either 1274 or 1276 the Dominicans acquired it as a stone quarry to provide materials to help build their new friary nearby. The later S ditch was systematically infilled (date 1150-1350), then used as part of the friary cemetery (*Archaeologia* 63 (1912) 000). Sixty articulated inhumations were excavated on the present site, 13 of which were in a mass grave, 2 in a double grave and the rest were single burials. Twenty-five had evidence of wooden coffins; there was also one lead coffin. There were 5 possible empty or unused graves. The overall plan of the graves showed a regular layout. Finds from the grave fills indicate a 13th or 14th c date; two graves may be as late as c 1500. After the Dissolution, a rectangular chalk-walled cellar (internal dimensions 3.10 x 2.40m, 10ft 2in x 7ft 10in) was built during the late 16th c. The cellar was used as a lead-smelting or casting workshop. It was damaged by fire in the mid 17th c and a brick paved floor and stairs were added. The cellar was then used as a coal store and became a rubbish dump during the 18th c.

Contemporary with the later use of the cellar were a number of brick-lined cesspits of 17th and 18th c date. Almost all traces of the associated buildings were destroyed by Victorian basements. The major exception to this destruction was an area of standing masonry (party wall between 54/56 Carter Lane and 113 and 6 Ludgate Square) which was surveyed. The earliest masonry was ragstone rubble containing a number of medieval moulded stones; above this was a large area of late 17-18th c brickwork, containing no architectural features except part of a chimney flue.

No Roman features were identified; the Roman finds, which include a copper alloy belt, a shale bowl and two brooches, were residual within later deposits. Several of the medieval burials were accompanied by grave-goods, in the form of belt-fittings, pins, a spindle-whorl and a 'prunted' glass beaker. Quantities of later medieval moulded stones were retrieved from post-medieval contexts, which included also a glass vessel, wig-curlers and an axe.

#### **9 Cloak Lane, Skinners Hall kitchen TQ 3253 8088 (J. Ayre & R. Harris).**

In January-March 1988 excavations, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Skinners, Reinhold plc and Ranelagh Developments Ltd, investigated two areas. In one of them, Skinners' Hall kitchen in the S part of the site, over 4m (13ft) of stratigraphy survived. A watching brief was undertaken from September 1988 till the end of the year while the rest of the site was reduced.

In the N trench, overlying the alluvial deposits of the Walbrook, which ran down the E edge of the site, were a number of Roman timber drains running E into the Walbrook. They were covered by more alluvial deposits which in turn were overlain by an extensive yard surface. Patched and resurfaced numerous times, the surface sloped gradually down towards the Walbrook. It was constructed of building debris and contained much painted wall plaster. The other Roman feature on the site was a plain tessellated floor. The floor was covered by dark earth with a high content of building material including stamped roof tiles.

During the medieval period the area seems to have been divided into a number of properties. Numerous floors were excavated but few associated walls survived. This appears to be due to the continuity of property boundaries and the insertion of a large chalk gravel foundation in the late medieval period. The building phases were interspersed with phases of pits. Several were wicker-lined and one appeared to have wooden sides and 'lid'. In the E property the pits were larger and several contained industrial residues.

In the S trench the dark earth dumps were exposed but not excavated. They were truncated by a medieval building with a mortar floor to the E and external gravel yard surfaces and well to the W, property boundaries being defined by two large stone drains with yellow brick vaulted roofs, one running N-S along the E side of the site, the other E-W through the middle of the site. The larger E drain was thought to have contained the enclosed course of the Walbrook; the other running into it to have contained a previously unrecorded tributary. A building to the S, also with external surfaces and a well to the W, was seen in the watching brief.

In the post-medieval period the N building was replaced with (see Agas' map c 1559) and large brick-lined cesspits. A brick building re-used the foundations to the S but only a large tile hearth and part of a flagstone floor were recorded. After the Great Fire the same foundations were re-used for the new buildings, but the hearth was filled in as were the pits to the W. Cesspits continued to be dug in this area, producing a large variety of environmental remains. The garden area was re-established (see Ogilby and Morgan's map of 1676); a small part of a curved garden wall and path were recorded.

The finds assemblage from this site is dominated by building materials, which include nineteen examples of Roman *tegulae* with a civilian form of stamp. Much painted wall plaster was recovered from a confined area of the site. Medieval finds were sparser but include a chalk toy 'house' recovered from a rubbish pit. The cesspits of Skinners' Hall kitchen were filled with 17th c ceramics, bottle glass and an exotic array of faunal remains, including duck, hare, eel and wild bird.

#### **St Bartholomew the Great Churchyard, Cloth Fair TQ 3197 8173 (K. Wooldridge).**

For 5 weeks in April-May 1988 excavations were carried out within the churchyard of St Bartholomew the Great Church, jointly funded by HRMC and the parish. The archaeological excavation preceded the development by the parish of part of the churchyard. The area of excavation, measuring approx. 75 sq.m (800 sq.ft), was located between the 14th c Lady Chapel and Cloth Fair.

The earliest features were two linear ditches running approx. E-W. They were sealed by a metallised surface containing some sherds of abraded Roman pottery. A definite date for this surface has yet to be established. It was sealed by deposits through which many inhumations had been made.

Sixty-six articulated and seventy-five disarticulated inhumations were recorded. In addition to the inhumations, two rectangular chalk and mortar features, adjacent to the N wall of the Lady Chapel, may have been tombs or burial vaults. All of the inhumations and the possible tombs are presumed to date from after the foundation of the priory in 1123.

The earliest wall foundation recorded was a semicircular chalk and rammed gravel structure pre-dating the main foundations of the 14th c Lady Chapel. The position of the semicircular structure suggests that it may have been an apsidal chapel to the chancel of the 12th c church.

Two phases of construction were identified in the exposed foundations of the 14th c Lady Chapel. The different phases of foundation suggested that at least part of the Lady Chapel had been constructed before the demolition of the E end of the 12th c church.

Following the dissolution of the priory, the Lady Chapel was sold for private use. Some evidence for its post-Dissolution use came from a pit next to the Lady Chapel wall, which contained 1,857 18th c pipe clay wig curlers, as well as much post-medieval glass and pottery

#### **80 Coleman Street TQ 3267 8152 (A. T. Mackinder).**

In June-July 1988 partial demolition allowed a 7-week excavation, funded by City Holdings Ltd. It revealed two parallel E-W Roman ditches, which were backfilled with domestic rubbish and sealed by a dump containing evidence of burning. There were also traces of a brickearth building that was disturbed by extensive pitting to the S. In the medieval period, there was another E-W ditch, partly wood-lined, and a pit containing slag.

#### **10-12 Cophall Avenue TQ 3279 8142 (D. M. R. Lees).**

Between October and early December 1988, London and Edinburgh Trust plc funded excavations which revealed up to 2m (6.5ft) of undisturbed Roman stratigraphy. The L-shaped trench on the N of the site covered roughly. 35 sq.m (380 sq.ft); a section to the S was also investigated.

A Walbrook tributary is recorded in the area, and, although the excavations did not reveal the river channel, the sequence began with river-lain sands and gravels. Into this tributary area material had been dumped to level up the ground for 2nd c Roman building works. In the W portion of the site ran a NE-SW gravel road. Fronting on to this road were well-preserved baseplates and floors of two timber-framed buildings. Between the two buildings ran a gravel alley and a timber-lined gully lying W-E. They ran off into another timber-lined drain running along the E edge of the road. The two buildings went out of use before the mid 3rd c when the two drains were recut and the road resurfaced.

The area appears to have become increasingly wet, and during the mid to late 3rd c flood deposits covered the site, the road and drains falling

out of use. The site appears to have been open land with some possibly agricultural activities taking place until the mid 4th c when large-scale dumping covered the entire site, probably to raise the ground surface above the water table. The basement of the modern building truncated the stratigraphy at this level.

Notable finds were numerous fragments of various glass vessels which included jars, jugs, bottles and an indented howl. The samian was of good quality with some ten stamps. Of the metal objects an almost complete copper alloy *ligula* and an iron horse-bit were the most outstanding.

#### **62-64 Cornhill TQ 3302 8115 (F. M. Meddens).**

Archaeological investigations were carried out between February and May 1988, funded by Greycoat Group plc. Of the five trenches opened up, three revealed up to 4m (13ft) of stratigraphy.

The site was situated near the intersection of the N-S Roman road along present-day Bishopsgate with the Roman road passing E-W along the N side of the second basilica complex, roughly across the present Cornhill. No remains of either of these roads were uncovered. A large quarry had been dug in order to extract both brickearth and gravel. It appears likely to have been located in an open yard area.

The heavily truncated remains of several mudbrick structures were located. The robbed foundations of a number of stone buildings were present; in one area, three phases of stone construction appear to have been robbed in the Roman period. The last of them consisted of a building with an apsidal end, which would have fronted onto the main N-S road.

Elsewhere was found what may have been a broken crucible with quantities of liquid mercury. It rested on a hearth set on a floor which was sealed by a dump of Roman date.

Where the Roman deposits were not truncated by later developments they were sealed by a mixed layer of what appeared to be garden soil and destruction rubble. This suggests that in the immediate post-Roman period the site was abandoned.

When the site was occupied again the evidence suggests an open area, possibly at the back of properties or in a courtyard space, primarily employed for rubbish disposal from early medieval times to the 16th c. It appears that from the 16th or 17th c to the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20th c buildings occupied the site, of which basement and cellar remains were uncovered.

Fragments from two Roman Purbeck marble mortars came from the site, as well as several medieval honestones and a quantity of post-medieval glass which included both bottles and phials.

#### **2 White Lion Court, Cornhill TQ 3301 81 17 (R. Bartkowiak & B. Watson).**

A watching brief funded by Greycoats plc was carried out in December 1988 during the excavation of a lift shaft base, as part of the refurbishment of the standing 18th c building. This operation revealed an L-shaped length of coursed chalk and rubble masonry standing over 2.9m (9.5ft) high, interpreted as the SW corner of a 15th or 16th c undercroft, with a floor of crushed chalk rubble and mortar at 12.84m OD. This structure was cut into a homogeneous garden soil of uncertain date.

#### **14-18 Eastcheap TQ 3304 8080 (M. O'D. Shea).**

During mid-June to early July 1988 a week of excavations and two weeks of watching brief were sponsored by Peachey Development plc. The site, where the medieval church of St Andrew Hubbard (first mentioned in 1202) was located before the Great Fire, was mostly double-basemented and only the SE sector was excavated. Natural gravels and brickearth were overlain by an apparently site-wide horizon of redeposited brickearth. The surviving archaeology consisted mainly of intrusive features: wall foundations, pits and a chalk-lined well. The only surviving horizontal archaeology of any note were gravel metallings (at 11.14m OD) resting on top of the redeposited brickearth, but they were truncated on all four sides. The metallings could conceivably be the faint remains of a road, or more likely, a series of gravel paths. Only inconclusive evidence was provided, therefore, for a Roman road continuing eastwards from Cannon Street.

#### **88-93 Fenchurch Street TQ 3351 8108 (D. A. Dunlop).**

Excavation was undertaken in two phases between May and October 1988, the main trenches being excavated before demolition, and two more trenches after; funding was provided by P & O Development Ltd.

Natural deposits of sand and gravel overlain by brickearth were located at approx. 11.9m OD. A sequence of 1st c clay and timber buildings was recorded in the N of the site, with a subsequent destruction level. This area had been rebuilt in the late 2nd c, with a more substantial building and adjacent courtyard area, the courtyard having a metallated surface. Evidence of Roman light industrial activity was apparent in the S trenches, where floor surfaces were covered by ash, slag, and hearth rake-out. Between these areas lay a brickearth quarry pit and a Roman cesspit. After the destruction of the later Roman structures widespread dumping had taken place over the area, which had in some places been truncated by late medieval pitting. A post-medieval cellar of chalk blocks, and a chalk well which had been lined with tiles, are thought to belong to *The Saracen's Head*, an inn dating from the 18th c. Widespread truncation had taken place over the site due to modern ground beams, drainage pipes, and other activities.

#### **107 Fenchurch Street TQ 3338 8104 (H. Bishop).**

Total demolition of the building allowed an area of 15 x 15m (50ft sq.) to be excavated between April and July 1988, funding coming from the developers, the Corporation of London.

The earliest feature, an E-W road linking the Aldgate area to the Forum, was laid directly onto the natural brickearth. This road was delimited on its N side by a ditch which was later scoured out and recut to take an enclosed wooden drain. The road gravels were then extended over the drain to link up with a courtyard area, to the N. Five road surfaces were discernible, all probably 1st c.

The partition wall of a clay and timber building was found at the edge of the site above an area of yard gravels. A small area of associated floor surface had been badly burnt. A NNW-SSE ditch, probably a property division of the 2nd c, cut through all the gravel surfaces of court and road, but unfortunately modern truncation had removed any relationship between the building and the ditch. On the W side a structure represented by posts set into the yard surface N of the road, was 2m (6.5ft) wide and ran N for at least 4m (13ft) before being truncated by a late 2nd or 3rd c ditch. This ran WSW-ENE across the whole site, cutting the earlier ditch at right angles; it was in use for some time, being continually cut back and repaired as its retaining posts collapsed or rotted. The last phase of Roman activity was a series of almost perfectly circular pits; there was no sign of dark earth.

The only surviving medieval features were a chalk well and intrusive pits, some single, some complex, recut 5 or 6 times, the earliest producing 11th or perhaps 10th c pottery. Brick cellar floors of post-medieval buildings survived immediately above the Roman road surfaces. In two instances very deep strongrooms survived: one was probably vaulted, extending under an alley to the W, Fenchurch Buildings; the other to the E was originally reached by ladder, and later was refloored and provided with a brick stair.

#### **12-15 Finsbury Circus TQ 3288 8168 (P. Askew).**

Excavation funded by MEPC Developments Ltd took place between June and August 1988. Large-scale intrusive activity, identified as the foundations of the London Institution built in 1817, confined the areas of excavation to two trenches, one (A) aligned N-S measuring 11 x 2m (36 x 6.5ft) on the E side, and one (B) aligned E-W measuring 7 x 2m (23 x 6.5ft), to the SW.

Natural gravel was located at c 8.90m OD. The earliest activity was found in Area A and was represented by a flexed inhumation aligned E-W with the head to the W, and a possible associated superstructure which was demolished before the construction of an E-W aligned cobbled road in the early 2nd c. Activity following the disuse of the road was indicated by the presence of redeposited brickearth with a series of six burials, four of which were aligned E-W, and two cremation pits cutting through it. Two of the burials contained whole pots, one of black-burnished ware, as yet undated, and the other of colour-coated ware from Cologne, provisionally dated to the late 2<sup>nd</sup>/early 3rd c. Evidence of truncation, post-dating the cemetery, was indicated by the shallow depth of the graves and the absence of the brickearth in all but the N quarter of the trench, and was also represented by the construction of a drainage channel filled with marsh deposits sealing the Roman stratigraphy.

Similar activity in this later period was recorded in Area B with the presence of a NW-SE aligned channel also containing marsh deposits. No evidence of any earlier Roman activity was identified; although disarticulated human remains, probably of Roman date, were found at the bottom of the channel, they were presumably residual.

Sealing the marsh was a series of later medieval dumps approx. 1.40m (4ft) in depth in both areas of the site. In Area A a ditch aligned E-W 1.40m (4ft) deep cut through the dumps which contained backfill dating to the 17th c.

#### **Leith House, 47-57 Gresham Street TQ 3235 8137 (D. E. Hart).**

Six trenches were excavated between April and July 1988 in advance of demolition; work was generously funded by Land Securities Properties Ltd.

The earliest use of the site was represented by the brickearth sill of a timber building and two parallel, steep-sided ditches. All of these early features shared the same E-W alignment. Also belonging to the earliest use of the site was a large quarry pit.

Later, a large part of the site was levelled by the dumping of redeposited brickearth, in the late 1st or early 2nd c. Directly succeeding the levelling were a metal trackway, two shallow ditches and a stone-walled building, all sharing the same alignment as the earlier linear features. A cellar, or half cellar, with a tile floor was then constructed, possibly much later.

Definite medieval occupation of the site was represented by a series of rubbish pits (10-12th c) and a series of cellar floors (11-13th c).

Remaining strata were truncated by the basement slab of the standing building.

Most finds from this site are of Roman date and included twelve crucibles, mostly in Verulamium white ware, a *ligula* and several fragments of quernstones.

#### **Guildhall Art Gallery, Guildhall Yard TQ 3251 8136 (N. C. W. Bateman).**

Between June 1987 and May 1988 an excavation by the Corporation of London took place on the site Guildhall Art Gallery, which was being demolished as part of a major redevelopment along the E side of Guildhall Yard. An area of c 30 x 30m (100 ft sq.) was available in this first phase, but not all could be excavated because of the presence of large masonry foundations crossing the site and dividing it up into seven discrete areas of excavation.

Through most of the site, gravel and brickearth was truncated at c 9.00m OD by the construction a very large (? 1st c) Roman masonry building which has been provisionally identified as an amphitheatre. Substantial lengths of the inner perimeter wall, and the walls forming the ceremonial entrance at the E end the arena with two flanking chambers, were recorded in the separate areas. Sequences up to 1m (3ft) thick of internal and external surfaces were also recorded. A number of substantial timber features were associated with the amphitheatre, including several revetted drains with plank tops; two related settling tanks; at least two phases of very large sill-beams marking a porch-like structure in front of the ceremonial entrance; a number of threshold beams in the main entrance and subsidiary doorways; and a row of timber posts in front of the main perimeter wall. The row of posts and some of the lowest surfaces may belong to a phase of activity preceding the amphitheatre, possibly a timber amphitheatre.

The amphitheatre was evidently still in use (though not necessarily as an amphitheatre) in the mid 4th c, but was then robbed and the site apparently abandoned. The whole site was sealed by up to 1.5m (5ft) of dark earth, which was itself sealed by early medieval rubbish pits of very different sizes and orientations. A group of interconnecting medieval gullies and trenches in the S of the site may have been industrial. In the N of the site the substantial remains of the 15th c Guildhall Chapel were recorded (see Excavation Round-up 1987), comprising foundations of the S aisle and of all four walls of the nave, up to 3.0m (10ft) high. A number of substantial but isolated chalk foundations which may have been part of other buildings connected with the 15th c Guildhall were also recorded. All contemporary ground levels, internal and external, had been truncated by the insertion of the 19th c basement of the former Art Gallery. Work on the dating and phasing of the Roman and later structures is still in progress; phase 2 of the excavation continues under Guildhall Yard.

From this multi-period site medieval finds were the most noteworthy: twenty medieval buckles and a buckle plate, four copper scales, a pendant and a whole pair of tweezers; a bone weaving comb fashioned from a cattle metapodial; two counters and two dice. Ninety-six coins were retrieved, some of which were Roman. A most unusual object was a tortoise-shell weaving tablet; these are usually made from bone.

#### **Harp Lane TQ 3322 8067 (A. T. Mackinder).**

From January to August 1988 contractors cut a series of tunnels for British Telecom under Lower Thames Street. One tunnel 26m (85ft) long from Harp Lane S to Lower Thames St revealed an E-W clay bank 3.30m (11 ft) wide within timber planks and a series of dump deposits. Another tunnel to the W along the S edge of Lower Thames St followed the course of an E-W brick sewer, and exposed a chalk-built cellar. No finds were recovered and dating is problematic.



### **Barnard's Inn, Holborn TQ 3126 815 1 ( N . J. Elsdén).**

Five trenches, both inside standing buildings and outside, were excavated between March and June 1988, in advance of demolition work, and funded by the Mercers' Company.

An initial phase of gravel-pit digging in the S of the site was followed by a levelling of redeposited natural gravels, probably during the 1st and 2nd c. This was followed by three burials dating from the 2nd to possibly the 4th c; to the W a possible stake and wattle fence-line was separated from the burials by a N-S ditch. These features were covered by an accumulation representing disuse of the area until the gardens of the medieval and later periods. This deep layer of garden soil was cut by pits throughout its life, mostly for domestic rubbish, but including a large cesspit or soakaway.

In the centre of the site the earliest features were two large gravel pits, or possibly E-W ditches, and smaller pits. They were later levelled with a clay dump, which was in turn cut by more pits and by a ditch or pit with a chalk lining used as a cesspit or a sewer. These features were in turn levelled with the make-up for a chalk-walled building. A section of wall of similar construction was preserved to the N, within the basement of the hall of Barnard's Inn (early 15th c), where large and small postholes indicated internal features, possibly medieval. The modern wall line cut across a chalk-walled cesspit, probably lying originally half underneath and half outside the hall. A large circular pit may have been a robbed-out well, and later features included a post pad over the backfill of one of the large postholes, and the burial of a cat, or its skin, in a wooden box.

To the S of the medieval hall, a large gravel pit was cut through the garden soil, and post-medieval dumps and disturbed garden soil covered most of the site. Brick cellars were constructed in the 17th and 18th c, along with, in the 18<sup>th</sup> c, a brick-lined well.

Features were disturbed by the 19th c reconstruction of the hall and construction of other standing buildings, including the Mercers' School in 1892-4.

The excavations produced a number of burials of Roman date. A complete Verulamium white-slipped face pot contained a cremation burial and a further cremation was enclosed within a cist formed of six complete *lydion* bricks. An inhumation burial was accompanied by a necklace of 66 jet beads, a jet finger-ring and a bone pin.

### **65-68 Leadenhall Street, 98 Fenchurch Street TQ 3343 8110 (J. Brown).**

Excavations funded by Gable House Estates took place in December 1987 and January 1988 in the basement of the standing building. Natural brickearth occurred at 11.40m OD at the S of the site, and at 12.40m OD in the N. This gradient meant that horizontal stratigraphy survived only at the Fenchurch Street end.

The initial activity on the site consisted of a V-shaped ditch of early 1st c date, oriented E-W; it was devoid of finds, but by analogy with a length of the same ditch excavated on the neighbouring site (94-97 Fenchurch Street) is thought to have had some military function. After partial backfilling of the ditch, rubbish pits were dug and some flimsy timber structures erected. There followed a succession of strip buildings of clay and timber construction, dated to the 1st and early 2nd c. To

the E of most of these buildings, which were all aligned NW-SE, was evidence for an external area, probably a courtyard. These buildings were replaced in the 2nd c by a building, probably of masonry construction, which underwent later robbing. The site was then used for rubbish and cesspits in both the Roman and medieval periods, and was built on again in the 17th c, as shown by cellar walls.

Among the few finds of note were a shale bracelet and a stone spindle-whorl, both of Roman date.

### **80 - 84 Leadenhall Street T Q 3343 8114 (M. Ryan).**

From February to May 1988, an excavation funded by Prudential Portfolio Managers Ltd took place. The site lies within the precincts of Holy Trinity Priory and is adjacent to St Katherine Cree Church, which escaped the Great Fire of 1666.

Massive intrusion by the modern building broadly divided the site into two areas. Excavations in the area to the E recorded natural brickearth at 12.22m OD. After extensive levelling there followed a period of intense Roman activity featuring two buildings: the earlier, of clay and timber construction, was oriented NE-SW, and was seen to have undergone several phases of reconstruction and repair although adhering to the same layout, and perhaps use, throughout. It was subsequently replaced by a masonry building, represented by a partly robbed-out chalk wall and associated exterior surfaces.

In the area to the W beside St Katherine Cree, another Roman sequence was recorded. Here rather less substantial remains of a masonry building were found; they included an *opus signinum* floor and successive occupation layers. This area was largely truncated by pits, above which a heavily scorched brickearth structure or building was discovered; evidently burnt *in situ*, it was followed by immediate collapse, part of which included the remains of a plaster wall or ceiling. Further collapse ensued during a period of inactivity and disuse.

Also discovered at c 13.12m OD were two adjoining Roman roads and their respective ditches. One ran E-W just N of Leadenhall Street, with a ditch to the S where, besides periodic patching and repairs, two distinct phases of construction could be seen. The other ran NE-SW with a timber-lined drain to its W, to which the clay and timber building was aligned.

Much of the site was sealed by a deposit of dark earth. This was truncated in the E by an early medieval cellar, and by a rectangular timber-lined pit. In the area to the W, a ragstone and chalk foundation was almost certainly associated with the nearby church. Two phases of simple timber coffin burials were also recorded.

Finally, a large, rather later building was recorded, comprising a row of structural columns, oriented N-S and set at precise intervals apart, from which two walls ran to the E. An entire brick cellar was also discovered but not recorded because of hazardous conditions. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to investigate this in a watching brief.

There were few finds of note, with the exception of a Roman shale bracelet, a medieval iron horseshoe and a copper alloy buckle.

### **Little Britain TQ 3210 8160 (D. Lakin & I. M. Greig).**

Phase 2 of the Little Britain excavations took place between February and November 1988, following M. Nally's excavations in 1986-7 (see Excavation Round-up 1987), again funded by Wimpey Property Holdings. A further 8 trenches were fully excavated, 6 test pits and a test trench recorded, and a watching brief maintained over the remaining area.

Earliest occupation is represented by a complete late Saxon pit sunk into what could be a very truncated occupation surface, pits of apparently similar date, and a few possibly Roman ditches and pits cut into natural.

The trenches around the former Westmoreland Buildings showed best survival; a medieval chalk cellar located in 1986/7 was fully excavated, together with adjacent and underlying pits. Both chalk-built and wattle-lined cesspits were found, some with timber bracing.

In the N part of the site, traces of a chalk building survived in an area which may be within the precinct of St Bartholomew's priory. The natural brickearth and gravel rises northwards and only a few truncated pits and a barrel-lined well remained. Elsewhere, a series of ditches, apparently property boundaries with several stages of use, pits and soil layers may indicate the arrangement of the tenements. Although excavations could not take place sufficiently close to the street frontages to locate any structural remains, a large curving ditch may relate to London House, a former residence of the bishops of London.

The watching brief will continue until development is complete; small areas remain to be demolished at Bartholomew Close and adjacent to Postman's Park.

Finds of note from the 1988 phase include 119 moulded stones of 16th c date, a 17th c gold ring found in the backfill of a disused medieval cellar and abundant vessel glass from medieval and post-medieval cesspits. Amongst the glass fragments were two alchemists' distilling vessels. Metal-detecting carried out on site by a member of the Society of Thames Mudlarks and Antiquarians produced a copper stud of early medieval date with a depiction of a back-turned griffin.

#### **Docklands Light Railway Shaft opposite 80 Lombard Street TQ 3275 8107 (P. Rowsome) .**

Archaeological excavations and a watching brief funded by Olympia and York (Canary Wharf Development Company Ltd) and facilitated by Docklands Light Railway, were carried out between July and November 1988 as part of the coverage of the DLR Bank Extension. The work allowed the recording of 3.6m (12ft) of stratified deposits beneath the present street surface.

Natural sands and gravels survived to a maximum height of 10.3m OD and were cut by a large quarry pit of 1st c date. A sequence of external dumped deposits indicated that the area, which lay c 40m (130ft) to the N of a main E-W Roman street, remained open following initial quarrying. In the 2nd c dumping gave way to structural activity and occupation. Elements of a partially-robbled masonry building were aligned with the street to the S; one of the rooms contained a tessellated pavement. Part of a structure composed of Roman brick and *opus signinum* was recorded to the E and may have been part of a hypocaust system in an associated but undefined room of the same building.

Modern truncation had removed much of the later sequence. No evidence of a late and post-Roman sequence survived other than the cellar areas and walls of an 18th c building located along the S side of Lombard Street. This building was demolished in the early 19th c to make way for the construction of King William Street.

Finds from this site were scarce, apart from the *in situ* Roman building materials. The latter included a complete roller-stamped flue tile and a complete combed box flue tile used in conjunction with *pilae* to support a floor. Numerous *lydion* and *bessalis* bricks were recovered as well as tesserae made (usually) from chalk, greensand and shale. Non-ceramic finds include a Roman bow brooch and a pointed bone implement of late Saxon date.

#### **London Wall (opposite 48 London Wall) TQ 3276 8154 (A. T. Maclunder & A. Woodger).**

In January 1988 contractor's work for British Telecom in the middle of the road revealed a stone-built culvert which conducted a tributary of the Walbrook through the Roman wall. It was 1.20m (4ft) wide at its base and 0.90m (3ft) from roof to floor. It extended S from the inner face of the wall and was probably of medieval date. It probably connected with an identical culvert recorded in 1983, further to the S at 15-35 Copthall Avenue, 45-50 London Wall.

#### **85 London Wall (Blomfield House) and 53 New Broad Street TQ 3297 8151 (D. Sankey).**

Between January and April 1988 an investigation sponsored by Trafalgar House Developments was undertaken which included the excavation of two, broadly linear, areas through the defences outside the city wall, a watching brief concurrently on site groundwork, and photogrammetric recording of the city wall.

Beneath and therefore preceding the city defences on the E side of the site were found two successive wooden buildings of the 1st and 2nd c. The first was aligned with the Walbrook tributary to the W (the line of Blomfield Street) and had one wall built in an interlocking upright plank technique previously assumed to be typically medieval. Adjacent to this building was a substantial box drain over 1m (3ft 3in) deep.

The development of a drainage system was traced from a small land drain running NE-SW on the E side of the site, through the box drain mentioned above, via a system of parallel ditches to a large defensive ditch 5m (16ft) wide and 1.5m (5ft) deep that accompanied the construction of the Roman city wall, immediately to the S. This drainage system was subject to extreme fluctuations in flow, presumably reflecting changes in land use upstream, leading to the deposition of up to 1.5m (5ft) of sediments on the W side of the site.

During this period of natural aggradation, burials were inserted, many of which were then disturbed by erosion, leading to a mixed deposit of human bone, leather sandals, and funerary pots holding offerings of chickens and coins. Also recovered was a scatter of over 500 forger's coin moulds, some of which were of later 3rd c low denomination bronze coins. After more silting in this area, a masonry structure was built against the outer face of the city wall. This badly-truncated structure was apparently at first a bastion and was then altered, perhaps for a non-defensive purpose.

More fluvial deposition followed, deriving from the Walbrook tributary to the W, and continued in the medieval period, when drier parts of the site were used for agriculture and perhaps for grazing, evidenced by a fence line. This was followed by the cutting of a large city ditch, 1m (3ft in) deep and 12.5m (41ft) wide, in the early 17th c, reversing the flow of the drainage system, and taking water from the Walbrook around the outside the city. It may also have removed any evidence for a medieval ditch.

Above the ditch sediments the area was covered by large landfill dumps of domestic waste and building debris, possibly from buildings post-dating the Great Fire. A well in the NW corner was perhaps part of the 18th c housing development known as Petty France.

The lengths of the upstanding city wall exposed along the S side of the site revealed details of both face and core. The face of the Roman wall includes the ferruginous sandstone plinth, four ragstone courses and the first tile string course, but the core of this wall survives to above the second tile string course. The core of the Roman wall was poured from above, leaving clear tip lines at 45°, the angle of repose. The medieval

face of the wall utilised reworked Roman core blocks of ragstone and tiles and the medieval core used new materials such as flint and chalk. A post- Great Fire redbrick church precinct wall on a sandstone plinth, visible from the pavement, was recorded directly above the sequence. The wall is preserved as a scheduled ancient monument and a panel exposing the face of the medieval wall is to be left uncovered for public inspection.

Other finds from this site included part of a ceramic Langewehe horn, and most of a decorated Montelupo plate.

#### **60-61 Long Lane TQ 3194 8175 (A. T. Mackinder).**

In February 1988 refurbishment of a 19th c building revealed a subdivided chalk and brick cellar 3.20 x 1.80m (10.5 x 6ft). This was backfilled in the late 18th c; the backfill included human bones, perhaps deriving from disturbance of burials originally associated with the nearby church of St Bartholomew the Great.

#### **35-45 New Broad Street TQ 3303 8153 (A. Woodger).**

A series of twenty test pits dug during 1987 prompted a controlled excavation of this large extramural site between March and June 1988. The investigation was generously funded by Norwich Union.

The site was in a low-lying part of the upper Walbrook valley just to the E of one of the main stream channels which ran on the line of the present Blomfield Street. The site was cut through by a network of small tributaries running down a natural slope in the gravels which lay at 9.50m to the E of the site and 7.50m to the W. During the 2nd c the lower terrace was reclaimed from the stream and the upper terrace was extensively quarried. Roman inhumation burials were found in a small cemetery in the central S part of the site. The site was apparently abandoned from the time of the construction of the city wall in c AD 200 until it was drained in the 14th c.

A substantial E-W ditch at least 4m (13ft) wide along the N of the site was replaced by a line of earth-fast posts 0.3m (1ft) in width, probably by the early 17th c. These features most likely represent the S boundary of the St Mary Bethlem Hospital (later Bedlam) which stood from 1247 to 1676 approx. on the site of the present Liverpool Street Station. During most of the 17th c the area was used as a rubbish dump; a group of tenements called Petty France, mentioned by Stow (1598), was represented on site by brick cellars and wells, as well as brick and wood lined rubbish pits. These features were used into the 19th c and probably until the site was developed as offices in 1905. The facades of these offices were retained to the S and E in the present redevelopment.

Finds include a large assemblage of post-medieval kitchen ware, a large Stuart cloth seal, a silver half groat of 1561-1577 and a highly decorated bone handle of late 16th or early 17th c date with Renaissance motifs.

#### **19-25 Old Bailey TQ 3175 8133 (A. Bayliss).**

In addition to pre- and post-excavation watching briefs, excavations were undertaken between March and June 1988, funded by P & O Development Ltd. Most of the site had been severely truncated by the basements of the standing buildings, although horizontal stratigraphy did survive under the cobbling of Elliot's Court.

The gravel terrace on the site sloped down to the S and W. Some levelling activity preceded the construction of several kilns in the Roman period. The structure of only one of them survived; no wasters were recovered, but the character of the kiln would suggest that it had been used for the manufacture of fine pottery. Demolition debris observed in the watching brief suggests that there were at least six other such features. These kilns were replaced by a large octagonal building, 16m (52ft) in diameter, associated with large-scale terracing. This building was probably surrounded by an ambulatory 3.75m (12ft) wide. The whole building would then have enclosed an area of 520 sq.m (5600 sq.ft). It had been completely robbed but red-painted wall plaster, ragstone and *opus signinum* probably featured in its construction. It has been tentatively interpreted as a Romano-Celtic temple.

The robbing was followed by the construction of a large masonry building of at least nine rooms. This building was rebuilt at least once, and at a later date a hypocaust was added. A coin of 335-341 dates the demolition and robbing of the building to the mid 4th c or later; its function is unclear.

A depth of 0.8m (2ft 7in) of dark earth then accumulated. Several pits cutting into this deposit, including a timber-lined well of Saxo-Norman date, attest to occupation before the construction of a number of chalk buildings, probably in the 13th c. These buildings were aligned to the present street frontages. Later occupation was represented by several cut features.

#### **2-3 Philpot Lane TQ 3303 8090 (A. B. Thomas).**

Between November 1987 and January 1988 a series of 38 underpinning holes were excavated in preparation for conversion of a standing building by Philpot Management Ltd. Apart from three small areas, the holes were excavated by the contractors and recorded as sections by DUA staff.

The site was extensively truncated by the basement and subbasement of the existing building, and the surviving archaeological strata varied in depth across the site from approx. 1.50 to 4m (5 to 13 ft).

The Roman sequence started with a major brickearth dump across the site. Above this lay a timber building with possible associated floor surfaces to the W and discrete building areas to the N and E. After the timber building went out of use, a subterranean tile and brickearth double flue was constructed on the W side of the site. Its purpose was not established but it was possibly the fire box and vaulted entrance area for either a hypocaust or an above-ground kiln or oven. Once the flue structure went out of use the whole site was re-developed: a series of major masonry buildings, with at least three successive floors of *opus signinum*, extended to both the E and W sides of the site.

Medieval activity comprised a series of large deeply cut pits, occasional chalk foundations aligned both N-S and E-W and gravel surfaces across the site.

During the post-medieval period the NE corner of the site was truncated by a large chalk-lined pit approximately 5m (16ft) E-W and 5m (16ft) deep, backfilled with cess and general rubbish on disuse. This was apparently associated, to the S and N, with a deep basement wall built of chalk, moulded ragstone and brick. A brick building was constructed over much of the site in the 18th c: and this survives with some later modifications.

There were few finds of note, although a bone skate and numerous fragments of the outer cope of a ceramic bell-mould were recovered.

### **Pilgrim Street TQ 3172 8112 (J. Heathcote & W. A. McCann).**

As part of the Blackfriars - Holborn Viaduct Development, Rosehaugh Stanhope funded the excavation of an E-W trench, 18.5m (59 X 16ft), running down the roadway in Pilgrim Street between Ludgate Broadway and Waithman Street.

The central area of the trench was severely truncated by numerous service ducts and a live sewer lying 3.5m (11.5 ft) below present road surface. On the N side substantial remains of the medieval city wall were located. Running the full length of the trench, it survived to a height of 2.8m (9ft) above foundation level. Built between 1283 and 1320, this wall enclosed the Blackfriars precinct within the city limits.

Only the S face of the wall was observed, showing three distinct phases of construction. The predominant materials used were squared blocks of Kentish Ragstone, regularly coursed, with some tile, flint, greensand and chalk blocks. A number of offsets were observed which were not continuous along the length of the wall but were arranged step-wise in order to cope with the substantial natural slope on this W side of Ludgate Hill.

Towards the E end of the excavated length, the entrance to a bastion which stood on the N face of the wall was located. The entrance was 1.2m (4ft) wide and allowed the width of the wall at this point to be determined as 3.0m (10ft), although the foundations could not be fully excavated. The S side of the trench contained the remains of the 18th c frontage of Stonecutter's Alley. Due to the presence of live services it was impossible to fully excavate this but a series of irregular brick foundations, including a threshold, were observed.

The most conspicuous finds assemblage from the site consisted of a quantity of mica schist waste, of early medieval date, derived from the cutting of imported raw material into honestones.

### **Cayzer House, 2-4 St Mary Axe TQ 3326 8120 (V. Ridgeway).**

Between July and September 1988 excavations, funded by Bricomin Properties Ltd, were carried out in the basement of the standing building, before demolition.

The basement had truncated deposits to a depth of 12.00m OD, below which only features cut into natural brickearth survived. Towards the E of the site two large, deep timber-lined features were found, possibly storage tanks, dating to the early Roman period. The larger of these in the N, at least 4m (13ft) square and 3m (10ft) deep, appears to have collapsed and been systematically backfilled with brickearth dumps. Overlying this, surviving due to slumping into the feature, was a series of clay and timber buildings. Subsequently a more substantial later Roman building was constructed with ragstone foundations, robbed out during the medieval period. Contemporary ground level did not survive.

The area was heavily truncated during the medieval period by a series of pits of varying dimensions. No evidence of structures of this period was found, but the alignment of cesspits offers possible evidence of property boundaries. Substantial chalk ragstone foundations of a N-S wall and pier base, provisionally dated to the early post-medieval period, were recorded. Slightly to the W, and presumably associated with the foundations, was a chalk-lined basement of similar date. This contained six successive floors, mainly of chalk and mortar. The final floor was constructed of brick and tile, incorporating Flemish green- and yellow-glazed tiles and a brick hearth. All structures on site respected the same alignment, suggesting continuity of the street plan through to the modern period.

The majority of finds were of Roman date. They include a quantity of painted wall plaster with mock architectural motifs, and part of a 1st c beaker in colourless glass, several bone pins and counters. A number of complete and near-complete jugs in Kingston ware came from medieval pits, and fragments of bell-mould were also present.

### **Sunlight Wharf, Upper Thames Street TQ 3213 8082 (R. Bluer).**

Between April 1986 and March 1987, the Department conducted a controlled watching-brief, funded by the LEP Group, during reduction of the ground S of Upper Thames Street between the 19th c LEP House and the new City of London Boys' School, an area encompassing four medieval tenements. Each property produced a sequence of timber revetments along with a number of late medieval arched foundations and post-medieval brick foundations. The earliest recorded revetment, provisionally dated by dendrochronology to the late 12th c, was of substantial staves inserted into a baseplate, and displayed excellent survival to a height of 3.6m (12ft). The property to the E subsequently re-used some of the staves as uprights in a post-and-plank revetment.

For the remainder of the medieval period, a succession of repairs and reclamations were made on each property, resulting in the kind of piecemeal advancement of the waterfront identified in the Trig Lane excavations of 1974-76 (which fell within the area of these investigations). No two revetments seen at Sunlight Wharf were identical; they included techniques not previously seen in London, such as the use of diagonal members parallel to the face of the revetment, half-lapped to the uprights.

Evidence was recovered for lanes leading down to the river from Thames Street. Nineteen metres (two properties) to the E of Trig Lane was a lane which, in the second half of the 13th c ended in a river inlet probably associated with the construction of a building immediately to the E. This was built on substantial arched foundations and was almost certainly the London residence of the Dukes of Norfolk. It was razed to the ground by the Great Fire.

Finds included a large quantity of metalwork including decorative dress fittings and some pieces of popular medieval jewellery; fixtures and fittings such as hinges, keys and locks; knives (14th and 15th C), buckles, pilgrim badges and candlesticks; a large number of coins and tokens, cloth seals and mounts; a quantity of leather and a group of decorated medieval floor tiles.

### **1-19 Whitefriars Street, 63-67 Fleet Street, 23-24 Bouverie Street, 4 Brittons Court TQ 3141 8110 (J. Stevenson).**

An excavation and watching brief funded by Kumagai Gumi UK Ltd were undertaken between January and March 1988.

A central area of the site had been truncated down to the London Clay. At the S end of the site were a number of Roman clay quarry pits; to the N, along the Fleet Street frontage was recorded a sequence of brick features, including a post-medieval brick cellar that truncated the natural gravel. A late medieval undercroft in Brittons Court, part of the Carmelite friary of Whitefriars, was recorded by English Heritage, and removed to be restored in the basement of the new development.

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**THIS ARTICLE has been prepared from reports submitted by individual supervisors and collated by Andrew Westman. WC at the end of a report indicates that work continues.**

### **12 America Square, 15-17 Crosswall, 15 Coopers Row TQ 3355 8090 (C. Goode, A. Stephenson & T. Nixon).**

Following preliminary excavations underneath the railway viaduct to the E of Fenchurch Street Station (see LA 5 no. 14 (1988) 382) an extensive series of excavations took place between October 1987 and January 1988, funded by Central and City Properties Ltd. Of 39 trenches sited where pile caps were to be inserted to support a new building above the railway, 20 were excavated archaeologically and the rest by contractors.

The Roman city wall ran N-S across the site and to the N a 32m (105ft) length was exposed (to be consolidated and displayed in the new building). A change in build was evident on the inner face. N of this change a tile drain ran through the wall. The wall survived up to 2m (6.5ft) in height above original ground level on the E (outer) side. A gravel-metalled surface on the berm survived intact, 0.60m (2ft) below the sandstone plinth on the wall face, and the V-profile of the base of the original ditch was also recorded.

To the W a hard gravel surface, dated to the late 2nd-early 3rd c and probably a construction road for the wall, was sealed by dumps of sand, gravel and brickearth originally banked up against the inside of the wall. These dumps contained 2nd c pottery.

Very thick deposits of dark earth or similar strata extended W, cut by pits, wells and lines of stakeholes, probably fencing. Datable finds suggest that occupation was continuous from the 11th c. A large pitched stone medieval culvert was inserted through the wall (remaining in use until the 19th c). To the E a medieval or later ditch cut sloped down further to the E than the recorded Roman ditch. This later ditch was backfilled and the area levelled up with dumps of homogeneous gravel containing 17th c pottery, cut in turn by post-medieval horncore-lined pits. No evidence was found for substantial buildings before the 17th c, and parts of the site remained open until the construction of the railway viaduct in the 1840s, when much of the city wall was also demolished.

Roman finds include a bow brooch and quantities of glass from bottles, flasks and a pillar-moulded bowl. Bone counters and fragments of two shale bracelets were also recovered. Late medieval lead tokens and two cloth seals came from metal-detecting. There was also a range of post-medieval glassware, including wine glasses, phials and a near-complete beaker with chequered spiral decoration. Other post-medieval finds include an ivory comb and several knives.

### **22-25 Austin Friars TQ 3289 8137 (D. Dunlop & A. Shotliff).**

A post-demolition excavation took place between February and June 1989, funded by MEPC Developments Ltd.

Natural sands and gravels were sealed by brickearth, sloping down towards the line of the Walbrook at the NW corner of the site. During the Roman period, the area underwent large scale drainage prior to revetting which, allied with dumping and levelling across the site, provided ground suitable for construction.

A complex sequence of waterlogged timber pipes, tanks and wells served buildings located in the S and E of the site. Two of these buildings had masonry walls and tessellated floors, indicating high status. The larger building contained at least nine rooms. Evidence for extensive rebuilding included the replacement of tessellated floors. Tile drains ran beneath the floors in both buildings, crossing one room diagonally.

Chalk and ragstone walls founded on timber piles formed part of an early medieval building, possibly related to the Augustinian priory nearby.

Two brick-lined wells and a section of chalk cellar were probably of 17th c date.

Finds from the site are almost all of Roman date. They include copper alloy pins, jug lids, *ligulae* and styli, as well as 76 coins from the fill of a wooden drain feature. A pipeclay figurine of Venus also came from this feature. Other items include an enamelled zoomorphic mount, a wooden bowl and comb, a bow brooch and a bronze handle cast in the form of a lion.

### **55 Basinghall Street TQ 3246 8154 (N. Hall).**

Two phases of excavation and a watching brief, in July-September 1988 and May-June 1989, were sited partly on the line of the E wall of the Cripplegate Fort. Work was funded by Prudential Portfolio Managers Ltd. The defensive ditch around the fort wall was located, with traces of a timber structure on the berm to the W. The wall was robbed and the backfilled ditch was sealed by floor surfaces and walls of late Roman date, later robbed in turn. These features, and natural brickearth and gravels elsewhere, were truncated successively by medieval refuse and cesspits, medieval and post-medieval cellars and Second World War bomb craters.

### **4 Billiter Street, 34-35 Leadenhall Street (Albion House) TQ 3327 8110 (A. B. Thomas).**

After demolition of Albion House, excavations were carried out in a large area in the centre and on the W side of the site, between July and September 1989, and underpinning at the E side of the site was watched until December 1989. Work was funded by Commercial Properties Ltd. Roman activity began with possible quarries for gravel and brickearth. They were backfilled, the site levelled up with thick dumps of brickearth and at least six separate, or successive buildings constructed to N and S. The earliest were timber structures, partly sunken. Building debris indicated that some of the later buildings may have been of high quality, with decorated walls and tessellated floors. To the N, the latest Roman building, constructed in masonry and tile, included a large room orientated NW-SE with a buttressed apsidal end wall.

To the E, chalk foundations may represent a medieval cellared building. Truncating these foundations and running across the site was a series of large, deep pits, irregularly-shaped except for a flat base, in association with much smaller pits or hearths and working surfaces. All these pits were backfilled with fragments of bell mould and with building rubble. Documentary evidence confirms that bell foundries operated here and nearby in the 14th and 15th c. All later strata were truncated by modern basements.

Amongst the objects recovered were a Roman bone die and fragments from several facet-cut glass beakers. A complete *aryballos* was also recovered, with copper alloy rings still surviving in its handles. Medieval finds include several complete Rouen-style baluster jugs which had been deposited in a barrel well, and much ceramic bell-mould.

### **41-63 Bishopsgate TQ 331 1 8135 (M. Watts).**

Excavations conducted in the basement of a standing building, concurrently with contractors' demolition operations, between February and April 1989, were funded by Kumagai Gumi UK Ltd.

The earliest activity appeared as stained surfaces and pits, the latter containing ash, charcoal, a burnt timber and a complete pottery vessel dated to the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age. They were sealed by redeposited brickearth containing struck flints and pottery fragments of similar date. Structural remains of the Roman period comprised, in the N half of the site, a beam slot, posthole and stakeholes. To the W quarry pits for brickearth were backfilled with Roman building materials, and other pits contained cess and rubbish. Pits of definitely medieval date were located only to the W, implying different land use to the E, presumably the presence of buildings fronting onto Bishopsgate. Modern basements and foundations truncated all other evidence.

Most finds from the site are of Roman date. Amongst them are fragments of glass bottles, bowls, flagons and flasks, as well as a counter and a stirring rod. Other finds include a copper alloy lock bolt, part of a mirror, a stylus and a pair of tweezers.

#### **158-164 Bishopsgate TQ 3330 8154 (J. M. Oetgen & S. Poole).**

The project combined excavation in two phases, December 1988-January 1989 and March-August 1989, with partial recording of a listed building retained at 162-4 Bishopsgate (originally a fire station). It was funded by Friends Provident.

A sequence of large early Roman quarry pits was cut into natural gravels, with evidence of gravel surfaces, perhaps tracks connecting with a known Roman road, Ermine Street, immediately to the W. These quarry pits were backfilled, perhaps by the 2nd c, and thick deposits of dark soil resembling 'dark earth' accumulated across the site, indicating horticulture. No human burials were found (see 166-170 Bishopsgate). A long series of pits was cut into the dark soil in the medieval period and later. Localised waterlogging in the SE corner of the site preserved organic materials in pitfills; this area remained open until at least the 17th c. Two horncore-lined pits may have had an industrial use. To the SW, cess and domestic refuse pits suggested occupation nearby, probably along Bishopsgate, the medieval successor to Ermine Street. Two dog skeletons were recovered from one of the pits.

A brick wall probably of 16th c date was exposed and recorded along the S edge of the site, incorporated in adjoining standing buildings. This wall, tentatively identified from documentary sources as originally part of a building known as 'Fisher's Folly', reused 13th c moulded stones as mullions in windows at half-cellar level. Other medieval and post-medieval structures, mainly chalk and brick cellar and cesspit walls, were truncated by 19th c levelling of the site and construction of warehouses and the fire station.

Finds of note from the site include a medieval double-sided wooden comb and a complete London-ware conical drinking vessel. A complete Frechen jug of 1550-1575 was also recovered, as well as a broad-rimmed pewter saucer bearing the initials 'T.C.'. These initials are thought to refer to the owner rather than the maker.

#### **Docklands Light Railway Shaft, Bucklersbury, near Queen Victoria Street TQ 3259 8106 (J. Hill & P. Rowsome).**

Excavations were conducted from September to December 1987 in an access shaft being built for the Docklands Light Railway.

Deposits were recorded to a maximum depth of 7m (22.7ft) within a vertical shaft 6.3m (19.7ft) in diameter. The work was funded by Olympia and York and DLR.

The natural ground surface sloped down to the Walbrook, to the E. A series of timber buildings was constructed, one with a plank floor and stave-built wall and another containing a room that may have been open-sided, perhaps to facilitate passage of goods brought from the Walbrook. Between two buildings in this sequence the site was levelled up with dumps containing a large quantity of broken and burnt, but apparently unused, Samian pottery, perhaps deriving from a warehouse or shop nearby, destroyed by fire in the early 2nd c. This sequence was sealed by deposits of dark earth and these in turn by medieval external surfaces. Intrusive masonry foundations were excavated and are identified with a building documented as 'The Barge', the gatehouse to the manor of the Buckerel family founded in the 12th or 13th c.

#### **Cannon Street Station south, Upper Thames Street (Cousin Lane) TQ 3258 8075 (R. V. Bluer, F. Meddens & A. Stephenson).**

Two phases of excavation and an extensive watching brief, funded by Speyhawk plc, took place concurrently with contractors' groundworks underneath the railway viaduct between Upper Thames Street and the river, from August 1988 to October 1989.

The earliest features found, to the N, were a 30m (100ft) length of late Roman timber revetment running W-E (see Cannon Street Station north, p.162), followed by a sequence of Saxon banks of clay, rafts of brushwood and stone rubble, with pits and hearths to the N. To the NW, controlled excavation revealed a masonry building 10.3m (35ft) wide, extending S from the N end of the site for at least 17m (58ft). The walls, built of ragstone on chalk and gravel foundations, survived up to 1.4m (4.5ft) in height above the level of the floor, the latter mostly of crushed chalk or mortar, frequently renewed. The building was a single-aisled hall, the ground floor of which was probably used for storage: architectural details of two square pier bases in *situ* and associated stones reused in a later context suggest a late 12th c date. This building is identified as the Guildhall of the merchants of Cologne, who are documented in London in 1175. Further chalk foundations indicated that the Guildhall was enlarged towards the river by at least 31m (105ft), probably around 1300, and that other buildings were constructed to the E, presumably the houses, shops and storerooms of the traders of the Hanseatic League who acquired the site in 1475, when it was known as the Steelyard. This precinct extended to a late medieval river wall found as far S as the present river frontage. Later deposits were truncated by post-medieval cellaring partly re-using earlier masonry, and by construction of the railway viaduct in 1865. The latter included an inclined cab road running between the level of the street and the platforms, which was photographically recorded by HMBC before demolition.

The finds assemblage is dominated by 156 moulded stones of medieval and later date. Sparse evidence of Roman activity is provided by a penannular brooch, tweezers, a finger-ring and several coins. Medieval objects include a bone skate, a buckle and a Saxo-Norman decorative bone dress-pin; there are good groups of post-medieval clay tobacco pipes and decorated floor tiles.

#### **Cannon Street Station north, Upper Thames Street (Dowgate Hill) TQ 3260 8080 (R. Bishop, M. Burch, J. Hill & A. Stephenson).**

Excavations took place in the two bays of the railway viaduct immediately N of Upper Thames Street, on the site of part of the presumed Roman governor's palace, a scheduled ancient monument. The excavations, funded by Speyhawk plc, were conducted in several phases, including a watching brief, and at the same time as contractors' engineering operations, between September 1988 and August 1989.

Natural sands and silts on the E bank of the mouth of the Walbrook were enclosed behind a timber revetment; the infilled ground was terraced by substantial masonry retaining walls running N, parallel to the Walbrook, and E, parallel to the presumed Thames waterfront lying outside the site to the S. The S face of the latter wall was buttressed, probably with both curved and squared tile-built projections. A series of culverts and drains incorporated in these walls and the Walbrook revetment carried off surface water. The provisional date of these structures is Flavian, and

they relate presumably to the palatial structures to the E (recorded in 1972) and N (observed in 1865).

These structures were superseded by more land reclamation in the late 2nd-early 3rd c, when a new revetment was constructed a further 25m to the W, on the Walbrook, and presumably also to the S, on the Thames (see Cannon Street Station south, p.161). Much building rubble was used for infill and a masonry building was constructed extending to the S and W. The foundations of this building included oak piles, many of which were reused house timbers of 1st c date. One room contained a hypocaust and an *opus signinum* floor, and another contained a tessellated floor. Separate tiles and masonry walls indicated more buildings lying to the N. The Roman sequence was sealed to the E by a series of intercutting pits, sealed in turn by a stone-walled cellar, in which a new floor was inserted in the 18th c. Strata elsewhere were truncated by construction of the railway viaduct in 1865.

The site produced an important assemblage of finds, mostly of Roman date. They include a copper alloy bell and a brooch, finger-rings, lock fittings and toilet implements. On-site metal detecting enabled 367 Roman coins and other metal items to be recovered. Iron objects include a saw and two styli and there were also fragments from three shale bracelets, and an intaglio. Later finds include 87 moulded stones and, among post-medieval finds, glass phials and a bone syringe.

### **13-23 Carter Lane (Wren House) TQ 3202 8103 (B. Bishop).**

A watching brief was conducted between August 1988 and March 1989, before and after demolition of the interior of Wren House. Work was funded by St Martins Property Investments Ltd. To the NE an apparent soil horizon survived almost intact above a profile of natural sands and brickearth. To the E, floor surfaces and fallen wall plaster were recorded, associated with a wide, well-founded tile-built wall or pier base, probably representing a substantial Roman masonry building. Elsewhere, medieval refuse pits and cellar walls and foundations were recognised. A 16th c well, lined at the base with barrel staves and, above these, with chalk blocks, was excavated, and another, brick-lined well was recorded.

### **69 Carter Lane, 10 Friar Street TQ 3180 8106 (B. Watson).**

Excavations funded by MEPC Developments Ltd were undertaken from March to May 1989, supplemented by watching briefs before and after, from October 1988 until September 1989.

The earliest features identified were an unlined well of 12th c date and several gravel pits. Parts of the Dominican Priory of Blackfriars, established c 1276, were known to have occupied the site. To the N, they included the E end of the choir of the priory church, but little of the walls of the choir remained as they appear to have been replaced by existing basement walls on the N and E edges of the site. Inside the choir, five burials and two brick burial vaults were found, the latter emptied and then used for rubbish disposal sometime after the dissolution of the Priory in 1538. To the S, the Prior's Lodging and a garden are documented, and were represented by stone foundations and an external garderobe pit, the former containing a floor of delftware tiles and last used as a coal cellar before demolition in the late 17th or 18th c.

The party wall along the S edge of the site incorporated stone foundations of the external wall of an undercroft (recorded further to the S in 1900, located below the Provincial's Hall and the South Dorter). These foundations were buttressed to the N; to the W upstanding masonry contained a large window of c 14th c date, subsequently blocked, which will be preserved and displayed in the new development. Along the W edge of the site, to the S, another substantial medieval foundation was recorded: probably the E wall of the Chapter House.

Most of the finds are post-medieval in date. Copper alloy objects include 11 coins and a variety of domestic articles. An iron Jews harp was recovered, as well as two fragmentary ivory double-sided combs and some textile. A good selection of glass vessels, in turquoise and green as well as clear glass, includes an almost complete colourless wine glass. A gold coin of George III was recovered. The pottery includes several whole vessels, among which is a Westerwald panel jug depicting the seven electors of the Holy Roman Empire, with the date 1603, and a Frechen bellarmine with the arms of Amsterdam on the medallion. Also noteworthy is a whole decorated tinglazed tile, predominantly blue, on a white background with yellow and green leaves.

### **29-30 College Street (Innholders' Hall) TQ 3252 8083 (Sarah Gibson).**

A watching brief during refurbishment of the Hall and excavations for a new lift shaft, in April and May 1989, were sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Innholders. The earliest deposits were on the E bank of the Walbrook, associated with a timber structure, probably Roman, possibly a revetment. A medieval chalk wall constructed on beechwood piles may have been part of the original Innholders' Hall, destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. Some of the larger roof timbers in the existing Hall were evidently reused and were also charred: they may have been salvaged from the original hall for reuse after the Fire. Dendrochronological dates on these timbers and the beech piles could not be determined.

### **20-56 Cophall Avenue, 52-63 London Wall TQ 3283 8147 (D. M. B. Lees & A. Woodger).**

An excavation funded by Scottish Widows was undertaken in two phases, before demolition between February and April, and after demolition between June and September 1989 (see also *LA 6* no. 5 (1989) 115-9).

Natural sands and gravels were resorted along the line of a Walbrook tributary which flowed SW across the SE corner of the site. The earliest activity was Roman land reclamation along this channel. A series of industrial pits and drainage gullies were located along the W bank and the channel itself contained abundant leather waste and 20-30 human skulls. A road constructed of rammed gravel ran NNE-SSW, roughly through the middle of the site. Between this road and the Walbrook tributary, brickearth and timber buildings were built in at least two phases, possibly in the mid 2nd c. A timber-lined well, dated no earlier than AD 130, was constructed between these buildings and the channel.

A second gravel road running WNW-ESE was recorded to the E. This road was partially silted over and stones from a monumental building were laid in a linear arrangement on its surface, probably to form a drain. In the NW corner of the site lay two more Roman buildings, one to the W constructed of brickearth sills and timber uprights and the other to the E built of wattle and daub. In an external yard associated with the latter building was a tile and mortar plinth, possibly for a statue. Marsh deposits accumulated after the disuse of these buildings. The only surviving later feature was a ditch running W-E cut into these marsh deposits, representing an attempt to re-establish drainage in the area in the 11th c. All later strata were truncated by 19th c basements.

Among the varied finds, a good pottery assemblage is mainly 2nd c in date. A fragmentary bowl, probably London ware, has strips of tin foil applied to the rim sherds. Such decoration on this type of pottery is hitherto unknown in Britain. Another unusual ceramic find is a Koan

amphora with a painted inscription in Greek, a name in the genitive case, translated as *Theoumrou* or *Theouerou*. Other unusual finds include two leather-working implements, consisting of an iron awl with leather thongs wound around the head and, among many good leather finds, a whole leather shoe with hob nails. Other organic objects recovered include a complete wooden spindle, a boxwood ladle head, a fragmentary wooden bowl, half an ivory bracelet with incised decoration and several bone pins, one of which has an animal hoof head. Among the metal finds are a complete pair of copper alloy bevelled tweezers, a fragmentary seal box and more than 20 coins, most of which are copper alloy but one, overlaid with silver, is a forged denarius.

#### **8-11 Crescent TQ 3361 8083 (R. S. Sermon).**

Excavations adjoining the outer face of the city wall, a scheduled ancient monument, took place in May and June 1989, after demolition of existing buildings. A watching brief, including photogrammetric recording of the city wall, ended in August 1989. Work was funded by Arundell House (City) Ltd.

The foundations of the Roman city wall were cut into natural travels; the outer face survived to a height of 3.5m (13ft) above them. To the E, no trace of an original ditch survived, but timber piles and, directly abutting the wall face, mortared ragstone and chalk were revealed. They are interpreted as the foundations of a bastion (2A) added to the wall in the late Roman period, presumably obliterating any earlier ditch; it confirms the regular spacing of such bastions in this sector.

Early in the medieval period the area in front of the wall was reduced and the bastion was dismantled; then the area was levelled up with dumps containing Roman building debris derived from the wall or the bastion. The wall itself was rebuilt above the existing Roman face and core, surviving to a level just below the presumed crenellations. Further to the E, possible medieval ditch cuts were traced. Later, gravel was dumped against the wall face. Elsewhere post-medieval features included part of a horncore-lined pit or ditch, and ditch or pitfills containing slag. Building rubble was then dumped to prepare the ground for the brick foundations and drains of buildings in a documented late 18th c development, of which Crescent was a part, designed by George Dance the Younger. The bastion foundations and standing wall have been left *in situ*.

Finds are mostly post-medieval and include an ivory comb, a copper alloy candlestick and a ceramic button with a representation of a crowned female figure, possibly the 'Queen of Africa'.

#### **15-17 Eldon Street TQ 3296 8164 (P. Potter).**

Excavations took place in the basement of the standing building between January and March 1989, and were followed by a watching brief after demolition. Work was funded by Norwich Union Pensions Management Ltd.

The earliest features were quarries cut into natural gravels. They were backfilled and the site levelled up with dumped brickearth, into which 24 burials were inserted, to the N. Two of them contained grave goods (in one case dated to the 2nd c), one individual was buried with an iron fetter around one leg and four were buried in wooden coffins. To the S of this extra-mural cemetery a road was recorded running roughly W-E.

Sealing a resurfacing of this road, and also a timber-lined well which had been backfilled with a deposit containing horse bones, was a thick marsh deposit extending further to the S across the site. Further horizontal strata were all truncated by later development, but surviving intrusive features included three ditches running W-E, probably for drainage and backfilled no earlier than the 17th c, and a post-medieval pit containing leather waste.

#### **Fleet Valley, between Blackfriars and Holborn Viaduct Stations (S) TQ 3167 8092 - (N) TQ 3171 8148 (M. Adams, P. Askew, S. Bedford, T. Dawson, T. Ellis, C. Goode, R. Grestorix, D. Killock, W. A. McCann, M. McKenzie, G. Oulton & N. Truckle).**

Redevelopment over a very large area in the lower valley of the River Fleet, occasioned by realignment of the railway between Blackfriars and Holborn Viaduct Stations, has entailed continuing watching briefs and many separate and successive excavations. Funded by Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments plc, this work began in 1988 (see LA 6 no. 2 (1989) 53; 6 no. 4 (1989) 102-7) and is expected to finish by the end of 1990.

Sections of the prehistoric and Roman E bank of the Fleet were recorded, and also its confluence with the Thames. Roman use of Ludgate was confirmed, and a Roman surface of tiles and ragstone was revealed to the W (below Ludgate Circus).

Near the confluence of the rivers (N of Queen Victoria Street), late Saxon burials showed evidence of quartering and decapitation: buried in unconsecrated and desolate ground, they were probably criminals. Also located in an area not known to have been consecrated, to the N (near Holborn Viaduct Station), were several 11th-12th c shroud burials.

A substantial 11th-12th c timber abutment for a bridge across the Fleet was located at the bottom of Ludgate Hill. To the E and S, several 12th c buildings were uncovered including, at cellar level in one of these buildings, the lowest step of a spiral staircase and the moulded jambs and threshold of a doorway, in Reigate stone. Parts of the outer, N face and the S face of a 13th c extension of the city wall around Blackfriars Priory were recorded before demolition, running W for a distance of 11m (36ft) under Pilgrim Street. Stones reused in this wall are identified as probably deriving from the former buildings nearby. Moulded stones, originally 15th c window tracery in the priory, were found reused to line a well to the S of Apothecary Street. Associated with this lining were fragments of fine, decorated 15th c Venetian stained glass.

To the N of Ludgate Hill, parts of the Fleet Prison, of medieval and post-medieval date, were excavated, including the E perimeter wall, rooms inside the main prison building and its courtyard. One room contained a back-to-back hearth in brick and Reigate stone. Pine piles supporting a raft of oak timbers and a superstructure of chalk blocks were located running S under the E side of Farrington Street, and are identified as the E bank of the post-Great Fire Fleet Canal, designed by Wren.

#### **1-4 Great Tower Street TQ 3316 8076 (C. Rosborough).**

Excavations in May and June 1989 were funded by Harrisons and Crosfield plc, after demolition of the existing building. Only the N half was excavated, because of double basements in the other.

Natural gravels capped by brickearth were cut, to the N, by the foundations of a clay-and-timber building aligned W-E, dated to the late 1st-early 2nd c. This in turn was superseded by late Roman quarry and rubbish pits and a N-S ditch; elsewhere there were other Roman rubbish pits and cesspits and a W-E ditch. Surviving later features included four medieval chalk-lined cesspits and other pits, and post-medieval brick-lined wells and cellars, relating to buildings fronting onto Great Tower Street and Idol Lane, to the N and W respectively. Other strata were truncated by



construction of the existing building in 1905.

Roman finds from the site include much painted wall plaster and many fragments of vessel glass. The largest of the chalk-lined cesspits was filled with an impressive group of ceramic vessels and glassware, amongst which were four Siegburg jugs and a later Roman vessel, as well as a variety of tinglazed wares. Two important glass vessels were also retrieved from this feature. A late medieval Italian beaker has extensive gilding and enamel decoration, which surrounds a colloquial inscription; and a colourless stemmed cup with blue and white trails is of a type for which no accurate dating had hitherto been possible.

#### **52 Gresham Street, 14 Ironmonger Lane TQ 3253 8128 (A. T. Mackinder).**

An excavation, funded by City Holdings Ltd, was undertaken in the basement of a standing building between January and April 1989. Parts of the building were also recorded.

The earliest feature was a quarry pit cut into natural sands and gravels, backfilled in the late 1st c. Dumps and pits were sealed by the masonry wall and floors of a late Roman building. This was on the same alignment (NNE-SSW) as walls recorded in 1954 immediately to the S, at 13 Ironmonger Lane. Further dumps, cut by a N-S 11th c ditch, pits and a possible well, were followed by the chalk and gravel foundations of an 11th-13th c building. In places, the brick walls of the standing building rested directly on these earlier foundations. The latter building was substantially of late 17th c post-Great Fire construction, refaced and refenestrated in the 20th c apparently to reinstate its original appearance. 17th c features such as floors, party walls and chimneys survived, and were recorded before demolition.

Roman finds of interest include some crucibles and stamped samian pottery, ten copper alloy coins, a copper alloy brooch and a green glass bead. A medieval decorated bone counter and a fragment of a post-medieval opaque glass lamp were also found.

#### **Guildhall Yard TQ 3248 8135 (C. Copper & G. Porter).**

A second phase of excavations took place between July 1988 and January 1989 funded by the owner and developer, the Corporation of London. They were sited immediately to the W of the previous excavations (see LA 5 no. 14 (1988) 384; 6 no. 2 (1989) 50) in the unbasemented E half of the Yard and around existing foundation piles underneath the Yard, which remained in use. Consequently excavations proceeded by tunnelling from E to W, no lower than 12m OD, a level determined by the headroom required. In all 116 interconnected sections were recorded. The earliest evidence recovered was of 12th and 13th c dumping. After this, successive kilns for bronze smelting were constructed of roughly-coursed chalk walls capped with brickearth and tiles. Fragments of buckle moulds and some bronze buckles still *in situ* were found in association with these kilns. This evidence for industrial activity was truncated by foundations for medieval buildings to the W and E, the latter documented as the 14th c Guildhall Chapel and, to the S of that, Blackwell Hall. To the W only ragstone and chalk wall foundations survived, and little associated occupation. In the central area, successive gravel metallings and chalk bedding layers for surfaces, dated from the late 14th c to the Great Fire of 1666, represented the Yard itself, the approach road to Guildhall. Fire debris was then dumped thickly over the site, presumably levelling up for further surfaces, but these were truncated by the concrete slab and overlying existing surface of the Yard, laid in 1973. Earlier features were also truncated by 18th and 19th c sewers. WC

The method of excavation produced few finds, but among them were decorated medieval and post-medieval floor tiles, including several 14th c Penn tiles. As well as the ceramic buckle mould, other finds of note are several copper alloy coins, a copper alloy needle and a fragment of medieval painted window glass.

#### **33-9 Gutter Lane TQ 3223 8131 (I. Blair).**

Between December 1987 and April 1988, excavations were undertaken after demolition in areas undisturbed by the extensive existing piling. The work was funded by Eagle Star Properties.

The heavily truncated remains of the E edge of a Roman road and its associated drainage ditches were uncovered in the extreme NW corner of the site, verifying the alignment of this road, first recorded to the W at 7-10 Foster Lane (see LA 4 no. 10 (1983) 279). The road ran from SW to NE, presumably to the S gate of the Cripplegate Fort. Fronting the road and extending to the E were 1st and 2nd c clay-walled buildings, some separated by narrow alleyways. All reflected the road alignment, including the earliest which were probably destroyed in the Boudican sack of London in AD 61. Many had plastered internal walls. Floors were predominantly of clay, with one notable exception, a polychrome mosaic uncovered to the SE. This mosaic, in a room possibly with an apsidal end, consisted of a square central panel of small white *tesserae*, in the centre of which a square within a circle were picked out in black. Alternating bands of black and white *tesserae* formed a narrow edge around the central panel, outside which larger squared red *tesserae* extended 1m (3.2ft) to the walls of the room. The structure was destroyed by fire in the 2nd c. Later Roman activity was represented by the NE corner of a substantial but heavily robbed masonry structure, possibly dating to the 3rd c and similar to those found at 7-10 Foster Lane.

Overlying the Roman sequence, dark earth survived only in small pockets. The site was extensively pitted during the medieval period and occupied from 1520, according to documentary sources, by Embroiderers' Hall. Near the Gutter Lane frontage, a single brick-lined cesspit, containing an assemblage of fine glass and pottery, appeared to be related to the Hall.

The rich finds are mostly Roman and post-medieval. The many Roman bone objects include a good selection of needles and pins, some complete, and among less usual finds, a whole bone *ligula*, half a bone skate, a whole spindlewhorl and part of a double-sided ivory comb. Roman ceramics include many samian stamps, mortaria stamps and several counters and lamps. Roman copper alloy objects include a brooch, coins and a lock and key. Roman glass includes flagons, jars and unguentaria. Among post-medieval pottery are many whole vessels. Post-medieval pins, studs and rings were recovered, and post-medieval glass comprised a range of forms, including many wine glasses, some with unusual decoration.

#### **58-60 Houndsditch TQ 3332 8140 (C. J. Mamwell).**

Excavations funded by Speyhawk plc were undertaken after demolition in August and September 1989. The Roman city wall was exposed running along the SW edge of the site: the stones of the outer face were cut away by later cellaring, leaving only the core. The surviving portion was 5m (16.5ft) long and 4m (13ft) high and is to be preserved. The visible foundations of the wall indicated a contemporary ground level of 12.03m OD. Although badly truncated, the associated defensive ditch, V-shaped in profile, clearly ran NW-SE in front of and parallel to the wall. The base of this ditch implied an original minimum depth relative to ground level of 2m (6.5ft). Eight burials, directly in front of the wall

or partly in the backfilled ditch and probably of late Roman date, comprised seven adults and one child: their bodies were extended and oriented in different directions. The medieval city defences were represented by the ditch, at least 18m (59ft) wide and, despite being badly truncated, one and possibly two recuts were distinguished. The ditch fills contained several complete dog skeletons.

**King's Bench Walk, Inner Temple TQ 3129 8100 (B. Watson).**

A watching brief funded by British Telecom was carried out during August 1989, when a shaft 3.9m (12.7ft) deep was excavated for new cabling. London Clay was located at a maximum height of 5.04m OD. Cutting into the clay were two successive features, possibly clay pits originally on the Thames foreshore. Both were backfilled with waterlogged silt and peat. The backfill of the later feature is dated to the 12th c and may coincide with documented occupation of the site by the Knights Templar. Both features were overlain by thick dumps of post-medieval rubble and soil.

**Docklands Light Railway Shaft, Lothbury, opposite Founder's Court TQ 3267 8126 (J. Hill, R. Malt, P. Rowsome).**

An excavation was conducted in 1988 as part of access works for the Docklands Light Railway extension to Bank. About 4m (13ft) of deposits were excavated in a vertical shaft 4.3m (14ft) in diameter. The work was funded by Olympia and York and DLR. Initial activity on the natural ground surface consisted of pitting and dumping; site was then prepared for construction of a large masonry building in the early 2nd c. Situated on the W bank of the middle Walbrook valley, it was probably an 'urban villa' with interconnected rooms and corridors around a central courtyard. Two rooms were excavated, separated by a N-S ragstone and tile wall with a doorway. The room to the W contained a hypocaust of unusual H-plan, with a central double flue and incised box flue tiles built into the walls, which were plastered and decoratively painted. Both rooms had floors of mixed red and black *tesserae* on a *opus signinum* base. Further to the S, a red tessellated floor was located in another room or corridor. In a major refurbishment, the hypocaust was replaced by another of more conventional form, tile *pilae* supporting a new tessellated floor at a higher level. The building was apparently abandoned towards the end of the 4th c and dark earth accumulated. A series of postholes and slots were cut into this deposit, within the partially upstanding Roman ruins, representing a small building of 10th-11th c date. This in turn was sealed by successive medieval and post-medieval road surfaces, culminating in the existing street. The site was partly truncated in the late 19th c by a public lavatory built under a traffic island.

**21-38 Mincing Lane, 85 Great Tower Street, 12-18 Mark Lane TQ 3326 8082 (B. Watson).**

A watching brief funded by Prudential Portfolio Managers Ltd was carried out during ground reduction and underpinning operations from April 1988 to January 1989. Although the site was extensive, existing basements had severely truncated archaeological strata. Among the intrusive features recorded were two chalk-lined wells. One well, constructed in the 13th or 14th c, was backfilled with cess and organic refuse, among which was a whalebone or walrus ivory hook cover with incised decoration showing a griffin or winged lion, of 12th or 13th c date. The other well, probably constructed in the 15th or 16th c, was backfilled in the 17th or 18th c with hearth rake-out or fire debris.

**143-171 Moorgate (Moorgate Hall) TQ 3274 8172 (A. Shotliff).**

Between February and November 1989 excavations were conducted partly before and partly after demolition. The work was funded by Land Securities (Management) Ltd.

Evidence for extramural Roman activity was not extensive. A single intact burial was found at the N end of the site and elsewhere many disarticulated human bones suggested there had been other burials in the area. A fragment of a copper alloy mirror, probably made in N Italy in the 1st c, may have come from a disturbed burial. The remains of the medieval *More Fyeld* marsh appeared as waterlain clays and silts. Cut through them were several large ditches running W-E, probably to drain the marsh. These ditches silted up naturally but were recut in places to prolong their usefulness. Partly contemporary with and partly succeeding the drainage ditches were extensive dumps rich in animal bone, leather waste and pottery. This domestic refuse was presumably carted out of the city and tipped into open areas at the side of the road as land fill. All later strata were truncated by modern basements and foundations.

**32-35 Queen Street TQ 3241 8090 21-26 Garlick Hill TQ 3237 8090 (C. Goode).**

Excavations and a watching brief at 32-35 Queen Street from June to August 1988 were conducted concurrently with a watching brief at 21-26 Garlick Hill, immediately to the W. The excavations, funded by Legal and General, were in two phases, taking in the rear of 6A Great St Thomas Apostle, to the N, when this was added to the development. The work in the site to the W was funded by Capital and Counties. Natural brickearth was overlain, to the E, by grey silt containing a prehistoric flint flake. Ragstone foundations of a Roman building were excavated to the E and a timber-lined well was recorded to the W. These were sealed by levelling-up dumps into which a large drainage ditch, running S, and a timber-lined pit were cut. Intrusive medieval features included a clay and timber-lined drain to the N, dated to the mid 11th-mid 13th c, a circular chalk-lined cesspit, backfilled in the 16th or 17th c, and chalk foundations associated with a cellar floor to the N. This floor comprised reused decorated glazed 14th-15th c tiles, surrounding reused plain glazed 16th c tiles. At the S and W edges of the site, chalk and brick medieval and post-medieval cellar walls survived, incorporated in existing party walls. To the W, the cobbled surface of Garlick Hill was recorded, dated to the 17th c, later raised to its existing level.

**40 Queen Street, 1 Skinners Lane TQ 3241 8085 (A. T. Mackinder).**

An excavation, funded by Ortem Developments Ltd, took place from September to November 1989.

The earliest features were three wooden drains and a post and plank revetment on the probable line of a Roman waterfront. These were succeeded by a large Roman masonry building having at least four rooms with worn brickearth and chalk floors and another room with a plain concrete floor. Disuse of this building was marked by much demolition debris filling it. Later dumps were cut by several pits, wall foundations and, to the N, early 17th c chalk-lined cesspits and the remains of post-Great Fire cellars. The latest features were a brick soakaway, a cesspit and a brick burial crypt, emptied and backfilled, associated with the church of St James Garlickhythe immediately to the W.

### **62-63 Queen Victoria Street (Ormond House) TQ 3235 8096 (J. Youle).**

An excavation, funded by MEPC Developments Ltd, took place in February and March 1989.

Natural gravels were cut by a series of Roman quarry and rubbish pits. They were infilled and sealed by brickearth and gravel dumps before the laying of an external gravel surface, which may have been part of a W-E road. All surviving Roman deposits are dated to the late 1st c, and were cut by intercutting cess, rubbish and storage pits dated to the 9th-14th c. One 12th-13th c cesspit was wattle-lined, with a surrounding privacy screen. This sequence was cut by later medieval chalk and ragstone foundations, which may have formed part of a building fronting onto Garlick Hill to the E. An early 18th c brick cellar, disused and infilled by 1800, probably belonged to one of a number of properties also fronting onto Garlick Hill, and a contemporary brick-lined well was probably located in an open space documented immediately to the W. Strata beneath Ormond House were heavily truncated by its construction in the 1960s, although survival was better to the E, where deposits had been less deeply truncated by 19th c coal cellars.

### **85 Queen Victoria Street (Dominant House) TQ 3223 8089 (N. Hammond, P. Rowsome, M. O'D. Shea & K. Wooldridge).**

This site comprised the W half of a scheduled ancient monument, the Huggin Hill Baths (partly excavated in 1972) and an area further to the W. A test pit survey in March 1988 and trial excavations between June and October 1988 were carried out to assess archaeological survival of the monument. Scheduled monument consent entailed major excavations between January and June 1989, running concurrently with demolition of the existing building. These and the trial excavations were funded by the Hammerson Group. In May 1989 an agreement was reached to preserve most of the Roman structural remains that had been found. Minor excavation and a watching brief, which included supervision of arrangements for preservation of the monument, continued until November 1989 (see LA 6 no. 3 (1989) 59-62). To the N, truncated natural gravel and, to the S, river-scoured natural gravel overlain by natural clay, reflected a steep slope down to the Thames. The earliest activity recorded was terracing of this slope in the 1st c. A lower terrace formed the construction level for a large masonry building of early to mid-Flavian date, thought to have been the main public baths of the city. Oak piles supported foundations of Kentish ragstone and concrete and, internally, a thick ragstone and concrete raft. The superstructure of the building, much of it built of tile, and retaining walls to N and W, survived up to a height of 3m (10ft). The building contained a suite of large rooms originally extending further to the E. To the W, two rooms heated by an interconnected hypocaust and containing fragments of a polychrome mosaic floor are identified provisionally as a double-apsed *caldarium* and a *tepidarium*. To the E, two unheated rooms, probably *frigidaria*, had internal corner-buttresses or pier bases and mosaic floors. Substantial masonry culverts and drains through the foundations carried off ground water. Many changes were made internally, a timber drain was inserted around the building to the W and, in the early 2nd c, another large double-apsed heated room was added. The terraced gravels to the W remained open ground; there was no sign of a waterfront revetment.

The baths were dismantled in the late 2nd c, valuable materials being salvaged, and evidence for glass and metal-working suggests that industrial use was then made of the ruins. Clay-and-timber domestic buildings were constructed during the 3rd c, incorporating surviving masonry. Two large ditches were cut through the ruins, draining to the S. Later features included a sunken building of 10th-11th c date, chalk foundations of other medieval buildings and, to the E, the tile-floored cellars of two 17th c brick buildings containing evidence of fire destruction. The site produced much Roman building material including several complete roof tiles. Some tile fragments bear a stamp, 'PPBRLON' or 'PPRBR', pertaining to the Procurator of the Province of Britain and may have been intended for use in an official building. Part of a Purbeck marble slab, inscribed ' . . . ]MAX/ . . . ]NIA', may have formed part of a dedicatory inscription. One of the drains consisted of nineteen sections of ceramic drain pipe *in situ*. Many fragments of Roman painted wall plaster were uncovered, some with elaborate and colourful designs.

Part of a late Roman or Saxon casket was found. The wooden box had decayed but its decorative bone mounts survived intact. It appears to have been empty when buried.

Many ceramic lamps were found including one in the form of the theatre mask of a slave, Flavian in date and probably made in Italy, and three late 1st or 2nd c Verulamium mica-dusted lamps, the only examples of such lamps known from London. Another unusual find is a limestone mould which would have been used in the production of small metal dishes. Roman glass finds include fragments of some high quality vessels and a spindle whorl.

### **Church of St Mary at Hill TQ 3307 8076 (B. Watson).**

The roof and parts of the interior of this standing building were badly damaged by fire in May 1988. Immediately afterwards, photographic and photogrammetric recording (the latter by the York Institute for Advanced Architectural Studies) was sponsored by HBMC. In October and November 1988, with a view to restoration of the church (a listed building), boreholes and test pits were recorded by the Museum of London and fire debris was examined and roof remains were surveyed *in situ* by HBMC.

Up to 3m (10ft) of archaeological strata under the church showed intercutting pits, probably of Roman date, followed by medieval and post-medieval burials. In the SE corner of the church was a brick-roofed burial vault, faced with reused Caen and Reigate stone. It was probably contemporary with the post-Great Fire rebuilding of the church by Wren, the stone deriving from the medieval church (see LA 5 no. 2 (1985) 50). The vault was emptied and sealed apparently in the late 19th c. The roof survey and the Museum of London's sorting of the ceiling plaster recovered from the fire have allowed a reconstruction (by R. Lea, HBMC) of the vaulted roof, built 1826-7, and a lantern and clerestory windows added in 1848-9, all to designs by James Savage.

### **63-71 St Mary Axe (Bunge House) TQ 3333 8139 (Stuart Gibson).**

Pre-demolition excavations and a watching brief in 1988 were funded by Bunge and Co. The line of the city wall, a scheduled ancient monument, crossed the site from NW to SE. A probable Roman ditch, heavily truncated, was traced in front of this line. It was succeeded by a medieval ditch, on the flat base of which animal hoof prints were detected. This ditch was recut, and later a post-medieval brick-lined drain inserted. All other remains, of the upstanding defences or of the associated medieval church of St Augustine Papey, demolished in the 16th c, were presumably destroyed when Bunge House was built in 1926.

### **2 Seething Lane TQ 3336 8078 (Sarah Gibson).**

Excavations after demolition between July and October 1988 were funded by British Land plc. A series of parallel Roman ditch segments may represent enclosures for animals, a function suggested by previous excavations in this area. Two medieval ragstone-built cellars were excavated,

one of which had been used finally as a cesspit. Several post-medieval buildings were located, with accompanying external areas containing rubbish pits and a brick-built soakaway.

The earliest finds are six prehistoric flints, including scraping and cutting tools. Roman finds include a rare piece of 1st c marbled glass. Medieval finds include a late Saxon single-sided antler comb, sixteen Penn floor-tiles and fragments of an imported pruned beaker. A post-medieval glass beaker of 16th or early 17th c date is a further import, from the Low Countries or the Rhineland.

#### **Thames Exchange, Upper Thames Street (Bell Wharf Lane) TQ 3245 8075 (M. Colquhoun, C. Milne, G. Milne, J. Stevenson & K. Tyler).**

An excavation and watching brief on a complex sequence of Thames-side land reclamation was undertaken between February 1988 and September 1989, funded by Kumagai Gumi UK Ltd.

The earliest waterfront structure recorded was a 35m (115ft) length of 3rd c Roman timber quay running W-E at the extreme N end of the site. It was robbed in antiquity and left to silt up. Built on the foreshore and sealing the disuse of the quay was a series of Saxon embankments raising the ground by up to 2m (6.5ft). They were of various types: post and plank revetments, vertically-set staves, clay banks consolidated with timbers as hardcore and wattle fences. Incorporated in some of these structures were remains of several boats, including clinker planking, a keel, ribs and a large mast partner. From the beginning of the Saxon sequence the waterfronts respected the N-S line of an inlet in the centre of the site, which developed into a property division later to be known as Three Cranes Lane. At least two other N-S property divisions were located and proved to be of Saxon origin. In the early medieval period the waterfront was advanced by successive earthen banks with cobbled ramps leading down onto the foreshore.

By the 12th c the transition had been made to large, complex, prefabricated revetments, which survived up to 2m (6.5ft) in height. These front and back-braced post and plank structures were initially earthfast but later incorporated baseplates as carpentry techniques improved. A notable example was a framed scissor-braced jetty with assembly marks, dated to the early 13th c. Major property divisions developed, influencing both the waterfront and associated buildings. Some traces of early Saxon buildings were recorded. A large 12th c warehouse with foundations of split beech logs and massive oak baulks was found to the E, and was replaced by more extensive buildings with chalk and ragstone foundations up to 1.5m (5ft) deep. At the extreme S of the site the base frame of Three Cranes Stairs was located, a major ferry terminal documented in the medieval period, continuing in use until Southwark Bridge was completed in 1819.

With the help of the Thames Mudlarks much metal-work was recovered from the site, in addition to worked bone and other organic artefacts. Roman finds include a boxwood scoop with a negroid head, a golden necklace decorated with glass beads, bone hair-pins and an amber intaglio, together with much Roman pottery from the foreshore deposits.

Late Saxon finds include a lead ring decorated with Anglo-Saxon runes, a copper equal-arm brooch, other lead brooches and some coiled wire beads. There were also bone awls, needles and a comb. A large collection of Saxon quernstones, imported as a partially worked stock from the Eifel Mountains, were recovered. A set of wooden pan-pipes was recovered from a Saxon context.

London's trading connections in the medieval period are revealed by weights and balances, French and German pottery, many foreign coins, two pewter spoons with Russian parallels and pilgrim badges of continental origin. Other badges include some from Thomas Becket's shrine, including a church-shaped ampulla. A pewter peacock and a fox staff head were also recovered. Industrial activity is attested by a stone metalworking mould and partially-manufactured buckles. Other items include knives, hones, tweezers and leather scabbards and shoes.

A post-medieval waterlogged pit contained several wooden bowls, two brooms, packing boxes, a panier and a child's ball and skittle, together with Spanish, German and English domestic pottery. There were also some industrial ceramics used in sugar refining.

#### **68 Upper Thames Street (Vintry House, Vintners' Place) TQ 3237 8081 (J. Ayre & R. Malt).**

Excavations were conducted from January to March 1989 in a N-S trench in the N part of a large, continuing Thames-side redevelopment (see also 69 Upper Thames Street, Vintners' Hall). The work was funded by Wates (City) Ltd. WC

The sequence began in the extreme N with part of a late Roman quay and foreshore to the S. Thick silting, suggesting slow-moving water and a rise in river level, was followed by two low wattle and clay embankments of Saxon date, running W-E. Land reclamation progressed and, further to the S, a late Saxon revetment was constructed with rough posts and planks, kept subsequently in repair. This revetment survived up to 1.2m (4ft) in height above the contemporary foreshore, where mooring posts, plaited rope fragments and boat timbers were well-preserved. Associated dumps to the N contained brushwood, rubble (including a fragment of Rhineland lava millstone) and decorated leather; these dumps were overlain by wattle surfacing, which may also have been associated with the revetment. The Saxon waterfront was sealed by dumping associated with further medieval reclamation, and across the site later intrusive features, such as medieval chalk foundations, pits and wood-lined structures, were truncated by 19th c basementing.

Well-preserved organic finds include a Saxon bone comb, needles and bodkins. Among many leather articles are a Saxon scabbard with tooled decoration, an almost complete shoe with patched sole and a boot fragment with fastenings. A notable Saxon wooden find is part of a rebated boat stem in oak, of Scandinavian type. Metal finds of all periods were retrieved, including Roman copper alloy coins and a Saxon silver coin, and an intact medieval copper ring and dress hook. Medieval iron objects include fish hooks, pins, needles, mounts and a knife, as well as many roves. Lead objects include a seal and various tokens.

#### **69 Upper Thames Street (Vintners' Hall) TQ 3239 8080 (R. Brown, L. Dyson & R. Malt).**

Excavations and an extensive watching brief have been conducted concurrently since October 1989 on part of a large Thames-side development at Vintry (see also Vintners Place, 68 Upper Thames Street). The project is funded by Wates City Ltd. WC.

A listed standing building at the N end of the site, Vintners' Hall, replacing an earlier hall destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, was examined during refurbishment. Test pits around its foundations revealed medieval chalk wall foundations, a faced ragstone wall and tile hearths and floors. Timber posts immediately to the S of the existing Hall may indicate a waterfront revetment. To the S, excavations revealed a sequence of four timber revetments, progressing in date from the 13th to the 16th c, succeeded by a masonry riverside wall further to the S. These structures produced well-preserved examples of medieval carpentry, including a form of scarf joint not recorded before in London. Metal artifacts include a 13th c St John the Baptist pilgrim badge from Amiens, several ampullae and some late medieval badges of allegiance.

Foreshore deposits removed from a coffer dam erected in the river were systematically metal-detected on site with the help of members of the

Thames Mudlark Society. Finds recovered were mostly 16th to 18th c, including small denomination coins, late 16th c tin tokens, an iron dagger, an unusual copper alloy sheet candlestick and a miniature lead cupboard, probably a toy. Also recovered were several pilgrim badges, an ampulla, buttons and a large group of 16th-17th c cloth seals presumably relating to dye-houses nearby. These seals include many London dyers, others from English counties as well as imports from France and Germany.

**1 and 6-10 Wardrobe Place, Wardrobe Terrace, 53-57 Carter Lane, 1-10 Addle Hill, 146A Queen Victoria Street TQ 3 189 8102 (B. Watson & J. Youle).**

Test pits examined in March 1988 verified the course of a large water channel running S across the site, probably of Roman origin with medieval reuse (see *LA* 5 no. 12 (1987) 328-34). A watching brief in October-December 1989 during refurbishment of 1 Wardrobe Place, funded by Haslemere Estates, recorded waterlain sediments within this channel. To the E, a trial excavation in the basement of 3-4 Addle Hill in June-July 1989, funded by Harry Neale, found two quarry pits, possibly Roman, cut into natural gravels and sealed by a thick dump of brickearth and gravel. Chalk rubble foundations to the NW, robbed out in the 17th or 18th c, and chalk and ragstone, and post-medieval brick foundations, to the E may have been related to buildings of the King's Wardrobe, known to have occupied this site between 1359 and 1666. WC

**1-7 Whittington Avenue TQ 3311 8117 (G. Brown & B. Pye).**

Excavations and a watching brief between June 1988 and September 1989 were funded by the developer, the Corporation of London.

At the beginning of the sequence, the naturally-sloping ground surface was raised with dumps of brickearth by c 0.3-0.4m (1ft). A road was constructed of rammed gravel and sand, c 5m (15.5ft) wide, running N-S and lined with clay-and-timber buildings. These were burnt down, perhaps in the Boudican revolt of AD 61. The two sides of the road then developed separately. To the W, cultivation was followed by use as a rubbish tip, while to the E, buildings of high quality were constructed, with flint foundations and tile sleeper walls.

A major redevelopment in the late 1st-early 2nd c was the construction of the basilica-forum complex and associated new roads. The N-S road was widened to c 9m (30ft) and another road was constructed to the N, crossing at a right angle. Timber-lined drains were laid to the E of the former road and to the S of the latter. Wooden pipes c 1.2m (4ft) long joined with iron collars were laid within the road gravels, supplying water to both public and private buildings. To the SW of the road junction the ground was raised and the basilica constructed on substantial ragstone and mortar foundations. The floors inside this major public building (the largest in Roman Britain) were of poor quality mortar and even brickearth. After a fire in the mid 2nd c, the basilica was renovated and a portico added to the E, with a floor of tiles laid in a herringbone pattern (*opus spicatum*). By the mid 3rd c the portico was dismantled, although the rest of the basilica continued in use. To the E of the N-S road were two large buildings, probably sharing a party wall. The N building, part of which was probably a shop, had stone foundations and both buildings had tessellated floors, hot air flues and walls decorated with painted plaster. They appear to have fallen into disuse by the 3rd c, and were overlain by destruction debris and dark earth.

Insertion of a late 19th c basement destroyed most of the later strata, but intrusive features survived. An early medieval well was cut through the basilican foundations, which were later robbed out. Various foundations survived from the later medieval period, some probably related to documented buildings, Green Yard Inn and the chapel of Leadenhall; others formed two chalk-lined cellars. To the NE of the site, a party wall incorporated masonry of c 14th c date, including 'chequer-board' decoration of chalk blocks and flints.

Finds of note include a Roman copper alloy handle decorated with swan's head terminals and a glass Medusa or Maenad medallion from a jug. Roman glass was prolific and included well-stratified 1st c groups. Roman building materials were present in substantial quantities. In addition to the well-made tessellated and herringbone floors, lengths of quarter-round plaster moulding occurred at floor and wall junctions. Much roof mortar was also preserved and marble fragments from a drain-lining were reconstructed as a near-complete decorative wall panel.

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**EXCAVATIONS ARE listed alphabetically. They are followed by the grid reference, the name of the director of the excavation, and the site code. I thank Andrew Westman for collating the entries, which are all from the Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology.**

**4-10 Artillery Lane TQ 3337 8168 (James Drummond-Murray) ARY89.**

A watching brief funded by Provident Life Association Ltd took place between April and June 1990, to monitor groundworks. The site lies in the area of a Roman extra-mural cemetery and evidence of burials was expected. In the event, all strata had already been removed by truncation and post-medieval landfill directly overlay natural gravels.

**26-30 Artillery Lane TQ 3343 8169 (Chris Goode) ALN89.**

Four test pits were recorded in the basement of a standing building in January 1989, by arrangement with Sheppard Robson, architects, for archaeological assessment of the site. Natural gravels and brickearth were truncated, in one of the test pits, by a cut feature containing post-medieval building debris. This was truncated in turn by a cesspit floored with stone flags and lined with yellow frogged bricks. There was no sign of Roman burials, which might have been expected on this extra-mural site.

**Tunnel at Bishopsgate and Wormwood St (S) TQ 3320 8142 - (N) TQ 3323 8148 (David Sankey) BTB89.**

Investigations between November 1989 and April 1990 in a British Telecom tunnel running N from the site of Bishopsgate, a scheduled ancient monument, revealed a foundation of flints and brickearth trench-built in natural brickearth, perhaps for a monument on the boundary of the Roman city, preceding the city wall. Adjoining this were later foundations of Kentish rag and clay, with mortared ragstones facing N, presumably representing the Roman gate. Further to the N a wide, flat-bottomed ditch is interpreted as a medieval recutting of the defensive ditch, no earlier ditch surviving. Subsequently a chalk-built arched foundation crossed this ditch, cutting waterlain sediments within it.

**274-280 Bishopsgate TQ 3339 8184 and 298-306 Bishopsgate TQ 3340 8190 (Niall Roycroft) PS090 and BOG89.**

A large redevelopment on the E side of Bishopsgate was resumed and excavations, funded by Spitalfields Developments Ltd, were carried out between February and April 1990, after demolition. These excavations were at 274-280 and 298-306, to the S and N respectively of areas

excavated in 1987-8, at 284-294 (see LA 6 no. 2 (1989) 46).

To the S nearly all strata were truncated to the level of natural gravels, in which at least 11 large circular features containing mixed brickearth and gravel are attributed to natural periglacial cryoturbation. They ran roughly SW-NE, along a possible spring line at the S edge of a brickearth capping to the gravels. To the N this brickearth was truncated by a very large Roman quarry pit. This had filled with water, which was then deliberately ponded. Later, thick marsh deposits accumulated. Smaller quarry pits to the S were infilled in the Roman period.

Parallel N-S ditches (also detected in 1987-8) indicated medieval drainage. To the N, a large tank or cistern was dug with a gravel base and timber-revetted sides; this was fed from the S and an outlet channel ran off to the N. This tank silted up and was then redug and slightly repositioned at least twice before being abandoned. It may have supplied clean water to the Hospital and Priory of St Mary without Bishopsgate, known to have been founded a short distance to the N, initially in the late 12th c and refounded in the mid-13th c. Similarly, a series of 4 burials to the extreme N were probably associated with this hospital (see also excavations at 1-2 Norton Folgate, LA 5 no. 6 (1986) 164, and at 4-12 Norton Folgate, and at 4, 15 and 38 Spital Square, LA 6 no. 3 (1989) 79-80).

These burials and the tank were sealed by the foundations, cellars and stone-lined cesspit of a substantial late medieval or 16th c building, fronting onto a N-S road directly to its E and, presumably, onto Bishopsgate to the W. This building, and other brick buildings to the S, survived until construction of the latest buildings on the site in the late 19th-20th c. Further to the S, remains of a timber-lined well, cess and rubbish pits and a brick-lined soakaway indicated medieval and later buildings, presumably also fronting onto Bishopsgate.

Among finds recovered was a spout from a 13th-14th c Kingston ware jug, in the shape of a dog's head.

#### **28 and 30 Bush Lane and 2 Suffolk Lane TQ 3267 8084 (Paul Travis) BSL88.**

Excavations were conducted in the basements of separate standing buildings at 28 and 30 Bush Lane from January to June 1990, before demolition. Test pits in the basement and the superstructure of a third building at 2 Suffolk Lane, to the E, were also recorded, until November 1990, during refurbishment. The site is part of a scheduled ancient monument, the presumed Roman governor's palace. 2 Suffolk Lane is listed as being of special architectural or historic interest. Work took place by arrangement with MEPC Developments Ltd.

Intrusions survived cut into natural brickearth and gravel. Substantial Roman mortared ragstone foundations running W and S probably represented walls retaining terraces up slope, at least to the N (where extensive Roman buildings were recorded in 1988-9, at 86-96 Cannon St: see LA 6 no. 2 (1989) 46-7). A large tile-built channel curving SE and part of a possible basin lined with opus signinum suggest elaborate drainage, subsequently abandoned. Later intrusive features included a N-S medieval chalk foundation and to the W a post-medieval brick-lined well, cesspit and a probable ice-house. Medieval moulded stones were reused, incorporated in the cellar walls of the 18th c building at 30 Bush Lane and forming windows, later superseded, in a brick cellar at 2 Suffolk Lane.

The earliest elements of the standing building at 2 Suffolk Lane were parts of separate post-Great Fire buildings, later combined and substantially rebuilt. Floors, a staircase, door and window cases, panelling and fine, decorative plasterwork, dated to the early or mid-18th c, survived from this rebuild. The S half of this building was then altered to serve as a warehouse and cast iron columns of early 19th c type were inserted. Later in the 19th c the entire building was refurbished as offices. Subsequent fire damage led to renewal of the roof and partial refacing of the walls.

#### **Youth Hostel, 36-8 Carter Lane TQ 3190 8107 (Sarah Gibson) YHA87.**

During refurbishment of a standing building, chalk foundations were recorded, possibly part of the medieval deanery of St Paul's Cathedral.

#### **1 Carter Court, 77 and 79 Carter Lane TQ 3176 8108 (Drew Shotliff) CAE90.**

A watching brief was carried out between August and November 1990, by arrangement with John Mather and Partners, architects, during the excavation of a new light well in Carter Court and lowering of an adjacent basement floor. 79 and 81 Carter Lane are both partly timber-framed, probably dating from the late 17th c, and are listed.

Internal ground works revealed a ragstone foundation running W-E, about 1.50m (5ft) wide, interpreted as part of the N wall of the nave of the late 13th c church of the friary of Blackfriars, documented on this site and previously identified nearby (see 7 Ludgate Broadway, LA 5 no. 6 (1986) 160, and 69 Carter Lane, LA 6 no. 6 (1990) 162). A freestanding ragstone foundation to the S, matched by a possible buttress on the N side of the wall, may represent part of a pier base for the nave arcade. Further to the S, excavation to a depth of 1.80m (6ft) revealed post-medieval dumps containing human bones, probably from disturbance of burials within the church. A late 16th-17th c brick-built cesspit abutted the S face of the wall of the church.

#### **Christchurch, Newgate St TQ 3199 8137 (Kevin Wooldridge) CIS89.**

Floor levels and two underlying brick vaults of the Wren post-Great Fire church were located during landscaping work by the Corporation of London.

#### **Cornhill, near Bank Station TQ 3275 8111 (Sarah Gibson) ORN90 .**

A Roman bowl and an amphora were recovered from deposits that were probably intrusive within natural strata, in a shaft dug by contractors for London Underground Ltd.

#### **20-6 Cutler St, 123-5 Houndsditch, 5-8 Clothier St TQ 3344 8 138 (Richard Sermon) CCT90.**

Excavations and a watching brief were undertaken from January to March 1990, after demolition. Work was funded by Greycoat Construction Ltd.

Natural gravels capped by brickearth were cut by early Roman quarry pits, into which at least one Roman mortar burial was inserted. Evidence survived of widespread medieval pitting, for disposal of rubbish and cess as well as for gravel extraction. Many pits contained quantities of human bone, including a trepanned skull, presumably from disturbance of pre-existing burials. In one case an attempt seems to have been made to re-inter bones on a W -E alignment. The sequence was completed by two post-medieval brick-lined wells and by pits containing domestic refuse, slag, burnt brick and crucible or mould fragments.

**30-40 Eastcheap, 37-9 St Mary at Hill TQ 3312 8078 (Michael Inzani) ECH88.**

Excavations were conducted in the basement of a standing building from October to December 1989, funded by Norwich Union Insurance Group.

Natural brickearth was cut by beam slots for a Roman timber framed building containing at least 8 small rooms, aligned to a presumed W-E road to the S. After this building was dismantled cess and rubbish pits were dug. Later strata were truncated and only intrusive features survived, including a medieval chalk-lined well repaired in brick and finally backfilled in the 17th c, and 3 post-medieval brick-lined cesspits and a possible ice-house. The chalk walls of medieval cellars, refaced in brick, also partly survived encased in the walls of the existing basement.

**143-9 Fenchurch St, 17-20 Cullum St TQ 3314 8095 (Sheena Macdonald) SAK90.**

Test pit sections were recorded in June 1990 and a small area was excavated in the basement of a standing building, before refurbishment and installation of a lift shaft. This work was funded by Nico Construction Ltd and took place by arrangement with Sedgwick Group Properties and Services Ltd.

Natural brickearth was levelled up with dumped brickearth in the Roman period in preparation for the construction of at least one building, evidenced only by floors. Three phases of flooring, the last being a black-and-white tessellated floor, ended in destruction by fire. The destruction debris was levelled and posts were inserted in what was probably then open ground. These features and later intrusive medieval pits were truncated by the brick foundations, partition walls and the cobbled floors of a post-medieval cellar.

**Fleet Valley between Blackfriars and Holborn Viaduct Stations (S) TQ 3167 8092 - (N) TQ 3171 8148 (Portia Askew, Stuart Bedford, John Chinca, Tom Dawson, Tim Ellis, Richard Greateorex, Bill McCann, Gavin Oulton & Nick Truckle) VAL88.**

A series of excavations, entailed by this very extensive redevelopment along the E side of the lower valley of the River Fleet, began in 1988 and ended in September 1990 (see LA 6 no. 6 (1990) 163). Work was funded by Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments PLC.

N of the prehistoric confluence of the Fleet and the River Thames (under and to the N of Queen Victoria St), contemporary skeletal remains of an infant were recovered, together with worked flints. In the late 1st or early 2nd c a substantial timber revetment, incorporating reused drain timbers, was built running N-S along a meander of the Fleet. Nearby timber posts, possibly a contemporary structure, were associated with deposits of wheat chaff. To the S (S of Ludgate Hill) a large building fronting the Fleet may have served as a warehouse. Timber posts and a sill beam were set on ragstone foundations; associated occupation deposits are dated also to the late 1st-early 2nd c. Subsequently this was abandoned.

Land reclamation and timber revetments of mid to late Saxon date were identified S of Ludgate Hill. To the NW (under the E side of Ludgate Circus) substantial Saxo-Norman timbers formed the E abutment of a bridge over the Fleet. Further to the S (E of New Bridge St) deposits representing medieval reclamation and waterfront occupation were cut by part of the extension of the city wall, dating to the 13th c, over 80m (260ft) long and surviving up to 2.50m (8ft) above foundation level. This ran from E to W, from Ludgate to the Fleet, faced with Kentish rag, with a long return to the S, along the line of the E bank of the Fleet. The outer (W) face of the latter stretch was partly battered and built of ashlar blocks of Kentish rag. The internal face was stepped and built with squared blocks of chalk.

Several phases of the medieval Fleet Prison, with a moat to the E, were identified (E of Farringdon St), the earliest structures being two substantial polygonal masonry foundations. The N and S ends of the perimeter wall of the prison were recorded, including medieval and post-medieval repairs.

Much re-used or discarded timber and stone was recovered. They included staves, heads and hoops from c 40 casks, primary evidence for medieval cooperage, and c 500 moulded stones, ranging in date and type from a 12th c window arch to 19th c artificial stone from the original railway station at Ludgate Hill. During the redevelopment the railway line was repositioned to run under Ludgate Hill and the previous railway bridge over this street was demolished. Part of the W-E stretch of the medieval extension of the city wall was demolished but the longer stretch running N-S is to be preserved in the basement of new buildings.

The site produced a notable quantity of late medieval and post-medieval objects, recovery of which was enhanced by wet-sieving and by metal-detecting of deposits. The former technique was used, in particular, to retrieve the contents of an early 17th c brick-lined drain. Finds recovered elsewhere include bone objects such as combs and thread-pickers of late Saxon date, several pilgrim badges, much waste from the production of hone-stones, a complete Kingston ware jug of previously unrecorded form and several post-medieval medical implements.

**32 Furnival St TQ 3121 8149 (Jonathan Henderson, Richard Sermon) FUL89 .**

Test pits were recorded in April and May 1989 and a watching brief was carried out from July to October 1990, funded by J V Developments Ltd. Evidence for quarrying of gravel underlying natural brickearth was probably of Roman date. These quarry pits, backfilled with brickearth, were truncated by the brick foundations, walls and stone floor flags of 17th or 18th c cellars. The latest building, probably of early 19th c date, was recorded before demolition. This comprised a cellar and 3 floors with timber floor frames, stud partition walls and roof, within a brick shell.

**Cripplegate House, Golden Lane TQ 3229 8199 (Sarah Gibson) CPG90.**

Roman quarry pits and medieval rubbish pits were recorded during ground reduction, work being funded by Golden Lane Properties Ltd.

**55-8 Gracechurch St and Brabant House, St Benet's Place TQ 3299 8088 (Gerry Martin) RAC90.**

Excavations funded by Land Securities Properties Ltd took place from July to September 1990, after demolition.

The earliest feature, cut into natural brickearth, was a pit containing Late Bronze Age pottery. Traces of early Roman occupation, consisting of parallel gullies running N-S, were followed by a substantial building, to the E. Part of this comprised foundations of unmortared Kentish ragstone in rows up to 1m (3.3ft) apart, infilled with flints, topped by rammed clay and sand and then a thick opus signinum floor. Possible imprints of *pilae* in this floor surface suggest the existence of a hypocaust. To the S and W were less substantial floors of mortar and brickearth. Later a very large pit, at least 15m (49ft) in diameter and 6m (20ft) deep, was dug to the S; the function of this pit, backfilled in the early 2nd c, was unclear. To the W were stakeholes, slots, two wells and a series of intercutting pits. Among later features only intrusive medieval pits, a chalk-lined cesspit and post-medieval brick-lined wells or soakaways survived modern truncation.

Several complete pottery vessels were recovered, including Roman decorated hunting cups, and a mid-10th to mid-13th c red-painted ware spouted pitcher with finger prints on the inside.

### **1-3 Great St Thomas Apostle TQ 3240 8092 (David Lawrence) THM89.**

Excavations funded by London Underground Ltd, formerly London Regional Transport, took place in the basement of a standing building in April 1990, before demolition.

A line of stakes running N-S in natural brickearth was sealed by thick dumps of brickearth containing burnt building debris. Large pits were then opened for rubbish and cess, and fragmentary slots suggest that a timber-framed building may have been erected, also aligned N-S. All post-Roman strata were truncated by modern foundations, the basement and the underground railway.

Notable finds from the dumps include a complete copper alloy hinged ruler and a glass gaming counter.

### **13-14 Great St Thomas Apostle TQ 3239 8095 (Mark Hinman) GTA89.**

Excavations funded by Poly Property Ltd took place between November 1989 and February 1990, after demolition.

Natural brickearth was overlain by redeposited brickearth and two successive Roman clay-and-timber buildings were constructed. Both buildings burned down. No further horizontal strata survived subsequent truncation. To the E were intrusive Saxo-Norman rubbish pits and to the W foundations and cellars of a large medieval building. The cellars were entered by stone stairs, the lowest steps of which, with part of an adjacent stone door jamb, were still *in situ*. A large chalk-lined cesspit was inserted to the N, backfilled in the 17th c, and brick cellar floors were inserted elsewhere.

The party wall along the W side of the site at basement level, forming 3 blind arches, was of post-Great Fire construction, reusing a variety of building materials. These included several moulded stones perhaps deriving from the nearby church of St Thomas Apostle, destroyed in the Great Fire and not rebuilt.

The most notable find is a middle or late Saxon hipped bone pin with an expanded head and with cruciform and ring-and-dot decoration.

### **Pinner's Hall, Great Winchester St and 8 Austin Friars Square, and 105-8 Old Broad St TQ 3298 8139 (Catherine Rosborough) GWS89.**

Post-demolition excavations, funded by the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund, were conducted between May and July 1990, followed by a watching brief.

The earliest evidence of activity, cutting natural gravels and brickearth, was a U-shaped ditch or gully running W-E across the site, to the N, and a well, to the S, both of early Roman date. Widespread gravel quarrying ensued. The quarry pits were backfilled and the ground consolidated, presumably in preparation for possible construction, all further evidence of which was truncated.

In the early medieval period, the site was open ground containing rubbish and cess pits, and 3 barrel-lined wells. It lay within the documented precincts of the Augustinian friary of Austin Friars, founded in the 13th c. Short lengths of masonry foundations, in several phases, were exposed and c 200 fragments of moulded stone, including column bases and window tracery, were recovered from destruction debris or found re-used in later foundations. Few later features survived severe modern truncation.

Finds from the site include a good assemblage of mid-1st c pottery, the earliest such assemblage found in the City of London, a complete Roman millstone from a water-mill, medieval crucibles and bone skates, and a post-medieval crucible for glass making, with glass slag.

### **50 Gresham St TQ 3252 8128 (Damian De Rosa) GRM90.**

Excavations were carried out in the basement of a standing building in March 1990, funded by the Corporation of London.

The surface of natural brickearth was covered by an area of burning. This was cut by domestic rubbish pits, which were followed in turn by dumps, pits and a metallised surface, all suggesting continuously open ground. A layer of demolition debris was superseded by 'dark earth'. This was cut by two sets of pits, one possibly late Roman, the other medieval, including a wood- or wicker-lined cesspit. A later wall built of chalk blocks may have formed part of a medieval cellar or cesspit. This and other deposits were truncated by the foundations and basement of the latest building.

### **Tunnel in High Timber St and Stew Lane TQ 3223 8083 (Julian Ayre, Sarah Gibson & Dick Malt) TIM90 .**

Medieval foreshore deposits were recorded, at Ordnance Datum (mean sea level), during construction of new sewer connections.

### **45-50 Holborn Viaduct (Atlantic House) TQ 3153 8158 (Peter Durnford) ATL89.**

Test pits were recorded in the basement and sub-basements of a standing building between October 1989 and February 1990, for archaeological assessment of the site, funded by Prudential Portfolio Managers Ltd. Along the E side of the site, lying on the W bank of the River Fleet, remains of a possible medieval timber revetment were set in natural river gravels and silt. To the extreme S, mortared chalk, rag and Reigate stone may have been a foundation for the documented medieval bridge carrying Holborn (the road) over the Fleet. Thick organic dumps elsewhere were cut by medieval pits, one wicker-lined, and post-medieval brick foundations and drains.

### **78 Laurence Pountney Hill, 9 Laurence Pountney Lane (Rectory House) TQ 3273 8078 (Jon Mills) REC89.**

Test pits were recorded in the basement of a standing building, during refurbishment. This building is of late 17th c date and listed as of special architectural or historic interest. The work was carried out intermittently in 1989 and early 1990, by arrangement with Seifert Ltd, architects. Natural strata were not reached. The earliest features identified were two ragstone wall foundations running N-S, possibly related to the presumed Roman governor's palace to the W. This masonry was later incorporated in medieval chalk foundations, mostly running W-E. Post-medieval deposits and a brick-lined culvert, to the W, probably predated the existing building.

### **78-9 Leadenhall St TQ 3344 8113 (Chris Goode & Sarah Jones) LHN89.**

Excavation took place in several phases between January and April 1990, after demolition. Work was sponsored by P & O Developments Ltd. The earliest evidence of human activity was a linear cut running roughly NW-SE, cut into natural brickearth. Brickearth was then dumped across the site, compensating for the natural slope. Subsequent stake holes and post holes, possible structural slots, and accumulated layers of burning and redeposited burnt debris, interspersed with occasional resurfacing of clean brickearth, are interpreted as external and of Roman date. An



isolated clay-and timber wall running roughly NW-SE was destroyed by fire; any associated floor surfaces were probably removed by later truncation. An isolated patch of rammed gravel to the W is assumed to be a continuation of the Roman street found in previous excavations to the SW (see 80-84 Leadenhall St, LA 6 no. 2 (1989) 50-1).

To the S, ragstone foundations aligned NW-SE were succeeded by chalk foundations on the same alignment; no construction horizons or floors survived. A total of 59 burials, concentrated mostly to the W, partly overlay the latter foundations. These burials, associated with the church of St Katharine Cree to the W and with Holy Trinity Priory to the N, were truncated by the latest, modern features on the site.

Finds of note include a late Saxon composite bone comb and case from a pit predating the burials, the second of its kind to be found in London, a late Saxon glass linen smoother and an Anglo-Norman bone skate.

#### **145-6 Leadenhall St TQ 3311 8115 (Jerry Youle) LEN89.**

A post-demolition excavation was carried out between October and December 1989, funded by Pension Funds Securities Ltd.

Natural gravels and brickearth were cut by early Roman quarry pits, associated with stakeholes possibly forming a small structure. The pits were backfilled and the site levelled in preparation for construction of a timber-framed building with brickearth walling and floors. This contained at least 3 rooms and adjoined a yard to the N. The walls were reinforced in a phase of repair before the building was demolished, and quarry and rubbish pits opened. In the early 2nd c two new clay-and-timber buildings were erected. Hearths, rake-out debris and iron slag in the building to the N suggest that it was a smithy. A pit in an open area to the S contained two human skulls. Later Roman features included, to the S, a tile-lined drain leading to a complete amphora set into the ground, perhaps for collecting rain water, and to the N a clay and tile-lined kiln or oven. No other features survived severe later truncation except intrusive medieval wells and rubbish and cesspits.

Deposits of all periods were extensively sampled for environmental evidence. Finds from the site are mostly of Roman date and include fragments of painted wall plaster, decorated oil lamps, copper alloy brooches and fragments of shale bowls and platters. The most notable object is a Roman copper alloy saucepan, surviving in poor condition; complete saucepans are rarely found in Britain.

#### **9-10 Little Britain TQ 3208 8151 (Ian Greig & David Lakin) LBT86.**

Sections were recorded in February 1990 in a machine-dug trench behind the existing street facades, which were retained. This work was initiated by Fitzroy Robinson Partnership and funded by Wimpey Construction Management in an attempt to locate the house of John Bray, where Rev Charles Wesley was lodging in 1738 when he experienced religious conversion.

The sequence of natural brickearth, possible Roman quarrying, further natural accumulation, medieval pitting and ditching, and a chalk foundation resembled that already recorded to the N, on this extensive development (see LA 5 no. 14 (1988) 385, 6 no. 2 (1989) 51). A post-medieval brick-lined well to the E, at 9 Little Britain, was truncated like other features by insertion of the basements of the existing 19th c buildings. No archaeological evidence was found to confirm the documented location of John Bray's house.

#### **100 Lower Thames St (Billingsgate Roman Bath House) TQ 3313 8069 (Jeremy Oetgen) BBH87, BIL75.**

Extensive recording of Roman remains preserved in the basement of a modern building took place between October 1989 and October 1990, for the Corporation of London. These remains, representing a substantial late Roman building with hypocausted rooms, were discovered in 1848 during construction of the Coal Exchange. After further excavation by Peter Marsden during redevelopment in 1968-75, they were scheduled as an ancient monument and were last investigated archaeologically in 1987 (see LA 5 no. 14 (1988) 385).

The archaeological recording was in conjunction with conservation work undertaken by Nimbus Conservation Group and environmental monitoring by Ridout Associates. Limited excavation also took place where appropriate, revealing the monument more clearly and providing more dating evidence, in preparation for eventual public display.

Under the N wing of the building timber piles were badly rotted and dendrochronology was not feasible. A timber-lined drain was located there, running S. To the E, beside the W wing and along a road beside the E wing, other timber and tile-lined drains were exposed and their silt fills sampled for environmental evidence. Hypocaust pilae and floors, and masonry wall footing, were taken apart to remove modern cement-based consolidant and reconsolidated with lime-based mortars. Deposits sealing the partly destroyed or abandoned building were excavated, including 'hillwash' to the E and collapsed roof-tiles to the W, where an underlying mosaic floor was fully exposed, recorded and relaid.

#### **25-7 Ludgate Hill TQ 3183 8113 (Bruce Watson) PIC87.**

Excavations funded by Eagle Star Properties Ltd were undertaken from December 1989 to February 1990, after demolition. These were to the N of two previous areas of excavation in this development (see 54-66 Carter Lane, LA 6 no. 2 (1989) 47).

The earliest features, cut into natural sand and gravels, were a Roman well and a Saxon pit. Immediately S of Ludgate Hill and parallel to the street frontage was a large V-shaped ditch. This is of uncertain date but is presumed to be part of the N defences of a Norman fortress, Monfichet's Tower, documented in this area. Cess and rubbish pits, and a stone-built garderobe pit of probable 16th c date, were cut into the infill of this ditch. Medieval pits also survived truncation elsewhere.

Among the finds were, in one pit, a jug with incised decoration of a 'lion rampant', dated to the 12th-13th c, and several complete medieval cooking pots.

#### **1-3 Ludgate Square TQ 3183 8111 (Bruce Watson) PAL86.**

A watching brief was carried out during underpinning of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouse, where medieval masonry was uncovered and recorded in 1986-7 (see 54-56 Carter Lane, LA 6 no. 2 (1989) 47). Work funded by Eagle Star Properties Ltd, was suspended when the building burned down in February 1990. An unlined well of Roman date and several cess and rubbish pits of uncertain date were cut into natural brickearth and, in turn, truncated by the foundations and basement of the latest building.

#### **Mansion House Station, 38 Cannon St TQ 3234 8096 (Jerry Youle) MHS89.**

A watching brief was conducted by arrangement with MEPC Developments Ltd in February-March 1990 during rebuilding of the underground station and after demolition of a building immediately to the W where excavations took place in 1989 (see 62-3 Queen Victoria St, LA 6 no. 6 (1990) 165).

Natural brickearth overlying gravels survived to the N, where disturbed soil horizons possibly indicated Roman agriculture. Elsewhere, natural strata were truncated by Roman quarry and rubbish pits, backfilled with brickearth and burnt building debris. Later intrusive features included trench-built chalk and gravel foundations, and cess and rubbish pits, which were probably medieval, and a brick and ragstone structure that was probably post-medieval.

#### **51-60 Mark Lane (Corn Exchange) and 58 Mark Lane (Cereal House) TQ 3333 8077 (Douglas Hart) RON90.**

Excavations were conducted in April-May 1990 within the single basement of a standing building at 58 Mark Lane. A watching brief continues on the rest of the development, to the E and S at 51-60 Mark Lane, which is double-basemented. Work is funded by the British Land Company PLC.

The site straddles a small valley running from NE to SW. A ditch crossed this, perhaps to enclose animals. Later a Roman timber framed building and a timber-lined well were built. They went out of use and rubbish pits were dug in what was then open ground. Surviving medieval features included rubbish pits and a large chalk-lined cesspit. These were succeeded by brick foundations, identified with the Corn Exchange, documented here from the 18th c and several times rebuilt.

#### **Middle St (Hand and Shears public house) TQ 3201 8176 (Tony Mackinder) HAS90.**

A watching brief during underpinning and refurbishment of a standing building revealed evidence of a wall running NE-SW, possibly medieval and subsequently robbed, and a burial, probably associated with the Priory, or later, the parish church of St Bartholomew the Great, to the W. The existing brick and timber-framed building, mainly 19th c in date, incorporated older, reused timbers, and had been underpinned previously. Work was undertaken by arrangement with Neil Kirsop and Co, surveyors.

#### **1-3 Pemberton Row TQ 3135 8125 (Jim Heathcote & Sad Gibson) PEM90.**

A medieval ditch, garden soil and post-medieval rubbish pits were recorded during underpinning works.

#### **5 Pilgrim St TQ 3178 8112 (Bruce Watson) PIL75.**

A watching brief took place in June-July 1990 during ground reduction and underpinning, by arrangement with Elsworth Sykes Partnership, architects. Previous ground works on this site, on the line of the Roman and early medieval city wall, were watched by the Museum of London in 1975. To the W cess and rubbish pits were cut into natural gravels, and cut in turn by a feature running S-N, perhaps a robbed out medieval or post-medieval wall. No sign of the city defences was seen.

#### **St Botolph, Aldgate T Q 3358 8120 (Julian Ayre, Sean O'Connor) SAB87.**

Excavations took place between April and July 1990 inside a crypt at the S end of the church of St Botolph-without-Aldgate, before conversion of the crypt into offices. These excavations, sponsored by the London Diocesan Fund, augmented watching briefs conducted in 1986-7, before clearance of burials from the crypt (see L45 no. 10 (1987) 273).

Natural brickearth was overlain by brickearth dumps and a clay-and-timber building of Roman date. This burned down and the site was levelled, becoming a yard or open area. Later cess and rubbish pits were in turn truncated by foundations of rammed gravel and chalk for a W-E wall and, to the S, by a series of at least 17 burials orientated W-E. The latter may date from the 10th-11th c and were probably associated with the wall, indicating that the church was in existence then. Another W-E wall built further to the S, including 2 courses of a wall face in Kentish rag and part of a door sill in Reigate stone, probably marked the later addition of a S aisle or porch, encroaching onto the cemetery. The church became dilapidated and was rebuilt in the mid-18th c on a different alignment, nearly S-N, to a plan by George Dance the elder: this is the existing brick building. The brick vaulted crypt added to the S included in its foundations and lower courses stone fragments of c 14th c window tracery and 17th c *tomb monuments*, presumably reused from the previous church. This crypt was filled with burials and sealed in the 19th c, except for the later interment of a head, reputedly that of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, executed in 1554. The excavators recovered this head and the parish reinterred it in the churchyard.

#### **St Helen, Bishopsgate TQ 3321 8127 (David Lakin) HEL86.**

A programme of repointing and consolidation of the stonework of the church of St Helen, Bishopsgate, begun in 1986 on the S wall (see LA 5 no. 14 (1988) 383), continued round the N and E walls of the nave and chancel. The external faces of the latter walls were archaeologically recorded between November 1989 and April 1990, work being funded by the parish and the City Churches Grants Committee.

Possible traces of a wall of the original parish church, documented in the 12th c, were identified in the S half of the E wall of the chancel. Most of the existing fabric is attributable to the extension and conversion of the church into a Benedictine nunnery in the 13th c. The roof line and possible vaulting on the S side of the cloister and traces of the adjoining E range were visible in the N wall of the nave and chancel. Pre-Dissolution modifications included enlargement of windows and the addition of a parapet; post-Dissolution alterations were also recorded.

#### **25-51 St Mary Axe and 9 St Helen's Place TQ 3326 8131 (Nicholas Elsdon & Vicki Ridgeway) SAY88.**

Excavations funded by Spaxe Properties Ltd were conducted in several phases both before and after demolition, between July 1989 and August 1990.

Natural sand and gravels capped by brickearth were quarried in the earliest activity on the site, beginning in and perhaps confined to the Roman period. The quarries were infilled and overlain by dumps containing a large quantity of Roman painted wall plaster. These dumps were truncated by early medieval pitting for disposal of domestic rubbish and cess.

The Priory of St Helen was founded to the W of the site, in the 13th c. The chalk core of a wall and substantial foundations running N-S across the site, on the documented line of the Priory boundary, were presumably the remains of its precinct wall, surviving embedded in later walls. Within the precinct were deposits of garden soil, cut by rubbish pits. There were also chalk-lined cellars of two buildings, either contemporary with the Priory or belonging to the period immediately after its dissolution. The walls of one cellar, to the S, were faced with squared blocks, about half of them scratched with Roman numerals, probably masons' batchmarks. Brick-lined slots surviving in two corners probably held

beams for a floor, stairs or some other structure. A ditch ran parallel to the Priory boundary and there were extensive dumps of waste possibly from an industrial process such as bell-founding. To the E, outside the precinct, foundations of rammed chalk and gravel probably represented pier bases in the church of St Mary Axe, documented from the 12th c and converted to secular use in the 16th c. To its S, the associated graveyard was marked by 9 burials; there were also two pits containing c 150 skeletons, without skulls, probably reinterred in the course of mid-20th c redevelopment. Post medieval brick cesspits, cellar walls and a well were also recorded.

The Roman painted wall plaster in the dumped deposits was of fine quality with a wide variety of colours, most still in very good condition. Designs partly pieced together include a column, roundels and other architectural motifs. Later deposits from within a 14th c pit were sieved, yielding much scrap from the manufacture of fancy knife handles: these had bone scales inlaid with jet and amber, and sheet copper alloy and iron endcaps and shoulder bolsters. Only one knife of comparable form has been excavated hitherto in London.

#### **St Peter, Cornhill TQ 3302 8111 (Julian Ayre, Sarah Gibson & Bruce Watson) PTE90.**

A watching brief was conducted during insertion of ground beams and renovation of the floor of the nave of the church of St Peter-upon-Cornhill, in August and September 1990, funded by the Proclamation Trust. Strata were removed to a maximum depth of 1m (3.3ft), revealing column bases of the nave arcade, consisting of reused stone. A brick burial vault, memorial stones, lead coffins, coffin fragments and disarticulated human bone were also recorded. The burial vault was cleared in the 19th c, probably before refurbishment in 1889, when a mosaic tile floor was laid and pews were installed.

#### **Tallow Chandlers' Hall, 4 Dowgate Hill TQ 3254 8088 (James Drummond-Murray) TAH90.**

Insertion of new drain runs and floor slab in the basement of Tallow Chandlers' Hall, a post-Great Fire building and a scheduled ancient monument, entailed a watching brief in July 1990, in accordance with scheduled monument consent. This was funded by the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers.

A masonry foundation at least 1.50m (5ft) wide, running N-S, is interpreted as representing a Roman wall on the W bank of the Walbrook or possibly a building to the W of the bank. Dumps in the Walbrook valley were cut by masonry foundations for an internal partition wall running W-E, associated with a beaten clay floor, probably part of the kitchen under the original medieval hall. This was sealed by demolition debris derived from destruction of the hall in the Great Fire. Oak sill beams, oak joists and pine studs, with lath and plaster, survived from the rebuild of the hall, behind modern refacing in the existing basement.

#### **Tunnel in Threadneedle St TQ 3290 8120 (David Sankey & Drew Shotliff) TED90.**

Remains of a Roman building with masonry wall foundations and tile and *opus signinum* floors were recorded in a tunnel under the existing street.

#### **Vintry House, Vintry Place TQ 3239 8080 (Robin Brown, Lis Dyson & Dick Malt) VHA89, VRY89.**

An extensive watching brief has continued on this large Thames side development since 1989, preparatory to excavations that are expected to take place in 1991 (see 68 and 69 Upper Thames St, LA 6 no. 6 (1990) 167), by arrangement with Wates (City) Ltd.

Roman and early Saxon deposits were overlain by naturally-lain alluvial mud, indicating a rapid rise in sea level. This was followed by a sequence of buildings, dated to the 10th-early 11th c, with walls and roofs supported by posts. Wattle stakes marked internal partitions or structures; one building had at least 6 successive floors, one made of planks and others marked by brushwood and compacted silt; and timber edging to a tile hearth was repaired at least once. Outside the buildings were wattle fences; waterlain sand and gravel against the S face of one of these showed that it had acted as a riverside revetment.

At least 6 further revetments have been recorded, dated by their carpentry from the 12th to the 16th c, indicating progressive reclamation and migration of the waterfront to the S. Carpentry techniques include a form of scarf joint not recorded before in London and a back-braced edge-trenched mortice and tenon joint dove-tailed in three directions. The latest revetment, a chalk and Kentish rag wall founded on an elm timber raft, was on the line of the existing riverside wall. To the N chalk foundations, including some built on split beech timber rafts, indicated buildings on the reclaimed land.

To the S of the existing Vintners' Hall was a set of tile-built hearths, separated by low tile walls and extended and repaired, reusing roof tiles on edge, at least three times. These were probably part of the kitchens of the original hall, in use until the Great Fire of 1666 when the hall was destroyed. Other strata were removed by modern basementing and foundations.

Spoil from the pile holes on the site was metal-detected with the help of members of the Society of Thames Mudlarks, producing a very large assemblage of well-preserved early and late medieval ceramic and inorganic finds. In addition to large quantities of dress fittings, coins, trade seals and waste products of metal working, numerous badges were found commemorating pilgrimage and denoting personal allegiance. Notable in the latter category is a small pewter hart-and-tree badge used by Richard II and his followers, the first example found in London. Deposits in the coffer dam in the river produced a large pewter plate with the letter V on it, possibly signifying its use by the Vintners' Company. Other finds from the coffer dam include an elaborate pewter crucifix badge of late 14th-15th c date, a 15th c Talbot badge of allegiance to the Earls of Shrewsbury and a small lead ingot with the mark of the Plumbers' Company, paralleled by one found at Nonsuch Palace, Surrey. A wattle-lined cesspit at the N end of the site contained two almost complete wooden bowls, a large boxwood comb and Spanish and German pottery of late medieval date.

#### **Wardrobe Court, 9-10 Wardrobe Place and 1-2 Addle Hill, and 57 Carter Lane TQ 3189 8104 (Caroline Mamwell) WAP88.**

Trial excavations funded by Warnford Investments PLC were conducted in the basements of two standing buildings to the N and E of recent excavations and watching brief observations (see LA 6 no. 6 (1990) 167). Quarry pits for brickearth were identified and the form of the 'western stream' of the Roman city (see LA 5 no. 12 (1987) 328-334) clarified at this part of its course. The latter channel was steeply incised on its E side to a relative depth of at least 4m (13ft); it had a flat base and was at least 14m (46ft) wide. The waterlain silts filling the channel contained pottery of early medieval date, indicating that it remained open until then. Later intrusive features included post-medieval brick-lined cesspits and an adjacent well.

**24-30 West Smithfield, 18-20 Cock Lane, 1-4 Giltspur St TQ 3181 8153 (Brona Langton) WES89.**

Excavations were carried out in the single basements of standing buildings at 1-4 Giltspur St and 18 Cock Lane, in May and June 1989. After demolition of these buildings further excavation took place both there and in an unbasemented area to the N and W, next to 24-30 West Smithfield, from September to December 1989, followed by a watching brief. This work was by arrangement with Vestey Estates Ltd, formerly Commercial Properties Ltd.

Natural sand and gravels were cut by pits, one of which contained Late Bronze Age pottery. In the early Roman period pits were dug to quarry gravel. These were then backfilled with rubbish or left to silt up. Later the site was partly levelled up with brickearth, pits were dug and hearths were used, perhaps for an industrial purpose. These features were truncated by a series of at least 127 burials, forming part of an extensive late Roman cemetery. These burials, including 14 chalk burials, were orientated variously, but generally N-S or W-E. The density of burials was variably localised, some phases of graves coinciding with pitting and rubbish disposal and one small area remaining free both of graves and pits. The cemetery deposits were cut by intrusive medieval rubbish or sand-lined pits, chalk foundations and gravelled surfaces, cut in turn by post-medieval brick cellar floors, drains and wall foundations.

The Late Bronze Age pottery is a substantial bucket urn of post-Deverel-Rimbury type. It is unusual to find a complete vessel of this kind in the City. One of the Roman burials, of a child, contained 10 bracelets of shale, copper and bone, as well as a silver earring and a glass bead necklace. Another grave contained 5 copper alloy bracelets, a silver earring and an intact Nene Valley ware colour-coated beaker. A jet necklace of more than 220 beads in segmented, faceted and other shapes was found with another burial. Two burials were accompanied by decorated bone combs, one of which is a rare form: a double-sided comb made of composite materials, dated to the 4th c. One of these combs was situated behind the skull and was presumably a hair comb *in situ*. A copper alloy ring was found on the finger of another skeleton. One body was buried with a wooden box containing jewellery and cosmetic equipment.

Among other finds were an iron barrel-lock, key and chain, in a medieval pit, and a bone syringe, copper alloy candle snuffers and a large 17th-early 18th c Staffordshire slipware dish.

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**EXCAVATIONS ARE listed alphabetically. They are followed by the grid reference, the name of the director(s) of the excavation, and the site code. All entries are from the (then) Department of Urban Archaeology of the Museum of London.**

**1 Amen Court TQ 3185 8122 ( Sarah Gibson, David Lakin, Andrew Westman) MEN91.**

Limited recording took place from August to October 1991 during refurbishment of a standing building, listed as being of architectural and historic interest. The work was funded by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral. Pitfills and garden soil were cut by mortared chalk foundations, at cellar level. These foundations were truncated by the existing building, the furthest to the E in a terrace of three houses documented as having been constructed in the 1670s for canons residentiary of St Paul's. This house formed a brick shell with timber framed floors and roof and some timber framed internal walls. There was evidence of later rearrangement of a service staircase beside a central lightwell, rebuilding of cellars under the street, and the addition of the uppermost floor, or perhaps merely its enlargement. Minor internal alterations included refacing a wall with timber panelling, covering up 18th c wallpaper which depicted a pastoral scene.

**Baynard's Castle, near Pauls Walk TQ 3193 8083 (Sarah Gibson, Drew Shotliff) BEX90.**

Insertion of drain runs and manholes on the site of the SE corner of Baynard's Castle, a scheduled ancient monument, uncovered only post-medieval backfill and make-up, leaving the fabric of the monument undisturbed (see *LA* 5 no. 3 (1985) 63; 4 no. 6 (1982) 160; 2 no. 10 (1975) 256). The watching brief took place by arrangement with the Corporation of London.

**Bishopsgate, pedestrian subway near Liverpool Street Station (W) TQ 3327 8159 (E) TQ 3329 8158 (Dick Bluer) BSY91.**

A watching brief during excavations for a subway running E-W under Bishopsgate in August and in November-December 1991, was funded by the Corporation of London.

Natural gravels and brickearth were quarried early in the Roman period, to the E, well away from the presumed line of a known N-S Roman road, Ermine Street, beyond the site to the W. No trace of this road was seen, but a cremation was excavated, contained within an Alice Holt Surrey ware jar, indicating the known roadside cemetery. To the W a well shaft was located, backfilled possibly in the 2nd c. To the E dumps of medieval roof tiles were sealed by gravel metalling, confirming the medieval realignment of Ermine Street (on a line followed by the modern road, or perhaps a little to the E of it). Rubbish pits and a well of medieval date, post-medieval cellars and the existing road and services completed the sequence. A notable find of Roman date is a copper alloy horse fitting.

**6 Broad St Place TQ 3299 8166 (Sarah Gibson, Julian Hill) BSP91.**

An excavation and watching brief funded by Norwich Union Pensions took place in July 1991 during contractors' ground works, after the contractors had discovered evidence of ancient burials. One complete burial was recorded and further evidence was found for others, all probably part of a Roman cemetery known to have existed in the area.

**Bull Wharf Lane, 67 Upper Thames St TQ 3234 8083 (Julian Ayre) UPT90.**

Excavations were conducted after demolition from January to May 1991 in the first phase of an intended large waterfront redevelopment at Queenhithe. Work was funded by Beaver House.

On the N side of the site a foreshore was found on which was constructed a timber quay running W-E. Dated by dendrochronology to the early 3rd c and identified as the Late Roman Quay, this comprised very large squared oak timbers laid in horizontal courses, all but the lowest course of which had been subsequently removed or displaced. The remaining course was sealed by naturally deposited river silts, c 1m (3ft) thick, overlain in turn by foreshore gravels.

To the W a woman's body encased in bark, reeds and moss was laid out on these gravels. This burial, comparable to certain Viking burials in Scandinavia, was removed *en bloc* for micro excavation off site. Stakes and withies were then laid out on the foreshore forming fences and

groynes. Attempts were made to stabilise the waterfront and reclaim land by mounding up the ground behind low revetments composed of reused fragments of boat and building timbers, held in place by stakes, but these materials were partly washed away or dismantled. Further revetments were then built more extensively and successfully, reusing large timbers from the Late Roman Quay laid as footings. One revetment, running to the E, incorporated bundled brushwood and wattle, and was later repaired. The other, running to the W, included timbers and large cobbles, and was later replaced entirely. Part of the latter revetment included a reused timber panel with a small triangular window opening. To the N, behind these revetments and in association with them, was a complex sequence of buildings and occupation surfaces, dated by dendrochronology to the 10th and 11th c. The first, wattle-built structures, to the E, were not aligned with the waterfront, but all subsequent buildings were. They ran N in three distinct blocks, presumably respecting property boundaries. These buildings were constructed using large timber posts set on rough rubble foundation platforms, or with large earthfast posts and substantial sill beams. Evidence was found of a joisted timber floor in one of the buildings to the E. Most floors were of beaten earth or clay, incorporating occupational debris such as wood shavings, and there were numerous shallow hearths, especially a series in the central block. Food debris and other organic remains were well preserved in and around these buildings. To the W successive floors and make-up layers provided the main structural evidence, situated at first only to the N with gravel surfaces to the S. Later these surfaces formed an alley between buildings to N and S, and later still were entirely built over. Along the W side of the site successive structural divisions (observed during installation of a temporary retaining wall) indicated a frontage on the line of modern Bull Wharf Lane. Many elements of these timber buildings were well preserved: oak thresholds and ash door posts flanked outside by bushes or small trees, internal roof supports and partition walls, buttress timbers for external walls, a variety of jointing and reused timbers such as barrel heads and staves.

This sequence of buildings was sealed by natural silts, probably a flood deposit. To the S, in front of the existing revetments, a raft of rough timbers indicated continuing reclamation. The waterfront to which this related lay further to the S, beyond the site, where it had been destroyed during redevelopment of Bull Wharf in 1979 (*LA 3* no. 14 (1980) 385) and was continuous with that recorded directly to the E, at Vintners' Place (see below). Only later intrusive features survived eventual horizontal truncation. Foundations of chalk rubble and mortared chalk dated to the 12th c were inserted running N, respecting the previous three principal property lines. Other features included a stone-lined tanning pit and post-medieval brick-lined wells, a cistern, cellars, drains and cesspits, some bearing signs of burning, perhaps in the Great Fire of 1666. The revetment dumps produced an impressive collection of Saxon leather turnshoes with thonged-on soles. Several are nearly complete and many show evidence of repair.

#### **64-6 Cheapside TQ 3244 8114 (Tony Thomas) CED89.**

Excavations funded by Sun Alliance Property Construction Ltd took place after-demolition from April to June 1991 in the S half of the site, concurrently with contractor's ground works. Sections exposed in underpinning holes and by deeper ground works were recorded in a watching brief which continued until September 1991.

Alluvial silts overlying natural sands and gravels marked a tributary of the Walbrook flowing SE. To the W, at least, this ground was consolidated with timber piles and brickearth dumps, probably in the 1st c, in advance of construction. To the W Roman buildings partly survived severe later truncation and presumably fronted onto a street to the N, the Roman precursor of Cheapside. The S edge of this street was located running WE, with a roadside ditch. To the SE buildings were traced on either side of a narrow alley aligned to the street. These buildings had foundations of mortared ragstone, brick and tile, brickearth floors or floor make-ups, a tiled hearth and internal walls faced with painted plaster and with a quarter-round moulding at the base. To the SW two adjacent rooms of a different building were floored with *opus signinum*, divided by a timber partition wall.

These buildings burned down, probably early in the 2nd c, and a thick dump of burnt building debris covered the site, cut in turn by post holes or possibly tree holes. The latter were eventually infilled with 'dark earth', which also sealed the road surface to the N. Formation of 'dark earth' was apparently interrupted by a phase of pitting.

All later features were intrusive. Mortared chalk and gravel foundations on timber piles marked a medieval strip building running N, fronting onto Cheapside. There were at least two cellars in this building and the lowest courses of a cellar wall survived, with a mortared rubble core faced in ragstone. To the S a later building with differently mortared ragstone and chalk foundations ran SW, probably fronting onto Bow Lane. This had cellars with walls faced in squared chalk, a tiled floor and a corner hearth. These cellars were subdivided and extended before eventually being backfilled with rubbish or used as cesspits. One of the latter yielded well preserved plant and animal remains. Some medieval foundations were incorporated in later buildings but brick foundations on a different plan indicated a separate building, probably post-Great Fire. A single basement to the S and double basement in the N half of the site completed the sequence.

#### **72-5 Cheapside, 83-93 Queen St, 12 Pancras Lane TQ 3249 8113 (Julian Hill, Aidan Woodger) CID90.**

Excavations were carried out after demolition between July and December 1991, followed by a watching brief. The work was sponsored by Wates (City) Ltd.

Natural gravels capped by brickearth sloped gently down to the S. Although the subsoil was quite wet there was no sign of the stream which had been expected, flowing SE to join the Walbrook. The first activity recorded was construction of a Roman road, c 9m (29ft) wide, the known Roman precursor of Cheapside crossing the site from W to E. A pit, cutting into the brickearth make-up for this road and sealed by the earliest metalling of rammed gravel, contained part of a bone sword grip. To the S of the road and running parallel to it a V-shaped ditch was dug with an 'ankle breaker' profile at its base. Also to the S, brickearth was quarried, a circular wattle structure was built c 4m (13ft) in diameter; organic refuse, including wood working debris, was dumped extensively. N of the road a timber-lined cesspit was dug.

Clay-and-timber buildings were then constructed along both sides of the road. Within a relatively short time all were burned in what is identified tentatively as the Boudiccan fire of AD 60-1. In the burnt debris to the S were large quantities of charred grain: barley and both spelt and emmer wheat. The relatively clean appearance of this grain and the inclusion of several fragments of stone querns suggest the presence of a mill. After levelling of the debris these buildings were replaced, probably quickly as the debris was unweathered. A succession of similar clay-and-timber buildings, respecting the same property lines, continued into the 3rd c.

There was virtually no deposit of 'dark earth' and when the site was next definitely occupied, in the 10th c, the latest Roman metalled road surface was still at ground level. To the S and N of the road, respectively, two successive buildings and a single building were constructed using the former road surface in between as perhaps a yard or alleyway. The later building to the S and that to the N had sunken floors and their walls

surviving below ground level comprised earth-fast posts retaining planks on edge. These buildings measured c 4m by 3m (13f t by 10ft) and c 2m by 4m (6.5ft by 13f t) respectively. Midden deposits containing large amounts of iron slag, indicating smelting and perhaps smithing, accumulated thickly on the floor of the S building. This was then refloored using barrel fragments. After dumping and levelling up, pits were dug to the S and a chalk-lined cellar was inserted to the N, dated to the 11th-12th c. A yard to the S of the cellar was cut by several rubbish pit sand wattle-lined cesspits. These cesspits contained large quantities of plum, sloe and cherry stones, grape pips and cereal bran, giving a good picture of local diet. In the S of the site, 11th c pits preceded the insertion of beechwood foundation piles with a felling date of c 1090. By the 14th c, a large chalk-lined cesspit was built in a corner of the yard and the cellar became disused. The absence of intrusions further to the N indicates the presence there of medieval buildings, presumably fronting onto Cheapside, running along the N side of the site. The only post-medieval features were a brick lined pit and recent basements, suggesting considerable late medieval or post-medieval levelling up of the ground, or a change of use of the site.

Site conditions ensured very good survival of a large quantity of Roman metalwork. Several fine, complete copper alloy brooches were recovered amongst which is a British Aesica type, the first example to be found in London. Another enamelled brooch would have had a manicure set suspended from it. Other enamelled objects include seal boxes and studs. Two copper alloy phalli were found that may originally have been mounted on leather, while a third example is probably from a figurine. Other Roman finds of note include part of a ceramic figurine depicting a mother goddess suckling a child, lamps bearing theatrical masks and a Cupid, and a bone die shaped so that, when cast, it favours 6 and 1.

Saxon and medieval finds include several lead brooches, one of which is similar to examples in the Cheapside hoard of 11th c pewter jewellery, a bone trial piece and a leather whip with a wooden handle. The infill of the chalk-lined cesspit included a lead ampulla depicting St Thomas Becket, the first to be excavated in London away from the Thames waterfront.

#### **2-4 Gough Square TQ 31831287 (Richard Sermon, Sarah Gibson) GOG90.**

Ground works during refurbishment were monitored in an intermittent watching brief in 1990 and 1991, sponsored by Provident Mutual. Only the bases of post-medieval rubbish pits cut into natural gravels had survived severe horizontal truncation.

#### **15-16 Gracechurch St, 54 Lombard St TQ3298 8102 Sarah Gibson) LOA90.**

An evaluation funded by Fleetway Construction was conducted in April and May 1991. Most of the site was totally truncated by triple basements but parts of the Roman forum and basilica, a scheduled ancient monument, survived to the NE. Masonry foundations of the W wall and portico of the 1st c forum basilica were recorded, running further to the N than could be recorded in the 1930s and 50s. The remains of the portico are to be retained *in situ* in the new development. All associated horizontal strata had been truncated, but intrusive early medieval rubbish pits and a medieval chalk-lined cesspit survived.

The backfill of the cesspit, dated to the 16thc, included remains of insects such as grain weevils, as well as species that would have lived in the cess deposits, and remains of grape, fig, cereals and pepper. These indicate an enclosed pit with few external contaminants, and suggest a rich, high status diet. Finds include a medieval bone skate and a complete post-medieval copper alloy candlestick.

#### **104-6 Leadenhall St TQ 3329 8115 (Kieron Heard) DEN91.**

Excavations took place after-demolition from June to August 1991, funded by Refuge Assurance PLC.

Natural brickearth overlying gravel survived mostly in the S half of the site, where the earliest signs of human activity were shallow scoops and layers containing burned and worked flint and Bronze Age pottery. Roman pits, a timber-lined well and possible emptied beam slots contained a mixture of rubbish and building debris, deriving probably from later Roman buildings not otherwise represented. In the N half of the site large medieval rubbish pits and cesspits truncated all pre-existing strata. Several post-medieval brick-lined pits were inserted, and one stone-lined cellar or cesspit was backfilled with many elderberry seeds and bovine metapodials.

Notable finds include a Roman copper alloy phallic mount of a type otherwise unknown in London, a complete face jug of Raeren/Aachen stoneware of early 16th c date and two very rare examples of late medieval/early post-medieval decorated ridge tiles.

#### **Docklands Light Railway works in Lothbury, near Moorgate TQ 3266 8126 (Peter Rowsome) LHY88.**

Excavations took place in May-July 1991 as part of surface works for the Docklands Light Railway extension to Bank, immediately to the W of the site of excavations conducted in 1988 (*LA 6* no. 6 (1990) 164). The work was funded by Olympia and York and facilitated by DLR Ltd. The original ground surface overlying natural sands and gravels was truncated or terraced. Late 1st c pits were followed by evidence for a timber framed building of early 2nd c date. This was superseded in the mid 2nd c by a large building constructed in mortared ragstone and tile, which included a hypocausted room, partly excavated in 1988, measuring c 5m (16f t) square. This hypocaust was H-shaped in plan, the main central channel running from a furnace in an adjoining room to the W. Branch channels led N and S to box flue tiles set in the walls. An isolated box flue in the S wall, unused and not continuing above the level of the tessellated floor, suggests that the heating system was rearranged during construction.

In the late 3rd c this hypocaust was infilled and replaced by another with pilae supporting a new tessellated floor at a higher level. The furnace to the W was relocated, presumably to the N or E, and the room to the W was then connected to the new heating system by underfloor flues piercing the dividing masonry wall. With further modifications the building survived into the 4th c. The absence of much debris in its ruins suggests that the superstructure was deliberately dismantled before accumulation of 'dark earth'. The sequence was truncated in the 19th c by the construction of public lavatories under the street.

Roman objects of note include fragments of a shale bowl with unusual rouletted decoration on its interior and a beaker and bowl made from high quality glass with wheel-cut designs.

**Tunnels in Old Broad St & Threadneedle St (N) TQ3294 8129, (W) TQ 3289 8120, (E) TQ 3306 8124 (David Sankey, Andrew Westman) SOB90.**

A watching brief funded by British Telecom was carried out between October 1990 and May 1991 during contractors' excavation of five tunnels and four access shafts, the tunnels running under the whole length of Old Broad St and the E half of Threadneedle St.

The position of two Roman streets was determined, running at right angles to each other and aligned to the later, larger forum and basilica to the S. Masonry foundations, floors, and middenfilled backyards of Roman buildings were located, generally overlain by 'dark earth'. This in turn was cut by intrusive medieval and post-medieval foundations, cellars or sewers. One cellar yielded three complete glass olive oil bottles of 19th c date. Two of these are chianti-like Florentine bottles while the other is a more unusual type.

**90-4 Old Broad St TQ 3306 3149 (Lis Dyson) BRO90.**

Excavations were carried out after demolition from March to May 1991, funded by the Corporation of London. The site straddled the line of the city defences, a scheduled ancient monument.

The earliest feature cutting natural sands and gravels was a V shaped ditch, only the base of which, including an 'ankle breaker' profile, survived severe later truncation. This ditch lay in front and c 6m (19.5ft) to the N of the line of the wall of the late 1st early 2nd c Roman defences. Nothing of the wall survived on this site but the line was projected from a surviving segment to the W, at the church of All Hallows-on-the-Wall (LA 5 no. 10 (1987) 272-3). This ditch, the backfill of which contained disarticulated skeletons, was the first of six successive ditches or their recuttings presumably associated with the defences. The second ditch may have been late Roman or early medieval in origin, its backfill containing a medieval bone skate, and the third is dated to the late 13th c. The fourth ditch, c 13m (42ft) wide, was cut at the beginning of the 16th c. This silted up and was recut after 1630. The latter was systematically backfilled in the mid 17th c, marking an end to the defences. Later features included a horncore-lined drainage ditch, rubbish pits and chalk or mortar foundations of 17th c date, and 18th c brick-lined wells. A medieval cemetery in the S half of the site associated with All Hallows-on-the-Wall was extended after the documented post-medieval dismantling of the city wall, but no definite evidence for this cemetery survived except possibly for a single isolated 20th c reinterment. The 17th c ditch backfill contained large quantities of glass vessel fragments and glass-working debris, possibly from Mansell's glassworks at Austin Friars, to the S. Large quantities of 17th c pottery were recovered from the contemporary ditch backfill. Much is in good condition with many complete profiles. Post-medieval redwares and Border wares are the predominant fabric types. A wide range of imports includes Werra and Weser wares, Rhenish stonewares and some Dutch vessels.

**119-120 Old Broad St TQ 3296 8132 (Sarah Gibson, Nicholas Elsdon) OBS91.**

A watching brief was conducted in September and October 1991 funded by Midland Bank PLC. All features were truncated except the bases of medieval and post-medieval rubbish pits intruding into natural gravels.

**Colchester House, Pepys St TQ 3352 8084 (Angus Stephenson, David Sankey) PEP89.**

Evaluations took place in 1989 and 1990, sponsored by Arundell House (City). Surviving deposits indicated medieval pitting, dumps, chalk-built structures and post-medieval dumping.

**Church of St Mary at Hill TQ3307 8076 (Bruce Watson), HBMC (Richard Lea) SMY88.**

Restoration of the standing building, after it was gutted by fire in 1988, has been combined with archaeological recording (LA 6 no. 6 (1990) 166). Limited excavations were undertaken by the Museum of London within the church, in advance of reinforcement and reflooring, from December 1990 to May 1991 Work was funded by the Parochial Church Council.

Cutting into natural brickearth and sandy gravels was a linear feature containing Late Bronze-Early Iron Age post-Deverel- Rimbury pottery, sealed by a soil horizon. Roman activity consisted of a NS gully superseded by traces of buildings.

The church is first documented in 1177. Within the present building three chalk-lined burials were found, perhaps relating to an early phase of the church. These were cut by masonry foundations of pier bases for the S arcade of the medieval nave. Other foundations were located, perhaps representing the N wall of the late medieval church and predating the addition of a N aisle, documented in 1487-1504 Two stone-built burial vaults were detected at the E end of the nave and S aisle. Sir Christopher Wren rebuilt the church in 1670-6, realigning the E wall but retaining much of the existing N and S walls. Four columns were placed on the line of previous foundations, dividing the church into three aisles. Six brick burial vaults were built to the E at about this time. A large brick vault to the W probably dates from the rebuilding of the W tower by George Gwilt in 1787-8.

Refurbishment in 1984 led to the discovery of two 16th c windows in the N wall (LA 5 no. 2 (1985) 50). In 1990-1 further examination of the upstanding fabric by HBMC found evidence for at least two more such windows, further to the E. Also revealed behind later panelling were opposed external doors in the N and S walls, subsequently blocked, another door in the S wall preceding the existing vestry door, and an early 16th c tomb monument. In Wren's E wall evidence was found for the original form of the roof and windows.

**Tower of London, near Tower Pier TQ 3344 8050 (Sarah Gibson, Stuart Gibson) WOL9I.**

Removal of the barrel of a 17th c cannon from post-medieval road make-ups, into which it had been inserted as a bollard on the Thames riverfront, was monitored in May 1991 This work was funded by the Royal Armouries.

**St James Garlickhithe, Upper Thames St TQ 3238 8085 (Dick Malt) JAS9I.**

In September 1991 a tower crane on a building site at Vintry Place, to the S of this church, collapsed: the back jib of the crane fell onto the church, damaging part of the roof and the interior, and the concrete counter-weight on the jib penetrated strata underlying the church floor to a depth of more than 1m (3ft). These strata were examined and appeared to be modern make-up dumps. An extensive photographic record was made of the damage to the building.

**Vintners Place, 68 Upper Thames St TQ 3236 8076 (Dick Malt, Robin Brown, Duncan Lees) VHA89, VRY89.**

Excavations and an extensive watching brief on a large Thameside redevelopment, undertaken in three phases since 1989, were completed in June 1991 (see *LA* 6 no. 6 (1990) 167, 6 no. 10 (1991) 277-8). Work was conducted by arrangement with Wates (City) Ltd.

The latest excavations took place at the N end of the site concurrently with watching brief recording of sections to the S. These sections were progressively exposed as contractors machined away deposits between concrete columns that had previously been inserted into the deposits. The earliest features, to the N, were continuous with those at Bull Wharf, directly to the W of the site (see above). The 3rd c Roman timber quay was located for a distance of c30m (100ft) along the N side of the site. The horizontal beams were of different sizes and, once in place on foundation piles, had been faced with an adze, suggesting some degree of fabrication *in situ*. The structure was dismantled down to its massive baseplates and these were overlaid with thick deposits of clay and silt, indicating abandonment of the foreshore.

Activity resumed in the late Saxon period with construction on the intertidal foreshore of a series of ephemeral wooden post and wattle structures of uncertain function. Timber revetments were then constructed forming a waterfront to the S, with associated timber-framed buildings on the reclaimed land to the N, dated by dendrochronology to the late 10th-late 11th c. This waterfront developed by extensions outward S into the river within apparent property lines, creating piers and jetties that would have served as docks, a development interrupted several times by flood deposits. No more such floods occurred after the waterfront was consolidated by means of a stave revetment housed in a grooved baseplate, dated to the early 12th c. At least four further phases of renewal and reclamation, evidenced by timber revetments and associated landfill dumping, ensued from the mid 12th c to the 14th c. One of these revetments survived up to c 3.5m (11ft) high, with front-bracing and tie-back timbers, and pegged plank cladding. Other timber structures recorded in association with these waterfronts included two substantial drains into the river, two box-shaped sumps or cesspits, one of which was constructed reusing stave building timbers dated to the early 12th c, and a well, constructed with reused barrels.

Later medieval activity was represented by chalk and ragstone foundations, cesspits, floor surfaces and hearths belonging to at least four major buildings. Individual timbers reused in the waterfronts included a corbelled post from a major aisled building, unique of its kind for being securely dated to the 10th c, a steering oar from a longship of Viking type, dated by dendrochronology to the late 10th-early 11th c, large fragments of clinker boat planking, dated by dendrochronology to the mid 11th c, and the earliest recorded example of 'see-sawn' planking, with a felling date of just after AD 1200.

Anaerobic conditions permitted good preservation of metalwork. Among Roman objects are two lead curses. Well-preserved medieval copper alloy objects include elaborate buckles and scabbard chapes of types not found before in London. Medieval lead objects include numerous cloth seals, pilgrim badges and ampullae, and fragments of mirror cases. Most of the latter are from Canterbury but some are French, including one from St Jean d'Angely. Also of interest are three badges in the form of a tau cross, dedicated to St Anthony.

Good assemblages of Roman, Saxon and medieval pottery were recovered. The medieval wine trade is evidenced by such types as 11th and 12th c Rhenish red-painted ware and Andenne ware, and 14th-15th c Saintonge ware from Gascony. A fragment of a rare wine glass and of a glass flask, both probably Italian and of 13th-14th c date, were found in the backfill of a chalk-lined cesspit, with fragments of three wooden bowls, a wooden container with painted decoration, a gold ring and 14th-15th c pottery.

**Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane TQ 3186 8134 (Sarah Gibson, Richard Sermon) CTL90.**

Post-medieval dumps and truncated pits were recorded during refurbishment of the Hall. The watching brief was conducted by arrangement with the Worshipful Company of Cutlers.