

FST85

Courtesy of LAARC - 1998

FST85
94–97 Fenchurch Street, EC3
S Rivière

NGR: TQ 33450 81100

SMR: 043043–51

Excavation took place here between October and December 1985. The earliest feature on the site was a 26m 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 17m by 16m. The two buildings were completely destroyed by a major fire, probably Boudican. 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 floors. Each was subdivided into several rooms and was altered internally during its lifetime. They formed 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 in the middle. 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. This street 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 later Roman activity that may have existed across the site was destroyed by a large number of 12th c and later rubbish pits, wells and three chalk-lined pits.

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