

ABS86

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St Alban's House, 124 Wood Street, EC2

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Following the demolition of a post-War office building an archaeological investigation of the site between April and July 1986, sponsored by Eagle Star Insurance, recorded 3m-5m of stratigraphy in two discrete areas, separated by a double basement.

In the E site an area of 300 sq m (Area A) was excavated. Natural was immediately overlaid by 1st c structures. Following destruction by fire, and extensive quarrying, these buildings were replaced by a sequence including an *opus signinum* floored cellar associating with clay and timber wall lines. Much of the area would appear to have been external with only the backs of buildings lying to the south 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 a large concentration of pits. A substantial 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 75 sq m was excavated (Area X), and a similar area recorded in section (Area B). Over natural, which was encountered at a level c 0.50m 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 pit-digging.

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