

UTA87

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Cannon Street Station south, Upper Thames Street (Cousin Lane), EC4
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SMR: 041614–19

Excavations were funded by Speyhawk. The earliest features found, to the N, were a 30m length of late Roman timber revetment running W-E, 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 wide, extending S from the N end of the site for at least 17m. The walls, built of ragstone on chalk and gravel foundations, survived up to 1.4m 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, 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 reusing 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 English Heritage before demolition.

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 and there are also good collections of post-medieval clay tobacco pipes and decorated floor tiles. The finds assemblage from this site is dominated by a collection of 156 moulded stones of medieval and later date.

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