

LEN89

Courtesy of LAARC - 1998

LEN89
145–146 Leadenhall Street, EC3
J Youle

NGR: TQ 33110 81150
SMR: 042603–14

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 three 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.

London Archaeol, 6, 1991, 275; *Britannia*, 22, 1991, 268

Anon, nd, Additional information on the environmental samples, Environmental Note

Youle, J, 1990 Excavations at 145–146 Leadenhall Street (LEN89), Archive Report