

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN SOUTHWARK, 1962

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GUILDHALL MUSEUM

ROMAN

275-287 Borough High Street, Southwark

The rebuilding of this site revealed a layer of loamy soil immediately overlying the natural gravel of the flood-plain river gravel terrace. In this loam was a scatter of Roman pottery and tile fragments, but a lack of any clear stratification in the soil indicated that this site lay outside the Roman settlement. The site lies across the line of Stane Street as suggested by Dr. K. Kenyon⁽¹⁾, but no sign of the Roman road was observed in the undisturbed sections.

City House, Southwark Street, Southwark

Borehole sections on this site revealed a layer of peat seven feet thick at about Ordnance Datum (Newlyn) overlying 2 ft. of grey silt, and covered by more grey silt. This peat, which lies at the Roman land level in this area, shows that the site is part of the marshland west of the sandspit on which the Roman settlement had been built.⁽²⁾

Petrol filling station at the junction of Tennis Street and Long Lane, Southwark

Excavations below the cellar floors showed that the Roman deposits had been largely removed. Several pits were recorded, and in one of these were found a few Roman sherds, probably of the late 1st century, and part of a human skull.

POST-MEDIEVAL

275-287 Borough High Street, Southwark

Pottery dating from the late 15th century was found only at the Borough High Street end of the site, while a scatter of Tudor and later deposits over the whole site indicated the proximity of occupation on or close to the site from the Tudor period onwards.

NOTES

1 *Excavations in Southwark*, 1959, by Dr. K. Kenyon. Research Paper no. 5 of the Surrey Archaeological Society, fig. 2.

2 For sandspit and marshes see *Illustrated London News*, March 10, 1962, 374-375.