

# A ROMAN WELL ON WELBECK ST, W.1.

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In March–April 1979 a feature which seems to have been a well was exposed by workmen during the construction of a rear extension at 14 Welbeck St, W.1. (TQ28538144) about 300m north of Oxford St. It was reported that the well, cut by the rear basement wall, was semi-circular in plan, 1.8m–2.5m (6ft.–8ft.) in diameter and approximately 1.8m (6ft.) deep. The fill was black organic clay from which a complete 2nd-century flagon<sup>1</sup> was recovered at *c.* 19.5m O.D. Fragments of blue and green glass were also found but unfortunately only the flagon was kept.

The presence of a well or pit in this area implies the existence of a hitherto unknown settlement near the ford or bridge<sup>2</sup> where Oxford Street (a Roman road) crosses the Tyburn roughly at Bond Street Station, some two miles from the City of London.

## NOTES

1. This was a ring necked flagon, red fabric with a cream slip (Fig. 1, drawn by Dorrie Orchard). Probably produced in the Verulamium region, and very similar to Southwark typology form 1B9, which is dated *c.* 130–180/200+AD, see Marsh and Tyers in *Southwark Excavations 1972–74* Joint Publication No. 1, London & Middlesex Archaeological Society and Surrey Archaeological Society (1978) Fig. 232 (*W. McIsaac*).
2. During work at Stratford Place W.1. in 1979 the Inner London Archaeological Unit was told that a series of wooden piles or stakes had been found in 1975 in the centre of Oxford Street while a new subway for Bond Street Station was being built.

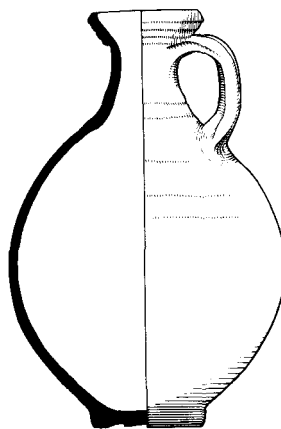


Fig. 1. (¼)