

# THE PRE-URBAN AND ROMAN TOPOGRAPHY IN THE KING STREET AND CHEAPSIDE AREAS OF THE CITY OF LONDON

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## SUMMARY

*The results of numerous excavations and observations of Roman features in the 'King Street' region of the City of London are examined. Since some of the records for these features date from the 19th century the quality of information is variable. More recent work, however, helps to compensate for this.*

*This study shows that prior to the construction of two east-west orientated roads, one of which followed approximately the line of modern Cheapside, parts of the region were cleared and marking out trenches were dug. This activity, probably during the Neronian period, suggests a centrally-authorised plan. An apparently random network of routes was constructed between these two east-west orientated roads and to the west of the northernmost road. It is possible that the wet environment in the Blossoms Inn area, in the west of the region, may have had some influence on the layout of streets there but, in general, adverse local conditions appear to have had more effect upon the location and construction of buildings than of roads.*

*The region was severely affected by a fire during the Hadrianic period. Although some sites show evidence for earlier fires, none of them can be positively dated to the well-attested fire of Boudiccan date.*

*Prior to the Hadrianic fire, an attempt was made to develop further the region to the north of this area, beyond the northernmost east-west aligned road. North-south oriented roads were constructed over earlier buildings and these roads would appear to have run parallel with the Cripplegate fort to their west. Following the Hadrianic fire the nature of occupation altered. Some roads were abandoned and property lines, which had survived since the Neronian period, were disregarded in subsequent re-building in the 2nd century. Building techniques also changed. In the main, clay and timber buildings gave way to stone, tile and mortar constructions.*

*The later history of the area is unclear. 3rd century material occurs at Blossoms Inn in contexts which suggest that they were dumps. 'Dark earth' can be identified on a number of sites.*

*The archives for the sites included in this report are housed in the Museum of London.*

## INTRODUCTION

The aim of this paper is to examine the pre-urban and Roman topography of the area of the City of London which lies to the immediate west of the Walbrook stream and to the north of, and including, the line of the main Roman east-west road which roughly corresponds with modern Newgate Street and Cheapside (Fig. 1). In particular, the main topics covered here are the natural stream systems in the area, the Roman road arrangements and the relationship of the one to the other. This study area is today delimited by

Gresham Street to the north, Pancras Lane to the south and, to the west and east respectively, Milk Street and Old Jewry (Fig. 2).

Over the last century and a quarter this area of the City has been the subject of numerous archaeological investigations of varying, but progressively more scientific and controlled standards. Many of the Roman features (eg road surfaces, walls, wells etc.) to be discussed below are well-known and often cited in many current sources, but it is hoped here to present such features in their full context.

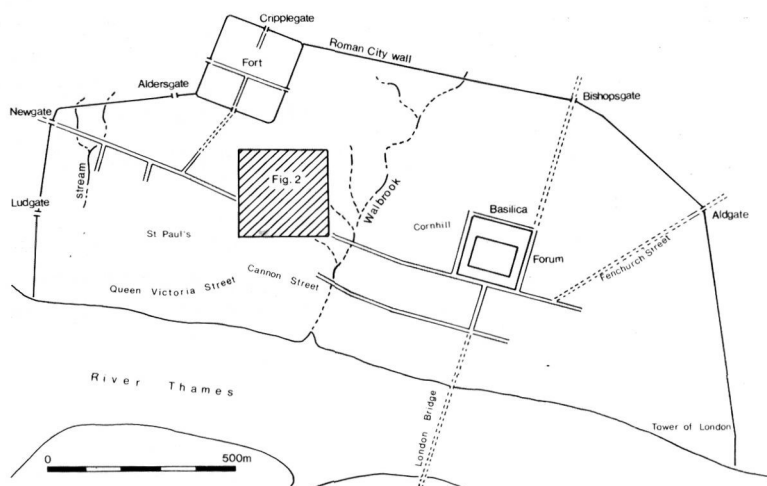


Fig. 1 King Street and Cheapside: Location of study area.

The earliest recorded observation of archaeological features in this area was in 1671–80 on the site of the tower of St Mary-le-Bow church where Sir Christopher Wren recorded ‘a Roman causeway of rough Stone, close and well-rammed, with Roman Brick and Rubbish at the Bottom for a Foundation, and all firmly cemented’ (Fig. 2, No. 20)<sup>1</sup>. Undoubtedly, this was part of the main east–west road passing through the western part of the Roman city. The next observation was not until 1861 on the site of Honey Lane Market facing Bow Church in the south–west. There, to the immediate east of the Cheapside bathhouse complex which was to be discovered over ninety years later, were recorded fragments of a tessellated pavement, parts of walls and painted wall-

plaster fragments (Fig. 2, No. 19)<sup>2</sup>. Features of a similar nature were noted by F. W. Reader in 1888 during and following the demolition of St Olave’s Church, Old Jewry (Fig. 2, No. 16)<sup>3</sup>. In addition he recorded on the latter site black ‘flood deposit’ containing finds exclusively of Roman date. The next recorded observations were not made until 1926–7 when Major Gordon Home was able to obtain access to the site being developed in preparation for the offices of the Atlas Insurance Company, 7–8 King Street. He was able to record in some detail a stratigraphic section ranging from ‘virgin gravel or ballast’ to deposits containing medieval material (Fig. 2, No. 14)<sup>4</sup>. In retrospect, his opinion that this section should contain four hundred years of archaeology corresponding with the

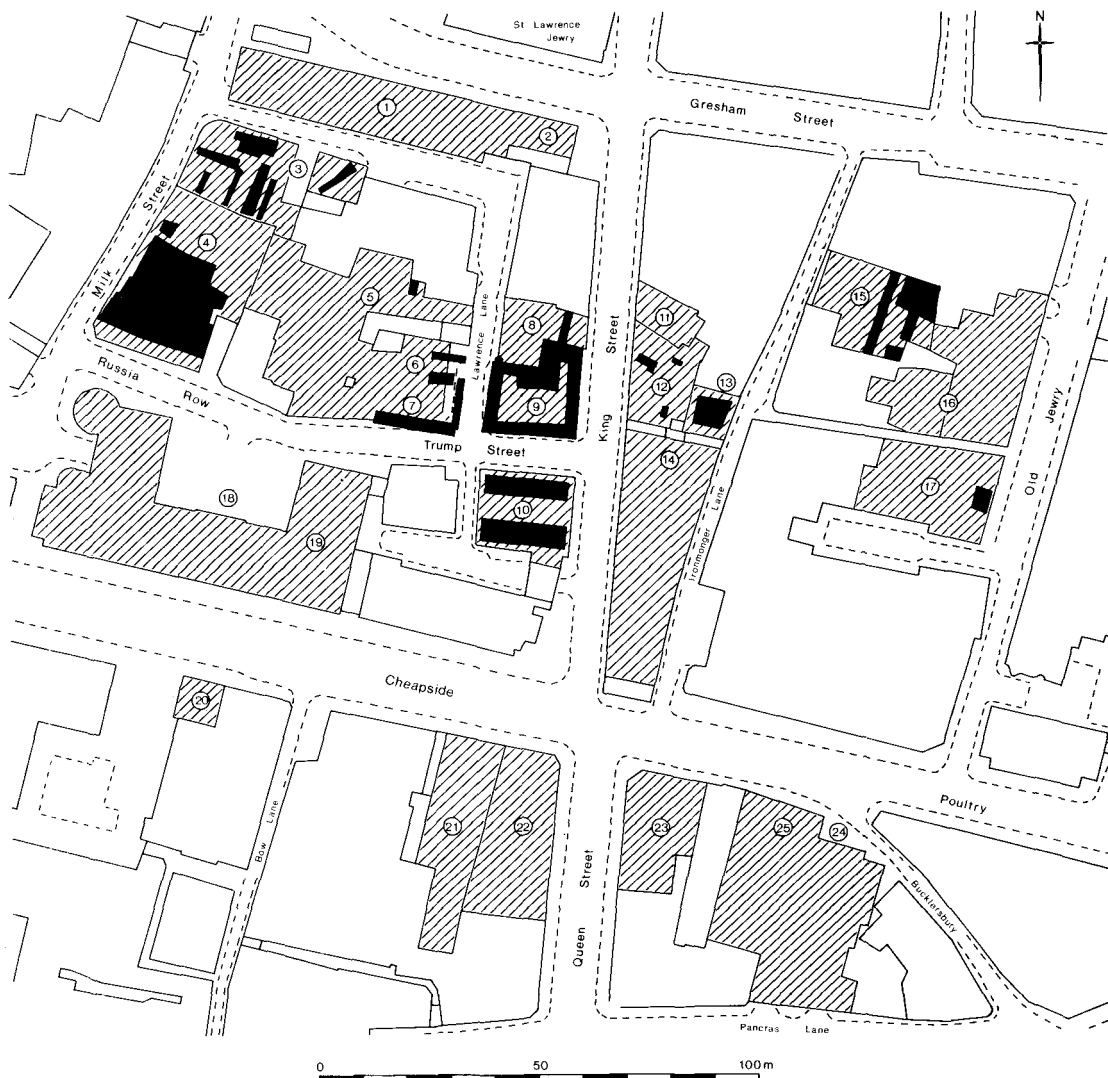


Fig. 2 King Street and Cheapside: Site locations.

period of the Roman occupation of Britain has been shown to be too simplistic. However, it is difficult to find a more detailed record of a 'watching-brief' conducted during the early decades of this century.

The vast site of Blossoms Inn Yard was developed in 1930 (Fig. 2, No. 5). Gerald Dunning was able to examine for the Society of Antiquaries a small trench dug on this site but the main record for this

area consists of a large quantity of Roman pottery, especially samian ware, in addition to pottery and objects of medieval and post-medieval date<sup>5</sup>. The following year, 1931, he examined a minor site at 64–6 Cheapside (Fig. 2, No. 21)<sup>6</sup> and Frank Cottrill, also for the Society of Antiquaries, examined Roman timber piles and camp-sheathing at 70–3 Cheapside (Fig. 2, No. 23)<sup>7</sup>. In 1938, a fragment

of ragstone rubble wall and a section through dumped gravel, resembling road material, was recorded by Cottrill on the site of 33 King Street (Fig. 2, No. 8)<sup>8</sup>, and a large expanse of the main east–west road at 67–9 Cheapside (Fig. 2, No. 22)<sup>9</sup>. These, however, were the last recorded observations of archaeological features in this area prior to the outbreak of the Second World War.

It was not until 1949 that site records in this area recommenced with the excavation of part of the site of 11 Ironmonger Lane by Adrian Oswald (Fig. 2, No. 15). Parts of a large building, probably of late second or third century in date and furnished with a fine mosaic, were discovered<sup>10</sup>. From this date onwards, archaeological work in this important area of the City of London has been pursued almost continuously. In a controlled excavation in 1952–3, Ivor Noël Hume of the Guildhall Museum excavated two trenches in the basements of 33–4 Old Jewry (Fig. 2, No. 17), locating Roman road gravel metallings and an east–west orientated road-side ditch as well as a sequence of medieval and post-medieval features<sup>11</sup>. In 1954–5, W. F. Grimes of the London Museum, on behalf of the Roman and Mediaeval London Excavation Council, excavated to the west and east of the Cheapside baths recorded by Noël Hume in 1955–6 (Fig. 2, No. 18)<sup>12</sup> and at 1–2 Bucklersbury in the north-east corner of the Cheapside site (No. 25) examined in 1962.

In 1955 Grimes investigated the site of Blossoms Inn alongside Lawrence Lane (Fig. 2, No. 6)<sup>14</sup> and Noël Hume recorded archaeological features at 34–5 King Street (Fig. 2, No. 9)<sup>15</sup>. In 1956 Noël Hume also examined the Blossoms Inn Extension site, in an area adjacent to the site examined a year earlier by Grimes, alongside Trump Street (Fig. 2, No. 7)<sup>16</sup>. In the same year, prior to his appointment

with the Guildhall Museum, Peter Marsden observed Roman walls and a gravel surface, possibly a path or road, on the site of 13–4 King Street (Fig. 2, No. 11)<sup>17</sup>. In 1960, this time on behalf of the Guildhall Museum, he recorded Roman walls at 20–38 Gresham Street (Fig. 2, No. 2)<sup>18</sup> and three years later conducted a controlled excavation of three trenches on the Atlas Assurance site, 9–12 King Street, with the specific intentions of investigating the possible existence of an east–west orientated road implied by Noël Hume’s observations at 33–4 Old Jewry to the east and 34–5 King Street to the west, and also a north–south orientated road suggested by his own observations in 1956 at 13–4 King Street to the north (Fig. 2, No. 12)<sup>19</sup>. In 1962, Marsden examined another road surface, this time part of the main east–west road at 76–80 Cheapside<sup>20</sup>.

In 1972, excavations conducted by Nicholas Farrant on behalf of the City of London Archaeological Society (COLAS) revealed an important junction of Roman roads on the site of 7–10 Milk Street (Fig. 2, No. 3)<sup>21</sup> and in 1976 further excavations to the immediate south at nos. 1–6 Milk Street (Fig. 2, No. 4), by Steve Roskams and John Schofield for the Department of Urban Archaeology (DUA) of the Museum of London, revealed Roman buildings and a north–south orientated road (Fig. 2, No. 4)<sup>22</sup>. In 1980 the attention of the DUA was transferred to the east–west orientated road running between Old Jewry and King Street. Excavations by Jenny Norton at 24–5 Ironmonger Lane revealed not only this road but also a sequence of seven building phases and associated external yard surfaces alongside successive roadside drains on its north side (Fig. 2, No. 13)<sup>23</sup>. This site gave the best indication in this study area of the nature of occupation alongside Road 2. Further

information was obtained from a watching-brief conducted in 1982 during refurbishment of the Atlas Insurance Company property by Patrick Allen and Jenny Norton for the DUA. This site also helped to explain the detailed section recorded on this site in 1926–7 by Gordon Home, and its location to the south of Prudent Passage gives an indication of the width of the road to the immediate north since no road gravels were recorded here (Fig. 2, No. 14)<sup>24</sup>. Earlier work by Adrian Oswald on the 11 Ironmonger Lane site was also clarified by a watching-brief conducted by Patrick Allen during the relocation and conservation, in its original position, of the mosaic discovered in 1949 (Fig. 2, No. 15)<sup>25</sup>.

Finally, excavations by Peter Rowsome for the DUA on the site of 36–7 King Street (Fig. 2, No. 10)<sup>26</sup> gave the opportunity for a more comprehensive interpretation of this particular area of Roman London. An additional road junction to that recorded in 1972 at Milk Street helps to answer a number of questions posed by previous excavations, especially those in the 1950s as well as raising new subjects for discussion. Furthermore the detailed recorded sequence from natural gravels through to the end of Roman occupation, complemented by data of a similar nature from other controlled excavations (eg. 24–5 Ironmonger Lane 1980 in particular) allows for a more objective interpretation of the preliminary land usage and subsequent development of this area in the Roman period.

Since work has been carried out in this area over such a long period of time it is hardly surprising that the content and quality of those records which are available vary greatly from site to site. This hardly assists the interpretation of particular details, but discoveries of any sort have been examined irrespective of the

quality of records available for them, and wherever possible the original site records have formed the basis of this study. The records of sites excavated before the Second World War tend to include a bare minimum of structural information with little or no mention of finds. In respect of the latter, however, the study of the 1930 excavation at Blossoms Inn Yard has proved to be particularly frustrating. Apart from a small sketch of a minor excavation the only other reference to this site reports ‘no notable structures’ being present. In contrast, the clearance of the site at this time produced the third largest assemblage of samian ware from the City of London available at the time of Geoff Marsh’s study during the late 1970s<sup>27</sup>.

The quality of records for the post-war sites is sufficient to allow for more than just a brief description of features noted at the time of excavation. Indeed, in a few cases a more detailed method of analysis can be attempted, the structural information being convertible into a context system which is compatible with current practice. The original records for these sites are based mainly upon the ‘Excavation Register’ (E.R.) entry system. By this method specific details of a particular site were entered in Excavation Notebooks under Excavation Register numbers. Each number represented a group of associated finds and the entry contained information regarding their location and context on a particular site. The finds and the relevant notebooks are available for study, on request, at the Museum of London. In addition to these notebooks, there exists also site files of miscellaneous records including sketch plans, additional notes, annotated contractor’s dye-line plans, photographs and any contemporary correspondence concerning the archaeology on the site in question<sup>28</sup>. These too are located in the Museum of London and are available for

study on request. It will become apparent that there is a general bias towards the more tangible and readily visible archaeological features (eg walls, pits, thick gravel dumps, burnt and rubble layers). This bias is certainly not the fault of the excavators but is a result of the conditions in which they had to work. That so much was recorded at all is to their credit<sup>29</sup>.

Most of the records for the more controlled and scientifically examined sites since 1970, offer the basis for more complete analysis. As mentioned above it is on account of these, especially 24–5 Ironmonger Lane (DUA site code IRO 80) and 36–7 King Street (DUA site code KNG 85), that a thorough analysis of this study area can be attempted.

The following report, therefore, represents a detailed study of the nature of Roman occupation in a specific area of the City of London. The limits of the study area are arbitrary and have been determined by the present-day street plan (ie the area approximately within the rectangle of land formed by Gresham Street, Milk Street, Pancras Lane and Old Jewry). This will be referred to, henceforth, as the King Street/Cheapside or the study area. With the exception of the already published Cheapside Baths<sup>30</sup> details of all the pre-1970 excavations are presented below preceded by an analysis of two relevant main themes:

#### 1. PRE-URBAN TOPOGRAPHY.

The natural topography and its potential effect upon later urban development is examined.

#### 2. ROMAN TOPOGRAPHY.

The nature of Roman occupation in this study area is examined with special reference to the road system.

Where specific dates for layers or features are given in this report, these have been supplied by the Finds Section, Department of Urban Archaeology,

Museum of London. Only the significant dating evidence has been referred to in this paper. However, unless otherwise stated, all finds and archive reports for these sites, including 'spot-dates', can be examined on request at the Museum of London. The site numbers referred to throughout this paper are those used on Fig. 2. Road numbers are unique to this report and do not correlate with any other published or archive numbering system.

#### THE PRE-URBAN TOPOGRAPHY

(Fig. 3)

In general the area of the City of London under consideration here lies on a fairly flat, low terrace between the River Fleet to the west and the Walbrook stream to the east. The natural geology consists of London Clay capped with terrace gravels and more recent brickearth, a soil said to be similar to a loess but re-sorted by water<sup>31</sup>. The impermeability of the London Clay causes water to be concentrated and, in places where the junction between the Clay and the overlying gravels is exposed, to flow freely. This is particularly evident on the northern foreshore of the river Thames where the resulting spring-line encouraged the construction of at least one bath-house during the Roman period<sup>32</sup>. However, depending upon the level of the London Clay itself, water might appear close to ground surface<sup>33</sup> or may even spring from the surface without the help of erosion. In the former case, access to the water could be gained by the digging of wells. In the latter, the water might gather on the surface and form marshland, pools or ponds or, when this occurs near slopes, the water might flow from its source to seek natural drainage.

The formation of such features, ie marshy, pond-like environments and streams or rivulets, would be erratic and subject to water quantity and constancy



Fig. 3 King Street and Cheapside: Pre-urban topography.

of supply. For instance, a copious and constant water supply in one place would fashion and sculpt a landscape to a far greater extent than a more restricted supply. The Fleet valley to the west of the Roman city and the Walbrook valley

running north to south through the centre of the city are good examples of the former and still survive today as topographical features in the modern landscape. The rivers which formed these valleys have their sources far to the north of the Roman

city. The examples of a more restricted, local supply of water are not readily apparent today but may still be identified archaeologically. Indeed, there have been numerous sightings of 'stream deposits' throughout the city, especially on the west side of the Walbrook valley.

The King Street/Cheapside area is no exception. In fact, the majority of the sites in this study area have produced evidence for the presence of surface water either collecting on individual sites or flowing through them. However, it is significant that a number of sites, excavated recently under controlled conditions have produced no such evidence at all, suggesting that within this study area at least two markedly differing environments existed in close proximity. The descriptions of the natural landscape presented below show the drastic changes which occurred in this area from west to east, from the top of the low, flat hill to the west side of the Walbrook valley itself<sup>34</sup>; and from north to south, across the hill.

#### THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE RECONSTRUCTED

In the immediate region of Milk Street, on the west side of the King Street/Cheapside area, excavations in 1972 (Site No. 3)<sup>35</sup> and 1976 (Site No. 4)<sup>36</sup> show the natural subsoil to be composed of a gravel with a brickearth capping, *c.* 0.50m in thickness, reaching a maximum height of *c.* 10.80m OD. Moving eastwards towards 9–12 King Street (Site No. 12)<sup>37</sup> and 24–5 Ironmonger Lane (Site No. 13)<sup>38</sup>, excavated in 1963 and 1980 respectively, the level of natural fell to *c.* 10.00m OD and any brickearth capping was absent. In fact, the absence of brickearth overlying natural gravels was noted also at 36–7 King Street (Site No. 10) in 1985 (see p. 46) and the variation in datum might be due to this absence rather than to any gradual slope eastwards. However, excavations in 1930, 1955 and 1956 on the Blossoms Inn sites (Sites Nos 5–7 respectively) to the immediate east of the Milk Street sites and to the west of Lawrence Lane all produced evidence for a damp and, in places, waterlogged environment. It is unfortunate that detailed information for the natural topography on this large site is lacking, since its contrast with the

1972 and 1976 Milk Street sites and those at 34–5 King Street (Site No. 9) and 36–7 King Street to the east is striking.

The references by the three excavators who examined parts of Blossoms Inn, Dunning in 1930, Grimes in 1955 and Noël Hume in 1956, to 'black mud' and vertical timber piles and camp sheathing<sup>39</sup>; to a high water table causing the flooding of pits<sup>40</sup>; and to a thick, broad deposit, seen in section only, of 'black mud' containing finds exclusively of Roman date<sup>41</sup> are quite distinct from the record of the surrounding sites. Similar conditions were also noted on the site of the so-called 'Cheapside baths' (Site No. 18) to the south-west of the Blossoms Inn area, and the location of a bathing establishment there was probably not fortuitous. The presence of large quantities of surface water, probably flowing, would have been an attractive inducement for constructing such a building<sup>42</sup>. But it could also explain the lack of evidence of substantial buildings both on the fringes of the site of the baths and at Blossoms Inn Yard in 1930, where Dunning recorded that 'no notable structural remains' were present<sup>43</sup>. In each case there was an absence of solid masonry structures, although the circumstances of investigation make it unsafe to assume that there were no other buildings of any kind in the vicinity of the bath-house.

This suggests that the local environment in the Blossoms Inn area was far too wet to be developed in any large scale. However, the street junction at Milk Street recorded in 1972 and the alignments of the roads recorded at 34–5 King Street in 1955<sup>44</sup> and at 36–7 King Street in 1985 (see p. 44) would suggest that one or other of these two roads, possibly both, crossed the Blossoms Inn site. Whereas the conditions on the site might not have been conducive to the construction of buildings, the site itself could nevertheless be traversed by gravelled roads. To the south-east, the two main sites which have produced the evidence for the main east-west Roman road, 67–9 Cheapside in 1938 (Site No. 22)<sup>45</sup> and 76–80 Cheapside in 1962 (Site No. 23)<sup>46</sup>, revealed that that road was constructed, in places, over wide, deep streams flowing from the north and north-west, possibly themselves connecting with the Blossoms Inn system. There too substantial Roman buildings appeared to avoid these wet environments on either side of this road, but concentrated instead on the slightly higher but much drier ground nearby. The material evidence from Blossoms Inn in fact suggests that this particular region acted as a dumping ground for rubbish (see p. 23).

To the south-east of the Blossoms Inn site at 36–7 King Street (Site No. 10), a small stream



appeared to flow south-east (see p. 46). This was backfilled prior to a long history of fairly intense settlement. Slight subsidence into the ancient stream bed was recorded but any damage caused to buildings and surfaces was repaired and occupation continued: small streams evidently posed few problems other than some infrequent maintenance.

To the immediate east of the Blossoms Inn region, the natural environment became much drier and was cut only intermittently by streams running mainly north-west to south-east. Recent excavations and watching-briefs in the King Street, Ironmonger Lane and Old Jewry regions (Site 9–17) have failed to locate any such stream beds but they can be implied by earlier sightings and descriptions on sites to the north and south of this study area<sup>47</sup>. In fact it is only at 36–7 King Street that the physical evidence for a stream-bed has been recorded in any great detail in this study area. As mentioned above, this stream would appear to have flowed south-east from the Blossoms Inn region. It is possible that it ultimately connected with a stream noted at 72–3 Cheapside in 1930 (Site No. 23)<sup>48</sup> which, it is presumed, then flowed into the Walbrook.

No actual stream bed or any feature easily identifiable as such was noted further to the east on the two sites on the extreme east of this study area at 27–32 Old Jewry (Site No. 16) and 33–4 Old Jewry (Site No. 17) (see, p. 50). The line of a stream can be identified running from St Lawrence Jewry church (Fig. 2)<sup>49</sup> to nearby 71–5 Gresham Street<sup>50</sup>. At the former of these Sir Christopher Wren was obliged to sink 12ft long piles on the site to stabilise the foundations of the church. The Gresham Street observation was described as ‘black mud’ with sloping piles suggesting a revetted stream. Had the stream flowed in a south-east direction it should have passed through one of the Old Jewry sites (Sites Nos 16 and 17). The absence of any evidence for stream beds on the latter two sites would indicate three possibilities. Firstly that the stream avoided the area of the Old Jewry properties by turning south, ultimately to connect with the stream system noted on the south side of Cheapside (Sites 21–5); secondly that the stream, perhaps in a canalised form, turned sharply north-eastwards to flow into the Walbrook or one of its tributaries; or, thirdly, both of these routes might have been in existence. It should be noted that a probable stream deposit was recorded to the west of the building discovered at 11 Ironmonger Lane in 1949 (Site No. 15)<sup>51</sup>. This may well be part of the St Lawrence Jewry and Gresham Street stream suggesting that there existed, at least, a drainage

route southwards towards the area of the Cheapside sites<sup>52</sup>.

It is apparent that the tracing of the meandering stream-beds flowing into the Walbrook from the western hill of the Roman city is fraught with many problems. However, the routes of the main roads, the presence of piling and camp-sheathing and the infilling and subsequent occupation above some stream beds show that, in general, the influence of streams upon later topography was minimal in this particular study area. The Blossoms Inn area would appear to be an exception to this rule. The evidence below suggests that the water supplies there were so copious that intensive occupation was restricted. In fact, the presence of the large bath-house complex to the immediate south-west of this site, in contrast to the absence of any substantial structures on the Blossoms Inn site, would suggest that only such specialised buildings which could take advantage of the water supply were attempted. As mentioned above, the apparent dumping of large quantities of rubbish on areas of the Blossoms Inn site, in this case well into the 3rd century, shows that all or part of the site was, in general avoided.

#### ROMAN TOPOGRAPHY (Fig. 4)

The earliest human activity in this area is represented by quarrying for natural gravels as for example at 24–5 Ironmonger Lane (Site No. 13)<sup>53</sup>. This phase of activity, though not common to every site, pre-dates an initial phase of planning (Neronian—early Flavian). This, too, is best seen at 24–5 Ironmonger Lane<sup>54</sup> where an east-west orientated ditch, the line of which persisted through subsequent phases of development, marked the northern edge of a road (Road 2) (p. 38). A comparable phase of activity, which probably represents the initial laying out of road lines and property bound-

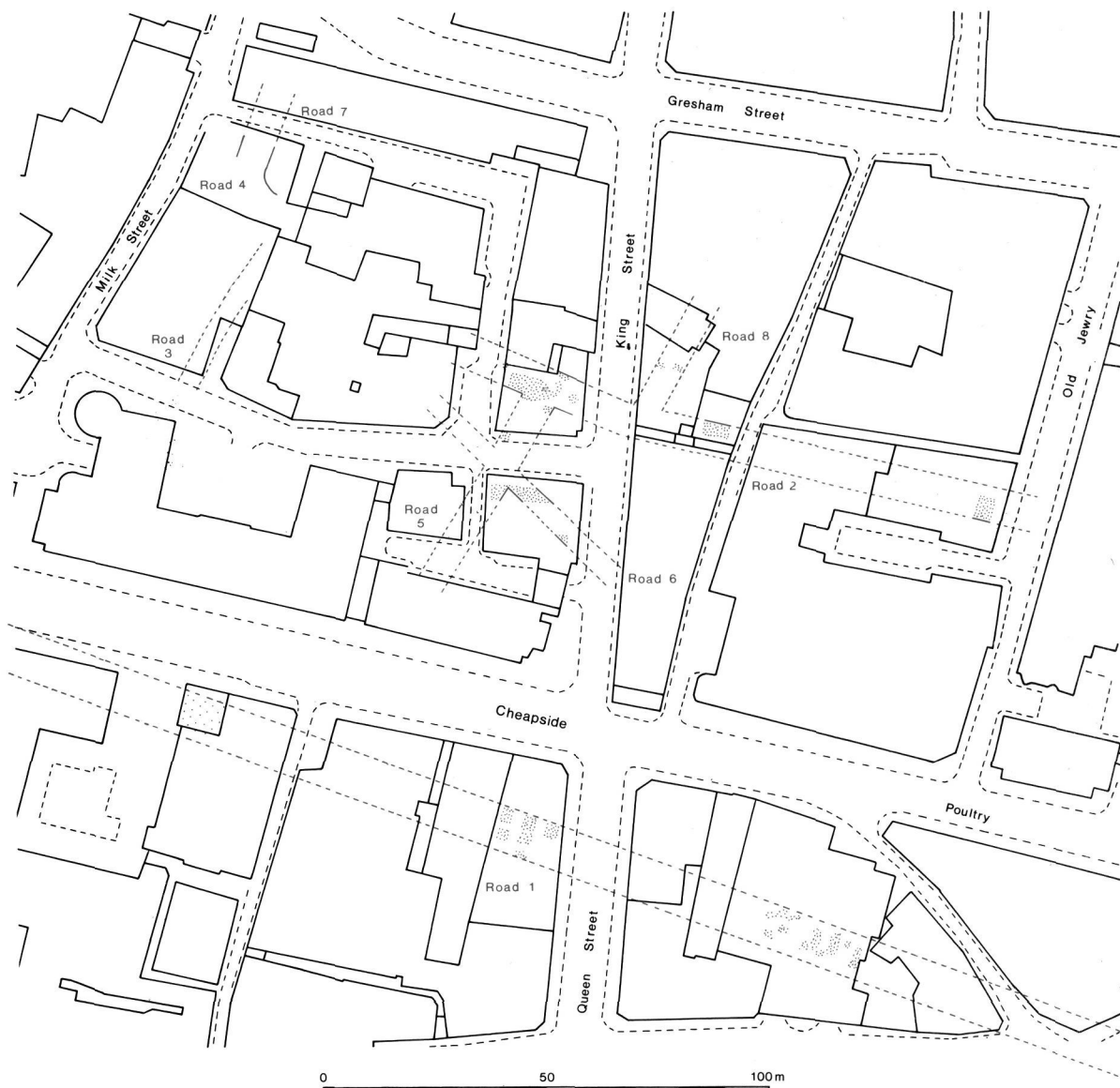


Fig. 4 King Street & Cheapside: Roman features of all periods.

aries, was present at 36–7 King Street (Site No. 10) (see p. 46). In both cases there was minimal evidence of any physical occupation on the sites at this period and this was also the case at the Milk Street sites at the western edge of the area (Sites Nos 3 and 4)<sup>55</sup>.

Unfortunately no dating evidence exists for the construction of the main east–west road (Road 1) running to the south of modern Cheapside. However, the make-ups and preparatory dumps beneath the gravels of this road all appear to be the earliest examples of human

activity on their respective sites. It is interesting to note that this road originally traversed an apparently very wet environment, but the survival of the general alignment shows that any problems caused by this were soon overcome. The construction of Road 1, however, was only a part of the early settlement of this area. To the immediate north another road, also aligned approximately east–west (Road 2), was constructed at about the same time (but perhaps not before). Road 2 was not as wide as the main Road 1 to the south, *c.* 6.5m compared to *c.* 10m, and the two were not parallel but converged slightly towards the west.

Linking these two roads were three others of apparently similar date. Road 3 was aligned approximately north to south. Discovered in the two Milk Street excavations<sup>56</sup>, it ran along dry ground to the immediate west of the Blossoms Inn site and if projected southwards, would have formed a right-angle junction with Road 1. The course of this road northwards appears to be curving slightly to the north–east but must have joined an east–west orientated road (Road 4) of which only a small section was discovered in the 1972 excavations<sup>57</sup>. The exact location of the junction of these two roads is not known. To the east, and south–east of the Blossoms Inn site, was constructed another approximately north to south aligned road (Road 5) (36–7 King Street. See p. 46). This would have met Road 1 at an angle of about 75'. This junction would have been virtually opposite the point where the Roman precursor of Bow Lane joined Road 1. At its northern end Road 5 met Road 2 at the point where the latter veered slightly to the north–east (34–5 King Street, 1955, Site No. 9<sup>58</sup>), probably to run across the Blossoms Inn Yard (1930) site (Site No. 5) and meet the junction between Roads 3 and 4. This realignment would account for the fact

that Grimes failed to locate any road gravels in his 1955 excavations at Blossoms Inn to the west (Site No. 6).

Also meeting at that junction was the third of the inter-connecting roads (Road 6). This, discovered at 36–7 King Street (see p. 46), ran in a north–west to south–east alignment. If projected to the south–east, this road would have made a very acute junction with Road 1. It is possible that there is some connection between this and the line of modern Bucklersbury.

If both Roads 2 and 6 passed across the Blossoms Inn site they would have occupied a large part of it and could well explain the absence of any notable structural remains (see p. 23). Further confirmation that both roads did actually cross the Blossoms Inn site is offered by the alignments of the beam slots discovered by Grimes<sup>59</sup> (see p. 24 and Fig. 7). One alignment is perpendicular to Road 2 whereas the other appears to be parallel to the projected course of Road 6. This building or buildings would have fitted in a triangular plot of land created by Roads 2, 5 and 6.

The presence of these inter-connecting roads together with the natural features described above presents a picture of a terrain criss-crossed by streams and roadways. The alignments of the latter do not appear to have been restricted by the presence of the former. The main east–west road (Road 1) was constructed across a much less favourable terrain, and if, as suggested, Roads 2 and 6 crossed the Blossoms Inn site they would also have had to negotiate equal difficulties. There is no reason at all, therefore, to suppose that the natural environment had any particular affect upon the street system in this part of the Roman town, or that the system was deflected from its purpose of providing the most direct access between specific parts of the town. What immediately becomes apparent is

the existence of a 'focal point' of Roads 2, 3 and 6 to the north or north-west of the Milk Street 1972 site (Site No. 3). Whether an entrance-way through an early civic boundary of the initial planned town existed in this area comparable with that proposed to exist to the west of this study area<sup>60</sup>, or whether there existed here some specific feature of intrinsic importance cannot be decided at present. Future excavation and research work in the area of the early 2nd century fort in the Cripplegate region might clarify this matter.

The nature of the late 1st and early 2nd century occupation alongside these roads was essentially residential<sup>61</sup>. Traces of timber and clay buildings with gravelled external courtyards have been found on a number of sites (see below *passim*). There is also evidence for minor industrial activity at 24–5 Ironmonger Lane (Site No. 13)<sup>62</sup> and also 9–12 King Street (Site No. 12)<sup>63</sup> (see below, p. 40) where hearths and water channels were recorded. On the former site, iron slag and charcoal were noted in an encrustation lining a channel. However, neither the industries in question nor their intensity could be definitely specified. As seen in many places elsewhere in the Roman City, these structures were destroyed by a massive early 2nd century fire which can be dated to the Hadrianic period. Evidence for that fire in this study area come from 24–5 Ironmonger Lane (Site No. 13)<sup>64</sup>, 9–12 King Street (No. 12), 34–5 King Street (No. 9), 36–7 King Street (No. 10), Milk Street (1976) (No. 4)<sup>65</sup> and possibly 67–9 (No. 22) Cheapside and 76–80 Cheapside (No. 25).

Prior to this fire, and probably contemporary with the building of the early 2nd century stone fort at Cripplegate, there appears to have been an attempt to extend the road system northwards probably to serve the area to the east of the fort. Road 7 north of the Milk Street

1972 junction<sup>66</sup>, if projected, would pass alongside the east side of the fort and give access to the east gate of the fort. Also, the foundation during the early 2nd century of a new north–south road or track (Road 8) at 9–12 King Street (Site No. 12), probably the same as that seen to the immediate north at 13–14 King Street (Site No. 11), served the area further to the east of the fort. Evidence from the 9–12 King Street site, namely the dumping of rubbish over the road dated *c.* 110–130 would indicate that the intended extension into this northern area failed, probably as a result of the devastation caused by the Hadrianic fire. This failure, or at least a contraction in intensity of occupation, can be noted across the entire area following the fire.

The character of the post-Hadrianic fire buildings in the area is not only different in methods of construction but a number of the buildings are also on an entirely different alignment to that of earlier buildings. Few of the later buildings, apart from the 36–7 King Street 1985 sequence, the structure on the site of 11 Ironmonger Lane<sup>67</sup>, which probably dates to the early or late 3rd century, and a timber and clay building on the Milk Street 1976 site<sup>68</sup> (on the extreme west of this study area and not discussed here) which was systematically dismantled can be accurately dated at all. Even the assignment here of most of them to the period following the Hadrianic fire is based upon their common alignments, similarities in building techniques and, where such exist, their relatively late position in any sequence. In the case of the building at 13–14 King Street (Site No. 11), the relatively late date suggested depends on the assumption that the underlying road was the same as that which went out of use following the Hadrianic fire (ie Road 8).

The explanation for the new alignment

of these later walls is not forthcoming in the area under consideration here. No natural feature would have had such a drastic affect on any planned development of an individual building or group of buildings, especially after a century of occupation on the site. Perhaps an initial intention of developing the district to the north of the present area of study was still under consideration in the early 2nd century, but served by roads from the south-east and north-east instead of from the south. It is worth noting that any such road to the north-east of the buildings in the northern part of our area, and aligned with them, could have provided direct access from the east gate of the Cripplegate fort, and the district to its immediate east, to the Walbrook crossing at Bucklersbury.

On other sites in the area, the depo-

sition of 'dark earth' was contemporary with residences such as those described immediately above. At first the roads continued to be kept clear but eventually, Roads 2, 5 and 6 at least became buried. The cutting through the road surface at 34-5 King Street (Site No. 9) of a well in the late 3rd or 4th centuries<sup>69</sup> might suggest disuse of Road 2 at this time or merely indicate a reduced use of the road and its encroachment by neighbouring occupants. The dumping of East-Gaulish samian and Argonne ware on the Blossoms Inn Yard site (Site No. 9) suggests also some persisting use into this later period<sup>70</sup>. There is no evidence for 'dark earth' on the main east-west route (Road 1).

#### THE GAZETTEER OF SITES

The sites are arranged alphabetically. Site locations can be found on Fig. 2.

- BLOSSOMS INN YARD, 1930 (site 5)
- BLOSSOMS INN, 1955 (site 6)
- BLOSSOMS INN EXTENSION, 1956 (site 7)

The site of Blossoms Inn is located to the immediate east of the two Milk Street sites excavated by COLAS and DUA in 1972 and 1976 respectively (Fig. 2, Nos 3 and 4 and Fig. 5)<sup>71</sup> with Lawrence Lane on the east side and Trump Street on the south. There have been at least three opportunities to examine the archaeological remains there. Firstly, at the time of the construction of the present building in 1930, observations were made by Gerald Dunning for the Society of Antiquaries<sup>72</sup>. Following the Second World War, the redevelopment of the separate bomb-damaged properties in the south-east corner of the present site, in the angle of Trump Street and Lawrence Lane, took the form of an extension to the 1930's structure. W. F. Grimes, then of the London Museum but excavating on behalf of the Roman and Medieval London Excavation Council, supervised the excavation of three narrow trenches on the east side of this redevelopment fronting onto Lawrence Lane<sup>73</sup>. The following year, Ivor Noël Hume of the Guildhall Museum examined a long retaining-wall trench on the south side of redevelopment facing Trump Street<sup>74</sup>.

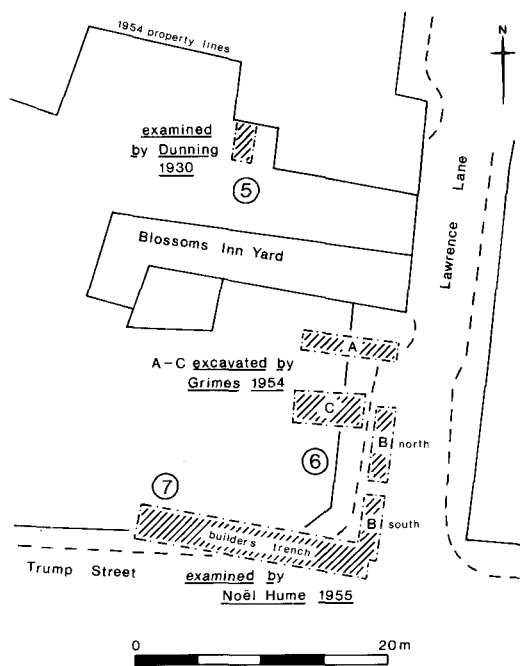


Fig. 5 King Street & Cheapside: The Blossoms Inn area showing the locations of the 1930, 1954 and 1955 trenches.

## BLOSSOMS INN YARD, 1930

(Fig. 2, No. 5)

The redevelopment of this site produced 'no notable structural remains'<sup>75</sup>. This does not necessarily mean that any buildings there did not exist. Rather, it is perhaps an indication that more substantial features such as masonry walls, mortar or cement floors, drains etc. were absent or very fragmentary. There is no indication whatsoever of the presence or status of any lesser structures (eg timber and clay buildings) or road metallings.

A small trench was excavated on the northern part of the site against the party wall of the Lawrence Lane building to the north (Fig. 6)<sup>76</sup>. This trench (*c.* 1.80m × *c.* 4.50m) revealed only five timber piles, driven vertically into a wet, black organic soil, with horizontally laid planking butting against them and set vertically on edge. These would appear to represent a revetment (camp-

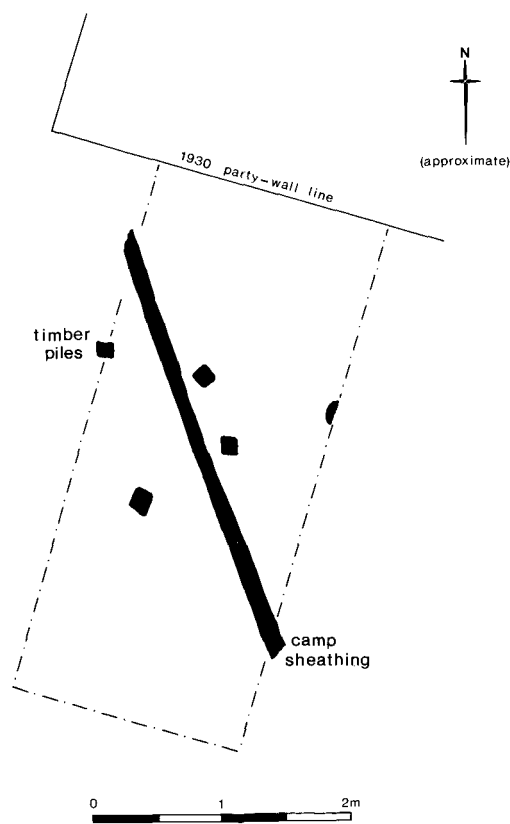


Fig. 6 King Street & Cheapside: Blossoms Inn Yard, 1930. Details of excavated features. The location and orientation of this trench is not precise.

sheathing) and were orientated approximately north-west to south-east.

Perhaps the most important feature of this site as a whole was the large quantity of objects recovered. It might be that this abundance mainly of pottery, is proportional to the size of the site as a whole but the quantity and the intrinsic importance of the Roman pottery assemblage is exceptional<sup>77</sup>. In the absence of any structural remains, this ceramic assemblage does allow for some tentative suggestions to be made regarding the nature of occupation on this site.

The Roman pottery assemblage from Blossoms Inn Yard consists primarily of *c.* 400 samian ware fragments<sup>78</sup>, which make up one of the largest samian assemblages in the Roman City of London<sup>79</sup>. The coarse ware and non-samian fine ware fragments are few in comparison (*c.* 65 fragments). This predominance of samian is most likely to be due to an on-site bias during the collection of the finds and so should not be seen as indicative of the real ceramic vessel supply and use on or near to this particular site<sup>80</sup>. Although fragments of Neronian and Flavian periods are present these are few compared to the large number attributable to the early and, especially, the mid-2nd century. Without any structural remains the implications of this mid-2nd century concentration of finds is not clear. The size of individual sherds and their quantity do, however, suggest intentional dumping in the form of rubbish from house-clearances. Of particular importance are the fragments of Argonne ware and East Gaulish wares attributable to the 3rd century. This group of late pottery itself comprises one of the largest late samian assemblages to have been found in the City away from the riverside area. Again, intentional dumping is implied but their presence is nevertheless indicative of late Roman occupation of at least the 3rd century in the vicinity.

It is frustrating that so little evidence for any structures survives for this site. The trench which Dunning examined does suggest that the region had a very wet environment. It is possible, therefore, that the presence of so much surface water prevented any concerted effort to develop the area except for the erection of specialised structures which could take full advantage of such copious water supplies (eg Cheapside baths).

## BLOSSOMS INN (Fig. 2, No. 6) (LAWRENCE LANE FRONTAGE), 1955

In 1955 W. F. Grimes excavated the site on the east side of the Blossoms Inn building. This site

was on the Lawrence Lane frontage of a proposed extension to Blossoms Inn in advance of redevelopment. Although a short interim report on this excavation has already been published by the excavator<sup>81</sup>, the importance of the site's location in this study area justifies the summarising below of the Roman features.

Three trenches, A, B and C (Fig. 5), were excavated. Trench A was aborted and C was severely disturbed by a post-medieval cesspit. Trench B was aligned parallel with the north-south Lawrence Lane frontage. Fortunately, the levels of Roman date in that trench had not been severely affected by any later intrusions. The excavator recorded that natural brickearth was encountered at *c.* 4.60m below street level (ie *c.* 10.50m OD). The presence of brickearth in this region is surprising for it is not recorded on any other site in

the immediate vicinity. It is possible that this was a redeposited layer of quarried brickearth<sup>82</sup>. It is important to note that, in trench B in particular, the lower levels were waterlogged.

No stone buildings were recorded. Instead a series of superimposed occupation and destruction layers, some of which contained 'black or red burnt occupation material', were noted in association with postholes and gullies<sup>83</sup>. These indicate insubstantially founded structures, the true nature of which cannot be interpreted from the small areas examined. Of particular importance, however, are the alignments of timber beam slots recorded in Grimes' Trench B (Fig. 7)<sup>84</sup>. The two alignments there crossed on axes of north-north-east by south-south-west and north-west by south-east and so not at true right-angles to each other<sup>85</sup>. Similar features were recorded at different levels in the trench, the best example being at *c.* 4.00m below street level (*c.* 11.25-11.50m OD). At this level the beam slots were *c.* 10cm wide and still retained traces of timber. The presence of clay daub retaining an 'incised herring-bone pattern' with wattle impressions on the opposite surface would seem to indicate the type of walls set upon the timber sill-beams<sup>86</sup>.

The floors in each of the four rooms created by the two crossing alignments of the particular structure described above were composed of different materials on a foundation of hard-rammed gravel. The use of the latter medium for house floors within buildings is most unusual, and so it is probable that the structure recorded here represents a building constructed upon that gravelled surface. Since no evidence for a metal road was noted it is probable that this rammed gravel layer represented a courtyard surface. The overlying timber building had at least one room fitted with a timber floor above the gravel surface<sup>87</sup>.

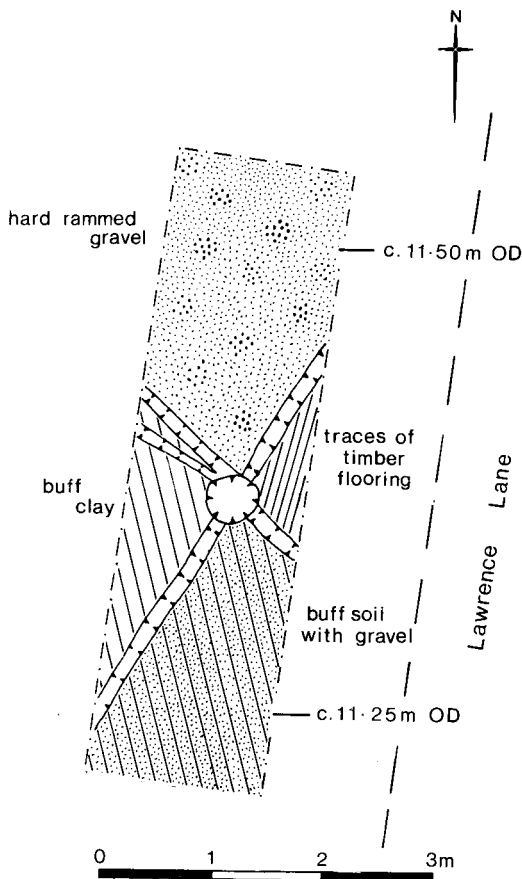


Fig. 7 King Street & Cheapside: Blossoms Inn, 1955. Detail of trench B north (after Grimes 1968).

### BLOSSOMS INN EXTENSION (Trump Street frontage) 1956 (Fig. 2, No. 7)

During the year following Grimes's examination of the east frontage of the Blossoms Inn Extension, Ivor Noël Hume of the Guildhall Museum was able to examine the frontage to the south facing onto Trump Street<sup>88</sup>. His examination followed the cutting of a retaining-wall trench from east to west across the site facing south fronting onto Trump Street, including the southern end of the southernmost of Grimes's 1955 trenches which fronted onto Lawrence Lane. Unfortunately excavation was not possible, but Noël Hume was able to record in note form only the north facing section of the retaining-

wall trench. Most of the features he recorded were medieval or post-medieval in date but it was noted that on the extreme west side of this section, post-medieval features rested on a deposit of 'black gravel and organic clay' at least 3.50m wide from east to west containing exclusively Roman material<sup>89</sup>. The excavator interpreted this as evidence for a pond or stream which existed during the Roman period on this site.

## DISCUSSION

The three most striking aspects of these sites as a whole are the absence of any substantial structural remains; the existence of wet or water-logged conditions; and the presence of one of the most important pottery assemblages of Roman London. In an area of the city where each of these characteristics is highly untypical, there can be little doubt that they were directly interconnected. It is probable that the local terrain discouraged the kind of dense occupation found in the surrounding areas (while specifically encouraging specialised buildings such as the Cheapside bath-house). It may be that this area was occupied by the type of timber building recorded by Grimes but, if so, any preference for such light structures perhaps emphasises the restricting influence which the local environment had upon Roman occupation in this area. The nature of the pottery assemblage suggests that the locality was used largely as a dumping ground from the Flavian period to the 3rd century, and the quantity, quality and date of the ceramic material provides an indirect but valuable reflection of the character of occupation in the adjacent and perhaps more typical areas.

### 64–6 CHEAPSIDE, 1931 (Fig. 2, No. 21)

This site, on the south side of Cheapside opposite Lawrence Lane, was examined by Gerald Dunning for the Society of Antiquaries during redevelopment in 1931. No natural features or structural remains were recorded. The finds, in particular pottery, can be dated from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD with an emphasis on the first two centuries. The presence of Claudian-Neronian samian ware amongst this assemblage might indicate the presence on this site of pre- or early Flavian activity<sup>90</sup>.

### 67–9 CHEAPSIDE/1–5 QUEEN STREET, 1938 (Fig. 2, No. 22)

This site was located on the south-west corner of Cheapside and Queen Street to the east and

was examined by Frank Cottrill for the Society of Antiquaries during redevelopment in 1938<sup>91</sup>. The observations were made during the excavation of twenty-nine foundation pier trenches for the proposed building. Unfortunately, many of the sides of these trenches had been obscured by shoring and only sixteen revealed archaeological information, but sufficient was recorded to show the existence of a major east–west road, apparently the same as that noted by Sir Christopher Wren<sup>92</sup> to the west.

### GEOLOGY AND PRE-ROAD FEATURES (Fig. 8)

Natural brickearth was recorded in just two trenches (Nos 10 & 14) at between 8.93–9.77m OD. This overlay gravels which were recorded in

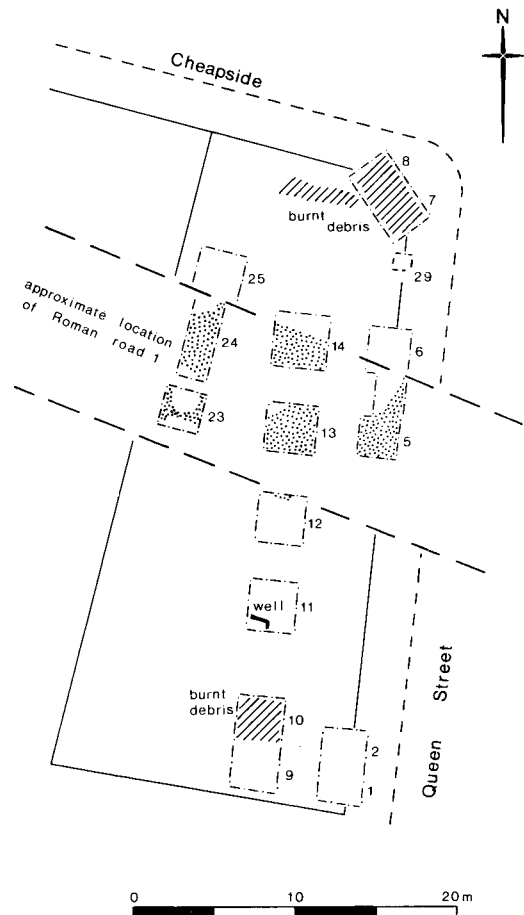


Fig. 8 King Street & Cheapside: 67–9 Cheapside, 1938. Detail of site and excavated features.



three trenches (Nos 11, 12 & 14). In trenches Nos 11 and 14, the height of the gravel was between 7.72–8.56m OD whereas in No. 12 the level fell to between 7.11–7.95m OD. This, was probably due to a stream cut or depression. Filling this feature and, in a number of places, lying either over natural deposits or sealed by road gravels (when no reference to natural is made) were a number of soils indicative of a wet, organic environment such as stream beds, marshland or ponds. These are variously described as:

Trench 5. Wet grey clay (under road gravels) with a level between 8.22–9.06m OD.

Trench 6. Wet black mud on light grey clay (under road gravels) with a level between 8.47–9.31m OD. Into this had been driven a timber pile.

Trench 11. A moist, fairly stiff black soil with a level between 10.15–10.99m OD.

Trench 12. Black mud filling the depression referred to above. Only the base of this layer was recorded which corresponds with the top of the gravel in that trench.

Trench 14. Two layers were recorded (under road gravels). The lowest, with a bottom level of between 7.72–8.56m OD on natural gravel was described as damp black mud. Above this, with its base between 9.24–10.08m OD and its top between 9.55–10.39m OD was a damp grey clayey and stoney layer.

Trench 23. Black soil and mud, with its top between 9.70–10.54m OD (under road gravels).

Trench 29. Black mud with its base between 8.47–9.31m OD.

#### ROMAN ROAD

Roman road metallings were detected in seven of the trenches. The most important of these were in Nos 5–6, 14 and 24 where the gravel stopped on a common, approximately east–west, line indicating the northern limit of the road. The top level of this road was at between 11.19–12.03m OD, the base of the lowest metalling being between 9.25–10.0m OD. The road's greatest known thickness, therefore, was *c.* 1.40m and its width was at least 8.00m. The road showed signs of numerous remetallings composed of coarse, hard gravel and had been constructed over the wet deposits described above. The presence of a timber pile in one place to the immediate north of the road (Trench 6) might suggest that some consolidation was necessary. In places, a yellow clay had been packed down on top of the underlying soils. The fact that this road had been many times remetalled reflects its importance as a major route through the Roman city. It is likely that any amount of subsidence would never have altered the use or character of this road.

Unfortunately, no dating evidence came from either the wet and waterlogged deposits beneath the road or from the road itself except for a base of

a samian ware cup (Dr 27), now missing, said to have had an encircling groove (a pre-Flavian feature)<sup>93</sup> and to have come from a 'low level'.

It is not possible to identify the nature of occupation on either side of this road. To the immediate north and south, the soils apparently butting up to the road gravels were also described as wet and rich in organic material. Could it be that, with the construction of this road across a stream line, some alternative means had to be sought to divert any water using the stream channel as a natural drain? The roadside drains could have been canalised to take away any unwanted water and, if so, might explain why occupation debris was found in the extreme north (Trenches 7, 8 and 26) and the extreme south only (Trenches 10 and 11) away from the edges of the road itself.

In the northern part of the site, the occupation layers are described as being mainly of clay a few centimetres thick, sealing and cut by pits filled with dark and varicoloured soils. A great quantity of burnt clay or daub was recorded between 11.15–11.99m and 8.93–9.77m OD, evidence of a major fire deposit. At the southern end of the site (Trench 10), layers of burnt debris, occupational material and dirty clay was recorded between 10.15–10.99m OD and 9.32–10.16m OD). Natural brickearth was detected *c.* 40cm below. It is possible that the presence of occupation material here is directly related to the drier environment recorded beneath. To the north the natural ground was increasingly less congenial. In fact, the road appears to cover most of the land on this site which would have been least suitable for building.

Only one structure was recorded. This was a timber-lined well (Trench 11) to the immediate north of the occupation debris on the south side of the road. This well had been constructed by the 'corner-post' technique in which horizontal planks, laid on edge, were kept in position against the rectangular cut of the well shaft by posts driven into the angles<sup>94</sup>. The bottom of the filling of the well, primarily a dark brown soil, was on the surface of natural gravel at between 8.33–9.17m OD.

As for the road, no dating evidence was recovered either from the occupation deposits to the far north and south of it, or from the dark, mud-like deposits alongside it.

#### 70–3 CHEAPSIDE, 1930 (Fig. 2, No. 23)

This site was located to the south of Cheapside, excavations being conducted by Frank Cottrill for the Society of Antiquaries during the course of redevelopment work<sup>95</sup>.

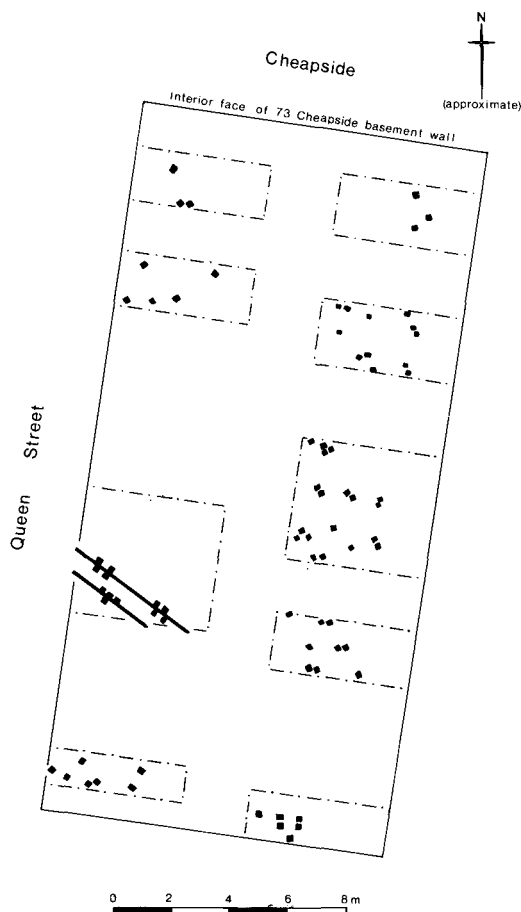


Fig. 9 King Street & Cheapside: 70-3 Cheapside, 1930. Detail of site and excavated features.

The structural finds relevant to the Roman period were few (Fig. 9). A number of oak piles with associated camp-sheathing were discovered on the south side of the site indicating of the presence of a natural stream or a man-made water-course flowing through the site. This ran in an approximately north-west to south-east direction. Excavations over thirty years later on the premises to the east, 76-80 Cheapside in 1962 (site No. 25), revealed the east side of a naturally cut channel meandering south-eastwards across Cheapside. The structures noted here probably indicate the position of the west side.

The camp-sheathing was constructed by standing horizontal planks, laid on edge, between pairs or groups of vertically driven stakes which braced them and held them in position. In places, the

horizontal planks have disappeared (re-used or decayed) but pairs and groups of stakes closely set indicate where planks were once set.

No finds survive to date these structures. A published note by the excavator, however, refers to the 'early character of much of the samian ware'<sup>96</sup>. No reference is made to the nature of any later material.

## 1-2 BUCKLERSBURY, 1955

(Fig. 2, No. 24)

A small excavation conducted by W. F. Grimes at 1-2 Bucklersbury is worthy of note here. An interim report has been published by the excavator<sup>97</sup> and a summary of the main observations will suffice.

An important aspect of the site was the high degree of waterlogging which resulted in the very good preservation of wooden material, in particular structures<sup>98</sup>. No stone buildings were discovered, a feature in common with all of the Cheapside sites where wet environments prevailed. Instead the stratigraphy was composed of intentional dump deposits which, at times, had served as the floors for small timber huts. Many of these floors had been boarded over and some had been given a light edging of timber held in place by vertical pegs. Similar vertical pegs were found at 70-3 Cheapside (site No. 23) indicating the west side of a deep channel. However, no floor timbers were recorded there. Several of these floors had been 'fired'<sup>99</sup> but, according to the excavator, there was nothing there to suggest anything more than normal domestic activity. Some apparently redeposited burnt material was noted and a wicker-lined pit, of unknown function but Roman in date was also recorded.

Finds included a large quantity of pottery, which awaits detailed study, and numerous quern-stone fragments. A quantity of corn was also recorded beneath the redeposited burnt material noted immediately above suggesting the existence of a granary or bakery on or near to this site. The presence of iron-slag suggested some limited industrial activity nearby.

## 76-80 CHEAPSIDE AND 1-2 BUCKLERSBURY, 1962

(Fig. 2, No. 25)

An examination of this site (including the basements examined by Grimes in 1955) was conducted by Peter Marsden, of the Guildhall Museum, during the redevelopment in advance of office building in 1962. A short interim report of the site has

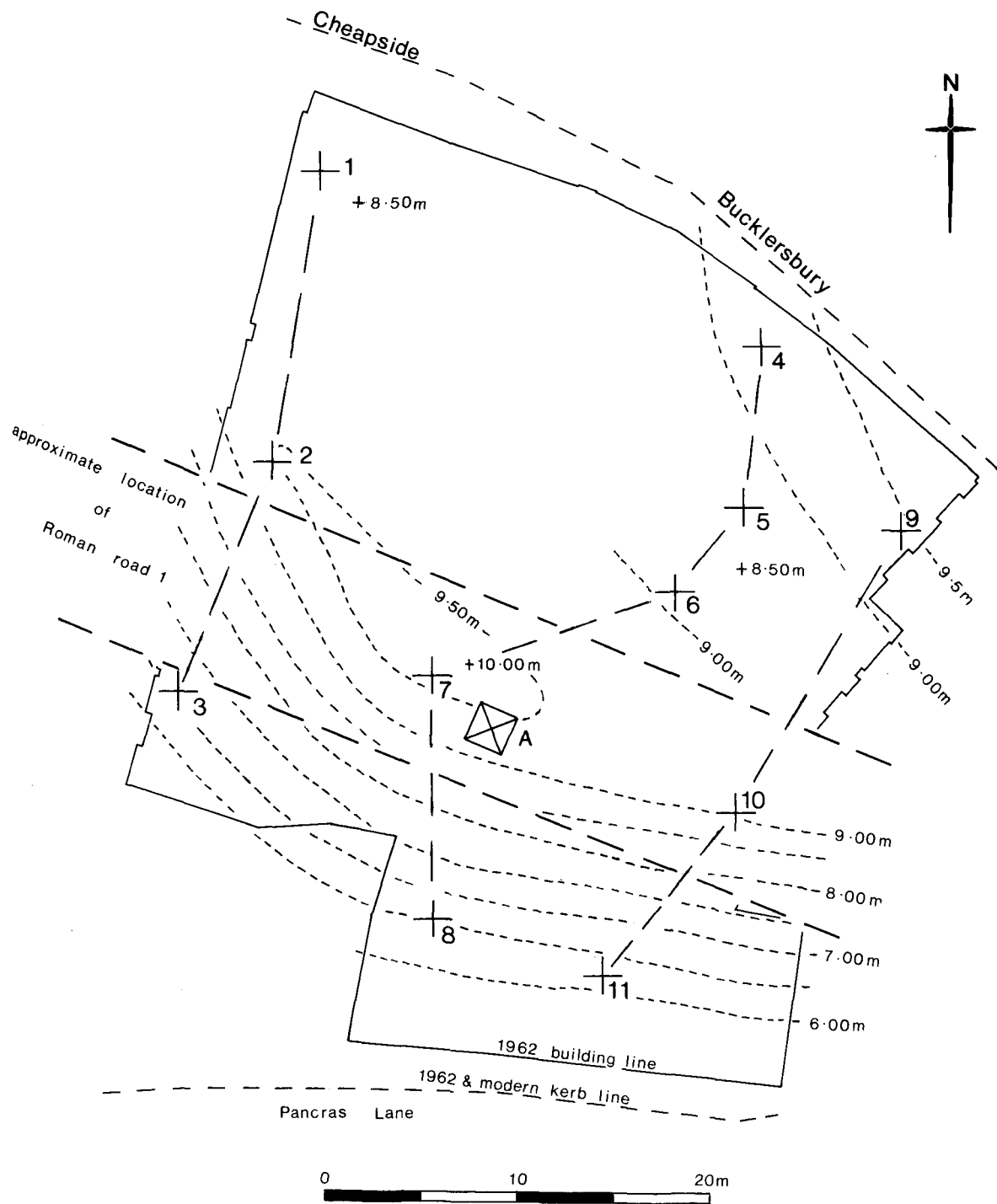


Fig. 10 King Street & Cheapside: 76-80 Cheapside, 1962. Detail of site, pre-urban features and location of boreholes.

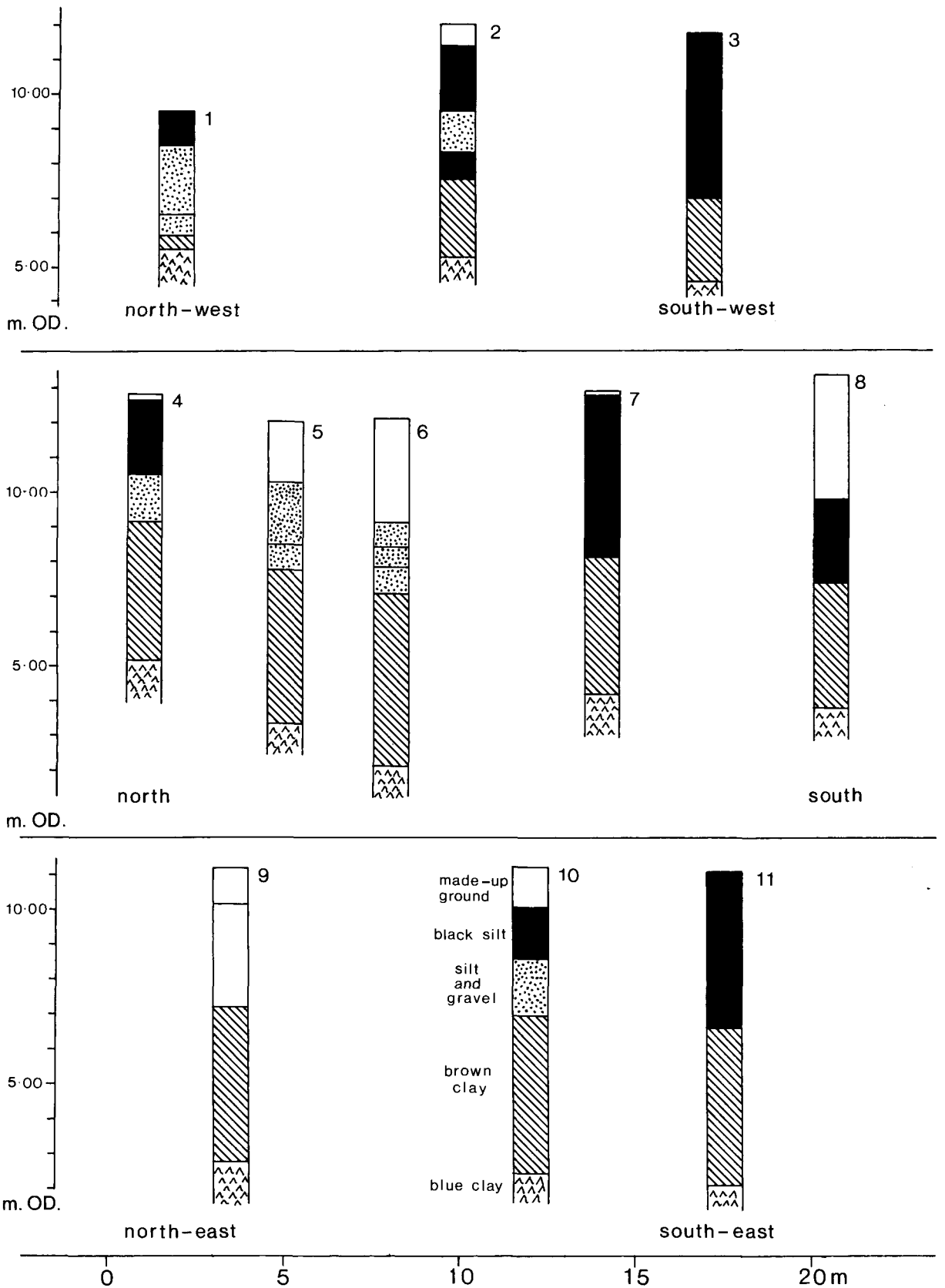


Fig. 11 King Street & Cheapside: 76-80 Cheapside, 1962. Details of borehole sections, 1-11. For key to symbols see borehole section no. 10.

been previously published<sup>100</sup>. Therefore, below are summarised the details relevant to this study.

## GEOLOGY

(Figs 10 and 11)

An important feature noted during excavation, and also in previous borehole samples (Fig. 11; see Fig. 10 for borehole locations and orientation of sections through the natural and made-up deposits<sup>101</sup>), was the distinct contrast in the levels of the natural ground surface across the site. In the north-east corner, natural brickearth was recorded at *c.* 9.60m OD but this fell away sharply to the west and, especially, the south-west and south to *c.* 6.00m OD. The resulting 'u'-profile was filled with clean grey silt mixed with sparse gravel (Fig. 11, Boreholes Nos 1, 2, 4–6 and 10) and sealed by a black silt (Fig. 11, Boreholes Nos 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11) containing Roman antiquities<sup>102</sup>. This feature represents a stream or river valley, *c.* 4.00m deep formed by water flowing south or south-east and then veering almost due eastwards, presumably to meet up eventually with the main body of the Walbrook.

The uppermost black silt fill of this stream valley had been truncated in Boreholes 5 and 6 and both the grey silt and gravel layer and the black silt were replaced by made-up soils in Borehole 9 (Fig. 11). In the extreme south and south-west areas of the site, the black silt rested directly on brown clay with no intermediate silt or gravel layers (Fig. 11, Boreholes Nos 3, 7, 8 and 11). Beneath this clay lay undisturbed London Clay<sup>103</sup>. The reasons for the absence of these layers in that particular area of the site are not clear, but the silt and gravel fills may represent an earlier river or stream channel cut by a later one which was in existence at the time of Roman occupation. It is also possible that this merely represents a natural filling process of the stream. The sections showing the coarse silt and gravel mixed occur along the side of the deeper channel.

## ROMAN FEATURES

(Fig. 12, Features 1–9)

Features of Roman date recorded on this site were few, mainly road gravels, timber piles, some burnt deposits and a timber-lined well.

Crossing the site from east to west was recorded the remains of the same major Roman road (Road 1) as had been recorded previously in this study area at 67–69 Cheapside (Site No. 22) to the west in 1938. The road was more than 8m in width but the presence of a timber structure (Fig. 12, No. 3) in the south-west corner of this site and the traces of another on the immediate northern side of the

road (Fig. 12, No. 4) restricts its maximum width to *c.* 11m. On average, the evidence from this and previous excavations suggests a width of *c.* 9.75m. The lowest metalling was laid directly on natural subsoils suggesting that on this site, as elsewhere along its line, this road was the earliest feature on the site. Its maximum surviving thickness was *c.* 1.70m and comprised a number of gravel layers separated by thin bands of dark soil indicating remetalings. The precise number could not be recorded. Unfortunately, at the point where it crossed the deepest part of the stream very little of the road and its method of construction could be recorded. No bridge structure, culvert or revetting could be found to suggest how the road traversed this stream<sup>104</sup>. That the black silt contained Roman antiquities and was found to the north and south of the line of the road suggests that the stream was active for some time during the Roman period and was contemporary with the existence of the road. The precise engineering involved must remain a mystery: a small bridge over a timber lined culvert would be a reasonable assumption in the absence of any evidence.

Towards the east of the site, along the line of the road, a group of small timber piles (Fig. 12, No. 2), *c.* 7.5–10cm in diameter were recorded beneath the road and were evidently earlier than the earliest road metalling at that point. These extended *c.* 30cm into the road gravels. It is probable that they merely represent some form of stabilising foundation driven into the soft ground along which the road was to pass. However, the excavator believed them to be part of a structure pre-dating the furthest extent of the road: being set approximately along its central axis. They were probably contemporary with an earlier road on the same alignment but of only half the later width<sup>105</sup>.

No masonry structures were identified. Apart from the possible timber structures recorded alongside the road and sealed by the later road widening, the only additional evidence for any buildings are the layers of burnt building material. Two of these were recorded in the north-east of the site (Fig. 12, Nos 5 and 6). The lowest was virtually resting on the natural subsoil (ie *c.* 9.60m OD), the bottom of the other was at *c.* 10.70m OD. It would appear, therefore, that these represent the debris from two quite distinct fires. To the immediate south-west, four large fragments of lava querns were recorded in another deposit of burnt clay and building material which cannot be related to either of the two described above. Pottery from this layer was dated to the Flavian period (Fig. 12, No. 7. ER. 853). Another small spread of burnt clay and building debris was noted to the south of the road (Fig.

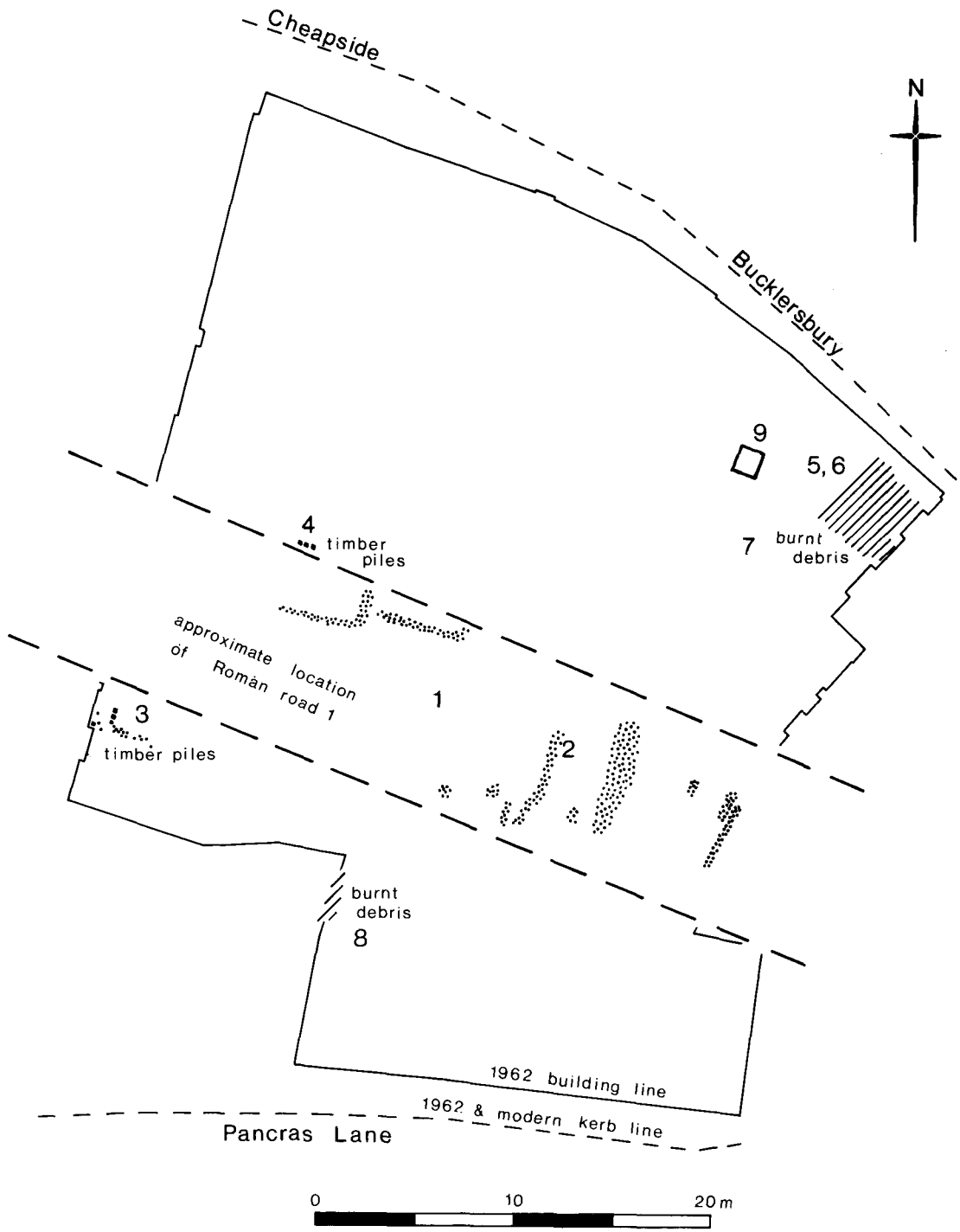


Fig. 12 King Street & Cheapside: 76-80 Cheapside, 1962. Detail of site and Roman features (all periods).

12, No. 8). No dimension or detailed description is available for this.

The final feature to be mentioned here was a timber-lined well (*c.* 0.75 × 0.80m), its bottom at *c.* 7.50m OD (ie *c.* 1.60m below natural ground level) (Fig. 12, No. 9). Only pottery of 'Roman' date was recovered from the lower filling of the well itself (ER. 852) so that it is not possible to determine the date of this feature, the level from which it was originally dug, or the construction technique employed for the timber lining.

## DISCUSSION

Although the variety and extent of the Roman features on this site were restricted, there is sufficient evidence to confirm the line of the main Roman road (Road 1) running east–west across the site. This road would have continued eastwards, south of 70–3 Cheapside (site No. 23) and across the site of 67–9 Cheapside (site No. 22) where it was recorded in 1938 (see above pp. 26–28 for descriptions of these two sites). In this study area the line of the road can be projected to the church of St Mary-le-Bow (site No. 20) where Sir Christopher Wren recorded 'a Roman causeway of rough stone, close and well-rammed'<sup>106</sup> during work on the tower. The road would appear to be the earliest feature on this site, just as it was at 67–9 Cheapside to the west.

The extent, intensity and nature of occupation alongside this road cannot be properly ascertained on this site. No masonry walls were noted but the presence of burnt debris might indicate that clay and timber structures lined the street. That these were mainly recorded in the north–east corner, the driest part of the entire site, might be evidence of a deliberate avoidance of the fringes of the stream valley. The location of the debris in the southern part of the site (Fig. 12, No. 8) indicates, perhaps, that the stream channel was either becoming choked with redeposited debris or that, at some unspecified time, conditions there were adequate for some form of occupation. The presence of the timber 'structure' to the north–west of this burnt spread (Fig. 12, No. 3) resembles the burnt timber structures, burnt clay and dumping on the site excavated by Grimes in the same area. Another comparison was the presence of lava quern fragments (see above p. 31). The deposit of grain recorded by Grimes helps to confirm the obvious implication that the occupants were engaged in the preparation of flour. That so many lava querns were discovered in this specific area does suggest that milling was practised intensely in this district especially on the north side of the main east–west road 1.

Unfortunately, there is no information available to interpret the date or nature of the final phases of Roman occupation or of any subsequent immediate post-Roman activity on this site.

## 20–38 GRESHAM STREET, 1959 and 1960

(Fig. 2, Nos 1 & 2)

Observations were made on this site on two separate occasions during the course of redevelopment. The first, in 1959, were undertaken by Eve Harris of the Guildhall Museum. The following year, Peter Marsden, also of the Guildhall Museum, examined the final phase of redevelopment on the extreme east of this large area<sup>107</sup>. The site, with a long Gresham Street frontage, lies to the north of both the 1972 Milk Street excavation<sup>108</sup> and also the large area of Blossoms Inn (see p. 23). To the west runs Milk Street itself and Lawrence Lane lies on the east. The 1960 redevelopment effectively bridged the two sides of Lawrence Lane, so that the features recorded during that year were located to the east of that lane.

The limited investigations of 1959 produced even more negative results than were achieved at the Blossoms Inn site (site No. 5) to the immediate south. Few features could be examined and no information about the natural environment came to light. One might also have hoped for some further trace of the north–south aligned road (Road 7) subsequently recorded at Milk Street to the south–west in 1972 and entering the street junction there from the north, as well as for some indication of any natural stream systems in the area. As it is, the available information records only general spreads of Roman occupation material and two features of Roman date: 1. ER. 449, a pit on the west side of the site; and 2, ER. 460, a small fragment of tile wall running east–west in the section for the retaining-wall trench for the north–east corner of the 1959 building phase. The tiles were laid into mortar and rested on a shallow ragstone foundation laid onto natural brickearth. No dimensions or levels are available. No dating material survives for study.

The 1960 examination of the area of development east of the 1959 site revealed traces of four ragstone walls, *c.* 90cm in thickness, with courses of bonding tiles (Fig. 13). These were undoubtedly Roman in date. Although they were recorded in section in builders trenches only, sufficient was exposed to show that they represented two parallel walls *c.* 3m apart on a north–east to south–west alignment, and both returning at right-angles to a north–west to south–east alignment. This has been interpreted

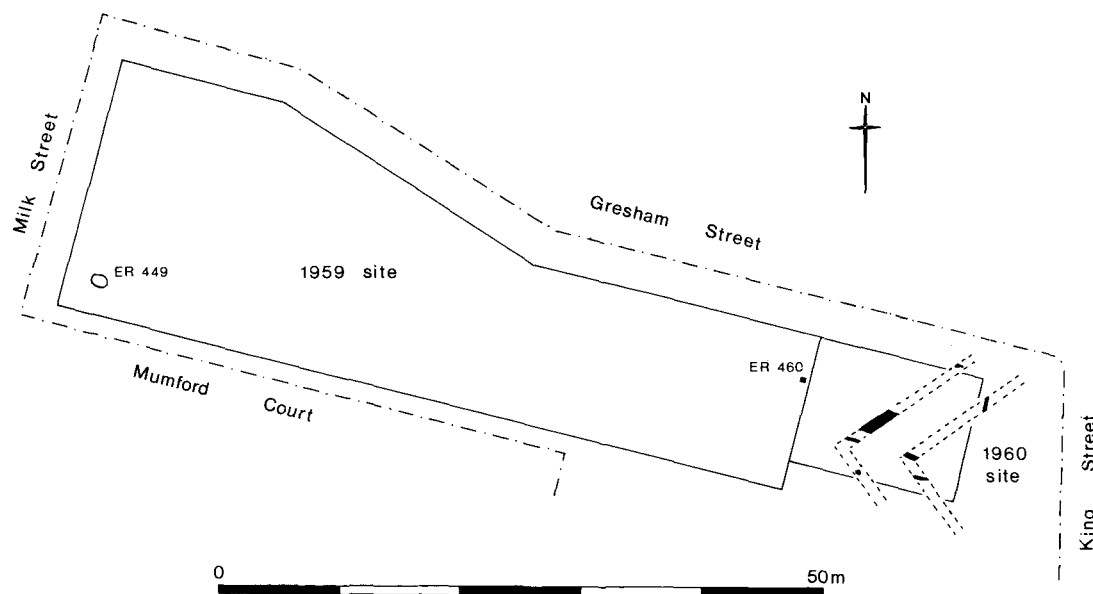


Fig. 13 King Street & Cheapside: 20–38 Gresham Street, 1959–60. Detail of site and Roman features (all periods).

as perhaps forming the corner of a substantial building with a courtyard around which ran a corridor<sup>109</sup>. This diagonal alignment was of particular importance in the vicinity since it was also shared by the wall at 33 King Street (site No. 8. See p. 42), at 34–5 King Street (site No. 9. See p. 43) and those at 13–14 King Street (site No. 11. See p. 41). The contrast with other alignments is striking and it is of prime importance to note that, elsewhere in this study area, where some form of relative dating is applicable, walls on these alignments always appear to be late in the Roman sequence. Unfortunately, neither any associated floors nor any occupation layers could be recorded on this site and no finds could be retrieved. An absolute date for this building is, therefore, unknown.

### 11 IRONMONGER LANE (Fig. 2, No. 15)

In December 1983 the mosaic pavement recorded by Adrian Oswald in 1949<sup>110</sup>, and subsequently preserved *in situ* in the basement of the Bank of Argentina, 11 Ironmonger Lane (formerly Selbourne House), was lifted for conservation and relaying on a new base<sup>111</sup> (Fig. 14). It was certain that this would involve the destruction of the underlying archaeological deposits. A small trench meas-

uring 1.5m × 2.0m was therefore excavated stratigraphically down to the natural river terrace gravels. This excavation, conducted by Patrick Allen of the DUA, Museum of London<sup>112</sup>, gave no more than a very basic sequence below the mosaic but, in broader terms, it provided a useful control in assessing the results of the 1949 excavation (Fig. 15). Oswald was able to interpret the mosaic as belonging to a large town house constructed in the early 3rd century<sup>113</sup> but earlier activity on the site was not as clearly understood.

### NATURAL STRATIGRAPHY

The uppermost natural deposit consisted of a clean orange medium to coarse gravel which was compacted and even-textured throughout (Fig. 15, 13). This formed a ground surface at 9.15–9.17m OD and represented the upper flood plain terrace of the Thames. There was no evidence at all of any natural brickearth above it.

### ROMAN ACTIVITY

A pit, probably intended to quarry the natural gravels, was cut from the natural ground surface (not shown on Fig. 15). It was excavated to a depth of only 20cm and was not bottomed. It had been back-filled with a very compact yellow sandy medium gravel with patches of sandy silt (Fig. 15,



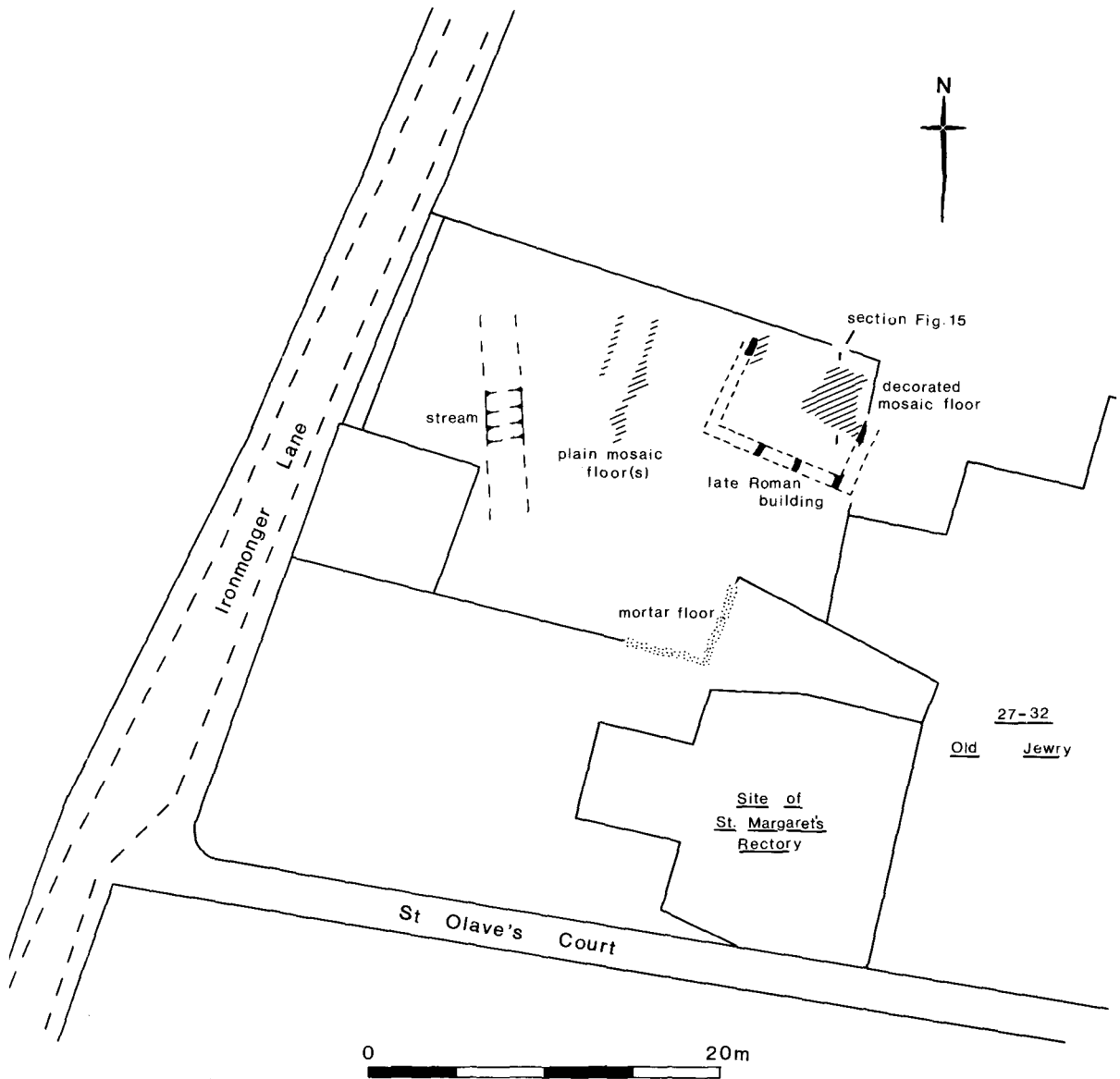


Fig. 14 King Street & Cheapside: 11 Ironmonger Lane. Location of main features. The 1983 watching brief was located beneath the decorated mosaic in the north-east corner of the site.

12). Above this were laid four successive layers of gravel representing external metallings. The first, sealing the pit described above, was a light to mid grey pebbly sand and silt (Fig. 15, 11). This layer was not at all compact and, being quite pure and fine in texture, may in part have been water-lain. At its base, however, were more compact gravelly

lenses representing an intentionally laid external metalling. Above this a compact orange medium gravel (Fig. 15, 10), with a level at 9.53m OD represented a less extensive resurfacing of the original external metalling. On this had been dumped a rubbish deposit consisting of dark grey silt and charcoal, interlensed with smaller amounts of light

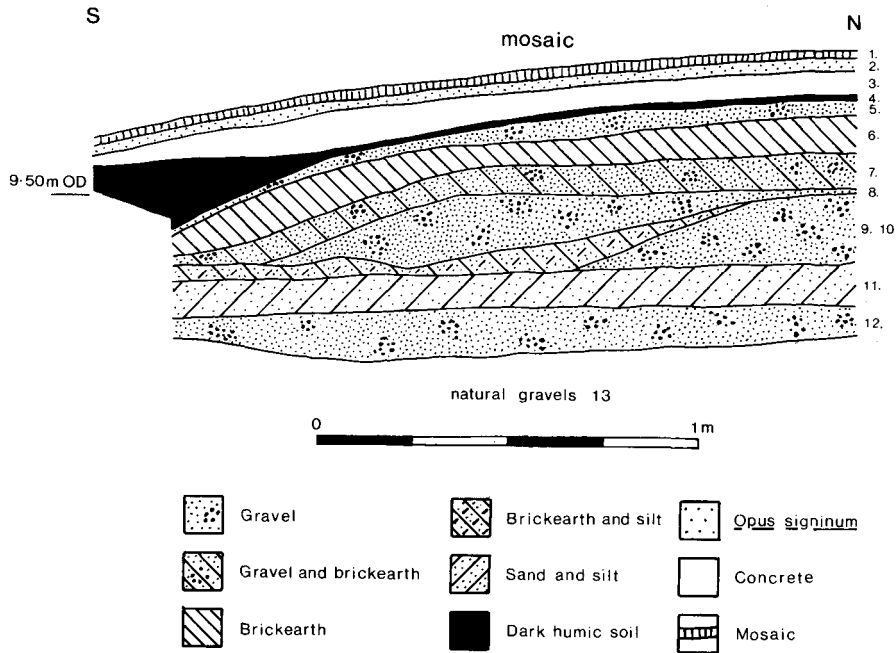


Fig. 15 King Street & Cheapside: 11 Ironmonger Lane, 1983. Section beneath mosaic (after P. Allen).

grey brickearth and loose, coarse orange-yellow gravel (Fig. 15, 9).

A new, not at all extensive, gravel layer (Fig. 15, 8) sloping to the south was laid upon this and was then sealed by a sandy and gravelly dirty yellow brickearth. The latter had a surface mainly at 9.60m–9.63m OD (Fig. 15, 7). This compact deposit represents an external metalling following the sloping edge of underlying layer 8 and was sealed by a 10cm thick layer of tan brickearth with a few silt patches and lenses of silt, mortar and organic material compacted into its surface (Fig. 15, 6). It is possible that this layer represents an occupation surface in its own right but it is more probable that it formed a compact preparation for the overlying surface (Fig. 15, 5). This was a thin, compact layer of dark brown-orange coarse gravel with several brickearth patches and its surface at a level of 9.67–9.75m OD, and represents a further external metalling.

Altogether, four successive external metallings were laid above the natural surface. Dating evidence from them suggests that they were laid from the Flavian to the Trajanic period (c. AD 70–120). The earliest (layer 11) sealed the pit and formed a level surface across the trench as a whole. Only the southern edge of the second metalling (layer 10)

lay within the trench and the original surfacing would have remained in use over the area to its south. The raised edge of the second metalling was consolidated after rubbish had been dumped against it. The third (layer 8) and fourth (layer 7) metallings extended across the whole of the trench again, but sloped away significantly to the south-west. This slope possibly reflects the natural slope in that direction<sup>114</sup>, but it is true that the break in the slope caused by the raised edge of the second metalling was not fully compensated for. Despite these variations in level, the metallings all formed good, durable surfaces.

These surfaces were sealed by a dark grey-brown humic silt (Fig. 15, 4) with some fine flecks of charcoal, pottery and tile. The distinctly humic content of the deposit is consistent with decayed vegetation and suggests that it may, at least in part, have been a naturally formed soil. Above this, on an extremely compact pale buff-yellow pebbly concrete slab (Fig. 15, 3), c. 4–10cm thick, was laid the mosaic itself. The *tesserae* were set in a thin layer of soft crumbly *opus signinum* (Fig. 15, 2), with fine specks of tile and chalk, which was attached to the underlying bed with a fine skim of yellow mortar. This *opus signinum* obviously formed the bedding for the mosaic. Its consistency suggests

that it did not set hard like the concrete base but remained sufficiently plastic for a period of time so that the *tesserae* could be arranged and set. The design of the mosaic consisted of a series of roundels containing floral designs in black, white, red, yellow and blue-grey, within a geometric pattern of elongated hexagons picked out in black on a white background<sup>115</sup>. It had been extensively cut away by later intrusions, but parts of six of these hexagons have survived (some only very minimally), along with a short length of the border along the mosaic's east side. The border was made up of alternating bands of black and white *tesserae*, but its outer edge was formed by a thick band of coarse red tile cubes. The surviving length of the border would originally have run up to a contemporary wall in the extreme south-east of the trench. This building was also recorded by Oswald in 1949 but was not preserved with the mosaic.

The building to which this mosaic belonged was built of mortared ragstone rendered with pink wall plaster, some of which was found *in situ*<sup>118</sup> (Fig. 14). Unfortunately, much of the wall had been either intentionally robbed or cut away by later intrusive features. However, sufficient of the wall and its robber trenches could be identified to determine three sides of the room which contained the mosaic described above. A small length of wall to the west of the mosaic had a small patch of plain mosaic floor on its west side suggesting that other rooms of this building were also provided with good quality floor surfaces.

The parallel alignment of this building with that of Road 2 is worthy of note (compare Fig. 14 and Fig. 23). At 34–54 King Street, the westernmost known part of this road was cut by a 3rd or 4th century well. The common alignment of this building and the road might suggest some continuity at least of property lines in this particular part of the study area after the Hadrianic period. It should be noted however that the later two phases of building on the site of St Margaret's Rectory (see p. 22) were on a totally different alignment to the road, earlier property lines and this building at 11 Ironmonger Lane. A feature of particular importance was the orientation of the building. This building can be dated slightly better than any of the other post-Hadrianic structures in this study area. The plain mosaic floor referred to immediately above lay on a pink mortar floor which, on the basis of sealed material, Oswald dated as being not earlier than 'c. AD 220'<sup>117</sup>. It is debatable whether the decorated mosaic was contemporary with this floor or with the plain mosaic referred to above, or at some time with both.

There was little evidence to explain the demise

of this building. The scant occupation layers sealing the plain and decorated floors were said to contain pottery of the 'late fourth century or perhaps a little later'<sup>118</sup> but unfortunately this cannot be confirmed because the finds are no longer available for study.

In the south-west corner of the site, the excavation of an underpinning hole revealed a layer of black silt containing late Roman pottery. This would apparently indicate the presence of a stream<sup>119</sup>.

## DISCUSSION

In brief, the earliest human activity on this site is represented by the pit and was probably created as a result of quarrying for natural gravels. There then followed a pre-mosaic occupation phase, dated to the Flavian-Trajanic period, involving a series of external metallings. These were also recorded by Oswald<sup>120</sup> and dated by him to the mid-2nd century. Unfortunately, the limited extent of this excavation makes it difficult to interpret these metallings.

It should be noted that there was no evidence in the pre-mosaic sequence of 'Boudican' fire deposits as was suggested by Oswald<sup>121</sup>. In fact, the pre-Flavian pottery identified by Oswald and used as dating evidence for a fire horizon could easily be later<sup>122</sup>. The only burnt material in the 1983 investigation was redeposited within the rubbish layer between Flavian-Trajanic layers. The last pre-mosaic phase was a period of abandonment, represented by a layer of soil (Fig. 15, 4), before the building with which the mosaic was associated was constructed. It should be stressed that Oswald's dating of the mosaic building to the early 3rd century or later is much more precise than is allowed by the few sherds recovered from the mosaic construction layer in 1983.

Even without Oswald's dating evidence, the building at 11 Ironmonger Lane compares well with other large, substantial structures fitted with plain and decorated mosaics to the west and east of the Walbrook which post date the middle of the 2nd century, eg Gateway House and Watling House, Watling Street<sup>123</sup> and Lime Street, site of Lloyd's building, 1951–2<sup>124</sup>. Occupation appeared to continue, in some form, well into the fourth century. This is another feature in common with the two comparative sites referenced above.

The presence to the immediate south-west of this building of what would appear to be a stream bed, collecting rubbish during the later Roman period, might appear to conflict with the fact that no similar feature has been discovered on the site

to the immediate south-east, i.e. the site of St Margaret's Rectory and 27–32 Old Jewry (see p. 50). However, a deposit of black mud, presumably flood material, containing Roman pottery was recorded during the demolition of St Olave's church, which comprised the sites of St Margaret's Rectory and 27–32 Old Jewry in 1888<sup>125</sup>. At that time Roman walls and fragments of mosaics were also recorded. It is possible that these and other features at St Margaret's Rectory and 27–32 Old Jewry at part of the same complex.

#### 24–5 IRONMONGER LANE, 1980

In 1980 an excavation, funded by Guardian Royal Exchange Insurance Ltd, was conducted by Jenny Norton of the Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London in an 8m square area in the angle of Ironmonger Lane and Prudent Passage (Fig. 2, No. 13). An interim report for this excavation has already been published<sup>126</sup> but its location in the study area covered by this paper justifies the inclusion below of a brief summary of the main features on the site<sup>127</sup> (see also Fig. 17). It was anticipated from the start that the east–west Roman road (Road 2) seen in earlier observations should pass along the south side of this area.

The natural stratigraphy consisted of upper flood plain gravels of the Thames. There was no evidence of any natural brickearth above the gravels. Three successive periods of Roman activity were identified.

#### PERIOD I

(Neronian; *c.* 50/55–70)

Several large quarry pits had been cut through the natural gravels.

#### PERIOD II

(Flavian-Trajanic; *c.* 70–120)

The road (Road 2) and building laid out at the beginning of this period were both replaced on several occasions (phases 1–7) but the same basic layout was retained throughout. In phase 1, a shallow ditch was cut as part of the setting out of the east–west street. The patchy gravels of the first road were laid out on its south side, a timber building with a western external yard were laid out on its north side. This building was dismantled and the area levelled up, partly with redeposited burnt material. It is unlikely that this material represents debris from the Boudiccan fire<sup>128</sup>.

There followed a sequence of six buildings, with evidence for minor industrial activity, all con-

structed along the same lines as the phase 1 structure. The line of the road was retained as was the external yard, both being made-up with additional metallings on a number of occasions. Additional features appeared in different phases which, though often dismantled and rebuilt, were retained until the end of the period: eg an internal hearth, often with an associated pit or sump, appeared in phase 2; a porch on the western side of the building appeared in phase 3; and a broken tile pathway was laid on the western side of the building in phase 4. In the final phase, phase 7, the porch was not replaced but a drainage channel was cut across the yard. This channel was encrusted with a crumbly brown material containing fragments of charcoal and iron slag. It was retained when the yard was retained for a final time. Presumably, this feature provided an alternative method of disposing of waste products from the hearth area and probably replaced the pits of earlier phases.

All of the buildings in phases 2–6 were dismantled. The phase 7 building, however, was destroyed by fire. Although the precise date for this fire cannot be accurately determined, the presence of Trajanic pottery in the construction slot of this phase 7 building is consistent with the fire being Hadrianic in date.

#### PERIOD III

(Post Hadrianic fire)

In Period III, the destroyed Period II building was directly sealed by 'dark earth' deposits. There was no further evidence of any Roman buildings on the site. The road, however, remained in use for some time but unfortunately the date of its disuse cannot be determined. The road was separated from the 'dark earth' area to its north by a chalk and ragstone boundary wall built during this period. This wall followed the line of the previous building frontage and may have stood until the end of the Roman period. It was finally robbed in the 10th century.

7–8 KING STREET (Atlas Insurance Company, Atlas House), 1926 & 1982 (Site No. 14)

9–12 KING STREET (Atlas Assurance site, Prudent Passage), 1963 (Site No. 12)

These two adjacent King Street sites are located on the east side of the street, separated by Prudent Passage running east–west between them. Interim reports for both sites have been published<sup>129</sup>. It is sufficient here to summarise the relevant details.

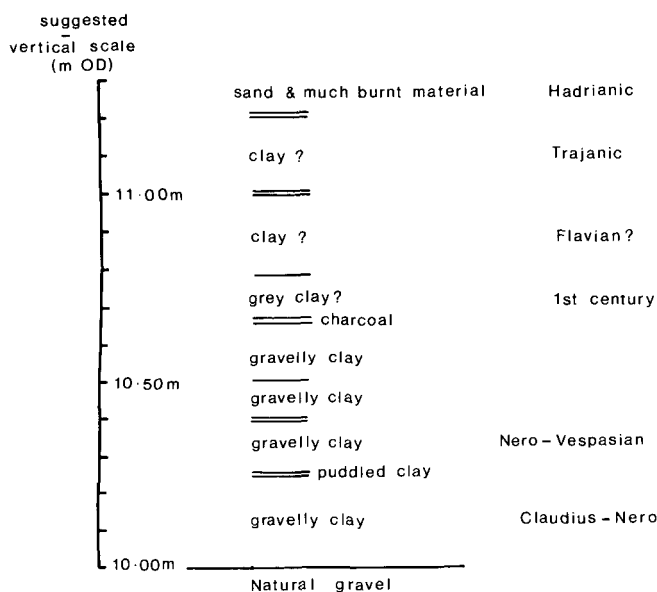


Fig. 16 King Street & Cheapside: 7-8 King Street, 1926. Schematic section (After Home, 1927).

### 7-8 KING STREET, 1926 (Fig. 2, No. 14, exact location unknown)

In 1926, a building site at 7-8 King Street was examined by Major Gordon Home. Unfortunately, no records of his observations exist apart from a single published section (Fig. 16)<sup>130</sup>. This gives valuable complementary evidence for work conducted in more recent years on the north side of Prudent Passage, at 9-12 King Street (site No. 12), examined by Peter Marsden in 1963<sup>131</sup> and at 24-5 Ironmonger Lane (site No. 13), examined by Jenny Norton on behalf of the DUA, Museum of London, in 1980<sup>132</sup>.

The section recorded and published by Gordon Home was presented to the public as an enigma of Roman archaeology in London. It was his assumption that the layers sealed beneath the earliest of the medieval deposits represented, quite naturally, at least the 'whole of the period of Roman occupation of this site'<sup>133</sup>. Given that there was Roman occupation there, this was a fairly safe assumption. But he automatically equated the period of Roman occupation on this particular site with the entire period of Roman occupation in Britain<sup>134</sup>. He was, therefore, unable to comprehend why this accumulation of Roman deposits, c. 1.20m in thickness, should contain no dating evidence later than c. AD 120.

In brief, the section Gordon Home recorded showed a sequence of horizontal layers resting on natural gravel and sealed by medieval deposits. This sequence was composed primarily of brick-earth floor and make-up slabs, with thin occupation, destruction or demolition deposits between them. Immediately below the medieval deposits, a soil horizon containing much burnt material, especially daub and other building materials, sealed these levels and was the final identifiable Roman layer on the site. Pottery from this level could be dated from the Flavian to Hadrianic periods<sup>135</sup> (Fig. 16, 'sand and much burnt material' at c. 11.20m OD). This final layer, therefore, would appear to represent a soil containing much debris from the Hadriatic fire. No wall-lines or hearths could be identified.

### 7-8 KING STREET 1982 (Fig. 17)

In 1982, the DUA was able to examine this sequence once again during the refurbishing of the lift-gear on the north side of the site. Only a watching-brief coverage was possible<sup>136</sup>, conducted by Jenny Norton and Patrick Allen, but the two sections recorded are useful complementary evidence to what was discovered in 1926 as well as having important implications for the two sites to the immediate north of Prudent Passage, 9-12

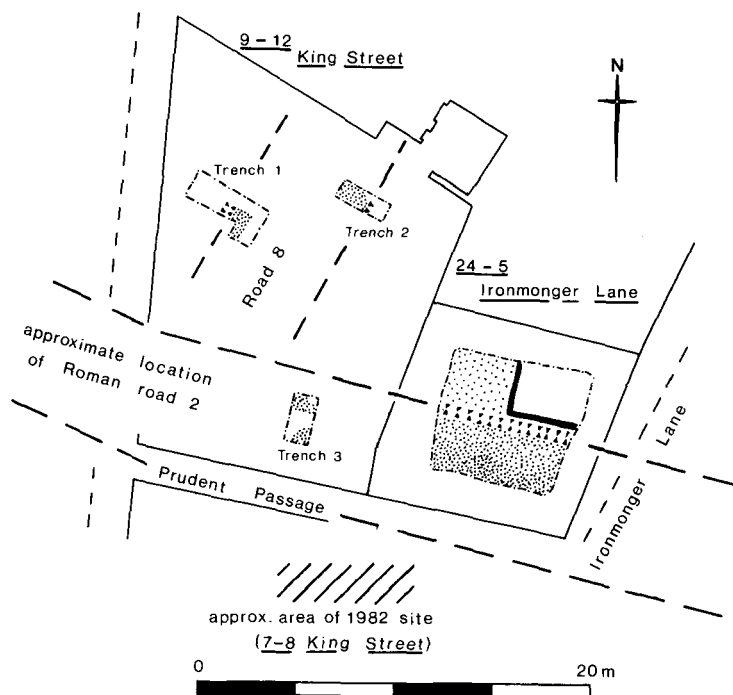


Fig. 17 King Street & Cheapside: 7-8 King Street, 1982, 9-12 King Street, 1963 and 24-5 Ironmonger Lane, 1980. Detail of site and trench location with Roman features.

King Street and 24-5 Ironmonger Lane) (see Fig. 17 for location of the watching-brief).

The sections revealed, in brief, a sequence of superimposed silt and brickearth layers with, in one area in particular, a series of hearths associated with hearth debris. Presumably, this represents continuity of use. In contrast with the 1926 section, traces of a wall or partition were noted running apparently in an east-west direction. However, as with the 1926 section, this sequence was also sealed by a layer which can be dated on ceramic evidence, to the Hadrianic period and associated with the fire of that date.

It should be noted that in neither section were any made-up gravel surfaces recorded. This is important because the location of this 1982 section therefore delimits the maximum position south of the southern edge of the road recorded in 1980 at 24-5 Ironmonger Lane. The east-west section and the northern side of the north-south section were located at c. 3.00m from the south side of Prudent Passage. The point at which the two sections met was c. 9.65m west of the easternmost side of the property in question (Not illustrated). This would

therefore give a maximum width of just less than 7.00m for the road whose northernmost edge was recorded at 24-5 Ironmonger Lane (see p. 38).

### 9-12 KING STREET, (Atlas Assurance site) 1963 (Fig. 17)

This site was located to the immediate north of Prudent Passage with its frontage on King Street to the west. Redevelopment work on this site commenced in 1963 and enabled Peter Marsden of the Guildhall Museum to conduct a controlled excavation of three trenches. A published interim report adequately presents the structural sequence recorded in these trenches<sup>137</sup>. It will be sufficient here, therefore, to examine those features directly relevant to this study.

The selection of this site for a controlled excavation and the location of the three trenches was intended to test the possibility of two roads passing through the site, one running east to west and the other running approximately north-east to south-west, meeting at a junction on the south side of the

site. Evidence for these roads had been found in previous excavations to the north at 13 King Street (see below) and to the west and east at 34–5 King Street and 33–4 Old Jewry respectively (see p. 43 and p. 53).

Natural subsoil consisted of a pebbly brickearth across the site. On the south part of the site (Trench 3) this was at a level of *c.* 10.30m OD and at *c.* 10.25m OD in the north (Trench 1) suggesting a very flat pre-urban landscape. Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig. 17) were located in the northern part of the site to locate the road coming down from the north. Road gravels were recorded in both trenches, with a level of *c.* 11.00m in Trench 1, but in neither case were the gravels bedded immediately upon natural soils. Instead they lay over accumulations of Roman occupation material datable to the late-1st and early-2nd centuries<sup>138</sup>. These were simply brickearth floor slabs with, at one point a hearth and a timber-lined channel. It is interesting to note that the construction of a slight clay bank to the east of the drain may have initiated a fence boundary or wall-line which continued in use into the 2nd century and, indeed, might have dictated the alignment of the road itself. Accumulations of layers above this bank slope down abruptly to the east.

The road itself appeared to have had a very short life. No remetalings were recorded and the layer immediately sealing the road surface<sup>139</sup> and the contemporary adjacent areas contained pottery similar to the latest pottery recorded below the road gravels. In Trench 1 this layer was described as a 'black earth', whereas in Trench 2 the corresponding level contained a thick lense of burnt clay containing bricks. This most probably represents redeposited debris following the Hadrianic fire. These deposits were then sealed by medieval levels.

Trench 3 was located to the south. Four layers of gravel metalling separated by thin bands of black soil containing material datable to the 1st century AD<sup>140</sup> were recorded lying directly on the natural brickearth. The total thickness of the surviving road gravels was *c.* 1.85m. This road would probably have been contemporary with all the activity recorded in the two trenches to the north. The fate of the road cannot be defined since upper surfaces had been truncated by post-Roman pits of a type and date similar to those recorded in detail on 24–5 Ironmonger Lane in 1980 to the immediate east.

## DISCUSSION

The evidence from these three King Street observations, the 1926 section recorded by Gordon Home, the 1963 excavation by Peter Marsden and

the 1982 watching-brief produced very similar results which are mirrored by the 24–5 Ironmonger Lane site. They are as follows:

1. The east–west aligned road (Road 2) recorded in 1963 rested on natural subsoils and so must be regarded as one of the earliest features in this area.
2. Contemporary occupation alongside this road consisted of timber and clay buildings, possibly with some minor industrial activity but probably mainly residential in character.
3. Continuity of use alongside this road and organised laying out of properties is shown by the superimposed hearths and wall-lines noted on a number of these sites.
4. On the evidence of 9–12 King Street (site No. 12), a new road (Road 8) was established joining the existing east–west road 2 on a north–east to south–west alignment. Both the new road and the adjacent properties were sealed by dumps of burnt building material, apparently from the Hadrianic fire which had laid waste the properties facing onto the roads.
5. Whereas evidence from 24–5 Ironmonger Lane and 34–5 King Street suggests that the east–west road (Road 2) continued in use, the 'new' road (Road 8) was not re-established after the Hadrianic Fire.
6. No evidence from the three observations discussed here show any traces of post-Hadrianic fire occupation other than the dumped deposits.
7. Evidence from the same sites show that the east–west Road 2 ultimately was buried by 'dark earth' deposits in the later Roman period and henceforth ceased to serve as a road.

## 13–14 KING STREET 1955 (Fig. 2, No. 11)

Details of the Roman remains on this site were recorded by Peter Marsden in 1955 prior to his joining the Guildhall Museum<sup>141</sup>. Unfortunately there was no opportunity available to examine the archaeological remains in detail and so their precise locations and descriptions cannot be accurately plotted on plan.

In summary, however, a rammed gravel surface was noted, representing probably a path or narrow road, with an approximately north–south alignment. This appeared to be the earliest visible feature on this site. This surface was sealed by what appeared to be the south–east corner of a building on a north–west to south–east alignment. The wall was constructed of mortared ragstone. As it was not possible to examine these features in detail no dating evidence could be retrieved. With

the purpose of understanding more of this road, two trenches on the site of 9–12 King Street (site No. 12. See p. 40) in 1963 were excavated on the north side of the east–west road 2 which passes through the area.

### 33 KING STREET/8–9 LAWRENCE LANE 1938

(Fig. 2, No. 8)

This site is located between Lawrence Lane to the west and King Street to the east<sup>142</sup>. In July 1938, redevelopment of the two properties which comprised this site was examined by Frank Cottrill for the Society of Antiquaries. A small builder's trench, *c.* 1.80m wide and 7m long was examined at 33 King Street from the north to the south property walls<sup>143</sup>. In addition, underpinning holes on the extreme west side of 8–9 Lawrence Lane were examined.

### GEOLOGY

Natural 'sand'<sup>144</sup> was recorded at *c.* 12.00m OD in the west section of the trench in 33 King Street. This was sealed by dark made-up soils. Some of these had a high gravel content.

### ROMAN FEATURES

The dark soils and gravelly soils referred to above were partially obscured by shoring. Details, therefore, are incomplete. However, the excavator noted that the soils with a high gravel content were presumably Roman occupation or debris deposits rather than road metallings.

### FEATURE 1 (Fig. 18)

A ragstone rubble wall with light-coloured sandy mortar was discovered immediately below the basement slab, *c.* 13.70m OD. The base of the foundation of this wall was recorded at *c.* 11.80m OD and had been cut 20cm into the natural 'sand'. The wall was recorded as running obliquely across

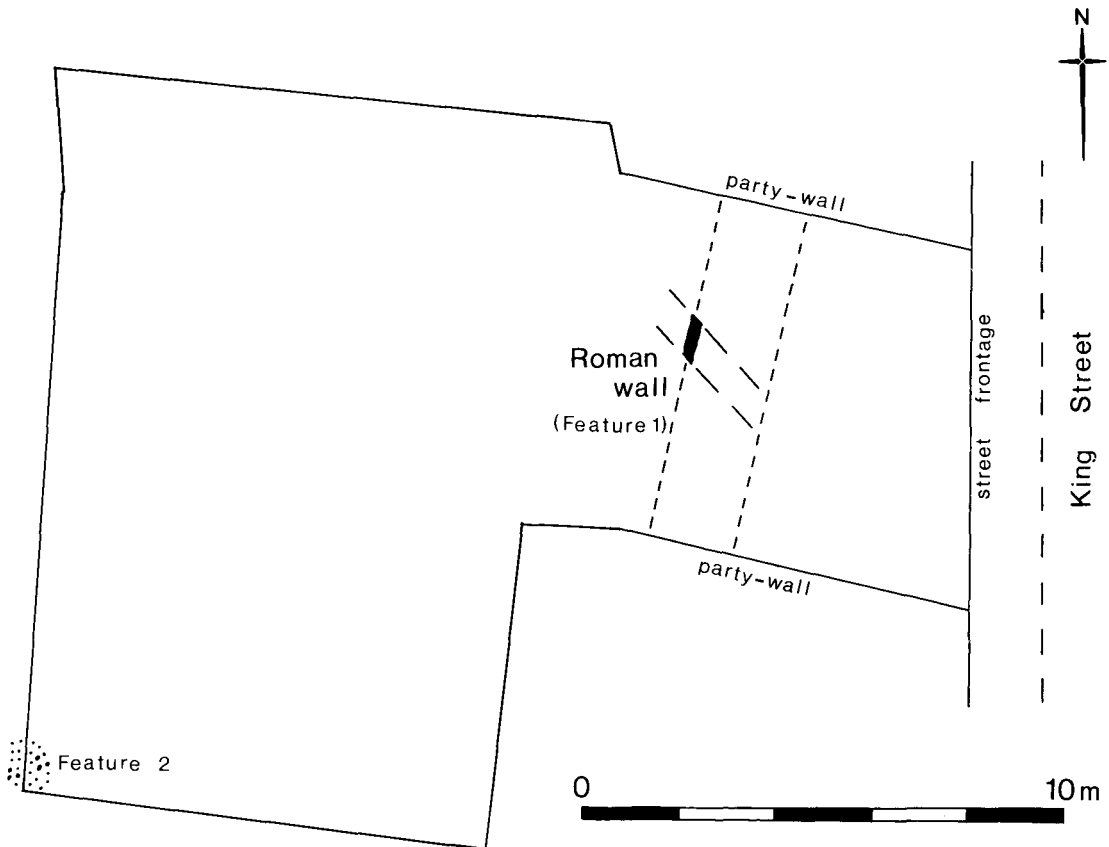


Fig. 18 King Street & Cheapside: 33 King Street, 1938. Detail of site and location of trench.



the trench, in a north–west to south–east orientation, and to have ‘ended against the side’<sup>145</sup>. Whether the latter was an intentional curtailment of the line of the wall, an angle or a truncation was not recorded. The total thickness was *c.* 0.7m.

#### FEATURE 2 (Fig. 18)

In the extreme south–west corner of the adjoining property to the west (8–9 Lawrence Lane), a small underpinning hole was dug by builders into ‘dumped gravel (presumed street material)’<sup>146</sup>. Although the underpinning hole was only *c.* 1.20m × 1.50m, sufficient was recorded to describe the gravel. The base of the made-up gravel was at *c.* 11.50m OD to *c.* 12.00m OD. A total thickness of *c.* 1.80m was recorded and throughout this thickness some horizontal layering, presumably indicative of remetalling, was noted. This road was sealed by ‘black soil’.

### DISCUSSION

The gravel road metallings (Feature 2) recorded in the underpinning hole in the south–west corner of 8–9 Lawrence Lane are of importance here. Their description and dimensions suggest that they were certainly courtyard or road gravels. With a total thickness of *c.* 1.80m, they were perhaps too substantial to be part of a courtyard and so, as road gravels, the proximity of similar deposits at 34–5 King Street (site No. 9) to the south is probably not coincidental. The location of a road on this site would suggest that it is part of the one running approximately north–west to south–east across 34–5 King Street, and would also imply that it continued, at least partly, beneath Lawrence Lane. If projected, this route would join the junction recorded at Milk Street in 1972 (Fig. 4). The numerous remetallings are consistent with the make-ups seen on other sites, i.e. 34–5 King Street, 9–12 King Street/Prudent Passage, 24–5 Ironmonger Lane and 33–4 Old Jewry.

Of interest is the deposit of ‘black soil’ which sealed the road. Although no such deposit was noted at 34–5 King Street, ‘dark earth’ has been recorded lying immediately on top of the road surfaces at 24–5 Ironmonger Lane<sup>147</sup>, 36–7 King Street and, possibly, 9–12 King Street/Prudent Passage (see p. 40).

At 33 King Street, no finds at all were recorded and so neither the road gravels nor the wall in the north–south trench (feature 1) can be dated. The lack of relationship in alignment on plan of the wall recorded here and that recorded *c.* 7.50m to the south at 34–5 King Street might be indicative of different buildings of different date. The align-

ment of this wall conforms well with other substantial foundations and walls in this region of the study area. By analogy, these appear to date from the mid-2nd century or later.

#### 34–5 KING STREET (6–7 LAWRENCE LANE), 1955 (Fig. 2, No. 9)

This site was located in the building at the southernmost end of the block bounded by King Street to the east, Lawrence Lane to the west and Trump Street to the south<sup>148</sup>. During the course of redevelopment it was examined by Ivor Noël Hume of the Guildhall Museum. Prior to this the site had been a vacant bomb-site<sup>149</sup>.

Archaeological features of Roman and post-medieval date<sup>150</sup> were recorded during and following the excavation by contractors of a retaining-wall trench around the site of the proposed redevelopment building. Also, during the excavation of the basement slab and the area within this retaining-wall further observations of note were recorded especially in the northern half of the site<sup>151</sup>.

#### GEOLOGY

Natural subsoil was not recorded on any part of the site. No bore-hole sections exist to be examined.

#### ROMAN FEATURES (Fig. 19)

#### ROAD METALLINGS

Four areas of gravel metalling, interpreted by the excavator as ‘made-up gravel road’, were recorded. Although these would appear to be contemporary, they are described below individually.

#### GRAVEL MAKE-UP (ROAD) FEATURE 1<sup>152</sup>

This was the main feature recorded on the site. It consisted of a broad gravel spread, measuring at least 4.50m north to south and 9.75m from east to west. This feature was 1.20m in thickness and showed at least nine remetallings, each of which was separated from the next by a thin band of dark soil. It was first interpreted by the excavator as ‘a road or a much resurfaced courtyard’<sup>153</sup>. During the course of his work on this site, Noël Hume favoured the former interpretation. Sadly no sections through this, or any other feature, were recorded to give an indication of the camber and, therefore, possible orientation of the road. However, an annotation was made on the contractor’s dye-line plan for this site at the time of recording showing the orientation of the axis of this road to be approximately north–west to south–east.

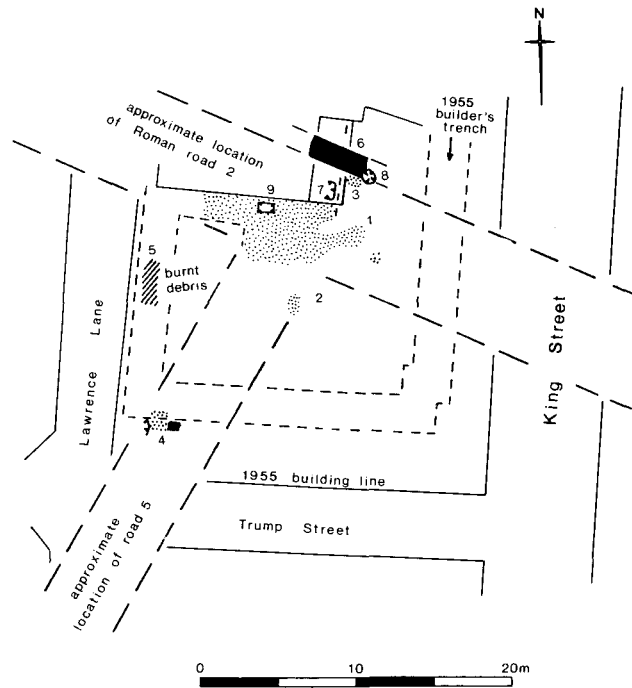


Fig. 19 King Street & Cheapside: 34-5 King Street, 1955. Detail of site and Roman features (all periods).

#### GRAVEL MAKE-UP (ROAD) FEATURE 2<sup>154</sup>

To the immediate south of Feature 1 described above was recorded a small area of make-up gravel *c.* 2.20m in length, north to south, by just 0.30m wide. It was exposed in the side of a cutting for a new foundation pier. Its thickness and the number of any metallings was not recorded.

#### GRAVEL MAKE-UP (ROAD) FEATURE 3<sup>155</sup>

To the north of the main gravel spread (No. 1 above) was recorded a small expanse of gravel cut by a pit (Feature 8. See below). Dimensions exposed were not recorded.

#### GRAVEL MAKE-UP (ROAD) FEATURE 4<sup>156</sup>

This small expanse of 'made-up gravel road' was recorded in the retaining-wall trench in the extreme south-west corner of the site. No dimensions are available.

In addition, five other features of Roman date were recorded (Features 5-9). They are:

#### FEATURE 5. HADRIANIC FIRE DEBRIS (ER. 294)<sup>157</sup>

On the west side of the site, in the westernmost retaining-wall trench, a spread of burnt debris

'of Hadrianic date'<sup>158</sup> was recorded. It measured approximately 1.20m north to south, *c.* 0.40m east to west and was 0.35m in thickness. This was the only evidence for any fire damage on this site. Its location is significant. In the apparent absence of road gravels in this area of the site, the fire debris must mark the western limit of the gravels seen to the east and the southern limit of any gravel spread to the north.

#### FEATURE 6. WALL<sup>159</sup>

A north-west to south-east orientated ragstone and mortar wall was recorded in the northern part of the site. The length of wall recorded was *c.* 4.30m and was at least 1.10m in width<sup>160</sup>.

#### FEATURE 7. PIT/WELL (ER. 284)<sup>161</sup>

Only a small part of this pit or well was excavated, the remainder being in the side of the retaining-wall trench. It was located in the northern part of the site and might cut the road (feature 1 above). No dimensions or descriptions of its fills are available. However, the lower portion was timbered with three boards and vertical posts. The pottery from this feature (ER. 284) has been dated to *c.* AD 70-120.

**FEATURE 8. PIT (ER. 285)<sup>162</sup>**

This pit, in the northern part of the site, was said to have cut into the gravel road (feature 3). The excavator, however, noted that 'the upper filling of the pit had the appearance of being much later in date'. From beneath this fill came early 2nd century pottery (ER. 285) in a 'green gravel layer'. This was described as being 'at the bottom of the pit'. It is probable that this pit was, indeed, a later intrusive feature cut into the road gravels. It is interesting to note that green or grey-green gravels are often associated with roadside gullies (eg 24–5 Ironmonger Lane contexts *inter alia* 413, 447, 459, 476, 562 are all grey-green gravel, with silt and pebbles, and interpreted as being the fills washed from road surfaces of successive gully re-cuts on the north side of the east–west aligned road). If this is the case, the position of this later pit of unknown date, cutting into potential gully fills, could mark the northern side of the road.

**FEATURE 9. WELL (ER. 282 & 283)<sup>163</sup>**

A timber-lined well was recorded in the north-west corner of the site. It had been dug through the gravel road surface (feature 1)<sup>164</sup>. Only the very bottom of the well was excavated by the staff of the Guildhall Museum and pottery of the 3rd and 4th centuries was recovered. The construction was of the 'corner post' variety<sup>165</sup> by which horizontal, on edge planks were held in position against the rectangular cut of the well shaft by squared posts rammed into the angles. In addition, this well had reinforcing struts beneath the planking. No part of this construction had been nailed or jointed. The interior measurements of the frame were 1.01m by 0.66m by 0.94m by 0.70m.

## DISCUSSION

The Roman features at 34–5 King Street were, in the main, superimposed gravel dumps which can be interpreted with confidence as road metallings. Although no roadside gullies were recorded by the excavator, the alignment of the wall (feature 6) suggests an approximate orientation for this road (road 2), ie approximately north–west to south–east. It should be noted that this is on a slightly different alignment than the stretches of the same road 2 discovered to the immediate east at 9–12 King Street (site No. 12), 24–5 Ironmonger Lane (site No. 13) and 33–4 Old Jewry (site No. 17). This slight re-alignment must occur under King Street itself. The very presence of the wall and the possibility of roadside drainage fills alongside it (feature 8) and in the centre of the northern part of the site would argue against these metallings being part of a north–south route.

Since it is plausible to assume that all four gravel spreads (Features 1–4) were, at one time at least, contemporary then the large dimensions of this rammed gravel expanse require explanation. It could be that this vast spread represents an often resurfaced courtyard but the excavator himself favoured the road interpretation. The explanation would appear to be found in the 36–7 King Street site (site No. 10) to the south on the far side of Trump Street (see p. 46). There, recent excavations indicated a road orientated approximately north–east to south–west (road 5). If this road is projected towards the present site, it would contain within its indicated limits the southern part of feature 1 and all of features 2 and 4. In addition, the fire debris of Hadrianic date on the west of the present site probably delimits the west side of the road if it was in use at that date (Fig. 19).

No dating evidence was retrieved from this site to suggest a date for the foundation of either of these two roads. If the 'green gravel' deposit recorded at the base of the pit (feature 8) was indeed the fill of a gully, the material from it would suggest that at least one phase of road metalling was in use, or at least exposed, during the early 2nd century. When one considers the general history of Roman London, this observation comes as no surprise. A late 1st or early 2nd century date for the pit (feature 7) which appeared to cut the north–west to south–east orientated road does create a slight anomaly. However, the precise relationship of this pit and the road is not clear. If a surface of the road is not sealing this pit but is cut by it then a period of disuse or abandonment could be suggested. Alternatively, it could represent encroachment on the part of property owners in the immediate vicinity. However, the presence of a 3rd to 4th century well (feature 9) does suggest more emphatically the date by which the road no longer functioned as originally intended.

The only evidence for any buildings on this site was found on its extreme fringes, in particular on the west (Feature 5—Hadrianic fire debris) and the north (feature 6—wall). The significance of the Hadrianic fire debris in defining the possible western limit of the north–east to south–west road recorded at 36–7 King Street has been noted above. No details concerning the composition of this debris are available to determine the nature of construction of the buildings represented by this material but its considerable thickness (*c.* 0.35m) might suggest a matrix of burnt mud-brick or daub rather than ash.

Unfortunately the ragstone wall (feature 6) cannot be dated precisely though the excavator was convinced of its Roman date. Its proximity to the

road would suggest a close relationship. Perhaps the alignment of the road dictated that of the wall or, less likely, the alignment of the wall influenced that of the road? The latter might be more applicable had the alignment of the road been dictated by property or legal boundaries preserved by the ragstone wall. It does not, however, appear to be a primary feature on this site.

The exceptional thickness of this wall (1.10m) should be noted. Although it is possible that it was a major load-bearing wall it is equally plausible that the portion excavated is the broad foundation for a narrower superstructure, as at Watling House and Gateway House, Watling Street<sup>166</sup>. The relationship of this wall to that found on the site of 33 King Street to the north is unclear.

### 36-7 KING STREET, 1985

by Peter Rowsome, Museum of London

During 1985 a large controlled excavation of archaeological stratigraphy at 36-7 King Street EC2 was funded by the Mercers Company prior to redevelopment of the site. The complex sequence of deposits recorded provides a wealth of information concerning the topographical development of the area through the Roman period.

The site is situated to the north of the major east-west Roman road beneath modern Cheapside and to the north-east of the Cheapside bathhouse (Fig. 2, No. 18). The uppermost natural deposit was gravel of the upper flood plain terrace of the Thames. These gravels formed a relatively level ground surface at 10.00-10.20m OD except in the south-west of the site where a stream-bed was recorded at 9.60m OD.

Initial activity consisted of two small linear ditches which were widely separated but lay parallel on a north-east to south-west orientation. These features were sealed by an extensive slab of brickearth which levelled the ground surface and prepared the area for development. The stream-bed located in the south-west part of the site and perhaps a small tributary of the Walbrook had either silted up or been filled in at this time.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ROADS

Site preparation was followed by the construction of two streets (see Fig. 20); Road 6 aligned north-west to south-east and intersecting with the north-east to south-west aligned Road 5 to form a slightly less than right-angled junction at the north-western corner of the site. The primary gravel metalling of Road 6 was thin but highly compacted and overlay postholes which may have been associated with an aspect of its construction such

as surveying work. After a short period of use, Road 6 was improved by means of levelling-up dump topped with thicker and more compacted surface metallings. The new metallings were associated with a marking-out cut on the road surface. Shallow concave roadside drains were dug to the east and west of Road 6 and evidence of roadside occupation was found to the east. Road 6 was 4.80-5.00m wide and did not vary significantly in width throughout its life.

The construction of Road 5 was very similar to that of Road 6 and was apparently contemporary. The primary metalling of Road 5 was marked by cart ruts and sealed by usage silt. The full width of Road 5 was not recorded within the area of the site. Shallow roadside drains were recorded along the eastern edge of the street. Successive drains associated with Road 5 intersected with drains to the west of Road 6 at the southern angle of the street junction.

The orientation of these two roads was similar to that of the two earlier ditches described above. This similarity of alignment and the evidence that both roads were constructed at the same time suggests that the area underwent planned development. The early ditches may have been planning markers which were sealed by the brickearth make-up slab for construction of both streets, all of this activity being part of a planned development carried out over a short space of time.

### EARLY BUILDINGS

Early buildings were recorded across the southern part of the site, between the streets and to the south of their junction. In the west and overlying the filled-in Walbrook tributary a dump of sand and gravel formed a platform for a small structure with a brickearth floor-slab, sill-beam slots and postholes identified as part of a timber building (Fig. 20, Building No. 11)<sup>167</sup>. Building 11 was aligned with Road 5 and probably fronted onto it. The building was destroyed in a fire. To the east, aligned with Road 6, were stakeholes and a portion of timber planking which may have been elements of another early building (Building No. 13)<sup>168</sup>. This structure was sealed by make-up dumps followed by brickearth floors divided by timber sillbeams and posts which formed a multi-roomed timber building (Fig. 20, Building No. 13)<sup>169</sup>. Building 13 fronted onto Road 6 and was destroyed in a fire. The destruction of Buildings 11 and 13 was contemporary. It was probably at about this time that a sequence of silt and charcoal layers were deposited across the surface of Road 6 indicating its temporary abandonment.

The destruction of the early buildings and disuse

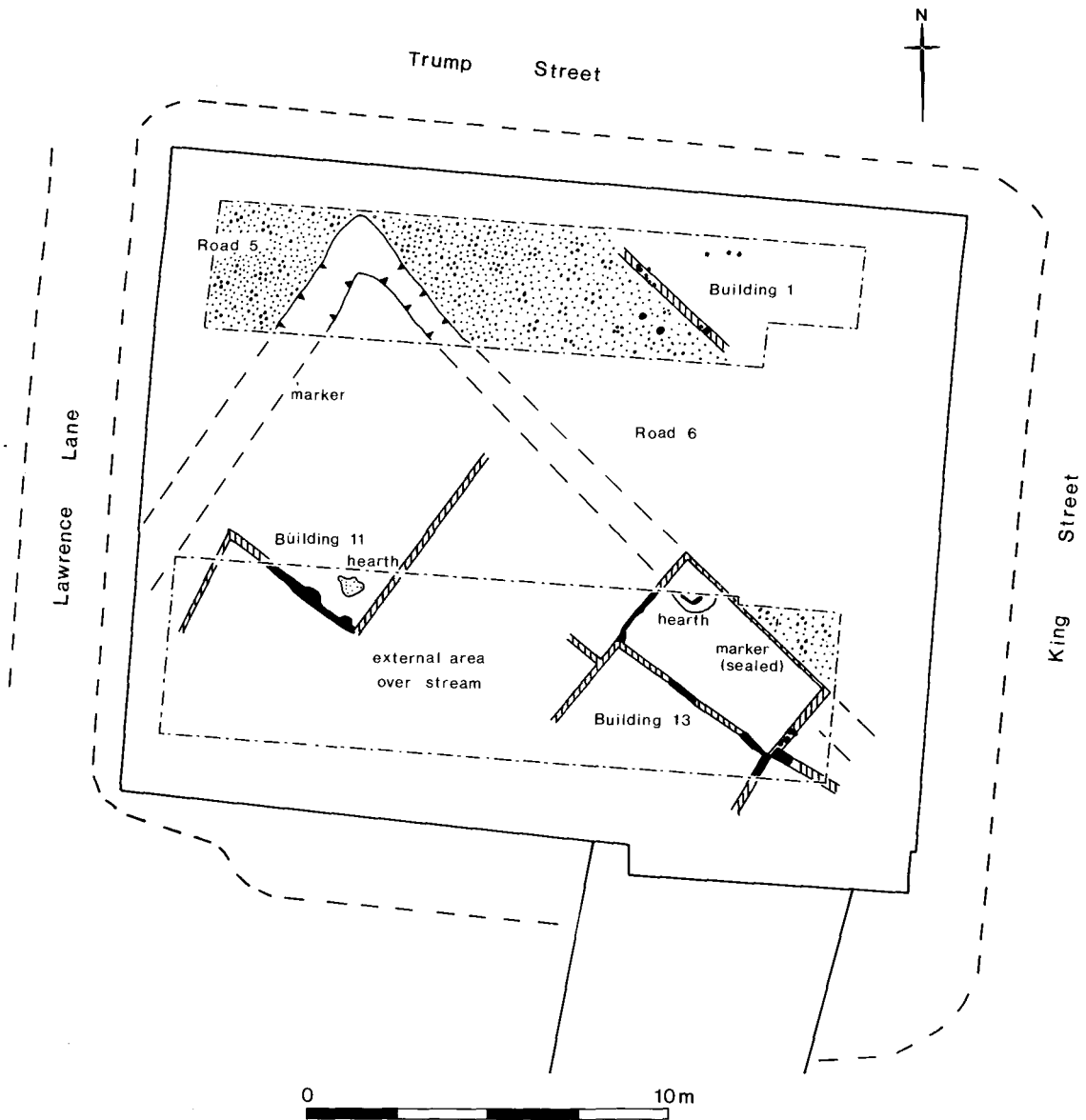


Fig. 20 King Street & Cheapside: 36–7 King Street, 1985. Mid-1st century. Two metalled streets, established on the lines of marking-out ditches, with early roadside buildings. (After Rowsome 1987).

of Road 6 were probably associated events caused by a major fire. Although the fire may have been Boudiccan in date it is more likely to have been early Flavian. Whilst most of the sequence up to and including this fire produced dating evidence of AD 55–70 a *terminus post quem* of AD 70 was obtained from deposits in the disuse sequence of

Road 6 and from the destruction level of Building 13<sup>170</sup>. However, Road 6 had been raised and re-metalled before its temporary disuse, suggesting that it had been in place for quite some time and that the planning and initial development of the area was of Neronian, perhaps pre-Boudiccan, date.

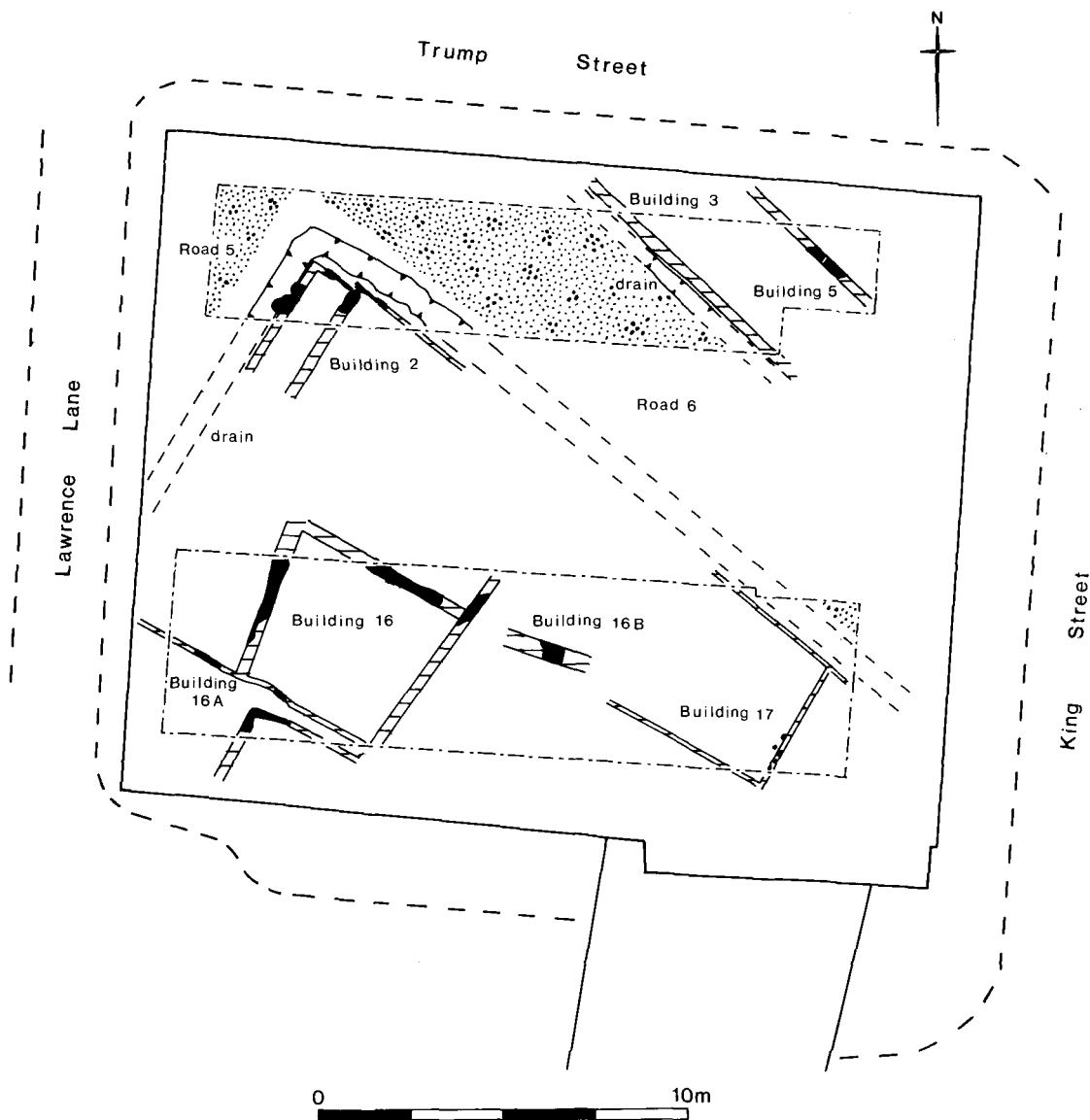


Fig. 21 King Street & Cheapside: 36-7 King Street, 1985. Early 2nd century. Buildings destroyed in the Hadrianic fire. (After Rowsome 1987).

#### TOPOGRAPHICAL CONTINUITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Subsequent development through the Flavian and Trajanic periods followed the pattern already set. The roads were re-established in their original positions. In the case of Road 6 a thick brickearth slab covered by a plank raft prepared the way for a series of compact street metallings which indicate

a lengthy period of use. New roadside drains were dug to both the east and west of Road 6. Occupation to the east of the road included a brickearth-silled building (Building No. 1)<sup>171</sup>. Periodic renewal of the drain line to the east of Road 6 was associated with street remetalings and road-side building.

Road 5 was remade with a make-up dump to a

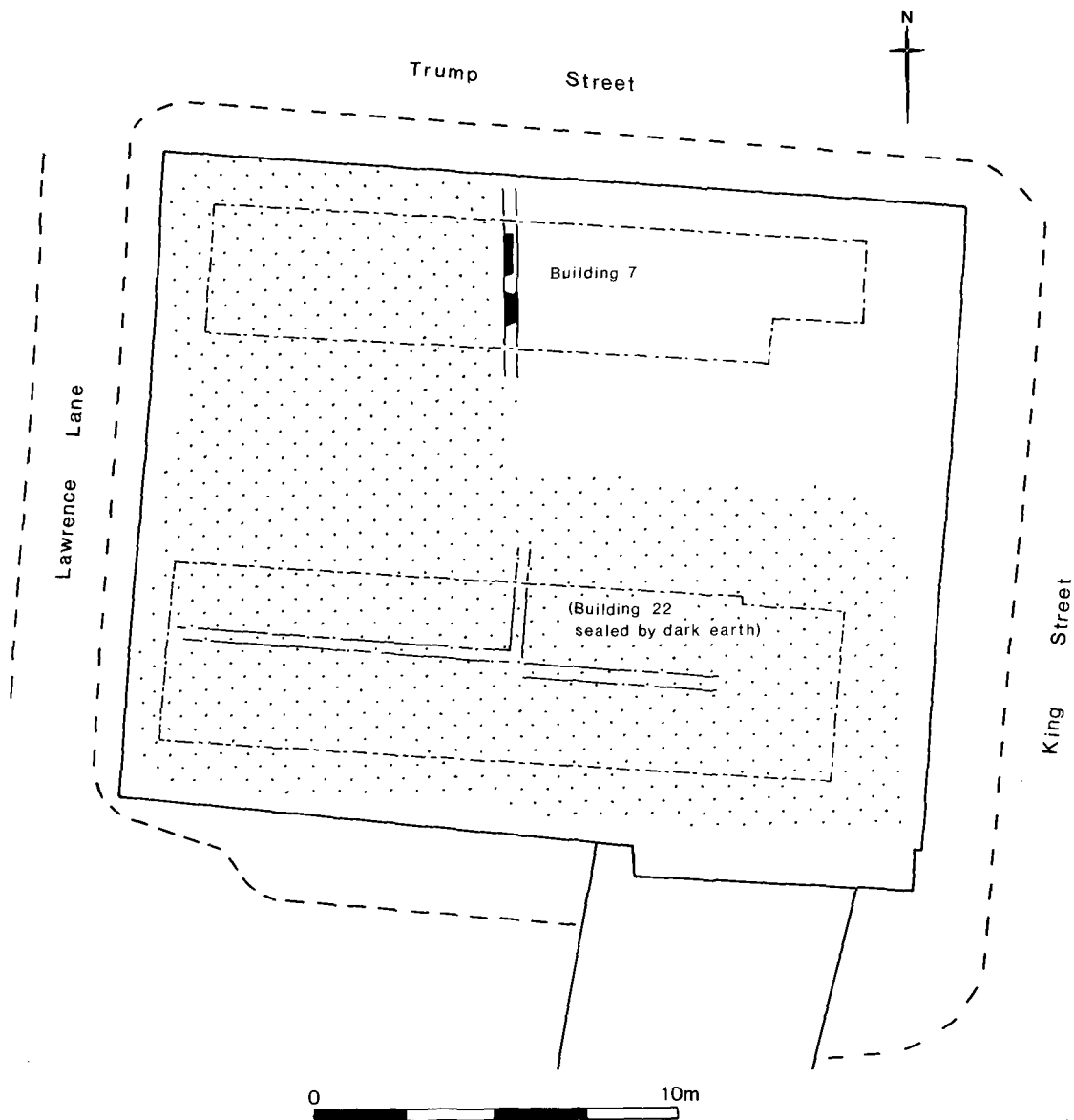


Fig. 22 King Street & Cheapside: 36-7 King Street, 1985. By the 4th century the latest road surfaces had been sealed by dark earth. A possible 4th-century building in the north post-dated the first dark earth accumulations. A probable 3rd century building was sealed by dark earth in the south. (After Rowsome 1987).

new remetalled surface and with a new drain cut along its east side. Road 5 was later resurfaced and this new surface was so heavily used that it developed ruts and pot-holes which required patching and a poor resurfacing. Heavy road use and periodic remetalting continued through the Flavian period.

Regular resurfacing of both roads and associated drainage work continued through the Trajanic period (Fig. 21). Close attention to the maintenance of the roads and drains would have been necessitated by the rising ground level along the roads where successive building levels were recorded in both the northern area of the site (Build-

ings Nos 2–5) and the southern (Buildings Nos 14–17). These buildings generally had brickearth floors and sills with timber superstructures but instances of both *opus signinum* and plank floors were recorded and at least two of the rooms within Building 14 had painted plaster walls. Buildings on the southern part of the site suffered some subsidence in the area of the back-filled Walbrook tributary but where this caused damage it was quickly repaired. The latest of the Trajanic buildings were destroyed in the Hadrianic fire which ended a long period of intensive occupation and frequent rebuilding.

The pre-Hadrianic buildings were relatively large, multi-roomed structures but were frequently replaced and probably combined commercial and domestic uses. These buildings were part of a high density, mixed use street frontage development similar to that found on other favourably located sites in the Roman town west of the Walbrook and dated to this period.

#### A DECLINE IN OCCUPATION FOLLOWED BY TOPOGRAPHICAL CHANGE

The Hadrianic fire did not cause any significant break in the use of Road 6. The road continued to be maintained and regularly resurfaced through the 2nd century and remained on its original alignment. Properties were rebuilt after the Hadrianic fire (Buildings Nos 6 and 18–23)<sup>172</sup> but building density slowly declined and external dumping became more common. The most substantial of the 2nd century buildings (Building No. 21) had brickearth floor slabs and sills and featured a plain red tessellated floor in one of its rooms. This building was aligned with Road 5 onto which it probably fronted. The building was destroyed by a fire in the late 2nd century. It may be significant that it was only after this late fire that building alignments diverged from the street alignments. The mudbrick walls of Building 22 (Fig. 22) and a later posthole arrangement of Building 23 were orientated east–west. These structures had a *terminus post quem* of AD 200<sup>173</sup>.

Late surfaces of Road 5 were truncated by modern disturbances but later metallings of Road 6 and associated road-side drains indicated that Road 6 remained in use until late in the 3rd century<sup>174</sup>. The latest of the Road 6 metallated surfaces was recorded at 11.80m OD, a level significantly higher than the latest of the roadside buildings. It seems likely that Road 6 remained in use after deposits of ‘dark earth’ had sealed the last of the road-side building sequence. ‘Dark earth’ or ‘garden soil’ deposits marking a radical change in both site use and the economy of the Roman town had

obliterated the line of Road 6 by the 4th century. A small and rudimentary structure consisting of a north–south aligned sill–beam slot and thin internal brickearth floors sealed ‘dark earth’ deposits directly over the location of Road 6. This building (Fig. 22, Building No. 7)<sup>175</sup> may have been of 4th-century date<sup>176</sup>. In straddling Road 6 this small building seems to confirm that the urban topography of the King Street area had drastically changed in character by the late Roman period.

#### 27–32 OLD JEWRY (Bank of Sydney)

1954

(Fig. 2, No. 16)

This site was located to the immediate north of St Olave’s Court with Old Jewry to the east (Fig. 23). The site was examined in July 1954 during the course of redevelopment by Ivor Noël Hume of the Guildhall Museum. Unfortunately, the features described below cannot be accurately located on any plan<sup>177</sup>. To the west of the site examined by Noël Hume is the site of St Margaret’s Rectory which was the subject of a watching-brief in 1985. The two sites comprise the original site of St Olave’s Church demolished in 1888.

#### GEOLOGY

The 1954 notes give no indication of natural deposits.

#### ROMAN FEATURES

##### FEATURE 1. PIT (ER. 192)

A pit, partially exposed in the ‘cutting against Old Jewry’. The pottery can be dated to the 3rd century<sup>178</sup>.

##### FEATURE 2. PIT (ER. 193)

A pit ‘in the same cutting’ as feature 1 but to the south of it. This was sealed by the layer of gravel described below (Feature 4). Pottery from this feature could be dated to the early 2nd century<sup>179</sup>.

##### FEATURE 3. LAYER (possibly a pit fill) (ER. 194)

This layer, independent of the pit (Feature 2) described above, was sealed by the rammed gravel deposit (Feature 4). Containing material of probable Flavian date, it was described as a ‘greenish soil’<sup>180</sup>.

##### FEATURE 4. LAYER (including ER. 195)

A rammed gravel layer, c. 22cm thick, recorded as being seen across the area of the north–south retaining wall parallel with Old Jewry on the east-



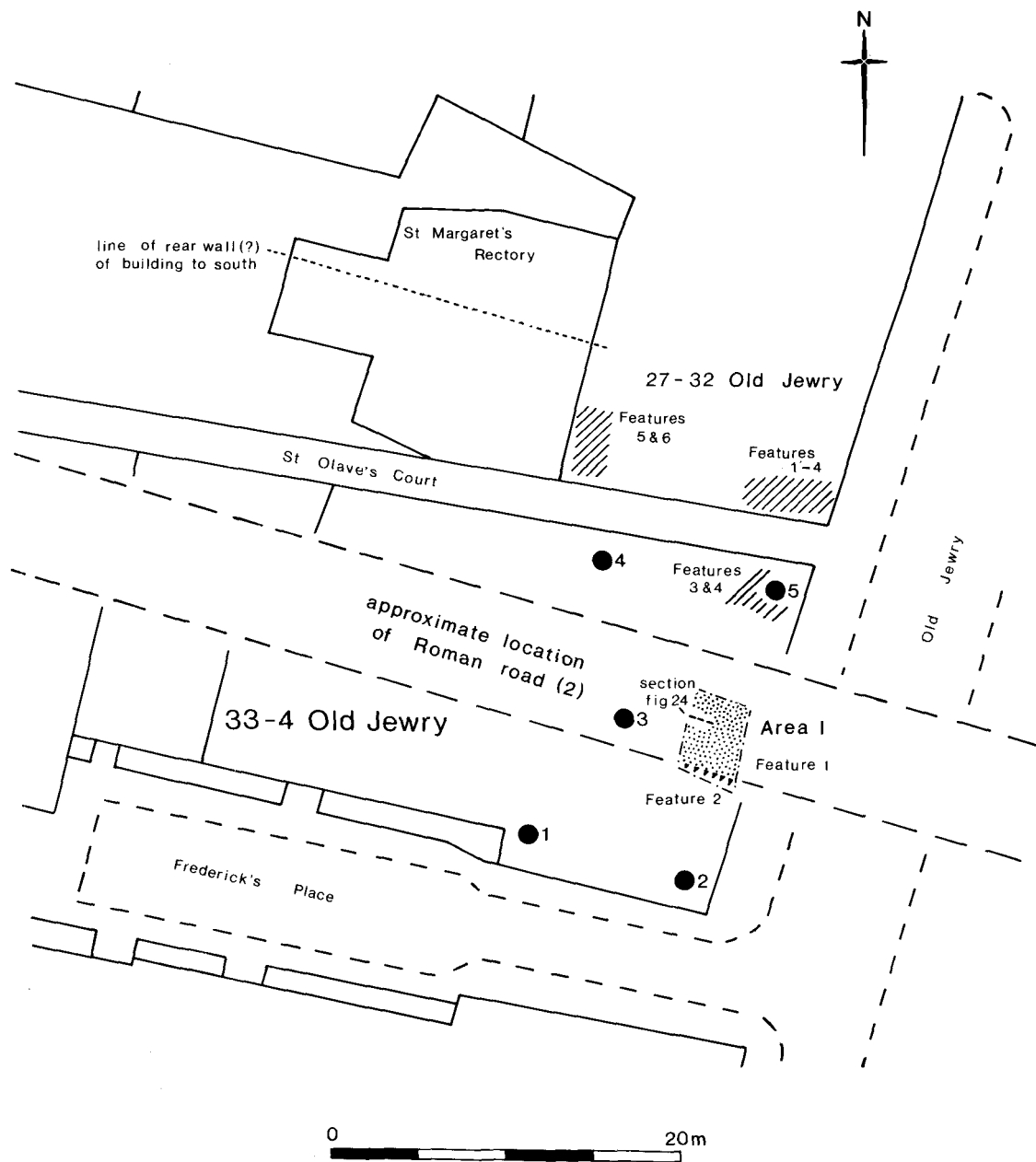


Fig. 23 King Street & Cheapside: 33-4 Old Jewry, 1952-3. Detail of site, location of trench and location of boreholes. Also shown are the locations of 27-32 Old Jewry and the adjacent site of St Margaret's Rectory.

ern side of the site. At the southern end of this retaining-wall trench there was an indication of at least a second resurfacing since ER.195 is described as coming from 'between gravel layers'. This layer contained pottery of the early 2nd century. The main area of gravel was sealed by a *c.* 30cm thick layer of soil, composition not specified, containing a large quantity of burnt wood and daub. This, in turn, was sealed by 'black graveyard disturbance' presumably from the cemetery of St Olave's church itself (see also 33-4 Old Jewry below for similar deposits, perhaps contemporary, from bore-hole sections on that site). Post-medieval rubbish and basement levels lay above this<sup>181</sup>.

#### FEATURE 5. PIT (ER. 72)

In the south-west side of the site was recorded a pit dated, on ceramic evidence, to the Flavian period. This feature was only partially seen and could not be recorded in detail<sup>182</sup>.

#### FEATURE 6. WALL

Also in the south-west corner and overlying Feature 5 was recorded the ragstone, ballast and flint foundation for a wall orientated approximately north-south, presumably perpendicular to the east-west Road 2 to the south. Scattered between the stones of this foundation were deposits of yellow sandy gravel. Noël Hume noted that this form of foundation was reminiscent of the foundations of the 3rd century building he recorded at Lime Street in 1951-2.

Feature 6 was *c.* 1.06 m wide and *c.* 1.06 m in depth. Not only was it overlying Feature 5 described above but also at one point a burnt clay deposit overlying a blackened gravel layer and at another a deposit of late 1st and early 2nd century rubbish. These suggest a fire horizon. Unfortunately, the relationship of these two layers to the pit (Feature 5) can not be ascertained.

Unfortunately the wall cannot be satisfactorily located on a plan.

### DISCUSSION

As mentioned above, none of these features can be plotted accurately on plan. The presence of rubbish pits and deposits of the late 1st and 2nd centuries indicate occupation of that date in this area to the north of the east-west aligned road recorded at 33-4 Old Jewry to the south. Of interest, however, is the gravel spread. This was interpreted as a courtyard surface<sup>184</sup>. It sealed pits and layers dated to the late 1st and early 2nd centuries which appear, in the records, to be devoid of any destruction material, whereas it was itself sealed

by a deposit which contained much burnt wood and daub. This is very similar indeed to what was recorded in the two north trenches at 9-12 King Street (site No. 12). There the gravel spreads were interpreted as a north-east to south-west aligned road (road 8). Could this be the interpretation here? It should be noted that a series of superimposed gravel courtyard surfaces were recorded on the north side of the same east-west road (Road 2) at 24-5 Ironmonger Lane (site No. 13. See p. 38)<sup>185</sup> (Fig. 2, No. 13).

The presence of the burnt clay and the fire blackened gravel layers noted in the south-west corner of the site at 27-32 Old Jewry indicates post-Flavian fire-destruction. It is probable that this is of Hadrianic date but there is no evidence to confirm this.

A recent watching-brief on the site of St Margaret's Rectory, to the immediate west of this site, conducted by Elizabeth Shepherd and Andrew Westman, both of the DUA, Museum of London, has revealed more information concerning the character of occupation during the Roman period<sup>185</sup>. An early phase of quarrying was followed by the construction of five successive clay and timber buildings. The first three appear to have been aligned upon the east-west road recorded to the south at 33-4 Old Jewry in 1952-3 (site No. 17). A number of pits to the north of one east-west aligned wall and contemporary with it, indicate a possible northern limit of that particular property. This wall was *c.* 22m north of the *south* edge of the road to the south; the north limit of the road itself is unknown.

The final two phases of building were set at a north-west to south-east alignment. The reasons for this could not be deduced from the watching-brief. The end of Roman occupation was marked by the deposition of 'dark earth'.

In brief, the general character of the Roman occupation on the site of 27-32 Old Jewry compares favourably with that recorded in 1980 at 24-5 Ironmonger Lane (site No. 13, p. 38)<sup>187</sup>, ie strip development fronting onto the east-west Road 2 with external courtyards alongside and rubbish disposal areas at the rear of the premises. The final phases were destroyed in a major fire, probably Hadrianic in date. No evidence for any industrial activity could be noted from either 27-32 Old Jewry in 1952 or St Margaret's Rectory in 1985 but the methods necessarily employed to examine both sites prohibited a thorough examination.

Later, post-fire phases of occupation are present here. The foundation trench of the wall seen in the south-west corner of 27-32 Old Jewry overlay deposits indicative of fire damage and late 1st and

early 2nd century rubbish deposits. Its alignment appears to be approximately the same as that of the 3rd century building found on the site of 11 Ironmonger Lane to the north-west of the Old Jewry site (see p. 34). Between this observation and the latter site, however, buildings late in the Roman sequence at St Margaret's Rectory were noted in 1985 to be constructed on a north-west to south-east alignment. This cannot at present be explained. In addition, the reference in 1888 to Roman walls and mosaics being discovered during the demolition of St Olaves church probably relate to these late structures.

In all cases 'dark earth' appears to have been present bringing to a close the Roman sequence.

### 33-4 OLD JEWRY/FREDERICK'S PLACE (Price Waterhouse) 1952-3 (Fig. 2, No. 17)

This site was located in the two premises on the corner of Old Jewry and Frederick's Place<sup>188</sup>. The redevelopment of these blitz-damaged buildings enabled Ivor Noël Hume of the Guildhall Museum to excavate under fairly controlled conditions two small trenches<sup>189</sup>. A trial trench cut during the late summer and autumn of 1952 revealed post-medieval features and finds. In March 1953, this trench was enlarged and designated 'Area I' (Fig. 23). 'Area II' was commenced during July of the same year in order to clarify problems concerning medieval and post-medieval features revealed in 'Area I'. No Roman features or material were encountered in Area II<sup>190</sup>.

### GEOLOGY

Natural subsoil was not encountered in either of the two areas due to their abandonment before completion. The lowest point to be recorded on the section through road metallings discovered in Area I, and therefore unlikely to be part of an intrusive feature into natural, was *c.* 9.90m OD (Fig. 24). However, additional information is available from five bore-hole sections. These were sunk in 1952, one in each corner of the development site and one in the centre (Fig. 23). Not only do the records exist for these sections<sup>191</sup> but samples of the very soils themselves were selected from the bore-hole cores and displayed in graduated glass tubes contained within a cloth-lined wooden case<sup>192</sup>.

Natural gravels were recorded in all five samples (Fig. 25, Bore-holes 1-5) from a minimum depth of *c.* 4.00m OD (bore-hole 3) up to *c.* 9.50m OD (bore-hole 2). The display tube for bore-hole 1 shows natural gravel at *c.* 8.80m OD with a soil,

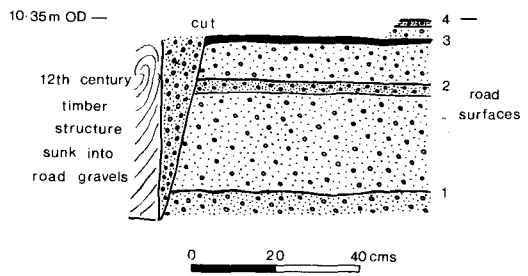


Fig. 24 King Street & Cheapside: 33-4 Old Jewry, 1952-3. Section along axis of road.

reminiscent of a brickearth, with its top also at *c.* 9.50m OD. Evidence from sites to the north and west suggest that this area did not have a natural brickearth capping over the terrace gravels. It is probable, therefore, that this represents either a redeposited brickearth dump to level the surrounding area or the filling of a hollow or channel. Sadly the available information does not allow for a specific conclusion to be reached.

In bore-holes 3 and 4, the top of natural gravel was recorded at *c.* 9.00m OD. In bore-hole 5 natural gravel was at 8.25m OD. The disturbed nature of the deposits above these natural subsoils suggests that the latter had been truncated.

### ROMAN FEATURES

#### FEATURE 1. ROAD (Fig. 23)

A 'ballast' layer was recorded in Area I at a depth of *c.* 1.88m below the basement slab, ie *c.* 10.35m OD. This lay immediately beneath the medieval and post-medieval features and was seen to spread over the entire excavated area<sup>193</sup>. The gravel, identified by the excavator as the metalling of a road<sup>194</sup>, had been intentionally packed and rammed, and there had been at least three re-metallings. Each successive metalling sealed a thin layer of dark soil. The total thickness of the road examined was 0.45m. It was not clear if the earliest metalling rested on natural soil. The evidence from the bore-holes (especially bore-holes 1 and 2) suggests that the top of natural subsoil was *c.* 9.50m OD. The lowest point on the road section was *c.* 9.90m OD. No dating material from between the re-metallings was recovered but the uppermost level, possibly partially truncated by the overlying medieval and post-medieval features, contained miscellaneous pottery sherds, predominantly of the 3rd and 4th centuries, and a worn coin, possibly an *As* of the late 1st century<sup>195</sup>.

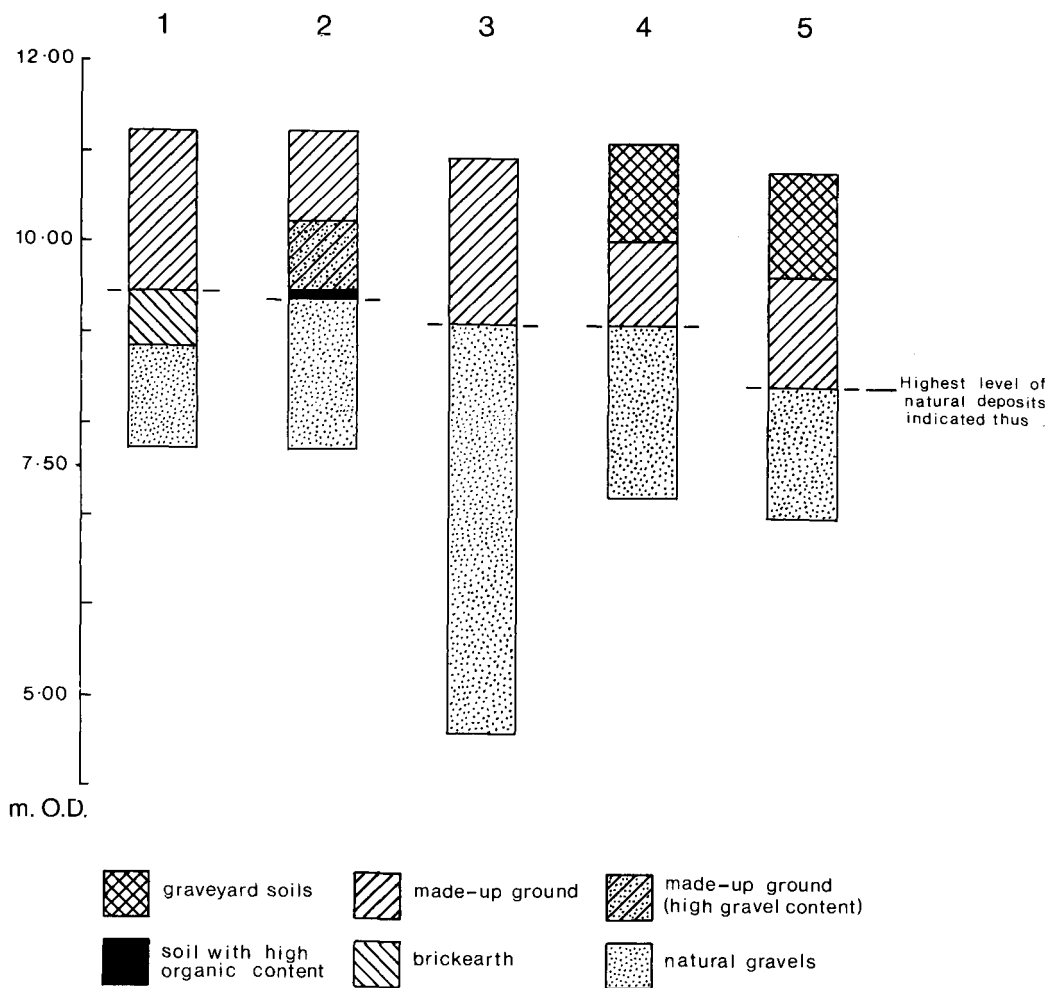


Fig. 25 King Street & Cheapside: 33-4 Old Jewry, 1952-3. Detail of borehole sections. 1-5.

#### FEATURE 2. ROADSIDE GULLY (Fig. 23)

At the south end of Area I, a gully at least 30cm wide ran in an east-west direction. It was partially filled with rain-washed material from the road consisting of black earth and pebbles. The uppermost layer of this feature was covered by a 'black filling' which contained pottery of the 2nd to 4th centuries. No evidence for any recutting was noticed<sup>196</sup>.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS RECORDED IN BOREHOLES 1-5 (Figs 23 & 25)

In addition to the road and roadside gully recorded in Area I, the five bore-hole sections reveal

further features and details relevant to the Roman occupation of the site<sup>197</sup>.

It should first be noted that Bore-hole 3 was cut on the projected line of the road<sup>198</sup>. Natural gravels were recorded with a top at c. 9.00m OD. with a c. 1.00m deposit of small chalk fragments in a grey/black silt with shell and mortar fragment above that. It is probable, therefore, that this represents the fill of an intrusive feature cut from the level of the road or from above it, after its abandonment.

The silt/clay resembling a brickearth above natural gravel in Borehole 2 has been referred to above. This was sealed by mixed rubble layers including 'chalk blocks of a medieval or Roman wall'<sup>199</sup> sealed in turn by a black soil up to the

level of the basement slab. It must be stressed that the date of this black soil is unknown.

On the north side of the site, Boreholes 4 and 5 in the north-west and north-east corners of the site respectively, revealed a number of details which were pursued by Noël Hume. In Borehole 4, a silty soil 'with Roman relics' its top level at *c.* 10.00m OD lay upon natural gravel. Above this silty soil was a made-up black soil containing human skeletal remains. Subsequent examination by Noël Hume revealed an east-west orientated inhumation, probably an interment in the cemetery of St Olave's church, demolished in 1888. This church was sited to the north of St Olave's Court.

Borehole 5, to the east, revealed made-up soil down to a level of 8.50m OD. Again, subsequent examination by Noël Hume revealed features of importance, in particular two large Roman refuse pits (ER. 217 and 219<sup>200</sup>, Fig. 23). These pits were examined in October 1954. Their precise locations cannot be accurately plotted but they were found in the vicinity of the bore-hole site in the angle formed by St Olave's Court and Old Jewry. They are:

#### FEATURE 3. PIT 1 (ER. 217)<sup>201</sup>

A large rubbish pit, *c.* 2.30m in diameter. Neither the bottom of this pit nor the northern part of its fill was excavated owing to the limitations of the builder's excavation area. The finds indicate a Flavian-early 2nd century date<sup>202</sup>.

#### FEATURE 4. PIT 2 (ER. 219)<sup>203</sup>

This pit, again not entirely excavated, cut into the lip of pit 1. Material from it dates to the Flavian-early 2nd century and the excavator noted that 'there is little doubt that the two pits contained refuse from a single household and that ER. 219 (Pit 2) was dug soon after ER. 217 (pit 1) became unserviceable or was filled'<sup>204</sup>.

#### FEATURE 5. WELL(?) (ER. 248)<sup>205</sup>

In addition to these two large pits, another feature, identified as either a pit or a well, was examined. This too cannot be satisfactorily located on a plan but would appear to have been to the south of the east-west aligned road (Feature 1). It contained an almost complete storage jar (*olla*) and a dish 'copying an Arretine form' said to have been recovered from the bottom of a well built *c.* 1800<sup>206</sup>. As the excavator points out, 'It would seem that the late well cut into a Roman pit or well'. The pottery dates to the Flavian period.

## DISCUSSION

The site at 33-4 Old Jewry produced the first evidence for an east-west orientated road in this area north of Cheapside. A roadside gully was recorded only on the south side of the road, the northern edge being beyond the limit of excavations. Although the lower metallings of the road were not examined, at least four surfaces were recorded. The date of material from the latest suggests that the road was still in use, or at least exposed, in the 3rd and 4th centuries. Dating material from the roadside gully confirms this. No immediate post-Roman (or post-road) accumulations were noted above the road. Indeed, the uppermost surface was directly sealed by medieval layers suggesting that some truncation might have occurred. The late date for the uppermost road surface would suggest that any truncation was minimal. It is possible, therefore, that later features cut down onto the road surface for stability, the road gravels acting as a firm and well-drained foundation. One 12th century feature, rectangular in shape and timber revetted, cut into the road surface. Some Roman residual material was recorded in its fill<sup>207</sup>.

The presence of two large pits in the north-east corner of the site and another pit, possibly a well, to the south are the only indications of land usage on either side of the road. No industrial waste material or structures were recorded. On the contrary, the high quality of the glass and ceramic finds from pit 1 would suggest habitation of a higher standard than normal.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of the Environment supported some of the excavation work, while post-excavation work was supported by English Heritage.

Many people have helped in the preparation of this report. In particular I would like to thank Pynfords (South) Ltd, especially Mrs Mills for giving access to their archives and so solving some problems concerning 33-4 Old Jewry. Numerous friends and colleagues in the Museum of London have given me much useful advice, information and assistance in particular John Clark, Gill Dunn, Francis Grew, Jenny Hall, Chris Jones, Penny Maconorran, Geoff Marsh, Sue Rivière and Agnès Shepherd (related).

I would especially like to thank Patrick Allen, David Bentley, Peter Rowsome and Elizabeth Shepherd (not related) for offering useful advice and information in advance of the completion of their own work on aspects of Roman topography in the same area.

Finally I would like to thank Peter Marsden, Tony Dyson and Dominic Perring for reading earlier drafts of this paper and offering many constructive criticisms and much useful advice. However, I remain responsible for any errors of fact or interpretation which might still remain in this paper.

## NOTES

1. Merrifield R., *The Roman City of London*. (London 1965) 207, No. 62.
2. *Ibid.* 205, No. 56.
3. *Ibid.* 234–5, No. 152.
4. *The Morning Post*. 27 January, 1927.
5. *Guildhall Library: Reports of the Library Committee*, 1930–1, 15. Also MS. notes by Gerald Dunning, DUA archive, Museum of London and Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 201, No. 44.
6. MS. notes by Gerald Dunning, DUA archive, Museum of London.
7. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 208, No. 65. Also MS. notes by Frank Cottrill, DUA archive, Museum of London.
8. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 202, No. 46. Also MS. notes by Frank Cottrill, DUA archive, Museum of London.
9. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 208, No. 64. Also MS. notes by Frank Cottrill, DUA archive, Museum of London.
10. Dawe D. and Oswald A., *11 Ironmonger Lane* (London 1952) 112–4. Also MS. notes by Adrian Oswald and Ivor Noël Hume, DUA archive, Museum of London.
11. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 235, No. 154. Also MS notes by Ivor Noël Hume, DUA archive, Museum of London.
12. Marsden P., 'Two Roman Public Baths in London' in *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 27 (1976), 1–70.
13. Grimes W. F., *The Excavations of Roman and Mediaeval London*. (London 1968) 131–4.
14. *Ibid.* 135–7.
15. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 203, No. 47. Also MS. notes by Ivor Noël Hume and *Excavations Register notebook III*, 43–4 and 53–5, DUA archive, Museum of London.
16. *Excavation Register notebook III*, 74–8 and notebook IV, 19, 23–4 and 43–5, DUA archive, Museum of London.
17. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 203, No. 48. Also MS. notes by Peter Marsden.
18. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 202, No. 45. Also MS. notes by Eve Rutter and Peter Marsden and *Excavation Register notebook V*, 48–51, 54–5, and 59–60, DUA archive, Museum of London.
19. Marsden P., 'Archaeological Finds in the City of London.' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 26 (1967) 202–6.
20. *Ibid.* 206–7.
21. Farrant N., 'A Roman Crossroads in the City', *London Archaeol.*, 2 (1975) 300–3.
22. Roskams S., 'The Milk Street Excavation', *London Archaeol.*, 3 (1978) 199–205.
23. Norton J., 'Ironmonger Lane', *London Archaeol.* 4 (1982) 171–6.
24. DUA, Museum of London, Level III archive report, 24–5 *Ironmonger Lane*, site code IRO.80.
25. DUA, Museum of London, Level III archive report. Site code BOA.83.
26. Rowsome P., 'Roman Street Life' *Archaeology Today*, 8, no. 9. October 1987, 22–5. Building numbers published there do not conform to those used in this report. DUA, Museum of London, Level III archive report. Site Code KNG.85.
27. Marsh G., 'London's samian supply and its relationship to the development of the Gallic samian industry', in Anderson A. C., and Anderson A. S. (eds), *Roman Pottery Research in Britain and North-west Europe. Papers presented to Graham Webster*. British Archaeological Reports International Series, 123(i) (1981), 173–238.
28. DUA archive, Museum of London.
29. The problems encountered during the early 1950's especially have been particularly well-chronicled: Noël Hume I., 'Into the Jaws of Death Walked One' in Bird J., Chapman H. and Clarke J., (eds.) *Collectanea Londiniensia; Papers presented to Ralph Merrifield.* London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc. Special Paper No. 2 (1978) 7–23, and also Grimes (*op cit* in Note 9), 218–241.
30. Marsden (*op cit* in Note 12) 30–46. The date of construction of the bathhouse is unknown but probably occurred during the late 1st century. Its destruction was not earlier than the end of the 2nd century.
31. Dudley Stamp L., *A Glossary of Geographical Terms* (London 1961) 77–8.
32. The Huggin Hill Baths. See Note 12.
33. Wilmott T., 'Excavations at Queen Street, City of London, 1953 and 1960, and Roman timber-lined wells in London' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 33 (1982) 1–78.
34. A cross-section through the geology in this area and showing also the levels of Hadrianic fire-deposits and 'dark earth' from Milk Street to Princes Street has been compiled by Patrick Allen and John Shepherd. This is located in the DUA archive, Museum of London (King Street/Cheapside sites).
35. See Note 21.
36. See Note 22.
37. Marsden (*op cit* in Note 19).
38. Norton (*op cit* in Note 23) 171–2 and DUA, Museum of London, Level III archive report, Site code IRO.80.
39. See Note 5.
40. Grimes (*op cit* in Note 14) 135.
41. See Note 16.
42. The presence of fresh surface water would remove the need for water to be supplied to the site.
43. See Note 5.
44. See Note 15.
45. See Note 9.
46. See Note 20.
47. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 208, No. 65 (72–3 Cheapside); 227, No. 130 (71–5 Gresham Street); 227–8, No. 131 (Aldermanbury, Fountaine Court); 228, No. 132 (St Lawrence Jewry Church); 241, No. 176–7 (33–5 Poultry); 245, No. 192 (76–80 Cheapside).
48. See Note 7.
49. See Note 45.
50. See Note 45.
51. See Note 10.
52. See Note 45. The lack of a stream flowing through the Old Jewry sites conflicts with the idea that the stream-beds recorded at 33–5 Poultry in 1925 and 1936 are part of the same course as at 11 Ironmonger Lane, 71–5 Gresham Street, St Lawrence Jewry Church line. Perhaps this, too, did not flow south–east but more in an easterly direction.
53. Norton (*op cit* in Note 23) 171.
54. *Ibid.* 172.
55. See Note 52.
56. See Notes 21 and 22.
57. Farrant (*op cit* in Note 21) 301, Fig. 1, road B.
58. Information from Contractor's dye-line plans. DUA archive. Museum of London.
59. Grimes (*op cit* in Note 14) 136–7, Fig. 31.
60. Marsden (*op cit* in Note 12) 47–9, Fig. 19. Bentley D., 'Roman London; a first century boundary' *London Archaeol.* 5 (1985) 124–9.
61. Perring D., 'London in the 1st and 2nd centuries' in Grew F., and Hobley B., (eds) *Roman Urban Topography in Britain and the Western Empire* (Council for British Archaeology Research Report No. 59 198), 94–98. Comments *passim*.
62. See Note 36.
63. Marsden (*op cit* in Note 19) 203, Fig. 9: Top section, layers 3 and 4.
64. Norton (*op cit* in Note 23) 174.
65. Roskams (*op cit* in Note 22) 203.
66. Farrant (*op cit* in Note 21) 301, Fig. 1, road A.
67. Oswald in Dawe and Oswald (*op cit* in Note 10) 116–7.
68. Roskams (*op cit* in Note 22) 204.
69. See Note 15.
70. Marsh (*op cit* in Note 27), 181.
71. See Notes 21 and 22.
72. See Note 5.
73. Grimes (*op cit* in Note 14) 135–7.
74. See Note 16.
75. See Note 5.
76. MS. notes by Gerald Dunning, DUA archive, Museum of London.
77. A list of Roman pottery finds from this site has been collated but not published here. It is lodged with other Blossoms Inn archive material in the DUA archive, Museum of London. This material came from the entire site of Blossoms Inn and not just from the trench examined by Dunning. There is no evidence to suppose that this entire assemblage came from just a few specific features but it is a possibility which should be borne in mind.
78. See Note 75.
79. Marsh (*op cit* in Note 17) 178.
80. *Ibid.* 178.
81. Grimes (*op cit* in Note 14). The documentation and finds from this site have not been examined by the present author.
82. Natural brickearth exists on the two Milk Street sites but on no other site in this study area. A very pebbly brickearth occurs at 9–12 King Street.
83. Grimes (*op cit* in Note 14) 135.

84. *Ibid.* 136–7, Fig. 31.
85. It should be noted that the excavated area was not very large.
86. Grimes (*op cit* in Note 14) 137.
87. *Ibid.* 137, Fig. 31.
88. See Note 16.
89. *Excavation Register Notebook III*, 76–7. DUA archive, Museum of London.
90. *Guildhall Library: Reports of the Library committee* 1932, 16.
91. MS. notes by Frank Cottrill. DUA archive, Museum of London. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 208, no. 64. The maximum and minimum levels are due to basement level being given in the original documents as simply 'below pavement level'. The latter, however, slopes from 15.333m OD at the north end of the property to 14.495m OD at the south.
92. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1), 207, no. 62. Also Wren C., *Parentalia* (London 1750), 265.
93. See Note 90.
94. Wilmott (*op cit* in Note 31) 23–6.
95. MS. notes by Frank Cottrill. DUA archive, Museum of London. Also *Guildhall Library Report.*, 1931, 14 and Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 208, No. 65.
96. See Note 94.
97. Grimes (*op cit* in Note 14) 131–4.
98. No plans or documentation have been available for study.
99. Grimes (*op cit* in Note 14) 132.
100. Marsden (*op cit* in Note 19). Also MS. notes by Peter Marsden, DUA archive, Museum of London.
101. Information from contractor's dye-line plans. DUA archive, Museum of London.
102. Marsden (*op cit* in Note 19) 206.
103. A 'brown clay' was recorded in every borehole section taken on this site. This immediately overlay a 'blue clay' which is undoubtedly undisturbed London Clay. The 'brown clay' probably represents an upper stratum of London Clay stained by mineral salts absorbed from the overlying stream. Its thickness and depth prevents it from being a brickearth.
104. Marsden (*op cit* in Note 19) 206.
105. *Ibid.*
106. See Note 1.
107. See Note 18.
108. See Note 21.
109. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 202.
110. Oswald in Dawe and Oswald (*op cit* in Note 10) 117.
111. The work on this site was carried out in conjunction with Art Pavements Ltd. (formerly Carter and Co. Ltd.), who were responsible for the actual lifting and relaying of the mosaic. The mosaic was replaced in exactly the same position as before. It can be viewed by arrangement with the Bank of Argentina.
112. I wish to thank Patrick Allen for supplying most of these notes from his watching brief.
113. Oswald in Dawe and Oswald (*op cit* in Note 10), 116–7.
114. A deposit of 'mud' was recorded in an underpinning hole on the west side of the site in 1949 (MS. notes by Adrian Oswald, DUA archive, Museum of London).
115. Oswald in Dawe and Oswald (*op cit* in Note 10), 117.
116. *Idem.*
117. *Ibid.* 116.
118. *Ibid.* 118.
119. MS. notes by Adrian Oswald, DUA archive, Museum of London.
120. Oswald in Dawe and Oswald (*op cit* in Note 10) 112.
121. *Ibid.* 115.
122. The potter's stamp MURRANUS is paralleled in well-dated Flavian deposits at GPO, Newgate Street. Oswald in Dawe and Oswald (*op cit* in Note 10) 112 and 128.
123. Shepherd J., The Roman Features at Gateway House and Watling House, Watling Street, City of London. (Forthcoming).
124. Merrifield (*op cit* in Note 1) 290, No. 331.
125. *Ibid.* 234–5, No. 152.
126. See Note 23.
127. Norton J., '24–25 Ironmonger Lane, 1980' in Perring D. and Roskams S. with Allen P., *Development of Roman London West of the Walbrook*. In preparation.
128. A coin of Vespasian (69–79) was recorded in the top of the levelling suggesting that the debris was not derived from the Boudiccan fire.
129. Details of the 1982 watching-brief are available in archive form only. DUA archive, Museum of London.
130. See Note 4.
131. See Note 19.
132. See Note 23.
133. See Note 4.
134. Marsden (*op cit* in Note 19) 202–6, Trench 1.
135. Home suggested (*op cit* in Note 4) that the dating of Roman pottery normally attributed to the second century might have to be extended later into the Roman period to accommodate his notion that this section contained c. 350 years of Roman archaeology. The OD levels for the schematic section published here (Fig. 15) have been estimated from comparison with the sections drawn by P. Allen in 1982.
136. See Note 24.
137. See Note 19.
138. Marsden (*op cit* in Note 19) 205. It must be noted also that the levels for Trench 2 cannot be accurately reduced from available measurements. When compared to Trench 1, relative values are correct (ie top of road is c. 70cm above what is assumed to be natural and its thickness varies from c. 10–25cm). But absolute levels do not compare, since Trench 2 values are more than 75cm above expected levels as seen on this site and at 24–5 Ironmonger Lane. There appears to be little doubt that the gravels in Trench 1 and 2 are, however, the same feature.
139. *Ibid.* 205, Fig. 9, top section, layer 12 and middle section, layer 'w'. These are truncated and sealed by No. 13 and layer 'u' respectively.
140. *Ibid.* 203
141. See Note 17.
142. See Note 8.
143. The trench was dug as part of the building redevelopment. Much detail of stratigraphy was obscured by shoring.
144. Information from MS. notes. See Note 8.
145. See Note 8.
146. *Idem.*
147. Norton (*op cit* in Note 23) 174.
148. See Note 11.
149. Information from the Corporation of the City of London Planning Department.
150. Many of the features described here have been deduced from a thorough examination of the available records. For many no Excavation Register number exists. Information for these and details of post-medieval features can be found in a Level III archive report form, DUA archive, Museum of London.
151. Unfortunately, the contractors used a temporary bench-mark for this site which can no longer be located on any plan. The excavator's 'below basement' measurements cannot be absolutely calculated. Any such measurements are only useful when comparing one depth to another.
152. Information from contractors dye-line plan, DUA archive, Museum of London.
153. *Excavation Register Notebook III*, 43, ER. 283. DUA archive, Museum of London.
154. See Note 150.
155. *Excavation Register Notebook III*, 45, ER. 285. DUA archive, Museum of London.
156. See Note 150.
157. See Note 150 and also *Excavation Register Notebook III*, 54.
158. Four feet below basement level.
159. See Note 150.
160. Comparative widths are 0.75m at Gateway House and Watling House, Watling Street. (Shepherd (*op cit* in Note 121) and 0.90–0.95m at 20–38 Gresham Street (see above p. 33).
161. *Excavation Register Notebook III*, 44, DUA archive, Museum of London.
162. *Ibid.* 45.
163. *Ibid.* 42–4. See also Note 150.
164. Information regarding the thickness and number of remetalings of the road (Feature 1) were obtained from the section created by the cut of this well.
165. Wilmott (*op cit* in Note 3) 23–6.
166. See Note 160.
167. DUA Museum of London, Level III archive report, 36–7 King Street, site code KNG 85, Group 30.
168. *Ibid.* Group 31.
169. *Ibid.* Group 32.
170. *Ibid.* Group 4. Dumped deposits of silt sealing Road 6 and its associated drains produced pottery dating with a *terminus post quem* of AD 70 although most of the pottery was Neronian. The Building 13 structural and occupational sequence produced a *terminus post quem* of AD 55 (groups 32.1–32.3) but a *terminus post quem* of AD 70 from deposits within its fire destruction horizon (groups 32.4 and 32.5).
171. *Ibid.* Group 7.
172. *Ibid.* Group 36–40.
173. *Ibid.* Building 22 (groups 39.1 and 39.2) and Building 23 (group 40.1).
174. *Ibid.* Series of late and intercutting drains to the east (group 20) and west (group 21) of Road 6 contained 3rd and even some 4th century dating evidence (possibly contamination caused by 'dark earth' deposits and late drain fills merging). In particular were coins dated to the late 3rd century and to AD 270–273 from one of the drains (group 21.3).
175. *Ibid.* Group 23.

176. *Ibid.* Building 7 (group 23) produced only residual dating but overlay 'dark earth' deposits (group 22.3) which had a *terminus post quem* of AD 350.
177. No plans available for study.
178. *Excavation Register Notebook II*, 27. DUA Archive, Museum of London.
179. *Excavation Register Notebook II*, 28. DUA Archive, Museum of London.
180. *Idem.*
181. *Excavation Register Notebook II*, 29–30. ER. 196 was a single pudding-stone quern. DUA Archive, Museum of London.
182. *Excavation Register Notebook I*, 16.
183. *Excavation Register Notebook I*, 16–20.
184. *Idem.*
185. Norton (*op cit* in Note 23) *passim*.
186. An archive report, site code OLC 85, on this watching-brief is in preparation. I am most grateful to Elizabeth Shepherd for details of the Roman occupation on this site in advance of the completion of her work.
187. See Note 185.
188. See Note 11.
189. Area II cannot be satisfactorily located on plan.
190. The final sentence of the Excavation notebook (see Note 11) reads 'In Area I, the Roman road metalling was encountered at 6'2" (c. 1.85m). It is yet to be found in Area II'.
191. Pynfords (South) Ltd. Plan: Drawing No. 578. Sections: Drawing No. 579.
192. MOL Acc. No. L146/11. It is described as 'A wooden box containing five glass tubes of soil samples collected from boreholes and showing the strata encountered. Samples taken by Pynford Ltd. 74 Lancaster Road, London N4 in September 1952 during site investigation at 33–4 Old Jewry'. The sample tubes give a scale representation of the strata encountered using some of the original soil from the borehole samples. A letter dated 23 November 1956 explains that they were loaned to the site by Mr G. M. Martin, Clerk of Works, during construction. They were eventually donated to the Museum of London by the Mercers Company.
193. Area I, Layer 6. Noël Hume I, 33–4 *Old Jewry, MS. Site Excavation Notebook*, p. 21. DUA Archive, Museum of London.
194. *Ibid.* 26.
195. ER. 11620. This coin is too worn to allow a precise identification other than it was once an As (*pers com* Jenny Hall).
196. Noël Hume (*op cit* in Note 185), 24.
197. Some caution must be exercised when examining and interpreting the made-up deposits recorded in these and any borehole sections. The compiler of these samples was intent on recording, for site use only, the major stratigraphic changes and not individual archaeological layers and certainly not mere lenses. The comments here reflect general observations and trends.
198. See Note 181.
199. *Idem.*
200. *Excavation Register Notebook II*, 53–4. These two important pit groups are not published in detail here. It is hoped that their contents will be the subject of an individual paper at a later date. The comparatively high intrinsic value of the contents of these pits and their dates is sufficient comment for this current study.
201. *Excavation Register Notebook II*, 53. DUA Archive, Museum of London.
202. Spot-date information supplied by the Finds section, DUA, Museum of London.
203. *Excavation Register Notebook II*, 53–4. DUA Archive, Museum of London.
204. See Note 194.
205. *Excavation Register Notebook II*, 77. DUA Archive, Museum of London.
206. These finds are no longer available for study.
207. This dating is based upon the observations of the pottery made by G. C. Dunning at the time of excavation.

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