

A GAZETTEER OF MIDDLE SAXON SITES AND FINDS IN THE STRAND/ WESTMINSTER AREA

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This gazetteer was prepared as part of the Strand Survey; a topographical survey of an area extending from the Fleet Valley (the line of which is followed by Farringdon Street) to Westminster (Fig. 1), carried out by the Museum of London's Department of Greater London Archaeology (DGLA) in 1987. The Survey was instigated following the suggestion by Biddle (1984) and Vince (1984a) that the Saxon port of *Lundenwic* was located along the Strand, and the discovery shortly afterwards of Middle Saxon sites in this area (Whytehead 1985; Cowie 1987; Cowie & Whytehead 1989; Mills 1991, 170–172). The gazetteer was periodically updated (to October, 1991) as further finds came to light.

The picture that emerges from the excavations and findspots in the Survey area confirms the view that there was an urban settlement here in the Middle Saxon period. The extent of the settlement thought to be *Lundenwic*, and the position of its boundaries, are at present uncertain, although the distribution of sites suggests a settlement area of about 60 hectares. The western limit of the town may be marked by an area of gravel quarries found to the west of the National Gallery (site 13 in the gazetteer) and possibly in Trafalgar Square (site 12). The southern limit was defined by the Thames, and recent excavations at York Buildings (site 22) indicate that the Middle Saxon waterfront at this point was

about 160m north of the modern riverside. Occupation sites have been found as far north as Shorts Gardens (site 33), and as far east as Somerset House (site 54). While stray finds in the vicinity of Fleet Street suggest that the settlement may have extended further east up to the Fleet Valley, the 'negative' evidence from recent excavations undertaken in this area by the Museum of London's Department of Urban Archaeology (DUA) tends not to support this view (Vince 1990, 16).

The settlement, therefore, appears to be centred around the Strand, which may have been one of the town's principal streets. The Strand, together with Fleet Street, is considered to be on the line of a Roman road leading from Ludgate in the City (Margary 1955, 51). Physical evidence for this road was recently found south of Old Bailey at Ludgate Hill during excavations by the DUA (site code: PWB 88; McCann and Orton 1989, 105). It may also have been recorded by the 16th-century writer Stow on the north side of Fleet Street between Chancery Lane and St Dunstan's church, where the remains of an earlier road were uncovered by labourers in 1595 (Kingsford 1908, 43). The earliest documentary evidence for the Strand, however, is in a charter of AD 1002, where it is referred to as *Akemannestraete* (Gelling 1953, 102; Sawyer 1968, 275, no. 903).

Most of the Middle Saxon settlement lay north of the Strand, and considerable

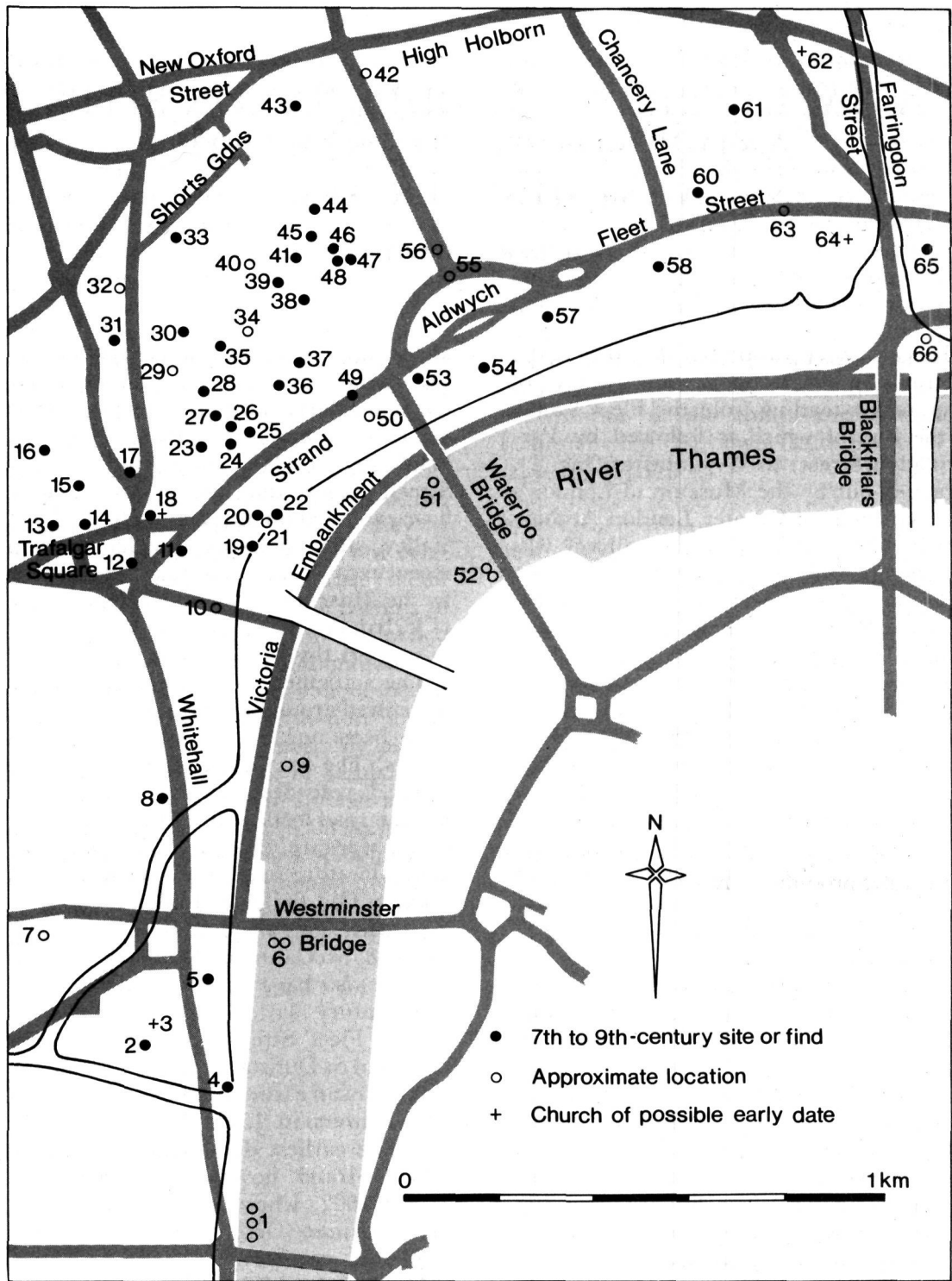


Fig. 1 Gazetteer map showing the supposed position of the River Thames and its tributaries in the Middle Saxon period, and 7th- to 9th-century sites between the Fleet and Westminster.

evidence of occupation of this date has been found in this area, notably at the Peabody Site (site 23), Maiden Lane (site 25), *Shorts Gardens* (site 33), *Jubilee Hall* (site 37), and Long Acre (site 41). Occupation sites in the locality are mainly characterised by dump layers, metalised surfaces, pits, wells, and structural features such as postholes, stakeholes, beamslots, and brickearth floors. The finds assemblages from these sites provide evidence for long-distance trade with the Continent, inter-regional trade, industrial activity, and crafts. Animal bones and plant remains have also been recovered, and so far assemblages from the Peabody Site, Maiden Lane, Jubilee Hall, and the National Gallery Basement (site 14), have undergone detailed examination, and have provided information about the Middle Saxon agricultural economy, and the diet of the inhabitants of *Lundenwic* (Rackham, forthcoming).

Five churches are located on or near the Strand, including St Dunstan in the West, St Clement Danes and St Mary-le-Strand, and may, as Biddle (1984, 24, 26) has tentatively suggested, be of 'early date'. Nevertheless, only St Martin-in-the-Fields (site 18) and St Bride's (site 64) have produced any archaeological evidence to support this suggestion.

Two isolated mid-Saxon inhumations have been found in the Survey Area, at the Peabody Site and Jubilee Hall, but the location of the cemeteries of *Lundenwic* remains uncertain. However, it is thought there may have been a Continental-style cemetery at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, while undated burials in King Street (site 34), and at 51-4 and 67-8 Long Acre (sites 39 and 41), suggest the existence of a cemetery (possibly Saxon) to the north of Covent Garden Piazza.

A notable feature of this gazetteer is the high proportion of discoveries made in the last six years. Before 1985 *in-situ* Middle

Saxon strata had been found only at the Treasury (site 8) and possibly at the Savoy (site 50). However, by October 1991 at least twenty-five sites with deposits of known or probable Middle Saxon date had been recorded by the DGLA. It seems reasonable to conclude from this that Wheeler's (1935, 141) suggestion that groups of Saxon buildings lay along the riverside between the City and Westminster was not followed up, and that many Middle Saxon sites in the area were destroyed without record. One such site may have been observed in Bedford Street (site 27), where pits were apparently seen. This loss was suffered partly because the significance of finds like those at the Savoy was not fully recognised until recently, and also because of the inadequacy of archaeological cover before the creation of the London Archaeological Service in 1983. Furthermore, in comparison with often more substantial remains of Roman and medieval date, Saxon features and artefacts may be easily overlooked, and are perhaps less likely to be reported when disturbed.

The gazetteer was compiled from Museum of London records, articles, previous gazetteers—notably those by Wheeler (1935) and Vince (1984b), and other sources, all of which are cited in the text. The unpublished archive reports included in the bibliography can be consulted by arrangement with the Museum of London.

1. Lambeth Bridge, Thames foreshore

(i) A *sceat* series T type 9 (Metcalfe 1986, 2; Rigold and Metcalfe 1984, 255; Stott 1991, 307, no. 42); (ii) A coin of Baldred of Kent (c. AD 823–5) found by Mr R. J. Savage 60 ft upstream in 1973, and identified by M. Archibald, British Museum (Blunt 1974; Stott 1991, 309, no. 61); (iii) A coin of Alfred, lunette type (AD 871–75), found in 1974 and now in a private collection (Stott 1991, 309, no. 67).

2. Westminster Abbey

The origins of Westminster Abbey are uncertain, mainly because there is little archaeological data, and, as Carpenter (1966, 5–6) points out, much of the early docu-

mentary evidence is spurious. Nevertheless, some sources suggest that the Abbey was founded in the Middle Saxon period (see Vince 1990, 66), and finds from the Undercroft (site 3) at least indicate activity in the area at this time. Rosser (1989, 12) suggests that a minster church may have preceded the first 'fully-fledged' monastery founded by St. Dunstan in c. AD 960, itself the precursor of Edward the Confessor's Abbey. Evidence for St. Dunstan's monastery may have been found beneath the subvault of the Misericorde of the Abbey when structural features of apparently Late Saxon date were excavated by the Inner London Archaeological Unit in 1975 (site code: WAM 75; Black 1976).

3. Undercroft Museum, Westminster Abbey (TQ 3008 7942)

A coin of Ecgerht of Wessex (c. AD 825–828; Stott 1991, 309, no. 62) found during an excavation by the DGLA in 1986 (site code: WST 86), presumably redeposited. Other finds included a few sherds of Ipswich-type ware and Badorf-type amphora, which were probably residual. A quarry which had silted up by the 10th century was also discovered (Blackmore & Redknap 1988, 226; Youngs *et al.* 1987, 133–4; Mills in prep.).

4. Victoria Tower Gardens, Westminster (TQ 3025 7934)

An 8th-century sword, found 35ft below modern ground level during excavations for the foundations of a boiler-house in the Gardens on the south side of the House of Lords in 1948 (Dunning and Evison 1961).

5. Cromwell Green, Palace of Westminster (TQ 3018 7953)

Two pieces of oak plank, dated to AD 600+/-80 and AD 720+/-80 by radiocarbon dating (HAR-2692 and HAR-2696), were found in clay filling an old water channel during an excavation in 1978 by the Inner London Archaeological Unit (site code: WCG 78; Mills 1980, 22).

6. Westminster Bridge (TQ 304 796)

(i) An 8th- to 9th-century binding strip made of gilded silver, dredged from the Thames in 1866. It had a dragon's-head terminal and a runic inscription. Its precise function is open to conjecture, but it was most probably a scabbard fitting (British Museum acc. no. 69, 6–10, I: VCH London, 1, 166–7, Fig. 30; Vulliamy 1930, 266; Wilson 1964, 152–3, pl. XXV; Webster 1991, 225, no. 179); (ii) A possible 9th-century coin hoard from Westminster Bridge. There is some confusion regarding the findspot of these coins, for it is believed they may have come from Waterloo Bridge (Pagan 1965, 24; Blackburn and Pagan 1986, 294).

7. Old Queen Street (TQ 298 797)

A circular bone gaming piece with central perforation, found in Long Ditch in 1917 (Museum of London acc. no. A 19193). Although described as Saxon, it may be medieval.

8. The Treasury, Whitehall (TQ 3009 7994)

An excavation by H. J. M. Green for the Ministry of Works in 1961/2 revealed evidence of late 8th- to early 9th-century occupation, including buildings, pits, and the revetted (E-W) edge of a stream. An ovoid, flat-bottomed pit, with traces of a wood floor, may have been a sunken-featured building. It was 0.38m deep, 1.80m

wide and possibly twice that in length. A subrectangular timber building with a sunken floor, c. 7.30m N-S by 6.10m E-W, was also found. The sunken area contained sleeper beams and walling planks, preserved by wet conditions. The building was overlain by the eastern bay (5.64m wide) of a rectangular timber framed hall, with a porch at its east end. The floor of the hall was made of clay laid over a raft of planks from the earlier building. The hall had at least four phases. The first consisted of the main building and its eastern porch. Another porch was later added to the north wall of the building, which was subsequently damaged by fire and rebuilt. A ditch (2.42m wide, 0.43m deep) and bank (2.0m wide) may have marked the western boundary of the area occupied by the buildings and associated features. The pottery assemblage comprised 50+ % Ipswich-type ware, 40% handmade shell-tempered ware, 5% chaff-tempered ware, and 5% imported Badorf and Tating wares. Other finds included quernstones, loomweight fragments, bone thread pickers, fragments of bone combs, scramasax iron knives, a bronze hairpin, and a chalk spindlewhorl (Green 1963; Green and Thurley, forthcoming; Sturdy 1976, Figs. 4 & 5). Of the bones examined, those of cattle were the most frequent; sheep and pig occurred in smaller quantities and a few bones of horse, dog, deer, and bird were also found (Chaplin 1971, 124–38; 1976). The site was probably part of a farm just outside *Lundenwic* (Cowie & Whytehead 1989, 706, 714).

9. Thames at Whitehall (TQ 304 800)

(i) A 9th-century iron axe of Petersen type E (Shetelig 1940, 86, Fig. 54); (ii) A Saxon knife, 190mm long, dredged from the river bed (Smith 1852, 243).

10. Northumberland Avenue (TQ 302 804)

A coin of Burgred of Mercia (AD 852–74), moneyer Hugerred, found before 1889 (Pagan 1965, 22).

11. Strand/Craven Street (TQ 302 804)

Two bone thread pickers found in 1914. One is 90mm long and decorated with ring and dot motifs (Museum of London acc. no. A 13363), and the other is 99mm long (acc. no. A 13659). Vince (1984b) argues convincingly for an Early to Middle Saxon date.

12. Trafalgar Square (TQ 3005 8044)

Several archaeological features, some possibly of Middle Saxon date, were recorded in drain trenches during a DGLA watching brief in 1988 (site code: TSQ 88; Whytehead 1990a). (i) A sherd of Ipswich ware and a lava quernstone fragment were found with Roman and medieval artefacts in sandy clay deposits (possibly quarry fill) exposed along the entire length of a 30m trench, which extended eastwards from Nelson's Column. The deposits were on average c. 1.2m below ground level, and were at least 0.80m deep (extending below the trench bottom). (ii) Two barrel-lined pits or wells of unknown date were found cut into natural, and overlain by dark silty clay (possibly quarry fill), in a N-S trench on the east side of the Square. No datable artefacts were recovered from the strata, but Middle Saxon pottery was retrieved with medieval and post-medieval finds from machine-excavated spoil beside the trench. (iii) At least three rubbish pits containing Ipswich ware and a sherd of Badorf ware were revealed in a N-S trench on the east side of the western fountain. (iv) Evidence of gravel

quarries and two pits of unknown date were found in E-W trenches on the north side of the Square.

13. The National Gallery Extension/Sainsbury Wing (TQ 2989 8051)

An excavation undertaken by the DGLA in 1987 revealed several large gravel quarry pits probably dating to the Middle Saxon period (site code: NAG 87; Cowie 1988a; forthcoming a). One quarry was 2.75m deep and over 16m long, extending beyond the excavation area. The few finds included Middle Saxon pottery (predominantly Ipswich ware), fragments of lava quernstones, loomweight fragments, a dress pin, a Series T *sceat* dating to AD 715–720 (Stott 1991, 307, no. 43), and animal bones.

14. The National Gallery (TQ 2996 8054)

A rescue excavation undertaken by the DGLA in 1987 in the National Gallery Basement revealed three 7th- to 9th-century pits (site code: NGA 87; Cowie 1987, 33; 1988a; forthcoming a). The pottery assemblage comprised Ipswich ware, chaff-tempered pottery, and foreign imports including fragments of North French pottery Badorf-type amphora. The pits also produced fragments of daub and 'whitewashed tile', loomweight fragments, several fragments of glass vessel, a spindlewhorl, a piece of bone comb, lava quernstone fragments, bronze and iron objects, and numerous animal bones, oyster shells, and plant remains (Davis 1989).

15. Orange Street (TQ 2993 8061)

Two intercutting pits, of possible Middle Saxon date, were discovered during a watching brief undertaken by the DGLA in 1987 (site code: NGA 87). The pits were observed near the bottom of a sewer shaft excavated near the rear entrance to the National Gallery. A chaff-tempered potsherd and a base sherd of East Anglian or North French Black ware were recovered from the pit fills.

16. Leicester Square, south side (TQ 2985 8068)

Residual Middle Saxon pottery, comprising two sherds of Ipswich ware and a chaff-tempered sherd, was found during an excavation by the DGLA in 1989. The sparsity of finds and the absence of Middle Saxon features suggests that the site lay outside *Lundenwic* (site code: LES 89; Hoad 1989a, 28).

17. Cavell House, Charing Cross Road/St Martin's Lane (TQ 3003 8064)

A pit or pits, of possible Middle Saxon date, were discovered during a watching brief by the DGLA in 1986 (site code: CAV 86). One sherd of Ipswich ware was recovered (Youngs *et al.* 1987, 133).

18. St Martin-in-the-Fields (TQ 3003 8064)

An unspecified number of stone coffins aligned N-S were found when the portico of the church was built in 1722–6 (Biddle, forthcoming). One coffin contained two glass palm cups, and another yielded an iron spearhead. One of the cups is now in the British Museum (Harden, 1956, pl. XVII A, e, Fig. 25 a ii 4). Biddle (1984, 25) suggests that these burials were part of a 'Continental-style' cemetery, and hints that the church may have been founded here in the Middle Saxon period.

19. 12 Buckingham Street (TQ 3033 8048)

Pieces of oak and what appeared to be wattle fencing

were recovered from two pile holes during a DGLA watching brief in 1988 (site code: BHM 88). One piece of worked wood was provisionally dated by dendrochronological analysis to the 7th century, but without sapwood it may have come from a tree felled at a later date (Ian Tyers, pers. comm.). The wooden remains came from waterlogged deposits, which were estimated to be 0.5 to 1.0m deep, and which also contained a large quantity of animal bones. The wood may have come from waterfront structures, such as those excavated at York Buildings (site 22), or may represent an accumulation of driftwood at the water's edge.

20. 17–19 John Adam Street, at the junction with York Buildings (TQ 3033 8054)

Middle Saxon pottery and a loomweight fragment were found in post-medieval strata during excavations by the DGLA in 1989 (site code: JAD 89). The pottery comprised two sherds of Ipswich-type ware, and a sherd each of chaff-tempered ware, North French burnished ware, and shelly ware. On the northern and central parts of the site post-medieval strata lay immediately above river terrace gravel, which sloped down southwards towards the River Thames. Above natural gravel on the south side of the site was a waterlogged deposit at least 50mm deep containing Roman tile fragments, a potsherd of Roman or Middle Saxon date, and pieces of wood. The deposit was sealed by an undated, waterlogged layer of silt up to 0.50m thick, which also produced wood fragments. Further excavation may be undertaken (Christopher Thomas, pers. comm.).

21. York Buildings, Adelphi

Over 100 loomweights, of Early to Middle Saxon type, were reported to have been found in 1930 by F. W. Hennesen somewhere in York Buildings at a depth of 24–30ft (Vince 1984b, 14). One weight, with four impressions, is now in the British Museum (acc. no. 1930, 7-15, 1). The address where the find was made is not known, and the Building Act file for York Buildings (which might have shed light on the question) no longer exists (Robert Thorne, HBM London Division, pers. comm.).

22. 18–20 York Buildings (TQ 3036 8054)

Middle Saxon waterfront deposits, provisionally interpreted as an embankment, were recorded during an excavation and subsequent watching brief undertaken by the DGLA in 1988 (site code: YKB 88; Cowie 1989a; Cowie and Whytehead 1989, 710; Cowie, forthcoming b). The 'embankment' is estimated to have been at least 17m wide (NW-SE), and lay on top of a sandy foreshore. The deposits consisted of layers of brushwood (c. 0.30 to 0.80m thick) built up around oak and alder stakes driven into the foreshore, and were partly covered by a patchy layer of stone rubble and Roman tile, the top of which was located at c. +1.00m OD. The embankment produced Middle Saxon potsherds and loomweight fragments. Some stakes were in a row aligned approximately parallel to the Thames. The brushwood also surrounded a revetment of stakes with traces of wattle and oak planks placed vertically edge to edge, and aligned at right angles to the river. Dendrochronological dating indicates that seven of the planks came from oaks felled between AD 670 and 690 (Tyers, 1989). The southern part of the embankment

was covered by c. 0.50m of waterlaid clay containing Middle Saxon pottery.

23. The Peabody Site, junction of Bedfordbury and Chandos Place (TQ 3019 8070)

A 6/7th- to 9th-century occupation site excavated by the DGLA in 1987 (site code: PEA 87; Whytehead forthcoming). On the west side of the site there was a sequence of earthen floors with stakeholes sealed by a gravel surface. On the east side evidence of structures was found, but were too incomplete for coherent plans to be determined. Two pits or wells (one barrel-lined), and an extensive metallised 'yard' surface may have been associated with these buildings. The yard was covered with grey earth (possibly derived from building material), and a dump layer cut by a W-E adult inhumation with an iron spearhead. Rubbish or cess pits and concentrations of stakeholes were also discovered. Among the refuse were animal bones, oyster and mussel shells. The pottery assemblage comprised Ipswich ware, chaff-tempered ware, and Continental imports including Tating ware. Other finds included: glass beads and vessel fragments, a ceramic key mould, loomweights, a chalk spindlewhorl, lava quernstone fragments, a piece of amber, copper alloy pins and tweezers, bone and antler off-cuts, three *sceattas* (Series L, c. AD 732–40; Series M, c. AD 720–5; Series S, c. AD 730–40; Stott 1991, 306–7, nos 27, 30, 40), and part of an ivory comb (possibly post-medieval).

24. Civil Service Stores (TQ 3027 8070)

A plain roughly made bone pin, 67mm long, with a spherical perforated head. Purchased from a dealer, G. F. Lawrence, 7 West Hill, SW18, by the London Museum (Museum of London acc. no. 31.97/20). The pin is of uncertain date, but may be Saxon.

25. 21–22 Maiden Lane (TQ 3031 8072)

A 7th- to 9th-century occupation site, excavated by the DGLA in 1986 (site code: MAI 86; Cowie 1987; 1988b; and this volume). The excavation revealed a 9th-century ditch (possibly defensive), between 1.9m and 2.3m wide and 2.0m deep. Beneath it were traces of an earlier ditch, on the same alignment. Rubbish pits, dump layers, metallised surfaces, a possible sunken-featured building, and stakehole concentrations, were also discovered. Systematic sampling of the deposits recovered animal bones (West 1988), coprolites, and plant remains (Davis 1988). Finds included: chaff-tempered pottery, Ipswich ware, imported Continental wares, pieces of glass vessels, glass beads, spindlewhorl and loomweight fragments, lava quernstone fragments, iron objects (including knife blades and a carding comb), copper alloy objects (including pins), bone and antler off-cuts and implements, a Series D type 8 *sceat* dating to AD 700–715 (Stott 1991, 305, no. 10), and a silver penny dating to between AD 796 and c. 805 in the reign of Coenwulf (*ibid.*, 308, no. 57).

26. Bedford Street, the road outside nos 39–40 (TQ 3028 8072)

Deposits of probable Saxon date were recorded in a 3m long trench during a DGLA watching brief in 1989 (site code: BDS 89; Cowie 1989b). A sherd of Ipswich ware, a sherd of North French burnished ware, burnt daub fragments, animal bones and oyster shells were found in

the strata. The deposits were c. 1.80m below ground level and at least 0.75m deep, and extended below the base of the trench.

27. 17–19 Bedford St (TQ 3023 8076)

Pits, possibly Saxon. Mr John Nelson (District Surveyor's office, Westminster City Council) informed the DGLA that pits were found on this site in 1983. They were about 0.7–0.8m deep, cut into natural gravel, and filled with dark soil, which he searched for clay pipes but found nothing. When shown a slide of the Saxon pits at Maiden Lane he remarked on their similarity to those at Bedford Street.

28. 21–26 Bedford Street (TQ 3020 8079)

A trial excavation undertaken by the DGLA in 1989 revealed five Middle Saxon rubbish pits (site code: BDF 89; Hoad 1989b). The pits contained pottery, loomweight fragments, pieces of burnt daub, a lava quernstone fragment, bone and antler off-cuts, animal bones and oyster shells. Undated features were also found, including two ditches and four pits, one of them a probable gravel quarry.

29. Garrick St.

A gold finger-ring overlaid with plaited gold wires, probably of 8th- or 9th-century date, now in the British Museum. (B.M. Cat. Finger-rings, no. 204; Hinton 1974, 11–12; Jessup 1950, 134; VCH London I, 157; Vulliamy 1930, 232).

30. Site of the Bird in the Hand public house

(demolished 1954/5), 17 Long Acre at the junction with Conduit Court (TQ 3015 8092).

A 6th- to 8th-century annular loomweight, diameter c. 115mm (Museum of London acc. no. 55.96.).

31. 10 Great Newport St (TQ 3001 8091)

A pit was uncovered during a watching brief carried out by the DGLA in 1986 (site code: GTS 86; Cowie 1987, 31). Two sherds of Ipswich ware, a loomweight fragment, and iron slag adhering to fragments of furnace lining were found in the fill.

32. Tower St

A 6th-century copper alloy long cross brooch found in 1868 (British Museum acc. no. 91, 3-20, 19; VCH, London I, 149, Fig. 2). There is some disagreement about where the brooch was discovered, for it may have been found in Great Tower Street in the City.

33. 2–26 Shorts Gardens/19–41 Earlam Street (TQ 3013 8112)

A Middle Saxon site, excavated in 1989 by the DGLA (site code: SGA 89; Connor, 1990). Substantial areas of complex strata survived up to 0.80m deep despite damage caused by modern basements. Excavation revealed traces of structures (notably a collapsed wattle and daub wall c. 8.00m long), a rammed gravel surface, brickearth floors, and eight hearths, two of which were attributed by archaeomagnetic dating to the 8th century. At least one hearth may have been used for iron-smithing, an activity also indicated by large amounts of slag. The artefactual evidence, especially the predominance of Ipswich-type ware in the pottery assemblage, suggests that the strata may date from the 8th century. Among the finds were a few potsherds of Rhenish and North French origin, pieces of glass vessel, loomweights, lava quernstone fragments,

three *sceattas*, copper alloy pins, over 150 iron objects (including knife blades and a bucket handle), a bone needle, a bone comb, bone thread pickers, and bone/antler off-cuts.

34. King Street

Human burials were recorded in 'King Street and the northern side of Covent Garden Square' in the mid-18th Century (Maitland 1760, 1347). At the time they were assumed to have either belonged to the cemetery of St Martin's Church, or a plague burial ground. However, Vince (1984b, 14) points out that although 'there is no record of associated finds' the possibility that they were Saxon cannot be ruled out. This reference, together with the recent discovery of burials at sites 39 and 41 (see below), may support the theory that a Saxon cemetery lies just north of the Covent Garden Piazza.

35. 35 King St/17-18 Floral Street (TQ 3023 8088)

Evidence of Middle Saxon occupation was found during a DGLA watching brief carried out in 1988 (site code: KIN 88; Williams 1988a; Stephen Haynes, in prep.). The remains of a sunken-floored building, and possibly two other structures were discovered. The building had apparently burnt down, for the clay floor was covered by successive layers of charcoal and burnt daub, and a charred plank lay against the side of the sunken area. Rubbish pits and undated gravel quarries were also recorded. The pottery assemblage comprised chaff-tempered ware, Ipswich ware, North French wares and Badorf ware. Other finds included loomweight fragments, quernstone fragments, a copper alloy pin, slag, worked bone, and considerable quantities of burnt daub.

36. 26-27 Southampton Street (TQ 3037 8080)

An excavation and watching brief undertaken by the DGLA in 1989 (site code: SOT 89; Cowie, 1989c) revealed evidence of 7th- to 9th-century occupation, including rubbish pits, dump layers, and traces of a post-built structure aligned E-W. The ceramic assemblage included Ipswich ware, shelly ware, chaff-tempered pottery, and Continental wares such as North French burnished ware, Badorf ware, and Tating-type ware. Among other finds were pieces of glass vessels (some decorated), a glass linen-smoother, a glass bead, loomweight fragments, lava quernstone fragments, iron blades, a copper-plated iron bell, copper alloy pins, bone needles, a bone spindlewhorl, a bone comb fragment, animal bones, oyster and mussel shells, and coprolites.

37. Jubilee Hall, Covent Garden (TQ 3040 8085)

A 7th- to 9th-century occupation site, excavated in 1985 by the DGLA (site code: JUB 85; Blackmore 1986, 215-16; Cowie 1987, 31; Whytehead 1985; 1988; and this volume). Excavation revealed one adult male inhumation (Henderson 1987), traces of timber-framed structures, pits, wells, and a metallised surface. The pottery assemblage mainly comprises chaff-tempered and Ipswich wares, although c. 12% were Continental imports. Other finds included: pieces of glass vessels, loomweights, a spindlewhorl, lava quernstone fragments, iron objects (including knife blades, an axe, and fragments of a dish or frying pan), copper alloy objects (including a key), a Series V *sceat* dating to AD 720-725 (Stott 1991, 307, no. 46), bone pins, comb fragments, antler offcuts, animal bones, and plant remains.

38. The Royal Opera House car park, Bow Street (TQ 3043 8099)

A trial excavation undertaken by the DGLA in 1989 (site code: ROH 89; Cowie 1989d) revealed six Middle Saxon rubbish pits and a posthole. The features produced sherds of Ipswich ware, chaff-tempered ware and Badorf ware, a loomweight fragment, burnt daub, pieces of lava quernstone, antler off-cuts, oyster shells and animal bones.

39. 45-7 Floral Street/51-4 Long Acre (TQ 3031 8104)

Strata revealed by trial pits during an archaeological evaluation by the DGLA in 1990 (site code: ROH 90; Cowie 1990) probably included deposits of Middle Saxon date. Artefactual evidence was sparse, and some finds, including sherds of Tating ware, North French ware, Ipswich ware, and chaff-tempered ware, may be residual. Two undated inhumation burials (C14 results pending), one adult and one adolescent, and a number of residual human bones were also found.

40. Hanover Court, Long Acre (TQ 3033 8105)

A loomweight, Museum of London acc. no. A 3689 (Vince 1984b, 13).

41. 67-8 Long Acre (TQ 3037 8113)

A Middle Saxon site, excavated in 1991 by the DGLA (site code: BOB 91; Malcolm in prep.). The earliest features were two inhumation burials, which are at present undated, although a belt buckle from one grave is provisionally identified as a copy of a Merovingian type suggesting an Early or Middle Saxon date. They were post-dated by extensive Middle Saxon occupation deposits including traces of a large timber building next to an area of gravel metalling, probably representing a yard. Elsewhere patches of brickearth floors, and groups of stakeholes and postholes indicated other structures, and hearths and rubbish pits were also found. Late in the Middle Saxon sequence was an irregular 'ditch', aligned NW-SE, which was up to 2.50m wide and 1.40m deep. The pottery assemblage comprised Ipswich ware, chaff-tempered ware, and foreign imports. Other finds included: a piece of decorated glass vessel, loomweight fragments, burnt daub, lava quernstone fragments, iron and copper alloy objects, residual human bones, animal bones, oyster shells, a coprolite, and carbonised plant remains. Small quantities of industrial waste were recovered, comprising iron and copper slag, worked bone, and antler off-cuts.

42. Kingsway/Gate Street

A sherd of Ipswich-type ware with impressed decoration, Museum of London acc. no. A 21049. Erroneously described in the Museum's accessions register as a fragment of 17th-century vase.

43. 27-29 Macklin Street (TQ 3041 8140)

A sherd of Ipswich ware was found during a DGLA excavation in 1989 (site code: MAC 89; Hoad 1990a). It was recovered from a layer of silty clay overlying natural brickearth.

44. 141-7 Drury Lane (TQ 3045 8116)

A complete 7th-century chaff-tempered pot, which was burnished and fluted (Myres 1937, 432), was found c. 3.50m below modern ground level. A human mandible

was found 40ft (12.2m) away, but may not be associated with the pot (Meaney 1964, 167).

45. *44–46 Drury Lane (TQ 3043 8114)*

Pits and layers of probable Saxon date were found during a DGLA watching brief in 1987/88 (site code: DRU 88; Whytehead 1990b). Among the finds were chaff-tempered potsherds, Roman tile, and a considerable quantity of slag.

46. *55–7 Drury Lane (TQ 3048 8110)*

An excavation undertaken by the DGLA in 1990 (site code: DRY 90; Hoad 1990b) revealed Middle Saxon features including postholes and a slot, which possibly indicated a rectangular post-built structure, and wells and rubbish pits. The excavator suggests that some pits were wood-lined, and may have been used initially for storage (*ibid.*, 212). The finds included chaff-tempered ware, Ipswich ware, pottery from northern France and the Rhineland, burnt daub, loomweight fragments, a spindlewhorl, glass fragments, a glass bead, a whetstone, lava quernstone fragments, copper alloy and iron objects, one *sceat* (provisionally identified as Series C), two Late Roman coins, bone pins, antler offcuts, animal bones and oyster shells.

47. *Drury House, at the junction of Drury Lane and Russell Street (TQ 3053 8106)*

A Middle Saxon pit was recorded by the DGLA in a sewer shaft during a watching brief in 1987 (site code: RUS 87). The pit produced sherds of Ipswich ware, a flint-tempered potsherd, and a slag fragment.

48. *Crown Court (TQ 3051 8106)*

A pit, possibly Middle Saxon, was recorded during a DGLA watching brief in 1987 (site code: RUS 87). The layers filling the pit produced half a loomweight, daub fragments, animal bones and carbonised remains.

49. *Strand, the road outside no. 366 (TQ 3053 8079)*

A rubbish pit, of probable Saxon date, was found 2.80m below modern street level in a trench during a DGLA watching brief in 1989 (site code: STN 89; Cowie 1989b). The pit was 1.50m in diameter, and, although truncated by brick vaults, it survived to a depth of 0.65m. Four fragments of lava quernstone, an unidentified potsherd, and numerous animal bones were found in the pit.

50. *Savoy Steps/105–109 Strand (TQ 3054 8076)*

Four Early to Middle Saxon loomweights (Museum of London acc. nos A 27090–3), a complete burnished pot (acc. no. A 27191), and a sherd of Ipswich-type ware with stamped decoration (acc. no. A 27145) (Wheeler 1935, 139–141, Pl. VI Fig. 22). According to Wheeler the finds come from the site of the Savoy Palace, and an etching by Ian Strang depicting the demolition of the Savoy Steps in 1924/5 (Beresford Chancellor 1927, Pl. XI) suggests they were found during this work at 105–109 Strand (John Clark pers. comm.).

51. *Waterloo Bridge (TQ 306 807)*

An 8th- to 9th-century Saxon sword of Petersen type H, Museum of London acc. no. A3670 (Shetelig 1940, 78–81).

52. *Waterloo Bridge*

A coin hoard dating to c. AD 875, discovered during renovation work on Waterloo Bridge (*Numismatic Chronicle*, 1884, 349–50; Thompson 1956, no. 256; Blackburn

and Pagan 1986, 294). Andrew (1911, 102) records its discovery thus: 'When, in 1882, I saw the large hoard of coins of the reigns of Burgred, Aethelred, and Alfred, all of "Mercian type"—with one exception, a curious *sceatta*—fresh from its discovery on the west side of the second pier from the Surrey shore of Waterloo Bridge and mixed with the mud of the Thames, it included a quantity of fragments of pennies of which I believe, some were cut halfpennies; but later when I saw the treasure, these pieces had been discarded with mud as worthless'.

53. *138 Strand (TQ 3066 8084)*

Two cut features were found in trial pits excavated (side-ways) at double basement level during a watching brief by the DGLA in 1987 (site code: STN 87). One feature located under the west wall of no. 143 the Strand (the Strand Hotel), produced a sherd of Ipswich ware, a fragment of burnt clay (possibly daub), animal bones and oyster shells.

54. *Somerset House (TQ 3077 8083)*

Two test pits (from a total of 15) produced evidence of Middle Saxon deposits during a watching brief undertaken by the DGLA in 1988 (site code: SOM 88). In one test pit a deposit of black soil produced a large chaff-tempered sherd and animal bones. The top of the deposit, possibly a pit fill, was located at c. +8.80m OD (Letch and Hoad, 1988). In another test pit chaff-tempered potsherds and animal bones were recovered from a thin layer of brickearth, which was cut by three features about 0.80m deep. The top of the features, which were probably pits, was located at c. +11.20m OD. One feature contained a chaff-tempered potsherd (Williams 1988b). An undated pit containing pieces of burnt clay or daub, and animal bones was found nearby at 152–8 Strand (site code: KIL 90; Gordon Malcolm, pers. comm.).

55. *Aldwych*

Gold ear-wires found 7ft deep (Vulliamy 1930, 232).

56. *Kingsway*

A loomweight of coarse red ware, 126mm in diameter (Museum of London acc. no. A 21088). It was found in the Kingsway in January 1920, but there are no details of its precise provenance.

57. *Arundel House, the Strand (TQ 3094 8093)*

Residual 7th- to 9th-century pottery and a loomweight were found during an excavation in 1972 (Haslam 1975, 221–2, Fig. 6). The pottery assemblage consisted of seventeen sherds of Ipswich ware, and one sherd each of chaff-tempered and fine sandy ware.

58. *2–3 Hare Court, Middle Temple (TQ 3115 8109)*

A hoard of more than 250 coins, deposited c. AD 842, and discovered in 1893 (Blackburn and Pagan 1986, 294; Dolley 1966, 20; Thompson 1956; Vince 1990, 113–4, Fig. 58).

59. *The Temple Church*

A sword of Petersen's type S, with a five-lobed silver-plated pommel decorated with 'Jellinge' style animal ornament (British Museum 1887). Supposedly found in the tomb of the Earl of Pembroke in the Temple church, but its condition suggests that it may have been recovered from the Thames (Read 1887, 530; Shetelig 1940, 77–8, Fig. 45).

60. 133-7 Fetter Lane, Site of St Dunstan's House (TQ 3125 8124)

A residual loomweight fragment was discovered during an excavation by the Inner London Archaeological Unit in 1976 (site code: FET 76; Platts 1978, 87; Whytehead and Blackmore 1983, 84)

61. 43 Fetter Lane (TQ 3131 8139)

(i) Pottery, possibly of Saxon date, was found during an excavation in 1921 by H. S. Gordon at the junction of Fetter Lane and Nevill's Court. It was reported in *The Observer* newspaper (6th March, 1921) that 'Saxon silica ware pottery' had been found by the excavators. (ii) Before this excavation a silver sword pommel had been found nearby. The pommel, which is now in the British Museum (acc. no. 93, 7-15, 1), dates to about AD 800 (British Museum 1923, 93, Fig. 112; VCH, London I, 154; Vulliamy 1930, 256; Wilson 1964, 148-9, Pl. XXIII; Webster 1991, 221, no. 173).

62. St Andrews Church, Holborn (TQ 3147 8152).

Referred to in King Edgar's Charter of AD 959 as an 'old wooden church', and assumed to be the precursor of the present church (Birch 1885-93, no. 1048; Gelling 1953, 103).

63. Fleet Street

A coin of Coenwulf of Mercia (AD 796-c. 805), found in 1914. Precise findspot not known (Blunt *et al.* 1963, 51, no. 11; Stott 1991, 308, no. 56).

64. St. Bride's Church (TQ 3155 8113)

The church was excavated in 1952 by the Roman and Medieval London Excavation Council (Grimes 1968, 182-203). A number of Late Roman or Saxon burials were found. Some burials had been disturbed by a pit containing a solitary sherd of a Late Saxon pitcher dating to the 9th to 11th century. The pit pre-dated the remains of the apse of the first church. Besides the apse, the church consisted of a nave, and a presbytery with a transept on the south side. The earliest surviving part of this church is the south wall of the nave, said by Grimes (*ibid.*, 185) to be no later than Late Saxon, and is on display with other remains beneath the Wren church. Information boards on the nave wall state that it dates to the 6th century, presumably on the dubious grounds that the church was dedicated to a 6th-century saint (see Brooke & Keir 1975, 139). Nevertheless, this claim has no apparent archaeological basis. The lay-out of the first church in its final form is 'Anglo-Norman' in plan, and suggests that it was completed in the 11th century. Merrifield (1983, 133) suggests that a Roman building beneath the church may have been a mausoleum, possibly Christian. He speculates 'its (the mausoleum) survival into the Late Saxon period, perhaps with recognisable Christian symbolism still visible upon it, may have been the reason for the establishment of a church'.

65. Car park bounded by Pilgrim Street, Waithman Street, and Blackfriars Lane (TQ 3172 8110)

A residual sherd of Ipswich ware was found during an excavation by the DUA in 1988 (site code: PWB 88).

66. Blackfriars

A mid 7th-century gold Tremissis (Witmen type), found in 1848, and sold to a private collection. Its precise

findspot is unknown (Rigold 1975, 675; Stott 1991, 305, no. 1; Sutherland 1948, 90, no. 62a).

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