EXCAVATIONS AT 41 EASTCHEAP, LONDON EC3

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With contributions by Ian Betts (ceramic building material), Rupert Featherby (Roman pottery), Nigel Jeffries (post-Roman pottery), Alan Pipe (animal bone), Nicky Powell (accessioned finds) and Kate Roberts (plant remains)

SUMMARY

The excavations at 41 Eastcheap recorded a sequence of Roman buildings and other features together with evidence of medieval occupation from the 11th century onwards.

The site occupies what would have been a central location within Roman London. The road running north from the Roman bridge over the Thames lay c.150m to the west. On its eastern side, the site was flanked by a north-south aligned Roman side road, located under present-day Rood Lane, which connected the main east-west road through the city, the road that ran in front of the forum, with another east-west road further south. By AD 60/61 the site was occupied by clay and timber domestic buildings fronting on to the side road. These buildings were destroyed in the Boudican revolt.

Archaeological excavation at Plantation Place, to the north-east of 41 Eastcheap, has established that a fort or military camp was constructed in the aftermath of the Boudican revolt and that the north-south side road was removed as part of these works. The fort would have extended over the site at Eastcheap and it is very likely that some of the earlier post-Boudican phases, during which the site was occupied by gravel surfaces and posthole structures, define activity within it.

After the demolition of the fort c.AD 85, the north-south aligned side road was reinstated and the area of the site was once again occupied by buildings, principally of clay and timber, fronting on to it. This pattern of occupation continued until at least the mid 2nd century AD. Subsequently, from the late 3rd to late 4th

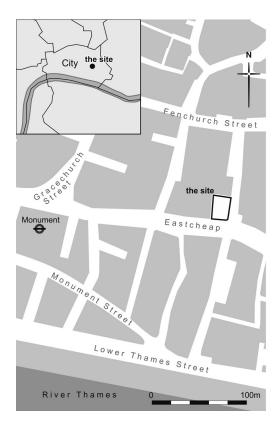
centuries AD, a masonry building with a cellar, probably a large town house, was present on the site.

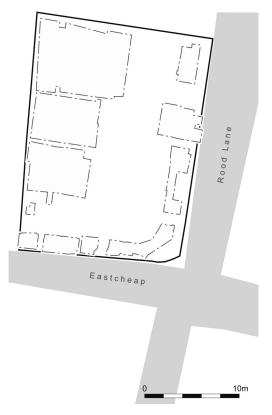
The site does not appear to have been reoccupied until the 11th century. Pits of 11th- to early 13th-century date probably lay within yards to the rear of timber buildings set on the eastern and southern margins of the site, though no evidence for the buildings themselves was found. During the 13th century more substantial buildings with masonry foundations were built across the western part of the site. Limited post-medieval activity was also found.

INTRODUCTION

In 2001–2003, MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), then called MoLAS, carried out a programme of archaeological work at the corner site occupying 41 Eastcheap and 16-18 Rood Lane, London EC3, in advance of redevelopment (Fig 1). An archaeological evaluation (McKenzie 2001) was undertaken between October and December 2001. The mass concrete foundations of the new building involved truncation of any surviving archaeology to a depth of c.2.2m below preexisting slab level and the main phase of archaeological excavation, between May and October 2003, concentrated on recording these areas. An approximate National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is 533100 180830.

The archaeological sequence is divided into periods and phases and described in terms of land use such as Buildings (B) and





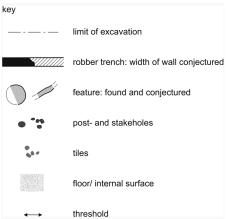


Fig 1. Site location, areas of excavation and list of conventions used on the phase plans (scale 1:4000, site plan 1:400)

Open Areas (OA). The period definitions are specific to the site and do not directly equate, for example, to similarly numbered periods on adjacent sites. The accompanying plan figures illustrate the principal developments. Within the text, numbers in square brackets ([1] etc) refer to contexts and those within angle brackets (<1> etc) denote

the accession numbers for finds. Each category of illustrated finds is assigned to an alpha-numeric sequence, also presented within angle brackets. Illustrated finds are identified by the following letter prefixes: <P100> pottery; <S100> accessioned finds including glass; <T100> tile or stone building material; and <WP100> wall plaster.

As these series of numbers refer to archive catalogues, not all of which are illustrated in this article, the seriations as presented here are not necessarily complete (eg there is no <S5> or <S8>) or in strict numerical order within the text (eg <S11> precedes <S7>). Occasional reference is made to the number of a group, a unit used during analysis, prefixed 'Group' ('Gp'). The contexts and other details concerning the various types of illustrated finds are provided in Tables 3 to 6 (see Appendix). This article employs standard Museum of London codes for ceramics and building materials. Complete lists of these codes, their expansions and date ranges are available online. The complete site archive (site code EAE01) is available for study at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) and can be consulted by prior arrangement.

THE NATURAL TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF THE SITE (PERIOD 1)

The site lies on the Taplow Terrace of the Thames River Terrace Gravels. The natural gravels lay at c.10.95m OD and were capped by a thin layer of natural brickearth. In the north-west of the site, the brickearth survived to c.11.27m OD but had probably been truncated in antiquity. It sloped gently towards the south of the site where it lay at c.11.08m OD. These observations concord well with those made a little to the west (Sankey 1999), suggesting that the terrace was broadly level in that direction, but a slight slope down to the east can be determined: natural gravels have been recorded at 10.60m OD immediately east of the site at Plantation Place (Dunwoodie et al in prep). The site at 41 Eastcheap lies on the eastern side of a small natural promontory projecting south from Cornhill, which is still reflected in the present-day street levels.

EARLY ROMAN c.AD 50-200 (PERIOD 2)

Period 2 phase 1 (c.AD 50-60)

The block of land occupied by 41 Eastcheap lay between two major Roman roads, both relatively early features. The main east—west road through the Roman city lay c.70–90m to the north. A second parallel road lay c.20–

45m to the south. The two were connected by a side road, of pre-Boudican date, the northern part of which, with a width of at least 3.6m, was found during excavations at Plantation Place in 2001 (Road 6 in Dunwoodie *et al* in prep). Assuming that the Plantation Place side road extended southwards on the same alignment, it would have run 3–5m to the east of 41 Eastcheap (Fig 2).

The earliest Roman activity on the site – Open Area 2 – was represented by a series of small quarry pits, a north–south aligned ditch and shallow gullies (Fig 2). Although the pottery from the fills of these features technically dates to *c*.AD 50–100, the fabrics recovered, such as Hoo ware (HOO), Eccles colour-coated ware (ECCW) and terra nigra imitation fabric (TNIM), are entirely compatible with a pre-Boudican date for this phase of activity. Of note is an unusual version of the Alice Holt/Surrey ware 'Surrey' bowl (AHSU 4K BR; <P1>; Fig 6).

The pits in Open Area 2 were probably dug either as part of the initial clearance of the site, to remove tree stumps for example, or as brickearth or gravel quarries, and some at least of the quarries may be directly related to the construction of the side road immediately to the east of the site. Similarly, the alignment of the ditch suggests that it may be related to the laying out of this road. The function of the gullies is unclear – they could also be laying out trenches for property boundaries or, alternatively, drainage.

Period 2 phase 2 (c.AD 60-61)

By the time of the Boudican revolt, Open Area 2 had been built over and the site was covered by clay and timber buildings, all of which seem to have fronted on to the side road to the east (Fig 3). Although a number of building plots could be identified with some certainty, because the Roman archaeology had been so extensively truncated the details of the structural history of the buildings was more difficult to recover. Although this report treats any structural modification as representing a new building, it should be borne in mind that many of these may represent changes to an existing structure rather than a wholesale rebuilding.

The most northerly building on the site

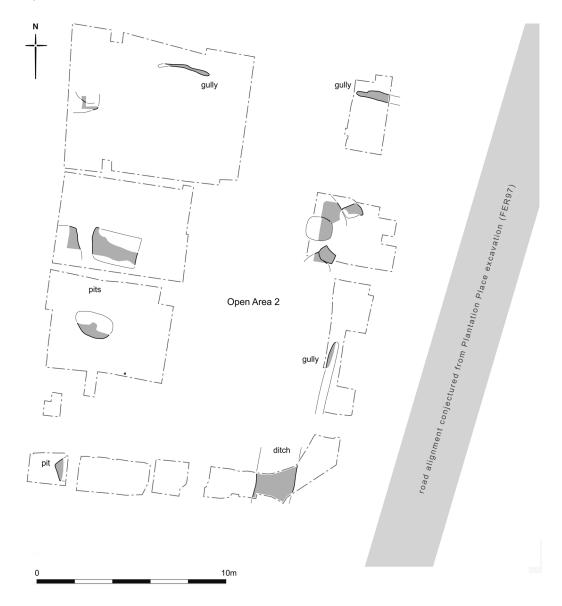


Fig 2. The earliest pre-Boudican features (period 2 phase 1). These include a ditch and gully parallel with the projected alignment of the Roman road found at Plantation Place. Areas of archaeological excavation within the site are outlined on this and subsequent plans (scale 1:200)

was aligned east—west. It was of two phases. Its earliest form, Building 1 (which is not shown on Fig 3), was defined by a floor surface made of crushed ceramic building material and a hearth located in the northeast of the building. The alignments of two internal partitions were represented by a shallow north—south aligned beam slot in the east and a series of stakeholes, which

probably supported wattle hurdles. Building 1 was replaced by Building 2, whose northern and southern external walls were defined by two parallel robbed beam slots. It is likely that Building 2 followed the same property lines as its predecessor and had removed all evidence for the external walls of Building 1. Within Building 2, a brickearth floor at 11.2–11.4m OD was subdivided by partitions,

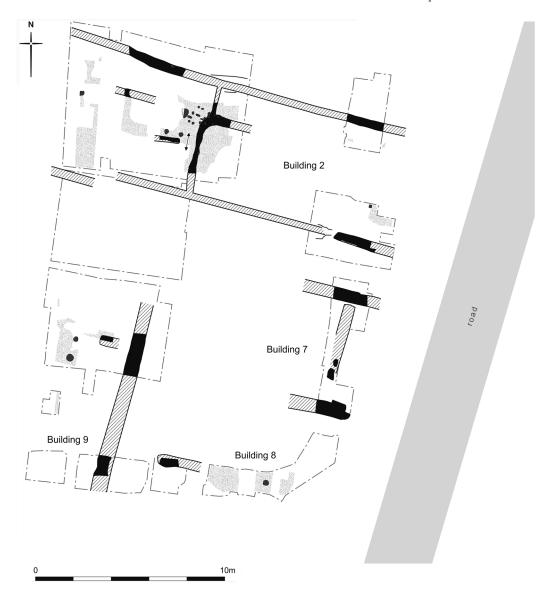


Fig 3. Buildings 2, 7, 8 and 9. These buildings were probably destroyed in the Boudican revolt of AD 60/61. With the possible exception of Building 9, they are presumed to front on to the road to the east (scale 1:200)

whose alignments were shown either by *in situ* walls, or beam slots, postholes and stakeholes, into at least five rooms (Fig 3).

Two of the rooms at the western end of Building 2 were separated by a mud brick and daub wall, which had been impressed with roller-stamped keying. This technique was intended to improve the adhesion of wall plaster; however, no plaster was recovered and may never have been applied before

the building was destroyed. The eastern end of this wall marked one side of an internal doorway.

The building in the plot to the south of Buildings 1 and 2 was also aligned eastwest and it too seems to have undergone a sequence of modifications or rebuilds prior to its destruction in AD 60/61. Three phases can be identified (Buildings 3, 5 & 7), but once again the main structural

wall lines seem to have remained constant. For example, the northern and southern external walls, represented by robbed beam slots, were constructed as part of the earliest phase (B3), and were retained throughout the two subsequent modifications to the building. Only the final form of the building (B7) is shown on Fig 3. A dump of roofing tile and brick on the base of the beam slot for the southern external wall may have been the remnants of a damp-course lining. The successive phases of use are principally defined by changes in the configuration of internal partition walls. A north-south aligned beam slot marked the line of a subdivision within Building 3. In the second phase (B5), a new partition, defined by a narrower slot, was inserted. In the final phase, Building 7 (Fig 3), the north–south partition reverted to the position it had occupied in Building 3 and its alignment was now marked by two postholes packed with tile. To the east of the partition line lay a small area of brickearth floor.

Another property in the south-east corner of the site also underwent three phases of use and is represented successively by Buildings 4, 6 and 8. The external wall lines of this property were not defined and the successive phases were again defined by alterations to the internal layout. Once again, only the latest form of this building (B8) is shown on Fig 3. The earliest, Building 4, was probably contemporary with Building 3. The extant evidence for it consisted of two postholes, on an east-west alignment, and a northsouth aligned beam slot, part of an internal division. No internal surfaces survived. In the second phase (B6), an east-west aligned internal partition, marked by a beam slot, was inserted. The brickearth floor of the final phase, Building 8 (Fig 3), was heavily burnt and provided clear evidence of the destruction of the building by fire. Another beam slot aligned east-west marked the line of an internal partition.

Building 9 lay to the west of Building 8, represented by a single phase of structural activity. The extant evidence comprised a north–south aligned beam slot, probably the eastern external wall of the building, internal brickearth floors and limited structural remains (Fig 3).

At the end of period 2 phase 2, Buildings

2, 7, 8 and 9 (the latest phase on each building plot) were destroyed by fire. The pottery dating evidence suggests that it is extremely likely that this occurred during the Boudican destruction of AD 60/61 (Salway 1993, 86–7). For example, the pottery from Building 2 is dominated by Highgate Wood ware B (HWB), which whilst common in pre-Boudican contexts becomes rapidly less so during the Flavian period (ie after c.AD 70). Two sherds of Sugar Loaf Court ware (SLOW) would also suggest a pre-Boudican date. It is probable that a single sherd each of early Roman sandy ware B (ERSB) and Highgate Wood red-slipped ware B (HWBR), more common in the late Neronian-early Flavian, are intrusive. The pottery recovered from Building 8 consisted of three types of amphora all of which were compatible with a pre-Boudican date and a similar date is likely for Building 9. Its pottery included a collared (Hofheim-type) flagon in Verulamium region white ware (VRW 1A; <P2>; Fig 6), which is common in pre-Flavian contexts. Whilst a sherd of Highgate Wood ware C (HWC) from Building 9 may be intrusive, this pottery can occur before c.AD 65.

Period 2 phase 3: Boudican fire debris and the construction of the fort (c.AD 60/61-85)

This phase of activity at 41 Eastcheap cannot be considered in isolation. The discovery of an immediately post-Boudican fort or military camp at Plantation Place in 2001 (site code FER97; Dunwoodie et al in prep) is of particular relevance. The construction of the fort meant that the pre-Boudican north-south road running across Plantation Place towards 41 Eastcheap fell out of use. Only the north-eastern part of the fort lay within Plantation Place: its full extent can only be conjectured but as no evidence for its western side was encountered at the subsequent excavations at 20 Fenchurch Street (site code FEU08; Wroe-Brown 2014) it must have extended further west than the 41 Eastcheap site, which would have lain within it (Fig 4). Some permanent structures and buildings existed within the fort but no evidence for permanent barrack blocks was identified at either of these excavations, and it has been assumed that most accommodation must have been provided by tents

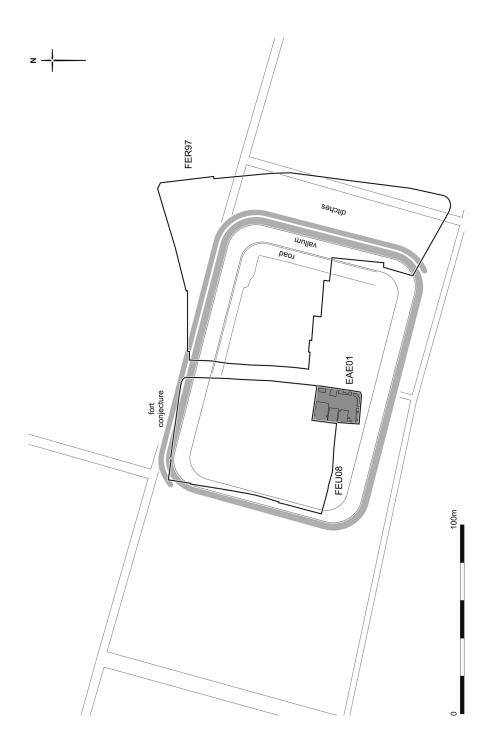


Fig 4. The site at 41 Eastcheap in the context of the fort or military camp discovered at Plantation Place (FER97) (scale 1:2000)

or similar ephemeral structures, which leave little archaeological trace. The fort had been demolished by c.AD 85 and the north-south road reinstated.

At 41 Eastcheap there is a marked change in the character of occupation during period 2 phase 3. Open Area 3, which occupies most of the site area, consists of levelling dumps of fire debris capped by gravel surfaces. Those buildings (such as Building 14) and structures that exist appear slight and are defined by posthole configurations. This almost certainly represents the period during which the area of the site was within the Plantation Place fort.

The pottery from this period in Open Area 3 dated to c.AD 60–80 and it is unclear whether or not period 2 phase 3 extends throughout the whole lifetime of the fort. The pottery dating is inadequately precise to determine if period 2 phase 4 (see below) entirely post-dates c.AD 85 or represents the later use of the fort. However, despite the limitations of the dating evidence, the reappearance in period 2 phase 4 of buildings in the eastern part of the site tends to suggest that the side road had been reinstated and that the fort had been demolished. Consequently, period 2 phase 3 is treated as representing the construction, use and disuse of the fort up to c.AD 85.

To consider the site sequence in more detail, the burnt destruction debris sealing the remains of Buildings 2, 7, 8 and 9 was levelled to form Open Area 3 and marks the start of period 2 phase 3. The extent to which the fire debris was derived from in situ destruction or was redeposited was unclear. Possibly some of the material may have come from off-site as part of widespread post-fire landscaping. The debris contained fragments of red roofing tile, brick, tegula mammata brick and discoloured (possibly plain white) wall plaster. In addition, over fifty white-coloured hard chalk tesserae and seven dark greycoloured tesserae, made from Kimmeridge cementstone from Dorset, were recovered. Both stone types were widely used in mosaic pavements within Roman London. The small size of the tesserae indicates that they came from a predominantly white pavement, within which the decorative pattern would have been picked out in dark grey. The mosaic would have been set on a layer of opus signinum, of which two fragments with tesserae impressions were also found. However, there was no evidence for a mosaic floor within any of the period 2 phase 2 buildings on site so it is likely that the tesserae were within debris, otherwise composed principally of daub or mud brick, imported on to the site and that the mosaic floor had lain within a clay and timber building nearby.

A sample, {25}, taken from the fire debris sealing Building 9 included, amongst a large mass of fused seeds and cereal grain, mostly too charred and burnt to be either quantified or identified, 74 charred seeds that may be black peppercorns. These would be significant because, whilst they have been found occasionally, for example at Blossom's Inn (or 20–30 Gresham Street) (Davis in prep), peppercorns have not been previously found in Roman London in so large a quantity.

During period 2 phase 3 (Fig 5) a compacted gravel surface was laid over the fire debris to the north of the site, and a small quarry pit was also dug in the north-east. Two lightweight structures appear to have been in use with the gravel surface. A building or structure, Building 14, was defined by posthole alignments in the south-west of the site. One line of these postholes probably represents the eastern limit of this building whilst others may define the position of internal partition alignments. No floor surfaces were found. Dating evidence from this building was sparse but five of the eight sherds recovered were in Sugar Loaf Court ware (SLOW).

There was a marked pre-Flavian (ie before c.AD 70) component in the pottery from Open Area 3. This may in part be due to the fact that the fire debris represents the contents and fabric of the period 2 phase 2 buildings and their near neighbours. The commonest identifiable fabric, Highgate Wood ware B (HWB) dating to c.AD 40–100, forms 12.9% of the assemblage, with Alice Holt/Surrey ware (AHSU) the next at 9.4%. Sugar Loaf Court ware (SLOW) and Lyon colour-coated ware (LYON) were also both relatively common at 8.3% and 1.7% respectively. A Ritterling bowl form 12 in Highgate Wood ware C (HWC 4RT12; <P3>; Fig 6) is a very unusual combination possibly representing a very early adaptation by this industry. There was also an unidentified bowl with acute lattice

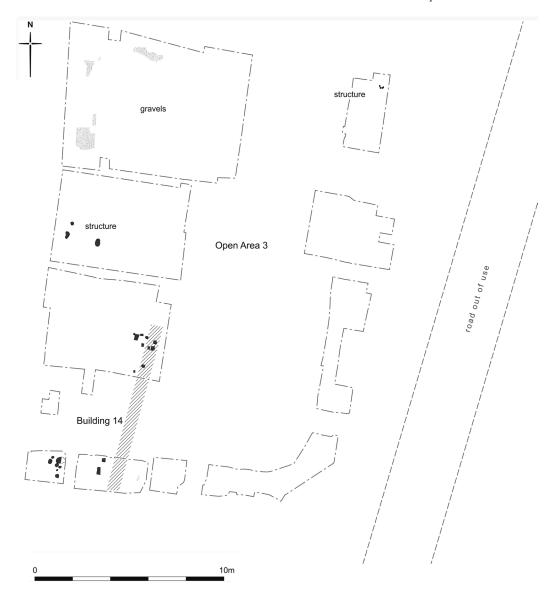


Fig 5. Early post-Boudican activity (period 2 phase 3). The north–south aligned road has fallen out of use. Gravel surfaces, two slight structures and postholes (B14) may lie within the fort or military camp (scale 1:200)

style burnished decoration in Highgate Wood ware B which has a very flat rim (HWB 4; <P4>; Fig 6), and an unidentified flanged bowl in a miscellaneous tempered fabric (MISC 4MX; <P5>; Fig 6) very similar to that of central Gaulish coarse micaceous ware, which dates c.90 BC-AD 40. As this form is not identifiable within British late Iron Age traditions, this vessel is probably an import.

Other finds from Open Area 3 include part of a burnt and distorted glass bowl <209> and early Roman vessel, window and bottle glass (<137>-<148> & <233>-<235>). Copper-alloy artefacts include a trumpet or trumpet derivative brooch (<S1>; Fig 8). This type of brooch only continued into the 2nd century AD (Crummy 1983, 14, 67).

Fig 6. Pottery from period 2 phases 1, 2 and 3: Alice Holt/Surrey ware 'Surrey' bowl <P1> (period 2 phase 1); collared (Hofheim-type) flagon in Verulamium region white ware <P2> (period 2 phase 2); Ritterling bowl form 12 in Highgate Wood ware C <P3>; bowl with acute lattice style burnished decoration in Highgate Wood ware B <P4>; and flanged bowl in a miscellaneous tempered fabric <P5> (period 2 phase 3) (scale 1:4)

Period 2 phase 4 (c.AD 85–100)

This phase was marked by the construction of new buildings across the site (Fig 7). The evidence for these buildings was relatively poorly preserved and they may represent a later phase of use of the fort. However, as has been noted above, it is thought more likely that they post-dated its demolition and once again fronted on to the reinstated north-south road running to the east of the site.

In the northern part of the site, limited structural remains were found which may represent elements of three successive buildings, Buildings 10-12, or three phases of the same building. There was most evidence for Building 11 (its predecessor Building 10 was represented by just a brickearth floor, at 11.40m OD, and a hearth) and it is this phase of use that is illustrated in Fig 7. Building 11 was divided into at least two rooms, which could be defined by distinct floor surfaces (Fig 7). Any wall line between them had been removed by truncation. The western room had a gravel floor surface at 11.3-11.5m OD, whilst the floor of the eastern room was of brickearth and lay at 11.4-11.6m OD. The brickearth floor produced a bone hairpin (<S2>; Fig 8). It is broken at the head, with the tip lost and has been

crudely made. Such pins, used by women, are common finds on Roman sites. In the western part of the building were a tile-lined storage pit and a spread of roofing tile and tegula mammata brick that may represent the base of another storage pit. Immediately north of the tile-lined pit a Highgate Wood ware B pot ([361] HWB 2V; c.AD 50-100) had been set into the ground: a charcoal residue present on its base may indicate that it had been used in some sort of industrial process (Fig 9). Building 12 (not illustrated) was in turn constructed over the cleared remains of Building 11. A new brickearth floor was laid down and a beam slot defined the position of a north-south aligned internal partition. Building 12 was destroyed in a localised fire. The dating evidence for this structural sequence is imprecise. The pottery from all three building phases is late 1st century AD in date and therefore it is possible that each phase was quite short-lived.

To the south of Buildings 10–12, a masonry wall and a possible tiled floor were observed in section and probably represent part of another east–west aligned building, Building 15 (Fig 7). Further west were more robbedout masonry foundations. These might also have formed part of Building 15, but are treated as evidence for a separate structure,

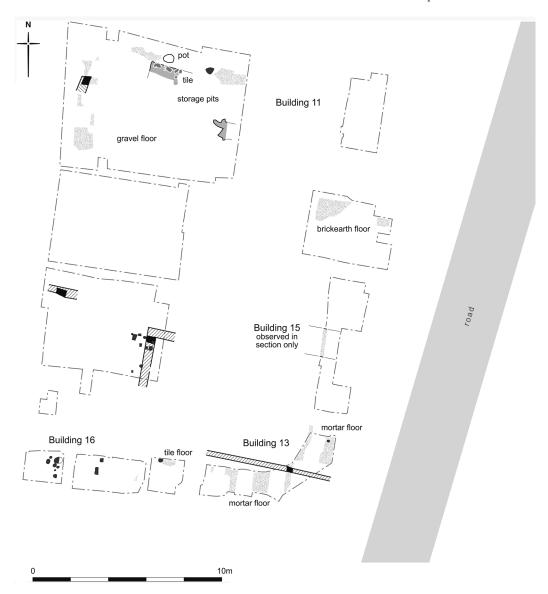


Fig 7. A second phase of post-Boudican activity (period 2 phase 4). This phase (dated AD 70/85-100) may still be within the fort or military camp (scale 1:200)

Building 16 (Fig 7). The extant remains of Building 16 were too limited for much of its layout to be defined and no floor surfaces had survived. Fragments of roof tile and brick, including a tile in a silty fabric from an unknown production source (fabric 3068), recovered from the robber trenches had probably been originally used in string courses within the walls.

Building 13, constructed in the south-east corner of the site, had at least three rooms. An east–west aligned beam slot delineated the division between two, eastern rooms, each with a mortar floor (Fig 7). A third, western room had a brickearth floor. Very little pottery was recovered (six sherds) and much of it was undiagnostic for dating purposes.

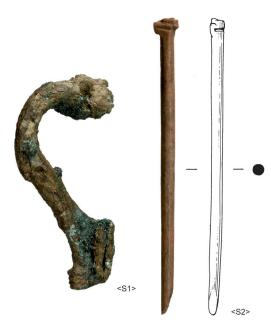


Fig 8. Finds from period 2 phases 3 and 4: copperalloy trumpet or trumpet derivative brooch <SI> from period 2 phase 3; and bone hairpin <S2> from period 2 phase 4 (scale 1:1)

Period 2 phase 5 (c.AD 100-120)

Following its destruction by fire, Building 12 was cleared and its site levelled to form Open Area 4. Building 16 was also demolished and its foundations robbed. The dating evidence is not precise enough to determine whether the redevelopment of the south-eastern part of the site, which entailed the demolition of Buildings 13 and 15, occurred at the same time as the clearance of Buildings 12 and 16. However, it is likely that all these events occurred around the end of the 1st century AD.

Initially, an episode of dumping sealed the area: a pottery assemblage totalling 484 sherds was recovered from this open area. Three south Gaulish samian (SAMLG) stamped bases were recovered, two of which date *c*.AD 65–85 and one *c*.AD 50–65, but on the basis of the relative quantities of Alice Holt/Surrey ware (AHSU) and Highgate Wood wares B and C (HWB/HWC), identified by Groves (1993, 123–4), a date of *c*.AD 80–100 may be indicated and, on stratigraphic criteria, the later date of this range is more likely. Two distinctive vessels were identified,

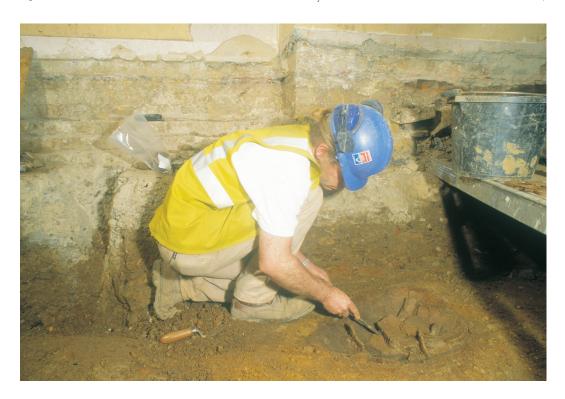


Fig 9. The pot, [361], set into the floor of Building 11 under excavation, looking north

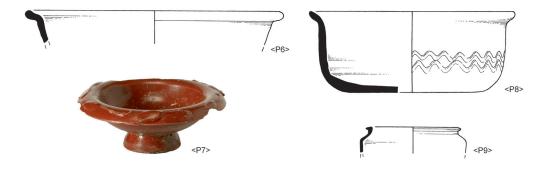


Fig 10. Pottery from period 2 phase 5: bowl with lid-seated rim in a miscellaneous sandy ware with large limestone chunks <P6>; Dragendorff cup form 35 with barbotine decoration in south Gaulish samian ware <P7>; bowl in Highgate Wood ware B <P8>; and beaker in Rhineland granular grey ware <P9> (scale 1:4, except <P7> 1:2)

a bowl with lid-seated rim in a miscellaneous sandy ware with large limestone chunks (SAND 4L), a very unusual combination possibly representing a local import (<P6>; Fig 10), and a Dragendorff cup form 35 with barbotine decoration in south Gaulish samian (SAMLG 6DR35; <P7>; Fig 10). The latter is in very good condition and represents a very good example of its type.

Two charred fig seeds were recovered from Open Area 4 (sample {17}). While it is possible that figs were grown in Roman Britain, it is much more likely that they were imported.

Other finds include numerous fragments of Roman glass bottles and vessels. A single glass bead (<S3>; Fig 11) was also recovered from a levelling layer. A possible ceramic counter (<S4>; Fig 11) was created from a sherd of pottery. However, such objects may have had other functions, such as a lid or tally.

A new sequence of buildings fronting on to the road to the east was subsequently constructed over Open Area 4. In the north of the site, a succession of building phases was represented by Buildings 17–19. Once again, the external wall lines were not identified, so it is probable that three phases of use within one building, rather than three complete reconstructions are represented here. The final form of this property, Building 19, is shown on Fig 12. The extant remains of the earliest phase, Building 17, comprised brickearth floors and an internal beam slot. The evidence for its successor, Building 18,

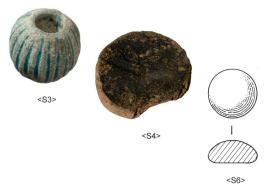


Fig 11. Finds from period 2 phase 5: glass bead <S3>; ceramic counter <S4>; and glass counter <S6> (scale 1:1)

suggested that it contained at least three separate rooms defined by different floor surfaces - a western room had a gravel floor, the central room a brickearth floor and the eastern room a worn brickearth and gravel floor. The final phase, Building 19, had brickearth floors throughout and contained at least two rooms, separated by a northsouth wall alignment defined by a beam slot (Fig 12). In the southern part of the western room, the floor had been repaired with gravel and brickearth. Nearby, a square configuration of stakeholes probably defined the position of the base of a lightweight internal structure. A brickearth hearth within this room contained a glass counter (<S6>; Fig 11). Building 19 was probably destroyed by fire.

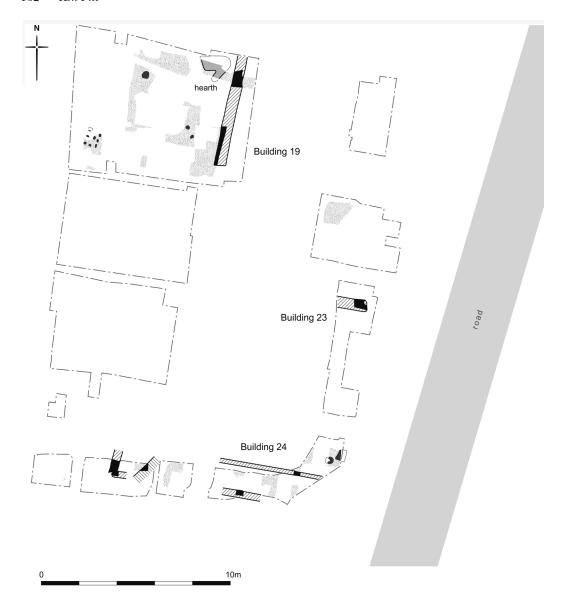


Fig 12. Activity c.AD 100–120 (period 2 phase 5). The military camp has been demolished and the north–south road reinstated (scale 1:200)

The 30 sherds of pottery from Building 17 included Sugar Loaf Court ware (SLOW) and Highgate Wood ware B (HWB) and appears to be residual material. The pottery from Building 18 is Flavian (c.AD 70–100) in character and that from Building 19 included three sherds from a plate form Dragendorff 18/31 in south Gaulish samian (SAMLG 5DR 18/31), dated c.AD 90–100, from within part of a brickearth floor slab. Two other

vessels of note from Building 19 are a deep bowl in Highgate Wood ware B (HWB 4WL; <P8>; Fig 10) and a beaker in Rhineland granular grey ware (RGGW 3; <P9>; Fig 10), a particularly uncommon fabric.

To the south-east, Building 15 was replaced by Building 23, but the evidence for the new building was confined to the eastern end of an east-west robber cut, which probably marks the alignment of its northern external wall. The presence of frequent fragments of Kentish Ragstone, ceramic roofing tiles and bricks within the backfill of this wall construction trench suggests that this foundation was of masonry construction.

A succession of building phases in the southeastern corner of the site was represented by Buildings 20, 21, 22 and 24. The latest of these phases (B24) is shown in Fig 12. The earliest, Building 20 (not illustrated), was built over the site of Building 13 but its external walls were not identified. Internally, it had at least two rooms divided by a beam slot, each with brickearth floors. In the western room the floor showed signs of having been resurfaced with mortar. Most of the pottery from Building 20 would suggest a Flavian date. A sherd of black-burnished ware 2 (BB2), which postdates c.AD 120, was present but is considered to be intrusive and probably derived from Building 24 (see below).

After Building 20 was demolished, a compacted gravel surface was laid over it. This surface showed evidence of scorching from a hearth, and hearth rake-out was found over this surface. This gravel surface may have lain within a building, Building 22 (not illustrated), although no structural remains were found. To the west of Buildings 20 and 22 was a small area of compacted brickearth which was probably the remains of the floor of a clay and timber building, Building 21 (not illustrated).

Another phase of clay and timber building, Building 24 (Fig 12), was constructed over the cleared remains of Buildings 21 and 22. The structural remains which survived were limited but a beam slot divided the building into at least two rooms. The floor of the northern room was gravelled and cut by two postholes. A second slot may have defined a southern edge to the brickearth floor of the southern room, but no clear pattern of its internal layout could be defined. Building 24 produced a relatively large assemblage of pottery (117 sherds). Although the majority dates to the later 1st century AD there is an increase in pottery that dates to c.AD 120 and suggests the continued use of the building during the early 2nd century AD. A south Gaulish samian Dragendorff cup form 27 (SAMLG 6DR27) stamped by Aucius, of Neronian to early Flavian date, was recovered from this building but is residual.

Period 2 phase 6/7 (c.AD 120-200)

As noted above, Building 19 was probably destroyed by fire. At about the same time, Building 24 also appears to have been demolished and the entire area of the site was levelled with dumped material to form Open Area 5. These dumps were cut by an assortment of rubbish pits and postholes, the latter probably representing lightweight structures. Open Area 5 produced a large pottery assemblage of 935 sherds, consistent with use into the mid 2nd century AD, though residual material was common. Seven vessels represent the range of standard Roman forms recovered. The lid with burnished decoration in a miscellaneous sandy ware (SAND 9A; <P10>; Fig 13) may suggest a continuation of earlier ceramic traditions. The group also contains three flagons, all in Verulamium region white ware, a ringnecked flagon with flared mouth (VRW 1B2; <P11>; Fig 13), a pinch-mouthed flagon (VRW 1C; <P12>; Fig 13) and a two-handled flagon with squat bulbous body (VRW 1E; <P13>; Fig 13). A narrow-necked jar or flask in a fine micaceous reduced ware (FMIC 2R; <P14>; Fig 13), a bowl with constriction below folded down/undercut rim in Highgate Wood ware C (HWC 4F4; <P15>; Fig 13) and another lid, in Verulamium region grey ware (VRG 9A; <P16>; Fig 13), were also present. A particularly unusual red tegula was also recovered from the Open Area 5 dumps. It carries a wavy pattern, made either by the tip of three fingers or a small comb, possibly as some kind of decoration (<T1>; Fig 16). A faint paw print and part of a signature mark were also present on the same tile.

Finds recovered include part of a copperalloy surgical instrument (<\$7>; Fig 14), probably a double-ended scoop-probe (*cyathiscomele*) and a glass phial <123>.

In the north of the site, Building 26 (Fig 15) was constructed over Open Area 5. Its external walls, probably constructed of clay and timber, were not found within the excavated area. Its brickearth floors were cut by a beam slot, which represented the position of part of an internal partition. The pottery from the building supplied a broad date range (*c*.AD 70–160), but the building is unlikely to pre-date the early-mid 2nd century AD. Of note within the finds from

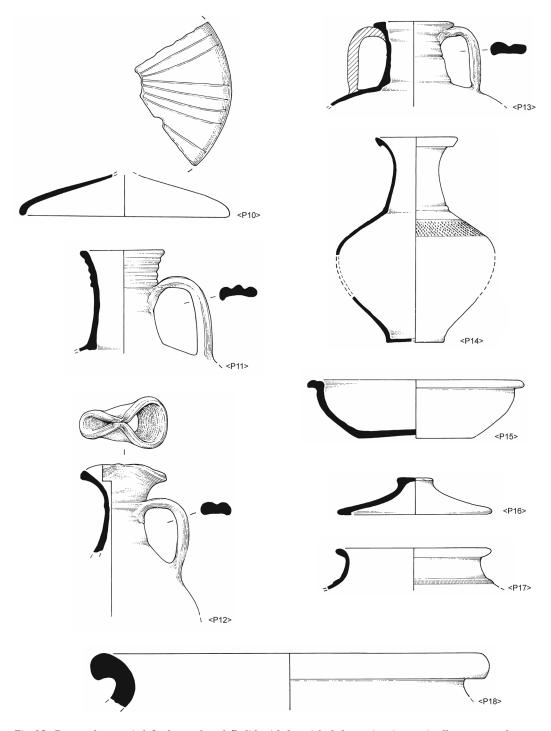


Fig 13. Pottery from period 2 phases 6 and 7: lid with burnished decoration in a miscellaneous sandy ware <P10>; ring-necked flagon with flared mouth <P11>; pinch-mouthed flagon <P12> and two-handled flagon with squat bulbous body <P13>, both in Verulamium region white ware; narrow-necked jar or flask in a fine micaceous reduced ware <P14>; bowl with constriction below folded down/undercut rim in Highgate Wood ware C <P15>; lid in Verulamium region grey ware <P16>; necked jar in Highgate Wood ware C with a triple band of rouletted decoration <P17>; and large dolium-like vessel in Highgate Wood ware B <P18> (scale 1:4)

contexts associated with this building is an indistinguishable necked jar in Highgate Wood ware C with a triple band of rouletted decoration (HWC 2T; <P17>; Fig 13), an unusual combination for this fabric.

A second clay and timber building -Building 25 (Fig 15) - probably contemporary with Building 26, was built in the south of Open Area 5 in a similar location to its predecessor, Building 24. An east-west beam slot may define the northern external wall line of this building. There was also

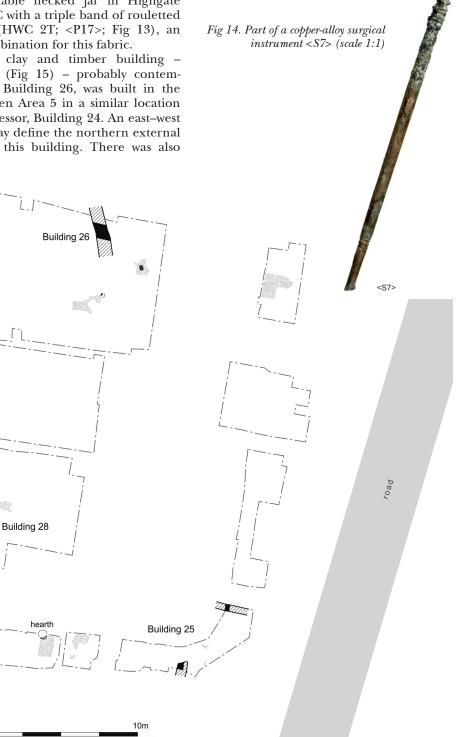


Fig 15. Buildings at 41 Eastcheap during the early/mid 2nd century AD (period 2 phases 6 and 7) (scale 1:200)

evidence for a north–south aligned internal partition. The building possessed brickearth floors, and a hearth was present within its western part. The character of the relatively small pottery assemblage, particularly the complete absence of Highgate Wood ware B (HWB), suggests that this building is not earlier than the early 2nd century AD.

To the south another fragmentary building (B28; Fig 15) was represented by a brickearth floor. There is an absence of 1st century AD fabrics within the small pottery assemblage of 37 sherds. The presence of one sherd of black-burnished ware 2, a necked jar with carinated shoulder (BB2 2F), a rim in an unsourced sand-tempered ware (SAND) and London oxidised ware (LOXI) suggest a date of *c*.AD 120–150 for Building 28.

When Buildings 25 and 26 were demolished, the area was again levelled over to form Open Area 6 (not illustrated) and was used for the dumping of domestic waste and the digging of rubbish pits. One distinctive vessel was identified within Open Area 6, a large dolium-like vessel in Highgate Wood ware B (HWB; <P18>; Fig 13). This 1st century AD vessel may have functioned as a large storage jar in one of the earlier buildings. Glass vessels and bottles were again present and a glass platter, <212>, was also recovered from the levelling dumps.

Two small areas of flooring formed the only evidence for a building, Building 27 (not illustrated), in the north of Open Area 6. Any other traces had been removed by truncation. The western area of flooring was gravel, whilst the eastern was brickearth: they presumably lay within different rooms. Building 27 is dated to the first half of the 2nd century AD.

One item of intrinsic interest found as a residual item within an early medieval pit is a *tegula*, marked before firing with a civilian tile stamp. Such stamps are very rare in London. The *tegula* has the letters 'EQ' surviving with the trace of a further letter to the right (<T5>; Fig 16). The only other tile with the same stamp, found at 32–40 Mitre Street, London, shows that the missing letter was a reverse 'S' (Collingwood & Wright 1993, 61, RIB2489.14). The complete stamp would have read 'EQS'. The tile probably dates to *c*.AD 120–250.

Similarly, a relief-patterned box-flue tile



Fig 16. 2nd century AD ceramic building material: tegula with new signature mark, paw print and unusual finger keying/decoration <TI> from dumping in Open Area 5; relief-patterned box-flue tile fragment keyed with die 13 <T4> from a rubbish pit in Open Area 8; and tegula with civilian tile stamp <T5> (scale 1:4)

keyed with die 13 on one face and with part of a square or rectangular vent hole in an adjacent face (Betts *et al* 1994, 82–6) (<T4>; Fig 16) also came from an early medieval pit fill in Open Area 8. Box-flues with die 13 were used in Room C of Building 13 at Winchester Palace, Southwark, where their installation probably occurred *c*.AD 120–200 (Yule 2005, 60). These tiles have an unusually wide distribution: at Jewry Wall, Leicester they are found in the public baths, which were completed *c*.AD 155–160 (Wacher 1995, 342).

LATE ROMAN *c*.AD 200–400 (PERIOD 3)

In period 3 phase 1, the site was once again cleared to form Open Area 7. A well and a quarry pit, both of which had secondary uses as rubbish pits, occupied the open area. A series of four intercutting cesspits lay on its western side immediately south of

the well. In phase 2, Building 29, with both masonry and clay and timber elements, was constructed. This building is typical of the larger, more substantial, widely spaced, residential properties that become more common in the Roman city after *c*.AD 150 (Hill & Rowsome 2011, ii, 367–77) and parallels the construction of a large masonry building (FER97, B31) at Plantation Place after *c*.AD 150 (Dunwoodie *et al* in prep). Cut features and buildings from both phases of period 3 are illustrated on Fig 17.

Period 3 phase 1

This phase is represented by a quarry pit, a well and a line of intercutting cesspits running south from the latter. All these features had a secondary use as refuse pits. The cesspits imply contemporary buildings nearby and some evidence for what these were like came from building material recovered from the fills of the Open Area 7 features. This included ceramic roofing tiles, combed box-flue tiles, chalk and flint building rubble, wall plaster and stone and ceramic tesserae.

The wall plaster had areas of dado along with part of a border. One dado is dark red with white and pink splashes, the other yellowish-brown with green spots. The latter is bordered by a 5mm black band followed by what may be grey. Other plaster shows a small decorative area in grey and red and border areas in red and white, and faded cream and grey, the latter separated by a 5mm-wide black band. Two fragments show clear evidence of two phases of plaster decoration. A variety of backing types are present suggesting the plaster derives from a number of different rooms.

Most of the ceramic tesserae were cut from tiles, but 30 had been made from cream- and pink-coloured Spanish amphorae. Sixteen of the stone and seven of the ceramic tesserae are of small size suggesting they were derived from a decorated mosaic pavement. The remaining tesserae probably formed areas of plain red tessellated floor, perhaps with simple decorative borders in cream and yellow. The stone tesserae mainly comprise hard white chalk and dark grey Kimmeridge cementstone, but there is also one cut from a fine grey limestone and another possible

example made from quartzite. The ceramic tesserae cut from tile, together with the associated roofing tile, are all in fabric types dated to the 1st-mid 2nd century AD (fabric group 2815; fabrics 2454, 3018 & 3077 near 3018).

The pottery assemblage (110 sherds) was small compared to the other open areas from this site. Black-burnished ware 2 (BB2; c.AD 120–250) was the most common fabric whilst there was a very small quantity of Alice Holt/Farnham ware (AHFA) and an absence of Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware (OXRC). These fabrics, together with the presence of Thameside Kent ware (TSK; c.AD 180-300) and Oxfordshire white ware (OXWW; c.AD 180-400) would suggest a probable early to mid 3rd-century AD date. Two bone artefacts were recovered from these pits, a needle (<S9>; Fig 23) and a piece of unidentified worked bone, <238>. The needle is intrusive in this period, being of late Saxon/early medieval date.

Period 3 phase 2

A masonry building – Building 29 – was constructed over Open Area 7, probably during the 3rd century AD (Fig 17). Two masonry rooms and a length of mud brick wall lay within the site. The building could have extended further east. The structural remains are likely to be part of a large property set in its own grounds on the western side of the north–south side road, which the Plantation Place excavations show to have been still in use at this time.

The northern room (Room B) was defined by a rectangular configuration of foundation trenches – no part of its superstructure had survived later horizontal truncation.

The southern room (Room A) was a cellar, offset to the east of Room B. Its walls were constructed in regularly coursed Kentish Ragstone, and incorporated a tile string course (Fig 18). The internal face was initially rendered with a hard, orange-brown mortar. A second rendering had been applied later which may indicate that the cellar remained in use for quite some time. To the north-west of the masonry rooms were two phases of mud brick wall (Room C), the earlier associated with a mortar floor. This wall alignment, which only survived where it had subsided into the

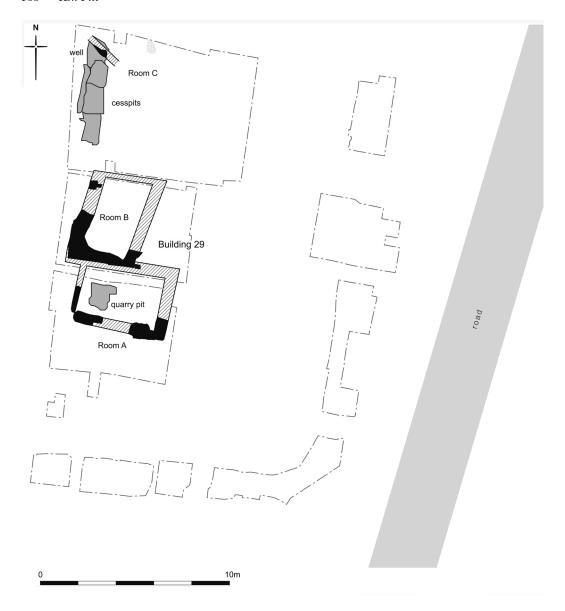


Fig 17. A mid—late 3rd century AD masonry building (period 3 phase 2). The building post-dates some period 3 phase 1 features such as a well, quarry pit and cesspits (scale 1:200)

period 3 phase 1 well, was probably internal. The wall fragment was not orthogonal to the masonry elements, but some distortion of alignment may have occurred as it slumped into the underlying well.

Although it is very likely that Building 29 was constructed during the 3rd century AD, it is difficult to date it precisely. The Room A cellar post-dated the period 3 phase 1 quarry pit, which was backfilled some time

during the period *c*.AD 150–300. Whilst the slumped structural elements of Room C lay over the period 3 phase 1 well which was backfilled *c*.AD 250–300, it is not certain that Room C was directly contemporary with the construction of the masonry rooms further south. The disuse of the building is, in contrast, well dated to the late 4th century AD by the finds from the backfill of the Room A cellar. After the cellar was backfilled its walls



Fig 18. Cellar (Room A) in Building 29, looking south-east

and those of the Room B to the north were partially robbed of stone: both some of the destruction layers and some of the robber trenches contained sherds of Portchester ware D (PORD), which dates to *c*.AD 350–400.

Six vessels of note were recovered from the destruction deposits over Building 29 (Fig 19): a black-burnished-type flanged bowl in Alice Holt/Farnham ware with a more triangular rim (AHFA 4M; <P19>); a miscellaneous or unidentified bowl in Much Hadham oxidised ware (MHAD 4; <P20>); a small necked globular beaker in Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware (OXRC 3K; <P21>); a small version OXRC Dragendorff form 38 bowl (4DR38; <P22>); an OXRC plain dish (5]), probably a Young form C94 (<P23>); and a Rheinzabern samian ware Dragendorff form 43 mortarium with barbotine decoration (SAMRZ <P24>). With the exception of the SAMRZ, which dates to c.AD 170-235 and must be considered residual, the date ranges for these vessels run up to c.AD 400 and are consistent with the later 4th-century AD date suggested by the Portchester ware D sherds.

Other finds from the cellar backfill included

glass vessels and a jug, coins including a 4th-century AD example of Constantinian date (further coins came from robber cuts) and other copper-alloy objects. A small iron spear head (<\$10>; Fig 20) is similar to well-known Roman types. Worked bone was represented by a counter (<\$11>; Fig 20).

Although none of the masonry superstructure of Building 29 survived, some indication of its character may be derived from the building material retrieved from the destruction levels. For example, a large quantity of roof tile and wall brick was present. The brick and tile is mainly of 1st-to mid 2nd-century AD date (fabric group 2815 & fabric 2454), but later red roofing tile is also present dating from c.AD 120/160 to the late 2nd or 3rd century AD (fabric types 2459B) & 2459C). There was also a small number of ceramic roofing tiles in an unusual sandy fabric characterised by abundant mediumsized quartz sand grains, which has not been recognised in London previously (fabric 3267). Although the date of the building suggests that some of the earlier roofing tile and brick may be reused from earlier structures, fresh supplies of roofing tile are

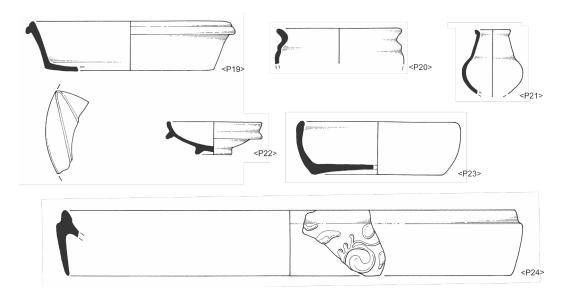


Fig 19. Pottery from period 3 phase 2: flanged bowl in Alice Holt/Farnham ware with a more triangular rim <P19>; miscellaneous or unidentified bowl in Much Hadham oxidised ware <P20>; globular beaker in Oxfordshire red/ brown colour-coated ware <P21>; Oxfordshire red/ brown colour-coated ware Dragendorff form 38 bowl <P22>; Oxfordshire red/ brown colour-coated ware plain dish <P23>; and Rheinzabern samian ware Dragendorff form 43 mortarium with barbotine decoration <P24> (scale 1:4)

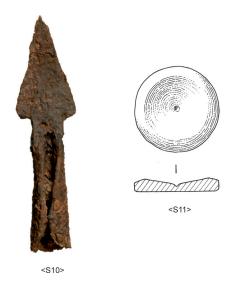


Fig 20. Small iron spear head <S10> and bone counter <S11> (scale 1:1)

also likely to have been used, as late Roman *tegulae* and *imbrices* are generally smaller and lighter than earlier types and could not be used together on the same roof.

The absence of box-flue tiles from the debris over Building 29 suggests that it was not equipped with a hypocaust heating system. Despite this, Building 29 was evidently of high status and there was evidence for the presence of at least one decorated mosaic pavement. A total of 427 stone and 30 ceramic tesserae were found in deposits associated with the building. These tesserae are mostly small indicating they were derived from a high-quality mosaic. The stone tesserae are mainly made from white hard chalk and grey Kimmeridge cementstone, but there are also others made from light grey Kentish Ragstone, a light grey limestone and light grey and brown fine-grained sandstone. The latter was mainly brought into London for construction work in the 3rd and 4th century AD. Also present are two small size light blue glass tesserae. Glass appears in floor, wall and ceiling mosaics throughout the Roman empire but is very rare in Britain, where its use would appear to have been restricted to mosaics of the highest quality. All the glass and stone tesserae were found associated with the mortar floor (Room C) and an associated demolition deposit, along with



Fig 21. Wall plaster with unusual dado design <WPI> from the brickearth floor of Building 29 (scale 1:2)

30 red ceramic tesserae (fabric group 2815) and 11 cream and yellow ceramic tesserae (fabric 2454). The cream and yellow tesserae are all of small size suggesting they were selected because of their similarity in colour to the white hard chalk examples. The red tesserae are of both normal and small size. The former was probably used in a plain red tessellated border around the edge of the mosaic floor, whilst the small red tesserae would have been used as decoration in the mosaic itself. There was little indication as to the form of decoration covering the walls of the room with the mosaic floor. Only five small fragments of plain red, white and light grey plaster were found in the same demolition debris as the tesserae.

A small number of red ceramic tesserae were also found in disuse deposits associated with Rooms A and B. These are all of normal size suggesting they were derived from a plain tessellated pavement, or pavements, situated within the building. The tesserae are mainly in early Roman fabric group 2815, but there is one pink example in fabric 2453. Tiles in this fabric were first brought into London from an as yet unidentified production site in the mid-late 2nd century AD (Betts & Foot 1994, 32). Evidence for the building's internal decoration is provided by the ex situ wall plaster fragments. Present is what appears to be part of a dado with an imitation marble design in black, red and pink over a light grey and greenish-grey background (<WP1>; Fig 21). Also present is an area of cream (discoloured white?) dado with black and red splashes which may have bordered a 4mm white band followed by grey. These were found with what appears to be a green-coloured dado with white splashes and a small piece of plain dark red plaster from separate areas of wall. Recovered from the cellar infill were fragments of white-painted wall plaster with border areas in purple and grey, separated by a c.18mm-wide white banding, and in red and white. This plaster was of poor quality, being painted on a very uneven top surface.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

The late Saxon and medieval development of this part of the City of London, focusing on the nearby Plantation Place site, is discussed by Pitt (2013, 10–20). Cumulatively the archaeological evidence shows that, with the exception of the area around St Paul's Cathedral, the walled Roman city was not extensively reoccupied until after AD 886 (Watson 2012, 39–40).

The late Saxon reoccupation of the eastern portion of the City was marked by the establishment of a new street grid running northwards from the Billingsgate area of the waterfront, beyond Eastcheap (Estchepe) as far as Fenchurch Street (Fancherchestrate). Eastcheap formed the principal axis of this new street grid, which was laid out during either the late 10th or early 11th

centuries to develop the area immediately downstream of London Bridge (Steedman et al 1992, 8, 133–6). As Eastcheap means 'east market' the purpose of this development is quite obvious. This scheme can be seen as a counterpart (or counterbalance to) a similar development further west between Queenhithe and Cheapside (or 'Westcheap') a century earlier (Pitt 2013, 7, 11).

Rood Lane (formerly St Margaret Patyns Lane), which forms the eastern boundary

of the site was another element of this late Saxon road grid. It did not acquire its present name until the 16th century.²

EARLY MEDIEVAL 1050-1270 (PERIOD 4)

During the early medieval period, rubbish pits were dug in the western part of the site – Open Area 8 (Fig 22). It is likely that these truncated pits lay in the backyards of properties fronting on to Rood Lane, but

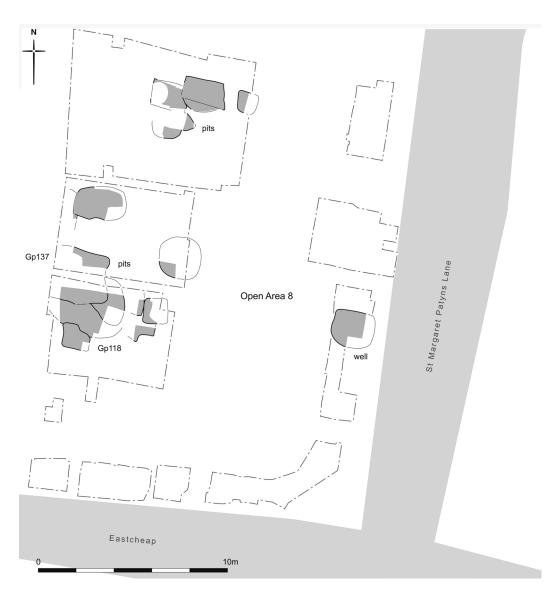


Fig 22. Early medieval pitting (period 4). The eastern part of the site may have been occupied by buildings (scale 1:200)

any evidence for contemporary buildings had been removed by later truncation. The only surviving feature in the eastern part of the site was a well. The presence of this deep feature so close to the modern street frontage implies that either the frontage was not completely built-up during this period or that the contemporary street was on a slightly more westerly alignment like the Roman road. Some finds belonging to this period, such as a Late Saxon pierced bone needle (<S9>; Fig 23), were found as intrusive items within Roman pits. Pierced bone implements of this type may have been used for producing stockings, mittens or perhaps netting (Pritchard 1991, 205).

Environmental samples, {21} and {22}, taken from the pits give an indication of the food waste present. Small quantities of cereal grain were dominated by free-threshing wheat but also included hulled barley and oats and a single bread/club wheat rachis fragment. Common native fruit species, such as cherries, plums, apple/pear, blackberry/raspberry, wild strawberry and elder, were recovered. There were also fig seeds, most probably from imported fruit (Giorgi 1997, 205). Fig seeds have been recovered from

various other early medieval pits within the City of London (Jones *et al* 1991, 381).

Finds from two of these pits were looked at in detail. Both cut into late Roman Building 29. The earlier pit (Gp118; Fig 22) contained a large group (145 sherds) of Saxo-Norman pottery discarded in the period c.1080-1150. Three substantially complete vessels were recovered in a good condition. The first of these, a smashed coarse London-type ware early rounded jug (LCOAR SHEL; <P25>; Fig 24), represents a vessel used for serving beverages. The remaining two vessels are imported red-painted ware (REDP) pitchers

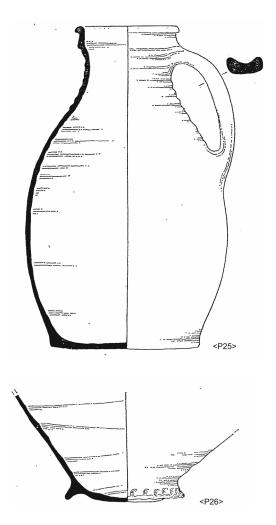


Fig 24. Early medieval pottery: round jug in coarse London-type with shell inclusions <P25> and redpainted ware pitcher <P26> (scale 1:4)



<S9>

Fig 23. Late Saxon or early medieval bone needle < S9> (scale 1:1)



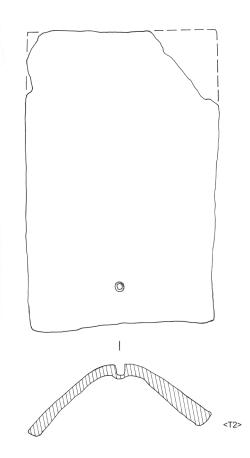


Fig 25. Early medieval building material: almost complete medieval ridge tile <T2> and partially complete carved oolitic limestone capital <T3> (scale 1:4)

(<P26>; Fig 24). These were made at various production centres focused on the Meuse/Rhine area, but need not indicate higher

social standing for their users as London appears to have been a popular market for this industry. Cutting through this was another pit (Gp137; Fig 22) which yielded a total of 75 sherds of medieval pottery. Sherds from the same pottery vessels were present in different backfills and indicate that the filling of the pit occurred as one event during the late 12th century. South Hertfordshire grey ware (SHER) jars are the most common type of pottery found, derived from an industry that acted as the main supplier of coarse, wheel-thrown, unglazed jars and jugs to London between c.1170 and 1350. The absence of burning or sooting on the external surfaces of many of the jars contrasts with the limescale or 'kettle fur' residues present on their internal surfaces, which suggests that liquids were boiled and heated within. Only small-sized fragments from a number of contemporary London-type ware (LOND) baluster jugs were found. No Saxo-Norman or medieval accession finds were recovered from these two pits but other pits to the north produced several medieval finds associated with metal working, including ceramic moulds, <70> and <72>, and a ceramic crucible, <22>.

Other finds from these pits included roofing tile, both flanged tile (fabric 2273), of probable 12th-century date, and peg and ridge tile (fabrics 2271, 2273, 2537, 2586, 3091), which were made in London in vast numbers between the late 12th and 15th centuries. The ridge tiles include a rare and nearly complete, splash-glazed example (fabric 2586) (<T2>; Fig 25). More unusual still is a carved, oolitic limestone capital, c.180–230mm in diameter, found in the refuse backfills of the well on the eastern side of the site (<T3>; Fig 25). Although the upper and lower faces were carefully cut, giving a height of 117mm, the sides show only crude cut marks and the stone was evidently discarded in an unfinished state for some reason.

LATER MEDIEVAL 1270–1550 (PERIOD 5)

During the 14th century, a building – Building 30 – occupied the south of the site and would probably have fronted on to Eastcheap (Fig 26). The truncated building foundations were constructed in chalk and Kentish Ragstone. At the rear of the building

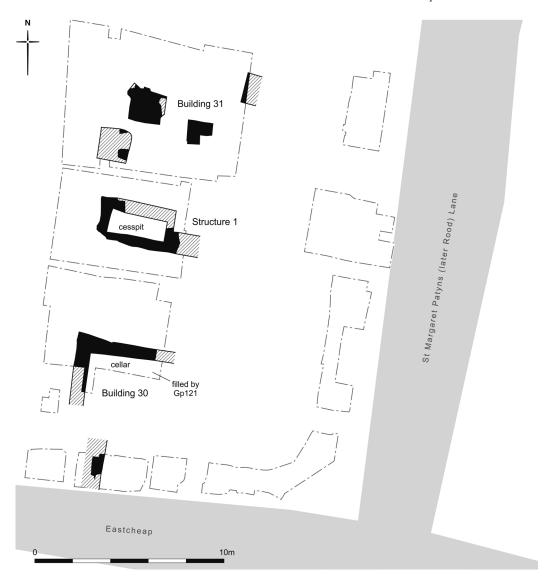


Fig 26. Later medieval activity (period 5). Building 30 probably fronted on to Eastcheap, whilst Building 31 would have faced Rood Lane to the east (scale 1:200)

lay a cellar built in regularly coursed and dressed chalk blocks (Fig 27). A thin layer of crushed chalk within the cellar probably represented a rough floor surface.

After the cellar had gone out of use, a large refuse pit (Gp121; Fig 26) was dug through its floor. The 214 sherds of pottery recovered from the pit were discarded between c.1380 and 1400 and are of interest for a number of reasons. Firstly, the group was recovered in a good condition, mostly comprising large

joining sherds (the mean weight of each vessel is 136g), and, although fragmented smaller sherds are found, these are from fabrics and forms in contemporaneous use. Chronological contamination is therefore at a minimum with no obvious residual or intrusive pottery present. The dating was refined by the presence of mid 14th-century imported Low Countries grey ware (LCGR) and Surrey whitewares such as Cheam whitewares (CHEA), with the coarse Surrey-



Fig 27. The cellar to the rear of Building 30, looking north-west

Hampshire border ware (CBW) lobed cups and flat-topped cooking pot forms further pushing the *terminus post quem* into the third quarter of this century. Secondly, in terms of composition (Table 1), the group is dominated by the products of the Surrey whiteware industry (Pearce & Vince 1988) – in particular CBW – with smaller quantities of more local products, such as London-type ware (LOND). The Continental imports consist of Dutch redwares (DUTR) and Low Countries grey ware (LCGR), with the latter thought to be made at Utrecht and other,

as yet undiscovered, production centres in the region (Hurst et al 1986, 136). This has been most frequently found from the Trig Lane and New Fresh Wharf waterfront sites (site code BWB83) in the City. The rim and complete handle from a Siegburg stoneware (SIEG) jakobanne tall drinking jug was also found (Hurst et al 1986, 176–84). Finally, many of the forms are limited to vessels associated with either the serving or drinking of beverages (Table 2). Coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware (CBW) large rounded jugs (Pearce & Vince 1988, fig 110,

Table 1. Types of medieval pottery found from Group 121 (context [615]) by sherd count, ENV, weight and EVES

Pottery type	No. of sherds	No. of sherds %	ENV	ENV %	Weight (g)	Weight %	EVES	EVES %
Imported wares	18	8.4	8	11.1	770	7.8	0.10	3.1
Local glazed wares	9	4.2	3	4.2	927	9.4	0.25	7.8
Non-local glazed wares	4	1.9	3	4.2	797	8.1	0.00	0.0
Surrey whitewares	183	85.5	58	80.6	7330	74.6	2.85	89.1
Total	214	100%	72	100%	9824	100%	3.20	100%

11.9

0.00

45.3

100%

3.0

2.0

29.3

100%

0.38

0.00

1.45

3.20

engin and 2725								
Vessel function	No. of sherds	No. of sherds %	ENV	ENV %	Weight (g)	Weight %	EVES	EVES %
Drinking/serving	127	59.3	39	54.2	5432	55.3	1.02	31.9
Drinking	11	5.1	4	5.6	1020	10.4	0.35	10.9

3

4

22

72

4.2

5.6

30.6

100%

298

192

2882

9824

Table 2. Functional categories of medieval pottery found from Group 121 (context [615]) by sherd count, ENV, weight and EVES



3

6

67

1.4

2.8

31.3

Cooking/serving

Cooking/storage

Cooking



Fig 28. Later medieval pottery: London-type ware baluster-shaped drinking jug <P27>; Low Countries grey ware cauldron <P28>; and Kingston-type ware condiment dish <P29> (scale 1:4)

nos 432-433) make up around a third of the group (by sherd count of form) and would have been principally used for serving drinks, with the sooting present on the base of one such jug probably the result of the heating of mulled wine. The two matching LOND baluster-shaped drinking jugs (<P27>; Fig 28) found could have been put to a variety of uses, for example acting as measures, in addition to their principal 'tankard' function. The thick external sooting and internal residues present on the DUTR and LCGR cauldrons (<P28>; Fig 28) indicate repeated heating for cooking. The only tableware pottery found is the profile from a Kingston-type ware (KING) condiment dish (<P29>; Fig 28). To summarise, the medieval pottery suggests that the pit was used for only a relatively short period of time before being quickly filled during the late 14th century with vessels principally used for serving and drinking. The registered finds from this pit include medieval glass (vessel <89>, cup <90> & bottle fragments <91>), a piece of ceramic floor tile, <185>, and a piece of unidentified and undated ironwork, <230>, which is probably structural.

One other item from this pit fill was an unworn decorated floor tile from the Dieppe area of northern France (<T6>; Fig 29), where both plain and decorated floor tiles were manufactured in the last quarter of the 14th century and perhaps into the 15th. The tile carries a Norton (1993) design type 35, although the pattern shows a slight difference in one area. This example has a crisp clear pattern suggesting the difference is probably the result of a minor error in Norton's published drawing.

An environmental sample from the Group



Fig 29. Decorated floor tile <T6> from the Dieppe area of northern France from a rubbish pit cut into the cellar floor of Building 30 (scale 1:3)

121 pit ({23}) produced a large quantity of charred rye, and moderate quantities of freethreshing wheat, hulled barley and oat grains as well as a large number of indeterminate cereal grains. Also present were bread/club wheat, rye and barley rachis fragments in moderate to large quantities. There was also a small number of oat florets. All these types of cereal grains are commonly found all over Britain during the medieval period (Greig 1991, 321), and a mixture of wheat, rye and barley was used to make maslins, a cheaper bread. Barley was also used for brewing beer and, in the south, oats were occasionally used as a pottage cereal or as fodder. Cereals were used to make biscuits such as gingerbread, spiced buns, pastry and pies (Wilson 1991, 238-51).

To the north of Building 30, a cesspit lined with dressed chalk blocks (Structure 1) may have occupied the rear of a property fronting on to Rood Lane. Two pieces of ceramic, mould <71> and crucible fragment <73> recovered from the backfill of the cesspit construction cut, probably in fact were associated with the metalworking objects recovered from the pit in Open Area 8, through which Structure 1 cut.

The cesspit was extant to 1.7m in depth, but may originally have been deeper. The eastern wall of the cesspit was noticeably thicker and may have had an additional structural function within a building. About 0.2m of the primary fill comprised of decayed faecal material remained at the base of the pit and was sealed by various backfills which included demolition material, such as roof tile and red 'Tudor' type bricks,

presumably derived from the demolition of the associated building, and pottery dated c.1480–1550. Also found within the backfill were a Reigate stone ashlar block, fragments of medieval glass flask <17> and a piece of window glass, <18>.

In the north of the site various chalk foundations probably represent the remains of another building – Building 31 – probably fronting on to Rood Lane. The foundations were generally built in random coursed roughly hewn chalk, tile, flint and Kentish Ragstone. The interpretation of these fragmentary and truncated foundations is uncertain, but the three roughly square freestanding blocks might have been pier bases for a shallow cellar or undercroft.

POST-MEDIEVAL 1550 AND LATER (PERIOD 6)

Four post-medieval structures were excavated (not illustrated). A barrel-lined well (Structure 2) lay in the north of the site within the area of earlier Building 31. After its disuse, sometime after c.1240 on the evidence of a sherd of Kingston-type ware (KING) found within it, this feature was reused as a rubbish pit. A timber-lined cesspit (Structure 3) was found along the western limits of the site. This was backfilled with material containing pottery dated to c.1480-1600. Elsewhere were two brick-lined cesspits, Structures 4 and 5.

CONCLUSIONS

Early Roman

No pre-Roman archaeology was recorded at the site at 41 Eastcheap. The Roman period, however, was marked by intensive occupation. The earliest activity appears to have been gravel quarrying, probably for the construction of a north-south aligned road which ran immediately east of the site. This side road connected with the main east-west road through Roman London and with another parallel road further south; clay and timber domestic buildings were soon built along its western side. These buildings were destroyed by fire – almost certainly during Boudica's sacking of *Londinium* in AD 60/61 (Salway 1993, 86–7).

In the aftermath of the Boudican revolt, the site would have lain within a fort or military camp, which was constructed in the eastern part of *Londinium* (Fig 4). The siting of this military installation meant that the north–south side road fell out of use, but after *c*.AD 85, when the fort/camp was removed, the road was reinstated and the area again occupied by buildings fronting on to it.

The archaeological evidence for the architecture of *Londinium* during the later 1st and early 2nd centuries AD often consists of the remains of small, closely packed and frequently altered or rebuilt domestic clay and timber domestic buildings. The complex structural sequence recorded here is fairly typical of many contemporary city sites (Hill & Rowsome 2011, ii, 313). The impression is that perhaps every ten or 15 years there was a phase of structural alteration on site. At 1 Poultry during the 2nd century AD and the early 3rd century AD, the timber buildings on site were being replaced on average every 40–50 years (*ibid*, 366).

Late Roman

There is an increasing amount of evidence that from c.AD 150 onwards there was a distinct change in the architectural character of the Roman town. The closely spaced small clay and timber buildings were increasingly replaced by much larger masonry buildings, which appear to have been grandiose town houses (Hill & Rowsome 2011, ii, 367-77; McKenzie 2011, 17). One of these late Roman masonry buildings was discovered nearby at Plantation Place (Dunwoodie et al in prep). Some of these buildings possessed sophisticated architectural features including hypocausts and mosaics (Hill & Rowsome 2011, i, 194-211). It is clear that the 3rdcentury AD masonry building (B29) on site (Fig 17) possessed elaborately painted walls and mosaics, which apparently included glass tesserae. The full extent of this building is not known, but it was at least 15m by 6m and included a cellared room (Fig 18). It was probably a large town house located in its own grounds. The north-south road remained in use and would have formed the eastern boundary of this property. This cellar appeared to have been in use for some time, as its walls were given a second, replacement coat of render during its lifetime, but it was filled in by the late 4th century AD. It is likely that the entire building had fallen out of use by this date.

Medieval

The Roman city was probably abandoned around the turn of the 4th and 5th centuries AD. The Eastcheap area was not reoccupied until the late 10th or early 11th century, when the present road network including Eastcheap and Rood Lane was established (Pitt 2013, 10). The presence of residual Late Saxon (c.AD 850-1066) pottery in some medieval pits provides the earliest evidence of post-Roman activity on site, but there was no archaeologically defined activity at 41 Eastcheap before the 11th century. A sequence of pits encountered on the site probably lay at the rear of domestic buildings fronting on to Rood Lane. The absence of any extant evidence for these buildings suggests that they were built of timber and had only slight foundations. A cluster of pits in the area of the late Roman masonry building may have been initially dug to remove the masonry and might indicate that the Roman walls were still standing above ground level.

By the late 13th century the street frontage along both Eastcheap and 'St Margaret Pattens Lane', as Rood Lane was then known, would have been lined with masonry buildings to the rear of which would have been backyards containing features such as cesspits and wells. These buildings would have consisted of ground storey shops, workshops and kitchens, while most of the living accommodation would have been situated in their upper storeys (Schofield 2011, 68). The cellars would have been used for storage. In c.1600 John Stow recorded that Eastcheap was where many of the city's butchers' shops were traditionally located, plus 'cook shops' selling hot food and taverns (Stow 1603, 74, 194). Fragments of the foundations of two masonry buildings, one of which was cellared, and a chalk-lined cesspit were discovered. One of the later medieval pits produced a concentration of pottery vessels for serving and consuming beverages (Grp121). This could indicate the presence of an inn on the site.

APPENDIX

Table 3. The illustrated Roman pottery

Ref	Comment	Context	Land use	Fabric code	Form and decoration code	Fig
<p1></p1>	Alice Holt/Surrey ware 'Surrey' bowl	[549]	OA2	AHSU	4K BOWL BR	6
<p2></p2>	collared (Hofheim-type) flagon in Verulamium region white ware	[822]	В9	VRW	1A FLAGON	6
<p3></p3>	Ritterling bowl form 12 in Highgate Wood ware C	[389]	OA3	HWC	4RT12 BOWL	6
<p4></p4>	bowl with acute lattice style burnished decoration in Highgate Wood ware B	[454]	OA3	HWB	4 BOWL ALX	6
<p5></p5>	a flanged bowl in a miscellaneous tempered fabric	[791]	OA3	MISC	4MX BOWL	6
<p6></p6>	bowl with lid-seated rim in a miscellaneous sandy ware with large limestone chunks	[665]	OA4	SAND	4L BOWL	10
<p7></p7>	Dragendorff cup form 35 with barbotine decoration in south Gaulish samian	[445]	OA4	SAMLG	6DR35 CUP BAD	10
<p8></p8>	bowl in Highgate Wood ware B	[257]	B19	HWB	4 BOWL WL	10
<p9></p9>	beaker in Rhineland granular grey ware	[295]	B19	RGGW	3 BEAKER	10
<p10></p10>	a lid with burnished decoration in a miscellaneous sandy ware	[1092]	OA5	SAND	9A LID BUD	13
<p11></p11>	ring-necked flagon with flared mouth	[1092]	OA5	VRW	1B2 FLAGON	13
<p12></p12>	pinch-mouthed flagon	[860]	OA5	VRW	1C FLAGON	13
<p13></p13>	two-handled flagon with squat bulbous body	[1092]	OA5	VRW	1E FLAGON	13
<p14></p14>	a narrow-necked jar or flask in a fine micaceous reduced ware	[856]	OA5	FMIC	2R JAR ROD	13
<p15></p15>	bowl with constriction below folded down/ undercut rim in Highgate Wood ware C	[860]	OA5	HWC	4F4 BOWL	13
<p16></p16>	lid in Verulamium region grey ware	[860]	OA5	VRG	9A LID	13
<p17></p17>	necked jar in Highgate Wood ware C with a triple band of rouletted decoration	[161]	B26	HWC	2T JAR ROD	13
<p18></p18>	large dolium-like vessel in Highgate Wood ware B	[1066]	OA6	HWB	2V JAR	13
<p19></p19>	flanged bowl in Alice Holt/Farnham ware with a more triangular rim	[663]	B29	AHFA	4M BOWL	19
<p20></p20>	miscellaneous or unidentified bowl in Much Hadham oxidised ware	[695]	B29	MHAD	4 BOWL	19
<p21></p21>	globular beaker in Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware	[695]	B29	OXRC	3K BEAKER	19
<p22></p22>	Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware Dragendorff form 38 bowl	[700]	B29	OXRC	4DR38 BOWL	19
<p23></p23>	Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware plain dish	[695]	B29	OXRC	5J DISH	19
<p24></p24>	Rheinzabern samian ware Dragendorff form 43 mortarium with barbotine decoration	[701]	B29	SAMRZ	7DR43 MORT BAD	19

Table 4. The illustrated medieval pottery

Ref	Comment	Context	Land use	Fabric code	Form and decoration code	Fig
<p25></p25>	Round jug in coarse London-type ware with shell inclusions	[659]	OA8	LCOAR	JUG ERND	24
<p26></p26>	red-painted ware pitcher	[659]	OA8	REDP	PTCH	24
<p27></p27>	London-type ware baluster-shaped drinking jug	[615]	B30	LOND	DJ BAL	28
<p28></p28>	Low Countries grey ware cauldron	[615]	B30	LCGR	CAUL	28
<p29></p29>	Kingston-type ware condiment dish	[615]	B30	KING	DISH COND	28

Table 5. The illustrated building material (<T> and <WP>)

Ref	Comment	Context/Accession	Land use	Fig
<t1></t1>	Tegula with new signature mark, paw print and unusual finger keying/decoration from dumping	[1056] <239>	OA5	16
<t2></t2>	Almost complete medieval ridge tile from a cesspit	[461] -	OA8	25
<t3></t3>	Partially complete carved oolitic limestone capital	[959] <220>	OA8	25
<t4></t4>	Relief-patterned box-flue tile keyed with die 13	[659] <184>	OA8	16
<t5></t5>	Tegula with civilian tile stamp	[128] <26>	OA8	16
<t6></t6>	Decorated floor tile from the Dieppe area of northern France	[615] <185>	B30	29
<wp1></wp1>	unusual dado design	[299] & [324] part join	B29	21

 $Table\ 6.\ The\ illustrated\ registered\ finds$

Ref	Comment	Context/Accession	Land use	Fig
<s1></s1>	copper-alloy trumpet or trumpet derivative brooch	[551] <56>	OA3	8
<s2></s2>	bone hairpin	[1083] <219>	B11	8
<s3></s3>	glass bead	[644] <96>	OA4	11
<s4></s4>	ceramic counter	[430] <69>	OA4	11
<s6></s6>	glass counter	[257] <39>	B19	11
<s7></s7>	copper-alloy surgical instrument	[856] <203>	OA5	14
<s9></s9>	bone needle	[100] <2>	OA7	23
<s10></s10>	iron spear head	[216] <180>	B29	20
<s11></s11>	bone counter	[707] <188>	B29	20

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NOTES

- ¹ MOLA Resource Library, www.mola.org.uk/resource-library (accessed 9 April 2015).
- ² This street was named after St Margaret Patten's (or Patin) Church (first documented in c.1128–50), which was situated along its eastern side (Carlin & Belcher 1989, 88). By the late 16th century the street had been renamed 'Rood Lane' apparently as a reminder that when St Margaret's Church was being rebuilt in 1538, its rood screen which was being temporarily stored in the church yard was 'broken all to pieces' (Stow 1603, 188). The site was within the parish of St Margaret Pattens.

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