

Conclusion

The excavation has shown that the island of sand on which the site is located extended further west than was previously supposed.

A sequence of 1st and 2nd-century clay and timber buildings, of unknown extent, was found. The buildings may have been houses, shops or workshops, or may have had combined functions. All of them were constructed on the same alignment, which they shared with a number of similar structures previously excavated on nearby sites. The buildings at 10-18 Union Street might have been the rear portions of structures which fronted onto the Roman road to the east, and might have been part of a large complex of buildings which included those discovered at 8 Union Street⁵ and 88 Borough High Street⁶ (Fig. 4). At present it is not possible to correlate the building phases on the various sites.

The rear of these properties is probably indicated by the metallised surface recorded in area B, which was either a yard or a path. Beyond this surface, to the west, was an area which was used in the 2nd century AD for disposing of domestic refuse and building debris, in pits.

The clay and timber buildings were succeeded by a stone structure, again on the same alignment, and of unknown extent. This is a sequence which has been recorded on a number of sites in Southwark, and which seems to indicate a change in the nature of the Roman town⁷. At present it is not possible to date this building with any certainty, although it probably belonged to the late 2nd or 3rd centuries.

In the second half of the 4th century a number of rubbish pits were dug in the area previously occupied by Building Four. There was no evidence for the late Roman buildings which must have been associated with these pits. It is possible that the evidence was

5. G. Marsh '8 Union Street' in Bird *et al* (1978) *op cit* fn 1, 221-32.
6. B. Yule with P. Hinton '88 Borough High Street' in Hinton (1988) *op cit* 71-82.
7. H. L. Sheldon 'The 1972-74 excavations: their contribution to Southwark's history' in Bird *et al* (1978) *op cit* 40.

removed at the same time as the pits were truncated, during the formation or deposition of the 'Dark Earth'. Alternatively, the buildings may have been located beyond the excavated area.

Finally, there is the evidence for ritual activity on the site, in the form of the lead curse and the possible votive deposits in the well. It would be easy to dismiss these as unconnected occurrences which, considered alone, are of limited significance. However, there is now a substantial body of evidence for ritual and religious activity in Roman Southwark. For example, a complex of pits found at 1-7 St Thomas Street produced two 'Venus' figurines, incense jars, lamp chimneys and the so-called 'smith-pot'⁸. Fragments of statues of three deities and an altar were found in a well below the crypt of Southwark Cathedral⁹. There are also numerous examples of everyday objects, such as complete pots, which seem to represent votive deposits, and certain types of animal remains which may also fall into this category.

To date, no Roman building in Southwark has been identified as a temple or shrine, yet places of worship must have existed in the settlement. If such buildings are to be recognised it is important for excavators to remember that "... the first clue to the existence of one may be a concentration of evidence for ritual activity in its immediate neighbourhood"¹⁰.

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8. M. G. Dennis '1-7 St Thomas Street' in Bird *et al* (1978) *op cit* 291-423.
9. M. J. Hammerson 'Excavations under Southwark Cathedral' *London Archaeol* 3 (1978) 206-12.
10. R. Merrifield *The Archaeology of Ritual and Magic* (1987) 9.

Local Societies – amendments

THE NINTH set of amendments to the list of local societies (Vol. 4, no. 15, 403-4) is below. Secretaries of local societies are asked to tell us of any errors in or changes to this list.

Hounslow & District Hist. Soc. Sec. Mrs. M. H. Lodge, 'Albertine', Manor House Court, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 9JS. (change of address)

Orpington & Dist. Arch. Soc. Sec. Janet Clayton, 81 Langford Place, Sidcup DA14 4AZ.

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local Hist. Soc. Sec. Eileen Watling, 7 The Greenway, Ickenham, Uxbridge UB10 8LS.

Wembley Hist. Soc. Sec. Robin Morgan, 54 Wood Lane, NW9 7NY.