



London in the Not-so-Dark Ages

Lyn Blackmore

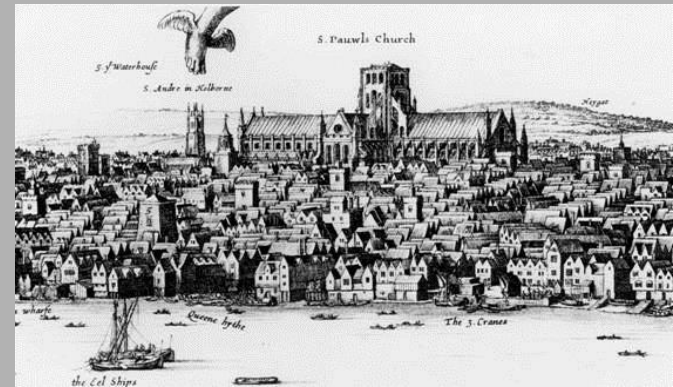
Londinium



Height 148mm



Lundenwic



London



**5th century urn:
St Martin-in-the-
Fields**

Early and Middle Saxon London

- coming out of the Dark Ages?

1. Background

- Rural settlement *c* AD 400-650**
- City and Lundenwic, early finds**

2. The development of Lundenwic

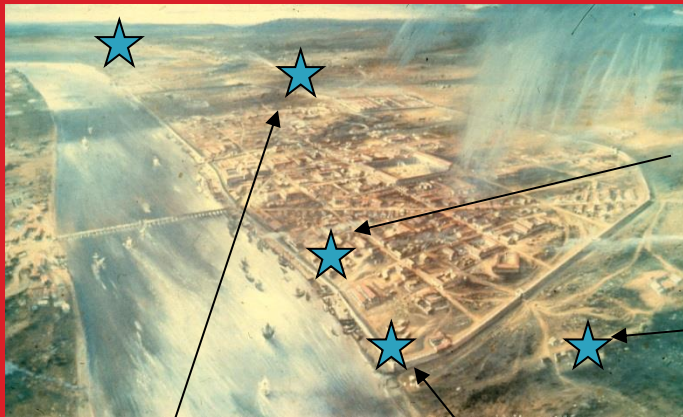
- Roman to Saxon London**
- Burials**
- Growth and organisation of Lundenwic**
- Trade and industry**
- Decline**

3. Summing up

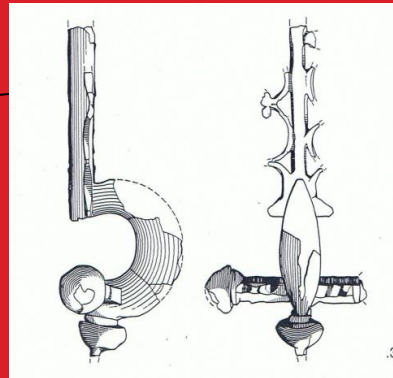
Late 4th-/5th-century finds

Roman riverside wall strengthened
AD 388-402

St Bride's



Billingsgate
bathhouse



Eastern cemetery

Silver ingot found
near Tower of London

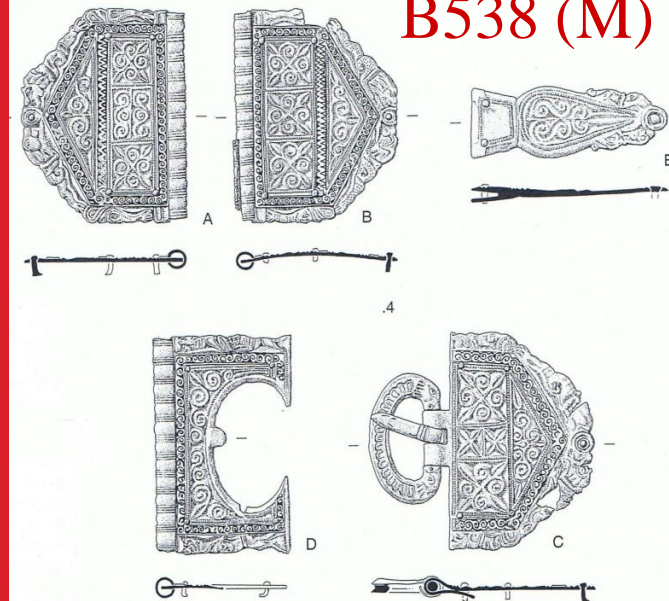


Western
cemetery



Museum of London

B538 (M)



Early Saxon rural settlement and cemeteries



Archaeological landscapes of east London

Six multi-period sites excavated in advance of gravel quarrying in the London Borough of Havering

See Howell, Sue Swift and Bruce Wallace with Jon Cotton and Pamela Greenwood



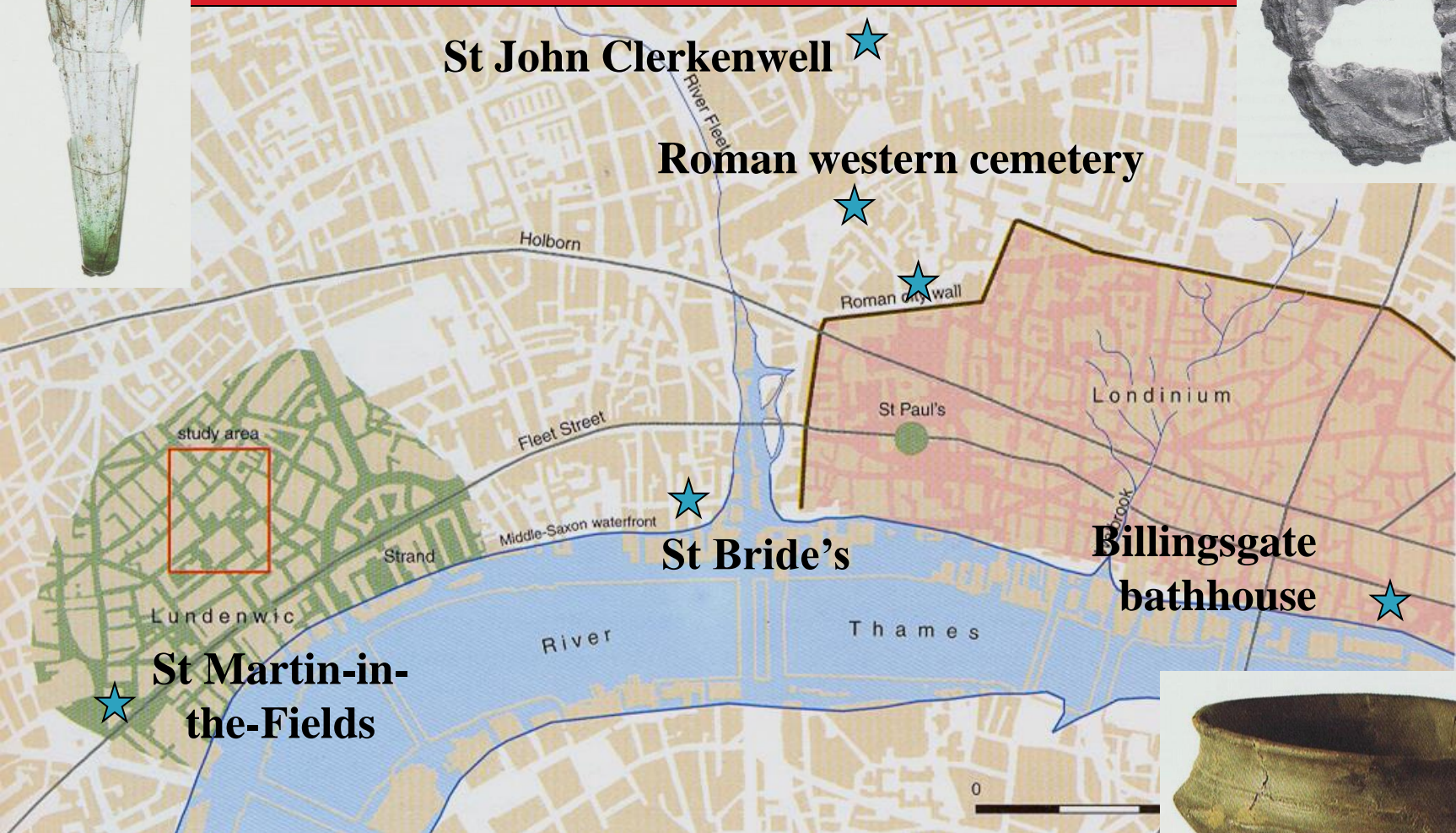
Early and Middle Saxon rural settlement in the London region

Robert Cowie and Ian Riddison

British Archaeology 11

Archaeology 11

Early Saxon finds



Glass cone beaker and pottery pedestal beaker from the Mitcham cemetery (Clark 1989)



5th- to 6th-century pottery



Fig 39 Site H (Hammersmith): Saxon pottery <P62>–<P89> from Building H1 (scale 1:4)



Chaff- and sandstone-tempered
wares



Emerging kingdoms, changing faith

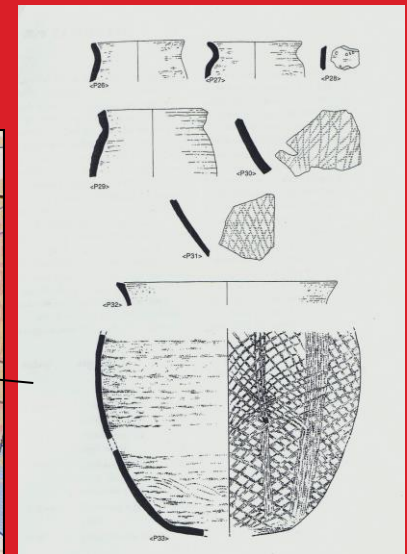
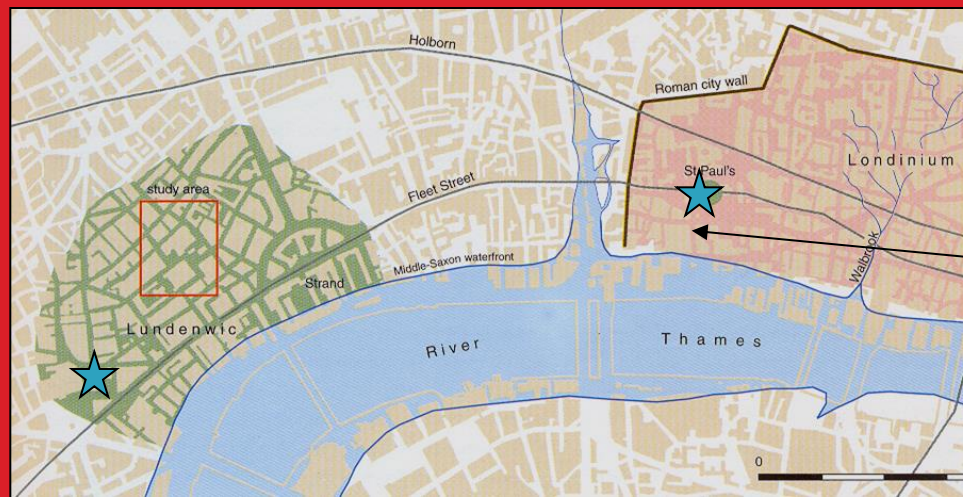


Britain c AD 600

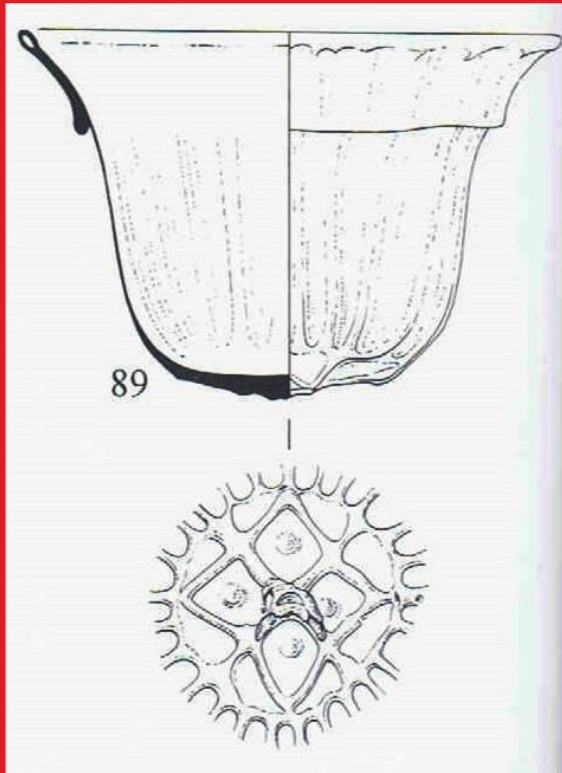
- AD 597 Augustinian mission
- AD 604 St Paul's founded
- AD 616-653 East Saxon reversion to paganism
- AD 653 Christianity re-established



City, near St Paul's?

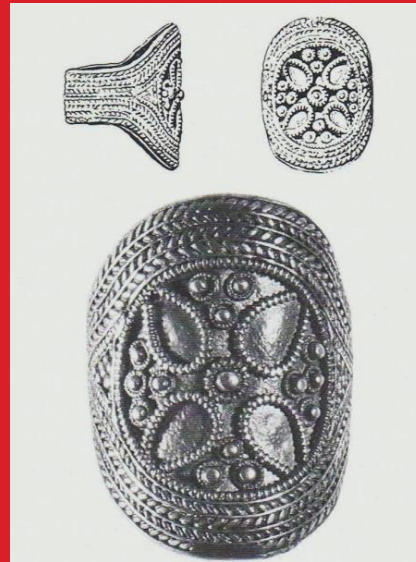


Saxon finds from outside the City (pre-1983)



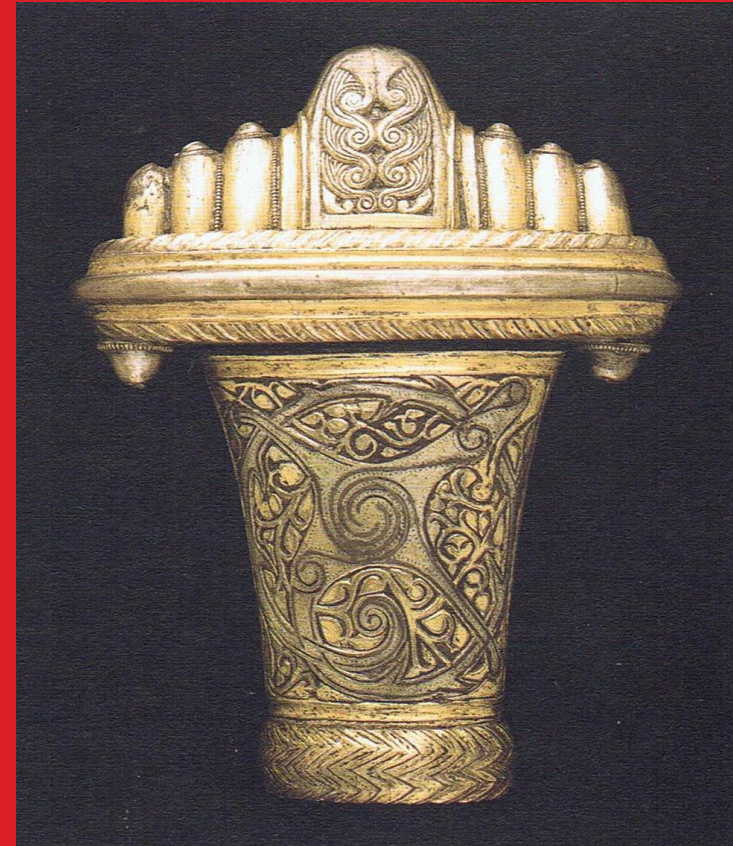
7th-century palm cup,
St Martin-in-the-Fields,
found 1722 in a
sarcophagus burial

© British Museum



The Garrick
Street ring, late
7th-/early 8th-
century

© British Museum



The Fetter Lane sword
pommel, 8th-century

© British Museum

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION NO. 2139.

SECRETS OF WHITEHALL: EVIDENCE OF ROMAN, SAXON AND MEDÆVAL WESTMINSTER REVEALED DURING THE CURRENT REBUILDING OF THE TREASURY AND DOWNING STREET—PART 1.

By H. J. M. GREEN, F.S.A.

THE early Victorian façade of the Old Treasury in Whitehall masks a complex maze of rooms belonging to different structures, some of which date back to the early 16th century. The combined effect of bombing during the last war and old age made drastic renovation necessary, and work began in 1950 under the direction of the then Ministry of Works. Sir Charles Barry's frontage was retained, but many of the late 18th- and 19th-century structures around Treasury Green have been necessarily replaced by new buildings. At the same time the opportunity was taken to modernise Nos. 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street, which adjoin the Treasury, and a parallel scheme of rebuilding has been carried out under Mr. Raymond Erith.

As soon as deep foundations and service trenches for the new buildings began to be dug it was clear that both sites concealed extensive archaeological remains. Many of those remains were quite unexpected, since on general historical grounds the

area was not expected to be very rich in archaeological structures earlier than the Tudor period. The resulting archaeological examination of the area has, broadly speaking, been carried out on a level. The upstanding Tudor buildings, large portions of which were found embedded in 18th-century structures in Dorset House, have been stripped of later accretions and consolidated. This work of reconstruction will be described by Mr. P. E. Curnow in a further article. Apart from the Tudor buildings above ground level, extensive remains of Whitehall Palace have been excavated together with underlying Medieval, Saxon and Roman levels. These emergency excavations, which have been under my direction since July 1961, could not have been carried out without the active co-operation of the contractor's staff and the help of both professional and amateur archaeologists, amongst whom were staff of the London Museum and members of the Thames Basin Archaeological Observers Group. The archaeological programme throughout has been dependent on the progress of the contractor's work, and has been organised so as to cause the minimum of interference with the building programme.

The earliest phase of occupation occur just above the post-glacial river gravels which lie between 15 ft. and 20 ft. below the present street level. An important natural feature of the site are the silty clay deposits of an old river bed which runs beneath and parallel with Downing Street. This river was either a branch of the Tyburn or possibly the main stream itself at an early phase of its existence. The impervious character of these river deposits led to the waterlogging of overlying rubbish deposits and ditches, leading to the preservation of wood, leather and fabrics.

Roman pottery, glass and building materials

occur in the flood silt above the gravel subsoil over the whole site. The pottery and glass is fragmentary and varies in date from the 1st to the 4th century A.D. It is the type of material which might perhaps be expected to occur scattered over the fields of a nearby Romano-British settlement. Rather more definite traces of occupation were found beneath the courtyard of No. 10 Downing Street. In 1960 pottery from what appears to have been a Romano-British rubbish pit was salvaged under difficult conditions by the workmen. The only pieces that have survived are three decorated sherds of Samian pottery dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. (Fig. 3).

Saxon occupation of the site, dating to the 9th century A.D., appears to have been centred on the Treasury Green area. In the south-east corner of the site, overlying the river deposits already described, was found the eastern end of a large Saxon building. This structure, a rectangular framed building of wood, was 26 ft. wide and was

divided into 18-ft. wide bays by principal posts set along the wall face. The circular base of one of these wooden posts, 9 ins. in diameter, was found preserved *in situ* (Fig. 15). Elsewhere footings for the principal posts were formed of re-used building tiles (Fig. 13), which included examples of both Roman (Fig. 2) and Saxon manufacture. Between the posts were discovered the foundation trenches for the walls, which may have been made of planks similar to those found in the subfloor. At the east end of the building there were indications of a projecting porch, which was probably provided with its own door and stood in front of the main entrance (Fig. 11).

The size of the principal posts indicates a light

form of construction for the roof, possibly a scissor truss or scissor bracing using timbers of a uniform scantling. No contemporary roofing materials were found, but just outside the north face of the building several large stones were found lying on the old ground surface. Their position suggests that they may have been used for thatch weights (Fig. 13).

Overlying the clay floor of the Saxon building was a layer of occupation rubbish 12 ins. thick (Figs. 14-16). In this layer and in the pits and ditches outside were found many domestic objects which had been lost or abandoned.

Thousands of broken animal bones were discovered, mainly of domestic species such as ox, sheep, pig and horse, but also including wild animals such as deer. Their detailed examination by members of the Bone Research Scheme will throw important light on the fauna of south-east Britain at this period. Most of the animal bones show marks of skilful butchery, and several worn-out iron scaramasax knives which may have been used in this work have been found. With them (Fig. 7) were discovered the schist bones which were used to sharpen the knives.

Evidence for the grinding of corn was provided by the discovery of broken pieces of basalt lava querns imported from Mayen, Germany. The corn was stored in shallow pits outside the building, one of which still preserved traces of the wicker basket which had lined it. After they had ceased to be used as storage pits (Fig. 14) they were filled with domestic rubbish.

Some of the domestic cooking appears to have been carried out at hearths near the building, and much broken pottery was found in these areas. The commonest type of cooking pot is of wheel-thrown Ipswich ware, the characteristic East Anglian pottery of this period. Small cooking pots were also found in handmade black fabric, the clay of which is grass tempered. This ware, which has affinities with pagan Saxon pottery, is found in the

western areas of Britain. Other domestic pottery

was also found in both wheelthrown and handmade

wares, some of which are hitherto unknown. Evidence

of international trade, in addition to the import of querns, is provided by the discovery of

white Badon pottery shipped from the Rhineland. One of these vessels has the characteristic rouletted

shoulder cordons of a wine jar, only the fifth to be recorded from this country.

Various domestic crafts appear to have been

carried on in the building. Notable amongst them are traces of spinning and weaving, which were

probably done on an upright loom (Fig. 6). A

chalk spindle whorl, broken clay loom weights and two finely polished bone threadpickers amongst

the weaving tools found. Further evidence of the presence of women is provided by the discovery of

a bronze hairpin of a type found at the Saxon

monastery of Whitby Abbey, and fragments of three elaborate bone combs (Fig. 5). A tool or

possibly a charm of a rather unusual kind was found on the floor of the building. This was a

Neolithic cell (Fig. 4) of polished flint which may have been already 3000 years old when it was

lost in the Saxon building.

Judging by the thick layer of household rubbish

that overlay the floor there can be no doubt that the building was used for domestic purposes. Architecturally its size and general arrangement

indicate a building of hall type, and it may therefore on structural grounds be described as a Saxon

hall. Whether it was a single homestead or lord's

residence, the archaeological settlement is not clear, nor indeed is the social status of its occupants.

The hall is, however, unique in its type of respects. It is the first building of its type and date to be found in London, and the first Saxon domestic building with

Continued opposite.

Early excavations in Westminster

The Savoy, Strand, 1930s
From Clark 1989

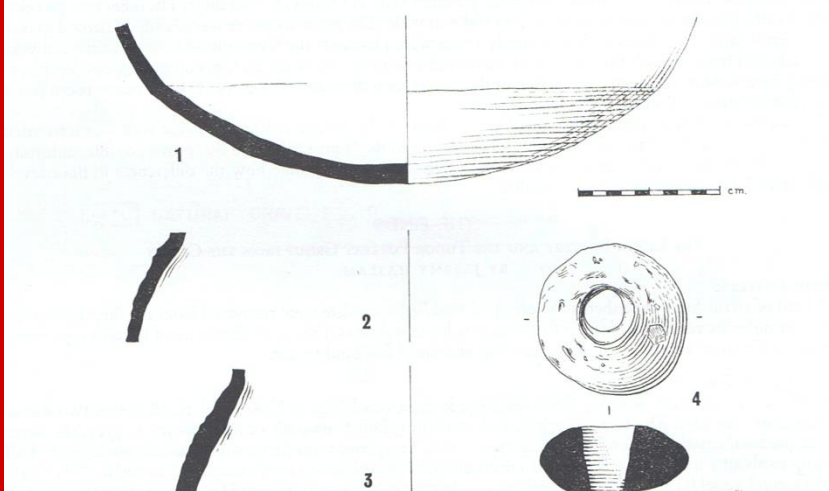


Fig. 6. Arundel House. The Saxon Finds (1/4)

The Treasury, 1960s

Arundel House, Strand, 1970s

Lundenwic as understood 1984

Focus on London

Professor Martin Biddle

London on The Strand

Popular Archaeology is privileged to publish a new concept for the development of early London from the 7th to 9th centuries. It comes from the pen of Professor Martin Biddle, formerly director of the Winchester Unit and the Philadelphia Museum, and particularly connected with London as author of "The Future of London's Past" (*Rescue*, 1974). By looking outside the familiar wall circuit of the City of London, this fresh approach attempts to solve the longstanding problem of locating what Bede called "an emporium of many people coming by land and sea" — one which, hitherto, had no coherent archaeological setting.

DURING the last few months three accounts of Anglo-Saxon London have appeared. All three, in different ways, emphasise the importance of London in the 7th to 9th centuries AD; all three agree that archaeological evidence for an important settlement of this period is elusive. None of them attempts to suggest where the settlement of this period might have lain.¹

The apparent absence of archaeological evidence for what Bede writing before 732 called "an emporium of many people coming by land and sea" has begun to lead some to doubt its very existence. In the last few years the idea has grown up "of a series of settlements or farms situated at intervals along the dry ridge forming the north bank of the river between the City and Westminster".² These were first thought of as adjacent to an "already thriving city", but the evidence for such a city of the 7th to 9th centuries has not appeared within the walls, despite all the work of the last ten years.³ The reality of Bede's emporium, as a large, densely settled centre of trade and manufacture, at least comparable to Hamwic (Southampton) or Ipswich, has thus for some writers receded or even disappeared, leaving in its wake only a pattern of scattered farms along the river bank from Arundel House to Whitehall.⁴

This simply will not do. And the writers of the three recent articles rightly do not attempt to follow this line of reasoning. No amount of negative evidence (even supposing it were valid) could contradict the documentary evidence for just such a thriving commercial centre at London in these centuries. It could only mean that something was seriously wrong with the interpretation of one or both kinds of evidence. And that, as I hope to show, is exactly the position here.

The documentary evidence for a major international trading centre at London in the 7th to 9th centuries far exceeds that available for any other

comparable centre this side of the channel, including the only two of which we yet know anything from archaeology: Hamwic and Ipswich. This is not the place to set out the written evidence for early medieval London in detail.⁵ By 672-4 ships were tying up there: in 679 a Northumbrian prisoner was sold to a Frisian, presumably a slave-merchant; by 673-85 there was a royal hall where men of Kent could have their purchases warranted in the presence of the king's town reeve (*wic-gerefa*); in 716 and again in 718 St Boniface took ship from London for Dorestad and Quentovic respectively; by 731-2 Bede described London (and no other place) as an "emporium of many people coming by land and sea"; in 716-45, 733, 734, and 743-5 tolls on ships in the port of London were granted to the bishop of London, the abbot of Thanet, the bishop of Rochester, and the bishop and church of Worcester, respectively, and in the latter grant "tax-collectors" are specifically mentioned; in 790 privileges in the port of *Lundenwic* may have been granted to the abbey of St Denis near Paris (this charter, like its confirmation in 857, is spurious; but may refer to a real transaction); and by 811 London could be described as "the famous place and royal town, the *vicus* of London".

This written evidence for a commercial centre where royal officers supervised trade and collected taxes is paralleled by the evidence of the coinage: a gold series inscribed *LONDUNIV* issued in the 630s was followed by successive types of silver sceattas from c 680 onwards into the 720s, some of which were inscribed *LVNDONIA*. Pennies are assumed to have been minted at London towards the end of Offa's reign and under his successor Coenwulf (796-821), but London is first named on a penny only in 829-30. In so far as the production of coin was at this period a function of the exchange of bullion, the existence of a London coinage implies the availability

of bullion in a commercial setting.

Beside this wide range of evidence for commercial activity, runs the history of the bishopric of London, founded in 604, and with an unbroken succession from at least c 675. But this, like the question of a royal residence in London, is a subsidiary issue here in considering the specifically commercial existence of London in the 7th, 8th and earlier 9th centuries.

The written evidence makes it quite clear that the London of these centuries was a physical reality. The dissonance between the documents and the archaeology must therefore be resolvable: the perceived negative of archaeology cannot negate written evidence derived from so many and such disparate sources. But since at last it seems clear (albeit on negative evidence, but by now a reasonably well-tested negative) that the commercial life of London (in the Hamwic sense) was not lived at this date within the Roman walls of London, it must have been lived elsewhere. This other place has to be near enough to the Roman city to be called "London" or "near London" or "London-something"; it has to be on the river; it has to be usable as a landing and trading place, and for it to be acceptable there has to be a range of evidence — topographical, archaeological, place-name, and documentary — which goes at least some way to support the case that this was the place where commercial London as we know it was born.

Only one site fulfills all these conditions: the strip of land west of the Roman walled city, along and especially to the south of Fleet Street and The Strand. Hilaire Belloc, of course, knew it all along.

A strip to the South of the Strand is a good situation for land. It is healthy and dry. And sufficiently high. And convenient on every hand. But then this particular set of his *Cautionary Verses* was subtitled *For adults only, and mature at that*.⁶

Topography

The valley of the River Fleet (now marked by Faringdon Street, Ludgate Circus and New Bridge Street) once severed the walled city from the high terrace of Flood Plain Gravel which extends in an unbroken line westward along the north bank of the Thames as far as Charing Cross and Trafalgar Square. St Bride's Church stands on the eastern end of the terrace above the

The Adwyth:

Mid-Saxon London Discovered?

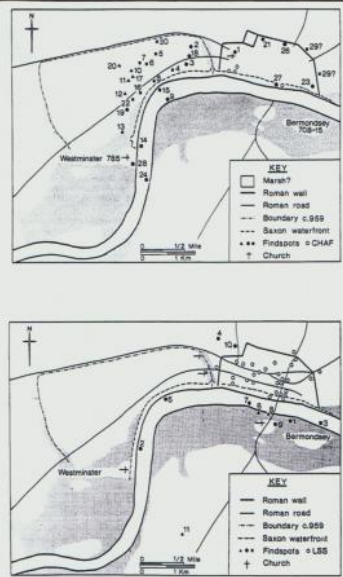
by Alan Vince

ACCORDING to the documents, London in the seventh, eighth and ninth centuries was an international port as well as the seat of the bishop of the East Saxons. Yet archaeological evidence for occupation on the site of the Roman city has been distinctly scarce. Now, at last, a possible reason for this discrepancy is clear. Apart from the cathedral, the remains of which presumably underlie the present St Paul's, London in the mid-Saxon period may have lain outside the Roman city, on a new, undefended site in the area of the modern Aldwych. The first extensive re-use of the Roman city can now be dated archaeologically to the decade 870-880, slightly before the recorded occupation of the city by King Alfred in 886.

This discovery was made by an extensive search of the collections in the basement of the Museum of London. The results of this search are shown opposite by the two distribution maps of finds which date from the seventh to mid ninth century (top) and from the late ninth to the early eleventh centuries (below). On the first map most of the finds are stray objects such as coins, coin-hoards and decorative metalwork which, individually, could be dismissed as having been deposited on the site long after their period of use (fig. 1 black circles). Five sites, however, were recorded in sufficient detail to show that the mid-Saxon finds were in situ. Two, St. Martin-le-Fields (no. 12) and Drury Lane (no. 10), were seventh century pagan burials (fig. 1 triangles) and three, the Savoy (no. 8), Arundel House (no. 4) and the Treasury site in Whitehall (no. 13) were occupation sites (fig. 1 squares). All these sites lie close to the Strand, the medieval street linking Westminster to the City. Taken together they indicate a continuous area of settlement over one square km (c. 112 ha) in extent. This area is much larger than that covered by any other contemporary English settlement. Saxon Southampton, for example, only occupied an area of c. 30 ha. Remarkably, the mid-Saxon settlement was similar in extent to the area within the walls occupied in the late ninth to early eleventh century (shown by the open circles on the second map). On the grounds of size alone the earlier settlement cannot have been self-supporting for food and must therefore have been involved in trade or industry. The evidence for trade at present comes only from the coinage and documents while the only industry for which there is archaeological evidence is cloth manufacture: seven of the seventeen sites produced loom weights. However, almost every mid-Saxon settlement known has produced evidence for weaving, and we must expect that most of the cloth exported via London was brought to the site in its finished state.

The churches

In the late ninth to early eleventh century almost all the extra-mural finds come either from suburban development along the main roads out of the city or from the Saxon burh of Southwark. There is certainly no concentration of finds along the Strand, but two churches lie in this area: St. Andrew Holborn and St. Bride. These churches may date back to the mid-Saxon period. St. Andrew was described as old by the mid-tenth century and Prof. Grimes certainly believed that he had found early Christian burials at St. Bride. If so, these churches might have been left standing in the tenth century without a surrounding settlement. A similar pattern is



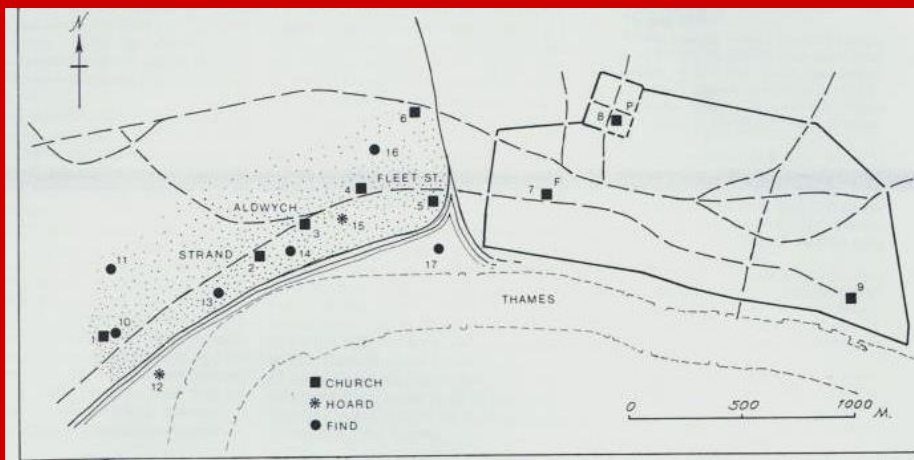
found at Southampton, where St. Mary's church at the south end of the mid-Saxon settlement remained the minster church after the town had moved to its medieval site. It must be admitted that the total quantity of finds of mid-Saxon date discovered to date is very small. Many of the finds could be chance losses in areas that were not in occupation, for example a gold finger-ring and a silver sword pommel. Some are more mundane and should indicate occupation, for example postholes and loom weights. Nevertheless, it might be argued that the finds are not in their original position but have been carried out of the city as part of a cellar digging or more major earth-movements (such as Martin Carver has demonstrated took place at Shrewsbury). However no tenth century material was found in the Strand area, and little of early medieval date either. In any dump of soil from the city, Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds would be present in large quantities. We can probably assume that, with the possible exception of finds recovered from the Thames silt, all the mid-Saxon artefacts plotted on the upper plan were lost or discarded close to where they were found.

Where was Saxon London? The upper map shows the finds of the seventh to mid-ninth centuries, which clearly concentrate outside the Roman city, along the Strand. The lower map shows finds from the late ninth to the early eleventh centuries.

(CHAF = Chaff-tempered wares, LSS = Late Saxon Shelly wares).

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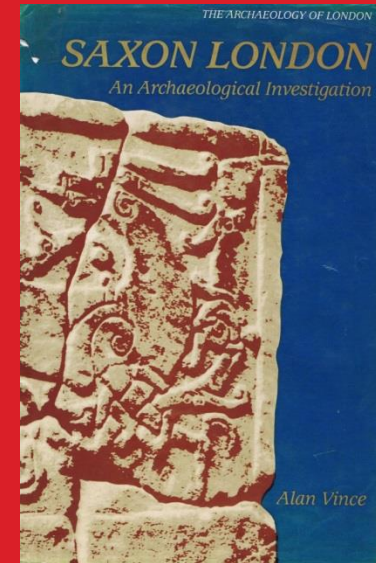
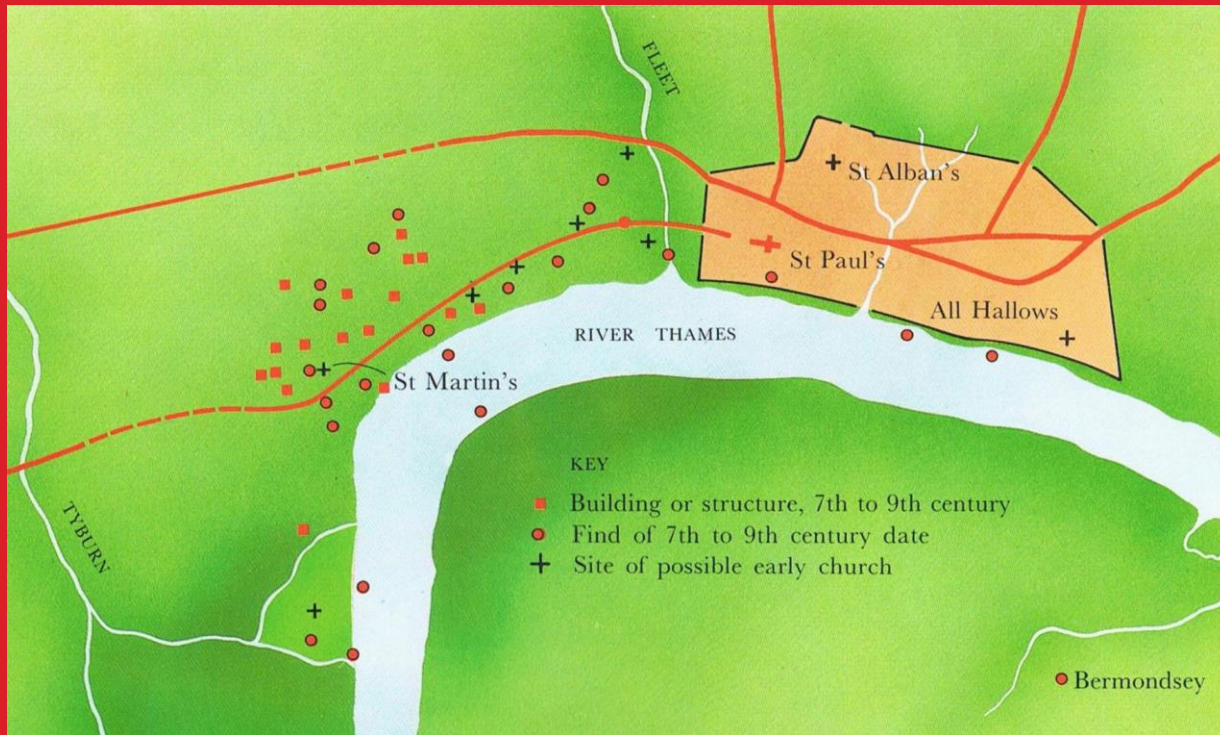
From The London Archaeologist



The Strand/Fleet Street terrace and the walled city. Roads and churches of known or possible early date, and finds of the 7th to 9th century from the Strand/Fleet Street terrace, are shown as follows: 1. St Martin in the Fields; 2. St Mary-le-Strand; 3. St Clement Dances; 4. Dunstan in the West; 5. St Bride; 6. St Andrew, Holborn; 7. St Paul's; 8. St Alban, Wood Street; 9. All Hallows Barking; 10. St Martin in the Fields, palm-cup(s) and burials; 11. Garrick Lane ring; 12. "Waterloo Railway Bridge" hoard; 13. Savoy, pottery and loom-weights; Arundel House, pottery and loom-weights; 15. Middle Temple hoard; 16. Fettes Lane pommel; 17. Blackfriars, gold tremis; "P", possible ro palace at Cripplegate; "F", the possible (early?) site of the folkmoat. Stippling indicates the possible extent of 7th to 9th century occupation the Strand/Fleet Street terrace. Note: the "Thames" sceatta hoard(s) and the various other sceatta finds from the Thames are not yet close enough located to be mapped.

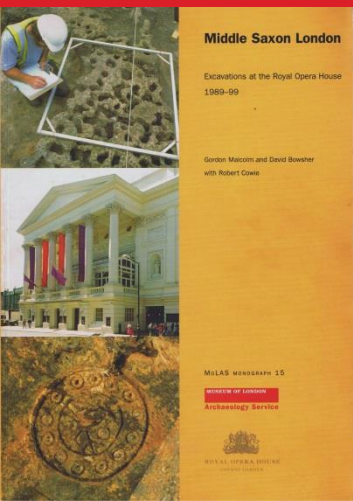
From Popular Archaeology

Middle Saxon London, as understood c 1990



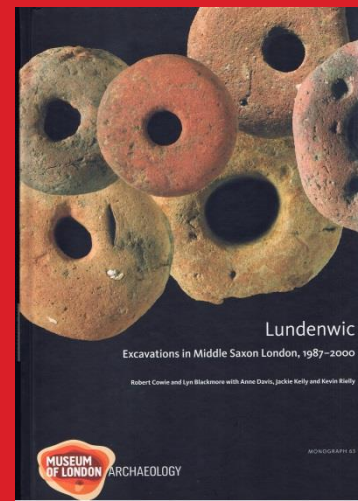
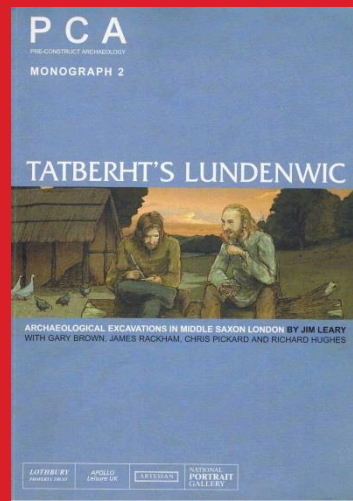
Vince
1990

Map from Clark 1989



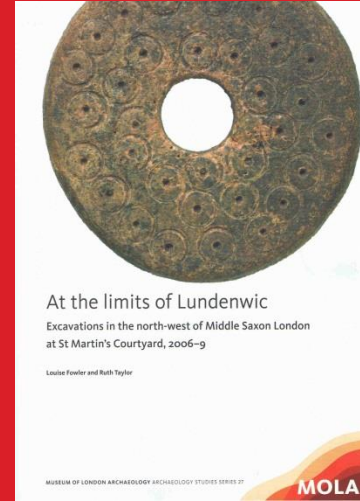
2003

2004



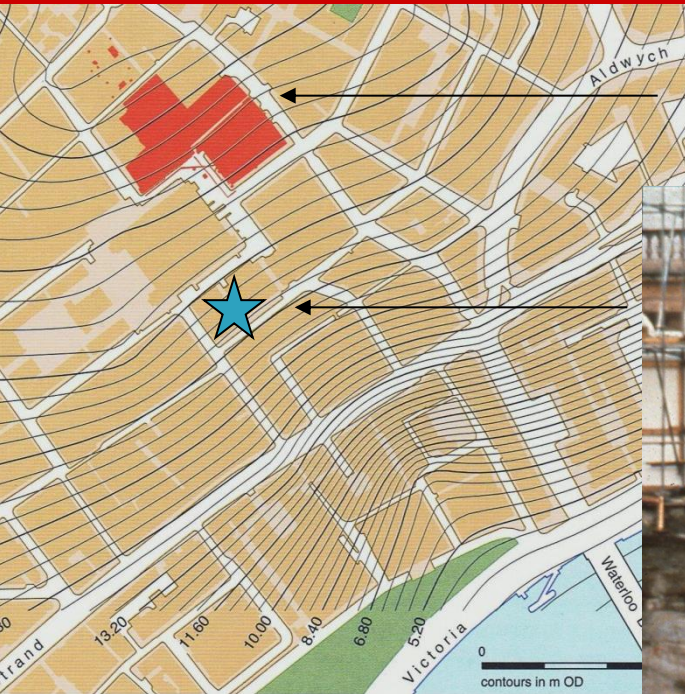
2012

2013



Lundenwic 'discovered' 1984

First excavation at Jubilee Hall, 1985



Royal Opera House



Since then over 80
excavations and
watching briefs
carried out

Early and Middle Saxon London

- coming out of the Dark Ages?

1. Background

- Rural settlement and burial *c* AD 400-650**
- The City and Lundenwic, early finds**

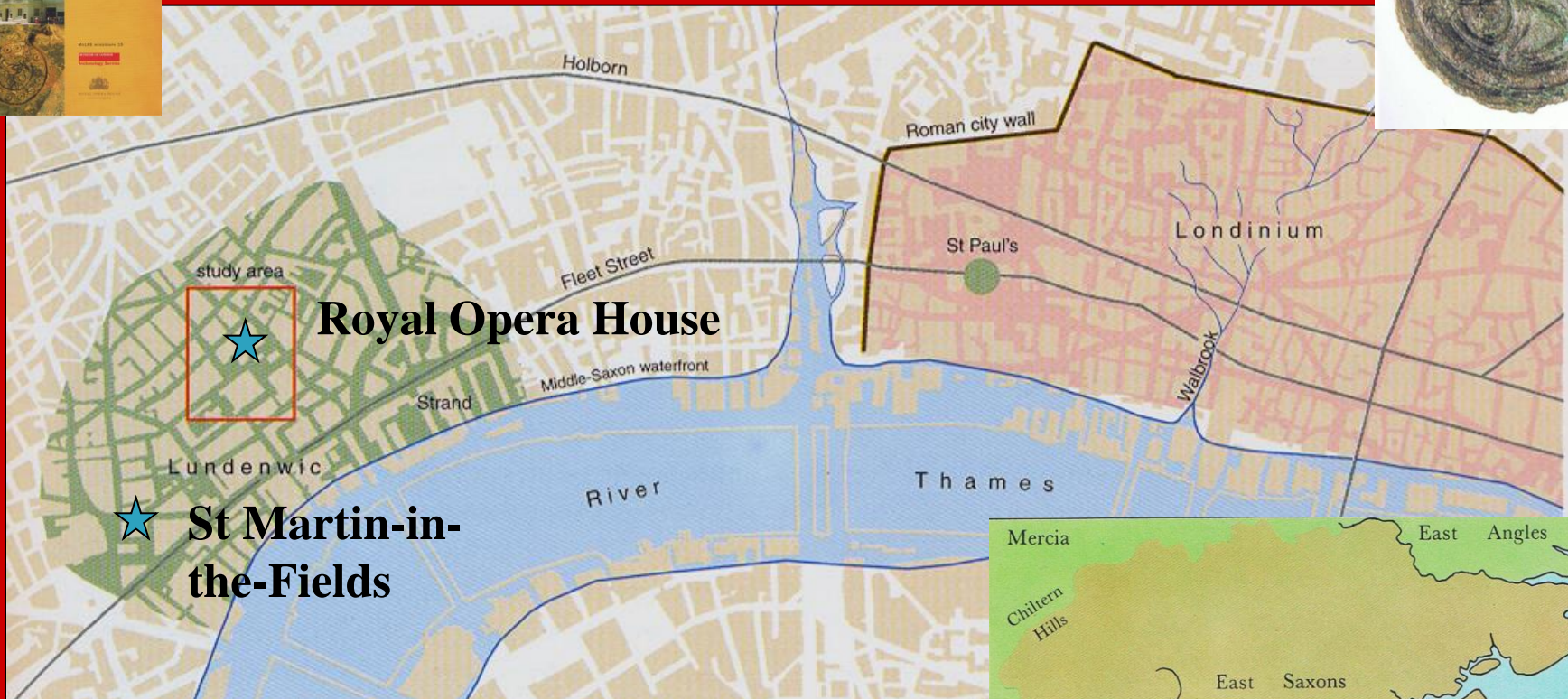
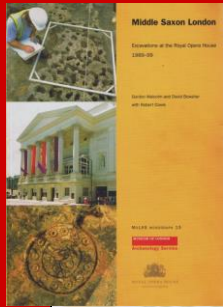
2. The development of Lundenwic

- Roman to Saxon**
- Burials**
- Growth and organisation of Lundenwic**
- Trade and industry**
- Decline**

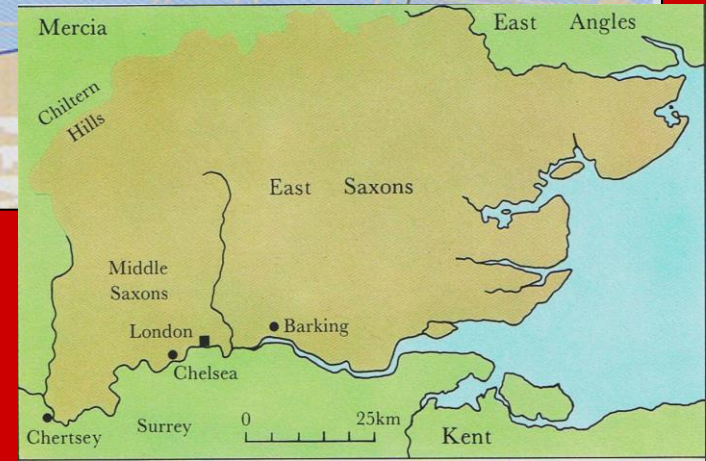
4. Summing up

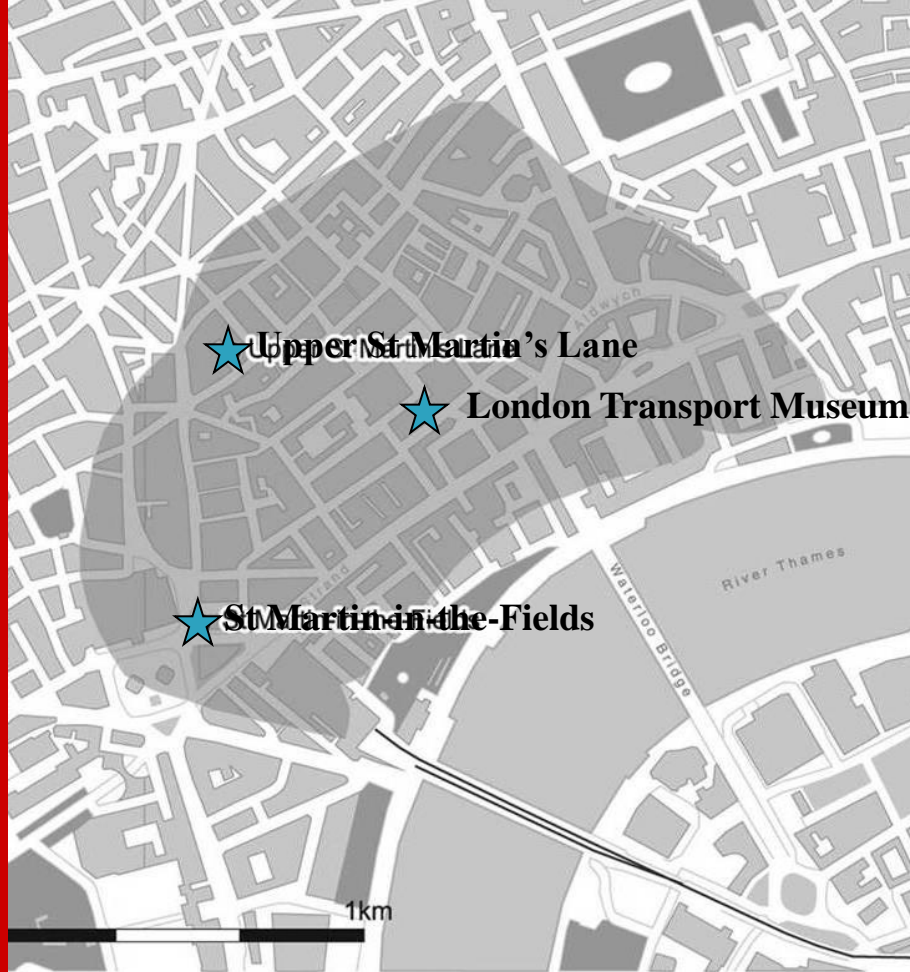
Lundenwic *c* AD 700, as understood 2003

Late 6th-/7th-century saucer brooch, Royal Opera House



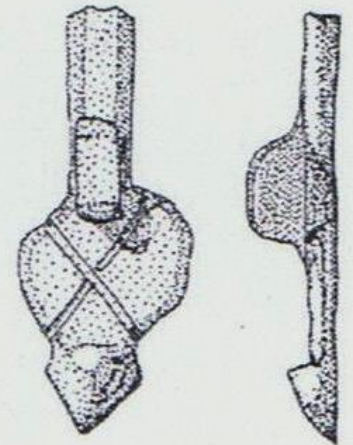
Royal Opera House site (ROP95), the largest in Lundenwic (2500m²)





*Medieval
Archaeology
2008*

*London
Archaeologist
2006*



**New discoveries
2003 to 2009**

London Archaeologist 2004



Fig. 1: the site location with an inset of Greater London

The origins of Lundenwic? Excavations at 8–9 Long Acre/16 Garrick Street, WC2

**Lyn Blackmore
Alan Vince
Robert Cowie**

Introduction

This article summarises the results of an excavation undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeology Service in advance of proposed redevelopment (Fig. 1)¹. The investigation, which extended across the entire area of the site, revealed a number of Saxon features. A small amount of pottery and other finds were recovered

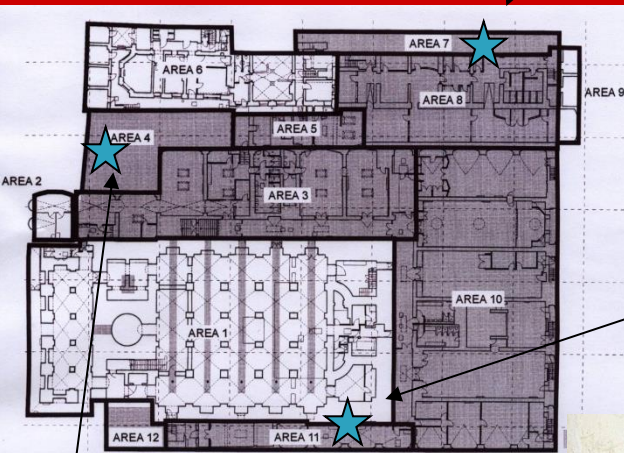
centre of *Lundenwic*. Also revealed were natural geological features and post-medieval remains, details of which are available in the archive.²

Archaeological background

Lundenwic was an important port that functioned as part of a network of trading settlements around the coast of north-west Europe.³ Over the past

1st- and 3rd-century timber
buildings

St Martin-in-the-Fields, excavations 2005-7



Double-flue tile kiln made of reused roof tiles
with thick outer wall of chalk; cut by 19th-
century drain

Late Roman burials



Archaeomagnetic
dating: last firing
AD 400-500



St Martin-in-the-Fields

The reused sarcophagus



19th-century damage at the head end may explain missing skull



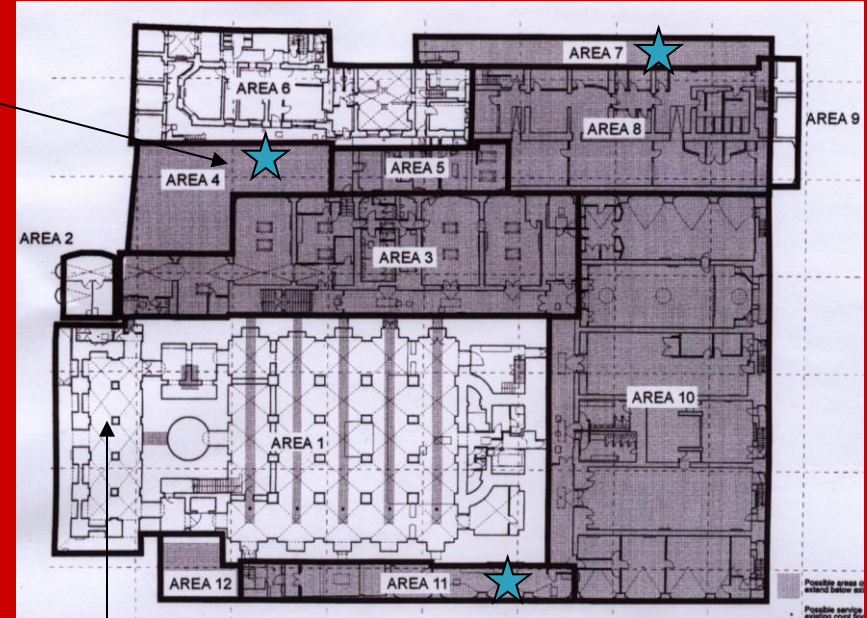
St Martin-in-the-Fields, excavations 2005-7



Burial 1 (disturbed) with coin of
Constantius (AD 355-65)



Skull from burial 1 found in later
?grave cut with urn of c AD 430-500



At least two sarcophagi,
two palm cups and a
spear found c 1722
when portico
constructed

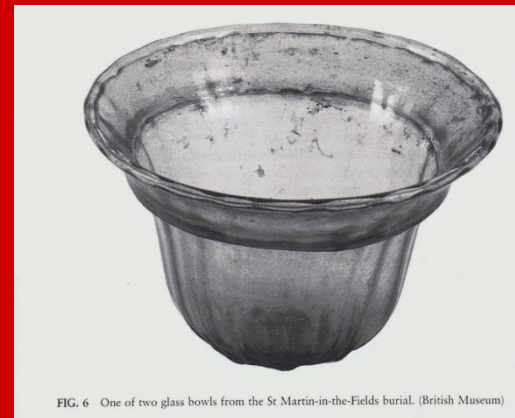
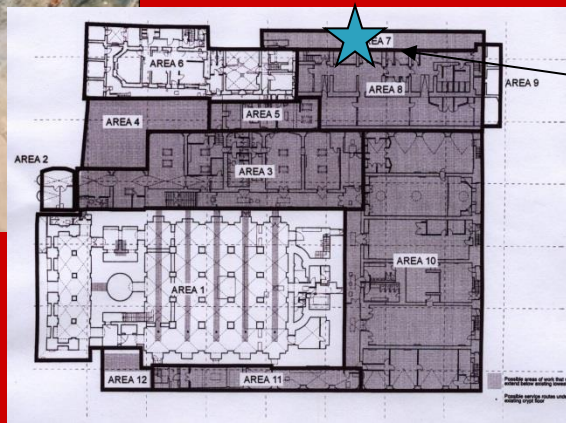


FIG. 6 One of two glass bowls from the St Martin-in-the-Fields burial. (British Museum)

St Martin-in-the-Fields

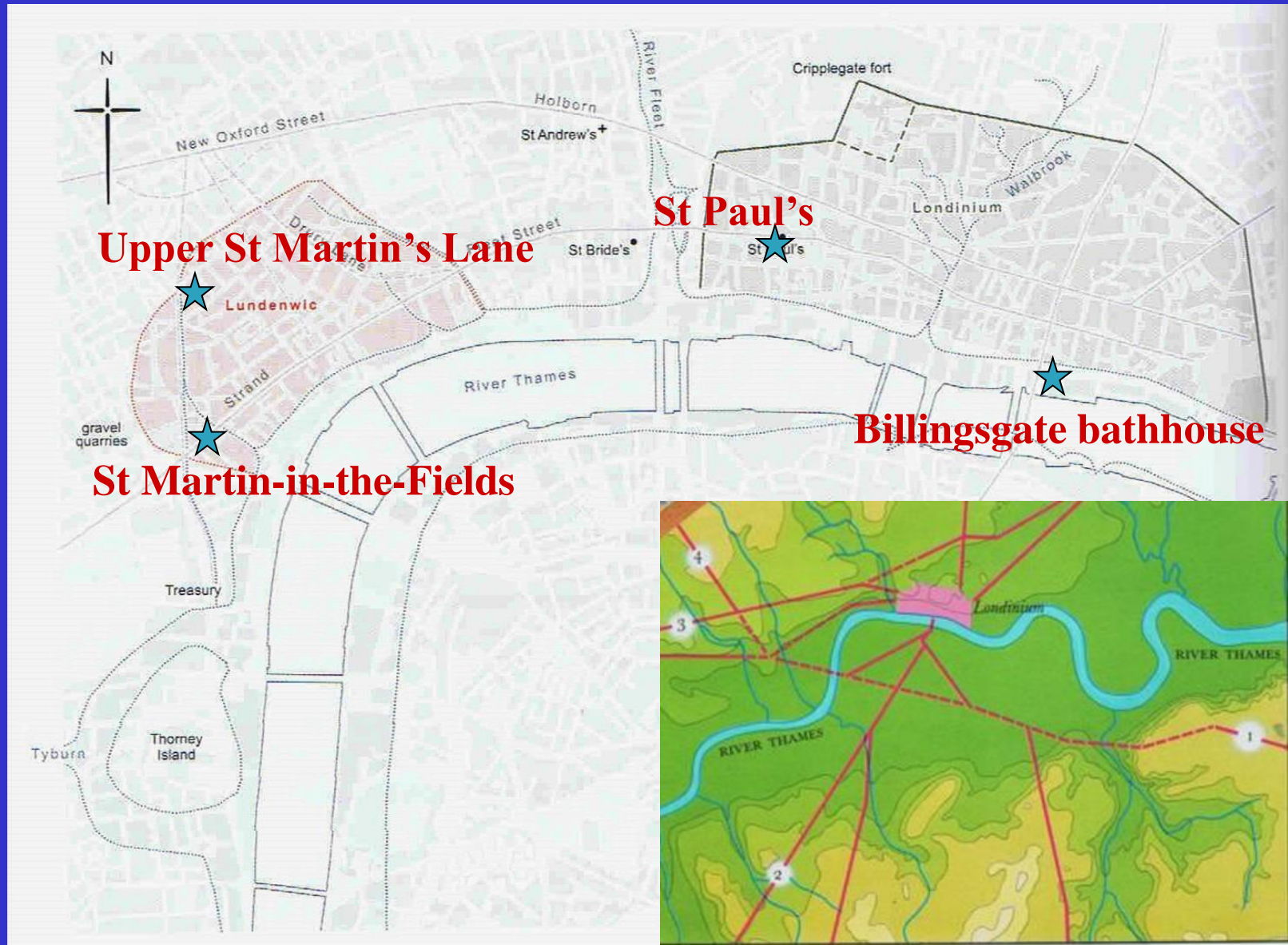


Sarcophagus



Mud-brick oven, C¹⁴ date AD 540-600; imported glass bead of *c* AD 550-600 found in deposit over the oven, which was cut by a beamslot

From Roman to Saxon London





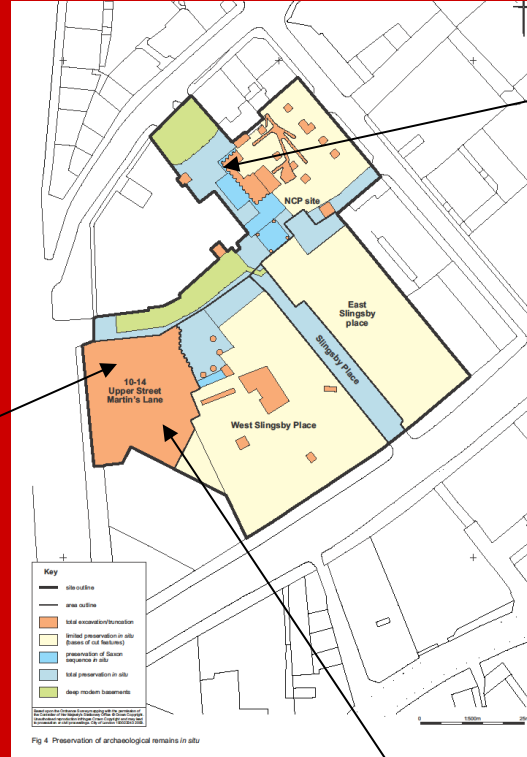
Tower Street
6th-century
small-long
brooch

British
Museum

Excavations at Upper St Martin's Lane, 2007-9



Roman
brooch, 3rd
century, with
parallel and
distribution
(Hattat 1989)



Cone beaker, late
5th-/6th-century



12 sherds
Early Saxon
pottery



London Transport Museum 2005

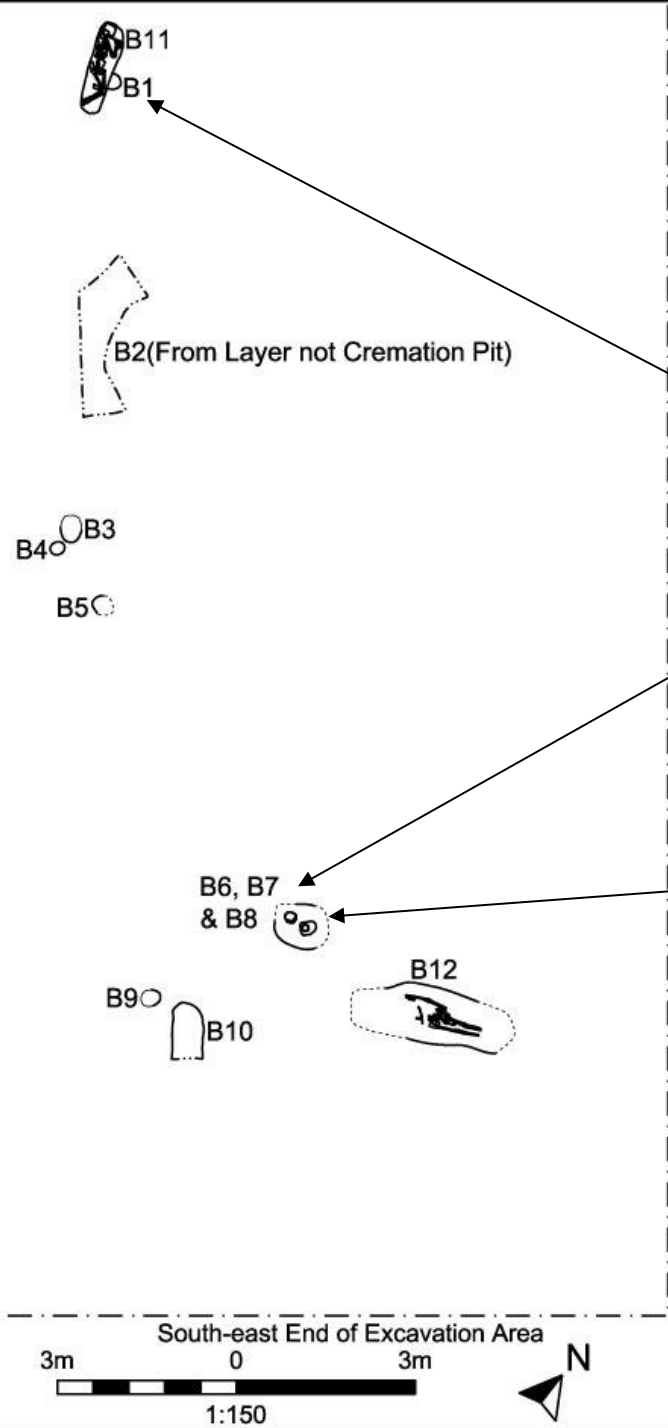
C¹⁴ dating of cremations

B1: AD 410-550 (95% confidence),

AD 480-540 (42% confidence)

B8: AD 430-640 (95% confidence),

AD 530-610 (67% confidence)

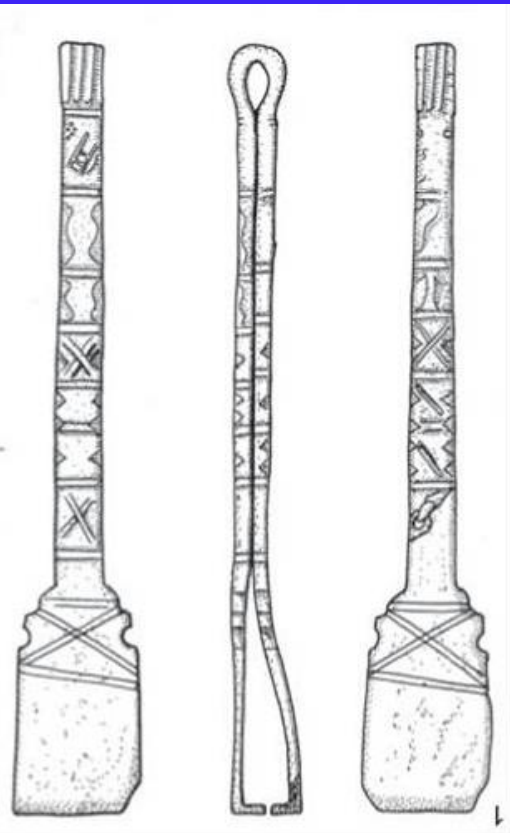


Cremation
pot B6

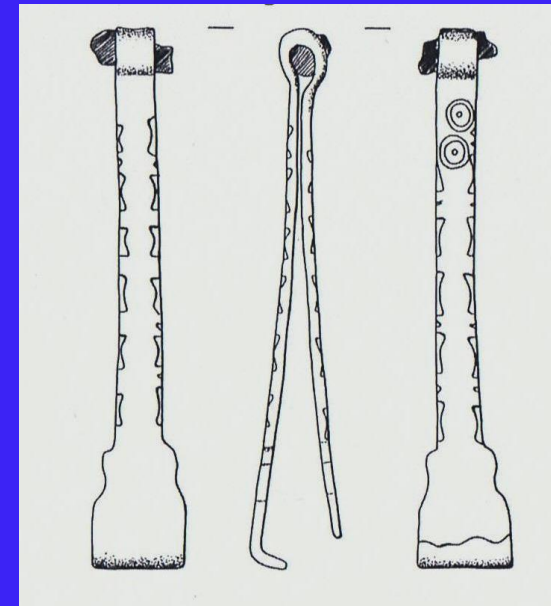
© Museum of
London

London Transport Museum 2005

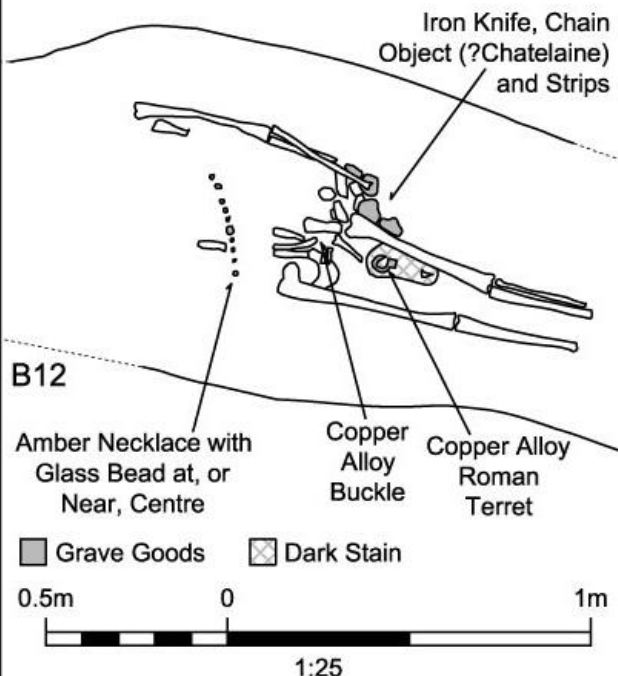
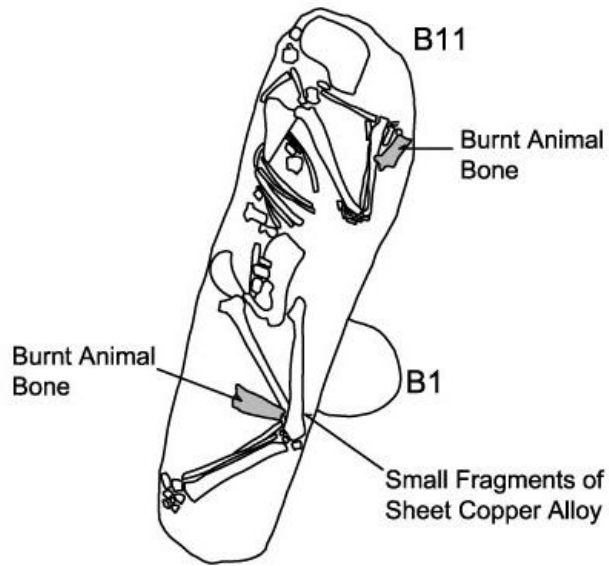
5th- to 6th-century tweezers from cremation pit <B6/B7/B8>



Length 77mm



Copper alloy
tweezers found at
Broechem, Belgium
(Annaert and van
Heesch 2004)



London Transport Museum

Inhumations B11 and B12 with finds from B12

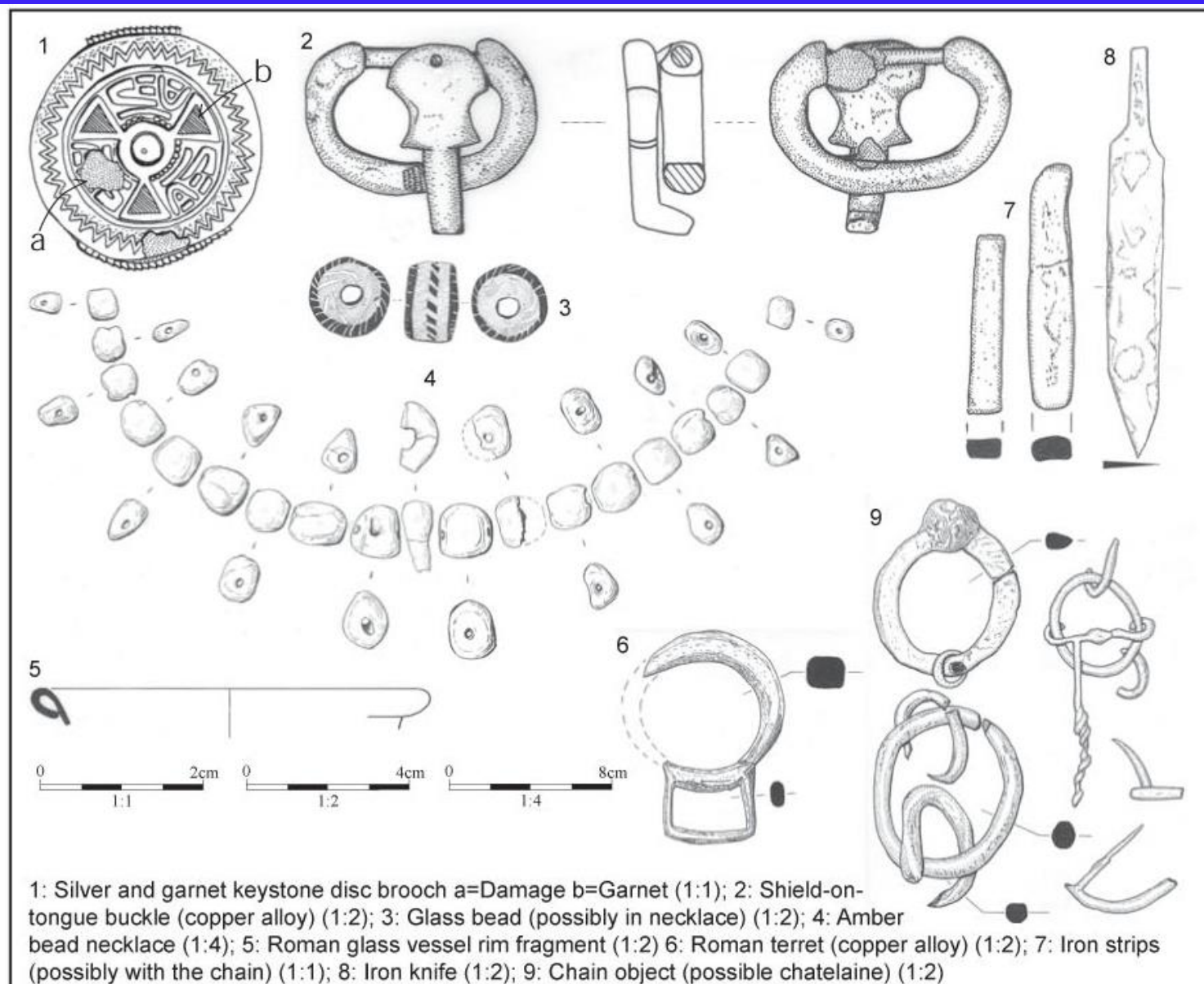


Kentish disc brooch
from well cutting B12

London Transport Museum 2005

Finds from
inhumation
B12
c AD 575-600

- 1. Kentish disc brooch
- 2. Frankish-type buckle
- 3, 4. Imported beads



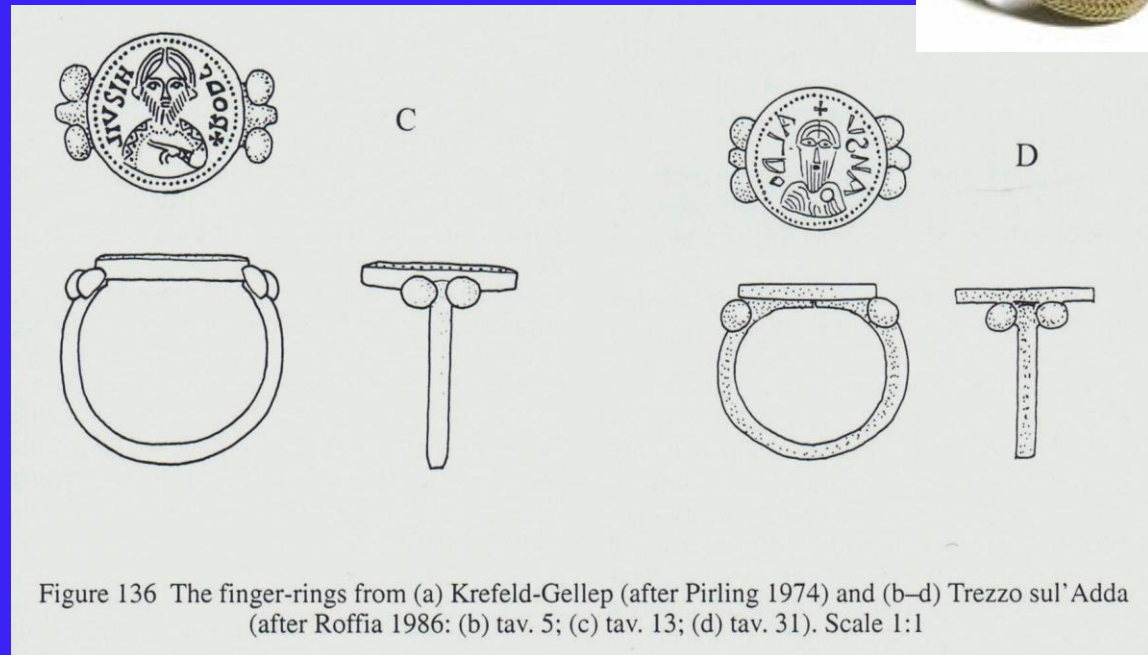
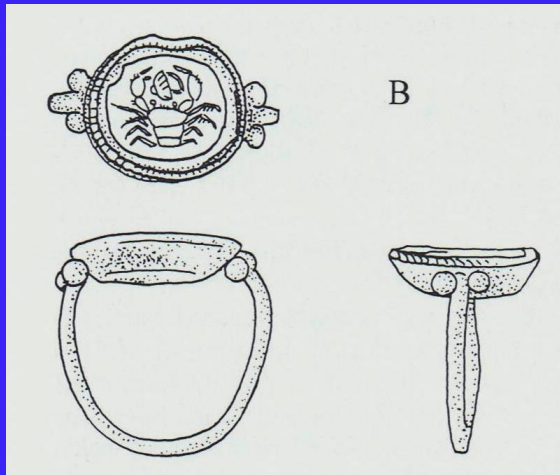
St Martin-in-the-Fields: high status male burial *c* AD 660



St Martin-in-the-Fields – parallels for the silver ring

The silver ring worn on the left hand of the high status male suggests that he was an official, possibly overseeing the development of the wic, or a port reeve, charged with endorsing transactions

Garrick St
(Lundenwic),
gold ring, late
7th/8th century
British Museum



St Martin-in-the-Fields: female grave group *c* AD 650-660



Amethyst beads

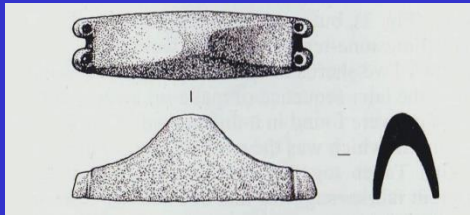
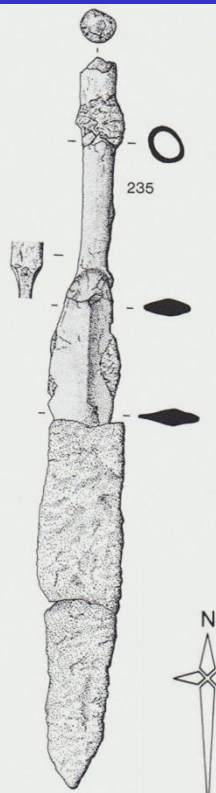


Kentish gold pendant with
green glass setting

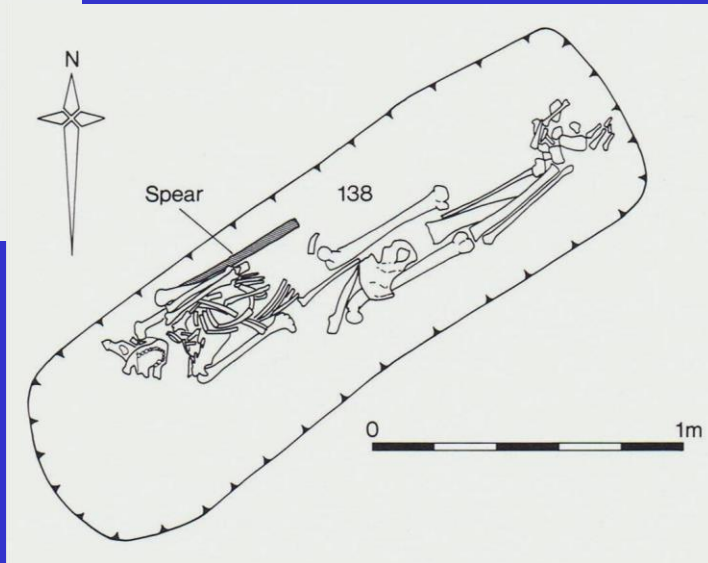


Glass beads and
silver ring

Weapon burials in Covent Garden

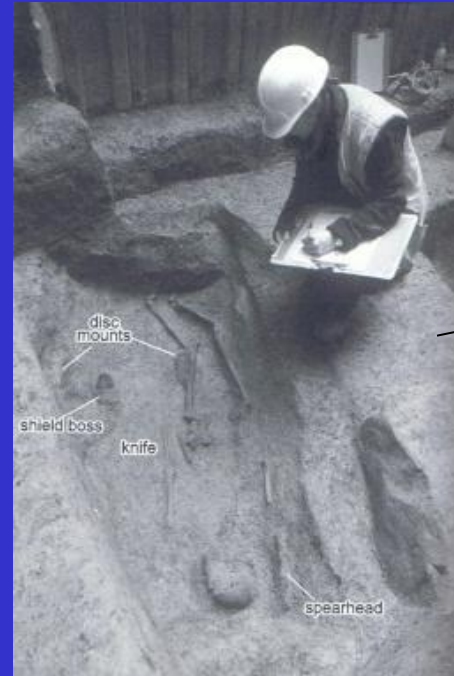


Floral Street (MOLA)

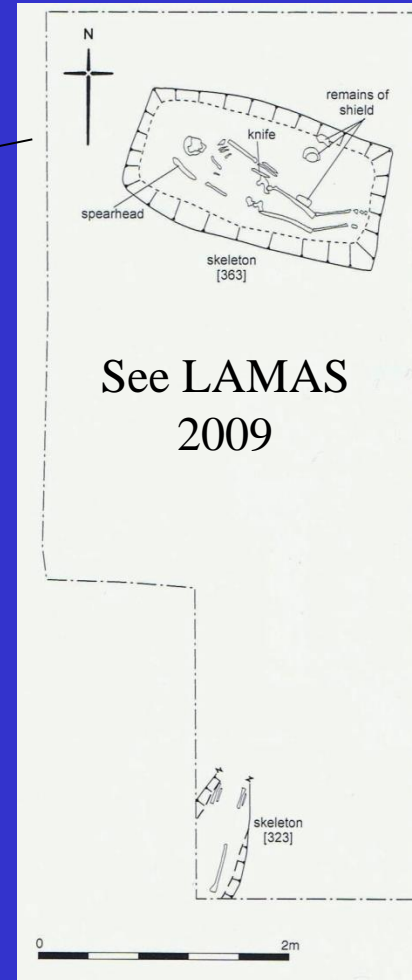


Bedfordbury (MOLA)

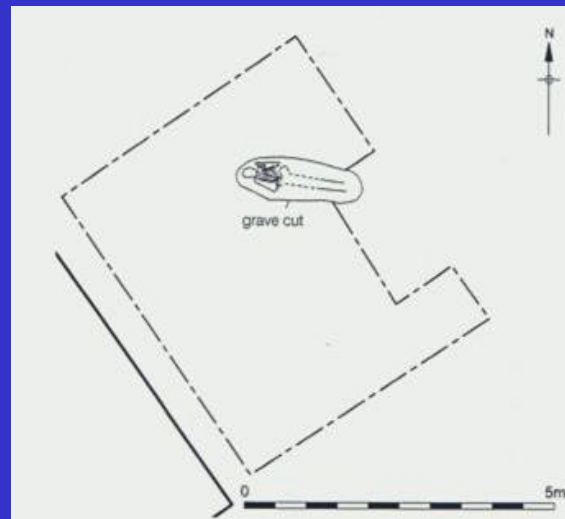
James Street (PCA)



James Street (MOLA)



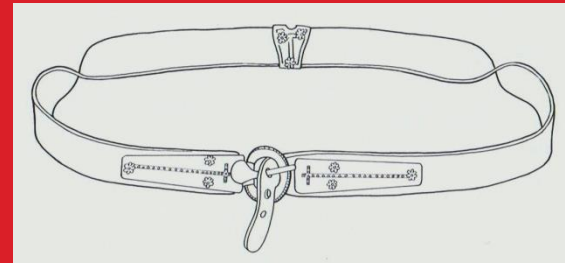
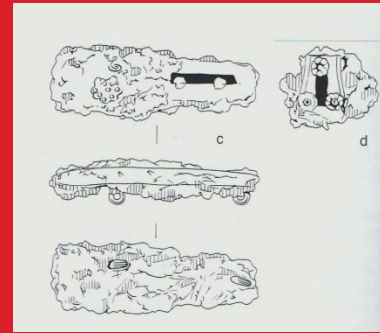
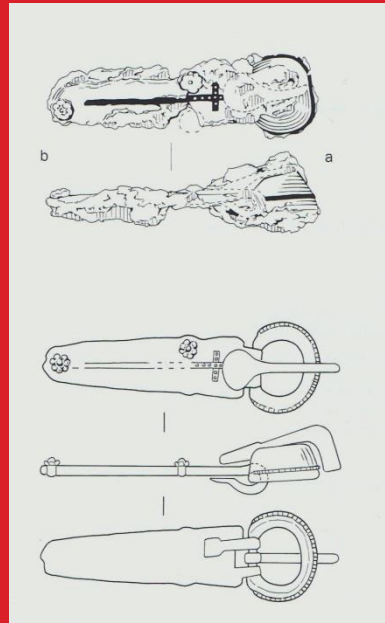
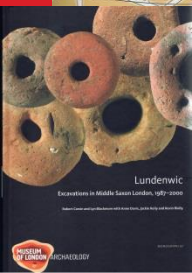
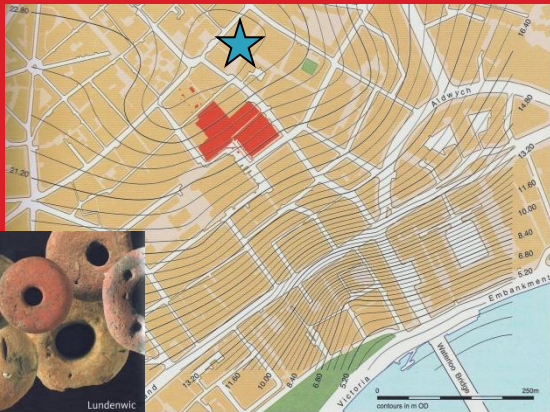
See LAMAS
2009



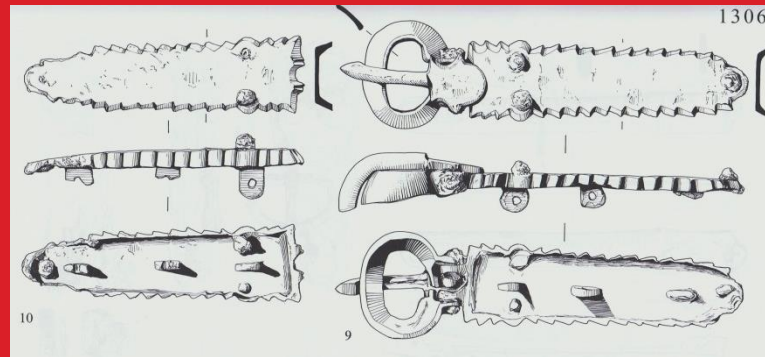
Long Acre: male with Continental belt suite – burial of a foreign merchant?



C¹⁴ dates: cal AD 655-715
(95%), AD 660-695 (68%)



Bern-Solothurn
type, AD
660/70–700/10

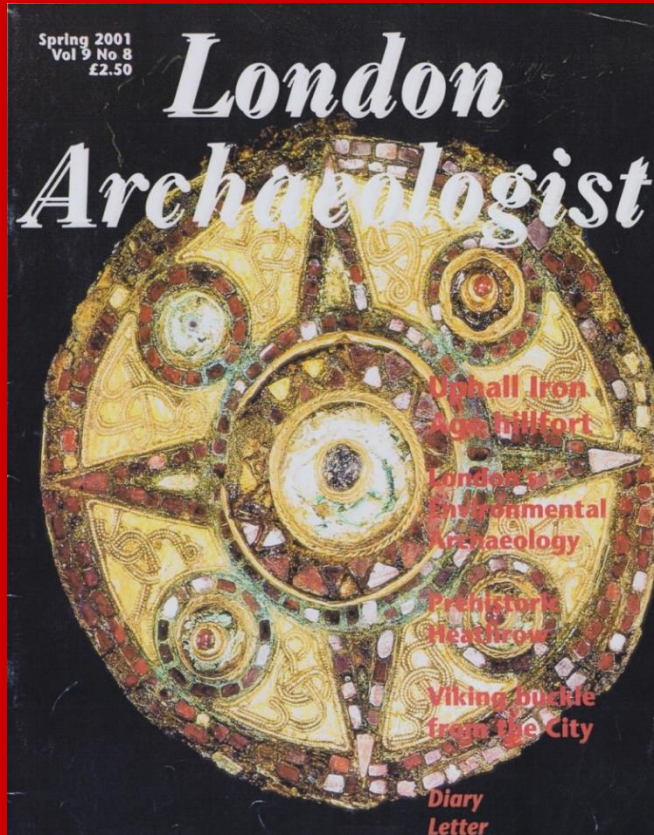
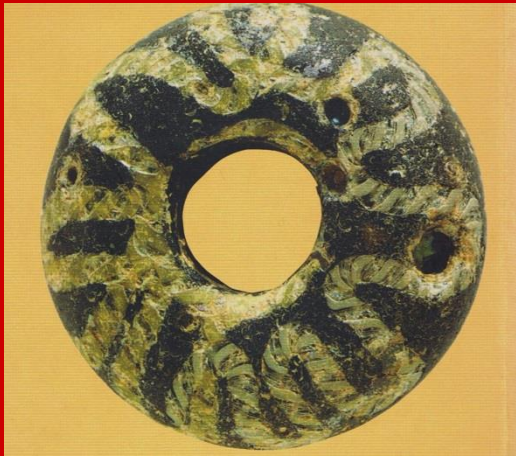


Ipswich
Buttermarket
grave 1306

Female burials and jewellery



Opera House: saucer brooch (late 6th-/7th-century) and annular reticella twist bead (later 7th-century)



Floral Street: Kentish composite disc brooch, c AD 650-670



Drury Lane: one coiled gold bead, like those on the Desborough necklace c AD 650-700

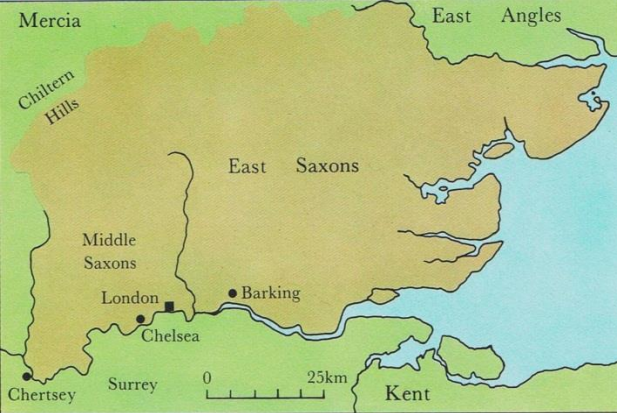


From burials to wic

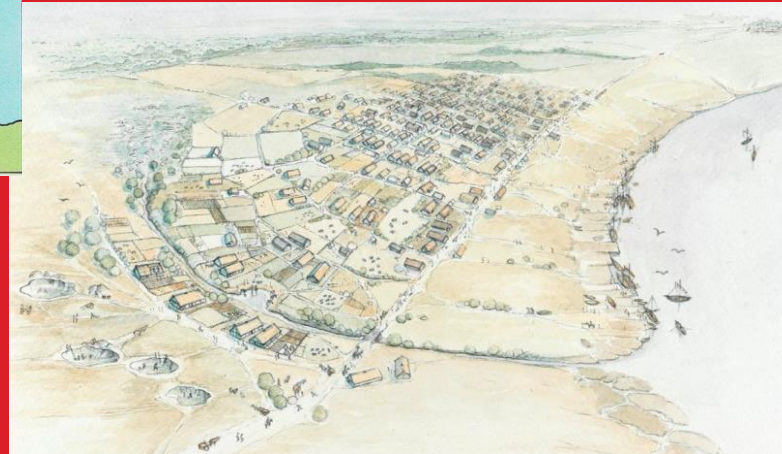


122 Map showing the conjectured line of the main road (R1) and the defensive ditch (S12) found at the Royal Opera House site, in relation to the settlement of Lundenwic, Lundenwic excavations referred to in the text, and the contours of the present-day land surface (1.0m contour interval; scale 1:8000)





The development of Lundenwic ?by Wulfhere of Mercia (658-75)



Reeve witnessing
transactions in royal
hall for kings of Kent
by AD 680

York Buildings: waterfront timbers
dendro-dated to *c* AD 679; river
100m to south of Strand

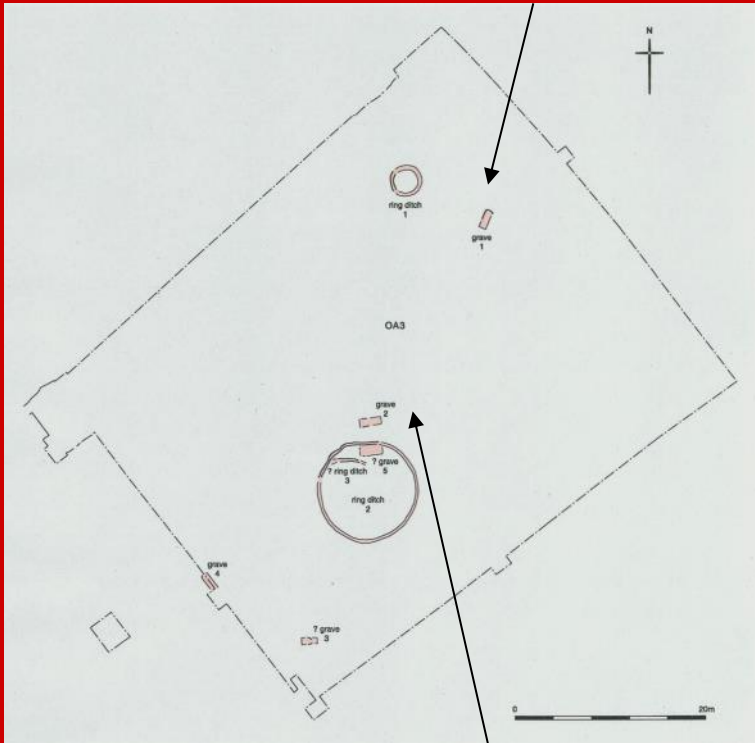


References: '*portum Lundoniae*' AD 672-674
'*supra vicum Lundoniae*' AD 687

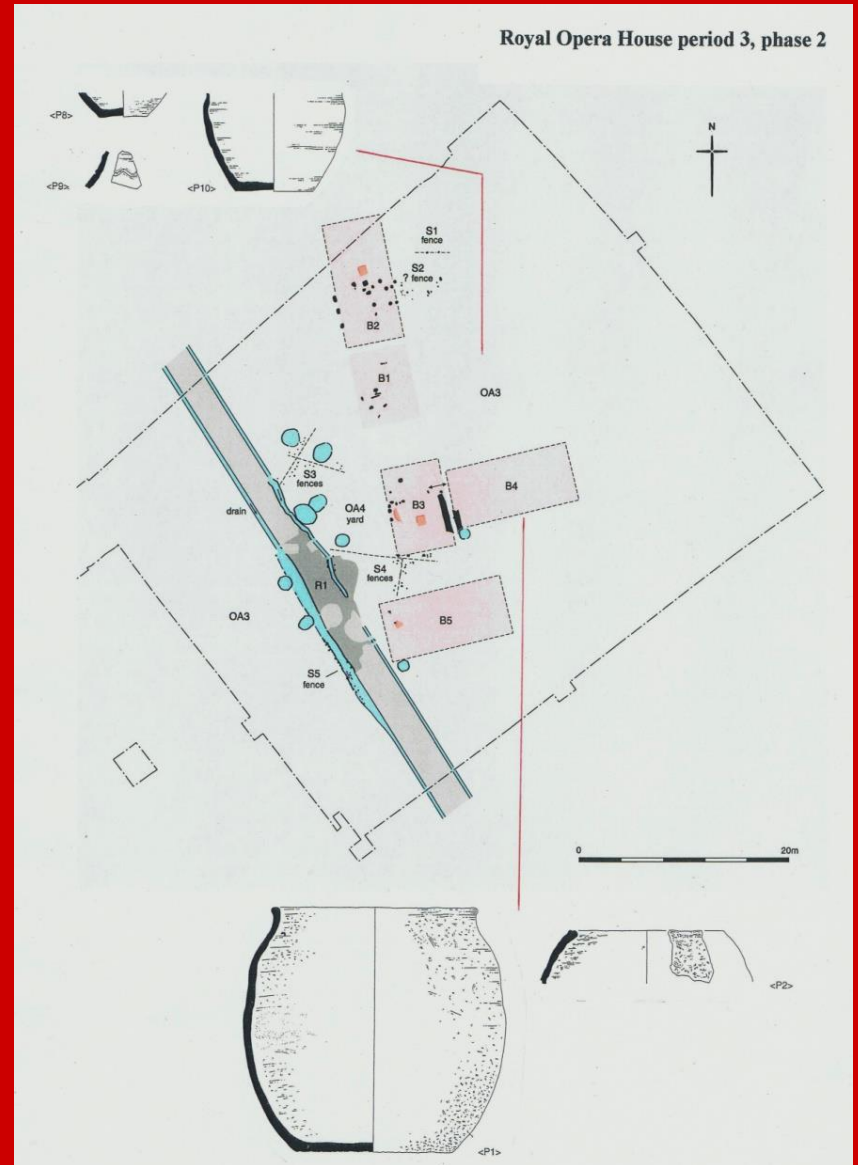
Royal Opera House: Period 3 (*c* AD 600-675)

C14 dating

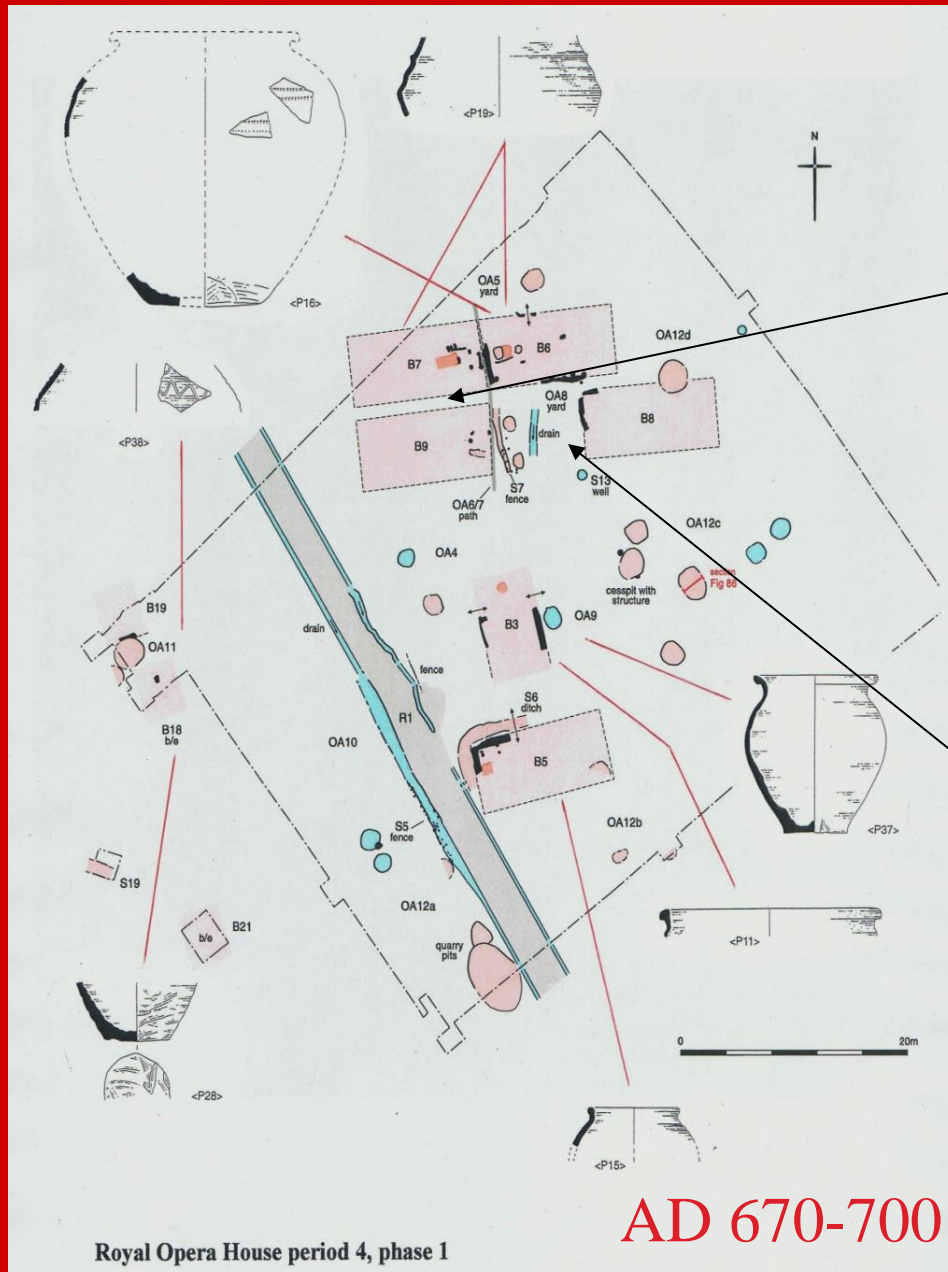
Grave 1: AD 607-660 (1 std dev)
AD 559-676 (2 std dev)



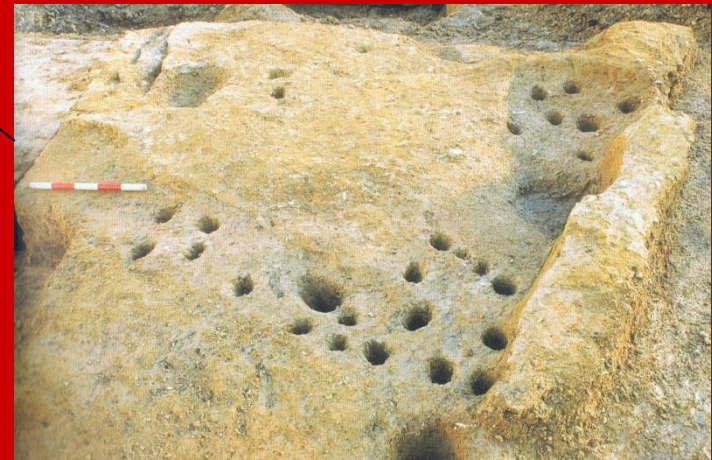
Grave 2: AD 640-673 (1 std dev)
AD 604-756 (2 std dev)



Royal Opera House, Period 4.1



Hearth of Roman tiles, building 7

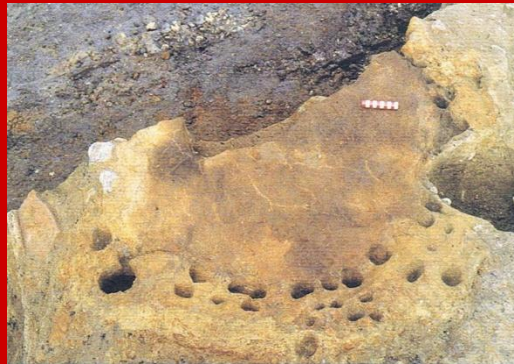


Remains of wall bench, building 8

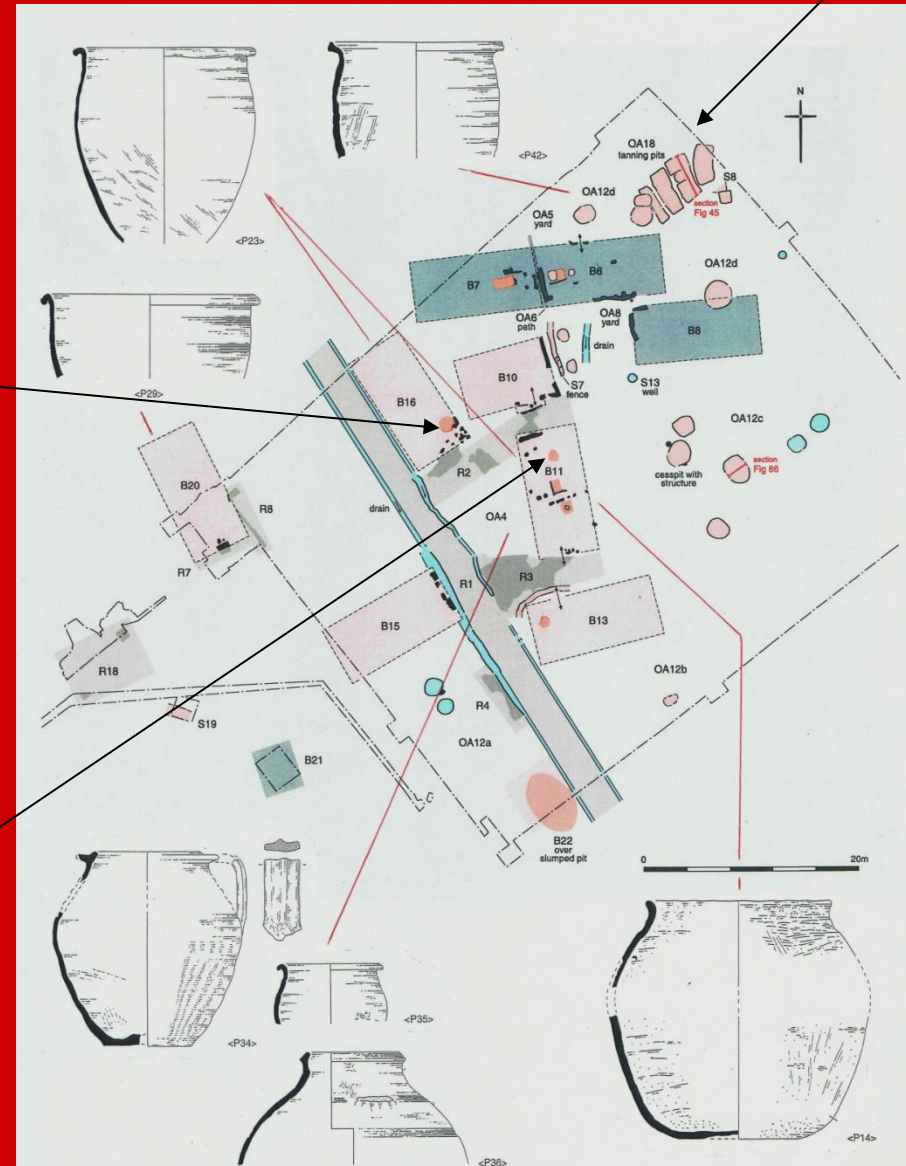
Royal Opera House, period 4.2

Tanning pits

Cobbled oven
base and
framework,
building 16



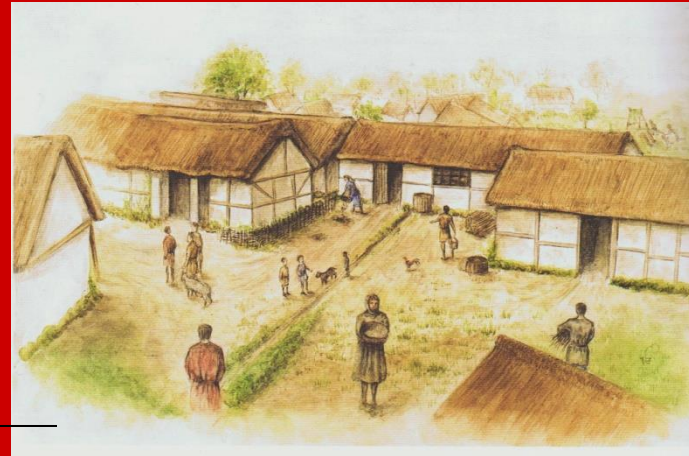
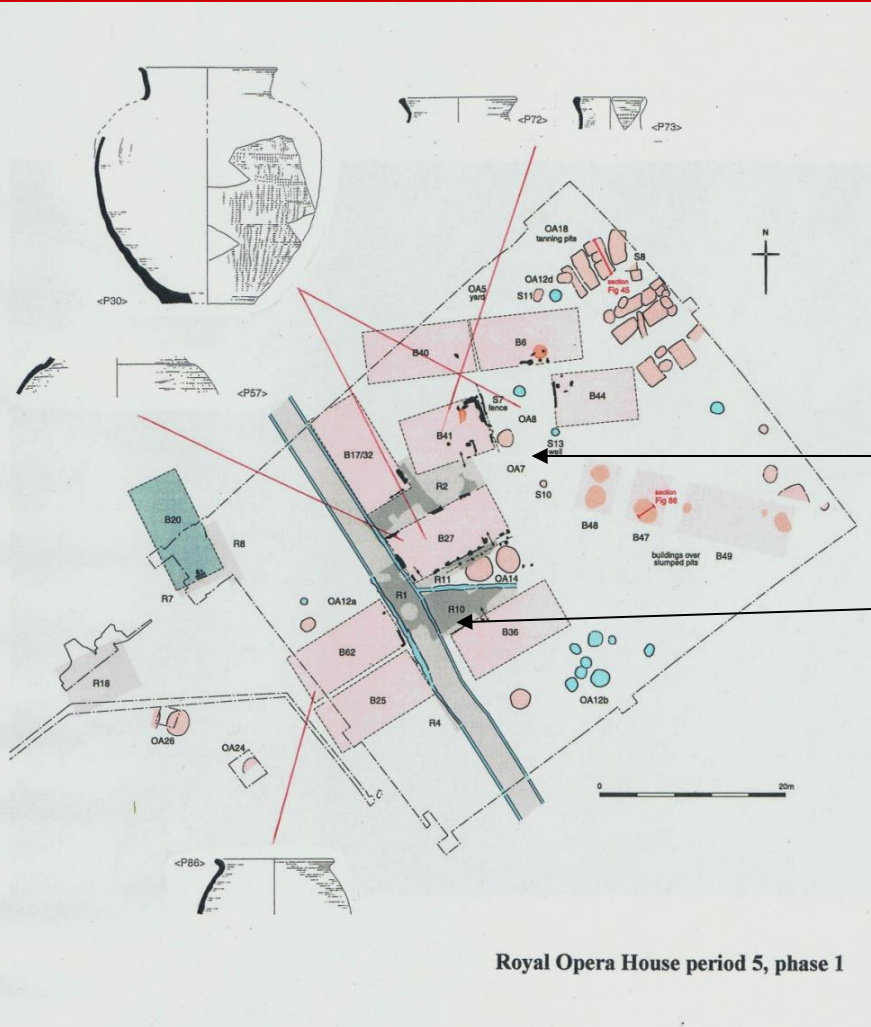
Circular hearth
or oven base of
Roman tiles,
building 11



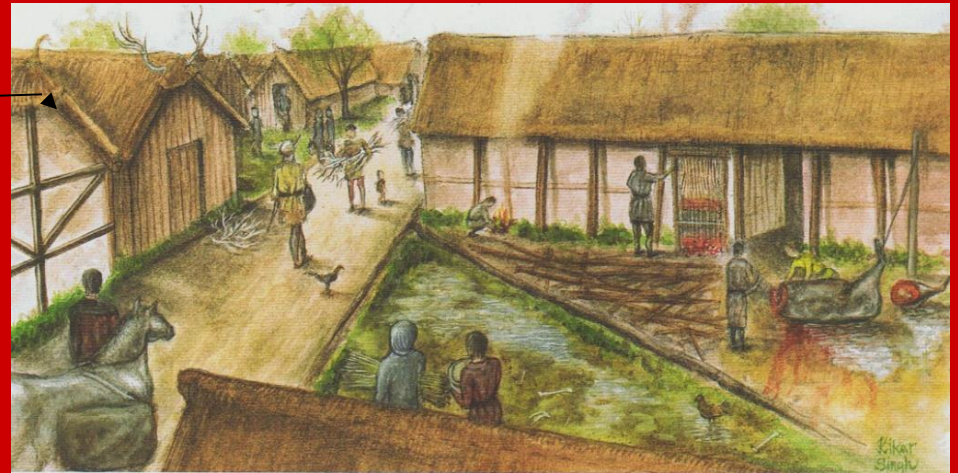
AD 700-730

Royal Opera House period 4, phase 2

Royal Opera House, period 5.1



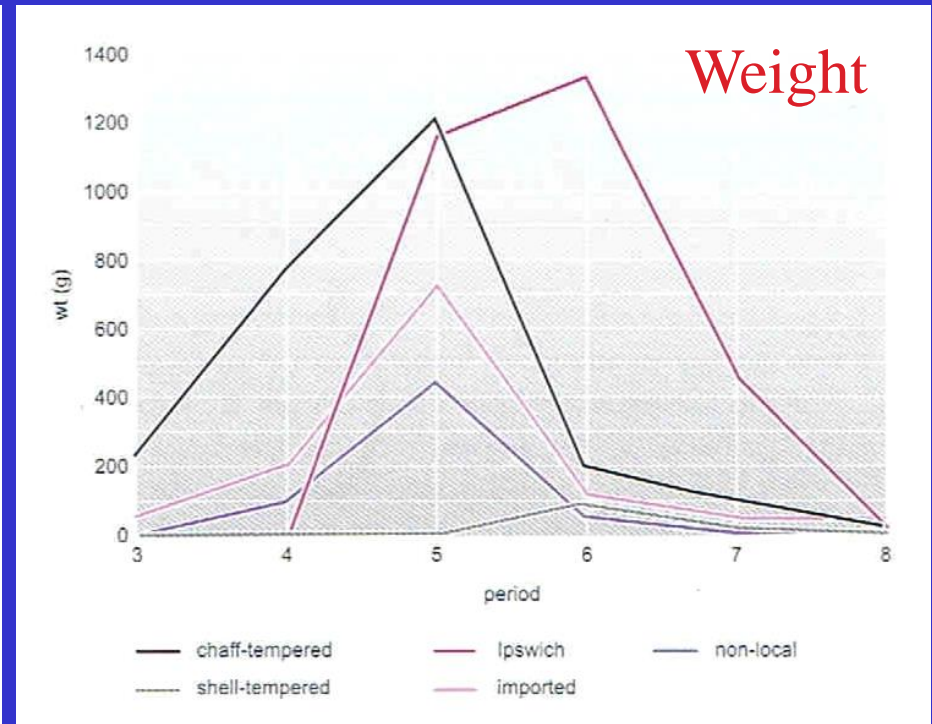
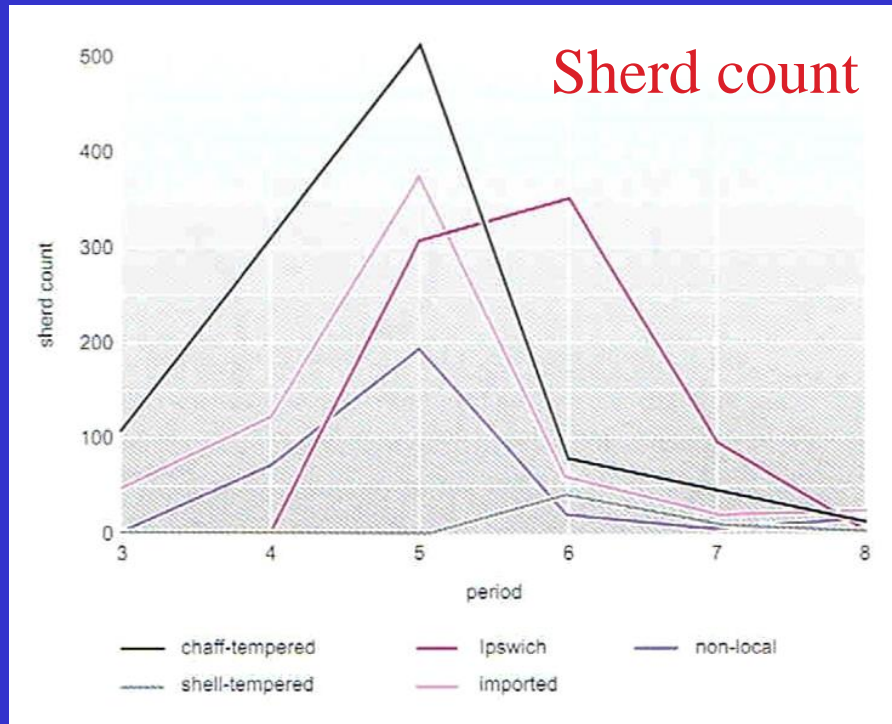
Courtyard
area,
buildings
6/40, 41,
44



View to the main road

AD 730-750/770

Pottery quantification: Royal Opera House



Chaff-tempered



Ipswich ware

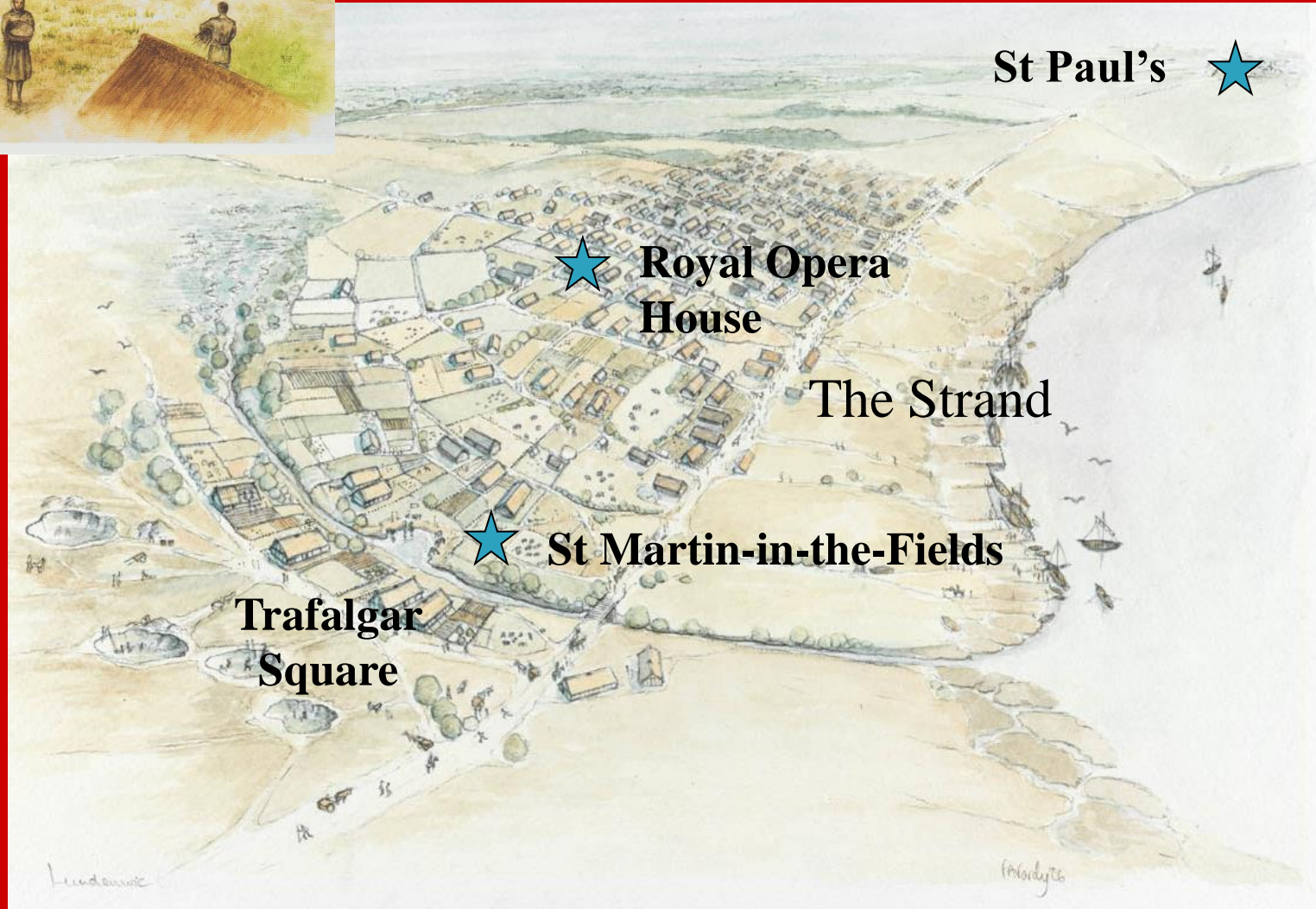
- Total 2800 sherds
- Chaff-tempered wares dominate until *c* AD 750
- Ipswich wares arrive *c* AD 730, dominant from *c* AD 750
- Imports the third most common group



Lundenwic *c* AD 675-750

Total area *c*
50-60
hectares

Population
?5000-
10,000
(Keene
2000)



Expansion westwards

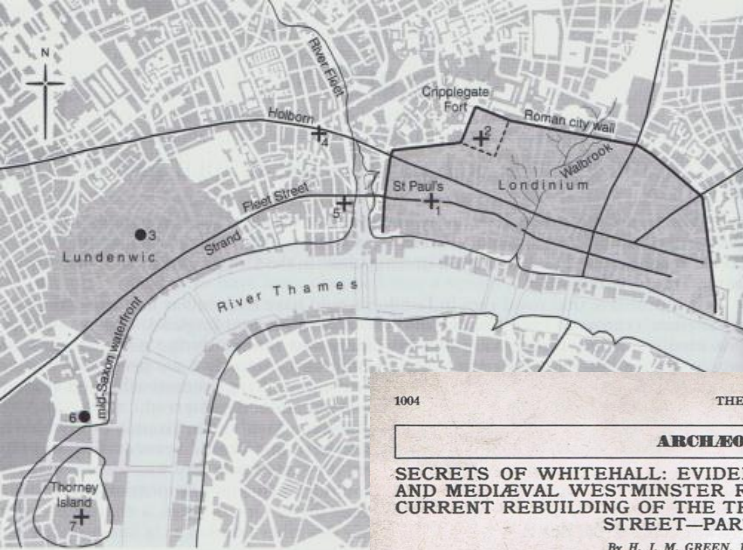
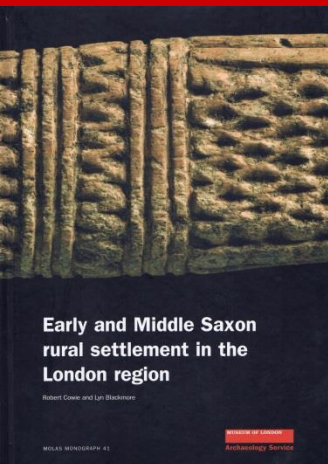


FIG. 1
Principal sites mentioned in the text. 1: St Paul's; 2: Cripplegate Fort; 3: Lundenwic; 4: St Andrew's, Holborn; 5: St Bride's, Fleet Street.

Medieval Archaeology 2004



Early and Middle Saxon rural settlement in the London region

Robert Cowe and Lyn Blackburn

WILLIS WOODWARD

WILLIS WOODWARD

1004

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

JUNE 29, 1963

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION NO. 2139.

SECRETS OF WHITEHALL: EVIDENCE OF ROMAN, SAXON AND MEDÆVAL WESTMINSTER REVEALED DURING THE CURRENT REBUILDING OF THE TREASURY AND DOWNING STREET—PART 1.

By H. J. M. GREEN, F.S.A.

THE early Victorian façade of the Old Treasury in Whitehall masks a complex maze of rooms belonging to different structures, some of which date back to the early 16th century. The combined effect of bombing during the last war and old age made drastic renovation necessary, and work began in 1960 under the direction of the then Ministry of Works. Sir Charles Barry's frontage was retained, but many of the late 18th- and 19th-century structures around Treasury Green have been necessarily replaced by new buildings. At the same time the opportunity was taken to modernise Nos. 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street, which adjoin the Treasury, and a parallel scheme of rebuilding has been carried out under Mr. Raymond Erith.

As soon as deep foundations and service trenches for the new buildings began to be dug it was clear that both sites concealed extensive archaeological remains. Many of those remains were quite unexpected, since on general historical grounds the

occur in the flood silt above the gravel subsoil over the whole site. The pottery and glass is fragmentary and varies in date from the 1st to the 4th century A.D. It is the type of material which might perhaps be expected to occur scattered over the fields of a nearby Romano-British settlement. Rather more definite traces of occupation were found beneath the courtyard of No. 10 Downing Street. In 1960 pottery from what appears to have been a Romano-British rubbish pit was salvaged under difficult conditions by the workmen. The only pieces that have survived are three decorated sherds of Samian pottery dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. (Fig. 3).

Saxon occupation of the site, dating to the 9th century A.D., appears to have been centred on the Treasury Green area. In the south-east corner of the site, overlying the river deposits already described, was found the eastern end of a large Saxon building. This structure, a rectangular framed building of wood, was 26 ft. wide and was

Thousands of broken animal bones were discovered, mainly of domestic species such as ox, sheep, pig and horse, but also including wild animals such as deer. Their detailed examination by members of the Bone Research Scheme will throw important light on the fauna of south-east Britain at this period. Most of the animal bones show marks of skilful butchery, and several worn-out iron scramasax knives which may have been used in this work have been found. With them (Fig. 7) were discovered the schist hones which were used to sharpen the knives.

Evidence for the grinding of corn was provided by the discovery of broken pieces of basalt lava querns imported from Mayen, Germany. The corn was stored in shallow pits outside the building, one of which still preserved traces of the wicker basket which had lined it. After they had ceased to be used as storage pits (Fig. 14) they were filled with domestic rubbish.

Some of the domestic cooking appears to have been carried out at hearths near the building, and much broken pottery was found in these areas. The commonest type of cooking pot is of wheel-thrown Ipswich ware, the characteristic East Anglian pottery of this period. Small cooking pots were also found in handmade black fabric, the clay of which is grass tempered. This ware, which has affinities with pagan Saxon pottery, is found in the



FIG. 1. WHITEHALL IN SAXON TIMES: A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HALL AND FARM BUILDINGS DISCOVERED DURING THE REBUILDING OF DOWNING STREET AND THE TREASURY. This water-colour drawing by Mr. H. J. M. Green looks northwards over what is now the site of the Treasury buildings. On the right is the Thames, which here runs from south to north. In foreground, in front of the Saxon hall, is a stream, which was probably a branch of the Tyburn. The date is the 9th century A.D.

Whitehall and Westminster Abbey



WST86: Ecgbert coin, AD 835-839

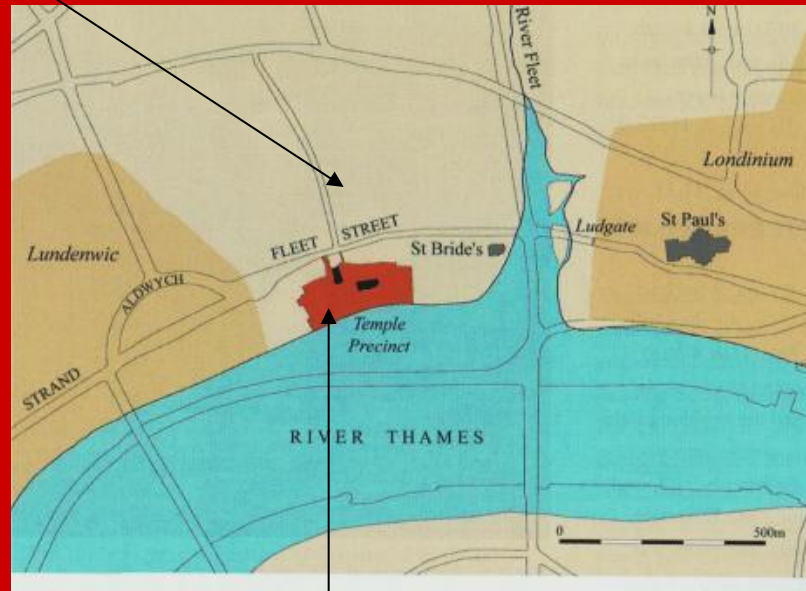
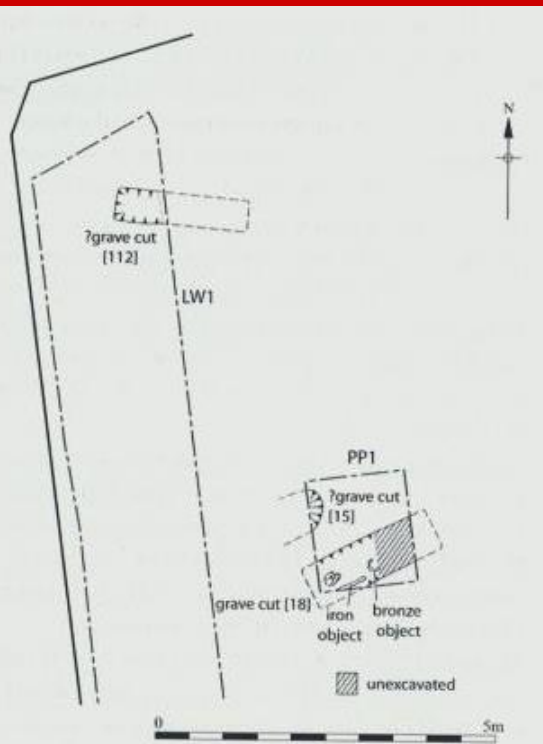


Expansion eastwards



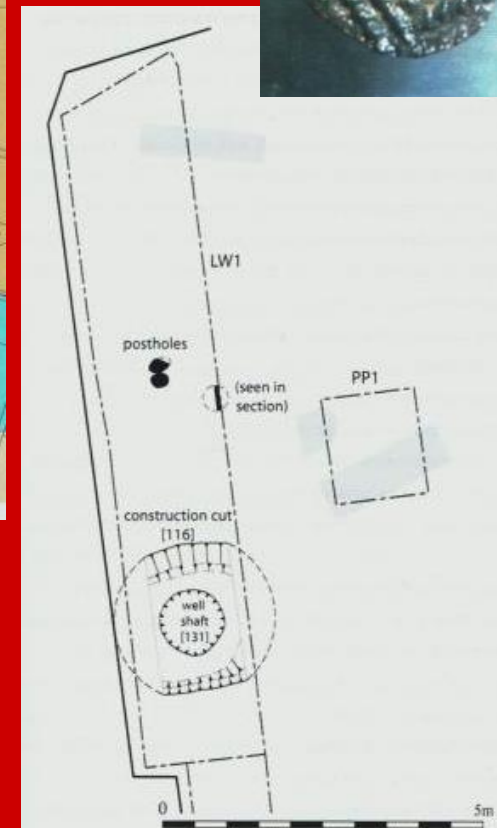
Fetter Lane
pommel,
8th-century

Hare Court, series G sceat
(Quentovic?), AD 720-30



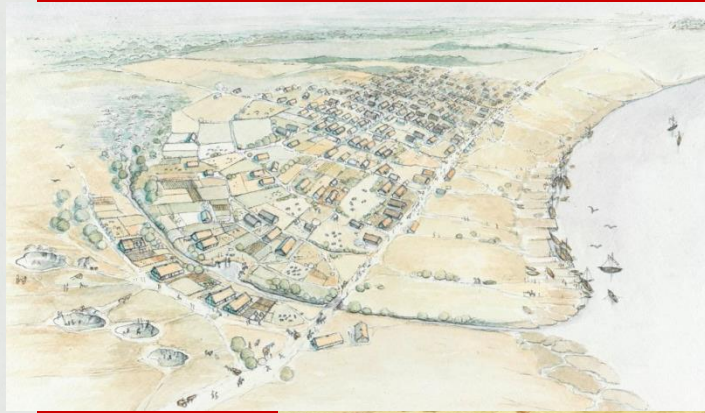
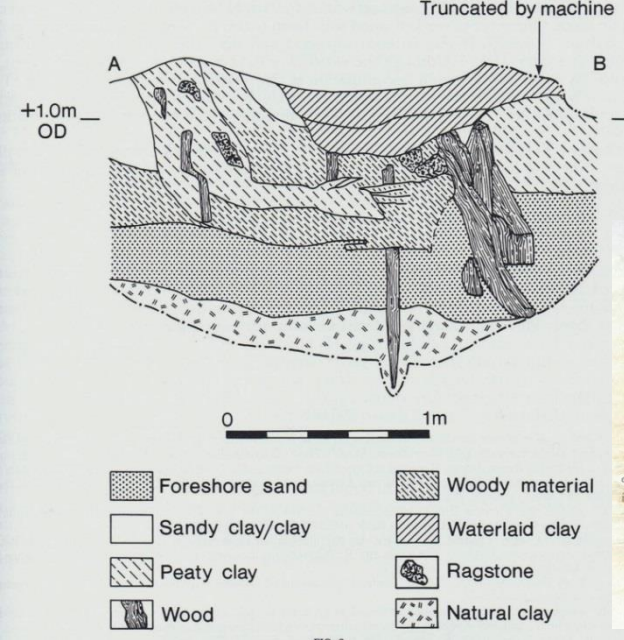
Excavations at Hare Court,
Temple (Butler 2005)

© Pre-Construct Archaeology



The Saxon waterfront

Reeve witnessing transactions in royal hall for kings of Kent by AD 680



York Buildings: timbers dendro-dated to *c* AD 679; river 100m to south of Strand



References: '*portum Lundoniae*' AD 672-674
'*supra vicum Lundoniae*' AD 687

Trade and exchange



Porcupine sceat, Dorestad,
c AD 710

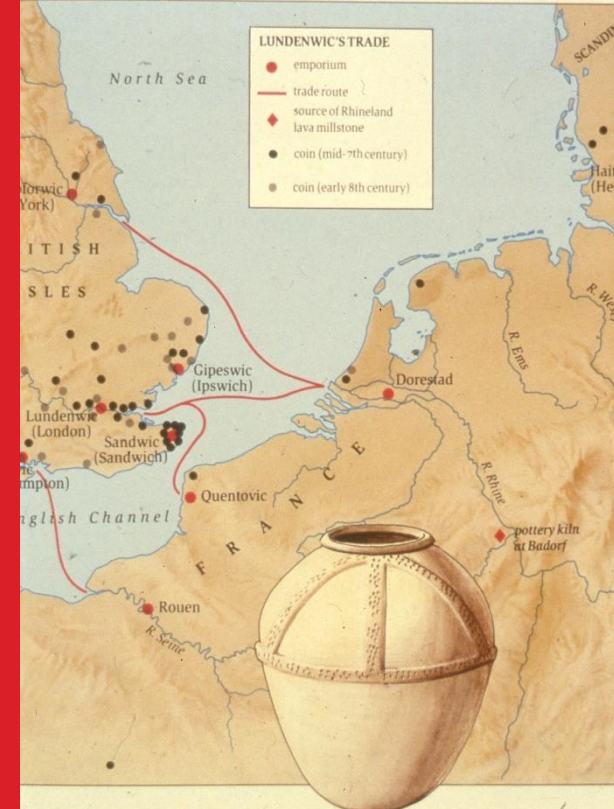
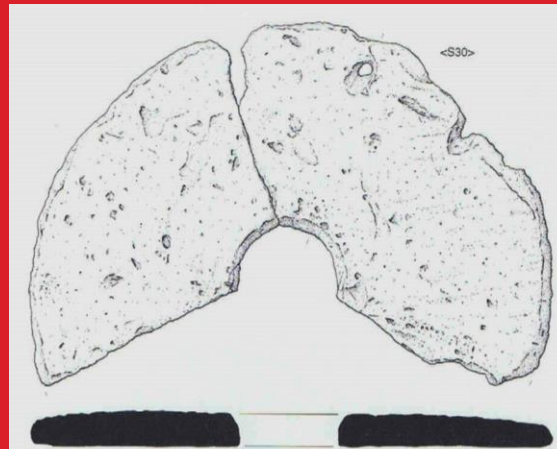
Wodan sceat, Jutland (copy),
AD 720s



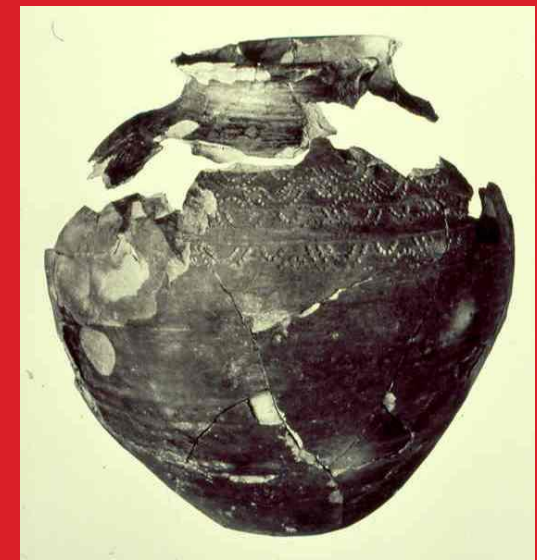
Hare Court, series G sceat
(Quentovic?), AD 720-30 © PCA



Reused quernstone



©Times Books



Imported reduced wares, *c* AD 675-850



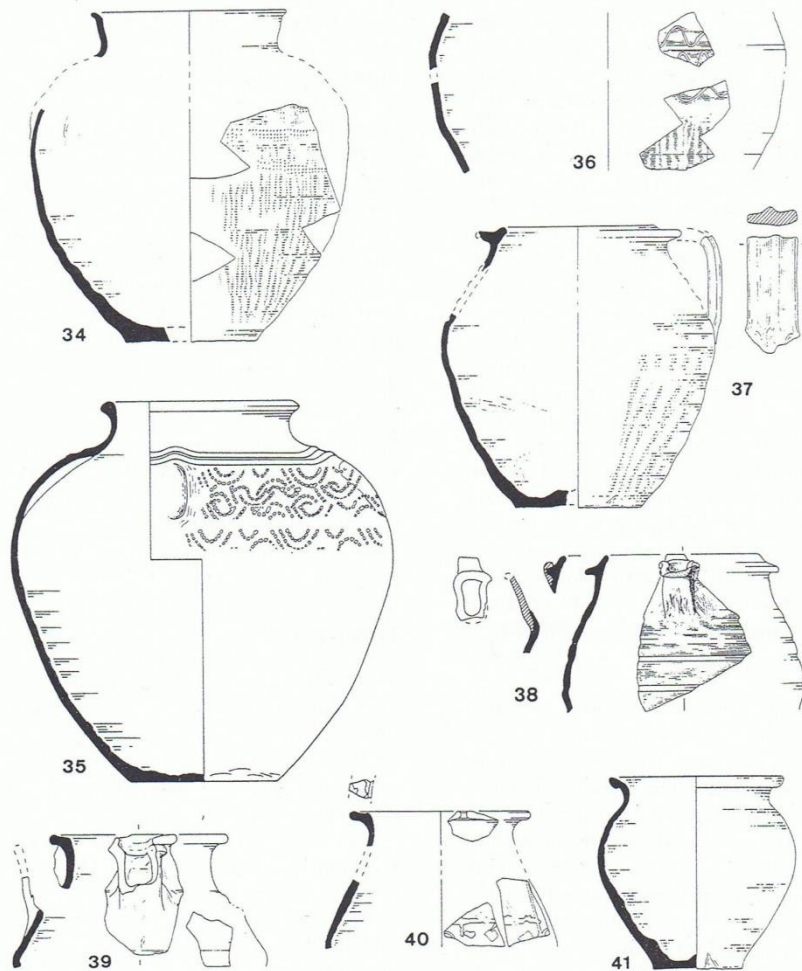
Northern France/Belgium



Tating-type ware, with applied tinfoil
decoration, France or Rhineland



Imported reduced and oxidised wares, *c* 670-850



Beauvais



Seine valley/Rhenish



Rhenish (Badorf)

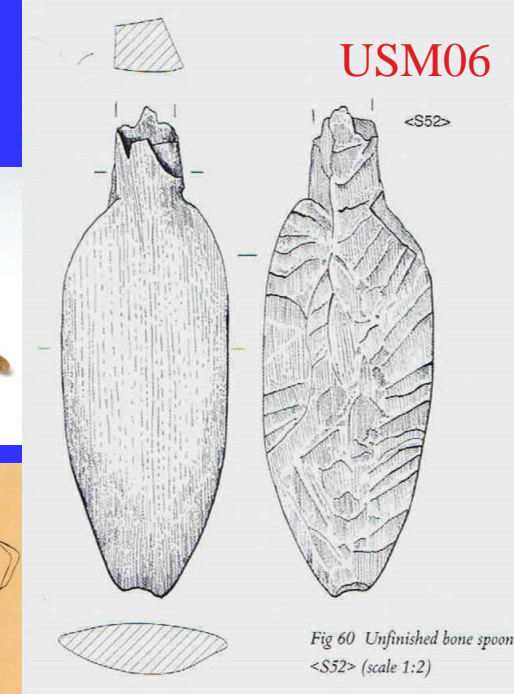
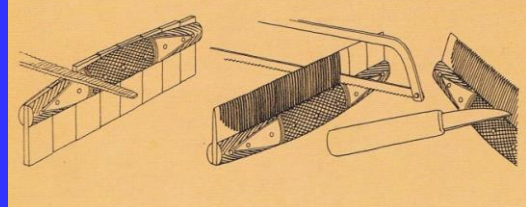
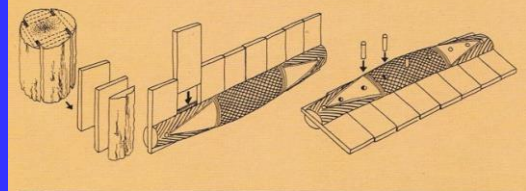
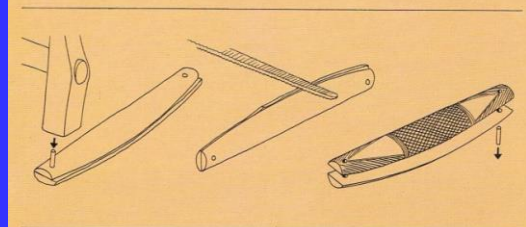
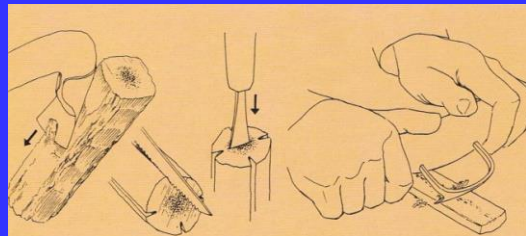
Figure 5.3 A selection of North French greywares (Nos. 34–36, 39), blackware (No. 37), red burnished ware (No. 38), Tating-type ware (No. 40) and Normandy whiteware (No. 41) found in *Lundenwic*.

Bone and antler working



Stages in comb manufacture
(Ribe, Denmark)

Unfinished spoon,
AD 730-800



Discarded antler pieces and brow-ridge from the comb-maker's shop.

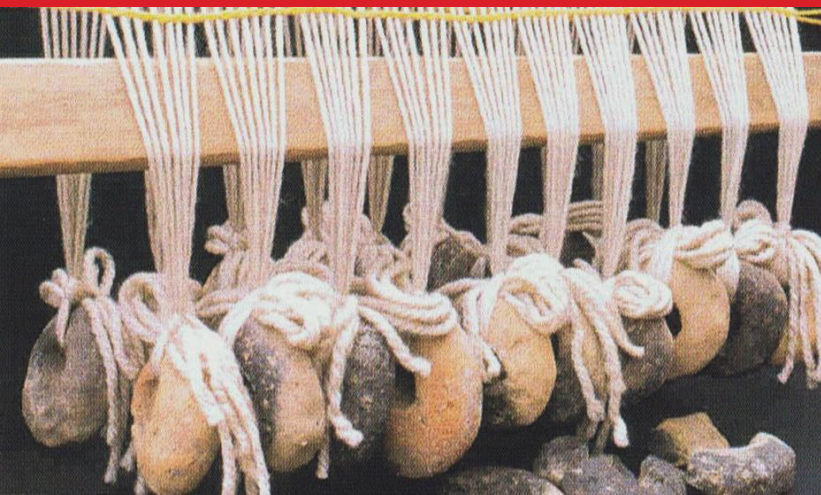


Debris and half-finished pieces - shavings, plates and side-pieces - left by the comb-maker.



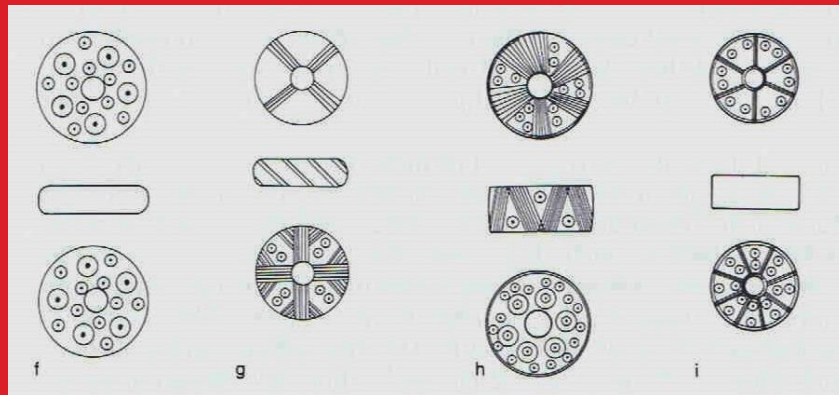


Royal Opera House, spindle whorls, pins and thread pickers

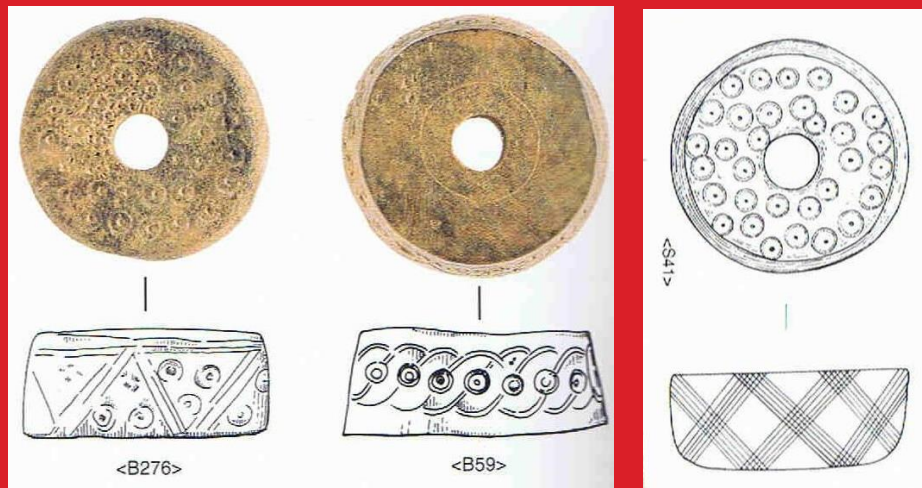


Loom weights from James Street

Textile production



Frisian-style spindlewhorls from Oost-Souburg (top), Royal Opera House and Upper St Martin's Lane



Metal working



Antler mould for disc brooch showing
a bird, based on a Hamwic coin,
c AD760s



Copper alloy key and stone
mould for different types of key

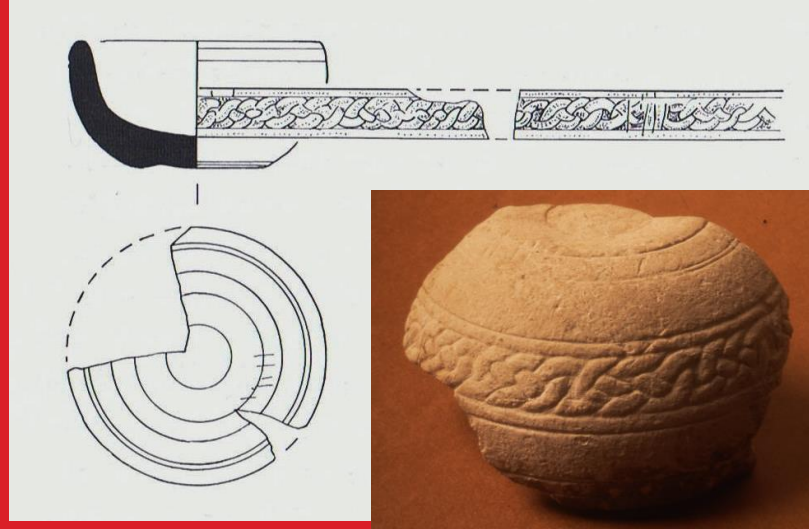


Iron knives, one with twisted
copper alloy inlay

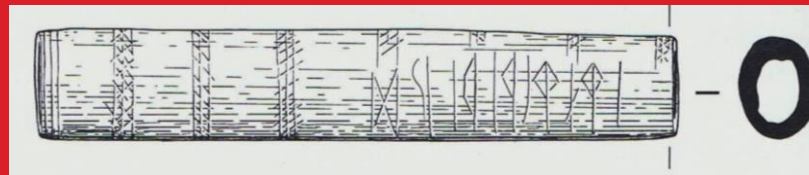
Daily life



Cauldron and trivet
in well (ROP95)



Carved stone lamp, bone runic
object (ROP95)



TATBERHT runes on cattle
rib (NPG97)

Pre-Construct Archaeology



Large comb (USM06)

9th-century defensive ditches

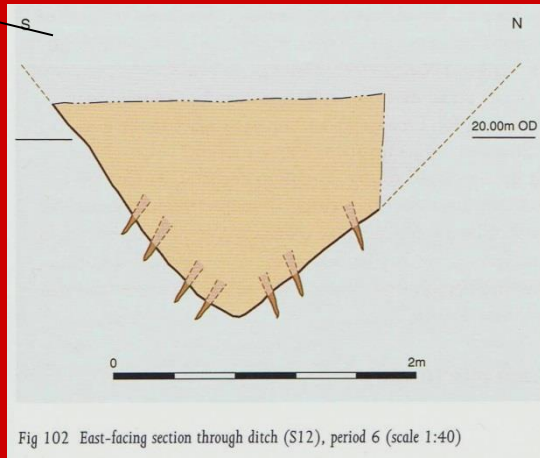
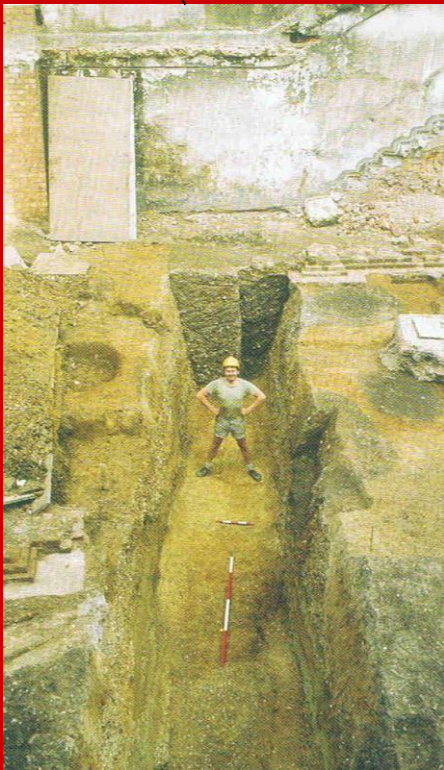


Fig 102 East-facing section through ditch (S12), period 6 (scale 1:40)



Maiden
Lane
1986

Royal Opera House



Fig 103 View of south face of ditch (S12) with stakeholes, from the north (0.5m scale)



Hoard of
Northumbrian
stycas, *c* AD 850

Decline of Lundenwic, retreat to city?

The Temple
hoard, over 250
coins buried
c AD 841-2

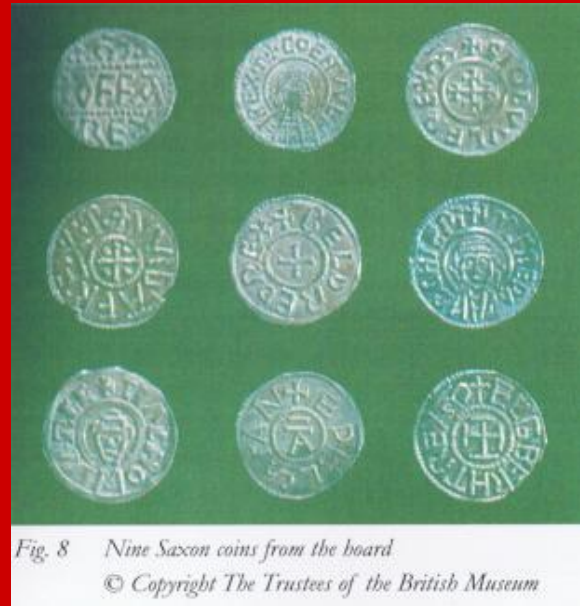
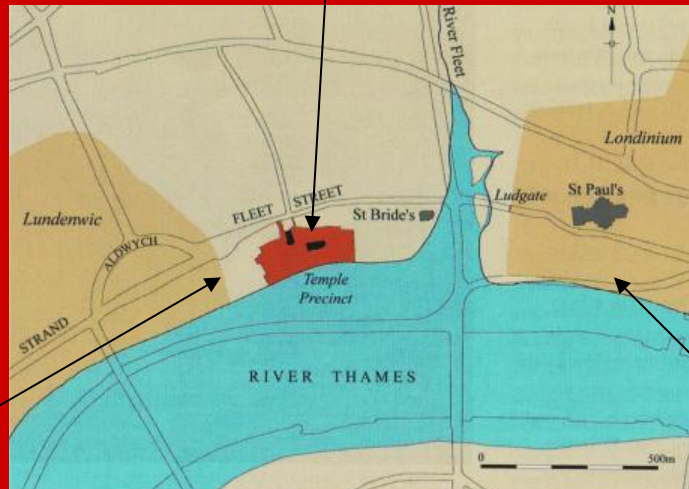


Fig. 8 Nine Saxcon coins from the board
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Key Dates (ASC/Asser)

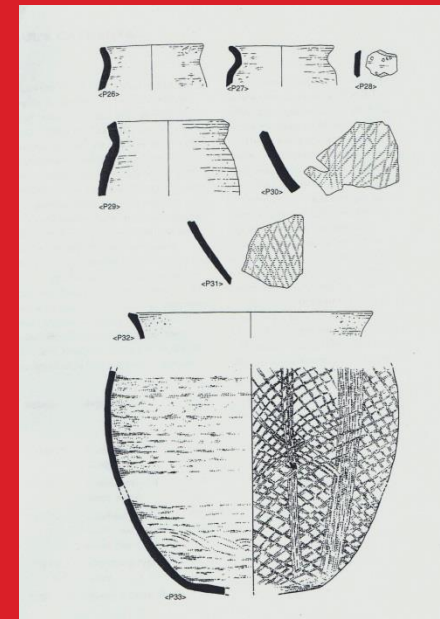
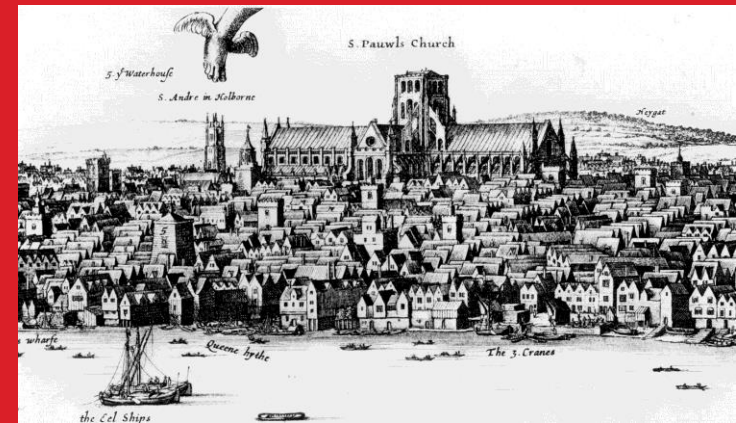
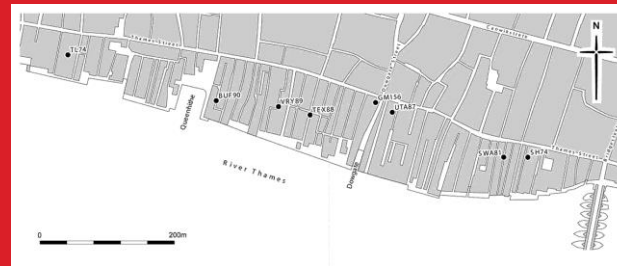
- 842 – Viking raid
- 851 – Viking raid
- 871-2 – Vikings over-winter
- 878/9 – Viking raiding army settles at Fulham
- 883 – English besiege city
- 886 – King Alfred restores city



Alfredian coins from the
new market to the south
of St Paul's (MOLA)

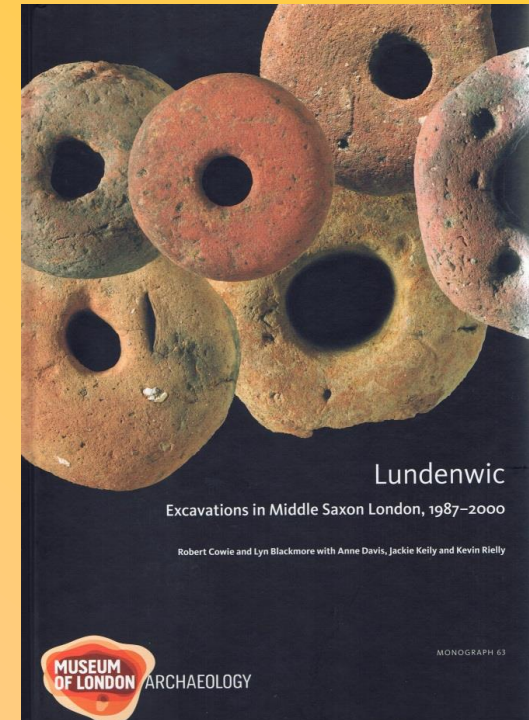
Later 9th-century
strapend,
Temple Place

The beginnings of Lundenburgh, at St Paul's and Aethelred's hithe



Conclusions: Dark Ages illuminated

- Roman walled town avoided by Anglo-Saxons; limited activity there from 7th century
- Late Roman religious focus at St Martin-in-the-Fields attracted Anglo-Saxon settlers, trade developing by 6th century
- 6th- to 7th-century burials along hillside, high status cemetery at Martin-in-the-Fields
- Lundenwic laid out as a planned town from AD 670s by Wulfhere of Mercia or Hlothere and/or Eadric of Kent; becomes port of Mercia
- Expansion in early/mid 8th century
- 9th-century decline - Viking attacks; return to walled Roman city before AD 886





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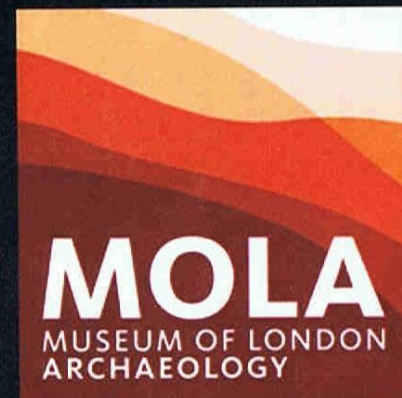
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