

HOP83

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HOP83
3–5 Bishopsgate, EC3
G Milne, C Milne and N Bateman

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SMR: 043262–70

Archaeological excavations were conducted in six basement rooms of a standing building during an eight-week period in advance of redevelopment. The work was generously funded by London & Edinburgh Securities.

The natural brickearth surface had been truncated and sealed by a redeposited brickearth slab. There was evidence to suggest that structural activity in the S of the site (Building 1) was burnt in the mid/late 1st c, and that brickearth quarries were subsequently dug to the N of two superimposed timber buildings (Buildings 2 and 3). Structural divisions, a doorway, *opus signinum* floors and a hearth were associated with the final wing of this substantial structure were found, associated with *opus signinum* and tessellated pavements in the final phase. To the N was a timber Building 6. Both this and the masonry Building 5 were physically sealed by dark grey silts containing 3rd and 4th c pottery. These silts were cut by intrusive late Saxon features including a hearth, a sunken featured building, from which came three 11th or 12th c iron knives, and a backfilled well into which a sequence of eleven superimposed brickearth surfaces of a surface-laid building had slumped. Crucible fragments were associated with these floors. Provisional pottery analysis suggests that the site was certainly occupied by the early 11th c although the surface laid building may not predate the Norman conquest.

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