

EAG87

Courtesy of LAARC – 1998

EAG87

Eagle House, 86–96 Cannon Street, EC4

J Oetgen

NGR: TQ 32710 80870

SMR: 043589–93

Excavations were carried out in the basement of Eagle House during July and August 1988. The work was funded by MEPC. The site lies within the scheduled area of the Roman governor's palace and, although the existing basements had truncated the stratigraphy to within 0.3m of the natural brickearth, evidence for Roman foundations and more deeply-cut post-medieval features survived.

The natural brickearth was located. The earliest phase of activity consisted of a site-wide levelling of homogeneous sandy gravel, capped with fine, hard, silty redeposited brickearth, which produced no finds but is assumed to be Roman. These layers were cut by the foundations of timber-framed structures and mortared flint-rubble footings. The extensive ground preparation and certain similarities of alignment suggest that the structures were elements of a single building. No floors survived, although a number of tesserae were recovered from intrusive contexts.

The building, or buildings, were succeeded by a series of rectangular shafts which could not be fully excavated as they were more than 2m deep. These are interpreted as wells and were probably timber-lined, although no trace of timbers survived. The fills produced finds of predominantly Roman date.

Due to the depth of truncation, there was no evidence for early medieval activity on the site. Later features consisted of a chalk-built cellar or cesspit, which contained finds of 15th to 16th c date, and a chalk-lined well, over 5m deep. The well was backfilled in the early 18th c and contained complete wine bottles and pharmaceutical jars in impressive quantities. A late medieval gold finger-ring was also recovered.

London Archaeol, 6, 1989, 46–7; *Britannia*, 20, 1989, 306

Hibberd, H, 1989 Well matrix (environmental archaeology), Archive Report

Oetgen, J M, 1989 Excavations at 86–96 Cannon Street (EAG87), Archive Report