

ORG86

Courtesy of LAARC – 1998

St Martin Orgar Churchyard, 24–32 King William Street, EC4

D Power

NGR: TQ 32820 80820

SMR: 043910–22

In addition to pre and post excavation watching briefs, excavations were undertaken between February and May, funded by Lazard Property Unit Trusts. The use of the site as a churchyard since the Fire ensured the preservation of a rich variety of deposits.

In the NW area, cut into the natural brickearth, were two associated shallow features which were overlaid by a deposit containing several Late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery sherds and a number of flint flakes. The subsequent site wide levelling preceded a mid 1st c building to the SW. This was truncated by pits representing quarrying, and by a ditch running N-S through the W part of the site which contained the semi-articulated skeleton of a pony or mule. A rubbish dump associated with one phase in the sequence of later 1st c clay and timber structures that followed produced a bronze figurine of the Goddess Victory. In the E area layers representing a similarly intense period of Roman building activity were sealed by a deposit of 0.30m of dark earth. This was truncated by medieval pits which was in turn sealed by a series of horseshoe-shaped tile and clay hearths, dated to the 13th c, and cut by insubstantial chalk foundations.

Deposits later than the Roman period to the W were destroyed by the E end of a church. The flint and gravel foundations of the E apse of a church of Saxo-Norman date were replaced in the 13th c by a square ended building founded on arches of chalk and ragstone. A number of alteration and extensions on the S and E were made in the medieval period. Overlying a vaulted crypt in the area of the S chapel a portion of the floor surface survived. It consisted of large glazed Flemish tiles arranged to form a chequerboard design around a series of moulded greensand bases. The church was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666 and not rebuilt.

Medieval Archaeol, 32, 1988, 247; Post-Medieval Archaeol, 22, 1988, 189

Power, D, 1990 Excavations at St Martin Orgar Churchyard, Archive Report [draft, Roman levels only]

Schofield, J, 1994 Saxon and medieval parish churches in London: a review, Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc, 45, 110-11