

PREHISTORIC NOTES

Prehistoric Finds at Kingston.—During excavations at the Kingston Electricity Works in November 1928 some bones were found at a depth of 15 feet below the surface, not far from the Thames. They were submitted to Sir Arthur Keith, who classified them in groups as

- (1) Various bones of a young horse.
- (2) Left and right scapulæ of an older horse.
- (3) Various bones of a young ox.

He gave the opinion that they were from 2,500 to 3,000 years old. They have been placed in the Kingston Museum with the other set of bones of the same age which were found at about the same depth at Sunbury Lock the previous summer, and which included a human skull and the bones of a man and woman.

In June 1929 the fourth rib on the left side of a mammoth, and a mammoth tooth in good condition, were excavated from a depth of 20 feet below the surface in the same locality, but unfortunately the remainder of the mammoth's bones were not recovered.

In July 1929 a Bronze Age spear-head was recovered from the Thames at Kingston. It has a leaf-shaped blade, a strong central tubular rib with grooves on either side of the rib, and it is 13 inches long and 2 inches across at the widest part. Some of the wood of the original shaft was adhering to the spear-head when found, but unfortunately it was removed and lost.

All these finds are now in the Kingston Museum.

W. E. ST. LAWRENCE FINNY.

Three Skeletons at Ewell.—Three skeletons were found in the Grove, High Street, Ewell, when an electric main was being laid down on May 3rd last. They lay about 2 feet 6 inches from the present surface and not more than 18 to 20 inches from the original. No pots or pottery were found with them, but an old spear-head, much corroded, was found. The skull of one of these skeletons was preserved intact. The body was lying on its left side due east and west with the head pointing west. It is not known in what direction the other skeletons were lying. The above information was furnished by Mr. J. A. Pywell. The skull was submitted to Sir Arthur Keith, who has expressed the opinion

that the skull has the dimensions and characters of skulls found in Saxon graveyards with one exception. The mould in it, black vegetable soil, is a comparatively recent soil, and the bone in its state of preservation suggests a mediæval rather than a Saxon date. The skull is that of a man of from 35 to 40.

Two other spear-heads, one with a welded haft, were found at a later date. This further find, although not conclusive, indicates a mediæval, rather than Saxon, burial.

H. LAMBERT.

Stone Implement from Merstham.—The axe-head shown in Plate No. I was found, Autumn 1928, "in a black deposit" below a top layer of flints in the grounds of a house "North Point," Church Hill, Merstham, belonging to Mr. G. A. H. Chapman, in whose possession it remains. The implement is of reddish quartzose sandstone not found locally, and brought possibly from Wales or the West of England. It is assigned by Mr. Reginald Smith to the late Neolithic period, about 2000 B.C. The surface is partly polished: the hole is countersunk in "hour-glass" fashion: extensive signs of wear appear at both ends, and a large flake has been broken off at the butt end leaving the scar seen in the illustration. Church Hill forms a small spur of the North Downs immediately to the north of the Church.

W. HOOPER.

Human Bones from Warlingham.—A find of human bones, practically a skeleton minus the feet, was reported in January 1930 by Mr. Escritt, Honorary Secretary to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. A portion of a frontal bone and jaw have been submitted to Sir A. Keith, who stated that the remains were certainly of a man of the Beaker Age. The find was made on a field belonging to Court Farm, Warlingham, east of the railway line from Croydon to Oxted and in a south-easterly direction from the Rose and Crown Inn on the main Purley-Godstone Road. The skeleton was 9 inches below the surface in a chalk flint and clay rubble with the head pointing north-west, the bones laid straight. No implements were found, and the bones were in a fossilized condition and fragile.

EDWIN HART.

PLATE I



STONE IMPLEMENT FROM MERSTHAM

ROMAN AND GENERAL NOTES

Roman Tile and Pottery from Kingston.—A Roman flat roof tile measuring 12 inches square with flanges at each side was found in November 1929 during excavations at Kingston Electricity Works near the Thames, and in Wood Street near by ten pieces of broken Roman earthenware pottery and fragments of Samian were excavated. These finds are interesting, as there has been no record of Roman relics having been discovered at Kingston for many years.

W. E. ST. LAWRENCE FINNY.

Roman Roads in Ashdown Forest.—A continuation of the London-Edenbridge Roman road across Ashdown Forest towards Maresfield has been discovered mainly as a result of air photography. For over 1,300 yards it can be traced as a triple roadway 60 feet wide with ditches and a raised and metalled centre strip. A branch road through Coleman's Hatch to Wych Cross has also been found. A preliminary account appears in the February issue of *Sussex Notes and Queries* (Vol. 3, p. 1).

D. MARGARY.

Roman Road through the Caterham Valley.—During the last two years I have been examining superficially the possible line of this road between Purley and Godstone and especially in Caterham in consequence of the laying of a deep sewer along the present high road. Various old horseshoes and lower road surfaces were discovered at several points in Caterham parish but the horseshoes have been pronounced to be not earlier than the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries and the road surfaces were quite evidently not Roman and probably of the same date as the horseshoes. It appears probable as the sewer cutting reached to the undisturbed chalk bed under the existing main road that the Roman Road is not on the line of coach road which is marked on the ordnance sheet as the Roman road and that the latter runs northwards from the south-east corner of Caterham parish on the parish boundary between Caterham and a detached portion of Tand

ridge. This boundary runs in a very straight line for several miles and almost for the whole extent of Caterham parish, and if it be followed on foot it will be found not to follow the present high road but to diverge up the line of the old lane (leading from the high road to Tillingdown Farm) and then to follow well above the present main road the line of an ancient plough-bank and terrace which are strongly marked on the east of Caterham village and extend almost to Wapses Lodge and also farther to the north along the parish boundary. It would seem probable, owing to the straightness of this line, that the parish boundary was fixed by the Roman road and the plough-bank was caused by that road having been in use for a long period before the present high road was constructed.

EDWIN HART.

Discovery of Foundations at Nonsuch.—Hoefnagle's engraving of the south front of Nonsuch Palace shows a wall enclosing the palace on that side. It appears that part of that wall still remains as a chalk and brick retaining-wall supporting the footpath from Nonsuch Park Avenue to Ewell, and it is the only portion of the palace, or its walls, remaining above ground.

What seemed to be the footings of an eastern continuation of this wall were found in November 1929, while digging a trench for an electric cable through Nonsuch Park Avenue, in Cuddington Parish. At the point where the avenue turns at a right angle, and in line with the existing wall, foundations running by the northern edge of the road, in the direction of Cheam, were uncovered. No digging beyond the trench was done; but an inspection revealed, at a depth of 2 feet, footings 1 foot deep of chalk rubble laid in mortar. These foundations extended for about 40 yards, when the excavators lost sight of them; but they appeared to turn under the road at this point, and a cross wall ran northward. Some traces of foundations were also found about 20 yards further east. Mixed with the chalk were some pieces of plain worked stone, probably Reigate; one piece rebated and another limewashed having come from an earlier building. The wall that stood on these footings had been thoroughly demolished, but, from fragments of Tudor bricks that were found, it was probably of that date. The only other objects discovered were a piece of flooring tile on a soft red body with a yellow glaze, and other pieces on a hard blue body with blue glaze.

The foreman thought the sand used for the mortar was similar to that found when digging the trench near the retaining wall; and he suggested that a quantity of sand would have been dug

out in levelling the court or garden of the palace north of that wall. I may add that chalk has been dug from pits near by; and that we have found the site of a Tudor brick clamp a quarter of a mile away.

CLOUDESLEY S. WILLIS.

Nash's Farm, Godstone.—I have in my possession a copy of "The Covenants of the Lease of Nash's Farm lett by Ann Paul and Robert Snow unto Robert Rose in the year 1763." The following Field names are given therein and deserve recording.

Nash's Farm, described as "formerly in the possession of Matthew Woolf," consisted of: "All that messuage or tenement known by the name of Nashes with all the barns, stables, stalls, out-houses, buildings, yards, gardens, orchards, and all those several parcellis of Land Meadow Pasture and Wood ground containing 185 acres 1 rood 11 perches hereinafter more particularly expressed, viz. :—

	A.	R.	P.
Cart House Field	1	1	34
The Moor Mead	2	2	6
The Little Nasholts	2	3	26
The Great Nasholts	4	0	6
The Farther Noshols	5	0	6
The Great Stubbs	7	2	20
The Little Stubbs	3	2	26
The Stubbs Shaw	4	1	10
The Lower Black Vens	14	0	12
The Upper Black Vens	12	0	10
The Great Hawkes Nest	17	3	30
The Little Hawkes Nest	4	1	6
Gilberts Mead	7	2	6
Lower Gilberts Mead	5	0	7
Gilberts Field	8	3	20
Farther Gilberts Field	1	2	20
Six Acre Field	6	1	24
Five Acre Field	5	0	12
Pit Field	5	1	15
Seven Acre Field	8	0	4
Four Acre Field	4	0	24
Three Acre Field	3	1	26
Grove Field	13	1	6
Five Acre Field	5	0	15
Lagham Field	8	2	0
The Laggs ¹	3	0	34
The Crofts	2	2	32
The Lagg Shaw	1	1	8
The Second Lagg.	1	1	08
The Lagham Corner	2	1	20
The Pitt Shaw	1	2	36
Gilbert Shaw	2	2	36

C. R. WARD.

¹ In the *Dialect Dictionary*, by Joseph Wright, the word LAGG is given as meaning "a long narrow marshy meadow usually by the side of a stream."

Trade Token of Nicholas Hatcher of Croydon.—Found on what was until recently a vacant plot of land in St. Peter's Road, South Croydon, almost opposite the upper end of Temple Road. A bungalow is now erected on the site.

Nicholas Hatcher was Captain of a troop of horse in the service of King Charles I. During the Commonwealth period his name figured in the "List of Suspected Persons in Various English and Welsh Counties, 1655," together with other Croydon residents. At the Restoration he was Yeoman Usher in ordinary to King Charles II. He died on the 29th September 1673, and was buried at Croydon Church. He owned a brewery in the High Street, Croydon, and there is note that one of his houses was the Falcon in Church Street, opposite the old Palace. The inn is long since demolished.

A description of the Token follows :

Obv. * NICHOLAS HATCHER. Hatcher arms (Az) a chevron between six escallops (Arg) 3, 2 and 1.

Rev. : * OF * CROYDEN. In centre, N H between six estoiles, 3 and 3.

I can trace no previous record of the issue of such tokens by Nicholas Hatcher, and no reference appears in Boyne's book on *Trade Tokens*.

R. R. BRUCE BANNERMAN.