

EXCAVATIONS

Weston Wood, Albury. Late Bronze Age Homestead (N.G.R.053484). Excavations, under Miss Joan M. Harding, continued at weekends throughout the winter months and for two weeks at Easter, to keep ahead of the bulldozer. A rectangular working floor was found, levelled in the sloping hillside. It contained four fires, a one foot wide hole stuffed with pieces of two large storage pots, and at the furthest end from the house, a pit. This pit was four feet across, and eighteen inches deep, with a flat base. Lying on its side on the bottom was a storage pot. Grain was scattered about, and there were small pieces of twisted fibre like rope. The grain has been studied by Professor Bunting and Dr. Helback. Two-thirds of it is barley, mainly six-rowed barley, and one-third wheat, mainly emmer. The grain has also been radio-carbon dated by Professor Godwin. Two separate tests gave the same result, exactly, 510 B.C., plus or minus 110, confirming the site to date from the end of the Late Bronze Age. A plastic skin was taken of the pit profile by Mr. A. J. Clark, using "Polybond" polyvinyl acetate emulsion. The technique used removes a skin of sand, clay and hard podsol, for study and preservation elsewhere. Experiments were carried out using local clay and pot pounded boilers to make Late Bronze Age type pottery. Firing was not altogether successful because of the wet weather.

Investigations were started at the end of the year on an occupation floor to the south and on the same contour. Much pottery is being found.

Miss Harding read a paper on the site to the Prehistoric Society on 9th November, at the Institute of Archæology, and on the same occasion an exhibition of finds, and the plastic skins, was set out, with the assistance of Mr. Holling.

Hawk's Hill, Fetcham (N.G.R.155554). Excavations were continued on the Iron Age farmstead site, under the direction of Mr. F. A. Hastings. The main object of this season's work was to look for the source of the drainage gully mentioned in the previous report, and to carry out a proton gradiometer survey (directed by Mr. A. J. Clark) of that portion of the orchard not yet excavated. Four storage pits were found in the trench opened to trace the gully, three of which cut into the gully obviously post-dating it. A fifth pit was found under the property boundary hedge but it could not be fully excavated. It straddled the gully which it had apparently destroyed, so the source of the gully remains unlocated. It is hoped to get permission to excavate in the adjoining garden at a later date.

The proton gradiometer appeared to pick up the above pits but a mass of buried iron of modern date may have influenced the readings. However, two further pits were located. They were some 100 feet from the centre of the main concentration of occupation, and but for the gradiometer they would not have been discovered. One of these was very large being 9 feet 6 inches in diameter and of the same depth.

The pottery recovered included some very early material of 'All Cannings Cross' type—haematite ware with incised decoration and white inlay. Thus the pottery sequence covers a long period of occupation beginning with Iron Southern Second A through to Second B, much the same as Little Woodbury where some three centuries of occupation was postulated.

Other small finds include a bronze pin, a chalk disc (possibly pot-lid) and two more pottery spindle-whorls, one of which was exceptionally large. It has been suggested that these are used as fly-wheels for drilling purposes as well as spinning and this large one would seem to qualify for this purpose. There were many rodent bones in some of the pits and another interesting point was the apparent ritual deposits of bones. In one pit, an ox jaw-bone had been placed on a layer of chalk near the bottom of the pit, obviously not thrown in with other rubbish. In another pit there was a deposit of pig bones in the

centre of the floor and in the deep pit was found a complete ox skull, overlying the four lower halves of the legs of an ox, all articulated.

A total of twelve pits, including the two shallow ones noted previously, have now been discovered.

Rapsley, Near Ewhurst—Roman Villa (N.G.R.080415). Excavations were continued in early spring and in July and August under the direction of Lady Hanworth. Most of the ground plan of Site 1, the Dwellinghouse, has now been recovered, revealing a house with two bisecting corridors; the main one runs east to west with the bath block south of it and the living rooms on the north, the second corridor runs from north to south down the eastern side of the house. One of the outer walls has the slots for sleeper beams and uprights of half-timber construction. At the junction of the corridors is a doorway leading to a paved pathway which runs eastwards for a short distance. The probable line of a piped water supply from a spring in Hareholt Copse has been traced.

Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., very kindly spent a fortnight on the site investigating the possibility of an earlier timber-built structure underlying the masonry building. He found rubble-filled sleeper trenches from which the beams had been removed, presumably when it was rebuilt in stone, indicating an earlier wooden building with a clay floor, whose west-east dimension is 17 feet 7 inches. The north-south dimension has not yet been established as the south end of the sleeper trenches was cut off when the stone building was constructed.

A section was cut through the bank on the north side of the tennis court to investigate the extent of Site 2. This revealed a wide wall continuing northwards, which may well run under the present-day house. It is clear that there must have been considerable disturbance when levelling the ground for the tennis court.

It is hoped to continue excavations in 1964.

Moated Enclosure, Moat Farm, Hookwood, Charlwood (N.G.R.266447). A week's trial excavation was carried out in August under the direction of Mr. D. J. Turner. The site is clear of trees and is threatened by farming operations. Moats are common in this part of Surrey, but most of them are still occupied by buildings or are covered by woodland, and little excavation has been done.

From the results of this short, rain-interrupted, excavation, it would seem that occupation was confined to one corner of the enclosure and may have been restricted to the first half of the fourteenth century. However, these results are tentative as much more work needs to be done both inside the enclosure and within the associated adjacent earthworks.

THE FOLLOWING EXCAVATIONS WERE SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIETY:—

Queen's Well, Carshalton (N.G.R.279644). Following the demolition of Queen's Well, a multi-period house in the centre of Carshalton village, to make way for old people's homes, a rescue excavation was organised by the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society. The foundations of the house were investigated to attempt to elucidate its history, and trenches in the garden produced material from the medieval occupation of the site. The work was directed by Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Turner.

Merton Priory (N.G.R.264698). Excavations were carried out during nine weekends in 1962 and fifteen weekends in 1963 on an area of allotments occupying an irregular strip of land between the site of the cellarer's range of the Priory and the known position of some other medieval buildings. The site represents the last remaining undisturbed land close to the Priory and in a locality of growing factories is unlikely to remain available for many more years.

A resistivity survey showed that remains are likely to be confined to one corner of the half-acre site and work was concentrated here. A flint cobble

roadway dating from approximately 1350 or a little earlier was found. Abutting on this, and partly overlaying it, was a yard floor made of fragments of Upper Greensand, some of which had been dressed. This floor, which ran out of the allotments and under the railway in the direction of the cellarer's range, appeared to date from the fifteenth century. The whole site was overlain by a layer of debris, etc., dating from the destruction of the Priory in 1538, and had been crossed by a series of irrigation ditches of eighteenth century date. Finds were numerous and varied but very fragmentary. They included pottery, patterned floor tiles, jettons, iron objects and worked bone.

The work was sponsored by the archaeological section of the London Natural History Society and by the Merton and Morden Historical Society. Mr. D. J. Turner acted as director.

Southwark. The Society, as one of the constituent bodies of the Southwark Archaeological Excavations Committee, helps to support a varied and lively programme. The main activities in 1963 were:—

(a) *Winchester Palace.* Excavations were carried out from November 1962 to April 1963 under the direction of Dr. F. Celoria. This excavation was classed as an emergency since the area was to be broken up by pile-driving and other activities. Though an average of about 30 persons from London and Hertfordshire kept the dig going at weekends even during the snow periods, only part of the site could be excavated. An area of 100 feet by 50 feet known to have Roman buildings underneath was left undug for lack of workmen, equipment and funds. In the last few weeks of the dig three workmen and a drill were lent by a Hertfordshire Contractor (Mr. Boyd Gibbins) and a Swedish firm presented a petrol-driven drill to the director to help him out. Money to keep the dig going was collected from the public and the diggers as soon as the Southwark Committee's money was exhausted. The results were not as full as could be expected if workmen had been available earlier on, but several previously unknown medieval walls and drains were recorded and a range of pottery from the 13th to the 19th century was obtained. Below and near were Roman walls, quantities of plaster (the pigments are being analysed by the Government Chemist), pottery, etc. At a depth of 23 feet below ground level a lamp with wick intact was found. The pottery did not have a sharp stratification but the 15,000 recorded sherds (Cuming Museum register nos. 62/18/1 onwards) produced many 'firsts' for the London region even with coarse Roman pottery types.

(b) For several weeks in July and August Mr. R. Marsden directed excavations on a bombed cellar site at the junction of St. Thomas and Joiner Streets. The aim was to investigate the edge of the channel previously found under New Guy's House, and which appeared likely to pass through the site as it ran towards the Thames. The sequence found was: marshland cut by a series of Roman drainage ditches, succeeded by silt layers of Roman date, and in the 16th or 17th century a barrel well or pit. The Roman finds included a piece of bronze with the figure of a cupid in relief, and fragments of leather shoes. No trace of the Guy's Channel was discovered and it must be concluded that it passed perhaps further to the east, or more probably to the west.

(c) For several weeks in July Dr. F. Celoria directed an *Excavation Training School* at the Cuming Museum and on a bomb site in Borough High Street. The aim was to fill the gap in the training of amateurs in the London Region left by the cessation of the London University Extra-Mural Training Schools. The need for training for the numerous new enthusiastic volunteer diggers had become very apparent in the Committee's excavations last year at 199 Borough High Street. The Course, consisting of lectures and practical instruction and digging, was a great success. The site chosen was on the west side of the High Street, all former scientific excavations having been on the east side. Unfortunately, there had been a great deal of disturbance in the area chosen, though this perhaps provided a more valuable exercise in the disentanglement of ancient stratification than an uncontaminated site would have. A considerable quantity of Roman, Medieval and later pottery was found, and a 17th-century brick sump.