

Extracts from the Bulletins of 1973 (Nos. 93-102)

Bagshot: Roman Road 4a (SU90806472)

An extension to the A322 dual carriageway at Dukes Hill, Bagshot, revealed, in its southern culvert, a section of the London to Silchester Roman road.

This length of Roman road is on a bearing of 70°, which aligns with the few yards of agger on the northern slope of Dukes Hill, and lies between the two realignments (SU91156490 and SU90756472), which together form the change of direction at this point.

The agger is 7.32 metres wide, and the side marker ditches 25.6 metres apart, the usual measurements for a road of this class. The road is accompanied by holloways in several places between Crowthorne and Staines, caused by the heavy traffic which once used it. The section seen at Bagshot also showed signs of considerable wear, the original metalling was completely dispersed, and a rut, at least a metre deep in the agger, could be seen. This rut was filled with silt laid down in two distinct phases.

A section was later dug further west at SU88426460 which showed the narrower carriage road built upon it, illustrated on eighteenth-nineteenth century maps, continuing on towards Windlesham at Dukes Hill. This suggested that a Roman road might have preceded the continuation. However, no evidence for a branch in this or any other direction was found.

Bulletin 98, June 1973

R. H. Greaves

Cobham: Leigh Hill Iron Age settlement (TQ 11446026)

Further excavation was carried out during January by David Bird, assisted by members from the Guildford area, completing the search for traces of the settlement on the east and north sides of the area. In the winter of 1972 trial trenches were dug from the area of the excavation reported in Bulletin 92 towards the east, then north and then west, following the boundary of the old gravel pit. Traces of the 1907 work were found in one place on the eastern side, and several features in the gravel were located on the northern side. There was very little pottery and the features were indistinct. David Bird excavated an area to the north-west of these features, but apart from uncovering the continuation of a linear ditch, found nothing of interest. Further to the west, in a foundation trench, a pit was seen, but, because of the risk of the trench collapsing, it was not investigated.

In June and July trenching became possible in the grounds of the house Appletons, and volunteers from Banstead and Leatherhead assisted with the excavation of about 45 square metres of ground bordering the road to Leigh Court, under which, in 1906, many pits had been found. The ground had been disturbed by the building of the boundary bank and the garden and no pre-

historic features were found. A number of Iron Age sherds were recovered from the disturbed soil of the bank.

The main item of interest was an early twentieth century rubbish pit containing much domestic fire ash and waste glass and china. Most of the glass was in the form of broken chimneys for oil lamps. A ditch had been dug parallel with the road leading into this pit, but had been filled in almost as soon as dug.

A detailed report will be compiled but it seems safe to assume that the settlement did not extend much beyond the edge of the gravel pit on the north and east sides, and has been landscaped away, if it did exist, on the south side. The western edge of the area is bounded by a deep public gravel pit from which much pottery must have been extracted during its working life to disappear without trace. If anybody can throw any light on this lost pottery the writer will be glad to hear from them.

Bulletin 102, Nov. 1973

R. J. Webber

Cove: Site of Seventeenth Century Pottery Kiln (SU 847568)

An excavation was undertaken on behalf of the Department of the Environment at Minley Road, near Cove, Farnborough, in April 1972 on the suspected site of an early 17th century pottery kiln on or near the line of the M3. Wasters and large sherds had been found in two places in the sides of the drainage ditch for the motorway, and it was hoped to locate the kiln and working areas. An area of 10 by 20 metres was stripped on a site adjoining the motorway fence, and long exploratory trenches cut across the rest of the site. No structures or waster dumps were located in the main excavation, but the easterly test trench located a silt-filled ditch running N-S in part underneath the motorway, and containing a large amount of dumped pottery. Of several complete vessels and a large number of sherds, only comparatively few were definite wasters, suggesting that the dump was of waste and broken material from the pottery storage shed nearby. A very large number of forms of vessels were represented amongst the material from this ditch, including pipkins, chamber pots, bowls, plates, candlesticks and chafing dishes, etc. in green and yellow glazes, many finely decorated mugs in brown glaze, as well as oddities such as a child's top, marbles, two very finely decorated chafing dishes in brown glaze, and earthenware copies of 'Bellarmine' masked stoneware bottles. The shapes of the mugs are identical to several tin-glazed mugs in the V. & A. and other museums dating to between 1628 and 1642.

Even without the evidence of the associated kiln structures, this group of pottery demonstrates the importance of the W. Surrey and E. Hampshire potteries in the industrial history of the period, possibly developed largely in response to the attracting power of the rapidly expanding markets available in London. Vessels from this kiln, moreover, have been noted as far away as Oxford, Portsmouth, Southampton and Dover.

Bulletin 93, Jan. 1973

Jeremy Haslam

Crawley, Sussex: Moot Hall at 103 High Street (TQ 268368)

The granting of the Commission for the New Towns' application to demolish the 'barn' at 103 High Street, Crawley, resulted in a survey to record the building, which was thought to contain the core of a medieval house. However this examination revealed that the timber-frame structure was in fact a Moot Hall. Good examples of this type of building are quite rare south of the Thames and this alone was sufficient grounds for preservation. Since it was not possible to leave the building in situ, it was dismantled and transported to the Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, Sussex, where it awaits reconstruction.

Experts who were involved in the project thought that the building could have been moved to 103 High Street from its original site, because the timber frame had been shortened to two and a half bays and various other structural alterations had been carried out.

During the excavation of the foundations the Crawley and Mid Sussex Archaeological Group were able to confirm that the building had originally consisted of three equal-sized bays, 3.96m by 4.27m. The timber-frame superstructure appears to have rested upon a small wall comprised of sand-stone blocks and large slag lumps. In its original state it had been a two storey jettied building, and the first floor was thought to have served as a meeting or council chamber. The ground floor was metalled with slag from which they were able to obtain pottery dating to the early fourteenth century. Below the floor they located two groups of post-holes which probably represent earlier structures on this site. Limited by time to trial sections, they were unable to examine these features thoroughly but did explain their importance to the developers, who have agreed to alter their plans, thereby preserving these features in situ. While working to the east of the building, an arched tunnel was located which appears to have been used as a water-system. It was constructed from local sand-stone, the internal measurements of which were 76.20cm wide and 66.04cm high.

During its long life the building had served many uses, not all of which were as glamorous as its primary purpose.

Bulletin 98, June 1973

J. Gibson-Hill

Crawley, Sussex: Roman Bloomery site at Broadfields (TQ 258353)

Last year's intensive rescue excavations at Broadfields took place during July and August on a new iron working complex, some 300 yards north of site I and the area investigated already extends over some 1,250 sq. ft. The major discoveries were five furnaces, three of them bloomery shaft furnaces of the Holbeanwood type. The working surface around them is charcoal, tap slag, and metal, trodden into the natural clay. Slag and furnace debris had been dumped into a large oval pit, whilst three small pits contained a fill of charcoal fragments. A large rectangular area covered successively with a layer of red burnt clay and a layer of unburnt beaten

clay is thought to represent the floor of a structure, the limits of which have still to be defined.

Small finds from this site were, unlike site I, quite rare, mainly sherds of pottery in forms similar to those of the Alice Holt assemblage. The past two years' work at Broadfields has resulted in the excavation of approximately 2½ acres of what is thought to be a 20 acres site. A brief summary of the probable sequence of occupation is:

Phase A: Iron Age occupation at Goffs Park and Southgate West, established by the discovery of small clay crucibles and pottery of the South Eastern 'B' Group. At Goffs Park two parallel curving ditches were traced over a short distance. Aerial photographs give indications of possible circular dwellings not in the threatened area.

Phase B: Second-century occupation at Southgate West and Broadfields sites I and II, the Holbeanwood type of bloomery shaft furnace and the double tuyere, blacksmith shop, water reservoir and a series of ditches.

Phase C: Confined to Broadfields sites I and II and dated provisionally to the late fourth century. Structures seem to be the large bloomery shaft furnace.

The evidence thus far appears to show an Iron Age occupation concentrating on iron or precious metal working, which was probably well developed by the Roman period. During the second century A.D. there is an adoption of techniques already well established on the Classis Britannica sites, such as Holbeanwood and Bardown. It might be inferred that these new techniques and the size of the operation represent a military takeover of the site at Broadfields.

In addition to the main excavation we were able to lift the base of a bloomery shaft furnace. It was transported to the museum at Lewes, where, it is hoped that after restoration and conservation work it will be put on public display.

Bulletin 96, April 1973

J. Gibson-Hill

Croydon: Nos. 72-74 Church Street (TQ 320656)

The excavation was undertaken during October 1971 by the Archaeology Section of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. A 1648 Whitgift Records reference mentions the existence of the Falcon Inn on the site. The inn had been demolished by 1724, and replaced by two houses, whose occupants were involved in a Chancery Case over drawing rights from a water conduit belonging to the Archbishop's Palace. The houses were subsequently demolished, and the shops which replaced them were demolished early in 1971.

A fifteen by ten foot trench was dug through the concrete floor of one of the shops, revealing two features: east-west foundation walls for the shop, and the remains of one of the houses. These remains consisted of one interior

wall parallel to the foundation walls, its remaining eight courses forming another of these; a tiled hearth and fire-place extending 9 ft 6 in to the north before merging with later foundations; floors of greensand slabs some 3 feet below present street level; and an oven to the south of the fireplace.

The floors were removed, but no further structures were revealed, and the Taplow Gravels were reached at a depth of 4 ft 7 in. However, a layer of mortar, sandstone, chalk blocks, brick and tile was found immediately beneath the floors, possibly demolition material from the Falcon Inn.

Two ten by five foot trenches were dug in the rear garden of the shops, and, despite disturbance by nineteenth-century pits, revealed two earlier features. At a depth of 4 ft 4 ins in the northernmost trench was discovered a lead conduit, which is likely to be the one described in the Chancery Case. In both trenches a medieval ploughsoil level was traced. Finds included clay tobacco pipes, animal bones, glass fragments, post-medieval pottery, medieval coarse-ware sherds, tiles, and a Nuremburg jetton.

Bulletin 93, Jan. 1973

Keith Ray

Croydon: Surrey Street

A flint wall was uncovered running north-south under the roadway of Surrey Street during the laying of cables in October to November, 1972, in preparation for the new telephone exchange. The wall stretched approximately 16 ft between two returning walls or buttresses, which were 18 ins wide. Workmen stated that the north-south wall continued northwards, but not as far as the Dog & Bull.

Approaching Overton's yard the trench was enlarged, breaking through the wall. Behind it more structural remains were found. A pointed arch of Early English style aligned east-west spanned 15 ft, and on either side of it the wall was of chalk blocks cut so squarely they resembled bricks. The roof above was vaulted to conform with the arch. Five chalk 'brick' courses above the springing of the arch a course of tiles was set, and a cross vault started from these in a northerly direction, indicating a crossing. The cellar of No. 20 Surrey Street cut into the chalk vaulting. The arch had been partially bricked up and the vaulting filled with earth containing eighteenth and nineteenth century sherds, probably when the roadway above collapsed. The filling had settled, leaving a space under the vaulting so that the east side of the arch could be seen. The face of this was moulded and when it was destroyed, early medieval tooling could be seen on the adjoining surfaces. Twenty-two and a half feet away from the north-south wall, another one was found, constructed of chalk block and flints, 2 ft 3 in thick.

Pelton in his *Relics of Old Croydon* (1891), stated that the arch was 'four-centred and Tudor-shaped' but this was not so. In an article from the press entitled 'Facts and Conjectures. Concerning some Architectural Remains at Nos. 20, 21, etc. Surrey Street, Croydon,' the author refers to the arch as Gothic and suggests a date in the late fourteenth century. From the tooling,

which of course would not have been visible until its destruction, the writer would put it earlier than this. It is possible the undercroft was originally a semi-basement, and used partly as a shop, partly as a workshop and store-room. A flight of steps on the outside, down from ground level would permit customers to trade without entering the house. The fact that a barred window was reported in the nineteenth century when the road above collapsed, suggests a semi-basement. A date no later than the thirteenth century would fit the tooling.

Bulletin 95, March 1973

Lilian Thornhill

Croydon: St. John's Road, Old Town (TQ 319654)

Maps of the early nineteenth century show a large building just to the south-west of the parish church. This was reputed to be the Parson's Barn and excavations by the Archaeology Section of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society were carried out on the site on the demolition of the Victorian houses for the construction of the Croydon Inner Ring Road in the spring of 1972. A small area of the western end of the building was uncovered, showing brick walls on chalk footings with floors of clay and rammed chalk. It seems unlikely that the building was constructed before 1700 A.D. although it underwent several major repairs and rebuildings. Evidence for conversion of the building into cottages in the first half of the 19th century is clear and it is now thought that the original building is unlikely to have been a barn. A medieval drainage gully cut in the Taplow Gravels ran under the building.

Bulletin 93, Jan. 1973

R. W. Savage

Croydon: Purley Way, Waddon (TQ 312651)

Construction operations at 375 Purley Way revealed structures cut into the underlying sandstone. The existence of subterranean structures of probable late Iron Age date in the immediate area is well known, and although concrete was being poured a quick investigation was carried out by the Archaeology Section of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. A 10 metre section revealing an underground cellar and two pits was recorded, and the fill of the pits sampled. One of these pits yielded a collection of pottery and other small finds closely datable to the end of the 17th century. These pits are in the grounds of the old Waddon House and are only 50 metres north of the late Iron Age structure investigated by Reid in 1953 (Croydon N.H. & H.S. *Proceedings*, 1954, 145).

Bulletin 93, Jan. 1973

R. W. Savage

Farnborough: Farnborough Hill, Hampshire. (SU 876566)

The excavations from 22nd July-6th August 1972 concentrated on the area round the late medieval kiln discovered as a result of the 1971 survey.

The Kiln

The plan that emerged was of a horse-shoe shaped kiln with a single flue constructed on a foundation of clay spread over the ground surfaces, which formed the floor of the kiln and extended outside it. No walls survived, and the plan could only be traced by the reddened area where the base of the walls had rested. Some large Bagshot sarsens embedded in the ground in line with the back wall, suggested a chimney, needing the support of a more solid foundation than the spread of clay by itself. The maximum dimensions inside the kiln were found to be about four feet in length and breadth, but a curved wall forming a spur joined the west wall of the kiln in such a way that it would shelter the stoke hole from south-westerly winds. The stoke hole area itself was completely destroyed by a war-time air-raid shelter. A small hearth was discovered some 20 feet from the kiln itself, possibly where the potters cooked themselves a meal.

The Pottery

The Pottery found last year is of considerable archaeological interest for two reasons. It all seems likely to have come from this one kiln, which probably did not have a very long life. It is especially interesting because it is a mixture of medieval forms in a typical sandy medieval fabric, and of a range of quite different smaller vessels in the grit-free post-medieval fabric that is standard in the 16th century kilns. The kiln belongs to a transitional period when the post-medieval ware was being developed, and the medieval forms present show that this was in the 15th century. One or two of the post-medieval types are very similar to vessels still current about 1520.

Bulletin 94, Feb. 1973

F. W. Holling

Farnham: Park Row (SU 839471)

A limited trial trench investigation was carried out by the Farnham Museum Society Archaeological Group on the site of the New Alms Houses, behind the Andrew Windsor Alms Houses (1619 A.D.) in Park Row, off Castle Street, Farnham, Surrey.

Prior to the investigation, most of the top soil had been removed by the building contractors.

Thirteen pits were found, containing ash and pottery sherds and a fragment of wall, of brick and stone course construction, adjacent to one of the pits.

In the south of the site a Royal Farthing Token of James I (Lennox Type, 1614-1625) was discovered, and below this a pottery kiln, constructed of rough chalk blocks, clay and tile. It was of near circular shape with two flues on a north-south orientation. Both stokeholes contained pottery and ash.

The kiln-fill was ash and pottery sherds with several broken pots inverted

on the floor. A mass of clay and chalk blocks over the kiln contents may indicate its collapse or deliberate destruction during firing. The pottery was mainly of white ware, indicating a medieval date.

Below the layer upon which the kiln was constructed, and approximately 5 metres to the east was revealed a simple burial containing the upper portion of a human skeleton, the remainder had been destroyed by the building operations. There were no traces of a coffin or any grave goods except for bronze fragments in the vicinity of the skull.

Further investigation of the site, previously occupied by contractors huts, revealed several additional pits containing post-medieval rubbish. The whole of the site of the New Alms Houses has now been built over.

Bulletin 100, Sept. 1973

G. H. Cole

Godalming: Serendipity at Busbridge Park (SU 968422)

Work by Godalming Angling Club to clear a small silted lake in Busbridge Park has revealed elements of the mid-eighteenth-century landscaping of the park, including a waterfall in Bargate stone. The most interesting feature is a nymphaeum structure of Bargate stone, consisting of a semi-circle, about 3m across the chord, flanked on each side by a pair of small niches, occupying the north-east corner of the lake. In front of the niches are four inscribed Roman altars, two in a distinctive dark-red sandstone and two in buff sandstone, all probably from the western end of Hadrian's Wall. Of the red stones, one is clearly legible as a dedication to Sol Invictus, a god usually associated with the cult of Mithras. It reads: [DEO] SOLI/ INVICTO/SEX. SEVE/RIVS. SA/LVATOR/ [PR]AEF(ectus)/ [V(otum) S(oluit)] L(ibens) M(erito), and can be identified as RIB 1992, found at Castlesteads and lost since the early eighteenth century, when it was at Scaleby Castle. The second red stone has split, and only the initial letters DEO S[] have been recovered, but it is probable that this is RIB 1994 dedicated to Mithras. Like 1992, this has been lost since it was at Scaleby Castle in the early eighteenth century. The inscriptions on the buff stones are worn, but both altars have carvings of religious objects, including a vase on a tripod, and an axe. The inscriptions are being studied by Mark Hassall, of London University Institute of Archaeology.

These altars must be regarded as part of the group of stones brought to Busbridge from the north in the mid-eighteenth century, probably by Philip Carteret Webb, of which five were found earlier this century. Three of those were inscribed altars which had been lost since they were at Scaleby Castle in the early eighteenth century (RIB 1872, from Birdoswald, 1980, from Castlesteads, and 2025, probably from Stanwix); the fourth inscription was a previously unrecorded legionary building stone (RIB 2075, assigned to Hadrian's Wall); and the fifth stone a small uninscribed altar.

The Angling Club are continuing work on the site under their Secretary, Mr. West.

Bulletin 96, April 1973

Joanna Bird

Godstone: Flore House (TQ 361521)

During the construction of the Godstone by-pass brick walls were seen in the sides of a drainage trench. The Bourne Society excavated the site for three weekends at the end of January 1973.

The site was found to be part of the garden of Flore House. The house is known to have existed in the seventeenth century when it was mentioned by John Evelyn. Towards the end of the seventeenth century the house seems to have become dilapidated and it was bought and repaired or rebuilt by Sir Robert Clayton. A map of the Clayton Estate dated 1761 (SRO 61/3/2) shows a plan of Flore House with elaborately laid out gardens.

A water-colour drawing by John Hassell shows the house as it was in 1823. By about 1840 the house was left derelict or pulled down and the only visible sign of it was a well.

During the excavation, the footings of a brick wall, 34 ins thick in places, and a cobbled path were found, with a combined length of about 80ft. These were probably part of the stables.

The pottery consisted of parts of 12 large cooking vessels. They had thick rims with a reddish-brown glaze inside. Some of the vessels were burnt on the outside from use in cooking.

One piece of a large procelain bowl was found. This was blue and white ware and was made in China and exported to Britain between 1720 and 1750.

There was part of a flat dish or plate in white salt-glazed stoneware of the type made in Staffordshire between 1720 and 1750. There were a large number of broken wine bottles of eighteenth century type.

The metal finds included an iron buckle 2 ins square and a selection of square shanked nails.

The food remains consisted of animal bones and oyster shells. A number of clay pipe stems were found, but no bowls.

Bulletin 97, May 1973

Mary Saaler

Guildford: Excavation at Guildford Park Manor (SU 969493)

The University of Surrey Archaeological Society carried out in 1972 a first season of excavation at the moated site of the Royal Manor House of Guildford Park. Documentary evidence indicates that a lodge was present on the site in 1318 but in 1607 it was described as 'pulde downe and defaced'. The moat surrounds a rectangular island approximately 50m × 28m and aligned north-south. A trench was excavated across its western side and showed it to be almost completely filled with building rubble, mainly flints and broken tiles, from the Manor. A few sherds of pottery found below water level, which was reached at a depth of 1.80m, indicated that the filling had occurred in the early seventeenth century. The outer revetment wall of the moat was revealed to be 1.70m high and from it

projected a Tudor brick abutment 10 courses deep. In front of this the silt of the moat bed was reached at a depth of 2.40m and was 35cm thick. The inner wall of the moat had been robbed but the substantial footings indicated that it had carried an outside wall of the house. The robbing had post-dated the filling of the moat, which was 5.50m wide at this point.

A circular garderobe pit, 75cm in diameter 1.70m deep and built of blocks of chalk, was discovered on the island side of the inner moat wall. The base was constructed of thin bricks and wood, part of which had decayed revealing a chalk floor below. The wood was part of a plank which also formed the base of a drain running through the footings of the moat wall. The walls of this drain were of thin bricks standing on the edges of the plank and it was capped with stone. Near the outer end, 70cm from the garderobe, it was partially closed by an iron plate. No other well-defined structural features were found.

The earliest finds, at the edge of the island, consisted of coarse pottery of the late twelfth or early thirteenth century. Unfortunately, much of this material had been disturbed, but two small undisturbed pits contained many sherds of this early date. There was also a range of sherds of fourteenth and fifteenth century pottery much of it being typical Surrey ware. The garderobe pit contained rich black soil and finds probably dating from the early sixteenth century.

During the course of the excavation the Surrey Archaeological Society's Geophysical Surveying Team carried out an electrical resistivity survey of the site. Detailed analysis of the results should provide further insight into the original plan of the building.

Bulletin 96, April 1973

A. G. Crocker

Kingston-upon-Thames: Old Bridge Street (TQ 178694)

Excavation by Kingston Archaeological Society on behalf of Kingston Museum proceeded through most of 1972 on the riverside site immediately downstream of Kingston Bridge in advance of the proposed Phase I Ringway Scheme.

There was a great build-up of modern rubble and gravel over most of the site and under the foundations of a nineteenth-century warehouse and offices (roughly on the alignment of Old Bridge Street to the river), were found the massive masonry retaining walls of the approach ramp to the old bridge, demolished in circa 1830. Near the bank were the bases of two stone ribbed dry arches, roughly floored and faced with brick. There was evidence of much periodic repair, but finds from stratified levels associated with the main work were not at variance with a late sixteenth century date known from the Bridge Wardens Accounts for this construction. Trenches to the south of the old bridge revealed foundations of a brick building of circa 1700, glimpses of which can be seen on prints of Kingston Old Bridge. There were successive depositions of river silt and gravel containing late medieval material, mainly Surrey off-white ware. An early seventeenth-century pit

group of Surrey white wares, stoneware, pipes etc. give a terminus ante quem for the final flood level.

Bulletin 97, May 1973

Stephen Nelson

Leatherhead: Wooden Monuments in the Churchyard

The recent discovery in Leatherhead churchyard of five wooden grave-markers may provide a clue to the type of memorial used in Surrey churchyards before the introduction of stone monuments in the seventeenth century. Wooden memorials naturally had a short life, and, though no earlier than the mid nineteenth century, the Leatherhead specimens (small posts, with painted inscriptions, which should not be confused with the more familiar traditional 'leaping-boards' or 'bed-heads') appear to be the only examples of their type known to survive in this part of the country.

Their importance lies in the fact that they are each situated at the foot (east) end of the grave, not at the head: they correspond to footstones, not headstones. Though small footstones in conjunction with eighteenth and nineteenth century headstones are of course commonplace, post-Tudor examples of footstones which were erected by themselves are practically unknown. There is, however, reason for thinking that it was sometimes the practice in earlier centuries to place the monument at the foot of the grave: three slabs found in the medieval graveyard at Old Sarum were associated with footstones only, and in *Hamlet* Ophelia says "At his head a grass-green turf—At his heels a stone". It therefore seems likely that the Leatherhead markers, though themselves of no great age, represent the last manifestation of an ancient, possibly medieval, tradition of churchyard monuments in the form of wooden foot-posts.

It is hoped that the best of the surviving examples, commemorating Caleb Musk (1863) will be offered on loan to Guildford Museum.

Bulletin 97, May 1973

W. J. Blair

Ockham: Monumental Brass

The brass of John and Margaret Weston (d. 1483 and 1475) in Ockham Church was recently repaired and refixed by Mr. B. S. H. Egan. This operation provided confirmation of Mill Stephenson's conjecture that the brass was a palimpsest, the inscription on the underside commemorating Edward Warmyngton, 'at one time citizen and grocer of London', who died in 1462. The records of the Grocers' Company show that Warmyngton was Third Warden of the company in 1455, but further information concerning him, and in particular the place of his burial, would be much appreciated by the writer, whose address is: The Rev. Canon A. R. Winnett, Ph.D., Ockham Rectory, Woking, Surrey (Ripley 3358).

Bulletin 94, Feb. 1973

Ockham and West Horsley: Eighteenth Century Landmarks

In the State Bedroom at Clandon Park hangs a painting by Kniff of the Elizabethan mansion of Clandon Park in 1708. It shows the Park and surrounding countryside as a bird's eye view.

On the skyline to the right of the picture stands a windmill which is indicated on Bowen's map of Surrey 1748 and the Ordnance Survey of 1816. It lies north of the Chalkpit and south of the West Horsley crossroads. There are no remains now, but a house called Windmill Hill House indicates the area.

Also the red brick mansion shown in the middle distance on the left of the picture is probably Ockham Park, built by Henry Weston in 1622, which was later enlarged by Lord King.

Bulletin 100, Sept. 1973

Katherine Palmer

Putney: 10 Bemish Road

During the five weekends between the granting of planning permission and the commencement of building, an excavation was undertaken by Wandsworth Historical Society to determine the extent of Roman occupation already discovered in The Platt, which is the next road along from Bemish Road.

Earth moving machinery was used to remove the top three feet of earth in three trenches, each approximately 150 feet long and from ten to 17 feet wide.

Finds: Roman coarse ware and some Samian; ten coins dating between 70 and 346 A.D.; metal work from the Roman level, including a key and part of a hinge, and a bronze circular brooch; sherds of Early Iron Age; Late Neolithic decorated rims, possibly Fengate ware, and a small piece of base with a portion of decorated wall. There may be more early pottery in the finds bags awaiting sorting.

A re-cut ditch and a gully with postholes were found, and gravel areas, and signs of burnt mud. A number of hearths were uncovered, one being overlaid with pieces of a smashed mortarium and a sherd of Samian ware. A circle, six feet in diameter, of small post holes with half of another circle abutting it were of great interest.

Roman occupation appears to spread over the whole area excavated. Materials, drawings and photographs await analysis.

Bulletin 93, Jan. 1973

S. E. Warren

Shepperton: Ferry Lane (TQ 078661)

The working of a gravel pit to the east of Ferry Lane and very close to the north bank of the River Thames has revealed at least two rows of stakes north-south across the line of an old stream-bed. The contractors, Charlton Sand and Ballast Co. Ltd., called in Mr. R. Trett of Chertsey Museum who, after a site examination informed the Society's Archaeological

Officer. The Company is to be praised for leaving the stakes in situ and thanked for affording every facility for archaeological investigation.

It is not possible at this stage to do more than guess at the purpose and date of the stakes. They appear to have been about three metres in length, are pointed at the top, and are set roughly one metre apart. Traces of twigs indicate that one row at least was held together at the bottom by a kind of wickerwork. The two main rows at present known were seen to join at one end, where there were two larger, squared, posts. These were, unfortunately, destroyed in the process of gravel extraction. The other end is still buried in the west-east section, as is what appears to be a further line of stakes in the north-south section.

One major feature of interest is that the stakes and stream were buried under several feet of apparently clean gravel, laid down in a series of different layers, and themselves sealed by a layer of silting and another of topsoil. It is quite clear from the section that the stakes were buried, and not set in from above. A few finds have been made but none that can be regarded as closely associated with the structure; it is indeed difficult to see how any form of date can be obtained from associated finds as these could have been brought down by the stream at any time it was still flowing, and possibly even worn away from earlier deposits. Theories about the purpose of the stakes abound—the dread name of Caesar has been mentioned!—but it seems most likely at this stage that we are dealing with some sort of fish-weir, probably medieval in date. Any definite statement must, however, await a detailed investigation and a radio-carbon date for the wood.

Bulletin 96, May 1973

D. G. Bird

There was, in *Bulletin 96* a brief description of the finding of a number of rows of stakes buried in a gravel pit at Ferry Lane. It was hoped, then, that it would be possible to carry out a planned programme of excavation, but in the event the needs of the Gravel Company limited work to two weekends, after which the two exposed rows of stakes were covered by top soil from another part of the pit, and the third row was dug out and destroyed in the continuing process of gravel extraction. The writer was able to pay frequent visits to the pit during this time to record the existence and position of the third row and a fourth which turned up, and to rescue one complete stake for detailed examination.

It is not really possible to describe the position of the various rows of stakes and their relationship to one another without the benefit of a plan nor to say here more than that the rescued stake measured 2.66 metres, was pointed at both ends and had been roughly squared along its lower half.

The main purpose of the present note is to make known the possible date of the stakes. A report has now been received from Professor F. W. Shotton of the Department of Geology of the University of Birmingham to the effect that a radio-carbon date for samples of wood taken from the wicker binding

at the foot of row 1 gives a life of 1520 B.P. \pm 120, suggested date 430 AD. This is of considerable interest because it was originally felt that the stakes were more likely to be medieval. It throws into prominence the finds of other Roman material from the lower gravel of the pit, including several roof tiles and a complete fourth century flagon probably from the Alice Holt Forest kilns.

Ideas as to the purpose of the stakes will be gratefully received.

Bulletin 100, Sept. 1973

D. G. Bird

Walton-on-Thames: St George's Hill

The well-known hill fort on St. George's Hill, south of Weybridge, has twice recently been subjected to minor disturbances. These raised hopes of adding to the somewhat meagre store of information about this important site, which is nowadays largely obscured by trees and private houses.

The first occasion was in December, 1972, when foundation trenches were opened for a new house in the interior opposite 'Havesta' in Camp End Road (at TQ 08506176). Unfortunately, all that could be done was to examine the trenches, which were nowhere more than one metre wide. No satisfactory evidence for structures was seen nor could it be expected without the careful stripping of a large area. An opportunity to do so is needed before the whole of the interior of the fort is destroyed, because at the moment nothing is known about the internal arrangements, if any.

The digging of an Electricity Board trench through the ramparts was the second occasion, at the beginning of July this year. The trench, for the laying of a cable to a small sub-station, was in the grounds of Tor Point, centred on TQ 08656155, at the southern end of the fort. Unfortunately it proved to be too small to provide much archaeological information, being only about 35cm wide and 50-60cm deep. Yet even in so shallow a trench the upcast provided some points of interest.

Gardner took a few sections through the ramparts early in the century (Sy AC 24 (1911), 40ff), and these provide the basic information about the construction of the defences. He noted on the south-eastern side a single rampart and ditch and considered that it had been provided with a counterscarp whose remains had later been thrown into the ditch to level it up and make a path. The ramparts were, for the most part, made of a sandy gravel.

The upcast from the Electricity Board's trench in general confirmed this. The sequence from top to bottom, or west to east, along the trench, showed first dark silty soil and then dry gravelly sand at the top of the first bank and down on to the ledge below it, where there was dark silty material again. The gravel was repeated at the top and on the side of the second bank before giving way to silty material on the slope below. This shows, in the same order, silting against the inside of the inner rampart, then the rampart itself, represented by the gravelly sand of its bank. The rampart runs right along the edge of the hill at this point. Below it on the slope is the evidence

for first a ditch—the silty material on the ledge—and then a second bank, Gardner's counterscarp, made of the same material (which is, in fact, the natural subsoil) as the inner rampart. The silty material below it suggests that there may even have been a second ditch. This interpretation can only be tentative, bearing in mind the nature of the evidence, and for the same reason no accurate measurements could be taken. Again, it is to be hoped that there will be an opportunity one day for a proper investigation of the defences. Fortunately, they are scheduled, and with luck this will preserve them for future research.

Thanks are due to Messrs Ball and Godwin of Walton and Weybridge Urban District Council, who first drew the writer's attention to the Electricity Board's trench, and to Mrs Nicholls and Mr Hillman of the South-Eastern Electricity Board for keeping him informed of the progress of the cable-laying.

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D. G. Bird

Woking: Black Close, Beech Hill, Mayford (SU 997559)

Whilst Members of the Mayford History Society were field walking in advance of the proposed new stretch of the A320 Woking/Guildford road across the water meadows from the new roundabout at Mayford Green to the foot of Pyle Hill, particular attention was paid to the field called Black Close to the West of Beech Hill.

In this grass field it was noticed that there were two roughly rectangular areas, approximately 24 metres by 14 metres, where the surface was slightly smoother and less hummocky than the rest of the field; the ground was harder and retained water on the surface; moles did not tunnel although they were very active in the surrounding areas; and where, in some places, very slight banks occurred on the edges of the rectangles.

Mrs Green, the owner of the land, very kindly allowed a few trial trenches to be excavated across these banks, and into part of the rectangles, and at 40cms below the present surface, a ditch 1.3 metres wide by 1.1 metre deep, U-shaped in section and filled with very dark soil, was clearly visible cutting through the surrounding sand and iron pan.

The water table was reached at this level but in spite of the flooding it was possible to trace the ditch for 11.5 metres. It contained a number of large rim and other sherds of different types of Romano-British coarse-ware; a quarter section of the top stone of a hand rotary quern; several pieces of what appeared to be building material, including one very large lump with a distinct groove in one side; and also evidence of fire—a number of blackened stones and crackled flints, and a few very small pieces of charred wood.

Aerial photographs received after the trial excavations had been carried out did not, unfortunately, show any signs of these banks and ditches.

The writer would like to thank Lady Hanworth, Mrs Green, Mr Holling and Mr Hampton for their help and interest.

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Nancy Cox