

Extracts from the Bulletins of 1974 and 1975 (Nos. 103-122)

Telegraph Stations of the Napoleonic Period

During the period 1797-1814, as a temporary expedient in the Napoleonic Wars, a 'boarded' or 'shutter' telegraph system was set up to provide fast communication between the Admiralty and Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham, Deal, Sheerness, and Yarmouth. This system was largely dismantled in 1814 and later replaced by the better-known semaphore system represented by permanent buildings such as the tower on Chatley Heath, Cobham, and Semaphore House, Pewley Hill, Guildford.

The boarded telegraph, also referred to as Murray's telegraph after its inventor, used a method of signalling by means of six octagonal shutters held in a rectangular framework and operated by ropes to be vertical (visible) or horizontal (invisible from a distance). An element of a message thus comprised a pattern of visible shutters. The framework was attached to a small building erected on a suitable hill-top. A crew of four men was typical, but sleeping accommodation was probably provided at a nearby village or farm.

The Murray telegraph line which passed through Surrey was the joint Portsmouth/Plymouth line. Commencing on the roof of the Admiralty, London, stations were erected at Chelsea (Royal Hospital), Putney ('The Highland'), Ashted (Cabbage Hill), Hackhurst Downs, Hascombe (Telegraph Hill), Blackdown, South Harting (Beacon Hill), Portsdown, and thence to Portsmouth (The Glacis); the Plymouth line diverged at Beacon Hill and followed a line to Southampton and thence westwards through Dorset to Devonshire.

Owing to the simple and temporary nature of the telegraph buildings, there are no surviving examples although over 50 were erected altogether to serve the six naval termini named above. (The author has examined the possibility that Windmill Hill Farm, Chalton, Hants, incorporates a telegraph station of the Plymouth line in its structure but to date has no positive proof.) However, the sites are shown on the one-inch OS maps of 1811 (but not in Devonshire), and on modern maps the name 'Telegraph Hill' sometimes indicates this early system (but as a word of caution it must be noted that the later semaphore stations were frequently called telegraph stations and surviving buildings are sometimes still named 'Telegraph House').

The problem of locating the actual remains of buildings has thus become an archaeological one, particularly in areas where dense woodland and undergrowth has obliterated the sites. The site at Cabbage Hill, Ashted, for example, was described in 1938 as being indicated only by a rectangular plot bounded by trees marking the original hedge (the writer has not visited this site). The site on Hackhurst Downs at TQ 099491 has eluded

discovery so far. However, the writer has located what appears to be the site of the Hascombe station in woodland to the east of the hill-fort at TQ 008388. The indications consist of brick, tile, mortar, and roofing-slate debris. Excavation would confirm the site, and determine perhaps the layout of the station, and whether indications remain of the shutter framework and mechanism, unlikely though the latter might be.

References

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—, *Country life*, **84** (1938)

R. W. Williams

Bulletin 119, Aug. 1975

Addington: Village

The construction of the new road by-passing Addington Village has cut Church Meadow into two, the more interesting earthworks lying to the south. The northern portion however provides an area of undisturbed meadow land near to the church, and since applications for permits to develop have been lodged with Croydon Council, permission to investigate it was sought and obtained by Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society.

Church Meadow was originally 12 acres, but buildings had reduced its size even before the loss of acreage to the new road. Since it was predominantly used for pasture and close to the church, it seemed to offer the best source of information on the early village of Addington. St Mary the Virgin is known to be a very ancient foundation, and parts of the wall of the chancel date to the 1080s, so a medieval village must have existed.

Accordingly, two trenches 3 m square were opened up as near to the church as possible, and on a line with the older village buildings. Below the topsoil there was relatively little other than eroded medieval sherds, not in their original layers. The base of a flint wall filled with chalk rubble, running north-south practically bisected trench I, and the tumble from the wall was also present. In trench II, immediately below the flints, there was a thick layer of glutinous, multi-coloured clay, which overlay a well-made but worn cobbled flint area, and at the junction of the clay and cobbling a late 17th or early 18th century assemblage was found. Trenches III and IV were dug to establish the extent of the cobbling. On the west it abutted the wall and continued eastward for 16 m, terminating under an 18th century bank. Extensions to trench II showed the cobbling continuing both north and south. It was also found in trenches VII and VIII so that 7 m have been exposed and it is still continuing in both these directions. It consisted of two layers, the lower being a foundation, with many of the flints on end which would not be practical except as a base. In trench III the cobbling had developed a weakness in one place, the flints having sunk into a subsidence which was too irregular to be a pit.

The problem is to interpret what has been found. Too little of the wall has been exposed to say definitely what the building was but its position is the traditional one for a manor house.

The finds help very little. Only one medieval base sherd and a fragment of hone have been found in the wall and a very few more were associated with the cobbling. The clay layer cannot be earlier than about 1700, but the cobbling could well be much earlier. Cobbling can be swept, and that may account for the paucity of the finds. From the numbers of medieval sherds found in the upper layers, one would expect to find medieval layers in situ. The cobbling is not deep enough for one to accept it readily as medieval, so part of trench I was taken down to a depth of 2 m, to see if it had been laid on top of the medieval land surface. It had not.

The bases of the pillars in the nave of the church are below the floor. Estimates vary as to how deep they lie buried, from 6 ins to 6 ft. Since the latter would bring the crypt underlying the chancel above ground level, this is probably a mis-reading of 6 ft for 6 ins.

The lack of any evidence for the medieval land surface can only be explained in two ways; either it was dug out before the cobbling was laid, or the cobbling itself was Medieval.

Lillian Thornhill.

Bulletin 103, Jan. 1974

Ashtead: Re-examination of a Site at the Old Quarry, the Warren

Excavation at the Old Quarry, the Warren, Ashtead, was carried out by Non-such Archaeological Society from February to May, 1974. An exploratory section was made in the terrace south of the house revealing the residual remains of an oval pit cut into the bedrock, 2 m across its narrowest axis, some 50 cm deep and lying 2 m from the quarry edge. A second pit, north of the first, was located when the section was extended. This appeared larger than the first and yielded the first pottery fragments to be found, together with fire crackled flints and a worked flint blade. These pits would have been at least 4.9 m deep when measured from the probable original land surface and it is perhaps significant that a band of flint nodules may be seen some 5 m below the present land surface on the opposite face of the quarry. It is planned to extend the present excavation on the terrace east and west of the first section, while sections on the site of the house garden are proposed to determine if any evidence of a settlement is present.

Investigation by the late A.W.G. Lowther in the 1930s partially revealed two shafts or pits containing red and dark tempered wares (so-called Deverel-Rimbury and All Cannings Cross wares) associated with fire crackled flints. A scatter of similar material in the topsoil suggested further pits or an occupation site.

F. Pemberton, R. Temple, J. Barfoot

Bulletin 108, July 1974

Barnes: Observations on the Common

A Roman cremation burial was found 20 years ago near the Mill Hill houses on Barnes Common. It was hoped that evidence of Roman occupation might be discovered by watching the excavation of a 7 ft deep gas main trench which runs across the Common from the railway, under Station Road, Rocks Lane, Common Road and Lower Richmond Road, to Barn Elms. Owing to extensive gravel workings, the topsoil is thin, as little as 3 in in places. The subsoil is Flood Plain Gravel.

The exposed section of the Lower Richmond Road showed a cambered gravel surface about 1 in thick under the modern road. It was bedded on 2 ft of dark, sandy clay which rested on the subsoil. The gravel surface, whose edges had been cut by modern disturbances, survived to a width of 16 ft (5 m). There was no evidence to suggest a date.

B. Kentish, Wandsworth Historical Society News Sheet

Bulletin 120, Sept. 1975

Carshalton: Human Remains in the Grounds of St Philomena's School, Carshalton House (TQ 27576470)

In February 1974, human bones were found in the roots of an elm which had blown over in the school grounds. They were examined by the police surgeon, Dr D. Haler, who referred the matter to the Society as the bones were clearly ancient. The site was cleared and examined by the writer with the approval of the school authorities and the considerable help of Sister Pauline Stevens and of our member, Mr K. A. Pryer.

The tree had caused disturbance both before and after its fall, but it was possible to tackle the earth packed round the roots as an exercise in reverse stratigraphy. All the material effectively *in situ* was found in this way except for a part of the left humerus which was in the undisturbed earth beneath the tree and married perfectly with its other half which was clinging to the roots. It was thus possible to work out approximately the position in which the body had been lying; this was SW-NE. The bones present were roughly the correct relationship one to another, but many were missing, so that it was not clear whether they had been properly buried, at most in a shallow scoop of a grave on the natural chalk, and had then been spread by the action of the tree's roots, or if several articulating pieces had been thrown in.

Over the bones there was a mass of building rubble, including chalk blocks, occasional bricks, pottery dating from the 13th to 16th centuries and a medieval key. The rubble had a straight edge which would have left some of the bones uncovered, so its use as a deliberate cover to the grave was unlikely. A detailed examination of the bones, carried out by Mrs Geraldine Done, established that they were all from an adult, except for the lower jaw-bone of a child of about 7 years of age; this was found in the close vicinity

of the rubble, but as it was part of the find made before the writer's investigation, its relation to the other bones is not clear.

It is recorded that bones were found here early in the 18th century. The present ones could have been reburied at that time, some of the articulations being preserved by the sticky clay which surrounds them. They may then have been covered by the building rubble from the demolition of an earlier house.

There are clearly several problems set by this discovery, and it may be possible to carry out a small excavation with a view to solving them. A resistivity survey carried out by a team under Dr A.G. Crocker has yet to be examined in detail.

D.G. Bird

Bulletin 108, July 1974

Coulsdon: Roman Coin Find (TQ 287589)

A bronze coin of the Emperor Nero was found by Mr. F. Burnett of Parkside Gardens, Coulsdon (AD 54-68) in his garden in May 1974. The inscription reads IMP NERO CLAUDIUS CAESAR AUGUSTUS. Reverse VICTORIA AUGUSTI S.C. with a figure of a winged victory.

Mary Saaler

Bulletin 120, Sept. 1975

Croydon: 160 Church Street/2 Waddon Road

The old road from Croydon to Waddon made a pronounced deviation to the south just west of the Parish Church, thus avoiding the parson's barn and another building which appears on all of the old maps of Croydon. As the site lies on the line of the Inner Ring Road the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society carried out a short excavation on the weekend of 30 June and 1 July beneath 160 Church Street and 2 Waddon Road. They were able to show a sequence of buildings. Unfortunately limited time and manpower meant a limited exploration on a site of great potential.

Almost immediately below the flimsy foundations of the mid-Victorian cottages they found a brick wall running northeast-southwest. It rested on a composite foundation wall—the northerly side was of well-cut chalk bricks—the southerly exterior was of flint. The writer believes this to be the foundation of the half-timbered house pictured on p. 45 of C.G. Paget's *Byways in Croydon history*.

Under the wall was a chalk floor and tiled hearth which both extended out under the present roadway. This previous building had clearly been dismantled in the late 17th century to judge by the finds on the floor. The tiled hearth was lined with bricks, the retaining wall of the chimney breast was built of shaped flints and blocks of greensand.

Further work at the north end of the trench at some 4 m north of the tiled hearth revealed a deep pit. There was a frail flint retaining wall approximately parallel to the much later chalk one. The top of the pit contained quantities of late 17th century pottery but the lower layers go back to the late medieval.

R. W. Savage

Bulletin 103, Jan. 1974

Dorking: Stane Street at North Holmwood (TQ 166471)

At the invitation of Surrey County Council Planning Department, excavations were carried out in May 1975 in advance of development of a piece of waste land on the possible course of Stane Street.

The ground had been disturbed when the A24 bypass was built, and was marshy in places. As no sign of the road was visible on the surface, two trenches, 20 m apart, were cut across the line marked on the OS map, one extending to the east and the other to the west. In both trenches the road surface was located between 60-70 cm below the modern surface. The metalling consisted of a compacted layer of fine gravel containing a high proportion of ironstone grit laid over a foundation of large flint nodules and sandstone rocks.

In the southern trench a 3 m length of metalling was found towards the east where a possible edge and small ditch were located. The centre of the road had apparently been robbed out, leaving a few flint nodules embedded in the natural clay. In the northern trench metalling was found over the entire length of 6 m and continued into the baulk at the east end. The heavy stone foundation died out towards the west end but the gravel continued into the baulk and it was not possible to distinguish an edge.

Shortage of time prevented any further excavation, and heavy rain during the last week completely flooded both trenches making precise recording difficult, but it would appear that the section of Stane Street remaining at this point is at least 15 m wide and is composed of 5-10 cm of gravel on a foundation of flint and sandstone, 14-16 cm deep at the centre.

Vivien Ettlinger

Bulletin 120, Sept. 1975

Egham: Polished Flint Axe from Bell Weir Lock (TQ 07721)

A polished flint axe 11.7 cm × 6 cm and a maximum breadth of 3 cm was found among material dredged from the Thames during the reconstruction of the Bell Weir Lock during the winter of 1973.

Made of fine grey flint with several large inclusions, the axe is ground overall but only the facet around the cutting edge has been polished. This axehead is an addition to the group of axes and other material already

dredged from the river in the stretch between Magna Carta Island and the Bell Weir Bridge which seem to indicate a fairly large scale prehistoric occupation of the river banks.

A large amount of animal bone found at the same time will be the subject of a separate report which should appear in the forthcoming Motorway Research Report together with a report on other prehistoric material from the Bell Weir Bridge area.

The axe and bones have been presented to the museum by the finder, Mr. Tolfree.

Egham by Runnymede Historical Society *Newsletter* 81

Bulletin 115, Mar. 1975

Esher Bypass: Re-routing of the A3

This six mile re-routing of the A3 from Long Ditton to Painshill, Cobham, is being constructed as a bypass for Esher and Cobham. The roadway route bisects the Fairmile and Esher Commons and cuts through farmland in the Hook and southern Long Ditton areas. Field-walking of the route, by the writer on behalf of the Surrey Archaeological Society, began in February and weekly inspections over a two month period were undertaken. Engineering groundwork for the bypass was quite advanced by that time with the haulage road extending from Hook to Painshill. The removal of topsoil in this case meant the loss of any associated archaeological artefacts or features. The then undisturbed section, from Hook to Long Ditton, was inspected more intensively but nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Fortunately some previous site reconnaissance work has been conducted independently on various sections of the proposed route, by R. J. Webber and P. Best. Also three sites threatened by roadworks in the Barwell Court—Grapsome area were excavated in 1974 by representatives of the Surrey Archaeological Society and the Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society. Collation of this and other information reported in the Site Record File at Castle Arch, Guildford, has revealed a total of fifteen known sites spanning a considerable time range.

Stone tools including flakes, blades, and a polished axe have been located, as have a few Romano-British pots and sherds, and a potential Romano-British settlement near Barwell Court. More recent times are represented by a moated site at The Grapsome (see p. 282) and a nearby structure containing a bronze bridle. Close to both of these sites can be detected a series of medieval pathways presently being investigated by members of the Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society.

All these sites have been recorded on SyAS site cards (Ref. TQ16SW & SE) and plotted onto Department of Environment roadplan maps (EB/R1 series) stored at Castle Arch.

A few miles south, at the beginning of the A3 Ripley Bypass, a 22-acre roadside hill on the Dunsborough Estate was also investigated. Contractors

were excavating the site for gravel and sand for use in the roadworks nearby. Although the area was inspected on several occasions the only artefacts and structures noted were of 19th/20th century origins.

Angela Calder

Bulletin 120, Sept. 1975

Ewell: St. Mary's New Churchyard (TQ 2221563044)

Following the results of the 1970/1 excavation (SyAC 69, 1-26) further work to elucidate the occupation at the site and the structure of Stane Street has been taking place by members and friends of the Nonsuch Archaeological Society, aided by the Bourne Hall Museum.

Two areas, 8 m × 2 m, in the north-east corner of the site have been worked upon. They have revealed a scatter of flints and pebbles associated with green and red glazed medieval and post-medieval sherds, iron objects studs and nails, together with Romano-British sherds. The Romano-British material at all depths consisted of colour coated, rouletted, stamped and flanged vessel types, amongst which several coins were found, dating to the late third and early fourth centuries. Just beneath these horizons was the flint surface of Stane Street, with patches of yellow gravel, where flints had been removed. The medieval sherds, loose flints and pebbles were found in those areas devoid of metalling, suggesting robbing by local inhabitants. Some depressions in the road surface, possibly pothole repairs, were packed with dark brown soil, and fragments of brick, quern and pottery, some of which are parts of the same vessel. There is little sign of any Romano-British buildings, but most of the western edge of the road here has been disturbed to a depth of 50 cm. A resistivity survey of the immediate area showed a negative pattern but one carried out in an adjacent paddock has given high readings along the 'London Road' alignment, between TQ 2217562975-2213762915.

A further survey and excavation programme is planned to trace the route between The Old Church Tower, Ewell and St Martin's Church, which is under debate, since recent rescue excavations have failed to prove the route of Stane Street through Ewell as published in SyAC 43, 29-32

James Barfoot, Richard Temple and Frank Pemberton

Bulletin 112, Dec. 1974

Godalming: Serendipity at Busbridge Park (SU 968422)

Through the generosity of the Rev Mother General of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood, whose mother house is at Ladywell Convent, three of the four large altars found in the lake at Busbridge Park (SyAC 70, 154), together with a small portable altar, have now been removed to Carlisle Museum on permanent loan to form part of the collection already there. The fourth altar, which was extensively damaged by a fallen

tree, is being left in position as not worth the expense of removal and haulage.

One of the three large stones has not previously been recorded. It is extensively eroded, but Mr R. P. Wright, the editor of *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, has been able to decipher the inscription as follows: [D] E O / SANC[TO] / NEP[T]VNO / REGINIVS / IVSTINVS / TRIBVN[V]S [V]OT[V]M / LIBENS / SOLVIT / MER[ITO]. Mr Wright's view is that the stone probably came from Birdoswald, and that it was probably found between 1729, when Horsley recorded the collection at Scaleby Castle, and c 1740 when some of the stones were removed to Busbridge Park.

Clare Smith

Bulletin 103, Jan. 1974

Guildford: Castle Ditch (SU 998493)

A section was cut across the castle ditch in Castle Street in the autumn and winter of 1972/3 with the object of discovering its original form and depth and any evidence for its date. The first section had to be abandoned on reaching a depth of 4.25 m because it became unsafe owing to soil movement. A second ditch was therefore cut slightly higher up Castle Street and this reached the bottom at 6.25 m below the present surface. Both sections showed a V-shaped profile with similar angles of slope on either side of the ditch. The original width of the ditch at the surface would have been approximately 12 m, but its outer edge had been destroyed by later buildings in both the areas examined. The only feature found in it was a path which had been constructed along the side of the mound about 2 m above the ditch bottom. This was built up of chalk, with a rough surface of Bargate stone and mortar.

Below the modern disturbance which included numerous drain pipes, the ditch filling down to 1.8 m contained a scatter of 17th century pottery and consisted mainly of sticky chalky soil with occasional lenses of chalk. The nature of the filling suggested that the ditch had been filled up in a comparatively short time after having been left open to accumulate a layer of about 30 cm of soil above the rest of the filling. This layer, representing the 16th century dereliction of the castle, was preceded by one containing a number of large shaped blocks of chalk in fresh condition which looked as if they had been intended for reconstruction or repair of castle buildings, but had been discarded unused. Fifteenth century sherds were mixed with this level, but not in any quantity, and fewer still were found in the lower part of the ditch where the filling was comparatively clean chalk rubble. No sherds could positively be dated earlier than the 13th century. Bones mixed with the filling were analysed by Mrs. Done, and found to be chiefly from food animals (ox, sheep and pig), with ox predominating. There were also bones from at least two horses, seven dogs, and a few birds.

Felix Holling

Bulletin 106, April 1974

Guildford: Guildford Park Manor (SU 969493)

The University of Surrey Archaeological Society carried out, in August 1973, a second season of excavation at the moated site of the Royal Manor House of Guildford Park (SyAC 70, 155-6). They examined an area of about 35 sq m at the north-west corner of the island, the natural Reading Beds clay being reached at a depth of approximately 1.1 m. Five distinct structural features were discovered.

(1) At the western edge of the island a length of 4 m of the inner wall of the moat, continuing the alignment determined in 1972. This demonstrated that the garderobe pit was enclosed in the main building and was not situated in an attached tower. At about 8 m from the north-west corner of the island this wall widened from 0.3 m to 1.0 m corresponding presumably to a change from a garden retaining wall around the northern part of the island, to a robbed foundation wall of the House.

(2) On the island side of the wider part of the wall a square pit about 1 m across with walls constructed largely of blocks of chalk. It was excavated to a depth of about 1.5 m corresponding to water level in the adjacent moat. The pit contained a 0.6 m layer of charcoal surmounted by a crude horizontal flue constructed from a double row of five stones about 0.8 m long and 0.3 m wide with a central channel about 5 cm wide. Pottery associated with this hearth dated it to the early 16th century.

(3) About 6 m to the east of the pit the foundation of a flint-faced wall 0.4 m high and 0.5 m wide and running east-west, about 0.3 m below the surface. Immediately to the north of this feature was a layer of mortar and flints about 1.7 m wide which could have been the foundation of a pavement.

(4) About 9 m farther east a network of three interconnecting open drains totalling about 6 m in length and constructed from thin Tudor bricks, 0.4 m below the surface. The channels were of rectangular section about 5 cm deep and varying in width from 14 to 20 cm. They sloped downwards slightly towards the moat at the northern end of the island. Pottery found above and below the drains suggested they were laid in the early 16th century.

(5) At the edge of the island, north of the flint wall foundation, at a depth of about 0.2 m and rather disturbed by tree roots several large slabs of Horsham sandstone were discovered. These could have been the remains of a paved path along the moat edge and again suggest that this was probably a garden area.

The pottery found covered the known period of occupation of the Manor House from the late 12th to the early 17th century. Much of it including some imported wares is very interesting. Other ceramic finds included an early Netherlands blue and white Majolica floor-tile and a Penn floor-tile with lettering. The only medieval coin found, a groat of 1474 was unfortunately in disturbed topsoil. Several splashes of lead were associated with the hearth. The animal bones discovered included boar jaws which seems most appropriate for the home of the Keeper of a Hunting Park.

Many of the structural features could be associated with repairs known to be carried out at the House in 1514.

A. G. Crocker

Bulletin 103, Jan. 1974

A third season of excavation was carried out in August 1974. About 65 sq metres at the north end of the island were examined and the following structural features discovered:

(1) At the north-west corner of the island, the stone foundations of what was probably an early 13th century timber building measuring only 2.5 m × 1.5 m. Immediately south of this, 5 m of irregular chalk foundations of a later, medieval wall. The finds associated with these structures demonstrate that this part of the island was occupied from the early 13th to the late 16th century.

(2) About 15 m east of these features, 12 m of interconnecting open drains, now about 0.5 m below the surface, constructed from thin Tudor bricks and discharging into the moat at the north end of the island. These drains are linked to the system, 6 m in length, discovered in 1973. They commence 9 m from the north edge of the island near a 1.2 m deep robber trench filled with mortar and broken chalk blocks. This could correspond to the north wall of the House.

(3) Near the north-eastern corner of the island, 0.1 m beneath the surface, the foundations of a substantial east-west wall, 3 m long, constructed from flint with some thin bricks. A second surface drain passes beneath this wall. Several disturbed decorated mid-14th century Penn tiles were found near this feature. Three of these bear the inscription *SIGNUM SC'E CRUCIS*; there is documentary evidence of a chapel being built in 1369.

The square pit which was discovered in 1973 at the western edge of the island, 9 m from the north-west corner, was investigated further. Although it appears to be located at the north-west corner of the House the substantial 1 m wide north-south foundation forming the moat edge does not turn east across the island at this point. Pottery finds suggest that this wall and the pit were constructed in the 13th century. Three late 15th century French jettons were found in the charcoal fill of the pit.

A further 6 sq m were examined on the outer edge of the west side of the moat, opposite the square pit, and a Tudor garderobe pit discovered. This was constructed from brick and chalk and last filled in the early 16th century. It was excavated to a depth of only 9.0 m and will be investigated further in 1975. The location of this pit suggests that occupation was not confined to the island.

Other finds include a lead bale seal embossed with a crown, other bronze and iron objects, early 16th century Beauvais pottery and, as usual, many animal bones. Of the finds discovered in 1973 (see above) the groat has

been dated to 1474 and the blue and white tile is early 16th century Netherlands Maiolica.

While the excavation was in progress members of the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) visited the site and examined the adjacent farmhouse and barn. The house is Georgian but built around a small early 17th century timber-framed cottage which has some re-used timbers. These could have come from the Manor House, which was demolished in 1607. The barn appears to have been moved to its present site and there is documentary evidence of a deer barn having been re-erected in the Park in 1621.

In conclusion it is becoming clear that there was a substantial house on the site from the 13th century and that, not surprisingly, the northern end of the island was mainly used as a garden/kitchen/workshop area, with the House occupying the southern end.

A. G. Crocker

Bulletin 118, July 1975

Guildford: Stoke, Joseph's Road (SU 995507)

In April 1974, an emergency excavation was carried out by Guildford members of the SAS on the recently vacated ground of Guildford City Football Club, as the site was under threat of imminent redevelopment. Three 2 m square trenches were excavated in areas which had shown archaeological possibilities during a resistivity survey by Tony Clark and augering by members of the Group.

In one, a rammed layer of brick, tile and mortar 0.3 m thick was found, resting on sandy silt and containing pieces of 19th and 20th century china. The topsoil in this trench produced a variety of sherds of pottery from medieval to modern.

A second trench, 5.6 m to the south-east, reached sandy silt at a depth of 0.49 m. Pottery ranged from medieval to modern, with 18th and 19th century clay pipes but there were no features.

A third trench, 22.4 m to the south-east of the second, reached clay at 0.40 m. Finds from the topsoil were limited to 19th and 20th century material.

The sandy silt in trenches 1 and 2 is probably associated with a pond which existed in the area and is still remembered by some of the older residents. The rammed brick and tile in Trench 1 undoubtedly represents consolidation of damp ground, probably at the time of the construction of the football pitch. The very wet condition of the sandy silt and shortage of time available made it impossible to excavate more than 0.14 m down into the silt. At this depth in Trench 2, a sherd of unglazed grey pottery was found.

John Janaway

Bulletin 114, Jan. 1975

Kingston upon Thames: Eden Walk II site (TQ 180691)

A trial excavation on the above site in advance of redevelopment was undertaken for Kingston Museum and the Department of the Environment between 8th April and 1st May 1974. The excavation was directed by Lee Gillibrand and supported by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society and Kingston Polytechnic Geology Department.

The site, 2, 800 sq m in area, lies to the north and east of Eden Street Congregational Church and is bounded by Eden Street and Union Street. Four trenches were machine excavated and continued by hand-digging as appropriate.

Trench A (25 m × 2.20 m, 2.10 m deep approx.)

This trench was cut from a point 5 m north of the Eden Street frontage and 8 m from the wall of 27 Eden Street, the eastern boundary of the site. The only structural remains unconnected with the recently demolished buildings were three 19th century circular brick-lined cesspits. Otherwise, beneath the modern rubble, a dark gravelly soil was deposited to a depth of 1.60 m below the ground surface. This was interpreted as a late horticultural build-up. It overlay sticky organic deposits which seemed to be the fillings of two channels each with a north/south alignment more or less coinciding with the line of the trench. The earlier channel yielded pottery of late 15th/early 16th century date. The later, which cut the filling of the earlier, produced pottery and pipes of late 17th century date. Several lengths of timber planking were found in this filling suggesting that the later channel may have had a revetment.

Trench B (approx. 9 m × 6.50 m)

This was an irregularly shaped trench cut as an extension to the southern end of Trench A. It aimed to investigate the fillings of a channel, possibly a former course of the Hogsmill, which was located in 1965 during construction of the Eden Street multi-storey car-park and which then yielded Neolithic pottery, animal bones, and struck flint flakes. The sediments representing the period of stagnation following the cut-off of the channel were located at a depth of about 2 m. Worked flints, including cores, flakes and 'potboilers' were recovered but the water-table level prevented adequate exploration of the area at this depth.

Trench C (2 m × 5.75 m and extension 6.20 m × 3.50 m)

This trench was cut in the north-eastern corner of the site running close to Pratts Passage. Hardcore overlay dark humus-like soil which extended to 80 cm below the ground surface. Below this was a dark brown silty clay 30 cm thick which overlay brickearth. At a depth of up to 80 cm into the brickearth were found a leaf-shaped flint arrowhead, sherds of early Saxon grass-tempered ware, and a Saxon polychrome bead. The presence of archaeological material—often too large to be dismissed as having been

pushed down by roots—suggests the brickearth was deposited well into the historic period, perhaps as the result of periodic flooding of water meadows. Such conditions may not have been suitable for Saxon occupation but the sherds are not abraded and a settlement may be postulated in the immediate vicinity. Cutting into the brickearth and probably cut from the surface of the brown clay were post holes, pits and a gully all dating to the late 12th century. No base or rim pottery sherds were found but the two main fabrics were both of Northolt type—Hurst's Developed Early Medieval and Rough Medieval.

Trench D (2.30 m × 7.50 m)

This trench was opened in the north-western corner of the site with a view to tracing the rear of any medieval properties fronting what is now Union Street. Features of 18th and 19th century date included brick wall foundations, floor levels and rubbish pits. These features were all cut into a dark humus-like soil, probably a horticultural build-up. Gravel-bearing brickearth was encountered at 1.40 m below the ground surface. Several pits and post holes cut from, but not from above, the surface of the brickearth, and partial excavation of six pits suggested a 14th century date for them. Pottery in the fillings included both off-white and buff surfaced sandy Surrey wares. Only two of the pits can be reasonably interpreted as rubbish pits. One of these was half excavated and contained a 30 cm thick layer consisting entirely of cattle horn cores between two layers with broken tile and horse bones. The presence of horn cores in quantity (approximately 150 in the half removed) has elsewhere been interpreted as debris from a horner's workshop. A further deposit of about 30 horn cores was found at the western edge of the trench. The other pits may have had an industrial purpose connected with such a workshop. Some of the postholes cut into the pit fillings and appeared to be of late 15th or early 16th century date.

It is hoped that larger-scale work will be possible on the site prior to redevelopment. (This account has been prepared from a fuller report written by Lee Gillibrand).

Marion Smith

Bulletin 112, Dec. 1974

Kingston upon Thames: The Grapsome (TQ 17036364)

Members of Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society and Surrey Archaeological Society have recently investigated the small moated enclosure in the wooded area known as The Grapsome.

The sub-rectangular island measuring 11 m by 14 m was found to be built up about 0.3 m by material excavated from the ditches on the north, south and west sides. Small counterscarp banks were thrown up on the outside of the north and south ditches. The shallow ditch-like depression on the

eastern side was formed by the natural slope from the higher ground to the east meeting the raised platform of the enclosure.

Excavation failed to reveal any sign of habitation or industry within the enclosure, and all finds were either of recent date or of an undatable nature.

A very flat area immediately to the north-west of the moated site, and adjacent to the remnants of a pond shown on 18th century maps, was also investigated. It appeared to be made up of material from pond clearing or cutting. Pottery and brick fragments found were mostly of recent origin but sherds from three different late medieval vessels and some medieval roofing tiles were also found.

Martin Dean

Bulletin 111, Oct./Nov. 1974

Leatherhead: 2 Upper Fairfield Road (TQ 1650956574)

Investigation of this site began in February of this year. The Surrey Archaeological Society sponsored fieldwork and further assistance came from several members of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society. The site is presently the back garden of an uninhabited two-storey weather-board house of late 18th century origins. Future town developments include a roadway designed to cut through the section investigated.

A 3 m × 2 m area at right angles to the street was examined by excavation. It was hoped that as the site was situated near the town centre and positioned on a well-drained hill, there would be evidence of some earlier settlement.

The topsoil was very fertile and contained numerous artefacts and midden of 19th/20th century origins, providing an interesting insight into the lifestyles of the previous occupants of the house. Similar material came from the next layer which was akin in composition but more compacted. From it three stake-holes and a small pit, 50 cm in diameter (all suggestive of gardening activities), were found to cut into the next lower layer. On the surface of half of this third layer were a sheet of flint pebbles, giving a cobbled appearance to the site. Within the pebbles two sherds and a small flint blade were located—the only other artefacts found. The two sherds were small and have been tentatively identified by Mrs J. Bird, one medieval and one post-medieval. Only one other sherd of medieval appearance was located, and this was in unstratified topsoil.

Beneath the pebbled surface lay a thick section of London Clay interspersed with clusters of larger flint pebbles. This matrix was sterile and continued below a depth of 1 m, at which point the excavation was discontinued.

The writer extends her thanks to the owner of the site, Mr V. Crabb of Fetcham, for his consent and co-operation.

Bulletin 119, Aug. 1975

Angela Calder

Marrow: Skeleton of a Child (TQ 02955023)

The skeleton of a child was discovered in September in the course of digging the foundations for an extension to Bartons, 17 The Fairway, Marrow, the home of Mr and Mrs J.W. Finn. Unfortunately, the skeleton was first disturbed and then dug out by the builders carrying out the work, during the absence of the owners, and for this reason no systematic investigation was possible. Thanks to the interest of Mrs Finn it was possible to examine the grave in which the child had been buried, and to establish the rough position of the body within it before the foundation trenches were filled in with concrete. The grave had been cut into natural chalk to a depth of about 50 cm, and it had probably been no wider. It cannot have been more than about 1.20 m in length.

Mrs Geraldine Done has kindly examined and reported on the bones and has identified the body from fragments recovered as probably of a male of between 6 and 8 years, approximately 124 cm in height. She notes that this would have made him large for his age but that it is difficult to assess height using the normal equations because the bones were immature, and bones do not grow uniformly throughout childhood. It is not possible to suggest a date for the burial from the bone remains themselves, but Mrs Done suggests very tentatively that '... a clinical impression based on 'bones I have met' would be that it is certainly old enough to be Saxon. I would be surprised if it proved to be more recent but suggest keeping an open mind as to its being earlier'.

No dating evidence was recovered and it is not possible to suggest a date for the burial except that any period earlier than medieval would seem to be reasonable. The attribution to the Saxon period made in a report to the press was based on the fact that the remains of a male skeleton with a Saxon spear head have been found in nearby Levylsden. There is at present no other evidence to suggest that there was a Saxon burial ground in the area and it is likely that the Fairway child is merely an isolated grave.

D.G. Bird

*Bulletin 103, Jan. 1974***Merton: Mitcham Grove (TQ 271679)**

At the encouragement of Merton Historical Society, and in particular of Mr E.N. Montague, to whom much of the success of the work is due, Surrey Archaeological Society mounted a rescue excavation on the site of a known 18th to 19th century house, Mitcham Grove, in July 1974. The site was scheduled for housing by Merton Borough Council, and the latter kindly allowed access to the site and loaned excavation equipment. Work was directed by the writer with assistance from Miss E. Webb. The main purposes were to give training for inexperienced diggers, to locate a Tudor house which documentary evidence suggested had preceded the known building, and a search for any possible outliers from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery to the north. In the event this last proved a false hope.

After a geophysical survey of the site carried out by a team from the University of Surrey, most of the work was concentrated on the site of the building, and the most important result was the discovery of a late 12th or early 13th century building.

A sequence of occupation may be as follows: a few fragments of roof tile and part of a fourth century bowl suggested Romano-British occupation nearby, but these finds could not be separated stratigraphically from 12th and 13th century material. The latter seems to date the building and original occupation of a well-constructed house which had solid chalk footings firmly bedded on to the natural gravel. An associated area of cobbling was probably a yard. This building was roofed in tiles which were found scattered across the site. Much of the wall seems to have been robbed out, and it is probable that it was replaced by a new Tudor house on a different alignment with brick walls on solid chalk footings. The Tudor house probably constituted the basis for the 18th century house, at least at the front, where there is evidence for a brick outer skin being added in the latter period. Possibly at the same time new brick interior partitions were built and the area around the house gravelled over. The house was demolished c 1840 (documentary evidence), and the site eventually became a sports ground.

Further work has been carried out recently and it is hoped to arrange a final attempt to settle some of the outstanding problems.

Finds were mostly of pottery and bone rubbish, but included a bone shuttle from a hand weaving loom which has been identified as Iron Age in date, and delft and stoneware kiln wasters together with sagger fragments and trivets from delft manufacturing. The shuttle may well have been a collector's item, and it seems probable that the kiln waste was imported with the topsoil.

D.G. Bird

Bulletin 114, Feb. 1975

Mickleham: Roman Coin from Beechy Wood (TQ 158527)

A silver siliqua of Honorius (AD 393-423) was found in the summer of 1974 by Mr F. Seall, of 3 Felday Houses, Holmbury St Mary. The coin, located by means of a metal detector, on a footpath to Norbury Park, lay 2 ins below the surface on chalk. Mr Seall retains the coin in his possession.

Deirdre Dendry

Bulletin 114, Feb. 1975

Mitcham: Cache of Mid-18th Century Ceramics and Glass (TQ 27486851)

Vigilance by local residents during the course of building extensions at the rear of what is believed to be a late Tudor building at Mitcham Cricket Green resulted in the salvage of a group of mid-18th century pottery,

stoneware and glass ware together with an accumulation of clay pipes dating from c 1660-1820. Of particular interest are fragments of stoneware tankards bearing the name of the tenant of the adjacent White Hart Inn.

The site lay in the former back gardens of 346/8 London Road. Behind the 18th century facade of these is a timber frame building which is believed to date from the late 16th century, though corroborative evidence is lacking. In August 1972 a trench was excavated by building contractors during the erection of a squash court for Thermal Conditioning Ltd., the owners of the property. The trench was at right angles to the rear wall of No. 348, parallel to the side access way to the White Hart. It exposed stratified deposits of oyster shells, wine bottles, clay pipes and pottery. The material is stated to have been distributed generally throughout the length of the trench. A quantity was retrieved by Dr Annal, of Windermere Road, SW16, who subsequently notified Merton Historical Society. The site was visited by members of the Society, but it was not practicable to conduct an organised excavation in the time available.

It would appear that much if not all of the material salvaged represents refuse from the White Hart, which would suggest that at the time of deposition the land was uncultivated and lying waste. Two distinct periods are represented by the tobacco pipes, but the bulk of the ceramic material dates to approximately 1760-1780. The absence of evidence of occupation of 346/8 London Road is disappointing and cannot be explained by selectivity on the part of those salvaging the material. Presumably the evidence for the earlier period remains beneath the foundations and oversite of the new building.

A report has been prepared, and is deposited in the Library of the Surrey Archaeological Society.

Mitcham: Excavation at Ravensbury Manor House, Ravensbury Park (TQ 26656804)

Exploratory excavations were carried out during June and July 1973 by the Merton Historical Society at the invitation of the Director of Parks and Cemeteries, London Borough of Merton, in the immediate vicinity of the ruins of Ravensbury Manor House. They exposed the foundations of three outbuildings enclosing a flint cobbled yard of the mid-18th century. Sections of an extensive system of brick drainage, pre-dating the yard and believed to have served an industrial rather than domestic function were uncovered. The undisturbed subsoil overlying the natural river silt contained medieval pottery sherds.

Documentary evidence for the site, indicating a 16th century date for the house, which later became a centre for calico bleaching and printing, has been produced as an illustrated booklet *The Ravensbury Story* by the Director of Parks and Cemeteries, London Borough of Merton. The discovery and removal in 1962 of a wooden water pipe in the park 140 m away was reported in SyAC 67.

The twin objectives of the excavation, to promote better public awareness of the history of the site and to produce tangible evidence of its occupation in the Middle Ages, were achieved. Far more extensive excavation would be necessary to establish a full sequence of building and occupation.

A report has been prepared, and is deposited in the Library of the Surrey Archaeological Society.

E. N. Montague

Bulletin 104, Feb. 1974

Purley: Skeleton, believed to be Saxon, on Russell Hill (TQ 306622)

On 3 May 1974 some workmen laying a drain in the Bridle Way, Purley, dug through a skeleton about 1 m beneath the road surface, lying in loose soil, but in a grave cut in the chalk, 46 m from the top end of the road. Immediately the bones were recognised as human, work ceased and the police and Coroner's Office were informed.

Representatives from both organisations attended promptly and the lower jaw, the only part of the skull which was intact, was removed for examination. It was not possible to hold the excavation open, as the narrow trench extended into the middle of the road, and by the time a representative from the Bourne Society arrived on the following morning the trench had been filled in.

Mr Alan Lover of the Coroner's Office was able to give a good account of the find. Only the upper part of the skeleton had been dug out, the legs being still in the trench. The grave was 3 ft out from the gutter and the head was lying slightly downhill, i.e. towards the north. The workmen had not seen any grave goods or any other material. The doctor reported that the jaw appeared to be that of a young man whose teeth were in very good condition but ground down.

This is almost certainly one of the burials in a Saxon cemetery on Russell Hill where 107 skeletons have been reported in the last 100 years. A full account of previous finds, with references, is given in the Bourne Society's *Guide to local antiquities*, 1973.

L. Ketteringham

Bulletin 108, July 1974

Reigate: Congregational Church (TQ 252502)

The Congregational Church, High Street, Reigate, and church hall were to be demolished to make way for a supermarket and car park. The land behind the church consisted of the Verger's cottage and garden and three grass tennis courts. The garden area was excavated by members of the Bourne Society under the direction of Miss L. Ketteringham; the tennis court area by the Holmesdale Archaeological Group.

The Congregational Church itself was built at the beginning of the 19th century. Records for 1725 show that the Chapel or Meeting House was then a barn in the High Street, known as Blatt's Barn (after the owner). The tennis court area was shown on Bryant's map of 1785 as an orchard with a ditch (common to adjoining properties) running parallel to the Priory boundary wall.

The Tennis-Court Area

There were no apparent features in the ground which had been levelled-off for the courts, apart from the ditch, the infill of which included medieval and post-medieval sherds. Seventeenth century wares were found on the packed chalk layer which formed the bottom. A cutting was taken down to the natural greensand level revealing traces of a possible earlier ditch or watercourse.

In the same trench a 19th century brick built soakaway or well was found. It had a corbelled shoulder and was covered by a sandstone paving slab. The bottom cut into the natural greensand and the first course of bricks was laid on wooden planking. It was 1.55 m deep and had an inner diameter of 0.77 m. It had not been filled in and debris in the bottom included wine bottle necks, tins, clay tobacco pipes, glazed sherds, china and stoneware, wood, shell, bone, hazel and beechnuts.

A known Victorian ornamental pond was found immediately north of the well.

Another well was found at the north end of the courts area, much nearer to the church and cottage. It was made of chalk blocks dressed inside, to a circle 1.16 m deep by 1 m (inner diameter) and tool marks were clearly visible. The top had been repaired, with several courses of brick. The well had been filled in completely with soil which contained medieval and post-medieval sherds, bones, broken tile and oyster shell.

At a depth of 1 m a Mesolithic level was found in two trenches, lying directly above the natural sand; there were black patches in association with flint flakes. Similar flints as well as cores were found throughout the site and an analysis of these is as follows: 6 Cores, 4 Scrapers, 1 Backed knife, 45 Blade flakes, 15 Blades retouched, notched or serrated, approximately 75 Primary flakes.

These excavations took place between March and October 1973 at weekends only. Due to various factors, it was not possible to follow the ditch or trace the extent of the possible Mesolithic layer.

Mary Slade

The Verger's Garden

Dark sandy loam covered white sand to a depth of almost 1 m, except for an irregular outcrop of sandstone in one area at a depth of 0.71 m. Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery was prolific, together with

Victorian rubbish, clay pipe stems and bowls and broken roof tiles. For the first 60 cm post-medieval and later pottery predominated, but there were some 13th and 14th century sherds. Below this level there was very little pottery or any other objects later than 14th century. No foundations of any kind were found. There seemed to be a definite layer of medieval pottery at 68 cm, but this must have been fortuitous as later sherds and objects, admittedly few, were found beneath it. The soil was very soft and disturbed over the whole area, but there were slight chalk and mortar traces around the medieval pottery layer.

In the white sand a series of dark, sharply defined shapes were revealed giving the appearance of a robbed stone wall. A strip of dark earth, possibly a drainage gully, harder than the surrounding sand, continued the line of shapes and ended in a pit 40 cm deep in which were found 13th and 14th century sherds. Another similar pit was found also containing some medieval sherds.

Finds included a George II farthing, an unknown coin (possibly a long-cross silver penny), a prick-spur and an 18th century salt box. The pottery ranged from 12th to 14th century; then there seems to be a gap until late 16th century or later, after which there is a wide range up to the present day.

Lesley Ketteringham

Bulletin 106, April 1974

Reigate: Plano-Convex Knife from Earlswood (TQ 26854803)

A plano-convex knife of mottled brown flint, measuring 82 mm long has been presented by Mr Robert Champion to the Reigate Museum of the Holmesdale Natural History Club. Mr Champion found the knife to the south of New Pond Farm, on the south side of a tributary of the river Mole.

D. J. Turner

Bulletin 114, Feb. 1975

Wallington (London Borough of Sutton): Romano-British Cinerary Urn and other Vessels, in Modern Cemetery, Bandon Hill (TQ 299647)

While digging a grave at the above cemetery, on 30 October 1974, Mr Andrew Turnbull unearthed, at a depth of 3 to 3½ feet and at the southern shoulder of the coffin-shaped grave, a large jar filled with earth and bones. Shortly afterwards, near the northern foot of the grave, he found two small pottery vessels. All three items were unavoidably broken in the finding. Burial in the new grave being imminent, the finds were removed to safe storage by the Cemetery Superintendent, who notified the Borough Librarian, who, in turn, notified the writer, and they were subsequently taken to Mr D. Bird, at Guildford, for detailed examination.

The jar had been used as a cremation urn and contained burnt human bones and teeth, in quantity, a bent nail, tile and pottery fragments. The smaller vessels had no contents. They were unquestionably buried as funerary accessories but, on account of their distance from the urn, they possibly relate to another burial. Hence, more may remain buried, just outside the southern edge of the new grave. Search for them is impracticable, involving disturbance of the stone kerb of an earlier grave.

The pottery was examined by Joanna Bird, who describes the jar as being hand-made, coarse grey fabric with inclusions of grey grog and chalk, the fawn surfaces roughly smoothed and decorated with overlapping arcs. It is probably of the 3rd century AD but is of a type difficult to date closely.

The smaller vessels are both incomplete, new breaks imply that missing portions were lost in the fill of the modern grave. They are (a) a single-handled flagon, of hard fired grey ware, with a coarse cream slip on the exterior and distorted where the handle was applied, probably datable to the second half of the 3rd century AD; (b) a small grey ware beaker with panels of applied dots and two crosses, scratched on the exterior after manufacture, probable production date circa 100-130 AD but, from the wearing off of the dot pattern, it may have been old when buried.

Bandon Hill is adjacent to the old Beddington village and the importance of this find lies in its proximity to the following earlier ones made on the outskirts of that village.

- 1 At TQ 298659, north of the Wandle, a Roman villa.
- 2 At TQ 296654, south of the Wandle, a Roman lead coffin.
- 3 At TQ 296652, south of the Wandle, a Romano-British stone coffin, with skeleton and grave goods.
- 4 At TQ 299651, south of the Wandle, two small Romano-British pottery vessels, almost certainly funerary. No burial found.

In addition, a long post factum report has been seen stating that, when the Beddington National School was built in the 1840s, at TQ 293650, Samian pottery was found in the foundation trenches but this must rank as questionable, as observers of the demolition and rebuilding of the school over the past few years failed to notice any Roman material in trenches or spoil heaps. But observation was not continuous at all times.

Thanks are due to Sutton's Borough Librarian and his staff, for the prompt notification of this find and for dealing with its packing and transport to our Archaeological Officer. There is a pattern of co-operation between Sutton libraries and local archaeologists and historians which some other boroughs may envy.

K. A. Pryer

Bulletin 116, April 1975

Following on the discovery of the cinerary urn reported in *Bulletin 116* (April 1975), the digging of further modern graves in the same section of

this cemetery has resulted in the finding of the following Romano-British material:

1. A large segment of the rim of a larger and heavier jar, probably of roughly similar overall form to that of the October 1974 find but wheel-thrown, c third century
2. Two adjoining pieces of the base of a large, hand-made jar, possibly again of similar overall form but of a very different fabric, c third century.
3. A small fragment of a small vessel of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, later third to fourth century.

These three finds came from two modern graves and Joanna Bird dates them to about the same century as the original urn.

It seems likely that we have here the remains of two cinerary urns and a grave-goods vessel, all broken and scattered, probably by early ploughing. Thus, counting the find detailed in *Bulletin* 116, three cremation burials, in a comparatively small area, may reasonably be assumed. These could imply a small group of family graves or part of a cemetery.

A cemetery of any considerable extent could drastically alter estimates of the degree of Romanisation of the Beddington area. Hence it is important that some attempt to assess the scale of Romano-British interment should be made and negotiations are in progress to obtain permission for a test excavation.

Bulletin 120, Sept. 1975

Addendum (Oct. 1976).—A massive sherd of dark grey ware, found with items 2 and 3 of the above report, remained unidentified at the time of publication. Rosamond Hanworth has since confirmed it as being Romano-British 'beehive ware', similar to finds at Rapsley (SyAC 65 (1968), 49, 50, 51 and 53), but of a different fabric. In the Rapsley context the beehive ware sherds seemed likely to be remains of storage jars. The Bandon Hill specimen, a body sherd, is of such slight curvature that it must have come from a vast vessel, too large for a cremation burial. Hence it may point to a habitation site in the near vicinity. However, in the Roman cremation cemetery at Carmona, near Seville, infants are found uncremated, in large earthenware containers, albeit of specialised forms. If the coarse, Bandon Hill jar served as a coffin it makes a total of four probable burials at this site. Alternatively, if it be regarded as habitation debris, it indicates R-B occupation much nearer to the find-spot than the Beddington Villa site, north of the Wandle.

Mr Scott McCracken has obtained the consent of the cemetery authority for excavation on the border of the modern grave area, near where the R-B finds were made but the commencement of operations has to await the completion of the more urgent rescue work upon which he and his colleagues are presently engaged.

K. A. Pryer

Wanborough: Manor Barns (SU 934489 and 934492)

The large barn next to the church at Wanborough is a medieval aisled barn of seven bays with an added outshot at the west end and one cross entrance in the centre. It is boarded above a brick sill with a tiled roof. There is a simple roof construction, the tie in each truss is surmounted by a crown post with collars to the rafters and upward braces to the collar purlin only. From the tie a long brace passes the aisle post and the aisle tie, and is morticed into the wall post. On the aisle post it is prevented from pulling out by an upward brace to the wall tie. On the north side three of these long braces are intact. On the south side each of these passing braces has been truncated at the aisle post and the aisle has been widened by 2 ft. The roof here is supported by a purlin and strut.

Across a field away from the farm is a three bay boarded barn of much later construction, with tiled roof and a hipped entrance porch in the centre. The roof structure is unusual with two staggered butt purlins in each bay. There are butt rafters in the lower section and the rafters pass behind the upper purlin, the three in the centre being pegged. The bay next to the gable has wind braces.

Joan M. Harding

Bulletin 108, July 1974

Wanborough: The Great Barn

Referring to Miss Harding's note in Bulletin 108, the following is a summary of our own work on the many unusual features of this barn:

This is the finest medieval barn in Surrey. Insufficient attention has always been paid to the eastern half of the barn as it contains large built-in corn-bins which hide the arcade posts. Only recently have all these bins been empty at the same time, thus allowing a full examination.

The arcade posts have no jowls, an unusual feature, because of this the arcade plates are heavy so that they can accommodate a large mortice and tenon. As there is no tenon from arcade post to tie-beam the dovetails joining tie-beam to arcade plate are also large, but it is unusual in that the squints of the dovetails are unequal.

Four of the arcade posts differ from the rest. Three are 13 ins × 14 ins in section, and are re-used as may be seen by the notched laps; they are from an earlier structure, probably on the same site, and come from a taller, aisled building of the 13th century or earlier.

Notched lap joints are rare in England, remaining in use in their 'secret form' at Old Court Cottage, Limpsfield, and in the 'open form' at Brookland Belfry, Kent.

The fourth arcade post is again re-used but it is octagonal. This, however, appears to be a later replacement. It may have broach stops but the base

is too worn to be completely certain. Its origin may not be identifiable but it could be from a monastic or secular building of high quality.

The scarfs in the collar purlin are archaic, they are face-halved without tongues and with two face pegs; but the scarfs in the arcade plates have pegged tongues.

The aisles are of different dates, the north west aisle only is original, the others have been replaced. To the east of the wagon entrance both aisles are butt-side purlin not in line. To the south-west there are angle struts and through purlins. The outshot at the west end appears to have been added at the same time as the south-west aisle because the through purlin turns the corner and is common to both.

Both ends of the barn were hipped, and although the east end has been converted to a gable the gablet collar remains, and an extension of the collar purlin to the gable truss was added with another face-halved scarf without tongues.

John L. Baker and J. Oliver

Bulletin 111, Oct./Nov. 1974

Wandsworth: Bronze Age Battle-Axe

Mudlarking on the Thames foreshore has brought to light another important find. A stone battle-axe dating from the early Bronze Age (c 1500 BC) was found near the mouth of the Wandle. Analysis of the stone shows it to be of 'Camptonite'; according to Guildhall Museum records, this is the furthest south that an axe of this material has ever been found.

Wandsworth Historical Society News Sheet

Bulletin 120, Sept. 1975

Westcott: The Malthouse, Milton Street (TQ 149487)

The Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) is finding many examples of bricks with carved initials and dates on houses built or bricked over in the 18th century. Of particular interest is The Malthouse, Milton Street, Westcott. Of several builds, the dated bricks include WK 1717 and TD 1738 with 9 overcarved.

The original core of the house is a 2½-bay timber framed construction of the late 16th century, which later was clad with mathematical tiles (hanging tiles shaped to simulate the face of brickwork). At the side of a front window there is one marked MF 1724. This is an unusually early date for mathematical tiles.

Dated bricks are often found in the brickwork immediately surrounding the front door, and the DBRG (Surrey) would be pleased to hear of houses with such dated bricks or with dated tiles.

Bulletin 106, April 1974

Joan M. Harding

Woking: Old Woking High Street (TQ 019569)

The site of the Village Stores and Bedford's Garage, on the north side of Old Woking High Street, where nineteenth century property has been demolished prior to redevelopment, fronts on to the old village street about 300 yards from St Peter's Church and the original ford across the Wey, and adjoins the cottages which stand on the supposed site of the Market House built in 1665.

Trial trenching along the building line and beneath a flagstoned yard was carried out in an endeavour to find evidence of medieval buildings or of the Saxon settlement of Woking. Rubble containing 19th century pottery overlay a U-shaped section deposit of clinker between two sets of post holes:-

Set 1, nearest to the road and parallel to it, were 3 m apart. Eastern post hole—roughly elliptical and approximately 0.5 m × 0.5 m × 0.65 m deep, and containing part of a rotted post. Western post hole—rectangular 0.4 m × 0.5 m × 0.5 m deep. All the post holes were filled with dark brown sticky soil containing 19th century rubble.

Set 2. These were 0.20 m further north and placed at an angle of 45 degrees westwards from the first set. They were 3 m apart and, although not excavated owing to lack of time, they both appeared to be roughly 0.5 m square and filled with dark brown sticky soil mixed with rubble.

It is possible that the post holes are of two earlier gateways to the site before the flagstoned yard was laid. The clinker was probably used to fill ruts in the muddy entrance from the unpaved street.

Nancy Cox

Bulletin 114, Feb. 1975

Wonersh: Hallams Court, Blackheath (TQ 04074559)

In January 1973 the Guildford Group of SAS commenced a systematic field survey of Blackheath. Since the 19th century, a considerable amount of flint has been found on the surface of the heath but little record was made of exact find spots. A number of implements and flakes were discovered during the Group's survey, some as isolated finds and others in definite concentrations. One such occurred on land adjacent to the Heath near Hallams Court on Lower Greensand at 313 ft OD. It was considered that an excavation here might add greatly to the sparse knowledge of the Mesolithic of Blackheath.

With the kind permission of the owner, Mr L. M. Ballamy, an excavation has continued on Sundays throughout the winter. Finds so far have been Mesolithic flints and medieval pottery. The pottery occurs in a layer of yellowish brown sand beneath bracken roots and a thin humus layer. The whole of the northern end of the trench excavated has been disturbed by a flat-bottomed ditch which cuts about 9 inches into the natural. The fill of the ditch is stained sand with a darker irregular layer (4 inches approximate) at the

bottom (rapid silt). Backfilling may have taken place in one operation when the present boundary ditch and bank were constructed 10 ft to the north. Nothing has so far been found in the fill other than a few flints. The ditch runs almost parallel to the present one and probably represents an earlier boundary ditch.

The finds of flint have yet to be analysed in detail but include 27 microliths (all obliquely blunted), 10 scrapers, 8 saws, 18 microburins, 48 cores and core-scrapers and many retouched and utilized flakes.

John Janaway

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