

road surface, in which case the larger width of 25 feet applies.

There were few finds associated with this excavation. On the surface of the first road, covered by leached clay and sand were some pieces of the side and a turn of the base of an early gritted Romano-British pot. Embedded in the surface of the final stone-built road were two pieces of horseshoe and sundry post-medieval finds. (Also at this level was a prepared gun flint.)

Concentrating on the line of this road led to a close examination of the surrounding area. In 1845 Gould recorded a number of Romano-British cremation burials and one inhumation in an area to the east of Woolston Hall, the Co-operative Sports Ground. He also found ring cups and Samian type 63. This was close to what is now known as the line of the Roman road, but gravel digging since 1845 has destroyed most of the area. In the autumn of 1969 a small pipe-line was laid towards the Roding and examination of this led to further cremation burials of the same type being found—eleven inches below ground in brick cists accompanied by inverted pots and with reddened clay and signs of burning in the cists. The road is 100 feet to the north of the burials. Further work will be undertaken here when permission is obtained.

At Hill Farm, Abridge, which lies to the northeast of Abridge, a field showed interesting signs from

an aerial photograph. Field walking brought a number of heavy roof tiles and some fragments of Roman pot; trial trenches showed a heavy layer of tile and plaster at 14 inches depth. The field was excavated for a fortnight in 1968, and a small complex of buildings were uncovered, dating from A.D. 100 to 350. They appear to be part of a farm or villa, but more work will have to be done in the future to be sure of their function. Once again the road is in the vicinity, about 400 yards to the north.

Tracing this main road into East London has brought valuable side-finds and no doubt more will turn up along other parts of the road. After the last section at Claybury Hospital, the road proceeds downhill towards the River Roding, but because of the heavy suburban housing and the many alterations to the river's course, it seems unlikely that the point of crossing will ever be found. Only open spaces such as Wanstead Park may give another clue to the final miles of the road's progress into London. The remainder may well have to be surmised which so often is the fate of Roman roads overtaken by the deep foundations of factories and tower blocks. At least the Group have tried to prove by careful sections that the road exists where they claim it is.

The reports on the various excavations together with the finds have been deposited in the Passmore Edwards Museum.

## IN A HOLE



“We’ve found a late-medieval wine cellar!”

## Current Excavations

**Bow**, by the London Museum. Site of Romano-British area of occupation and a Roman road on the alignment Aldgate/London Bridge (see article in this issue). Excavation will continue for a further short period under Harvey Sheldon. All inquiries to R. A. Canham, London Museum, Kensington Palace, W.8 (WES 9816).

**Mucking**, by the Ministry of Public Building and Works. Ranges from a ditch of the late Bronze Age to Saxon huts (see *the London Archaeologist* No. 1). Excavation takes place seven days a week. Inquiries to Excavation Supervisor for M.P.B.W., Mucking Excavations, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.

**Northolt**, by Northolt Archaeological and Historical Research Group. The site is the medieval Manor but there is also an important early Saxon phase. Work continues on Saturday afternoons throughout the year. Inquiries to C. H. Keene, 21 Islip Gardens, Northolt, Middlesex.

**Putney**, by Wandsworth Historical Society. Trial trenches on the site in Sefton Street have produced decorated Neolithic pottery and flints. Excavation takes place on Sundays under the direction of Stan Warren, to whom inquiries should be addressed at 10 Dunganven Avenue, S.W.15 (PRO 3596).