

of hearths and shelters would be particularly important.

We know something of the progress of work at Northfleet from the lecture given by Dr. Kerney and Mr. Sieveking to the Prehistoric Society in October 1970 and from preliminary reports—Barnfield pit by Dr. Waechter and Dr. Conway in the *Journal of the Royal Archaeological Society*, and Clacton by Mr. Wymer and Dr. Singer in *World Archaeology*. I am also grateful to the directors for showing me over their sites.

Perhaps the most singular fact about Northfleet is the recovery of a series of bone objects which had been extensively cut and ground, some resembling large spatulas. Such extensive bone working is more typical of the later Palaeolithic. By contrast stone tools are somewhat rare and it is some flint nodules smoothed and polished by some kind of use which has most intrigued the excavators.

At Barnfield pit the preliminary season in 1968 was devoted to opening up sections of the different strata, and 1969 and 1970 have been devoted to working through the lower loam. Besides fossil mammal remains, shells and even algal plants, this stratum has stone tools in good condition sporadically through the deposit previously considered sterile. Other strata of this site are archaeologically among the most prolific in Europe for the period.

The site on Clacton Golf Course opened up in 1969 and 1970 has also added considerably to our knowledge of the fossil mammals of the Hoxnian interglacial, and revealed an extensive collection of stone tools from a bank of gravel and other horizons. Along with Hoxne this site has yielded the

earliest evidence of fire using, in the form of pieces of charcoal, from Britain.

Why are these sites so rich, and should similar sites exist closer in to London? Availability of a suitable raw material for stone tools is an important factor. Usually this is in the form of flint nodules fresh from the chalk. The Swanscombe group of sites and the Grays group on the opposite side of the river in Essex lie at the point where the Thames valley cuts through the overlying sands and clays and into the Upper Chalk of Cretaceous age, the most prolific source of flint in the world. Clacton, much further out in the Thames estuary, lies on the London clay; but of course while the sea was lower there may have been outcrops of Upper Chalk exposed in areas now submerged in the Thames estuary.

Upstream of Swanscombe there are fewer sites, especially between Dartford and the City. But London has undeniably rich sites like Stoke Newington on the north side and Acton in West London; upstream again Yiewsley, Iver and Burnham are most prolific sites for tools of the earlier Palaeolithic. Availability of flint is not the only explanation for these sites, as several are on clay. Modern investigation of these sites might cast more light on this problem. But will the new awakening of interest in research on the Palaeolithic extend to sites in London?

Recently the enlightened policy of the London Museum and its field officer Mr. Roy Canham have enabled a start to be made. Two sites scheduled for building in Acton were tested, and though they were poor in tools, the strata of ice age date could be studied. Other sites should follow, and with luck it should be possible to answer some of the problems of the date, environment and cultural affinities of the London sites.

## Current Excavations

**Brentford**, by London Museum and West London Archaeological Group. Site at Brentford High Street between St. Paul's Road and the County Court access in St. Paul's Road. A large ditch and other traces of Roman occupation. Excavation takes place on Fridays and Sundays. Inquiries to Roy Canham, London Museum, W.8 (937 9816).

**Fulham**, by Fulham and Hammersmith Historical Society. Excavation of famous Fulham Pottery site under the direction of Vaughan Christophers. Inquiries to Dennis Haselgrove, 10 Church Gate, S.W.6 (736 5213).

**Mucking**, by the Department of the Environment. 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 excavation first undertaken to explore the 14th century Manor House within the moat, has recently assumed great importance as the remains of the original Saxon village at Northolt are coming to light. Stone buildings within the moat were probably abandoned in the early 15th century although rebuilding took place

outside the moat from the 16th century. Work continues on Saturday afternoons throughout the year. Inquiries to C. H. Keene, 21 Islip Gardens, Northolt, Middlesex.

**Putney**, by Wandsworth Historical Society. Further work on the Neolithic site with many flints and some pottery. Excavation of the site at 38-46 Sefton Street under the direction of Stan Warren takes place on Sundays only. Inquiries to S. Warren, 10 Dunganon Avenue, S.W.15 (770 3596).

### Industrial Monuments Survey — Footnotes (accidentally omitted from No. 10)

- (1) National Monuments Record, Fielden House, Great College Street, London, S.W.1.
- (2) *Industrial Archaeologists' Guide 1969-70*, 13.
- (3) Due to the efforts of Mr. W. Branch Johnson, before writing *Industrial Archaeology of Hertfordshire*. (1970).
- (4) From a report by Dr. Buchanan, May 1970, on the N.R.I.M. to the C.B.A. Research Committee for Industrial Archaeology.
- (5) *Industrial Monuments of Greater London*, TBAOG (1969).
- (6) Hendon & District Archaeological Society.