

MORE HELP FOR EMERGENCY EXCAVATIONS

A FURTHER £125,000 is being provided this year towards the cost of emergency excavations of important archaeological sites in advance of development in England. This figure represents an increase of nearly a half above the existing allocation of £265,000.

Mr. Julian Amery, Minister for Housing and Construction, replying to a question from Mr. Tom Dalyell, M.P. for West Lothian, said: "I have provided a further £125,000 in England this year for emergency excavations in advance of development. This is nearly half as much again as the original allocation and the total is more than twice that for last year. I am glad to say that in consequence no work on important sites has to my knowledge, been prejudiced by lack of finance."

The latest increase follows a review of financial resources by the Department which was undertaken when it became apparent that, despite the considerable increase in this year's original allocation, there were still insufficient funds to meet additional needs which arose in the course of the year.

Among the urgent or important excavations to which further grants have now been made are the Roman and medieval site at Baynard's Castle and the post-medieval site at Woolwich.

ROMAN AND GREEK SCULPTURE FOUND

A RESCUE EXCAVATION under the direction of Mike Hammerson on the site of Arundel House in the Strand has uncovered some interesting marbles. These include a piece of Roman freize with two heads, two Greek altars, an inscription in Greek from a mausoleum and a Greek head. These objects presumably formed part of the famous "Arundel Marbles," which were imported into this country in the 16th century.

The marbles have been dated to the 1st century A.D. and appear to have come from the eastern part of the Roman Empire. They will be the first objects to be entered on the accession register of the new Museum of London and in due course a report will appear in the *Transactions* of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. In addition to the marbles, two interesting 16th pit groups were discovered.

C.B.A. GROUP 10 REPORT

THE 1971/72 ANNUAL Report of the Council for British Archaeology contains a review of the activities of Group 10 (Greater London, Essex and Hertfordshire). The three co-ordinating bodies in the region—Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress, Hertfordshire Archaeological Council, and London and Middlesex Archaeological Society—while representing archaeology in their area, have continued to select one of their number to attend C.B.A. Executive meetings but this

is no longer considered to be a satisfactory arrangement and is due for review.

The 900 word report from the Group gives a round-up of the main activities in the three counties. Mild protest is made against official bodies including the following which some archaeologists may consider an understatement "... there has been some criticism of the attitude of the City of London Corporation to archaeological responsibilities."

The continued success of the "popular publications," *the London Archaeologist*, *Essex Journal* and *Hertfordshire Archaeological Review*, is noted. The amount of rescue work being undertaken is commended.

MILESTONES

THE COUNCIL of British Archaeology's Research Committee on Industrial Archaeology is very concerned about the problem of Milestone conservation which is particularly acute at the moment. The Committee has drawn up a Code of Practice, the main points of which are as follows:

1. Stones or posts marking mileages on highways, being important indications of historic development, should be retained on their original sites wherever possible.
2. Age or materials used do not afford a criterion for selection; all types of posts are of equal importance.
3. If a post has been moved because of highway widening, it should be re-set at the same distance point but farther back from the centre of the road.
4. If a diversion or by-pass is built affecting the main highway at a milepost point, the post should be retained on the original alignment.
5. In cases of extensive redevelopment at the site of and affecting the position of a milepost, the milepost should be retained and included in the new design.
6. If, however, there is a compelling reason to remove a milepost (risk of vandalism, complete redevelopment obliterating the highway) it should be offered to a local museum or other location for safe custody, but not destroyed.
7. All ancient mileposts should be surveyed and written up and photographic records made; scheduling under the Ancient Monuments Acts should be sought.
8. Future substitution of kilometres or other linear measures for miles will not be a valid reason to remove mileposts.

It is hoped that the application of this Code of Practice will help in the conservation of those milestones still standing.

Items of news or interesting notes for this feature, should be sent to Brian Bloice, 94 Hubert Grove, S.W.9