

Excavation Round-up 1974

BRIAN BLOICE

THIS ARTICLE is the third in the series featuring an annual round-up of all known excavations carried out in the London area during the last year. Further details of the excavations may be obtained from the organising body (for addresses see *L.A.* Vol. 2 No. 9 et seq or apply via the editorial office).

The excavations are listed according to the London Borough or County in which they occurred. Each excavation site is followed, where possible, by the grid reference, the name of the organising body and the name of the director in brackets. W.C. and W.M.C. indicate respectively that work continues or work may continue during the current calendar year.

The assistance of all the directors and others who supplied the material from which this list was produced, is gratefully acknowledged. The Editor would be grateful to hear of any omissions.

CITY

All Guildhall Museum, Department of Urban Archaeology

Angel Court, Throgmorton Street. TQ 3283 8136. (M. Guterres). A section was cut across the bed of a former tributary of the Walbrook which was canalised in the Roman period by revetting dumps of gravel and occupation debris behind vertical piles and horizontal planks. The canal appears to have choked frequently, and it was necessary to raise the banks and renew the revetting periodically.

Billingsgate Baths, Lower Thames Street. TQ 3312 8065. (H. Pell). Two ragstone walls of the 1st c. were set into natural clay. To the west was an early phase of timber piles and planks and an area of natural hillside revetted to prevent landslip. Post-dating this was a 1st c. dump in which a timber-lined water tank with a hollow log pipe had been placed.

Harp Lane. TQ 3316 8067. (R. Jones). The excavation revealed two Roman buildings of different dates together with evidence of terracing on the waterfront side.

Ludgate Hill. TQ 3178 8118. (C. Hill). A flat bottomed ditch was located near the alleged position of a bastion and to the south the butt ends of two successive ditches were traced. There was no evidence of the gate.

Minories. TQ 3371 8118. (A. Thompson). The excavation disclosed a row of 17th c. cottages, a clay-pipe kiln and possible traces of buildings attached to a 16th c. convent.

New Fresh Wharf. TQ 3295 8066. (G. Clewley). A substantial Roman (?late 2nd c.) timber box-frame waterfront was disclosed. To the south were fragments of a timber boat reused as shuttering behind the vertical posts of a waterfront. Carbon 14 analysis of one of the silver birch posts has given a date of 760 a.d.

Seal House. TQ 3277 8067. (J. Schofield). Three medieval waterfronts, in a good state of preservation, of 12th, early 13th and late 13th c. date were uncovered. Above these, tenements of six major periods from the early 14th

c. were built. The 2nd c. Roman waterfront was also reached but not excavated this season.

Triangle. TQ 3301 8069. (D. Jones). A series of early 2nd c. oak revetments containing refuse deposits, which acted as terracing presumably supporting buildings, were found. There was evidence of subsequent stabilization in the form of piles and horizontal timber lacing. An east-west causeway of ragstone over piles was built, and fell out of use, in the 2nd c.

Trig Lane. TQ 3208 8086. (M. Harrison). The first phase of a large excavation has revealed a section of a 14th c. timber waterfront, consisting of a rear revetment in front of which a braced framework extended 15m. into the river. Further south again was found a 15th c. ashlar wall. W.C.

Upper Thames Street. (Baynards). TQ 3188 8093. (D. Jones). A trench 30m. east of the Mermaid trench disclosed two parallel east-west limestone walls, of which the southernmost was surmounted by brick facing with a rubble core to which a rectangular pier was attached. It is likely that the limestone walls represent the pre-1428 stone curtain wall of Baynard's Castle, and the brick wall and pier a post-1428 replacement.

Upper Thames Street (Mermaid). TQ 3186 8093. (M. Millett). A trench was excavated across the original street line 20m. east of the Mermaid Theatre. There was evidence of dumping on the river edge from the late 3rd to late 4th c. A wall to check erosion post-dated this. The earliest road surface seems to date to the 11th or 12th c. (see *L.A.* 2 232).

BARKING—No excavation.

BARNET

Church, Terrace, Hendon. TQ 229 895. Hendon and District Arch. Soc. (E. Sammes). Continuing work has confirmed Saxon presence in area—double spiral-headed pin of Dark Age date found. Complex of Saxon and medieval ditches found. Four burials—E-W orientated with no grave goods but predate medieval ditch. In upper layers Surrey wares were present while at rear of site was a pit containing 18th c. bottles and pottery. In small area to W. were unstratified Roman sherds.

Fuller St., Hendon. TQ 232 895. H.D.A.S. (E. Sammes). Trial trenching produced only 19 c. pottery

BEXLEY—No excavation.

BRENT—No excavation.

BROMLEY

Lower Warbank, Keston. West Kent Arch. Gp. (B. Philp). Excavation continued on the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon sites, being concentrated on an area about 100m. to E. of the villa-house complex. This showed increasing evidence of intensive occupation during the Iron Age and Roman periods. Further lengths of two E/W metalled roads were recorded; the earlier, of 1st c. A.D. date, was overlaid by deep deposits containing quantities of domestic rubbish. The later road (3rd c.) crossed a levelled 1st c. en-

closure ditch which has been traced for 50m. Numerous pits and post-holes relating to four-post structures of Iron Age date were also located and quantities of domestic rubbish recovered.

CAMDEN—No excavation.

CROYDON

Church Meadow, Addington. TQ 372 638. Croydon Nat. Hist. and Scientific Soc. (R. Savage). The remainder of the post-medieval farmhouse discovered during road-works in December 1971 in the upper part of the meadow was dug as a training excavation. The medieval period was represented by many sherds, but no structural remains were found of this period. A second building was discovered but has not been excavated.

Dickenson's Place, Woodside. TQ 343 672. C.N.H.S.S. (K. Pearman). An attempt to locate the kiln of the late 19 c. clay tobacco pipe manufacturer Enshaw. Although the kiln was not found, many specimens of his work were recovered.

EALING

Northolt. Northolt Excav. Committee. (R. G. Lancaster). A large area was stripped and some of the walls of the outbuildings (mid-14th to 15th c.) of the manor were found.

ENFIELD

Edmonton County School, N.9. Enf. Arch. Soc. (J. Ivens). Trenches cut across an area close to the accepted line of Ermine Street without any good result.

Pymmes Brook, N.18. E.A.S. (J. Ivens). Remains of Water Mill, probably 18th c. which stood on river bank examined during road construction. A granite grinding stone, and brown tin glaze pottery recovered, along with a bayonet and scabbard of BAKER Rifle 1823.

Landseer Road, Bush Hill Park E.A.S. (J. Ivens). Excavation produced one coin, pottery of 2nd-4th c., two shallow ditches and deer bones.

Churchfields, Edmonton. E.A.S. (J. Ivens). Continued work has revealed a Roman ditch, 10 metres of which has been cleared containing 3rd-4th c. pottery and skull.

Lincoln Road, Bush Hill Park. E.A.S. (J. Ivens). Rescue excavation has produced a gravel area, three ditches and heavy areas of burnt clay, with pottery and coins 2nd-4th c. and stamped Samian (Flavian). As yet Ermine Street has not appeared, although the accepted line runs through the site. W.C.

GREENWICH

Woowich Dockyard. S.E. London Arch. Gp. (D. T. Jones). Part-time excavations have continued earlier season's work. A little medieval pottery found. Chalk lined drain and possible kiln c.1550-1650. Domestic building built c.1650, pulled down 1715, including drainage system of 6ft. and 4ft. high tunnels containing great quantity of porcelain, pottery, glass, etc., of 1710-1750. Part of Tudor foreshore uncovered, produced pottery and a little leather.

Old Ferry Approach, Woolwich. L.B. of Greenwich and Dept. of Envir. (A. Pandrich). Two c.17th c. kilns discovered: the later is a round twin-flued construction producing unglazed and lead-glazed earthenware; the earlier an oval stoneware kiln producing bellarmines and other salt-glazed pots and apparently predating Dwight.

HACKNEY—No excavation.

HAMMERSMITH

Fulham Pottery. TQ 2449 7606. Fulham and Hammer-

smith Hist. Soc., Arch. Sec. (V. R. Christophers). Excavation continued on the post-med. site. Features revealed include a cellar 3m. deep completely filled with stoneware of the early 19th c. W.C.

Landridge Road. TQ 2442 7625. F.H.H.S., A.S. (G. Canvin). Rescue excavation seemed to show that this area was ploughed during late 13th c. No early structures were found but a good sequence of post-med. pot was recovered from rubbish pits.

Kings Head Public House, Fulham High Street. TQ 2430 7626. Fulham Arch. Rescue Gp. (K. R. Whitehouse). Excavation revealed that area of pub and garden were once an extension of the moat of Fulham Palace, possibly a pond. Silt which contained burnt flints, charcoal and small fragments of coarse pottery and some Roman debris, probably dates to late Saxon period.

Tanner Bros. Garage, Fulham High Street. TQ 2439 7603. F.A.R.G. (K. R. Whitehouse). Excavation for a petrol storage tank revealed re-used medieval masonry as footings to a 16/17th c. brick building; a contemporary culvert with 19th c. pipe inserted, discharged into a ditch presumably connected with the High Street stream. The stonework (Hassock and polished Purbeck Marble) may have come from nearby Fulham Church.

Crabtree and Dorset Wharves. TQ 2345 7735. F.A.R.G. (P. Elkins and K. R. Whitehouse). Both wharves had been extensively destroyed by the removal of brickearth for making bricks during the early 18th c. Brick and kiln waste indicate presence of nearby kilns. Large spreads of early 18th c. pottery, pipes, and associated domestic rubbish had been used as backfill. W.M.C.

HARINGEY

Highgate Wood. (A. E. Brown and H. Sheldon). The final season of excavations revealed further ditches as well as a kiln probably of the Flavian period (see summary in *L.A.* 2 222).

HARROW

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Brockley Hill. Brockley Hill Excav. and Fd.-Work Gp. (S. A. Castle). Further large quantities of re-deposited 1st/2nd c. waste pottery, including 78 mortarium stamps, were recovered from the bank of the tennis court.

Pear Hood, Stanmore. B.H.E.F.W.G. (S. A. Castle). Trial excavations were carried out in the wood on the line of the proposed road improvement scheme. These provided a few weathered fragments of Roman tile, but no evidence of occupation. W.M.C.

HAVERING—No excavation.

HILLINGDON—No excavation.

HOUNSLOW

231-232 High Street, Brentford. TQ 1773 7744. London Mus. and West London Arch. Fd. Gp. (R. Canham and A. Laws). A substantial portion of the London to Silchester Roman Road has come to light, a hard packed gravel surface c. 12m. wide and 50m. thick. A roadside ditch dating to the 1st c., encountered on its S. side has a width of just over 2m. and a depth of 1m. At a date towards the end of the 1st c., it appears that the roadside ditch was purposely filled in and several periods of occupation have been encountered on both the N. and S. of the road. Traces of post holes, clay floors and collapsed clay walls belonging to this roadside settlement all date to the late 1st and 2nd c. A series of gravel spreads have been encountered, relating to the various

occupation layers. It appears that at a date some time in the late 2nd or 3rd c. this area of the settlement was abandoned and the road went out of use. Several substantial pits of later Roman date were encountered cutting through the hard packed gravel road surface.

Northumberland Wharf, Brentford. TQ 1724 7723. L.M. and W.L.A.F.G. (R. Canham). A series of pits and ditches were encountered giving evidence of occupation throughout most of the Roman period, and a series of stake holes indicated a small circular enclosure, possibly an animal pen.

ISLINGTON—No excavations.

KENSINGTON and CHELSEA—No excavations.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

"The Grapsome." TQ 1705 6360. Surrey Arch. Soc. and Kingston upon Thames Arch. Soc. (M. Dean and I. West). Medieval ditched enclosure.

Barwell Court. TQ 169 632. S.A.S. and K.u.T.A.S. (E. Webb). Small Roman site with pits and ditches but not structures. Some Bronze Age pottery also.

LAMBETH

Albert Embankment, Vauxhall. TQ 304 781. (B. J. Bloice). Rescue excavations recovered a large deposit of stoneware and delftware kiln waste material dating to the second quarter of 18th c. The group is significant for the variety of stoneware vessels made at this period in Lambeth.

LEWISHAM

Sion House, 258 Lewisham High Street. Lewisham Nat. Hist. Soc. (K. White). Work continued on this post-medieval building.

MERTON

Mitcham Grove. TQ 2705 6785. Surrey Arch. Soc. and Merton Hist. Soc. (D. G. Bird). Excavation of a known 18th c. house, (demolished c.1840), proved that this was in fact at least partly a rebuilt 16th c. building. Part of an earlier building with associated cobbled surface, probably originally 13th c. was discovered beneath the later houses on a completely different alignment. Apart from the obvious pottery associated with the buildings a single piece of late Roman pot and some roofing tile, an Iron Age bone shuttle for a hand weaving loom, and Delft and stoneware kiln wasters were found. W.C.

NEWHAM

Densham Road, West Ham. Passmore Edwards Museum. (P. Wilkinson). 18th c. buildings were found on top of 16th c. ones, whose foundations rested on masonry from Stratford Abbey; this in turn covered timber buildings of the 14th c.

Gatehouse area of Stratford Abbey. P.E.M. (P. Wilkinson). Part of the moat, foundations of the gatehouse and a ?chapel were found. W.C.

REDBRIDGE—No excavation.

RICHMOND—No excavation.

SOUTHWARK

106-114 Borough High Street. TQ 3252 7996. Southwark Arch. Excav. Com. (I. Schwab). Evidence of an early major Roman road, which was about 7.5m. wide and ran N/S; about 0.76m. of metalling remained. Built over marshy ground, the road was supported on a raft of timbers, in places consisting of two layers, both lying

E/W. Either side of the road two phases of clay and timber buildings, probably of pre-mid- 2nd c. date were found. Evidence of change in land usage after the mid-2nd c. was also indicated.

Swan Street. TQ 3251 7960. S.A.E.C. (A. Graham and L. Schaaf). A second extended inhumation was found, probably, with the one previously excavated, dating to the 4th c. Both were cut into the side of a very wide, shallow ditch, running approximately NE-SW, its infilling probably of 3rd c. date.

8 Union Street. TQ 3251 8002. S.A.E.C. (G. Marsh). A well, 2.5m. deep, lined with oak planks was found, probably dug in the late 2nd c., cutting through an insubstantial building. Finds from the well included 3 triple-vases, a votive pot, and a set of antlers.

Bonded Warehouse, Montague Close. TQ 3272 8033. S.A.E.C. (A. Graham). An important Roman road crossed the site in a NE/SW direction, possibly meeting the present river front just E of modern London Bridge (*L.A.* 2 176). Its construction may be dated to the pre-Flavian period. Occupation adjacent to the road continued to the late 4th c. On the eastern side of the site, a medieval wall was found, probably part of Priory of St. Mary Overy.

1-7 St. Thomas's Street. TQ 3275 8018. S.A.E.C. (M. Dennis and L. Schaaf). A site on the N side of the street, adjoining Borough High St. A 2nd c. building and a number of pits were found, finds from which included shoes, textiles, writing tablets, and a gemstone (see this issue). Remains of a substantial stone Roman building of a later date was also found.

199 Borough High Street. TQ 3252 7984. S.A.E.C. (L. Schaaf and C. Murray). Roman features include 3 mid-1st c. ditches and a well. A complex of ditches, probably dating to the first half of the 2nd c. into one of which a water conduit was inserted. Four 14th-15th c. pits, possibly associated with tanning were found. W.M.C.

88 Borough High Street. TQ 3254 8002. S.A.E.C. (B. Yule). Evidence of two phases of Roman building, the first of the Flavian period, the second perhaps 2nd c. From the late Roman to post-medieval period, the area may have been agricultural land represented by a 1.5m. deep layer of black soil.

84-86 Borough High Street. TQ 3255 8002. S.A.E.C. (P. Townend and A. Graham). A section of N/S Roman road leading to London bridgehead was found. (Other sections in *L.A.* 2 183). The road was bordered to the W by an early Roman building.

District Heating Scheme trench, Tooley Street. TQ 3275 8034. S.A.E.C. (A. Graham). The trench extended beneath London Bridge. Further sections of approach road to Roman London bridge already located in Borough High St. and Montague Close in 1971 and 1974 were found. Adjacent to the road were remains of Roman buildings of both the Flavian period and the 2nd c.

93-95 Borough High Street. TQ 3261- 8008. S.A.E.C. (H. Sheldon). Excavations revealed a stream, at least 8m. wide, running N/S some 10-20m. east of the main Roman bridge approach road. This was probably a natural channel with the banks revetted early in the Roman period. The stream-bed was filled with layers of sands, gravels and more "organic" deposits, containing much domestic refuse. About 2m. of these deposits accumulated between c.A.D.70 and 150.

SUTTON—No excavation.

TOWER HAMLETS

Old Ford, E.3. London & Middlesex Arch. Soc. (W. McIsaac, J. Plouviez and I. Schwab). A site in Usher Road has revealed a complex of pits and ditches of the Roman period. These are located to the N of the London to Colchester road, and seem to represent part of an agricultural system. The material appears to be primarily of the 3rd-4th c., although there is evidence of activity from the later 2nd c. continuing well into the 4th c. W.C.

WALTHAM FOREST—No excavation.

WANDSWORTH

Gwendolen Avenue, Putney. TQ 2371 7500. Wandsworth Hist. Soc. (P. and J. Loobey). N/S Roman gravel road with 2 side ditches (c. 3m centres), leading to main settlement area. (L.A. 2 214). W.C.

Malbrook Road, Putney. TQ 2309 7527. W.H.S. (P. Greenwood). E/W probable Roman road with 2 ditches c. 4m centres; passing place on single track road? (L.A. 2 214).

The Platt, Putney. TQ 2392 7566. W.H.S. (N. Farrant). E ditch located of N/S road in main settlement area, joining up with road at Gwendolen Avenue; ditches (c. 7m centres).

St. Mary's Church, Putney. TQ 2418 7559 W.H.S. (S. Warren). Remains of earlier church (c. 1300) found within burnt-out shell of present building. W.C.

WESTMINSTER—No excavation.

ESSEX

Newton's Pool, Waltham Abbey. TL 377 022. Ministry of Defence. (K. N. Bascombe and J. T. A. Burton). An 18th c. brick-lined, brick-floored pit was excavated, adjacent to the millhead lock in the Old River Lea and connected to it by a narrow brick-lined channel. It was fitted with an iron grille at the base of the downstream end and was probably a latrine pit associated with the adjacent Turnpike and Chequer Inn, demolished between 1806 and 1825.

Powder Mills, Waltham Abbey. TL 376 010. M.O.D. (K. N. Bascombe and W. A. W. Smith) Excavation revealed that the millhead stream, filled in 1950, which powered the mills was created in the second half of the 17th c., the leat being enclosed by planks backed by clay. Probably in the late 18th c. a brick wall on a foundation of chalk blocks was built in front of the planks and the bank heightened. Cartographic and negative archaeological evidence suggest this is not the site of the fulling mill first mentioned in 1402.

Market Place, Waltham Abbey. TL 382 005. Waltham Abbey Hist. Soc. (T. Turner and R. M. Huggins). Roman and later finds were recovered from a service trench south of the Market Place in Sewardstone Road; a trial excavation at the nearby Pentecostal Chapel followed. Material was roughly stratified in deep loam layers. Above natural was Roman material with evidence of burning and slight

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gullies, this was covered by loam containing a scatter of Saxon pottery and above that was a further loam with continuous sequence of 12th to 16th c. sherds. The Roman and Saxon layers and pottery were absent in earlier excavations 70 m. to the south.

24/26 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey. TL 383 006. W.A.H.S. (P. J. Huggins). Excavation showed that part of a standing wall formed the S.E. corner of the Abbey precinct wall. The site was first occupied by the building of a clay platform for a timber-framed building probably of early medieval date. An exceptional find was a Reigate stone Madonna, unfortunately with both head and Child missing, dressed in the style of about 1380; it had been carefully buried in a ditch, presumably following the Dissolution in 1540.

SURREY

Staines, 69A High Street. TQ 0365 7155. London and Middlesex Arch. Soc. (K. Crouch). 4th c. industrial site (metal working), two clay buildings, 12th c. plough soil, 14th-15th c. gravel surface with postholes and post pits and 16th c. brick foundation of ?manor house. W.C.

STOP PRESS

Roman Riverside Wall

A further length of the Roman riverside wall in the City has been discovered immediately east of the site in Upper Thames Street excavated by Martin Millett (see last issue). The wall although lying on its side, incorporates some large ashlar masonry and seems intact to parapet level.

Greater London Field Officer

Harvey Sheldon has been appointed Field Officer in the new Museum of London. Currently he is the S.A.E.C. Field Officer and Chairman of the L.A.M.A.S. Archaeological Research Committee (and of the L.A.). With his new post he will probably have a priority interest in those boroughs where no archaeological activity takes place.