

Mosaic

IRON AGE PIT FOUND

DURING RECENT contractors' excavations at Barn Elms for the gas pipe crossing under the Thames to Fulham, the section of an Iron Age pit was seen in the side of one of their trenches; Wandsworth Historical Society excavated.

The site (TQ 2344 7623) lies some 80m. from the Thames and 25m. from the Beverley Brook on the Barnes side. The subsoil is alluvial sand and gravel; above the Iron Age features lay 27cm. of flood silt containing medieval and later material and 37cm. of modern make-up.

The pit was clay-lined, was about 1.8m. in diameter and 1m. deep. Its fill contained many calcined flints, charcoal, burnt daub lumps and pot sherds; there was also a damaged bronze (?) horse trapping. The finds suggest a date of the late Iron Age (non-Belgic). A further smaller pit and some post holes were also found on the site, which is to revert to playing fields.

Excavations in Putney (on the east side of the Beverley) have only produced a few Iron Age sherds and no features. One possibility is that Iron Age peoples chose the Beverley site as it is protected on two sides by the Brook and on one side by the Thames, leaving only the fourth requiring a more formal defence. Other Iron Age finds were noticed in nearby flood prevention works, suggesting a fairly large settlement area.

Wandsworth Historical Society would like to thank the North Thames Gas Board, G.L.C. Parks Division and Murphy Ltd. for their co-operation.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON TEAM

THE Surrey Archaeological Society's full-time S.W. London team continues to be engaged in the preparation — in conjunction with local societies — of situation and

implication reports for Wandsworth and Merton. Their investigation has already highlighted the importance of maintaining the work undertaken by the Wandsworth Historical Society in central Putney and the need to carry out exploratory excavation in advance of development on the Wandsworth gasworks site. In Merton, interest seems to centre on the Priory site — soon to be developed and crossed by a new major road — and the Fieldgate Lane site in Mitcham where Romano-British occupation evidence has been reported.

Help has been given to the Merton Historical Society excavation at Mitcham Grove where housing development has begun. The S.A.S. training excavation here last summer revealed substantial traces of a medieval building underneath the later houses previously known to have stood on the site. Excavation at Wandsworth gasworks is planned for the coming summer and a Department of the Environment grant has been sought to cover the cost of deep exploratory trenches. Excavation will also be undertaken in Merton while the team have offered their services to Kingston Borough which takes a direct interest in archaeology through its museum.

A third member of the team will probably have been appointed before this note appears and work may be started shortly on situation reports for Richmond and Sutton.

TESSERAE

Inner London Unit — is taking part in a major renovation scheme at Westminster Abbey by excavating the sub-vault of the Misericorde, which is close to the S.W. corner of the Cloister; it is expected to find the Norman floor level five feet down.

RESCUE Chairman — Graham Thomas has succeeded the retiring Martin Biddle.

Excavations

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Southwark, by Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee. Several sites from the Roman period onwards. Enquiries to Harvey Sheldon, S.A.E.C., Montague Chambers, Montague Close, S.E.1 (01-407 1989).

Staines, by London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. A site off Staines High Street, on the outer defences of the Roman settlement. Enquiries to Kevin Crouch (01-560 3880 day or 09-328 62874 eve).

Wimbledon, by John Evelyn Society. A series of excavations on the site of a Tudor manor house. Enquiries to Norman Plastow (01-947 2825).

Line of M11. Full-time work is also taking place along the route of the proposed M11 in the Redbridge-Chigwell-Theydon Bois area. Enquiries to the M11 Field Officer, T. Betts, 3 The Green, Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex (01-504 6708).

Putney, by Wandsworth Historical Society. Site off the Upper Richmond Road behind the Police Station, directed by Pat and Joan Loobey. Work on a north/south Roman road and field boundary ditches. Alternate week-ends. Enquiries to 157 Longcliffe House, Arndale Walk, S.W.18 (01-874 9369).

GENERAL EXCAVATIONS

The Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly Calendar of Excavations from March to September, with a final issue in January summarising the main results of fieldwork. The Calendar gives details of extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription is 80p post-free, which should be made payable to C.B.A., 7 Marylebone Road, N.W.1.