

or so the tree roots destroy the rest. This happens all over the British Isles but nowhere is it on as massive a scale as in the Highlands of Scotland. As well as discussing this, Iain Crawford points out how little money Scotland gets for rescue excavation. He also highlights the other great natural destroyer of archaeological sites, coastal erosion. This is doing most damage to the uniquely well-preserved sites under the coastal sand dunes on the Outer Hebrides.

The final part of the book is called 'How You Can Get Involved' and Philip Rahtz's introduction touches on one of the most vital points of all, the need to train many more people who are interested in archaeology 'to organize, direct, dig and write.' Graham Webster in the first chapter of this part summarises this huge problem and briefly suggests some ways of 'Training the New Archaeologist.' This is a useful chapter and it highlights a far greater problem in rescue archaeology than the lack of money. In fact, several of the new units have wasted large quantities of money because of not having properly trained staff to organise and direct rescue excavations.

The next chapter by Graham Thomas and Graham Arnold called 'Rescue Archaeology and the Public' should be one of the most important in the book. However, though it contains much useful information and will be of great interest to small amateur rescue groups, it seems to me that it also shows exactly why *Rescue*, as a national 'Trust for British Archaeology' has failed so far to become a large and effective body. As a national charity *Rescue* needs a far higher degree of professionalism and much better public relations with the world of

big business and local government. Good publicity, at this level could bring a donation of £100,000 from a property company wanting to improve its image.

The chapter by Robert Kiln, entitled 'Archaeology as a Hobby and How to Start,' is a good clear account of the delights of rescue digging aimed at the newcomer to amateur archaeology. This chapter is a model of clarity which some of the other contributors might well have followed. Much useful information for local groups and societies is given in an amusing and concise way. This is followed by another chapter by Philip Rahtz, this time on 'Volunteers.' It is nice to see that volunteers are included because the "professionalisation" of archaeology today has meant that many units and groups are in great danger of losing that vast and very useful free workforce. The chapter ends with a eulogy on the late Mr. John Inglis, one of the most remarkable of all volunteers.

Finally Philip Barker ends the books with a brief chapter on 'The Origins and development of Rescue.' This explains how *Rescue* came into being and gives some of *Rescue's* aims and achievements. The chapter ends with a bit of unashamed 'tub-thumping' (to use Philip Rahtz's phrase) and all are urged to join and subscribe if they have not already done so.

*Rescue Archaeology* is therefore a collection of essays good and not so good. There is much of interest in it, but it lacks coherence and this may leave the intelligent layman somewhat puzzled over what *Rescue Archaeology* is all about, and if the book is aimed at the professional, it is already preaching to the converted.

## A Roman Channel at 66 Borough High Street S.A.E.C.

EXCAVATIONS have revealed the S.E. side of a large channel, running S.W. to N.E., at least 6m wide, with water-laid fills between  $-0.70\text{m}$ . and  $+0.50\text{m}$ . O.D. Originally, the bank had been protected from erosion by a screen of brushwood (to the left of the line of posts in the photo). Subsequently a wattle revetment was erected (seen lying where it collapsed into the channel, on the right of the photo.), and supported by large posts. The land behind it was then artificially banked up by as much as  $0.70\text{m}$ , to a height of  $+1.20\text{m}$  O.D. After this collapsed, a final revetment was constructed of large posts, backed with planks. This supported the bank successfully until the channel was deliberately filled up, probably early in the 2nd century A.D. The site owners, Haslemere Estates, kindly held up building for five days to allow the excavations to be carried out.

(Photo: John Earp)

