

the Baldwyns Park housing estate) and Joydens Wood (part of this is also a housing estate). The known deneholes in these groups, some 130 in total, were almost all of the six-chambered design, though the Stankey Wood group contained several of the interesting evolved oval shape, whereby the miners, in order to obtain a maximum amount of chalk from each sinking, worked the original six chambers into one large cavern, the roof being held up by massive pillars of chalk. Cavey Springs deneholes appear to have been connected with the Manor of Bexley, those at Stankey Wood with the Manor of Baldwyns and Joydens Wood with the Manor of Ocholt¹⁶. Baldwyns and Ocholt were sub-manors of Lessness, with which the Abbey Wood deneholes had obvious connections.

The origin of the word 'denehole' is obscure. In Essex they are also known as 'Dane-holes' and the word was in use in the early 18th century. In a Charter of A.D. 956 'deoh holes' appears in connection with a 'cealc pyt' (chalk pit). The three experts in Old English (including the British Museum) to whom the present writer has submitted the relevant passage for translation have all returned a different version. These include one — 'deoh holes, left untranslated but could be a proper name' one one ren-

dered it 'deep holes' and the other 'clay or loam holes'. Another Charter, dated A.D. 958, mentions the word 'dene Pitte'. Either of these terms could refer to deneholes but proof of such an early use of the word cannot be based entirely on such scanty evidence, tempting though it might be.

Besides the previously mentioned districts deneholes, chalk-wells and caves have been recorded at Orpington, Charlton, Blackheath, Eltham and Kidbrooke. There must be many unsuspecting Londoners living in houses that are subject to ominous crackings and sinkings, for the housing authorities, especially in the 1920's and 30's had few scruples when allowing a housing estate to be built over land known to contain a honeycomb of caves. Today the situation is little better, though perhaps the by-laws governing the correct procedure for making the area safe are more strictly enforced. Regrettably, the shortage of land has permitted builders to use every inch for housing, thus ensuring the disappearance of an interesting archaeological oddity and laying up a store of future trouble for the unfortunate buyers.

16. P. J. Tester & J. E. L. Caiger, *Archaeologia Cantiana* 72 (1958).

Excavations & Post — Excavation Work

City, by Museum of London. Department of Urban Archaeology. A series of long term excavations. Enquiries to Brian Hobley, Chief Urban Archaeologist, DUA, 71 Basinghall Street, E.C.2. (01-606 1933/4/5). For information on post-excavation work, contact Penny MacConnoran at this address.

Brentford, by West London Archaeological Field Group. Excavation and processing. Enquiries to Alison Laws, 71-72 Brentford High Street, Brentford, Middlesex. (01-560 3880).

Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group.
(1) Fulham Palace, Bishops Avenue, S.W.6. Excavation work under the floor of the great hall and other rooms will reveal medieval foundations and cellars, known from 18th century plan and surveys. Enquiries to K. Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 3AA (01-731 0338).

(2) Sandford Manor, Rewell Street (New Kings Road) S.W.6. Excavation work in grounds of 17th century house, traceable back to at least 14th century, hopefully will find medieval and earlier occupation. Enquiries to Excavation Director, C. E. Oliver, 18 Albany Court, Ashburnham Road, Ham Richmond, Surrey. (01-948 2633 or 661 1421) or K. Whitehouse.

Hammersmith, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. All types of work and finds: prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-10 p.m. and weekends after dusk, St Peter's Church Hall, Varna Road, S.W.6. Contact: K. Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, S.W.6 3AA (01-731 0338).

Inner London Boroughs, by the Inner London Unit. Several rescue sites in various areas. Enquiries to Irene Schwab (01-242 6620).

Kingston, by Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to

Marion Smith, Kingston Museum, Fairfield Road, Kingston (01-546 5386).

North-East Greater London, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, E.15. (01-534 4545).

Putney, by Wandsworth Historical Society. Two acre site at junction of Felsham Road and High Street lies on Roman and medieval settlements. Alternate weekends. Enquiries to Nicholas Farrant, 7 Coalecroft Road, S.W.15 (01-788 0015).

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

Surrey, by Surrey Archaeological Society. Enquiries to David Bird, Field Officer S.A.S., Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey. (0483-32454).

Vauxhall Pottery, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Excavation at weekends only. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. All enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, S.E.17. (01-703 3324).

GENERAL EXCAVATIONS

The Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly Calendar of Excavations from March to September, with an extra issue in November and 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 £3.00 post-free, which should be made payable to C.B.A., 112 Kennington Road, S.E.11.