



Fig. 1: View of south east corner of excavation, showing brick structures F.1, F.2 and F.3.

(Photo: S. Somers)

Excavation at Palace Gardens, Enfield, 1977

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THE SITE (Fig. 2) is situated in the centre of Enfield Town opposite St. Andrews Church, and immediately west of Pearson's Department store, beneath which lie the foundations of the Tudor Palace built by Edward VI about 1551¹. It was this Tudor building that was later to be used by Dr. Uvedale as a school house (1663-1722). A contemporary survey of famous

gardens around London by Gibson (1691)² mentions the grounds attached to Enfield Palace, making special reference to the presence of several heated houses built by Dr. Uvedale to support the growth of exotic plants and fruit. Behind the Palace, Dr. Uvedale also planted his renowned Lebanese cedar tree³. This tree survived until 1927, when it was cut

1 Jones, I. K. *Palace Gardens Excavation: A Documentary Description and History of Enfield Palace*. Enfield Archaeological Society (1977).

2 Referred to in Burnby, J. G. L. & Robinson, A. E.

And They Blew Exceeding Fine. Edmonton Hundred Historical Society (1976).

3 Ford, E. *A History of Enfield*. Enfield: J. H. Meyers (1873) 27 & 170.

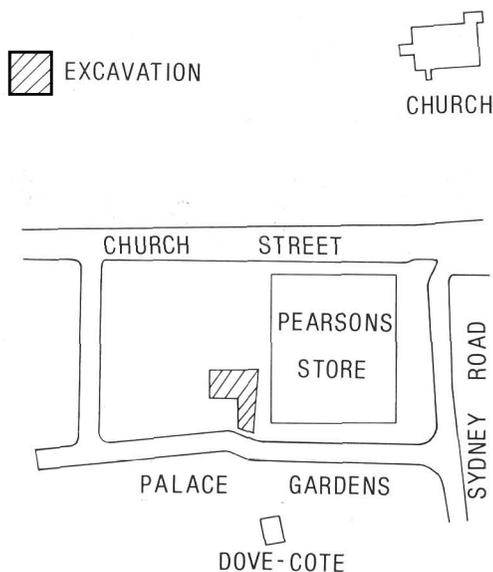


Fig. 2: Location of excavation

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down during demolition of the last standing remnant of the Palace, the south wing.

Aware of this history, and the plans for redevelopment of the area as a shopping precinct by the London Borough of Enfield, excavation by members of the Enfield Archaeological Society began as soon as demolition of the existing row of terraced, late Victorian houses (built 1898) was completed. Unfortunately, large areas of the site had been destroyed by modern footings, cellars, drains and service piping; the only areas found relatively undisturbed lay in what was once the front and rear gardens.

To date (December 1977) just over half the available area has been investigated, resulting in the uncovering of late seventeenth/early eighteenth century brick structures, and gravel spreads probably of similar date, or earlier, as well as a medieval gravel floor and Tudor pit (Fig. 3, F.1 to F.9).

Early Modern Period Stoke hole (Feature 1)

Part of an unusually shaped structure built of brick, the floor having been set 0.45m into the natural gravel, with the outer walls of double brick, being keyed with lime mortar and surviving to a height of 1.15m. Some destruction of the west wall had occurred when the modern sewer was cut through between this and feature 2.

Owing to its position on the extreme edge of the

excavation it was not possible to follow the brickwork further as it runs out beneath the public footway outside the site.

Although the bricks are of Tudor style, the filling of building rubble was clearly dated to the late 17th/early 18th century from the pottery and clay pipes found within it. This filling also contained an iron shovel blade and a large number of snail shells, and was overlying a deposit of coal fragments on the floor.

The design resembles that of a stoke hole with the chimney for the stove at the north end (Fig. 4), and fired probably with coal.

It seems likely that this stoke hole is a remnant of one of Dr. Uvedale's heated houses, and that he took advantage of the plentiful supply of Tudor brick available for its construction.

Also, the large numbers of snail shells found within the filling suggests that although the lower part was filled in quickly, the remainder was left as a convenient dump for general garden rubbish.

Circular brick structure (Feature 2)

The remains of a circular floor of dry brick construction laid as a single course, consisting mainly of half bricks (Fig. 1).

Around this floor, but set 0.15m lower, a channel three bricks wide had been laid. At intervals of 0.32m, single bricks were set up on end at 45° angle opposite each other on either side of the channel, possibly to support shuttering of some kind. Also, a small, shallow, square shaped, brick lined pit, which contained a black peaty fill, had been sunk to a depth of 0.41m at the north end of the channel.

On the west side of the channel, and at the same level as the floor, a single course brick pathway 0.64m wide had been laid on top of the remains of an earlier wall (F.3), but owing to modern disturbance had only survived for a length of 2.61m. The angle of this pathway suggests that it may have originally followed the curve of the channel.

The floor and channel had been laid on a bed of gravel overlying lumps of moulded plaster, and probably represents debris material from within previously demolished parts of the Palace.

The style of brick used in the construction of the floor, channel and pathway, together with pottery and clay pipes recovered, assign them to the late 17th/early 18th century, and that together they may represent part of the interior to one of Dr. Uvedale's heated houses.

Brick wall (Feature 3)

A brick wall, of unproven date, 0.61m wide running almost north-south beneath F.2 of which three courses of lime mortared brickwork had survived, overlying a base of brick rubble 0.11m deep.

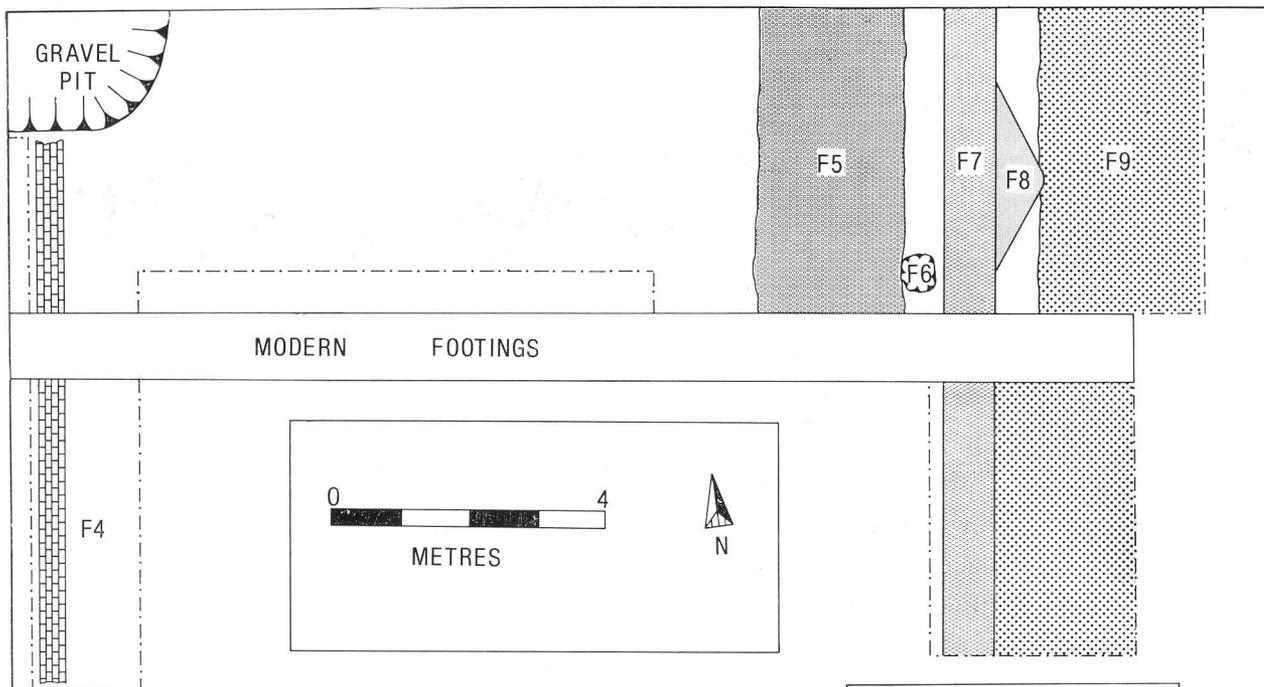


Fig. 3: Plan showing position of features

Boundary wall (Feature 4)

A brick wall, running north-south 0.4m wide, and traced for a distance of 8m, which had survived to a height of 0.32m.

The style of brick used, together with pottery recovered, dates it to the mid-18th century, and its position points to it being the remains of a boundary wall shown on an estate map dated 1785.

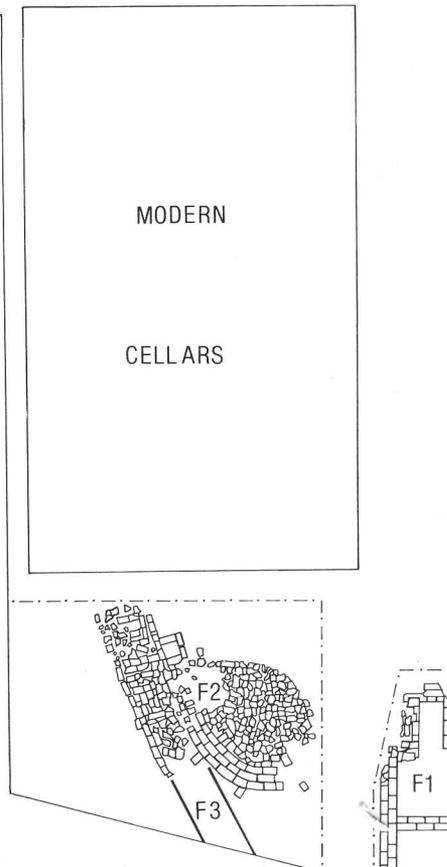
Destruction to the north end of this wall had occurred during gravel extraction in modern times.

Medieval and Tudor Periods

Medieval gravel floor (Feature 8)

Occupation of the site in the medieval period is shown by traces of a floor made of gravel 0.17m thick. Sherds of grey ware vessels, decorated with applied thumb-pressed straps, were found embedded in the gravel and date the feature to the late 12th century. It has not been possible to determine the exact dimensions of the floor area as a trench (F.7) dug probably in the 16th century for the construction of a brick wall⁴ cuts the gravel. Further destruction also took place at this time when the ground surface above the western part of the medieval floor was

⁴ This wall was later robbed out and the trench back-filled with brick rubble and keying plaster sometime in the late 17th/early 18th century.



being prepared for the dumping of gravel and sand to build a raised pathway (F.5) running north-south along the base of the wall.

No masonry was found and it seems likely, therefore, that the framework erected over the floor was of timber. This interpretation is supported by the presence of surviving sections of rammed clay foundations (0.32m wide by 0.10m deep) laid for the placement of sleeper beams. An 'L' shaped piece of burnt plank was also found lying on the surface of the gravel.

In the layer of friable, brown soil closely associated with F.8 there was found a silver penny of Henry II, as well as bones of horse, ox and Fallow deer. The fine texture of this brown earth (loam), together with the presence within it of several abraded potsherds of the late 12th century indicate a frequently worked soil; pointing to the possibility that the area around F.8 was cultivated as a garden in the medieval period.

To the east of F.8, and lying above the brown soil, was a layered series of gravel deposits (F.9, layers 1-3) of, as yet, undetermined date. In the lowest band of gravel, there were found abraded potsherds of the 12th century and a bronze buckle (Fig. 5) identified by Mr. J. Clark, Museum of London, as being of medieval date.

Small pit with Tudor pottery (Feature 6)

Sandwiched between the raised trackway (F.5) and the foundation trench (F.7) of the robbed wall, there was found a small pit (F.6) containing several pieces of one brown ware vessel, together with a sherd of red ware with splashed, orange coloured glazing. These potsherds are all dated to the early 16th century⁵.

⁵ Clive Orton (1977, *pers. comm.*)

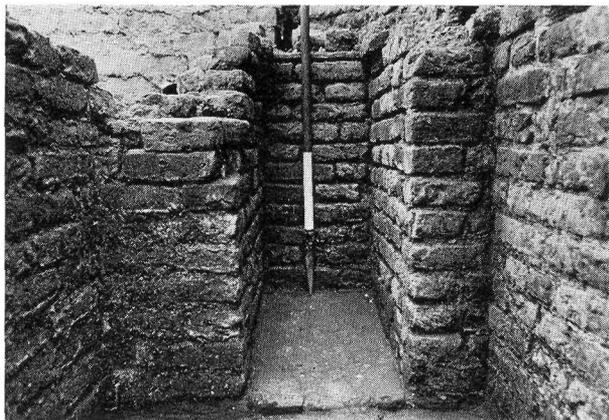


Fig. 4: Interior view (looking north) of stoke hole (F.1) after removal of filling.

(Photo: S. Somers)

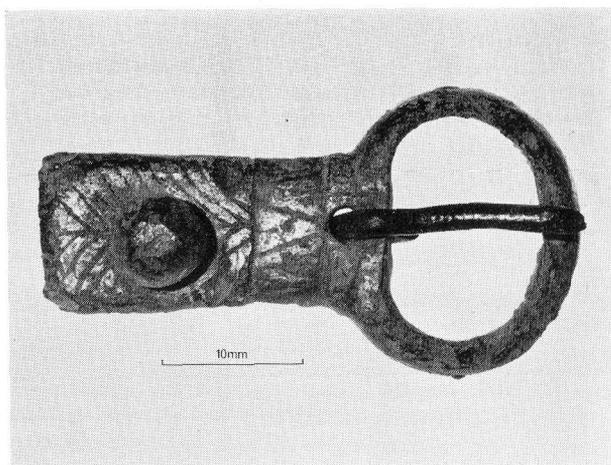


Fig. 5: Medieval bronze buckle. Length 38mm

(Photo: John Bailey)

Specialists' Reports

The Penny of Henry II ("Tealby" type)

Obverse legend:—

... EX AN ...

Bust not visible.

Reverse legend:—

+MA ... IN: ON: LV ...

Cross and crosslets.

The coin had been folded nearly in half (in antiquity), with the reverse on the outside, and displayed the usual ill-struck characteristics common to the "Tealby" series.

For this reason it was not possible to assign a closer dating than 1158-1165. Martin struck "Tealby" pennies with three different busts at the London mint (A, B and C. North, 952-957), but the lack of a bust on this specimen made it impossible to ascertain the correct category.

RICHARD A. COXSHALL

The Faunal Remains

1. Mammalian bone

Early modern contexts:

Three dumps of building rubble, dated on the pottery and clay pipe evidence to the late 17th/early 18th century, contained the skeletal remains of cattle, sheep and pigs. Comparison of certain of the bone elements (e.g. humerus) of sheep from these contexts with bones found in a late 19th century refuse pit on the site illustrate clearly (Fig. 6) the difference in size between unimproved and improved animals; with the sheep of the late 17th century being of small stature and build. Measurements taken from the bones of cattle from the same late 17th century contexts, on the other hand, show that they were of similar stature to animals of today.

Medieval context:

Few bones were found in the late 12th century level, these are listed as follows:—

Domestic horse

first phalanx, complete

Domestic ox

metacarpal bone, complete
tibia, fragment of shaft only
scapula, fragment

Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)

metatarsal bone, fragment of shaft only

From the length of the complete ox metacarpus, the height at the withers is estimated (after the method of Fock⁶) at 1.02m; the animal belongs to the population of small, short horned cattle that was common throughout Europe in the High medieval period⁷. These diminutive cattle persisted in Britain until the late medieval/early Tudor period when improved livestock husbandry and possibly selective breeding led to the development of large sized, long horned cattle⁸.

The area to the west of Enfield was enclosed by Geoffrey de Mandeville about 1136 to make the hunting park of Enfield Chase. The finding of remains of Fallow deer is, therefore, not unexpected and shows that the inhabitants of the site supplemented their diet with venison.

2. Bird bone

An almost complete skeleton of a bird was recovered by sieving (5mm mesh size) from the infill to feature 1 (deposit dated to late 17th/early 18th century). This has been identified as Rock dove *Columba livia* (most probably domestic pigeon) by Mr. G. Cowles, Sub-Department of Ornithology, British Museum (Natural History), Tring. It is of interest that a dove-cote dating from the 18th century, or possibly earlier, is still to be seen in Enfield today, situated south of the excavation site (Fig. 2).

Apart from the remains of the one pigeon described here, there is a noticeable absence of bones of domestic fowl in the late 17th/early 18th century dumps of rubbish. The only bones of domestic chicken *Gallus gallus* found on the site are from the late 19th century refuse pit and modern topsoil.

3. Mollusca

Several shells of European oyster (*Ostrea edulis* Linn.) were recovered from the late 17th/early 18th

6 von den Driesch, A. & Boessneck, J. 'Kritische Anmerkungen zur Widerristhöhenberechnung aus Längenmassen vor-und frühgeschichtlicher Tierknochen'. *Saugetierkundliche Mitteilungen*, 22 (1974) 325-348.

7 Bökönyi, S. *History of Domestic Mammals in Central and Eastern Europe*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó.



Fig. 6: Sheep humerus, from late 17th century dump (right) and late 19th century pit (left).

(Photo: John Bailey)

century contexts. Oysters were a favourite item in the diet of both rich and poor people in the early modern period, and were either eaten fresh on their own or served up as a stew with herbs and spices⁹.

The building rubble filling of feature 1 also contained numerous shells identified by Mr. F. C. Naggs, Mollusca Section, British Museum (Natural History) as common land snail (*Helix aspersa* Müller).

PHILIP ARMITAGE

Wood and Charcoal Samples

1. Wood: Introduced conifer possibly the European Larch *Larix decidua* Linn.

Base of a post 0.10m square sunk to a depth of 0.32m into a gravel spread (an extension to F.9, (1974) 136.

8 Armitage, P. L. The origin and development of long horned cattle in Britain from the late middle ages to the present day (forthcoming).

9 Wilson, C. A. *Food and Drink in Britain*. Penguin, (1976) 46 & 51.

layer 1)¹⁰ provisionally dated to late 17th/early 18th century.

2. Charcoal: Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* Linn.

A piece of burnt plank, 'L' shaped (0.10m wide, 0.01m thick, with lengths of 0.40m and 0.30m) resting on a medieval gravel floor underlying F.5.

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Discussion

Although contemporary documentary sources provide very little information on the size and extent of the village at Enfield during the 11th century, they do indicate that the majority of the buildings comprising the settlement were clustered around the church of St. Andrew. A knowledge of the surviving archaeological features in this focal area is therefore important to an understanding of the early history of the village and its subsequent growth and development into a town. As a contribution to the historical evidence, the Enfield Archaeological Society planned a series of excavations in the centre of Enfield; the first investigation being carried out at Palace Gardens in 1977.

The earliest feature found at the site, a gravel floor area, is dated to the late 12th century. There is, as yet, no sign of continuity, and it is not until the 16th century that we have evidence of reoccupation, this being the time of the building of Enfield Palace. Occupation then continues up to the modern period, with the height of activity con-

10. Being excavated at the time of going to print.

centrated in the late 17th/early 18th century, when Dr. Uvedale held the tenancy of the Palace.

The conclusions reached in this interim report are tentative as reconstruction of the phases of occupation has been hindered by the removal of much of the archaeological evidence when foundation trenches and cellars were cut in late Victorian times. There is, however, further opportunity to follow up this initial exploration when redevelopment of the area surrounding the Palace Gardens site continues next year (1978). Among the standing buildings marked down for demolition is a dovecote thought to date from the 18th century, or earlier (Fig. 2). This building will be the subject of a special study, and it is proposed that members of the Enfield Archaeological Society carry out the task of demolition, which will be conducted in controlled stages, to allow a detailed record of the structure to be compiled.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Council and Officers of London Borough of Enfield for the permission to carry out the excavation, and for the loan of plant and trench digging machine, and particularly to Mr. John Briggs the machine operator.

Our special thanks to the specialists for their interest and reports, especially Clive Orton for his examination and dating of the pottery.

Finally to those members of the Society who took part in the 'dig' and without whom it could not have been carried out.

Letters

COAL AND WINE DUTIES MARKERS IN THE STAINES AREA

THE IRON POSTS set up beside roads and railways, etc., under the London Coal and Wine Duties Acts of 1851 and 1861 (to mark the boundaries of the area within which duties were payable) are familiar objects to most London industrial archaeologists, and in most cases they are well preserved and maintained by Local Authorities at the request of the Corporation of London. (*London Archaeol.* 1, no. 2, (1969) 27-30).

The Staines area has a number of these 'City Posts' and those beside the roads and the river paths are in good condition. However, this is unfortunately not true of the taller cast-iron obelisks used to mark the points where the boundary crosses railway lines. Thus the obelisk on the slope of the railway embankment adjacent to Thames Street (TQ 036713) is rusty and neglected, while

the similar obelisk beside the railway between Wraysbury and Staines (TQ 018738) lies prostrate and overgrown.

Cannot something be done to rescue these two obelisks from their present sorry state? They are of some importance as minor antiquities and reminders of a former industrial age, and it would be fitting if the responsible authorities were to take appropriate action.

The 2½" O.S. map shows a City Post by the roadside north of Staines recreation ground (TQ 026720) but this seems to be missing. Is anything known of its fate?

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