

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.

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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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