

in the same strategically important south-east corner of the city, comes the discovery of an earlier wall a short distance to the south.

Clearly more information is needed to interpret the extent of the defences in regard to their chronological development, and speculation would be unwise whilst dating evidence is still being analysed. However, it would not be premature to cite some of the questions that this latest discovery inevitably provokes, and in doing so, offer some further observations.

Two principle questions that arise are, firstly, how far along the water front did the earlier river wall extend? And to what extent was this replaced by the later wall? It seems unlikely that the earlier wall represents a short return attached to the landward defences, as this would simply be outflanked by any sea-borne attack. Consequently, the wall perhaps continued at least some 400m further upstream to the bridge head — the nearest defensible position for termination. Indeed, the wall might well have continued westwards to cover the

entire river frontage, in which case the Blackfriars section of wall might be associated.

The second river wall might be regarded as a large, but localised remodelling of the earlier wall. However, this theory becomes less plausible if the discovery of an unidentified wall below Water Lane (see Fig 1) in 1958, has any bearings on the matter<sup>5</sup>. The reason why the earlier wall needed replacing is itself uncertain. As already stated, it was well clear of the river level, so the possibility of water erosion can be ruled out. This would seem to leave two alternatives: either it was taken down and re-sited for some structural or military reason, or it was deliberately slighted and subsequently replaced at a later date.

5. The eroded remains of a wall resting on timber piles were found south of the curtain wall between the Bell Tower and Bloody Tower. Its location does not relate to any known or conjectural plans, and lying south of the late twelfth-century curtain, which has always been assumed to be on the line of the Roman riverside wall, it might be interpreted as an earlier river wall. However, it could represent an unknown early medieval wharf, or for that matter a Roman one.

## Excavations & Post-Excavation work

**City**, by Museum of London. Department of Urban Archaeology. A series of long term excavations. Enquiries to Brian Hopley, 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 Farnum, 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, S.W.6 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, 7.30 - 10 p.m., 2 Clancarty 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 site 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., Port Medical Centre, English Grounds, Morgan's Lane, S.E.1 2HT. (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.*