

Excavation Round-up 1980

BETH RICHARDSON

EXCAVATIONS ARE LISTED according to the London Borough or County in which they took place. They are followed by grid references (although, understandably, some directors have decided not to supply these because of treasure hunters), by the name of the Society, Museum or Unit responsible for the excavation, and name of the director. WC and WMC indicate that work continues or may continue in 1981. The words "No excavation" beside a borough mean that as far as the editor is aware, no excavation has taken place in the year in question, but it should be remembered that much site-watching and archive work may have taken place instead.

The assistance of the directors and other people who supplied the material from which the list was compiled is gratefully acknowledged. The editor would like to hear of any omissions.

CITY OF LONDON: all excavations by Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London. (Submitted by J. Schofield, Field Officer)

Miles Lane TQ 3284 8075 (L. M. B. Miller)

Subsequent excavation on the east side of Miles Lane showed that the substantial Roman building excavated in 1979/80 was Flavian in date, as was the timber drain to the south. A fragment of timber revetment of the same date was found beneath the Hadrianic terracing, consisting of boxes filled with organic dumps. During the watching brief following the demolition of King William Street House in 1980 the plan of the Flavian building could be completed. A brick-lined drain ran north-south underneath its floors for 23m. To the south of the building a timber pipe continued the line of this drain out over the Flavian quayfront. The quay differed from the timber revetment found earlier which may have formed a jetty. During the removal of Miles Lane three medieval road surfaces were recorded. There was some discontinuity between these and the recorded Roman road surfaces which were on a slightly different alignment. Under King William Street House the line of the Flavian quay front has been established. To the north the ground had been levelled with redeposited natural gravel prior to the construction of a second Roman building, probably also Flavian in date, on the west side of the site next to the modern Arthur Street. Its plan is not yet complete but covers an area 15m x 25m. Chalk foundations and cess pits of several medieval tenements have been recorded, some of which would have originally fronted on to Upper Thames Street and some on to St. Martins Lane on the west side of the site. WC.

Peninsular House TQ 3295 3340 (G. Milne).

Monitoring of the contractors site work enabled a c 15m length of a 1st century timber quay to be traced. It would have functioned with the earliest phase of the substantial masonry structure examined during the controlled excavation, just to the north. This building is now known to have continued in use with major modifications, into the late 4th century. Botolph Lane was sectioned and shown to have been laid out at the same time as the earliest of the 8th-9th century timber buildings recorded on the eastern side of the site. (see *L.A.* Vol 3, No. 16.)

24 & 25 Ironmonger Lane TQ 3250 8124 (J. Norton).

A small site (8m x 8m) fronting on to Ironmonger Lane provided a chronological sequence of evidence for the setting out and alignment of an east-west Roman road north of Cheapside, and the subsequent development of roadside properties. The earliest road surfaces sealed a series of backfilled pits and irregular scoops, probably dug to extract the natural gravels, dated to the mid-1st century. Over twenty successive road surfaces and make-ups were recorded, and a shallow roadside gully filled with loose pebbles and silts washed off the contemporary road surfaces provided a chronological sequence of datable pottery through to the 4th century. Part of six successive 1st/2nd century structures and an adjacent gravelled courtyard area along the northern edge of the road were found to respect the same alignment. The occupational surfaces and a series of superimposed hearths were bounded by slots to take a sill beam and timber uprights, and each successive slot encroached farther on to the roadside gravels fronting the buildings. There was widespread burning over the built-up area with collapsed sections of burnt daub, painted wall plaster and charred timbers. The remains of two oval interconnecting sunken Saxon structures, dug into the Roman road gravels to a depth of 1.30m were filled with 9th century debris which had accumulated on the floors and up against the gravelled walls of the structures. Nearby, a series of robber trenches of about the same date contained fragments of chalk and ragstone, suggesting that ruined Roman walls were still standing in the city up to 500 years after the Roman occupation. A series of truncated late Saxon/early medieval rubbish pits was excavated across the whole site. An almost complete skeleton of a male horse was recovered from the bottom of a deep cess pit and, following a preliminary examination by specialists, is considered to be a valuable find. The site was sealed by post-Fire basements (a brick floor and a gravelled surface) which had removed all traces of late medieval activity.

2-9, 13-16 Bevis Marks TQ 3335 8130 (C. Midgley).

Site 1 (13-16 Bevis Marks): all horizontal stratigraphy had been destroyed by Victorian basemending. Surviving features included Roman rubbish and brickearth quarrying pits of the late 2nd to 4th centuries; 11th to early 13th century rubbish pits and two linear cuts running east-west, possibly marking a property boundary; a late 16th century brick and chalk lined well; and a late 17th century brick basement having at least three phases of use. Site 2 (2-9 Bevis Marks) (excavation in progress): machine-cut trenches along the front and down one side of the site have revealed a cut feature of possible late 3rd century date which is at least 40m long and 4m wide, running the length of the street frontage. Further trenching will establish whether or not this is a linear feature. To its south are a complex sequence of Roman and medieval pits and horizontal deposits. No structural remains survive. WC.

Cutler Street TQ 3340 8160 (S. O'Connor Thompson).

A three-week watching brief in March recorded remains of three W-F aligned inhumation burials dating to the 3rd century. These overlay backfilled shallow brickearth quarries of 2nd to 3rd century date, and were in turn cut by early medieval dark earth filled pits.

Well Court TQ 3238 8108 (D. Perring with P. A. Cardiff and R. J. Millner).

The early surfaces of the Roman road were examined and have been provisionally dated as Flavian. A timber lined drain ran along the west side of the road, beyond which a series of timber framed structures were examined. A fire destruction horizon, also possibly Flavian in date, was noted. A V-shaped ditch pre-dated the first road surface but its line was precisely followed by the west edge of that road. This feature has not been dated but may have been associated with the initial setting out of the area. The later sequence has been described in the 1979 Round-Up. Watching brief observations on the same site revealed two pre-Great Fire cellars surviving to street level. On typological grounds these may have been 14th century in date.

62-4 Cannon Street TQ 3244 8095 (D. Perring, J. V. Price and P. Rowsome).

Two trenches set in the basements of the properties cornering against Cannon Street, College Hill, and Cloak Lane were excavated to a depth of c 1m. In the trench along the College Hill frontage a sequence of late and post-medieval features were recorded. These had cut into an early medieval intrusive feature which contained clay and silt surfaces and an east-west beam trench. This may have been a sunken featured structure. An underlying fire destruction horizon, probably 2nd century, was recorded but not excavated. In the trench along the College Hill frontage two tile capped north-south dwarf walls were recorded. These have been provisionally dated to the fourth century on the basis of associated pottery.

Watling Court TQ 3235 8105 (D. Perring with P. A. Cardiff).

Watching brief observations to the north of the excavated area (see 1978 R.U.) revealed a sequence of chalk footings to 13th century (and later) structures fronting on to Watling Street. These had cut into a gravelled area, perhaps a yard, which underlay destruction debris on a similar level to the 'Hadrianic fire' excavated in 1978.

60 Fenchurch Street TQ 3336 8097 (C. Guy and D. Perring).

A first century (possibly Flavian) structure, probably of timber framed construction, was observed; its southern limit running east-west across the observed area. This building was replaced by a similar structure, possibly after its destruction by fire. In the late first or early second century a stone founded wall (represented by a mid-second century robber-trench) was constructed along the same line as the walls described above. The robbing activity post-dated an early second century fire horizon, presumably part of the 'Hadrianic Fire'. Later pits apparently respected the boundary indicated by these walls until at least the 3rd century, after which date the pits were apparently randomly distributed.

86 Fenchurch Street TQ 3347 8110 (A. Upson).

Excavation revealed a series of 1st and early 2nd century timber buildings, the earliest of which was possibly sub-circular in plan, being replaced by a series of rectangular structures lying roughly parallel to the forerunner of Fenchurch Street. The earliest rectangular structure was destroyed by fire. Subsequent deposits clearly related to an east-west division, with a sequence of internal brick-earth floors and occupation accumulations to the south, and a series of well surfaced exterior gravel courtyard or lane metallings to the north. The Roman sequence was cut along the east side of the site by a north-south line of early medieval pits.

2-3 Jewry Street TQ 3356 8110 (D. Perring and P. Rowsome).

Observations in the area adjacent to the site excavated in 1975 included second century structures associated with a fire destruction horizon. A sequence of surfaces beneath this were recorded in section and the relevant records are currently being studied in the hope of identifying structures. To the bottom of the sequence a series of regularly spaced postholes imply the presence of a substantial post-built building which was traced east-west for 9m. Amongst other intrusive features a late medieval chalk lined well was recorded.

46-8 Fenchurch Street TQ 3335 8095 (M. Barker with D. Perring).

Four sections were recorded on this site. One of these contained 1st/2nd century Roman structural remains including in situ fire debris (possibly Hadrianic). Post-fire Roman horizons were truncated and overlain by a further series of occupation levels, yielding pottery of medieval date. To the south a further series of 1st century Roman layers were recorded. These were cut by a pit containing fills with a high percentage of fire debris (possibly Hadrianic). The earlier Roman horizons were overlain by a further series of make-ups. These make-ups were in turn cut by an early medieval pit, a medieval chalk cess pit, and a 16th or 17th century brick foundation which can tentatively be identified with one of those shown on a plan of 1612 by Ralph Treswill, which property was granted to the Fullers' Company in 1520.

174-176 Aldersgate. TQ 3214 8164 (M. Barker with D. Perring).

A north-south section to the rear of this extra-mural property revealed a possibly Roman horizon of redeposited natural, overlain by a series of make-ups/dumps which in turn were cut by an east-west ditch. The ditch may have functioned as a property boundary. Pottery from its fills have been provisionally dated to the 12th/13th century. Gravel and silty clay dumps were laid across the site over the ditch fills. These were sealed by a medieval tile-based hearth which predated chalk block wall foundations. Post-medieval brick foundations were also noted.

12-14 Nicholas Lane TQ 3280 8092 (D. Bowler and D. Perring).

Substantial Roman wall footings and at least two fire destruction horizons were noted on this site but detailed recording work was not possible.

BARKING — No Excavation.

BARNET

14 Cedars Close, Hendon. TQ 2375 8974. Hendon & District Archaeological Society. (P. Reboul). Exploratory excavation on the site of the kitchen garden complex of Tenterden Hall, other wise known as Hendon Place House, demolished in 1934. Substantial brick built wall, pierced at intervals with arches; complex and well-built network of brick and tile drains at lower levels; finds of glass, putty, lead glazing strips and a fine example of Victorian cast-iron grill such as used in hot-houses, substantiate that this is probably a large green house of the lean-to type (possibly for growing exotic fruits such as melons and grapes) associated with the Hall. WC.

BEXLEY — No Excavation.

BRENT

Old St. Andrews Church, Old Church Lane, Kingsbury, N.9. Wembley History Society. Restoration work on fabric and fittings of early medieval church which is now leased to the Society. The fabric contains many unusual features including Roman brick and tile. The fittings include three

bells, the oldest of which was cast by Peter de Weston in c. 1330. Work continues and visitors and helpers welcome on Sunday mornings.

BROMLEY

Lower Warbank, Keston. (No NGR given). The West Kent Archaeological Group continued its programme of rescue-work on this multi-period Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon site which extends over at least five acres. The 13th annual Bromley Training Excavation took place on the site, also directed by Brian Philp. The work located the continuation of the north ditch of an Iron Age farmstead enclosure and identified a possible entrance on that side. Extensive work in the same area revealed a variety of post-holes and small ditches and also a deep Roman shaft. The latter contained first century material in the primary silt and third century material at its mouth. No further alabaster inhumations in stone coffins have so far been located.

Holwood Park, Keston. (No NGR given). The West Kent Archaeological Group carried out rescue excavations both before and during the construction of extensive office construction in Holwood Park, close to the 44-acre Iron Age hillfort known as 'Caesars Camp'. This resulted in the discovery of one side of a substantial ditched enclosure of late-Iron Age. The ditch was more than four metres wide, three metres deep and appears defensive in character. A ditch terminal suggests a possible entrance whilst the ditch filling contained a few sherds of late-Iron Age pottery.

Green Street Green. TQ 456 643. Orpington & District Archaeological Society. (M. Fortune). Fieldwalks were held to investigate the use of tributary valleys of the main Cray valley and these were backed up by an exploratory excavation near the mouth of one such valley. The results showed a scatter of Mesolithic flints consistent with the Orpington area as a whole. Contributions from other periods were negligible apart from a few enigmatic badly-drilled buttons and button blanks.

CAMDEN

West Heath, Hampstead. TQ 356 867. Hendon and District Archaeological Society. (D. Collins). A fifth seasons excavations were undertaken and work completed on the area at risk from erosion. The site continued to be very rich in Mesolithic tool types. A large curved pit, 180cms long by 90cms wide and 90cms deep was uncovered on the west side of the site as well as several smaller pits in other areas. All were filled with charcoal and struck flake. WC.

CROYDON

Whitgift Hospital, Croydon. TQ 323 656. Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society. (J. Davison).

Excavation continued beneath these Elizabethan Alms-houses. A culvert was discovered running N-S across the site. No firm dating evidence, but construction of bricks and chalk blocks is similar to the walls of the building.

A trench dug at the west end of the building revealed two chalk floors, at 1.3m (4ft 3ins) and 1.4m (4ft 7ins) below 16th C. rubble with much domestic refuse. Only medieval pottery recovered. Another trench at the east end of the building produced only 25cms (10ins) of the same material on natural gravel. WC.

Scarbrook Road, Croydon. TQ 321 652. C.N.H.S.S. (J. Davison). An exploratory excavation was carried out on the site of the old swimming baths (1866) in a low lying area S.E. of the Archbishops Palace. Small abraded

sherds of Roman, medieval and post medieval pottery are evidence of a long period of cultivation, but no structures were found.

Barn Croft, Addington. TQ 370 637. C.N.H.S.S. (J. Davison). Trenches in this pasture S.W. of the village to investigate two "features" revealed a post medieval field bank and a field surface with pottery from Saxon to modern.

EALING — No Excavation.

ENFIELD

Church Lane, Edmonton, N.9. TQ 340 936. Enfield Archaeological Society. (R. Dormer). Trench cut across possible line of Ermine Street revealed footings of 18th cent cottages. No roman evidence.

79, Landseer Road, Enfield. TQ 342 956. E.A.S. (R. Dormer, L. Whitmore). Trench cut in rear garden part of a beam slot and a few sherds of iron age pottery. WC.

'Hermitage' Forty Hill, Enfield. TQ 334 983. E.A.S. (J. Ivens). Landscaping in side garden revealed a well of dry brick construction. Examination by a team of Acqualung divers produced part of a spade and brick-work of an 18th cent date.

Palace Garden, Enfield. TQ 329 965. E.A.S. (J. Ivens) Sitewatching during construction of Shopping precinct revealed further walling of tudor brickwork which was part of the original boundary wall surrounding the 'Manor House'.

GREENWICH — No Excavation.

HACKNEY — No Excavation.

HAMMERSMITH — No Excavation.

HARROW

Roxeth Grange. TQ 143 869. Stanmore & Harrow Historical Society. (G. Salveson). A small area adjacent to the site of the moat of Roxeth Grange was examined by auger grid prior to proposed excavation. This revealed a layer of garden soil overlying natural water-logged clay. A few 19th c. sherds were recovered.

Canons Park. TQ 184 917. Stanmore & Harrow Hist. Soc. (G. Salveson). Auger study carried out to discover the extent of the Roman tile dump which was excavated in 1979 by the West London Field Group. The survey showed that the tile extended 40 m. west and 15 m. east of the trench. A laid floor of black vitrified tile was observed 15-20 m. west of the excavation. WC.

Elstree Hill South. TQ 177 951. Stanmore & Harrow Hist. Soc. (G. Salveson). An area of 20 sq. m. was excavated to explore further features and finds observed during earlier excavations. (L.A. 3, no. 6). Part of the flint foundations for a timber framed building with a brick fireplace were uncovered, dateable to the 18th c. These overlay two medieval ditches and a pit. The ditches ran approx. 1 m. apart and were parallel. The smaller northern one produced a quantity of large sherds of Herts red and grey wares of a type similar to the material from the 13th c. Arkley kilns. WC.

Old Hall Close, Hatch End. TQ 123 907. Pinner Local History Society. An Ice House was recorded whilst being demolished to make way for a development. The brick constructed chamber had a depth of 2.38m. from the present ground level to the lowest point of the hemi-

spherical bottom and a diameter at the ground level of 2.33m. The bottom contained a sump with a drain and the chamber had been covered with a brick dome. Its position is shown on the O.S. map of 1863.

Pinner Hill Farm. TQ 110 908. Pinner Local History Soc. A small chalk mine, 112ft deep, was unsealed. It has two parallel galleries each about 80ft long with short connecting and side galleries. The tunnels have gothic shaped vaulting. The brick lined shaft contains put-log holes; it continues for several feet below the floor of the galleries and still holds a piece of eight inch bore piping. This may have been either a sump or a rising main for a possible subsequent conversion of the mine into a well, since debris suggests that at some stage the brick lining continued to the floor of the gallery. A nearby surviving horse circle, perhaps contemporary, may have been associated with the mine for lifting purposes, though later turned to agricultural use. The mine probably flourished during the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

HAVERING

Moor Hall Farm, Rainham. TQ 545 820. Passmore Edwards Museum (Pamela Greenwood). Work in advance of gravel extraction has nearly been completed. Several areas can now be defined. A number of small pits containing pottery and flint flakes appear to be cremation burials of the late Bronze Age. Ditch systems of the Iron Age and early Roman period and a number of hut circles were found to the north and east of the main cropmark and two wells were also recorded, one Iron Age. The main feature is a triple-ditched enclosure of the late Iron Age. Internal features include a well of similar date with a large deposit of pottery in its fill and hut circles, sleeper beam trenches, ditches and pits. There is also evidence of early Roman activity. To the west but respecting this enclosure, was a late Roman farmyard from which a timber-lined well was recovered.

HILLINGDON

Church Road, West Drayton. TQ 062 795. Museum of London with West London Archaeological Field Group. (J. Cotton). The main objective of the excavations, that of pin-pointing the position of the manor house built between 1546 and 1549 by Sir William Paget has been achieved. It can be shown that an early 18th century survey of the site now in the Anglesey Archive is accurate as far as it goes, although incomplete. The excavations have revealed the presence of a southern wing with attendant drainage system, which underwent at least one major phase of alteration prior to its demolition. In addition, it can be shown that a feature on the 18th century survey hitherto interpreted as a porch, had considerably more architectural pretention — probably functioning as a clock-tower.

The Tudor house overlay a series of courtyard surfaces of late medieval date, beneath which, in turn, a series of early medieval pits and ditches were identified. Preliminary analysis of the pottery from these features suggests a date in the 11th or 12th centuries. Finds of abraded Roman and prehistoric pottery, together with probably late neolithic flintwork, confirm the presence of earlier occupation in the vicinity. It is hoped to mount a watching-brief when building work commences later this year. WMC.

Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth. TQ 067 781. Museum of London with West London Archaeological Field Group. (J. Cotton). Observations made during the initial

stages of gravel extraction on parts of this projected 60 acre site confirmed the presence of prehistoric activity in the area. Features noted during their destruction include two pits containing late neolithic flintwork and pottery, part of a probably later Bronze Age ring-gully, and a series of arguably late prehistoric ditches. WMC.

Sipson Lane, Harlington. TQ 077 782. Museum of London with West London Archaeological Field Group. (J. Cotton). Further salvage work on this projected 45 acre gravel extraction revealed a small series of features of later Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, including several pits and gulleys. Several features may be associated with the iron-smelting process. For earlier work see *London Archaeol.* 3 (14) (Spring 1980), 387. WMC.

HOUNSLOW

Ferry Lane, Brentford. TQ 181 784. Museum of London with West London Archaeological Field Group. (J. Cotton). Building work close to the river has revealed quantities of early 18th century kiln furniture including spacer pads and saggars, together with biscuit-fired pottery. It seems at present unlikely that this material represents the waste from local kilns, but that it was barged up-river and dumped to consolidate the Brentford foreshore. WMC.

ISLINGTON — No Excavation.

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA — No Excavation.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

Old Bridge Street. TQ 177694. Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society for Kingston Museum (S. Nelson). A small trial excavation was undertaken on the large Horsefair site in central Kingston at the bottom, river-side, end of Old Bridge Street — the medieval approach to the earlier bridge which was resited in 1828. Beneath 19c. foundations the area seemed to have been covered by a 17 c. structure of which only the brick chimney stack remained. Below that a complex series of gravel surfaces sandwiched 16 and 17 c. material and presumably indicated successive relayings of yard or road surfaces on the river bank. Below this were water lain gravels which in their disturbed upper levels contained 12/13c. pottery. This point at the end of the street would thus appear to have become dry land, or bank, sometime after the end of the 13 c.

Much material was recovered, the more significant being a sherd of Developed Stamford ware and a Rhineland blaugrau ladle handle from the lower gravels and an imported German stoneware spindle whorl from the 16 c. surfaces.

Canbury Passage, Kingston. TQ 181697. Kingston Museum (D. Field and D A Hinton). The initial season of excavation revealed some modern disturbance overlying 91 stake holes, some containing undiagnostic pottery, but forming no definite alignment. Within the Kingston "brick-earth" was a small group of Romano-British sherds at —0.85m. Underlying and sealed by the "brokearth" was a bank-like feature made up of alternating layers of calcareous material and clean sand. This was aligned north-south and had a steep incline on the eastern side. The apex of the upper layers was disturbed in several areas. No dateable associated finds have so far been recovered.

LAMBETH

Vauxhall Pottery. TQ 308 781. Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. (Roy Edwards). With excavation of

the accessible area nigh complete (Jan. 1981) some twenty pottery kilns and over twenty tons of pottery have been recovered. The pair of earlier rectangular back-to-back kilns reported (L.A. 3 no. 14) resulted from adaption of a single long kiln (18c). The last group of 19th century circular kilns to be excavated yielded a sequence of four, two attributable to John Wisker (1808 - 1834) and two to Alfred Singer (1835-1865). The accessible part of a second Singer workshop has been excavated. This began with a cellar-like base but was quickly filled in with stoneware pottery waste (5-6 tons) around 1840. Of the several property boundary lines found, a major E-W one marked by a complex series of fence postholes, and later by walls, spanned a period of some 300 years. An early 18th century tin-glaze pottery waste dump (c. 2-3 tons) adjacent to this boundary yielded a stoneware sherd inscribed 1719.

38-46 Albert Embankment. TQ 3043 7836. Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee. (R. Den sem). Two trenches, opened by machine, were examined between August and October 1980. Maps indicated the presence of post-medieval pottery kilns on or near the site, but no evidence of kiln structures was found in the areas examined. It seems possible that the kilns were destroyed when the railway viaduct was built to the east of the site, in the nineteenth century.

Eighteenth century delft 'biscuit' pottery wasters were found in both areas. Lying in demolition rubble over a brick floor was a copper alloy tool for decorating pottery, with a roulette wheel at one end. A pottery alembic still head had been reused. It was found inverted, dug into the ground in a pit and may have been used to hold liquid. The still head may have been used originally to distil vinegar.

Lambeth Palace. TQ 3057 7906. (Robin Denssem for S.L.A.E.C.). Excavation and site watching took place in June and July 1980 on the line of a contractors' trench, dug to receive new central heating services. The trench which was up to 2m wide and 1.20m deep linked Lollards' Tower with the Great Hall and Morton's Gateway.

Saxo-Norman pottery, together with bone and shell, was found in dumped deposits in a hand-excavated area by Morton's Gateway.

Overlying the Saxo-Norman deposits was a sequence of dumped sands, gravels and layers containing building materials, perhaps to be associated with the towers which were incorporated into Morton's Gateway in 1490. These deposits were cut by a brick-built drain, over which the east tower of Morton's Gateway was built.

To the north, between Morton's Gateway and Lollards' Tower, the badly damaged and robbed remains of three mortared limestone walls, containing no brick or tile, were found. From the small area exposed, little was learned of the plan, or the temporal relationships of the walls.

The construction trench for the Great Hall, built by 1663, was located and the brick foundations exposed, in a hand-dug trench against the east face of the Great Hall.

Rectory Grove. TQ 2927 7588. (Robin Denssem for S.L.A.E.C.). This large redevelopment lies opposite the site of Clapham manor house and close to where the twelfth century church stood. The excavation was undertaken to examine remains of the medieval village of Clapham. Trial trenches were opened by machine in summer 1980, and in one of these (T.IV) pits containing early Saxon pottery and Roman material were found. The pits cut natural clayey sand and were recognised under an agricultural earth. An area (T.VII), 20 x 10m, next to T.IV has been cleared by machine down to the agricultural earth.

No Roman features have been discovered as yet, but un-abraded pieces of tile and a few fragments of glass were

found in the Saxon pits in T.IV. These finds may have come from a Roman building near Stane Street, thought to lie about 800m to the south-east of the site.

Five pits, some intersecting, were recorded in T.IV. The pottery from them is hand-made, coarse and grass-tempered. The largest of the pits extended beyond the trial trench into T.VII and was at least 0.80m deep. It contained a spindle whorl in the same fabric as the pottery. No evidence of structures has been found to date.

Medieval glazed sherds have been found in the agricultural earth, but no features have been identified as yet.

The agricultural earth was sealed at the west end of T.VII by a deposit of dumped gravel and the work in T.IV suggests that it may have been laid in the seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The gravel could have been a yard, perhaps associated with a house, the brick-built and rubble filled cellar of which was exposed at the eastern end of T.VII. Dumped deposits of eighteenth and nineteenth century dates underlay modern demolition debris. WC.

126-62 Westminster Bridge Road/ 4-10 Lower Marsh/ 20-20a Murphy Street. TQ 313 794. (Robin Denssem for S.L.A.E.C.). The excavation was completed in June 1980.

Struck flint flakes and a small number of tools were found, together with some abraded sherds, in waterlaid sand underlying an 'agricultural' earth. The diagnostic flintwork and decorated rim sherd are of Late Neolithic types, but no features were found.

A small amount of Roman material was also found in the waterlaid sand but no features were recognised.

Some medieval sherds were found in the earth, probably of agricultural origin, which covered the waterlaid sand. Further evidence of gardening or agriculture was provided by a number of shallow trenches which cut the medieval earth.

LEWISHAM — No Excavation.

MERTON — No Excavation.

NEWHAM — No Excavation.

REDBRIDGE — No Excavation.

RICHMOND

Tudor Palace Mews, Richmond Green. TQ 1762 7486. Richmond Society Archaeology Section. (M. Harlow and N. Kendall). Site watching and recording on the east corner of the site of the Tudor Richmond Palace revealed at least two phases of building in brick, the lower phase based on foundations of reused cut stone almost certainly derived from the palace buildings. No Tudor brickwork was visible although is very near to the projected line of the palace gallery. It is possible that any Tudor remains were removed during the construction of deep cellars on part of the site. Unfortunately the developers, Messrs. Samuel Properties Ltd., would not allow excavation but a quick record by drawing and photography was made of the rough sections of extensive 2m deep foundation trenches dug by the builders before they were filled.

St. Marys Parish Church, Barnes. TQ 220 765. South West London Archaeological Unit. (S. McCracken). Excavation and recording of the medieval fabric of the medieval portion of the church continued. Investigation suggests an original structure dated to c 1100 built of flint with east and west additions constructed c 1200. Post-medieval burials had removed all traces of medieval floor levels. The original cemetery of the church was found to lie at the west end of the building below the western extension and the Tudor brick tower. WC.

SOUTHWARK

186-196 Long Lane. TQ 3297 7952. Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee. (E. Ferretti). An area along the northern and western sides of the site was examined in Jan.-Feb. 1980. Three ditches containing material of early Roman date were found cutting natural sand in the south-western part of the site. Two were parallel, aligned north-south, and the third crossed them at a right angle. A number of pits of medieval and post-medieval date were found, some probably dug as gravel quarries.

15-23 Southwark Street. TQ 3252 8011. S.L.A.E.C. (M. Dean). The excavation commenced in March 1980 on this site of approximately 1 acre located in the western part of the Roman and Medieval settlement and lying between the two main Roman roads running south from London Bridge. Work is continuing and finds up to December 1980 are described below. The early Roman levels are as yet unexamined. Sections of later deep-cut features suggest the presence of a pre-Roman waterway, revetted in the early Roman period, and the presence of clay-walled buildings associated with extensive deposits of burnt daub.

Excavation has revealed part of the plan of an extensive Roman stone building, of uncertain date but perhaps later second-third century; varying foundation depths suggest more than one phase. One room contained a hypocaust system and an elaborate mosaic floor, whilst another solid-floored room had a tessellated pavement of red tile cubes with a white border; this was later cut by a stone drain or flue and re-floored with *opus signinum*.

The process of robbing the stone from this building started during, probably, the fourth century; a coin of Allectus (A.D. 293-6) was found in one of the robber trenches. Two Roman burials cut through the floor and wall-robbing, indicating that at least part of the building complex was dismantled by this time.

One of the burials was of a girl aged about 12 years, laid within a wooden coffin, on a layer of crushed chalk, and wrapped in a shroud. Grave-goods included bone, jet (2) and glass hair pins, five bronze and one bone bracelet, and a grey-ware cooking pot of early-mid fourth century date, all of which may have been ritually broken.

The presence of these two burials at the edge of the site, close together and lying in the same direction, suggests the use of the area as a burial ground in the late Roman period and therefore implies a reduction in the size of the settlement.

A series of pits, ranging in date from late Saxon to fourteenth century, ran across the site in a line, suggesting that a NE-SW property boundary lay close by. Robbing of the Roman stone building continued, as shown by eleventh century sherds in two of the robber trenches. Two rectangular cellars were excavated: one was backfilled in c 1390, the other, with a floor of flint blocks, was constructed c 1450.

The digging of basements for the 1852 Hop Factors' warehouse (a grade II listed building destroyed by fire in 1978) destroyed most of the post-medieval stratigraphy. However, remains of a mid-eighteenth century clay pipe kiln were found. WC.

Hibernia Wharf. TQ 3270 8035. S.L.A.E.C. (G. Dennis). Further excavation took place in July and August 1980, in the S.E. part of this large redevelopment. For earlier work see *Britannia* II (1980), 382.

There was again extensive gravel quarrying in the first century A.D. probably to provide metallurgy for the postulated road from London Bridge to Lambeth. This road lies immediately east of the site and a length of its ditch was excavated. The ditch and quarries provided evidence that flooding of the area in the first century, presumably

from the Thames, was more extensive than previously thought. The ditch had been filled by the second century when a clay and timber structure with a foundation of wooden piles was built partially over it, the ditch being re-cut as a narrow revetted drain. This building fronted on to the road and was possibly a workshop. Five wells of second century date elsewhere in the excavation may have served further buildings in the area.

The first post-Roman activity consisted of a number of rectangular early medieval pits, probably cesspits. The absence of later pits may reflect the overlying cloister of the Priory of St. Mary Overie which survived only as one truncated chalk footing.

The only post-medieval feature found was the base of a small pit containing delft wasters, probably from the Montague Close kilns.

38-42 Southwark Bridge Road. TQ 3057 8025. S.L.A.E.C. (G. Dennis). Limited salvage work was carried out in May 1980, during the course of redevelopment, to record a Roman timber revetment. This consisted of pointed pile-driven oak posts with horizontal planks behind them, set into a marsh, probably bordering a channel to the west. The revetment may have formed part of a land reclamation scheme to contain the marsh and provide firmer, better-drained ground in the direction of the main Roman settlement, approximately 150m to the east of the site. Coins from behind the revetment suggest that it was not constructed before the late third century.

SUTTON

6 High Street, Carshalton. TQ 280 644. Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society (C. R. Orton). Trial excavation in yard to rear of 16/17th c house, before its conversion to wine bar. A flat-bottomed ditch was the only feature earlier than the house. A laid stone surface, possibly circular, of c 1700, had been largely robbed out. Late 18th and 19th century rubbish pits and garden features. Small group of Cheam Ware sherds found by builders just outside 16th c part of the house.

TOWER HAMLETS

Wilton's Music Hall, Grace's Alley, Whitechapel. TQ 343 808. (G. Egan). Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London, on behalf of Modern Department. In advance of restoration and modification of Wilton's for reopening as a place of entertainment, excavation was carried out below the floor to investigate any traces of the earlier hall, which was severely damaged by fire in 1877. Clearance for the present building (closed in 1880) had removed any such remains, but an ? 18th century well was recorded, and details of an original apsidal end wall and the present foundations were clarified. From a series of dumps a range of decorative plasterwork (some burned) and ornamental fittings (fragments of etched glass and mirror, plaster tondos, wallpaper etc.), printed material and other items relating to the theatre were retrieved, along with other 19th century objects. It is intended that after conservation some of these finds will go on display at the Museum.

Tower of London. TQ 336 805. D.o.E. (G. Parnell). Excavation within the mid 13th c Broad Arrow Tower revealed a basement of contemporary build. Infilling of the room began in the late 15th c and continued at sporadic intervals over the next 300 years. Recovered from the backfilling was an exceptionally large number of late 17th and early 18th c bottles and an important collection of Chinese porcelain and Delft.

Tower Postern Gate, Tower Hill. TQ 336 806. Inner London Archaeological Unit. (D. Whipp). Excavation of the medieval city gateway known as the Tower Postern

took place between Jan 1979 and June 1980. The excavated remains consisted of a stone gate-house with a fragmentary stone passage on its north side. The gate-house was in a good state of preservation and is now on public display. The gate-house was back-filled with rubbish in the mid 16th c but may have been ruinous a century earlier. No archaeological evidence was found relating to the date of construction of the gate, but documentary references begin at the end of the 13th c.

Roman Road/Parnell Road, E.3. TQ 360 835. I.L.A.U. (P. Mills). Excavation revealed the multi-phase periods of the London-Colchester Roman road where it approached the River Lea.

Gardiners Corner, Aldgate. TQ 338 812. I.L.A.U. (R. Whytehead). Site watching revealed that the expected Roman cemetery had been completely removed in the late medieval period by gravel and sand extraction pits. Residual Roman pottery and cremated bone were found together with evidence of Tudor industrial processes.

WESTMINSTER

Richmond Terrace, Whitehall. TQ 302 719. Inner London Archaeological Unit. (P. Mills). Trial trenching on a limited scale indicated that the site, which was frequently flooded by the Thames, was possibly used as a refuse dump in the late medieval period.

WALTHAM FOREST — No Excavation.

WANDSWORTH

38 Felsham Road, Putney. TQ 239 735. Wandsworth Historical Society. (N. Farrant). The main area of excavation was concluded after 4½ years. Three further items of possible military origin were recovered. The post holes of a two-cell structure c. 5m. (16 ft) x 3m. (9 ft) were found under the line of the Roman road, together with a ? boundary fence at right angles to it. WMC.

ESSEX

Little London, Chigwell, Essex. TQ 456 963. West Essex Archaeological Group (F. R. Clark). Excavation continued on the Roman site that some have identified as Duroclitum. The recent finds include a possible corn-drying oven and part of a bathhouse suite consisting of a hypocaust, calderium with its plunge bath, and several other rooms, as yet unidentified. Pottery ranges from c. AD 50 to 400. Finds are located in the Passmore Edwards Museum.

Tilbury Fort. TQ 651 755. Passmore Edwards Museum (Pat Wilkinson). Excavations were undertaken on the outworks of Tilbury Fort, prior to a major restoration programme by the Department of the Environment, to establish the original layout and construction methods. The main feature was a triangular brick Redoubt of the late 17th century, which went out of use by the end of the 18th century. It was strengthened by timber-piling in the clay dumped on the marsh surface to form a solid base for all the outworks. Soon after its construction a Redan was built around it; sections established the weathered surface of the banks prior to later heightening and slight evidence was found for a timber firing platform of the late 17th century. Alterations of the access routes through the outworks were traced leading to the ravelin A section through the base of this island in the inner moat revealed a walkway at the crest of the bank and timber piling used to support the embankment.

Sum Street, Waltham Abbey. TL 384 006. Waltham Abbey Historical Society. (P. J. Huggins). To study urban development and establish property boundaries, three small excavations have been undertaken. To the rear of no 46,

ditches and/or pits to a depth of 2.4m have been found. A pot of c. 1540 contained a deposit of black henbane and hemlock; both poisonous plants. They may have been deposited purposely. In the pit was a welshed shoe complete with vamp and quarters. There was also a length of knitted hose. At no 56 a ditch bottomed at 4.1m below present ground level and contained leather rejects. These included the pointed sole, vamp, and rand of a turnshoe and most of a legging with bronze studs to help secure the leather thong fastener. At no. 41 a trench was dug inside the standing building, recently the Society's museum now being renovated as the Epping Forest District Museum. A late 15th c. date from the analysis of the timber frame and an early 16th c. date from the excavation have been resolved.

Monastic sewers, Waltham Abbey. TL 381 006. Waltham Abbey Historical Society. (P. J. Huggins). Culvert repair allowed a partial repair of the sewers. Some appeared to be monastic but others, cutting through claustral building may be of post-Dissolution date.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Old Gorbamby House (St. Albans). TL 110 077. D.o.E. (G. Parnell). Work this year concentrated on the north side of the Main Court. The surface of Nicholas Bacon's court were found to seal a large cobbled area bounded by buildings on two sides. These remains, of early Tudor date, presumably represent a final remodelling of the medieval manor before Bacon's complete rebuilding in 1563-68.

MIDDLESEX

Ruislip Almshouses, Eastcote Road, Ruislip. TQ 092 876. Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society. (C. Bowl). Rescue recording during conversion to flats. Timber-framed jetty-built building c 1570. Original features found include several doorways, shutter grooves and mullion sockets, but the buildings' original use is unclear. Subsequent conversion to ten 2-roomed almshouses in 1617 is supported by documentary evidence. Lath/mud and grass/straw internal walls were still extant.

Great Barn, Manor Farm, Ruislip. TQ 090 877. Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Loc. Hist. Soc. (C. A. Hewett). Preliminary studies of the carpentry of the main frame indicate a construction date of c 1280.

Day Centre, Staines. TQ 0337 7145. Surrey County Archaeological Unit. (K. Crouch). A watching brief of deep foundation work on this site in the town centre and fronting the river Thames revealed the remains of the Roman and medieval bridge foundations and structure interpreted as associated wharfs. One complete pile and many other fragments of timber were recovered and environmental samples taken, one of which included leather offcuts packed together, associated with 2nd century A.D. pottery.

Preliminary analysis suggests the following interpretation of the evidence recovered. The Roman bridge foundation consisted of a wooden raft on piles, on to which was laid a stone superstructure of quartzitic sandstone blocks. The bridge approach road was also on a wooden raft, which was covered by a layer of broken chalk in turn sealed by layers of concrete-like material. Alongside the bridge was an associated wharf, behind which had been dumped leatherwork, building material and other rubbish.

In front of these Roman structures had been constructed a late Saxon wooden revetment. It abutted the remains of the Roman bridge foundations which may still have been utilised, perhaps even as supports of a late Saxon bridge. Still further into the river bed a third sequence of piles and revetment butted against the medieval bridge foundations which lay on the west side of the earlier bridge(s).

SURREY

Runnymede Bridge, Egham. TQ 018 718. Surrey County Archaeological Unit. (D. Longley, S. Needham, R. Poulton, M. O'Connell). The construction of an oil trap associated with the new bridge offered the opportunity for further exploration of the extent of Late Bronze Age occupation in the area, this time to the west of the A30 embankment. A three week excavation of an area 4m x 17m successfully located the occupation surface previously established in 1976 and 1978, the three sites now suggesting activity covering at least one hectare. 1980 proved to be equally prolific in artifacts and evidence for post-set structures. Noteworthy among the finds were a complete antler cheek-piece and a socketed bronze knife, as well as the shoulders of a sword. Further evidence for metalworking includes lead crucible residue and clay mould fragments, while other crafts may be indicated —antler working and pottery manufacture.

After completion of the LBA horizon Surrey Archaeological Unit stepped in to sample the underlying levels which yielded features associated with Neolithic material probably comparable to that recovered in 1978. Finds included a polished stone axe, the third from the site.

The two phases were separated by sterile silt, but this was considerably thinner, and the Neolithic level correspondingly shallower, than experienced in 1978, which should hold some interesting implications for the changing topography.

Limited salvage recording was possible by courtesy of the contractors, Bovis Ltd., in their excavations for a complementary oil trap on the opposite side of the embankment. A few timbers of LBA character had been extracted with soil from deep down in their hole, but it was not possible to establish a context for them. The site lies 125m south of the excavated stretch of LBA waterfront. Recording of the upper sections confirmed the line of an old river channel and stratified finds should help date its final silting within late-and post-medieval times.

Epsom. TQ 207607 & 206606. Nonsuch Antiquarian Society (S. Nelson) investigated two sites in the High Street (106/110) and South Street (41) in advance of large scale developments. In the High Street a small complex of buildings was recorded representing a continuous development from the mid 17 c. although material connected with an earlier chalk spread may indicate the floor of a large medieval structure (?barn) on the site. Reigate stone and chalk blocks built into several late 17 c. walls were noted and a piece of carved slate, in a foundation level, was undoubtedly brought with rubble from Nonsuch Palace in the process of demolition in the 1670s. In South Street the ground plan of a timber-framed, central-chimney house of the late 17 c. built gable-end on to the street was recorded. Site watching over the rest of the site has revealed many wells and cess pits of 18 and 19 c. date at the back of the South Street properties. One large pit (2.5m x 3.5m) made of dressed Reigate stone blocks, presumably also reused from Nonsuch Palace, contained a large group of material dating to about 1720/30 probably discarded from a public house.

The Old Vicarage, Reigate. TQ 2570 5036. Holmesdale Archaeological Group. (D. Williams). Excavation, begun in 1976, of the Old Vicarage was completed. This proved to be a c 1200 hall-house. This was subsequently extended and demolished finally in 1847. Pottery and other finds were prolific. Processing continues in the Club Museum on Monday evenings.

What is it?

THIS IS THE FIFTIETH issue of the London Archaeologist and to mark this event we are holding our first competition. The picture below shows an archaeological discovery made in the City of London in the past few years. We invite readers to identify it and to suggest its function. Is it an anti-Roman elephant trap? A mediaeval candy-floss machine? You tell us. There will be a prize of a copy of The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Archaeology for the first correct identification and reasonably accurate interpretation received by the editor (c/o Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1). For obvious reasons, present and past members of the staff of the Department of Urban Archaeology are not eligible to enter. Suggestions and photographs for future competitions will be welcomed, if readers like the idea.

