

Excavation Round-Up 1981

BETH RICHARDSON

EXCAVATIONS ARE LISTED according to the London Borough or County in which they took place. They are followed by grid references, the name of the Society, Museum or Unit responsible for the excavation, and the name of the director. WC and WMC indicate that the work continues or may continue in 1982. "No Excavation" means that no actual excavation has taken place *as far as the editor is aware*, but of course, field-walking, site watching, archive work and other work might well have gone on. These are not noted in the Round Up as there just isn't the space!

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

S.E. Corner Tower of Baynards Castle. (J. B. Burke-Easton).

Four periods of medieval and post-medieval E-W river-frontages were recorded. Period I was timber; horizontal planks edge-on-edge were nailed to the back of large vertical posts which were supported on their front by angled struts jointed into them. Period II was represented by the construction of a stone rubble, ashlar faced wall whose front line was a little over 5m south of the previous structure. It was at least 2.3m wide at its base and partly founded on timber base-plates which were supported by piles set into the foreshore. Although the structure was extensively robbed; evidence of a n-s drain was recorded on the east of the area. It exited through an intact arch in the wall and timbers abutting it suggest some sort of sluice gate. Also recorded to the west during 1972/3, but outside this excavation, was a line of chalk rubble running north, similar to the remains of the e-w wall, perhaps suggesting a n-s return marking the western limit. Period III was the rebuilding of Baynards Castle, historically dated to 1428, of which only the SE corner tower was within the area. It was roughly an octagonal shape, had a diameter of c 8m, and survived to a maximum height of 2.5m (2.46m od). Built as integral features on the east end of the tower were, i) a garderobe, the sump of which was in situ, with evidence of a system of chutes which allowed disposal from three floors, and exited into the river through ii), an e-w river-wall which ran for at least 10m. An arch was also incorporated through the east end of the wall which allowed the flow of the Period II drain to continue, having been extended 6m. The tower, wall and drain were founded on large timber plank base-plates which were supported by piles.

Although this part of the castle was pulled down in 1666, the lower area of river frontage stayed in use until much later, and was subject to a rebuild on the front of the tower, while the garderobe was blocked off and converted into a cess-pit. Period IV was the construction of a C19th brick built wall. Its back face was only 0.5m (20in.) south of the tower, but to its east cut through the period III riverwall.

32 Clements Lane. TQ 3267 8095 (C. J. Evans).

Excavations funded by Guinness Peat Properties Ltd. were conducted in east/west trench (1.5m x 3m) inside 32 Clements Lane. The initial occupation of the site, of

Neronian date, consisted of slot trenches with associated stake-holes cut into a brickearth slab. There followed a sequence of 1st and early 2nd century interior and exterior surfaces. A sunken Flavian tile and ragstone stairway had been cut through these surfaces in the west of the site, and apparently led to a cellar which must have been situated immediately north of the site. One side of this stairway was incorporated into, and its alignment followed, the construction of a major north/south wall of mid 2nd century date. Associated with this later re-development was a parallel and corresponding wall and a tile drain. Throughout the site, in situ burning and collapse of an early to mid 2nd century fire was found. In the eastern portion there was a north/south alleyway or minor road which pre-dated this burnt horizon. The western side of this thoroughfare was bordered by two successive ditches, the earlier being of Flavian date and the second of late 1st or early 2nd century date; in the later ditch was evidence of a plank-revetted drain. Only a narrow strip of 'dark earth' survived on the site and produced 3rd to 4th century pottery. While no Saxon features were found, a massive, early medieval, robbing shaft produced substantial quantities of late Saxon pottery. All post-Roman horizontal stratigraphy except two medieval cess-pits had been removed by the modern development of the site.

19-20 College Hill. TQ 3250 8087 (M. Barker).

From mid-January 1981 until the end of March a watching brief and excavation funded by Dundas Properties Ltd. was carried out on the site of the almshouses built c 1426 under the terms of Richard Whittington's will. The contractors excavated an L-shaped trench in the yard area to the W (rear) of 19-20 College Hill and carried out investigations of the foundations of the standing building of the former Mercers' School adjacent to the NW corner of St. Michael Paternoster Royal.

The earliest layers exposed were a series of gravels, recorded in a N-S section, adjacent to the church, which may have represented a gravel alleyway or yard. These were overlain by a series of early medieval occupation surfaces with horizontal, spaced medieval tiles. At one horizon a wedge of burnt daub may have represented a hearth area. The uppermost of the occupation surfaces had a well built brickearth and green-glazed tile hearth. These layers had been cut into by burials contemporary with the Whittington almshouses.

The L-shaped trench exposed two phases of medieval wall construction. An earlier E-W wall was probably contemporary with the occupation surfaces and was truncated by the later medieval burials. The later phase consisted of wall foundations probably of the almshouses c 1426. There were well constructed ragstone, sandstone and chalk walls forming part of a cellar, its inner walls faced with ashlar blocks and a scrim of whitewash. A carefully shaped greensand block showed evidence of being used for the pivoting of the door jambs leading down into the cellar, which had a fragmentary brick floor remaining.

During further excavations adjacent to the S wall of 21 College Hill further truncated medieval walling was

exposed, together with a flagstone walkway with one flagstone carved to form a slot into which a beam could be laid flat. The walkway appeared to be of a phase of alteration post-dating the almshouses.

Most of the S area had been truncated by burials, probably of inmates of the almshouses, which probably continued until 1666.

2-3 Cross Key Court, Cophthall Avenue. TQ 3275 8148 (C. Maloney).

Excavation here was generously funded by Commercial Union Properties Ltd. The earliest deposits on the site, located in the upper reaches of the Walbrook stream, are waterlain silts, contained within a bank of clay, which are thought to be flood deposits of a tributary of the Walbrook; and a gravel surface, probably a road, bordered by a ditch. Above this surface was a N-S road constructed on a foundation of turves laid over a raft of twigs and branches set on to sand. Overlying the flood deposits, a series of organic dumps which levelled up the area for building contained pottery of mid 2nd century date. The building, set E-W, lay beside the road; it had three or more rooms and several modifications. Parallel to the E edge of the road was a timber drain. In the late 2nd/early 3rd century an ?embankment of clay and gravel, aligned E-W, was laid containing material possibly from a glass kiln. The latest known Roman features were two N-S ditches, one of which silted up by or in the 3rd century, possibly representing attempts at draining the area.

There is little evidence of activity from the late Roman to early medieval periods except for a 10th century ?surface, a series of pits dating to the 11th/12th centuries, and a N-S ditch. A thick deposit of peat must represent the marsh which developed in this area from the Roman period onwards; the boggy nature of the ground was alleviated by the dumping of large quantities of clay in the 12th century. Into this clay tanks, possibly for the storage of shellfish, were cut in the 13th century. Large quantities of slag and crucibles and a mould for the casting of bronze buckles were found in 14th/15th century deposits, perhaps indicating metal working in the vicinity. 17th and 18th century deposits confirmed that the area of excavation formed gardens of properties fronting onto London Wall to the N; rarely for a City site, the building had no basement. WC.

8-10 Crosswall. TQ 3360 8100 (J. Maloney).

For work in 1981 and the recovery of a Roman tombstone fragment, see this issue, p168.

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

For further work in 1981 and conclusions see article in this issue, pp. 143-7.

Christchurch, Newgate St. TQ 3200 8137 (R. Lea).

Observations in the north aisle and the E half of the remaining nave were made during the preparations for occupation by temporary offices. Stripping of the turf and levelling involving removal of Blitz debris revealed an arched brick vault 4.5m x 8m aligned N-S at least 3m deep below the Wren period floor in the NW corner of the church, Wren pier bases for the N arcade and one from the S, a brick pulpit base c 2m square set on the diagonal, centred about 1.5m N of the S arcade in the fourth bay from the W end, previously unrecorded and probably representing the position of the first pulpit in the Wren church. The arched brick vault was in a state of partial collapse and machine removal of its contents revealed about ten intact 18th century lead coffins stacked against the N wall. A blocked spiral stair-

case and a smaller vault cut through under the main N wall of the Wren church above were also observed. Fragments of the Wren font as photographed in RCHM and mouldings probably dating from the pre-Wren parish church were recovered from Blitz debris in the fill of the vault. The restoration of the fabric of the Wren walls of the church was also monitored.

5 Philpot Lane. TQ 3312 8088 (F. Hammer).

A watching brief recovered information from 17 holes for concrete piling, spread over an area of c 220 sq m to the W of Philpot Lane. The site lay about 60m S of the SE corner of the Hadrianic forum.

The sections showed seven periods of activity. In Period I were quarries of brickearth and sand, later levelling of the area and a few traces of a flimsy structure in the E and some construction in the W; a spread of destruction material appearing at the fringe seemed to come from a fire to the S or E outside the site.

Period II consisted of two buildings, of which the SW had substantial ragstone foundations and an inner flint foundation bonded with mortar. It seems to have survived into the late Roman period. The other, a timber and brickearth structure in the E running under modern Philpot Lane and having a gravelled area to the W, was extended in three phases until it reached a property boundary in the W marked by a stone foundation. After its destruction in Period III a new structure was built in the E with ragstone foundations and an *opus signinum* floor, also crossing the line of Philpot Lane. In Period IV dark earth and pit fills provided evidence of Saxon occupation, although much cut away. Two ragstone and chalk walls of Period V survived at the W and S boundaries of the site; they were perhaps contemporary with the surviving 15th century vaulted undercroft S of the site. Evidence of post-medieval date (Period VI) consisted of two drains, a few portions of walls, a pit and a substantial levelling layer of destruction debris which was cut by Period VII Victorian stanchions.

Pudding Lane. TQ 3294 8072 (G. Milne).

The nine month excavation, funded by English Property Corporation and the National Provident Institution, was primarily designed to examine the development of the Roman waterfront. The north bank of the pre-urban river was located, into which a double row of piles had been driven. In the 1st c a substantial timber-framed waterfront structure was erected to the south (i.e. in what was the open river), and was itself later replaced by an infilled timber fronted quay, which survived to its full height of 2m. Contemporary working surfaces and warehouses with colonnaded frontage, stone walls and timber floors were also recorded. The development of these structures and associated drains was traced into the late Roman period, as was the history of a substantial masonry structure to the north. This incorporated a mosaic floor, hypocaust and an apsidal ended mosaic walled ?bath.

The dark earth which sealed the Roman levels was cut by pits of ?9th to 11th c date.

The multi-phase remains of two sunken floored buildings were found, cut or sealed by later medieval features. Associated external surfaces, pits and two wells were also recorded.

Fish Street Hill. TQ 3292 8071 (G. Milne).

The five month excavation was funded by E.P.C., N.P.I. and the DoE, and was primarily designed to examine waterfront development near the suspected position of

the Roman bridge. The discovery of a substantial timber-framed structure erected in the open river in the mid 1st c close to the assumed line of the bridge led to the suggestion that it may be part of the sub structure of a bridge.

Two phases of quay structure (the latest erected in 70-80 A.D.) seemed to post date its construction, and were similar to the structures examined on the adjacent Pudding Lane site to the east (see above). The subsequent development of the area in the 2nd c was also examined.

St. Paul's Churchyard. TQ 3200 8112 (R. Lea).

A trench 2m square and 1.3m deep was cut for tree planting in St. Paul's Churchyard 10m S of the S facade of the W transept and 20m E of the line of the W front. In the W half of the trench a brick structure at least 0.8m wide, possibly a burial vault, was observed running on a NNW-SSW axis about 0.45m below the present ground surface. A blocked round arch of four orders was found in its E face. Limestone blocks were used in the blocking and in the main structure itself, which was overlain by demolition debris including limestone, mortar, brick, tile and ash containing no finds.

St Peter's Hill 223-5 Upper Thames St. TQ 3203 8091 (T. Williams).

Excavations conducted over an eight month period revealed a Roman to post-medieval sequence. There was little evidence of activity prior to a cutting of terraces into the hillside provisionally dated to the late 2nd or early 3rd century. The excavated area encompassed the lowest terrace and the retaining wall of a higher terrace, agreeing with the sequence found to the E by P Marsden underneath the present Salvation Army building. On the lower terrace massive N-S and E-W foundations were constructed of oak piles, rammed chalk and limestone blocks. The N-S foundation was about 3.75m wide and the E-W foundation 8.5m wide. These formed the W and S segments of a massive structure for which the upper terrace wall formed the N element. The internal surface consisted of a good quality opus signinum floor while to the W gravels were dumped to make up an external surface. These gravels sealed a lattice of timber possibly associated with the construction phase. The probably 4th century riverside wall, which ran just to the S of the structure, was constructed after the monumental building was at least partially dismantled, though it may have utilised some of the latter's S-most parts. Evidence of a late Roman timber building with beaten earth floors was uncovered on the N half of the site, again possible utilising parts of the monumental structure.

Saxon activity survived only under Peter's Hill and Upper Thames Street, both of which were sectioned as part of the excavation. Under the former a sequence of structural and occupational activity was identified, yielding a quantity of grass-tempered pottery, but the area was too small to allow firm conclusions. Both streets appear to have been laid out in the 12th century, Upper Thames Street using the Roman riverside wall as its S boundary. Street surfaces survived on both streets from the 12th to 20th centuries. Various related medieval properties were excavated and although the pre-13th century material is fragmented the spatial distribution of the early pits suggests various properties. The W wall of St Peter's church, possibly of the 12th century, was examined in relationship to the development of Peter's Hill. A sequence of Great Fire deposits consisted of burnt brick cellars, the destruction of the church and subsequent substantial dumping over the whole area, agreeing with documented raising of street levels by the Thames. A rebuilt wall on the site of the church incorporated a large

quantity of moulded stonework which should allow considerable insight into the appearance of the pre-Fire church. A marked continuity of street frontages and property divisions can be traced from the 13th century to the post-Fire period and this continuity only ceased with the construction of a Victorian warehouse on the site.

Swan Lane/Upper Thames Street. TQ 3273 8070 (G. Egan).

Excavation in the basement of the multi-storey car park at Swan Lane was made possible by a grant from the developers, Edger Investments, and through the co-operation of National Car Parks Ltd.

Some worn timbers were found in situ at the edge of the River Thames in the Saxon period, immediately to the S of a consolidated surface of gravel and Roman building rubble. These features were overlain by an eroded late Saxon clay bank against which foreshore material had accumulated.

To the S, 12th-13th century dumping reclaimed at least 18m of land from the river, probably in more than one operation, but any revetting structures, with the exception of a single cruciform timber back brace, had been removed. The first activity on this newly-made land was represented by a highly complicated series of at least 35 hearths, each constructed with a burning surface of mortar laid over vertically set roof tile fragments, surrounded by a key-hole shaped kerb of ragstone and horizontal roof tile fragments. These hearths included a vertical series of six superimposed burning areas (from which samples were taken for archaeological dating by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory), and up to five horizontal rows, though contemporaneity is difficult to demonstrate. The nature of this riverside industrial activity may be clarified by the analysis of samples recovered during excavation; these include some montmorillonite (fuller's earth) identified by the Mineralogy Dept. of the Natural History Museum.

The hearths were truncated at the N by an early 13th century undercroft, the stone-built entrance of which survived in detail, with the imprints from removed steps that would have led up towards medieval Thames Street to the N. After most of the usable building stone had been removed, the undercroft area had been backfilled with a series of dumps, including some substantial flints and a deposit of fine sandy material, perhaps from stoneworking.

To the S the hearths were overlain by several later medieval stone, and post-medieval brick foundations. The implied N-S property boundaries seem to have shifted towards the end of the period represented in at least one area.

Unusually for this part of London, no evidence of the Great Fire of 1666 was excavated. The latest feature uncovered was a brick-lined cistern, probably from the 18th or 19th century buildings on the site.

9 The Arches, Crutched Friars. TQ 3350 8090 (R. Lea).

During refurbishment a human skeleton was discovered aligned E-W, 1m E of a chalk foundation c 1.1m wide which ran N-S immediately below the modern ceiling floor. The site falls within the NE corner of the precinct of the Crutched Friars.

Apothecaries Hall, Water Lane. TQ 3175 8106 (D. Bluer).

A watching brief recorded human bones from trial holes in basements in advance of development. Two holes, each c 1m square, were examined. The first yielded eleven stratified but disarticulated bones of an adult, possibly male; the grave cut could not be discerned because

of disturbance. The second hole contained two graves, only one of which contained stratified material: seven-teen disarticulated bones and one skull, belonging to three individuals, an adult, an adolescent of 14-18 years and a child of ten. The grave fill was truncated by a pit containing building material and a sherd of Guy's Hospital ware, provisionally of 16th or 17th century date, of previously unrecorded form.

The area of the trenches is known to have been the S aisle of the nave of the late 13th century church of the Blackfriars.

BARKING — No Excavation.

BARNET — No Excavation.

BEXLEY — No Excavation.

BRENT — No Excavation.

BROMLEY

60 High St, Orpington. Orpington and Dist. Archaeological Society. Excavations adjacent to this site revealed a large scatter of Romano British and medieval pottery, and a silver denarius of Nero (AD 64-66). This is now in Orpington Museum (having been awarded to the Society by the Coroners Court).

Poverest Rd, Orpington. The Poverest Road Roman bath-house (see previous Round-Ups) has been consolidated and has been covered over. This was financed by the Borough Council and the D.O.E. and the public can visit the building by prior arrangement with Bromley Museum.

CAMDEN

West Heath, Hampstead. TQ 2566 8676 Hendon and District Archaeological Society (D. Collins). Excavations continued for the sixth and last season at the Mesolithic site. The southern limits of the site were ascertained and also the full extent of pits excavated in part in previous years. The range and proportions of tools excavated (including a core axe) were similar to those of previous seasons.

CROYDON

12/14 Bramley Hill, South Croydon. TQ 3215 6465. Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (J. Davison). An excavation in the gardens of demolished late Victorian houses was to look for signs of arable farming. No evidence was found for cultivation earlier than the 19th century nursery which occupied the site.

Whitgift Hospital, Croydon. TQ 323 656. C.N.H.S.S. (J. Davison). Two more trenches were dug at these Elizabethan Almshouses in rooms facing North End. One uncovered a mortared flint and chalk foundation wall and chalk floors of a house first documented in 1464. The other revealed a clay baulk with a post hole. Medieval pottery was recovered and a quantity of iron slag. W.C.

Rear of 53/55 Stanhope Road, Croydon. TQ 330 653. C.N.H.S.S. (J. Davison). Several small trenches dug in these overgrown gardens all produced pottery and clay pipe of the late 17th century, indicating a limited period of ploughing. A few sherds of grass tempered and flint tempered wares suggest that some farming also occurred before the area became part of a deer park for the Croydon palace of the archbishop of Canterbury.

EALING

Avenue Gardens, Acton. TQ 199 796. Museum of London with West London Archaeological Field Group (J. Cotton). A trial trench dug in advance of redevelopment work adjacent to the site of a Middle Bronze Age flat

grave cremation cemetery found in 1883 revealed traces of intercutting Roman ditches. In addition to the Roman finds, the ditch fills contained much residual material including flint blades and a microlith of Mesolithic type together with scraps of probably prehistoric pottery. Notable Roman finds include a bronze finger ring and an almost complete decorated Samian bowl of Dragendorf form 30 which has been identified by Geoff Marsh as belonging to Potter 'Q-13' and dated c 100-130 AD. WMC.

ENFIELD

Edmonton School, Great Cambridge Road, N.9. TQ 339 948. Enfield Arch. Soc. (R. Dormer). Examination of a 'crop mark' running N-S across the school field exposed a rammed gravel road surface which had been laid during the early part of this century as a service road for the 'Cornish' brick fields.

Bush Hill Park School, Main Avenue, Enfield. TQ 343 958. E.A.S. (L. Whitmore). Trial trenches cut on site of a new Nursery building, on land adjacent to 'Lincoln Road site' revealed no evidence of Roman occupation, and it seems that this part was used for gravel extraction in the 19th century.

Forty Hall, Forty Hill, Enfield. TQ 335 991. E.A.S. (J. Stevens). In the grounds close to the position of Elsinge Palace the Borough of Enfield were cleaning out one of a series of lakes, but site watching and examination of the lake bed only revealed a brick platform 4m square in the centre of the lake and was of 17th c dating. This was either for a boating house or a retaining box for water plants?

Capel Manor, Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield. TQ 348 998. E.A.S. (J. Stevens). The previous house on this site was demolished in 1792 and recent work to the front of the present building revealed a well of dry brick construction. Finds recovered associated it with the dating of the demolished building and consist of clay pipes and a complete wooden bucket which is under restoration.

GREENWICH — No excavation.

HACKNEY

55 Northwold Rd, Stoke Newington. Inner London Archaeological Unit. A site was excavated in an area in which many discoveries of Lower Palaeolithic Flint hand axes were made in the 19th century. The site chosen for excavation was crossed by a Palaeolithic river channel from which large amounts of pollen were recovered for analysis. A complete Acheulian type hand axe was found together with the tip of another and considerable quantities of flint waste. It is hoped that analysis of the flints and the samples will help place the 19th century finds into their geological, environmental and archaeological context.

HAMMERSMITH

Sandford Manor, Rewell Street (New Kings Road), Fulham, S.W.6. TQ 2603 7708. Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group (C. E. Oliver). Further excavation revealed the flue-box of a kiln (Ruel's pottery — 1790-98). No more of the kiln could be uncovered as it lay under Rewell Street. Adjoining was a pit crammed with misfired tin-glaze 'drug' jars. There are two basic types, some biscuit some glazed, a few of which have a large blue anchor on the base. There were also stoneware wasters and kiln furniture and some unfired clay. Archaeomagnetic dating of brick clamps revealed that at least the facade of the house was built c1650. No stratified evidence of pre-17th c habitation was discovered, probably due to removal of brick-earth layers for brick-making. WMC.

53-55 Fulham High Street. FARG (K. R. Whitehouse). After demolition of two apparently 18th c houses converted to shops in the 19th c that 'collapsed' during rebuilding: a red brick wall with at least one green-glazed header built in English bond was revealed. It may well be the northern external wall of the earlier Golden Lion public house, built as a substantial private mansion about 1849. This wall in turn was built on the remain of a demolished wall constructed of irregular lumps of chalk. Underneath was a dark brown sand containing pottery c 13th c., probably contemporary with the wall's construction. Beneath was natural sand.

HARROW

Elstree Hill South. TQ 177 951. Stanmore and Harrow Hist. Soc. (G. Salveson). Work continued on this site throughout 1981. The original area was extended by some 15 sq m E towards the road. The two medieval ditches continued into this area but were truncated by modern intrusions. A shallow pit full of ashy, silty material with charcoal overlay the northern ditch, and produced further quantities of Herts ware. A further area of 25sq m was excavated to the N of the original area, and further flint and chalk foundations of the eighteenth century building were revealed. A number of post holes possibly of medieval date were also recorded. W.C.

HAVERING

Moor Hill Farm, Rainham. TQ 545 820. Passmore Edwards Museum. (P. Greenwood). Excavations on this prehistoric/Roman site were completed. (See previous Round-up.)

HILLINGDON

Church Road, West Drayton. TQ 062 795. Museum of London with West London Arch Field Group. (J. Cotton). Site watching during building work has added little to the evidence recovered from the excavations of 1979-80 (*London Archaeol* 4 No 2 (Spring 1981), 47). The alignments of one east-west wall and of the brick-built culvert were, however, confirmed. Site-watching continues.

28 Church Road, West Drayton. TQ 062 795. Museum of London with West London Arch. Field Group. (J. Cotton). Substantial brick foundations uncovered during the construction of a swimming pool in the back garden of 28 Church Road—immediately to the west of the above site—probably represent a further part of the Tudor house built in the area by William Paget between 1546 and 1549.

Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth. TQ 067 781. Museum of London with West London Arch Field Group and Spelthorne Arch Field Group. (J. Cotton). Emergency excavations in advance of gravel extraction recovered evidence of later prehistoric activity covering several acres. Features include a number of pits and ditches containing late Iron Age or early Roman pottery and quantities of (?) slag. WMC.

Sipson Lane, Harlington. TQ 077 782. Museum of London with West London Arch Field Group. (J. Cotton). Site watching and limited salvage work on this projected 45 acre gravel extraction recovered further traces of prehistoric activity to the east of those already recorded (*London Archaeol* 3 No. 14 (Spring 1980), 387; *ibid* 4 No. 2) (Spring 1981), 47). Struck flint from the base of the topsoil and top of the natural brickearth would appear to be of later Neolithic date, while a small number of pits and scoops dug into the brickearth contained struck flint and sherds of later Neolithic (? Mortlake style) pottery. The sherds invite comparison with those recovered

by Prof. Grimes during his excavations at Heathrow 1 mile (1.6km) to the SSE in 1944.

HILLINGDON/HOUNSLOW

Passenger Terminal 4, London (Heathrow) Airport. c TQ 077 744. Museum of London with West London Arch. Field Group. (J. Cotton). Site watching during earthmoving in the area of Two Bridge Farm and south of Stanwell Road revealed very little, although a small (undated) ditch with a shallow V-section running east-west was noted in the side of a pipe-trench on the latter side.

HOUNSLOW

Ashford Road, Lower Feltham. TQ 095 722. Museum of London with West London Arch. Field Group. (J. Cotton). Site watching during initial stages of gravel extraction revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

ISLINGTON

Clerkenwell. Inner London Arch Unit. Area excavated on the west side of Newcastle Row, known to occupy the north side of the nunnery claustral range. Two phases of medieval occupation were identified in the excavation. The first comprised part of a building, possibly 12th/13th century with an associated yard surface of rammed gravel. A mortar floor, much repaired may have been connected with this phase. Subsequently, a chalk cellar or undercroft, possibly 15th century was inserted within the walls of the earlier building. This included part of a window or chute and a (storage?) recess. The remains have been provisionally interpreted as being part of the building referred to as the "Nun's Hall" in the 18th century and may have formed part of the infirmary.

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA — No excavation.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES — No excavation.

LAMBETH

Rectory Grove, Lambeth TQ 2927 7588 Southwark and Lambeth Arch. Excavation Committee (R. Densem). This large redevelopment site lies opposite the site of the Clapham manor house and close to where the 12th century church stood. Since trial trenching in the summer of 1980, four areas totalling about 530 sq m have been investigated and excavation will continue until early 1982.

Finds of struck flint flakes, a few with retouch, and the rim and shoulder of a bowl which may be late neolithic have been recovered. No prehistoric features, however, have been recognised.

Fragments of tile, a few sherds of pottery and a 14th century coin have been found. The finds from the excavation have not yet been studied in detail, but it seems likely that the Roman material is largely residual. It presence may indicate that a Roman building or settlement existed nearby, possibly closer to Stane Street, thought to pass about 800m to the south-east of the site.

A linear gully or ditch and several pits, from which a quantity of 5th - 7th century pottery was recovered, have been excavated. These features were discovered on the part of the site nearest to the Rectory Grove roadway, and none were found beyond about 30m from the road. To date no buildings have been recognised, and the excavation cannot be extended further along Rectory Grove because of standing buildings. The discovery of dark age material is rare in Inner London and has been the most important aspect of the site.

A few medieval pits and an abundance of pits, dating from the 17th century onwards and the remains of a brick-built cellar of late 17th century date have also been recorded.

Vauxhall Pottery. TQ 308 781. Southwark & Lambeth Archaeology Society (R. Edwards). See this issue, pp 148-54

RICHMOND

Barnes Parish Church (St. Marys), Barnes. TQ 220 765. South West London Arch. Unit. (J. S. McCracken). Continuation of investigation begun 1978 of fire damaged medieval church. Excavation of the nave revealed an early medieval cemetery west of the original flint building (c 1150), later covered by addition constructed c 1200. A chancel was also added to the east of the original building at the same time. The post-medieval additions (1786, 1790, 1852 and 1906) have also been recorded. WC.

Heron Court (Richmond Riverside Development), Richmond. TQ 177 746. Trial trenches in the back garden of Heron House (1694) revealed the flood plain terrace and original bank of the Thames before infilling created the present series of garden terraces. Struck flints and Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval sherds were recovered but no definite features were located. WC.

SOUTHWARK

5-15 Bankside, Southwark. TQ 3236 8045. Southwark & Lambeth Arch. Excavation Committee. (G. Dennis). Work was carried out in October 1981 in an area of c 200 sq m in the west of the site, which is on the south bank of the Thames. A deep waterlaid sequence was revealed, probably part of a large creek running inland from the river.

The lowest level reached was a thick peat deposit found elsewhere in the Thames estuary and probably laid down about 3000 years ago.

The peat was cut by a medieval ditch, possibly a drainage dyke, in turn cut by an erosion plane representing substantial flooding from the river. Soon after the erosion a group of mid-14th century pottery, including many wasters, was dumped on the newly-formed foreshore, suggesting that a previously-unknown kiln site producing Surrey white wares lies quite close to Bankside.

The site does not seem to have been built up on until a relatively late date, the waterlaid sequence being overlain by the fragmentary remains of 16th and 17th century brick buildings. A pit containing four oak barrels was also investigated.

107-115 Borough High Street, Southwark. TQ 3259 8005. S.L.A.E.C. (B. Yule). Excavation has taken place since mid-October 1981 in the northern half of this small redevelopment site, which lies about 10 m south-east of the Roman London Bridge approach road.

An early Roman ditch, aligned at right angles to the Roman road, crossed the site. The ditch drained into a natural channel, running north-east-south-west across the eastern part of the site. Excavations at 93-95 Borough High Street to the north of 107-115, showed that the channel had been revetted about AD 100. Cutting the fills of the ditch were over 70 stakeholes, thought to be of Roman date, which probably related to timber buildings fronting on to the Roman road. The associated ground surface had been truncated by a post-medieval cellar. In the small area where Roman levels had not been truncated there were remains of a 2nd century clay wall and associated floors, about 20m south of the Roman road. There were also several cut features, including a deep timber-lined well. The fill of the well contained much building material and appears to have dated to the later 3rd century.

A few medieval cut features were excavated and the

modern cellar floors overlay sequences of floors dating back to c 1600.

223-237 Borough High Street, Southwark. TQ 3241 7973. S.L.A.E.C. (P. Hinton & H. Sheldon). The site lies near the southern edge of the Roman settlement, just west of the London Bridge approach road and north of its division into Stane and Watling Streets. Excavation, which began in September 1981 on 75 sq m of the eastern part of the site will continue in 1982.

In the mid-late 1st century much of the ground was quarried for sand and gravel, possibly for road-building. Subsequently a ditch of late 1st or early 2nd century date was dug aligned east-west, at a right-angle to the road leading to the Roman London Bridge. This was followed by the erection of a clay and timber building, with external gravel yard, which appears to have been demolished in the 2nd century. In the later Roman period the land seems to have been used for agriculture.

Although the medieval and later levels have been destroyed by 19th century cellars, a number of 13th and 14th century pits and well have been excavated.

15-23 Southwark Street, Southwark. TQ 3252 8011. S.L.A.E.C. (D. Beard & G. Dennis). In 1981 work took place on an area of 900 sq m in the eastern part of the site, and the excavation will continue in 1982 in the western part of this large redevelopment.

Roman occupation is represented by a clay and timber building of late 1st century date, succeeded by two phases of masonry structures. The earlier of these, a large courtyard building, appears to have been demolished in the late 2nd century. The second phase of stone buildings had been abandoned by the 4th century when a number of inhumations were cut through the demolition levels.

Post-Roman survival is fragmentary because of the depth of the modern cellars. The major medieval features excavated included a well and three pits of 11th century date and two late medieval cellars. The major post-medieval feature was an 18th century clay pipe kiln.

SUTTON

Beddington Sewage Farm. TQ 298 658. South West London Archaeological Unit (Lesley Adkins & Roy A. Adkins). Excavation of the Romano-British site (Scheduled Ancient Monument) was carried out from March until December in advance of gravel extraction and 1190 sq m were uncovered. The end of the bath-house (previously lost and reported destroyed) was re-located several metres to the North of its presumed site: the remainder of the bath-house was unavailable for excavation. South of the bath-house a series of cobbled yards and rough yard surfaces were found. Overlying one cobbled area was a spread of Roman plaster fragments, several layers thick, covering an area of over 20 sq. m. The plaster was painted with a geometric design of red, yellow, pink and black lines and dots on a white background, and it was found in situ where it had collapsed from a building. The evidence so far indicates that the building was constructed with timber-framed cob walls. The plaster fragments were in very good condition and were lifted with help and advice from the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of the DoE. W of this building, traces of another building, other timber structures, and a clay-walled oven were found. In this area was a large ditch running approximately N-S, parallel to a shallow beam slot associated with large rectangular post-holes. This appears to represent a late boundary marked by a ditch and a substantial fence or palisade. To the N of the bath-house, a series of postholes with post-packing of large flints has provided evidence of further timber buildings.

The site is unexpectedly prolific in finds which include a wide range of Romano-British pottery of the late 1st, to late 4th. c. roof tile, flue tile, hypocaust tile, tesserae and other building debris. A cremation in Romano-British pottery urn and a unique form of open pottery lamp were also excavated, as well as a Neolithic ground flint axe and a perforated quartzite pebble hammer, probably of Early Bronze Age date. Very little Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery has been found, but a quantity of unstratified Post-Deverel Rimbury pottery from the excavation suggests a Later Bronze Age settlement in the immediate vicinity of the site. WMC.

TOWER HAMLETS

Tower of London. TQ 336 805. D.o.E. (G. Parnell).

Outer Curtain. The cleaning of the north and west walls of the outer enceinte revealed an abundance of medieval masonry. Immediately south of Legge's Mount this survives virtually to its full height and includes the only known medieval battlements in the castle.

An excavation against the outer face of Legge's Mount on the north-east corner revealed that the base of the structure is contemporary with Edward I's curtain, completed in about 1281. Both wall and bastion were originally low constructions revetting the infilling of Henry III's earlier moat, moreover, the height of the walling enabled the main defences to be concentrated along the inner curtain as this consequently enjoyed a clear range of fire. The subsequent raising of the wall is as yet undated, but it is tempting to equate it with the documented heightening of the southern (river) curtain during the reign of Edward II & Edward III.

An excavation on the opposing north-east corner showed that Brass Mount was a subsequent medieval addition, but that it erected while the wall was still functioning at its low level. It replaced a massive buttressed projection — perhaps representing a platform for a stone-throwing machine — which itself was later than the curtain wall.

Legge's Mount (interior). The excavation of a 16th cent Mint building was completed. A vaulted substructure with adjacent ground floor furnace room (all in brick) appears to represent a deliberately planned assay complex. The discovery is made all the more remarkable by the presence of an associated assemblage of cupels, crucibles, distilling vessels and waste metals.

Martin Tower. A well-preserved 16th cent timber floor has been revealed during refurbishing. This supports a plastered partition wall of perhaps similar date which was hidden behind later panelling. Immediately west of the ground floor entrance, part of a passage containing a flight of steps was exposed. Probably 17th cent, this arrangement was part of a sally port leading down to the outer ward.

WESTMINSTER — No Excavation.

WALTHAM FOREST — No Excavation.

WANDSWORTH — No Excavation.

ESSEX

Chigwell 'Little London' TQ 455 960. West Essex Archaeological Group (F. R. Clark). The excavation completed the recovery of the foundations of a Roman bath-house suite. Built of flint and tile it consisted of a hot room with its plunge bath, temperate room, cool room and its cold plunge bath together with a disrobing room that ran the length of the suite. The whole was originally fronted by a strong timber palisade.

The fire pit for this bath-house had originally been used to heat a rectangular corn drying oven also constructed of

flint and tiles. The bath-house was some 50m. from the London — Dunmow Roman Road and between was a heavily metalled courtyard.

The water from the cold bath was led via an under floor channel to flush a small latrine before being taken in a N - S ditch to join the ditch that surrounded the courtyard.

The pottery associated with the corn drier was 1st c. AD whilst the pottery in the destruction backfill of the bath house was late 4th c. AD. The form of the bath-house is similar to that of Mansio at Vindolinda and the probability is that here again we have the site of a Mansio.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Old Gorhambury House (St Albans). TL 110 077. D.o.E. (G. Parnell). During this final session of work more of the c. 1500 manorial complex was uncovered including part of a substantial cellar with entrance passage. The foundations of part of the west range of Sir Nicholas Bacon's later manor (1563-68) were revealed while the area around the inner court porch was examined in order to complete the display and consolidation of this important piece of renaissance architecture.

Whippendell Woods, Watford. TQ 0876 9798. Watford & South West Herts Archaeological Society (B. F. Rawlins). Following the finding of 5 10th century Anglo-Saxon Silver pennies and a sceat by a metal detector user, excavations were carried out in June 1981 over an area of woodland within which the coins had been found. These resulted in the discovery of a penny of Aethelstan (924/39), but no evidence of structures or occupation was found.

SURREY

Staines, Market Place TQ 0342 7152. Surrey County Archaeological Unit (R. Poulton). The destruction by fire of a 17th century building with the historic centre of Staines, allowed excavations, funded by the DoE, to be carried out in advance of redevelopment. Good evidence for settlement in the Roman and post-conquest periods was recovered but the Dark Ages remained in Stygian gloom. The most notable feature was a 2nd century well or ritual shaft, which contained a whole samian bowl, as well as the remains of some 15 dogs.

King & Queen Public House, Caterham. TQ 334558. The Bourne Society, (M. Russell). The work was undertaken prior to the construction of a car park at the rear of the premises. The upper levels revealed 18th and 19th c. occupation material including a George II halfpenny. The lower levels provided evidence of medieval occupation: flint foundations, a pebbled floor, roof tiles and pottery. The pottery dates from 1150 to 1350. Apart from the church, this is the first conclusive evidence for medieval occupation in Caterham.

43 High Street, Reigate. TQ 252 502. Holmesdale Archaeological Group (David Williams). Work to the rear of a standing c.1600 timber-framed and stone structure (now dismantled by the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum) recovered a well-preserved, rectangular, brick and stone kiln, 2.4 x 4.9m, probably used for malting. It was demolished c.1700 but may be medieval in origin. The kiln has been preserved beneath an access road to the new development. Adjacent lay the edge of a medieval stone structure and a well, dismantled and filled in the 16th century; this contained a brick cresset lamp. Documentary evidence shows the site to have been a brewery since at least 1575.

(Continued on page 159)

over refuse collection and disposal from contractors, when the district surveyor, Arthur Ramsden, obtained the Duke of Devonshire's permission to tip refuse on part of his estate. Ramsden was an advocate of steam power, and on his advice two steam wagons each of three tons capacity were ordered from the local firm of J. I. Thorneycroft, which had made its name in the field a year before by constructing a steam powered commercial van. For various reasons the experiment, witnessed with interest by delegations from other local authorities, was not a success. The wagons proved costly to maintain and while fairly efficient for bulk tipping were less suitable for feeding barges or, from 1902, the dust destructor, and in that year the steam wagons were sold at a large loss. It seemed that the mechanical alternatives had been tried and found wanting, and horse traction was adopted with some relief.

By 1914, as the vehicles available became cheaper and more reliable, the question of horse versus mechanical traction had been reopened, and an ad hoc committee recommended the purchase of two steam and two motor lorries. The first of these was delivered the following year and from this time a combination of horse and mechanical traction was used. By the early 1920s the number of horses had declined from its peak of around twenty to thirteen, and a garage for motor vehicles had been built at Corney Road; a Fordson tractor, among other vehicles, was in use. The Coun-

cil's horses occupied only part of the stables; an adjoining firm, the Lep Transport and Depository, rented the remainder, at first for horses and later for storage purposes. During the 1920s and early 1930s the use of horses for carting refuse in Chiswick gradually declined, as low-loaders suitable for either form of traction replaced the worn out horse vans. By the mid 1930s the dust destructor required replacement, and the system of refuse disposal for the combined boroughs of Brentford and Chiswick was rationalized, all refuse being taken to a new destructor on Brentford town meadow. Though a small number of horses seems to have been retained beyond this date, the re-organization effectively brought the primary use of the stables to an end.

Acknowledgements

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Excavation Round-up (continued from page 166)

Removal of the house floor after dismantling revealed a medieval wall. Examination of an adjacent area after machine removal of overburden located a line of 14th century, partly-glazed, oxidised drain pipes leading downhill from the High Street. About 25 complete pipes were recovered. The line ended with a perforated lead cover. This is thought to be the first pipe line from a medieval town.

The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Reigate. TQ 257 503. (David W. Williams). Work on this site was completed in late 1980. A glass jar found in 1979 has been indentified as Anglo-Saxon, 7th century. This is the first Saxon evidence from the town and it is now likely that the skeleton found in late 1980 beneath the 'Cherchefelle' deposits is of similar date. A Saxon cemetery now seems certain. It is intended further to examine the site of the

jar's discovery for a connected burial.

Stanwell

Surrey County Archaeological Unit. (M. O'Connell). Excavation continued on the multi period crop mark site which is under a long term threat of gravel extraction. The most significant discovery was that the two large paralalled ditches that appear on aerial photographs of the site did not mark the line of Roman road as originally supposed but in fact belonged to a much earlier feature, that is a Neolithic cursus. One of the ditches of this feature was investigated and produced a few sherds of late Neolithic pottery from the ultimate fill. It was cut by a massive late Bronze Age pit which contained domestic refuse and quantities of well preserved wood. The function of this feature is still uncertain but it may have served as some form of well. Other features investigated included part of a trackway associated with a prehistoric field system, a pagan Saxon pit and gully, part of a medieval droveway and a number of post-medieval postholes and pits.