

century), which had probably been removed from the adjacent Lady Chapel and may possibly have belonged to Sir Thomas Montgomery, the founder of the Lady Chapel who died c 1494. Conventionally the monks' cemetery lay to the east of the Lady Chapel itself. One burial was noted here.

### **Precinct Boundary and Gatehouse (10)**

The precinct of the Abbey was roughly coterminous with the present boundary of the Royal Mint. The Mint wall on the south and east is thought to follow exactly the line of the Abbey precinct in the late medieval period. Though the trial work failed to locate any medieval precinct wall as such, on the east side part of a large ditch was found which may mark its line. Documentary sources mention a mud wall as a boundary division. This would be vulnerable to later intrusions and leave little archaeological trace. To the west of the church lay the gatehouse (10) and a range of ancillary buildings now under the courtyard of the Johnson-Smirke building.

### **Other Deposits**

In addition to the walls and structures located, the trial work also exposed stratified deposits over much of the remainder of the site. The method of trenching imposed by the aims of the trial work precluded a greater examination of these deposits, hence their function is unknown. They do appear, however, to be contemporary with the Abbey and could provide crucial environmental evidence for the monks' diet, health and standard of living, as has been seen at the misericorde of Westminster Abbey.

Timber buildings, for which we have written evidence but which would leave little trace identifiable in a machine trench, might also be located.

Another interesting aspect of the site's archaeology is the period of the Navy's occupation, from about 1560 onwards. The site was the first and, for some time, the only Victualling Yard for the Fleet. It is because the Navy adapted the monastic buildings that such large portions of the Abbey have survived. The excavation showed numerous patchings and repairs to the medieval fabric, reflecting the changes of use to bakehouse, salthouse, cooperage and so on. The development of Britain's maritime industry in the 16th century is little known, so the site has unique importance in naval history.

The trial work has demonstrated that considerable archaeological deposits are present at the Royal Mint, including buildings which survive sufficiently to make public display feasible. Further excavation is essential for a proper understanding of the site, so the Department is negotiating with the Crown Estate Commissioners for time and funds to carry out a full scale excavation.

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## **Excavations & Post-Excavation Work**

**City**, by Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology. A series of long term excavations. Enquiries to DUA, Museum of London, London Wall, E.C.2 (01-600 3699).

**Croydon & District**. Processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collection every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Hon. Curator, Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society Ltd., Museum Building, Croydon Biology Centre, Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. (01-660 3841 or 22 43727).

**Hammersmith & Fulham**, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Sandford Manor and Fulham High Street. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, S.W.6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, S.W.6. (01-731 0338).

**Inner and North London Boroughs**, by the Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (Inner/North London). Several rescue sites in various areas. (01-242 6620).

**Kingston**, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Marion Hinton, Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston. (01-546 5386).

**North-East London Boroughs**, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, E.15. (01-534 4545).

**South-West London Boroughs**, by Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (South-West London). Excavations and processing. Enquiries to Scott McCracken, St. Luke's House, Sandycombe Road, Kew. (01-940 5989).

**Southwark and Lambeth**, by Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (Southwark and Lambeth). Several sites from the Roman period onwards. Enquiries to Derek Seeley, Port Medical Centre, English Grounds, Morgan's Lane, SE1 2HT. (01-407 1989).

**Surrey**, by Surrey Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to David Bird, County Archaeological Officer, Planning Department, County Hall, Kingston, Surrey. (01-546 1050 x3665).

**Vauxhall Pottery**, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. Enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, S.E.17 (01-703 3324).

**West London Boroughs**, by West London Archaeological Field Group. Enquiries to 273A Brentford High Street, Brentford, Middlesex. (01-560 3880).