

their purchases warranted in the presence of the King's reeve⁸.

It therefore seems unlikely that the Roman city became a walled ghost town completely superceded by what an estate agent might describe as a 'new town development on an adjacent green field site', but rather that there evolved a specialisation of function between two distinct and flourishing parts of the same city. The archaeological evidence for an administrative, ecclesiastical, and royal sector within the walls has certainly left little trace in comparison to that of the more intensively occupied domestic/industrial area along the Strand, but is this no more than one might expect?

Finally it is worth examining the general assumption that the Strand settlement was a creation of the Saxon period. Biddle sees the origins of the mid-Saxon settlement as a new Royal foundation. Vince also sees it as a 'new' settlement and hints at a 6th century origin. Grew⁹ states that "the main mid-Saxon settlement lay on the west bank of the Fleet, an area which may have been vacant in the Roman period". There is, in fact, considerable evidence for Roman activity along the Strand and Whitehall and large amounts of residual Roman

8. B. Thorpe *Ancient Laws & Institutes of England* Record Commission 66.

9. F. Grew *op. cit.* 279.

building materials were recovered from Jubilee Hall. Although one would be hard pressed to argue a case for continuity of occupation from the Roman to mid-Saxon periods it is true to say that whatever evidence for early Saxon occupation may be eventually found in the area it did not take place in a region ignored by the Romans.

Until significant early Saxon occupation is found within, or in the hinterland of, the walled city we should be concerned not only with the location of mid-Saxon London, but also with the whereabouts of the population converted by Mellitus to Christianity in AD 604 and which summarily ejected him from London in AD 617. The picture obtained from sites such as Euston Road/Tottenham Court¹⁰ and Rectory Grove, Clapham¹¹, suggests an early Saxon occupation in the London area of small scattered farming communities exploiting the gravel terraces. In the case of the Strand and Whitehall this succeeded Roman activity of unknown scale. It appears that the early Saxon occupation in the area was replaced in turn by a more extensive and densely occupied settlement in the mid-Saxon period. This dramatic change may be most satisfactorily explained by Biddle's suggestion that it was founded by royal decree probably in the mid 7th century.

10. R. Whytehead & L. Blackmore *op. cit.*

11. R. Densem & D. Seeley 'Excavations at Rectory Grove, Clapham, 1980-81' *London Archaeol* 4, no. 7 (1982) 177-184.

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. Enquiries to Mrs Muriel Shaw, 28 Lismore Road, South Croydon, CR2 7QA, tel. (01) 688 2720.

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 (North London). Several rescue sites in various areas. (01-837 8363).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Marion Shipley, 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. (01-541 8911).

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).

The Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly Calendar of Excavations from March to September, with an extra issue in November and a final issue in January summarising the main results of field work. The Calendar gives details of extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription is £5.50 post-free, which should be made payable to C.B.A., 112 Kennington Road, SE11 6RE. (01-582 0494).