

of water. It was built in medieval style round a courtyard (*curia*) with a well in the middle and still contained medieval features⁶.

The St. Paul's demesne house described by the charters has the same form: a hall roofed with tiles, with an extension, a buttery, a solar with a chamber below, one large building containing a kitchen, bakery and malthouse, and a cowshed. There is a note attached to the charter in a 14th century hand that Dean Thomas Ingalesthorp repaired it, and added many rooms.

It seems surprising that the two demesne houses were so close together and so far from the centre of Acton, where the church already stood. According to Domesday Book the five hides later given to St. Paul's and St. Bartholomew's were granted by the Bishop of London to two of his socmen in Saxon times⁷. Ulrich is a good Saxon name and there are other Saxon names in the charters. It might well be that the Bishop's tenants in those days would want to live well away from the dangers of the road from Tyburn to Uxbridge.

There has been one other claimant for the St. Paul's demesne house, the site of Berrymead Priory in the centre of Acton on the south of the Uxbridge road. This was suggested by King-Baker, G. H. Monson, and J. E. Lush who wrote a history of Berrymead in 1919. They point out that opposite this house stood Grove House and Grove Road, and that according to the only charter they knew, the demesne house was in a grove.

The area of Grove House and Grove Road was,

6. *Ealing Local Historian* 1966; *Evening News* 7th June 1927.

7. See Pamela Taylor 'A Knight's Fee at Acton, in the Manor of Fulham' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 28 (1977) 316-22, for identification with Acton.

however, part of a common field – the Church field – until about 1700, when it became an orchard. On this area Salmon Burrell built a house in 1826, which he named after the orchard. Grove Road was built about 1860 on his land.

King-Baker and others were misled by the name "Priory". This was not given to Berrymead until 1806, when Col. Clutton gothicised the house, whose history began when Sir John Trevor drained the land and made a lake⁸. He passed on a house to his son⁹. In 1532 this was a piece of land known as "Watleys" belonging to the Frowyk family of Gunnersbury¹⁰. This name, like the later name of Berrymead, describes the marshy meadow into which the springs across the road must have drained, since it was on lower ground.

A reference back to the charters shows that this site was actually excluded from the St. Paul's holdings. The eastern boundaries of their lands south of the Uxbridge Road is given as "versus orientem sicut rivulus qui descendit de Actona" – "towards the east as far as the brook which flows down from Acton" (i.e. the Stamford Brook). Berrymead is actually cut off by the brook and lies to the north-west of it, so it was never included in the St. Paul's area. That, no doubt, is why the Frowyks were able to acquire it.

Perhaps this essay will encourage others to look again at old reports and descriptions where direct archaeological work is no longer possible, for they may yield further information in the light of new knowledge.

8. Guildhall 10312/98.

9. Conveyances in Gunnersbury Park Museum.

10. Goldsmiths' Company Estate papers 17/1790 – minute from old Court Rolls.

Letter

FEET BONES FROM EXCAVATIONS

I WAS VERY interested to read of the discovery at Kingston of 924 bones from the shin and feet of young cattle (Vol. 5, no. 9, 227-32); a minimum of 29 animals was represented. It was reasoned that, in this urban environment, they derived from skins destined for the tanner with the feet still attached.

Some ten years ago we excavated two such groups of bones. The first was at the Romano-British farm site at Nazeingbury¹ in the Lea Valley some 18 miles (29km) north of London. There were 1046 bones representing a minimum of 57 pigs. They were found in the silt of a hollowed-out tree-trunk well. The feet had been cut off just above the metapodials, there being only a few cuboids, astragali and calcanea. At this farm site it was reasoned that these animals had been killed at one time, the resulting meat being salted, dried or sold perhaps on the London market.

The second group of bones, this time of sheep, was salvaged from a machine-dug pile of lime close to a lime-kiln just inside the monastic precinct at Waltham Abbey², 14 miles (23km) north of London. Associated pottery suggested a date of 1500-40 or just

before the dissolution of the monastery in 1540. A knife and a pair of shears were found with the bones. There were 232 bones of at least 56 animals. The metapodials showed evidence of knife marks round the proximal end. It was reasoned that we had the waste and tools of a tawyer with the lime being used perhaps to help remove hair from the skins.

There is a medieval German reference to the sale of hides by weight with the feet attached. It is interesting to see the same practice apparently surviving in 16th-century Waltham and 18th-century Kingston.

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1. P. J. Huggins 'Excavation of Belgic and Romano-British farm with Middle Saxon cemetery and churches at Nazeingbury, Essex, 1975-6' *Essex Archaeol Hist* 10 (1978) 108-113.

2. P. J. Huggins 'Excavations on the north side of Sun Street, Waltham Abbey, Essex, 1974-7; saxon burials, precinct wall and south-east transept' (unpublished).