

reinforce this idea of separate working areas for differing functions.

The tools themselves show a definite tendency towards the production of blades, many of them being cutting tools for sedentary work rather than hunting tools. A lesser number of these blades showed the possibilities of their being made for mounting on hafts and hence a hunting use. The blades themselves showed affinities with mesolithic artefact types⁶. The recovery of scrapers and possible awls further reinforces the opinion that the site was used for sedentary working, possibly of skins.

Conclusions

The artefacts recovered and their distribution over the field seemed to point to a site of mesolithic date. There is some tentative evidence that the site was divided into distinct working areas for specific functions. However, some care must be taken with this interpretation as it is probable that any future ploughing of the site could throw up a completely different distribution pattern. Artefacts seem to be based largely on a blade industry. Together with other types recovered it might be suggested that the tools were used for skin/hide working.

The ceramic evidence seems to suggest an intermittent arable usage dating from around the 12th century. Lack of pottery finds from the 14th and 15th centuries would perhaps indicate a

6. S. Pierpoint, *pers comm.*

reversion to pasture until some time in the Tudor period when arable cultivation was resumed, apparently without much change until the present century. In more recent years the field's land use has vacillated between pasture and arable, and it was last ploughed in the spring of 1985 when a maize crop was grown. The plans for its immediate future appear to be to allow it to revert to pasture and there is no intention of ploughing it again in the foreseeable future.

The evidence uncovered appears to confirm documentary researches by Ken Kirkman on the area's land use, demonstrating possible cultivation at least some time in the 12th and 13th centuries. The discovery of the mesolithic site at Pinner affords opportunities for further detailed study of such sites within the area (see Fig. 1) with a view to enlarging the scanty knowledge of occupation in the Greater London area during this period.

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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, EC2Y 5HN (01-600 3699).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections 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 (01-688 2720).

Greater London (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to DGLA, Museum of London (01-600 3699 x241).

Local enquiries to:

North London: 3-7 Ray Street, London EC1R 3DJ (01-837 8363).

South-west London: St. Luke's House, Sandycroft Road, Kew, Surrey (01-940 5989).

Southwark and Lambeth: Port Medical Centre, English Grounds, Morgans Lane, London SE1 2HT (01-407 1989 or 1258).

West London: 273A Brentford High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (01-560 3880).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham

Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (01-731 4498).

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, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, E15 4LZ (01-534 4545).

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, SE17 (01-703 3324).

The Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly British Archaeological News (9 issues a year). It gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription of £7.50 includes postage, and should be made payable to C.B.A., 112 Kennington Road, SE11 6RE (01-522 0494).