

Excavation Round-up 1987: part 2, London Boroughs

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EXCAVATIONS ARE listed by the London Borough or County in which they took place. They are followed by grid reference, the name of the Society or Unit and the name of the director of the excavation. WC and WMC indicate that work continues or may continue.

We thank Gavin Evans for collating the entries for the Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (DGLA).

BARKING

Barking Waterfront, Barking TQ 4400 8368 Passmore Edwards Museum and Forest Projects Ltd (K. MacGowan)

An archaeological investigation was carried out at the corner of Abbey Road and Town Quay, Barking, before construction of an office block. Two trenches were opened; the first, c 5.0 × 20.0m (16 × 66ft), close to the Abbey Road, a medieval road known as Fisher Street. Chalk and clay flint wall footings associated with clay floors, which may have had some industrial function, were found. A courtyard area was made of monumental stone possibly recovered from demolition of the nearby Abbey of Barking. The second trench measured c 40.0 × 5.0m (131 × 16ft); part of it had been destroyed by a relatively modern cellar and a WWII air-raid shelter. Beneath the air-raid shelter was found a double-barrelled sump (one upon another) containing a cane basket, besom, pottery, wood and leather objects of mid 18th c date. Removal of landfill revealed a wood-lined cess-pit cutting a metal surface. This surface ran up to a structure with a mortared floor and wooden uprights. A large number of metal objects such as ship nails, hammer and pliers, indicate that this might be a blacksmith's shop of late 18th c date.

Beyond this building the landfill overlay a sequence of timbers aligned in a way that might indicate a building.

Underlying all these structures was landfill, indicating that the river Roding had been wider at this point until land reclamation began in the late 18th c.

Gascoigne Estate, Barking TQ 4404 8363 PEM and Forest Projects Ltd (K. MacGowan)

The site, started in October 1986 (see *LA* 5 no. 10, 270), was to be that of a new vicarage, but the project has been abandoned. A trench aligned along the Abbey Road, previously a medieval road known as Fisher Street, was cut measuring c 20.0 × 10.0m (66 × 33ft). Around 1.50m (5ft) of landfill was removed, revealing natural orange/brown silty sand, into which were cut several boundary ditches, some with re-cuts, aligned parallel to or at right angles to the Abbey Road. Running parallel to both the road and the ditches were a series of large post pits which seem to indicate housing along the road. Pottery found in post-holes, beam slots and boundary ditches and that found in pits in the E of the site suggest the site was first occupied around the middle of the 14th c.

BARNET

Brockley Hill, Edgware TQ 177 936 Hendon & District Archaeological Society (G. Braithwaite)

Exploratory trenching on the line of a proposed Lee Valley water pipe line in a field adjoining the A5 road (route of Roman Watling Street) exposed a deposit of gravel on a gritty, cementy,

sandy layer which could be the remains of a road. No evidence of settlement was found. Some Meso and Neolithic flintwork, and one Beaker/Bronze Age tanged-and-barbed arrowhead were found.

Stapylton Road, Chipping Barnet TQ 245 968 HADAS (B. Wrigley)

Exploratory trenching before redevelopment revealed nothing earlier than post-medieval. Site watching continues.

BEXLEY

95-97, High Street, Bexley TQ 497 735, Bexley Archaeological Group (D. Weeks & D. Lawrence)

Excavation was undertaken in advance of development. The site lies beside the river Cray, 100m (330ft) from the 12th c parish church, and was partially excavated by L. Dale in 1963, when fragmentary foundations in association with grey/black pottery (identified as Limsfield Ware) were found beneath a derelict red brick house of c 1650. The current work was undertaken to obtain a clearer plan of the structure, provisionally dated to the 13th c, on the now levelled site, and to recover more material to give a firmer construction date.

Despite heavy disturbance, both recently and in antiquity, traces of three sides of a structure with fragments of a tile-set hearth towards one end were identified, along with a small extension to the NE. Construction was of large flint nodules and rough chalk blocks set in heavy yellow clay, and represented only the bottom 0.3m (1ft) of foundation, having been truncated by the 17th c house. The entire area of some 30 × 20m (100 × 66ft) was covered immediately above the Thanet Sand by a 0.15m (6in) layer of dark peaty soil containing quantities of Limsfield Ware, which underlay all structural remains.

An improved plan of the structural remains has been made but closer dating awaits a full analysis of the pottery.

Watling Street, Welling South East London Unit/West Kent Group (B. Philp)

Rescue excavations near the line of the Watling Street during building works revealed two pits and an important group of Early Iron Age pottery, the first from this Borough.

BRENT – no excavation

BROMLEY

Scadbury Park, Chislehurst TQ 459 701 Orpington and District Archaeological Society (S. Archer, F. A. Hart, V. E. Satterthwaite)

Work has continued on this medieval/Tudor moated site (see *LA* 5, no. 10, 270). The excavation area NW of the Hall has been cleared of deposits, including a flint-paved area, which were shown to belong to the 1925/35 excavations and repair works. The trench between the moat and parlour walls has been extended and part of the upper levels of the remainder of the moat wall foundation trench have been excavated. Finds processing has commenced.

The Hall itself has now been dismantled by workers from the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton, and the medieval timbers from which it was partly constructed have been taken there.

Lower Warbank, Keston South East London Unit/West Kent Group (B. Philp)

Rescue excavations continued on this major Iron Age and Romano-British villa site (see *LA 5*, no. 10, 270). The work located a major timber-framed structure beneath the main masonry villa-house. This had been destroyed by fire and some of the debris, including an important group of colour patterned wall-plaster, dumped into the post pits of the building. The area had been very carefully consolidated before the masonry structure, on exactly the same site, had been constructed probably at the end of the 2nd c.

CAMDEN – no excavation

CROYDON

14 Whitgift Street TQ 3226 6523 Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (J. Davison)

An area of 64 sq.m (700 sq.ft) was excavated down to the natural gravel 2.5m (8ft) below the surface, resulting in a succession of finds from prehistoric through Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval to modern.

Of most interest was the Roman material including over forty coins mostly of the 3rd and 4th c A.D. This is the best indication yet for the site of the Roman settlement at Croydon. Although no structures were found in the excavation, brick and tile (including flue tile) was recovered. The site is close to the spot where in 1903 a hoard of 3800 Roman coins was found.

EALING

Horsenden Hill, Perivale TQ 163 844 DGLA (J. Bruce)

Ground survey and excavation of this Scheduled Ancient Monument in advance of proposed landscaping and restoration works suggested that the banks and ditches on the W, S and E slopes are unlikely to be man-made, but the result of natural downslope slumping of the London Clay. Nonetheless, considerable quantities of prehistoric struck flint and pottery were recovered from a deep ploughsoil layer, which extensive auguring indicated covered much of the summit of the hill where not disturbed by modern intrusions and disturbance.

ENFIELD – no excavation

FULHAM AND HAMMERSMITH

Fulham Palace, SW6 TQ 239 762 DGLA with Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group (J. Mills & K. R. Whitehouse)

Site-watching took place during service repair works NW of the Palace, within the Scheduled Ancient Monument. Small trenches on the moat bridge, usually considered to be of early 19th c construction, revealed part of the bridge substructure, consisting of mortared brick, chalk, and reused blocks of ragstone. Between the bridge and the W quadrangle of the Palace, a virtually sterile garden soil was exposed to a depth of 0.5-0.6m (20-24in) over a total distance of some 75-80m (c 250ft) along the Palace driveway. A deep (?backfilled) undated feature was observed immediately adjacent to the gate of the W quadrangle. Within the E corner of the W quadrangle, the top of a linear brick structure, possibly a drain, was observed at a depth of 0.2m (8in), running ENE-WSW. WMC

Fulham Palace Moated Site (Scheduled Ancient Monument) TQ 2420 7595 FARG (K. R. Whitehouse, J. Wilkinson)

Several trees on the bank of the moat toppled over during the great storm of October 16, leaving craters that revealed a handful of 3rd/4th c A.D. Romano-British pottery. The trees were near the site of the trial excavation of the moat in 1972/3 (see *LAMAS Trans* 29 1978).

Fulham Palace Moated Site (Handicapped Adventure Playground) TQ 2395 7615 FARG (K. R. Whitehouse)

Contractors digging holes for the re-erection of a boundary fence, on the site of known medieval occupation (see *LA 3*, no. 2, 37) failed to reveal anything of interest due to the shallow depth of the holes.

Bishops Park, Fulham TQ 2395 7625 FARG (K. R. Whitehouse)

Re-laying of drainage not far from entrance to Fulham Palace revealed a handful of burnt stones and worked flints possibly of Neolithic date.

Ravenscourt Park, Hammersmith TQ 2245 7920 FARG (K. R. Whitehouse)

Site-watching during housing development on part of the park adjoining Paddenswick Road, near the former site of Ravenscourt House, failed to find any evidence of the medieval moated house known as Palingswick.

Parsons Green, Fulham TQ 2515 7645 FARG (K. R. Whitehouse)

Several trees, blown down during the great storm of October 16, revealed no evidence of the medieval village, nor any Romano-British pottery as found nearby in 1979 (see *LA 3*, no. 14, 386).

Sandford Manor, Rewell Street, King's Road, Fulham TQ 2603 7708 FARG (C. E. Oliver & K. R. Whitehouse)

Restoration work has at last begun on this 17th c Grade II listed building that has been empty since 1964. Due to its poor condition the house has been gutted, giving an opportunity to study its structure. No evidence has come to light of an earlier building incorporated in, or under the present house. The estate is known to have existed in the 13th c. The house appears to have been extensively renovated in the 19th and possibly 18th c. The ground beneath has been disturbed by brick-making, probably before construction of the house in the 17th c, to obtain the material to build it with (see *LA 3*, no. 10, 263; no. 14, 386; 4, no. 6, 163). WC

Fulham House, 87 Fulham High Street TQ 2445 7585 FARG (K. R. Whitehouse & C. E. Oliver)

Restoration of this 18th c house and rebuilding at the rear for a new Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve Centre, began during December 1987. Earlier plans to demolish the house, that is Crown Property, were dropped and it has now been listed Grade II. Various original features survive, such as ornate staircase, fire-places, carved woodwork, plaster cornices and a fine vaulted cellar. A house is known to have existed on this site since at least the early 14th c. Examination of the present structure, built c 1735, shows that the unusual plan of the house (originally 'U' shape) and visible earlier brickwork, suggest that part of an earlier building is within the present structure. Initial piling for foundations at the rear, formerly the garden, has produced various red-brick walls and footings of uncertain date. WC

Harwood Road, Fulham Broadway, Fulham TQ 2570 7700 FARG (K. R. Whitehouse)

Site-watching during development of an office building proved negative due to major ground disturbance, possibly partly due to bomb damage during WWII. To date, virtually every site watched over the past decade, approx. 20, to discover evidence of the medieval village of Walham Green, has proved abortive due to cellars, brickearth extraction and bomb damage.

GREENWICH

Woolwich Power Station site South East London Unit/Woolwich Antiquarian Society/West Kent Group (B. Philp)

Rescue excavations on this newly-discovered Roman site revealed many post-medieval pits and tanks relating to riverside settlement of Woolwich, and which produced quantities of pottery. Badly disturbed Roman deposits, some cut into the underlying gravel, were also located.

HACKNEY

Springfield Park E5 TQ 3495 8750 DGLA (D. Whipp & R. Whytehead)

A 4m (12ft) wooden boat was recovered from excavations for an adventure playground. It was found in a deep machine-dug trench at a depth of c 6m (19ft 6in) in waterlogged ground. The site conditions, depth and flooding made additional archaeological

investigation impossible. No further deep excavations were anticipated for the purpose of construction work.

The position of the find suggests that it had been left as a wreck to silt up on the W bank of the River Lea. Later land reclamation and the canalisation of the Lea account for its land-locked location. It has been dated by dendrochronology to AD 950-1050.

HARINGEY – no excavation

HARROW – no excavation

HAVERING – no excavation

HILLINGDON

Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth TQ 070 783 DGLA with West London Archaeological Field Group (J. Lewis & J. Cotton)

Excavations and site-watching took place immediately to the E of the area examined previously (see *LA 5* no. 10, 275). These operations revealed a series of pits and scoops of both Late Neolithic/EBA and LBA date cut into the natural brickearth. Several of the former group contained sherds of heavily decorated Grooved Ware pottery and struck flint. One shallow scoop had been cut through by a large, vertically-sided oval pit measuring some 3 × 2m (10 × 6½ft) in extent and nearly 2m (6½ft) in depth, although little was recovered from the upper sequence of fills. Careful excavation by Andy Boucher and Debbie Mattocks revealed the dismembered carcass of a young aurochs accompanied by six barbed-and-tanged flint arrowheads at a level some 0.60m (2ft) above the floor of the pit. The bone was poorly preserved, but the measurements taken indicate that the animal was of considerable size. Currently dated – on the basis of the arrowheads – to the EBA, it is hoped to obtain radiocarbon dates in due course.

Manor Farm, Harmondsworth TQ 056 777 – 056 778 DGLA (J. Mills)

Sitewatching of developers' trial inspection pits situated around and to the S of the scheduled Tithe Barn revealed medieval gullies, ditches and a pit, dating to the late 12th or 13th c. Part of an unidentified deep feature of 18th/19th c date was also exposed. Sherds of chaff-tempered Saxon pottery were also recovered. Trial pits within the barn showed that the present floor consists of apparently undisturbed natural brickearth, and that the dwarf walls supporting the sill beams of the barn are very shallowly founded. Three dendrochronological samples taken from timber beams within the barn have yielded a felling date of AD 1420-1430. WC

St Margaret's Church, Uxbridge TQ 0550 8408 DGLA with WLAFG (J. Lewis)

Site-watching during the first phase of refurbishment revealed a series of vaults in the nave and N aisle. They dated to the late 18th and early 19th c, but had been extensively damaged by Victorian alteration works to the church.

101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge TQ 050 846 DGLA with WLAFG (J. Lewis)

Following trial excavations (see *LA 5*, no. 10, 275) which produced Tudor, medieval and late glacial material; substantial funding by the site developers Trafalgar-Brookmount has allowed extensive further excavation to start.

The remains of the 16th c brick-built gate lodge of the Treaty House have been excavated. Several ditches and pits have been exposed, some of which date to the 13th c. However, much earlier activity on the site has been recovered from a series of horizontal sediments found to overly the natural river gravels. This has so far comprised large numbers of struck flint tools including flakes, blades and a core together with bones of horse and reindeer. As a preliminary interpretation, it is suggested that the material represents the undisturbed remains of a hunter-gatherers' camp. The flintwork is of the "long blade" industry and dates to around 8000 BC. Chronologically and typologically the site lies at the end of the late Upper Palaeolithic in the final stages of the last glaciation. WC

HOUNSLOW

152-158 High Street, Brentford TQ 173 772 DGLA (J. Mills)

Trial excavation in advance of redevelopment on the presumptive site of the London-Staines Roman road and medieval High Road revealed extensive post-medieval cellarage throughout the excavated area. Natural gravel was reached at an average depth of 1.8m (5ft 9in) beneath modern ground level. No material of earlier than 17th c date was recovered.

Mayfield Farm, East Bedfont TQ 081 737 HBMC AM Lab and DGLA with West London Archaeological Field Group (A. David, J. Lewis & J. Cotton)

Geophysical survey and a fieldwalking programme on the Scheduled double-ditched cropmark enclosure (SAM 62) were undertaken in advance of trial excavations due to be carried out in the Spring of 1988. Recorded magnetometer survey, scanning and topsoil magnetic susceptibility measurement were largely unsuccessful in defining archaeological features. However, fieldwalking revealed a scatter of struck flint of probably Late Neolithic/EBA type, with a concentration towards the edge of the Third Terrace at the southern end of the field. WC

ISLINGTON

National Car Park, Sans Walk, EC1 TQ 3150 8228 DGLA (M. Hutchinson)

The site is situated in the N side of the cloister of St Mary's Nunnery, Clerkenwell (fd c AD 1145). The earliest buildings so far identified appear to have been made of timber although they were soon destroyed and the ground beneath them exploited for gravel. After the gravel extraction a pipe trench was cut, which may relate to the main water system leading from Sadler's Wells, constructed in c AD 1430. The next phase consisted of chalk, ragstone and greensand foundations for two masonry buildings.

West of Newcastle Row, EC1 TQ 3148 8226 DGLA (M. Hutchinson)

The second site excavated in the N cloister of St Mary's Nunnery, Clerkenwell. The most substantial building remains found have been interpreted as those of a structure known from documentary sources as the "Nuns' Hall", perhaps the infirmary. This had massive stone walls with chalk footings and aligned with walls found on an adjacent site. A contemporary stone-lined cess pit was found to the W of the building. This building survived as part of a later structure, the basement of which unfortunately destroyed any traces of medieval floors.

42-46 Clerkenwell Close, EC1 TQ 3146 8224 DGLA (M. Hutchinson)

The site was situated c 20m (66ft) N of the nunnery cloisters. The earliest deposits have been interpreted as the nunnery kitchen. The walls were destroyed by later intrusions; but floors, occupation debris and hearths survived. The building seems to have been in use over a long period, the floors and hearths being repaired several times and replaced at least once. The occupation deposits contained large quantities of fish bones and food waste.

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA – no excavation

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

Kingston Horsefair, Kingston TQ 178 694 DGLA (G. Potter)

Following completion of work on the 12th c bridge, (see *LA 5* no. 10, 276) a series of timber waterfronts adjoining the bridge and extending both up- and downstream from it were excavated. One waterfront proved to have been constructed from parts of a fairly large boat, most likely a merchant craft of c AD 1250-1300, while segments of two others of similar date were built into a second revetment. The basic technique of construction is common to all three ships – clinker-built oak hull with internal frames fastened by wooden pegs.

The Bental Centre, Kingston TQ 180 695 DGLA (G. Potter)

Site-watching located a prehistoric river channel previously known from a Kingston Museum excavation somewhat to the S.

Bordering the channel were areas of foreshore which produced Roman material sealed below thick silt deposits.

Cambridge House, Renfrew Road, Kingston TQ 201 706 Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society and Kingston Heritage Centre (D. Field)

Five trenches revealed fragments of a late Bronze Age land surface and a shallow gully, a short length of ?palisade trench, a pit and a number of post/stake holes. This adds detail to the reported discovery, in 19th c gravel digging in the area, of pits and scoops with associated Bronze Age pottery and metalwork that suggested a site of some importance, perhaps responsible for some of the Late Bronze Age metalwork recovered from local stretches of the Thames.

LAMBETH

38-46 Albert Embankment, SE11 TQ 3043 7836 DGLA (D. Seeley)

Small-scale trial excavation on this redevelopment site, previously examined by Robin Densem for the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee (see *LA* 4 no. 2, 48), in the vicinity of a pottery recorded on maps of 1746, indicated that the major development of the site took place in the 17th-18th c and was probably associated with the pottery. Large quantities of discarded kiln furniture and wasters were found of delftware in the earlier levels and stoneware in the later levels. Some fragments of porcelain indicate its early manufacture on the site. One sherd had been used as a test piece with numbered examples of glaze applied and subsequently fired to test their suitability for further use.

LEWISHAM

Deptford Wharf, SE8 TQ 366 788 DGLA (C. Cowan and H. Swain)

Watching brief during redevelopment. Substantial 17th c timber slipway, foundations to 18th c and later warehouses and timber river wall on site of documented 17th to 20th c dockyard.

MERTON

Merton Priory TQ 265 699 DGLA (J. S. McCracken)

The entire N half of the priory church, some 100m (330ft) in length, has been revealed, and most of the N transept, lady chapel and choir excavated. Approx. 160 burials have been found within and close to the church including two with chalices, a number with brooches and buckles, two in stone coffins and two in lead coffins.

A number of construction phases of the N nave wall and within the transept-end chapels have been defined, although the major periods of building appear to be early 12th c for much of the nave and mid 13th c for the choir and lady chapel extension. N of the choir large spreads of Reigate stone chippings and stone footings suggest this was the area of temporary buildings used during the construction of the priory. WC

NEWHAM

Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford TQ 3904 8418 Passmore Edwards Museum (K. MacGowan)

The site, located W of West Ham Lane near the centre of Stratford, was investigated before housing redevelopment.

It was deeply cellared over much of its area and most of the investigation concentrated on excavating the sections revealed by the removal of the cellars. These sections were all of varying depth but all cut natural. The evidence from them indicates a uniform layer of dark loam overlaying light orange/brown silty sand over an orange/brown coarse sandy gravel with a light clay content. There was no indication of any occupation surface in any of these horizons.

A trench 20.0 × 2.0m (66 × 6½ft), parallel to West Ham Lane and a few yards to its W, completed the examination. The base of this trench cut a series of large interlinking pits, the fills of which are datable by pottery to between the 2nd half of the 17th

c and the early the 18th c. It was impossible to say from what level these pits had been cut.

Archive evidence suggests that this area had been used for agriculture before gravel extraction in the 17th and 18th c. The dark soils and backfilled pits support this archive evidence.

REDBRIDGE

Uphall Camp, Ilford TQ 4380 8500 Passmore Edwards Museum (P. Greenwood)

Excavation is taking place with funds from English Heritage, the London Borough of Newham and Whithorn Ltd.

The Camp was first recorded in 1735, but has had chequered history – its final fate, after being the site of a chemical works, is to be totally covered by housing. Unfortunately almost nothing of the original fortification can be seen today. In 1960 the PEM found traces of the original rampart and ditch forming the defences of this large enclosure. Pottery from the ditch and from the current excavations is datable to the later Middle Iron Age.

So far two round houses have been excavated, a circular domestic or agricultural building and most recently a possible rectangular building. Associated with these buildings are the traces of at least four four-posters – small square structures which are probably raised granaries. Large quantities of charcoal and burnt grain and other seeds were recovered; no bone has been preserved. There are also signs of the site being divided up by boundary ditches. An unexpected surprise was the discovery last summer of what appears to be one side (the ditch) of a late Roman signal station or watch-tower. It seems to be square in shape and has relatively deep v-shaped ditches. From the tower it would have been possible to look over large areas of what are now East Ham, Barking and Ilford.

After the Roman period the site appears to have been used for agricultural purposes. If the excavations continue to be funded for another six months, it is hoped to excavate double the present area. WC

RICHMOND – no excavation

SOUTHWARK

Abbey Buildings, Abbey Street, SE1 TQ 3340 7935 DGLA (D. Beard)

Further finds of chaff-tempered ware, and a further *sceatta* (see *LA* 5, no. 10, 276) indicate middle Saxon activity, although no major features can be assigned to this period. The N section of the pre-monastic boundary ditch was excavated and found continue off the site to the N. The area enclosed by this ditch contained a smaller ditch with stake-holes for structural timbers – possibly a fence – and a large drain c 1.8m (6ft) wide. The drain, which showed evidence of re-cutting, was probably constructed with wattle sides; large silt bows showed the collapse of these sides prior to the re-cut. Samples from the bottom contained may worm eggs, indicating the presence of human sewage. The pottery from the drain and ditch suggested an 11th c date, and the stratigraphic evidence indicated that they pre-dated the Cluniac priory.

Work in the area N of the infirmary hall and S of the church revealed three phases of an infirmary chapel. An apsed building, c 24m (80ft) long, of late 11th c date was extended to the E in the late 12th or early 13th c the entire chapel was reconstructed. The new chapel was also c 36m (120ft) long; substantial close-set buttresses may indicate that the chapel was vaulted. The third phase chapel formed the N side to a second cloister.

In the extreme N of the site part of a small apse was excavated. It appears to be the SE chapel of the conventual church, which mostly lies under Abbey Street.

Excavation of the available area of the monks' cemetery was completed, producing a total of c 200 burials.

Further evidence of the 16th c demolition of the abbey was found. The E wall of the dormer had been adapted as part of Sir

Thomas Pope's *Bermondsey House*, and the S part of the wall demolished. This section of the wall was then re-built as a stone footing c 0.8m (2ft 7in) wide. Drawings by J. C. Buckler indicate that this wall stood to the full height of the ground floor rooms, the upper stories being of timber construction. The internal face of the N part of the dorter wall was cut back and faced with brick to produce a width of c 0.8m (2ft 7in), and two medieval windows and a doorway blocked. A later doorway was re-positioned in this wall, the jambs being keyed in with brickwork. Remains of two post-medieval internal walls have been found. WC

Abbots Lane, SE1 TQ 3332 8024 DGLA (J. Hunter)

A medieval channel contained several phases of revetments, these incorporated a high proportion of reused timbers including large sections of clinker-built boat. Post-medieval features included a large number of timber and brick drains. WC

5-15 Bankside, SE1 TQ 3240 8040 DGLA (J. Bowsher)

Flooded and reclaimed marshland, and drainage channels of medieval date were discovered. Parts of the 14th c and later rear wall of one of the properties on Bankside were recorded, as was the development of the river bank in the 14th c. A timber revetment incorporating re-used planking from a medieval clinker-built boat was located some 10m (33ft) S of the modern river bank. It had been subject to erosion by river flooding, which left a number of silt deposits, on top of which chalk rubble was dumped to form the foundation of a 14th c stone river wall, 4m (13ft) N of its predecessor. What appeared to be part of the 17th c road surface was also recorded.

37-46 Bankside, SE1 TQ 3218 8051 DGLA (P. Thompson)

On the site of the reconstructed Globe Theatre a series of timber revetments, perhaps associated with the fore-runner of modern Bankside, were found. Incorporated into the timberwork were re-used parts of Tudor wheelbarrows.

245 Blackfriars Road, SE1 TQ 3168 8042 DGLA (N. Shepherd)

The edge of a gravel island was located. The natural sands and gravels were overlain by an agricultural soil containing burnt flints and fragments of IA and Roman pottery. A large N-S channel/ditch was cut through the soil in the late 16th c. The part excavated measured 20m (66ft) long and 8m (26ft) wide. Its original depth may have been as much as 3m (10ft). Preserved in the muds and silts were two timber base-plates which would have supported a small tresselled bridge. Two similar base-plates overlay them, showing that the bridge had been replaced at least once. A simple timber revetment was inserted along the western side of the channel. The construction included the reused planking of a 16/17th c boat. By the mid-18th c the channel had become choked, and the bridge was replaced by a road carried on a pile platform. In the late 18th c the road went out of use following major reorganisation of local property boundaries and the construction of warehouses facing the new approach road to Blackfriars Bridge.

237 Borough High Street, SE1 TQ 3244 7970 DGLA (C. Cowan and H. Swain)

A large Roman feature containing waterlaid and dumped fills was found during basement works in the Post Office.

Bricklayers Arms Railway Depot, SE1 TQ 338 785 DGLA (H. Jones)

Topographic evidence included Tilbury IV peat layers. Prehistoric platform made of interlacing sections of wood. Flint flakes and two neolithic stone axes were also found. WC

Cherry Garden Pier, SE16 TQ 3450 7968 DGLA (R. Flook and D. Seeley)

IA pottery and flint flakes were recovered from several pits and deposits lying on the surface of natural sands and gravels.

Concentrated in one small area of relatively high ground were a Roman ditch, features and three cremation burials.

A clay-filled channel containing a large Saxon timber resting against a wattle structure, possibly the remains of a revetment,

was found. Post-medieval features included a number of pits, mostly of 18th c date, containing large groups of domestic pottery.

Morgans Lane, SE1 TQ 3324 8020 DGLA (A. Thompson)

Remains of a substantial moated building included external N and S facing masonry walls, wooden revetments retaining the external moat banks and details of internal buildings surviving between Victorian basements. The moated enclosure should probably be identified as the site of Fastolf Place, built by Sir John Fastolf in the mid 15th c. WC

Rupack Street, SE16 TQ 3517 7967 DGLA (S. Blatherwick)

Trial work before redevelopment. A flint scraper, a blade and several fragments of flint-tempered pottery were found below waterlaid clays.

A possible Roman ditch contained a coin of Constantine the Great; no other evidence for its date was recovered.

Park Street, Old Courage Brewery, SE1 TQ 3241 8020 DGLA (J. Dillon)

Below Roman levels an arc of six post-holes, thought to be part of a large round house, were found; and three post-holes aligned E-W containing IA pottery may have been part of a second structure. A number of flint flakes including late neolithic tools were also recovered as was part of a polished stone axe.

Roman levels included two 1st c ditches sealed by a narrow road 2m (6½ft) wide and associated with 1st c timber buildings. S of the road were up to three phases of clay and timber buildings cut by six large cess-pits. N of the road industrial dumps were sealed by a 3rd c mortar floored building which also cut the road. Thereafter the whole site was sealed beneath 'dark earth'. WMC

Tanner Street, SE1 TQ 335 796 DGLA (K. Heard)

Alluvial clays and peats of unknown date were overlain by further clays containing post-medieval pottery. Several pits and a ditch also produced post-medieval pottery and pieces of preserved leather. A small natural channel, running E-W, contained large quantities of 18th c pottery, building material and leather. The channel was cut by a linear pit containing four upright barrels, and a pit containing large quantities of horn cores and sheep metapodials. Three large 19th c tanning pits with linings constructed of pine planking backed with clay were also found.

Whites Grounds, SE1 TQ 3335 7980 DGLA (T. Catchpole)

Neolithic flint tools and pottery in sandy soil, possibly part of Horsleydown island. Roman ditch and flood levels. Post-medieval well and drain.

SUTTON

Beddington Sewage Works TQ 297 658 DGLA (L. Adkins & R. Adkins)

The final phase of the latest excavations at Beddington which had begun in November 1985, came to a close in May this year. Excavation was completed on some areas opened in 1981-83 and a large area to the S of the villa.

Evidence was found for a number of prehistoric round-houses, of various types of construction, spanning the period from the LBA to LIA. Linear ditches were also excavated which appear to represent field and enclosure boundaries.

Excavation concentrated on completing the outbuildings in the SE corner of the site. These buildings may represent a succession of barns, the earliest consisting of two parallel rows of post-holes was aligned E-W while the second lay N-S. The third barn had two lines of internal posts set on post pads and a wall with masonry footings.

A well preserved timber-lined Roman well was discovered E of the barn. The waterlogged conditions preserved leather shoes. A horse's skull and Roman pots were also recovered.

Beddington Park Cottages TQ 295 654 Carew Manor Group (J. Phillips)

The observation of the redevelopment of these late 15th or 16th c buildings continued and work is now complete. A substantial

record has been made of the surviving parts of the timber frame and a report is being prepared.

TOWER HAMLETS

31-43 Mansell Street/1-7 Alie Street TQ 3382 8115 DGLA (K. Whittaker)

Excavations revealed a shallow Roman ditch which appears to have served as the northern boundary of a cemetery or burial plot. S of the ditch and aligned at right angles or parallel to it were found 85 inhumations including 16 "plaster" burials and 1 grave lined with tiles. Grave goods were present in a minority of burials, usually personal ornaments or pottery vessels. The tile burial was particularly rich, containing three glass vessels, a bronze mirror and an anklet of jet and glass beads. 17 cremations were excavated; 4 had been laid directly in pits and 13 deposited in urns, 3 of which were in turn placed in amphorae.

Old Royal Mint, EC3 TQ 339 807 DGLA (P. Mills)

During 1987 the documented Black Death cemetery was examined. Three mass burial trenches were located, seemingly representing the first phase of interment at the height of the epidemic and succeeded by a series of discrete inhumations. Some 420 trench burials were recorded with over 300 coming from individual graves.

Further work on the Cistercian Abbey of St. Mary Graces (fd c 1350) has revealed the E end of the church, a large lay cemetery with some 400 graves and further parts of the infirmary and possible chapter house. Within the church areas of tiled floor have survived together with parts of table-top tombs (looted in the 16th c) and fragmentary doorways *in situ*.

The Abbey was used as a victualling yard by the Royal Navy from c 1560 until the late 18th c. Details of the modified Abbey buildings have been recorded together with later phases of new structures.

Trinity Square Gardens, EC3 TQ 3355 8075 DGLA (S. Tucker)

Evidence for Roman gravel quarrying and rubbish pits overlain by a deposit containing Roman pottery was found. Ragstone wall foundations were discovered: it is not yet known whether they are of Roman or later date.

A series of backfilled features containing Saxon and early medieval material were recorded: the most extensive of them was an E-W medieval robber trench measuring 11.40 x 3.00m (37 x 10ft), with flat ragstone slabs surviving at the base.

Deposits containing 18th to 19th c pottery overlay the earlier features.

WANDSWORTH

18 St. Anne's Crescent SW18 TQ 261 744 DGLA (P. Bruce)

Limited trial trenching failed to relocate the Levalloisian working floor from which c 3000 flint flakes and implements were collected by G. F. Lawrence in 1890.

WESTMINSTER

National Gallery Extension, Trafalgar Square, WC2 TQ 2989 8051 DGLA (B. Cowie)

Excavations revealed gravel quarry pits provisionally dated to the Middle Saxon period. All were large, and one was 16.50m (54ft) long and 2.75m (9ft) deep. The earliest deposits in the pits produced Middle Saxon quernstones from the Rhineland, pottery (predominantly Ipswich ware), and a loomweight. The upper fills produced medieval finds, indicating that the pits took a long time to fill. Other finds from the site included prehistoric flint flakes and pottery, a Roman ring made of gilded copper alloy with a blue glass intaglio, and a series T *sceatta* dating to AD 715-20 – possibly minted in London. The presence of the quarries here may help define the Saxon town of *Lundenwic* believed to have been located around the Strand: the paucity of domestic refuse in the quarry fills supports the view that they lay outside the settlement area. In contrast, Middle Saxon pits excavated c 60m (200ft) to the W in the National Gallery basement contained large quantities of domestic rubbish.

A N-S medieval ditch and a few medieval pits post-dated one of the quarries. One pit contained two superimposed hearths opened into a larger 'rake-out' pit containing carbonised grain, including barley.

37-46 Parliament Street, WC2 TQ 7969 3017 DGLA (C. Thomas)

The site lay on the N edge of Thorney Island, where previous investigations have produced evidence of material dating from the Iron Age to the present.

The excavation revealed three features which pre-dated a flood layer thought to be Roman in date. Further silting had taken place, and two drainage channels had been dug. One of them was recut twice and revetted with wooden stakes. It appeared that silting of the area continued in the 13th and 14th c. At the W end of the site two contemporaneous stake and wattle fences were found: they were 10.0m (33ft) and 7.3m (24ft) long and 0.35m (14in) apart at the W end, close to where they joined. It is suggested that they may have been a fish trap constructed in the 15th c.

The area seems to have remained marshy until the end of the medieval period, when drainage and consolidation with dumps of material took place. A wall built from re-used sandstone and greenstone was laid on top of one of these deposits.

Peabody Site, Bedfordbury, WC2 TQ 3019 8069 DGLA (R. Whytehead)

The excavation of some 200 sq.m (2150 sq.ft) found evidence of a Middle Saxon structure with a barrel-lined well set in a gravel yard. The yard had gone out of use and the building had collapsed. Subsequently a W-E grave for an adult, buried with an iron spear-head, was dug. A sequence of stake-built, earth-floored structures, numerous rubbish pits, two cess-pits and a ?well was also found. The full sequence, where it survived, was capped by dark earth.

ESSEX

41 Sun Street, Museum Garden TL 384 006 Waltham Abbey Historical Society (K. Bascombe)

Repairs to the museum building showed that the existing 18th c garden front concealed evidence of two doorways side by side in the original frame of c 1520.

Excavation revealed a ground wall 0.25m (10in) wide extending S from Sun Street, parallel to the garden front and 3m (10ft) from it, for at least 6m (20ft). The ground falls steadily away to the S as does the profile of the wall as a result of gardening, and the S end is lost. The wall consists of courses of tile and brick all set in clay. The intervening space is interpreted as a wagon way leading from Sun Street to outbuildings and yard at the rear. The tiles are seen as a sill for a timber frame and the bricks for protection against cart-wheels. The wall at the N end abutted against a semicircular piece of stone, possibly a support for a gate-post.

At least one room probably existed over the entrance to the wagon way and could have been approached from the first floor front of 41 Sun Street. The timber framing here is exposed inside and in the relevant area appears not original.

The foundation trench for the wall was cut into layers containing 12th/13th c pottery; a demolition layer, above the wall and a cobbled yard adjacent to the E, is dated to 17th c.

There is no evidence of building along the Sun Street frontage E of the wagon way, but from the ground wall S of Sun Street a thin tile spread runs to the E and may represent the lowest course of a wall.

The stratification agrees generally with work inside the Museum building in 1980-1 (see LA 4 no. 2, 50).

During the lifetime of the wagon way an inferior ground wall consisting of half bricks only was laid across it, 4.6m (15ft) from Sun Street, and appears to have converted the wagon way into a wagon shelter. Both doors from the building (which give access to opposite sides of an internal partition) lead into this area.

Books

Underneath English Towns. Interpreting Urban Archaeology, by Martin Carver. *B. T. Batsford Ltd.*, 1987. 160pp., 94 illus., bibliog. £12.95.

THE CONCEPT OF urban archaeology is relatively new to British archaeology, and of the work that has been done, much remains unpublished. Indeed, Professor Carver states in his preface that his book is based on "urban excavations carried out in the last 25 years, over 75% of which were unpublished at the time of writing" (1986). Consequently, it is not so surprising that a book of this kind has not been written before. It may also be this research among unpublished material that led him to head his preface with the modified quotation "And is an archive, then, an instrument not for distributing the truth but for delaying its appearance?"

The book is divided into ten chapters, the first of which is a brief introduction to urban archaeology. Three other chapters deal with the archaeology of Roman, early English and Medieval towns, and there is a very good chapter on "dark earth" and what happens to towns between the Roman and Medieval periods. There is a chapter on how people lived and died in towns, another deals with how towns function in society, and the final two chapters give a brief history of urban archaeology and an overview of methodology in current use. There is a good bibliography, and also a very useful bibliographical gazetteer which enables the reader to find references for specific towns and cities. The book is

also well illustrated with plates, maps, plans, diagrams and reconstructions.

Despite the fact that the book is heavily reliant on unpublished material, Professor Carver must also have done considerable reading of published sources because he wryly remarks that "while other disciplines seek to refine their facts with the pure white heat of simple prose, archaeologists seem to rebury theirs in mounds of secondhand verbal slag" – a criticism he has taken to heart himself, because this book is very well written and a pleasure to read. Generally the reader is left wanting to read more at the end of the book; this is neither a virtue, nor a fault (it is difficult to see what other topics could have been included in a general survey of this kind), but it is a reflection of our current state of knowledge about urban archaeology.

The chapters are well-balanced, and ably demonstrate that the author is talking from experience. For example, he points out the problems of trying to record diverse archaeological remains using a recording system that requires the archaeologist to be an objective observer because, as he points out, "no scientist is truly objective in the sense of being a passive observer". He also points to the folly of a recording system not capable of organising records into hierarchical groups because "archaeological strata are not homogeneous but hierarchical".

In short, this is an excellent addition to what is fast

(continued from p. 415)

Collegial and Augustinian Churches TL 3816 0065 WAHS (P. J. Huggins)

Following on from last year (see *LA 5* no. 10, 278) a trench was dug to locate one further buttress of the ambulatory of the collegiate church. As a result it is clear there were 7 apse bays. Complicated geometry was used to ensure the first and last apse bays were wider than the others for reasons of access. In 1177 the apse and ambulatory was taken down and the whole extended as the Augustinian central nave. This nave was wider than the Collegiate chancel, of which the pillars were retained, and the overall width was greater too. New Augustinian pillars, close to the Collegiate chancel pillars, must have meant there was a sudden awkward change of width.

Eldeworth TL 3817 0057 WAHS (P. J. Huggins)

The outline of *eldeworth*, the old enclosure, appears on a map of c 1600 AD, where it is relatively clear on the N, E and S sides. On the W side a ditch is currently (Dec 1987) being investigated at Church Street/Leverton Way which seems to relate well with the other sides. The result is a sub-rectangular enclosure of about 1.6 ha (4 acres) around the present Market Place. Romano-British and Iron Age pottery backfilled into the ditch leave the date of the enclosure in doubt but the boundary obviously existed in some form into the 17th c in parts. Today it is mirrored in places by modern property boundaries.

Piggotts Farm, Abridge TQ 462 973 West Essex Archaeological Group (F. Clark)

A crop mark site was investigated in September 1987. It is an

80m (260ft) square bisected on its sides to divide it into four roughly equal areas. The NW area contains a circular feature some 15-17m (50-55ft) in diameter while c 5m (16ft) from the SE corner a square feature also appears. There are other marks and traces of a trackway that parallels the existing farm track.

The excavation was undertaken to locate and date these marks. The marks were found to be ditches and the pottery in the lower levels was Middle Iron Age in date with a scatter of Roman pottery in the top soil. The site appears to be an Iron Age farmstead. Previous excavations on the area revealed a sequence of occupation from the Bronze Age to the present.

The finds from the excavation are housed at the Passmore Edwards Museum; publication is expected in 1988.

SURREY

Nonsuch Palace Privy Garden TQ 2281 6307 Carew Manor Group (J. Phillips)

The storm on the night of 15-16 October 1987 blew down a tree near the centre of the former palace privy garden. The corner of a brick wall was lifted in the roots. One arm, of which about 0.85m (2.8ft) was lifted, would have run approx. N from the corner, while the other, of which about 1.5m (5ft) was lifted, ran roughly E. Both walls were of honeycomb brickwork in which a layer of stretchers alternated with a course of headers with a gap left in the place of alternate headers. The corner was of solid brick and was rather roughly constructed. The feature appears to relate to the palace privy garden and may be a drain beneath the central fountain which is known from documents. A full report will be deposited in Sutton Library and Bourne Hall Museum.