

water was deep and slow-moving in the years preceding infilling, which would be consistent with a position just upstream of a sluice.

The deposits on the inner side of the moat wall at the north-east corner of the island were stratigraphically older than the wall, but the section excavated did not contain any datable finds. The southern wall of the moat island almost certainly underlaid the Tudor kitchen, but the moat is in any case likely to be older than this. If the section exposed at the north-east corner is representative, the wall around the island may have required about 100 cu.m (3530 cu.ft) of stone, and there may have been as much or more on the counterscarp side. A great deal of the stone came from the Reigate area about 15km (9 miles) to the south. The wall also contains many large, carefully selected blocks of Kentish Ragstone. Some or all of this may be the 832ft of stone which was brought from London for the repairs carried out in 1650. There would be no point in carrying Reigate Stone to London and bringing it back again, but Kentish Rag could easily be shipped to London from the Medway.

The moat was obviously a fairly expensive structure. It could have been made in the building campaign of c 1500, when the great hall was probably constructed. Some building accounts of this period survive, but they appear to relate to work on the north wing and

do not mention the moat⁸. However, the main period of moat construction in England was over by the late 15th century, so an earlier date is quite likely⁹. Medieval Beddington was divided into a number of small manors, but the house probably stood within one which is generally known as Home Beddington¹⁰. Among the earlier owners the most likely moat builder is probably the first Nicholas Carew of Beddington, who died in 1390. He leased the manor of Home Beddington in 1352 and later acquired it, and made it into his principal seat. He was a successful royal official, who was keeper of the Privy Seal from 1371 to 1377, and is therefore likely to have had the money for a substantial country house. Very little is known about the owners of Home Beddington before the Carews, but they seem to have been of lower social status and probably had less money. The Carews who followed the first Nicholas in the early 15th century did not occupy any major offices, and in the second half of the century there was a long minority followed by a legal battle for control of the estate. It is therefore possible that the moat was constructed in the second half of the 14th century, although this dating is very tentative and may well need revision when further evidence is found.

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10. Domesday shows that the church, which adjoins the house, was in this manor. The descent of the manor is given in *VCH Surrey* vol. 4 (1912) 169-70.

8. SRO 281/2/4.

9. H. E. Jean Le Patourel and B. K. Roberts 'The significance of moated sites' in F. A. Aberg (ed.) *Medieval moated sites* CBA Res. Rep. 17 (1978) 46-55.

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).

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

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Southwark and Lambeth: 6-8 Cole Street, London SE1 4YH (01-407 1989 or 403 2920 - office - and 407 1258 - warehouse).

West London: Town Mission Hall, Mission Square, Pottery Road, 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

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