

Excavation Round-up 1989: part 2, London Boroughs

Jenni Heathcote

EXCAVATIONS ARE listed by the London Borough 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 indicates that work continues. I thank Peter Hinton for collating the entries for the Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology, and Pamela Greenwood for collating those from the Passmore Edwards Museum.

BARKING – no reports

BARNET

1264 High Road, Whetstone, N20 TQ 263 939 Hendon and District Archaeological Society (V Jones)

Excavation at the rear of a 16th c listed timber-framed building showed Tudor footings suggesting it was originally longer, and evidence of small-scale iron-working earlier than the footings.

BEXLEY – no reports

BRENT – no reports

BROMLEY – no reports

CAMDEN

Shorts Gardens TQ 3013 8112 Department of Greater London Archaeology (Aileen Connor)

A 20-week excavation before refurbishment of a late 19th c listed warehouse gave evidence of six hearths, at least one of which may have been for smelting. A collapsed wattle and daub wall c 8m (26ft) long, extensive slag deposits and over 150 iron objects, including blades, tools and furniture fittings of middle Saxon date were found.

CROYDON

Atwood Primary School, Sanderstead TQ 3427 6051 DGLA (Gillian Batchelor)

Excavations in 1960 located a Romano-British settlement (1st/2nd c AD) here. A proposed extension to the school allowed further investigation in 1989. The excavation, which recovered extensive archaeological remains, was also combined with an educational project successfully involving several schools in the area.

Over 200 archaeological features were identified within the area of excavation, including over 60 post-holes, six major ditches, chalk and ash surfaces or floors. One cut feature may be a dewpond related to the surface water drainage for the settlement. Finds included three flint tools (an arrowhead and two scrapers), a La Tene III late Iron Age style bronze brooch, two almost complete early Roman pottery vessels and many hundreds of sherds of pottery.

169/171 Coombe Road TQ 3338 6467 and **47 Park Hill, Croydon** TQ 3339 6513 Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (Jim Davison)

These sites are located respectively outside and inside the boundary of the deer park of the manor of Croydon. Finds indicate farming of the land outside the park in Roman, medieval and post-medieval times, while inside the park there was no evidence for farming after the Roman period until the 17th c.

5-25 Edridge Road, Croydon TQ 3249 6516 DGLA (Pat Miller)

Although close to an area of Saxon burials, no real evidence of early occupation was found. Roman and medieval pottery recovered was residual.

113-121 High Street, Croydon TQ 3239 6515 DGLA (Pat Miller)

Three trenches were opened. Trench 1 to the E of the site included a small Roman ditch and a post-medieval well. Trench 2 to the S of the site revealed post-medieval features including a cobbled flint surface possibly relating to *Wrencote*, an 18th c building at 123 High Street.

Trench 3, closest to High Street, contained the N ends of a series of late medieval buildings. The first, a flint and mortar structure, has been dated provisionally to the 14th/15th c. In its floor layers a small copper alloy bowl and a copper alloy *havette* or sheerman's hook were found. The *havette* suggests the building may have been a fuller's workshop. Following its demolition, a slightly larger structure was built around it, probably in the 15th c. It was constructed of flint, Reigate stone, chalk and mortar. The interior of the walls were plastered. This N end was divided into two rooms. Various floor layers exhibited burnt areas, possibly simple internal hearths. This phase was in use into the 16th c until the building was refurbished, and included an interior pitched tile hearth and two exterior hearths. This was a domestic structure possibly the tenement of a small-holding. This last phase was demolished possibly to level the area for the construction of *Wrencote*.

Before its construction, the property around *Wrencote* was referred to as *Coombe* or *Mortimers* which is documented as far back as 1546, when it was listed as "a messuage or tenement, curtelage, gardeyn and also one barne". The later, larger 15th c structure excavated in Trench 3 may be the N end of this tenement.

Mint Walk, Croydon TQ 323 653 CNHSS (Jim Davison)

A service trench on the N side of the carriageway produced 4.75kg (10lb) of clay pipe fragments, probably representing rubbish deposits from a public house. The style of the bowls covers the period 1720-1840; makers initials represented are IG, RG, TG, WR and WW, none of them known to be Croydon makers. The many stem fragments include some spoiled or unfinished pieces discarded in the pipe-making process.

Starrock Road, Coulsdon TQ 2918 5794 DGLA (Gillian Batchelor)

It was hoped to find traces of the Saxon cemeteries known to be near the site, and also of deposits relating to prehistoric activity in this area, most noticeably across the valley on Farthing Down. However, trial trenches produced no evidence of occupation. During the excavation, two prehistoric stone tools were generously presented to the excavation staff. These implements had reportedly been found in a neighbouring garden. One was a Lower Palaeolithic hand-axe, the other a worked flint flake of Mesolithic or later date.

Valley Park, Croydon TQ 3050 6625 DGLA (Bob Bazely and Steve Tucker)

Excavation on a site of 104 acres on the Wandle gravels revealed prehistoric ditches and pits. A geophysical survey failed to locate any archaeological features, but trial trenching subsequently revealed a number of cut features. They appear to be part of an ancient field system, with two parallel linear ditches and a third running at right angles to them.

Grants, Surrey Street, Croydon TQ 3233 6545 DGLA (Steve Haynes)

Excavations revealed a chalk wall, apparently of medieval date, and a chalk-lined cess pit.

EALING

Acton Shopping Centre, High Street, Acton TQ 201 801 DGLA (Caroline Pathy-Barker)

An evaluation was carried out but unfortunately, due to heavy truncation, two Roman pits, 18th c quarry pits and 19th c rubbish pits and brick walls, probably representing some form of backyard activity, were all that survived.

ENFIELD

Garfield Road, Ponders End TQ 353 960 DGLA (Trevor Cox)

A 1-month trial excavation on foundation trenches revealed 2 E-W aligned boundary ditches, and a gravel pathway all relating to fields of approximately 17th c.

FULHAM & HAMMERSMITH – no reports

GREENWICH – no reports

HACKNEY

183/185 Shoreditch High St/Holywell Lane E1 TQ 3342 8235 DGLA (Barney Sloane)

The excavation took place within the precinct of the Augustinian Nunnery of St John the Baptist, Holywell. Some evidence was obtained for Roman activity in the lowest levels and early agricultural soil prior to the construction of the Priory (1133-1162 AD). Much of the reconstruction of the Priory based on documentary evidence was apparently confirmed, including the location of the S aisle and chapels of the church. Although many of the walls had been robbed, at least two or three phases of rebuilding were identified. At least one 15th c floor surface was located, as were some burials within the church. Burials to the S of the church were identified where the cemetery was expected.

HARINGEY – no reports

HARROW – no reports

HAVERING

Bridge Road, Rainham TQ 521 824 Passmore Edwards Museum (F Meddens)

Excavations behind Rainham village were funded by Tesco; the first two trenches were to a depth of 2m (6½ft) in selected areas. Part of an early streambed of the river Ingrebourne was exposed, and extensive peaty marsh deposits were found. A number of trees in the marsh appear to have blown over. Drainage and boundary ditches and pits, where datable, belong to the late Iron Age-early Roman period. The small amount of animal bone recovered included disproportionate amounts of dog. Samples of pollen and insect remains are undergoing analysis. WC

HILLINGDON

Cranford Lane South TQ 093 772 DGLA (Andy Boucher)

A one-month evaluation of land S of Cranford Lane demonstrated the presence of considerable prehistoric and Roman activity on the brickearths and terrace gravels N of Heathrow Airport.

The work revealed many archaeological features of predominantly Late Bronze/Early Iron Age (c 900-500 BC) and later Roman (c 330-350 AD) date. Finds recovered from the latter features in particular may point to the presence of a substantial late Roman building in the vicinity.

155-156 High Street, Uxbridge TQ 055 842 DGLA (Debbie Mattocks)

The site, straddling portions of two burgage plots within the centre of the medieval market town, was occupied in the 17th c by the Cock Inn, a timber-framed building (no. 155) and a private house (no. 156).

Excavation revealed domestic occupation from the 13th c to the present day. In the 13th-14th c the rear of the site was occupied by gravelled yard surfaces and a well, constructed of flint nodules and dressed blocks of chalk. In the 16th c this yard surface was cut through by several large rubbish-filled pits.

As with previous excavations at the N and S extremities of the town, no medieval material earlier than the 12th c was recovered; the location of the recorded early 12th c settlement remains to be discovered.

Manor Court, Harmondsworth TQ 055 777 DGLA (John Mills)

Excavations were carried out in advance of construction of a Support Centre for the nearby Great Barn, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Excavations a short distance to the S, in 1988, had revealed a length of ditch and a sunken-featured building of apparent early-middle Saxon date, and the beam slots of a rectangular building of the 12th c.

The 1989 excavations revealed a series of features dating from the prehistoric period onwards. A single shallow pit contained flintwork of probable early Mesolithic date, and several further pits contained animal bones and pottery of apparent Neolithic date. A series of large pits and two post-holes containing early Romano-British pottery were recovered at the N end of the site. A number of pits, post-holes and several N-S gullies dated to the early-middle Saxon period. Further pits could be dated to the late 11th-12th c.

Cowley Business Park, Cowley TQ 050 827 DGLA (James Bennett)

The site, meadowland close to the River Colne, lay on river terrace gravel capped by a thin layer of alluvial brickearth. The evaluation exposed in several places shallow lenses of organic, peaty silts resting in depressions within the brickearth; they were, however, archaeologically sterile.

Archaeological features were sparse, but included two parallel shallow gullies of probable late Bronze Age date, running NW-SE for some 20-30m (66-100ft), possibly representing a linear field boundary or trackway.

Cowley Mill Road, Uxbridge TQ 046 834 DGLA (Ian Stewart)

The site, adjoining the River Colne, lay on river terrace gravel masked locally by a layer of organic, peaty silt of varying depth. At the interface of the organic layer and gravel, parts of two scatters of flintwork were recovered. They can probably be assigned to the early Mesolithic period.

The organic layer may be compared to a similar layer observed during recent excavations at Oxford Road, Uxbridge, half a mile distant; at this latter site a layer of similarly black, organic peaty silt overlay scatters of flint and animal bone of late Upper Palaeolithic and early Mesolithic date.

Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth TQ 059 778 DGLA (Heather Fear)

Evaluation excavations revealed a ?Late Glacial stream channel; pits and a gully of 12th-13th c date; and a shallow, subrectangular feature containing a small amount of probably Saxon vegetable-tempered pottery.

Packet Boat Lane, Cowley TQ 053 812 DGLA (John Lewis)

Evaluation excavations revealed a probable stream channel of prehistoric date, and a linear ditch and other features of probable late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date.

HOUNSLOW

2-6 London Road, Brentford TQ 1716 7725 DGLA (Neil Bugler)

A one-month evaluation to record the Roman road from London to Silchester and any remains of the Brentford roadside settlement has just commenced. It is possible that the camber of the road is present. WC

The LEP Depot site, Corney Reach, Chiswick TQ 214 775 DGLA (John Lewis)

Five trenches were excavated next to a meander of the Thames on the W edge of old Chiswick. The alluvial silts on the N portion of the site had been cut by ancient water courses containing artefacts dating from late prehistoric times up until the land was levelled and reverted to make up the grounds for Corney House in the late 17th c.

A small pit and gully of late Neolithic date (containing Peterborough ware and flint artifacts) were found towards the centre of the site next to where a 15th-16th c timber-lined drain was located within the silts of one of the water channels. In a trench to the W of this the remains of a timber-floored cellar and an underground passage were uncovered. These may well belong to part of the 18th c Corney House.

Former LRT Bus Works, Chiswick High Street TQ 198 786 DGLA (Andy Boucher)

Trial trenching was carried out over the S half of the Chiswick Park development. In the N part of the area investigated, a series of 18th-19th c pits and ditches were discovered. However the most important find was located at the S extremity of the site. Here a complex of post-holes, pits and ditches dating to the late Bronze Age was uncovered. Most of them contained pottery of a plain ware assemblage, although one of the ditches may be Deverel-Rimbury in date and some of the later pits had Early Iron Age pottery in their fills. A fragment of hook-rimmed jar (giving a date of c 1000BC), a conical loom weight and a large piece of bucket urn were notable finds from the site.

Former Pioneer Plastics Factory, East Bedfont TQ 082 740 DGLA (Fiona Walker)

This site is across the road from the Scheduled Ancient Monuments 61 and 62 which consisted of a late Bronze Age defended settlement and other prehistoric monuments. No prehistoric remains have yet been revealed. WC

ISLINGTON

Cowcross Street TQ 3163 8184 DGLA (Mark Atkinson and Gordon Malcolm)

Following preliminary trial work, a 2-month excavation was undertaken. The main buildings of the Priory of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell, are located around the present church and gatehouse 150m (500ft) N of the site. However, substantial chalk wall footings and clay floor surfaces were discovered, relating to between four and ten buildings of medieval date and several post-Dissolution Tudor structures.

There were 3 phases of chalk-founded medieval buildings with indications of earlier wooden constructions. The most impressive building was 9m (30ft) N-S by 6.5m (21ft) E-W with 1.6m (5ft 3in) deep foundations, partly surviving as part of a later basement.

The structures to the W included a chalk-lined well and several cess pits. There was also evidence for milling and baking in the form of Rhineland quernstone fragments associated with a crushed chalk floor and, in the adjoining room, a tiled oven complex. A few medieval burials were also excavated to the W of the chalk buildings.

St Bartholomew's Medical College EC1 TQ 320 821 DGLA (Mark Barratt)

Extensive refuse pits exposed in a series of machine trenches produced a large collection of 17th c pottery and a substantial wall of ragstone and green sandstone was recorded. A layer cut by the wall produced the earliest dating evidence on site – pottery from the period 1350-1550. The Carthusian's London Charterhouse stood on the site from 1371-1537 and the wall and pits appear to relate to post-Dissolution occupation of the monastic lands by the nobleman Edward, Lord North.

47-49 St Johns Square TQ 317 821 DGLA (Barney Sloane)

Three major areas were examined:

1) The N wall of the 13th c crypt of the church of St John and associated 18th c basements. The crypt was shown to have a doorway and a later lightwell, both of which had been blocked. The latter overlay the very fragmentary remains of a building of medieval date – possibly part of the Prior's apartments.

2) An area of the 17th c mansion which belonged to the Earls of Aylesbury. Here floor surfaces of tile, clay and brick were located, along with the remains of joists from a wooden platform. A gateway was found with a gravelled yard surface outside with wheel ruts in it leading to the gateway. The mansion re-used many earlier medieval walls from the Priory.

3) The N wall of the later 14th c church nave and an associated lay cemetery. The unexpected discovery of the cemetery and an additional part of the site being made available, led to an extra four weeks' investigation. Thirteen skeletons were exhumed from a very clear sequence of grave cuts. The earliest of them was almost certainly 14th c, whilst the latest, a pregnant woman who died in childbirth, was probably 16th c. Beneath the cemetery were the remains of an earlier church wall, which in turn cut through a ditch left by stone-robbing activity of the 12th c round nave.

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA – no reports

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

Charter Quay, Kingston-upon-Thames TQ 1780 6910 DGLA (Robin Nielsen)

Three areas have been evaluated. N of the Hogsmill three successive medieval timber waterfronts were revealed. Each ran parallel to the Thames; some of the wood appears to be re-used portions of clinker-built medieval boats. A second set of waterfronts was found N of the Hogsmill just in from the present junction with the Thames.

S of the Hogsmill evaluation excavations were carried out on the Odeon site and on the RBK car park. The former revealed a series of timber waterfronts close to and parallel to the Thames. Infill behind them produced finds of medieval tile and pottery. At the E end of the site mortar floors of presumed medieval date (from pottery recovered) were recorded. Quantities of burnt material suggested "industrial" use of some of the site as two hearth or kiln features were located. Some burnt pottery sherds and metal slag have been found but not enough to suggest pottery making.

The RBK car park excavation revealed the walls of a substantial medieval building. A sunken mortar floor was also found and finds associated with these features suggest usage from the 15th c. An earlier wall has been provisionally dated to the 13th c.

Eden Street, Kingston-upon-Thames TQ 1820 6923 DGLA (Phillip Emery)

Despite severe truncation, substantial archaeological evidence from various periods survived.

A river channel, infilled by a sequence of alternating waterlaid deposits, was uncovered. Within a small area, the fills contained much pottery, building material, animal bone and metalwork. The latter comprised fragments of lead, numerous iron nails, various items of bronze jewellery and over 350 bronze coins. The majority of the coins are 4th c, mostly of the House of Constantine. Explanation of such a concentration of coins requires further post-excavation work; a single dispersed hoard, and individual offerings at a crossing or recognised domain of a water deity have been suggested.

The uppermost layer produced several sherds of early Saxon chaff-tempered pottery and one pot fragment bearing stamp decorations. A V-shaped ditch contained chaff-tempered pottery and a later, heavily truncated pit produced a substantial portion of a flat-bottomed, chaff-tempered vessel. These contexts may demonstrate a continuity of activity through the 4th to 6th c.

Numerous medieval cut features, including boundary ditches and post-holes, were also excavated. An 18th c pit yielded a number of Surrey White Ware sherds, many of which were evidently wasters. They probably derived from the medieval kiln, behind 70/72 Eden Street, excavated in 1968/69 by Kingston Museum.

Wheatfield Way, Kingston-upon-Thames TQ 181 690 DGLA (Geoff Potter)

Site-watching took place in October/November 1989 to the SE of Kingston town centre, immediately NE of an historic fording point of the Hogsmill River.

The site contained deeply-stratified waterlaid deposits, the latest dating to about 1600. Overall depth ranged from 1m (3ft) to over 2m (7ft). The deposits may relate to the infilled channel which lies to the E of the town centre, suggesting that this is an earlier (or secondary) course of the Hogsmill.

Waterlaid levels were sealed by 17th-c surfaces. N of the present riverbank was a revetment, including re-used boat material, of similar date. Of slightly later date was a large (c 1.5m – 5ft – wide) timber-lined drain, running N-S towards the Hogsmill.

LAMBETH

38-46 Albert Embankment, SE1 TQ 3045 7840 DGLA (Noel Scott)

Excavations have recently started to further investigate evidence, noted in previous excavations, for production of Delftware and stoneware. Excavation also confirmed documentary evidence for early experiments with porcelain manufacture on the site c 1750, with porcelain wasters and a test-piece being found.

Coronation Buildings, South Lambeth Road, SW8 3033 7769 DGLA (Tom McDonald)

Excavations produced a number of pits containing prehistoric flints and pottery, provisionally dated to the late Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. Remains were found of a large stone structure, for which there are no documentary records; it was built of massive ragstone blocks of varying size, including re-used moulded pieces and one bearing a mason's mark dated provisionally to the 13th or 14th c.

113-125 Lambeth Road, SE1 – Norfolk House TQ 3070 7898 DGLA (Sophie Jackson)

An evaluation of the site's archaeological potential was carried out. A fragment of Roman pottery was found, though the layers predating Norfolk House were mainly left intact for later full-scale excavation. A drainage ditch and plough soils contained 10th c pottery. Substantial foundations of the medieval residence of the Dukes of Norfolk were located. They were up to 1m (3ft) wide and consisted of a core of chalk blocks interspersed with ragstone and greensand. Blocks on the internal face of the wall had been squared off. A large associated buttressed ragstone wall was also identified. Ornamental architectural mouldings, of chalk and plaster, were found. These foundations were re-used during the Tudor period to support major brick walls. A Tudor brick cellar contained large quantities of potters' clay from the 17th- and 18th- c Delftware factory which subsequently occupied the site. It is hoped to carry out full-scale excavations in the near future.

Lower Marsh/Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 TQ 3105 7955 DGLA (Toby Catchpole)

Excavations supplementing those carried out in 1979 revealed a large quantity of flint tools and pottery of Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age date; a Roman ditch containing pottery; and pottery of medieval date. The foundations of a large brick building, formerly thought, from documentary sources, to be the mid-16th c residence of Bishop Bonner, were found. These sources are misleading, however, as the building appeared to be of early 17th c date.

30-60 South Lambeth Road SW8 3040 7777 DGLA (Noel Scott)

Work next to Coronation Buildings (above) and close to the course of the River Effra, produced evidence for high natural gravels, though the only evidence for early activity was a flint flake.

10-11 Theed Street, SE1 TQ 3130 8020 DGLA (Debbie Mattocks)

Work was aimed at evaluating the potential of a site near previously-located peat levels of Bronze Age date ("Tilbury IV"). Excavation showed that the site had been through a number of wet and dry phases, with peats of both Bronze Age and medieval date.

Two drainage ditches and associated rows of timber stakes were of uncertain date, probably early post-medieval.

Unigate Dairy, South Lambeth Road, SE1 TQ 3050 7793 DGLA (Tom McDonald)

A second phase of excavation revealed plough soil containing prehistoric flints and pottery, and some sherds of Saxon date. A complex post-medieval drainage system crossed the site.

Vauxhall Bridgefoot, Albert Embankment SE11 TQ 3033 7815 DGLA (Patricia Price)

Excavations revealed substantial remains of a late 17th c glasshouse, with much of the kiln and large quantities of waste products. It is one of the few of its kind to be investigated archaeologically. Stone foundations of a medieval or later structure fronting Albert Embankment are not thought to belong to a manor house believed to have been in the immediate area. In the 17th c a substantial waterfront complex was built. Remains of three 17th c brick boathouses were found; they remained in use until the 19th c. An inhumation burial was also found, dug into the natural gravels but of unknown date.

Waterloo Bridge/Upper Marsh SE1 TQ 3090 7598 DGLA (Toby Catchpole)

This site, within the area of the medieval village of Lambeth Marsh, produced evidence of a high sand island with evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity. A late Medieval/Tudor chalk building fronted Upper Marsh.

LEWISHAM – no reports

MERTON

Benedict Road Primary School, Mitcham TQ 270 686 DGLA (Tim Haillay)

The site lies near a large Saxon cemetery and the 12th c Mitcham parish church.

Roman pottery and some animal bone was recovered from ditches which crossed the site. They may be related to drainage as they slope towards the River Wandie. Sherds of shell-tempered pottery dating from the 10th or 11th c were also recovered from a ditch. No evidence of structures was found.

Kings College Sports Ground, Western Road TQ 272 698 DGLA (Bob Bazely)

Excavations on this very large (c 30 acres) gravel terrace site was undertaken in two phases. A number of prehistoric cut features were revealed. Pottery ranged in date from Neolithic (Mortlake ware) through Bronze Age (Deverel-Rimbury ware). There appear to be phases of activity suggested by the cutting of ditches followed by silting and then re-cutting. The ditches may be related to Bronze Age agriculture and husbandry.

Merton Bus Garage, High Street, Merton TQ 2655 7037 DGLA (Robin Nielsen)

Sherds of Roman and Saxon/early medieval pottery have been found. Gravel surfaces, possibly laid, have been identified and medieval pottery occurred in general subsoil contexts overlying a N-S ditch; this has not yet been positively dated but it is certainly medieval or earlier and shows signs of having been recut.

Merton Priory, Station Road, Merton TQ 267 702 DGLA (Penny Bruce and Simon Mason)

Recent excavations revealed the N half of the church, the NW corner of the infirmary, the E walkway of the cloister and the N area of the domestic range. The priory walls survived only as flint and mortar foundations but a number of building phases were identified as the church was extended to the E and widened across the nave. Reigate stone and glazed floor tiles were revealed within the nave and infirmary.

Areas of the lay and canons' cemeteries were also investigated. Approximately 700 burials were excavated; the majority were

buried in linen shrouds, although fine examples of lead, stone and wooden coffins have been found.

The most recent excavations have continued in the area of the infirmary where a large building with a W passage and large rooms to the E has been defined. A segment of the monastic drain has been found just to the S of the infirmary running along the N side of the N wall of a two storey (?) domestic building containing small rooms.

1 Mill Green Road, Mitcham TQ 2628 1662 DGLA (Neil Bugler)

Excavation on the floodplain of the River Wandle revealed evidence of late medieval/Tudor occupation in the form of chalk foundations and a well.

Streatham House, Windsor Avenue, Merton TQ 263 395 DGLA (David Saxby)

Trial excavations were undertaken on the floodplain of the River Wandle some 350m (1150ft) SW of the site of Merton Priory. No traces of occupation were recovered although the excavation did provide a sequence through peat deposits which were sampled for environmental evidence. This may prove of great interest to both the excavation at Merton Priory and the Bronze Age site at Kings College Sports Ground.

NEWHAM

Hubbard Street, West Ham TQ391 835 PME (K MacGowan)

Excavation within the precinct of Stratford Langthorne Abbey, funded by the London Borough of Newham, revealed late medieval or post-Dissolution field boundaries and early 19th-c wooden drain of hollowed ash trunks. There were also pits connected by a gully. These features may well be associated with the post-Dissolution leather industry documented in the area. All the features cut a plough soil containing material from the Roman period to the 18th c.

REDBRIDGE

Uphall Camp, Uphall Road, Ilford TQ 438 850 PME (Pamela Greenwood)

Work in 1989, funded by the London and Edinburgh Trust, included the rest of the areas first uncovered in 1984 and 1987-88 as well as a watching brief lasting 9 months. A total of 10 round-houses, 6 or 7 'four-posters', 2 penannular enclosures and at least 4 rectangular structures have been identified, all dating to the middle Iron Age, perhaps c 100 BC.

The Roman military-style structure is some 82 × 54-61m (270 × 180-200ft) and dates to the 3rd-4th c AD. New evidence for Roman activity included ditches and a possible burial dating to the 1st-2nd c AD. Roman conquest-period material with quantities of late Iron Age coarse wares fills the upper layers of the c 6m (20ft) wide and 2m (6½ft) deep defensive ditch on the W side of the camp. This originally middle Iron Age ditch may have been re-used at the time of the conquest.

Traces of earlier activity include a small enclosure, possibly late Bronze Age-early Iron Age in date, and some fragments of a middle Bronze Age Ardleigh-type urn.

RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

Old Bridge Street, Hampton Wick, Richmond TQ 1767 6943 DGLA (Phillip Emery and Geoff Potter)

The Kingston Old Bridge was in existence by 1193 and survived until 1828. In its final form there was a substantial masonry causeway at both ends.

The investigation exposed a number of features, including sections of river wall and parts of the causeway. The inside face of the upstream causeway wall, observed in section, is presumably medieval and probably about 1m thick. Nearly 2m (6ft) of the downstream wall was exposed. There were three construction

phases: a probable medieval core and two slightly offset sections of post-medieval refacing.

The length of the causeway is now established at over 9.5m (31ft) and width at c 6m (20ft). The alignment of the structure is noticeably skewed to the modern bank and to the opposing Kingston approach. This bears out early 19th c plans which show the bridge turning to the N as it approached Hampton Wick.

SOUTHWARK

Albany Road, Southwark TQ 3358 7825 Oxford Archaeological Unit (M J Hicks)

Four 5 × 5m (16 × 16ft) trenches were excavated in an archaeological assessment of an area due for redevelopment. Despite severe damage caused by Victorian housing, it was possible to conclude that the site was part of a prehistoric landscape which was predominantly waterlogged. Perhaps during the Iron Age, an attempt had been made to drain or at least regulate the swamp by the construction of a small gully. It became overwhelmed and silts were deposited over a wide area.

During the Roman period another small gully was constructed. Its failure resulted in further waterlogged levels. A crude rubble-and-pottery path was laid to gain access across the marsh, probably in the mid to late Roman period.

Remnants of the Roman gully may have formed the Earl's Sluice, a narrow stream recorded on a map of 1746, when the area was fertile land.

Anchor Terrace, Park Street, SE1 TQ 3232 8036 (Simon McCudden)

Excavation revealed a small segment of the NE part of the Globe Theatre (1599-1644) in the extreme NW part of the site. The remainder of the theatre, if it survives, lies beneath Anchor Terrace, a listed early 19th c terrace abutting Southwark Bridge Road. A public viewing gallery was built by the site owners and some 5,500 visitors came to view the remains. Contemporary levels were revealed elsewhere on the site, and a chalk feature observed during the work was a foundation, or possibly a riverfront ramp, of medieval date.

1-6 Bargehouse Street SE1 TQ 3138 8048 DGLA (Toby Catchpole)

The site is immediately S of a presumed royal bargehouse of Tudor date. Timber features, sealed below clays of medieval or later date and associated with Saxo-Norman pottery, have been examined; their date is not yet clear. Substantial evidence has been found for post-medieval tanning.

120-4 Borough High Street SE1 TQ 3250 7990 DGLA (Mary Alexander)

This site, within the Roman and medieval town of north Southwark, adjoins 124-6, excavated in 1977. Further prehistoric features were found, including post-pits and a large E-W ditch. A complete profile was obtained through the Roman road from London Bridge, consisting of a gravel agger c 1m (3ft) thick surfaced with small cobbles. On the E side of the Roman road were remains of a 1st-c clay-and-timber building, which had been destroyed by fire; it was associated with industrial activity, probably smithing, for which further evidence was found on the W side of the Roman road. A timber drain cut the W shoulder of the Roman road. A further linear feature, possibly a large timber conduit, cut the E part of the road; it may be late Roman or post-Roman in date. A substantial amount of a pottery vessel of late Saxon date was recovered. Fragments of medieval stone foundations and medieval and Tudor pits, were found.

179-191 Borough High Street, SE1 TQ 3255 7985 DGLA (Peter Thompson)

This site, within the main Roman and medieval town of north Southwark, revealed further remains of early Roman clay-and-timber buildings, located close to the main Roman road from

London Bridge. They had been constructed partly over a backfilled revetted channel noted in earlier adjacent excavations. A timber ramp or jetty, consisting of a planked walkway with transverse footholds, projected into the channel, which itself had been backfilled, during the 1st-2nd c, with much domestic debris, including many complete pottery and glass vessels. Damp conditions ensured the excellent survival of metalwork and of much organic material, including leather and turned wooden vessels. Remains of a stone medieval building were also found.

Courage Brewery/Redcross Way, SE1 TQ 3247 8020 DGLA (Sophie Jackson)

A fourth phase of excavations on a further part of this site, following those of 1984, 1987 and 1988, revealed new evidence for the W part of the Roman settlement of north Southwark. Prehistoric features cut the high natural sands. Early Roman clay-and-timber buildings were partly overlain by a metalled road which had been re-surfaced a number of times. A series of further clay-and-timber structures, possibly shops fronted by a timber porch, was erected alongside the road. Another building to the S had walls decorated on both faces with painted plaster. Substantial beam slots of buildings on the same alignment have not yet been dated, but may reflect later Roman construction. The several phases of excavation have revealed the first definite details of a subsidiary road pattern within the north Southwark settlement.

Dickens Square, SE1 TQ 3238 7938 DGLA (Helen Jones)

This site, located just beyond the S edge of the Roman settlement, is within an area from which Roman inhumations and cremations are known. High sands were found to border a low peaty area shelving to the S towards a known area of deep peats derived from a glacial scour hollow. Flint flakes indicated prehistoric activity, and two ditches contained quantities of Roman pottery, mainly of 2nd c date.

170-6 Grange Road SE1 TQ 3351 7915 DGLA (Alison Steele)

This site, located in the SE corner of the Bermondsey Abbey precinct, yielded a pit containing quantities of late Iron Age/early Roman material, and a series of linear trenches containing Roman finds, including a complete 2nd c flagon. A square pit, constructed of horn cores, contained complete 18th c wine bottles.

Alaska Works, Grange Road, SE1 TQ 3355 7905 DGLA (Mike Webber)

High natural sands contained burnt flint and late Bronze age pottery. An early Roman ditch appeared to have been backfilled during the 1st c AD, along with other early Roman pits.

Guy's Hospital redevelopment, St Thomas St SE1 TQ 3292 8010 DGLA (Robin Wilson)

Excavations on this large site have revealed a series of parallel Roman ditches draining the E edge of the north Southwark settlement. A substantial timber structure, probably the revetment to the W edge of the Roman Guy's Hospital channel, has been located. A timber-revetted channel of early post-medieval date has also been found.

Platform Wharf, Rotherhithe SE16 TQ 3478 7972 DGLA (Simon Blatherwick)

A second phase of work is being carried out to evaluate the area immediately S of the moated manor house of Edward III. Prehistoric flint tools, waste flakes and a core have been found. Possible structures, and extensive dumps of waste material, both associated with the 17th c delftware industry, occur on the site.

Redcross Way, Southwark TQ 3245 8005 OAU (M J Hicks)

Two 5 × 5m (16 × 16ft) assessment trenches were excavated in an area formerly called "The Cross Bones Burying Ground". In Trench 1, many inhumations were recorded. The constant use of the graveyard had disturbed many layers below, consisting mainly of fine silts. This sequence suggests that the trench was located within a channel or area of waterlaid influence.

Trench 2 contained part of a Roman graveyard. Six partially-complete inhumations were lifted, one containing a pennanular brooch dated to between the 2nd and 4th c AD. Several occupation levels survived beneath the Roman cemetery, producing pottery from the 1st and late 2nd c.

Skinmarket Place, SE1 TQ 3217 8033 DGLA (Mike Webber)

A previously unknown island of high sand, close to the modern riverfront E of Bankside power station, yielded Neolithic pottery and flints, indicating prehistoric activity in the area. It was sealed by flood clays, in turn cut by early medieval ditches and sealed by further flood clays of 14th-15th c date. A pit cutting these clays contained two bear skeletons, probably derived from a Tudor bear-baiting ring known to have been on the site (no trace of it was found). Further evidence of the royal timber-revetted 17th-c fishponds. The *King's Pike Garden*, previously noted on 5-15 Bankside, was found.

Skipton Street, Elephant and Castle, SE1 TQ 3190 7920 DGLA (Wendy Rogers)

This comprised three separate sites on the W side of Newington Causeway (presumed to follow the line of Roman Stane Street). A metalled area close to the Roman road may be a yard or track leading to it. Two ditches of Roman date were found, one running parallel to the Roman road and one running W at right angles to it. Three large circular pits and a third ditch yielded a quantity of tile, 3rd c coins and pottery, and fragments of two Roman sculptures – one a weathered head, probably female, provisionally dated to the early 2nd c, the other a draped female torso leaning against a tree or column. A Roman cremation burial in a broken flagon was found in a ditch, suggesting the presence of a funerary complex.

2-10 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 TQ 3228 8040 DGLA (Simon Blatherwick and Julian Bowsher)

Excavations have uncovered substantial remains of the Tudor *Rose* Theatre (c 1587- c 1605). Two construction phases have been identified. The first (c 1587-1592) was of a polygonal building with perhaps 12 or 14 sides, its inner and outer walls some 3.5m (11ft 6in) apart and the inner yard, with a partly raked mortar floor, c 13m (43ft) in diameter. The stage was c 5-6m (16-20ft) deep and c 11-13m (36-43ft) wide. In its second phase, the theatre was extended N, the yard area increased and the stage moved back some 3m (10ft). The yard was refloored with a layer of clinker and crushed hazelnuts. The superstructure was of timber, with lath-and-plaster infill; it rested on brick sleeper walls, in turn resting on chalk foundation pads. A humic layer represents thatching from the roof, and wooden shingles may relate to the stage roof.

52-4 Southwark Street SE1 TQ 3230 8016 DGLA (Kieron Heard)

This site lies on high ground at the W edge of the Roman town. A revetted channel, its banks sloping to the S, contained quantities of demolition debris from Roman buildings, including tile, burnt daub and painted wall-plaster. The revetment itself appears to have undergone two phases of construction. Robber-trenches of a Roman building with stone foundations were found; this building post-dated the channel, over which it was partly built. A chalk-lined well contained post-medieval pottery.

10-16 Union Street, SE1 TQ 3249 8002 DGLA (Kieron Heard)

This site is within the Roman settlement of north Southwark. 1st c dumped make-up was followed by two phases of 1st and 2nd c clay-and-timber buildings, the first floored with brickearth, the second with mortar. Both had walls faced with painted plaster. It appears that a corridor was added to the second phase building. In the later Roman period the site was cut by pits and a timber-lined well containing quantities of 3rd c pottery. A 4th-c pit yielded a folded lead sheet bearing a retrograde inscription reading *MARTIA MARTINA SIVE*, presumably a curse aimed at someone of whose exact name the writer was uncertain. A large N-S channel or ditch

containing medieval pottery is thought to be part of the E boundary of the Manor of the Bishops of Winchester.

SUTTON

Beddington Sewage Treatment Works TQ 2875 6650 DGLA (Steve Tucker)

The excavation revealed a number of ditches which cut one another indicating they are of different phases of activity; however, a lack of dating material prevents making a precise interpretation of these features.

Beddington Infants School TQ 2920 6494 DGLA (Simon Mason)

Excavation revealed a ditch containing late Bronze Age pottery and flintwork.

Carew Manor, Beddington TQ 2978 6536 Carew Manor Group (John Phillips)

A small trench on land between Crispin Crescent and the River Wandle, 157m (515ft) E of the house, and known to have been within the 18th c gardens of Carew Manor, was intended to investigate the line of the pre-18th c river.

The gravel bed of a former river was located a depth of 1.02m (3ft 4in). It was overlain by several layers of gravel and earth, which had a maximum thickness of 0.79m (2ft 7in) and contained two 17th c clay pipe bowls. These layers were probably dumped in the river when a lake was constructed a short distance to the S, as part of a major garden reorganisation at the beginning of the 18th c. The gravel and soil layer were covered with topsoil which contained many finds of 19th and 20th c date. A full report will be deposited in Sutton Central Library.

101-103 High Street, Sutton TQ 2587 6423 DGLA (Jonathan Nowell)

Excavation on the W side of the High Street revealed the remains of two late medieval buildings. Evidence for the first was in the form of an 11.5m (38ft) length of wall standing 2.5m (8ft) high. One element of the wall consists of alternating blocks of chalk and flint, from which a chequerboard effect is produced. The wall appears to represent the S external wall of a substantial building, possibly a wealthy merchant's house, which could now lie under 105 High Street.

The second building had two distinct phases. In the first, a rectilinear structure forming a single room was constructed. It had a beaten earth floor with a large central hearth. Subsequently, a wall was built across the middle of the earlier room. The central hearth was replaced by a smaller one located in the angle of the dividing wall and the W wall. This hearth appears to have been enclosed by a smoke hood (a form of freestanding chimney) surrounding the hearth. The date of this building is similar to the first, some time in the early 16th c.

The value of this excavation was that it revealed for the first time evidence for medieval occupation at the S end of Sutton, away from the presumed centre of occupation to the N, around the area known as *The Green*.

London Road, Hackbridge TQ 285 662 DGLA (Bob Bazely)

Excavation revealed several Bronze Age pits.

Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton TQ 2780 6248 DGLA (Steve Tucker)

Scheduled Ancient Monument (Late Bronze Age) at Queen Mary's Hospital revealed a number of pits and ditches containing prehistoric pottery and bone and flint fragments. One large pit had been back-filled with a series of burnt deposits containing Iron Age pottery and larger pieces of clay loom-weights. A small chalk spindle whorl was also recovered.

Sutton Place, St Nicholas Road TQ 2580 6440 DGLA (Tim Hailay and Pat Miller)

Excavations along the W side of Sutton High Street revealed evidence of post-medieval buildings; one of them contained chalk

and flint demolition rubble but little dating material. Backland areas contained related features including property boundaries and a possible pond. A large proportion of the pottery from these areas is medieval, including some local 12th-13th c Cheam and possibly Kingston wares.

The most recent excavation, in the backlands, is revealing traces of a medieval building. WC

3 Throwley Way, Sutton TQ 2597 6418 DGLA (Jonathan Nowell)

A trench behind the E side of the High Street revealed several pits containing 11th/12th c domestic refuse. These finds confirmed for the first time the documentary evidence for Domesday Sutton.

TOWER HAMLETS

38 Spital Square TQ 335 819 DGLA (Chris Phillpotts)

The site lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of St Mary's Hospital, Spitalfields. The earliest features were Roman scoops into the brickearth which produced some millefiori glass. The earliest medieval features were a N-S boundary ditch, on the W side of which lay a row of 10 E-W graves. The ditch was replaced in the second phase by a N-S wall, 2.9m (9ft 6in) high, constructed with a chalk rubble core and Kentish ragstone facing. It was built on arched foundations and had a W projecting buttress at its S end, it was either the wall of the S transept or W wall of a claustral range to the S of the church. Subsequent floor layers and a chalk-lined well were also recorded.

WALTHAM FOREST

Chingford Hall – St Pauls Moated Manor, Chingford TQ 363 924 PMS (K MacGowan)

The first documentary reference to St Pauls Manor is in the 10th c whilst that to the Manor House buildings is in the 13th c.

Excavations, funded by Tarmac Homes (Southern) Ltd, began with a watching brief while mains services were installed. The moat, which varied in width between 4 and 10m (13 and 33ft), was sectioned at several points. It was not completely circular but had a dry causeway forming a link to the 'island'. The trench positioned to locate the Manor House revealed rubbish pits and two areas with several phases of pitched tile hearths. Environmental evidence included much burnt grain. The pottery dates the hearths to the 14th c. These hearths may possibly be separate from the Manor House, which probably lies further S, outside the development. Two cremations appear to date to the earlier Iron Age or before.

WANDSWORTH

Battersea Wharf, Wandsworth TQ 2866 7757 DGLA (Gillian Batchelor)

The area around Battersea Wharf was of recognised archaeological potential. The vast quantity of prehistoric and later metalwork recovered from the River Thames at Battersea could suggest the presence once of a ford, and Bronze Age metalwork has been found on land, near the Battersea Wharf site. Also, a late Tudor, early Stuart house, called *The Red House*, was known on the site.

A sand island was located, but it produced no evidence of occupation. However, valuable topographic information has been gained. The presence of undisturbed natural sand and gravel deposits sealed by alluvial clay, demonstrates great potential for the survival of archaeological deposits across the remainder of the site.

Point Pleasant, Wandsworth TQ 252 752 DGLA (David Saxby)

The excavation lies some 100m (330ft) S of the Thames situated upon the prehistoric sand and gravel terraces laid down during the Pleistocene period.

Within one area of excavation there was a layer of grey silt and sand which produced prehistoric flints, possibly Mesolithic in date, which include a core, twenty or so flakes and blades and fire-cracked flint. This layer also produced possible prehistoric, Saxon and medieval pottery.

WESTMINSTER

Bedford Street WC2 TQ 3028 8072 DGLA (Robert Cowie)

Deposits of probable Saxon date were recorded in a British Telecom trench during a watching brief. Two middle Saxon sherds, burnt daub, animal bones and oyster shells were found.

Leicester Square, LEB Site, WC2 TQ 2985 8068 DGLA (Stuart Hoad)

Four ditches were found, three running N-S and one NW-SE. Only one contained dateable material, consisting of worked flint of the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic period and some fragments of a pot. A group of post-holes was also found.

Leicester Square Public Conveniences, WC2 2984 8073 DGLA (Robert Cowie)

Large undated features cutting natural gravel.

Moss Bros Site, 21-26 Bedford Street WC2 TQ 3020 8079 DGLA (Stuart Hoad)

Examination of the site once basement slab had been lifted, revealed nine pits, of which five could be confidently dated to the Middle

Saxon period. Two ditches were located, but not confidently dated. A patch of burnt clay may have been a hearth.

14 Orange Street WC2 TQ 2982 8058 DGLA (Trevor Cox)

Excavations revealed various industrial dump layers, containing bone pin making handles 17th c. Sealed by these was a clay floor surface and a N-S beam slot, 16th-17th c. All features appeared to be associated with a post-medieval coach-building factory.

26-7 Southampton Street WC2 TQ 3037 8080 DGLA (Robert Cowie)

An excavation and watching brief revealed evidence of middle Saxon occupation, including rubbish pits, dump layers and traces of a post-built structure aligned E-W. The pottery assemblage comprised Ipswich ware, shelly ware, chaff-tempered pottery, and Continental wares.

The Royal Opera House Car Park, Bow Street WC2 TQ 3043 8099 DGLA (Robert Cowie)

A trial trench revealed several middle Saxon rubbish pits containing pottery, burnt daub fragments, a loomweight fragment and antler off-cuts.

Letters

Londinium and Legio II Augusta

NICHOLAS FUENTES has overlooked the fact that Londinium was given the name Augusta between c AD 326, when the signature of the London mint was LON, and 383 when the mint was revived by Magnus Maximus using the signature AVG. In fact the change can be more closely dated if we accept quite literally the words of Ammianus, writing of events in his own lifetime. Of the events of 368 he wrote "... *ad Londinium, vetus oppidum quod Augustam posteritas appellavit*: to Londinium, an old town that posterity has called Augusta."¹ He could hardly tell us more plainly that it was called "Lundinium" when Theodosius arrived, but had since been called "Augusta". In describing the events of the following year, however, he says that Theodosius "marched from Augusta, which older generations called Londinium" ("*ab Augusta, quam veteres appellavere Lundinium*"²). Ammianus clearly associated the change with the events of 368-9, and within the parameters of date imposed by the mint signatures, there is no other occasion in which the value of London as a strategic centre is more likely to have attracted imperial attention. Perhaps the possibility remains that it was Legio II Augusta that was honoured by the new name rather than the city itself, as we have usually assumed. Count Theodosius found south-eastern Britain overrun by predatory bands, with Londinium itself under siege and "overwhelmed with hardships" ("*mersam difficultatibus*"). This was partly due to a collapse of discipline in the army, from which many had deserted. Yet Londinium had been successfully defended, evidently by soldiers, and if these were men of Legio II, and if the loyalty of that legion had been the base on which Theodosius was able to rebuild the army in Britain, the renaming of the city in its honour might have been considered appropriate.

We need not expect to find a third-century legionary base in Southwark, as yet overlooked by the archaeologists working there. The two soldiers of Legio II Augusta who died in London in that century were almost certainly there because they had been seconded

to the service of the governor of Britannia Superior who was based in its capital. Celsus was certainly on the governor's staff, for he was a *speculator*, an executive in the administration of justice. *Speculatores* might travel in the course of their duties, but as members of the headquarters staff were normally based in the provincial capital.

We should not, however, attach too much significance to the double-barrelled town names given by the Ravenna Cosmographer in the early eighth century. We have no evidence that London was ever called *Londinium Augusta* under the Roman Empire.

Ralph Merrifield

32 Poplar Walk

London

SE24 0BU

1. Ammianus Marcellinus (ed. J. C. Rolfe) XXVII, viii, 7.

2. *Ibid.*, XXVIII, iii, 1.

London's Roman Theatre?

NICHOLAS FUENTES in his recent article on the deployment of the 2nd Legion Augusta in London (*LA* 6 no. 5 (1989)) repeats a hypothesis he outlined in an earlier article (*LA* 5 no. 6 (1986)), that there may have been a Roman theatre on Ludgate Hill. Excavations in 1987-8 along the north side of Carter Lane – within the site of the postulated theatre failed to reveal any sign of a theatre ('Excavation Round-up' *LA* 6 no. 2 (1989) 47). Examination of the masonry shown as "B" on Fig. 3 of the article has proven that it is of medieval and later date. Therefore it seems that the existence of a Roman theatre in this area is very improbable.

Bruce Watson

Museum of London

London Wall

London

EC2Y 5HN