

Nicholas Barton traces the river Peck flowing near Asylum Road where it reaches the Old Kent Road<sup>16</sup>. This watercourse was more a stream than a river, and could have been the dyke which Mr Campion had to bridge.

This raises the question of whether in the 17th century there was a stream flowing near Bowles Road. In the Surrey Collection in the Lambeth Archives Library there is a map of the Estate of William Shard in 1775<sup>17</sup>. The Shards were Peckham landowners, and this map shows all the small strip fields which William Shard held in Peckham North field. The western boundary of the North field is shown as a watercourse flowing north across the road from Kent to London, and called at that date a "common sewer". Six small meadows belonging to Mr Shard are shown stretching eastwards at right angles to the common sewer, and they are all called Willow Brook. This must mean that the "common sewer" had been a stream called the Willow Brook, and the fields and later a road were named after it.

Since in the 1830 enclosure map of the North Field, the Grand Surrey Canal is given as the north-west boundary of the North Field, it is likely that the Canal at this point was dug on the bed of an existing stream. (The only problem is that someone drew the line of the canal onto the Shard map at an unknown date after the Peckham branch was

16. N Barton *The Lost Rivers of London* (1962).

17. Estate of William Shard 1775. Map. Lambeth Archives Library 10/1775/MF.

18. *Op cit* fn 16.

opened in May 1826, and it is within rather than on the boundary of the North Field, but the enclosure map is probably more accurate in this respect.)

"Common sewers" are also shown as the eastern and northern boundaries of the Shard fields. These waterways are probably the Peck and the Earls Sliuce as described by Nicholas Barton<sup>18</sup>.

Thus in 1610 there was a stream flowing near Bowles Road across the Old Kent Road. This could have been the dyke which Mr Campion Brewer had to bridge.

### Summary

Place name evidence suggests there was a Roman vicus in Peckham just south of the Old Kent Road. Excavations by the Museum of London have produced evidence of probable Roman settlement near Bowles Road, and some Roman activity at Asylum Road. The position of the Bowles Road excavation, between Trafalgar Avenue and a point to the west of Peckham Park Road, and the presence of a stream there, suggests that the field Wicham could have been here. Further research and excavation may show whether this was a *vicus*.

### Acknowledgements

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## Excavations and post-excavation work

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**City of London.** Enquiries to Museum of London Archaeology Service, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (071-972 9111).

**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 (081-688 2720).

**Greater London** (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (071-972 9111).

**Borough of Greenwich.** Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1JT (081-855 3240).

**Hammersmith & Fulham,** by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (071-731 4498).

**Kingston,** by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (081-546 5386).

**North-east London,** by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Newham Museum Service, Archaeology and Local History Centre, 31 Stock Street, E13 0BX (081-472 4785).

**Surrey,** by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Planning Department, Pelham Lodge, Kingston, Surrey (081-541 9457).

**Vauxhall Pottery,** by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. Enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, SE17 (071-703 3324).

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