

are often found on important administrative boundaries, such as Toothill, Cookham in Berkshire¹⁹, Toothill in Pirton, Hertfordshire²⁰, or Toot Hill, North Kelsey in Lincolnshire²¹. It is thus no surprise to find a *tot-hyl* at Westminster on the important administrative boundary of the River Thames.

Examination of Rocque's mid-18th century map of London appears to illustrate the presence of the *tot* mound. It is set well back on the line of the original land surface, and commands an excellent view of both the city and Westminster. Rocque's map indicates that the mound was built in at least two stages²². Traces of the site exist to the present day.

19. M. Gelling *The Place-Names of Berkshire Part One* English Place-name Society 49 (1973) 87.

20. J. E. B. Gover, A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton *The Place-names of Hertfordshire* English Place-name Society 15 (1938) 22.

There is the slight rise of Regency Place – the junction of Rutherford Street, Horseferry Road, Maunsel Street and Ayneway Street. A more pronounced slope occurs at the western end of Page Street. Indicative of an earthwork is the subsidence crack running through the structure of 14 Maunsel Street, part of a long Georgian terrace. It is possible that the site could be ascribed to some other landscape feature, but it dates prior to the Civil War and is unlikely to be a windmill due to its place-name.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Gustav Milne for his advice and Jane Sidell for the use of certain maps.

21. K. Cameron *The Place-Names of Lincolnshire, Part Two* English Place-name Society 64/5 (1991) 185.

22. Cf. fn 12.

Letters

Finds research

MAY I congratulate you on printing the review of recent finds research by Hedley Swain in your Winter 1995 issue? As someone who tries to keep in touch with London's archaeology can I say how much I appreciate this sort of article?

A Museum of London Archaeological Service (MOLAS) archaeologist recently suggested to me that it was impossible for anyone other than a MOLAS archaeologist to write an up-to-date (and by implication worthwhile) book on the archaeology of London. I hope this is not true, because if it is it suggests that MOLAS is not publishing quickly enough, or providing detailed enough interim statements. Be that as it may, MOLAS articles such as Hedley Swain's contribute an enormous amount to keeping the rest of the archaeological community in touch.

For those who missed the article it is worth, I think, reiterating what to me seem to be the most exciting discoveries Swain draws attention to (the references suggest that this is the first time some of these gems of information have appeared in print). I include a brief note on their possible consequences but please note that these interpretations are not necessarily Hedley Swain's: the identification of conquest period pottery from an excavation in Park Street, Southwark – arguably making Southwark the oldest part of London,

the discovery of a new form of amphora produced in St. Alban's and suggesting a 'flourishing wine industry' in Roman Britain, the identification of *Classis Britannica* tiles from Winchester Palace, Southwark, which with other information suggests Southwark was a very important military area in the Roman period,

the finding of rare polychrome relief tiles in the Guildhall, suggestive of early medieval royal presence, and backing a tradition of a Saxon palace in this area,

the recognition of two 5th-century sherds from Professor Grimes' St. Bride's archive which, apart from the rarity of finds from this period, is intriguing considering the folklore which suggest an early foundation for St. Bride's.

I cannot recall another article in *London Archaeologist* which had given me so many new facts to fit into the archaeological jigsaw.

May I therefore encourage you to commission more of this type of paper? Perhaps you could include a news round-up, in which you concentrate on major new discoveries, papers and theories?

The paper suggests that the future place for major new discoveries is not in the field, but in the finds processing room – years after the original excavation. I hope funding bodies and developers will take this into account when setting up budgets.

Finally to balance the praise can I make one small complaint about the same author's work which appeared in the preceding issue (written in conjunction with others), which is simply that the absence of any place names or easily identifiable icons made the reading of Figs. 2 and 7 concerning the site of the Roman road in Westminster much more troublesome than it need have been.

Kevin Flude

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Leyton Playing Field Excavation

WITH REFERENCE to the article in Vol. 7, no. 15 (Winter 1995) please note:

1. On p. 397, the postal code for Leyton is E10; E4 is for Chingford, which is some 4 to 5 miles north of the site.

2. George Mitchell School is not on the site, it is about a quarter mile to the north of the site.

3. On p. 401, it is Church Road, not Church Street.

4. The Arts Building now on the site is not a development of the George Mitchell School; it is a facility used by the School by day and by the Youth Group at night.

5. The playing fields are not just for the George Mitchell School. They are known locally as The County Ground and officially as a Youth Centre. Some twenty schools and other local groups all use the ground at various times.

I note that there are to be other articles on Leyton; it is to be hoped that the authors will be more careful and less misleading in those.

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