

to which gravel of the river bed would adhere. However, Cuming does not quote any source for these observations, and if they were made when the Old London Bridge was demolished in 1831, then Cuming was only 14 at the time. It is even possible that they relate, in some way, to the stone bridge itself.

Clearly we are far from finality in this matter. I think that it would be rash to rule out Old London Bridge as the position for the Saxon and early Norman wooden bridge into the City of London.

Saxon Southwark — a suggested sequence

Very little indeed is known about Saxon Southwark either archaeologically or historically, but in the light of our present knowledge it is possible to suggest a sequence which it may well be possible to check by excavation in the next few years, particularly those at Montague Close this summer (i.e. 1970) and in following years.

We know that Southwark was a Roman suburb of London from at least c. 50 to approximately A.D. 400. It is suggested here that this is followed by a short sub-Roman phase of perhaps 50 or 100 years when, probably, the same population, more or less, continued to occupy Southwark but when the organised fabric of Roman life had broken down (as in such things as the disuse of the bridge and the building of timber buildings on top of the roads.) After about A.D. 500 the site is more or less completely abandoned until the founding of the Burgh about 900, when a new bridge was built and the road pattern changed. After this Southwark prospered in the late Saxon period, as the site of a Mint, a Burgh (a fortified settlement, one of a chain built by Alfred and his successors against the Viking Invaders) and probably a Borough (i.e. enjoying some form of

urban government), and, by 1066 playing part at least of the role of a county town for part of Surrey.

It is to be stressed that this is a very hypothetical sequence but there is a little evidence for it. Slight evidence for the first part was provided by the excavations at Montague Close last year⁷, and the latter part is provided by documentary evidence (i.e. Burgh, Mint and County Town). It is hoped that more substantial archaeological evidence for the whole sequence will be forthcoming this year at Montague Close (or perhaps for a different sequence), but it is very similar to the sequence suggested for Winchester and it may well occur elsewhere, in Roman settlements. Of course there must be exceptions and the City of London must be one of them, for there a trading settlement was in existence by the 8th century as recorded by Bede, and archaeology suggests that *Hamwih* (Southampton) may be another. If this is really so, it is interesting that the City and Southwark would then have a different development from each other, a very different position from that in the Roman period, and this would be accounted for if there was no bridge between the two, and therefore that they were separated. Indeed, as far as written history for the period goes, London seems to be connected with areas to the north of her rather than to the south. But one must remember that the lines of the Roman roads were more or less preserved at least as far as the settlement itself, even if not up to the bridge.

7. *London Archaeol.* 1 (Winter 1969) 114-7, but recent work has suggested that 1, the sub-Roman phase is late Roman; 2, the posts are not of timber buildings; 3, they do not indicate disuse of the road or bridge.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **the London Archaeologist**

THIS WILL take place at 6.15 on Friday the 9th June at Church House, Dean's Yard, S.W.1.

The annual report and accounts will be presented. The proceedings will include the election of officers and also the election to the Publishing Committee of the five local society representatives whose nominations should be made in writing not less than 14 days before the A.G.M. to the Chairman, 779 Great Cambridge Road, Enfield.

Local societies are invited to send one representative with voting powers to the A.G.M.; individual

subscribers to the magazine and their friends will also be welcome to attend. A copy of the agenda will be circulated to all societies known to be interested in *the London Archaeologist*. Further copies will be obtainable from the Secretary of the Publishing Committee, 3 St. Johns Avenue, S.W.15.

The lecture following the business meeting will be given by Harvey Sheldon, the newly appointed Field Director for Southwark, on "Aspects of Rescue Archaeology in the London Area."