

Excavation Round-up 1973

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THIS article is the second featuring a round-up of all known excavations carried out in the London area during the last year. It shows the extent and range of excavations without providing a comprehensive report on each site. Further details may be obtained from the organising body (for addresses see L.A. Vol. 1 No. 15 et seq. or apply via editorial office).

The excavations are listed according to the London Borough or County in which they occurred. Each excavation site is followed by the name of the organising body, with the name of the director in brackets. W.C. and W.M.C. indicate respectively that work continues or work may continue.

The assistance of all the directors and others who supplied the material from which this list was produced, is gratefully acknowledged. The editor would be grateful to hear of any omissions.

CITY

Blackfriars, Baynards Castle area. Guildhall Mus. Dept. of Urban Archaeology (P. R. Marsden). Excavations under the southern carriageway of the new riverside motorway revealed the SW multiangular tower of the Castle (15th c.). The limits of a 16th c. extension of the Castle were defined. The area west of the Castle was occupied by a stone-lined dock and by large deposits of domestic rubbish dumped for land reclamation and containing many well-preserved objects.

Bread Street, St. Milfred's Church. G.M., D. of U.A. (M. Guterres). The earliest features observed were connected with Roman (?Claudian) timber structures; several timber slots were seen in section and one posthole was exposed in plan. Overlying were the remains of an early Roman masonry building which contained an *opus signinum* floor, 5m. wide and which was constructed some time during the 1st c. and destroyed at the turn of the c. There was also part of a (?11th c.) hut pit; the hut had been constructed by setting the main posts directly into the natural gravel and the wall which was of clay, had been faced with planks. Fragmentary remains of the walls of the medieval church were visible under the Wren foundations.

Greyfriars (Christchurch). G.M., D. of U.A. (R. Johnson). Part of the medieval east wall and three of the medieval pillar bases were found below the foundations of Wren's church; the bases were linked by trench-built arches. Over 6m. of deposit still survives within the church.

Lower Thames Street, Old Custom House site. G.M., D. of U.A. (T. W. T. Tatton-Brown). A Roman timber quay (?mid-2nd c.) was found; this was a large pre-fabricated structure and ran for at least 50m. across the site. The eastern section was of a boxed structure with tiers of wooden beams which had been dovetailed into the main quay wall (see next issue). Two successive medieval braced timber quays were also found, the first possibly dating to the 13th c. (see this issue).

BARKING—No excavations.

BARNET

Church Terrace, Hendon. Hendon and District Arch. Soc. (E. Sammes). Site south of St. Mary's Church, Hendon. Ditches of possible late Saxon date together with grass-tempered pottery sherds and animal bones. Overlying was a layer contained 13th-14th c. sherds together with a coin of the same period, also the footings of two previous dwellings and a large roof tile scatter. In the associated layers were pottery sherds of 16th-18th c. date, including part of a polychrome delftware wall tile, tobacco pipes, hand made pins and broken glass bottles. In the rubble were fragments of 14 small, hard yellow-green bricks, similar to those found last year at the Burroughs Gardens site. W.M.C.

BEXLEY—No excavations but some field work.

BRENT

Old St. Andrews Church, Kingsbury. Wembley Hist. Soc. (H. A. Murgatroyd and P. Storr Venter). Excavations on reputed Saxon church site which incorporates Roman material. A few sherds of Roman pottery have been recovered. There is no evidence of Saxon occupation, the earliest evidence of post-Roman occupation is 13th c. The number of sherds of coarse pottery recovered indicate some secular occupation of the site during this period. W.C.

BROMLEY

Fordcroft, Orpington. Bromley Borough Council Mus. (S. Palmer). Continued excavation of the Roman villa site has revealed two complete rooms and part of a third apsidal room with remnants of a possible hypocaust system. Finds include much pottery and building materials, several loomweights and home hairpins. W.M.C.

Lower Warbank, Keston. West Kent Border Arch. Gp. (E. Mynott). A possible third series of post holes, dating to the Iron Age, forming a 4-post structure was found. More of the early Roman enclosure ditch was found together with two areas of metallurgy.

CAMDEN—No excavations.

CROYDON

Church Meadow, Addington. Croydon Nat. Hist. and Scientific Soc., Arch. Sec. (L. Thornhill). Trenches were opened up as near to the ancient church as possible and revealed traces of an early medieval structure. It consisted of foundation walls of flint set in gravel and clay, abutted on the east by a flint pavement consisting of two layers, which measured 16m. E-W by 7m N-S. The unexcavated part of the building lies under a block of flats. The lack of pottery finds later than the 14th c. suggests an abandonment some time in this period.

No. 2 Waddon Road/160 Church Street. C.N.H.S.S. (R. Savage). Continuity of occupation from medieval times at the junction of several important local roads.

Edridge Road. C.N.H.S.S. (R. Savage). Six trenches were opened up over an area some 500 ft. N. of the known pagan Saxon cemetery. Finds dating from the 17th c. and earlier were scarce. None of the evidence contradicted the view that this area was originally one of the medieval open fields. Apart from one fragment of Samian there were no Roman or Saxon finds. None of the bone fragments were human. There was evidence of Victorian gravel working.

EALING

Horsendon Hill, Greenford. Wembley Hist. Soc. (A. H. Murgatroyd and P. Storr Venter). A trial trench dug at the top of the Hill confirms the field evidence of a hill fort. A substantial quantity of pottery and flints were recovered. The earliest flint has been identified as a Mesolithic micro-burinoïd. Other finds date through to the Belgic period. Some pottery of this period shows Roman influence. There is obviously a long period of occupation on this site, but disturbance makes it difficult to recover any stratified finds.

Northolt. Northolt Excav. Committee. (R. G. Lancaster). Continued excavation of the N.E. perimeter of this moated site uncovered further 12th to 14th c. features. W.C.

ENFIELD

Churchfield, Edmonton. Enfield Arch. Soc. (H. Randall). Surface finds near Bury Street led to trial trenching which has revealed two pockets of Roman tile and pottery. Coins and other small finds were found with 2nd to 4th c. pottery. No structural remains have yet been discovered. W.C.
Seventh Ave., Bush Hill Park. E.A.S. (J. Green). Work revealed a pit sealed with a layer of gravel containing a small amount of Roman pottery and three bronze coins of late 3rd/4th c. date. W.C.

GREENWICH

Middle Park Farm. South-East London Arch. Gp. and Eltham Soc. (D. T. Jones). 14th/15th c. stray pottery, 16th c. pits with pottery and many fragments fallow deer antler and lower jaws, possible identification as hunting lodges supplying carcasses for nearby Eltham Palace. Occupation break, resumed early 18th c. Building now demolished built c. 1780 contained reused brick 1½ in.-2 in. thick and moulded beams. Extensive remains of earlier 18th c. buildings.

Woolwich Dockyard. Greenwich Council and D.O.E. (T. Courtney). 15th-16th stray pottery. Evidence for tile (?) kiln (?), chalk-lined drain, hard standing c. 1550. Fore-shore covered by expansion of yard c. 1660 identified. Part of domestic range occupied 1650-1748/52 located; brick drains, lavatory, lead water pipes, domestic boilers (brew-house?), iron window frames, leading and glass, cannon balls, domestic rubbish. W.C.

HACKNEY—No excavation.

HAMMERSMITH

Fulham Palace. Fulham Arch. Rescue Gp. (K. R. Whitehouse). Trial trench through moat and earthworks on S.W. side; finds suggest an unknown Roman settlement; also occupation in the Neolithic period and Iron Age. Evidence would suggest that the moat's inner bank dates to the latter half of 4th c. coupled with the high quantity of finds would infer a substantial settlement. (See this issue). W.M.C.

Fulham Palace Road. F.A.R.G. (K. R. Whitehouse). Rescue excavation on corner site has revealed several hundred flints and wasters and some pottery. Occupation would appear to date to the late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age,

and there was a pit and gully system probably for retaining water. The site was occupied by the 15th c. village windmill. Pottery dates from the medieval period but no trace of the windmill was found. W.M.C.

Fulham Pottery. Fulham and Hammersmith Hist. Soc. (V. R. Christophers). An area of 200 square metres was totally excavated revealing a complex of late drains overlaying a series of late 17th c. pits with remains of some unusual vessels, possible test pieces, and fragmentary stoneware saucery (*L.A.* 25). W.C.

Crabtree Wharf. Fulham and Hammersmith Hist. Soc., Arch. Sec. (G. Canvin). Rescue work disclosed a large spread of late 17th/early 18th c. domestic pottery and clay tobacco pipes. This appears to be ground made up by dumping of rubbish prior to the wharf's construction.

HARINGEY

Highgate Wood. (A. E. Brown and H. Sheldon). Work concentrated to the north of this Roman site. At the northern end of the N/S ditch, a kiln was found overlying a filled-in clay pit. Two further ditches found, one running N/S, the other E/W, each containing waste material. W.C.

HARROW

Calvary Nursing Home, Sudbury Hill. Wembley Hist. Soc. (A. H. Murgatroyd and P. Storr Venter). Excavation on the outskirts of the medieval village of Sudbury. This site has been very badly disturbed, evidence of medieval occupation coming from pottery found scattered in the natural clay. The sherds are very small, and would appear to have been trodden in. W.C.

Pear Wood, Brockley Hill. Brockley Hill Excav. and Field-Work Gp. (S. A. Castle). A large trench was cut at right-angles across the linear earthwork which transverses the centre of the wood, and is possibly an easterly continuation of the Harrow and Pinner Grim's Ditch. Quantities of 4th c. finds in the bottom of the bank and deep down in the ditch indicate late or post-Roman date.
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Tennis Court Site. B.H.E.F.W.G. (S. A. Castle). A large quantity of re-deposited 1st/2nd c. waste pottery, including 66 mortarium stamps, was recovered from the bank of the tennis court, built in 1909.

HAVERING—No excavation.

HILLINGDON—No excavation.

HOUNSLOW

Cranford. London and Middlesex Arch. Soc. and Gunnersbury Park Mus. (R. G. Lancaster). Trial excavation on the eastern of the two moated enclosures uncovered a timber slot (14th c.) which was sealed by a soil layer with 13th and 14th c. pottery. This layer was in turn sealed by a soil layer with sherds etc. of the late 12th(?) to late 18th c.

ISLINGTON—No excavations.

KENSINGTON and CHELSEA—No excavations.

KINGSTON

Fairfield Road. Kingston upon Thames Arch. Soc. (M. Morris). Small excavation adjacent to 1968 medieval kiln site produced no further evidence of pottery manufacture.

LAMBETH

129 Lambeth Road. Southwark Arch. Excav. Com. (E. Ferretti). Drains and cesspits ranging from 17th to 19th c. found. Northern and western parts of site contained 13th c. pits with pottery.

LEWISHAM

Sion House, 358 Lewisham High St. Lewisham Nat. Hist. Soc. (K. White). House thought to be on later 17th c. foundation, with rebuilding c. 1730 and in 19th c. Probable 16th c. walls close by and under cellar, not connected, purpose not established. Two circular pits, probably 15th c. One, wood lined with vertical planks, and a dome top of horizontal laths of decreasing diameter, set in a larger pit. Possible water course under the house, filled by 16th c. occupation material mainly sherds, continuous from early medieval. W.C.

MERTON

Ravensbury Manor House, Ravensbury Park, Mitcham. Merton Hist. Soc. (E. N. Montague). 18th c. flint cobbled yard exposed, surrounded by foundation of domestic out-buildings. Beneath, a complex of brick drains and, overlying natural silt, a scatter of medieval sherds.

NEWHAM—No excavation.

REDBRIDGE—No excavation.

RICHMOND—No excavation.

SOUTHWARK

Mark Brown's Wharf. Southwark Arch. Excav. Com. (J. Alexander and H. Sheldon). Site W. of Tower Bridge. Southern area produced 17th and 18th c. building debris and evidence of pottery dumping associated with the deft-ware potteries. Northern area contained little of this debris and pottery, but a band of peat c. 0.6 m. thick, appears to equate with the so-called 'upper' or 'Roman' peat, thought to represent a regression of the river in the later prehistoric period. Taken with the silt deposit above it, this indicates an area under water in the Roman period. W.M.C.

Swan Street, Great Dover Street Junction. S.A.E.C. (B. Johnson and I. Schwab). Roman inhumation of late 2nd or early 3rd c. found. Evidence of marshy nature of the ground in early Roman period indicated by work done on snail shells from the site. W.C.

New Hibernia Wharf. S.A.E.C. (P. Evans, H. Sheldon and S. Walker). Site just W. of London Bridge. Much destruction by 19th c. cellars, but evidence found of late 13th c. river erosion previously identified at Toppings Wharf on E. side of Bridge. In northern area the base of a masonry river wall, possibly of early 17th c. date was found. W.M.C.

Montague Close. S.A.E.C. and Southwark and Lambeth Arch. Soc. (G. J. Dawson). Excavation of the areas on either side of the possible approach to the Roman bridge. The area was cut about by 1st c. quarrying leading to very damp conditions and peat growth. Above this was a complex series of rather flimsy structures mainly of clay, some with timber facing. These continue until at least the 3rd c. and are succeeded by a deep black silt layer which is 4th c. or later in date, and which is cut by a series of exceedingly large late Saxon pits, the first structures of this period to be found in Southwark W.M.C.

SUTTON—No excavations.

TOWER HAMLETS

Morville Street, Old Ford. London and Middlesex Arch. Soc. (I. Schwab). Four Roman ditches containing late 1st or early 2nd c. pottery found, possibly field boundaries. W.C.

WALTHAM FOREST—No excavations.

WANDSWORTH

Parish Church, Putney. Wandsworth Hist. Soc. (S. E. Warren). Excavation inside the burnt-out shell has revealed the N. wall of the early 14th c. church and pier bases and walls of the 17th c. church which incorporate reused medieval material. W.C.

Gay Street, Putney. W.H.S. (N. Farrant). Continued work on this site has produced a mass of Roman building material, ditches and further evidence of the N/S road.

Danmere Street, Putney. W.H.S. (P. Greenwood). Trial trenches have produced a light scatter of Neolithic flints and Roman pottery.

Malbrook Road/Upper Richmond junction, Putney. W.H.S. (P. Greenwood). Attempt to check alignment of probable Roman E/W single track road has proved successful. W.C.

WESTMINSTER

New Palace Yard. Dept. of Environment (B. Davison). Excavations revealed the foundations and brick conduits of the 15th c. fountain shown in Hollars later engraving of 1647. Other evidence showed that the yard had been an open space since the 11th c. and that no Norman or pre-Norman buildings had occupied the site.

Staines High Street. London and Middlesex Arch. Soc. (M. Rendell). Site watching and rescue work continued over a large area of Staines bordering on the High Street and further evidence of Roman occupation was found.

ESSEX

Abbey Forge Site, Waltham Abbey. Waltham Abbey Hist. Soc. (P. J. Huggins). Excavation of the 13th c. forge completed. The building and features have been conserved and opened for public viewing. Full report in *Essex Archaeol. Hist.*, 5 (1973).

Town Sites, Waltham Abbey. W.A.H.S. (P. J. Huggins). Excavated in Greenyard, Sun Street and Romeland to study the development of the town. The Romeland site was a swamp first occupied in the late 12th/early 13th c. with evidence that the area was possibly a stonemason's yard for the construction of the Abbey; the first clearly domestic occupation was represented by a screens passage house of the second half of the 15th c. An early 18th c. brick house with cellar in Romeland measured 13.6m. x 5.6m.; an associated cesspit, filled c. 1770, contained several glass wine bottles. W.M.C.

SURREY

Banstead. Nonsuch Ant. Soc. (S. Nelson). Banstead churchyard, the site of the manor buildings known to have been occupied from 1217. 2m. deep ditch and a well construction pit had a quantity of late 13th c. pottery possibly linked with the restyling of the manor buildings by Edward I in 1275/6. To one side of this were the heavily robbed remains of flint walling and some roof vaulting voussairs and painted plaster, probably representing a building with undercroft erected by the King. Some late 16th c. material occurred in the demolition rubble of this building.

Kempton Park, West London Arch. Field Gp. (R. F. Sheppard). Previous trenches to locate medieval royal manor house extended and completely excavated. Earliest feature located dated to early 16th c. Bronze Age burial urn found within walls of 17th c. manor house. W.M.C.

Saxon County Junior School, Shepperton Green. West London Arch. Field Gp. and London Mus. (R. A. Canham). An area 16m. square revealed a series of small, generally straight gulleys cut into the natural brickearth; in two places oval pits were sited at junction of various gulleys (?soakaways). Of special interest was a 2m. square pit, approx 75 cm. deep with a post hole in each corner (?related to grubenhauser). Pottery ranged through the Saxon period until 12th c. Small finds include coin of Offa.