

Quadrangle round a central courtyard built in Gothic Revival with battlements and corner towers. Bishop Howley in 1814 decided that "Terrick's Gothic Nonsense" should be replaced by a plainer front. The present facade is the result with peculiar looking Gothic church windows, halfway up the north wall, the last vestiges of Terrick's Chapel. Howley removed the Chapel to the Great Hall, transferring much of the old glass there. Unfortunately most of this glass, some of which was over 400 years old, was destroyed during the last War. The present Chapel built by Bishop Tait at his own expense in 1866, also suffered war damage, including the loss of its east window. The Chapel was designed by William Butterfield, as was the half-timbered house at the Palace entrance and the fountain in the Fitzjames Quadrangle.

The last major rebuilding was during the 1850's when Bishop Blomfield, who had a great love of Fulham Palace, spent thousands of pounds of his own money renovating the buildings to ensure that they remained for posterity. The south side of the Fitzjames Quadrangle was rebuilt and buttressed. Blomfield is buried in the churchyard of Fulham Parish Church, adjoining the moat. The nave of the church was designed by his son, Sir Arthur Blomfield, the eminent architect. As a boy he lived at the Palace

and later took a keen interest in Fulham's history. He commented on one being able to see the 'marks' of building foundations, under the east lawn in dry weather; they are still visible today. Apparently the strongly held view, which still pervades, that the moat was defensive and dug by the Danes, was first started by him. He stated that the Danes were the only known large armed force to camp at Fulham before the Conquest.

The tithe barn, at least 17th century, was only destroyed in 1953. This along with the moat being infilled, and the loss of the old glass are notable retrograde steps during the 20th century.

Hammersmith Council have an enlightened policy for the retention and improvement of Fulham Palace, including a botanic garden, art gallery and museum. It is hoped that the history which compares with any great house in England will be exploited to the full. Hammersmith's finest asset from the past can become a very attractive historic building, with a museum (and facilities for archaeological rescue work).

It is perhaps fitting, that in the year the Bishop of London decided to vacate Fulham (1973) after having a residence here for over a thousand years, archaeologists should discover the reason why his predecessor chose the site in the first place.

Roman Roads at Putney

EAST-WEST ROAD

AN EXCAVATION at a building site on the corner of Malbrook Road and the Upper Richmond Road, (TQ 22947532) in west Putney has revealed two parallel ditches 4m. apart with traces of gravel in-between. The density and height of surviving gravel was variable —presumably having been displaced by ploughing and other disturbances; outside the ditches there was loam on top of the natural gravel.

The north ditch of the feature, which was found on the east of the site, was picked up 15m to the west; unfortunately, site conditions made it impossible to locate the southern ditch (if one existed) at this point.

This apparent road aligns with a further small fragment 150m. to the east at the corner of Colinette Road and the Upper Richmond Road (TQ 23097527) which was excavated in 1967 (shown on map p.370 *L.A.* Vol. 1, No. 13). Here the road was only 2m. wide, with two successive surfaces (both with wheel ruts) and a ditch on its north (down-hill) side only. The double width of the road on the recent excavation may represent an overtaking point (as still occurs in some country roads today).

The alignment of the road, if extended eastwards, joins up with the straight section of the Upper Richmond Road east of Putney High Street. (Thereafter it might change direction on the spur at East Putney Station to connect with Stane Street via Clapham Common North Side — an "Ancient Causeway.") If the alignment is extended to the west, it meets at Mortlake church with the medieval road from Priest's Bridge

(south Barnes) and a (?) Roman road from the south west visible in aerial photographs crossing Richmond Park.

Although no pottery definitely attributable to the Roman period was found on the recent excavation, two sherds were found on the 1967 one, but not in direct association with the road. However, with the Roman settlement by the river, two chance finds of coins found alongside its alignment and support from a Saxon boundary charter, there must be little doubt that the road is in fact Roman.

The excavation was directed by Pamela Greenwood for Wandsworth Historical Society.

NORTH-SOUTH ROAD

Behind Putney police station on a site shortly to be developed recent excavation has revealed two parallel ditches 2m. apart with large gravelling in-between; there appear to be two surfaces, one at least with (?) wheel ruts (TQ 2371 7500). The eastern ditch has produced a Roman rim-sherd of the late 2nd/early 3rd century.

The feature appears to be a Roman road going up Putney Hill and its alignment seems to coincide with the north/south road discovered near the river (see map mentioned above). Work is continuing to check the road's direction and date, and to discover whether a converging ditch could both be Roman and on the same alignment as the partial grid of boundary ditches found near the river in earlier excavations.

The excavation is being directed by Pat and Joan Loobey for the Wandsworth Historical Society.