

TOWER HAMLETS

Old Ford, E.3. London & Middlesex Arch. Soc. (W. McIsaac, J. Plouviez and I. Schwab). A site in Usher Road has revealed a complex of pits and ditches of the Roman period. These are located to the N of the London to Colchester road, and seem to represent part of an agricultural system. The material appears to be primarily of the 3rd-4th c., although there is evidence of activity from the later 2nd c. continuing well into the 4th c. W.C.

WALTHAM FOREST—No excavation.

WANDSWORTH

Gwendolen Avenue, Putney. TQ 2371 7500. Wandsworth Hist. Soc. (P. and J. Loobey). N/S Roman gravel road with 2 side ditches (c. 3m centres), leading to main settlement area. (L.A. 2 214). W.C.

Malbrook Road, Putney. TQ 2309 7527. W.H.S. (P. Greenwood). E/W probable Roman road with 2 ditches c. 4m centres; passing place on single track road? (L.A. 2 214).

The Platt, Putney. TQ 2392 7566. W.H.S. (N. Farrant). E ditch located of N/S road in main settlement area, joining up with road at Gwendolen Avenue; ditches (c. 7m centres).

St. Mary's Church, Putney. TQ 2418 7559 W.H.S. (S. Warren). Remains of earlier church (c. 1300) found within burnt-out shell of present building. W.C.

WESTMINSTER—No excavation.

ESSEX

Newton's Pool, Waltham Abbey. TL 377 022. Ministry of Defence. (K. N. Bascombe and J. T. A. Burton). An 18th c. brick-lined, brick-floored pit was excavated, adjacent to the millhead lock in the Old River Lea and connected to it by a narrow brick-lined channel. It was fitted with an iron grille at the base of the downstream end and was probably a latrine pit associated with the adjacent Turnpike and Chequer Inn, demolished between 1806 and 1825.

Powder Mills, Waltham Abbey. TL 376 010. M.O.D. (K. N. Bascombe and W. A. W. Smith) Excavation revealed that the millhead stream, filled in 1950, which powered the mills was created in the second half of the 17th c., the leat being enclosed by planks backed by clay. Probably in the late 18th c. a brick wall on a foundation of chalk blocks was built in front of the planks and the bank heightened. Cartographic and negative archaeological evidence suggest this is not the site of the fulling mill first mentioned in 1402.

Market Place, Waltham Abbey. TL 382 005. Waltham Abbey Hist. Soc. (T. Turner and R. M. Huggins). Roman and later finds were recovered from a service trench south of the Market Place in Sewardstone Road; a trial excavation at the nearby Pentecostal Chapel followed. Material was roughly stratified in deep loam layers. Above natural was Roman material with evidence of burning and slight

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gullies, this was covered by loam containing a scatter of Saxon pottery and above that was a further loam with continuous sequence of 12th to 16th c. sherds. The Roman and Saxon layers and pottery were absent in earlier excavations 70 m. to the south.

24/26 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey. TL 383 006. W.A.H.S. (P. J. Huggins). Excavation showed that part of a standing wall formed the S.E. corner of the Abbey precinct wall. The site was first occupied by the building of a clay platform for a timber-framed building probably of early medieval date. An exceptional find was a Reigate stone Madonna, unfortunately with both head and Child missing, dressed in the style of about 1380; it had been carefully buried in a ditch, presumably following the Dissolution in 1540.

SURREY

Staines, 69A High Street. TQ 0365 7155. London and Middlesex Arch. Soc. (K. Crouch). 4th c. industrial site (metal working), two clay buildings, 12th c. plough soil, 14th-15th c. gravel surface with postholes and post pits and 16th c. brick foundation of ?manor house. W.C.

STOP PRESS

Roman Riverside Wall

A further length of the Roman riverside wall in the City has been discovered immediately east of the site in Upper Thames Street excavated by Martin Millett (see last issue). The wall although lying on its side, incorporates some large ashlar masonry and seems intact to parapet level.

Greater London Field Officer

Harvey Sheldon has been appointed Field Officer in the new Museum of London. Currently he is the S.A.E.C. Field Officer and Chairman of the L.A.M.A.S. Archaeological Research Committee (and of the L.A.). With his new post he will probably have a priority interest in those boroughs where no archaeological activity takes place.