

Excavation Round-up 1975

BRIAN BLOICE

THIS ARTICLE is the fourth in the series featuring an annual round-up of all known excavations carried out in the London area during the previous calendar year. Further details of the excavations may be obtained from the organising body (for addresses see L.A. Vol. 2 No. 9 et seq or apply via the editorial offices).

The excavations are listed according to the London Borough or County in which these occurred. Each excavation site is followed by the grid reference (where possible), the name of the organising body and the name of the director (in brackets). WC and WMC indicate respectively that work continues or work may continue during the current calendar year.

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

CITY

All Museum of London, Dept. of Urban Arch.

50 Cannon St. TQ3244 8097 (A. Boddington). Salvage excavation produced five wood-lined Roman drains and part of a post-hole building.

G.P.O., Newgate St. TQ 3205 8135 (A. Thompson). Bronze Age pottery and traces of (?) Roman and Saxon structures found at N end of site. At S end three distinct phases of St. Nicholas Shambles have been distinguished and over 200 skeletons removed for study. WC.

New Fresh Wharf. TQ 3295 8066 (J. Schofield). A second trench 18m by 3m discovered a long length of the Roman water front, partly robbed in the mid-Saxon period and used as the basis for a rough bank of brushwood around pointed stakes, possibly defensive. The site has produced 5th/6th c. Palestinian amphorae so far unknown in Britain, and a notable group of German mortaria. The whole site (including the 1974 trench) is now approaching publication.

5 Pilgrim St. TQ 3178 8112 (J. Schofield). A brick cellar produced a good group of early 17th c. pottery, imported glass and clay pipes.

10 St. Swithin's Lane. TQ 3270 8098 (L. M. B. Miller). Boudiccan and Hadrianic fire levels succeeded by a rag-stone building and possible road (all disturbed by later Roman pits and medieval and post-medieval tenements have been recorded).

Trig Lane. TQ 3208 8086 (M. Harrison). Excavation to N of area detailed last year has disclosed an early 14th c. timber waterfront associated with masonry foundations, possibly for a crane, and further information on the early shore-lines. WC.

BARKING — No excavation.

BARNET

St. James the Great, Friern Barnet. TQ 2723 9295. Hendon and District Arch Soc. (A. Trewick). Two trenches opened near E end, 18th c brick vault and finely engraved 18th c. brass and lead coffin plates found. Remains of original foundations (?Saxon) now thought to lie within present church building.

1 The Woodlands, Golders Green. TQ 2410 8850. H.D.A.S. (A. Jeakins). Following up investigation of 1968

excavation: a medieval pebble(?) road surface, c. 4m wide, was found containing sherds of 12th c. Hertfordshire reduction kilns.

BEXLEY

Gravel pit, Bexley. West Kent Arch. Gp. Small scale rescue revealed prehistoric pits and ditches.

Opposite St. Paulinus Church, Crayford. W.K.A.G. Small scale rescue revealed prehistoric occupation.

BRENT

Birchen Grove Allotments. TQ 209 868. Wembley Hist. Soc. (P. Storr Venter). Excavation of site of supposed Bronze Age cemetery revealed only 19th c. features.

River Brent. TQ 208 867. W.H.S. (P. Storr Venter). 13th c. pottery and building material was recovered from the bank of the river during the excavation of the adjacent allotments

BROMLEY — No excavation.

CAMDEN

Fox Court, Holborn. TQ 312 817. Inner London Arch. Unit (J. Hinchcliffe). During trial trenching, a brick-lined pit (first half of the 17th c.) was found, which contained a useful group of pottery. The basements were too deep for stratified levels to survive.

Saffron Hill, Holborn. TQ 315 817. I.L.A.U. (D. Whipp). A trial trench was dug, but any archaeological levels had been removed by basements.

CROYDON

Edridge Road. TQ 325 652 Croydon Nat. Hist. and Scientific Soc. (R. Savage). A further four exploratory trenches were dug on this site immediately N of the pagan Saxon cemetery (see Round-up 1973). These showed that the extent of Victorian gravel-digging was even greater than supposed.

EALING

Horsedon Hill. TQ 1625 8434. Wembley Hist. Soc. (P. Storr Venter). Work along the scarp of the hill has confirmed prehistoric occupation of the site: Mesolithic followed by extensive occupation during Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. Some later pottery shows Roman influence confirmed by enamelled bronze linch pin dated to A.D. 40-70. No evidence of Saxon occupation and only inconclusive evidence of medieval occupation.

ENFIELD

Lincoln Rd., Bush Hill Park. Enfield Arch. Soc. (J. Ivens). Gravel area, ditches, sandstone-capped well, coins and pottery of 1st/4th c. found; also thermometer-shaped structure of clay and tile.

Lincoln Rd., Bush Hill Park. London and Middlesex Arch. Soc. (A. Gentry). Post holes and gravel floors of two buildings (no trace of walls), disturbed cremations, pits, ditches, timber-lined well, coins and pottery of 1st/4th c. found; areas of burning suggest industrial activity. At E end of site butt-ended ditches flank gravel road leading towards presumed line of Ermine Street; sealed beneath road was layer containing worked flints and sherds (Neolithic).

99c Baker St. E.A.S. (G. Deal). Dry Brick structure (Victorian) 2.3m deep and 90cm in diameter with brick channel at base, suggesting drainage sump for old road surface.

31 Raliegth Rd. E.A.S. (J. Ivens). Building footings in area of Enfield Palace/Manor House (16th c.); also Victorian well exposed with dry brick construction 3.65m deep laid on wooden beam, fed by natural stream.

GREENWICH — No excavation.

HACKNEY

Temple Mills Lane, E.15. TQ 375 855. Inner London Arch. Unit (J. Hinchliffe). Salvage work in a sewer trench, cut through Hackney Marsh, produced human bones and a number of undateable timber structures.

HAMMERSMITH

Fulham Pottery. TQ 2449 7606. Fulham and Hammer-smith Hist. Soc., Arch. Sec. (V. R. Christophers). Excavation was continued in the SW of the site. Part of a c. 17th c. stoneware kiln was discovered, together with 17th and 18th c. walls, cellars and working floors, a well and remains of 19th c. machinery. Finds include two large groups of 18th c. stoneware and kiln furniture. The excavation of a 17th c. pit at the N end of the site, full of stoneware wasters and kiln furniture was completed. WC.

Fulham Palace (Walled Garden). TQ 2414 7599. Fulham Arch. Rescue Gp. (P. R. Arthur & K. R. Whitehouse). Further evidence of Roman occupation with probable ploughed-up gravel surface (?road), 4th c. ditch and usual debris and coins; overlain by Tudor demolition rubble deposited in 18th c. which could correspond with major rebuilding of the E wing c. 1764. WC.

Fulham Palace (Paddock). TQ 2391 7615. F.A.R.G. (K. R. Whitehouse). Site in NW corner of moated grounds was probably moated off separately in medieval times, enclosing c. 1½ acres; much evidence for medieval occupation, gravel surfaces, ditches, pits; also Roman coins, and worked flints (?late Neolithic). WC.

HARINGEY — No excavation.

HARROW

Elstree Hill South. TQ 177 952. London and Middlesex Arch. Soc. (M. J. Hammerson). Excavation c. 400m S of known Roman tile kiln yielded a scatter of Roman tile, probably reused during medieval period; a deep pit with 14th c. sherds and one Roman rim sherd; and shallow silt-filled channels with charcoal and 14th c. pottery.

Potter Street Hill, Pinner. TQ 1071 9121. Mus. of London with West London Arch. Fd. Gp. (A. Laws). Part of medieval kiln of probable 13th c. date. Contents included jars and bowls with applied decoration, jugs with slashed and thumb impressed handles and curfews; mostly hard grey fabric containing large numbers of small flint grits.

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital entrance, Brockley Hill. TQ 174 939 Brockley Hill Excav. & Fd. Work Gp. (S. Castle). Considerable quantities of amphorae sherds of the last 1st or early 2nd c. in a fabric typical of the granular wares of the Verulamium region, including Brockley Hill; they may represent kiln waste.

R.N.O.H. tennis courts, Brockley Hill. TQ 173 941 B.H.E.F.W.G. (S. Castle). Further quantities of waste pottery of the 1st/2nd c. including a new mortaria stamp.

HAVERING

Havering Regional Park. TQ 500 930. Passmore Edwards Mus. (P. M. Wilkinson). Excavation revealed an area of Roman industrial/agricultural activities consisting of gullies

and working floors beside a group of cremation burials. Much building debris and pottery had been dumped presumably from a villa in the vicinity in antiquity. The main activity was in the 3rd and 4th c.

HILLINGDON—No excavation.

HOUNSLOW

Syon Lodge, Isleworth. TQ 1667 7682 Mus. of London with West London Arch. Fd. Gp. (A. Laws). A small scatter of abraded late Roman pottery and a considerable amount of 19th c. ground disturbance. A deposit of c. 1m of brick earth resting above the gravel produced 144 flint flakes and implements associated with 97 small prehistoric sherds.

Pottery Road/Ealing Road. TQ 182 789 (G. Canvin). Parts of four circular pottery kilns and extensive waste dumps of the early 19th c. revealed during development; the ground plan of one kiln was recovered. The pottery was producing flower pots, dishes and chimney pots in unglazed red earthenware.

ISLINGTON

Farringdon Road/Clerkenwell Road. TQ 314 821. Inner London Arch. Unit (D. Whipp). Trial trenching showed that any archaeological levels had been removed by post-medieval or modern features.

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA—No excavation.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

1A Fairfield Road. TQ 182 691 Kingston upon Thames Arch. Soc. (S. Nelson). Half a metre of plough soil containing medieval to modern material, overlay brick earth in the upper layers of which were embedded a few struck flint flakes and some prehistoric sherds. WC.

LAMBETH—No excavation.

LEWISHAM

Sion House, 258 Lewisham High St. Lewisham Nat. Hist. Soc. (K. White). Work continued on this post-medieval building.

MERTON

Mitcham Grove. TQ 2705 6785 John Evelyn Soc. & Merton Hist. Soc. (G. Canvin). Continuation of the excavation started in 1974 by Surrey Arch Soc. Further 13th c. foundations uncovered and a tile hearth with associated pottery. More delft and stoneware kiln wasters and a large amount of kiln furniture (but no kilns are known to have existed in this area).

St. Mary's Church, Wimbledon. TQ 2449 7140 John Evelyn Soc. (N. Plastow). Excavation of land adjoining churchyard, previously garden of 16th c. manor house; bedding trenches, building rubble and medieval pottery found. WMC.

NEWHAM

Bakers Row, Stratford Langthorne Abbey. TQ 392 834. Passmore Edwards Mus. (P. M. Wilkinson). Work in the Abbey precinct revealed a 13th c. chalk and flint two-roomed house. The house was much altered throughout the medieval period with walls rebuilt and doorways. Sections through the moat gave evidence of regular recutting, often as a result of flooding. The medieval boundary wall of four periods was also traced.

RICHMOND—No excavation.

SOUTHWARK

All Southwark Arch. Excav. Cttee.

District Heating Scheme. TQ 3273 8035—3303 8021. (A. Graham). The two roads to the Roman bridge (from S and SW) were examined. Clay and timber buildings fronted the W side of the N/S road, and were apparently burnt down in the late 1st c. Clay-walled structures further W were burnt down in the early 2nd c. and over laid by later floors. E. of both roads lay a large 4th c. ditch. A stone building with *pilae* and a mortar floor, dating after A.D. 250 was found in Tooley Street, and the edge of the Roman settlement defined by St Olaf House.

Medieval silts indicated late 11th/12th c. dumping over the mudflats. A gravel embankment for 14th c. Tooley St. was uncovered. The S wall of Eglin's Gate, a medieval watergate, was found by Hay's Lane; it was built of rag-stone on timber piles set in clay.

Hibernia Chambers. TQ 3275 8036 (A. Graham). Additional evidence for the Roman road running from London Bridge towards a probable Westminster crossing was recovered, including the edge of the metalling.

Bridge House. TQ 3273 8031 (M. Hammerson). Early 2nd c. occupation levels were found. A medieval cesspit produced a group of late 13th/early 14th c. pottery.

66 Borough High Street. TQ 3265 8005 (M. Dennis and A. Graham). The SE side of a large Roman channel, at least 6m wide and running SW/NE, was examined. The bank had been protected from erosion by a screen of brushwood, and later revetted by wattles supported on large posts; when this collapsed, a revetment of large posts backed with planks was built. The channel was finally deliberately filled, probably early in 2nd c.

89 Borough High Street. TQ 3266 8009 (M. Dennis). Part of a channel of Roman date with timber revetment running E/W; no traces of gravels or of road metalling.

199 Borough High Street. TQ 3253 7986 (C. Murray and L. Schaaf). Three mid-1st c. ditches, perhaps aligned along the N/S road, and a square wood-lined well which had been burnt in the later 1st c., lay at W end of the site; they were overlaid by late 1st/early 2nd c. floors. To the E lay a complex of late 1st/early 2nd c. ditches, into one of which a wooden conduit had been inserted. Several 2nd c. rubbish pits and a deposit of 4th c. agricultural soil lay at E end. A 13th c. tile and chalk structure was probably a cesspit. Four 14th/15th c. pits may have been used for tanning. Two complete 15th c. barrels set in pits were recovered, and a brick-lined 17th c. found.

Copperfield Street. TQ 3193 7998 (A. Graham & H. Sheldon). A flint blade was recovered, and the Roman land surface found in mudflats at + 0.70m OD.

Chaucer House. TQ 3266 7961 (L. Schaaf, E. Ferretti & B. Yule). A probable road ditch aligned along Watling Street lay at the SW end of the site, and was apparently used for drainage or as a source of road metalling. To the NE were three further ditches—two, of 2nd c. date, were probably for drainage, the other, of 4th c. date, was probably a boundary—and a fenced gravel path, all parallel to the road ditch. Two inhumations burials have been found, one lying N/S, the other SE/NW. A late medieval drainage ditch and agricultural soil were examined. A series of 17th c. rubbish-filled brick pits were associated with buildings shown on early maps of Tabard St. WC.

Queen's Building. TQ 3209 7958 (A. Graham & C. Murray). Roman and medieval agricultural soils but no occupation levels indicating that the site lay outside the main settlement area.

SUTTON—No excavation.

TOWER HAMLETS

Butcher Row, Ratcliff. TQ 359 809. Inner London Arch. Unit (I. Schwab). On the northern site, evidence was produced of a creek, running NE-SW, which had been filled in towards the end of the medieval period. Above the infill, a chalk and flint boundary wall ran on a similar alignment. Traces of three 17th c. brick buildings, associated with gravelled yards, lay above. On the southern site, traces of a Tudor garden soil and three 17th c. pits, were all that remained under 18th and 19thc. warehouses.

Goodmans Yard, E.1. TQ 332 809. I.L.A.U. (G. Black). Trial trenching revealed 13th c. gravel working west of Mansell Street. Close to the road itself, the gravel had not been extracted, but deposits had been removed by 19th c. basements.

Royal Mint Square, E.1. TQ 341 806. I.L.A.U. (I. Schwab). Most of the site had been destroyed by post-medieval gravel working and the foundations for a 19th c. railway viaduct. The southern part of the site, towards East Smithfield, proved to be an 18th c. burial ground.

St. Stephen's Rd., Old Ford. TQ 366 833. I.L.A.U. (D. Whipp). A trial trench was dug, but any archaeological levels had been removed by post-medieval or modern features.

The Highway, Shadwell. TQ 350 807. I.L.A.U. (G. Black). During backfilling of the 1974 excavation area, the opportunity was taken to trial trench the area to the S. The levels were shown to drop away steeply towards the river. The continuation of the principal drain from the Roman signal station was located and contained 4th c. material.

WALTHAM FOREST—No excavation.

WANDSWORTH

Althorpe Grove, Battersea. TQ 268 768. South West London Team, Surrey Arch. Soc. (J. S. McCracken). Excavation on Battersea Manor House Estate revealed kitchen garden area (c. 1760). A deep 13th c. ditch running N/S may be an early land boundary. Numerous Saxon sherds, including grass tempered, decorated Ipswich and coarse cooking ware, were recovered. 'Beam slots' which contained Saxon pottery in a sealed context, were cut into the brick earth, suggesting a frame construction building. WC.

Gwendolen Ave., Putney. TQ 2371 7500 Wandsworth Hist. Soc. (P. & J. Loobey). Possible 'Y' junction of N/S single track Roman roads leading to main settlement found, with some associated Roman material.

St. Mary's Church, Putney. TQ 2418 7559. W.H.S. (S. E. Warren). Further excavation has recovered the original foundations of 16th c. Bishop West Chapel. A wall pre-dating the c. 1300 church has also been found. WC.

WESTMINSTER

Westminster Abbey. TQ 300 794. Inner London Arch. Unit (G. Black). Some evidence of the pre-Norman monastery was found, in particular, the possible footing of a timber building. In the post-Conquest period, the site remained an open court between the monastic kitchen and frater until the insertion of the misericorde and its sub-vault in the first half of the 13th c.; the buildings were demolished in the late 16th c.

Westminster Hall. TQ 303 795. I.L.A.U. (D. Whipp). The excavation, on behalf of the DoE confirmed that 19th c. construction work had destroyed nearly all traces of a 13th c. stone building. However, a number of earlier pits and gullies were found and also the footings of a medieval wall. One pit produced an assemblage of coarseware cooking pots.

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THIS VOLUME also issued in 1975 contains 10 articles together with notes. There are several excavation and post-excavation studies but three papers on the medieval ceramic industry particularly complement each other. M. Lyne and R. Jefferies discuss the medieval Alice Holt potters using fieldwork, air photographs and documentary research. Dennis Turner records the finding of a kiln site at Earlswood and M. Prendergast provides a descriptive analysis of the Limsfield potteries. Elsewhere, Graham Dawson discusses his new delftware shape and S. Turner the background to the Earl of Lovelace's building activity at Horsley in the 19th century. A necessary feature, obituaries of buildings, sadly records the great Deepdene at Dorking, Mount Felix at Walton, an almshouse at Egham and churches at Reigate and Weybridge.

The Surrey Society is also publishing a new series of *Research Volumes*, with an A4 size. No. 1 (1974) contains the report by Graham Dawson of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society's rescue excavation in 1968 of a 19th century glasshouse in Lambeth.

It is also perhaps appropriate here to record the increase in the volume page size of the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* beginning with volume 112 (for 1974). JOHN ASHDOWN

ALSO RECEIVED

Etruscan Cities by F. Boitani, M. Cataldi, M. Pasquinucci, M. Torelli, General Editor: F. Coarelli. *Cassell*. £8.50. 336pp. 61 figs. 311pl.

THIS BOOK, originally published in Italy in 1973, is about one of the most fascinating topics of archaeology: the Etruscan civilisation. Copiously illustrated with colour maps and excellent photographs, this work presents as main chapter headings, the history, arts, language and sites of the Etruscans. The reader need not necessarily be a professional archaeologist since the book can also be enjoyed by an amateur wishing to learn about the Etruscan civilisation and its problems.

Recent excavations, such as Luni sul Magra or Luni sul Mignone, are also included in this book as well as very detailed descriptions of all towns, cemeteries and other sites several of which are known only to the specialist. Particular attention has been devoted to the bibliography which is divided into sections relating to the main chapters. This gives the reader, needing to go further into a specific problem, a complete and general view of even the most up-to-date publications.

In conclusion, this is not only a very helpful book for students and amateurs but also a well compiled

source of information for the specialist.

PAOLO BIAGI

The Palace of Nestor, Vol. III. Edited by Carl Blengen and Marion Rawson. *Princeton University Press*. 269pp. 356 figs. £18.30.

The third volume details the results of some of the excavations at Pylos, in Western Messenia, conducted by the University of Cincinnati in 1939 and from 1952-65. The excavations of the Acropolis and lower town, *Tholoi*, grave circle and chamber tombs are all discussed in detail, together with some of the discoveries outside the citadel. Obviously a work of this nature, and at this price, is only for those with a deep interest in Hellenic and Mycenaean studies.

Britain's Buried Treasures. *Drive Publications*. 40pp. 25p.

Appearing from the unexpected source of the Automobile Association, comes this booklet with an introduction which is scathing on the subject of treasure hunters armed with metal detectors, and encourages people to join RESCUE or to apply to the C.B.A. for information about excavations. However, reading on we find the rest of the booklet devoted to a list of famous treasure producing sites and some sites which are reputed to conceal hoards. I was left feeling a little puzzled about exactly which sector of the public this is aimed at.

GALE CANVIN

Excavation Round-up 1975 (Continued)

ESSEX

1-3 Sun St., Waltham Abbey. TL 382 005 Waltham Abbey Hist. Soc. (P. J. Huggins). At rear of site was found 16th/17th c. cellar, 17th c. well filled in 1880, 15th c. water hole lay below post-medieval layers of houseyard; this last cut through two distant levels of loams, one containing medieval material, the other Roman material.

Crown Public House, Roneland, Waltham Abbey. TL 380 006 W.A.H.S. (K. N. Bascombe). No evidence for substantial occupation earlier than 17th c.; bronze working c. 1800, when site was reclaimed from marsh and roughly cobbled. The mill tail-stream was probably dug in 15th c.

SURREY

St. Mary's Churchyard, Ewell. TQ 2221 6304 Nonsuch Antiq. Soc. (R. Temple & J. Barfoot). A spur road or yard of flint nodules and gravel was found running N/W but there was no trace of contemporary buildings. The flint surface had been cut by later post holes and a possible trench.

Friends Burial Ground, Staines. TQ 0370 7152. London & Middlesex Arch. Soc. (K. Crouch). General Roman occupational debris with pits and gullies of 4th c. and medieval date. Other finds include prehistoric pottery, worked flints and an Iron Age cow.

KENT

Farningham Hill, West Kent Arch. Gp. A complete late-Iron Age enclosure site of c. 1½ acres with four original entrances contained many pits and one hut.