

Excavation Round-up 1978

BETH RICHARDSON

THIS IS THE SEVENTH annual round up of all known excavations carried out in London in the previous calendar year. The excavations are listed according to the London Borough or County in which they took place. Each site is followed by a grid reference, the name of the organising body and the name of the director. WC and WMC indicate that work continues or may continue this year. The words "No excavation" by a Borough indicate that, as far as the editor is aware, no excavations have taken place in the year in question, but it should be remembered that much valuable site-watching and recording may have gone on.

The assistance of all the directors and others who supplied the material from which this list was compiled is gratefully acknowledged. The editor would like to hear of any admissions.

CITY

All Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology.

New Fresh Wharf. TQ 329 806. (L. Miller). Observation of the site during contractors' excavation led to the recording of more of the Roman waterfront found in 1974 and 1975 bringing it to 40m. (131ft.) in length, with a post and plank revetment to the N. 39m. (128ft.) of the late Roman riverside wall was also found under the S. side of Lower Thames Street. Further evidence of the Saxon embankments and medieval buildings was produced and two riverbank revetments, probably of the 12th and 13th c., were associated with the latter.

Watling Court, Bow Lane, TQ 323 810 (D. Perring). Six-month excavation beginning in July 1978 produced evidence of timber-framed structures, aligned N-S, which were destroyed by fire, perhaps in AD60, and replaced by the end of the 1st c. by new buildings, and two alleys which followed the boundaries of the earlier structures. In places the new buildings survived to a height of 1m (3ft 3in). Most of the walls were plastered, and traces of eight mosaic/tessellated floors were found, five of them set in *opus signinum* matrix. They constitute the earliest series of mosaic from London. After destruction by fire in the early 2nd c., the site was rebuilt with less substantial buildings which again observed pre-existing boundaries, and which were destroyed by a third fire, possibly of Antonine date. The late Roman to mid-Saxon periods were represented by a thick layer of 'dark earth' into which three cellared buildings of the late Saxon period were erected. These seem to have been sunk some 2m (6ft 7in) below the contemporary ground surfaces, and were lined by planks supported by timber uprights and joists. The one complete example measured 13m x 5.5m (43ft x 18ft) and contained iron waste. All respected the line of an E-W alleyway known to exist in the 14th c., and which coincided with a Roman property boundary. The Saxon buildings were backfilled by the 11th c., when chalk founded walls were constructed. The location and alignment of individual properties was indicated by the regular distribution of cess pits, most of which lay along the E-W alley, to the rear of tenements fronting N on to Watling

Street and S on to Basing Lane. A finely constructed chalk-lined well of the 14th c. was associated with these structures.

G.P.O., Newgate Street. TQ 3204 8135 (S. Roskams). A period of cremations of Flavian date, currently being excavated, imply that this part of the City was outside the official urban area up to the end of the 1st c. The structures, which mark its subsequent assimilation within that area, comprised two substantial timber-framed buildings interpreted as commercial premises fronting on to the Roman Street bounding the site to the E. These are part of a coherent, planned development of the area which took place early in the 2nd c. The commercial premises were destroyed in the Hadrianic fire, but immediately replaced, attesting the resilience of the Roman economy in London at that time. W.C.

Dukes Place, Aldgate. TQ 335 812. (J. Maloney). The recording of a 30m (100ft) section across the defences revealed a sequence of activity from before 120 A.D. to the 17th c. The earliest dated feature was a shallow flat-bottomed ditch (probably a pre-wall boundary), the fill of which contained pottery of c. 120 A.D. and the remains of two human skeletons. The foundation trench for the city wall was cut through a deposit which yielded pottery of c. 180 A.D., as did the internal bank and deposits dumped against the external face of the wall. The wall survived to its full width of 2.7 m (8½ft) and to a height of 1.7 m (5½ft) above the plinth. A longitudinal section through the wall facilitated the recording of details of its construction: a singular feature was an off-set on its external face. A V-shaped ditch, 3.5 m (11½ft) from the wall was possibly contemporary with its construction. A localised change in the construction of the wall proved to be the blocking of a doorway and passage, and it is likely that this medieval postern was a private thoroughfare for the incumbents of Holy Trinity Priory. Other features of the Priory recorded include a doorway and undercroft in the Dörper. An arched brick wall constructed parallel to and up against the internal face of the city wall is probably part of a medieval renovation. Two large medieval ditches and a? Civil War ditch were cut into by a series of post-medieval pits which contained substantial groups of pottery including six pots (four containing paint), a stoneware sherd dated 1591, delftware wasters, kiln furniture and a vitrified brick. A stoneware "Bellarmine" jug containing the remains of pins is thought to have been a witch bottle.

Upper Thames Street. TQ 3241 8084. (K. Flude). Sections were recorded through an E-W GPO Tunnel along the N carriageway of Upper Thames Street, from Dowgate Hill House west to Garlick Hill. Deposits recorded ranged from Early Roman river gravels to Medieval foundations. Among several timber constructions found were 2 box-type Quay Structures, presumably of Roman date. As yet unconnected, one at Garlick Hill has its main baulk aligned N-S, the other at St. James Garlick hythe is aligned E-W. They are the first such structures found west of the Walbrook, and are north of the presumed line of the River-side Wall. W.C.

Lloyds Insurance Building. TQ 3314 8104. (K. Flude). Excavation so far has concentrated on the cut features. Roman features investigated include early Roman pits predating post-holes. The post-holes consist of two types, 2 of each types having been investigated. The first are aligned E-W and are large square features with no sign of a post-pipe, the second are aligned slightly N of E-W, and contain a square post-pipe.

Early medieval pits investigated include a rectangular soak-away, or well, a clay-lined pit, and a presumed rubbish pit containing a bone ice-skate. The latter post-dates a mortar lined feature with a charcoal and ash primary fill, also containing slag, suggesting an industrial use.

Mason's Avenue. TQ 3258 8137. (P. Herbert). A N-S trench cut two open box drains, approx. E-W, dating to 2nd c. or later. Beneath them was a natural stream bed, silted up before the Roman period.

Cutler Street. TQ 334 815. (A. Balfour-Lynn). Examination of trial holes in P.L.A. warehouses. Evidence for two phases of post-medieval occupation before the building of the warehouses c.1800, including a wall apparently built of earth and horn cores. WC.

9-12 Bridewell Place. TQ 3162 8104 (D. Gadd) and **1-3 Tudor Street.** TQ 3152 8095 (A. Thompson). See article on pp. 255-60 of this issue.

BARKING—No Excavation

BARNET

Rectory Close, Finchley. TQ 248 905. Hendon and District Archaeological Society. (P. Musgrove). Before development of the site of the old rectory of St. Mary's-at-Finchley, three trial trenches revealed extensive Victorian landscaping with 13th-15th c. pottery mixed with later deposits at most levels. On one boundary of the site a large ditch was found, cut into the natural boulder clay. WC.

Town Hall, Hendon. TQ 226 892. HDAS. (E. Sammes). Four trenches were excavated at S and W sides of the car park at the rear of the Town Hall. The site was originally part of the Grove. It had been levelled by 20th c. dumping, and beneath this 18th-19th c. pottery, tobacco pipes and field drains were discovered. WC.

BEXLEY—No Excavation

BRENT—No Excavation

BROMLEY

Poverest Road, Orpington. TQ 467 676. Bromley Museum. (S. Palmer). Work at present in progress to erect a permanent structure over the bath house and to consolidate the Roman wall. It is hoped to make the site accessible to the public. A few remaining areas were excavated in advance of contractors. A Roman refuse tip containing large quantities of pottery was found very near the bath house, and a Saxon burial, no 82, was uncovered less than a metre from the Roman building. WC.

Lower Road, St. Mary Cray. TQ 470 673. Orpington & District Archaeological Society. (M. E. Fisher). Romano-British corn drier with quern stones of Niedermendig lava and Millstone grit located in development area. WC.

Lower Warbank, Keston. West Kent Archaeological Group. (B. J. Philp). Excavations took place in the N.E. corner of the site, joining areas completed in 1977 and 1972. A single four-post structure of Iron Age date was found and two large ditches of Romano-British date were excavated. The area also contained several pits and post-holes, mostly of Roman date. A pair of ovens, joined by a brick-lined flue, were found towards the S edge of the site. The finds are mainly 2nd and 3rd c. An excavation on private ground NW of the main occupation area located

the site of a Roman burial in a stone coffin which was discovered and removed in 1938. This was properly recorded, see Kent Arch. Review No. 54 (1978), 88. WC.

CAMDEN

West Heath, Hampstead. TQ 256 867. Hendon & District Archaeological Society. (D. Collins). Excavations continued for the third season with retrieval of more re-touched flints including some geometric microliths, an axe-sharpening flake and a core axe. Further investigation of the hearth led to the recovery of large quantities of charcoal, some of which proved to be pine. Samples have been sent for C14 and TL dating. WC.

Saffron Hill, EC1. TQ 315 817. Inner London Archaeological Unit. (I. Schwab). Trial trench cut to investigate medieval settlement in the Fleet Valley. No evidence of settlement found.

CROYDON

1 Overhill Road. TQ 312 624. Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society. (R. W. Savage). Former boundary bank between Croydon and Sutton sectioned. Claims that this originated as a Roman road leading to the villa at Beddington were not found to be substantiated on this excavation.

Coldharbour Lane. TQ 313 627. CNHSS. (R. W. Savage). A section was cut across the former line of Coldharbour Lane which, with the former Violet Lane, was the strongest contender for the line of the London-Portslade Roman Road. The apparent side ditches were shown to be the result of 19th c. embanking of the lane. No evidence was found to support a Roman date.

EALING—No Excavation

ENFIELD

53 Leighton Road. TQ 339 955. Enfield Archaeological Society. (R. Coxshall). A Roman road was discovered running N-S and close to the presumed line of Ermine Street. It consisted of three layers of gravel makeup with a ditch on the W. side which contained 3rd c. pottery and a Caracalla coin. WC.

30 Upstall Avenue, N 22. E. A. S. (J. Ivens and P. Armitage). A line of 17th c. and 18th c. longhorn cattle horn cores was found which had been set into the clay subsoil to act as a drainage gully. The line was traced 13.4m. (44ft.) and further lines might be found. WC.

Lincoln Road. TQ 340 959. E. A. S. (G. Williams). A weekend rescue dig on the W. side of the 1974 excavation revealed traces of Roman cobbled surfaces and possible beam slots. Tile and 3rd/4th c. pottery were also found.

GREENWICH

Greenwich Park, Greenwich. TQ 393 774. (E. Ferretti, H. Sheldon, B. Yule for S.L.A.E.C.). The Roman stone building and the area adjacent to it were re-examined so as to ascertain whether intended tree re-planting by the Royal Parks Department would cause further damage. (The building was first reported on in 1902 and is now considered to be part of a temple complex). Excavations have revealed two superimposed structures including a tessellated floor belonging to the later building. The masonry foundation of an E-W wall, probably the main S. wall of the later structure, has also been found. This was not robbed out before the mid 4th c. A.D. It is clear that a considerable part of the site has been destroyed in previous diggings, most of which seems to have been carried out before 1902.

Maze Hill Station. TQ 391 778. Greenwich Borough Archaeology Group (D. T. Jones). Limited trial trenching before redevelopment produced floor of gravel quarry last worked late 17th c., covered with layers of debris from subsequent development of Greenwich. Pottery and building materials from 13th to 18th c.

Memorial Hospital, Shooters Hill. TQ 436 765. Shooters Hill History Society. (D. T. Jones). Completion of site of Catherine Wheel Inn, built 1640, replaced mid 18th c. by domestic building called Hazelwood House. Finds included 16th c. pottery and 17th c. and 18th c. pottery and building materials. Large intact vaulted brick cellars c. 1660.

Eltham Palace. TQ 424 740. (H. Woods for the D.O.E.). Excavations continued in advance of display. The width of Bishop Bek's great hall was established: 10.4 m (34ft). An octagonal stone fireplace faced the dias, one bay to its S. There was a flagged porch on the W side of the hall whose S end was not reached. In the area of the chaplaincy timber structures antedating Bek's manor house were excavated. Several phases of building were recorded in the Kings apartments. W.C.

Westcombe Park Road. TQ 396 785. Greenwich Borough Archaeological Society. (E. Platts). Machine dug trenches on the N part of the site of the new Roan School buildings failed to reveal any evidence for the original line of Watling Street. W.C.

HACKNEY

Shore Road, E9. TQ 351 841. Inner London Archaeological Unit. (I. Schwab). Excavation revealed part of the medieval manor house, known as Shoreditch Place. During its initial phase (14th/15th century) a revetted stream ran through the building. This was later blocked off and floors of packed gravel and chalk were laid over the stream. The walls of the building were constructed of chalk, ragstone and tile.

HAMMERSMITH

Blakes/Redline/Esso and Rosebank Wharves, Stevenage Road, Fulham. TQ 2350 7720. Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. (K. R. Whitehouse). Excavation during redevelopment has shown that the flood-plain sand of this riverside site, contains much evidence of Neolithic occupation. The floor level has been identified at approx. 8ft. below the present ground surface. Many worked and waste flints, burnt stones and some pottery, as well as several obscure features, one containing silt deposits (pit or ditch?). WC.

Fulham Palace. TQ 2402 7613. FARG. (K. R. Whitehouse). Test trench under floor of former 18 c. Drawing Room has revealed pottery and dumped debris dating back to c. 13 c., from earlier structures. Coupled with examination of existing buildings and documentary research, has shown that the 18 c. East Wing is built on the earlier foundations of medieval and Tudor buildings demolished c. 1764, and parts of these buildings are incorporated in the extant walls.

Sanford Manor, Rewell Street, (New Kings Road), Fulham. TQ 2603 7708. FARG. (C. E. Oliver). Trial trenches in gardens and examination of existing 17 c. house has inferred that the house is an earlier remodelled building. Earliest documentation of this sub-manor is 14c., but it existed earlier. Also, sherds and wasters from documented tin-glaze and stone-ware pottery active during 1790's. WC.

Swan Wharf, SW6. TQ 243 758. Inner London Archaeological Unit. (D. Whipp). Trial trenching revealed the brick foundations of a malthouse which was probably erected in the late 17th c. It was decided that the archaeological potential did not warrant the large costs involved in excavating this site.

Burlington Road, SW6. TQ 244 762. I.L.A.U. (P. Mills). Prior to a housing scheme redevelopment a trench was cut to assess the extent of the medieval village of Fulham.

Though no tenements were found a series of pits dating from the 17th-19th c indicated that the area lay within the perimeter of the settlement.

HARINGEY — No excavation.

HARROW

Park House, Stanmore. TQ 166 927. Stanmore & Harrow Historical Society. (G. Salveson). Small trench in rear yard revealed 19th c. pebbled surface and pot ranging from 16th-19th c. One 13th c. sherd also found. A well, mentioned in mid 19th c. deeds, was found under the rear house wall and was left unexcavated.

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Brockley Hill. TQ 174 939. SHHS. (G. Salveson). Two trenches in the hospital grounds dug in advance of building work proved to be sterile.

HAVERING — No excavation

HILLINGDON

Manor Farm, Ruislip. TQ 091 879. Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society. (R. A. Bedford). Trial trenching took place to try to locate the site of the 12th c. priory. WC.

HOUNSLOW

Brentford High Street. TQ 178 774. Museum of London with West London Field Group. (A. Parnum). Excavation revealed the remains of an 18th c. clay pipe kiln. A further stretch of the London-Silchester road (Roman) was located with adjacent 1st-4th c. settlement. A gulley sealed beneath the early road ditch contained pottery thought to date to the Conquest period.

ISLINGTON

Finsbury Pavement, EC2. TQ 328 818. Inner London Archaeological Unit. (I. Schwab). The site was trial trenched with the intention of recovering further information about the Moorfields Marsh. From the deposits observed, the site appears to lie on an island within the marshy area.

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA — No excavation

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

76 Eden Street. TQ 182 692. Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society. (P. Nicolaysen). Two trenches opened on this site in January 1978. Several pits and trenches were found, containing artefacts dating back 5 or 6 centuries. These included Surrey White Ware sherds which may come from the nearby kiln. A third trench in an adjacent car park contained similar pottery to the other trenches in its upper levels and a short length of bank of a possible ditch in the lower levels.

LAMBETH

Vauxhall Pottery. TQ 303 781. Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. (Roy Edwards). Some 300 sq m. (3200 sq ft.) of the final building were uncovered. At the E. end there were three circular stoneware kiln bases 6m. (19½ ft. deep), one (unexcavated) built on the floor. These Singer (1835-65) kilns replaced three smaller ones (4m. (13ft.) deep) attributed to Whisker (1812-35), and these in turn overlay 18th c. rectangular delftware type kilns. One of these appears to be some 4m. (13ft.) sq internally. Part of the pottery yard is also under excavation and large delftware waste dumps have been found.

Finck Street, SE1. TQ 307 781. Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee. (R. Densem). See "Recent Work in Lambeth" in previous issue.

Lambeth Walk/Black Prince Road, S.E.11. TQ 307 786. S.L.A.E.C. (E. Dain). Work commenced in late 1978. WC.

20 Lower Marsh, S.E.1. TQ 310 796. S.L.A.E.C. (R. Densem and E. Ferretti). "Recent Work in Lambeth" in previous issue.

Morley Street, S.E.1. TQ 313 794. S.L.A.E.C. (R. Densem). This site lies on the Roman road from London Bridge to the Westminster crossing. A small hand-dug trench was opened in preparation for trial machine work. A ditch with a primary fill of c. A.D. 1670 cut into the natural clay over the flood plain gravels and seems to have removed any earlier archaeological deposits in the small area examined. The fill contained much kiln debris: broken unglazed delft pot (biscuit), and saggars.

Sitewatching. Sitewatching was carried out on nearly 50 redevelopment sites in 1978. Details available at the S.L.A.E.C. office.

LEWISHAM — No excavation

MERTON

Merton Priory. TQ 265 696. South West London Team of Surrey Archaeological Society. (J. S. McCracken). The excavation of the 12th c. chapter house of the Austin Priory at Merton was completed. The building was of two phases: a rectangular structure 10m. x 17.50m. (33ft. x 57ft.) with flint foundations on a gravel base; and a later addition of an apse wall extending the building by a further 5m. (16ft.) to the E. Portions of the cloister and the Canons cemetery (ten graves) were also excavated. Two sections of flint and chalk walls were located in a trial trench some 15m. (49ft.) E. of the apse. These are presumed to be part of the infirmary. W.M.C.

St. Lawrence, Morden TQ 250 675. Merton Historical Society. (W. Rudd). Sherds of early medieval pottery were found on the N. side of the churchyard.

NEWHAM—No Excavation

RICHMOND UPON THAMES

Barnes Parish Church. TQ 220 765. South West London Team of Surrey Archaeological Society. (J. S. McCracken). Church gutted by fire in June 1978. The fire revealed fragments of medieval wall painting adhering to the S. and E. walls of the church. These mostly consist of red lines on white plaster creating the impression of stone blocks. The most recent painting has a six petal flower in the centre of the block. A Norman arch has been revealed in the S. wall and the roof of the S. aisle has been found to date to c. 1500. WC.

The Retreat, Retreat Road, Richmond. TQ 176 748. S.W.L.T. of S.A.S. (A. Robinson). Excavation in advance of development of a site near the presumed location of the late 15th/early 16th c. friary associated with Richmond Palace failed to reveal any structures. Post-medieval pits were found along with a quantity of Tudor demolition rubble. Two well preserved wooden barrels set within the demolition were recovered.

47 Kew Road, Kew Green. TQ 138 774. S.W.L.T. (L. & R. Adkins). Development revealed six soakways and an underground brick chamber. The former had internal diameters of 1-1.5m. (3-5ft.). The chamber appeared to be the butt end of a cellar which was 2.6m. (8½ft.) wide and was traced for a length of 5m. (16ft.). The roof was a brick vault waterproofed by a covering of sheet lead between the brick work and the soil cover. No dating evidence but the structure appears to be early 19th c.

SOUTHWARK

Arcadia Buildings. TQ 3252 7966 (M. Dean). Roman Watling Street runs SE-NW across the site with at least 5 phases of road metalling overlying a sandy cambered base. A wooden corduroy track under the road make up is either an earlier road, perhaps of a military nature, or a foundation for the road base. There are occupation layers either side of the road which have yet to be fully excavated but signs of sleeper beams indicate a wooden building on the NE side and a wood-lined latrine in this area is of 2nd century date. On the SW side of the road floor layers, but as yet no walls, have been revealed. These are pierced by post holes for a rectangular building which seems to be of early medieval date. Dark earth overlies the Roman deposits and is cut by numerous post-medieval features. Two parallel gullies, 9m. (30ft.) apart, with pairs of post holes along their edges, found in the lower part of this deposit, have tentatively been identified as medieval cloth-stretching tenter frames. Evidence was found of many post-medieval industries such as brush making, cloth fulling, and clay pipe manufacture. Part of a 17th c. clay pipe kiln complex found is undergoing conservation and is soon to be displayed in the Museum of London. WC.

Bankside Power Station. TQ 320 805 (M. Hammerson). Excavations north of Bankside uncovered a succession of river shoreline deposits from c. 14th-16th c. beneath later dumped levels. Late 15th or earlier 16th c. wooden structures possibly represented boat-building or docking facilities but it is uncertain whether they were below water permanently or only at high tide. They were associated with quantities of waste leather probably deriving from the nearby leathermarket.

Hendre Road, S.E.1. TQ 3336 7865 (M. G. Dennis). Trial excavation revealed post-medieval garden soil over natural clay. Cut into the clay was a Roman ditch at a right angle to the nearby Old Kent Road which is the presumed route of Roman Watling Street.

Willson's Wharf. TQ 3318 8028 (B. Yule). Contractor's excavations on the site were observed during February and March 1978. Over the flood plain gravels were water-laid clays which survived up to +2.66m O.D. Dumped post-medieval deposits sealed the clays. Within the sequences of the clays was an organic clay, c. 20cm thick, whose surface was found between c. +.25 and +.50m O.D. This layer, indicating a drop in river level and growth of vegetation in situ, is undated. Samples were taken for radiocarbon dating. During the medieval period deposits in the northern part of the site were cut out by river erosion and there was subsequent silting up. Similar evidence of medieval river erosion was found in excavations at Toppings and Sun Wharves.

SUTTON

Beddington Park. TQ 291 652. South West London Team of Surrey Archaeological Society. (J. S. McCracken). Discovery of 3 silver pennies and William I halfpenny by metal detecting led to an excavation centred on the findspot. No further coins recovered but a quantity of shell tempered pottery (field scatter) and struck flint (Mesolithic) were found. The coins (BMC type IV, two from the Thetford mint, one from Canterbury and one from London) were declared Treasure Trove and are at present in the British Museum.

Bandon Hill Cemetery extension. TQ 300 645. Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society. (J. Perry). A small area of former allotments was trenched to

(continued on page 275)

and perhaps for international reading and comparison, but for easy reading I found the Milk Street presentation most acceptable and would suggest its adoption for future reports. I do not think it is the business of the *LA* to further the ambitions of the Metrcation Board Quango; the aim should be to suit as many of the readers as

possible, and this, to my mind, is one way of doing it.

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Excavation Round-Up 1978 (continued from page 264)

follow up chance finds of Romano-British and Iron Age date discovered between 1974 and 1977 (*L.A.* 3, No. 6, 162) in the Cemetery proper. No features were discovered, nor any Roman cremations, but Mesolithic flints and tools, and pottery ranging from Iron Age to modern were found.

TOWER HAMLETS

Tower Hill. TQ 337 805. Inner London Archaeological Unit. (D. Whipp). An extended excavation and site-watching programme was carried out on a GLC subway scheme on behalf of the D.O.E. A 6 m (20ft.) stretch of the Roman wall revealed surviving to a maximum height of 1 m (3ft 3in). The wall was faced with squared blocks of Kentish Ragstone. At ground level there was a plinth course of large sandstone blocks with a chamfered edge. Behind the wall was the remains of the earth rampart, stretching at least 9 m (30ft.) back. Inside the wall was found the foundations of a stone turret which had been partially excavated in 1936. The Roman ground level did not survive within the tower. W.C.

WALTHAM FOREST

57-59a Church Road, Leyton. TQ 376 867. Passmore Edwards Museum. (P. Greenwood). Excavation revealed below a medieval ploughsoil the butt end of a flat-bottomed enclosure ditch superceded by a number of discontinuous field boundary ditches. A series of large pits showing evidence for intense burning were also found. Apart from some residual Iron Age material the excavated remains date to the late 3rd and 4th c. A.D.

WANDSWORTH

38 Felsham Road, Putney. TQ 239 735. Wandsworth Historical Society. (N. Farrant). Continuing work shows that both the ditches of the Roman road (Round-Up 1977) terminate part way across the site; this and other evidence suggests a crossroads—of a system of centuriation? There are ditches relating to two earlier Roman periods. W.C.

Spring Passage, Putney. TQ 237 759. W.H.S. (N. Farrant). Investigation of flood defence work in the Passage produced four Roman sherds (three joining). Their size and condition indicates that they are not field scatter. The location is on the supposed earliest Roman approach to the Thames.

WESTMINSTER

Cromwell Green, SW1. TQ 302 795. Inner London Archaeological Unit. (P. Mills). Two trenches were cut, prior to landscaping of the site, and a number of prehistoric (possibly late Iron Age) gullies and postholes were identified. Roman and possibly Saxon watercourses were recorded, but although some late medieval drains were found, most of the medieval deposits had been removed in the 19th c.

ESSEX

Essex House, Waltham Abbey. TL 382 005. Waltham Abbey Historical Society. (P. J. Huggins). Small excavation behind Essex House, S. of the Market Place, to see if Romano-British occupation, expected to concentrate under

Market Place, extended southwards. Stray R.B. material found, and medieval and post-medieval evidence including plough marks in the natural clay turning E-W at right angles to Sewardstone Street.

Abbey Mead, Waltham Abbey. TL 382 007. Passmore Edwards Museum. (P. Wilkinson). Excavation on this scheduled site has exposed the corners of two medieval buildings of probable 13th and late 15th c., and industrial area represented by mortar floors and deep rectangular pits possibly associated with the Abbey brewhouse and part of the Abbey water supply system. The Saxon-Norman period is represented by an iron-working area, various pits, ditches and wells and one stone wall-footing for a building lying outside the area of excavation.

KENT

Hextable House, Hextable, Kent. TQ 515 700. Crayford Manor House Historical and Archaeological Society. (E. O. Thomas). Excavations on the site of Hextable House (demolished 1946) have uncovered evidence of Tudor construction with major 17th c. development and 19th and 20th c. additions. W.C.

SURREY

Bridge Head, Market Place, Staines. TQ 033 716. Staines Archaeological Unit. (K. Crouch). Building work revealed remains of 18th c. stone footings. Beneath this and alongside, sealed beneath silt deposits, parallel rows of wooden posts with evidence of cross beams joining the two rows. Associated pottery is 12th-13th c. Small fragments of an 11th c. structure were also found, sealed beneath a second silt layer, dividing this from the above-mentioned structure.

Runnymede Bridge, Egham. TQ 019 719. Surrey Archaeological Unit. (D. Longley and S. Needham). Work on the construction of the M25 bridge over the River Thames revealed archaeological material. Salvage work recorded an apparent Neolithic brushwood structure with associated finds, including two stone axes, and also part of a line of Late Bronze Age piles. Subsequent excavation revealed more of the Neolithic levels covered by about 1½m of material deposited by the river forming a bank on which a Late Bronze Age site, presumably associated with that excavated in 1976, was discovered. The site lay alongside the river and the river bank was fronted by a double row of timber piles. Various pits and post-holes were excavated and a considerable amount of domestic rubbish, including part of a third antler cheek piece, was recovered. The major importance of the site will undoubtedly lie with the vast amount of 'environmental' material which had been excellently preserved under waterlogged conditions. Detailed analysis of this evidence is being undertaken under the general guidance of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory and is likely to prove of outstanding importance. W.C.

Glebe Meadow, Ewell. TQ 221 628. Nonsuch Antiquarian Society. (R. Birch). Excavation on S side of Stane Street. The only Roman features found were an open air hearth constructed over a pit, and a rubbish pit. There were also formless patterns of flint patches and post-holes of unknown date. An intaglio of early 3rd c. A.D. date was found. W.C.