

EXCAVATION IN CLAPHAM

A REDEVELOPMENT site at Rectory Grove, Clapham is being examined by the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee. The site overlooks the Thames and lies at about + 17m (56ft) O.D. on the edge of a remnant of the Taplow Terrace. Trial work in 1980 was intended to discover whether medieval features survived on the site which is close to where the twelfth century church and later manor house stood. One of the machine-dug trenches, measuring c. 5.5 x 2 m (18 x 6½ft), exposed five pits, some intersecting, cutting the surface of the natural clayey sand. The largest pit was about 0.8 m (2ft 4in) deep, 1.2 m (4ft) in diameter and extended beyond the trial trench. The fill contained unabraded sherds of coarse hand-made grass-tempered Saxon pottery, a spindle whorl in the same fabric and some fragments of Roman tile. It was cut by a smaller pit which contained similar pottery and which also extended beyond the trial trench. The fills of the pits were dumped deposits of grey-brown loamy sand, with some lenses of redeposited natural clayey sand. It was not possible to recognise the pits above the level of natural in the trial trench where the sequence appeared to be: natural clayey sand, Saxon cut features, grey-brown loamy sand and post-medieval metalling, perhaps of a yard.

A larger area, c. 20 x 11 m (65 x 36ft), has been opened by machine around the trial trench, but some 50 square metres (500 sq ft) within it have been cut out by a seventeenth century brick-lined cellar. Within the new area it is proving possible to recognise further Saxon features in plan. A few post and stake holes have been recorded, but it is not yet certain whether the plans of buildings will be recovered.

The Saxon features in the trial trench appear to date to the early or middle Saxon period, from a preliminary examination of the pottery. Settlement sites of this period have rarely been found in London, and it will, therefore, be important to establish the nature, date and duration of occupation at Rectory Grove.

COUNTRY LIFE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARD 1981

THIS YEAR the scope of the Award, introduced in 1977 as part of the British Archaeology Awards initiated by Rescue, has been radically altered to reflect more fully the work of professional archaeologists in this country. Country Life believes that this vital work should receive acknowledgement and publicity, and will continue to offer support through its monthly feature "Archaeology Today" which reports on current fieldwork.

For the 1981 Award, local authority units, public corporations, statutory authorities, trusts, museums or archaeological units using professional archaeologists, involved in any archaeological work in the field — including industrial, underwater and aerial — may enter. Survey, excavation, presentation, conservation and recording will all be considered, but conservation of objects within a museum or work on standing buildings must form of a wider project. In previous years the Award was limited to entries from local authorities.

The judges will take into account the technical and academic merit of the work and the contribution made to advancing knowledge. They will consider the local need

for the work, the amount of public involvement and display, and steps taken for conservation and on publication. The relative size and resources of the competitors will be borne in mind.

The winner of this year's Award will receive the trophy at the presentation of the British Archaeological Awards at the British Museum next March. Entry forms may be obtained from the British Archaeological Awards, 15a Bull Plain, Hertford SG14 1DX. Tel. Hertford 58170. Closing date for entries is September 1st.

MORE MONEY FROM LLOYDS BANK FUND

THE AWARDS from Lloyds Bank Fund for independent archaeologists for 1981, recently announced, include two from our area. The Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society is preparing an archaeological gazetteer of Croydon and district, and a grant of £60 will enable them to purchase the aerial photographs that they need. Just to the south, the Reigate and Banstead Archaeological Co-ordination Committee are carrying out the first excavation of a medieval vicarage in this country, at Church Street, Reigate (other aspects of this site were described in *L.A.3*, No. 16, 433-8). The Fund has made a grant of £80 towards the purchase of a drawing board and stand for use in the detailed mapping and illustration of the site. Now who's for next year's awards?

PUDDING LANE EXCAVATIONS

THE EXCAVATIONS at Pudding Lane are generously funded by the English Property Company, and have been in progress since January 1981. Work will continue until the end of August.

Substantial evidence of Saxon activity has been recorded in the form of pits, a timber lined well and a sequence of buildings. Pottery from these levels has been provisionally dated to the 9th to early 11th century.

The lower two-thirds of the site were divided into two terraces in the Roman period. On the upper terrace the remains of a much modified residential building is being examined. At various periods it incorporated a black & white mosaic floor, a hypocaust and several baths one of which was apsidal ended and faced internally with white tesserae.

The earliest levels so far examined on the lower terrace have revealed the late 1st-early 2nd century timber quay (surviving to its full height in places) with its contemporary wharf surface and timber floored warehouses to the north. A well-preserved series of timber drains ran down the centre of the site.

GUSTAV MILNE

TESSERA E

Thank you to all those subscribers who sent in an extra £1 because their bank did not increase their Standing Order in time for the start of Volume 4. We are very grateful for this support.

Congratulations to our Assistant Editor, Beth Richardson and to Chris Green, who were married recently.

Commiserations The very best wishes of the Publication Committee and, we are sure, of all our readers, go to John Earp our photographer, now convalescing after a very serious illness.