

Excavation Round-up, 1982

Part 2

BETH RICHARDSON

BARKING — No Excavation

BARNET

Finchley Manor House, East End Road, N.3. TQ 2552 9004 Hendon and District Archaeological Society (P. Musgrove). Excavation within the building of two small basement areas established that the floor was paved at the same time as the house was built (1723) and that the flagstones therefore do not represent the floor of the earlier manor house.

BEXLEY — No Excavation

BRENT — No Excavation

BROMLEY — No Excavation

CAMDEN — No Excavation

CROYDON

Whitgift Hospital, Croydon. TQ 323 656. Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (J. Davison). Two excavations were carried out, at the S.W. corner and on the south side of this Elizabethan almshouse building (1596), below rooms gutted for renovation.

At the corner of George St./North End the corner of the Chequers Inn (pre 1438) was found with foundation walls 0.8m (2½ft) high. Further east along the south side of the building the kitchen of the inn was located. Tile hearths at several levels and in various positions within the kitchen culminated with a fireplace laid over and outside the south wall of the building presumably in a chimney (not found). Service trenching in the quadrangle revealed a well which had been inside the kitchen of the inn. Time was only available to excavate 3.6m (12ft) of the flint fill without finding the bottom.

EALING — No Excavation

ENFIELD — No Excavation

GREENWICH — No Excavation

HACKNEY — No Excavation

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

1-7 Fulham High Street. Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group (K. R. Whitehouse). Excavation prior to redevelopment mainly produced evidence of the 17th century. A trench along the High Street frontage produced a brick hearth *circa* 17th C. The main part of the building lay under the pavement and roadway due to subsequent road widening. Another trench produced a pit *circa* 1630 containing much pottery, approximately twelve Royal ¼d's, also a Rose Ryal (brass, gold coin weight). Medieval levels produced the usual disturbed coarse pottery and a silver penny of Edward I. WMC.

HARROW

Elstree Hill South. TQ 117 951. Stanmore and Harrow Historical Soc. (G. Salveson). A small trial trench 8 x 2m (26 x 6½ft) was excavated some 40m (130ft) N of the 1980/1 site. It revealed a metallised surface with a shallow ground feature in which there was evidence of packing along one edge. Much coarse Herts ware again found.

HAVERING

Whitehall Wood, Upminster. TQ 570 825. Passmore Edwards Museum. (P. Greenwood). Work so far has revealed traces of prehistoric ditch systems, numerous small pits, a flint-knapping area, pits with calcined flints and a possible settlement area. Dating at present is difficult, owing to the generic nature of the pottery; Late Neolithic or perhaps Early Bronze Age is suggested. W.C.

HILLINGDON

Accommodation Lane, Harmondsworth. TQ 045 774. Museum of London with West London Archaeological Field Group (J. Cotton). A two day salvage excavation of two large parallel ditches c. 21m (69ft) apart uncovered during gravel extraction north of the Colnbrook by-pass, produced a number of pieces of struck flint. Further stretches of these same two ditches, discovered to the south at Stanwell by the Surrey Archaeological Unit, have there been interpreted as forming part of a late Neolithic ceremonial avenue or 'cursus' (*L.A.* 4 (6) (Spring 1982) 159).

Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth. TQ 057 780. Museum of London with West London Archaeological Field Group (J. Cotton and J. Mills). Excavation of an area in excess of 2,000 sq m (24,000 sq ft) to the South and West of previous work on this projected 60 acre gravel extraction (*L.A.* 4 (2) (Spring 1981), 47; *Ibid.* 4 (6) (Spring 1982), 164) has revealed a sequence of features ranging in date from the Neolithic to Saxon periods.

The earliest features include a small series of later Neolithic pits and clearance hollows, some of which appear to have been cut by a narrow, irregularly-dug double-ditched trackway running N-S. Flintwork from these early features, and from residual positions in later features, includes a series of transverse arrowheads, scrapers and fragments of polished flint axes.

The N-S trackway was in turn succeeded by a substantial double-ditched track- or drove-way of later Bronze Age date running E-W. Traced for a distance of c. 180m (600ft), a notable find was a complete small handmade jar set upright in the lower silt of one of the ditches. A group of small rubbish-filled pits are probably to be associated with this phase, and produced pottery of 'post Deverel-Rimbury' type.

A small group of later Iron Age pits were dug to the S of the E-W trackway and contained several fine-ware bowls with tooled 'pendant-swag' decoration. These were partially overlain by a sub-oval Romano-British enclosure of probably mid-first date which delimited an area of intercutting pits and hollows. This enclosure appears to have continued in use into the second century, and may be associated with an interrupted and much re-cut boundary ditch and part of a two-phase rectilinear field-system.

No evidence of late Roman occupation was recovered, although the area was re-occupied in the middle Saxon period, when a small 2 post sunken-floored hut was constructed in a small enclosure on the edge of the Roman field-system. Notable finds included an iron girdle-hanger or key and a bronze *sestertius* of Marcus Aurelius from the hut, together with a polished bone 'thread-picker' from an apparently contemporary gravel quarry close by. WMC.

Vicarage, Bury St, Ruislip. TQ 087 878. Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society, (C. Bowl). Trial trenching on the site of vicarage prior to possible redevelopment. Documentary references traced back to 14th c. Ground made up to depth of 0.7 - 1.0 m (2ft 7in - 3ft 3in) included brick and tile from last vicarage (demolished 1881) and other 19th and 20th c finds. Pebble yard below of 18th c date sealed foundation trench which contained broken pre-17th c bricks and a line of scattered flints and chalk of 12th and 13th c building. Below was natural clay.

HOUNSLOW

International Supermarket, High St., Brentford. TQ 177 775. Museum of London with West London Archaeological Field Group (J. Cotton). Site watching and limited excavation during the initial stages of this large development revealed further evidence relating to the prehistoric and Roman settlement of the area. In particular, the first complete section through the Roman road running west from the City was obtained, and the alignment of its N ditch established. In addition to small groups of Roman material, struck flint and fragmentary sherds of pottery recovered from the brickearth beneath the road can be compared with the early Neolithic material recorded by Roy Canham further west. (*2000 Years of Brentford* (1978), 19-22, 36-41).

Chiswick House, Chiswick. TQ 212 775. Museum of London with West London Archaeological Field Group (J. Cotton). Excavation, on behalf of the Department of the Environment, of part of the original Jacobean house to the N-E of Burlington's Villa, has uncovered part of a small internal courtyard containing a brick-capped well or soak-away. Later features include part of a wide curving corridor built after the demolition of the Jacobean house in 1788. Preservation is, so far, better than anticipated, and it is likely that further areas will be excavated in due course. WC.

ISLINGTON — No Excavation

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA — No Excavation

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

Horsefair (Old Bridge Street), Kingston. TQ 178 694. South West London Archaeological Unit (J. S. McCracken for DoE and Kingston Museum). Trial excavations were carried out on two sites along the north side of Old Bridge Street, itself thought to be on the line of the road leading to the medieval bridgehead (see separate entry).

Excavation at the N-W end of Old Bridge Street revealed that the ground level (gravel terrace) had been lowered during slum clearance in the late 19th c. A chalk lined well was found close to the road line but no medieval structures survived. A number of 17th and 18th c pits were revealed, some of which may have been the result of gravel working. Much 20th c disturbance.

A second trench towards the southern end of Old Bridge Street revealed a 17th c brick house with front and back rooms separated by a chimney stack. Several floor levels were found. This building is not aligned on the present road suggesting that the 17th c roadline was further to the south. The brick structure was built over a 16th c pit (gravel working?) and two pits containing 14th c decorated pottery were also found. A segment of a flint and stone wall survived in places but the expected early medieval buildings were not located.

Horsefair (Kingston Old Bridge), Kingston. TQ 178 694. South West London Archaeological Unit (S Nelson for Kingston Museum and DoE)

Trial excavation across the approach to Kingston Old Bridge revealed that a considerable amount of masonry survived. Preliminary study indicates there were at least 3 main phases of construction with minor patching and refurbishing. The earliest phase is a cut water, of unknown date, followed by a north wall of chalk and flint with Reigate ashlar. The third phase is a major rebuilding of the north and south walls in flint rubble which survived until demolition of the bridge in 1829. Dating of the earliest phase may be resolved by dendrochronological samples taken from timber piers around the cut water. Pottery evidence and silt dated by remanent magnetism suggests that the bridge was on the same line from at least the 13th c.

Knap-Drewett (Union Street) Site, Kingston. TQ 178 694. S.W.L.A.U. (J. S. McCracken for Kingston Museum). Trial excavations in advance of major redevelopment in an area of suspected prehistoric occupation along the riverbank of a former branch of the Thames revealed the point bar deposits to the west of the silted-up channel but no prehistoric features. A few struck flakes were recovered.

The W portion of the site consisted of a gravel terrace but no medieval or Saxon structures had survived the considerable 19th and 20th c disturbances. Some 18th and 19th c pits were found on the east edge of the gravel at the junction with the point bar deposits (sands & fine gravels).

The major discovery was a portion of a Surrey white ware kiln at the extreme eastern edge of the site. Only the stokehole, associated flue arch and short segments of the kiln wall N and S of the flue arch survived. The kiln apparently had a central core/spine of clay with a channel between it and each side wall. Considerable quantity of 'wasters' found including some decorated sherds. (Magnetic date from Anc. Mon. Lab awaited).

LAMBETH

Coventry Hall Site, Albert Carr Gardens, S.W.16. TQ 301 711. Southwark and Lambeth Arch. Excavation Committee. (R. Densum and D. Seeley). Documentary research suggested that a Tudor manor house existed in the vicinity of this site. Trial work was carried out to discover if remains of this building or its medieval predecessor survived. The earliest structures located, however, dated to c. 1800 and were part of Coventry Hall which was built at that time.

Rectory Grove, Clapham. TQ 292 758. S.L.A.E.C. (R. Densum and D. Seeley). Work in early 1982 consisted of opening 12 trial trenches to examine the previously unexplored S. and E. parts of the site. No further Saxon features (see *L.A.* Vol. 4, no 7, 177-184) were found.

MERTON

10 Church Path, Merton Park. TQ 2504 6945. John Innes Society and Wimbledon Society. (N. Plastow). Excavations carried out prior to development on land adjacent to St. Mary's Church, Merton. The land formed part of the Manor House garden; a 16th c tithe barn is known to have existed on the site and a listed wall (also 16th c) probably formed its end wall. A bomb crater had destroyed most of the stratigraphy in the immediate area but broad brick foundations extending 10m (33ft) were found. A larger area opened up near the site of the Manor House revealed an 18th c culvert overlying a large pond fed by a tile and brick drainage channel. This had been filled in in the 16th c with domestic refuse and rubble. Two shallow brick lined wells were found, one within the walls of the tithe barn. A third shaft, timber lined and associated with 13th c sherds

was found below the level of the pond. There were a number of post holes and *in situ* posts in this waterlogged level but they appear to form the bank of a watercourse rather than part of a building.

This was the first excavation for some members of the newly formed John Innes Society. Processing work on the finds will continue during the winter months.

Merton Priory, Merton. TQ 265 699. South West London Arch. Unit. (J. S. McCracken). Excavation of shallow service trench across the west end of the south transept and along the cloister walk (excavated 1978) west of of the chapter house revealed walling at the junction of the south transept and the passage along the north side of the chapter house.

NEWHAM

Stratford Broadway. TQ 391 844. Passmore Edwards (P. Wilkinson). Excavation has revealed the late medieval village pond which possibly underlies the present road system. A series of agricultural/industrial pits of currently indeterminate use were found close to the pond. The pond was filled in during the 17th c and buildings on Roque's map of 1741-46 overlie this infilling.

RICHMOND — No excavation.

SOUTHWARK

15-23 Southwark Street, Southwark. TQ 325 801. Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee. (D. Beard and G. Dennis). This large multi-period site lies within the Roman and medieval settlement close to the approach road to London Bridge and was begun in 1980. During 1982, the E half of the site was completed and work commenced on the W area where there is a much greater depth of surviving deposits.

Several late iron-age gullies were excavated which may have formed small enclosures. They suggest occupation in the vicinity although no structures have yet been found.

In the E part of the site, Roman stone buildings were found to overlie the fragmentary remains of 1st c clay and timber structures, facing a more open area containing pits, ditches and wells. Further S, an area of mudflat bordered what was probably a marshy channel.

Excavation in the W area has revealed further substantial, probably late Roman buildings, some with stone walls and tessellated floors.

The latest Roman buildings are sealed by 'dark earth' deposits and are also cut by several burials which may form part of the small cemetery discovered in 1981/82. The inhumations in the area, however, are aligned NS and should be either late Roman or Saxon, although none has been dated securely as yet.

4-26 St Thomas Street, Southwark. TQ 327 801. S.L.A.E.C. (P. Hinton and D. Seeley). The site lies near the E edge of the Roman settlement, about 60m (200ft) E of the London Bridge approach road, and about 240m (800ft) E south of the modern course of the Thames. Excavation began in September 1972 on an area of about 280 sq m (3,500 sq ft).

Prehistoric activity on the site has been indicated by several pits, flint tools and some possibly iron-age sherds.

Three early Roman ditches ran N-S across the site. These were succeeded by a timber structure at the E end of the site. To the W, nearer the road, was a clay and timber building, which was enlarged in the 2nd c. The N end of the cellar of a large ragstone building on pile foundation contained a pillar-base and evidence of what may have been a flight of steps. A contemporaneous well alongside was

backfilled in the 3rd c. Two other square timber-lined wells have been found.

Many pits from the 13th c onwards have been excavated, one of which contained a hoard of forged silver coins of Henry III. Remains of a medieval or early post-medieval building have been recorded during contractors' work. This chalk, flint and greenstone structure, which is shown in the graveyard of St Thomas hospital on Rocque's (1746) map and in early 19th c watercolours, may have been a cellar or undercroft from the hospital. A tudor building with a finely-built stone and tile fireplace and a small garderobe has also been excavated.

Guy's Hospital Redevelopment, Area 7, Southwark. TQ 327 801. S.L.A.E.C. (B. Yule). An area of about 50 sq m (600 sq ft) was excavated from November 1982 to January 1983, about 50 m (160 ft) south of 4-26 St Thomas Street, on the same large redevelopment site.

Prehistoric sherds and flints were found in the top of 'natural' sand at c. + 1.1 m O.D. (3ft 7in O.D.).

The sequence of Roman deposits included two gullies, one cut by post-pits along its length, and a ditch probably of 1st c date. Remains of a clay and timber building, possibly contemporaneous with a ditch backfilled in the mid 2nd c, were also found. These features were all aligned NW-SE (i.e. at right angles to the Roman bridge approach road, which runs about 70 m (230 ft) to the NW). Similarly aligned were three inhumation burials probably of late Roman date. The bodies had been interred in coffins with heads to the NW. A fourth burial, mostly removed by a medieval pit, seemed to have been aligned NE-SW. 'Dark earth' sealed the Roman strata.

Medieval pits and a channel of Tudor date aligned N-S were also recorded.

SUTTON

Beddington Sewage Farm (TQ 298 658). South West London Archaeological Unit (Lesley Adkins & Roy A. Adkins). A second season of excavation on the Romano-British site (Scheduled Ancient Monument) was carried out from April 1982 to February 1983 in advance of gravel extraction. Through kind co-operation from Thames Water a modern fence was moved to allow access to the remainder of the bath-house, the W end of which was located in 1981. The rest of the bath-house was excavated, and although in some places it had been destroyed by modern concrete culverts, in others walls survived up to 1m (3ft 3in) in height; in several places a thick layer of *opus signinum* still adhered to the walls, and to the floor of one of the baths. To the S of the bath-house more evidence of cobbled yard surfaces was discovered, and the remains of another small timber building were found. This building appears to have had a foundation made of close-set large flint nodules, and a scatter of roofing tile and iron nails immediately to the S suggests that the roof of the building collapsed to one side. To the E of the bath-house, a complex pattern of masonry walls, flint foundations for masonry walls, and robber trenches provides evidence for the main domestic building of the villa. No floor levels have survived, but numerous finds of tesserae and painted wall plaster show that this building once had tessellated, and probably mosaic floors, and painted, plastered walls. At least two phases of construction of this building have been recognised so far. Further E, a series of postholes shows the presence of at least one more timber building, while to the S further evidence for cobbled surfaces has been found.

Underlying the main Romano-British structures are numerous early Roman and prehistoric pits and ditches. The number of finds from the site has continued to be

large, and as well as the wide range of Romano-British material, finds of Later Bronze Age pottery as residual material in early Roman ditches continues to indicate the presence of a Later Bronze Age settlement in the immediate vicinity.

Stone Court, The Grove, Carshalton (TQ 2790 6469). Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society (C. R. Orton). Part of this early 19th c building has been demolished and rebuilt on a different alignment. Examination of the builder's foundation trenches revealed three phases of chalk foundation, the earliest possibly supported by timber piles, and a later brick foundation. No datable finds, but the brickwork appeared to be of late 17th or early 18th c date.

TOWER HAMLETS — No Excavation.

WESTMINSTER — No Excavation.

WALTHAM FOREST — No Excavation.

WANDSWORTH

Tooting Graveney Common. (TQ 2864 7152) (Graham Gower). Fifteen sherds of Roman pottery, 1st-4th c, and one probable piece of tile, found on spoil heap of contractor's trench. Possibility of local dumping. May relate to bronze coin, A.D. 346-350, found c 200m (220 yards) to the NE.

ESSEX

Sun St, Waltham Abbey (TL 384006). Waltham Abbey Historical Society. (J. H. Littlefair). Research into the history of this site, which is adjacent to the Epping Forest District Museum, reveals no evidence for buildings until the early 19th c. Excavation confirmed this, with little evidence of activity except for some early post and stake holes. The edge of the ditch which along the south side of Sun St was located but could not be excavated. Another ditch 1m (3ft 3in) to the south running parallel was excavated and is probably 13th - 14th c. A probable 13th c property boundary marker was also located.

HERTFORDSHIRE

63/67 High Street, Watford (TQ 1107 9640). Watford and South West Herts Archaeological Society (B. F. Rawlins). Facing on Watford's old Market Place, recorded as far back as the 12th c, a watching brief was maintained on this site during September - December 1982. This showed a complete absence of archaeological features or artefacts other than a flint-lined well 16½m (51ft) deep and 0.9m (3ft) wide, of unknown date. Examination of the well bottom was not possible.

SURREY

The Hythe, Egham (TQ 033 714) (P. Jones). Sampling excavation of 36 sq m (430 sq ft) prior to hotel extensions, 70m (230ft) S of modern Thames bank & close to presumed *Pontes* bridgehead. Peats/alluvial clays of post-Neolithic date; partial consolidation, with narrow creek accumulating silts found to contain AD 1st/2nd c pottery in upper fill; reclamation, with ditch dug (parallel to The Hythe) with handmade shell-tempered pottery & mid to late 3rd c Alice Holt types in primary fill; habitation, with timber-framed building, ditch accumulation, domestic features of late 3rd/4th c; flooding/abandonment late 4th; occupation & evidence of nearby metalworking by c 11th/12th c or slightly earlier; sealed by 13th c gravel yard & least 1m (3ft 3in) of late medieval to modern garden soils; early 19th c pot/glass group from brick-lined pit.

Kingston Road, Staines. Spelthorpe Archaeological Field Gp. (S. Dyer). Redevelopment site. Large ditch parallel to Kingston Rd. (which may be Roman) packed with 3rd and 4th c. material. Horse skulls in bottom of ditch and wood scattered nearby. WC.

Park Road, Stanwell (TQ 053 746). Conservation and Archaeology Section, Planning Department, Surrey County Council. (M. O'Connell). Excavation in advance of the British Airport Authorities' Terminal Road and site watching during the construction of the Longford to Gatwick Oil Pipeline confirmed the existence of a Neolithic cursus detected from aerial photographs and partially investigated during the 1981 season of excavation. A small quantity of late Neolithic pottery was obtained from one of the ditches associated with the feature. Further evidence of later Bronze Age occupation was also discovered elsewhere on the site.

A. G. M. of the London Archaeologist

THE FOURTEENTH A.G.M. of the *London Archaeologist* was held on 20 May in the Education Department of the Museum of London. The following officers were elected: Editor, Clive Orton; Assistant Editors, Rhoda Edwards and Beth Richardson; Secretary, Nesta Caiger; Advertising and Promotion, Betsey Kentish; Subscriptions, Shiela Broomfield; Managing Editor, Nicholas Fuentes — and the auditors were elected. Representatives to serve on the Publication Committee

were elected from the following bodies: Hendon & District Archaeological Society, Kent Archaeological Society, London Kiln Study Group, Museum of London, Richmond Society Archaeology Section and Waltham Abbey Historical Society. The accounts showed a deficit of about £250 on the year, and the possibility of an increase in price was discussed. Following the close of business, Steve Roskams spoke on the Billingsgate excavation.