

Excavation Round-up 1984, Part 2

BETH RICHARDSON

This is the second part of 1984's Excavation Round-Up. I would like to thank Louise Priest for typing this and the first part of the Round-Up.

BROMLEY

Lower Warbank, Keston, Bromley South East London Archaeological Unit (K.A.R.U.) (B. Philp)

Rescue excavations were carried out on this Iron Age, Roman Villa and Anglo Saxon site which was largely excavated between 1967 and 1982. The 1984 excavations revealed two ditches relating to substantial ditched enclosures on the W side of the villa complex. These produced Iron Age and 2nd-3rd c Roman material. Within the enclosures was a deep pit containing 1st c material and a large shaft containing skeletal remains. WC.

CITY (late entry)

Trig Lane/Queen Victoria Street (City of London Boys' School) (TQ 3203 8082) D.U.A. (B. Pye)

A watching brief took place in February-May 1984 on this large site, which had already been excavated as the Trig Lane (TL74), Baynard's Castle (BC72 and BYD81) and St Peter's Hill (PET81) sites. On the W side of the site a 2m (6½ft) length of the S wall and foundation of Baynard's Castle was exposed, W of the SW corner tower (BYD81). The walls had been built on ash piles some 3m (10ft) long. To the N of the Trig Lane excavation site a timber revetment of the 13th c or earlier was recorded, and to the W of the Trig Lane site a medieval ragstone-faced river wall with a timber structure, possibly a stair, on its E side. Other recorded features in this area included large 18th c arched brick cellars, wooden drains and a large oval wood-lined tank. Nearer Queen Victoria Street, the watching brief recorded the medieval S and W walls of St Peter Paul's Wharf church (also found in PET81), early graves cutting into a Roman chalk raft, and traces of the post-1666 graveyard. To the S of the church, medieval Thames Street was seen as gravel surfaces topped with cobbles. The Roman riverside wall was briefly observed in one trial hole. On the W side of the site, near St Benet's church, was a series of Victorian brick vaults. Along the Queen Victoria Street frontage on the N a series of post-Great Fire dumps was recorded in the W and possibly dark earth overlying Roman mortar dumps in the E.

GREENWICH

Bell Water Gate site, Woolwich (TQ 435 794) South East London Arch. Unit (D. Garrod)

Rescue excavations were carried out adjacent to the Woolwich kiln site which, in 1974, produced 17th c stoneware and earthenware kilns and large quantities of wasters. About thirty pits, wells and cess tanks of 17th-19th c date were located which related to structures fronting the adjacent streets. These features produced important groups of pottery. No further kilns or waster groups were located.

HILLINGDON (correction)

'Pynchester' moat, Harefield (TQ 0722 8678) West London Archaeological Field Group. Site directed by C. M. Cotton, *not* J. Cotton as published in previous issue.

HOUNSLOW

Bedfont Gunpowder Mill, East Bedfont (TQ 111 746) Gunnersbury Park Museum with GLIAS, WLAFG and Bedfont Research Group (P. Philo)

Trial trenching as part of a research project on the gunpowder mills has been carried out on 3 weekends over the past year. Work has been concentrated on the lower incorporating mills (south) on the Duke of Northumberland's river where the remains of two mills have been revealed. From about 1630 there was a paper mill on the site but this was converted to gunpowder in 1690. Remains of the 19th c mills have so far been revealed. These consist of 2 bases for pairs of edge runner stones which incorporated the basic ingredients (charcoal, sulphur and saltpetre), an associated pit for a water-powered pit wheel, and two phases of brick walls which supported the flimsy timber superstructures. These walls probably represent an early 19th c (c 1825-30?) rebuilding of the mill to accommodate steam engines, and a later 19th/early 20th c expansion and reconstruction. WC.

Brentford Town Centre (c TQ 177 775) Museum of London with WLAFG (J. Mills).

Sitewatching on four sites within the Town Centre has helped to delimit the extent of occupation associated with the London-Silchester Roman road.

Goat Wharf on the S side of the High Street, sections showed a steep, cliff-like drop in the level of the natural gravel towards the confluence of the rivers Brent and Thames. Extensive levelling and land-reclamation was associated with 18th and 19th c pottery.

37 Half Acre builders' trenches revealed a thin gravel surface overlying the natural brickearth. No Roman material was recovered.

Corner of Lateward Road (St Pauls' Road) and Half Acre service trenches produced a few sherds of abraded Roman pottery in a garden- or plough-soil.

Back Lane construction trenches outside St. Lawrence's with St. Paul's School, c 30m (100ft) N of the line of the Roman road, produced no evidence of Roman occupation.

ISLINGTON

St. Mary's Nunnery, Clerkenwell (TQ 314 821) DGLA.

Excavations were carried out in what was formerly the SW portion of the precinct of the nunnery of St. Mary, Clerkenwell. 16th c maps indicate that this area was occupied by tenements belonging to the nunnery, which was founded c 1195 and at the time of the Dissolution had become the twelfth richest in England. In spite of disturbance from recent basements and two large World War II air-raid shelters, remains of the Iron Age, medieval, and post-medieval periods were still extant. A sub-circular Iron Age feature was discovered, excavated dimensions c 4m (13ft) N-S by c 2m (6½ft) E-W by c 1m (3ft 3in) deep. It was truncated on its W side, making it difficult to ascertain whether it was a shallow pit or (more probably) the end of a larger feature such as a ditch. Remains from this period are particularly unusual in London, and useful information should be provided when the feature, and relatively large quantity of pottery from it, are more fully assessed.

Remains of three substantial medieval buildings were located at basement level standing to a maximum height of c 2.5m (8ft 2in), and having apparently belonged to the nunnery tenements. Two

were constructed from coursed chalk blocks, and the other from Kentish ragstone. A (? contemporary) stone-lined cess-pit had been built into the latter. The remains of three (?) late medieval kilns were also exposed. A post-medieval hearth constructed from tiles and numerous post-medieval rubbish pits reflected the intensive use of the site since the Dissolution.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

Fairfield Road (south side) (TQ 182 692) Kingston Heritage Service and KUTAS (P. Nicolaysen)

This site adjoins the planned route of the Kingston Town Centre Relief Road; during the mid-19th c it was part of the parade ground of the 3rd Regiment Surrey Militia. In 1967 excavations by M. Hinton (Heritage Officer, Kingston) on the N side of Fairfield Road revealed a short length of ditch cut into the underlying gravel; the ditch fill contained some prehistoric pottery fragments. It was hoped that during the 1984 excavation some evidence of the ditch's continuation on the S side of Fairfield Road might be found, but there was no sign of any ditch. The only features found were a brick-lined cesspit containing 18th and early 19th c pottery and glass fragments, and with associated gullies and sumps, and a sub-rectangular pit 1.90 × 1m (6ft 3in × 3ft 3in). This pit extended vertically some 4m (13ft) below the modern ground surface and contained fragments of mathematical tiles, building rubble and 19th and 20th c pottery. At the bottom of the pit was a mass of corroded metal, including 3 almost complete circular vessels.

The Old Public House, Market Place TQ 179 692 (S. Nelson)

During conversion works, in May 1984, an earlier structure of chalk block wall foundation was recorded extending, at right angles to the street frontage, from under the rear of the Old Crown and c 20m (66ft) back from the street. It consisted of a narrow structure, c 4m (13ft) wide, containing in one corner a 1.5m (5ft) square cess-pit c 2m (6½ft) deep; this presumably represented a garderobe outlet to the rear of a medieval building fronting on to the Market Place. The fill of the pit contained much rubble, pottery of 16th c date and an interesting group of stained window glass and decorated floor tiles.

The existing building, though now much altered by the recent works, dates from the early 17th c but its roof timbers include some rafters clearly reused from an earlier crown-post roof. The walls seem to have been brick-built on the ground floor with timber framing above. This 'half-timbered' technique is unusual in the Kingston area.

LAMBETH

Campbell Buildings Site, Bayliss Road/Frazier Street/Burdett Street, S.E.1. (TQ 3134 7954) D.G.L.A. (R. Densem)

The site was examined by trial trenches in advance of redevelopment. It lies on or close to a projected alignment of the Roman road thought to link London Bridge and a Lambeth/Westminster ford across the Thames. No trace of any Roman activity was discovered. The site had been open ground until the 19th c when it was developed for housing and industrial use.

64-68 Rectory Grove, S.W.4 (TQ 2923 7581) D.G.L.A. (R. Densem)

This small site lay some 50m (160ft) SW of one where early Saxon pits were found in 1980-81 (see *LA* 4 (7) 177-84). The excavated deposits lay on the top of the Taplow Terrace, and sloped down towards the River Thames. The natural sand and gravel were overlain by grey sandy 'ploughsoil' which contained a few 10th or 11th c sherds at its base and 17th c material at its top. It was cut and overlain by later post-medieval deposits.

LEWISHAM – no excavation

MERTON

Mitcham Parish Church, Church Rd, Mitcham (TQ 270 687) DGLA (J. S. McCracken)

Site watching of drainage trenches revealed no archaeological features around the sides of the church, which had been largely rebuilt in 1822.

NEWHAM

Parish Church of All Saints West Ham (TQ 3939 8386) Passmore Edwards Museum (M. Redknap).

The excavation of foundations for a new organ in the first bay of the mid-16th c North Chapel in September enabled the recording of a trench 3m × 5m (10ft × 16½ft) on the N side of the chancel. The 13th c footings for the N wall of the original choir and E wall of the N transept lay on foundation trenches of rammed gravel and included Roman tile in its fabric. Three flat-topped brick vaults belonging to the second half of the 18th c and first half of the 19th c were uncovered and their contents recorded. The roof of Vault I was formed by three large stone slabs, two of which bore indents for brasses. The finest indent, face downwards, is a shrouded figure dating to the late 15th c.

In an area opposite the S porch in the nave the late 12th/early 13th c S wall of the nave was examined, of similar construction to the chancel wall. A late medieval (?) inhumation cut through this wall with arms set in praying position.

St. Mary the Virgin, Little Ilford (TQ 4290 8528) Passmore Edwards Museum (M. Redknap)

Excavations within the nave and chancel of the Church (in advance of floor replacement) traced back the development of the parish church to the late Saxon/Saxon-Norman period, summarized as follows:-

Period 1: One burial had been cut by the post-holes of the early timber church.

Period 2: Large post-holes cut into natural gravel represented a post-built timber church, possibly with apsidal end.

Period 3: During the 12th c a stone nave was constructed on the site of the timber building. The walls of mixed stone lay on foundation trenches of rammed gravel. The foundation for a small square or rectangular chancel had been prepared but the design was never complete. Worked sandstone included a fragment of clustered column with cable relief c 1150. Medieval burial within the nave included one with a chalice (poorly preserved).

Later Periods: The original indents for various brasses and 17th c ledger stones were set in a tiled floor beneath the most recent wooden one. The Lethieullier family vault was also recorded.

REDBRIDGE

7 Richmond Road, Ilford (TQ 4455 8650). Passmore Edwards Museum (M. Redknap).

Following notification in March of the discovery of a very large bone during the excavation of drainage trenches in connection with the Southern Relief Road of the Ilford Town Redevelopment Scheme, an investigation was undertaken of the site. Two trenches, each 2m × 2m (6½ft × 6½ft), established the precise stratigraphic context of the find, the first time *Mammuthus primigenius* from the Ilford deposits could be accurately contextualized. In addition to this left ulna of mammoth, further examples including an axis vertebra of mammoth associated with tooth of *Bos* or *Bison* were excavated. Other bone recovered includes thoracic vertebra of *Dicorerhinus hemitoechus* (narrow-nosed rhinoceros), mammoth ribs and left scapula of juvenile mammoth. Soil and shell samples have provided data which will assist in the dating of these bones and contribute towards the interpretation of various Pleistocene finds in the area.

RICHMOND

Marble Hill Park TQ 1736 7357 (G. Chitty)

Between June and August 1984, Richmond Archaeological Society carried out an excavation with the GLC's Historic

Buildings Division on a mid 18th c grotto on the terrace to the SE of Marble Hill House. An area of 10m × 6m (33ft × 20ft) of the grotto chamber and its entrance was investigated in order to determine the surviving condition of the interior and the potential of the site for restoration to its 18th c form. The grotto consisted of a single rectangular chamber in brick, formerly roofed with a barrel vault. The interior was floored with decorative pebble work through which a well had been cut. The walls of the interior, decorated with shells, glass and a variety of slags, clinker and crucible from industrial processes (including glass working, brick making, iron and copper smelting) were less well preserved although large quantities of this decorative material were recovered from the fill.

The fall of a tree in 1941 broke through the roof of the chamber, and the grotto was later infilled and grassed over. Its entrance, to the E, was approached at a ground level some 2m (6½ft) below the present by means of a large hollow opening out of a cobbled forecourt with a curving facade. The chamber of the grotto itself appears always to have lain below ground level and was tanked with clay for waterproofing. Finds in this clay seal suggest a date in the 1730's for the construction of the building and this is substantiated by limited historical evidence indicating that landscaping of the park began after the house was completed in 1729. WC.

SOUTHWARK

Abbey Buildings, Abbey Street/Long Walk, S.E.1 TQ 3340 7935 D.G.L.A. (D. Beard)

The proposed development covers the SE part of Bermondsey Abbey, a late 11th c Cluniac foundation. Work began in Spring 1984 on an area of about 2300m² (½ acre) to the S of the church and E of the cloister.

A large building about 27 × 18m (90ft × 60ft) has been found. It had three small rooms to its E and a fourth room at the NE corner. The round plan of this building is similar to the infirmary hall of the Cluniac Priory of St Pancras at Lewes, Sussex. It appears that there were at least two phases of construction of the infirmary hall, and two phases of sewers associated with it have been identified. The first went out of use in the late 12 c, and the second contained re-used greensand mouldings in its walls. The demolition backfill of the later sewer contained an early 13th c enamelled, gilded bronze figure of Christ, about 150mm (6in) in length. A range of buildings extended to the W of the hall and these may have been part of the infirmary complex. A parallel but less substantial wall along the N side of the buildings may have been a pentice linking the infirmary with the main cloister. A hearth, about 1 × 1.5m (3ft 3in × 5ft), built of tiles set on edge, may belong to a later phase of the abbey. Remains of probable 16th c date include part of a cellar and several rectangular quarry pits.

Cottons Wharf, S.E.1 TQ 3301 8030 D.G.L.A. (B. Yule)

A watching brief was carried out from late July to September 1984 during contractors' excavations on this large redevelopment site (c 5000m², 1¼ acres). A controlled excavation on part of the site in 1983 (see *Excavation Round-up* 1983) had revealed Roman occupation on a previously unknown 'island' of sands and gravels about 260m (850ft) SE of modern London Bridge. The watching brief enabled this island of relatively high ground, above channels and mudflats, to be defined approximately on the W and S. Together with modern borehole data, the observations suggest that, in the Roman period, the island was c 7500m² (2 acres) in area, extending from Cottons Yard to Battlebridge Lane N of Tooley Street. The high ground was protected on the W with a post and plank revetment. Lines of stakes, interlaced with wattles, were erected beyond, and perpendicular to, the W edge of high ground. They may have functioned as groynes preventing riverine erosion.

A hoard of 44 bronze coins was discovered close to the Roman structure excavated in 1983. Most of the coins were of Valentinian, the latest dating to AD 378-383.

Courage South-East (Thrale Street/Redcross Way) S.E.1 TQ 3242 8020 D.G.L.A. (R. Densem)

The site lies on the S bank of the Thames in the NW area of the Roman and medieval settlement. Approximately 1500m² (¾ acre) are being excavated.

Roman

Parts of clay and timber buildings have been found. They were replaced by a large structure with stone foundations which measured at least 30 × 12m (100ft × 40ft). A necklace of 35 faience beads, fragments of inscribed marble and part of a wall made of re-used *tegulae* which had fallen in antiquity were also discovered. In the late Roman period, the site was used for burials, including two, possibly Christian, 'plaster' inhumations. 'Dark earth' overlay the Roman deposits.

Medieval and later

Two medieval or later clay-filled channels crossed the northern part of the site and many pits of 17th, 18th and 19th c date have been excavated, including brick-lined cesspits and a chalk-lined well.

Fennings Wharf, Tooley Street, S.E.1 TQ 3281 8037 D.G.L.A. (G. Dennis)

The site is on the S bank of the Thames next to London Bridge on the downstream side. Work was carried out between April and December 1984 over an area of c 1200m² (¼ acre), during redevelopment.

Prehistoric

A ring ditch about 8m (26ft) diameter enclosed a shallow central pit containing sherds provisionally assigned to the later Bronze or early Iron Age. The ditch contained cremation though the feature is not yet securely dated it is thought to have been a barrow.

Roman

The entire site was truncated below any Roman land surface and only a few pits of that period survived. One was rectangular with a timber lining and another contained a very good group of 1st c pottery.

Medieval

Most of the work was carried out on the medieval London Bridge, some 20m (65ft) downstream of the modern one. The massive landward abutment of the bridge, surviving largely intact up to the base of the arch vaulting, was located behind the modern river wall and partially excavated within the contractor's riverworks at depths of up to 8m (26ft).

The original 12th c bastion was built against and into the bank. The core of ragstone and chalk rubble was contained within a good quality ashlar facing resting upon substantial oak sills and protected externally by rows of elm piles. Later phases of both repair and widening were present. The bridge chronology will rely heavily upon tree-ring dating and over one thousand wood samples were recovered.

Underneath the stone bridge a substantial oak box structure and adjacent foreshore causeway were also excavated. These could be part of a preceding timber bridge.

Post-medieval

A number of brick features were recorded principally 17th or 18th c cellars of buildings fronting the bridge approach ramp.

28 Park Street, S.E.1 TQ 3248 8631 D.G.L.A. (R. Densem)

This site lies in the NW part of the Roman and medieval settlement.

Roman

A foreshore was found at the N end of the site and several phases of erosion and deposition were identified. The earliest deposits were waterlaid clays, from one of which a tin bracelet was recovered. Within the clays were seven timber piles, varying from 120 to 250mm (5 to 10in) in diameter, which may have been part of a structure such as a jetty or landing stage. Overlying the posts and clays were dumps of building materials covered by deposits of 'dark earth'. At the S end of the site, on higher and drier ground, several walls and floors of the period were recorded. These had been damaged by deep modern walls, but they may have belonged to one building.

Medieval

Several clay-filled channels were found. The largest one ran E-W and its S bank was revetted by at least 35 stakes. It cut a surface of chalk, tile and ragstone.

Post-medieval A number of pits were excavated.

15-23 Southwark Street, S.E.1 TQ 3252 8011 D.G.L.A. (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. Excavation began in 1980 and when completed will have covered some 900m² (10,000 sq ft). In 1984 excavation was carried out on the two remaining parts of the site, the W area which is now at an early Roman level and a small uncellared area in the extreme SE corner where the deposits are at present of a much later date.

Roman

On the W part of the site an extensive early Roman structure with substantial exterior stone walls and internal divisions of clay and timber has been excavated. Several rooms are present with corridors to the E and possibly the W. There are traces of earlier, less substantial buildings.

Medieval and later

The area in the extreme SE of the site, at the rear of Borough High Street frontages, has revealed later medieval stone structures. These appear to be aligned on an adjacent alley way which still connects with Borough High Street.

Winchester Palace (Pickford B), S.E.1 TQ 3260 8041 D.G.L.A. (D. Seeley)

The site lies on the modern waterfront N of the 13th c Great Hall of Winchester Palace which was investigated at Winchester Palace (Pickford C & D) in 1983/84.

Medieval and later

Remains of two substantial medieval timber waterfronts and associated backfills were recorded. The earlier E-W aligned waterfront consisted of large, jointed, squared beech baseplates with only remnants of surviving superstructure. It was cut through by the backbraces of the later waterfront which was also aligned E-W but situated about 5m (16½ft) further N. Dendrochronology dates for this oak built waterfront indicate that the trees were felled in AD 1354.

The timber waterfronts were superseded by a stone riverside wall, that directly overlay the front baseplate of the later timber waterfront, and may be of 15th or 16th c date.

Winchester Palace (St Mary Overly Wharf) S.E.1 TQ 3261 8037 D.G.L.A. (B. Yule)

This excavation, carried out in May 1984, was the last of four Winchester Palace sites, excavated in advance of redevelopment of the riverfront area W of Southwark Cathedral. (For the earlier excavations at Stave and Rosings and Pickfords D, see *Excavation Round-up 1983*, for Pickfords B, see above). An area of 130m² (1400 sq ft) was investigated.

Roman

Three heavily-robbled stone walls defined part of a room, aligned NW-SE, as were the Roman building excavated at the Stave and Rosings to the S. The deep, modern warehouse basement had truncated contemporaneous ground surfaces.

Medieval

The features discovered probably belong to two main structural phases of the palace of the Bishops of Winchester. A heavily-robbled, E-W stone wall and a parallel line of stakeholes probably date to the second half of the 12th c. Across the N half of the area were the massive stone wall footings of the E end of the palace Great Hall, constructed in the early 13th c. The internal dimensions of the hall were 40.8m (134ft) E-W by 8.7m (28½ft) N-S. S of the hall was a large stone drain, also found at Pickfords D to the W.

Observations in September, during the widening of St Mary Overly Dock, immediately E of the site, found no evidence for the early history of the dock. Two medieval timber riverfront revetments and a possible Tudor river wall were recorded in section, and are part of the same features investigated more fully at Pickfords B 40m (130ft) to the W.

SUTTON

The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton TQ 278 646 Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society (C. Orton)

Two small trial trenches were dug in the N of the site, threatened by the proposed development of the West Street Lane frontage. A number of shallow cuts in the natural sands and gravels may have been the bases of more substantial features, but any stratigraphy had been truncated, probably by agricultural activity. The sandy soil, of which the top 0.5m (1ft 8in) appears to have been dumped, contained finds of all periods from prehistoric to modern. Use as allotment beds ended in 1980. WMC.

Carshalton Park (TQ 282 642) River Wandle Scheme (H. N. Waterhouse).

An MSC programme of works on the banks of the River Wandle and its tributaries provided the opportunity for archaeological investigation, but as little deep digging was involved results were disappointing. However, a previously unrecorded 18th c weir with wooden sluice guides was traced in the canal in Carshalton Park and details of the interior decoration of the 1724 grotto above the springhead in the same park were discovered from demolition materials in the bed of the pool adjacent to the structure. The interior would have resembled a seacave with reflective and textured surfaces formed from the waste materials from glass- and iron-works, with coral fronds of painted lead and exotic shells.

Carshalton House (TQ 276 644) Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Arch. Soc. (H. N. Waterhouse and C. R. Orton)

Towards the end of the above programme indications found in the bed of the now dry lake of Carshalton House proved of sufficient importance for the owners to invite BCWAS to undertake a more detailed investigation prior to the repuddling of the lake in March 1985. The structures appear to fall into two phases, the earlier being chalkblock foundations of buildings forming three sides of a square, with some well preserved wooden features. Probably later are a plank-bedded brick watercourse and a brick watercourse (?) base. Dating and full identification are not immediately apparent as various clearances of the ground surfaces have removed all but a few artifacts. However, it is tentatively considered that the earlier structures form a stockyard of early to mid 17th c date while the watercourses relate to the early 18th c formal garden and lake construction. WC.

TOWER HAMLETS

Tenter St, E.1 (TQ 339 810). DGLA (R. Whythead).

Excavation of a Roman cemetery on a site bounded by West Tenter Street, South Tenter Street, St Mark Street, and Scarborough Street, London E1 was conducted between February and June 1984. A strip 8m (26ft) wide by 67m (220ft) long was investigated. Medieval and 17th c pits had removed some earlier deposits and medieval ploughsoil had reduced the Roman ground level and cut through the tops of some cremation urns.

The burials had cut into natural brickearth and sand and gravel at either end of the site but in the centre Roman gravel pits had been dug, perhaps after the area began to be used as a cemetery, and further burials were made into the backfill of these pits. The carcass of a horse had been thrown into the bottom of one gravel pit. In this area a large circular pit lined with a square wooden construction at its base, perhaps a ritual water tank, had been dug through some of the later graves.

110 graves were identified, 105 complete and incomplete articulated skeletons, mostly placed in nailed coffins. 13 cremation urns were found *in situ* mixed with the graves, but also some redeposited urns, especially in the gravel pit fills. Traces of walls associated with burials at the east end of the site may be those of mausolea.

The graves appeared to be aligned either parallel, or at right-angles, to a N-S ditch which subdivided the cemetery and which may be aligned at right-angles to a nearby road-line. The orientation of the majority of the skeletons was with heads at N facing S, or W facing E.

Grave goods included offering pots, a glass bead necklace and bracelet, bronze finger ring, shale, jet, and bronze bracelets, a few bronze coins, no indications of clothing except for hobnail shoes, a manicure set worn round the neck. Two coffins were reinforced with lead angle frames.

One cremation urn with an inverted 'dog dish' lid was placed inside a broken amphora, several urns had lids both right way up and inverted, one had a tegula as a lid. A particularly rich cremation urn contained a circular two part mirror, a bronze coin, yellow glass finger ring, and a square flat bronze sheet.

Dating for the site seems to range between the late 2nd c, including some of the cremation vessels, up to the late 3rd c when material of that date was tipped in a wide spread over graves in the centre of the site although a mid 4th c coin was found in one isolated feature.

The Royal Mint, Tower Hill, E.1 (TQ 339 807) DGLA (P. Mills)

The old Royal Mint site, lying next to the Tower of London, is soon to be redeveloped. The site, about 6 acres in extent, was formerly occupied by the Abbey of St Mary Graces, a Cistercian House founded by Edward III in 1350. The Abbey rapidly became one of the foremost Cistercian Houses in Britain, being responsible for the maintenance of discipline within the Order; at the Reformation it was the third wealthiest Cistercian Abbey in the country.

Prior to the redevelopment preliminary archaeological work has been carried out to establish the extent to which the Abbey survives. This limited work has exposed some 250 ft (76m) of the Abbey walls, standing in parts up to 13ft (4m) high. The dining hall, hospital block, south chapel, Lady Chapel and chapter house have been identified and other buildings located. The site is unusual in that virtually the whole Abbey precinct is due to be redeveloped, hence a unique opportunity has arisen to examine the complete area of a major religious house.

The Museum of London is currently negotiating for access and funds to carry out a full scale excavation of the site.

ESSEX

Abbey Church, Waltham Abbey (TL 3816 0067) Waltham Abbey Hist. Soc. (P. J. Huggins)

A small research excavation was undertaken in July/August 1984 by Waltham Abbey Historical Society in commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the raising of the Augustinian Priory to Abbey status. The Collegiate church was extended by the Augustinian builders and a single trench was designed, across the Collegiate chancel, to assess the nature of the remaining foundations and to investigate the relationship between the two churches.

All foundations were much robbed but those of the Collegiate N wall were designed 6ft (1.8m) wide. The N arcade was set on an irregular linear foundation designed up to 8ft (2.4m) wide. A single buttress suggested the aisle was vaulted and the chancel was of two bays. The Augustinian builders built a new N wall close up to the outside of the Collegiate wall but appear to have re-used the Collegiate arcade foundations, if not the piers as well. Part of the Augustinian N aisle pavement, of 14th c tiles, remained.

The excavation raises the possibility that the Collegiate church was originally built with a 3-apsed E end, like Westminster, and was altered, perhaps in the 1120's, to the apse-and-ambulatory form.

Wanstead Park (TQ 411 873) West Essex Arch. Group.

At the request of the Epping Forest authorities a systematic search was conducted for a Roman villa in the grounds of Wanstead House, which had been found (but covered up without record) when the grounds of the House were landscaped in 1715. A series of trenches dug parallel to the Perch pond showed some Roman ditches all of which contained building material and tesserae. A large Roman pit, 10m sq x 2m deep (33ft sq x 6½ft deep) contained pottery, tesserae and a large quantity of painted plaster. The finds are deposited with the Passmore Edwards Museum, Stratford. WC.

HERTFORDSHIRE

M25 Motorway, Mickleford Green-South Mimms Section. Watford and S.W. Herts Arch. Soc. (B. F. Rawlins).

Field walking has been carried out by the Society from Mickleford Green to near Bedmond without finding artefacts or evidence of archaeological sites.

SURREY

Stanwell (Heathrow) (TQ 052 746) Surrey County Council (M. G. O'Connell).

Large-scale excavation took place in a large arable field to the S of Heathrow Airport between November 1983 and February 1985, funded by HBMC, Hall Aggregates (Thames Valley) Ltd., the landowners, who have formulated a phased plan of gravel extraction from the field, and the Community Task Force who provided the labour force and equipment.

A more complete examination of the Neolithic cursus identified in the 1981 season was undertaken. The internal banks had apparently not survived and the two ditches 20m (65ft) apart, which formed the feature, were quite regular in alignment and profile apart from a gap of about 4m (13ft) in the line of the W ditch. It was not possible to investigate the corresponding point of the E ditch to test for a gap here which would have indicated the existence of a through route.

Some distance to the W of the cursus, a large ditch, which on the evidence of aerial photographs had been thought to represent a buried stream course, proved to be man-made in origin. Unfortunately it provided no datable artefactual material, but on stratigraphic grounds was earlier than a prehistoric field system, which has tentatively been assigned to the Late Bronze Age, clearly post-dating the cursus but apparently pre-dating the phase of Later Bronze Age occupation on the site. The latter consisted of at least two hut circles (discovered in 1979) and a number of pits which were scattered at random within the area of the field. Several pits were over 6m (20ft) in diameter and over 2.5m (8ft) in depth and contained waterlogged deposits. In some cases the latter had served to preserve large pieces of worked wood. Part of a ladder was identified from a pit excavated in 1981, while part of a wooden structure was found *in situ* at the bottom of one pit investigated during the latest season. The most plausible explanation for these features on the evidence available is that they functioned as wells.

Several Saxon features were identified including two gulleys and part of a very shallow ditch which enclosed a large oval area, 60 x 50m (200 x 160ft) with almost no occupation evidence. Medieval and later field ditches were also discovered.

Outlands Palace, Weybridge Surrey County Council (R. J. Poulton)

The Palace was largely built in the years after 1537 by Henry VIII and was demolished in 1650. Its general appearance is known from early views by Wyngaerde and an unknown artist; and, since 1968, excavation has added detail and precision to these. The 1984 work was carried out in advance of rebuilding of a housing estate which covered the area of the outer and middle courts. The outer wall of the N range of the middle court was exposed and a series of garderobes and chimney breasts attached to it excavated. Parts of a further building, of uncertain function, outside but attached to the N wall of the outer court were also uncovered, but the most interesting discovery was still further N, where the massive foundations of polygonal turrets with attached rooms were found. The general similarity of the plan to the Banqueting House at Nonsuch Palace encourages a similar identification here. An archaeomagnetic date of 1565-80 for an early phase of its use has been obtained.

Little Pickle, Bletchingley Surrey County Council and British Industrial Sand (R. J. Poulton)

Though material of prehistoric and Roman dates has been recovered, it was the later phases of the site's history which proved most interesting. The site consists of a small earthwork (c

Citisights Heritage Walks

SUSAN MIMMACK

AT 2.30 WE SET OFF from the forecourt of the Museum of London, our £2 being collected by a guide happy to see the small group already making contact with amazing good humour considering the bitter cold and the fact that the museum was closed (it was Monday). A vigorous sprint along the walkway of the Barbican, a pause to consider the north wall of the medieval city on its Roman foundations – we were off! For two hours round the streets of the City our guide shared his enthusiasm for *Saxon, Viking and Norman London: Farming in the City*, and submerged in his detailed descriptions we stood and stared. (Passers-by seemed to enjoy the spectacle of the group, pleased that we were enjoying our visit).

We studied the layout of the Roman fort, the site of the western gate at Cripplegate – so called not for the cripples who may, or may not, have begged there but for the military ‘cover’ offered by the external tower; saw the cross roads at the centre (convincingly Roman in their precision); compared them to the streets whose layout reflects the farming practices of the Saxons; advanced down the Roman ways of Watling Street and Cheapside, noting the position of *Bow Bells* church and realising the link between the ‘bows’ and the Romanesque arch; passed by St. Paul’s into the maze of alleys towards the river examining the site of ‘Baynard’s Castle’ and finally, experiencing the hills of the City we walked to St. Bride’s church in Fleet Street, seeing the ‘wedding cake’ spire and in the warmth of the crypt, the exposed remains of Roman mausolea and the exhibition which through photographs brings history and archaeology up to date. By this time the group, including two Australians and a Canadian, were on chatty terms, exchanging reminiscences of other visits of archaeological interest. I think we all left the church with regret in concluding a pleasant afternoon, considering chance meetings on further *Citisights Heritage Walks*.

I did walk another Citisights tour. On a warmer day, in a larger crowd, *Pepys, the Plague and the Great Fire*. We heard the guide read from the *Diary* how Pepys, having failed to grope one maiden in the church outside which we stood, tried with another, only to give up when she made it clear that she had a hat-pin ready in reply. We listened as the enthusiasm of the description transformed the Lloyds Bank in Pudding Lane into the bakehouse in which the Great Fire had its origin. We sat in St. Olave’s church remembering plague victims, Dickens and naval traditions.

I shall complete the cycle of five walks currently offered, enjoying them not only for the anecdotal curiosities but also for the evidence of thorough knowledge and understanding shown by the guides as their brains are picked by foreigners who seem to come prepared with a vast knowledge of London’s history; for the pleasure of shared experience of archaeology throughout the world as offered by the other members of the group. I shall also try the *Heritage Days Out*, with the promise of food cooked to Roman and medieval recipes, and displays of recent discoveries to accompany the tours conducted by professional archaeologists.

In offering these tours, Citisights is increasing our opportunity to enjoy London’s past as well as to keep up-to-date with the archaeological present. As one guide said, “If it was discovered this morning – you’ll hear about it this afternoon”. Contact with enthusiastic specialists can be – and in this case is – exciting. My only regret is that there is not more variety (may I suggest the origins of the financial institutions of the City) and that modern history is not explored (the war and post-war development). My only warning is for parents – on both walks I participated in, the children quickly dropped out. Stamina and imagination are prerequisites.

(continued from p. 67)

70m, 230ft, sq) which it is now believed represents a deer pound, constructed within the North Park in the medieval period. In the field just to the S, greensand foundations of a building, constructed perhaps in the early 14th c, had a brick-built soakaway attached, suggesting their continued use into the 16th c. The character of the demolition debris (including fragments of leaded windows, brick and stone mouldings and floor tiles) together with the existence of a piped water supply (in earthen-

ware pipes) suggests a building of considerable status. Historically, there seems only one possibility for such a building within the Deer Park, the de Clare Manor House known to have been in existence from the 13th c. A principal building within Bletchingley would probably have existed from the Saxon period, and this throws into prominence the recovery of Saxo-Norman and Saxon pottery from the site.