

# Excavation Round-up 1985

BETH RICHARDSON

EXCAVATIONS ARE LISTED by the London Borough or County in which they took place. They are followed by grid reference, the name of the Society or Unit and the name of the director of the excavation. WC and WMC indicate that work continues or may continue in 1986. I am very grateful to Louise Priest for typing this report.

## BARKING

**Barking Abbey Industrial Estate** (TQ 438 840) Passmore Edwards Museum (M. J. Stone)

Excavations between the W end of the medieval Abbey and Barking Creek have revealed prehistoric activity consisting of mesolithic and neolithic flints from the gravel terrace, a crouch burial and Iron Age pits and post holes. Residual Roman building material indicates Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. Evidence of Saxon activity dating from the foundation period of the Abbey (AD 660) consists of two timber buildings. One, with a fine plaster finish, was apparently destroyed by fire, the final floor level containing mid-late Saxon pottery and imported glass. In the Saxo-Norman period pits containing fullers earth and a plank-lined gully feeding in water from a stream give evidence of a sizeable fullery. The medieval layers were destroyed by later industrial activity but the main culvert was excavated and a brick rebuild of the 15/16th c investigated running to the town quay area. WC.

**12 Parkview, Alfred's Way** (TQ 4512 8323) Passmore Edwards Museum (M. Redknapp)

Two areas were examined in the back garden. Preparations for fish ponds, involving the excavation of two 2.5m (8ft) deep trenches had exposed a peat horizon 0.2-0.3m (8in-1ft) thick containing much timber and some bone (immature *bos*). The peat deposit lay c 0.5m (1ft 8in) below OD, above and below estuarine clay.

well to be discovered on the site. It is lined mostly with tufa and chalk blocks, and has so far been excavated to a depth of 1m (3ft 3in). Its construction trench was backfilled partly with clay.

In the same area of the site there are another two buildings, again possibly barns, c 19m x 7m (62ft x 23ft), which either preceded or succeeded the aisled building (Fig. 3). One building consisted of two parallel rows of large post pits, each at least 0.7m (2ft 4in) in diameter and 1m (3ft 3in) deep. The post packing consisted largely of tufa, and the posts themselves seemed to have been about 0.3m (1ft) square (Figs. 4 and 5). The second building, lying immediately to the west, had post pits of a similar size; so far one row of at least seven and a parallel row of at least four post pits have been revealed.

## Future work

From these more recent excavations it is clear that the survival of evidence is very good and of considerable importance to our understanding of the prehistory of the Lower Thames Valley, and equally important is the further evidence of the Roman villa

Two tree trunks were recorded, one lying perpendicular to the other. Both were worked, and together with other worked wood (including a stake point) suggest an early artificial consolidation of the marshy lowlands at this site.

**Campbell Tomb, St Margaret's Church** (TQ 441 838) Forests Projects Ltd (A. Thompson)

Excavation at the E end of St. Margaret's Parish Church, Barking, revealed a brick built tomb, constructed directly onto natural sand and gravel, with two vents at ground level and a low domed roof. Pottery from the limited excavation, immediately around the tomb, was all of mid 17th c date. Within the tomb was a W door, which led directly into the church, and on the south side 4 burial niches (two above two). Centrally placed in the two upper burial niches was an inscribed stone of Tho. Cambell, who had had the tomb constructed in 1645 for himself and his wife Hester. Eight original occupants of the tomb were examined and removed, plus a quantity of dumped and unrelated human skeletal material.

**BARNET** - no excavation

**BEXLEY** - no excavation

**BRENT** - no excavation

## BROMLEY

**M20, Ruxley** South-East London Unit (of Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit)

Rescue excavations during construction of new section of the M20 N of Swanley revealed a small RB farmstead site. Deep ploughing and erosion had reduced the site, and only the bottoms of unconnected ditches were located. 1st and 2nd c pottery was  
*(continued on p. 158)*

estate less than 10 miles (16km) from the Roman city of London. With the abolition of the Greater London Council, funding can unfortunately no longer be assured for the continued support of this project, and support from other bodies is essential if any meaningful record is to be made before the archaeology of 408 acres (170ha) is bulldozed into oblivion.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to Thames Water for continuing to allow us to excavate the site. We are also grateful to the Manpower Services Commission for its support, and to the London Borough of Sutton M.S.C. Agency, in particular A. J. Wilton. We would also like to acknowledge support from the Greater London Council (Historic Buildings Division), Balfour Beatty Ltd., A. Bell & Sons (Paddington) Ltd., Coode and Partners, London Borough of Sutton Libraries and Arts Services, Stewarts Plastics plc and Waygood Peerless Ltd. Thanks are also due to the staff on the excavation, in particular Steve Haynes, Alison Nailor and Andrew Skelton, and to the volunteers.

recovered. The site was subsequently destroyed by contractors' operations.

**Lower Warbank, Keston SELU and Bromley & West Kent Archaeological Group**

Excavations continued on the large IA and RB villa site, ahead of and during house-building and related work. The N ditch of a large enclosure was found close to the villa and seems to date to the mid 1st c. Nearby 3 IA storage pits pre-date the enclosure and produced sherds of coarse pottery. A single large RB pit contained 2nd c pottery.

#### CAMDEN

**West Heath, Hampstead (TQ 257 867) Hendon and District Archaeology Society (M. Maher)**

Further excavation (of 27m<sup>2</sup>, 290sq ft) on this Mesolithic site brings the flint finds now to approx 12700, including a tranchet axe and 2 fabricators. Research work (M. Stuart) has been started on a quantity (8000+) of burnt stone. WC.

**St Etheldreda's Church, Ely Place, EC1 (TQ 3141 8165) Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (P. Mills)**

The Department was invited to examine and record the N portion of the W cloister alley of the Bishop of Ely's town house (c1290-1300) prior to the construction of a new tea room. A 9m (30ft) length of the cloister floor was exposed and at one point traced to its full 3m (10ft) width. It was tiled with 0.2m (8in) square green glazed and yellow slipped Flemish tiles which were laid in a diagonal chequerboard pattern. To the W of the floor a substantial cloister wall, c 0.9m (3ft) wide, was uncovered. It lay askew to the chapel and crypt of the palace, and was constructed from rag and chalk with a ragstone and white plaster facing.

**CITY OF LONDON excavations by Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London.**

**7-12 Aldersgate Street TQ 3216 8151 (G. Egan)**

A watching brief on the remainder of this extra-mural site partially excavated in 1984 (see last year's Round-up). As last year, all work was generously funded by Rush & Tompkins plc. The largest ditch along the E side of the site was found to be of Saxo-Norman date. The fill of this presumably defensive feature produced a pattern-welded knife and Saxo-Norman pottery. This is apparently the first time a substantial ditch of this date has been recorded immediately outside the City wall. Two 14th c jugs, one of which was complete, were recovered from the fills of a medieval well. From the fills of a second chalk-lined well, which had been deepened with an addition to the shaft in brick in the post-medieval period, came an assemblage of finds datable to the mid 17th century. The group includes a plain pewter bowl of unusual form. The latter well is thought to be the one depicted on a detailed plan of 1610 by the surveyor Ralph Treswell, where it is shown in a courtyard, and was presumably shared by two households.

**10 Arthur Street TQ 3280 8078 (P. Bethell)**

Excavations were funded by London and Edinburgh plc for 3 weeks in April 1985. A Roman building with two successive floors of *opus signinum*, an external area and a ditch were recorded. A second building off the site to the N, from its demolition debris, had much painted wall-plaster. The first building was demolished and further occupation attested by an alignment of stakeholes. Medieval pits and post-medieval features were also recorded.

**4, 6 and 8 Creechurch Lane TQ 3340 8116 (S. Rivière)**

A watching brief consisting of four test pits revealed 0.8m (2½ft) of Roman dumps, make-ups and brickearth surfaces into which were cut three groups of medieval rubbish pits and a disturbed burial all of which were sealed by extensive make-up for the standing building.

**6-7 Crescent TQ 3361 8082 (A. Westman)**

Excavations took place in April-July 1985 immediately E of, and outside, the city wall N of the Tower, funded by the site developer, Arundell House Securities Ltd. The Roman wall, the face of which survived up to 2.45m (8ft) in height, was associated with two successive ditches cut a short distance in front of it. The earlier, V-shaped in profile, was severely truncated by the later, flat-bottomed ditch. The backfill of the latter included debris which had tumbled from the wall. The berm in front of the wall was then reduced to the level to which most of the second ditch had been backfilled by the cutting of a third, more extensive flat-bottomed ditch which ran up to the face of the wall and initially exposed the upper courses of the foundations. The first deposits in this ditch were dated to the late 12th-13th c and suggested that the wall was reconstructed at that date. Later dumps of relatively clean gravel may have been upcast from cutting a fourth, much deeper ditch further E, the earliest fill of which was dated to 13th-mid 14th c. The city wall, including its upper medieval construction, survived to an overall height of nearly 11m (36ft). Its disuse as a defence was implied by the cutting of two successive pits in the backfill of the latest ditch. They were lined with horn cores, perhaps for an industrial purpose, and were constructed and back-filled in the late 17th c. The wall then served as support for structures such as a furnace built in brick against its face. A cellar floor, other brick foundations and a brick-lined well were probably associated with the latest building on the site, known to have been built in 1767-70 as part of an elegant redevelopment designed by George Dance the younger.

**Fenchurch Street Station TQ 3345 8092 (S. P. O'Connor-Thompson)**

Between September 1984 and March 1985 a watching brief (funded by Norwich Union) was undertaken at this site. The redevelopment involved the sinking of 25 massive encaissoned concrete piles – up to 3m (10ft) in diameter and over 30m (100ft) deep – the shafts of which had to be hand dug. In the first six caissons it was possible to carry out some recording of the sections, but subsequently the introduction of different shoring techniques made that impossible. Excavation of the caissons was carried out 24 hours a day. Archaeologically it was shown that the pre-station alignment of streets and properties, as exemplified by French Ordinary Court which crosses the site, was in existence by at least the 15th c, and that activity in the area was minimal until the 18th c: perhaps by way of explanation it seems that at least the S fringes of the site were actually over the recently identified ancient valley in this part of the City. Certainly the quantity of water encountered in four adjacent caissons indicates that there is still a stream flowing underground.

**37-40 Fish St Hill/16-20 Monument Street TQ 3292 8074 (N. Bateman).**

Between July and September 1985 an excavation was carried out in advance of redevelopment of the site by Speyhawk, who generously sponsored all archaeological investigation. The site comprised the remaining quarter of a block which had produced dramatic evidence for London's early Roman waterfront, excavated in 1981 (PDN 81). The area of excavation was c 20 × 15m (66 × 49ft) and lay immediately adjacent to the expected alignment of the approach roads to both Roman and medieval London Bridge. In the early 1st c, the hillside leading down to the Thames (+4.80m, 15ft 9in, OD at the N; +3.0m, 9ft 10in, OD at the S) was sealed by a series of dumped deposits to create a terrace upon which a substantial building was constructed. The W wall and the SW corner of this building were of masonry, but at least part of the S wall was probably timber framed. Internal brickearth surfaces in several large rooms and a corridor area along the W frontage were about 1.0m (3ft) higher than the contemporary external ground level to the S.

After a fire in the mid 1st c, possibly associated with the Boudiccan revolt, the building was reconstructed to a similar plan

but with timber walls replaced by masonry. Later the SW corner was rebuilt, the S wall was strengthened and a deep E-W foundation, possibly reflecting the roof ridge alignment, was built across the site. In its latest form, the building was c 14.5m (47½ft) wide E-W with a 7.2m (23½ft) gap separating the S wall and the central bisecting E-W foundation. To the W of the building series of compacted gravel surfaces and of intercutting drains and gullies which led off to the S were found. The highest of these was backfilled with redeposited fire debris of the early to mid 2nd c. The development of the site after this date is not known in detail, since the horizontal sequence was truncated by a modern concrete slab. However, many cut features were recorded. Evidence of the two late Saxon/early medieval cellared buildings was found, cut through the underlying Roman deposits. One used earth-fast posts regularly spaced around the edge of a rectangular cut; the other had N and E walls of mortared rubble and an E wall represented by a probable robbed timber sill. Inside both buildings was a series of brickearth and beaten-earth floors.

A group of c 30 pits, ranging in date from mid 10th to early 13th c, was found along the E side of the site. The concentration is presumed to reflect the close packing of properties along the early medieval predecessor of Fish St. Hill. A complete 17th c cellar, probably burnt in the Great Fire of 1666, was exposed, as well as a number of 17th, 18th and 19th c wells, cess-pits and wall foundations, which show the gradual evolution of the property boundaries until early 1985.

**91-100 Gracechurch St, 1-6 Leadenhall St, 2-12 Whittington Ave (Leadenhall Court) TQ 3340 8110 (S. P. O'Connor-Thompson)**

Between September 1984 and February 1985 investigations were undertaken in advance of major archaeological excavations and subsequent redevelopment. All work was generously funded by Legal and General Assurance Society Ltd. The investigations revealed over 4m (13ft) of Roman stratigraphy in an area which overlies the NE corner of the early 2nd c basilica. The earliest activity was brickearth quarrying succeeded by both industrial and domestic building deposits. They were superseded by the basilica of which at least three *opus signinum* floors were recorded. After it went out of use, the roof collapsed and was sealed by the fallen S wall of the nave. Activity in the area appears to have ceased until the 10th c.

Also recorded was the 14m (45 ft) high W wall of the mid 15th c. Leadenhall. The foundations comprised a series of relieving arches, which themselves are partially founded on the Roman foundations of the basilica. WC.

**36-37 King Street (TQ 3246 8120) (P. Rowsome)**

The excavations took place from January to June 1985 before the demolition of buildings on the site. All the work was funded by the Mercers' Company.

Two areas of excavation forming a total area of 20 × 10m (66 × 33ft) were located just to the N of Roman Cheapside and to the E of the Cheapside baths. Two Roman roads crossed the excavated areas, one running NW-SE and the other NE-SW. The roads met to form a T junction or crossroads c 50-65 AD and were probably integral parts of the initial planning of that western part of the Roman town which lay on the high ground to the N of Roman Cheapside and to the W of Walbrook stream.

The alignment of the two roads, which differed from that of other roads nearby, may have been influenced by the presence of a western tributary of the Walbrook. Evidence of a silt-filled streambed was found to the S of the road junction. The road aligned NW-SE may have converged with Roman Cheapside to form an early bridgehead at the Walbrook.

The earliest road metallings were associated with shallow road-side drains bordered by simple domestic timber buildings. These buildings were destroyed by a fire perhaps associated with the Bouddiccan rebellion. The road seems to have fallen out of use for a short period at this time.

Occupation was quickly re-established on the same alignments with timber and brickearth silled buildings and newly dug timber box drains lining remetalled road surfaces. The new buildings were more substantial, one Flavian building containing at least four rooms with plaster faced sills and an *opus signinum* floor.

All of the roadside properties saw modification and rebuilding until the crowded timber structures were destroyed in the Hadrianic fire (c AD 125). The tendency towards more substantial buildings was continued after the fire by a large structure with brickearth slabs and sills in one room containing a red tessellated floor measuring 5 × 5m (16 × 16ft). This Antonine building was also destroyed by fire and was part of the last recorded phase of roadside occupation.

Throughout the 1st and 2nd c the road alignments and widths (3.5 - 4m, 11½ - 13ft) remained fairly constant with little roadside encroachment even though ground surfaces rose substantially and forced road levels to keep pace by regular resurfacing and drain replacement.

The permanent and perhaps sudden abandonment of the two roads was evidenced by the site-wide deposit of dark earth.

Within the dark earth directly over the NW-SE road was a structural slot and brickearth slab of a building on a different alignment and dated to the late 3rd or early 4th c.

Two late Saxon sunken buildings were recorded, one a small hut measuring 3 × 3m (10 × 10ft) and the other a much larger structure at least 10m (33ft) long. Both were cut into dark earth deposits and were situated in part over the buried NW-SE Roman road.

Fragments of chalk foundations recorded may be related to medieval buildings fronting onto either Cheapside or Lawrence Lane.

**6 Laurence Pountney Hill TQ 3274 8082 (M. O'D. Shea)**

Excavations funded by Miller Buckley Ltd took place during November-December 1985 within a standing building and measuring 30m (100ft) E-W by 6-10m (20-30ft) N-S. The site lies immediately S of Cannon St on a relatively steep gravel slope down to the Thames, and its main importance is its location on or near the sites of the church of St Laurence Pountney and the early 14th c collegiate chapel of Corpus Christi, attached to the church in 1333/4. The site yielded evidence of Roman (N-S flint footings with a possible E-W return of a substantial building, a drain and sewer sequence and large pits, one possibly originally a well), medieval (chalk foundations, an area of burials and square pits) and post-medieval (foundations, walls and surfaces) periods.

**Leadenhall Street, 32-40 Mitre Street TQ 3348 8114 (R. Lea)**

Recording of the above ground remains of Holy Trinity Priory, Aldgate (here referred to as the Arch) continued during 1985 following excavation in 1984. The fabric, which is protected as a listed building, is to be incorporated in the new development. The medieval work is to be stabilised and where possible stripped of later brickwork. The DUA has advised on the interpretation of the remains and liaised with the developers, Speyhawk and the GLC Historic Buildings Division who have the responsibility for protecting the structure.

The Arch, originally part of the S choir aisle wall, gave access to a rectangular chapel to the S, traces of which were found during the excavation. As a pointed arch of two orders moulded in greensand with plain hollow chamfers which die into the jambs without capitals, it would appear to date from the 14th or 15th c. It was inserted into an earlier, probably 12th c arch, traces of which survive in the core observed in the N face of the E side of the Arch. Also observed in the mortar of the core were the impressions of diagonal vault ribs and the point from which they spring. Ashlar work below this springing point and contemporary with the earlier arch forms a return in which the broken off stems of a nook shaft are set in alternating courses. These broken-off

stems also appear in the N face of the W jamb of the Arch and again in the bay to the E. The associated floor level at 14.52m (47ft 7in) OD. N of the Arch, is indicated by tiles set immediately below the lowest course of ashlar in the N face of the E jamb of the Arch. Although damaged, this stone probably represents a plinth. The courses of ashlar associated with the nook shafts vary between 120 and 220mm (5 and 9in) in height, but the pattern of variation is consistent across the two bays, strongly suggesting that the two bays are of one build. Traces of a window in the wall E of the Arch and a spiral staircase in the S face of the wall to the E of the Arch have also been observed. Recent work on antiquarian drawings from about 1800 has also provided the form of the vaults in the adjoining bays together with the capitals of the nook shafts. It is hoped that consolidation work on the Arch will involve reconstruction incorporating these discoveries.

**Broad St Station, Liverpool St (Broadgate development) TQ 3304 8167 (D. Malt)**

A series of excavations, cutting and drawing of sections and inspections of test-pits have been generously funded by Rosehaugh Stanhope plc. The earliest deposits were of a stream-bed, one of the channels of the upper Walbrook, seen as a naturally eroded surface of sands and gravels occupying a shallow, broad channel running NE-SW across the site. Within this main channel were series of smaller stream channels interspersed with washouts of pea gravel and fine waterlain silts. Brickearth and clay dumping during the Roman period on the E and W banks of the stream complement wooden revetments seen on other Walbrook sites to the S, implying control of the upper water course in the Roman period. Thereafter marsh and peat deposits up to 1.3m (4ft) thick within the Walbrook valley indicate part of the large marsh which accumulated in the area (later Moorfields) from the late Roman to the medieval period. A large 13th-14th c N-S linear feature, probably a ditch, corresponds with a ditch shown on the Copperplate Map (c 1558) and one previously recorded nearer the city wall to the S. Wooden revetments running E-W were recorded near the assumed line of the precinct of St Mary Bethlem hospital. Excavation is currently taking place of a burial ground in the SW corner of the site. Over 200 burials, some in coffins, have been recorded; the number of infants is notable. Pottery evidence from the graveyard suggests use in the 16th to 18th c, and documentary evidence suggests that it is part of the New Church Yard founded in 1569 in ground enclosed and donated by Sir Thomas Roe as a supplementary burial ground. It is possible that some burials are from the nearby post-medieval Bethlem Hospital. WC.

**44 London Wall TQ 3272 8153 (C. Maloney)**

Excavations were undertaken to locate and examine the W side of a Roman road first discovered in 1981 some 40m (130ft) to the S. The NNE-SSW orientated road was laid over the natural ground and was bordered by a timber-revetted drainage ditch. No construction date was obtained from this site but it had previously been dated to the late 1st-early 2nd century. The ditch had silted up and became waterlogged towards the 2nd half of the 3rd c but the road remained in use until at least the end of the century. Surfaces were relaid above dumped deposits which continuously raised the ground level, possibly as a measure against a rising water table. The disuse of the road was marked by a sequence of undated brickearth floors and occupation deposits above the latest surface.

**7 Ludgate Broadway TQ 3174 8108 (J. Hill)**

The excavation, sponsored by Guardian Exchange, took place between 19 June and 25 August 1985. The site lies between 28m and 43m (90 and 140ft) outside the Roman city wall. This wall line was followed until the later 13th c when it was demolished to make way for the Dominican Blackfriars. Reconstructions of the friary made from observed walls and documentary evidence suggested that the NW corner of the nave should lie within the area of the site. The site had been terraced by the insertion of post medieval cellars to a level at least 1.50m (5ft) below that of

pre-Roman natural. The W edge of a substantial cut feature running N-S was recorded in three sections. There was little dating evidence from the backfill, but an absence of medieval finds, the size of the cut and the distance of the W edge from the line of the city wall (c 37m, 120ft) all suggested that it was the late Roman city ditch, recorded at other London sites. The backfilled ditch was overlain by the substantial masonry foundations of the NW corner of the nave of the Dominican Friary. The Lady Chapel suggested by Alfred Clapham in 1912 was not evident. Measurements from foundations observed during a watching brief in 1983 (APO 81) to those found at Ludgate Broadway indicate that dimensions quoted in a survey of 1551, hitherto regarded as external specifications, are in fact internal. The church is consequently larger than reconstructions to date have shown. A sequence of badly truncated late 17th/early 18th c brick and tile cellar floors and walls overlay the friary. Portions of foundations reusing moulded stone from the superstructure of the friary were incorporated within these brick features and are probably earlier, though reuse destroyed any dating evidence. Of particular interest were a large quantity of carved bone, ivory and tortoiseshell fan pieces of the late 17th/early 18th c found within material backfilling a cellar to the S of the site, and an extremely deep (3.2m, 10½ft), vaulted cesspit. Also from this feature was a large assemblage of mid 17th/mid 18th c pottery and glass and a number of oyster shells used as paint palettes. This also showed evidence that its earliest phase was of stone robbed from the friary.

**Newgate Street, outside entrance to Central Criminal Court TQ 3182 8139 (S. Riviere)**

A watching brief in an LEB trench uncovered three fragments of the S half of Newgate. A 2m (6½ft) length with a finished E face was constructed of chalk and ragstone and very heavily disturbed by later brick walls. The masonry can be fitted onto a plan of the known fragments of Roman and medieval Newgate, but the date of this fragment could not be established.

**Mansion House, Poultry TQ 3267 8109 (D. Bentley)**

A watching brief was carried out during August 1985 within trial trenches beneath the Mansion House. Natural gravels sloped down to the W, into the Walbrook valley. On the E side seven metalised surfaces representing a yard or street were sealed by late Roman debris. This dump was overlain by a chalk-mortar make-up which may have been associated with St Mary Woolchurch Haw which occupied part of the site in the medieval period. Further down the hill to the W a large accumulation of alluvial deposits overlay the natural gravels, containing undated industrial and domestic rubbish. These waterlogged levels were sealed by substantial clayey dumps. A Roman masonry structure in the immediate area is inferred from large fragments of semi-articulated building debris, which appeared to have collapsed or have been dumped over the sealing layers. This material may have derived from a Roman building recorded only 3m (10ft) to the S during earlier underpinning work in 1917. There was no dating associated with this material.

**1-3 St. Paul's Churchyard, 1-9 Ludgate Hill, 15 Creed Lane and 40 Carter Lane TQ 3188 8110 (B. Pye)**

During June-December 1985, a six week excavation inside standing buildings, followed by a watching brief during demolition and ground works, were funded by UK Providence. The excavation consisted of two areas. In the NW of the site, fronting onto Ludgate Hill (Area A), the truncated natural ground surface was directly beneath the concrete floor slab at 12.00m (39ft 4in) OD. However, above the slumped late 1st c backfill of a quarry pit was a much altered Roman timber post and clay sill constructed building of the early 2nd c. It was destroyed in the Hadrianic period (although there was no evidence of it being burnt down) and replaced by a building of similar construction in the mid 2nd c which was covered by a dump of 3rd c date. Other features recorded in this area include late Saxon to post-medieval pits and a 17th c brick-lined well. Fronting onto Creed Lane was

the second area of excavation (B). Here the natural ground surface at 11.2m (36ft 9in) OD had been covered by a redeposited brickearth slab before a timber post and clay sill building was constructed in the late 1st c. This building was aligned N-S with a gravel "yard" to the S. It appeared to have been burnt down and replaced by a building of similar construction in the early 2nd c. When this building went out of use it was covered by a dump of 3rd c material.

In the watching brief the major feature recorded was a large ditch c 5m (16ft) deep and at least 15m (49ft) wide (truncated to the E), running N-S from the St. Paul's Churchyard frontage. It cut into a late 1st c quarry and was backfilled with Roman and medieval material. Other features recorded by section drawings include parts of Roman timber buildings with associated gravel "yards" and a small E-W running lane, and large pits of medieval to 19th c date. In the S part of the site, fronting onto Carter Lane, deep 19th c basements had destroyed all archaeological deposits except pits.

#### **167-77 Queen Victoria Street (TQ 3168 8091) (K. Steedman)**

At the confluence of the Fleet and Thames in the late 13th or early 14th c, a substantial E-W wall was erected on the foreshore. During or shortly after the construction of this wall large amounts of mixed deposits were dumped behind it to reclaim the land. Stairs were probably constructed to the top of the wall from the new ground level. At the front of the wall, beaches of compacted gravel were deliberately laid, presumably to facilitate the beaching or mooring of boats, and several mooring timbers were found. This deposition began soon after or during the construction of the wall, and continued until the 1st half of the 17th c when a set of wooden stairs was constructed from the top of the wall down to the foreshore. During this period, the area to the N of the wall yielded only traces of dumping and possible external activity from the 14th and 15th c. The stairs to the S of the wall appear to have had a relatively short life. They were dismantled and riverlain deposits sealed them. The foreshore area appears to have been used less intensively after this and the area was itself reclaimed in the 2nd half of the 17th c, probably as part of the general redevelopment of this part of the City following the Great Fire of London in 1666. A sequence of brick cellars was constructed on this reclaimed land and use of the latest one dates from the mid to late 18th c. To the N of the wall the earlier dumping was sealed by, and perhaps partly truncated by, activity associated with a setting for probable ladder access to the wall. This, and the layers which sealed it, were of 18th c date. A brick cellar post-dated them. Modern activity truncated the sequence on both sides of the wall.

#### **St Stephen's Walbrook (TQ 3265 8103) (A. Westman)**

Groundworks during partial underpinning and refurbishment of the Church of St Stephen, Walbrook, were monitored in March-April 1985 by arrangement with the architects, Brandt Potter and Partners. Inside the church, beneath the floor, only brick burial vaults and brick rubble were observed. Outside, the chalk foundations of the medieval church were recorded up to 1.50m (5ft) E of the E face of the foundations and superstructure built by Wren.

### **CROYDON**

#### **Addington Parish Church, Addington Village Road (TQ 371 640) DGLA (J. S. McCracken)**

Site-watching of drainage trenches near the porch and S side of the church revealed no medieval features.

#### **Croydon Parish Church, Church Street (TQ 319 654) DGLA (J. S. McCracken)**

Site-watching of contractor's trenches to the rear of the church and close to the S side of the medieval tower revealed considerable disturbance caused by recent burials: no medieval features were observed.

#### **94 Park Lane (TQ 3250 6500) Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (J. Davison)**

A 6m x 5m (20ft x 16ft) trench looking for signs of the Saxon cemetery located nearby in 1894. Only a medieval field boundary ditch located. Pottery and clay pipe from 18/19th c occupation. Part of Roman fibula brooch recovered from spoil heap by use of metal detector.

### **EALING**

#### **36 Avenue Gardens, Acton (TQ 198 797) Museum of London, DGLA (J. Cotton)**

Site-watching during the erection of a two-storey rear extension revealed traces of presumably linear features of prehistoric or Roman date. From one such feature some 80 sherds of a large bucket-shaped urn of Deverel-Rimbury type were recovered, similar to others found during the construction of the house in 1882. These finds complement those recovered during trial work to the S in 1981.

### **ENFIELD**

#### **Broomfield House, Enfield, Middlesex TQ 3045 9265 (R. Lea; A. Westman)**

An archaeological survey of phases of construction still evident within a standing building, recently fire-damaged, was conducted in March-April 1985 for the London Borough of Enfield, and was funded by the Historic Buildings Division of the GLC. A large country house 11 km (7 miles) N of the City probably originated at least as early as the 16th c, in a 2 storey building of timber frame construction with lath and daub infill. Its upper floor was partly jettied. Ground floor walls were rebuilt and the jetty was superseded when a large brick chimney stack was inserted. At the same time or soon afterwards the house was extended to the N over a brick-lined cellar, in timber framing around another, smaller brick chimney stack. Further extensions or partial reconstructions were built in timber framing with brick nogging infill, partly over additional brick-lined cellars, and sash windows of 17th c type were inserted. The roof of the main part of the building was elevated and re-aligned, probably when a 2 storey entrance hall containing an oak staircase was built in the first extension to the original house. A mural painting in the hall, signed and dated 1726, provided a *terminus ante quem* for this development. The ground floor room in the S part of the original house was probably a kitchen. Rooms added to its E were built to remain cool and ventilated, for food storage, and were connected with the existing cellars by a basement passage. Subsequently a range of service rooms filled in the E front, probably at the same time as the principal rooms were panelled and a portico built around the main entrance in the W front. A suite of spacious rooms was added to the N, probably early in the 19th c, built of place bricks faced internally with lath and plaster and externally with stock bricks. Later modifications, such as installation of water pipes (some of which ran behind fireplaces to be heated) and drains, culminated in the 20th c in the refacing of most of the exterior.

#### **Millfield House, Silver Street (TQ 3304 9256) Enfield Archaeological Society**

Excavations were carried out in the basement of the house (c 1780) as part of a survey. Areas of original brick flooring and a brick-lined gully were found below a later floor of re-used slate slabs. A brick-lined well was examined and fragments of late 18th c glass bottles and 19th c pottery were recovered by a diver. A circular depression in a brick floor previously thought to be a filled-in well appeared to be the result of subsidence of an earlier tree root disturbance.

#### **51 Leighton Road (TQ 3405 9550) EAS**

A trial trench in the garden next to no. 53, excavated in 1978/79, to determine whether Roman levels existed W of the N-S ditch found there, on the presumed line of Ermine Street. Roman

pottery was found, but not the disturbed gravel layer observed previously to the E of the ditch.

#### **11 Private Road (TQ 3300 9575) EAS**

Trial excavation on land attached to the garden. The site had been covered by c 1m (3ft) of brickearth during landscape gardening and the construction of an ornamental lake, probably in the 18th c.

#### **2 Poynter Road (TQ 3402 9578) EAS**

A small trial trench to look for evidence of Roman occupation W of Landseer Road. The site had been badly disturbed by building work and a garden air-raid shelter.

#### **2c Landseer Road (TQ 3409 9578) EAS**

Excavation started in October 1985 in the garden next to no. 2c (formerly 94), where an E-W Roman ditch was recorded in 1966. So far two burnt clay features, possibly corn driers, and rubbish pits, possibly 2nd c, have been found. WC.

#### **FULHAM & HAMMERSMITH – no excavation**

#### **GREENWICH – no excavation**

#### **HACKNEY – no excavation**

#### **HARROW**

#### **The Grove, Harrow-on-the-Hill (TQ 154 876) Harrow Archaeological Surveys (C. Currie)**

Survey of earthworks within modern wood confirmed that they are the remains of fish ponds, probably of medieval date.

#### **Pinner Village Gardens (TQ 125 888) HAS (C. Currie)**

Small scale excavation of low earthworks revealed that they are narrow rig ridge and furrow, probably of medieval date.

#### **HARINGEY – no excavation**

#### **HAVERING – no excavation**

#### **HILLINGDON**

#### **118, High Street, Uxbridge (TQ 054 844) DGLA and West London Archaeological Field Group (J. Cotton)**

Trial excavation to the rear of a 17th c house at the N end of the town recovered pottery of 13th-15th c date, but no medieval features.

#### **20 High Street, Uxbridge (TQ 055 841) DGLA and WLAFG (J. Mills)**

Following the demolition of the 19th c rear wing of a Tudor timber-framed inn, excavation revealed traces of medieval and 17th c rear extensions and gravelled yard surfaces. Among the structures recovered were a well-preserved tile-built keyhole oven and a chalk-lined well, both probably of later medieval date. Other notable features include pits and scoops datable to the prehistoric period and 13th-15th c. A brick-lined rectangular 'tank', probably associated with the inn, produced a large assemblage of post-medieval pottery, predominantly of near-complete vessels, tentatively dated to c 1770-90.

Recording by the DGLA and the RCHM of the Tudor frontage building prior to refurbishment suggests that the core of the building may date to c 1500. It consisted of two bays with covered cross-passage adjacent. Fragmentary red-and-blue paintings of foliage were observed on one wall of a first-floor chamber.

#### **Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth (TQ 068 782) DGLA and WLAFG (J. Cotton & J. Mills)**

Further excavation in advance of gravel extraction has revealed a series of prehistoric pits and scoops which may be assigned to the Later Neolithic period and the Late Bronze Age: they have

produced pottery, flintwork, and environmental data. Metal finds include a Late Bronze Age copper alloy pin. Part of a rectangular enclosure measuring 16m (52ft) N-S has been recovered, and may be of Later Prehistoric date. WC.

#### **Sipson Lane, Harlington (TQ 075 783) DGLA (J. Mills)**

Site-watching during gravel extraction located a shallow scoop containing prehistoric pottery, flintwork, and a polished flint axe fragment.

#### **Stockley Park, Dawley, (c TQ 083 808) DGLA (J. Cotton)**

Excavation of an area in excess of 4000m<sup>2</sup> (1 acre) on a surviving patch of Fourth Terrace gravel within a 139ha (345 acre) development revealed a small unenclosed Iron Age settlement comprising four circular huts and a number of post-built granary structures. A considerable quantity of pottery was recovered, together with several triangular loomweights and a spindle-whorl. Metal slag was present in a number of features, and early indications point to the existence of much carbonised cereal grain in certain of the soil samples.

Other finds include several Palaeolithic flakes from the surface of the gravel terrace itself, together with a single Neolithic pit containing struck flintwork and sherds of possible Fengate ware. (See *L.A.* 5 no. 5, Winter 1985, 140).

#### **HOUNSLOW**

#### **Douglas Road (TQ 138 757) DGLA and WLAFG (J. Cotton & J. Mills)**

Trial excavations conducted in advance of a central shopping centre/library development to the rear of the properties fronting the High Street revealed evidence of late medieval/early post-medieval gravel quarrying. No evidence with a bearing on the presumed alignment of the nearby London-Silchester Roman road survived.

#### **ISLINGTON – no excavation**

#### **KENSINGTON & CHELSEA – no excavation**

#### **KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES**

#### **Horsefair, Thames St/Old Bridge Street (TQ 179 694) DGLA (J. S. McCracken)**

Excavations at the corner of Old Bridge Street and Thames Street revealed a well-preserved 14th c undercroft, of chalk blocks with knapped flints set into the walls as a 'chequerboard' decoration. The walls and approximately 2m (6½ft) of the roof survive intact. Originally the undercroft would have been situated at the N end of the approach road to the medieval bridge of Kingston. Excavations along the street frontage towards the bridge revealed two 15/16th c buildings with stone foundations and clay floors with associated pitched tiled hearths and a tile and flint lined cesspit of c 1500. There is a possibility that the undercroft will be scheduled.

#### **Monday Market Site, Fairfield North (TQ 184 693) DGLA (J. S. McCracken)**

Trial excavation of the gravel terrace along Fairfield North revealed no archaeological features. A sequence through the gravels and sands was obtained.

#### **LAMBETH**

#### **Lambeth Palace, Kitchen Garden, SE1 (TQ 3074 7906) DGLA (D. Seeley)**

The site was located in the SE corner of Lambeth Palace grounds, approximately 135m (440ft) E of the medieval chapel (built c 1210 AD), 175m (575ft) ENE of Morton's Tower (built c 1486 AD), the main entrance to the Palace, and about 200m (650ft) E of the River Thames.

**Prehistoric** – One pit and one other possible feature contained small abraded sherds of pottery and quantity of worked flints. More abraded sherds and worked flints were recovered from post-prehistoric contexts.

**Medieval** – A small ditch was excavated in an area that revealed no other medieval cut features, only a deposit of 'garden' or 'plough' soil.

**Post-medieval** – Numerous small pits and post-holes were found. A large rectangular pit, of late 17th or early 18th c date, contained kitchen refuse deposits and a large iron key. On the N side of the site, the fills of a large pond of post-1750 date were recorded.

**LEWISHAM** – no excavation

**MERTON** – no excavation

**NEWHAM** – no excavation

**REDBRIDGE** – no excavation

**RICHMOND** – no excavation

### **SOUTHWARK**

**Bermondsey Abbey** (TQ 3340 7935) DGLA (D. Beard)

**Saxon** – Isolated finds of chaff-tempered ware, and one *sceatta* indicate middle Saxon activity, although no features can be definitely assigned to this period. A large ditch bounding the E and S sides of the site contained a Thetford-type ware spouted pitcher and sherds of Late Saxon shelly ware in its primary fill. This appears to be a pre-Monastic boundary ditch which was filled in in the late 11th c when building of the priory started.

**Medieval** – The infirmary comprised three phases: 1) a rectangular building with internal latrine, of late 11th c date. 2) extensions to this building to the E and W in the 12th c. 3) a late 12th c total rebuilding following a plan similar to the infirmary at the priory of St Pancras, Lewes. Part of the E range of the cloisters has original Norman pillar bases in its S and 14th c pillar bases to the N of the Dorter undercroft. Wall foundations running W of this range are probably part of the frater, but have not yet been investigated.

**Post-medieval** – The E wall of the dorter was totally rebuilt on its original medieval foundations. This work appears to date from the construction of Sir Thomas Pope's 16th c Manor House.

**Courage South-East (Thrale Street/Redcross Way) SE1** (TQ 3242 8020) DGLA (R. Densem)

The site lay on the S bank of the Thames, in the NW part of the Roman and medieval settlement. An area of c 500m<sup>2</sup> (5400sq ft) was excavated between Summer 1984 and March 1985.

**Roman** – In the S part of the site, the top of the natural sand lay at between +1.4 and +1.75m (4ft 7in and 5ft 9in) OD. Above it was brown sand with early Roman pottery, possibly the weathered surface of the natural sand, or a ploughsoil. Overlying and cut into this sand was a sequence of clay and timber buildings; one had a cellar with a tiled floor. A necklace of 35 faience beads, fragments of inscribed marble and an inscribed pierced lead tag were discovered. Later in the Roman period, a large building with stone foundations stood on the site. Part of a wall, which was made of re-used *tegulae* and had fallen in antiquity, was also excavated. The latest Roman features were 7 inhumations, 3 aligned N-S and 4 E-W. In three of the graves, chalk layers covered the bones, and one of these inhumations had a coin of the AD 340s.

The N third of the site was on lower ground, with the top of the natural sand and gravel lying at between +0.40 and +0.70m (1ft 4in and 2ft 4in) OD. It was overlain by peat and waterlaid clay.

Roman dumps had brought the land surface up to about +0.90m (3ft) OD, on which successive insubstantial clay and timber buildings were built. The latest Roman deposits underlay 'dark earth'.

Five machine-dug trial trenches were examined some 80m (260ft) to the W. In the N part of the area, waterlaid clays, silt and peats were present between at least -1.4m and +1.50m (-4ft 7in and +4ft 11in) OD, but to the S the truncated top of natural sand and gravel survived as high as c 1.2m (4ft) OD. No evidence was found for Roman buildings, though a few cut features of that date were recorded.

**Hays' Dock Block 'A'** (TQ 3315 8031) DGLA (B. Yule)

Brief archaeological recording and limited excavation of a 50m<sup>2</sup> (540 sq ft) area in the NE corner of the Hays Dock redevelopment site were carried out in March 1985. Contractors' excavations had revealed, at c -2m (-6ft 7in) OD, a deposit containing a very large assemblage of early 16th c metalwork – nails, knives and assorted tools, keys, buckles and various household objects.

This group, interpreted as a collection of scrap metal, had been dumped into a watercourse, whose NW edge was retained with more than one phase of timber revetment. Although the full width of the stream was not discovered, its location is consistent with the medieval millstream which defined the SE boundary of the town house of the abbots of Battle and served mills on the riverfront.

**Platform Wharf, Cathay Street, SE1** (TQ 3480 7972) DGLA (G. Dennis)

**Medieval** – Machine trial work in advance of a proposed excavation was carried out to locate a medieval building first discovered in 1907. Stone walls of a large rectangular structure and a possible moat were revealed. These substantial remains are probably parts of the royal residence constructed at Rotherhithe in the mid 14th c for Edward III.

**St Olaf House** (TQ 3288 8033) DGLA (G. Dennis, M. Hammerson and D. Seeley)

During observations of contractors' works next to the SW corner of St Olaf House a sequence of Roman dumped deposits were recorded overlying the natural clay. Some truncated medieval foundations cut into the Roman deposits. The remains of the 18th c hexagonal stone and brick built tower of St Olaf's Church survived to modern street level.

**2 Southwark Street, 1a Bedale Street, SE1** (TQ 3268 8021) DGLA (G. Dennis, R. Densem and D. Seeley)

The site lies about 250m (820ft) SW of the modern London Bridge in the basement area of two adjacent standing buildings. Its area is c 20m × 8m (65ft × 26ft).

**Roman** – At the E end of the site early phases of the London Bridge approach road were investigated. W of the road and parallel to it a wood-lined drain was uncovered alongside a robbed stone wall. In the W half of the site remains of two superimposed clay and timber buildings survived, the earlier structure having burnt down *in situ*. These buildings are thought to be of late 1st to 2nd c date. All the later Roman ground surfaces were truncated by the post-medieval cellar construction.

**Medieval and later** – Evidence for medieval occupation was limited to deep cut features including a large E-W aligned ditch at least 4m (13ft) wide and a rectangular chalk cesspit with fills dating from the late 15th to early 16th c. This cesspit may be the only surviving feature of a medieval tenement that fronted onto Borough High Street.

**White Hart Yard (rear of 56-61 Borough High Street SE1)** (TQ 3268 8013) DGLA (P. Hinton and D. Seeley)

Observation of contractors' foundation works on this c 400m<sup>2</sup> (4300sq ft) site revealed deposits of early Roman to post-medieval date, including evidence of building activity in the Roman period.

Chalk foundations of buildings facing onto White Hart Yard were recorded.

## SUTTON

**Beddington Sewage Works** (TQ 297 658) DGLA (L. Adkins, R. Adkins and J. G. Perry)

Excavation has continued since November 1984. An area of 1 acre (0.4ha) is under excavation immediately S of that excavated in 1981-83 (final report in press). Many prehistoric pits, post-holes and ditches have been discovered, some of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age date, and at least four round-houses (probably Late Iron Age) have been recognised. Further evidence of Roman occupation has been recovered, probably the most important of which is a series of three large buildings (probably large barns of different dates). Several ditches forming field boundaries have been excavated, and a tufa- and chalk-lined well is under excavation. WC.

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

Completion of excavation in bed of dry lake (see previous Round-up).

**North Street, Carshalton** (TQ 279 646) BCWAS (C. R. Orton)

Observation of 64m (210 ft) long foundation trench for replacement of listed boundary wall between North Street and The Grove revealed several earlier walls.

## TOWER HAMLETS

**41-42 Trinity Square** (TQ 3360 8080) DGLA (S. Pierpoint)

Excavations in advance of building work examined the area inside the Roman City wall in the SE part of its circuit N of the Tower of London and the Roman postern gate. The wall was constructed in the normal way with rubble and clay foundations, and an inside earth rampart of 2.5m (8ft) which survived to its full extent. A white mortar spread at the base of the rampart stretched over 12m (40ft) from the wall. A 2m (6½ft) deep ditch behind the rampart which had been regularly re-cut produced late 3rd c material in its latest fill. The latest Roman features on the site were a cut along the back of the rampart (dated c AD 300), and a massive gravel pit behind the rampart which was infilled with building refuse, and subsequently with late 4th c domestic refuse including a fine piece of engraved 4th c glass. Later features on the site included possible medieval property boundaries and medieval and post-medieval levelling.

**27 Minorities, EC3** (TQ 3365 8104) DGLA (R. Ellis)

A watching-brief on the site of the Three Lords public house revealed the E side of a N-S V-shaped Roman ditch containing 1st and early 2nd c pottery and a robber trench 1.15m (3ft 9in) wide and 0.85m (2ft 9in) deep containing late 3rd c pottery. A limited excavation on the S site revealed a late 3rd c Roman "plaster" burial (the site is within the Roman cemetery area) overlying a gravel surface and below that a sandy layer dating to the 2nd c.

**1-2 Norton Folgate, E1** (TQ 3340 8192) DGLA (R. Ellis)

Excavations in advance of redevelopment were carried out on this site which lies within the precinct of the medieval Priory and Hospital of St Mary (founded 1197) and within a Roman cemetery area. Medieval drainage ditches and gullies pre-dated the ?12th c Hospital and cemetery from which 52 inhumations were recovered. The foundations of a later substantial medieval building were partially excavated, and on the W of the site a N-S wall may represent the boundary of the precinct. Remains of the Roman period were represented by quarrying activity and 2m (6½ft) of backfilled domestic and building debris and clay. WC.

**Stepney Green, E1** (TQ 3580 8170) DGLA (P. Falcini)

Trial trenches were opened in a limited excavation of the former Worcester House (the London home of the Marquis of

Worcester) which was built in the late 16th c. The distinctive semi-octagonal W tower of the gatehouse, depicted in an illustration of 1790, was uncovered, as well as a range of other buildings constructed from soft red bricks set in yellow mortar. The buildings appear to have remained unchanged, or slightly modified, between the late 16th c and 1858 when they were demolished to make way for housing.

## WALTHAM FOREST

**Walthamstow Central** (TQ 371 890) Forest Projects Ltd (A. Thompson)

Large area excavation which revealed the rear of modern terraced buildings and their associated gardens. With the removal of these features natural clay and gravel was revealed, and no further archaeological information was forthcoming. Several pieces of abraded 14/15th c pottery (? London Type wares) were recovered, but they appear to be residual, probably brought to the site with garden topsoil. Three similarly sized areas, around the main excavation, were machine trenched in order to reveal any extant archaeology. However, the sequence of modern housing directly on top of natural clay and gravel occurred throughout. The recorded evidence suggests that the area was still forested up to the 17/18th c when the area was cleared for a farm to the E of the main excavation.

## WANDSWORTH

**Battersea Parish Church, Battersea Church Road** (TQ 268 768) DGLA (J S McCracken)

Site-watching of repair work within the crypt below the N side of the church revealed a number of late 18th and early 19th c burials.

## WESTMINSTER

**Jubilee Hall site, Covent Garden** (TQ 3040 8085) DGLA (R. Whytehead)

Site-watching at the Jubilee Hall Market site revealed important evidence of mid-Saxon occupation on the Strand foreshore of the Thames. Evidence for buildings and industrial use was provided by beam slots with associated postholes, pits (some containing slag and horncores), fireplaces, a clay floor with hearth and at least one well. Animal bones and shell were found throughout the site in great quantity, and finds included pottery dating from the mid 7th-9th c, circular loomweight fragments and a *sceatta* dated c 720 AD.

## ESSEX

**Abbey Church, Waltham Abbey** (TL 3811 0065) Waltham Abbey Historical Society (P. J. Huggins)

Prior to re-flooring, small excavations are being carried out in the aisles of the standing church. The foundations are being investigated in an attempt to understand the phases of construction of the building. Foundations probably of a building earlier than the Norman church have been discovered.

**Abbey Mead, Waltham Abbey** (TL 3816 0079) WAHS (P. J. Huggins)

Trial trenches were dug in the grounds of the Abbey Farmhouse because a Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Information Centre is planned there. One side of the plinth of a well-preserved timber-framed building was found and will be fully investigated if the Centre is built.

**Northfields Nursery, Sewardstone, Waltham Abbey** (TQ 380 977) WAHS (P. J. Huggins)

During earthmoving further Romano-British pottery was found. Excavation showed it came from a pond. It dates to c AD 360 and contained Much Hadham redware as well as sherds of Oxfordshire and Colchester wares.