

Excavation Round-up 1986

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.

BARKING

Barking Abbey Industrial Estate TQ 438 840 Passmore Edwards Museum (K. MacGowan)

Continuing work on the middle Saxon site of Barking Abbey produced three hall-type wooden buildings, three Saxon wells and a revetted cut water channel. Important finds include a large collection of Ipswich-type pottery and imported wares, a range of glass vessel fragments and more than 100 timbers showing clear tool marks, many suitable for dendrochronology.

A section of road lying between the Abbey Church and the Industrial Estate excavation site has been relaid. The continuation of the medieval wall screening the Abbey Church from the area of the precinct running down to Barking Creek was recorded. The corner of a building to the W of this wall was also noted. The wall lines of the Main Drain from the reredorter were revealed briefly and appear to be badly damaged.

Barking New Vicarage TQ 442 837 PEM (K. MacGowan)

Trial trenching just beyond the medieval boundary of the Abbey produced evidence of timber structures, one with clay floor, and property boundary ditches of 13/14th c date. The site was in use from at least the Saxo-Norman period. WC.

St Margaret's Church, Barking TQ 441 838 PEM (K. MacGowan)

Drainage work around the medieval church revealed earlier walling running at an angle of 45° to the current church wall. The base of a blocked doorway was recorded in the S wall.

BARNET – no excavation

BEXLEY – no excavation

BRENT

South Way, Wembley TQ 191 354 Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (J. Mills)

Machine trial excavations were undertaken in advance of office development on the presumptive site of the medieval free chapel of St. Michael, Tokyngton. A few apparently medieval features – mostly shallow scoops – were recorded, together with the waterlogged timber footings of a long narrow building referred to on early 19th c maps as “dog kennels”, but otherwise undated. No trace of the chapel itself was found, and it was concluded that it may have lain a little further N, under the modern road.

BROMLEY

Lower Warbank, Keston South East London Archaeological Unit (Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit) (B. Philp)

Rescue excavations were carried out in part of the major Iron Age, Roman Villa and Saxon site largely excavated between 1967 and 1985. The N ditch of a large enclosure relating to the main complex was traced for a further 30m (100ft), producing 3rd c material. It cut across an earlier N-S ditch flanking the W side of the site. Two inhumation burials, without grave-goods, were found in the NW corner of the site.

Scadbury Park, Chislehurst TQ 459 701 Orpington and District Archaeological Society (S. Archer, F. A. Hart & V. E. Satterthwaite)

In 1983 the Scadbury estate was purchased by the London Borough of Bromley, and at their invitation ODAS began excavations in 1986. The estate contains a moated area c 50m (160ft) square, on which are the brick foundations of a hall complex, demolished c 1760. The best known owners were the Walsingham family who held the manor from 1424 to 1655.

The moated island was cleared of vegetation, and excavation started between the W perimeter wall and the adjacent wall of the large W ?parlour. Below modern topsoil, what appears to be the foundation trench of the perimeter wall was found. Pottery, much roof tile, and brick were present in the fill. The foundations of the W parlour wall were shown to rest in part on a thin layer of iron-working residues. Some excavation has also been carried out within two of the room enclosures next to the hall. WC.

CAMDEN

West Heath, Hampstead TQ 257 867. Hendon & District Archaeological Society (M. Maher)

Second phase of excavation at this Mesolithic site is now complete, having reached the limits of undisturbed deposits. Processing of the artefacts continues.

CITY OF LONDON Excavations by the Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology.

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

Excavations in the SW corner of the site were completed in April, revealing considerable dumping over the marsh deposits and producing a section through the E bank of the Walbrook. The bank in this part of the site was constructed of compacted gravel, clay and building rubble. Tentative dating evidence from ceramic material places its construction to 180-230. Some 400 post-medieval burials were excavated from an area within the boundaries of the new churchyard, founded in 1569 by the city to relieve the congestion occurring in parish burial grounds. The burials were found in high density – some 8 per m³. The cemetery was used up to at least 1720. Primary burials were mostly uncoffined but a large proportion of the later inhumations were coffined burials. A large brick vault contained six members of the Jenkes family, in lead coffins with highly decorated wooden inner coffins, dating from 1686 to 1714. Other finds included two Roman hipposandals and good groups of post-medieval pottery.

76 Cannon Street TQ 3258 8092 (A. Stephenson)

An excavation c 2.5m (8ft) square, funded by Peachey Properties, took place during September-November. The earliest deposits were of the stream-bed of the Lower Walbrook at a level of 3.10m (10ft 2in) OD. In the 1st c the E bank was consolidated with a N-S aligned revetment. Land to the W was subsequently reclaimed by further piling and dumping of organic material and brickearth to receive three successive Roman buildings, associated with glass- and iron-working. A 4th c timber box well cut the last of these and the 3m (10ft) of Roman stratification were sealed by 0.5m (1ft 8in) of dark earth filled pits. A large group of mid-late 4th c pottery was recovered.

52 Carter Lane TQ 3182 8109 (B. Watson)

The excavation, sponsored by Waterglade International

Holdings Ltd, took place in September and October. The N side of a large, truncated, ditch (2.6m, 8½ft, deep) aligned NW to SE (the same alignment as the oblique N boundary of Nos 52 and 54/56 Carter Lane) was recorded. It can be estimated from test pits on the adjoining properties (PAL 86) that the ditch is about 13m (43ft) wide. The finds from the primary backfill of the ditch suggest it is of Norman or 12th c date; it may therefore be that of Montfitchet's Tower. The S part of the site was occupied by the foundations of a later 17th c building, fronting onto Carter Lane. Internal part to this building was a small, rectangular, brick built icheuse, with a vaulted roof.

10-13 Carthusian Street TQ 3206 8188 (D. Bentley)

A watching brief was carried out in July. It produced evidence of 13th c occupation, demonstrating the extent to which London's suburbs had grown by this date (the site lies 450m, ¼ mile, N of the City wall at Aldersgate). The earliest activity identified was a deposit of heavily pitted early medieval agricultural or garden soil, over which a large building provisionally of 13th c date was erected, with walls founded on arches of chalk and flint. This building was extended with the construction of shallow foundations extending 6m (20ft) to the W; associated chalk-lined pits and a well were found. The well was partially rebuilt, using carved medieval stonework which may have come from the chalk founded building.

In the 16th c a replacement brick building was erected, using the earlier foundations and following the same property boundaries. It too underwent development and extension to the W over what had become a large metalled yard. The associated rubbish pits produced many wine jars, bottles, cups and plates, and reinforces the 17th c documentary evidence that shows this to be the site of the Red Lion Inn which fronted onto Aldersgate Street 20m (66ft) to the E.

16 Coleman Street TQ 3259 8147 (C. Spence)

During February a watching brief was undertaken during ground works. Natural gravel was truncated to a level of 8.95m (29ft 4in) O.D. over the whole site; however, a number of pits were recorded. The earliest were rubbish pits of early 2nd c date. In the N-E corner of the site was a square wooden structure set within a pit, with an external clay packing. It was backfilled in the 3rd c and disturbed by a mid 4th c NW-SE gully. Pits of the 11th c to 17th c were recorded. A possible post-medieval cellar sequence was recorded at the E site limit.

3-7 Dowgate Hill TQ 3257 8088 (C. Maloney)

A watching brief of exploratory pits prior to refurbishment by Taylor Woodrow took place in February-March, revealing internal rooms of a heated Roman building. In one pit a tessellated floor was recorded, associated with a wall rendered with *opus signinum* and faced with thin slabs of Purbeck marble. In a nearby pit an internal corner of a room with a hypocaust was located. Two walls survived up to 2.45m (8ft) in height, composed of tiles rendered with *opus signinum*, the bottom of the wall being lined with vertically set tiles. It was constructed on a concrete floor onto which *pilae* had been set and above which lay another concrete floor. In other pits a collapsed tile wall, ragstone walls and concrete floors were recorded.

17-21 Farrington Street TQ 3165 8132 (P. Durnford)

Finds of the Roman, medieval and post medieval periods testify to the continuing interest shown in this valley site from an early period. Although a number of possibly medieval timbers and wall fragments were observed and plotted, only tentative building lines can be suggested. The earlier course of the river Fleet may have been further to the E, hence the presence of typical waterfront dumps and possible revetment features in the W of the site. Brick floor and wall fragments, together with several portions of post medieval drain or pit fill from 17th c contexts were also recorded. A drain or channel may formerly have existed in the centre of the site, feeding down the Fleet.

94-97 Fenchurch Street TQ 3345 8110 (S. Rivière)

Excavation took place here between October and December.

The earliest feature on the site was a 26m (85ft) long Roman ditch, partly with the 'ankle-breaking' profile suggestive of a military function. It had a fairly short life and was backfilled and levelled over at one time, with the first indications of several flimsy timber structures sealing the levelling. These structures and a large domestic oven were themselves sealed by a further levelling up for the first of the more substantial buildings. These buildings, Building 1 and 2, were single storey, with wattle and daub walls supported by clay sills and roofed with thatch, and were confined to the E half of the site. To the W was an extensive external gravel area, possibly a courtyard, which covered an area at least 17 × 16m (56 × 53ft). The two buildings were completely destroyed by a major fire, probably Boudiccan. The new buildings and streets were deliberately laid out on a new alignment, at 45° to the preceding buildings, employing slightly different building techniques but producing basically timber, with wattle and daub, walls and thatched roofs. Each was subdivided into several rooms and was altered internally during its lifetime. They had in plan the shape of a fairly typical strip building and appeared to front onto the street running to the S and E. To the W of these buildings lay a street composed of bands of gravel heavily compacted to form a smooth surface with a slight camber. The sides were revetted with timber, and a succession of roadside ditches ran along both sides. The street was resurfaced at least three times and was in use well into the 2nd c AD. It must have met the street on which the buildings were fronting at an angle of less than 90°, suggesting that the street found on the excavation may have been only a side street.

Any possible later Roman activity was destroyed by several 12th c and later rubbish pits, wells and three chalk lined pits.

Guildhall House, 81-87 Gresham Street TQ 3251 8131 (K. Steedman)

The excavation, funded by the Corporation of London, took place between December 1985 and March 1986. The earliest features were the robbed remains of 1st c Roman buildings in the centre of the site and to the W (on a slightly different alignment). Site-wide dumping of re-deposited brickearth followed. Truncation by the basements of the demolished building removed most deposits above this horizon. A sequence of surfaces of 1st-3rd c date surviving in the centre of the site were assumed to be associated with robbed structural features. They maintained the earlier alignment, as did a series of later robbing cuts to the E, the most significant of which represented a 1.5m (5ft) wide wall at least 16m (53ft) long (robbed in the 4th c). The sequence in the centre was capped by a 1.4m (4ft 7in) wide tile wall which ran NW-SE. Additions were made to its S side, the latest of which comprised a three-aisled building possibly 10m (33ft) long with two rows of large posts. It was aligned with the features to the W, rather than the large wall to the E. A layer of dark soil of 4th c date overlay some of the robbed remains. Pits of late Saxon date contained 4 bone trial pieces, one inscribed with a name, perhaps the artist's. Most of the site had pitting of 11th/12th c date succeeded for the most part by chalk or masonry walls on the modern N-S orientation, contrary to that of the Roman features. A well-built 12th c cellared feature, 1.6 × 1.2m (5ft 3in × 4ft), and several cess-pits survived. There were no medieval surfaces.

Leadenhall Court; 91-100 Gracechurch Street; 1-6 Leadenhall Street; 2-12 Whittington Avenue TQ 3340 8110 (S. O'Connor Thomson & G. Milne)

From October 1985 to September 1986 extensive excavations followed preliminary work reported in LA 5, no 6, 158. The project, generously funded by the Legal and General Assurance Society and HBMC, was designed to examine a large area over and immediately N of the site of the suggested Roman basilica. The eleven trenches investigated below basements of the standing buildings on the S side of the site were supervised by P Wootton, and the three large external areas were supervised by T Brigham (S) G Brown (W) and G Milne (N).

Evidence was found for the initial clearance of tree cover, also quarry pits, ditches, a building with earth-fast posts and a thick

fire-debris horizon. All were sealed by six brickearth-walled buildings, pottery from which has been dated to c AD 60-80; the associated pits, wells, alleys and middens were also excavated. All were swept away by a major redevelopment of the site which saw the introduction of a large masonry public building extending beyond the S, W and E limits of excavation. A well-made road lay to its N, with brickearth and timber buildings beyond that. Major structural modifications to the masonry building were recorded, as was the sequence of development in many of the rooms, together with the complex pattern of demolition and robbing. The Roman finds were typical of a Roman civilian settlement: nothing of a military character has yet been identified on the site. There was much Roman pottery from early Flavian to 4th c in date, including a great range of imports. There are very good examples of unusual types, for example hollow-foot amphora, Rhineland mortaria, and glazed ware from central Gaul and S-E England. Glass vessels included chariot and athletes cups and a double-handed cup (*scyphos*). Several iron water-pipe collars were recovered.

The road was resurfaced nine times, but a thick layer of silt sealed the latest surface, into which a series of Saxon pits and other features were cut. Much structural evidence survived of the 15th c Leadenhall market, as the trenches straddled the N part of the quadrangular market building, locating its truncated foundations. A fragment of the exterior wall of the W range survived to a height of 11.2m (37ft) between modern buildings. It displayed evidence for an open ground floor for trade and, above, two floors for storage of wheat. Cellars built on the site of the N wing, after its demolition in 1795, incorporated over 100 dressed mouldings and blocks from the superstructure of the building. This information, coupled with the large body of documentary/pictorial records preserved in the Guildhall, will make possible a detailed reconstruction of this unique medieval building.

2-5 Minorities TQ 3363 8116 (I. Blair)

In the basement of No. 3, a trench 6 × 2.5m (20 × 8ft) was excavated over a two-week period before demolition. The earliest sequence, of Roman date, comprised a series of brickearth quarries, up to 2.5m (8ft) deep, which bottomed out at 3.50m (11½ft) beneath the basement slab. Following their backfilling and consolidation, the area seems to have been given over to open fields during the medieval period and to have been extensively ploughed. This was evident by a well-sorted group of level-surfaced layers which extended across the entire trench.

Intruding through the plough horizons was a large circular cut c 1.70m (5½ft) in diameter which seems to have been a bell-casting pit, and contained much smashed clay bell mould and some 14th c pottery.

32-4 Mitre Street TQ 3343 8116 (S. Rivière)

A watching brief, funded by Speyhawk, was carried out in March and April, in an area which previously had been part of the graveyard of St Katherine Cree Church. The trench was 15 × 3.5m (49 × 11½ft) with a survival of 6m (20ft) of stratigraphy. The natural brickearth was sealed by a series of patchy Roman surfaces and cut by a possible quarry pit, sealed in turn by a series of homogenous dumps. Cutting into the dumps were burials, in stone and mortar cists, probably a continuation of the late Saxon graveyard excavated to the east in LEA 84 (see 1985 LA summary) which were themselves disturbed by the construction of massive chalk foundations for the wall of the nave of Holy Trinity Priory. The ground level to the S of the nave rose, and further burials continued to be made. Three very large buttresses, (one of which was itself later enlarged) were added to the S of the S wall. Burials continued to be made, to give a rise of 2.6m (8½ft) to the destruction horizon of the Priory from the construction level. Parts of the superstructure of the Holy Trinity Priory must have remained standing in the late 16th c, as a new N-S wall was constructed to abut the S wall of the nave, probably forming the new E boundary for the graveyard for the parish church of St Katherine Cree which lay to the S. The area continued to be used as a graveyard to the present day, with burials being made in

wooden and lead coffins and the ground level rising steadily. The area was sealed by a layer of top soil.

49-53 Moorgate, 72-73 Coleman Street TQ 3267 8147 (C. Spence)

Excavation took place between March and May funded by Wates City Ltd. Although most of the site was truncated by modern basements, a small area to the NE of the site retained horizontal stratigraphy. The natural gravels sloped down in this corner, but were truncated elsewhere on the site to 9.40m (30ft 10in) O.D. The earliest activity on the site was the cutting of a gravel quarry pit, backfilled in the early 2nd c. It was immediately S of a metalled surface, possibly an alley or road, of the same date. In the NE corner of the site the downward slope of natural was levelled and a brickearth building constructed during the early 2nd c. The structure had at least three rooms and a narrow corridor; one room had a gravelled floor whilst the others used brickearth. The internal walls were of wattle and daub construction. The building, and an associated external area, with a wooden box-section drain and boundary fence, were occupied for a relatively short period as stages of disuse were dated to the mid 2nd c. By the late 2nd c a substantial NW-SE fence alignment ran across this area; to be followed in the early 3rd c by an E-W tile pathway. Late 3rd c dumping completed the horizontal sequence. A large number of truncated pits were recorded, with a date range of early 2nd c to c 1500. Of note were two very large square rubbish pits and a smaller wattle lined pit, probably at the rear of a property fronting Coleman Street, all dated to the 12th c. A medieval chalk well, backfilled in the 18th c, and other post-medieval activity completed the sequence. Finds included a notable group of post-medieval metalwork.

54-62 New Broad Street TQ 3304 8154 (I. Blair)

During a ten-week period between January and March, seven N-S trenches were excavated across the line of the City ditches. The work was generously funded by Haslemere Estates. The earliest features, which were cut into natural gravels, were a series of stream and drainage channels running W towards the Walbrook. Following their natural silting and consolidation during the 2nd c, the ground level was raised across the N half of the site by 1.2m (4ft) or more, with the large-scale dumping of mainly gravel-based make-ups. Running parallel to, and lying 6m (20ft) from, the external face of the City wall (which formed the S boundary of the site) were the truncated remains of the associated early 3rd c V-cut defensive ditch. Cut into its berm was a solitary grave of Roman date which contained a single well-preserved male skeleton.

During the 12th c the ground level was raised by a further 1.50m (5ft). The absence of any clear sign of a medieval ditch cut and the presence of a series of substantial dumped make-ups (which were waterlogged at the time of deposition) suggest that the marshy area around Moorfields precluded the cutting of a ditch during this period. Instead, it seems likely that a N bank was raised in order to delineate the line of the outer defensive circuit.

In the 16th c, a massive 50ft-wide City ditch (which survived to a depth of 2m, 6½ft, and extended E-W across the entire site) was cut into the reclamation dumps. The ditch was relatively short-lived and was backfilled by the middle of the 17th c. The fill contained a fine 16th c intaglio ring (see *L.A.* 5 no. 8 (1985) 192). Following its consolidation, a series of linear E-W horncore-filled land drains were cut into its uppermost fills. A large assemblage of 17th c pottery included delftware, Saintonge ware, bellarmines and other imported wares. The later encroachment of properties across the N edge of the ditch in the 18th c was indicated by a group of brick-lined wells and drains.

9 Northumberland Alley TQ 3347 8103 (A. B. Thomas)

In July and August excavations funded by R. J. Kiln Co Ltd were carried out in the basement of a standing building. Excavations revealed a sequence of gully and ditch activity dated to the early Roman period, including a major NNE-SSW linear V-shaped ditch with an associated post pit alignment along its E side.

Later in the Roman period a gravel strip and post-built

structure orientated NNE-SSW was recorded across the site. They were sealed by major dumps and later Roman pits, including a large assemblage of late 3rd/mid 4th c pottery.

Due to modern basements, medieval and later periods were reduced to truncated remains of a chalk lined well and a square cut pit. One pit produced a bone ? medieval coin balance.

7-8 Plumtree Court, 26-30 Holborn Viaduct TQ 3155 8150 (P. Durnford)

Evidence ranging in date from the medieval to the post medieval period was recorded. The absence of finds and structures from the Roman period was marked. No Roman pottery was recovered and there was no sign of gravels or metallurgy which might be interpreted as the Roman road expected in the NW corner. The medieval remains consisted of several wall fragments and one or two cut features associated with medieval pottery. Post-medieval structures in the form of walls, drains, floors and vaults were also recorded. In addition, the building lines of pre-Viaduct structures were clearly seen on the W side of the site, with associated drains running down to the N. Unfortunately, lack of time prevented recording of these structures. Traces of a timber structure, recorded on the N edge of the site, also appeared to be post medieval in date. A wide strip of greenish organic material, observed running N-S down from the NE corner, may be part of the original course of the river Fleet. Organic deposits were also seen in one section of a machine cut in the extreme SE corner, but no trace of timber revetments was recorded.

St Albans House, Wood Street TQ 3228 8125 (P. Chitwood & J. Hill)

Following the demolition of a post-war office building, an archaeological investigation between April and July, sponsored by Eagle Star Insurance, recorded 3 - 5m (10 - 16ft) of stratigraphy in two discrete areas, separated by a double basement.

In the E site an area of 300m² (3300sq ft) (area A) was excavated. Natural at 11.3-11.5m (37-38ft) OD was immediately overlain by 1st c structures. Following destruction by fire, and extensive quarrying, these buildings were replaced by a sequence including an *opus signinum* floored cellar associated with clay and timber wall lines. Much of the area appears to have been external with only the backs of buildings lying to the S intruding into the area of excavation.

Some later 2nd c surfaces survived, slumped over pit fills, but generally mid 2nd c Roman deposits were sealed by dark organic dumps and considerable pitting. A substantial (125m³, 44,000cu ft) quarry pit containing 11th/12th c pottery and a bone trial-piece was sealed by a ragstone foundation that still observed the Roman alignment. This was in turn cut by a 12th c foundation which ran at right angles to Wood St. and disregarded Roman alignments. Some surfaces associated with this later foundation were recorded to its S. To the NE medieval timber structures with patchy floorings were encountered.

To the W of the double basement an area of 75m² (800sq ft) was excavated (area X), and a similar area recorded in section (area B). Over natural, which was encountered at a level c 0.50m (1ft 8in) higher than on the E area, dumps and substantial pits analogous to the early activity in area A, were sealed by make-ups and surfaces, one of which was tessellated, associated with a ragstone dwarf wall. A substantial portion of the scorched and collapsed timber and clay superstructures of the wall was recorded *in situ*. Associated pottery suggested a 2nd c date. Later Roman and medieval horizontal stratigraphy was destroyed by extensive pitting.

The City Wall at St Alphage Garden TQ 3245 8162 (A. Westman)

An archaeological examination of a standing monument at St Alphage Garden EC2, formerly London Wall, was undertaken in March and September for the Corporation of London. The work included photogrammetry by the Department of Civil Engineering of the City University. The monument formed part of the

NW sector of the city wall. The earliest elements were identified as two phases of Roman defences: the inner face of the N wall of the 2nd c fort, reinforced when this wall was incorporated in the defensive circuit built around the Roman city in about AD 200.

The dilapidated defences were then partly refaced to the N. This coarse refacing was slightly out of alignment with both the existing and with subsequent defences and may have been associated with the foundation on the city wall of the church of St Alphage, probably in the 11th c. The N wall of the church was rebuilt decoratively in the late 14th c. The adjoining city wall was reconstructed at least twice, culminating in brick crenellations, dated to 1477 by documentary evidence. The church was dismantled in 1535-6, when the dedication was transferred to a larger building to the SE. Remaining masonry was partly incorporated in walls of adjacent premises and was exposed and consolidated in 1951-3.

St. Botolph, Aldgate TQ 3358 8122 (C. Maloney)

During a watching brief in June and July - for which access was granted by the Rector and Parish Council of St. Botolph, Aldgate - excavations alongside the E boundary wall of the churchyard revealed that it was built on an earlier stone wall. It was composed of coursed limestone and yellow sandstone blocks on a foundation of sandstone and chalk. Above a moulded string course, the face of the wall had been set back. At least 11m (36ft) of its length and 1.1m (3½ft) of its height survives. Although all deposits relating to the wall had been destroyed, it can be dated to the 15th c, and it identified as the W wall of the Crowne Inn, a property dating back to the 12th c.

St Margaret's Rectory, St Olave's Court, Ironmonger Lane TQ 3254 8123 (E. Shepherd)

A watching brief and small area excavation were undertaken between October 1985 and June 1986, funded by the Church Commissioners. In the SW corner of the site natural gravels were quarried in the mid/late 1st c, prior to a sequence of Roman clay and timber buildings. These apparently fronted onto a road running E-W to the S and had an external area to the N. A severe fire during the 2nd c was indicated.

A similar sequence was evident over the rest of the site, although occupation was apparently less intensive to the N.

Later deposits were truncated by church structures. At the S end of the site was a small church (the surviving nave measuring c 7.50 x 8.00m, 24ft 7in x 26ft 3in) of 9th-11th c date on constructional details, with Roman tiles incorporated as quoins. The church was enlarged and altered throughout the medieval period, and was burnt down in the Great Fire of 1666. It was rebuilt in 1673-76 by Sir Christopher Wren, who added the surviving tower.

56-60 St. Mary Axe TQ 3336 8134 (C. Maloney)

One section was recorded at the E end of the site after the walls of a basement had been removed. It revealed a thick band of mortar and ragstone fragments, together with chalk, *opus signinum* and tile fragments. This is identified as the N-W extremities of Bastion 9, or possibly material associated with its destruction, since it was sealed by 16th c deposits.

Stothard Place, Spital Square TQ 3341 8186 (C. Sparey Green)

Excavations and a watching brief funded by County and District Properties Ltd, were conducted between April and July. The site lay 0.5 km (½ mile) from Bishopsgate, immediately S of the site of St Mary Spital, and in an area known to contain Roman cemeteries. The earliest activity was represented by a shallow brickearth quarry containing 2nd c material, to the W of which lay three wood-lined tanks set in the natural brickearth and containing occupation debris of similar date. Thereafter a group of between seven and nine extended and oriented inhumation burials in wooden coffins was bounded on the N and E by at least four phases of ditches; both burials and enclosure dating to the late 3rd or 4th c. One burial contained thirteen glass beads. In the early medieval period a timber structure 6.5 x 7m (21 x 23ft) was surrounded by a complex of small pits and then succeeded by a

group of large cesspits. In the late medieval period the W side of the site was occupied by a barrel-lined well and fragmentary gravel footings of timber buildings; the E side by cesspits. The E wall of an early post-medieval brick building had been incorporated in the rear of the existing E frontage of Bishopsgate, the coursed brick and chalk footings of which had previously been wrongly identified in the 19th c as of Roman site. This wall had later been incorporated into the terrace of the 18th c houses forming the S side of Stothard Place.

Thirty six fragments of moulded stone reused in the footings of this building included a richly moulded 14th c traceried and glazed window fragment, possible from the Priory and Hospital of St Mary; fragments of a plainer 14th c window, thirteen fragments from a 16th c oriel window and a second, plainer, 16th c window.

Sunlight Wharf TQ 3210 8089 (K. Tyler)

During July and August L.E.P. Ltd. sponsored the excavation of five areas at the N limit of the Sunlight Wharf building site, S of The Salvation Army World Headquarters. In the two W areas the SW corner of a substantial piece of Roman masonry was discovered. The element aligned E-W measured c 17m (56ft) E-W and 2m (6½ft) N-S. The element aligned N-S measured c 2.8m (9ft) N-S and 6m (20ft) E-W. The masonry feature was built on a rammed chalk platform supported by a series of dumps and vertically piled timbers. The area E of this contained a masonry feature aligned N-S, butted by a masonry feature aligned E-W. They were constructed upon the same sort of platform, dumps and piles as the masonry feature to the W. The two areas to the N of this contained platform, dumps and piles only, with an isolated tile setting for a wooden pile. Dating evidence for the Roman features above will be obtained from dendrochronological samples of the piles. These Roman features may align with those recorded in 1981 at excavations at St. Peter's Hill; masonry recorded in 1961-2 during the construction of the Salvation Army Headquarters; and masonry recorded in 1841 by Roach Smith between the foot of Lambeth Hill and Queenhithe.

Post-Roman features included a series of N-S and E-W aligned masonry features at the N limit of the excavation. To their S a series of deposits interpreted as road surfaces aligned E-W were recorded. Still further S a substantial masonry feature aligned E-W was recorded. This series of features has been interpreted as buildings to the N and S sides of a road.

19 Throgmorton Avenue/21 Austin Friars EC2 TQ 3289 8141 (P. Durnford)

A limited excavation funded by MEPC was carried out in the S half of this large site from July to September. A short watching brief was carried out immediately afterwards when the piling contractors were on site. McGee (Demolition) provided help throughout the excavation. The main objective was to try to establish the line of the original channel of a Walbrook tributary which was known to have crossed the area. It was predicted that the Walbrook should traverse the SW quarter of the site from NE to SW. The depth of the double basements in the N of the site determined the eventual size of excavation. In the S half of the site, massive Victorian foundations also dictated the areas to be excavated. As modern footings crossed the site, E-W, three discrete areas of excavation were created.

Up to 2m (6½ft) of stratigraphy was encountered over the S area of the site. Substantial remains of a timber revetment and part of a wooden trackway were uncovered. It proved possible to plot the probable alignment of the Walbrook tributary in the early Roman period. Finds included much Roman vessel glass, a group of Roman leather shoes and sandals, and a Roman wooden writing tablet in very good condition with writing (yet to be deciphered) on it.

34 Watling Street TQ 3243 8103 (M. Samuel)

A two-week programme of recording determined the position of a large undercroft known to exist at 34 Watling Street. Prior to partial destruction when Queen Victoria Street was laid out in the 19th c, it had been recorded to a high standard, but it was unclear

how these records related to the single vault springer still visible. Study revealed that plastered recesses in the W wall of the modern cellar corresponded to window splays in the old drawings, making possible their orientation. This reveals that the undercroft possibly survives extensively under both Watling Street to the N and Queen Victoria Street to the S, and that the floor of the Victorian cellar lies on top of a thick accumulation of undercroft floors. Stylistically, the details of the vault suggest a date range of 1350-1500.

CROYDON

Old Palace Road TQ 320 653 Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society (J. Davison)

Site watching of service trenches showed walls of the kitchen range of the palace just below the road surface. A few sherds of Tudor pottery were recovered.

Russell Hill, Purley TQ 311 622 CHNSS (J. Davison)

Site watching of a large area stripped of topsoil revealed only modern features cut in the chalk.

EALING - no excavation

ENFIELD

2c Landseer Road TQ 3409 9578 Enfield Archaeological Society

The excavation started in 1985 was completed with the removal of the two possible Roman corn driers, sections of which were lifted for further study. Below them were further pits of 2nd c dates and a ditch, aligned N-S, probably a continuation of the one found behind Nos. 54-56 in 1984.

Wellington Road TQ 3325 9588 EAS

Trial trenches and a probe survey were carried out on a redevelopment site, next to the Village Road site examined by DGLA. No archaeological deposits were found.

Church Street TQ 3298 9433 EAS

Trial trenches were dug on old allotment land prior to the construction of housing. Scattered sherds of pottery were found on the W edge of the site. They have been identified by the DGLA as Middle Iron Age, c 400-50 B.C. A roadside ditch and gravel layers were found parallel to the present edge of Church Street, indicating that it was once wider.

FULHAM & HAMMERSMITH

Fulham Palace TQ 2405 7615 Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group (K. R. Whitehouse)

Permission to excavate was granted at this Scheduled Ancient Monument, due to Hammersmith & Fulham Borough Council allowing large marquees to be erected that might cause damage to buried remains. The Council agreed to finance excavations from June 1986, to the N of the Palace buildings. Further evidence of occupation since Neolithic times was uncovered but no features of this period were recognised due to disturbance of levels in Roman times. A few I.A. sherds were noted. A 4th c ditch cut across the W end of the site, containing, as well as Roman debris and coins, many worked flints and some pottery. At the SE end a red-brick wall 1.75m (6ft) deep was uncovered retaining a cellar infilled with bricks and tiles. The core of the wall was an infill of medieval stone debris, but its construction date does not appear to be before the early 17th c. It may well be part of buildings demolished in 1715 due to the findings of a Commission, one of the members being Sir John Vanbrugh. A dark deposit contained much medieval pottery, but post-med deposits were missing, presumably removed during landscaping. A few minor 18th/19th c gardening features were found.

Fulham Broadway, SW6 TQ 2515 7720 FARG (K. R. Whitehouse)

Site bounded by Fulham Road/North End Road/Dawes Road; site-watching produced just a scatter of post-medieval sherds. Evidence of the medieval village of Walham Green proved negative, as this large site had been almost destroyed by cellars, a cinema basement, brick-earth extraction and WWII bombing.

GREENWICH

Woolwich Power Station SELAU (B. Philp & D. Garrod)

Major rescue excavations were carried out ahead of urban development, with the active support of the Woolwich Antiquarian Society and the Bromley & West Kent Archaeological Group. Extensive post-medieval structures, deposits and pits produced material of 17-19th c date, including some evidence of pottery and pipe manufacture. A large defensive ditch, running N-S towards the river, was traced for 20m (66ft) and produced much late Roman material. A second, much smaller, ditch contained no dateable material.

HACKNEY – no excavation

HARINGEY – no excavation

HARROW

Headstone Manor, Small Barn TQ 1410 8970 DGLA

Before restoration of the Small Barn, the DGLA was allowed to survey the post-medieval framework and excavate within the standing structure. The Small Barn is of common post and truss cross frame construction in English oak. The trusses have light principal rafters with side purlins clasped by either a collar or a pair of struts. Many of the joints are mortice-and-tenon secured with single and double oak pegs, though the principal joint between the main post and tie beam was a lap dovetail. Despite severe fire damage, the survey showed that all the timbers in the structure had been salvaged from other timber-framed buildings. Not all were re-used as they had originally been intended.

The Barn began life as a much smaller building to the NE, which was later extended to the SW by the addition of a larger building of similar construction. The two were then roofed as one structure. There was also evidence of other structural modifications and repairs.

Beginning in the later SW end, work continued NE into the early part of the building. There was a series of chalk and rammed pebble floors with associated post-holes from an earlier post-medieval building, which appears to have been on the same alignment as the existing structure. In the NE end were the remains of a red brick hearth and drainage channel. Artefacts indicate that this development had taken place in the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, redeposited Roman and prehistoric pottery suggested that earlier activity may have taken place.

HAVERING – no excavation

HILLINGDON

Imperial College Sports Ground, Sipson Lane, Harlington TQ 082 780 DGLA (J. Cotton)

Site watching during the initial stages of gravel extraction revealed a small series of features (mostly undated) comprising several N-S gullies and a scoop containing much burnt flint. The upper silts of a large oval feature dug into the natural terrace gravel produced a few sherds of ?LBA pottery; the lower, waterlogged, silts contained a few small fragments of wood. WC.

Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth TQ 069 782 DGLA with West London Archaeological Field Group (J. Cotton & J. Mills)

Excavation continued on the area first investigated in 1985 (see *Excavation Round-Up 1985*). At one end of the site, pits, hearths and lengths of shallow gully produced LBA pottery, fragments of perforated clay plaques, several spindlewhorls, and metalwork in the form of two copper alloy pins, a ring and a droplet of lead. Investigation of an apparently rectilinear enclosure with opposed entrances (located 70m, 230ft, to the S in 1985) produced LBA pottery from primary and secondary ditch fills. WC.

27 St. Martin's Approach, Ruislip TQ 091 789 DGLA (J. Mills)

Sitewatching took place on the site of a bank-and-ditch earthwork, sectioned by the Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society in 1976, and found to contain medieval and abraded Roman pottery. House-building trenches dug early in 1986 revealed 2m (6½ft) of modern backfill, and penetrated only

the uppermost levels of earlier ditch silts; no dating evidence for the latter was recovered.

123 Bury Street, Ruislip TQ 087 882 DGLA with WLAFG and RN&ELHS (J. Mills)

Excavation took place in advance of building development next to an early 17th c brick building, which during renovation work in 1985 had been found to incorporate one standing wall of an early 15th c timber-framed open-hall house. Features of 13th to 18th c date were recovered, including flint rubble footings believed to belong to the solar bay of the medieval building, and the brick foundations of a possible outhouse of ?17th c date.

101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge TQ 052 846 DGLA with WLAFG (J. Lewis)

Machine trial excavations were undertaken in advance of office development either side of the pre-1785 line of the High Street. Two ditches, one medieval and one dating to the 16th c, were recorded. Continuing excavation has revealed the remains of a 16th c brick-built octagonal tower, which originally formed the e half of the Treaty House gate lodge.

HOUNSLOW

3-23 Church Street, Isleworth TQ 165 759 DGLA with WLAFG (J. Mills)

Machine trial excavations were undertaken in advance of residential development on the site of the moated medieval manor house of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III. Medieval features found included a series of ?pre-moat N-S ditches cut into natural sands and gravels, some of which may date to the 12 and 13th c; the moat itself, over 10m (33ft) wide and 4-6m (13-20ft) deep; and substantial foundations of iron conglomerate, provisionally interpreted as the footings of Richard's great hall.

Traces of further, apparently medieval, buildings and floors were located, though most had suffered considerable post-medieval disturbance, particularly during the 17th c, when the site was levelled and the moat partially backfilled to receive Sir John Offley's new brick house, the cellar range of which was revealed during the trial work.

ISLINGTON

49-52 St John's Square, Clerkenwell, EC2 TQ 317 822 DGLA (K. Wooldridge)

Refurbishment of the standing buildings gave the opportunity to assess the archaeological potential of this site, and record the surviving medieval/post-medieval walls of buildings thought to be associated with the Knights Hospitallers, Priory of St. John, established here c AD 1145.

Trial trenching to a maximum depth of 0.8m (2ft 8in) below the modern basement floors, showed no medieval surfaces survive within the building. The floors for the most part overlay natural sands and gravels, but in three of the basement rooms, the floor sealed truncated chalk features of unknown function. Salt-glazed stoneware from the construction cut of one chalk feature suggested post-Reformation date.

Previous inspections of the site had revealed chalk and ragstone walls thought to survive from the conventual buildings. They were stripped of modern rendering and recorded in plan and elevation. In places they survived to 2.10m (7ft) above the level of the modern basement floors. Architectural features observed included an arched doorway with chamfered jambs and a partially blocked recessed window, both using dressed greensand blocks for the moulded features, and a wall incorporating a chequer-board decoration of roughly squared greensand and chalk blocks. Included as infill of one wall were two re-used Caen stone blocks, suggesting its construction post-dated a phase of demolition elsewhere in the Priory (conceivably the sacking of the buildings during the Peasants Revolt of 1381).

The exact relationship between the walls and the contemporary ground surface could not be established. It was not possible to examine all the potentially medieval walls in the basement,

because of later brick facing, which for structural reasons could not be removed. WC.

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA – no excavation

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

Kingston Horsefair TQ 178 694 DGLA (G. Potter)

A final season of excavation took place between June 1986 and January 1987. Work was concentrated on the medieval bridge, with further investigation of buildings along the approach road.

The bridge is provisionally dated to the later 12th c. Foundations of a landward abutment and four free-standing piers survive, spanning some 30m (100ft) E of the present riverbank. Construction is of mortared flint rubble with dressed Reigate stone facing, possibly supporting a timber superstructure. Three of the piers are embanked with a ring of timber piers and originally stood within the contemporary river.

Later medieval development saw the extension of the landward abutment, ultimately to form a masonry causeway which incorporated both the first and second piers. Rebuilt at its upper level, it survived to a maximum height of 2.7m (9ft).

The two further piers were also substantially rebuilt, probably by the mid 14th c. In this form they retain the springing for stone arches; the W arch was later reconstructed, apparently in the early 16th c. By the 17th c both arches had become dry and were blocked off for storage space.

As part of the development, substantial sections of the bridge will be removed, to be placed within the basement of the new John Lewis Partnership building.

LAMBETH

4 Rectory Grove, SW4 TQ 2932 7604 DGLA (D. Seeley)

Several worked flints were recovered from deposits directly overlying the natural geological levels and from later features.

A fragment of Roman tile was found in the fill of a ditch, c 1.50m (5ft) wide and c 35m (115ft) long. A second ditch which joined the first at right-angles was also found.

52 Rectory Grove, SW4 TQ 2920 7585 DGLA (D. Seeley)

A prehistoric flint and an early Saxon Sherd were recovered from a deposit directly overlying natural geological levels. Short lengths of two medieval ditches were excavated.

A brick wall foundation and a small brick and tile arched drain of the late 17th c were found. They are thought to be part of the building that preceded the late 18th c house.

Lambeth Palace, north garden, SE1 TQ 3074 7931 DGLA (D. Seeley)

Two prehistoric features containing pottery and flints were excavated. Further pottery and many flints were recovered from deposits directly overlying natural geological levels and from later features. The finds range in date from mesolithic to late iron age.

Two phases of a large drainage ditch, several pits and a well, all of late Roman date, were excavated. Two inhumations were discovered in the backfill of the ditch. The evidence suggests the presence of an undiscovered settlement nearby.

A small linear medieval feature was recorded. Evidence of 17th c horticultural activity was indicated by twelve parallel, long, narrow growing beds.

LEWISHAM – no excavation

MERTON

Merton Priory TQ 265 699 DGLA (J. S. McCracken)

Excavation of the Scheduled Ancient Monument in advance of redevelopment of the 30 acre site began in April with funds from SavaCentre Ltd and HBMC. Much of the N half of the Augustinian priory will be affected, and investigation of the N and S transepts, choir, lady chapel and N aisle of the church is intended, as well as the cloister, cellarer's range and canons' cemetery. About 1 acre has been cleared to c 1540 levels and excavation of the S transept has begun. WC.

NEWHAM

30 Romford Road, Stratford TQ 392 844 PEM (B. Colls & M. Redknapp)

This listed building is being renovated to house the Museum's Administrative Offices. Recording of the standing structure, a double-pile timber-framed weatherboarded house, has demonstrated a construction date of c 1690-1720. The original double-hipped roof has been totally altered. The original window frames on the frontage still survive, as does a fair amount of panelling of the 1720s.

Excavation by the MSC team beneath and behind the structure has confirmed the building date and given evidence of medieval and 17th c structures and field ditches. A complete section across the London-Colchester Roman Road was possible. It lies beneath the building, but shows evidence of re-alignment during the late Roman-early medieval periods.

REDBRIDGE – no excavation

RICHMOND – no excavation

SOUTHWARK

15-23 Southwark Street, SE1 TQ 3252 8011 (C. Cowan)

Several shallow features and stakeholes, of prehistoric date, which may indicate timber buildings, have been found, as well as worked flints and iron age pottery.

The two earliest phases of early Roman buildings have been excavated. The first consisted of a rectangular building, marked by robber trenches, with a hearth. It was superseded by a large building with foundations of chalk and ragstone.

In the SE corner of the site there was a chalk and ragstone medieval building with a chalk-lined cess-pit and two tile hearths.

Abbey Buildings, Abbey Street, SE1 TQ 3340 7935 (D. Beard)

Several gravel quarry pits, one of which contained an early to mid-Saxon loom-weight, were found to pre-date the 11th c priory. Further sections of a large, pre-monastic boundary ditch, back-filled during the 11th c, have been excavated, extending its known length to c 100m (330ft).

Further work on the infirmary drainage system has investigated the first and third phase drain, and traced the outflow of the first phase latrine. Pillar bases and buttresses of the 14th c dorter have been discovered: their position suggests that the dorter had a quadripartite vault with bays of c 3.6m x 4.6m (12 x 15ft). A second cloister built between the E wall of the dorter and the W wall of the infirmary in the later monastic period has been found: it incorporated two earlier buildings. Extensive foundations include the presence of a sizeable N range, which awaits investigation.

Excavation has begun on the monks' cemetery, which appears to contain several hundred inhumations. It may have expanded when the second cloister was built. Examples of inhumation rites so far discovered include burial in a shroud, burial in a wooden coffin, and burial in a mortared stone coffin.

A substantial E-W wall, apparently the S aisle of the 14th c conventual church, has been found. To the S of the wall and to the N of the cemetery were two charnel pits, perhaps indicating that burials were disturbed when the church was enlarged.

A re-used gothic doorway, keyed into the east wall of the dorter, appears to relate to the 16th c mansion of Sir Thomas Pope. A large post-medieval cellar containing gothic mouldings has also been found. WC.

Platform Wharf, Cathay Street, SE 16 TQ 3480 7972 (E. Norton)

Several sherds of abraded Roman pottery found within layers of redeposited natural sand may indicate Roman activity on a sand island.

An evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site prior to full excavation has revealed a well-preserved stone building, thought to be the mid 14th c moated manor house of Edward III. The building, a standing wall of which survived in 1907, is c 30m x 20m (100 x 66ft), surrounded by a moat c 8m (26ft) wide. The

external walls survive to a height of over 3m (10ft), and internal walls and floor surfaces also survive. A clay wall, which may have enclosed an 'outer-court' range of buildings and the precinct entrance, has also been found.

In the early 17th c the residence became a delftware factory: the brick base of a kiln was found to cut the walls of the NW tower, and two brick-lined 'puddling pits' were inserted into the E wall and backfilled moat. At this time, much of the W wall was refaced with brickwork. The factory appears to have been abandoned by the end of the 17th c, and a 1m (3ft) thick layer of kiln waste dumped into the moat. WC.

Abbots Lane, SE1 TQ 3334 8020 (A. Thompson)

Trial-trenching revealed an E-W post and plank revetment or waterfront, of medieval date, with waterlaid deposits to the N, in the N part of the site. The timbers included re-used ones from a clinker-built boat. The location and date of the revetment suggest that it marks the inner bank of the N part of the moat which enclosed Fastolf Place.

Morgans Lane, SE1 TQ 3324 8020 (A. Thompson)

A sequence of waterlaid clays overlay a peat horizon thought to be the bronze age deposit Tilbury IV.

Trial-trenching exposed the uprights, supported by raking braces set in a horizontal base-plate, of an E-W oak medieval waterfront structure. To the N lay parts of a building set behind a substantial E-W river wall in the N part of the site: both were constructed of chalk and stone and may have been of a later medieval date. Indications of a large ditch or channel, probably feeding into the mill stream which ran along the site's W boundary, were also found. The channel was replaced by brick culverts, possibly in the 17th c.

Vine Lane, SE1 TQ 3340 8015 (A. Thompson)

A layer of peat, thought to be the bronze age deposit Tilbury IV, was discovered.

Trial-trenching revealed extensive deposits which may have related to the nearby delftware pottery. Remains of two E-W waterfronts, as yet undated, were located E of the St Olave's warehouse.

Croda Gelatine Works, Grange Road, SE1 TQ 3396 7908 (H. Swain)

Natural sands of 'Bermondsey Island' and two N-S water channels, one of which was open from the late medieval to early post-medieval period, were found.

A N-S inhumation of Roman date in a mortar-lined grave was found. The fill contained large iron coffin nails and a bronze finger-ring. A Roman ditch and several shallow agricultural ditches dating to the 17th to 19th c were also found.

37-46 Bankside, SE1 TQ 3218 8051 (R. Densem)

Trial-trenching exposed the tops of at least three parallel E-W revetments, which may be of late medieval and post-medieval date. WC.

684-698 Old Kent Road, SE1 TQ 3465 7765 (N. Shepherd)

A natural soil profile which had been turned over to agricultural or garden use in the late 18th or early 19th c was found. All the other features discovered were 'modern', associated with the construction and use of the industrial premises occupying the site prior to demolition.

SUTTON

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

Excavation of the 46 acre Scheduled Ancient Monument continues in advance of imminent gravel extraction, with funding from the Manpower Services Commission. Excavation of an area of 2 acres has revealed several hundred post-holes, numerous ditches, pits and other features; the complex evidence of post-holes and ring gulleys suggests that at least a dozen round-houses are represented, possibly many more, dating from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age. The main focus of the

prehistoric settlement appears to be bounded by a ditch which may form an enclosure of up to 150m (500ft) in diameter, a 60m (200ft) length of which has so far been traced. The ditch was backfilled in the Late Iron Age. Three large Roman barns have been excavated; two of timber pre-date a third with an outer wall of which only the footings (unmortared flint nodules) survive. Just to the E of the latter barn a Roman well was discovered. It survived to a depth of 3.05m (10ft) from the surface of the gravel. The circular upper lining of the well consisted of tufa and chalk blocks, and the square lower lining was built of oak planks. Much environmental evidence was obtained from the waterlogged deposits, and at the bottom of the well were deposits containing leather shoes, pots and a horse's skull. WC.

Beddington Park Cottages TQ 295 654 Carew Manor Group (J. Phillips)

Redevelopment work on the Cottages was observed; they began life as late medieval timber-framed outbuildings of Carew Manor, then a large country house. WC.

East Garden, Carew Manor TQ 2975 6530 CMG (J. Phillips)

A new drainage ditch cut through a brick wall 23.1m (76ft) N of the present S boundary wall of the garden. The wall had retained the S edge of a lake, and was backed by a layer of gravel which was interpreted as a lakeside walk, 4.91m (16ft) wide. The lake must have occupied the central part of the E end of the garden, and was probably constructed in the early 18th c.

The Waterhouse, Carshalton House, Carshalton TQ 277 645 Carshalton House Garden Study Group (A. Skelton)

Limited excavations carried out in August to the W of the Waterhouse located the base of a series of large steps covering an area c 24m² (260sq ft). This structure overlaid or cut the probably Waterhouse foundation trench and also a seamless pipe probably inserted under it. The pipe, laid in greensand, had been robbed out from the point at which it appeared from under the steps. Post-excavation work, and other connected research, is being carried out here. WMC.

TOWER HAMLETS

Haydon Street, EC3 TQ 337 810 DGLA (R. Ellis & K. Wooldridge)

Excavations revealed 17 Roman inhumations of 3rd c date accompanied by rich grave goods, particularly jewellery. The site adjoins St. Clare Street (see *Excavation Round-Up 1983*).

In the medieval period the site lay within the Franciscan nunnery known as St. Mary Clare. Structural remains at the SW corner of the cloisters were discovered, standing to first floor height where they had been incorporated into the fabric of a Victorian warehouse.

Old Royal Mint, EC3 TQ 339 807 DGLA (P. Mills)

Following trial work in 1984 on the site of the Cistercian Abbey of St. Mary Graces, full excavation began in June 1986. The first phase encompasses the S half of the claustral range. See *L. A. 5*, no. 3.

A few truncated pits, producing small amounts of Roman pottery, were the only evidence of Roman activity. Several 14th c quarry pits were cut into the natural gravel.

The S alley of the cloisters was uncovered; its floor was of crushed chalk and mortar, replaced by brick in the 17th c. The frater ran S from the cloisters at an acute angle. Areas of late medieval tile floor had survived damage by later basements. Sections of the walls stood 1.5m (5ft) high. Along the s side of the cloister lay the warming house. A series of tile and brick floors were found, together with a half basement. The remains of an external chimney survived on the S face of the building. The reredorter was in the SE corner of the cloister. Its internal details had been destroyed by later intrusions, but sockets in the E wall suggest a timber floor covered the drain. The drain itself was rebuilt twice in the post-medieval period, but sections of the original chalk and tile vault survived at its S end. Next to the reredorter lay a substantial building which may have served as the

chapter house for the chapters general of the English, Irish and Welsh abbots. Only a small section of flooring survived, showing a tile floor had been replaced by a clay floor. Parts of the walls stood 2m (7ft) above the medieval floor level. Separated from the ?chapter house by a yard was the infirmary. Attempts had been made in the 16th c to demolish the walls, but the building was later repaired. Traces of joists show it had a timber floor. Two parts of the wall stood 2.5m (8ft) above the medieval floor level.

After the Dissolution the Abbey passed into private hands, and in c 1560 the Crown purchased the site. It was converted into a Victualling Yard for the Royal Navy, supplying bread, biscuits, salted meat and barrels. Most of the buildings were used by the Navy until the mid 17th c, repairs being made where necessary. Extensions in the late 17th c involved demolition of the warming house and cloister wall. By the early 18th c the area was described as "ruines", and seems to have been cleared by the late 18th c.

WANDSWORTH

38 Felsham Road, Putney TQ 2397 7652 Wandsworth Historical Society (N. Fuentes)

Excavation in the back garden of a new house confirmed two other sitings of line of Roman road aligned c NW to intercept known N-S Roman road at S end of Spring Passage - ?prehistoric and early Roman ford of Thames; new Roman road overlaid by medieval headland and equates with modern property boundary.

WESTMINSTER

Undercroft Museum, Westminster Abbey TQ 301 795 DGLA (P. Mills)

A small excavation within the late 11th c undercroft, before refurbishment involving extensive trench-digging. The site lay on the E side of the cloisters near the S edge of Thorney Island, the gravel eyot upon which the Abbey stands. Stratified deposits up to 2m (6½ft) deep were uncovered, showing occupation from the 10th c onwards, and residual Roman material.

A large irregular feature, probably a quarry, was found on the S edge of the site. It silted up in the late 10th c, and was sealed further by c 0.5m (2ft) of waterlain, possibly riverine, deposits. Cut through these deposits was a ditch 7m (23ft) wide, 2m (6½ft) deep, that turned 90° within the excavation, possibly defining the S limit of the Abbey precinct. Much environmental material and 11th c pottery were recovered; other finds include a fine book clasp and much window glass. Possibly contemporary with the ditch was a rammed gravel surface that may have been a road; the surface was renewed twice. The top of the ditch was backfilled with clay and sand. This capping was cut by a series of post-pits for a timber building 6m (20ft) wide and more than 10m (33ft) long. Most of the occupation levels had been destroyed, but it was probably built in the mid 11th c. After it had been removed a shallow ditch cut through the centre of the structure; a rare polychrome tile was found in its fill. About 1060 the present undercroft was begun. Its original purpose was probably storage, but alterations from the 12th c onwards converted it into a series of rooms, including a warming house. This entailed reducing the floor level by c 0.75m (2ft 6in), removing earlier deposits. Details of the undercroft's construction and underpinning were recorded.

21-22 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, WC2 TQ 3021 8072 DGLA (R. Cowie)

The excavation was designed to investigate Saxon stratigraphy exposed in earlier trial work. Over three months the entire site (c 20 × 10m, 66 × 33ft) was investigated, except for an area of modern basement. Evidence of a 8-9th c settlement was discovered, supporting the theory that the area around the Strand was the location of Middle Saxon London.

Rubbish pits and dump layers containing Saxon artefacts and numerous animal bones were found, as well as stakeholes, postholes, a layer of burnt daub and compact gravel surfaces. The most impressive discovery was a large ditch, over 2m (6½ft) wide and 2m deep (even after truncation), running E-W across the whole width of the site. It has been provisionally dated as 9th c

from pottery in its fill and a coin of 796-821 AD from a pit that it cut. The shape and date of the ditch suggest that it was possibly defensive.

Many 8th and 9th c artefacts were found, including metal-working slag, loom-weights, a spindlewhorl and a carding comb, worked bone and antler, pottery and glass fragments. Imports included lava quernstones from the Rhineland, and fine pottery from the Low Countries and n France.

Soil from all layers and pit fills were sampled; hundreds of carbonised cereal grains were recovered by flotation, and bones of fish, birds, amphibians and small mammals were retrieved by sieving. Perhaps the most unusual finds were 48 coprolites, which will receive specialist examination.

A few prehistoric flint flakes, some Roman tiles and 2 coins were also found; all except a few flakes were redeposited. In the SE corner an area of tiled paving was revealed, made of Roman roof-tiles and possibly *pilae*, yet clearly laid in the Middle Saxon period.

ESSEX

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

Continuing work reported last year, it was found that part of the early 12th c church stands on earlier, presumably pre-Conquest foundations. It is tentatively suggested that evidence of three pre-Conquest churches was found. The first was a ground-standing timber structure with a sill-beam resting on packed flints set in a shallow trench. There followed an aisled stone church of Brixworth type with flanking *porticus*: this could be the church to which Tovi brought the Holy Cross c 1030. A chamfered base course in Barnack stone and a wall of herring-bone masonry may represent the first aisled cruciform church and be the work of Harold c 1057/8.

Collegiate and Augustinian churches, Waltham Abbey TL 3816 0065 WAHS (P. J. Huggins)

The standing Abbey Church is the nave of the Collegiate church originally founded by Harold; it was extended as the Augustinian church in 1177-1242. Continuing work of 1984, a large trench was dug in open grassland to the E of the present church. The original form of the E end was in doubt. The apse-and-ambulatory was an original form and was not adapted from a multi-apse form as thought possible. A small 'bubble' chapel was added outside the ambulatory wall by curving round between two buttresses of this wall. Courses of puddingstone seen in 1960 at the side of the Augustinian extension were not of any primary structural significance, but could have supported minor features along the Augustinian central nave.

Abbey Mead, Waltham Abbey TL 3815 0079 WAHS (P. J. Huggins)

Continuing work at the Abbey Farmhouse, parts of Buildings 13, 14 and 15 were discovered; this site is in the outer monastic precinct where twelve buildings were discovered in 1972 and 1978. A complex system of drains are possibly associated with nearby brewing. The earliest features were pits and ditches of the early Augustinian period.

SURREY

Nonsuch Park, Ewell TQ 226 634 (J. Phillips)

In August a contractor cut through a brick culvert 3m (10ft) W of the drive into the car park at the London Road Gate of Nonsuch Park. The culvert was 0.63m (2ft 1in) wide and 0.64m high internally; the inside of the top of the vault was about 1.53m (5ft) below ground level. The arch was four-centred, with a rise of 0.18m (7in) from the springing to the apex. It was one stretcher (0.24m, 9in) thick; the side walls were both 0.48m thick. The floor was of brick. The drain was aligned at 335°; to the S it ran towards the site of Nonsuch Palace but the course to the N was less regular. It was almost certainly the main drain of Nonsuch Palace. A more detailed report will be deposited in Sutton Central Library.