

ogy — much of it probably lies underneath existing buildings. Medieval house foundations, yards, cess pits, pottery, animal bones and the remains of stakes for fish weirs have turned up in excavations, also material from a leather-worker's dump.

Although medieval features still exist in some of the rebuilt manor houses — and at Syon Park which was the site of Syon Abbey, a famous religious house founded by King Henry V in 1416 — it is only the churches that give any tangible reminders of medieval Hounslow. Five of the churches in the Borough retain their 15th century towers, but the church of St Mary the Virgin, East Bedfont, built in 1150, still has its Norman chancel arch and south doorway, two wall paintings, dating to around 1250, and windows dating to the 15th century.

Archaeological evidence in post-medieval Hounslow has revealed a great deal of pottery dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. Particularly nice is a group of blue and white tinglazed pharmacy jars (made c1650-1700) which appear to have come from an apothecary's shop, and the "Brentford Plate", a blue and white tinglazed plate bearing the inscription M G BRANTFORD 1752. It is thought to have been a commemorative plate, perhaps for a marriage.

One of the best-preserved clay pipe kilns in the country was uncovered in Brentford High Street. Most of the pipe bowls recovered from the ash and cinder filling of the kiln have the initials of

William Heath, a pipe-maker known from the Apprentice Rolls to have worked between 1738-1745.

The several mills on and around Hounslow Heath provide more evidence of earlier industry. One functioned as a sword-blade finishing mill in the 17th century, producing military weapons which were used in the Civil War. Sword-making, though, was just one of the many activities carried out in the Hounslow mills. These same mills were also used during parts of their history as corn mills, paper mills and for the manufacture of gunpowder^o (not a popular activity with the local residents, judging from the many explosions recorded between 1758 and 1915!) The bases of walls, wheels and millstones have been uncovered during the excavation of one of these mills.

The later history of the Borough of Hounslow is almost entirely bound up with the rapid development of London. Agricultural land was needed to house the capital's ever-expanding workforce, and the parishes which make up the Borough lost their individual identities and became subsumed into the great suburban sprawl.

5. A. J. Laws and A. Oswald 'The Kiln of William Heath, eighteenth century Brentford Pipemaker' in P. Davey (ed) *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe VI: Pipes and Kilns in the London Region* BAR 97 (1981) 15-65.
6. Phil Philo and John Mills 'The Bedfont Gunpowder Mills' *London Archaeol* 5 no. 4 (1985) 95-102.

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Enquiries to Museum of London Archaeology Service, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (071-972 9111).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Mrs Muriel Shaw, 28 Lismore Road, South Croydon, CR2 7QA (081-688 2720).

Greater London (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Number One, London Wall., London EC2Y 5EA (071-972 9111).

Borough of Greenwich. Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1JT (081-855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham

Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (071-731 4498).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (081-546 5386).

North-east London, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, E15 4LW (081-534 4545).

Surrey, by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Planning Department, Pelham Lodge, Kingston, Surrey (081-541 9457).

Vauxhall Pottery, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. Enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, SE17 (071-703 3324).

The Council for British Archaeology produces British Archaeological News (6 issues a year). It gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription of £10.50 includes postage, and should be made payable to C.B.A., 112 Kennington Road, SE11 6RE (071-582 0494).