

Kingston

Upon

Thames

Archaeological

Society



**Proceedings of the Fiftieth
Anniversary Conference**

Held on Saturday, 20th July 2019

Introduction

The first public meeting of KUTAS – the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society – was held on Thursday, 3rd July 1969. To celebrate the society’s fiftieth birthday in July 2019, a day conference was held with six speakers who explained why KUTAS was formed, and what had been subsequently discovered about the Royal Borough. These talks have been collated and appear in this document.

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Acknowledgments

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- the founders of the Society;
- the conference speakers: Sue & John Janaway, Jon Cotton, David Field, Steve Nelson, Duncan Hawkins and Ian West;
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- Roy Stephenson who chaired the Plenum and gave the Peroration;
- the compilers of this document: Colin Rodger, Stephen Nelson, Patricia Smith and Cara Rodger.

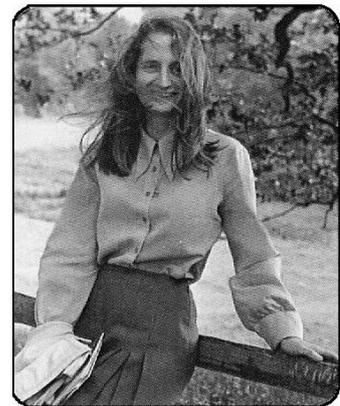
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Around the Campfire: How KUTAS Began

Sue & John Janaway

John & Sue are founder members of KUTAS. They continue to be involved in archaeology and local history research, particularly in their home town of Godalming. John spent most of his working life as Senior Local Studies librarian for Surrey. Sue worked for almost thirty years as an administrator for Surrey Archaeological Society.

In 1968 we started attending an Adult Education Institute class in archaeology at Guildford. The course tutor was Marion Canham/Smith/Hinton/Shiple. 'It would be easier to be a man', Marion joked to us one day regarding her multiple changes of surname. We're sure many of you will remember Marion, a lovely lady, who was curator of Kingston Museum. Marion was directing the excavation of a medieval pottery kiln at the rear of a property in Eden Street, a dig which had started the year before. We think that she spotted us as potential 'volunteers' and we soon found ourselves joining a merry band of other diggers. We remember our first day when we got very excited every time we came up with a chunk of medieval pot. This elicited a sullen response from other diggers who had already been there for a few weekends. We soon knew why. We had not dug a pottery kiln site before and did not appreciate initially that most of the ground we were standing on consisted of thousands of sherds of wasters.



Marion Canham, Stephen Nelson and John Janaway excavating the Eden Street kiln in 1968

But most of the sullen diggers turned out to be great people and friends. We still have many fond memories of that dig. We remember coming across a lead pipe, which was heading down the site towards the back wall. One end of the pipe was hammered flat so it was obvious that it was no longer in use. "John, just take it out", said Marion, so it was hit hard with a pick. We don't know how many

of you have visited Geneva ... but near the edge of the lake they have a magnificent fountain gushing high into the air – well, Kingston had one too! Until some puzzled officials from the water board arrived and eventually managed to turn it off!

The weather each weekend at the dig was comfortable to begin with but as we continued into winter it turned freezing cold.

The site was littered with old window frames, doors (some of these were used to hold back the spoil) and various other lumps of timber. We think it was Ray Smith who decided to start a fire so we could regularly break off from our efforts with the trowel to remove the frostbite from our fingers. Sue, who suffers worse than most with cold fingers, was soon volunteering to do onsite pot washing using water warmed over the fire

At lunch breaks we gathered around the fire and on Sundays we listened to Kenneth Horne on the onsite tranny radio. Was it 'Beyond our Ken' or 'Round the Horne'? As we gazed into the embers there came thoughts of the future ... Kingston's archaeology was under serious threat from redevelopment. Modern building techniques remove the multi-layers of unrecorded history below ground and with them would go a chunk of Kingston's unwritten history, lost forever.

Those people who sat, scout and guide-like, around the fire included Marion, of course, but there was also Ray Smith, Lionel Gent, Ian West, Steve Nelson, Iain Mortimer, Sue Goddard and John Janaway. There must have been something in the smoke of that fire because Marion later married Ray and Sue and John also married. There were others at the dig but it was 50 years ago, so sorry if we've forgotten them.

At the time no independent organisation existed in the town to help or lead in the investigation of the layers of the town's history as they were revealed when buildings came down, i.e. rescue archaeology. Also there was no volunteer organisation which could act as a pressure group in the matter of the conservation of historical buildings or building recording when a structure was doomed.

As the smoke parted before our eyes there was the answer!

Yes, why not form an archaeology society – easy?!!!

In reality we think that it was Marion, curator of Kingston Museum, who planted the idea because an independent society could do many things which she, as a council employee, was unable to do.

As with all such plans we needed a committee!

The first meeting of this committee took place on 1st April 1969 'to discuss a proposed public meeting and constitution'! It's amazing how many important events take place on April Fool's Day!

The original committee members present that evening were Marion Canham, Ray Smith, Lionel Gent, Ian West, Steve Nelson, Sue Goddard, John Janaway and Iain Mortimer (who resigned on 24 April 1969).

There followed many, sometimes very lengthy, meetings late into the night at Lionel Gent's house, fortified by Lionel's wife's cake! The backbone of a strong society was slowly moulded – the constitution. Eventually we thrashed out something which, we hoped, would establish the society on

strong foundations. Some of us found this grind frustrating but it was clearly worth it as the society is still here 50 years later.

Once we had convinced ourselves that we had got it right, a public meeting was advertised and it was held on 3rd July 1969 'with the aim of establishing the Kingston Upon Thames Archaeological Society'. This meeting attracted more than 100 members of the public. Clearly, many appreciated the need for Kingston to have its own archaeological society.

The following were appointed to the first committee of KUTAS:-

Lionel Gent	Chairman
Marion Canham	Hon. Secretary
Ray Smith	Hon. Treasurer
Sue Goddard	Minutes Secretary
Steve Nelson	
Ian West	
John Janaway	Hon. Editor

Martin Morris was appointed Hon. Auditor
Robin Kenward became the society's first president.

Later the committee was expanded by the co-option of Richard Taylor (programme secretary), Margaret Hall (publicity) and Mrs J. Wilkins (Buildings Survey).

The annual subscription was set at £1 plus a 5 shillings (25p) initial joining fee. Soon the week by week activities of the society had been organised and in its first year, 1969-70, the society held 11 meetings with an average attendance of 48. Interestingly, at the first Christmas meeting the refreshments were organised by Mrs West and guess who is doing it today! (Ian!).

Two field trips were organised – on Sunday, 17 August 1969 to Stonehenge, Avebury and Silbury Hill. We seem to remember that this was the field trip where two members got lost at Stonehenge, resulting in us arriving at Avebury just as the Red Lion pub was closing – 2 p.m. Sunday closing in those days! The second trip was to Bignor and Fishbourne on 25 October 1969. In October 1970 KUTAS organised its first weekend field trip which went to Dorset.

It was decided to publish a bimonthly bulletin issued to every member 'to share with members items of local archaeology and historical interest, for advertising the society's and other meetings, and for communicating with members on matters of general interest. Later the Bulletin was renamed the KUTAS Chronicle. Five issues were published during the first year of the society. The royal head depicted on the cover was taken from an applied moulded plaque on the neck of a waster jug found during the Eden Street dig. Ray Smith worked very hard to print the Chronicle, no mean feat in the days of stencils and duplicating machines!

An excavations sub-committee was formed consisting of Steve Nelson, Ian West and John Janaway. Permissions were gained for three exploratory excavations – 117 London Rd, Kingston, British Legion Hall car park, Chessington and at the Vicarage, Old Malden. We remember it being very chilly at the Old Malden dig, which was mainly an Iron Age site and was undertaken during the following year. KUTAS fire-making skills were soon yielding a crackling fire. The site was on horrible London Clay, some of which we turned into pots and carried out experimental firings!

Conservation and the recording of buildings soon to be demolished was a very important aspect of the society's operations. Even before its formal establishment several committee members and other volunteers had been persuaded by Ian West to hold the end of a tape or climb a dodgy roof at Coombe Hill Farmhouse.

A campaign was instituted in 1970 to save Picton House, threatened with demolition by the council. Members held a protest outside the house, which was reported in the Kingston Borough News. Photographed at the forefront of the protest was a certain Susan Goddard. More than 500 members of the public also signed a petition. Evidence of the success of that campaign can be seen today.

At the end of the society's first year it had 105 ordinary members and two institutional members. The balance sheet showed that the society was in the black to the tune of £34 6s 4d – a very solid figure in those pre-decimal days. A programme of monthly meetings had been organised for 1970-71 with speakers covering a wide range of subjects including 'the romance of medieval brass', Surrey bells, the history of Surbiton and the Jews of medieval Kingston. A very posh individually numbered membership card was produced ready for the society's second year. The Society was well on its way to complete its first 50 years!



Left is part of the neck of a jug from the Eden Street kiln and from which was taken the Society's emblem (below).



‘A gentleman conversant in antiquarian pursuits’: William Roots, MD, FSA and the Early History of Kingston

Jon Cotton

Jon is a freelance archaeological researcher, and a long-standing Kingston resident, with a special interest in the prehistory of London and Surrey, and the archaeology of the River Thames.

Accounts of Kingston’s early past have tended to concentrate on the contributions made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by local councillors Frederick Gould and W Evelyn St Lawrence Finny. As both were Mayors of the town this is perhaps not surprising. Yet W D Biden, writing in the middle of the 19th century, draws attention to another somewhat less well-known figure, Dr William Roots, ‘whose stores of antiquarian knowledge have been freely opened on the application of the key of enquiry’ (Biden 1852, preface). So, who was William Roots and why was his contribution to Kingston so important?

This contribution sets out to bring Roots to wider notice and to document his antiquarian activities. The nature and extent of his collection will be assessed and the collection placed within its contemporary social and archaeological context. Although relatively small, it comprises one of the more significant personal collections that have come down to us from the heyday of Victorian antiquarianism in the capital.

William Roots and the Roots family

The Roots were a well-to-do Kingston family of doctors/surgeons and lawyers (Sampson 1985, 70-1). William was born in the town in 1776 as the second son of George Roots (c 1745-1830) and Ann Shuckburgh (c 1743-1835). His elder brother George (1773-1831) was a barrister-at-law, best known for his publication of a translation of the charters of Kingston (Roots 1797). William Roots was described by George Ayliffe (1914) as ‘... a tall noble looking man slightly lame ... always dressed in black and quite in the ancient style, wearing a tall hat with a tassel, a long coat, knee breeches, silk stockings and Hessian boots.’ Two sketches of him form part of the Kingston archives (**Fig 1 a and b**).

Fig 1 a and b



More remains to be done on his early years but he was awarded an MD degree from Marischal College, University of Aberdeen on 25 March 1801. David Kennedy (2016) noted that Roots was appointed to the post of Surgeon at the Kingston house of correction, locally known as 'The Bridewell', in 1810 – a post he held until 1852. In 1823 he styled himself 'Member of the College of Surgeons' but he wasn't referred to as 'Doctor' until around 1843. According to E W Brayley (1850, 56) and repeated by Biden (1852), as a young surgeon he unknowingly attended upon the notorious Kingston highwayman Jerry Abershawe at *The Bald-Faced Stag*, Kingston Vale (the site now occupied by the ASDA supermarket). However, as Abershawe was hanged at Kennington Common on 3 August 1795 and his body gibbeted on Putney Common (the last to be so treated) this would suggest – if the story is true – that Roots was no more than a 'stripling apprentice' at the time.

The 38-year old Roots embarked on a rather daring trip to Paris in 1814 along with his wife Mary and his two eldest children, Sudlow (b 1804) and Mary (b 1806) (known as 'Joney' within the family), leaving an illustrated journal that his grandson William Henry Roots MRCS later allowed to be 'placed within reach of the general public' (preface in Ogle 1909). The journal certainly displays observational skills, some of them waspish, as in the following description of fellow passengers on the packet boat *Nymph* by which the family crossed the channel (ibid, 15): 'Sir Thomas Stepney and his lady were likewise on board ... she was formerly the celebrated Mrs Russell Manners, but her beauty had very greatly diminished'. These same skills would later be deployed to record details of his archaeological findings along the river and on Kingston Hill.

A Rate Assessment of 8 September 1821 records William Roots as then living at West-by-Thames (variously Townend or Towns-end). The tithe map of 1840-2 shows two modest properties owned by Roots 'and 1 other' near The Woodbines, a large house then owned by the Kingston Town Clerk, Charles Jemmett. It is possible that these properties are those shown at the right-hand edge of a mid-century watercolour (**Fig 2**), though no photographs of the buildings survive. Biden (1852, 126-7) noted that Roots drew his water from the Coombe Hill conduit which passed close to his residence on its way beneath the Thames to supply Hampton Court (see also Forge 1959).

Fig 2



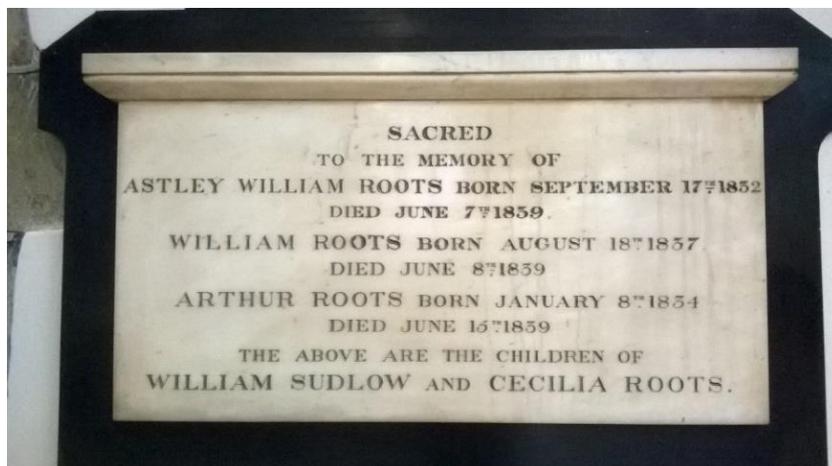
The main Roots family residence was always Canbury House (**Fig 3**), then on Richmond Road (now part of Clarence Street), which was occupied by Roots' parents George (died 29 October 1830, aged 85) and Ann Shuckburgh (died 11 June 1835, aged 92). William presumably moved from the family home on his marriage. His eldest son William Sudlow Roots is described as the owner/occupier of the property in Ham and Petersham Ward in a Rate book of 30 November 1838.

Fig 3



In Pigot and Co's *London and Provincial New Commercial Directory* for 1839 and 1840 William Roots, MD Surbiton is listed under 'Nobility, Gentry and Clergy' and 'Physicians'; Sudlow Roots of 'Norbiton St' is listed under 'Surgeons'. By the time of the 1841 census William Sudlow Roots (then aged 35) is living in Canbury House with his wife Cecilia (aged 31) and daughter Mary (aged 1), having tragically lost three sons, Ashley (aged 6y 9m), Arthur (in his sixth year) and William (1y 9m) within a week or so of each other in June 1839 (memorial in All Saints Church, Kingston; **Fig 4** below). It is possible that Sudlow moved into Canbury House on the death of his grandmother Ann Shuckburgh in 1835. Brayley (1850, 58) noted that Canbury House 'is the old family residence of Sudlow Roots esq; the writings to which property go much farther back than two hundred years; and some of its timbers are of the Spanish chestnut, so frequently met with in this town.'

Fig 4



William Roots was still at West-by-Thames in a list of Burgesses of the Borough of Kingston upon Thames from the 1st day of November 1852 to the 1st day of November 1853. In the 1851 census and by then a widower aged 74, Roots is back at Canbury House with Sudlow (aged 46), Cecilia (aged 40), their children Mary (aged 10), Cecilia (aged 9), Lucy (aged 6) and William Henry (aged 4), along with William's second son George (aged 44 and described as 'visitor'). Sudlow is in residence in the 1861 and 1871 censuses, dying 18 July 1876. Thereafter Sudlow's youngest son William Henry is in residence in the 1881 and 1891 Censuses. On his departure from the property in 1906/7 the property was pulled down and replaced by the Empire Theatre which opened to the public in 1910.

William Roots died on 2 December 1859 aged 83 and was buried in the new municipal cemetery at Bonner Hill Road. His 'deeply-lamented' wife had pre-deceased him on 11 October 1842 and had been interred in the Roots vault in All Saints Church, Kingston. The *Surrey Comet* of Saturday 10 December 1859 noted that 'The shops and private houses were generally closed. A mark of respect such as this, though a fitting testimonial to a long life of honorable (sic) exertion, yet is a painful measure of the loss which they have experienced who remember the late Dr Roots as a kind friend, a wise councillor, and a skilful physician.' The Bonner Hill Road grave, now ivy-covered (**Fig 5**), houses five of the family alongside William, including his sons Sudlow (d 1876 aged 71) and George (d 1890 aged 85).

Fig 5



William Roots and local antiquarian pursuits

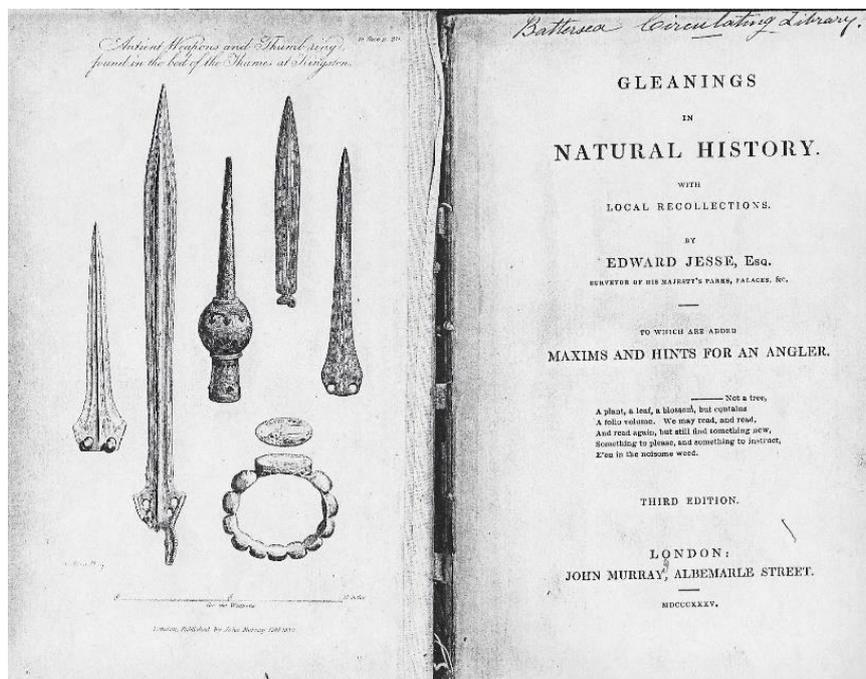
William Roots first appears as something of an acknowledged authority on the historic town following the discovery of two skeletons in the garden of John Smallpiece, butcher, 'near Clattern Bridge' on 25 August 1807. The land on which the remains were found was thought to be formerly part of a bowling green attached to The Castle Inn, 5-6 Market Place, from whence came the well-known carved Jacobean staircase currently in *Next* along the re-built west side of the Market Place. The Kingston tithe map (1840-2) also records land belonging to Jane Smallpiece lying south of the Hogsmill and adjacent to the Thames. Either location would fit the rather vague provenance attached to the discovery.

This aside, the skeletons aroused great local interest and were popularly thought to be the remains of two felons named Philip Wilkinson and William Sweet executed in Kingston Market Square in 1735. Both had been apprehended in the act of stealing an altar cloth by the formidable church sexton

Esther/Hester Hammerton (Butters 2013, 206). Roots, described in a contemporary account in the *Athenaeum* (2, 22; quoted in Anderson 1818, 46) as ‘a gentleman conversant in antiquarian pursuits’, disagreed. He thought the remains older and suggested that they were linked with a Civil War skirmish on the outskirts of the town in 1648 – a view strengthened by the discovery of ‘an old-fashioned sword ... taken up eight feet under the surface, within twenty yards of the same spot’ fifteen years before.

We next meet the antiquarian Roots during the construction of the new bridge across the Thames between 1824 and 1828. By this time, he was living just upstream of the bridge at West-by-Thames (Townend). Both Roots and his friend and neighbour Edward Jesse (1780-1860), then resident in a cottage in Bushey Park, were on hand to receive finds brought up from the riverbed ‘on the Middlesex side of the river’ during the works. Jesse illustrated various Bronze Age and later pieces in the frontispiece to his *Gleanings in Natural History* (1835) (**Fig 6**), which both men wrongly assumed to be of Roman date. Roots seems to have given Jesse the large Medieval (?ecclesiastical) thumb ring figured in the plate; the whereabouts of this and the other objects, which include Bronze Age weaponry comprising two rapiers and a sword, together with the tip of a Civil War captain’s leading staff shown in the middle of the plate, is unknown.

Fig 6

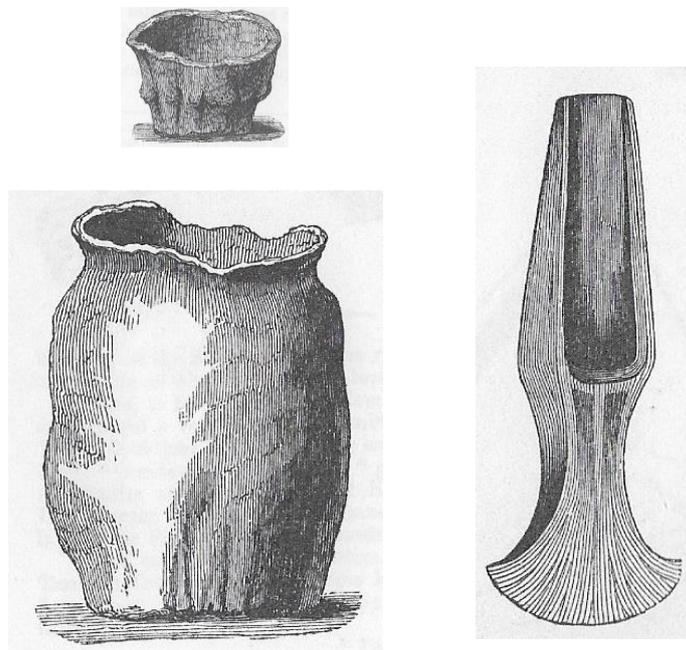


Jesse also noted the finding of skeletons ‘in some fields on the Surrey side of the river, but within a short distance of the Kingston ford’ that he, Roots, and others quickly linked with Caesar’s passage across the Thames in 54 BC. A letter of 1854 from Roots to Frederick Gould (quoted in Hinton 1984, 285) gives a more precise location of the finds: ‘... many of the slain ... were exhumed a few years ago in the Canbury Field adjoining the Gas works, and as many Roman relics were discovered mingled with the Remains in the Graves [there is] little or no doubt but that they were the bodies of the Romans slain in battle.’ Roots went a step further and identified the earthwork enclosure popularly known as ‘Caesar’s Camp’ on Wimbledon Common (local name: ‘Bensbury’ according to Camden, quoted by Lysons) as a Caesarian construction. In a letter of November 17, 1847 to Sir Henry Ellis (*Archaeologia* 32, 450) he noted that ‘from his earliest days he had ... often enjoyed the antiquarian reverie of

believing he was standing on the very spot where Caesar once stood ... prior to the hazardous attempt of crossing the Thames in the valley below.’ Multiple finds made on Kingston Hill were also mistakenly linked with this engagement. Ironically, recent finds from the Skerne Road/Wood Street area of the town (Bradley 2005) suggest that it became a focus of later Roman activity – possibly even connected with a crossing or bridging point downstream of the medieval and modern bridge (Hawkins 1996).

From 1844 until the 1850s Roots exhibited local finds to the Society of Antiquaries of London (then meeting in Somerset House) on no fewer than 10 separate occasions. Initially via Richard Hamilton, Vice President, on 18 January 1844; 9 May 1844 and 16 May 1844; and latterly via Sir Henry Ellis on 22 May 1845; 11 June 1846; and 21 November 1850. These various communications led to his election as a Fellow of the Society on 19 Dec 1844 and he was present in person on 16 January 1845, along with finds made on Kingston Hill/Coombe the previous November (**Fig 7**), presumably to be granted formal admittance as an FSA. He appears to have exhibited further objects in person at three further meetings on 20 November 1851, 15 January 1852 and 2 June 1853.

Fig 7



Roots also attended the inaugural AGM of the Surrey Archaeological Society, held at the Town Hall in Kingston on Friday 30 June 1854. By now aged 78 and clearly something of a senior figure, he exhibited local finds including ‘missile hatchets, Celts, Spear-heads, and Swords, found in the vicinity of Kingston’. Some of these had already been described and illustrated in Brayley (1850) whose etchings were reproduced by Biden (1852). He also showed a ‘Portion of a rapier, supposed to have belonged to one of the party of Cavaliers routed at Surbiton by Col Pritty’. Special mention too was made of his ‘liberal donations’ of volumes to the Society’s Library and Museum. Furthermore, following luncheon at *The Griffin*, he may well have formed a member of the party who journeyed to view the excavations then going forward just over the river on the Bronze Age barrow in Sandy Lane, Teddington (Akerman 1855; Howe 2005). Jesse (1835) had regarded the barrow as the resting place of the British casualties sustained during Caesar’s crossing of the Thames – a neat but clearly mistaken suggestion. Along with

his sons Sudlow and George, Roots was one of 32 Vice Presidents of the newly formed Society and appears to have played an active role in its early years; he may have been the 'Mr Roots' of Kingston who was involved in the investigation of financial irregularities on the part of one of the early Council members (Lowther 1954, 10-11).

The Roots Collection and its context

Following his death, his eldest son Sudlow Roots presented 43 objects from his father's collection to the Society of Antiquaries of London on Thursday 2 February 1860 (*Proc Soc Antiq Lond* 2nd series, I (1859-60), 82-86), for which thanks were returned. These seem to have comprised around half of the original collection. The residue (some 40 pieces) was retained by the family until 1906/7 when his grandson William Henry Roots MRCS moved out of the family home at Canbury House. The Borough's books and museum sub-committee recommended that the Library and Museum committee 'request Dr Finny to purchase Dr Roots' collection of local antiquities for the museum, and that the Borough Accountant be authorised to draw a cheque for £100 to pay for them' (Butters 2005, 44). (An additional 6 guineas were required to secure a scold's bridle in the collection.) At the same time Roots' collection of 250 'Rare and Valuable Books' was sold off at public auction by Messrs Hodgson and Co on Wednesday 20 March 1907.

Object type	Thames, Kingston		Seething Wells		Kingston Hill/Coombe		Other localities	
	Soc Ants	KMus	Soc Ants	KMus	Soc Ants	KMus	Soc Ants	KMus
Flint adze		3						
Polished flint axe	1	11	1					1
Polished stone axe		2	1					
Flint dagger		1						
Polissoir		1						
Stone battleaxe		1						
Copper alloy palstave	2	4			1			1
Copper alloy socketed axe	1	3			1			1
Copper alloy spearhead	1	2			1			
Copper alloy rapier		2	3					
Copper alloy sword	2	4						
Copper alloy chape		2						
Iron sword	2						1	
Iron spearhead	5		2		2			
Iron axe	2							
Iron knife/dagger	3							
Iron spur	1							
Bunch of iron keys							1	
Prehistoric pottery vessel					2			
Roman pottery vessel					1			
Roman copper alloy brooch	1							
Silver medalet	1							
Pewter spoon	4							
Iron 'scold's bridle'								1
Totals	26	36	7	-	8	-	2	4

Fig 8

As far as can be determined, the William Roots Collection comprised three main groups of material: finds dredged from the Thames between Kingston Bridge and Raven's Ait during the period 1843-1853; finds recovered during gravel digging on the 'declyving doune' of Kingston Hill in or around November 1844 (Field and Needham 1986, 136, nos 21-22, 141, nos 46-47); and finds taken up during the construction of the Chelsea Waterworks at Seething Wells in June/July 1855. Sadly, the objects found during the construction of Kingston Bridge in 1824-8 (**Fig 6** above) do not form part of it; these appear to have been retained by Edward Jesse and their current whereabouts remain unknown.

As the table (**Fig 8** above) shows, the Roots collection was dominated by finds dredged from the Thames. These comprised a range of flint and stone tools of Mesolithic and Neolithic type, together with metalwork of Bronze Age and later date – principally edged weapons of various forms. Curiously, no objects of bone or antler were collected by Roots. Generally, the material held by the Soc Ants is the better recorded portion and many of the objects are accompanied by old hand-written labels recording details of provenance and the circumstances of discovery likely to have been supplied by Roots himself. Thus we learn that a Late Bronze Age sword with a characteristic leaf-shaped blade was 'taken up from the bed of the Thames near Kingston, 9 feet below the gravel, and imbedded two inches in the blue clay, Jan 10, 1852' and that a bronze socketed axe with a decorated blade was 'dug up in the Thames, directly opposite to Dr Roots' house in 1850, and is exactly of the same size and pattern as another found on Kingston Hill'. As far as finds from the latter locality are concerned (see **Fig 7** above), the collection includes a bronze palstave 'found on Kingston Hill, near Caesar's Camp ... in the same neighbourhood were found several masses of unwrought bronze just ready for making others.'

Following the London Bridge episode of the 1830s – during which large numbers of objects were brought up from the riverbed during the building of Rennie's new bridge and the subsequent removal of the old Peter de Colechurch structure – many antiquarians began to amass collections of dredged material. Roots was well-placed to take advantage of the opportunities presented locally, initially by the river works connected with the construction of the new Kingston Bridge, then by the episodic dredging programmes conducted 'in front of his house' and latterly by the construction of the Chelsea waterworks at Seething Wells a little upstream. Unlike many of his fellow antiquarians, however, Roots maintained a single-minded approach to his collecting activities, focusing hard on his hometown and its early history. Like Charles Roach Smith, who hired a boat to row out to watch the dredgers at work on London Bridge (Cotton 1999), Roots appears to have obtained his finds direct from the source, rather than via dealers or auction houses.

The importance of the Roots collection comes across most strongly in the second table (**Fig 9** below), where the numbers of finds from the Kingston reaches in the collection are set against those of others: local men Gould and Finny, as well as other well-known London collectors like Thomas Layton of Brentford, Canon William Greenwell of Durham and William Lloyd of St Margaret's, Twickenham. (The final name on the list, G F Lawrence of Wandsworth, was a dealer rather than a collector, and supplied objects to Kingston Museum by gift and purchase in the early part of the 20th century, including the W Wright Collection, sold to the museum for five guineas in 1936.) On this basis, Roots is the single most important assemblage, containing twice as many objects as Finny and Lloyd and three times as many as Gould. Rapacious competitors like Layton and Greenwell barely got a look-in; presumably, Roots had largely cornered the local market.

	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	Total
Roots	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	62
Gould	■	■	■	■									21
Finny	■	■	■	■	■	■							29
Layton	■												2
Greenwell	■	■											12
Lloyd	■	■	■	■	■	■							32
Lawrence	■	■	■	■	■								(24)

Fig 9

One final side note: William’s second son George Roots, FRCS (1807-1890) was also regarded as ‘a diligent collector’ when eventually elected an FSA in 1855 and, following his death on 31 December 1890, his own collection was sold in a two-day sale by auctioneers Christie, Manson and Woods. Unlike his father, however, who appears to have confined himself to collecting local antiquities, George had more catholic tastes and the sale included items from Germany, Italy, Spain, France, Switzerland and Hungary. Some pieces, including a chipped flint axe (1927.3809) and three bronzes, all purportedly from the Thames (possibly Kingston?), were purchased by Sir John Evans and are now held in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. The latter comprise a Middle Bronze Age unlooped palstave (1927.2588); and two Late Bronze Age pieces in the forms of a peghole spearhead (1927.2542) and a socketed axe (1927.2639). One curious point: the peghole spearhead in the Ashmolean matches the size and description of another in William Roots collection said to have come from Kingston Hill but which is now missing from the Soc Ants museum at Burlington House.

Conclusion

William Roots was an antiquarian of his time, ever keen to yoke his local finds to wider national events such as Caesar’s passage across the Thames in 54 BC and the part played by the town in the English Civil War. While this desire often led him to mis-identify the dating and significance of his finds (a not uncommon trait among Victorian gentlemen collectors) what sets him apart was his practical and single-minded focus on his hometown, alongside his determination to accurately record details of provenance and circumstance wherever possible.

Hitherto somewhat unjustly overlooked in comparison with later local worthies like Frederick Gould and W Evelyn St Lawrence Finny, there is no doubt that William Roots made a significant and important contribution to our understanding of Kingston’s early past. It is a contribution well worth celebrating, especially in the context of the 50th birthday of KUTAS.

Acknowledgements

This contribution to the KUTAS anniversary celebrations is at best an interim statement on William Roots and his collection, about which there is undoubtedly more to learn. Thanks in getting this far are due to the Society of Antiquaries of London for affording access to that portion of the Roots collection held at Burlington House; to Alison Roberts for access to the George Roots objects held in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; to Charlotte Samuels for access to the Roots material in Kingston Museum; and to Carolynne Cotton for access to various Kingston archives and for permission to reproduce images held by the Kingston Heritage Service.

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Figure list

1a and b. Two watercolours of William Roots, MD, FSA, by an unknown artist, 1849. (Kingston Heritage Service K1-1418/1419)

2. Watercolour showing Kingston Bridge and The Anglers Inn by an unknown artist, c 1850. Roots' house may be the house shown at the right-hand edge of the picture. (Kingston Heritage Service K1-0058)

3. Canbury House c 1906, principal Kingston home of the Roots family from the 18th century until its demolition in 1907; the site is currently occupied by the former Empire Theatre (Kingston Heritage Service K1-0619)

4. Monument to three of William Roots' grandchildren in All Saints Church, Kingston (author)

5. William Roots' ivy-covered grave in Bonner Hill Cemetery, July 2019 (author)

6. Frontispiece and title page of Edward Jesse's *Gleanings in Natural History* (1835) showing objects found 'at some depth in the ground on the Middlesex side of the river' during the sinking of cofferdams for the construction of new Kingston Bridge, 1824-28 (author)

7. Two Late Bronze Age pottery vessels and a Middle Bronze Age copper alloy palstave axe in the Roots Collection, from gravel digging on Kingston Hill, after Brayley (1850) and Biden (1852); all three are now in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries of London at Burlington House

8. A tabulation of the Roots Collection in Burlington House and Kingston Museum

9. The Roots Collection from local reaches of the Thames at Kingston outnumbers all others, including those of rapacious collectors Thomas Layton and Canon William Greenwell

Origins: The Prehistory of Kingston

David Field

David is a former archaeological investigator for RCHME and English Heritage, who has surveyed and analysed many well-known prehistoric sites.

Nu-mohk-muck-a-nah and the Great Flood

During his journey along the Missouri during the nineteenth century, anthropologist George Catlin recorded the annual ceremonies commemorating a great flood practised by the Mandan Indians. The ceremony began when a representation of the first man, Nu-mohk-muck-a-nah approached the village to much feigned consternation and after being recognised and welcomed, entered a ceremonial building which, duly swept and cleaned, had green willows placed on the floor along with animal and human skulls. He then approached each household in the village and related the flood story, explaining that he was the only survivor and that it was necessary to sacrifice stone tools to the river in order to avoid a further flood. Having obtained a pile of axes and knives from the villagers they were placed in the ceremonial building until eventually thrown into the river during the final part of the ceremony.

What has all this to do with Kingston?

Prehistoric implements have of course been found in the Thames in some numbers. Fifty years ago they were often considered to have been careless losses from boats or at fording places or during battles, none of it entirely satisfactory. Today, explanations of ceremonial or ritual deposition are more widely accepted.

Catastrophic floods were not, of course, confined to North America or to the Middle East. Studies during the last 50 years have emphasised how land in the North Sea and English Channel was gradually subject to rising sea-levels and the population of what we now call Doggerland forced to gradually move inland to new coastlines and along river valleys, potentially causing friction with those already there.

One additional factor potentially creating turbulent times in the North Sea may have been the tsunami, thought to have been created by a landslide off the coast of Norway that inundated the coast of east Scotland and Northumberland at around 5800calBC. This must certainly have reached well into Doggerland but it is unclear as yet whether its direct effects were felt in the Thames Estuary. Nevertheless, the repercussions in terms of movement of displaced people will have had impact and throughout the period of rising sea-level we might envisage the Kingston area as receiving several waves of migrants.

Mesolithic

While a large number of Mesolithic axeheads have been dredged from the Thames at Kingston there is little evidence of contemporary activity on land. The present town is of course largely situated on the floodplain and configuration of the river and local topography could have been quite different.

Settlement does, however, appear to have been present within the meander loop at Ham. From there a number of collectors have reported scatters of flint material. Most of this is in the Museum of London and suggests that there were three favoured localities: Coldharbour, the Maize Fields and Walkers Farm. The material from Coldharbour is described as being found within 100 and 200m of the river

and alongside and astride a gravel bank that lay parallel to it. This may have been a natural levee. The site lies adjacent to the lock and weir at Teddington which was constructed to cope with an area of shallows and which may have provided an important crossing point as well as opportunities for creating fishing weirs. Material from the Maize Fields was recorded as extending towards both Kingston and Petersham, while that from the Walkers Farm (now Church Farm) has been found as far south as Tudor Drive.

Neolithic

The cluster of Mesolithic axes from the river was matched by axeheads deposited in the Neolithic period which indicated that Neolithic activity somewhere within the Kingston area was relatively intense. Some 45 stone and flint axeheads have been recorded, most of them from the river. Most of them are complete and perfectly useable, in contrast to axeheads found elsewhere in Surrey, where they are often broken by use. In addition, several are of non-local stone. Eight come from Cornwall and another from the Lake District. These must have been prized artefacts.

Our knowledge of floodplain topography was considerably enhanced in 1965 when phase 1 of redevelopment work on the Eden Walk complex took place. John Penn and students of the Geography Department of Kingston Technical College (later Polytechnic and later still University) took the opportunity of recording the deposits and were able to record the presence of a river channel some 48m wide. Looking at this in detail they found evidence of a steep erosive contact with bedded terrace gravels alongside Eden Street and point bar deposits, characteristic of deposition on the inside of a meander curve on the opposite side and which indicates the direction of curve. The channel was too narrow to represent the main river but it may be that the river split or braided, in which case old Kingston around the church lay on an island. Environmental samples indicated that following initial flow, this became intermittent and subsequently sediment only entered during floods. Later, there were only isolated pools of water and eventually vegetation grew down the sides of the channel leaving a marshy area into the medieval period.

Of greatest significance was the discovery that among the channel deposits were Neolithic artefacts, pottery, worked antler and a stone macehead. Pollen extraction from deposits at the Neolithic level indicated an open woodland environment with grass and heather pollen alongside weeds like dock, set amongst alder, oak, elm, lime and hazel trees.

Phase II of the redevelopment took place in the middle and later 70s. Trenches in the west of the site produced mainly medieval material but in view of the importance of the prehistoric material, Derek Hinton placed several trenches adjacent to Eden Street in 1977. Given the timescale and the enormity of the task most of these were abandoned and effort concentrated in one long trench that cut the river channel obliquely and encountered prehistoric deposits.

In the southern part of the trench, a deposit of wood and brushwood was encountered along with a certain number of prehistoric artefacts. Working at the water table presented problems and a medieval well was partially cleared out and a channel cut leading into it from where the water was continuously pumped out.

A platform or substantial deposit of wood was the main feature encountered. The wood was aligned in a common direction, oblique to the direction of the channel. At least one and probably more upright stakes were in position. It appeared to provide the skeleton of a structure above and below which was

a mass of brushwood. There was some caution in interpretation given the possibility that this could have accumulated naturally or, given the cut marks on the timber, by beavers, but given the stake, the fact that some timber was split radially, with one piece trimmed of its side branches all this could have provided a platform within the river channel or, more likely, a trackway across it to the central island. Artefacts found amongst the wood indicated that there must have been successive deposits of wood. Stratigraphy amongst the wood was difficult to establish within the time available but the presence of middle Neolithic pottery of the Mortlake variety might be attributed to the period around 3000BC, a little later than the material found in the 1965 trench. C14 dates on the wood however, provided a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date.

Whether or not the wood formed a structure, above it was a layer of fire crackled flint, potboilers, certainly the result of human activity immediately adjacent. Whether these are the residue from cooking or, given the river channel, the site of a sweat lodge remains unclear. Unfortunately, the whole of this area was cleared to depth by the developers and so excavation alongside at some point in the future will not provide answers. A fragment of Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury pottery along with red deer metacarpal and cattle jaw was found at this level. Deverel-Rimbury pottery is usually associated with a structured farming economy with extensive organised field systems. C14 date on the cattle jaw however produced a Middle Iron Age date. All C14 dates were later than expected given the cultural material and it would appear that the nature of the deposits allowed a certain amount of vertical stratigraphical movement. It is possible that the artefacts were washed onto the site during overbank floods, but the breaks are clear and pieces in unrolled condition. Either they were placed or thrown in from the bank. A human skull appears to have been placed.

While there was likely to be activity adjacent to the channel little opportunity has so far presented itself of excavating beneath Eden Street or indeed on the central island. Excavations at Fairfield West did however encounter what appeared to be an Iron Age ditch.

Further inland a group of five Neolithic axeheads come from Kingston Hill. Three of them stone from elsewhere in the country. This appears to be an important focus of activity that we know little about. The hill has an important springline that could attract both settlement and ritual activities and it is even possible that a Neolithic earthwork is located somewhere here. Oliver's Mound in Richmond Park and Queen's Butt on Wimbledon Common have both been suggested as potential long barrows but remain unproven and in any case it is rare for axeheads to be associated with long barrows, and more commonly with causewayed enclosures. Nevertheless, Early Bronze Age Collared Urns have also been found on the hill and it could well be that a cemetery developed there.

Bronze Age

Certainly there was a cemetery on the hill during the Later Bronze Age, for antiquarians describe the discovery of urns with ashes found in pits arranged in an orderly fashion. Others, however, held grain and wheat is specifically mentioned. Furthermore there are descriptions of bronze, large masses of it, sometimes said to be ready for working into artefacts. Discoveries were made as early as the 16th century, but most of the material that survives was recovered while quarrying for gravel during the 19th century. The surviving material, slack shouldered jars, copper ingots, bronzes broken up for reuse, allows us to describe a significant farming settlement heavily into bronze production.

Providing details of the location of the settlement was more difficult. The position and advance of the quarry could be identified on old maps and indicate a particular focus around the corner of George and Renfrew Roads. As opportunities arose, excavations took place around the edge of the quarry. First small trenches at Bruin Wood along George Road where the land there proved to have been previously quarried and Warren Park to the north of the quarry where just a few flints were encountered, then the proposed redevelopment of Cambridge House in Renfrew Road offered the opportunity of investigating a slightly larger area.

Here five trenches were laid out and several features encountered. A number of small postholes along with a gully-like feature and a post slot. Most of the post holes produced sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery and in addition part of a saddle quern was found nearby helping to indicate that this was part of a domestic complex. It was not clear what kind of structure or structures the postholes were part of, perhaps given more time the trenches could have been widened to find out, but similar post settings at Westcroft Road, Carshalton, at Beddington and at Petters Sports Field, Egham were interpreted as forming circular huts c6-7m in diameter.

During site watching, a pit was observed and excavated as building work took place. Some of its contents may be domestic refuse, but the material appears to have been much more carefully placed. The deposit of pebbles was arranged so that they extended part way up the sides. The coarse ware jar found within it can be reconstructed in complete profile, even though only one quarter of its circumference is present. It appears to have been broken or divided vertically. The fragments were found placed together and set almost upright in the pit and had the appearance of being placed, rather than lying horizontally as the material would have done if just thrown in. No ashes were recorded, and the burnt pebbles must have been selectively retrieved from a hearth nearby for deposition with the jar and baked clay.

Other features on site also appear to have been backfilled rapidly, the gully, and post trench, and perhaps the postholes, generally with the same reddish sandy loam. In itself this need cause no surprise, simply indicating that the immediate environs were still being used for settlement where any open hole close to living space could be considered a hazard. However, the reddening of the soil might be interpreted as the result of burning and it is also worth noting that the greater part of the flint assemblage had been affected by heat. Consequently, it may be that the change was imposed. Curiously, the posts at a site at Westcroft Road, Carshalton had similarly been removed and the holes backfilled as had those at Petters Sports Field where it was suggested that there may have been a deliberate attempt at changing the land-use of the area. At all three sites there appeared to be no reuse of the area for settlement purposes and the assumption therefore must be that the change involved agriculture. In Wessex at this time, there was major change in land-use when the linear ditches or ranch boundaries created parish-like units which put the extensive coaxial fields at least partly out of use and the impression is of a widespread move to increased pastoral agriculture. There the change appears to have been planned and imposed, perhaps influenced by a worsening climate, but many holders of individual plots will have been severely affected and the process may in fact mark social change from the communal tenure of the field systems to one of more authoritarian control. The increased presence of enclosed settlements and hillforts at the time certainly points to a degree of stress and friction. Given the manner in which parish boundaries utilised the Bronze Age ditches in Wessex it is worth consideration whether the Long Ditton parish boundary (i.e. long ditch town) is one such and there may be others at Weybridge and Battersea. I'm also pretty sure I remember an 'Old

Ditch' being mentioned on an old map of Ham. It is possible, given documentary references, that linear boundaries were established along the Thames in a manner similar to that of the Wessex system. It may be that the changes on Kingston Hill marked a similar process of reorganisation.

More recently, excavations at Long House, George Road encountered Late Bronze Age pottery, while further east, at Warren Cutting, Combe Neville, excavations by the Museum of London in 1993 encountered a V-shaped ditch that was exposed for 25m in an east-west direction but which turned north-east at its eastern end. Given the extent of Bronze Age fields noted around Carshalton but also on the flood plain around Lambeth and Bermondsey it is likely that fields were quite widely spread in the area and, given the presence of quern stones and accounts of grain found in pots, may have once covered the hilltop. Nevertheless, proximity to the Thames is likely to have ensured that the Kingston Hill site was a major influence on the riverside activities of the great west London meanders and not to mention perhaps providing much of the metalwork that found its way into the river.

Iron Age

At present there is no indication that the Kingston Hill communities continued through into the Iron Age and aside from a few scraps of pottery there is little from the town centre. The lack of material from the Thames also suggests that settlement had shifted. A sickle was recovered from the river but in contrast to the Bronze Age, no swords or militaria, no shield like that from Battersea or helmet like the one from Waterloo Bridge. It may be that climatic changes and the friction indicated by the development of hillforts may be responsible and Caesar's Camp on Wimbledon Common became the major centre. The move to enclosed settlement is clearly illustrated at Old Malden, where L Carpenter excavated part of an enclosure close to the church. In Wessex these small enclosures form part of the typical Iron Age landscape, often occurring in pairs. There may be several more of these waiting to be discovered here.

Further information available in:

Field, D 1983 Ham: the Edwards Collection *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 74, 169-84

Field, D and Needham, S 1986 Evidence for Bronze Age settlement on Coombe Warren, Kingston Hill *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 77, 127 -52

Field, D 2019 Excavations on the site of a Late Bronze Age settlement at Cambridge House, Renfrew Road, Kingston upon Thames, 1986-7. *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 102.

Penn, J, Field, D and Serjeantson, D 1984 Evidence of Neolithic occupation in Kingston: excavation at Eden Walk 1965 *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 75, 207-24

Serjeantson, D, Field, D Penn, J and Shipley, M 1991-2 Excavations at Eden Walk II, Kingston: environmental reconstruction and prehistoric finds *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 81, 71 -90

Kingston Saxon Pottery

Steve Nelson

Becoming interested in the 1960s excavations in Kingston, directed by Marion Canham, Steve went to work in the Ministry of Works, Ancient Monuments Department, in 1971, staying on when English Heritage was formed in 1984. His particular interest is in pottery. He is a founder member of KUTAS.

Some Evidence for early “Saxon” Domestic Pottery in Kingston

I have tried to draw together the various finds of Early – Mid Saxon pottery from Kingston sites. Not straightforward as the material is spread around various organisations that have excavated in the town since the mid-1980s. The material from earlier KuTAS and Museum work is in the Museum collections currently stored at Upper Heyford. The rest is with those who undertook the different excavations.

Traditionally the period is divided into – Early Saxon 400-600, Middle Saxon 600-800 and Late Saxon 800-1000. They are arbitrary with no clear defining changes although there are some trends that can be linked to the periods. I leave aside current trend to rename Early Med!

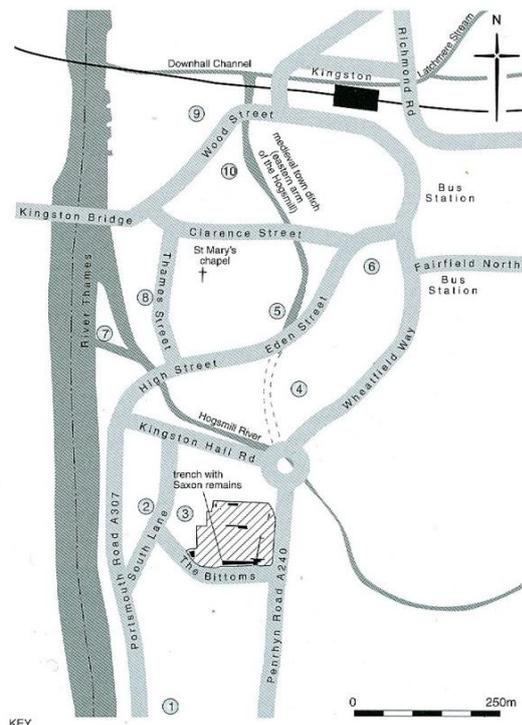
A very useful map showing Kingston in relation to known Greater London sites was published in the general review of *Early & Mid Saxon Settlement in London Region* (MOLA Mono 41) in 2008 and which remains the most up to date review (**Fig 1** below).

In London the MoL developed a rather involved series of type codes related to the makeup of individual fabrics – even under x20 magnification these are not easy to distinguish. Many are subtle variations of the principle ware types. In Surrey the late Phil Jones used a simplified version relying on the more dominant fabric ingredients. Some concordance between those used in Surrey, in brackets, with those in London is in this table.

CHALK/TUFA TEMPERED		
(CQ)	Chalk & sand tempered wares with many variants identified in Godalming – Staines	EAR/Mid Saxon (apparently unknown in London)
ORGANIC TEMPERED		
CHAF/CHSF (GT) (QGT)	(Chaff temp) mod. – abundant organic inclusions, fine micaceous sandy fabric with occas larger < 0.3 quartz sand grains. Hand made soft reduced grey body. Variants CHSF (sparse organic inclusions) CHF1 (some iron oxide inclusions) ESBO (fine crushed bone incs)	In London – Early & Mid Saxon Ubiquitous in Surrey C6 – C9

ESFL (?SAXFL)	Iron rich, micaceous sand free fab with large <3mm rolled patinated flint inclusions & occas rounded quartz grains <5mm Few organic inclusions. Hand made reduced body occas red/brown surface. Variant ESFL CALC as above but has some calcareous(chalk) incs	Mid – late Saxon but not known in central London
SAND TEMPERED		
ESAN A –C (SAXQ) ESANI (Q/Iron)	Hard rough feel, mod coarse ill sorted iron stained quartz <0.5mm Reduced fabric. Variants B & D merely on size of inclusions. With occas mica iron ore red clay pellets.	?Mid Saxon, rare and non local to Surrey
SANDSTONE TEMPERED		
ESST	Sugary like inclusions ?not found in Surrey	C 400-600+
GREENSAND TEMPERED		
ESGS (No apparent Surrey code)	Hard, rough to smooth fabric Moderate rounded quartz sand and greensand inclusions <1.5mm with abundant black ironstone/glaucanite (0.2mm) & occas org inclusions. Dark reduced body with red/brown outer surface	Ear & Mid Saxon in central London (Prob of Surrey or Middx origin)
SLGS (No apparent Surrey code)	Fabric similar to ESGS but finer quartz sand & less organic matter, Can occur without organic inclusions. There are many variants of ESGS & SLGS in MOL codes	Mid and later Saxon in central London. ?Surrey type
GROG TEMPERED		
SGRG (SAXGR)	Grog temp + sparse org. Related to late Rom GROG? Dorking Godalming	Mid Saxon in London, 650-850, rare

Turning to Kingston, there are some 12/13 sites that have produced pottery of Saxon date to a greater or lesser degree – some published some not. The MoL drew some of these together in the 2008 review which included this map to which I've added a couple of further dots and we might add Tolworth Court Farm, published by KuTAS today, (11 sherds) just a few km to the south along the Hogsmill valley and Ham, MOLA Mono 41 2008 (82 sherds) to the north. Also, a site at Hurst Park, Molesey in 1994 produced 577 sherds of C6-C7 date, WA Report 10, 1996. These finds also have a bearing on the Kingston material.



1. 17-23 Woodbines Ave WDB00 & Milner Rd
2. East/South Lane SLK96
3. The Bittoms Kingston Hall Road BIM90
4. Brook Street/Orchard Road OR75
5. Eden Walk KES74/KB76
6. 76 Eden Street KR78
7. Charter Quay
8. 29 Thames Street K076
9. Bentalls (NM)
10. Bentalls (SE)
11. 82 Eden Street EDE89
12. St James' Road GE76 & KN76
13. 78 Eden Street EEN16

Fig 1 (from MOLA 2008)

I will quickly run through these sites to get an idea of quantities involved and fabric types.

1. Woodbines Ave 2000 (PCA, SyAC 89 p237) "a few sherds of early Saxon chaff tempered ware" and Milner Rd 1994 (SCAU) 8/9 sherds GT/CHAF type.
3. The Bittoms 1991 (DGLA) 38 sherds in nine fabrics plus five loom weights. Most in an SFB and one pit feature. Also, Kingston Hall Rd 2001 (OA) three pits containing "pottery of ear/med Saxon" uncertain how many.
2. South Lane 1996 (PCA, SyAC 89 2002) Major published site by Duncan Hawkins. 105 sherds 18 fabrics (including six with coarse slip) and two loom weights of early Saxon form – associated with pits, gullies and a post hole building.
11. 82 Eden Street 1989 (DGLA) 46 sherds 5 basic fabrics (inc x1 IPS type). A N/S ditch and associated hollow ?SFB. This site recovered important Roman material which included a high proportion of late Roman types including a typical MAYEN type rim. The Saxon pottery included a significant carinated vessel sherd with 8 point star stamps (Fig 2). The whole

assemblage may be of c 400-600, although it included one sherd identified at the time as Ipswich ware (IPS) ware of c730+.

Fig 2



13. 78 Eden St 2016 (Cotswold Archaeology) Now published in SyAC 102 2019. 59 sherds in 15 fabric types (including two coarse slip type). All from a curving ditch running towards Eden Street.
6. 76 Eden Street 1978 (Kingston Museum and KuTAS) Trial excavation not entirely satisfactory. A possible ditch in the brickearth produced six possible sherds of ESAN/SAXQ type.
4. Brook Street/Orchard Rd 1985 (Kingston Mus and KuTAS) 94 sherds (+ loom weight frag) ? 4 basic fabrics. Associated with a large hollow, possibly a truncated SFB.
12. St James Rd 1976 (Kingston Museum and KuTAS) 13 sherds, 4 basic fabrics from four disturbed contexts.
5. Eden Walk 1974 and 1976 (Kingston Museum) 126 sherds in possibly four general fabrics. Site dug over two years – adjacent trenches both called B! The 1974 excavation (KES74) had 46 sherds. Apparently from a ditch feature and associated with a Saxon type bead. Site KB76 again associated with a ditch feature had 90 sherds in four fabrics (including a large group of coarse slip, schlickung type and other early types of surface decoration. Both assemblages were from a brickearth deposit.

There are a couple of sites with negligible amounts -

7. Charter Quay (WA) only two sherds of chaff tempered type.
14. Knapp-Drewett 1982 (DGLA) only two sherds CHAF (one with coarse slip).

A couple of sherds from Fairfield Road 1967 in a level over supposed IA ditch. This photo shows Marion Canham, who started archaeology in Kingston, in the ditch.



Some conclusions

By my reckoning the total amount of pottery of this early period amounts to some 500+ sherds. Significantly this includes a relatively high proportion of coarse slip surfaced (schlickung) sherds which are considered an indicator of Early Saxon date.

The find spots are generally to the east around the town centre, on the brickearth deposits. There are really none from excavations on the central Market Place area and none from the Horsefair to the North.

To put it in some perspective with other similar Thames side sites it is middling. These are single sites whereas Kingston results from 12 or 13 excavations. Only some of the Kingston sites are strictly stratified and fewer associated with structures as such but they all need publishing, particularly Brook Street, Eden Walk and 82 Eden Street .

There are some questions remaining, not just for Kingston but for Anglo Saxon studies in general. We



obviously need more and larger, better and independently stratified material. There are a few technical problems of pottery identification and their equivalent in Surrey – ESGS/LSGS as identified in London and those with bone tempering and sandstone fabrics.

What bearing may this pottery of Ear-Mid Saxon date have on the later Saxon Royal vill? There is very much more pottery of the early period than there is of late Saxon date.

And, there are some odd vessel shapes – in particular this flat tile like object in a Saxon fabric from Eden Walk. Its function is still uncertain, baking plate or what?

Overview of Kingston's Archaeology 1990 to 2018

Duncan Hawkins FSA

Duncan is the Operational Director of CgMs/RPS Heritage. Fellow of the Society of Antiquities and a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Roman Kingston

The emerging picture of Roman Kingston remains one of a landscape of rural settlements. The settlement in the area of 'Canbury Fields' represented by the recent Skerne Road finds and the inhumation cemetery recorded in the nineteenth century may well be a:

'settlement larger than a farm or two' ¹

but is perhaps unlikely to have been much more than a riverside hamlet with its economy based on agriculture. The animal bone from Skerne Road, Eden Street and Clarence Street perhaps indicates a community engaged in stock raising, appropriate to the generally heavy soils of the Kingston area.



Fig 1 Excavation at Skerne Road

While the quantities of ceramic and stone tile recovered at Skerne Road (Fig 1) and Eden Street (Fig 2) could indicate substantial buildings nearby more probably they would have formed components for humbler structures relating to rural settlement and agriculture. Increasingly we should perhaps see the flue box tile as the 'breeze block' of Roman Britain, particularly in locations such as Kingston where there is no natural building stone.

The Eden Street site with its coin hoard and apparent votive curses may well be one of a number of

'local sites regarded as sacred which would not have had temples'.²

Although this site could perhaps now be seen as part of a pattern of relatively widespread ritual activity at Kingston by agricultural communities scattered around an extensive network of rivers and streams.

The existence of a Roman settlement and possible religious centre at the headwaters of the Hogsmill at Ewell, a mere 8 km up the Hogsmill Valley from Kingston should however not be overlooked in this context. The Hogsmill Valley may have been important for the movement of stock between the Downland pastures around Ewell and the river valley meadows around Kingston, perhaps via the emerging Roman activity site at Old Malden, (halfway up the Hogsmill Valley between Kingston and Ewell), a successor to an earlier Iron Age settlement where the scale and number of 'enclosures' now identified surely suggests sophisticated stock management. In the context of this potential agricultural linkage of the Roman settlements of the Hogsmill valley there may have been shared ritual activity reflecting the importance of the river in sustaining agriculture in general and perhaps stock raising in particular.



Fig 2 Excavation of 82 Eden Street in 1989

Conclusions

It is nearly twenty years since it could be honestly written that:

'considerable excavation and site watching in present day towns such as Kingston ... have produced no evidence for Roman settlement'.³

In those years archaeological investigation has significantly advanced our understanding of the ancient topography of the Kingston area and the nature of Roman activity and settlement. While, on the available evidence, there is certainly no substantial Roman settlement at Kingston there is a complex of rural settlements and activity sites, which are perhaps best understood in the context of wider settlement and activity along the Hogsmill and Thames valleys.

Anglo Saxon Kingston

From documentary sources alone we can suggest that from at least the first half of the ninth century through to the late eleventh century Kingston was a significant Royal Estate centre. The land administered from this estate centre, probably the hundreds of Kingston and Elmbridge, may also have formed the territory of an early Minster church.

Clearly the earliest Saxon activity for which we have firm archaeological evidence was not within the 'Central Kingston island' which was to become the core of the Medieval and Modern town. The earliest settlement evidence dating perhaps from 400 to 700 is from the much smaller but slightly higher 'South Lane island' to the south. Contemporary activity, probably an agricultural settlement, is evidenced from east of the 'Central Kingston island' on slightly higher ground toward the Fairfield. By at least the tenth or eleventh century however we can suggest on sculptural evidence that a church had been established on the 'Central Kingston island', on the site of the existing parish church. Some time before this the settlement on the 'South Lane island' was abandoned while, broadly contemporary activity on the 'central Kingston island', in the form of the cutting of a property boundary and later drainage ditches is evidenced. It seems likely that it was the foundation of Kingston church which led to a settlement shift from one island to the other.

If we accept that the existing parish church of All Saints is likely to be the successor to a Saxon church, possibly a minster, then what interpretation do we place on the potentially late Saxon Chapel of St Mary? It could be that the existence of a church actually occasioned the creation of St Mary's as a subsidiary. Both buildings perhaps forming part of a complex of ecclesiastical and secular buildings at the core of the Royal Estate Centre. In this context it is even possible that St Mary's originated as a masonry hall rather than as an ecclesiastical building. Certainly this building was regarded as very special by the people of Kingston as is shown by, its retention as an anachronistic lateral lady chapel through every major remodelling of the parish church, the antiquarian records, and the general dismay recorded in the town at its destruction in 1730.

Overall modern archaeological investigation in and around Central Kingston, has found no evidence for an urban settlement. Instead it is clear that we are looking at a landscape of rural settlement with at the core of the later town a Royal Estate Centre and church though both probably on a modest scale.

The urban origins of Kingston belong quite clearly in the post Conquest period.

Medieval Kingston

Extensive archaeological excavation in and around Kingston town centre has revealed little evidence for 10th or 11th century settlement, while the 12th and 13th centuries are relatively well represented. In particular, the major archaeological excavations at the Horsefair, north of the modern Kingston Bridge, and on the Charter Quay site, between Kingston marketplace and the River Thames, revealed no evidence of late Anglo-Saxon or early Norman activity.

The evidence from these excavations is instead for mid to late 12th century colonisation and development of previously undeveloped land.

Such archaeological evidence as we have for the late Anglo-Saxon and early Norman periods appears to be consistent with the limited documentary evidence. While Kingston was an important royal estate centre in the 10th and 11th centuries, and is recorded as such in Domesday Book, it was clearly not a town. Kingston's urban origins can now be seen as belonging in the mid to late 12th century, when it can be argued that key elements of Kingston's urban topography, its bridges and Market Place, were grafted onto the earlier estate centre, and the parish church of All Saints was comprehensively rebuilt. So rapid is the settlement's economic growth in the second half of the 12th century, that the suspicion

must be that much of this development was artificially stimulated, in order to generate additional revenue for the major landholder, the Crown.

The urban origins of Kingston are therefore wholly consistent with the pattern of urbanisation seen across much of southern and central England between the Norman Conquest and the mid-13th century.

The construction in the later 12th century of Kingston Bridge over the Thames and Clattern Bridge over the Hogsmill would have involved a considerable initial outlay of capital, together with the long-term commitment of resources for maintenance and management. Documentary evidence shows there were another two bridges over river channels surrounding the town, and if the four medieval bridges at Kingston were all constructed at broadly one and the same time then the expense involved would have been prodigious.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the market, one of the chief factors of Kingston's medieval economy, was being developed from the mid-12th century onwards while the Horsefair, another area which may have had market or fair functions, was being established at or around the same time. Contemporary with this, at the centre of the central Kingston island, All Saints parish church was apparently undergoing a large-scale reconstruction, at what must have been considerable cost.

Are all these factors coincidental arising from organic growth within an existing settlement or are we witnessing the impact of outside influences?

In the case of All Saints the later 12th century rebuilding of the church can be attributed to the dynamic impact of Merton Abbey's acquisition of this church. In the case of the bridges and market, we cannot know for certain. However, it is not impossible that these features were deliberately contrived elements of urban planning, added as an investment to the earlier royal estate centre in order to stimulate economic growth and thereby maximise its potential to generate revenue for the Crown. The order of the King to the Sheriff to arrange for the repair of Kingston Bridge in 1193, might perhaps be seen as the safeguarding of this investment rather than an act of generosity. If the emergence of Kingston as a town in the 12th century was planned then the exercise was successful. In 1086 the whole vast agricultural estate of which Kingston was simply the centre was valued at £30. In 1200 in the first recorded charter to the town of Kingston, the annual rent paid by the men of the town (the area effectively of the central Kingston island) directly to the exchequer was £40.

However it needs to be understood that Medieval Kingston at its former foundation was a tiny settlement with the Borough effectively being confined to the Island formed by the River Thames, the Hogsmill on the south and a lost arm of the Hogsmill and Latchmere stream on the east and north.

Subsequently, the area beyond the borough became a focus of industrial activity, with pottery industries represented on London Road and along Eden Street. However, even by the early 19th century the town had not developed much beyond this Medieval extent and as such it is certainly a less significant settlement than Guildford, and more akin in scale to Reigate.

Overall Conclusions

Future archaeological work in Kingston is likely to fine-tune this overall picture, however it is very unlikely that the story outlined here, will change in substance.

Kingston's urban origins are clearly Medieval, and the preceding Roman and Saxon landscapes were once a scattered rural settlement. The story of Kingston is therefore not exceptional but is part of the grain of urbanisation of England from the late Medieval period onwards.

References

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- 2 D. Bird 'Roman Religious sites in the landscape' in I. Haynes, H. Sheldon and L. Hannigan (eds) *London Underground: the archaeology of a city* 80
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KUTAS and the Buildings of the Borough of Kingston (including relevant documentary research undertaken by KUTAS members)

Ian West MRICS

Ian has undertaken the recording of Kingston buildings since KUTAS was formed. The talk will link this with the relevant documentary work undertaken by KUTAS members. He is a founder member of KUTAS.

Introduction

Thanks are due to Lionel Gent for his work on the Coombe Estate, and Joan Wakeford who provided most of the documentary references for other buildings. Thanks also to June Sampson of the Surrey Comet for arranging access to many of the town centre buildings, and to Steve Nelson and Iain McKillop for preparing the PowerPoint presentation. The buildings referred to in this talk are a selection from over 40 that have been recorded in the Borough in the last 50 years.

Coombe Hill Farmhouse



Prior to the inaugural meeting of the Society, the committee wrote requesting permission to record Coombe Hill Farmhouse if the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames obtained consent to demolish it. Although partly dismantled prior to recording being authorised, a good record was made of this mid-seventeenth century structure. It was brick built with a roof of traditional oak construction and consisted of an east-west range, four bays long with a short wing to the south and a two-storey porch opposite the latter forming a cruciform plan. Research into the Coombe Estate at Althorp House revealed that the

farmhouse was built between 1642 and 1651 when Charles Vincent Cullen was owner of the estate. Sadly these documents have been sold to a university in the USA. The building record was published in SyAC 69, 1973 and the documentary work in 1979, KuTAS Occasional. Paper 3.

Tolworth Court Farm

On the 4th September 1969, the 8-bay threshing barn at Tolworth Court Farm was burnt down, the self-ignition of hay being responsible for the destruction of this listed building. There were two wagon entrances on the west side of the barn with a later aisle built to extend the other six bays. The ground to the east of this late-seventeenth century barn had been lowered and later buildings erected. There were red pantiles on the roof and the walls were boarded and tarred. One of the “Brill” collection of paintings of local buildings was used to illustrate the barn. Within the burnt-out barn were cast iron wheels that would have been connected with belts and powered by a mobile traction engine. A brief description was published in KuTAS Bulletin number 2, 1969.

19 Church Street, Kingston upon Thames

Shortly after the formation of KuTAS, a conservation advisory committee was formed to comment on planning applications in Kingston Town Centre. KuTAS was asked to nominate a representative. Shortly after this access was gained to 19 Church Street, which was being converted for Zales jewellers. This building dates from circa 1600, with a jetty toward the road and retaining two first floor windows above the existing shop fascia. Probably in the early 20th century, the first floor had been raised to give better headroom in the shop, and in the 1960s the fascia of Universal Radio was extended to eaves level. By being represented on the advisory panel, KuTAS was able to suggest the lowering of the fascia and the restoration of the first floor windows, which helped to identify this as a two-storey building, even though few people passing would recognise it as being over 400 years old.

1 Thames Street, Kingston upon Thames

No 1 Thames Street was acquired by British Home Stores with a view to building an extension to their adjacent premises. The Society was given access to record the building, which until the early twentieth century had two visible jetties on the façade. Expecting to demolish the building, we were allowed to remove plaster etc. to enable recording of the timber frame which dates from circa 1600. In conjunction with this above work, KuTAS excavated in the rear garden, where evidence of 14th century structures were uncovered, with an oven of fifteenth or sixteenth century date. A detached brick kitchen for the present building had been constructed over the above features, and these foundations were utilised for an eighteenth-century house. An unusual feature was the relocation of the brick chimney stacks in the mid-seventeenth century from being centrally located to the side wall onto the passage to the river. In 1669 Andrew Rimes (owner) was brought before the Court for laying timber on the King’s Highway and encroachment with stacks over the common lane to the prejudice of people passing with burdens (back packs) going to the common necessary house by the river.



Also recorded was a nearly complete glazed window of 16th century date in the side wall.



14 Market Place, Kingston upon Thames

When June Sampson obtained access from Boots into the unused upper (second floor and attic) at 14 Market Place it was a surprise to find some old wallpaper on one of the walls. Marion Smith sent a loose section that was on the floor to the Victoria and Albert Museum, who arranged for the paper to be removed and sent to them. Instructions on how to remove the paper, which was in 14-inch squares, was closely followed. When the Victoria and Albert Museum's new acquisitions list used the pattern on its cover they stated it was the most important contribution to its decorative collection for years. If I had known this, I would not have had such a steady hand when peeling the paper from the walls. 14 Market Place is similar structurally to 1 Thames Street, except that it has a double jetty on both street frontages. It was described in Robert Martin's will, dated 1599, as new build and let to a draper. In a lease of 1762, John Cook let the building to Henry Careless and it was noted that there were two rooms at the top hung with old wallpaper. Papers printed from the same block have been found in Epsom and Newcastle and date from the late 17th century. Kingston Museum has samples of this paper.



39-41 High Street, Kingston upon Thames

39-41 High Street consists of three separate structures, the south of which is a crown post roofed "cross wing", jettied at the front and built before circa 1550. To the north of this is a large 1-bay building that is jettied at the front, but with a huge smoke bay or open hall at the rear. This most unusual building has similarities to the "Horsham" shop at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum in Sussex. It was probably built in the third quarter of the sixteenth century and it was not long before a brick stack was constructed as the sooting is not heavily encrusted on the timbers. To the north of this is another cross wing with a queen strut roof similar to the central bay. Probably early in the 17th century, alterations to the street elevation were made to give the appearance of a continuous jetty building.

The former Harrow Public House in the Apple Market, Kingston upon Thames

In the Apple Market, another crown post roof was discovered in the former Harrow public house. Here again the first floors have been raised in the early 20th century, when the dragon beam on the corner of the two jetties was removed. It is hoped that further investigation will take place, as public access is now available to part of the structure. An early sixteenth century date is suggested for this building.

Monk's Cottage, Chalky Lane, Chessington

Whilst field walking in Chessington, Dave Field obtained access to Monk's Cottage, a 3-bay house built in the second half of the 16th century. On one side of the hearth was the entry door and the other stairs. Although modest in size, this would have been a good quality home, as it had two floors and an enclosed timber framed chimney that was plaster lined. The smoke bay was centrally located and the plaster was encrusted with soot as are the rafters over the central bay. In the early 17th century, a brick stack was inserted into the central bay that gave better protection against fire damage to the timber structure. Vine Cottage at Hook is of similar size, but always had a brick chimney, another opposite St Mary's church, Chessington was demolished without being recorded.

Picton House, High Street, Kingston upon Thames

Picton House was purchased by the council, who made two applications to demolish it. It occupied the site of the Three Pigeons Public House and the north wing, which is probably of seventeenth century date, was mentioned by Charles Cossart when he built the main block in circa 1730. In 1729 he purchased a strip of land from the Corporation in front of his property, and the lease of 1½ acres on Surbiton Common to 'dig brick earth' and to make bricks and tiles. Cossart was not a brickmaker, so it is presumed he required materials to build his house. By 1742 he had disposed of the land on the Common to a brick maker. Although not large, the plasterwork, panelling and stairs are of very high quality. Cesar Picton arrived in Kingston in 1761, aged six from Senegal, was brought up in the home of Sir John Phillips, given the name Cesar, and became Godfather to the daughter of a Kingston Mayor. Cesar Picton rented Picton House in 1788 and had bought it seven years later. He operated as a coal merchant and remained a friend of Sir John's daughters. He retired to Tolworth, later moving to Thames Ditton, where there is another house named after him. He was buried in the south aisle of Kingston Parish Church in 1836. After two Public Inquiry Inspectors had refused permission for its demolition, Kingston Council sold the property on a long lease for refurbishment.

155-157 London Road, Kingston upon Thames

155-157 London Road, perhaps better known as 'Snapper's Castle', had originally been a gentleman's residence, a boarding house for Kingston Grammar School (1746-70) then from 1774-1837 the Workhouse. It was sold in 1839 to Charles Molloy Westmacott (sculptor) who partly reconstructed the property forming two "Gothick" Villas using some older materials. Only at the rear was the seventeenth century brickwork still visible. In a copy of the Gentlemen's Magazine, there is a reference to a rainwater hopper on the building with a date 1629, and in F S Merryweather's 'Half a Century of Kingston History' (1887) there is a sketch dated 1837 showing a prominent lead hopper on the building. The site was acquired by London Transport as a site for a bus washing facility and, although a good case was put forward at a public enquiry, demolition was permitted in the cause of public health. No bus washer was ever provided on the site, which is now occupied by Wickes.



Rear of 2A St James Road, Kingston upon Thames

Little known, and hidden at the rear of the later building, 2A St James Road initially caused a problem for the recorders of this two-storey building with its mansard roof which had no provision for internal stairs between ground and first floor. When Joan Wakefield was told this, she was not concerned as she had already identified the building as Wm Harvest's (brewer) property noted in the rate book of 1737 "... £4 for his new Compting House". With the already identified location for external access to the first floor, the use of the building was clear. On the ground floor was the counting house, with living accommodation for staff above. Windows were provided on each long side of the property at ground floor but at first floor only on one side, showing the need for light in the work area, with less provision for residential parts.

On the front there was a parapet with decorative moulded bricks and gauged brick heads over the windows. Contrasting brickwork was used around all windows, but there were cambered arches at the rear. After 1745, the site was acquired by the Rowlls family of brewers, and the property recorded as empty. In 1850 it was "Phillipsons" printing works (name painted on brickwork) and by 1898 Henry Connor (smith and farrier) occupied the site. The name "Connor" was scratched on the leadwork of a dormer window.

The Old Crown, Church Street, Kingston upon Thames

The Old Crown, Church Street, Kingston upon Thames was once known as the Chequers (name of old English eating apple) and was described as a decayed tenement in the late 16th century. By the early seventeenth century the property was again operating as a tavern, indicating a date for the present structure to the first quarter of the 17th century. Unusually this building had a brick ground floor, with two floors above that were timber framed and jettied towards the Market Place. In the 1720s, the top jetty was cut back and a brick façade constructed with similar brick work as the Compting House (see above) around the windows. This wall encroached onto the King's Highway (40' x 2'6") for which the owner had to pay a fine, and another for a pole sign also on public land.

Coombe Vane, Warren Road

The most recent recording (2018) by KuTAS is of Coombe Vane, which is the last building on the Coombe Estate that is of mid-seventeenth century date. It was first built as a two-storey brick house, with gable ends and only one room on each floor. A fireplace was provided on the ground floor, and it is possible that this is the "little house for the huntsman" referred to in the valuation for the Manor circa 1651. To the south a laundry was built between 1753 and 1760. This was a single-storey building, but it was almost up to the eaves of the original house, and projected slightly at the front and rear. By the end of the eighteenth century staff accommodation was built over both previous phases, with a rectangular roof covering the whole, resulting in a wide overhang front and back on the original cottage. The stairs up to the new accommodation came off the stairs in the cottage, where an early eighteenth century stair was relocated. A further stair was provided from the landing over the laundry to the new room over the "huntsman's little house".

Thank you, KuTAS, for providing such an interesting group of buildings to work with.

Ian West
July 2019