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EXCAVATION NOTICE

WESTON WOOD, ALBURY: LATE BRONZE AGE TRANSITIONAL AND MESOLITHIC SETTLEMENTS

(N.G.R.: TQ 053485)

Director: MISS JOAN M. HARDING.

Helpers are needed to continue this excavation. The site is sheltered and dry. Diggers can be protected from the rain. Excavations will continue on 1st, 7th/8th, 14th/15th January, then during the first two weekends in February and March.

Entrance is from the A25 just opposite the Silent Pool, between Shere and Newlands Corner, via the gate marked Albury Sand pit. Bus Stop: Silent Pool. Cars may be left in the old brickyard. The excavation is above the sand quarry on the south side.

Enquiries to: Miss J. M. Harding, 57 The Green, Ewell.
(telephone: MUSEUM 3644, ext. 320)

NOTES

Farnham: Badshot Lea (SU 863486)

The moated site at Park Farm is reputed to be the site of the manor house of Badshot Lea.

In view of impending development of the site, a trial excavation was organised for a week at Whitsun, 1966. The results of the Whitsun dig were encouraging and it was decided to continue the work at weekends for the remainder of the season.

Two locations were examined: Site 1 being the area in front of the moated enclosure which had been surveyed with a resistivity meter by Mr. A. J. Clark, and Site 2 being the area within the bounds of the moat formerly garden of the Victorian farmhouse which was demolished in May 1966.

On Site 1 a 16th century wall was found. It was traced for some 28 feet when it turned a corner and disappeared. Pottery of the same period was widespread over the site. A 14th century English tile came out of the topsoil of one of the trenches. Owing to an agreement between the landowner and a local farmer concerning grazing, Site 1 had to be back-filled.

Site 2 was then commenced. A rubbish pit containing a considerable quantity of medieval coarse wares and Farnham green glazed ware was located along with two Tudor brick drainage culverts.

The main building complex has been located and the building is, with the remaining portion of Site 1 will be investigated next season.

(I. G. Dormor)

Leatherhead: Woodlands Park (TQ 151857)

Further excavations at this Romano-British site in September 1966 revealed a large area roughly paved with flints, which had been considerably robbed in places. Adjacent to the paving was a feature which appeared to be a drainage ditch filled with dark soil containing some bone, charcoal and pottery, including Samian ware. Excavation of this feature will continue next season.

Trial trenching over a large area of the summit of the hill was completely negative, although quite a lot of pottery and some roofing and...
flue tile was found, which had obviously been spread by the tree blasting and ploughing.

It was originally thought that the evidence from the trial trenching in the spring was enough to suggest that the site of a building had been found, but further indication is needed before continuing with the excavations. The amount of pottery found suggests quite an important site. A resistivity survey will be carried out in the spring to try and locate the building.

Thanks are due to Mr. F. W. Blake of Arbrook Farm, Esher for his kind co-operation.

(F. A. Hastings).

**Southwark:** Building trenches at 44-48 Borough High Street (TQ 325801).

Finds came from building trenches made during underpinning operations on an adjoining building, approximately 10 feet below the existing road level. The trench went approximately 5 feet underneath No. 48 Borough High Street. The original cellar floor was 8 feet below street level, below which was 18 inches of yellow clay and mortar. Below the yellow clay and mortar was a greenish black peat. It was not possible to get accurate measurements owing to scaffolding being in the way.

The finds were mostly 4th century Roman in origin from the peat layer, except a few sherds of 17th century which came from a rubbish pit in the edge of one of the foundation trenches.

(Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society Newsletter).

**Southwark:** Excavations at the Elephant and Castle (TQ 319789).

Excavations were carried out on behalf of the Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee by the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society on a large cleared area, fronting on Newington Butts, immediately south of the Metropolitan Tabernacle. The area lay close to the village of Newington but on the earliest maps it is shown without any buildings such as existed on both sides of it. In the time available it was not possible to excavate an area.

No features earlier than the end of the 18th century were found. Three periods of brick walling were found, all of 19th or 20th century date, and two brick lined circular pits. These pits may have been cess pits placed above a step of a clay layer and this has probably caused drainage from them difficult. Also there was no black organic layer at the bottom as there should have been if they were cess pits. Therefore it is more likely that they were wells. Below the 19th century buildings lay a thick layer of light grey silt containing four or five sherds of medieval pottery.

It is known that a stream, called the Tigris in the 19th century, flowed alongside the north boundary wall of the site and another stream seems to have joined it from the south. The excavation showed that the area was more liable to repeated flooding from both streams until they were converted into sewers in the 19th century and that this prevented settlement until then.

(G. J. Dawson).

**Weybridge:** Caesar's Camp, St. George's Hill

A party of volunteers from the Walton and Weybridge Historical Society have made a tolerably comfortable way along the section of the rampart of the Iron Age camp that is owned by the Urban District Council. Cutting was kept to a minimum and the path runs on the terrace of the filled-in ditch at the foot of the defensive bank.

It is emphasised that any visitors have access to the camp only over private roads, that the privacy of the neighbouring gardens should be preserved, and that the banks on either side of the path should not be climbed.

(Did Stone No. 12).

**Wimbledon:** Water Mill on Beverley Brook. (TQ 215707)

Ordnance Survey Maps of a scale larger than 1 inch to the mile show a bend in the Beverley Brook in the parish of Wimbledon, south-west of Warren Farm, carrying the name "Mill Corner". Large scale maps also show banks in the wood adjoining Mill Corner, which is called "Fishpond Wood".

A visit to the site confirmed the existence of a 500-yard long bank running north-south in the wood, immediately east of Mill Corner. The bank turns east at its northern end (where it is most substantial) and at its southern end it is a small stream which drains into the Beverley. There is an east-west dividing bank which creates in effect two enclosures, the slope of Wimbledon Common to the east forming the other side.

These enclosures are of no doubt man-made ponds — in fact the Fishponds referred to in the naming of the wood. A number of questions remain to be answered and it is hoped that someone may like to take on the field work and research involved:

1. Where were the fishponds created from a disused millpond, or did fishing and milling operate together?
2. Where was the mill building?
3. When were mill and fishponds constructed?

(Corris's Plan of Putney Parish of 1787 marks Mill Corner, but does not show a building, so it was probably already demolished by then).

(M. Farley).

**"Operation Gaspite" again.**

The five month watch on the S.E.G.B. new Outer London main by the West Kent Border Archaeological Group during 1965 was richly rewarded by the discovery of previously unrecorded archaeological sites, so plans were immediately made when it became known that another main was to pass across West Kent in 1966 for a length of more than 50 miles.

W.K.B.A.G. agreed to watch the western section. The first ten miles of the p.e.-line running eastwards from the Surrey boundary have now been completed and a series of new sites was discovered in the least likely places. In some places it was possible to cut-back the sides of the trench to allow controlled excavation and section drawing.

The following discoveries were made on the Surrey side of the county boundary:

1. Botley Hill. Neolithic-Bronze Age (TQ 392362). Light scatter of flint flakes and one scraper.
2. Tatsfield Wireless Station. Iron Age (TQ 406561). Small ditch, gullies and small pits containing coarse, black potsherds probably of Iron Age date.
3. Tatsfield Iron. Romano-British. 1st Century. (TQ 408561). Three cremation burials all damaged. Three coarse ware cinerary urns containing cremated bones also two small flanges. In one group the flange had been sliced exactly down the centre by the machine leaving a half in the side of the trench, but smashing the cinerary urn to more than 100 pieces. This small cemetery is close to the Roman road from London to Lewes.
   a) Roman Road. The known position of the London-Lewes Road, the only part of which is clearly visible. Metallography at least five inches thick consisting of small pebbles probably from the Woolwich Beds was exposed. No trace of side ditches were seen.
   b) Iron Age. The Roman road completely sealed a small ditch which contained sherds of coarse, black pottery possibly of Iron Age date. The ditch was possibly a boundary ditch relating to a farmstead site.


**Recent books and papers.**

*Prospect of Richmond* by Janet Dunbar. (Harrap. Price £2 5s. 6d.). Published 1966.