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St Mary's church, Barnes, Surrey: archaeological investigations, 1978–83

ROBERT COWIE and SCOTT McCracken

A standing building survey and excavation at the parish church of St Mary's, Barnes, was undertaken between 1978 and 1983 following a fire that had gutted the building. Evidence was recorded for successive phases of building dating from the first half of the 12th century. The earliest church was a rectangular single-celled building. It was built mainly of flint and roughly hewn stone, but its doorway, in the middle of the south wall, had a rounded arch of stone voussoirs. A chancel added to the east end of the original building has three lancet windows in its east wall, and is therefore dated to the early 13th century. The original cell was also extended to the west and a new south entrance built to the west of the original doorway, which was blocked. The western extension may be contemporaneous with the chancel, but might be up to a century later in date. Fragments of white lime-washed wall plaster were decorated with red single-line and double-line masonry patterns, respectively dated to the late 12th and 14th centuries, as well as other motifs. Excavated tile fragments suggest that floors of 'Westminster' tiles and Penn tiles were laid in the church during the late 13th/early 14th century and the late 14th century respectively. The timber roof of the nave (removed after the fire) was of a 15th century type. The west tower was probably built during the last quarter of the 15th century, but could date to the early 16th century. Between 1777 and 1907 the church was gradually extended north during five main episodes of construction. The present church, built to a radical but much acclaimed design in 1982–4, incorporates the medieval walls existing at the time of the fire. The excavation also revealed thirteen brick-lined graves and burial vaults of 18th and possibly early 19th century date. There was also evidence for over 60 burials in the form of graves, skeletons and coffins, most of which were post-medieval in date, but at least three were medieval.

A Tudor hinterland: drainage, bridging and tanning at 156–170 Bermondsey Street, Southwark

FIONA KEITH-LUCAS

Marshy conditions and flooding indicated by peat and alluvial layers showed the excavation area to have been largely uninhabitable prior to the post-medieval period. Attempts to reclaim the low-lying land, which was set back from medieval Bermondsey Street, were indicated by a substantial late medieval drainage ditch. The area, which remained a waterlogged hinterland during the Tudor period, was drained by a further network of channels, the fills of which contained pottery and leather that were both of interest. One ditch had been partially cleared of its fills, leaving a section in place supported by a revetment of timber boards and wattle, to form a causeway. Simple footbridges were built across the cleared portions of ditch in the early 16th century, probably providing access to pasture to the west. Material surrounding and sealing the footbridges contained noteworthy finds assemblages, particularly of imported Mediterranean pottery. The animal bone assemblage showed an intensification of tawing towards the end of the 17th century, to be replaced by tanning as the dominant industry. The unlawful tanning of sheep skins may be indicated at this time, and deposits to consolidate the excavated area were laid down. Tawing in a re-used tar barrel then preceded an early 18th century brick and cobble yard surface with timber and brick drains and evidence of the local tanning industries.

The Lovekyns and the Lovekyn Chapel at Kingston upon Thames

NIGEL SAUL

The Lovekyn Chapel at Kingston upon Thames, founded in 1309 by Edward Lovekyn, is a rare example of a free-standing medieval chantry chapel. Its history was traced in a major article in the *Collections* by Major Alfred Heales in 1883, but no explanation was offered there for the founder's decision to locate his building in its unusual position outside the town by the side of a road. The suggestion is made here that Lovekyn may have contributed to the cost of repairing that road and that he chose to place the chapel close to it to prompt prayers of thanksgiving for his soul. The article also considers the architectural form of the chapel, arguing that it belongs to the 'palace chapel' type which can be traced in England to the years after the Conquest and on the Continent to the early 11th century. The remarkable and very detailed ordinances for which John Lovekyn, the founder's son, obtained approval in 1355 are explained in terms of Lovekyn's concern to guard against possible dereliction of their duties by the chaplains in the absence of supervision by an established body such as a town council. The article offers qualified support for the argument that the Lovekyn Chapel was the site of a grammar school in the town between the 14th century and the Reformation. The article concludes by offering an outline account of the restorations of the chapel in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Excavations at a medieval and early post-medieval site at Sutton Park, near Guildford, 1978–86

DAVID BIRD

An annual training excavation was carried out at Sutton Park over the nine years 1978–86. It produced a small amount of evidence for prehistoric activity across a number of periods, especially the Bronze Age, but no certain early features. The site was probably that of the medieval manor of Sutton and early to mid-Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery was found, but again with no certainly related features. A 13th century or earlier ditch complex was discovered, succeeded by three buildings, two probably 14th century in origin (one with a sequence of at least three tile-on-edge hearths) and one early 16th century. The latter may have been a small tower constructed as part of landscape gardening associated with the great house at Sutton Place.

Recent investigations on the site of the Roman buildings at White Beech, Chiddingfold

DAVID GRAHAM and AUDREY GRAHAM

This report summarises the results of a series of archaeological investigations carried out between 2002 and 2010 on the site of the Roman buildings at White Beech, Chiddingfold. These involved a programme of fieldwalking, topographical and geophysical surveys and two phases of trial trenching, all with the objective of locating and establishing the state of preservation of the Roman buildings first recorded in the late 19th century. The location of the buildings was established, but these appear to have been almost totally robbed out in the 19th century – the site having subsequently been deep ploughed, with the result that, at least in the areas examined, no footings remain. However, magnetometry and trenching have shown the presence on the hilltop of a Late Iron Age enclosure as a precursor to the Roman buildings, and other work has produced evidence for the existence of a substantial Roman

timber structure, possibly a building, slightly to the east of, and probably earlier than, the main building complex.

Crop processing and burnt grain in Roman Croydon

JOANNA TAYLOR, LISA GRAY, IMOGEN POOLE, MALCOLM LYNE, LISA YEOMANS, JOHN BROWN, BARRY BISHOP, HILARY MAJOR and KEVIN HAYWARD

In advance of the redevelopment of land adjacent to 17 St Andrew's Road, Lower Coombe Street in the London Borough of Croydon, archaeological investigations were undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology between February and April 2005. Evidence showed that 1st century gravel quarry pits, possibly associated with the construction of the nearby London–Portslade road, had been re-used during the late 1st and early 2nd centuries. Large quantities of carbonised grain and chaff from the pits indicated that grain processing, in particular the parching of wheat, took place in the vicinity of the site during this time. During the 2nd/3rd centuries grain processing ceased and new boundaries were established. Ceramic building material retrieved from late 3rd/4th century dumping suggested that a well-appointed 1st/2nd century building, presumably located nearby, was demolished at this time. The cultural material as a whole indicated that there was an increase in activity in the area during the late 3rd/4th centuries, possibly as a consequence of new trade contacts. The abundant evidence for agricultural activity, coupled with the sizeable quantities of cultural material retrieved, strongly attested to the existence of a Roman settlement in the South Croydon area, located adjacent to the London–Portslade road.

Neolithic occupation, with an early date for Mortlake Ware, at Parsons Mead School, Ashted

ANDREW WEALE

Two small ditches containing Neolithic pottery are tentatively considered to represent very early field boundaries, and are associated with two pits and a posthole of similar date. A pit containing Mortlake-style pottery also held charcoal radiocarbon dated to 3775–3659 cal BC (KIA41320), which is some two centuries earlier than the currently accepted chronological scheme for this style.

Excavations at the Roman settlement in Ewell, 1970–2: Ewell Grove and Grove Cottage

FRANK PEMBERTON with JEREMY HARTE

This report covers two excavations. The first was at Ewell Grove School, between West Street and High Street in Ewell, where Middle and Late Bronze Age features were found beneath an area of Roman occupation. The next use of the site began in the mid-1st century AD with a drainage gully laid out at the beginning of Roman settlement in Ewell. This was succeeded in the 2nd century by a boundary ditch, which was afterwards backfilled and cut by several large pits in the late 3rd century, a period that is known to have seen changes in the economy of the roadside town. The second excavation was at Grove Cottage, near the route of Stane Street, where traces of a 1st century building were found with metal surfaces nearby.