

Volume 91 abstracts

‘Welcome to Pontibus ... gateway to the West’

A five-year programme of archaeological investigations was undertaken within a c 9ha area to the north of the High Street, Staines on land formerly predominantly occupied by the Central Trading Estate. The vast majority of the archaeological evidence pertains to the Romano-British settlement established in the second half of the 1st century AD at this important bridging point across the Thames, forming the main route from London to the west of the province. The early settlement flourished, with expansion in the 2nd century AD, followed by a hiatus and apparent contraction in the late 2nd/early 3rd centuries, occupation continuing to the end of the Roman period. Much of the land to the north of the main road formed areas of refuse disposal and small-holdings, with probable animal corralling and grazing, the latter extending into the rich meadowland bordering the north side of the gravel island on which the town was built. The single building for which evidence was recovered corresponds with the 2nd century phase of expansion. The basic economy of the town seems to have remained much the same throughout the Romano-British period, with most foodstuffs being brought in from the surrounding area. Post-Roman activity was negligible until the 12th century, with a subsequent concentration in the eastern half of the main gravel island. Here, burgrave plots – small-holdings, some used for horticultural purposes, others for storage/stabling and the keeping of animals – extending on to the water-meadows to the north, were established at right-angles to the course followed by the current High Street.

Erbridge and the Merstham dennis in Horley

Document and map studies have led to what are thought to be the precise locations and boundaries of the Wealden dennis of Merstham, later to become the tithing of Erbridge in Horley. Their identities allow a new translation for the appendix to the Merstham charter-bounds of AD947 and an interpretation that suggests enclosure of much of the Low Weald around Horley had long been complete when the charter was written. The enclosure, into discrete administered dennis, is argued to have been largely the work of Chertsey Abbey to better control the resources of a communal pasture previously belonging to a ‘federation’ of settlements on the Downs and greensand to the north. Of the communal pasture that remained unenclosed (until the 19th century) the largest area became known as Thunderfield. Its relationship to the dennis is explored and locations suggested for King Alfred’s ‘royal vill’ and a pagan ‘shrine’ dedicated to Thunor.

Excavation of late Saxon/early medieval deposits at Mitcham Vicarage, 21 Church Road, Mitcham

This report describes the archaeological excavation carried out in the rear gardens of Mitcham Vicarage. Two areas were opened, located on the basis of the results of an earlier evaluation. The main area (A) located several recut boundary ditches aligned east–west approximately parallel to Church Road, along with a small number of postholes, pits and a gully. The majority of the features were of late Saxon/early medieval and medieval date (11th–14th centuries), with some late post-medieval (18th century) and modern disturbance. The smaller area (B) was located to recover the remains of a horse burial found during the evaluation. Although this burial contained medieval pottery, the presence of other items, such as coal, and the form of the horseshoes, shows that it is late post-medieval in date. A small number of sherds of Roman pottery and a *tegula* fragment, and a single sherd of middle Saxon pottery, point to some activity of these periods in the vicinity, although not necessarily anything more than manuring of farmland.

Two centuries of rubbish: excavations at an 18th and 19th century site at 12–18 Albert Embankment, Lambeth

This article outlines the results of two phases of excavation at 12–18 Albert Embankment, Lambeth. The site was partially excavated in 1988 by the Museum of London's Department of Greater London Archaeology. However, areas around the edge and north of the site were not examined and excavation of the remainder of the site was undertaken in 2000 by the Museum of London Archaeology Service. The excavations demonstrated the rapid and relentless pattern of change that took place in Thameside Lambeth from the mid-18th to the mid-19th centuries. An area of market gardens and semi-rural settlement became a densely occupied urban slum. The archaeological sequence and the associated finds showed how these changes had actually occurred. Period 1 represented the geological horizon; subsequently the site was cultivated (period 2). This activity ceased c 1745 and in period 3 the site became built up. Associated with the construction of Buildings 1 and 2 was Open Area 3 that contained a substantial dump of pothouse waste. Dated to 1745–70, this assemblage included tin-glazed ware, stoneware and London area post-medieval redware. Both kiln furniture and vessels (including wasters) were found. The kiln furniture included forms used for both tin-glazed and redwares, suggesting that both wares may have been manufactured at the same pothouse. Furthermore, the assemblage included the first examples of 18th century redware kiln furniture. It is suggested that this assemblage derived from either the pothouse at Norfolk House or that at Vauxhall, the only local pothouses known to be making both stoneware and tin-glazed ware between 1745 and 1770. The excavation suggests that London area post-medieval redwares may also have been manufactured at either of these Lambeth pothouses. This is the first evidence for the manufacture of 18th century redwares in Lambeth. From the early 19th century the use of the site intensified (period 4): sixteen cesspits were recorded. In period 5 these cesspits were backfilled as one event, during the period 1851–60, as a result of the arrival of piped sewage disposal in the area. The large backfill assemblages are discussed here, giving an insight into the status and lifestyle of mid-Victorian Lambeth's residents.

William More of Loseley and early Elizabethan anti-Catholicism

Sir William More of Loseley gained access to the Elizabethan court through his adroit use of Tudor political structures and especially through his administration of Elizabethan policy directed against Catholicism in Surrey. Associated with Sir Thomas Cawarden in the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, and Mary I, More's personal fortune was greatly augmented by his acquisition of expropriated church land and by his eventual inheritance of Cawarden's property in Blackfriars. More then built Loseley House, which became the nexus and symbol of the family's influence and activities on the national political scene. The wedding of his daughter Elizabeth at Blackfriars was the ceremonial beginning of the family's entry into the ambit of the court. It was followed within two years by the first of several visits by the queen on progress to the newly completed Loseley, an event that inaugurated the period of More's most active support of anti-Catholic policy. He took key roles in Surrey supporting the government's suppression of the 1569–70 Rising in the North and was subsequently instrumental in dealing with the remnants of Catholic political and social eminence in the county. Examples are More's activities in the cases of Thomas Copley of Gatton and Henry Wriothesley, 2nd Earl of Southampton.

Investigation of a Bronze Age mound on Thursley Common

Following excavations in 1959, it was claimed that the two mounds close to the southern edge of the bog on Thursley Common, were not Bronze Age tumuli, as had previously been reported, but were in fact sand dunes. It was further suggested that most such mounds on the

Surrey heathlands were of similar origin. Limited re-investigation of the western mound in 1995, however, revealed clear evidence of loose turf stack construction, for the presence of an external ditch and at least one possible primary burial. Palynological analysis of samples taken from the turves and buried soil levels indicate that the mound was likely to have been constructed in the Early/Middle Bronze Age. There is therefore no doubt that the mound is artificial and that it is almost certainly a barrow. It is highly likely therefore that the second mound, 180m to the east, is also of Bronze Age date and consequently that care should be taken before assuming that all such mounds are of natural origin.

The archaeology of industrial extraction from Banstead and Walton Heaths

This article gives an account of the history or possible history of the 50 pits shown on the OS maps of Banstead and Walton Heaths surveyed between 1866 and 1934. Much of this history is associated with the extraction from 1755 onwards of flints and gravel for the building and maintenance of the two turnpike roads which crossed the heath, the Brighton and Pebble Hill Roads (the later A217 and B2032). Details are given of the Reigate Turnpike Trust's construction of the roads, the likely sources of the materials in terms of pits, the relevance of payments for carting in the identification of those pits and the use of the pits in the improvements made by the road engineer William Constable. The account goes on to deal with extraction by the Trust's successors, the Epsom District Highways Board and the Epsom Rural District Council. Identification of the pits likely to have been opened by these bodies is attempted, with information derived from their records and those of the Banstead Commons Conservators. Manorial and other extractors, and the extraction of chalk and loam, are also considered.

Prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval settlement at Glyn House, Ewell

Excavations by Oxford Archaeology at Glyn House, Ewell, revealed prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval remains. Activity of Mesolithic date was identified by the presence of residual microliths. Two concentric curvilinear gullies (one of which contained a barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead) and a tree-throw hole in the south-eastern corner of the site indicated an area of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity. Lying to the north-west of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity was evidence of Roman settlement, including a dense band of intercutting pits, part of a post-built structure and several deep pits (not fully excavated because of their depth), possibly well shafts. Overlying the Roman settlement was a post-medieval structure, which may have been the remains of the rectory, and a number of garden features.

A medieval timber building at London Road, Wallington, Sutton

Excavations at the former Elmwood Playing Fields site at London Road, Wallington, revealed evidence of a 13th century hall, an important addition to knowledge of the Wallington area in the medieval period. The pottery assemblage from the site contributes to the understanding of pottery supply sources in north Surrey in the later 13th century.

Insights into the development of medieval and post-medieval riverside buildings at Mortlake

Archaeological excavations were recently undertaken on two riverside sites along the north side of Mortlake High Street, in an area where the 16th century mathematician Dr John Dee once resided, and where Flemish weavers produced works for Charles I in the 17th century at the Mortlake tapestry works. A succession of late medieval and post-medieval buildings was discovered on plots between the river Thames and Mortlake High Street, in the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames. Two pits, a ditch and a structure, represented by

stakeholes and postholes, pre-dated the late medieval buildings. The excavations revealed a complex sequence of floor surfaces and wall footings of houses, outbuildings and drains that once stood here. The earliest masonry structure may have been used as a 15th century bakery or kitchen at the rear of a commercial property. Documentary research focusing on two 17th century surveys has linked the changing ownership of properties with the development of the Mortlake tapestry works and the probable location of Dr John Dee's house. The changes in the architecture and plot layouts of the excavated buildings between the late medieval and post-medieval periods reflect urban building trends and show Mortlake increasingly becoming part of the City of London's trading hinterland.

Excavations at 19 High Street, Reigate

An archaeological excavation took place to the rear of 19 High Street, Reigate in advance of development. The excavation revealed evidence of settlement from the medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval period was characterized by the presence of a possible pond and medieval foundations. The post-medieval period indicated further settlement in the form of floor and levelling surfaces and an 18th century wall. The wall may have related to the brewery located on the site in the 19th century.