

Volume 88 abstracts

Prehistoric and Roman settlement in Reigate Road, Ewell: fieldwork conducted by Tom K Walls 1945-1952

The results of episodic fieldwork conducted just over 50 years ago on a dip-slope spur of North Downs chalk 2km south-south-east of Ewell are described. The spur had witnessed intermittent activity in the Mesolithic and Neolithic/Bronze Age periods, which intensified from the middle of the first millennium BC and culminated in the establishment of a farming settlement occupied in the decades either side of the Roman conquest. Features excavated included a number of pits and deeper shafts, which produced a wide range of finds. Those from three substantial chalk-cut storage pits of classic form and profile are considered in detail, and comprise an assemblage of late pre-Roman Iron Age/Roman Iron Age pottery incorporating sherds of East Sussex Grog-tempered ware, fragments of greensand rotary querns, items traditionally associated with weaving including triangular clay loomweights, chalk spindlewhorls and a bone gouge, as well as a single fragment of briquetage. Other notable finds placed in and over the pits include a series of special deposits in the form of a human infant and parts of several articulated and semi-articulated animal carcasses, together with a late 1st or early 2nd century urned cremation burial of a young man accompanied by nine inscribed bone gaming counters and a tenth made of pottery. Graffiti lightly scratched on the plain reverses of six of the bone counters appear to denote ownership by one 'Remus', a personal name attested in Gaul. A second, separate cremation comprised bones of sheep/goat placed in a complete greyware jar. Later Roman activity is attested by the presence of quantities of mainly unstratified pottery, building material and small finds of iron and copper alloy including a 2nd century plate brooch of shoe-sole form and a small quantity of 3rd and 4th century coins. The Looe site is entry no 1101 in the Surrey SMR.

Saxon and medieval Battersea: excavations at Althorpe Grove, 1975-8

In addition to traces of prehistoric and Roman activity, excavations undertaken at Althorpe Grove, Battersea, revealed rare evidence for Middle Saxon and medieval rural settlements in London's hinterland. The main emphasis of this report is on the Saxon and medieval phases of occupation.

Saxon activity was represented by a number of small gullies and other linear features. Pottery and other artefacts suggest that the main period of Saxon activity was in the second half of the 8th century, when Barking Abbey probably owned Battersea. The link with Barking Abbey may explain the presence of imported pottery on the site; alternatively, the imports might be explained by the proximity of this riverside site to the major trading port of Lundenwic, just 6km downstream. A few features were of either Middle Saxon or medieval date. These included two parallel slots just over 2m apart, which may mark the position of fences. There were also a number of undated features that are thought to be early in the sequence. It is suggested that occupation at Battersea ceased temporarily during the Danish invasions in the second half of the 9th century, when Barking Abbey itself appears to have been abandoned.

Historical sources suggest that settlement had been re-established at Battersea by the mid-11th century. Among the earliest medieval features on the site were a pit, possibly of Saxo-Norman date, and a boundary ditch, which may have been infilled in the second half of the 12th century. Other features are dated to the 12th and 13th centuries and include structural remains, perhaps representing part of a farm building, and a number of gullies and *pits*. *These* might be related to the documented manor house at Battersea, but it is suggested that the main nucleus of occupation lay closer to the church.

In the post-medieval period a series of long, narrow bedding trenches, some with individual plant holes in their bases, shows that the northern part of the Althorpe Grove site was occupied by the kitchen gardens of the later Battersea manor house.

Excavations at Battersea Flour Mills, 1996-7: the medieval and post-medieval manor houses and later Thames-side industrial sites

Excavations by Wessex Archaeology in advance of redevelopment on the site of the former Battersea Flour Mills, revealed traces of medieval and early post-medieval structures likely to represent outbuildings of the manor of Battersea, which is thought to have been located nearby.

The principal discovery was the truncated remains of the post-medieval manor house, a substantial building built in an H-plan late in the late 16th or early 17th century. The structural remains included a well-preserved portion of brick-built cellar in the south wing and the ground plan of much of the north wing of the building. Subsequent additions included the construction of a new wing in the late 17th century, the riverside wall of which was faced with fine ashlar blocks. These blocks were clearly re-used in this wall, and the masons' marks on them suggest that they originally belonged to a high status medieval or early post-medieval structure. Much of the post-medieval manor house complex was demolished in the late 18th century, and the site occupied by malhouses and a mill complex.

Documentary studies have been able to shed significant light both on the results of the excavation of the medieval and post-medieval phases and on the development of Battersea as a whole.

Excavation of multi-period sites at Lodge Lane, Addington, Geoffrey Harris House and Lloyd Park, South Croydon

The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological excavations on sites at Lodge Lane, Geoffrey Harris House and Lloyd Park and in connection with the construction of the New Addington branch line of the Croydon Tramlink. The aim of these excavations was to investigate further archaeological remains discovered in these three areas during a trial trench evaluation along the proposed Tramlink route in 1997.

The excavation at Lodge Lane revealed pits and postholes associated with Saxo-Norman occupation and earthworks connected with later medieval cultivation. In addition a series of ditches, perhaps forming part of a field system, and several pits were discovered containing Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and worked flints.

The trench excavated in the grounds of the 18th century Geoffrey Harris House revealed a series of flint and brick wall foundations of a 16th-18th century building. A small trench located in the adjacent Lloyd Park uncovered several ditches associated with Roman settlement and a cremation burial.

Combined, the excavations provide an interrupted sequence of evidence from the Late Bronze Age to the present. Although small-scale, the prehistoric and Roman remains at Lodge Lane and Lloyd Park represent significant discoveries in an area where very few remains of this date have previously been found in situ. The unexpected discovery of deposits relating to Saxon-Norman occupation at Lodge Lane also provides evidence, in part contemporaneous with Domesday Book, relating to the origin of the village of Addington.

Mesolithic and Late Bronze Age activity at London Road, Beddington

Excavations at London Road, Beddington revealed evidence of prehistoric activity dating from the Mesolithic through to the Late Bronze Age. The earliest activity took the form of three amorphous pits, apparently utilized for the extraction of knappable flint nodules during

the Mesolithic period. Also identified were a Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age flint scatter and at least two phases of Late Bronze Age activity comprising three post-built structures and an associated cluster of rubbish pits, enclosed within an area defined by a boundary ditch. A subsequent phase of Late Bronze Age activity apparently saw the abandonment of this location for settlement and the utilization of the area, again possibly for the extraction of workable flint. The prehistoric features were sealed by agricultural ploughsoil, from which further prehistoric finds were recovered. The archaeological evidence recovered from the site adds significantly to the large body of evidence for Late Bronze Age settlement and agricultural practice in the Beddington area, while the recovery of struck flint assemblages from the Mesolithic and Late Bronze Age allows for the comparison and contrast of two distinct technological styles.

Finds from Surrey 1997-9

This latest group of metal finds, was reported to up to the end of 1999 and all have been recovered using metal detectors. As with the previous catalogues of finds from Surrey (Williams 1996 and 1999) most of the prehistoric and Roman and all Saxon material is included here together with all notable medieval and post-medieval finds. Again, coins and tokens are excluded from listing, with the exception of those of the Iron Age, but records of other coins and tokens have been passed to the Sites and Monuments Record for the county. All the finds shown as coming from Peper Harow were found during a metal detector rally in March 1999. Many of the finds indicated as coming from Reigate were found in July 1998 to the east of Bancroft Road where a deep deposit of humic soil was removed prior to redevelopment. This area lay to the rear of the tenements on the east side of Bell Street and the finds listed probably form a fraction of what could have been recovered had more extensive work been possible. Three objects published here have been reported under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996.