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Prehistoric and environmental development on Horsleydown: excavations at 1-2 Three Oak Lane

Archaeological excavations including an environmental sampling programme at Three Oak Lane, Southwark, produced evidence of the prehistoric sedimentary and environmental development, and the cultural exploitation, of the island situated within the Thames known historically as Horsleydown Eyot. Formed during the Late Devensian, the island was subject to alluvial conditions until the mid-Holocene, when more terrestrial conditions persisted. The earliest evidence of human activity consisted of flintwork of a Late Mesolithic tradition, which may have continued into the period normally associated with the Neolithic. Episodes of vegetational clearance were recorded from the Late Neolithic, followed by evidence of occupation. Subsequently, wetter conditions recommenced although further activity, in the form of wattle structures and numerous artefacts, was recorded. Continued wet conditions initiated peat formation during the Late Bronze Age. Artefacts recovered from within the peat show that even during this period activity, probably in the form of seasonal pasturage, persisted. By the end of the Bronze Age the site had been completely inundated by the Thames, resulting in the deposition of thick alluvial silt-clay deposits. There was no further evidence of human activity until the post-medieval period, when drainage ditches were constructed followed by ground-raising activity. Notable finds recovered from the prehistoric phases include the earliest ard component recovered from Britain, fragments of Grooved Ware pottery, a set of worked bone implements, a rubber stone and a loomweight.

The archbishop's great stable: excavations and historical research at the Old Palace School, Croydon, 1999

This report summarises the results of a series of archaeological investigations at two sites within the grounds of Old Palace School in Croydon. The school occupies some of the extant historic buildings of the former palace or manor of the archbishops of Canterbury, which are mainly late 14th to early 16th century in date. Archaeological excavation in 1999 prior to the construction of a new Preparatory School building to the north of the historic buildings has added to information from earlier excavations carried out on the site in 1970 (Drewett 1971; 1974). Further evidence was uncovered for two substantial buildings. The earliest with flint and chalk wall foundations, probably Archbishop Arundel's 'great' stable completed in 1399/1400, was replaced by a brick stable, probably built by Sir William Brereton in the 1640s or 1650s. Archaeological evaluation and watching brief work prior to and during the construction of an indoor swimming pool to the east of the historic school buildings revealed a number of walls, which appear to be connected with the pleasure and kitchen gardens of the former palace. Documentary research has been undertaken to assist with the interpretation of the excavated remains in both areas and to set them within the development of the whole palace complex.

George More's other house: Baynards Mansion, Ewhurst

Baynards mansion, Ewhurst, was destroyed by fire in 1979. The house built by George More after he purchased the estate in 1587 and prior to his move to Loseley House in 1604 was extensively restored in 1832-8, primarily by Thomas Rickman. This paper examines the remaining evidence of the Tudor mansion and the effect of the 19th century restoration.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age placed deposits from Westcroft Road, Carshalton: their meaning and interpretation

This paper details the results of the excavation of a late Late Bronze Age site at Westcroft Road, Carshalton, and the analysis of material recovered from the site. The archaeological remains consisted of a series of cut features which do not have any apparent domestic or agricultural function. Artefacts and faunal material had been placed at the bases of many of these features in an ordered manner, and on the basis of environmental indicators, almost certainly in late spring, these remains are interpreted as representing a ritual structured deposition. Placed deposits have been identified on sites dating from the Neolithic to the Iron Age and there is growing evidence from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period for ritual activity which is very similar in form and content to the findings from Westcroft Road. This paper discusses the remains from Westcroft Road in the light of this evidence, examines the site within the context of Late Bronze Age occupation in the locality, and proposes an interpretation of the meaning of the ritual activity.

Investigation of a Bronze Age mound on Frensham Common

A rapid landscape survey of Frensham Common located the sites of six possible tumuli in addition to the four known barrows on the King's Ridge between the Great and Little Ponds. A slit trench cut into one of these newly located mounds, showed that the core, unusually, consisted layers of white sand alternating with bands of humic forest floor litter. Pollen analysis of samples taken from these bands indicated that the mound appeared to have been constructed in the Bronze Age. The mound had subsequently become eroded and was later partially restored: probably in the 19th century.

The papermaker and the prophetess: Elias Carpenter of Neckinger Mill, Bermondsey, supporter of Joanna Southcott

The aim of this article is to place in context some remarkable events which occurred at Neckinger Mill in Bermondsey at the beginning of the 19th century. In particular, Elias Carpenter, who was a very innovative papermaker at the mill, became the principal supporter of Joanna Southcott, who has been called 'the greatest prophetess'. An account is therefore given of activities at the site of the mill in the late 18th century, of the role played by Carpenter and his associates Hector Campbell, Matthias Koops and Thomas Cope in developing methods of recycling paper and of making new paper from wood and straw, and of Southcott's background in Devon before she came to London. The interactions between Carpenter and Southcott are then explored. Finally a summary is provided of later developments at the mill, of the subsequent lives of Carpenter and Southcott and of further related events.

Excavation of a multi-period site at Laleham, 1997

An excavation at the site of the former Fairyland Caravan Park, to the west of Laleham village, produced evidence for Middle to Late Iron Age occupation, probably commencing after 300BC. During the three or four centuries prior to the Roman conquest the nucleus of a small riparian farmstead lay immediately to the north-east of the site. Part of an eaves-drip gully, presumably associated with a roundhouse, was recorded, along with ditches, including part of a multi-phase enclosure, and numerous pits. Evidence was recovered to suggest that pottery and other fired-clay objects may have been produced in the immediate vicinity of the site during this period. Although utilization of the site continued into the Late pre-Roman Iron Age, it was seemingly more peripheral to the settlement area than had previously been the case. The site remained in use following the Roman conquest, and indeed it may well have been farmed throughout the entire Roman period. Primary structural evidence of Roman date was, however, not found. Enclosures originally set out in the Middle to Late Iron Age were still being remodelled during the late Roman period. There was some indication, from

the ceramic evidence in particular, that there may have been an upsurge in activity during the last century of Roman rule, possibly in relation to the renewed prosperity and regeneration of the Roman town to the north-west at Staines (*Pontibus*). Although only a relatively small quantity of Saxon pottery was recovered, there was sufficient material to indicate occupation of the site, possibly until as late as the 7th century AD. Apart from a single medieval sherd there was no evidence to suggest that the site was occupied again until the post-medieval period, when part of it may have been used as a market garden.

Wandsworth's gunpowder mills, 1656-1713

This article traces the story of the important gunpowder mills at Wandsworth from their founding by Abel Richardson and James Lloyd in 1656 until their closure, probably in 1713, presenting new information drawn chiefly from documents of the Courts of Chancery and Exchequer. It demonstrates that there were two groups of mills of slightly different dates, corrects the existing list of proprietors, provides a new (earlier) date for the end of gunpowder manufacture and describes how and when the site was converted to other uses.

Archaeological investigations at East Lane and South Lane, Kingston upon Thames, 1996-8

Between 1996 and 1998 archaeological investigations in advance of redevelopment at East Lane and South Lane, Kingston, revealed evidence for an early Saxon farmstead. The settlement, located on a narrow promontory of high gravel between the Thames and marshes associated with its tributary, the Hogsmill, included a possible aisled hal: a building form previously unknown from Surrey. Subsequently the site was abandoned and not reoccupied until the early post-medieval period, during the expansion of Town End, the southern suburb of Kingston. The early post-medieval buildings occupying the site stood until the mid-20th century, when they were demolished and replaced with a small factory and garage.

Kettlebury 103: a Mesolithic 'Horsham' type stone assemblage from Hankley Common, Elstead

'Horsham' type assemblages are among the most enigmatic of Mesolithic stone assemblages found in the United Kingdom. Beyond the fact that they appear to be concentrated in south-east England, almost nothing is known about them. Partly, this is because so few of the known assemblages have been fully published, and where they have, they invariably lack supplementary data in the form of absolute dates or spatial patterning. This paper goes some way to correcting this lacuna. It comprises a detailed report on the stone assemblage from the 'Horsham' site of Kettlebury 103, on Hankley Common, together with new radiocarbon dates and a limited spatial analysis for the site.