

Archaeological work at Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, in 1989–90 and 1994

GRAHAM HAYMAN and PHIL JONES

In 1989 and 1990 a scheduled earthwork discovered by William Stukeley in 1723 was planned for the first time, and an evaluation by geophysical survey and excavation proved that it was a double-ditched trapezoidal enclosure of medieval date. An adjoining enclosure that was also described and sketched in the 18th century was not positively identified, but some evidence of Late Bronze Age activity was found, both in the vicinity of the main earthwork, and to the north-east of it.

Excavation of an adjacent area in 1994 identified a building used for a short period in the early to mid-13th century. The building and finds (especially pottery) exhibited unusual features, suggesting that it was not a normal domestic site. An association with the enclosure seems highly probable, with their functions interrelated. There is, however, no certainty as to what that purpose was: suggestions relating to a hundred moot assembly and a stock enclosure/resting place near to the important market at Staines are considered.

Spanish tin-glazed tiles from Woking Palace and other sites in south-east England

IAN M BETTS

Woking Palace has produced the largest assemblage of Valencian tiles found anywhere in Britain. Brought in during the mid–late 15th or early years of the 16th century, they are among the earliest tin-glazed tiles known to have been used in this country. They are decorated with six different designs, four of which can be paralleled on Valencian tiles known from Spain. Other Valencian tiles, many with the same designs, are known from two sites in Guildford, Surrey, Billericay, Essex and Dartford, Kent.

Evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity at Ashford Hospital

ROBERT COWIE

Archaeological investigations at Ashford Hospital revealed evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the form of features cut into the river terrace gravel. At least three pits may date to the Neolithic period. One produced three large well-made flint scrapers, possibly placed as votive offerings. The others respectively yielded two potsherds and a single-platformed blade core. The few residual Neolithic artefacts from later features included a sherd of Peterborough ware. Early Bronze Age activity is represented by two pits containing burnt flint and charcoal, which were respectively dated by radiocarbon assay to 1970–1520 and 2030–1520 Cal BC. A waterhole cut by one of the pits was also probably of Early Bronze Age date. The position of the two pits suggests that the features may represent an event marking the abandonment and replacement of the waterhole with another 0.60m to the north and also the construction of a field (probably a stock enclosure). Ditches defined the northern and eastern sides of the enclosure and its corner entrance. The latter was shaped like a short funnel that could have been closed at both ends to allow livestock to be inspected and sorted. An undated waterhole close to the entrance may have been roughly contemporaneous with the enclosure. The enclosure and a third ditch to the north formed part of a co-axial field system. All three ditches contained sherds of flint-tempered pottery, some decorated in

Deverel-Rimbury style, and struck flints. The date of the pottery suggests that the ditches were allowed to silt up either towards the end of the Early Bronze Age or more probably during the Middle Bronze Age. The finds were mainly concentrated in the eastern enclosure ditch suggesting the presence of a nearby settlement in the lee of the enclosure. A few pits also produced single potsherds or struck flints dated to the Middle Bronze Age.

Cobham Lodge, Cobham: the house and the early history of the site

DAVID TAYLOR

Cobham Lodge (TQ 1110 5855) was built for Colonel Joseph Hardy in 1803–4 by John Buonarotti Papworth (1775–1847) who is best known for his work in Regency Cheltenham. An extensive search for the original drawings in the large collection of Papworth's work in the Royal Institute of British Architects' Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum failed to produce any results although it does contain a 'Survey of part of the property of Col. Hardy' in Waterford, Ireland dating from c 1800. Cobham Lodge was one of Papworth's earliest country houses and it was built on land forming the southern part of Cobham Park which then belonged to the Earl of Carhampton who had leased the land to Hardy. It is now the home of Mr Dominic C H Combe. The early history of the site prior to the building of the present house has long been something of a puzzle. However, through recent work on the Cobham Park Estate archives, it is now possible to attempt to piece together the history of the site.

Excavation at The Manor House, Pirbright, 1996–7

GRAHAM HAYMAN

Archaeological assessment preceding the construction of a swimming pool on the eastern side of The Manor House, Pirbright, anticipated the discovery of evidence relating to the medieval and subsequent phases of structural development at the site. Some features of this period were identified, but their relationship to the documented former east wing of The Manor House remains uncertain. The work was rewarded by the discovery of a small quantity of Neolithic flintwork together with features of Bronze Age and Iron Age origin. The features discovered consist of pits, postholes and ditches, and are of particular interest as comparable remains of this period have not previously been discovered in the vicinity.

A microlithic industry from Woodbridge Road, Guildford

BARRY JOHN BISHOP

Archaeological excavations at Woodbridge Road in Guildford produced a substantial assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork associated with a number of pits or tree-throw hollows. The lithic assemblage was dominated by Later Mesolithic microlithic forms and a complementary date for the deposition of artefact-bearing sands was obtained by Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating. In addition to microliths, the lithic assemblage contained significant numbers of micro-burins, indicating the on-site manufacture of microliths, and substantial quantities of burnt flint were also recovered. The almost total

dominance of microliths to the exclusion of other retouched types strongly suggests that the activities conducted here were remarkably specialised.

Also recovered were small assemblages of later prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery, which attests to continued but low-level interest in this riverside location. This report describes the stratigraphic and artefactual evidence associated with the Mesolithic occupation at the site and discusses these within the broader framework of such activity in the region.

The prehistoric, Roman and later landscape between Watling Street and Bermondsey Eyot: investigations at Rephidim Street and Hartley's Jam Factory, Bermondsey

ROBERT COWIE and JANE CORCORAN

Archaeological investigations at two adjacent redevelopment sites in Bermondsey provided evidence for the evolving Holocene landscape and drainage in a former valley between Bermondsey Eyot and the mainland. The sites at Rephidim Street and the former Hartley's Jam Factory, respectively investigated in 1976–7 and 2000–3, covered an area extending from Tabard Street to Rothsay Street.

The origin of the valley was a broad (c150m wide), shallow channel in the Pleistocene gravel. Initially much of the channel bed was covered by shallow flowing water, although gravel bars within the channel probably supported vegetation. Gradually the channel silted up, and by the Bronze Age the margins of the valley were dry enough for water meadows to form, with a backwater fringed by marshy sedge fen in its central part. During the Late Iron Age or early Roman period a freshwater stream exploited the southern margins of the valley. Its re-activation may have been caused by increased run-off from adjacent land, possibly caused by land clearance and drainage. This would accord with the presence of Roman ditches next to Watling Street on the south-west side of the valley. Significantly, the tidal Thames appears to have had little effect on the stream, suggesting that the north-west end of the valley was blocked off by a neck of land connecting the eyot to the mainland. In other words Bermondsey Eyot was a peninsula rather than an island.

There was no clear evidence for medieval activity in the area, and it seems likely that during the Middle Ages much of the valley would have been water meadow. Measures to improve the land began in the 16th century with the extensive dumping of earth to raise ground level. Early maps show that the two sites were farmland in the 18th century, but were gradually developed for housing and industrial use in the 19th century. Archaeological evidence for industrial activity mainly comprised the remains of Victorian tanning pits in areas adjacent to Rothsay Street and the basement of an early 20th century building associated with the jam factory.

A probable Bronze Age mound on the King's Ridge, Frensham Common

DAVID GRAHAM, AUDREY GRAHAM, LUCY FARR and NICHOLAS BRANCH

A trial trench cut into a newly located low circular mound on Frensham Common produced a pedo-sedimentary sequence indicating that it is of probable turf stack construction and, on that evidence, is likely to be of Bronze Age date. It is probably an outlier of the known barrow group situated 350m to the south, on the King's Ridge between the Great and Little Ponds. The severely eroded mound only became visible following heather cutting in 2002.

Archaeological excavations at Anstiebury Camp hillfort, Coldharbour, in 1989 and 1991

GRAHAM HAYMAN

Archaeological work undertaken at Anstiebury Camp hillfort, as a consequence of a violent storm in 1987, led to the discovery of material of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age origin. The two earlier prehistoric periods were represented by pieces of worked flint, and possibly by one feature dated to the Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, while the later period was represented by stratified material occurring within a number of layers, pits, postholes and a ditch. The work suggests that settlement of this site was probably of longer duration and is more complex than has been previously suggested.

Sir Thomas St Leger, c1439–83: the rise and fall of a royal servant during the reigns of Edward IV and Richard III

JOHN T DRIVER

Thomas St Leger was virtually an exact contemporary of King Edward IV. Quite likely he had already become attached to the House of York before 1461 and evidence suggests that he had fought at Towton in March of that year. Certainly from the beginning of Edward's reign he served in the royal household and held a variety of official posts in the south-east and south-west of England. Grants of lands and fees came his way from the Crown. In Surrey alone he was a sometime commissioner of array, a Justice of the Peace, joint sheriff of Surrey and Sussex and a knight of the shire in the parliaments of 1467–8 and 1472–5 (and possibly that of 1483). St Leger held family lands in Kent and acquired properties in Surrey and the South-West. In Surrey he had interests in such places as Chaldon, Claygate-in-Ash, Field Place in Compton, Guildford and Kennington. There was a military/diplomatic side to his career. In 1475, when still only an 'esquire of the body' (he was not to be knighted until some three years later) Thomas St Leger took part in the royal expedition to France, where he played a part in the negotiations which led to the Treaty of Picquigny. He also served for a time as constable of Rochester and Farnham castles.

In 1472 he married the king's sister, Anne, Duchess of Exeter, an event which was a cause célèbre. Unsurprisingly his career brought close relationships with several men of influence and substance from the aristocracy to the gentry: with the important family of Bouchier, of whom Thomas was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1454–86; with Edward IV's most intimate friend, William Lord Hastings; and with such local notabilities as Sir George Browne and Nicholas Gaynesford. In the political confusion and in-fighting that followed the unexpected death of Edward on 9 April 1483, St Leger remained loyal to the late king's family. His opposition to Richard Duke of Gloucester's coup to seize the throne eventually took practical shape in his involvement in the risings of October to November 1483, commonly known as 'Buckingham's Rebellion', first in Surrey and then in the South-West, where he was captured and executed at Exeter.

Sir Thomas St Leger founded a chantry in St George's Chapel at Windsor where he and his wife, the Duchess Anne, who predeceased him, are buried.

The archaeological evidence for the route of Stane Street from Mickleham Downs to London Road, Ewell

ALAN HALL

Stane Street between Mickleham Downs and Thirty Acres Barn, Ashted is a good example of a surviving Roman road. The visible remains are so well preserved that this whole section is a Scheduled Monument that has been the subject of attention by a number of researchers over the years. The author's work, while leading a team from Surrey Archaeological Society's Roman Studies Group, revealed that there was a body of archive material that had not been published and which contained much of interest. This paper incorporates photographs and details from past excavations, aerial photographs, evidence for the use of the plough in the construction of the road, evidence for side ditches, an analysis of alignments, a suggestion as to the survey procedure originally employed, a possible source for the metallurgy of the Pebble Lane section and conclusions concerning the width of the road. The very clear surviving remains of the road running north-eastwards cease entirely at Thirty Acres Barn, Ashted and the ensuing route towards the Roman settlement at Ewell has been the subject of a good deal of speculation. Details are given of all known previous excavations of the road in Ewell and this information has been used as the basis for a successful campaign of excavation by the Roman Studies Group to discover the route.

Excavations on a possible Roman villa and earlier activity at land off Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh

GRAHAM HAYMAN

The site, lying on former farmland, was investigated by trial trenching on three occasions in 2002, and by area excavation, in advance of housing development, in 2004–5. Struck flints provide slight evidence of Mesolithic or Neolithic activity, and an isolated later Bronze Age barrel urn, probably a funerary deposit, is of interest. The main occupation began in the immediate pre-conquest period, and the earliest features are ring or penannular ditches, probably associated with buildings, which go out of use in the mid–late 1st century AD. Later structures were more substantial, with rectilinear stone foundations identified in the trial trenches. These were interpreted as probably part of a villa complex, and what seemed to be the core of it was excluded from the development area. The excavation areas were, therefore, towards the edge of the main settlement area, and revealed primarily ditches belonging to enclosures or paddocks, as well as some pits, waterholes or wells, and postholes of uncertain purpose. This activity began in the mid–late 1st century AD, and ceased in the late 2nd or early 3rd century AD. The first villa-like buildings at nearby Rapsley were not seen until cAD 200–20, and the possibility is considered that it then replaced the site at Wyphurst as the chief centre in this area.

A Late Bronze Age hoard from Norbury Park, Mickleham

DAVID WILLIAMS

Following the discovery by a metal detector user of a group of three objects datable to c1150–1000BC an excavation was carried out on the find site. Evidence was found for the

group to have been deposited deliberately beneath a small cairn of flint nodules within an area of ancient field lynchets. This paper discusses the bronzes as well as the field system and attempts to place the discovery into a wider context.

Excavations at The Bittoms, Kingston upon Thames

ANDREW NORTON and NICK SHEPHERD

Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation and subsequent excavation at The Bittoms, Kingston upon Thames, in 2001. The earliest activity took the form of a scatter of pits containing pottery dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. A single pit was dated to the Early to Middle Saxon period. Evidence for medieval settlement took the form of pits, a well and probable tenement boundary ditches. The eastern part of the site was subsequently utilised as a market garden. In the western part of the site, remains of post-medieval properties fronting The Bittoms were uncovered.