

A re-contextualisation of the prehistoric pottery from the Surrey hillforts of Hascombe, Holmbury and Anstiebury

MIKE SEAGER THOMAS

This new study of the prehistoric pottery assemblages from the Surrey hillforts of Hascombe, Holmbury and Anstiebury repositions them within the context of a growing Surrey and regional pottery database. The assemblages, which incorporate material belonging to three prehistoric and one Romano-British pottery tradition, suggest a chronology for the hillforts quite different to that advanced by their excavator. In addition, evidence for the long-distance movement of fancy decorated jars into and out of the county demonstrates the probable existence of a network of previously unsuspected regional connections, which reach as far as the West Country, while an exploration of the use and discard history of pottery at Hascombe indicates that there were discrete activity zones and middens on site. The positive results of the study suggest that a new and fuller understanding of the Surrey Iron Age is within our interpretative grasp.

Excavations at Great Fosters Hotel, Egham

JIM LEARY, REBECCA LYTHE and JOHN BROWN

Archaeological investigations at Great Fosters Hotel in Egham revealed evidence of intermittent human exploitation within a changing environment from the early Holocene to the present day. A flint scatter, typologically suggestive of a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, represented the earliest phase of human activity at the site. The flint scatter may have preceded or been contemporary with a phase of woodland clearance, suggested by the frequency of early tree-throw features and changes in plant macrofossils. A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field system then appears to have developed within open woodland or grassland, which may have included a droveway for the management of livestock. An hiatus in activity then ensued, which persisted until the environs of the site were settled in the 5th century. A further break in human activity then occurred between the Saxon period and the medieval period, when evidence of occupation resumed. The site was devoted to arable farming from the 14th century to the late 15th century, prior to construction of the manorial dwelling now known as Great Fosters Hotel. A building recording project, carried out in tandem with the archaeological investigations, indicated that a series of extensions and modifications was made to the 16th century core of the residence throughout the post-medieval period, creating the Grade I listed building evident today.

A medieval moat at Hope Cottage, High Street, Egham

DANIEL EDDISFORD

An archaeological evaluation and excavation took place at the site of Hope Cottage on the High Street in Egham, and a moat, 5.6m wide, was excavated. The moat is associated with a manor house that stood nearby in the medieval period. The manor house was not located, although it is thought to have lain to the south of the site. The earliest moat cut dates to the early 14th century or earlier and was recut several times before falling out of use in the late

16th century. A single posthole of medieval date and an undated pit were also recorded. The moat was sealed by post-medieval made-ground and truncated in places by later pits.

Evidence for a monastic and post-Dissolution boundary from 171–173 Bermondsey Street, Southwark

LORRAINE DARTON

Archaeological investigations at 171–173 Bermondsey Street revealed the chalk foundations of a building and two north–south ditches dated to the late medieval period. The well-preserved finds assemblages recovered from within the fills of the late medieval ditch included turned wooden bowls, leather shoes and several fish bones. The site findings are an indication of the influence of Bermondsey Abbey on the development and topography of Bermondsey, the probable activities that took place within the abbey precinct and the diet of the residents.

Medieval embankment and post-medieval development at Bermondsey Wall West

GARY BROWN and JAMES TAYLOR

An excavation at Bermondsey Wall West revealed evidence of activity from the medieval to the late post-medieval periods. The site was crossed by a natural channel that was reinforced in the early medieval period with rammed chalk cobbles either as a beaching place for small river vessels or possibly a tide mill tail-race. Timber stakes of probable 12th century date associated with the chalk surface might have been mooring stakes or alternatively could have been the remains of fish weirs or eel-traps. The channel was later blocked with a timber revetment and wattle hurdles as the major feature on site when the 13th century riverside embankment, Bermondsey Wall, was constructed. The riverside was formalised with the building of the river defences and by the 17th century the area had been built upon as a result of the urban growth of Southwark. The remains of structures of 17th, 18th and 19th century date were revealed fronting the south side of Bermondsey Wall West and the immediate area to the south. A series of timber pipes was witness to the management of the water supply or drainage. Among the later timbers recovered from the site were a number of re-used ship timbers.

Flints and frying pans: excavations at 11–13 Point Pleasant and the Morganite Works, Wandsworth

CHRIS JARRETT, BARRY JOHN BISHOP, NICK BRANCH, ENID ALLISON, ROB BATCHELOR, CHRIS GREEN and CHRIS PICKARD

Excavation of two sites at Point Pleasant, Wandsworth recorded archaeological evidence dating from the Mesolithic period through to the 20th century. A scatter of Mesolithic flints was the earliest indication for human activity and this is discussed with the other evidence in the Wandle valley for activity during this period. An infilled water channel or creek dating from the Early Bronze Age was also revealed and the environmental evidence from this feature is also discussed. From the early 17th century Point Pleasant was the location for industrial activity, initially for making iron frying pans and other kitchenwares, and then

changing in the early 18th century to a copper mill. From 1770 industrial activity was concerned with vinegar production and dye manufacture for the local cloth and calico industries, the latter probably associated with the site at the start of the 19th century. Although no products associated with these industries were recovered from the excavation, features, waste and a small number of items associated with these localised industries were recorded and are related to the historical background. From 1820 the excavation area became the site of the British School and the rear of housing fronting onto Point Pleasant. Structures, rubbish pits and cultural material associated with this period were excavated and are described here.

Wandsworth's industrial transformation, c 1634–90

DORIAN GERHOLD

Wandsworth attracted little industry until the 1630s, despite its considerable advantages – a powerful river for driving mills, plenty of clean water, a Thames-side position for bringing in coal and proximity to London. New industries then arrived: frying pans and armour plate in the 1630s, copper, gunpowder, dyeing and bleaching in the 1650s, and calico printing, hatmaking and leather in the 1680s. By the 18th century Wandsworth had as great a range of industries as any parish in the country. Its story highlights the crucial role of foreign workers in bringing new skills to England, the role of London's environs as a source of power and clean water for industrial processes essential to the city, and the role of Londoners and the London market in promoting new industries and technologies.

The rise and fall of the Surrey Iron Railway, 1802–46

DORIAN GERHOLD

This article uses newly discovered evidence from the end of the life of the Surrey Iron Railway to reconstruct the company's financial history. This evidence also provides the date of the opening of the line and new information about its users and its closure. One of the conclusions is that the railway was reasonably successful at first, until the Croydon Canal took much of its traffic. Thereafter it could pay its way but was not able to contemplate improvements or, eventually, to maintain the track properly.

The home estate, granges and smaller properties of Waverley Abbey

MARK SERVICE

Although the available histories of Waverley Abbey give a reasonable amount of information about the abbey itself there is little information in their pages about its granges and other properties. The larger properties are usually listed but the reader is not informed of their locations or the extent of their boundaries and the majority of the smaller properties are not mentioned at all. Waverley Abbey is important as Britain's first Cistercian monastery, yet far less is known about it than the later, richer, foundations. The aim of this paper is to define the locations and extent of the abbey's properties enabling a review and analysis of the archaeological evidence present that was not previously possible.

Investigations at Waynefleete's Tower, Esher

STEVE THOMPSON and VAUGHAN BIRBECK

Evaluation at Waynefleete's Tower, Esher, Surrey, the former gatehouse of the 15th century palace of Esher built by William Waynefleete, Bishop of Winchester, was undertaken by Channel 4's Time Team. The results have allowed a better understanding of the building complex to be established. Documentary evidence and the results from 19th century excavations were also used in conjunction with the information recovered from the Time Team geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. Dendrochronological dating of timbers from Waynefleete's Tower provided a felling date range of 1462–72, which corresponds with a period that master mason John Cowper was believed to be working at Esher.

Excavations at 46–50 High Street, Ewell, 1994

GRAHAM HAYMAN

A small archaeological excavation at 46–50 High Street, Ewell identified features of predominantly Roman date. They consisted of a large pit of 1st–2nd century date, a probable well of 3rd–4th century date, and other pits and layers of various dates. The associated pottery and small finds suggested that these related to domestic activity, while the ceramic building materials clearly indicate the presence of substantial, and well appointed, building(s) at or near the site. A few finds of prehistoric date point to Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. More interestingly, finds, of a piece of window glass and part of a Purbeck marble engaged column, suggest a nearby high-status medieval building.