



Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Above: Elsyng Palace, July 2011. The Chairman sets an example by braving the pouring rain while the rest of the team shelters under the gazebo – see pages 4 & 10 (Photo: Ed)

Top: Henry VIII silver half groat, Elsyng (Photo: N Pinchbeck)

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EAS

14 October: Happisburgh Prehistoric site

18 November: The Roast Beef of Old England

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Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December

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Meetings are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield (*near Chase Side*) at 8pm. Tea and coffee are served and the sales and information table is open from 7.30pm. Visitors, who are asked to pay a small entrance fee of £1.00, are very welcome.

Forthcoming events



If you would like to attend the EAS lectures, but find travelling difficult, please contact the Secretary, (Tel: 020 8449 5298) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

2010 EAS Lecture Programme

14th October

Happisburgh Prehistoric site

Nick Ashton, British Museum

18th November

The Roast Beef of Old England

Neil Pinchbeck, EAS Osteo-archaeologist

December – Christmas Break

No Lecture

EAS Fieldwork



The Society carries out a busy programme of excavation and other practical activities in the Borough. Please contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) for more details if you are interested.

King Harold Day

Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey, Saturday 8 October

King Harold Day is held on the nearest Saturday to the anniversary of Harold's death, and in 2011 will be on Saturday 8th October. Open to the public from 10.00am to 4.00pm, it is held in the Abbey Gardens at Waltham Abbey, near Harold's reputed burial spot.

This year King Harold Day will have a Viking theme, with the re-enactment group Saebert's Folc, as well as Richard York and his wonderful medieval music, and the beautiful birds of prey from PL Falconry.

New Course

The Archaeology of Later Prehistoric Europe

Venue: Hartley Hall, Lawrence room, Flower Lane, NW7

Time: 10:00am-12:00, Fridays, beginning 30th September

Cost: £130 for 20 classes

Tutor: Scott McCracken

Organised by Mill Hill Archaeological Study Society

Contact: Peter Nicholson 020 8959 4757

This course will introduce you to the cultures that inhabited Europe from the introduction of metal to the beginnings of history with the arrival of the Greeks and Romans.

We will consider the nature, structure and complexity of the archaeology of later European prehistory and will study the material culture, landscapes and cultural behaviour of the various peoples who developed in later prehistoric Europe.

The increasing complexity of European cultures will be investigated as well as the development of civilizations in Crete (the Minoans) and on mainland Greece (the Mycenaeans).

Meetings of other Societies

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6.00 for 6.30pm, Museum of London

11 October

The Black Death in London 1348-9: New Research
Barney Sloane

8 November

History of the Parish Clerks' Company
Peter Maplestone

13 December

Thomas Layton's Artificial Curiosities:
Oceanic Collections of an 'Old World Type'
Glynn Davies

17 January

Mapping Roman London: from Site Context to Town Plan
Julian Hill

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

21 September

Flora Robson in Southgate and Palmers Green
Richard Purver

19 October

WW1: Aspects of the Home Front
David Groen

15 November

2.15pm
Comediennes from the 30s-60s
Geoff Bowden

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8.00pm Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley

11 October

Slicester: the revelation of an Iron Age and Roman city
John Creighton

8 November

The Thames Discovery Programme
Nathalie Cohen

10 January

Merchant Tailors Great Feast, 1607
Ann Saunders

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

11 October

Big Numbers and Something out of Nothing: Charity and Poor Relief in 18th Century Britain
Sarah Lloyd

8 November

Henry VIII's Reformation (illustrated)
Lucy Wooding

10 January

Napoleon's Empire: its Principles, Practices and Legacy (illustrated)
Michael Rowe

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45pm, Woodford County High School, High Rd, Woodford Green

10 October

The Portable Antiquities Scheme
Ian Richardson

14 November

The Black Death
Jelena Bekvalac

12 December

Discovering Mycenae
Andrew Shapland

16 January

Social Evening
Fun, games and food

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm, Parish Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey

20 October

From Eton Manor to the Olympics
Jim Lewis

17 November

Trees and Plants in History
Georgina Green

16 December

Members' Evening & Mince Pies

19 January

Lippitts Camp in War and Peace
Bryn Elliott

Excavations at Elsyng Palace 2010 and 2011

(Site Codes FXB10 and FXD11)

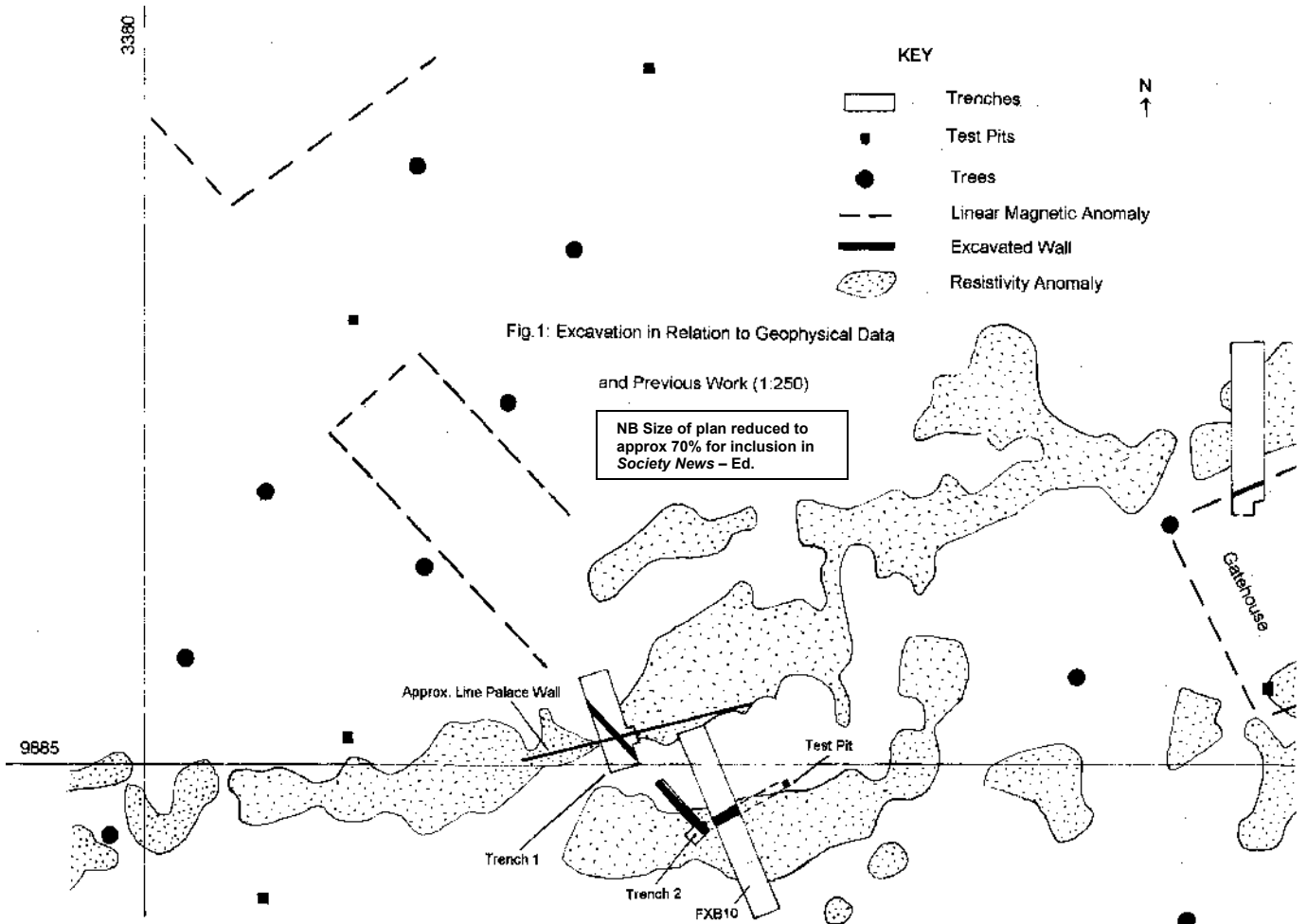
By Martin J. Dearne

Our now annual excavations at Elsyng Palace continued in 2010 (marked FXB10 on figures) and 2011, with the permission and support of both the borough and English Heritage/the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (as the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument) and the usual full archive reports were issued and main archives lodged with the borough Museums Service. However, reports in this bulletin have been delayed until now because it was not clear until 2011 exactly what we had found.

To recap, our confidence in the existing geophysical surveys on the palace site at the end of the Lime tree avenue in the grounds of Forty Hall had been falling for years as features it

predicted turned out to be geological not archaeological. So we were all but ready to give up on it entirely and rely just on parch mark evidence and new developments in LIDAR (laser pulse imaging of the micro topography of sites, data sets derived from which are commercially available for the palace site and the analysis of which is being undertaken by John Pinchbeck). But in 2010 we had one last go at features on the geophysical survey, this time at what had always looked like a round tower sitting astride its southern boundary wall and which showed as parch marks in the grass too.

To cut a long story short, again the geophysical survey was misleading us. There was no tower and the anomalies on the survey and the parch marks were in fact reflecting large dumps of gravel (with marking out trenches for their lines below them) creating curving raised banks, some at least paths. These were presumably part of what it is increasingly becoming clear was a network of such features laid by Nicholas Rainton the younger after he demolished the palace c. 1657. (He had inherited Forty Hall and added the palace and its estate to it, creating the core of the Forty Hall estate we know today.)



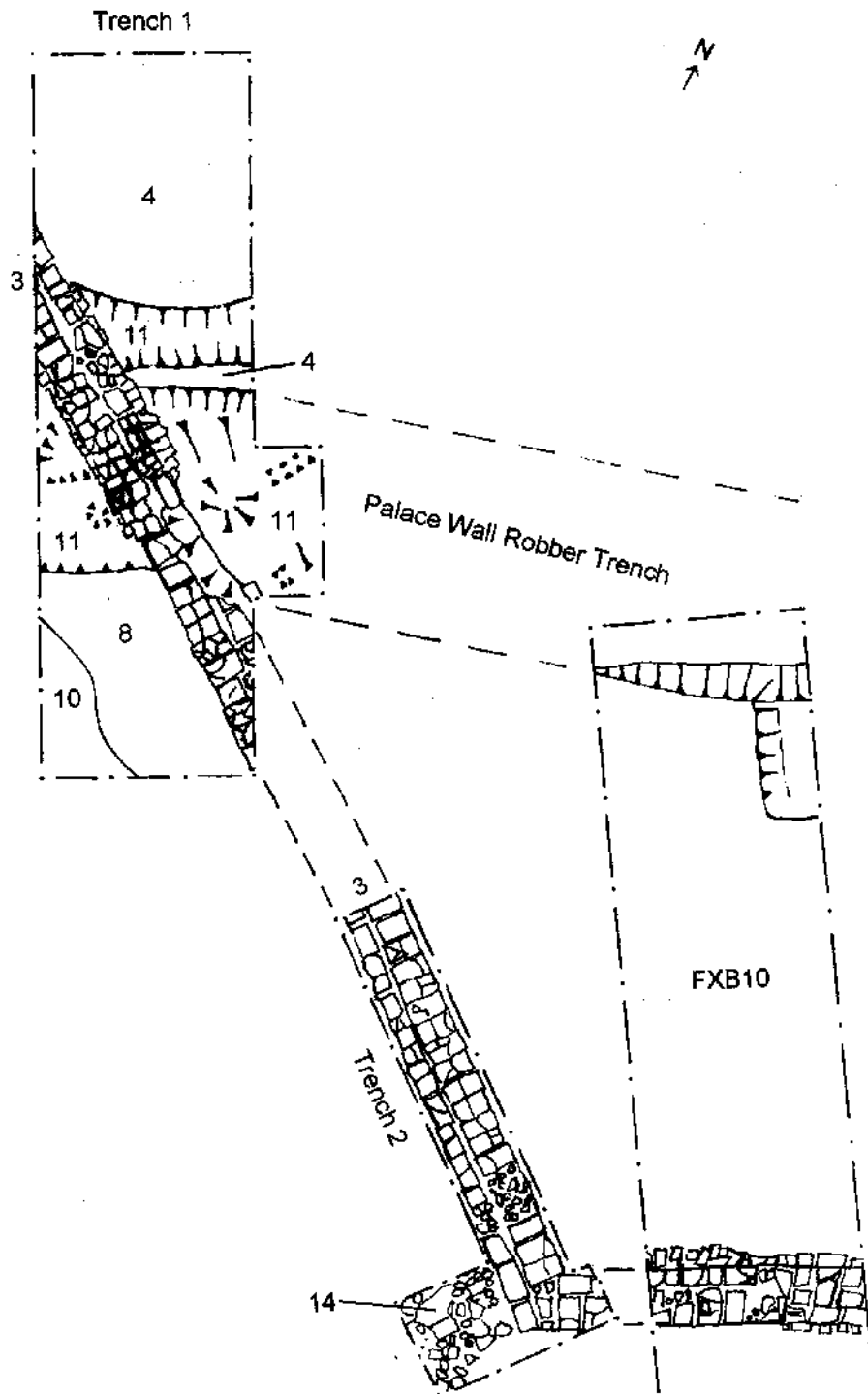


Fig. 2: Major features in Trenches 1 & 2 in relation to FXB10 (1:50)

However, after a day's valiant mattocking away at these dumps, it became clear that under one of them we did at least probably have the demolished south boundary wall of the palace. Or rather what is called a robber trench where it had been removed, its usable bricks salvaged and the broken ones thrown back into the trench created.

Moreover we had what at the time seemed to be a structure butted up against its outside. Built over an earlier rough tile working surface, it was represented by a dwarf wall for a wooden structure, seemingly parallel with the robber trench, and within it there was a rammed brickearth floor covered by a dark coloured soil with cockle shells and other indications of occupation like cattle, sheep/goat, chicken and

fish bones, and then above it demolition material from the structure. There was little to date it though and a presumption that it formed some sort of lean-to against the front of the palace wall raised a problem: would you really have what looked like quite low status, functional servants' accommodation (or even a 'shed') tacked onto the front wall of a royal palace not far from the main gatehouse ?

The trouble was that our trench only included the south side of the palace wall robber trench and we had not located the side walls of the ?lean-to structure. So we needed to confirm both that this was really the palace wall robber trench and find the extent of the structure and that led to the 2011 excavation immediately to the west of where we had been in 2010.

The weather in 2011 was truly awful; it hardly stopped pelting down for two days. But a very dedicated (and damp!) team managed to reveal the truth of the matter in Trench 1.

Yes, we did indeed have the palace wall robber trench (Fig. 2 [11]); indeed to the south of it was just hillwash (Fig. 2 [8] and [10]), but to the north was the brickearth surface of the palace courtyard (Fig. 2 [4]). However, the robber trench here had another cut just north of it marking out the edge of a gravel dump which filled the robber trench and another dwarf wall for a wooden structure (Fig. 2 [3]) had been built over it (and later slumped into it).

By simply deturfing along the line of this wall (Trench 2) we found where it turned (admittedly at an odd angle and just beside a dump of rubble; Fig. 2 [14]) and became the wall seen in 2010.

Thus, the lean-to structure was clearly not that and not part of the palace, but an unanticipated free standing structure built on its demolition c. 1657 by Nicholas Rainton.

In fact it now seems that the 'paths' Rainton created here in one case formed a gravel bank (with a landscaping cut through an earlier palace ditch south of it) along the south end of the structure and in another (the one covering/filling the robber trench) crossed it, probably marking the site of an internal partition, because the brickearth floor and dark soil did not continue north of this. Rather here the structure's floor (and a probable hard standing outside it) was of rammed pebbles and tile fragments.

Just for once the geophysical surveys (or at least those parts of them using magnetometry which



Fig. 3: 2011: Wall [3] slumped into only partly removed fill of the palace wall robber trench

seems to be more reliable at Elyng than other techniques) do also make sense and add to what we know. Thus, the wall of the structure seen in 2011 aligns with a distinct anomaly and combining it with excavated evidence (Fig. 1) this seems to indicate that the structure was long and thin, perhaps 25 – 28 m long by 6 m wide with an angled south eastern end that might (from evidence in a small test pit) even turn out to project and make the plan L-shaped.

This is an important development in our understanding of the palace site. It had been thought that Rainton just laid out an ornamental landscape featuring these raised gravel walks once the palace had gone, but clearly not. This long thin building (and the magnetometry evidence hints that there may be another building north west of it; Fig. 1) looks suspiciously like a barn with farm workers' accommodation at one end of it. So did Rainton perhaps continue to have the orchards and fish ponds and kitchen gardens that we know accompanied the palace tended?

Clearly we need to know more about the building and in 2012 we hope to return and cut several trenches, possibly during a longer period of work than in previous years, to try and fix its size and plan and investigate what it was used for more closely.

Small Finds

Neither excavation produced a great deal in the way of finds. Pottery was scarce and generally only small sherds mainly in everyday fabrics hard to date closely were recovered. Very little metalwork was present (the most notable item was a tiny wire loop probably from the reinforcing of a Tudor purse). There were only two or three interesting sherds of glass (though one may have been waste from stained glass making) and a single bone comb fragment.

However, in 2011 we found an important floor tile and the first silver coin ever from the site.

The floor tile adds to a growing number of decorated later fourteenth century examples from the site made at Penn in Buckinghamshire. It is the first to have a reconstructable design, of quartered rosette/embattled circle/plain circle corner motifs enclosing a central fleur-de-lis (Fig. 4).

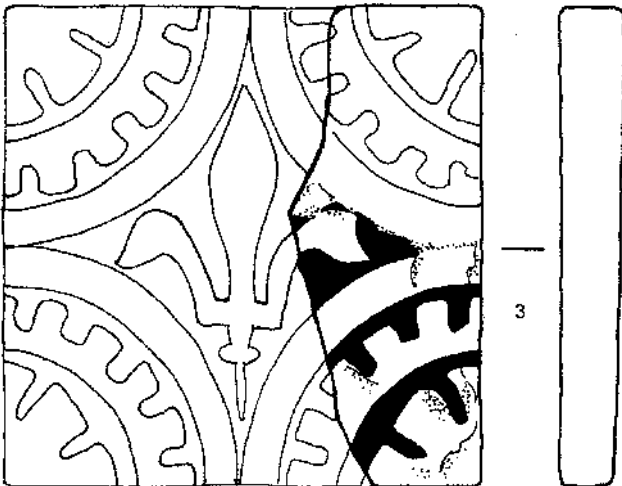


Fig. 4: Penn floor tile

The coin – which just appeared in the topsoil looking like a fresh 20p piece when a turf was lifted – was a silver half groat of Henry VIII (though issued posthumously under Edward VI between 1547 and 1551) from the Canterbury mint.

It was worn and clipped (the edges illegally clipped off to melt down for the silver), but clearly showed an elderly bust of Henry (see cover of this Bulletin), with the arms of England and France on a shield quartered by a long cross with split ends on the reverse (Fig 5).



Fig. 5: Posthumous half groat of Henry VIII (reverse)

Acknowledgements

Enfield Archaeological Society is grateful for the support of Enfield Council and in particular the Museums Service in carrying out these excavations.

The author is grateful to all members of the excavation team.

Illustrations by the author; photographs and tile drawing by Neil Pinchbeck.

MARTIN DEARNE



**...digging in the rain,
we're digging in the rain....**

Fieldwalking and a Test Pit at Eastlodge Lane, Enfield, to investigate lithic material, October 2010.

(Site Code ETG 10)

By Neil & Lesley Pinchbeck

A BRONZE AGE CLUE

In 2005, EAS Chairman Mike Dewbrey found a Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrowhead (Fig.1.1) and other lithics in a field next to Eastlodge Lane, Enfield, and on further visits he spotted a concentration of broken flint along the eastern side of the field. In October 2010, EAS "Pastfinders" went fieldwalking to investigate the broken flint and cut a small test pit in order to try and work out what was going on.

SITE HISTORY

Since it's close to Holyhill Brook and Turkey Brook, it is possible to locate this site on early maps. It was inside the north east corner of Enfield Chase from its beginning, around 1140AD and before that within the ancient woodland of Enfield Wood/ Middlesex Forest. On Westlake's map of 1700, the site may have been inside an area cleared of trees at the edges of the Chase, however, by 1754, on John Rocque's map the area was covered in trees.

After the Chase was enclosed in 1777, it wasn't farmed until the end of the 18th century as the soil was too poor. Cultivation of this field may also have been delayed because it was in a 200 acre plot given to Enfield Parish by the Duchy of Lancaster at the time, and there were ongoing disagreements about who owned it.

THE FIELDWALKING

We only walked the area containing the broken flint, along the Eastlodge Lane field boundary, picking up 5.5kg of broken black/green flint with a pale creamy orange cortex, provisionally identified as Thames Valley Bullhead Flint.

This flint was mainly broken by ploughing, but we kept 15 pieces that showed it has been a source of raw material for human flint knapping activity. These included cores (Fig 1.2 & 1.3), crested core reduction flakes (Fig 1.4 & 1.5) and unutilised blade flakes (Fig.1.6).

We also found other lithic material, most notably an arrowhead provisionally identified as early Neolithic ogival leaf shaped with bifacial retouch (Fig.1.7), also a burin of the type created in the production of microliths (Fig.1.8).

We picked up just over 70 sherds and chips of pottery. These were mostly white glazed creamware, many with blue decoration. They included hand painted tin glazed creamware (1740-1830) and flow blue pearlware (1830-60), some porcelain, late English coarse stoneware, Sunderland coarseware (1801-1900) and post medieval redware (1580-1900)

THE TEST PIT

The test pit was 1.2m square and centred in the area of broken flint. We only found two deposits. The lower was a natural fine clay silt speckled with iron pan, with a surface 0.27 – 0.35m below the modern field surface. Although we had a small number of finds from the surface of this deposit, when we dug a sondage to 0.45m depth in front of the north section we found nothing else at all, not even stones or gravel.

Above this silt was a ploughsoil of fine clay silt and organic material, with many pebbles, mostly of broken flint. In the ploughsoil, we found a small core reduction flake, a fragment of modified core and a broken crested core reduction flake, five sherds of white glazed creamware, a rim sherd of Chinese porcelain and a few sherds of coarse and redwares.

PRE-HISTORIC HUNTERS?

This limited area, along the eastern boundary of the field, does contain a concentration of plough broken flint nodules with a small amount of evidence to suggest that this material has been used as a source of raw material for knapping.

The area has also produced a small number of lithics using different raw materials. All of this, together with the late eighteenth/ nineteenth century pottery, is in the ploughsoil and has been concentrated by down slope plough action since the beginning of farming after the enclosure of the Chase in 1777.

While the arrow heads could have been lost by pre-historic hunters, some of the material does suggest small scale knapping having taken place here. The ridge overlooking Holyhill and Turkey brooks might well have been an attractive seasonal focus for a pre-historic hunting camp.

We hope to go back, perhaps this autumn, to take a better look at the ridge itself.

NEIL & LESLEY PINCHBECK

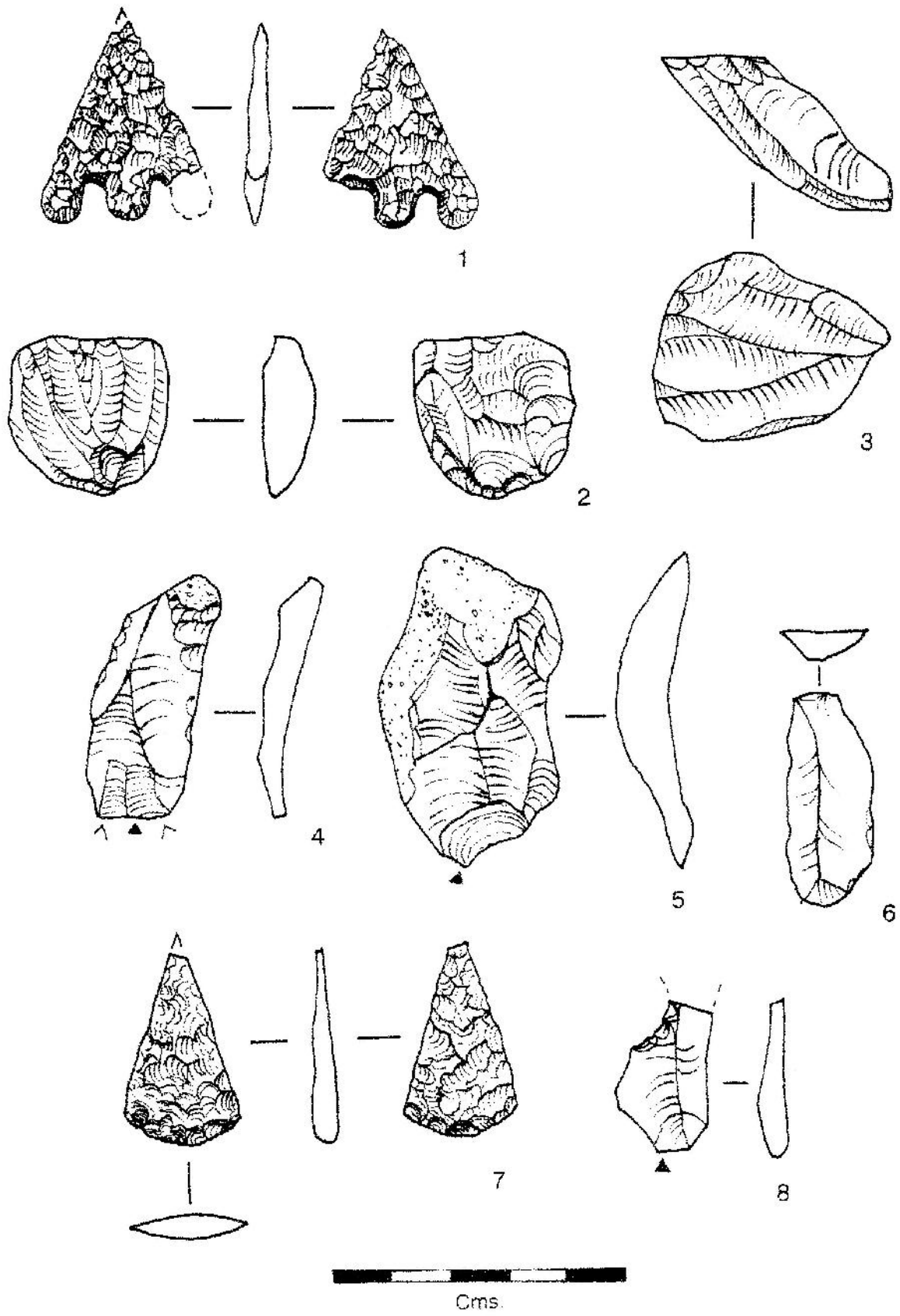


Figure 1. Lithics from Eastlodge Lane, Enfield

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



Since the last bulletin the Past Finders team under the directorship of Dr Martin Dearne have opened trenches once again over the site of Elsyng and at Theobalds Palace for National Archaeology month this year.

Some of the new diggers who joined us this year were given a baptism of fire at Forty Hall in July, or perhaps I should say water - the heavens opened on both days when torrential rain hampered the best efforts of our valiant crew. Nevertheless, resilient as ever in the face of adversity, a possible boundary wall associated with a later phase of the palace was uncovered. Those E.A.S. members who came along on the Sunday were given a short somewhat damp tour of the site of Thomas Lovell's demolished courtier's palace.

The prize find of the weekend was made by one of our new diggers who recovered a fine silver coin issued after the death of Henry VIII with the royal arms of England on the obverse and a fine portrait of the late king. The Enfield Museum Service organised an interesting exhibition of the ongoing work and excavations within and outside Forty Hall and some of the more recent finds were on display for the public to handle and view. Despite the heavy rain the marquee survived the weekend, although at one point the wind was so strong that it required several soggy archaeologists to stop it making its way down to Maidens Brook!

The weather was much kinder to us two weeks later for the excavation at Theobalds, when a trench was opened outside the scheduled area close to the boundary of Base and Buttery court in the north east of the site.

A scatter of demolition deposits were revealed and a fine sterile surface at one end of the trench. This surface may well be associated with Theobalds Square a carriage driveway for the horse drawn vehicles of the gentry who once had impressive houses in the vicinity.

With echoes of Time Team, late in the afternoon on the last day of the weekend dig a brick structure was uncovered with a deep void beneath. Further investigation revealed a 19th century repair to the top of a substantial vaulted drainage tunnel running westwards towards the inner gatehouse of Theobalds Palace.

A short video of the early stages of the excavation can be viewed online on the Lowewood Museum website. Our thanks go to all the diggers who came along over the two weekends and helped out sometimes digging in wet and uncomfortable conditions and to the ladies who manned our sales table and assisted with the children's mini dig which as usual proved popular with many a young archaeologist.

No sooner had we unloaded the equipment when our services were called upon once again at Forty Hall in August where over one weekend we hand excavated a pipe trench outside the north door of the hall. The trench which was only 50cm wide revealed the foundations of a substantial 17th century courtyard wall and yet more 18th century brick lined drains running from the house. Pottery fragments recovered from the construction trench of the wall suggest an early 17th century date. Watching and recording work at Forty Hall is still ongoing and no doubt much still remains to be uncovered in the future.

Congratulations to Lesley and Neil Pinchbeck who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in August while on site at Forty Hall with coffee and cakes. It's good to know that even after 40 years of marriage Neil still knows how to show a girl a good time!

Those of you who have expressed an interest in field walking should be contacted by email over the coming months as we hope to organise further field walking forays later this year at sites off Enfield Ridgeway as and when they become available once the crops are harvested.

Saturday October 8th is the date this year for King Harold Day at Waltham Abbey, which gets bigger every year. The event runs from 11am-4pm in the Abbey Gardens. For further details please visit <http://watp.org.uk/king-harold-day-2010/>.

MIKE DEWBREY