



Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



EAS members recording the trench at the Iron Age hillfort, Bush Hill, August 2006 (see Pastfinders News).

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

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- 2 Forthcoming Events
 - 28 October: Theobalds Palace Walk**
- 2 EAS Meetings
 - 20 October:** King Arthur, Alive, Well and In Person
 - 17 November:** The IKEA Site, Edmonton
 - 15 December:** Romania's Heritage - Medieval Towns and Castles of Transylvania and Painted Churches of Moldavia
- 3 Other Societies
 - 18 November:** LAMAS Local History Conference
- 4 Enfield Archaeological Society
 - The First 50 Years, part 2
- 6 Archaeological Salvage Recording at 106 Leighton Road
- 11 Small Finds
 - Sir Thomas Lovell's emblem from Elsyng Palace dig
- 12 Pastfinders News

Forthcoming events

MEETINGS of the Enfield Archaeological Society 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.

Friday 20 October

King Arthur: Alive, Well, and in Person

Tim Harper (EAS)

Many great post-Roman leaders shaped Britain. Strong historical and archaeological evidence confirms their contribution. But ask anyone in the street about Athelstan or Offa and they may look at you blankly. Ask them about King Arthur, and it would be rare to find someone who hadn't heard of him. How did this happen?

I will examine the power, influence and apparent longevity of King Arthur, a man who didn't let his probable non existence interfere with his popularity. Why has he held such influence in peoples' minds over the centuries, and his lack of solid archaeological evidence become so problematic? This is not a talk that tries to prove or disprove Arthur's existence, but examines, through archaeology and psychology, how he has infiltrated the public imagination, as much today as he ever did in the past.

"Who was King Arthur?" is an interesting question. "Why is King Arthur?" is more telling!

Friday 17 November

The IKEA Site, Edmonton

Angus Stephenson

In 2004, Ikea sponsored a dig on the site of their new Edmonton superstore. Intended mainly to give a context to prehistoric flintwork found earlier, it unexpectedly revealed a very substantial timber structure over and within a former channel of the River Lea. Built of logs and stakes with a brushwood cover, it has been carbon dated to around the 5th century AD and shows typical Anglo-Saxon joinery.

Carved objects and bones found suggest occupation of the site, which appears big enough to have supported a building. If so, it would strongly resemble a crannog in the Celtic tradition, well represented in Scotland and Ireland but hitherto unknown in South East England.

Friday 15 December

Romania's Heritage - Medieval Towns and Castles of Transylvania and Painted Churches of Moldavia

Stephen Gilbert (EAS)

Transylvania had a mixed population of Romanians, Hungarians and Germans. Its towns boast Romanesque and Gothic churches and Renaissance and Baroque town halls and houses, and in some cases their medieval fortifications. There are castles such as Bran and fortified churches serving originally German speaking villages.

Wallachia to the south and Moldavia to the north-east were ruled by native Romanian princes in the Middle Ages. The exteriors of many of the 15th and 16th century Romanian Orthodox monastic churches such as Veronet, Humor and Moldovita are still covered with fine frescoed wall paintings of saints and vivid representations of the Last Judgement. The Romanian capital Bucharest has an open-air museum with over 300 re-erected houses, farmhouses, windmills and churches from various regions of Romania.

Saturday 28 October, 2.30pm

Theobalds Palace Walk

Mike Dewbrey

At the request of Broxbourne Council Parks Department, our chairman will be conducting a guided walk over and around the site of Theobalds Palace, within the grounds of Cedars Park.

Built by Queen Elizabeth's chief minister William Cecil, Theobalds was one of the grandest houses this country has ever seen. King James acquired it and spent most of his reign there. Although it was demolished by the Commonwealth after the civil war there is still much to see, but only if you know where to look!

Meet in main car park, the walk will last about an hour. Travelling north along the A121 (Waltham Cross High Street), turn left into Theobalds Lane just after Theobalds Grove station, Cedars Park is about 400 yards on the left.

Meetings of Other Societies

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield

18 October

Discovering Enfield, Edmonton and Southgate's
Historic Buildings • *Stephen Gilbert*

Saturday 28 October

10 for 10.30am, Day Conference

21 November

2.15 for 2.30, The History of Chocolate • *Ruth Hazeldine*

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley

10 October

The Queen of Sheba • *Nadia Durrani*

14 November

The Sites and Monuments Record for Barnet
Barry Taylor & Steve Ellwood

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm Victoria Hall, Greenyard, Waltham Abbey

29 September

The 19th Century Silk Industry in Essex • *David Possee*

26 October

The Port of Roman London • *Bruce Watson*.

23 November

The Tudors in Essex • *Peter Lawrence*.

15 December

Christmas Meeting: Member's Talks and mince pies

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

8pm, Jubilee Hall

10 October

The Huguenots and 'le Grand Refuge' to England
1550-1750 • *Charles Littleton*

14 November

The Origins of the French Revolution • *Matthew Shaw*

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45pm VIh Form Unit, Woodford County High School,
High Road, Woodford Green

11 September

The Early Saxons at Rayleigh • *Trevor Ennis*

9 October

Roman Surgeons • *Ralph Jackson*

13 November

Under the Bandages – The Science of Mummies
Paul Clifford

11 December

From Montagu House to the Great Court – History of the
British Museum • *Robert Gwynne*

LAMAS

6pm for 6.30, Learning Centre, Museum of London

11 October

New – the first Annual Joint Lecture with the London
Natural History Society on environmental archaeology –
details tba

15 November

Country House Visiting Before the Coming of the
Railways • *Charles Hind & H.J. Heinz*

13 December

New Finds from Roman London • *Angela Wardle*

LAMAS 41st Local History Conference

This year's conference, on **Saturday 18 November** at
the **Museum of London Lecture Theatre** from
10am-5pm, is "Lost London", with speakers on topics
including **lost churches and convents, lost rivers,
lost underground stations, the Tower of London**
(a 'lost palace'), the **Abercrombie Plan for London**
(a 'lost opportunity'), **Victorian Seven Dials**
(**'lost vibrancy and squalor'**) – you get the idea.

Tickets are £7 including afternoon tea (£5 members),
on application to Local History Conference, 24 Orchard
Close, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7LS. Please enclose a
stamped self-addressed envelope and state name,
address, number of tickets required, whether a LAMAS
member. Cheques payable to 'London and Middlesex
Archaeological Society'.

The EAS as an affiliated society is entitled to send two of
it's own members at the members rate of £5 –
please contact the EAS Editor if you want to claim this
privilege, as we would not want to exceed our quota –
first come first served.

Enfield Archaeological Society: The First 50 Years Part 2

20 January: **Geoffrey Gillam**

Continued from last time, more edited highlights from Geoffrey Gillam's lecture of 20 January celebrating the Society's 50th anniversary.

"Between 1963 and 1967 the Society carried out large-scale excavations on the site of Elsyng Palace in the grounds of Forty Hall. The work was directed by Ivy Drayton, who is shown below in the first trench to be opened.



Elsyng was one of the lost royal palaces which played an important part in the history of Tudor England. Henry VII spent time at Elsyng, and Henry VIII acquired it in the 1530s and considerably enlarged it, all of his children living here at various times. The documents record courtyards and a moat, and our excavations revealed substantial remains just below the turf, including a large brick built drain which Valerie Gregory, the wife of our chairman, crawled along for some distance before the site director got cold feet at the thought of losing her. The illustration below shows Madingley Hall near Cambridge, built around 1540. Elsyng may well have looked similar.



Later a North Sea gas main was dug across the site, and we attempted to record all we could of the features uncovered. John Sykes started at one end of the trench and I at the other, and Ivy told us that when she put our two drawings together we were only three inches out! Interim excavation reports appeared first in the bulletin and then in a combined volume, and Ian Jones later brought this and other information together in a single volume – *The Royal Palaces of Enfield*.



Denis Alsford was our photographer at Elsyng and other sites, while Bill Gates ran an Observers Group in an attempt to organise our observation of development work and peering into holes dug by builders. I set up a research group, which evolved into Prehistory, Romano-British, Medieval and Industrial Archaeology Groups, which all did sterling work and published their results in the bulletin. (Other publications by the Society were listed in the September 2005 bulletin – Ed.)

The term Industrial Archaeology was coined in the 1950s as we became aware of the need to record and preserve sites, but there were objections among the purists who had only reluctantly accepted even the Roman period as fit for archaeological study. We had one member who threatened to resign if we adopted the term Industrial Archaeology. Thankfully we have moved on since then, and our own work was edited into a separate publication by John Sykes. We were only just in time as many of the sites we recorded disappeared soon afterward, including Wright's Flour Mill, was the last flour mill in the Lea Valley. There had been 40 recorded in Domesday Book.

In 1970 the Society held a medieval “frolick” at a suitably decorated Salisbury House. Many members wore their versions of medieval dress and enjoyed Morris dancers, music, songs and food of the period (this is where I learned that custard tarts were a medieval delicacy), as well as bouts of swordplay and axe-wielding by two professional stuntmen. (Today our current chairman has been known to don an authentic suit of armour to help drum up trade for our stall at fairs).



Geoffrey (centre) and fellow EAS members ‘frolicking’.

In 1974 an important excavation took place when the area known as the Avenues at Lincoln Road was re-developed. This was organised by John Ivens jointly with LAMAS, and was reported in the LAMAS proceedings. Finds included gravel floors of three buildings, a well converted into a furnace, and a distinctive Roman ‘ankle-breaker’ ditch, leading some to suggest a possible military origin for the site. A later watching brief here turned up a large hoard of coins, which John Kent dated to AD317-324.



John Ivens (in bobble hat) at Lincoln Road.

The work at Lincoln Road led to renewed efforts to find more evidence of Roman Enfield. Over the years Les Whitmore, Roger Dormer, John Ivens and I have all been involved in such digs, while information on earlier Roman finds from the borough was also researched and published by the Society’s Romano-British Research Group. Among our Roman finds was a feeding cup.

John Ivens directed operations during the development of the original Palace Gardens shopping centre when several interesting finds were made – unfortunately most of Enfield ‘Palace’ is under Pearsons, but some evidence of the gardens was found. When the construction of the M25 (then known as ‘Ringway 3’) was announced, we organised a walking survey of the route, and later kept a close eye on the excavations. At one point evidence of two raised beaches was revealed, on which one member found several sharks teeth.

In 1983 Les Whitmore carried out a small excavation on the lawn in front of Forty Hall where a brick drain had been uncovered. My interest in the house was aroused and I published a history of the house and its people – the last few copies are still available from the Society if you don’t yet have one! We have of course returned to Forty Hall successfully many times recently.

Then of course there are the secret tunnels. Every district has stories of these. On one occasion Roger Dormer and I were asked to look at an alleged secret tunnel found in Baker Street during work by the New River Company. The company employee responsible went on to show us a large bone that he had found – clearly a beef bone from the Sunday joint with the end neatly sawn. While Roger and I were looking at the ‘tunnel’, which turned out to be a 19th century water main, our host for reasons he never fully explained took the bone in to the nearby police station. There was a conference of senior officers taking place and five of them descended on the site and suggested that I did not leave until forensics had examined the said bone. Fortunately this did not take very long and we were quickly unconfined.

It is good to be able to report that the Society goes from strength to strength, with Mike Dewbrey and his gang of Pastfinders, and Martin Dearne leading excavations on Forty Hall, Elsyng and Roman Enfield, and all the other unsung heroes who help out.

I have enjoyed my 50 years with the Society. Archaeology has changed a great deal since I first became interested – in my youth it was still possible to look for and find unrecorded stretches of Roman roads, prehistoric sites, deserted medieval villages and a host of other sites. In the late 1940s John Kent and I cycled around Hertfordshire tracing real and sometimes imaginary Roman or medieval roads. There was still a surprising amount of archaeologically unexplored countryside. Today science rightly plays a larger and larger part but, quite perversely, it has lessened my own interest. Nevertheless, I shall watch with interest from the edge of whatever cloud I am sitting on to see who addresses the Society in 2055 and what they have to say.”

Archaeological Salvage Recording at 106 Leighton Rd, Bush Hill Park, Enfield

(Site code LIH05; TQ 3413 9577)

Martin J. Dearne

In late November 2005 the EAS learnt that an extension to 106 Leighton Rd., Bush Hill Park, on which no archaeological conditions had been placed during the planning process, was being rapidly built and that the foundation trenches for it had already been cut.

As the site lay within the known Romano-British 'small town' beside Ermine St., significant remains of which have been recorded at nearby sites by the EAS since 1966, including in the rear gardens of 106 and 102 Leighton Rd (sites LTR90 and LR102) and elsewhere (e.g. site LSR 85) (Fig. 1), Mike Dewbrey contacted the owner of the property who kindly allowed access to his open trenches.

The Site

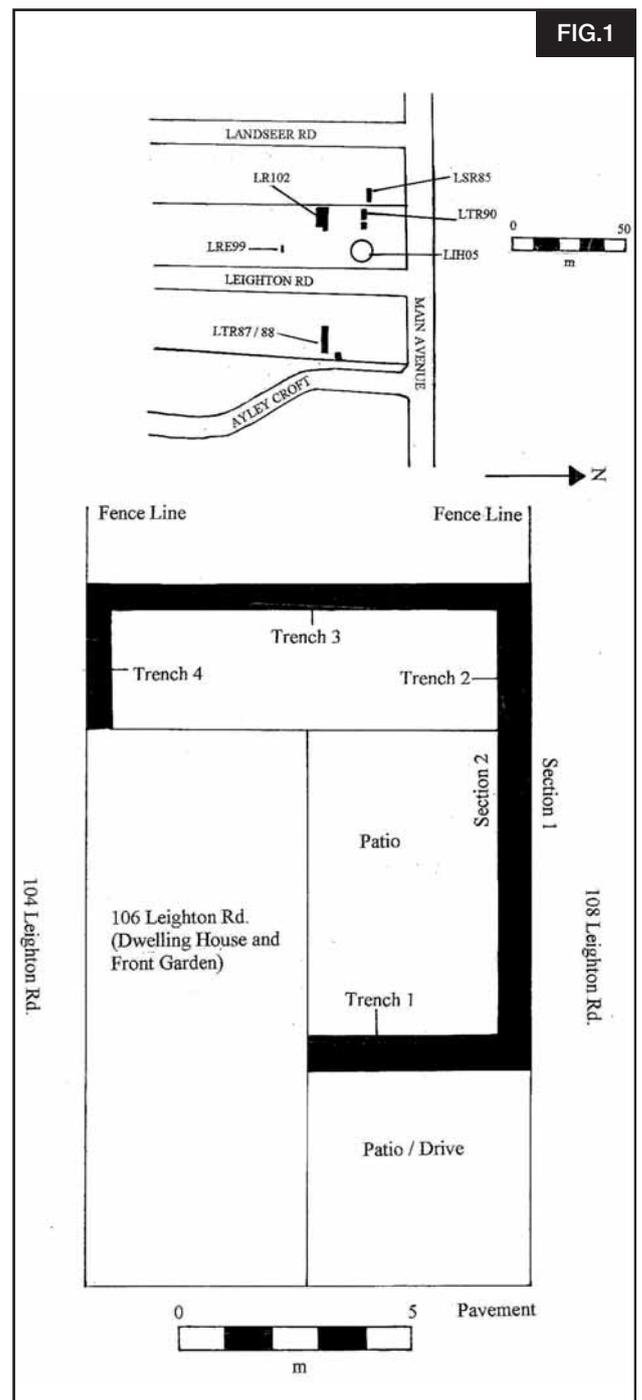
The development area (Fig. 1) comprised an L shaped site north and west of the house and a continuous foundation trench was being cut by a mechanical mini digger. This was divided into four trenches for recording purposes, their sections cleaned where possible and any deposits present evaluated. Trench 1 was unavailable for detailed evaluation and trenches 3 and 4 had cut through only early twentieth century disturbance. However, trench 2 had clearly cut through more than 1.2 m of intact Roman and later stratigraphy.

The Sections (Fig. 2)

The north and south sections of much of trench 2 were recorded, although some context boundaries were difficult to isolate in the time available (indicated on Fig. 2 by dashed lines). The lowest deposit observed was the natural, a yellow brickearth. The earliest features observed were a series of ditches cut into the natural, all filled by what appeared to be the same deposit, <6>. Parts of two large, roughly north south ditches, <10> and <7>, were probably present and separated by a

flatter 1.10 m long 'surface', though it too may well have been a cut. It was impossible to establish whether the ditches were contemporary, but they could have been only parts of a complex of cuts forming a wider channel over 3.30 m wide.

A late first to earlier second century rim sherd (No.6 below) was recovered from <6>. However, a much more significant find (SF1) was from the very top of the deposit above the centre point of <7> in the north section. This consisted of a late third / early fourth century barbotine ('piped on') decorated colour coated beaker (No. 1 below)



which had almost certainly been deposited complete, though it may have been crushed in situ. Its rim and part of its upper side had been removed by machine cutting of the trench and it could only be extracted in many pieces. It was however in contact with a very large sherd (again machine truncated) of a late Roman Nene Valley rouletted colour coated jar or large beaker (No. 2 below). Whilst not a burial the deposition of a complete vessel almost always has ritual associations and here seems very likely to have been a 'closure' deposit marking the ditch going out of use.

Overlying <6> only in the north section, so that it must have had a southern edge less than 0.70 m to the south, was a well defined compacted pebble / cobble surface <5>. Up to 0.10 m thick, it dipped steeply down towards the east side of the earlier ?channel, which here approximately above the eastern side of cut <7> was incompletely filled by <6>. The original width of this slightly cambered north south ?path was probably around 1.75 m.

Above the path where it dipped down into the depression on the east side of the ?channel, which probably formed a gully along the east edge of it, a silt, <4>, built up but it still left a small V shaped gully open and <4> had clearly been vertically cut on the west once it built up to the level of the top of the ?path, presumably to stop it covering it.

Perhaps broadly at the same time the west end of the ?path <5> was perhaps slightly truncated, as certainly were the underlying <7>, <10> and <6>, by one or more very major cut(s) <8>, representing a very deep north south ditch in the base of a wider, shallower one, the western extent of which was unclear but along the eastern edge of which the path presumably ran. These two ditch cuts varied a good deal in their profiles and on their west the surviving surface of the natural displayed broad undulations as far west as full recording was possible (c. 2.70 m) and it was not obvious whether the cut continued or not. Whether parts of the same cut or not, the broader and narrower parts were both filled by the same homogeneous deposit <9>, which also covered the undulating surviving surface of the natural to the west. This added to the impression of the creation and slow filling of a major ditch or again broader channel involving more than one cut, silting from and perhaps overflowing to the west. If so it may have been a replacement for the earlier ?channel including cuts <7> and <10>.

Overlying all preceding deposits, and filling both the remains of the gully east of the cobbled surface and the remnants of <7> in the south section was a 0.10 – 0.13 m deep layer, <3>. It was clearly not an occupation horizon but may have been a cultivation soil of late Roman or even Saxon date. Above it were a Medieval and later plough soil <2> and/or modern deposits <1>.

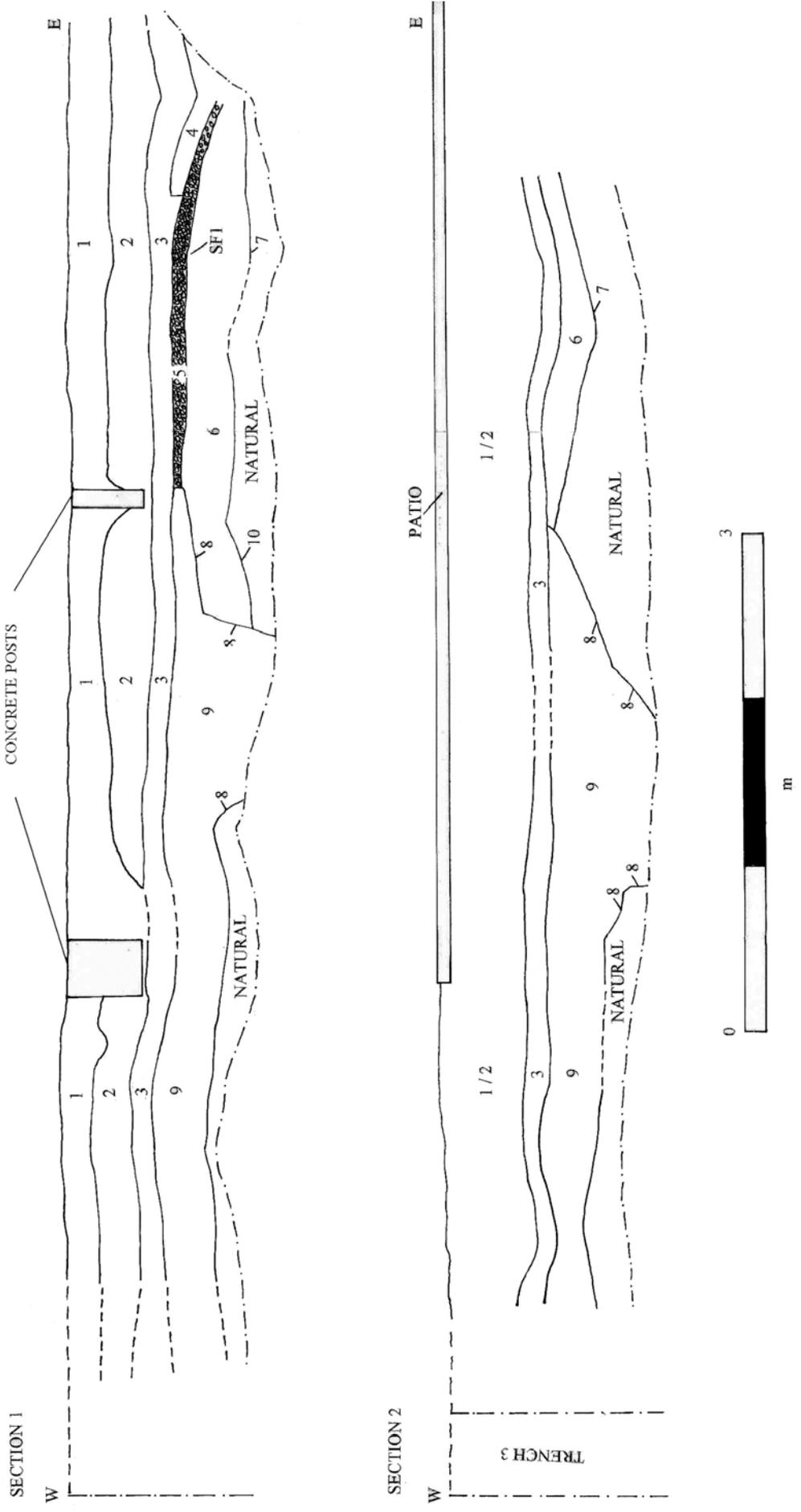
Discussion

Although only recorded in two closely spaced sections the stratigraphic sequence strongly suggests that the main Roman activity on the site was represented by broadly north south ditches and channels which may have in some cases overflowed to the west. The earlier of two groups of these could have been established as early as late first to earlier second century (though only a single rim sherd provides the dating) but clearly went out of use in the late third / early fourth century to be replaced by a second a little further west flanked by a north south ?path edged by a pre existing gully.

A similar large north south ditch in an equivalent position to this, with strong similarities in profile and fill was found c. 40 m to the south on the only other site examined to date along the actual line of the houses in this part of Leighton Road, at No. 98 (Fig. 1 Site LRE99; Smith 1999). They seem highly likely to represent the same feature and probably suggest a major fourth century ditch running roughly parallel to and less than 30m west of Ermine Street, into which west east ditches found in the past at 102 Leighton Rd. (LR102) may have fed. It must also be possible that it acted as a tenorial boundary (as there was some evidence that the 102 Leighton Rd. ditch did), possibly even separating the settled zone from the road line, as there is some evidence at 119 Leighton Road (EAS sites LTR 87 / 88, Fig. 1) that there were cobbled areas west of the road proper which ran north south through this site.

Continued overleaf

FIG.2



The Pottery

(From context <6> unless otherwise stated; * denotes illustrated on Fig. 3; identifications by Roger Dormer and Martin J. Dearne)

*1 Originally probably complete beaker. Hard pinky orange (5 YR 6/8) fabric with light grey core, rounded white ?quartz and small black ?ironstone inclusions. Nearly black (5 YR 3/1) fairly lustrous colour coat becoming reddish brown (5 YR 4/4) where thinner especially on part of globular body. Rim lost above a wide groove, near vertical neck, bulbous globular body, very narrow foot. Body decorated between upper 'step' and lower rouletted groove with, below a rouletted zone and a white barbotine stylised wreath, five round indentations with white barbotine rings round large white barbotine spots, separated by white barbotine 'columns' with double cross bars and scrolls either side, top, bottom and centre.

In Oxfordshire ware the general form is Young (1977, 152ff) type C22, but especially the variants types C31 and C33, though even the latter's decoration is painted not barbotine. The associations of these seem to be fourth century, though the general form began in the third century. A smaller, less elaborately (white paint) decorated, unrouletted beaker came from the Verulamium cellar fill dated AD 310 – 15 (Frere 1972, 350 No. 1131) and a 'Rhenish-ware' white barbotine and rouletted beaker with several similarities to the present vessel's decoration came from the cellar occupation (AD 280 - 315) (op cit, 348 No. 1114).

2 A large sherd of the shoulder of a Nene Valley dark brown to black colour coated rouletted large beaker or jar.

3 A small abraded body sherd of flint tempered ?prehistoric pottery.

4 A similarly small abraded body sherd of a Verulamium region fabric ?flagon of the late first / early second century.

5 Small body sherd, ?flagon, Verulamium region fabric, late first / early second century, from <9>.

*6 Rim, necked jar close to Marsh and Tyers (1978,

557) II.C.1, in hard grey sandy fabric with darker surfaces. At Southwark Flavian – Trajanic but with cited parallel of first half of second century.

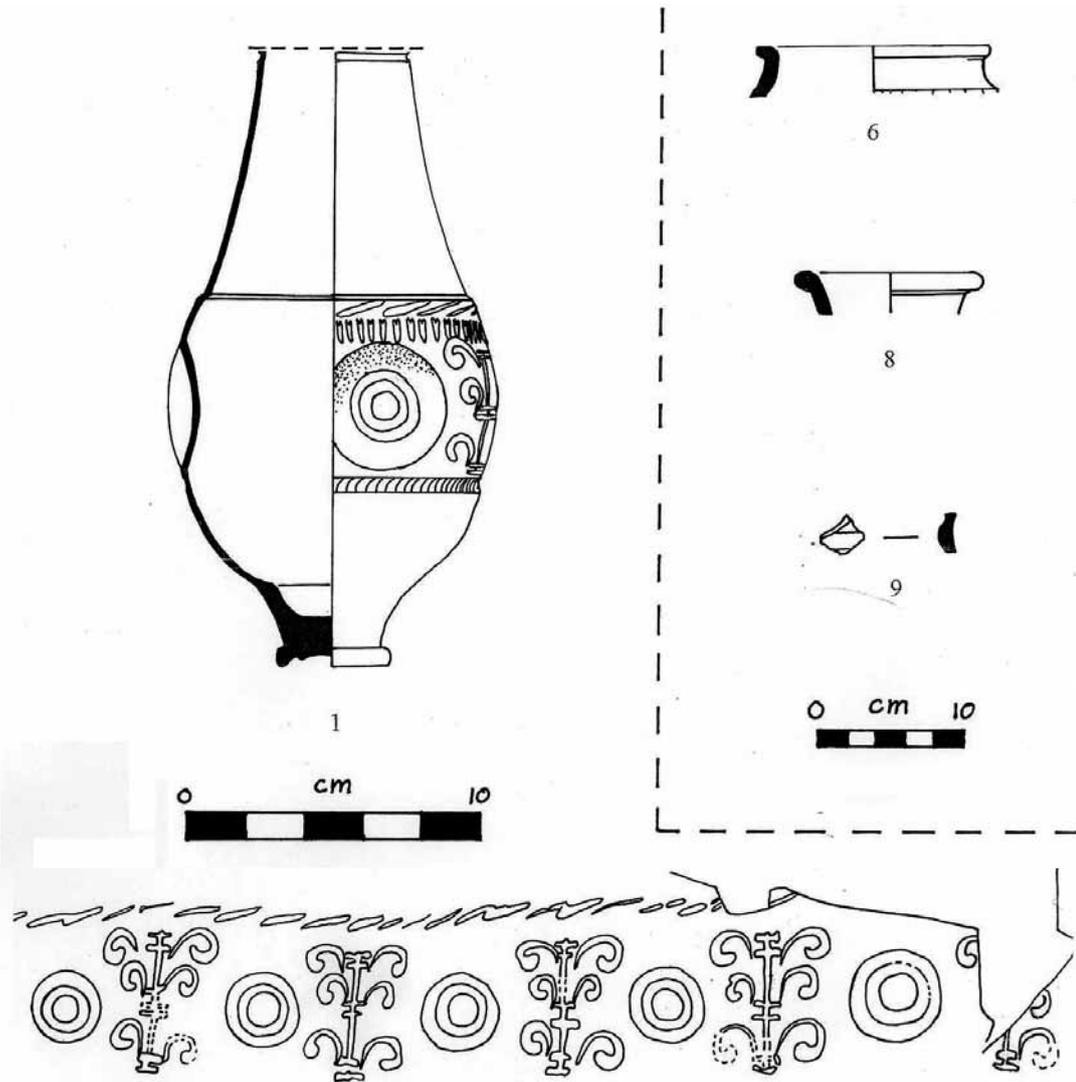
7 Eroded body sherd, sandy grey fabric, from <5>.

Sixteen unstratified sherds included a South Gaulish samian body sherd; a burnt Central Gaulish samian rim chip; an Amphora body sherd; two sherds from Highgate ware vessels, one a poppy head beaker; one sherd in Verulamium region fabric; five in grey wares; one in a sandy orange fabric; one from a very thick walled vessel in an unidentified coarse grey ware with red surfaces; and one highly burnt. More notable were :

*8 Rim, necked jar similar to Marsh and Tyers (1978, 562) II.G.1, in white slipped grey ware, ?second century.

*9 Body sherd with raised cordon, black, grog tempered ware, ??Saxon.





Exploded View of Barbotine Decoration

Acknowledgements

The EAS are grateful to the householder for permission to examine and record the construction trenches and to Mr. and Mrs. J. Costello for access to a temporary bench mark at 102 Leighton Rd. and the author is grateful to Roger Dormer, Neil and John Pinchbeck, Tim Harper and David Wills who undertook the section cleaning and surveying work in difficult conditions at short notice.

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Postscripts

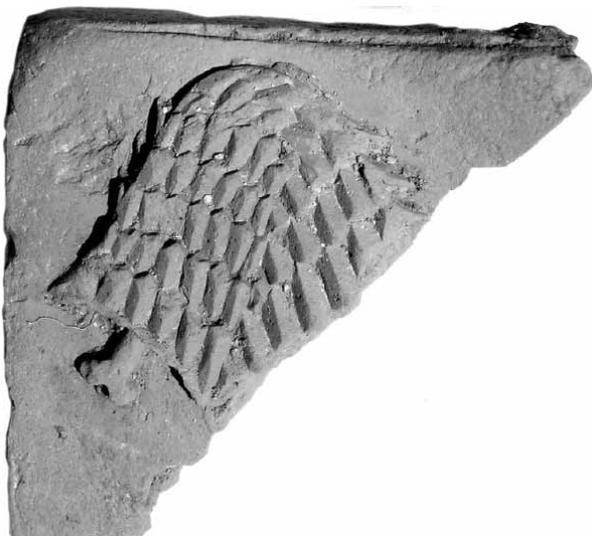
By the time this reaches the press the EAS will have carried out another excavation only feet from this site which will hopefully shed more light on the findings here. (Watch this space!)

We are in discussion with the Museums Service and others about having the beaker conserved and displayed, and have already received a very generous donation from the Enfield Preservation Society towards that end. Thank you EPS!



Mystery of the winged plaque of Elsyng solved!

You may recall the moulded brick depicting the wing of a bird of prey which we recovered from a drain at Elsyng Palace during our Archaeology Week dig last year (*Society News 179, Dec 2005*). The cartouche, which probably came originally from over a fireplace or window in the palace, had puzzled us until finally recently all the pieces came together.



The key to the mystery lies in Enfield Parish Church in the Market Place. In a window on the south side of the church are set surviving stained glass fragments of a memorial window to Sir Thomas Lovell, the original having been sited in the north aisle of the church until badly damaged during the Second World War (see *EAS*

publication 'The Royal Palaces of Roman Enfield' by Ian Jones & Ivy Drayton, p.10). The central scene depicts nuns of Holywell Priory, Shoreditch (a foundation of Lovell's) praying for his soul, but among the other fragments is the wing of a bird. High up between the clerestory windows can be found carvings of birds' wings, featuring the same 'exposed bone' seen on our excavated brick.

Sir Thomas Lovell lived at Elsyng from around 1492 (when he gained custody of it from his brother-in-law, who had been declared insane) until his death in 1524, and according to surviving archives Elsyng Palace was decorated with his emblem, the falcon's wing. Curiously the falcon's wing does not appear on the family coat of arms.

This discovery enables the plaque to be dated to the early 16th century or the end of the 15th, and gives us a tangible link between the archaeology and the documentary records. It can be seen as part of a display at Forty Hall mounted by the Enfield Museum Service, together with other artefacts recovered from the site.

Contributed by Neil & Lesley Pinchbeck and Mike Dewbrey

(If you like co-incidences, you may wish to recall that Lovell is said to have employed Lambert Simnell at Elsyng, as a falconer. I have also been told that among the finds from our 1960s Elsyng dig were the bones of a falcon. An imaginative historical novelist could I'm sure have a field day with that lot. Ed.)



EAS Fieldwork

The Society regularly carries out fieldwork and other practical activities in the Borough. Please see the *Pastfinders News* column or the excavation reports overleaf for more details, and contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) if you are interested.

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



Normally by the Autumn the archaeological year is winding down as we take stock of the year's excavations. This year we are still busy excavating a further series of tree pits over the site of Elsyng Palace, which may well take us into late October. Without doubt 2006 has been one of our busiest years.

Those of you who came to watch or help out at Forty Hall over the Archaeology weekend in July will have seen the three trenches we opened to look for evidence of the early formal gardens. Evidence of a hard packed gravel surface possibly forming part of a carriageway running towards the east front door was found, together with an early 18th century(?) garden wall built on an east west alignment. Due to the hot weather the digging was far from easy but our diggers rose to the occasion and within two days the trenches were fully recorded, and backfilled before the pub closed!

Two weeks later a trench was opened beside a house in Leighton Road Bush Hill Park next door to the one featured in the report in this Bulletin. The lack of features within the trench seemed to suggest that perhaps we were digging outside the area of occupation or in an area where cultivation had taken place. Fragments of Roman pottery were recovered, together with the jaw of a sheep from within a small pit. A ferrous artefact found in the plough soil may be from a hoe, but further identification is awaiting the results of an x-ray scan. A big thank you to all the diggers who helped here over two weekends.

The opportunity arose at short notice to carry out a brief field walk just north of the M25, where it was rumoured some Roman roof tile had been ploughed up some years ago. Despite our best efforts nothing of Roman date was found. A scatter of tile in one corner of the field was 18th century in date suggesting that a building had been demolished nearby. The earliest pottery found was part of the rim of a medieval wine flagon, possibly 14th century in date. The field lies within the Theobalds deer park enclosed by James 1st in 1621, and no evidence of occupation prior to that date was seen on the surface.

The August Bank Holiday weekend was spent, with the sanction of English Heritage, re-excavating a pipe trench cut previously across the bank of the presumed Iron Age Hill Fort at Bush Hill Golf course, a site previously investigated by the Society in the 1950s. Dodging the showers, the objective was to define the ditched enclosure in section and hopefully recover some dating evidence. The ditch when seen in section was substantial to say the least, and pottery recovered from the ditch fill only dated to the early 18th century, representing hill wash that had moved down the slope of the bank over time. The Iron Age deposits, if they exist, are at a much greater depth within the ditch than we were able to dig to.

On the agenda for September is a field walk to try to locate the site of Cathale Priory, which was founded in the 13th century and once stood between where Crews Hill Railway station and the M25 motorway are now.

Finally, Neil and John Pinchbeck took photos of some archaeology revealed by builders excavating the beer garden of The Goat public house. The sunken garden was apparently once a gravel quarry. Several layers were seen within the stratigraphic sequence suggesting a demolition deposit of red brick and a dark occupation layer and possible evidence of burning. Old Forge Road to the rear of the site once had a blacksmith's shop close by, so this may be associated with the 18th century forge. With so much development going on in the borough it is important that all our members keep their eyes open when out and about and report anything that may be of archaeological significance before it is lost forever.

I have a long list of people who have contacted me asking to be included in future excavations. Much of this work is carried out by a small band of dedicated society members so it is always good to see new faces on the digs. Where are the rest of you? If you would like details of any future projects and would like to help I can be contacted at my office weekdays on 01707 870888.

MIKE DEWBREY