



# Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society

## Elsyng Tree Pits Special Issue



This issue is devoted to a resume of the long programme of excavations the Society has been conducting along the lime tree avenue at Forty Hall on behalf of Enfield Council.

### 2 Forthcoming Events: EAS

- 21 September: Portable Antiquities Scheme
- 19 October: Vickers Ship Model Experimentation Tank, St Albans
- 16 November: The Old Welsh Bridge, Shrewsbury
- 14 December: The Christmas Story in Art

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December 2005 – July 2007  
(ENC05, ENE06 & ENF07)

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, David Wills (Tel: 020 8364 5698) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

## Friday 21 September

### The Portable Antiquities Scheme New Rules for Metal Detectors

#### EAS

Often seen by archaeologists as a menace to the archaeological record, great strides have been made in recent years in encouraging responsible metal detecting. Last year the first ever national code of practice on responsible metal detecting was agreed by the major archaeological and landowners' organisations. Our original speaker from the Portable Antiquities Scheme has had to pull out, so this talk will be given by members of the Society, including examples of metal detector finds within the Borough.

## Friday 19 October

### The Vickers Ship Model Experimentation Tank, St Albans

#### Tim Crichton, GLIAS

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century ship model experiment tanks have been used to carry out hydrodynamic testing of ship's hulls, propellers and the like. The Vickers-owned facility at St Albans was in its day one of the most significant, and Tim Crichton of the Greater London Industrial Archaeological Society will be speaking about it.

## Friday 16 November

### The Old Welsh Bridge, Shrewsbury

#### Bruce Watson, MoLAS

Bruce Watson will be well known to members as one of our most popular speakers. He is due to talk about the excavation of the Old Welsh Bridge over the River Severn in Shrewsbury. This was part of the town defences with gates at each end and a barbican (known as the Welsh Gate) at the outer end. Excavations on the site of the medieval and post-medieval waterfronts in advance of the

construction of a new theatre revealed a complete masonry arch of the bridge, along with the sandstone ashlar foundations of the twin bastions of the Welsh Gate.

## Friday 14 December

### The Christmas Story in Art

#### Stephen Gilbert, EAS

EAS member Stephen Gilbert will give us a seasonal whistle-stop tour through historic representations of the Christmas story. Stories about the early life of Jesus will be illustrated through 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century mosaics in Ravenna and Greece; a Byzantine enamel panel in the Pala d'Oro in Venice, the 11<sup>th</sup> century Codex Aureus now in Nurnberg; 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century stained glass windows in Chartres, Beauvais, Canterbury, and Strasbourg cathedrals; medieval German painted wooden altarpieces; frescoes on the walls of Orthodox monasteries in Romania, Serbia, Greece and Cyprus; Russian Orthodox icons; early 14<sup>th</sup> century frescoes by Giotto in Padua and an altarpiece by Duccio in Siena; 15<sup>th</sup> century Scandinavian ceiling paintings and Renaissance to Baroque paintings and sculptures from Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Germany.

## 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.

*Pastfinders News* has made way for the 'Tree Pits' report, and will return in the next issue.

# Meetings of other Societies

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## EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

**19 September**

The History of Epping Forest

*Stan Newman*

**17 October**

Farms and Farming in the Hundred

*Geoffrey Gillam*

**27 October**

10 for 10.30am, Jubilee Hall

Day Conference

**20 November**

2.15 for 2.30, Jubilee Hall

Street Names in the City

*Paul Taylor*

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## HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

**9 October**

Thomas Telford (1757-1834): 250th Anniversary Lecture

*Denis Smith*

**13 November**

Mata Hari's Glass Eye and Other Tales: A History of Archaeology and Aerial Photography

*Martyn Barber*

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## HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

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

**9 October**

Francis Drake: England's Criminal Hero

*Lucy Hughes-Hallett*

**13 November**

Freakes Memorial Lecture

The Last Viceroy: Mountbatten and India

*Anthony Stockwell*

## LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6 for 6.30pm, Terrace Room, Museum of London

**11 October**

Gardens and Archaeology at Hampton Court

*Todd Langstaffe-Gowan*

**8 November**

Hinemihī: The Maori Meeting House at Clandon Park, Surrey

*Dean Sully*

**13 December**

Merv: A Forgotten City on the Silk Road

*Tim Williamsy*

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## WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45 for 8pm, VI Form Unit, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green

**8 October**

Late Roman Hoards

*Richard Hobbs*

**12 November**

Casting in Bronze

*Paul Craddock*

**10 December**

What did the Romans do for West Essex?

*John Shepherd*

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## WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm, Victoria Hall, Greenyard, Waltham Abbey

**28 September**

Time Line: A Journey Along the Meridian

*Stuart Bale*

**25 October**

Roman Enfield

*Martin Dearne (EAS!!!)*

**16 November**

A Serious Look at the Gunpowder Plot

*Richard Thomas*

**14 December**

Members' Talks



# Meeting Reports

## Coach outing to Battle Abbey & Batemans

12 May

For many years EAS and WEA members have enjoyed an annual coach outing to places as varied as Stonehenge and Holkham Hall getting where we intended to go, seeing it and getting home all more or less on time.

Inevitably this could not last and this year we more than made up for it on our trip to Sussex. The first hold-up was on the M25, irritating but it did not delay us by too much. Then we ran into gridlock on the A41 and were eventually signed off the road south of Sevenoaks where we joined all the other traffic that was not allowed on the road. We then spent nearly 2 hours crawling through various very attractive villages that we would, nonetheless, rather not have seen, to finally arrive at Battle with just half an hour to spend rather than three as originally planned. This, we discovered later, was due to a major accident on the A41 which had led to some 10 miles of the road being closed.

Some of us actually managed a quick look round at least some of Battle Abbey before setting off to Rudyard Kipling's house at Batemans which we reached only a little later than we were booked.

We had the house and gardens, in good weather, largely to ourselves as we were the only one of three coaches from the London area booked in that got through. After the visit we did our best to make sure that none of the food in the cafe was wasted through lack of custom.

The return journey went more or less as it should have done with the section that had taken 2 hours in the morning taking less than half an hour. The southbound section of the A41 still seemed to be closed but there was, of course, no sign of the original cause of the trouble. The M25 managed a little crawl that was nothing by that road's standards and we actually got home more or less when we originally intended. Despite all this everyone said they had enjoyed themselves and

we should now be able to rely on a few traffic-free trips for the next few years, if there is any justice in this world!

IAN JONES



On the front cover of this issue you may recognise the Roman barbotine beaker, recovered in fragments from Leighton Road, which the Museum Service have now had fully restored by the British Museum thanks to donations by the Enfield Preservation Society and our own society.

It has now been put on display by the Museum Service. To paraphrase the caption:

*"This Roman vessel is an indented colour coated beaker and has barbotine or piped on decoration. Colour coated wares were made in Britain after the collapse of the Samian pottery industry in France. Production centres included the Nene valley and Oxfordshire and this beaker may be from the latter. The indented beaker shape and decoration were copied from producers along the Rhine and existed side by side with their imported products.*

*This beaker has been dated to the late third or early fourth century by comparing it with one found in a cellar full of pottery in St Albans. It would have been an expensive piece used for wine drinking and its complete burial almost certainly indicates that it was an offering to the gods to bring good fortune on the settlement. It was buried below what we think was the foundation for a monument beside an entrance through a boundary ditch separating the settlement from Ermine Street."*



Photo courtesy of Enfield Museum Service

# Excavations At Elsyng Palace December 2005 – July 2007

(Site Codes ENC05, ENE06 & ENF07)

By Martin J. Dearne

*NB Since this article was written, more pits have been excavated, and some of the interpretations here will be updated in a future report. Ed.*

## Introduction (Fig. 1)

Since last reported in detail in this bulletin the EAS's work on the site of Elsyng palace in the grounds of Forty Hall has changed considerably in nature and scale. Since late 2005 the society has on behalf of the Borough's parks and leisure departments (and as ever in close partnership with the Museums Service) been excavating test pits and then selected larger trenches in connection with obtaining scheduled ancient monument consent to plant trees to fill in the gaps in the Lime tree avenue that crosses the site. Working closely with English Heritage who advise the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on the granting of such consents we have examined 33 positions provisionally earmarked for new saplings (funded by the Friends of Forty Hall). In the process we have deepened our understanding of the history and development of the site considerably.

The work, like that reported in *Society News* Nos. 176 and 179, has taken place in (and south and north of) what resistivity and magnetometry surveys of the 1980s indicate was the eastern part of the outer courtyard of the fully realised Tudor palace complex. In Tudor times this was almost certainly the more domestic half of the palace – stores, kitchens, laundries etc plus presumably palace staff accommodation – but it also incorporated the main gatehouse into the complex.

Most excavations (or re-excavations as some positions were initially planted without permission) were of 1.0x1.0 m to 1.2x1.2 m pits (denoted P1 etc), 0.5 to 1.0 m deep, but significant expansions of, so far, three of these pits (referred to in the text as Trench 1 etc preceded by the P number for location purposes) were undertaken in July 2007. In the space available it is impossible to follow the more formal excavation report format previously adopted for work on the site and this summary is

only an overview of very much more detailed archive reports by the author (available at cost on application to a member of the committee). It also only covers work up to the end of National Archaeology Day (15<sup>th</sup> July) 2007 and four further trenches remain to be excavated, while some of the results of the detailed study of some finds such as animal bones are best left until the whole project is completed.

## Geology and Prehistoric Evidence

The work established that, although much of the site of the palace lies on natural brickearth (London Clay), it is crossed by a surface outcrop of the (?Taplow) Lea Valley gravels (which may have had an influence on the choice of the site for a series of prestige structures culminating in the Tudor palace). Moreover, where the brickearth is present, it is underlain by these gravels and evidence was recorded in some pits for the nature of the periglacial conditions in which both were deposited at the end of the last Ice Age.

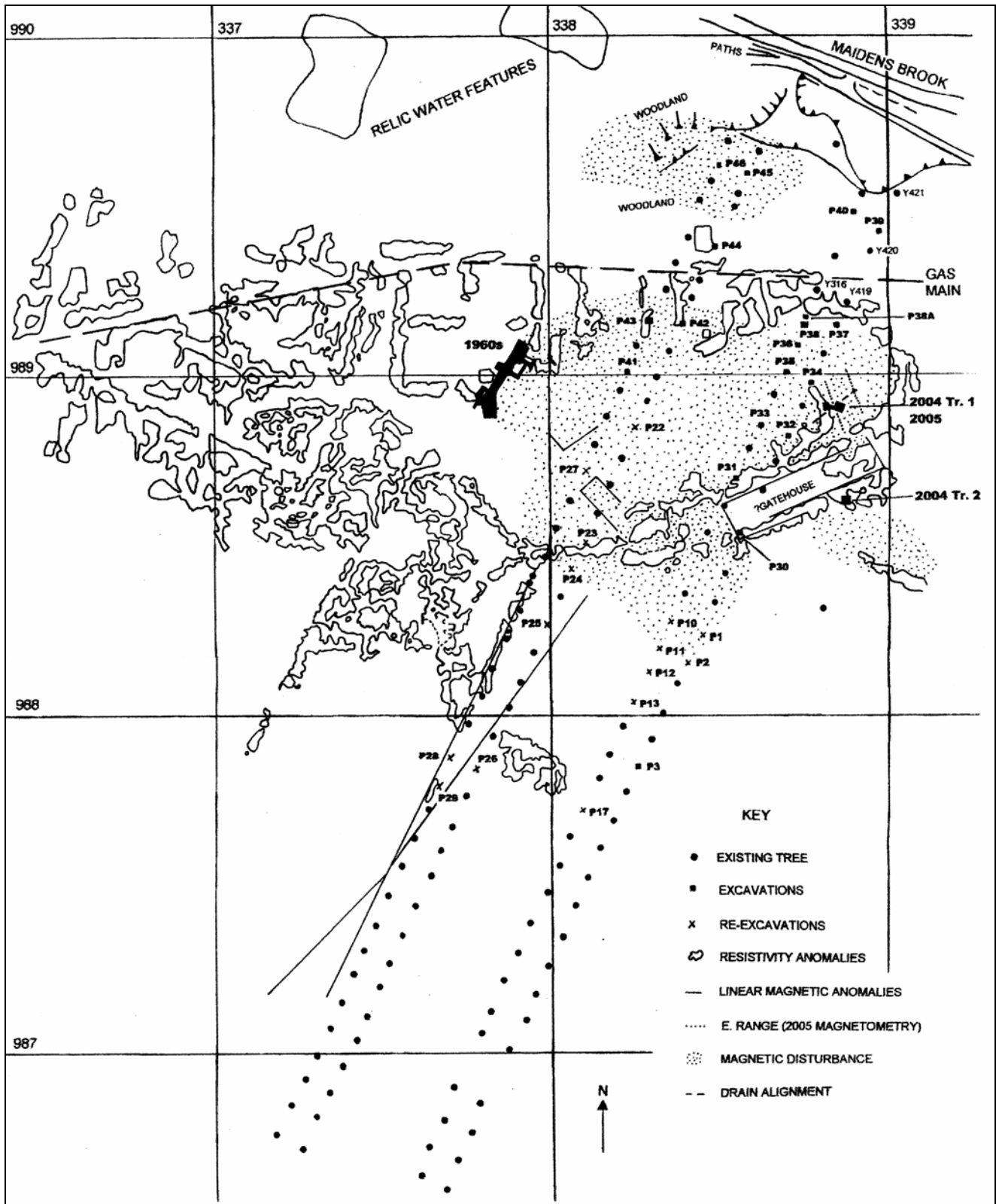
Residual finds of Mesolithic microliths and flint cores and flakes of broadly Neolithic/Bronze Age date, mainly just south of the palace site (P10 etc), probably represent casual knapping, perhaps in connection with hunting in the valley of Maidens Brook prior to forest clearance. Only a few of the flakes showed any signs of 'retouch' to use them as tools.

## Pre Fifteenth Century Activity

A major result of the work was the recovery and recognition for the first time of (residual) pottery and floor tile evidence for the existence of settlement on the site (including, by the 14<sup>th</sup> century, relatively high status buildings), probably from soon after the Norman conquest in 1066.

The earliest evidence consisted of sherds including jar rims in Early Medieval Flint Tempered Ware (c. AD 970 – 1100), and continuing earlier Medieval activity was represented by more sherds including a flagon rim of Coarse London Type and London Type Wares belonging to the period c. AD 1080 to 1200 and 1350 respectively.

Documentary evidence, a few finds and the exposure of a timber beam below later structures in the 1960s (west of the areas investigated since 2004) (Jones and Drayton 1984, 34) have long hinted at settlement on the site prior to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century (when documentary sources become more specific) but the pottery evidence clearly suggests that the site's history, presumably



**Fig 1: The Site (100 x 100 m OS grid squares)**

initially as a manorial establishment, goes back considerably further.

Moreover, the recovery of eight patterned lead glazed floor tiles made at Penn in Buckinghamshire between 1350 and 1390 now indicates that a relatively high status establishment existed on the site by the mid to late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### Sir Thomas Lovell's Late Fifteenth Century Courtier's Palace

The first structure on the site we have anything like detailed records of – mainly household accounts which give some insights into life within it in the 1520s– is the brick built courtier's palace constructed sometime in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century by Sir Thomas Lovell (or possibly Lord Roos, from

whom Lovell obtained the estate of Elsyng in dubious circumstances in 1492). Lovell, being a major force at court under Henry VII, had built or usurped and developed this complex as a power base within a day's travel of London at which he could entertain the king (and the future Henry VIII) when they hunted in the Chase to the north of it.

Quite large sections of one part of this courtier's palace were found in the 1960s (Jones and Drayton 1984, 29ff) still standing to a significant height where new Tudor buildings butted up against them and an observation made then has taken on greater importance in the present work.

It was noted then that these late 15<sup>th</sup> century buildings used soft, sandy yellow mortar, but the new Tudor buildings used hard white mortar. In cutting many of the exploratory pits in later 2006 many layers and dumps of demolition material, created c. 1657 when the palace was knocked down, were encountered. It became apparent that this mortar difference could be used where the demolition material had been left pretty much where it fell to date the buildings that geophysical surveys show ringed and lay within the east end of the outer courtyard of the Tudor palace where we were working.

Hard white Tudor mortar in fact turned out to be present in some of these demolition deposits, but so did late 15<sup>th</sup> century soft, sandy yellow mortar. The implication is that many of the buildings of Henry VIII's outer courtyard began as parts of Lovell's courtier's palace and were merely reused – probably modified and repaired – in the Tudor scheme.

Indeed, it was precisely this soft, sandy yellow mortar that bonded the arched brick drain and the few fragments of the range of buildings under which it ran which we excavated earlier in 2005 (Dearne 2005; Fig 1 '2004 Tr. 1 2005'). These must now be regarded as late 15<sup>th</sup> century in origin and the identification of the moulded wing on a brick in the demolition rubbish in that drain (Pinchbeck *et al* 2006) as the personal emblem of Lovell is further evidence for this.

Moreover, Trench 2, cut in July 2007 running south east from P31 to fix the actual position of the gatehouse, which resistivity and magnetometry seemed to disagree about, indicated that it too was late 15<sup>th</sup> century in origin. The resistivity anomalies, suggesting a larger gatehouse than the magnetometry, were found to be due to pebble dumps put in after the palace was demolished to soften the slope at the edge of an ?artificial platform created in the natural brickearth on which the gatehouse had been built. But the magnetometry reflected the remains of the

gatehouse wall, consisting of a robber trench 1.1 m wide and over 38 cm deep cut on demolition to salvage its bricks, but retaining at one edge fragments of the original construction trench and wall. What was left of the wall was a line of broken header laid bricks bonded with soft, sandy yellow mortar.

Thus, the picture that is emerging is one of an outer courtyard of the Tudor palace that was essentially the reused courtier's palace. Several of the pits revealed that the courtyard surface was just the top of the natural brickearth in many areas, but there were also areas with rammed pebble surfaces/paths. In P36 (yet to be examined further) for instance a significant depth of rammed pebbles probably represented a surface, later damaged both by demolition and tree root activity, which lay towards the northern edge of the outer courtyard. Meanwhile, in P33, expanded as Trenches 3 and 4 (and yet to be expanded again), one such pebble surface (possibly a path across the courtyard from the gatehouse) was heavily worn into a bowl but incorporated some form of brick surface with edge on bricks at its periphery. Its significance is yet to be established but importantly the surface was lain on a bed of soft, sandy yellow mortar, so even the courtyard's surfaces do not seem to have been renewed in the Tudor period.

## The Tudor Palace

When Henry VIII acquired Elsyng c. 1539 it therefore seems likely that he converted the courtier's palace into service areas and lower status accommodation and built a whole new 'Eaves' court of royal apartments adjoining it to the west (the roughly rectangular area to the top left of Fig. 1). No excavation has ever taken place on these which are only known from 'geophys' and documentary evidence, but demolition material in P45 and P46 (below) may have derived from them. How much new building occurred in what was now the outer courtyard we do not know, but clearly from work in the 1960s (Jones and Drayton *op cit*) there was significant construction towards its west end. Further east where the focus of the present work has been it may have been more a case of modification and refurbishment than new building but one or two Tudor constructions and parts of a ?Tudor floor were found.

One construction in P27, only a limited exposure of one face of which was possible, had a lower course of irregular up to 12 cm long fragments of bricks bonded with creamy white sandy mortar. Above this was a course of softer fired bricks laid



as unmortared abutted headers except at the east end of the exposure where a vertical joint of the same creamy white mortar separated them from a stretcher. It may have been the footings of a Tudor structure, probably heavily truncated by demolition, and built out in the open part of the courtyard, but that remains unconfirmed.

Further north though where buildings clearly lay at the edge of the courtyard the one construction encountered was undoubtedly a massive Tudor wall. Here, in P43, we excavated four or five courses of a probably greater surviving number of a north south wall, over 39 cm thick (its western face not being within the pit) (Fig. 2). It was built of well laid 23x11x5.5 cm, hand made, hard fired, unfrogged, red bricks and hard white mortar in English bond and its eastern face had struck joints. There were possible signs of slightly less regular bonding to the core but it remained very structurally sound and major tree roots had failed to disturb it, diverting along/across its upper surface. Resistivity surveys in this area (Fig. 1) show this and other probable walls running on two alignments and a plausible interpretation is that here a courtier's palace structure was demolished and replaced, or at least significantly modified.



**Fig 2: Wall in P43 looking west**

Well east of this in P38 and P38A, almost certainly within another building at the northern periphery of the outer courtyard, was a brick floor possibly incorporating a step (Fig. 3). The floor was damaged/removed at several points but it was clearly formed mostly of reused part bricks with occasional complete bricks, laid horizontally on a sandy bedding layer and for the most part in north west south east rows but in north east south west ones adjacent to the possible step. Decayed gritty white mortar between the bricks in one area suggests that this was a Tudor floor, but the ?rectangular ?tower in which it lay, subdivided into

three rooms, one now with a tree (Y316) growing within it, at this ground level to judge from resistivity evidence (though its south wall is inobvious), was probably of late 15<sup>th</sup> century origin as soft, sandy, this time cream mortar was common in demolition material in the area along with harder white and pinky mortars.



**Fig 3: Brick floor in P38A**

### Evidence for the Interior of the Gatehouse

Other than the brick floor only P30 examined the interior of any building. Here an area just within the south west corner of the gatehouse was excavated, though the internal plan of the 48x9 m structure, its outline given by magnetometry, is unknown beyond indications of a dog legged entrance at the west end on the south. Clearly though there had been changes, over an unknown period, in the interior. P30 found two floors, one of rammed pebble and one of clay over tile fragments, separated by a low unmortared foundation (?for a timber partition wall) of shattered or 'waster' brick fragments, but over them, sweeping away the partition, was a new dump of pebbles forming a floor which in turn became worn, was levelled up and was replaced by another similar floor.

### The Middens

Potentially the most important features encountered were middens or rubbish deposits. A series of three of these, one on top of another, were sampled in P35. Here – a position where tree planting will not be allowed – we found the earliest of the three to be very rich in oyster shells at the lowest point we were allowed to excavate to and they decreased in frequency higher up and in the two overlying deposits. All though had large amounts of animal bone in them as well. Dating



these middens is not easy as the pottery recovered often consisted of body sherds in fabrics with long lives. However, the latest was one of the most artifactually rich contexts encountered, including large amounts of clay pipe, 'Bellarmine' stoneware wine jug and bottle sherds and an interesting collection of Delft ware, and it probably built up in the last days of the palace, even perhaps when it was being demolished c. 1657. The two earlier layers could be of 17<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century date.

Another midden in P33/Trenches 3 and 4 is still being worked on but occupied the bowl worn into the pebbled surface already referred to. It was particularly rich in large pieces of animal bone and produced substantial parts of several pottery vessels, especially 'Bellarmine' jugs and a Border Ware bowl which provisionally dates it to the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, probably when the royal palace was in decline before it was sold off to the Earl of Pembroke in 1641.

### **North of the Palace**

From documentary evidence the Tudor – and perhaps earlier – palaces certainly sat within a landscape of gardens (possibly including water gardens; Fig. 1 'Relic Water Features'), fishponds and other ancillary features. The extent of the work in 2005-7 was not great enough to reveal any of these but in P39 and P40 there was a pebbled surface or path outside the palace which probably belonged to it. Further west P44 revealed a chalk lined bowl shaped feature adjacent to resistivity indications of some sort of ?outwork from the palace and this is to be investigated further.

### **The Demolition of the Palace**

Elsyng palace last appears in documents in 1656 (Jones and Drayton 1984, 17). It was almost certainly demolished immediately afterwards by Nicholas Rainton (eponymous nephew of the builder of Forty Hall) who had acquired it. It was evidence for this demolition that was most frequently encountered in the work.

Immediately south of the palace for instance P1-2, P10-11 and P24 showed that a known area of magnetic disturbance was being caused by a 'demolition fan' of brick and tile spreading out and thinning as it ran away from the gatehouse and south curtain wall of the palace (beyond it P3, P 12-13, P17, P 25-26 and P28-29 were all archaeologically negative).

In the vicinity of the south perimeter wall P23 and P24 also encountered parts of rubble filled pits or

larger features connected with demolition. However, throughout the near absence of complete bricks and tiles clearly indicated that the palace was fairly carefully demolished so that its materials could be carted away and sold wherever possible, leaving only the left over broken brick, tile, worked stone and mortar to be dumped on site.

It was this that formed layers or deeper dumps elsewhere across the site. The most interesting layer was above the midden in P33/Trenches 3 and 4. It (and a subsoil over it which tree roots had displaced material into) included large parts of roof tiles, many glazed floor tile fragments (another dump of which was found in demolition and make up dumps in P32/Trench 1), a lot of crushed fine pinky white mortar and a dense scatter of window glass, some of it painted e.g. with a field of Maltese crosses. It even included a section of mortared part bricks probably from the core or foundation of a wall. Such dumps also, for instance, concealed the Tudor wall in P43 and here included much of a clay pipe probably thrown away by one of the demolition crew.

North of the palace the implication of the depth (in excess of 1.0 m) of not layers but dumps of demolition material in P45 and P46 is that the topography of the site was significantly altered by the deposition of the rubble. Combining excavation findings with 'geophysics' which shows much magnetic disturbance here (Fig. 1) it seems that a very large area between the palace and Maidens Brook was raised in level by dumping and the land here probably once fell much more steeply to the north from the site of the palace than it does today.

### **Post Demolition Features**

Sometimes difficult to differentiate from Tudor and earlier pebbled surfaces, after palace demolition many pits showed that new pebbled surfaces were laid across the palace site. These broad promenading routes probably laid by Nicholas Rainton were partly traced, one running along the western Lime tree avenue (?later laid out with it as a guide), and another less fully traced running from P39 and P40 across the site of the summer 2005 excavations (if they were the same surface).

In addition pits indicated that a good deal of landscaping occurred immediately after demolition. In areas like P32/Trench 1 the former courtyard was covered not only by demolition material but also by dumps of more sterile brickearth probably designed to even up the site (as were the pebble dumps in the area of the gatehouse).

Subsequently much evidence was recorded for the development of the Lime tree avenue, in some positions it being clear that two or three trees had grown, fallen and left 'throw pits' whose fills had in turn been invaded by new tree roots. Indeed, the degree of root penetration damage to the archaeology encountered, even removing parts of deep rammed pebble surfaces, demonstrated the need for the exploratory work undertaken before new trees were allowed to be planted.

### The Finds

Given the number (so far c. 150) and variety of deposits/features sampled relatively few finds were made. Only 600 or so sherds of pottery for instance were recovered and most of them were small and undiagnostic. However, the submission of a sample of them to experts at the Museum of London has allowed a fabric reference collection for the site to be established which is proving invaluable.

Where pottery was found in any quantity it was most often German stoneware (Frechen Bartmann or 'Bellarmine') used for wine jugs and bottles or Early Post- and Post- Medieval Redware in the form of functional bowls (and sometimes platters (a few slip decorated), mugs, jars and cauldrons/pipkins).

Of rarer pottery types the Early Medieval Flint Tempered and London Type/Coarse London Type Wares have already been mentioned and Late Medieval/Transitional Sandy Redware (c. 1480-1600), nicknamed 'flowerpot fabric' on the site, also appeared occasionally. The most notable piece of it (Fig. 4) was part of a bung holed jar or cistern for the storage and dispensing of liquids which came from the lowest point reached in the series of three superimposed middens, but which was unfortunately not closely dateable.

Other pottery types like Cheam Redware, Cistercian Ware and Yellow Glazed Post-Medieval Slipped Redware were represented only by handfuls of sherds but three finer wares were present. There were porringers (breakfast bowls) and pipkins (cooking vessels) in Yellow or Green Glazed Surrey-Hampshire Border Ware (of 1550 – 1700) as well, exceptionally, as the bowl from the P33/Trench 3/4 midden. Red Border Ware was much rarer but, being 17<sup>th</sup> century in inception, when it did occur was a useful indicator of date. Finally 'Delft' (Tin Glazed Earthenware), a European attempt to imitate porcelain and here probably mainly made in Southwark from c. 1613 on, was only common in the latest of the superimposed middens where 12 vessels were

indicated including an unusual octagonal salt, a porringer, mug(s), small jars, chargers and bowls, many decorated in blue and sometimes other colours.



**Fig 3: Part of a bung holed jar or cistern from the middens in P35**

The only 'coin' recovered was the following Nuremburg token or jetton (gaming counter):

Hanns Krauwinckel II (1586 – 1635)

Obv. 3 fleur de lys and 3 crowns alternating around a seven petalled/rayed device (also used as stops in legends)

HANNI[S KR]AVWINCKEL.INN

Rev. Bar based cross basally overlapping orb within double trilobed border with triangular interlobal projections, surrounded by milled circle HEIT.ROTT.MORG[EN].DOTT (red today, dead tomorrow)

Di. 2.2 cm; Th. 0.5 mm, milled border to slightly irregular flan.

Of other finds (Fig. 5) copper alloy objects, most from demolition material like the jetton, or from middens, included a D-shaped belt buckle (2.1), jewellery chain link (2.2), book clasp (2.3) and three studs (inc. 2.4). The only significant leadwork comprised window canes (e.g. 4.1), mostly from the demolition material above the P33/Trenches 3/4 midden with the painted glass (5.1 – 5.11). Little vessel glass was found but the top of a phial came from demolition material in P23, a rim sherd from a very fine 'Venetian' bowl with opaque white stripes (5.12) from similar

material in P46, and the rim of another fine bowl from subsoil in Trenches 3/4.

Ironwork was more common, but most of it consisted of nails, other carpentry fittings, pieces of knife blades and of sheet and strip. One horseshoe was found, a possible spur (unstratified) and a bill hook (in the pebble dump in P31/Trench 2) and there was a square ?harness buckle (3.1) in demolition material in P32. A piece of ?tortoise shell inlay (6.1) from a pit north of the palace gives a rare hint of some of its fittings, while a bone comb (6.2) from the P33 midden represents everyday life in it, as, for the demolition period, does the clay pipe (7.1) mentioned above. (Another clay pipe came from modern subsoil with many stem fragments from other contexts.)

Probably the most important finds though were the mass of plain and drip glazed brick, tile, mortar and sometimes dressed stone fragments which are beginning to allow us to build up a picture of the physical structure of the building, and the animal bone which will give us an insight into the diet of its inhabitants. Sufficient plain glazed floor tile fragments have now been recovered to begin to classify them by size, fabric and glaze and they include probable mass imports from the Low Countries in the period 1350 – 1500, while rarer polychrome examples include later English Delft products. The Low Countries also provided small, soft, cream bricks of 1350 – 1500, probably imported by Lovell to form e.g. window sills rather than use more expensive carved stonework, which they resemble from a distance.

Amongst the mass of data on more mundane bricks, tiles and other fired clay items a few finds stand out. A plinth brick with a moulded chamfer in the gatehouse wall robber trench hints at its decoration, part of a moulded brick from demolition rubble elsewhere has been identified by Ian Jones as from a trefoil (window or blind arcading) arch, and other demolition deposits produced two probably plastered/painted terracotta fragments, one perhaps the wing from an angel.

A thorough programme of animal bone analysis by Neil Pinchbeck is ongoing but species recorded to date are cattle, sheep/goats, pigs, horses, rabbits, chickens, geese, swans, roe deer, dogs, rats and (once) badgers. A clear preponderance of cattle bones over other food species is already apparent, as is much evidence for the shattering of bones for marrow extraction, and rat gnawing of discarded bones. Wet sieving of midden material looks likely to add small bird

and fish bone evidence and an opportunity may exist to have this material studied microscopically for environmental evidence.

## Conclusion and Acknowledgements

Even from this summary article it is hopefully apparent that the society has recently made considerable progress in understanding a site we have been associated with for 40 years. Moreover the work has been instrumental in obtaining for the Borough permission to plant saplings (some planted, many more to follow) to restore the Lime tree avenue – as much a living archaeological feature as the palace remains are an inert one.

Such work would normally be done by a large archaeological contractor and an organisation like the EAS would not normally be allowed to take sole responsibility for it on a scheduled ancient monument, so it is a mark of the professionalism and range of skills of the excavation team that we have been deemed competent to undertake it.

Thus, it is a pleasure to thank all of those that have participated (and persevered despite thunderstorms and cold December days), amongst whom special mention must be made of Mike Dewbrey (site supervisor, co project manager and visitor liaison), Roger Dormer, Suzanne Brown and Angie Holmes (site supervisors/assistant supervisors), Peter Spindley and Jeremy Grove (site surveyors) and John and Neil Pinchbeck (assistant site recorders and the latter faunal and mollusca specialist).

Line illustrations are by the author and photographs by John and Neil Pinchbeck.

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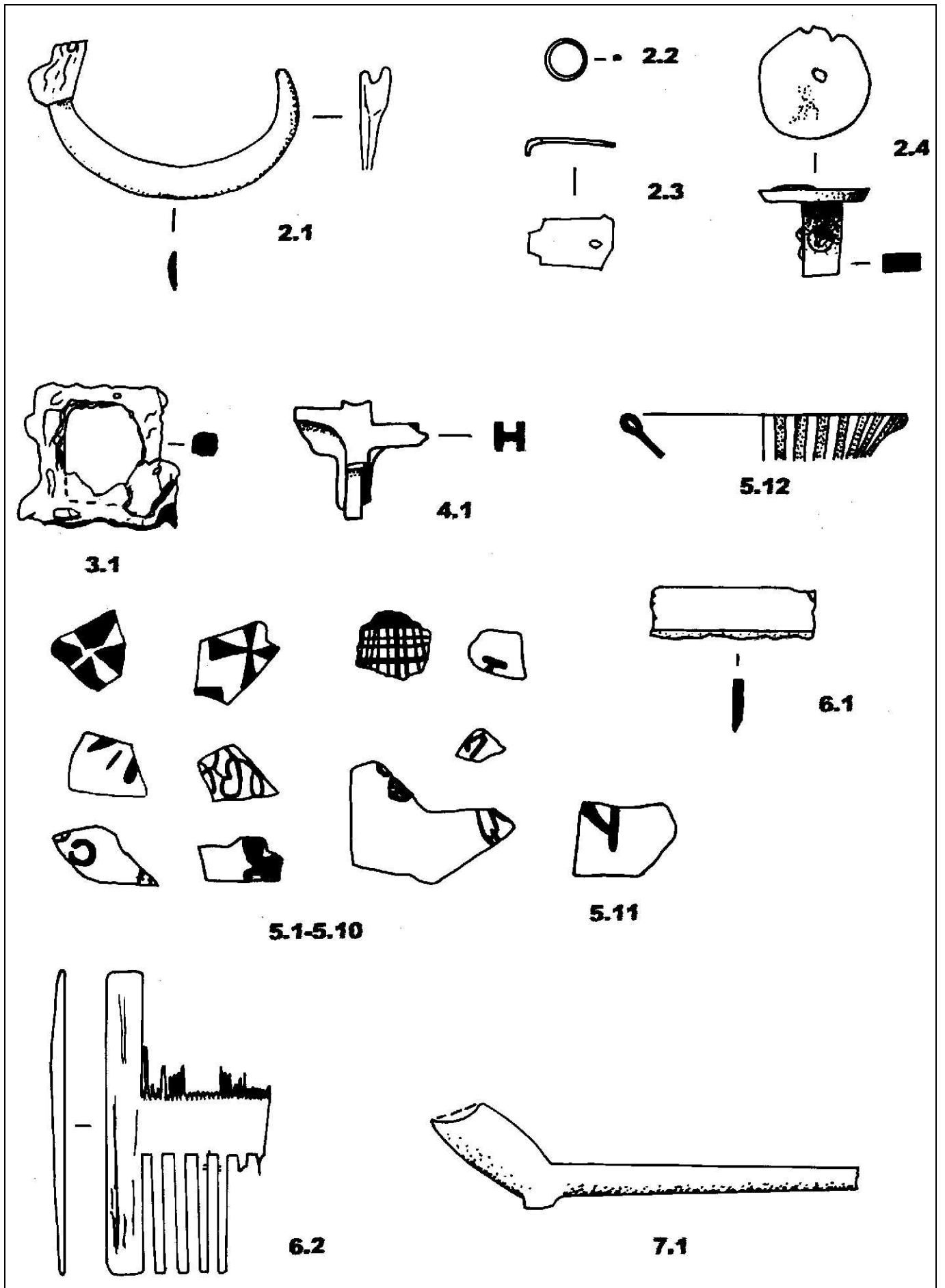


Fig 5: Metal, Glass, Tortoise Shell, Bone and Clay Pipe Finds (Scale 1:1, except 3.1 and 5.12 at 1:2)