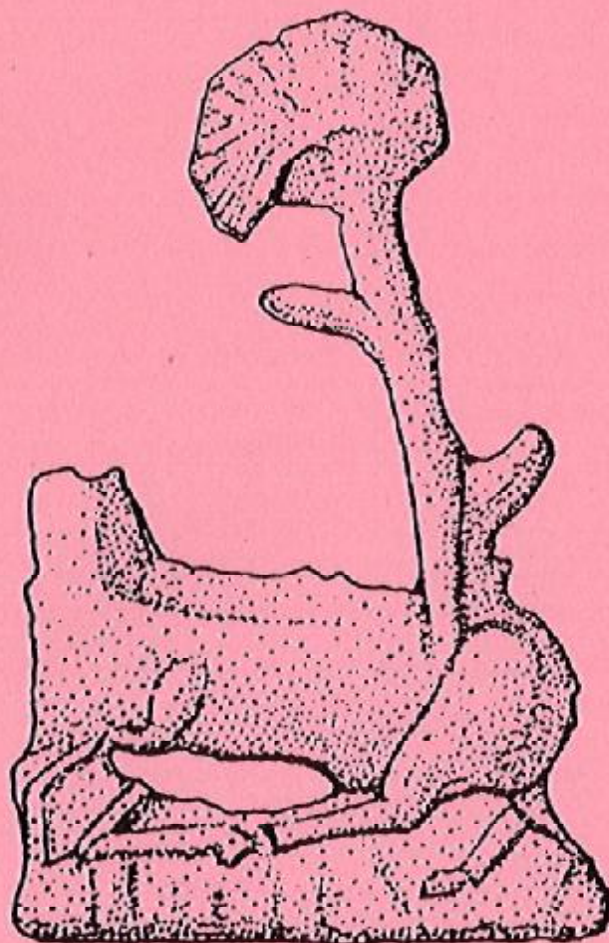


MOLAS LIBRARY

# NEWS

MARCH 1990  
No. 18



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## INTRODUCTION

Thankyou for all the articles submitted this month. There wasn't space to put them all in this month, but don't worry, they will appear in next month's issue.  
I hope some features will provoke responses to be printed in the next newsletter.  
Thanks very much to everyone involved in making the London Wall and Vintry presentations a success.

The deadline is March 27th and *that applies for the monthly reports too.*

## DIARY

Monday 5th March, 12.30pm: Oral History Recording: Problems and Potential in Education Room C.

Wednesday 7th March, 1.10pm: The Prehistoric Thames, Philip Gibbard, in the lecture theatre.

Wednesday 14th March, 1.10pm: London's Prehistoric Environment, James Rackham, in the lecture theatre.

Wednesday 21st March, 1.10pm: Excavations at Runnymede: Buried Landscapes on the Thames Floodplain, Stuart Needham, in the lecture theatre.

Wednesday 28th March, 1.10pm: Excavations in West London, Jon Cotton, in the lecture theatre.

## STAFF

### Resigned

Ian Mayes  
Tim Longman  
Mark Bagwell

### Appointments

Richard Sermon: SA Houndsditch



## JOBS

DGLA SA for 80-82 Church Rd., Mitcham. Closing date Friday 9th March. Apply to The Area Officer, DGLA, St Luke's House, 270 Sandycombe Rd., Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

Bristol Museums Jobs, 30 staff (Supervisors and Archaeologists) required for 4 months, from mid-April. Contact Mike Ponsford or Bruce Williams, tel. 0272-223580.

Bedfordshire, 10-12 Site staff and Supervisors. Contact Mike Dawson, tel 0234-54954.

Norfolk Archaeological Unit are interested in applications for recruitment in the Spring and/or Summer. Union House, Gressenhall, Dereham, tel 0362-860528.

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## SEMINARS

We have now organised three seminar/discussion groups. Dates and details will be advertised with posters nearer the time.

The three topics to be discussed are:

Public Communication (probably 2nd of April).  
Publications in Urban Archaeology  
Failures of the system

Contact Tim Williams if you have any suggestions for future seminars or would like to help with their organisation.

## CONFERENCE

Environment and Economy in Anglo-Saxon England  
9th, 10th April, in the Museum of London.

The presentations include papers on woodland, dendrochronology, pollen, plant macro-fossils and cereals, animal bones and integrated studies of plant, insect, parasite and vertebrate remains. The development of the Anglo-Saxon landscape and the emergence and development of middle and late Saxon towns are two exciting aspects of current work.

## STAFFING LEVELS

The schedule of forthcoming projects will no longer appear in the newsletter because it contains information that may be of use to our "competitors". Any staff who wish can see one in the Excavations Office.

At the DGLA/DUA liaison meeting (contracts) on 27th February 1990, it was reported that those 32 staff (17 DUA; 15 DGLA) whose contracts run to 9th March 1990 have been sent notice that their contracts are not being renewed. This is pending the outcome of ongoing negotiations and site staff successfully applying for the various internal jobs advertised.

Staff were selected on the basis of their length of service (*"last in, first out"* principle).

The reason for not renewing contracts is a shortage of site work in March. The reasons for this are difficult to identify. They are probably largely related to the economy, and may be partly seasonal. They are not yet directly related to "competitive tendering" but this is affecting our confidence in longer term forecasting.

As a result we cannot predict when these staff might be reemployed. If current negotiations are successful and all contracts are extended to 31st March this will probably only delay for 1 month the need to reduce staffing levels.

Staff will be rehired in the reverse order of being given notice - those who worked at the MoL longest will be the first taken back. The Personnel Department will maintain a list of these staff. It will be the staff's responsibility to keep Personnel informed as to phone number and address changes. If a person on the list can not be contacted or is not available to start back with the Museum when required, then the next person on the list will be contacted.

Some transfer of DUA staff to DGLA, Environmental Archaeology Section or possibly DUA Finds will be necessary to make up for those DGLA staff who have gone because of a shortfall in the DUA programme. The exact numbers of staff transferred will be determined by the number of staff whose contracts cannot be extended. This will probably not be known until later in the first full week of March. Transfers will be offered to *all* staff. If more staff volunteer for a position than are needed, length of service will be taken into consideration. If there are not enough volunteers then the least senior staff will be transferred.

Al Mackie.



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
Department for External Studies

English Heritage

A PROGRAMME for a ONE YEAR TRAINING SCHEME leading to  
a CERTIFICATE OF ARCHAEOLOGY (starting September 1990)

This one year training scheme is jointly organized by the University Department for External Studies, and the Commission on Historic Buildings and Monuments (English Heritage). A maximum of ten students will be admitted.

Students will normally be of Graduate status and have had considerable practical archaeological experience or be in full-time employment with an archaeological agency or local authority. They will be seconded to the South Midlands, London and other areas and become students of the Department for External Studies. The work programme will be organized by the Department together with the Commission and the Directors of the various organizations. Each programme will be individually designed taking into account the various background experience of the student. The main aim is to expose students to the broadest possible range of archaeological activities. Students will be expected to reach a level of professional competence in each of the areas in which they work. The principal aim of the course is to help students obtain full-time employment in some branch of the archaeological profession. During the year students should be aware of the problems, potential and resources of the following areas:

**INTRODUCTION:** structure of British archaeology, availability of resources, legal framework.

**PRE-EXCAVATION:** documentary and archival material, sites and monuments record, non-excavational fieldwork, cultural assessments, planning, geophysics and aerial photography, architectural history.

**EXCAVATION:** excavation techniques, site recording, site management.

**POST-EXCAVATION:** analysis of site records, finds and conservation, artefact studies, environmental studies, statistics, numerical analysis and model building.

**PUBLICATION:** report writing, draftsmanship, printing and reprographic processes, public relations, communications.

Students will receive tuition by undertaking 'in-service' projects, essay work and by the production of surveys and implications reports. Additionally students will be expected to attend lectures, classes, weekend schools and seminars. Students will be allocated to a tutor whom they will meet at least once a month.

### QUALIFICATIONS

There are no set qualifications for entry to the scheme but students will be expected either to have a degree or be of graduate status or to have had considerable experience in practical archaeology. Applicants should have spent some time in field archaeology, and intend to make a full-time career in the profession.

### AUTHENTICATION

Students will be subject to continuing assessment by their tutor, agency Directors and the Commission. Students will be granted a certificate of competence jointly by the Commission and the Department for External Studies on the basis of a portfolio of work based on the years activities, tutor's report and essays. Levels of competence will be graded on the certificate.

### APPLICATION

There are four methods of entry:

1. The Commission offers three studentships. Studentships cover fees and provide a subsistence grant and travelling expenses.
2. Sponsored students - students sponsored by an archaeological unit or employing agency. Applications should be accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the agency Director or Chairman.
3. Students will be accepted if they are of sufficient standard and if they are able to obtain a discretionary grant from a local authority. You are advised to contact your local authority to enquire the likelihood of receiving a discretionary award if you are admitted to the course.
4. Students will be accepted if they are sufficient standard and if they are able to provide their own funding. Basic Tuition Fees for 1990/91 are £1000.00.

Application forms should be completed and returned to: The Director, Oxford Archaeological Unit, 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2EP.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 1990.

INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD FOR SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES AT THE END OF MAY. STUDENTS ACCEPTED FOR THE COURSE WILL BE INFORMED DURING JUNE AND WILL START THE TRAINING SCHEME WITH AN INDUCTION COURSE IN SEPTEMBER 1990.

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## NEWS DIGEST

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### VAT and Inland Revenue

It may not sound very relevant where you are, but the most significant development this month has been the agreement of Customs and Excise that developer grants for excavation are not after all subject to VAT. This decision is important for all archaeology and sponsorship in general; a decision to apply VAT would have had a dampening affect on all kinds of sponsorship. The Inland Revenue have also given a yellow, if not green, light for covenanted payments, saying they will examine one when we have it signed (great policy). This may enable us to offer tax benefits to sponsors.

### Department of Environment Draft Policy Guidance Note

The long-awaited draft policy on Archaeology and Planning from the DoE has now been issued for consultation to a wide range of archaeological, developer and amenity bodies. As widely leaked, it does not go very far in promoting archaeology's case, but it should be welcomed for the few basic things it does say. For the first time, I believe, we have clear government support for i) a planning decision about a scheduled monument should start from a presumption for its preservation; (ii) planning consents can contain conditions requiring both access and time (not money, yet) for archaeologists; (iii) archaeological merits of strata which are not scheduled can also be argued. This last one is important in the City, as nearly all our suggestions for scheduling in the past 10 years have not yet been acted on. We hope to make suggestions for the director's MoL response to the guidance note by the requested deadline in May.

### English Heritage

We await confirmation of the English Heritage post-ex and publication grant for 1990-1, the last year of the 7-year publication programme. What follows after March 1991 is dependent upon the wider discussions with EH about EH's future role and its support policy in the GL area (including the City).

Further meetings have been held to plan the work for the two review documents so far agreed; Charlotte Harding is to provide the City data for the review of the archaeological resource in the GL area, from which major archaeological policies might stem. Two recent DUA products, the outline Evaluation of the City for the Monument Protection Programme (1988) and the Waterfront Survey (1989) will be valuable here.

### Competitive tendering

English Heritage have said that their policy is now to respond to developers' requests by providing shortlists of appropriate units for a specific site, by advising on the kind of evaluation required, and by approving the tenders (though not adjudicating between them).

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We are pointing out the numerous problems this attitude brings about. At the moment we have rivals on two sites, Pinners' Hall (Austin Friars) and Brooks Wharf, Thames Street. I am calling a general staff meeting for Tuesday 6 March at 3 p.m. in the Museum lecture theatre to inform staff as to the general position on these and other current topics. Meanwhile some of the general issues thrown up by these developments are being discussed at appropriate meetings. The Museum as a whole, for instance, should decide under what circumstances it would accept finds from a non-Museum archaeological unit working in the GL area.

It is clear that we need a set of standards and guidelines which, while being general, can be applied to all stages of our work from identification of sites to curation of the finds. Such Standards documents, issued by the federal authorities, attempt to regulate competitive tendering in the USA and Canada. We are working on the first draft of our own Standards document, and this will be available for comment shortly. Some critics of the DUA Draft Strategic Plan were asking for such an overall policy statement anyway. Only when we can point to a public statement of our own practice can we show that others are deficient.

I have also raised the question of competitive tendering with SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), and the pros and cons are possibly to be debated at the AGM in May. MoL IFA members are continuing with their own questions, and the subject may be further raised at the IFA AGM in September.

### DUA/DGLA talks

We should be hearing from the warren of working parties on co-alignment of procedures in selected areas (planning/ negotiation and post-excavation/publication) by the beginning of March; I will try to digest the first thoughts from both departments next month.

### Housekeeping

Regretfully I must remind you that at the moment, personal belongings left on site or in offices such as Bridge House (which was recently burgled) are not insured by the Museum. The only alternative is to insure your belongings on a household contents policy or a specific possessions policy (as in the case of a bicycle or camera).

ECH Project Services, who help us on the financial management of the 2 million Fleet Valley project, are to review the resource and financial management of the DUA in light of current pressure from outside and the impending alterations to HBMC funding. We would hope to make any agreed improvements in April/May, for the next financial year. One development already decided upon is that we must have another satellite office for level 3 writing and possibly drawing, and for the launching of London Archaeological Reports. Various buildings in north and south Inner London have been examined, and our current favourite is in Great Eastern Street, about half a mile east of Old Street tube station.

### John Schofield

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**LETTERS**

Dear Ed,

Given the difficulties within the unit at the moment concerning outside units working in London, or trying to, and the obvious concern of the staff I see one major question staring me in the face.

Why is it that we cannot tell Brian Hopley he cannot work, or be in any way associated with, The Museum, if he is at the same time working so blatantly against all the best interests and intentions of the DUA and DGLA. This is happening immediately after him standing in front of 150 people and stating he would not undertake consultancy work within the M25. Has anyone pointed out to him what our feelings are on this, and if not, why not?

Speaking for myself, I'm not sure whether I consider him naive, ill-informed, or just plain greedy. The simple fact remains that if we (the Museum) are not willing to defend ourselves against actions such as his, we cannot expect anyone else to stand up on our behalf. I further feel if we are so complacent as to not bother with defending ourselves we deserve all we get.

Yours angry and confused,

Dave Dunlop

P.S. anyone want to sign a petition?

**The XVth International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies - a reply to Dave Sankey**

With reference to Dave Sankey's comments on the *LIMES* Conference and the Museum's participation, I would like to make the following points:

The day visit to the Museum of the 200 delegates was not hurriedly organised. We held discussions with both the DUA and the DGLA months in advance as to how we could best entertain the delegates. Site tours were to be the main afternoon event but what sites would be viewable to 4 coachloads of delegates was unknown months in advance. Nearer the time it was found that there were no suitable Southwark sites and the only DUA sites that could safely take viewing groups were in the Fleet Valley.

You try planning a day for 200 delegates when you are specifically asked *not* to have them in

the Lecture Theatre all day sitting listening to the likes to Dave Sankey holding forth in an interesting (?) way on the minutiae of the city wall. An introductory talk was all that was requested.

Dave's comments on the lack of talks on contentious issues such as the role of HBMC and competitive tendering would, I feel, have been lost on the Bulgarian and Romanian delegation let alone everyone else from outside Britain and if Dave felt a chance had been lost he should have tackled the likes of Sheppard Frere informally during the week that the conference was running. Museum of London staff who participated were complimented by many delegates who had a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting time and many business contacts were well and truly cemented by the end of the day.

In conclusion, since Dave decided to miss much of the day's activities, he also missed the excellent lunch - perhaps that jaundiced his overview of the day!

Jenny Hall (Prehistoric & Roman Dept)

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**CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

With the maximum number of archaeological conservators currently standing at 9, the lab. can get quite crowded. Fortunately we are not usually all here together. Lack of space is a problem with the increasing number of large objects being worked on. This month the situation will become even more difficult; part of the west lab. is to be occupied by the decorative arts and paper conservators whilst they work on large sections of a Chinese pavilion for the *Pavilion & Gardens* exhibition. So please, don't uncover any large objects that need to be block lifted in the next four weeks!

Current work includes cloth seals and copper alloy small finds from Vintry Wharf and the reconstruction of ceramic vessels for the Pageant. Of the publication material, approximately fifty polychromed tin glaze ware ceramic chargers, bowls and albarellae have been cleaned and reconstructed for photography. Work also continues on the pilgrim badges, knives or shears.

Dave Carrington has now got electricity in his portakabin and has been visited by a private stone conservator to quote for conserving the worked window tracery from Fleet Valley.

There will be several visitors to the lab this month these include: 20 people from the conservation department of the V+A Museum, City and Guild's conservation students and 1st year conservation students from The Institute.

Finally, Kate Starling has been on a management training course, will this change our lives?

Jill Barnard

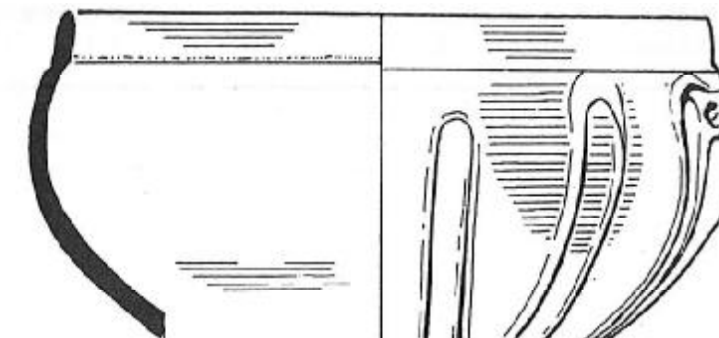
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**FINDS DEPARTMENT**

Firstly a correction to last month's finds update:

"The Bishopsgate (BIP 88) prehistoric pot, is as exciting as the one from West Smithfield".

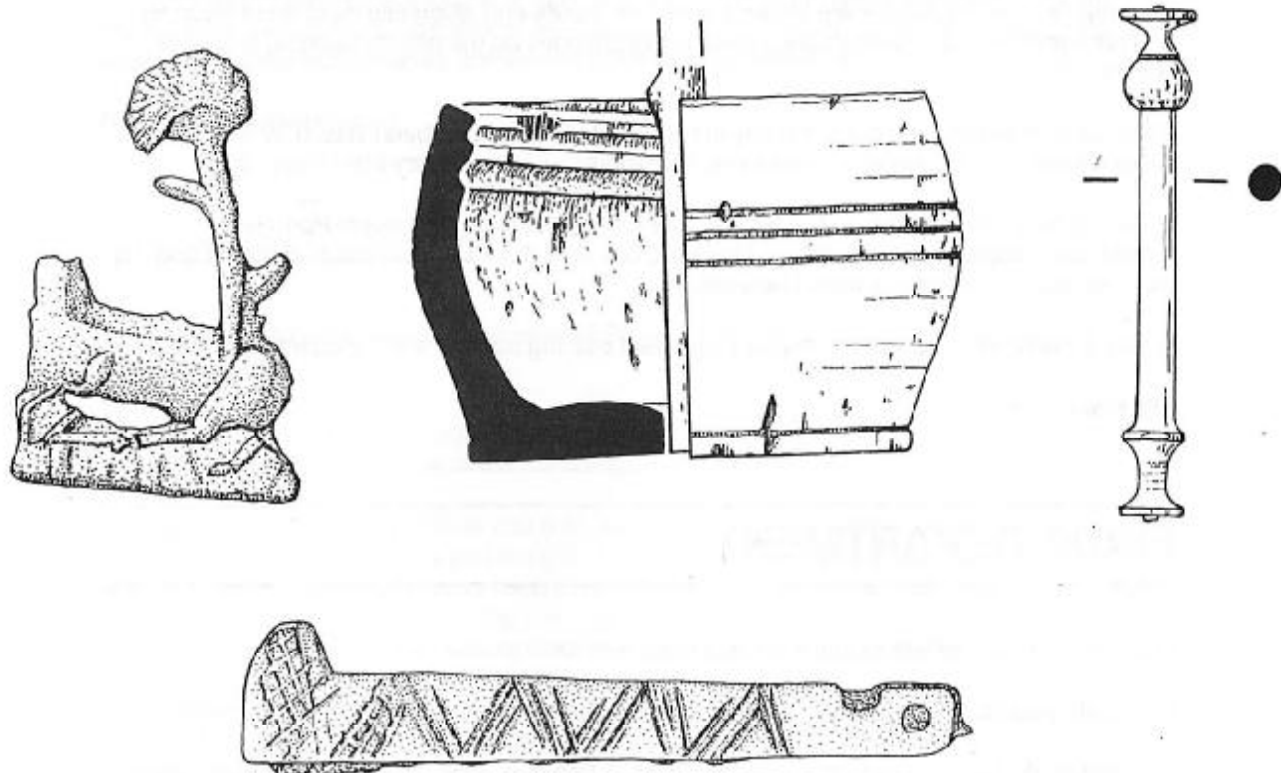
Our Roman find of the month is a small Central Gaulish cup, which has a yellow/green glaze with barbotine 'hairpin' decoration. This is from 145-146 Leadenhall (LEN 89). Glazed Roman pottery is not common in London and this cup proves to be the only one of its kind found so far in London: indeed the form itself appears to be unparalleled elsewhere (*see illustration*).



Another Leadenhall site (Albion House) has provided us with a large chunk of Roman shale platter with incised decoration. This turned up unexpectedly in a finds bag during routine post excavation processing and is now being conserved.

Alex and Tilly are currently preparing a display of finds from the Vintry site for a boardroom presentation on the 28th February. Some noteworthy items which will be on show are a copper-alloy sheet candlestick, unusual because of its basic design; a small hart and tree pewter badge which was adopted by Richard II, as his device and is a first from London (see illustration). Nine identical copper-alloy belt mounts, as well as a bosun's pewter whistle are but a few of the copious metal objects from this site.

From Fleet Valley there has been a varied collection of finds, which include a bone ornamented bobbin, (see illustration) and a small round wooden vessel decorated with concentric rings found containing cherry stones (see illustrations). The most bizarre object to be identified from this site, recently is what has been termed a fleam. This is a copper-alloy object used for blood letting, most commonly with horses, and is certainly an unusual archaeological find (see illustration).



From St Mary Axe quantities of amber and jet waste have been retrieved from sieving. These were used as decorative inlays, in bone knife handles. Copper and bone waste pieces also used in the handle manufacture have also been retrieved. This kind of handle has not been found previously in the City.

### Staff Movement

Natalie Tobert has returned from her six week sojourn in Southern India and is now continuing her work on the DUA bibliography.

Sheraton Shaw has left the Section and is now a Museum Archive Assistant working on the Grimes Project.

Lynne Keys has just received a scholarship to work at Birka for two months starting in July. This is a four year project. The first time extensive excavation of this famous Viking trading centre has taken place.

### Displays

The London Wall (LOW 88) boardroom display on the 8th February went very well, with Nick Oakley in charge of the finds. Perhaps the most unusual objects on display were two Roman iron leatherworking awls with their leather grips still *in situ*. There has only been one other such implement found in the city to date.

Bridget Brehm put together an exhibition for the Education Department's Day School on Saturday the 10th February. The display included a wide range of finds from current and recent sites from Roman glass working waste, through to post-medieval tableware. The day school was concerned with the past 20 years of archaeology in the city. The speakers from the finds section were Mike Rhodes (Roman) and Geoff Egan (post-Roman).

**Bridget Brehm.**

## TRAINING NEWS

The dates for 'From Site to Archive' have now been arranged.

Monday 12th March  
Monday 19th March  
Monday 26th March  
Monday 2nd April

The aim of the sessions will be to explain the post-excavation process for site and finds staff.

Staff will be assigned to sessions. Further details will be sent out shortly.

On Thursday 5th April a dayschool on the conservation of standing buildings is being organised.

Speakers from HBMC, The Society for the protection of Ancient Buildings, Nimbus - The firm currently working at Billingsgate Bathhouse - together with John Maloney.

The dayschool will cover the practical philosophical and legislative aspects of standing building conservation.

It is intended for staff who are working with standing buildings. However if you are interested in attending and have not been recommended by your Supervisor, please let me know in writing. Stating the reasons for your interest. *Numbers from the DUA will be limited to c.30.*

**Don't forget the next Training Committee Meeting is on Tuesday 27th March. The deadline for applications will be Wednesday 21st March.**

Computer training in Multinew MS-DOS Word and Oracle will be starting in the next month.

The Introductory session will be repeated on Friday 16th March at 5.00 for staff who were unable to attend the previous sessions, contact Zoe or me for further details.

**Susan Greenwood**

### AUTOCAD FOR SITE PLANS - The story so far

Much of the survey input to the computer graphics system is geared toward the production of the 1/100 site plan. Ultimately the aim is to digitally produce a plan which will completely replace the currently hand drawn level 3 archive product. Whether this will be possible, given the graphical standards required, and the computer hardware and software at our disposal, is the subject of current research.

Some of the main benefits of digitising these plans are the ability to produce plans at any desired scale without loss of accuracy or quality (including compensating for inaccurate paper plans), and ease of editing plans (including combining several different plans) without the need to redraw.

This work is currently being undertaken by drawing office and survey staff, but it is hoped that suitably trained and supervised non-specialist staff will ultimately be able to use the system.

Information for this plan is collected in several ways:-

1). Survey data (e.g. basement, building, and kerb lines, grid points etc) collected on site with the Sokkisha total station, is transferred from the data logger to the Tandon PC at Bridge House. Sokkisha software converts it to a data file (known as DXF format) which can be transferred to an Autocad drawing.

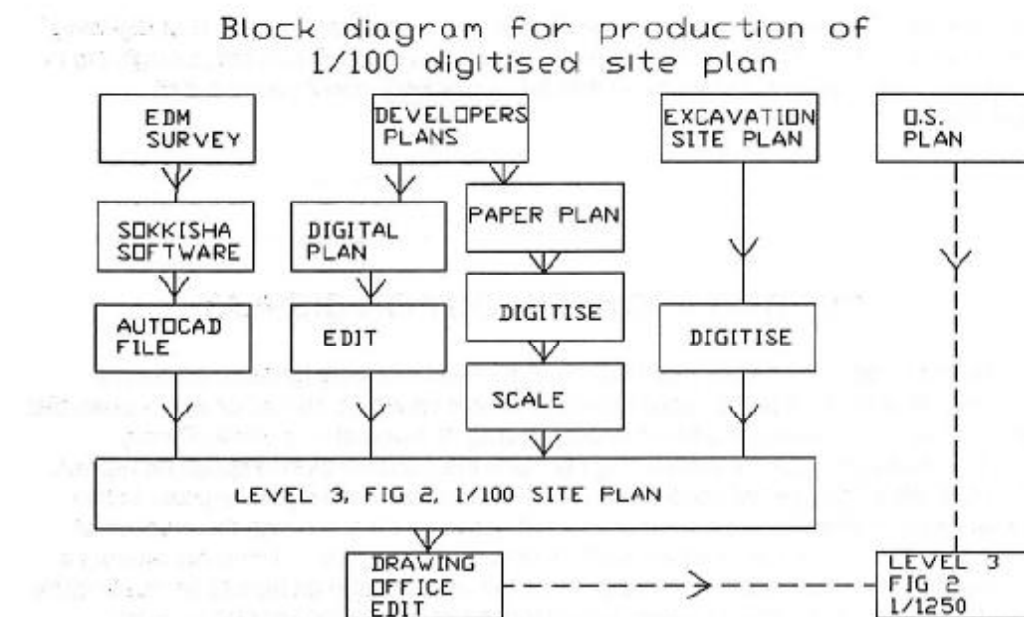
2). Developers' paper plans are digitised into an Autocad drawing using the A0 digitisers at Bridge House and Ferroners House. Occasionally we obtain these plans in digital form on a floppy disk from the developers (e.g. Fleet Valley, Vintry, 158 Bishopgate). This saves in digitising time (and errors) but usually requires substantial editing of unwanted information.

3). Plans produced on site during excavation showing trench outlines, sections, TBM's, survey points etc, are also digitised into Autocad.

Developers (item 2) and DUA (items 1 & 3) plans are usually on different grids, and the different plans have then to be brought into alignment on the Autocad screen using a hi-tech version of the 'overlay on the light box' method.

Where possible, items 1 & 2 will be combined to produce a 1/100 ink plot on transparent film for use by the site supervisor during the excavation, thus only requiring the digitising of item 3 at the end of site.

At the moment, this combined plan is then passed to the drawing office for checking and manual editing to produce the level 3, fig 3 archive siteplan.



### THE MAPPING DATABASE

Since we also have the entire set of Ordnance Survey 1/1250 map sheets for the City in digital form, and we relate the excavation grid to the O.S. grid, we are able to superimpose the fig.3 plan on the O.S. plan. It also gives us the flexibility to extract any desired portion of the O.S. plan, and plot only certain types of information (e.g. pavement lines but not buildings). This will be of use in reports etc, and possibly in producing the fig.2 archive drawing. It also forms the basis of a further project which is about to start, in which the site outlines for all DUA sites will be digitised to produce a site map database. Initially this will be used to form a deposit survival database, but ultimately it will act as the mapping end of the DUA's other databases.

**Mark Green**

28/2/90

**\*STOP PRESS\***

*Austin Friars goes decimal*

Work continues apace on the production of the interpretative plans for AST 87 on the Autocad. Apart from the obvious advantages of time saved from no longer having to do such scintillating tasks as trench outlines, and the scaling down of post holes etc., its also pretty damn handy for those who wish (we hope) to read the report. This being down to the inclusion of small accurate diagrams to show how we arrived at our conclusions as well as the full size 1:100s. It also allows for the speedy making of lots of alternative interpretations, very useful for those of

us who like to keep all our options open.

Apart from the plans as such we are also working on Land Use Diagrams for the site, and have found them to be particularly useful.

Not that there aren't drawbacks, but this is mainly due to the impossible logistics of digitising all the sites currently waiting, or in the process of, being written up. For myself, though, I'm in favour, not only that, but the Autocad manual makes a cracking read if you're out of Raymond Chandler!

## PUTTING ARCHAEOLOGY ON DISPLAY

The practice of archaeology has little justification if the results of work undertaken are not communicated to others. In many cases this communication will go no further than a specialist publication aimed at furthering academic understanding of a period or a place. Clearly, however, there is another role for archaeology beyond the accumulation of specialist reports, and this is to enable non-specialists to develop a deeper understanding of the past. In this short article I want to discuss some ways in which this can be done through the medium of display (as opposed to other techniques such as print, film or lectures). I shall not attempt a comprehensive survey but shall draw instead on observations made on trips to archaeological displays while planning the (now delayed) refurbishment of the Prehistoric Gallery in the Museum. Many of the approaches used elsewhere would not be feasible in the predominantly urban environment in which the Museum of London operates, but some of the examples given here may be enlightening.

The kind of archaeology put on display can vary greatly, as can the techniques used to put across information. One of the great dividing lines is between those displays that concentrate on a single site and those that provide some sort of synthesis. At one extreme, perhaps, there is a site such as Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, where the whole town has been reconstructed and information is provided to visitors by 'interpreters' acting in period. At the other extreme may be the small local museum which has a few glass cases densely packed with material from a variety of localities and periods, with minimal interpretation. On the other hand, there are also many excellent synthetic displays (see below) and very many poor site presentations (see most of our ancient monuments).

### Single Site Displays

One of the most successful single-site approaches must be that adopted at Flag Fen, a Bronze Age site near Peterborough, where the archaeological excavation itself has been put on display. Visitors enter through a visitor centre which exhibits in fairly conventional terms the background to the site and the main small finds. Then they are taken on a tour of the site by one of the excavators, rather than a guide who is uninvolved with the excavation. It is this personal contact that is one of the keys to the success of the site presentation. Not only do the visitors see excavation underway, they also see wood being stored in tanks of water prior to conservation, and a small-scale reconstruction of the site in its original watery setting. Most other site-based displays tend to rely on the impressiveness of any standing remains, and complement this with a conventional museum display of variable quality. Where Flag Fen is innovative is in its combination of site tour, museum display, reconstruction, excavation, and a presentation of conservation problems.

Most displays based on a single site have been set up because substantial remains of the site survive, and have been deemed worthy of preservation and display. Occasionally, however, little or nothing of the site survives, but a stimulating site interpretation can still be made. Jorvik is probably the best-known example of this approach, and although it can be criticised for its trivialisation of the past and for the poor display of the finds, it does convey some sense of distance in time, and also shows something of the processes of excavation and post-excavation.

A less well-known but ultimately more satisfying display is at Vedbaek, a suburb of Copenhagen, which is based on a series of Mesolithic sites excavated nearby. What sets this museum apart from other site museums is the thoroughness of the approach and the clarity of the exposition. On the left as one enters, the displays concentrate on the techniques of archaeology and museums: there is a history of previous work in the area, a reconstruction of an old museum display and of an excavation trench, and exhibits on the analysis of finds and environmental material. The right-hand part of the museum presents the results of the archaeological work not in terms of sites, but as a series of ecological zones (deep forest, forest margin, and shore), which were exploited by the Mesolithic inhabitants.

For example, one walks first into a reconstruction of the deep forest, with a life-sized wild boar hunt in progress. While most finds are necessarily behind glass, many have been fully reconstructed and are on open display where they can be touched. Everywhere an attempt has been made to put the archaeology in its context, and the final section has a mock-up of the site as it was excavated.

### Synthetic Displays

Of course, displays of single sites have the added advantage they they can focus very specifically on bringing a particular time and place alive. Most displays, however, tend to be of a synthetic nature. Again, many different techniques are employed. Outdoor displays tend to be based around reconstructed buildings, as at Butser farm in Hampshire, which is used both as a centre for experimental archaeology and as a place where visitors can experience Iron Age life. This is taken further at Lejre in Denmark, which is more like an archaeological park. Here visitors can move from period to period, looking in (often with slight embarrassment) on families in reconstructed houses living out life-styles from the Iron Age to the eighteenth century. There is a very strong educational component, including a children's area with supervised fire-making, wood-chopping and canoeing. More recent developments can be seen at Asparn-an-der-Zaya in Austria, where the National Museum of Prehistory has a park of reconstructed buildings, and at the 'Archeodrome', which is astutely placed on a motorway service station outside Paris. When they are done well these reconstructions can go some way to bringing a particular period of life in a vivid way. Often however they are just groups of buildings lumped together with no particular coherence, and sometimes, as in the case of Cockley Cley in Norfolk, an 'Iron Age village' complete with a snake pit inhabited by a plastic skeleton and plastic snake, they can be laughable.

For reasons of space and because of the desire to show actual archaeological finds, the majority of archaeological displays have to be indoors. There is little doubt that the least successful ones are those that simply show objects in cases with little explanation, and that those that provide some form of context are more intelligible. Given limited space, a balance then has to be struck between the display of finds, text, illustrations, and reconstructions. Within even this fairly rigid format, interesting variations are possible.

A few displays attempt to provide some sort of background information about archaeology itself before the main displays begin. At the Museum of London this takes the form of an imaginary section through a City cellar to demonstrate the principles of stratigraphy, and at Dorset County



Museum a display shows how sites are preserved and how ploughing damages them. However, only at Vedbaek does the display come even close to covering most aspects of the archaeological process. A survey I undertook a few years ago showed that most members of the public themselves felt they knew very little about archaeology, and equated it with digging up old objects. In order to increase people's understanding of the past and of how we study it, and to show where the money spent on archaeology goes, it is imperative that displays show this background.

This background would ideally include a breakdown of the history, structure and work of the field unit and the museum, including conservation, finds research, computing, planning advice, and archive work. Sections would also be useful on site detection, excavation, dating, and environmental analysis. Just as important, given archaeology's growing theoretical self-awareness, would be a short section on interpretation and why we put forward certain theories and play down other ones. Finally, to set the scene for the main displays, it would be useful to have sections on the geology and natural history of the area.

The displays themselves might be site-based, thematic or chronological. For a permanent exhibition, a chronological thrust is probably the one that works best, while site-based or thematic approaches can be very successful in temporary exhibitions. Many of the problems associated with archaeological display are similar whichever approach is used. While the role of the original finds should remain paramount, usually these require a lot of supporting material to provide an intelligible context. The first problem is to give a sense of distance in time. At Moesgard prehistoric museum in Denmark the display cases have a continuous 'time-line' running above them showing the date range at any particular time. Use of generations as a supplement to calendar dates can also help to bring distance in time to a personal level (e.g. the Roman invasion was approximately 120 generations ago).

In an urban environment, it is particularly difficult to put across a sense of past time and place. One way in which this can usefully be done is to emphasise the links between past and present landscapes. Every plot of land has its own history, geological, archaeological and historical, and bringing out this link to the present is one of the best ways of making archaeology come alive. At Moesgard again, some of the displays take an area of land and show its development over time through the use of diagrams. The Pepper's Ghost technique (all done with mirrors!) is used at the Museum of the Iron Age at Andover and at Scunthorpe Museum to show a diorama of the landscape of today which fades into, respectively, a diorama of the Danebury hillfort and a deserted medieval village. In an area such as London, familiar places such as Trafalgar Square can be taken and their development over millennia show. Full-scale reconstructions, drawings, and models also all have their part to play.

Displays need not always be in the museum. Many sites already have small displays in their finds hut, and there is no doubt that these are much appreciated by visitors. A further step from this is a touring display in a bus. This has been done for more recent periods (for example we have a 'Museum on the Move' in Docklands) but not to my knowledge for archaeology. This bus, equipped with a small display and a few archaeologists, could tour shopping centres and schools and bring archaeology to those people who tend not to visit museums.

A problem currently taxing the whole museum profession is how greater use can be made of the vast reserves of material not on display. In York, the Archaeological Trust has developed a resource centre where visitors (mainly schoolchildren) can handle material and learn first hand about different aspects of archaeology. This seems an excellent way of both making use of the archive and bring us into direct contact with the public.

In conclusion, then, there are many innovative approaches currently being used in the display of archaeology, some of which are already being used in the Museum of London. Some of the other

examples here, given the will to attempt them, could also be tried both within the museum and outside. Most of them are relatively simple, and the results, in the form of increased public understanding and goodwill, would be well worth the effort.

**Nick Merriman**

*At the IPMS Meeting on 22/2/90, Angus Stephenson and Steve Davies were elected onto the IPMS Branch Committee as reps. for DUA Field Section II Staff with more than 2 years service.*

## DGLA EXCAVATION NEWS, JANUARY 1990

### North London

#### 1. Limehouse Link Project

Work has uncovered part of a cobbled yard surface for the barrel factory and brewery which closed shortly after World War two. Beneath this were a number of 19th century wells, rubbish pits containing 17th century domestic refuse, and a wooden tank. This revetted tank, probably 18th century in date, formed the northern edge of the embankment upon which Narrow Street now lies. The revetment probably represents repair and consolidation of what is presumed to be an embankment of late medieval date.

#### 2. West Teuter Street

The current excavations have located a linear feature, possibly identifiable with a (?) prehistoric feature excavated on an earlier site.

One Roman inhumation has so far been revealed, and this was badly disturbed by later activity.

Large pits post-dating the cemetery and containing redeposited Roman material are probably gravel quarries - finds of interest include a miniature Roman ceramic lamp and quantities of post medieval clay pipe manufacturing debris.

### Southwark + Lambeth

#### 1. Albert Embankment

At least 2 phases have been identified for the base of a kiln 18th + 19th century structure backfilled with mosaic ceramic shapes. The overall size + general nature of the structure suggests production of earthenware rather than stoneware.

Finds of Delftware and porcelain types have been found as well as several flint blades and scrapers dated to mid bronze-age period.

2. Guy's Hospital

An 18m stretch of Roman timber waterfront was recorded and timbers have been removed.

3. Borough High Street

Remnants of a building: ( a brick floor, a soakaway and an adjoining wall) to the north of the gateway of The Medieval Tabard Inn were discovered. This building was part of a much later rebuilt of the inn immortalised by Chaucer in the Canterbury Tales.

4. Norfolk House

Substantial remains of the 16th century of Norfolk House. The house of Catherine Howard at the time of her indictment for treason, have been uncovered.

5. Old Kent Road

Machining has revealed a gravel surface, possibly a trackway or roadside surface sealing a few sherds of mid 2nd century pottery.

**South West London**1. Latham's Way, Beddington Farm Road

Excavation has revealed extensive prehistory (LBA-E 1A) field systems. Pits dated to the late Neolithic were also present.

2. London Carriers Limited site, Beddington Lane

Features revealed may be field ditches of the last millennium BC.

3. Sutton Place, St. Nicholas Way

Truncated chalk footings of late medieval date were found under the remains of a demolished 16th century structure.

Other finds include a series of post medieval foundations and a late medieval or Tudor chalk wall + cellar.

4. Wandle Meadows, Hackbridge

Features excavated include a prehistoric ditch containing Bronze or Iron Age pottery, and another ditch containing numerous pieces of burnt flint and a few Bronze or Iron Age sherds.

**POLITICS, THE GREENS AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

As was shown at the Rescue meeting 'Archaeology into the 90's', politicians are prepared to turn up to a meeting about the future of our subject and to talk seriously about it. Well at least the Labour representative Mark Fisher outlined a policy for Archaeology linked to a proposed Arts and Culture Ministry while Simon Hughes compared the Rose campaign and people power in Romania, stretching the analogy a bit I thought, since nobody was actually crushed under the contractor's machines. Gerry Bowden promised a ministerial statement but otherwise we remained at the mercy of the developer's goodwill, business as usual, private enterprise and the planners knew best. A few days later his colleague Cecil Parkinson announced a 12 billion road plan which included an extra 0.5 million pound for archaeological work - which I calculate as 0.004% of the budget. So, yes, as with Green issues the Conservatives are prepared neither to put up real money nor to make any effective policy for the conservation or recording of the archaeological record.

Is Archaeology taken seriously by politicians, or any one else for that matter? In this country only by developers when a surviving structure from our cultural past threatens to delay a building project or when an auction house can see the prospect of telephone number sized sums of money changing hands for silver hoards provenances as from 'somewhere in Lebanon' or 'Eastern Europe?' Talk of Heritage has become a cliché for the past seen through rosy - or blue-tinted spectacles. The public is offered pastiches of the past, Vikings as dirty trolls in basements, Romans as Italians in Ned Kelly armour or felons meeting a brutal death in the arena. The past is packaged and marketed in a form that appeals to prejudices rather than questioning assumption. Surely there must be an alternative or a balance to the Disneyland approach, something that relates to present issues albeit issues that might concern another public than the bourgeoisie triumphalists of Thatcherism. This is not to claim that Archaeology =42, the answer to Life, the Universe etc., but it might be a means to viewing our present problems in a longer time-perspective or even to counting our blessings.

Long perspectives matter, we are now creating technologies and laying up problems for millennia to come, it is not just the children of Sellafield workers but generations to come who are affected. Perhaps if we were more aware of past human impact on this planet we would be more wary of our own actions and even learn what not to do. That is perhaps idealistic but then we need some idealism to tackle the side effects of our population growth and pervasive technologies. And when it comes to such threats as the Greenhouse effect the result is anything but a side effect in its potential impact.

Human development has been a blind struggle against the forces of nature with only short term ends in view - forward planning and strategies are a recent concept. Adaptive or innovative development has been in fits and starts, often counter-productive in the long terms as deserts and heathland show, the ill effects not apparent for generations or millennia while any benefits were slight. In our times of uniquely rapid change it is easy to forget the slow pace of past stable cultures. The Upper Palaeolithic settlements of southern Russia, dating anything up to 38000 BP imply a society that was remarkably developed but that thereafter seems to have changed little for tens of thousands of years. Perhaps the very nature of the record masks many short term events or skips periods of instability, leaving us with a telescoped long term homogeneity.

For us, the Greenhouse effect threatens to be a dramatic event, an ecological change seemingly developing in a very short time but with long term implications if not reversed. Maybe what we are experiencing within is a minor 'blip' in climate, maybe because this is something triggered by the exponential growth of human technology it is a particularly rapid

change. At least we have the means to understand it and our part in its generation, we can attempt to set it in the context of a geological and archaeological time scale, something denied those alive during the Little Ice age of 3 centuries ago. This knowledge might even allow us a unique opportunity to stabilise or reverse the side effects of recent technology although this would demand vast supra-national effort and an unusual ability amongst our species to not only understand but act logically in response.

To address such problems and to put such rarefied matters in their human context we depend on a fragile record, the prosaic debris incorporated into the planet's surface and increasingly degraded by our activity and natural agencies. We may create archives of recorded observations and 'Heritage experiences' but the raw data about human activity and changes in the environment, whether or not these are linked, is being lost, neither conserved nor preserved by record. What I would like to cover in future issues are questions of the value and application of archaeological data, the nature of threats to the data source and the possibilities for conservation; an attempt to give a Green, although not necessarily a Green Party, perspective on the Past.

**Christopher Sparey-Green**

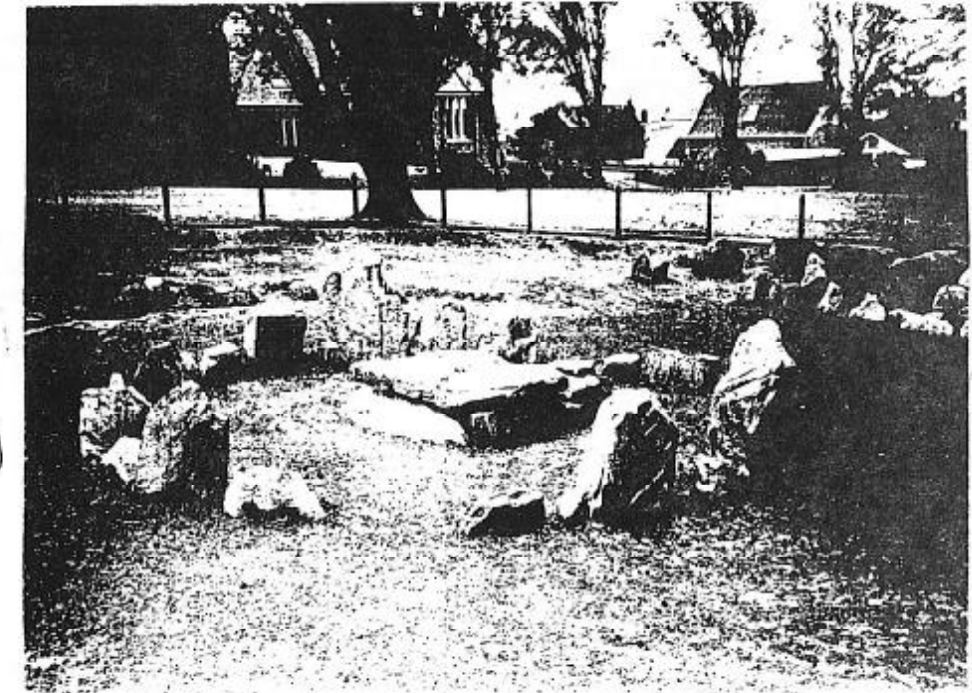
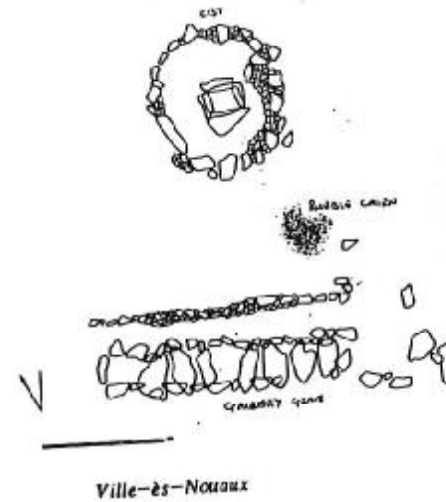
## BURIAL TOMBS ON JERSEY

On a trip to Jersey last September I took the chance to look, in some detail, at the remains of the several different types of burial tombs on the island that survive from the Neolithic Period.

Of the various types of tomb on Jersey the simplest form is that of the box-like Cist grave constructed of stone slabs and covered with a single capstone which in turn was covered with earth. These graves seemed to have suffered more on Jersey from disturbance and robbing than elsewhere in the United Kingdom. This explains, in part, the lack of dating evidence for this type of tomb. It is believed that these individual tombs belong to the later Neolithic period and were built while the earlier and larger communal tombs were still being used.

At Ville es Nouaux, to the west of St. Helier there is a prime example of this type of grave. The site of Ville es Nouaux is rare in that there is evidence of several periods of settlement and burial in the immediate area that stretches right up until the present day. As well as the cist burial there stands one of the only two remaining Gallery Graves on the island. This grave is within three metres of the cist burial and is possibly the result of a settlement of people from Normandy or even further afield. This site now stands within the grounds of the Christian church of St. Andrews.

This 'gallery grave' itself showed two distinctive periods of burial activity. Even though there has been no evidence of bone from within this tomb it has been discovered that the original floor of the tomb was covered by a layer of sea-worn pebbles and on this floor a very small amount of pottery sherds were found. On top of this layer of pebbles a second floor was placed. This secondary floor was made of large stone paving slabs. On top of these slabs nine beakers were discovered, these were protected by smaller stone slabs which were set around them. At the centre of this floor layer a stone braces or wrist guard was found. This artefact is the only one of its kind so far discovered on Jersey.



Other evidence for the use of this site came with the discovery of an oval cairn of rubble about three metres from the north-western corner of the gallery grave. Remains of another small cist were also unearthed. Several sherds of 'ribbon-handled' Breton type ware were recovered from the edge of the cairn and these have been dated to the Early Bronze Age. Around 1000 BC the area began to become covered with sand dunes and with the discovery over the years of some fourteen cremation urns it can be seen that the area was used as a cemetery between 800-600 BC. All these urns are of a type manufactured in the Later Bronze age.

The other gallery grave to be seen on Jersey is at Le Couperon on the eastern side of the island. This site has suffered badly over the years. A careless excavation in 1868 by Porter and an equally poor attempt at the restoration of the monument by the Societe Jersiaise in 1919 has not helped. The site is on a beautiful cliff-top location but care must be taken when driving towards it. The road seems to disappear in several places!

The most widespread type of Neolithic grave on Jersey is the passage grave. This type of tomb consists of a burial chamber walled with large upright slabs, roofed with several capstones and approached by a tunnel-like passage. Many of these passage graves had one or more chambers leading off of them. Amongst the earliest examples of this type of grave on the island is the small grave at La Sergente. This was nicknamed by excavators as the 'bee-hive' hut and there is an excellent reconstruction of this tomb in the islands main museum at St. Helier. With its corbelled roof it almost certainly marks the start of the passage grave tradition on Jersey.

One of the best examples of the Jersey passage grave is the tomb at Monts Grantez, in St. Ouen. This has a main chamber plus a very much smaller side chamber and the remains are in a very good state of preservation. All the capstones, except two remain in their original position. There have been at least nine burials recorded in this tomb along with many coloured sea-worn pebbles, limpet shells, animal bones and teeth. This passage grave was excavated carefully in 1912 and was re-examined in 1931. One very interesting burial discovered in this

tomb was that of an adult skeleton that had been arranged in a seated position against a wall. This skeleton had been placed in a niche at the inner end of the passage and was kept in place by a heap of stones, almost as if to act as a sentry to the main chamber.

There are other good examples of this type of grave at Mont Ubie, St. Clement and La Pouquelaye De Fadouet.

In the conclusion of this article next month we shall be looking at Jersey's most famous monument of La Houge Bie and at the monument nicknamed 'Little Master Stonehenge' which found itself dug up and transported to the wilds of Oxfordshire to be re-erected on a country estate!

Gary Richards

## A CLUTCH OF ANNUAL REPORTS

The annual reports of archaeological units around the country are becoming increasingly lavish in their production, whilst at the same time containing fuller and better illustrated reports of current work, a valuable service in the light of inevitable delay before definitive publication. Six have recently come into the BAN offices.

*Digging in the City:* The annual review 1988 from the Department of Urban Archaeology at the Museum of London is undoubtedly the most elegant. It records eight major excavations and a host of smaller ones, along with reports from the post-excavation sections and the curatorial departments of the museum.

As might be expected, The York Archaeological Trust's 17th Annual Report 1988-1989 is a close runner up in terms of presentation, and its strong on photographs of visiting nobles. There are informative reports on the Trust's work in a wide spectrum of fields, from excavation to trading and conference organisation.

From: *British Archaeological News*, January 1990.



"Can't you find anything to talk about but the weather?"

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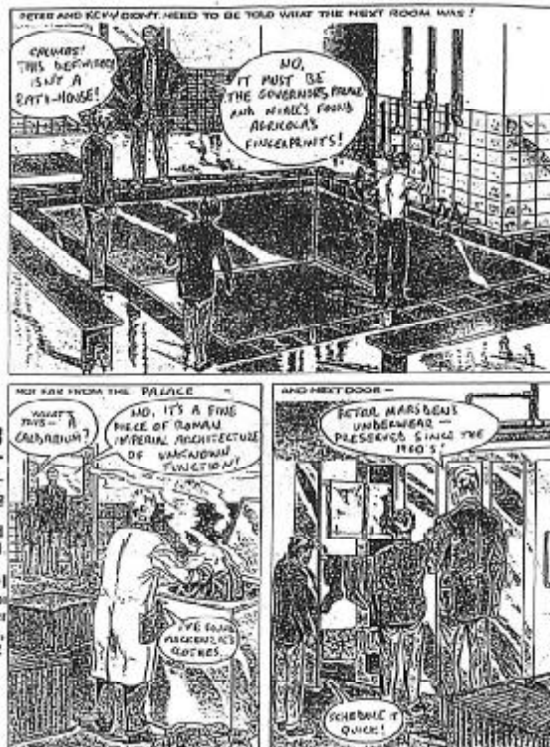
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## CONFERENCE REPORT

### LATE IRON AGE BURIALS - summary of a lecture given by Jennifer Foster.

The period 1000 - 400 BC has a notable lack of burial evidence perhaps indicating the use of a rite which resulted in insubstantial remains, eg: exposure or disposal of bodies in rivers. Slightly more evidence occurs from the fourth century on, including cist graves in Cornwall, crouched graves in Somerset and barrow burials in Yorkshire. However, with the Roman Conquest, a new rite appears - that of cremation burial in cemeteries. The majority of the evidence comes from the south-east of England, although it does extend into Gloucestershire. Cunliffe has proposed that the reason for the emergence of this burial rite is the contact with the Continent following the Conquest.

These cemeteries display a definite organisation; the burials at Aylesford, Kent, were arranged in groups of cremations surrounding a single wealthy burial, whilst at the King Harry Lane cemetery, St. Albans, they were placed in ditched enclosures - perhaps designating family groups. The definition of these groups was such that it suggests surface markers and roads were in use.

In the late Iron Age there is a sliding scale of poorer burials containing one cremation urn to richer ones containing many pots, imported amphorae and other grave goods. The Welwyn, 'Bucket' and 'Barrow' burials all belong to this richer category.

Many grave-offerings illustrate the importance of the 'Celtic Feast' in the afterlife. Animal bones, imported amphorae and hearth furniture occur, and in the case of the 'Bucket' burials, the cremation is contained in a vat or a bucket which originally would have held liquor. The almost total absence of objects associated with work indicates that the afterlife was solely to be enjoyed. Also rare is evidence for weaponry which is perhaps surprising considering the warlike nature of Iron Age society. However, objects of adornment are well represented, especially brooches.

Increasing contacts between Britain and the Continent following the Conquest are illustrated through the goods included in the cremation burials. Amphorae were imported from Spain and fine table ware from Gaul. According to Strabo, Britain exported raw materials in exchange for high-class goods (eg: the silver cups found in the burial at Welwyn, Herts). There is an assumption that these richer graves were those of the aristocracy; it is very likely that political and commercial success were closely connected. The richest example of the cremation burials is the Lexden Tumulus, Essex, the contents of which include a total of seventeen imported amphorae and also an, as yet, unparalleled silver medallion cast from a coin of Augustus.

The cremation rite illustrates that great respect was shown to the dead and a good life prepared for them in the hereafter. Goods included in the burials were chosen in order to entertain, adorn and to sustain the deceased in the afterlife. Favourite objects were also included - at Lexden some of the objects were repaired indicating that they were of sentimental value. Following the cremation rite there was a change to inhumation burial although a few cremations date to the latter years BC.

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### CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY FROM CREMATION TO INHUMATION - Robert Philpott

Robert Philpott's paper addressed the question of continuity and discontinuity of grave goods from cremation to inhumation. Overall the picture was complex, taking into account regional differences and the varying dates of transition to inhumation, (mostly from the mid 2nd to mid 3rd centuries), and also the differences between rural and urban burial practices.

Undoubtedly the impact of inhumation did alter the deposition of some grave goods, a well attested example being that of lamps and lamp holders. At Mucking up to eleven lamps were found in a grave of the late 2nd century, while at Baldock one cremation was furnished with thirty-one lamps. However, there are very few inhumations which have lamps accompanying them. Obviously the lamp fulfilled a ceremonial function in cremation which was not readily transferable or relevant to inhumation.

Such a clear division of the use of grave goods is not quite universal however. At Ospringe, Kent the same objects occur in inhumations as in cremations with only the loss of the cremation urn. However this example is the exception and is not comparable elsewhere.

Reasons for the loss of certain grave goods during the transition from cremation to inhumation were not restricted to the fact that they were no longer relevant to the burial rite. It was suggested that the decline in the deposition of brooches was related more to changing dress styles. On a general level Philpott provided evidence that inhumations were less likely to contain objects not directly related to dress, such as toilet implements, and that more emphasis was being placed on the new opportunity to dress the corpse.

During the 4th century there was a widespread decline in all types of grave goods, which Philpott suggested was largely related to increasing state control over the new 'managed' cemeteries, such as Lankhills, rather than to the adoption of Christianity.

### ROMANO - BRITISH TROGLODYTES - by Martin Dearne

Martin Dearne discussed the project that he and Keith Brannigan have been conducting at Sheffield on the use of caves in the Romano-British period. Were caves being used for purposes other than habitation? The main purposes of the project are to study the items from caves and thus to deduce the usage of these caves. 92 caves were examined with finds ranging from a few sherds to high quality bronze work.

The evidence available is meagre; most caves were excavated in the 19th or early 20th century and therefore this study relies on poor publications and finds from museums. Good stratigraphic information is lacking.

The caves examined seem to have been used for a multitude of purposes. In some cases the occupation was very short perhaps indicating use by shepherds or as robbers' hideaways. There is little evidence for use as shrines except some Iron Age goods and a hoard of 27 Roman brooches from one cave. The domestic use of caves, probably by farming communities, is attested, for example, at Whokey Hole where a wide range of ceramics and metal work was discovered. Caves containing manufacturing evidence may have been workshops. Six to eight caves in the Mendips, S.Wales and Derbyshire were used for burial. The burial at Whokey Hole is fourth

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century but most of the burials are first century indicating continuity of Iron Age burial practices.

### STATUS AND SORROW : AN INTERPRETATION OF WEALTHY BURIALS IN THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCES - Glenys Lloyd-Morgan.

Despite its all-encompassing title, this lecture was concerned with two cremation burials from Stansted. One burial included three glass vessels, five Samian vessels, a copper alloy mirror, casket fittings, an iron knife and hobnails. Beyond dwelling a little on the casket fittings, this burial was not further discussed.

The second burial included five glass vessels, nine ceramic vessels, a pewter tray, an iron knife and a selection of copper alloy vessels. The copper alloy vessels formed the principal content of this over-long performance. They included a shallow Campanian patera, a simple hemispherical bowl, a patera with a beaded rim and raised internal umbo, an amphora-shaped container and a jug. Loving if uncertain attention was directed to these vessels, and particularly to their decoration and corrosion products. This effectively prevented any further discussion of the vessels and the graves in a broader context, although some time was spent on relatively aimless speculation of why the copper vessels appeared to be a generation earlier in date than the other elements of the second grave. It appeared that the deceased or his or her heirs may have resorted to myriad forms of deception in choice of grave-goods for no greater reason than to obscure and complicate any simplistic notions on the part of the excavators towards the status of the grave. The overall effect of this performance was to tell us a little about Stansted and nothing about status.

### HAWKES AND DUNNING REVISITED - Roger White.

This short contribution proposed a few amendments to the typological sequence for late Roman buckles and belt fittings established by Sonia Hawkes and Gerald Dunning. Details of these amendments have already appeared in Roger White's recent book, and will shortly appear in *'Britannia'*.

### ROMAN COMBS FROM POST-ROMAN BURIALS - Ian Riddler

This short contribution briefly defined late Roman composite combs and distinguished them from Anglo-Saxon combs. Late Roman combs from Anglo-Saxon burials at Spong Hill and Loveden Hill were reviewed and contrasted with combs from sunken-featured buildings at Meonstoke and St. Botolphs, Steyning. The dating evidence available suggests that late Roman combs continued in use in the fifth century, albeit in small numbers.

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### THE THIRD CENTURY CEMETERY AT BROUGHAM, CUMBRIA - Gill Andrews, Hilary Cool, Quita Mould :

Gill Andrews explained that the cemetery is believed to be associated with the civilian settlement outside the Roman fort at Brougham. The excavation of the cemetery took place in 1966 and 1967 and is now part of HBMC's backlog publication programme.

The pottery from the site has been dated to between 220/230 and 270/280 AD. Very few of the graves cut each other so it is probable that the individual graves were marked. A total of 26 inscribed tombstones were found and from this it has been estimated that 5% or more of the graves may have possessed tombstones. The burials were probably arranged in family plots and the ages at death recorded by the inscriptions range from 18 to 80. Three-quarters of the inscriptions are of non-Roman people - a higher than average number.

Pottery is the main category of grave goods at Brougham. Nearly all of the burial urns are of black burnished ware. Apparently there is no correlation between the number of pottery vessels in a grave and the date of the burial, nor between the number of vessels and the type of burial. Only burials with three or more pottery vessels also contained glass.

The glass from the site was discussed by Hilary Cool. Eight of the graves contained unburnt glass vessels, nearly all of these were tablewares. Fourteen of the burials contained badly burnt glass probably indicating that a glass vessel had been placed with the body when cremated. The importance of the glass vessels from Brougham is that they show the type of vessels which were in use in the third century and they help with the dating of such vessels elsewhere.

The other categories of finds from the site were discussed by Quita Mould. The bone objects which have been studied by Stephen Greep are of particular interest. Unusually no gaming pieces or hair pins were found. There were many pieces of burnt bone mounts assumed to have come from wooden boxes. As none of the graves contained enough pieces to make one box and some pieces from different graves joined, it has been concluded that the boxes were burnt with the corpses and that the funeral pyre was not properly raked out after each cremation.

Quita Mould also discussed jewellery items, an enamelled bronze patera, miniature iron bucket pendants, a swastika mount and a copper alloy bell.

#### Roman Finds Group: Poundbury and Dorchester.

The topic of Grave Finds in Roman Britain gave an opportunity to describe some features of the cemeteries around Dorchester, Dorset and of attitudes towards the disposal of infants within the settled area. Dave Farwell of the Trust for Wessex Archaeology gave a discursive account of infant burials in the Poundbury suburban settlement and of those found in the excavations at Greyhound Yard and Charles Street. At the former site they occurred within a particularly complex area of the Iron Age and early Roman settlement, as well as in one later Roman building. From its work on the writer's excavation records Wessex have concluded that the domestic interment of infants commenced in the late Iron Age but my own analysis would suggest that such burials relate in all cases to the outline of the Roman structures, even if

inserted into pre-Roman levels beneath them. In the late Roman building such burials were, interestingly, arranged within the otherwise featureless northern half of a house containing domestic structures in the southern half; and this northern end reserved for animals or human dwellers and what did this signify for their well-being or fertility?

Within the later urban cemetery infants were a regular feature and as Theya Molleson showed in her paper on the demography of the main cemetery one such confined neo-nate had been subjected to an embroyotomy, a surprisingly sophisticated medical practice for a provincial town. But then the late Roman cemetery with its overtones of Christian belief, or at least of foreign burial customs, hints at a surprisingly cosmopolitan society. As Theya showed a change analysis of the lead absorbed by one child suggested a Greek origin, and yet the population appeared homogeneous in its morphology. Family traits suggested links between adjacent burials, showing family plots or rows, yet also pointing to links across the cemetery. Within the complex pattern must lie a tale of human interest, an everyday story of ordinary Romano-British folk, if it can be disentangled.

The writer's own contribution was to briefly outline some of the unusual features of plaster burials, including those at Poundbury, at York and the southeast of Britain. The first two sites are notable for the use of gypsum in mineral packed burials, the latter region made do with the more readily available lime funerary context in this province? I suspect the latter mineral was that preferred for some more elaborate late Roman inhumations and is a rite of continental origin, mainly used in Christian contexts.

Some special burials at Poundbury were enclosed in Mausolea, two with painted plaster on walls and ceiling. The best preserved groups of plaster depicted not only figures ranged along the south wall but also at least some portraits on the ceiling within borders of foliage. Fragments from the west wall also appear to depict not architectural follies, as known for instance from Southwark in an earlier 2nd century context, but a townscape in semi-aerial perspective. Such scenes do occur in a similar position in at least one catacomb hypogeum, the town being the Heavenly City or Jerusalem, while in late Roman art portraits surrounded by floral wreaths or frames floral bands decorated vaults and ceilings in religious or funerary contexts. My attempt to draw parallels with the decoration of churches in Ravenna may have failed, due partly to the poor quality of my photography, but these shattered fragments from Poundbury do represent some of the most tantalising fragments of wall decoration from Roman Britain and deserve some attempt to put them in their European context.

Christopher Sparey-Green

## CONSTRUCTION

S A F E T Y

C A M P A I G N

For further information or involvement in their campaign, please contact:  
Tony O'Brien, Construction Safety Campaign  
c/o 72 Copeland Road  
London SE15

**The Computing Section has received a Z88 portable computer from P&H Electronics. Whose is it?? It's not ours!**

Here is a reprint of the computer inventory and DUA Field Section archive which was barely legible in last month's issue

DUA Field Section Archive.

ant88	cwn87	im83	son85
apg86	dgh86	lc76	spc80
arc81	dub88	lso88	sl84
atr85	eld89	lwa84	ut74
auf88	eth84	mcc87	wap88
bis82	fen83	ndx87	woc87
blm87	fib87	mgt87	wit86
bop82	fmo85	mil72	wts86
bot86	fst85	mic86	
bun88	hil84	mse88	
cas75	hsd89	mya88	
cil86	ila88	neb87	
cnn88	ime83	nob73	
coa86	ish88	nwg85	
cpdos	lau85	orm88	
crh85	lby85	que88.gr188	
bcst85	lct84	qvs85	
cul83	lea84	slo82	

Computer Equipment Inventory  
Department of Urban Archaeology

Location	Equipment	Model	Notes
Burdett Hse	Computer Printer	DELL SYSTEM 310 EPSON LQ2550	Xenix
Bridge House Training	Computer Computer	DELL SYSTEM 325 EPSON PX-8	Xenix CPM
Pleist. Hall	Computer Computer Computer Printer Printer Terminals (2)	APICOT XEN TANDON PCX20 TANDON PCX20 STAR LC-10 STAR LC-10 WYSE 85	Xenix Dos Dos
Finds	Computer Computer Computer Computer Printer Printer Terminal Terminals (4)	DELL SYSTEM 200 DELL SYSTEM 200 DELL SYSTEM 310 DELL SYSTEM 310 EPSON GQ-3500 NEWBERRY 8905 WYSE 120 WYSE 85	Dos Dos Xenix Xenix LP

Finds- Pot room	Computer Printer Terminals (3) Terminal	SHELTON SIGNET CPM STAR NL10 WYSE 85 WYSE 120	
Finds Rotunda	Computer Computer Printer Terminal Terminal	DELL SYSTEM 200 TANDON PCX20 STAR LC-10 WYSE 85 WYSE 120	Dos Dos
Pageant Office	Computer Printer	DELL SYSTEM 200 STAR LC-2410	Dos
Environ- mental	Computer Computer Computer Computer Printer Terminal	AMSTAD PC 1512 ATARI 1040 ST ATARI 1040 ST DELL SYSTEM 200 HP LAZERJET II LP WYSE 120	Dos Dos Dos Finds
Excavations Office	Computer Computer Computer Computer Printer Printer Printer Printer Printer	AMSTAD PC 1512 DELL SYSTEM 200 DELL SYSTEM 200 TANDON PCX20 TANDON PCX20 AMSTAD DM NEC PIN QUME CRYSTAL STAR LC24-10 STAR NB15	Dos Dos Dos Dos Dos Dos Dos Dos
Ferroners- House	Computer Computer Computer Computer Digitizer Plotter Printer	ATARI 1040 ST DELL SYSTEM 300 DELL SYSTEM 316 COMPAQ SLT NUMONICS ZETADRAFT 900 STAR LC-10	Xenix/Dos Dos Dos
J.S. Office	Computer Printer	DELL SYSTEM 310 QUME SERIES II	Dos LP
DUA Sec.	Computer Printer	EPSON PCR QUME CRYSTAL	Dos LP
Library	Computer	TANDON PCX	Dos
Drawing Office	Computer Printer	DELL SYSTEM 200 STAR NB24-10	Xenix/dos
Photog.	Computer Printer	COMPAQ 386 HP LAZERJET II LP	Dos

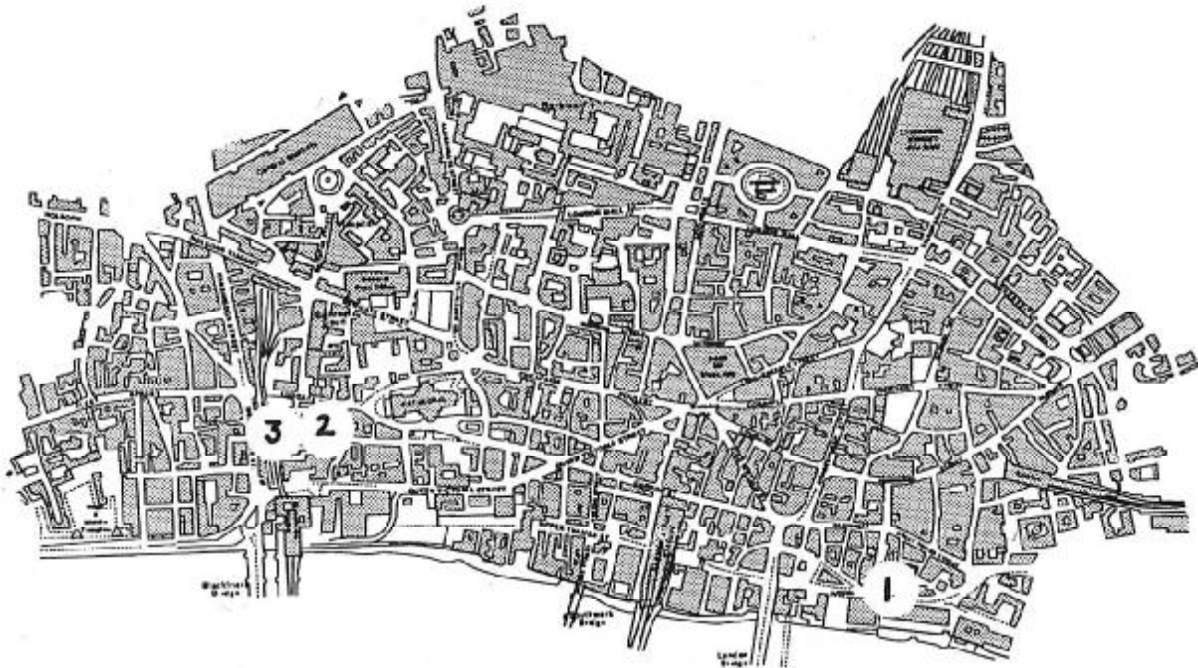
Key:-  
Xenix/Dos - The hard disc is partitioned so that it can run both Xenix and Dos.

LP - Lazer Printer

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**DUA EXCAVATIONS NEWS**


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**1. Billingsgate Bath House**
**The Bath House:**

The structural walls of the Caldarium have been recorded prior to their consolidation. The pilae in this room may have been rebuilt more than once. Also the floor of the Caldarium may have been lower than the floors observed in the Tepidarium and the vestibule. The late Roman re-flooring in opus signinum has been revealed during the excavation of the stratigraphy in the

**Frigidarium.**

The re-excavation of modern intrusions in the vestibule area has allowed the ragstone rubble foundations to be observed.

**The Town House:**

The structures of the east wing are being recorded in detail in advance of the removal of modern cement pointing; and the exposed wall of the North wing has been partly recorded.

**2. Ludgate Hill**

Excavations finished on the 6th February. Two trenches across the V-shaped ditch were dug down to natural, which seems to have been disturbed by mass movement or solifluction. To the South of the ditch, more cess and rubbish pits were excavated. The earliest feature was a large Romano-British quarry pit.

Underpinning at 1-3 Ludgate Square enabled the recording of cess and rubbish pits, one of which was floored with Reigate stone slabs, and a Romano-British well was also found.

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**3. Fleet Valley**

Excavations continue in three areas. A large vaulted cellar associated with the 17th century warehouses which lined the Fleet canal has been found. This was cut into 13/14th century deposits which sealed what may be a substantial timber revetment. Excavations continue in this area but it is already clear that we will need to return following demolition of the Viaduct. This has already been agreed with the Developer as have the steps which will be needed to protect exposed archaeology.

In the area of the Fleet Prison further details of the main prison building are being recorded. Further burials are being excavated in the Newcastle Close area. One of these was that of a foetus. One of the reused stones recovered from the Medieval City wall has been identified as a shaft base of c.1115-1145 and is stylistically similar to material from Old St Paul's. Another appears to be a fragment of a toilet seat. The wooden toilet seat is now out of the freezer and ready for reconstruction.

The environmental set up on site is working at last. An almost complete iron rowel spur found in a waterlogged context probably dates from the 14th Century and a small wooden vessel was found to contain cherry stones.

## New London showing up the old

ARCHAEOLOGISTS from the Museum of London have been excavating a historic London site — right next door to King's Reach Tower. Located in Bargehouse



Most interesting find to date is this post-mediaeval collander.

Street, the site lies within the estate of the mediaeval manor of Paris Garden which is known to have been in existence by 1113 and which is remembered in the name of a near-by street.

Comprising 70 acres, the estate was bounded to the north by the Thames and enclosed elsewhere by a large ditch which was drained at low tide in order to turn a tidal mill.

The excavations, making way for the latest Thames-side development, have located the drainage ditch in several places.

In the 1530s Paris Gardens house was used for bowling alleys and was granted a licence for "games of boules, cardes, dyze and tables" in 1547.

IPC NEWS  
Dec 89 / Jan 90



Archaeologists angered by lack of consultation

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have criticised the Government for not consulting them on new planning legislation for archaeological sites...

Museum site for Docklands

From Mr A. C. S. Payton, Secretary of the London Docklands Development Corporation...

Over the past eight years, it has put up for consideration every move made by the museum...

The LDCC has agreed all too similar towards the City of London Museum, the City of London...

A. C. S. PAYTON (Secretary, Docklands History Group), 59 Thames Street, Weybridge, Surrey, TW16 2JQ, February 7.

Price-War Hits Digs

A price-war is breaking out over the introduction of free-market competitive tendering in archaeology...

THE OUT HITS... must have got ourselves noticed...

Docklands museum

From the Chief Executive of the London Docklands Development Corporation...

MICHAEL HONEY, Chief Executive, London Docklands Development Corporation, 11 Corporation Street, London, E1 1JN, February 15. TIMES 21/2/90

PRESS CUTTINGS

GUEST

The City's redevelopment boom has triggered a wave of archaeological digs. Penny Guest gives a tour round one of the best.

Book awaiting demolition for the new development. Access is through the back stairs down with several hundred pairs of muddy boots...

Unearthing the secrets of the City's bowels

WHAT DO YOU KNOW about London's bowels? As co-ordinator of the City of London Archaeology Unit...



Advice on planning and archaeology criticized as 'woolly'

Draft guidance on archaeology and development planning which Mr David Trippier, the Heritage Minister, is expected to announce...

It is not always practicable to save all historical remains... necessary, and through sympathetic and flexible design...

When considering the need to preserve archaeological remains in the context of a development proposal...

Needful alliance on archaeology

From Mr Richard Hughes, Secretary of the London Archaeology Society...

This document could lead to serious consequences for the way redevelopment sites may be engineered...

The Museum of London has always provided a clear presentation of their aims, methods, and short and long-term goals...

We don't wish this relationship with the museum to suffer by seeking more in-situ retention of soft, archaeologically-rich soil...

Optics have been sent to over 50 organisations representing local planning authorities, developers, archaeologists, amenity groups and property owners...

It's not whether you win or lose...

In CSW, 25 January, you reported on discussions between English Heritage and the Museum of London...

It is misleading to suggest that there is divergence between the museum and ourselves on the need to develop a strategy which strengthens the information base...

We are already liaising on a number of initiatives which will build on the service which the museum already provides...

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment...



Insight into past lives... A Museum of London worker with a trowel and two pilgrim badges, clues to the daily life of ordinary people in the city long ago...

Looters plunder people's history

LOOTERS are plundering excavation sites along the Thames, the Museum of London warned yesterday...

# LONDON UNDERGROUND

Like the Blitz, Big Bang in the City of London was supposed to be a purely metaphorical explosion. That isn't quite how it turned out, of course, for the boom that followed the Bang has brought a smouldering of the 'square mile' which has stalled even the wildest dreams of the Labour and the post-war planners.

And alongside contractors the boom in London has brought another breed of digger to the scene — sometimes known as the lurk and spoon men — rescue archaeologists. They have either excavated or held what are called 'watching briefs' at some 350 sites since 1974, and at almost 70 sites in 1989. There are now 250 full-time professionals working in the Museum of London's department of urban archaeology (DUA) and each year since 1986 the fast-track pace of development has brought more on-site overlap with contractors.

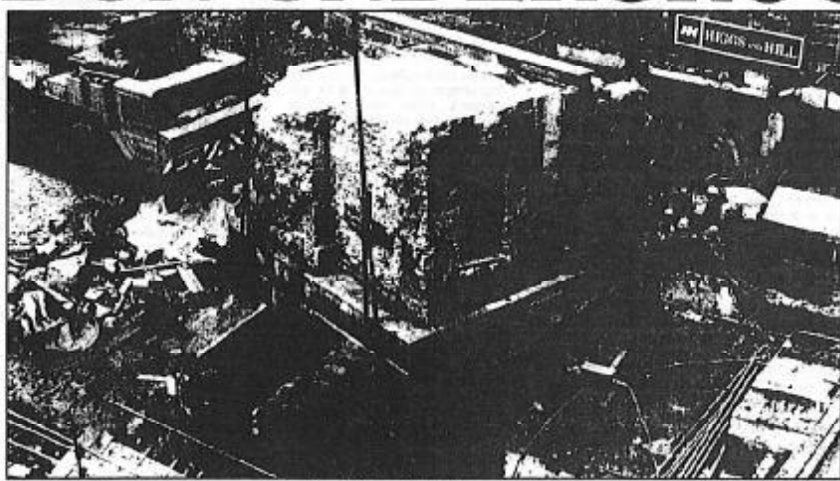
Despite the mixings of site managers, rescue archaeology in London is not the product of idle curiosity; it is a desperate race against time to discover as much as possible about the city's past before it is destroyed for ever. The demands of telecommunications, computer dating and air-conditioning have made office blocks erected as recently as the 1950s inadequate.

And, vitally for the archaeologists, deeper basements and denser piling configurations mean that rich archaeological deposits — a layer cake of the demolition jobs of yesterday — are disappearing for ever.

Until the 19th century the City of London was the most densely populated part of the country and has been providing prestige development work for the construction industry since Roman times, so perhaps it is fitting that it is today's developer — and no longer the Government — who voluntarily provide the funding for archaeology and increasingly programme the diggers into a development like any other contractor.

The museum will evaluate a site and propose a budget for the investigation, the conservation and storage of finds and for archive work. After negotiation with the developer (one archaeologist remarked to this writer that it was incredible that people dealing in vast sums could become so obsessed in working out the exact cost of two days JCB-hire, a contract will be agreed and the work started in.

The introduction from the US of fast-track building methods



Removal of a 15th century crypt for preservation; archaeologists and contractors work hand in hand

## The City's boom brought contractors and archaeologists together on London sites with very different objectives. *CJ* looks at a complex working relationship

and the employment of project management companies has made this an increasingly complex procedure, with archaeologists and demolition contractors pre-empting tightly together in a sort of 'sweeper's ballet'.

By necessity, this leads to contractors and archaeologists working side by side on site. It is not easy to imagine how the fast-track builder, anxious to preserve his construction schedule happily co-existing with the diligent archaeologist painstakingly attempting to preserve the past. For the former it is potentially irritating, for the latter possibly demeaning.

Derek Seely, an archaeologist working just south of the river in Southwark — where last year Shakespeare's Rose Theatre was discovered — has had some nasty experiences. 'I remember working on a site seven years ago when rubble was falling into the trenches we were working in', he says.

'We try to avoid working with demolition contractors. We've had characters chucking stuff from the first to the ground floors while we've been in the basement. That sort of thing doesn't happen often but it's a fact of life that, when

things are falling, archaeologists are always at the bottom. And it's not a comfortable place to be. Preferably we want a fixed window after demolition and before construction'.

In the City itself, archaeologists are rarely able to work alone on site and both sides acknowledge the need for a good deal of co-ordination. One of the most important excavations in the last couple of years, at a large office development at Huggin Hill, brought together many of the obstacles contractors and archaeologists face when working together. David Lawson, project manager for Huggin Hill, looks back on the 1989 dig which led to a four-month delay after the discovery of a well-preserved Roman bath, with mixed feelings.

'We got on very well with the archaeologists. There were no safety problems on our side. In fact it was the other way round. They were operating a reel bucket and spade job as far as sanitation was concerned — the health and safety inspectors would have been appalled — and we ended up letting them use all our facilities. We also put up a crash deck above them as we were demolishing from

the top while they were in the basement. And we helped with weatherproofing and lighting'.

The problems at Huggin Hill began at the planning stage. The site had been scheduled as a site of historic interest in 1986 but planning permission for redevelopment was also approved. When archaeologists discovered the Roman bath a media row erupted in which the Government's legislation for protecting such sites was implicitly attacked by all sides as inadequate.

Eventually a compromise was worked out between the developer and the Museum of London, preserving the remains under the building through a re-working of the piling and basement space.

## REDESIGN DELAYS THE CONTRACT

David Lawson admits that things would have been much easier if they had never found the bath at all: 'in the end we sorted it out. We had weekly meetings with the archaeologists and we got the best out of it we could. But any redesign obviously delays the contract, and on a £24 million job that meant a lot of frustrated individuals sitting around sipping their kool-aid. With some delays you can use the time usefully but at Huggin Hill, because things were being changed, we couldn't do a thing'.

He says that it's wrong to think that just because the contractor is being compensated, there are no problems with waiting. 'It's demotivating for the team. The impetus for a quick completion

tends to trail off'.

Almost all contractors operating in the City have come into contact with archaeologists and some project managers have met and worked with the same DUA supervisors on many different sites. But with only 25% of London's so-called deposits still surviving there are many projects where there is no archaeology left and in many other cases where there is only a 'watching brief' the archaeologists will merely supervise the demolition and site clearance.

Of course there are cases — such as a P&O development opposite the Old Bailey in 1988 — where excavation time has to be negotiated after a sensational find (in that instance a Roman temple) but the Museum prides itself on being scrupulous in its dealings with developers and contractors. Relying on goodwill, and usually more interested in information than conservation, it has only rarely requested — as at Huggin Hill — changes in the development.

Many contractors may find themselves in agreement with the Museum's belief that archaeology should be included in planning law and not just left to negotiation; thereby ensuring that right from the start there is no ambiguity over mutual obligations and — unlike Huggin Hill and the Rose Theatre — no nasty jockeying on viewpoint surprises. Similarly the threat posed to the Museum by its having to engage in competitive tendering for sites with other units from outside London should please nobody because of the instability it will bring to negotiations

## The rules of investigation

As the new form of excavator, the Rose Theatre made plain, there is rarely any obligation upon developers to allow archaeologists on site. It is only in Areas of Archaeological Importance or Schedules of Ancient Monuments that the law demands investigation take place.

Why, then, are the lurk and spoon men so often to be found on the capital's construction projects? Quite simply developers prefer the good publicity to be had by inviting (and in most cases paying) archaeologists to examine their sites to the bad press they would get by obstructing such investigations.

Archaeologists generally work under contract to developers. They are appointed on the basis of a voluntary code of practice drawn up by the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group, which obliges them 'to complete the work in as short a time as possible. It also stipulates they should ensure that the contractor's programme is not adversely affected... and that no instructions are given to the contractor by archaeologists'.

Both contractor and archaeologist are obliged by HSE legislation to have a safety officer. And the archaeologists reserve the right to remove themselves from dangerous sites. This has only happened once in London in 15 years.

— quite apart from any savings.

There is perhaps one other aspect of the relationship between archaeologists and contractors that needs exploring: the role of curiosity. As George Mackay of demolition firm Griffiths McCree puts it: 'The very fact that there is somebody beavering away in the hope of finding something is interesting in itself. Archaeology can really grab the imagination'. 'Gone are the days', says David Lawson of Huggin Hill, 'when we used to find cannon balls and just throw them away. Nowadays there is still the old bravado, but no-one really buries things for an easy life anymore'.

That said, he went on to express the contractor's eternal bewilderment at a profession so obsessed with mapping and dowsing walls and pits and ditches. 'We're always exposing walls and knocking them down. You've got to admit whether it was built by the Romans or not — it's still just a wall'.

## London Archaeology

War has broken out between English Heritage and the Museum of London. The first shots were fired in rival press releases, both dated 15th November, which are a delight to connoisseurs of the redolent language of warfare between rival bureaucracies. English Heritage appears to be announcing a new policy of a separation of powers, so that those who give archaeological advice on planning should not be the same as those who carry out the excavations; a policy that would appear to sign the death warrant for all county units in the country.

The new proposals come in the aftermath of the controversy over the Rose Theatre, where the English Heritage central unit took over the excavation from the Museum of London team, but the ensuing re-design cost the developer £10m. English Heritage says that the new direction aims to avoid this kind of crisis. The first priority will be to consider arrangements for strengthening and separating archaeological advice in the London planning authorities from the responsibility for the excavation of threatened archaeological sites.

English Heritage claims that they merely wish to bring London into line with the 'best practices elsewhere in the country'. When I asked for examples of such best practices, the places that were named were Hampshire, Berkshire and Southwark, York or perhaps be added, where English Heritage provided the City Council into appointing an archaeologist to their planning staff following the Queen's Hotel debacle, and Kent, where John Williams has been appointed county archaeologist. The philosophy behind this can perhaps be compared with that one where privatization, the concept that the provision of water should be separated from its regulation.

London is in some extent a special situation in that the former CLC (Greater London Council) before its abolition ran the Sites and Monuments Record. Following its abolition, its role was taken over by English Heritage, which thus has special responsibilities for London. There is considerable in-fighting as to who is responsible for archaeology in London, but it looks as if what ever happens in London will have considerable implications for the rest of the country.