

MOLAS LIBRARY

# news *letter*

Don't miss  
raunchy pin-up  
pg 22

August 1990

**DIARY**

The Fleet Valley Exhibition should be open in the second half of August. It will be situated on the front of Holborn Viaduct station, in a space between the late Sock Shop and Smiths, behind a facade of medieval street front. It will be open for a year, during work hours, and will include that epic of cinema 'The Fleet Valley Video' narrated by Bellamy. *Not to be missed!*

**STAFF**

**Appointments:**

Paul Potter: Archive Assistant  
Gerry Martin: SA, 55 Gracechurch Street

**Transferred to DGLA:**

Rupert Salmon  
Andrew Richmond

**Resigned:**

Dave Robinson  
Patrick Hunter  
Did Divers  
Rachel Bennet  
Louise Barnes  
Nina Jaffa

**JOBS**

Finds Assistant for the Fleet Valley: 4 months. Closing date: 14th August

old Music Hall (a non-sexist, right-on Millwall supporters' anthem anyone?).  
**JOHN MOLONEY**, less a comedian, more an angry young accordianist, also lays on the militant mirth, and slips in a good Why is Nicaragua a trendier cause than Northern Ireland? (Because it's much further away) rant in between Irish folk tunes. Sample Moloney joke: What were Marvin Gaye's last words? "Are you in a bad mood, Dad?"  
The set by **JOOLZ**, top Bradford street poet much favoured by New Model Army fans, is busy detailing his own articulations about the

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## NEWS DIGEST

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### New projects

In July excavation started at 55 Gracechurch Street under Gerry Martin. This two-month excavation has uncovered a Roman building and other cut features.

August sees the start of the *London Archaeological Reports* project under Tim Williams. This initiative will undoubtedly have important consequences for the way in which archaeology is published in London.

### English Heritage

Harvey Sheldon organised a briefing of London MPs at the Houses of Parliament on 9 July; led by Simon Hughes, the MPs have written to Lord Montague and to the relevant minister, David Trippier, to ask for the freezing of the EH London post and immediate discussion of the EH intentions. Another EH source now says that the City has definitely been excluded from their plans. The Association of County Archaeological Officers (ACAO) has offered to hold ACAS-like talks between EH and MoL; this will be attempted on 17 August. ACAO, like the Standing Conference of Unit Managers (SCAUM), is likely to be split between members who might support the EH line and those, like us, who run integrated services in the counties and thus regard with justified suspicion any move to challenge the Museum's integrated service in London.

### Training, Hands-On and Education

On 2 August Section Heads considered these three matters (the third only briefly). Susan Greenwood's report on DUA Training in 1989-90 was received (copies available from her). It is up to individual Section Heads to determine the training needs of their section, and their long-term plans will then be filtered and implemented by the Training Committee, currently chaired by two section heads (JM and G Egan deputising for M Rhodes). As the two field departments merge into one, there may be plans to construct division-wide or even museum-wide training programmes, and set up the infrastructure to make it work accordingly.

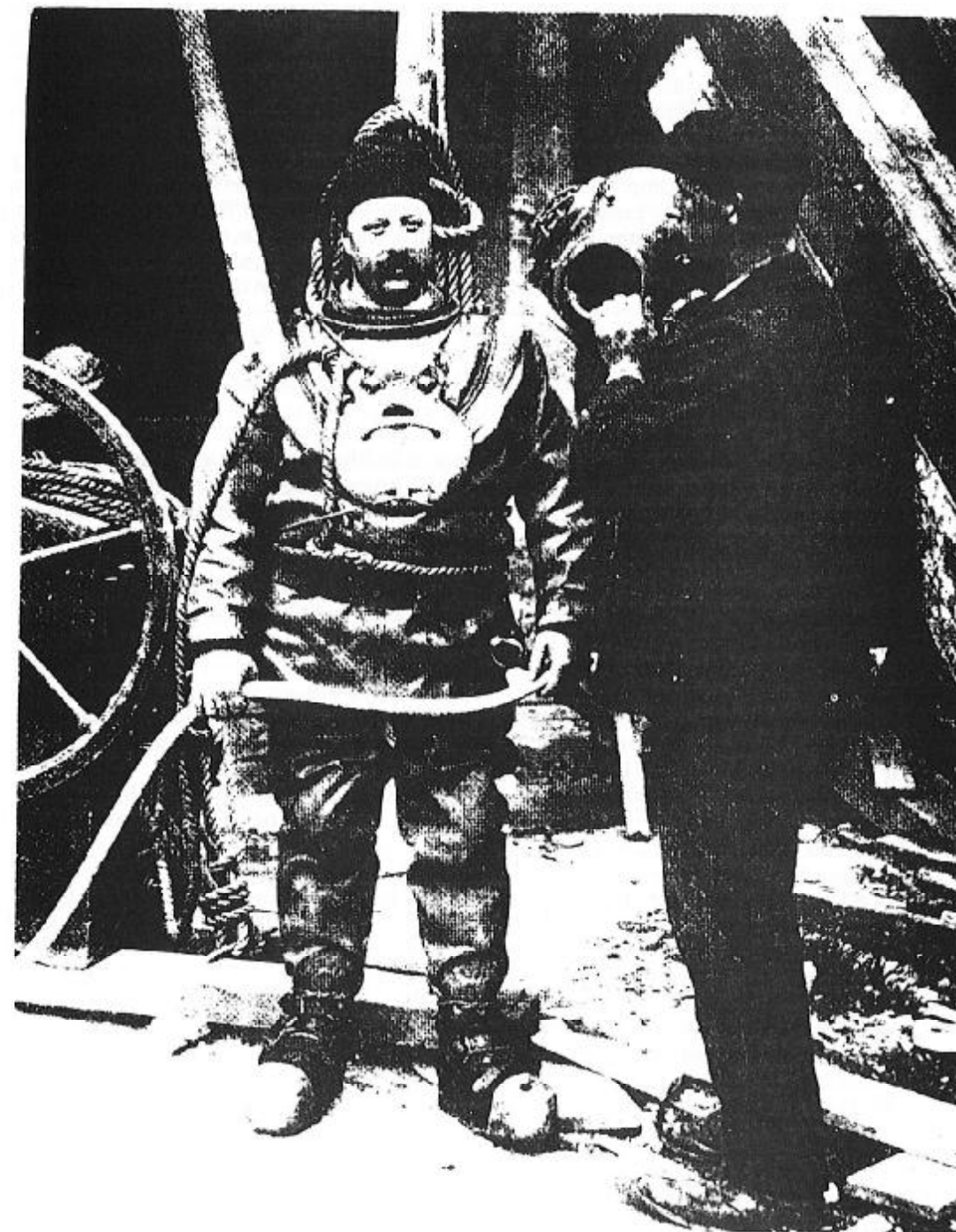
Secondly, Olivia Belle presented her proposal that the DUA promote the idea of a Hands-On Archaeology Exhibition, similar in some ways to the ARC in York. This might form a large Temporary Exhibition of the normal kind, a smaller exhibition in a place inside or outside the Museum, or even take the form of a travelling bus. It should have a backbone of exhibits designed for the visually-impaired. Section Heads approved the idea in principle, and asked Olivia to take it forward a little further in a worked-up form for the Museum directorate. We hope it might become a Museum project with a healthy DUA input.

And before you ask, "should the DUA get involved in such things?" let me go a step further. We must diversify our funding and not put all our hopes (or eggs) in one funding basket; and our job has been changing in several ways over the past few years. We are no longer just rescue archaeologists reacting to redevelopment. We are now custodians of an archaeological archive, the great majority of which still exists outside the Museum, in the ground. To understand this archive, we have developed techniques in all fields of archaeology which we can show to others, in this country and abroad. Section Heads have

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agreed that I can develop the idea of the DUA (and by implication, the Museum) as a centre of excellence, teaching archaeology at several levels; and generating revenue and creating jobs thereby. This should include conferences for the general and archaeological publics (always successful, as the Education Department has shown), more official teaching at university level, seminars for the building industry, and for the heritage industry; and all with a European dimension. I would expect this facility to pay for itself within a year of being set up.

John Schofield



*Jim tests the new DUA safety suit*

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## FINDS DEPARTMENT

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Fleet Valley continues to produce a large number of finds in a superb state of preservation. Recently excavated Roman finds from Area 3 include two Roman copper alloy spatulas (one of which is complete), two complete Roman nail cleaners and a copper alloy bell, a complete wooden comb and a wooden spindle. As well as the Roman finds a possible mid-Saxon sceatta has also been recovered, although this is still awaiting cleaning. Medieval finds include a wooden threshold, and from the same context a wooden drinking trough and iron chisel bit dated to before the 1280 foundations of the Medieval City Wall. The Area 6 drain continues to produce a large number of copper alloy, wood and ivory finds. Of particular note this month are a small retainers badge in the shape of a lion, and half of a stone mould for the manufacture of lead tokens. The coffer dam at Vintry (VHA89) has now been emptied and an unparalleled assemblage of early to late medieval finds, including numerous ampullae and pilgrim badges, has been recovered. Other finds of note this month include a Roman lava quern stone from Pinners Hall, a Medieval bone counter from St. Mary Axe, and from TEX88 a rather important Roman leather moccasin thought to be Egyptian or North African in origin and the first of such a type seen in England. Finally we would like to say farewell and good luck to Liz Tough, Fleet Valley Finds Assistant, who will be leaving on August 10th to start a Post-graduate Teaching Diploma in Aberdeen.

Dear Mr Pope

Please find enclosed your copy of The Indiana Jones Adventure Club Magazine. I have returned your cheque as the club has unfortunately gone into liquidation due to changes within the company.

I hope that you enjoy 'Indiana Jones and the Sword of Excalibur'. Please understand that although Lucasfilms insisted that the story - like the 3 films - was based on fact, it is totally fictional.

It is made doubly dodgy by the fact that it was originally called 'Indiana Jones and the Sword of Mars' and centred around a Roman cult until I pointed out that Mars was a Greek god and not a Roman one which made things a little difficult! As the artwork was already done the new story incorporating Excalibur had to fit in with it.

I also apologize for the dreadful representation of the British Museum which looks rather like a Spanish Villa! Even though the Brit. Mus. is only round the corner from us the artist refused to view it.

Well, now that the apologies are over I hope that you enjoy the magazine anyway!

Yours sincerely



KERRY NEWMAN  
The Indiana Jones Adventure Club

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## A PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE ROMAN PAINTED WALL PLASTER FROM SAY 88, 25-41 SAINT MARY AXE

A large amount of Roman painted wall plaster has been recovered from dumped deposits at St Mary Axe. The plaster comes from a number of contexts, and one of the largest of these, (1262), has been looked at by members of the Building Material section, and some initial work has been done on piecing the fragments together. A number of people have been to see the plaster while it was laid out, including members of the Museum's Roman and Conservation departments, Tony McKenna from the DGLA, the director of the Museum, and Dr. Roger Ling, lecturer in the number of works on Roman painted wall plaster.

### Description

Most of the plaster belongs to an architectural scheme made up of a number of panels of imitation marbles, breccias, and other stone types. The panels appear to have been square or rectangular, in many cases framed by thin black and white lines and narrow borders of contrasting stone types. The most popular stone and marble types imitated are: red *porphyry* (a purple-red with white, and sometimes light pink, speckles), a green marble (dark green and black blobs), a *breccia* (mottled pink, brown, white, yellow, and blue), and a yellow marble (a yellow-orange background with red-orange lines and blobs known as 'fried egg' design).

Some details of the design have been pieced together. However, without further work it is impossible to know what the design as a whole looked like and how these details fitted into it. The following are brief descriptions of some of the details:-

- (i) **Column and base:** fragments representing a twisted column in white, grey and black, with an imitation carved base. Standing against a background of green marble.
  - (ii) **Roundels:** a number of fragments have been pieced together which indicate that at least four roundels or arches of concentric and contrasting strips of stone formed part of the original design. Unfortunately a complete one has yet to be found and so it is not certain if they are complete roundels, semi-circles or arches.
  - (iii) **Pillars/Mouldings:** white bands with narrow green and grey lines on them; which may form either pillars or horizontal strips of moulding.
- Aside from the architectural ones, other design schemes are also known. Unfortunately, we have been unable to link these various design groups together. It is impossible to say whether they come from the same wall, room, or even building. the following are the main design groups.
- (i) Bright red background with blue and purple unidentifiable patterns and yellow candelabra designs.
  - (ii) White background with pastel colours. One fragment has what may be part of a peach or apple on it. The pieces from this group are very fragmentary.
  - (iii) Purple-red with flower/leaf design on it. Few fragments of this group remain.

### Dating

Roger Ling dated the architectural scheme stylistically to the mid-2nd century to the 3rd century. Similar designs using imitation marble and stone have been found at a number of sites - Verulamium, Tarrant Hinton (Dorset), Scampton (Lincolnshire), and Leicester. In all

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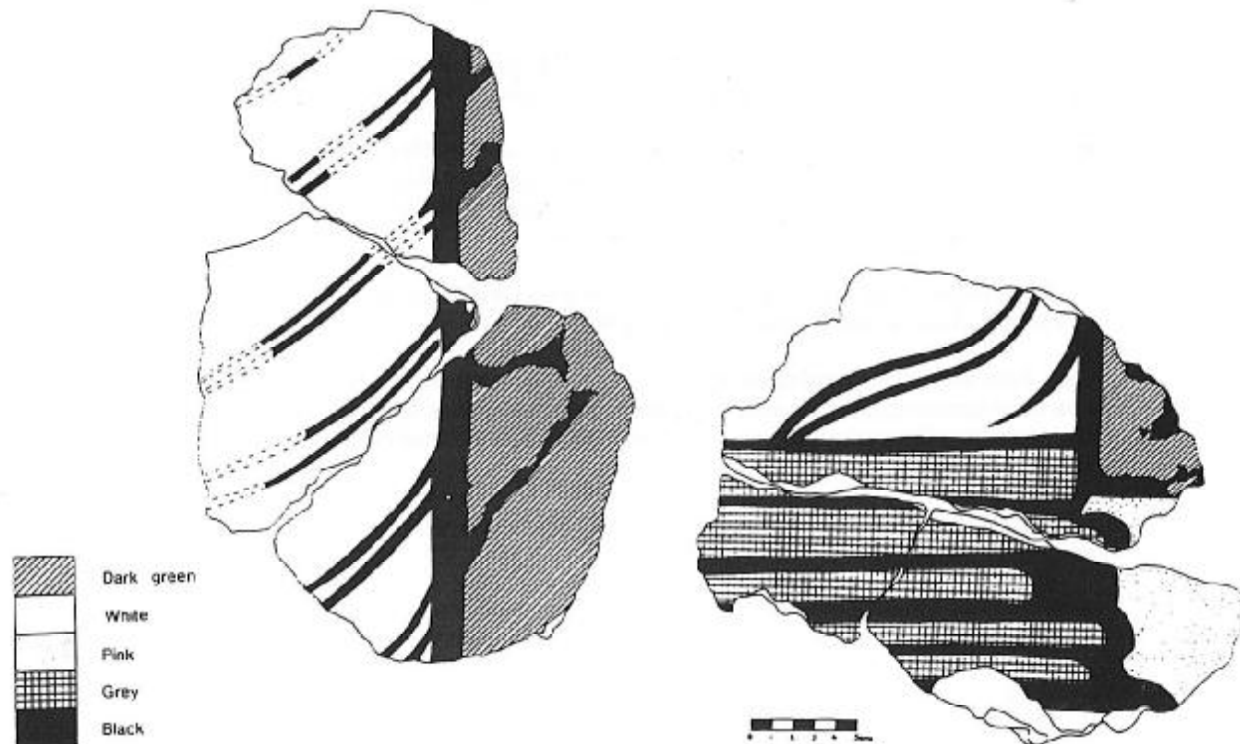
cases the plaster was found associated with well-to-do private dwellings. Some initial dating of the pottery from the dumped contexts that contained the painted wall plaster at SAY 88 has been done and would indicate dates of the 3rd to 4th century. The large context 1264 had pottery that fell into two distinct groups, one dating to the Flavian period, 7-100, and the other dating to the late 3rd to 4th century, 270-400.

#### Pigments

A wide variety of colours was used and for the most part they have survived in very good condition. The types of pigments used in the Roman period to create different colours are already known, and most of these would appear to be present in the group.

Roger Ling has suggested that the bright red used in design group (i) mentioned above may be cinnabar, a relatively rare pigment in Britain. Red is normally made by using red ochre, and use of cinnabar is known from only eighteen sites around the country. Cinnabar was an expensive material to use, and its presence would indicate a certain degree of wealth and social importance for the building it was used in. However, a sample of the pigment must first be analysed before it can be said for certain that it is cinnabar.

At the moment the wall plaster has been returned to storage, but we hope that we will be able to arrange a viewing of it for site staff from SAY 88 and anyone else who is interested.



Jackie Kelly

## CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

July has been a fairly hectic month in the conservation department, particularly because of the sheer number of people working in the lab (Phyllis Williams and Michael Halliwell, both students at the Institute of Archaeology, have been with us for work experience) and the number of equipment failures/breakdowns that have occurred recently. Over the last two weeks we've had problems with the X-ray machine, the freeze drier, the compressor (which operates, amongst other things, the airbrasive machine), the PEG tank, and next week the fume cupboards will be out of action! There can't actually be much left to go wrong (touch wood, preferably not waterlogged).

Current sites work continues as normal, with lots of Boys school (BOY 86) leather and miscellaneous coins being conserved by Michael and Phyllis. Dana has been busy with the LOW publication, various displays and BOY painted timbers. Several finds were taken to the Royal Armouries for X-Ray fluorescence analysis, including a 15th century leather belt with decorative metal studs; it transpired that the majority of the studs were made of a fairly standard copper alloy, with some made of a different alloy with traces of silver and mercury left on the surface. These traces, which were invisible not only to the naked eye but also at the sort of magnification we can get with the zoom microscopes in the lab, tell us that these studs were silvered, the silver being applied in a mercury amalgum. Also analysed for alloy content were some silver coins, a copper alloy mount and a tudor spoon from the Fleet Valley (although in the same style as the pewter spoons which have come from the same area, this one was made of a quaternary copper alloy and tinned - it would have originally looked and felt very similar to pewter).

Jill and Rose continue with Projects 25 (iron locks, keys and candlesticks) and 40 (post medieval pits) of the HBMC publication programme. Jill also went on the 'Metallography of ancient metal objects' Institute summer school course.

We hope that our equipment jinx came to an end when the Royal Armouries' XRF machine packed in whilst analysing our objects, and so are now looking forward to a trouble free August!

Dave Carrington

## DRAWING OFFICE (FRONT OF HOUSE)

Since we are frequently asked by members of staff to supply either panels or slides to accompany their lectures we thought we'd publish a list of all that can be borrowed from us. These can be used for lectures both inside and outside the museum. We have a collapsible, portable display unit that can be borrowed, too.

Remember, if you wish to commission us to produce panels and/or slide we would ideally like at least 4 weeks notice, although we know this is not always possible.

**General Topics**

- . The Department of Urban Archaeology
- . Archaeology in the City of London

## Site Recording

- . Dendrochronology
- . Archive reports

**Finds**

- . The journey of a find from discovery to display

**Timber**

- . Early woodworking in London
- . Recording ancient woodwork
- . Some uses of wood and timber on London's Saxon waterfront (x2)

**Current Research**

- . Conservation Dept - surfaces on metals from waterfront sites
- . Environmental Dept.

**On-line**

Series of panels, one per DUA section, to fit onto the portable display unit. These should cover Conservation, Finds, Environmental and moulded stones. This can then be taken to conferences and lectures by anyone who wishes.

**Site Specific**AI, post-excavation panels

ABC 87	CIL 86	GAM 88	MGT 86	SUN 86
AST 87	COV 87	GDH 87	MYA 88	SKN 87
AUF 88	CRT 89	ISH 88	NEB 87	SUN 86
BAA 87	DMT 88	LAH 88	OBA 88	SXE 87
BHS 87	EAG 87	LBT 86	ORM 88	TEX 88
BOY 86	EAS 88	LEE 87	PIC 87	UTA 87
BLM 87	FCS 87	LFE 87	PPO 87	VAL 88
BOS 87	FIB 88	LOW 88	QSK 89	VRV 89
BUC 87	FRI 88	LSO 88	SBG 87	WIV 88
CEM 88	GAG 87	LYD 88	SKN 87	

**Exhibitions**

BOY 86 VAL 88 VRV 89 WIV 88

On line - BBH 87 on-site exhibition (funding to be confirmed)  
LHN 89, 2 panels commissioned by the Church of St. Katherine Cree.

**Slide Artwork**

BOY 86 FRI 88 OBA 88  
CRT 89 LOW 88  
DMT 88 MGT 86 VAL 88

We have an extensive knowledge of the DUA slide collection, not only of specific sites, but also of the numerous other images that are there. We are always willing to help in slide selections for lectures etc.

**Site Information Boards up at the Moment**

RAC 90, 55 Gracechurch Street

**Tracy Welman and Julie Carr****A DAY AT THE BATHS**

Early, but not so bright, on Saturday 28th July (one or two suffering from the excesses of Naomi's send-off the previous evening) a party left the MOL on a day trip to visit the Roman Baths at Bath and Caerleon. A Minibus and driver were paid for courtesy of the DUA.

At Bath, Laurence Tindall of Nimbus Conservation Group conducted the party on a tour of the Roman Baths Museum. Laurence is currently working on the Bath House at Billingsgate and had previously been one of the team of conservators working at Bath. He was therefore able to give an invaluable insight into the building methods employed by the Romans. One remarkable fact was that all the wall surfaces were rendered and painted and that even fine ashlar stonework bore traces of gesso which indicate that the structure was once painted to imitate expensive coloured stone. Traces of gesso and paint could also be seen on figurative sculptures and inscriptions. The colours used were often strong primaries which Laurence believes to be a demonstration not of a naive colour sense but of a sophisticated use of colour by the Romans, who combined complementary colour to create the bright scintillating effects commonly seen in Medieval painting.

The Baths themselves, founded on the site of a natural spa, were clearly different in form and function to those at Billingsgate but the circumstances of their preservation, confined within illiberal basement spaces, are more comparable to Billingsgate. The problem of the conservation of masonry in a constantly damp environment was obvious. The available spaces also posed problems for the design of the display. Although the remains cover about a hectare, the publicly accessible floor space is limited and results in severe congestion if





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**COMPUTING DEPARTMENT**


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*Cut Out and Keep!*

**Running An Operating System Command**

[Esc] [Library] [Run]

1. Press [Esc] to activate menu.
2. Choose the [Library] command.
3. Choose the [Run] command.
4. Either type the command you wish to run or press <Return> to run a shell.

This command allows you to run MS-DOS or Xenix commands while using Word. With Xenix commands are typed in at the Xenix prompt rather than selected from the Visual Shell. When you use this command Word is temporarily exited and the command you enter is run. Useful commands might be copying files into different directories, listing or viewing files especially data files.

When the command has finished running press any key to resume using Word

**A word of warning** do not delete the file that you are working on in this way!

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**TRAINING**


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Here are some of the day schools being offered by Birmingham University. For further information please contact Susan Greenwood in the Excavations Office.

**WOMEN IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD :  
WORKSHOP**

B/123/AHD

*Tutor: Margaret Ehrenberg BA PhD FSA*

Saturday 6 October 1990, 10.00am-4.30pm at Winterbourne Fee: £13(£10.50) incl. lunch  
How can women be made visible in prehistory and early history using the evidence of archaeology? What roles were they expected to fulfil and what was their status? a participatory workshop where students working in groups will work on problems and case-studies to reach their own conclusions. a useful preliminary to the following day school on 'Powerful Women in the Past'

**THE VIKINGS IN BRITAIN**

B/113/HMD

*Dr Anthony Faulkes, Dr. James Graham-Campbell*

*Dr. Judith Jesch, Dr. Chris Wickham.* Fee: £15.00(£11.50) incl. lunch  
Saturday 13 October 1990, 10.00am-5.00pm at the Arts Faculty, University, B15  
After a first talk giving the wider context of Viking origins and activity, the others will concentrate on aspects of the British dimension: the settlement at York, poetry, art and archaeology.

**POWERFUL WOMEN IN PAST**

B/124/AHD

*Tutors: Margaret Ehrenberg, Annette Depla BA DPhil,*

*Susan Limbrey MA DPhil & Helen Cobb BA DPhil*

Saturday 20th October 1990, 10.00-5.30pm at Arts Faculty, University of Birmingham.  
Fee: £15(£11.50) including lunch  
Boudica, Queen Hatshepsut in Ancient Egypt, Livia in Rome and Queen Elizabeth I are excellent examples of women who were influential and powerful in male-dominated societies. How did they achieve their positions? How much power did they wield, and what problems did they face?

**THE BREDON MEDIEVAL BARN: ITS HISTORY  
AND ARCHITECTURE**

C/089/HMD

*Tutors: C.C.Dyer BA PhD, F.W.B.Charles, BArch MA FSA FRIBA*

Saturday 29 September, 1.30-5.30pm at Bredon Church Hall

Fee: £7.00(£5.00) National Trust members may pay reduced fee.

Barns were the largest structures built for practical purposes in the Middle Ages. Study of their construction helps us to understand building methods; study of their use teaches us about agriculture and social history. Bredon Barn, built in the fourteenth century still stands in spite of a disastrous fire in 1980. This day school brings together two experts on the Barn, an architect and a historian, who will explain its importance from their different perspectives. Advance enrolment(with fee) essential to: Clare Murdoch, 192 Rugby Road, Milverton, Leamington Spa, CV32 6DU.

**FLIGHTS INTO YESTERDAY:**

G/047/AHD

**Aerial Survey and Shropshire Archaeology**

Saturday 9th February 1991, 10.00am-5.00pm,

At: The Gateway, Shrewsbury.

Fee: (£12.00(£8.50) incl tea & coffee, but not lunch

Advance enrolment to: The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB.

(Tel. Shrewsbury 55137)

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF "GREEN ISSUES"  
*Tutors: Susan Limbrey BSc PhD, Clare de Rouffignac BSc,  
Paul Buckland PhD*

INTERPRETING THE PAST  
*Tutor: Michael Aston BA FSA MIFA*  
Saturday, 27 April 1991, 10.30-5.00pm  
At: Christ Church (New Church Hall, Malvern)  
Further details available shortly

Saturday 16 March 1991, 10.00am-5.30pm at Arts Faculty, University, B15  
Fee: £15.00(£11.50) incl. lunch  
Are "Green Issues" - the destruction of forests, soil erosion, climatic change and food poisoning new problems? Archaeology shows that they are as old as the first human communities; a sample of latest research from prehistory through to the Medieval period.

Advance enrolment: Heather Down, 52 Strawberry Avenue, Worcester.  
(Tel. Worcester 21535)



**CONFERENCE REPORTS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

1st June 1990, UNIVERSITY OF YORK

The workshop was structured around four talks (an introduction by David Fraser, and case studies from Martin Carver, Taryn Nixon and David Miles) and subsequent group work and discussion.

**John Wood** (University of York Archaeological Development Officer) introduced the workshop, citing site assessments as very much a topic of the moment and hoping too much blood would not be shed by the end of the day. Most of the issues he touched on were picked up later; it might be worth giving a mention though to his suggestions that a proper site assessment can offer the developer a number of options. (TJPN: Responsibility to the developer then?)

**David Fraser** 9HBMCO spoke on "Why we must evaluate". Based on the premise that rescue is second best and preservation (of deposits and/or information) *in situ* is the bottom line, our second objective must be pragmatism: to eliminate digging for digging's sake, to eliminate the waste of money (often the developer's) to eliminate the unexpected discovery, to eliminate imprecise cost estimates (spend more time on planning), and to eliminate the non-production of result/publications. We were admonished, therefore, to encourage professionalism and to make the public's view of archaeologists credible.

The elimination of the unexpected discovery received some debate. David Miles said that targeting is limited by sampling size; sampling can never be big enough to predict everything.....

In other words, nothing much in the way of new ideas, fresh from the country's site assessors, was evident in the workshop so far.

David Fraser produced a chart .....

	NATIONAL	LOCAL	SITE SPECIFIC
APPRAISAL			
ASSESSMENT			
EVALUATION			
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY			

**EARLY AGRICULTURE: TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY B/175/AHD**

*Tutors: Various*  
 Saturday, 3 November, 10.00am-5.30pm, at Arts Faculty, University, B15.  
 Fee: £15(£11.50) including lunch  
 The developing technology of agriculture has contributed greatly to our impact on the English landscape from prehistory to the present. A review of aspects of the changing methods and tools of agriculture as revealed by recent archaeological and historical research. In conjunction with CBA Group 8.

**NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY**

Weekend conference to draw attention to the important work and exciting achievements in British Near Eastern archaeological exploration and research.  
 Organised by BANEA and Dept. of Ancient History & Archaeology  
 9 - 11 November 1990 at Arts Faculty, University, B15  
 Further details from BANEA at Birmingham, c/o Dept. of Ancient History & Archaeology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TT

**THE WEST MIDLANDS IN THE SUB-ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD: RECENT WORK B/125/AHD**

*Tutors: J.D.Hurst MA DipArch, C.F.Mundy MA MIFA, J.A.Hemingtony Bed, P.A.Barker, MA FSA MIFA, S.Edmunds-Cleary, PhD*  
 Fee: £15.00(£11.50) including lunch  
 Saturday, 17 November, 10.00am-5.30pm, at Arts Faculty, University, B15  
 Our knowledge of settlement in the West Midlands in the sub-Roman and Anglo-Saxon period has been substantially enhanced in recent years by archaeological excavations at Worcester, Droitwich and Worcester; new documentary and theoretical studies have also added to our understanding.

**IMAGES AND SYMBOLS OF THE ROMAN WORLD B/126/AHD**

*Tutors: Graham Webster OBE MA PhD DLit FSA AMA MIFA, Martin Henig MA DPhil FSA*  
 Fee: £15(£11.50) including lunch  
 Saturday, 1 December, 10.30am-5.00pm, at Winterbourne  
 The ancient world abounds with images and symbols, which can be traced back to primitive Etruscan, Greek and Eastern origins. Images of monster, mazes and labyrinths abound, Inagljios, cameos and amulets held great significance.

**FIDO'S FOREBEARS: THE ROLE OF DOGS IN THE PAST B/127/AHD**

*Tutors: Juliet Clutton-Brock BSc PhD, Catherine Johns BA, Dave Symons BA, Jean le Patourel FSA*  
 Fee: £15(£11.50) incl. lunch  
 Saturday, 19 January 1991, 10.00am-5.30pm, at Arts Faculty, University, B15.  
 We have valued dogs as companions and as assistants in many different roles such as hunting, guarding and herding for over 10,000 years. How, why and when were they first domesticated? How highly were they regarded in the Roman and Medieval worlds, in what tasks did they assist and what breeds were known? And how much more varied have their used been in other parts of the world? Using skeletal evidence of dogs from archaeological sites, artistic representations and written records this day school will piece together many aspects of the archaeology of early history of dogs and will coincide with a major exhibition at Birmingham City Museum, and the first time that Crufts Dog Show has come to Birmingham.

**THE ENGLISH PARISH CHURCH B/174/AHD**

*Tutors: Various*  
 Fee: £15(£11.50) incl. lunch  
 Saturday, 2 February 1991, 10.00am-5.30pm, at Arts Faculty, University, B15  
 The parish church is one of the most familiar features in the English landscape, and for centuries has attracted the interest of scholars from various disciplines. Themes to be considered include the formation of parishes, archaeological excavation, and furnishing and decoration of churches.

**WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY B/128/AHD**

*Tutors: Various*  
 Fee: £15(£11.50) incl. lunch  
 Saturday 15 February 1991, 10.00am-5.30pm At Arts Faculty, University, B15  
 Annual survey of the latest archaeological excavations and discoveries from around our region. In conjunction with CBA Group 8

**PLANT AND ANIMAL REMAINS IN ARCHAEOLOGY: WORKSHOP B/129/AHD**

*Tutor: Clare de Rouffignac, BSc*  
 Fee: £13.00(£10.50)  
 Saturday 2 March 1991, 10.00am-5.30pm at Winterbourne  
 Including lunch  
 Environmental archaeology studies biological material such as bones, seeds, snails and pollen collected during excavation which gives evidence of climate, agriculture, diet and disease. Practical sessions giving first-hand experience will be backed up by scene-setting lectures. Complimentary to Archaeology of "Green issues" day school.

where headings at the top are scales, and headings on the left are levels of decision. Whereas DF hadn't seen a really good management strategy for a specific site, they do perhaps exist. What we archaeologists aren't doing is dealing with the bottom left of the chart, i.e. we use national appraisals (academic summaries) *informally*, but we don't publish them; we don't have national assessments (priorities/a game plan for the next 'n' years); we don't do national evaluations (related to specific proposals such as road networks)....Lack of resources are to blame for this deficiency.

**Martin Carver** (York) spoke on "Assessment in Towns: the York Evaluation Project". The project is based on evaluating in order to match research design with deposits, and then deciding what is possible or ethical. The research agenda comes into all archaeological decisions. MC proposed greater use of geophysical techniques, good for rural deposit modelling if you're dealing with the unknown; then you dig to see if the geophysical predictions were right.

MC said we must get better at presentation: a developer would rather see a bold, well-presented prediction than a page of fuzz. Also, we must endeavour to evaluate without destroying (for example, remove a late cellar and study the section behind it).

The York Evaluation Project involved strata depth maps, and the study of 'comparative assets' for different sites, towns, countries, etc. We saw a DBase 3 model, where deposit types and depths were separate <fields> within a site <file>, to produce zones - zonation being a step in the move towards a management plan for York.

All this is necessary to avoid the sort of string of disasters we've seen recently, a lot of which was the archaeologist's fault. We were told that at Huggin Hill, for example, the DUA's evaluation didn't get to the developer - who was then surprised to find walls surviving 8 feet high, (This view corrected by RE during discussion later).

Nine projects have been identified for York over the next 10 years as part of the research agenda:

1. Enhancing the deposit model; making site evaluation compulsory; not opening up to competition. If a developer refuses to evaluate (or challenges the refusal of planning permission) a citizen can take him or her to court (ref. an EEC E.I.A. directive) - we should do this as part of our responsibility and to help out English Heritage.
2. Resource mapping (e.g. in open areas).
3. **Formal Excavation when the deposit model matches the research agenda.** Only 7 out of 35 threatened sites in York will 'match' in the next 10 years.

or

**Mitigation** for the other 28 sites (to preserve them, not by scheduling but by site protection). (We then saw Ove Arup's proposed pile configuration for a Coppergate site; the level of destruction was apparently acceptable ....)

4. Medieval buildings;
5. Pottery from secondary deposits;

6. Rivers;

7. Hinterland;

8. Protective Strategies (e.g. decay of deposits);

9. Annual review of research agenda.

In summary Martin Carver said archaeologists lack confidence. (Radar is not good enough yet and this hasn't helped). We must have research agendas as the prime move, and encourage developers to insure against unexpected discoveries. Archaeologists should legislate as consultants, and insist that local authorities commission the scope of work on sites.

**Taryn Nixon** spoke on "Site Assessment and Evaluation of MOL". (The talk appeared to be well received, prompting favourable comments from DF and MC. Anyone who would like to see a transcript of that talk, please contact Taryn (x308).)

**David Miles** (OAU) gave the last case study: "Site Assessment & Evaluation at the Oxford Archaeological Unit". Having been introduced by J. Wood as the head of a unit which "does work in lots of places", DM referred to what are often seen as the "gilded pastures of the south" and said that the OAU has never had geographical boundaries, and the latest job the OAU have been asked to tender for is in Eastern Europe. Whereas 3 years ago 80% of the OAU's funds came from the statutory authority and English Heritage, now 80% comes from developers. This has resulted in a higher standard of archaeology. DM agreed that the key is in maintaining standards. Standards in Berkshire are high, because Berks. has a strong planning department which has a system of approving contractors. Where controls are lacking, Cultural Resource Management will harm the discipline (e.g. USA experience).

DM defined "assessment" as gathering information (desk studies, holes in the ground, etc.), and "evaluation" as putting a value on it. Evaluation is the job of the curator, not the contractor. Preliminary enquiries thus go directly to the contractor.

DM disagreed that developers want the job done cheaply; his experience was that they want quality. He praised MOL for the enormous amount they had done to improve Health & Safety standards. DM said the notion of the 2% sample should be shot down; we don't want recipes; sampling should be targeted to suit the site. DM later noted that the OAU quite often loses work because they write quite detailed specifications: others may write specifications which propose to do less for less money.

**Steve Roskams** (York) asked DM what variation of skills an assessor should have. DM felt it was seen as a low status job, but is really the most difficult: therefore the more experience you have in particular areas the better". DM said that he therefore agrees with the local unit expertise argument. He felt we should be not only training archaeologists, but providing a good career structure as well. What we need therefore is to co-operate - to win over the outside world - and to sub-contract within archaeology (e.g. where the local unit does the field work, and OAU act as consultants to the developer - to act as 'enabler', although of course not guaranteeing that the developer will get planning permission). In answer to R. Ellis's question DM said it is the curators who must draw up assessment briefs, to ensure that they are able to evaluate from the contractor's assessment.

After the group work sessions, each group reported back.



**GROUP 1** agreed they wanted to be pro-active and to have an explicit research agenda although resources would be a major problem. They had difficulties with the contractor/curator division: some felt curating was the starting point, leading to contracting; others thought the two services must be integrated. They proposed that IFA should address this.

**GROUP 2** identified the need for an information base in order to make assessments - but didn't know how this should be funded. They saw a need for design and planning skills, and for enforcing levels of competence. To this end it is necessary to document a number of competitive tendering case studies so that we can move on to testing practice.

**GROUP 3** agreed that a check on standards was needed. For each developer who wants quality as many if not more could be found who wanted the cheapest archaeology. The problems of competitive tendering were seen as caused by archaeologists looking for better paid work, and the curatorial stance was seen as most important; archaeologists should therefore wear 2 hats.

**GROUP 4** saw positive benefits from the integrated roles of local authority based units, through local knowledge and expertise. Some felt that on the other hand when the roles are separated contractors will bend over backwards to be seen not to be lining their pockets. Developers were not seen as always comparing like with like in selecting tenders. Research agendas were fine in principle, but again, many units don't have the resources to produce these. (The suggestion that English Heritage might contribute was not well received by Bill Startin). An urgent need for legislation was identified, as well as for greater professionalism in business terms, to remove the quality variation between curators.

**GROUP 5** felt that SMR's are still quite deficient, often not good enough for preliminary assessments. They saw a local authority role in published research designs in a format intelligible to planners and developers. They sought a clarification of the roles of curator v. contractor; ideally a high moral ground was needed whereby curators advise and contractors do not provoke contact with developers since the latter could be a license to print money. They agreed that archaeology needs to be more popular and better understood by the public. The centralising of all assessment reports was sought: perhaps in SMR's, by IFA, in County Record Offices, or by leaflet publication - so as to benefit the discipline. They also saw an IFA role in co-ordinating standards.

**John Wood summarised**, by noting that there was a unanimous move in favour of being more pro-active, that there were clearly concerns about competitive tendering in connection with standards, and that the facility to monitor sites was important. In many ways the pub. conversations were just as useful as the workshop session. Martin Carver thought the DUA had made a good case for an integrated service, though he and Steve Roskams both thought there was a perceived absence of research objectives in London, which needed addressing. I'd agree whole-heartedly; one just needs to look back over the minutes of various internal meetings to see *Research Strategy* featuring; the same things have been said for years and I'm not convinced that the resources needed to centralise/formalise our strategies should be underwhelming. What did seem clear from this workshop was that most if not all of the units and authorities represented are at least as if not more lacking in noticeable research agendas as the DUA.

Cue: take the lead.

Taryn Nixon

### **GRAND DEBATE BUT WITHIN LIMITED HORIZONS!**

Milton Keynes Archaeological unit put on **A Grand Debate** on the topic of contract archaeology in the least grand surroundings imaginable, a factory unit in the suburbs of the new town which happens to be the rather spartan accommodation of the local rescue archaeologists. If your mind wandered off the topic of discussion you could examine the very unecological surroundings, bare roof lacking insulation, and a vast space above your heads into which any warm fuff would gather from the in-efficient space heaters. Hot air generated at ground level derived from local members of the IFA and new town diggers concerned, no doubt, with their prospects in 1992 when their core funding ceased and they were thrown out into the hard world of commerce. The debate became more of a discussion at the end but started with set-piece speeches for and against. The arch-demon of the contractors was there, David Miles of Oxford, to inform us that contract archaeology was based on the principle that the polluter pays, he even added the magical word "Green" to show a token awareness of such issues. This attracted my attention down from the pipework and set me to pondering whether it would not be greener not to build in the first place, especially if it was for rows of corrugated sheds like these, a point made later by David Baker. The Polluter pays can very easily become the polluter buys off or the polluter salves his conscience. Miles also claimed the 'high ground' in certain respects of his company activities, not that geographically there is much of that in his region but then presumably that would now include Ben Nevis if someone had plans to pollute that too. Anyway it was the Curators who were going to occupy these peak sanctuaries of moral rectitude dictating what developers could or could not do, judging which archaeological contractors were acceptable and whether or not their works were good. What remained unanswered was whether this covered the whole process right through to final publication. But from what David Baker had to say, speaking against the motion, County Archaeologists and archaeological planning officers were not happy with taking on all these roles, were not over-staffed with augurs ready and willing to look into the entrails of a suit and pronounce it wholesome or not. As to the contractors, what was their motive? Were they simply to cover their operating costs and wages make a profit for their shareholders or did they intend to accumulate spare funds for research work beyond the purely utilitarian needs of commercial rescue archaeology? He saw the role of the independent contractor not as competitive but complementary, filling in the gaps between the original area based units.

Which takes us back to the halcyon days evoked by Mike Farley, when the new dawn of regional, public funded organisations was lightening the darkness of the early 70's. This public service archaeology had, unfairly, been tainted by the warped priorities of contemporary politics with its emphasis on commercialism and competitiveness as the panacea for ills that were anyway illusory. Where was the IFA in all this, the institution that was supposed to be setting standards and monitoring archaeological practices, had it had any real involvement in the policing of competitive tendering or maintaining of quality control? Indeed, the body whose local members had staged this meeting was remarkably quiet and seemed absent from the debate - unless Roger Thomas as chairman represented it, but with his other hat, as an English Heritage official under his seat, he could hardly be said to be impartial IFA member.

As to the quality of the archaeological contractors, many were fine but the adversarial principle which guided them was foreign to the sort of discipline that he envisaged.

Discussion seemed thereafter limited to the main protagonists but John Maloney did strike off

with a rhetorical question as to the independence of the free-market operator, was this independent of control over methods, constraints of safety, research aims or good employment practices? As to the elevated standards claimed by Miles chapter and verse was quoted on one City site where tendering had been more competitive than Miles seemed willing to admit. He countered by claiming to have referred to the consultancy work as being on an un-competitive basis and seemed to say that he did not desire more competition in the field of excavation contracts. As to the details of work in London he would not be drawn and yet, in judging the efficiency of contract - archaeology, case studies are all important. I also cannot help wondering about the cost-benefit analysis of such operations, how was the money spent, what was produced with it - does anybody independently check the accounts of competing Units, are there annual accounts accessible at Companies House?

In relation to developer's attitudes, the supporters claimed that money was not the only criteria of the funding developer but that the fact of paying meant they took more interest in the archaeological results and took them seriously, something that does have the ring of truth to it, as far as the enlightened developers are concerned and in the context of an archaeology set on a par with other specialist services required by the planning process of today.

Of course, I tried to raise the moral tone with a profound statement on the aims of archaeology being more than simply a service industry and addressing the environmental issues of nations if not global significance, but that went down like the proverbial plutonium balloon. However, un-deterred, I still question whether we take archaeology seriously enough. In the context of the present debate do we accept archaeology only as relevant to the practical problem of conserving or recording physical remains, the work open to competitive, commercial pressures, or do we see it as an academic discipline with areas of pure research of no obvious practical benefit to a developer but with relevance to public understanding of wider issues? The use of information from commercial archaeology was not touched upon nor its relationship to broader research aims yet this is the crucial factor in deciding whether we accept what is basically Thatcherism in Archaeology. Certainly it is crucial to the sort of approach I see in which there is much more preservation of the physical evidence as part of a wider landscape conservation programme (The Polluter is stopped in his tracks) and in which there are much more refined research aims to the fieldwork that does take place (the polluter is educated or informed of the ill effects of his activity), and there, of course, you start to question the basis of the present economic, social and political order. Is the developer going to fund archaeologists to do that, which goes far beyond public relations exercises or Heritage centres?

Christopher Sparey-Green

### GARY DIGS AVON PIKE

SALISBURY archaeologist Gary Richards explored the depths of the Hampshire Avon to tempt a 15 lb 8 oz pike.

The 32-year-old was fishing a herring deadbait at Harham Bridge when he connected with the pike during a two-hour session.

## DUA EXCAVATIONS NEWS

Summaries of sites: July 1990

### 1. Tallow Chandlers Hall

It was possible to examine the fabric of/below this building during refurbishment. The site lies within the area of the Governor's Palace, and 2 fragments of possible Roman wall were uncovered, one of chalk and ragstone infill, and the other made entirely of chalk. Substantial structural remains of the medieval Hall were uncovered. These included a chalk and rag wall, and a beaten clay floor, covered with demolition layers including quantities of glazed tile dating to the Great Fire. Some of the post-Great Fire 1672 timber frame was uncovered, along with patches of brick infill and original lath and plasterwork.

### 2. Billingsgate Bath House

Bath House

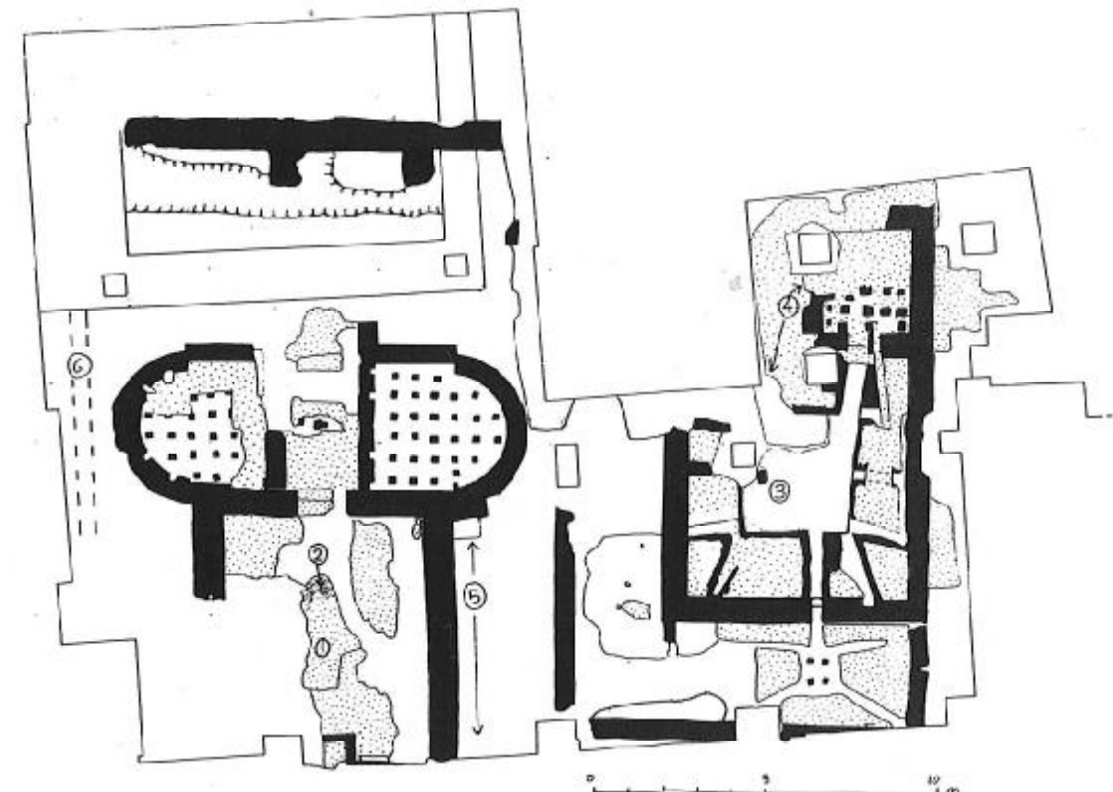
Part of the mortar floor in the *Frigidarium* has been moulded and removed, and the plaster beneath excavated. A thin trample of mortar underlay the dump and covered the original tessellated floor (see 1 on plan). No occupation debris was observed, indicating that the floor was clean at the time the plaster was deposited. The tessellated floor was heavily worn, particularly at its northern end where the tiles had been completely worn through to expose the mortar bed beneath (see 2). This wear pattern demonstrates the intensity of use immediately to the south of the threshold. The tesserae have been lifted and the mortar recorded.

East Wing

The recording of the structures revealed by the removal of the modern capping in Room 2 and the corridor is proceeding. The deposits at the south west corner of the hypocaust chamber in Room 4 have been excavated and samples retained for sieving (see 3). A single tile of one *pila* was found still *in situ*.

North Wing

The entire wall of the wing has been recorded.





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# RATS



## VIEWS

### ARCHAEOLOGY IN LONDON

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu represents the English Heritage position on archaeological provision in the capital

Your article 'English Heritage Shuns Museum Archaeology' contains a number of inaccuracies and misconceptions which, unless corrected, will create apprehension among museum archaeologists and division within the archaeological profession where neither need exist. The views of English Heritage were not sought before the article was published and the purpose of this article is to set the record straight.

The article correctly states that overall responsibility for archaeology in London lies firmly with the GLC and was transferred to English Heritage in 1986. The 'strategic' archaeological role has never rested with the Museum of London.

As archaeology becomes more integrated with the town and country planning process, it is increasingly important that local planning authorities should be properly advised about archaeological matters. In most places, this is a function which is - quite rightly in our view - carried out by the county council, or where appropriate by district councils. In London, where the strategic planning role lay with the GLC until 1986, and where English Heritage is the successor body in 'heritage' matters, we propose to follow this pattern by exercising the formal advisory function ourselves.

Our proposals are clearly a response to a situation which is unique to London. There is absolutely no question of English Heritage having 'plans for the reorganisation of archaeological provision throughout Britain' - a suggestion which could only be made in ignorance of how the planning system normally works outside London.

There is no reason to suppose that our proposals will 'cripple rescue archaeology in London'. In our experience, the systematic incorporation of archaeology into the process invariably results in improvement in archaeological provision.

What does concern us in this context is any view that the planning advice function should be the 'nervous' of a rescue archaeology 'engine' - archaeological planning advice is, or at any rate should be, about the protection of archaeological sites, not about creating a steady flow of 'rescue' excavations for a digging team. The museum town comments quoted in the article underline our concern about the arrangements for providing archaeological advice in London. English Heritage's archaeological plans to be

## VIEWS

### ARCHAEOLOGY IN LONDON

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Museum of London totalled some £1.4m in 1989/90. Almost £400,000 of this was made available as a block grant towards the annual costs of the museum's archaeological establishment, under an arrangement inherited from the GLC. As your article makes clear, this grant has always been discretionary and subject to review and English Heritage proposes to change the basis of this funding gradually over the period 1990/91 to 1994/95 to reflect changing circumstances and, in particular, to identify more clearly the projects to which the funding relates. We have offered the museum substantial assistance with this gradual transition but that offer has yet to be accepted. Discussions are continuing in what we believe is a friendly manner.

English Heritage does not 'fear that too many expensive digs will discourage developers from coming up to find'. What we do fear is that over-enthusiasm for rescue excavation can result in the destruction of important archaeological remains which could, in fact, have been preserved intact, and in our view much more attention should be paid to the possibilities of *in situ* preservation. The high cost to developers of rescue excavation may militate in favour of *in situ* preservation options (of which we have arguably seen too little in London in recent years) and this is only to be welcomed. Our primary objective is to secure the preservation of archaeological remains, not to reduce developers' costs.

Competitive tendering in archaeology is the clear corollary of developer-funding for archaeology, and it would not be right for English Heritage (or any other body) to try to obstruct a developer who wished to seek more than one quotation for archaeological work.

It is not our policy to 'support' - by which we assume is meant 'promote' - competitive tendering, and this was made clear at a meeting with the president of the Museums Association in April this year, but to assist in providing an

## VIEWS

### MPs want debate on archaeology takeover

By Simon Tarr, Arts Correspondent

A GROUP of MPs will try to halt a move by English Heritage which could end the archaeological work in the London area and define priorities for the future. A spokesman at the House of Commons said: "Under the National Heritage Act of 1983 we were given a duty to secure the archaeological heritage of London. We propose to do that duty by setting up an advisory service to help planning authorities in their own areas. This is not a takeover. It has been our own statutory advisers, such as Sir David Wilson of the British Museum, and it passed with flying colours."

Mr. Hughes said yesterday: "We have been briefed by the director of the museum, archaeologists and members from the House of Commons. It is a matter to be debated as soon as possible. English Heritage appear to be breaking the understanding that they had with the House of Commons."

A group of London MPs led by Simon Hughes, a Social Democrat, and including Tony Banks, Labour, and Gerald Bowden, Conservative, is attempting to get a Commons debate on the subject of English Heritage. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, and David Triesman, the heritage minister.

The motives of English Heritage, however, were outlined to local authorities in May. "London presently lacks any strategic knowledge of the

## PRESS CUTTINGS

### THE TIMES

#### London archaeology

From the Director of the Museum of London

Sir, The letter from the Chairman of English Heritage (July 25) about London archaeology and its preservation and study requires some clarification if the issues that divide the Museum of London and English Heritage are to be understood.

Although the present disagreement may appear to be about minor problems of organisation and funding, the outcome will undoubtedly have far-reaching consequences for the preservation of our buried heritage and for its recording when excavation is necessary. The present arrangements whereby the Museum of London and the Passmore Edwards Museum provided an archaeological service for Greater London were established in 1982 with funds from the GLC.

The terms of reference are clear: close involvement in the planning process; ensuring the best academic advice to field teams; high standards of recording and publication on sites to be destroyed; and proper handling of the finds and data recovered. Specific provisions were included in the Museum of London Act 1986 to enable the service to

continue and to be financed by English Heritage in the place of the GLC.

English Heritage propose to take over close involvement in the planning process themselves. There is no precedent for English Heritage exercising both a national responsibility as adviser to the Department of the Environment and a county responsibility as adviser to local planning authorities.

The withdrawal of the English Heritage grant to the Museum of London and the Passmore Edwards Museum will also mean that it will not be possible to carry out the other aspects of the service. It is not practicable to load the costs on to sites where an excavation project is necessary in advance of redevelopment, usually paid for by the developers themselves, and whose help we are glad to acknowledge.

There is no evidence that changes to the existing well-established and experienced service will improve the situation with regard to the capital's archaeology.

Yours faithfully,  
MAX HEDDITCH,  
Director,  
The Museum of London,  
London Wall, EC2,  
July 27.

Situated within the Royal Naval Museum is the Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth, the 12,000 volume King Alfred Library, which opened in July, is a major new naval research centre. As well as standard naval reference works, such as Brassey's Naval Annual, the library contains an extensive collection of books relating to the lives of naval personnel. Housed in one of the Georgian stables that once supplied Nelson's fleet, the library is open to the public on an appointment basis and at readers need to 50 is apply for a special ticket free of charge.

Lt. Richard Noyce, ceremonial assistant of the Royal Naval Museum, gets aboard of the The Triton - the museum library has a complete set from 1824 - 1986, all bound in their original form.

Claire Coyne



MUSEUMS JOURNAL AUGUST 1990



# Hinton & Higgs Helps the Archaeologists

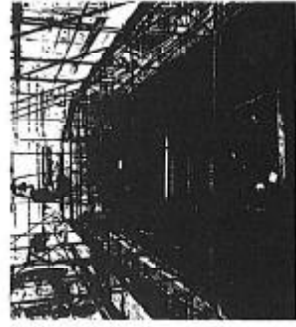
For the past two years Hinton & Higgs has been closely involved with one of London's largest ever archaeological projects, the Fleet Valley site.

The site, which is being conducted by the Museum of London's Department of Urban Archaeology, Unit was made possible by major construction work on the new railway link at Ludgate Circus.

The original railway line, and viaduct are being demolished, while a new railway and underground station are being built. More important from an archaeological perspective, however, is the fact that the work happens to correspond almost exactly to the route of the long-since vanished river fleet. This major Saxon and Medieval thoroughfare, now in Hampstead and can literally through present day London along the line of Farringdon St and down to the Thames.

There are a number of areas of concern for archaeologists in terms of health and safety, and it is Hinton & Higgs' role to monitor these closely in collaboration with the Unit's staff.

Working cheek by jowl with major construction brings its own hazards, not the least of which is simply the presence of mobile machinery, constant local activity and so on. However, more specifically there are common areas of concern, as the site's project coordinator for the



**Customized Computer Auditing from Hinton & Higgs**  
Hinton & Higgs has launched a new computerized Health and Safety auditing system specifically designed to meet individual company needs.

"HinterSafe" is a software package designed to monitor safety performance at all levels in a company's structure. It can also be used to monitor the performance in other fields such as quality control and management.

The package is designed as a shell which Hinton & Higgs can customize to suit a business's own specific needs and company culture. Answers to questions on the safety audit are entered directly onto a PC and data immediately analysed or, if preferred, the questions can be printed out and processed later.

"HinterSafe" runs on IBM compatible PCs, and no specialist knowledge of computer systems is required to use the system.

For more information on "HinterSafe", please contact: Terry de Havel or Huw Andrews at The Information Centre, telephone: Abingdon (0235) 534228.



**Hinton & Higgs (Training) Ltd played host recently to the Electricity Supply Board of Eire, which spent three days at its Milton Park training centre learning how to remove asbestos safely.**

Eleven delegates took the course, ranging from supervisors and senior managers to industrial chemists. They then travelled to Hinton & Higgs Cardiff based laboratory where they were taken on some specially arranged visits to see asbestos removal actually being performed.

That time he was wearing a hard hat, though he was off work for three days. **2/8/92**

£100 FINE

## Hard hat prosecution by HSE succeeds

The Health and Safety Executive has carried through its first successful prosecution under the recently-introduced laws covering hard hat wear.

GKN Kwikform scaffolder Simon Houlton was fined £100, plus £40 costs, after pleading guilty in Northampton to breaching the Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989.

The regulations, which come into effect at the end of March, are designed to cut down the appalling death rate in the UK construction industry, which kills on average two people every week.

The new rules have been generally well received, the HSE adds, though a significant minority still refuse to protect themselves.

Houlton, however, had the point hammered home. Just after he was charged, a brick fell 9m onto his head.

That time he was wearing a hard hat, though he was off work for three days. **2/8/92**

## HOME NEWS 3

### Route of Roman road revealed

Jean Blood

DOWN in the Old Kent Road, next to the Henry Cooper public house where boxers trained in the gym, archaeologists have discovered the precise line of Watling Street, the first road the Romans built in Britain and the route taken by the Wife of Bath and the rest of Chaucer's Canterbury pilgrims.

The Museum of London took the chance to look for the road when demolition began on a site for development.

"This is the first evidence we have ever had of the route of the road, which was always believed to be directly under the Old Kent Road," said John Dillon of the museum's archaeology department.

In fact, the Roman road is 30 metres to the south of the traffic jams. Two sections have been unearthed, the longest stretches of Roman road ever discovered in central London, made of closely-packed stones and flanked by ditches. Built in the first century, it remained an important route after the Romans left in the fifth century.

The archaeologists have also found pottery which, when tested, will give clues as to the Roman diet.

Signs of a Neolithic flint factory have also come to light, dating back to at least 4,000 BC. "It looks as though we will turn up thousands of flints used as knives and weapons," said Wendy Rogers, the museum archaeologist supervising the £150,000 excavation funded by Chartwell Land. A deadline of August 24 has been set before building starts on warehouses and workshops.



Roadworks... Archaeologists at work on the Roman road by the Old Kent Road in south London. PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAWRENCE

## MPs call for debate on archaeology takeover

MPs led by Simon Hughes, the Social Democrat, is attempting to get a Commons debate and urgent intervention in the capital, after the City chairman of English Heritage and David Tappin, the heritage minister.

The motives of English Heritage, however, were outlined to local authorities in May: "London presently lacks any strategic knowledge of the archaeological assessment, which and to be going against all professional advice."

Mr Hughes said yesterday: "English Heritage appear to be breaking the understanding under which they took over funding from the GLC in 1986, and to be going against all professional advice."

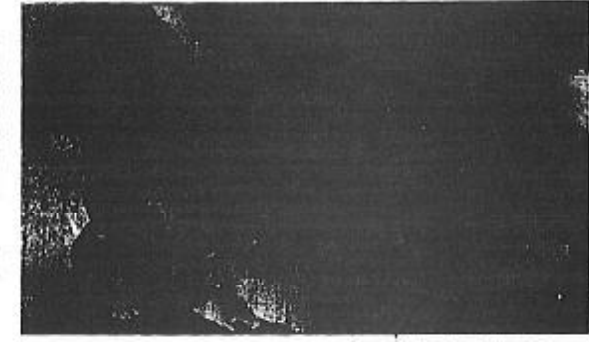
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## Swedish developers aid Docklands' museum

The City Recorder Thursday, JULY 19, 1990



Swedish developer NCC Property Ltd has come to an agreement with the Museum of London to provide £250,000 over two years to maintain, improve and enhance the site.

The agreement means that two professional contractors, who would otherwise have been made redundant, will be able to continue their work on the site.

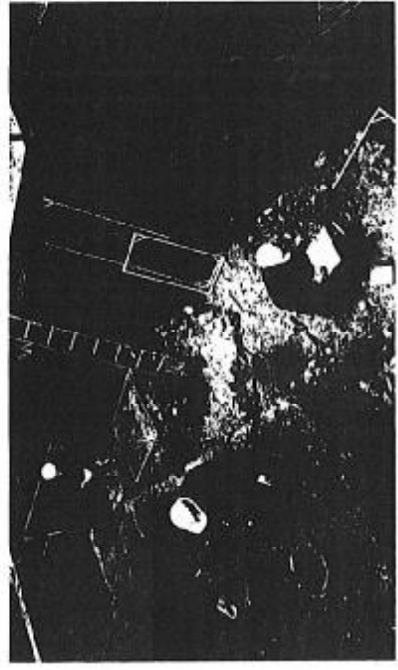
The agreement also means that the museum will be able to continue its work on the site, which is a major part of the Docklands regeneration project.

The agreement is a significant step towards the development of the Docklands area, which is one of the most rapidly growing parts of London.

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Archaeologists at work on the Roman road by the Old Kent Road in south London. PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAWRENCE



# ARCHAEOLOGY AND PLANNING: A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

The long awaited 'Planning Policy Guidance Note: Archaeology and Planning' was released by the DoE at the end of February as a consultative document.

Its very appearance marks an important step forward, for it signifies government acceptance that planning decisions, often made with scant regard to historical considerations, determine the fate of many of Britain's archaeological sites.

The short introductory statement (paras 1-12) concedes that "archaeological remains are irreplaceable" and that "much archaeological heritage" has been destroyed by man this century. "The key", the guidelines state, "to the future of the great majority of archaeological sites and historic landscapes lies with local authorities". This is a future, the guidelines assert, where preservation rather than investigation should be emphasised.

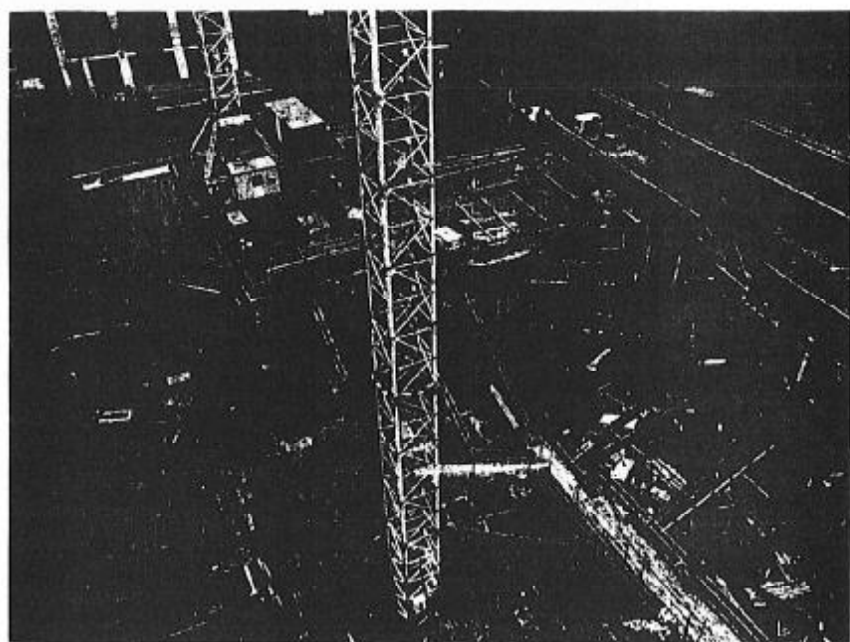
In the case of sites that might be classified "nationally important ancient monuments, whether scheduled or not", say the guidelines, "there should be a presumption in favour of preservation". For the vast majority of Britain's remaining sites, it appears to be envisaged that "positive planning and management" based on "voluntary cooperation" will allow for most to be left uninvestigated but undisturbed in redevelopment through the "sympathetic design" of schemes.

Much of the document (paras 13-30) is concerned with giving "advice on the handling of archaeological matters in the planning process" with reference to development plans and planning applications, decisions and conditions. It is right to single out the need for local authorities to provide in their development plans "policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest" (13) and to call for "early consultation between developers and local planning authorities" (14) when sites are likely to be affected.

As far as planning applications are concerned, the guidelines call on developers and planners to deal with archaeological matters "as an integral part of the planning application" (17). They introduce (18-22) the concept of an "archaeological evaluation", commissioned by developers voluntarily or at the request or even direction of the planning authority, so that they may provide archaeological information within their application for planning consent.

Should excavation be necessary, because the site cannot be left undisturbed, the government, says the guidelines, "considers it reasonable for developers to contribute towards their cost" (24). Whether preservation or excavation of sites is envisaged, the guidelines suggest that agreements, between developers and local authorities (under Section 52 of the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act), or developers and archaeologists, should be appropriate.

Planning decisions that are eventually made by the local authority, the guidelines assert, should take account of local



Development at present underway on the site of the Huggin Hill Roman baths in London (see cover and RN48). Here the majority of the remains are being preserved beneath the new building. The new guidelines emphasise the importance of preservation *in situ* where possible. Photograph Museum of London.

development plans. Thus, sites containing "remains ... of national importance" or "monuments ... worthy of preservation for local reasons" (27) might be refused planning permission unless "developers ... seek to protect or accommodate such remains". However, it is considered that "in the great majority of cases permission will be given because archaeological remains will be preserved unaffected".

Though a planning authority "should seek to ensure that potential conflicts are resolved and agreements with developers concluded before planning permission is granted" it may "impose conditions" on the developer including one "prohibiting the carrying out of development ... until an excavation has been carried out" (29).

The final matter of substance relates to the "discovery of archaeological remains after the grant of planning permission". Here, says the DoE, there are "no ready made solutions" to the archaeologists' desire to "preserve important archaeological remains" (30). However, "a voluntary discussion" in which English Heritage and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group are "ready to offer practical advice" should allow "in the majority of cases ... for a satisfactory compromise to be reached".

The analysis above is based on what might be called a positive reading of the provisions contained in the guidelines. Many archaeologists, aware that they are often the weaker party in negotiations, will be disappointed in that the measures as proposed rely heavily on voluntary agreements rather than statutory controls. It may well be that developers, mineral extractors,

lawyers and planners will take a more negative view as far as the requirements of archaeology are concerned and such responses as the consultation elicits should be fully debated with all the interested parties before the guidelines emerge in their final form.

A number of assumptions and definitions contained in the guidelines do require further discussion and these are noted below:

1. Are "archaeological sites", which are usually largely unknown, buried, and unprotected, covered by the definition of "ancient monuments" which are often visible, upstanding and protected?
2. Is it a realistic view that most sites threatened by redevelopment can be protected through "sympathetic design" and "sympathetic planning policies", thus removing the need for archaeological investigations? If not, would it be more useful to provide greater emphasis for facilitating archaeological investigations rather than the protection of sites uninvestigated?
3. While it may be reasonable for a planning authority to "request" or even "direct" potential developers to carry out an "archaeological field evaluation", what procedures should be adopted if the developer does not intend to purchase the site until after obtaining planning consent?
4. Though the government considers it "reasonable for developers to contribute" towards the cost of excavation and recording, who will provide the rest of the necessary funds? It is, in general, very difficult to

get developers to contribute fully and the exhortation that "other sources of funding should be explored" is hardly satisfactory. It is also rather unfair for the government to expect the private sector to contribute whilst asserting that in Crown developments "the department concerned may in certain circumstances be able to offer some assistance".

5. Proven archaeological remains, may only become apparent on site in many cases after planning permission has been granted. In such instances, with a development scheme well-advanced, whether in design or in construction, surely the archaeological requirement will usually be to record rather than "preserve". The former rather than the latter will need to be taken account of in the "open ... frank ... realistic discussions" which the guidelines (diplomatically) envisage!

This document should therefore be welcomed as a consultation paper. It will though be strengthened immeasurably if, in its final form, it contains directions to ensure that evaluations are carried out, preferably, but not necessarily exclusively, before planning permission is given. If, as a result of such evaluations, the decisions then made about development sites, have to take into account the need to preserve the archaeological deposits uninvestigated, or arrange for their excavation and recording and even in certain circumstances, their presentation as a public monument, the planning guidelines will prove to be of considerable importance in securing the future of Britain's archaeological sites.

Harvey Sheldon

# ARCHAEOLOGY - INTO THE 1990s

The 1990 RESCUE AGM was followed by an open meeting which concentrated on how archaeology was likely to develop in the next decade, in the light of recent events. The session proved to be a great success, combining talks by archaeologists on recent projects, with politicians who sought to explain their parties policy on archaeology.

About 200 people were present (on 17 February at the Museum of London) when Rescue's Chairman, Harvey Sheldon, introduced the first of nine speakers on the day. We first heard analyses of the crises at the Rose Theatre (by George Dennis) and Huggin Hill sites (John Maloney) and their lessons. Most of those present were aware of English Heritage's proposals to separate planning and contracting functions, and introduce competitive tendering for archaeological projects in London (and elsewhere). Many - and here the non-professionals were the most outraged and vociferous - condemned the idea as inappropriate. (Some units seem to be following the Victorian dictum "Where there's muck there's brass" by searching for work over large parts of the country.) There is already much concern in the profession at the potential loss of quality in the case of a free for all, the Museums Association, and the Society of Museum Archaeologists are leading the opposition. Understandably the two speakers argued strongly for maintaining the Museum of London's role as both adviser and contractor, a case strengthened later by the Museum Director, Max Hebditch, see p.6.

There were also clear presentations on several other issues in which Rescue has taken a close interest. At the important prehistoric 'channel' site at Caldicot in SE Wales, the Government - as developer - has unusually stepped beyond its normal practice by agreeing to fund a major excavation. Is this rather the liberal face of the Welsh Office, taking a less Thatcherite line than the English Treasury? We heard that the large Employment Training Scheme run by the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit was due to be closed imminently. John Walker, who until recently helped to manage the scheme, eloquently and inspiringly called for archaeology to be made accessible to the local community, not only as user but also as participant. Without doubt, the ending of the Community Programme in September 1988 has created financial problems for rescue units, especially where developer funding is not easy to negotiate. Jude Plouviez of Suffolk County Council and Mr John Browning - a farmer harassed by treasure-hunters - reported on the looting of the important Roman bronze finds from his land at Icklingham and his inadequate response from both Government and English Heritage to the requests for action (see RN 49). A major problem here is the British Government's unwillingness to ratify the UNESCO convention on illicit traffic in cultural property. Mr Browning is to be congratulated for his stance on

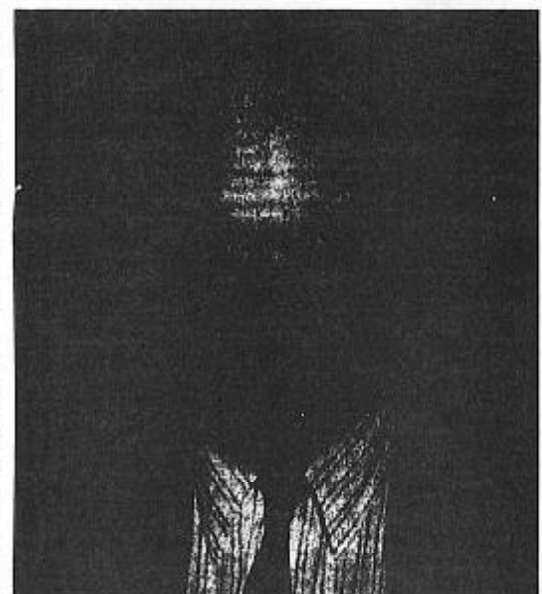
this test case and for agreeing to present his case in public.

The meeting next heard from three MPs on their party's policy on archaeology. Gerry Bowden (Conservative, Dulwich) a strong supporter of archaeology (just as well - Rescue's Chairman is one of his constituents!) announced that a Ministerial statement on archaeology and planning was expected shortly (as had been reported in *The Times* two days previously). Three weeks later the long awaited note eventually landed on the desks of the local authorities. Predictably perhaps, Mr Bowden stressed a need for 'balance' between archaeology and development, and indicated that the planning process was the appropriate vehicle for dealing with provision for archaeology. He again followed the expected line in suggesting that problems should be resolved by goodwill rather than legislation, but at least Mr Bowden accepted the principle of 'the polluter pays' and noted the change for the better in public and developer attitudes to archaeology.

be included in District plans. The rationale for the policy is based on a belief that the current political neglect of our cultural assets has had a disastrous effect on Britain's economic performance. Archaeologists would in turn have a responsibility to explain their work to the public.

Much of this was new, and the slightly stunned audience had much food for thought about a possible policy redirection in the mid 1990s. There were, of course, a few mutterings of disbelief or contempt (eg "Where's the money coming from?" from the gnome of Nassington Road).

The meeting was closed by the Liberal Democratic MP for Southwark, Simon Hughes, a familiar face to many since his leading part in the Save the Rose Campaign. Mr Hughes emphasised that the events of 1989 had made rescue archaeology a popular issue, and claimed that great public excitement could be generated by the idea of history 'where it was'. Again, his party's policy was still



Mark Fisher MP, Labour Arts Spokesman and one of the three politicians who spoke at this years AGM.

Mark Fisher (Labour's Arts spokesman on the Arts) apologised for his party's lack of a coherent policy at the time of the 1989 crises at London and York, but promised that a policy would soon be in draft. He spoke at some length, and with apparent confidence that he would be in Government from 1992. As such, he promised stronger powers and urgent action on preserving ancient monuments, increased government funding, and a new Ministry of Arts and the Media to bring the UK into line with other European countries. (This proposal, in particular, to raise the profile of the nation's historic environment, brought warm praise from Martin Biddle in the subsequent discussion.) The new Ministry would include responsibility for both 'heritage' and museums, and would press for preservation of historic landscapes and for archaeology to

being drafted, but the need for statutory enforcement was accepted with stronger powers for local authorities and greater links with other controls on the environment. Developers could after all insure against risks from unexpected major discoveries, and tax incentives could be established to encourage 'proper' behaviour.

All three of course would claim to be greener than the other, but the audience certainly appreciated these three presentations. The MPs were left in no doubt about the meeting's feelings on current policy and in particular English Heritage's proposals. The years ahead certainly promise some interesting battles - who can predict where we shall be by the time *Rescue News* 75 is published?

Tim Schadia-Hall

# RESCUE 1990 AGM REPORT

The Rescue AGM was held at the Museum of London on Saturday, 17 February, 1990. Details of the new committee are shown below. In the absence of the Chairman who was occupied with welcoming the guest speakers arriving for the open meeting which followed, the AGM was presided over by the Vice-Chairman, who presented the Chairman's report. This reviewed some of the crises with which the committee had wrestled during the year at the Rose and Huggin Hill in London, the Queen's Hotel in York, Caldicot in Gwent and the case of the Icklingham bronzes.

He reported that the committee had prepared a statement on a policy for archaeology for discussion by the political parties and had commented on the place of archaeology in the National Curriculum. A membership survey had been carried out which will be used in formulating a recruiting policy for 1990 and the survey of archaeological provision throughout the country is being up-dated. He identified as a major area of concern the growth of competitive tendering and said that Rescue would be urging the acceptance of a locally based framework for archaeology based on the concept of public service. Finally, he called on DOE to issue the long awaited guidelines on archaeology and planning and to make this a firm unequivocal statement. Many of these themes were taken up by speakers in the open meeting that followed.

The Secretary reported on the regional meeting at Worcester in April and thanked Adrian Tindall for organising the day, and on the simultaneous Open Day held in University Archaeology Departments throughout the country. The Publicity and

Membership sub-committee had made several recommendations some of which had already been put into effect - members were reminded of the telephone answering machine at the Hertford office and encouraged to make use of it and of the Site Tours List which it is hoped to make a regular feature of *Rescue News*.

Three issues of *Rescue News* had appeared in 1989 and the Editor was congratulated on maintaining a high standard of both content and presentation - there had been no lack of important and thought provoking topics to report on during the year. Members were reminded of the forthcoming conference on Archaeology and Small Towns at Grantham on 28 April.

The Treasurer presented a healthy set of accounts which required little in the way of explanation and were audited. He, and the other officers, urged all members to join a recruiting drive to try to double the membership in 1990. Rescue needs members, not only for their subscriptions but in order to bring more pressure to bear in the campaign for better funding and stronger legislation.

The Vice-Chairman explained that the committee had been looking at the Rules with a view to bringing them up to date. Any proposals for revision will be laid before the next AGM in 1991.

The Vice-Chairman then thanked all the officers and committee members for their work throughout the year - not forgetting Brenda Hobbs our membership secretary - and, after the election of the officers and new committee members, members moved to the Lecture Theatre for the Open Meeting.

Jean Mellor

## THE 1990 RESCUE COMMITTEE

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# Bulldozer threat to Dark Age site

by David Lovibond

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL site described as being "potentially of European significance" is facing destruction by bulldozers tomorrow because of a loophole in planning laws.

The excavation at Market Lavington, Wiltshire, has uncovered evidence of a continuous settlement back to Anglo-Saxon times. At least 10 graves containing the remains and weapons of Saxon warriors were discovered in 1987. Yet to be uncovered so far is a part of the site due to be cleared to make way for housing.

Mr. Paul Williams, who is managing the rescue dig on behalf of the TWA, for Market Lavington Archaeology, says: "It is the continuity of settlement here, particularly from the Romano-British to the Anglo-Saxon, which make the site so important. It is the only site to have found the remains of a Dark Age town."

Archaeologists and amateur volunteers have uncovered Saxon brooches, shield bosses, spearheads, iron knives, fibulae, coins, hypocaust tiles, and other objects. The site is also a well as have quantities of pottery and worked flint.

Unfortunately, the developer, Walter Lawrence Homes (Wessex), has — perfectly legally — over the past year cleared the site of its residential buildings. The area has recently removed a large section of a putative Roman villa when an access road was put in. Tomorrow it intends to remove a third of the site, which will be cleared in the following weeks the rest of the site will be prepared for housing.

The root of this tragedy for British archaeology is in the inadequate working of the planning system. Four years ago, when planning permission

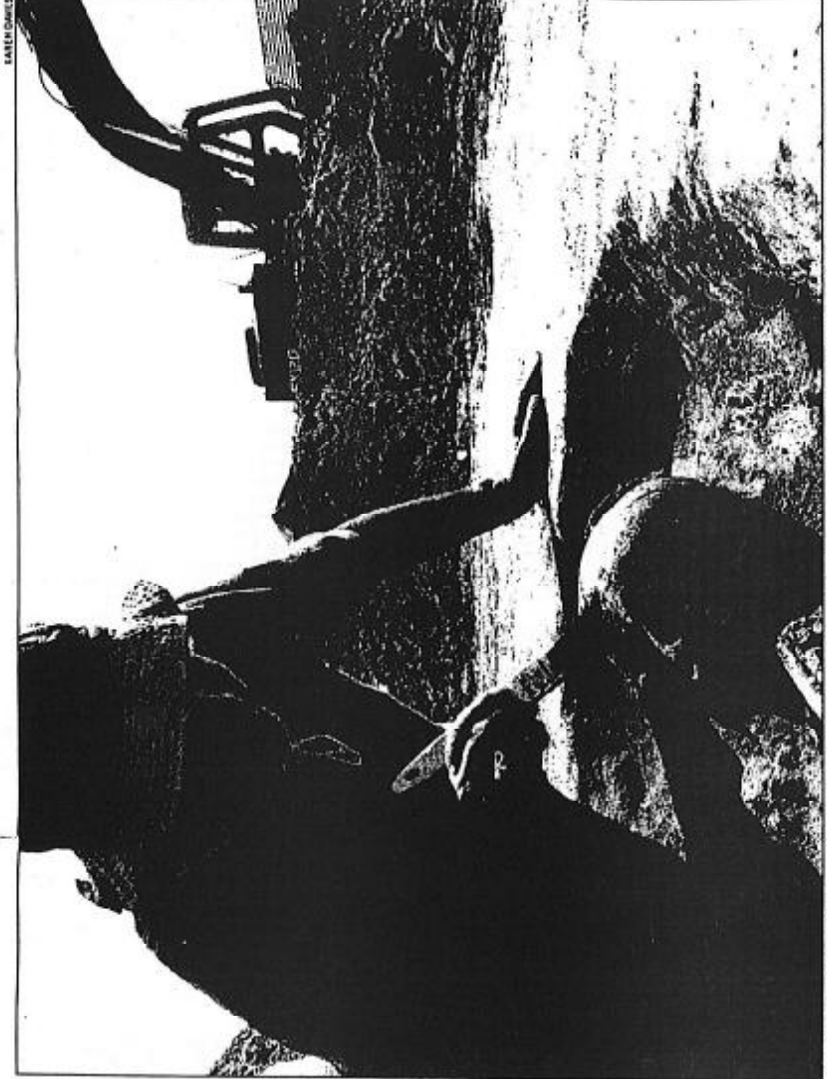
needed a full report of the site's ruins for the planning application, Mr. Williams considered making any additional grants. In the meantime, he believes that as the developer has full planning permission "it is extremely unlikely that the planning authority would be able to do anything to be accommodated."

Mr. Chris Foulkes, managing director of Walter Lawrence Homes (Wessex), confirmed that he was "highly unlikely to have any archaeological site to survey as a condition of the development. Mr. Foulkes pointed out that his company has provided extensive machine time for the excavation and building delays would cost the company thousands of pounds to give any request for financial help serious consideration.

The traditional archaeological opinion that the decline of Roman administration in Britain was gradual followed by a period of wholesale destruction and conquest by Germanic and other tribes, has been questioned in recent years. It seems the preliminary archaeological work at Lavington may support the idea of a gradual transition to Anglo-Saxon predominance, rather than a sudden and violent takeover.

Mr. Williams thinks the Romano-British settlement was a ditched enclosure which perhaps includes the present village market place. He has found extensive evidence of a large villa and outbuildings which seem to run north-south, away from the medieval church.

It is in the floor of these Roman buildings that the sixteenth-century Saxon graves have been dug. At the time of these burials, Mr. Williams believes, the Roman structures, the Roman street



A volunteer from the village of Market Lavington helps to preserve an Anglo-Saxon skull recovered during the rescue dig at the threatened site. People living in the area are anxious to have the site preserved. Mrs. Peggy Gye, who has lived all her 70 years in Market Lavington and runs the village shop, says: "I have heard what they had found up there and we rang up anyone who could help — local radio and papers. The council has already been destroyed legislation, and in this case scheduling seems urgent."