



## SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

March 1988

(sequence in order of Ward and street name)

### ALPERTON

#### 1. The White House, Ealing Road, Wembley

Tudor building demolished in 1955. Watching brief kept during demolition. Charles II farthing and 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century nails found. Inspection by The Wembley History Society.

### BARHAM

#### 2 Clifford Road Allotments off Bridgewater Road, Alperton (TQ 17503395)

11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century cooking pot sherds found during ploughing in the mid 1950s, more finds turned up in the 1980s, including a small prehistoric honey coloured blade and 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century pot sherds in 1983.

**Remarks:** This is near to a mediaeval moated site, and as a fairly large quantity of pottery has been found some occupation is likely.

### BARN HILL WARD

#### 3 9 Mayfield Close, Barn Hill

A number of sherds of 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> century found embedded in the clay. There have been reports of buildings on the hill. 15-20 Romano British Coarse ware sherds were dug up in a back garden in 1956-57. A report in 1967 described 'structures' and pottery which included some rims and a piece of base.

Both the British Museum and London Museum identified the sherds as mediaeval. Dating them to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The pottery is a fawn colour, has a gritty composition, containing small white opalescent particles, the surface being pitted where these have rubbed or fallen off. 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century clay pipes, nail, window and bottle glass found in 1966-67.

**Remarks:** There are settlements of one or more periods on all the other hills in the area, so Barn Hill has probably had a settlement on it at some time. There has not been any evidence so far of Iron Age remains found on the hill.

## BRENTWATER

### 4 Welsh Harp or Brent Reservoir, Neasden (TQ 219 873)

Following the lowering of the water level in the reservoir in 1974 prior to the strengthening of the banks, several members of the Wembley History Society archaeological section foraged among the rubbish that littered the bed of the reservoir. The only finds of any interest previously reported were a number of Bronze Age cinerary urns (i.e. 1800-600 B.C.) which were recovered some time prior to 1930. The Victoria County History of Middlesex mentions their findings and gives a reference to Volume 13 of The Antiquaries Journal and to 'The Archaeology of Middlesex and London' by C E Vulliamy. The Antiquaries Journal merely states that Bucket Urns of the Dervention Rimbury type were found, while the Archaeology of Middlesex and London states that these were of the Ashford type, and that they were authenticated by G F Lawrence Esq., a known authority. Neither report, however, gives any indication of the exact location of the findings.

John Rocque's map of Middlesex - 1745, and the Ordnance Survey of 1801 both fail to show any trace of a building in the area. This is rather surprising as the finds indicate that just prior to this there was some occupation in this area. Of the Bronze Age urns there is no trace.

The first series of finds date from the 13th – 18<sup>th</sup> century. The pottery is of a type that would have come from a tavern, and falls mainly within the period c. 1675-1723, this dating coming from the clay pipes and the tankard with a W.R. stamp.

The other finds are 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century in date and consist of large quantities of pottery and a little collection of medicine bottles of various shapes, sizes and colours.

Three 19<sup>th</sup> century pipe stems with spurs were also recovered. These are marked with the letters H.D., H.C., and F. -, the second letter having been obliterated.

A number of coins and a complete Mediaeval cooking pot have also been recovered. The coins that were found are:

ROMAN: Constantius II Copper AS.

MEDIAEVAL: Edward I silver penny, Elizabeth I silver shilling, James I silver shilling, 1603; Charles II two gun money pieces.

MODERN: George II copper penny, 1746; George III copper penny, 1806; Victoria copper 2d., 1841; William III copper farthing, no date; George V penny, 1912; George VI halfpennies, 1942 & 1944.

The cooking pot stands about 10 cm tall and is wheel turned. The rim has been finished on the wheel with some sort of tool as the angles are too sharp to have been done during throwing. The pottery is very coarse, and is of the type that was being made in the Surrey kilns in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

## **CHURCH END**

### **5. Neasden Lane/High Road, Willesden**

Site excavated by the Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology.

### **6. Quainton Street, Neasden (IQ 214 862)**

Roman bricks discovered in the 1880s at St Saviours Church site.

### **7. Willesden Vicarage, Neasden Lane**

Site excavated by the Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology.

## **CRICKLEWOOD**

### **8. Dollis Hill (TQ 225 860)**

Lower Palaeolithic Flint implements found including two hand axes and flakes.

## **HARLESDEN**

### **9. Harlesden Green (TQ 215 835)**

16<sup>th</sup> century Tile Kiln.

## **KENTON**

### **10. Hillside Farm, Preston Hill**

Tudor building demolished in 1961. Watching brief kept during demolition. Inspection by The Wembley History Society.

## **KINGSBURY**

### **11. Lyons Farm, Preston Hill**

Tudor farmhouse rebuilt in 1708-1709. Inspected and watching brief kept prior to and during the demolition in 1960. Inspected by The Wembley History Society.

### **12. The Mall (TQ 1908 8858)**

Moot site of the Hundred of Gore. Watching brief kept during Police College development.

## **ROE GREEN**

### **13. Buck Lane, Kingsbury NW9 (TQ 2058S6)**

1 part of an amphora handle in a whitish fabric and 1 part of an amphora neck also in a whitish fabric. Found on building site of Head Court in 1952. Both sherds were Roman, but at the time of finding a more accurate date was not obtained.

**Remarks:** The proximity of the Watling Street and the finding of other Roman material in the area indicates some Roman infiltration.

### **14. Buck Lane, Kingsbury NW9**

2 sherds of white pottery, no glaze, and with a gritty texture - 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### **15. Roe Green, Kingsbury (TQ 2018 8880)**

Roman Pot sherds.

## **ST ANDREWS**

### **16. Birchen Grove Allotments, Kingsbury (TQ 209 868)**

Excavation by The Wembley History Society in 1975. Brick paved fish leap to Welsh Harp Dam uncovered.

### **17. Blackbird Farm, Blackbird Hill, Kingsbury, NW9**

1 rim sherd 13<sup>th</sup> century quartz gritted ware and various later sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century ware, together with several clay pipes. Excavation by The Wembley History Society.

**Remarks:** Known site of late mediaeval farm - earlier history uncertain.

## **18. Chalkhill House, Forty Lane, Kingsbury, NW9 (TQ 204 866)**

The house was partially excavated by The Wembley History Society after demolition, and prior to the building of the Chalkhill Estate. 1 Roman sherd was found embedded in the natural clay. Various 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> century sherds were recovered, and there was reputed to be Tudor tiles under the floor of the house. Excavated by The Wembley History Society in 1963.

## **19. Old St Andrew's Church, Old Church Lane, Kingsbury, NW9**

- (i) Roman material: Extensive quantities of imbricae, tegulae, box and floor tiles are to be found on the fabric of the church. There are 6 complete hypocaust tiles in situ inside the church. These were probably incorporated into the fabric as receptacles for books or tapers.

Part of the rim of a 1<sup>st</sup> century mortarium marked 'FECIT' was found in the wall near the West door by the Revd. Simmonds. – Now in the possession of the Wembley History Society.

4 Roman sherds recovered during excavations there. One sherd buff gritted ware and one sherd of white gritted ware, possibly from Brockley Hill. Two orange coloured sherds (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century in date). They are similar in appearance to Samian but are lighter in colour, and have less dense sheen.

Numerous sherds of 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery were found when Old Church Lane was widened some years ago. This was verified by the Head of Southampton Research Unit.

- (ii) Medieval material: Numerous sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> century ware have been found in the vicinity of the Church. Some sherds have been found in sealed layers, while others have been recovered from the surface or in disturbed layers.

Numerous Tudor sherds have also been recovered during excavations on the site. There is very little other evidence of occupation. There has been no evidence of any Saxon occupation to confirm the presumption that the church is Saxon.

Excavation (reported in Wembley History Society Journal Volume III No. 10, 1975) (TW 206868).

Trench dug in 1974-5 into the east side of the bank which runs parallel to Old Church Lane. After removing a considerable build-up of modern material, some of which had cut into late mediaeval layers, a ditch was excavated which cut into the sandy natural gravel. The ditch was stepped in two layers and in the bottom, which was approximately 30 cms across, a sherd of Roman coarse ware was recovered. As the

sherd was only small and had no visible features it was impossible to give it a closer date within the period.

The interesting feature about the sherd is that it is composed of a heavily nicaceous clay with some quartz gritting. In the upper level of the ditch there was a dark mediaeval infill, from which a bronze pin and a sherd of Surrey ware were recovered. This rather conflicts with the Roman material, but the ditch is 13<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. The Roman material came from a different layer, but until some more evidence copies to light the Roman material must be treated as a stray, especially as the site has already yielded up so much other mediaeval material.

All Excavations by The Wembley History Society.

## **20. Salmon Street, Kingsbury NW9**

There have been various reporting's of Roman tiling being found. There were also reputed to be Roman foundations found in the road at the turn of the century during development there. These may, however, have been mediaeval or Tudor remains.

**Remarks:** This lines up with the other Roman findings in Kingsbury, and indicate some Roman occupation in the Area.

## **STONEBRIDGE**

### **21. 28 – 29 Disraeli Road, Lower Place**

Now in the collection of the Museum of London

Important Late Bronzo Age hoard recovered consisting of five small socketed bronze axes. (c. 8<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> cents B.C.).

### **22. Disraeli Road, Lower Place (TQ 205 831)**

Excavation carried out by the Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology.

### **23. Steele Road, Lower Place (TQ 205 830)**

Site excavated by the Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology.

### **24. Waxlow Road, Harlesden (TQ 2074 8329)**

16<sup>th</sup> century/medieval moated site probably associated with the Manor of East Twyford destroyed c.1890.

## **SUDBURY**

### **25. Charterhouse Avenue, Sudbury**

3 sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery recovered from a gas trench in the road in March 1973. There was no stratification of any importance visible. This is not a known site, and is some distance from Old Sudbury.

### **26. Elms Lane, Sudbury**

31 sherds of quartz, gritted wares in white, grey and black fabrics, including rim and base sherds - 13<sup>th</sup> Century. 1 sherd - 15<sup>th</sup> Century ware. Numerous sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> Century wares, buff and orange fabrics with green and brown glazes.

**Remarks:** The sherds were found in the area covered by mediaeval and post-mediaeval Sudbury, which in early mediaeval times was possibly more important than Harrow-on-the-Hill.

### **27. 29 Elms Lane, Sudbury**

1 sherd green glaze ware on buff fabric. 1 sherd honey glazed ware on white fabric. 1 sherd light brown glazed ware on buff fabric. (all sherds Tudor in date).

### **28. Elms Lane, Sudbury**

A considerable number of sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> Century pottery were found in the mid 1950s. A Tudor wall of clay, bones, chalk and other rubbish was also found. In the infil a pewter tunic button was uncovered. The wall then ran in to the ground of the next house.

### **29. Harrow Road, Sudbury near Swan Public House**

Upper limits of a 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> Century stone cross of local manufacture. This was probably either a gravestone or a preachers roadside cross. Found in 1964, but authenticated in 1973 by the British Museum.

### **30. Unigate Depot, Perrin Road, Sudbury (TQ 165 859)**

12 feet long hearth and Fireplace of a Tudor Kitchen excavated by Wembley History Society in 1952. A 16<sup>th</sup> Century out-building - Caxton House II\*- still stands here.

### **31. Priory Hill, Sudbury**

Three sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> century quartz gritted ware turned up during redevelopment there in 1972.

### **32. Sudbury Court Farm, Sudbury Court Road (TQ 163 863)**

Inspection and watching brief kept by the Wembley History Society in 1957.

Manor House of the Manor of Harrow until the Archbishops purchased Headstone. Afterwards let out to tenants. Then the farm was demolished in the 1950s the Wembley History Society partially excavated the site. The Farm was the centre of the mediaeval village of Sudbury. The pottery found was all typical 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### **33. Sudbury Court Road**

Two Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) flint tools have been found in Wembley. One was unearthed on allotments at Sudbury Court during the Second World War. Unfortunately it has since been lost but appears to have been a hand-axe. (See Grittleton Avenue - Site No 39).

### **34. Vale Farm, East Lane (TQ 170 862/171859)**

- (i) A 14<sup>th</sup> century tiled hearth was found in the field off East Lane by C G Johnson in the 1950s. There are no photographs or drawings however, and no pottery, if any, was found.
- (ii) 2 sherds 17<sup>th</sup> century combed ware. 1 sherd 17<sup>th</sup> century bellarmine (greybeard). 2 sherds 17<sup>th</sup> century ware, yellow brown glaze on a white fabric.

**Remarks:** The sherds were found on the site of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farm house. Parts of the farm were reputed to be 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Excavations were carried out by The Wembley History Society.

### **35. Coopers Cottages, Watford Road**

Site Excavated by The Wembley History Society in 1952-54 and 1956. Discovery and examination of wells.

### **36. 112 Watford Road, Sudbury**

1 green glazed sherd on white fabric - Tudor and numerous (17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century) sherds.

**Remarks:** The one Tudor sherd may only be a stray sherd, and so is of little importance. It does, however, lie close to Elms Lane and so some dwelling is not unlikely. The whole of the Sudbury area developed suddenly in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and so sherds of this period and later are to be found all over the area.

## **SUDBURY COURT**

### **37. North Wembley Station, East Lane**

Roman coin found behind North Wembley Station.

**38. Northwick Park, South Kenton**

Scatter of 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century sherds with some brickwork and nails found near the stream late in 1971, during ploughing of the area. A William & Mary coin was also reputed to have been found there at the same time.

**Remarks:** The pottery and brickwork etc. were all found in one area, and so it seems likely that there was some building on the site at that period. The bricks were about the same size as modern bricks, and were deep red, but had no frogs in them (similar bricks have turned up at Calvary Nursing Home, Harrow; the date just prior to 1800).

**TOKYNGTON**

**39. 26 Grittleton Avenue, Monks Park**

A worked flint some 3" long was found in the garden in July 1968. Since it was found near the River Brent it may have been brought into the area in more recent times when soil was imported to raise the level of the ground near the river to prevent flooding.

**40. South Way, Wembley (TQ 1909 3539)**

Site excavated by the Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology. Excavations in 1986 in search of Tokyngton Chapel revealed fragments of timber and a few sherds of possibly 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century date.