HUNTIUS

The Coronavirus Issue

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this, the most recent of Pre-Construct Archaeology's in-house staff newsletter, Nuntius. Nuntius is the Latin word for Messenger, and this essentially describes what the newsletter intends to do, transmit news items from all of the company offices to all of the PCA team, irrespective of which office they work out of.

This issue, the 19th, is different in two ways; firstly, for the first time we have issued it entirely electronically, not as printed copy; and secondly, we have for the first time produced a revised issue for interested parties who are not part of the PCA team. The major difference with this, the public edition, is that we have taken out some of the identifiers both of site and client names for reasons of confidentiality, and also personal details of members of the PCA team. To make it more interesting to a non-specialist readership we have also removed content that will be of no interest or relevance and concentrated on what we do - undertake archaeological fieldwork and report our results.

That we have sub-titled this the 'Coronavirus Issue' reflects the massive, almost all-encompassing influence of the Coronavirus pandemic, essentially since the end of February. Because of it we have had to undertake a top-to-bottom review of how we work in the field and in the office in order to work safely to protect each other and others we work alongside. It is to the credit of all PCA staff that they embraced the new measures that were put in place and thus ensured that not only did they help to keep Pre-Construct Archaeology working, but also assisted in keeping construction projects on stream and able to meet their own time-critical targets.

As you will read PCA has been participating in some very interesting, and occasionally exceptional, projects over the past few months both in terms of excavation and building recording. In addition, we have published a number of reports as reported within and produced numerous reports that will assist our clients in determining their planning conditions.

All-in-all, 2020 (so far) has been for us, as probably with you, a bit of a roller-coaster. We went into it with optimism, almost saw it snatched away by the virus, but clawed ourselves back through the determination and hard work of all of the PCA team and with the assistance of our clients and their agents, and the local authority archaeologists with whom we interact.

As ever in these times of continuing uncertainty, Stay Safe.



Working safely together, but apart, on a central London excavation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

COVID 19

PCA has remained 'open for business' throughout the coronavirus pandemic and 'lock down'. For those of you who continued to work on site, at home or in the office a big and well-deserved **thank you**.

Some sites did shut down and some projects were suspended or put back and many of you have been furloughed. However, the construction industry in England was asked, if possible, to keep going. Commercial archaeology is a crucial part of that industry and I am very proud to say that PCA has played its part in continuing to provide a service to our clients and their contractors so that construction projects could continue.

PCA continues to manage the risk of Covid 19 in the workplace by keeping people 2m apart wherever possible and by an enhanced regime of cleaning and personal hygiene.

All staff must make themselves familiar with the Covid-19 safe working procedures and read your office or site risk assessment and thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

A weekly Covid-19 consultation committee meeting via Teams/Zoom is held every Friday morning and includes the Director responsible for H&S, the H&S manager and union H&S representatives..

Staff communication and consultation is the key for us to successfully manage the impact of this pandemic upon our working lives and ensuring as far as possible the safety of us all.

NEWS FROM THE TRENCHES

PCA LONDON

Westminster Abbey West Front Project

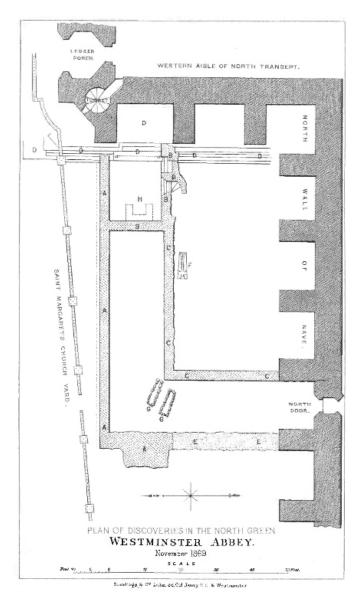
PCA is again working on site as part of a major project to improve access to the Abbey. These works will see the construction of a new ticketing building on the site of the former medieval Great Sacristy. The excavation here was one of many London projects which were paused due to the lockdown, however we have now restarted works with a smaller team, and are aiming for completion of the excavation by the end of August.



View west of excavation from roof of North Transept.

In the 13th century, the late 11th century church built for Edward the Confessor was completely rebuilt under the reign of Henry III. The masons constructed a massive lime-concrete raft foundations to build the majority of the enormous church that stands today. Prior to the 13th century rebuilding, the area behind this hoarding was used as a burial ground for earlier monks. In 1259, as part of Henry III's work, an L-shaped building known as the Great Sacristy was constructed on this site.

In 1869, under the direction of George Gilbert Scott, who was then Surveyor of the Fabric, the Abbey's mason Henry Poole was instructed to 'remove from the North Green the earth and rubbish which had accumulated there for several centuries'.



Plan of discoveries made on the North Green by Henry Poole, 1870 (north to left).



Upturned stoop reused in Henry III buttress.

During the removal of this material the remains of the Great Sacristy were revealed. Poole recorded the remains and illustrated an L-shaped structure. His plan shows that the building had a square room at its eastern end; it is believed that access to this room was via a door from the North Transept, and that access to the remainder was via the extant North Door in the abbey's nave. The work also revealed stone-lined graves of early medieval burials, and a Roman sarcophagus, excavated in 1869 and currently on display in the Galleries, which had been reused for a medieval burial most likely in the 11th century.

The Great Sacristy would have been used to safely store vestments and other precious ritual objects and provide a space where the clergy could prepare before processing into the church. Records show that a second floor was added to the Great Sacristy in the 1380's when many other new buildings were erected across the wider monastic complex.

After the monastery was dissolved c. 1540, the Great Sacristy became a domestic dwelling for some administrative staff of the abbey. By 1616 the Sacristy building was described as 'very ruinous and standeth in very great need of present reparations'. A further period of repair work was enacted in the 1710s and 1720s and at this time the Surveyor of the Fabric, the famous Christopher Wren, reported that 'the houses on the North side are so close [to the Abbey], that there is not room left for the raising of scaffolds and ladders'. The decision to demolish the former Great Sacristy and the other buildings in this area was taken in the 1740's, for a number of reasons including the cost of their upkeep and because they impeded much needed repairs to the Abbey's nave and northern transept.



Painted wall plaster from Westminster Abbey Sacristy.



Stone sarcophagus adapted for reuse within the Sacristy or the later dwellings on the site, possibly as a washing trough or basin.

Our work to date has exposed the full footprint of the Great Sacristy. We have seen that the southern wall foundation is much narrower than the external wall foundation to the north, which suggests that the southern wall of this building was probably half-timbered, requiring a less substantial foundation, whereas the outer northern wall may have been built entirely from stone.

The archaeological works have revealed that masonry from an earlier building, probably Edward the Confessor's church, was reused to build the foundations of the 13th century Abbey. A highly significant exposure has been a fragment of an upturned stoup, a basin in which holy water would have been contained, incorporated within a buttress foundation. This important feature, in its original context, may have served to wash the hands of the Confessor as he entered his church.

Many fragments of medieval painted wall plaster have been found. These fragments may suggest that the internal walls of the Great Sacristy were decorated with hand painted red, white, and black flowers.

So far we have exposed at least 20 chalk-lined monastic cist graves within the pre-Henrician cemetery. A Barnack stone medieval sarcophagus found within a prominent position inside the Sacristy was initially thought to relate to a high-status burial, but it now appears that the sarcophagus had actually been reused to serve a drainage function within the building, possibly as a washing trough!

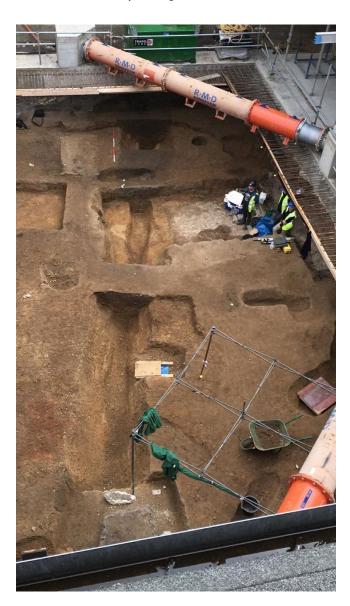


Great Suffolk Street, Southwark

This project started in early June and will be completed in early August. The excavation is taking place within footprint of a proposed multi-storey residential building.

The importance of this site is that it is located within the extensive cemetery or series of cemeteries known as the 'Southern Cemetery' on the outskirts of Roman Southwark.

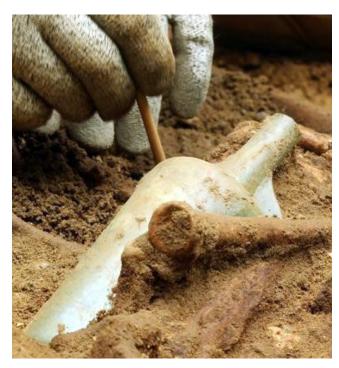
The site contains approximately 40 Roman burials which appear to belong to two phases of use. The inhumations belonging to the earlier phase were present across the entire site and were found sealed by later Roman deposits. The later graves, which cut through that deposit, were found only to the north of a substantial ditch crossing the site roughly west to east. The ditch truncated some of the earlier graves. This was particularly evident where a burial furnished with a glass flask and other metal objects had been effectively 'decapitated'.



Ditch cutting through accumulated deposits and early phase cemetery.



Decapitation by ditch.



Close-up of the glass flask.

Roman glass expert and PCA specialist adds the following on the glass flask: "it is a cylindrical bottle with looped handles. Often the body is decorated with horizontal wheel-cut lines. We know it well from late Roman (late 3^{rd} and 4^{th} century) contexts. The handle form is typical of this form only (a dolphin-like handle) but applied in reverse of the aryballos dolphin handle and with a sharp, fillet-shaped section. Most of the villa/domestic examples have been identified through the handles only."

Speaking of decapitation, a few graves show a grisly end for some of the individuals buried in this part of the cemetery. Decapitations, head stuck under a torso, or behind the knees; arms bound behind the neck or back, and other practices suggest, quite strongly, those people have been executed. The cemetery contained adult and child burials.

In recent days there has been a new dimension to our findings at the cemetery- a cluster of urned cremations, some of them cutting into the earlier graves. Although all the urns were badly damaged in antiquity, sufficient remain for the purpose of identification and to allow an examination of the contents.



Arms bound behind the back.



Skull in front of the chest and covered by arms.



Skull behind the knees.

The results of these excavations have demonstrated not only a further extension to those previously found, but also of perhaps also a part of the cemetery used for the burial of criminals or others outside of 'normal' society. Medieval and post-medieval intrusive features were also recorded, but it is the burial remains that raise the importance of this site.



A working shot of one vessel used in cremation rites.

Chatham Waterfront, Kent

This site is located on the Medway riverfront very close to the historic Royal Chatham Dockyard, which was established in the mid-16th century. Although not located directly within the Royal Dockyard, the site is located within large area along the river which historically housed privately owned shipbuilding and industrial enterprises, many of them supplying the major naval base. The dockyard's mill pond, originally present within part of the site, has been infilled to enable the construction of a wharf with warehouses, workshops and even a pub.





18th century cellar being recorded.

The team busy with the walls.

Aerial view of the site.

The current excavation, which started in late May, is being undertaken in advance of residential redevelopment. Currently the focus is on the area of a former street with dense network of buildings of various sizes and uses. The dominant structures across the site are of 19th century origin with modern 20th century interventions, but the team has exposed a large 18th century cellar with a brick floor and 17th century walls



One of cess pits on the site, rich in finds.

are currently being investigated. Basements and cess pits provide numerous small finds, including a cannon ball, an industrial lamp and clay pipes belonging to local residents, workers and military personnel. As the work continues the team will gradually expose lower and thus earliest deposits and structures, hopefully revealing a chronology of human occupation or use along this part of the Chatham waterfront.

Although Chatham's military history is well documented and understood the same cannot be said about the civilian side. There is a strong local interest in finding more about industrial past of this area and our excavation is on track to help to deliver it.



Holywell Priory

Following an initial stage of localised recording in the summer of 2019, PCA has been undertaking the second major phase of excavation on the site of Holywell Priory in Shoreditch, a house of Augustinian nuns founded in the 12th century. During the first phase of the excavation the south wall of the priory church was recorded, with later phases of property boundaries constructed on top. The wall lay outside the line of the proposed basement, so following our recording it was protected and backfilled where it will remain preserved in situ. Tantalising evidence of a Roman agricultural landscape was also suggested by the presence of a 3rd century corn drier recorded in the very north east corner of the basement in close proximity to an earlier (also Roman) ditch.



Close up of medieval skeleton. Note the piece of folded lead just below the photo scale. It is thought that a prayer was placed within the lead and deposited by a mourner.



Mortuary chalice placed by the left shoulder of this priest.

Work during this phase has presented a number of challenges. As well as finding ourselves in the almost inevitable position of being on the critical path of the development, we have also had to navigate our way through the depths of the Covid19 lockdown. With a combination of a very positive and willing team, the careful planning and implementation of safe working practices from the developers and PCA's Health and Safety manager, we have managed to keep the site running continuously, and have been rewarded with some fascinating findings.

Our first major discovery was the eastern limit of the priory cemetery, in the form of a large ditch, within which we have so far identified almost 200 burials. These include males, females, adults, and children, as well as a least two priests as identified by the mortuary chalices buried with them. Three examples of individuals buried with folded lead strips or 'parcels' have also been recorded. These would likely have contained parchment, and as far as we are aware at present only two have previously been recorded in London.



A child skeleton - there seems to be a broad age range within the cemetery.



Disarticulated human remains laid on top of an articulated skeleton. We have seen a few examples of this - usually when an earlier grave is disturbed, demonstrating the density of burials within the cemetery.

Further to the west we are also now identifying the robbed-out remains of the Priory church itself. As excavations have proceeded we have been exposing the increasingly complex phasing of the south transept of the church, with a series of individual 'cells' or chapels being replaced by a final phase of extensive expansion. The sheer scale of this final phase of development of the church is particularly notable, and may have been funded by Lord Thomas Lovell, Chancellor of the Exchequer to Henry VII and Henry VIII, who was widely regarded as a second founder of the priory and was buried in a chantry chapel there in 1554.

Excavations will be completed at the end of the first week in August, at which point we will have been on site for a year.



Several phases of the partially robbed-out foundations of the south transept of the church.

A possible threshold within the south transept of the church being recorded.

An Excavation in Tottenham Hale, Haringey

PCA carried out an evaluation at this site in October 2019. The site is located close to Tottenham Hale station, but also close to the River Lea. Much of the Tottenham Hale area is being redeveloped to provide a new cultural quarter and housing. The evaluation identified some features of Saxon date, which are of obvious interest as Tottenham Hale is reputed to be a Saxon settlement, but very little evidence for activities of this date had previously been found. Excavation of the site commenced in late 2019 in advance of construction of flats and a new medical centre. During the machining an axe of Mesolithic date and a number of other worked flints were identified. Further investigation showed that the flints were all of Mesolithic date and were spread throughout the top of the brickearth layer. More Saxon features, suggestive of the edge of a settlement, were also exposed.



Mesolithic flaked tranchet axe- or adzehead.



Excavating in bad weather.



Excavating within 1m spits..

Mesolithic material had never been found in this area before, but it seemed clear that flint working had been taking place on the site, probably seasonally, over some time. The flint is not local but may have been imported by boat from Hertfordshire, down the River Lea.

The excavation was carried out throughout often inclement conditions in December, January and February, and comprised a team of London, Warwick and Cambridge office staff. Sieving for flints was carried out on site, identifying a large number of microliths. The Saxon features were excavated and the Mesolithic flint was sampled through test pits excavated in spits. The flints were recorded in 3D and in some cases, 5D.



PCA expert explains the findings at the site.



Visit by local school children.

An open day was held in January 2020 for the local people, which was very well attended. The open day was organised by the Client and the local council and enabled by the Principal Contractor who provided new tarmac especially. Local school groups attended in the morning and were entertained by a senior PCA archaeologist with a timeline explaining how old the Mesolithic period is. The children, mostly 8 and 9 years old, were transfixed by the story of the site and loved handling the flint tools. PCA received some great feedback from the teachers. In the afternoon the site was opened up to the local community and over 60 people attended. Finds and information were available and PCA specialists spent several hours answering all kinds of questions. Again, feedback from the community direct to PCA and on social media was very positive.

Prehistoric findings at Dartford, Kent

An evaluation and subsequent excavation were undertaken between 24th April and 5th June 2020 in advance of the redevelopment of the site for housing. As with all investigations in Dartford, one component of the archaeological Brief is to examine the natural gravels for evidence of Paleolithic activities. While no such flint tools were recovered from the gravels the alluvial silts above them contained substantial quantities of flint tools, debitage and burnt flint. The evaluation suggested that the material had been reworked from processes such as ploughing and perhaps alluvial activity and was not in situ, although it is unlikely that they had moved far. To confirm this the subsequent excavation strategy was to divide the site into a grid of 1m squares with individual



One of the excavation areas gridded out in 1m blocks and being dug in spits.

squares being excavated in spits and samples taken for micro-lithic examination. The initial examination of the material by PCA's lithic specialist has confirmed that lithics date to throughout the prehistoric Holocene period, with notable pieces including an Early to Middle Mesolithic microlith, a fragment of a Neolithic polished axe head and numerous retouched flakes and core tools from the Bronze Age. The processing of the samples in ongoing and should substantially add to the over 500 struck pieces recovered by hand. The struck flint and burnt flint were recovered throughout the alluvial silts with pieces from the different periods mixed together, testifying to the intensity and long-lived nature of occupation here, which during the prehistoric period would have been situated in a favourable location on slightly higher ground overlooking the River Cray. The division of the site into 1m squares made a very visual aid to ensure social distancing on the site and the very helpful attitude of Kent County Council Archaeologist ensured the smooth running of this site during this lockdown period.

Mayfair Investigations

An evaluation of a former car park in 2019 revealed evidence of a number of Post-Medieval buildings and associated activities on the Thames Terrace Gravels and also of the reclamation of the River Tyburn valley. These findings resulted in an excavation being undertaken of this large site in the middle of Mayfair in advance of a mixed-use development. Before the 17th to 18th century urbanization of this area, the rural but-near-the-city aspect was evidenced by the disposal of whole cattle in pits, presumably because of disease such as Rinderpest.



A small area being recorded illustrating the concentration of Post-Medieval walls and structures.

The Phase 1 excavation commenced on 18th May 2020 on a site where the main contractor had been working for some time and where they had a well-established working regime to ensure safe working throughout the Covid-19 period.

Big Walls: a possible Hunting Lodge, Reigate, Surrey

The works at this site consisted of the digging of trenches for the installation of ground and water source heating pumps and an evaluation was carried out from the 6th April 2020, and was subsequently followed by a watching brief on the excavation works. Much of the route of the trenches between the existing hall and its lake was devoid of archaeological features, but on the terrace beside the hall many large stone walls have been uncovered. Some will relate to the 18th century west wing of the hall which was demolished in the middle of the $19^{\rm th}$ century, some are later, and some belong to earlier buildings. Given that there has been a substantial property on the manor from at least 1220, according to documentary sources, including (probably) a hunting lodge the unraveling of the structural sequences during post-excavation is likely to reveal a very interesting story.



Some of the large stone built walls.

PCA raises the roof

In May this year, we returned to Trent Park, Enfield to record the roof of the Grade II listed mansion. We had already recorded the roof in 2018. The further and more detailed recording was required by the Conservation Officer as a condition of planning permission for raising the roof and removing three of the six 19th century king post trusses.

The mansion has a long and complex history. Land within the medieval royal hunting forest of Enfield Chase was granted by King George III to Sir Richard Jebb (1729–87). Jebb employed Sir William Chambers to convert one of the Chase lodges into an Italian loggia in the classical style (**Plate 1**). It was named Trent Place. Structural evidence of Jebb's villa, still remain.





Two views showing the area of investigation in relation to the current hall. Until its demolition in the middle of the 19th century a west wing extended out from the house across the area of the trenches.



Dob Park Lodge, near Harrogate, a ruinous 17^{th} century hunting lodge, for comparative purposes. © Historic Parks and Gardens Study Group



Plate 1: Jebb's lodge in Enfield Chase altered by Sir W Chambers, early 1780s.



Plate 2: Trent House c.1815, looking south.



Plate 3: 'Trent Park the Seat of the Bevans' 1873, looking south.



Plate 4: Photograph taken in 1890 of the south façade of Trent Park Mansion. (© Country Life)



Plate 5: Photograph taken in 1903 of the south façade of Trent Park Mansion. (© Country Life)

John Wigston acquired the estate in 1793 and added a wing at each end of the house (**Plate 2**). He also created the enfilade of three principal rooms, the drawing room, salon and library, that still forms the historic core of the mansion.

The next phase of works concentrated on the south side of the Jebb/Wigston house and were carried out by John Cumming between 1816 and 1830. Robert Bevan inherited the estate in 1837 and enlarged the house with new extensions on the east and west ends (**Plates 3** and **4**).

Francis Bevan (1890-1908) inherited the estate in 1890. He remodelled the south front of the mansion with the addition of a second floor (third storey) and the creation of three unequal sized south projecting bays (**Plate 5**), which in essence, still survive today.

In 1908 Bevan transferred the lease to Sir Edward Sassoon, who was succeeded in 1912, by his son Sir Philip Sassoon. Philip employed his considerable wealth to remodel the entire house, which he used as a weekend retreat for royalty, the rich and the famous. These works were carried out between 1926 and 1931 and entailed the complete re-facing of Bevan's mansion re-using 18th century red bricks and some stone dressings, recovered from William Kent's Devonshire House, in a style representative of English Domestic Architecture (**Plate 7**).

During the Second World War, Trent Park was used by British Military Intelligence (MI19) as a base to gather secret information from captured enemy soldiers. After the war, Trent Park was acquired by the Ministry of Education. In 1974 Trent Park College was incorporated into Middlesex Polytechnic and in 1992 was renamed Middlesex University.

The recording showed that the roof mainly dates to the alterations of Sir Philip Sassoon of 1926, although some elements of the former late 19th century roof structures were retained. These were all on the south side of the house and relate to Francis Bevan's (1890 to 1903) addition of a third storey on this side of the house (compare **Plates 4** and **5**). The elements include timber framed structures for vaulted ceilings over two bedrooms below, six king post roof trusses (**Plate 8**) as well as lath and plaster second floor ceilings integral to the trusses.



Plate 6: Photograph taken in 1903 of the north façade of Trent Park Mansion.



Plate 7: Photograph taken in 1926 of alterations to the east elevation of Trent Park Mansion.



Plate 8 Late 19th century king-post trusses, looking west.

Other late 19th century elements include two dormer windows on the west side of the house (compare **Plates 6** and **9**) and six chimneystacks in the north side of the attic (compare **Plates 6** and 10). These chimneystacks were constructed in distinctive purple brick with red brick quoins. Before 1926 when they were enclosed by Sir Philip Sassoon's platform roof, they were visible externally and are clearly shown in a 1903 photograph (Plate 6). The earliest element in the attic was an early-mid 19th century chimneystack with brick dentil decoration originally designed to be visible externally. This chimneystack was first encapsulated in the 1890 to 1903 attic when second-floor rooms were added to the south side of the house by Francis Bevan. Graffiti of 1898 on this chimneystack perhaps relates to the date that these rooms and the new pitched roof were added.



Plate 9: Two dormer windows at the west end of the roof, looking south-east.



The present roof structure was extensively rebuilt in 1926 (**Plate** 7) to fit with the changes made to the house by Sir Philip Sassoon, which included the raising of the second-floor ceilings on the north side of the building. All the chimneystacks visible externally were constructed in 1926 in red brick with a stone string course and cornice to give a consistent appearance. Late 19th century chimneystacks that would have been visible externally on the south side of the roof were either replaced or removed. The 1926 platform roof was slightly lower than the previous late 19th century pitched roof which resulted in the truncation of the apex of the retained late 19th century roof trusses.

PCA CAMBRIDGE

As with the London office, PCA Cambridge has been very busy since the last issue of Nuntius and we have selected some of the highlights for this issue.



Excavating the Bronze Age inhumation in Woolpit.



Old Stowmarket Road, Woolpit, Suffolk

Three targeted area excavations followed on from two phases of trial-trenching carried out by other archaeological units. Significant archaeological remains are focused on a raised spur of light geology overlooking the valley of a tributary of the River Black Bourn. This sandy hilltop was a focus for long-term prehistoric activity, or at least repeated visits, from at least the later Mesolithic period up until the Early Iron Age. The most significant phase was in the Early Bronze Age, when the hilltop was the site of a small (19.5 x 15.5m) square ditched enclosure containing at least one Beaker burial.

At the time of writing excavations are still in progress and it may be that some of the other discrete features within the enclosure are additional crouched burials. At present, no regional parallel for this square Early Bronze Age 'mortuary enclosure' is known; it may be unique in East Anglia.

Land West Of Rayleigh, Essex

Between August and November last year we excavated a 2ha open area on land west of Rayleigh, Essex.

The archaeological potential of the site had been established by an earlier magnetometer survey, which had identified very clear subsurface anomalies forming a system of ditched enclosures. Trial trench evaluation had found extensive evidence for settlement during the Romano-British period.

The excavation uncovered evidence of activity spanning the prehistoric to the late Roman period, with the main period of occupation extending from around 100 BC to AD 350/60, perhaps continuing into the late 4th or early 5th century.

Late Roman (late-3rd- to 4th-century AD) Structures 1, 2 and their enclosures, mid-excavation (north to top) at Rayleigh.

In the Late Iron Age, the site was occupied by a system of small enclosures, probably for livestock, which extended from north-west to south-east following the marginally higher ground beside the canalised stream which formed the eastern boundary of the excavation area. Finds from the enclosure ditches indicate that this was agricultural infield, on the periphery of a settlement nearby. One enclosure, in the north-west of the excavation, was used as a mortuary enclosure from the 1st century BC until the mid-1st century AD. Five inhumation burials, five urned cremation burials and three animal burials were found in this area, along with other probable ritual/ votive deposits. Several of the graves were richly furnished with jewellery and dress items; one burial had a copper-alloy chain necklace or cloak chain which appears to be unique in Britain, the closest parallel coming from a high-status burial in Switzerland. A sixth truncated cremation burial was found to the south of the mortuary enclosure. In another enclosure, deposits of burnt sheep/ goats in purpose-dug pits may



Rayleigh Late Iron Age Grave 1, view south.



Rayleigh Late Iron Age Grave 5, view south.

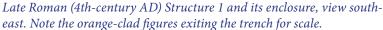
relate to funerary feasting. Overall, the burial evidence reflects a high-status local Late Iron Age population who had adopted aspects of Roman-influenced material culture and behaviours, including 'Aylesford-Swarling'-type cremation burial.

In the mid-1st century AD, a substantial new ditched rectilinear enclosure was laid out, surrounding a broadly central pond/ waterhole, which had already been present earlier in the Iron Age and was probably a natural landscape feature. The new enclosure was surrounded by very large ditches, particularly on its north side. The general lack of internal features, apart from the pond and a few small ditches forming subdivisions, suggests that this large enclosure was essentially a 'farmyard' used to corral livestock and undertake crop-processing and other agricultural activities. A set of parallel linear gullies in an adjoining enclosure to the south-west probably represent cultivation beds for growing cereal or vegetable crops on the heavy clay soil. Pollen from the waterhole reflects a predominantly pasture landscape with some arable.

A rich urned cremation burial was present in a compartment in the south-west of the main enclosure; it was accompanied by eight pottery accessory vessels, a fragmentary glass bottle, at least one pair of hobnail shoes and an iron hanging oil lamp, as well as remains of a wooden casket. Two other features in the enclosure were recorded as cremations but consisted of placed deposits of burnt sheep/ goat remains.

Similar use of the large enclosure continued into the early 2^{nd} century AD, when the enclosure also contained several ovens and crop-driers, but activity reduced significantly by the mid- 2^{nd} century.







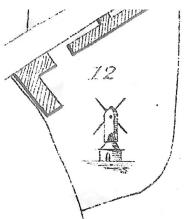
Alabaster unguentarium, probably from Egypt, and apparently unique in Roman Britain.

There followed a century or so during which the site was entirely peripheral to any focus of settlement or agricultural activity. In the mid-3rd century, activity increased again and changed in character. Two large postbuilt timber and wattle-and-daub buildings were erected in the south-east of the earlier enclosure earthwork, each within its own small ditched enclosure. These buildings, together with a trackway, a large cluster of clay quarry pits, a set of ditches, and surviving spreads of occupation material filling dips and hollows in the ground surface, together reflect a late Roman rural settlement of some status. One of the ditches contained an alabaster bottle, probably from Egypt, which is unique in Britain and indicates affluent and well-connected occupants. Occupation of the farmstead continued up to the 350s/60s, with some hints of continuity into the late 4th or early 5th century AD.

A Site in Haughley, Suffolk

Another site from late 2019. This site is located in an interesting topographical position on the upper slope of a valley extending down to a tributary stream of the River Gipping, at the edge of the 'High Suffolk' clay plateau. Historically, the combination of soil type and slope in large part determined the way that land was used on the Suffolk, south Norfolk and north Essex clay-lands. Arable farming tended to be restricted to land with sufficient slope to drain well, while the flat clay plateau, prone to waterlogging, was used mainly as pasture. The position of the site thus offered the opportunity to investigate some wider issues of regional landscape history.

Four targeted areas were investigated following on from our evaluation in August 2019. In Area 1, the remains of the 19th-century Mere Windmill were excavated along with an associated ancillary building and other features shown on 19th-century maps.



Detail from plan of an estate at Haughley produced for the auction of James Welham's properties in 1847 (Suffolk Record Office Ipswich HD78, 2671/143), showing Mere windmill.

The windmill, mid-excavation, overhead view from west showing wheel-track (the narrow dark 'ring'.



In Area 2, a pair of undated parallel boundary ditches, possibly forming a trackway, were the earliest features. A subsequent late Saxon to early medieval (c. 11th-century) enclosure, forming part of a farmstead, was established, respecting the earlier undated boundary. The layout of the enclosure ditches suggests an association with livestock-management but quernstone fragments and a moderately rich charred grain assemblage also indicate an arable component to the site's agricultural economy. The position of the farmstead would have been optimal to allow exploitation of two quite different topographical zones which were suitable for different agricultural uses: livestock could be pastured on the plateau to the north, while crops were probably grown on the comparatively free-draining slope-land to the south.

Excavation Area 3 targeted a small undated pit found during the evaluation, while Area 4 was focused on a large later Bronze Age waterhole. The lower fills of this feature contained a concentration of burnt flint pebbles, presumably waste material from nearby activities involving the use of hot stones to heat water from the waterhole. Pollen from the waterhole indicates an open, probably pasture, landscape during the Late Bronze Age, with some evidence that tall/ lush pasture gave way to more closely cropped, intensively grazed grassland by the Early Iron Age. The environmental evidence fits with the identification of the upper slopes of the valley at Haughley being used primarily for grazing livestock during later prehistory. Whether the open grassland environment of the later Bronze Age was a product of anthropogenic clearance of 'wildwood' during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, or whether a relatively open 'park-like' landscape actually reflects the natural Holocene climax vegetation of the upper valley sides and plateau, at least in this part of the High Suffolk clayland, remains open to debate.

A Large Site in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire

Since February this year, with a 7-week break during the lockdown, PCA Cambridge has been running an open area excavation in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. The excavation is located to the north-east of the medieval moated site, Stratton Park Moat, and its associated earthworks (a Scheduled Monument complex) and is revealing the eastern edge of a Saxon to medieval settlement, named 'Stratton' in historic documentation.

The excavations so far have revealed a series of enclosures, dating from the late Saxon to the late medieval/post-medieval period. The enclosures represent a continuation of the settlement and enclosure systems of the same date, excavated previously to the west of our site.

In the southern part of site, the earliest, late Saxon phase is represent by a row of diagonal NE-SW aligned postholes in the western part of the excavated area, as well as further postholes and smaller enclosures, scattered across the site. This phase is on a markedly different alignment to the following medieval phases.

The late Saxon postholes and enclosures were replaced by enclosures on a NNW-SSE alignment, in some cases representing direct continuation of enclosures recorded at the nearby excavation. While there are scattered postholes and small pits within the enclosures, these do not form any structures.





The finds assemblage is relatively small, suggesting the enclosures were at the periphery of settlement and represent animal or stock enclosures or areas set aside for agricultural and industrial use.

Some of the ditches and pits contained a relatively large amount of charcoal, and one pit contained slag residue. This suggests the dumping of household and/or industrial waste in some of the features at the end of their use. Two features, near the eastern edge of site, represent either dumps of burnt waste or dismantled hearths. Their function is yet unclear. It is likely that those features could be the source of some of the burnt material, but the material could also have been transported onto site from the moated area to the south-west or more concentrated settlement in the west.



Two inhumations, cut by later ditches, were found near the western edge of site. They contained no grave goods and their date is, as yet, unclear.

Moving northwards, the eastern half of a further moated site was revealed, surrounded by further medieval and post-medieval boundary, but predominantly drainage ditches. Overall, we are in a low-lying, wet part of the landscape, c. 100m east of a natural stream, feeding the moat. There were no internal features or any signs of the building within the moat but it the area is heavily horizontally truncated by ploughing, which may have removed anything but negative features. Previous excavation of the western half of the moat did find a small amount of building material which suggested the presence of a building and moderate CBM is present in all features within and around the moat.

At the current northern edge of site is a late Roman 'dark earth' covering earlier Roman ditches. Metal detecting of the Dark Earth has already recovered a good number of late Roman coins. The last phase of the site, planned for August/September this year, is moving into an area of Roman settlement. So there is a lot still to do!

We have a lot of trainees as part of the site team at Biggleswade, which is site very suitable for training as it is not part of a construction site and has a good variety of features, well visible cutting into orange gravelly natural. Training is being undertaken at this site and the team is coming on very well, shifting a lot of soil and learning to excavate and record the features present to the highest standard.

A Return To Hopton On Sea, Norfolk

The site is located within an area of extensive and nationally significant cropmarks which have previously been studied in some detail as part of the National Mapping Program (NMP) of the Norfolk Coastal Zone. Our findings have already brought new detail and refinement to this study, in relation to both the prehistoric monuments and Roman Settlement evidence that we uncovered.



The large ring-ditch.

Furthermore, the geographic and topographic position of the site are striking and of particular relevance to the results of our excavations. The site is located on the former 'Isle of Lothingland' which was originally bound by the River Yare to the north and the River Waveney to the west and south and sits on a south facing slope overlooking a former spring. Such south facing locations are thought to have been favoured places for settlement since the Neolithic period.

Fieldwork has revealed a range of highly significant remains including an extensive Early Neolithic pit site burial monuments dating from the middle of the Neolithic period to the end of the Bronze Age. There is also an Early Roman farmstead with significant evidence for a military presence which is a first for the county. We hope that this may advance our understanding of events following the Boudican revolt in the Iceni heartland of North Norfolk in the late 1st century AD.

The Early Neolithic activity was defined by a total of 143 pits. Significant assemblages, including over 3000 sherds of Mildenhall Ware pottery and struck flints including several flint tools such as axes were recovered from some of these pits. Radiocarbon dates of 3706-3638 and 3695-3532 cal. BC were obtained from two of the pits. This Early Neolithic 'pit site' is of both regional and national significance.

Middle-Late Neolithic, Early and Late Bronze Age remains were revealed within the northern part of the site (Area II) and included a number of ring-ditch features. These features cumulatively form part of the Hopton monument complex, a group of at least 16 previously known barrows mapped previously by the NMP. We are now able to add two additional Barrows to this group. One of the most striking features of the site (NHER 43526), was a large, 30m diameter ring ditch with a larger, later outer ring. This inner ring ditch or Monument has tentatively been dated using Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) to 3224BC +/- 320 years.

Various finds, including a jet stud and beaker pottery, provide some hints of funerary activity in the earlier history of the monument. Up to 11 un-urned cremations within the locale of the monument demonstrated continued funerary activity through from the Middle to Late Bronze Age. Two of these burials have been carbon dated to between 1640BC and 1500BC. Only eight of the apparent cremations contained surviving Human remains, hence the uncertainty on actual numbers.

The 80m diameter outer ring of this monument has been shown to be a palisaded enclosure which was added to the monument over 2000 years later in the Late Bronze Age. Further activity within the inner ring also occurred at this time.

From the Late Bronze Age there appears to have been a hiatus in activity until the mid-1st Century AD, when the landscape was redefined by a series of Roman field systems, trackways and rural farmsteads. The farmstead had previously been discussed as part of the NMP, and has now been shown through excavation to be exclusively Roman in date.

The excavations revealed that the Roman settlement (farmsteads and surrounding field systems) may have been initially laid out (presumably by the army?) with respect to a surveyed grid, traces of which survive either as crop marks and/or physical features that could possibly interpretable as 'limitatio?'

The farmsteads then saw a considerable number of alterations and modifications over a relatively short period between *c* AD60 - AD 120. It is not outside the realms of possibility that the founders of the settlement may have had some links to the Roman military, or potentially to some extent have been ex-military personnel themselves. This assertion could be supported by the presence of a rare find of a gladius handguard plate from a military issue sword thought to have been used in the invasion of Britain associated. This rare find was recovered with an unusual pottery assemblage within one of the wells within the farmstead.



Although the farmsteads themselves went out of use by the mid 2nd Century AD, the wider agricultural use of the landscape appears to have continued into the 3rd Century. This follows a local pattern previously recognised in North Norfolk.

The ring-ditch under excavation.

A Site in Great Dunmow, Essex

Between March and May 2020 we undertook a programme of archaeological work in Great Dunmow, Essex. This consisted 82 trenches evaluation trenches and three excavation areas. Following a break in the program due to Covid -19 restrictions the team have now returned to site and are currently stripping a further 4 areas totalling over 3.5ha. Excavations are planned to continue into the Autumn of this year.

The site, which covers an area of approximately 29.5ha, is located on the western edge of Great Dunmow, a small town that lies c. 13km to the west of Braintree, Essex. The earliest urban settlement in this area dates to the Roman period. A Roman town developed at the junction between the Roman roads of Stane Street and the roads



A hearth bottom under excavation.

from Sudbury to London and Cambridge to Chelmsford. The Great Dunmow Roman settlement was reoccupied during the 7th century and the one at Church End in the later Saxon period. The place-name Dunmow means 'meadow on the hill' and the first recorded mention of that name is in AD 951 in an Anglo-Saxon will.

The current area of investigation lies outside the limits of the Roman town and comprises an irregular parcel of land formed from parts of five arable fields, bounded by farmland to the north, Woodside Way (B184) to the east, High Wood to the west and Stortford Road (B1256) to the south. Stortford Road follows the route of Stane Street, the Roman road that linked *Camulodunum* (Colchester) with Ermine Street to the west.

The work has identified extensive archaeological remains from multiple periods. The earliest remains identified so far date to the Iron Age and consist of a large watering hole and a nearby C-shaped enclosure which was probably used as an animal pen. The watering hole had multiple re-cuts, indicating a prolonged period of use.

A series of large enclosures ditches, many over a metre deep, were the next phase of use and far these have contained no finds assemblages, so their dates are uncertain. However, they are cut by later 11th-12th century enclosures.

During the early medieval period (11-13th centuries) the site was largely agricultural in character with multiple re-cuts and re-alignments of a series of enclosures. In the earliest phases these appear to be largely associated with field systems and animal enclosures.

By the 13th century there is evidence that the area was becoming more industrial in nature, with pits containing large quantities of metal working waste and burnt material (primarily iron, but also possibly some copper alloy) indicating metal working in the immediate vicinity of the pits. Within these pits several metal small finds were identified, including an arrowhead and a hinge. Two ovens from this period were also identified.

Pits, beam-slots and postholes were also dated to this 12th-13th century period indicating the presence of a small number of buildings. Associated with these were large dumps of domestic waste (pottery, animal bone, quern stones and charcoal) indicating domestic activity. This indicates that the excavation may have identified part of a small settlement.

When all the excavation results are considered together, they paint a picture of an extensive and persistent medieval landscape, a mix of both domestic and agricultural land usage, with origins in the 11th century and lasting until at least the 13th century. Furthermore, the identification of prehistoric features in all four areas of the evaluation and in two of the previously excavated areas, indicates the survival of a potentially extensive prehistoric landscape.

A Site in Leiston, Suffolk

The long running excavations in Leiston in Suffolk have finally been completed.

The earliest archaeology was represented by a Neolithic tree throw at the southern end of site and dispersed background of struck flints across the wider site. Two different phases of prehistoric field systems were revealed including some evidence for what appears to be a co-axial field system. Other dispersed Bronze Age activity in the forms of pits, short linear features, and unurned cremations were also present on the sandier geology in the southern and eastern sides of site.

Roman archaeology was represented by a sub-rectangular enclosure at the southern end of site, within which were



excavated two four-post buildings and a small posthole roundhouse, interpreted as a possible farm-related building rather than a domestic structure. Also, within this area were features containing domestic rubbish including fragments of glass, Samian ware, copper alloy coinage and brooches, dating the activity to the first and second centuries AD. In the middle and northern parts of area A, a series of Roman cultivation channels were. A second series of N-S aligned channels were also excavated in area B. It was noted that these channels were only present on areas of clay geology, suggesting they are likely to be for drainage within planting beds probably for the cultivation of wheat.

At the northern end of the site, several medieval ditches enclosed the remains of a medieval timber-framed building, interpreted as a reasonable-sized farmhouse. This was of mixed earth-fast post and beam-slot construction, possibly representing a later rebuilding and extension to the eastern side of the building. A quantity of domestic waste was recovered from the ditches and a layer surrounding the house of medieval date, including various pottery types, iron knives and a pair of iron shears (more precise dating is awaited. To the east of this area it was discovered that a Victorian farmhouse, present on historic Ordnance Survey mapping, had been largely removed when it was demolished in the mid-twentieth century, leaving only the base of a single wall and shallow foundation remains.

PCA DURHAM

The first half of 2020 has been quiet for the Durham office, we are hoping that as lockdown starts to ease fieldwork begins to pick up. We have however (since September 2019) been undertaking preliminary evaluation ahead of an A1 widening scheme in Northumberland. Work has also taken place recently at this location for enabling works (rerouting of a high pressure gas main) ahead of road construction. Unfortunately, no significant archaeological remains have been uncovered during this fieldwork.

We have been carrying out an extensive programme of historic building recording at Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham, Northumberland ahead of the construction of a new school. Redevelopment of the High School includes the refurbishment of the Grade II listed 'Hydro Building' and Westfield House and demolition of existing school buildings and associated structures including a walled garden and attached structures, part of the Hydro building and the groundkeeper's cottage. This project has been particularly interesting on a personal level, not only because of the walled garden element, but because my eldest daughter attended this school!

Construction of Westfield House, a two-story Italianate country house began in 1859. It was occupied by Christopher Thomas Maling, who established the renowned Maling Pottery in the Ouseburn valley on the eastern side of Newcastle upon Tyne.

A walled kitchen garden 20m to the west of the house is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1865 map and by the time of an 1874 plan a range of interconnected rectangular structures had been constructed attached to the external northern wall labelled as *fernery, shed* and *byre*. Ferneries, used as a specialized garden for the cultivation and display of ferns, became very popular during the mid to late 19th century with parts of England noted to be gripped by *pteridomania*



Walled garden and conservatory.

(the fern craze). Attached to the external east wall of the walled garden was a rectangular structure divided into three elements and labelled as a *stable*. Attached to the internal north-west corner of the walled garden was a long rectangular structure labelled as a conservatory which would have facilitated the growth of fruit trees and other more tender plants to be grown at Westfield House. The dilapidated remains of the conservatory survived as did the external structures and these, along with the perimeter walls of the garden, were recorded by laser scanning. A name plate 'W. Richardson & Co Ltd. Darlington', a renowned builder of glasshouses was discovered in the conservatory. Evidence for the heat source of the conservatory and fernery was noted within the shed along the external north wall of the walled garden. An infilled coal chute was observed within the shed structure, which also contained evidence for a boiler (chimney stack and metal pipe).

Westfield House was put up for auction in 1874 and was purchased by John Hope, who owned a tea and grocery shop in Hexham. With business associates he formed the Tynedale Hydropathic Establishment Company in 1877. Construction of the three-storey Tynedale Hydropathic Hotel began in 1878 and was completed by 1879.



Historic aerial photograph of Hydropathic Hotel.

The hotel included 70 bedrooms, bathing facilities and a rooftop observatory within the five-storey tower. The new building extended north from Westfield House with the new principal wing facing east towards the town and new north, south and west wings creating an open central courtyard. An innovative ventilation system 'Boyles Patent Ventilators' were used in the hotel comprising hot water pipes which released heated air through perforated iron grills in the floor to keep the hotel at a temperature of 60 degrees. The west wing contained bathing facilities including Turkish Baths.

In the early 20th century the hotel was thriving and the Winter Gardens, a large glass structure, was constructed in 1907 attached to the north-east corner of the hotel (in recent years as well as being hired out as a wedding venue, the Winter Gardens was used as the school dining room for the Year 9's at the High School). The Winter Gardens were built by Mackenzie and Moncur, an Edinburgh firm of glasshouse builders who had recently built the Temperate House at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. The structure was heated by low pressure hot water and a small fountain fed from a spring supplied ferruginous water with supposed therapeutic properties. Palms, eucalyptus trees, cactuses and banana plants were grown in the Winter Gardens and there was also an ornamental pool.

In the 1920s a new extension block was built in the central courtyard providing further bathing facilities including Turkish baths, steam baths, massage tables and cold plunge pool.

The Hydropathic Hotel was closed in 1941 and during the war the site was used as a sanatorium for children with tuberculosis. A mobile army bakery was stationed at the Hydro by 1943 that supplied the Royal Army Service Corps supply depots at Fenham Barracks in Newcastle and elsewhere. Sadly during this period the Turkish baths were gutted and few traces survive today.



Historic photograph of the Winter Gardens.



The Winter Gardens in 2020.



Stained glass above door at entrance into Turkish baths complex.

By the end of the 1940s the site was purchased by Northumberland County Council and converted first into use as a College of Domestic Science and then as part of Northumberland Teacher Training College. In 1960 the land to the east of the Hydro was designated for the new site of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and the school expanded into the Hydro building in 1976.

Building recording in the interior of Westfield House and the former Hydropathic Hotel has revealed many original features. These include air vents in ceilings, which may have been part of the hotel's innovative ventilation and heating system. Few traces of the Turkish baths survived, but the Moorish arch, similar to other contemporary Hydropathic Hotels, and the circular clerestory windows testify to the original use of that part of the building. Stained glass above the door at the entrance into the baths complex depicts a central fountain with the Latin phrase *DEI DONUM* underneath meaning *Gift of God* with water lilies on either side.

PCA NEWARK

The last few months have seen PCA Newark operating in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

During the very wet Spring, which we all remember with horror, the team carried out a large evaluation at Kirby Muxloe, near Leicester. With much of the site being on clay, many of the trenches flooded and parts of the site began to resemble the Somme.

Fortunately, as Spring progressed and the rain receded it was possible to open and work in trenches without constantly having to operate a pump! An earlier geophysical survey of the site had detected remains of several linear features and possible pits. Amongst these was an arrangement of ditches previously identified as a possible medieval moat.

The line of a Roman road was also thought to pass through the investigation area. Ditches and pits were revealed during the trial trenching, with some of the linear features aligning with those detected during the geophysical survey. These included the possible moat and features associated with the Roman road.



Somme-like conditions at Kirby Muxloe.



The possible moat ditch near the conclusion of the investigation, with stone wall (centre).

Prehistoric remains and artefacts were mostly concentrated in one part of the site though in several cases prehistoric artefacts were found redeposited in later features. However, a ditch containing a small quantity of Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age pottery and flint was identified. No evidence of the postulated Roman road was identified, though there was evidence of Roman activity on the site periphery. Ditches representing the previously identified moat were identified but yielded no artefacts of the period. Rather, a small quantity of prehistoric flint and pottery were recovered, together with post-medieval artefacts. It has previously been suggested that the moat surrounded a hunting stand or forest lodge (and was probably one of several in Leicester Forest West); as such it was probably only intermittently occupied and unlikely to have much domestic debris discarded around it.

During June, a Strip Map and Record investigation was carried out at a school in Bourne, Lincolnshire. The school is thought to lie on the periphery of Roman Bourne, the core of which is suggested to be located beneath the modern town centre, some 600m north of the school. Previous excavations on the south side of the school site in 2005 revealed 2nd and 3rd century features which included post holes, gullies, pits, ditches and a well. A small cemetery containing 8 inhumations of 3rd century date was also identified. Investigations at the Grammar school, located immediately north of the site, also revealed human bone which had been disturbed by ground clearance, along with a kiln and abundant pottery of mid 1st to 4th century date, evidence for iron smelting and ditches probably representative of agricultural field systems.

The evidence from these previous investigations suggested that during the Roman period the site and its environs were areas where funerary, industrial and agricultural activity took place, peripheral to the Roman settlement, whose limits of occupation are thought to be located c. 200m north of the site.

However, as the stripping began, it became clear that there was far more to this site than the expected field systems and possible industrial activity. The c. 810m^2 area revealed a dense concentration of Roman features and finds indicative of occupation. Features of note included a substantial wall foundation (Plate 4) and associated large post holes which, together, might represent an open barn or building, an oven- or furnace-type feature, a double ditch alignment, a well/cistern, the corner of a rectilinear enclosure, the remnants of a large ring gully along with various pits, post holes, ditches and gullies.

The site produced a very large assemblage of pottery (relative to its size) which included some interesting examples of Samian and other fine wares, an almost complete mortarium and several complete intact vessels.

Metal finds included several brooches, a 1st century coin, 4 Late Roman coins along with various pieces of lead and bronze. A significant quantity of iron smelting slag was also recovered. Amongst the animal bone assemblage was a complete horse skull recovered from a pit.

The sheer quantity of pottery recovered from the site is indicative of domestic occupation, which raises some interesting questions given that this area was thought to be on the periphery of Roman Bourne. For example, was Roman Bourne more extensive than previously thought? If so, did it contract in size, making this a peripheral area suitable for funerary practice in the 3rd century, or did the possible expansion take place after this? Or perhaps the barn structure, well/cistern and post holes are part of a settlement or villa located on the outskirts of Roman Bourne. Post-excavation analysis is just beginning, and it is clear that pottery analysis, dating and environmental evidence will be crucial to understanding the site in its local and regional context.



The Willoughby site with large wall foundations in centre.



The furnace.



The horse skull, projecting from the pit section.



Complete and near-complete pots.

PCA WARWICK

As with many of the other smaller regional offices Warwick is primarily undertaking evaluations and watching briefs with those staff not subsumed into the HS2 maw undertaking a diverse range of sites from industrial units in the centre of Coventry, to the prehistoric earthwork demarcating the borders of Warwickshire and Worcestershire, to Manchester airport and of course many rural fields across the West Midlands.

In an attempt to find a theme that helps demonstrate the recent jobs we have been undertaking it became quickly apparent that our field team have had some rather grand sites. As seen in previous issues, the watching brief at Larkstoke Manor continues with the old dairy, a former well and elements of the original manor having been unearthed and hopefully more still to come as the development edges ever closer to the believed position of a medieval church. Some nice finds have been revealed like the wine strainer to the right but the manor is certainly looking less idyllic than in its previous Nuntius appearance.

Back in March just before the lockdown, an evaluation revealed that the former manor designed by Capability Brown at Newnham Paddox was still extant just below the turf level and we are looking forward to the full excavation of the site later this year which we have already been awarded.

Part of the later 19th century front porch attached to the manor with lead drainage pipes and drains still extant.

Lastly, in the Warwick trilogy of manors; we have been undertaking a landscape survey, HBR and evaluation at the former Malvern Hall in Solihull, with our evaluation trenches investigating the former gardens of the manor and any earlier archaeology present. The manor was designed by Sir John Soane, before he became famous as the surveyor of the Bank of England. The 'classically inspired' design of the house was revolutionary at the time, with the architectural designs even being put on public display at the Royal Academy in 1784. John Constable was clearly impressed and both visited and painted the manor at least three times with the paintings on display in the Tate.

The manor as John Constable saw and painted it, the lake and wider grounds are now part of Brueton and Malvern public park.

The evaluation, still ongoing at the time of writing, suggests that rubble from the removed third floor was used to help raise the ground level and that a number of linear features, drainage channels and pits crisscrossed the area and has helped demonstrate that the manor had a more structured layout phase not seen in Constables paintings.



Post-medieval 'wine-strainer.



Construction works continue to the west away from the later Larkstoke manor, reconstructed after it was damaged in the English Civil War, towards the believed medieval church.



Part of the later 19th century front porch attached to Newnham Paddox manor with lead drainage pipes and drains still extant.



The manor as John Constable saw and painted it, the lake and wider grounds are now part of Brueton and Malvern public park.

Internal walls of the former manor with earlier phased cobbles lying in the background that hint at the complex multi-phased history of the site to be explored further during its full excavation.





The manor today. PCA may have proven that Constable stretched reality in his paintings in the location of his ha-ha, but we have not only investigated the archaeology, we have also reconstructed how his imagined ha-ha might have looked!

Constable paintings have long caused confusion with two parallel dark lines previously interpreted as ha-ha's. The evaluation has shown that the geology had been terraced near the house and this may account for the upper of the two dark lines, whilst the map regression demonstrated that the lower dark line may represent the extant ha-ha. However, Constable did massage reality somewhat as it would not have been visible as painted.

PCA WINCHESTER

Looking back to early March, it seemed then that a slow Winter was passing and a run of projects in February in Windsor, Beaulieu, Ewell, Havant and Winchester heralded Spring. But the news from Europe was frightening although not quite understood as also a herald. Starting two sites, Maypole Lane and North End Road, Yapton, West Sussex, on Monday 23rd March seemed possible, but that evening came the C-19 'lockdown' and although the effort was made to continue at Yapton, the welfare failed to arrive and one supplier wanted their CAT & Genny kit returned as they were shutting down. So that was it. Staff were laid-off, to be furloughed shortly after, and the prospect of resuming fieldwork seemed slim.

But as some archaeological contractors 'shut up shop', PCA was requested to take forward projects on a critical path and we picked up an excavation required ahead of house building in Tongham, Surrey, that kept a small team busy throughout the early part of lockdown in April and into May. A mainly Romano-British landscape was investigated, with possible trackways and enclosure ditches, their fills containing pottery, including Samian, all suggestive of something more significant nearby, perhaps under adjacent fields.

Once the site at Tongham was done, the team moved straight to a resumption of work at Yapton, to continue the evaluation started in March. Forty trenches, in fields on the periphery of a historic village, revealed limited evidence of late prehistoric date but a large area of Saxo-Norman period features including pits, post-holes and ditches containing good quantities of pottery. The presence of bun slag appears to indicate smelting.

In Winchester, we went back to a site we've been involved with off and on since 2014. Faberlux Yard, Lower Brook Street, lies over the site of the Greyfriars (Franciscan Order) precinct and is the subject of a small housing development. We had revealed well-preserved remains of buildings in 2017 but in May 2020 needed to check that proposed piles would miss further evidence of the buildings. A by-now familiar sequence was revealed of a raft of imported soil and rubble laid down on alluvial deposits that made the site viable for use by the Greyfriars, who established their friary in 1238. The made ground supported at least two phases of building in the life of the friary before its closure and clearance at the Dissolution 300 years after its foundation.

We are currently excavating a 1.2ha area at Coldean Lane, Brighton, ahead of a housing scheme. This has revealed a number of extensive lynchets, but not the Bronze Age house platforms that were predicted on the basis of discoveries made on adjacent land in the 1990's ahead of the M27 being constructed. The team will be on site for another couple of weeks.



'Handy' dating evidence from Manor Farm, Tongham, Surrey, a decorated sherd of Samian.



The foundations of medieval walls were revealed at Faberlux Yard, Winchester evidence of buildings within the Greyfriars precinct.



Sections across an extensive 'negative' lynchet on the chalk in Sussex, near Coldean Lane, Brighton.

AFTER THE DIGGING AND SITE RECORDING

Archaeology is not all about the digging of a site, but includes the important work that is undertaken after the field work has been concluded. This includes interpreting and writing-up the stratigraphic sequence, pottery and other finds analysis, CAD and other graphics and analysis of environmental samples (this is not an exhaustive list!). The following contributions are an attempt to redress some of the understandable bias.

Finds in lockdown – a view from London

The past few months have been interesting and challenging times for all. With the country plunged into lockdown we were determined to find a way to keep as many people working, and projects progressing, as possible - without of course compromising anyone's safety.

For many of our specialist staff, and supervisors writing up, the solution was simple enough if a bit of a logistical nightmare, with a scramble to get computers into people's homes and additional network access set up for home working. It has been difficult for many to adjust to the new ways of working, particularly those with young children at home requiring schooling, but I have been impressed by the tremendous efforts to adapt and carry on working through difficult times. Inevitably, with a downturn in site work, some staff were placed on furlough. Meanwhile, others continued to travel to and work in Brockley although special measures to reinforce health and safety have been put in place. Increasingly we are holding meetings remotely, by TEAMS video link or zoom, a trend which looks set to continue.

Meanwhile, our finds manager has been busy organising the dispatch of finds to various specialists and logging incoming finds. Whilst material excavated at Westminster Abbey remained until recently locked up safely in a closed compound other finds, including over 100 skeletons from another site continued to come in from those sites where we continued to work. Adapting to processing these safely under current conditions has been a challenge which we have met with some enterprising solutions. A bank of bread crates containing finds currently separates the manager's desk from the bench where one processor might safely work, and a gazebo has been set up to provide additional working or drying space.

Visiting the Brockley offices back in late May to assess safe working practices and the suitability for a return to more office-based work with the Health and Safety manager, now the sole occupant of the writing up office was an eerie experience. The graphics manager stood in splendid isolation at his desk, managing graphics staff working from home. The Admin office stood empty and a solitary Director, welcomed our socially distanced visit to assess the premises. But gradually more people are returning to work, in Brockley the traffic noise has increased, the cafés and bars are opening up and the place generally feels more 'normal'. Although we cannot accommodate as many people working out of our offices as we did previously, it feels good to welcome people back into the offices where it is safe to do so.



A gazebo has been set up outside to provide additional working or drying space.



A bank of bread crates containing finds currently separates the finds supervisor's desk from the processing bench.

Finds and environmental news from the Cambridge office

What with a global pandemic going on its been a funny old time for everyone recently and it certainly hasn't made working easy! Here in the Cambridge office we've been doing our best to try and keep things running as smoothly as possible on a skeleton crew (as I'm sure everyone has!)

For a good while, despite having multiple sites still running we had just our Assistant Finds Supervisor looking after our finds/enviro we had just our Assistant Finds Supervisor looking after our finds/enviro with the Finds Manager trying to oversee this from a distance (involving lots of phone calls and photographs!) We have been lucky in some ways that the 3 large excavations we have running in Biggleswade, Leiston and Dunmow haven't produced huge amounts of material, but we have had some lovely things pass through the doors regardless.

On the outskirts of Norwich we recovered a large, inverted, Bronze Age Bucket Urn from a watching brief, and a beautiful Bronze Age palstave from an evaluation in rural Cambridgeshire, have pulled out a lovely Roman coin from an environmental sample and have had to apply for 5 separate burial licenses for some unexpected skeletons and cremations from Biggleswade, Leiston, Norwich, Impington, Bishops Stortford and Woolpit!

The quieter workload has also given us the opportunity to catch up a backlog of projects for grey literature and publication (as I'm sure all of the PX Managers and Specialists can attest to following my barrage of emails!) Hopefully, this clean slate will make it easier for us to get all our projects wrapped up well within any set deadlines going forward – I certainly feel a lot lighter having a 'to-do' list a quarter of the size (though those on the receiving end of my barrage may feel differently!)

As we start to get back to normality we are looking at getting our archiving process back underway and have welcomed back various staff to the office from furlough to help with this and the general finds and environmental processing as we get busier. With a couple of large infrastructure projects on the horizon this will definitely be needed!

For some people coming back to work, or working through the pandemic, has been a stressful experience (I have definitely had my moments). It has been great to see the team in Cambridge pulling together to help each other out and see people able to tackle their issues to move forward.



Bucket urn.



Palstave axe.



Coin!

The fruits of your labours-publishing the results

London's Publications

Since Nuntius 18 issue in May last year PCA London has continued to publish new articles and monographs, and of course to continue work on forthcoming publications.

It has been a productive year for our industrial heritage publications originating from this office with Rebecca Haslam's 'Stephenson's Roundhouse in context: Excavations at the Stratford Locomotive and Carriage Works, London Borough of Newham' published in the *Industrial Archaeological Review* and Guy Thompson's 'The Factory that never was? The Sanitas Company works in Watts Grove, Tower Hamlets' published in *London's Industrial Archaeology*.

Also in 2019 Shane Maher and Frank Meddens published Saxon and later secular settlement at Barking: excavations at London Road' *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society,* while in 2020 *Essex Archaeology and History* published 'The West Ham Marshes and post-medieval flood defences at Rawalpindi House, Newham' by Ireneo Grosso and others.

We continue to publish regular short articles in the London Archaeologist magazine. In the past year these have included three separate articles on aspects of excavations at Dickens Square in Southwark, by both Neil Hawkins and Kevin Rielly and a paper on excavations at West End Green in the City of Westminster by Ireneo Grosso, Marit Gaimster, Chris Jarret and Berni Sudds. Forthcoming papers include articles for Hertfordshire Archaeology and History, Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeology Society and Surrey Archaeological Collections.

2019 saw the publication of a couple of monographs for the London office. A Bath House, Settlement and Industry on Roman Southwark's North Island by Victoria Ridgeway, Joanna Taylor and Edward Biddulph is one of a series of joint publications by PCA and Oxford Archaeology on the rail infrastructure project which provides a link from Blackfriars Station to London Bridge. It covers the Roman period archaeology of north Southwark

including, as the title suggests, the discovery of part of a previously unknown bath house.

Meanwhile the second volume in the series, *Bridging the Past: Life in Medieval and Post-Medieval Southwark* by Amelia Fairman, Steven Teague and Jon Butler is at the printers and will be due out within the next few weeks. This publication will bring the four-volume series to completion.

PCA monograph 22, *Elite residence to manufacturing centre* by Alistair Douglas, Berni Sudds, Frank Meddens, Märit Gaimster details the results of excavations which reflect the changing fortunes of the former Prices Candle Factory and adjacent sites in Battersea. Despite the current distinctly urban character of the area the site, in the 15th century this area was home to the moated manor house of Bridge Court, a 'country retreat' for the Bishops of York.

PCA continues to provide editorial, layout and distribution services to external clients and in February this year we published *The Waithe Valley Through Time*, by Steven Willis of the University of Kent. This is the second in a series of publications covering archaeology in Central Lincolnshire. On behalf of *London Archaeologist* we have also produced *Fifty Years of London's Archaeology*, which put into print a series of papers presented during a day-long conference held in Autumn 2018 to celebrate the magazine 50th anniversary.

With 20+ monographs in the pipeline it would be tedious to list all 'forthcomings', but if you're interested in post-medieval burials and in particular the tales of body snatchers and the attempts made to foil them, watch out for Tales from the Vaults and other Newington Horror Stories: An archaeological and historical study of Elephant and Castle's underworld. This tells the story of the medieval church of St Mary's and its transition from bucolic village beginnings to urban over-crowding. Those interested in Roman and Anglo-Saxon rural archaeology can anticipate the publication of 'By the Medway Marsh: Excavations at Grange Farm, Gillingham, Kent'. Both volumes are due for publication later this year.

Recent and forthcoming publications Cambridge

Within the last year PCA Cambridge have been working hard to publish a significant number of journal articles in national and regional journals, including those which have been submitted and accepted to journals and are due for publication either later in 2020 or in subsequent volumes.

Tom Woolhouse has a forthcoming article outlining the results of the excavations of a small (0.5ha) but very interesting multi-period site in east Suffolk, spanning some seven millennia, from the Late Mesolithic (c. 6500–4000 BC) to the end of the Romano-British period, with probably continuous occupation on or near the site for at least a thousand years between the Early Iron Age (c. 800–600 BC) and end of the fourth century AD (Woolhouse forthcoming). The article describes and contextualises the principal results of the excavations and considers why this hillside overlooking the middle reaches of the river Deben was a favoured location for settlement and other activity over such a long span of time.

The site at Easton has resulted in a second article, published in this year's *Britannia*, by Ruth Berveridge and Tom Woolhouse, detailing a Late Iron Age pit at the site which contained an unusual bronze handle, most likely from a jug, the form of which appears to be unique in Britain. The closest parallels are products of Italian workshops in the late first century B.C. This paper describes the likely form of the vessel and discusses the significance of its presence at a rural settlement on the 'border' of the Iceni and Trinovantes/ Catuvellauni.



The Ellington placed deposit.

Kevin Haywood and Christiane Meckseper have a paper due to be published in the 2022 edition of *Britannia*, focusing on the building materials from the three Roman buildings investigated at Bottisham, Cambridgeshire. This includes discussion about an assemblage of extremely rare red painted or slipped tegulae and imbrex.

A further four articles have been submitted and accepted to *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*. Matt Jones has short article on a site at Paston Reserve, Peterborough, due to be published in this year's volume and has also written two other articles focusing on Roman activity in the Cambridgeshire Fens at March Road, Wimblington and Jobs Lane, March, the latter detailing a Roman Settlement and associated agricultural/industrial landscape associated with a late Roman *villa rustica*.

Katie Anderson details an interesting Late Roman site at Thrapston Road, Ellington with associated trackway, which included two deliberately placed, complete pottery vessels at the bottom on one of the trackway ditches, in addition to a later Roman coin assemblage and evidence for several small-scale industrial activities including cereal processing, metalworking and animal husbandry focusing on cattle.

In Norfolk, the site at Round House Way, Cringleford recorded elements of an undated but probably Bronze Age field system, together with a number of small, scattered, charcoal-rich pits. The pits have been radiocarbon dated to the late Saxon period (9th to 10th/early 11th century AD). Analysis indicates that the charcoal is predominantly oak heartwood from the trunks and large branches of mature trees; it is likely to derive from systematic burning of wood for charcoal manufacture, with the pits probably containing waste fragments that were considered too small to be useful or economical to transport. The products of this charcoal-burning industry are likely to have supplied demand in the growing town at Norwich, perhaps not least the ironworking industry that flourished in the Coslany area during the 10th to 12th centuries. Similar Anglo-Saxon charcoal pits are frequently found in archaeological work around Norwich and further afield in Norfolk, Suffolk and the wider region but there is still a wide debate surrounding their function, to which the charcoal analysis from this site provides useful new data.

A further contribution to Norfolk Archaeology from Katie Anderson details a rare later Iron Age saltern, the first of this date to be identified on the east coast of Norfolk and associated features as well as an early Roman activity

In addition to these articles, work is also underway in the Cambridge office to produce further papers, which are due for submission later this year to regional and national journals, covering an array of interesting sites from the eastern region.

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Recent and forthcoming publications from the Durham, Newark, Warwick and Winchester offices

The smaller regional offices continue to produce a good number of publications, including both large scholarly works and shorter articles written for inclusion within a range of local and national journals. Whilst many more are "in the pipeline" the list below includes a few of those published recently as well as some of those currently being written, and others not yet started but due for completion by the end of 2020.

Durham Publications

Work continues on the PCA monograph detailing the archaeology encountered along the route of the Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bar Bypass in North Yorkshire. Here PCA uncovered a Roman villa and a substantial Iron Age enclosure. The specialist work and most of the finds illustrations are now complete and John Shepherd is working hard to draft the final text of this substantial monograph, which will be an

important volume for the region. Publication is due in 2022, with a short glossy popular publication due for release next year.

Another publication currently underway in Durham is an article on the medieval corn driers discovered during excavations at Acomb, County Durham and East Rainton, Tyne and Wear. This joint site report, which is being written by Scott Vance, is due for publication in Archaeologia Aeliana next year and will be a hugely important addition to the published literature on corn driers in north-east England.

Also due for publication in Archaeologia Aeliana in 2021, and also the work of Scott, is the substantial report on excavations at the post-medieval pottery production site at Forth Banks, Newcastle. This is one of just a handful of such sites so far published in the UK, with few of the other excavated examples of this type of site published in such detail.

Newark Publications

The first PCA Newark report published this year is included within the latest edition of the Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological and Historical Society. This details the medieval and Roman remains uncovered at Alcester Grammar School, Warwickshire. There, remains of a building, pond and stone lined drains, all of medieval date, were revealed alongside possible Roman features (Molloy and Taylor, 2020). A second article submitted from Newark, this time for the Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society details an Iron Age inhumation burial and associated features found at Bretforton Road, Badsey, Worcestershire (Failes and Molloy, 2020). Iron Age inhumations are very unusual in the Midlands and it is possible that a number of pits which were found surrounding the inhumation also contained further heavily truncated burials, making this a potentially very significant site. Andy Failes, one of the authors of the Bretforton Road, Badsey article will also be compiling a report for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology on the Roman rural site at Clay Lake Bank Spalding, with submission of this article timetabled for the end of 2020.

Warwick Publications

The PCA Warwick excavations at Sling Lane, Fernhill Heath, Worcestershire will be the subject of publication reporting later this year (Webb, forthcoming), with this article destined for the Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society. A range of Iron Age ring ditches were revealed during the work, with this a notable site for the area.

Winchester Publications

So far this year two academic articles detailing work undertaken by PCA Winchester have been published, with more currently in production. The results of analysis work on human remains from a site at Victoria Road, Winchester, part of the town's Roman northern extra-mural cemetery, suggest the first burials in this area were undertaken no later than AD252. This is some 20 years earlier than previously believed. The result of this work, the reporting of which was undertaken by Thom Hayes, are included within the latest issue of in Hampshire Studies. Thom is now working on another report detailing an excavation at 2-4 St Cross Road and Provost Cells, on the Roman and medieval city walls of Winchester (Hayes, forthcoming), with specialist analysis work on the material from this project currently underway.

The second Winchester report accepted for publication this year, is that of Bartons Road, Havant. This will appear in the next edition of the Journal or Roman Pottery Studies. Whilst the range of features from this rural site, which is located just a few miles from Fishbourne Palace, was unremarkable, those features yielded a significant and important assemblage of early Roman pottery. Few assemblages of this date from this part of southern England have been published and this report, written by Dominic McAtominey and Jane Timby, is likely to become a go-to reference for ceramic researchers working on Roman pottery from the area.

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