



Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



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Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September
and December

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Meetings are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield (near Chase Side) at 8pm. Tea and coffee are served and the sales and information table is open from 7.30pm. Visitors, who are asked to pay a small entrance fee of £1.00, are very welcome.

Forthcoming events



If you would like to attend the EAS lectures, but find travelling difficult, please contact the Secretary, David Wills (Tel: 020 8364 5698) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

The full lecture programme for 2008, organised by Tim Harper, is as follows. You should also find a programme card enclosed with this newsletter.

18th January

Late Victorian Enfield

Graham Dalling, Enfield Local History Unit

15th February

The Great Walls of China: Life and Death on the North Frontier

Ian Jones, EAS

7th March

English Heritage work on recent sites in North London.

Kim Stabler, English Heritage

11th April

The Excavations & Fieldwork of Enfield Archaeology Society 2007 & AGM

EAS Fieldwork



The Society carries out a busy programme of excavation and other practical activities in the Borough. Please contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) for more details if you are interested.

16th May

Presidential Address

Harvey Sheldon, Birkbeck College, University of London

Summer - date and time to be confirmed

The Dennis Hill Memorial Lecture

At Theobalds at Cedars Park: A tour of the park and its archaeology.

Dr Martin Dearne and Mike Dewbrey

19th September

Here Be Dragons. A history of fear in the landscape

Tim Harper, EAS

17th October

19th Century London Cemeteries

Dr Ken Worpole

14th November

St Andrews Church – The Early Church and its context

Daniel Secker, Enfield Author

December - Christmas Break.

No Lecture

Meetings of other Societies

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

16 January

Dramatic presentation of 'the Lambs in Enfield'
Trinity Players

19 February

2.00 for 2.30 pm Ordnance Road Methodist Church Hall
History of the Friendly Societies
Howard Whisker

20 February

7.30 pm Charity School Hall, Church St, Edmonton
The History of North Middlesex Hospital
Gary Boudier

19 March

A.G.M. and More London Suburbs
Graham Dalling

17 April

The Intimate Theatre
Geoff Bowden

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

8 January

The work of a Finds Liaison Officer
Kate Sutton - Museum of London

12 February

The archaeology of Dorset - a Time-torn Landscape
Christopher Sparey-Green BA MIFA

11 March

The work of the Churches Conservation Trust
Chloe Cockerill - Regional Development Manager

8 April

Clifton Rocks Railway
Peter Davey - Bristol Tram Photograph Collection

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

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

08 January

Who was Perkin Warbeck?
Dr Ann Wroe

12 February

Getting away from it all: Medieval Pilgrimage
Dr Diana Webb

11 March 2008

Robespierre: Leader of the French Revolution
Dr Marisa Linton

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6 for 6.30pm, Terrace Room, Museum of London

10 January

Recent Archaeological Work at St Paul's Cathedral
Dr John Schofield, MoL

20 February

AGM & Presidential Address

13 March

Channel Tunnel Rail Link Investigations within the Lea Valley
Andy Crockett, Wessex Archaeology

10 April

The Rise and Fall of England's Medieval Jews
Dr Richard Huscroft

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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

11 February

Out of Africa – Human Origins
Jill Cook – British Museum

10 March

7.30 WCHS Dining Room
AGM followed by Golden Jubilee Evening

14 April

Turners Hall Farm – A Roman Burial Site
Simon West – St Albans Museum Service

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm, Victoria Hall, Greenyard, Waltham Abbey

24 January

The Buxtons – An Old Essex Family
Georgina Green

28 February

Medieval Pilgrim Route to Santiago de Compostella
John Merrill

27 March

Puddephatt Mem'l Lecture - A Decade of Archaeological Discovery
Peter Huggins

SOCIETY MATTERS

Membership subscriptions – due 1 Jan

Please remember these fall due for renewal on 1 January 2008, irrespective of when you joined the society, unless you joined after 30 September 2007.

Please send the enclosed Renewal Form, together with the appropriate sum, to the Secretary, David Wills, 43 Millers Green Close, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7BD.

The rates are unchanged from last year:

Ordinary Members:	£ 9.00
Joint Memberships:	£13.00
Junior Members:	£ 4.50

Please note that Joint Membership is defined as any number of named persons residing at one address and receiving a single copy of Society News.

New members who joined the Society after 30 September 2007 need take no action, as their subscriptions are valid until 31 December 2008.

Please note that it is necessary to have current valid membership of the Society before taking part in any excavation or fieldwork, in order to provide adequate insurance cover.

We are now able to send bulletins by e-mail, so if you would prefer to receive yours by e-mail only (thus saving paper, stamps, the rainforest etc...) please tick the box on the subscription form.

** Welcoming volunteer needed!! **

After many years running the 'welcome table' at our lecture evenings, Caroline McKenna has decided to step down, though she remains a Committee member.

We therefore need someone to take over this role, which involves attending our lecture evenings at Jubilee Hall from about 7.30pm to greet visitors, and to set out the table of newsletters, publications etc. That's it, nothing complicated - the opening up of the hall itself is handled by Tim Harper. Would anyone who is prepared to help out please contact David Wills (Tel: 020 8364 5698).

The Committee would like to thank Caroline for running the stall over the last few years.

Farewell

And on the subject of resignations, we have heard that one of our longest standing members, John Stevens, has resigned from the society after over 30 years. John served on the Committee for many years in various capacities, including Editor of this august publication, and we would like to record our thanks for all his efforts. We wish him well in his 'retirement' – from the EAS that is.

Have Your Say

We are very keen to know what you think of the society and our activities, so we have produced a questionnaire which you will find enclosed with this bulletin.

We would be very grateful if you would take the time to fill it in and return it with your subscription.

If you attended some of the lectures earlier in the year you may well have already seen something similar, but we are keen to get comments from those who are unable to attend lectures too.

We will have the results in a future bulletin.

Meeting Reports

Portable Antiquities Scheme

21 September: **Mike Dewbrey**

Unfortunately Kate Sutton of the Museum of London was unable to attend as planned, but our Chairman Mike Dewbrey stepped in at the last minute.

One of the topics Kate had been booked to talk about was the new rules for metal-detectorists, so as an avid metal-detectorist himself, Mike was well placed to pick up this theme. After giving an outline of the recent developments Mike went on to talk about and show some of his fascinating finds from around the Borough.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary scheme introduced to record archaeological objects over 300 years old found by members of the public. Under the 1996 Treasure Act we have a legal obligation to report finds of 'treasure' – that is, finds of silver or gold and groups of coins from the same spot which are over 300 years old. From 2003 prehistoric assemblages were added to the definition of treasure. Such finds should be reported to the district coroner within 14 days.

Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs), like Kate Sutton, have been employed through the scheme to liaise with metal detectorists and others to record their finds and strengthen the links between metal detectorists and archaeologists. So far a database of over 60,000 finds and 19,000 images, from prehistoric flints to medieval belt buckles, has been built up.

Mike went on to describe some of the more spectacular 'Treasure' finds of recent years, such as the Bronze Age Ringlemere Cup and the Hoxne Hoard, of some 14,780 coins, probably deposited in the 5th century.

Slightly less spectacular, but of much greater local interest, were Mike's own metal detecting and fieldwalking finds, some of which he brought along.

Among these were a silver 5 Reichsmark piece of 1934, with Potsdam church on the reverse. Mike wonders if this found its way to a field on Enfield's

green belt via an inmate of Trent Park POW camp working as a farm labourer. The more usual route for post-medieval finds to turn up in the fields was via the night-soil men, who removed the waste from London and other towns and recycled it as fertilizer.

Among the coins Mike illustrated were a Gallo-Belgic stater of c150BC, a Roman bronze sestertius showing Crispina, wife of Commodus (the somewhat maligned chap from the film *Gladiator*), a Henry II silver penny, a double petard from Brabant (1482-1506) and a Napoleon III 50 centime piece.

There were also several Mesolithic hand axes, a late medieval purse bar, croatal bells (as worn by cattle), Tudor clothing fasteners, parts of an 18th century sweetheart brooch, an eyeglass, a 14th Kings Hussars cap badge and a most attractive and peculiar copper-bronze brooch which remains undated.

Clearly, not all of Mike's finds have been located with the aid of a metal-detector. Fieldwalking has also produced results, and can provide a great deal of evidence for archaeologists. Mike is keen for the EAS to continue to carry out fieldwalking projects, and volunteers to join us are welcome.

Our thanks are due to Mike for stepping in at short notice, and also to Tim Harper for providing additional material.

Vickers Ship Model Experimentation Tank, St Albans

19 October: **Tim Crichton**

The scientific study of ship hulls has its origins in the 18th century. In 1759 the Royal Society of Arts offered a prize for ship models which improved stability. Shipwrights were mostly too busy to take part (or were already engaged in secret work for the Admiralty), so most of the interest came from amateurs. Since it was up to the amateur to get the thing built after a report was written, the process was not conclusive. But tests were carried out in Greenland Dock, London in the late 1700s, and in Sweden Henrik Aff-Chapman also made progress.

The great pioneer of ship testing was William Froude, a maths and classics graduate of Oriel College Oxford, who was employed by Isembard Kingdom Brunel as a surveyor on the Great Western Railway. He later took up residence in Paignton, where he conducted ship model experiments in a tank, of which no remains

survive. Rolling problems suffered by the *Great Eastern*, also designed by I. K. Brunel, led to his writing a paper on the subject which was published by the Institute of Naval Architects. Thereafter he published another paper nearly every year. He became convinced that ship builders did not properly understand ship resistance.

Moving to Torquay he and his son built a house to their own design, which survives as a hotel, complete with a striking flying staircase. The hotel swimming pool is on the site of their first rolling tank.

The Chief Constructor of the Navy, Sir Edward Reed, encouraged him to write to the Navy offering his services. They provided a grant of £2,000 for the construction and maintenance of a 250-foot testing tank, and a salary for his third son Robert Edmund (Eddie) as a draughtsman. Froude himself refused a salary.

The first models Froude tested were the Swan and the Raven, in three sizes (3ft, 6ft and 12ft, the largest being in the Science Museum collection). These experiments showed that there is not one perfect hull form – the Raven performed better at low speed, and the Swan did better at high speed.

The basic design of a ship model tank consists of a long water tank with a rail track above it on which runs a carriage, which supports the ship model suspended below it. A dynamometer on the carriage measures the speed and water resistance of the model as it is towed along. The models themselves are made of wax over a wooden cloth covered armature, using a process which has changed very little since Froude's day. The wax was recycled when models were finished with, with the result that at one site the addition of dye on one single occasion early in its history meant that its models all continued to be a distinctive black colour until it closed many decades later.

After Froude's death in 1879 Eddie continued his father's work for another 40 years, moving to a new facility at Haslar (Gosport) in 1886. He advised on the construction of testing tanks around the world. The first commercial tank in the UK was built by William Denny & Sons at Dumbarton. This survives as a museum and can still be operated by the University of Strathclyde.

Other UK tanks included the High Speed Thorneycroft tank at Fort Staine, and the Vickers tank at the somewhat unexpected address of 222

London Road, St Albans. Vickers' head office was originally at Sheffield, but they moved to the Broadway, Westminster to be nearer to the majority of their clients. When they decided to build their own testing tank in 1911, they decreed it should be within 2 hours' travel of the London head office. Vickers workers will also point out that the golf courses and fishing around St Albans are very good!

The Vickers tank still survives, though the site is now being redeveloped as 14 commercial units, each with underground storage areas utilizing the former tank. The tank itself is 20 feet wide and hundreds of feet long. Its operators had to keep their wits about them as moving about over the tank to get at the track was rather precarious, but one had to resist the temptation to grab at the overhead rails, which carried the current to the carriage motor!

Tim Crichton's talk was a fascinating and fact-filled account of an unfamiliar area of maritime history and industrial archaeology.

Roman Enfield

16 November: **Martin Dearne**

The curse of the vanishing speaker struck again in November, as Bruce Watson was unable to give his planned talk on the Old Welsh Bridge, Shrewsbury, as he was in another part of the country working on another dig.

But on the bright side, this meant the Society were treated to Martin Dearne's new talk on Roman Enfield, the product of a great deal of work he has been doing on the EAS archives, as well as more recent digs which he has been directly involved in.

Little is known about the area before the Roman period, with just a few scatters of worked flint and other finds, and growing evidence for settlement and farming in the Lea Valley. It is reasonable to suppose that the River Lea was a significant communication route in the Roman period and earlier, but much evidence may have been lost with the improvement of the river and the construction of the reservoirs. But we do know of the importance of the valley to the Romans for road communication, as Ermine Street ran through it from London to Broughing and then on to Lincoln. Since its early days the EAS has devoted much effort to establishing the exact course of the road in the borough, and in 1976 a section was excavated at Snell's Park on the border with Tottenham, and another at Donkey Lane in 1987-8. It was re-surfaced many times

and indeed we may have found evidence at Bulls Cross of patching in the medieval period.

This major road, built within ten years of the invasion of AD43, probably gave the impetus for the largest known Roman settlement in Enfield, at Bush Hill Park. This now lies entirely under residential housing and a school. The first evidence for it, a probable cremation burial, was recovered in 1902 when the area was being developed for housing. Test pits in the school playing fields showed any archaeology had been removed by 19th century brickearth quarries, so since 1966 the EAS has doggedly pursued a strategy of 'back garden archaeology', digging small trenches in back gardens whenever we have had an opportunity.

One of the first trenches fell within the settlement, recording pottery, ditches, and a partial inscription, "If anyone desires austerity...". Some others have been negative, or have revealed only field boundaries or tracks, but together they have built up a picture of the extent of the settlement. It is now fairly clear that we have a settlement along the west side of Ermine Street, about 120m wide and over 450m long, covering an area of about 5.4 hectares (13 acres).

When Toops Yard off Lincoln Road was redeveloped in 1974, initial work by the EAS found enough evidence of Roman industrial activity for a much larger commercial excavation to be commissioned. This work suggested a start date of about AD70 for the northern part of the settlement, and continuity of occupation throughout the Roman period, with perhaps some hints of subsequent Saxon activity.

The settlement appears likely to have conformed broadly to the well known undefended minor roadline type of 'small town' as seen at places like Camerton or Hibaldstow. It began with agriculture, perhaps to serve a mansio (a kind of inn for Roman officials) which is suspected to have been here, a day's travel from London. In the north it probably developed to have a preponderance of properties containing timber buildings and cobbled yards, corn driers and perhaps vegetable gardens, but perhaps with a few buildings at least partly brick or stone built and maybe with hypocausts. There would have been a network of metalled paths between the properties, basic boundary ditches around it and one suspects inns, blacksmiths, cobblers, brewers and the like living in part at least off of the trade passing along Ermine St. The broad hard standing we believe existed between the road and settlement might indeed have held market stalls.

But the Bush Hill Park settlement was not alone. To the south in Edmonton and further back from Ermine St on the banks of Salmons Brook was another, smaller Roman site at Churchfields. It was partly destroyed by a gravel quarry in the 1920s and there has been only one well recorded excavation, by Geoffrey Gillam. It has been suggested it was a tilery but Martin thinks it more likely to have been something like a tannery.

Well to the west and south of Bush Hill Park antiquarian finds indicate the presence of burial groups, often of high status, not directly connected with the settlement. These include a late Roman stone coffin made in the Peterborough area, and a highly decorated lead one, the sort of thing found in major city cemeteries or at the mausolea attached to decent sized villas. Martin thinks this is suggestive of there having been a villa complex in the area, especially when combined with early 19th century records that workmen often found human remains and other artefacts in the area, including a hearth set in brickwork.

Perhaps a role servicing such an establishment explains the apparent survival of the settlement into the late Roman period, after most mansios seem to have gone out of use.

Martin offered to come back and update his talk after another 20 years of 'backgarden archaeology', but in fact we expect to recall him much sooner so that those who missed out on this unplanned lecture get a chance to see it.

Martin's talk was based on work he has done for a paper on Roman Enfield which is due to be published as part of a Monograph in the near future. Further details will be provided in a later bulletin.



On the front cover of this the bearded man from a Bartmann jug excavated from one of the Elsyng tree pits we dug this summer.

These jugs were imported from Germany in the late 16th and 17th centuries – we think this example is quite similar to one recovered from the wreck of the Batavia (sunk 1629). 'Bartmann' simply means 'bearded man' in German, but these jugs are also known as 'Bellarmines' owing to their supposed representation of one Cardinal Bellarmine (1542-1621).

INVESTIGATION OF DRAINAGE SYSTEM: NEW RIVER (OLD COURSE) UPPER MILL ROUND, FORMER FORTY HALL ESTATE, ENFIELD

(Site centred TQ 338 991)

By Neil Pinchbeck

INTRODUCTION

EAS Pastfinders have set out to investigate the water channels of Upper and Lower Mill Rounds, Forty Hall, with the goal of locating the mill which served Elsyng Palace.

We began with this drainage system, which has been known to the Society for some time, comprising a sluice, culvert and brick lined gully on the former New River (Old Course) 300m west of Myddleton House. (see cover photo)

EAS Chairman, Mike Dewbrey, obtained permission from Capel Manor College, the current managers, and an initial visit was made at the end of April 2007.

Tree root damage was severe with collapse of brickwork underway. It was decided to conduct a measured survey and digital photographic record. Two more visits were made in May and in addition, the floor of the brick lined gully was investigated by excavation and a part section opened across the south end.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1859, the building of the Dowcra aqueduct across the valley at Maidens Bridge cut off the Whitewebbs loop of the New River, Old Course but in 1889, Whitewebbs pumping station was built and the Northern arm of the loop, upon which the subject of this investigation stands, was re-opened to carry water flowing in the opposite direction to the original flow into the new course of the New River. Whitewebbs stopped pumping around 1950 but it is thought that the section of the old course between Whitewebbs and the

junction at the northern end of the Dowcra aqueduct was in water until about 1960.

THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

The system begins at the north end, with a cast iron sluice gate recessed into the southern bank of the river. The sluice opens onto a rectangular manhole which in turn opens into a culvert.

This brick vaulted culvert descends south for nearly four metres at an angle of ten degrees, after which the angle increases to twenty degrees for nearly eight metres, before returning to ten degrees for the final two metres, where it widens out to discharge into an open brick lined gully. The gully continues South for a further 16.4m, over which it continues to fall another 60cm. (Fig 1)



Opening of culvert into gully from below (S)

Distortion by soil pressure and tree roots makes it difficult to determine the original built width but it seems likely that this was 1.83m (6ft), now reduced to an average of 1.6m.

The floor of the gully was initially obscured by up to 30cm of alluvial and leaf mould deposits. These were removed by excavation from the Western half of the gully over its entire length. This revealed a brick floor composed of bricks on end packed in staggered rows without mortar joints.

At the south end of the gully excavation also revealed 20x20cm slots across the width of the gully. (Six such slots were eventually revealed, five in the gully and one 1.83m (6ft) inside the South end of the culvert.

These slots are set at 3.05m (10ft) centres and the setting is very precise. Where variations in brick dimension make this difficult, one or two rows of roof tiles are used for correction.

Whilst the two southernmost slots were empty, the remainder contained 20x20cm (8x8") timber beams set flush with the brick floor. It is therefore deduced that all these slots carried such timbers and are beam slots. (Fig 2)



Empty beam slot

The function of the beam slots has caused some speculation. Were they a simple expansion joint or did the beams support further timber structure, now lost, perhaps for the purpose of slowing the flow down the gully? This writer's current view is that they were a compression joint in which the beams absorbed water and expanded. This would squeeze together the bricks on end (without mortar joints) of the top course of the gully floor to produce a watertight bed.

A part section was opened across the southern end of the gully (Fig 2). This revealed that the floor of bricks on end was set on top of two courses of bricks conventionally laid with mortared joints. Vertical timber boards 10cm (4") wide faced the end of the gully. The bottom of the ditch to the south of the gully was yellow clay.

The section was not completed since it hit the water table and filled up. Attempts were made to bail it and even hand pump it, but the return of water was too fast. The trench was abandoned and back filled.

The walls of the gully are assymetrical, the eastern side being taller and stepped about 6.5m down the run.

The brickwork of the walls shows two distinct phases. The lower or earlier phase, together with the floor is of red/grey stocks and follows the fall of the gully floor. The upper or later phase is of harder yellow/grey stocks in which the courses are horizontal and do not follow the fall. This is achieved by an initial course of cut bricks and packing with tiles..

The early phase red bricks average 23x10x6cms whilst the later yellow stocks are 25x10.5x6.5. Neither are frogged.

The thickness of the walls remains unclear although areas of collapse indicate several courses. At the end of the gully, erosion has uncovered at least 70cms of brickwork.

DISCUSSION

The first function of the system is obviously to vent water from the New River. Initially, this may have been simply as a method of level control. Later, the introduction of a flow control mechanism near the sluice may indicate that a section could be drained down for maintenance purposes. Assuming another flow control further East, this could have been the junction basin section in front of the Dowcra aqueduct.

It has also been suggested that the system may have had a function in managing the Mill Rounds as water meadows. They would have been deliberately flooded at the appropriate season, to produce a lush "first bite" for grazing animals.

The water meadow idea is certainly attractive in explaining the location of the system. If level control was all that was required, then it would have been easier to achieve at one or other of the flashes or aqueducts. Research into how this system may have functioned in relation to water meadow management is ongoing.

Dating evidence for this system is in short supply. Finds from the alluvial gully deposits were limited to a Masons preserve jar and Tizer bottle. Attributing these to the mid 20th century, the best that can be said is that the gully pre-dates them.

The yellow stocks of the later gully building phase together with finishing details, are very reminiscent of the supporting brickwork to the Flash Lane aqueduct. This would suggest a date of around 1820 for this work.

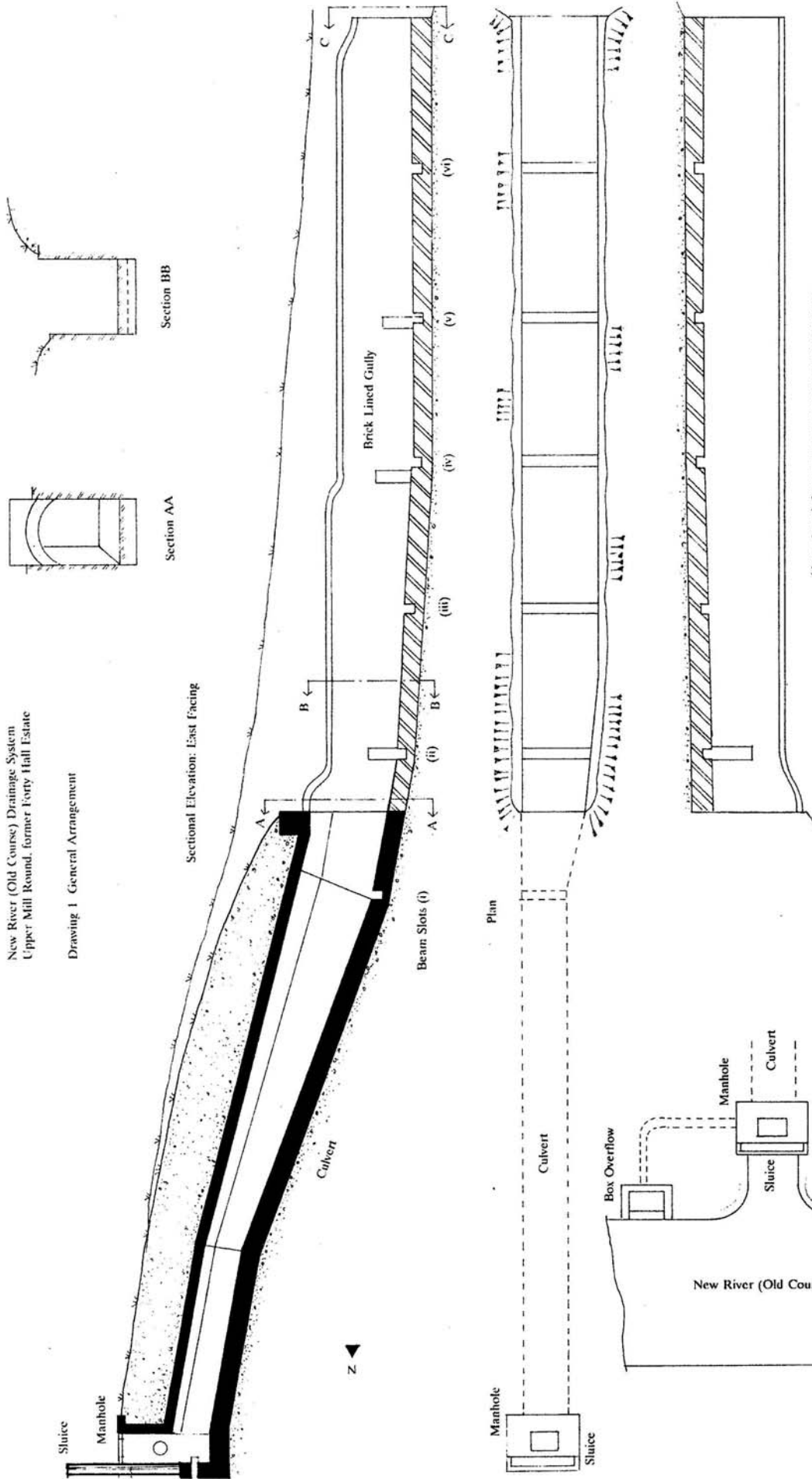
The earliest maps we have of this area are the 1773 Forty Hall sale map and the estate map of 1781. Neither of these show a distinct drainage feature at this point. There is, instead, a simple field boundary, on a slightly different alignment.

Enfield Highway library has an 1806 Borough map which shows the other drainage features of the mill rounds but nothing at all at this location. By contrast, the 1881 Ordnance Survey map shows the gully and culvert apparently complete.

continued on p. 12 >

Enfield Archaeological Society
 New River (Old Course) Drainage System
 Upper Mill Round, former Forty Hall Estate

Drawing 1 General Arrangement



NB. For Section CC & Beam Slot details, see Drawing 2.

Fig 1: General arrangement of the drainage system

Enfield Archaeological Society

New River (Old Course) Drainage System
Upper Mill Rounds: former Fortv Hall Estate

Drawing 2. Details of Brick-Lined Gully

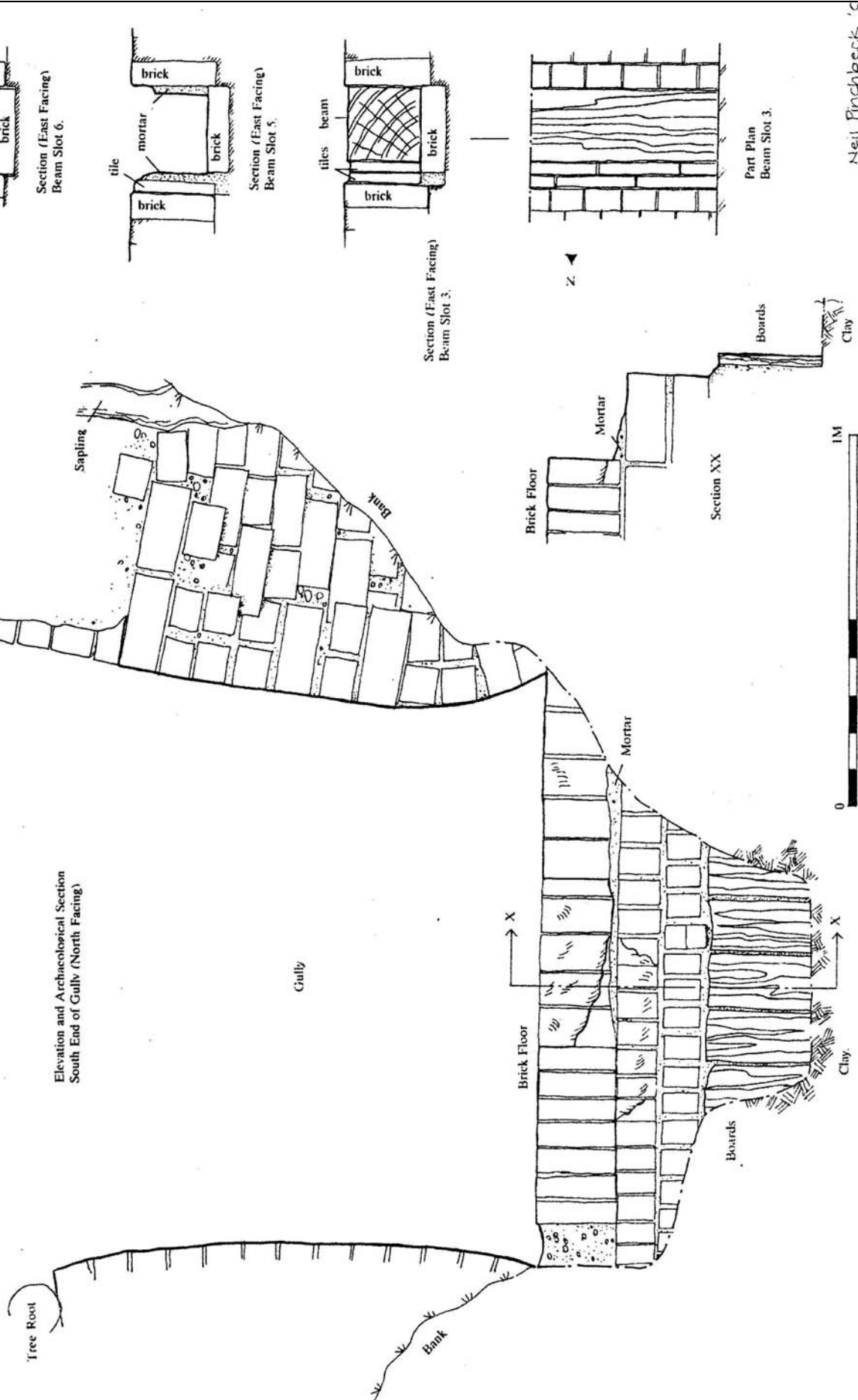


Fig 2: Details of the brick-lined gully

< continued from p. 9

This gives an earliest possible date for the phase 1 brickwork of 1807 and remaining brickwork structure by 1881. This would accommodate an 1820 date for the phase 2 brickwork and rules the system out as a provision made necessary by

Whitewebbs pumping station in 1889. It also rules the system out as ever having been part of provisions for a mill race. We must look elsewhere for Elsyng Mill.

NEIL PINCHBECK



Seasons Greetings to all our members!



PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



In October English Heritage probably chose the wettest day of the year to take a tour of the Elsyng Palace site, which gave us all a taste of the joys of underwater archaeology! A team of landscape archaeologists from Cambridge University were invited to look at the Tudor water gardens which they will be surveying in the spring to assess the true extent of the site. The results of this survey may lead to the scheduled area being extended further west to encompass this important example of Tudor garden archaeology.

In September the last trench of the year was opened at Elsyng, based on resistivity results which suggested a substantial brick structure within one of the tree planting areas. After two days hard digging we were standing looking at a compacted spread of chalk and gravel which had been used to level the ground surface of a courtyard area.

This has led us to reassess the geophysics interpretation of the site as twice this year layers of gravel have been found where it had been anticipated brickwork would be in evidence. The position of the Outer Gatehouse for example has now been located further to the south where a robber trench was uncovered this year. The location suggested by the resistivity survey revealed yet another spread of gravel which we had previously assumed represented the structure of the outer gate.

As the digging season draws once more to a close I wish to thank all the members of the excavation team for all their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year. Martin Dearnour our site director turned out for the last trench of the year despite a nasty case of gastric flu. A full report on all our work at Elsyng over the last year

has been added to the Society's archive and copies can be purchased for £2.99

It is hoped to continue our research looking for the location of the lost Tudor Water Mill close to Maidens Bridge early next year. A field survey of the area has uncovered a lot more evidence of the 19th century drainage channels and management of the water meadows in Upper and Lower Mill Rounds fields. The evolution of the site is further complicated by the 18th century cascades and weirs which may be concealing one of the possible locations for the 16th century flour mill close to Maidens Bridge. A photographic survey and recording project of these structures would be well worthwhile as they are rapidly falling into disrepair and we hope to carry out some recording of the cascades early next year, if you would like to volunteer to help please notify a member of the committee.

The Society are also actively involved in a lottery grant application by Broxbourne Council to research the archaeology of Theobalds Palace, which has close links with Elsyng. A Geophysics survey has been carried out over the site of the palace, which was demolished after the civil war by order of the Commonwealth. Local community involvement is an integral part of the lottery funding grant application and to this end the E.A.S. may be called upon to open trial trenches there later next year when scheduled monument consent is granted for the work to be carried out.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all our members for their support throughout the year at our lectures and we hope to see a few more of you at the meetings in the future. We have started holding a regular raffle to raise funds for the Society. Tim Harper has prepared a mouth-watering selection of lecture topics for 2008, so do come along and help to make these social evenings a success.

MIKE DEWBREY