



Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Above: This year's Festival of British Archaeology event on the Thames Foreshore. See report on p10 (Photo: Tim Harper)

Top: 'Mr Punch' pipe tamper – Enfield metal detecting find.

2 Forthcoming Events: EAS

Full 2012 Lecture Programme including:

13 January: Towns of South East England

17 February: Ancient Rome at Sea

3 Other Societies

4 Society Matters

5 Fieldwork Report

Archaeology of Maidens Brook, Forty Hall, 2008-10

10 Thames Foreshore: Report from the annual Festival of British Archaeology Event

12 Pastfinders News

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

The Editor is Jeremy Grove

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, (Tel: 020 8449 5298) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

2012 EAS Lecture Programme

13th January

Towns of South East England

Graham Dalling

17th February

Galleys to Garum: Ancient Rome at Sea

Ian Jones

16th March

Enclosing Londinium: The Roman Landward and Riverside Walls

Harvey Sheldon

20th April

The Excavations of the Society in 2011
(preceded by AGM)

Martin Dearne & Mike Dewbrey

18th May

A 19th Century Clinker Built Boat for 2012

Amelia Fairman, Pre-Construct Archaeology

15th June

Aspects of the Development of Forty Hall

Martin Dearne

14th September

Update on the Excavations at Copped Hall

John Shepherd, Copped Hall Trust Archaeology Project

12th October

Post-Medieval Archaeology in London

Jacqui Pearce, Joint Editor, Post Medieval Archaeology

16th November

Vice Presidential Address

Jon Cotton

December

Winter break – no meeting

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.

Regular diggers please note the first confirmed dates for the new year – 5th-7th May at Cedars Park (see Pastfinders News section for further details). This of course doesn't mean other digs won't come along before then!

Meetings of other Societies

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6.00 for 6.30pm, Museum of London

17 January

Mapping Roman London: from Site Context to Town Plan
Julian Hill

28 February

AGM (6.15pm) & Presidential Address
Reconstructing Nonsuch: Evidence, Elevations and a Model
Martin Biddle

13 March

Jimmy Garlick, the Mummified Man of St James Garlickhythe
Ellis Charles Pike

17 April

The Thames Tunnel: Eighth Wonder of the World?
Robert Hulse

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

18 January

Architectural Photography
Graham Dalling

10 February

7.30pm Charity School Hall, Church St, Edmonton
Charles and Mary Lamb
Helen Walton

21 February

2.15 for 3pm
tba

21 March

AGM & Early Actresses
Marlene McAndrew

19 April

Johnny Walker not whisky but beer
Ruby Galili

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

10 January

Merchant Tailors Great Feast, 1607
Ann Saunders

21 February (note later date than usual)

The Medieval Cellars of Winchelsea
Richard Comotto

13 March

It's All in the Bones
Jelena Bekvalac

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

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

10 January

Napoleon's Empire: its Principles, Practices and Legacy
Michael Rowe

14 February

Clergy in London from the Black Death to the Reformation
Virginia Davies

13 March

The Alchemy of Dust: Waste and Recycling in 19th Century London
Peter Hounsell

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45pm, Woodford County High School, High Rd, Woodford Green

16 January

(7.30 pm) Social Evening
Fun, games and food

13 February

Review of the Ongoing Archaeological Work at Copped Hall

12 March

(7.30 pm) AGM followed by Presidential Address
Harvey Sheldon

2 April

Excavations at the Royal Mint
Ian Grainger

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm, Parish Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey

19 January

Lippitts Camp in War and Peace
Bryn Elliott

16 February

London Markets, their Tallies and Tokens
Stuart Adams

15 March

Puddephatt Memorial Lecture
tba

SOCIETY

MATTERS

Membership subscriptions – due 1 Jan

Please remember these fall due for renewal on 1 January 2012, irrespective of when you joined the society, unless you joined after 30 September 2011.

Please send the enclosed Renewal Form, together with the appropriate sum, to the Membership Secretary, Lesley Pinchbeck, 68 Tynemouth Drive, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 4LT.

The rates are again unchanged from last year:

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

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 2011 need take no action, as their subscriptions are valid until 31 December 2012.

Treasurer Retires

After serving as Hon. Treasurer since 2003, Geoff Lamport recently retired from the EAS committee.

We are most grateful to Geoff for volunteering to take on the role in the Society's hour of need, and all his hard work over the years. (Did he quite realise all that he was letting himself in for on the day he first agreed to take his daughter along to a Society event, we wonder?).

We wish him all the best for the future.

(The Committee have put in place interim arrangements to ensure that the Treasurer's important responsibilities are properly covered for the remainder of the year, pending a full re-allocation of duties in due course.)

Our New Vice-President – Jon Cotton, FSA

We are delighted to announce that Jon Cotton recently agreed to accept the position of Vice-President of the Society.

Jon will be familiar to members as a leading expert on the prehistory of the London region. Until recently he was the Senior Curator of Prehistory at the Museum of London, in which role he has been generous in providing his advice and expertise to the Society.

Members will particularly remember the interesting talks Jon has given to the Society, so we are pleased to have signed him up for a 'Vice Presidents Address' in the November slot of our 2012 lecture programme.



Mr Punch pipe tamper

Found by Mike Dewbrey on one of his metal-detecting expeditions in the Borough.



Archaeology of Maidens Brook within
the grounds of Forty Hall, Enfield:
A Survey 2008-10

By Neil Pinchbeck

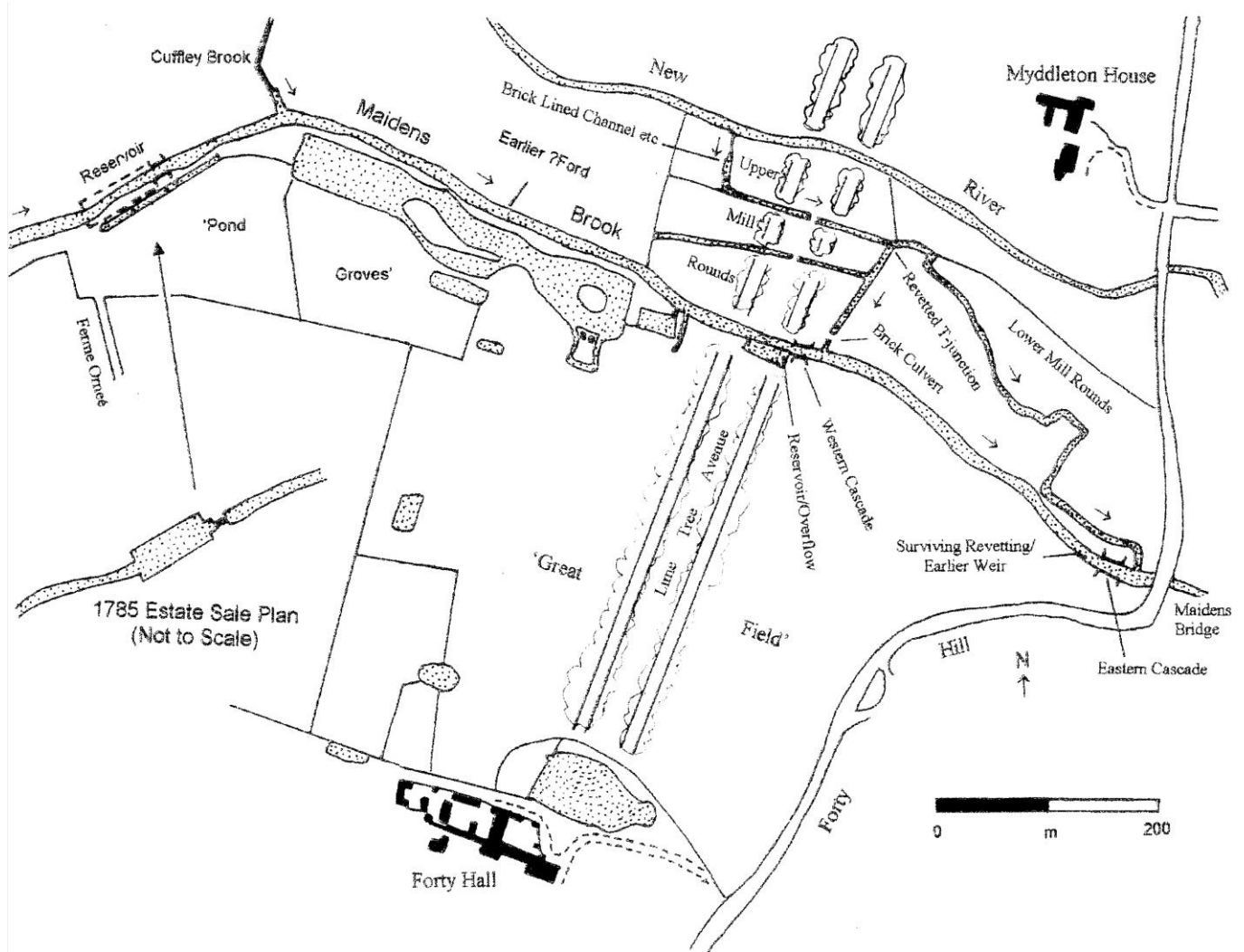
*"The canals are fortunately placed for
Embellishments, and form Cascades that rush
impetuous."* (Forty Hall Sale Catalogue: 1773)

Within the grounds of Forty Hall, Maidens Brook
contains a continuous waterscaping scheme,
probably created by Eliab Breton who came to
Forty Hall to marry Elizabeth Wolstenholme in

1740. It was completed circa 1760, and a new
bridge opened at Maidens Bridge in 1761 to
integrate into Breton's system.

The scheme consisted of considerable
straightening of the brook's meanders, although it
kept a serpentine nature, which can still be seen
on maps and aerial photographs.

It began upstream in the west at a point where the
walks from Primrose Hill and the Summer Houses
meet the brook, probably as part of the Ferme
Ornee, with a rectangular main reservoir
supplying the whole system. A brick built sluice at
the eastern end of this controlled the flow. This
sluice has a modern concrete conduit overflow set
in the north bank, the eastern apron of which
appears to mask the original oak revetment
scheme which lined the brook from here on
downstream.



The Elements of the Cascade System (and Other Features) in Relation to the Eighteenth Century
Estate Plan (Based on Twentieth Century OS Mapping and the 1785 Estate Sale Plan)

Just over 300m east of the main reservoir, the brook is crossed by a 2M wide brick feature at the same level as the stream bed. The type of brick used may pre-date Breton's scheme and represent an earlier ford, although subsequent landscaping has obliterated any trace of an approach track.

Both the main reservoir and this reservoir appear very rectilinear on early maps, leading to speculation about their being brick lined, but no evidence of brickwork has been found in either. At the northern end of the lime tree avenue, the stream was opened out for about 50m into a broader channel, to form a second reservoir and give the impression of a wide canal or river when viewed from higher in the park.

This reservoir was the subject of a separate excavation to understand its nature and content – to be reported subsequently by Dr. Martin J. Dearne.

In the driest part of 2009, the stumps of two timber revetment piles were revealed in the south east corner of the main reservoir ;it now seems that this one at least was lined with oak revetment.

The second reservoir was flooded and its level maintained, by a dam and sluices associated with a brick built cascade opening from its NE corner.



The western cascade, looking downstream from within the second reservoir (Ed.)

The cascade consists of two flanking walls which return into the banks, the southern wall now being completely collapsed. A dam wall across the front of the cascade, caused the water level to rise. Timbers just behind the surviving sections

may mean that this wall had a sluice gate or was topped by a sluice.

Behind this wall was a swirl pool about 1.2m deeper than stream bed. This led to brick built water stairs over which the water cascaded before spilling out over a flat brick weir.

A similar structure was built downstream, about 50m west of Maidens Bridge. This cascade was wider and shorter than its western counterpart. When the plans of both are placed end to end, they form a continuous shape, despite being separated by several hundred metres. This is probably a hydro-dynamic design feature which promotes an even rate of flow through the system. (*Plans of the eastern cascade are shown on pp 8-9. Ed.*)

Map evidence shows that both cascades were furnished with bridges. There is no trace of one at the Maidens Bridge cascade, which was probably a small wooden footbridge. Recent excavations on the north bank suggest that brickwork returning into the south bank is a structural repair and not associated with bridge footings.



EAS recording the eastern cascade in April 2010. This cascade is the one illustrated in the plans below. John, on the extreme left, is standing on the wall in the foreground of the next photo overleaf. In the stream bed, the turbulence in the centre of the picture is caused by the remains of the cascade steps. To the right of this is the brick floor, and to the left is the plunge pool, with beyond that the front wall of the cascade. (Ed)



Partially collapsed south bank of the eastern cascade. The two sections of wall on the south bank are those represented above the water-line in section AA on p*. (Ed.)

The western cascade is longer, with the remains of a brick built bridge parapet on the northern bank. Although a poorly built, late 19th/early 20th C structure, it stands on footings which seem to be contemporary with, and integrated into, the original cascade structure. The length of the cascade and the presence of these footings seem to show there has always been a brick built bridge at this cascade, wide enough for a farm cart, carriage or more latterly a tractor. The surviving parapet section indicates that the bridge crossed the cascade at a slightly oblique angle.

All of these features were linked by a timber revetment to each bank, of oak piles and horizontal boards. Odd piles survive at various places along the brook, but most notably about 80m upstream to the west of Maidens Bridge, where eight piles survive. These are set at 91cm (3ft) centres and horizontal boards still run between them. A square section copper alloy nail was noted in the top of one pile.

One surviving pile on the opposite bank, is the only indication of the width of the revetted channel which was just 2.7m.

The revetment was backfilled with a mixture of stream gravel and demolition material from Elsyng Palace. Brick and peg tile fragments line the sides of the brook where the boards have rotted away and the backfill fallen into the

stream. Pottery sherds, window glass and animal bones are also periodically recovered.

A brick structure also partly crosses the bed of the stream at this point. Its alignment and truncation indicate that it pre-dates Breton's scheme.



Surviving oak revetment piles and earlier weir near Maidens Bridge

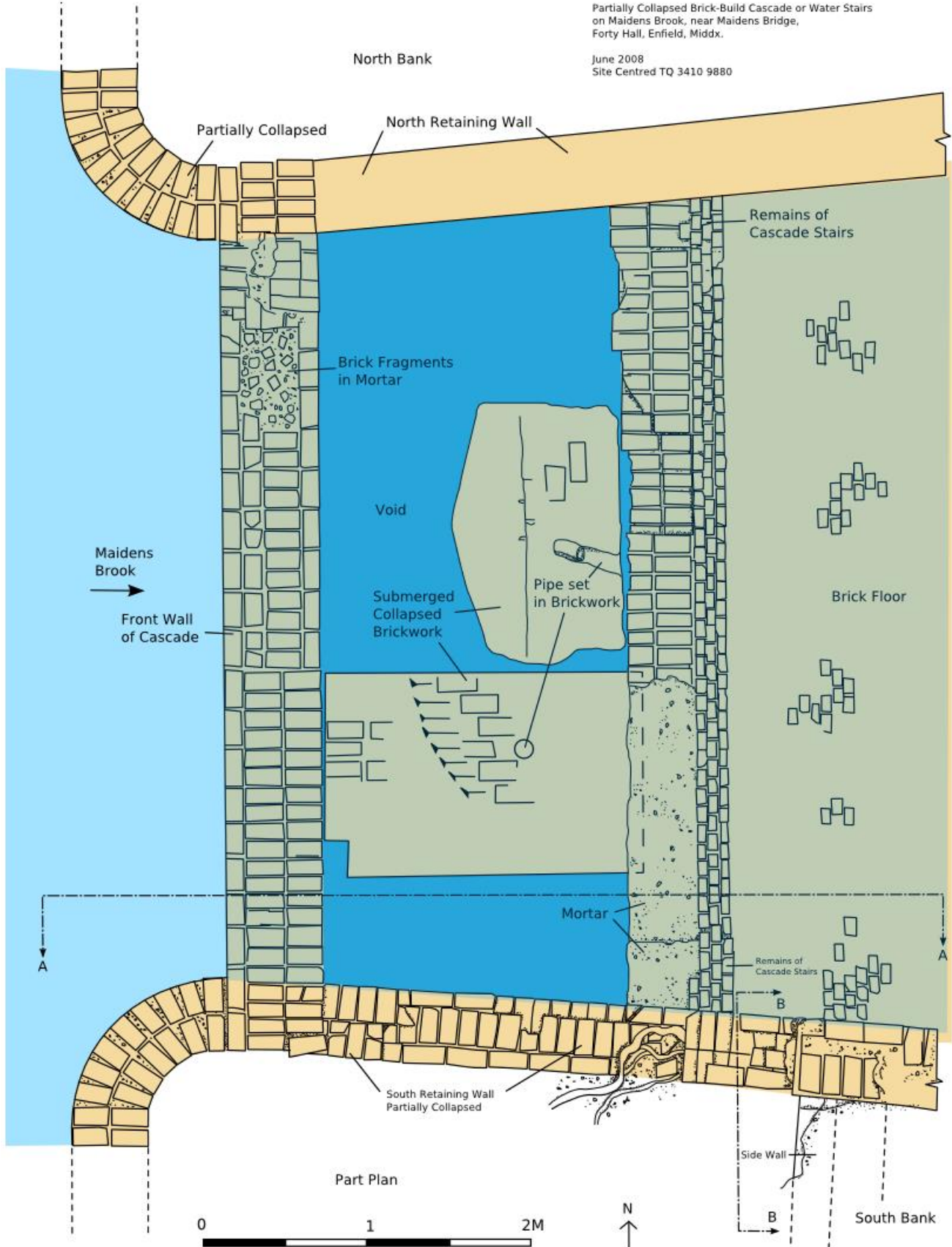
Historic research is beginning to show that Breton's scheme may be rare or at least unusual in several respects:-

It belongs to a short-lived phase in landscaping fashion, at the beginning of the 18th century, when the aim was to show mastery over nature by building structures which made no attempt to look natural. This very soon gave way to the naturalistic designs of "Capability" Brown and others.

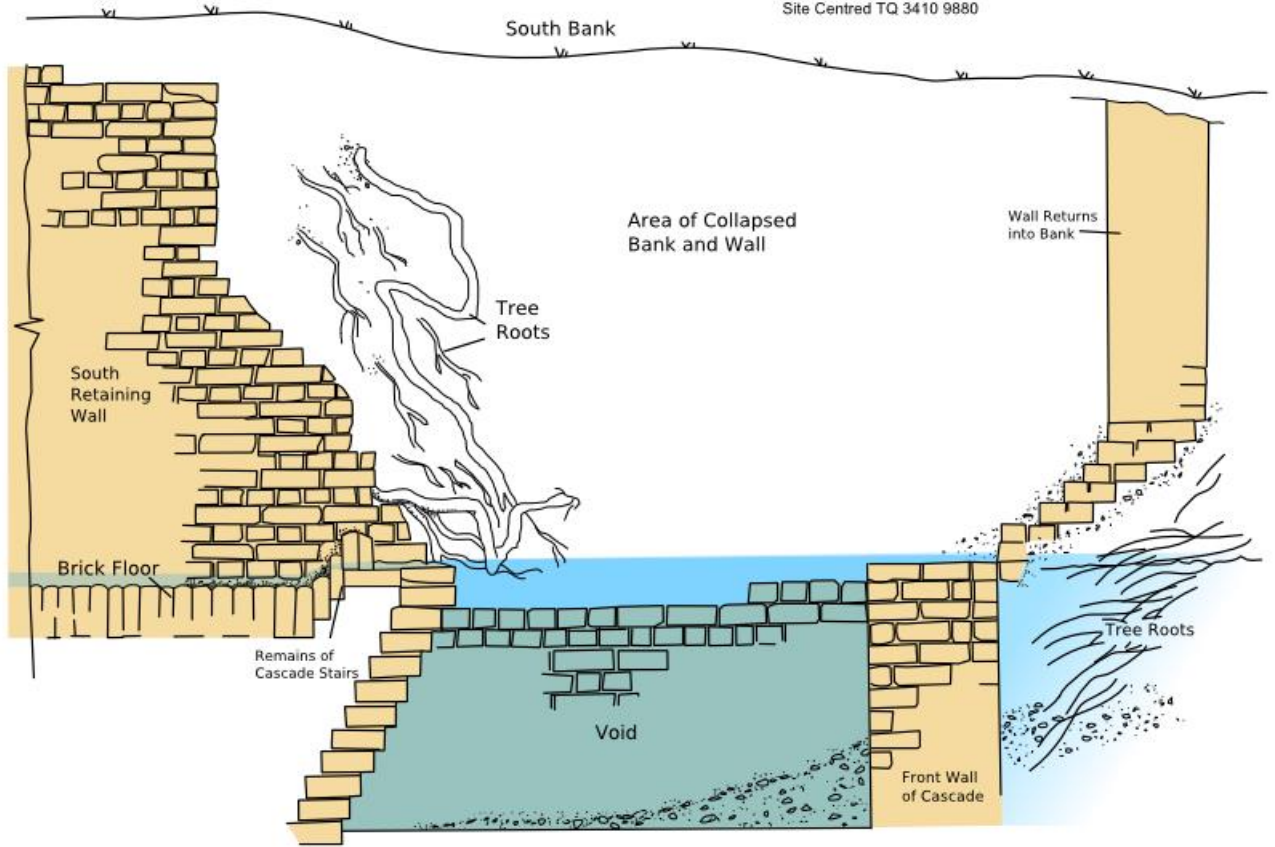
Cascade features built on a main watercourse appear unusual. The method was normally to select a tributary to a main river or lake, which was then dammed to form a reservoir. The cascade was then built down the bank, at right angles to the main water course or lake. French examples often featured several pools linked by several flights of cascading stairs.

In these cases the steepness of the banks gave a good head to the flow of the water. Building cascades on a much flatter main watercourse was much less efficient and, in this case, led to Breton having to bleed water off the New River in order to make the system work effectively. This was done from a sluice on the New River and a system of channels, now partly culverted, across the Mill Rounds.

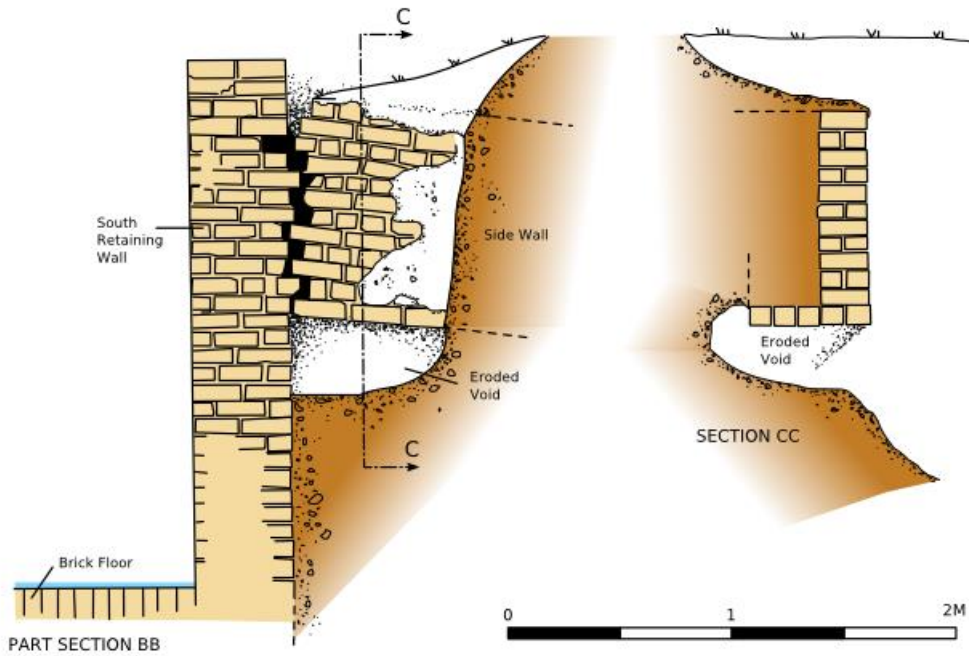
NEIL PINCHBECK



Eastern cascade, plan



PART SECTIONAL SOUTH ELEVATION AA



Neil Pinchbeck 2008

Eastern cascade, sections



It was the first time I'd managed to escape the trenches of the EAS during the annual Festival of British Archaeology. This year the dig at Theobald's was moved, leaving a one week gap in which I could explore what other societies were up to for the Festival.

There is one event that is a must for any London archaeologist. Not just because it is a part of the CBA annual festival, but because access to this site is only granted once every year. Even then it is only for 2 hours when the tide is out and it is safe to access this part of the foreshore.

I'm referring to the annual trip to the Tower Beach, the elusive stretch of shale that sits in front of the Tower of London. This year the event, "Fun on the Foreshore" organised by The City of London Archaeological Society (COLAS), featuring the Thames Discovery Programme, was on Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th July and promised "two days of free events and activities, including a rare opportunity to visit Tower Beach".

The event was led by Natalie Cohen, who came to speak to the EAS about the Thames Discovery programme in March 2011 for one of our 'Digging for Britain site' lectures.

I knew that this event was going to be popular but I was really pleased to see the sheer number of people who had turned out to take up their brief opportunity for a furtle on the foreshore.

The entrance to the beach is near the main Lion Tower entrance to the Tower of London, but the queue stretched back past Traitors Gate to underneath Tower Bridge at Dead Man's Hole. Although time and tide wait for no one, everyone had to wait for the tide until midday when enough of the shore was

exposed and it was safe enough for the public to access it.

With the old entrance to Traitors Gate looming over the diggers, the beach was soon crowded with the sound of trowels scraping over the tiles and pebbles of this elusive site.



A team of archaeologists and environmental specialists were alongside them to advise, answer questions and identify finds as and when they came up. A table was set up for this and set out with charts of horse and animal skeletons to show the public what they had found and where it had come from. Throughout the 2 hours the table was busy and awash with cattle bones of various size, tile and clay pipe.



Doing this allows the whole discovery and identification process to be explained to the finders. Experts were able to advise on what to look for, how to excavate it, (albeit largely from the surface on this site), how to clean and wash the find and the technique and the process of identification and recording.



To complement this, on display on the COLAS stand, located in the space between the Beach and Tower Moat, was a handling collection of museum-quality artefacts. These included a diverse range of finds recovered from Tower Beach over the years. The bones were displayed in finds trays which represented many animal parts. Ribs, tibs, scapulae and a whole host of horn cores, most of which showed cuts and butchery marks made in the preparation of the many meals that their former meat covering had been used for.



There were coins from every period of London history. Lost to the river these were never to be seen again until the day that they were recovered from the shore, in some

cases many centuries after they became separated from their former owners.

Perhaps some of the most evocative of the items were the shoes, which were in evidence by the bucket load and again representing so many periods and indeed trades from London's past. They ranged from mediaeval shoes, with their characteristic shapes to hob nailed boots dating from World War Two. As these had spent so much of their time on the foreshore buried in the mud and silt they had been preserved remarkably well in the anaerobic conditions. Following conservation following recovery these are still stable enough to be on display at an event such as this.



Back on the shore, fast tides were rapidly coming up and the flow of the Thames had reversed with the beach diminishing visibly as you stood and watched. The crowds and the marshals packed up all of their last finds and made their way off the beach. A few hours later the beach was gone until it was to be uncovered by the next tide. But unfortunately this time without the public, who will have to wait for another year, another tide and another batch of artefacts lying, awaiting discovery in the next Festival of Archaeology.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Thames Discovery Programme or get involved in the ongoing work on the foreshore as a volunteer or undergo FROG training yourself, visit

<http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/>

TIM HARPER

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



Another year has slipped by and there seems to be no doubt in my mind that as I get older the years are definitely getting shorter.

The small excavation we carried out in Cedars Park for 'Make a Difference Day' in October revealed much more than we had originally expected from such a small trench. Making his debut as site director Neil Pinchbeck with the assistance of a small digging team uncovered and recorded the remains of a brick floor which may be associated with a late 18th or early 19th century coach house in Theobalds Square to the east of the palace. As we were digging on the line of the approach ride in to Theobalds we may well have also uncovered a compacted gravel surface which may be associated with the palace at a lower level.

The biggest surprise of the weekend came when removing a large fragment of dressed limestone which has been built into the foundations of the coach house. The stone is believed to be a section of perhaps a fireplace from the palace and is beautifully carved on one side. Thanks to everyone who assisted amongst the leaves over the weekend and a full report on the dig will appear in a later bulletin.

Martin and I attended a meeting with Broxbourne Council some weeks ago relating to future excavations around the site of the Palace and I am pleased to report to all our diggers that it is planned that we will be carrying out two excavations in the park in 2012.

The first dates for your diary are 5th-7th May. Over the Bank Holiday weekend we will be excavating a section through a drainage culvert to the west of the fruit garden wall close to the Old Pond, just outside the scheduled area. It is possible this location acted as a sluice channel controlling the water supplying the ornamental canals and fountains within the Great Garden of Theobalds Palace 400 years ago. Hopefully the excavation will answer this question and probably will pose a few more. This dig will be open to the public so we will also need volunteers to help with displays and children's activities.

The second dig of the year at Cedars will be in July as part of the Festival of British Archaeology (dates to be confirmed). A trench will be opened to investigate the relationship between the wall we discovered in 2010 at the eastern end of Base Court and a vaulted brick drain which was revealed during this summer's excavation.

The lecture programme for 2012 has now been completed, and is shown on page 2 of this bulletin and in the enclosed programme card. I would like to thank Tim Harper who organises our speakers for putting together interesting programmes both for the year just gone and for the coming one. I think you will agree Tim has excelled himself in both cases in assembling a variety of speakers on many diverse subjects.

Our field walking plans this year were thwarted by new farming practices which do not require a field to be ploughed before the new crop is sown. The seed is drilled directly into the stubble surface to retain the moisture in the soil during periods of dry weather. Unfortunately this has not given us the opportunity to field walk some of the sites such as East Lodge Lane for worked flint but we hope to return to the site again next year.

Lidar technology, using satellites imagery to interpret buried archaeology even in tree covered landscapes, is one of the powerful new tools available to archaeologists. John Pinchbeck has been getting to grips with this for us and his work has revealed what may be a hitherto unknown ornamental garden which may be associated with Elsyng Palace, to the north west of Forty Hall. The rectangular garden feature, which is surrounded by a raised bank, shows up clearly on the Lidar survey. As it lies outside the scheduled area the Society hopes to be able to investigate the site with an evaluation trench searching for evidence for whether the feature is contemporary with 16th century Elsyng Palace.

All that remains for me to say is that I would like to wish all our members a very merry Christmas and a happy healthy 2012!

MIKE DEWBREY