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SANDWICH AND DEAL DISTRICT.

Mr. Stephen Manser, Local Secretary for the Sandwich district, sends the following Notes:—

RICHBOROUGH.—Since the Castrum was taken over by the Office of Works the following work has been done: The walls have been cleared of ivy and grouted at the top.

The foundations of the Postern Gate have been revealed.

The concrete platform under the Cross has been cleared of earth, bringing to light the remains of a surrounding wall, the missing parts of which have been marked by loosely packed pebble stones, and steps have been placed to enable visitors to reach the platform, but they are not allowed to walk on the Cross.

While the above excavation was in progress several marble slabs, which formed apparently a lining to some building, were found, together with a large piece of a stone cornice, some fragments of bronze statuettes, other pieces of bronze, and a fine gold coin.

On the south side of the Castrum the undergrowth has been cleared from the bank next to the railway, revealing some remains of foundations.

At the north-east angle (near the road leading to the Cottage), the earth has been cleared away from fallen portion of the wall.

In order to protect parts of the walls from damage a wire fence has been erected outside.

The various finds have been placed in glass cases in huts; these, however, are of wood and not fireproof.

While the Light Railway Company were digging a trial hole near where the footpath joins the road to Sandwich, Roman foundations were discovered.

Mr. Mauser thinks that the whole of the Richborough "Island" should be placed under the control of the Office of Works, as the Amphitheatre and site of the Roman town are now unprotected, being outside the area taken over by the Government, and should a railway cut through this area irreparable damage might be done.

HULL PLACE, SHOLDEN.—Mr. Gilbert Elliot, the owner of this property, and a member of our Society, reports that when laying out the gardens a number of bones, both human and animal, were found, also a peculiar knife of bone, a bronze buckle, pieces of pottery and fragments of Roman tiles. [Mr. Manser sent photographs of these objects to the British Museum, with the result that the authorities report that the buckle is of seventeenth-century workmanship, the “bone-knife” a dairy implement, and that one piece of pottery is apparently part of a box-tile from the flue of a Roman building.]

The above objects, together with a comb of ivory or bone found “under the house,” and apparently of very early date, have been presented by Mr. Elliot to the Town Hall Museum, Deal.

Hull Place stands just on the border between marsh and upland. The house contains a good deal of Tudor work, and this has been carefully preserved by the present owner during recent alterations.

While laying out a road in the marshes not far from the above house a number of very large bones were dug up, which Mr. Manser thinks may possibly be those of a whale.

UPPER DEAL CHURCH.—The interesting seventeenth-century tower of brickwork has been carefully repaired.

Dr. S. J. Smith, a member of our Society, has communicated to Mr. Manser the following list of earthworks noted by the former gentleman in the vicinity of Deal:—

Winkland Oaks Farm: Irregular lines of entrenchments.

At Whitfield, near Ringwould Church, at Knight's Bottom, near Kingsdown, and at Hawk's Hill, Walmer: Earthworks.

Singleton Farm, near Dover: A well-defined quadrilateral entrenchment, containing remains of mediæval buildings.