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## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

### ORPINGTON MESOLITHIC SITE

In 1949 Mr. A. Hall of Chelsfield, Orpington, sent to the British Museum some flint implements found in his garden. The site was visited by a Museum official, who stated that the flint industry established here was of the Mesolithic period.

The Orpington Historical Records and Natural History Society decided to excavate the site, and having obtained Mr. Hall's permission they commenced work in September, 1949, under the general direction of Mr. W. F. Grimes, Director of the London Museum. Since that date members of the Society have sunk three inspection pits, each 6 ft. square, to a depth of 4 ft. 6 in. The soil in each pit was removed in 6-in. layers and carefully sifted. All objects which appeared to merit examination were kept in prepared receptacles and a record was kept of the work done and the implements found. More than 900 flakes and implements have been found on the site and some typical specimens of the implements are illustrated.

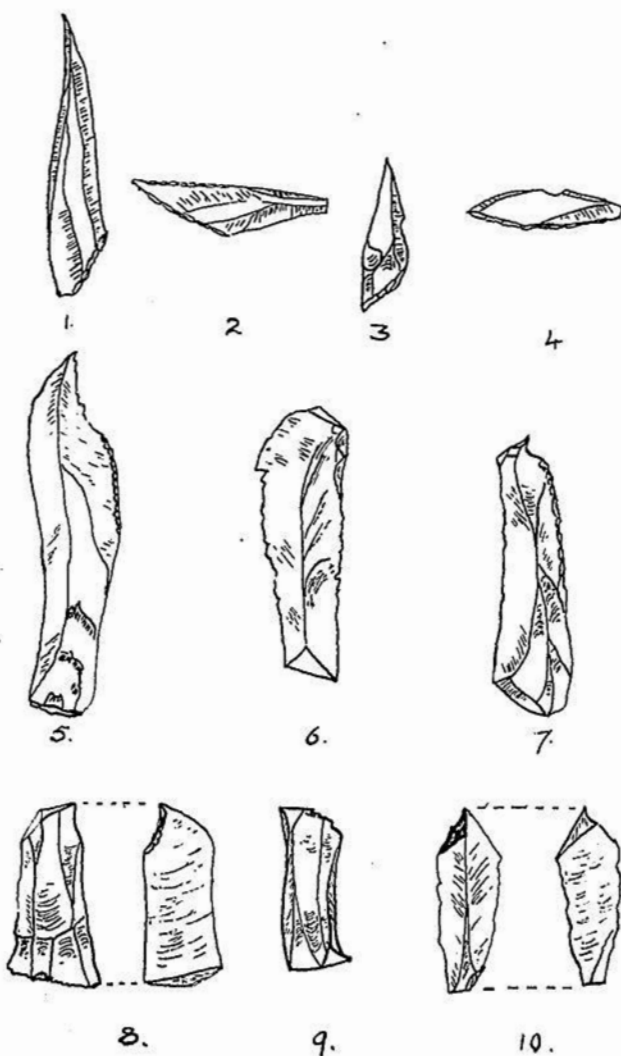
The site is on a thin remnant of Woolwich Beds, overlying Thanet sand, which together constitute an outlier of lower Tertiary deposits capped by gravel forming a north-south ridge of which Well Hill is the most prominent feature. This gravel has been washed down over the Tertiary Beds and the chalk, and is everywhere mixed in the surface soil. Except for the sandy Bottom Bed the Woolwich Beds of this outlier are essentially clayey and at the site the subsoil was seen to agree with this general clay type. The Thanet sand underlying the Woolwich Beds is, as its name implies, definitely sandy.

The map references of the site are, on the Ordnance Survey 6-in. sheet 16, S.E., and on the 2½ in. sheet No. 51/46, East 49·9 North 64·1. All the excavations have been carried out on the southern slope of the ridge.

Two springs are found near the site, one on the northern and the other on the southern slope of the ridge and situated about the 530 ft. contour.

Flakes and implements appear to be well distributed throughout much of the surface soil on the southern slope but none has been found on the northern slope. In the pits excavated the surface soil had a depth of about 2 ft. and a few implements have been found in the subsoil to a further depth of 18 in.

In one pit a large mass of water worn stones were found just below the surface soil forming a layer about 2 ft. thick and imbedded in a clay



Actual Size.

FIG. 1. Orpington Mesolithic site.

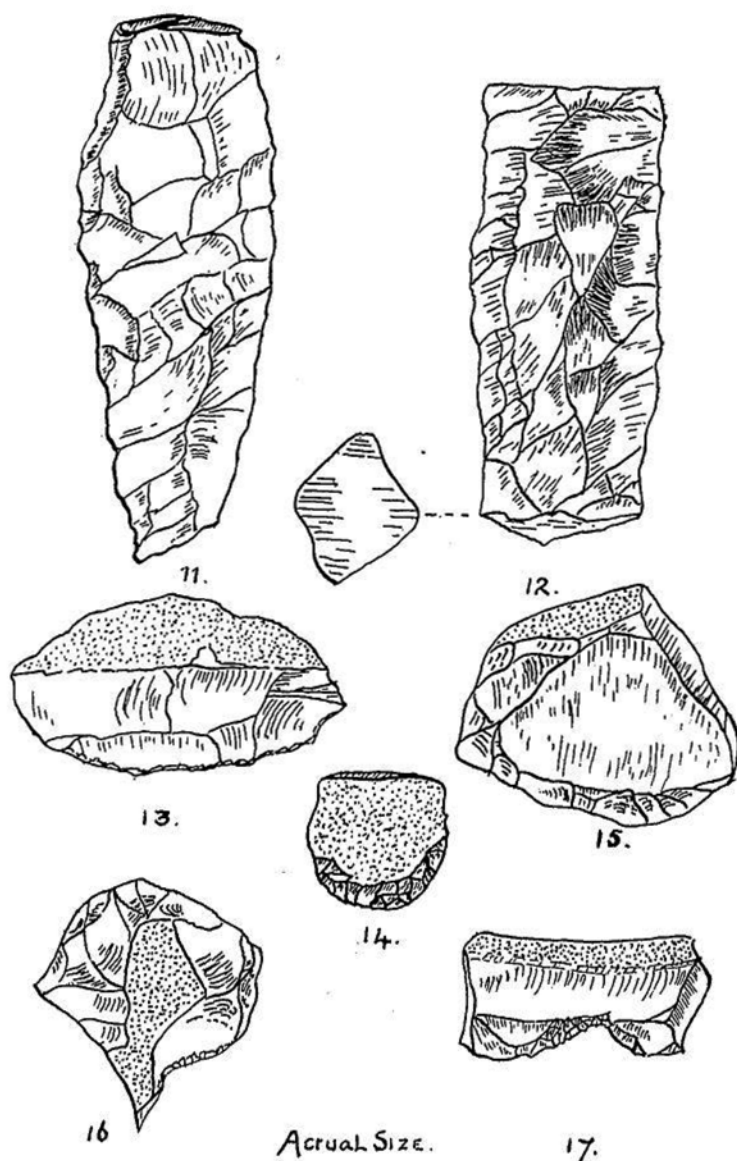


FIG. 2. Orpington Mesolithic site.



pocket. This raft of stones as it came to light had an uneven surface and at one point large flint blocks had been placed in regular form having the appearance of a foundation of a wall, or a causeway. Photographs were taken and news of the discovery appeared in one of the national dailies which resulted in many people visiting the site and the disappearance of most of the flint blocks, which were presumably taken away as souvenirs.

Many hours were spent in examining this "raft" of stones. No implements or flakes were found either mixed with the stones or below them, and finally, in August, 1951, amongst the bottom layer of stones and on their western boundary at a depth of 42 in. a broken piece of tile was found which could not be ascribed to any particular period, but which was probably of mediaeval date or later.

The implements found on the site have as a whole affinities with those discovered by Mr. J. P. T. Burchell at Lower Halstow, Kent,<sup>1</sup> and are associated with the Mesolithic Forest Folk who formed settlements at Lower Halstow and at a number of other sites in South-East Britain. Of special interest amongst the implements illustrated are the broken piece of what was probably a Thames pick, the Tranchet-pick and the micro burin.

Amongst Mr. Burchell's finds at Lower Halstow was an undoubted Thames pick which Mr. J. G. D. Clark has assigned to the late Mesolithic period.<sup>2</sup>

The Tranchet-pick is generally thought to relate to the second part of the Mesolithic period.

The micro-burin technique was introduced into Europe by tribes forced to emigrate from North Africa by a change of climate resulting in the drying up of the area which has since become the Sahara Desert. The discovery of one micro-burin amongst hundreds of flakes and implements is, therefore, of some interest, linking as it does this remote hillside in Kent with the migrations of peoples eight or nine thousand years ago.

No flint implements of the neolithic or later periods have been found on the site which so far has yielded no evidence of later occupation until the Roman era. No implements of bone or reindeer horn have been found and no other evidence of the occupation of the site in Mesolithic times, but the site offers unusual opportunities for the study of the Mesolithic period and its excavation is being continued by members of the Orpington Historical Records and Natural History Society.

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia*, IV, p. 203, V, pp. 73, 217, 288.

<sup>2</sup> *Mesolithic Age in Britain*, p. 63, by J. G. D. Clark.

*Flint Implements from the Chelsfield Site Orpington*

- 1 and 3. Blunted back points.
- 2 and 4. Blunted back points with edge working.
5. Blade with edge working.
6. Blade.
7. Blade with edge working and burin facet.
8. Burin.
9. Flake with burin edge at both ends.
10. Micro burin.
11. Tranchet pick.
12. Thames pick (broken).
- 13 to 15. Scrapers.
16. Borer.
17. Hollow scraper.

Nos. 1, 3, 5, 10, 11 and 12 are in the possession of Mr. Hall, Chelsfield.

Nos. 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 are in the possession of the Orpington Historical Society.

E. C. H. JONES.

DISCOVERY OF A ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT IN JOYDENS WOOD,  
NEAR BEXLEY

The site of a Romano-British settlement has recently been found in the south-east corner of Joydens Wood, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Bexley. Following the chance discovery of some sherds of coarse Roman pottery on the surface (National Grid Reference TQ 50137082) in the spring of 1951, the writers opened some exploratory trenches in the vicinity during the following summer. This digging produced an abundance of Roman pottery together with broken roofing tiles, iron nails, fragments of querns, wood ash and other evidence of human occupation. Work has continued this summer (1952) and it has now been established beyond doubt that there was a Roman settlement in this area. The pottery indicates an intensive occupation during the late first and early second centuries while the upper levels of the sections contain a scatter of fourth-century material. No foundations have been discovered and the present indications suggest that the settlement was in the nature of a native-type village or farmstead rather than a villa.

A small kiln, similar to one found at Galley Hill and described in *Arch. Cant.*, XXVII, lxxiii, has been uncovered. It contained a quantity of wood ash mingled with large sherds of coarse pottery. At present the course of a filled-in ditch is being traced. The filling contains a great amount of first and second-century pottery and other domestic rubbish. Samian ware forms 37, 33 and 31 have been found

on the site. There is not the slightest trace of post-Roman occupation of the area so far examined.

Valuable help is being given by some members of the recently formed Bexley Local History and Antiquarian Group and it is hoped to continue selective excavation until a more definite opinion can be formed as to the extent and nature of the settlement.

It is intended to publish a fuller report of the evidence at a later date.

P. J. TESTER.

J. E. L. CAIGER.

## BROMLEY DISTRICT

### *Excavations at Warbank, Keston*

The Warbank site was first excavated by T. Crofton Croker, F.S.A., and A. J. Kempe, F.S.A., in 1828 when the well-known circular structure and adjoining inhumation burials in stone coffins were discovered (*Archæologia*, XXII). The Lower Warbank Field which adjoins the cemetery was examined by C. R. Corner in 1854 when foundations of Roman buildings were discovered and walls recorded running under the hedge into the next field called Eight Acres (*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1855, and *V.C.H., Kent*, I, pp. 119-21). Permission was given to the writer in the summer of 1951 to excavate in the Eight Acre Field and the results of the first season's work on the site which was found to have been extensively robbed were :

1. A floor of heavy construction originally made up of two layers of tiles set on cement was uncovered and on the floor two fourth-century coins were found.
2. Around the floor the wall foundations survive in part and in the best preserved section the wall is constructed of sandstone blocks and a little painted wall plaster remains *in situ* on the face of the wall.
3. The filling of a gully cut in the chalk parallel to one wall contained an interesting collection of first-century pottery, including plain and decorated Terra Sigillata.
4. Pits cut in the chalk were found and will be examined during the next season's work on the site.

### *Urn from Warbank*

An interesting discovery in a lumber room in Keston was of a burial urn carefully preserved on a stand under a glass case containing pieces of bone, pottery and coins and bearing a label in faded handwriting "Roman Remains found in the War Bank and neighbourhood of Keston in 1861." The Urn is second-century and the coins range from Claudius to Constantine I, each century being represented.

*The Iron Age Camp in Holwood Park, Keston*

Following the sale of Holwood Park by the Stanley family in 1951 to a syndicate interested in development representations were made to the Ministry of Works regarding Holwood Camp. An assurance has been received from the Ministry that the whole area of the Camp, and not just the existing ramparts, is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts. In the case of Holwood Camp, the Ministry does not consider that a Preservation Order, involving the payment of compensation should be issued.

N. PIERCY FOX.

## TWO EARLY BRONZE AGE AXES

Recently L. V. Grinsell called attention to a flanged axe from Ashford (Kent), preserved in the Avalon Museum, Glastonbury.<sup>1</sup> More recently L. R. A. Grove and W. N. Terry illustrated and described this flanged axe, pointing out that it has a much damaged dark green patina.<sup>2</sup> A subsequent re-examination of this axe revealed that the sides of the flanges may have been ornamented. The remaining portions of the original surface suggest that this ornament may have been a debased version of the "cable" motif as defined by Megaw and Hardy<sup>3</sup>, produced, possibly, as far as can be seen, by grinding.

In addition part of the original surface of the lower portion of one of the faces of this axe, bears three oblique lines, made, as the patina suggests, in antiquity. These lines are continuous incisions, made with a fine "chisel ended" point. It may well be that these lines are accidental, but it is of interest to note that Maryon<sup>4</sup> observes that, while the 'tracer' was the normal method of producing ornamentation upon Early Bronze Age metalwork, a few examples of lines scraped by a flint point or a compass point are known. (The true compass is an Early Iron Age invention, so this is a comparative term.) The sides of this axe are more or less straight and the flanges are quite well developed, and would appear to have been cast. Some grinding for ornamentation would, whilst enhancing the appearance of the piece, serve the practical purpose of removal of the casting "seams". A longitudinal section shows that medially this axe may have a slight protuberance of the nature that has caused many axes of this form to be classified as palstaves. This medial protuberance if it ever existed upon this specimen would appear to have been non-functional from the viewpoint of hafting, but should pertain, as is shown by the flattened lozenge longitudinal section, to the concentration of medial weight in relation to the cutting edge.

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXI, p. 185.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, LXII, p. 143 ff.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, IV, p. 277.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 279.

The cutting edge seems to have been quite widely splayed in relation to the size of the tool. The splay springs from immediately below the termination of the flanges, and may well have been formed by hammering. If this Ashford axe was decorated, as it might have been, its characteristics place it in Group III of Megaw and Hardy's scheme.<sup>1</sup>

A fine decorated bronze axe of early type has been in the collections of the Kent Archaeological Society for many years.<sup>2</sup> It bears a label indicating that it was from "Mr. Battely, Medway Brass Works, Oct. 1883." It can be immediately argued that it is a collector's piece of no known provenance, as is indeed the case with regard to the provenance. On the other hand it must be remembered that the latter decades of the last century were the period of optimum activity on the part of the private collectors, and as a collection was broken up, it was usually acquired in part or as an entity by a fellow collector. Therefore upon these grounds the possibility that this axe was found locally and sold for its metallic value to the Brass Works in question cannot entirely be eliminated. In view of its superb workmanship, and in the hope that one of our members (if it were a collector's piece) may know something of its history, a description has been embarked upon.

The axe (Fig. 3) has a flattened lozenge longitudinal section, a widely splayed cutting edge and a thin rounded butt. There are slight side flanges, formed, it would appear, by hammering, as indeed is the splayed cutting edge. The sides bear a version of the "lozenge"<sup>3</sup> pattern, but the sides of these lozenges are delicately curved, forming what can be better described as a willow leaf pattern. By far the best parallel to this distinctive ornamentation is that of the side flanges of the decorated (Irish?) axe from the famous Gallemlaw (Jylland)<sup>4</sup> hoard. Both faces are decorated with closely juxtaposed rows of vertical strokes produced with a blunted punch; they are tastefully arranged in a panel bounded at the top by the medial point of the axe, which by hammering has been given a semblance of concavity in relation to the cutting edge. The bottom of this panel terminates in a point directed upon the middle of the cutting edge. The wide splay of the cutting edge has been produced by hammering and is boldly demarcated. It bears a number of scratches, which appear to have been produced by a file, and were perhaps made to test "the worth of the brass" when the implement was taken in the first instance to the Medway Brass Works.

The face ornament of this axe is particularly well-known in Megaw and Hardy's decorated axe series; it is seen perhaps at its simplest

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, IV, p. 276.

<sup>2</sup> G. Payne, *Cat. K.A.S. Coll.*, 1892, pp. 5, 27.

<sup>3</sup> *P.P.S.*, IV, p. 277.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Pl. LV(b); *Real.*, IX, taf. 106.

upon a flat axe from Co. Tyrone, Ireland,<sup>1</sup> or in a more sophisticated manner upon three of the axes from the Willerby Wold barrow.<sup>2</sup> It is also of interest to note that the face decoration upon the British axe from the famous Dieskau, Saalkreis,<sup>3</sup> hoard corresponds quite closely with our axe.

In 1938 besides the Buckland, Dover, hoard<sup>4</sup> one other decorated axe from the Thames at Swanscombe was known. To these might tentatively be added the Ashford axe, while pending further informa-

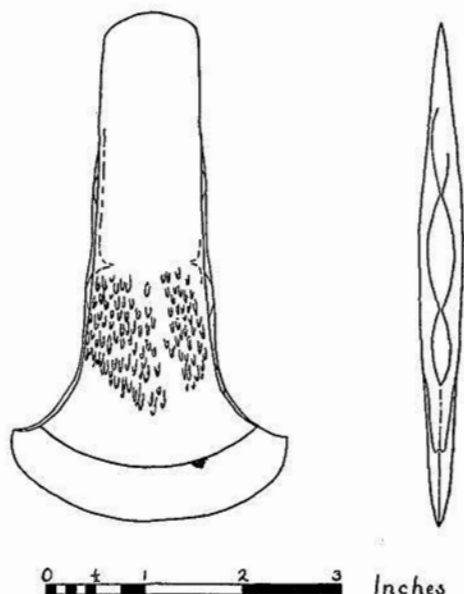


FIG. 3. The Battely Axe

tion, the "Battely axe" must be appended to the list "Britain or Ireland, County unknown".<sup>4</sup>

In connection with this flat and flanged Early Bronze Age axe series, an example illustrated by Jessup<sup>5</sup> from Wye Down and described as a "sort of chisel" is of especial interest. Its general appearance betrays it to be an example of, or closely allied to, the Northern axe series of Northern Germany and Scandinavia. Good comparative examples

<sup>1</sup> *Supra.*, Fig. 2a.

<sup>2</sup> *Arch.*, LII, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> *J.S.T.*, IV, 1905, p. 3; *Arch.*, LXXXVI, p. 211.

<sup>4</sup> *P.P.S.*, IV, p. 300.

<sup>5</sup> *Arch. Kent*, p. 37, Pl. V, 14.

are a specimen from the Fjälkinge, Schonen,<sup>1</sup> hoard, and one illustrated by Forssander from Schonen.<sup>2</sup>

The notes above show the importance of analysis of local bronzes and their comparison with the general British and European series. As has been shown recently by Professor Stuart Piggott<sup>3</sup> our British flanged axes with pointed butts<sup>4</sup> are related to the Central European series; the Central European type in question is illustrated particularly well by axes in the well-known Sobochleby hoard.<sup>5</sup>

Standing in contradistinction to this series is a Western flat or flanged axe, characterized by an extremely well splayed cutting edge. This form while common in Brittany<sup>6</sup> is exemplified by axes from the Killaha hoard<sup>7</sup> and the flat axe from Aylesford.<sup>8</sup> It has been suggested<sup>9</sup> that pending a more precise definition of the groups, "Aylesford type" would be a precise connotation for many of the Western axes.

These axes have been described by kind permission of Mr. L. R. A. Grove, Director of the Maidstone Museum, for the former, and the Council of the Kent Archaeological Society for the latter. Professor V. G. Childe drew the writer's attention to the decoration upon the "Battely axe".

P. ASHBEE.

#### A THIRTEENTH-CENTURY KILN SITE AT ASHFORD

This note is in the nature of a preliminary report, to put on record as soon as possible the main pottery types from what is probably a kiln site at Potters Corner, Ashford.<sup>10</sup>

In early February, 1952, Messrs. J. Sinden and E. Croucher, working for Messrs. Earl and Company, builders, of Willesborough, came across pottery whilst laying the foundation for a house. Mr. Sinden reported the find to the Ashford District Surveyor who in turn notified Mr. Kenneth R. Geering, of Ashford. On the 12th February Mr. Sinden found an almost complete pot and left it undisturbed *in situ*. Mr.

<sup>1</sup> Forss. Ost. Skand. Nord., *Taf.*, XXXVIII.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *Taf.*, XLIV.

<sup>3</sup> Prehistoric Society Meeting, 15th March, 1952.

<sup>4</sup> E.g. Bush Barrow, Plymstock Hoard, Tollard Hoard.

<sup>5</sup> *Richly.*, *Die Bronzezeit in Böhmen*.

<sup>6</sup> *P.P.S.*, IV. *Of Breton Bronze Age*.

<sup>7</sup> *J.R.A.I.*, 1939, p. 116.

<sup>8</sup> *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, XVII, p. 376, Fig.

<sup>9</sup> *A. Apsimon*, to be published.

<sup>10</sup> O.S. 6-in. *Kent Sheet*, LXIV N.E. The pottery was found on the north side of the Maidstone-Ashford road on a property belonging to Mrs. Gilman. This building-plot lies between two houses called "Ardlui" and "Plumstead" and is approximately 150 yds. to the south-east of the Hare and Hounds Public House and Sandyhurst Lane.



Geering thought the discovery important enough to ask for the services of the Maidstone Museum staff in excavating it.<sup>1</sup> This was done on the 13th February and the opportunity was also used to collect as many pottery fragments as possible from the soil thrown up in digging the foundations.

At this stage it is only necessary to state that the pottery, of thirteenth-century date, occurs in sandy soil and that many of the sherds are obviously portions of wasters thrown away as useless by the potters.<sup>2</sup> Clay is found at a short distance away and occurs in thin seams near the banks of the branch of the Great Stour which flows by Hothfield Mill.<sup>3</sup>

## THE FINDS

### *Fig. 4*

1. Large bowl. The size is difficult to judge exactly as it was probably a waster. Hard, sandy, pinkish-buff paste with grey core. Decorated by scoring with a pointed stick or something similar—it appears to have slipped in places for the dissatisfied potter has tried to rectify his mistakes.
2. Fragment of a long-necked jug bearing shallow incisions for decoration. Paste as in 1.
3. Fragment bearing shallow incisions for decoration. Paste as in 1.
4. Ditto.
5. Cooking-pot. Hard, pinkish-buff paste incorporating pieces of angular grit up to  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. in length. A row of thumbing below the neck.
6. Bowl. Paste as in 1 but also incorporating a few pieces of grit. The top of the rim was probably decorated by stabblings from a notched stick.
7. Sagging, thumbed base, probably of a pitcher or jug. Paste as in 1 but it has weathered badly and shows signs of flaking.
8. Cooking-pot. Paste as in 1 and incorporating grit as in 5. Applied strips running downwards, not quite vertically, from the shoulder.
9. Cooking-pot. Hard, pinkish-buff paste with dark grey core with grit as in 5. Applied strips as in 8.
10. Cooking-pot. Hard, sandy, pinkish-buff paste incorporating a few particles of grit. Some scoring on the interior.

<sup>1</sup> The writers of this note are much indebted to Mr. K. R. Geering for his help and to Mr. E. T. Mortimore, Headmaster of Ashford Grammar School, for acting as an intermediary.

<sup>2</sup> No kiln structure was found but there was much charcoal on the site.

<sup>3</sup> W. Topley, *The Geology of the Weald*, 1875, p. 139. Topley says that thin seams of clay are found in the sand and that good sections of this feature could be seen in his time at Potters Corner and Hothfield Common.



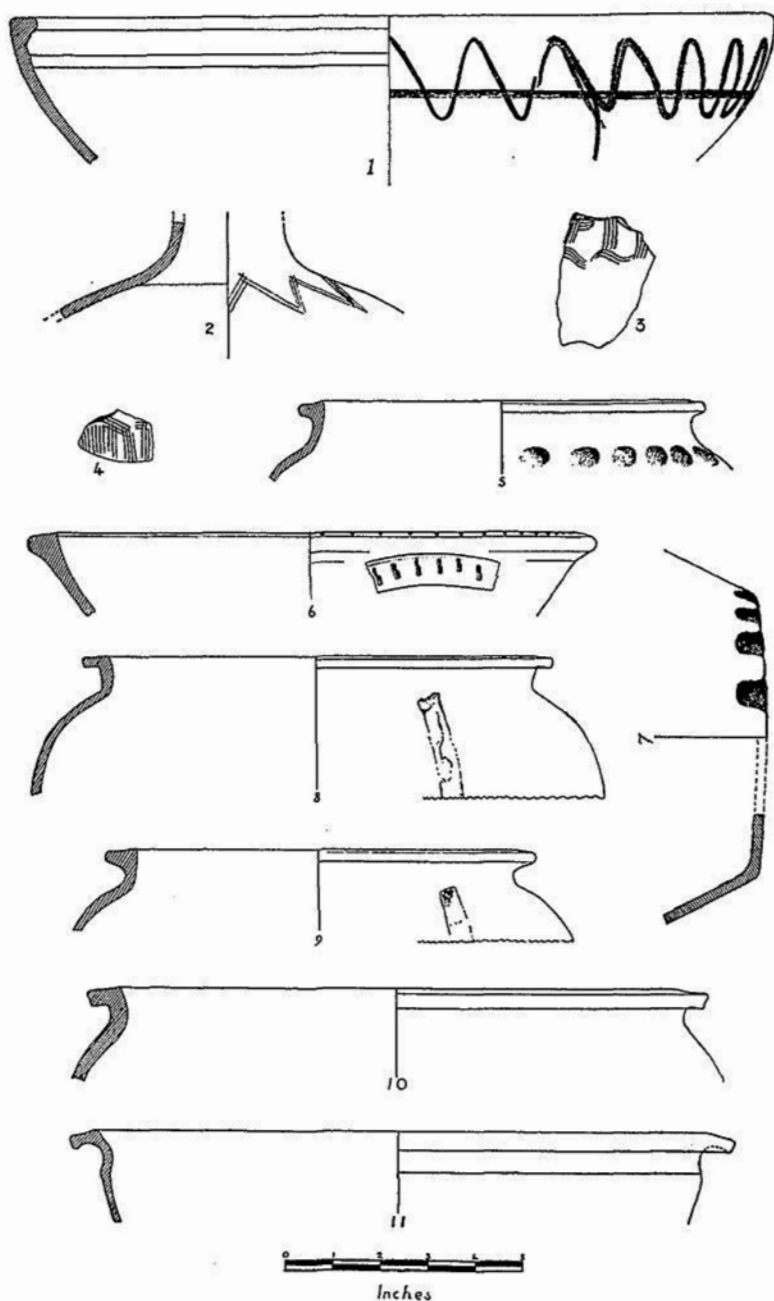


FIG. 4. Mediaeval Pottery from Ashford

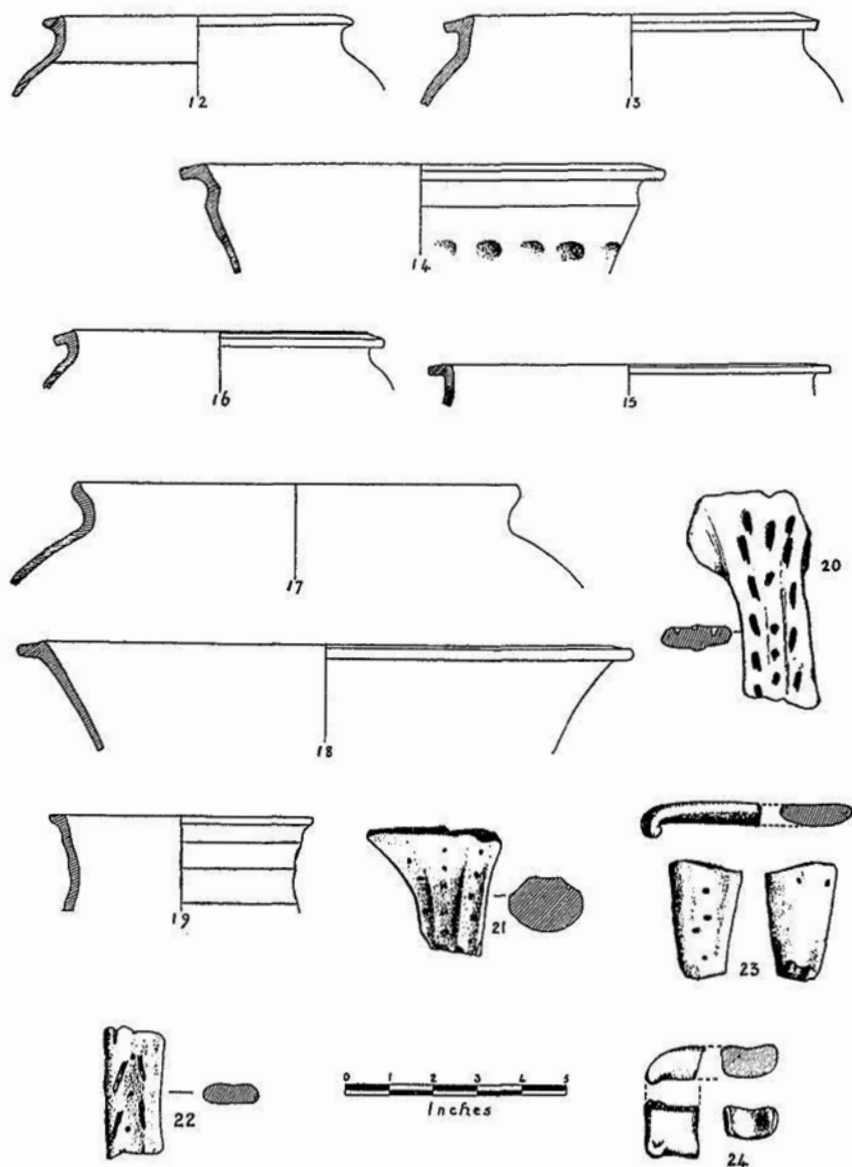


FIG. 5. Mediaeval Pottery from Ashford

11. Cooking-pot. Paste and grit as in 5, grey core. On the shoulder are some depressions, shallow and irregular, which may be intended as decoration. They are only obvious to the touch and, being dubious, have not been shown in the drawing.

*Fig. 5*

12. Cooking-pot. Paste as in 5 and incorporating a few pieces of grit.
13. Cooking-pot. Hard, sandy paste. Exterior pinkish-buff, interior brownish-buff. Core grey. Incorporating angular grit.
14. Bowl. Hard, sandy, reddish-buff paste with grey core. Crude thumb-marking on the exterior side.
15. Cooking-pot. Hard, sandy, light grey paste with brown core.
16. Cooking-pot. Hard, pinkish-buff paste with light grey core.
17. Cooking-pot. Hard, sandy, light grey paste with a core composed of a grey layer sandwiched between two layers of light red.
18. Bowl. Hard, sandy, pinkish-buff paste with grey core, incorporating grit.
19. Jug or pitcher. Hard, sandy, pinkish-buff paste with grey core.
20. Jug handle. Paste as in 19. Stabbed decoration. On the middle line of the lower side the handle is decorated with rounded knobs caused through deep stabbing from above.
21. Jug handle. Hard paste, light brick-red exterior and grey core. Some traces of lead glaze on the side which was part of the interior of the jug. Decoration of stabbed holes.
22. Jug handle. Hard, dark red ware with a dark grey core. Decoration probably done with a stick.
23. Portion of a handle-like lug. Hard, brick-red paste with a dark grey core. *Cf. Trans. Essex Arch. Soc., N.S., XII, p. 180, item Gi, and Pl. G, letter i.* This lug, from Rayleigh Castle, occurs on the neck of an "unglazed black pot".
24. Portion of a handle-like lug. Hard, light brownish-grey paste with a darker core. See 23 for a parallel.

L. R. A. GROVE.

A. WARHURST.

# AN ALABASTER ST. JOHN'S HEAD FROM WOULDHAM

A recent spring-cleaning at Maidstone Museum has brought to light a medieval object which is worthy of some notice, especially as it is a rarity for Kent. It is a slightly mutilated alabaster St. John's Head or Image of St. John the Baptist of fifteenth-century date, dug up in the garden of Starkey Castle, Wouldham.<sup>1</sup>

The alabaster consists of the head of St. John the Baptist on a charger, beneath which is a lamb lying on a pedestal between two

<sup>1</sup> Accession number 32.1919. Given 12th October, 1896, by Mrs. Pearce to Miss E. A. Taylor of Wouldham Rectory who in turn gave it to the Museum.

human figures. On the sinistral side the figure is of an archbishop holding a cross-staff in his left hand whilst his right is held up in the attitude of blessing. The other, on the dexter side, is dressed in the robe of an ecclesiastic and holds a book in his left hand. The right hand is missing, but probably it once held a key. The face of St. John bears a long drooping moustache and a forked beard such as are fairly commonly represented on early fifteenth-century misericords.

The alabaster retains a good proportion of its original colouring. Behind the figures and below the head the background is painted black and has a decoration of greenish white leaves and of cinquefoils, with white petals and a red centre. The Agnus with its pedestal, the head of St. John and the two supporting figures are all gilded. The disk or charger is painted blue and clumsy workmanship has resulted in splashes of blue on St. John's beard and on St. Peter. Damage to the head and to the two supporting saints reveals that their gilding is over a red undercoat.

The back of St. John's head is hollowed out and there are also two side depressions, probably intended to be used for keying. Behind the Agnus is a fixing hole fitted with a lead plug which still shows two ends of latten wire.

The present measurements of the alabaster are height  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. and width  $5\frac{1}{8}$  in.

The late W. H. St. John Hope has dealt very thoroughly with the whole subject of St. John's Heads.<sup>1</sup> He has classified them under four classes and our example comes in class B in which the head is flanked by two saints and has an accessory in the base.<sup>2</sup> The figures at the sides are deemed to be St. Thomas Becket, who is usually shown in the act of benediction with his cross-staff in his left hand,<sup>3</sup> and St. Peter. Because the figures were produced in Nottinghamshire in the diocese of York and because St. Peter was the York patronal saint, some authorities have considered that the archbishop's figure represents St. William of York.<sup>4</sup> A magnificent St. John's Head in Leicester Museum is contained in its original wooden case which is painted with the white rose and sun-in-splendour devices of the House of York.<sup>5</sup> These accumulated circumstances would almost clinch the argument in favour of St. William of York were it not for the fact that St. John Hope quotes a Bury St. Edmunds will of 1522 in which is mentioned "a Seynt Johannis hede of alabaster with Seynt Peter and Seynt Thomas".<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Archæologia*, LII, pp. 669-708.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 680.

<sup>3</sup> Tancred Borenius, *St. Thomas Becket in Art*, 1932, p. 25.

<sup>4</sup> A St. John's Head in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, is at present labelled as being "flanked by figures of St. Peter and St. William of York."

<sup>5</sup> St. John Hope, *op. cit.*, p. 693 and Pl. XXIV.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 678. See also Borenius, *op. cit.*, pp. 25-6.

Hasted gives a fairly full descent of the manor of Starkeys, Lyttly-hall or Littlehall in Little Wouldham<sup>1</sup> and says that Humphrey Starkey, chief baron of the Exchequer under Richard III, built a good house there, together with a handsome chapel.<sup>2</sup> The manor had from early times been a property of the Bishop of Rochester<sup>3</sup> and it is curious that at Sellers, another property of the Bishop in the same parish, a certain John atte Celere was allowed to have an oratory in his house, with a priest to celebrate mass, because of its distance from the parish church.<sup>4</sup> The same reason was doubtless used for the erection of the Starkeys Chapel and it is extremely probable that Humphrey Starkey provided as a furnishing thereof this alabaster St. John's Head which was found so near it.

L. R. A. GROVE.

#### MAIDSTONE TREASURE TROVE

On Monday, 4th February, 1952, a pot containing 4 gold and 499 silver coins was found by a workman during road widening operations undertaken by Maidstone Corporation in Lower Stone Street, opposite the Granada Cinema and adjoining the new Maidstone and District Bus Station. The find spot was unfortunately destroyed, but it may be assumed that the coins were laid down under the floor of No. 18 one of a row of Tudor houses, nos. 12-20, Lower Stone Street, which existed on this site until their demolition in 1939. These houses had no cellars and their foundations were much disturbed by building since 1939, but it was not until the whole surface of the area was lowered about 18 in. that the find was made.

At the Coroner's Inquest the workman concerned, Mr. E. J. Bradford, was found to be the finder of the hoard and, after its examination at the British Museum, was rewarded with a sum equal to the full market value of the coins. The hoard was subsequently purchased by the Maidstone Museum and a portion of it is displayed there in the case of the Kent Numismatic Society. The coins which range from those of Henry V to the second issue of Henry VIII are fully reported and listed in the forthcoming issue of *The British Numismatic Journal* by Messrs. R. H. Dolley and E. J. Winstanley. It is there suggested that the

<sup>1</sup> Kent, 8vo edition, IV, pp. 403-4.

<sup>2</sup> Illustrated in *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*, 1782, no. VI, Part I, opposite p. 21.

<sup>3</sup> See Hasted, *op. cit.*, pp. 400-1. Palgrave, *Parliamentary Writs*, II, Part III, sub 1316—"Vile Woldham . . . Episcopus Roffensis". The tithes had been granted to the Abbess of Malling (Thorpe, *Registrum Roffense*, pp. 482 and 694).

<sup>4</sup> Kent Records, IV, *Register Hamo Hethe*, p. 699, sub 1342. As an addition to Hasted's account of Sellers manor (Kent, IV, pp. 404-5) it may be noted that John at Celere, who gave his name to the property, was heir to Thomas de Wouldham, Bishop of Rochester, and that he was second serjeant of the Rochester Priory Brewery until his death when he was succeeded, on the 29th March, 1349, by Adam Tendre. *Register Hamo Hethe*, pp. 562 and 859.

hoard is connected with the Dissolution of the Monasteries and very probably with the surrender of Aylesford Friary or Boxley Abbey.

The pot in which the hoard was contained was apparently complete when the coins were found. It was particularly unfortunate that the fragments were deported to the rubbish tip at Allington, but enough were recovered to reconstruct the size and shape (see Fig. 6). As this

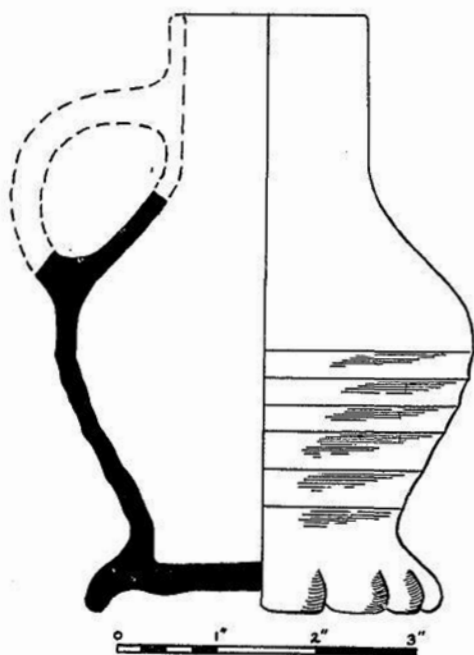


FIG. 6. The Maidstone Pot

is a pottery type which may occur frequently on sixteenth-century sites its description is worth recording in detail. The approximate height must have been 6 in. and the fabric is grey stoneware with a buff-brown surface on the inside of the pot. The exterior is salt-glazed, producing a mottled metallic lustre varying from rich brown to brown-green. The base which was either hand made or roughly torn from the wheel exhibits the crimping, characteristic of handled jugs of Siegburg ware. In the Maidstone pot this crimping is achieved by tooling as opposed to the more usual thumb impressions. The underside of the base shows a series of closely spaced impressions,  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. apart and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, at an angle of about 70 degrees to the edge. It is impossible to

say whether the pot had the double cordon around the neck which is a common feature of these Siegburg jugs.

The dating of the Maidstone pot to about 1538 should be of great value in achieving a dateable series of these early stoneware jugs.

ALAN WARHURST.

## MEDIEVAL POTTERY FROM BROOKLAND

Through the kindness of Mr. B. H. St. John O'Neil, F.S.A., Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, I have recently received a collection of medieval pottery from Brookland which has escaped publication because of the necessity for official secrecy at the time of its finding.

At Brookland in July, 1943, the J. L. Eve Construction Company cut a trench to receive oil pipes in connection with PLUTO. The section which concerns this note was made near the southern boundary of a field lying between the Railway Station and Carter House and to the north of Oldhouse Lane.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. H. Middleton was on the site at the time. He noticed no signs of any building and judged the place to be a medieval rubbish heap, especially as there were animal jawbones therein. Fragments of pottery and bones which he collected were unfortunately lost. Later, from the spoil of this trench, Mr. O'Neil recovered several pieces of pottery, mostly of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, some of it glazed. Two pieces, however, are earlier and to be attributed to the late thirteenth century.

1. Part of the sagging base of a cooking-pot. The base is approximately 10 in. in diameter. Hard, reddish-buff paste with a grey core and with a slight trace of olive green glaze on the bottom. Brushed surface.
2. Hammer-head rim, everted neck and shoulder of a cooking pot. Hard, pinkish-buff paste, sandy with a grey core. Diameter at rim approximately 9 in. Cf. *Canterbury Excavations*, 1944, Fig. 7, No. 6.<sup>2</sup>

They merit attention as giving some indication of date for the reclamation of the marshland, inned gradually under successive Archbishops of Canterbury, beginning with St. Thomas Becket in the twelfth century.<sup>3</sup> According to Hall and Russell<sup>4</sup> the land round Brookland was inned between 1240 and 1270.

L. R. A. GROVE.

<sup>1</sup> Kent 1/2500 Ordnance Sheet LXXX, 16, field 43.

<sup>2</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LIX, p. 78, No. 6.

<sup>3</sup> See R. A. L. Smith, *Canterbury Cathedral Priory*, passim.

<sup>4</sup> Hall and Russell, *A Report on the Agriculture and Soils of Kent, Surrey and Sussex*, 1911, map, Fig. 26.

## FLINT IMPLEMENT FROM CRANBROOK

A flint implement (Fig. 7) worthy of note has been given to the Maidstone Museum by Mr. R. Moxham of Golford Cottage, Golford, near Cranbrook, through our Local Secretary, Mr. C. C. R. Pile. Found in his garden (Kent 6-in. map LXX N.E., long. 0 degrees 33 minutes 48 seconds, lat. 51 degrees 51 minutes 49 seconds) the implement was lying

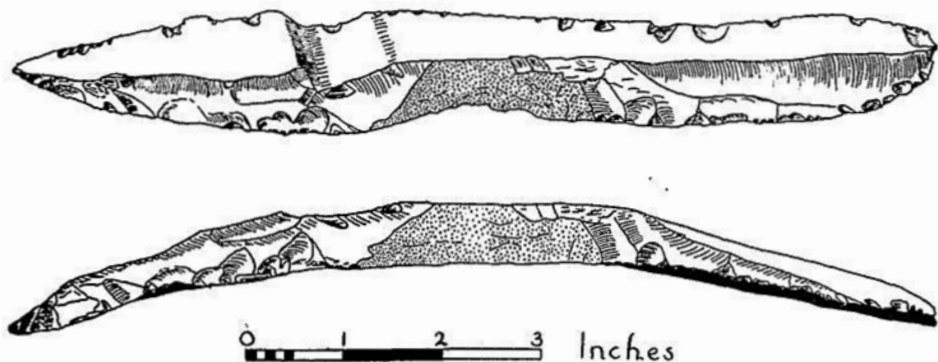


Fig. 7. Flint Implement from Cranbrook

below the topsoil on the surface of the natural clay. This magnificently struck blade, with a battered back and traces of secondary working on the edge, is unpatinated on the bulbar face but shows a blue-white patination on the reverse side. The implement, which seems to exhibit some Upper Palaeolithic tradition of flint working, may be assigned to the Mesolithic period.

ALAN WARHURST.

## EXCAVATIONS ON HOLBOROUGH HILL

Quarrying by the Associated Portland Cement Company has revealed the existence of a cemetery of the Anglo-Saxon period on the crest of Holborough Hill near Snodland (Kent 6-in. map XXX N.E.), about 150 yds. S.W. of the Roman Tumulus.<sup>1</sup> Finds of bones and objects have been made in this area for a number of years<sup>2</sup> and the Ministry of Works has undertaken the task of excavating the site. The excavations for 1952, under the direction of Miss V. Evison, are concerned with the area scheduled for destruction during the year by quarrying operations.

ALAN WARHURST.

<sup>1</sup> T. Wright, *Wanderings of an Antiquary*, 1854, pp. 183-9.

R. F. Jessup, *Arch. Cant.*, LVIII, 1945, pp. 68-72.

<sup>2</sup> G. Payne, *Coll. Cant.*, 1893, p. 137, and reports of workmen employed by the Associated Portland Cement Company.



# COINS FROM THE MAIDSTONE DISTRICT

The following coins have been brought to Maidstone Museum for identification during the period 1951-2.

1. A Roman "radiate" antoninianus of the third century. It was found by Mr. G. R. Dann whilst digging on Ringlestone Farm, Maidstone, on the 10th November, 1951. The coin possesses a fine olive-green patina. It remains with the finder.

Mr. Colin M. Kraay, of the Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, has kindly given me the following parallel and information :

Antoninianus of Tetricus I (A.D. 268-73). Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage*, V, part 2, no. 135.

*Obverse* Head r. radiate.

(IMP. C.C. P. ESV ?) TETRICVS (S PF AVG ?)

*Reverse* Spes left.

(SPES PVBLI)CA

2. A sixth century Byzantine "Brass". It was recently found at "Lowarai", a property near Kits Coty House, by the owner, Mr. C. A. Bodiam. The coin has the appearance of being burnt, but Mr. Bodiam assures me that no clinker has been dumped on the site and that there was no sign of any burning operations where the coin was dug up. The finder retains possession.

I am again indebted to Mr. Kraay for the following note :

The coin is Byzantine, of Justin II, A.D. 565-78. The mint mark appears to be NIKO, i.e. Nicomedia and the year <sup>11</sup> is 572/3.

Reference, *British Museum Coins (Byzantine)* I, p. 87, No. 140.

L. R. A. GROVE.

## CUXTON

While building his bungalow and laying out his gardens on Church Hill, Cuxton, Mr. H. H. Martin came upon quantities of Roman potsherds, and two small urns of coarse pottery were recovered intact. Date, second century, Nat. Grid. Ref. 712665. Church Hill has long been known as a Roman site. Refs. *A.C.*, XXV, lxvii, *Coll. Cant.*, 132.

JOHN H. EVANS.

## LOWER HALSTOW

In December, 1950, Mr. Burrows, of 62, Salisbury Road, Rainham, uncovered a cremation group in the east bank of Halstow Creek. The vase, urn and platter (the latter used as a lid to the cinerary urn) of coarse ware, belong to the first half of the second century. The urn contained charred human bones which Surg-Commander P. Gray has determined were those of a young adult female. Nat. Grid Ref. 864678. The site is, of course, within the prolific Upchurch area of Roman remains.

R. A. BALDWIN.