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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

DARENTH WOOD DENEHOLE

Darenth Wood is among the numerous localities noted in the last century by F. C. J. Spurrell as containing deneholes.¹ This wood now contains several collapsed denehole shafts, some of which appear to be associated with an earthwork which traverses the wood from the east. At a point in the wood about 180 ft. above O.D. and overlooking a valley, is a solitary denehole which Spurrell has noted as a "cave." The present writer decided that this denehole would be well worthy of further investigation and therefore arranged to make a descent, taking with him an expert photographer.²

The "cave" is entered by a vertical shaft, sunk through the loam and chalk, of approximately 3 ft. 5 in. diameter, and bearing very roughly hewn, shallow toe-grips across the diameter of the shaft at 1 ft. 6 in. intervals. From the base of the shaft the usual double trefoil chambers had been formed, the orientation of which will be seen from the accompanying underground plan. Fig. 1.

Measurements and compass bearings showed that chambers Nos. 1 and 6 had been constructed on a larger scale than the others. The end of each chamber was rounded off, the upper part forming roughly a hemisphere, and the usual chalk benches on which the excavators stood were absent in every case, except possibly No. 3 where this feature may exist beneath the accumulation of debris.

Among several interesting features to be noted about this otherwise typical denehole, was the distinctive blackening of the walls and roof, as can be seen from the photographs. This is contrary to the condition found by the writer in many other deneholes.

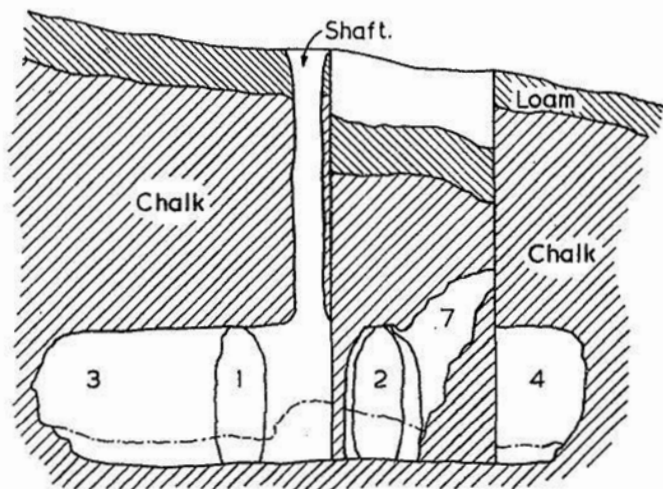
It would appear that after chamber No. 6 had been completely excavated, an enlargement was contemplated which resulted in a roof fall, No. 7 on the plan. Evidence of pick marks tends to show that the miners had attempted to check this fault by dressing the disturbed area of the roof to a smooth finish. This expedient was evidently of no avail as chamber No. 6 has been choked with debris from the collapse of No. 7. The collapse now extends upwards to the surface through both the chalk and overlying loam, thus creating a secondary "shaft," and incidentally allowing a current of air to flow freely through the chambers. This last fact probably explains the peculiar blackening

¹ *Arch. Journ.*, XXXVIII, 399.

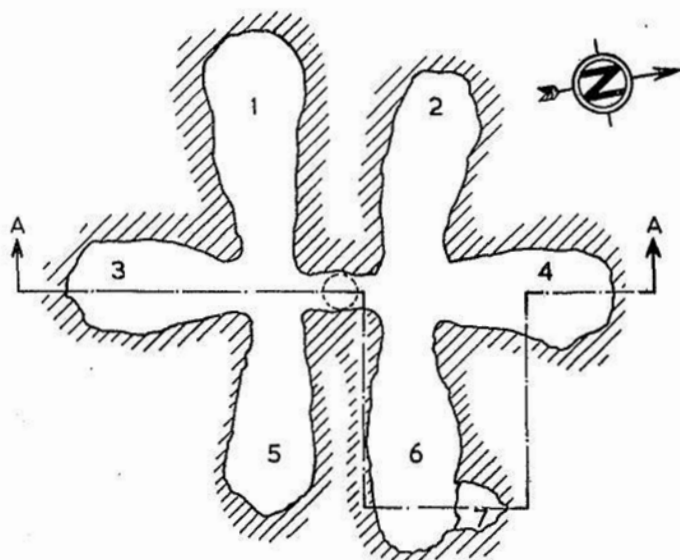
The writer wishes to acknowledge the work of Miss N. Coppard.

DENEHOLE.

DARENTH WOOD, KENT.



Section A-A.



Underground Plan.

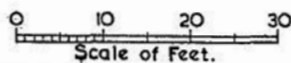
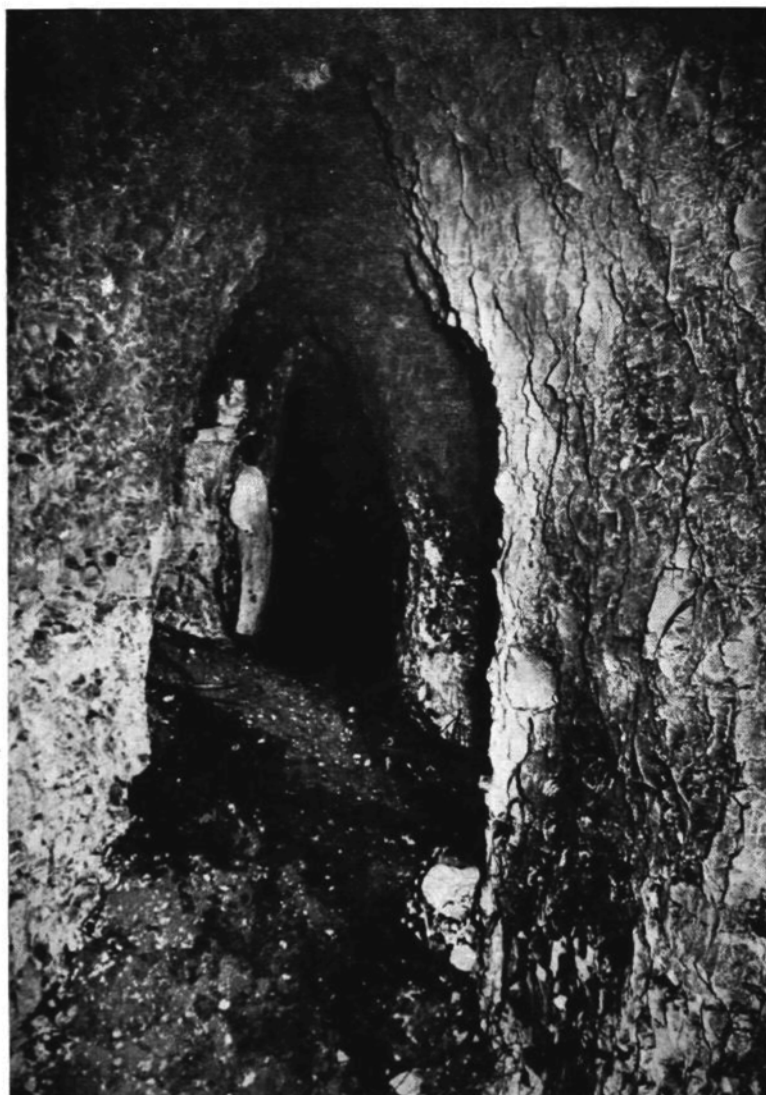


FIG. 1



DARENTH WOOD DENEHOLE
Entrance to Chamber No. 1.



DARENTH WOOD DENEHOLE

View from chamber No. 4 looking towards chamber No. 3.

of the inside of this denehole, as dust particles in the passing airstream would readily adhere to the damp chalk surface.

It will be noted from the Section A-A that with this denehole the shaft passes through only a few feet of superincumbent loam before entering the chalk. This must account for the small amount of debris at the foot of the shaft, less erosion having occurred here than in deneholes where the shaft was sunk through a much greater thickness of surface material.

Plate I shows the "coffin shaped" section of the chambers and their comparative height can be judged from the figure seen standing at the entrance to chamber No. 1. Plate II affords a view from chamber No. 4 looking through a succession of chamber roofs towards chamber No. 3.

It was apparent that greater care had been exercised in fabricating the roof than had been given to the walls of these chambers. There was no evidence of any attempt to re-work this denehole after its initial construction and abandonment, as is sometimes found in other examples.

J. E. L. CAIGER.

WYE CHURCH

Details of the collapse of the central tower of this church in 1686, the subsequent ruin of its eastern arm and transepts, and the rebuilding in the present form in 1706 are well known. At the latter date the foundations of the destroyed sections were levelled off and eventually buried, much of the building material being incorporated in the new structure. There is only a conjectural plan of the church in its original form. Through the Local Secretary for the Ashford District (Mr. E. T. Mortimore), the Secretary of Wye College Archæological Society kindly sends an account of excavations made in 1952 for the purpose of tracing the buried foundations. The Vicar of Wye and the Wye Historical Society, members of which had already carried out some investigation of the foundations, gave strong support to the project. The following is a brief summary of the work.

The outline and extent of the chancel were traced; it was shown to extend 60 ft. eastward from the present apse, to have a width of 23 ft., and foundation walls averaging 4 ft. in thickness. Buttresses were noted on the east wall and at the angles. Adjoining the south wall and at its eastern end was a small chapel thought to have been added at a later date. It measured approximately 22 ft. square, and appears to have had a west door and tiled floor; grey stone floated on blocks of rough chalk was used in its construction, as distinct from flint nodules and mortar of the main building. No corresponding chapel on the south side was located. The lines of the chancel and chapel have been marked out on the ground as a permanent record, and in one or two

empty nineteenth century tombs sunk on the site of the chancel, records of the excavation work have been placed.

Several tomb-slabs with indents for brasses were uncovered on the site of the north transept, where it is known that some of the Kempe family were buried. Cream and green glazed tiles abutted on one of the tomb-slabs.

Other discoveries included a counter of 1281 and fragments of early window glass.

R. F. JESSUP.

DISCOVERIES AT CHALK NEAR GRAVESEND

During the past twelve months the excavation of gravel from a large pit in East Chalk near Gravesend adjoining the boundary between that parish and the parish of Shorne and on the north side of the Lower Higham Road (1 in. Ordnance Map reference 690732) has disclosed a number of relics of the Roman occupation.

Unfortunately the discoveries are the result of wholesale stripping of topsoil and ballast over an area of some seventeen acres by modern mechanical "Navvies." Many finds are therefore known only by report from the men working on the site, and much of the information which might have become available by modern field archæology has been destroyed unnoticed.

Despite these handicaps the site has produced evidence of an exceptionally long period of occupation. A number of fragments of large storage jars of a type usually associated with Belgic or Early Roman occupation have been found. Chronologically these are followed by Roman pottery of the second century and a number of kilns with their associated waste pottery of the second and third centuries. Finally five Roman inhumations have been found containing interesting specimens of pottery of late Roman type. As a sort of postscript an ancient well has also been uncovered from which fragments of medieval pottery have been recovered.

The site is relatively close to other known sites in this district (see *Arch. Cant.*, XI, p. 113; XXIII, p. 22; XXVIII, xc; and *Victoria County History*, Vol. 3, pp. 130, 167) and it is clear that the whole area is one which was thickly occupied during the early centuries of the Christian era. The excavations are still proceeding and the numerous finds already made are being studied. It is therefore only possible at this stage to make this interim report which it is hoped to expand at a later date.

A. F. ALLEN.

LESNES ABBEY, ERITH

The re-excavation and preservation of this Augustinian Abbey continued during 1953, the second season, under the joint supervision

of the London County Council and the Ministry of Works. The major examination this year has been the excavation of the Chapter House and the undercroft of the Dormitory range. This has been heavy and slow work as the walls were buried some 8 ft. below the present surface. The North Transept completed last year has been turfed, and with its

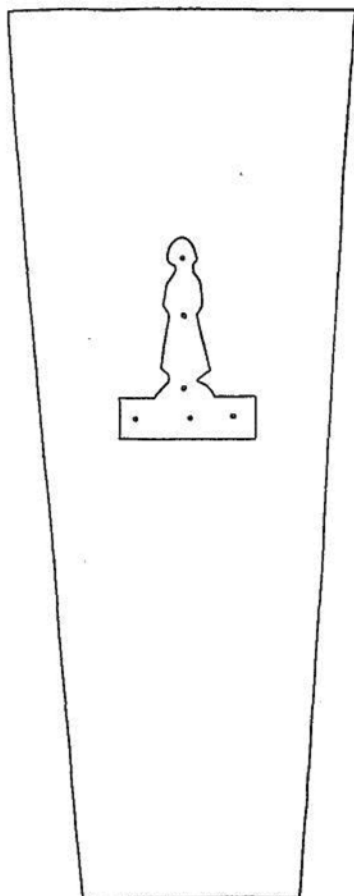


FIG. 2. LESNES ABBEY. Indent of Brass to a Civilian. Found not *in situ* in N. Transept and now placed in N. Chapel of that Transept.

three Chapels makes an interesting addition to those parts of the Abbey open to the public. In the centre chapel the heart of Roesia of Dover, discovered in 1939, has been replaced in its original tomb, in a new copper casket containing also the remnants of the original leaden box, together with a scroll detailing the circumstances of the discovery and reinterment. The original marble tomb slab has been replaced,

though the inscription has badly weathered from exposure. Originally it read: HIC JACET ROESIA DE DOVERIA CUJUS ANIMAE (PROPICIETUR DEUS AMEN.). Roesia was the great-great-granddaughter of the founder of the Abbey and bore the christian name of her great-great-grandmother and of her grandmother. She married, as her third husband, Richard de Dover. Another slab, found in the same transept but not *in situ* is the only one that bears evidence that it once held a brass. The sketch (Fig. 2) shows the slab and the outline of the indent. The deceased was a civilian, perhaps an officer of the Abbey and the brass may be compared with the similar but larger one to Roger Sencler, one-time Sergeant of the Abbey, still to be seen in Erith parish church. Interesting discoveries were made last year, and may be followed up this season, which may shed some light on the system of water supply and distribution.

F. C. ELLISTON-ERWOOD.

MEDIEVAL OBJECTS FROM KENT

Fig. 3

1. Amongst the medieval bronze keys in Maidstone Museum¹ is one which gives a clue to a wider dating for Professor J. B. Ward Perkins' key type IB.² Ward Perkins concludes that this type, with circular bow and conical shank hole, cannot have remained in use long after the close of the twelfth century.

The key was found during the nineteenth century beneath the greensward in front of Newark House, Maidstone,³ under a skeleton buried about 15 in. from the surface. The original entry in the *Museum Register* says that this skeleton was with many others "one lying on the other, the rest in rows, same depth".

It would seem that the skeletons, which had "no visible marks of any shell or covering," were the remains of those buried in the graveyard of the chapel attached to Archbishop Boniface's Hospital of the New Work or Newark, founded about the middle of the thirteenth century.⁴ Therefore the date for the key is probably no earlier than 1250 as it shows little sign of wear.

¹ Museum accession, 179.

² London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue*, p. 134.

³ The remains of the building were used during the nineteenth century by the Maidstone Gas Company for its Manager's office, but during the present century they were replaced by a modern erection.

⁴ The date of the founding of the Hospital of Saints Peter and Paul, called Le Newark (*Hospitalis novi operis*) is not known. Cave-Browne (*The History of the Parish Church of All Saints, Maidstone*, pp. 248-9) quotes a 1261 confirmation by Prior Roger from *Registrum Ecclesiae Christi Cantuariensis*, I, f. 255, giving Boniface as the builder. Knowles and Hadcock (*Medieval Religious Houses*, 1953, p. 290) give the date of founding as 1244 but quote no prime authority. As Archbishop Boniface was not consecrated until the 15th January, 1245, this date would appear to be wrong.

2. The double-warded bronze key was found in the late 1930's at Warden Point, Isle of Sheppey, by Miss Helen Richards and has been recently lent to Maidstone Museum by Mr. H. E. Richards. It was thrown up by the sea and shows some evidence of salt-water action.

Such keys are not common. A similar example, of fourteenth century date, is shown in Fig. 106 of the *British Museum Guide to Medieval Antiquities*, 1924.¹ Ward Perkins² illustrates no examples of a double ward but the present key may be considered

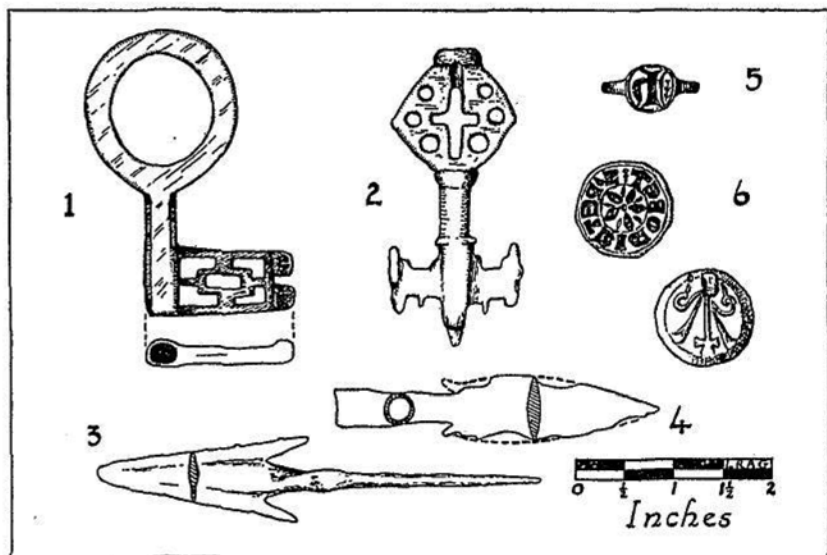


FIG. 3. Medieval objects from Kent.

a hybrid of his types V and VI. Type V keys are usually of iron with a projecting and solid shank. Type VI keys are of bronze but the solid shank is bored at the end to form a conical hole. However, they include examples having a tubular loop at the top for suspension.³ The Warden Point key may, therefore, be assigned to the period which includes the late fourteenth and the fifteenth century.

3. Late medieval iron arrowhead found 4 ft. deep in the garden of the Black Horse Public House, on the south-western slope below

¹ An earlier example is portrayed in St. Peter's left hand on the Chichester-Constable thirteenth century English chasuble.

² *Op. cit.*

³ Cf. Ward Perkins, *op. cit.*, plate XXIX, 13.

Thurnham Castle.¹ It has been given to Maidstone Museum² by its finder, Mr. R. Tutt. I have shown this example to my friend, Mr. Russell Robinson of the Tower of London Armouries, and he thinks that, because of its light weight, it may have been used for hunting.

4. Medieval iron arrowhead found in March, 1953, one foot below the surface in sandy loam, at a spot approximately half-way between the Cross Keys Public House and the Parish Church of Holy Cross, Bearsted.³ Given to Maidstone Museum⁴ by Mr. Alan Kenworthy of Teston. Ward Perkins type XVI.
5. Late fourteenth or fifteenth century brass signet ring from the garden of Old Hall, Barming. It was found during the late War by the gardener. It is now the property of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Olsen. On the bezel is an incised lombardic letter "h" in reverse, probably standing for "Henricus." In spite of the theory that such letters are meant to represent the initials of the names of saints,⁵ documentary evidence shows that they were nothing more than the initials of the Christian names of the first owners.⁶ For dating purposes the sequence appears to be (a) uncrowned letters, appearing in the second half of the fourteenth century; (b) crowned letters, first appearing in numbers about the beginning of the fifteenth century. Both forms were used throughout the fifteenth century, the uncrowned form becoming scarcer much sooner than the crowned. The decorations round the main letter were the necessary differencing to produce the individual mark so much loved by the medieval legal mind.⁷ Some significance has been placed on the crown of the crowned letters but this, too, would seem to be but a differencing as it occurs above the rebus for *Ifield* (*If* and a field or fieldfare) on a late medieval silver thumb ring found at Penenden Heath and now in the Maidstone Museum.

(Not illustrated.) Circular leaden seal matrix found in 1948 near the railway at Leicester Road, Chatham. Its average

¹ O.S. 6-in. *Kent Sheet*, XXXII, S.W.

² Accession number 39, 1953.

³ O.S. 6-in. *Kent Sheet*, XLIII, N.W.

⁴ Accession number 25, 1953.

⁵ J. Harvey Bloom, *English Seals*, 1906, p. 180; W. Jones, *Finger-Ring Lore*, 1877, p. 263.

⁶ See my note on lettered signet rings, in *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, XLI, pp. 40-1.

⁷ A fifteenth century ring, of gilded silver alloy, found on the bed of the River Severn at Saxon's Lode near Upton, bears a lombardic letter "h" like the Barming example and this letter is surrounded by four main and two minor foliage sprigs. *Archaeological Journal*, III, p. 268.

diameter is $1\frac{3}{16}$ in., with a maximum diameter (including the remains of the suspension projection) of $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. The inscription reads :

+ S' ALBREIE' FIL' ADE
(Seal of Aubrey¹ FitzAdam)

Such seals are usually dated to the thirteenth or fourteenth century. Several similar leaden examples have been found in Kent, at Stockbury Church,² Sevenoaks³ and Folkestone.⁴ The Chatham matrix bears the remains of a small projection on the upper margin. This in its original condition was probably perforated for suspension.⁵ The decoration in the circle enclosed by the inscription consists of a star with eight radiations. Between the main radiations are small intervening rays.⁶ The impression of a similar seal, of Thomas FitzRalph, on a document dated 1325, is engraved in *Arch. Cant.*, V, p. 237.

6. Circular leaden seal matrix from Greenway Court Farm, Hollingbourne. Found recently and now in the possession of the occupier, Mr. L. J. Wickens.⁷ The inscription reads :

∴ S' PETRI COBET
(Seal of Peter Cobet)

The face of this seal matrix is similar to that of the preceding example and the same remarks apply to it. The suspension loop however is on the reverse which is noteworthy for the raised design. The matrix is substantial, being some $\frac{5}{32}$ in. in average thickness.

L. R. A. GROVE.

HOLLINGBOURNE INDENT

Some 3 ft. above the plinth on the western side of the exterior entrance to the north porch of All Saints' Church, Hollingbourne, is fixed a slab of Kentish Ragstone, measuring 15 by 22 in. This slab has had a panel, measuring approximately 4 by $16\frac{1}{2}$ in., carved from it to receive a memorial brass, of which the only tangible remnants are three lead plugs.

It is curious that the Reverend J. Cave-Browne, in his *The Story of Hollingbourne*, missed this feature of the church. Apparently he did so

¹ Other medieval-Latin forms of *Albericus* are *Albrea* and *Albraeus*.

² *Archæological Journal*, X, pp. 327-8.

³ *Arch. Cant.*, LIII, p. xliii. Inscribed S' IONE FIL' IVONI with a crude floral design in the centre.

⁴ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Lond.*, 2nd Ser., XXIII, p. 467. Cf. also *Archæologia*, LIX, pl. III, for the seal of William Vellechen, dated temp. Henry III.

⁵ *Archæological Journal*, X, p. 328.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ My thanks are due to Mrs. J. F. Cardwell for bringing this seal to my notice.

because he misread the will¹ of a former rector, John Aleff or Aleef, and only noted that Aleff wanted a "plate with sculpture" near "a plaine stone" under which he was to be buried. Cave-Browne only comments that "the plain stone still remains."

In order to correct Cave-Browne's inaccurate transcript and to emphasize the significance of the indent described above, I give here-with a fresh reading of the relevant portion of the will.²

"I John Aleff prest p(ar)sonne of holingbourn . . . make this my p(re)sent testament and last will in maner and fourme folowing

Furst I bequeth my soule to Almyghty god to our blisshed lady his mother and to all the holy co(m)pany of hevyn and my wretched body and filthy Carkes to be buryed in the way beside the portch dore on the Right hond going in And I will that ther be sett in the wall nygh to the place of my grave A marble or other harde stone conteignyng a plate w^t script(u)m³ makeing mencion wher and what tyme I was buryed And to move all men of their charitie to p(r)ay for my soule And A playne stone laid ov(er) my body w^tout script(u)m³ And assone as my Soule is dep(ar)ted from my body I will my knyll be Rong And sone after to have my body w^t convenient spede to his grave w^t such prest(es) and co(m)pany As ar of the p(ar)issh and none other w^tout Chesting of my body or other pompe or besynes And iiij poor men to cary my body to the Church ech of theym takeing for their labour xijd"

L. R. A. GROVE.

ROMANO-BRITISH RUBBISH PIT AT RADFIELD

On the 28th August, 1952, the Roads Department of the Kent County Council was widening the north side of the Rochester to Canterbury main road at Radfield in Tonge parish⁴ when a Romano-British refuse pit was disclosed. On the afternoon of the following day, through the kind offices of the President, Major M. Teichman Derville, and the County Surveyor, Mr. E. W. H. Vallis, the writers were invited to inspect the site. They found *in situ* less than half of what was probably a circular pit and partially excavated it.⁵ It contained

¹ Kent County Archives, County Hall, Maidstone; Canterbury Probate, C. 17, f. 4. 2 February, 1535; Cave-Browne, *op. cit.*, pp. 49-50.

² Dr. Felix Hull, County Archivist, and Miss E. Melling kindly confirmed certain words in my transcript so that I should not falsely malign Cave-Browne.

³ This word could be read as *scriptur* but certainly not *sculpture* as in Cave-Browne.

⁴ O.S. 6-in. *Kent Sheet*, XXX, N.W., opposite to bench mark 45.2; National Grid reference 51/939629, 1 in., Sheet 172.

⁵ The remaining segment had a chord measurement of 6 ft. and the line bisecting the segment was 24½ in. Measured drawing *penes* Maidstone Museum

pottery fragments of the first and early second century and animal remains, such as oyster shells and pig and ox jaws. The bottom of the pit was not reached and no section could be recorded. The pit indicates by its contents a domestic site nearby.¹

On the same site some indeterminate ironwork and a (?) boss of lead were found but not by the present writers.

The pottery fragments were handed to Mr. Alan Warhurst and he has kindly furnished the following report on the dateable examples.

1. Fragment of shell-gritted, wheel-turned ware. Fabric hard, varying grey to red. Slightly twisted but the fragment is too small to define as a waster. Probably early first century A.D.
2. Fragment of hard grey ware with black exterior burnishing. Shows a pronounced carination, with three incised lines just below. Probably part of a *Richborough* III pot, types 291-2. Late first century A.D.
3. Fragment of furrowed ware; cf. *Richborough* III, types 135-6 and pages 98-9 for discussion of this ware. Mid first century A.D.
4. Probably fragment of a poppy-head beaker in hard, thin brown-grey ware with parallel rows of small clay studs at about 30° to the horizontal. Cf. *Richborough* I, type 54. Early second century.
5. Fragment of (?) olla in grey fabric with acute angled lattice pattern. Late first to early second century A.D.

L. R. A. GROVE.

G. W. MEATES.

COIN OF DOMITIAN FROM DARTFORD

On the 19th August, 1953, Mr. C. Bricknell, whilst working on the site of the new school at Fullwich Road, Dartford, unearthed a silver denarius, which may be attributed to the period 92-3 A.D. It has been purchased for Maidstone Museum.

Description :

Obverse : Head laureate right.

IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P XII

Reverse : Minerva standing left, holding a thunderbolt and spear ; at her feet a shield.

IMP XXII COS XVI CENS PPP

Reference : Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage*, II, p. 174, no. 173.

L. R. A. GROVE.

A BELGIC BURIAL FROM BOROUGH GREEN

On Wednesday, 8th July, 1953, Messrs. C. Lowes and E. Maynard, employees of the British Quarrying Company at Godden's Quarry,

¹ See George Payne, *Collectanea Cantiana*, pp. 88-9 and Map A, nos. 19 and 20.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

Borough Green, Wrotham, unearthed with their mechanical excavator a Belgic cremation burial. The find was referred to the Maidstone Museum by the Quarry Manager, Mr. J. Hamilton Wood, through the good offices of Sir Edward Harrison.¹

The find spot (National Grid reference 51/603563) is about 100 yards south-east of Stonegate Cross, the local name for the crossing of the Borough Green—Plaxtol and Ightham—Basted roads. The site lies just above the 300 foot contour line on the Hythe Beds of the Lower

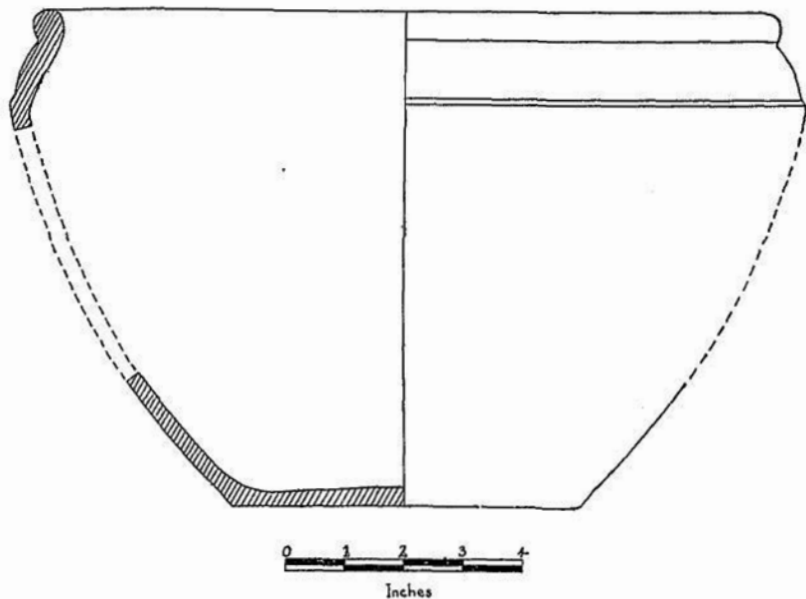


FIG. 4. Belgic Pot from Borough Green ($\frac{1}{4}$).

Greensand ridge, on ground which slopes gently from the west before dropping steeply into the Bourne valley, some 200 yards to the east. The quarry is worked for the Kentish ragstone and the mechanical excavator was engaged in clearing the upper layers of hassock and rag for this purpose. In 1952 topsoil and loam over a wide area were removed to a depth of 4 feet by a firm of contractors. Accounts of the workmen indicate that the find was made only 6 in. below this new surface but, unfortunately, nothing is known about the cist or pit in which the burial must have been contained. Other shallower burials may well have been completely cleared by the removal of

¹ The writer is indebted to Sir Edward Harrison for notes on the topographical and historical setting.

topsoil and loam but a careful search over the surrounding area produced no further trace of potsherds or disturbance of the natural ground.

THE FINDS

The burial group consists of parts of a pot in which were contained fragments of cremated bone, four bronze bangles and two bronze brooches. Despite the unsatisfactory nature of the discovery in the field, the association of the finds is indisputable, for, through the foresight of Mr. Wood, the burial was brought virtually intact into the Museum and the objects were there recovered from the packed filling of the pot. Specks of charcoal were observed in this filling but the bronzes showed no trace of distortion through heating.

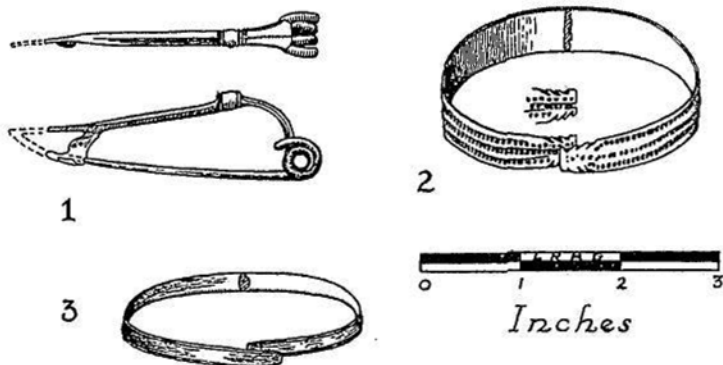


FIG. 5. Grave goods from a Belgic Burial at Borough Green.

1. Only a few fragments of the pot were recovered but, fortunately, these included sufficient of the rim and base to estimate its original size and shape (Fig. 4). The hand-made fabric is of fine dark brown-grey paste, notable for the almost complete absence of grit. The surface shows a black finish, generally slightly burnished but more so for about half an inch immediately above the base. An attempt has been made to bead the rim which is ill-formed, as are also the cordon and groove just above the shoulder. The base shows a slight kick, more noticeable on the inside.

2. Bronze fibula made in one piece (Fig. 5 no. 1). The spring has four coils with interior chord. The bow, forward of the moulded boss, is flattened in section and diamond-shaped to the rear. The boss, which exists on the upper side of the bow only, is decorated with two grooves. The incomplete triangular catchplate is open and shows a sensitive

feeling for good design and artistry in the slight curve imparted to that portion which joins catch to bow. Original length approximately $3\frac{1}{8}$ in.

3. Bronze fibula, identical to above, save that the boss is slightly smaller. Original length approximately 3 in.

4. Flat sectioned bronze bangle (Fig. 5 no. 2), depth $\frac{1}{2}$ in., tapering to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. at the terminals, diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. The bangle is decorated with three rows of punched dots, the centre row persisting to the end of each terminal, as does also one row at the end of the inner terminal. Both terminals are decorated with three oblique slashes on either edge, tending to be obscured by wear on the outer terminal.

5. Plain bronze bangle (Fig. 5 no. 3), elliptical section, depth $\frac{3}{16}$ in., diameter $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. The exterior edges show traces of a groove.

6. Plain bronze bangle as above, but much corroded. Diameter $2\frac{1}{4}$ - $2\frac{3}{8}$ in.

7. Plain bronze bangle, elliptical section, depth $\frac{3}{16}$ in., diameter $2\frac{3}{8}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.

ALAN WARHURST.

ROMAN REMAINS ON LYDD RYPE

It is generally acknowledged that at one stage in the evolution of the Marshes near Romney, a bleak, irregular, reedy line of shingle, running approximately from Hythe to Rye, emerged from the sea in the vast "Romney Marsh Bay"; this emergence was probably very gradual, but eventually it gave rise to a stretch of land dry and habitable enough for fisherfolk to settle upon. This flat, wide ridge was the Ripe, or Rype, and from one of these settlements the roots of Lydd probably sprang.

It was in 1951 that Mr. Charles Spon first drew the writer's attention to the possibility of the existence of Roman remains on the Lydd section of the Rype; since that date, evidence has appeared which has converted this possibility, in our humble opinion, into fact. The remains consist of two items, a "track" and a "square." At its best point—though nowhere may it be said to be really good—the former lies in a field known as Sandybanks or Sandylands, near the Isolation Hospital in Lydd (6 in. maps, 1940-6, Kent sheet, LXXXIV, S.W., ref. 049219). The field was unfortunately ploughed over about 18 months ago, but has now been restored to pasture; the ploughing, however, brought to light quantities of Samian and Romano-British sherds on the site of the track, which the B.M. have identified, with the remark that "the general complexity of the sherds seems to suggest a date around the second century A.D." The track passes, in one direction, along the rear of the grounds of the Hospital towards Romney, until it is obliterated where the modern road to that town crosses it. It has not been identified on the other side of this road.

In the other direction, the track leads up to what is clearly the entrance of a square earthwork in a nearby field; it is not, however, possible to trace it the whole of its length, the well defined outlines of feudal "strips" in one field, and the ploughing over of another, showing why this is so. The earthwork consists of a fosse with interior rampart, with an entrance in the North side. It is approximately 110 ft. square along the top of the rampart, and from here to the outside edge of the fosse some 20 ft. The interior of the work is on a higher level than the surrounding land. (Same map, ref. 044215; a sheep fold lies in one corner of the field. The earthwork, which is at about the centre of the field, is not marked.) The construction seems to indicate a small outpost of some sort. The aerial photographic survey photographs show the site very well, especially the one of Sandylands field, which was taken before it was ploughed over.¹

The existence of such remains is more important than it may first appear. It may enable the geologist to date with more accuracy than before, the evolution of the Rype, in that it was habitable before A.D. 200. As the writer is neither geologist nor Romano-British archaeologist, conscious of his ignorance, and having brought the matter to the notice of the Society, he must needs stop; but he offers the pen hopefully to any authority who will pursue the topic, which is of importance to so many branches of learning.²

IAN JONES.

BROMLEY DISTRICT

Excavation at Warbank, Keston

During the 1952 season shallow pits, gullies, and a deep pit opening off the principal gully were examined. Apart from the collection of First Century pottery found in the filling of the principal gully in 1951 there were no finds in the uniform packing of rammed chalk and clay but small pieces of charcoal occurred throughout all the fillings. The course of a ditch which crosses the site is being traced. The silted filling contains numerous potsherds and bones. The ditch and the remaining area available for excavation will be examined next year.

Polished "Greenstone" (Hornblende Epidiorite) Axe-head from Keston

A damaged Neolithic axe-head was found by Mr. G. Reuthe on his land at the bottom of Fox Hill, Keston. Mr. J. N. Carreck reports

¹ The series of photographs possessed by the society of this area are of rejected standard; I am indebted to Mr. Thompson of the Town and Country planning department of the County Hall, Maidstone, for granting me access to the excellent copies in his custody.

² A sestertius of the sixth consulship of Commodus, A.D. 191, has been found by Mr. Edwards of Cannon Street in his garden, which adjoins the Churchyard. It is in his possession.

that it has been examined and given the survey number K.I. by the Council for British Archæology; Provenance Cornwall.

Earthworks and Hut Circles on Hayes Common and Unpublished Bronze Age Flint Implements from "Millfield," Keston

The late Mr. Philip Norman, F.S.A., in his paper on the "Millfield" flints found at Keston in 1897 (*Proceedings, Society of Antiquaries*, November 24th, 1898) when a working floor containing 461 flakes, 475 waste chips and 22 cores was uncovered during the building of the house now called "Millfield", states that there is the strongest reason for believing that the "Millfield" floor is closely related to those on Hayes Common which it adjoins. If this statement is correct, and Mr. Norman gives very clearly his reasons for holding this view, then the following report on a number of flakes from this site is of particular interest. Mr. A. D. Lacaille was kind enough to examine twelve flakes which had been collected by the late Mr. G. W. Smith of Bromley Common, the builder of the house "Millfield." The collection consists of five flakes from "Millfield," one from Oast House, Hayes Common, one from Keston Common, and five unlabelled, all now in the possession of Mr. G. W. Smith of Bromley Common in whose family they have been preserved. Mr. Lacaille reports they are Bronze Age of fine workmanship.

Mr. Norman states that the whole of the flint flakes in this one pit were found in a thin stratum of whitish sand, the first appearance of which suggested an admixture of a considerable portion of ash but when examined it was found that the whiteness was due to the presence of clay. The late Mr. George Clinch, in his report on the examination of the barrow within the earthwork on Coney Hill adjoining Hayes Common (*Antiquarian Jottings*, p. 179) states "the section cut through the mound (2 ft. wide, 8 ft. deep and 30 ft. long) showed the whole of it had been built up of the ordinary pebble beds so plentiful on Hayes Common. Upon the original surface of the ground was a bed of sand of peculiar whiteness probably due to the admixture of some vegetable ash." In my interim report on the Earthworks and Hut Circles on Hayes Common (*Arch. Cant.*, 1951, xlii) I recorded the excavation of Hut Circle B on Hogg, O'Neil and Stevens Plan of the Earthworks (*Arch. Cant.*, 1941) and the cutting of a section across the ditch of the dyke close to the hut circle which is constructed over the silted ditch. The occupation floor of dark soily sand was found overlying a light yellow sand with a bleached top which could be seen in the section across the ditch, filling the bottom of the ditch to a depth of 10 in. The bleached line was very prominent in the section across the ditch which showed the bottom of the ditch to be 2 ft. 11 in. below the

present turf line. The whitish bleached line was an inch in thickness and it became grey before it merged into the yellow sand.

The similarity of the five flakes from "Millfield" with seven others found locally and all ascribed by Mr. Lacaille to the Bronze Age, and the strata of sand of unusual whiteness described in three excavations may link the earthworks and hut circles, suggesting for some at least a date in the Bronze Age.

N. PIERCY FOX.

CANTERBURY EXCAVATIONS, EASTER, 1953

Work was carried out on three sites, in Canterbury Lane, Watling Street and Church Lane (St. Mildred's). In addition, a test hole was dug in the cellars of the County Hotel to explore an expanse of gravel which was almost certainly the Forum floor. Two surfaces were noted, an early one of gravel and loam over a thick build-up of gravel, and a later one 2 ft. higher of pounded brick fragments over a thick bed of gravel; there were no finds of dating material and water prevented deeper excavation.

In Canterbury Lane an area had been prepared by mechanical excavation and here more late Saxon material was obtained, as well as some eleventh-twelfth century levels lying above the ninth century occupation. The south end of the area investigated was found to be extensively cut about by twelfth and thirteenth century pits, one of which produced some sherds of imported Rouen ware. Below the Saxon levels the Roman house was found to be badly damaged by late Roman pits, as was the case last summer. It had a series of gravel floors, and its internal walls were of yellow clay which were difficult to trace as no facing of plaster was found *in situ*; but the fallen wall material over the latest floors did contain fragments of plaster. There were obvious traces of a conflagration and large pieces of broken pottery lay on the floor crushed by the collapse.

In Watling Street a trench was cut south of the modern street opposite the site examined in 1945 and this intercepted the Roman street at the point expected. It was found, however, that the final version of the Roman street overlay occupation layers and building debris of the early second century, and a thin layer of earlier metal was found beneath this. Further excavation is needed to elucidate fully the sequence on this site.

At St. Mildred's a deep excavation was made just south of the Tannery beside the Stour. It was hoped to find the next north-south Roman street west of Castle street; 14 ft. below the surface and about 8 ft. below water level after a very difficult dig gravel was found, but it was taken to be natural gravel. Above this was 4 ft. of black mud,

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containing pre-Roman Belgic material and Roman pottery. No stratification could be made out. The Roman level was capped by gravel containing eleventh century pottery, and this seems to have been a medieval roadway running east-west. Above this was more black mud containing organic remains and pottery of the later thirteenth century.

S.S.F.

Additional. The Belgic coin found in the summer 1950 near the Marlowe Theatre bears the name of VOSENUS, a British king, whose name was not fully known previously. It has been acquired by the British Museum on permanent loan.

J.B.