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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

EXCAVATION OF A MOATED SITE AT ABBOT'S COURT, HOO ST. WERBURGH

History

The site was first noted in 1950 and was the subject of a survey and article by Mr. John H. Evans, F.S.A., F.R.G.S.¹ In May, 1963 information was received that the site was threatened with destruction by gravel digging and a rescue dig, of necessity limited both in time and scope, was therefore undertaken by members of the Lower Medway Archæological Research Group, with the able assistance and advice of Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A. Much of the labour was provided by boys of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, Rochester, and Mr. R. G. Foord kindly provided the negatives of the photographs.

Excavation

By permission of the owner, Mr. W. C. W. Brice, the surviving portion of the mound enclosed by the earthworks was investigated. A section was cut across the site following the line C-C of Mr. Evans' survey, and excavations were made as shown by areas shaded black upon the site plan (Fig. 1). It became clear that the site had suffered a considerable degree of mutilation in recent years, much of the bank having been levelled and the ditch filled in. It was not possible to excavate the ditch to its full depth owing to the water-logged condition of the ground.

The mound had originally comprised a low, sandy knoll, alluvial in origin, which had been reclaimed from the Medway estuary by the construction of the sea-wall to the south. This sand was archæologically sterile. Upon this had been piled a layer of dirty gravel, which, it is considered, represented the upcast from the moat, spread so as to raise the level of the mound above the water-table. A number of fragments of coarse black pottery (Group A), can be attributed to the thirteenth century. No trace was found within the limits of the excavation of any building definitely associated with this phase of occupation, which may in fact not have been anything more than a hut or huts occupied by fishermen or herdsman.

Above the gravel was a stratum containing much building material and roof-tiles, with occupation debris extending from the medieval

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, LXIV (1951), 156-58.

period down to the late sixteenth century or early seventeenth. Pottery later than this was virtually absent. Associated with this stratum were fragmentary remains of ragstone walls, which, as was to be expected in an area entirely devoid of natural stone, had been extensively robbed.

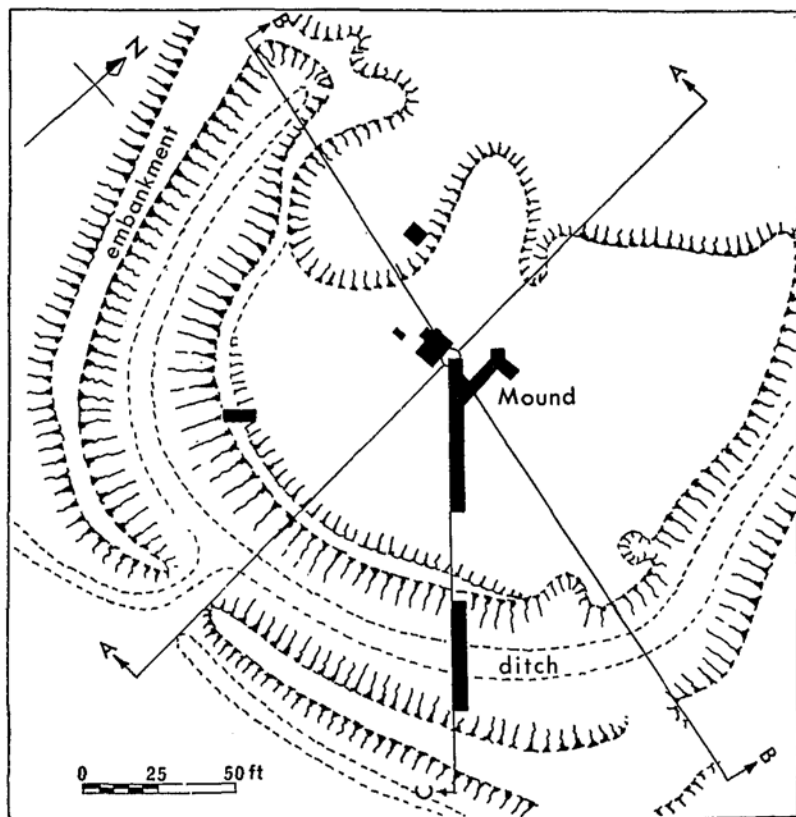


FIG. 1. Site Plan. Based on the 1951 survey (J. Evans, *op. cit.*) this plan shows the areas excavated in 1963.

While no detailed plan of this building could be traced, enough remained to show that these had been footings for a timber building (Plate I). The hard, well-fired pottery found in association with these footings (Group Bii) as well as the use of brick in one of them (possibly an internal partition), suggests that this building can hardly have been earlier than the late fifteenth century.

The best preserved feature of this house was the base of a circular oven, 3 ft. 6 in. in diameter (Plate II) which had been built against

the south wall of a narrow room (Fig. 2). This oven had been built of roofing tiles mortared together with clay and floored with brick and ragstone. As traces of burning were found under this floor, the bricks may represent a slightly later repair, or originally the oven may have had only an earth floor. The design of this oven is similar to the smaller example at Cray House, Bexley², except that the floor, as well as the

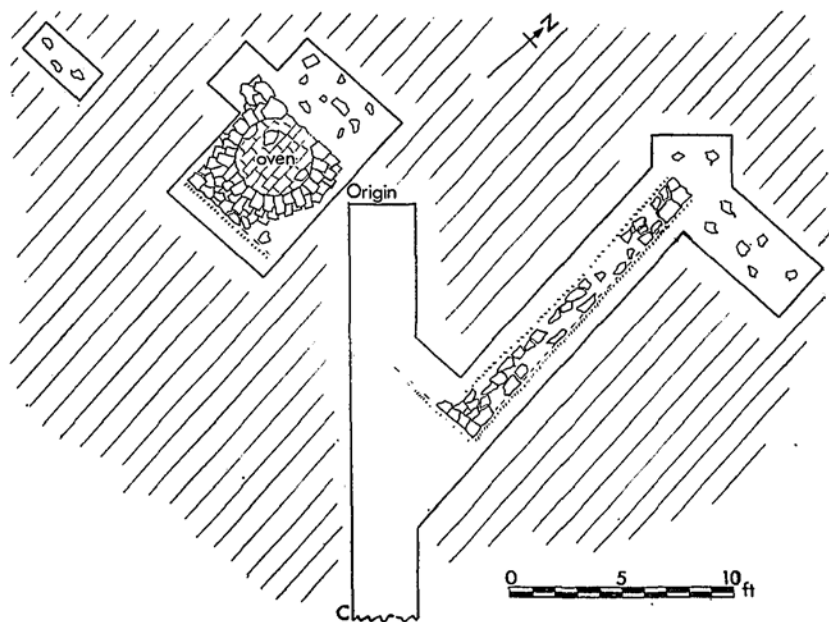


FIG. 2. Detail of wall and oven, with associated debris. Unexcavated areas are hatch-shaded. (See site plan.)

walls of the Bexley oven, was made of roofing tiles. In the final stage of occupation this oven was destroyed down to floor level and a brick platform laid over it, which would seem to have served as a hearth as the bricks were very much burnt. A small buckle, probably of Tudor date, was found in the remains of the oven.³

The latest period of occupation is represented by fragments of sixteenth-century Sieburg stone-ware jugs, recovered from a rubbish-pit and a single piece of Delft (Group C) which bring the occupation down to the early seventeenth century. As the existing farm-house of Abbot's Court close by would seem, in part, to date from the seventeenth century, it is a reasonable supposition that this is the successor

² *Arch. Cant.*, LXXIII (1959), 211-13.

³ Cf. *Med. Cat.*, Pl. lxxv, No. 5, London Museum.

to the moated building, a possibility which is strengthened by the virtual absence of any eighteenth or nineteenth-century pottery in the excavation.

Conclusion

The results of the excavation would seem to be as follows. Towards the end of the thirteenth century occupation began on a sandy hillock protected by the recently erected sea-wall. As the thirteenth century pottery was embedded in the layer of gravel, it seems likely that the construction of the moat dates from this time or a little later, but this is not certain, as houses were still being defended by moats at a much later period, for example at Lullingstone Castle and Well Hall, Eltham.

Towards the end of the fifteenth century stone footings for a timber building were made, and the tile-built oven can probably be attributed to this period. There is no evidence that this building outlasted the early seventeenth century. As no evidence was found of any substantial building necessarily earlier than the fifteenth century, the identification with the lost Manor House of Little Hoo must be regarded as 'not proven', but the results of the excavation confirm to a very large extent the suggestions made by Mr. Evans as to the date and nature of the site.

BRICKS AND TILES

Two sizes of brick were to be distinguished:

- (a) In floor of circular oven measuring $9\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ in.
 (b) In hearth superimposed upon the oven measuring $9 \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Tiles were of the normal plain type with two round or square tapering peg-holes and measured $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ in., which is identical with those from Cray House (see above). Several pieces were found to be partially glazed and one had a projecting flange instead of peg-holes.

POTTERY

Group A

This is represented by sherds of cooking-pots and bowls with flat upper rims predominating. Several pieces have a full shell filling, among these being a rim with an upper bevel bearing thumb indentations in sequence and paralleled at Seasalter.⁴ Flat horizontal rims are present similar to examples at Canterbury⁵ and Pivington (no shell filling),⁶ and in some cases bearing the pinkish oxydized surface noted elsewhere in East Kent.⁷ A few are slightly concave-rimmed.

⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, LXX (1956), 61, No. B5.

⁵ *Arch. Cant.*, LXVIII (1954), 133, fig. 29, 134, fig. 35.

⁶ *Arch. Cant.*, LXXVII (1962), 39, iii.

⁷ Pivington, *op. cit.*, 40.

There can also be included in this assemblage, a buff green-glazed jug with a circular-sectioned, pricked handle and carinate rim (Fig. 3). This group as a whole offers a range of wares from, perhaps, the first half of the thirteenth century to early fourteenth.

Group B

(i) Grey, and buff, sandy wares of fourteenth-century date are well represented by body sherds, but hardly any rims were found and only one fragment of a handle, this being flat, pink-buff fabric and pricked.

(ii) The later hard, ringing fabrics and softer pink smooth wares are present, and presumably contemporary with each other, since two jug handles of similar flat section with concave centre are made one of each fabric. The harder example has no slip and is pricked, the other bears a heavy white slip with no pricking. The rim above each handle is squared-off.

One rim from a cooking pot is closely comparable with an example from Pivington.⁸

Group C

Two stoneware jugs are represented, one with a plain tapering round rim, curving slightly outwards. This example has a thick exterior grey glaze, the same inside being overlaid with a thin brown salt glaze. The second jug has exterior glazing only. Other sherds in this group are poor, a fragment of Delft being identifiable only, and other pieces being possibly from a 'Bellarmine' and a deep green glaze Tudor vessel.

A. C. HARRISON AND E. R. SWAIN.

A TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDING IN TONBRIDGE HIGH STREET

The purpose of this brief report is to place on record the unusual arrangement of tie-beams in the structure under consideration, and also to describe other details of its construction, without attempting to offer a comprehensive appraisal of the whole building.

The premises are situated on the west side of Tonbridge High Street, immediately adjacent to the north side of the 'Chequers' public house. Permission to make an examination was kindly given by Mr. W. H. Goddard, and the writer was accompanied by Mr. P. J. Tester whose observations on some points are incorporated in these notes.

As can be seen from Plate III, the façade presents a half-timbered framework with shallow arching braces similar to those visible on the exterior of the *Maison Dieu* at Ospringe, and there assigned to the early sixteenth century.⁹ All the windows on the first and second floors

⁸ *op. cit.*, 43, vii.

⁹ *Maison Dieu, Ospringe* (1958), by S. E. Rigold. M. of W. Official Guide.

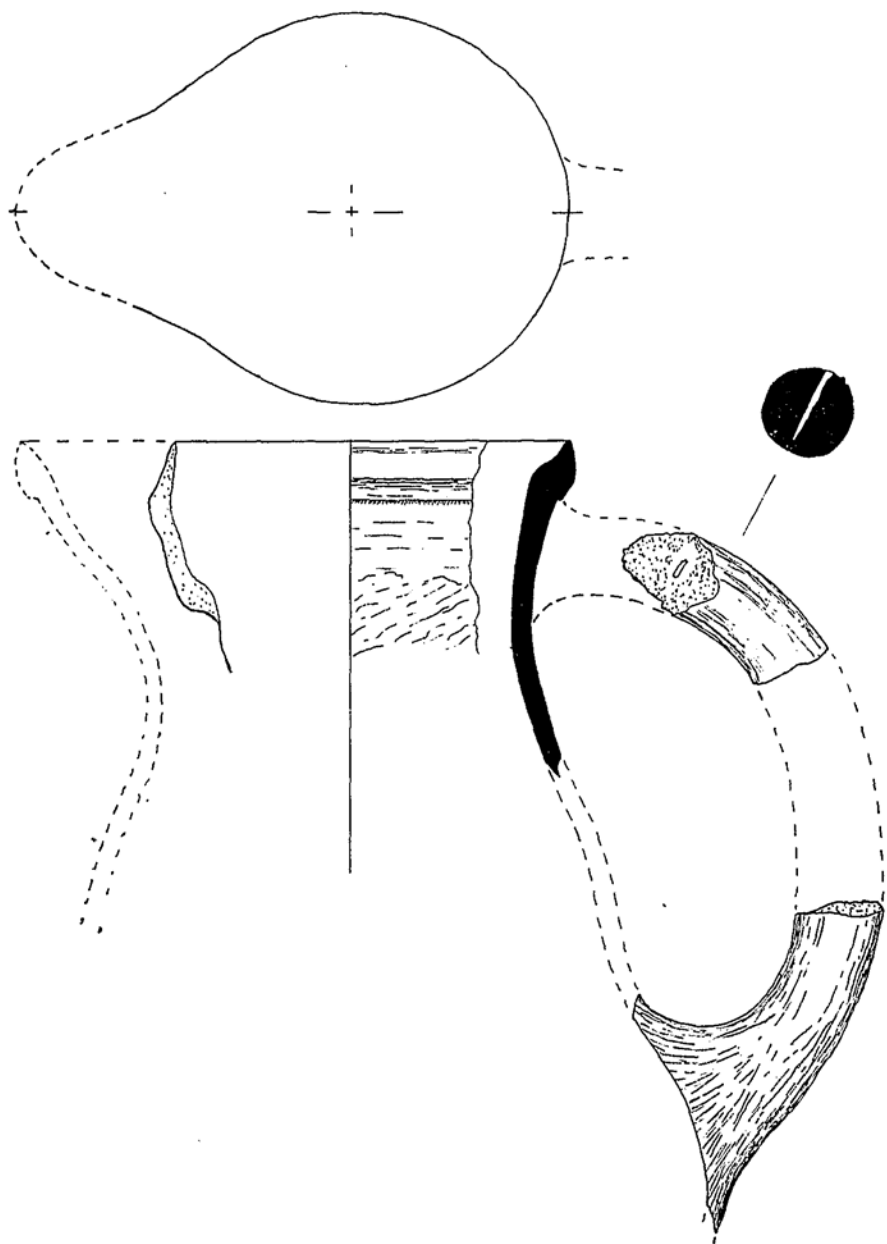


FIG. 3. Jug. Group A.

originally had internal sliding shutters, the grooves for these being still clearly visible.¹⁰

The internal structure at second-floor level is shown in Fig. 4, the tie-beams occurring at the level of the eaves, and the roof being open to the rafters. The collar-purlins and the two main tie-beams (one running from each gable towards the rear of the building, at right-

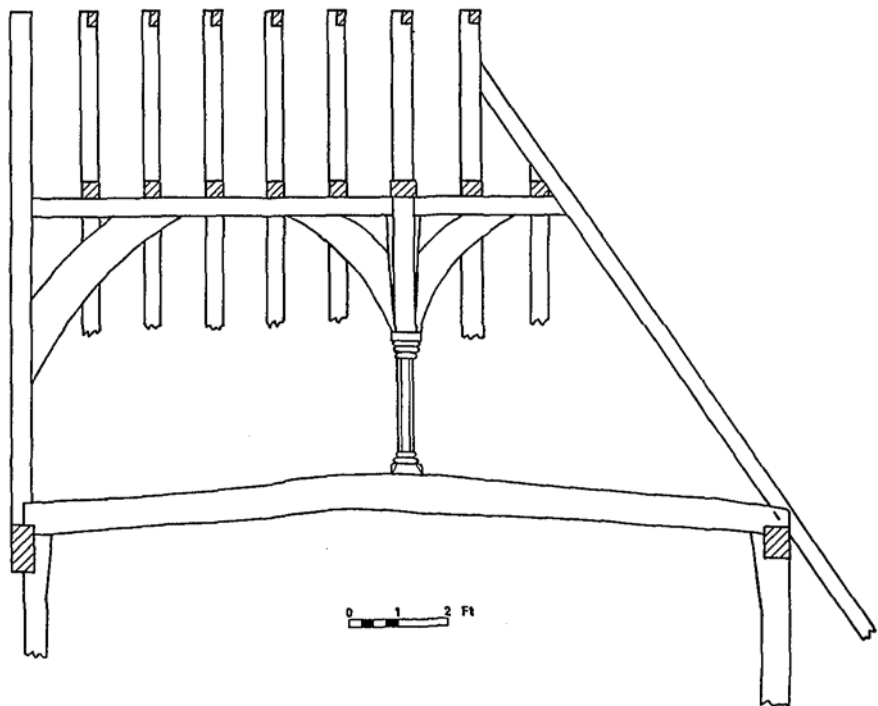


FIG. 4. Construction of roof showing sloping hip at rear of premises, with collar purlin and tie-beam at right-angles to gable facing the street.

angles to the street) are in the same alignment, and thus form an arrangement of which no other example is known to the writer. The resulting insecurity of the structure, as originally built, is shown by the later expedient of bolting in timbers at right-angles across the tie-beams to prevent the wall-plates from spreading.

Both crown-posts are beautifully proportioned (Fig. 5), tapering out above the abacus with flat chamfers which occur again on the four braces. The shaft, between base and abacus, is octagonal in section.

¹⁰ A reconstruction of such a window is illustrated in *The Timber-Framed Houses of Essex* by H. Forrester, page 52.

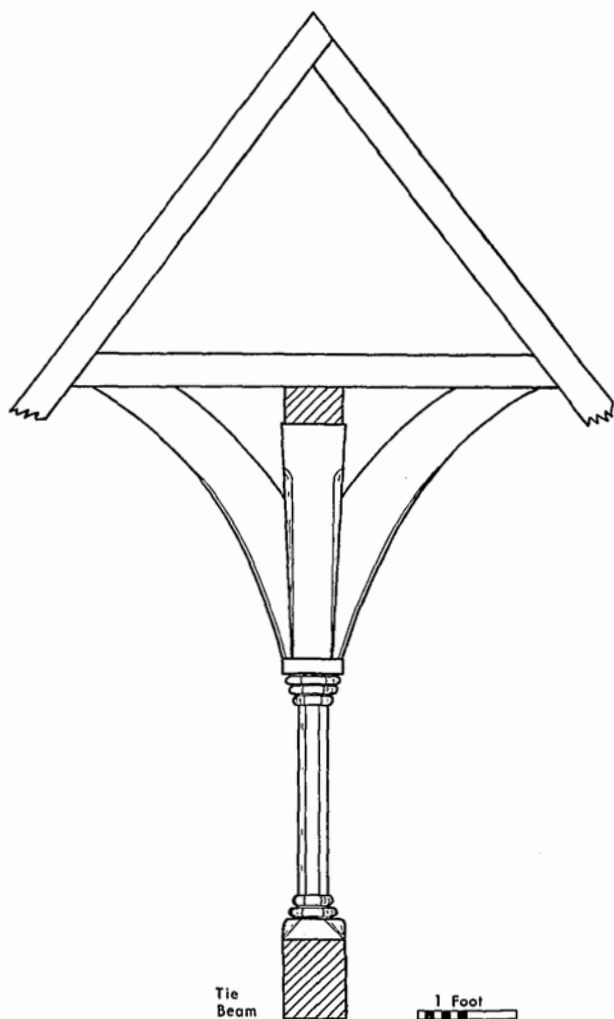


FIG. 5. The braces supporting the collar purlin are omitted from this drawing in order to show the moulded and tapered upper portion of the post. The braces are of the same scantling as those supporting the collar, and are 5 in. in width.

Each space beneath the gables at second-floor level was originally separated by a partition, as shown by stud mortices in the under side of that wall-plate which is in line with the centre gully between the two roofs. Communication between the two apartments was afforded by a doorway with an ogee-shaped head (Fig. 6) mortised into the door jambs and wall-plate above in such a way that it could only have been

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

assembled with the main structure, and its character is therefore of special interest. Its shape is of two ogee curves, with chamfered edges, meeting at the centre where the chamfers combine in a high cut-back V incision. It is closely similar to the heads of two doorways in the old Clergy House at Alfriston, Sussex, giving access from the hall to the service end of the building.

E. R. SWAIN.

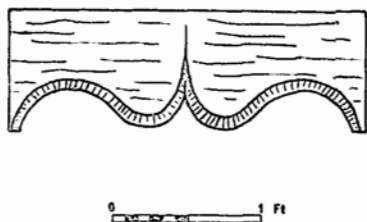


FIG. 6. Moulded head to doorway.

A WEALDEN-TYPE HOUSE IN COBHAM, KENT

The house fronts directly on to the north side of the village street, N.G.R. TQ672684. The earliest reference so far traced is the 1841 tithe map, where the site encompasses three buildings including the one reported here. Later additions have been built to the property; these cover the north and west sides of the original building. The east and south exteriors present a façade of cement-rendered brick up to first-floor level, and then weatherboarding up to the eaves. A typical piece of stylistic evidence, the small gablet, is visible at the east end of the roof (Plate IV).

The original building would seem to have been a two-bay recessed open hall, with a storeyed and jettied east wing. A brick chimney stack was later built at the west end and is presumably contemporary with the inserted floor in the hall. The recessed hall has the south wall now built out to the eaves, resulting in a first-floor wall of some 2 ft. 4 in. in thickness.

Ground Floor Plan (Fig. 7)

The south wall at this level has been largely removed, and replaced by a glass front for the shop now occupying all of the ground floor. The two principal posts on the south side of trusses C and D have been cut away at the level of the inserted floor and replaced by steel tube supports. Similar supports are positioned at points below the centres of these trusses, supporting the floor. The intermediate ceiling beams between trusses C and D are 4 in. in width, and an exposed depth of

2 in., compared with the extant original beams measuring 6 in. \times 4 in. at the storeyed east end. The corresponding beams in the chimney bay are of varying sizes and include re-used timber. The main floor beams spanning trusses C and D have mortises 3 in. long by $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. width at $8/8\frac{1}{2}$ in. centres in the case of D, and 10 in. centres in that of C, on the underside revealing the existence of earlier partitioning. One large

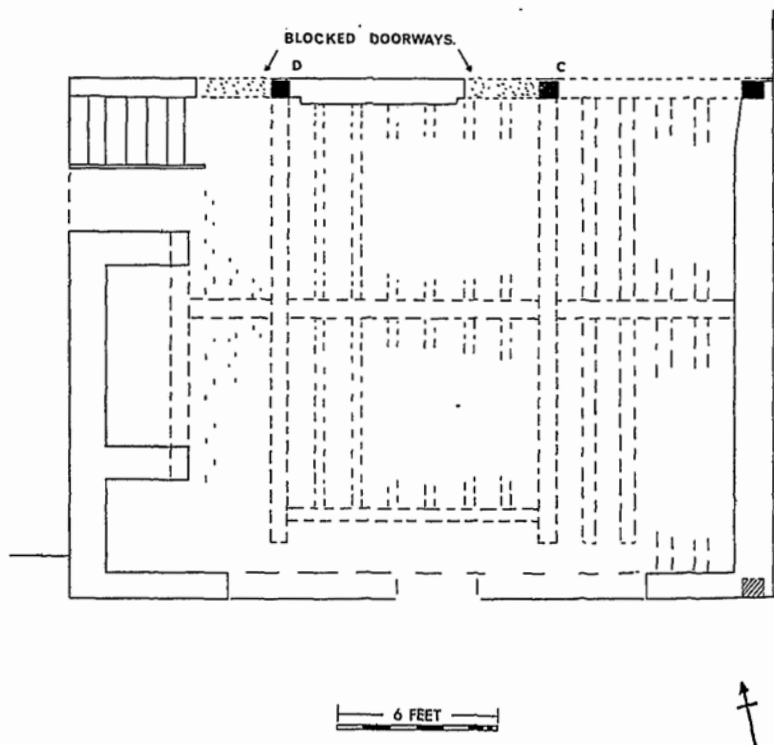


FIG. 7. Ground Floor Plan.

peg-hole 2 ft. 10 in. from the north end of D, indicates a probable doorway at this point. This beam has signs of a flat chamfer 2 in. in depth, but the timber generally is too decayed or defaced to retain a chamfer stop. A curved beam supporting the stack over the fireplace is 11 in. deep with a chamfer $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. vertically and 3 in. horizontally. Blocked doorways, or rather covered doors, exist in the positions shown.

First Floor Plan (Fig. 8)

This shows more of the original scheme, with the storeyed east wing probably much the same as first built. The inserted stack in the

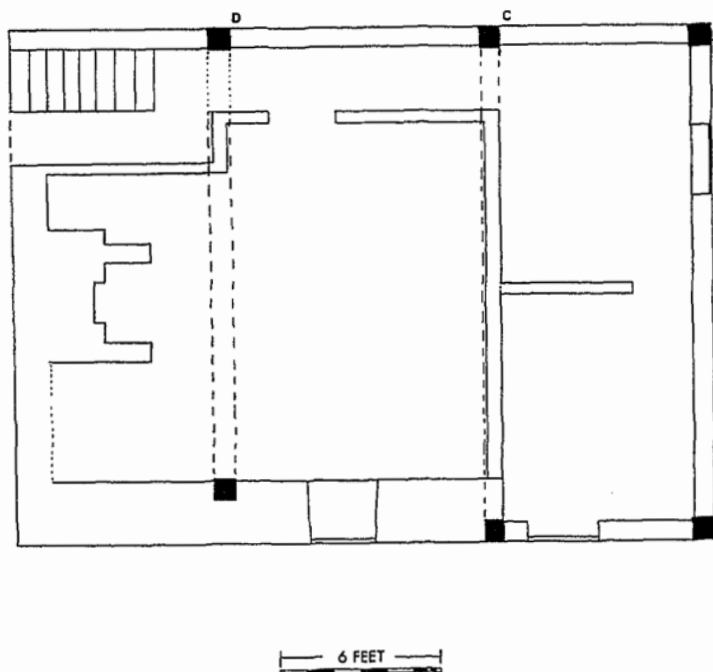


FIG. 8. First Floor Plan.

west bay has cupboards built either side and precise measurement within these was not practicable. In order to allow the insertion of the staircase and corridor on the North, with a partition wall to the rafters, the tie-beam of truss D has been cut away, in hair-raising fashion, over the corridor. This has a flat ceiling, above which there is presumably some method of strapping the mutilated tie-beam back to the north principal post.

Partition Truss, Elevation from West Side (Fig. 9)

The broken lines show the cut-away ground floor wall on the South, the later floor and internal walls. Above the tie-beam, to the level of an inserted ceiling resting on the collars, the infilling is cob, the face of which, and of the timber framing, is encrusted with soot. The crown post is plain, and all braces are tenoned and pegged.

Main Truss, Elevation from East Side (Fig. 10).

This truss divides the original two-bay hall and again has a principal post partially removed, in addition to the section cut from the tie-beam.

The latter has a concave $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. chamfer on both underside faces, with a plain stop. The crown post is moulded as illustrated (Fig. 11) and has four symmetrical braces rising to the collar and collar purlin. On the west face of the tie-beam, approximately 5 ft. North of centre, there are some incisions which were cut with a sharp blade when the wood was hard and comparatively new. This much is evident in spite of later decay, and a possible interpretation is 1411 in arabic numerals.

The principal rafters above each truss are 7 in. wide compared with $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. above the middle bay. The collars within the trusses are 6 in. compared with 4 in. in the rest of the hall.

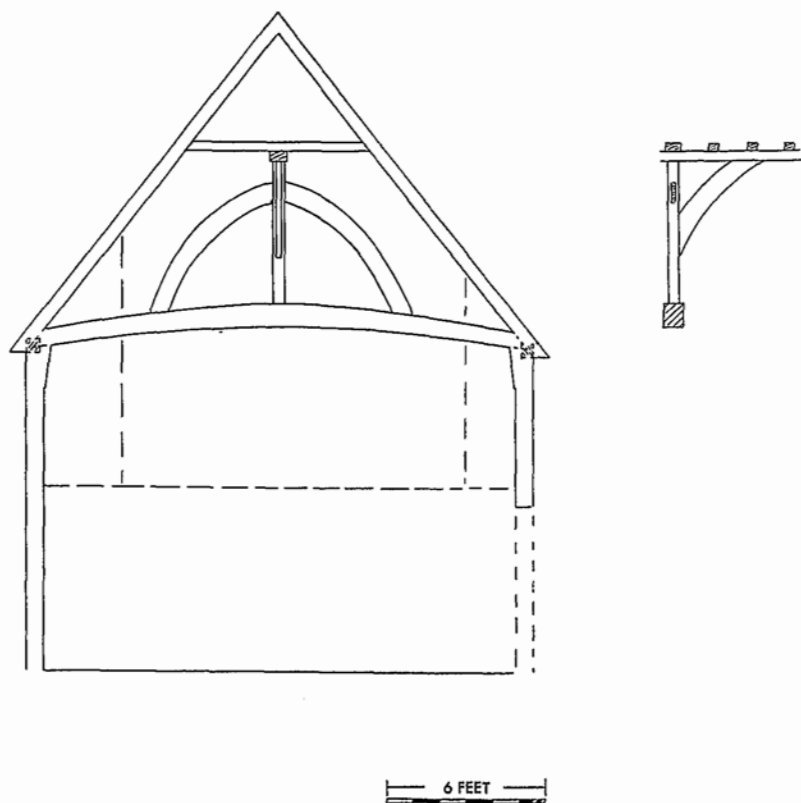


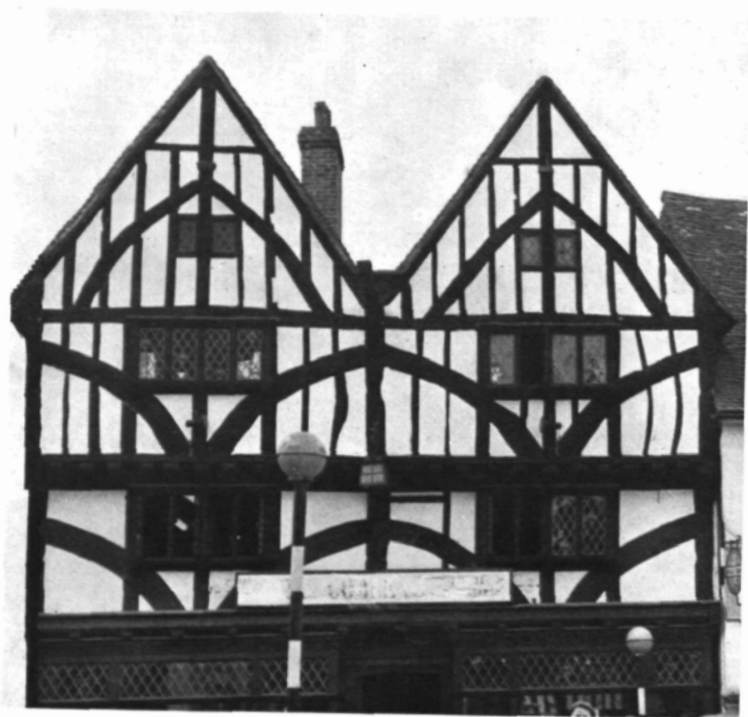
FIG. 9. Partition Truss; elevation from west side.



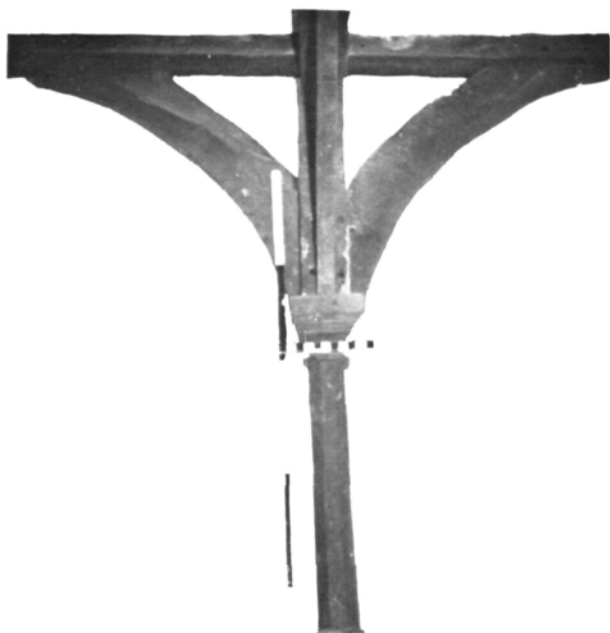
Ragstone and brick footings.



Sectioned oven with entrance in foreground.



Tonbridge High Street. Timber-framed building.



A. Crown-post, east elevation.



B. Cobham. Wealden-type house. Exterior from S.E. showing gablet.

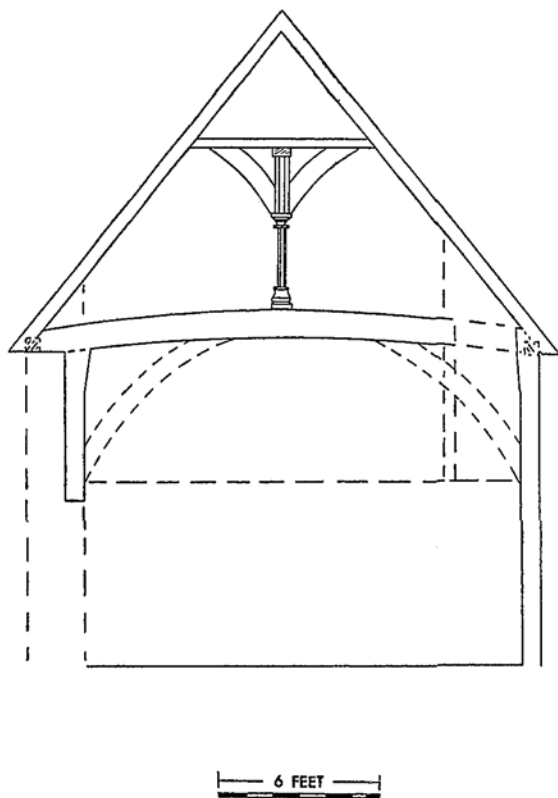


FIG. 10. Main Truss; elevation from east side.

Summary

With regard to dating, a comparison of the two crown posts is helpful. The moulded one (Fig. 11) has an octagonal trunk of length 2 ft. 4 in. between base and cap below the braces, indicating by this elongation an established fifteenth-century trend.¹¹ The plain crown post has a length of only 1 ft. 9 in. below the brace to collar purlin, with 3 ft. 7 in. above. This brace is also more substantial than those on the moulded crown post. The dimensions here suggest an earlier date,¹² perhaps a transitional phase between the fourteenth and fifteenth century. It is possible then, that where the moulded crown post of the main truss was open to view, the carpenter was content to conform to newly-established fashion, and use a tall crown-post of

¹¹ J. T. Smith. *Medieval Roofs. A Classification.* *Arch. J.*, 115 (1958), 116.

¹² *Ibid.*

long and slender trunk with correspondingly shorter braces, achieving a more attractive effect. However, when erecting the crown post at the east end of the hall, where decoration and appearance were of little importance, he preferred to use a post with a longer, heavier brace. The transitional phase between the two styles suggests an early fifteenth-century dating. If the incisions on the great tie-beam can be interpreted as 1411, this would agree most satisfactorily with the dating propounded by the stylistic evidence above. The use of arabic numerals at this period is unusual but not unknown. Sutton Rectory in Sussex is a fourteenth century aisled hall and contains a series of carpenters' marks using arabic numerals.¹³ Arabic numerals in a late fourteenth-century MS,¹⁴ provide another example of early usage of this type of figuring. The most likely explanation of the Cobham marks

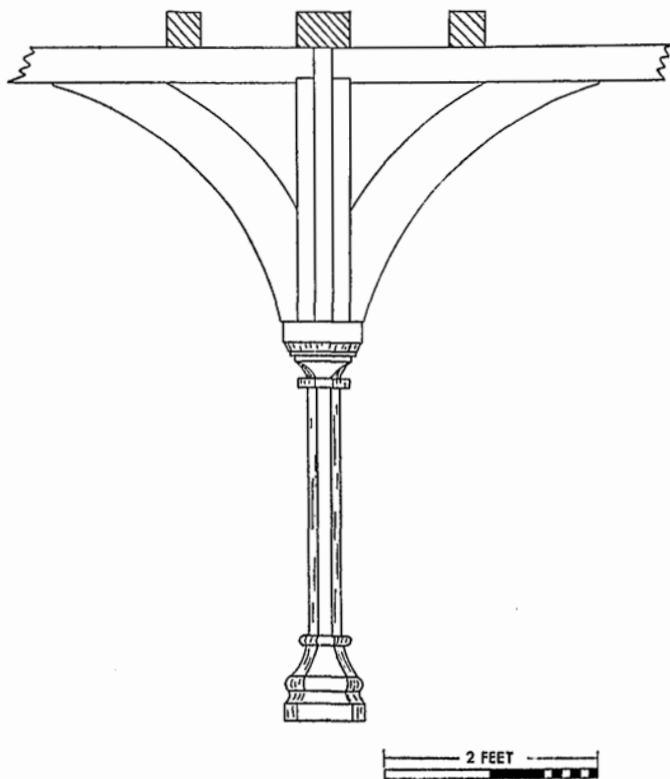


FIG. 11. Crown-post; elevation from south side (front of house).

¹³ W. D. Peckham, *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, LXV, 66.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 67.

is that they too are carpenters' marks. Against this interpretation, is the lack of any similar marks on accessible timbers in the same building which has been closely scrutinized, and in view of this the possibility of the marks 1411 being a date of construction cannot be discounted.

The later insertion of a floor over the hall, and the building of a fireplace and chimney, presumably took place during the sixteenth century.¹⁵ Much later, probably in the nineteenth century, the house became a shop with the drastic alterations on the south side already noted. In 1939, when much repair work was carried out, the present owner recalls seeing the original cornice pieces supporting the wall plate in front of the recessed hall. These brackets are still presumably *in situ* behind the false south wall.

E. R. SWAIN.

A ROMAN SETTLEMENT BETWEEN BEXLEY AND CRAYFORD

During 1959 indications of a Roman settlement were revealed by gravel digging within 100 yards of the river Cray, close to the boundary between Bexley and Crayford, at National Grid Reference TQ50997441. Through the assistance of the Bexley Borough Librarian, Mr. P. E. Morris, F.L.A., and with the support of Bexley Council, a small group of our members was allowed to carry out a small-scale excavation to follow-up the initial discovery.¹⁶ The general conclusions regarding the nature of the site are summarized herewith.

A thin stratum of occupation debris was revealed in the face of the gravel pit, about a foot from the surface, resting on clean river sand and gravel at approximately 18.5 O.D., this being 2 ft. lower than the surface of the river at time of recording (June 1960). No definite footings were traced, but some irregular patches of chalk rubble could have been either eroded foundations or floors. Our examination of the dark occupation-layer produced an abundance of third- and fourth-century pottery intermingled with pieces of painted wall plaster and Roman roof tiles. Eight coins were also found and are described below. A notable feature was the absence of material earlier than the third century.

Apparently the greater part of the occupation area had been destroyed by the gravel diggers before the site came under observation, and we soon formed the opinion that prolonged excavation would not add very much to our knowledge. Most likely the buildings were mainly of timber without the usual flint-rubble footings, and the painted plaster

¹⁵ M. W. Barley, *The English Farmhouse and Cottage*, 43, 63.

¹⁶ Those chiefly concerned were Messrs. J. E. L. Caiger, M. A. Crane and D. Stephenson. Mr. Caiger did the surveying and took the levels. A note on the discovery appeared in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXXVI, xlvi.

and some pieces of hypocaust flue-tile suggested that the settlement might be classed tentatively as a villa. Possibly it stood higher in relation to the river in Roman times than now, for evidence in this respect which has been produced for the Thames¹⁷ would apply in some measure to its tributaries. But for a considerable time before the modern embankment of the Cray at this point the low-lying ground on either side must have been subject to flooding, which could account for the exiguous state of the remains uncovered by our digging.

Mr. A. L. F. Rivet, F.S.A., has claimed that the Roman *Noviomagus*, mentioned in the early third-century Antonine Itinerary, 'can be firmly anchored near Crayford'¹⁸ and the present discovery is a further indication of fairly intensive settlement in Roman times near the intersection of the Cray and Watling Street only three furlongs to the north-east. About a quarter of a mile to the north-west a Roman burial in a lead coffin was recorded by F. C. J. Spurrell in *Arch. Cant.* XII (1878), p. 429.

Coins

These have been examined at the British Museum and the following details have kindly been supplied:

Julia Mamaea. AR *den.* Rev. VESTA. Ref. *R.I.C.*¹⁹ 360. A.D. 222-235.

Unidentified. *Æ.* Radiate of late third century.

Claudius II. *Æ.* Rev. AEVQITAS AVG. Ref. *R.I.C.* 14. A.D. 268-70.

Claudius II. *Æ.* Rev. VICTORIA AVG. Ref. *R.I.C.* 104. A.D. 268-70.

Constantine the Great. *Æ.* Rev. BEATA TRANQVILLITAS. VOTIS XX. A.D. 320-4.

Theodora. *Æ.* Rev. uncertain. A.D. 337-341.

Unidentified (Constantinian) *Æ.* c. A.D. 330-40.

Constantius II or Constans. *Æ.* Rev. GLORIA EXERCITVS (1 standard). Ref. *L.R.B.C.*²⁰ I., 1028. A.D. 337-41.

All the finds recovered from this site, including the coins and a considerable quantity of pottery, are now in store at the Bexleyheath Reference Library.

P. J. TESTER.

¹⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, XVIII, 310.

¹⁸ *Antiquity*, No. 117, March 1956, XXX.

¹⁹ *Roman Imperial Coinage*, ed. H. Mattingly and others.

²⁰ *Late Roman Bronze Coinage*, by Carson, Hill and Kent.

A DECAPITATED BURIAL AT CUXTON

The skeleton shown in the accompanying photograph (Plate V) was found at Cuxton in October 1962 on the south-east side of the main road (A228) and was uncovered by our members Mr. E. R. Swain, Mr. A. C. Harrison and myself.²¹ It lay facing roughly south-west, in loamy soil, at the top of the road cutting, just outside the front garden fence of a bungalow called 'Wayside' (National Grid Ref. TQ 712665) where Roman pottery was found about ten years previously.²² The present occupier of the bungalow had indicated to Mr. Swain and myself the exact spot outside the fence where two small vessels, still in her possession, were found about that time by her late husband, Mr. H. H. Martin. Our subsequent exploratory excavation around this point revealed the unsuspected presence of the skeleton, and it now seems not improbable that the vessels had, in fact, been originally placed at the feet of the body. A narrow trench dug by Mr. Martin down the slope of the bank had presumably uncovered the pots and destroyed the feet of the skeleton. The edge of this trench—re-opened by our digging—can be seen in the foreground of the photograph. (Plate V.)

The smaller of the pots (Fig. 12) is of the same general form as *Camulodunum* 214/5 or *Richborough* 217 and may be referred to the later half of the first century. The other has lost its rim but seems to have been a small jar of a common type.

The axis of the shallow grave was almost parallel to the road which is itself the modern successor of the ancient terrace track commonly known as the Pilgrims' Way.²³ Due to the acidity of the soil the skeleton was poorly preserved, although enough bones remained to provide evidence of sex, age and stature. The main point of interest is that the corpse had obviously been decapitated at time of burial and the head placed between the knees.

Mr. T. C. Lethbridge, F.S.A., has suggested that probably the decapitation was a *post-mortem* ritual intended to prevent the dead person's ghost 'walking'. Some abnormality of character—possibly related to a diseased physical condition not apparent in the surviving bones—may have caused fear that the deceased's spirit might return to annoy the living. Mr. Lethbridge informs me that he has found a number of similar decapitations in Romano-British cemeteries in the Cambridge region.

In a very full report which Dr. I. W. Cornwall has made on the bones, he states that the skeleton was probably that of a woman aged about twenty, whose height was approximately 4 ft. 10 in. The

²¹ Permission for the excavations was kindly given by the K.C.C. Roads Department.

²² *Arch. Cant.*, LXV, 193.

²³ *Arch. Cant.*, LXIV, 23.

skull was broad with a cranial index of about 80. Attention is drawn to the slight degree of wear of the teeth and this is compared to the very worn-down condition of those of some Early Iron Age people of comparable individual age which Dr. Cornwall has studied.²⁴ In his opinion this militates against the Cuxton skeleton's being of great antiquity.

In the grave filling there occurred a small skull fragment of a second individual, which suggests that there may have been other graves in the vicinity and that successive interments in the same area led to disturbance of previous burials. In this connection it is interesting to note that about sixty years ago a skeleton was dug up hereabouts and later reburied in the churchyard on the coroner's orders. The find-spot

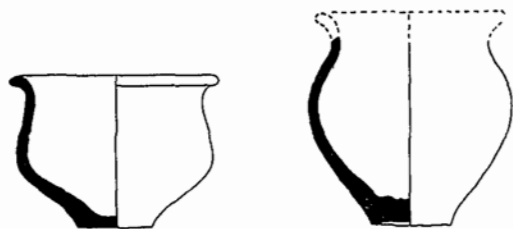


FIG. 12. Two small Romano-British pots of grey ware, stated to have been found near the Cuxton burial ($\frac{1}{2}$).

is described vaguely as 'on the hill near the church',²⁵ but this could be applied quite aptly to the provenance of the 1962 discovery, and suggests the possibility that all these remains were related to a group of roadside burials comprising a regular cemetery.

In times past a good deal of Romano-British material has been found in this locality. Remains of a Roman building exist in the churchyard,²⁶ and cremation burials have come to light from the site of the 'White Hart',²⁷ both of which are within 150 yards of the 'Wayside' burial.

In conclusion I wish to express thanks to Dr. Cornwall and Mr. Lethbridge for their kind assistance and interest in this matter.

P. J. TESTER.

²⁴ *Arch. Jour.*, 110 (1954), 66-78.

²⁵ Referred to in *The South Eastern Gazette*, Maidstone, 14th June, 1904, in reporting an excursion of the London Geologists' Association to Cuxton, Halling, Wouldham and Aylesford.

²⁶ The site is marked on the O.S. maps. I was recently shown Roman tiles found here in grave digging and the Rector tells me that foundations have been encountered in the same way.

²⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, XXV, lxxvii. Recent research has been unable to confirm Payne's report of a Roman building in the Rectory garden, which is on the opposite side of the road to the 1962 burial.

A PREHISTORIC SADDLE-QUERN FROM BEXLEY

A brief note in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXVI, lxvii, recorded the recent discovery of a saddle-quern in the commercial gravel workings near the river Cray (National Grid Reference TQ505741). This merits a fuller description as querns of this non-rotary type are by no means common and the Bexley example is a particularly good specimen. (Plate VI.)

It was found by one of the gravel company's workmen after it had been caught up in the bucket of the mechanical excavator. When shown to me it still had gravel adhering to its under side, and I concluded that it had lain at the junction of the Flood Plain gravel with the alluvium. No pottery or other datable material was found in association, and although flint flakes occur at this level in the workings they seem to be Mesolithic and cannot, therefore, have any connection with the quern.

The accompanying photographs sufficiently indicate the form of the quern which is 20 in. long and weighs 39 lb., the material being calcareous sandstone from the Hythe Beds²⁸ which are nowhere nearer than eleven miles from the find-spot. Possibly it was transported by water from its place of origin in the Medway area, up the Thames, Darent and Cray. Its undamaged condition and occurrence not far from the present course of the last-named stream suggest that it may even have been lost in transit.

As the general type persisted from the Neolithic to the Early Iron Age it cannot be closely dated, but it may be significant that a hoard of Late Bronze Age implements occurred half a mile to the south-east on higher ground overlooking the site.²⁹ By the end of the Early Iron Age, rotary querns were in use in this district as shown by the finding of part of one in a ditch with pottery of that period at Cold Blow, Bexley.³⁰

Dr. E. C. Curwen has written on the subject of querns in *Antiquity* 11 (1937), and has described how saddle-querns were used. Egyptian models show the operator kneeling at the higher end and grasping in both hands a bolster-shaped stone, or 'rider'. This was worked backwards and forwards along the sloping face of the quern. Grain was fed on to the nearer end of the lower stone, whence it worked down the slope while being crushed, and finally fell from the far end in the form of meal.

Longitudinal wear marks which such usage would produce are not

²⁸ This information was kindly supplied by the Geological Survey and Museum, through the good offices of Mr. G. de G. Sieveking, F.S.A.

²⁹ *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI, 232.

³⁰ *Arch. Cant.*, LXXII, 186. The quern fragment there mentioned has been shown to me by Mr. J. E. L. Caiger and it was obviously of rotary type.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

evident on the Bexley quern, the working face of which has apparently been shaped into a shallow curve by pecking or pounding, probably with a stone implement. This does not imply that the quern had never been used, for periodical dressing of the surface would be necessary to maintain its efficiency. It has been suggested that some of the heavily bruised round hammer-stones frequently found on prehistoric sites may have been used for quern roughening.

Bexley Council, on whose property the discovery was made, has allowed the quern to be placed on indefinite loan to Maidstone Museum.

P. J. TESTER.

A THIRTEENTH-CENTURY BOWL FROM GRAVESEND

In November of 1961, during trenching for drainage in East Crescent Road, Gravesend, an unusual medieval bowl of grey coarseware was excavated at a depth of 4 feet. The bowl was submitted to Mr. J. G. Hurst of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Ministry of Works, and this short note is based on his remarks.

This interesting and unique bowl, as can be seen from the accompanying figure 13, has been deeply scored on the inside with a seven-toothed comb. It is clear that this grooving is not decorative and must therefore be functional. The fabric has been so much over-fired that it has led to a great deal of blistering, and the bowl is certainly a second, if not a waster. The base is very unusual in its form with the cut off bevel outside, and the flat rather than sagging base. This in itself suggests some special use and it is felt that the maker tried to fire it to a higher temperature, although not very successfully, so that it could be used as a grater or mortar.

It is not possible to date it from the much over-fired fabric, but from the shape of the rim flange, both Mr. Hurst and Mr. Dunning feel that the thirteenth-century date would be in order.

My thanks are due to Mr. Hurst for his remarks on the bowl and for having it drawn. It is now in the Gravesend Historical Society's museum.

E. W. TILLEY.

IRON-AGE SHERDS FROM KESTON

A few Iron-Age sherds have come to light at Baston Manor, Keston. They were found in the topsoil on the side of the valley here by Mr. R. I. Little. N.G.R. 408646. O.S. Map 171. No doubt an outlying site which may have been part of the Roman Villa at Keston further up the valley. Investigation of this site may reveal more detailed structures.

K. D. HORE.

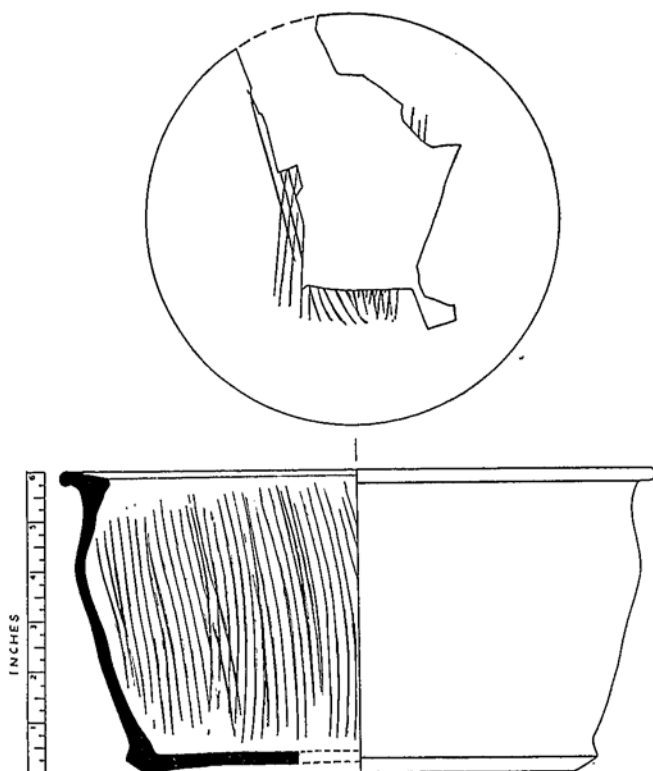


FIG. 13. Thirteenth-century bowl from Gravesend.

IRON-AGE SITE ON BRIDGE HILL

In May 1961 an Early Iron-Age site was found on Bridge Hill, near Canterbury, N.G.R. 189538, above the 200 ft. contour near the summit of the hill where it slopes to the northwest; it is on chalk which is in places irregularly overlaid by clay-with-flints. The area was being developed as a housing estate, and was covered by rough grass, except where a trench had been dug down the hill, and alongside this where the surface had been removed by bulldozing to form a road 15 feet wide.

In the trench were found two U-shaped pits, and adjoining the first was an occupation area. The owners, Canterbury Estate Agency, kindly gave permission for a limited excavation. The filling of the pits and top inch of soil of the occupation area exposed in the road were removed.

Pit 1 was 3 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep and roughly circular. There was a layer of charred wood etc. in the bottom, above which was dark malodorous soil with 'pot-boilers', much pottery and animal bones, the lowest of which were charred; an incomplete clay layer crossed it 4 in. from the top. This pit contained half a spindle-whorl made from a potsherd (Fig. 14, 7), two small pieces of bronze, and a bronze bead (Fig. 14, 11).

Pit 2 was 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. deep and contained a few small pieces of bone, potsherds and a bead (Fig. 14, 10).

The occupation area adjoining Pit I extended right across the road and beyond, and was about 22 ft. wide, the edge being irregular owing to the whole depth of the layer having been removed in places by the bulldozer. This area also contained pottery and bones, most thickly scattered near the pit, part of a quernstone, a speculum coin (Fig. 14, 13), and a bronze fibula (Fig. 14, 9), part of a bronze pin, and some worked flints. A convex scraper was found on the spoil heap.

Further up the hill opposite Pit 2 was a less well-defined dark area, with a few potsherds and a bronze bar with three rivets (Fig. 14, 12).

The Pottery

The pottery from all areas was similar and consisted of:

1. Heavily gritted hard coarse hand-made ware with simple thickened lips or everted rims and flat bases (Fig. 14; 1, 2 and 3).
2. Red or buff thick coarse combed ware derived from typical large storage jars with outward rolled rims and flat bases (Fig. 14; 4).
3. Cordoned and grooved friable reddish or buff ware with black polished surface (Fig. 14; 5 and 6). There was one pedestal base of Swarling type, cf. *Arch. Cant.*, LXVIII, 108, no. 29.
4. Fragments of an amphora, including the handle, which belongs to the earlier Mediterranean type with peaked handles, which Mr. Sheppard Frere says are common imports in pre-conquest Belgic finds (*Arch. Cant.*, LXVIII, 104).

Bronze Objects

1. One-piece fibula of pre-Roman type with simple bilateral spring, straight bow with central groove and one large piercing in the foot (*Camulodunum*, type XII); the pin is missing (Fig. 14, 9).
2. Two beads, of which one is angular and the other curved (Fig. 14, 10, 11).
3. Small slightly curved bar with 3 rivets (Fig. 14, 12). There were also 3 other fragments of bronze, probably parts of pins or fibulae.

Coin

A broken speculum coin, D. Allen class 1.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

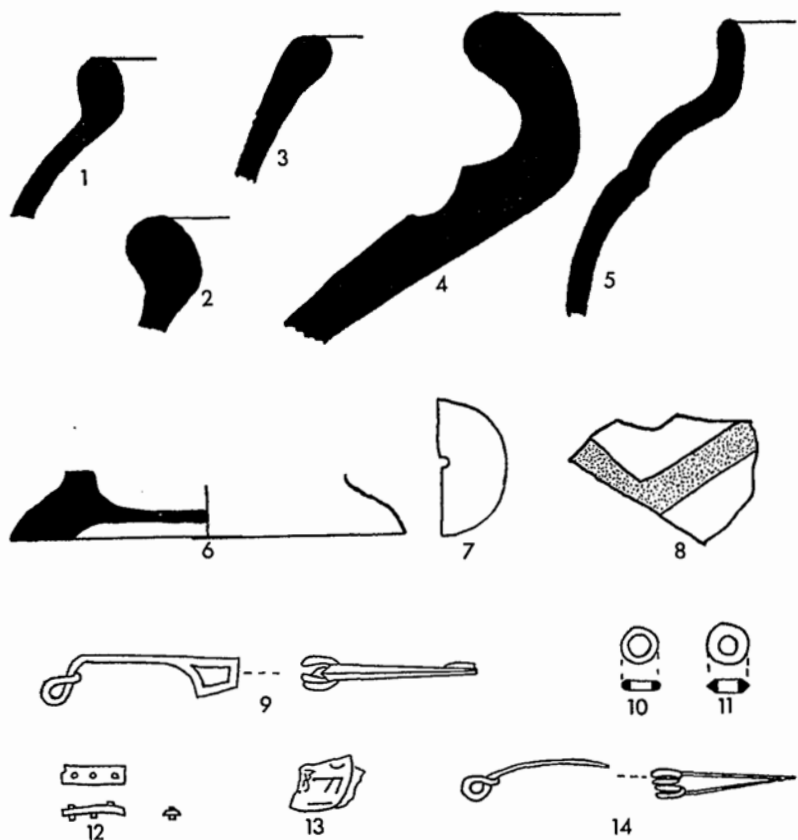
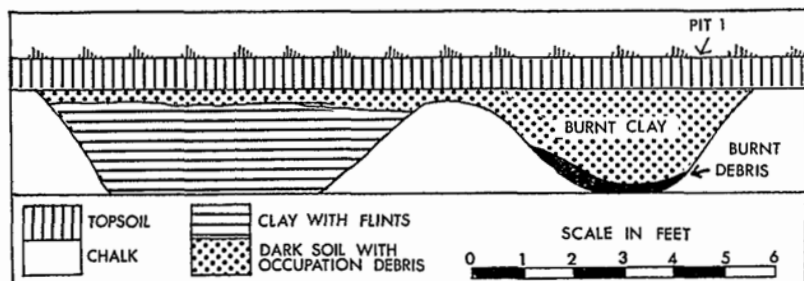


FIG. 14. Bridge Hill Site. Section. Pottery 1-8. Small finds 9-14.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

Mr. R. Chaplin and Miss J. Coy reported on the animal bones, and of 152 determinations the ratio of species was: ox 6; sheep (goat) 5; pig 3; horse 2 fragments only. The detailed report is available for any who are interested.

The pottery from this site is identical with that found in the pre-Roman Belgic sites at Trenley Park Wood, Sturry (*Arch. Cant.* LXXII 197-8), and Dumpton Gap, and doubtless represents a settlement of the later independent Belgic period.

Other Iron-Age finds further along the downs include a single sherd of hæmatite coated ware with a black chevron (Fig. 14, 8), among other Iron-Age sherds in a ploughed field N.G.R. 207516; this is similar to those found at Dumpton Gap.

A bronze fibula was found N.G.R. 198525 (Fig. 14, 14), with simple bilateral spring and grooves near the edges of the bow. The foot and pin are missing.

I wish to thank the Canterbury Estate Agency for permission to investigate the site, Mrs. J. Roberts for help on the site, Mr. Frank Jenkins for advice, and Mr. Chaplin and Miss Coy for their report on the animal bones.

M. B. WATSON.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

This year's notes contain an innovation in incorporating a list of sites discovered or re-identified by officers of the Archæology Division of the Ordnance Survey, Chessington—Messrs. A. Clark, C. F. Wardale and A. Phillips—during their field work in 1962-3. Their entries are distinguished by the initials O.S.

ASHFORD

In June, 1963, Mr. A. G. James, of The Duck Farm, Kennington, found a cremation burial while digging in his garden (N.G.R. 013459). The find was brought to the attention of the museum by Mr. E. T. Mortimore and given to the museum by Mr. James. (Acc. no., 57. 1963).

The cremation was contained in an urn, accompanied by a dish and a bowl.

1. Jar, with thickened, out-turned rim; coarse, gritty grey ware, with orange-buff surface. Ht. $9\frac{3}{4}$ in., rim: $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. Used as cinerary urn.
2. Bowl, with curved side, flat bottom and plain lip; ware as above. Inside burnished. Diam. 7 in.; depth: $2\frac{1}{4}$ in.
3. Dish, with curved side, flat bottom and plain lip; ware as (1) and (2). Diam. $8\frac{1}{2}$ in.; depth: $1\frac{3}{4}$ in.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

The three vessels are of the same ware. They are certainly Iron Age in fabric but may well date to the early part of the Roman period. The bowl and dish seem to be native versions of the finer Gallo-Belgic examples which occur, for instance, at Colchester in periods I-VI (Form 17)³¹. The dish may have been used as a lid to the cinerary urn.

D. B. KELLY.

BENENDEN

Site of bloomery in Cinder Field, 140 yards south of Netters Hall. Much early-type cinder, possibly Roman.

Reference: Map of Benenden, 1695, surveyed by Thos. Hodskinson (in the possession of the Parish Clerk).

Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TQ73 S.E. Kent LXX S.E. N.G.R. TQ77503295.

O.S.

BEXLEY

Mr. L. C. Dale has recently found a thirteenth-century lead seal matrix (Fig. 15) during his excavations on the site of a medieval building which lies on the bank of the River Cray, opposite the flour mill and some 300 feet away from the Cray House garden excavations described in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI, xlv, and LXXII, 211. He tells me that the matrix was found 6 in. away from a late thirteenth-century jug with a stabbed handle and that it was in the same context.

The matrix bears the inscription

+S' ALICIE FIL' WALTERI
(Sigillum Alicie Filie Walteri)
(Seal of Alice daughter of Walter)

It falls readily into a thirteenth-century grouping. Francis Steer, in an article on early seals at Arundel Castle (*Essays in mem. Sir Hilary Jenkinson*, 1962, 33), has drawn attention to a seal of Thomas, son of William de Wiggenhall, circa 1280-85, which is inscribed SIGILL. THOME. F. IOHIS and bears a petalled design similar to that on the Bexley matrix.

L. R. A. GROVE.

BICKNOR

Samples of clay daub dated 1628 from Bicknor Court were given to me by Mr. Frank Greasley and submitted to Mr. J. R. B. Arthur for analysis. It will be remembered that earlier samples of clay and straw, dated to the 1580s, from Bicknor Court were discussed by Mr. Arthur in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXVI, 192.

³¹ *Camulodunum*, 221.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

Triticum turgidum L. Wheat. Two spikelets.

Avena sativa L. Cultivated Oats. Three examples.

Scandix pecten-veneris L. Shepherd's Needle. Two seeds

In each case the lower portion of the fruit was found.

Sinapis arvensis L. Charlock. Three seeds.

Also pods of Vetch and broken pieces of cereal straw were present.

Other material, dated 1618, from the same source provided only cereal straw. This straw had practically perished and easily disintegrated when handled.

L.R.A.G.

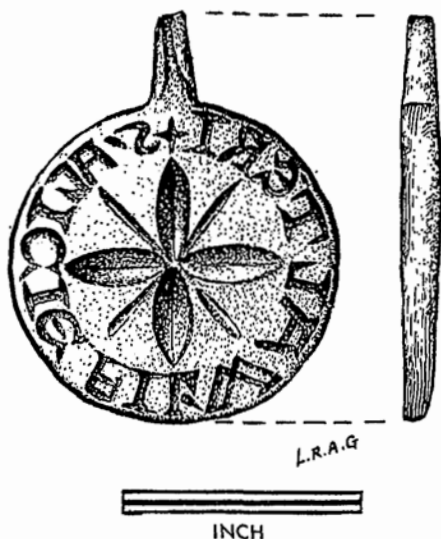


FIG. 15. Medieval Seal from Bexley.

BOUGHTON ALUPH

Site of barrow north of Warren Farm. Visible as a crop-mark, 24.5.1963. Reference: RAF/AP/106G/UK/1443/4179 photograph. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TR04 N.W. Kent LV N.W. N.G.R. TR03204919.

O.S.

BRABOURNE

Remains of a homestead moat at Hampton, probably the site of Hampton manor house. Reference: Hasted's *History of Kent*, VIII, 1798, 22-3. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TR04 S.E. Kent LXV N.E. N.G.R. TR07474386.

O.S.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

BRENCHLEY

Homestead moat in Moat Plats near Vicarage. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TQ 64 S.E. Kent LI S.E. N.G.R. TQ67934448.
O.S.

CHILHAM/SELLING

Earthworks in orchard (formerly Shillinghold Wood) south of Stonestile Farm, Selling. Probably the site of Shillinghold manor. Reference: Hasted's *History of Kent*, III, 1790, 138-40. *V.C.H.*, Kent, III, 1932, 150. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TR04 S.E. Kent XLV S.E. N.G.R. TR060549.

O.S.

COWDEN

Medieval forge on Kent Water 500 yds. south of Bassett's Farm. Pondbay and plenty of cinder. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TQ44 S.E. Kent LIX N.E. N.G.R. TQ49454085.

O.S.

EDENBRIDGE

Small homestead moat beside Kent Brook. Site of Browns Manor. Reference: Somers-Cocks, *Edenbridge*, 1912, 111-9. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TQ 44 N.W. Kent XLIX N.W. N.G.R. TQ42424726.
O.S.

EGERTON

Since Roman finds from the Weald are comparatively rare the discovery of a second century A.D. cremation burial at Coldharbour Farm (N.G.R. 884466) is of interest. The remains were contained in a coarse, globular jar of grey ware, with a cavetto rim. The pottery accompanying the urn included a Samian dish of form 18/31.

Coldharbour Farm lies some 250 yards north of the supposed line of the Roman road from Amber Green junction to Lympne. The find was brought to the attention of the museum by Mr. A. Miles and the pottery given by the farmer, Mr. Fraser. (Acc. no. 3. 1963.)

D.B.K.

ELMSTED

Large circular mound 100 yds. west of Stone Street. Probable site of windmill. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TR14 N.W. Kent LVI S.W. N.G.R. TR13434753.

O.S.

HYTHE

In Hythe Museum there is a circular lead seal matrix of thirteenth

century type which, according to the Museum records, was found in Hythe. The inscription is

+ S' IOH̄IS: COSIN
(Sigillum Johannis Cosin)
(Seal of John Cosin)

The N in Cosin is reversed. A parallel usage is given in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI, 226. The letters are enclosed within two circles and surround an inner design which consists of a central dot with eight small petal-like rays radiating from it.

The back of the seal is plain, with no handle or projection. Diameter $\frac{15}{16}$ in. Thickness $\frac{1}{8}$ in.

L.R.A.G.

LARKFIELD

In 1962 I sent to Mr. J. R. B. Arthur, F.L.S., approximately 1 lb. of clay daub from the timber-framed house which stands on the south side of the London Road opposite the entrance to the road which leads to New Hythe (O.S. 6-in. Kent sheet XXXI S.W., near bench mark 92.3). The house is not later than the early fifteenth century in date and might possibly be of the late fourteenth century. Mr. Arthur has provided me with the following list of plant remains in the clay which was obtained through the kind offices of Mr. R. F. S. Fry-Stone. For the significance of this research see Mr. Arthur's note in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXIV, 194-5.

L.R.A.G.

(Nomenclature according to Clapham, Tutin and Warburg; *Flora of the British Isles*, 2nd edition, 1962)

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Arenaria serpyllifolia L. Thyme-leaved Sandwort. Calyx.

Silene anglica L. Small-flowered Catchfly. Two capsules, calyx and seeds.

CHENOPODIACEAE

Atriplex patula L. Common Orache. 3 seeds.

COMPOSITAE

Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop. Creeping Thistle. 1 seed.

CRUCIFERAE

Lepidium sativum L. Garden Cress. 2 seed pouch.



Skeleton discovered at Cuxton.



Saddle-quern found at Bexley.



Penny of Archbishop Æthelred in Maidstone Museum.



Photograph: J. Williams

Slayhills Saltings cremation burial.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

CYPERACEAE

- ?*Carex flacca* Schreb. Carnation-grass. 2 seeds.
Carex hirta L. Hairy or Hammer Sedge. 2 seeds.
Carex spp. Sedges. 6 seeds.
Scirpus lacustris L. True Bulrush. 3 seeds.

GRAMINEAE

- Agropyron repens* (L.) Beauv. Couch Grass. 2 seeds.
Avena sativa L. Cultivated Oats. 5 grains.
Bromus secalinus L. Rye-Brome. 1 seed.
Cynosurus cristatus L. Crested Dog's tail. Spikelet and many seeds.
Festuca rubra L. Red or Creeping Fescus. 2 seeds.
Holcus lanatus L. Yorkshire Fog. 2 spikelets.
Hordeum murinum L. Wall Barley. 1 seed.
Hordeum sativum. Two-rowed Barley. One grain with rachis.
Hordeum vulgare L. Six-rowed Barley. One lateral grain.
Triticum turgidum L. Rivet Wheat. Spikelet, glumes and rachis.

LABIATAE

- Galeopsis angustifolia* Ehrh. ex Hoffm. Narrow-leaved or Red Hemp-nettle. 2 seeds.
Prunella vulgaris L. Selfheal. 2 calyx and 6 seeds.

PAPILIONACEAE

- Ornithopus perpusillus* L. Birdsfoot. 1 pod.
Trifolium pratense L. var. Red or Broad-leaved Clover. 2 calyx, 1 seed.

PLANTAGINACEAE

- Plantago lanceolata* L. Ribwort. 1 seed.

POLYGONACEAE

- Polygonum convolvulus* L. Black Bindweed. 1 seed.
Polygonum lapathifolium L. Pale Persicaria. 1 seed.
Rumex crispus L. Curled Dock. 3 seeds and fruiting perianth.

RANUNCULACEAE

- Ranunculus repens* L. Creeping Buttercup. 2 achenes.

RUBIACEAE

- Galium aparine* L. Goosegrass or Cleavers. 1 seed.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

- Melampyrum pratense* L. Common Cow-wheat. 10 capsules and many seeds.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

LYMINGE

Three large bowl barrows in West Wood, one with flint core. Reference: *Arch. Journ.*, 40, 1883, 292 (F. C. J. Spurrell). Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TR14 S.W. Kent LXVI N.W. N.G.R. TR136432.

Large area of mine-pits in West Wood and Stowting Rough, for the extraction of ironstone from the Lenham Beds. There is evidence of early ironworking in a Lyminge charter of A.D. 689. Reference: *Arch. Journ.*, 40, 1883, 292 (F. C. J. Spurrell). Birch, *Cart. Sax.*, I, 107, no. 70. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TR14 S.W. Kent LXVI N. W. N.G.R. TR134430.

O.S.

MAIDSTONE

During the excavation of a trench across a concrete floor at the rear of Messrs. Haynes' garage in Ashford Road (N.G.R. 768558) in May, 1963, a Belgic cremation burial was uncovered. The cremated remains were in a pedestal urn of which about one third was left in the side of, the trench, sufficient remaining to reconstruct the section of the vessel. Accompanying the urn were a globular jar and the spring of an iron fibula. The finds were presented to the museum by Mr. R. Haynes (Acc. no. 32. 1963).

1. Pedestal urn, sandy grey ware with a small amount of grit; traces of burnishing on shoulder and pedestal. The lower part of the urn was very friable and it was not possible to ascertain the thickness of the solid, flat-based pedestal. (Fig. 16, no. 1.)
2. Part of globular jar of a greyish-brown ware with grey surface. The outside of the pot and the inside of the rim have been burnished. The weak cordons or corrugations on the shoulder have been roughly tooled as has the decoration on the body. (Fig. 16, no. 2.)

Mr. Bushe-Fox wryly remarked in his Swarling report³² that 'no two urns . . . ever appear to be exactly alike' and there seems to be no exact parallel to the Maidstone example. It is a good, well-modelled example of a pear-shaped urn, reminiscent of Swarling Nos. 3 and 5, with quoit-shaped and flat bases respectively, though No. 3 is plain and No. 5 has grooved decoration. Swarling No. 5 was found in the same grave as No. 2, which has a quoit-shaped base. According to Dunning and Hawkes³³ the base tends to become flatter and more quoit-shaped at the end of the first century B.C. or the beginning of the following century. None of the Swarling pedestal urns is decorated with prominent

³² *Soc. Ant. Rpt.*, V, Swarling, 18.

³³ *Arch. J.*, LXXXVII, 247.

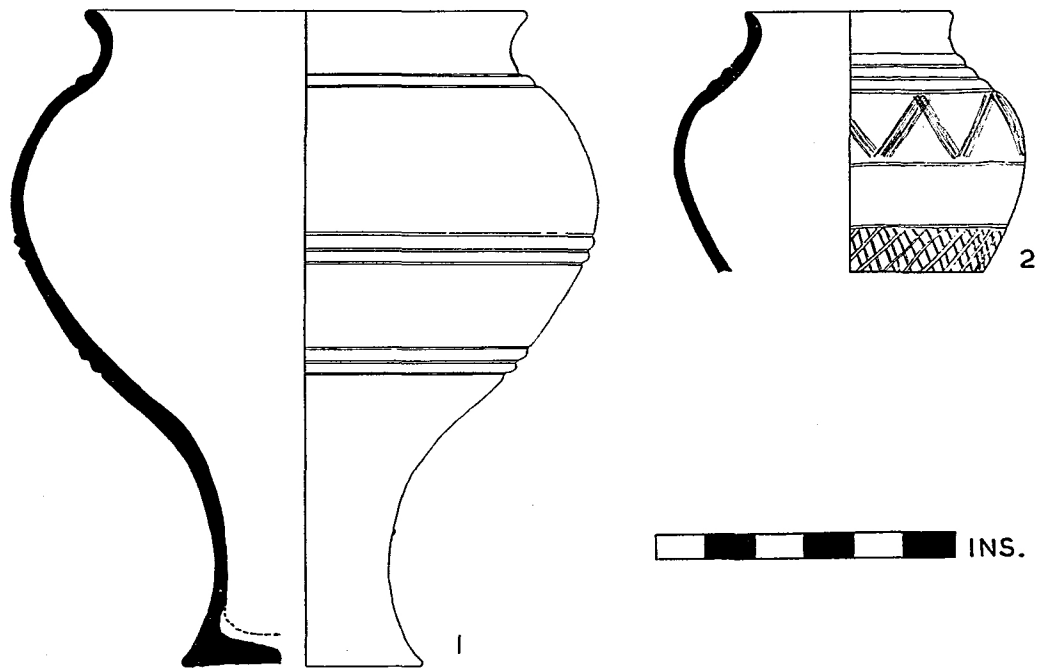


FIG. 16. Pottery from Belgic burial, Maidstone.

cordons like the Maidstone one, but several of the Aylesford urns have cordons. Though they were not recovered complete and are not illustrated separately by Evans, the two pedestal urns shown in his drawing of the 'family-circle' grave pits³⁴ bear a good general resemblance to our urn. This group of burials Evans regarded as the most recent of the Aylesford cemetery and of a date fairly near to the Claudian conquest.³⁵ The two urns from Oldbury,³⁶ decorated with prominent cordons, were dated by Ward Perkins to the close of the pre-Roman period. They are, however, squat, globular vessels, far removed from the 'classic' pedestal urns in shape. Finally, a small, plain pedestal urn from Allington, a Belgic cemetery attributable to the first century A.D., has the same shape as the Maidstone urn.

The accompanying jar is best matched in shape by Swarling No. 13, assigned by Bushe-Fox to the first century A.D. Lattice decoration does not seem to appear until this century and occurs on Belgic jars at Canterbury,³⁷ dated to just before the Roman conquest and at Richborough in the mid-first century A.D. (III, No. 254, with chevron decoration). In his discussion of the Belgic pottery from the Rose Lane sites at Canterbury, Prof. S. Frere shows that corrugated decoration on some vessels, typologically an early feature, lasted in Kent until the Roman conquest.³⁸

The Maidstone burial, then, should be ascribed to the first half of the first century A.D., and probably, despite the good shape of the urn, to the second quarter of the century.

D.B.K.

MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Mr. Christopher Blunt, O.B.E., F.S.A., has supplied the following note on the coin which is figured on plate VII, the photographs for which were made by Miss Elizabeth Glenn:

An important Anglo-Saxon coin in the Maidstone Museum deserves perhaps more attention than it has hitherto received. It is a silver penny of Archbishop Æthelred, 870-889, of whom there are otherwise no more than three coins known. The provenance of the Maidstone specimen is not recorded but it is believed to have been in the collection for some considerable time.

Æthelred's archiepiscopate was in the reign of Alfred and his coins conform to those of Alfred, in this case to a coin of Alfred's type V (British Museum classification). The obverse shows a diademed bust facing to the right and reads: EÐERED/ARCHIEPI; on the reverse

³⁴ Late Celtic Urnfield at Aylesford, *Arch.*, LII, fig. 4, D and F.

³⁵ *loc. cit.*, 69.

³⁶ *Arch. Cant.*, LI, 176 and fig. 16.

³⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, LXVIII, fig. 6, no. 54.

³⁸ *loc. cit.*, 112-14.

is the moneyer's name, EÐELMUND, in the quarters of a quatrefoil filling the field of the coin, voided with a lozenge containing a cross and pellets. The weight is $20\frac{1}{2}$ grains. Ethelmund struck this very type for Alfred.

Of the six archbishops of Canterbury who, in Anglo-Saxon times, placed their names on coins, Æthelred's are by far the rarest and the Maidstone Museum is to be congratulated on its good fortune in owning one of the four surviving specimens.

MAIDSTONE, TOVIL

Illustrated in Fig. 17, no. 2 is a currier's knife of iron which was recently found under the garden path at Abbey Gate Place, Tovil, the fifteenth century timber-framed house of Mr. Richard Hearne (Maidstone Museum accession no. 25.1963 c). This is comparable to an example, labelled 'Shoemaker's paring knife found in Fleet Ditch 1845', in the Guildhall Museum, London (accession no. 21931). Mr. Ralph Merrifield, F.S.A., tells me that much of the material from this source is of sixteenth-century date.

It may be pointed out here that a currier's knife supposedly differs from a shoemaker's in that it has a hammer on the back for nailing leather, for stretching, on a board and a spike for removing it. I suspect that although carriers had a specialized knife shoemakers did not disdain to take advantage of its usefulness.

Not much research work on early leather tools has been done in this country. The Continent, however, has produced several worthwhile books on the subject. From these it is ascertained that two types of leatherworking knife seem to have been in vogue during the period from the late middle ages until the seventeenth century. The Guildhall Museum, London, has several examples of both and I am very much indebted to Mr. Norman Cook and Mr. Ralph Merrifield for allowing me to study them.³⁹

The three knives shown in Fig. 17 are variants of a knife illustrated in Ernfrid Jävert's *Skomod och Skotillverkning från medeltiden till våra dagar* (Stockholm 1938), 118, and dated 1580.⁴⁰ The example from West Hythe, found in 1929 and now in Hythe Museum, is very near in shape to this knife but age has decayed the sweep of the cutting edge and rusted away the spike (Fig. 17, no. 1).

For completeness I have included in my figure another knife in

³⁹ In the Guildhall Museum are a handful of knives with a lunate or crescent blade like a mincing knife's and a long and prominent spike. This type is figured on plate 42c of Jävert ('Medeltida skomakarknivar') and on pages 283 and 284 (Fig. 83) of Dr. Robert Forrer's *Archäologisches zur Geschichte des Schuhs aller Zeiten*, 1942. Mr. W. N. Terry and Miss Swann of Northampton Museum very kindly procured these essential books for me.

⁴⁰ Shown in a copperplate engraving of J. Galle after H. Bros.

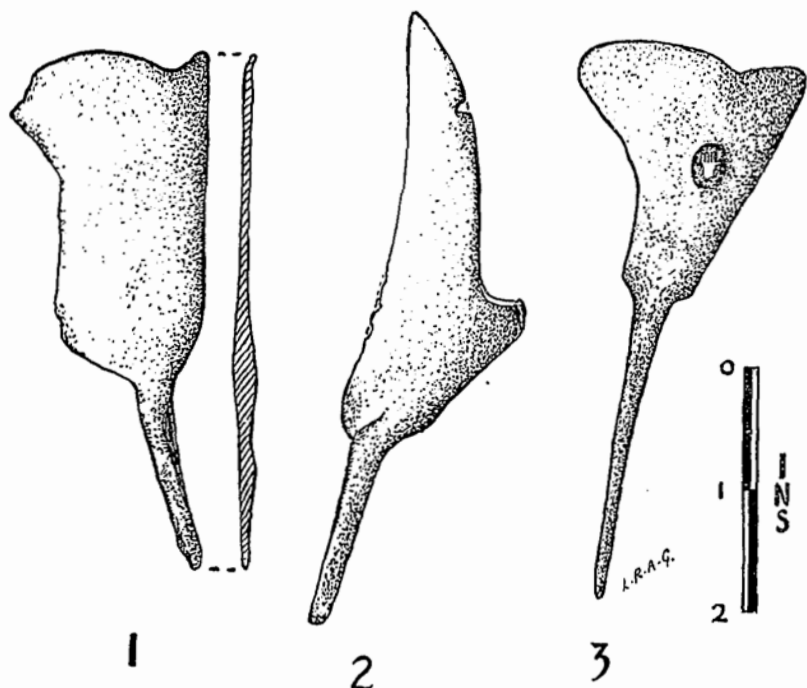


FIG. 17. Curriers' Knives.

1. West Hythe 2. Tovil, Maidstone 3. Finsbury

the Guildhall Museum collection (accession no. 9663). This was found in Finsbury and has an obvious kinship with the West Hythe knife. It bears a cutler's mark in the shape of a human hand. Similar marks were used by several London cutlers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and it is hoped that a more detailed study of them will lead to surer and closer dating.

L.R.A.G.

MILTON REGIS

Together with the Anglo-Saxon jewellery recently purchased by the K.A.S. and described elsewhere in this volume by Mrs. Sonia Chadwick Hawkes there has been added to the Society's collections from the same source a bronze medieval key (Fig. 18). It is of Ward Perkin's type VI, 'dated to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries' (London Museum; *Medieval Catalogue*, 1954, 40). So well has it been used that

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

both side projections on the bow are almost worn away. I am indebted to Mrs. Elizabeth Fry-Stone for the drawing and to Mrs. Sonia Chadwick Hawkes for allowing the use of it for this note.

L.R.A.G.

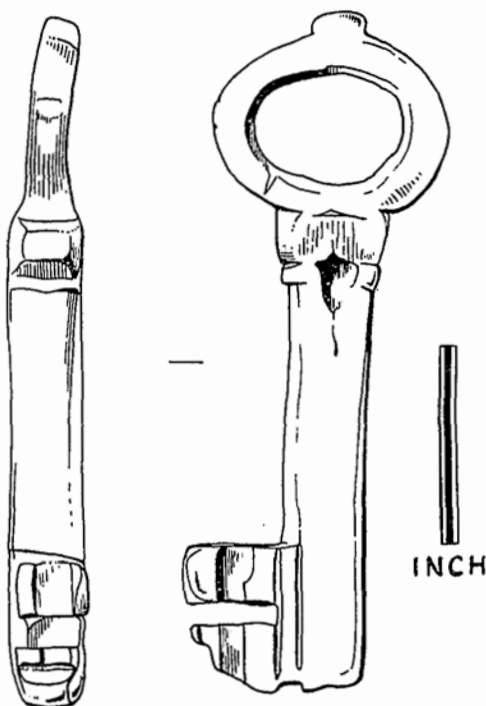


FIG. 18. Medieval Key from Milton Regis.

NEWINGTON

Bowl barrow some 570 yds. west-south-west of Hungar Down. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet, TR13 N.E. Kent LXXIV N.E. N.G.R. TR18223852.

Site of barrow and gazebo on Summer house Hill (called Bitch-borrow Mount in 1685). Reference: Ashbee and Dunning, *Arch. Cant.*, LXXIV, 56. Map of Hythe, 1685, surveyed by Thos. Hill (in Hythe Museum). Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet TR 13 N.E. Kent LXXIV N.E. N.G.R. TR16693773.

O.S.

SELLINDGE

Large bowl barrow in Mount Field, Barrowhill, some 20 yds east of the London-Folkestone road (A.20). Reference: Tythe Map and

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

Apportionments Book, Sellindge, 1838. Map reference: O.S. 6 in. sheet TR13 N.W. Kent LXXIV N.W. N.G.R. TR10873736.

O.S.

SELLING

For an account of earthworks here see under Chilham/Selling.

STELLING

Site of bloomery 260 yds. N.W. of Abbotswood. Extensive scatter of early-type cinder. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet TR14 N.E. Kent LVI S.E. N.G.R. TR16744762.

O.S.

TENTERDEN

Mr. R. F. S. Fry-Stone kindly procured for me a piece of sixteenth century clay-daub from Brattle House and this was submitted to Mr. J. R. B. Arthur, F.L.S., for analysis. The result was as follows:

Triticum turgidum L. Wheat. One spikelet, rachis.

Avena sativa L. Cultivated Oats. One floret.

Lolium perenne L. Rye-grass. One seed.

Festuca ovina ssp. *tenuifolia* (Sibth.) Peterm. Fine-leaved Sheeps Fescue. Three seeds.

Holcus lanatus L. Yorkshire Fog. One empty spikelet.

Mr. Arthur also noted the use of bird feathers with the above materials.

L.R.A.G.

TROTTISCLIFFE

At the beginning of July 1963 there was brought in to Maidstone Museum for identification a circular lead seal matrix which had been found in the back garden of 2 North Downs Terrace, Trottiscliffe, the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Newell. There was also found at the front of the house, not many yards away from the matrix, a late thirteenth century stabbed handle from a vessel made of very fine, light-grey ware.

The inscription commences with a cross potent and reads

S' AGNETIS: FIL: RAdVL
(Sigillum Agnetis Filie Radulfi)
(Seal of Agnes daughter of Ralph)

The lettering surrounds a cross formed of two ragged staves at right angles and having the main axis from the cross potent to the colon between AGNETIS and FIL.

The back of the matrix has a wedge-shaped centering projection directly behind the cross potent of the inscription. Below this, in the

centre of the back, protrude three small hemispheres (diameter $\frac{1}{12}$ in.), two and one. The matrix is also slightly faceted, from the obverse towards the reverse. Diameter $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Average thickness $\frac{1}{16}$ in.

L.R.A.G.

UPCHURCH: SLAYHILLS MARSH

In May, 1962, Messrs. G. Davis, J. Williams, J. Bass and others of Upchurch, brought into the museum a large quantity of Romano-British pottery discovered while they were searching on the Upchurch Marshes. Of particular interest were three cremation burials found on the Slayhills Saltings (N.G.R. 859701). Here, within an area of a few hundred square yards, have been uncovered two finds of jewellery (1864), a coin hoard deposited c. A.D. 140,⁴¹ occupational débris and pottery kilns, of which two were published recently by I. Jackson.⁴²

The pottery from two of the burials was brought to the museum for inspection.

1. (i) Narrow-mouthed, globular jar with everted rim and cordon at junction of neck and shoulder; gritty reddish-brown ware with grey surface. Used as burial urn (Fig. 19, 1).
- (ii) Samian bowl F.31 with potter's stamp SEVE//NI·W (*sic*). SEVERINUS of Lezoux. Antonine period. Almost mint condition. (*Cf.* Oswald and Pryce, Pl. XLVI, 13.) (Fig. 19, 2.)
- (iii) Flagon, barrel-shaped, single handle, of hard, red ware. Very fresh condition (Fig. 19, 3).

Barrel-shaped pottery vessels are derived from similar shaped vessels in glass made in the first century A.D. and were made in Cologne from the end of the first century onwards. An example from St. Sepulchre's cemetery at Canterbury⁴³ should be early second century, but this has the hoops shown by incisions rather than mouldings. At the legionary potteries at Holt a very similar vessel to the Slayhills flagon is dated by Grimes to the early part of the second century A.D.⁴⁴ A flask from Ospringe (No. 335) is dated A.D. 190-260 and a Samian barrel-shaped tumbler from Lullingstone⁴⁵ A.D. 190-200 or a little earlier. Both these vessels have the prominent mouldings of our example, which, on the evidence of the Samian bowl, must belong to the second half of the second century. The ware is not local and Mr. Frank Jenkins tells me that it is certainly an import from the Rhineland.

⁴¹ *Inf.* J. Williams.

⁴² *Arch. Cant.*, LXXVII (1962), 190-4.

⁴³ *Arch. Cant.*, IV (1861), 28 ff., No. 14 and LIII (1940), 135.

⁴⁴ *Y Cymmrodor*, XXI, 157, No. 118.

⁴⁵ *Arch. Cant.*, LXV (1952), 43, S3.

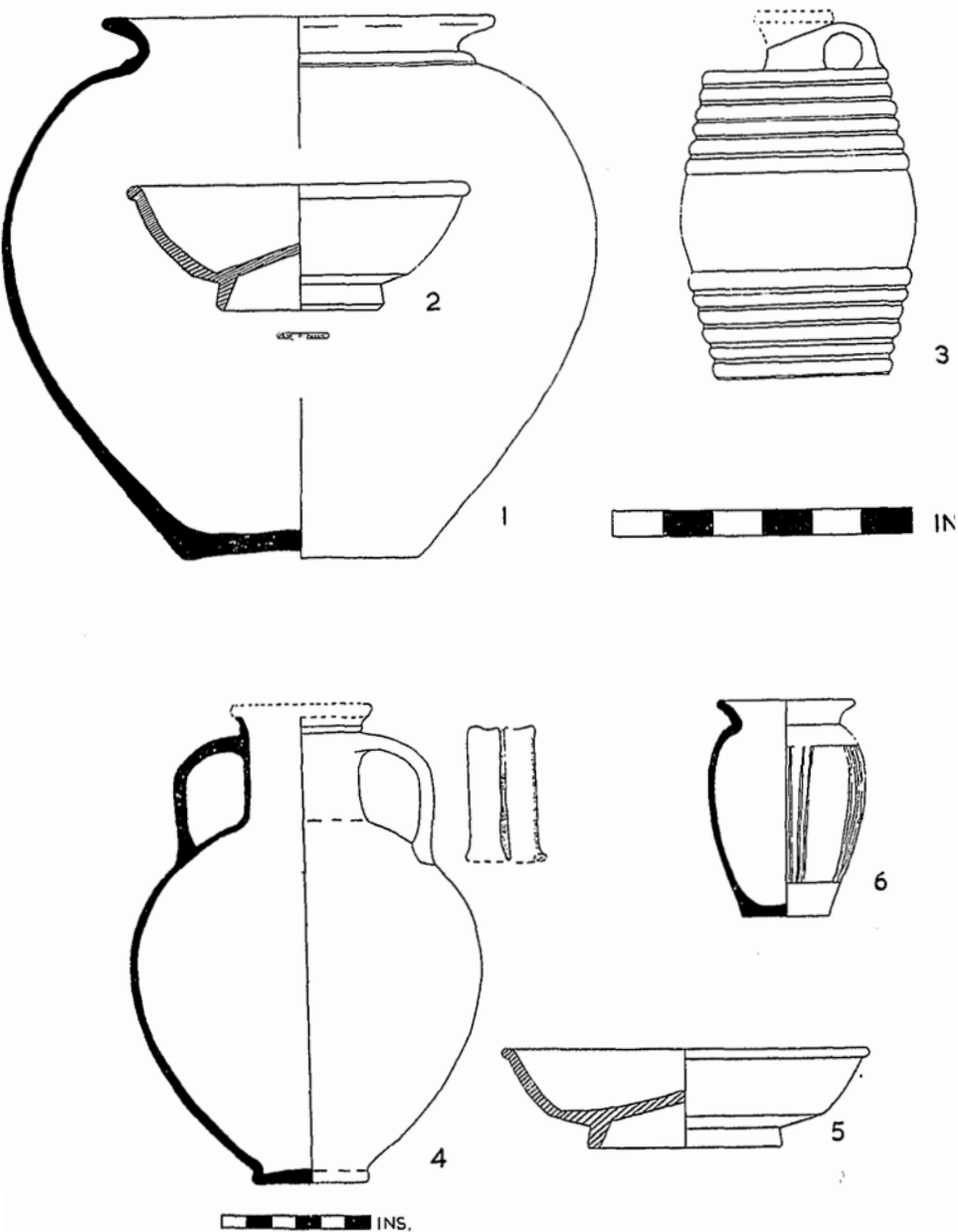


FIG. 19. Pottery from Roman burials, Slayhills Marsh, Upchurch.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

2. (i) Amphora, smooth buff ware, with footstand. Rim and one handle missing. Used as burial urn. Restoration of rim conjectural (Fig. 19, 4).
- (ii) Samian dish F.18/31. Very worn, with much of gloss missing. Stamp almost illegible: REG . . . M. ? Reginus (Fig. 19, 5).
- (iii) Jar, grey ware, with neck, shoulder and body just above the base burnished. Body decorated with burnished vertical lines in groups of three. Cf. Ospringe 300. Second century A.D. (Fig. 19, 6).
- (iv) Flagon. Not seen.

Given the worn state of the Samian dish the probable date of the burial is in the second half of the second century, perhaps rather earlier than the first burial described. The urn and the accompanying vessels were enclosed in an oak cist, part of which survived (Plate VIII).

D.B.K.

WEST HYTHE

For an account of a currier's knife found here see under Maidstone, Tovil.

WHITSTABLE

The Whitstable late Bronze Age sword sold at Sotheby's on the 22nd July, 1963 (*Catalogue*, no. 59) has been purchased for Maidstone Museum. It was formerly in the collection of Doctor H. A. Fawcett. The length of the sword is $22\frac{5}{8}$ in. not $22\frac{1}{2}$ in. as stated in Sotheby's *Catalogue*.

L.R.A.G.

WYE

Group of about five barrows in Pit Shave, some 200 yds. north of the Memorial Crown on Wye Downs. Probably those opened by Morris. Reference: W. J. Morris, *History of Wye*, 1842, 9-13. Map reference: O.S. 6-in. sheet TR04 N.E. Kent LV S.E. N.G.R. TR07104680.

O.S.