



<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

A BELGIC BURIAL-GROUP AT SHOLDEN, NEAR DEAL; AND A BELGIC TAZZA FROM MILL HILL, UPPER DEAL

By J. D. OGILVIE, F.S.A., and G. C. DUNNING, F.S.A.

BELGIC BURIAL-GROUP AT SHOLDEN

A burial of the Belgic period was found in May 1962, about 2 ft. below the surface during the excavation of a sewer trench at Sholden, near Deal. The trench ran alongside the footpath from Sholden Street to Court Lodge Farm; the position of the burial was 110 yards east of Sholden Street.¹ The group consisted of two pottery vessels; the larger was recovered intact, and the smaller was reconstructed from fragments. The cremation had already been removed by the workmen before the pots were handed over. With the group were two bronze brooches, one nearly complete and the other fragmentary. The finds have been presented by the landowners, Messrs. V. C. and C. J. Mount, to Deal Castle Museum, where they are now exhibited.

POTTERY

- Fig. 1. Small carinated bowl of grey ware with burnished greyish-brown slip. The side is slightly concave, with single and double cordons.
- Fig. 2. Butt-beaker of grey sandy ware with matt grey surface. Below the rounded and slightly thickened rim is an angle-cordon at the junction with the side. The surface is plain, divided into zones by two single and one double cordon.

BROOCHES

- Fig. 3. La Tène III bronze brooch with slightly curved bow, D-shaped in section, and right-angled bend at the head. The side-wings protecting the spring are lightly ribbed above the turns of the spring. Originally the spring had eight turns, with external chord held by a medium-sized hook. One side of the spring and the pin are missing. The catchplate would be triangular when complete, and may have been solid or pierced by ornamental openings.
- Fig. 4. Damaged head-end and part of bow of bronze brooch, of the same type as Fig. 3.

¹ 6-in. O.S. Kent, sheet LVIII, N.E. National Grid Reference TR36095260.

A BELGIC BURIAL-GROUP AT SHOLDEN

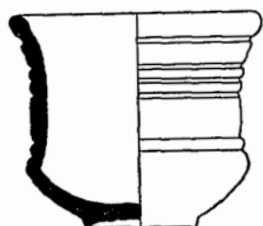


FIG. 1. Carinated bowl ($\frac{1}{4}$).

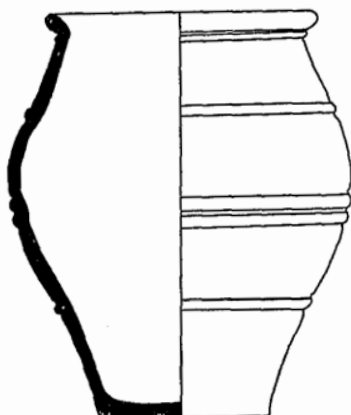


FIG. 2. Butt-beaker ($\frac{1}{4}$).

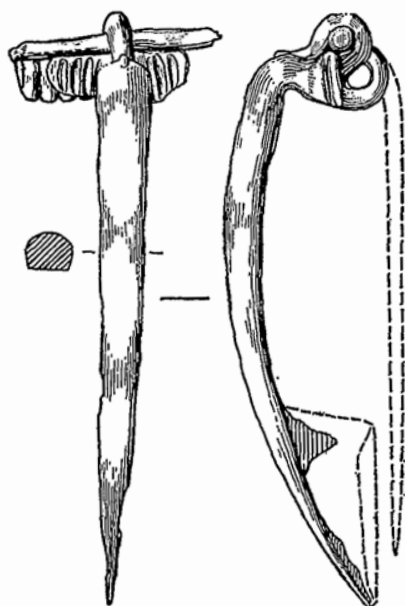


FIG. 3. Bronze brooch of 'Colchester' type ($\frac{1}{4}$).

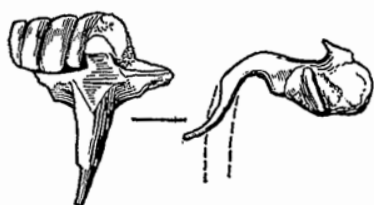


FIG. 4. Damaged bronze brooch ($\frac{1}{4}$).

FIGS. 1-4. Pottery and brooches from from burial-group at Sholden.

Sholden, a new site for finds of the Belgic period, is only 1 mile north of Mill Hill, Upper Deal, well known for the two Belgic grave-groups with brooches,² and for several other finds of funerary pottery

² J. P. Bushe-Fox, *Swarling* (Society of Antiquaries, Research Report No. V, 1925), 18-19, pls. IV and XIII. Both groups are described and illustrated by drawings in Dr. Ann Birchall's paper, quoted below, 249 and 304-5, Figs. 11-12.

and brooches lacking details of association. All the material from Mill Hill, formerly in the Town Hall at Deal, is now also in Deal Castle Museum.

The butt-beaker places the Sholden burial in Dr. Ann Birchall's third or 'Late' Belgic group of the Aylesford-Swarling sequence, beginning about 10 B.C. and lasting until the Roman period.³ The carinated bowl (Dr. Birchall's Type IVb) is infrequent in Kent, but is represented in the urnfield at Cheriton, near Folkestone,⁴ as well as at Aylesford.

The brooches from Sholden belong to the 'Colchester' type III of the early first century A.D.⁵ This type is frequent on Belgic sites over a wide area of Britain, from Kent in the east to Gloucestershire in the west,⁶ and from Dorset⁷ in the south as far north as Lincolnshire.⁸ At Upper Deal the type is represented by one example with strongly curved bow and catchplate pierced by an elaborate step-pattern;⁹ the associations of this brooch are not known, but in date it is the latest of the long series of Belgic brooches from Upper Deal. Elsewhere in Kent brooches of 'Colchester' type were found in two burials in the cemetery at Cheriton; one in association with a squat pedestal-urn (Type Ia) and a butt-beaker (Type VI), and the other associated with a cordoned tazza (Type X).¹⁰ The tazza is an interesting addition to the Belgic pottery types of Kent, since it is really a large version of the local form of Type IVb with the addition of a hollow pedestal. Another tazza, from Mill Hill, Upper Deal, is described below. The last brooch of 'Colchester' type is from the urnfield at Stone, near Dartford, but its associations are unknown.¹¹ Both Cheriton and Stone are, however, 'Late' Belgic cemeteries, and both continued to be used into the early Roman period.

The very wide occurrence of the brooches of 'Colchester' type in

³ Ann Birchall, 'The Aylesford-Swarling Culture: The Problem of Belgae reconsidered', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, xxxi (1965), 241-367. See also Ann Birchall, 'The Belgic Problem: Aylesford revisited', *British Museum Quarterly*, xxviii (1964), 21-29.

⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, lxii (1949), 32, Fig. 3, 28 and 30.

⁵ C. F. C. Hawkes and M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum* (Society of Antiquaries, Research Report No. XIV, 1947), 309, pls. LXXXIX-XC, 6-24.

⁶ Elsie M. Clifford, *Bagendon: A Belgic Oppidum* (1961), 169-71, Fig. 30, 3-10. Three brooches of 'Colchester' type were also found in the Belgic period of occupation at Salmonsbury, Bourton-on-the-Water (report in preparation by G. C. Dunning and Helen E. O'Neill).

⁷ R. E. M. Wheeler, *Maiden Castle, Dorset* (Society of Antiquaries, Research Report No. XII, 1943), 258, Fig. 83, 14-15. J. W. Brailsford, *Hod Hill*, I (British Museum, 1962), 6, Fig. 6, Cl-C8.

⁸ Sonia C. Hawkes, 'Some Belgic Brooches from South Ferriby', *Hull Museum Publication No. 214* (1963), 23-31.

⁹ Ministry of Public Building and Works, *Guide to Deal Castle* (1966), 15, pl. VI, 3.

¹⁰ *Arch. Cant.*, lxii (1949), 33, Fig. 6, 1 and 4.

¹¹ *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, vii (1941), 141, Fig. 5, 1.

A BELGIC BURIAL-GROUP AT SHOLDEN

Britain is a remarkable fact which should be emphasized, and requires some comment. The distribution extends over the entire Belgic regions as far as the limits reached by this culture in the west and north of the country. In addition, brooches of this type also occur in two other tribal territories; that of the Belgicized Coritani in the east Midlands, and that of the non-Belgic Durotriges in Dorset. The distribution at once poses the question whether the brooches were made at and traded from a single centre, or made in more than one region in closely similar style. At Camulodunum, one part of the settlement produced much evidence of metallurgical activity and metal-working; a great deal of bronze slag, pieces of crucibles in great quantity, and baked clay moulds for casting the blank flans from which coins were made.¹² The excavators remarked that the large number of bronze brooches found, no less than 400 of the first century A.D., strongly points to these being among the objects manufactured at Camulodunum.

The uniformity in detail among the variants of the 'Colchester' type of brooch, wherever these have been found, does indeed suggest that they are the products of one centre only. The alternative is to assume that the brooches of this type found in marginal regions of the Belgic culture were made by the local bronze-smiths. At Bagendon, at the western limit of Belgic penetration, crucibles and other evidence of metal-working were found; moreover, a local type of brooch made there attests the skill of the smiths of the Belgic Dobunni. This is not the place to consider the problem at length, but clearly it raises interesting points as to the extent of trade within the Belgic regions and beyond, the relations between the metal-workers in those regions, and their ability to make copies of imported brooches.

The analogies quoted above for the Sholden pottery have revealed one type, the *tazza*, that is rare in Kent though frequent in the other Belgic regions of Britain. The slightly curved bow of the nearly complete brooch from Sholden should place it early in the 'Colchester' series. In any case the Sholden burial belongs to the third group of Belgic pottery, and the grave-group is therefore referred to the two decades c. 10 B.C.-A.D. 10.

BELGIC TAZZA FROM UPPER DEAL

The vessel illustrated in Fig. 5 is among the collection of un-associated Iron Age C pottery from Mill Hill, Upper Deal,¹³ and deserves publication here since it is only the third example of this type known in Kent.

¹² *Camulodunum*, 107, 129-33, and 345-46.

¹³ The pot is marked '3' and formerly belonged to the collection of the late Captain C. F. Newington. No details of its finding are known, beyond that it was found at Mill Hill between 1907 and 1915.

A BELGIC BURIAL-GROUP AT SHOLDEN

Fig. 5. Tazza of grey ware with stone grits, dark grey surface. The side is almost vertical and slightly concave, with three single cordons. The shoulder is sharply carinated and has a girth groove. Below the carination the profile is incurved to the pedestal base, which is only slightly raised underneath.

This pot combines the features of two types; the upper part is a large version of the carinated bowl (Type IVb), whereas the lower part has the profile and base of a pedestal-urn (Type Ib). Pear-shaped pedestal-urns of precisely this form are well represented at Upper Deal, e.g. the urn from grave-group I,¹⁴ and unassociated pedestal-urns also from Mill Hill.¹⁵

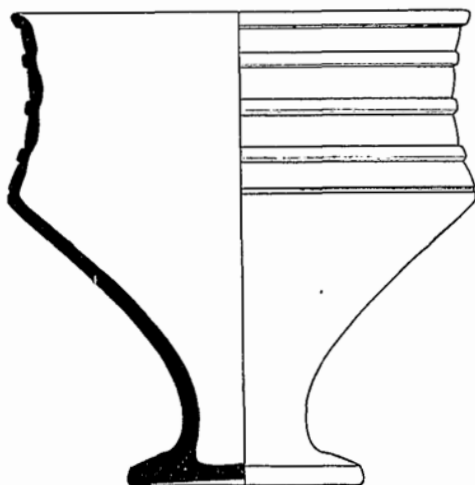


FIG. 5. Tazza from Mill Hill, Upper Deal ($\frac{1}{4}$).

Normally the tazza stands on a high pedestal foot sealed at the upper end. This base-form occurs on the second Kentish tazza from Cheriton, mentioned above; on several tazzas from Belgic burials in Hertfordshire and Essex;¹⁶ on a tazza from Maiden Castle,¹⁷ and other examples belong to the Durotrigian culture of Dorset.¹⁸ Usually the top of the base is flat, but that of the Cheriton tazza has an omphalos, which is known in Kent on corrugated pots of Type II at both Aylesford and Swarling, and also occurs on tazzas and other forms fairly widely in southern Britain.

¹⁴ Ann Birchall (1965), 249, Fig. 11, 88.

¹⁵ *Guide to Deal Castle* (1966), 15, pl. IV, 5.

¹⁶ Ann Birchall (1965), 250-53, Fig. 12, 103 and 105, Fig. 16, 136-37.

¹⁷ R. E. M. Wheeler, *Maiden Castle, Dorset* (1943), 236, Fig. 74, 214.

¹⁸ J. W. Brailsford, 'Early Iron Age "C" in Wessex,' *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, xxiv (1958), 102, Fig. 1, 10.

A BELGIC BURIAL-GROUP AT SHOLDEN

Continental parallels for the tazza with tall pedestal base can be traced throughout the La Tène period in northern France and Belgium.¹⁹ Abroad the omphalos does not occur on tazzas, but it is frequent on other forms, small bowls and flat dishes.²⁰

In contrast to the hollow bases on tazzas elsewhere, that of the Upper Deal tazza is sealed at the lower end and almost flat, as on the local forms of pedestal-urn in East Kent, and also on the third tazza from Kent, found at Tassel's Quarry, Aylesford, which is similar to that from Upper Deal but squatter.²¹ In this respect it may be compared with the base of a globular tazza on a high pedestal from the burial-group found in a barrow of c. A.D. 30-40 at Hurstbourne Tarrant, near Andover, Hants.²² These hybrids between carinated bowls and pedestal-urns have several variants, as is evident from the analogies quoted above. The tazzas form a remarkable group within the Belgic complex of south-east and southern Britain, and the example from Upper Deal is one of the most successful and graceful of this form.

¹⁹ Ann. Birchall (1965), 264, Map III, 298, Type X, and 312-13, Fig. 27, 224.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 262 ff., and 316, Fig. 31, 262 and 268.

²¹ Sir Cyril Fox, *Pattern and Purpose* (1958), 63, Pl. 26, a.

²² *Arch. Journ.*, lxxxvii (1930), 306, Fig. 32, 1.