



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

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

### TWO NEOLITHIC BOWLS FROM BIRCHINGTON, THANET

The bowls figured here (Fig. 1, A and B), came from Minnis Bay, Birchington, a site already well known for its Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pits. The Neolithic material—pottery and a scatter of flints—comes from old land surfaces on either side of an ancient stream or possibly tidal inlet, the site only being exposed at exceptionally low tides. The finds come from the top of a layer of blue clay immediately overlain by a thin layer of hard brown peat. Most of the material comes from the western bank, including bowl B, which was found in an area yielding a number of flint implements: a leaf-shaped arrowhead, parts of two polished axes and flakes and scrapers. Bowl A lacks such supporting evidence, coming as an isolated find from the eastern side.

Bowl A (Fig. 1, A) comprises two pieces of virtually joining pottery from a closed bowl with simple incurving flattened rim. Enough profile remains to suggest that the vessel had a rounded base. The fabric is hard and well-fired, with a fairly even backing of medium

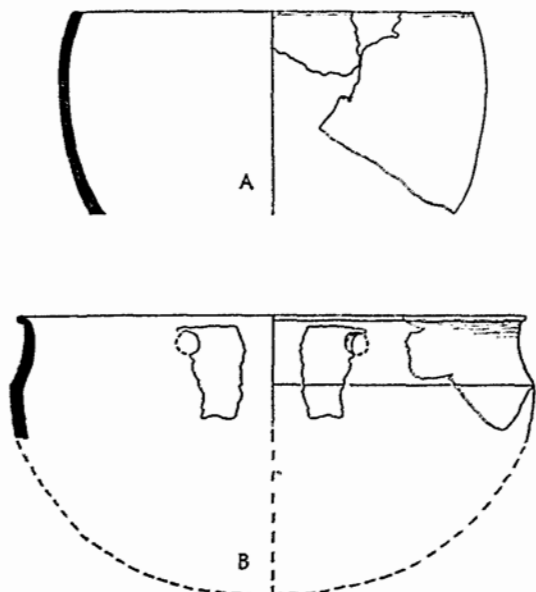


FIG. 1.

Neolithic Bowls from Birchington, Thanet (2).

to small red and white flint grits. The paste is almost laminated in the breaks. Colouring of core and upper surfaces is a grey-black, lightening lower down to grey-brown. The rim and all surfaces have been well burnished. No visible decoration.

Bowl B (Fig. 1, B) is represented by several medium-sized sherds of the rim, neck and shoulder, together with a mass of minute fragments. The sherds are in varying degrees of wear, with a tendency to surface flaking—in some cases considerable and probably due to intermittent exposure to the sea. The usable fragments reconstruct into a bowl of Piggott's Form J, with carinated shoulder, shallow concave neck and outwardly rolled rim, in this case very unevenly. It has a diameter of about 10 in. It is made of a medium fine dark-brown paste mixed with small to fine flint grits. Upper portions are fired black merging into dark-brown. Most surfaces have been burnished, particularly inside and on the neck. Like the rim, the shoulder has been unevenly formed and varies in prominence. A largish hole was originally made beneath the rim, pierced from the outside in. Again no decoration.

Bowls of the above, presumably round-bottomed forms, fit in well with the known Neolithic pottery from East Kent,<sup>1</sup> and thus with western Neolithic pottery as a whole, though for shape, only the second vessel has close parallels in East Kent. This bowl can be compared with two from Mill Road, Deal,<sup>2</sup> where the same carinated shoulder, neck and rim form exist. Bowl A is closely related to some from Windmill Hill,<sup>3</sup> where both types are represented. There, too, pots and bowls occur with holes pierced beneath the rim, though this feature appears on only a small quantity of the total material—and the same applies to East Kent.

Finally, I would like to thank Miss A. Powell-Cotton, who holds the pottery in the Powell-Cotton Museum, Birchington, for letting me draw it, and for showing me the sites; and also Dr. G. C. Dunning, F.S.A., for discussing the material with me.

N. MACPHERSON-GRANT.

#### A BASAL LOOPED SPEARHEAD OF THE LATE BRONZE AGE FROM LULLINGSTONE, KENT

During the progress of mechanical excavation of flood-plain gravel during May 1957, 400 yards south of Lullingstone Castle, a basal looped bronze spearhead (Fig. 2) was recovered. The specimen was submitted to Mr. G. de G. Sieveking, M.A., F.S.A., of the Department of British

<sup>1</sup> G. C. Dunning, 'Neolithic Occupation Sites in East Kent', *Antiq. Journ.*, xlv (1966), 1-25.

<sup>2</sup> *op. cit.*, 2, fig. 2, nos. 2-3.

<sup>3</sup> I. F. Smith: *Windmill Hill and Avebury. Excavations by Alexander Keiller, 1925-39*, Oxford, 1965, 54, fig. 18.

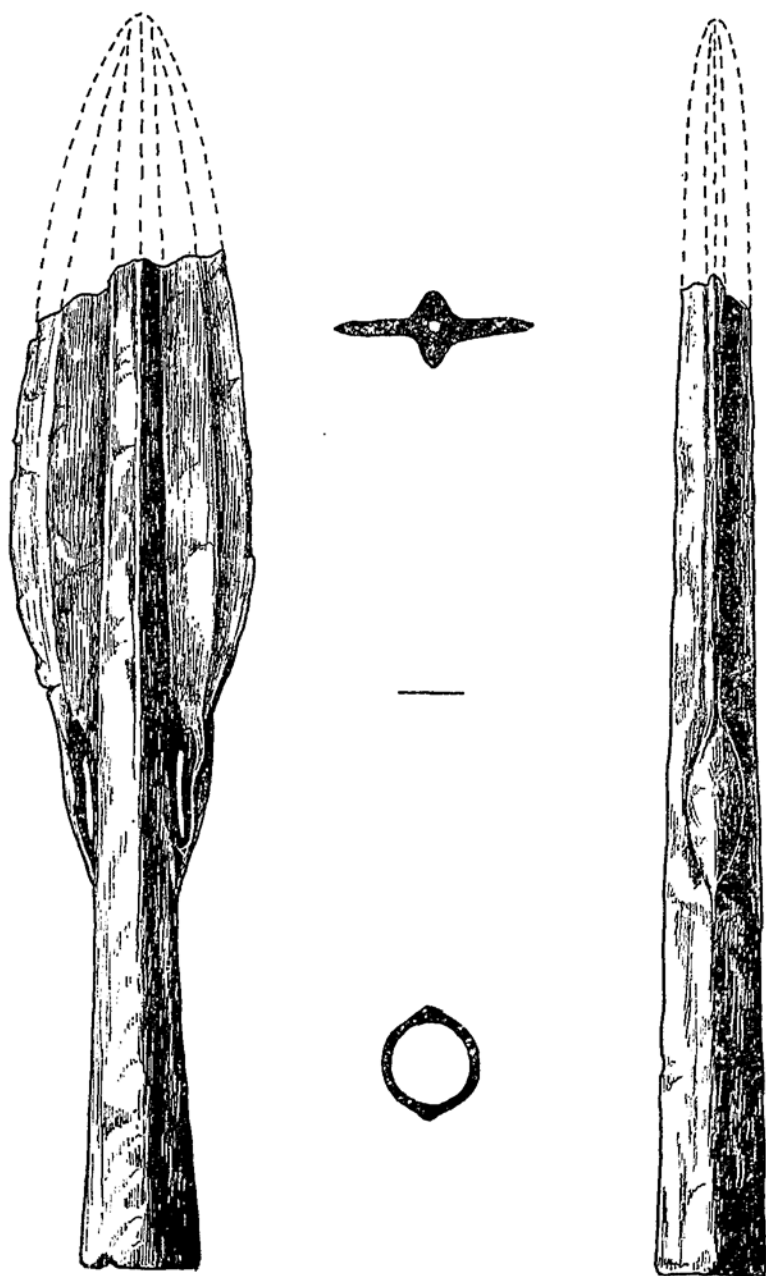


FIG. 2.

Basal Looped Spearhead from Lullingstone (approx. 3).

and Medieval Antiquities in the British Museum, who reports as follows:

'The specimen is 17.5 cm. long, and has had its tip and a certain part of the blade broken off in antiquity. It has a highly developed mid-rib, a broad blade and broad basal loops. This type is characteristic of the Late Bronze Age metal industry of the country, and is common in south-eastern England.'

The specimen has been presented to Dartford Museum.

G. W. MEATES

### CANTERBURY CITY DITCH

Excavations in the city ditch were undertaken in June 1968 by the Canterbury Archaeological Society with the aid of a grant from the Ministry of Public Building and Works, in advance of the Pin Hill/Rhodaus Town road-widening scheme to investigate the ditch and foundations of the city wall. The site of the excavation, immediately to the west of the White Cross Bastion, was chosen because recent landscaping was less drastic here than in other parts of the ditch, but even so, nearly all levels later than early Roman were found to have been removed from the bank, and the stratigraphy was further disturbed by a recent garden wall and an electricity high-tension cable that ran across the site. Two main trenches were dug across the ditch at right angles to the wall: Trench II in the angle of the White Cross Bastion and the wall and Trench I 88 feet to the west of this. A mechanical excavator was used to cut the main ditch section in Trench II, and those parts of both trenches relating to the bank and wall were dug by hand.

A complete half-profile from the wall to the centre of the ditch was obtained. The lip of the ditch was 10 ft. from the base of the wall and the profile of the ditch sloped at an angle of 40° to reach its deepest point 36 ft. from the lip and 18 ft. below it. The ditch was cut successively into natural brickearth, gravel and chalk. The greater part of the fill was clean brown silt that was presumably derived from the brick-earth and was almost quite sterile, although one Roman sherd was obtained from it. Towards the bottom of the ditch the fill became greyish and waterlogged and showed some signs of organic remains. This section agreed quite well with the sections shown in bore holes drilled for the City Engineer in the St. George's Gate area of the ditch. The foundations of the wall were trench-built of irregular coursed flints set in rather soft buff mortar, and they extended to a depth of 2 ft. 6 in. below the modern re-facing of the wall and the modern ground level. The foundations of the White Cross Bastion were three offset courses of large chalk blocks set in yellow mortar. Both foundations were laid directly on the natural brickearth. A certain amount

of construction débris consisting of chalk and mortar rubble was found against and oversailing the offset of the foundation in Trench I, but it contained no dating evidence. First-second-century rubbish pits were found to underlie the wall in both trenches. They were cut into the brickearth and produced a fair amount of pottery. The excavations were directed for the Society by Mr. F. Jenkins and the writer.

L. MILLARD

#### HENLEY WOOD, LUDDESDOWN

In the north-west of the parish of Luddesdown, approached by a track from Camer and a green lane from the Cock Inn, Henley Street, is a wood now known as Henley Wood. Just inside this wood is a well-defined ditch and bank earthwork making a complete circuit except for a short length ploughed away on the west side. The area enclosed is about thirty acres and of a roughly triangular shape. The north and west sides are fairly straight, but the east side is sharply irregular and in the north-east corner the earthwork divides to enclose a small pocket. The breadth of the bank and ditch is about 16 ft., with the ditch outside. There is no indication of any defensive purpose. Such earthworks, while not uncommon in this area, appear to have attracted little record or explanation. During the winter of 1968-69, therefore, Mr. J. E. L. Caiger surveyed the earthworks and made the attached plan (N.G.R. TQ 660666).

Hasted describes Luddesdown as 'an obscure place . . . with poor stony ground'. He continues, 'there are two villages, one called Luddesdown Street near the northern bounds of the parish near which is the estate of Little Buckland . . . and the other called likewise Luddesdown near the southern bounds of the parish in which is the church and the manor of South Buckland'. The name Buckland, Hasted derives from Saxon *bocland* as opposed to *folkland* or *terra vulgi*. George Payne, in *Arch. Cant.*, xxiv (1898), p. lii, reported the finding of 'a small vase of Durobrivian ware during excavation for gravel' in Henley Wood, and described the earthworks as a 'rampart, square in form, enclosing a large acreage'. He also reported the use by a wood-cutter of the term *cam* for the earthworks, and offers this as a probable explanation of the name of Camer in which estate Henley Wood was situated.

The siting of chalkwells on the edge of the wood outside the embankment (see Fig. 3) is not surprising as they were convenient there to serve surrounding fields. Chalkwells deep inside a timbered area, however, cannot be so explained, and it would seem likely, therefore, that at the time the chalkwell inside the wood was dug, probably around the late 1700s, at least part of the land inside the earthwork was arable.

# EARTHWORKS IN HENLEY WOOD, LUDESLOW.

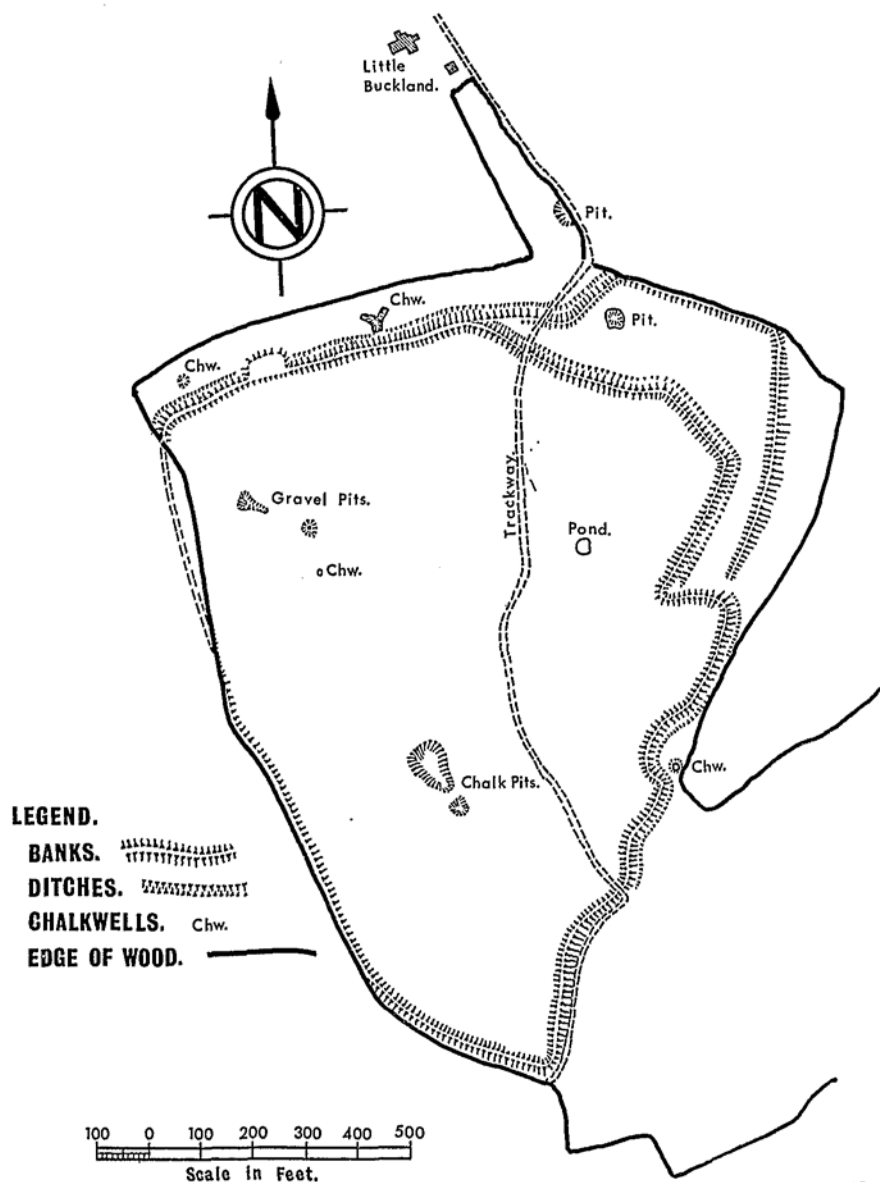


FIG. 3.

There are, moreover, indications of lynchets in the wood, and the timber itself does not give the impression of great age or of a natural mixture of species.

The Tithe Map shows woodland of similar shape to present day with similar Henley place-names, as Henley Street, Henley Down, Henley Wood. Earlier maps, e.g. Hasted, Andrews and Dury, show no woodland, no Henley place-names and Henley Street is shown as Luddesdown Street.

No trace of any building was found within the enclosure but there were, in addition to the chalkwells, one large pit and two smaller ones. The two smaller pits were obviously gravel diggings, exploiting small outlier pockets of Eocene derivation and, no doubt, those referred to by George Payne. The larger pit appears to have been a chalk pit. The possibility that the earthworks had enclosed a game park had to be considered, and Mr. J. D. Wilson, an authority on Dorset and Staffordshire deer-parks, was consulted and kindly examined the site. Mr. Wilson was able to say that this was most unlikely to have been a deer-park. His reasons in brief summary are:

- i. The bank and ditch are too small.
- ii. The ditch is outside the bank and encloses too small an area.
- iii. The outline is too irregular and does not take advantage of natural slope.

Unless the earthworks were in some way connected with the estate of Little Buckland referred to by Hasted, no other explanation of their construction presents itself to the author.

MICHAEL DRAKE

## A ROMANO-BRITISH SITE NEAR DECOY FARM, HIGH HALSTOW

There are a number of recorded discoveries of Romano-British pottery on the inned marshes of the Hoo peninsula. They occur generally close to the higher ground, at intervals from Higham and Cliffe in the west to Grain in the east, but until the present discovery there was a conspicuous absence of such finds from the Halstow marshes. However, enquiries by Mr. D. Squires indicated that potsherds had been found on the surface of a ploughed field at Decoy Farm, High Halstow. It was due to the co-operation and assistance of the landowner, Mr. J. N. L. Brice, the farm bailiff, Mr. G. Croucher, and Mr. Squires, who has made a study of the area occupied by the farm, that subsequent investigations took place. The work was carried out on two week-ends in September 1965, by several members of the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group to whom my grateful thanks are due. Mr. A. Miles has kindly contributed the note on the saltern débris.



The site (N.G.R. TQ 78507805) lies in Little Middle Marsh, 1,100 yards to the north of the Decoy Farm buildings and about 300 yards to the east of Decoy Fleet. The level of the present land surface is approximately 7 ft. above O.D. The only surface indication of a possible site was the presence of a few sherds of Romano-British coarse pottery and these would probably not have come to light had it not been decided to plough, for the first time, this particular field; a new development for the farmland on the freshwater marshes in the locality only made possible by modern farming equipment. It was decided to check the possibility that the sherds had not been transported from elsewhere, but had originated from remains of occupation in the field itself. Seven trial pits, each in size 6 ft. by 3 ft., were dug in an area approximately 100 ft. by 25 ft. No further attempt was made to discover by excavation the total extent of the site. However, during 1969, a survey was made of the site using a differential proton-magnetometer. Slight anomalies were detected over a comparatively small area not much larger than that which was revealed by the earlier excavations. Apart from one other small area no anomalies were detected elsewhere in the field. It therefore appears that the site is approximately 170 ft. by 50 ft., with another area about 30 ft. by 15 ft. close by. The second area lies diagonally across a water-filled ditch which may have been cut through this part of the site.

No structures were found, but the following stratification was revealed in three of the seven trial pits:

1. Topsoil: the top 6 in. disturbed by the plough (11 in. thick).
2. Dark layer of humus containing potsherds and saltern débris (11 in. thick).
3. Layer of yellow material and clay containing decayed mortar (3 in. thick).
4. Dark layer of humus overlaying a thin spread of potsherds lying immediately on the clay subsoil (6 in. thick).
5. Ground water: encountered at a depth of 3 ft. 3 in.
6. Yellow clay: It is impossible to say whether or not this was the subsoil.
7. Bottom of pit 4 ft. below surface of ground.

The remaining pits also produced sherds of Romano-British coarse pottery in varying quantities, together with traces of the dark humus layers more apparent in the three pits already mentioned.

Finds included a quantity of sherds of Romano-British coarse pottery. Most were of a second-century date and many were of a sandy red fabric. There were sherds of 'poppy-head' and colour-coated wares,

and also fragments of a cheese-press. Fragments of roofing-tiles, bonding-tiles and glass were also found, together with lumps of decayed mortar.

## SALTERN DÉBRIS

A quantity of fragments of saltern débris was found with the potsherds. About three-quarters of the débris ranged from 11 mm. to 14 mm. thick, whilst some of the remainder was at least 22 mm. in thickness. This compares favourably with similar débris found at Funton Marsh, Lower Halstow.<sup>4</sup> The majority of the fragments may have been the remains of evaporating vessels or large salt-moulds, and it is possible that the thicker fragments are from wedge-shaped bricks. A quantity of greenish slag was also found, in some cases combined with the débris; this slag is typical of the slag found on Romano-British salt-panning sites.<sup>5</sup> A tentative reconstruction from a number of fragments 15 mm. thick suggests the form of a small bowl about 12 cm. in diameter and at least 8 cm. deep. This is closely paralleled at Kimmeridge<sup>6</sup> and Ingoldsmells.<sup>7</sup> These bowls may have been salt-moulds and, as Dr. Karl Riehm has suggested,<sup>8</sup> may represent the small change of the salt boilers.

M. A. OCOCK

## ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

## LENHAM

Medieval armorial pendant (Fig. 4, no. 2), found in 1966 by Mr. B. Martin whilst digging foundations for 'Romar', near the Chapel at Platt's Heath.

Bronze, heater shaped, loop broken. Plentiful traces of red enamel remain on the inverted Ts of the fur potent. On the diapering of the field are fragments of gilding. The component parts of the fesse compony show faint signs of enamelling but the colour is nondescript. The blazoning seems to have been incised in order to give guidance to the enameller.

Ward Perkins type I. Thirteenth century. Cf. *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, no. 36.116/29.

<sup>4</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx (1965), 260-5.

<sup>5</sup> *PSAL*, xxx (1917-18), 50.

<sup>6</sup> *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Arch. Soc.*, lxx (1948), 56-7.

<sup>7</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, xii (1932), 243-4.

<sup>8</sup> *Antiquity*, xxxv (1961), 181 ff.

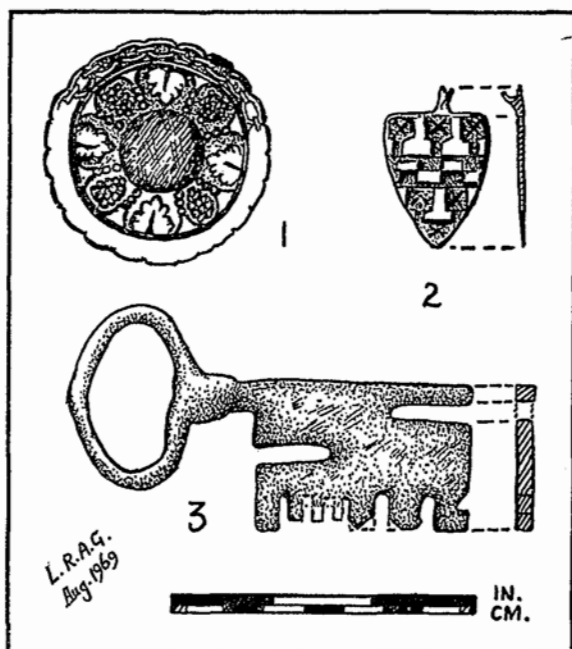


FIG. 4.

1. Harness Boss, Tenterden.
2. Heraldic Pendant, Lenham.
3. Medieval Key, New Romney.

#### NEW ROMNEY

Miss Anne Roper, M.B.E., F.S.A., has again kindly forwarded to me material recently found on the site detailed in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxii (1967), 296.

1. A spur made of iron with a  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. long rowel of eight points (three broken). Shortish, straight shank, approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. Overall length approximately  $5\frac{3}{4}$  in. Ward Perkins terminal type FF with curved arms. Cf. *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, 110, no. A 5004. Early fifteenth-century type.
2. A chest key of solid iron (Fig. 4, no. 3). Ward Perkins type IV. Cf. *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, pl. xxx, nos. 26 and 27. Late medieval.

#### TENTERDEN

Horse-harness boss (Fig. 4, no. 1) found during May 1969, in a garden opposite Old Homewood House, near Beacon Oak junction. I am indebted to Mr. Malcolm Dunstall of the Tenterden Local History

Society for bringing this object to my notice. It consists of a chain-edged quoit of lead moulded into a leaf and grape-bunch design. All the surface has a rubbed, thin covering of silver. The central hole is filled with an iron disc which is held in place by the lead backing. Diameter  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in.

## WEST FARLEIGH

A lead papal bull of Pope Urban VI (1308-89) was found during early December 1968, by Under-Gardener Mr. Eric Ashbridge, near the Old Stables in the grounds of West Farleigh Hall. Given to Maidstone Museum (Acc. No. 3.1969) by Major-General C. W. Norman of West Farleigh Hall.

Birch, *Catalogue*, vi, pl. vii, 286-7, BM. 21889.

L. R. A. GROVE

## BORDEN

In September, 1968, a gold *stater* of Cunobelin, Mack type 210, was found in the garden of Beam Ends, Hart's Delight, by Mrs. A. Martin (N.G.R. TQ 886622). It must have been part of the small hoard found in an adjacent garden in 1873, which consisted of two gold staters of Cunobelin and an *aureus* of Claudius.<sup>9</sup>

At a coroner's inquest in October 1968, the coin was found not to be treasure trove and has since been sold privately.

## BRABOURNE

A Neolithic flint axe, partly polished, was found on a field at Hope Farm in January 1969 (approximately N.G.R. TR 085429). The cutting edge had been broken and re-chipped. Length: 5 in.; maximum width:  $1\frac{5}{8}$  in.

## FOLKESTONE

A tanged and barbed flint arrowhead was found, in May 1969, in the garden of 14 Greenfield Road (N.G.R. TR 231371).

## HERNE BAY

A polished Neolithic stone axe was found at Bishopstone (N.G.R. TR 207689) in February 1969, by Mr. Love of Herne Bay, and brought to the museum by Mr. H. E. Gough. It was sectioned and examined by E. D. Evens and Dr. F. S. Wallis, and the stone was identified by them as quartz dolerite, not attributable to a known group. Length:  $5\frac{3}{8}$  in., maximum width:  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in. County number: Kent 42.

<sup>9</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, ix (1874), 299.

## LEYSDOWN

In September 1968, Mr. J. Brett, of Northfleet, while digging for bait on the shore at Warden Bay, Isle of Sheppey, found a large number of Roman *sestertii* and subsequent searches by him produced a total of five hundred coins. The hoard has been examined by Mr. R. A. G. Carson, of the British Museum, and a full report by him will appear in the *Numismatic Chronicle* for 1970. Mr. Carson has kindly allowed me to use his list and comments for this note.

The hoard consists almost entirely of imperial *sestertii*, the exceptions being a small group of forgeries, consisting of a *sestertius* and seven *asses*. They range in date from Titus to Postumus, the numbers being as follows: Titus 7, Domitian 12, Nerva 1, Trajan 40, Hadrian 122, Sabina 6, Lucius Aelius 4, Antoninus Pius 62, Faustina I 32, Marcus Aurelius 88, Faustina II 52, Lucius Verus 6, Lucilla 9, Commodus 35, Crispina 6, Didius Julianus 1, Clodius Albinus 1, Septimius Severus 5, Julia Domna 1, Severus Alexander 2, Julia Mamaea 2, Maximinus I 1, Gordian III 1, Postumus 2. The two coins of Postumus are issues of his first year and in fairly fresh condition, so that the hoard must have been deposited in about A.D. 260.

Of the forgeries the *sestertius* is of Severus Alexander and the *asses* of Domitian (2), Marcus Aurelius and Julia Mamaea, the other three being unidentifiable. The *asses* are cast copies of regular coins.

The hoard was presumably concealed on dry land, though it was found on the sand and mud flats about a hundred yards from the shore line.

## SANDHURST

A *sestertius* of Septimius Severus brought to the museum for identification was dug up in a garden some years before the last war (N.G.R. TQ 799282). R.I.C. 671 or 691.

## SOUTHBOROUGH

Part of a stone perforated hoe or adze was found in March 1969, by Mrs. C. Wiles in Reynold's Lane, by Cairnwood Farm (N.G.R. TQ 578411). It was sent to the museum by Mrs. M. Davies, and sectioned and identified by Mr. E. D. Evens and Dr. F. S. Wallis. The stone is felspathic grit, not attributable to a known group. The County number is Kent 43.

D. B. KELLY