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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

SKINNERS HOUSE, CHIDDINGSTONE

Skidders House (N.G.R. TQ. 49674311) lies in the little hamlet of Chiddingstone Heath in the west Kent parish of Chiddingstone. During recent modernization the owner, the Lord Astor of Hever, kindly invited Mr. R. T. Mason and the author to inspect it. Much of the structure is now concealed by tile-hanging and internal plaster but, at the time of the visit, was largely exposed.

The house consists of a medieval hall-range with a late-Elizabethan or early-Jacobean cross-wing and contemporary porch at the former lower end. The upper bay of the medieval hall-range had been completely rebuilt at the time of the visit though apparently, judging by some recent architect's 'before and after' drawings, to the same size as the original house.

The most noteworthy feature of the building is that the hall is single-aisled and associated with a moulded dais beam of apparently late date.

The use of aisles was an ancient method of roofing wide spans where the large scantlings thought necessary for an unsupported span were difficult or too expensive to obtain. Their use is generally considered¹ to have continued at vernacular level in some houses until the fourteenth or early-fifteenth century, although in barns the method was used until much later. Most aisled halls had two aisles but a few are known, which were only ever single-aisled.

THE MEDIEVAL HOUSE

Of the aisled house only the two-bay hall now remains. The external close-studded wall opposite the aisle is largely complete whilst the wall to the aisle has been underbuilt in brick. The central arcade post and the adjacent part of the tie-beam have been removed but the arcade plate remains together with mortices for all the arcade braces. The 16-in.-deep dais beam is moulded (inset, Fig. 1) and has a post-and-panel partition below it. The dais beam stopped at the arcade post and mortices in the latter suggest some form of spere screen. Access to the upper bay must have been via the aisle.

In contrast to the relative quality of the dais beam and panelling, the tie beam to the open truss is unimpressive, being only 9 in. \times 8 in.

¹ M. Wood, *The English Mediaeval House*, London, 1965, 41-4. R. T. Mason, *Framed Buildings of the Weald*, Horsham, 1969, 20.

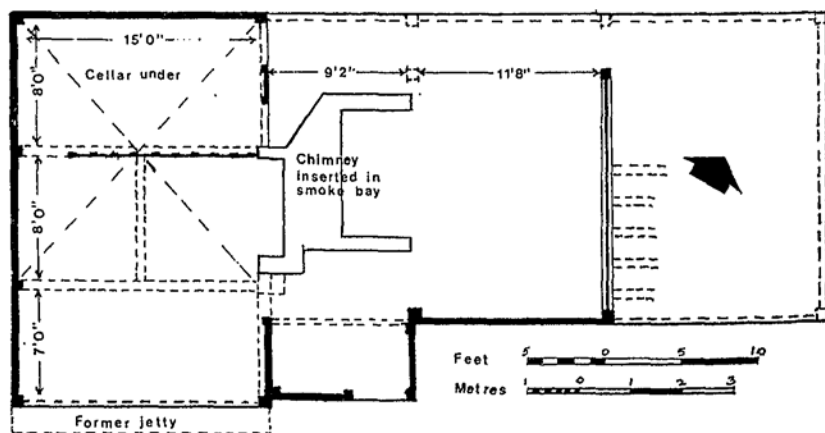
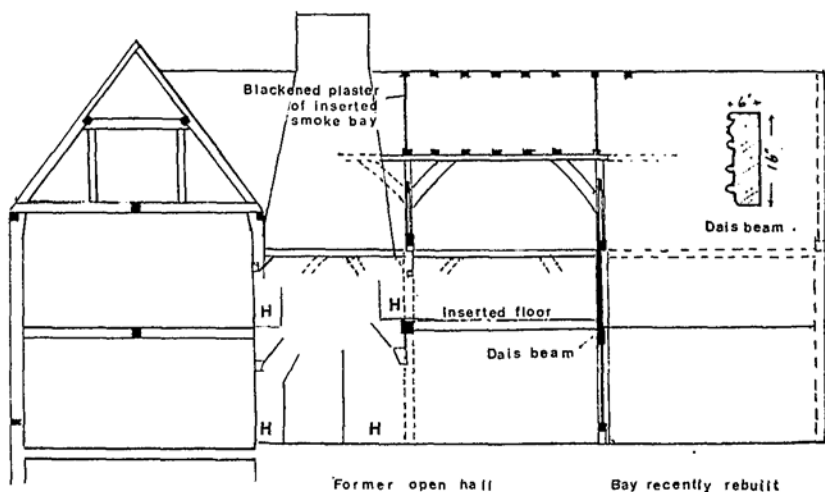


Fig 1 Ground floor plan and longitudinal section

and slightly cambered. The arch braces have long gone, though judging by the mortices in the tie beam were not particularly large. The tie beam is surmounted by a square crown-post which had only three braces.

Although the upper bay has recently been rebuilt, the original bay seems to have been part of the same range. Mortices in the back of the arcade post, adjacent to the dais beam although somewhat obscured by new work, seem to suggest an arcade brace and perhaps some form

of partition. Mortices for floor joists occur in the back of the dais beam for only half the depth of the building as noted on the plan (Fig. 2).

There is nothing about the constructional details to suggest that this range could be particularly early, certainly not before 1400. The moulding on the dais beam, however, with its shallow form may well suggest a date in the second half of the fifteenth century.²

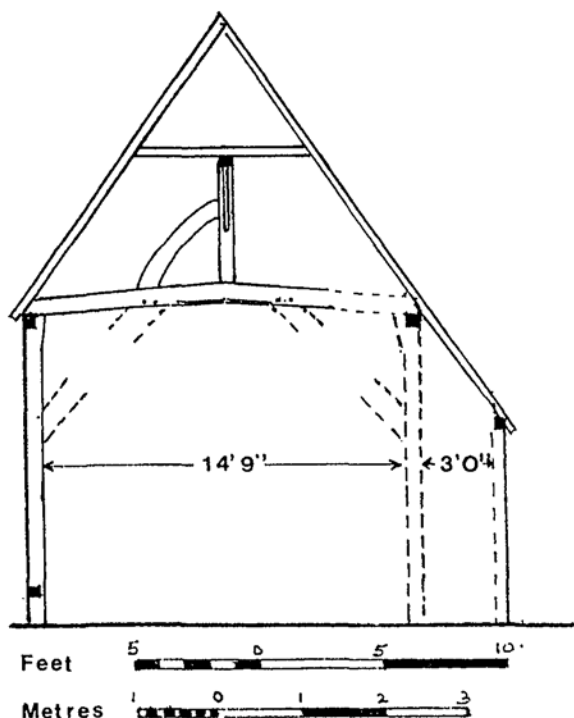


Fig 2 Section of open hall truss

Although a building of 18 ft. 6 in. clear span can hardly be considered wide by local standards, the size of the tie beam does suggest that when suitably large timber was not readily available, the provision of an aisle might still be considered a suitable and economical solution, even after 1450.

SMOKE BAY

Sometime, probably in the mid-sixteenth century, the arcade post and arch braces to the main truss were removed and the upper bay

² R. T. Mason, *op. cit.*, 83.

of the hall floored over. The wattle-and-daub partition inserted against the central truss above first-floor level formed a smoke bay still partly extant and still smoke-blackened. At this stage with the flooring of the hall the spere screen was probably removed and a piece of timber inserted across the aisle, suitably moulded to continue the dais beam to the outside wall.

CROSS-WING

About 1600, a stone chimney was built in the smoke bay and a three-bay cross-wing with attic and basement replaced the lower bay. A two-storey porch was added at the same time. This cross-wing is contemporary with and structurally dependent on the chimney. It is a fine structure, jettied both at first floor and at attic level to the gabled front-end. It is close-studded at front and side, but not back. On both floors, the front room is of two bays with originally glazed windows, whilst the rear bay, formerly including a staircase, had in contrast unglazed 'wind eyes'. Mortices below the present windows suggest that there was originally an oriel window at first-floor level on the front elevation of the cross-wing. On the side wall of the first floor room there was originally a door opening, now covered with tile-hanging. Mortices in the framing around it suggest that some form of roofed structure extended down to ground level. The standard of the room and the position of the mortices suggest that it is unlikely to be an external staircase and was, probably, a garderobe.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The only documentary evidence so far discovered which apparently relates to the house occurs in a rental³ dated 1706, the Manor of Starborough (Prinkham) in Lingfield, Surrey.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

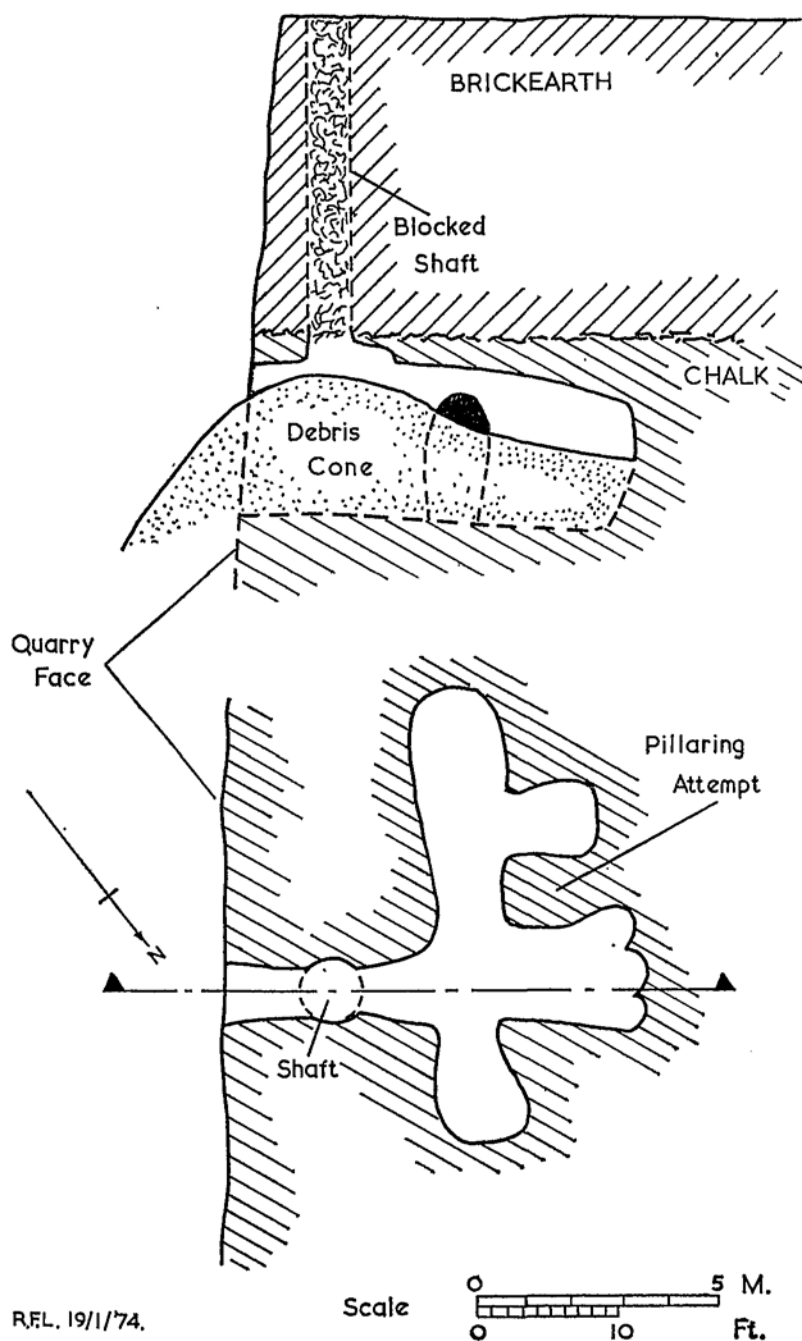
The author wishes to thank Mr. R. T. Mason, F.S.A., for help and encouragement in the examination of this house; Mr. Alan Dell for help in the survey, and Lord Astor, for kindly allowing access to it.

P. J. GRAY

DENEHOLE AT RAINHAM

During the survey of a derelict chalk quarry and brickworks near Otterham Quay Lane, Rainham, a partly quarried-away denehole was discovered 6.85 m. down the west face of the quarry, at N.G.R. TQ 831662.

³ K.A.O., U 1000/10 MS.



R.F.L. 19/1/74.

FIG. 3.

On 19th January, 1974, an underground survey was undertaken in the remaining chambers, the results of which are shown in the drawing (Fig. 3). Access to the denehole was afforded by a very steep scree slope into the remaining few metres of the south-east set of chambers. The original entrance shaft, c. 99 cm. in diameter, was found to be blocked to the surface, but it was possible to pass under it to gain access to the intact portion of the excavation.

The denehole shows the usual trefoil pattern except that an attempt to form a chalk pillar had been made in one of the side chambers. The excavators had ceased mining for some reason before this was completed, possibly because they had obtained enough chalk for their needs, or a fault had developed in the quarried-away section, which halted excavation for safety reasons. Pick impressions of a short-headed iron pick were abundant on the walls and roof, and deep rope-marks were found cut into the chalk at the base of the shaft. The original depth of the chambers could not be determined as the floor was completely covered with a high *débris* cone of sandy material, evidence of previous attempts to fill in what was at one time a dangerous pit-fall in the orchard above.

At least one other denehole has been disturbed in the past by quarrying operations; the outline of a blocked chamber could be seen in the chalk face of the quarry, but it was not possible to gain entry into this excavation.

R. F. AND J. LE GEAR

HOSEY COMMON RAGSTONE MINE

A derelict set of mined galleries exists, beneath Hosey Common, Westerham (N.G.R. TQ 454529). In recent years the entrance adits have been closed with strong iron gates and padlocks in order to prevent undue disturbance to the bat population, which hibernate in the tunnels during the winter months. A survey and archaeological examination was commenced during June/July, 1975, with the assistance of members of the Cantium Cave and Mine Research Group.

The tunnels (average 2·10 m. high by 3·70 m. wide) are the remains of an extensive mine driven into the Hythe Beds of the Upper Greensand; they were excavated to extract the building stone known as Kentish Ragstone. So far some 1,389 m. of passages have been surveyed in two separate sets of tunnels. A third set of galleries will be surveyed in the near future.

The history of the mine is completely unknown at the present time. The very overgrown state of the old access roads, together with the mining methods employed, indicates a considerable period of disuse.

R. F. LE GEAR

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

CREMATION BURIALS AT BURNTWICK ISLAND

This note deals with the discovery of a Romano-British cremation burial at Burntwick Island (N.G.R. TQ 860723) in 1959 and is based on a conversation with Messrs. David and Michael Lane, who were both present at the discovery, and on the records of two other burials provided by Mr. F. A. Hastings, of the Ordnance Survey.

The 1959 discovery was either at TQ 862723 or, more probably, at TQ 953823, both sites on the south bank of the island just north of the Upchurch Marshes; it was partly exposed by erosion on the island's edge. While removing a pot, three more whole vessels were found. The pot was a large, grey, storage-jar of c. 50 cm., in height, with two or three ridges around the neck and shoulder, and contained a mass of presumably human, charred bones, which were not retained. The other vessels consisted of a samian Form 33 cup with an illegible stamp, a samian dish of Form 18, and a rounded, buff, flagon with a stopper neck but no handle, which had its lip broken off. Nearby were about twenty to thirty worn sherds of varying greyish colours, some plain, some with lattice decoration and a few with handles.

In 1947, near the latter grid reference, a Mr. Darling found a 'funeral deposit comprising a cinerary urn, two flasks, a terracotta dish not later than 123 A.D. (my italics) and a form 31 patera' of SABINVS, according to the Ordnance Survey card. In 1962, Mr. G. Pattison found a group of three pots, one containing cremated remains, at TQ 85377232. This burial was also found in the eroded bank.

It seems likely that these finds represent a small cremation cemetery dating not later than the Antonine period, the dish by SABINVS giving a date not earlier than c. A.D. 75-105, for that particular burial. All vessels have been dispersed into private hands.

PAUL ARTHUR

A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE BURIAL AT OTFORD

To the north-east of Otford Station, on the east side of the Darent Valley, is a re-entrant in the North Downs known as the Coombe; it is a steep-sided dry valley. No prehistoric sites are known within the Coombe, although flint implements have been found. A possible round barrow is situated on the top of Otford Mount, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the burial site.

During mechanical levelling for a tennis court in the southward sloping garden to the rear of no. 46 Greenhill Road (N.G.R. TQ 53556005), a cavity was noticed in the side of the excavation to which the attention of Mrs. R. Pitcairn-Knowles was drawn. Excavation by the Otford and District Historical Society's Archaeological Group

established that this cavity contained a complete vessel (Fig. 4), which proved to contain cremated bone fragments uncontaminated with earth filling the vessel. From the conical heap of fragments, it is possible that the bones had been cremated, then deliberately crushed and placed in a container, possibly a bag of cloth or leather, which has perished completely. Traces were found of a cylindrical hole some 2 ft. in

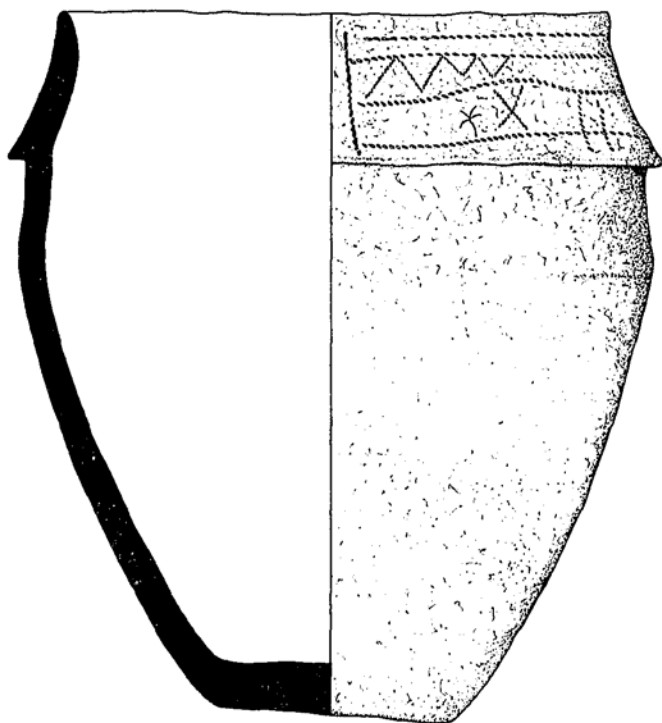


FIG. 4. Burial Urn.

diameter with a flat bottom on which the inverted vessel had rested. The hole had apparently been back-filled with soil. The bottom of the hole was 1 ft. 11 in. below the estimated present laid surface; no trace of any mound was observed in the rather disturbed ground near the burial. A discoloration in the sloping chalk face of the excavation, 10 ft. south—south-west of the urn, was investigated and produced three small sherds of similar reddish pottery black in fracture. A search of the spoil forming the built-up section of the tennis court did not reveal any further sherds.

The vessel is 1 ft. 2 in. in height with a maximum diameter of

1 ft. 7 in. The surface is reddish-brown in colour, black and rather crumbly in fracture, and the collar, which is somewhat blackened, has traces of a naturally formed chalky encrustation. The vessel was submitted to Dr. I. H. Longworth, of the British Museum, who confirmed it to be a coiled vessel of the Middle Bronze Age period, a collared urn with undecorated neck in the south-eastern tradition. The collar is decorated with hurdle and diagonal patterns made by two-stranded cords of different thicknesses, which were impressed on the vessel during its leather-hard stage.

A unique feature of this urn is the intentional use of rows of finger-nail impression to supplement the cord design. These nail-marks occur for 5 in. on the rim of the vessel, and for 5 in. on the face of the collar. A further star-shaped mark on the collar also appears to have been made by means of a finger-nail. No other vessels in this tradition are known to bear such decoration. Dr. Longworth considered the vessel fairly late in the period, probably nearer 1000 than 1400 B.C. The urn was probably made locally as a storage vessel and is likely to have been fired in an inverted position which would account for the blackening of the collar. The sherds found nearby Dr. Longworth also assigned to the Bronze Age, but of rather later date.

The bones, varying in colour from white to blue-grey, due to incomplete burning, were submitted for examination to Dr. Živanović, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

His report was:

	Weight of bones present:	1,950 gm.
	Maximum length of fragments:	95 mm.
Details:	Male adult, age 25-35 (?).	
	No evidence of disease, bone fragments mineralized post-mortuary.	
Teeth:	Of one individual only present—deformed and reduced in size due to burning.	

The urn is in the care of the owners.

The writers wish to express their gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Pitcairn-Knowles for their kind and ready co-operation and to Drs. Longworth and Živanović for the benefit of their knowledge.

J. A. PYKE AND C. P. WARD

A GRAVESTONE IN THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, ROCHESTER

This church, dedicated in 1423 and extensively altered in the early seventeenth century, has in recent years had its western part and both aisles screened off to provide a diocesan office and bookshop. As the remaining part is not used for regular worship, the pews were removed

in October, 1974, together with the timber floor on which they were placed. This brought to light a broken and eroded gravestone of which I was able to make a rubbing before it was buried under a new concrete floor after attempts to lift and re-site it had proved unavailing (Fig. 5).

The stone lay with its head to the east and its foot 28 ft. 6 in. from the inside of the west wall and its south edge 2 ft. 10 in. north of the south arcade. It measured 6 ft. 5 in. by 2 ft. 9 in. and was 4 in. thick, the material being light-grey calcareous sandstone from the Hythe Beds, rather more coarse-grained than the true Kentish Rag and probably originating from the area west of Maidstone.¹ Near the centre were the indents of a brass comprising a female effigy, whose outline indicated costume of the sixteenth century, above two rectangular inscription plates. After the loss or deliberate removal of the effigy, the stone had, in the eighteenth century, been appropriated as a memorial to members of the Hawes family. Part of the inscription commemorating Charles and Nathaniel Hawes had been cut across the indent of the sixteenth-century effigy, and below the plates—which were presumably still in position at the time—was cut an addition referring to Elizabeth Weekes who died in 1831.

In Griffin and Stephenson's *A List of Monumental Brasses Remaining in the County of Kent in 1922*, p. 160, there is noted an inscription plate measuring 22 in. by 7½ in. with another 14½ in. by 2 in., then on the wall of the south aisle of this church. Their dimensions coincide with the two rectangular indents in the gravestone under consideration, and this renders the identification of the brass beyond reasonable doubt. The lady was Alice, daughter and heiress of John Williams, of Strood, wife of Alderman John Turke, and later married to Thomas Robinson, registrar of the city and diocese of Rochester. She died in 1574, aged 76, and the brass was laid down by her son, John Turke, in 1577. In the Society of Antiquaries' collection there is a sketch of the brass by Thomas Fisher, F.S.A. (d. 1836), showing the indent of the missing figure.

It was observed that the inscription indents were unworn and most probably the plates were removed from the stone and fixed to the wall immediately prior to the introduction of the Victorian pews, possibly during the restoration of 1860–62.

At the south-west corner, just below the date 1831, there had been cut a very distinct equal-armed cross which clearly had nothing to do with either the sixteenth-century brass or the Hawes and Weekes inscription. It at once suggests that the stone may well have been the slab of a pre-Reformation altar, but confirmatory evidence in the form of other crosses in the customary positions, in the centre and in the

¹ Mr. Martyn Owen, of the Geological Museum, South Kensington, has kindly identified a sample of the stone.

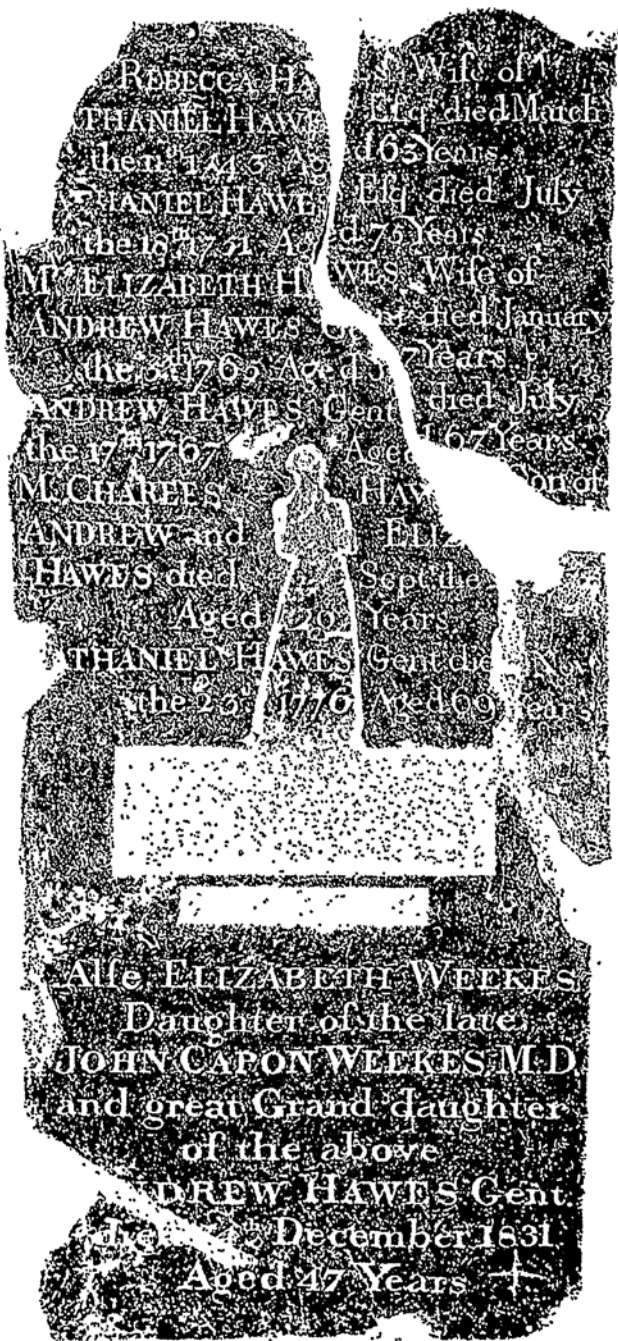


FIG. 5.

other three corners, was lacking owing to the erosion and recutting of the surface.

I am grateful to the Diocesan Secretary, Mr. G. J. Phillips, for inviting me on behalf of the Advisory Committee to make observations in the church during the recent alterations which led to this discovery.

P. J. TESTER

EXCAVATIONS AT ICKHAM

For the past eighteen months work has been carried out on a large Roman site at Ickham, which is being destroyed by gravel extraction. The bulk of this work has been carried out by members of the Ashford Archaeological Society under the direction of Mr. J. Bradshaw, aided by grants from the Department of the Environment. For a period of six weeks a Departmental excavation under my direction investigated some of the more important structures. I am most grateful to Mr. Bradshaw and members of the Ashford Society who have freely and generously made available all their material and records, without whose continued assistance little could have been done. The following account of the site incorporates the results of their work. I am grateful also to the Church Commissioners and to Messrs. Ickham Gravels Ltd. for permission to excavate, and to Mr. J. Hodges, manager of the pit, and his staff for their co-operation.

The site lies on the south bank of the Little Stour, in an area heavily settled in the Romano-British period. Aerial photographs show that an old course of the river runs through the excavated area and that alongside it there was a road. Excavation has now shown both of these to be Romano-British in date. In later times a considerable depth of peat was deposited over the Romano-British levels and this, together with the waterlogged nature of the site, has resulted in an exceptional degree of preservation of organic materials, such as wood and leather.

Finds and features observed and recorded during gravel extraction show that occupation was dense over most of the area. Features included drainage ditches running into the river, wells and pits lined with timber, a small post-built structure containing a large pile of animal bones including what is perhaps the earliest discovery of a donkey in Britain, and a wooden fence along the line of the roads. Among the finds were large quantities of pottery and metalwork, including much débris from the manufacture of pewter.

The most substantial structures were on the line of the buried river channel. One of these, dated by associated coins and pottery to the second century, was a building supported on piles formed by grouping three or four posts together in a revetted section of the channel. Large numbers of millstone fragments were found in and around this structure, and it is probable that it was a mill.

At the western edge of the site the old river course had divided into two channels around a small island. Both channels contained substantial timber remains while on the island itself post-holes showed that a building of some sort had stood here also. The northern channel had been lined at sides and bottom with planks nailed to uprights and stretchers for a length of 16 m. The westernmost (upstream) 2 m. of this channel was only 0·7 m. wide. The remainder was 1·4 m. wide. The junction between the two gauges had been destroyed by a scouring pit in which lay fragments of upper and lower millstones. At two points along the wide channel were larger uprights and cross-beams which were presumably intended to carry greater weight. Some of these timbers showed evidence of joinery work. Large quantities of metal-work and coins, dating to the last quarter of the fourth century, were found in this channel.

The southern channel was much narrower with steeper sides. Across this channel were two massive oak beams, the largest of which was over 2 m. long. The sides of the channel had been revetted with hurdling, and one of the beams lay across this, suggesting that it had fallen from above. The second, smaller beam was apparently in its original position. Both beams contained mortices and other evidence of carpentry, and these showed that one had originally been placed above the other. It is likely that they were the upper and lower beams of some sort of sluice gate used to regulate the flow of water through the other channel. It is clear, then, that in the northern channel there was the mill itself, while in the southern channel there was a weir with some kind of timber structure or mill-house on the island in between.

Watermills are not common in Britain, others being recorded at Willowford Bridge, Chesters, both on Hadrian's Wall, Fullerton, Hants., and Otford, Kent. Milling equipment, perhaps from water-mills, has been found in London and some other places. The Ickham mills are, therefore, a major addition to our knowledge of Roman Britain especially in view of the quantity of preserved timber. It remains to consider who actually operated this mill. Finds from the site include several zoomorphic buckles of the types used in the late Roman army as well as other military equipment such as ballista bolts. The site is only nine kilometres from the Saxon Shore fort at Richborough. In the late Romano-British period the Wantsum channel, into which the Little Stour flowed, was still an open waterway, so that waterborne communications between Ickham and Richborough at the southern end of the Wantsum would have been good. The fort would have required large quantities of flour and some sort of military supply rôle for the mills at Ickham seems very likely.

C. YOUNG

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

DARTFORD

Mr. M. Gribble, Bexley's Assistant Curator, has kindly given me information about a bronze Jew's harp, with diamond-shaped section, 59 mm. in length, found on the Thames foreshore near the Long Reach Tavern, at the mouth of the River Darent, near Crayford Ness (N.G.R. TQ 544779). The discovery was made by the present owner's grandfather, perhaps in the early years of this century. A previous owner was Mr. M. T. Stedman, of Belvedere. It is now 'somewhere in America'.

EGERTON

In 1970, our member, Mr. R. Moy, found in the garden of Rock Hill House, Egerton, one hundred yards or so north of the 'Good Intent', Stonebridge Green (N.G.R. TQ 910842) a bronze Jew's harp, 52 mm. in length. It has the usual notch to take the iron reed, but it has a diamond-shaped section, not a flattened one. A similar Jew's harp from the neighbourhood has already been published (*Arch. Cant.*, lx (1947), 107-8). For some discussion on the dating of Jew's harps see *Arch. Cant.*, lxxvii (1962), 206. (Fig. 1.)

LONGFIELD

A seventeenth-century chamber pot with a single small handle was found in a garden at Dean Bottom, at a depth of c. 2 feet. The body consists of a hard, red-brick coloured paste with the interior covered by a yellow lead glaze. The diameter of the base is approximately 98 mm. as is the height. The rim diameter varies as the pot is a waster and most probably comes from a kiln site yet to be discovered in the neighbourhood. The pot has been given to Maidstone Museum (Accession no. 26.1975).

MAIDSTONE

The Shire House, Peel Street, was perhaps not too well known to Maidstonians as it lay away from the road, and was sandwiched between Bleak House and Northborough C.P. School. It was originally built on Penenden Heath in 1830 and was intended, according to the *Topography of Maidstone and its Environs*, 1839, for County Meetings. The Sheriffs' County Court, for the recovery of debts, was held there once a month.

The architect was John Whichcord, Senior, the County Surveyor (H. M. Colvin, *A Biographical Dictionary of English Architects, 1660-1840*, 661 and *Arch. Cant.*, lxxvii (1962), 205). The original plans and specification are at the Kent Archives Office.

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In 1877, the building was dismantled and transferred by Ebenezer Goodwin, cousin of the artist Albert Goodwin, to the grounds of Bleak House in Peel Street. It was pulled down by the Department of the Environment at the end of January, 1975. Photographs and measured drawings of the house just before demolition were made by Peter Lambert and the writer and are deposited in Maidstone Museum.

L. R. A. GROVE

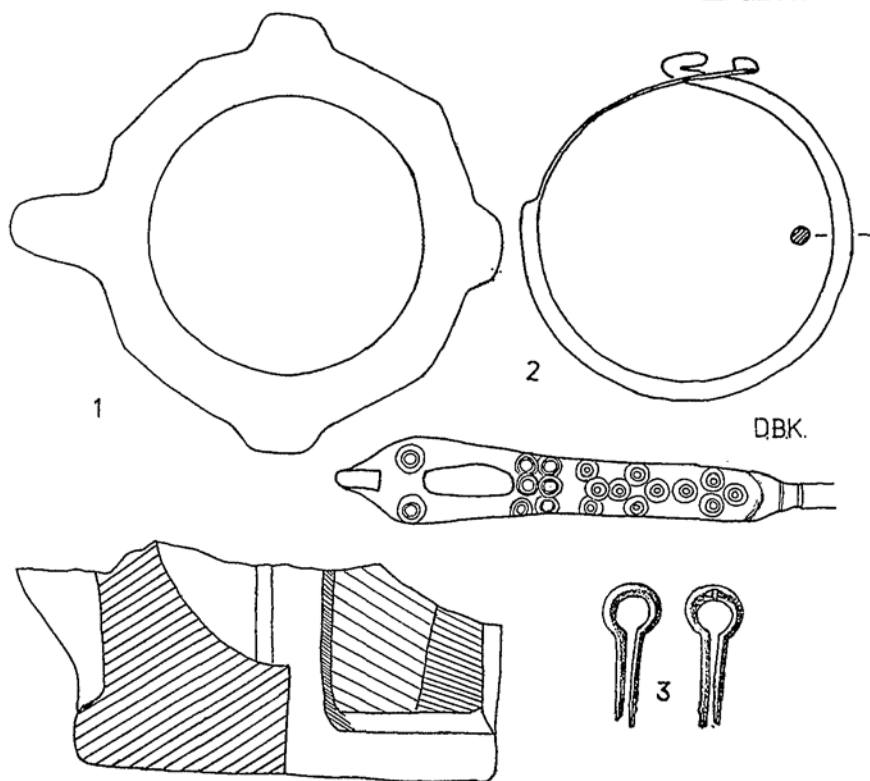


FIG. 6. 1. Sittingbourne: medieval Mortar. 2. Stanford: Romano-British Bracelet ($\frac{1}{2}$) and Detail of Terminal ($\frac{1}{4}$)

LEEDS

A small flint hand-axe of Middle Acheulian type was found by Mr. R. J. Smith in October, 1973, near Park Barn Farm (N.G.R. TQ 832523). The tip was missing and the implement was covered with a white patina. Length (broken) 3 in., maximum breadth 2.6 in., thickness 0.9 in.

MAIDSTONE

Two Roman coins were brought to the museum for identification.

- (i) *As* of Claudius, R.I.C. 66, found in 1939 by Mr. R. F. Amies in his garden at 343 London Road (N.G.R. TQ 739569).
- (ii) *Sestertius* of Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus. *As* R.I.C. 1779, but obverse reading LVCILLAE. Found by Mr. W. Hollands in 1975 on a building site north of School Lane, adjacent to Mote Park (N.G.R. TQ 782542).

SITTINGBOURNE

The base of a medieval mortar (Fig. 6) was found in the autumn of 1974 at a building site. It is almost certainly of Purbeck marble, but the small fragment detached for examination lacked the distinctive cross-section of the *Viviparidae*. However, Mr. M. Owen, of the Geological Museum, who kindly examined the fragment, thought that it was very probably Purbeck marble, and Dr. G. C. Dunning, F.S.A., tells me that he has not seen these faceted mortars from any other source.

The mortar is nine-sided, but was perhaps intended to be octagonal, having a botched three-sided section between two of the lugs. It has flat ribs extending below three of the lugs and running into a moulded base; the fourth lug projects much more for a spout. The mortar is Dunning's type 1.¹ Of three Purbeck marble mortars of this type excavated at Northolt Manor² two were dated to c. A.D. 1300 and a third to A.D. 1250-1350.

THE BLACK BOOK OF GILLINGHAM

'The Black Book of Gillingham' (K.A.O. U398—M1A) is an important source of Kentish manorial history. The introductory statement that it is a rental 'renewed' (*renovat.*) in the year Henry VI 26 led to the belief that the document was dated 1447. The rebound document in the custody of the Kent County Archives Office is believed to be either the original, or a very early copy. There is a pencil note on the fly-leaf, of unknown source, to the effect that, according to the watermark, the paper is of about the year 1452.

The regnal date 26 Henry VI was quoted as the date of the document by H. L. Gray in the chapter on Kent in his *English Field Systems* (Harvard, 1915). Gray had access only to an incomplete, nineteenth-century copy held by the British Museum.

The date of the document is now found to be a little later than has been hitherto believed. On p. 88, at the conclusion of the section

¹ *Med. Arch.*, v (1961), 279-84.

² *Loc. cit.*, in note 1, fig. 74, nos. 1, 3 and 6.

giving rents and other details, under field-names, there is the entry: *Rec. in die Concept. Bte. Marie Anno ij-do. Henr. vij—ij li. iij s. iij d.* ('Received on the day of the Conception of the Blessed Mary, in the second year of Henry VII—£3. 4s. 3d.'). The date of the document is, therefore, 8th December, 1486, or soon afterwards.

This correction is confirmed by the County Archivist who has kindly given permission to publish.

C. L. SINCLAIR WILLIAMS

SHEERNESS

A coin of Maximinianus, R.I.C. 11b, was found off the Marine Parade by Mr. S. Cackett in July, 1974.

STANFORD

A bronze Romano-British bracelet with a snake's head terminal (Fig. 6) was found on an allotment adjacent to Stone Street by Mr. Pinchen, of Yew Tree Cottage, Sandling. The expanded terminal is decorated with dot and ring motive and has a slot to receive the hooked end of the other terminal. The diameter is $2\frac{3}{8}$ in.

Bracelets of this type and the distinctive decoration are dateable to the late third and fourth centuries A.D. At Bourton Bridge two comparable examples were found in a late fourth-century layer³ and Wheeler assigns the very large number of bracelets with expanded and hooked ends and similar decoration found at Lydney to the latter part of the same century.⁴ At Verulamium a snake's head terminal bracelet is dated to the late third century⁵ and another was found with an inhumation burial at Coldham Common, Cambs.⁶

D. B. KELLY

³ *T.B.G.A.S.*, xci (1972), 112 and fig. 10, nos. 7 and 8.

⁴ R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler: *The Excavation of the Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Roman Site in Lydney Park, Gloucestershire*, Oxford, 1932, 82-3 and fig. 17.

⁵ R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler: *Verulamium: a Belgic and two Roman Cities*, Oxford, 1936, 210 and fig. 45, no. 44.

⁶ *British Museum Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain*, 1922, 67 and fig. 86.

