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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL, SOUTH DOOR PORCH EXCAVATIONS

Work was started on the building of a porch, over the door of the south quire aisle, in August 1983.

The building excavations for the foundations were fairly shallow, approximately 0.30 m. in depth. In the course of his work the builder uncovered three features of interest: (a) A section of the Cellarer's Building; (b) A red tiles Tudor floor; (c) Four small rubbish pits (Figs. 1-3).

(a) *Cellarer's Building*

On removing some garden steps, near to the south door, the builder uncovered an additional section of the wall foundation to the Cellarer's Building. This wall is stepped from its base in squared stone. At the top of the tiered stone the wall is 1.08 m. thick.

(b) *Tudor Floor*

The red unglazed tiles were laid diagonally on the line of the cloister and set in an off-white mortar. The tiles were approximately 23.5 cm × 23.5 cm. × 2.5 cm. (9¼ in. × 9¼ in. × 1 in.)

(c) *Rubbish Pits*

These pits contained pottery and porcelain sherds dating from the late seventeenth to the early eighteenth century.

The pottery was of tin-glazed ware, glazed earthen ware and Bellarmine stone-ware. With the pottery, there were sherds of fine blue-and-white Chinese expert porcelain of the K'ang Hsi period (1662-1722). The trade in Chinese porcelain was not fully opened up until the formation of the English company trading to the East Indies in September 1698

Recording of Features

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend a small group of K.A.S. members were invited to record and draw up the porch site. When the site had been cleared and tidied up additional features were

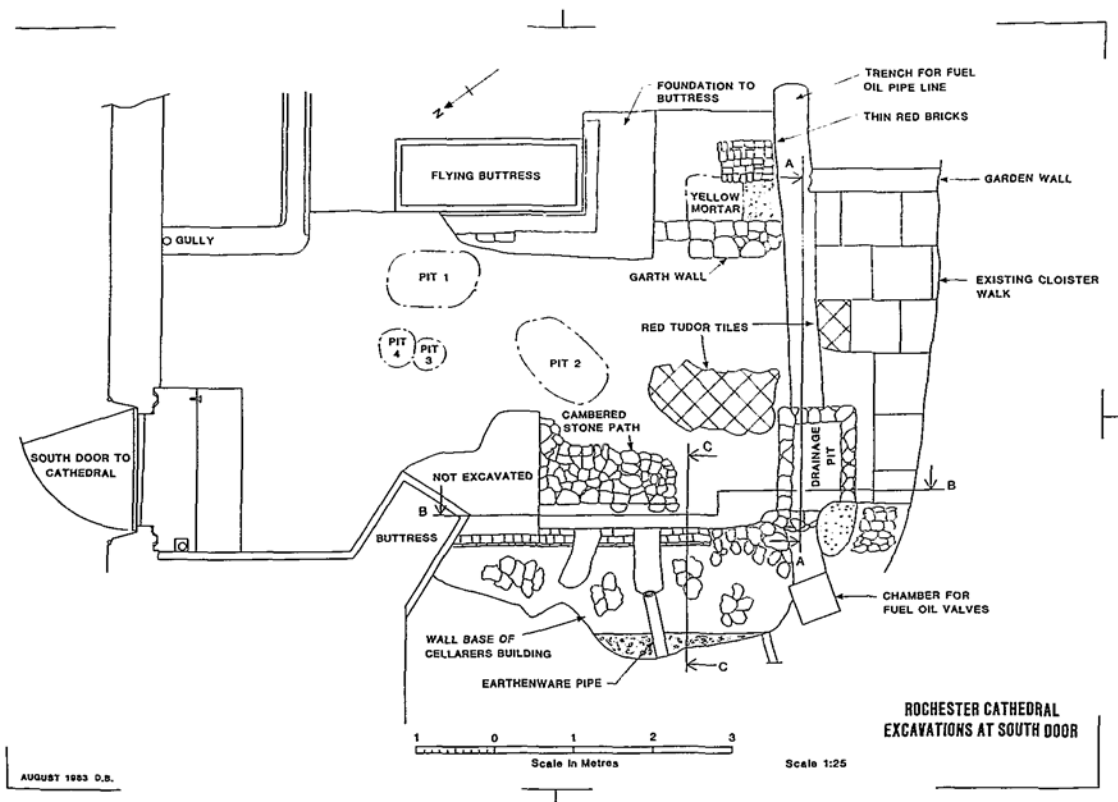


Fig. 1. Plan.

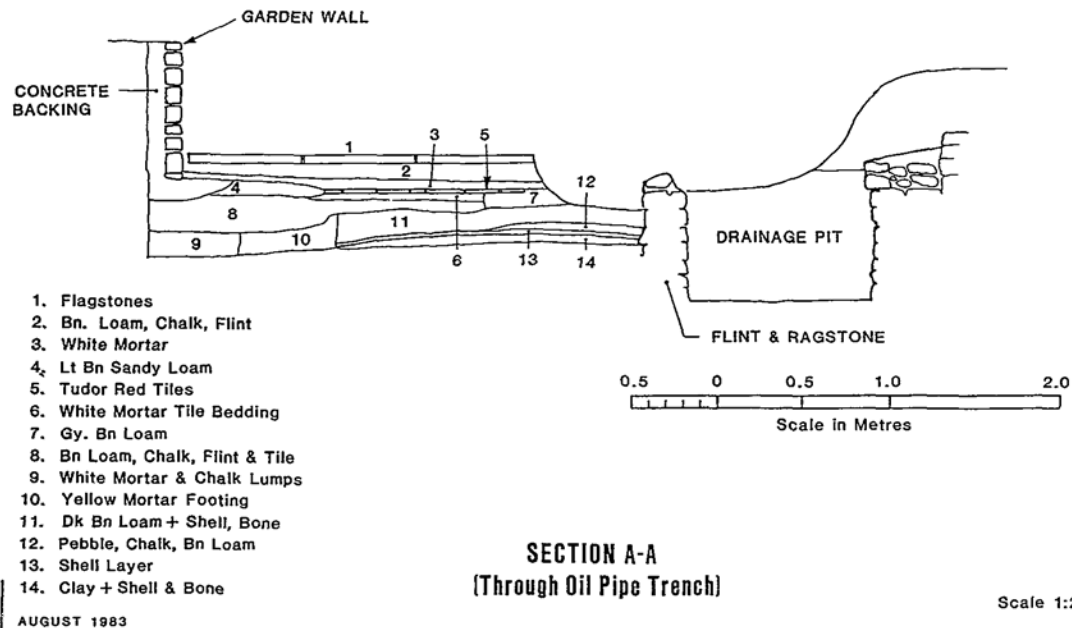
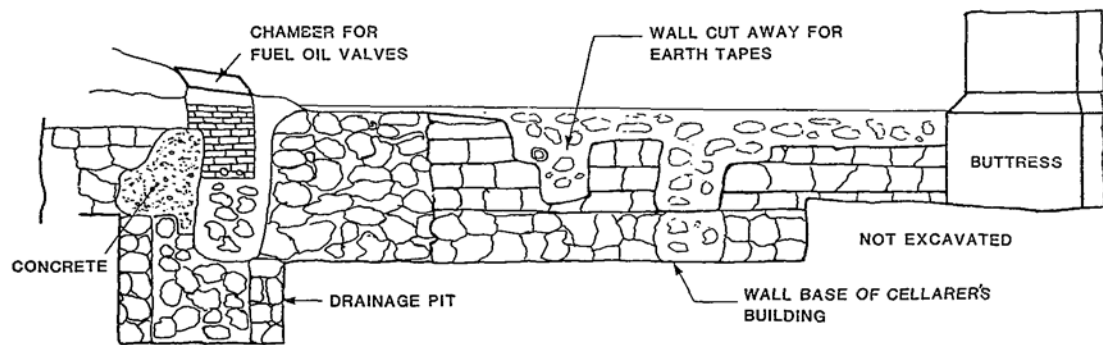
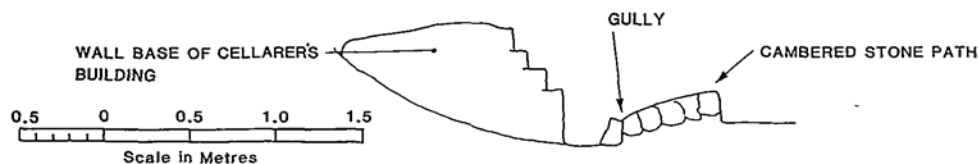


Fig. 2. Section A-A.



SECTION B-B



SECTION C-C

Scale 1:25

AUGUST 1983

Fig. 3. Sections B-B and C-C.

uncovered: (d) A stone path; (e) Garth wall foundation; (f) Stone path.

The uncovered path followed the course of the cloister and had been laid over the Tudor tiled floor. The path was steeply cambered into a gully, the gully fed into a drainage pit measuring 1.10 cm, \times 0.60 cm. \times 0.75 cm. deep.

From the top layers of the drainage pit glazed earthenware sherds were found dating from about 1700. At the bottom of the pit, incised decorated glass fragments were recovered. These fragments were in an advanced state of decay.

(d) *Garth Wall*

The original garth stone wall foundation is approximately 0.50 cm. thick and is set back 0.65 cm. inside the present cloister walk.

Members attending the excavations were Mr P. Payne, Mr A. Jennings and Mr A. Ward, with much appreciated help and advice from Mrs O. Arnold and Mr A. C. Harrison.

DAVID BACCHUS

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY GROUP

Circumstances necessitated a much-abbreviated report last year (*Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 384) so that, to some extent, the present account deals with the two years to September 1985. This has been an increasingly difficult time, chiefly due to changes in the composition of our team, savage cuts in the grants on which we depend, and disruption of arrangements for photographic processing at rates we can afford. Despite consequent reductions in personnel, funds and back-up facilities, we somehow managed to cope with an undiminished work-load and very numerous demands for our services.

The number of buildings with which we were concerned, scattered over a wide area, was as high as ever. Amongst these, no. 17 High Street, Brasted, was identified as a late-fifteenth-century open-hall house of L-shaped plan, both stems having crown-post roofs; the extent of soot-encrustment indicates that the hall occupied the entire main stem, leaving only the two-storeyed rear wing (not a cross-wing) to accommodate the solar and service rooms. At this house, seventeenth-century modifications are well represented by the normal chimneyed inglenook and upper floor inserted in the hall and by a side-purlined extension of the wing. Nos. 26 and 28 High Street, Otford, a single building with a modern front wall divided at ground-storey level into two shops, was found to contain a

continuous four-bay late-medieval crown-post roof apparently brought from else where and accurately reassembled (with some interchange of members) in c. 1926–28, though part of the building's early timber-framed rear wall seems undisturbed. Much of Little Blackhall, Blackhall Lane, Sevenoaks, is of various dates in the last 300 years, but a cross-wing probably representing the high end of an open-hall house of c. 1500–30 is preserved with framed walls and a two-bay crown-post roof; adjoining it at the front is a sixteenth century addition, the side-purlin roof of which appears to have been rebuilt during the following century with a ninety-degree change of axis. At Knole, the old brewhouse was investigated and found to contain two Victorian brick vats and other relics of its former use, within the tone walls of 1603–08 (re-roofed later).

The following studies were completed and distributed, a copy of each being inserted in our loose-leaf binder in the K.A.S. Library. With a steady flow of additions each year, we hope that this volume will constitute an increasingly-valuable record of the more-detailed results of our operations, justifying the grants received from the Society.

Otford Study No. 2: David Asprey, The Barn of 'The Bull' Public House, High Street, Otford.

The building was constructed in the mid-seventeenth century as a typical aisleless timber threshing-barn with weatherboarded walls and a tiled roof hipped at both ends. It was originally five bays long and, on one side, there is evidence of a central midstrete or canopy. The latter was demolished about 200 years later, when other modifications included the shortening of the barn by a half-bay at its east end and the insertion there of an enclosed single-storey stable with a wall hay-rack, the floor being used for fodder storage. Despite subsequent repairs and minor alterations, much of the primary framing survives: jowled principal wall-posts support tie-beams and scarf-jointed wall-plates; the roof structure has staggered butt-purlins and, at a higher level, through side purlins with clasping collars; curved braces spring from the posts up to the tie-beams, and raking struts from the latter support the principal rafter immediately above or below their joints with the butt-purlins. Renewal of weatherboarding (previously tarred) in 1983 resulted in the disappearance of a shuttered opening under the eaves through which hay was pitched from the cart to the storage floor over the stable. Although within the curtilage of a listed building, the barn is not listed in its own right.

Sevenoaks Study No. 1: Anthony D. Stoyel, Nos. 99 and 101, High Street, Sevenoaks, and the former Market Place.

Nos. 99 and 101 are adjoining shop premises in the busy town centre, only a side-street's width from the former Market House. Stripping of no. 101 for proposed alterations was commenced (without the necessary Listed Building Consent) in 1982 and disclosed unexpectedly-important timber framing, a little of which was destroyed before the builder's operations were halted as a result of the Group's intervention with the planning authority. Our subsequent investigation showed that the drab early-nineteenth century exterior concealed a rectangular two-bay framed building, jettying along three of its four sides. The ground story has been gutted but, from its ceiling upwards, the primary timbering is largely complete, including the two dragon-beams, the framing of the first-floor room, and that of the roof structure with scarf-jointed through side-purlins, queen-posts and curved wind-braces. Interestingly, the tie-beams are linked by central longitudinal girder-beams demonstrating that a full-sized attic floor has always existed.

A long-forgotten alley, enclosed in the nineteenth century when no. 101 was extended to join no. 99, formerly separated the two early structures. The stripping in 12982 exposed the adjacent part of no. 99, showing that this originated as another building of similar type and construction, jettied on three sides, though the roof has been renewed. Its spectacular end-elevation, once external and constituting one side of the alley, was found to preserve a complete jetty in excellent condition with dragon-beams (one still bracketed) at both corners and many other primary timbers.

The evidence indicates that these buildings were erected as small shops, unheated and thus not also occupied as dwellings, no. 101 in c. 1600 and no. 99 probably a little earlier. The scale drawings in our study include some corner-joints of types rarely illustrated in published works and a jetty bracket (destroyed 1982) of unusual design.

At the time of writing, no. 101 remains empty and its future use is uncertain. Following service of a statutory Repairs Notice, minimal work was done in 1985 to ensure structural stability. The Group is continuing to urge that the newly-discovered early features of both buildings are carefully repaired, and, as far as appropriate and practicable, left exposed to view as a means of town-centre conservation.

Our study traces the bounds of the medieval market place, which has all but disappeared as a result of the intrusion of shops, nos. 99 and 101 being two of them. All other surviving pre-eighteenth

century buildings within its area have been identified and wherever possible we are recording them in detail. The results are proving of sufficient interest to justify a paper in a future volume of *Arch. Cant.*.

Shoreham Study No. 1: David Asprey and Malcolm White, Shepherd's Barn, Shoreham.

This study is of more than usual importance because it presents the results of our full recording before the barn (not listed) was dismantled, for possible re-erection elsewhere, by the Shoreham Society in 1983 to make way for the construction of the M25 motorway link between Chevening and Swanley.

The building apparently originated in the second half of the seventeenth century as a timber threshing-barn of six bays, single-aisled and with a lean-to outshut at its south end. The roof was thatched, hipped to the north and half-hipped to the south, and a midstrey on the aisled side (with possibly another at the double-doors in the facing wall) opened to the threshing floor occupying one of its central bays.

Subsequently, a flanking stockyard with two ranges of shelter sheds was laid out, but the whole complex seems to have become derelict soon afterwards, resulting in the barn losing its aisle and midstrey (or midstreys). By 1840, its west side had been re-enclosed with weatherboarding along the line of former arcade-posts and its hipped north end-bay had been completely partitioned off with north-facing outer cladding.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, this bay was given a new gabled roof and an upper floor enclosed by the earlier partition. The length of the barn was increased to seven bays by incorporating the former outshut, which was fitted up as a stable and likewise provided with a new full-height gabled roof. Corrugated iron replaced the thatch roof-cladding throughout and the stockyard shelters were reconstructed.

In the present century, the latter again fell into ruins but the barn was maintained with a patchwork of minor repairs. When recently dismantled, much of the primary timbering survived, showing five bays of the original roof structure of single-level continuous side-purlin type with raking struts and no collars; it was distinguished by reversed-curvature braces from the principal posts up to the tie-beams. There is no evidence that a farmhouse ever existed here and the barn ultimately formed an outpost of Stonehouse Farm, in the adjacent parish of Halstead. According to oral tradition, it was the subject of drawings and paintings by Samuel Palmer, who lived in Shoreham from 1827 to 1835.

Shoreham Study No. 2: Anthony D. Stoyel, Record and Little Record, Church Street, Shoreham

The name is that of a family documented as owning property in the village early in the seventeenth century. Record is a private house, basically Georgian, and a brick in its front elevation neatly inscribed 'T R 1738' not only gives a good indication of the date of construction but also suggests that it may still have belonged to a member of the same family. The front is notable for a set of three matching shop-windows of c. 1840–50 which, in conjunction with a full-width rear extension of similar date clearly designed largely for storage or workshop purposes, represents the earliest evidence of trade use. Certainly the building was a shop with living accommodation throughout the first half of the present century. A small side-extension added in c. 1870–90 provided additional private rooms but was partitioned off in 1962, since when it has been called Little Record and let as a self-contained cottage; together they constitute a single detached building, which is listed. The interior of the Georgian part of the house incorporates a number of re-used timbers of earlier date, some of them with pyramid chamfer-stops – a detail which in this district is generally indicative of the first half of the seventeenth century. It seems very likely that they came from a building on the same site, possibly the home of the documented Record family.

ANTHONY D. STOYEL

ROCHESTER PRIORY

(a) In August 1983, at the request of the Department of the Environment, a watch was kept on excavations in the garden of the Old Deanery for a drain and a man-hole in connection with alterations at no. 2 The College (N.G.R. TQ 74336853). The man-hole excavations produced Roman material at a depth of 2.50 m., including two fourth-century coins, one with a FEL TEMP REPARATIO reverse dated A.D. 350–360 and the other with a SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE reverse dated A.D. 365–378.¹ The drain-trench cut through a well constructed ragstone wall 0.4 m. wide running parallel to the garden to the front of the Deanery at a distance of 2.15 m. from it. This may have been part of the Old Deanery shown on St. John Hope's plan,² but in view of its narrow

¹ These coins were kindly identified by our member Mr D.H. Redfern.

² *Arch. Cant.* xxiv (1900) Pl. V.

width seems more likely to have formed the boundary of the monks garden and cemetery known to have been sited on the north side of the cathedral church from the Sextry Gate and extending round its east end.³

(b) In December 1983, on information received from Mr E.F. Bates, J.P., the Chapter Clerk, a watch was kept on a trial trench dug to the south of the surviving portion of the Roman city wall in connection with a building project which has not been abandoned. The western end of the trench, which was 3.40 m. by 0.70 m. wide, was 6 m. south of the city wall and 3.60 m. east of the garden wall at right angles to it (N.G.R. TQ 74296857). Its south section disclosed at a depth of 1.40 m. a wall made of ragstone rubble set in a buff coloured line-sand mortar. This wall, of unknown width, which seemed to be medieval in date and which survived to a height of 2 m., extended for the whole length of the trench and was parallel of the city wall. A possible explanation is that these two walls formed the reredorter of the Priory which would then have been sited at right angles to the Monks' dorter, which is quite a normal arrangement and would explain the survival of a portion of Roman city wall at this point.

Thanks are due to our members Mr P.R. Payne and Mr P. Thornhill, B.A., for their invaluable assistance at both these sites.

A.C. HARRISON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

AYLESFORD

1. The lower part of a bronze, pegged, leaf-shaped spearhead (Fig. 1, 1) was found by Mr P. Atkins in October, 1984 (N.G.R. TQ 736586). The fragment measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. \times $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. max., the peg holes are slightly off-centre and the edges show no sign of grinding. The type appears in the last (Penard) phase of the Middle Bronze Age and is common throughout the Late Bronze Age.
2. A *potin* coin, of type F, was found by Mr C. Bullock in the River Medway, near the north bank, opposite Little Preston, in March,

³ *Ibid.* 23.

1985 (N.G.R. TQ 734585). Head right, bull right; diam. 16 mm. Photograph and impressions in the museum.

3. A bronze brooch (Fig. 1, 5) was found in the River Medway in March, 1985, by Mr C. Bullock between The Friars and the bridge (N.G.R. TQ 728588). Length 50 mm.; width: head 35 mm., foot 33mm., bow 16 mm. The hollow bow is very humped or leech-shaped. The head and foot, or arms, each consist of a group of three conjoined roundels arranged in convex fashion and giving scalloped edges. Each roundel is decorated with two concentric circles in relief, the stamp being applied separately for each roundel in the mould, as is shown by the differences in spacing. The underside is plain and there is no trace of enamel or stone setting in the central hollows. The hinge and catch-plate were cast with the body of the brooch and set on opposite sides of the central axis. The missing pin was attached to a thin piece of wire, still remaining, between the two arms of the hinge.

Although the humped bow resembles that on some Hallstatt brooches and their British variants and a very few La Tène examples¹ have lobes below the head for a pivoted pin, no Iron Age brooch has arms at head and foot like the Aylesford brooch.² It must, then, be what it appears at first sight, an equal-armed brooch of the Anglo-Saxon period. In his paper on Merovingian equal-armed brooches,³ Prof. Hübener illustrates a large number, many of which have concentric ring, or ring-and-dot, ornament on the arms and steeply-arched bows. None show trilobed arms, however, and the bows tend to be straight-sided.

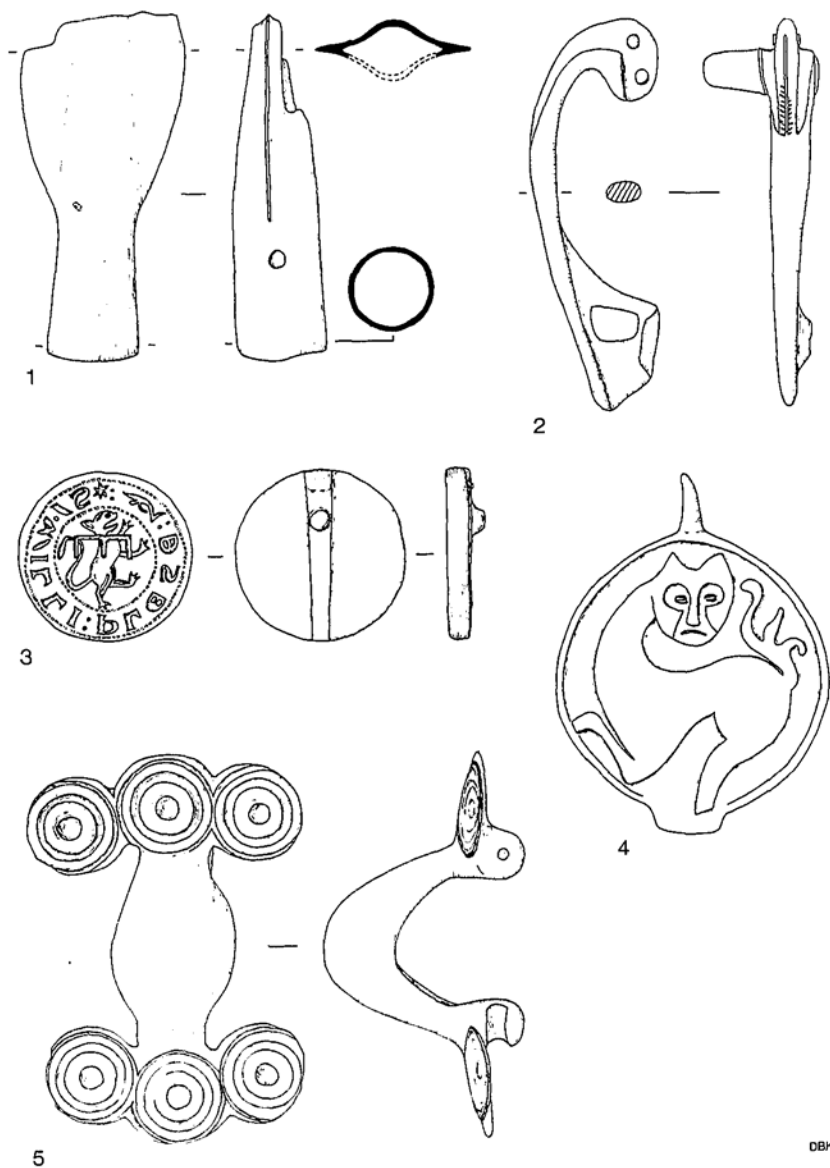
Prof. Hübener kindly commented on photographs of the Aylesford brooch sent to him. He says that if the brooch is not Early Iron Age, it must be Merovingian and would include it in his Group 6, a group containing many variations and not as regular as his other groups. Hence the trilobed arms might well be unique, since each piece in Group 6 is an individual production. The leech-shaped bow occurs repeatedly in his other groups, between the Seine, Marne and Rhine delta.⁴ This type of

¹ E.g. C. Fox: *Pattern and Purpose* (Cardiff, 1958), Fig. 11 and Pl. 41a. The origins of this are discussed by F.R. Hodson in *Prehistoric and Roman Studies* (British Museum, 1971), 50-7.

² I am most grateful to Professor and Mrs. C.F.C. Hawkes for their detailed comments on the brooch.

³ W. Hübener: 'Gleicharmige Bügelfibeln der Merowingerzeit in Westeuropa', *Madrid. Mitteil.*, 13 (1972), 211 ff. I owe this reference to Miss Valery Rigby of the British Museum.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Figs. 4, 12; 5, 4 (?); 14, 1; 15, 5; 20, 13 and 14.



DBK

Fig. 1. 1. Aylesford: Late Bronze Age Spearhead; 2. Maidstone: Roman Brooch; 3. Shorne: Medieval Seal-die; 4. Charing: Medieval Harness-pendant; 5. Aylesford: Equal-armed Brooch (Scale: 1/1, except no. 1, 1/2).

bow is a chronological and/or regional tendency rather than a criterion of type. Because of the individuality of each brooch in Group 6, Prof. Hübener was unable to give an exact parallel, but would date the Aylesford brooch to the second half of the sixth or the first half of the seventh century. Manufacture could have been in Kent or between the Seine and Rhine.

BOXLEY

1. A Celtic *AE* coin was found by R. Cox in 1984 (N.G.R. TQ 783593). Boar right, horse left. The coin was struck off-centre, the head of the horse being missing. Diam. 10 mm. Impressions in museum.
2. A lead ampulla or pilgrim flask (Fig. 2, 1) was found by R. Cox in 1984, (N.G.R. TQ 763604). It is 2.2 in. high and complete, though squashed; the two handles were originally sharp-angled. One side shows a crowned W, the other a scallop shell. The type has been assigned by B.W. Spencer⁵ to the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham and is of his type II. Fourteenth-fifteenth century.

CHARING

A copper or copper alloy harness pendant of Ward Perkins type IV (Fig. 1, 4) was found by Mr L. Clayton in June, 1984 (N.G.R. TQ 935509). It measures 1.8 × 1.3 in. and bears as a device a beast which, despite the triple tail, is presumably a cat. The cat was gilt, but no trace remains of the enamel surround.

DETLING

A Celtic *AE* coin of Eppillus was found by Mr N. Barnes in December, 1984, by the Pilgrims' Way (N.G.R. TQ 788587). The obverse is convex and bears a winged Victory, the reverse concave, with a horseman, right. The coin was too worn to retain a legend, but the type is Mack 301, which is a gold stater of Eppillus. It is presumably a bronze copy or the core of a plated stater. Diam. 16 mm. Impression in museum.

EAST MALLING

Two Roman coins were found by members of Mr R. Chandler's family, while hoeing:

⁵ *Lincs. H. and A.*, 6, (1971), 59-66.

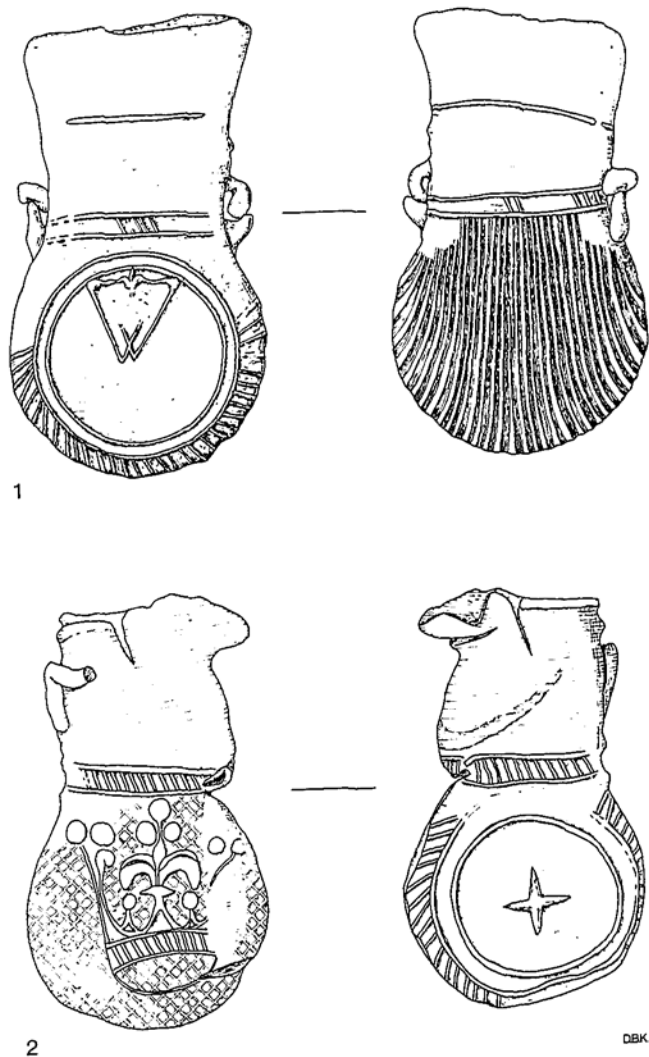


Fig. 2. Medieval Ampullae: 1. Boxley; 2. Newington. (Scale: 1/1).

(a) *Denarius* of the deified Faustina II (R.I.C. 746), found in June, 1985, at about N.G.R. TQ 705581.

(b) *AE* coin of Constantius II or Constans, Trier mint (R.I.C. 183–186), found in July, 1985, at about N.G.R. TQ 703569. This is the site of the Roman villa.⁶

IGHTHAM

Two early Roman Imperial coins were found by Mr W. C. Ladbrook in July, 1984 and May, 1985, within a few hundred yards of each other north-west of the church:

(a) *Denarius* of Gaius, R.I.C. (rev. edit.) 16, at about N.G.R. TQ 593570.

(b) *Denarius* of Vespasian, R.I.C. 75, at about N.G.R. TQ 591572.

MAIDSTONE

1. A bronze Roman brooch (Fig. 1, 2) was found in his garden by Dr D. Forsythe in July, 1984 (N.G.R. TQ 766549). Length 2 in. The bow is oval in section and the head has a ridge, flanked by cavetto mouldings and partly decorated by oblique, incised lines on each side, for under a third of its length. The pin is missing, but was secured by a lug with two holes to take the chord and axial bar. The foot has a single perforation. Traces of tinning remain on the top of the bow. Typologically, the brooch falls between the Colchester B brooch, with ridge and cavetto mouldings extending down the length of the bow, and the Colchester BB brooch, which lacks the cavetto mouldings, but is probably best classified as Colchester BB.⁷ The date at Colchester is A.D. 65–80. The find-spot is within 50 to 100 yds. of the Roman villa discovered under the Boys' Grammar School in 1870.⁸
2. The second batch, of nineteen coins, from the Vinter's Park hoard⁹ has now been published in British Museum Occasional Paper no. 43: *Coin Hoards from Roman Britain*, Vol. IV (1984), 38.

⁶ *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx (1965), 257.

⁷ Nina Crummy, *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971–9*, Colchester Archaeological Report 2: (1983), 12.

⁸ *V.C.H., Kent*, iii (1932), 99 and refs. therein.


⁹ *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 373.

NEWINGTON

A lead ampulla or pilgrim flask (Fig. 2, 2) was found by Mr L. Clayton in June, 1984 (N.G.R. TQ 851633). It measures 2.1×1.2 in. and is almost complete, though buckled, with one handle missing. The front has a crown in relief on a diapered background, the reverse a small incised cross within two concentric circles. It is likely to have come from a shrine associated with a royal saint, such as St. Edmund, Bury St. Edmund's, or possibly from Walsingham. Mr Brian Spencer tells me that there are a number of ampullae wearing a similar crown on one side and a crowned W (? Walsingham) on the other.

SHORNE

A circle bronze seal-die (Fig. 1, 3) was found in 1984 by Mr and Mrs B. J. Crockett (N.G.R. TQ 689718). The diameter is 22 mm., the thickness 3 mm. and there are the remains on the reverse of a small ring-handle at the top of the die. The legend and device are well executed:

* S' WILLI : PLESE ;  (Seal of William Plese) between circles, surrounding a lion rampant with a label of three points. Probably fourteenth century.

STAPLEHURST

A flint tanged and barbed arrowhead of the Early Bronze Age was found by Daniel Robinson in 1985 while digging a swimming-pool in his garden (N.G.R. TQ 791445). Length (from inner tip of barbs) $1\frac{3}{4}$ in.; width at barbs $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; dark brown flint; part of tang missing. The workmanship is neat, with delicate pressure flaking, the outline symmetrical; the edges have a very slight, but regular curve and the straight-edged barbs are cut obliquely; the part of the tang remaining is relatively broad and has parallel sides. The arrowhead closely resembles some of those from the Breach Farm group.¹⁰ Although the tang is incomplete, the arrowhead should probably be classified as belonging to Green's Conygar Hill type 'd' or 'e'.¹¹

UPPER HALLING

A Celtic *potin* coin was found by Mr A. Buxton in September, 1984

¹⁰ PPS, iv (1938), 116, fig. 6, nos. 6-8.

¹¹ H.S. Green, *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles*, BAR 75 (1980), 117 ff.

(N.G.R. TQ 686644): head left, naturalistic butting bull, left, with tail curling over its back; diam. 17 mm. The coin is very like the one found by Mr Buxton at Boxley¹², though the Boxley coin has the bull running right. Dr. D. Nash, of the Ashmolean Museum, regarded the Boxley coin as a very early British version of a cast coin on the Gallic model. Impressions in museum.

D.B. KELLY

¹² *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 367 (Boxley 'a').

