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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM THE KENT COUNTY MUSEUM SERVICE

SITTINGBOURNE

The skeletal material recovered from excavations of a Belgic cemetery at Highsted Chalk Quarry near Sittingbourne in 1955 (See *Arch. Cant.*, lxi (1955), xlvi, and *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1978), 267) has been deposited at the Kent County Museum Service headquarters at West Malling Air Station (Accession no. K2114) It was previously stored at the Court Hall Museum, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne. Twenty burials are said to have been found at the site, but the skeletons of many are evidently incomplete and some bones may have been muddled. Only a preliminary inspection of the bones has been carried out; one skeleton is probably that of an arthritis-sufferer, several juveniles are also represented, and several skulls clearly show incomplete dentition of the lower jaw.

HAWKINGE

1. A late Palaeolithic hand-axe was found in October 1986 in ploughsoil to the south of Hawkinge airfield buildings (between there and the field's Gibraltar Lane entrance). The tip is missing, and the whole handaxe patinated white and much rolled. Its shape is rather unusual, being very broad in relation to the length, and with a squarish butt (width 10.3 cm., estimated length if complete 12.5 cm.). (Fig. 10 is taken from a quick drawing made while the axe was with K.C.M.S.: it has now been returned to the finder).

2. As a result of the hand-axe find, K.C.M.S. staff, with permission of the farmer Mr P.N. Tory, went to the site on 9th December, 1986. No more Palaeolithic finds were made, but several pieces of Mesolithic flint-work were collected, particularly from the north-eastern edge of the ploughed field (cf. below, N.G.R. TR 212396). These have been donated to Folkestone Museum by the farmer. They comprise:

- (a) end-scraper (Fig. 11a), made from a flake, squarish in shape, length 3.5 cm. width 2.7 cm.;
- (b) one end only of a wide blade made from a flake, well-patinated, width 3.5 cm.;

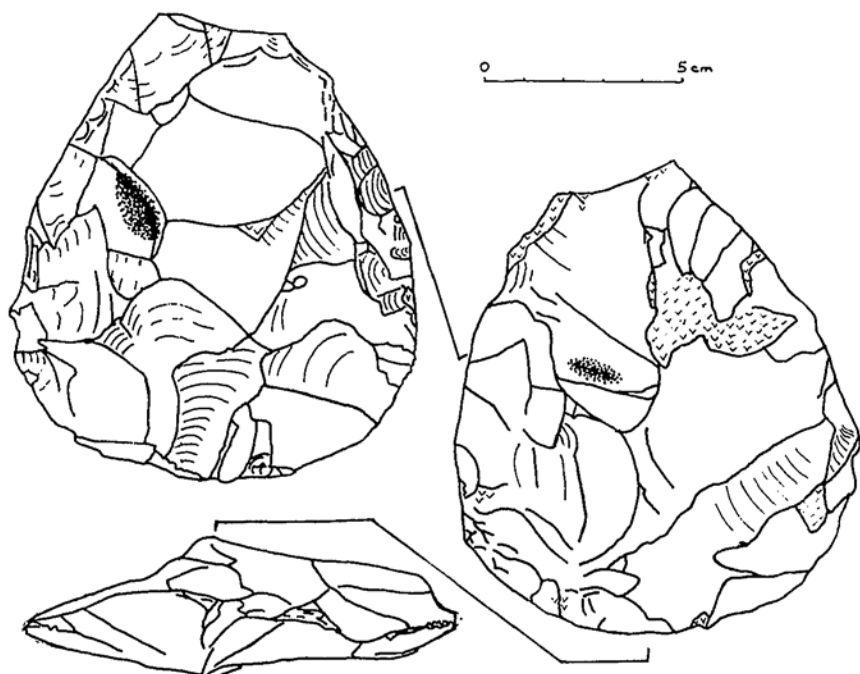


Fig. 10. Hawkinge: Late Palaeolithic Hand-axe.

- (c) round scraper (Fig. 11b), light grey, length 4.8 cm., width 4.5 cm.;
- (d) about half of a conical bladelet core (Fig. 11c, dark grey, height 4.5 cm.;
- (e) irregularly-shaped (approximately egg-shaped) piece of worked flint with evidence of use as a hammer-stone, being extremely battered along one long side, dark grey colour, length 5.9 cm.; and
- (f) thick flake, worked on one side and retouched along one long edge, roughly rectangular shape, dark grey, length 7.3 cm. width 4.4 cm.

FOLKESTONE

A Roman plate brooch was received for Folkestone Museum (Acc. no. F6147) from Birmingham City Museums in August 1986. It had been found several years previously with the use of a metal detector

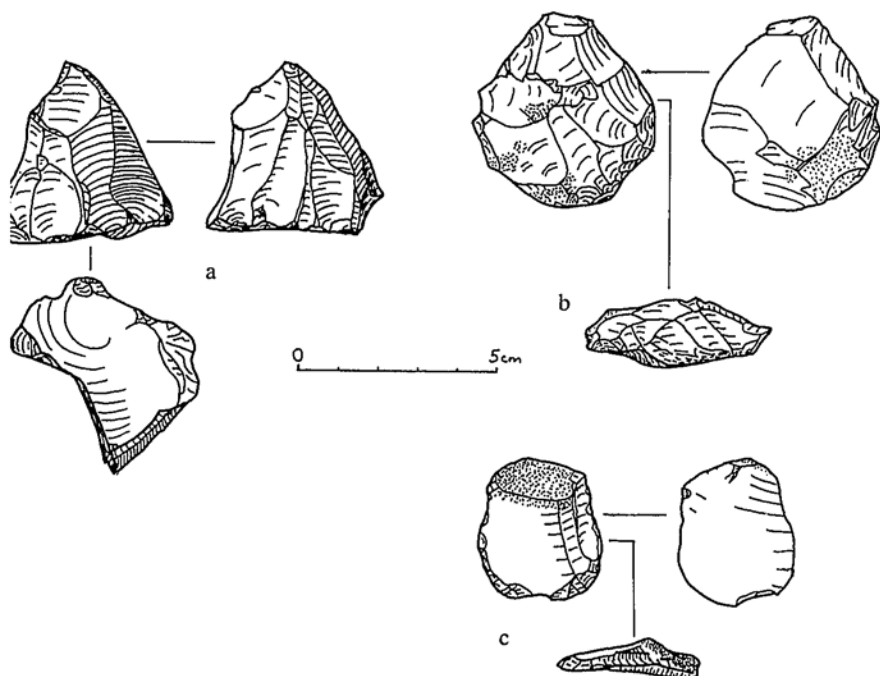


Fig. 11. Hawkinge: Mesolithic Flint-work.

in a field to the north-west of Sugarloaf Hill (N.G.R. TR 221385). This location is close to the suggested route of a Roman road from Dover to Lympne (Winbolt, *Roman Folkestone*, 157-60), and Roman burial remains were found in this area in the nineteenth century (*Arch. Cant.*, x (1876), p. xlvii).

The brooch (Fig. 12b) is made of copper alloy with a white enamel or glass centre piece, square with a lobe at each corner. One lobe and the pin are missing. The lobes are decorated with concentric rings. The centre piece, which is square, is damaged but shows regularly-spaced small round indentations, possibly for holding pieces of glass of another colour, now missing. Width 2.55 cm. length (incomplete) 2.5 cm.

Similar but lozenge-shaped brooches with more complex decoration are recorded from Richborough (Bushe-Fox, IV, no. 49 p.117) and Springhead (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxiii (1968), 184) where the latter is attributed to second-century date A.D. and continental workmanship.

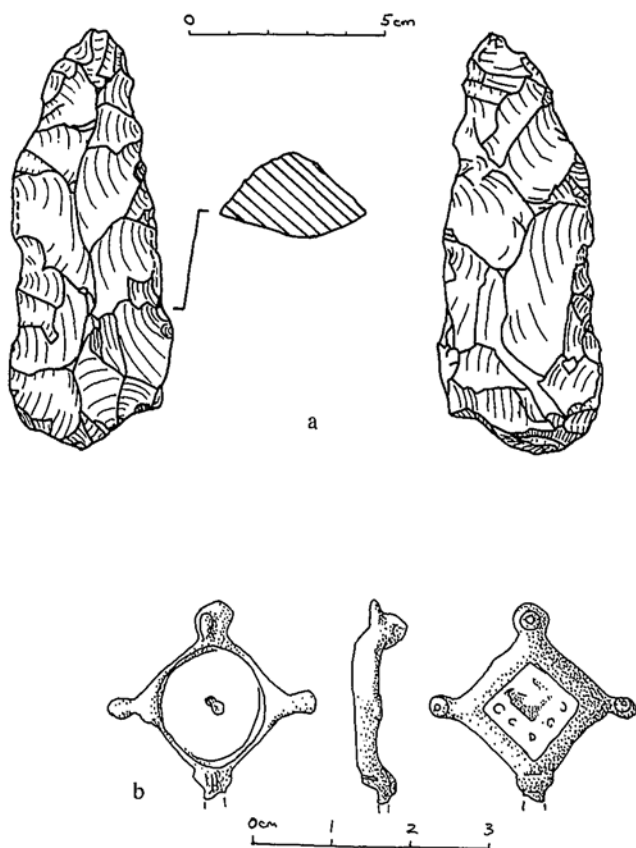


Fig. 12. (a) Gravesend: Mesolithic Flint Axe; (b) Roman Brooch.

GRAVESEND

A Mesolithic flint axe has been donated to Gravesham Museum (Acc. no. G2025). It was found in the garden of 101 King's Drive, Gravesend (N.G.R. TQ 649722). The axe (Fig. 12a), 10.5 cm. long, is roughly triangular in section and pointed at one end.

ROMNEY MARSH

Between October 1986 and May 1987 several groups of pottery sherds and other surface finds picked up at various sites on Romney

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

Marsh were brought in by Mrs. A. Reeves of Bilsington to Folkestone Museum for identification. They have been returned to her. I am greatly indebted to David Kelly of Maidstone Museum and Nigel Macpherson-Grant for their assistance with identification.

BONNINGTON

(N.G.R. TR 058337) One small fragment each of bone and ironstone. Twelve coarse ware medieval sherds, including one dish rim-sherd of late twelfth to thirteenth century date. One sherd of smooth buff ware, thought to be Roman, possibly first century A.D.

NEWCHURCH

(N.G.R. TR 055323 – 059328) A large spread of finds, from twelfth- to eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date. A large proportion of medieval sherds, including Pink East Wealden ware, a few sherds of Rye ware, and possibly some Tyler Hill ware. The post-medieval sherds are of glazed ware and stoneware, with a few fragments of clay pipe, tile and drain pipe. One piece of iron slag, part of a horseshoe with a rounded end. Several fragments of burnt daub.

OLD ROMNEY

1. (N.G.R. TR 041253–4) Some very abraded sherds of coarse medieval ware, one sherd possibly Rye ware, a large sherd from the top of a flagon handle in a smoother buff fabric. One tile fragment. One small sherd of a fine buff fabric, possibly Gallo-Belgic ware or otherwise Roman.

2. (N.G.R. TR 042237) Four fragments of burnt daub or very soft brick, three of them bright red colour. Some sherds of medieval local coarse wares, one glazed.

RUCKINGE

(N.G.R. TR 017325) Some sherds of medieval local wares, including one thought to be twelfth to thirteenth century Tyler Hill ware. One very abraded sherd of light pink fabric, possibly Roman.

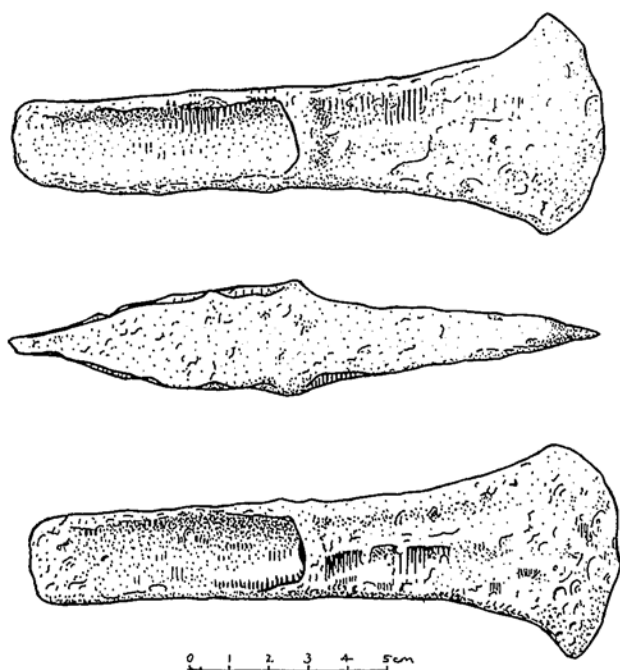


Fig. 13. Newington: Middle Bronze Age Palstave.

NEWINGTON

A Middle Bronze Age palstave was found in the Summer of 1987, by the use of a metal-detector in a field lying between the M20 and the Folkestone – Ashford railway line at approximately N.G.R. TR 183370. It has been donated to Folkestone Museum by the farmer, Mr. I.C. Whitehead. The finder reported that the palstave was recovered from about 12 in. below the surface, lying on a sandy subsoil, although this may not be very significant as the field has been ploughed many times.

The palstave (Fig. 13) is 15 cm. in length, 5.3 cm. wide at the widest point of the blade, 2.4 cm. wide at the centre, and 2.7 cm. thick at the centre. The patina shows a smooth polished surface in places, but much of the surface is rough and pitted, with a moulding line just discernible on one side only.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

ST. MARY-IN-THE-MARSH

1. (N.G.R. TR 048257-8) Several medieval coarse ware sherds, including one of shell-tempered ware and another very gritty piece, three sherds of stoneware, three pieces of clay pipe stem. These were found in the vicinity of the ruined medieval chapel which Beresford considered to indicate the site of a deserted mediaeval village.
2. (N.G.R. TR 067270) Upper part of the handle of a flagon of Pink East Wealden Ware.

J. VALE

PEATS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN JOHN'S HOPE MARSHLAND, CLIFFE

John's Hope was the name in 1695 of a group of marshes which, by 1970, had been mainly succeeded by lakes, near the modern Tilcon works and Conoco depot on the western edge of the uplands. Clay workings there before 1970 were flooded during the excavation. One early site could be partly seen and recorded above water; other archaeological finds and peats in the lake banks were often described to me by reliable excavators in the 1960s.

The deeper Excavations

Clay workings were limited by widespread peat at an average depth of O.D. -5 m., 6-7 m. below the land surface. When work accidentally cut into the hard brown layer, it was seen to be about 0.50 m. in thickness. Peat at other sites in the north Kent marshes, O.D. -5.10 m. and -5.40 to -6 m., has been described as Neolithic.⁷⁰ Biogenic deposits from O.D. -1.90 m. to -5.20 m., classified by Dr Devoy as the Tilbury III phase, have been found in the Thames estuary under sediments of marine transgression which started c. 1870 B.C. Peat at similar levels of the inner estuary contained Neolithic and Early Bronze Age artefacts. Pollen and C¹⁴

⁷⁰ J.H. Evans, 'Archaeological Horizons in the north Kent Marshes', *Arch. Cant.*, lxvi (1953), 103-46.

evidence supports the archaeological dating of temporary Bronze Age occupation sites of the inner estuary marshland in Tilbury III.⁷¹

The Cliffe layer is dated Neolithic/Bronze Age, pending a future study of compaction/consolidation and pollen in samples from suitable deposits.

Excavating close to the layer in the early 1960s, Mr George Randall encountered large curved timbers, part of a long, straight timber (over 40 cm. in section) and apparent planks, belonging to one structure; he described the finds as adze-cut and not excessively decayed. All the removed timbers were returned to the lake; others were left standing in clay underwater in an area which remained isolated during later excavation.

At the end of clay extraction, it was plain that the base of the structure was considerably lower than any Romano-British site known in the area of the Cliffe and Higham lakes. Two observers of past clay-digging referred to levels of 'upper peat' at such a higher level that a pre-Roman date was thought probable for the site.

After permission had been given for a survey, searches in 1979-80 were restricted by the visibility in the water, which was clear at times to c. 2 m. below the surface and turbid at lower depths. In difficult conditions, the divers confirmed most of Randall's oral report, photographed underwater and later sketched plans of the timbers seen on and near the underwater mound. The dimensions of the mound were approximately 19 × 4 m. It was impossible then to seek C¹⁴ dating as the lake water impregnating the timbers was slightly contaminated. Prolonged searching for small artefacts was unsuccessful in the prevailing conditions. Occasional efforts by divers in 1981-83 found no significant new evidence.

In more recent years, it has become known that, although a pre-Roman date for the mound is possible, the site was not sealed by the upper peats. The most experienced excavators of the lakes reported only discontinuous peat seams and lenses, between which a channel was silted by blue-grey clay at the end of the Middle Ages. The map of Cliffe Marshes by George Russell (1695) shows only a narrow meandering ditch between the site and the sea-wall of the time. Work at the site continues, strengthened by the National Maritime Museum's offer to help in the identification and dating of the structure.

⁷¹ R.J.H. Devoy, 'Post-glacial environmental Change and Man in the Thames Estuary', in (Ed.) F.H. Thompson, *Archaeology and coastal Change*, London, 1980, 134-48.

Higher Peat Levels and Romano-British Finds

Seams and larger deposits of peat were noted by excavators at O.D. -0.50 to -1.70 m. The levels have been compared with records from other parts of the estuary: the peats, termed Tilbury IV, c. O.D. -0.80 to -1.80 m., and Tilbury V, c. O.D. +0.40 to -0.90 m., were subject to freshwater floods. Tilbury IV was followed by a marine transgression c. 620 B.C. Tilbury V contained evidence for freshening of the river and marine transgression c. A.D. 230.⁷²

The Cliffe laminae were clearly similar in height to both of these peats. One seam adjoined the black sediments of a former water-course below O.D. -1.05. The sediments were linked by a tip of mussel shells to a thin layer of *briquetage* above the lake surface. Sherds associated with the *briquetage* were of late Iron Age or early Romano-British types.

From the black silts or very close to them, the excavators found a Roman altar, given later to the Guildhall Museum, Rochester. Small finds from the water-course or its banks were recovered, usually abraded or broken, from the washmill of the dredging pontoon. There were over 40 brooches of the late first and second centuries A.D. and more than 150 coins, two which were very worn Greek brass coins of the first century B.C., one was a coin of Cunobelinus and 124 Roman bronze coins of every century to the fifth century A.D. It is interesting that 79 of these coins were of early fourth-century date. Only a few *minims* were counted, but many more were noticed among the debris in the washmill. One coin each of Arcadius and Honorius completed the series shown to me by the finders, and at least 25 probably Roman coins were too defaced to be identifiable. My thanks are due to the finders and to Mr E.W. Tilley who identified most of these coins.

A water cult may have been practised at the former stream, and a spring is likely to have been nearby at the edge of the chalk uplands, close to light upland soils and marshland, which can become dessicated in a drought. This spring may have been one of the few available sources of freshwater locally in dry seasons.

Cult of source is thought to have been associated with the original position of the altar, which may have been placed on a firm base either over foundation walls of chalk or a chalk floor. Two foundation walls, 0.30 m. wide, formed a corner under the lake surface, 9-10 m. from the old stream. The water was just clear enough for a photograph to be taken from the bank, but nothing could be seen of

⁷² Devoy, *op. cit.*

other foundations there and excavators had not noticed traces of higher structures. Less than 6 m. from the stream was a rammed chalk floor, recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1964 at N.G.R. TQ 72087611. Later in the mid-1960s, the floor was seen to have succeeded a thick layer of saltern debris, which extended to the thin *briquettage* layer already mentioned and contained chalk fragments and first/second century potsherds. A possible wooden building over the floor may have been burned and the altar slighted, perhaps as a consequence of Christian influence in the later fourth century.

Examples of pottery from a small cemetery of Romano-British cremation groups near the site were photographed and submitted for dating to Dr J. Monaghan.

It seems reasonable to suppose that the early saltern was succeeded by a shrine related to the water cult, but this is not certain, and it is hoped that the area will be further investigated in future.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the men who provided details of their discoveries, and to members of the Medway 59 branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club who, from 1978, became interested in the investigation of the lower depths of open water. I am also indebted to the landowners, Messrs. Blue Circle Industries Ltd., for allowing me and members of the club to work on their property; and to Hon. General Secretary and Council of the Kent Archaeological Society for encouragement and help.

ROBERT HUTCHINGS

A NOTE ON AN EXCAVATION AT SCOTNEY CASTLE, 1986*

Scotney Castle is situated at N.G.R. TQ 689353 alongside the River Bewel, 1.5 km. to the south-east of the village of Lamberhurst (Fig. 14). In September 1986, the Central Excavation Unit carried out a watching brief in the Hall of the Old Castle, during ground-works associated with the construction of a reinforcing buttress.

This work revealed a very substantial wall foundation (1, Fig. 15,

* Published with the aid of a grant from English Heritage (Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England).

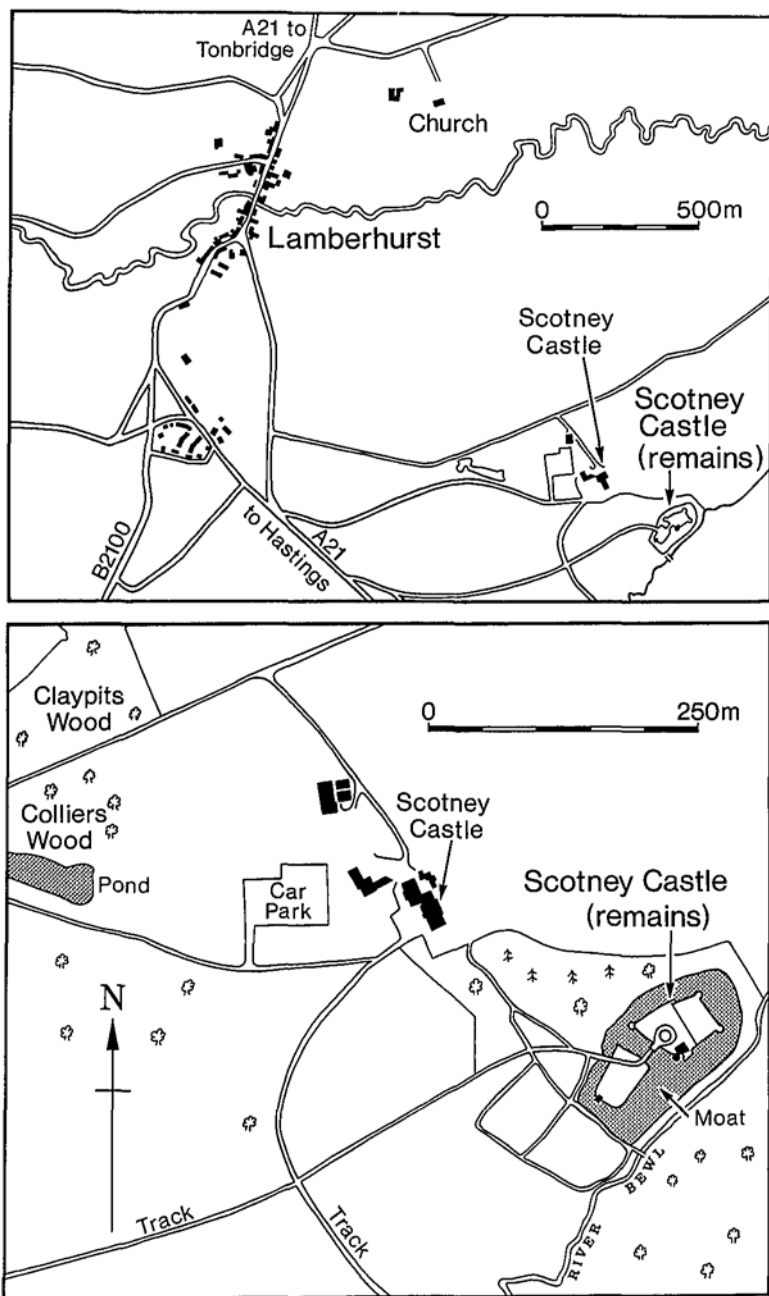


Fig. 14. Scotney Castle: Location Maps.

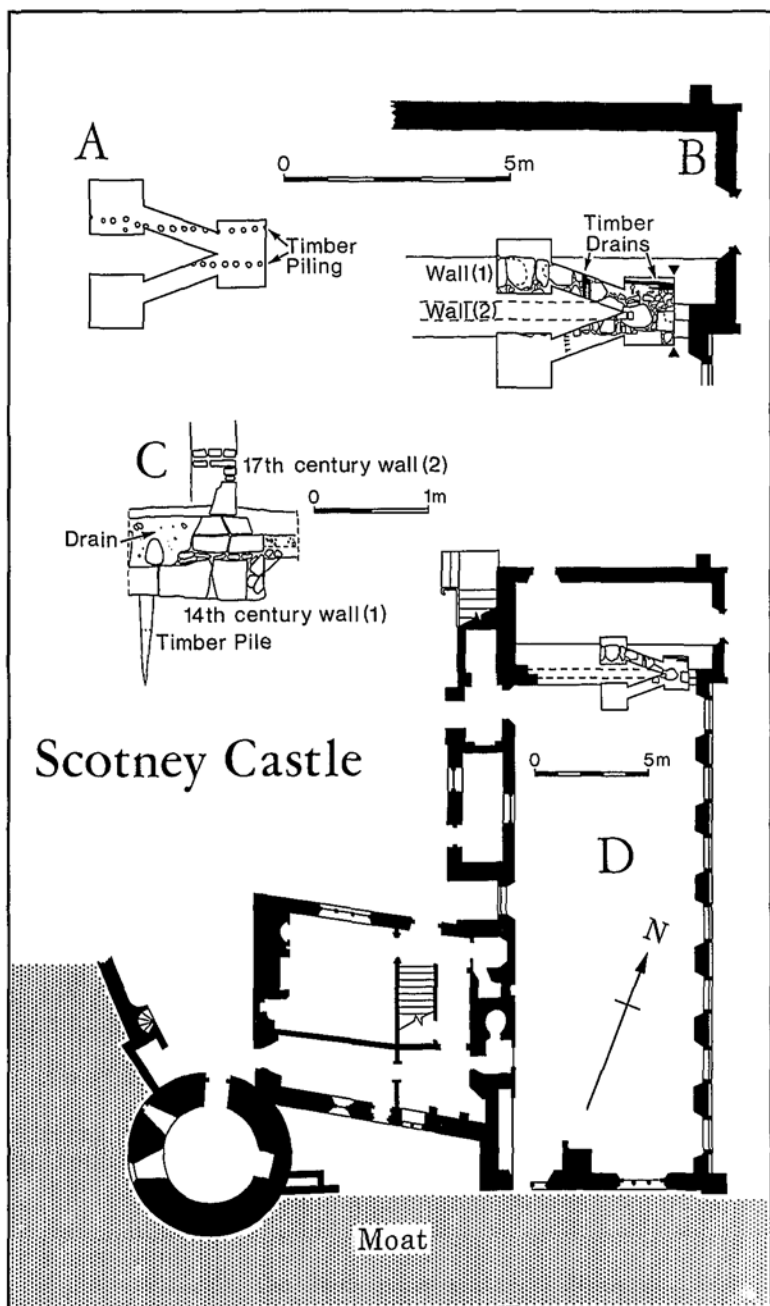


Fig. 15. Scotney Castle: Plans and Sections.

B, C). It was composed of large, rectangular, yellow sandstone blocks (up to 0.90 m. wide, 0.70 m. long and 0.45 m. high) packed with clay and set in a steep-sided trench, 1.80 m. wide and 0.75 m. deep. The blocks were laid upon a series of timber piles (Fig. 15, A, C). Twenty-four of these piles were exposed, arranged in two parallel lines c. 0.70 m. apart. Timber piling was also recorded under the curtain wall to the west of the excavation (Hussey 1887). The massive foundation described above was necessary because of the high water-table in the area. It is likely to be the base of the north wall of the late fourteenth-century hall (Cathcart King 1983).

The wall was replaced, probably during the seventeenth-century re-modelling of the range, by a much slighter wall (2, Fig. 15, B, C). This was c. 0.40 m. wide and was built in a mixture of brick and stone, some of which was re-used from the earlier hall.

This wall was carefully demolished, apart from its east and west ends, c. 1837–44, as part of a landscaping scheme associated with the construction of the new house (Newman 1969). The area to the south of the wall became a garden, the timber drains were inserted and a layer of crushed brick and tile was put down to assist the drainage.

There was no evidence of floor levels and no finds, apart from some brick and tile.

The author wishes to thank the National Trust for their co-operation with the work, Mr P. Magrath and Mr J. Vallender of the Central Excavation Unit, who prepared the artwork and Mr J. Hinchliffe, for his comments on this report. The archive will be maintained by the National Trust with copies in the National Monuments Record and with the Kent Museums Service.

F. McAVOY

REFERENCES

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
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| Hussey 1887 | E. Hussey, 'Scotney Castle', <i>Arch. Cant.</i> , xlii (1887), 38–48. |
| Newman 1969 | J. Newman, 'West Kent and the Weald', in (Ed.) N. Pevsner, <i>The Buildings of England</i> , London, 1969, 506–8. |

AN EARLY DEPICTION OF RECULVER

The tragedy of the demolition of the Anglo-Saxon church at Reculver on the north Kent coast, in the early nineteenth century after it had stood for over a thousand years, is well-known and needs little discussion here. The church was built about 669 by the priest Bassa on the initiative of King Egbert of Kent. It is mentioned by Leland who, in 1540, saw its painted cross, remains of which are now in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral, and it survived the encroachments of the sea until the early nineteenth century. It was demolished in 1805, allegedly to pre-empt destruction by landslip, but apparently because the vicar's mother objected to the church being 'kept for a poppet-show'. The towers were, however, preserved as a guide to shipping and enough survives of the foundations to enable us to gain a complete idea of its original plan and later additions.⁷³

The church is known in three early depictions, while it still stood, in maps of 1600, 1685 and 1781.⁷⁴ To these we can now add a fourth, in an estate map of 1730 by the surveyors Henry Maxted and Edward Randall of Canterbury, now in the Victoria and Albert Museum (Plate III).⁷⁵ It is one of a number of eighteenth-century estate maps of Kent given to the museum by Lady Capel Cure in 1931.⁷⁶ The map is signed 'Henry Maxted & Edward Randall of Canterbury, Surveyors, 1730' and inscribed 'A Map of a Farm and 12 Pieces of Land thereto belonging; lying in the Parish of Reculver in the County of Kent: Part of the Estate of Henry Waddell, Gent.' The church is depicted on the top right-hand corner (Plate IV). Although the depiction is only small, it is a valuable record of a now-lost structure. It shows that the sea had not then encroached right up to the church, which is shown some distance from the coast, similar to the maps of the 1780s.

It is ironic that after its destruction the site soon became a popular place to paint and draw. A watercolour of 1858 by T.S. Robins, entitled 'Hay Boats off the Reculvers', also survives in the Victoria and Albert Museum (3036-1876), and a painting by James Ward of 1818, showing the towers from the east, has recently been purchased by the Royal Museum and Art Gallery.⁷⁷

HOWARD COUTTS

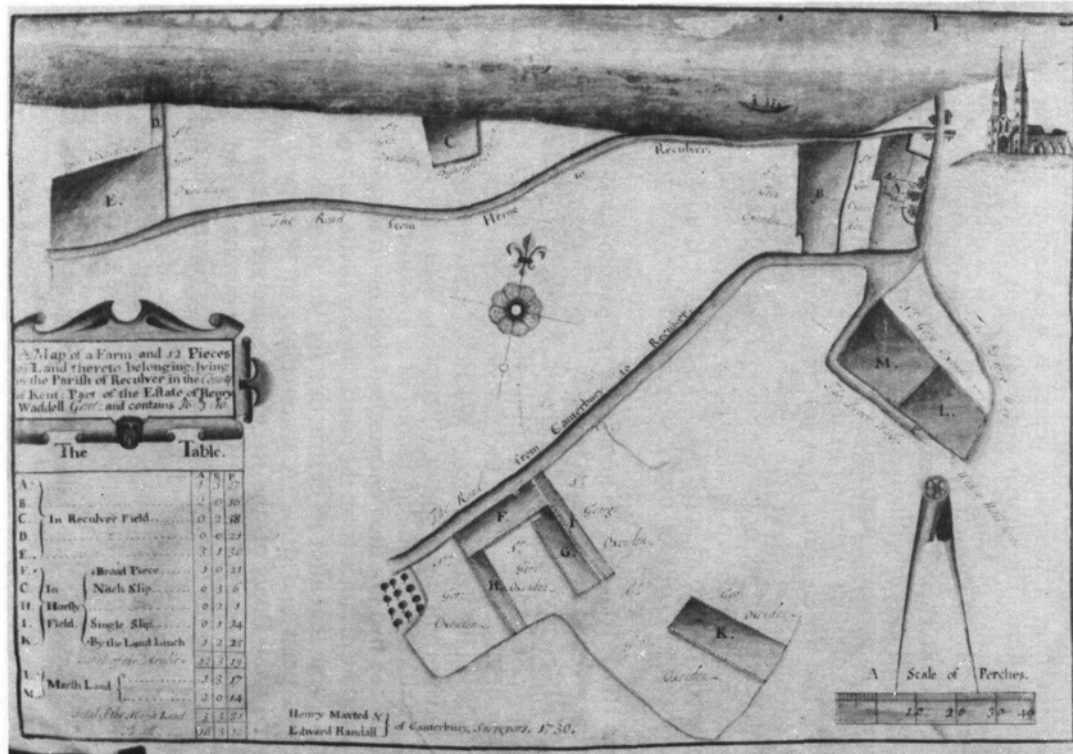
⁷³ H.M. Taylor and Joan Taylor, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, Cambridge 1965, 503-9.

⁷⁴ *Op. cit.*, note 2.

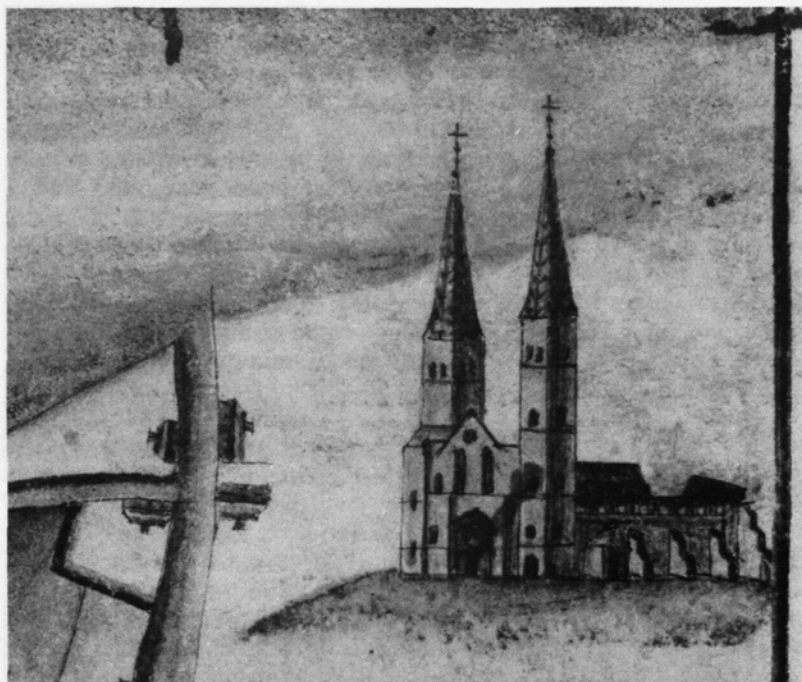
⁷⁵ E. 3495-1931.

⁷⁶ E. 3495-3503-1931. The others comprise maps of Bossington, Brook, Dymchurch and Barham.

⁷⁷ *National Art Collections Fund Review* 1985, 153.



Henry Macted. Estate Map of Reculver, 1730. Pen and Watercolour on Vellum.
12 × 17 in. (London, Victoria and Albert Museum).



Detail of Plate III, showing the church.

FLINT TOOLS FROM CLIFFE WOODS

In the summer of 1978, a gas pipe-line was laid to the north of Cliffe Woods. Removal of the topsoil preceded the pipe-laying operation, exposing dark circular patches in the sandy subsoil of N.G.R. TQ 7340 7435. Investigation of the area revealed a small number of prehistoric pottery sherds.

The site regularly ploughed and, with the possibility of pottery sherds being brought to the surface, permission to field walk was sought from the farmer, Mr J. Wright, and the site was walked by the Lower Medway Archaeological Group after the winter wheat had been harvested in 1987.

Sherds of pottery and worked flint were collected from the field. Identification of the flints to a particular period has not been possible, so the assemblage could date from Mesolithic to Bronze Age. The flint material collected included seven unretouched struck flakes, one awl, two serrated blades, one fabricator, four scrapers, three notched blades, one large knife/scrapper, one large flake possibly retouched for use as a knife/scrapper, three 'natural' flakes, one fossil, and pottery material. The eight small body sherds are undecorated and have a sandy, flint-tempered fabric; they are almost certainly prehistoric, possibly Iron Age.

The pipe-trenching operation has produced evidence of several periods of industrial activity, with the Iron Age pottery sherds, flint tools and four Roman pottery kilns on the rising land to the west.

My thanks to Nick Merriman for his examination of the flint and pottery material.

D. BACCHUS

THE SANDWICH FONT

In his paper on the font in St. Clement's Church, Sandwich, Mr J.B. Rosseter has performed a signal service to Kentish local history not only by describing it in minute detail, but by comparing it equally carefully with the fonts in the churches of St. John the Baptist, Margate, St. Martin, Herne, and St. Michael, Sittingbourne. He shows how remarkably similar they all are, those at Herne and Sittingbourne bearing the arms of Archbishop Arundel and the emblems of the Passion, those at Sandwich, Margate and Herne the royal arms, and the first two of these last also the arms of the Cinque Ports. All share other details not essentially heraldic. Since the three examples of the royal arms incorporate 'France modern', they set an early limit of 1405 for the construction of the fonts that bear them, as Mr Rosseter observes. Equally, the arms of Archbishop Arundel set the late limit for those at Margate and Herne at 1414, the year of his death. It is probable, therefore, that the Sandwich font falls within the same limits.

As well as having the royal arms and the arms of Sandwich as a Cinque Port, the St. Clement's font has two more shields, one bearing a merchant's mark and the other an engrailed cross ermine with a crescent in the first quarter. It is in considering the implications of this coat that Mr Rosseter sees a problem that really does not exist. He found that a coat with exactly the same charges had been borne by

the Norfolk family of Berney and because the arms on the font, being carved, are not coloured he argues that there is 'no proof' that they do not apply to that family, despite that in an account of it he is at pains to point out not only that the contemporary Sir Robert de Berney was active in Norfolk affairs, but that Blomfield and Walter Rye, the historians of the county, in numerous mentions of the family do not 'produce any references to or connection with Sandwich'. Added to this, the arms of the family have long been borne without the crescent in the first quarter.

On the positive side is the fact that the coat in question appears in the cloisters of Canterbury Cathedral and is attributed by the late Ralph Griffin, F.S.A., to Robert Hallum (*Archaeologia*, lxi (1915), 536, no. 601), who was Archdeacon of Canterbury from 7 April, 1400, until 1406, when on 22 May he was nominated Archbishop of York by the Pope, but was translated to Salisbury because of objections by King Henry IV (A.B. Emden, *Register of the University of Oxford before 1500*, ii, 854). As Archdeacon of Canterbury, he was patron of the living of St. Clement's, Sandwich, and during that time, from November, 1403, was also Chancellor of the University of Oxford (Emden, *loc. cit.*). There was surely every reason why the connection with Sandwich of so distinguished a prelate should be recorded on the font of his church. Nevertheless, Mr Rosseter urges that there is 'no proof' that the arms are not those of Berney and supports his case with all sorts of suppositions and speculations. There is also 'no proof' that a carved shield at, say, Tonbridge, with only a chevron, is not the coat of Trelawney, or that one at Stoughton, Surrey, bearing only an engrailed cross ermine, is not that of Berney, or that a coat in York Minster with only a bend is not that of Bissett of Scotland. But who would content that in such settings these coats were other than, respectively, those of Stafford, Stoughton and Scrope?

In the Sandwich setting the coat in question is so clearly that of Robert Hallum, the distinguished patron of the church in which the font stands, that one wonders how the attribution can be doubted, especially when it is accompanied by the arms of the town and by a merchant's mark that can only be that of the mayor, John Godard, who in 1407 had been mayor since December, 1403, and had held the office no less than ten times since 1383. He had also been a Baron of the Cinque Ports twice (W. Boys, *History of Sandwich*, i, 406, 416) and was obviously the Grand Old Man of Sandwich. He may well have been a wine merchant, as the tun above the shield implies, but merchants' marks were personal and in no sense trade marks, as Mr Rosseter seems to suggest they were when he says that the mark on the shield is 'strongly reminiscent of a wine mark'. They were often

handed down from father to son and 'were displayed on the exterior of buildings, in window glass and on tombstones. It is in such positions that we find them today' (Frank Girling in his introduction to E.M. Elmhirst, *Merchants' Marks*, Harleian Society, cvii (1959), viii). Since the font's fourth shield bears the royal arms with 'France modern', and Robert Hallum severed his connection with the church by becoming Bishop of Salisbury in 1407, there can be little doubt that the date of the font is 1405-7. Of course, there is 'no proof' that it is not a later copy!

PHILIP A. BLAKE