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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

NEWLY DISCOVERED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE ISLE OF THANET

During the last four years, the Isle of Thanet Archaeological Unit has been involved in a programme of field walking and aerial survey in preparation of a Thanet Sites and Monuments Record. Low level oblique aerial photographs have been taken during the April and May 'crop-mark window' of each year, photogrammetric techniques being employed to plot sites of archaeological interest. Early results of the work have registered a great increase in the number of sites in Thanet. Two aspects of this are dealt with below: circular ditched enclosures and Romano-British buildings.

Circular Enclosures

To date over 140 circular ditched enclosures have been plotted. The excavation of a few such sites in Thanet has suggested that they fall into two distinct types. The larger kind, (diameter at least 20. m) has a ditch with sides that fall steeply to a flat bottom c. 1 m. across. It has been conjectured that this kind of enclosure dates from the Late Neolithic period, and that they may have been used as meeting places or had a ritual function.¹ There is evidence that they were penannular, and that the entrance causeways were cut away at some time after their initial phase of use, at a time when the ditches had partly infilled. The other more common type of enclosure has a ditch of V-section, is typically c. 10–15 m. in diameter, and usually yields cremation or inhumation burials of the Early or Middle Bronze Age.² Nearly all of these sites are situated on the south-west aspect of downland, mostly on the false crest of the down. One exception lies in the bottom of a valley at Lydden, near Manston, and appears to have retained its mound.

¹ N. Macpherson-Grant, *Thanet Arch. Unit Publication no. 1*, (1977), *Thanet Arch. Unit Interim Reports*, (1980), 7–11. D.R.J. Perkins, *ibid.*, 13–17.

² Macpherson-Grant and Perkins, *op. cit.*, 5 and 19–20, 21–24.

EAST KENT ROUND BARROWS & BARROW GROUPS

The numbers refer to number of barrows in group

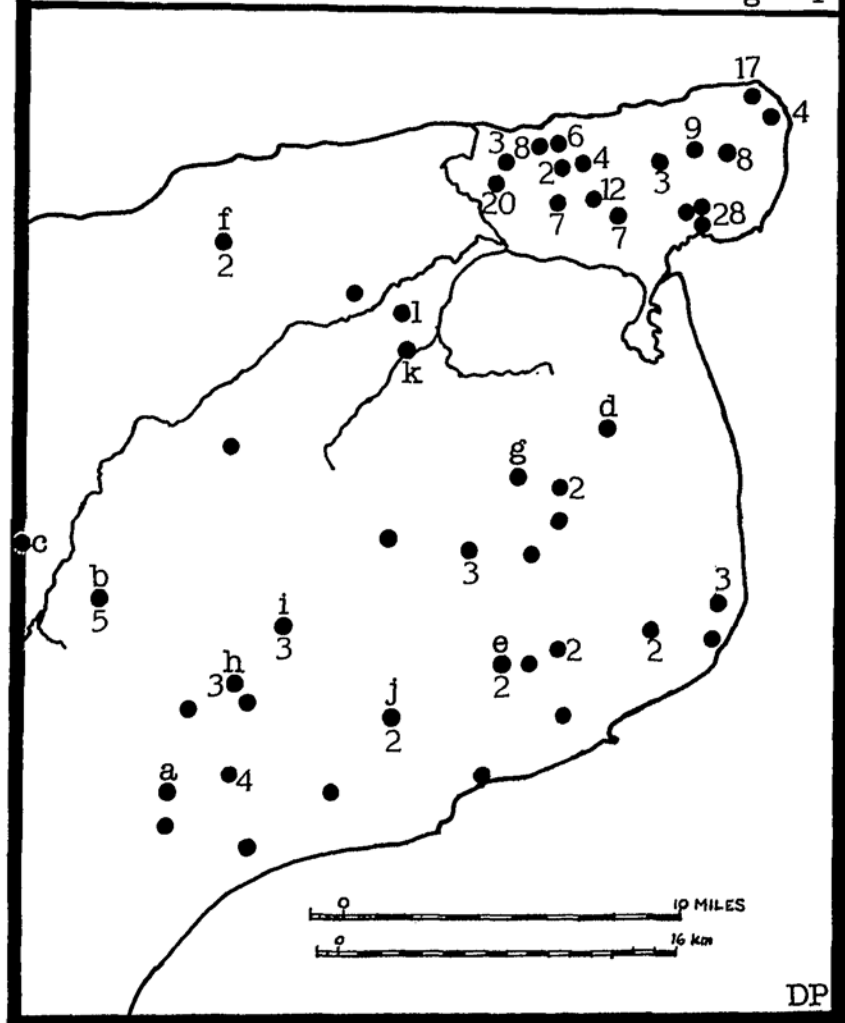


Fig. 1. Crop-marks showing circular ditched Enclosures in the Isle of Thanet; numbers indicate the number of sites in a group.

Whichever category the enclosures fall in, there is no reason to believe that any are of Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon origin, the great majority being probably ploughed-off Bronze Age round barrows. The distribution of these enclosures in the Isle of Thanet is given in Fig. 1, with numbers indicating the number of barrows in each group. All barrows recorded in east Kent up to 1987 are shown in Fig. 2. Apart from the new Thanet sites, and those indicated by Ashby and Denning in 1960,³ there are an additional 24 barrows shown, all but one gleaned from the pages of *Arch. Cant.*⁴

Romano-British Buildings

The following provisional list of Romano-British building remains has been drawn up according to strict criteria, with numerous sites yielding *some* evidence of a building in the vicinity being ignored.

(i) The Tivoli villa, Margate, situated at N.G.R. TR 352702. Status: part excavated by Dr A. Rowe in 1923,⁵ wall foundations are known to survive under adjoining road and gardens.⁶ This building occupied a site that had attracted settlement throughout the Iron Age and into the Belgic period. The Roman remains included kilns. Roof-tiles and fragments of painted wall-plaster from the site have been preserved.⁷ Romano-British pottery from the site indicates a late first – early second-century date.

(ii) Drapers Mills, Margate, N.G.R. TR 363699. Status: wall foundations discovered accidentally, and by trenching in 1960 and 1981.⁸ An adjacent chalk working was also investigated. Finds included *tegulae*, a bronze,⁹ and pottery in many fabrics. An early second-century date for the building seems likely.

³ P. Ashby and G.C. Dunning, 'The Round Barrows of East Kent', *Arch. Cant.* lxxiv(), 48–57.

⁴ The following barrows, (numbers of barrows at site in brackets), have been mentioned in *Arch. Cant.* since 1960: Sellindge, (1), lxxviii (1963), 199–200; Wye, (5), *ibid.*, 203; Boughton Aluph, (1), *ibid.*, 190; Sutton, (1), lxxx (1965), 208; Temple Ewell, (2), *ibid.*, 280; Whitstable, (2), *ibid.*, 284; Goodnestone, (1), lxxxiv (1969), 253; Lyminge, (3), lxxxv (1970), 178; Elham, (3), *ibid.*, lxxxviii (1973), 179; Hawkinge, (2), xci (1975), 217; Wickhambreaux, (1), *ibid.*, 204; Stodmarsh, (1), *ibid.*, 204. In addition, the writers noted a ring-ditch crop-mark in an aerial photograph of Nonnington reproduced in John Guy, *East Kent from the Air*, 1987.

⁵ *Antiq. Journ.*, v (1925), 164; *JRS*, xiv (1924).

⁶ Dr Rowe's notes (Margate Library) and pers. comm. with owners.

⁷ The Rowe Bequest, Margate Museum.

⁸ D.R.J. Perkins, forthcoming, *Thanet Archaeological Unit Interim Reports* 1981–87.

⁹ C. Johns, *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1981), 307–11.

(iii) Nethercourt Estate, Ramsgate, N.G.R. TR 359653. Status: now built over, rescue excavation of part of site in 1982.¹⁰ The remains consisted of flint wall foundations, a floor of rammed chalk, post-holes, ditches and pits. The excavation plans and aerial photographs of crop-marks show two main buildings contained within a ditched enclosure. Pottery styles and fabrics indicate a late first – early second-century date for the site.

(iv) Belle Isle, St. Nicholas-at-Wade, N.G.R. TR 252667. Status: unexcavated, some plough attrition. This site consists of a soil mark about 40 m. across. The surface of the field here is rich in flints, mortar, *tegulae*, and fragments of amphora, querns, etc. Coins from the site belong to the late second and early third centuries.¹¹

(v) The Sunken Gardens, Westbrook, Margate, N.G.R. TR 333707. Status: ephemeral markings in cliff-top turf, resistivity meter readings show area of high resistance and when plotted give angles as of walls. Trial trenching revealed flint scatter interpreted as collapsed walls overlying ditches yielding Belgic material.¹² Belgic and Romano-British remains were found close by in 1925.¹³ The fill of a large pit exposed in the cliff face contains midden material, fragments of *tegulae*, and first- to second-century sherds, including decorated samian ware.

(vi) Route of Gas Pipeline, Minster, N.G.R. TR 323656. Status: wall foundations in process of destruction by plough. Late third – fourth century find.¹⁴

(vii) Brooksend, Birchington, N.G.R. TR 287686. Status: surface scatter, soil and crop-marks, perhaps undergoing plough attrition since 'glossy' sherds of samian with fresh breaks can be picked up. Trenching towards the crop-mark has revealed ditches and pits with Belgic and Romano-British material.¹⁵

(viii) St. Mildred's Bay, Westgate, N.G.R. TR 328704. Status: disused ornamental garden subject to future development. Ordnance Survey records state that 'Roman urns, coins, and a pavement' were found here in 1869–70. The site is being investigated at the time of writing by the Thanet Archaeological Unit.

¹⁰ D.R.J. Perkins forthcoming.

¹¹ J. Lewis, *History of Thanet*, 2nd Ed. (1736), 27.

¹² D.R.J. Perkins, forthcoming.

¹³ O.S. Records.

¹⁴ D.R.J. Perkins, 'The Monkton Gas Pipeline', *Arch. Cant.*, cii (1985), 47.

¹⁵ Thanet Arch. Unit Records.

Crop-marks indicating Remains of Roman Villa Type

(ix) Manston Road, Ramsgate, N.G.R. TR 658363. Status: part built over and the rest of site under the tarmac of a factory yard. An aerial photograph taken in 1965 shows explicit negative crop-marks, indicating a building contained within a large rectangular enclosure. This is composed of sets of parallel ditches showing as positive crop-marks.¹⁶ An experimental excavation was made just outside the boundary of the factory enclosure in 1978. This sectioned a ditch with Romano-British material at a point c. 200 m. from the site. Charles Cotton believed the markings to represent the remains of Upper Court, a lost medieval manor,¹⁷ but of course he had never seen them from the air.

(x) On farmland east of Acol, N.G.R. TR 315677. Status: an aerial photograph shows positive and negative crop-marks very similar to those described in (ix) above, although a smaller site. No soil marks show and nothing has been found by field walking. A Jutish settlement site was investigated as a rescue operation in 1982 at a point c. 400 m. west of the marks. The fill of a sunken floor hut contained fragments of *tegulae* and Romano British-sherds.¹⁸

(xi) On farmland south of Garlings, Margate, N.G.R. TR 338693. Status: aerial photographs show a crop mark of a kind typically representative of a small villa.¹⁹

(xii) Farmland southwest of Woodchurch, Birchington, N.G.R. TR 326678 Status: crop mark observed by aerial photography and interpreted as Roman villa. The site is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (AM365).

Considerable quantities of building material, coins, and pot-sherds suggesting the presence nearby of a Romano-British building have been found at the following locations: Cottington Hill, Cliffs End, Ramsgate,²⁰ Little Cliffsend Farm, Ramsgate,²¹ and at Northdown Hill, St. Peter's, Broadstairs.²²

It is immediately evident that the foregoing increase in sites is such as to be highly significant. In the case of round barrows, 22 were listed in 1960, and 24 have been recorded since then. The 140 barrows

¹⁶ Thanet Sites and Monuments, no. 161.

¹⁷ C. Cotton, *History of the Church and Parish of St. Laurence* (1895), 168.

¹⁸ Thanet Sites and Monuments, no. 111.

¹⁹ Thanet Sites and Monuments, no. 38(b).

²⁰ Pers. comm. N. Macpherson-Grant.

²¹ C. Cotton, *op. cit.*, 262.

²² One of the writers was told by residents that the Broadstairs archaeologist Howard Hurd believed this to be a villa site. There is a crop-mark, metal detector finds, and see G. Dowker, *Arch. Cant.*, xi (1877), 126.

now to be added from Thanet represent an increase of just over 400 per cent. The area of this and the previous study totals 1252 square km. (483 square miles) of which 'Island' Thanet accounts for 84 square km. (32.5 square miles). Thus Thanet has 76 per cent of all known barrows in the area, contained in just less than 7 per cent of the total space. It would seem that Timothy Champion's contention that the scarcity of barrows in Kent is due to their not existing rather than not being identified can no longer be upheld.²³

As for Romano-British buildings, the 12 sites now identified in Thanet form a very significant increase in the number previously recognised for the whole area.²⁴ The question then arises, what do these dramatic increases mean? Is it the case that if an intensive survey was carried out elsewhere in east Kent, a similar increase in sites would render Thanet in no way exceptional? Should subsequent research prove this not so, then what special factors appertained in Thanet? We are reminded of the old saw that Thanet took its name from *Thanatos* (Island of the Dead, supposedly derived from the Greek). While attaching no credence to this, it is a thought that newcomers who were used to seeing two or three barrows in a day's walk would have been greatly impressed by Thanet's display of mounds.

S.D. ELWORTHY and D.R.J. PERKINS

'TUDOR COTTAGES', FOOTS CRAY

A note in *Arch. Cant.*, xxxviii (1973), 222-3, refers to these cottages, then undergoing restoration, and mentions that they comprise remains of a much-rebuilt medieval hall-house. The period when this reconstruction took place was not known when the note was written in 1973, but Mrs. G. Nunns of Deal has kindly brought to my notice an item in *The Kentish Notebook*, vol. 2 (1892), where the Rev. Charles Birch, rector of Foots Cray, supplied the following information: 'The houses which I own in Foots Cray were pronounced by my architect who restored them - Mr Buckeridge, a pupil of Sir Gilbert Scott - to belong to the fifteenth-century. There are four now called Tudor Cottages. Some old timbered houses formerly existed at the

²³ T. Champion, 'The Bronze Age in Kent,' *Archaeology in Kent to AD 1500*, CBA Research Report no. 48, London, 1982, 31.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, T.F.C. Blagg, 'Roman Kent,' 51-60.

corner of Cray Road and were probably of the same date. The existing cottages were restored with the original timbers but the others were swept away.'

It is evident, therefore, that the reconstruction of the main walls – with the exception of that facing the road – took place in the late nineteenth century together with the addition of a deceptively matching extension at the west end.

In 1973, the removal of the Victorian cottage doors restored the unity of the façade, and the building now forms an annexe to modern offices attached to the rear.

P.J. TESTER

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY GROUP

Work has proceeded at approximately the same pace as last year. It is pleasing to report the production of the following two further studies, copies of which have been presented to the K.A.S. Library:

Chevening Study no. 2: Anthony D. Stoyel, Moat Farm Oast, Chipstead, Chevening.

This is a record of an agricultural building which, until its demolition in 1980, stood alone in open meadows forming an attractive feature prominently visible to users of the A21 road nearby. Its steadily-deteriorating condition and ultimate disappearance must have caused considerable sadness to many, especially those with knowledge of oasts who recognised it as being one of very unusual type.

Of rectangular plan, its roofs were tiled and the walls were of random Kentish ragstone with brick quoins, buttresses and dressings for all windows and doorways. Midway along one side, immediately below the corbelled brick eaves-cornice, was a brick inscribed 'I Y 1793' giving a perfectly acceptable date for its construction. The double-pile stowage had twin hipped roofs, linked at one end by a cross-roof at right-angles covering its two square kilns; piercing the ridge of this cross-roof were the formerly-cowled tips of the roofs of the kilns themselves.

It was, therefore, an uncommon instance of a dated oast and, even more rare, an early example of a purpose-built one constructed as a single unit, representative of the transition from kilns inserted in

pre-existing barns to specially-designed oasts with structurally-separate kilns.

Hops had probably not been dried here during the present century and the building had been used for storage, of grain on the first floor and of farm implements below. Even so, some of the oast's original internal arrangements survived and are described in the study.

Otford Study no. 3: Anthony D. Stoyel, Mount View, The Green, Otford.

The listing description of the building as eighteenth-century masking an older timber-framed structure has been proved incorrect; whilst stripped during alterations, only five timbers were identified as pre-Georgian and all were demonstrably re-used. The house was erected in c. 1775–1800 as a smallish L-plan brick dwelling with a stair-turret projecting from its inner corner, of two storeys plus a cellar and a floored attic. The latter was lit by a pair of dormers forming an important element of the symmetry of the front elevation, which still remains apparent although its windows and door were renewed in mid-nineteenth-century alterations and the dormers disappeared when the roof was re-tiled about 1900. In c. 1840–50, the plan was made square by adding a single-storey service-room sheltered by a catslide roof with rafters overlying the earlier ones of the steeper-pitched shorter rear slope.

The initial function of this service-room is interesting. Cooking continued to be conducted at the Georgian living-room's inglenook and an externally-projecting oven (probably for bread) joined to one side of it was constructed soon afterwards. The addition of the service-room brought within the house a previously-external well, which may have continued in use until long after the introduction in 1887 of the village's first piped water-supply before being floored over. Close to the well was a copper, apparently with an iron flue-pipe for its fire. It was not until c. 1860–75 that the service-room became a kitchen and was equipped with a cooking-range and associated chimney, the inglenook and oven in the adjacent room then being sealed. Thus during the intervening period it seems to have served primarily as a wash-house, the tenants presumably preferring still to use their time-honoured methods of cooking.

Extensive alterations, mainly internal, were made in 1985.

The Group has conducted fieldwork and recording at a number of further buildings, of which the following are the more interesting.

Pond House and Holmesdale, The Green, Otford

These constitute a pair of semi-detached houses built during the early years of the eighteenth century, in itself a remarkable thing at that time for residences of superior class in a rural environment. Discounting modern side-extensions the front elevation is a fine composition in red brick, having a continuous moulded wooden eaves-cornice and a hipped tiled roof, with symmetrically-placed and well-proportioned windows, doorways, dormers and chimney stacks. The two halves are identical with no outward demarcation between them, each consisting of five bays with a central front door. At the rear, four connected wings project at right-angles from the main stem, two to each house; both pairs are of matching width and the inner wings are equal in length, but the outer wing of Pond House is somewhat longer than that of Holmesdale in order to provide two extra bedrooms, suggesting that the former was originally intended for a larger household. No evidence was found to support the listing description's assertion that this minor irregularity indicates an earlier timber-framed core. The outer wing of Pond House was extended even further to the rear by the construction about 1800 of a spacious single-storey room, probably to serve as a kitchen, with an inglenook 11 ft. 10 in. wide internally.

Inside, the structural arrangements of the two houses are basically identical. Amongst other original features, each contains a single inglenook and displays timber girders in the ceilings of many rooms, sometimes with chamfer-stops characteristic of c. 1700. The roofs are uniformly of butt-purlins in line, into which upper and lower rafters are tenoned.

Pickmoss, 69 High Street, Otford

The house originally consisted only of the westerly half. In 1951, it was largely dismantled, partially reassembled (to some extent incorrectly) and enlarged to incorporate the pair of cottages next-door to the east. Consequently, its complexities are difficult to interpret and relatively-few features can be unreservedly accepted as being both authentic and *in situ*.

The west half's front elevation appears to have been faithfully reconstructed using most of its original timbers, with close-studded walls, a shallow-jettied upper floor having a renewed pair of oriels, and a steeply-pitched tiled roof. The central brick chimney seems mainly undisturbed except for alterations to its back-to-back inglenooks and first-storey fireplaces. The roof structure, too, with through side-purlins (formerly having clasping collars) and curved

wind-braces, appears substantially unaltered. This part of the building can be dated c. 1575–1600.

Behind the eastern half's 1951 mock-Gothic timbered front are remains of late-seventeenth-century features of a pair of cottages, possibly built as a single dwelling. The least disturbed seem to be the central brick chimney, again with back-to-back inglenooks, and part of the rear wall-framing. Its through side-purlin roof, although incorporating many early timbers, has evidently been reframed with a ridge-piece and incorrectly-placed collars.

Nos. 21–25 (odd), London Road, Sevenoaks

When in 1986 our views regarding an application for Listed Building Consent to make drastic alterations were invited, these large premises displayed little to suggest special merit. The ground floor was substantially an apparently-modern empty shop, while the front elevation's upper storey and roofs at two different levels were superficially Georgian. Hints of an earlier core were, however, provided by an end-wall of seventeenth-century timber framing with brick nogging and by marked unevenness of roof-cladding. We therefore responded by informing the local planning authority of our suspicions and recommending modified consent conditional upon work being suspended when the building had been stripped, at which stage a proper inspection could be made to enable intelligent comments to be offered on the applicant's proposals. This recommendation was ignored.

Listed Building Consent was granted and work commenced towards the end of 1986. We kept watch on progress and, by the time stripping had been completed, it was clear that the whole building was timber-framed and of outstanding interest. With the co-operation of the architect, the Group undertook full recording and a detailed study will follow in due course.

We supplied the local planning authority with a report on what had come to light and expressed our concern that such important discoveries should have been made purely by chance. Sevenoaks District Council has, as a result, agreed to consider the possibility of imposing an 'access and inspection facilities' condition in appropriate future cases, but a decision is still awaited.

ANTHONY D. STOYEL

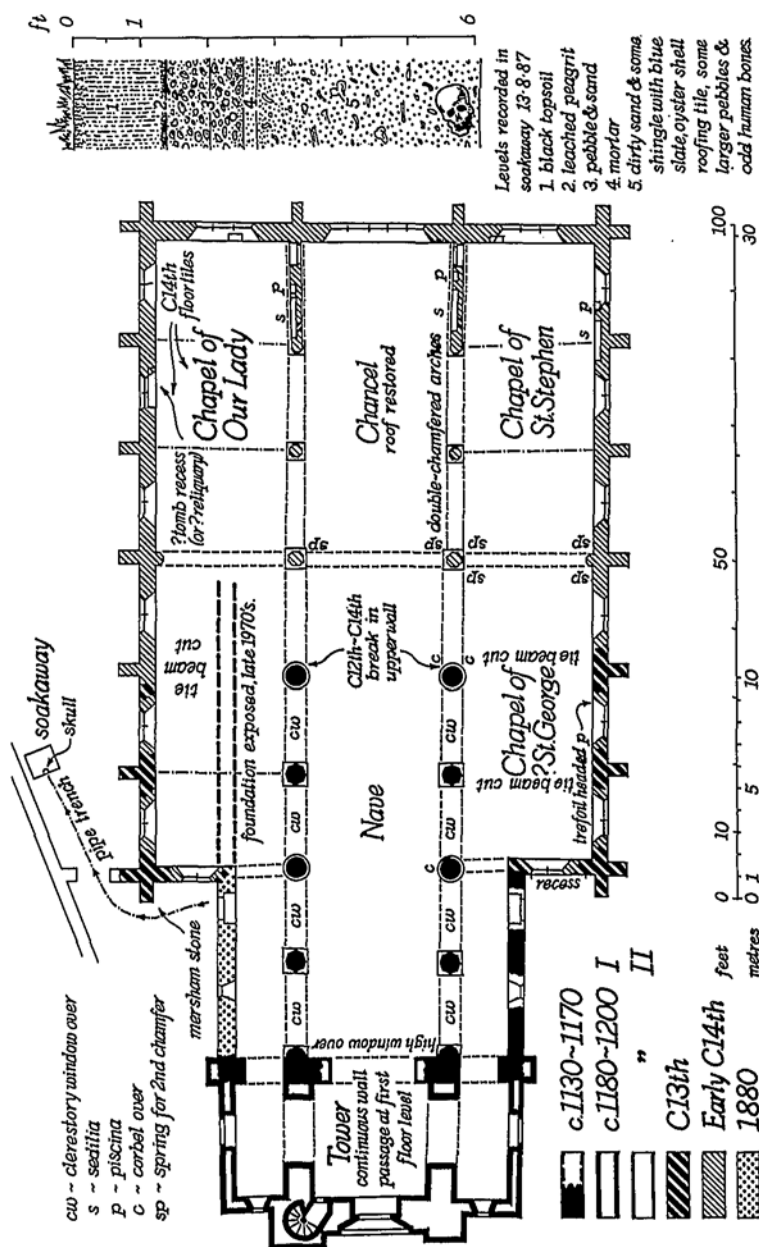
ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, NEW ROMNEY

During August 1987, a shallow pipe-trench and a 1.85 m. deep soak-away pit were dug in the churchyard on the north-west side of St. Nicholas' Church, New Romney (Fig. 3). While this work was being done, a record of the section was made by the writer as the deposits around the outside of the church are of exceptional interest.

The first church here was probably built in the mid twelfth century when the new town was created to replace the earlier Domesday borough (of Old Romney) whose harbour had silted up.²⁵ This new town was created on a shingle bank on the seaward side of Romney Marsh, and the new church was built on what was then the sea-shore in the middle of the south-east side of the town. Of this first church there still remain the four western bays of the nave with aisles on either side.²⁶ There is also the remains of a decorated west front which is now partially masked by the great tower begun soon afterwards. In the mid thirteenth century a stone spire was placed on the tower, and the eastern parts of the north and south aisles were doubled in width. In the later thirteenth century storms (and particularly the great storm of 1287), the exposed eastern part of the church appears to have been destroyed, while much of the town was covered in sand and shingle to a depth of up to 3 ft. Early in the fourteenth century the whole of the eastern part of the church was rebuilt on a massive scale with a triple gabled east end and a mass of new 'reticulated' tracery windows. At the west end of the north aisle these new windows were inserted into earlier thirteenth century work, but elsewhere they are integral with the walls. Inside, the twelfth-century floor level was retained but outside the present ground level is now approximately 3 ft. higher. The recent disturbances round the north-west side of the church showed that the ground level has risen about 1½ ft. since the early fourteenth-century rebuilding, and the soak-away pit showed a series of mortar and building levels between 2 ft. and 2 ft. 9 in. below the present ground level. Below this there was almost uniform dirty sand (with a few small pebbles) for at least another 3 ft. Within this dirty sand were many fragments of roofing-slate, tile, oyster and odd fragments of human

²⁵ See T. Tatton-Brown, 'The Topography of the Wall and Marsh Area between the eleventh and thirteenth Century', and 'Church Building on Romney Marsh in the later Middle Ages', in (Eds.) J. Edison and C. Green, *Romney Marsh: Evolution, Occupation and Reclamation* (forthcoming, 1988).

²⁶ For a fuller account of the church, see Canon Scott Robertson's article in *Arch. Cant.*, xiii (1880), 466-79, as well as F.C. Elliston Erwood's notes (with plan) in *Arch. Cant.*, xxxvii (1925), 197-200.



Based on a survey by F.C. Elliston Erwood (1923), reinterpreted by Tim Tatton-Brown and drawn at the Canterbury Archaeological Trust offices by John Bowen. Fig. 3. St. Nicholas' Church, New Romney: Plan.

bone. At nearly the lowest point in the pit an intact human skull was found. Unfortunately, as the soak-away pit was dug no deeper than 6 ft. below present ground level no twelfth- or thirteenth-century building levels were found, nor was the earlier pre-twelfth century shingle encountered.

The discovery of the blue slate was of particular interest, and shows that the church was roofed in this material in the thirteenth (and perhaps twelfth) century. This slate, which is almost certainly Devon slate, was widely used on the south coast of England at this time and it has been found as far east as Dover.²⁷ An examination of the outside walls and buttresses of the north aisle of the church also showed blue slate (and tile and oyster) being used for levelling up courses between the Hythe stone blocks used for the quoins. The late thirteenth- and early fourteenth-century aisle walls are made of a mixture of sandstone, ironstone, re-used Caen-stone (including some architectural fragments), water-rounded flints and a few knapped flints. The latter are particularly used in the upper parts of the walls. There are also a few buff to red bricks, some of which are re-used Roman bricks, but some are certainly medieval.²⁸ Medieval bricks are certainly used above the 'reticulated' tracery window at the west end of the north aisle, and it is quite clear that this window has been inserted into an earlier wall. The gable end above the window also appears to have been heightened, and it is of interest to note that there are also quite a few blocks of re-used Reigate stone in the north-west corner buttresses of the church.²⁹

In November 1986, shallow trial trenches were dug along the east wall of the church and these exposed the early fourteenth-century offset foundation of the wall, as well as four small early nineteenth-century brick wall stumps, which abut the east wall of the chancel on the west and the Walter family burial vault on the east.³⁰

It is also sad to record that during the writer's visit to New Romney in August 1987, he observed concrete foundations for a new building being built on part of the probable site of the church of St. Lawrence in the High Street of New Romney. A prior excavation here would have been of very great interest.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

²⁷ See E.M. Jope and G.C. Dunning, 'The Use of blue Slate for Roofing in medieval England', *Antiq. Journ.*, xxxiv (1954), 209.

²⁸ These bricks are presumably early fourteenth-century in date. They may have come into the port of New Romney as ballast from overseas.

²⁹ Reigate stone is apparently only commonly used in east Kent in the thirteenth century. It can be seen also in the ashlar work of the stump of the spire.

³⁰ I am grateful to the vicar of New Romney, the Rev. Canon L.P. Ford and Mr J. Williams, one of the churchwardens who also carried out the work, for being told when the trench was being dug.

During the demolition of two cottages on the site of the west range of Higham Priory, as described in *Arch. Cant.* lxxx (1965), 186–99, Mr S.T.D. Spittle of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments salvaged several interesting carved stones obviously re-used from the medieval buildings. These have lately been deposited in Maidstone Museum having been exiled in Hertfordshire for the last twenty-seven years, and transported to Maidstone by the present writer in April 1986 with the full approval and co-operation of the finder. Descriptions of the stones by Mr Spittle were included in an article on the Priory by our Member and Local Secretary, Mr A.F. Allen, in the volume referred to, and the following notes are intended only to supplement what has been previously published.

The 1965 article included a photograph of two joining pieces of an early-fourteenth-century Purbeck gravestone bearing part of a French inscription in Lombardic capitals. Most of the letters are still clear but there has been some erosion in places. They are 5 cm. high and sunk to a depth of approximately 5 mm. Presumably they were intended as indents for the reception of separate brass letters of a standardised 'Main Group' series described by Dr W.J. Blair in *Collectanea Historica* (1981), 259–60, and conform to his subdivision (e). Mr Spittle has informed me that when found in 1959 some of the indents were completely filled with bitumen up to the surface of the stone, and evidence of this still survives in the tail of the letter Q (of QE). In monuments of this type, separate brass letters, approximately 2 mm. thick, were normally set in bitumen, and this would only survive as a layer in the bases of the indents. It is apparent, however, that in the case of the Higham inscription the indents – although cut for the reception of brass letters – were in fact completely filled with bitumen, either as a cheap substitute or – at a later date – in place of the brass letters which had become detached and lost.

A letter W is placed at a right-angle to the rest of the inscription, being at the termination of the line parallel to the head of the stone. It was the initial letter of the word VOUS which, so Dr Blair informs me, was the usual rendering at that period. The remaining three letters are well preserved. Although occurring close to the broken end of the stone, the final remaining letter is clearly a V, and it must have belonged to ALAVME, a variation of the usual form ALME (= soul). The inscription, therefore, may be understood as a plea to those who pass by to pray for the soul of. . . . Unfortunately, the name of the deceased is lost.

Double diamond-shaped stops occur between the words and there is an indent showing that the inscription was bordered by narrow

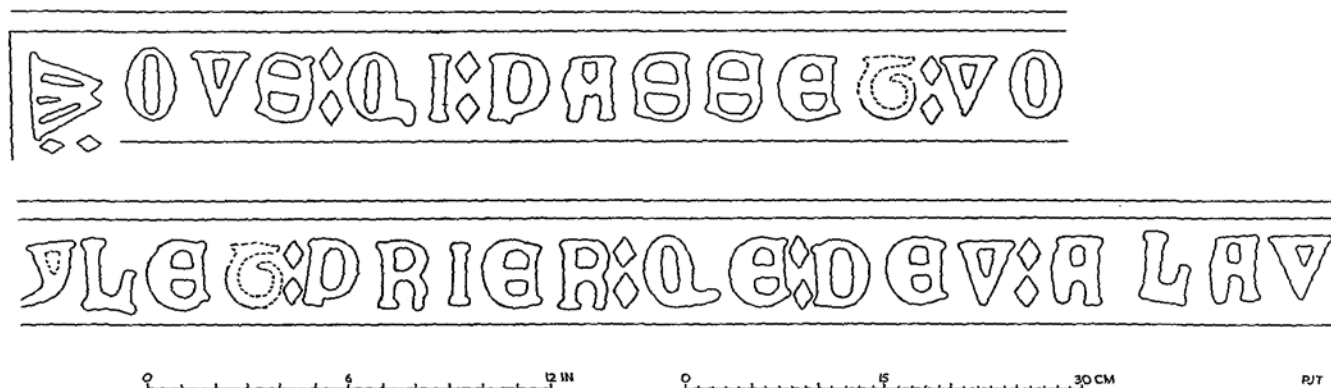
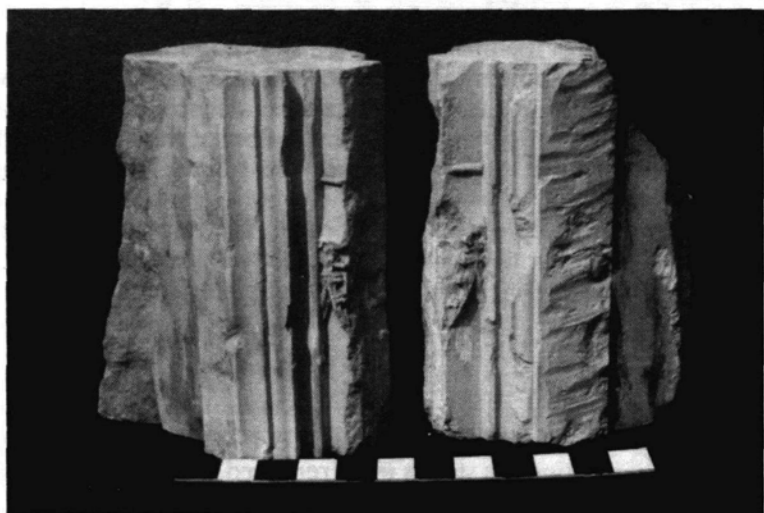


Fig. 4. Inscription on Parts of a fourteenth-century Gravestone recovered from the Remains of Higham Priory in 1959. The right end of the upper part joins onto the left end of the lower.



Two sections of late-medieval moulding from Higham Priory. (*Scale of inches*)

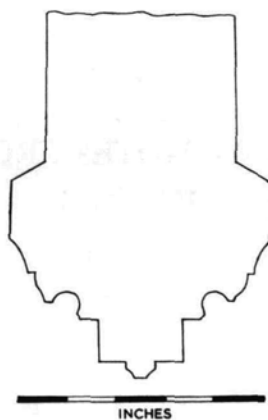


Fig. 5. Profile of Mouldings shown in Plate I.

fillets. Each fillet was approximately 1.3 cm. wide and the distance between their inner edges 8 cm.

Two mouldings of identical profile are shown in Plate I and Fig. 5. They were found in similar circumstances to the pieces of gravestone previously described. Traces of red and blue decoration remain and the miniature crocheted pinnacles in the hollow of the mouldings are picked out in brown. These carvings must have belonged to a late-medieval internal feature such as a reredos, tomb or sedilia with tabernacle-work of considerable delicacy. The material has been identified as a fine-grained glauconitic sandy limestone, known as Hearthstone or Reigate stone, from the Upper Greensand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I am indebted to Mr S.D.T. Spittle, O.B.E., M.A., A.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., for permitting the stones to be removed to Maidstone and for supplying information as to their condition at the time of discovery. Dr W.J. Blair, F.S.A., and Dr A.P. Detsicas, F.S.A., have made useful observations on the inscription, and the material of the mouldings was kindly identified at the Department of Geology of the British Museum (Natural History).

P.J. TESTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Prehistoric

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

An Acheulian hand-axe was found in 1986 by J. Thirkell (N.G.R. TQ 765511). Elongated ovate, $164 \times 83 \times 50$ mm.; grey flint with small part of cortex remaining and white/cream patina.

FRINDSBURY

A bronze knife or dagger (Fig. 6, 2) from the River Medway in Chatham Reach, just north of the mouth of Whitewall Creek

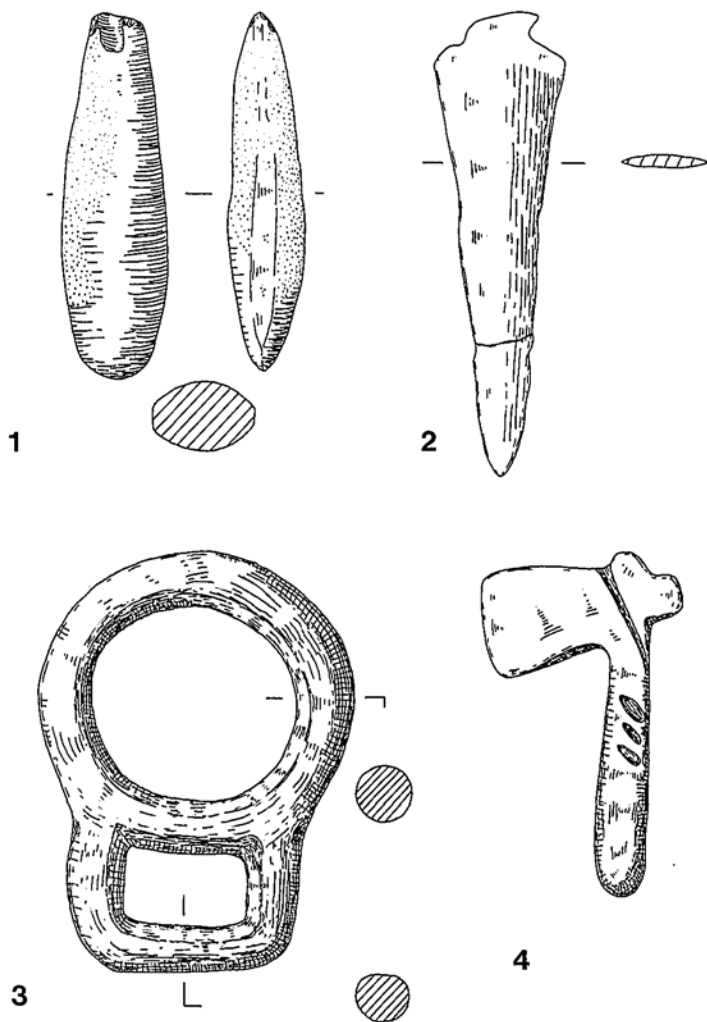


Fig. 6. 1. Mereworth: Neolithic Axe (Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$); 2. Frindsbury: Early Bronze Age Dagger (Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$); 3. Snargate: Roman Terret (Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$); 4. Wrotham: Roman Model Axe (Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$).

(N.G.R. TQ 754691). The children of the finder, R. Goodger, kindly gave it to the museum (accession no. 3.1987).

The dagger is much corroded, part of the heel missing and the blade, though complete, broken at the tip. Parts of two rivet holes survive on the heel. This is flat in section, but the blade is slightly thickened at the centre. No trace of side grooves is visible nor any mark left by the hilt plates on the heel. Length 115 mm.

The dagger is probably to be identified as a riveted knife-dagger of the Early Bronze Age, belonging to Burgess' Aylesford-Colleondard stage of the bronze industry, dated to the first three centuries of the second millenium B.C.³¹

MAIDSTONE

A Middle Palaeolithic *bout-coupé* hand-axe³² was found in his garden at Vinters Park by J. Patrick in 1980 (N.G.R. TQ 776569). The provenance is not secure, however, since although the garden on the relatively new estate may have top-soil which has merely been replaced, the builders could have brought top-soil into the estate. Grey flint with white patina; flat, delicate flake scars; 115 × 75 × 21 mm. The type is Mousterian, probably dating from an early stage of the last (Devensian) glaciation, about 70,000–60,000 B.C.

MEREWORTH

A polished flint Neolithic axe (Fig. 6, 1) was found by R. Hart while making a lawn at Yew Tree House (N.G.R. TQ 666547) and brought to the museum by our member R. Earl. It is long in proportion to its width, with distinct flattening of the sides: 180 × 51 × 38 mm. On one side and on both the adjoining faces a large area of cortex has been left, interrupted only by the flattening of the side. A small area at the butt has been left unpolished. Grey, mottled flint.

Celtic Coins

Impressions in Maidstone Museum and Institute of Archaeology, Oxford.

³¹ 'The Bronze Age' in (Ed.) C. Renfrew, *British Prehistory*, (London, 1974), 193 and C. Burgess and D. Coombs, *Bronze Age Hoards*, B.A.R. 67 (1979), iii.

³² See, e.g., D. Roe, *PPS.* xxxiv (1968), 18, note 2 and fig. 2.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

Two coins were found at Brishing (N.G.R. TQ 7751) by K.R. Parker in 1987. This is the area where a Roman bath building was found in 1841,³³ the site or its vicinity yielding six Celtic coins³⁴ of Dubnovellaunus (2), Eppillus, Cunobelin (2) and Amminius.

1. Bronze core of Cunobelin quarter stater, diam. 11 mm.

Obv.: ear of barley, without central stalk, letters A(?) to left, M to right.

Rev.: horse right, with four dots, arranged in diamond pattern, above and curved line at top.

The coin presumably copies a quarter stater of Allen's 'Wild' series.³⁵

2. A/ stater of Tincommius; diam. 17 mm. *cf.* Mack 100.

Obv.: (convex) COM.F on sunk tablet.

Rev.: (concave) horseman right with javelin; below TIN.

While coins of Tincommius have been found in the territories of the Atrebatii and Regni and in large numbers in that of the latter (Sussex), Allen³⁶ recorded only one unprovenanced coin from Kent and in Haselgrove's additional list³⁷ none are shown for Kent.

COBHAM

Two *Æ* coins were found by D.R. Butcher in January 1987.

1. N.G.R. TQ 678689. Cunobelin; oval 19 × 15 mm. Mack 222.

Obv.: (convex) CAM. Winged animal left, head to rear.

Rev.: (concave) CVN. Winged Victory.

2. N.G.R. TQ 677671. *Obv.*: horse or (?) stag, head turned to rear.

Rev.: horse left, running.

Diam. 15 mm.; very worn with faint and illegible legends on both sides.

³³ *Archaeologia*, xxix (1842), 414–20.

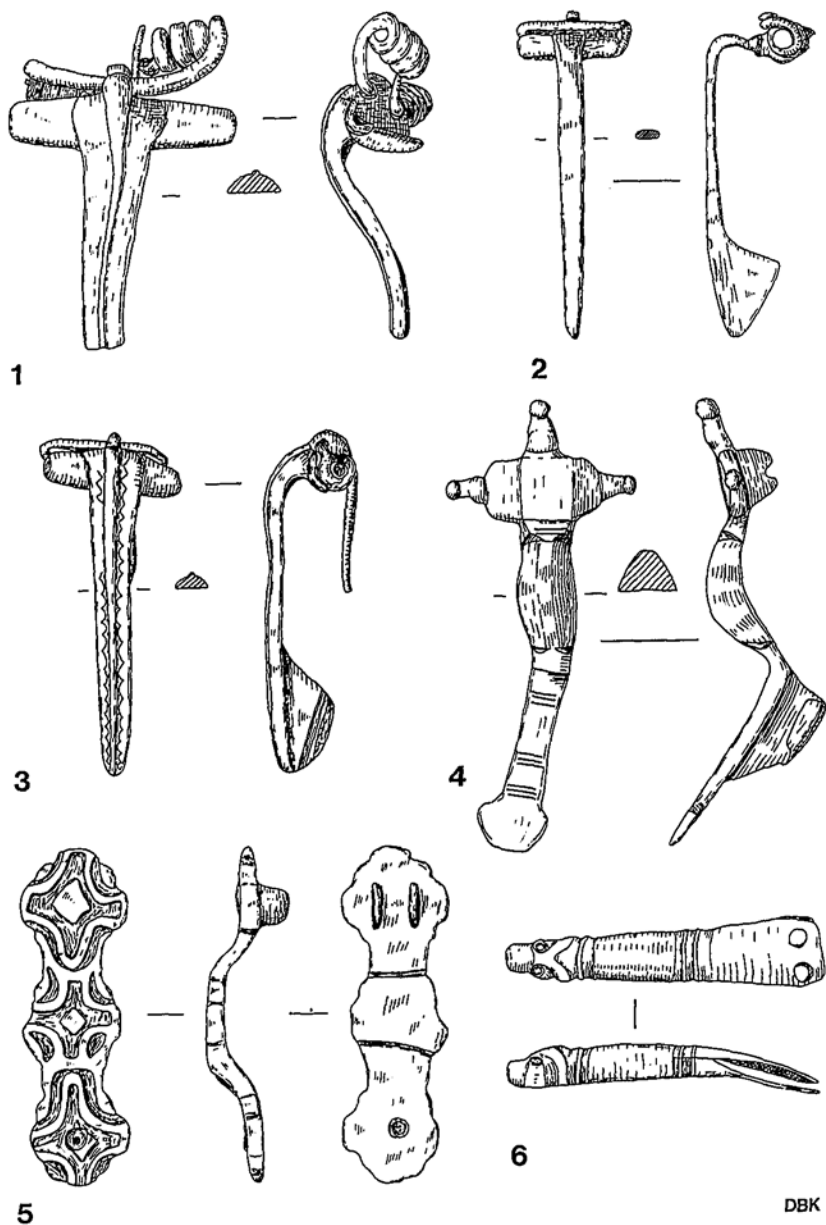
³⁴ Listed in D.F. Allen, 'The Origins of Coinage in Britain: a Reappraisal', in (Ed. S.S. Frere, *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain*, (London, 1960), 215, 213, 232, 238.

³⁵ *Britannia*, vi (1975), 1–19.

³⁶ *Vd.* note 4, 209–10.

³⁷ *Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology*, 20 (1984), 124–5. This lists coins found 1977–1982; I have not seen the earlier supplementary list of coins found 1960–1977.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT



DBK

Fig. 7. 1-3. Roman Brooches from Lenham, Wye, Boughton Monchelsea; 4-6. Anglo-Saxon: 4. Chartham: Cruciform Brooch; 5. Eccles: Ansate Brooch; 6. Lenham: Strap-end. All actual size.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

EAST PECKHAM

An A/Gallo-Belgic Dc quarter stater (Mack 41) was found in her garden by Mrs. J. Newman, 19 Old Road (N.G.R. TQ 667485). Diam. 10/9 mm.

Roman

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

A bronze brooch of Colchester BB type (Fig. 7, 3) was found by K.R. Parker at Brishing in the area of the bath building (N.G.R. TQ 7751).³⁸ The bow has a ridge, flanked with decoration of wavy lines, extending for its whole length and marginal grooves; the end of the pin and a small part of the solid catch-plate are missing. Length 43 mm. About A.D. 65–80.

IGHTHAM

A bronze figurine (Plate II) was found in May 1987, by W.C. Ladbrook (N.G.R. TQ 585568), close to two Roman coins (see below). It is of a naked male figure, standing on the left leg, the right leg bent slightly backwards at the knee. The feet are missing, as are the right arm below the elbow and the left arm from just above the elbow. The right arm is bent at the elbow and extended slightly forward. The head is half turned to the right and looks downward, as though at some object held in the right hand. Height 78 mm. The absence of any attributes and the corroded state of the head, in particular, preclude identification of the figurine, which could be god or man.

LENHAM

A bronze brooch of Colchester BB type (Fig. 7, 1) was found by D. Perrott (N.G.R. TQ 908517). The bow is undecorated, but has a ridge extending the whole length; the foot and most of the pin are missing and the spring, of nine coils, is distorted. Length (broken) 36 mm.

³⁸ *Vd.* note 3.

SNARGATE

A bronze terret or harness ring (Fig. 6, 3) was found by D. Perrott (N.G.R. TQ 991290). It consists of a plain ring and rectangular slot and measures 52×39 mm. Plain terrets of this type have been found at Richborough,³⁹ Colchester⁴⁰ and Old Ford, London.⁴¹ Both the Richborough and Old Ford terrets show considerable wear on one side, consistent with wear made by reins. The Colchester terret is dated to the second half of the third century and the Old Ford one to the mid or late third century. An earlier example from Wroxeter⁴² has the slot masked.

WROTHAM

A bronze model axe (Fig. 6, 4) was found by W. Reeves (N.G.R. TQ 622588). It is 43 mm. long and the blade is slightly bent to one side. One side shows a single thong across the blade and has three marks on the shaft; the other is plain. The shaft has a flattened oval section and thickens towards the end. These miniature axes are generally regarded as votive objects rather than toys and have frequently been found on the sites of temples or shrines. They have been discussed, with other model objects, in two papers by M.J. Green.⁴³ In Kent two similar model axes were found at Richborough,⁴⁴ one at Chilham – a casual find – and one in grave 17 of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Sarre.⁴⁵

WYE

A bronze Colchester brooch (Fig. 7, 2) was found on the Old Racecourse (N.G.R. c. TR 075484) and brought to the museum by our member J. Bradshaw. The bow and spring-cover are plain; pin and small part of the catch-plate is missing; spring of seven coils. Length 41 mm.

³⁹ Richborough IV, 130, no. 124.

⁴⁰ N. Crummy, *The Roman small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971–9*. (Colchester, 1983), 106, no. 2543.

⁴¹ *Trans. London and Middlesex Arch. Soc.* (1979), 78 and fig., xxx 24, 1.

⁴² *Arch. Journ.*, (1958), 96, no. cxv 252.

⁴³ *Arch. Journ.*, (1975), 54–70; *Britannia*, xii (1981), 253–69.

⁴⁴ Richborough IV, 145, nos. cxxxii 189 and 190.

⁴⁵ *Arch. Cant.*, vi (1866), 159–60.

Roman Coins

AYLESFORD

(N.G.R. c. TQ 755609). *Dupondius* of Marcus Aurelius. R.I.C. 1002. Found by W. Reeves.

BARMING

(N.G.R. TQ 721541). Two *Æ* coins found early in the last century in the area of the Roman villa near the church⁴⁶ were given to the museum by the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter; acc. no. 84. 1986.

1. Magnentius. Amiens mint, R.I.C. 11.
2. Valens. Rome mint, R.I.C. 27a.

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

(N.G.R. TQ 7751). Two coins found by K.R. Parker in the area of the Roman bath building⁴⁷ at Brishing.

1. *Sestertius* of Antoninus Pius. R.I.C. 612.
2. *Dupondius* of Marcus Aurelius. R.I.C. 828.

COBHAM

(a) (N.G.R. TQ 6867 and 6967). About fifty coins scattered over a wide area north of the railway line were found by D.R. Butcher, all fourth century, except for two radiate coins (one Claudius II). Most were unidentifiable. The identifiable and partially identifiable coins ranged from Constantine I to Gratian: Constantine I, Trier mint, R.I.C. (VII) 47; *Constantinopolis* (2), Trier (one is R.I.C. 548); Constans, Trier, R.I.C. 210, 223, 234; *GLORIA EXERCITVS* (one standard) (2), two standards (Lyons); Magnentius/Decentius; *VICTORIAE* etc./ two Victories *VOT/XV/MVLT/X*; Valentinian I, Rome mint, R.I.C. 10a; *GLORIA ROMANORVM*, emperor dragging captive (A.D. 364–75) and Victory with wreath and palm (A.D. 367–78); Gratian, *VOT/XV/MVLT/XX* and *REPARATIO (REIPVB)* (A.D. 376–383). (b) (N.G.R. TQ 670692). *Sestertius* of Postumus, Elmer 270, found by S. Parkes near Battle Street.

⁴⁶ V.C.H. (*Kent*), iii (1932), 104.

⁴⁷ *Vd.* note 3.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

FRINDSBURY

(N.G.R. c. TQ 747702). Five coins found by S. Parkes.

1. *Denarius* of Antoninus Pius. R.I.C. 15.
2. *Sestertius* of Commodus, *PROV DEOR* reverse.
3. *Antoninianus* of Victorinus. Elmer 683.
4. *Antoninianus* of Allectus, London mint. R.I.C. 33.
5. Fraction of *follis* of Maximian II as Caesar, Trier mint, R.I.C. 562.

IGHTHAM

(N.G.R. TQ 585568). *Denarius* of Antoninus Pius, R.I.C. 473, found by W.C. Ladbrook.

MAIDSTONE

(N.G.R. TQ 789521). *Follis* of Licinius II as Caesar, Antioch mint, R.I.C. 25, found in garden by B. Clackett, 45 Bicknor Road, Park Wood.

WEST FARLEIGH

(N.G.R. TQ 718524). *Follis* of Maximian I, London mint, R.I.C. (VI) 27, found by Mr Honeysett in July, 1986.

YALDING

(N.G.R. TQ 694501). Three *Æ* coins found by K.R. Parker.

1. Constantine I, Trier mint, R.I.C. (VII), 42.
2. *Constantinopolis*, Trier mint, R.I.C. (VII), 563.
3. Irregular copy of two Victories holding shield inscribed *VOT/VX*; diam. 17 mm.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Magnentius. *Vd.* G.C. Boon, 'Counterfeit Coins in Roman Britain', in *Coins and the Archaeologist*, B.A.R. 4 (1974), 130.

Anglo-Saxon

BOXLEY

A Late Saxon bronze book mount or clasp (Fig. 8, 1) of eleventh-century date was found by S. Parkes (N.G.R. TQ 770585). It is of heater shape with a trefoil projection at the top and three rivet holes, one through the projection and two through the plain lower area. A tongue projects from the base at a right angle. The upper surface is filled by an animal in relief between raised borders, its head raised to a vertical position. 44 × 24 mm. A number of similar book mounts are known, both solid and openwork. Mounts with decoration like that of the Boxley example have been found at Out Elmstead (near Barham) in Kent and Wiltshire (B.M., M. and L.A. 1978, 7-3, 1). Mrs. S.M. Youngs, of the British Museum, suggests that these mounts could have been used on caskets as well as books.⁴⁹

CHARTHAM

A bronze cruciform brooch (Fig. 7, 4) was found by D. Perrott at Horton (N.G.R. TR 114552). It is bent at the junction of foot and bow and the pin is missing. Traces of iron remain round the single, broken lug. Length (bent) 57 mm.; original length c. 62 mm.; width at head-plate 24 mm. The three fully rounded knobs are cast in one piece with the brooch; the solid bow is plain except for pairs of notched triangles at its junctions with head and foot; the foot has a plain spade-shaped end and is decorated with three groups of three cross-strokes.

There does not seem to be a close parallel from England. The fully rounded knobs would place the brooch in Åberg's group I,⁵⁰ but they are very attenuated compared with most examples, are cast on and with the marked wings would suggest that the brooch comes late in the group. The foot is even more devolved, only the nostrils of the animal head surviving as a flat, spade-shaped end, and is almost like the feet on some small long brooches. Perhaps late fifth or very early sixth century in date.

The find-spot is about half a mile north-north-east of the site of the Chartham Down cemetery described by Douglas and Faussett.

⁴⁹ I am indebted to Mrs. Youngs for information about the mounts and parallel examples.

⁵⁰ N. Åberg, *The Anglo-Saxons in England* (Uppsala, 1926), 33 ff.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

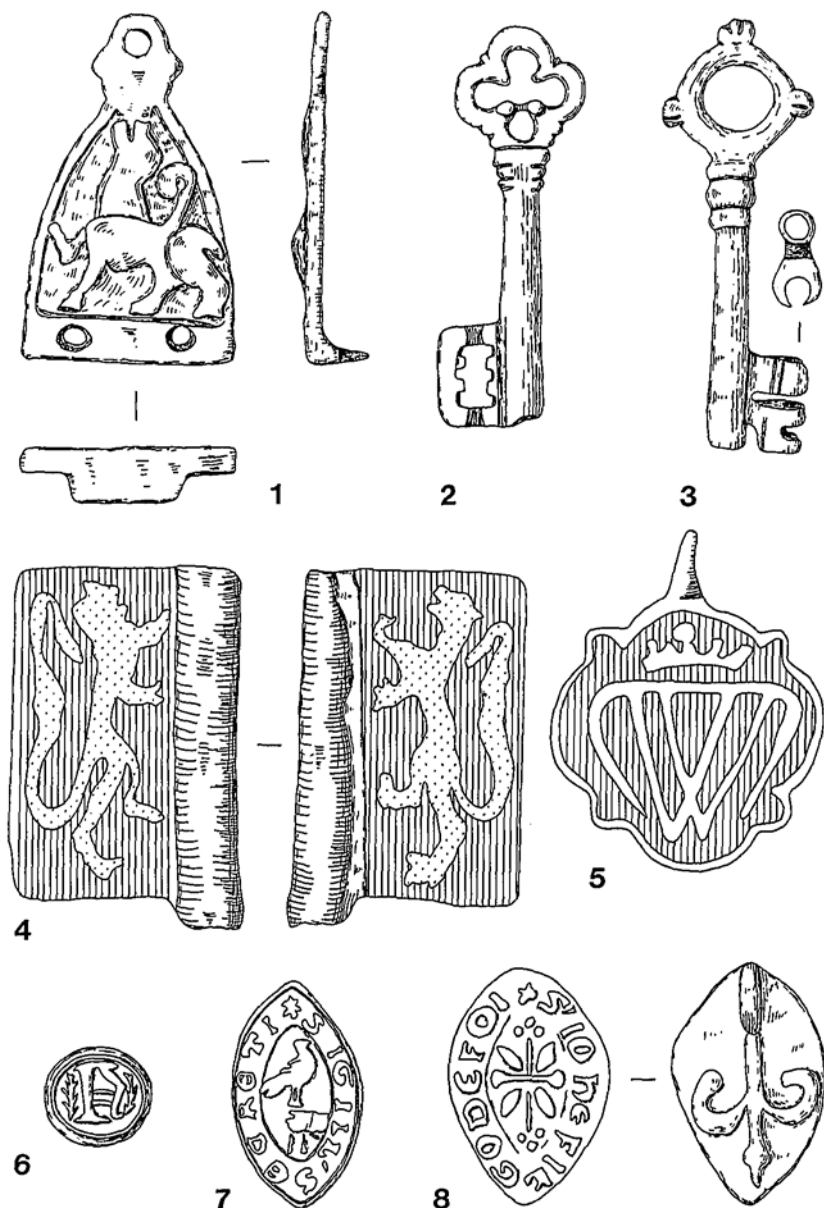


Fig. 8. 1. Boxley: Anglo-Saxon Book-mount. 2-8. Medieval: 2-3. Keys from Brenzett, Snargate; 4. Milton Regis: Harness Mount; 5. Boxley: Harness Pendant; 6. Eynsford: Signet Ring; 7. Wye: Seal-die; 8. Dymchurch: Seal-die. All actual size except nos. 2 and 3 (Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$).

ECCLES

A bronze ansate brooch (Fig. 7, 5) was found in Bushey Wood by A. Buxton (N.G.R. TQ 722602). The bow and ends are decorated in chip-carving technique with curved-arm crosses, each with a central lozenge or trapeze. The pin and catch-plate are missing. The pin was held by two semi-circular lugs, which have traces of iron remaining around them. The original catch-plate appears to have been replaced with a crude iron one, secured from the upper side of the foot, where it has damaged the decoration. Length 43 mm. Museum acc. no. 13. 1987.

Ansate brooches are a widespread Continental type, dating from the end of the seventh to beyond the middle of the ninth century.⁵¹ They are fairly rare imports into England; one, of a different type, was found in the post-war excavations at Canterbury to the east of Canterbury Lane.⁵² Five brooches with decoration similar to that on the Eccles brooch have been found at Domburg, in the Netherlands.⁵³

LENHAM

A bronze strap-end or tag (Fig. 7, 6) was found by D. Perrott (N.G.R. TQ 908517). It is 40 mm. long, with straight sides expanding slightly from the animal head terminal to the split end with two rivet holes. There are cross-mouldings above the head and below the split end. In section it is semi-circular between the mouldings and flat at the split end. The flat underside is plain.

A comparable example comes from Bledlow, Bucks.,⁵⁴ but an iron strap-end from Ramsbury, Wilts., with a vague animal head terminal and transverse strips of inlaid silver is closer to the Lenham one. In her report on this Prof. V.I. Evison discusses the straight-sided type of strap-end.⁵⁵ The type is relatively rare in Britain, compared with the oval form, but popular on the Continent and in Scandinavia. Both the Bledlow and Ramsbury strap-ends are regarded as ninth-century in date.

⁵¹ A. Roes, 'Les Trouvailles de Dombourg', *R.O.B.*, v (1954), 67-8.

⁵² *The Archaeology of Canterbury VII: Excavations in the St. George's Street and Burgate Street Areas* (1983), 166-9, no. 4.

⁵³ T. Capelle, *Die frühgeschichtlichen Metallfunde von Domburg auf Walcheren, (Nederlandse Oudheden 5)* (1976), nos. 18-22.

⁵⁴ *Antiq. Journ.*, xxii (1942), 221.

⁵⁵ *Med. Arch.*, xxiv (1980), 35 and fig. 20, 6.

Medieval

BOUGHTON ALUPH

Mr D. Sykes, of Wye College, brought a bronze signet ring to the museum, found between the church and Boughton Lees. The bezel is engraved with a shield of arms: three garbs, two and one, the arms of the Kempe family and now of Wye College. The hoop of the ring is wide, expanding to enclose the bezel, which measures 12×10 mm. Late fifteenth–early sixteenth century.⁵⁶

BOXLEY

A copper-alloy harness pendant of Ward Perkins type V (Fig. 8, 5) was found by D.R. Butcher (N.G.R. TQ 758587). It has for a design a crowned 'W', gilt, on a red background, of which most of the enamel remains. Crowned 'W's appear on ampullae from the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham.⁵⁷ B.W. Spencer, of the Museum of London, suggests that the 'W' may be two intertwined 'V's, for *Virgo Virginum*. A similar pendant has been found at Bury St. Edmund's.⁵⁸ 42×34 mm. Fourteenth or fifteenth century.

BRENZETT

A bronze key (Fig. 8, 2) was found by D. Perrott (N.G.R. TR 003285). It has an open quatrefoil bow and a heavy pierced bit. The stem is hollow for 55 mm. Length 102 mm. Fourteenth century.

CLIFFE

Two thirteenth-century lead seal-dies were found by B.S. Ashby. 1. Circular, legend + S' ROBERT F. . . . surrounding eight-point star; diam. 26 mm. (N.G.R. TQ 737764). Gift of finder: museum acc. no. 63.1986a.

⁵⁶ For the shape see, e.g., C. Oman, *British Rings 800–1914* (London, 1974), Pls. 38G, 39D.

⁵⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, cii (1985), 269, Boxley 2. Mr L.R.A. Grove has drawn my attention to the Holy Water stoup in the north porch of Thurnham church, which has a crowned 'W' below.

⁵⁸ Information from N. Griffiths, Museum of London.

2. Circular, legend * SIG' ALERIÇI. FIŁ RIÇhA. (Seal of Aleric, son of Richard), surrounding eight-petal flower; diam. 23 mm. (N.G.R. TQ 743760). Museum acc. no. 12.1987.

DYMCHURCH

A vesica-shaped lead seal-die (Fig. 8, 8) was found by J. Horswell on the beach (N.G.R. TR 106295). Legend: * S' IOhE FIŁ GODEFOI (seal of John, son of Godfrey) surrounding eight-point design of flower with four petals and four stamens/stigmas. Reverse has fleur-de-lys in relief and semi-circular lug at top. 30 × 19 mm. Thirteenth century.

EYNSFORD

A copper alloy signet ring (Fig. 8, 6) was found by J. Horswell (N.G.R. TQ 549659). It bears a Lombardic 'A' between sprigs. The bezel is oval (13 × 11 mm.), the hoop plain and oval in section. The figure shows the impression of the 'A', which appears back to front with the curved leg on the right. The scroll-like left leg appears on seals in the thirteenth century and lasts through the fourteenth into the fifteenth century. The double bar also occurs on thirteenth century seals. Kingsford⁵⁹ shows these features in combination on a seal of 1318. However, letters seem not to appear on signet rings until the second half of the fourteenth century and then continue throughout the fifteenth century.⁶⁰

MILTON REGIS

A copper alloy harness decoration in the form of an armorial banner (Fig. 8, 4) was found by S. Parkes on spoil to the north of the churchyard wall. The spoil came from a new housing estate within two hundred yards of the church (N.G.R. TQ 909654) (church). Both sides of the mount bear a gilt rampant lion facing the pole of the banner on a red background and most of the gilt and some red enamel remain (gules, a lion rampant or). The socket is 45 mm. long, the banner 41 × 20 mm.

⁵⁹ *Archaeologia*, lxxix (1929), 166.

⁶⁰ *Arch. Cant.*, lxxvi (1953), 154.

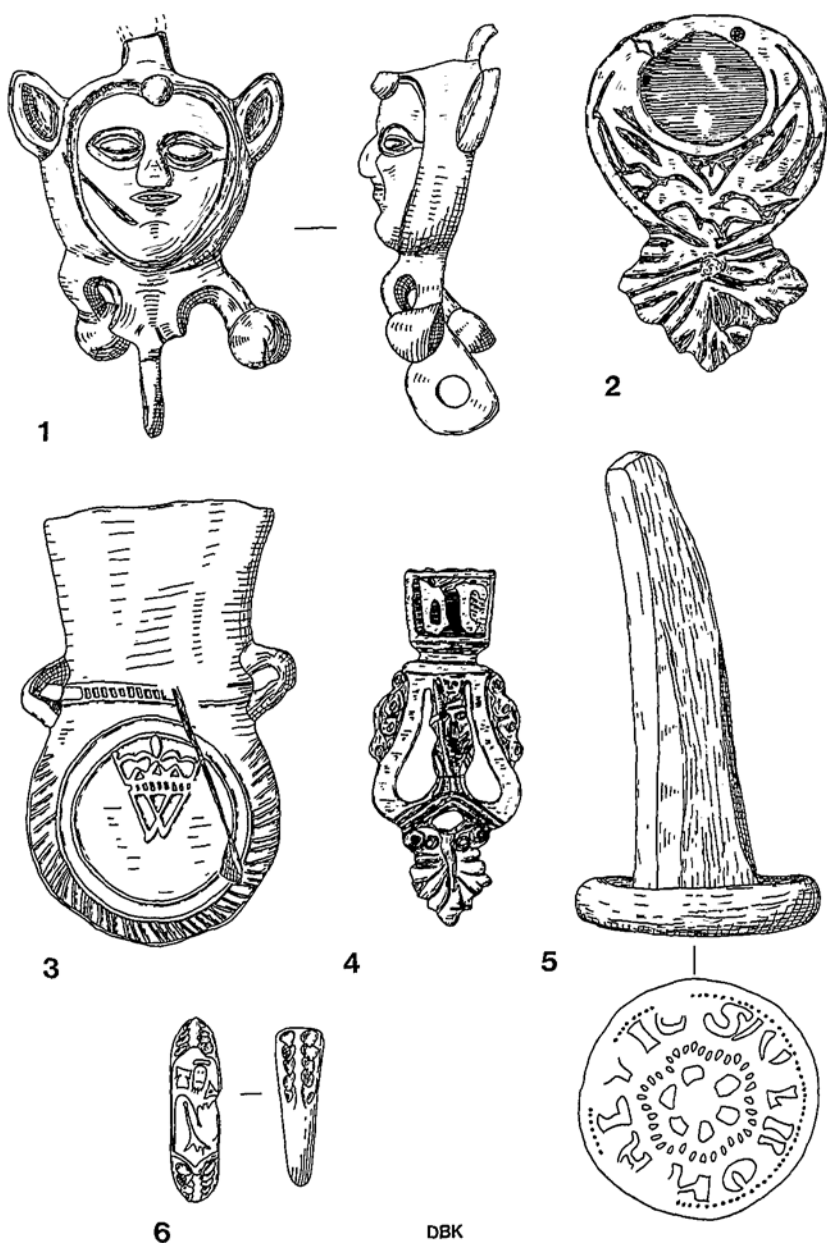


Fig. 9 Medieval. Snargate: 1. Harness Pendant; 2 and 4. Belt-chapes; 3. Ampulla; 5. Handled Seal-die; 6. Snodland: Ring. All actual size, except no. 4 (Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$).

Of the fairly small number of these banner type decorations one, in Salisbury Museum, found in the River Avon in 1970, has rampant lions, but of a different tincture: or, a lion rampant azure, perhaps Baldwin IV de Reviers, Earl of Devon, *d.* 1262.⁶¹ This has an iron pin and bronze strap guides of the type illustrated in the London Museum Medieval Catalogue.⁶² Ward Perkins discusses the use of such mounts in a paper on a mount from Termoli.⁶³ Thirteenth or fourteenth century.

SNARGATE

The medieval antiquities described below were found over the past few years by D. Perrott, who has kindly allowed me to record them.

1. Lead ampulla with crowned 'W'/scallop shell (Fig. 9, 3) (N.G.R. TQ 992286). It is like one from Boxley,⁶⁴ but with the crowned 'W' better preserved. Length 56 mm.
2. Lead ampulla like no. 1, but fragmentary. (N.G.R. TQ 990287).
3. Bronze harness pendant in the form of a fool's head (Fig. 9, 1) (N.G.R. TQ 992286). The head is hollow and has attachment rings at top and bottom; 51 × 34 mm. The fool wears a coxcomb with elongated ears and bells, though the place of the crest is taken by the upper loop. The coxcomb was part of the attire of the late medieval court fool. In a paper on fool's head whistles,⁶⁵ Hayfield and Hurst date both English and Continental examples, all showing coxcombs, to the late fifteenth or sixteenth century. I have not found a parallel to the Snargate head and it is perhaps a Continental import of the late medieval period.
4. Handled lead seal-die (Fig. 9, 5) (N.G.R. TQ 992287). Length 62 mm., diam. 30 mm. The handle is square in section, tapering towards the end and with the corners bevelled for just over half its length. The die has the legend S' VLRONALT(?)IC (or E), surrounding a rosette and encircled by a ring of dots. The legend perhaps reads VLR.ON. ALTIC(E) – (?) Ulric in . . . Presumably thirteenth century.
5. Oval bronze seal-die (N.G.R. TQ 992287). The legend surrounds

⁶¹ I owe this reference to N. Griffiths, Museum of London. See *Finds Research Group 700-1700, Data Sheet 5* (1981), fig. 22.

⁶² *L.M.M.C.* (1940), fig. 40, 2.

⁶³ *Antiq. Journ.*, xxix (1949), 1-7.

⁶⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, cii (1985), 269 and fig. 2, 1.

⁶⁵ *Antiq. Journ.*, lxi (1983), 380-3.

a single line: + S' WILL FIL (? TILE). Reverse plain, without lug. 27 × 18 mm. Thirteenth century.

6. Bronze belt-chape (Fig. 9, 4) (N.G.R. TQ 990287). It is of the type showing St. Christopher carrying the Child on his shoulders, with the letters 'hc' above and with a leaf-shaped terminal. Length 90 mm. Ward Perkins has dated belt-chapes of this pattern to 1390-1410.⁶⁶ Another example from Kent was found at Wrotham.⁶⁷

7. Bronze belt-chape (Fig. 9, 2) (N.G.R. TQ 992287). A circular attachment plate with a leaf-shaped terminal. The upper leaf of the plate has a circular opening, which would show the cloth or leather, and is decorated with a crude spray. The leaf terminal is reminiscent of that on the St. Christopher and other contemporary belt-chapes and is presumably of the same period. 30 × 45 mm.

8. Bronze key (Fig. 8, 3) (N.G.R. TQ 992287). Lozenge-shaped bow with lobes at the corners, hollow shank and heavy bit. The bit is divided longitudinally into two curved arms. Length 110 mm. Fourteenth century. There are two medieval bronze keys with the same type of divided bit in the museum's collection and a shorter one of iron, which also has its shank split like a bramah key. There must have been a good reason for dividing the bit in this fashion, but I have not been able to discover the kind of lock with which it was used.

SNODLAND

A silver ring (Fig. 9, 6) was found by B. Crockett (N.G.R. TQ 694631). The bezel is an elongated hexagon and shows the much worn figure of St. Anthony with tau-cross and bell. On each side of the bezel, the hoop is decorated with two rows of depressions, one of which contains a tiny fragment of green glass or stone. Diam. 23 mm., but the ring is slightly flattened. Brian Spencer, of the Museum of London, who identified the saint, tells me that the depressions are crude representations of foliage, usually blackened with niello. He points out that silver rings are far less common than gold ones. Fifteenth century.

⁶⁶ *Antiq. Journ.*, xix (1939), 197-9.

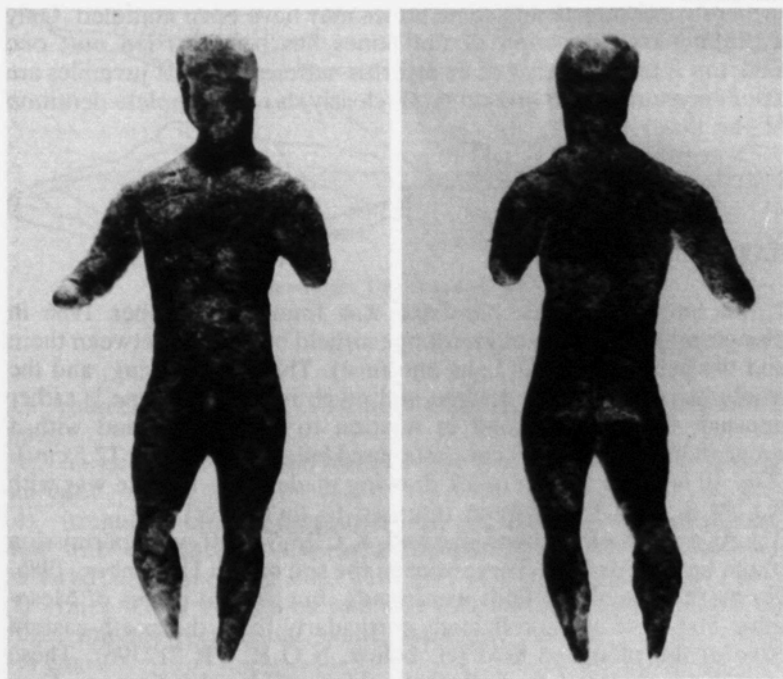
⁶⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxix (1974), 212.

WYE

A vesica-shaped bronze seal-die (Fig. 8, 7) was found on the Old Racecourse (N.G.R. c. TR 075484) and brought to the museum by J. Bradshaw. The legend * SIGILL' SECRETI (seal of a secret) encloses a bird-in-hand; 28 × 17 mm. The die is one of Rigold's second series – "bought off the peg".⁶⁸ Another seal-die with a bird-in-hand comes from Gooderstone in Norfolk.⁶⁹ This has a different legend, but one exhorting secrecy: *Frangere, Lege, Tege* (break, read, keep secret). Fourteenth century.

D.B. KELLY

PLATE II



Roman Bronze Figurine from Ightham (Height: 78 mm.).

⁶⁸ *Antiq. Journ.*, lvii (1977), 324–5.

⁶⁹ *Norfolk Archaeology*, xxxix (1985), 220.