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

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382
© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

LATE USE OF TUFA IN THE TOWER OF LUDDESDOWN CHURCH

Tufa is a calcareous stone formed as a recent geological deposit from springs in the Hythe Beds, and particularly in certain chalk valleys with intermittent streams.[1] It was used extensively for building material in Roman times, as in the villas at Eccles and Folkestone, but rarely in Anglo-Saxon buildings, some long-and-short-work in Northfleet church[2] and an internal arch at Bearsted[3] being possible exceptions. A revival of its use occurred in the Norman period and it is especially evident in churches of that age in the Lower Medway area. After the twelfth century it is found only infrequently, and then in contexts where its sporadic inclusion with stone of other types suggests that it was salvaged and re-used from an earlier building and that the principal natural sources had been exhausted. Although of apparently spongy texture, tufa has proved to be very durable, as may be seen by its sound survival after exposure for nine centuries in church towers such as those at Dartford and Leeds.

The west tower of Luddesdown church shows a consistent use of tufa ashlar in a context obviously much later than the twelfth century, for which some explanation must be sought. From its general character the tower appears to be fourteenth-century, of very plain construction, with knapped-flint walls and small rectangular window openings like those in the older parts of Cobham College (*c.* 1370) only 1½ miles to the north.[4] There are diagonal buttresses at the north-west and south-west corners, the quoins of which are constructed almost exclusively of tufa blocks (Plate I), and this is continued above the level of the buttresses in the quoins of the tower

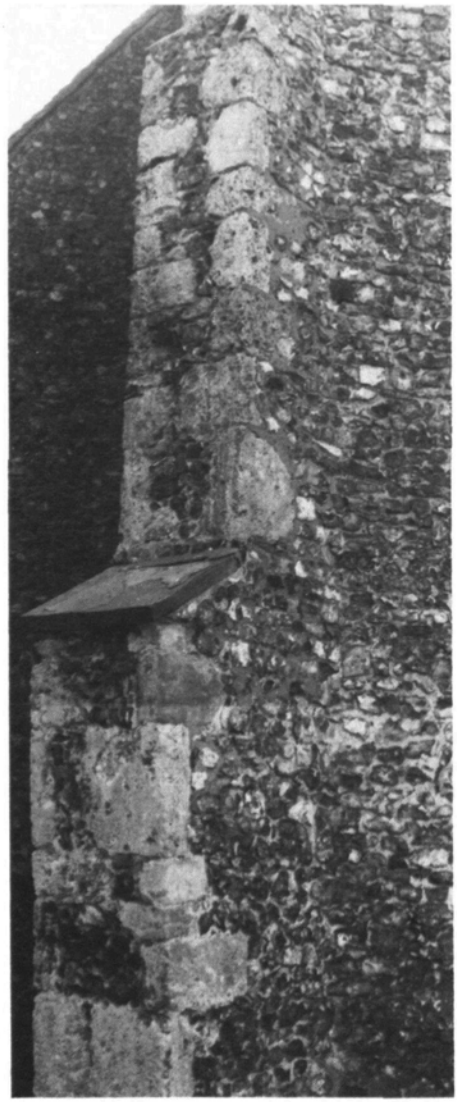
[1] F.J. Bennett, F.G.S., *Ightham: the Story of a Kentish Village* (1907), 8. Also J. Archibald, L.R.I.B.A., *Kentish Architecture as Influenced by Geology* (1934), 15.

[2] H.M. and J. Taylor, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* (1965), 463.

[3] F.C. Elliston-Erwood, F.S.A., in *Arch. Cant.*, lxii (1949), 105.

[4] A mason from Luddesdown, Robert atte Pette, was employed in 1383 on work at Cobham College (*Arch. Cant.*, xlvi (1934), 52).

PLATE I



(Photo.: P.J.T.)

South-west buttress of the tower of Luddesdown Church, constructed of flint and tufa.

itself. Proof that the buttresses are of one build with the tower is shown by the continuous bonding of the flint-work of the two features at their junction. According to Francis Bond's authoritative work, *Gothic Architecture in England* (1906), diagonal buttresses were very unusual before the fourteenth century but common thereafter.

One and a half miles south of Luddesdown stands the little Early Norman church of Dode (N.G.R. TQ 637669), redundant since 1367 when the parish was amalgamated with Paddlesworth. In 1906, it was restored from its ruinous condition by G.M. Arnold of Gravesend. Canon G.M. Livett had previously described it in detail in *Arch. Cant.*, xxi (1895), 264–7, where he noted that the quoins had been robbed of their cut stone, although a little remained *in situ*. He further observed: 'It is *tufa* (his italics) . . . but most of it has been purposely wrenched out from its proper place and carried off for use elsewhere.' Arnold's twentieth-century restoration necessitated renewing all the quoins and openings in new material.

On this evidence, therefore, one may consider the possibility that in or soon after 1367 the tufa ashlar in the church of the 'extinguished' parish of Dode was robbed for use in the construction of the tower of Luddesdown church.

P.J. TESTER

A LATE BRONZE AGE HOARD FROM SHUART, THANET

This small group of bronze objects was found in 1982 by a metal detector user who was prospecting at Shuart Farm, St. Nicholas-at-Wade, Thanet. That the group may be part of a larger assemblage dispersed by ploughing is indicated by the subsequent discovery of small bronze fragments in the general area. While the exact find spot was not recorded, it was in the plough soil of the field abutting the chalk pit situated just south of the farmhouse, and a few metres east of the eastern cliff of the pit, an approximate O.S. grid reference being TR 270678. At this point the topsoil is drift brickearth forming an overburden in depth about 1 m. above natural chalk. Shuart Farm was pasture land until the 1950s. A change to arable use and the advent of the tractor have presumably brought buried horizons to attrition. In 1978, a Romano-British cremation burial was exposed by ploughing nearby.[5] Sherds of pottery in the Deverel-Rimbury tradi-

[5] Thanet Archaeological Society records.

tion were found about 300 m. east of the spot in 1978 during the excavation of the church of All Saints.[6] Soon after the discovery of the bronzes the farmer Mr Martin Tapp informed the writer who dispatched them to the British Museum where they were examined by Dr Stuart Needham. The area has since been subject to scrutiny and metal detector survey after every ploughing. As a result a number of bronze fragments (cauldron legs and feet) have been found at the hoard find-spot. While the latter are usually identified as medieval, they are listed and illustrated below as objects nos. 16 to 19. The hoard consists of 23 objects as shown in Fig. 1, and is composed as follows:

1. A socketed axe with pronounced horizontal ridges and pellet.
2. A socketed axe with cutting edge broken off and missing. Of similar design to no. 1, but larger and of almost square section with vertical ridges at the corners.
3. A socketed axe bearing decoration of perhaps skeuomorph type. The cast lines appear to imitate the lobes and stop-ridge of a winged axe. The same motif in less explicit form appears on no. 21 in the Minnis Bay hoard,[7] and no. 2 in the original discovery of the Hoaden/Elmstone hoard.[8] Another parallel although with the addition of a pellet is to be found in the Leigh hoard (no. 3).[9]
4. Socketed axe with pronounced strengthening collars about the socket mouth. The cutting edge and part of blade broken off and socket exposed.
5. Blade fragment from a socketed axe.
6. Blade fragment from a socketed axe.
7. Cutting edge and part of the blade of an axe or chisel, the socket survives to within 8 mm. of the edge.
8. Fragment of a socketed axe consisting of a portion of the mouth with loop and horizontal collars.
9. Fragment of the mouth of a socketed axe with pronounced horizontal collars.
10. A fragment of blade with a wide mid-rib outlined by thin grooves.

[6] Thanet Archaeological Society excavation notes.

[7] P.H.G. Powell-Cotton, and G.F. Pinfold, 'The Beck Find', *Arch. Cant.*, li (1939), 191–203.

[8] T.C. Champion, and J.D. Ogilvie, 'A Late Bronze Age Hoard from Hoaden, Kent', *Arch. Cant.*, xcvii (1981), 195–9.

[9] *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.*, xvi (1923), 265.

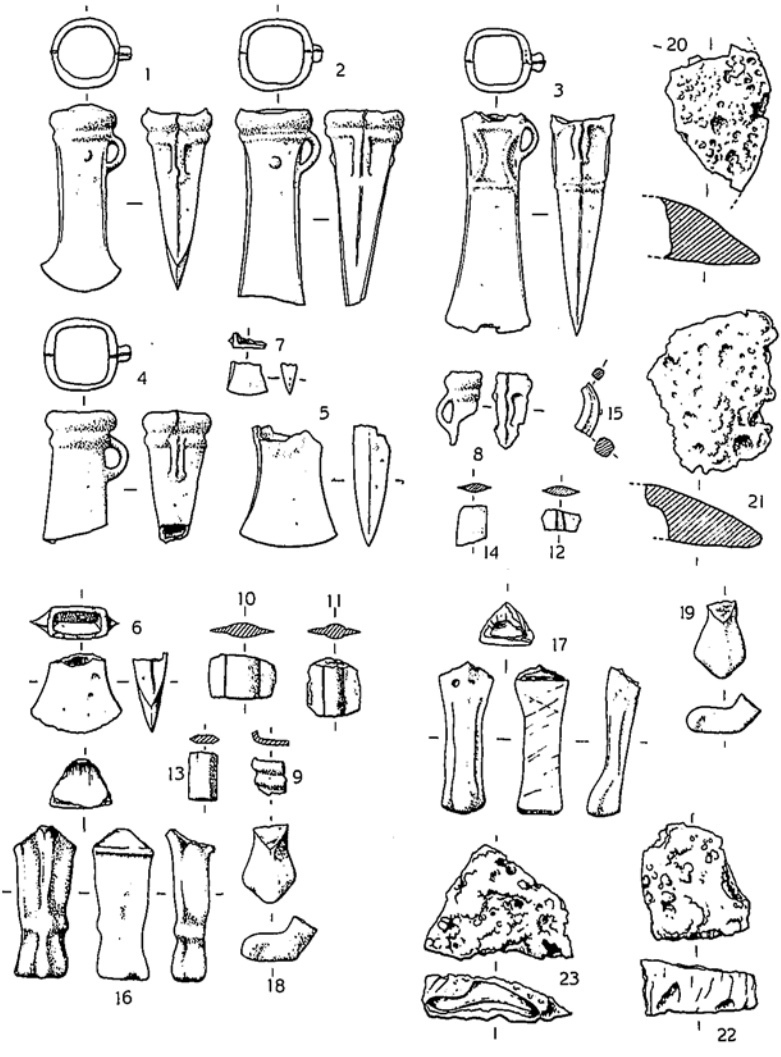


Fig. 1. The Shuart hoard and associated objects, (Scale: ¼).

11. Mid-ribbed blade fragment with narrow rib outlined by grooves.
12. Blade fragment cast with longitudinal and slightly converging grooves.
13. Blade fragment with flat sides and narrow angled edges.
14. A blade fragment having edge bevels and possible central ridge.
15. A curved and tapering fragment, perhaps part of a ring handle from a bucket or cauldron.
16. Cauldron leg.
17. Cauldron leg.
18. Cauldron foot.
19. Cauldron foot.
20. A fragment of a plano-convex ingot. This has an outer edge which allows the calculation of the original diameter of the ingot as being about 16 cm.
21. A fragment of a plano-convex ingot.
22. Fragment of a plano-convex ingot.
23. Fragment of a plano-convex ingot. On one side it exhibits a cavity apparently formed by an unmelted object within the ingot that has become detached when the ingot was broken. A wax cast was made of this, but it did not reveal the nature of the original object.

CONCLUSIONS

The Shuart hoard would appear to belong to the Carp's Tongue Sword complex and Ewart Park tradition, currently attributed to the final phase of the Late Bronze age, *c.* 800–550 B.C. Hoards of similar composition and dated to the same period have been discovered in Thanet at Minster[10] and Minnis Bay, with a small group of objects (perhaps part of a ploughed-out hoard) being found at Monkton.[11]

The advent of the metal detector has seen a great increase in the number of hoards and single bronzes being brought to the notice of archaeologists, most of them seemingly of Late Bronze Age date. If the present rate of discovery continues, the resultant distribution maps cannot fail to have a revolutionary impact on the current perception of Late Bronze Age settlement.

D.R.J. PERKINS

[10] (a) G. Payne, *PSAL*, xiv (1893), 309–11. (b) B.M. Bronze Age Guide, (1920), Plate III.

[11] D.R.J. Perkins and S.C. Hawkes, 'The Thanet Gas Pipeline', *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 85.

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY GROUP

During the past year, progress in the Group's work has been somewhat hampered by disablement of one of its members and by an unprecedented demand for lectures. The most serious effect was that it proved impracticable to produce any additions to the series of detailed studies of buildings already recorded, despite sustained efforts to fulfil this responsibility.

The Group continues to receive a steady stream of invitations to examine particular buildings and fieldwork has been limited to satisfying such requests without undertaking full surveys. The following were some of the more noteworthy cases.

Bubblestone Farm, The Green, Otford

Called The Corner House in the seventeenth century, this picturesque little dwelling has been the base of a small farm for most of its history. The earliest known reference comes in 1605 and a deed of 1638 records its sale to John Polhill; it still remains in the ownership of the trustees of his descendants.

The original part of the house is timber-framed, almost completely hidden externally by Georgian brickwork and first-storey tile-hanging, with a rectangular plan of three bays dating apparently from the end of the sixteenth century. There are clear signs that the two southerly bays were constructed with a jettied front and this is likely to have been continuous along the north bay also; the jetty was underbuilt in the eighteenth century. The roof-space is sealed off, but the upper-storey ceilings are at a level which leaves exposed all four cambered tie-beams with, above the two to the south, the feet of principal rafters and queen-struts implying side-purlin and collar construction. Much other primary framing is visible internally, including a blocked ground-floor doorway, ceiling-timbers chamfered with stepped hollow-stops, and at first-storey level some wall-posts with deeply-flared jowls. A projecting chimney-breast at the south end is of inglenook proportions but is a modern rebuilding on a stone and brick base of *c.* 1600, the inglenook apparently lost; another at the rear north end is of late-seventeenth-century brickwork with tumbled-in set-offs.

Single-storey rear additions under a catslide extension of the main roof-slope were built during the seventeenth century (enlarged in the eighteenth) and in modern times.

Nos. 36–40 (even), High Street, Otford

Traditionally these small eighteenth-century dwellings, formerly

known as Hacket's Cottages, were built by John Golding, leaseholder of Parsonage Farm (today The Old Parsonage) nearly opposite, as housing for his employees. Certainly the front walls appear to have been constructed in one operation, displaying a uniform corbelled brick eaves cornice throughout, and the date is indicated by a central brick of no. 36 inscribed 'W H 1762'. It is reasonable to suppose that the initials are of a member of the Hacket family recorded as resident in Otford from the seventeenth to the early-nineteenth century, though a W. Hacket is not mentioned. He may have been the builder or, perhaps more probably, was Golding's foreman living with his family at no. 36. This cottage is lent some distinction over the others by being sited closer to the road and by its stylish brickwork laid in Flemish bond, contrasting with the then old-fashioned English bond of nos. 38 and 40; it is also the only one to have a plinth, which is of random Kentish ragstone with galleted joints.

John Golding was succeeded in 1792 by his son George, who established a non-conformist meeting-house for adherents of the Huntingdonian sect in 1804; it was opened barely more than once a month for a tiny congregation consisting mainly of his own family and dependants. The front wall of no. 38 displays clear signs of early alterations to its doorway and windows, suggesting that this may well have been the short-lived meeting-house until reverting to its original residential use.

In the work of 1762 no. 36 was in fact a rebuilding, for the seventeenth-century brick chimney-breast of its predecessor still remains – now flush with the Georgian west wall but originally projecting for the depth of its inglenook, which has been sealed or demolished. The interior incorporates a number of re-used timbers from the earlier framed building, including virtually the whole roof of simple raftered construction with irregularly-spaced collars attached with nails.

The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Shoreham

Upon inspection of this complex building, we learned that it had been examined three years previously by R.A.C. Cockett for the Fawkham and Ash Archaeological Group. His report substantially reflected our own conclusions and the following is a summary to which we have added some supplementary observations.

There seems good reason to believe that the primary house may have been erected in 1531, when the benefice was changed from a rectory to a vicarage. Certainly the core of the existing structure appears to date from the early part of the sixteenth century. It is a timber-framed rectangle of four unequal bays aligned east–west,

originally with an undivided crown-post roof hipped to gablets at both ends. The two westerly bays survive almost unaltered and retain two plain crown-posts, each having a single curved brace up to the collar purlin (they never possessed any other braces) which only here remains to support the series of collars halved to the rafters with notched dovetail lap-joints. The roof of the next bay has been renewed, while that of the easterly bay has lost its crown-posts and collar purlin and shows many signs of rearrangement amongst its primary collared rafter-couples. None of the timbers is soot-blackened and the evidence indicates that the whole structure always had an upper floor. The practically-central bay with the renewed roof probably, as now, accommodated the stairs. On either side of it are two chimneys which, though now showing little indication of antiquity, may mark the sites of primary ones serving hearths in a kitchen to the west and parlour to the east. If the original building consisted only of these four bays, then the existence of at least one chimneyed fireplace is implied. On the other hand, it seems quite possible that what survives was a crosswing adjoining an open hall to the south, all traces of which have been obliterated by later building; examples of local parallels are Holly Place, Shoreham, and The Old Parsonage, Otford, each of which has lost its hall but retains one large separately-framed crosswing with upper floor and crown-post roof.

The disturbance of the east bay of the main roof is likely to have occurred when a small southerly extension at right-angles was added here. This allowed the ground-storey parlour to be enlarged, the ceiling being rebuilt with spaced pairs of longitudinal and transverse beams enriched with three distinct types of chamfer stops suggesting a late-seventeenth-century date for the work.

Substantial additions and other alterations were made during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A very fine oval bread-oven of gauged brickwork of the earlier period had been recently discovered and remains preserved. Its flue (now blocked) in the thickness of the wall rose at an angle and then passed horizontally towards the next room, a single-storey Georgian kitchen, where the nearest chimneyed fireplace is situated; the flue of a medieval wafer-oven in Nantwich Church, Cheshire, follows a somewhat similar course. The house contains no less than five different types of internal wooden window-shutters, most being nineteenth-century but some possibly eighteenth. The most unusual is a vertical-sliding sash type composed of two leaves housed in the wall below the sill of the window frame, raised by metal finger-rings which are hinged to lie flat when not in use. Thus each side of the frame has four sash-grooves, two for shutters and two for windows, all with pulley-ropes and concealed balance-weights.

Also examined was the early-nineteenth-century cottage beside the churchyard lychgate, having been recently purchased by the owner of The Old Vicarage and absorbed as part of the main house, which it adjoins. It is notable externally for its front elevation, of coarse flintwork with red-brick dressings, featuring a carved stone bust at first-storey level. Although long used as a coach-house and stable, the presence of an inglenook demonstrates that it was originally built as a dwelling. The interior displays timbers of earlier date re-used in its construction.

Ivy Lodge, Hitchen Hatch Lane, Sevenoaks

The house is eighteenth-century, with basement walls of random Kentish ragstone supporting a red-brick superstructure. Around 1820–50, a front bay composed of a mixture of yellow-grey and pink brickwork was added.

The principal object of visiting was to examine its eighteenth-century internal wooden window-shutters, which are of yet another rare type. A hinged slat up the full height of the right-hand jamb of the frame and another along the sill open against the glazed window to reveal a single-leaf shutter housed in the wall at the side and a sill-track in which it slides horizontally, drawn by a rectractable metal finger-ring attached to the leading edge of the shutter.

One can understand why shutters designed to slide out of concealed wall-cavities, such as those seen here and at Shoreham, did not prove popular; if they stuck in their housings, the difficulty of rectification must have been much greater than with more conventional types. Of the latter, the type which folded into canted reveals became the ideal, being extremely simple to operate and providing an aesthetically-pleasing panelled appearance.

ANTHONY D. STOYEL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM THE KENT COUNTY MUSEUM SERVICE

CAPEL-LE-FERNE

A Neolithic polished flint axe-head (Fig. 2, no. 1) has been given to Folkestone Museum (Accession no. F6753). Patinated light brown in colour, and rounded at both ends, it measures 16.7 cm. long, 6.9 cm. wide and 5.5 cm. maximum thickness. It was found near Abbotsland (N.G.R. TQ 265390) by a farmer clearing his fields od debris from the nearly caravan site after the storm of 15th–16th October, 1987.

FOLKESTONE

A Mesolithic flint pick (Fig. 2, no. 4) has been given to Folkestone Museum (F6755). It was found 'near Caesar's Camp' (Castle Hill). It is patinated pale grey, and is 9.9 cm. long and 2.7 cm. wide.

GRAVESEND

A copper horse harness pendant found in the vicinity of Milton Road East has been given to Gravesham Museum (G3056). C. Manton of the Museum of London considers the pendant to be of medieval date, but it is unusual in being domed rather than flat (Fig. 3, no. 1). No decoration is visible even under X-ray. Diameter of pendant 3.3 cm., length overall 5.4 cm.

IGHTHAM

Some pieces of worked flint found on the east side of Oldbury Hill have been given to Sevenoaks Museum (K2158). While some of the pieces are, in my opinion, of recent manufacture, the collection includes some genuine implements, distinguishable by colour and surface polish. These are as follows: a round flint hammer-stone, 6 cm. diameter, the cortex damaged by considerable battering at one area. Five microlith blades, 2 cm.–3.3 cm. long. Two cores, one conical, the other more cube-shaped, 4 cm. and 3 cm. in diameter, respectively.

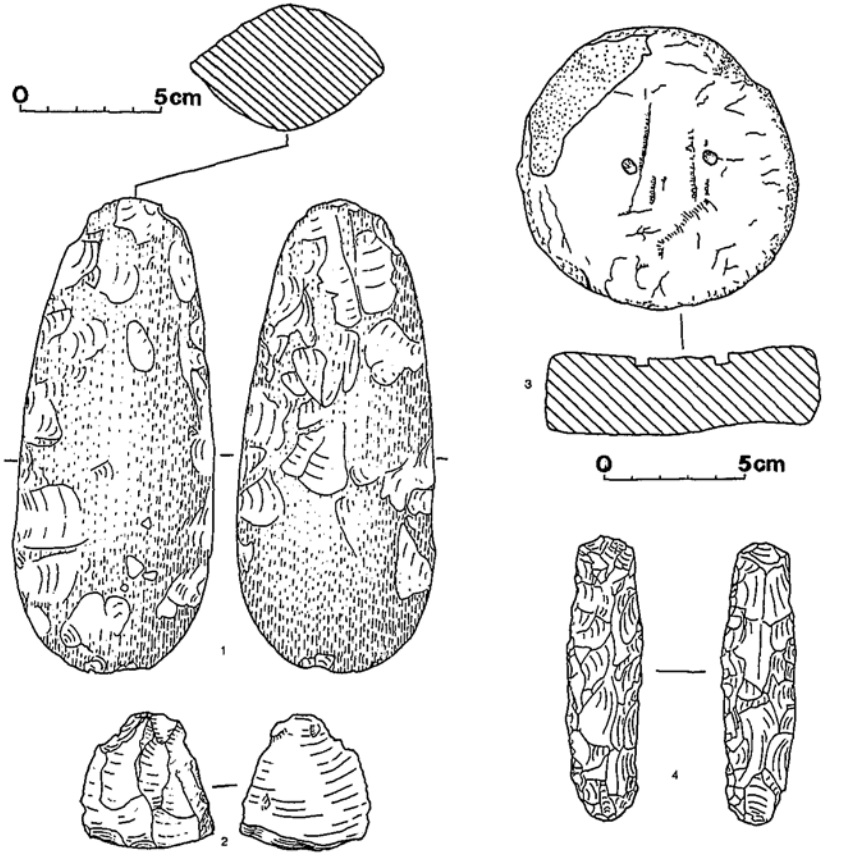


Fig. 2. 1. Capel-le-Ferne: Neolithic axe-head (Scale: ¼). 2. Sevenoaks: Flint blade (Scale: ¼). 3. Trottiscliffe: Clay object (Scale: ¼. 4. Folkestone: Mesolithic pick (Scale: ¼.)

OTFORD

A copper alloy brooch in the form of a bird, found at Sepham Farm by a metal-detector user at approximately N.G.R. TQ 508602 has been lent to Sevenoaks Museum (K2244). It is wingless and very worn, carrying no detail apart from cast raised bands across the shoulders and at the junction of body and tail, and the suggestion of a wattle beneath the head (Fig. 3, no. 2). I am unable to find any precise parallels to this form, but the brooch would appear to be

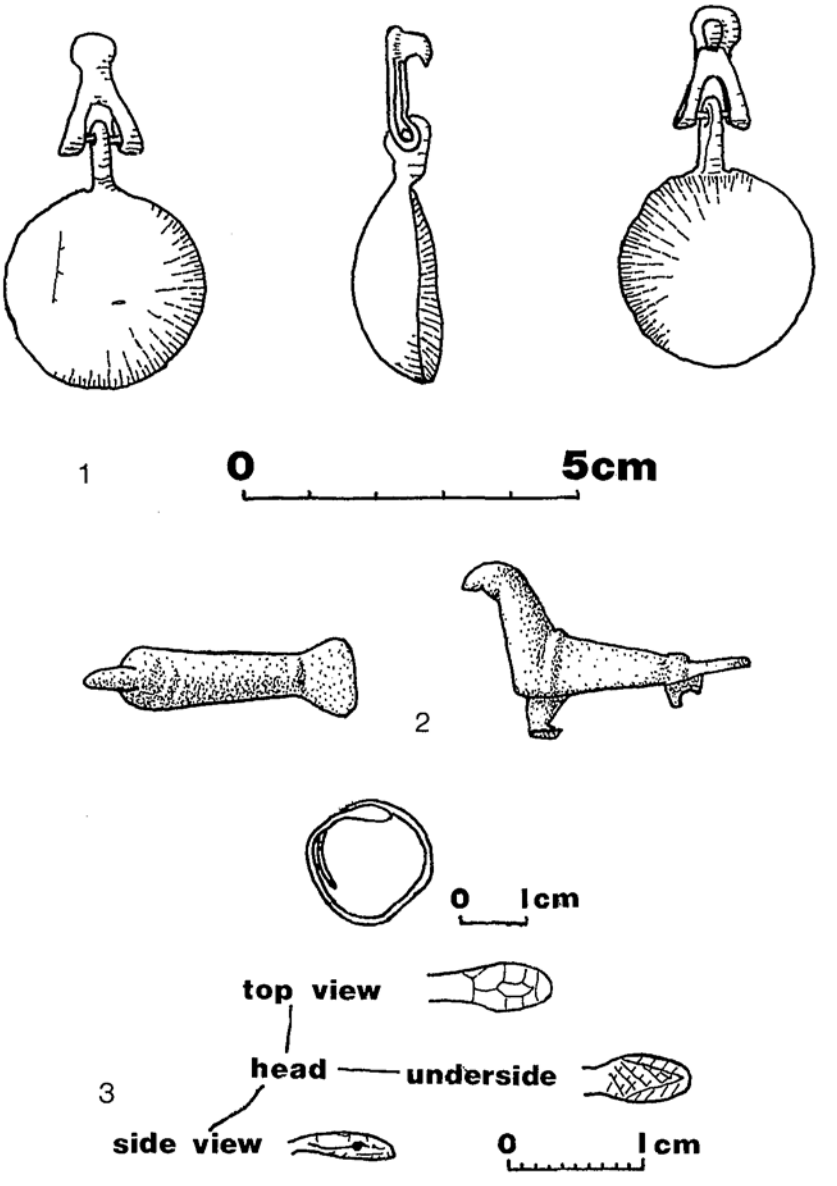


Fig. 3. 1. Gravesend: Horse harness pendant (Scale: 1/1). 2. Otford: Brooch (Scale: 1/1). 3. Otford: Finger-ring (Scale: 1/1, details, 2/1).

similar to more elaborate Roman zoomorphic types. The hinge and fastening pin are missing. It is 4.4 cm. long and 3.6 cm. high.

A gold ring from the same source (N.G.R. TQ 512604) has been purchased for Sevenoaks Museum (K2235). The ring takes the form of a coiled snake. It is 18 mm. in diameter and is finely engraved, with round indentations for eyes and nostrils (Fig. 3, no. 3, and Plate II). Catherine Johns, of the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities of the British Museum, has examined the ring and kindly supplied the following information: 'The Otford ring is in the form of a slender snake, coiled so that the head and tail overlap for rather less than half of the full circumference. The shape of the ring has been slightly distorted, and the surface of the gold exhibits considerable wear, in places almost obliterating the fine incised lattice pattern which is used to represent the reptile's scales. The snake's head is carefully modelled and realistic, in spite of its tiny dimensions (only *c.* 5 mm. long). The eyes and mouth, the pattern of the head-plates, and the scales beneath the head, are all clearly depicted.

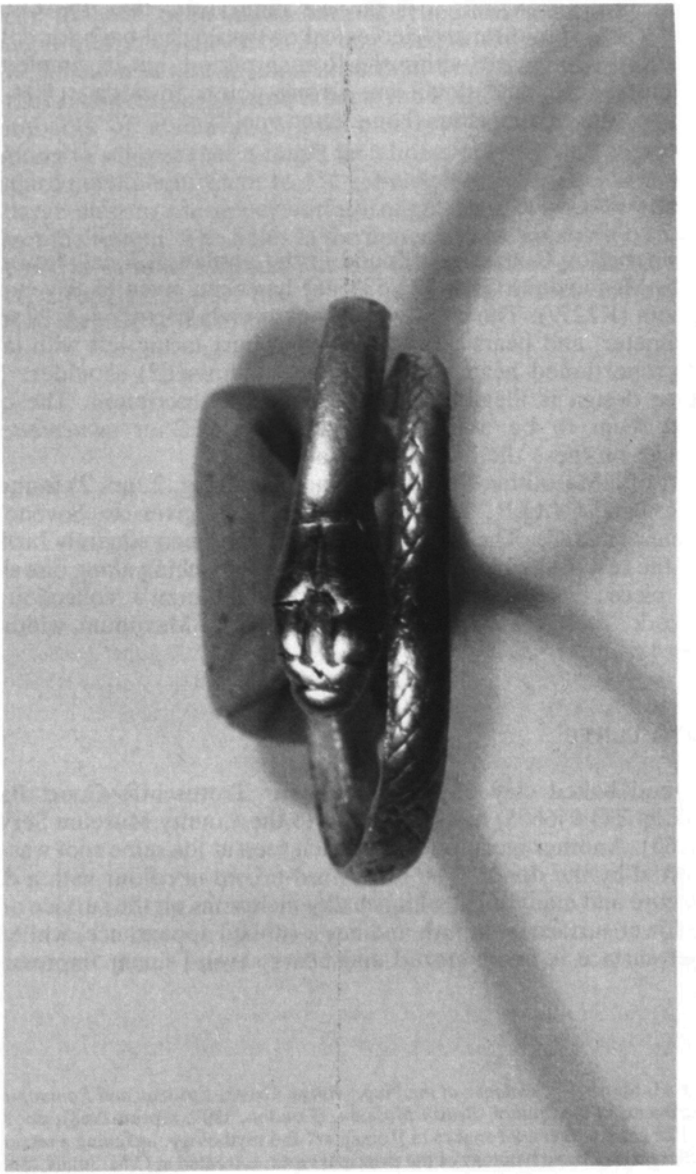
The ring belongs to a class of serpentiform jewellery which was widespread in the Hellenistic and Roman world. In pagan Graeco-Roman thought, the snake was a creature of predominantly benevolent aspect: it was connected with the Underworld and the spirits of the departed, and was associated with many deities, above all with the healing god Asclepius. As a symbol of health and healing, the snake was an emblem of good furtune and was, therefore, an attractive choice in the design of finger-rings and bracelets.

While the species of snakes represented in Roman jewellery cannot be identified precisely, it is clear that in most cases they belong to the family *Colubridae*, epitomised in the Asclepian snake itself, *Elaphe Longissima*. The Otford ring is no exception. The exact form of the ring is the simplest and most basic one for snake-rings, a single coiled snake. This type is well known throughout the Empire, but is very much less common in Roman Britain than are the more stylized and complex snake-rings which incorporate two opposed and recurved heads, such as the fine example from the Backworth treasure,[12] or the group in silver from the Snettisham (Norfolk) hoard.[13] There is a

[12] J.W. Brailsford, *Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain*, 3rd edn. (London, 1964), 26, fig. 13, no. 4.

[13] (Ed.) S.S. Frere, 'Roman Britain in 1985', *Britannia*, xvii (1986), 403–4. A full catalogue of the Snettisham Roman jeweller's hoard, by C.M. Johns and T.W. Potter, is in preparation.

PLATE II



Otford: Gold ring (Scale: × 4)

gold ring of the simple form in the British Museum collections from Chesterford, Essex, but it is far less naturalistic than the Otford ring.[14] There is no firm archaeological or typological basis for dating the Otford ring closely within the Roman period, but its simple and naturalistic form and detail are strong points towards a first- or second-century date rather than a later one.'[15]

SEVENOAKS

A copper alloy Roman coin found in the garden of a new house at Webbs Meadow (N.G.R. TQ 533546) has been given to Sevenoaks Museum (K2259). The coin, which is extremely corroded, is 22 mm. in diameter, and bears on the obverse a bust facing left with large well-proportioned head and prominent (cuirassed?) shoulder. The reverse design is illegible, as is the obverse inscription. The coin would seem to be a mid-fourth century AE2 or *centenionalis*, although on these the bust usually faces right.

Part of a Mesolithic-Neolithic broad blade (Fig. 2, no. 2) found in Knole Park (N.G.R. TQ 542542) has been given to Sevenoaks Museum (K2185). The end section found has been squarely broken from the rest of the blade and shows some retouching along one side. This piece is another addition to the museum's collection of flintwork, mostly Mesolithic, from the Park. Maximum width of blade 4.5 cm.

TROTTISCLIFFE

A round baked clay object found near Trottiscliffe Court Farm (N.G.R. TQ 646605) has been given to the County Museum Service (K2160). Another incomplete specimen seen at the same spot was not collected by the donor. The clay is red-brown in colour with a dark grey core and many small white chalky inclusions on the surface only. The lower surface is smooth and has a rubbed appearance, while the upper surface is finely crazed and bears several linear impressions

[14] F.H. Marshall, *Catalogue of the Finger Rings, Greek, Etruscan and Roman, in the Departments of Antiquities, British Museum*, (London, 1907; reprint 1968), no. 951.

[15] The general theme of snakes in Roman art and mythology, including a section of jewellery with a basic typology of the principal types, is treated in C.M. Johns, 'Snakes in Roman Art', in (Ed.) M. Henig, *Roman Art and Architecture*, (forthcoming).

(Fig. 2, no. 3). In the centre are two shallow depressions which appear to have been made with a cylindrical object. Maximum diameter 10.1 cm., thickness 2.5 cm., weight 456 grammes.

The function of this object is uncertain. The farm, which is close to the parish church, dates from at least the Middle Ages, so the object is probably of medieval or post-medieval date. At 456 g., it is tempting to suggest that it might be a home-made pound weight (the standard pound equivalent to 454 g. being introduced in 1588). If so, the large chip in the upper surface might be a deliberate effort to correct the weight. The holes in the upper surface appear too small to have had any useful purpose. The smooth rubbed lower surface of the object strongly suggests that it was used as a rubber, although its precise purpose is uncertain.

J. VALE