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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

SHEERNESS AND THE ISLE OF SHEPPEY IN 1773

An interesting account of a trip to Sheerness in 1773 can be found in a London newspaper of that year. The account was, in the fashion of the period, anonymous. It appeared in *The Westminster Journal: And London Political Miscellany*, one of the leading weekly London papers of the period, in its issue of Saturday, 28 August, 1773. It is printed as in the original.

'Lately travelling into Kent, I was induced to make a little excursion into that Part of it called the Isle of Sheppey; stimulated by Curiosity at seeing a new Bathing-Machine which is erected at Sheerness, and is now a Candidate for public Favour; which from its peculiar and eligible Situation, (as I shall wave any Strictures on the Building, Machines, etc.) by a constant Succession of Water, I make not the least doubt of its answering the salutary Purpose for which it was intended, "To relieve Persons afflicted with Scorbutic and other Disorders, and that at an easy and moderate Expence." And tho' I did not go as an Invalid, yet I received no small Degree of Pleasure from surveying the Island, where a Variety of Charms conspire to amuse the Mind, and please the Eye: The Corn was bending beneath its ripened Load, and the Hills and Vales were covered with bleating Flocks, and lowing Herds, with and innumerable Group of rural Beauties, which formed a most delightful and picturesque Appearance; but what gave me the highest Satisfaction was the Prospect of the sea, on whose briny Bosom were floating the Bulwarks of Briton, that I could not help crying out in the Words of Thomson:

Island of Bliss, amid the subject Seas
That thunder round thy rocky Coasts, set up
At once the Wonder, Terror, and Delight
Of distant Nations, whose remotest Shores
Can soon be shaken by thy naval Arm;
Not to be shook itself.

From this Panegyric on Briton, I now come more particularly to Sheerness, and lament that there is not an easier Method of Access to it than by being obliged to cross over a Ferry which is attended with many Inconveniences: First, it causes a vast Delay, and impedes numerous Persons very much in the Progress of their Journey; secondly, the very great Expence which is attendant on getting a Carriage over of any kind whatsoever; and lastly, when you are on the opposite Side to the Ferry-house, the being exposed to the Assaults of Winds and Weather, without the least Covering or Shelter, will be sufficient to damp the Ardours of a Valetudinarian, and abate considerably his Penchant for preserving his Life, if I may be allowed an Tricium at the Expence of losing it; this will be a great Check, and tend much to retard the Progress of this infant Scheme before it arrives at Maturity and Perfection as a Place of public and fashionable Resort, and those who expected to see the Gaiety of Bath, Brightelmstone, and Margate, even in Epitome at Sheerness, will be much disappointed; but when the above recited Objections can be got over, and the really indisposed will wade through every Difficulty to travel there by Land, or adopt the Mode prescribed in the Advertisement of going down by Water, they will find themselves amply rewarded for their Trouble; for the Expence of living is extremely reasonable, the Charge of going down equally so by Water, and I make not the least Doubt but Bathing, in, and Drinking of the Salt-Water at Sheerness, will be as efficacious as at any other Place whatever. — Add to this, is Vicinity to the Dock yard and the Garrison; which will afford Persons some Pleasure in their perambulatory Excursions; the walk particularly round the Ramparts affording a most pleasing and extensive View of the Sea, and all the adjacent Country round.

From this Recital it is almost needless to say that I returned to Town much pleased with my Journey, with the most cordial Wishes that the Scheme may turn out to the Advantage and Emolument of the Proprietor.

J. A—N.

Aug. 25, 1773.⁹

JEREMY BLACK

THE ROMAN ROAD (R2) AT SPRINGHEAD

It has never been established how the main Roman road or Watling Street between London, Rochester and the east Kent coast passed through the settlement of *Vagniacae*. Both from the London and Rochester sides the Watling Street appears to have made its near

approach on the same line as that of the modern A2 trunk route.¹ However, its actual point of entry from the London side has not been discovered. On the Rochester side, a map by W.S. Penn² suggested that Watling Street (R1) entered under the central reservation of the A2.

Penn showed the Watling Street definitively re-aligning diagonally west across One Tree Field for 125 m. and presumably continuing for a further (unspecified) distance. A later but undated map by S.R. Harker³ showed the length of R1's realignment more cautiously: he marked it in definite line for a lesser distance of only 50 m. to the place at which a 'branch' road (R2) shown in the Penn map passed north-north-west under the A2 to the entrance of the present Springhead Nurseries. Indeed, the results of excavations in One Tree Field in 1978 led Harker to describe R2 as a re-alignment of R1.⁴ The route and destination of R2 remained to be established.

Investigations by the writer and colleagues in 1972, with some follow-up work in 1991, suggest that R2 continues for a distance of at least 80 m. into the grounds of Springhead Nurseries. The road was followed by cutting several transverse sections, with probing in their intervals.

Only further detailed investigation can provide definitive information about the ultimate length of R2 from its entry to Springhead Nurseries and establish whether R1/2 were part of a through-settlement route for the Watling Street.⁵ If they were, R2 might have had a turning towards London at a number of places along its known length or might have realigned to an appropriate angle at a point a little further along yet to be found. Equally, there might be another answer. Seasonal cultivation in the relevant parts of Springhead Nurseries has temporarily delayed efforts to complete the tracing of R2 but it is hoped to resume work in 1992. The results of the investigation, with a plan and sections, will be submitted for publication in *Arch. Cant.*

VICTOR T.C. SMITH

¹ I.D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain*, London (1973), 51-2.

² W.S. Penn, 'Springhead - Map of Discoveries', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx (1965), facing 108.

³ Sydney R. Harker, *Vagniacae - The Roman Town at Springhead*, Gravesend Historical Society (undated), 4.

⁴ Sydney R. Harker, 'Springhead Excavations Group, 1978', *Gravesend Historical Society Transactions*, 25 (1979), 7-8.

⁵ Penn noted the finding of an alleged milestone in 1750 at a place which might be consistent with R1/2 (*Ibid.*, note 2, 114).

THE BRONZE AGE URN FROM CAPEL-LE-FERNE

The urn listed in Grinsell 1990¹ under Capel-le-Ferne 1/DOVER, a round barrow partially excavated in 1952 but apparently not fully published, except for the urn,² has been the subject of two reconstructions which differ fundamentally.

The published reconstruction (our Fig. 1), which represents the urn as at present reconstituted and in Deal Archaeological Collection in Deal Public Library, shows a concave section to which the horseshoe handles are attached, giving the impression of a tripartite urn.

A reconstruction by J.B. Calkin forms the basis of that by D.J. Tomalin in his unpublished thesis (his K. B2).³ This does not show any concavity to which the handles might have been fixed, but shows the urn as a typical biconical urn (Fig. 2). On balance, we believe that the reconstruction after J.B. Calkin is the more accurate.

K. PARFITT and L.V. GRINSELL

A MESOLITHIC SITE IN PRIORY GARDENS, ORPINGTON

In 1969, Mrs. Susann Palmer, Curator of Bromley Museum, Orpington, collected Mesolithic struck flakes from the surface of the rose beds in the Priory Gardens, Orpington. This established the presence of an extensive and varied flint-knapping industry adjacent to the present source of the River Cray (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxv (1970), 201).

In late 1988, Dave Parker, a gardener with the London Borough of Bromley, presented to the museum a Mesolithic axe found in the same area. In early 1989, it became clear that a new storm water drain being laid across the Priory Gardens would pass very close to the site previously identified (TQ 4666 6667). Members of Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS) under the direction of the present Curator of Bromley Museum, Dr Alan Tyler, conducted an archaeological assessment in advance of this work, implementing a total collection policy. Following the reinstatement of the land, the area around the site was 'field walked'. This resulted in the finding of

¹ L.V. Grinsell, 'The Bronze Age barrows of Kent', forthcoming.

² P. Ashbee and G.C. Dunning, 'The round barrows of east Kent', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxiv (1960), 48-57, Fig. 4.

³ D.J. Tomalin, *British biconical urns: Their character and chronology*, unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Southampton, 1983.

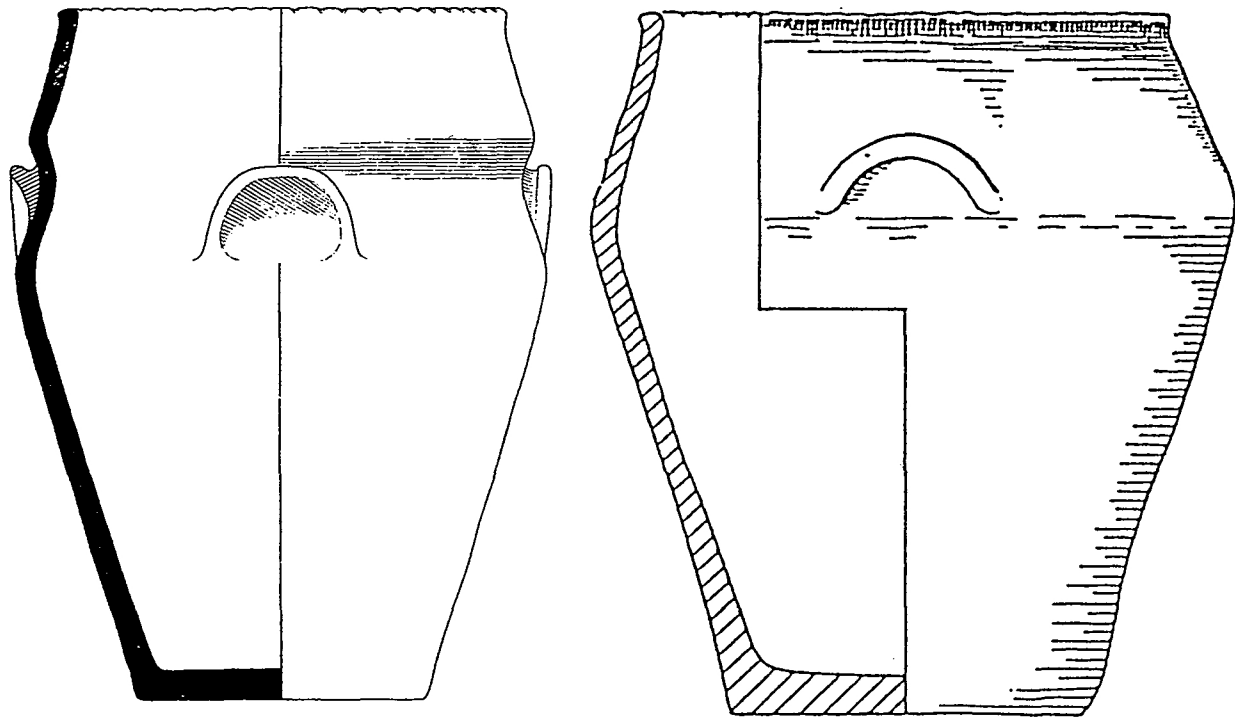


Fig. 1. A Bronze Age urn from Capel-le-Ferne (Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$).

a second Mesolithic axe and other worked flints of similar date. Finally in March 1991, while contractors were at work removing rose bushes prior to turfing over the beds, another surface collection of flints was conducted.

ODAS *Archives* for August 1991 is devoted to a report incorporating the evidence from the 1988/89 surface collections, 1989 assessment and 1991 surface collection.

TONY GREY and ALAN TYLER

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY GROUP

Activities during 1990 and 1991 were curtailed by the writer's illness.

No. 101, High Street, Sevenoaks

This small timber-framed building in the town centre became occupied in 1991 as an estate-agents' office after standing empty for over nine years; at last it looks in good condition.

Its special interest is that it was evidently built in the latter part of the sixteenth century as a shop without residential accommodation, one of a number erected in the former market place and occupying space which had almost certainly been the standing for a stall. Like another such shop now adjoining (no. 99, detached until the nineteenth century), there was continuous jettied along three of the four sides so that the upper floor overhung the streets and alleys with which these island sites were surrounded. When the Group recorded both buildings in 1982, it had been instrumental in halting an over-zealous programme of alterations, but not before no. 101's jettied west side had been destroyed. In the course of recent repairs, its north jetty and north-east dragon beam have been restored and left exposed; it is to be hoped that later on similar treatment will be accorded to the jettied along the east side fronting High Street. The installation of a specially-designed window now allows passers-by to see the former alley between no. 99's spectacular north jetty with dragon beams on the one hand and no. 101's restored south end (never jettied) on the other. At no. 101, the original roof structure remains, consisting of side-purlins and wind braces in three bays divided by queen-strut trusses with claspings collars, the standard arrangement for the period hereabouts. No. 99 may have been built a decade or two earlier.

Colgates, Shoreham Lane, Halstead

The same form of roof structure as described above indicates a date of about 1575–1600 for the earliest surviving part, with the added distinction of the principal rafters being of diminished thickness above collar level. One such principal has a peculiar jowl immediately beneath its junction with the side-purlin and clasp collar, apparently an expedient adopted to avoid a knot in the timber. The house of this period seems to have been of the direct-entry type with two rooms on each of its two storeys, the upper being open to the half-hipped roof. Its inglenook and massive chimney were destroyed in the 1960s. The presence of pyramid stops to the chamfers of ground-storey ceiling beams is entirely consistent with the date suggested.

Considerable enlargements and other alterations have been made during the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The result is an elegant house, appreciably larger than the original.

Kentish House, High Street, Brasted

An excellent test for architectural historians, because so much was rebuilt in the nineteenth century re-using timber from an earlier structure. It is possible nevertheless to identify areas which were evidently left undisturbed.

The westerly portion (currently an antique shop), of two bays aligned at right-angles to the street, is of greatest interest. A heavily-braced tie-beam with decorated crown-post remains from its open central truss of about 1490–1510, over what is assumed to have been the solar of an open-hall house, the rest of which has disappeared. The ground-storey room has primary ceiling beams and joists for the floor above. It also contains a later inglenook which, although partly modernised, retains much of an eighteenth-century brick bread-oven.

Adjoining this portion to the east, forming the central part of the premises (currently linking a butcher's with an antique shop), is a single bay parallel with the street, probably built on the site of the medieval hall. Axial beams in the ground- and first-storey ceilings display scroll chamfer-stops, in this region a good indication of late-seventeenth-century work.

ANTHONY D. STOYEL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

PREHISTORIC

AYLESFORD

N.G.R. TQ 7560. An Early Iron Age brooch (Fig. 1, 3) of copper-alloy was found by P.W. Atkins and kindly given by him to the museum (accession number 1990-102/1). It has a fat, thick humped bow. The projection at the head is decorated on its upper surface with five grooves and has two horizontal perforations for the axial rods of a double iron spring, although this survives only as a small projecting piece of corroded iron on one side and a smear of iron on the other, blocking the rear hole. The head of the pin is concealed by the corroded iron, but enough is visible to take it as a ring-head, swivelling on the axial rod of the front spring. The end of the foot is broken off, but probably terminated in a knob, vertical or recurving towards the bow; it has grooved decoration at the end nearer to the bow. The length is 34 mm.

The brooch belongs to Hull and Hawkes's British Group L,¹ a group comprising varied forms derived from Late Hallstatt brooches and first discussed by Hodson.² Four brooches in the Hull and Hawkes *corpus* have the thick, humped bow, those from Hammersmith, Hillingdon, Sussex and Mortlake (nos. 4282, 4282 *bis* and *tris* and 3560) and the Sussex brooch has a foot with grooved decoration, like the Aylesford brooch, which is recurved towards the bow and terminates in a vertical double knob. The projection at the head is best paralleled by the Hammersmith brooch, on which the grooved decoration is on the end, not the upper surface. With the Hammersmith brooch is a ring-headed pin, like that on the Aylesford brooch. Hull and Hawkes regard it as a replacement for an iron pin continuous with the spring, but the presence of a similar pin on the Aylesford brooch suggests that it may have been the original. First half of the fifth century B.C.

¹ M.R. Hull and C.F.C. Hawkes, *Corpus of Ancient Brooches in Britain: Pre-Roman Bow Brooches* (B.A.R. 168, 1987), 58-62.

² F.R. Hodson, 'Three Iron Age Brooches from Hammersmith', in (Ed.) G. de G. Sieveking, *Prehistoric and Roman Studies*, British Museum, 1971, 50-3.

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. c. TQ 788590. An unpolished Neolithic flint axe (Fig. 1, 2) was found by G. Collins. It is 130 mm. long and has a maximum width of 45 mm. immediately above the cutting edge. An unusual feature is the thin section, the maximum thickness being only 17 mm. It is entirely covered by a thick white patina.

(b) N.G.R. TQ 7559. The bow and part of the foot of a La Tène I brooch (Fig. 1, 4) found by D. Applegate. The bow is of D-section, decorated all over the upper surfaces with close-set diagonal lines, giving a twisted or cable effect. The underside of the remaining part of the foot is decorated with shallow grooves. Length 28 mm.; copper-alloy. Two brooches in the Hull and Hawkes *corpus*,³ nos. 3531 from Suffolk and 2082 from Maiden Castle, have this cable decoration. They are classified as La Tène IA and the Boxley brooch with its well arched bow is perhaps of this type. Second half of the fifth century B.C.

TUDELEY

N.G.R. TQ 617458. A quartzite or sandstone pebble-hammer⁴ (Fig. 1, 1) was found by J.E. Jordan while digging out a pond on his farm; 97 x 67 mm. It shows a small degree of battering at the ends. County number: Kent 76. The type appears in the Mesolithic period,⁵ but can be later.⁶ Thirteen have been recorded from Kent.⁷

CELTIC COINS

Impressions in Maidstone Museum and Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

DETLING

N.G.R. TQ 7859. AV Gallo-Belgic E stater found by P. Collier. Irregular shape, 19 x 17 mm. Exergual line formed by pellets; in exergue continuous wavy line with pellets.

³ *Op. cit.* in note 1, 72-8.

⁴ For the distinction, see (Eds.) Clough and Cummins, *Stone Axe Studies*, vol. 2, C.B.A. Research Report No. 67, 1988, 28.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 30; *PPS*, xv (1949), 70-6.

⁶ (Eds.) Clough and Cummins, *Stone Axe Studies*, C.B.A. Research Report No. 23, 1979, 36.

⁷ *Op. cit.* in note 4, 164; *Arch. Cant.*, cvii (1989), 397.

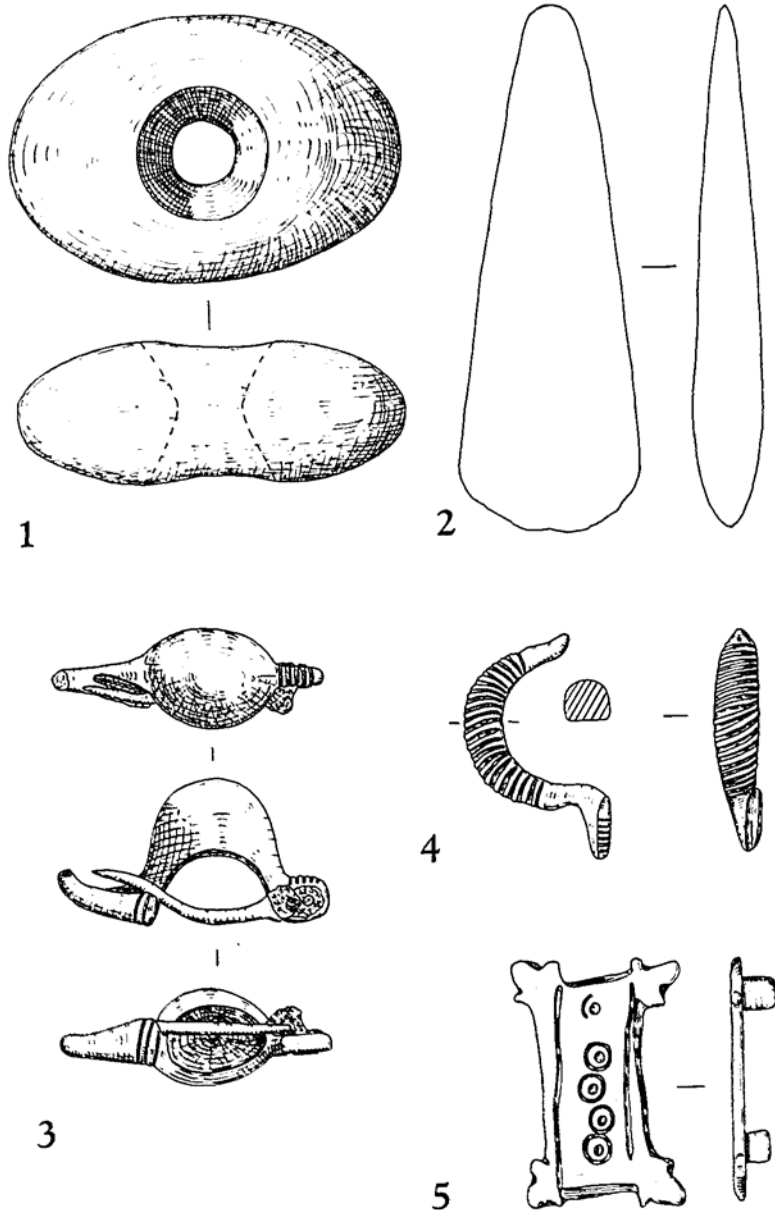


Fig. 1. 1. Tudeley: Pebble-hammer; 2. Boxley: Neolithic axe (outline); 3-4. Iron Age brooches: Aylesford, Boxley. 5. Boxley: Roman brooch. (Scale: 1-2: $\frac{1}{2}$; 3-5 actual size).

ECCLES

N.G.R. TQ 7260. AE coin of Cunobeline found by P.W. Atkins; diameter 16/15 mm. Victory walking right holding wreath; to left C. Horseman right; below CVN. Mack 232; Van Arsdell 1981-1.

WOULDHAM

N.G.R. TQ 7266. AE coin found by F.J. Wyatt. Oval, 17 x 14 mm. Very worn. ? boar right / -.

ROMAN

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7759. Plate brooch (Fig. 1, 5) of copper-alloy found by S. Parkes; 30 x 21 mm. Rectangular with schematic animal heads at corners and decoration of dot-in-circle. Pin missing; traces of iron between lugs.

(b) N.G.R. TQ 7759. Incomplete Colchester brooch of copper-alloy, length 37 mm., found by B. Austin. Solid catch-plate, part missing; five coils of spring survive on one side; pin missing.

COBHAM

N.G.R. TQ 6867. Copper-alloy brooch of Langton Down type found by S. Parkes. Reeded bow and cylindrical spring cover; catch-plate has triangular opening. Length 40 mm.

ROMAN COINS

AYLESFORD

N.G.R. TQ 7560. Two coins found by P.W. Atkins. *Denarius* of Vitellius, R.I.C. (rev) 90; *sestertius* of Antoninus Pius.

BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 7659. *Denarius* of Domitian, R.I.C. 167a, found by B. Austin.

ECCLES

N.G.R. TQ 7260. *Denarius* of Hadrian, R.I.C. 234, found by P.W. Atkins.

HOPE

N.G.R. TR 0425. *Sestertius* of Domitian found by J. Moss. Very worn: obv. IMP.CAES.DOMIT.AVG.GERM. . . .

NEW HYTHE

N.G.R. TQ 7059. *As* of Hadrian, R.I.C. 975.

ANGLO-SAXON

BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 7759. Late Saxon buckle of copper-alloy (Fig. 2, 2) found by S. Parkes; 24 × 21 mm. Bow in form of pair of animal heads, their lower jaws resting on the bar. The back is plain and concave.

DARTFORD

In the Roman section of the catalogue of the Society's collections (*Arch. Cant.*, xix (1892)), no. 120 is described as 'Bowl, bronze, with handles (one wanting)'. This bowl (Fig. 2, 1) with both handles missing, was recognised many years ago as Anglo-Saxon and shows on the outside the marks of two pairs of heater-shield shaped escutcheons. The right-hand escutcheon of each pair had been re-fastened by iron rivets, their remains either surviving or showing as holes. On the outside of the bowl at its base is the mark where a foot-ring had been attached.

In the Anglo-Saxon section of the catalogue no. 481 is described as 'articles in bronze with loops for suspension', the articles in question being a pair of plain heater-shield shaped escutcheons with unbroken external loops, one of which has a hole at the lower end. With a fragmentary bronze bowl from Lower Shorne, in the museum collection, was an 'omega'-shaped handle, of thin, round section, clearly too large to fit the bowl. Fitted together the escutcheons and

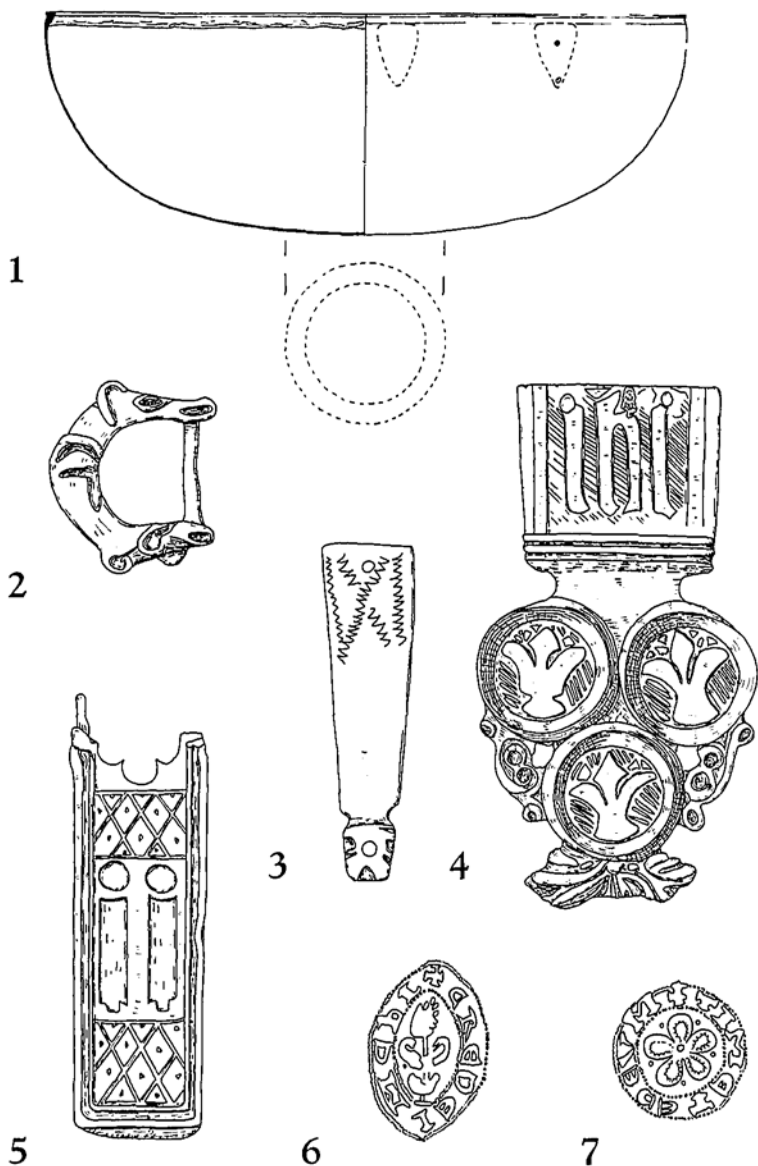


Fig. 2. 1. Dartford; Anglo-Saxon bowl; 2. Boxley: Late Saxon buckle; 3. Hope: Late Saxon belt tag; 4-5. Hope: medieval belt chapes; 6-7. Medieval seal-die impressions: Boxley, Hope. (Scale: all actual size except 1: (‡)).

handle exactly match one pair of escutcheon marks on the Dartford bowl.

The rim, escutcheons and handle are comparable with a bowl from Coombe, in Kent,⁸ found in a rich grave of the last quarter of the sixth century. The Coombe bowl, however, has a tripod foot, which is much greater in diameter than the foot of the Dartford bowl would have been.

HOPE

N.G.R. TR 0425. Late Saxon strap-end or tag of copper-alloy (Fig. 2, 3) found by J. Moss. Debased animal head terminal and shallow incised zig-zag decoration at upper end in the form of two triangles, their apices touching; length 42 mm.; terminal 2 mm. thick; rivet hole at each end. A comparable tag was found at Lenham,⁹ but with a well formed animal head, and a few years ago Mr D. Lloyd kindly gave the museum two similar tags from Wichling and Cobham (acc. nos. 124-1989 a and b). These tags are usually dated to the ninth century.

MEDIEVAL

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7659. A seal-die, a harness pendant and a belt mount found by D. Applegate.

1. Circular lead seal-die, diam. 28 mm. Device of eight-leaf flower within a circle and legend: * S' RIC'DI AP'DA(?)ME (seal of Richard ? Ap Adam). Reverse has a crude fleur-de-lys and long projecting lug at the top. Late twelfth-thirteenth century.

2. Harness pendant (Fig. 3, 4) of heater-shield shape, the suspension ring missing; enamelled copper-alloy; length 23 mm. Most of the blue enamel survives and assuming that the remainder of the shield was gilt the description would be: checky or and azure.

3. Belt mount of copper-alloy (Fig. 3, 1), length 81 mm. The mount was attached by three rivets of copper-alloy, of which two survive, 10 mm. and 7 mm. in length, with domed heads. At one end is a projecting flattened loop and the mount is likely to be one of a pair carrying straps for a knife scabbard, purse or some fairly light object.

⁸ *Med. Arch.*, xi (1967), 32-3, and fig. 5.

⁹ *Arch. Cant.*, civ (1987), 361, and fig. 7, 6.

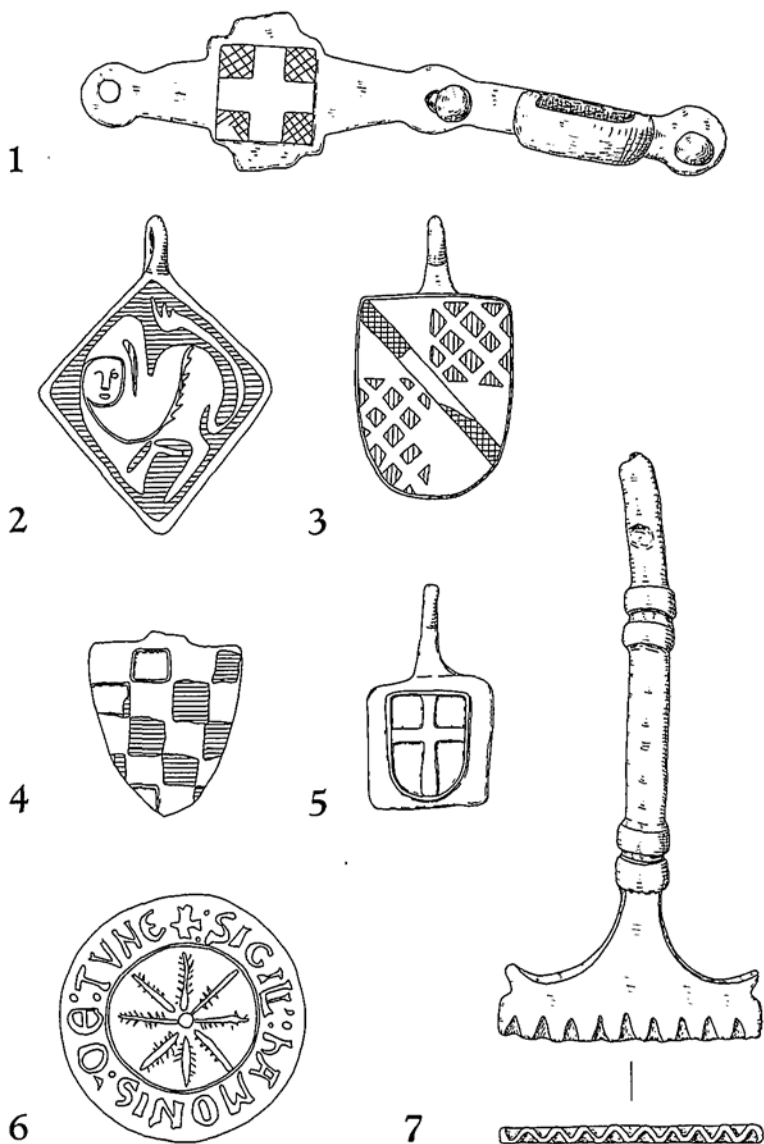


Fig. 3. 1. Boxley: medieval belt mount; 2-5. Medieval harness pendants: Cobham, Wouldham, Boxley, Hope. 6. Boxley: medieval seal-die impression; 7. Hope: Seventeenth-century pastry-cutter. (Scale: all actual size).

At the opposite end the mount is decorated with a cross in a square, its angles filled with diapering, reminiscent of that on harness pendant mounts¹⁰ or belt chapes (e.g. Hope, below).

(b) N.G.R. TQ 7759. Circular lead seal-die (Fig. 3, 6); diam. 31 mm. Eight-point star or flower surrounded by legend: + SIGILL' :hAMONIS : DE : TVNE. Reverse has central rib expanding towards the top, which carries a perforated lug. Late twelfth–thirteenth century.

2. N.G.R. TQ 7659. Leaden ampulla, flattened, but complete; 54 × 32 mm. One side has a crowned W within a circle, the other an arched crown in a circle, both with cross-hatched backgrounds. The handles are angular and there is diagonal hatching between them and round the edges on both sides. The crowned W is probably connected with the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham,¹¹ the crown with the Queen of Heaven or a royal saint like St. Edmund. Ampullae with a similar combination of crowned W and crown are known from Cobham, Salisbury, Huntingdon and Norwich¹² and with one or the other device from several sites in Kent.¹³

(c) N.G.R. TQ 7559. Seal-die of pointed oval shape (Fig. 2, 6) found by B. Austin. Copper-alloy, 27 × 17 mm. Legend: CREDE IMChI between beaded borders surrounding what is probably a thistle. The legend is a bungled version of *Crede Michi*, which occurs on several seal-dies with a variety of designs, often birds.¹⁴ Mid thirteenth – mid fourteenth century.

COBHAM

N.G.R. TQ 6769. Harness pendant (Fig. 3, 2) found by B. Austin. Lozenge shape, 40 × 30 mm., copper-alloy, enamelled. Design of a winged beast with a human head, wearing a hood with a liripipe, and a foliate tail. The beast was presumably gilt and picked out with red enamel, of which traces survive; the background is blue enamel, most of which remains. Similar beasts on floor tiles from the Chiltern kilns are described as human-headed dragons.¹⁵ Hoods with liripipes were in fashion about 1330–1450.¹⁶

¹⁰ *Arch. Cant.*, cvii (1989), 407, and fig. 3, 9.

¹¹ *Lincs. H. and A.*, 6 (1971), 59–66.

¹² *In. litt.*, B.W. Spencer.

¹³ *Arch. Cant.*, cii (1985), 269, 272, and fig. 2, 1 and 2; civ (1987), 365 and fig. 9, 3.

¹⁴ A.B. Tonnochy, *Catalogue of British Seal-Dies in the British Museum* (1952), nos. 711–714; *Antiq. Journ.*, lxiv (1984), 380.

¹⁵ C. Hohler, 'Medieval Pavingtiles in Buckinghamshire', *Records of Bucks.*, xiv (1942), tiles W.25 and W.26.

¹⁶ C.W. and P. Cunnington, *Handbook of English Medieval Costume*, London, 1952, 62.

HOLLINGBOURNE

N.G.R. TQ 8354. Circular lead seal-die found by D.J. Smith; worn, diam. 25 mm. + S' IOhIS FL hENRICI, surrounding crude estoile of six points. Reverse has fleur-de-lys and small solid lug at top. Late twelfth–thirteenth century. Impression in museum.

HOPE

(a) N.G.R. TR 0425. Harness pendant and two belt-chapes found by J.W. Moss.

1. Square harness pendant of pewter (Fig. 3, 5), 28 × 16 mm. Design of cross on shield. Small fragments of decayed enamel in field and surrounding shield.

2. Copper-alloy belt-chape (Fig. 2, 4), length 66 mm. The strap-holder is inscribed IHI, a bungled version of the holy monogram. Below is a trefoil of shallow discs, each bearing a fleur-de-lys, which terminates in a leaf, part of which is missing. The type belongs to a group of belt-chapes with foliate terminals first distinguished by J.B. Ward Perkins and dated by him to 1390–1410.¹⁷ Two similar belt-chapes, from Ilchester, Somerset, and Lincoln, were published by J. Casey,¹⁸ who attributed them to the same workshop, probably in London.

3. Copper-alloy belt-chape, gilt, broken off at upper end (Fig. 2, 5). It measures 56 × 16 mm. and is 5 mm. thick. It is hollow throughout and made in two pieces, the plain back and sides being 4 mm. thick. The decorated upper panel is recessed and has bands of diapering above and below the sunken decoration. At the broken end is part of an openwork quatrefoil. Part of the decayed leather belt survives inside. Fourteenth–fifteenth century.

(b) N.G.R. TR 0425. Circular seal-die of copper-alloy (Fig. 2, 7) found by R. Brookes; diam. 20 mm. + TIMETE DEVM, within beaded circles, surrounding a cinquefoil design. Reverse has central rib with pierced semi-circular lug at top. Mid thirteenth–mid fourteenth century.

OLD ROMNEY

Part of a copper-alloy stirrup was found by G. Finn-Kelcey in 1989. It was shown to D.R.M. Gaimster of the British Museum by our

¹⁷ *Antiq. Journ.*, xix (1939), 197–9.

¹⁸ *Antiq. Journ.*, li (1971), 303–4.

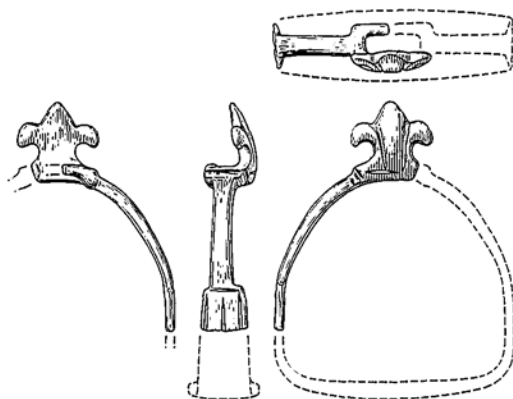


Fig. 4. Old Romney: Late medieval stirrup (Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$). Drawn by H. Rashbrook.

member M. Hill and is the subject of a note by Mr Gaimster in the latest volume of *Medieval Archaeology* (xxxiv (1990), 157–9). At Mr Hill's request Mr Gaimster has kindly allowed the drawings to be reproduced here (Fig. 4). The Old Romney stirrup appears 'to represent the typological transition between the late medieval stirrup forms . . . and the broad fan-plate type emerging during the opening decades of the sixteenth century'. It is unusual in that it is cast in copper-alloy rather than in iron.

SANDLING

N.G.R. TQ 7458. Signet ring of copper-alloy found near the Malta Inn by A. Buxton. The narrow ring expands to an elongated octagonal bezel, which bears the design of a double-headed eagle. For the use of the double-headed eagle as decoration see the note on an ampulla from Upper Halling.¹⁹

WOULDHAM

N.G.R. TQ 7264. Harness pendant (Fig. 3, 3) found by F.J. Wyatt; copper-alloy, gilt and enamelled, 36 × 20 mm. It is shield-shaped and bears the arms of Le Despenser:²⁰ Quarterly argent, and gules fretty

¹⁹ *Arch. Cant.*, ciii (1986), 257–9. The ampulla was kindly given to the museum by the finder, Mr R. Homewood (acc. no. 68–1986).

²⁰ J.W. Papworth, *Ordinary of British Armorial*, London, 1857, 195; A.R. Wagner, *Historic Heraldry of Britain*, London, 1939, 50, and plate VII, no. 31.

or, over all a bend sable. Quarters 2 and 3 have all the red enamel and some gilt remaining; 1 has traces of white enamel and the bend some enamel, now mostly green but with traces of black. (Museum acc. no. 1990-94).

POST-MEDIEVAL

BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 7758. Four-armed seal-die of copper-alloy found by S. Parkes; 37×35 mm.; oval dies 14×12 mm. The dies give seals of 1. Lion rampant; 2. Eagle with outstretched wings, left; 3. Anchor; 4. Horse, left, trampling on a serpent. The impression is blurred, but the horse either carries a rider, who would presumably be St. George, or has wings, in which case it would represent Pegasus. A comparable four-armed seal-die in the museum comes from Headcorn churchyard.²¹ Seventeen examples of these four-armed seal-dies were studied some years ago by Miss G. Oakley²² and among the designs were the lion, eagle and anchor. They are normally regarded as sixteenth-century in date, though the only excavated example, from Oxford, was found in a mid seventeenth-century pit.²³

HOPE

N.G.R. TR 0425. Copper-alloy stamp (Fig. 3, 7) found by J.W. Moss; length 74 mm. This was identified by John Clark and Hazel Forsyth of the Museum of London as part of a pastry-cutter. The missing end has a fork carrying a cutting wheel with a zig-zag edge and the complete tool is about 135 mm. long. These pastry-cutters are dated to the seventeenth century, or at the earliest to the end of the sixteenth century. Several examples have been found in London and they occur on American colonial sites.

D.B. KELLY

²¹ *Arch. Cant.*, lxxi (1957), 225.

²² *P.M.A.*, 17 (1983), 180-3.

²³ *Oxoniensia*, xlix (1984), 221.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH MUSEUM

DARTFORD

A fine example of a bronze 'massive' terret (Fig. 1) was found by Mr M. Chivington, in May 1991, on land used for recreation purposes in the Borough of Dartford. It was identified by Dr N. Merriman, at the Museum of London. The terret, which formed part of the harness arrangement on a chariot, was used to guide the reins. The object has been dated to the late first-mid third century A.D. The find is, to date, the most southerly one in the British Isles; most other examples have been found in the northern half of the British Isles.

HORTON KIRBY

A lozenge-shaped bronze seal matrix of the medieval deanery of Dartford was found by Mr G.M. Burr in a field close to 'Franks' at Horton Kirby. The matrix was identified by P.W. Boreham, of Dartford Borough Museum, and dated to c. 1420 A.D. Dartford was one of only four deaneries in the Diocese of Rochester. The seal matrix, inscribed SIGILLVM DECANI DERTFORDIE measures 40 × 23 mm., and portrays the virgin Mary suckling the infant Jesus beneath an ornate turreted canopy. A praying prelate is also featured in the design.

P.W. BOREHAM

DENEHOLE SUBSIDENCE AT BARNEHURST

On Saturday, 9th June, 1990, a denehole shaft suddenly re-opened in the carriageway of Castleton Avenue, Barnehurst. The hole appeared just after a car had pulled away from the kerb.

Upon being informed by the London Borough of Bexley Local Studies Centre, two Field Officers of the Kent Underground Research Group arranged to visit the site on Monday, 11th June. With the co-operation of the Highways Department a descent was made of the shaft using the Group's climbing and safety equipment.

The shaft was found to be 1.20 m. in diameter and 20 m. deep. Two sets of opposing footholds were visible in the shaft sides which

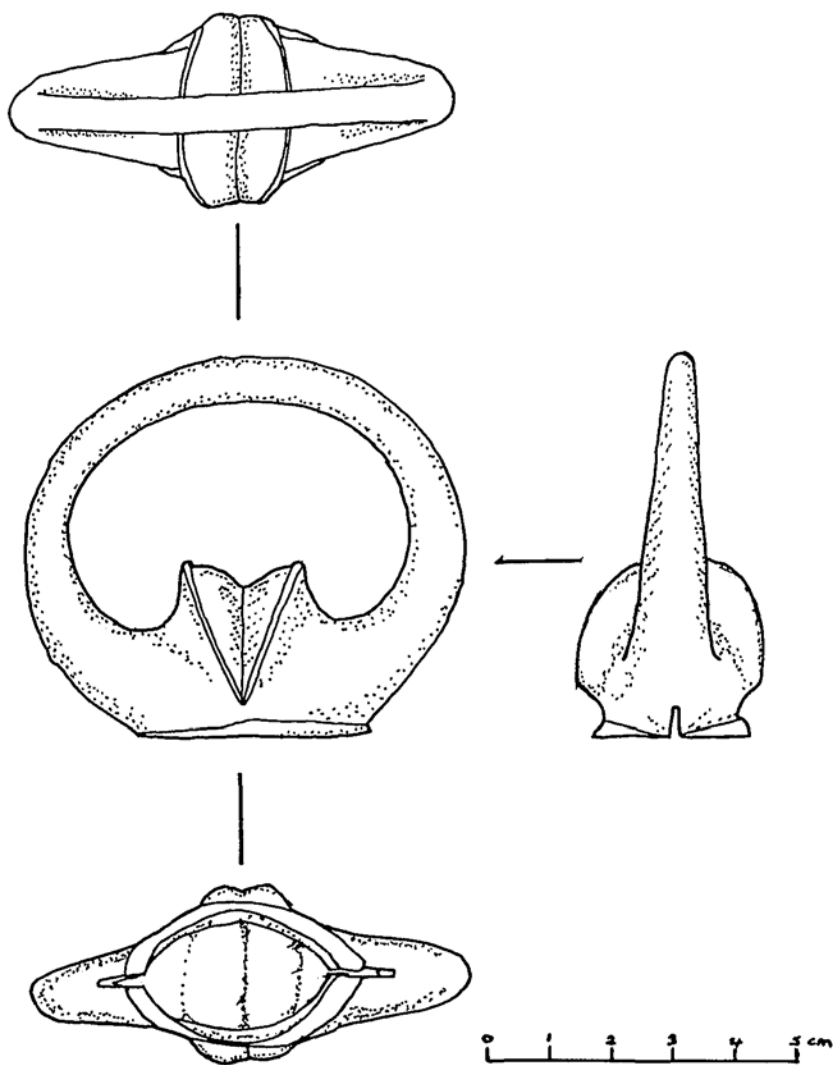


Fig. 1. Bronze terret from Dartford (*Drawn by P. Treveil*)

the original miner had used to gain access to the excavation. At the bottom of the shaft two sets of three chambers had been excavated in the usual double clover leaf or trefoil pattern. A survey of the denehole showed that the chambers were 3.5 m. long by 2 m. wide and 3.5 m. high, although the true depth was impossible to ascertain as the floor was covered in mud and debris from the shaft filling. It was estimated that another 0.5 m. could be added to the chamber height to give an overall depth below ground of around 24 m.

Each chamber had a shallow miner's bench at its far end and one of these held a pile of discarded flints which were of no use to the excavators. Many pick marks were visible, made by a short headed iron pick, typical of this type of chalk mine.

The base of the shaft on the north side had fallen away along the line of a fault in the chalk. The evidence points to this occurring during mining operations. This explains the relatively short chamber lengths as the denehole was abandoned for safety reasons before completion.

No direct dating evidence was found, but from the style of mining a medieval date of around the thirteenth century would be appropriate. The excavation chalk would have been used on the surrounding fields, a process known as chalking or marling, the usual rate being 60 tons of chalk per acre.

Shortly after the investigation the shaft (at N.G.R. TQ 5079 7640) was made safe by contractors pumping in a mixture of pulverised fuel ash and cement at a ratio of 10:1. A total of 164 tonnes was required to fill the excavation, the equivalent of 120 cubic metres.

R.F. LEGEAR