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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM  
MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

PREHISTORIC

AYLESFORD

In his report on the late Iron Age cemetery at Aylesford Sir Arthur Evans recorded the finding of three stone cists in a line running from the south-east to the north-west at about 10 yards distance from each other.<sup>1</sup> They were constructed of slabs of tufa, though two had a single slab of sandstone, and each contained a crouched inhumation, but no grave goods. Despite the absence of grave goods the cists are generally attributed to the early part of the Bronze Age on account of the crouched inhumations,<sup>2</sup> and in the same gravel pit were found two further crouched inhumations, one with a flat axe and two daggers of bronze, now in the museum.

The slabs from cist no. 1 were given to the museum and were there when N.C. Cook compiled the archaeological gazetteer in the early 1930s. They could not be found when the collections were catalogued in 1960-61 and perhaps were lost during the war years. Cist no. 3 was set up on the bank near the pit office when it was discovered in 1889 and Plate I shows a photograph taken in that year. The cist was still in position as late as the early years of the Second World War, when it was seen by our member Dr Paul Ashbee, but at some time after this it was removed.

In 1982, the new owner of a house in Croydon offered a stone cist set up in the garden to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. The previous owner of the house, W.H. Bennett, had been a member of the society and a collector of antiquities. Mrs. Muriel Shaw, a member of the Croydon society, had been told by Bennett that the cist came from Kent and identified it as cist no. 3 described by Evans. Through the good offices of Mrs. Shaw and the Hon. Curator of the Croydon society, Mr K. Woodhams, the cist was presented to Maidstone Museum (accession no. 39.1983), where it will eventually be displayed.

<sup>1</sup> *Archaeologia*, li (1890), 325-7.

<sup>2</sup> T. Champion, *The Bronze Age in Kent*, in *Archaeology in Kent to 1500*, C.B.A. Res. Rpt. 48 (1982), 32.



Early Bronze Age cist, re-erected outside office of Wagon's Pit, Aylesford.  
Photograph taken in 1899.

## BOXLEY

- (a) N.G.R. TQ 7658. A fragment of a Late Bronze Age socketed axe, found by S. Phillips. Part of moulded rim and handle; 50 × 20 mm.
- (b) N.G.R. TQ 7659. A La Tène III brooch (Fig. 1, 1) of copper alloy found by B. Austin. The bow has a knob and below this a step, decorated with two groups of incised lines; spring of four coils and internal chord; catchplate incomplete, but with triangular opening; pin missing; length 46 mm. A comparable brooch was found at Lenham,<sup>3</sup> and the type has been discussed by I.M. Stead.<sup>4</sup> Second half at first century B.C.

## CELTIC COINS

Impressions in Maidstone Museum and Institute of Archaeology, Oxford.

## BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

- (a) N.G.R. TQ 7751. Two AE coins found by K. Parker.<sup>5</sup>
1. Head right/horse galloping left, four legs displayed, an annulet above its back and between the legs. Diam. 12 mm.
  2. Horse galloping left, two legs displayed with dot-in-circle between, prominent, bushy tail/? horse galloping left. Diam. 12 mm.
- (b) N.G.R. TQ 7651. AR coin of Cunobeline found by W.F. Lambert; the edge damaged or missing. Diam. c. 16 mm.
- Obv. Capricorn right, below CVNO, within beaded circle.
- Rev. (struck off-centre) a cross, one arm formed by a double line with beading between, the other a plain line, within a beaded circle; in the surviving quarters C, V, part of N.-. The only previous example known was also found at Brishing.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, cviii (1990), 281.

<sup>4</sup> I.M. Stead, 'The earliest burials of the Aylesford culture', in (Eds.) G. de G. Sieveking, I.A. Longworth and Wilson, *Problems in Economic and Social Archaeology* (London, 1976), 401-16.

<sup>5</sup> For Celtic coins previously found see *Arch. Cant.*, civ (1987), 353; cv (1988), 303; cvii (1989), 398.

<sup>6</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, cv (1988), 303.

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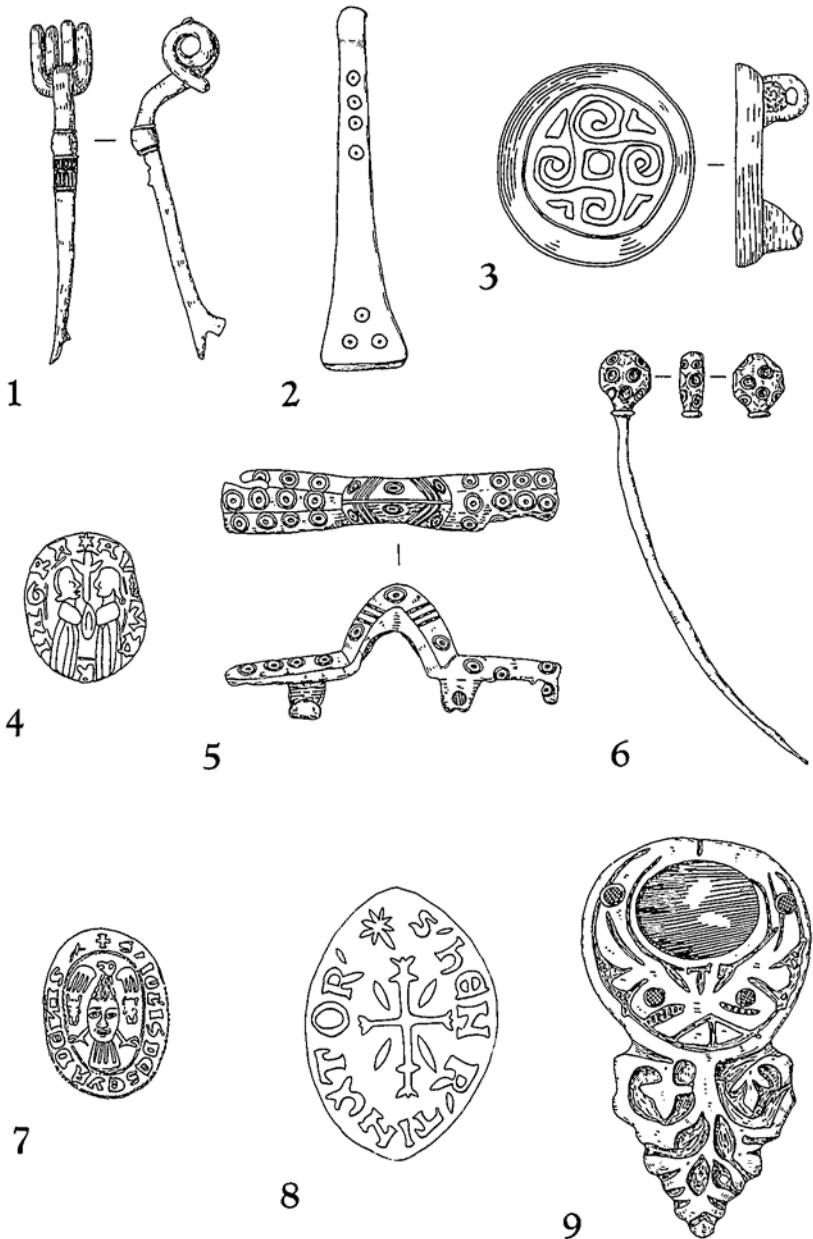


Fig. 1. 1-8 all from Boxley: 1. La Tène III brooch; 2. Roman or Anglo-Saxon tweezers; 3. Anglo-Saxon saucer brooch; 5. ansate brooch; 6. pin; 4, 7, 8. impressions from medieval seal-dies; 9. West Malling, belt chape. All actual size.

## BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7559. Six *potin*/AE coins found by D. Applegate (no. 1) and B. Austin (nos. 2–6) within an area of about twenty square yards.

1. Prototype *potin* coin: head left/bull right. The bull is well formed and charging right, its front legs drawn back towards the belly, the tail curving over the body. Diam. 17 mm. (19 mm. with tangs).

2–4. Three coins of Van Arsdell's Thurrock cast bronze type, which he names Trinovantian A and dates to 100–90 B.C.<sup>7</sup> All have obverse of head left and reverse of bull charging right, its head down. Nos. 3 and 4 have well formed laureate heads and from their yellow appearance contain a high proportion of copper. The diameters are 18/19, 17 and 16/18 mm. All three appear to be of Van Arsdell's 'Apollo Head' variety.

5. *Potin* coin of Allen's H3 type,<sup>8</sup> diam. 17 mm.; single tang remaining.

6. *Potin* coin; 'star of David' (two superimposed triangles with central dot)? schematic bull. Diam. 16 mm. (17 mm. with tangs).

## SNODLAND

N.G.R. TQ 6863. Cast bronze coin of Thurrock type (see above and note 7), Apollo head variety, found by F.S. Wyatt. Diam. 16 mm.

## ROMAN

## BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

N.G.R. TQ 7651. Three incomplete brooches, copper alloy, found by W.F. Lambert.

1. Dolphin brooch, but with spring arrangement and catchplate like a Colchester B brooch; the arms have astragaloid decoration and the upper part of the bow a prominent ridge decorated with horizontal and vertical lines; catchplate with triangular perforation; pin missing. Length 36 mm.; arms 20 mm. M.R. Hull describes a comparable Dolphin brooch from Richborough.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> R.D. Van Arsdell, *Celtic Coinage of Britain* (London, 1989), 321 ff.

<sup>8</sup> D.F. Allen, 'British Potin Coins: a Review', in (Eds. Hill and Jesson), *The Iron Age and its Hill-forts* (Southampton, 1971), 127–54.

<sup>9</sup> *Richborough*, v (Oxford, 1968), 80, no. 25.

2. Arms and upper part of bow of Colchester B brooch; length 22 mm.
3. Foot and lower part of bow of a large Colchester brooch; triangular opening on catchplate; bow with central ridge between cavetto mouldings; length 47 mm.

## BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 7659. One arm of a pair of tweezers (Fig. 1, 2) found by S. Phillips. Copper alloy and from tweezers made in one piece; decorated with ring-and-dot stamps, four in a line on the upper part of the arm and three arranged in triangle at the end; length 49 mm. Late Roman or Anglo-Saxon. Tweezers with ring-and-dot decoration were found in the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Buckland, Dover (grave 41) and Sarre (grave 86).<sup>10</sup>

## WEST MALLING

N.G.R. TQ 6857. Langton Down brooch of Hull's class B<sup>11</sup> found by B. Austin. Copper alloy; spring, pin and part of catchplate missing. Length 35 mm.

## ROMAN COINS

## BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

N.G.R. TQ 7751. Eight coins found by K. Parker.<sup>12</sup> Worn Legionary *denarius* of M. Antony; *denarii* of Hadrian, R.I.C. 121, 137a and 299 (bust d); Julia Domna, R.I.C. 560; Caracalla, R.I.C. 100 or 110; Julia Mamaea, R.I.C. 360; *antoninianus* of Philip I, R.I.C. 32b.

## BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 7659. *Antoninianus* of Gallienus (joint reign), R.I.C. 159, found by B. Austin.

<sup>10</sup> Vera I. Evison, *Dover: The Buckland Anglo-Saxon Cemetery* (London, 1987), 228 and fig. 24, 5; *Arch. Cant.*, vi (1866), 171.

<sup>11</sup> C.F.C. Hawkes and M.R. Hull, *Camulodunum* (Oxford, 1947), 316.

<sup>12</sup> For previous finds of Roman coins see *Arch. Cant.*, civ (1987), 357; cv (1988), 310; cvii (1989), 402.

## SNODLAND

N.G.R. TQ 7162. Two coins found by C. Hunt; Republican AE *semis*, Sydenham 482; *denarius* of Geta, R.I.C. 23.

## ANGLO-SAXON

## BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7659. Cast saucer brooch (Fig. 1, 3) found by J. Cox. Copper alloy, traces of gilding remaining on outlines of design; diam. 27 mm. A single, perforated lug on the back has a small patch of corroded iron on one side, presumably the remains of the pin, which is missing. Design of four spirals issuing from the corners of a central square containing a roundel; the spaces between the spirals filled by a leg-shaped motif; the border surrounding the design is plain. The design is flat and in shallow relief, unlike the sharp chip-carving which occurs on early saucer brooches with spiral designs, and this, with the use of leg ornament, suggests a date in the first half of the sixth century.

(b) N.G.R. TQ 7658. Ansate brooch (Fig. 1, 5) found by D. Applegate. Made, including the catchplate and lugs, from a single, thin sheet of copper alloy. The pin is missing, but the hole in one of the lugs is filled with corroded iron. The bow is sharply humped, the arms expand from their junction with the bow towards the ends and have a three- or, if the edges are included, a five-sided section. The arms are decorated all over with ring-and-dot ornament and the bow with ring-and-dot and grooves. The rear arm is damaged and incomplete. Length 45 mm.

A comparable brooch comes from Domburg, though this has a different arrangement of ring-and-dot and grooved decoration and a semi-circular section.<sup>13</sup> A. Roes places these ansate brooches with such sharply humped bows in the first half of the ninth century.<sup>14</sup>

(c) N.G.R. TQ 7659. Pin (Fig. 1, 6) found by B. Austin. Copper alloy, length (bent) 60 mm.; faceted head decorated all over with ring-and-dot ornament. Many bronze pins with heads in a variety of shapes, but all decorated with ring-and-dot ornament, have been found in York and at the Saxon monastery of Whitby, and from both places come examples like the Boxley pin with faceted heads. The

<sup>13</sup> T. Capelle, *Die frühgeschichtlichen Metallfunde von Domburg auf Walcheren* (Nederlandse Oudheden 5), no. 76.

<sup>14</sup> A. Roes, 'Les Trouvailles de Dombourg', *R.O.B.* V (1954), 68.



two from York<sup>15</sup> are unassociated finds, the four from Whitby<sup>16</sup> from disturbed layers, though belonging to the Saxon monastery, which was occupied from the middle of the seventh to the third quarter of the ninth century. The excavator of Whitby suggests that from the distribution of the coin series and the many bronze tags found the likely date of the pins is the ninth century.<sup>17</sup> A similar pin with faceted head was found at Canterbury,<sup>18</sup> though not closely dated, coming from a pre-fourteenth century occupation layer.

## MEDIEVAL

## AYLESFORD

N.G.R. TQ 728590. A stone mortar (Fig. 2, 1) was found in her garden at 60 High Street by Miss C. Reeves in April, 1991. She took it to show her teacher, Mrs. P. Edwards, who brought it to the museum for identification. Miss Reeves has generously presented the mortar to the museum (accession no. 1991-17).

The mortar is made of a local sandstone, greensand from the Hythe beds. The walls are vertical and there are two lugs, but no handles or spout. It is complete, except for the base, of which about half is missing, and the outer surface shows chisel marks overall. Height 172 mm., overall diameter 180 mm., rim 160 mm., base 145 mm.

Two of the other mortars in the museum's collection are of greensand, but of a different type, the mortar from Appledore being of Dunning's type 2 and that from Detling a devolved type 2, dated to the thirteenth-fourteenth and fourteenth centuries, respectively. The shape of the Aylesford mortar is unusual. Most medieval mortars can be assigned to one or other of Dunning's four types,<sup>19</sup> but many, perhaps the majority, are the products of large workshops and made of Purbeck marble or burr-stone or are imported mortars of Caen stone. Although smaller workshops using other stones made mortars of these standardised types,<sup>20</sup> they would perhaps, serving a smaller market, not confine themselves to these. A number of mortars of

<sup>15</sup> *Archaeologia*, xcvi (1959), 78-9 and fig. 11, nos. 7 and 12.

<sup>16</sup> *Archaeologia*, lxxxix (1943), 63-4, figs. 13 and 14.

<sup>17</sup> *ibid.*, 46-7.

<sup>18</sup> *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, vii (Maidstone, 1983), 171 and fig. 61, 11.

<sup>19</sup> *Med. Arch.*, v (1961), 281-4.

<sup>20</sup> E.g. type 1 of Quarr stone (*Arch. Cant.*, xciii (1977), 210); types 1 and 4 of Magnesian limestone (*Yorks. Arch. Journ.*, xliv (1972), 93).

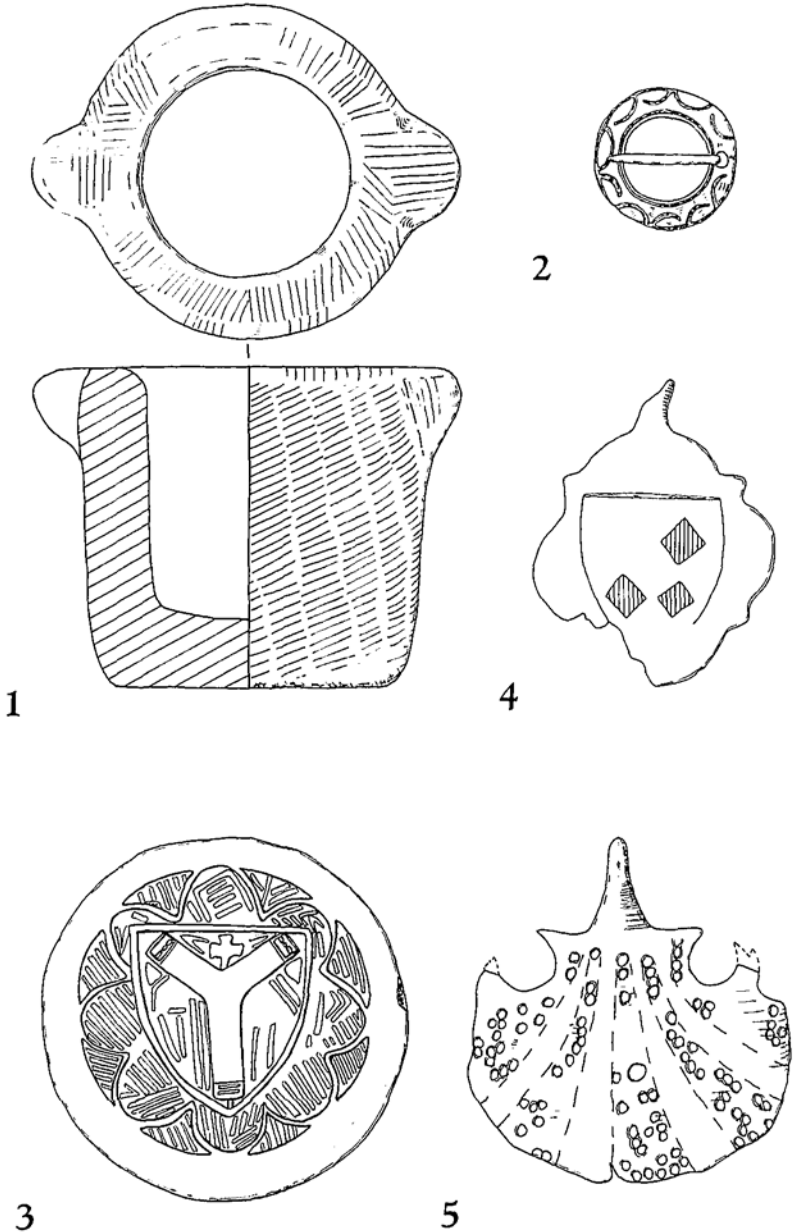


Fig. 2. Medieval: 1. Aylesford, mortar; 2. Boxley, ring brooch; 3. Lydd-on-Sea, roundel; 4. Sandling, harness pendant; 5. Boxley, harness pendant. All actual size, except 1 (3).

unusual form are known<sup>21</sup> and, given that by the fifteenth-century stone mortars were increasingly giving way to metal ones, a thirteenth- or fourteenth-century date seems likely for the Aylesford mortar.

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7658. Copper alloy seal-die (Fig. 1, 4) found by S. Phillips. Oval; conical, hexagonal handle with pierced trefoil terminal; part of edge missing through corrosion; height 25 mm., die 22 × 18 mm. \*AVE MARIA GRA. The Annunciation: B.V.M. and angel facing each other, a lily between them. Cf. an early fourteenth-century example in the British Museum.<sup>22</sup>

(b) Seal-die and brooch found by D. Applegate.

1. N.G.R. TQ 7759. Lead seal-die (Fig. 1, 8) of slightly pointed oval shape, 36 × 25 mm. \* S' hENR' TINCTOR' (seal of Henry Dyer) surrounding a cross flory with lanceolate leaves between the arms. Late twelfth-thirteenth century.

2. N.G.R. TQ 7659. Ring brooch (Fig. 2, 2): thin copper alloy, the upper surface convex and decorated with arcs; diam. 19 mm. A similar but larger brooch from London is illustrated in the *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940), Pl. LXXVII, 6. Fourteenth century.

(c) N.G.R. TQ 7659. A seal-die and harness pendant found by J. Cox.

1. Oval copper alloy seal-die (Fig. 1, 7), 26 × 19 mm.; ring handle at top of reverse. + S' IOL'IS DE SEYNDENIS, followed by leaf stop, between beaded borders. Design of an eagle, its body in the form of a human head, displayed between two bull's heads. Thirteenth-fourteenth century. The leaf used as a stop-gap at the end of the legend occurs on a round copper alloy die of William Plese, found at Shorne<sup>23</sup> and on one from London,<sup>24</sup> which suggests that the dies were made in the same workshop.

2. Pelta-shaped harness pendant (Fig. 2, 5). Copper alloy with traces of gilding; 46 × 43 mm. It is stamped with five bands or swags of very

<sup>21</sup> E.g. of Sussex marble, from London (*Norfolk Arch.*, xxxviii (1981), 72); inferior oolite, from Worthing (*Sussex A.C.*, ci (1963), 26). The museum has an unusual mortar of Caen stone, conical and originally with two large handles.

<sup>22</sup> A.B. Tonnochy, *Catalogue of British Seal-dies in the British Museum* (London, 1952), no. 909.

<sup>23</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, cii (1985), 272.

<sup>24</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, lxiv (1984), 380 and fig. 3, 11.

small annulets, which probably served as a key for gilding. If so the pendant would have been part gilt, the gilt bands contrasting with the copper, and was perhaps intended to represent a scallop shell. The two points shown by the dotted lines are present, but are bent over to the back of the pendant.

## HOPE

N.G.R. TR 0425. Among medieval coins found by J. Moss was a Scottish penny of John Baliol (1292-96), imposed as King of Scotland by Edward I.

+ IOhANNES DEI GR. / + REX SCOTORVM.

## LYDD-ON-SEA

A copper alloy roundel (Fig. 2, 3) was found on the beach by I. Woiwod; diam. 49 mm. The surface is worn, no gilding or enamel remaining. The face is slightly convex, but this may be due to the crushing of the oval stud on the back, which is just off-centre. In its present state the top of this stud is only 3 mm. from the back of the roundel, suggesting that it was probably fastened to leather, perhaps a harness strap.

The roundel bears a central heater shield, which shows a cross-staff surmounted by a pall. Despite the absence of the four crosses on the pall, a representation of the arms of the Province of Canterbury is probably intended. The field of the shield, the petals of the octofoil and their interstices are keyed to take enamel. A comparable roundel from Otford was published by L.R.A. Grove.<sup>25</sup>

## SANDLING

N.G.R. TQ 7558. Harness pendant (Fig. 2, 4) found by S. Phillips. Copper alloy, Ward Perkins type V, 41 × 33 mm; corroded and damaged. Design of shield of arms with, presumably, four lozenges. The three lozenges still visible carry traces of red enamel and the shield was perhaps edged with red enamel. Traces of blue enamel outside the sinister side of the shield.

<sup>25</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxvi (1972), 223-5 and fig. 6, 2.

## WEST MALLING

N.G.R. TQ 6857. Belt chape (Fig. 1, 9) found by B. Austin. Copper alloy, 54 × 30 mm. A circular attachment plate with a leaf-shaped terminal. The front of the attachment plate has a circular opening to show the cloth or leather; the back plate is made separately and fastened to the front by four iron rivets. Traces of gilding survive. It is like a belt chape found at Snargate,<sup>26</sup> but the Snargate chape is smaller (45 × 30 mm.), having a shorter terminal, and its back plate is soldered and not fastened by rivets. Both are to be classed with the St. Christopher and holy monogram<sup>27</sup> belt chapes with foliate terminals distinguished by J.B. Ward Perkins<sup>28</sup> and dated by him to about 1390–1410.

D.B. KELLY

## FIELDWORK AT MOATENDEN PRIORY, HEADCORN

Recent fieldwork at the site of the former Trinitarian Priory of 'Motynden' or 'Mottenden', (N.G.R. TQ 818464), has included a comprehensive survey of the remaining medieval features, such as a moated site, earthworks, and fishponds. The monastic precinct has been identified principally through the use of aerial photographs, from various sources, followed by a ground level survey. The boundary of the priory seems to have been marked by a ditch and bank arrangement, which enclosed an area of about 35 acres and would have represented the 'outer-court' of the monastery. At the centre of this precinct was a square moated area which enclosed some four acres; this is now known to have contained the priory church along with certain of the other claustral buildings, usually termed the 'inner-court'.

A resistivity survey was carried out during the early part of 1992 across part of the site, with the aim to attempt to locate the priory church together with any other buildings. The preliminary results of this survey were encouraging and confirmed that the church was aligned with the surrounding moat rather than towards true east, which seems to suggest that they are probably contemporary and may both date from the foundation of the priory c. 1224.

<sup>26</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, civ (1987), 366 and fig. 9, 2.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, fig. 9, 4; *Arch. Cant.* cix (1991), 00.

<sup>28</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, xix (1939), 197–9.

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

The house, situated in the centre of the moated site, has been investigated in some detail, and it appears likely that it is located, at least partly, on the site of the 'western range' of the priory. Although it has been previously thought that the stone windows and outer door, (of sandstone, from the Lower Sandstone beds), were re-used materials from the priory structures, it now seems more likely that they, together with the diapered brickwork at the northern end of the building, are in fact contemporary, and represent the remaining portion of a house built soon after the dissolution of the priory. This mid sixteenth-century house originally extended at least one bay further to the north. It is most probable that this house was built by Sir Anthony Aucher, of Otterden Place; he was the purchaser of the site in 1540 after leasing it for two years. However, within this part of the building there is a stone door serving hatch arrangement, which appears to have no obvious function in a Tudor house. Moreover, it is obvious from the mouldings that one side of it was originally an external face. It is suggested that this arrangement could well be part of the Trinitarian priory's 'western range' surviving *in situ*. The remainder of the house appears to be a mainly early seventeenth-century timber-framed structure with later brick cladding probably mid-nineteenth century.

To the south-west of the house is a 'horseshoe'-shaped 'pond'; however, this is, almost certainly, the remains of an early medieval moat pre-dating the one built to enclose the thirteenth-century priory. It could be the site of the manor associated with the de Rokesley family who were the founders of the religious house here. At least two monastic fishponds remain, situated to the west of the site and connected to a small water-course. The largest of the moats is usually still water-filled and averages 11 m. in width.

Work continues on the site and when this has been completed a full paper will be prepared for *Arch. Cant.*

## ROMAN ROAD – CHART SUTTON

Part of the metalling of the minor Roman road north of Staplehurst (N.G.R. TQ 786484 was revealed during a period of prolonged rain in a ditch at the western side of the road known as Forge Lane, Chart Sutton. The site is just to the south of the road's junction with Hermitage Lane. To the north the Roman road descends the ragstone escarpment in a deep coombe known locally as 'Deadmans Lane'.

The force of water passing through a culvert under the road had scoured away the bank of the ditch to reveal part of what was

assumed to be the metalling of the Roman highway. This comprised ragstone slabs associated with fragments of Roman brick or tile.

This road ran from Rochester to serve the ironworking area around Hastings.

## KENARDINGTON

(N.G.R. TQ 976323)

The enigmatic earthworks sited to the east of the parish church have often been identified with either an Anglo-Saxon or Danish fortification, erected at some time during the ninth century. Edward Hasted includes a somewhat obscure plan of them in his eighteenth century history.<sup>1</sup> This has more recently been reproduced by Boyle,<sup>2</sup> but the features depicted at Kenardington are impossible to relate to anything to be seen at the present time. Recent fieldwork has been conducted to attempt to ascertain whether the two low banks in the field close to the church are in fact the supposed ninth-century earthworks.

The results of a resistivity survey were disappointing, as was fieldwalking of the adjacent farmland (the site itself is under pasture). The two banks form an L-shaped plan on the hill slope between the church and the marshland. A separate earthwork at the edge of the marsh is probably connected with more recent reclamation or 'inning'.

Nothing to date the features was found, although a flint-working site of probable Mesolithic date was recorded at the base of the hill slope (N.G.R. TQ 978322).

It is suggested that the features formerly associated with the Anglo-Saxon period are more likely to be the remains of a medieval settlement that may have existed somewhat closer to the parish church than the present village.

N.R. ALDRIDGE

<sup>1</sup> E. Hasted, *History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, 1st Folio Edition, III, 1790, 117.

<sup>2</sup> J. Boyle, *In Quest of Hasted*, 1984, 104-5.