

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT, 1950

RESEARCH IN SOUTH-EAST KENT, 1949-50

*Bronze Age. Site I*

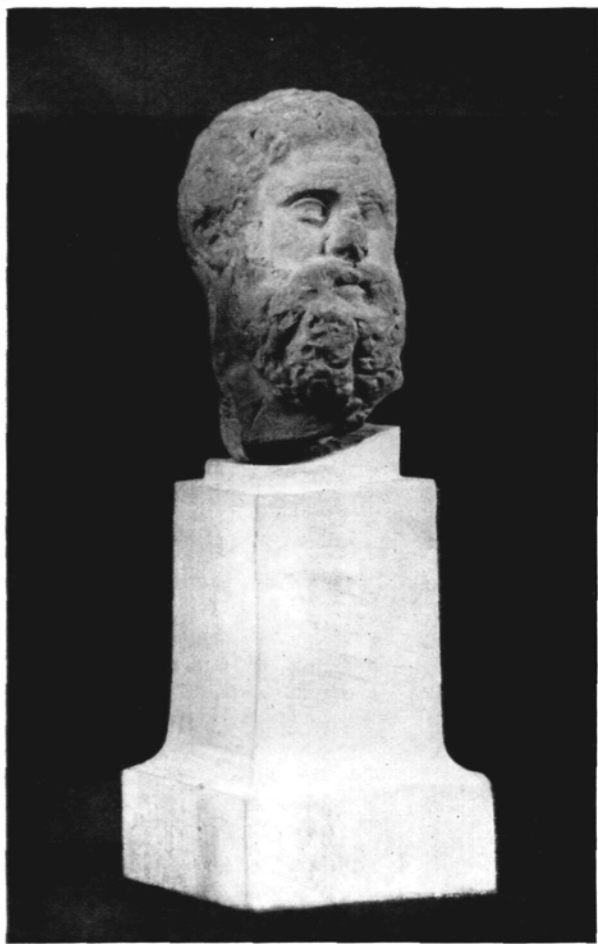
In February, 1949, during excavations for foundation trenches for the new Sholden Bank County Primary School, 200 ft. south of the H in the name Pope's Hole, Upper Deal (6-in. Ordnance Survey), a Crouched Burial in chalk was cut through by a power digger. Depth 5 ft. 8 in. at the east end, 5 ft. 2 in. at the west end. The orientation of the roughly oval grave was E. by N.E. and S. by S.W. with surface dimensions: length 10 ft. 3 in. and width 3 ft. 11 in. The base dimensions were 3 ft. 11 in. by 3 ft. The excavator in cutting through the burial had broken up the skeleton of which most had been thrown on the dump. These included fragments of the skull and lower jaw. With these were sherds of a small food vessel, now under restoration at the Ministry of Works; and of possibly a second. Mr. G. C. Dunning classes the former as a Bronze Age B type, c. 1000 B.C., of coarse fabric—coarser than usual—and considers it a domestic vessel rather than of the type used in burials. The rim does not conform to any of the recognized types.

No associated objects were found, although the dump was carefully combed over. The skull is being submitted to the College of Surgeons. The County Architect, Mr. S. H. Loweth, F.S.A., has plotted the site of the burial on the school plans. In my investigations I was given every facility by Mr. W. R. H. Gardner, F.R.I.B.A., of Margate, the architect in charge, and by the Clerk of the Works.

*Bronze Age. Site II*

This second crouched burial, with an extended one above it, was exposed in cutting drainage trenches for the new housing estate at Nethercourt Farm, St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, in October, 1949. The site was at the C of the word "Lawrence" on the 1-in. Ordnance Survey map. The famous Ozengall Jutish Cemetery is a short distance off to the N.W. Two graves of this date exposed nearby will be described later.

The actual excavation was oval with nearly parallel sides, and orientated N.E. by E. and S.W. by S. The depth was 5 ft. 1 in. to 5 ft. 8 in. below the surface, with surface dimensions, length 9 ft. by 3 ft. 11 in., but these latter may have been increased when the second and upper burial (if a burial) took place. The lower one was at the N.E.



HEAD OF HERCULES FROM DEAL

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end of the excavation with the legs bent under the body. Over it were the crushed sherds of a large black-ware hand-made pot with a slightly indicated bead rim. Partial restoration, with indication of food contained in it may be possible. Associated objects were many scraps of charcoal in the solidly packed soil above the body, some masses of hardened earth, an oyster shell and two surface bleached flakes of flint from nodules.

The second dismembered skeleton lay at a depth of 3 ft. 3 in. from the surface, and had the skull behind and to the N.W. of the earlier one. It was detached, with the leg bones in a scattered state towards the S.W. end of the grave. The evidence seemed to show that with some burning a dismembered body had been deposited above the crouched one.

In this case again I must thank the building contractor, the late Mr. Grummant, and the police, who even used pick and shovel, for all facilities and protection of the site in the opening up after the fell work of the excavator.

### *Belgic*

There has lately come into the ownership of the Corporation of Deal a number of pottery sherds which were unearthed in 1886 when digging the foundations of St. Mary's Church, Walmer. The sherds also include material from work in the grounds of St. Mildred's, and from levelling for the lawn of The Hermitage, Walmer. This interesting material, which has been mounted on a board by Mr. Cecil Knox, came into the possession of the Vicar of Walmer after the death of Miss Ebbs in 1931. It includes, with coarse hand-made heavy sherds and vertical ring handles, typical combed ware similar to, but rather coarser, than that found round a hearth in Cross Road, Walmer, and in a sewer trench with later material at the Mill Hill Waterworks Road crossing. These various finds go to confirm the close occupation of this 100-ft. ridge from pre-historic times.

### *Roman*

An excavation at the back of the shop of Mr. Robertson, the chemist, on the western side of High Street in the Dour Valley, Dover, showed a thick bed of calcareous hill wash with tufa towards the base. In this lower material was a piece of red deer antler and a Roman silver spoon.

Chance digging in the garden of No. 10 Hallstatt Road, Mill Hill, Deal, by young Robert Low has led to the recovery of a black pottery head of a statuette of Hercules. The British Museum, to whom it was submitted, consider that it is antique and based on the Farnese Hercules, and was imported. The find-spot is below the site of a 2nd-century Roman rubbish trench partially opened up in the excavations

for the Water Tower, and this may be its original source with early degradation down the hill side. Height  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. Pedestal of Holly wood.

Excavations for drainage trenches in deep loam on the new Deal Housing Estate, west of Orchard Avenue, exposed two 1st- to 2nd-century graves with evidence of cremation. The most interesting of the three vessels in the possession of the writer is a small brownish-ware water bottle of thin fabric with one neck ring, and without handles. The top of the mouth is missing, but the total height would be about 10 in. The second pot is a small plain beaker of similar ware, height  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in., external width of mouth the same. It is almost similar to No. 63 (I Richborough, p. 99), but with rim more clearly divided off from the body. The third vessel, complete before excavation, from the above graves and 10 yd. N.W., and only 2 ft. deep, is a large olla of Swarling Report type, No. 32, pl. ix, and of almost similar dimensions but with a 4-in. diameter base instead of one of  $2\frac{7}{8}$  in. The ware is soft brown with black fumed surface. Its finish, with its spreading lip and two low cordons at neck and bulge, and the site where it was found, dates it to the late 1st century A.D. A vessel of somewhat similar character in size and outline is Richborough I, pl. xxii, No. 27. A fourth vessel from the first grave was in such a fragile and crushed state that its existence could only be noted.

### *Jutish*

Further examination of the Housing Site at Nethercourt Farm, described in the report on the Bronze Age Burial No. 2, showed that on this originally bare chalk downland there had been a Jutish Cemetery. A network of deep drainage trenches for the estate had dug through two graves of this period. One had been completely destroyed and any contents dispersed, the other had evidently contained objects of some interest, but with no supervision before I was informed they had gone the way of any grave goods of archaeological interest. What evidence remained proved that the burial had included a necklace of which one bead, a small flat blue and white spiral of glass was recovered, also a bent iron object—perhaps a long thin knife blade—and a thin fragment of bronze. From the grave also came a thin wedge-shaped piece of green-coated tabular flint  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in. long, and three red flint pebbles. The skull was thin-walled, but the few teeth from part of the lower jaw showed considerable wear.

### *17th century*

One shilling coin of James I.

A rather worn hammered specimen of this reign was found in February, 1950, among rubbish turned out near the site of Eastry Institution.

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT, 1950

Carved early pine board from panelling from Deal.

In the demolition of one of a block of late 17th-century cellared and ground and two upper-floored brick houses in the bombed area of Middle Street, Deal, there was exposed two typical round-backed open fireplaces built into the back wall. This was characteristic with the steep staircase from the floor below brought up on a curve one side of the fireplace breast, and at the top opening directly into the upper room. The bressumer beam with its plain chamfer had been, in the case now recorded, thought too rough for exposure so had been masked at some later date by a thin strip of carved pine board taken from some earlier building. This was nailed on to the oak beam and, presumably, had been an exposed ornamental feature. Later plastering of the room, when a modern grate had been installed, had hidden this decoration ; once again revealed with the falling away of the plaster.

The board, cut down to fit it for its new use, measures 5 ft. 10 in. long by  $7\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide. As originally part of a long decorative feature in panelling it has as its central member a shallow 3-in. carved band. This shows at the right-hand cut-off end half of a late Gothic-type circular motive. This with 18-in. intervals, centre to centre, is followed by half of a radiating motive of five rays. Then there is a six-rayed flower in a six-sided hollow, and then at the same distance a repeat of the radiating element. This seems to have been the main decorative feature of the scheme whatever it was. The space in between each main carving is filled by a series of six parallel-sided round-ended hollows. Small sinkings, button-like, divide off each main detail.

W. P. D. STEBBING.

### *Coin of Cunobelinus from Sittingbourne*

An inscribed gold coin of Cunobelin (*Evans, Type IX, No. 6*) was dug up in 1950 by Mr. E. S. High from his garden at No. 118 College Road, Sittingbourne. The finder retains the coin at present. The site is approximately N.G.I. 894631, being about a quarter of a mile N.E. of the place (N.G.I. 887624) where British coins were found in 1874.

RONALD DIXON.

### *Examination of a Denehole at Baldwin's Park, near Bexley.*

Many of the deneholes in Joyden's and Stankey Wood, near Bexley, were explored by F. C. J. Spurrell in the last century. Most of them have now been blocked up, and in some cases built over.

In the garden of No. 16 Baldwin's Park, which was formerly part of Stankey Wood, the wet weather in the early part of this year caused

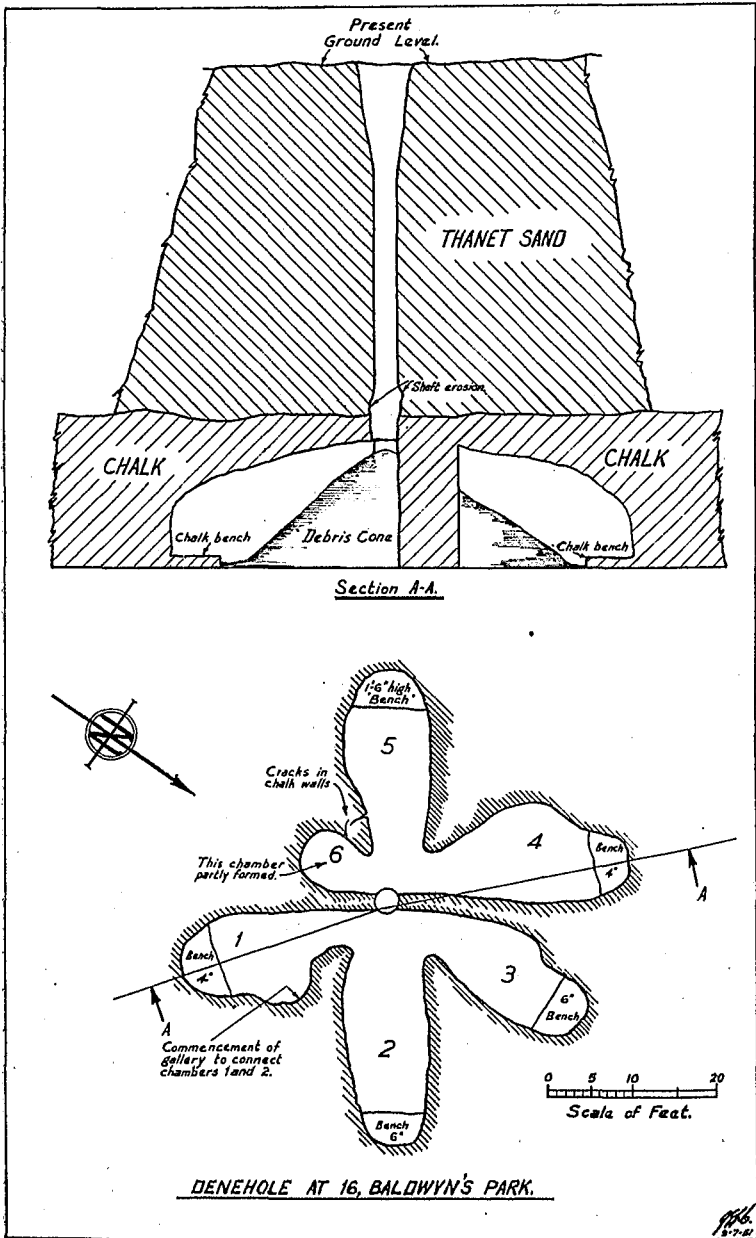


FIG. 1

Plan and section of Denehole at Baldwyn's Park, near Bexley

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT, 1950.

the collapse of the plug of material blocking the mouth of a denehole about 20 ft. from the rear of this house. Through the kind co-operation of the occupier, Mr. L. Dale, the writers were able to go down and make an examination before the opening was again closed.

The vertical shaft was 3 ft. in diameter and approximately 45 ft. deep to the top of the chambers. There was the usual arrangement of footholds in the side. A large cone of debris rose from the floor to the bottom of the shaft, the base of the cone spreading almost to the ends of the short chambers. Six of these, hewn out in the chalk, formed a double trefoil, as shown on the accompanying plan. The walls and roofs had roughly-hewn surfaces and the marks of the miners' picks were everywhere in evidence. The walls inclined inwards so that the roofs of the chambers were slightly narrower than the floors, a practical measure to give greater stability to the excavation.

The chambers marked 5 and 6 on the plan had never been finished. At the far end of the former, the upper part had been extended further than the lower so as to form a wide bench 1 ft. 6 in. high. This shows the method of working; the miner stood on this bench and worked at the upper part of the face, which would be out of reach from the floor, reducing the lower part at intervals as he proceeded, but always leaving a bench of sufficient width to mount upon to resume work on the higher portion. If, for some reason, work were suddenly abandoned, this bench would remain to puzzle some later investigators and give rise to notions about "Druids' Altars." In four of the other chambers the benches had been reduced to heights of from 4 to 6 in.

The emergency which led to the sudden abandonment of this and the adjoining chamber was the slight movement of a large mass of chalk supporting the roof at their junction, the resulting crack being still disturbingly evident. This threatened collapse was apparently caused by undercutting to widen the entrance to Chamber 6.

At one stage the miners contemplated piercing the sides of the chambers to make them connect, and leaving the base of the shaft supported on six pillars of unhewn chalk, an arrangement noted by Spurrell as usual in deneholes in this locality, but in this instance the plan was never carried further than the commencement of a gallery to connect Chambers 1 and 2.

As in other deneholes the chambers were not extended beyond a point from which the excavated material could be hoisted directly up the shaft. Deeply scored marks were visible at the junction of the shaft with the roofs of the chambers, due to the friction of the rope by which the buckets of chalk were raised to the surface.

Nothing was found in this denehole to indicate the period at which it was dug. Some bones were found, but these appear to have belonged to small animals which at some time fell into the open shaft and were

unable to escape. Marks of their frantic scratching at the lower parts of the chalk sides could be observed. A patch of soot on the face of one chamber probably came from the miner's lamp.

Some impressions were taken of the pick marks and these clearly showed that the implements were similar in form to the metal picks commonly used to-day, that is to say, they were rectangular in section, but rounded near the tip due to the reduction of the angles by wear. This fact is of interest as it is sometimes asserted that pick marks in deneholes show the use of deer horn picks, as discovered in Neolithic flint mines. In the present case, if impressions were taken of the shallower pick marks a form not unlike the point of a horn would naturally be obtained, but the deeper marks give indisputable evidence of the rectangular section of the tools employed in their production.

Stankey Wood is shown on the 1910 6-in. O.S. map as containing no less than 25 deneholes in an area of about 5 acres. The denehole which forms the subject of these notes is not shown on the 1909 25-in. sheet, nor on Spurrell's map made in 1880.

P. J. TESTER.  
J. E. L. CAIGER.

#### *Roman Pottery from Cliffe Marshes*

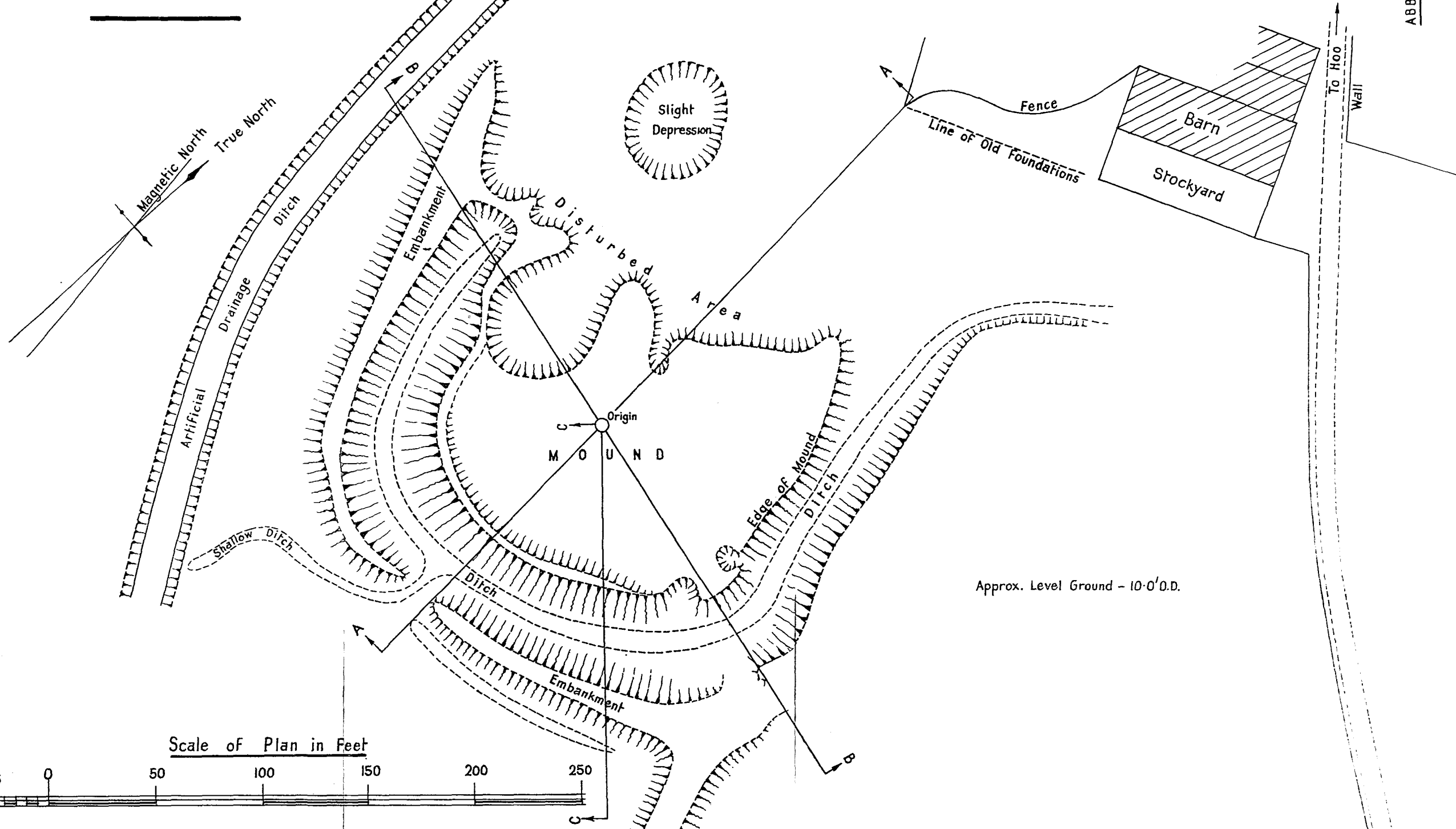
Late in 1950 Mr. J. T. Dockwray found a group of Roman pottery on Mr. L. C. Batchelor's Wharf Farm, Cliffe-at-Hoo. The site was in the marsh about one-third of a mile N.N.E. of Wharf Farm, N.G.I. 741770, and the vessels were found about 4 ft. below surface at the side of a marsh ditch. The pottery is at present in the possession of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, and I am obliged to Mr. W. G. Teagle for the following description of it. "Two of the pots are 1st century; one a small beaker-like pot, the other a tall red storage jar with a narrow base, containing cremated bones. The other pot is apparently a late Roman type; it is a bottle with a globular body and a small handle at the neck, with traces of an iron stopper. The ware is red, but is covered with a whitish slip."

#### *Earthworks near Hoo St. Werburgh*

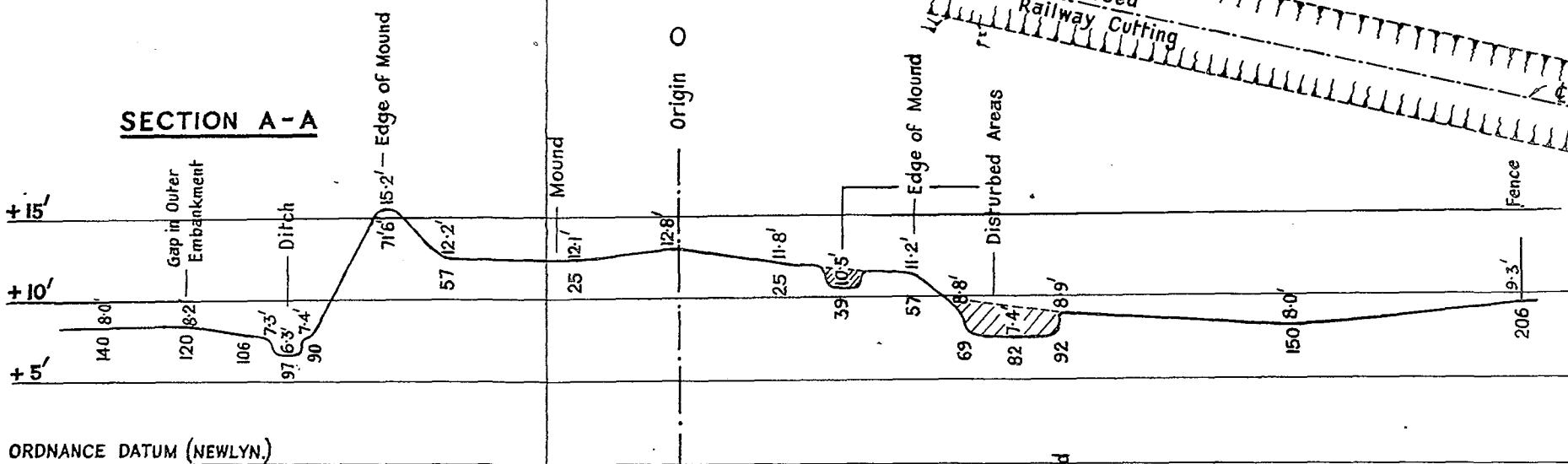
In 1950 Mr. W. C. W. Brice showed me an aerial photograph of his property in the parish of Hoo St. Werburgh, and drew my attention to the appearance of a well-marked earthwork near Abbot's Court. At the same time he kindly gave permission for any survey or exploration which I considered necessary to be carried out. I am again greatly obliged to my friend, Mr. W. G. Gitsham (through the courtesy



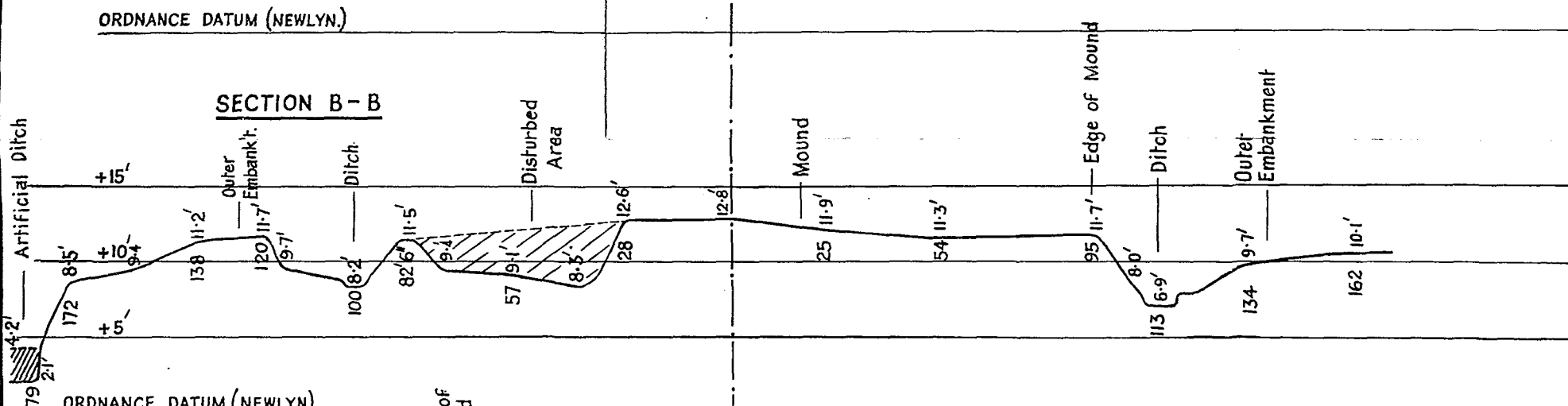
# EARTHWORK NEAR HOO ST. WERBURGH



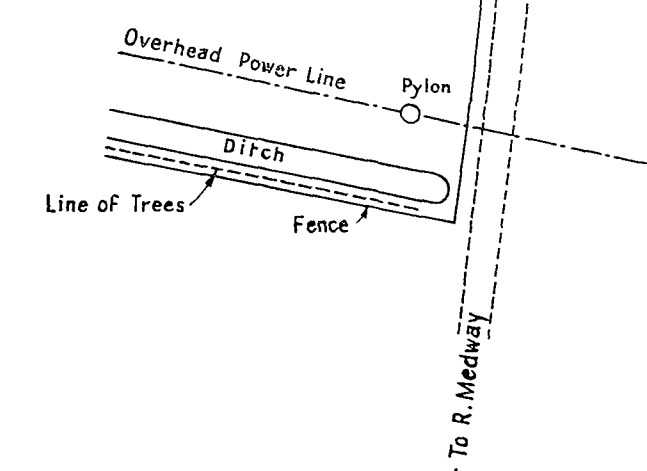
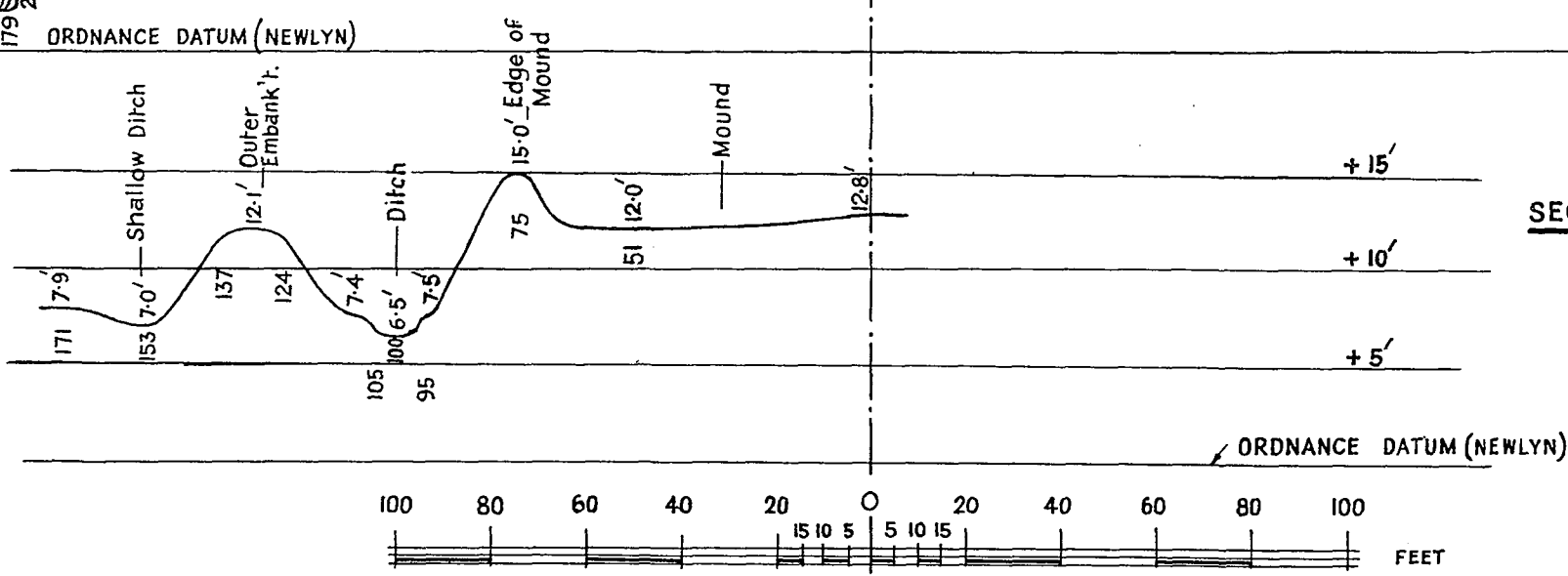
## SECTION A-A



## SECTION B-B



## SECTION C-C



For J.H. EVANS, F.S.A.  
ARCHAEOLOGIA CANTIANA, VOL. LXIV.

HORIZONTAL SCALE

FEET

O.S. REF. SHEETS. KENT XII.9&13.7

Surveyed. W.G. GITSHAM. 30.7.1951.

FIG. 2.

of Mr. C. S. Cleverley of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co.), and to Mr. S. T. Overy of my own Staff for the very careful survey which they have made of this earthwork, and which is here reproduced.

The work appears to have escaped previous notice, probably because the countryside around has been much disturbed by gravel digging, and the banks might thus have been regarded as spoil heaps. The earthwork is raised from the surface of the freshwater marsh at its landward edge, and is some 450 ft. to the south-west of Abbot's Court (N.G.R. 794720), and three-quarters of a mile east-north-east of St. Werburgh's Church. As will be seen from the Plan the earthwork is roughly square in shape, with rounded corners, and on the south, east and west sides consists of an outer low bank, a ditch (moat) and a high inner bank; on the north side the ground has been much disturbed by shallow excavations, probably trial holes for gravel, but it is clear that the defences here were never developed so well as on those sides which face the river and overlook the marsh. The general marsh level is here about 8.00 ft. O.D. (Newlyn), the outer bank rises to 12.00 ft. O.D., the bottom of the ditch falls to 6.00 ft. O.D., and the inner high bank rises to 14.00 ft. O.D., while the general level of the inner enclosure stands at 12.00 ft. O.D. The external dimensions are 250 ft. from east to west and from south to the disturbed area on the north about 225 ft.; originally the two main axes were probably equal. The work is aligned to the principal points of the compass, and the enclosure covers about three-quarters of an acre; the only entrance being from the north. The moat extends well to the north-east where it was fed by a natural spring, and it overflowed into the large drainage ditch shown to the west of the Plan; this being a modern artificial representative of a natural stream flowing into the Medway.

A definite verdict as to age and use must wait upon field exploration, but meanwhile some relevant observations can be made. The topography of the earthwork is interesting, for it is built out on to the marsh surface from the old shoreline above the flood plain of the present Medway, and were it not for the protective river wall some 250 yd. to the south, high spring tides would still flow up to the outer bank. This circumstance, rare in the Thames and Medway marshlands, limits the possible age of the earthwork and gives a pointer to its true meaning. It cannot be prehistoric nor is it Roman in style or horizon, for the Roman land surface occurs about 6 ft. below the present marsh level. Therefore the upper layers of the marsh represent deposits of silt laid down between the times when the Roman-Saxon land surface again became subject to high tide inundation, and the building of the first river walls, which in the Thames and Medway valleys occurred during the first half of the 13th century. All the land hereabouts was once part of the Manor of Little Hoo, and the clue to the meaning

of the earthwork probably lies in the fact that from the early 12th century until the Dissolution this manor was held by the Abbey of Boxley. The name of the modern Abbot's Court (Abis Court, 1695, and Abbot's White House, 1840) is a reminder of this long tenure. But nearer the earthwork, less than 200 ft. to the north, there still remain the foundations of earlier buildings which are shown on our older maps. The inference is that the earthwork represents the last remains of the original (13th- or 14th-century) moated and fortified Manor House of Little Hoo. Blocks of sandstone occur within the enclosure and therefore excavation may reveal masonry foundations and timber post-holes. At some distance from the earthwork there are remains of old river-walls representing an early marsh enclosure and it is significant that they form a half circle, from high land to high land, around the area on which the earthwork is raised.

The size and style of this earthwork is like that associated with Moat Farm, Lower Halstow, and it is probable that the original manor house of the Cobhams at Cooling was built within similar defences, for the local topography there is exactly the same as at Hoo.

#### *Roman Vase from the Isle of Grain*

The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company are carrying out very extensive excavatory work in the marshes of this island, and they are very much alive to the need to preserve any minor antiquities which may be unearthed, and have so instructed their Managing Agents and Contractors. As a result of this enlightened attitude a cordoned flask of a general type found at Colchester, Verulamium and Richborough was unearthed near Wallend Farm, the actual spot not being known as the flask was carried along with material in front of a bulldozer. It should date from the 1st to early 2nd century.

JOHN H. EVANS.

#### FURTHER EXCAVATIONS ON THE SITE OF THE EARTHWORKS AT CHARLTON

These Earthworks, originally in Kent, but now within the London County area, were first described in the pages of *Archæologia Cantiana* by Professor Flinders Petrie, XIII, pp. 8-16, plan facing p. 15. They were being gradually destroyed by quarrying, and the remaining portion was excavated by the writer for the British Archæological Association in 1914-15. Reports on these excavations appear in the *Journ. B.A.A.*, XXII and XXIX, n.s., and the conclusions then drawn were that the site had been inhabited for some three or four centuries, and that the earthworks were probably pre-Roman, c. 50 B.C.

A subsequent paper endeavoured to establish that the site was in reality the "Noviomagus" of the *Itinerary*.

Since that time the quarrying continued, and in addition the area was used for military training during two wars. A visit paid to the site in 1949 showed that practically every vestige of the earthworks had disappeared and that the surface of the interior of the enclosure was scored and trenched in all directions and great gaps had been made in the ground. Careful survey revealed that an area about 25 ft. by 40 ft. remained almost untouched. Permission was obtained from the London County Council and in August, 1950, excavations were made in this limited area by the writer, assisted by boys from the local secondary schools. The object was to ascertain what modification of the original conclusions were necessary in view of a re-examination of the earlier material and a more scientific excavation than that of nearly 40 years before.

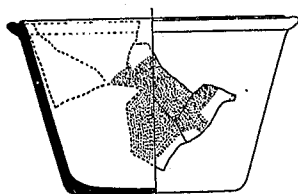


FIG. 3

Glazed Bowl from Charlton Earthworks. The stippled area shows the patch of glaze on the exterior of the fragment. The interior and the top of the rim appear to be more evenly and thinner covered. Reduced  $\frac{1}{4}$  size.

As a matter of fact, very little difference was observed. One hut site was cleared and considerable quantities of pottery were found, but beyond suggesting that the occupancy of the site might be pushed back to pre-Roman times, say the first quarter of the 1st century B.C. to the 3rd century A.D., little further was ascertained.

One discovery of some moment was made. On the floor of the hut, in association with bead-rimmed pottery of 1st-century date, and three quern fragments—of millstone grit, of Neidermendig lava, and of Hertfordshire puddingstone—were some dozen pieces of a small bowl (see Fig. 3) of reddish fabric, but lead glazed. There could be no doubt of its association, and its character was confirmed both by Mr. G. C. Dunning, F.S.A., and Mr. E. M. Jope, F.S.A., whose note in the *Archaeological News Letter*, II, p. 199, first brought this ware to notice. Only one small fragment of Terra Sigillata was found,

the shallow plate with the interior quarter round fillet, var. Drag. 15/18, which had been also found previously. The dearth of this ware is a feature of the site. Fragments of flue, roof and wall tiles of Roman character were also found, as well as iron nails.

Pending the receipt of a full report on the glazed ware found on the site, I give an extract from a letter to me from Mr. Jope :

“In all my collection of R.B. glazes, I know nothing like it—especially unusual is the patchy glaze slapped on willy-nilly. Most R.B. glaze covers at least the exterior fairly evenly. One would suspect that it is, in fact, a British product: the date is early, and until recently the Holt (Denbighshire) early 2nd-century glazing kiln was all the concrete evidence we had in Britain. But the new Verulamium evidence suggests that glazing was being carried out there during the latter half of 1st century A.D. So really your pot has a fairly reasonable setting in S. Britain in say A.D. 60-80.”

F. C. ELLISTON ERWOOD.

#### SEVENOAKS DISTRICT

##### 1. *Lullingstone*

Work on the Roman house is being continued, and the limits of the 4th-century reconstruction have been defined, with the exception of the east front, which is still masked by the modern road. Investigation, directed by Mr. E. Greenfield, is proceeding into the earliest levels to the north of the site, while an examination of similar deep levels south of the Mosaic Room is being carried out under the direction of Mr. E. Birchenough, M.A. Evidence in the form of stratified pottery continues to be found, while the coin list now stands at over 250 coins recovered. A description of the important set of tiled stairways, illustrated by architectural sections and plans, will be included in the Second Report, which it is hoped to publish comprehensively in our 1952 volume.

##### 2. *Otford*

Work has been begun at Beckett's Well by members of the Otford and District Historical Society. The eastern chamber has been cleaned out, and the wall tops exposed with a view to preservation. During this process two further walls, hitherto unknown, have been found, and sections are being cut through the earth fillings to determine the successive building periods of construction of this most interesting building. The work is being ably directed by Messrs. F. R. J. Pateman and F. E. Harrison, and has been made possible by the kindness and

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enthusiasm of Mr. E. D. McDowall who owns the site. It is hoped to publish a report on completion of the work in a future volume.

3. *Farningham and Eynesford*

By the courtesy of the finder, Mr. A. Bates, of Oliver Crescent, Farningham, the following coins are recorded :

(1) Denarius (Æ) of JULIA DOMNA, c. A.D. 217.

Obv. : IVLIA DOMNA AVG. Bust draped r.

Rev. : VENVS VICTRIX. Venus standing l. leaning on staff and holding (?)wreath.

Find-spot ; Map ref. 5469 6663 Nat. Grid.

(2) Half Groat (Æ) of HENRY VI. Calais Mint. A.D. 1422-61.

Obv. : HENRIC . DI . GRA . REX . ANL/A.

Rev. : POSVI . DEVM . ADIVTORE . MEVM . (outer circle).  
VILLA . CALISIE . (inner circle).

Find-spot : Map ref. 5461 6625 Nat. Grid.

Both coins remain in the possession of Mr. Bates.

4. *Shoreham*

The following coin, the property of the late Mr. Cox of Shoreham, and now in possession of Darent Valley Archæological Research, was recovered from the Council House Estate at the south end of the village.

Dupondius (Æ) of VESPASIAN. A.D. 77-78.

Obv. : IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG COS VIII PP. Head lauriate r.

Rev. : FIDES PVBLICA. Fides l. with patera and cornucopiæ. In field SC.

Find-spot : Map ref. 5172 6151 Nat. Grid.

5. *Barnhurst*

The following coin was found during gravel digging in 1950. In possession of the finder, name not known.

Dupondius (Æ) of NERO. A.D. 54-68.

Obv. : IMP /// NERO CLAVD CAESAR AVG GER PM TRP. Head bare l.

Rev. : ARA PACIS SC. Altar ornamented with palmettes and bas-reliefs of Roma seated.

Find-spot : Unknown.

G. W. MEATES.

*Flint Implements found near Maidstone*

Three flint implements worthy of notice have recently been given to the Maidstone Museum. The first is a fine example of a plano-convex flint knife (no. 1) found by Mr. A. Clout of Manor Farm, East

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Malling (51° 16' 21" N. 0° 26' 45" E. Kent 6-in. O.S. Sheet XLII N.W.). The length is  $4\frac{3}{8}$  in., breadth  $1\frac{1}{8}$  in., depth  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$  in. The underside is untouched, except for a scarring of the bulb of percussion as if some attempt has been made to remove it. The whole of the

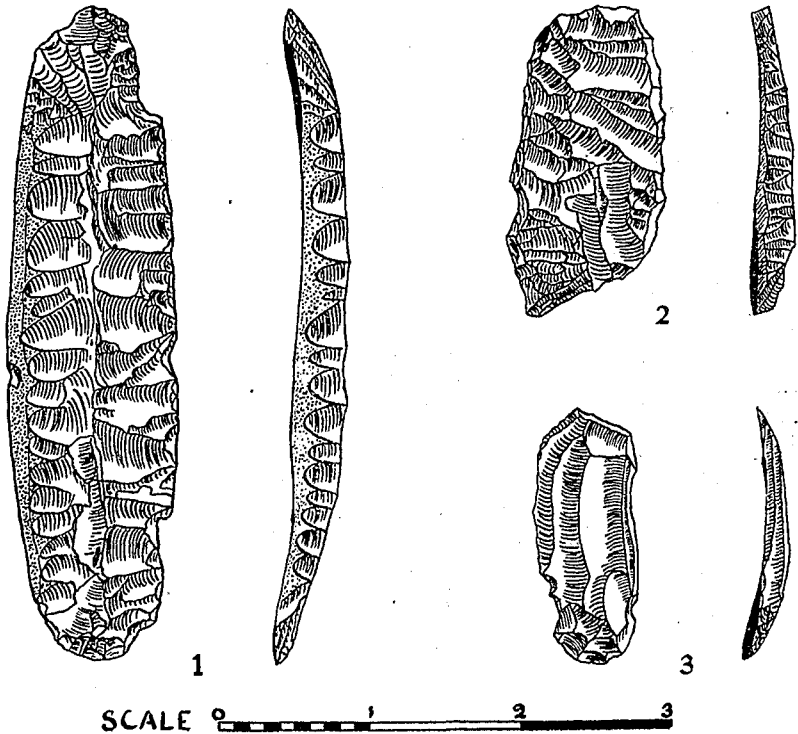


FIG. 4. Flint implements found near Maidstone

1. A plano-convex knife from East Malling
2. Part of a plano-convex knife from Bearsted
3. Flint scraper from Bearsted

upper surface is beautifully worked with pressure flaking and one edge has been ground and polished on both faces, though less noticeably on the underside.

A similar polished knife, now in the Maidstone Museum, was found at Higham, Kent (*Arch. Cant.*, XLVII, p. 234), though this is not so well worked on the convex surface. A closer parallel is afforded by an example from Titchfield, Hants. (*Proc. Soc. Ant.*, XXX, p. 24).

The type can be assigned to the Early to Middle Bronze Age, the majority of those found with dateable pottery being associated with Food Vessels.<sup>1</sup>

A portion of a second plano-convex flint knife (no. 2) was found in the garden of Inglenook, Ashford Road, Bearsted, by Mr. C. Harris. The surviving portion measures  $2\frac{1}{8}$  in. by 1 in. by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in., the underside being plain and the upper surface wholly worked with pressure flaking.

A small flint scraper (no. 3) comes from the same site. It measures  $1\frac{5}{8}$  in. by  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. by  $\frac{3}{16}$  in.

A. WARHURST.

*Coin of Allectus from East Farleigh*

An antoninianus of Allectus was recently found at East Farleigh (O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet XLII S.W.—2,500 ft. N.W. of St. Mary's Church, East Farleigh) and reported to Maidstone Museum. It is in the possession of Mr. K. Etheridge of Maidstone.

Description :

Obverse : Radiate, cuirassed, facing right.  
IMP. C. ALLECTVS. P. F. AVG.

Reverse : LAETITIA. AVG.  
Laetitia standing left holding a wreath in her right hand and an anchor in the left.

$\frac{S | P}{C}$  = Camulodunum mint.

Reference : Mattingly and Sydenham, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, V, Part II, p. 565, no. 79, plate xix, no. 11.

*An Iron Prick-spur from Wye*

In early summer, 1951, our member, Miss Anne Roper, F.S.A., kindly sent to Maidstone Museum for examination and cleaning a piece of iron almost embedded in concretion. It had been found by Mr. J. M. Brewin whilst exploring the so-called "Lollards' Hole," the crypt which was once beneath the Chequers Inn at Wye and is now on land occupied by the Stonegate egg-packing station.

Cleaning by electrolysis revealed an iron prick-spur of Norman date. Professor J. B. Ward Perkins has made a classification of English medieval spurs<sup>2</sup> and the present example may be tentatively

<sup>1</sup> J. G. D. Clarke, *Antiq. Journ.*, XII, p. 158.

<sup>2</sup> London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue*, 1940, pp. 94-112.



placed in his class I B ii as it has straight arms, the remains of what appears to be a tubular point, and bolted terminal. Ward Perkins suggests that points of type I were "perhaps already obsolete at the time of the Norman Conquest," so, as B ii terminals are later in his series, there is a possibility that what remains of the Wye point is only part of a structure which may have resembled that on the Lothbury bronze spur in the British Museum.<sup>1</sup> The Lothbury spur has two

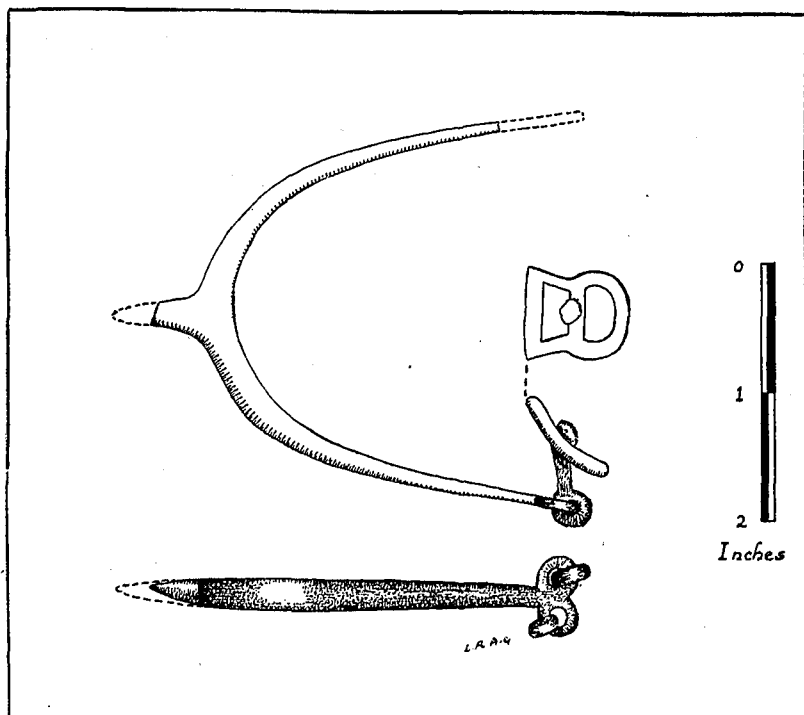


FIG. 5. Iron Prick-spur from Wye

type B ii terminals similar to the remaining one on the Wye example. Whatever the shape of the point, the terminal and straight sides of the Wye spur show that it cannot be dated later than the end of the 12th century.

Description: Made of iron. Present length  $3\frac{5}{16}$  in. Approximate width between terminals  $3\frac{1}{8}$  in. One terminal is missing and this has only been reconstructed with a dotted

<sup>1</sup> C. de Lacy Lacy, *The History of the Spur*, plate 11, fig. 2.

line in the illustration. The reconstruction is not elaborated as the form of the terminal may be different on either arm.<sup>1</sup> The remaining terminal retains its iron buckle.

Mr. J. M. Brewin, the finder, has sent me the following report and appended sketch-plan, for which I am much indebted :

“With the encouragement of the late Mr. G. E. Hubbard, I commenced an investigation of the Chequers Inn crypt just before Easter, 1951.

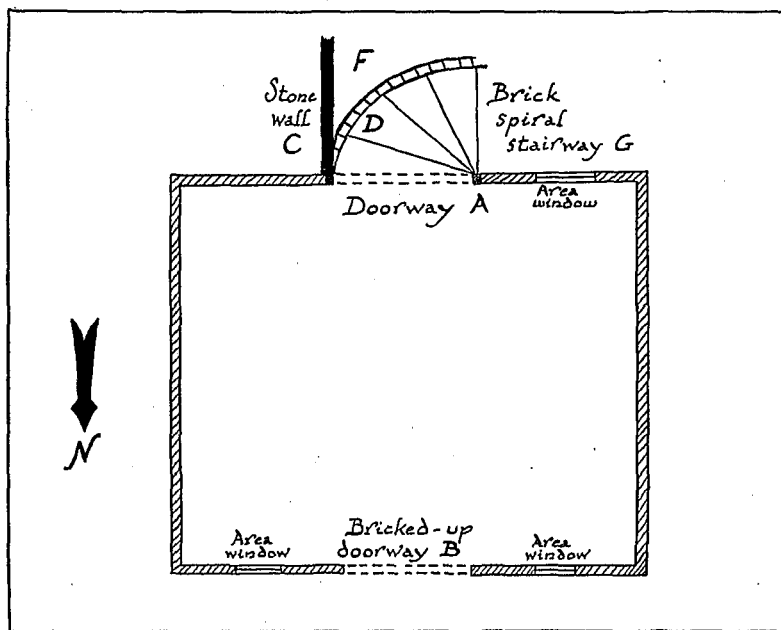


FIG. 6. The Lollards' Hole, Wye (not to scale)

“The crypt lies just below the present ground level and is entered down the spiral stairway marked G on the plan. Two small windows high in the north wall indicate that the present ground level *may* be above that at the time when the crypt was built. The removal of bricks from the archway B disclosed stone steps leading immediately upwards. There was no secret passage as some have fondly hoped for years.

“My next approach was to examine the present entrance to the crypt which is clearly not part of the original structure. Moreover,

<sup>1</sup> Ward Perkins, *op. cit.*, p. 96.

there is all the evidence required to show that a door was once hung on the outside of the doorway A, where, now, the stairway would prevent the opening of any such door. I broke through the brick retaining wall at D and found that the wall C continued for some distance. Through the hole in the brick wall I removed quantities of loose filling and working at arm's length by touch alone, I came across the spur at the point marked F. This would be about 2 ft. above the floor level of what I suppose to be a passage or room bounded by the wall C and about 4 to 5 ft. below the present ground level."

### *Thirteenth-century Steelyard Weight from Sundridge*

There has recently been presented to Maidstone Museum<sup>1</sup> by Mr. John H. Davis, the finder, a 13th-century steelyard weight, figured herewith. Mr. Davis found the weight in 1930 whilst digging in the garden of his newly-built bungalow, "Aurea," Main Road, Sundridge.<sup>2</sup> Mr. R. Brealey, of Sundridge, tells me that it is rumoured that a farmhouse used to be on the roadside at about this point. Much loose stone is dug up there and at one place digging is of little avail, probably because some foundations still exist. These conditions do not apply on the land of the neighbouring bungalows.

The weight was made by the *cire perdue* method of casting. A core of clay or some such material was covered with a wax coating which was fashioned in the shape of the intended weight, with shields in relief. The whole was then covered with a layer of clay and was made stable by iron pins inserted through to the core. It was heated and the melted wax possibly escaped through a hole in the base and was replaced by liquid latten. The hole was plugged during this process for the friable core must have been removed through it later on cooling. Molten lead was then poured in. After the outer clay had been broken away the weight was ready to have the iron supporting pins filed down and the necessary decorative incisions made.

Some sixty of these weights have been found in this country and Dr. G. Dru Drury, F.S.A., has made out a good case for their connection with the name of Richard, Earl of Cornwall and Poitou, King of the Romans and brother of King Henry III of England.<sup>3</sup> In 1244

<sup>1</sup> Accession number 14.1951.

<sup>2</sup> O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet XXXIX N.E. Approximately 950 yd. N.E. of Sundridge Parish Church, on the N. side of the Sundridge-Sevenoaks main road.

<sup>3</sup> The main literature on the subject of 13th-century steelyard weights is as follows:

Dr. G. Dru Drury, *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, XLVII, pp. 1-24; LII, pp. xlix-li; LVIII, pp. 35-42.

L. R. A. Grove, *Ibid.*, LVIII, pp. 30-34.

J. B. Ward Perkins, London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue*, 1940, pp. 171-4.

Dr. E. C. Curwen, *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, LXVII, pp. 188-95.

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Richard received from King Henry III the right of farming the coinage and it is probable that this position included supervision of weights and measures. Dr. E. C. Curwen<sup>1</sup> has suggested that the weights may be connected with the Teutonic Hanse merchants of the Steelyard. In 1260 the Hanse merchants settled in London under a royal licence given at the request of Richard of Cornwall, and their Guildhall was called "The Steelyard." An objection to Dr. Curwen's suggestion is that no weights have been found in Yorkshire where there were two Hanse houses, at York and Hull.<sup>2</sup>

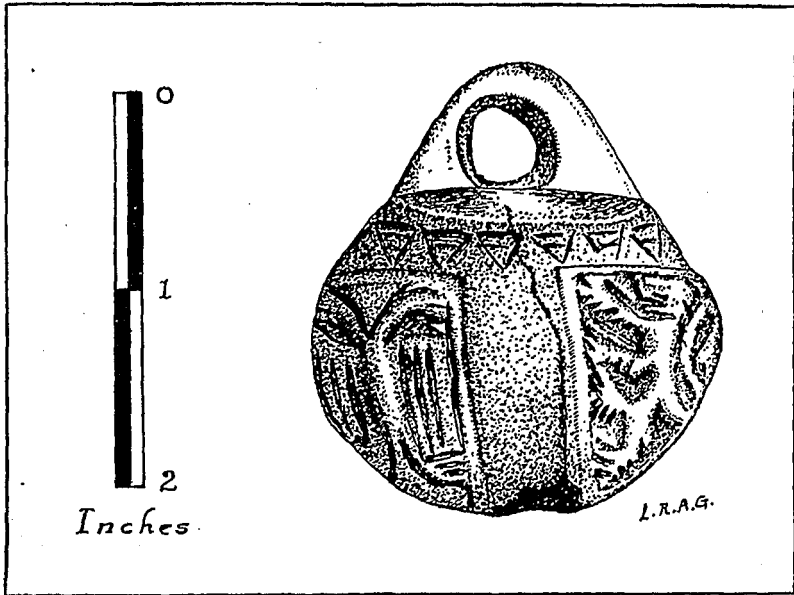


Fig. 7. Steelyard Weight from Sundridge.

Dr. Dru Drury mentions but one weight in Kent, that in the Canterbury Museum. It has no date or place of finding so that the Sundridge weight may be claimed as the first definite Kent one. Description :

It bears three shields in relief, moulded, but with some incision.

(1) Double-headed eagle displayed. This indicates a date after 1257 when Richard became King of the Romans and was entitled to bear such a shield.<sup>3</sup> Richard died in 1272.

<sup>1</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 193.

<sup>2</sup> No weights have as yet been found north of the River Humber. See also R. C. Clephan on "The Hanseatic Confederation" in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 1893.

<sup>3</sup> It is characteristically shown on the tomb of his son, Prince Edmund, at King's Langley. The use of his father's arms was continued by Edmund, but on his death in 1300 the earldom became extinct. See also S. H. Steinberg, *Antiquaries Journal*, 1938, p. 142.

(2) Lion rampant. A simplification of the Poitou arms.

(3) Three lions or leopards passant guardant, for England.

Shields 1 and 2 are close together and opposite to 3. Above the shields there is a border of hatched or shaded triangles, points downwards, haphazardly done by incision. Some triangles are filled with two lines, some with one line. There are no horizontal lines around the shoulder to border the triangles, as in other examples recorded.

Total height	.. .. .	..	2 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.
Height to base of loop-hole	.. .. .	..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Greatest circumference (including shields)	.. .. .	..	6 $\frac{11}{16}$ in.
Thickness of latten bordering filling hole	.. .. .	..	$\frac{1}{8}$ in.
Weight	.. .. .	..	1 lb. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.

The weight is made of latten, filled with lead, and the hole (for filling) comes between the bases of shields 1 and 2 and shows the lead core. Two pin heads can clearly be seen and there are traces of others. The patina is uneven, a dull dark green. There is a fracture in the latten running from the filling hole, between shields 1 and 2, and so to the loop hole. There seems to be a figure "1" incised between shields 2 and 3.

The writer's thanks are due to Mr. R. Brealey, Mr. R. Holworthy and Mr. James Cochrane for their assistance in procuring this weight for Maidstone Museum.

L. R. A. GROVE.

#### ROMAN POTTERY FROM UPCHURCH MARSHES

The vast quantity of Roman material that has been found on the Upchurch Marshes during the last hundred years has yielded little information concerning the extensive Romano-British communities in the area. The interest has been, and in some cases still is, centred merely round the finds themselves. Very few exact localities of finds have been recorded and structural remains have either been non-existent or have passed unobserved. A number of the marsh sites have already disappeared and those that remain are being quickly eroded.

The Slay Hill Saltings are still producing quantities of virtually useless unstratified material, a large proportion of which has undoubtedly been washed from pits. A few of the latter have been located and have been excavated with as much care as is possible under the difficult conditions. The unstratified sherds do provide a wide range of material which help in some measure to arrive at an over-all date for the occupation of the site and a few are of importance in their own right. One of these, an unusual Terra Sigillata form (Fig. 8, No. 4) is worthy of special note. Its shape is that of a simple Dragendorf

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form 31 except that it possesses an internal quarter round moulding and a corresponding external concavity. Dr. Felix Oswald has dated the piece to between A.D. 130 and 140, and classes it as a form 15/31.

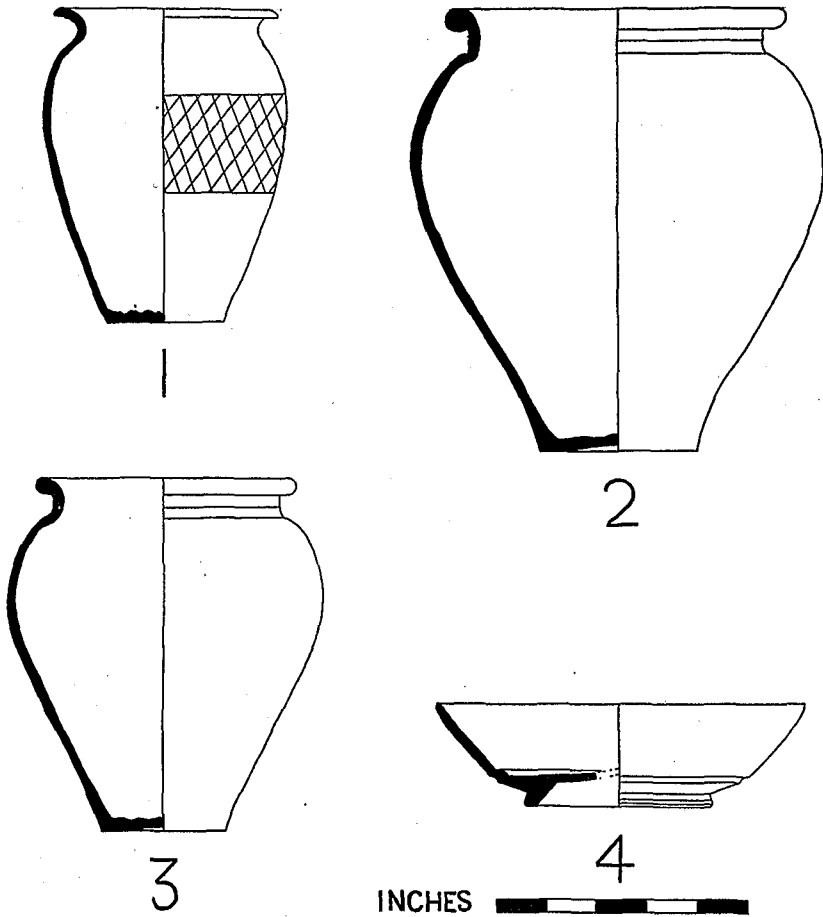


FIG. 8. Roman Pottery from Upchurch Marshes

A similar type was discovered at Corbridge and is illustrated in Oswald and Price, *Terra Sigillata*, pl. xliii, No. 43. In the latter, however, the sides of the dish are steeper and terminate at the rim in a sharply-cut internal groove. Unfortunately, the Upchurch dish is far from complete and the stamp is missing, but an example from Rough

Castle bears the stamp DOVICCV (Doeccus of Lezoux and Lubié, Hadrian-Antonine). Among other Samian sherds recently found on the Slay Hill site are examples of Dragendorf forms 18, 27, 31, 32, 33, 37, and stamps of FRONTINUS (La Graufesenque) and RUFUS (Lezoux) on forms 27 and 18 respectively.

From the large quantity of coarse wares that have been recovered during the period 1950-51, three finds may be of some interest. At a point approximately 220 ft. from the Slay Hill sea wall and 100 ft. from the strayway were found three pots, each containing charcoal and small bones. They had been partially uncovered by the tide at a depth of 4 ft. below the road surface and were resting on a bed of decayed vegetable matter. They were found within 25 ft. of each other in an area that is otherwise practically devoid of finds. Two of the pots (Fig. 8, Nos. 1 and 3) were standing vertically, while the other (Fig. 8, No. 2) had been crushed and was lying on its side, although the base was set squarely in the mud, suggesting that it had originally stood upright. The latter vessel had been somewhat disturbed by the water, but the majority of it was still *in situ*. Although, when first found it was incomplete, most of the missing fragments were recovered when the site was visited again some weeks later. The bones from the three pots were examined at the British Museum of Natural History and were found to be those of young dogs. In no case was there anything approaching a complete skeleton, but this might be accounted for by the fact that the mouths of the pots had been open to the sea for some time.

#### *Description of Pottery*

1. An olla of fumed grey ware with cavetto rim, decorated on the body with a zone of latticed lines 5 cm. in width. The body sloping to a flat base, is polished above and below the decoration. The nearest parallel appears in the report on the Excavations at Viroconium, 1936-37, by Miss K. M. Kenyon, *Archaeologia*, LXXXVIII, p. 214, fig. 10, no. 8, which is dated to the late 2nd to 3rd century. Although the rim of the Upchurch pot does not overhang the body (a late characteristic) it does not possess the pronounced shoulder of the Viroconium example, and may therefore be dated to the 3rd century.
2. An olla of fumed, sandy grey ware, with a thick and slightly undercut, everted rim. It has a distinct neck with a central ridge and terminates at its lower extremity in a slight offset. The body is pear-shaped and incurves to a slightly rising base. May, in his *Catalogue of the Pottery in the Colchester Museum*, illustrates a pot with similar characteristics (pl. liv, no. 237) which he dates to the end of the 2nd century.

3. A smaller example of the above. The rim is not undercut and the ridge on the neck and the offset are considerably less pronounced. The base clearly shows the marks of removal from the wheel by cutting with a string.

The two similar ollae (Fig. 8, Nos. 2 and 3) were found 25 ft. apart in a line running approximately east-west, and the third (Fig. 8, No. 1) stood between them some 10 ft. to the south. Unfortunately it is impossible to arrive at any conclusion that would account for their burial or their contents. Dr. R. E. M. Wheeler in the *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, XVI, p. 20, records the discovery of three ollae deposited as foundation offerings. Two had been disturbed and the contents lost, but the third contained "minute fragments of charred bone, together with almost equally minute pieces of unburnt bone of some small animal now unidentifiable." He goes on to say that "while it is possible that these fragments were carried into the pot from the upper strata, they occur in sufficient quantities to warrant the supposition that they formed part of the original contents."

Whether the Colchester finds have any bearing on those from Slay Hills, it is impossible to say, for no structural remains were found on the site. Yet it is possible that they did exist and had been destroyed in antiquity or by the recent erosion.

I. and A. NOEL HUME.