

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

DEAL AND DISTRICT

Bronze Age. *Arch. Cant.*, LXIV, p. 150. The food vessel mentioned in these notes has been restored by the Ministry of Works and is now in the possession of the Deal Corporation. The large bowl-shaped vessel with a small bead rim of Sir Mortimer Wheeler's "dog biscuit" fabric is of interest as its associated material may be evidence of food and link up with Professor Grahame Clark's evidence of this subject in his recent lecture—"The Economic Approach to Pre-History."

Roman. Foundations at 9 Cannon Street, Dover, carried down over 8 feet from road surface, exposed a rubbish level through which had been dug a 16th century, brick-lined well, filled later with human bones. At one spot was a small heap of sherds of a 2nd century Samian bowl with "cut glass" engraving.

Jutish. Continuing development as a building estate at Nethercourt Farm, Ramsgate (*Arch. Cant.*, LXIV, p. 152) gave further evidence in November, 1953, of its early use as a cemetery. In this case with the burial, 2 feet deep, S.W. and N.E., was a spear and the scramasax type of knife.

Medieval. Little work is now possible on the site of the town of Stonar, but rather added interest may be directed to some of the glazed pottery since work on the 11th century town site at Thetford has proved that a well-baked pottery with coloured glaze was in use there. At Stonar from its worn state it seems to show that somewhat similar material was also in use there earlier than the 13th century.

Recent. Local find—Harrington Farthing, issued 1611. MSS. At a sale at Sothebys, early 1953, there came up a volume of plans, dated 1829, of the Naval Dockyards round the South Coast. Among them was one of the yard at Deal which was sold in 1860 and built over as the Victoria Town Estate. The volume is now in the possession of the Royal Military College, Kingston. Ontario.

W. P. D. STEBBING.

CANTERBURY

Trenching for main drainage and the foundations at the rear of the shops which now stand on the south side of St. George's Street has revealed much of the ground plan of a very large building, connected with the White Friars Monastery which until the Dissolution stood on the site. The foundations which have been measured and recorded by

F. Jenkins, who watched the commercial excavations over a period of two years, are built of large blocks of chalk being four feet thick and more than eight feet deep. The length of the north foundation was 128 feet east-west with a turn at right-angles at the west end which was traced for a length of 40 feet where the line is still preserved by a wall above ground of uncertain date.

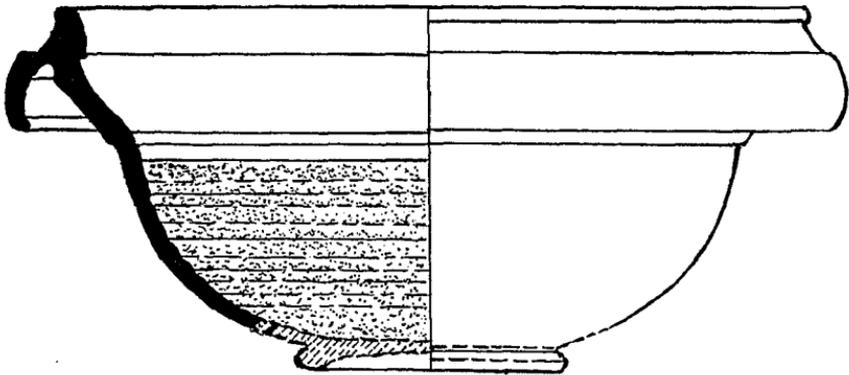
Judging by the size of this building and its orientation, it may well be the church of the White Friars. Its date is certainly later than a 13th century rubbish pit which had been partially destroyed when the foundations of the west wall were originally excavated.

North of this building the ground had been much disturbed by the many graves belonging to the Lay Cemetery of the Monastery. One interesting object found in a rubbish pit in this area was a small pipe-clay statuette of a draped figure holding an open book. Traces of gilding and red paint survived and it is possibly from a shrine belonging to the monastery, and probably 14th century in date.

FRANK JENKINS.

(1) RECVLVER

Our member, Mr. B. J. Philp, reports the find on the beach at the Roman fort at Reculver of an unusual type of Samian mortarium. This



Mortarium from Reculver (4)

has been submitted to Dr. F. Oswald, B.A., D.Sc., F.S.A., who reports upon it as follows :

“ Form 43. A large fragment of this rather unusual form was found on the beach below Reculver, Kent, from a landslip of the Roman fort of REGVLBIVM. The glaze is good and there is a large overhanging convex flange, and an internal swollen rim, but there are no fluted rills

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on the exterior of the bowl, as in the later and Antonine examples of Form 43 at Rheinabern (O. & P., LXXIII, 4-7). The footstand is unfortunately missing and therefore cannot contribute to the more exact date of the bowl. The interior is slightly rilled with much very fine quartz sand.

“It may with much probability be dated as of Domitian-Trajan age, c. A.D. 100.”

(2) DARTFORD

Three Roman coins, which may have formed part of a hoard, have recently been found by Messrs. Malcolm Ogilvy and Roger Norton in the garden of the former at Temple Hill, Dartford (548757 Nat. Grid.). These coins were submitted to the Department of Coins and Medals in the British Museum, who report as follows :

Coin No. 1. As.

Obv. : Bust of Trajan, laureate, bare with slight drapery on l. shoulder, r.

IMP CAES NERVAE TRAIANO AVG GER DAC PM
TRP COS V PP.

Rev. : Legionary eagle between two standards.

SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI.

S. C l. and r. in field.

Issued A.D. 104-111.

Ref. C.579 ; BMC III, p. 200, No. 946A.

Coin No. 2. As.

Obv. : Bust of Domitian, laureate, bare r.

IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM COS XIII CENS PER PP.

Rev. : Moneta, stg. l., holding scales and cornucopiae.

A.D. 87.

Ref. C.329 ; BMC II, p. 387, No. 402.

Coin No. 3. As.

Obv. : Bust of Domitian, laureate, bare r.

IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM COS XII(?) CENS PER PP.

Rev. : Virtus draped, helmeted stg. r., l. foot set on helmet, holding vertical spear in r. hand and parazonium upright in l.

VIRTVTI AVGVSTI.

S C l. and r. in field.

A.D. 86.

Ref. C.647 ; BMC II, p. 385, No. 393.

(3) LULLINGSTONE ROMAN VILLA

Excavation of the Granary has continued, confirming its late third century construction. More precise dating of the Bath Block is being

checked by cutting a section behind it running deep into the hillside. This has also revealed that the builders cut a plateau out of the underlying chalk upon which to place their first house. This trench was a very big job whose successful outcome is entirely due to the enthusiasm and skill of our team of heavy diggers under the command of Mr. B. L. Macrory.

The new site museum has been of great interest to visitors during the season, and instruction and lecturing has been throughout in the able hands of Mr. R. J. Rook.

G. W. MEATES.

A ROMANO-BRITISH HOUSE AT ORPINGTON

Map Reference 51/46, 454658.

This house, in part excavated by the writer in 1927, has not yet been described and probably cannot be, because of the many untoward circumstances associated with it.

It was first brought to the notice of various archæological societies by correspondents who described the deliberate destruction of massive walls, and the looting of the site by casual visitors, and a subsequent visit to the area confirmed that thick walls had been destroyed by the contractor to provide hard core and that souvenir hunters had caused much other damage. There was undoubtedly the remnant of an early building of Roman date here, but all that remained untouched was a small triangular area 50 ft. by 50 ft. by 70 ft., i.e., about 140 square yards, that might repay examination. By means of funds supplied by some of these societies and private donations, excavation was commenced and the remains of a corridor house with some heated rooms over a hypocaust were revealed, together with floors of plain plaster and tesserae. A preliminary plan was made by the district council's surveyor and photographs taken, but once again owing to newspaper publicity the site was invaded over the week-end and practically everything destroyed. Any further excavation was impossible and the site was abandoned to the contractors.

It can, however, be stated that the original house was not less than a hundred feet long and about fifty feet from front to back and it may originally have extended into the area now covered by the railway goods yard, but if so, this part must have been destroyed many years earlier when the yard was laid out. Dating material was chiefly pottery, much of which was removed to the council offices but cannot now be traced. Some in the writer's possession, together with recollections of other fragments found, would place the period of occupation within the second and third centuries, and that from the abundance of wood ash on the site the upper part of the house may have been of wood and

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destroyed by fire. A certain amount of painted plaster from the walls was found but not sufficient to make a comparison with the Lullingstone house a profitable study. There was also evidence of a pre-Roman (Iron Age) occupation of part of the site.

F.C.E.-E.

FURTHER EXCAVATIONS AND REPAIR AT LESNES ABBEY, KENT

The excavations at Lesnes Abbey carried out by the London County Council under the direction of the writer and the supervision of the Ministry of Works have this year been directed to a further clearance of the dormitory undercroft and the repair and preservation of the chapter house. This latter presented many problems, and the solution of them may provoke controversy, though it is difficult to see how the work could have been done otherwise. In the last report mention was made of the uncovering of a double bank of seats round the interior walls of the chapter house. These, of course, are quite normal, though at Lesnes there was a possibility that these were of late construction and inserted for some function such as the installation of a new abbot or an important visitation. Further examination, however, this year made it clear that these benches were much earlier, though still later than the main fabric. Their construction was not very substantial, consisting of a low retaining wall to support the seating, behind which was a filling of pure sandy clay or at times building debris. All seating, whether it was of marble slabs, wood or tiles, had gone. This construction was ample for a building possessing a roof, but when it came to preserving these features within roofless walls and exposed to the ravages of rain and frost, it was clear that something more weather-resistant was necessary. Last year's work ended, therefore, with a trial reconstruction of the south-west corner of the chapter house in rag rubble. Thus it was left to the fierce blasts of winter weather and official criticism. It survived both, the former better than the latter, but no alternative was forthcoming, so it was proposed to continue the work this year. But further clearing of this benching and its adjacent walls in preparation for reconstruction revealed another disconcerting factor, viz., that the seats at the east end were at a higher level (about 1 ft. 4 in.) than those at the west, this being confirmed by the plaster levels on the remaining walls. This discovery called for a reconsideration of the whole question of the chapter house arrangements, for no parallel example of this change in seat level could be instanced. Lesnes Chapter House is a large one (51 ft. by 26 ft.) and could easily accommodate a hundred persons. Considering that the total number of inmates was never more than twelve, normal chapter meetings could only have occupied a small part of this large room. It has already been

established that there was no passage over the chapter house to the church, so the whole was probably vaulted to its full height throughout in three bays, as shown on the plan in Clapham's "Lesnes Abbey." It is, therefore, quite in order to imagine that the western of these three bays might easily have formed a vestibule, while the two eastern compartments formed the Chapter House proper. No structural features to confirm this were found except some capitals probably from vaulting shafts (these are now in the V. and A. Museum).

In this connection the change in seat level may be of importance. The high level seating can be traced westwards from the east end for some thirty feet or more while the lower level seats extend from the west end fifteen or sixteen feet eastwards. This seems to point to a meeting spot about 17 ft. from the west end, i.e., one-third the total length, or one bay of the triple vaulted roof.

This solution has been adopted and the change in seat level has been made to coincide with the end of the first bay. What was the nature of the demarcation between vestibule and Chapter House cannot be said, nor can anything definite be laid down about the means of access from the one part to the other. A screen of wood, perhaps removable for important and crowded functions, can be visualized, with a few steps up from one level to the other, but in view of the fact that nothing at all remains of these details it is proposed to turf the whole of the interior at the proper levels, connecting them by a grass ramp. Thus the levels which are certain will be indicated and doubtful matters eliminated.

F.C.E.-E.

SITTINGBOURNE : PORCELLANITE AXE

The Gloucester Museums Committee has recently transferred to Maidstone Museum¹ a small polished axe from Sittingbourne, probably of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date. Its measurements are :

Length (maximum)	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.
Breadth (maximum).. .. .	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

This axe, whilst in the possession of Gloucester Museum, was submitted for petrological identification to the Sub-Committee set up by the South-Western Group of Museums. The material was established as a porcellanite which occurs in screes on the slopes of Tievebullagh Hill, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Cushendall, County Antrim. The axe, therefore, comes under group IX of the South-Western Group's classification and is numbered 189 in the list attached to its First Report, published in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, VII, N.S. (1941), p. 64.

L. R. A. GROVE.

¹ Accession number 24.1954. It was given to Gloucester Museum by the late Mr. F. Sessions in October, 1918, and was there registered as number 325.

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TWO BRONZE SOCKETED AXES FROM WEST PECKHAM

A recent addition to the Maidstone Museum collections¹ is a bronze socketed axe found in 1950 by the donor, Mr. M. T. Lye, of Loose, whilst ploughing. The find-spot was approximately 1,750 feet south-east by east of Oxenhoath, West Peckham.²

Description :

Length	4 in.
Greatest width of cutting edge	1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.
External width of socket rim (maximum) ..	1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.
Maximum width of socket	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

The patina, blue-green in colour, is fairly even but broken near the cutting edge and slightly damaged on one face where the plough scraped. There is a small hole, $\frac{1}{8}$ in. in diameter, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. below the loop. On one side of the socket rim an excrescence of bronze projects $\frac{1}{8}$ in. for a length of about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. A similar shaped axe from Burham was figured by the present writer in *Arch. Cant.*, LXII, p. 144, No. 4.

An axe of similar proportions, formerly in the Fenton Collection, has recently been purchased for Maidstone Museum by the Museum's Auxiliary Fund.³ It is described as "a socketed axe from the sea at Whitstable." The river mouth attribution is supported by the dark-brown patina, broken in several places, and by the presence of the remains of marine bryozoa within the socket.

Description :

Length	4 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.
Width of cutting edge (maximum)	2 in.
External width of socket rim (maximum) ..	1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.
Maximum width of socket	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

On both faces of the axe there are four shallow grooves which give the appearance of forming three main, flat central ribs, bordered by two subsidiary ones at the sides. A similar example is figured in Jessup's *The Archaeology of Kent*, Plate V, No. 1, from Aylesford.⁴

L. R. A. GROVE.

A ROMAN CREMATION BURIAL AT BRISHING COURT, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, NEAR MAIDSTONE

In May, 1953, Mr. W. V. Skinner reported to the Maidstone Museum the discovery of a Roman cremation burial at Brishing Court, Boughton

¹ Accession number 44.1954.

² O.S. 6 in. *Kent Sheet*, XLI, S.W. National Grid reference 51/635519.

³ Accession number 85.1953.

⁴ See also the examples given by Evans in *Ancient Bronze Implements*, pp. 117-121.

Monchelsea, near Maidstone.¹ The hill on the north side of the stream at this point had been bull-dozed of topsoil and loam before the underlying Kentish ragstone could be quarried, and the bull-dozer had removed all but the bottom of the burial pit, which was 18 inches in diameter. The following pottery vessels were recovered from the burial pit²:

- (1) Fragments of a large cinerary urn.
- (2) A "rough cast" beaker of white fabric covered with a black slip. Cf. *Richborough III*, types 300 and 301.
- (3) A flagon of soft red fabric with a pronounced lip and scored lines, probably incipient rings, around the neck.
- (4) A dish of Samian ware, form Drag. 18, with the stamp (?) IVLIC.O. Iuliccus was a potter of Lézoux working at the end of the first century and the beginning of the second.

The burial, which may be dated to about A.D. 100, is undoubtedly to be connected with the building which was discovered in 1844 on the south bank of the stream, some 30 to 40 yards away.³ The burial also lies only a few yards south of the conjectured line of the Roman Road from Maidstone to Lympne,⁴ but no trace of this road has come to light during the clearing of the topsoil in the area.

ALAN WARHURST.

SOUTHBOROUGH: POLISHED FLINT AXE

In February, 1954, Mr. Sidney H. Loweth, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., then Kent County Architect, deposited with Maidstone Museum an excellent example of a polished flint axe (see Fig.).

It was found during excavations necessary for laying the foundations of the new Secondary School at Southborough.⁵ The find-spot is approximately 500 feet due east of the swimming bath behind the U.D.C. Offices (O.S. 6 in. *Kent Sheet*, LX, N.E.; National Grid reference 51/584421), at a depth of about 2 feet in Tunbridge Wells Sand and with the ground level some 390 feet above Newlyn Ordnance Datum. For these particulars we are indebted to the present County Architect, Mr. E. T. Ashley Smith, F.R.I.B.A.

The axe is made of grey flint with a grey-white patina. The flint is polished smooth on both its surfaces but in places it retains remains

¹ O.S. 6 in. *Kent Sheet*, LII, N.E.—100 yards east of where the road, which runs past Brishing Court to Cock Street, crosses the stream, and 11 yards north of the stream. National Grid reference 7798.5155.

² Maidstone Museum accession number 68.1954.

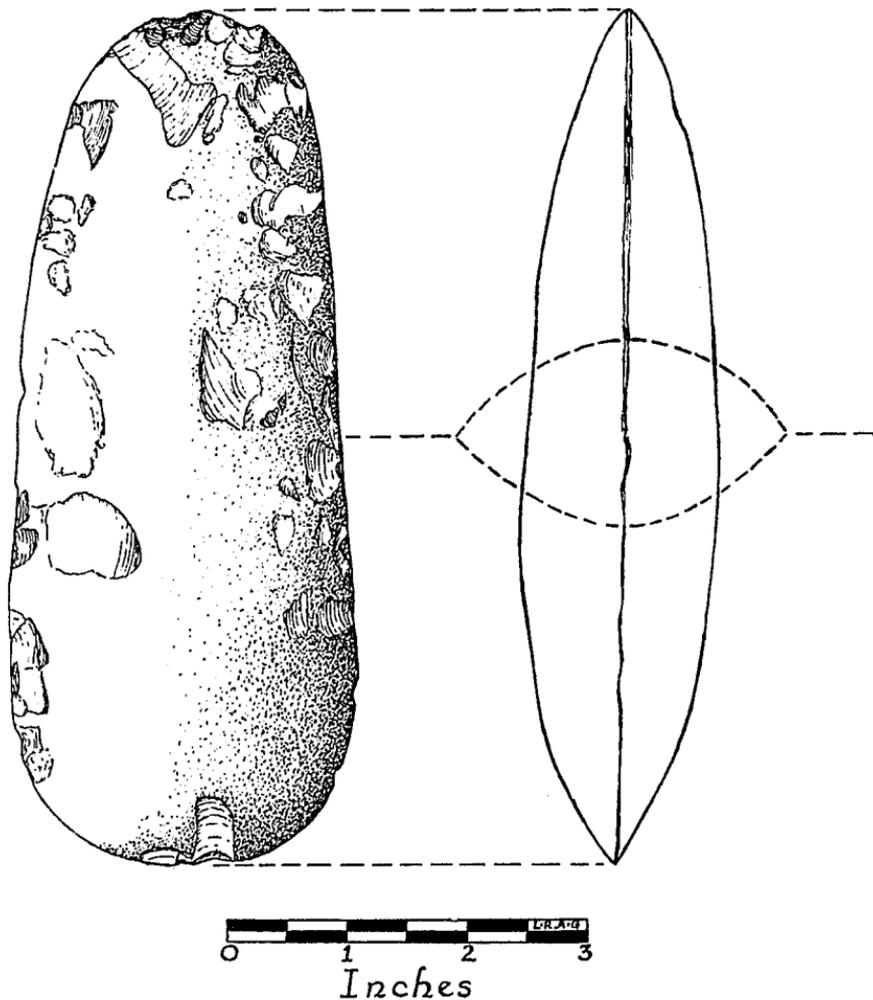
³ Maidstone Museum. *Clement Taylor Smythe Coll.*, Vol. V, pp. 86-96.

⁴ I.D. Margary, *Arch. Cant.*, LIX, pp. 34 and 36.

⁵ Kent Education Committee Reference—R.6, Southborough U.D.C., The Ridgeway Site.

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of the original flaking where this was deeper than the intended profile. This fact is betrayed by the complete absence of bulbar cavity on those scars which are situated away from the edge of the axe. In one place



Southborough—Polished Flint Axe

there remains a shallow depression— $\frac{1}{8}$ in. deep and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter—of original cortex. The cutting edge has been defaced on one side by a $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. long flake struck, probably at a recent date, from the cutting edge up the centre of the axe (on opposite face to that shown in the

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figure). The polished surface still retains the original striations of the grinding process.

Dimensions :	Length	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.
	Greatest breadth	3 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.

L. R. A. GROVE.
ALAN WARHURST.

ROMAN REMAINS : HIGHAM MARSHES

In May, 1953, my attention was drawn to a site in Higham Marshes from which fragments of Roman coarse ware were being obtained. The site was about 150 yards west of the northern end of Higham Common Causeway, and south of the sea-wall (National Grid Ref. 70157505). Here mechanical diggers were cutting a wide trench in the marsh in order to win clay to repair the sea-wall. In the south side of this trench was observed a wide band of peat whose top lay some three feet below the level of the marsh which is here about 7 feet above N.O.D. Sherds of coarse ware, one fragment of Samian ware, and brick and tile pieces were obtained from the peat and the stratum immediately above it. From conversation with the workmen it was learned that considerable quantities of such remains were turned up by the diggers, including the rim of a large *mortarium*.

The water-logged condition of the site precluded proper examination but a Roman Occupation site associated with the Upper (Roman) peat bed was indicated.

A. F. ALLEN.