

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

COBHAM PARK EXCAVATIONS, 1960

The Society's excavations at Cobham have been resumed this season and digging took place from 19th to 23rd April and between 29th July and 12th August. A brief summary of the 1959 season's work occurred in the last volume of *Arch. Cant.* (p. 224) where mention was made of the discovery of Building II (National Grid Ref. TQ 68286930) and the associated well, both of Roman age. This year efforts have been concentrated on tracing the layout of Building I, indications of which were found in trenching the earthworks in April 1959, and which lies approximately 300 yards south of Brewer's Gate—the northern entrance to Cobham Park from Watling Street (A2).

The results have exceeded our expectations, for Building I has been revealed as a corridor villa, 127 feet long and containing ten or more rooms. At its S.E. end the building has been cut through by the digging of a wide ditch which follows the boundary fence separating the wooded Pleasure Ground from the field to its west. This may have been done several centuries ago and no record exists of the destruction. On the east side of the fence, in line with the main building, we found the walls of a furnace-room and part of the brick-lined flue connected with a hypocaust formerly existing on the line of the ditch. Painted wall plaster and window glass occurred near this point and it is thought it may have come from a bathhouse attached to the S.E. end of the villa. A coin of Severus Alexander (A.D. 222-235) was found in association.

The main range of rooms comprising the original house, lying approximately N.W.—S.E., was flanked on its N.E. side by a corridor, and received additions at its N.W. end in a later period.

Pottery indicates occupation of the site from the first to the fourth century, but some of the earliest material may relate to a settlement before the villa was built. Stamps on Samian ware bear the names of two early potters, LOGIRNUS (Flavian) and CARANTINUS (75-110). The earliest coin is of Faustina II (A.D. 161-176), and the latest of Constantius II, a barbarous copy of FEL TEMP REPARATIO introduced in 354.

The hoard of 836 fourth-century coins found in 1883 was not much more than 100 yards S.W. of the villa, and our recent discovery fulfils the prophecy made then by Roach Smith in his account (*Arch. Cant.*, XV, p. 323) where he remarked that the owner of the coins probably

had his dwelling near the spot where he buried them and that accident might one day bring to light the remains of his house.

That the plan of a building of this size has been traced in three weeks without the help of hired labour is sufficient indication of the strenuous efforts made by our volunteer diggers, some of whom came from afar, while others made the daily journey from Rochester and Gravesend by means of the infrequent and unpredictable public transport service. Mrs. N. Piercy Fox, F.S.A., kindly lent equipment and Mrs. B. de Seyssel transported it to and from Cobham. A carefully measured plan of the villa has been made by Mr. H. A. James. To these and all our other helpers, whose names are too numerous for individual mention in this short note, I would express my gratitude for their loyal support.

Cobham Hall and Park were sold last year by Lord Darnley to the Ministry of Works. This includes the field where the villa lies and which was until recently rough pasture. Now it has been let by the Ministry to a local farmer who was lately brought it under cultivation. He kindly consented to our digging this year in a limited area occupied by the villa, but it is unlikely that we shall have further opportunity of extending our researches there next season.

It is hoped that a detailed account of the discoveries will appear in the next volume of *Arch. Cant.*

P. J. TESTER.

#### JACOBEOAN WALL-PAINTING AT TAYLOR HOUSE, EDENBRIDGE

Taylor House, in the High Street of Edenbridge (nearly opposite the Crown Inn), is named after Sir William Taylour, a native of Edenbridge who was Lord Mayor of London in 1469 and died in 1483 (*Arch. Cant.*, XXI, 101-2). The house retains many 15th-century features, but was much altered in the Tudor and Jacobean periods.

The two painted plaster panels (shown at Plate II) were uncovered in a first-floor room during redecoration, and are apparently all that remains of a series which must once have covered all the walls of the room. Local opinion holds that the left-hand panel commemorates a visit by Queen Elizabeth to Hever Castle; but in fact there can be little doubt that it illustrates an episode from the Apocrypha story of Judith and Holophernes. Judith, in early Jacobean day-dress, is about to enter the tent of Holophernes, while the latter—a gallant-looking gentleman in "copintank" headdress—stands behind. Near him is a group of soldiers with spears representing an army. At the top of the same panel are the words ". . . unto him In his tent and Immediately he was in love . . ." This wording does not exactly follow the Book of Judith, XII, 16, either in the Authorized or pre-Authorized versions, which is not surprising, since the biblical wording would have been



Excavation in progress.



Brick jamb at entrance to hypocaust.  
ROMAN VILLA IN COBHAM PARK.



Wall painting, on plaster, depicting the arms of James I and part of the story of Judith and Holophernes. Uncovered at Taylor House, Edenbridge. Painted between 1610 and 1620.

too long for the space available to the painter. Hence his own idiomatic condensation, the sentence being a continuation from the preceding panel (now missing). The complete sentence would probably have read : " Judith came unto him In his tent and Immediately he was in love ".

The panel on the right depicts a royal coat-of-arms which are clearly those of James I. They are supported by the Lion and the Unicorn (the latter did not appear in royal arms of England before the Union) and are surmounted by the royal crest, above which is a crown surmounted by a lion *gardant*. The shield is quartered, 1 and 4 being quartered again with, 1 and 4, three fleur-de-lis ; 2 and 3, three lions *passant*. The remaining two quarters of the shield (2 and 3) contain a lion rampant and an Irish harp respectively.

The evidence of costume indicates a date between 1610 and 1620. Certain inconsistent features suggest that the painter was working from a pattern-book already ten years old, and that he added certain details such as the " copintank " to make the finished work appear up-to-date.

It is not known who occupied Taylor House during James I's reign. The presence of the royal arms suggests that it was a royal warrant-holder, possibly a Justice of the Peace.

JOHN IRWIN.

NOTE ON A 7TH-CENTURY KENTISH BROOCH

A somewhat unusual brooch has recently come to light in the collections of the Royal Museum, Canterbury (R.M. 2177), Fig. 1. It is illustrated in the unpublished manuscript of the Brent Collection,

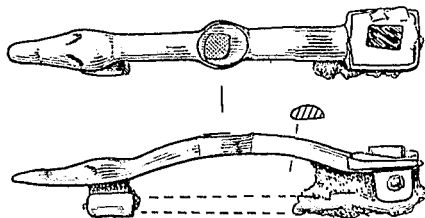


FIG. 1. Brooch in Canterbury Museum. Nat. Size.

Pl. 15 no. 16,<sup>1</sup> where its provenience is given as Faversham or Stowting. None of the publications on Stowting illustrate or mention such a brooch, and the museum collection includes material from both sites.

<sup>1</sup> In the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities, British Museum.

## DESCRIPTION

Length—2·1 inch. Bronze.

*Head plate.* Rectangular, with two bronze lugs on back for iron spring of pin. Most of pin missing, leaving mass of iron corrosion. On front of head plate rectangular setting of shell,<sup>1</sup> with central rectangular garnet (red glass ?) overlying piece of chequer-patterned gold foil. No cloison surrounds the stone.

*Bow.* Curved, expanded into disc in centre. Disc supports piece of gold foil, patterned, and presumably originally garnet, now missing.<sup>2</sup>

*Foot.* In form of Animal's or bird's head, with long, flattened snout and two slight depressions for eyes. Remains of clasp for pin beneath.

*Discussion.* This brooch is a composite of many features. In general shape and proportion it resembles a small-long or cruciform type, but differs in having the long axis of the rectangular head plate in line with the main axis, rather than at right angles to it. Its closest affinities probably rest with Leeds Class C<sup>3</sup> of square-headed brooches,

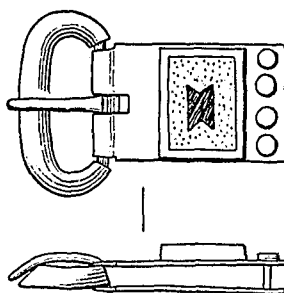


FIG. 2. Buckle from Barrow Field, Kelvedon. Nat. Size.

those with cruciform foot, and it is interesting to note that one of the Kenninghall brooches<sup>4</sup> has a lozenge-shaped setting for a garnet both on the head plate and on the upper part of the foot. The technique of setting a garnet directly into shell, without intervening cloison of gold, is not common. In the Colchester Museum is a buckle from Barrow Field, Kelvedon,<sup>5</sup> the plate of which has a raised cell containing shell, the centre of which is cut out in the shape of the rune stan and which contains a similarly shaped garnet (Fig. 2). The shape of the cell is

<sup>1</sup> Vera Evison, "The white material in Kentish disc brooches", *Antiq. Jnl.*, XXXI (1951), p. 197-8.

<sup>2</sup> The entry in the museum inventory, made c. 1903, states that a garnet is missing.

<sup>3</sup> E. T. Leeds, *A Corpus of Early Anglo-Saxon Great Square-headed Brooches*.

<sup>4</sup> E. T. Leeds, *ibid.*, no. 130.

<sup>5</sup> *Essex Naturalist*, II, p. 124. Baldwin Brown, *The Arts in Early England*, Vol. IV, p. 600. Colchester Museum, no. 170. I am grateful to the Curator for information concerning this find.



Glass Bangles from Milton Regis.

unique and must be meant as a runic reference to the garnet. Little is known about this find as there is no connected account of the excavations. Other finds from the same site include six disc brooches, one penannular brooch, a sword, spearhead and beads. Baldwin Brown suggests a date early in the seventh century for the disc brooches and the buckle.

A parallel for the animal head on the foot occurs from Kingston Down, Kent. A bronze armband from Grave 222 has, as one terminal, the same flattened, bird-like head though the lower jaw is extended and perforated to take the hook fastening the bracelet.<sup>1</sup> A key is suspended from the armband and the grave also contained two work-boxes, a hair-pin, a bronze bell, the remains of a wooden box with iron hinges and some iron nails.

It seems likely that this brooch was made in Kent during the middle or latter part of the seventh century.

JEAN M. COOK.

#### TWO GLASS BANGLES FROM MILTON REGIS

These important objects have recently been presented to the Royal Museum, Canterbury, by Mrs. Prewer of Newport, Isle of Wight, in whose possession they have been for several years. Prior to this the bangles belonged to the donor's grandfather, Henry Packham of Sittingbourne. They were found, late in the nineteenth century, in a field near Milton Regis Church, by Sittingbourne, by workmen digging for brick earth. The only record of Saxon burials here is in 1889 and is of graves found in a brick-field to the north east of Milton Regis.<sup>2</sup>

#### *Description*

- Bangle 1. (R.M.7967). Green glass, outside diameter 3·63 in., height 0·7 in. Broken in three places and small triangular chip missing. Moulded decoration in the form of parallel diagonal lines.
- Bangle 2. (R.M. 7968). Yellow-green glass, outside diameter 3·7 in., height 0·88 in. Broken in two places. Similar moulded decoration to the other but impressions are less clear.

It is not proposed to do much more than record the acquisition of these bangles here, since a fuller publication is already under preparation but it is interesting that the type is not at all common. There are

<sup>1</sup> Bryan Faussett, *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, pl. XII, no. 12, and p. 81. The editor adds a footnote saying that the "armilla and key are of Roman fabric". While this may be true of the key, there seems no reason to question the bracelet.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. (Kent)*, I, p. 374.



several different categories of glass bracelets, many found on the continent, and they occur both in Roman and Saxon contexts. There are other examples of the type represented by the Milton Regis bangles, characterized by the moulded decoration, at Carisbrooke Castle Museum,<sup>1</sup> at the Ashmolean,<sup>2</sup> and at the British Museum.<sup>3</sup>

JEAN M. COOK.

EXCAVATIONS AT RECULVER, 1958. By BRIAN J. PHILP, A.C.C.S.

*Reculver Excavation Group : Second Research Report*

*Introduction*

Following the work by the Group in 1957,<sup>4</sup> and earlier work by the writer,<sup>5</sup> attention was turned in 1958 to the south-west corner of the Roman fort.

Permission to excavate on two sites, both on private ground near to the King Ethelbert Inn, was kindly given by Mr. A. Hollis.

Work commenced on 6th September, 1958 and by the 14th both sites had been levelled and restored to their former state. In all, 22 members of the Group assisted with the work and particular thanks are due to Mrs. A. Gough ; Misses V. Self and A. Gaunt ; and Messrs. H. E. Gough, M. L. Kellaway, A. O. Lewington, C. Terry, D. Mould, D. Garrod, and J. Swale, for their sustained efforts. Mr. D. Hicks must again be thanked for his co-operation on the site and Mr. B. Kewell and Mr. C. Roadnight for their work on the plans and section.

*Description of the Excavations*

S.W. Corner of the Fort (Fig. 3)

This area lies immediately to the east of the King Ethelbert Inn on waste ground forming the scarp of the low hill upon which the fort was built. The object of the work at this point was to determine the position of the south-west corner and the adjoining section of the south wall. Mr. F. H. Thompson, working on the site in 1951,<sup>6</sup> had supposed that the south wall had followed the top of the scarp on the line of the Coast-guard Station fence.

*The Fort Wall*

Only a portion of the south-west corner was found the remainder having been destroyed by robbing. That surviving was sufficient to

<sup>1</sup> From an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Chessell Down, Isle of Wight.

<sup>2</sup> From Chatham Lines, Kent. No record of whether from cemetery or not.

<sup>3</sup> From an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Malling Hill, Lewes, Sussex.

<sup>4</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXXIII (1959), 96.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, LXXI (1957), 167. *Ibid.*, LXXII (1958), 190.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, LXVI (1953), 52.

PLATE IV



S.W. corner of fort. Surviving portion of Internal buttress (fort wall above)

PLATE V



S.W. corner of fort. Joint (behind pole) of buttress and wall (falling away to left)

prove that the rounded-corner would originally have extended under part of the present Inn and also over part of the present road (Fig. 1). The wall was found to be composed of flint and ragstone, as noted elsewhere, bonded with a white mortar. No tiles had been incorporated. Only the lower two feet of the wall had survived here including the bottom (internal) offset, 15 inches wide, above a pebble footing. The remnant of the wall had itself moved outwards some 13 inches causing part of the offset to crumble. Owing to the severe robbing and subsequent weathering the related stratification had been totally destroyed, but it was calculated that the wall's footing-trench would have been about three feet in depth.

#### *The Buttress (Plate IV)*

A large flint and ragstone mass was unexpectedly encountered inside and against the corner of the fort wall. This was 5 feet wide and survived to a maximum height of 38 inches, following the inside face of the fort wall for 46 inches, where its robbed edge coincided with the robbed edge of the fort wall. Originally this may have followed the wall-face for up to 10 feet, increasing in width as the wall curved outwards. Most of the facing-stones were of ragstone and its north face had been mortared. A 9-inch wide offset had been built on its inward side, thus matching the offset on the fort wall. It had not, however, been built at the same time as the fort wall as the joint between the two could clearly be seen (Plate V), and the pebble footing was lacking. When built it had overlapped the existing wall offset but its similarity to the wall implies that it was perhaps added before the fort was completed.

The exact function of this mass of masonry is not clear. It is difficult to reconcile it with the conventional angle-turret (unless it was the base), and the likelihood of it being an internal *ballistarium-platform* is doubtful. More probably the steepness of the hill behind the wall at this point necessitated the thickening of the corner and the buttress was added. An examination of the remaining (south-east) corner might provide the correct solution.

#### *Wall Robbing*

Over half of the south-west corner and most of its internal buttress were missing, the edge of the rob being quite apparent. The wall on the south side does not appear for another 153 feet and probing failed to find any trace of it. Indeed the present ground level is roughly where the footings should be, and it must be concluded that this long section has also been robbed.

It is interesting to note that this portion is the only part of the wall which is missing (other than that lost to the sea), and is situated

next to one of the roads leading from the site. The implication is that the robbing was for a building away from the site and the Manor of Ford,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles away in this direction, may have been built of materials from this source. Certainly the church at Birchington ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles) was built of materials from Reculver as references in the church-records testify. One particular account<sup>1</sup> dated 1584, under the heading "Reculver Stone", records the work of four masons and four other men on the site for several days. In addition the costs of the stones, their carriage and of the hire of a horse and a pasture for the horse are recorded.

### SECTION 3<sup>2</sup> (Figs. 4 and 5).

A trench 75 feet in length was dug at right-angles to the south wall of the fort, at a point 135 feet from the south-west corner, in order to examine the extra-mural defences at this point.

#### *The Fort Ditch*

Evidence from air-photographs,<sup>3</sup> indicates the presence of two ditches though no trace now survives on the ground. Section 3 however, revealed only one. This in its wasted state was 20 feet wide and 50 in. deep, leaving a berm about 20 ft. wide. The ground-level here has been considerably reduced and clearly these are not the original dimensions. The profile of the ditch too has probably altered owing to the loose nature of the Thanet Sand, into which it was dug.

The ditch was filled with a light brown earth and contained several Roman potsherds including a late-second century Samian Form 37 (rim) from near the bottom. Several large ragstone blocks in the upper filling may date to the 1584 wall-rob.

#### *Medieval Boundary-wall*

A small flint wall 12 inches wide and surviving to a height of 3 inches crossed the trench. It was bonded with white cement and contained a small piece of Roman tile. Several medieval potsherds adjacent to it suggest its date and the lack of associated floors and a corresponding return wall indicates it to be a low boundary wall. It is thought to extend much further to the west.

#### *The Marsh Edge*

Just south of the flint wall the natural sand dropped some 3 feet onto a thick bed of estuarine mud. It is thought that this marked

<sup>1</sup> J. P. Barrett, *A History of the Villa of Birchington*, 61.

<sup>2</sup> The section cut by Mr. Thompson in 1951 is regarded as Section 1, and that examined in 1957 by the Group as Section 2.

<sup>3</sup> Aerofilms No. 531.

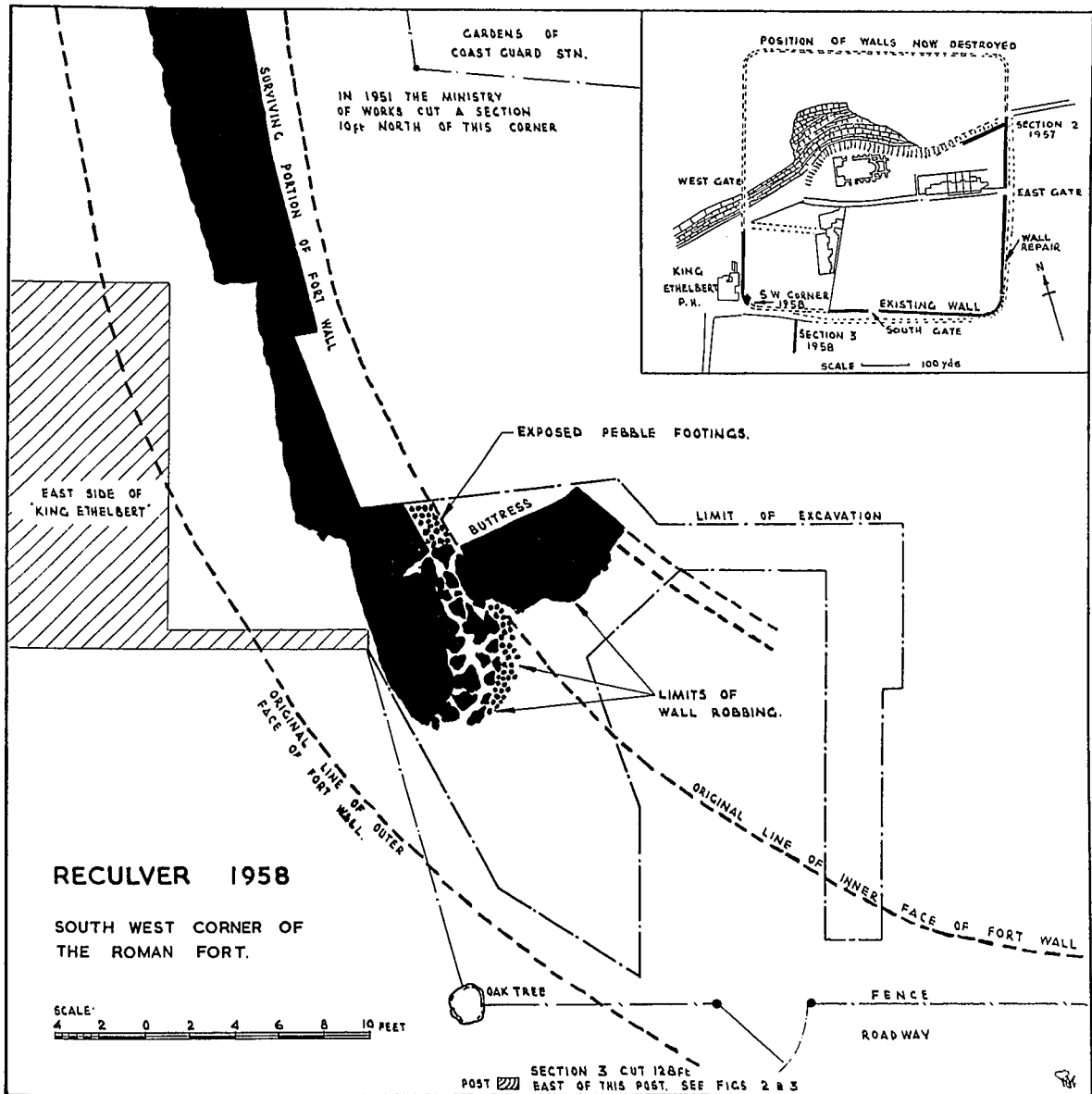


FIG. 3. Reculver 1958. S.W. Corner of Roman Fort. (Inset) Site Plan.

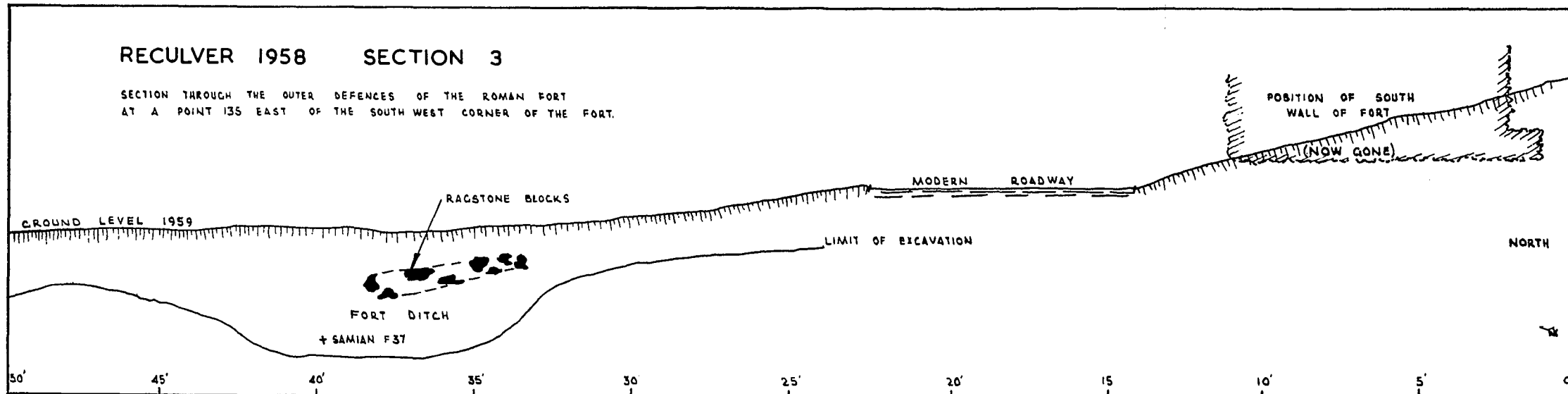


FIG. 4. Reculver 1958. Section 3.

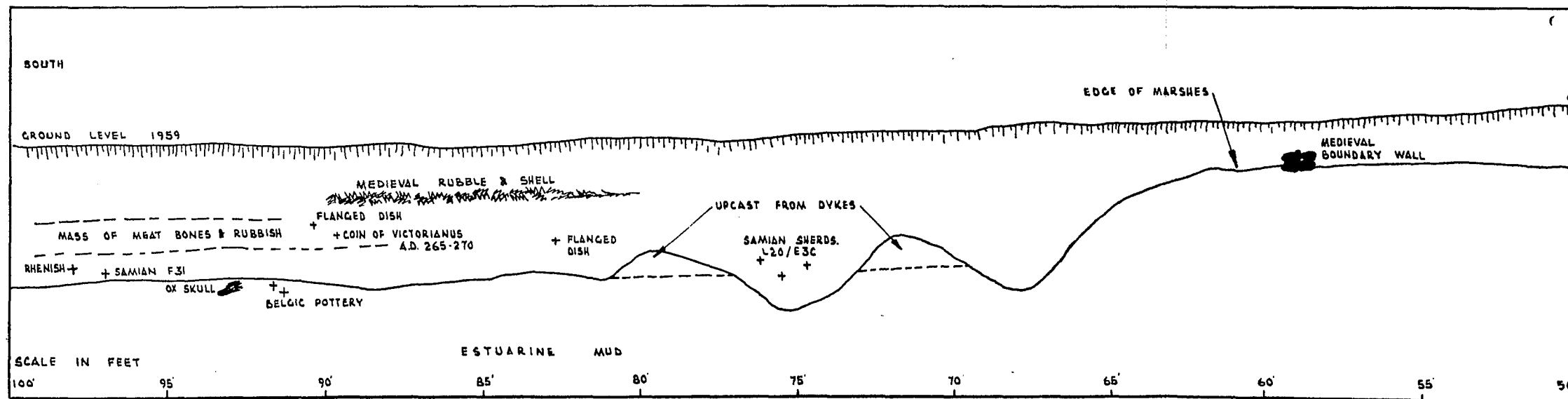


FIG. 5. Reculver 1958. Section 3.

the limits of the inlet and marsh which extended from the Wantsome Channel to cover the large low-lying area south of the fort. The Geological Drift map<sup>1</sup> supports this view showing the point to be the junction of the present-day Alluvium and the Thanet Sand. Thus the absence of a second ditch at this point is explained, the marsh levels providing the additional protection.

### *The Dykes*

Two small ditches had been dug into the mud, probably in Roman times, at the very edge of the marsh. These are interpreted as drainage-dykes, the upcast from which could be detected in the section. Only one contained pottery, three sherds of late-second/early-third century Samian.

### *Ground Build-up*

At the end of the trench the blue-green estuarine mud was found at a depth of 53 inches, roughly corresponding to the water-level in adjacent modern dykes. No clear demarcation existed in the build-up above the mud, other than a medieval rubble and shell band. In the top of the mud a complete Ox skull and two sherds of Belgic pottery were recovered, certainly suggesting the existence of the marsh still at that date. In the 9 inches of tacky soil above this were several potsherds and debris dated by a sherd of Rhenish and another of Samian to c. A.D. 200, representing the first stage of the build-up. The next 16 inches contained a mass of animal (meat) bones,<sup>2</sup> oysters, tile fragments and sherds of pottery (including flanged dishes) dating to the late-third and fourth centuries. A damaged coin of VIC-TORINUS, A.D. 265-70 came from the same level. The marsh, being so close to the fort, had served for the convenient disposal of rubbish and this accounts for the rapid build-up during the Roman period.

### CONCLUSION

The position of the south-west corner of the fort was determined and the robbing (very probably in 1584), of a large part of this and a long section of the south wall confirmed. A buttress of flint and rag-stone, probably contemporary with the fort wall, was found to support the inside corner. No stratified material was recovered and thus no help regarding the dating of the construction of the fort was obtained.

The outer defences at this point consisted of a single ditch, additional protection being given by the nearby marshy inlet. Two

<sup>1</sup> Sheet 273. Faversham.

<sup>2</sup> Sheep (12), Pig (5), Ox (6).

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

small dykes probably helped to retain flood-waters. The few finds from Section 3 do not constitute conclusive evidence but certainly material of c. A.D. 200 came from the lower levels and corresponds with the Phase I settlement. Material of the late-third/fourth centuries came from slightly higher levels equating with the Phase II occupation.

The marsh reached this point at least as late as Belgic times and was certainly rapidly filled during the Roman period.

The flint wall, rubble and pottery all of Medieval date indicate use of the site during that period.

### APPENDIX I

#### *Recent coin finds at Reculver*

1. HADRIAN. A.D. 117-138. Sestertius. Beach find, 1956.
2. FAUSTINA Senior. d. A.D. 141. Sestertius. Beach find, 1956.
3. FAUSTINA Senior. (Postumus) c. A.D. 142. Sestertius. Beach find, 1956.
4. SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS. A.D. 193-211. Denarius. Beach find 1956.
5. SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS. A.D. 193-211. Denarius. Beach find 1956.
6. GORDIAN III. A.D. 238-244. Antoninianus. Beach find 1958.
7. VALERIAN. A.D. 254-60. Antoninianus. Exposed west wall section 1958.
8. VICTORINUS. A.D. 265-70. Antoninianus. Section 3, 1958.

Nos. 1-5 are in the possession of Mr. R. Chaplin of Rochester who kindly supplied the details.

### A ROMANO-BRITISH VILLA SITE AT SWARLING

#### *Discovery*

The site was discovered from the air on the 15th July, 1959, by the writer whilst undertaking an aerial-survey<sup>1</sup> of certain archæological sites in Kent. The exceptionally dry Summer favoured such work and had produced a particularly interesting group of crop-marks in a field south of Canterbury. The marks, appearing as white lines on the ground and suggestive of buried walls, disclosed a large rectangular enclosure with a much smaller enclosure on its south side. An oblique photograph taken at the time confirmed this and suggested that the larger enclosure might be about 230 by 230 feet and the smaller perhaps 60 by 40 feet.

The field was located on the ground on 16th September when it was found to be under pasture. The field, of about 23 acres, formed

<sup>1</sup> With thanks to Mr. I. Moores for his kind co-operation.



part of Swarling Manor Farm and the owner Mr. A. J. Collard readily agreed to a preliminary investigation being made.

No finds had been recorded as coming from the field but large quantities of flints had recently been removed.

### *The Site (Fig. 6)*

The site (N.G.R. 61/135.534) lies on the upper slope of the north side of a steep and wide valley immediately to the south of Iffin Wood.<sup>1</sup> The centre of the larger enclosure was about 325 feet O.D. and the whole was sited on the Upper Chalk.

The Roman "Stone Street", which runs from Canterbury to Lympne, passes close to the site at a distance of about 550 yards to the east. The Late-Celtic Cemetery at Swarling lies across the valley at a distance of about 1,100 yards to the south-west. The centre of Canterbury is three miles in a straight line nearly due north of the site.

### *Excavation*

In order to determine the nature of the site a brief investigation of the area was undertaken. On two days, February 29th and 1st May, 1960, a series of 24 test-holes were dug over a wide area. Assistance with the work was ably given by Messrs. M. L. Kellaway, H. E. Gough and C. Lardner, members of the Reculver Excavation Group. Nothing at all was found in most of these cuts, natural chalk being encountered at between 6 and 12 inches. Those dug and extended at the top of the field eventually struck the base of a small wall, composed of earth and flints, 24 inches wide and six inches high. Further investigation revealed this to be part of the north wall of the larger enclosure. The wall was found to have been built over and along an earlier filled ditch (Fig. 7).<sup>2</sup> The ditch was 44 inches deep and about 7 feet wide at the top, being V-shaped in section and with a flat bottom 18 inches wide.<sup>3</sup> There was no primary silting in the ditch but a 24 inch filling of chalk rubble and earth (no finds), was suggestive of a deliberate back-filling not long after the ditch had been dug. Above this had collected a layer of brown earth containing domestic rubbish. The wall had been built on this rubbish when clearly the outline of the ditch could still be seen. The ditch was traced for 215 ft. before ending abruptly but appeared to continue further on. The wall, of which only small patches remained, kept to the straight line of the ditch and apparently continued past the end for several feet. No corner

<sup>1</sup> Noted as containing an Earthwork and Tumulus.

<sup>2</sup> Section A was drawn in approximately the centre of the length of ditch traced.

<sup>3</sup> There is a marked similarity between this section and several drawn of the encircling ditch of the early Romano-British (Belgic) Settlement at Eastwood Farm, near Farningham (Unpublished).

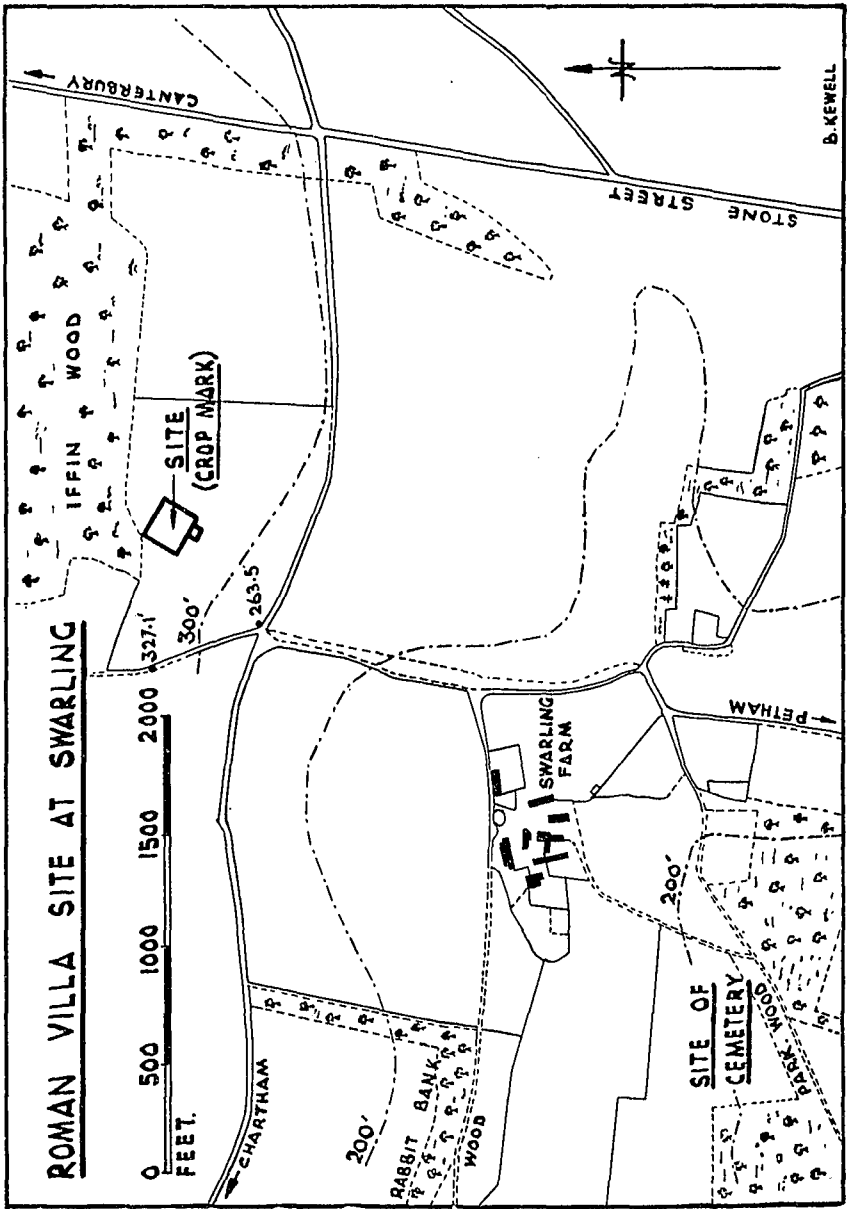


FIG. 6.

could be found but a group of flints a little to the south were taken to be the line of the east wall of the enclosure. A circular hole, 22 inches in diameter and 10 inches deep, next to the flints may have held a post. No ditch was found under the wall at this point and despite further trenching no more of this wall could be found. The north wall of the enclosure was estimated to be about 230 feet in length.

### *Finds*

A small piece of Roman roofing-tile (*tegula*) and several pot-sherds were found in association with the wall and a single potsherd and a

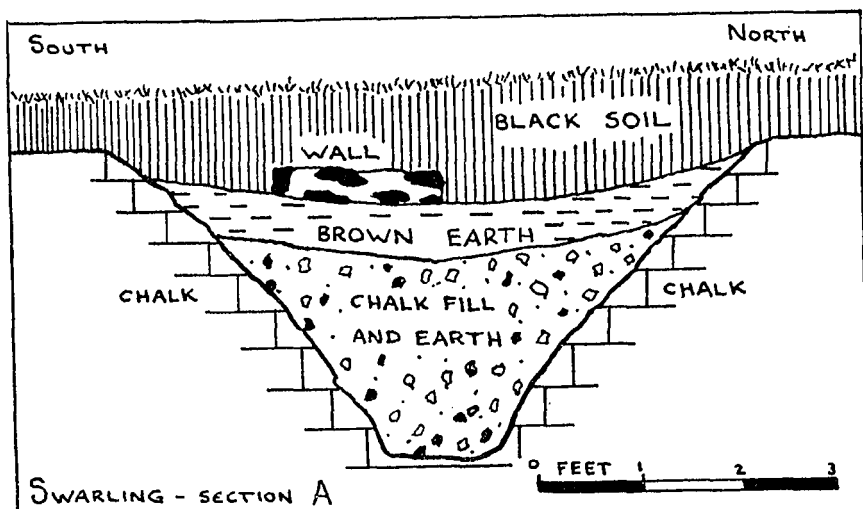


FIG. 7.

piece of bone had been built into the wall. The largest group of pottery came from the rubbish layer in Section A (brown earth). This also contained a glass bead, some 50 oysters, several pot-boilers, the bones of a dog, an ox and a sheep. The pottery from this layer and from elsewhere, not above 150 sherds in all, was Belgic in character and included the familiar combed grey and red wares and also a few Gallo-Belgic types. Exact dating on such slight evidence is unwise but the date of the finds cannot be far removed from the middle decades of the first century A.D.

### CONCLUSION

The adjacent Celtic Cemetery infers settlement in the vicinity for the whole of the Belgic period and thus discovery of Belgic pottery nearby is no surprise. The presence of Roman tile and of the walled

enclosures is certainly suggestive of a degree of Romanization and perhaps also continuity of occupation lasting at least as late as the end of the first century A.D.

The ditch clearly ante-dates the wall which was built over it. In all probability it was dug to enclose an area around a small Belgic farm-hut, ditches being a feature of such sites although the straightness is not characteristic. The ditch was soon filled and rubbish thrown in, yet whilst its outline was still clear the north wall of the enclosure was built along it, although this may have occurred many years after the filling.

The two stone enclosures, situated conveniently near to the Roman road, most probably form part of an early Romano-British Villa which had replaced a Belgic hut on the site during the middle decades of the first century A.D. The larger enclosure is well paralleled at Ditchley<sup>1</sup> where the Villa was within a stone-walled enclosure 320 by 300 feet. There a V-shaped ditch 4-6 feet deep had been dug 12 feet beyond the wall for additional protection. The Ditchley Villa, also situated on the north slope of a valley on the 400-foot contour, had been built of wood and daub in the first century A.D. but was later replaced in stone. The larger enclosure at Swarling most probably served as a boundary wall in a similar manner although the smaller enclosure could just possibly be the building itself. The analogy, however, suggests that any buildings should be within the larger enclosure but no traces of these were detected on the ground or from the air.

Clearly much more work needs to be done on this site but indications are that such work might prove singularly unrewarding. Ploughing has largely destroyed the walls and it appears that little has survived.

B. J. PHILP.

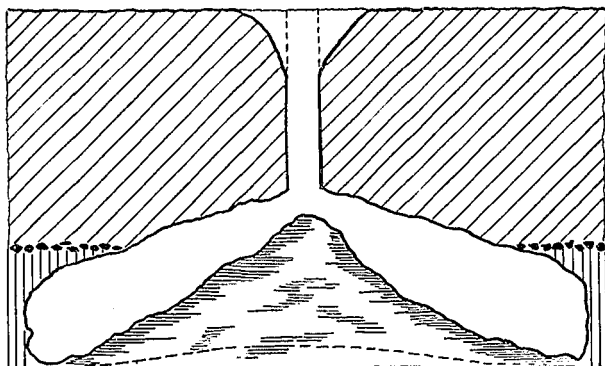
#### DENEHOLE AT BRAMLING

This denehole was discovered when heavy rain caused a subsidence in a field behind Laburnum Cottage, Bramling, about five miles east of Canterbury. A hole, roughly circular and about 12 ft. in diameter, appeared, in the centre of which was a rectangular shaft, 4 ft. 3 in. by 2 ft. 7 in. cut vertically through the brick-earth down to the chalk. Footholes had been cut in the side of the shaft.

At the bottom of the shaft appeared the apex of a pile of fallen earth, and although this was soft, it was possible to climb down the sides of the pile to reach the chambers cut into the chalk. Two main chambers had been cut from the bottom of the shaft extending in opposite directions. One, to the N.N.E., extended 29 ft. 6 in. from the





<sup>1</sup> The Roman Villa at Ditchley, Oxon, *Oxoniensia*, I (1936), 24-69.

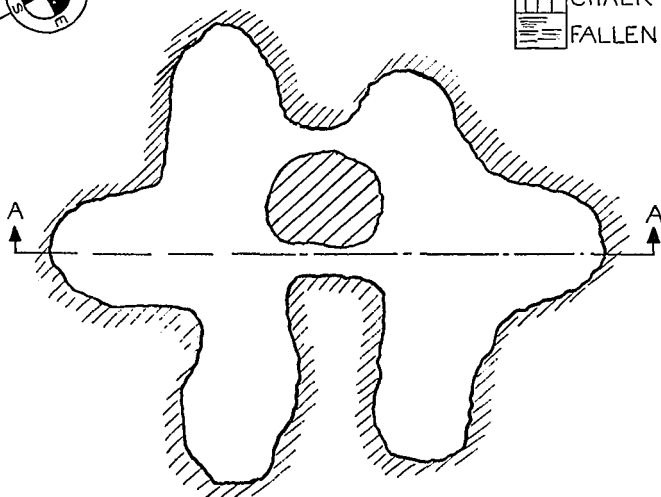
DENEHOLE  
BRAMLING



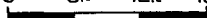
SECTION AA



-  BRICK EARTH
-  FLINTS
-  CHALK
-  FALLEN SOIL



0 6ft 12ft 18ft



BIRD  
10. 7. 60.

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centre of the shaft and that to the S.S.W. to a distance of 29 ft. The ends of these two chambers were rounded, 10 ft. wide and 10 ft. high. Although the floors were covered with fallen soil, making accurate measurements difficult, they seemed to be at a depth of 31 ft. 9 in. below ground level.

From each of these two chambers two smaller branch chambers had been dug, all four being at right angles to the N.N.E.-S.S.W. line. These extended 17, 20, 21, and 23 feet from the centre line of the main chambers. The two branch galleries to the W.N.W. had been connected by a passage in the chalk 3 ft. 6 in. wide. The plan-view of the denehole was therefore the shape of a double trefoil. The roofs of the central parts of the chamber and caves had fallen in as well as the filling of the shaft, so that only the terminal portions had the original chalk roofs. The end walls of the chambers and the roofs showed numerous pick marks, made apparently by a blade  $5\frac{1}{2}$ -6 in. long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide, slightly tapered and with a chisel-shaped point. No marks of smoke or lamp holders were seen. The floor was not excavated as it was thought to be unwise to disturb soil or to stay long in the denehole because of the danger of further falls of roof.

The form is very typical of Kentish deneholes, for of the seven which are described in detail in *Archæologia Cantiana*, five are stated to be of this double trefoil shape.

### *Geology.*

The chalk appeared at a depth of 21 ft. 3 in., and its character was consistent throughout the depth uncovered. It was of medium hardness, with some irregular block formation. Immediately above the chalk was a 3 in. layer of small flints, dark and irregular but with a tendency to tabular form. They were mostly under 3 in. in diameter. The brick-earth above this layer varied from a reddish brown colour near the surface to a greyer colour lower down. The grey lower part was compressed almost to a rocky consistency.

Our thanks are due to Mr. W. T. Champion of Ickham, in whose field the hole was situated, and to Mr. Mayes and his family, who informed us of the subsidence, and who provided a ladder and other equipment for the investigation.

D. J. R. OGLIVIE.

### EBBSFLEET : NEOLITHIC SITES

In May, and again in July and August, 1960, excavations were carried out at Neolithic sites in the valley of the Ebbsfleet, north of Springhead Nursery Gardens. Two major sites were investigated.

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Both were originally discovered by Major J. P. T. Burchell and short descriptions of their contents have been published previously. The exact position of the sites was shown by Major Burchell to the investigator, and has since been recorded in detail by the Ordnance Survey.

### *Site I* (Nat. Grid. TQ 6174 7360)

This is the site where the Ebbsfleet variety of Early Neolithic pottery was first recognized.<sup>1</sup> The 1960 excavation was undertaken in waterlogged conditions for the purpose of continuing the identification of the site and establishing more closely its position in the post-glacial stratigraphy. A fine series of detrital muds were recorded immediately underlain by a fine grey silt and a heavy Pleistocene gravel. The archaeological horizon was identified within a few inches of the base of this section and may indeed have been connected with heavy horizontally placed timbers lying immediately upon the grey silt.

Further excavations will be conducted at this site when problems of drainage have been overcome and should yield further evidence of the nature of this association.

### *Site II* (Nat. Grid. TQ 6159 7308)

The site was originally recorded by Burchell as containing two Mesolithic floors.<sup>2</sup> The uppermost of these floors was again recorded in 1960 in running water silts, and in a loam covered occupation level on the margin of the river. The stratigraphical position of the "floor", lying at the base of a series of silts and detrital muds, is strikingly similar to that at Site I approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away. When examined over a wider area than was possible by Major Burchell in 1938 this floor was found to contain a small proportion of microliths, a large collection of flint waste of markedly microlithic aspect, leaf-shaped arrowheads and fragments of coarse pottery, nearly all undecorated. It is, in fact, another Neolithic industry related to that of Site I. Associated with this industry are the bones of a number of animals including oxen provisionally identified as *Bos primigenius*.

The Ebbsfleet excavations were supported by the British Museum, the Prehistoric Society, the Society of Antiquaries and the Ministry of Works. The Paleobotanical investigation was conducted by Mr. K. Thomas of the Hatfield College of Technology and Dr. D. Walker of the Cambridge University Sub-Department of Quaternary Research. A full account of the investigation will be published in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*.

G. DE G. SIEVEKING.

<sup>1</sup> Burchell, J. P. T., and Piggott, S., *Ant. J.*, 1939, pp. 405 ff.

<sup>2</sup> Burchell, J. P. T., *Ant. J.*, 1933, pp. 397 ff.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

## (1) EYNSFORD

Once again through the good offices of Mr. Peter Tester, F.S.A., I am able to publish another medieval lead seal. It was found during the second week of October, 1956, about sixty yards north-east from Eynsford Church Vicarage (which in turn is some 150 yards north-east from Eynsford Church) during road excavation work and was lying face downwards about a foot below the topsoil. The finder, S. Richardson, Esq., of St. Mary Cray, has given the seal to Maidstone Museum (Accession No. 21.1960). It should be compared with the leaden seal from St. Mary Cray described in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXIII, p. 230.

*Description :*

Diameter,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in.

Thickness,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Inscription : + S' WILLI' FIL' THOROL' (Seal of William son of Thorold).

There is some damage on the edge by the cross of the inscription and this has caused the almost complete destruction of a small tag—used for centering the seal—on the reverse.

In the centre of the obverse is a heraldic estoile or star with six wavy rays.

L. R. A. GROVE.

## (2) HIGHAM

There has recently been given to Maidstone Museum (Accession No. 29.1960) half of a Roman mortarium found on the foreshore at Higham on the 1st December, 1957, by the donor, W. H. Brown, Esq., of Horton Kirby. It is in no way water-worn and is clearly stamped twice on the rim with the name VALENTIANVS. It is to be dated c. A.D. 70

L.R.A.G.

## (3) MAIDSTONE, CHILLINGTON HOUSE

As a result of some correspondence with Mr. J. R. B. Arthur, F.L.S., of Littlehampton what seems to be a new field of research work has been found. Mr. Arthur's detailed analysis of the contents of a piece of wall plaster cut from the porch room of Chillington Manor House, which is dated to the decade 1560 to 1570, and his conclusions from this are given below and speak for themselves. If Elizabethan plaster can give such results then a plentiful harvest (in more ways than one) can be garnered from Kent's medieval timbered houses.

L.R.A.G.

Mr. L. R. A. Grove recently placed with me some pieces of wall-plaster taken from the porch room of Chillington Manor House for examination.



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It is not unusual to find in houses of many years standing that straw was one of the ingredients used extensively to bind and consolidate in the making of wall-plaster.

Naturally with the ever decreasing number of houses of extreme age the availability of wall-plaster is quickly disappearing. It may be asked why it is necessary or desirable to examine material of this kind, or agreed that no great importance can be attached to what was a very common-place building material at that time. But having obtained this plaster made by a technique now probably forgotten, I have been presented with an opportunity to analyse the straw of cereal plants preserved in this manner for four hundred years.

The straw has been chopped into small pieces before being used in building, the largest being 17 mm. in length. If this straw can be said to represent a growing crop—and I see no reason why this should not be so—then it is certainly of interest to the agricultural botanist to know the nature of the crop.

After careful separation of the straw it became clear that a particular field had been primarily wheat with rye as the main adulterant as well as barley and oats being present in the crop. Another interesting fact has emerged, showing that the threshing operation had not been very successful as the straw contained spikelets of wheat and grains of rye, barley and oats, which was fortunate from my point of view. Botanical observations on the cereals have been made as follows :

WHEAT	<i>T. turgidum</i> L.	
	Variety ;	Red Smooth Rivet.
	Straw ;	Yellowish colour, solid or completely filled with pith.
	Rachis of the ear ;	Length, 2·8-4·0 mm. Width, 1·5-2·5 mm.
	Chaff ;	Smooth. Red and awns red.
	Empty glume ;	Glabrous. Length, 7·0-8·0 mm. Width, 3·3-4·0 mm.
	Beak ;	Acute, 1 mm. in length.
RYE	<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	
	Grain ;	Small to medium size.
	Rachis of the ear ;	Length, 2·7 mm. Width, 1·0 mm.
OAT	<i>Avena sativa</i>	
	Grain ;	Length, 9·5 mm. Width, 4·0 mm. The extreme tip of the lemma of the Oat had gone.

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BARLEY *Hordeum* sp.

Grain ;	Length, 7·0 mm.
	Width, 3·0 mm.
Rachis of the ear ;	Length, 3·3 mm.
	Width, 1·0 mm.

There was not sufficient evidence to show for a certainty if the barley was six- or two-rowed, although the width of the rachis indicates that the barley was two-rowed.

This report gives some indication of the possibilities of securing from an unusual source, namely wall-plaster, details of crops growing at the time a building was erected and is therefore of special interest to the agricultural historian.

J. R. B. ARTHUR.

16th August, 1960.

(4) MAIDSTONE

A recent valuable addition to the Museum has been the Edward Yates Collection, given by Miss M. Yates of Elm Court, Hampton, Middlesex. This consists mainly of flint implements and the sites represented include Milfield, Dartford, Hayes, Swanscombe, Brasted, Wickham Common, Bexley Heath, Hampton, Holwood, Keston, Milton Street and Sidcup.

L.R.A.G.

(5) NETTLESTEAD, MILBAYS WOOD EARTHWORK

Map references : O.S. 6 in. Kent sheet XLI S.E. NGR : TQ 673507.

Book references : *V.C.H., Kent*, Vol. I (1908), pp. 399 ff.

The County Archaeologies, *Kent*, 1930, pp. 159-60.

As a result of a recent survey of Milbays Wood by officers of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey, Chessington, I have received the following note which is supported by entries concerning the Mill and the Mill Stream in a manuscript in Maidstone Museum which describes the beating of the southern bounds of the parish of Wateringbury on Holy Thursday in the year 1751 (included in *An Account of the Parish of Wateringbury* by Edward Greensted, 1775).

L.R.A.G.

The recent clearing of part of Milbays Wood has made possible a thorough inspection of the earthwork there. As a result it can now be identified quite definitely as a pond bay of probable medieval date and not, as formerly supposed, part of an Iron Age hill-fort.

It comprises a large bank approximately 20 metres wide and 5 metres high with flanking ditches some 12 metres wide and 1 metre deep running in an angled course across a shallow re-entrant. Although breached and its feed stream culverted, it is in good condition with the wood behind it still in a very marshy state.

At the west end of the work a series of banks and hollows run off in a north-westerly direction in the manner of old traffic ways. They are not in any way an extension although a looser connection is not unlikely.

With the reclassing of this feature the name of the wood becomes more significant.

C. F. WARDALE,  
28th July, 1960.

(6) ROCHESTER, BOLEY HILL

In two articles in *Archæologia Cantiana*<sup>1</sup> the late Canon S. W. Wheatley described the present state of Boley Hill and its recent history and advanced the theory that the earthworks represent the mutilated remains of an eleventh-century motte and bailey, the predecessor of the stone castle which stands immediately to the north of it. With a view to testing this hypothesis, the present writer, assisted by boys from the King's School, Rochester, dug a section across the summit of the mound at its western end, where it overlooks the river and where Wheatley placed the motte on his plan. It should be remarked that this plan is highly conjectural: Boley Hill is simply a bank some 15 to 20 feet high which runs parallel to the south wall of the Castle and about a hundred yards from it. On its south side are the remains of a deep ditch, now partly filled in.

At the point where the trench was dug, the mound, here 17 feet high, is upheld on the southern side by modern stone retaining walls, part of a series round this side of the mound. On excavation it soon became evident that the southern half of the bank had been dug away when the walls were built, and the spoil dumped on the northern slope of the hill. The character of the remodelling suggests the work of an eighteenth-century landscape-gardener. The original summit had been pared off, and with it all trace of any stockade or other defence that may have crowned it, but sealed beneath the additional material on the north slope was a layer of occupation refuse, which besides quantities of oyster and other shells and animal bones produced a fair amount of medieval pottery. The bulk of this consisted of fragments of sagging-based cooking-pots of coarse ware with copious shell grit. Rim-forms were mostly similar to the early thirteenth century pots from the Butchery Lane site in Canterbury (*Arch. Cant.*, LXI, pp. 38-40,

<sup>1</sup> XXXIX, 159-164; XLI, 127-141.

esp. nos. 2 and 6). They had not yet developed the flattened, angular features characteristic of the late thirteenth century vessels from Rose Lane (*Arch. Cant.*, LXVIII, p. 132) and one rim approximates to the twelfth century ware from that site. Fragments of glazed jugs however carried the pottery sequence to a later date, perhaps in the fourteenth century.

Below the layer which produced this pottery was the body of the mound, with tip-lines sloping steeply downwards to the north. A thick dump of sterile chalk rubble was succeeded by brown clay with a few oyster shells, small grains of chalk mixed with earth, and then dark earth containing fragments of charcoal, shell and bone, some small pieces of brown glass and several sherds. Two of these were Samian, others were of the shelly ware described above, and others again were of a thicker and softer buff sandy ware, the outer surface marked all over with faint parallel striations. This layer, which seemed to be an old surface soil scraped up to form part of the mound, was succeeded by more chalk, which became dirtier as it dipped to the north. Between it and the cleaner and looser chalk that underlay it there could be distinguished at the south end of the trench a thin seam of brown earth about an inch thick, with flecks of charcoal and bone in it, possibly the remains of a turf-line between successive stages of the mound. At the north end of the trench it proved impossible to distinguish it from the dirty chalk that overlay it. At this stage the approach of the end of school term forced an end to the excavation, when there still remained about five feet of the mound to be removed to reach the level of natural subsoil.

In so far as it is possible to generalize from a partial excavation, it seems that Boley Hill at its western end had reached approximately its present shape by some time early in the thirteenth century. It is tempting to identify this stage in its history with the reconstruction of the Castle defences after the siege of 1215, but the pottery is perhaps too early in type to support such a dating. There may have been an earlier earthwork but there was nothing that would suggest that the motte, if there was one, was at this end of the mound. The topography of the site indeed makes it more likely that it may have stood at the somewhat broader eastern end, where it would have dominated the south gate of the city and the road approaching it.

The writer is indebted to Mr. I. J. Newman for permission to excavate, and to Mr. L. R. A. Grove, Curator of the Maidstone Museum, for much helpful advice on the interpretation of the site and especially the dating of the pottery. A fuller description of site and finds than is possible in this note has been deposited in the Society's library at the Museum.

A. J. F. DULLEY.

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UNSTRATIFIED POTTERY FROM THE UPCHURCH MARSHES

In November, 1956, Mr. R. I. Little found an urn of imitation Form 38 in the Upchurch Marshes, National Grid Ref. 847697. The rim of the urn is entirely missing, but flange and base are intact, and there are traces of reddish brown slip remaining. Width across flange 5 in., existing height  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. In February, 1957 Mr. Little found a complete rim of grey ware in Otterham Creek, National Grid Reference 838688.

K. D. HORE.

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