

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

### WATERMILL SITES AT KEMSING AND OTFORD

As part of the Ordnance Survey's general programme of re-survey, officers of their Archæology Division have over the last few years completed field investigation and recording of sites of antiquities throughout Kent. This has resulted in the discovery or re-identification of a large number of such sites, some of which were reported in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxviii (1963), 188-203, and lxxx (1965), 274-84. The Division have, however, made field reports only on those sites which they regard as being of archæological importance; many others considered to fall outside this category (but nevertheless of great interest to local historians) were noted in the course of the project. Amongst the latter sites were two earthworks situated as follows, noted by Mr. C. F. Wardale in 1964:

- (1) At Child's Bridge, Kemsing, immediately east of Childsbridge Lane (N.G.R. TQ 545580).
- (2) At Otford, in the meadows south-west of Longlodge Oasthouse (N.G.R. TQ 531584).

Through the good offices of the Division, the attention of the Otford and District Historical Society has been drawn to these sites, which Mr. Wardale regarded as the remains of former millpond dams.

Both sites lie on or close to the line of a proposed motorway-type road and almost certainly face total or partial destruction at some future date. They were, therefore, closely investigated and recorded by the writer in August, 1966, and a detailed report will be lodged in the Otford and District Historical Society's records. This investigation turned out to be most timely, for within a month a 34-ft. breach was unexpectedly driven through the Otford earthwork by machinery levelling the ground for a gas pipe-line to cross the whole region east-west but to pass, it is understood, about 250 ft. north of the Child's Bridge site. At the time of writing, trenching has not yet commenced but any relevant finds revealed by this will be dealt with in the aforementioned report.

The Child's Bridge site (just on the Kemsing side of the parish boundary with Seal) was already well established as that of a former watermill,<sup>1</sup> but during the last decade or two the three-sided dam has been ploughed almost out of recognition.

The linear earthwork at Otford, on the other hand, was a new

<sup>1</sup> Bertram W. Pearce, *Arch. Cant.*, xxxix (1927), 156-7. Gordon Ward, M.D., *Arch. Cant.*, xli (1929), 5-7.

discovery by Mr. Wardale and survives as such a prominent and clearly artificial feature that it is indeed strange that it has hitherto apparently escaped archæological notice. It was undoubtedly a mill-pond dam and the complete absence of traditional or field-name evidence of a mill here suggests early abandonment, perhaps in the medieval period.

Domesday Book records eight mills in the manor of Otford, but none in the manor of Kemsing and Seal. With the recent discovery at Otford, there are at least ten known watermill sites within the area of the manor; which of these were the Domesday mills can only be deduced, if at all, by further research. As a tentative conclusion, however, it seems likely that the Otford mill was one of them and that the dates, both of construction and abandonment, of Child's Bridge mill were later than those of the Otford mill.

A. D. STOYEL

#### DENEHOLES AT SWANSCOMBE

In May, 1966, a chalk quarry was visited near Mounts Road, Swanscombe, just beyond Swanscombe Cutting and to the north of the present Watling Street. From conversation with workmen employed at the quarry it was discovered that a number of deneholes had been dug into by mechanical excavators in the immediate vicinity. It was possible to locate the sites of six of them, the exact positions of the others not being known.

- Denehole 1 N.G.R. TQ 595729, shaft of depth 48 ft. through Thanet Sand, with five chambers in the Upper Chalk.
- Denehole 2 N.G.R. TQ 594728, slightly shallower depth, the shaft being 40 ft. deep, cut through Thanet Sand, with an uncertain number of chambers in the Upper Chalk.
- Denehole 3 N.G.R. TQ 594730, similar to denehole 1.
- Denehole 4 N.G.R. TQ 592730, similar to denehole 2, with at least two chambers. Shaft 3 ft. 6 in. diameter.
- Denehole 5 N.G.R. TQ 589731, similar to denehole 2, shaft 8 ft. 6 in. diameter at top, tapering to 4 ft. 6 in. for the rest of its depth.
- Denehole 6 N.G.R. TQ 588736, shallow shaft with uncertain number of chambers. Animal remains found at bottom of shaft.

The deneholes at Swanscombe incorporate all the usual characteristics. Denehole 3 at the time of the visit was partially revealed in the section of the quarry face. It displayed the same type of pickmarks on the chamber walls as are described in *Arch. Cant.*, lxiv (1951), 153-6, and a debris cone was clearly seen.

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Workmen stated that in several deneholes were observed substantial chalk benches in the chambers, and that traces of hand and foot holds could be seen in the sides of various shafts.

It is to be hoped that, in future quarrying excavations, more deneholes will be brought to light, in an area which in the past has yielded other examples of these workings.

V. T. C. SMITH  
A. M. GWYNN-RIDGERS

## ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

### BROOK

A Neolithic polished flint axe was found at Brook (N.G.R.: TR 063451) in July, 1966, by Mr. R. E. Morris of Southernden, Headcorn, and kindly presented by him to the museum. It is of a mottled brown flint, faintly patinated all over. The cutting edge is missing. Length:  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in.; max. width:  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. (Museum Acc. No. 71.1966.)

D. B. KELLY

### DAVINGTON

A Neolithic polished flint gouge (Fig. 1) was found at Davington (N.G.R.: TR 009615) in 1966 and presented to the museum by Mr. J. A. Rose of Faversham. It is of a mottled grey flint and part of the cutting edge is broken off. Length: 5 in.; max. width:  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in. (Museum Acc. No. 67.1966.)

Flint gouges, as distinct from adzes, which have a straight cutting edge, are by no means common and the only other example known to me from Kent is the square-sided one from Bearsted in Maidstone Museum, a Scandinavian import of the Early Bronze Age. Evans<sup>1</sup> remarks on the rarity of gouges in Britain compared with the great numbers found in Denmark and Sweden and cites as true gouges only three unpolished flint examples from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

D. B. KELLY

### EGERTON

In March, 1966, a Late Mesolithic 'Thames Pick' was brought to the museum for identification. It was found at Kingsland Farm, Egerton (N.G.R.: TQ 906463). Length: 9 in. The implement remains in possession of the finder.

D. B. KELLY

<sup>1</sup> *Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain* (2nd edit. 1897), 178.

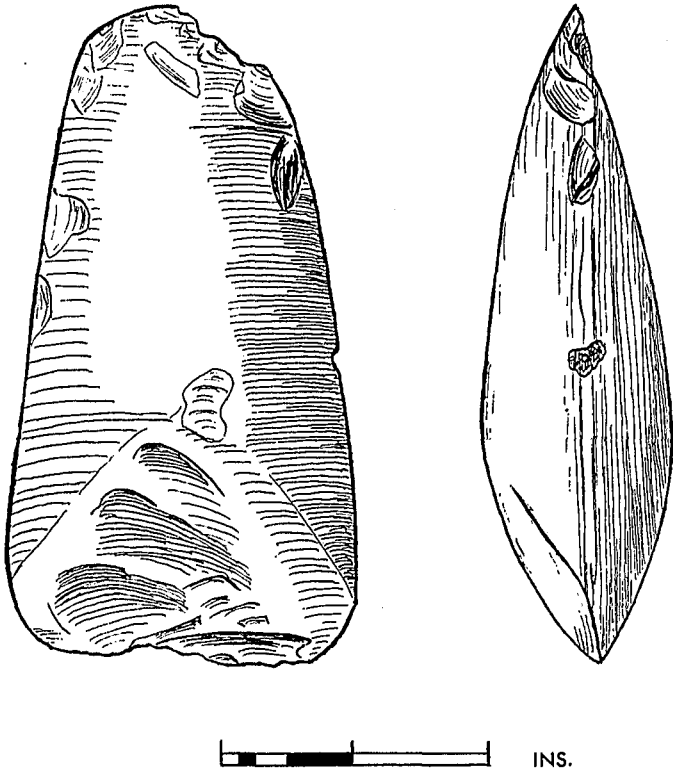


FIG. 1. Davington: Neolithic polished Flint Gouge.

**ELHAM**

A flanged bronze axe (Fig. 2) of the Early Bronze Age was found in March, 1966, at the side of the road running from Bladbean Farm crossroads to Dane Farm (N.G.R.: TR 18004705). The finder was Mr. T. Downs of Church Lane, Bossingham, who kindly presented the axe to the museum through our member Mr. J. Bradshaw. (Museum Acc. No. 37.1966.)

Mr. Bradshaw investigated the circumstances of the find. When picked up the axe was covered with earth and it appears that at the time of the discovery tractor loads of earth, excavated from the site of new buildings at Bladbean Farm (known formerly as Hillhouse Farm according to the 6-in. O.S. sheet of 1898), were being carted to Bladbean Stud. It is likely, therefore, that the axe originally came from the vicinity of Bladbean Farm, somewhere in the N.E. quadrant of the crossroads.

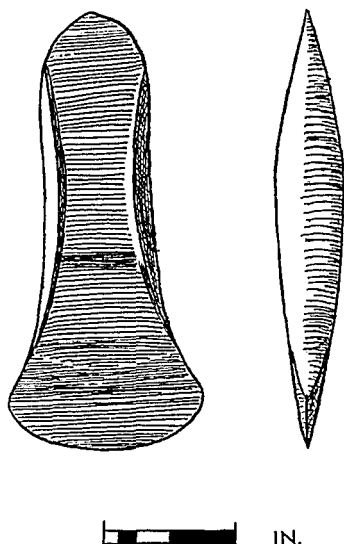


FIG. 2. Elham: Flanged Bronze Axe.

The axe is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in. long and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide at the blade. The flanges are cast and there is an incipient stop-ridge on both faces. Cleaning revealed no decoration on the flanges or faces of the implement. Flanged axes are assignable to the Early Bronze Age II (c. 1550/1500-1400 B.C.) and several examples are known from Kent. One, from Ashford Golf Links, in Maidstone Museum,<sup>2</sup> is comparable in size and appearance to the Elham example.

D. B. KELLY

#### HINXHILL

A recent visit to the parish church of St. Mary has enabled me to add a little to the late Sir Charles Igglesden's observations on the graffiti there.<sup>3</sup>

The crucifixion, without visible cross (Fig. 3), is scratched on the stonework on the east side of the south doorway of the nave, to the east of the brick porch. It is of late medieval date, probably fourteenth century, with the characteristic drooping head, drawn-up arms, and the crossed legs which generally appear after the beginning of the thirteenth century.<sup>4</sup> Igglesden has made a reconstruction with the feet

<sup>2</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, lxii (1949), 143-4 and lxx (1952), 180-1.

<sup>3</sup> C. Igglesden, *A Saunter through Kent with Pen and Pencil*, xxv, 89-90.

<sup>4</sup> J. Eric Hunt, *English and Welsh Crucifixes, 670-1550*, 39, 45-6.

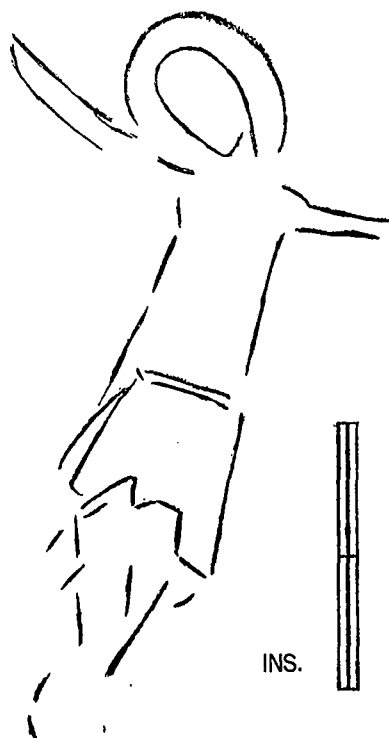


FIG. 3. The Hinxhill Crucifixion.

side by side. This is improbable as such a position is not stylistically consistent with the date of the doorway.

L. R. A. GROVE

#### MAIDSTONE

On 22nd October, 1965, during work on building improvements at the shop of the Halford Cycle Co., Ltd., at 67 Week Street, the badly damaged base of a Wrotham-ware candlestick (diameter:  $4\frac{5}{8}$  in.; extant height:  $4\frac{3}{8}$  in.) was found under the cellar floor.<sup>5</sup> The pottery is brick-red in colour and the addition of a brownish-yellow lead glaze,  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick in places, gives the piece an orange tinge. The decoration consists of small prunts of white slip and the inscription on the bottom tier is

● N H T F R G F 6 5 F

The initials stand for those of Nicholas Hubble, Thomas Ifield and

<sup>5</sup> cf. A. J. B. Kiddell, *English Ceramic Circle Transactions*, 3, part 2, plate 49b.

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George Richardson (the initials reversed by mistake—no Wrotham potter is known with the initials R.G.) and occur between each vertical strap handle.<sup>6</sup> The interest of this fragment is that it is the first recorded piece of Wrotham ware to bear together the initials of these three potters.

L.R.A.G.

### QUEENBOROUGH

The Queenborough copperas token has always been somewhat of a problem to numismatists and no description of it appears in the standard textbooks on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century tokens, possibly because no student has been able to date it satisfactorily on style alone.<sup>7</sup> It is a copper halfpenny, one inch in diameter, with the following legends:

O/ QVEENE BOROUGH = R A F  
R/ COPPERAS HOVSE = R K

The initial mark before QVEENE and COPPERAS is a pierced cinquefoil. The monograms RAF and RK are both ligatured.

A search through Sheppey documents now on deposit at the Kent Archives Office has revealed a 1712 *Book containing Schedule of several deeds & writings which were in Dame Dorothy Franklin's hands . . . later in Sir John Hayward's (dec<sup>d</sup>) & now in hands of John Walsall.*<sup>8</sup> Amongst these deeds (f. 10) is a lease from Sir Francis Clerke and John Buller, Esq., to Roger Kemp and Ralph Farr 'of all such sulphur and Coppris Stone as shou'd be found lying and being cast up by the Sea and waters upon the Shoar under the Lands of S<sup>r</sup> John Hayward called Standen's parcell of the manor of Minster'.

It has been suspected that the copperas token was of similar vintage to the Bradbourne tokens previously described in *Archæologia Cantiana*<sup>9</sup> and c. 1715 would be a fair dating if we assume that Roger Kemp and Ralph Farr were the issuers. It is clear that the token was used by the copperas gatherers.<sup>10</sup> As Sir Francis Clerke was a lessor the cinquefoil at the beginning of the inscriptions might be thought to have some

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*, 105-14.

<sup>7</sup> For example in (a) George C. Williamson's revision of *Boyne*; (b) J. Atkins, *The Tradesmen's Tokens of the Eighteenth Century*; (c) R. Dalton and S. H. Hamer, *The Provincial Token-Coinage of the 18th Century*.

<sup>8</sup> U 487 E 1.

<sup>9</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, lxix (1955), 214-15; lxxii (1958), 223.

<sup>10</sup> The three main printed sources of information on the copperas industry in Kent are (a) Elizabeth Melling (editor), *Aspects of Agriculture and Industry (Kentish Sources, III)*, 147-50; (b) Robert H. Goodsall, *Arch. Cant.*, lxx (1956) 142-59; (c) *V.C.H. Kent*, III, 397-8.

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heraldic significance.<sup>11</sup> However, a glance at the plates in Williamson's *Boyne* shows that the pierced cinquefoil was commonly so used on late seventeenth-century tokens.

L.R.A.G.

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<sup>11</sup> One branch of the Clerke family bore the arms *or on a bend engrailed azure a cinquefoil of the field*. *Arch. Cant.*, iv (1861), 246.